



2017 IMSA Elite Mind Games

国际智力运动联盟智力运动精英赛

HUAI'AN, JIANGSU PROVINCE, CHINA · 9TH TO 15TH DECEMBER



"Bridge for Peace"

Editors: Mark Horton & Brian Senior • Layout Editor & Photos: Francesca Canali

ALL TO PLAY FOR



Gianarrigo Rona accompanies Madam Chen Zelan, IMSA President, around the bridge venue

CONTENTS (CLICKABLE)

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Bidding Quiz | p. 2 |
| Questions & Answers | p. 2 |
| Yesterday's Bidding Quiz | p. 3 |
| Countdown | p. 4 |
| Open Teams Final, Round 3 | p. 8 |
| It happened one night | p. 12 |
| Open Pairs – Session 1 | p. 15 |
| Results | p. 21 |

SCHEDULE

PAIRS

| | |
|-------|--------------|
| 10.30 | Session 3 |
| 16.30 | Session 4 |
| 20.00 | Prize Giving |

Half-way through the Women's Pairs there is all to play for with nobody having a significant lead and nobody having been dropped off the bottom of the pack. The leaders are Disa Eythorsdottir and Kerri Sanborn of USA, tied with China's Nan Wang and Yan Huang on 53.78 %. Wenfei Wang and Qi Shen, also of China, lie third, just three matchpoints behind on 53.18 %.

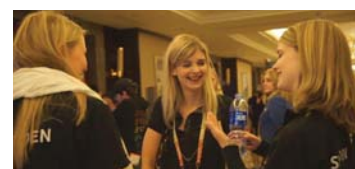
The Open event is much more stretched out with Cedric Lorenzini and Thomas Bessis of France tied on 57/50% with China's Lixin Yang and Jianming Dai, with Jerome Rombaut and Vanessa Rees, also of France, in third. Top to bottom in the Open is a 65 MP spread, against only 40 in the Women's event.

VIDEO CORNER



OPENING CEREMONY

- Watch on Youtube
- Watch on Youku



RECAP DAY 2

- Watch on Youtube
- Watch on Youku

BIDDING QUIZ!

Mithcell, E/W Vul. You are sitting West.

| W | N | E | S | | |
|---------|----|----|---------|------|----------|
| 4♦ (ii) | 5♦ | 1♠ | 2NT (i) | (i) | Minors |
| ? | | X | Pass | (ii) | Splinter |

Your cards:

♠ A J 3 2

♥ A Q 10 8 5 3

♦ 6

♣ 10 2

What's your bid?! The answers of our champions will be published tomorrow!

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FROM HUAI'AN

Which is your favourite Bridge tournament?



Janice Seamon-Molson

The World Women Elite Bridge tournament invitational because I love shopping in China, especially in Beijing and Shanghai!



Nevena Senior

The Reykjavik Bridge Festival which is held at the end of January. All the top Scandinavian players are there, so the field is very strong and Iceland is amazing in Winter!



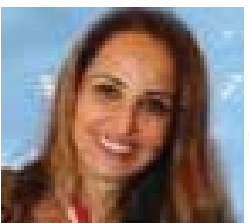
Justin Lall

The North American Bridge Championships, especially the ones that take place in Florida!



Jacek Pszczola

All the World Championships.



May Sakr

All the Festivals, especially the ones close to the beach!

ANSWERS TO YESTERDAY'S PROBLEM

IMPs. E/W Vul.

You are sitting West. Your cards:

♠ –
♥ A K Q J 10 6
♦ A 10
♣ A J 9 8 5

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| ? | Pass | Pass | 2♠ |

The answers of the players in Huai'an:

Janice Semon-Molson
4♣. Clubs and hearts, GF or better.



Wang Wenfei, China
6♥.



Cecilia Rimstedt, Sweden
4♣ (leaping Michaels). My plan is to bid 5♥ over their 4♠.



Marc Bompis, France
Double. I think that my hand is too strong for 4♣.



Zhao Jie, China
4♣. Maybe I am too strong ,but I want to show my 10 cards fit.



COUNTDOWN

by **Mark Horton**

Countdown is a British game show in which the contestants are given 30 seconds to solve various word and number puzzles. It is one of the longest-running game shows in the world, along with the original French version, Des chiffres et des lettres (Numbers & Letters), which has been running on French television continuously since 1965. The show features a giant clock which shows the seconds elapsing.

To get the favour of the show just watch this amusing clip featuring the original presenter, Richard Whiteley: www.youtube.com/watch?v=zD0VSJIKXEY

With the teams separated by just a single IMP going into the last session the numbers posted on the scoreboard would be all-important.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| <i>Brock</i> | <i>Larsson</i> | <i>Brown</i> | <i>Bertheau</i> |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 3♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

East led the four of clubs and West won and switched to the seven of diamonds. Declarer won with the ace and played a heart and East won and returned the nine of clubs, West ruffing and playing the six of diamonds. East won and played the two of clubs, West ruffing and exiting with the two of spades, two down, -200.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <i>Gronkvist</i> | <i>Senior</i> | <i>Rimstedt</i> | <i>Draper</i> |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 3♦ (i) |
| Dble | 3♥ | All Pass | |

(i) Heart raise

East led the eight of diamonds and declarer took West's jack with the ace and played a heart. West won and played the ten of diamonds, West winning, cashing the ace of clubs and then exiting with a heart. Declarer drew trumps and played ace of spades and a spade, +140 and 8 IMPs to England, reclaiming the lead.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| <i>Brock</i> | <i>Larsson</i> | <i>Brown</i> | <i>Bertheau</i> |
| — | 1NT | Pass | 4♣ (i) |
| Pass | 4♥ | Pass | Pass |
| 4♠ | Pass | Pass | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

(i) Transfer to hearts

North cashed two diamonds and then switched to the five of clubs, South ruffing and returning the five of hearts. North took the ace and played another club, but that was the last trick for the defence, -300 – not bad with 4♥ making.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <i>Gronkvist</i> | <i>Senior</i> | <i>Rimstedt</i> | <i>Draper</i> |
| — | 1NT | Pass | 2♦* |
| Pass | 2♥ | 3♣ | 4♥ |
| 4♠ | Pass | 5♣ | Pass |
| Pass | 5♥ | All Pass | |

Do you think 4♠ guaranteed a club fit?

East cashed the ace of spades and switched to the king of clubs. Declarer ruffed and ran the queen of

hearts, East winning with the king and at the same time thanking the bridge gods for West's ten that meant declarer had to lose a second trump for one down and 9 IMPs for Sweden, back in the lead.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|-------|---|---|--|
| ♠ 9 7 5 4 2 ♥ 8 ♦ K 9 ♣ A Q J 7 4 | <table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white;">W ♠ E</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white;">S</td></tr> </table> | N | W ♠ E | S | ♠ A K 3 ♥ K 7 6 ♦ 8 6 5 3 ♣ 10 5 3 | ♠ 6 ♥ J 9 3 2 ♦ A Q J 4 ♣ 9 8 6 2 |
| N | | | | | | |
| W ♠ E | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| <i>Brock</i> | <i>Larsson</i> | <i>Brown</i> | <i>Bertheau</i> |
| — | 1♥ | Pass | 2♥ |
| Dble | Pass | 2♠ | 3♥ |
| 3♠ | Dble | All Pass | |

South led her spade and declarer won and, not being a disciple of the Rabbi, ran the ten of clubs to North's king. She won the spade return in dummy and played a diamond, South taking the ace and exiting with the two of hearts, North winning and cashing the ten and jack of spades for one down, +200.



KATHRINE BERTHEAU

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <i>Gronkvist</i> | <i>Senior</i> | <i>Rimstedt</i> | <i>Draper</i> |
| — | 1♥ | Pass | 3♣ (i) |
| Pass | 4♥ | All Pass | |

(i) Heart raise

East cashed the ace of spades and switched to the three of clubs. Had either red king obliged declarer would have got home but as it was she was one down and Sweden had another 6 IMPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|-------|---|---|--|
| ♠ 9 8 7 ♥ J 3 2 ♦ J 9 5 4 ♣ A J 3 | <table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white;">W ♠ E</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white;">S</td></tr> </table> | N | W ♠ E | S | ♠ 4 3 ♥ A Q 10 7 6 5 4 ♦ 8 6 ♣ K Q | ♠ A Q 5 2 ♥ K ♦ Q 7 3 2 ♣ 8 7 5 2 |
| N | | | | | | |
| W ♠ E | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| <i>Brock</i> | <i>Larsson</i> | <i>Brown</i> | <i>Bertheau</i> |
| — | — | 1♥ | Dble |
| 2♦ (i) | 2♥ | 4♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Dble | All Pass | |

(i) Heart support

South led the ace of diamonds and when North followed with the seven she switched to the ten of clubs. Declarer won with the king, overtook the queen with dummy's ace, parked a diamond on the jack of clubs and played the jack of hearts, claiming when the king surfaced, +790.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <i>Gronkvist</i> | <i>Senior</i> | <i>Rimstedt</i> | <i>Draper</i> |
| — | — | 2♥ | Dble |
| 3♥ | Dble | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

West led the two of hearts and East won with the ace and switched to clubs, the defenders playing three rounds of the suit. Declarer won the trump switch in dummy, ruffed a heart, drew trumps and claimed for one down, 12 IMPs to England.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>♠ — ♥ A K 9 8 7 5 3 ♦ Q 10 2 ♣ J 10 2</p> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="margin: 0;">N</p> <p style="margin: 0;">W (5) E</p> <p style="margin: 0;">S</p> </div> | <p>♠ 7 6 3 2 ♥ J 10 6 ♦ 9 4 ♣ K 9 8 6</p> | <p>♠ A K Q 10 9 5 ♥ 2 ♦ A 7 6 5 ♣ A 3</p> |
| <p>♠ J 8 4 ♥ Q 4 ♦ K J 8 3 ♣ Q 7 5 4</p> | | | |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| <i>Brock</i> | <i>Larsson</i> | <i>Brown</i> | <i>Bertheau</i> |
| — | — | — | Pass |
| 4♥ | Pass | 4NT* | Pass |
| 5♥* | Pass | 6♥ | All Pass |

North led the eight of clubs and declarer won with dummy's ace, pitched two clubs on top spades, ruffed a spade and played her two top trumps, claiming when they broke, +980.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <i>Gronkvist</i> | <i>Senior</i> | <i>Rimstedt</i> | <i>Draper</i> |
| — | — | — | Pass |
| 4♥ | All Pass | | |

North led the nine of diamonds and South won with the king and switched to the four of clubs, declarer

winning with dummy's ace, pitching two clubs on dummy's spades and scoring +450 when the hearts broke. That was 11 more to England

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>♠ — ♥ J 8 7 6 4 ♦ 3 ♣ K 10 7 5</p> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="margin: 0;">N</p> <p style="margin: 0;">W (5) E</p> <p style="margin: 0;">S</p> </div> | <p>♠ 8 6 5 2 ♥ 2 ♦ A 10 7 5 4 ♣ Q 9 2</p> | <p>♠ K ♥ Q 5 3 ♦ K Q J 9 8 6 2 ♣ 8 4</p> |
| <p>♠ Q J 10 4 3 ♥ A K 10 9 ♦ — ♣ A J 6 3</p> | | | |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| <i>Brock</i> | <i>Larsson</i> | <i>Brown</i> | <i>Bertheau</i> |
| — | Pass | 1♦ | 1♠ |
| Dble* | 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| Dble | Pass | 5♦ | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

West's second double looks very hungry – nobody forced South to bid 4♠.

Started with the ace, king and nine of hearts and North ruffed and returned a spade. Declarer overtook her king with dummy's ace and played the jack of hearts, discarding a club when North pitched the club nine. When North failed to ruff the next heart declarer had saved a trick as she could dispose of her remaining club and then play a diamond to the eight, -500.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <i>Gronkvist</i> | <i>Senior</i> | <i>Rimstedt</i> | <i>Draper</i> |
| — | Pass | 1♦ | 1♠ |
| Dble* | 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

West led the three of diamonds and declarer won with dummy's ace, pitching a club from her hand. A club to the jack saw West win and return a club to dummy's nine. Declarer played off the top hearts, discarding dummy's last club, ruffed a heart and played a spade. East won with the king and returned the queen of diamonds. When declarer ruffed with the four of spades West's seven was the setting trick, 12 IMPs to Sweden.

To get home at the end, declarer must ruff high. She can then ruff her last heart and play a trump.



CATHERINE DRAPER



Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| <i>Brock</i> | <i>Larsson</i> | <i>Brown</i> | <i>Bertheau</i> |
| — | — | 1♥ | Pass |
| 1♠ | 2♦ | Dble* | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | Pass | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

That double looks like it promised spade support. Having opened, perhaps East should have passed over 2♦?

South led her diamond and North played three rounds of the suit, South pitching two spades, before switching to the two of spades. Declarer won in hand and played a heart, South winning with the ten and playing the six of clubs. Declarer played low and North won with the ace. South ruffed the spade exit and still had the ♥AQJ for four down, -800.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <i>Gronkvist</i> | <i>Senior</i> | <i>Rimstedt</i> | <i>Draper</i> |
| — | — | 1♥ | Pass |
| 1♠ | 2♦ | 2♠ | Pass |
| Pass | 3♣ | Pass | 4♣ |
| All Pass | | | |

The defenders started with four rounds of spades, East ruffing with the jack and declarer over-ruffing and playing a club to the eight. When it held she cashed two diamonds, ruffed a diamond, cashed the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond and claimed, +130. Not the sort of deal you want to lose 12 IMPs on.

Sweden were winning the set 45-33 and they added another 10 IMPs over the last two deals to secure a famous victory. It had been a great match to watch.



11th WORLD BRIDGE SERIES

Orlando, Florida • 21st September - 6th October 2018



The venue is the **Marriott Orlando World**.

Opening Ceremony - Friday 21st September.

Open, Women's and Senior Teams Championships: the **Rosenblum Open Teams** will start on Saturday 22nd September, the **McCormick Women's Teams** and the **Rand Senior Teams** are expected to start a day later.

Open, Women's and Senior Pairs Championships: the **Open Pairs** starts on Tuesday 25th September, the **Women's and Seniors** on Wednesday 26th September.

Mixed Teams starting on Tuesday 2nd October and the **Mixed Pairs** on Thursday 4th October.

Youth Triathlon starting on Monday 1st October.

Joan Gerard Cup – a pairs event – on Sunday 30th September

Seniors Triathlon starting on Tuesday 2nd October

Pairs Short Track starting on Friday 5th October and an **IMP Pairs** starting in the afternoon of Friday 5th October.

Alongside all these tournaments there will be a number of other **WBF events** of one or two days (pairs or swiss) available for those wishing to participate in shorter tournaments.

Registration must be made through the WBF Website, and the pages for this will be available from April 2018.



OPEN TEAMS FINAL, ROUND 3 - CHINA VS FRANCE

by **Brian Senior**

With 16 boards to play, China led by 2 IMPs in the final of the Open Teams, 55-53. It was anybody's match, and both teams would have been eager to start the set on the front foot.

After two flat boards, China picked up consecutive partscore swings when their N/S pair played in 1NT, first making exactly, second making with an overtrick, while their French counterparts were down two in 2NT and down one in 3♥. These 5 and 6 IMP swings gave China a lead of 66-53. Then came a series of potential major-swing deals.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|-------|--------|-------|
| Lorenzini | Li | Bessis | Zhang |
| - | 1NT | Pass | 2♦ |
| 2♠ | Pass | 3♣ | 3♥ |
| 4♣ | 4♦ | 5♣ | 5♦ |
| 6♣ | Pass | Pass | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|---------|------|-------|
| Dai | Rombaut | Yang | Reess |
| - | 1NT | 3♣ | 3♦ |
| 5♣ | Pass | Pass | 5♥ |
| 6♣ | Pass | Pass | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

For China, Yang overcalled 3♣ but Reess could transfer to hearts and, when Dai jumped to 5♣, Rombaut left it round to her to decide whether she had enough to bid on. With a club void, Reess bid 5♥ over 5♣ and, in theory, had made the wrong decision as both games are doomed to fail by a trick (5♦ is unbeatable for N/S). However, Dai had no defence at

all and imagined his opponents to have a better heart fit than was actually the case so went on to 6♣, which Reess doubled. The defence took the three obvious tricks for down two and -300.

Bessis did not overcall in the other room, so Zhang got to transfer at the two level but now Lorenzini overcalled 2♠ and Bessis replied 3♣. Zhang repeated his hearts but here Li had room to introduce diamonds over Lorenzini's 4♣ raise and the Chinese N/S were about to play the making diamond game so Lorenzini did the right thing when he saved in 6♣ - but would N/S have found the diamond fit had Lorenzini jumped to 5♣ in the first place rather than bidding only 4♣? Again, 6♣ was doubled for down two and a push board, but perhaps a chance missed by both teams.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|----------|--------|-------|
| Lorenzini | Li | Bessis | Zhang |
| - | - | Pass | Pass |
| 1♦ | 1♥ | 3♦ | 3♥ |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|----------|------|-------|
| Dai | Rombaut | Yang | Reess |
| - | - | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 2♦ | Dble | Rdbl |
| 2♥ | 3♥ | Pass | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

Lorenzini opened in third seat and the French pair bid to 3NT in the face of the opposing heart bidding. Li led a heart so Lorenzini grabbed the ace and cashed his winners for +600. Reess opened a mini no trump as South and Rombaut transferred to hearts. When Yang



doubled to show diamonds, Reess redoubled to show a decent hand in support of hearts. Now, however, the Chinese E/W bid to 3NT but Rombaut, despite his partner's show of heart support, led a club, the suit his opponents didn't know about. Sure enough, that hit pay-dirt as declarer had no club stopper and the defence could cash the first five tricks for down one and -100; 12 IMPs to France.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|-------|----------|-------|
| Lorenzini | Li | Bessis | Zhang |
| - | - | - | 1NT |
| Pass | 3♣(i) | Pass | 3♦ |
| Pass | 3♥ | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4NT | Pass | 5NT |
| Pass | 7♦ | All Pass | |

(i) Diamonds

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|---------|------|-------|
| Dai | Rombaut | Yang | Reess |
| - | - | - | 1♥ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3NT |
| Pass | 4♦ | Pass | 4♥ |
| Pass | 4NT | Pass | 5♥ |
| Pass | 5NT | Pass | 6♦ |
| All Pass | | | |

Both N/S pairs bid smoothly to their chosen contracts, but the auctions stopped at different levels. While Li/Zhang bid to the excellent grand slam, Rombaut/Reess stopped a level lower. With the heart ruffing out in four rounds after drawing trumps, both declarers had a discard for the club loser so made all 13 tricks. That meant +1390 for Rombaut, but +2140 for Zhang and 13 IMPs to China, who led by 14 IMPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|-------|--------|----------|
| Lorenzini | Li | Bessis | Zhang |
| - | - | 1♥ | Dble |
| 2♥ | Dble | Rdbl | 3♣ |
| Pass | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| 3NT | Dble | 4♥ | All Pass |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|---------|----------|-------|
| Dai | Rombaut | Yang | Reess |
| - | - | 1♥ | Dble |
| 2♥ | Dble | 3♥ | Pass |
| Pass | 3♠ | All Pass | |

After identical starts to the two auctions, Yang simply competed with 3♥ on the East cards then left his opponents to play in 3♠, while Bessis first redoubled before competing to 3♥, and that stronger combination tempted Lorenzini to take a shot at 3NT. However, when Li doubled, Bessis quickly ran back to the safety of his long heart suit.

Against 3♠, Yang led the king then queen of clubs. Dai overtook to lead a heart through to the king and ace and now Yang tried a diamond. Rombaut could win that, draw trumps and give up a third club to set up his ninth trick; +140.

There are four top losers in 4♥, even with the friendly heart position, but the only suit bid by the defenders was clubs, and that was the suit led by Zhang. Bessis won and played two more clubs for a diamond discard before playing a heart and the appearance of the king meant he had 10 tricks for +620 and 13 IMPs to France, who trailed by just a single IMP.



Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ♠ – ♥ AK98753 ♦ Q102 ♣ J102 | | ♠ AKQ1095 ♥ 2 ♦ A765 ♣ A3 | ♠ J84 ♥ Q4 ♦ KJ83 ♣ Q754 |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|----------|--------|-------|
| Lorenzini | Li | Bessis | Zhang |
| – | – | – | Pass |
| 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 3♣ | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | 3♠ | Pass |
| 4♥ | Pass | 5♥ | Pass |
| 6♥ | All Pass | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|---------|------|----------|
| Dai | Rombaut | Yang | Reess |
| – | – | – | 1NT |
| 4♥ | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 5♥ | Pass | 7♥ | All Pass |

Lorenzini opened at the one level then bid his hearts three more times. Eventually, Bessis raised to 5♥ to invite slam and Lorenzini decided he had good enough trumps to bid it. On a diamond lead he rose with the ace and took two diamond discards on the ace and king of spades.

Next he ruffed a spade and played three rounds of hearts. The three-two break meant only one loser there and the established spades took care of the diamond losers; +980.



THOMAS BESSIS

At the other table, Reess opened another mini no trump on the South cards and Dai overcalled 4♥. Perhaps he might have been a little better for this bid, but that does not excuse Yang's bidding. He asked for key cards then bid 7♥ despite knowing that the trump queen was missing. After a club lead, Dai played as had Lorenzini but was one down for -50 and 14 IMPs to France, who now led by 13.

Board 12 was flat in 5♦ minus one by E/W, but then France put the match to bed on Board 13.



Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|-------|--------|-------|
| Lorenzini | Li | Bessis | Zhang |
| – | Pass | 3♦ | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|---------|------|-------|
| Dai | Rombaut | Yang | Reess |
| – | Pass | 1♦ | 1♠ |
| Dble | 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| Dble | Pass | 5♦ | Dble |
| 5♥ | Pass | Pass | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

club up, Zhang winning the ace and leading a second spade to dummy's ace. Bessis pitched a heart from hand then led a diamond to his nine. He next led a club to the king and ruffed a club but had to lose two diamonds and a heart for down one and –200.

Yang opened at the one level and Dai made a negative double of Reess's 1♠ overcall. Rombaut made a pre-emptive raise to 3♠ and Yang passed. However, when Reess went on to 4♠ and Dai doubled, Yang now rebid his diamonds, doubled by Reess. Dai appears to have taken Yang's pass over 3♠ followed by removal of an essentially penalty double to 5♦ as suggesting a flexible hand with hearts as well as diamonds, because he converted to 5♥, which was a substantially worse contract than 5♦ – not that the latter would have been much fun if South read the heart position correctly. Rombaut led his singleton trump to the nine and jack. When Dai now played a diamond, Rombaut ducked the ace, knowing his partner could ruff. Reess duly ruffed with the ♥10 and cashed the ace and king of hearts then switched to a spade to dummy's bare king. That was the end of dummy's diamonds. Dai could lead a club to his king but had three club losers plus a spade and was down five for –1400 and 15 IMPs to France.

The final score was 109-88 in favour of France and they were the winners of the second IMSA Elite Mindsports Games Open Teams competition. Congratulations to Jerome Rombaut and Vanessa Reess, Thomas Bessis and Cedric Lorenzini, Herve Vinciguerra and Marc Bompis.

Bessis opened 3♦ and Zhang doubled, left in by Li. Zhang cashed the ace of hearts, on which Bessis dropped the queen, taking in Zhang who switched to the queen of spades. Bessis won the ♠K and led a



WBF President Gianarrigo Rona, Jerome Rombaut, Marc Bompis, Cedric Lorenzini, Vanessa Reess, Thomas Bessis, Herve Vinciguerra, WBF President Emeritus and IMSA Founder President José Damiani



IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT

by **Mark Horton**

It Happened One Night is a 1934 American romantic film with elements of screwball comedy directed and co-produced by Frank Capra, in collaboration with Harry Cohn, in which a pampered socialite (Claudette Colbert) tries to get out from under her father's thumb and falls in love with a roguish reporter (Clark Gable). One of the last romantic comedies created before the MPAA began enforcing the 1930 production code in 1934, the film was released on February 22, 1934. It was the first movie to win all five major Academy Awards (Best Picture, Director, Actor, Actress, and Screenplay).

From my perspective play in the Women's Pairs began at 02.30 – definitely night time. Whether there were any comical moments – that I leave for you to judge.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <i>Rimstedt S</i> | <i>Rimstedt</i> | <i>Clementsson</i> | <i>Gronkvist</i> |
| — | — | — | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♣* | Pass | 2♦* |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 3♦ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

Would you have overcalled 2♦ with the West hand? I can't offer any advice as to its soundness, but I do recall that Terence Reese wrote that in a Pairs event you should try to get into the bidding if at all possible.

On this layout E/W can take ten tricks in diamonds – and were North to lead a spade then eleven would be in sight.

Against 4♠ West led the ace of diamonds and continued with the ten, East taking the king and switching to the jack of clubs. West ruffed, returned

the three of hearts and East won with the ace and gave her partner a second club ruff, two down, –100 and only 3/7 for N/S.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <i>Rimstedt S</i> | <i>Rimstedt</i> | <i>Clementsson</i> | <i>Gronkvist</i> |
| Pass | Pass | 2♣* | Pass |
| 2♦* | Pass | 2NT | All Pass |

South led the five of spades and North put up the king (ducking makes life a little tougher, but declarer can always prevail) declarer winning with the ace and playing on hearts, cashing the ace and then following the queen with the ten. South won that trick with the king, North discarding the four of diamonds, and switched to the king of diamonds. Declarer won with the ace and returned the three, North winning with the queen and exiting with a spade. Declarer won and made the natural looking play of the eight of diamonds, setting up a trick in the suit. North won and had only to exit with a spade to endplay declarer. When she switched to a club declarer was assured of eight tricks whatever she played – in practice she went for the jack and South won with the queen and returned a club, North's ace being the last defensive trick, +120 -6/4 as one pair recorded +150.





Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Smith</i> | <i>Draper</i> | <i>Godfrey</i> | <i>Senior</i> |
| — | Pass | 1NT | Pass |
| 2♣* | Pass | 2♥ | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | 4♥ | All Pass |

South led the four of clubs and declarer won with dummy's queen, played a diamond to the queen and a diamond, ducking South's nine. When South exited with the five of spades declarer took North's queen with the ace, pitched two spades on the top clubs and then played a heart for the nine, jack and king. North returned a heart and declarer won with dummy's jack, drew the outstanding trump and played a spade, establishing a tenth trick, +420 but a poor 7/3 – three pairs recorded +450 while one managed only nine tricks.

It seems to me that it must be better to play the queen of hearts at trick two. If it holds and South has not followed with the nine or ten (an obligatory false card from ♥1096 if partner has failed to cover holding ♥K3) declarer will know there is a trump loser. But when South does follow with the nine or ten declarer may elect to continue with the jack, avoiding a trump loser and therefore collecting eleven tricks.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <i>Gronkvist</i> | <i>Eythorsdottir</i> | <i>Rimstedt</i> | <i>Sandorn</i> |
| — | 2♥ | 2♠ | Dble |
| 3♣ | Pass | Pass | 3♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

Would you bid over 2♥ (or a Multi 2♦) with the East hand? It is the sort of risk that one tends to take at Pairs. When South doubled E/W appeared to be in big trouble, but West, knowing that the contract would be hopeless, jumped out of the frying pan. As you can see, 3♣ doubled would have been no picnic, but it was very difficult for either North or South to double, and when South bid 3♥ West had avoided the flames.

Declarer won the club lead with dummy's ace and played back a club. When the defenders played a third round of the suit declarer ruffed, pitched a diamond on the ace of spades and exited with a heart, subsequently losing two diamonds for +140 and 6/4.

A glance at the scoreboard revealed that Cappelletti & Weingold were leading with 82 MPs, just one ahead of Larsson/Bertheau and Wang/Huang.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

It does not generally pay to press for a close game at this form of scoring, but as you can see 4♠ is very easy on this layout.

These were the two auctions I could see:

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Sanborn</i> | <i>Larsson</i> | <i>Eythorsdottir</i> | <i>Bertheau</i> |
| — | — | — | Pass |
| Pass | 1♥ | Dble | Pass |
| 2♠ | 3♥ | 3♠ | All Pass |

Maybe West could have found a fourth spade – the fifth trump is very useful once the suit is supported and the singleton heart and an ace look good too.

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Brown</i> | <i>Lu</i> | <i>Brock</i> |
| — | — | — | Pass |
| Pass | 1♥ | Dble | 2NT* |
| 3♠ | All Pass | | |

I had a surreal experience on this deal.

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| — | 1♣ | Pass | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2NT | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

Either player might have done more?!
Both declarers had no trouble taking ten tricks, +170, 8-2, the three pairs who bid game collecting 2/8.

I did spot that in the Open Moss and Lall had reached 4♠ – Brad bid it when his partner doubled 1♥.

I had typed in the bidding from the table I was watching and when I went to review the play it had gone like this:

East led the three of spades and West won with the jack and returned the eight, East taking the king and exiting with the ten. Declarer won with the ace, discarding a diamond, and now ran the queen of hearts. When that lost to the king she was one down.

As you can see, if declarer guesses to lead up the queen of diamonds there are nine tricks.

I went to check the other results (I couldn't find anyone else who had bid 3NT) but when I returned to my table the auction had changed ! It now looked like this:

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---------|---|-------|--|
| | ♠ K 8 2 | | | | | |
| | ♥ A | | | | | |
| | ♦ K10 5 3 | | | | | |
| | ♣ 10 8 7 6 2 | | | | | |
| ♠ J 9 4 3 | <table border="1" style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W (5) E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table> | N | W (5) E | S | ♠ Q 5 | |
| N | | | | | | |
| W (5) E | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | |
| ♥ Q 9 7 6 5 3 | ♥ J 8 4 | | | | | |
| ♦ Q 4 2 | ♦ A 9 7 6 | | | | | |
| ♣ — | ♣ K Q 5 4 | | | | | |
| | ♠ A 10 7 6 | | | | | |
| | ♥ K 10 2 | | | | | |
| | ♦ J 8 | | | | | |
| | ♣ A J 9 3 | | | | | |

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| — | 1NT | Pass | 2♦* |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 2♠* |
| Dble | 3♣ | Pass | 3♥ |
| Pass | 3♠* | Dble | Rdbl |
| Pass | 4♣ | Pass | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Sanborn</i> | <i>Larsson</i> | <i>Eythorsdottir</i> | <i>Bertheau</i> |
| Pass | Pass | 1♦* | Dble |
| 1♥ | 1NT | Dble | Pass |
| 2♥ | Dble | All Pass | |

North led the two of spades and South won with the ace and switched to the jack of diamonds for the queen, king and ace. Declarer played the queen of spades and North won, cashed the ten of diamonds and gave her partner a ruff. That gave the defenders six tricks,+200 (it was entered as down two by the operator) and 8/2, one pair making 3NT.

Here East led the three of spades and declarer won and ran the queen of hearts, finishing one down.

At this exact moment the Internet connection was lost, but when I looked at the preserved file on my computer it was still showing the first version.

One down in 3NT was worth 4/6 – two pairs made a game – one in 3NT, the other in 4♥ for 8/2.

Watch out for stories like this when they make a new series of The Twilight Zone.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|---------|---|---------|--|
| | ♠ A 7 2 | | | | | |
| | ♥ Q 3 | | | | | |
| | ♦ A 7 5 | | | | | |
| | ♣ A K 9 7 2 | | | | | |
| ♠ Q J 9 8 6 | <table border="1" style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W (5) E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table> | N | W (5) E | S | ♠ K10 3 | |
| N | | | | | | |
| W (5) E | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | |
| ♥ K J 6 | ♥ 8 5 4 | | | | | |
| ♦ J 9 6 | ♦ K 10 8 6 | | | | | |
| ♣ 10 6 | ♣ J 8 3 | | | | | |
| | ♠ 5 4 | | | | | |
| | ♥ A 10 9 7 2 | | | | | |
| | ♦ Q 4 3 | | | | | |
| | ♣ Q 5 4 | | | | | |



HJORDIS EYTHORSDOTTIR



OPEN PAIRS - SESSION 1

by **Brian Senior**

And so to the Pairs competition, 12 pairs playing four 22-board sessions over two days, 11 x 2-board rounds to each session. As usual, we hope the players were always in the correct seats but can't guarantee it, so apologies in advance if East and West or North and South are occasionally the wrong way around.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|---------|-----------|-------|
| Aronov | Rombaut | Damianova | Reess |
| - | - | 1NT | Pass |
| 2♦ | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| Pass | 3♠ | All Pass | |

Diana Damianova opened 1NT then broke the transfer with a jump to 3♥. Victor Aronov was far too weak to be interested in going on but now Jerome Rombaut, knowing that his partner should be void in hearts from his opponents' bidding, balanced with 3♠ and was left to play there. Rombaut must have been slightly disappointed to find only three low spades in the dummy but this proved to be just sufficient for his needs. Damianova led the ace of clubs and on sight of dummy promptly switched to a low spade to the ten and queen. Rombaut cashed the king of clubs then ruffed a heart and played a club, ruffed low and over-ruffed. Damianova returned a low diamond to the jack and ace and now Rombaut led the king of hearts to the king and ace. He now led a winning club off the dummy and that was ruffed and over-ruffed all round. Damianove returned a heart to the nine and queen so Rombaut played a diamond to the nine and followed that with a club, discarding his heart loser. He had nine tricks now for +140 and 6 MPs out of 10.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|-------|---------|----------|
| Reess | Zhang | Rombaut | Li |
| Pass | Pass | 2NT | All Pass |

Rombaut opened 2NT and played there. Jianwei Li led the six of spades so Rombaut called for the ten to tempt a cover and duly got one, the king losing to the ace. What do you do when you have no entry to dummy? You just play suits from hand. Rombaut led the jack of clubs and that was ducked all round so now he switched his attention to hearts, leading the queen. That too was ducked so now he continued with ace then ten of hearts. Li returned the king of diamonds so Rombaut won and cashed the queen and jack of spades before exiting with a low diamond to the jack and queen. Zhang could play ten and another diamond to force Rombaut to lead away from the king of clubs at the end, but he had eight tricks and his contract for +120 and 5 MPs out of 10.



VICTOR ARONOV

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| ♠ – ♥ Q J 10 9 4 3 ♦ Q 7 4 2 ♣ 10 6 3 | <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W ♠ E S </div> | ♠ K 9 6 5 4 2 ♥ A ♦ J 5 3 ♣ Q 5 2 | ♠ 10 ♥ 7 6 5 2 ♦ A 10 6 ♣ K J 9 7 4 |
| ♠ A Q J 8 7 3 ♥ K 8 ♦ K 9 8 ♣ A 8 | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|-------|--------|----------|
| Lorenzini | Dai | Bessis | Yang |
| – | 2♦ | 2♠ | All Pass |

When Jianming Dai opened with a multi 2♦, Thomas Bessis made a 2♠ overcall and Lixin Yang must have wished he could make a penalty double. Alas, double would have been pass or correct so Yang had to pass and 2♠ ended the auction. Yang led the king of hearts, Dai dropping the queen to show his sequence. Bessis won and led a low spade towards the ten, learning the bad news very quickly when Yang put in the jack and Dai showed out. This looked as though it could get quite bloody but things didn't go too badly for Bessis. Yang played ace and another club so Bessis won the king, unblocking his queen, and played the jack of clubs, ruffed. Yang returned the king of diamonds so Bessis won the ace and continued with the six of diamonds, unblocking his jack under Dai's queen. Back came a heart. Bessis ruffed and led a diamond to the ten followed by a club. Yang could over-ruff but Bessis had to come to another trump trick in the ending so was down only two for -200 but 6 MPs out of 10.



Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| ♠ 9 8 6 ♥ A J 6 4 ♦ K 2 ♣ Q 10 7 2 | <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W ♠ E S </div> | ♠ A 2 ♥ K Q 10 7 5 ♦ A 6 ♣ A K J 4 | ♠ K J 10 3 ♥ 8 3 ♦ Q 10 9 ♣ 9 6 5 3 |
| ♠ Q 7 5 4 ♥ 9 2 ♦ J 8 7 5 4 3 ♣ 8 | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|----------|--------|-------|
| Lorenzini | Dai | Bessis | Yang |
| – | – | 1♥ | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3♣ | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

Bessis's 2♣ rebid was two-way, either natural or any 16+, and 2♥ denied 8 HCP. Two No Trump was forcing and the rest of the auction natural, seeing the French pair reach the normal contract. Yang's diamond lead was also normal but it proved to be disastrous for the defence when the nine went to the king and ace. Bessis played ace of spades and a spade to the ten then took the club finesse and cashed the ♣A. On seeing the four-one club split, he switched his attention to hearts, playing the king. Dai won that and returned the queen of clubs. Bessis won the king and led a diamond to the ten, cashed the queen of diamonds and king of spades, and squeezed Dai by doing so. Forced to keep the club guard, Dai came down to only two hearts, and Bessis proceeded to lead a heart to the ten and cashed two more hearts, making 12 tricks in all for +690 and all 10 MPs. Yes, the defence could have done better even after the diamond lead had Dai judged to play low at trick one, taking away declarer's late dummy entry, or perhaps had he ducked the first heart in tempo.



JIANMING DAI



Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Dai</i> | <i>Lall</i> | <i>Yang</i> | <i>Moss</i> |
| – | – | – | 1♣ |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

Brad Moss and Justin Lall had a straightforward forcing checkback auction to 4♠, against which Yang led a low diamond. Dai won the ace and thought a bit, possibly being tempted by a switch to the king of clubs in search of a ruff. However, he eventually returned a diamond, forcing Lall to ruff, and now declarer could not afford to draw trumps as he would never get to establish and cash a club for his tenth trick. Accordingly, he played a club without touching trumps. Dai won the club and returned one and Yang won the ace and gave him his ruff for down one and -50 and 4 MPs.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Dai</i> | <i>Lall</i> | <i>Yang</i> | <i>Moss</i> |
| 1♥ | Dble | 3♥ | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

North/South have an excellent slam on this deal, requiring that one of the black suits play for no loser. However, the E/W heart bidding left no room to explore and Moss just jumped to 4♠ and played there. He won the heart lead in hand, led the queen of spades to the king and ace, and drew the last trump before taking the club finesse; +680 and 5 MPs.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Moss</i> | <i>Chen</i> | <i>Lall</i> | <i>Zhao</i> |
| – | 1NT | Pass | Pass |
| 2♦ | Pass | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| 3♦ | All Pass | | |

Even with everyone vulnerable, it is necessary to compete the partscore at matchpoint scoring. Chen opened 1NT and when that came round to Moss he overcalled 2♦, diamonds and a major, I believe. When that reached Zhao Jie he competed with 2♥, trusting Chen to know he would have only four hearts as he did not transfer at his first turn. When that came round to Lall it was his turn to compete, trying 2♠ on the way to 3♦, just in case there was a double fit. No, Moss corrected to 3♦ and that completed the bidding. Chen led the king of clubs. Moss won the ace and led the jack of diamonds from hand, hoping to tempt North to crash a bare honour in the South hand. Chen played low, however, and Zhao won the trick with the queen and returned a heart. Moss won the ace and played a spade, Chen winning the ace, cashing the jack of clubs, and returning a heart. Moss won and had just to give up a trump; nine tricks for +110 but only 4 MPs (there were one +500 and two +670s to E/W).



Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Moss</i> | <i>Chen</i> | <i>Lall</i> | <i>Zhao</i> |
| – | – | 1♦ | Pass |
| 1♥ | Pass | 1NT | All Pass |

Lall opened 1♦ and rebid 1NT to limit his hand rather than 2♣. That worked out poorly as the club fit was missed and 10 tricks are possible in a club contract. Zhao led a low spade, Chen winning the king and continuing with a low spade. The defence took its four spade winners then switched to a heart and Lall had to rely on the club finesse for his contract, making eight tricks for +120 and 5 MPs.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|
| <i>Chen</i> | <i>Bompis</i> | <i>Zhao</i> | <i>Vinciguerra</i> |
| – | – | – | Pass |
| Pass | 1♥ | Dble | 3♥ |
| 3♠ | All Pass | | |

Herve Vinciguerra's heart raise was not sufficient to shut out Chen, who competed with 3♠ and played there. Marc Bompis led two top hearts, Chen ruffing the second and running the ten of spades to South's queen. Vinciguerra played a third heart, again ruffed. Chen played a spade to the king and ace then took

the club finesse and when that won had only to give up a diamond to set up a tenth trick for +170 but only 2 MPs.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Vinciguerra</i> | <i>Karakolev</i> | <i>Bompis</i> | <i>Mihov</i> |
| – | 1♣ | Pass | 1♠ |
| Dble | 2♣ | Pass | 3♣ |
| Pass | 3♦ | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

Georgi Karakolev opened a strong club and Vladimir Mihov's 1♠ response showed a positive with five or more hearts. Vinciguerra doubled to show spades so the Bulgarian pair explored thoroughly to see if there was an alternative to playing in 3NT. Karakolev showed his clubs then, after a club raise from Mihov, showed a diamond feature. Three Spades said that Mihov could not bid no trump, nor did he have good hearts with which he would have preferred a 3♥ call. Karakolev was too balanced to fancy the club game so bid 3NT and that was that. Bompis led the king of spades and, when that held, continued with the ten, overtaken by Vinciguerra and, after some thought, ducked by Karakolev. Declarer won the third spade and cashed the clubs. While Bompis discarded two hearts, Vinciguerra threw a heart then a diamond. Karakolev, who had discarded a heart from dummy on the third spade, threw another heart on the fourth club but the critical discard came on the fifth club. He could have made his contract by discarding another heart and playing for the ♦K to be onside, but decided instead to throw a diamond, coming down to queen-doubleton. That took the diamond play out of the picture and he instead led the queen of hearts and ran it. That lost to the king and Vinciguerra had two spades to cash for down one; –50 and 2 MPs.



Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Vinciguerra</i> | <i>Karakolev</i> | <i>Bompis</i> | <i>Mihov</i> |
| – | – | 1♠ | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 4♥ | All Pass |

The French pair had a simple auction to the heart game and Karakolev led the three of hearts to the four, king and ace. Vinciguerra took the spade finesse, led the ten of hearts to the jack and queen, and repeated the spade finesse. When the queen held he cashed the ace of spades and nine of hearts then the rest of the spades and had to lose a club at the end; 12 tricks for +480 and 4 MPs.

Had declarer played the nine or ten of hearts at trick one, he could have arranged to win the third trump in hand and take the diamond finesse, thereby coming to all 13 tricks.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| <i>Mihov</i> | <i>Huang</i> | <i>Karakolev</i> | <i>Dwyer</i> |
| – | – | – | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

The simplest of auctions saw Mihov declare 3NT, against which Shan Huang led the five of spades to

the jack, queen and king. Mihov led a low diamond and Huang won the ace and continued with a second spade, the two. That caused a problem for Kevin Dwyer, who took a long time deciding whether to unblock the ten and finally decided not to do so. Huang's correct card at trick three was the ♠4, which had to mean that the original lead was fourth-best. The continuation of the two of spades was consistent with a lead from four small as well as from a five- but never six-card suit.

With the spades blocked, Mihov could make his contract. He cashed three rounds of diamonds ending in dummy and Huang discarded three spades. By now Dwyer knew what the position was and discarded the blocking ♠10 but it was too late. Mihov had time to get the clubs wrong, leading low to the ten and queen, as there was only one spade to be cashed and he could still set up a club for his ninth trick; +600 and all 10 MPs.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| <i>Mihov</i> | <i>Huang</i> | <i>Karakolev</i> | <i>Dwyer</i> |
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♥ | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 1NT | Pass |
| 2♣ | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

One Club was strong and 1♥ showed a spade positive. A couple of relays later Karakolev was in 3NT. Had Dwyer led his long suit he would have given a third heart trick but he instead found the inspired choice of the nine of diamonds, promising the ten. That held the trick so he continued with the ten and that made it look as though he held only three cards, which was to be significant later in the play. Karakolev ducked again but won the third diamond and cashed the king and queen of spades, discovering the five-one split. Next he played a club to the ace and a second club and went up with the king to avoid losing to a doubleton queen in the hand that would



have the thirteenth diamond to cash. When no club honour fell Karakolev played a third round anyway and the even split meant that he established two extra winners. However, Dwyer won the queen and cashed the diamond so there were no overtricks; +600 but zero MPs.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| <i>Dwyer</i> | <i>Aronov</i> | <i>Huang</i> | <i>Damianova</i> |
| – | 1NT | 2♠ | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3♣ | All Pass |

Victor Aronov opened 1NT and Huang overcalled 2♠, spades and a minor. Dwyer asked for the minor then passed the 3♣ response. Diana Damianova led the six of hearts. Huang took some time in planning the play but eventually won the heart on table and led a spade to the ace then ruffed a spade. He returned to hand with the jack of hearts to take a second spade ruff, then played a top heart for a diamond discard. Damianova ruffed and returned a diamond so Aronov won the ace and returned a club to prevent a further ruff in dummy. Huang put in the ♣Q, cashed the ace and gave up a spade, losing to the two black kings but having nine tricks for +110 and 4 MPs.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| <i>Dwyer</i> | <i>Aronov</i> | <i>Huang</i> | <i>Damianova</i> |
| – | – | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | 1♦ | Dble | 1♥ |
| 2♠ | Pass | Pass | Dble |
| Pass | 3♦ | 3♠ | All Pass |

Once Huang had made the mildly aggressive take-out double, the rest of the auction was pretty routine and ended where we might have expected it to do. At first sight, declarer might make 3♠ if he gets the trumps right. Any such idea was swiftly laid to rest by the accurate Bulgarian defence. Aronov cashed the top clubs then switched, not to the ace of hearts but to the ten. That held the trick so he continued with the ♥4 and Damianova knew there was no third heart to cash, a defence which she might have considered had Aronov switched to ace and another instead of the ten. Having won the second heart, she switched back to clubs and now there was no way to avoid a trump loser. Dwyer ruffed with the ten and was over-ruffed; down one for –100 and 4 MPs.

Rombaut and Rees led at the end of the first session with 130 matchpoints against an average of 110, so just under 60%. They were four matchpoints ahead of Karakolev and Mihov.



**RESULTS OPEN PAIRS****AFTER SESSION 2**

| | | | | |
|----|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1 | BESSIS Thomas | LORENZINI Cedric | FRA - FRA | 57.50 |
| 2 | YANG Lixin | DAI Jianming | CHN - CHN | 57.50 |
| 3 | ROMBAUT Jerome | REESS Vanessa | FRA - FRA | 57.05 |
| 4 | KARAKOLEV Georgi | MIHOV Vladimir | BUL - BUL | 54.55 |
| 5 | HUANG Shan | DWYER Kevin | USA - USA | 52.50 |
| 6 | BOMPIS Marc | VINCIGUERRA Herve | FRA - FRA | 50.45 |
| 7 | LALL Justin | MOSS Brad | USA - USA | 49.09 |
| 8 | CHEN Yunlong | ZHAO Jie | CHN - CHN | 48.41 |
| 9 | STEFANOV Julian | NANEV Ivan | BUL - BUL | 43.86 |
| 10 | DAMIANOVA Diana | ARONOV Victor | BUL - BUL | 43.18 |
| 11 | PSZCZOLA Jacek | SAKR May | USA - USA | 43.18 |
| 12 | ZHANG Bangxiang | LI Jianwei | CHN - CHN | 42.73 |

RESULTS WOMEN PAIRS**AFTER SESSION 2**

| | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1 | EYTHORSOTTIR Hjordis | SANBORN Kerri | USA - USA | 53.86 |
| 2 | WANG Nan | HUANG Yan | CHN - CHN | 53.86 |
| 3 | WANG Wen Fei | SHEN (1) Qi | CHN - CHN | 53.18 |
| 4 | BROWN Fiona | BROCK Sally | ENG - ENG | 52.50 |
| 5 | CLEMENTSSON Sanna | RIMSTEDT Sandra | SWE - SWE | 51.59 |
| 6 | LARSSON Jessica | BERTHEAU Kathrine | SWE - SWE | 50.23 |
| 7 | RIMSTEDT Cecilia | GRONKVIST Ida | SWE - SWE | 50.00 |
| 8 | SENIOR Nevena | DRAPER Catherine | ENG - ENG | 50.00 |
| 9 | LU Yan | LIU Yan | CHN - CHN | 48.64 |
| 10 | SOKOLOW Tobi | SEAMON-MOLSON Janice | USA - USA | 46.59 |
| 11 | GODFREY Lizzie | SMITH Nicola | ENG - ENG | 44.77 |
| 12 | CAPPELLETTI Shannon | WEINGOLD Joanne | USA - USA | 44.77 |