



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



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CHINA LEADS THE WAY



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SCHEDULE

INDIVIDUAL	
10.30	Session 3
20.00	Prize Giving

Closing ceremony & Prize Giving:
at New Century Hall at 8 p.m..
Please attend the ceremony
in a suit.

In the spirit of Bridge for Peace, players shake hands before partnering each other in individual championship.

Chinese players lead the way in both Individual competitions. In the Open, Jianwei Li leads from Herve Vinciguerra of France, while another Chinese player, Lixin Yang is in third position.

In the Women's tournament, Yan Huang has a useful lead over Qi Shen, both of China, while Joanne Weingold of USA lies third.

There are 21 boards to be played on Friday morning to complete the two competitions. The lack of regular partnerships makes individual competitions highly volatile, so several players in each event can still have hopes of victory going into the final session.

VIDEO CORNER



INTERVIEW WITH JOSÉ DAMIANI
IMSA FOUNDER PRESIDENT

▶ Watch on Youtube



EUROPE ON TOP &
PRIZE GIVING TEAMS

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**BIDDING QUIZ!**

IMPs. All Vul. You are sitting West.

W	N	E	S
			1♦
1♥	2♦	2♥	Pass
?			
Your cards:			
♠ A 6 3	♥ A K Q J 6 2	♦ 8	♣ 7 5 3

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

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FROM HUAİ'AN

What would you recommend to a young player who wish to become a Bridge pro?

**Nevena Senior, England**

First, you have to do your best to improve your Bridge. Nowadays almost all the Bridge events provide hand records and the possibility to check the *fiches* after the end. Study carefully your results and discuss hands with better players. Do not get upset if they tell you that you misplayed. Take the opinions of the best players and then make your own one!

**Janice Seamon-Molson, USA**

Choose another career! This is a wonderful game and I highly recommend it but if you want to be a pro you have to travel too much...

**Ivan Nanev, Bulgaria**

Play seriously every board. Even in minor events, pay the same attention on each board that you would pay if you were playing the Bermuda Bowl final.

**Cedric Lorenzini, France**

Start playing in the US! The strongest players attend the North American Bridge Championships. You need to train in a good field. Then you have to prove to the world that you exist, so try to make some good results. Talk to people and build your own Bridge social network.

ANSWERS TO YESTERDAY'S PROBLEM

IMPs. None Vul.

You are sitting West. Your cards:

♠ A Q J 4
♥ 8 6
♦ 7 5
♣ A K 6 4 2

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♦	X	Pass
?			

The answers of the players in Huai'an:



Wang Wenfei, China.
I bid 2♠.



Nicola Smith, England
Dble in my system shows majors. I bid 2♠.



Marc Bompis, France
Dble in my system shows hearts. I bid 1♠.



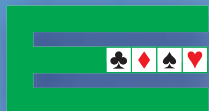
Zhao Jie.
1♠. No reason to push too much.



Thomas Bessis, France
Dble in my system shows 4-5 hearts. I bid 1♠.



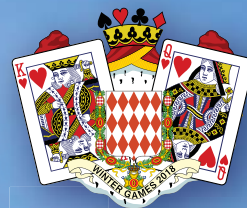
Jacek Pszczola, USA
2♠.



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WENT THE DAY WELL?

by **Mark Horton**

Went the Day Well? is a 1942 British war film adapted from a story by Graham Greene. It was produced by Michael Balcon of Ealing Studios and served as unofficial propaganda for the war effort. It tells of how an English village is taken over by Nazi paratroopers. It reflects the greatest potential nightmare of many Britons of the time, although the threat of German invasion had largely receded by that point. The village location for some scenes was Turville in Buckinghamshire (it could just as easily have been my village of Sutton Benger). In the film the village is named Bramley End and the entire incident is said to be called the Battle of Bramley End.

The players would be battling hard for the medals – let's see who's day would go well?

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Shen</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
2♣ (i)	Dble	Pass	3♣
3♦	Pass	3♥	All Pass

(i) Drury

South led the three of clubs and North won with the ace and switched to the jack of spades. Declarer won with the ace, crossed to the king of hearts and played a heart to the jack, which meant she took only nine tricks, +140 and only 8/2.

Did declarer think 'if the hearts are 2-2 and the spades are breaking 4♥ makes and we will get a poor score?' The reason that is wrong is that you can never beat the pairs in 4♥ if they make it. Your opponents

are the pairs in 3♥. Of course, if you are in need of a top then taking the finesse is an option. Plus 170 would have been average as two pairs bid game.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Shen</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

North started with the ace of diamonds and continued the suit, South winning with the king and returning the seven. When declarer pitched a spade, North ruffed and switched to the king of clubs. Declarer won, played a heart to the king and finessed the seven on the next round, +620 and a complete top.

There is more than one way to defeat 4♥.

Leading a spade at trick one puts the defenders in charge; having started with three rounds of diamonds, North must pitch a spade on the third round after which declarer must inevitably lose two more tricks.



SHEN QI, CHINA



Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

	♠ 6		
	♥ K 8 7 3		
	♦ A Q J 4		
	♣ A 9 6 4		
♠ 8 7 3	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K Q 10 9 5 2	
♥ 10 2		♥ A J	
♦ 10 6 3 2		♦ 9 8	
♣ K 10 3 2		♣ Q J 5	
	♠ A J 4		
	♥ Q 9 6 5 4		
	♦ K 7 5		
	♣ 8 7		

West	North	East	South
Liu	Sokolow	Lu	S.-Molson
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dble*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

East led the king of spades and declarer was soon claiming twelve tricks, +480, 5/5 as everyone led a spade.

I have included this deal because it reminds me of something Benito Garozzo said – ‘Any player who always made the ‘right’ opening lead would win every tournament they entered’.

If East starts with a club declarer takes only eleven tricks and scores zero.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

	♠ A K 10 9 3		
	♥ K 9 6		
	♦ 9		
	♣ Q J 6 5		
♠ 7 4 2	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 5	
♥ 10 8 3		♥ A Q 7 5 4 2	
♦ A Q 2		♦ J 5 3	
♣ A 9 8 7		♣ K 10 4	
	♠ Q J 8 6		
	♥ J		
	♦ K 10 8 7 6 4		
	♣ 3 2		

West	North	East	South
Brock	Clementsson	Brown	Rimstedt
—	4♠	Dble	All Pass

It is not difficult to see that EW have four tricks – a heart, a diamond and two clubs and +200 was a shared top, 3/7.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

	♠ 10 8 4		
	♥ J 7		
	♦ 10 8 6 4 2		
	♣ K 10 7		
♠ K Q 7 3	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A J	
♥ K Q 6 5 3 2		♥ A 4	
♦ K 7		♦ Q 5 3	
♣ 2		♣ A Q J 9 8 5	
	♠ 9 6 5 2		
	♥ 10 9 8		
	♦ A J 9		
	♣ 6 4 3		

West	North	East	South
Brock	Clementsson	Brown	Rimstedt
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Worried about the diamond situation East let matters rest. Perhaps West should bid 3NT over 3♣, suggesting values in both the unbid suits? Plus 480 was a poor 8/2.

At another table the bidding went:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	All Pass

North led the four of diamonds and when South put in the jack declarer won and took a club finesse for +520, beaten only by the pair who recorded +990.



TOBIN SOKOLOW, USA



♠ K 9
 ♥ K 9
 ♦ J 2
 ♣ A Q J 10 9 8 3



OPEN PAIRS - SESSION 4

by **Brian Senior**

The French pair of Jerome Rombaut and Vanessa Reess led going into the final 20 deals of the second IMSA Elite Mind Games Open Pairs competition. They had only a 4 MP advantage over China's Jianming Dai and Lixin Yang, with Vladimir Mihov and Georgi Karakolev of Bulgaria also in close pursuit.

For the final session we will watch the pair who are leading at the start of each round wherever that is possible.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
Reess	Pszczola	Rombaut	Sakr
–	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	All Pass	



MAY SAKR, USA

Pszczola opened 1♠ and quickly signed off in 3♠ over Sakr's invitational-plus raise. Rombaut played ace then king of clubs so Pszczola ruffed and drew two rounds of trumps then led a heart to the ten and ace. A heart ruff would now have held the contract to nine tricks but Rombaut persisted with a third club. Pszczola ruffed that and played a second heart. Reess won the king and there was a second opportunity to take the ruff but she returned a diamond so Pszczola could win, draw the last trump and cash 10 tricks for +170 and 8 MPs out of 10. Plus 140 would have been worth only 3 MPs.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Reess	Pszczola	Rombaut	Sakr
–	–	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♦
4♣	All Pass		

Rombaut opened with a 3♣ pre-empt and when that came round to Pszczola he doubled. Sakr responded 3♦, her longest suit, where some would have preferred the major, but it didn't matter as Reess now competed with 4♣ and, if Pszczola wasn't going to bid 4♦ over that, presumably he would not have bid 4♠ had Sakr bid spades. Sakr must have been close to bidding again but judged that a plus score was much more likely on defence and passed. She kicked off with the ace of hearts but the sight of dummy demanded a rethink. Her spade switch was exactly what the defence required to get its tricks without any risk of anything going wrong. Rombaut put up the king, losing to the ace. Pszczola cashed the queen of spades then the top diamonds and that was two down for –100; 6 MPs to Pszczola/Sakr.



Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Reess	Pszczola	Rombaut	Sakr
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♥	Dble
2NT	3♣	3♥	4♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Pszczola opened the North hand in third seat and Sakr made a negative double of the heart overcall. When Reess now showed a four-card heart raise, Pszczola made a tactical bid of 3♣, hoping to sound stronger to his opponents than was actually the case. Perhaps that had done its job, because Rombaut signed off in 3♥, but Sakr was now tempted into competing in clubs and Rombaut doubled. There was nothing much to the play and Pszczola lost two tricks in each side-suit. He was down three for -500 but that was worth 8 MPs as four E/W pairs bid and made game.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Reess	Pszczola	Rombaut	Sakr
1♥	2♣	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♣	3♥	All Pass

Rombaut made a simple heart raise but when Pszczola rebid his clubs took the push to 3♥, ending the auction. Pszczola led ace and another diamond, Sakr winning the king and continuing with a third round. Reess discarded her spade loser so Pszczola ruffed and returned a spade. Reess won the ace and led a heart to the king followed by a heart to the ten. She played ace of clubs and ruffed a club, threw her last club on the queen of diamonds, and had 10 tricks for +170 and 6 MPs.

Fourteen matchpoints out of 40 saw Rombaut/Reess fall from first to fourth in the rankings. They were replaced in first place by China's Yunlong Chen and Zhao Jie.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Chen	Bompis	Zhao	Vinciguerra
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Chen responded 1♠, used game-forcing checkback, then showed extra spade length. When Zhao showed spade support, Chen bid 3NT to offer a choice of games and Zhao chose no trump. Herve Vinciguerra led the ten of diamonds. Zhao called for the queen and breathed a sigh of relief when it held the trick. He played ace and another spade, thinking for a while when South's ten appeared then covering with the queen. Marc Bompis won the ♠K and returned a diamond, ducked, then another diamond to declarer's ace. Zhao crossed to a top heart and gave up a spade and, when the ♠J proved to be in the hand with the short diamonds, had the rest; 10 tricks for +430 and 6 MPs.



Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠ A J 3	
	♥ K Q J 5	
	♦ A 4 3	
	♣ 8 6 2	
♠ 9 6 4 2	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K 8 7 5
♥ 6 3		♥ 10 8 7 4
♦ 10 7		♦ 6 2
♣ K Q 9 4 3		♣ A 10 5
	♠ Q 10	
	♥ A 9 2	
	♦ K Q J 9 8 5	
	♣ J 7	

West	North	East	South
Chen	Bompis	Zhao	Vinciguerra
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

It was the French pair's turn to bid unmolested to 3NT. Chen was not dissuaded by the 3♣ no trump probe and led his fourth-best club. Zhao won the ace and returned the ten so the defence took the first five tricks for down one and -50 and just 2 MPs for N/S.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ K Q 10 5 3	
	♥ 10 5	
	♦ 2	
	♣ A K 9 4 3	
♠ A 9 7	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J 8 6
♥ K Q 6		♥ A 9 4
♦ K J		♦ A Q 7 5 4
♣ Q J 8 5 2		♣ 10 6
	♠ 4 2	
	♥ J 8 7 3 2	
	♦ 10 9 8 6 3	
	♣ 7	

West	North	East	South
Chen	Bompis	Zhao	Vinciguerra
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	2♠	3NT	All Pass

Chen opened 1NT and Bompis overcalled 2♠, spades and a minor, Zhao simply raising to 3NT. Bompis led a top club then, not liking what he saw, switched to the king of spades. Chen won the ace and led a low club towards dummy's ten. Bompis grabbed the king and cashed his spade winner; 10 tricks for +630 and 5 MPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

	♠ 9 5 4	
	♥ A K 10 5 2	
	♦ A 9	
	♣ A Q 2	
♠ Q J 10 3	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K 7 6
♥ 7		♥ Q J 9 8 3
♦ K J 8 3		♦ 7
♣ K 10 6 3		♣ J 9 8 7
	♠ A 8 2	
	♥ 6 4	
	♦ Q 10 6 5 4 2	
	♣ 5 4	

West	North	East	South
Chen	Bompis	Zhao	Vinciguerra
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Dble	Rdbl	2♣	2♦
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

The cards do not lie kindly for N/S and the trick is to stay low. When Chen doubled the wide-ranging 1NT response for take-out of hearts, Bompis redoubled to show strength and Zhao ran to 2♣. That would have been down only one but of course Vinciguerra was not going to defend when holding a limited hand including a six-card suit and duly bid 2♦. Had Bompis been able to read that for what it actually was, a weak hand with a long suit, passing would have netted +110 and an above average score, but with 17 good points he went on with 2NT and that ended the auction. Chen led the three of clubs and Vinciguerra put up dummy's ace and played ace and another diamond. The news was not good, as Zhao showed out and Chen won the jack. Chen returned the queen of spades, ducked, then the ♠3 to the king and ace. Vinciguerra tried a heart to the ten, losing to the jack, and Zhao returned a club. Chen won the king and cashed two spade winners. Declarer had a club and two hearts to come so was down two for -100 and zero MPs.





Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Chen	Huang	Zhao	Dwyer
–	1NT	All Pass	

Huang opened 1NT and played there. Zhao led the ace of diamonds to take a look at dummy and that collected the two, eight and a falsecard nine. Zhao continued with a low diamond to the jack and queen and Huang played a third diamond straight back at him when it might have been wiser to start on the spades. Zhao won the king of diamonds and returned the two of clubs. Chen won the ace and continued with a low club but, fortunately from Huang's perspective, his jack won the trick and he could now play on spades and establish nine tricks for +150 and, the same score as everyone else so 5 MPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Chen	Huang	Zhao	Dwyer
–	–	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Dwyer's 1♦ was Precision and the 2♠ response invitational with both majors. When Dwyer invited game Huang accepted and Zhao led the two of clubs.

Huang won dummy's ace, pitching a heart from hand. He played a heart, Chen winning the nine and returning the jack of diamonds, which did Huang no harm at all. The diamond was covered all around and Huang played a second diamond towards his ten. Chen ruffed and returned a heart to force dummy to ruff so declarer would not be able to draw trumps then unblock diamonds and get to the rest of the diamond winners. Huang ruffed the heart, ruffed a club, took a second heart ruff, and cashed the top spades, just losing a heart at the end. Ten trick meant +620 and 8 MPs to the American pair.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Chen	Huang	Zhao	Dwyer
–	–	–	1♥
Pass	2NT	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Dwyer became declarer in 4♥ after Zhao had shown his spades. Chen therefore led the three of spades to the queen and ace and Dwyer ruffed a spade then led a heart to the jack and queen. He ruffed his last spade then played a second heart and had 12 tricks for +480 and 6 MPs.



KEVIN DWYER, USA



Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Chen	Huang	Zhao	Dwyer
Pass	1♣	2♣	Pass
4♣	Dble	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Huang's 1♣ opening was strong so Zhao could make a natural 2♣ overcall and Chen could raise that preemptively to 4♣. Huang doubted and Dwyer responded in his four-card major rather than the longer diamonds. I may not be correct, but my approach would be to bid the four-card major if I had a few bits and pieces in hope of getting the game bonus, but would bid the longer minor with a weak hand, when all I want is to maximise my chance to make something or go down the minimum. Anyway, Dwyer was in 4♠ and that was not a lot of fun. Chen led the seven of clubs, third and fifth, and Zhao won the king then returned a low club so his partner could win the queen and push a diamond through. Dwyer played low so Zhao won the king and returned a diamond to dummy's ace. Dwyer cashed the top spades and when the queen fell had to decide whether to play for spades to be four-two, when he could get out for down two by playing side-suit winners, or play a third spade which would result in only one down if the suit was three-three. He took a while but then played a third spade and Chen could win the jack then play defensive winners to force out his last trump and now the contract was down four for -400 and zero matchpoints. Settling for down two would have scored only 2 MPs.

Chen/Zhao still led but only narrowly from another Chinese pair, Dai/Yang.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Yang	Stefanov	Dai	Nanev
–	1♠	2♥	4♠
5♥	All Pass		

Stefanov opened 1♠, Dai overcalled 2♥, and Nanev jumped to 4♠. All very normal, but what should West do? I would have thought a value-showing double fitted the bill on a totally balanced hand containing 10 HCP including two aces, but Yang chose to bid 5♥, which ended the auction. Nanev led the queen of spades then a second spade, Dai ruffing and leading a diamond to the queen followed by the ten of hearts. When Stefanov played low, so did Dai, losing to the bare jack. He ruffed the spade return and played ♣K then the ♣10 to the ace before taking a second heart finesse. This one was successful, of course, but there was a trick to be lost in each minor so the contract was down two for -200 and only 2 MPs.



DAI JIANMING, CHINA





Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Yang	Stefanov	Dai	Nanev
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Yang opened 1NT then completed the transfer and played in 2♥. Stefanov led the king of clubs and Nanev allowed him to hold the trick. Stefanov continued with the queen of clubs, Nanev winning the ace and returning a diamond. Yang won the ace and played the queen of hearts to the king and ace followed by the two of spades to the eight, king and ace. Stefanov cashed the jack of clubs then switched to a spade for his partner's king and Nanev got out safely with a third spade. Yang could ruff that in dummy but had to lose two trump tricks and was down two for -100 and zero MPs.

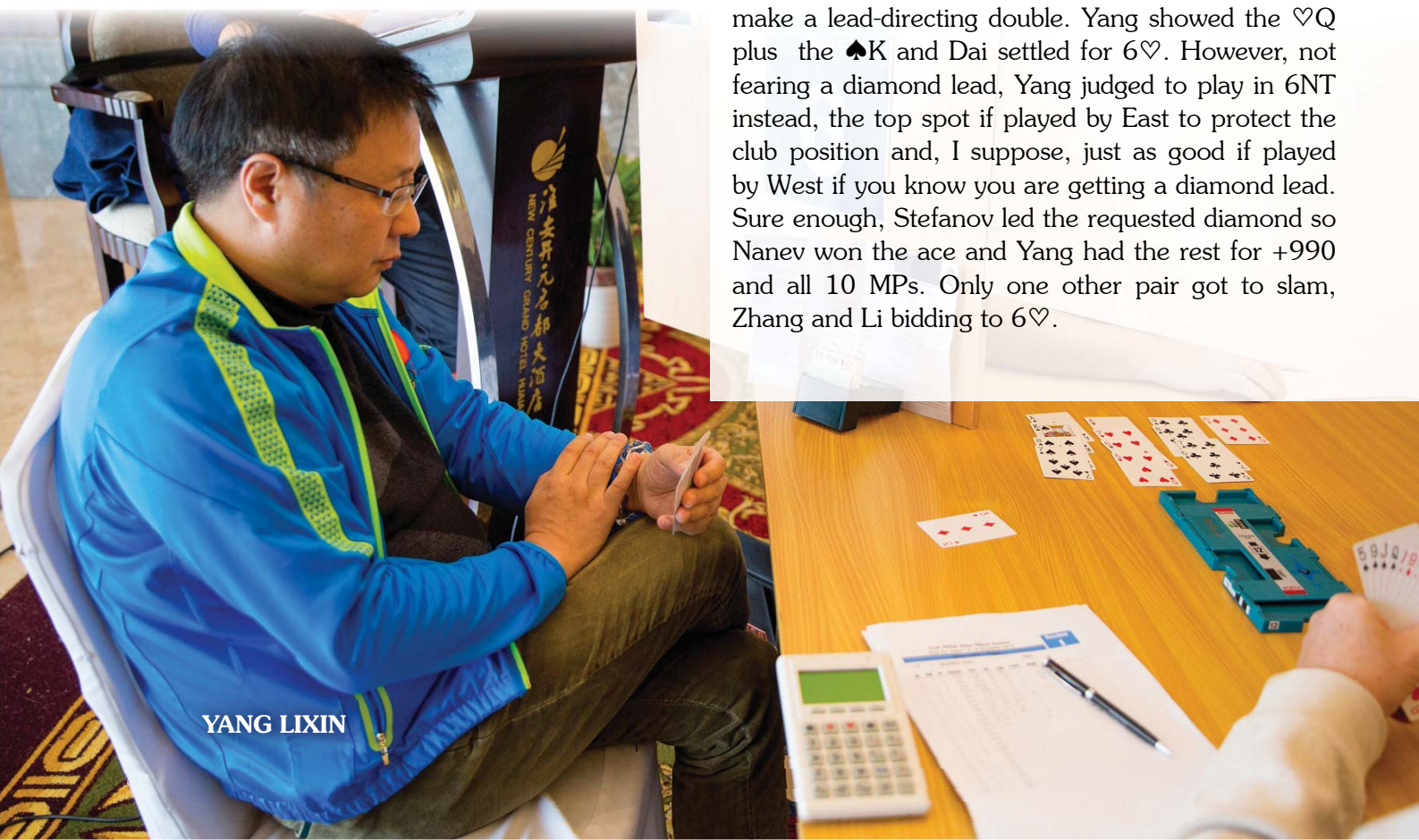
Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Yang	Stefanov	Dai	Nanev
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Dble
5NT	Pass	6♥	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Yang opened 1♥, reversed into spades then showed the sixth heart. He marked time over Dai's 3♠ cuebid but then admitted to a diamond control at his next turn and that was all Dai needed to hear. Dai asked for key cards, discovering one, then asked about the queen of trumps and Nanev took the opportunity to make a lead-directing double. Yang showed the ♥Q plus the ♠K and Dai settled for 6♥. However, not fearing a diamond lead, Yang judged to play in 6NT instead, the top spot if played by East to protect the club position and, I suppose, just as good if played by West if you know you are getting a diamond lead. Sure enough, Stefanov led the requested diamond so Nanev won the ace and Yang had the rest for +990 and all 10 MPs. Only one other pair got to slam, Zhang and Li bidding to 6♥.



YANG LIXIN



Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Yang	Stefanov	Dai	Nanev
1♥	Pass	1♠	3♦
4♦	Dble	4♠	All Pass

When Nanev made a weak jump overcall, Yang stretched slightly to show his diamond shortage and spade support. Dai, of course, had no interest in greater things and quickly signed off in 4♠. Nanev led the king of diamonds, Stefanov overtaking to switch to three rounds of clubs. The third round was ruffed and over-ruffed with the queen and now Dai could play ace of spades and a spade to the king, ruff a second diamond and cash the top hearts. He next ruffed a heart, drew the outstanding trump and cashed his club winners so had 10 tricks for +620 and 9 MPs. The play is much more challenging if the defence just continues diamonds at trick two.



JULIAN STEFANOV, BULGARIA

Going into the final round, it was still Chen/Zhao from Dai/Yang, with Rombaut/Reess still having a slim chance.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nanev	Zhao	Stefanov	Chen
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Dble	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	2♦	All Pass


Nanev's 1♣ was strong and Zhao's double, I think, showed both majors. When Chen responded 1NT to the double, Nanev passed it round to his partner who competed with 2♦ and played there. Chen led the four of clubs, Zhao winning the ace and switching to the two of diamonds to the jack, queen and ace. Stefanov cashed the top hearts and, when the queen fell, continued with the ♥J. Chen ruffed then erred by cashing the ♦K before switching to a spade. That ceded control to Stefanov, who would win the ace, ruff out the heart and get back to dummy by ruffing his ♣K to cash the winning heart. Away went the spade loser so Stefanov had 10 tricks for +130 and 6 MPs.

West	North	East	South
Yang	Pszczola	Dai	Sakr
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
Dble	1♠	Pass	2♣
2♥	4♣	4♦	All Pass

Sakr opened the South hand then repeated her long suit and that allowed Pszczola to jump to 4♣ in support. Four Clubs would have been down two, but Dai competed with 4♦ and that turned a plus into a minus. Sakr led her partner's suit and the queen of spades proved to be devastating to declarer's hopes. Dai was down two for –100 and only 3 MPs.



Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nanev	Zhao	Stefanov	Chen
—	—	3♣	Pass
5♣	Dble	Pass	5♥
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
7♣	Dble	All Pass	

I like weak pre-empts, but having put your opponents under pressure and made them guess you can't then take the last guess yourself and assume that they have guessed right. Nanev raised 3♣ to 5♣ and Zhao doubled. When he next converted 5♥ to 5♠, Chen assumed that he had a better hand and made a grand slam try by cuebidding 6♣. Zhao signed off but there were two aces missing so the E/W barrage had done its work. Not to worry, as Nanev came riding to the rescue by taking the save, so trusting was he of his opponents' judgement. True, Stefanov could have held the ♣A instead of the ♥A, but his partner was surely familiar with his pre-empting style? Anyway, instead of going plus on defence, the Bulgarians were down four in 7♣ doubled, losing a trick in each suit; -800 and zero MPs instead of all 10.

West	North	East	South
Yang	Pszczola	Dai	Sakr
—	—	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
2NT	3♥	All Pass	

Sakr opened a wild and woolly multi 2♦, not caring that she was playable in two other suits. Cold for 11 tricks in the other major, the American pair got only to 3♥ when Pszczola first bid a pass or correct 2♥ then competed to 3♥ over 2NT. He made 10 tricks for +170 but that was worth only 2 MPs.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nanev	Zhao	Stefanov	Chen
—	—	—	1♣
1♥	Dble	2♥	3♣
3♥	Dble	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Chen opened 1♣ and when Nanev overcalled 1♥ Zhao doubled as a transfer to spades. Chen rebid his clubs and Zhao, rather than do likewise with his spades, doubled 3♥ to show extras. Chen bid 3NT and that was that. Nanev led a heart to the bare ace. Chen took the club finesse and now Nanev needed to give up on beating the contract and switch to ace and another diamond to salvage some matchpoints. But there was nothing in the auction to suggest that declarer could run both black suits and Nave continued with a second heart. Chen won, cashed the clubs then the spades, and had 12 tricks for +490 and all 10 MPs.

West	North	East	South
Yang	Pszczola	Dai	Sakr
—	—	—	1♣
2♥	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Sakr/Pszczola had a straightforward auction in which Sakr showed her doubleton spade support and Pszczola played in the spade game. Pszczola won the heart lead, drew trumps then took the club finesse. Yang played ace and another diamond so he was held to 10 tricks for +420 but only 3 MPs.



Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nanev	Zhao	Stefanov	Chen
Pass	1♠	Dble	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Stefanov doubled and Nanev bid his longer suit, which worked out very well for the Bulgarians as he could now splinter when Stefanov showed his hearts and a hand too good for an initial overcall. Stefanov might have gone a little more slowly on another day – who knows? – but it was the final deal and he just blasted 6♥. The lead was the ten of spades to the queen and ace and back came a second spade to the nine and jack. Stefanov led the jack of hearts (the way to cater to a three-zero split onside) and when that got covered by the king won the ace and queen then claimed for +1430 and all 10 MPs, not the final result Chen and Zhao wanted as they battled to win the championship.



JACEK PSZCZOLA, USA

West	North	East	South
Yang	Pszczola	Dai	Sakr
Pass	1♠	Dble	Pass
2♥	3♣	4♥	All Pass

Yang responded 2♥ to the double and that worked out less well as Dai simply raised him to game after Pszczola had shown his second suit. Yang too made 12 tricks but that was worth only +680 and 5 MPs.

When the smoke had cleared we discovered that Yunlong Chen and Zhao Jie had survived that final board and had won the second IMSA Elite Mind Games Open Pairs Championship and the 10,000 Euro first prize – not too shabby for two days' work. Second were Jianming Dai and Lixin Yang, with Jerome Rombaut and Vanessa Reess of France in third place.



The great volunteers of the Bridge event
Front (from left to right): Xu Yan, Qi Miaomiao, Yang Shuyue
Back (from left to right): Wu Zidan, Pan Yijun, Xu Chi



OPEN INDIVIDUAL - SESSION 1

by **Brian Senior**

And so the Individual, in which every player partners every other player in the field for three deals, 69 deals in all split over three sessions. The players are not used to playing in Individual competition so it tests a different skill to the usual partnership game. Everyone must play the same methods, even when facing a regular partner, so system should not play a part in deciding the outcome.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zhao	Sakr	Rombaut	Lall
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Dble	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♠	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Lall only responded to the take-out double with a simple 1♥ bid, as no doubt would we all, but then competed with 3♥ over 2♠ and Sakr imagined his holding a much better heart suit so, looking at 20 HCP, raised him to an awful game. Zhao led his diamond round to Lall's ten. Lall led a heart up and Zhao won the ace then cashed the ace of spades and continued with the ♠Q. Lall won the king and played a heart to the king but now had no way back to hand to play a third trump and the defence came to the jack and queen of hearts separately when he took a spade pitch on the ♣K then played a third club; down one for –50 and 5 MPs.

There is another route to four defensive tricks but only if East can gain the lead to push a spade through the king. Can this be achieved? Yes, though it takes a fair degree of inspiration from West, who must put in the queen when declarer leads a heart towards the king. Now East will gain the lead with the jack of hearts and the contract is again defeated.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
Reess	Huang	Pszczola	Rombaut
–	–	Pass	1♠
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	Pass
2♦	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Reess made a take-out double of Rombaut's 1♠ opener and soon regretted it. Huang redoubled then doubled for penalty when Pszczola left Reess to decide how to get out of the mess she had unwittingly created. Reess bid 2♦ and Huang doubled for penalty so Pszczola now made an SOS redouble and Reess ran to 2♥. Rombaut doubled that and everyone passed with varying degrees of contentment. Huang led the jack of hearts and Rombaut gave up the third defensive heart trick to draw trumps, winning the king and ace then playing a third round. Reess won the ♥Q and cashed the seven to draw the missing trump, then led the queen of clubs. Huang won the king and led the nine of spades to the ace, dropping declarer's king. Rombaut switched to a diamond. Reess won the ace and played the ten of clubs so Huang won the ace and led his remaining spade to Rombaut's eight. Rombaut cashed two more spades and the contract was down three for –800 but 7 MPs, as everyone went for either 800 or 1100 on the E/W cards.






Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Li	Dwyer	Zhao	Pszczola
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Dble	2♦
Dble	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

When Pszczola made a simple diamond raise, Li made a responsive double but, when Dwyer's reraise to 3♦ came back to him he bid his five-card spade suit and played in 3♠. If the defence starts by attacking declarer's weaknesses they can prevail, but Dwyer cashed a top club and it was then too late. Dwyer switched to a diamond at trick two but Li could win the ace, draw trumps and lead a club towards the queen-jack. One of his red losers had to go away on the clubs now so the contract was just made for +140 and 9 MPs.


Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Chen	Lall	Mihov	Zhang
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Dble	Rdbl	1♠
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

I think the no trump obsession is overdone at matchpoints. Here, 11 tricks are made on any lead in a heart contract while, with two key cards to knock out, the defence has two chances to find the killing diamond attack in no trump, with an initial diamond lead beating 3NT while the delayed diamond lead holds it to nine tricks, again for a poor score. Sure enough, Zhang led a diamond and that was down one for -50 and zero MPs.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Chen	Lall	Mihov	Zhang
1♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Lall passed over 1♦ but Zhang had a classic double in fourth seat. Lall cuebid then bid spades and Zhang raised to game. Mihov led the jack of hearts, ducked to Chen's king, and Chen switched to a trump. That went to the ten and ace and Lall led a club to his queen followed by ace and ruff a diamond and a second club up. Chen rose with the ace and gave his partner a club ruff to hold the contract to 10; +620 and 5 MPs.



VLADIMIR MIHOV, BULGARIA



Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Lorenzini	Lall	Aronov
—	—	3♣	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Pre-empts cause problems. OK, you knew that already. Here Lall opened 3♣ and when that came round to Lorenzini he overcalled 3NT and played there. Lall led the queen of clubs, Mihov winning the ace and switching to the king of spades and, when that was ducked, continued with the ♠Q. This time Lorenzini won the ace and he now led the jack of hearts and ran it, losing to the queen. Mihov cashed three spade tricks then switched to a diamond and Lorenzini had to lose one of those in the endgame so was down three for -150 and 2 MPs.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Lorenzini	Lall	Aronov
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	2♥	All Pass

Lall overcalled 2♥ and played there. Aronov led the queen of spades, ducked, and continued with the nine of spades to Lall's jack. Lall crossed to the ace of diamonds to lead the eight of hearts and run it, so

Aronov won the queen and returned a diamond to declarer's ace. Lall knocked out the ace of hearts now and had to lose the fourth spade at the end so had an overtrick for +140 but only 3 MPs.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Stefanov	Nanev	Dwyer	Lall
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

I was surprised that Nanev didn't bid 3NT at his third turn to complete the pattern of his hand, but in theory it made no difference as both 3NT and 5♣ make exactly on careful defence. When Nanev instead bid 3♦, Lall jumped to the club game. Dwyer cashed the top hearts so there was no danger of letting through an overtrick; 11 tricks for +400 and 5 MPs.



BRAD MOSS & JUSTIN LALL, USA



Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Stefanov	Nanev	Dwyer	Lall
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

I really don't like the Jacoby 2NT response with three little hearts, much preferring 1♠. Lall rebid 3♥, showing willingness to discuss slam possibilities, and Nanev cuebid twice, after which Lall checked on key cards and bid the poor slam (it is only the jack of hearts away from being a good contract). Stefanov led a diamond so Lall won and led a heart to the ten, losing to the king. He won the diamond return and led a heart to the jack and queen, drew trumps and cashed the spades. The club finesse lost so he was one down for -100 and zero MPs.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Lall	Li	Aronov	Pszczola
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♥	Dble	Pass
3♠	4♦	All Pass	

Li started with a simple heart raise but then bid again when his opponents bid to 3♠. But why, if North must bid again, can that second action not be a double? Partner will know you are not doubling on spades, but on this deal can pass and go plus instead of watching North go down in 4♦ or going down himself in 4♥. Pszczola passed 4♦ and Aronov led out four rounds of clubs. Li ruffed with dummy's jack, drew trumps and played hearts from the top, going two down for -100 and zero MPs, as every other N/S pair went plus.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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




West	North	East	South
Lall	Li	Aronov	Pszczola
1♥	Pass	2♥	Dble
Pass	2♠	3♥	All Pass

There are 15 total trumps and 15 total tricks (assuming perfect defence). Two Spades can be defeated, though you can see how it might not be. Li led a spade against 3♥. Pszczola won a deceptive ace in case the spade honours were reversed, and continued with the nine of spades to the jack and queen. Li switched to a diamond to the seven, ten and ace, and when Pszczola won the ace of clubs he had two kings to cash for down one; -100 and 7 MPs.





Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lall	Li	Aronov	Pszczola
–	1♦	2♠	Dble
4♠	6♣	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Pszczola made a negative double of the weak jump overcall and Lall raised to 4♠. When Li leaped to 6♣, Pszczola gave preference to 6♦ and, having put on the pressure, E/W left there opponents to play there, hoping that they had misjudged. Not this time, as 6♦ was exactly where N/S wanted to be. Aronov led the ace of spades but that was ruffed. Li drew trumps and ruffed out the clubs, losing just one heart trick; +1370 and 7 MPs.


West	North	East	South
Rombaut	Sakr	Moss	Chen
– 2♣	3♠	Pass	
4♦	Dble	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

It was much harder here after Sakr's strong and artificial 2♣ opening. Moss jumped to 3♠ and, after a pass from Chen, Rombaut decided to lay claim to the diamond suit. Though Sakr doubled, intended as being for penalty, things were rather murky after this. Rombaut ran to 4♠ and Sakr left that round to Chen. He bid 4NT and now she jumped to 6♣ and, no doubt somewhat lost as to what exactly was going on, Chen left her to play there. There was a trump to be lost as well as the ace of hearts so 6♣ was down one for –100 and zero MPs.

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	Huang	Bompis	Karakolev
–	1♦	2♠	Pass
4♠	6♣	Dble	6♦
Pass	Pass	6♠	Dble
All Pass			

Huang opened at the one level and Bompis made the weak jump overcall. Karakolev did not find a negative double on the South cards but Huang blasted 6♣ anyway over Dwyer's pre-emptive spade raise. Bompis doubled that and Karakolev corrected to 6♦. When Dwyer was unable to double 6♦, Bompis did well by saving in 6♠. Karakolev doubled and led a diamond. Huang won that and played three rounds of clubs for Karakolev to ruff, and there was still a loser to come in each major suit. Still, five down for –1100 was a good save against the cold slam and earned Dwyer/Bompis 8 MPs.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	Rombaut	Karakolev	Lall
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Rombaut gave his opponents a blind lead by responding 3NT to the 1♣ opening bid but Karakolev got it right. He led the ten of diamonds rather than his four-card spade suit, and that netted four quick tricks for the defence so Rombaut made only nine for +600 and zero MPs. On any other lead declarer has three overtricks and no other defender found the diamond lead.

A poor finish to the session saw early leader Justin Lall slip to third, just behind the two Chinese joint-leaders, Jianwei Li and Yunlong Chen, who both scored 60.83%. There were two more sessions to play, 45 more boards.





BRIEF ENCOUNTER

by **Mark Horton**

Brief Encounter is a 1945 British romantic drama film directed by David Lean about British suburban life on the eve of World War 2, centering on Laura (Celia Johnson) a married woman with children, whose conventional life becomes increasingly complicated because of a chance meeting at a railway station with a stranger, Alec (Trevor Howard). They fall in love, bringing about unexpected consequences.

The screenplay is by Noël Coward, based on his 1936 one-act play *Still Life*. The soundtrack prominently features Piano Concerto No. 2 by Sergei Rachmaninoff, played by Eileen Joyce, a piece that is always number 1 or 2 in the Classic FM chart of the 300 most popular works.

Brief Encounter was met with wide praise from critics upon its release, and is today considered to be among Lean's finest works. In 1999, the British Film Institute voted *Brief Encounter* the second greatest British film of all time (the winner was *The Third Man*).

The Individual Championships are a real challenge – you get to play just three deals with 23 different partners – that what I call a Brief Encounter.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Draper	Liu	Hu	Wang
—	—	Pass	1♠
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	Pass
2♦	Dble	All Pass	

North led the jack of hearts and South won with the king and switched to the seven of clubs. Three rounds of that suit saw South ruff and exit with a diamond. Declarer won with the ace and exited with the king of

spades. South won and returned the queen, declarer ruffing and exiting with a heart. North won with the ten and returned the queen of diamonds. Declarer won and exited with a heart, and South won and played the jack of spades, North's trumps taking the last three tricks for +1400 – no prizes for guessing the matchpoints.

West	North	East	South
Brock	Clementsson	Gronkvist	Shen
—	—	Pass	1♠
Dble	Rdbl	2♣	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Hoping to strike her partner's suit, East led the four of diamonds and West won with the king and returned the seven, declarer winning with the queen as East discarded the two of hearts. The nine of spades went to West's king and she returned the ten of clubs. Declarer won with the ace and played the jack of diamonds. West could win and play a club, but declarer could win, cash a diamond and play a spade to the eight for +430 but only 2/8.

Despite the fact that it is 04.15 in Sutton Benger I suddenly had a thought, suppose West had been dealt the ♠K10 doubleton and had won the first spade with the king – wouldn't that be something.



WANG WENFEI, CHINA



Board 7. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ A J 10 8 4	<div style="background-color: #e06666; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K Q 8
♥ A 9 8 6		♥ J 4 3
♦ 9 8		♦ A 7
♣ 6 3		♣ Q J 7 4
♠ 6 2		
♥ Q 10 5		
♦ K J 4 3		
♣ 9 8 5 2		

West	North	East	South
Larsson	Senior	Shen	Wang
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Dble	2♦
4♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

South led a diamond and declarer took North's queen with the ace, took two rounds of trumps ending in dummy and exited with a diamond. North won with the ten and cashed the ace of clubs, four, five, three. The standard system says that order of signals is Hi/lo is even, Hi is encouraging and then suit preference. When North continued with the king of clubs declarer could pitch two of dummy's hearts on the ♣QJ to escape for one down, -100, 6/4.

West	North	East	South
Huang	Sanborn	Liu	Cappelletti
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Dble	2♦
3♠	All Pass		

The late Barry Crane is reported as saying that 'God dealt you an AK so you didn't have a lead problem' but here leading the ace of clubs gave away a vital tempo. North switched to a diamond, but declarer won in dummy, cashed the jack and ten of spades and played a club for +140 and a complete top.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ A J 8 4	<div style="background-color: #e06666; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q 6 5 2
♥ K Q 6 4 3		♥ 8 5 2
♦ 9 8 6		♦ K Q
♣ K		♣ 10 9 5 3
♠ K 10 9 7 3		
♥ A 10		
♦ A J 7		
♣ Q 8 6		
♠ —		
♥ J 9 7		
♦ 10 5 4 3 2		
♣ A J 7 4 2		

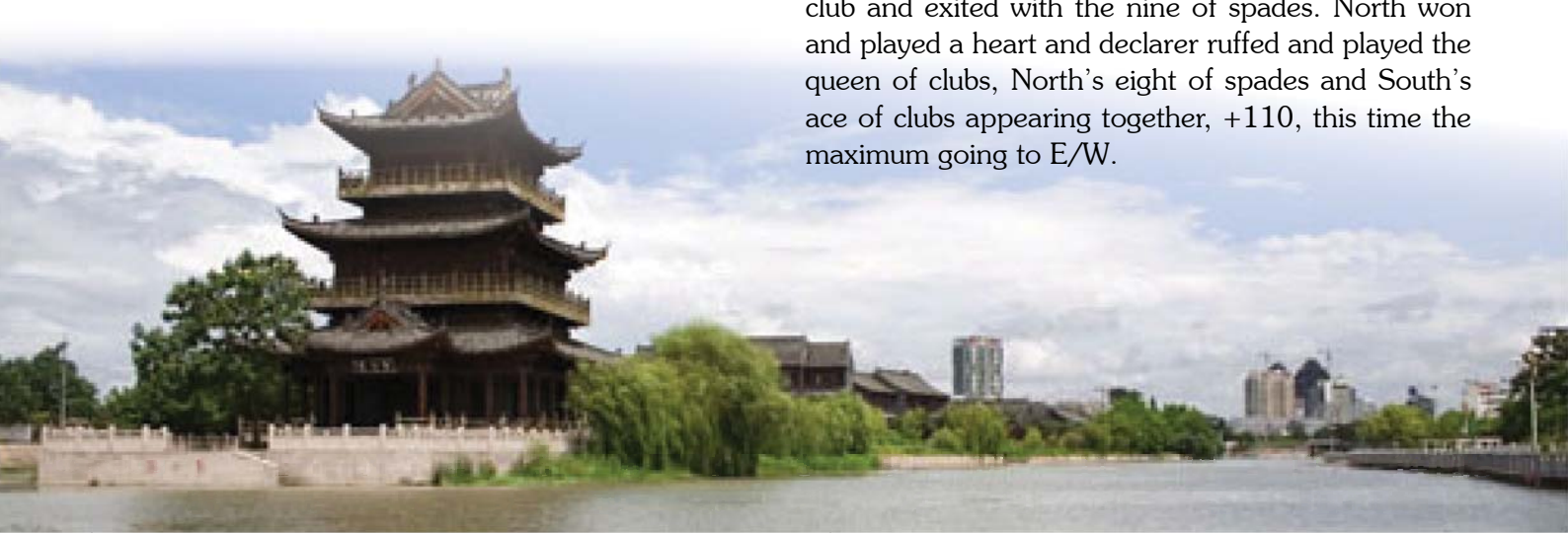
West	North	East	South
Larsson	Senior	Shen	Wang
—	1♥	Pass	3♥
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

South's jump raise proved to be a telling blow.

North led the king of hearts and declarer won and played the king of spades, North taking the ace as South pitched the seven of clubs. That saw North switch to the king of clubs and then play the three of hearts. South won with the jack, cashed the ace of clubs and gave North a club ruff, two down, -500 and a maximum for N/S.

West	North	East	South
Huang	Sanborn	Liu	Cappelletti
—	1♥	Pass	2♥
Dble	Pass	2♠	All Pass

South led the seven of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a spade to the queen, South discarding the seven of clubs. A spade to the ten (four of clubs from South) saw North win and play two rounds of hearts, declarer ruffing and exiting with a low club. North won with the king and tried a fourth heart, so declarer ruffed in hand pitching a club from dummy, played three rounds of diamonds throwing a club and exited with the nine of spades. North won and played a heart and declarer ruffed and played the queen of clubs, North's eight of spades and South's ace of clubs appearing together, +110, this time the maximum going to E/W.





Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ A 9 8		♠ 6
♥ A J 2		♥ 9 6 5 3
♦ A 10 4 3 2		♦ K 8
♣ K 8		♣ Q J 10 9 7 4
♠ K Q J 10 4	<div style="background-color: #e06666; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 7 5 3 2
♥ Q 7		♥ K 10 8 4
♦ Q J 7 6		♦ 9 5
♣ A 3		♣ 6 5 2

West	North	East	South
Hu	Senior	Clementsson	Rimstedt C
—	—	3♣	Pass
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

East's pre-emptive strike proved to be a big winner when West doubled 3NT.

West won the club lead with the ace and switched to the king of spades. Declarer ducked, took the next spade and exited with the nine. West won and cashed her spades, East parting with two of her hearts. Declarer won the club exit and could claim seven tricks, -500 and a shared top at 1/9.

West	North	East	South
Lu	Larsson	Cappelletti	S.-Molson
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	Dble	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	All Pass

South led the nine of diamonds and North won and returned the two to dummy's king. A heart to the queen and ace saw North win, cash the ace of spades and exit with a diamond. Declarer ruffed with the queen of clubs, crossed to the ace of clubs and played winning spades, pitching hearts from her hand. When North elected to ruff the fourth round with the ♣K declarer was home, +110, but still 8/2 for N/S.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A J 9 5		♠ 10 6 4 3 2
♥ 6 5 3		♥ J 7
♦ A K		♦ J 10 5 3
♣ J 7 5 4		♣ 6 2
♠ 8	<div style="background-color: #e06666; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K Q 7
♥ K 8 2		♥ A Q 10 9 4
♦ Q 8 7 4 2		♦ 9 6
♣ K 10 9 8		♣ A Q 5

West	North	East	South
Gronkvist	Brown	S.-Molson	Rimstedt C
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

4NT looks like an overbid facing a 15-17 1NT. At another table North's partner, Sally Brock, rebid 3NT for +660, dead average as two pairs recorded +680.

The heart suit played for one loser, but that meant declarer needed the club finesse, -100.

On Board 19 N/S held ♠J ♥743 ♦AKQ72 ♣9832 facing ♠Q54 ♥AKJ85 ♦J5 ♣765. At the tables I could see South opened 1♥, North responded 2♦ (promising a second bid according to the system) and when South rebid 2NT North jumped to 4♥. Where South rebid 2♥ North raised to 3♥ and South went on to game (perhaps thinking 2♦ was game forcing?). They scored 1/9 and 4/6 depending on how many they went down.

Sanna
Clemensson





Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Eythorsdottir</i>
—	1♦	2♠	Dble
4♠	7♣	Pass	7♦
7♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Looking at an ace West's decision to sacrifice was brave.

It reminded me of this story:

At the Chess Olympiad in Varna in 1962 the Hungarian Grandmaster Lajos Portisch introduced a new move against Argentina's Miguel Najdorf. Taken aback, Najdorf's first reaction was inward despair; then he thought, 'Portisch has won this pawn through playing a new move, introducing an entirely new concept in a variation which has been played hundreds of times. I say that if a new move is introduced, there are only two possibilities: either it's a genius move, or it's an idiot move. A genius is born every hundred years, an idiot every day.'

If you apply that rule to North's jump to 7♣....

If declarer could escape for -1100 she might survive in terms of matchpoints but South led a club and got her ruff, and the defenders high card winners added up to -1400 - and yes, it was a top.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gronkvist</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Wang</i>
—	1♦	2♠	Pass
3♠	5♣	Pass	5♦
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

West though sacrificing was a good idea (-1100 is no fun against a game) and when North made a forcing pass South decided she had enough to bid the slam - right she was, +1370, 6/4.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
Dble	All Pass		

For North (if you recall Board 18) it was déjà vu - and the result was equally depressing as West cashed her winners, +200 and 0/10.

At the end of the first session, Yan Huang was leading from Sandra Rimstedt and Wen Hu.



**RESULTS OPEN INDIVIDUAL****AFTER SESSION 2**

1	LI Jianwei	CHN	57.29
2	VINCIGUERRA Herve	FRA	55.42
3	YANG Lixin	CHN	54.58
4	MIHOV Vladimir	BUL	54.17
5	LALL Justin	USA	53.54
6	ZHANG Bangxiang	CHN	52.71
7	STEFANOV Julian	BUL	52.50
8	PSZCZOLA Jacek	USA	51.88
9	ROMBAUT Jerome	FRA	51.46
10	KARAKOLEV Georgi	BUL	51.04
11	DAI Jianming	CHN	51.04
12	ARONOV Victor	BUL	50.83
13	LORENZINI Cedric	FRA	50.83
14	CHEN Yunlong	CHN	49.58
15	REESS Vanessa	FRA	49.58
16	HUANG Shan	USA	49.58
17	CHEN Gang	CHN	48.54
18	DWYER Kevin	USA	48.54
19	NANEV Ivan	BUL	47.50
20	SAKR May	USA	46.67
21	ZHAO Jie	CHN	46.46
22	BOMPIS Marc	FRA	44.38
23	DAMIANOVA Diana	BUL	41.04
24	MOSS Brad	USA	40.83

RESULTS WOMEN INDIVIDUAL**AFTER SESSION 2**

1	HUANG Yan	CHN	59.17
2	SHEN (1) Qi	CHN	56.46
3	WEINGOLD Joanne	USA	54.79
4	BROCK Sally	ENG	54.17
5	RIMSTEDT Sandra	SWE	53.54
6	RIMSTEDT Cecilia	SWE	53.33
7	WANG Wen Fei	CHN	52.92
8	SOKOLOW Tobi	USA	52.50
9	CLEMENTSSON Sanna	SWE	52.29
10	BROWN Fiona	ENG	49.58
11	LARSSON Jessica	SWE	49.58
12	SANBORN Kerri	USA	49.38
13	LIU Yan	CHN	48.96
14	GRONKVIST Ida	SWE	48.54
15	HU Wen	CHN	48.33
16	LU Yan	CHN	48.33
17	EYTHORSDDOTTIR H.	USA	47.71
18	BERTHEAU Kathrine	SWE	47.71
19	CAPPELLETTI Shannon	USA	46.46
20	S.-MOLSON Janice	USA	46.25
21	DRAPER Catherine	ENG	45.83
22	SMITH Nicola	ENG	45.42
23	WANG Nan	CHN	44.38
24	SENIOR Nevena	ENG	44.38