

Issue No 2

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SCHEDULE

TEAMS

10.00 - 12.20 RR 4 14.00 - 16.20 RR 5 16.50 - 19.10 RR 6 Day One of the 2019 IMSA World Masters Championship is over and we are already half-way through the qualifying stage of the Teams competition. It feels very short to those of us used to the big world championships, but the matches are exactly the same length as in those events, there just are fewer teams.

With one round robin gone and one to go, nothing has yet been settled, with all eight teams well within reach of a place in Thursday's 48-board main finals. Of course, some have a little more work to do than others, but nobody has reason to worry that they are out of things.

After three matches the Netherlands lead the way in the Open with 35.48 VPs. They are followed by Norway on 28.10, France on 27.09 and China on 26.33.

In the Women, Poland lead with 38.82 VPs, from China on 31.07, Sweden on 26.24, and England on 23.87.







FRANCE VS NETHERLANDS

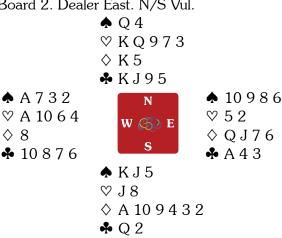
by Brian Senior

Open Teams, Round 1

Hopefully, things will get better as the tournament progresses. We have a lot of BBO operators who have never done the job before and it shows. As I cannot watch every trick on two tables at once and the records are so unreliable, it is impossible to do as thorough a match report as normal on Round 1. In hopes of fending off a lawsuit from an irate player, can I apologise now for any errors made by me due to the inadequate recording.

France met the Netherlands in the opening round of the Open series. After an easy game for E/W on Board 1, Bart Nab found a light take-out double to enliven the second deal.

Board 2. Dealer East, N/S Vul.



West Lhuissier Pass Pass Pass Pass Pass	North de Wijs - 1♥ 2NT 3♥ 3NT	East Bernard Pass Pass Pass Pass All Pass	South Muller 1♦ 2♦ 3♦
West Nab - Dble 1♠ 2♠	North Oursel - Rdbl Dble 3♡	East Drijver Pass 1♥ Pass All Pass	South Mauberquez 1♦ Pass 2♦

Nab's feather-light double caused confusion in the N/S ranks. Christophe Oursel clearly intended his redouble, double for take-out, then bid 3% as forcing, but Eric Mauberquez saw it differently and passed. There was little to the play of 3%, Oursel losing three aces plus a second heart trick for +140.

Bauke Muller and Simon de Wijs had the auction to themselves in the other room, and ended up in 3NT, the normal spot, albeit far from secure. Julien Bernard led the ten of spades, which was ducked to declarer's queen. De Wijs played a club to the queen and a second round to the jack and ace but now Bernard seems to have read declarer for nothing in diamonds to explain his failure to play on the suit. Bernard therefore switched to a low diamond and dummy's ten scored. De Wijs played the ♥J followed by a second heart to his king and, when that held the trick, played a third heart. Nicolas Lhuissier won that and returned a low spade, setting up the setting trick. However, when de Wijs won dummy's jack and led a diamond to his king, Lhuissier was squeezed in three suits and had to discard his remaining small spade. De Wijs could set up an extra heart trick and had nine in all for his contract despite having no way to get at the \Diamond A; +600 and 10 IMPs to the Netherlands.

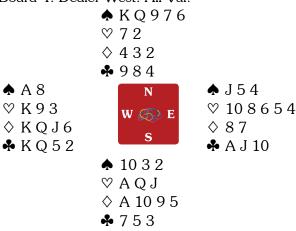


Simon de Wijs, Netherlands





Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Lhuissier	de Wijs	Bernard	Muller
$1 \diamondsuit$	Pass	$1 \heartsuit$	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♡	Pass	4♡	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Nab	Oursel	Drijver	Mauberquez
1♣	Pass	$1 \diamondsuit$	Pass
1NT	Pass	$2 \diamondsuit$	Pass
2 %	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

Nab opened a potentially short club and could rebid a strong 1NT over the 0-6 response. That left room for Bob Drijver to follow an invitational sequence showing five hearts and for Nab to decline the invitation. When Oursel led a low spade and dummy went down, Nab would have been well-pleased that he had not accepted the game invite. However, he called for dummy's jack and it held the trick so now he had chances for nine tricks. He led a diamond to the queen, a club to dummy and a second diamond to the king. When that held he cashed two clubs before playing a heart up and the well-placed ♥A meant that there were indeed nine tricks; +150.

Lhuissier opened 1♦ in the other room, better minor, and had to rebid 2NT to show his point-count. Bernard checked back for a five-three heart fit and, on finding one, bid the poor heart game. Muller led a club, so the contract was not down immediately, as would have been the case on a spade lead. Bernard won in hand and led a diamond up. Muller grabbed the ace after some thought and returned a spade. Bernard won the ace and played three rounds of diamonds, getting rid of one spade but then having to over-ruff de Wijs on the fourth round of the suit. Having failed to get rid of his last spade on the diamonds, Bernard next played out the clubs. Again, de Wijs ruffed. Rather than over-ruff, Bernard took his spade discard, but

found that he had two trump losers to come so was down one for -100 and 6 IMPs to the Netherlands. A good try, and on a different heart layout Bernard might have been successful.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul. ♠ A 9 2 ♥ A 5 4 ♦ Q96 ♣ KJ83 **♠** 10 6 ♠ QJ74 ♥ Q 8 ♥ J 10 7 3 2 ♦ K8542 ♦ J 7 ♣ A 10 7 5 **♣** 92 **♦** K853 ♥ K 9 6 ♦ A 10 3

♣ Q 6 4

Both N/S pairs had uncontested auctions to 3NT, played by South on a low diamond lead. Both declarers played low from dummy so the jack forced the ace. they led a low club to the jack, came back to hand with a spade and led a second low club. On this trick Lhuissier played low so Muller won dummy's king and played a third club, losing two tricks to Lhuissier. With spades four-two there was no ninth trick and the contract was down one for -50.

In the other room, Nab went up with the ace on the second round of clubs and returned a low diamond. Mauberquez won that, unblocked the club, and had nine tricks and his contract; +400 and 10 IMPs to France.



Bart Nab, Netherlands



Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

3♠

Pass

♠ KJ10873 ♥ 85 ♦ J85 ♣ K2

♠ Q 9 4♡ A Q J 7 6 3

◇ A Q J / 6 · ◇ Q 4 ♣ A 9

West

5♡

Lhuissier

All Pass

	N	
w		E
	S	

♠ A 2 ♡ K 10 9 4 ◇ 10 6 2

♣ Q654

4

Dble

♦ 65 ♥ 2 ♦ AK973

♦ A K 9	, ,	
North	East	South
de Wijs	Bernard	Muller

Pass

6♡

West	North	East	South
Nab	Oursel	Drijver	Mauberquez
_	2 %	Pass	2 ♠
3♡	Pass	4♡	All Pass

We don't tend to associate the French with unusual systemic opening bids but on this deal Oursel could open 2° to show either hearts and a minor or spades. However, this didn't cause any great problems for the opposition as Mauberquez bid a pass or correct 2^{\bullet} and Nab could overcall at a convenient level and Drijver raise to game. Oursel led a diamond so Mauberquez won two of those then switched to a spade and that established the fourth defensive trick for down one and -100.

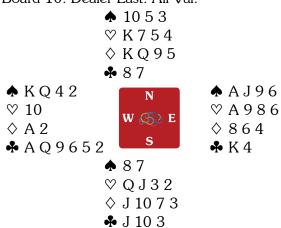


Nicolas Lhuissier, France

In the other room, de Wijs opened a full-blooded $3\spadesuit$ with the North cards and Muller upped the ante further with a raise to $4\spadesuit$. That put on a lot of pressure and the French E/W pair got it badly wrong when Lhuissier overcalled $5\heartsuit$ and Bernard raised to slam. You will no doubt have your own ideas as to who should take the bulk of the blame, but the bottom line was that Muller doubled and identical defence to the other room resulted in down three for -800 and 12 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

West



North

WESL	NOLLI	Lasi	South
Lhuissier	de Wijs	Bernard	Muller
_	_	$1 \diamondsuit$	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♡	Pass	3♠	Pass
4 .	Pass	4♡	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♡	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
7 ♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Nab	Oursel	Drijver	Mauberquez
_	_	1♣	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♡	Pass	5♣	Pass
6 ♠	All Pass		

This was a bidding test for E/W and, surprisingly, the Dutch pair were found wanting. Drijver opened a short club and raised the $1 \spadesuit$ response to $2 \spadesuit$. Nab inquired and $3 \spadesuit$ presumably confirmed the fourth spade but in a minimum balanced hand. Now Nab made a slam try $-4 \heartsuit$ showing a shortage with 3NT being the way to start more general cuebidding? That seems to have suited Drijver well enough that he went past game to cuebid the club king but Nab now jumped to the small slam and they had stopped a level too soon; +1460.







Julien Bernard, France

Bernard opened 1♦ and rebid 2NT, showing a weak no trump type. Three Hearts was a transfer and 3♠ showed support. After an exchange of cuebids, Lhuissier asked for key cards and, on finding all present, asked about kings. Six Clubs showed the ♣K and was exactly what Lhuissier had been hoping for so he could now bid the grand slam; +2210 and 13 IMPs to France.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

★ K 9 2
★ 6
♡ J 10
◇ K Q J 8 4 3
♣ Q 10 6 5

West Lhuissier - 4♠ All Pass	North de Wijs - Dble	East Bernard 3 Pass	South <i>Muller</i> Pass 5♦
West	North	East	South
Nab	Oursel	Drijver	Mauberquez
_	_	3♠	Pass
4♠	4NT	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

♣ J

Both Easts opened 3♠ and were raised to game. Now, what is your poison with the North cards, 4NT or double? Double gains when partner leaves it in and N/S are making nothing, while 4NT gets across the two-suiter better – North has to be a little concerned when partner responds 5♦ that this is not the best spot.

Oursel chose 4NT and Mauberquez was quite happy to respond 5♣, ending the auction. However, despite the harmless spade lead, he could not find a way home. He won and played ace and another club and Nab found the necessary heart switch to ensure that the contract had to fail by a trick; −50.

De Wijs went for the double and trusted his partner to have long diamonds for his 5♦ response – Muller would have passed a semi-balanced hand or bid 4NT with two places to play. Lhuissier too led a spade, on which his partner followed with the ten. he ducked the first diamond but had to win the second one and, if the BBO operator is to be believed, Bernard followed with the six followed by the five. That ought to be a suit-preference signal for hearts rather than clubs, did it not? If so, it was not clear to Lhuissier, who thought for some time before switching to the two of clubs. That ran to the jack and queen and Muller drew the outstanding trump and took the heart finesse. That lost but he had 11 tricks for +400 and 10 IMPs to the Netherlands.

The match ended in a win for the Netherlands by 58-41 IMPs, converting to 14.39-5.61 VPs. Meanwhile, in the other Open match, Norway defeated China by 29-22 IMPs, 12.03-7.97 VPs.



Eric Mauberguez, France







ORIGIN

by Mark Horton

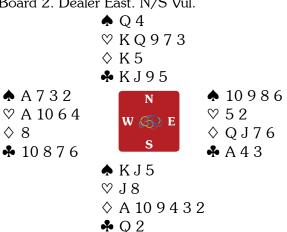
On the journey to Henshui I finished reading Dan Brown's latest book Origin, featuring the adventures of Professor Robert Langdon. The plot features artificial intelligence and that was referenced at the spectacular Opening Ceremony when Alpha Zero, the brilliant Go and Chess playing programme was mentioned. It might only be a matter of time before Alpha Zero masters Bridge.

Origin also features a character named Winston (in honour of Sir Winston Churchill) and at one point, this famous quotation is included:

Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm.

Not a bad one for a bridge player to be aware of! Early on in the match between England and China both declarers faced a tricky play problem:

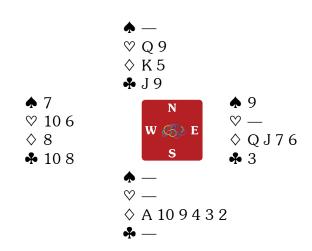
Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



O	pen .	Roon	n

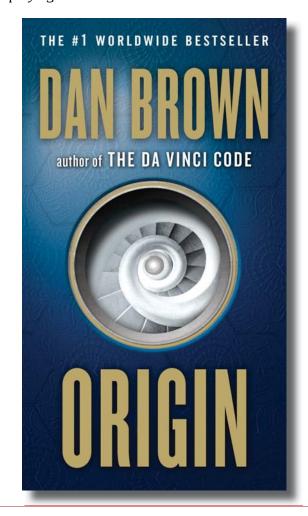
West North East S	outh
Shen Draper Wang F	awcett
Pass 1	. ♦
Pass 1♥ Pass 2	2\$
Pass 3. Pass 3	NT

West led the $\clubsuit 2$ and declarer won with dummy's queen, East following with the six. A heart to the jack saw West win and return the $\heartsuit 4$. A suspicious declarer might put in dummy's nine, but here dummy's king took the trick and declarer continued with a club to the jack and a club to the king and ace. When East returned the \$10 West won with the ace and exited with a spade to leave these cards:



Declarer played a diamond to the king and then cashed the ∇Q and the $\clubsuit J$. When neither missing ten put in an appearance, she was one down.

The winning line is to cash the $\Diamond A$ and then play a diamond to the king. West cannot afford to part with a heart or a club, so must discard the \clubsuit 7. Then declarer can play either hearts or clubs from the top, endplaying West.









PERFECTION

by Mark Horton

Relaxing in my room yesterday afternoon, I happened upon a TV channel showing an archery contest in Shanghai. Each contestant shoots five flights of three arrows, scoring 10 for every bullseye, a maximum of 150 being available for perfection. You don't necessarily score points for perfection in bridge, but on this deal from Round 1 the EW pairs had a chance to demonstrate their skills:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ 10 5 3 ♥ K 7 5 4

♦ KQ95

4 8 7

♠ KQ42 ♥ 10 ♦ A 2

♣ AQ9652

W 🚳 E

♠ AJ96 ♥ A 9 8 6

♦ 864

♣ K 4

♦ 8 7

 \heartsuit QJ32

♦ J 10 7 3

♣ J 10 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shen	Draper	Wang	Fawcett
_		$1 \diamondsuit^*$	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♡*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♡	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♦	Dble	6♠	All Pass

This auction was going along reasonably well until East jumped to 6♠. Perhaps passing the double and then bidding 6♥ over West's redouble would have been the way to suggest a grand slam was possible.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wiseman	Lu	Smith	Liu
		1♣*	Pass
2♣*	Pass	$2 \diamondsuit^*$	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♡*	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♡*	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♣*	Pass
7 ♠	All Pass		

- $1 \clubsuit 1 + \clubsuit$, natural or 12-14 balanced or 18-19 balanced or any 1444 (15points can contain $5\diamondsuit$)
- 2**%** Game forcing
- $2 \diamondsuit$ Checking for a major
- 4Cue bid
- 4♡ Cue bid
- Rdbl First round control
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♡ 2 key cards, no ♠Q
- 5NT Kings?
- **6** ♣K

An impressive way to collect 13 IMPs.









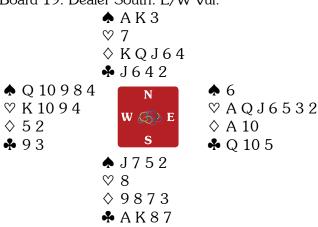
NORWAY VS NETHERLANDS

by Brian Senior

Open Teams, Round 2

Norway and the Netherlands were the two firstround winners so this was the natural choice to watch in Round 2.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



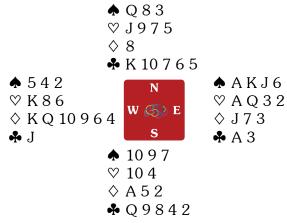
West	North	East	South
Nab	Bakke	Drijver	Brogeland
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	$1 \diamondsuit$	4♡	Dble
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
	_		
Aa	Drijver	Livgard	Brink
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	$1 \diamondsuit$	3♡	Dble
4♡	Dble	All Pass	

Facing a passed partner, Allan Livgard made a very heavy pre-emptive 3% overcall and Sjoert Brink doubled. When Terje Aa raised to 4%, Bas Drijver in turn doubled, responsive. With no obvious fit suitable for the five level, Brink left it in, the winning decision on the board. Brink cashed the ace of clubs then switched to the nine of diamonds to the jack and ace. Livgard played a spade so Drijver won that and cashed a diamond then switched to a club. Brink won that and the contract was down one for -200.

In the other room, Bob Drijver overcalled a level higher and Boye Brogeland doubled. That caught Christian Bakke with an awkward problem – he had heart shortage, which suggested bidding, but no obvious suit to bid, having already shown the diamonds. Bakke finally settled for bidding his strong three-card spade

suit and 4♠ ended the auction. I don't like bidding a three-card suit on an auction where bad breaks are all too likely, but then again I've seen plenty of deals on which partner has made a negative double with five moderate spades in this situation. Four Spades was not a success. Drijver led ace then queen of hearts so Bakke ruffed in hand while pitching a club from the dummy. He cashed the ace and king of spades then, on seeing the bad news, knocked out the ace of diamonds. Back came a heart, forcing dummy to ruff, and Bakke could only cash a couple more tricks before Nab was ruffing in to cash the queen of spades and claim the rest for the defence; down four for −200 and 9 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Nab	Bakke	Drijver	Brogeland
_	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♦	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Aa	Drijver	Livgard	Brink
_	Pass	1♣	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

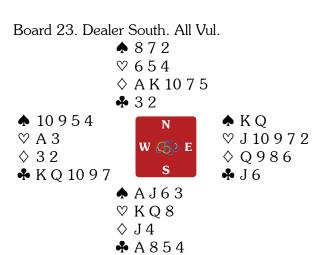
The Norwegian 1. and transfer response followed by natural jump rebid of 2NT didn't get them to the right spot at all when Aa simply raised that to 3NT. After a club lead, Livgard ducked and won the second club, cashed three rounds of hearts ending in dummy, intending to play for spades three-three with the queen onside if that suit behaved. When it did not, he





switched his attention to diamonds and lost the $\Diamond A$, three more clubs and a heart, for down two and -100.

By contrast, the Dutch E/W had a very simple and effective auction after Drijver had opened a 19-21 2NT. Nab jumped to 4♠ to show a diamond slam try then went on to 6♦ over the 5♦ response, which showed the three key cards. Slam is very good, making on three-three hearts, the spade finesse or, sometimes, a show-up squeeze when North is four-four or more in the majors. Today, Drijver could win the club lead, ruff his remaining club and play on diamonds. Brogeland waited until the second diamond then returned a spade and that was that; +920 and 14 IMPs to the Netherlands.



West	North	East	South
Nab	Bakke	Drijver	Brogeland
Aa	Drijver	Livgard	Brink
_	_	_	1NT
All Pass			

Both Souths opened 1NT and played there, with both Wests leading the queen of clubs and seeing East unblock the jack. Both Wests continued clubs.

Brink won the third club and ran the jack of diamonds, Livgard taking the queen and returning the ten of hearts. Brink won the ace of hearts and cashed out for +90 – all very straightforward.

Brogeland waited until the fourth club before winning. He too ran the jack of diamonds but Bob Drijver ducked so Brogeland switched his attention to hearts, his queen losing to the ace as Drijver dropped the jack. Nab cashed the long club now but that squeezed his partner in three suits. Drijver discarded the king of spades, hoping against hope that Nab would hold the jack. It was not to be. Nab played a diamond and Brogeland took the ace and king then played a spade up and had the ace and jack of those plus the $\heartsuit K$ for seven tricks and +90 – not quite so straightforward here.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul. **♠** 10 8 6 2 ♥ J 2 ♦ J43 ♣ KJ63 **♠** A Q 3 **♠** K 9 ♥ 54 ♥ K 10 7 3 W 🚳 E ♦ A 10 8 6 ♦ KQ975 🗚 Q 10 9 4 **%** 85 ♣ J 7 5 4 ♥ A Q 9 8 6 ♦ 2

	♣ A 7 2		
West	North	East	South
Nab	Bakke	Drijver	Brogeland
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Dble	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	3♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Aa	Drijver	Livgard	Brink
1♣	Pass	$1 \diamondsuit$	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	Dble
Pass	Pass	$4\diamondsuit$	All Pass

Livgard's $1\Diamond$ response was a transfer to hearts so when he next raised the 1NT rebid to game Brogeland doubled for a heart lead and Livgard judged correctly to run to what he hoped would be the safety of his fivecard diamond suit. Nobody doubled that, and Livgard could not have been too disappointed with dummy's trump support. Brink led a spade round to the king, Livgard cashing the king of diamonds then the spade winners for a club discard. Next he played a low club off the dummy and Drijver went in with the jack and returned a low club for Livgard to ruff. Livgard cashed the queen of diamonds, led a diamond to the ace, and led a heart, covering Drijver's card. But Brink had the ace of clubs with which to get off lead and, while Livgard could ruff that, he was left with a heart and a club to lose so was down one for -50.

Nab's 10-12 1NT opening led to a very different auction in the other room, where his partner knew there was unlikely to be game their way so passed. Brogeland balanced with a 2♣ Landy bid to show the majors and Bakke responded 2♠. Now Drijver made a take-out double, getting his side to their top spot of 3♦ via a scrambling 2NT reply, but Bakke had a four-card major and this was the vulnerability at which to declare so he took the push to 3♠ and played there. Drijver led a club to the queen and king and Bakke led the jack of hearts and, when it was not covered, ran it. When the heart held the trick, Bakke played a trump to the jack and queen followed by a second diamond, ruffed





in the dummy. Bakke played ace of clubs and another club to his jack and Drijver ruffed with the $\bigstar K$ and led a heart, but declarer was in control now and didn't even need to repeat the heart finesse. Bakke rose with the ace and crossruffed his way to nine tricks, losing only to the $\bigstar A$; +140 and 3 IMPs to Norway.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul. ♠ AJ 10 4 \heartsuit 2 ♦ KQ742 ♣ KJ2 **♦**83 **♠** Q 9 2 \heartsuit J ♥ 976543 W 🙉 E ♦ 10653 ♦ J98 ♣ Q 10 9 8 7 6 **♠** K 7 6 5 ♥ AKQ108 \Diamond A ♣ A 5 3

West	North	East	South
Nab	Bakke	Drijver	Brogeland
_	_	Pass	1 %
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	4♡
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♡	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♡
Pass	6♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Aa	Drijver	Livgard	Brink
_	_	Pass	1♡
– Pass	- 2 ♣	Pass Pass	1♡ 2♡
– Pass Pass	- 2♣ 3♠	2 0.00	
		Pass	2♡
Pass	3♠	Pass Pass	2♡ 3NT
Pass Pass	3 ♠ 4 ♣	Pass Pass Pass	2♥ 3NT 4NT

Bakke responded $1 \spadesuit$ and Brogeland jumped to $4 \heartsuit$, showing four-card spades and a strong hand not suitable for a splinter, so strong hearts and often 4-5-2-2. Bakke asked, discovered one or four, so asked about the $\spadesuit Q$ and found that it was missing. He could have settled for $6 \spadesuit$ now but went via 5NT, presumably to give Brogeland the chance to bid 6/7NT if he so desired. He did not. Drijver led a heart to the ace, the jack falling from West. Bakke played king of spades and a spade to the jack and queen but, of course, would have been able to over-ruff a heart had that been necessary, so lost only to the $\spadesuit Q$ then claimed the rest; +1430.

Bas Drijver responded $2\clubsuit$, artificial game-force, and the $2\heartsuit$ rebid showed spades, hence Drijver's jump to $3\spadesuit$. It looks as though Brink committed to Seven, offering a choice of grand slams, despite knowing that the $\spadesuit Q$ was missing. Well, fair enough, but the gamble didn't pay off as Drijver played spades

in natural fashion so lost to the queen and was down one for -100 and a massive 17 IMPs to Norway.

A generation ago, everyone believed that if a trump was not led against a grand slam it must mean that the opening leader held the trump queen. That belief would have worked well today, but I think that nowadays people are far less convinced that a trump is always going to be the safest lead, so this idea has much less going for it than was once the case.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul. **♠** Q 9 ♥ KQ109742 ♦ A 3 **\$**86 **♦** 84 **♠** 10 7 6 2 ♥ A 8 \heartsuit J ♦ 9865 ♦ K 10 7 4 2 ♣ Q 10 4 3 **♣** 9752 ♠ AKJ53 ♥ 653 ♦ Q J 🗣 A K J

West Nab - Pass	North Bakke - 2♡	East Drijver Pass	South Brogeland 1♠ 2♠
Pass Pass Pass Pass	3♥ 4♦ 4NT 6♥	Pass Pass Pass All Pass	4♣ 4♠ 5♠
West Aa - Pass Pass	North Drijver - 4♡ 5♡	East Livgard - Pass All Pass	South Brink 1NT 4NT

Brogeland opened $1 \spadesuit$ and rebid the suit then, when Bakke repeated his hearts, cuebid twice, convincing Bakke to ask for key cards. It looks as though Brogeland judged that three small was as good as the queen facing the $2\heartsuit$ and $3\heartsuit$ bids of his partner, though of course Bakke did not need to hear that his partner held the $\heartsuit Q$ as he had it himself and would have bid the slam opposite a 5° response to Key-card also. After a diamond lead round to the ace there was nothing to the play; +980. Apparently Brink intended to open 1♠ and it was only when he was thinking what to do over the 4% response that he realised what he had done. their 1NT opening would not have been strong so he had too much to spare to just settle for game. Four No Trump was, of course, an impossible bid from Drijver's perspective, but he didn't wish to gamble so settled for a 5% sign-off and that was 11 IMPs to Norway.

The match ended in a win for Norway by 53-43 IMPs, 12.80-7.20 VPs.







IMPERFECTION

by Mark Horton

This deal from the second round appeared to be a bidding test for E/W, but at the table I was watching, it also proved to be a defensive problem:

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ Q83 ♥ J975 ♦ 8 ♣ K 10 7 6 5

♦ 542 ♥ K 8 6 ♦ KQ10964 🎝 J



♠ A K J 6 ♥ A Q 3 2 ♦ J 7 3 ♣ A 3

♠ 10 9 7 ♥ 104 ♦ A 5 2 ♣ Q 9 8 4 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wiseman	Rimstedt	Smith	Gronkvist
	Pass	1♣*	Pass
$1 \diamondsuit$	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

 $1+\clubsuit$, natural or 12-14 balanced or 18-19 balanced or any 1444 (15 points can contain $5\diamondsuit$)

2NT 18-19

South led the \$\daggeq 2\$ and declarer took North's king with the ace and played three rounds of hearts ending in dummy. Had the suit divided she would have tried for four tricks in spades. When South discarded on the third round declarer played the $\Diamond K$ and South won and played the \$4 for two down.

Closed Room				
West	North	East	South	
Bertheau	Senior	Larsson	Dhondy	
	Pass	2♣*	Pass	
2♠*	Pass	2NT	Pass	
3NT	All Pass			

18-19 NT or any game force (not \Diamond)

Transfer to 2NT

For the second time $6\diamondsuit$ was never in the picture.

South led the \$4 and declarer won with the ace and played a diamond to the king. When it held she continued with the queen of diamonds dropping the jack and North pitched the ♠8. When South ducked for a second time declarer changed tack, cashing the top spades, finishing with ten tricks.

I can't explain why South ducked the second diamond (her partner could hardly have an ace in addition to the **\(\Pi \)**K) but could North have done anything to make things even easier?

Assuming the club lead promises an honour, North









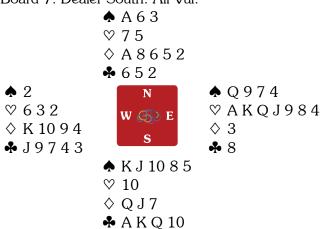
CHINA VS NETHERLANDS

by Brian Senior

Open Teams, Round 3

China and the Netherlands were almost level an around average after two matches, a few VPs behind Norway, the leaders. Their Round 3 meeting started quietly and only really got going on the seventh board.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.



Hu Linlin overcalled a level lower so Bauke Muller introduced his spades and Simon de Wijs supported them after Liu Yinghao's raise to 4\omega. Hu liked his solid hearts and seven-four shape and now bid again, de Wijs doubling 5♥ in pass-out seat to complete the auction. Muller too cashed a top club then switched to his trump. However, when Hu won that with the king and played his diamond up, Muller failed to split his honours. Hu sat for a long time before getting it wrong by putting up the king. That lost to the ace and a trump came back and he had three spade losers and five in all; three down for -800 and 7 IMPs to the Netherlands. Putting in the nine or ten of diamonds would have saved a trick and flattened the board but it was hard to see Muller playing low from either his actual holding or from Axx, given that he knew from the bidding that declarer had led a singleton.

West	North	East	South
Drijver	Chen	Brink	Zhuang
_	_	_	1♣
Pass	$2\Diamond$	4♡	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Liu	de Wijs	Hu	Muller
_	_	_	1♣
Pass	$2 \diamondsuit$	3♡	3♠
4♡	4 ^	5♡	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Both South players started with a strong club and both Norths showed a positive, 8+ HCP with five or more diamonds. Sjoert Brink, for the Netherlands, now overcalled 4♥ and Zhuang Zejun doubled, ending the auction. He cashed a top club then switched to his trump. Brink won and led his diamond up, ducking when Zhuang put in the queen. Zhuang played another top club now and Brink discarded a spade. Zhuang switched to a low spade and Chen Gang won the ace and returned his remaining trump. That restricted Brink to one spade ruff in the dummy, so he had another spade to lose at the end and was down two for −500.



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West

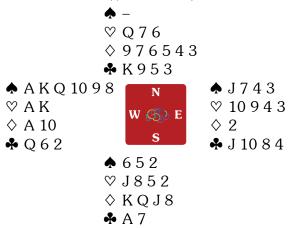
Drijver



Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

North

Chen



2♣ 2♠ 4NT 6♠	Pass Pass Pass All Pass	2♦ 4♦ 5♦	Pass Pass Pass
West	North	East	South
Liu	de Wijs	Hu	Muller
1♣	1NT	Pass	3♦
3NT	4♦	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♦
Dble	All Pass		

East

Brink

South

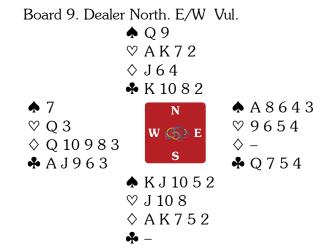
Zhuang

Wood

Bas Drijver opened with a usually game-forcing 2♣ and rebid 2♠ over the negative/waiting 2♦ response. Brink had virtually nothing, but 2♠ was a game-force and he did have four trumps and a side-suit singleton. He therefore decided to splinter and leave the rest up to partner. Drijver clearly expected something better than two jacks and drove to slam after checking on key cards – presumably therefore, he even considered Seven to be a possibility for his partner's sequence. Chen didn't lead a club against the slam but it didn't matter. There was no way to escape two club losers and Drijver soon settled for down one and –50.

In the other room, Liu opened a Precision $1\clubsuit$ and de Wijs overcalled 1NT to show the minors. Muller jumped pre-emptively to $3\diamondsuit$ and Liu took a shot at 3NT, where he hoped to have nine running tricks. However, de Wijs had extra diamond length and competed to $4\diamondsuit$, so Liu next tried $4\spadesuit$. Like 3NT, that would have made in comfort, but now Muller came back to life and sacrificed in $5\diamondsuit$, loving his minor-suit holdings facing a partner who surely had six diamonds given how weak they appeared to be. Liu doubled that and Hu guessed to leave it in. Liu took two hearts then tried a spade but that was ruffed and he had only the trump ace to come; down one for -100 and just 4 IMPs to China. Very well done by de Wijs/Muller to

cover their teammates on that one.



west	MOLLII	Last	South
Drijver	Chen	Brink	Zhuang
_	1NT	Pass	2 %
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Liu	de Wijs	Ни	Muller
_	$1 \diamondsuit$	1 ♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	2♣	$2\Diamond$
All Pass			

The Chinese N/S pair bid quickly to 3NT via a transfer sequence and the contract all came down to that crucial eight of clubs. Brink led his fourth-best club to the ace and Drijver returned a low club to the eight and queen. Declarer could relax now. He won the third club and played on spades, claiming 10 tricks for +430.

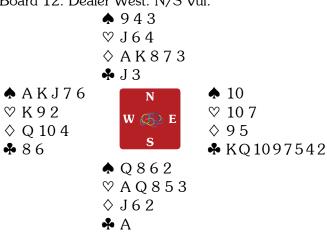
De Wijs opened a Precision $1\Diamond$ and Hu overcalled. taking a quick look at the vulnerability, Muller passed and waited for the reopening double while licking his lips. Sure enough, de Wijs did double and Muller left it in, but now Liu tried 1NT then redoubled for rescue, and the Chinese pair had found their nine-card club fit, where Deep Finesse assures us that East could have made nine tricks. Muller, however, bid $2\Diamond$ over 2♣ and de Wijs judged that to be high enough on a deal where it appeared that the breaks might be very nasty. Hu led a low club and, wanting to keep trump control, de Wijs discarded a heart from dummy. Liu won the ace of clubs and returned his low heart, so de Wijs won the ace and played a diamond to test the split. Hu pitched a spade as de Wijs won dummy's ace, and he now led a spade to the gueen and ace, won the heart return and overtook the nine of spades





with the king. that was ruffed but there was not much that Liu could do. He returned a club but de Wijs ruffed that in dummy and started to play winning spades through him. Eventually, Liu just came to the queen of diamonds and de Wijs had nine tricks for +110 but 8 IMPs to China.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Drijver	Chen	Brink	Zhuang
1 4	Pass	1NT	2 %
Pass	2♠	4♣	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Liu	de Wijs	Ни	Muller
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Drijver opened the West hand with $1 \spadesuit$, being too strong for his agreed no trump range, and Brink responded with a wide-ranging 1NT. Zhuang overcalled, Chen cuebid to show a good heart raise, and Brink jumped in his eight-card suit. That was sufficient to silence everyone so $4 \clubsuit$ it was. Zhuang led a low diamond so Chen took two of those then switched to a heart to his partner's ace. There was still the trump ace to lose so Brink was down one for -50.

At the other table, Liu opened a 13-15 no trump and Hu just raised him to game. 3NT could work either if it made or if N/S were making four of a major, which was quite possible given Hu's defenceless hand. Neither of those possibilities bore fruit on this occasion, but the price was only 2 IMPs. De Wijs led a low diamond to the jack and queen and Liu played a club. When Muller won the ace he returned a diamond and de Wijs had four of those to take followed by a heart to the ace for two down and -100.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul. ♠ AKJ1062 ♥ KQ985 ♦ J ♣ Q ♠ 9854 \triangle Q ♥ J 6 4 3 2 ♥ A 10 \Diamond A Q ♦ 98632 **♣** 9 2 ♣ A K 10 4 3 **♠** 7 3 ♡ 7 ♦ K 10 7 5 4 ♣ J8765

West	North	East	South
Drijver	Chen	Brink	Zhuang
_	1♣	1NT	Pass
$2\Diamond$	2♠	3♦	Dble
Pass	3♡	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Liu	de Wijs	Ни	Muller
_	1♣	1NT	Pass
2♣	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4 ^	All Pass	

Chen opened a strong club and Brink overcalled 1NT, both minors. Drijver gave preference to diamonds and Chen showed the first of his suits, hoping to get a further opportunity to show the other one later. Sure enough, Brink raised to 30, though Zhuang's penalty double might have been a warning to Chen – 3♦ doubled would have been down two. When he bid the hearts Zhuang gave preference to spades and Chen settled for partscore. Brink cashed a top club then switched to his trump. Chen won the A and ran the jack of diamonds to Drijver's gueen. Back came a second trump so there would be no ruffs in the dummy. Chen won the trump, drew two more rounds, then led a low heart, losing to the ten. He ruffed the top club return and played the $\heartsuit K$ to the ace. ruffed the diamond return and had ♥Q98 while Drijver was down to ♥J63. Chen therefore made two of the last three tricks for down one and -100.

The other auction also began with a strong club and a 1NT overcall showing the minors. Here, however, Liu chose to give preference to clubs, and now de Wijs cuebid to get across the extremely distributional nature of his hand. Muller was no doubt thrilled to be asked to pick a major but did as requested and would have been positively ecstatic at being raised to game. Though 4 is trivially defeated by a trump lead, it seems that Liu was concerned about the extreme distribution suggested by de Wijs's bidding and wanted to cash whatever minor-





suit tricks the defence had before they ran away. He led the ace of diamonds. Now Liu could see that there wa sno second diamond to be cashed but that partner might have a club trick, in which case that needed cashing before it went away. He switched to the nine of clubs to Hu's king and, after some thought, Hu switched back to diamonds. After considerably more thought, Muller won the king of diamonds, pitching a heart from dummy while noting the fall of the $\Diamond Q$ on his left. It seemed that Liu had only two diamonds but possibly only a doubleton club also given his choice of club return. It was unlikely that East had a small singleton heart, as he would probably then have switched to it to try to collect a ruff, but he might well have the short ace – and why had East not switched to a trump?

Muller finally led his heart and called for dummy's eight. That lost to the ten but now Hu could see that his ace would ruff out if declarer had begun with a stiff heart. He played the ♥A and Muller ruffed. Hu was rooting for declarer to take a spade finesse now, but how could that be right? If West held queen to four spades they could not be picked up, and nothing about the hand suggested that West held queen to three with East having a small doubleton. Muller led his remaining spade to the ace and when the queen appeared he had 10 tricks for +620 and 12 IMPs to the Netherlands. We don't have a 'Play of the Day' award, but if we did it would go to Bauke Muller for this deal.

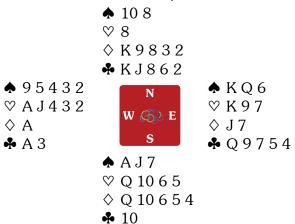
Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

North

Chen

West

Drijver



1 ^ 4 ^	– Pass All Pass	- 2NT	Pass Pass
West	North	East	South
Liu		Hu	Muller
Liu	de Wijs	<i>н</i> и	Pass
–	–	–	
1♠ 2♡ 4♠	Pass Pass All Pass	1NT 3♠	Pass Pass

East

Brink

South

Zhuang

Brink could respond 2NT to show his invitational three-card raise, and though Drijver would have been concerned about the quality, or rather lack of quality, of his trumps, he had enough to spare to go on to game. Chen led his singleton heart to the gueen and ace and Drijver led a spade up, the king losing to the ace. Zhuang returned a diamond – a heart would have given Chen a ruff but that was far from obvious with hearts unbid, and there would have been a slow club and a second trump to be lost for one down. Drijver won the diamond and played a heart towards the king, and Chen ruffed. He got out with a diamond, and Drijver ruffed. As already discussed, he had a club and a spade to lose so was down one for -50. All he had needed to do, was to cash the queen of spades before playing the heart. Chen would have been out of trumps and Drijver could have ruffed his fourth heart in dummy, losing only two trumps and a club.

Hearts were bid at the other table, where Hu responded with a wide-range 1NT nd followed up with a jump to $3 \spadesuit$ to show a three-card limit raise. De Wijs led his singleton heart against 4 and again declarer won and played a spade to the king. Muller, however, ducked. Declarer was powerless. If he failed to play a second trump, he would run into a heart ruff, while if he did play a second trump, Muller would win and play the third round, meaning no heart ruff in dummy and just a different fourth loser. In practice, Liu crossed to the ace of diamonds to play a second spade up, Muller duly won and cashed the third spade, then returned a diamond. Liu ruffed and tried ace and another club but, while that created a discard for the fifth heart, there was nowhere to park the fourth one; down one for -50 and a flat board, but a chance missed by the Netherlands.

Despite this missed opportunity, the Netherlands ran out winners of the match by 40-23 IMPs, 14.39-5.61 VPs. The other match saw France beat Norway by 40-10 IMPs, 16.73-3.27 VPs. That left the Dutch as the only team over average at the end of the first round robin, but they were only on 35.48 against a 30 average, so all four teams were still well in contention with a full second round robin still to come the next day to decide which two teams would contest Thursday's final.







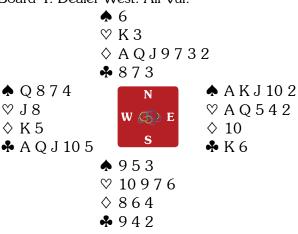


BACK TO EARTH

by Mark Horton

After their astonishing demolition of England in Round 2, Sweden faced China. This was a crucial deal:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zuo	Gronkvist	Wang	Ahlesved
2♣*	$2\diamondsuit$	Dble*	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 \&\rightarrow*	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5 ♣ *	Pass	6♠	All Pass

2♣ Precision 4♦ Splinter 4NT RKCB 5♣ 1key card

North led the $\Diamond A$ but that only served to speed up the play, +1430.

Closed Room

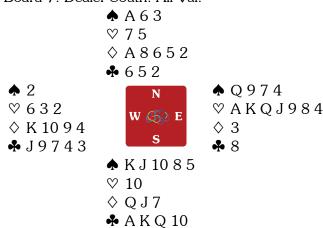
West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Lu	Larsson	Liu
1♣*	3♦	$4 \diamondsuit^*$	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	5 ♠	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣

3♦ Weak jump overcall (!)

Here East could not be sure that 6♠ would be no worse than a finesse - that was 13 IMPs to China.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.



Open Room	l		
West	North	East	South
Zuo	Gronkvist	Wang	Ahlesved
			1 ^
Pass	2♠	3 %	4♠
All Pass			

West led the $\heartsuit 2$ and East played king, followed by the ace. Declarer ruffed, cashed the $\clubsuit K$ and followed it with the ten, West pitching the $\clubsuit 3$ as East won with the queen. Another heart at this point would ensure the demise of the contract, but East returned a spade and declarer won with dummy's ace (West pitching a heart) and came to hand with a club. When she played a second club East ruffed and played a heart and declarer was two down when she failed to endplay West.

Having come to hand, declarer should draw the outstanding trump, which squeezes West in the minors. The best she can do is pitch a diamond, but she can then be thrown in on the third round of the suit to lead into the club tenace.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Lu	Larsson	Liu
_	_	_	1♣*
Pass	1 ♠	4♡	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

South led the A and switched to a trump, and denied more than one ruff in dummy declarer was two down, losing 12 IMPs. That made the score 1-40 and for the time being Sweden knew what it felt like to be on the wrong side of the scorecard.





OPEN, ROUND ROBIN 1

** CHINA

7.97 - 12.03

NORWAY



NETHERLANDS **13.89** - **5.11** (58 - 41 IMP)

FRANCE



OPEN, ROUND ROBIN 2

FRANCE

5.25 - **12.75** (28 - 42 IMP)

CHINA



NORWAY

12.80 - 7.20
(53 - 43 IMP)

NETHERLANDS



OPEN, ROUND ROBIN 3

** CHINA

5.61 - 14.39 NETHERLANDS



FRANCE

16.73 - 3.27

NORWAY #

RANKING AFTER ROUND 3:

1. NETHERLANDS (35.48) 2. NORWAY (28.10) 3. FRANCE (27.09) 4. CHINA (26.33)

WOMEN, ROUND ROBIN 1

ENGLAND

16.42 - 3.58

CHINA



POLAND

16.88 - 3.12

SWEDEN



WOMEN, ROUND ROBIN 2

SWEDEN

20.00 - **0.00** (90 - 10 IMP)

ENGLAND



** CHINA

10.61 - 9.39 (41 - 39 IMP) POLAND



WOMEN, ROUND ROBIN 3

ENGLAND

7.45 - **12.55** (15 - 24 IMP)

POLAND



SWEDEN

3.12 - 16.88

CHINA ***



RANKING AFTER ROUND 3:

1. POLAND (38.82) 2. CHINA (31.07) 3. SWEDEN (26.24) 4. ENGLAND (23.87)