

## THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

### Issue No 5

Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 2019

### CONTENTS

**A Cunning Play**  
Mark Horton, p. 2

**Vive La Différence**  
Mark Horton, p. 4

**Open Pairs, session 1**  
Brian Senior, p. 7

**Open Pairs, session 2**  
Brian Senior, p. 15

**Quality Street**  
Mark Horton, p. 24

**Results**  
p. 27

### SCHEDULE

#### PAIRS

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

We are counting down to the end of the 2019 IMSA World Masters Championships, with just one day to go. However, the final day of competition is an important one as it is the day on which we will crown the new champions in both the Open and Women's Pairs categories.

In the Open Pairs the Dutch pair of Bauke Muller and Simon de Wijs have been setting a pretty hot pace and are well clear of the rest. They are on 61.14%, while their nearest challengers, compatriots, Sjoert Brink and Bas Drijver, are on 56.36%, nearly 5% behind. There are joint-thirds on 53.41%, Boye Brogeland and Christian Bakke of Norway, and Ju Chuancheng and Shi Zhengjun of China.

The Women's competition is much closer. The leaders, China's Wang Nan and Zuo Xiaoxue have a score of only 56.82%. They are being chased by Anna Sraniak and Danuta Kazmucha of Poland, then Sweden's Cecilia Rimstedt and Ida Gronkvist, on 55.91 and 54.77% respectively. In this competition, however, the top six are covered by less than 5%.



## A CUNNING PLAN

by **Mark Horton**

Aficionados of the British Television series *Blackadder*, will know that one of the main characters, *Baldrick*, was always coming up with a cunning plan that was designed to find a way out of an awkward situation.

At the start of the third session of the Women's Final, Sweden trailed Poland 31-89 and if they were to turn the match around they needed a very cunning plan indeed.

Not much has been written about the strategy to adopt in this situation, but it seems to me that a number of things are self-evident; you must be reasonably aggressive in the bidding; you must avoid unforced errors - it's no use scoring the IMPs you need if you keep adding to your opponent's total; you must consider playing against the odds from time to time in the hope of creating a swing; the bigger the deficit, the more luck you may need; teams holding a big lead tend to play conservatively. Having said all that you also need to get a set of boards that offer the right sort of opportunities.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gronkvist	Kazamucha	Rimstedt	Sarniak
—	1NT*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

1NT 15-17  
2♦ Transfer

Declarer got the trumps right and took ten tricks, +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmuda	Gronkvist	Dufrat	Ahlesved
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠*
All Pass			

A system change saw South inadvertently make the wrong response (3♦ would show four-card spade support).

With that information North should raise to 4♠ - once spades have been supported the fifth spade is the equivalent of a an extra king and I would be tempted to try it even opposite the actual response, hoping to find partner with a maximum.

Here too declarer took ten tricks - an opportunity missed.

Sweden gained 10 IMPs by making a game that failed in the other room and then faced this deal...



Catharine Ahlesved, Sweden



Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gronkvist	Kazamucha	Rimstedt	Sarniak
Pass	Pass	1♣*	Dble
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

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

Not much to say about that, except that when you know where most of the missing high cards are located you can frequently bring home a low point count 3NT. When East's lead of the ♠7 went to the ten and ace declarer was in a position to score nine tricks, but she had no need to go flat out and finished with eight, +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmuda	Gronkvist	Dufrat	Ahlesved
Pass	1♦*	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♦ 11-13 BAL w/o 5-c M or 11-16 HCP NAT,  
longer ♣ possible or 11-16 HCP any 4441

Here East started with the ♠6 and West took dummy's ten with the ace and returned the eight, declarer winning with dummy's jack and playing a club for the king and ace. Dummy's king took the spade return, West pitching the ♥3 (suit preference/ even) and declarer played two rounds of clubs, East winning, cashing her master spade (East throwing the ♦3, declarer the ♦2) and exiting with the ♦6. Declarer won with the jack and cashed the ♣8 East pitching the ♥2, West the ♥5.

Where was the ♥Q?

If declarer believed the discards, West had started with a 2-4-4-3. She had thrown two hearts, which was unlikely if she had started with the ♥Q. Had she discarded a second diamond declarer would have had the same information but could then consider playing East for the queen in an attempt to create a swing.

When declarer played a heart to the king and then finessed on the next round she played West for five hearts and went down.

A few boards later Poland misjudged who could make what and a phantom cost 9 IMPs.

If Poland had done the right thing on the deals I have mentioned they would have been only 21 down with eight deals to play - and perhaps their opponents would have been a little nervous.





## VIVE LA DIFFÉRENCE

by **Mark Horton**

A top is 10, so results are expressed as 10.00-0.00, 0.00-10.00 etc.

The opening deal illustrated the difference between IMPs and Pairs:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Both 4♠ and 3NT are easy contracts, but unless North leads an unlikely top heart or even better a small club, you will make eleven tricks in both contracts.

This was a common sequence:

West	North	East	South
Baldysz	Rimstedt	Baldysz	Gronkvist
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

worth 3.00/7.00

and this the unlucky one:

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Zuo	Senior	Wang
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

scoring 9.00-1.00

It was Terence Reese who pointed out that playing Pairs you must attempt to get involved in the auction if possible.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wiseman	Senior	Smith	Dhondy
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
All Pass			


At the other tables, West overcalled 2♣ and EW played in 3♣. It was not obvious to East that she needed to double, despite her heart length - West might easily have been 5-2 in the majors. With both contracts making EW only one point.



Cathy Baldysz, Poland

Mind you, this can lead to the odd disaster:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wang	Lu	Zuo	Liu
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♦	2♠	Dble
All Pass			

South led the ♥K and switched to the ♦7, North taking the ace and playing the ♣K. Declarer won in dummy and ran the ♠10. South won with the queen and played the ♣9. North won, returned the ♦3 ruffed, won the next club and played a third diamond, ruffed. The ♥K meant the penalty was -800 and 10.00-0.00.

Declarer would have done better to reject the spade finesse and play three rounds of the suit. That way she escapes for -500 and scores some points if N/S bid and make a game.

On Board 9 E/W are vulnerable with North the dealer holding:

♠ 8 3 ♥ A 8 3 ♦ Q 10 8 7 4 ♣ A 9 2.

Most of the players in the Open could start with 1NT or 1♦. None of the women opened and only Lu and Wang overcalled West's opening bid of 1♥ with 2♦. In practice it was the winning move as partner has enough to compete:

♠ Q 5 2 ♥ J 10 6 ♦ A 9 5 2 ♣ Q 6 4.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

	♠ J 3	
	♥ J 9 6	
	♦ A 10 8 4	
	♣ K Q 5 2	
♠ 7 6	<div>Diagram showing a red box with N, W, E, S and a blue circle with a cross inside.</div>	♠ A Q 8 4
♥ 10 7 5 2		♥ A K 8 4
♦ K 9 7 5 2		♦ Q J 6 3
♣ J 8		♣ 10
	♠ K 10 9 5 2	
	♥ Q 3	
	♦ —	
	♣ A 9 7 6 4 3	

West	North	East	South
Baldysz	Zmuda	Baldysz	Dufrat
—	—	1♦	1♠
3♦	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

It seems to me you have three possibilities with the South hand - to overcall 2♣ planning to bid spades later if required; to make a two suited overcall; to overcall 1♠.

Such is the attraction of the spade suit that everyone was starting with 1♠.

When West led the ♦5 a losing heart went away and declarer could draw trumps with dummy's ♣KQ and play a spade for 10.00-0.00.

After 10 boards, Wang and Shen were on 67% - a mere 10% ahead of Zmuda and Dufrat.



Sophia Baldysz, Poland



**2019 IMSA**  
World Masters Championship





## Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Smith	Wang	Wiseman	Shen
—	1♥	Pass	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Dble
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

A club lead would have demolished 3NT, but naturally South led the ♥Q. It was impossible for North to win and switch to a club, so declarer won with the king, played the ♦10 to dummy's queen and the ♠5. North shot up with the ace and returned the ♥3, South winning with the jack. North must have been disappointed when South could not produce a third heart, returning a diamond. Declarer cashed her tricks in that suit and came to hand with the club, squeezing North in the majors for 11 tricks and 0.00-10.00.

## Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shen	Bertheau	Wang	Larsson
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♦4 and when dummy's queen held declarer played three rounds of clubs, West pitching a heart and a spade. Now declarer did something very

sneaky - she exited with the ♦6! West won with the king and assuming declarer still had the ♦J10 (East had played the seven followed by the eight) she switched to the ♠2. Declarer played dummy's ten and when it held she played a spade to the ace, a heart to the ace and cashed her spades. The last of these caught East, down to ♥Q7 ♣8 in show-up squeeze. If you haven't been counting that's 12 tricks! Not surprisingly it was 10.00-0.00.

That might have been my play of the day, were it not for this deal!

## Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wang	Wiseman	Zuo	Smith
—	—	—	1♣*
1♦	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♦	2♥	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

East led the ♦J for the king and ace and West cashed the queen. If she plays a third diamond declarer can ruff with dummy's ♥Q and play a low heart, which will put her in line for an overtrick if she gets the clubs right.

West found the stronger defence of switching to a spade, covered by the jack, queen and ace. If declarer now runs the ♥J East wins, cashes the spade king and plays a third spade, promoting a trump trick.

Declarer found the only way to get home when she played the ♦9. West covered but declarer pitched dummy's spade - a scissors coup. Declarer ruffed the spade return in dummy and played a low heart, winning with the jack. A heart to the ace was followed by a third heart, and East won and played a spade. Declarer ruffed in dummy and played low club to the ace and then ran the jack - East had already pitched a club on the third round of diamonds so was known to be 6-3-2-2. A splendid 10.00-0.00.

At the end of the session, Wiseman and Smith had climbed from last to second, just behind Senior and Dhondy.



## OPEN PAIRS, SESSION 1

by **Brian Senior**

After three hard-fought days of Teams it was time to move onto the Pairs Championships. In both the Open and Women's events there would be 12 pairs, three from each of the four countries, playing 4 x 22-board sessions, with barometer scoring.

We start with the meeting of the two Drijvers, Bas partnering Sjoert Brink, Bob facing Bart Nab.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nab	Bas D	Bob D	Brink
–	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

We don't have the pairs' system files to study and the convention card does not describe Bob's 2NT rebid – and why should it? My best guess is that 2NT showed the six-three shape and that 3♥ would have denied three spades, but that is just a guess. Nab liked 2NT sufficiently to make a slam try but they stopped just in time in 5♠.

Bas led the three of clubs to the ten and ace. Nab played a spade to the ten and ace, won the club return and played a second spade. Bas won that and played a third club but Nab could ruff with the queen and come to hand to draw the outstanding trump and claim 11 tricks for a solid +450.

One pair got to 6♠, which had the obvious problem, and one got to 3NT, making nine tricks after a club lead for +400. The four pairs who played in a spade game therefore collected 7 out of 10 MPs.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nab	Bas D	Bob D	Brink
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Brink/Drijver bid freely to 3♣. Had Bas not raised to 3♣ at this point he would no doubt have had to do so at his next turn as Bob had an obvious balancing double had 2♣ come round to him.

Nab cashed the ace of spades then switched to a low club. Brink won in hand and ran the jack of hearts, losing to the king. Back came a spade to the king, and Nab continued with the jack of spades to dummy's queen. Brink played ace of diamonds then ruffed one, cashed the ace of hearts, and could either try to cash the ♥Q, which would be ruffed, or ruff something back to hand, in which case Nab would over-ruff and return a trump to prevent a second diamond ruff. Either way, it meant one down for –100.

Minus 100 scored 4 out of 10. One pair made 3♣ doubled, while two pairs made 3♦ doubled the other way.



## Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tundal	Cabanes	Kvangraven	Bessis
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

Michel Bessis opened a strong no trump and Bernard Cabanes transferred to 2♥ then passed the completion.

Ulf Tundal led the jack of spades round to the queen. Bessis led a low diamond towards the queen and Tundal rose with the ace and returned the ten of spades to declarer's ace. Bessis took a spade discard on the king of diamonds, ruffed a diamond, and led a club to the jack and king. Back came a spade. He ruffed low, took a second club finesse, cashed the ♣A and ruffed his last diamond. Down to ♥A10 facing ♥Q3, Bessis played the thirteenth club and Kvangraven ruffed with the eight. Now, who had the ♥K? Bessis got it right by discarding his spade and leaving Kvangraven to open up trumps. He duly did so, leading the ♥2, and Bessis played low from hand so that the king lost to the ace and his queen won the last trick. Nicely done for 10 tricks and +170.

The tenth trick was worth 9 out of 10 MPs, with four declarers scoring +140 and one other managing +170.

## Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tundal	Cabanes	Kvangraven	Bessis
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Tundal opened a strong club and rebid 1NT over the negative response.

Cabanes led the jack of spades, which ran to Tundal's queen. He played the king of diamonds, ducked, and continued with the queen, also ducked, then the low diamond for the ten and ace. Bessis returned a low spade to the eight and nine and Tundal led a heart to his queen. Cabanes won the ace and returned his remaining spade to Bessis's





ace. Tundal pitched a club on this trick and a second club when Bessis cashed the fourth spade. The fifth spade, however, caused Tundal a real problem and he was forced to discard the winning diamond. Bessis switched to a club now and Cabanes won the queen and ace for one down and –100.

One No Trump was the universal contract, though a couple of times played by East. It made twice and was down two once, so –100 scored 4 out of 10.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
–	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♣	Pass	2♥	2♠
2NT	Pass	3NT	Dble
All Pass			

When Simon de Wijs could overcall 2♣, Bauke Muller had more than enough to cuebid to show a constructive club raise. De Wijs tried 2NT and Muller raised to game. Zhuang's double, given his dreadful club holding, appears to have been more a matter of – "We have half the deck so they can't make 3NT" – than anything more specific. He was right; de Wijs was gambling out the heart position and Chen had five of those to cash so the contract was one down for –100.

Did Muller's choice of cuebid, 2♥ when he could just as easily have bid 2♠, imply something in hearts? Or was the difference between the two cuebids more a matter of all-around strength or the number of clubs?

There were a range of different contracts on this one, with the top spot for N/S being 2♥ just made twice for +110. Two E/W pairs made club partscores for +130 and +110, and –100 scored 4 out of 10.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

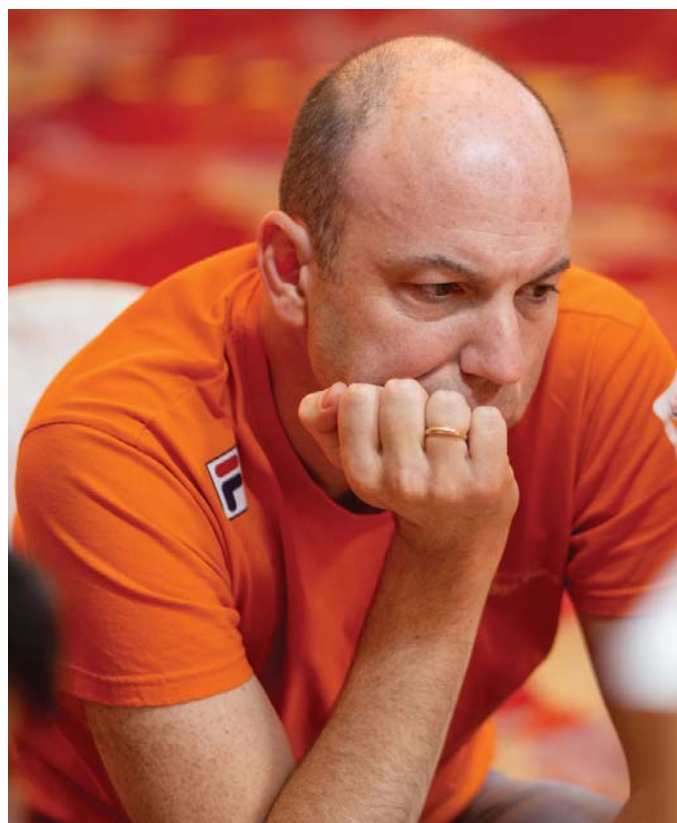
♠ A 8		
♥ 7 2		
♦ A 10 9 8 5 3 2		
♣ J 8		
♠ Q J 6 4		♠ K 7 2
♥ K 9 8 4		♥ A Q 6 5
♦ Q J 6		♦ K 4
♣ Q 5		♣ A K 10 4
	♠ 10 9 5 3	
	♥ J 10 3	
	♦ 7	
	♣ 9 7 6 3 2	

West	North	East	South
<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
–	–	1♣	Pass
2♦	3♦	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

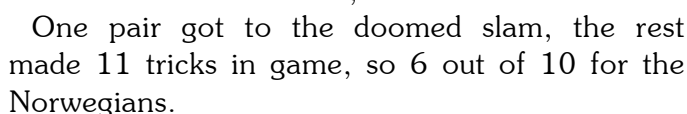
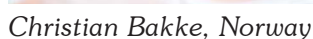
One Club was 16♣ and 2♦ a balanced positive. When Muller left the decision round to de Wijs he took one look at the vulnerability and bid 3NT (3♦ doubled would have been only +500).

Chen led the ten of diamonds, which de Wijs won with the queen. He played on spades and when Chen won the ace he cashed the diamond so there were 11 tricks for +660. Not the most exciting of deals.

Everyone else got to 4♥, making exactly, so +660 was a complete top for E/W.



Simon de Wijs, Netherlands



## Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Liu	Ju	Hu	Shi
–	1♦	Pass	1NT
2♣	2♦	2♠	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass


Ju opened North's uninspiring 10-count with a Precision 1♦ and Shi responded 1NT. Liu could now bid 2♣ for the majors, just as though over a 1NT opening, and that found the spade fit. Ju rebid 2♦ to show that he actually held the suit, and that enabled Shi to compete to 3♦ over 2♠, pushing Hu up a level to 3♠.

Shi led ace and another diamond, which did Hu no harm at all. He won the second diamond and led a heart to the king, which was ducked, followed by dummy's low club, putting up the king when Ju again played low. A second heart saw Shi play the jack and Hu duck in dummy. Hu played queen and another club to force dummy, so Hu took the force and cashed a top spade before ruffing a heart. He knew the shape of the opposing hands now; North would have five diamonds to repeat the suit, while South could not have a four-card major so must be 3-3-4-3. With both side-suits established, Hu didn't care where he won the third round of trumps – he just wanted to find the queen. He led the ten of spades and, of course, Shi played low. After some thought, Hui played low and had the rest; 10 tricks for +170. Local knowledge is a useful thing, as Hu had played for Ju to have opened 1♦ and rebid the suit on a 2-3-5-3 10-count.

Everyone played a spade partscore but only half the declarers managed to take 10 tricks, so +170 was worth 8 out of 10.



## Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Liu	Ju	Hu	Shi
–	–	1♦	1♠
2♦	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

Shi had no way to show a black two-suiter at his first turn so contented himself with a simple overcall of 1♠. One problem with being unable to show a two-suiter immediately is that you have to be willing to show the second suit at your next turn, and Shi's 3♦ bid could easily have been made with a substantially stronger hand. Ju therefore made a try for game, but Shi had no interest at all in that idea and signed off in 4♣.



Ju Chuancheng, China



Liu led a heart. Hu won the king and ace then played ace and another spade. Shi won the king and drew trumps and soon had the rest of the tricks for +130.

Two N/S pairs were down in 5♣, while two E/Ws played 4♦, down two once doubled for -500, once undoubled for -200. Plus 130 scored average, 5 out of 10.

#### Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brink	Oursel	Drijver	Mauberquez
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dble
Pass	3♣	3♦	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Bas Drijver opened 1♠ and, when the bidding had reached the three level by the time it came back to him, introduced his four-card diamond suit – yes, it would have been nice to have five diamonds for the bid, but he had to do something with all those high cards and double with only a doubleton heart was not very appealing. The good news was that Brink had four-card spade support so had a very easy preference to 3♠, ending the auction. When Mauberquez led the jack of clubs, Brink discovered that he also had an unexpected gem in that suit.

Drijver covered the ♣J with the queen and Oursel thought a little then let dummy hold the trick. Drijver played a spade to the queen and king, won the club continuation and laid down the ace of spades, getting the good news when the suit divided evenly. He played a third spade to get to dummy, followed by a diamond to the king and a low diamond back to drop the doubleton ace. there was a heart to lose but that was all; – 10 tricks for +170.

There was one 4♠ just made and one 4♠ down one. The rest played in 3♠ and all but one made 10 tricks. There was the oddity of 3♠-3 at the remaining table. Plus 170 scored 6 out of 10.

#### Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brink	Oursel	Drijver	Mauberquez
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Drijver's 2♣ response was an artificial game force and I believe that the 2♥ rebid showed four spades, with Drijver's 2♠ showing the fit. After that, I'm afraid you are on your own. The auction obviously involved some artificiality, but I don't know exactly what it all meant.

Mauberquez led the nine of clubs to the queen and king, and Oursel returned the jack to dummy's ace. Drijver led a spade to the king and ace and back came a heart from Mauberquez, who may have read the ♣J as a suit-preference card – not that it mattered what he played back. Drijver won the king of hearts and took a club discard on the ace of diamonds then led a spade and covered Mauberquez's card in case the suit was four-one. Oursel won the spade but that was that; 10 tricks for +420.

This was not the E/W field's finest hour, with three pairs bidding to the doomed spade slam. One pair managed to get 4♠ played by West and took 11 tricks after a diamond lead. Plus 420 was worth 7 out of 10.



**2019 IMSA**  
World Masters Championship



Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Drijver	Cabanes	Nab
–	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Bob Drijver opened 1♥ and rebid the suit, ending the auction.

Bernard Cabanes cashed the ace of clubs and Drijver unblocked the king. Cabanes switched to the king of hearts, pinning the jack and losing to declarer's ace as Bessis discarded an encouraging nine of diamonds. Drijver played the jack of clubs but Cabanes ruffed and played king and another diamond, ruffed by declarer.



Bob Drijver, Netherlands

Drijver played a low spade to the ten now, losing to the queen, and back came a spade. He won the ace, crossed to the queen of hearts, and took a spade discard on the queen of clubs. Cabanes ruffed that and had the king of spades to cash for down one and -100.

The French pair were the only ones to defend on the deal. Three pairs bid and made 5♦, one stopped in 3♦+2, and one got to slam, doubled for down one. That gave just 2 MPs to Bessis/Cabanes.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Drijver	Cabanes	Nab
–	–	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

That empty South hand barely looks like a 20-point hand to me but Nab had little option but to open it with 2NT. A Puppet Stayman sequence set spades as trumps and Drijver made a mild slam try before settling in 4♠.

Bessis led a diamond so Nab won the king and played ace and another spade to the jack and king. Seeing the three-two spade break, Nab continued by cashing the diamonds before throwing Bessis in with the ♠Q in hope he might open up the wrong suit and concede a trick. No, Bessis knew what to do and played ace and another heart. Nab won the ♥Q and played ace of clubs and a club to the jack and queen so had 10 tricks for +420.

Four Spades made 10 tricks twice, while the rest played in 3NT and made nine once, 10 twice, and 11 once. Plus 420 scored 3 out of 10.



Ulf Tundal, Norway

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Chen	Tundal	Zhuang	Kvangraven
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	Dble	1♥	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Chen opened a Precision 1♦ and his pass over 1♠ then denied three-card heart support. Zhuang doubled 1♠ for take-out but when Kvangraven rebid the spades and that came back to him competed with 3♣ rather than double again.

Kvangraven led his trump to the ten and ace. The potentially winning defence was a low diamond switch now, as declarer would have to do well to go up with the queen. However, that defence was not without risk and Tundal preferred the safety of playing three rounds of diamonds, leaving Zhuang with no problem. He won the third diamond and played his spade up and Kvangraven won the ace; nine tricks and +110.

Three E/W pairs were allowed to play in 1NT, scoring either +120 or +150, while one N/S bid and made 2♠. That left +110 scoring only 3 out of 10.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Chen	Tundal	Zhuang	Kvangraven
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Dble	2♠	All Pass	

The Norwegian N/S pair play Precision and open light, going as low as 9 HCP. Kvangraven's 2♦ response was invitational (or presumably better) with a doubleton spade. Chen doubled to show diamonds, and now 2♠ was the weakest option available to Tundal – Pass would have been non-committal but encouraging. He didn't like his diamond holding, of course, and when Tundal respected the 2♠ bid they had stayed out of a sub-par game – the only pair to do so, not altogether surprisingly.

Zhuang led a diamond as requested and Chen won and played two more rounds of the suit. Tundal ruffed and played a spade to the ace and a spade back, putting in the seven and forcing the king. That was that; 10 tricks for +170.

A more challenging defence would have been for Chen to switch to his singleton club at trick three. Ace and another trump is no longer good enough as East gets in with the king and gives partner a club ruff. That beats game, of course, so perhaps +170 would score well? But declarer can succeed even on this defence. To do so he has to win the club switch in hand and play the queen of spades. He still loses one spade trick, but no longer also a ruff. Of course, after queen, king, ace, and a low spade back, he still has to put up the ten if West plays low or he loses two spade tricks anyway.

At the end of the session the leaders were Simon de Wijs and Bauke Muller of the Netherlands, on a healthy 62.27%. Christian Bakke and Boye Brogeland of Norway lay second on 59.09, then came a big gap to third-placed Julien Bernard and Nicolas Lhuissier of France on 55.91. There were three more sessions to play.





## OPEN PAIRS, SESSION 2

by **Brian Senior**

Simon de Wijs and Bauke Muller had a useful lead over Christian Bakke and Boye Brogeland going into the second session of the Open Pairs, but there was a long way to go with three more sessions to come.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Muller	Drijver	de Wijs	Brink
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Dble	Rdbl	2♠	Dble
All Pass			

Brink opened a mini no trump and Bas Drijver used Stayman. Muller doubled the 2♥ response for take-out and Drijver redoubled to show strength. When de Wijs removed this to 2♠, Brink doubled for take-out and Drijver left it in.

Brink led the five of spades, ducked to Drijver's queen, and he switched to the seven of hearts. De Wijs won the ace and led the nine of diamonds, won by Drijver with the king. Drijver played the jack of clubs this time and, after a thought, Brink played low, allowing dummy's queen to win. De Wijs led the queen of diamonds to the ace and ruff, ruffed a heart and cashed the jack of diamonds. Next he cashed the ♠A and ♦10 and led the fifth diamond off the dummy. He could not be prevented from making his ten of spades en passant and that was his eighth trick for +670 and a lot of matchpoints.

That 'lot' of matchpoints proved to be all 10, as you might have suspected. Two N/Ss over-reached to 4♥, down a couple, while others made 1NT+2 and 2♥ exactly.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Muller	Drijver	de Wijs	Brink
1NT	2♠	4♥	4♠
5♥	All Pass		

Muller opened 1NT and Drijver overcalled 2♠, natural. De Wijs's 4♥ bid was alerted so perhaps promised a two-suiter? Anyway, when Brink bid 4♠, which would surely have made, Muller took the push to 5♥, possibly not certain who could make what. Five Hearts ended the auction and Brink led the king of spades.

It looked for all the world as though de Wijs had ten red tricks and would go a quiet one down, which might prove to be a perfectly respectable score with 4♠ on the other way. But de Wijs was in a greedy mood and went for the glory play to make his contract. He ruffed the spade lead, led the jack of hearts and overtook it, ruffed a second spade and led a heart to the ten and king, clearly having intended to put in the nine had the ten not put in an appearance. Now he could ruff the last spade with the ace of hearts, cross to dummy with a diamond and draw the last trump with the nine. That came to 11 tricks – three hearts, three ruffs and five diamonds – a perfect dummy reversal for +650.

One other player made 5♥, while the E/W top went to 5♦ doubled plus two, and the N/S top to 4♠ doubled making. There was also 5♥ down one and 6♠ doubled down two.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lhuissier	Cabanes	Bernard	Bessis
–	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♣	2♥
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	4♦	Dble
All Pass			

The French E/W pair had done their work when they pushed N/S to the three level, but Bernard took a further push himself to 4♦ and Michel Bessis, with declarer's side-suit well sewn up, applied the red card.

Bessis led the jack of diamonds against 4♦ doubled and Bernard won with the ace in hand and played a second diamond to the queen. Next he cashed the top hearts for two spade discards before leading the nine of clubs and, when there was no flicker or cover on his right, put in the jack and lost to the queen – not that it mattered in the slightest what Bernard did on this trick, of course. Bessis returned the jack of spades for his partner's king and Cabanes switched to a heart to force declarer to ruff. Bernard did so then played a low club and Bessis won the ten and ace then played the fourth club for Cabanes to over-ruff dummy for down two and –300.

Every other East declared three of a minor down one, so the 4♦ bid turned 10 out of 10 into zero out of 10.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lhuissier	Cabanes	Bernard	Bessis
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
Pass	7♦	All Pass	

I'm not sure that I would have opened that South hand but once Bessis had done so and Lhuissier had not come in on the West cards it was all plain sailing. Cabanes showed diamonds, Bessis rebid that awful spade suit, and Cabanes showed his clubs. When Bessis could give preference to diamonds, Cabanes leapt to 5♥, Exclusion Key Card, and the two key-card response meant that he could bid the excellent grand slam for +1440.

Seven Hearts is a paying save, vulnerable against not, costing –1400, not that we would expect anyone to find that. One other pair bid 7♦, three played 6♦, and one stopped in 5♣, so +1440 was worth 9 out of 10.

Nicolas Lhuissier

Michel Bessis

Julien Bernard

Bernard Cabane



Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Liu	Chen	Hu	Zhuang
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♦	Dble
Pass	1NT	2♦	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Chen opened a strong club and rebid 1NT, 16-18, when Zhuang could double the overcall to show some values. And when Zhuang bid again Chen took a shot at 3NT. Having twice bid diamonds yet seen declarer happy to bid no trump, Hu tried the eight of spades as a surprise attack. Chen put up dummy's jack in a standard bluff situation and that went to the queen and ace. He played a low heart at trick two and Hu put in the jack so the king won. It was tempting to play for clubs two-two with the king onside now but Chen resisted the temptation and instead played a second heart – if the spade lead was from four, as it appeared, then East was 4-2-6-1 and the club play could not succeed. Hu won the second heart and cleared the spades, but Chen cashed the hearts then laid down the ace of clubs, and the fall of the king gave him four more club tricks and 10 in all for an excellent +630.

With nobody else in game, +630 was a complete

top. There were assorted partscores in both directions, with the E/W top going to 2♠+1.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Liu	Chen	Hu	Zhuang
Pass	1♦	2NT	Dble
4♣	Pass	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Chen's 1♦ opening was Precision so not promising the suit, and Hu's 2NT overcall was therefore being played as showing the minors. Zhuang doubled to show values and Liu jumped pre-emptively to 4♣. That did not inconvenience Zhuang in the slightest as he now bid his powerful six-card heart suit and was left to play in 4♥.

Liu led a club to the queen and ace. Zhuang drew trumps and led a diamond to the king and ace. Hu played king and another club so Zhuang ruffed and led the queen of spades in hope of pinning a doubleton ten offside. And, sure enough, there was indeed a doubleton ten offside so he had his overtrick for +450.

Zhuang may have been a little disappointed with how +450 scored – 3 out of 10. The scoresheet included 3NT doubled just made, 3NT redoubled just made, and 5♣ doubled down –500.





## Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brink	Bakke	Drijver	Brogeland
–	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

A peaceful auction for once, saw Bakke bid and rebid his spades and stop at a relatively comfortable level. Bas Drijver led the ace of clubs, Brink following with the queen to show the jack. Drijver underled to the ♣J and Brink returned a heart to declarer's bare ace. Bakke played a spade to the queen and ace, ruffed the club return and played the king then ten of spades to draw trumps, but had to lose two diamond tricks; just made for +110.

Yawn – six tables, six 2♠ making exactly after six ace of clubs leads. Next board please.

## Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brink	Bakke	Drijver	Brogeland
–	–	3♣	All Pass

Drijver opened a classic 3♣ – we've seen him open a few less classical ones over the years, particularly when not vulnerable. Nobody had anything to add to that so 3♣ it was and Brogeland led a low diamond, Bakke winning the ace and continuing with a second

diamond. Drijver won the king and led a spade up and it was very tough for Brogeland to duck. He won the ace and played the queen of diamonds, which Drijver ruffed. He continued with the queen of clubs and, when that scored, the king. Bakke won the ace and, after some thought, returned a spade to dummy. Drijver played a winning spade so Bakke ruffed, over-ruffed by Drijver, who played the ten of clubs to Bakke's jack, won the club return and led a heart to the jack and ace; down one for –100.

Everyone played in 3♣ but one declarer made only six tricks, three made seven, and only one other managed eight. Drijver therefore scored 9 out of 10 for –100.

## Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Ju	Cabanes	Shi
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1NT	2♦	Dble
2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Ju opened 1NT and Cabanes overcalled 2♦, one major. When Shi doubled to show values, the French pair were in trouble, or so it appeared. Bessis bid a pass or correct 2♠, showing a liking for hearts but not spades, and presumably double would have been for take-out as Ju passed. When that came round to Shi he bid 2NT and Ju raised himself to game.

Cabanes led a fourth-best spade round to declarer's eight, Bessis pitching the two of diamonds. Ju played a heart to the jack and ace, won the heart return in dummy, and called for the jack of diamonds. Bessis covered that so Ju won the king and played the ten of spades. Cabanes won the king and returned a heart and Ju had his nine tricks for +400 – but would there be penalties at other tables?

No there would not. The only penalty was +150 out of 2♠ down three undoubled, while only one other N/S pair bid to game and they were down 600 in 3NT redoubled. Plus 400 was worth all 10 MPs.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Ju	Cabanes	Shi
2♠	Pass	3♣	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Bessis opened 2♠, weak with spades and a minor, and Cabanes responded 3♣, pass or correct. Shi must have been mildly shocked by the 2♠ opening but 3♣ seemed much more likely. He overcalled 3♥ and Ju raised to game, ending the auction.

Bessis led the nine of clubs to the king, ace and ruff. Shi played ace then queen of hearts to Cabanes' king and Cabanes returned an innocent spade. That was all the help Shi needed. He won the ace, took the ruffing finesse and pitched the diamond loser on the queen of clubs; 12 tricks for +680.

Incidentally, suppose that declarer leads his diamond at trick two and West wins the ace, there is only one card in the West hand which does not give declarer an entry with which to pick up the hearts without loss and make 12 tricks – the king of spades! Dummy's bare eight is an

entry if West returns a small spade.

Someone made all 13 tricks on a low club lead while one other declarer made 12. There was one making 4♥ exactly, one making 4♥+1, and one one down in 5♥.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zhuang	Oursel	Chen	Mauberquez
–	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Chen opened a strong club and blasted 4♥ over the 1♦ negative response. Four Hearts is not a great spot, because dummy's limited values are of no use at all to declarer. However, Mauberquez made the normal lead of a top diamond and that gave Chen hope. Mauberquez switched to a club but trumps were two-two and the other diamond was onside, as expected, so 10 tricks rolled in for +620.

Somebody managed an overtrick in 4♥, somebody stayed out of game, so +620 was an average, 5 out of 10 MPs.



Bernard Cabanes

Shi Zhengjun

Michel Bessis

Ju Chuancheng

## Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zhuang	Oursel	Chen	Mauberquez
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Dble	5♦
Pass	6♦	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

Mauberquez appears to have miscounted the key cards on this one. Two Clubs was game-forcing and 4♥ showed a minimum with four hearts. Mauberquez had a lot to spare so asked for key cards, found one or four, and asked about the queen of trumps. Six Diamonds showed that card and the king of diamonds, and Mauberquez jumped to 7♥, believing that the club finesse was working because of Chen's rather injudicious looking double.

Had Mauberquez gussed to bid 7♠, he would have got lucky, because there are 13 tricks in that suit, or indeed in 7NT or 7♣, but in 7♥ there had to be a key card missing and he was quickly one down, winning the club lead and playing ace and another heart; –50.

Four pairs bid and made 6♥, while one stopped in game. Seven Hearts down one got what you would expect – zero.

## Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Drijver	Bakke	Nab
–	–	–	1♦
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♦	3♣	Dble
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Bob Drijver did not think he was worth a bid with the North hand when Brogeland overcalled 1♠. He admitted to diamond support when Nab reopened with a double and, when Nab tortured him with a second double finally admitted to having four or more hearts. Nab couldn't know if his partner had the necessary bits and pieces to make game but guessed to go on to 4♥, against which Bakke led his singleton spade.

After a long think, Brogeland let the spade run to declarer's king. Drijver cashed the ace and king of hearts, getting some good news when the queen appeared, cashed one top diamond, then came to hand with a trump to run the jack of diamonds. that lost to the queen and there were two spades to be lost but that was all; +620.

There was one 5♥-1 and five 4♥ just making, so the latter scored 6 out of 10.







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

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

West	North	East	South
Shi	Tundal	Ju	Kvangraven
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Dble	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Shi's 1♣ was strong and it appears that 1♦ showed either both red suits or both blacks. Kvangraven showed a willingness to play in hearts but was no doubt pretty confident that his partner held the wrong colour. Sure enough, Tundal corrected to 1♠ and Kvangraven gave preference to clubs. This was all working out quite well for the Norwegians, as Tundal had laid claim to his opponents' best fit – spades. When Shi now doubled 2♣ for take-out, Ju therefore responded 2♥ rather than 2♠. Tundal had been delighted when his partner said that he liked clubs more than spades, and now competed to 3♣. Shi had had enough of this and doubled, thinking that he had at least four tricks in his own hand. He was to prove mistaken.

Shi led the queen of hearts. Kvangraven won in hand with the ace to lead his spade up and Shi won the king and tried ace and another diamond. That went to the queen and king, and Kvangraven led a heart to the king, ruffed a spade, ruffed a heart and ruffed another spade, bringing down the ace. He played his last trump now and had the rest whatever Shi returned after winning his bare ace; 10 tricks for +870.

Three Clubs doubled making with an overtrick is outscored by 4♣ doubled making with an overtrick. The other four N/Ss defended 3♠, three getting it one down, one getting it two down; 8 out of 10 for +870.

We left Muller/de Wijs in a good place, and we finish our coverage for the day in their company once again.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Mauberquez	de Wijs	Oursel	Muller
–	–	–	1♦
Dble	Pass	1♠	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Muller's 1♦ opening was Precision so did not promise diamonds. However, when at his next turn he leapt to 4♣, he had shown a very shapely minor two-suiter, and de Wijs was willing to contemplate slam. He therefore cuebid 4♠ but Muller needed too much for slam to be good so signed off in 5♣ – he could not, of course, know which suit his partner intended to be trumps. De Wijs converted to 5♦ and they had overcome the looseness of the initial 1♦ opening without any difficulty.

Mauberquez led the king of spades to dummy's ace. Muller ran the nine of diamonds then repeated the finesse and cashed the ace. He could ruff one club, concede one, and claim 11 tricks for +400.

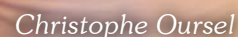


Bauke Muller, Netherlands



The day ended with Muller/de Wijs in a commanding lead at the top of the standings. They were on 61.14%, ahead of another Dutch pair, Sjoert Brink and Bas Drijver, on 56.36%, with Christian Bakke and Boye Brogeland of Norway and China's Ju Chuancheng and Shi Zhengjun in joint-third but again a significant way behind on 53.41%. We were only at the halfway point, with two more 22-board sessions to play on Saturday to decide who would be crowned IMSA World Masters Pairs Champions 2019.

Mauberquez found an aggressive vulnerable preempt and Oursel was able to take another level of







## QUALITY STREET

by **Mark Horton**

In the second session of the Women's final we were treated to an exciting set of deals.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Three pairs tried 6♣ (8.00-2.00), the other three 3NT, usually reached via 3♣-3NT.

At one table, North led a diamond and declarer had eleven tricks.

When North led a spade declarer had to work much harder.

One way to get up to eleven tricks is to cash six rounds of clubs, pitching a heart from hand. If South pitches a spade early on North will be forced down to two spades, two hearts and two diamonds and declarer can cash the top hearts and then play two

rounds of spades to endplay North. If South does not discard a spade on the first four rounds of clubs declarer can chance tack and play a heart, putting in the eight if South plays low. The 3-3 break will give her 11 tricks.

Zmuda did even better!

At trick two, she crossed to dummy with a club and played a heart to the eight. North won and innocently returned a low diamond, handing declarer her twelfth trick! A full 0.00-10.00.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Four pairs reached 7♦ for 7.00-3.00, the other two collecting only 1.00-9.00 for stopping short. Here is one of the successful auctions:

West	North	East	South
Zmuda	Wang	Dufrat	Shen
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♥*
Dble	Pass	Pass	6♦
Pass	7♦	All Pass	

4NT RKCB

5♥ 2 key cards, no ♦Q

Blackwood with a void is generally frowned upon, but when West doubled the response of 5♥ North could pass and await developments. When her partner could not redouble, North knew that the two key cards must be the pointed suit aces.



Wang Wenfei, China

## Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ahlesved	Wang	Gronkvist	Shen
Pass	Pass	2NT*	3♦*
Dble	3♥	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♥	5♦	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

2NT Minors

3♦ Takeout, emphasis on spades

4♣ Cue bid

East led the ♦Q and West won with the ace.

At this point West needs to keep declarer out of dummy and the way to do that is to switch to a club. (The Rueful Rabbit would pull out the ♠K - it was next to the trump he intended to play!)

When West elected to play a trump declarer took East's king, crossed to the ♥J and played a spade to the ace followed by the queen, +1430 via the ruffing finesse. Unsurprisingly that was a top - 10.00-0.00.

## Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zmuda	Gronkvist	Durfrat	Ahlesved
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

1♣ 17+

2♣ 8-11, (54)+ minors with shs or 6+minor

4♦ Cue bid

4NT RKCB

5♣ 1 key card

5♦ ♣Q?

5NT Yes

Catharine Ahlsved

Shen Ci

Wang Wenfei

Maria Gronkvist



North could have responded 1♥ to show any 12+ - but maybe the system has changed a little.

The club position meant there were 13 tricks, which was worth 9.00-1.00.

The pairs who played in hearts all followed the percentage line in the suit of low to the ace and the low towards the queen, which works 61.60% of the time.

One way to make the twelfth trick is by ruffing a club in dummy!



Shen Chi, China

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shen	Rimstedt	Wang	Gronkvist
2♦*	3♦	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

2♦ Multi

West led the ♣5 and declarer claimed, +1440. Is there any case for East to bid a pass or correct 3♥? Mind you, that might not have helped:

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Baldysz	Larsson	Baldysz
2♦*	Pass	3♥*	3NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

2♦ Multi  
3♥ Pass or correct

If East is prepared to play in three of a major then maybe West should lead a heart?

It does conform to the Garozzo rule - it requires partner to have the ♥Q and another trick.

6NT was bid three times, 8.00-2.00.



Jessica Larsson

Cathy Baldysz

Sophia Baldysz

Kathrine Bertheau



## OPEN PAIRS

### RESULTS AFTER SESSION 2

1	DE WIJS Simon	MULLER Bauke	NED - NED	61.14
2	DRIJVER Bas	BRINK Sjoert	NED - NED	56.36
3	BAKKE Christian	BROGELAND Boye	NOR - NOR	53.41
4	JU Chuancheng	SHI Zheng Jun	CHN - CHN	53.41
5	DRIJVER Bob	NAB Bart	NED - NED	50.23
6	BERNARD Julien	LHUISSIER Nicolas	FRA - FRA	50.00
7	CABANES Bernard	BESSIS Michel	FRA - FRA	49.32
8	HU Linlin	LIU Yinghao	CHN - CHN	46.59
9	LIVGARD Allan	AA Terje	NOR - NOR	46.36
10	CHEN Gang	ZHUANG Zejun	CHN - CHN	45.23
11	OURSSEL Christophe	MAUBERQUEZ Eric	FRA - FRA	44.09
12	TUNDAL Ulf Haakon	KVANGRAVEN Nils Kare	NOR - NOR	43.86

## WOMEN PAIRS

### RESULTS AFTER SESSION 2

1	ZUO Xiaoxue	WANG Nan	CHN - CHN	56.82
2	SARNIAK Anna	KAZMUCHA Danuta	POL - POL	55.91
3	RIMSTEDT Cecilia	GRONKVIST Ida	SWE - SWE	54.77
4	SMITH Nicola	WISEMAN Yvonne	ENG - ENG	53.18
5	LARSSON Jessica	BERTHEAU Kathrine	SWE - SWE	52.27
6	SENIOR Nevena	DHONDY Heather	ENG - ENG	52.05
7	ZMUDA Justyna	DUFRAT Katarzyna	POL - POL	50.45
8	DRAPER Catherine	FAWCETT Gillian	ENG - ENG	48.18
9	GRONKVIST Maria	AHLESVED Catharina	SWE - SWE	44.77
10	WANG Wen Fei	SHEN (1) Qi	CHN - CHN	44.32
11	LU Yan	LIU Yan	CHN - CHN	43.64
12	BALDYSZ Cathy	BALDYSZ Zofia	POL - POL	43.64