



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

CHINESE DOUBLE DELIGHT



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SCHEDULE

	INDIVIDUAL
10.30	Session 1
15.30	Session 2
20.00	Prize Giving

China took both gold medals in the Pairs Championships. Yunlong Chen and Zhao Jie won the Open Pairs from compatriots, Lixin Yang and Jianming Dai, with Jerome Rombaut and Vanessa Reess of France taking the bronze medals.

The Women's Pairs was won by Qi Shen and Wenfei Wang of China, with Fiona Brown and Sally Brock of England taking the silver medals and Kerri Sanborn and Hjordis Eythorsdottir winning the bronze medals for the USA. Congratulations to all.

The Individual Championship begins on Thursday morning, 24 players playing 69 boards over three sessions. All competitors are required to play the same system and you can find a copy inside today's bulletin.

VIDEO CORNER



SLEEP & FOOD AT THE TOP LEVEL

- ▶ Watch on Youtube
- ▶ Watch on Youku



INTERVIEW WITH T. BESSIS

- ▶ Watch on Youtube
- ▶ Watch on Youku

BIDDING QUIZ!

IMPs. None Vul. You are sitting West.

W	N	E	S
1♣	1♦	X	Pass)
?			

Your cards:

♠ A Q J 4

♥ 8 6

♦ 7 5

♣ A K 6 4 2

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

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FROM HUAI'AN

When and how did you start playing Bridge?



Janice Seamon-Molson, USA

My parents were both Bridge pros. My father played the Bermuda Bowl for the United States. At first they just wanted my brother Michael to learn Bridge. Then, when I was in college at 18 years old, one day there was a family discussion about a Bridge hand and I said "I can also learn!".

My mother and me were the first mother-daughter pair to win a National event in the US, but finally we ended up second when a board was cancelled. I was so sad!



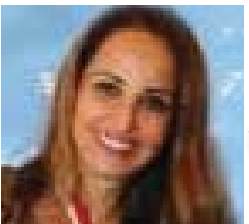
Nicola Smith, England

My parents were both Bridge Champions (my dad is Nico Gardener) and I learnt from them when I was 10 years old.



Wang Wenfei, China

I was 6 years old when I saw some friends playing Bridge and asked them to teach me!



May Sakr, USA

When I was 20 I learnt to play from a friend, but I played a very amateur Bridge. Then at a Festival in Lebanon I met Krzysztof Martens who was my mentor!



Cedric Lorenzini, France

My grand-dad had decided to sign up for a Bridge class. After the first lesson he strongly suggested me to join the course. I was 7 years old and I fell in love with this game!

ANSWERS TO YESTERDAY'S PROBLEM

Pairs, E/W Vul.

You are sitting West. Your cards:

♠ A J 3 2

♥ A Q 10 8 5 3

♦ 6

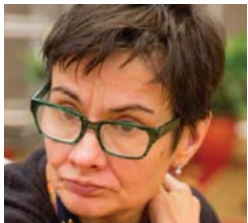
♣ 10 2

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♠	2NT (i)
4♦ (ii)	5♦	X	Pass
?			

- (i) Minors
- (ii) Splinter

The answers of the players in Huai'an:**Janice Semon-Molson, USA**

Pass. I trust partner.

**Nevena Senior, England**

Thinking... I am more inclined to bid than pass. 5♠. Also 5♥ crossed my mind but with two small clubs this is not the best option...

**Justin Lall, USA**

Pass. I have already shown my hand.

**Marc Bompis, France**

5♠. Vulnerable, I don't pass...

**Jacek Pszczola, USA**

Pass. I have already shown my hand.



MORNING PAPERS

by **Mark Horton**

The second session of the Pairs starts at 16.30 (from my point of view a very civilised 08.30) by which time I can wander down to the local post office to pick up *The Times* and enjoy a coffee. *Morgenblätter* (Morning Journals) op. 279 is a Viennese Waltz composed by Johann Strauss II in 1863. The work's genesis was attributed to the composition of another waltz by Jacques Offenbach later titled 'Abendblätter' when the French opera composer dedicated his work to the influential Vienna Authors' and Journalists' Association ('Concordia'). The Association had earlier intended the 'Abendblätter' waltz (untitled by Offenbach when first dedicated) to be played at their 'Concordia Ball' on 12 January 1864.

This is how the Waltz was performed at the New Year's Day Concert in Vienna:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8K3tnzcF0Q

Suitably fortified by a slice of toast I was ready for session 2. It turned out to be a tough assignment, as the Internet, which had behaved perfectly in the morning, was at its most impish in the afternoon.

Board 1. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ 5					
♥ Q 10 6 4					
♦ A J 8 5					
♣ A J 10 8					
♠ Q 6 4	<table border="1" style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <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 J 9 7 3
N					
W 5 E					
S					
♥ A J 8 5		♥ —			
♦ 4 3 2		♦ K 9 7 6			
♣ K 6 4		♣ Q 9 5 3			
♠ K 10 8 2					
♥ K 9 7 3 2					
♦ Q 10					
♣ 7 2					

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>S.-Molson</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Huang</i>
—	1♦*	1♠	1NT
2♠	Dble*	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West led the two of diamonds and East won with the king and returned the seven, declarer winning with the queen and playing the two of spades. West won with the queen and switched to the four of clubs, declarer taking dummy's ace, pitching a club on the ace of

diamonds and then cross-ruffing in clubs and spades to reach a four-card ending where West was down to ♥AJ85. Declarer pitched a spade on the jack of diamonds and after West ruffed she had to surrender tow trump tricks, +530, worth only 7/3 as one pair collected 800 from 4♠ doubled.

If declarer overtakes the queen of diamonds and plays a spade she can make an overtrick!

She can reach this position:

♠ —		♠ —			
♥ Q 10 6		♥ J 9			
♦ —		♥ —			
♣ J		♦ 7			
♠ —	<table border="1" style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <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	♠ J 9
N					
W 5 E					
S					
♥ A J 8 5		♥ —			
♦ —		♦ 7			
♣ —		♣ 5			
♠ 10					
♥ K 9 7					
♦ —					
♣ —					

She ruffs a spade in dummy and then ruffs a club with the king of hearts leaving West helpless.



WANG NAN

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Godfrey</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
Dble	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

South led the queen of hearts and declarer won, played a spade to the jack and ruffed a heart. A spade for the king and ace was followed by another heart ruff and a club to the ace allowed declarer to draw the outstanding trump. Twelve tricks were already assured, and if South had held the ♦Q and the ♣K a show up squeeze would have developed for an overtrick, +980 and a perfect 0/10.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

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

2♣ Stayman

With an absolute maximum (perhaps East thought she had already shown it by bidding 2NT) and a club fit East ought to bid 3NT, which makes in comfort.

When North led her diamond declarer won in dummy, played a club to the king and a heart, North taking the ace and returning a heart. Declarer won in dummy throwing a spade, drew the outstanding trump and ran the jack of spades for +150, only 9/1 the top going to the pair who scored +460.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gronkvist</i>	<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
—	1NT	2♦*	Dble
2♥*	Dble	2♠	Dble
All Pass			

It looks as if 2♦ promised a major and minor or maybe one major (there is nothing on the card I have apart from double = strength/tricks and 2♣ majors) with 2♥ being pass or correct.

South led the king of hearts and switched to the queen of spades, declarer winning with the ace and exiting with a heart. North won and played a spade and declarer took the king and played the king of clubs. North won and played a heart and although declarer could ruff she was already booked for two down, -500 and a maximum, +500.





Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Liu</i>
—	—	—	Pass
3♦	Dble	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

East had a nasty problem to solve. If her partner had an entry and it was not removed by the opening lead there might be nine tricks available in 3NT. She reached the winning decision in theory when she passed, as long as South leads a major (as opposed to a club) the defenders should prevail, although a low heart might see North go wrong by playing three rounds of the suit rather than switching to a black suit.

West led the queen of diamonds and declarer ruffed the second diamond in dummy, played a club to the king and ran the jack of hearts to go two down, -200, for 4/6.

Clearly there are ways to make an extra trick, one being to play the jack of clubs from dummy at trick three – flashy, but certainly a possibility.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sheng</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Brock</i>
—	1NT	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥	Dble	Rdbl
2♠	Dble	All Pass	

Warning: This is my guess at the auction delivered by BBO.

North found the excellent lead of the three of spades and South won with the king and switched to the six of hearts, North playing the ace as declarer ruffed in dummy. She cashed two clubs pitching a diamond, ruffed a club, ruffed a heart and played a club pitching a diamond, but North ruffed, and drew trumps, the defenders taking the remaining tricks for -800 and 9/1.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Godfrey</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	3♦	Dble	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

Personally I would prefer to overcall 4♣, as you can then pass 4♥ with a clear conscience.

North led her spade and the defenders played three rounds of the suit, North ruffing for two down, -100 and 8/2.

It would have been mildly speculative for South to double (it happened once).

At the end of the session the top four pairs were separated by 6 matchpoints, with Disa Eythorsdottir and Kerry Sanborn leading the way.

I noticed that places 5-7 were occupied by the three Swedish pairs.

It should be noted that the average age of the Swedish team is probably a record low, just 29.6 and the youngest, Sanna Clementsson is 17, usually appearing in the Swedish U21 team.



OPEN PAIRS - SESSION 2

by **Brian Senior**

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Rombaut	Damianova	Reess
–	1♦	1♠	Dble
2♠	3♥	3♠	Dble
All Pass			

The first double was negative, the second penalty. Vanessa Rees led the queen of diamonds which ran to declarer's king. Diana Damianova led the queen of clubs from hand and Jerome Rombaut ducked, playing the jack. Damianova played a second club, ducked to the eight, and Rombaut cashed the ace of clubs then the ace and jack of diamonds before reverting to clubs.

The ten of clubs was ruffed by Reess with the eight and over-ruffed by dummy's queen. There were two trump tricks to come now so the contract was down two for –300 and 3 MPs.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Stefanov	Karakolev	Nanev
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Vladimir Mihov's 1♣ was strong and 2♦ a natural positive. Georgi Karakolev showed his second suit over the natural 2♥ rebid then showed that he had neither heart support nor extra diamond length by bidding 3NT at his next turn. Mihov just blasted the small slam, and Ivan Nanev led a club. Karakolev won the ace of clubs, played a heart to the king and took the spade finesse. When that was successful he ruffed a heart, led a spade to the king and ace, and took a second heart ruff. A diamond to the ace put him in dummy to draw the outstanding trump then cash the hearts and that was 12 tricks for +980 and 9 MPs out of 10. Dwyer and Huang also bid and made 6♠.



Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dwyer</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Thomas Bessis opened 1NT, showed a maximum with both majors in response to Stayman, and raised his partner to the heart game. Kevin Dwyer led a low spade and Cedric Lorenzini called for a low card from dummy, winning a cheap trick with his eight. He led a heart to the queen then back to the ace and the three-two break with the king onside was all he required to fulfil his contract. He played ace, king and ruffed a spade then ace, king and ruffed a club and, though that left him to lead diamonds away from the king, he didn't care who held the ♦A and had 10 tricks for +620 and all 10 MPs.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Sakr</i>
–	–	1♠	Pass
1NT	2♦	2♠	3♦
3♥	All Pass		

Zhao Jie opened 1♠ and rebid his suit over Jacek

Pszczola's intervention. When May Sakr competed in diamonds, Yunlong Chen introduced his long hearts and was left to play there. There was little to the play. Pszczola led a diamond so Chen won the ace and played a trump to the ten and ace. Pszczola returned the jack of spades. Chen won in hand with the queen and led a club. Pszczola won that but could do nothing to threaten the contract. Sakr had the ♥K to come but that was all; +170 and 5 MPs.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Vinciguerra</i>
–	–	–	Pass
3♦	Dble	3NT	4♣
Dble	Pass	4♦	All Pass

Nanev opened 3♦ in second seat and Marc Bompis doubled. Stefanov knew the diamonds were blocked but could hope for a side entry to his partner's hand and took a stab at 3NT. Herve Vinciguerra feared that might be making on a long running diamond suit so bid 4♣ more as a save than with any great hopes of making. Nanev doubled to warn his partner off bidding on to 4NT and Stefanov judged that in that case it would be best to play in 4♦. Bompis led a top heart and with the ace and king both onside there were only two of those plus the ace of spades to be lost; 10 tricks for +130 and 6 MPs.



HERVE VINCIGUERRA, FRANCE

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ K Q 10 5 3 ♥ A 4 ♦ 3 ♣ J 10 7 6 3 ♠ J 6 ♥ K 10 3 2 ♦ Q 9 7 4 2 ♣ 9 8	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">N</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">W</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">E</div> <div style="font-size: 10px;">S</div> </div>	♠ A 9 7 4 ♥ J 9 8 6 ♦ 10 8 ♣ A 5 4 ♠ 8 2 ♥ Q 7 5 ♦ A K J 6 5 ♣ K Q 2	
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West	North	East	South
Aronov	Pszczola	Damianova	Sakr
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ A Q 8 3 ♥ A Q ♦ A 9 3 2 ♣ 9 8 5 ♠ J 6 5 4 ♥ 10 9 8 5 4 3 ♦ 8 6 ♣ 2	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">N</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">W</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">E</div> <div style="font-size: 10px;">S</div> </div>	♠ 10 9 7 2 ♥ – ♦ Q J 10 7 ♣ A K 10 7 6 ♠ K ♥ K J 7 6 2 ♦ K 5 4 ♣ Q J 4 3	
---	---	---	--

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Karakolev	Bessis	Mihov
Yang	Bompis	Dai	Vinciguerra
–	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Dble	Rdbl
2♠	Dble	All Pass	

If you are going to be in a dubious game the quicker you get there and giving away as little information as possible to the defence the better. When Sakr raised Pszczola directly to game she gave Damianova a blind lead and, with nothing else standing out to her, Damianova led a low trump to the jack and king. Pszczola returned the queen of spades so Damianova won the ace and now found the heart switch to the queen, king and ace, Bit it was too late. Pszczola could cash the ten of spades, take a heart pitch on the king of diamonds, and knock out the ace of clubs, making 10 tricks for +620 and all 10 MPs.

An initial heart lead sets up a force on declarer as he can be shortened twice when East wins her two black aces, and now the contract must go down, and indeed a club lead, setting up a defensive ruff, is also good enough.



MAY SAKR, USA

Looking at the N/S hands you might expect them to play in 3NT at most tables, but see what happened when North opened 1NT and South transferred to hearts. North completed the transfer and East, not knowing that his partner had almost nothing, doubled for take-out. South redoubled to show strength, and now West ran to 2♠, promptly doubled by North.

If 3NT was making at other tables, declarer needed to find six tricks from somewhere.

Karakolev led a club against Lorenzini, who played ace, king and a third club, pitching both his diamond losers. That cut the defensive communications so that when Mihov cashed the king of spades then played a diamond Lorenzini could ruff, then take two heart ruffs in the dummy and two more diamond ruffs in hand. When he led the third heart, Karakolev could ruff high and draw dummy's last trump, but the contract was only one down, which looked like a great result for the French pair and netted them 8 MPs (one N/S pair went down in 4♥).

At our other table Bompis showed what was required on defence, leading a low trump. He must have been delighted when his partner turned up with the king. Vinciguerra switched to a diamond so Bompis could win the ace and play three more rounds of trumps, leaving declarer with no ruffs at all. Yang won the fourth trump with the jack and led a diamond to the ten and king. There were three more defensive tricks to come, Yang making two tricks in each minor to go with his trump trick, so here the contract was down three for a much less healthy looking -800 and zero MPs.



NIGHT OF THE DEMON

by **Mark Horton**

Night of the Demon is a 1957 British horror film, starring Dana Andrews, Peggy Cummins and Niall MacGinnis. It is adapted from the M. R. James story *Casting the Runes*. The plot revolves around an American psychologist investigating a satanic cult suspected of more than one murder.–

The film's production was turbulent due to artistic differences between producer and writer and although the original plan was not to show a literal demon, producer Chester inserted a monster over the objections of the writer, the director, and lead actor Dana Andrews. To accelerate the pace, the film was trimmed down to 83 minutes (and retitled *Curse of the Demon*) in the USA.

The key element of the film involves 'passing the runes' to the intended victim, something that bridge players might perhaps find useful from time to time, especially if it were to help them bring off some exotic piece of play.

Let's see if any demons were at work in the third session of the Women's Pairs:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>S-Molson</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Huang</i>
—	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♣	2♠	4♠ (i)	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

(i) Splinter

If West could be sure 4♠ was a void she would have been able to ask for key cards. Perhaps a slower approach might work – say East bids 3♠ and then bids 4♣ over 3NT – now West can bid 4♦ when East

will certainly be interested (but will still not know about the possibly vital heart shortage in her partner's hand).

As you can see, there was nothing to the play, +420, which proved to be a shared top at 2/8.

I was better than the other result I could see, where West preferred to bid

1NT at her first turn and then rebid 3NT when her partner passed over North's 2♠. A heart lead put that two down for a maximum 10.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>S.-Molson</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Huang</i>
—	—	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

It was the old story - you wait for a bus for ages and then two arrive at the same time – and it is often the case that slams come in pairs (no pun intended).

Declarer won the spade lead in hand, played a diamond to the jack and cleared the suit, +490 which was only 8/2.

West	North	East	South
<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Godfrey</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♦	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

The play was identical – +990 and 1/9.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ K Q J 9 8 5 2 ♥ 6 ♦ 5 ♣ 9 7 5 3	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">N</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">W</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">E</div> <div style="font-size: 10px;">S</div> </div>	♠ 4 ♥ J 8 ♦ A J 10 6 3 2 ♣ K J 6 4	♠ 10 3 ♥ Q 9 7 5 2 ♦ 8 7 ♣ A 10 8 2
--	---	---	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Gronkvist</i>
—	3♠	Pass	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ K 10 8 3 ♥ A 8 5 4 ♦ A 7 6 ♣ A Q	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">N</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">W</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">E</div> <div style="font-size: 10px;">S</div> </div>	♠ A 5 ♥ Q J 7 3 ♦ J 10 8 3 ♣ K J 8	♠ Q J 7 6 ♥ — ♦ K Q 2 ♣ 9 7 6 5 4 3
---	---	---	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Gronkvist</i>
1♣	1NT	3♣	All Pass

North's preempt makes it very difficult to reach the laydown 6♦.

Declarer won the diamond lead in dummy and played the jack of hearts for the queen and ace. She cashed the king of hearts and when North pitched the five of spades she played the queen of clubs. South took the ace and returned a spade, but declarer won, played a diamond to dummy and pitched her losing spades on the top clubs, +420.

Elsewhere Nicola Smith bid 3NT over 3♠. When East decided against taking any action she ducked two spades, won the third one (discarding clubs from dummy) cashed two diamonds ending in dummy and played the jack of hearts, covered by the queen and ace. She took the remaining diamonds, squeezing South for +460, only 4/6 as two pairs bid 6♦.

This is an innocent looking deal, but they sometimes offer up a lot of interest.

With an awkward lead North went for the three of spades, declarer put up dummy's queen, crossed to the ace of spades, played a diamond to the king, ruffed a spade, ruffed a heart, ruffed a spade (South tried the ♣10) and played the queen of clubs, soon claiming +130 and a maximum.

West	North	East	South
1♣	1NT	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Rdbl	3♥
Pass	Pass	4♣	All Pass

Perhaps West should have doubled 3♥ – the lack of entries to hand make life impossible for declarer who must go one down. However, -100 beats -110 at this form of scoring. Going one down in 4♣ was a zero, while +100 would have been 5/5.





At the half way point in the session, Eythorsdottir & Sanborn on 54.11% were just 5 matchpoints clear of Brock/Brown and Huang/Wang.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Huang	Wang	Wang	Shen
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	Dble	2♥	Dble
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

East led the five of hearts and West won with the ten and returned her spade, declarer winning with dummy's queen and returning the queen of hearts. East won and played a third heart and declarer ruffed and played a diamond to the king. Now the winning line is to run the nine of clubs, but declarer played a spade to the jack and a diamond to the ace. East ruffed and exited with the ten of clubs, covered by the jack and queen. West cashed the queen of diamonds and continued with the ace of hearts, one down, and 8/2.

West	North	East	South
Rimstedt	Senior	Gronkvist	Draper
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	Dble	2♥	Dble
Pass	2♠	Dble	All Pass

East led the two of spades and declarer won in dummy and played the three of hearts, West winning with the ten and continuing with the eight. East took the king and exited with the three of spades, declarer winning in hand and ruffing her last heart as West pitched a diamond. Declarer came to hand with a diamond and tried to cash the king of diamonds, but East ruffed and exited with the king of clubs. Declarer won with dummy's ace and played a diamond, West winning and playing a heart. Declarer could ruff and cash a spade but that was her last trick, -100 only 4/6 as two pairs played in 4♠ for -150.

East does best to start with her singleton diamond. Declare wins and plays a heart, but now East will get to ruff three diamonds (or score two ruffs and the ♠10).

Having come to hand with a diamond, declarer can cash her top trumps which puts the pressure on West. If she pitches a club declarer crosses to the ace of clubs and then plays a diamond to the ace. East can ruff, but must give dummy a club.

If West pitches a diamond declarer plays the ace of diamonds and is in overtrick territory.

Finally, if West throws a heart declarer runs the nine of clubs. West wins and can cash the ace of hearts, but East's trump will only be the fifth defensive trick. If East tries putting up the ♣K declarer wins and exits with a low club, scoring the ♣J at trick thirteen.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Huang	Wang	Wang	Shen
Pass	Pass	1NT	Dble
2♦ (i)	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

(i) Transfer

South led the five of spades for the queen and ace and declarer returned a spade, South taking the king, cashing the ace of clubs and following it with the three. Declarer won in dummy and played a diamond to the queen. South took the king, cashed the queen of clubs and continued with the seven, dummy and North pitching diamonds as declarer ruffed. She cashed a spade, ruffed a diamond and played a heart to the king and ace but South could exit with a spade and endplay dummy for +500 and a complete top.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A Q J 4 ♥ J 7 5 4 2 ♦ 10 3 ♣ Q J ♠ 5 3 2 ♥ A 10 9 8 ♦ K 9 ♣ A 10 6 3	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">N</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">W</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">E</div> <div style="font-size: 10px;">S</div> </div>	♠ K 9 8 ♥ 6 ♦ A J 8 7 2 ♣ 9 7 4 2 ♠ 10 7 6 ♥ K Q 3 ♦ Q 6 5 4 ♣ K 8 5	
---	---	---	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Gronkvist</i>	<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♠	2♦	2♠
3♥	Pass	4♣	All Pass

North started with the ace of spades followed by the queen and declarer won in dummy, played a diamond to the king, a diamond to the ace and a diamond. When South followed with the five declarer pitched a spade and North's ruff was with a trump trick, so declarer emerged with ten tricks, +130 and 0/10.

If South covers the seven of diamonds declarer must go one down and that would have been 9/1.

If North starts with the queen of spades declarer can win in dummy and play diamonds as before, but now South does not need to cover the seven - North can ruff, put South in with the ♠10, then over-ruff when South plays the ♦Q and exit with a spade (or a heart) when the defenders must get another trick.

Of course, if declarer, having taken the king of spades at trick two plays the jack of diamonds from dummy and runs it the defenders have no answer as declarer will be able to pitch a spade on the ♦A.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 9 8 7 5 ♥ 6 4 ♦ J 7 5 ♣ K 9 5 3 ♠ 10 6 2 ♥ A Q 5 3 2 ♦ K 4 ♣ 8 6 4	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">N</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">W</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">E</div> <div style="font-size: 10px;">S</div> </div>	♠ A Q J 4 ♥ J ♦ Q 10 9 8 6 2 ♣ A 2 ♠ K 3 ♥ K 10 9 8 7 ♦ A 3 ♣ Q J 10 7	
---	---	---	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Gronkvist</i>	<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West led the king of diamonds and declarer won with the ace and played the ten of clubs to the king and ace. At this point the play record ceases, declarer going one down, -200. A pity, as the defenders have to be careful. N/S scored only 3/7, one pair making 5♦ on the EW cards.

Board 23. Dealer south All Vul.

♠ 8 6 5 2 ♥ K 7 5 ♦ A 5 ♣ K J 5 3 ♠ 9 4 ♥ Q J 8 4 ♦ 10 9 6 4 3 2 ♣ 6	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">N</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">W</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">E</div> <div style="font-size: 10px;">S</div> </div>	♠ A K 7 3 ♥ A 10 6 ♦ K J 8 7 ♣ 4 2 ♠ Q J 10 ♥ 9 3 2 ♦ Q ♣ A Q 10 9 8 7	
---	---	---	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Liu</i>
—	—	—	2♣
Pass	2♦*	Dble	Pass
Pass	3♣	Dble	Pass
3♦	4♣	All Pass	

Having used the forcing relay of 2♦ and then supported clubs there was no reason for North to bid again.

West led the queen of hearts and continued with the jack, followed by the eight. East won and played three rounds of spades, +300 and all the matchpoints.

With 20 deals to play Wang and Shen were 9 matchpoints clear of Brown and Brock.



LIU YAN, CHINA



OPEN PAIRS - SESSION 3

by **Brian Senior**

Going into the second day of the Open Pairs, Bessis/Lorenzini (France) and Yang/Dai (China) were tied for the lead on 57.50%, just a little ahead of Rombaut/Reess (France), who were on 57.05%. With 44 boards still to play, probably the top eight pairs still had chances, while the remaining four would need a huge day to get into any sort of contention.

Board 1 started the new day with a bang.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Yang</i>
–	Pass	1♦	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Yang made a weak jump overcall despite the four-card heart side-suit – partner was a passed hand so many players would be more flexible in his position – and Chen passed. When Dai also passed, Zhao reopened with a double and Chen left it in, as he had planned. Chen led the singleton heart, Zhao winning the ace as Yang followed with the four. Two ruffs would be required to defeat the contract but Zhao switched to the king of diamonds and when that held the trick, continued with the queen. Yang could hold his spade losers to two now so had eight tricks for +470 and all 10 matchpoints.

West	North	East	South
<i>Dwyer</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
–	Pass	1♦	1♠
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Zhang made a simple overcall and Dwyer jumped to a slightly uncultured 2NT. Huang's raise to game

might also qualify as uncultured but that's matchpoints for you. Li led the queen of hearts, ducked, and continued with the ten, again ducked. Zhang overtook with the king and returned a third heart. Huang had to win that one and he now led a club to the king and ace. Li cashed the hearts then led a spade to his partner's ace for down two; –100 and 8 MPs out of 10 for Li/Zhang.

West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Sakr</i>
–	Pass	1♦	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

May Sakr overcalled 2♠ and, after a pass from Moss, Pszczola raised to 3♠. When that came back to Moss he doubled, penalty, and Lall trusted his partner and left it in. Moss led his singleton but here Lall won the ace and returned the seven for his partner to ruff. Moss took the ruff and returned a club to dummy's ace. Sakr led a spade to the ace and a second spade, so Moss won the king and cashed the ace of diamonds, on which Lall dropped the king. A diamond to the jack put Lall in to give a second ruff and the contract was down two for –300 but 6 MPs to Pszczola/Sakr.

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Karakolev</i>	<i>Nanev</i>
–	Pass	1♦	1♠
Dble	Pass	2♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Karakolev's 1♦ was Precision so was limited and did not promise the suit. Nanev made a simple overcall and Stefanov made a surprising pass over the negative double. That allowed Karakolev to show his clubs cheaply and Mihov now simply jumped to 5♣, ending the auction. There was nothing to the play and Karakolev soon had 12 tricks for +420 and only 3 MPs to Stefanov/Nanev.

West	North	East	South
<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Damianova</i>	<i>Reess</i>
–	1NT	3♦	3♥
4♦	4♥	Pass	4♠
Dble	Pass	5♣	All Pass



Rombaut opened a mini no trump and, with no natural two-level overcall available to her, Damianova jumped to 3♦. Reess bid 3♥ to show spades and Aronov competed with 4♦. Now Rombaut showed his hearts on the way to 4♠ and Aronov doubled the spade game for penalty. However, that didn't suit Damianova, who already knew there was a diamond fit for her side, so she removed the double to 5♣ and that suited Aronov very well so he passed. Again, there was nothing to the play and Damianova too made 12 tricks for +420 and 3 MPs to Rombaut/Reess.

He won the heart lead and cashed one top club to see if an honour fell then took the diamond finesse, cleared the diamonds, and claimed 12 tricks for +490 and 3 MPs.

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Bompis	Bessis	Vinciguerra
–	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♣	2♦	3♠	4♠
Dble	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Rombaut	Damianova	Reess
–	–	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Pride of place on this deal must go to the joint-leaders, Bessis and Lorenzini. Bessis opened a natural 1♦ and Lorenzini bid his clubs over the simple overcall. Bompis cuebid to show a constructive spade raise, and Bessis jumped to 3♠, splinter, to show club support and spade shortage. When Vinciguerra went on to 4♠, Lorenzini doubled as a suggestion to defend and, when Bessis removed the double he had to have both long clubs and a void spade so Lorenzini went on to the small slam. Plus 920 was a complete top for Bessis/Lorenzini, earning them all 10 MPs.

Damianova opened 1♦, showed her hearts, then the extra diamond length, and Aronov too settled for the no trump game. He received a spade lead and took the diamond finesse at trick two without testing the clubs. Aronov cleared the diamonds and had 12 tricks for +490 and 3 MPs.

West	North	East	South
Chen	Dai	Zhao	Yang
–	–	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Zhao bid his diamonds three times, seeing Chen bid and rebid clubs then attempt to sign off in 3NT. Taking a rosier view of his hand than the previous two Easts, Zhao now jumped to 6♦. He won the heart lead in what proved to be a highly suitable dummy and took the diamond finesse. There was just a trump to be lost; +920 and 6 MPs.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Stefanov	Karakolev	Nanev
–	–	1♣	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Moss	Pszczola	Lall	Sakr
–	–	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Karakolev opened a strong club then bid his diamonds only once – with his minimum strong club opener and shortage in partner's long suit he wanted to put the brakes on, but Mihov went on a slam hunt, bidding his clubs for a third time. When Karakolev made a reluctant club raise, Mihov jumped to 6NT, hoping that one of the long suits would behave kindly. Karakolev won the heart lead in dummy and cashed the top clubs, When the jack appeared, he continued with the ten of clubs and had 12 tricks without worrying about the diamond position; +990 and 9 MPs.

Lall bid his diamonds three times and Moss, having bid and rebid his clubs, contented himself with 3NT.



West	North	East	South
Dwyer	Zhang	Huang	Li
-	-	1♣	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	Bessis	Huang	Lorenzini
-	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Huang too opened with a strong club and now both partners bid and rebid their long suits. Dwyer took a shot at 6NT and received a heart lead. He won and took the diamond finesse at trick two and had 12 tricks for +990 and 9 MPs.

Bessis made a book example of a 3♠ opening and, after two passes, Dwyer doubled for take-out. When Huang could jump to 5♦, Dwyer judged that with his good trumps and excellent controls he had enough to go on to the small slam and right he was! There was just a club to be lost so Huang quickly claimed 12 tricks for +920 and 9 MPs.

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Bompis	Bessis	Vinciguerra
-	-	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♠	Pass
7NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Chen	Pszczola	Dai	Sakr
-	3♠	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Having been the heroes of Board 1, Bessis/Lorenzini were the mugs of Board 2. Bessis opened 1♦ then reversed into hearts and, when Lorenzini bid 2NT to see what his partner would say next, jumped to 4♦ to show his great extra length. Was 5NT pick a slam, or was it asking about the quality of partner's diamonds? Whatever Lorenzini's intention, Bessis's 6♠ response saw him jump to 7NT, a contract not without play but not where you would want to be. Lorenzini won the heart lead and cashed a top club then took the diamond finesse. When the jack held he had a moment of hope but that was soon dashed when Vinciguerra showed out on the next round. The contract was down one for -50 and zero MPs - the French pair were back to average for the round.

Pszczola too opened 3♠ but Chen preferred to overcall 3NT and Zhao left him to play there. Pszczola led the king of spades, ducked, and continued with the queen, also ducked. By ducking a second spade it appeared that Chen had held himself to 10 tricks, particularly when Pszczola now switched to a club. However, Sakr put in the ten so the bare queen scored. Chen cashed the ace of hearts, unblocking the jack, then the ace of spades, before running the diamonds. At the end there was a show-up squeeze against South, who was of course known to hold the ace of clubs, and in practice Sakr had to bare the ♥Q so Chen had the normal 11 tricks for +460 and 5 MPs.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Moss	Huang	Lall	Dwyer
-	-	-	1♦
2♣	2♥	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Dwyer opened 1♦, Precision, and Moss made a feather-light 2♣ overcall on the West cards. Huang



bid 2♥ to transfer to spades and Lall introduced his hearts. When that came back to Huang he doubled for take-out, not knowing that his partner had genuine diamonds, and Dwyer, with a dull hand with only two low spades, left it in. Dwyer led the nine of spades to the jack and ace. Lall played the ten of clubs to the jack, king and ace, and Huang returned his remaining club. Dwyer won the queen and played a third club, hoping for a trump promotion, but Huang's trump was not of the required strength and he was over-ruffed cheaply by Lall, who cashed a top heart then gave up a spade. Huang won that and played the jack then king of diamonds. Lall could ruff the second diamond but had no way to avoid losing either a spade or a heart trick and was down one for +100 but zero MPs to Huang/Dwyer.

As it turned out, Dwyer was the only South to open the bidding. At every other table it was North who opened with 1♠.

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Dai	Damianova	Yang
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♠	2♥	Dble
3♥	4♦	All Pass	

Damianova overcalled 2♥ and Yang made a negative double. When Aronov made a weak heart raise Dai bid 4♦ freely but neither Damianova nor Yang felt compelled to act again so that completed the auction. There was nothing to the play as the cards lay so Dai scored 11 tricks for +150 and 2 MPs.

West	North	East	South
Reess	Bessis	Rombaut	Lorenzini
Li	Stefanov	Zhang	Nanev
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♠	2♥	Dble
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Again East overcalled and South doubled, but here there was no heart raise on the West cards and both Norths could therefore jump to 4♦. Here 4♦ was clearly a constructive bid, where it could have been somewhat weaker at the previous table, so Lorenzini and Nanev both raised to game and Bessis and Stefanov quickly made 11 tricks for +400 and 6 MPs.

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Zhao	Karakolev	Chen
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♠	2♥	3♦
Pass	4♥	Dble	Pass
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Chen preferred to bid 3♦ rather than make the negative double, and now Zhao, with excellent five-card support and a singleton in the opponents' bid suit, was always going to bid game. He splintered with 4♥ and Karakolev doubled. Chen passed, denying first-round heart control, and Zhao signed off in 5♦, also suggesting that he did not have first-round control, with which either player could have redoubled. Chen made the usual 11 tricks for +400 and again 6 MPs.

West	North	East	South
Vinciguerra	Pszczola	Bompis	Sakr
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♠	2♥	Dble
Pass	3♦	3♥	4♦
4♥	5♦	Dble	All Pass

Sakr made the negative double but, after a pass from Vinciguerra, Pszczola bid only 3♦. That left room for Bompis to repeat his strong heart suit and when Vinciguerra raised to game in competition, it wasn't clear whether Pszczola was bidding 5♦ to make or as a save. Bompis doubled but found he could not beat the diamond game so Pszczola chalked up +550 and claimed all 10 MPs.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nanev	Bessis	Stefanov	Lorenzini
–	–	–	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Well, should Stefanov not have doubled when holding only 8 HCP, or should Nanev not have left it in with only the six as his high spot card in the trump suit? Or perhaps no-one did anything wrong and it was just the combination of two borderline decisions which worked out badly? Nanev knew that with his weak spot cards he needed to get a ruff so led his shortest suit, the queen of spades. Lorenzini won the ace and led the five of hearts to the seven and queen



and Nanev played a second spade. Lorenzini won the king and played the ten of hearts to the jack and ace and, when Nanev tried the wrong minor, leading a club, Lorenzini had the rest for the slightly unusual score of 2♥ doubled plus three and +1270. Do I need to tell you how the matchpoints were distributed? I thought not.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Yang</i>
–	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Rdbl
Pass	Pass	3♦	Dble
All Pass			

Dai opened the North hand, as did all but, I believe, Pszczola. He was the only N/S player to be permitted to play a contract – 1♥, which made exactly for 4 MPs. Dai meanwhile collected a raise from partner and, of course, passed it round to Bessis who, with short hearts and limited by his failure to act over 1♥, doubled. Yang redoubled and Lorenzini left it to Bessis to choose where to play. Bessis bid the obvious 3♦ and was doubled by Yang, ending the auction. Yang led the king of hearts to dummy's ace and Bessis led the eight of hearts off the table, discarding a spade from hand and losing to the queen. Yang returned a spade, Dai winning the ace and continuing with the queen to Bessis's king. He led the jack of diamonds, which held the trick, followed by a diamond to the king and a third heart. That was covered so Bessis ruffed, led a club to the ace and ruffed dummy's spade. Down to the bare ace of trumps, he could not both establish and cash a club so was down one for –100 and 2 MPs.

At another table, Aronov/Damianova were doubled in 3♣ and Damianova made it with an overtrick for +570 and all the matchpoints.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Chen</i>
–	1♠	Dble	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
2NT	Dbl	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

Zhang made a bare minimum take-out double and Chen bid 2♦, transfer to hearts. Li decided to wait and see what his opponents would do and Zhao, who hated hearts, rebid his five-card spade suit. When that came round to Li he bid 2NT, presumably natural, and Zhao doubled, probably looking forward to defending three of a minor. Chen, however, appears to have taken the double as showing extra values rather than merely defence against the unbid suits and, having seen his partner rebid spades, which would usually mean a sixth card, he jumped to 4♠, doubled by Li.

A trump lead would have defeated the spade game but that was not easy to find and in practice Zhang led the two of clubs. That went to the queen and ace. Zhao led a club to the king, ruffed a heart back to hand and discarded dummy's diamond loser on the jack of clubs. Knowing from the third and fifth lead that the last club was on his right, Zhao now led his last club and ruffed it when Zhang discarded a diamond. A second heart ruff was followed by a diamond ruff and a third heart. In a vain attempt to prevent declarer from making too many of his trumps, Li ruffed in with the queen. However, this had no effect on the outcome. Zhao over-ruffed, ruffed a diamond with dummy's last trump, and led another heart. He had to come to one more trump trick so had 10 in all for +790 and 8 MPs (Huang/Dwyer were doubled in 3♠ and permitted to make 11 tricks).

At the end of Session Three, with 20 boards remaining to be played in the final session, Rombaut/Reess led on 55.15%, 4 MPs ahead of Yang/Dai and 6 MPs ahead of Mihov/Karakolev. Chen/Zhao and Bessis/Lorenzini were also within reach of the leaders, but anyone below fifth probably had too much to do to hope to win the event, though a good session could certainly move most of them nicely up the rankings.



THE GENERALI MASTERS
INDIVIDUAL BRIDGE
CHAMPIONSHIP



System Card

System Summary

GENERAL APPROACH AND STYLE

Natural, 5-card Majors
Longer Minor - 1♣ if 3.3
Limit jump raises over majors
INT response = not forcing

INT Opening: 15 - 17
2 over 1 response: Promises rebid (See Note 7)

SPECIAL BIDS THAT MAY REQUIRE DEFENCE

2♣ Opening = strong, forcing to game
2♦ Opening = Strong one-suiter (any suit) or 22 - 23 Bal
2♥ Opening = Weak Major 6+ (6-10 HCP)
2♠ Opening = Weak Major 6+ (6-10 HCP)
3NT Opening = Gambling
2NT Overall = two lower unbid suits
Michaels Cue-bids (Note 1)
Lebensohl after 2-level overall of INT (Note 2)
Negative Doubles to 3♣

SPECIAL FORCING PASS SEQUENCES

IMPORTANT NOTES THAT DON'T FIT ELSEWHERE

Double Jump in new suit = Splinter if minor over major
Jump Cue Bid by Opener = Splinter raise

PSYCHICS:

Rare

Leads and Signals

OPENING LEADS STYLE

Suit Lead In Partner's Suit
3rd / 5th 3rd / 5th
NT 4th 3rd / 5th
Subseq
Other 2nd from 4 small

LEADS

Lead Vs. Suit Vs. NT
Ace AKx; Axxx(+) AK; AKx(+)
King KQ; AK; KQ109x KQ; AK10(x); KQ109(+)
Queen Qj; Qjx(x) Qj; Qjx(+); AQjx(+); KQx(+);
Jack J10; J10x(+); KJ10x(+) J10; J10x(+); KJ10x(+)
10 109; 109x(+); H109x(+); 10x 109; 109x(+); H109x(+)
9 9x; 98x(+) 98x(+)
Hi-x Sx; xxS Sx; Sxx; xSxx
Lo-x HxS; HxSx(+); xSxx(+) HxS; HxxS(+); xxxS(+)

SIGNALS IN ORDER OF PRIORITY

Partner's Lead Declarer's Lead Discarding
1 Hi/lo = E Same Same
2 Hi=encouraging Same
3 S/P Same
1 Hi/lo = E Same
2 Hi = encouraging Same
3 S/P Same

SIGNALS (INCLUDING TRUMPS):

Echo in trump suit shows ability to ruff

TAKEOUT DOUBLES (STYLE; RESPONSES; REOPENING)

May be light with classic shape
Cue = F until a suit is bid twice;
New suit = FI
Reopen: same as above

SPECIAL, ARTIFICIAL AND COMPETITIVE DOUBLES/REDUBLES

Responsive Dbl: After T/O Dble thru 4♥; after o/call thru 4♠
Repeat same suit dble by Neg doubler = Take out (See Note 8)
Over minor Michaels: Major = stopper
Over Major Michaels: cue bid in opponents' major = limit raise or better

Defensive and Competitive Bidding

OVERCALLS (STYLE; RESPONSES; 1/2 LEVEL; REOPENING)

General Style = Sound
Reponses: Jump Raise = Preemptive
Cue-Bid = Forcing raise

New Suit = Forcing - jump shift = fit

In Balancing Position: Same

TAKE-OUT DOUBLE:

General Style = Can be light / shaped
Responses: Natural. Cue bid = Forcing

INT OVERCALLS (2ND/4TH LIVE; RESPONSES; REOPENING)

2nd Position = 16 - 18
Responses: Bid as INT opening
Natural
4th Position = 10 - 14
Responses: Natural

JUMP OVERCALLS (STYLE; RESPONSES; UNUSUAL NT)

1-Suit : Natural;
Responses - New suit = forcing
2-suit:- 1♣ - 2♦ = 5♥/5♠
Reopen: Cue = any good two suiter. 2NT = 19-21

DIRECT AND JUMP CUE BIDS (STYLE; RESPONSES; REOPEN)

Direct Cue Bid = Michaels (Note 1)

VS NT (VS STRONG / WEAK; REOPENING; PH)

Landy (Note 3)

VS PREEMPTS (DOUBLES; CUE-BIDS; JUMPS; NT BIDS)

Take out doubles thru 4♥

VS ARTIFICIAL STRONG OPENINGS

OVER OPPONENTS; TAKE OUT DOUBLE

New suit forcing at 1-level
Jump Shift non-forcing
Double Jump = Splinter / 2NT = limit raise or better

SYSTEM FOR INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

<i>Opening</i>	<i>Tick if Artificial</i>	<i>Min. No. Cards</i>	<i>Neg. Dbl Thru'</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Subsequent Auction</i>	<i>Modifications over Competition and with Passed Partner</i>
Pass				Not an Opening Bid			
1♣		3	3♣	11 - 21 HCP	Single raise weaker than double raise Strong jump shift (1♣ - 2 any)	4th suit forcing: game forcing; Reverses by opener forcing; by responder = Game forcing; Third suit = 1 Round Force	Jump Cue-bid over overcall = Splinter Cue bid for overcall = asks for a stopper Jump shift pre-emptive over overcalls
1♦		3	3♣	11 - 21 HCP	Single raise weaker than double raise Strong jump shift (1♣ - 2 any)	As above - NOTE 5 -	As above
1♥		5	3♣	11 - 21 HCP	INT not forcing, 5+ points Raises = limit. 2NT = FG with trump support	Raises = limit. Re-raise = Pre-emptive General principles as above	Cue bid over Comp = Strong Raise
1♠		5	3♣	11 - 21 HCP	As for 1♥	As for 1♥; 1♠ - 2♣; 2♠ - 3♠ = limit	As for 1♥
INT				15 - 17 balanced	Jacoby Transfers: Note 9	Over Stayman: rebids are Major invitational, minor forcing	Dble at 3-level shows values. Dbl at 2-level is T/O
2♣	♣		3♣	Artificial, strong (Game Forcing)	Natural; positive requires good suit; 2♦ = neutral	Cheaper minor = second negative thru' 3♦	Natural
2♦	♣		3♣	Strong 1-Suiter. Forcing 1 Round or 22-23 balanced	2♥ = relay Others = Natural, positive	Natural	Natural
2♥		6		6 - 10 HCP	New suit forcing 2NT asks for feature if maximum	3NT = AKQxxx	Natural
2♠		6		6 - 10 HCP	As for 2♥ opener	As for 2♥ opener	Natural
2NT				20 - 21 balanced	Jacoby Transfers; Stayman Note 9	2NT - 3♠ > ♣ 2NT - 3 ♣ 2NT - 4♠ > ♦ 3♦ - 3♥ = 5♠ + 4♥	Natural Dbl = Penalties
3♣		6		Pre-emptive	New Suit forcing		
3♦		6		Pre-emptive	New Suit forcing		
3♥		6		Pre-emptive	3♣ Natural. Minors = cue-bid		
3♠		6		Pre-emptive	4♥ Natural. Minors = cue-bid		
3NT		7(6)		Gambling	Natural		
4♣		7		Pre-emptive	Natural		
4♦		7		Pre-emptive	Natural		
4NT				Blackwood	Natural		
<i>Slam Approach and Conventions (including all Slam-Interest Bids)</i>							
Five - Ace Blackwood: RKCB (Note 6) Cue Bids Splinters GSF							

*No Changes Allowed:
All conventions are interpreted by reference to the
attached Supplementary Sheets*



Generali Masters Individual Bridge Championship



SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

Note 1: Michaels Cue Bids:

1♣ - 2♦)

1♦ - 2♥) Both majors 5(+) / 5(+)

1♥ - 2♥ = 5♠ + 5 minor

1♠ - 2♠ = 5♥ + 5 minor

All jumps in known suits PRE (but may be tactically strong)

Note 2: Lebensohl:

2NT forces 3♣. Responder may now pass or make a minimum bid in a suit, NF

2-level new suit bids are not encouraging. 3-level new-suit bids are forcing

INT (2x) 2NT (p)
 3♣ (p) 3x = GF No Stopper

Note 3: Landy:

2♣ shows at least four cards in each major suit; then

vs No Trump:

Penalty Double

2♣ shows at least four cards in each major suit = Landy

2♦/♥/♠ = Natural

INT - 2♣ - ?

2♦ = relay to play the better major

2NT = strong inquiry (cue-bid!)

Note 5: Responses after NT rebid

1♦ - 1♥

INT - 2♣ = new minor, forcing

3♦ = Nat. forcing

1♣ - 1♥

2NT - 3♣ Nat. Forcing (2NT denies 4 card ♠ suit)

1♣ - 1♦

INT - 3♣ = forcing

3rd suit: one round force

4th suit: one round force but 3 level responses or further bids by responder are game forcing

SYSTEM FOR INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

Note 6: R K C B

(4NT asks for 5 key cards, 4 Aces + King of Trumps)

Responses:

- 5♣ = 3 or 0
- 5♦ = 4 or 1
- 5♥ = 2
- 5♠ = 2 + Queen of Trumps
- 5NT = 2 + a void
- 6 = 1 + a void

Note 7: Non Forcing Sequences

1♠ - 2♣
2♦/♥/♠ - 3♣

1♠ - 2♣
2♦/♥ - 2♠

1♠ - 2♣
2♦/♥/♠ - 2NT

1♠ - 2♣
2♠ - 3♠

1M - 2 lower
2NT = extra values

1♥ - 1♠
2♣ - 3♥ - limit raise

Note 8: Take Out Double

1♣ - 1♦ - X = denies 4-card major

1♣ - 1♥ - X = denies 4♠

Take Out Double by Opener: shows three card support for responder and a non-minimum hand or a strong hand

Note 9: Responses to INT and 2NT Opening

a) Stayman

INT - 2♣:

2♦ = No Major
2♥ = 4♥
2♠ = 4♠

2NT - 3♣
Same

b) Transfers

INT -
2♦ = 5+ ♥
2♥ = 5+♠
2♠ = 5+♣
2NT = Nat
3♣ = 5+♦
4♦ = 5♥+5♠

2NT - Same

c) INT - 3♦/♥/♠ = strong, Natural

d) Subsequent Bids:

INT - 2♣
2♦ - 3♥ = 4♥ + 5♠ F

INT 2♣
2any 3♣ = forcing

**RESULTS OPEN PAIRS****FINAL RANKING**

1	CHEN Yunlong	ZHAO Jie	CHN - CHN	56.02
2	YANG Lixin	DAI Jianming	CHN - CHN	55.68
3	ROMBAUT Jerome	REESS Vanessa	FRA - FRA	53.75
4	KARAKOLEV Georgi	MIHOV Vladimir	BUL - BUL	53.52
5	BESSIS Thomas	LORENZINI Cedric	FRA - FRA	51.59
6	PSZCZOLA Jacek	SAKR May	USA - USA	49.77
7	HUANG Shan	DWYER Kevin	USA - USA	48.64
8	BOMPIS Marc	VINCIGUERRA Herve	FRA - FRA	48.41
9	ZHANG Bangxiang	LI Jianwei	CHN - CHN	48.41
10	LALL Justin	MOSS Brad	USA - USA	45.23
11	STEFANOV Julian	NANEV Ivan	BUL - BUL	44.77
12	DAMIANOVA Diana	ARONOV Victor	BUL - BUL	44.20

RESULTS WOMEN PAIRS**FINAL RANKING**

1	WANG Wen Fei	SHEN (1) Qi	CHN - CHN	55.80
2	BROWN Fiona	BROCK Sally	ENG - ENG	55.00
3	EYTHORSOTTIR Hjordis	SANBORN Kerri	USA - USA	51.93
4	SENIOR Nevena	DRAPER Catherine	ENG - ENG	51.82
5	CLEMENTSSON Sanna	RIMSTEDT Sandra	SWE - SWE	51.25
6	RIMSTEDT Cecilia	GRONKVIST Ida	SWE - SWE	50.80
7	GODFREY Lizzie	SMITH Nicola	ENG - ENG	48.52
8	LU Yan	LIU Yan	CHN - CHN	48.41
9	LARSSON Jessica	BERTHEAU Kathrine	SWE - SWE	48.18
10	WANG Nan	HUANG Yan	CHN - CHN	46.82
11	CAPPELLETTI Shannon	WEINGOLD Joanne	USA - USA	46.36
12	SOKOLOW Tobi	SEAMON-MOLSON Janice	USA - USA	45.11