MINING FOR GOLD IN WROCLAW

Four bronze medals were earned on Friday, the prelude to the last three sessions of the Open, Women’s, Senior and Mixed Teams, where four teams are in search of gold.

Bronze medal winners are Poland (Open), 105-92 victors over Spain; China (Women’s), who defeated Scotland 117-67 in their playoff; Denmark (Seniors), winners over Chinese Taipei in two sets, and Bulgaria (Mixed), 142-59 winners over USA.

In today’s championship matches, Netherlands-Monaco match is too close to call with the Dutch up by only 6 IMPs with 48 boards to play. In the Women’s USA leads France 127-84 in the replay of last year’s Venice Cup match in India (France won). The Seniors also features a France-USA match, and the French are ahead 93-58.

Russia leads the Netherlands in the Mixed Teams by a score of 71-60.

While the teams are fighting it out, players in the pairs events — Open, Women’s, Seniors and Mixed — will play five 10-board sessions today to determine the medal winners.

Airport Transfers
Beginning today, players planning to go to the airport on Sunday will find information about transfers to the airport at their hotels.

Prize Giving and Closing Ceremony
The ceremony will take place today in the auditorium, beginning at 20:00. It will be followed by a reception at the “La Pergola” restaurant. Players who wish to attend the dinner must collect their invitation card at the Hospitality Desk. If you do NOT bring your invitation you will not be admitted.
### Open Teams Final and Play-Off

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
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<tr>
<td>MONACO</td>
<td>43</td>
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<td>POLAND</td>
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- **MONACO**
  - HELNESS Ton, HELGEMO Geir, MARTENS Krzysztof, MARTENS Krzysztof (captain), MULTON Franck, ZIMMERMANN Pierre, ALLAVENA Jean Charles, FILIPOWICZ Dominik (coach)
- **NETHERLANDS**
  - MAAS Anton (captain), BRINK Sjoert, NAB Bart, MULLER Bauke, DRIJVER Bob, BAKKEREN Ton (coach), DRIJVER Bas, DE WJJS Simon
- **POLAND**
  - GAWRYŚ Piotr, JASSEM Krzysztof, KALITA Jacek, GOLEBIOWSKI Stanislaw (coach), WALCZAK Piotr (captain), NOWOSADZKI Michal, KLUKOWSKI Michal, MAZURKIEWICZ Marcin
- **SPAIN**
  - LANTARON Luis, GODED Federico, KNAP Andrzej, WASIK Arturo, SABATE Jordi, GODED MERINO Gonzalo, JIMENEZ Ignacio (captain)

### Women’s Teams Final and Play-Off

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
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- **CHINA**
  - WANG Wen Fei, LU Yan, WANG Xiaojing (coach), LIU Yan, HUANG Yan, SHEN (1) Qi, WANG Nan, WANG Jianxin (captain)
- **FRANCE**
  - FREY Nathalie, ZOCHOWSKA Joanna, D’OVIDIO Catherine, CRONIER Benedicte, WILLARD Sylvie, REESS Vanessa, THUILLEZ Laurent (captain)
- **SCOTLAND**
  - McGOWAN Elizabeth (Lisa), LESLIE Paula, MCQUAKER Fiona, SYMONS Anne, PUNCH Sam, KANE Helen
- **USA**
  - SOKOLOW Tobi, SEAMON-MOLSON Janice, DEAS Lynn, PALMER Beth, SANBORN Kerri, SOKOLOW David (captain), SHI Sylvia

### Senior Teams Final and Play-Off

<table>
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- **DENMARK**
  - SCHALZT Dorthe, SCHALZT Peter, BOESGAARD Knud-Aage, NIelsen Hans Christian, SCHOU Steen, HANSEN Jorgen, MAGNUSSEN Peter (captain), IBSEN Jytte (coach)
- **FRANCE**
  - TOFFIER Philippe, GAUTRET Eric (captain), PALAU Jean-Jacques, GUILLAUMIN Pierre-Yves, DECHELETTE Nicholas, IONTEFF Georges, SCHMIDT Pierre
- **USA**
  - MAHMOOD Zia, MARTEL Chip, PSZCZOLA Jacek (coach), HAMMAN Bob, MECKSTROTH Jeff, HAMMAN Petra (captain), LALL Hemant, MILNER Reese

### Mixed Teams Final and Play-Off

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<tr>
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- **BULGARIA**
  - NANEV Ivan, ARONOVIK Victor, ARONOVIK Victor (captain), KARAKOLEV Georgi, MIOTOVSKA Miriana, DAMIANOVA Diana, NIKOLOVA MARTA
- **NETHERLANDS**
  - JANSMA Jan, JANSMA Jan (captain), RITMEJER Richard, JANSMA Aida, TICHA Magdalena
- **RUSSIA**
  - GROMOVA Vioriya, PONOMAREVA Tatiana, GROMOY Andrey, DUBININ Alexander, MATUSHKO Georgi, GULEVICH Anna
- **USA**
  - ALDER Phillip (captain), WINESTOCK Sheri, PICUS Sue, SEAMON Michael, MOSS Brad, MOSS Sylvia, ORNSTEIN Alexander
Open Pairs F A after RS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>YANG L - DAI Y</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>RUS-RUS</td>
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<td>POL-POL</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>DREVIAK G - BRABEC M</td>
<td>CRO-CRO</td>
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<td>MCLAUGHLIN W - HOSKING A</td>
<td>USA-USA</td>
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Mixed Pairs F A after R

| 1 | SIKORA M - WALTZCZYK A | POL-POL | 56.88 |
| 2 | KHAZANOV I - LEBEDEV M | RUS-RUS | 56.35 |
| 3 | WITCZYK A - STACHOWIAK-KLUZ J | POL-POL | 56.49 |
| 4 | HUNG Y - HSIEH H | TPE-TPE | 54.43 |
| 5 | GRZEDIKA I - GRZEDIKA S | POL-POL | 54.26 |
| 6 | HANLOTT T - BARTON G | GBR-GBR | 54.56 |
| 7 | SCHIPPERS-BOSKLOPPEL - STEIEN R | NED-NED | 52.68 |
| 8 | SAPORTA P - SAPORTA-TWORZYLDO R | FRA-FRA | 52.10 |
| 9 | DELMAS-SIRVEN T - FIGEAUD F | FRA-FRA | 51.53 |
| 10 | NIKITINA A - GUSINSK A | RUS-RUS | 51.21 |

Open Pairs F B (final result)

| 1 | KRAUSCHN H - WITKOWSKA W | POL-POL | 60.33 |
| 2 | AAVOS O - JURGA V | EST-EST | 58.20 |
| 3 | LESZCZYK J - JANIK S | POL-POL | 57.55 |
| 4 | UZUM D - KIZILOK L | TUR-TUR | 57.40 |
| 5 | GOTZOV S - TAKOV T | BUL-BUL | 57.29 |
| 6 | MEDLINA L - FILIPETZ S | CZE-CZE | 56.82 |
| 7 | GRZYSZ J - JARMUL C | POL-POL | 56.26 |
| 8 | TANAKA R - YOKOI H | JPN-JPN | 55.77 |
| 9 | GOTARD B - GOTARD T | GER-GER | 55.61 |
| 10 | TAMMIENI J - LEKSIK V | FIN-FIN | 55.58 |

Mixed Pairs F B (final result)

| 1 | HAMMONT N - WEINGER L | USA-USA | 58.14 |
| 2 | SYRKAPOULOU C - LISSIS G | GRE-GRE | 57.59 |
| 3 | SUWIK A - OSTROWSKA L | POL-POL | 57.35 |
| 4 | SAGIV Y - ORENSTEIN E | ISR-ISR | 57.15 |
| 5 | JOYCE E - FITZGERALD J | IRL-IRL | 56.97 |
| 6 | MICHALOWSKY S - DOLNY W | POL-POL | 55.95 |
| 7 | KUSHARI P - RAY D | IND-IND | 55.86 |
| 8 | ZACHY K - BARR R | ISR-ISR | 55.28 |

Senior Pairs F after R

| 1 | HACKETT P - HOLLAND J | ENG-ENG | 55.95 |
| 2 | VOGT W - FREISEN L | GER-GER | 55.39 |
| 3 | CARRUTHERS J - SILVER J | CAN-CAN | 52.46 |
| 4 | MARSTRANDER P - ANDERSEN R | NOR-NOR | 52.22 |
| 5 | SELLING D - Wenneberg B | SWE-SWE | 51.74 |
| 6 | DAS S - SADHAU A | IND-IND | 50.96 |
| 7 | MANCINI B -VECCHI L | ITA-ITA | 50.90 |
| 8 | GOEL A - SHAH J | IND-IND | 50.42 |
| 9 | JELJENOWSKI A - WACHNOWSKI J | POL-POL | 50.30 |
| 10 | BARNETT T - HANIF R | NOR-NOR | 50.85 |

Women's Pairs F after R

| 1 | LEVI H - ASULIN A | ISR-ISR | 56.37 |
| 2 | DUFRAIT K - ZMUDA J | POL-POL | 55.77 |
| 3 | BREVIK G - BUSSE G | NOR-NOR | 54.09 |
| 4 | ARNOLDS C - VERMEER M | NED-NED | 53.61 |
| 5 | SANDSTROM K - MYLLAR M | FIN-FIN | 53.25 |
| 6 | BROWN F - SENIOR N | ENG-ENG | 52.16 |
| 7 | HARDING M - FUGLESTAD A | NOR-NOR | 52.04 |
| 8 | PILIPOVIC M - SVER R | CRO-CRO | 51.80 |
| 9 | GU L - ZHOU T | CHN-CHN | 51.80 |
| 10 | GLADIATOR A - WEBER E | GER-GER | 50.84 |

For the complete lists, please go to http://www.worldbridge.org
WBF President Gianarrigo Rona on Friday said the organization is working closely with Carta Mundi, the playing-card company, to provide technology that will improve the experience of watching bridge play.

The goal is to provide playing cards with a special chip that will allow for the cards to be “read” and identified without the need for people operating computers, making it easier to follow the play.

Rona said the WBF is continually researching advances in technology to make the bridge playing experience better for the players. “We are always trying to improve,” he said.

Commenting on the 15th World Bridge Games, Rona had high praise for the Polish Bridge Union team that prepared for and brought off the first world championship in the country. “I have to say congratulations,” Rona said. “The venue is marvelous and the players have been comfortable.” He acknowledged complaints about the makeup of groups in the Open and Women’s Teams, but he noted that the group that was supposedly the weakest had five teams advance to the quarter-finals.

PBU President Witold Stachnik said he hopes that players who visited Wroclaw “saw more than the bridge tables. Wroclaw is a beautiful city.” Continuing his message to players, Stachnik said, “I hope you will come back to Poland and to Wroclaw. It was good for us.”

Responding to questions about the distance from Wroclaw hotels to the Hala Stulecia, Rona said it is not unusual for a big tournament organized in Europe. “It is different from North America,” he said, “where there are lots of big hotels.”

Asked whether the WBF will try to get bridge into next year’s World Games, scheduled for Wroclaw, he said the organization putting on that athletic event is not affiliated with the International Olympic Committee, so the WBF will probably not approach it about bridge.

Rona did say, however, that when the Winter Olympic Games are hosted by China in 2022, it is possible that bridge and chess will be included as demonstration sports. “Bridge is important in China,” he said. An exhibition of bridge was organized just prior to the start of the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City UT.

Rona was asked about the elevation of USA from second to first in the 2013 Senior Teams in Bali after a pair on the German team, winners over USA in the final, were found guilty of cheating. The question was whether the same action would apply in current, pending cases. Rona said that such a policy will apply “for the future.”

Asked about the future of Daily Bulletins at the WBF championships, Rona said there may be changes in how the bridge play is reported and written up, but the printed version is in no danger of extinction. “We believe players want to read the Bulletin in the morning,” he said.

BBO and OURGAME SCHEDULE

All Finals and
BBO 1 = VuGraph, BBO 8 is also OURGAME

Teams
9:30
W USA v France BBO 1
O Monaco v Netherlands BBO 2
S USA v France BBO 3
M Netherlands v Russia BBO 4
13:00
O Monaco v Netherlands BBO 1
W USA v France BBO 2
S USA v France BBO 3
M Netherlands v Russia BBO 4
16:00
O Monaco v Netherlands BBO 1
W USA v France BBO 2
S USA v France BBO 3
M Netherlands v Russia BBO 4

Pairs
9:30 - 11:10 - 13:10 - 14:50 - 16:30
O Open pairs final BBO 5+6
W Women pairs final BBO 7+8
In the city of Wrocław, great bridge-promoting actions are provided during the championships. The Polish Bridge Union organized a team of 52 youngsters led by Lena Leszczyńska and Agata Kowal, staying at the Wrocław for the whole week. The activities included the “happening” in Plac Solny – 22,000 playing cards connected and placed in circles. It was the longest helix composed of playing cards ever constructed in Poland.

On Friday, there was a bridge tournament for young players. The heart of the event was a big tent at Plac Solny (Salt Square), close to the main Old Marketplace, where bridge is played from morning till night and the lessons – “learn bridge in 15 minutes” – were available for everyone.

The youngsters also walked over the whole city trying to find some creatures to become bridge ambassadors. This way, numerous places were signed. Some boards with the “live cards,” where 52 persons were used as cards, were played at the Plac Solny.

Those performances gained remarks and questions from many people. Soon a mural of a large playing card will be placed on the side of a building in Warsaw with the words “Wrocław, the City of Bridge.”

By Marek Wojcicki
Photos by Izabela Jaworska

Young players in a tournament at Plac Solny earlier in the week. There was another tournament on Friday. On the front of each of the red T-shirts were these words: BRIDGE Smarter Every Game.

Some of the young players in Wrocław to help promote bridge visited the Hala Stulecia, venue of the 15th World Bridge Games.

Some curious non-bridge players visit the main tent at Plac Solny.

Open Pairs Final Session 3

By Ram Soffer

The Pairs finals started on Friday. 52 pairs qualified for the Open Pairs Final. Each one was going to play two boards against each other pair. During the third session (out of 10), I was following the Indian pair Keyzad Anklesaria-Sunit Chokshi, who were ranked second after the first two sessions.

In the first board, Chokshi made a costly error in defence.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>♠ 10 9 5 3</th>
<th>♥ A 10 8 6</th>
<th>♦ Q 8 5</th>
<th>♣ Q 3</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ J 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♥ Q J 7 5 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ K 10 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♣ K 10 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

West
Chokshi
Pass
Pass

North
Schollaardt
Dble
All Pass

East
Anklesaria
Pass

South
Nettl
1♠

2♣
At 23 out of 26 tables, N/S played a notrump contract — hardly surprising in view of the matchpoint scoring. The most popular result by far being +120. The Dutch pair was the only one playing in clubs.

Normally this would be very good news for East-West. Chokshi led the 4. Dummy’s 8 was covered with 9, and South’s K won. His next move was a low club towards the Q. For some reason, West thought that South had the A and went up with the K, too eager to give his partner a heart ruff. Of course, the ruff didn’t materialize, and now South lost only two clubs and one diamond, making an overtrick. Adhering to the good old rule “second hand low” would have held declarer to nine tricks.

The overtrick had a dramatic effect on the score: minus 130 was worth 28% for East-West, while minus 110 would have given them 80% of the matchpoints.

The fate of the next board depended on North-South’s bidding. The Dutch pair (also among the leaders) was not among the ten lucky pairs to bid the slam, so their Indian opponents got 66% by doing little more than following suit.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chokshi</td>
<td>Bergdahl</td>
<td>Anklesaria</td>
<td>Sylvan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>1NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>6♠</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1NT was 12-14, and 2♣ was a game-forcing relay. 3♣ showed five clubs. 4♣ showed a fit, inviting cue-bids. The rationale behind the aggressive bidding of the Swedish pair was that 5♣ is hardly ever a winning contract at matchpoints with fairly balanced hands.

They were unlucky – the club finesse lost and a diamond loser was inevitable. Their opponents were also somewhat unlucky, as 3NT played by North was one down at 11 tables after a diamond lead, so instead of 100% they got only 76%. By the way, stopping at 5♣ would have brought about an average board, and it was certainly better than going down in 3NT or 6♣.

The bidding requires some explanation. 2♣ showed the slam, balanced hand with 18-19 HCP, and 2NT showed four or more hearts. After the fit was found, cue-bids followed. 3♣ was alerted as a “non-serious” slam try. In my opinion, South should have moved on after 4♣. The reason is that he held AKQ of trumps. When partner is making a slam try with only low trumps, he must have very good cards outside the trump suit.

Basically the slam required trumps to be 3-2 and one out of two minor suit finesses to work. As everything behaved nicely, 13 tricks were easy.

The next two boards were not too exciting, so we move on to board 25, where the members of the Swedish team were the only pair to bid a slam.
Despite having a nine-card spade fit, Anklesaria was content with a raise to 2♣, and when Bergdahl competed bravely despite the menacing vulnerability, the Indian pair inflicted upon him “the kiss of death,” i.e. a score of minus 200, which gave East-West 80% of the matchpoints.

In fact, the only making North-South contract at the three level was in clubs, but North could hardly guess that his partner held a six-card suit.

East-West defended perfectly against 3♥; spade lead (a ♥K lead would be a disaster, allowing a diamond discard on the ♦J), diamond to king - ducked, and when declarer played another diamond, Chokshi found the only defence, overtaking his partner’s ♦Q and leading a trump. Even if declarer played ♦AK (which he did not do) after winning the ♥A, East could ruff high the next diamond and continue trumps, killing dummy for good while declarer must lose three hearts and two diamonds.

The next round was played against the Germans Gromöller-Fritsche, who were also among the contenders. It brought two more good results for the Indian pair.

Most experts acknowledge that “matchpoint bridge” is not necessarily good bridge. Accordingly, South and West allowed them selves some liberties in the bidding. North could have doubled 3NT and set it by three tricks (assuming a spade lead). Instead he pushed to 4♠, an easy make because of the fortunate lie of the cards. In my opinion, Fritsche, holding a minimal overcall, could have left the doubling to his partner’s discretion.

Declarer finessed diamonds, discarded a losing club, and ruffed two hearts in dummy without finessing. West overruffed with the ♥K, but the contract made and North-South got 96% of the matchpoints.

South’s “fit jump” to 4♠ encouraged his partner to compete to 5♥. This time the double by the German pair was much more sensible, but their defence wasn’t.

Gromöller led the ♥A, on which his partner played ♥5 (I have no idea why not ♥3 – West would very much like his partner to lead the lower ranking side suit). The next card was ♥A, after which the defenders could say goodbye to their club trick. The final score of +200 was not good for the Germans, as in most tables the declarers made 4♠ by dropping South’s stiff king. Anklesaria-Chokshi continued their excellent session with a score of 72%.

At that stage, they were doing great, but unfortunately for them, in the last round of the session, Roy Welland-Sabine Auken got some revenge on behalf of their German teammates with two tops that sent Anklesaria-Chokshi down to sixth place while Welland-Auken moved up to second place before the start of the next session.
Come play bridge and discover the wonderful things Guatemala has to offer.

The 29th Central American and Caribbean Bridge Federation Zonal Championships is to be held in the colonial city of Antigua Guatemala, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most well-preserved colonial cities of Latin America.

This tournament is sanctioned by the World Bridge Federation and comprises National Open, Women’s, Seniors, Mixed and Transnational Teams and Pairs Championships. The competition is open to participants from all over the world.

Ven a jugar bridge y descubre las maravillas que Guatemala te ofrece.

El Campeonato Zonal No. 29 de la Federación de Bridge de Centro América y el Caribe se llevará a cabo en la ciudad colonial de Antigua Guatemala, considerada por la UNESCO como Patrimonio Cultural de la Humanidad.

El campeonato es avalado por la Federación Mundial de Bridge e incluye Torneo de Parejas y Equipos Nacionales e Internacionales. El campeonato está abierto a participantes de todo el mundo.
Welcome to Vilnius Cup 2016
30th September - 2nd October
Vilnius, Lithuania

Schedule

Friday, September, 30th
11:00  Open Teams  rounds 1-3
17:00  Open Teams  rounds 4-7

Saturday, October, 1st
11:00  Open Pairs  3x10 boards
17:30  Open Pairs  2x10 boards

Sunday, October, 2nd
10:30  Open Teams  finals (A, B, C, D,...)

Open Teams Tournament
Entry fee: 80€/team.
7 rounds x 8 boards (Swiss score with 1 round delay) – round robin.
First 4 teams qualify for play-off (semifinals and final as well as match for third place).
Non-qualified teams are to be divided into groups and play 3 matches in each group
(round robin or Swiss score, depending on the group). Number of groups and number
of teams per group - to be defined after the end of registration.

Open Pairs Tournament
Entry fee: 40€/pair.
Match-points,
5 rounds x 10 boards,
Mitchell movement
inside of minisections.

Prize pool starts from 4000 euro.

Venue

The tournament venue is Panorama Hotel.  www.panoramahotel.lt
Standard double rooms 48€ (breakfast included).

You can book rooms in Panorama Hotel till 23rd of September.
Please send your reservations to reservation@mikotelgroup.com with special note “BRIDGE”
in order to get special prices. Also please indicate arrival and departure date, and guest names.

Registration

Visit our website sportbridge.lt for more information and registration form filling.
For this report, I have changed my approach. I will not report on any match in particular but instead I will concentrate on a few boards that, for various reasons, drew my attention, most of the time in many of the matches in progress.

On board 19, I saw a declarer go down one in 1NT doubled, which looked not too bad a result with 2♠ making the other way. A few moments later, Sjoert Brink also found himself in 1 NT doubled, and Gawrys led a low spade.


```
[Q 7 5 4 3]  
[Q 6 5 3]  
[Q 10 9 7 6 10 2 10 8 4]  
[Q 9 8 7 5]  
[Q 9 6 4]  
[Q 8 6 5]  
[Q 7 4 3]  
[Q 6 5 2]  
[Q 5 4]  
[Q 4 3]  
[Q 3 2]  
```  

West: Brink  
North: Gawrys  
East: Bas Drijver  
South: Klukowski

Klukowski played the ♦A and returned the suit. Brink won his king and led a diamond to dummy’s jack, which held the trick. From here, he turned his attention to clubs, dummy’s ♦7 losing to North’s jack. Back came the ♦K to dummy’s ace and another club was taken by North’s king. When North returned his last heart, Brink ran this to South’s jack. South then cashed the ♦A and led a spade to North’s queen. At this point, North was forced to give West a spade trick in his hand or an extra diamond trick by leading away from his king. Well done, Netherlands +180.

In the other room, the Poles quickly ran into trouble when Muller opened a 9-11 NT.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

```
[Q 10 9 8 4]  
[Q 9 8 4]  
[Q 7 6 5 2]  
[Q 7 6 5 2]  
[Q 6 5 4]  
[Q 5 4 3]  
[Q 4 3 2]  
[Q 3 2 1]  
[Q 2 1 0]  
[Q 1 0]  
```  

West: Guillaumin  
North: Chii Lin  
East: Palau  
South: Chu Chen

The Chinese reached a very sensible contract and scored +130, which should have been the par result.

In the other room, the Poles quickly ran into trouble when Muller opened a 9-11 NT.

```
[Q 10 9 8 4]  
[Q 9 8 4]  
[Q 7 6 5 2]  
[Q 7 6 5 2]  
[Q 6 5 4]  
[Q 5 4 3]  
[Q 4 3 2]  
[Q 3 2 1]  
[Q 2 1 0]  
[Q 1 0]  
```  

West: Kalita  
North: De Wijs  
East: Nowosadzki  
South: Muller

```
[Q 10 9 8 4]  
[Q 9 8 4]  
[Q 7 6 5 2]  
[Q 7 6 5 2]  
[Q 6 5 4]  
[Q 5 4 3]  
[Q 4 3 2]  
[Q 3 2 1]  
[Q 2 1 0]  
[Q 1 0]  
```  

West: Guillaumin  
North: Chii Lin  
East: Palau  
South: Chu Chen

2♣ by North was natural and NF and West’s 2NT was scrambling. The ugly final contract went two down for another +200 and 9 IMPs to the Netherlands.

On the next board, we saw all sorts of scores come up.
In the other room, the French went past the par spot when they ended up in game. Chii Lin believed his own cards more than the opposition bidding. Chinese Taipei +200 and 8 IMPs.

Netherlands v. Bulgaria, Mixed Teams:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karakolev</td>
<td>Rimeijer</td>
<td>Mitovska</td>
<td>Tichá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2♣</td>
<td>Dble</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3▽</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Bulgarian Precision also managed to get beyond par. South led the ♦Q. Declarer won, played two rounds of clubs, North playing low twice, and then cashed out her hearts for down two. Netherlands +200.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J Jansma</td>
<td>Aronov</td>
<td>A Jansma</td>
<td>Damianova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2♣</td>
<td>Dble</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3▽</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When South balanced, Jan Jansma got to the limit of par but still scored his +130 for 8 IMPs to his team.

In the China v. USA Women’s match, the Americans were allowed to stay very low indeed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sanborn</td>
<td>Wen Wang</td>
<td>Deas</td>
<td>Qi Shen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1♣</td>
<td>Dble</td>
<td>INT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2♣</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ten tricks, USA +130.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Huang</td>
<td>Sokolow</td>
<td>N Wang</td>
<td>S.-Molson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3▽</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After the constructive raise of the precision 2♣, the Chinese easily beat par. South led the ♥Q, which declarer immediately won. North took his ♥A at the first occasion, cashed the ♥K and continued diamonds for a three-trick set. USA +300 and 10 IMPs to them.

Russia v. USA, Mixed Teams:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dubinin</td>
<td>Ornstein</td>
<td>Ponamareva</td>
<td>Picus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2♣</td>
<td>Dble</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3▽</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As 2NT was a club raise showing 7-10 HCP, the Russians were in the same situation as the Chinese women above. Down three in exactly the same way.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
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<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moss</td>
<td>Matushko</td>
<td>Winestock</td>
<td>Gulevich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2♣</td>
<td>Dble</td>
<td>3♣</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Brad Moss, for the American Mixed team, judged the combined E/W much better by passing partner’s 3♣ for a deserved +130 and 10 IMPs to his side.

Back to Poland v. Netherlands:


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

| ♠ K 1 0 9 3 |
| ♦ A 5 4 3 2 |
| ♥ 7 6 5   |
| ♣ 8      |

| ♠ 7 6 5 2 |
| ♦ Q J 1 0 9 6 |
| ♥ K 9 |
| ♣ K 3 |

3♠ was Smolen: 4♠ and 5♥.

Looking at a good suit of his own, Bas Drijver correctly decided to lead the ♥Q, which went to declarer’s ace. Declarer played the ♦K and another heart, West winning the second round and returning a diamond. As declarer could take the spade finesse only once, he had two spades, four hearts and the ♥A K for one down. Netherlands +100.

As West holds one club only, the contract can be made, but it is very much double-dummy. Duck the ♥Q and win the second round. Spade finesse and a club up. If East wins, his entry is gone. If he ducks, West is stripped off all his minor-suit cards so you take another spade finesse, cash the ♥A and play on hearts. You will lose a spade, a diamond, a heart and a club in the end.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
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<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kalita</td>
<td>De Wijs</td>
<td>Nowosadzki</td>
<td>Muller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♣</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dble</td>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>Dble</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Muller used Smolen as well. The double did not bother De Wijs, who simply bid 3NT. When East led a spade, declarer had no further problems in establishing his hearts to score ten tricks. Netherlands another +430 and 11 IMPs to them.

In the USA v. Russia Mixed match, the American declarer in 3NT did not find the double-dummy line either on the ♥Q lead.

<table>
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<th>South</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dubinin</td>
<td>Ornstein</td>
<td>Ponamareva</td>
<td>Picus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3▽</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

East’s 2NT showed minors and Russia scored +50.
When declarer won the heart lead with dummy's ace and immediately played a club to the queen, the roof fell in. South won her king and three rounds of trumps left declarer with a lot of black-suit losers. Down two, Russia +500 and 11 IMPs.

In the Netherlands-Bulgaria Mixed Teams match, the auctions were quite different from the earlier ones.

Well bid. 2♦ was basically Multi (weak in major or any strong hand), which explains West’s 2♦ rebid. When East continued with 3♠, this was natural and forcing, as was 3♦. 3♦ then showed a heart stopper only (with both, she would bid 3NT) and 4♠ denied a spade stopper as well. As the Bulgarians were in 5♠, the board brought the Dutchies 6 IMPs.

The Scottish women bid like this:

West       North       East       South
Kane       Zochowska   Symons     Reess
Pass       Pass       1♣        Pass
1♦         Pass       2♦        Pass
2♥         Pass       3♠        Pass
3♥         Pass       3♥        Pass
4♣         All Pass   4♣        All Pass

3♠ asking for a stopper, of course. Well done once more for a well-deserved +130 and 6 IMPs to them too when the French went one off in 3NT.

All other pairs also languished in 3NT…
The 20th Ourgame World Computer-Bridge Championship concluded with Wbridge5 (France) defeating Micro Bridge (Japan), 162-156, for the bridge-robot world title. All the semi-final and final matches came down to the last few boards with some exciting deals determining the outcome. In the semi-final matches Wbridge5 defeated Shark Bridge (Denmark) by the margin of the carryover, 140.6 -131. Micro Bridge defeated Bridge Baron (USA) 144-138.

One of the best-played deals in the history of the robot championship occurred early in the semi-final round.

Board 4. West, None Vul.

\[\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c}
\spadesuit & 5 & 3 & 2 & 2 \\
\heartsuit & A & Q & J & 4 \\
\clubsuit & Q & 3 & & \\
\diamondsuit & A & 6 & 5 & 3 \\
\end{array}\]

\[\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c}
\spadesuit & A & Q & 6 & 6 \\
\heartsuit & K & 8 & 7 & 2 \\
\clubsuit & 10 & & & \\
\diamondsuit & Q & J & 8 & 4 \\
\end{array}\]

\[\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c}
\spadesuit & K & 7 & 4 & 5 \\
\heartsuit & 9 & 6 & & \\
\clubsuit & A & K & 9 & 8 \\
\diamondsuit & 6 & & 2 & 9 \\
\end{array}\]

West

North

East

South

Shark

Wb5

Shark

Wb5

I

Pass

1

\spadesuit

2

\spadesuit

Db1

Pass

3

\spadesuit

Pass

4NT

Pass

5

\spadesuit

Pass

6

\spadesuit

Db1 Strength and 4+ clubs

3

\spadesuit

Spade stopper, looking for a heart stopper for notrump

5

\spadesuit

One ace

West led the \spadesuit Q. As the cards lie, there is only one sequence of plays to make 6\spadesuit and the bidding suggests the successful line. With West long in hearts, without the \spadesuit K, therefore the \spadesuit A, a heart-spade squeeze without rectifying the count is the winning line.

Diamonds can be 2-2 or 3-1, and you must decide which, as you will need two entries to hand – one to take a heart finesse and one to run the diamonds. Given West’s length in hearts and spades, Wbridge5 determined that West holding a singleton diamond honor (jack or 10) was more likely than a 2-2 break.

The play proceeded: \spadesuit A, \spadesuit Q overtaken with the ace, heart finesse, diamond finesse and run diamonds. This was the five-card end position:

\[\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c}
\spadesuit & 5 & 3 & 2 & 2 \\
\heartsuit & A & Q & 4 & \\
\clubsuit & J & 8 & 7 & 4 \\
\diamondsuit & K & 7 & K & 10 \\
\end{array}\]

When South played the \diamondsuit 2, West had no good discard. At the table, West discarded the \spadesuit Q, declarer dummy’s \heartsuit 4. Declarer led a spade to West’s ace and the heart return was won by the queen:+1370 and 15 IMPs as Shark Bridge was in 3\diamondsuit for +150.

Congratulations to Wbridge5 for a fine victory and to Micro Bridge for a good battle in the final. Congratulations to all the contestants for their dedication to advancing robot play. Much thanks to the ACBL, WBF and this year’s sponsor, Ourgame, for all their support. A big thank you to the Polish Bridge Union for all its great support and for making us feel at home, and to Ron Tacchi, Jean-Paul Meyer and others, for their fine coverage of the championship.

These were the results in the Round Robin:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Xinrui</th>
<th>BB</th>
<th>Wb5</th>
<th>RBe</th>
<th>Q-Plus B</th>
<th>Micro B</th>
<th>Meadowlark B</th>
<th>Shark B</th>
<th>Total VP</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xinrui</td>
<td>♠ ♠</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>79,50</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Baron</td>
<td>12,05</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>89,21</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wbridge5</td>
<td>12,95</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>♠ ¶</td>
<td>91,87</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RoboBridge</td>
<td>3,43</td>
<td>¶ ¶</td>
<td>¶ ¶</td>
<td>¶ ¶</td>
<td>¶ ¶</td>
<td>¶ ¶</td>
<td>¶ ¶</td>
<td>¶ ¶</td>
<td>50,58</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q-Plus Bridge</td>
<td>5,76</td>
<td>15,37</td>
<td>7,40</td>
<td>14,82</td>
<td>¶ ¶</td>
<td>¶ ¶</td>
<td>¶ ¶</td>
<td>¶ ¶</td>
<td>78,76</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micro Bridge</td>
<td>9,35</td>
<td>3,65</td>
<td>11,27</td>
<td>17,87</td>
<td>11,47</td>
<td>¶ ¶</td>
<td>¶ ¶</td>
<td>¶ ¶</td>
<td>90,07</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadowlark Bridge</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,89</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,89</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark Bridge</td>
<td>17,96</td>
<td>13,94</td>
<td>5,18</td>
<td>6,38</td>
<td>13,12</td>
<td>3,54</td>
<td>20,00</td>
<td>¶ ¶</td>
<td>80,12</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
With Spain ahead by just 10 IMPs, an exciting finish was in prospect in this semi-final match. In the other Open semi-final, the Netherlands were enjoying a 63-IMP lead over Poland, so the Dutch entry into the final looked pretty much a certainty — and so it proved. That’s why I will concentrate on the Spain v. Monaco match, with a look here and there at what was happening in the Women’s semi-final between France and Scotland. In that match, France were leading by just 11 IMPs when the last 16 boards got underway.

The first board was a grand slam, bid at all tables in the Open Teams. Next came a sacrifice.

**Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helgemo</td>
<td>F Goded</td>
<td>Helnness</td>
<td>Lantaron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♦</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♠</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4♣</td>
<td>3♥</td>
<td>4♥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4♠</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After their version of the strong 2NT opening, Spain easily landed in the proper contract, losing a trick in each side suit for +620.

When Knap overcalled after Multon’s strong opening bid, Spain quickly found the sacrifice, but as it happened, there was one loser too many. Down four, Monaco +800 and 5 IMPs to them. On the next board, N/S had nothing to complain about.

**Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helgemo</td>
<td>F Goded</td>
<td>Helnness</td>
<td>Lantaron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>1♠</td>
<td>1♦</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1NT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After the transfer response and the three-card showing 1NT rebid, Spain settled for 1NT, a sensible contract with both North and South holding a very little bit in reserve. Spain +150 when the defence could not cash both their four heart tricks and the ♠A.

**West** | **North** | **East** | **South**
---|---|---|---
Wasik | Multon | Knap | Zimmermann
Pass | 2NT | All Pass | |

When Zimmermann could open a 10-13 1NT, Multon had an automatic raise to game.

Due to the heart blockage already mentioned above, nine tricks were safe. Monaco +400 and 6 more IMPs to them. They had taken the lead once again, by the odd IMP.

The same swing occurred in the France v. Scotland women’s match, Scotland winning 6 IMPs after reaching 3NT when North opened 1NT.

On the next board, Monaco added another 6 IMPs when declarer in 2NT had to guess the ♠Q for his contract.
Monaco guessed right, Spain guessed wrong…  
Then, after three consecutive 1-IMP swings to Spain came the only double-figure swing of the segment:


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<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>INT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2♦</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♦</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4♦</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Helness-Helgemo easily reached the normal contract, but something happened in the play.  
A spade was led by South to dummy’s ace. Declarer followed with a heart to the jack and ace. A second spade went to declarer’s queen and a heart to the queen and North’s king. At this point, if North returns a diamond, declarer cannot afford to play low as a spade return from South will promote North’s ♦9 into the setting trick. However, if declarer takes the ♦A, he will lose two diamond tricks later on.  
At the table, Helness apparently made a premature claim for his contract. He can, of course, make 4♦ on a club return but it might have been wiser to wait... The director was called and correctly did not accept the disputed claim so the score was entered as one down, +50 to Spain.

On the next board in that match, Scotland took the lead:


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
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<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McQuaker</td>
<td>Frey</td>
<td>McGowan</td>
<td>D'Ovidio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2♦</td>
<td>2♠</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On a club lead by North, McQuaker could get rid of two losing spades and thus made an overtrick. Scotland +170.  
In the other room, the French were too ambitious:


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wasik</td>
<td>Multon</td>
<td>Knap</td>
<td>Zimmermann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>INT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2♦</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♦</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4♦</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Same auction, contract and lead in the other room. But Knap won the spade lead in hand and led a trump up. When South flew in with his ♦A to continue spades, the danger of a trump promotion was gone, so Knap made his contract in comfort. Spain +420 and 10 IMPs to them to regain the lead by 6 IMPs.  
In the France-Scotland match, Scotland got a 10-IMP swing when the French declarer became the victim of the trump promotion and thus went one down. This reduced the French lead to 1 IMP.
Despite the failure of their Open team against Spain, the USA delegation couldn’t complain about the results of these championships so far – their Women’s and Senior teams advanced smoothly to the final, and a third American squad was hoping to do so as well.

The USA Mixed team won a tight match against Japan by 1 IMP at the Round of 16, and then won by a huge margin against France in the quarter-finals. Their semi-final match against a strong Russian team was once again extremely tight. After five sessions, Russia led by 3 IMPs, but the lead was wiped out immediately.

**Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
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<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wasik</td>
<td>Multon</td>
<td>Knap</td>
<td>Zimmermann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♣</td>
<td>3♥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dble</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There was high drama at the other table in the Spain-Monaco match. Spain were looking as if they were on their way to 4♥, a 1-IMP gain to tie the match with one board to go when Zimmermann bid his suit a second time. Knap then decided to sit Wasik’s double, which may or may not have been the winning action. If declarer crosses to dummy’s ♠Q to lead a heart to his eight, he may well succeed in going down only one.

At the table, however, West led the ♠Q to declarer’s ace. When Zimmermann led the ♦K from his hand at trick two, we all thought that the contract would go down two now but …

West won the ♦A and played a spade, declarer ruffling. The ♦Q was cached and declarer led the ♦K from his hand, immediately taken by West who played another spade. Ducking the ♦K would have been easier for the defence as the club ruff for East, resulting in the vital second undertrick, would then have been established straight away. Declarer discarded a losing diamond on the spade but ruffed the next spade. With both East and declarer down to two trumps each, declarer could do no better than lead a trump, East winning his jack. All East had to do now was to return a diamond and get his club ruff. When he exited with his last trump instead, Zimmermann had managed to go down just one for a -1 IMP gain (and a place in the final) rather than a 3 IMP loss — once the last board turned out to be the expected push. The final score was 182-176 to Monaco.

Judged by world championship standards, the American auction left something to be desired. After East supported diamonds (many pairs play that this shows some extras), West’s hand became huge. There was so much unused space between 3♦ and 4NT to find out about East’s controls. Essentially, 7♦ requires only 2-1 trumps so it’s an excellent contract, and it was bid by all four teams playing in the Open semifinals. Ornstein-Picus were content with 6♦ making 7, plus 940.
Russia gained 1 overtrick IMP at 18, and then tied the score at 19.

**Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.**

- ♠ A K Q 4
- ♥ 9 7 4
- ♦ Q 8 5
- ♣ K 10 9

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

- ♠ 9 7 5 3
- ♥ A J
- ♦ J 10 4
- ♣ A 7 4 2

When two balanced hands add up to 24 HCP, the final contract depends on the notrump ranges used. It often happens that 3NT is bid at one table only, and the IMP outcome depends on a lucky or unlucky lie of the cards. In this instance, fate favoured Russia.

**West** | **North** | **East** | **South**
---|---|---|---
Ornstein | Matushko | Picus | Gulevich
Pass | 3NT | All Pass | 1NT

1NT (non-vulnerable) was 10-12. With 14, Matushko didn’t bother to invite, he just bid the game. Apparently declarer needs hearts to be 3-3 to make her contract, but there was an extra chance, namely diamonds 3-3 and hearts divided in such a way that the defence cannot cash five tricks. This happened to be the case, and the defenders had nothing to do – Russia +400.

**Board 21. Dealer West. None Vul.**

- ♠ 7 2
- ♥ A K
- ♦ A 7 6 2
- ♣ A Q 10 9 3

On board 21, Sheri Winestock opened 1NT (15-17 in third seat vulnerable) with the following collection:

- ♠ 7 2
- ♥ A K
- ♦ A 7 6 2
- ♣ A Q 10 9 3

These 17, with 7 controls and a good five-card suit, were probably too rich for a 1NT opening. Her partner, Brad Moss, stopped in a partscore with 7 HCP, while at the other table Russia reached a fairly good 4NT contract and made it. At this point Russia led the match 197-187.

Then on board 24, Sue Picus decided to be clever, too clever, and her unusual play did make it to the bulletin, but for wrong reasons. It started with another 1NT opening.

**Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.**

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

At this table 1NT was 14-16. Winestock did bother to invite with 10 HCP. Unfortunately it cost her team 6 IMPs.
North’s heart nine being promoted. At the point where she ran the ten of diamonds, South won with the queen and returned a spade to dummy’s ace, giving declarer an extra dummy entry. This was suspicious, and Picus decided to play her opponent for doubleton K Q of diamonds. Nice idea if it works, but at the table her next play of ♠A was inadequate – USA -50, a real disaster.

At the other table, Winestock passed over 1♥T. The contract was also 4♥, and Victoria Gromova made the normal play – Russia +420, and their lead grew to 207-191. Picus managed to make up for it on the very next board:


West
Ornstein
North
Matushko
East
Picus
South
Gulevich

1♣
Pass
2♥
3♠
4♦
Pass
5♦
All Pass

Gromov’s 2♦ was a transfer to hearts. It could be a weak hand as well as a strong one. Because of this uncertainty, Gromova didn’t venture a rebid at the four level by herself. Her partner had a tough problem and he did well by passing, because at many tables West bid 4♥ and was defeated by two tricks after a spade lead.

The Russian pair failed to produce a model defence: ♦A, ♦K followed by the top three clubs and a fourth club, promoting a trump trick. Instead, they started with clubs, and on the fourth club declarer discarded a diamond, which kept it one down. In view of the result from the other room, this inaccuracy in defence had no effect on the match situation. USA were winning 11 IMPs anyway.

At this point, they were only 5 IMPs behind with seven boards to go, but the boards were becoming flatter and flatter. If one did the normal thing in the bidding, it was perhaps only a matter of an overtrick here and there. Four consecutive pushes from 26 to 29 were exactly what Russia needed, and they even extended their lead to 7 with an overtrick swing at board 30.

The penultimate board, though, was a bit more lively. First of all, East-West had to reach their game.


West
Gromov
North
B. Moss
East
Gromova
South
Winestock

1♥
Pass
2♠
All Pass

The bidding hurdle had been cleared successfully, and Matushko led his heart. Ornstein won the A and ducked a club. He ruffed the third round of hearts with the Q, cashed the ♦A, ruffed a club and played a low spade from dummy. South won the ♦A and played another heart, but Ornstein could ruff with the J, play a spade to dummy’s king, return to hand with the ♦A, draw the last trump and claim. +420.

In the replay, Moss led a heart. Gromov won the ♦A and conceded a club. Winestock cashed the ♦K, and the next heart was ruffed by declarer’s ♦Q. The careless play of a low spade to the king would have led to a calamity for Russia, but Gromov was still alert after 12 consecutive days of competition. He played ♦A, ruffed a club and led a low spade from dummy, ruling out any chance of a trump promotion and tying the board.

After an uneventful last board, Russia could celebrate their 209-202 victory. Those celebrations must have been short, however, because a tough match for the world title awaited them against Netherlands.
With seven Fast and Furious movies having been produced already, it was as if number eight was made in Wroclaw on Friday when the USA Women’s team stomped on the gas pedals against France. Many of the boards had wild and crazy distributions — in other words, all set for action.

As you know, the two teams played each other in the final in the Venice Cup last year in Chennai, where the French team eventually proved to be the stronger and won though the match went to the last deal. Clearly the American women were up for the challenge in Wroclaw and were seeking revenge!


Open Room:

```
West    North    East    South
D’Ovidio Sokolow Frey S.-Molson
1♥      2♣      Pass    Pass
3♦      Pass    4♥      All Pass
```

Closed Room:

```
West    North    East    South
Shi     Cronier Palmer Willard
1♥      2♣      2NT     Pass
3♦      Dble    4♥      4♣
5♥      All Pass
```

The match started well for the French Champions when they earned a swing on the second board. In the open room, Tobi Sokolow led the ace of clubs against Four Hearts. Not knowing if it was partner or declarer who had two clubs, she just continued with the queen of clubs. Declarer pitched a diamond on the club king and immediately finessed in diamonds, losing to North’s king.

Sokolow could have returned a diamond for her partner to ruff, but she continued with a club. South ruffed in and declarer over-ruffed. Declarer now had perfect control of the evil 4-0 split in trumps and could simply pull three more rounds of trumps and take the ruffing finesse in diamonds for eleven tricks.

In the closed room, Sylvia Shi was pushed to the five level in hearts and stood no chance to make her contract when Cronier led the jack of spades, taken in dummy with the ace. Shi ran the ten of diamonds to the jack. North cashed the ace of clubs and, unable to tell who had the singleton, continued with the queen. Declarer won the king, played a trump to the ace and could note that North pitched a club. When that was the case she could no longer pull trumps and take the ruffing finesse in diamonds. Down one meant 11 IMPs for France.


```
West    North    East    South
D’Ovidio Sokolow Frey S.-Molson
Pass    1♦      Dble    2♦
4♦      5♦      Dble    All Pass
```

Sylvie Willard, France
Neither of the declarers had any problem taking eleven tricks for a push. Shi, of course, must have been in doubt about passing Five Diamonds out when she knew about her distribution and shortage of high-card points, not to mention South’s bidding, which had shown the minors. Five Hearts would have been a good sacrifice, but it is not easy to do at this vulnerability, and partner might have had three winners.

Janice Seamon-Molson’s jump to Five Clubs was a good move - a good advanceacrifice against Four Hearts (if they would have bid it) or it could actually be a good game for their side. Frey led the ace of hearts and continued with a low heart. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ace of spades, ruffed a spade, ruffed her last heart, ruffed her last heart, cashed the ace and king of clubs (happily noting the queen from East). A low diamond to the king followed, then low towards the ace. When the queen appeared, declarer could claim twelve tricks for +620.

In the open room, the French defense went a spade to the ace, spade ruff, club to the ace and a second spade ruff. South then cashed the king of clubs and led a low diamond to the king for the first six tricks. North, who didn’t understand that she shouldn’t play another spade, did so, and declarer escaped for three down when she was allowed to pitch her losing diamond on dummy’s queen of spades. That was 11 IMPs back to USA, who had evened the match.
Against Two Clubs, the French did well when they led and returned trumps on declarer at every chance. Shi did, however, make her contract, losing three diamonds and two spades.

In the open room, the three of diamonds was led. Declarer won the ace and ran the jack of hearts to West’s ace. West returned another diamond. Declarer went up with the king, East ruffed, cashed the king of clubs and tried to score a second club for the fourth defensive trick. But declarer ruffed, played a spade to the ace, another to the king and ruffed a spade in dummy. The trump finesse was the final thrust, and declarer could claim for plus 620 and 12 IMPs to USA, now in the lead.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

Open Room:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D’Ovidio Sokolow</td>
<td>Frey</td>
<td>S.-Molson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Dble</td>
<td>3♣</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Closed Room:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shi</td>
<td>Cronier</td>
<td>Palmer</td>
<td>Willard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td></td>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With one club, two hearts and three spades to lose, Frey had no chance for nine tricks in clubs. When the Americans didn’t give anything away, declarer was two down.

Things were more interesting in the closed room, where Willard came to play 3NT and West led a spade to the jack and declarer’s king. The contract was completely dead if the defense attacked clubs. When declarer next played a diamond towards dummy and West played low, declarer could have made the contract by playing the 10, but she went up with the king and played a second diamond. West won with the jack and switched to clubs and that was that. If declarer had played a heart towards the queen at trick three, declarer would have been able to actually make four spades, three hearts and one trick in each minor for nine tricks. Maybe declarer should have changed tack when the diamond nine appeared from East. However, it could very well also have been a false card, and if diamonds had been 3-2, she would have been fine when the ten held.

The bottom line is that USA got 9 more IMPs on a deal which could have been a swing in the other direction.
Shi and Catherine D’Ovidio both received a club for the opening lead. Shi won with the king in dummy and played a spade to the ace and the queen of trumps, which held. A third round cleared trumps, and the defense could just cash their two hearts.

In the open room, declarer tried a trump finesse, Sokolow won with the king and gave her partner the ruff in clubs. When the defense cashed their two heart winners, declarer was down one for another 10 IMPs to the USA team — but it wasn’t over. They had another swing coming in their direction.

Open Room:

Shi and Catherine D’Ovidio both received a club for the opening lead. Shi won with the king in dummy and played a spade to the ace and the queen of trumps, which held. A third round cleared trumps, and the defense could just cash their two hearts.

In the open room, declarer tried a trump finesse, Sokolow won with the king and gave her partner the ruff in clubs. When the defense cashed their two heart winners, declarer was down one for another 10 IMPs to the USA team — but it wasn’t over. They had another swing coming in their direction.

Open Room:

West  North  East  South

D’Ovidio  Sokolow  Frey  S.-Molson
Pass  2♠  Pass  3♠
Pass  4♠  All Pass

Closed Room:

West  North  East  South

Shi  Cronier  Palmer  Willard
Pass  2♦  Pass  3♣
Pass  4♣  Dble  Pass
Pass  4NT  Pass  4NT
Pass  5♦  Pass  5♣
All Pass

Benedicte Cronier’s cuebid in clubs brought South into action and she checked for aces. When she found that the opponents held two aces, she put on the brakes at the five level. That would have been fine if it wasn’t for the fact that Beth Palmer had doubled for the club lead. When Shi obliged her partner, declarer had no chance and had to lose a club, a diamond and a heart for one down.

In the open room, a heart was led to the ace. East naturally shifted to a club, and when the jack held, declarer cashed the ace of spades, ruffed a heart, pulled trumps and established the diamonds for a club discard for 11 tricks.

That was another 13 IMPs to USA who had put the pedal to the metal against the French World Champions and were in the lead with 60-11. Still five segments to go, however, and that’s a long way!
When Helness could not open, according to the pair’s methods, the Monegasques were never in danger of getting overboard. Ten tricks, Monaco +420 and 11 IMPs to open their account. Next:


\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c}
\text{West} & \text{North} & \text{East} & \text{South} \\
\hline
\text{Helgemo} & \text{Bas Drijver} & \text{Helness} & \text{Brink} \\
\hline
\text{1♦} & 2♣ & \text{Pass} & \text{Pass} & \text{Pass} \\
\text{2♥} & 3♠ & 4♣ & \text{Pass} & \text{Pass} \\
\text{4♥} & \text{All Pass} & \text{All Pass} & \text{All Pass} & \text{All Pass} \\
\end{array}
\]

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\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c}
\text{West} & \text{North} & \text{East} & \text{South} \\
\hline
\text{Helgemo} & \text{Bas Drijver} & \text{Helness} & \text{Brink} \\
\hline
\text{1♦} & 2♣ & \text{Pass} & \text{Pass} & \text{Pass} \\
\text{2♥} & 3♠ & 4♣ & \text{Pass} & \text{Pass} \\
\text{4♥} & \text{All Pass} & \text{All Pass} & \text{All Pass} & \text{All Pass} \\
\end{array}
\]

*Brink timed his weak two in diamonds to perfection as after Drijver’s raise to 5♣, it was anybody’s guess. Netherlands +550 and 12 IMPs back to them.*

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c}
\text{West} & \text{North} & \text{East} & \text{South} \\
\hline
\text{Nab} & \text{Multon} & \text{Bob Drijver} & \text{Martens} \\
\hline
\text{1♦} & \text{Pass} & 1♠ & \text{Pass} \\
\text{2♣} & \text{Pass} & 2♥ & \text{Pass} \\
\text{2NT} & \text{Pass} & 3NT & \text{All Pass} \\
\end{array}
\]

*On the next board, the Dutch light openings did not serve them well. With both hands containing a light opening bid, 3NT will often be reached and as often be (far) too high. North led a spade and the contract easily went down two, Monaco +200.*

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c}
\text{West} & \text{North} & \text{East} & \text{South} \\
\hline
\text{Helgemo} & \text{Bas Drijver} & \text{Helness} & \text{Brink} \\
\hline
\text{1♦} & \text{Pass} & 1♠ & \text{Pass} \\
\text{2♣} & \text{Pass} & 3♠ & \text{All Pass} \\
\end{array}
\]

*An exemplary auction saw the Monegasques end up in the right contract in spite of their light opening bids, for +110 and 7 IMPs.*

On the next board, Multon and Martens did well for Monaco:


\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c}
\text{West} & \text{North} & \text{East} & \text{South} \\
\hline
\text{Nab} & \text{Multon} & \text{Bob Drijver} & \text{Martens} \\
\hline
\text{Pass} & 1♦ & \text{Dble} & \text{Pass} \\
\text{4♥} & 5♦ & \text{Pass} & \text{Pass} \\
\text{5♥} & 6♠ & \text{Pass} & \text{Pass} \\
\text{Dble} & \text{All Pass} & \text{All Pass} & \text{All Pass} \\
\end{array}
\]

*Though 5♥ would probably have gone one down, taking a cheap insurance often is good tactics at teams. Netherlands +100.*

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c}
\text{West} & \text{North} & \text{East} & \text{South} \\
\hline
\text{Helgemo} & \text{Bas Drijver} & \text{Helness} & \text{Brink} \\
\hline
\text{Pass} & 5♦ & \text{Pass} & \text{Pass} \\
\text{Dble} & \text{All Pass} & \text{All Pass} & \text{All Pass} \\
\end{array}
\]

*On the next board, Multon and Martens did well for Monaco:*
West | North | East | South
---|---|---|---
Nab | Multon | Bob Drijver | Martens
1♣ | 1♥ | 2♣ |
2♥ | 3♦ | 3♥ | 4♠ |
Pass | 5♠ | All Pass |

One might say that Martens bid one for the road with his 4♠ but he struck gold. Multon made a polite raise and the Monegasques suddenly were in a very good vulnerable game. Just made, Monaco +600.

West | North | East | South
---|---|---|---
Helgemo | Bas Drijver | Helness | Brink
1♣ | 1♥ | 3♠ |
3♥ | 4♠ | All Pass |

As the double minor-suit fit never came into the Dutch picture, game was missed. Netherlands +150 but 10 IMPs to Monaco, who led 28-12 after just 5 boards.

Four more IMPs to Monaco on board 6, a push and then a curious diamond position:

**Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.**

| ♠ A | ♥ A K Q 9 4 3 |
| 10 8 7 | ♣ J 7432 |
| ♦ K 9 3 | ♤ J 8 7 6 5 2 |
| ♦ K 10 9 5 | ♦ J 9 |
| ♥ — | ♦ A 6 |
| ♦ A J 10 8 7 6 2 | ♦ Q 8 6 |
| ♦ K Q 5 4 3 2 | ♢ K 10 |
| ♠ Q 5 4 | ♠ Q 10 |

When West made the unlucky lead of the ♠ A, dummy’s queen had become a side entry to the diamonds. Had West continued a club, declarer would have won the king and cleared the diamonds, only to find out that the suit was blocked. As it would be West who would win the second defensive diamond trick, continuing clubs would have done the defence no good. West should lead a spade, or continue a spade after winning his ♦ A on an initial low club lead, to beat the contract.

Ten tricks now, Monaco +430

**Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.**

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

| ♠ K 9 7 | ♥ Q 10 7 |
| ♦ Q 6 5 4 3 | ♠ A 2 |

This looked a correct part-score. Just made, Monaco +110.

**West | North | East | South**
---|---|---|---
Nab | Multon | Bob Drijver | Martens
Pass | 1♣ | Pass |
Dble | 2♠ | 3♦ |
All Pass |

East had not shown his clubs, so West could not possibly find the killing club lead from his KJx, leading a heart instead. Declarer ran this to East’s king and immediately won the ♠ 10 return with his ace. Monaco still had a chance to defeat the contract when Brink led a low diamond from hand. Helgemo can win the ♠ A and, even if he had not unblocked clubs, continue with the ♠ K and ♠ J. East overtaking to cash out for plus 200. Helgemo, however,
played low on the diamond. When the king scored, declarer cashed his major-suit winners. With both suits behaving, he emerged with nine tricks, Netherlands +600 and 10 IMPs back to them. Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

With the clubs not breaking 3-3, 3NT has no legitimate play. So once again, Multon and Martens did well, as they ended up in a part-score. Monaco +110.

Brink-Drijver, of course, one would say (if one takes their style into consideration), were in 3NT. When Helgemo led a spade into declarer’s tenace, rather than a heart from his stronger but more vulnerable suit, declarer was home. He gave up a club and had nine tricks. Netherlands +600 and 10 more IMPs to them.

The penultimate board was good entertainment value for the BBO kibitzers:

In the Open Room, N/S reached 4♠ in peace when East did not intervene over North’s 2NT, and scored the obvious +620.

In the Closed Room, there was more action:

Neither East nor West could resist temptation, but the actual sacrifice was a very good one until declarer ducked North’s opening lead of the ♦K…Down four when North continued the ♦Q and South ruffed the ace away. Netherlands a useful +800 and 5 more IMPs to level the match.

An overtrick on the last board then made the final score of this rather spectacular set 44-43 to the Dutch.

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World Championship Book 2016 – Wroclaw

The official book of these championships will be ready around April next year. It will consist of approximately 350 large full colour pages and will include coverage of all the championship events, with particular emphasis on the latter stages of the Open and Women’s Teams. There will be a full results service and many colour photographs.

The principle analysts, as in recent years, will be John Carruthers, Barry Rigal, Brian Senior and Geo Tislevoll, probably backed up by one or two guest writers who have not yet been confirmed.

On publication, the official retail price will be US$35 plus whatever your local bookseller charges for postage. For the duration of the championships, you can pre-order via Jan Swaan in the Press Room at the reduced price of 100 Zlotys, 25 Euros, or 30 US$, including postage.

Alternatively, you can pay the same prices via Paypal to Brian Senior at bsenior@hotmail.com
POJEDYNEK WAMPIRÓW

Nie wiem, czy mecz z Holandią będzie się śnił naszym reprezentantom. Na pewno niektóre rozdania nie dają spokoju kibicom. Oto koszmary Ryszarda Kiełczewskiego:

Rozd. 19. WE po partii, rozd. E.

| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| A  D  W | K  7 | ♠ A 8 3 | ♠ W 9 6 5 2 |

| ♠ K 10 9 3 | ♠ 8 5 |
| ♠ A 5 4 3 2 | ♠ 8 |
| ♠ 7 4 2 | ♠ DW 10 4 2 |
| ♠ 8 | ♠ AD 10 7 4 |

Rozdanie rozgrywało czterech wampirów ze sterczącymi kładami. Licytowano:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pas</td>
<td>1BA</td>
<td>pas</td>
<td>pas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pas</td>
<td>2♦</td>
<td>pas</td>
<td>3♠</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ktr.</td>
<td>3BA</td>
<td>ktr.</td>
<td>pas...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3♠ - Smolen - 4♠ i 5♥

Wampir na E zlekceważył kontrę swojego vis a vis i wyszedł w swój długi sekwensowy kolor {D}. Rozgrywający wampir przepuścił na obu rekach, wziął drugą lewą królem w dziadku i zaimpasował pika. Następnie zagrał trefl do króla i ponowił impas pikowy. Teraz zagrał król kier, którego wampir na W musiał przepuścić. Kolejne lewy to asy w pikach i karach i wpust W kierem. A ten mógł tylko skasować króla pika i musiał wpuścić dziadka kierem. Nadróbka.

Czy gracz - nie wampir - mógłby wpaść na taki pomysł? Pewne przestanki z licytacji były...

CZY UMIESZ ROZGRYWAĆ?

Lektura tego kącika w „ Brydżu” daje pewność, jaka przydaje się przy stole.

W finale turnieju par kobiecych po licytacji, w której W zameldowała się 2♠ po otwarciu 2♣, Zuzanna Moszczyńska rozgrywała z ręki S 6BA po ataku ♠2:

| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| K  D 8 6 | ♦  D 2 | ♠ A  K  D 9 5 | ♠ W 5 |

| ♠ A 5 4 | ♠ K 10 7 | ♠ 10 8 2 |
| ♠ AD 10 9 |

Do blotki ze stołu E dołożyła siódemkę (zrzutki odwrotne). Z ręki as. Dla rozgrywającej było oczywiste, że wchodząca ma asa kier i króla trefl. Zagrała wobec tego blotkę kier spod króla - dama ze stołu wzięła. Do mariasza pik obie przeciwniczki dołożyły po dwa razy do koloru. As karo - od W walet i kara do końca. W zrzuciła do kar dwa trefle i dwie blotki kier. W końcowce:

| ♠ 6 | ♦ 2 | - |
| ♧ W 5 |

| ♠ - | ♦ - | ♠ K 10 |
| ♤ - |

| ♣ A D |

nastąpiło zagranie forty pik; z ręki kier. Gdy od W spadł walet kier, rozgrywająca odeszła kierem i W musiała dać dwunastą lewę zagranieniem spod króla kier, gdyż jej ręka wyglądała następująco: ♠W92♡AW983♦W♠K742. Przynus wpustkowy jak z książki...