

FINALS DAY

Issue No 3
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SCHEDULE

TEAMS

10.00 - 12.20	Final 1 st round
13.30 - 15.50	Final 2 nd round
16.10 - 18.30	Final 3 rd round
19.00 - 20.00	Awarding ceremony

Wang Jingwu, Secretary of Hengshui Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China, visits the venue

Thursday is Finals Day in the two Teams competitions, with the top two teams in each category meeting in the main final and the remaining teams playing-off for third- and fourth-places. All the matches will be played over 3 x 16-board sets, so 48 boards in all.

The Open qualifying turned into something of a procession after being very close at the end of the first round robin. The Netherlands proved quite dominant in the second round robin and topped the rankings by over 15 VPs, from France, who were also well clear of third-placed China, with Norway again well behind in fourth place.

In the Women's event, Poland qualified fairly comfortably but the whole event was a much tighter run affair. In the end Sweden pipped China for the second final spot, but it was so close that had either China or England scored one more IMP in their Round 6 matches against Poland and Sweden respectively, or Poland or Sweden scored one IMP fewer, China would have taken second place and it would have been Sweden who were consigned to the third-place play-off.



RED CARD

by **Mark Horton**

Bidding at bridge would be much tougher if the red card was not available. Its significance is such that books about the correct way to use it have been penned by some of the world's finest players, including World Champions Mike Lawrence (*Double!*) and Sally Brock (*Double Trouble*).

One of the most difficult applications is deciding when to make a penalty double. The legendary English player John Collings, once ascribed victory in a tournament to the fact that his partnership had never doubled their opponents into game.

English stalwart Keith Stanley, upon seeing the score -470 inscribed on his teammate's scorecard, enquired, 'did you need the extra fifty points?'

I don't recall anyone writing a Bols Bridge Tip about when to play for penalties, but it has always been my view that if you want to be on solid ground then having a decent trump holding is a good idea.

There is also the issue of whether partner will misinterpret your double, imagining that one you intend as being for takeout is for penalties.

See what you make of this deal from Round 3:

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zuo	Groknvust	Wang	Ahlesved
2♣*	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

2♣ Precision

3♣ Heart support, invitational



I am sure that East intended her double to be for takeout. On that basis West should have bid 3♠, but as you can see the situation was obviously not entirely clear.

West started with three rounds of clubs and declarer won with dummy's queen pitching a spade from her hand. A heart to the king was followed by a spade and West took the ace and switched to the ♦Q, East taking the ace and trying the ♠Q. Declarer ruffed that high and claimed, +530.

They made 3♥ in the other room, but Sweden collected 9 IMPs.



2019 IMSA
World Masters Championship





SEARCHING FOR IMPs

by **Mark Horton**

To paraphrase Jane Austen, It is a truth universally acknowledged that a team not in a qualifying position must be in want of some IMPs. That was certainly the case for England when they met the leaders, Poland, in Round 4.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fawcett</i>	<i>Kazamucha</i>	<i>Draper</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♥*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

3♥ Splinter

Seeing no advantage in leading a top heart South started with the ♣5 and North played three rounds of the suit. Declarer ruffed in dummy and played the ♥9. South won with the ace and returned the ♥5. Declarer ruffed in dummy, cashed the ♦A and ruffed a diamond. At this point one winning line is to play a spade to the jack, ruff a diamond and play a spade to the ace, dummy's diamonds taking care of the losing hearts. When declarer elected to ruff a heart instead she could no longer arrive at ten tricks.

It was a strong defence.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Baldysz</i>	<i>Wiseman</i>	<i>Baldysz</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

1♦ (10)11-21PC, 5+♦ or 4♦441♣
or 4441, 3rd/4th seat 4+♦
2♥ 7-9, 5♠+4♥

North led the ♥4 and South won with the king (perhaps the ace is a better card) and switched to the ♣9, the defenders playing three rounds of the suit. Declarer ruffed, ruffed a diamond, played a spade to the ace, a spade to the king and advanced the ♥8. She was going to run it, but when South covered she claimed, +620 and 12 IMPs.





NORWAY VS FRANCE

by **Brian Senior**

Open Teams, Round 4

Everything was very close overnight but as we moved into the second round robin it started to get serious. A small win or loss would change little for the teams, but a big win could go a long way towards securing a place in the final while a heavy loss could leave a team under real pressure to recover with only two more matches to go after this one.

For Round 4 we will take a look at the match between Norway and France, second and third overnight and both just below average.

the match began quietly but there was a big swing on Board 20 when the Norwegian West got the requirements of the defence wrong.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cabanes	Bakke	Bessis	Brogeland
Pass	1♦	1♥	Dble
Rdbl	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Aa	Lhuissier	Livgard	Bernard
Pass	1♦	1♥	Dble
Rdbl	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Similar auctions saw the respective Norths declare 4♠, both Easts leading the four of clubs to partner's ace. A simple soul would remember the bidding and switch to the king of hearts and, when partner showed an odd number, continue with a second round. East

would win and cash the ace of diamonds and that would be down one in no time at all.

Sure enough Bernard Cabanes, for France, did switch to the ♥K and the play went as suggested for -100. But at the other table Terje Aa persuaded himself to continue with a second club, selecting the ten. Nicolas Lhuissier looked at that for a bit then decided that if it cost him an extra undertrick so be it. He put in the jack, drew trumps and took the diamond pitch on the king of clubs, conceding two hearts and ruffing the other two; +620 and 12 IMPs to France.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cabanes	Bakke	Bessis	Brogeland
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Aa	Lhuissier	Livgard	Bernard
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
Dble	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

When a pre-empt is opened at one table but not the other there are often substantial swings. The swing this time was a minor one, but we did see two quite different auctions.

Christian Bakke, for Norway, opened 2♥ on the North cards, showed a maximum in response to the 2NT inquiry, and became declarer in 4♥. A spade lead went to the nine and king and Bakke played

the queen of hearts from hand. Michel Bessis won the ace and led a second spade and in the fullness of time Bakke tried a club to the king and was down one when the ace proved to be offside; –50.

Lhuissier did not open the North hand, perhaps feeling that his hand was too good for a weak two but not good enough for a one-bid. He must have been surprised to see his partner overcall 1♥. Lhuissier raised to 4♥ over the double but that did not shut out his opponents and he felt obliged to save in 5♥ over 4♠ with his exceptional support for partner. Perhaps that was just as well because, while 4♠ can be defeated, the cards lie so kindly for declarer that the contract will often be made after the likely heart lead. Five Hearts lost the obvious four tricks so was down two for –100 and 2 IMPs to Norway.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cabanes	Bakke	Bessis	Brogeland
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♥	Dble	2♦(i)	4♠
5♥	All Pass		

(i) Better than bidding 2♥

West	North	East	South
Aa	Lhuissier	Livgard	Bernard
–	–	Pass	2♠
3♥	4♠	Dble	All Pass

Again we saw a pre-empt at one table but not the other.

Boye Brogeland did not open the South hand but jumped to 4♠ in response to Bakke's take-out double. Cabane's extra heart length convinced him that he should bid 5♥ over 4♠, and who can blame him, when 4♠ could easily be cold from his perspective? There was nothing to the play and Cabane was down one for –100.

Julien Bernard did open the South hand, with 2♠,

and Aa overcalled 3♥. When Lhuissier now jumped to 4♠ as a two-way shot – maybe it would make and, if not, maybe 4♥ was making – Allan Livgard doubled to show some values. I expected Aa to remove that to 5♥ because of his extra-long suit, but he made the winning decision in theory when he passed. However, there is theory, and there is practice. Aa led the ace of hearts and Livgard dropped the queen, a standard play to show the jack. It was necessary for Aa to find the diamond switch now and he failed to do so, instead continuing with the king of hearts. Bernard could ruff that and the three-two club split meant that he had 10 running tricks for +790 and 12 IMPs to France.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cabanes	Bakke	Bessis	Brogeland
–	–	–	2♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Dble	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Aa	Lhuissier	Livgard	Bernard
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Dble	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♣	All Pass

And the theme continues. This time it was Bernard who passed as South and Brogeland who opened with a multi 2♦.

Where Bernard passed, there were two more passes to Livgard, who opened 1♣. Bernard overcalled, Aa made a negative double, and Lhuissier raised to 2♠. When that came back to Aa he had sufficient extras to double again and Livgard could only bid clubs. Bernard led king then another spade. Livgard ruffed, led a heart to the ace and took a second ruff, a diamond to the queen and a third ruff with the queen.

That one got over-ruffed and back came a diamond to the jack and ace. Livgard played the $\diamond K$ on which he discarded his heart loser. The diamond was ruffed and Bernard played his last spade, hoping to see partner ruff with the nine to promote an extra trump trick. It was not to be. Lhuissier could only manage the seven so Livgard could over-ruff with the nine, cash the $\clubsuit A$, and claim his contract; +110.

Brogeland's multi saw Bakke respond $3\heartsuit$, pass or correct, and Brogeland convert to $3\spadesuit$ as requested. Now Cabanes doubled for take-out and, with the best hand at the table, at least in high-card terms, Bessis cuebid $4\spadesuit$. The problem with that was that Bessis had too much spade length and not enough support for his partner. Cabanes, of course, responded $5\diamond$, and that was that. Bakke led ace and another spade, so Cabanes ruffed and led the queen of clubs. That held the trick, so he now led a diamond to the queen, cashed the ace of hearts, and came back to hand with a diamond to lead the $\heartsuit J$. That was covered so Cabanes crossed back to the ten of hearts and cashed his remaining top diamond. The four-two split meant that he had to concede a diamond and a club so was down one for -50 and 3 IMPs to Norway.

Had Bessis found a pass of the double of $3\spadesuit$, that would have been down two for +300.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

\spadesuit J 8		\spadesuit 10
\heartsuit 8 2		\heartsuit 9 7 6 5 3
\diamond K 5 4 2		\diamond J 10 3
\clubsuit A K 7 5 4		\clubsuit J 8 6 2
\spadesuit A K Q 4		
\heartsuit K J 10 4		
\diamond A 9 7 6		
\clubsuit 9		
\spadesuit 9 7 6 5 3 2		
\heartsuit A Q		
\diamond Q 8		
\clubsuit Q 10 3		

West	North	East	South
Cabanes	Bakke	Bessis	Brogeland
$1\diamond$	Pass	$1\heartsuit$	$1\spadesuit$
$4\clubsuit$	Dble	$4\heartsuit$	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Aa	Lhuissier	Livgard	Bernard
$1\spadesuit$	Pass	Pass	$1\spadesuit$
1NT	Pass	$2\diamond$	All Pass

Bessis might have done better on the previous deal, but he made a big winning decision on this one when he scraped up a $1\heartsuit$ response on the East cards. Cabanes splintered then settled for game when Bessis quickly signed off. Four Hearts can be defeated, but it takes an early diamond lead to set up a ruff for South's queen. Declarer can try to avoid that ruff by taking diamond pitches on the top spades, but the six-two spade break means that North ruffs the $\spadesuit Q$ and there is only one discard to be taken. In practice, Brogeland led a spade. Bessis won the ace and gave up a club and, seeing that declarer was set on ruffing clubs in the dummy, Bakke won the king and returned a heart. Brogeland won the ace and played a second spade but Bessis could ruff in hand and play a heart up and the appearance of the queen meant that he had 10 tricks for +420.

Livgard did not respond as East and Bernard overcalled with the South hand. Aa had no idea way to show his strength and opted for 1NT. Lhuissier respected that call and stayed silent, and Livgard corrected to $2\diamond$, expecting that his hand would be of more value there than in no trump with the prospect of providing spade ruffs. In truth, he was unlucky to find Aa with only four diamonds, and $2\diamond$ proved to be a very tricky contract indeed. Lhuissier led ace of clubs followed by a low club, ruffed by Aa, who tried the top three spades, pitching hearts from dummy, as Lhuissier too threw a heart. When he next ruffed the fourth spade, Lhuissier discarded his last heart.



Michel Bessis, France

Aa led a heart up but Bernard won the ace and returned the eight of diamonds and Aa was helpless. He played low, losing to the king, and back came a second diamond to the queen and ace. Declarer could only come to one more trump trick from here so was one down for -50 and 10 IMPs to France.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cabanes	Bakke	Bessis	Brogeland
–	–	2♥	2♠
3♥	3♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Aa	Lhuissier	Livgard	Bernard
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Dble	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Bessis opened the East hand, Livgard did not.

Brogeland bid 2♠ over the opposing 2♥ and Cabanes competed with 3♥. Bakke in turn competed to 3♠ and that ended the auction. Cabanaes cashed the ace and queen of hearts then switched to the two of clubs and that ensured that the defenders would be able to take two club tricks when in with the ♠A; down one for -50.

Where East passed as dealer, Bernard opened 1♠ as South and Lhuissier made a weakish jump raise to 3♠. Livgard doubled for take-out and Aa responded 4♥ and played there. Lhuissier led the king of diamonds. Bernard overtook and returned the ♦J, and Lhuissier overtook that and cashed the ♦10. There was a club to come so this contract too was down one for -50 and 3 IMPs to France.

The French had had a good morning and came out ahead by 45-10 IMPs, converting to 17.45-2.55 VPs. The Netherlands meanwhile defeated China by 62-17 IMPs, 18.66-1.34 VPs.

With two rounds to go the standings were:

Netherlands	54.14
France	44.54
Norway	30.65
China	27.67





HIGHER, FASTER, STRONGER

by **Mark Horton**

As the standard for an opening bid appears to be falling faster than stock market, it has become safer to adopt a more variable approach to third in hand preemptive bids and weak jump overcalls.

On this deal from Round 3 you can contrast the different approach of the West players in the match between Poland and England:

Board 26. Dealer East All Vul.

	♠ A 10 4	
	♥ 10 9	
	♦ Q 6 3	
	♣ A Q 9 3 2	
♠ 9	<div>North WestEast South</div>	♠ 7 5 3 2
♥ A K 8 7 4 3 2		♥ Q J 5
♦ K 8 4		♦ A J 5
♣ J 4		♣ 10 7 6
	♠ K Q J 8 6	
	♥ 6	
	♦ 10 9 7 2	
	♣ K 8 5	



Cecilia Rimstedt, Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Gronkvist</i>	<i>Liu</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	Dble	2♥	4♠
All Pass			

West led the ♥A and when East followed with the queen she continued with the ♥8, a grateful declarer ruffing, drawing trumps and cashing the clubs, +620.

Given that East had supported hearts there was no chance that a second round of the suit would stand up, but does that make it easier for West to switch to a diamond?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Here, if N/S had reached 4♠ (which they would have done if South had overcalled 3♠) East might have followed to a top heart with the jack. Even so, it would not be easy for West to find the killing switch.

East led the ♥Q and when West followed with the four (why not the ♥2?) she switched to the ♠3, so declarer took ten tricks, but Sweden lost 10 IMPs.



Ida Gronkvist, Sweden



OUT OF LUCK OUT OF FORM

by **Mark Horton**

When you are at the top of your game, the luck tends to go with you. When you are below your best it tends to go the other way.

That has certainly been the case for the English team so far – as witness this deal from Round 4:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

		♠ 2		
		♥ A Q 9 8 6 4		
		♦ A 4		
		♣ A K J 10		
♠ 5	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; margin: 0 5px;">N</div> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; margin: 0 5px;">W</div> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; margin: 0 5px;">E</div> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; margin: 0 5px;">S</div> </div>		♠ K Q 10 9 6 3	
♥ K 10 7 3			♥ J 2	
♦ K Q 7 5 3			♦ 10 2	
♣ 8 6 2			♣ 9 7 3	
		♠ A J 8 7 4		
		♥ 5		
		♦ J 9 8 6		
		♣ Q 5 4		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fawcett	Kazamucha	Draper	Sarniak
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣*	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

1♣ Balanced 2+♣ 11-14; 4+♦ 15+ or 18+any



Danuta Kazmucha, Poland

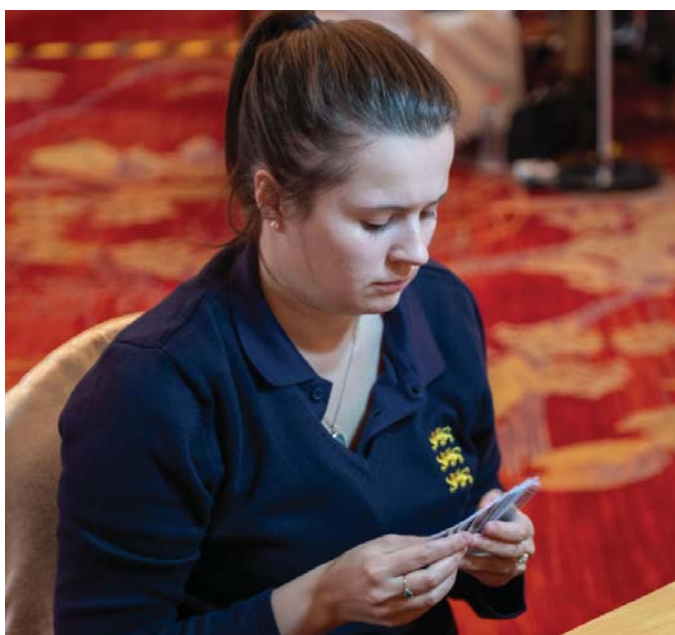
It looks normal to overcall and 2♠ is a fairly normal approach, but here it cost -1100. Still, it would be a bargain if teammates happened to alight in 6♣!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Baldysz	Wiseman	Baldysz	Smith
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
1NT	2♣	All Pass	

N/S did play in clubs - but not at the required level.

Perhaps suspecting that a double might be coming, West decided to take a bid, but to be honest 1NT is unsound. Had North doubled, which is certainly the indicated action, East would probably have bid 2♠ when South would have joined the party. Even if East passes, the defenders should be able to collect ten tricks against 1NT doubled.



Yvonne Wiseman, England



NORWAY VS CHINA

by **Brian Senior**

Open Teams, Round 5

With only two rounds to go and a lot of ground to make up, Norway needed a big win when they faced bottom-placed China in Round 5. The match could not have started better for the Norwegians, with a double-figure swing in on the first board.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Ju	Bakke	Shi
–	2♦	Dble	2♥
Dble	Pass	Pass	3♣
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
7NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Liu	Tundal	Hu	Kvangraven
–	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass

For China, Hu Linlin opened 1NT in second seat and Liu Yinghao transferred to spades then made a self-agreeing splinter. Hu liked that well enough that he asked for key cards, found two plus the trump queen, so bid 5NT to invite Seven. Liu was unable to bid the grand slam himself but showed the king of hearts and left the decision to his partner but Hu was not prepared to bid the grand if his partner could not do so and signed off in 6♠, which made a quick 13 tricks for +1010.

Ju Chuancheng opened a multi on the North hand and Bakke doubled, usually a weak to intermediate no trump type. Shi Xhengjun bid a pass or correct 2♥ but, when that came back to him doubled, rescued himself into the chunky club suit. Now Brogeland cuebid then followed up with key-card and bid the grand slam. There were 13 top tricks so that was a quick +1520 and 11 IMPs to Norway.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Ju	Bakke	Shi
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♦	Dble	2♥
3♦	4♦	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Liu	Tundal	Hu	Kvangraven
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Dble	6♥
All Pass			

Both Souths started with a strong club and North showed 0-7. Neither the Chinese natural approach nor the Norwegian relays were able to ascertain that all 13 tricks were possible. Dummy's second club went away on the king of spades, after which declarer could ruff clubs to his heart's content; flat at +1010 but a chance missed for both sides.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Ju	Bakke	Shi
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Liu	Tundal	Hu	Kvangraven
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Ju	Bakke	Shi
–	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Liu	Tundal	Hu	Kvangraven
–	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

You wait all day for a slam and three come along in quick succession. This time both Wests opened 2NT and East transferred then showed the second suit. Over 4♣, Brogeland asked for key cards then bid the small slam. Liu, by contrast cuebid 4♦ and Hu bid 4♥, deciding that any further enthusiasm had to come from his partner. Liu thought a long time over 4♥ before eventually going on with 4♠. Hu jumped to 6♣ and Lu corrected to 6♥.

Again the play was straightforward. Dummy's diamond losers could go on the top spades and the clubs could be ruffed out, the even split meaning that was all very simple. It was flat at +1430.

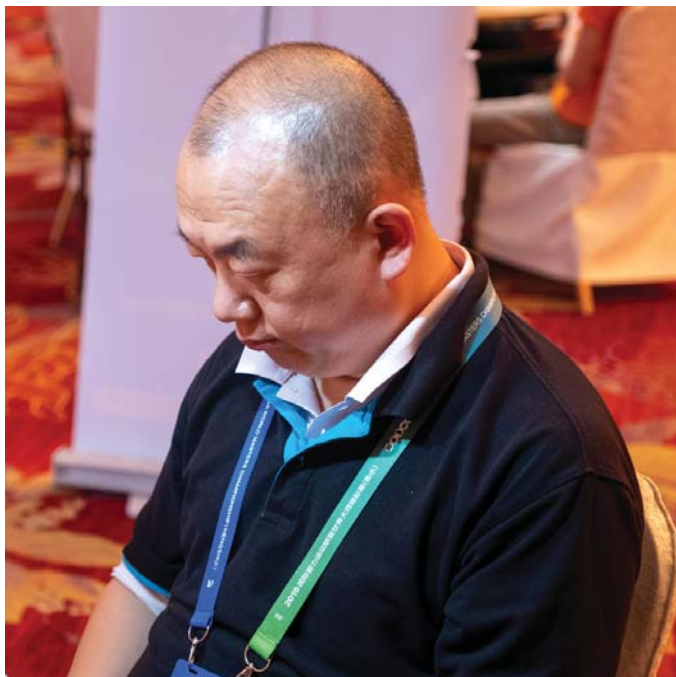
Bakke chose to rebid an invitational 3♥ and keep the club side-suit concealed from his opponents. Brogeland repeated his spades but then admitted to tolerance for hearts and 4♥ ended the auction. The lead was a diamond. Bakke won and gave up a club, won the diamond continuation and gave up another club. Shi Zhengjun won that and continued with two more rounds of clubs to ensure that his partner could get an over-ruff, and that was down one for –50.

Hu preferred to rebid 2♣ and now Liu went through game-forcing fourth-suit and repeated the spades. When Hu now showed the fifth club, he had not promised a sixth heart, and Liu chose to play in his own suit, jumping to 4♠. The lead was a diamond. Liu won in dummy and could only get to hand with the ace of hearts. He played ace then jack of spades, ducked by Ulf Tundal, and continued with the ♠Q, getting the bad news. Liu won the diamond return and played king then queen of hearts and Tundal ruffed. He could have repromoted his trumps into an extra trick had he now played the king of clubs. Nils Kvangraven would have overtaken and played the ♣Q to set up the over-ruff position for down two, but Tundal settled for leading a third diamond so Liu could ruff and cash the ten of spades to get out for down one and a push board.



2019 IMSA
World Masters Championship





Ju Chuancheng, China

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ K 9 8 5 2
 ♥ 10 5 3
 ♦ 10 5
 ♣ A J 10

♠ —
 ♥ Q J 8 4
 ♦ A Q 4 3 2
 ♣ Q 8 7 6

N
 W E
 S

♠ Q 4 3
 ♥ A 9 6 2
 ♦ K 8
 ♣ 5 4 3 2

♠ A J 10 7 6
 ♥ K 7
 ♦ J 9 7 6
 ♣ K 9

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Shi</i>
<i>Liu</i>	<i>Tundal</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Kvangraven</i>
1♦	1♠	Dble	4♠
All Pass			

Identical auctions saw East on lead against 4♠. I say identical, but Liu's 1♦ opening was Precision so did not guarantee the suit, while Brogeland's did. No matter, both Easts kicked off with the king of diamonds and continued with the eight. Both Wests won the ace and returned a low diamond and, after some thought, both declarers ruffed with the nine so suffered an over-ruff and were down one for -50 and a flat board.

East was perhaps more likely to hold the spade length, but maybe West slightly more likely to hold more strength, and declarer still needed the ♥A onside or a winning club play. If East held the ♥A, he was less likely to hold another high card.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ A 6 3 2
♥ A 4
♦ Q J 10 4
♣ K J 5

♠ K Q J 9 5 4
♥ 10 6 3
♦ 6 5
♣ 7 6



♠ 10
♥ 9 5 2
♦ K 3 2
♣ 10 9 8 4 3 2

♠ 8 7
♥ K Q J 8 7
♦ A 9 8 7
♣ A Q

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Shi</i>
–	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu</i>	<i>Tundal</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Kvangraven</i>
–	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Both N/S pairs bid smoothly to the top spot via a transfer sequence. Both Wests led the king of spades and both declarers followed the same line – ace of spades three rounds of clubs for a spade discard, conceding a ruff. They ruffed the spade return, crossed to the ace of hearts and took the diamond finesse: flat at +920.



Shi Zhengjun, China

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Ju	Bakke	Shi
–	–	1NT	Dble
Rdbl	2♣	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♣	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Liu	Tundal	Hu	Kvangraven
–	–	1NT	2♠
3♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Kvangraven made a natural 2♠ overcall of the 13-15 1NT and Liu showed hearts then passed when Hu jumped to the heart game. There were two black tricks to be lost; +650.

Bakke's 1NT was 15-17 and the double showed a single-suited overcall. Brogeland started by showing strength then cuebid repeatedly, first to discover a trump suit then to suggest slam, and eventually Bakke committed the partnership to the six level. There was no way to avoid the two black losers so the contract was one down for –100 and 13 IMPs to China.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Ju	Bakke	Shi
1♥	Dble	Rdbl	3♦
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Liu	Tundal	Hu	Kvangraven
1♥	Dble	Pass	3♦
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Both E/W pairs managed to avoid the trap of playing in their four-four spade fit by the simple method of never bidding the suit. Four Hearts was quite comfortable. Declarer could ruff the diamond lead and play on trumps then set up a club winner to take care of the fourth spade; flat at +420.

China won the match by 43-14 IMPs, 16.58-3.42 VPs. Meanwhile, the Netherlands pipped France by a point, 17-16, converting to 10.31-9.69. Going into the final round, the Dutch were already in the final, while Norway were out. France had an almost 10 VP advantage over China in the fight to face the Netherlands the next day. If my calculations are correct, that meant that China needed to beat France by 20 IMPs when they met in Round 6.



Boye Brogeland, Norway




THE LEARNING CURVE

by **Mark Horton**

Do you recall the remark made by bridge legend Benito Garozzo, who pointed out that although he had been playing for more than forty years, he still learnt something new every day. I am always looking for deals that might have something instructive to offer and this one from Round 5 might fit the bill:

Board 12. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Wiseman</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	—	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

- 2♣ 23+ balanced or any game force
- 2♦ Relay
- 2♥ Kokish
- 2♠ Forced
- 3♣ ♥+♣
- 3♠ Cue bid

Not quite the optimum contract.

What should North do over 3♠?

My first thought was to jump to 4♠, which might be enough for South to envisage the possibility of a grand slam (it will require North to hold at most three clubs unless she is void in spades). While discussing the hand with Ron Tacchi I remembered that there was another way to go, North bidding 3NT over 3♠ as a serious slam try. If South then cue bids 4♣ North can bid 4♠ and once again South might consider bidding 7♥.

Bidding 5♥ over 3♠ is another idea, but the key to the hand is the singleton spade.

How many IMPs would England lose?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Zuo</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Wang</i>
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♦*	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	Dble	Rdbl
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

1♣ Precision

1◇ Negative

South's decision to play for a penalty was surprising.

North led the ♣10 and South won with the ace and returned the jack, declarer winning in dummy and playing a spade. South won and cashed two more spades, but declarer had the rest, -200 – not exactly shabby against a possible 7♥.

It deserved to be worth more than the 7 IMPs that were garnered.



Wang Wenfei, China



THE WELL REASONED LEAD

by **Mark Horton**

Many a deal turns on the opening lead. This board near the end of the last round looked as if it might have a significant role to play in whether Sweden or China would contest the final of the Women's teams against Poland:

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

		♠ K J 8 4	
		♥ A J 9	
		♦ K 9 6	
		♣ 8 6 3	
♠ A	<div>North</div> <div>WestEast</div> <div>South</div>	♠ 10 9 6 5 2	
♥ 6 5 3 2		♥ 10	
♦ 10 3		♦ A Q J 8 7 5	
♣ J 10 9 7 4 2		♣ 5	
		♠ Q 7 3	
		♥ K Q 8 7 4	
		♦ 4 2	
		♣ A K Q	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Gronkvist	Senior	Rimstedt
—	1♣*	1♦	Dble*
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣, a) (11)12-14/18-19 bal w/o 5M
b) Natural unbalanced with (4)5+♣

The Swedish pair use a lot of transfers in competition, so the double promised 4+♥.

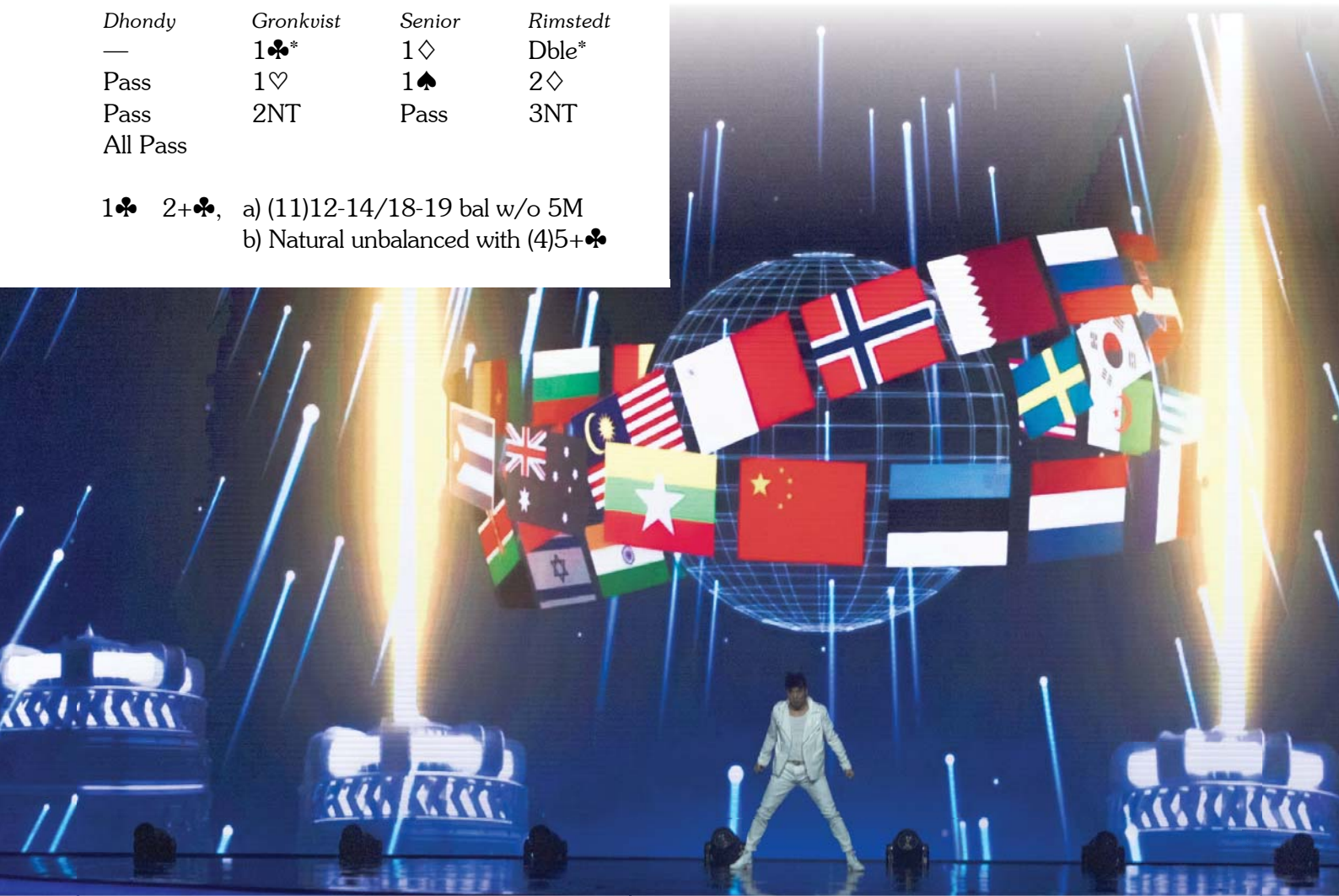
East knew that North held the ♦K and there appeared to be little point in leading a heart or a club, either of which might pick up partner's holding. She went with the ♠10 and West won and tabled the ♦10 for a very rapid 3 down, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Larsson	Draper	Bertheau	Fawcett
—	1♣*	1♦	1♥
Pass	1NT	2♠	3♠*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West missed a trick here when she failed to double 3♠ – a point she mentioned to me when we discussed the deal.

East led the ♦J and that cost 14 IMPs. It almost cost Sweden a place in the final!





CHINA VS FRANCE

by **Brian Senior**

Open Teams, Round 6

So, the equation was very simple – the Netherlands were in the final whatever happened in their last match against Norway, while France would join them unless they lost by 20 or more IMPs in their final match against China. If the Chinese could win by those 20 IMPs, they would take France's place in the final.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ 6 3 ♥ 8 5 4 ♦ K 2 ♣ Q 10 9 7 6 2		
♠ J 8 ♥ A K 9 3 ♦ Q 10 9 5 4 ♣ 8 5	<div><div>N</div><div>W5E</div><div>S</div></div>	♠ K Q 5 2 ♥ 10 7 6 2 ♦ 8 6 ♣ J 4 3	
	♠ A 10 9 7 4 ♥ Q J ♦ A J 7 3 ♣ A K		
West <i>Chen</i> — All Pass	North <i>Lhuissier</i> Pass	East <i>Zhuang</i> Pass	South <i>Bernard</i> 1♠
West <i>Oursel</i> — Pass	North <i>Ju</i> 3♣ 4♠	East <i>Mauberquez</i> Pass All Pass	South <i>Shi</i> 3♠

Neither N/S pair could have been entirely happy with their result on this first deal, where 3NT is a fortunate make but a contract that could easily be reached at the other table.

Ju Chuancheng opened an aggressive 3♣ as dealer and Shi Zhengjun had too much to pass so tried his five-card spade suit. That was forcing, of course, so Ju raised to the hopeless game. After three rounds of hearts, Shi could only manage to get out for two down; –100.

Nicolas Lhuissier passed as dealer then passed again when Julien Bernard opened 1♠ – I would not pass with that North hand playing a natural system, but Lhuissier will not care what I would have done, only that 1♠ made exactly for +80 and 5 IMPs to France.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.


	♠ 9 5 ♥ 8 ♦ A Q J 10 8 6 4 ♣ A Q 7		
♠ J ♥ A K Q 9 5 4 ♦ K 9 3 ♣ 10 5 2	<div>North West East South</div>	♠ A K 4 2 ♥ J 2 ♦ 5 2 ♣ J 9 8 6 3	
	♠ Q 10 8 7 6 3 ♥ 10 7 6 3 ♦ 7 ♣ K 4		
West <i>Chen</i> — 1♥ 3♥	North <i>Lhuissier</i> — 2♦ 4♦	East <i>Zhuang</i> — Dble 4♥	South <i>Bernard</i> Pass 2♠ All Pass
West <i>Oursel</i> — 3♥ Pass	North <i>Ju</i> — 4♦ 4♠	East <i>Mauberquez</i> — 4♥ Dble	South <i>Shi</i> 2♠ Pass All Pass

Bernard passed as dealer so Chen Gang got to open at the one level and Lhuissier overcalled. When Zhuang Zejun made a negative double, Bernard took the opportunity to show his spades despite the suit being implied on his right. Whether the Chinese pair would have bid game if left to themselves is unlikely, but they got caught up in the momentum of the competitive auction and reached a hopeless 4♥. Lhuissier led the nine of spades so Chen took both spade winners, pitching a club from hand, then ducked a diamond to North. Lhuissier returned his heart so Chen decided that he was never going to be allowed to ruff a diamond in dummy and simply cashed his trumps. He then exited with a club and Bernard erred by allowing his partner's queen to hold the trick. Lhuissier could now cash the ♣A but was then endplayed to give a trick to the ♦K – still one down but it should have been two; –100.

Shi opened a weak 2♠, very normal at favourable vulnerability, but it didn't work out very well when Ju supported spades in competition on inadequate trumps.

Christophe Oursel overcalled 3♥ and Ju bid 4♦, all very sound up to now, but when Eric Mauberquez now bid 4♥, was it really right for Ju to bid 4♠ on nine-doubleton? That was doubled, of course, and Ju stuck it out, not that 5♦ doubled would have been a great result either with 4♥ doomed to failure. Oursel cashed the ace of hearts and Mauberquez followed with the jack. Oursel switched to his trump and must have been charmed when Mauberquez could win the king and ace then play a low heart back to pick up declarer's remaining ten-to-three. The defence had four heart tricks and two spades so the contract was down three for -500 and 12 IMPs to France.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Chen	Lhuissier	Zhuang	Bernard
–	–	–	1♦
Dble	Rdbl	1♠	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Oursel	Ju	Mauberquez	Shi
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

Chen scraped up a double on the West cards and Lhuissier redoubled to show hearts, so that Bernard had an easy 2♥ raise over Zhuang's 1♠. Lhuissier thought he was worth a game try now but Bernard was not interested and signed off in 3♥, against which Chen led a low spade round to the queen. Bernard led the queen of clubs from hand and Chen won that and returned a low heart to declarer's six. Bernard played king of clubs and ruffed one, ace of spades and ruffed one, then ruffed the last club and had 10 tricks for +170.

Oursel did not find the take-out double of 1♦ and

it was left to Mauberquez to make a balancing double when his opponents attempted to play the hand in 2♥. Oursel responded 3♣ and Ju, who was surely worth 3♥ with his decent five-card suit, was tempted to defend by his four-card club holding. Three Clubs was passed out and Ju led the queen of hearts then switched to the eight of spades, which Shi ducked to declarer's nine. Oursel ruffed a heart then ran the eight of clubs and Ju ducked it. Oursel immediately changed track and came to hand with the ace of diamonds to ruff his last heart. Next he played the jack of spades and Shi won the ace and returned a diamond to dummy's queen. Oursel led a spade to his king and ruffed by Ju, who returned a heart, but Oursel could ruff that and cash the ace of clubs before playing a diamond and had nine tricks for +110 and 7 IMPs to France, who seemed to be coasting into the final.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

	♠ A Q 9 7 3	
	♥ Q 8 4	
	♦ 8 2	
	♣ A Q 6	
♠ 10 6 5	<div>Diagram of Board 25: A red square with 'N' at the top, 'S' at the bottom, 'W' on the left, and 'E' on the right. In the center, there is a blue circle with the number '5' inside it.</div>	♠ J 8 4 2
♥ A 3		♥ J 10 9 5
♦ Q 7 4 3		♦ K 9 6 5
♣ J 10 9 7		♣ K
	♠ K	
	♥ K 7 6 2	
	♦ A J 10	
	♣ 8 5 4 3 2	

West	North	East	South
Chen	Lhuissier	Zhuang	Bernard
–	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Oursel	Ju	Mauberquez	Shi
–	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Lhuissier opened 1♠ and had to rebid 2♣ systemically and now Mauberquez jumped to 3NT, against which Chen led the three of diamonds to the king and ace. Mauberquez led the eight of clubs to the nine, queen and king, and back came a diamond to the queen and another diamond to his ten. He cashed the king of spades then led a heart to the queen and played three more rounds of spades. That established his eight trick but, of course, also set up a fifth for the defence, and the contract was down one for -50.

Ju opened 1NT and played 3NT after a Stayman sequence. He too received a diamond lead, the five to the ten and queen, and back came a second diamond to dummy's jack. Ju now made the inspired play of ducking a club and bringing down the bare king. Maubergez returned a diamond to establish the fourth round of the suit and now Ju led a heart to his queen then cashed the ace and queen of clubs. Maubergez, who was guarding both majors, gambled that declarer had started with only four spades (he had discarded one on the third diamond) and discarded the suit so that when Ju next turned his attention to spades they came in for three more tricks and he had nine in all for +400 and 10 badly-needed IMPs to China.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Chen	Lhuissier	Zhuang	Bernard
–	1♣	1♦	Dble
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	2♠	Dble
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♠
Dble	4♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Oursel	Ju	Maubergez	Shi
–	1♠	2♦	Dble
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Ju opened 1♠ on a four-card suit and became declarer in 3NT despite the five-three heart fit. To defeat 3NT, Maubergez had to keep his fingers away from the diamond suit. Declarer has only eight tricks and will eventually have to play on spades to set up one more and now West can push the ten of diamonds through to beat the contract. But Maubergez led the queen of diamonds, which would beat the contract whenever partner held a doubleton diamond and declarer had fewer than nine running tricks. On the actual deal the lead was a disaster, as Ju scooped in

the king of diamonds and cashed out for +600.

The auction in the other room was long and complex, but its key feature was that West, Chen, had managed to get in a lead-directing double of spades and now both 3NT and 4♥ were in jeopardy. Lhuissier opted to play in the known eight-card heart fit – the double of 1♦ had shown hearts and 2♦ confirmed the fifth card.

Zhuang led a spade, as suggested by his partner's double, and Chen won the ace and returned the three of diamonds! Lhuissier played low so Zhuang won the jack, cashed the ace and continued with the queen. Lhuissier thought for a long time but then discarded a spade from dummy, assuming Chen to have a third diamond – though Zhuang was doing a lot of bidding on not very much if he didn't have six-five shape. So Chen ruffed with the two and the contract was down one for –100 and 12 IMPs to China.

A brilliant falsecard from Chen? Well, it seemed to fool declarer, but I don't think that was what was going on at all. I think that Chen feared that if he returned the ♦10 at trick two his partner would play three rounds of the suit in hope of promoting a trump trick – and looking at his sorry six-high collection Chen knew that would not work. No, he wanted a spade ruff, so he pretended to have three diamonds so that Zhuang would not try for a trump promotion and would have no other option than to try for the spade ruff. But Zhuang didn't get it; he just thought Chen was trying to fool declarer, when actually he was trying to fool, or get a message across to, Zhuang!

Anyway, I think this was the best single-card play of the tournament and would, unquestionably, win today's Play of the Day award, if only we had one.



Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Lhuissier</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>	<i>Bernard</i>
–	–	1♠	2♣
Dble	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Oursel</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Mauberquez</i>	<i>Shi</i>
–	–	1♠	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both Easts opened the 10-count and both Souths contented themselves with a simple overcall. Ju could respond with an artificial forcing 2♦ and followed through with 3NT when Bernard could only repeat

the clubs. Lhuissier, meanwhile, responded with a natural 2NT and Bernard raised him to game on the basis that if 3NT wasn't making then 2NT might not be either, so why not go for something worthwhile?

Mauberquez led his longest suit, the five of spades, to the queen and ace, and Ju led the jack of clubs and ran it. That lost to the queen and Oursel returned the ten of spades and, when that held the trick, switched to a low diamond. Mauberquez won that, cashed the king of spades, and returned a diamond to his partner's king for the setting trick; –50.

In the other room, Chen had made a negative double of the 2♣ overcall and that perhaps helped to convince Zhuang to look elsewhere for his opening lead. He tried the four of hearts but that proved to be fatal to the defence. It ran round to Lhuissier's nine and Lhuissier could now run the ♣J in some comfort, knowing that he had nine tricks whatever happened. Sure enough, the club lost and the queen of spades came back but he could win that and cash out for +400 and 10 IMPs to France.

That was just enough to see France come out on top in the match by 37-28 IMPs, 12.55-7.45 VPs. Meanwhile, the Netherlands had another good win over Norway by 59-18 IMPs, or 18.21-1.89 VPs. The Netherlands topped the final standings from France, China and Norway, with gaps of over 15 VPs between each two teams. It would be Netherlands v France in the final and China v Norway in the third-place play-off, both over 48 boards.





LAST BOARD

by **Mark Horton**

When the final deal of the round robin settled on the table in the match between Sweden and England, the situation was clear - Sweden needed a swing.

Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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



♦J6 ♣104 and declarer could cash the ♣K and exit with a club, forcing West to lead a diamond into declarer's ♦K8 - a Stepping Stone squeeze no less.

If East ducks the ♠K declarer would play a diamond to the queen. It would be superhuman of West to duck that, but even if she does, she must then take the ♦A on the second round of the suit and switch to a low club.

Maybe Alpha Zero could find that defence, but I certainly couldn't - had Sweden stepped into the final?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Larsson	Draper	Bertheau	Fawcett
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Gronqvist	Senior	Rimstedt
2♦*	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the ♥10 and declarer won with the jack and played a club for the six, jack and ace, West returning the ♠8 for the king and ace, East continuing with the ♠J. Declarer won with the queen and played a diamond for the queen and ace. West exited with the ♦5 and declarer put up the ten and cashed three hearts. That forced West down to

West led the ♦6 and declarer won with the nine and played back the queen, West winning and switching to the ♠8, covered by the king and ducked by East. The ♣8 was covered in turn by the queen, king and ace and East won the spade switch with the seven and exited with the ♥9. Declarer could now have secured an overtrick by following declarer's line at the other table. However, there may be something wrong with the play record, as declarer is credited with ten tricks, +180 - and 6 IMPs to Sweden that saw them into the Final by 0.16 of a VP.







OPEN, ROUND ROBIN 4

 NETHERLANDS **18.66 - 1.34** CHINA 
(62 - 17 IMP)

 NORWAY **2.55 - 17.45** FRANCE 
(10 - 45 IMP)

OPEN, ROUND ROBIN 5

 FRANCE **9.69 - 10.31** NETHERLANDS 
(16 - 17 IMP)

 CHINA **16.58 - 3.42** NORWAY 
(43 - 14 IMP)

OPEN, ROUND ROBIN 6

 NETHERLANDS **18.21 - 1.79** NORWAY 
(59 - 18 IMP)

 FRANCE **12.55 - 7.45** CHINA 
(37 - 28 IMP)

RANKING AFTER ROUND 6:

1. NETHERLANDS (82.66) 2. NORWAY (66.78) 3. FRANCE (51.70) 4. CHINA (35.86)

WOMEN, ROUND ROBIN 4

 POLAND **18.33 - 1.67** ENGLAND 
(52 - 10 IMP)

 CHINA **11.48 - 8.52** SWEDEN 
(29 - 24 IMP)

WOMEN, ROUND ROBIN 5

 SWEDEN **15.00 - 5.00** POLAND 
(36 - 16 IMP)

 ENGLAND **12.03 - 7.97** CHINA 
(35 - 28 IMP)

WOMEN, ROUND ROBIN 6

 POLAND **10.31 - 9.69** CHINA 
(16 - 15 IMP)

 SWEDEN **10.61 - 9.39** ENGLAND 
(42 - 40 IMP)

RANKING AFTER ROUND 6:

1. POLAND (72.46) 2. SWEDEN (60.37) 3. CHINA (60.21) 4. ENGLAND (46.96)