

# 1st IMSA WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hengshui, China • May 13-18, 2019



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## THE 2019 IMSA WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP



Welcome to our coverage of the 2019 IMSA World Masters Championship.

Though there have been two previous IMSA Elite Mind Games in 2016 and 2017, 2019 sees a slightly different format for the first IMSA World Masters Championship.

Four teams in the Open and four in the Women have been invited, based on their level of success in the most recent round of world and zonal championships. A clash with national trials means no USA participation in the IMSA championships. The teams are:

### OPEN

	<b>China</b> Zhuang Zejun Ju Chuancheng Liu Yinghao	Chen Gang Shi Zhengjun Hu Linlin
	<b>France</b> Michel Bessis Eric Mauberquez Julien Bernard	Bernard Cabanes Christophe Oursel Nicolas Lhuissier
	<b>Netherlands</b> Bauke Muller Bob Drijver Sjoert Brink	Simon de Wijs Bart Nab Bas Drijver
	<b>Norway</b> Christian Bakke Nils Kvangraven Ulf Tundal	Boye Brogeland Allan Livgard Terje Aa

### WOMEN

	<b>China</b> Wang Wenfei Lu Yan Wang Nan	Shen Ci Liu Yan Zuo Xiaoxue
	<b>England</b> Heather Dhondy Catherine Draper Nicola Smith	Nevena Senior Gillian Fawcett Yvonne Wiseman
	<b>Poland</b> Cathy Baldysz Danuta Kazmucha Anna Sarniak	Sophia Baldysz Justyna Zmuda Kasia Duftrat
	<b>Sweden</b> Kathrine Bertheau Jessica Larsson Maria Gronkvist	Catharine Ahlsved Cecilia Rimstedt Ida Gronkvist

Each of the two series will play a double round robin of 16-board matches to qualify the top two to the final and the remaining teams to a third-fourth play-off. Day 3 of the tournament will see those finals and play-off matches take place over 3 x 16-board sessions. The next two days will see a four-session all-play through barometer pairs event over 88 boards in each series.

Prize money is US\$69,000 in each teams event and US\$31,000 in each pairs event, making a total of US\$200,000, with every pair and every team guaranteed a prize.

We will, of course, be showing the best of the action in these online bulletins as the tournament progresses. Live coverage can also be found on BBO at [www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com), from approximately 1000 to 1900, Chinese time.

As well as bridge there are four other mindsports holding their own competitions here at the Hengshui Longyuan Hotel in Hengshui City, China. These are Draughts, Go, Chess and Xianqi.

The entertaining opening ceremony was held across town in the Hengshui Poly Grand Theatre and had the theme, Beautiful Hengshui Bright Future.

## FULL SCHEDULE

### TUESDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019

09.30 - 09.45 Captains' Meeting  
 10.00 - 12.20 1<sup>st</sup> Round  
 14.00 - 16.20 2<sup>nd</sup> Round  
 16.50 - 19.10 3<sup>rd</sup> Round

**TEAMS**

### WEDNESDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019

10.00 - 12.20 4<sup>th</sup> Round  
 14.00 - 16.20 5<sup>th</sup> Round  
 16.50 - 19.10 6<sup>th</sup> Round

**TEAMS**

### THURSDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019

10.00 - 12.20 Final - 1<sup>st</sup> session  
 13.30 - 15.50 Final - 2<sup>nd</sup> session  
 16.10 - 18.30 Final - 3<sup>rd</sup> session  
 19.00 - 20.00 Awarding Ceremony Teams

**TEAMS**

### FRIDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019

10.00 - 13.00 Session 1  
 15.00 - 18.00 Session 2

**PAIRS**

### SATURDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019

09.45 - 12.45 Session 3  
 13.45 - 16.45 Session 4  
 17.00 - 18.00 Prize Giving Pairs  
 19.00 - 21.00 Closing Banquet

**PAIRS**





## LOOKING BACK TO 2017

by **Brian Senior**

The 2nd IMSA Elite Mind Games began with a bang in the Open series with a huge swing on the very first deal.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

### China v USA

West	North	East	South
<i>Dwyer</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
–	2♥	Pass	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Yang</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Moss</i>
–	1♥	Pass	2♣
2♦	Dble	All Pass	

For China, Gang Chen could open the North hand with 2♥ to show a weak hand with five hearts plus a four-card or longer minor. Jack Zhao did not raise on the South cards and when 2♥ came round to Kevin Dwyer he jumped to 4♦, Leaping Michaels and showing at least five-five in diamonds and spades. Shan Huang showed spade preference and Zhao doubled, ending the auction.

Zhao led a heart. Huang won dummy's ace and attempted to cash the ace and king of diamonds. Zhao ruffed the ♦K and cashed the rest of his spades before playing a second heart to the jack, queen and king. With only two trumps as entries to dummy and two defensive diamond winners to knock out, Huang could make only the two trumps so was down five for –1100.

For USA, Justin Lall opened the North hand at the

one level. The 2♣ response was game-forcing and when Lixin Yang now made a simple overcall that meant that Lall's double was for penalty.

Lall led the four of hearts round to declarer's jack. Yang cashed the ace of diamonds then played a spade. Brad Moss won the ♠Q and returned a heart to the ace and Yang played a second spade. The defence could only come to two diamonds and three spades so Yang was home with eight tricks for +180 and a huge 15 IMPs to China.

### Bulgaria v France

West	North	East	South
<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Damianova</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♦	Dble	Pass	1♥
2♠	Dble	Pass	3♣
3♦	3♥	3♠	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Karakolev</i>	<i>Reess</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
–	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♦	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

For France, Thomas Bessis did not open the North hand. Cedric Lorenzini opened 1♣ in third seat and Victor Aronov started with a simple overcall on the West cards then jumped in spades at his next turn. When Bessis's second take-out double saw the French pair compete to the three level, Aronov had one more go with the West cards and that proved to be sufficient to convince Diana Damianova to compete with 3♠ over 3♥. Lorenzini now doubled for penalty and that was that.

Bessis was looking at a useful diamond holding over declarer's side-suit so led his trump to cut down on ruffs in the dummy and Lorenzini won the queen and, not being concerned about such ruffs, switched to a club to shorten declarer's trumps. Aronov duly ruffed and cashed a top diamond then led the jack of hearts to the king to lead the second diamond from dummy. Lorenzini discarded a heart on this trick so Aronov won the king of diamonds and ruffed a diamond with the ♠J. Lorenzini did not over-ruff, instead discarding his remaining heart. Aronov ruffed a club then took a

second diamond ruff with the ♠8. This time Lorenzini did over-ruff and returned a club. Aronov discarded so Bessis won the ace and gave his partner a heart ruff for down one; -100.

At the other table, Georgi Karakolev, for Bulgaria, opened the North hand with 1♥ and Vladimir Mihov responded 1♠. With one of his suits bid by an opponent, Jerome Rombaut simply overcalled 2♦. When that came back to Mihov he made jumped to 3♥ and Karakolev went on to game. Presumably, given Karakolev's misfitting minimum, he read 3♥ as forcing (as it was surely intended), expecting Mihov to have made an immediate heart raise with an invitational hand rather than introduce the spades.

Vanessa Reess led the eight of diamonds to Rombaut's king and he continued with the ♦A. Karakolev ruffed and led a heart, Rombaut rising with the ace to lead a third diamond. Karakolev put in the ten and now Reess needed to ruff and give her partner a club ruff to beat the contract. However, she did not see the possibility and discarded so Karakolev crossed to the ace of spades to lead a second heart and when the jack appeared had only to lose to the ♥K then claim the rest for +420 and 8 IMPs to Bulgaria.

And if Rombaut had switched to ace then jack of hearts at tricks two and three? Reess could have won the ♥K and played a third round, preventing any ruffs in the dummy. Superficially, that leaves declarer with only nine winners, but see what happens if he cashes the three club winners followed by the two remaining hearts. Rombaut needs to keep four spades plus the ace of diamonds in his last four cards and that is, of course, impossible. The squeeze provides the tenth trick and the contract is once again successful.

The England Women had a big win over Sweden in Round 4, this deal contributing 11 IMPs to their cause.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

The Swedish E/W pair played in 4♠ and made 11 tricks for +450. For England, Sally Brock and Fiona Brown bid to 6♠ after South had bid hearts. Brock was at the helm as West on the lead of North's singleton heart.

Brock rose with the ace of hearts and cashed the ace and king of clubs for a heart discard. Next she ruffed a club before leading a heart towards her queen. This was the key moment. South won the king and now there was no winning defence. Either the queen of hearts would be a winner, or declarer could crossruff and make all her trumps separately if South returned a heart and North ruffed it. The winning defence was for South to play low on the heart. North can ruff the queen and return a trump and now declarer is a trick short.



From the Open Teams final:

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ A 9 5 3 2 ♥ A J 7 5 ♦ 2 ♣ K J 8		♠ K Q J 10 8 ♥ K 10 8 ♦ K 5 ♣ A 5 4	♠ 7 4 ♥ Q 9 6 4 3 ♦ 10 8 6 4 ♣ 3 2
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West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
–	–	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Vinciguerra</i>
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♠	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Zhao opened 1NT and Chen's artificial 2♠ response was doubled by Bompis to show spades and redoubled by Zhao, also showing spades. Chen bid his diamonds now but Zhao was not interested and signed off in 3NT and played there. Vinciguerra led a heart, Bompis winning the ace and returning the jack and, when that was ducked, playing a third heart. Zhao won and cashed the diamonds but the defence was in control and he was down one for –100.

Bessis opened 1♠ then rebid a Gazzilli 2♣. Two Diamonds showed game values facing the strong artificial variety and 2♥ and 2♠ were relays. When Lorenzini went on over 3NT to show his diamonds, Bessis cuebid but Lorenzini signed off in game. Li led ace and another heart against 5♦, Lorenzini winning the ace and pitching his spade loser. He played a diamond to the ace then back to the king before taking the ruffing spade finesse. Li won the spade and returned the eight of clubs. With little prospect of being able to cash enough spades to get rid of all his club losers, Lorenzini played low and could win cheaply, draw trumps and cross to the ace of clubs to cash the spades; 11 tricks for +600 and 12 IMPs to France.

Li could, and should, have beaten the contract when in with the ace of spades by switching not to the eight of clubs but to the king, knocking out the late entry to the spades. Declarer could have made his contract had he pitched a club on the ♥K rather than his spade. Now he can draw trumps before playing the spade and has the ace of clubs as an entry to the winners. So is the contract unbeatable? Far from it, but it takes a certain degree of imagination to find the winning defence. North must cash the two major-suit aces then play the king of clubs. Declarer has no late entry to his winners and can take one discard too few before drawing trumps so is down one.

From the Open Individual:

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ – ♥ K J ♦ A K J 8 5 2 ♣ A K 9 8 2		♠ A J 10 5 3 2 ♥ 7 6 ♦ 7 4 ♣ Q 10 3	♠ Q 9 8 7 ♥ A 10 9 4 3 ♦ 3 ♣ J 6 4
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West	North	East	South
<i>Lall</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>
–	1♦	2♠	Dble
4♠	6♣	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Pszczola made a negative double of the weak jump overcall and Lall raised to 4♠. When Li leaped to 6♣, Pszczola gave preference to 6♦ and, having put on the pressure, E/W left there opponents to play there, hoping that they had misjudged. Not this time, as 6♦ was exactly where N/S wanted to be. Aronov led the ace of spades but that was ruffed. Li drew trumps and ruffed out the clubs, losing just one heart trick; +1370 and 7 MPs.

West	North	East	South
<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Sakr</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Chen</i>
–	2♣	3♠	Pass
4♦	Dble	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

It was much harder here after Sakr's strong and artificial 2♣ opening. Moss jumped to 3♠ and, after

a pass from Chen, Rombaut decided to lay claim to the diamond suit. Though Sakr doubled, intended as being for penalty, things were rather murky after this. Rombaut ran to 4♠ and Sakr left that round to Chen. He bid 4NT and now she jumped to 6♣ and, no doubt somewhat lost as to what exactly was going on, Chen left her to play there. There was a trump to be lost as well as the ace of hearts so 6♣ was down one for -100 and zero MPs.

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	Huang	Bompis	Karakolev
-	1♦	2♠	Pass
4♠	6♣	Dble	6♦
Pass	Pass	6♠	Dble
All Pass			

Huang opened at the one level and Bompis made the weak jump overcall. Karakolev did not find a negative double on the South cards but Huang blasted 6♣ anyway over Dwyer's pre-emptive spade raise. Bompis doubled that and Karakolev corrected to 6♦. When Dwyer was unable to double 6♦, Bompis did well by saving in 6♠. Karakolev doubled and led a diamond. Huang won that and played three rounds of clubs for Karakolev to ruff, and there was still a loser to come in each major suit. Still, five down for -1100 was a good save against the cold slam and earned Dwyer/Bompis 8 MPs.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bompis	Aronov	Y. Chen	Nanev
-	1♣	Pass	1♥
2♦	Dble	3♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

It isn't often that you would double opponents at the three level when their six-three trump fit is solid and they have the slight majority of the high cards, yet that is what happened at this table. Aronov cashed

the ace and king of clubs then continued with the jack, and Bompis ruffed with dummy's eight and was over-ruffed. Nanev returned a heart so Bompis played the ten, losing to the king, and Aronov cashed the ace of spades before playing a fourth club, ruffed high. Bompis had the rest but was down one for -100 and 9 MPs to N/S.

Bompis could have succeeded double dummy. He has to ruff the third club high then run all the diamonds. North is squeezed down to two black cards then thrown in with a spade and has to lead away from the ♥K at trick 12 to give the contract.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Dwyer	Y. Chen	G. Chen
-	-	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

Six No Trump is a bit of an overbid but Dwyer couldn't see an auction in which he could invite slam in no trump without risk of a misunderstanding so took his best bet. The four N/S pairs who played only game in no trump were all held to 11 tricks (the remaining pair bid and made 6♦), but Dwyer managed the 12 he required. He won the spade lead in hand with the nine, cashed a top club then overtook the ♠K to take the club finesse. When that was successful, he cashed a third spade, throwing a diamond, then the two remaining clubs followed by the fourth spade. Neither defender was willing to give up on the heart suit, each pitching one and keeping three, as did Dwyer. That, however, meant that both came down to a doubleton diamond. Dwyer therefore ducked a diamond, won the heart return and cashed the second heart then played a diamond to the ace and had a diamond winner for the last trick; +1440 and all 10 MPs.

## Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Y. Chen</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Chen</i>
–	1♠	Dble	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
2NT	Dbl	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

Dai first passed then judged to show his strong seven-card diamond suit rather than bid the four-card spades. Bompis forced to game by showing his second suit then bid 3NT to complete the auction. Lorenzini led a low spade to the ten and king. Bompis led the eight of diamonds to dummy's jack and Chen won the queen. He returned the jack of spades and Lorenzini had to take the ace as ducking would have allowed an extra dummy entry, when declarer would have set up the diamonds and had a second entry with the ♥J to cash them. Lorenzini duly won the ♠A and returned the jack of clubs. Bompis won the queen, crossed to the jack of hearts and cashed the queen of spades. The fall of the eight meant that dummy had a second spade winner in the seven, so Bompis had three spades, five hearts and two clubs, 10 tricks in all, for +630 and 9 MPs.

Had Lorenzini ducked his partner's spade return at trick three, Bompis would have won dummy's queen and played on diamonds. The defensive spades would have been blocked so they could have cashed only one trick in the suit and declarer would once again have come to an overtrick.

And finally, a deal from the Open Pairs...

Zhang made a bare minimum take-out double and Chen bid 2♦, transfer to hearts. Li decided to wait and see what his opponents would do and Zhao, who hated hearts, rebid his five-card spade suit. When that came round to Li he bid 2NT, presumably natural, and Zhao doubled, probably looking forward to defending three of a minor. Chen, however, appears to have taken the double as showing extra values rather than merely defence against the unbid suits and, having seen his partner rebid spades, which would usually mean a sixth card, he jumped to 4♠, doubled by Li.

A trump lead would have defeated the spade game but that was not easy to find and in practice Zhang led the two of clubs. That went to the queen and ace. Zhao led a club to the king, ruffed a heart back to hand and discarded dummy's diamond loser on the jack of clubs. Knowing from the third and fifth lead that the last club was on his right, Zhao now led his last club and ruffed it when Zhang discarded a diamond. A second heart ruff was followed by a diamond ruff and a third heart. In a vain attempt to prevent declarer from making too many of his trumps, Li ruffed in with the queen. However, this had no effect on the outcome. Zhao over-ruffed, ruffed a diamond with dummy's last trump, and led another heart. He had to come to one more trump trick so had 10 in all for +790 and 8 MPs.

## THE WINNERS

<b>Open Teams</b>	France	<b>Women's Teams</b>	Sweden
<b>Open Pairs</b>	Yunlong Chen and Zhao Jie (China)	<b>Women's Pairs</b>	Qi Shen and Wenfei Wang (China)
<b>Open Individual</b>	Jianwei Li (China)	<b>Women's Individual</b>	Qi Shen (China)