

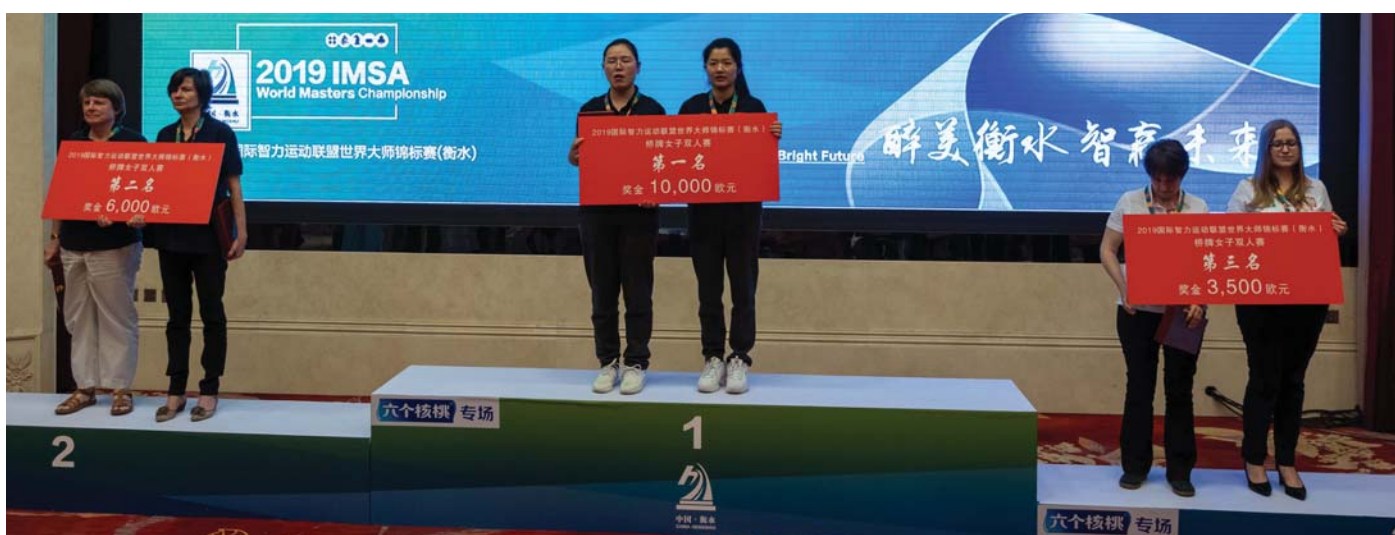
THE NETHERLANDS AND CHINA TAKE THE GOLD MEDALS



As had looked likely from very early in the competition, the Dutch pair of Bauke Muller and Simon de Wijs became the 2019 IMSA World Masters Open Pairs champions, leading virtually throughout and ending with a score of 56.59%. Second were their compatriots, Sjoert Brink and Bas Drijver, with a score of 54.43%, while the bronze medallists were Norway's Boye Brogeland and Christian Bakke.

The new IMSA World Masters Women's Pairs champions represented the host nation, China. They are Zuo Xiaoxue and Nan Wang, who scored 56.59%. They were followed home by the English pairing of Nevena Senior and Heather Dhondy, on 54.77%, with the bronze going to Anna Sarniak and Danuta Kazmucha of Poland, very close behind on 54.66%.

Congratulations to all the medallists and to everyone who took part in what has been a good spirited event in an excellent venue. And on behalf of the players may I thank both the WBF staff and all the many Chinese helpers who have allowed the competition to run smoothly this week.





A CUNNING PLAN

by **Mark Horton**

With two sessions to go the leading pairs would be looking to consolidate, while the chasers would be hoping to have the sort of session that would get them back into the medal race.

South led the ♣K and declarer won with the ace pitching a spade and played to establish the spades for a comfortable +920 - not a bad way to start the session and 3.00-7.00.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wiseman	Draper	Smith	Fawcett
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠*	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Zuo	Senior	Wang
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

- 2♥ Fourth-suit forcing
- 4♣ Cue bid
- 4♠ Cue bid

South led the ♦3 and declarer won with dummy's seven and played three rounds of clubs ditching two hearts from her hand. A spade for the queen, king and ace saw South play a second diamond and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a spade. North won and played the ♣J, promoting South's ♠9 into the setting trick.

There is a way to make 4♠ after the diamond lead, but it's not obvious; declarer must play a spade at trick two and duck North's card. If North switched to a heart declarer must rise with the king and then pitch two hearts on dummy's clubs before playing a second spade - that's eleven tricks.

If North returns a diamond at trick three declarer wins in dummy and plays a spade. South wins and must now play a heart or a club, otherwise North will be squeezed for an eleventh trick.

An initial heart lead beats 4♠ as long as North wins and returns a heart, setting up the trump promotion. NS collected 8.00-2.00



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Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

The popular contract was 3NT, usually reached via 1NT-3NT. With diamonds 2-2 and the ♣K onside you would hope there was a way to take all the tricks via squeeze, but not everyone managed it.

After a spade lead one way to do it is to win in dummy, cash a couple of diamonds and play the ♣J covered by the king and ace. Declarer then plays to reach this position:

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

The last diamond forces West to part with a heart. The ♣8 is discarded having done its work and East throws a club. When declarer crosses to dummy with the ♣Q East is the victim of a non-simultaneous double squeeze.

Wang Nan was the only declarer to record 12 tricks, scoring 10.00-0.00.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zmuda	Wang	Dufras	Shen
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥	Dble	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

1NT 15-17, can include 5M, 6m

With the rest of the room opening 1♣/1♦ and East's 1NT overcall ending proceedings North's tactical move unluckily backfired, as East (although she could have doubled to show a strong hand) decided to wait and was able to come in on the second round which resulted in the spade fit being located for a humungous +170 and 1.00-9.00.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♠	3♣
4♣*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	5NT*	Pass
6♣*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

4♣ Cue bid
4♦ Cue bid
4NT RKCB
5♣ 3 key cards
5NT Kings?
6♣ No

When North decided against doubling 4♣ or 5♣ there was no reason for South to lead a club and declarer was able to establish a long heart and discard a losing club.

Four pairs reached 6♠ scoring 3.00-7.00. Kudos to Lu and Liu who held 4♠ to eleven tricks by leading a club for a maximum 10.00-0.00.



OPEN PAIRS, SESSION 3

by **Brian Senior**

Looking at the overnight rankings, a betting man would have put big money on their being a Dutch winner of the 2019 IMSA World Masters Pairs Championship. Bauke Muller and Simon de Wijs had a substantial lead over Sjoert Brink and Bas Drijver, with another noticeable gap to the rest of the field. However, there were two more sessions to play, 44 boards, and stranger things have happened in bridge than that a pair who were red hot one day being just the opposite the next. We should see.

There was a slight change in format for the final day. Instead of playing 2 x 22-board sessions of two-board rounds, the morning session would see 6 x 4-board rounds a with the remaining five rounds in the afternoon to complete the movement.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

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

A largely artificial auction saw the Norwegian pairing of Ulf Tundal and Nils Kvangraven bid to the excellent diamond slam.

Liu led the king of clubs. Tundal ruffed in dummy to play the queen of spades, but Hu got that right by winning the king so that any subsequent ruffing

finesse would be unsuccessful. But Tundal did not require the spade suit. He won the heart return in hand with the jack, ruffed a club with the king of diamonds and cashed the queen of diamonds. When everyone followed he ruffed a spade, ruffed a club, and ruffed another spade then drew trumps and claimed 12 tricks for +920 – a nice start to the new day.

Only one pair missed the slam so +920 was worth 6 out of 10.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kvangraven	Hu	Tundal	Liu
–	–	1♥	Pass
4♥	Dble	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♥	Dble
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

Kvangraven made a pre-emptive raise to 4♥ but that was not enough to shut out Hu, who doubled. When Liu's 4♠ came round to Tundal he took the save in 5♥ and Liu doubled. At IMPs, Hu would have passed and settled for the penalty, as the route to disaster would be to bid on to 5♠ and go down, but at matchpoints +500 could be a disaster if +650 was available – which was exactly the case on this deal. Hu bid 5♠ and that completed the auction.

Kvangraven led the king of hearts. Five Spades was by no means secure but Liu found a line which worked, as in truth would most sensible choices as the cards lay. He ruffed the heart, played king then ace of spades and ruffed his remaining heart.

Next he played the king of diamonds and the even split of that suit meant that he had all the discards he required for his clubs and just lost one diamond and one spade; 11 tricks for +650.

One made 12, and one other made 11. There were two -500s in 5♥ doubled and one 4♥-2. Plus 650 scored 7 out of 10.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

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

Another artificial auction saw the Norwegians reach a poor spade game, against which Hu led the jack of clubs.

Kvangraven won the ace of clubs and led a spade to the queen, king and ace. Liu returned the two of spades, hoping for a low heart switch to put declarer to the test, but Hu won the spade and returned a club. Declarer pitched a heart from dummy, won the club and led a heart. This was the

critical moment in the hand, and who knows what Kvangraven's intentions were had Hu played low in tempo? But Hu went in with the ace and returned a heart and that was that. Kvangraven won the ♥K and drew the missing trump, and his dummy's third diamond went away on the queen of clubs; +620.

Four pairs were down in 4♠ and one stopped in 2♠+1, so +620 was a complete top.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kvangraven	Hu	Tundal	Liu
2♣	2♥	Dble	Rdbl
3♣	All Pass		

Kvangraven opened a Precision 2♣ and Hu overcalled 2♥. Double was negative and redouble perhaps showed a top honour doubleton heart? It would seem so, as otherwise Hu's opening lead of a low heart would be a huge gamble.

Kvangraven got that wrong by playing low from dummy, so Liu won the queen and switched to the jack of diamonds to the king and ace. Back came a diamond to his queen and now he switched to a trump. Hu ducked declarer's ten so Kvangraven led a heart, Hu winning the ace and cashing the ♣A. The spade loser went away on the king of hearts and the contract was one down for -100.

That was all very well, but the defence rather wasted the advantage gained at trick one as they failed to come to their spade trick. After winning the second diamond, one way to get the extra trick would be to return a heart and get a spade led through; another would be to return a heart and North win and play another heart, so that the king can be ruffed out and the defence come to a slow spade at the end for down two.

One other pair played 3♣ down one. There was one 4♥ just made, a 3♠ just made, and pairs going down in 3♠ and 4♠. Minus 100 scored dead average, 5 out of 10.



Nils Kvangraven, Norway

Round two of the day saw the big match-up of first versus second.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Muller	Drijver	de Wijs	Brink
–	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Bas Drijver and Sjoert Brink, lying second, had a straightforward Stayman sequence to 3NT, against which Simon de Wijs led the queen of spades.

Drijver won the spade in dummy and played the king of diamonds, the ten of diamonds to the ace, bringing down both missing honours, and then

ran the diamonds. The defenders had to be a little careful with their discards but both kept three hearts while Muller, West, kept three clubs. After the last diamond, Drijver led the jack of clubs to the king and ace and cashed the king of spades. Now Muller gave up his heart guard to keep nine-other club, and he made the last trick with the nine of clubs; 12 tricks for +690.

There was one pair in 6♦ making all 13 tricks and three +720s. One other +690 meant just 1 out of 10.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

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

Drijver doubled the opening bid but that was it from N/S and Muller was left to play in a peaceful 2♠.

Drijver cashed the ace and king of hearts then switched to the eight of clubs. Seeing that he had four more losers to come, Muller was not content to win the ace of clubs and take three discards. Instead, he called for the ten of clubs, hoping that the switch was from jack to four, when he would have four discards for the diamonds and might make his contract. It was not to be. Brink played the jack of clubs so Muller had to ruff. He played the jack of diamonds from hand and that ran round to Brink who won the king and played back the jack of hearts. Muller won the queen and played a low diamond round to Brink, who won and played his last diamond. Muller ruffed in dummy and led a spade to the jack, king and ace. From here he just had to lose to the queen of spades so was one down for –100.

Minus 100 was worth 7 out of 10. One N/S pair went down in 2NT, while one made +120 in 1NT. There was another 2♠-1, plus 3♠-2 and 3♠ doubled minus two.



Bas Drijver, Netherlands

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Muller	Drijver	de Wijs	Brink
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Rdbl
Pass	Pass	2♠	Dble
3♣	3♥	All Pass	

Brink opened a strong no trump and Drijver transferred to hearts then passed the completion. De Wijs made a balancing take-out double and Brink, with a maximum, redoubled. When de Wijs took that out into 2♠, Brink doubled for penalty and Muller ran to 3♦. Seeing no future in



Sjoert Brink, Netherlands

defending, Drijver now competed with 3♥, ending the auction.

Muller led a spade so de Wijs won and played two more rounds for his partner to ruff. A club to the ace allowed Muller to ruff out declarer's remaining spade so that it could not be used for a diamond discard and, though Brink could over-ruff, after drawing trumps he had to fall back on the losing diamond finesse so was down one for -100.

Three Hearts was down one twice more while heart contracts made nine tricks twice and there was one 2NT down two by East. That meant just 2 out of 10 for -100.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Muller	Drijver	de Wijs	Brink
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

The leaders reached a poor game after an artificial auction, and Drijver led the three of clubs.

Muller won that in the dummy with the ace and tried the queen of diamonds, discarding a heart from hand. Had South held, say, king to three diamonds, the ruffing finesse would have succeeded and Muller could have ruffed a club in dummy and taken two heart discards on the diamonds – one discard, just cashing the ace, was of little benefit. But the diamonds were not lying as Muller wished them to be. Drijver won the king and, seeing that he could kill both the diamond suit and any prospect of declarer taking any club ruffs in the dummy, he gave up his second trump trick by playing ace then jack of spades. Muller won the second spade and drew the remaining trump, pitching a heart from dummy. He could not avoid the loss of two hearts and a club so was down two for -100.

There was a 5♦ down four, but everyone else was in 4♠. Twice that contract was down one and twice it made. On the face of it, those two declarers must have had some help from the defence. Ah, yes, I see now – a cunning six of diamonds lead! Baldrick would be proud.

At the start of the session, the Dutch pairing of Sjoert Brink and Bas Drijver lay second, while Norway's Christian Bakke and Boye Brogeland were joint-third. The two pairs met in Round five of the second day. At this point, they still lay second and third, a full 5% behind the leaders, Muller/de Wijs, but nearly 3% in front of fourth.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

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

Two Diamonds showed hearts and 4♣ was a splinter.

Brogeland led the seven of diamonds against 4♠. Drijver won in hand and led the queen of spades and, when that held the trick, continued with the jack of spades to the king and ace. Next he played ace of hearts and ruffed a low heart, a diamond to the king and ruffed another heart, bringing down the king. Had Brogeland over-ruffed this trick Drijver would have had the rest, ruffing a minor-suit card in dummy and cashing hearts, but Brogeland wisely discarded a club. Drijver ruffed a club and played a winning heart for a diamond discard but now Brogeland could ruff and the defence had a club to come at the end; 11 tricks for +450.

There were a number of ways to come to 12 tricks. One would be to take the ruffing finesse on the second round of hearts, but that would give up on the chance to drop South's doubleton king.

Declarer could switch his attention to hearts after the ♠Q holds at trick two. Ace of hearts and ruff one, jack of spades to the king and ace, and ruff a heart. Now a diamond to the king and start rattling off heart winners.

One pair bid and made 6♠, two went down in slam. One made 12 in 4♠ and one more made 11. Plus 450 scored 5 out of 10.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

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

The Dutch pair bid to a very thin game on this one and got lucky when the cards behaved nicely for them.

Brogeland led the seven of diamonds again and Bakke won the king, Drijver falsecarding with the nine. Bakke cashed the ace of diamonds before switching to the queen of spades. A trump switch would have been more challenging, forcing declarer to set up clubs before drawing the rest of the trumps, but if he got the clubs right he would still have been OK. As it was, Drijver could win the ace of spades and take his diamond ruff then play on trumps. The three-three split was necessary, of course, and he then had to get the clubs right. After cashing a fourth trump and seeing the defence give up all their diamonds, Drijver crossed to the king of spades and led a club to the ten. When that brought the king he had 10 tricks and his contract for +420.

Not surprisingly, not everyone was in game on this one. There was one other +420 and assorted successful partscore in no trump and in clubs, while one pair were down in 3NT. Plus 420 therefore scored 9 out of 10.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/We Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brink	Bakke	Drijver	Brogeland
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♠	Dble
3♠	4♣	All Pass	

Bakke opened what might have been a short club and the opposing overcall and pre-emptive raise saw him forced to compete at the four level in his long suit.

Four Clubs might have been in difficulties on a trump lead, but Drijver led a low spade, normally enough, and Bakke ruffed and immediately played the king of diamonds. Drijver won the ace and played a trump but it was too late. Bakke won and played ♦Q then ruffed a diamond, crossed to hand with a spade ruff and drew the missing trumps. Finally, he led a heart towards the king and had his tenth trick; +130.



Christian Bakke, Norway

There were two more +130s, but two pairs made +170 in 2♥ and one bid and made 4♥, so +130 scored only 2 out of 10.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brink	Bakke	Drijver	Brogeland
1♣	1♦	Dble	1♠
Dble	Pass	2♣	All Pass

Drijver's double showed hearts and Brink's double showed three-card heart support.

Bakke led a top diamond against 2♣ then switched accurately to a spade, opting for the four. Brogeland put in the jack and Brink won the ace and played on trumps. Bakke won the second club and cashed the king of diamonds then played a third diamond. Brink pitched a heart from dummy, won the jack and cashed a top heart then ran the trumps and had a show-up squeeze against South to ensure nine tricks for +110,

There were three more +110s, a +90 in 1NT and a +100 against 2♦. Plus 110 therefore scored 7 out of 10.

The session ended with little having changed. Muller/de Wijs still had a big lead and were looking very good to become champions, and were still being chased by Brink/Drijver and Bakke/Brogeland.



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LAST CALL

by **Mark Horton**

With 5 four board rounds still to play it was anybody's guess as to who might win the Women's Pairs. It could easily go down to the last board.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

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

Discussing this deal with a colleague he pointed out that West has a six-loser hand using some obscure (or do I mean obsolete) method of evaluation. Whatever,

it was quite a surprise when West did not open 1♠, which might well have seen E/W reach 4♠, which happens to make. Why East passed 3♦ is another question.

There is no way to defeat 3♥ and -730 did not trouble the scorers, 10.00-0.00.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

This was a simple looking deal - for example Senior and Zuo opened 4♠ taking ten tricks and 9.00-1.00. Elsewhere a couple opened 2♥ promising a weak hand with hearts and a minor. What do you bid now with the North hand? One player bid 2♠ and played there, another 3♠, also ending the auction.

Yvonne Wiseman

Shen Ci

Wang Wenfei

Nicola Smith

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zmuda	Senior	Dufrag	Dhondy
—	Pass	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠*	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

West led the ♠8 and East won and switched to the ♦10.

Declarer went up with the ace, drew trumps, pitched two diamonds on the top spades and tabled the ♦Q - a very nice +1370, worth 8.00-2.00.

This was the final deal - not a bad one with which to conclude...

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Baldysz	Senior	Baldysz
Pass	1♦	2♦*	2♠*
3♥	3NT	All Pass	
2♦	Majors		

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

The only other pair to reach 6♦ were Draper & Fawcett - both pairs collecting 9.00-1.00.





OPEN PAIRS, SESSION 4

by **Brian Senior**

Muller/de Wijs had a 4% lead going into the final session. Could they be caught? It seemed unlikely, but if anyone was to catch them Brink/Drijver were best placed to do so.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
Kvangraven	Drijver	Tundal	Brink
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

A simple strong club sequence saw Kvangraven become declarer in 3NT, against which Bas Drijver led the eight of hearts to the nine, ten and king.

Kvangraven played a heart back to the queen and ace and put in the jack on the low club return, winning the trick. Short of dummy entries, he played the queen of diamonds from hand and lost to the doubleton king onside. Brink returned a spade to the queen and ace and now came a club switch to the queen and king. Kvangraven had 10 tricks now for +430.

Two N/S pairs conceded –500 in 2♣ doubled and one E/W made 11 in 3NT, while one other made 10 and one only eight. Plus 430 scored only 3 out of 10.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kvangraven	Drijver	Tundal	Brink
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♠	2♠	Dble	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

Kvangraven's 1♠ response showed hearts and Drijver's 2♠ overcall was, of course, natural. Tundal doubled for take-out and it doesn't look as though Kvangraven intended his 2NT to be to play. However, it ended the auction and Drijver led out his spades then cashed the ♥A; down two for –100.

Plus 100 was a top for N/S. One N/S played 3♠–1 and the rest defended club partscore, three conceding –130 and one going +50.



Ulf Tundal, Norway

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kvangraven	Drijver	Tundal	Brink
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Brink opened a mini no trump and that went round to Tundal who overcalled 2♥, hearts and a minor. Kvangraven raised that to game and Brink led the two of spades. Tundal won that with the queen to lead a diamond up, the king losing to the ace. Brink returned a trump to the queen and ace but Tundal was able to ruff a diamond, cross to a spade and ruff another diamond, then cross to hand once more with a spade to ruff the last diamond. A club ruff to hand was followed by splitting the trumps; 11 tricks for +650.

That was flat except for the South who played 1NT doubled for -800. Plus 650, therefore, was worth 4 out of 10.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kvangraven	Drijver	Tundal	Brink
1♠	Pass	2♣	3♥
Pass	4♥	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

We know from yesterday that Tundal would have responded 2♦ with an invitational hand with a doubleton spade, so probably 2♣ includes invitational hands with three spades, which seems to describe the East hand well enough, even facing a very aggressive opening style. However, Brink/Drijver bid to 4♥ before Tundal could complete the description of his hand and this rather bullied him into bidding spades a level higher than had been his original intention. Brink, of course, doubled 4♠.

Drijver led the five of hearts to Brink's ten and Brink continued with the ace of hearts for declarer to ruff. Kvangraven crossed to the queen of diamonds, noting the fall of the ten on his right, and led the nine of spades, running it and getting more potentially good news when the eight appeared. He cashed the ace of diamonds and the fall of the jack meant that he was going to make his contract. He repeated the spade finesse then cashed the ace and king of spades and three more diamond winners so had 10 tricks for an excellent +790 and a blow to the hopes of the Dutch pair.

There was one other +790 and a +620. Four Spades was down two at one table, while 3♠ E/W and 3♥ N/S each made once. Nine out of 10 for +790.

Over the four-board round, Brink/Drijver had scored 24 out of 40, or 60%.



Sjoert Brink, Netherlands

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Nab</i>
–	Pass	1♣	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Brogeland made a strength-showing redouble, made a forcing pass over 1 \diamond , then showed his spades. When Bakke now jumped to 2NT, Brogeland accepted the game invitation and raised to 3NT.

Nab led the two of diamonds and Bakke had no option but to try dummy's queen. It scored. He led a club to the king and ace and a diamond came back to his ace. The queen of spades was covered by king and ace and a spade led back to the ten. Now a heart to dummy's ace allowed bakke to cash the rest of the spades, after which he led a club to the queen, dropping the jack, and could lead a club to the ten then back to his king of hearts to cash two more clubs; 12 tricks in all for +490.



Boye Brogeland, Norway



Bart Nab, Netherlands

Everyone played in 3NT, with three others also making 12 tricks, one 11, and one only 8! That meant 7 out of 10 for +490.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

♠ 9 2
 ♥ Q 8 4
 ♦ J 7 5 2
 ♣ Q 8 6 3

♠ A K 4
 ♥ A K J 9
 ♦ K 10 8
 ♣ K 5 2

♠ J 7 6
 ♥ 7 6 5
 ♦ A Q 6 4 3
 ♣ J 9


N
 W E
 S

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Nab</i>
—	—	2NT	All Pass

Bakke's 2NT was, I think, 19-21, and Brogeland viewed to pass it out. Nab led a low diamond round to Bakke's ten. Bakke led a club to the nine, queen and ace, and back came the ten of spades, a surround play in case declarer held ♠AJx. Bakke won the spade and cashed the king of clubs and four hearts and soon had eight tricks for +120.

Four pairs bid and made 3NT, once with an overtrick, while the remaining table made an overtrick in 2NT, so +120 scored zero.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Nab</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Dble
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

A completely normal auction saw Brogeland become declarer in 3NT, played by West. Bob Drijver led a spade in response to his partner's lead-directing double and that went to the jack, queen and ace. Brogeland ran the queen of clubs to the king and Nab judged to go passive, returning a club. Brogeland had 11 tricks now, just conceding a heart at the end; +660.

One pair played 4♥+1, the rest 3NT+2, so +660 was worth 6 out of 10.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

♠ K 7 4

♥ A J 10 7 4

♦ A 3

♣ K J 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Nab</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Drijver opened a mini no trump and it would appear that a raise to 2NT is their way to ask for a five-card


major so they got to the five-three spade fit without difficulty.

Bakke led the five of hearts to the jack and king and Brogeland switched to a low diamond, Drijver getting it right by putting in the ten and forcing the king. He won the $\diamond A$, led a spade to his queen, then played queen of diamonds and ruffed a diamond before reverting to trumps. There was just the ace of trumps to lose so he had 11 tricks for +450.

Everyone played 4♠ and made 11 tricks, so everyone gets 5 MPs. Bakke/Brogeland scored 18 out of 40 on the round, not enough if they were to challenge the two pairs above them in the rankings.

Two rounds into the session and the Muller/de Wijs lead had almost vanished as they struggled while Brink/Drijver were scoring well. Four boards against Bakke/Brogeland was not what the leaders would have chosen to shift the momentum back in their favour again.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Muller</i>
–	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

One Club was strong, 1♦ weak, and 1♥ and 2♦ relays. Whatever the intervening bids meant, they seemed to be effective enough as de Wijs became declarer in 4♠.

Bakke led the three of diamonds to the queen and ace. De Wijs crossed to the ace of spades to lead a diamond towards the jack and Brogeland went in with the queen and returned a heart. De Wijs won with the ace, cashed the two major-suit kings, then played jack of diamonds pitching a club and ruffed his last diamond. He ruffed dummy's third heart now and conceded a spade and a club: +420.

One pair stopped in 2NT for +150, the rest made 4♠, so +420 was worth 6 out of 10.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Brogeland	de Wijs	Bakke	Muller
–	–	Pass	1♦
Dble	Rdbl	1♠	Pass
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Muller's 1♦ was Precision and the redouble, I think, showed hearts. When Bakke's 1♠ came round to him de Wijs bid 1NT and nobody had anything further to say. The lead was a spade to dummy's bare jack. De Wijs played dummy's king of clubs, Brogeland winning the ace and returning the ten of spades to the queen and king. Bakke resisted the temptation to return a spade, which would have cost his side the overtrick, and instead switched to a low diamond to dummy's ace. De Wijs took his winners for +90.

Two N/S pairs made 2♥ and one made 3♣, while one pair failed by a trick in each of those contracts. Plus 90 therefore scored 4 out of 10.



Bauke Muller, Netherlands

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Brogeland	de Wijs	Bakke	Muller
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♠	2♦	Dble
2♠	4♠	All Pass	

De Wijs opened 1♠ in third seat where some might have opened 4♠, and Bakke overcalled 2♦. Muller had just enough to make a negative double, and Brogeland could cuebid to show a sound diamond raise. De Wijs bid 4♠ now and played there.

Bakke led the king of diamonds and continued with a low diamond to his partner's ace. Brogeland tried an optimistic low club, Bakke winning the king and continuing with a low club to the nine, jack and ruff. De Wijs didn't need the heart finesse any more, though of course it would have succeeded. Instead, he could ruff his diamond loser and lead the ten of clubs to the ace and ruff, draw trumps and cross to the ace of hearts to cash the established club for a heart discard; +420.

Two other pairs bid and made 4♠ while one went down. There was also one pair down one in 3NT (why only one?), and one making +170 in 3♠. Plus 420 scored 8 out of 10.



Simon de Wijs, Netherlands

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	de Wijs	Bakke	Muller
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♠
Dble	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Brogeland's negative double looks pretty aggressive, forcing partner to go to the three level with only 7 HCP and support for only one suit. It saw Bakke jump to 4♥, a contract which is essentially about playing trumps for one loser.

Muller led two rounds of spades, Bakke ruffing and leading a club to the king and ace. Thinking that his opponent wanted to ruff clubs in the dummy, de Wijs returned a low heart. Bakke went up with the ace, dropping the jack on his left, and played a second heart to Muller's king. From here he could run trumps and squeeze de Wijs in the minors so that there was no need of a club guess and he had 10 tricks for +420.

Only one other pair bid and made 4♥, so +420 was worth 9 out of 10. There was one +170, a +100 on defence to 3♠, a -670 on defence to 2♠ doubled, and one West played in 3♦, going down a trick. The round score was 21-19 in favour of Bakke/Brogeland, but that was probably more useful to Muller/de Wijs, who were still in the lead.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mauberquez	de Wijs	Oursel	Muller
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Muller opened a strong club then used a series of relays after the negative response, eventually alighting in 6♣.

This looks to be a mildly unlucky contract in that while it can be made double dummy, by pinning the ♥10-9 and taking two diamond pitches on the spades, that is not the normal way to play it – if declarer cashes a top heart early in the play, he can hardly trust the fall of the nine or ten on his left to be an honest card. However, Mauberquez led the ten of hearts and that went to the jack, queen and ace. Muller drew trumps in two rounds then played his low spade to the jack and ace. Had Oursel returned a diamond now he would surely have had to run it, as the alternative is so unlikely, but Oursel returned a heart. Muller went up with the king, spotted the fall of the nine, and used his spade winners to avoid having to take the diamond finesse; +1370.

There was another +1370 on the scoresheet and a +1440. One declarer went down in 6NT, while the two in 3NT made 11 and 12 tricks respectively. Plus 1370 was therefore worth 7 out of 10.



From the Opening Ceremony

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mauberquez	de Wijs	Oursel	Muller
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♣	Pass	6NT	All Pass

This time it was E/W's turn to bid a slam, but theirs was absolutely cold. Oursel's early bidding was entirely consistent with his holding a weak no trump so, when Mauberquez could drive to slam, it made sense to convert to 6NT.

Everyone played 6NT making 12, so 5 MPs to everyone.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mauberquez	de Wijs	Oursel	Muller
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♥
2♠	Dble	3♣	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

Yet another strong club for Muller/de Wijs and yet another negative response. De Wijs did show

some signs of life when he doubled 2♠ to show a few scattered high cards, and that was all the encouragement Muller required to jump to the heart game. Mauberquez had seen his partner overcall then make an apparent game try, and with two almost guaranteed trump tricks in his hand he doubled.

Mauberquez led a spade, Muller winning the ace and playing the ♥J, ducked, followed by the ♥K to the ace. There was a second trump to be lost and the ace of diamonds, but that was all; 10 tricks for +790 and an outright top as everyone else was making 4♥ also but undoubled.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mauberquez	de Wijs	Oursel	Muller
1♥	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

De Wijs made a 2♣ overcall then, on catching a raise from partner, asked him for a heart stopper. Muller duly obliged and bid 3NT. Mauberquez cashed the ace of diamonds then switched to the king of hearts, ducked, queen of hearts, also ducked, and a third heart to the ace.

Muller could have banked everything on the spade finesse, or he could have rattled off the clubs then expected to read the ending and lead the ten of diamonds at trick 11 to endplay West into giving him the spade finesse at the end – the latter line results in fewer down than does the early spade finesse when the king is offside.

But Muller could not believe that the spade was onside as surely then Mauberquez would have doubled or bid over 3♣, so he just cashed out and accepted his down one for –50.

The whole field declared 3NT, once doubled. It was down four twice, and three once. Two other players got out for one down, but one of those was the one who was doubled. Minus 50 scored 9 out of 10, and

Muller/de Wijs took 31 out of 40 on the round and were almost home and dry.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brink	Ju	Drijver	Shi
–	1♦	1♠	Dble
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Ju opened the scrappy flat 11-count, as is normal for Precision players, and soon found himself in 2NT – it would have worked out far better for him to pass the second double and collect a penalty, and I would think there is a good case for doing just that with no obvious fit on offer for our side.

Drijver led a low spade to the jack and king and Ju played a club to the queen and ace. Brink returned the nine of spades to the ten and ace, Drijver continuing

with the queen then six as a clear suit-preference for hearts. Ju won the fourth spade and played a diamond to dummy followed by a low club. When Brink played low without a worry, Ju went up with the king and cashed out the diamonds. He played a heart next but the defence had the last three tricks for down one and –50.

Minus 50 scored 5 out of 10. One pair made +120 N/S, but everyone else was minus. There was one –100 in 3♣, and the rest were down one for –50 in 2♣, 3♣ and 3NT. Nobody defended a doubled spade contract.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brink	Ju	Drijver	Shi
–	–	Pass	1♦
Dble	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Brink judged his hand too good for an overcall so doubled then bid the spades. Drijver showed a little sign of life now but Brink wisely went back to the safety of his powerful suit and declarer 2♠ on a heart lead and club switch.

Brink ducked the first club but won the second and had to decide which finesse to take, the problem being that if he ran either the eight of spades or jack of diamonds and it lost he would have no further dummy entry with which to try the other finesse – and on the auction it was heavy favourite that if one finesse failed the other king would be onside. Eventually, he guessed to run the eight of spades and when it held repeated the finesse, so was rewarded with an overtrick for +140.

Everyone was in a spade partscore and five out of six seem to have taken the right finesse, as one made 10 tricks, four made nine tricks, and only one made only eight. Plus 140 was therefore worth 5 MPs.



Ju Chuancheng, China

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Brink	Ju	Drijver	Shi
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The Chinese pair obviously play 1NT – 2NT as an inquiry of some kind and, after exploring a little, Ju settled for 3NT.

Brink led a low diamond and dummy's eight held the trick, telling him immediately just what his prospects were in that suit. Shi took the heart finesse so Brink won the king and took the ace of spades; 11 tricks for +460.

This did not look to be a particularly exciting board, but five different contracts were reached. There was one more 3NT+2, and a mildly scary 5NT just making. Then there were the less normal results. Four Hearts was doubled for 11 tricks and +690, while 5♥ was also played and just made, but undoubled. Finally, one pair defended against 1♦ doubled and collected –800. That all meant that +460 was worth only 4 MPs.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Brink	Ju	Drijver	Shi
Pass	1♦	2♦	2♥
3♥	3NT	All Pass	

Six Diamonds, or indeed 6NT, is very good on the N/S cards, but the Chinese pair did not even sniff at the possibility of slam. Ju opened 1♦, Precision, and Drijver made a Michaels Cuebid, showing at least five-five in the majors. Shi's heart cuebid showed clubs and a forcing hand, and Brink took away some more bidding space by competing to 3♥. Ju could have had a close to minimum balanced hand with a good heart holding and perhaps a fitting club card, or he could have had his actual hand-type for his 3NT bid. It was impossible for Shi to go on, and the slam was missed.

As the cards lay there were 13 tricks without any difficulty for +720.

Only one pair reached 6♦, the rest languishing in 3NT, so +720 scored 4 out of 10.

And that was that. When the smoke had cleared we discovered what we had all suspected, that the 2019 IMSA Open World Masters Pairs champions were Bauke Muller and Simon de Wijs of the Netherlands, who had led almost throughout. As had also been the case for much of the way, second were Bas Drijver and Sjoert Brink, also of the Netherlands, while Christian Bakke of Norway took third place. Congratulations to all.



Shi Zhengjun, China

OPEN PAIRS

FINAL RESULTS

1	DE WIJS Simon	MULLER Bauke	NED - NED	56.59
2	DRIJVER Bas	BRINK Sjoert	NED - NED	54.43
3	BAKKE Christian	BROGELAND Boye	NOR - NOR	52.39
4	JU Chuancheng	SHI Zheng Jun	CHN - CHN	50.34
5	HU Linlin	LIU Yinghao	CHN - CHN	50.34
6	LIVGARD Allan	AA Terje	NOR - NOR	49.77
7	CABANES Bernard	BESSIS Michel	FRA - FRA	49.32
8	BERNARD Julien	LHUISSIER Nicolas	FRA - FRA	48.98
9	CHEN Gang	ZHUANG Zejun	CHN - CHN	47.95
10	TUNDAL Ulf Haakon	KVANGRAVEN Nils Kare	NOR - NOR	46.93
11	DRIJVER Bob	NAB Bart	NED - NED	46.70
12	OURSEL Christophe	MAUBERQUEZ Eric	FRA - FRA	46.25

WOMEN PAIRS

FINAL RESULTS

1	ZUO Xiaoxue	WANG Nan	CHN - CHN	56.59
2	SENIOR Nevena	DHONDY Heather	ENG - ENG	54.77
3	SARNIAK Anna	KAZMUCHA Danuta	POL - POL	54.66
4	LARSSON Jessica	BERTHEAU Kathrine	SWE - SWE	53.07
5	RIMSTEDT Cecilia	GRONKVIST Ida	SWE - SWE	52.27
6	SMITH Nicola	WISEMAN Yvonne	ENG - ENG	51.93
7	ZMUDA Justyna	DUFRAT Katarzyna	POL - POL	50.80
8	WANG Wen Fei	SHEN (1) Qi	CHN - CHN	48.18
9	DRAPER Catherine	FAWCETT Gillian	ENG - ENG	45.45
10	GRONKVIST Maria	AHLESVED Catharina	SWE - SWE	45.00
11	BALDYSZ Cathy	BALDYSZ Zofia	POL - POL	44.20
12	LU Yan	LIU Yan	CHN - CHN	43.07