

DAILY BULLETIN

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Issue No. 11

Wednesday, 30th August 2023

A DAY TO REMEMBER

Schedule

BB, VC, DOT, WUC

Semifinals Day I

10.00-12.15

13.15-15.30

16.00-18.15 !!

WTOT

Round of 32

9.30-11:45

12.05-14.20

Round of 16

15.20-17.35

17.55-20.10

BAM

Day I

10.00

13.25

16.10



The Real Deal:

Hélène Vivier, Ismail Rhazzaoui, Beatrice Quattromini, Monica Gorri, Mtital Najmiri, Franco Costa, Solaymane El-Idrissi

It is difficult to recall anything quite like the final session of a series of World Championship Quarterfinals that we witnessed yesterday. It was, as someone almost wrote, 'An extraordinary series of Events'. With multiple slam swings flying in all directions, it was impossible to predict the outcome of any of the close encounters. In the Bermuda Bowl, **Norway** came from behind to defeat **China**, **Switzerland** produced a stunning last session to overcome **Israel**, **USA2** had to withstand a tremendous rally from **USA1** and **Italy** had to overturn a fourth-quarter deficit to get past **Poland**.

In the Venice Cup **Israel** and **Norway** scored famous victories over **Poland** and **Sweden**, while **China** and **Türkiye** withstood spirited rallies by **France** and **USA2**.

In the d'Orsi Trophy, **USA2**, **Denmark** and **Italy** consolidated their overnight advantages against **Norway**, **Italy** and **Sweden**, while **Poland** turned their match around against **Netherlands**.

In the Wuhan Cup **USA2**, **France** and **Belgium** all recorded convincing wins against **USA1**, **China** and **Germany**, while the remaining match was a ding-dong affair, **Romania** squeezing past **Italy** by 2 IMPs.

Paco delivered an imperious performance, winning all ten of their matches to lead the qualifiers in the World Transnational Open Teams Championship, followed by **Orca** and **Aupaleti**. There was drama here too, as the last match to finish saw **Lawrenzo** secure a slam swing on the last board of their match against **Mo Rocco** which lifted them into a qualifying position.

BBO Matches (previsional)





	BBO1	BBO2	BBO3	BBO4
10.00	BB Norway-Italy	BB Switzerland-USA2	VC Israel-China	WUC Belgium-USA2
13.15	BB Switzerland-USA2	BB Norway-Italy	VC Norway-Türkiye	WUC Romania-France
15.50	BB Switzerland-USA2	BB Norway-Italy	VC Israel-China	DOT USA1-USA2



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Bermuda Bowl



Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
 NORWAY	33	27	43	16	58	31	208
 CHINA	14	37	62	36	25	28	202

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
 USA2	27	19	31	54	35	17	183
 USA1	4	43	29	13	18	64	171



 NORWAY	
 ITALY	

 SWITZERLAND	
 USA2	



Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
 POLAND	41	23	34	56	15	11	180
 ITALY	51	44	27	26	49	26	223

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
 SWITZERLAND	33	16	29	51	52	39	220
 ISRAEL	30	36	55	13	47	1	182



Venice Cup

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
 POLAND	31	38	18	40	40	18	185
 ISRAEL	32	31	38	61	23	30	215

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
 TÜRKIYE	45	31	58	32	35	29	230
 USA2	13	24	62	32	41	43	215



 ISRAEL	
 CHINA	



 NORWAY	
 TÜRKIYE	



Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
 FRANCE	7	27	33	12	59	40	178
 CHINA	55	16	29	64	39	33	236



Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
 SWEDEN	23	21	31	40	54	20	189
 NORWAY	37	49	32	29	37	47	231



d'Orsi Trophy


	Team	P	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
	POLAND		6	17	15	41	60	47	186
	NETHERLANDS	6	27	13	9	26	41	32	154

	POLAND
	DENMARK

	Team		1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
	DENMARK		35	57	21	20	34	49	216
	ITALY		2	30	57	24	31	12	156



	USA1
	USA2



	Team	P	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
	USA2		54	40	22	48	22	46	232
	NORWAY	12	20	26	38	32	32	21	181



	Team		1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
	USA1		35	29	48	29	41	32	214
	SWEDEN		24	24	44	35	19	18	164



Wuhan Cup

	Team		1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
	GERMANY		19	44	37	12	26	38	176
	BELGIUM		31	28	38	54	29	51	231

	BELGIUM
	USA2

	Team		1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
	FRANCE		47	43	63	29	72	34	288
	CHINA		36	26	22	41	14	51	190

	ROMANIA
	FRANCE

	Team		1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
	USA2		48	37	19	26	32	54	216
	USA1		4	36	28	37	12	47	164

	Team	P	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
	ROMANIA	3	30	24	29	35	51	19	191
	ITALY		19	23	36	66	29	16	189

WTOT Brackets

1	1		PACO
	32		RABONO CALAMIS

2	16		FRANCE SENIORS
	17		DINKIN

3	9		KNOTTENBELT
	24		LAWRENZO

4	8		REASON
	25		PORTUCOLE

5	5		TEAM BLACK
	28		SLOW HORSES

6	12		INDIA MIXED
	21		PARTYPACK

7	13		POWERSHARK
	20		ROSENTHAL

8	4		CHINA SENIOR
	29		CAMELS

**ALL DONE
GOOD LUCK**

AUPALETI		3	9
TPE SENIORS		30	

IRELAND OPEN		14	10
PAYEN		19	

FINLAND		11	11
INDIA OPEN		22	

BARR		6	12
AUSTRIA		27	

AMISTAD		7	13
BUUS AND BOTT		26	

NO COKE		10	14
BRENO		23	

AUSTRALIA OPEN		15	15
GILLIS		18	

ORCA		2	16
SANTOSHA		31	

WTOT instructions

DRAW

Tie breaking regulation

2. Knockout Stage

If there is a tie at the end of any knockout stage including the finals and play-off no extra session of boards will be played and the higher-ranked team at the end of the qualification will be declared the winner.

If a tie still exists the team that won the qualification match will be declared the winner.

Seating rights

2.2. Round of 32, Round of 16, Quarterfinals, Semifinals, Final and Play off

The seating rights for each stanza will be automatically assigned by the scoring system, using random draw. The following restrictions will apply:

2.2.1. Two stanzas

Each team will have seating rights in one of the two.

2.2.3. Four stanzas

- a) Each team will have seating rights in two stanzas.
- b) The four stanzas are divided in portions of two each: 1-2, 3-4; when a team is assigned seating rights in one stanza of the portion, the other automatically gets the other.
- c) If a team gets seating rights in stanza four, the other will get seating rights in stanza one.
- d) If a team gets seating rights in stanza one, the other will get seating rights in stanza four.

Taking note that the team playing **NS** in the Open Room is designated as **HOME TEAM** and the team playing **EW** in the Open Room is designated as **VISITING TEAM**, these are the seating rights in all matches:

Round of 32: the Home Team has seating rights in stanza one and the Visiting Team has seating rights in stanza two

Round of 16: the Visiting Team has seating rights in stanza one and the Home Team has seating rights in stanza two

Quarter Finals through Final:

Seating rights belong to				
Stanza	1	2	3	4
Quarter Finals	Home Team	Visiting team	Home Team	Visiting team
Semifinals	Visiting team	Home Team	Visiting team	Home Team
Final	Home Team	Visiting team	Home Team	Visiting team

Line Up

In the knock-out phase the team to line-up first must submit its line-up **no later than 10 minutes after the end of the previous session**. The second team must then submit its line-up **no later than 15 minutes after the end of the previous session or no later than 5 minutes after the submission of the first line-up, whichever is latest**.

The deadline for the line up of the first stanza of a match is: 10 pm on August 29th for the Round of 32; **3 pm August 30th for the Round of 16**; 10 pm on August 30st for the Quarter finals; 10 pm on August 31st for the Semifinals, 10 pm on September 1st for the Final and Play-Off.

Maurizio Di Sacco
WBF Operations Director



WTOT Rankings after Round 10

1	PACO	151.84	32	TPE MIXED	102.68
2	ORCA	135.15	34	UAE MIXED	102.67
3	AUPALETI	130.49	35	USA E GETTA	102.08
4	CHINA SENIOR	126.82	36	POLAND MIXT	101.78
5	TEAM BLACK	125.18	37	LANKVELD	101.77
6	BARR	123.47	38	BOKKEROOS	100.37
7	AMISTAD	122.13	39	MASARAHLOU	99.97
8	REASON	120.32	40	NEW ZEALAND OPEN	99.55
9	KNOTTENBELT	119.46	41	VINCIGUERRA	97.29
10	NO COKE	118.85	42	ISRAEL MIXED	97.11
11	FINLAND	117.73	43	INDIAN SENIORS	96.65
12	INDIA MIXED	117.05	44	HAMMELEV	96.41
13	POWERSHARK	116.81	45	NZ MIXED	93.76
14	IRELAND OPEN	114.69	46	BV WALDSOLMS	93.33
15	AUSTRALIA OPEN	114.44	47	TPE WOMEN	92.55
16	FRANCE SENIORS	113.62	48	CANADA MIXED	92.21
17	DINKIN	113.05	49	EL GHRARI	90.53
18	GILLIS	112.35	50	MO ROCCO	90.49
19	BUUS AND BOTT	111.83	51	GEMIGNANI	90.32
20	PAYEN	111.64	52	DRINTEAM	90.09
21	ROSENTHAL	111.34	53	THE DARK KNIGHT	90.06
22	PARTYPACK	111.2	54	PIEDS NOIR AND CO	89.53
23	AUSTRIA	110.32	55	MATILDA PLUS 2	89.3
24	INDIA OPEN	108.87	56	AUSTRALIA MIXED	86.81
25	TPE SENIORS	106.2	57	PIERCE	82.36
26	SANTOSHA	105.42	58	LARBI	81.81
27	BRENO	105.19	59	MADRID	81.8
28	PORTUCOLE	104.88	60	ULI	81.06
29	LAWRENZO	103.06	61	HKG CHINA COMB	80.97
30	RABONO CALAMIS	102.98	62	BLUBJL	80.8
31	SLOW HORSES	102.96	63	MEXICO	80.43
32	CAMELS	102.68	64	4FUN	79.54
			65	KUWAIT	78.22
			66	OIJDA I	77.67
			67	INDIA WOMEN	76.75
			68	QUEENS	76.4
			69	PORTO	75.65
			70	4JACKS	72.85
			71	OIJDA2	50.3
			72	BARBADOS	48.06

Championship specials

The new **dealing machines** used to duplicate the boards during these championships are sold for **€2650**. The **cards** in play are sold for **€80/100** decks. (You can alternatively get new decks for €85/100 decks when you purchase a machine.)



<https://www.jannersten.se/duplication>

The offer is on so long as supply lasts, but no longer than September 2. Email anna@jannersten.com to order. Shipping from Sweden (afterwards) will be charged at cost. Note that you cannot get any of the material used here at the venue (for customs reasons).



*It's FRUIT
time,
it's FUN
time !*



D'Orsi Trophy QF2
Denmark v Italy
Five Double Digit Boards



by Martin Cantor

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Pulga	D Scholtz	Mina	P Scholtz
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♥*	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
1♣	2+♣, 11-14 balanced or unbalanced		
1♥	Spades		

The trumps break 4-1 and the clubs, your secondary source of tricks, break 4-2, but you can still come to ten tricks in spades. Maybe it's just me, but there seem to have been an awful lot of singleton trump kings in these championships, mostly sat under the ace. As Peter discovered when, after he ducked the opening diamond



Aldo Mina, Italy

lead, Mina switched to a trump, the king appeared, and Peter won in dummy and cashed the jack. Now ♣A, ♣K and a club ruffed with the ♠9, overruffed, spade returned and ten tricks claimed.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hansen	Buratti	Schou	Failla
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣*	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
1♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

North South weren't going to get rich from 1♦x, nor from 1♥x if EW had run there. But then nor did they get rich from 2♠. Either of them might have done more; OK Buratti has an eight loser hand, but he has aces. Failla may have only 11 hcp but he has just 6 losers, so I give him more of the blame. The play is not particularly worth recording, it ended with ten tricks for Italy but 10 IMPs for Denmark

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Pulga	D Scholtz	Mina	P Scholtz
Pass	Pass	1♣*	4♥
Dble	Pass	6♣	All Pass
1♣	2+♣, balanced 12-14, may be 4♣+4♦, 4+♣ 11-23		

Peter could see, just as well as we can, that 6♥ would be at worst five down for -1100, so a decent save against +1370 - if 6♣ was going to make. But, having made the opponents guess at a high level, it might not make, and you have three attractive leads to choose from. Peter tried the diamond singleton, but declarer could win, draw trumps then run some more trumps, and in the fullness of time cross to dummy in diamonds for the spade finesse and his slam.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hansen	Buratti	Schou	Failla
Pass	Pass	1♣*	4♥
Dble	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

1♣ 2+♣, 11+, only 2♣ if 4432 w. 11-14

The Danish pair didn't get close. No alert of 5♦, at least on VuGraph, and since Schou passed it presumably he, at least, thought it was natural. A heart lead and continuation ruffed in dummy. ♣A, club ruffed, ♦A K, spade finesse but still two trumps to lose and down 1, Italy a big 16 IMPs.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Pulga	D Schaltz	Mina	P Schaltz
—	—	1♣*	1♥
3♦	3♥	4♦	4♥
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣, balanced 12-14, may be 4♣+4♦, 4+♣ 11-23

Single dummy you would fancy your chances here, with prospects of getting a club loser away on the spades. It wasn't to be. Pulga led the ♦A, then played the ♣7, Mina playing the ♣10 and declarer winning. Trumps were drawn in two rounds, ending in dummy, and diamonds eliminated. Now came a spade to the jack and queen, but Mina accurately returned his ♠3, declarer's ♠10 winning but when that suit failed to break there were still two losers.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hansen	Buratti	Schou	Failla
—	—	1♣*	2♥
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♣
3♦	4♥	All Pass	

1♣ 2+♣, 11+, only 2♣ if 4432 w. 11-14

Hansen led the ♣7, and Schou took the ace to play the ♦K, overtaken by West who switched to the ♠8. Declarer took the ace, drew trumps, eliminated the diamonds, and ran the trumps to force East to discard either a top spade or a club. Either way he would get ten tricks and 12 IMPs. For the record it was the ♠Q that Schou discarded.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Pulga	D Schaltz	Mina	P Schaltz
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♥*	3♥	Pass
4♥	4♠	All Pass	

1♣ 2+♣, 11-14 balanced or unbalanced
1♥ Spades

South has a good fit and nice controls in the other suits, but no knowledge of partner's shape. East led the ♥A for a switch to the ♣Q. Dorte won in hand, played three rounds of spades (Pulga splitting his honours) and claimed eleven tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hansen	Buratti	Schou	Failla
—	—	—	1♦*
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Dble	5♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

1♦ 2+♦, 11-22 5+♦, 4 cards with 3 suit or with 5♣ (rare) 18/19 (20) balanced

2♣ Diamonds weak or game forcing or weak ♣



Peter Schaltz, Denmark

The Italians took a rosier view of their prospects, and on another day would have been rewarded for their rose-tinted glasses. The ♥J was led to the ace, a heart returned to dummy, ♠A and now 2 down was inevitable, 11 IMPs to Denmark. The eagle-eyed amongst you will have spotted that 6♣ can't be beaten - as long as you play it from the North hand, which you most likely would.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ A 10 6
♥ K 8 6
♦ A 8 5 4
♣ Q 10 8

♠ Q 9 8 3
♥ A J 5
♦ 10 9 3
♣ 7 5 2

♠ K 4
♥ Q 9 7 4 3
♦ K J 7 2
♣ J 6

♠ J 7 5 2
♥ 10 2
♦ Q 6
♣ A K 9 4 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pulga</i>	<i>D Schaltz</i>	<i>Mina</i>	<i>P Schaltz</i>
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♥*
Pass	1♠*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
1♣	2+♣, 11-14 balanced or unbalanced		
1♥	Spades		
1♠	2-3♠ balanced		

Pulga led the $\diamond 10$, which I would have too, but that quickly brought declarer up to eight tricks, as long as the clubs broke. In at trick 2 with the $\diamond Q$, declarer tested and then cashed all the clubs. West parted with a spade and a heart, dummy with one from each red suit, and East with three hearts. Next came a spade to the ten and king, and a spade back to the eight and ace. Dummy's $\diamond A$ was cashed and a spade to the queen saw West forced to surrender a trick to the $\heartsuit K$ for the contract.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hansen</i>	<i>Buratti</i>	<i>Schou</i>	<i>Failla</i>
—	1♣*	1♥	Dble*
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♣
All Pass			
1♣ 2+♣ 12-14 balanced (possibly 4/5♦ balanced) Natural			

NS in this room didn't have the auction all to themselves. Whether it was Schou's overcall, or their meagre point count that deterred them from 3NT is no longer important. Buratti had little trouble making his contract, for the loss of the ♥A, ♦K, ♠K and ♠Q. All of which meant another 10 IMPs to Denmark, who had won the set 57-30 and now led by 92-32.

Thrust and Parry



by Mark Horton

This deal from Round 20 might easily be overlooked:

Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ 10 8 3
♥ Q 8 4
♦ —
♣ A | 10 9 8 5 4

When partner opens 1♦ you respond 1NT and then bid 3♣ over partner's 2♦. When partner raises to 4♣ you decide, despite the void in partner's suit to go on to game. North leads the ♣2 and this is what you can see:

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

That's a very annoying lead, as after anything else you would have been able to pitch a spade on the $\diamond A$ and give up a heart, intending to ruff two hearts in dummy. When you play dummy's $\clubsuit 6$ South covers with the $\clubsuit Q$. That's another blow on the same trick, as otherwise you could have played to establish dummy's diamonds, perhaps even emerging with an overtrick. Having taken the trick with the $\clubsuit A$ do you see any chance?

Chile's Marcelo countered the tremendous opening lead found by Switzerland's Michal Nowosadzki by continuing with the ♡Q! It was brilliant example of avoidance play, hoping that an opponent would hold the ♡AK but not the missing trump.

This was the layout:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ Q 7 2
♥ A K J 3
♦ K Q 7 6 4
♣ 2

♠ 10 8 3
♥ Q 8 4
♦ —
♣ A J 10 9 8 5 4

♠ A 9 4
♥ 7
♦ A 9 8 5 3 2
♣ K 7 6

♠ K J 6 5
♥ 10 9 6 5 2
♦ J 10
♣ O 3





Zia: The Last Superstar



by Christina Lund Madsen

Zia is the kind of person everybody knows, but nobody really knows. He has an authority and charisma not only unique for the bridge world. If he walks into a restaurant without a reservation and there is a line of people waiting, he walks straight in and begins to order the waiters around and nobody dares question him. He is the closest we will ever have to bridge royalty and we will never see his like. So I decide to interview the Bridge world's last superstar.



It turns out to be harder than expected.

"I have been interviewed millions of times, what more can there be to say? Nobody wants to read another interview with me. How long is it going to take?"

Since I want to hear the better part of his life story, I want to say three hours, yet I sense that is the wrong approach, so I lie and say: "One hour?"

"No, no, no," he says and waves his arm rejectingly at me. "You can have half an hour. You are just going to ask me the same questions as everyone else."

After our negotiations he agrees to give me half an hour at the end of the day.

Zia Mahmood is born in 1946 in Karachi, Pakistan, yet grew up on English boarding schools from the age of six when his mother, who was a renowned gynecologist, moved to England with Zia and his older brother.

"My father died in a plane crash in Pakistan when I was two. The only thing they found in the wreckage was that he had started to write down all the places he had assets, bank accounts and whatever. He was a very famous lawyer. 40 years later my brother was going to England to buy a house, and on the coffee table of the English family there was a picture of my father from his time as the captain of the Oxford Debating Society. My brother bought the house because he thought it was an omen."

Zia talks very quickly while waving his hands as if he is in a hurry to get it over with.

"Don't write all that down, nobody wants to hear about my father."

He summons the waiter. "Where are our Margaritas? Remember not too much alcohol. We have been waiting for 35 minutes."

We have waited five. I try to regain his attention.

How do you think it affected you growing up without any of your parents around?

"We never felt we missed anything because my mother was a very strong woman and we loved her very much. We were in boarding schools and going on holidays with her. We had a very big family with lots of cousins, one brother and three or four half-sisters from my father's first marriage, but they were all much older than me."

Knowing Zia, it might only have been two half-sisters. For him the glass is always in danger of spilling.

How did you like going to boarding schools?

"I enjoyed it because I played sports a lot. If you don't do sports, you don't have a good time."

Zia played cricket mostly, but also squash, tennis and other sports. No bridge yet.

"I used to love table tennis, which surprisingly I see so many bridge players are good at - don't ask me why."

For the boys not good at sports boarding school was less fun.

"Salman Rushdie was at boarding school with me, and he didn't have a great time. In one of his books, he wrote that the schools were divided between the nerds and those who were good at sports. Very few were both. "The best example is Zia Mahmood, who was very bright and also very good at sports." I don't think it is true, but it is a nice compliment."

The Crack in the Armour

Zia's mother had gone back to Pakistan and ran a hospital where the poor people were treated for free and the rich people subsidised them.

"At three or four in the morning she would go alone in the car to deliver babies in areas that westerners would consider savage places, but she didn't care. In those days there was a lot of respect for women in Pakistan."

After Zia finished school, he trained to become a chartered accountant, but spent more time in the casino than at the office.

"First I was a croupier in London, I didn't work, I gambled all day long. I somehow managed to qualify anyway, and when my mother died, I went back to Pakistan."

How did your mother die?

"She died very sudden at 52 with a heart attack. I was 22 at the time. She was an exceptional lady."

That was a very young age to become an orphan, I say full of sympathy.

"It is the way life goes sometimes," he shrugs and takes a cashew nut.

It is hard to penetrate Zia's armour. He speaks and replies very quickly to all my questions and seems to not let his own words sink in.

How was that for you?

"Terrible. When you love someone very much and you haven't met death before, it is a very painful thing. Since then, I always try to make my children aware of human mortality and that it is just a part of life, but it is very shocking when it is the first time in your life."

Zia is instructing the waiter on how to make margaritas. He asks for his room number for the check. Zia waves his arm at him: "First bring the drinks, then you get the room number." He humbly bows for Zia, before he runs off to tell the bartender to hurry up.

How did you begin to play bridge?

"I have told this story so many times I prefer not to tell

it again." He looks impatiently at his phone to check how his team is doing.

I would like to hear it.

"I started playing bridge to meet a girl who was only allowed to go out to bridge parties, so I turned up at the bridge party, fell in love with the game and haven't stopped playing since then. That was 50 years ago at least."

What happened to the girl?

"She got married and lived happily ever after, but she still tells people "I am the reason he learned bridge.""

Have you ever had your heart broken?

"In several places, every time I go down in a slam my heart is broken. As far as love is concerned you cannot have love without pain; both the joy is extreme, and the pain is extreme. My greatest heartbreak was with a girl I was going to marry and then she died. That was the saddest day of my life."

This is the only time throughout our conversation he pauses. I feel a crack in his armour.

"I don't want to go into the details too much. I was younger. I think certain things are personal and you keep it to yourself."

The Immortal Father

After his mother died, Zia began to work for his family's newspaper group, which was the biggest in Pakistan. His older brother was responsible for the family business, but he became more and more politically involved in opposition to the government and ended up in jail.

"My brother was more rebellious than me and very brilliant. He had one of the highest IQs ever tested in school. They said he had the IQ of Einstein."

Zia's brother spent nine months in jail, and when he came out, he decided to go to Abu Dhabi because of the oil boom, and Zia went with him.

"When we came to Abu Dhabi, I didn't like it, so I said "I am going to London to play bridge. I will be back to work." It is 50 years ago, and I never went back to work."

How old were you when you had children?

"56, I married at the age of 55 principally to have children. I am not a believer in marriage, even my bridge partnerships don't last too long. My wife was only prepared to give me children if I married her, which I think was reasonable enough. She was an English lady who I loved very much."

What role have women played in your life?

"I have enjoyed the company of women my whole life and I much prefer to be in the company of women more than most men, whether it is a dear friend or a beautiful partner. I give you one line from my book:

"I think I am growing old now because there was a

girl who always used to send me a message before a tournament “to play bridge like I made love”, and now she just texts me “good luck”.

I still have a few girlfriends and I try to have them make me feel young.”

How are you with family?

“I am a very family oriented person and my children and my brother come before anything in life, I would give up bridge and immortality if it could help them.”

I am not surprised to hear Zia is immortal.

Tell me about your sons Zain and Rafi.

“They are beautiful people as well as good looking. They are totally different like me and my brother. He is a workaholic, and I am a playerholic.

What are their best qualities?

“You should see Zain one day with young children. That is how you can tell. Rafi has got a smile that makes everyone believe he is their best friend, but he is a bit of a rascal like his father. He recently came home with an earring, so I almost cut his ear off. I am just too old for that. I think I would be a terrible father for a daughter, I am so eastern and possessive and would follow them around every time they went out on a date.”

Do your kids worry that you won't be with them long?

“Frankly I think the opposite. I keep telling them I won't last long, they keep telling me they heard that so many times they don't believe me anymore. They think I am going to live to be a hundred!”

The waiter finally brings the Margaritas. Zia has emptied the bowl of nuts and looks impatiently at his phone, while I type madly.

“If we get knocked out soon you can bother me when we have more time.”

What scares you?

“The thought that my kids might become even slightly sick. The first time my son had a bad stomach I took him to the hospital. He had food poisoning. When they took a blood sample from him, I actually fainted. A friend told me before I had kids: “You should be careful cause when you have kids the fear that anything should happen to them is the most perpetual and constant fear of every parent.”

The only place where a human being is completely incapable of being selfish is when it comes to their children except in the most weird of people. Every time they go in

a car or every time they go on a plane, I track the plane. When one of my bridge partners goes on a plane, I hope it doesn't land for a few days. Stop writing, you are writing 54 pages.”

What is the worst thing about getting older?

“Nothing bothers me, I welcome old age. This year I am celebrating because it is five years since I had cancer. I didn't tell anyone when I had it, only one family member. I didn't even tell my kids, because what is the point of telling someone when it is very sad?”

When did you tell them?

After the treatment was over. I had many surgeries. I got throat cancer from shouting at my partner too much. They said: “Of course you should have told us”, but I don't believe in hurting anyone unnecessary. Don't write too much about cancer, it is not going to help anybody.”

“I was completely non-concerned about life and death until I had children. I used to sit on an airplane and think that if this plane crashed, would I be bothered by it? Until I had children. I want to see my children one more time.”

The Love Story

At the American Nationals in July Zia launched his book with the title: “Bridge – A Love Story”, which made people wait in long lines for a signed copy.

Zia tells me to write that he has 10 copies left of his new book that he doesn't want to carry back home. “So tell people who want to buy it to come find me,” he commands.



With his son Zain

What was your motivation for writing this book?

“Covid gave everybody time to do things they had left on the shelf. During covid I used to play bridge with friends for money 3-4 hours/day, and the rest of the day I wrote the book and drank champagne.”

Why did you choose that title?

"Because every bridge addict knows there is no greater love than the one they have for this game, and I have been faithful to my obsession for the last 50 years. Bridge is my longest love affair. It is not just a book about bridge, it is a book of stories, a book of romance, a book of fantasy."

He gives me a bridge hand as an example of his imaginative approach to bridge despite my protests that I don't write about bridge hands in my interviews, which doesn't land well with him. I try to explain that the entire world has been aware of his creativity as a player for about 40 years. A day does not go by without Zia signing at least seven autographs and posing for 11 pictures. And he gladly does it. Zia may not have time to talk to a journalist, but he is always generous to his fans.

When were you in your prime?

"What are you talking about? Life, bridge, sex? I think in my thirties or forties. I started golf when I was 40, I think that was a wonderful way to combine bridge and activity. Write that I still haven't reached my prime, it is yet to come."

I sense his growing impatience and know that my 30 minutes are well overdue. I try to keep him with me a little longer by tickling his vanity.

How does it feel to be the superstar of bridge?

"I am not a superstar, I am an old fart. There are just not very many colorful people in the bridge world."

I try to ask him some of the questions that usually makes people give lengthy answers in an attempt to keep him, but he doesn't fall for it.

What makes you angry?

"It would take a separate interview to tell you. Mostly when I play bridge badly, I get angry with myself, which happens more often than most people would realize."

For someone with his vocabulary, the replies are becoming shorter and shorter.

How would your ex-girlfriends describe you in three words?

"You can ask them, there are quite a few around."

If you could pass on a piece of life advice to future generations, what would it be?

"Follow your passion."

He sits looking at his phone and I try one last time to strip him from his armour.

Tell me something about yourself very few people know.

"I am desperate to go for dinner now."



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Bermuda Bowl QF2
Poland v Italy



by Marc Smith

With none of the top three teams choosing to take on Italy in the quarter-final, fourth-placed Poland were left with this short straw. Here are two dark horses who have thus far been flying under the radar, and this promises to be a titanic struggle. The Italians eked out a 10-IMP lead in a high-scoring first stanza in which more than 90 IMPs changed hands. Let's take a look at the best of the action from the second segment.

As usual, we start with a couple of problems. With both sides vulnerable, you are first to speak holding this collection:

♠ J 10 8 7
♥ 5 3
♦ A K J 5 4 3
♣ 3

What, if anything, do you open?

If your preference is a natural weak two in diamonds, what is your alternative if that is not available in your system?

Next, with only your side vulnerable, you are sitting in the East seat with:

♠ Q J 7 6 3
♥ K J 6 4
♦ A 6
♣ A 10

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	?	

What, if anything, do you bid?



Giovanni Donati, Italy

Things started slowly, but then all hell broke loose. Both West players had to decide what, if anything, to open on the first of the problem hands above.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lutostanski	Donati	Buras	Percario
1♦	Pass	2♣	4♥
Pass	Pass	6♣	All Pass

The Poles play a Multi, so Piotr Lutostanski did not have a natural weak 2♦ opening available. He decided to start with 1♦, and the auction took off quickly from there. Giacomo Percario's 4♥ intervention ruled out a scientific approach, but Krzysztof Buras settled for judgement instead, and he was spot on.

Percario led a top heart and then switched to his singleton spade, covered by jack, king and ace, so declarer was able to claim once the trumps broke. E/W +1370.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Kotorowicz	Sementa	Araszkievich
Pass	Pass	1♣	4♥
Dble	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

The Italians also do not have a natural weak 2♦ in their arsenal (they play that as 18-19 balanced) and Versace decided against a one-level opening on this West hand. Having passed, he doubled South's 4♥ overcall and then had to make a decision when Sementa rebid his clubs. Raising to slam was never a realistic option, so Versace's unsuccessful decision to look for an alternative game was not overly expensive, as passing 5♣ would have lost 12 IMPs anyway.

Against 5♦, the defenders took a heart and then waited for their two trump tricks. E/W -100 and 16 IMPs to Poland. The Poles had led briefly (for one board) by 1-IMP midway through the first stanza, so this 6-IMP advantage

was their biggest lead so far in the match. Again, it did not last long...

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lutostanski	Donati	Buras	Percario
—	Pass	1♣*	1♠
2♦*	2♠	4♥	All Pass

Playing a standard 5-card Major system, Krzysztof Buras began with quasi-natural (2+) 1♣ opening. Lutostanski's 2♦ after South 1♠ overcall was then a transfer showing hearts. Buras's jump to game facing what could be a fairly weak hand surely showed extra values and a heart fit, so West's pass on this monster looks incredibly pessimistic. Perhaps East could have made things easier by starting with 3♠? The only thing for sure is that someone did not bid enough.

Buras won the diamond lead with the ace, cashed a high club for a diamond discard, and led a spade up. South went in with the ♠A, so declarer made only twelve tricks. E/W +480.

The Italians had the auction to themselves in the replay.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Kotorowicz	Sementa	Araszkievicz
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦*	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Konrad Araszkievicz's pass on this South hand seems quite reasonable at red facing a passed partner, but I don't think the Poles' silence at this table can be blamed for the IMPs lost. Versace started with a 1♦ response, showing hearts and Sementa showed his extra values with an in-principle-natural reverse. Versace's jump in hearts set the suit and then a series of cue-bids carried them beyond game.

North led a club to ten, jack and a ruff, so declarer simply drew trumps and discarded four spades and one diamond on dummy's club winners. E/W +1010 and 11 IMPs to Italy, reclaiming the lead.

Those old enough to remember the papacy of John Paul II will probably recall the old joke that circulated whenever the Poland team suffered some ill luck at the hands of the Italian Blue Team. It went something like, "The Pope may be Polish, but God is still Italian." The next deal suggests that, while the Pope may now be an Argentine, The Great Dealer still looks favourably upon those responsible for bringing pasta and pizza to the world.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lutostanski	Donati	Buras	Percario
—	—	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Buras's 2♦ rebid showed hearts, so he was effectively faced with the second of today's problems at his third turn. Fairly certain that his partner held only a doubleton spades, Buras not unreasonably decided that the hands were not fitting particularly well, so he passed. When he saw dummy, I'm sure that he didn't want to be any higher.

It was possible to make eight tricks, but declarer slightly mistimed the play and ended one down. E/W -100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Kotorowicz	Sementa	Araszkievicz
—	—	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

After the same start, Antonio Sementa took a rosier view of his hand and advanced with 2NT. Versace not unreasonably liked his hand, so he raised to game.

3NT is far from a wonderful contract, and not one you would have chosen had you seen both the East and West hands. There is only one lead that gives declarer any chance and, unfortunately for the Poles, Krzysztof Kotorowicz was dealt a fairly obvious diamond opening.

Winning in hand with the ♦10, Versace started with a club to the ten and king. Konrad Araszkievicz did his best now, returning a low spade, thus removing declarer's only sure entry to his hand while the clubs were blocked. Versace won with the ♠K, crossed to the ♣A, and played a

low spade from dummy. Of course, Araszkiewicz was wise to this, and he rose with the ♠A and exited a diamond to dummy's ace. Versace had no choice but to go all-in now, so he cashed his spade winners, discarding a club and both diamonds from his hand. When declarer then played a low heart from dummy, he found exactly what he needed, with South having only hearts left and holding both missing heart honours. Whatever, Araszkiewicz did, he could not prevent declarer making two more tricks. A very sweaty E/W +600 and another 12 IMPs to Italy.

There was certainly potential for a major swing on our final deal. With clubs 2-2, N/S could make an easy slam in that suit. Could anyone get there?

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Kotorowicz	Sementa	Araszkiewicz
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	2♥	3♠
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♥*
Pass	5♠	All Pass	



Alfredo Versace, Italy

With a game-going hand, I do not understand why anyone would bid their suits out of order on this North hand. It looks obvious to me to start with 2♣, but then I am only a humble scribe. East's 2♥ intervention did not inconvenience the Poles in the least, Araszkiewicz jumping to 3♠ and setting the suit. It looks like North's 3NT asked for shortage and, when his partner showed a singleton heart, Kotorowicz rolled out Blackwood. There was an ace and the ♠Q missing, so the Poles were just able to apply the brakes in time to avoid going minus.

Sementa opened the ♣Q. Declarer won with the ♣A and laid down the ♠A, so he now had two trump losers. No matter, he crossed to the ♠K and pitched his hearts on high diamonds before West could get in. N/S +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lutostanski	Donati	Buras	Percario
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	INT*	2♦*	Dble
3♥*	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Percario also opened 1♦ on the South cards, and Donati apparently had to start with an artificial, game-forcing INT. Buras intervened with a conventional 2♦ now, showing an overcall in one of the majors, and Lutostanski jumped to 3♥, pass-or-correct, offering to play in his partner's major at least at the three-level. Donati decided that the time had come to bid one of his suits and, of course, he chose spades. Having used up three whole levels of bidding with the help of the opponents, what chance was there to describe this hand starting from here? N/S +450 here too, so a push.

Remarkably, although N/S had a 6-3 club fit, the suit was never mentioned in the auction at either table. One thing is absolutely certain - it is difficult to get to the best slam if no one bids the suit.

There was nothing spectacular in the rest of the boards, but the Italians picked up a number of small swings that slowly added up. Italy won this stanza 44-23 and thus, after two of the six segments of this quarter-final, they lead by 31 IMPs (95-64).

Video Corner

Pete Hollands tells us he is doing daily recap videos of the Championships.

Here is the link to the day 9 recap:

https://youtu.be/Fi_tjZlzkPo

Pete Hollands started playing when he was 14 and is now professional bridge player & teacher (www.bridgevid.com) who has represented the Australian open team. He runs a popular YouTube channel (Pete Hollands Bridge) where you can play tournaments and compare with him. He won two silver medals in the 2013 World Junior Championships.

Busman's Holiday



by Mark Horton

'A holiday where you do something similar to your usual work instead of having a rest from it.'

On Monday evening, 16 assorted partnerships from 19 nations settled into their seats to contest the Staff Pairs under the watchful eyes of Chief TD Jeanne Van Den Meiracker. Barometer scoring added to the excitement as one could follow the many changes that took place at the top of the leader board. In the end, it was Dimitrios Kapis and Arianna Testa who took the gold medals.

Here are three possibly instructive deals from the event:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

		♠ Q J 10 9 4 2			
		♥ —			
		♦ K 10 6			
		♣ Q J 10 2			
♠ 7 6		<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> N W S E </div>		♠ K 8	
♥ A K J 6 5 3				♥ 10 8 4 2	
♦ J 5 2				♦ Q 9 8 7	
♣ A 5				♣ K 9 4	
		♠ A 5 3			
		♥ Q 9 7			
		♦ A 4 3			
		♣ 8 7 6 3			
West	North	East	South		
—	—	—	Pass		
1♥	2♠	3♥	3♠		
4♥	4♠	Dble	All Pass		

When East led the ♥4 declarer had no trouble collecting +790 for 12/2.

Given that you can bet your bottom dollar that someone will bid 4♠ over 4♥ West might try bidding 4♣! Then East might find a club lead, the ensuing ruff being just enough to defeat the contract. -200 would have given EW 14/0.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

		♠ K J 7			
		♥ 8			
		♦ K J 9 4			
		♣ J 9 6 5 4			
♠ A Q 9		<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> N W S E </div>		♠ 5	
♥ K 10 7 4 3 2				♥ A Q 9	
♦ 2				♦ A 10 8 6 3	
♣ K 7 2				♣ A Q 8 3	
		♠ 10 8 6 4 3 2			
		♥ J 6 5			
		♦ Q 7 5			
		♣ 10			
West	North	East	South		
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass		
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass		
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass		

East might have bid 3♥ over 2♥, but had envisaged the possibility that 7♣ might sometimes be the right contract and also had in mind that West might hold an awkward doubleton diamond. With decent controls and



an obviously useful ♣K, West might have continued with 4♠. Then East can ask for keycards and also locate the ♣K. Bidding the speculative grand slam would give you 14/0 while 6♥ would be worth 12/2. +510 was only 6/8.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

If you are playing Gazzilli (and remember!) you should be able to stop safely in 2♠. 4♠ is not a great spot, but when East leads the ♣K declarer wins in dummy, cashes three diamonds discarding hearts, ruffs a heart, ruffs a club, ruffs a heart, ruffs a club and can then play the ♦10, with excellent chances of emerging with 10 tricks. Alas, East can overruff the second heart and exit with a trump to dummy's king, when the best declarer can do is play the ♦10, emerging with 9 tricks.

Note that if declarer plays the ♦10 from dummy at trick 7, West must be sure to ruff in with the ♠7!

One down in 4♠ was worth no less than 10/4.

Several pairs got into trouble on this deal, two of them finishing in 5♥x which gave EW 12/2. That was one of several good results (two 14/0 in the last round did not go amiss!) which helped the winners on their way.

A Costly Lead

by Herman De wael

This was Board 5 of the third set of the Quarterfinals:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

This was the bidding in the Open Room in the Wuhan Cup match between Germany and Belgium:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dewasme	Grünke	Dehaye	Eggeling
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♦*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Marie Eggeling chose to lead the ♠6, and she picked up 14 IMPs when the Belgian lead of the ♥6 proved less successful.

Let's see what happened around the different rooms:

Of the 30 tables who played the board (it was rendered unplayable at one table when they heard something from an adjacent one), 25 reached a contract of 6♥ (the others playing 4♥ or 5♥). Three tables managed to play it from the West side. Let's now see what the 22 South players chose as their lead: 12 players led a small spade, invariably leading to the downfall of the contract. 7 led a heart, 3 a diamond, making certain that the contract would be made. The only player who led the ♣A was defending 5♥. Four South players had overcalled 1♠ themselves, and none of them then did not lead their own suit. One Pair even managed to bid spades from both sides (North contributing 3♠), and they did lead spades.

Are there any hints to direct one to the correct opening lead? If you want an attacking lead (and why wouldn't you) then it's either diamonds or spades.

On the auction as given above (and repeated at several tables), North had had a chance to double the Blackwood response of 5♦. Since he hasn't, done that, there is some merit in leading spades. Which is indeed what half the field did.



World Bridge Federation

2023 Staff Tournament

Marrakech, Morocco, 28 August 2023



BOARD DETAILS

16 pairs

20 boards

Top = 14 mp

BOARD DETAILS

rk	name1	name2	nbrd	MPs	adj	%
1	 Kapiris Dimitrios	 Testa Arianna	20	174.71		62.40
2	 Dobrin Denis	 Skoularikis Fotis	20	165.57		59.13
3	 Kelso Laurie	 Stern David	20	160.86		57.45
4	 Chediak Virginia	 Laurant Eric	20	160.71		57.40
5	 Horton Mark	 Kamras Jan	20	157.71		56.33
6	 Eidt Peter	 Parvanov Georgi	20	150.14		53.62
7	 Chira Traian	 Eminentì Manolo	20	150.00		53.57
8	 Chakraborty Sanjay	 Ponzi Roland	20	148.29		52.96
9	 Stomphorst Jaap	 De Wael Herman	20	143.43		51.22
10	 Makarewicz Anna	 Zareba Anna	20	143.14		51.12
11	 Gignoux Bertrand	 Kollnow Matt	20	131.40		46.93
12	 Maric Jurica	 Pigulski Adam	20	123.14		43.98
13	 Van der List Maria	 Van Beijsterveldt Marc	20	115.86		41.38
14	 Bako Daniel	 Beko Zsófia	20	114.29		40.82
15	 Riccardi Antonio	 Di Sacco Maurizio	20	112.29		40.10
16	 Fernandes Eduardo	 Rainsford Gordon	20	89.86		32.09



Bermuda Bowl QF3

USA2 v USA1



by Ron Tacchi

USA2 won the first stanza of the Bermuda Bowl quarterfinal and USA2 won the second to take the lead by a single VP.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Meckstroth	Kranyak	Zia
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♣*	Pass	4♥	All Pass
3♣	Limit raise		

With a nod to his right-hand opponent East tried for the heart game and received the lead of the king of clubs which held the trick. South switched to the ♦2 and when dummy played small North won with the ♦10 and played the ♣J covered by the queen and ace and ruffed in dummy. Declarer returned to hand with a trump to lead a diamond to the jack but North won with the queen and played another club – the ruff and discard being of no use to declarer as had he ruffed in dummy that would have promoted a trump trick for South, so he ruffed in hand. He then crossed to ace of trumps and presented the queen of spades covered by the king and taken with the ace and now there was no way declarer could avoid the loss of a spade trick.

My finessing friend says that declarer could have succeeded. At trick four declarer should play a spade to the jack and when that holds he should run his trumps. On the play of the final trump North is squeezed in the pointed suits, he can discard a spade but then declarer has two spade tricks, or he can get rid of a diamond and be thrown in with his ace to lead into the spade tenace.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Martel	Hurd	Fleisher	Bathurst
—	1♣	1♥	2♣
3♣*	3♦	4♥	All Pass

Did South notice his partner's 3♦ bid, surely it showed

values in the suit and was probably lead-directing. The diamond lead would have beaten the contract but South cashed the ace of clubs and switched to his small trump which declarer won with the ♥9. Declarer now ruffed his losing club and played a spade to the jack and when that held he cashed the ace and exited with a spade to North's king. This not only set up a winning spade but more importantly threw North in as now a ruff and discard was of use to declarer as after he had managed to win a trump trick cheaply he could afford to ruff with the ace in dummy. Of course, a diamond switch from North would also be fatal. First blood to USA2 and 10 IMPs.

Board 5 was replaced as telling remarks about the deal had been overheard.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Meckstroth	Kranyak	Zia
—	—	—	1♣
1♥	Dble*	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West's imaginative four-card overcall paid handsome dividends. Five Hearts was unbeatable. It just shows the power of a double fit and voids. E/W with 40% of the pack are cold for the five-level whereas N/S with 60% can only make 2♣.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Martel	Hurd	Fleisher	Bathurst
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Bathurst's INT was 14-16 non-vulnerable and a perfectly reasonable Stayman auction reached 4♠. On a good day the contract would succeed but here after West cashed the king of hearts he switched to a club ruffed by East,

a heart came back, another club ruffed and with two diamond tricks still to come declarer finished three light and 11 IMPs to USA1.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Meckstroth	Kranyak	Zia
—	Pass	Pass	INT
2♣*	3NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	All Pass	
2♣ Majors			

The commentators suggested that North's 3NT did not show stoppers in the majors, South rescued himself into his club suit but North chose his diamond suit. The defence took the first three tricks in the majors and exited with a spade. When the trumps were 3-1 offside a trump trick had to be lost and so the contract failed by one trick.



Martin Fleisher, USA2

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Martel	Hurd	Fleisher	Bathurst
—	2♦	Pass	3♦
4♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

North had a weak Two Diamonds in his arsenal and employed it. West was not going to go quietly with his major stack and probably to his chagrin East became declarer in Four Spades, though he probably changed his feelings on sight of the dummy. When trumps behaved declarer claimed his vulnerable game after trick five. 11 IMPs to USA2

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Meckstroth	Kranyak	Zia
INT	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
4♦ Red suit Texas			

A diamond lead saw declarer head South's king with his ace and then trump a small diamond before taking a successful club finesse. Now it was just a question of playing trumps and when they broke kindly the game was on the card.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Martel	Hurd	Fleisher	Bathurst
INT	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass

At this vulnerability West's opener was 15-17. I must confess that with the East hand I would have ventured a vulnerable game. The same ten tricks were taken but that was 10 IMPs to USA1.

At the end of the match USA2 had outscored USA1 by two IMPs and so now they held the lead by a single point. All still to play for.



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Bermuda Bowl QF3

Switzerland v Israel



by Jos Jacobs

With two of the six segments gone, Israel was enjoying a 17 IMP lead. Over the first 16 boards, Switzerland had taken a 3-IMP lead but over the next 16, the Israelis had pulled back 20 IMPs. The Swiss had registered one overtrick on the second board of this, the 3rd set but on the next, they ran into serious problems:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Kalita	Roll	Klukowski
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	INT	2♠
3NT	All Pass		

In spite of Kalita's lead-directing opening bid in 3rd position, the Israelis had little trouble in reaching the proper final contract. Klukowski led the ♠4 but when Kalita took his ace and returned the ♠J, Roll had an easy ride to ten tricks. Israel +630.

The trouble arose when North opened 2♥ for majors in the other room.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Birman	Nowosadzki	Padon
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♥	2NT	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♣	Dble	6♦	Dble
All Pass			

West probably intended his 3♥ bid as showing minors but from the subsequent bidding, it looks as if East was not at all sure about it. West's 6♣ then clarified the situation for East who duly corrected to 6♦ but E/W were already a little high. N/S happily agreed to this view and collected +500 for down two, good for 15 IMPs.

On the next deal, the other Swiss pair landed a bit high, too:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Kalita	Roll	Klukowski
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT*
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

INT Forcing for one round

South showed his big diamond fit by bidding 2♠ and even showed slight slam interest over 3NT. I was wondering what would have happened if East had led a trump but at the table, he led the ♠J. Dummy's queen won and suddenly, declarer (North, of course!) had all the time in the world to ruff two clubs in hand, enough to come to 11 tricks. Switzerland +600.



Amir Levin, Israel



Jacek Kalita, Switzerland

In the Closed Room, we saw Flannery in action: 4-5 majors at least and a normal opening hand:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Birman	Nowosadzki	Padon
Pass	2♦*	All Pass	

Well, maybe, action is the wrong term to describe this auction. On a trump lead to the ace and a heart return by West, declarer made 10 tricks. Israel +130 but 10 IMPs back to Switzerland.

Next came a slam:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ J 7 2
♥ K 8 7 2
♦ 7
♣ K J 9 7 3

♠ K 5 3
♥ 10 4
♦ 10 6 3
♣ Q 8 6 4 2

♠ A 9
♥ A Q J 9 3
♦ A K J 5 2
♣ 5

♠ Q 10 8 6 4
♥ 6 5
♦ Q 9 8 4
♣ A 10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Roll</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♦*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

After the mixed raise, East immediately checked keycards, heard one and promptly bid the slam. The lead of the ♠10 by South would win 1st prize in a beauty contest but Klukowski's ♠6 was good enough to cause serious problems for declarer. The best chance to get rid of the losing spades in time now was a direct finesse of the ♦J. When this failed, the Swiss had scored +100 for two down.

No slam aspirations in the Closed Room this time:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Padon</i>
—	Pass	1♥	1♠
Dble	2♠	Dble	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Declarer made 12 tricks, even after the spade lead, when South, defending against a game contract only, ducked the low club played at trick 2. Switzerland +480 and 11 more IMPs to them.

Two boards later, there was an accident somewhere:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ K 8 5 3
♥ 4
♦ 10 6 2
♣ A J 9 7 5

♠ 7
♥ K 7 3
♦ Q 8 7
♣ K Q 10 8 3 2

W N E S

♠ Q 9 4 2
♥ 10 8 2
♦ A K 9 4 3
♣ 6

♠ A J 10 6
♥ A Q J 9 6 5
♦ J 5
♣ 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Roll</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>
—	—	—	I♥
2♣	Pass	2♦	Dble
3♦	4♠	All Pass	

Over West's 2♣ overall, North could not act but when South ventured a voluntary double, North had an automatic 4♠ bid. Just made, Switzerland +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Padon</i>
—	—	—	2♦*
3♣	Dble	All Pass	

Again, Flannery came into operation but this time, it worked much better for the Israelis. Over 3♣, North could take action and so he did. Down three, +800 to Israel and 5 IMPs back to them.

On the next board, the Israeli E/W pair produced a straightforward auction.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

N
W E
S

♠ 10 6	♠ 10 6
♥ A Q 9 8 6	♥ A Q 9 8 6
♦ Q 10 4	♦ Q 10 4
♣ A 10 5	♣ A 10 5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Kalita	Roll	Klukowski
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	All Pass

This time, the Swiss South ducked East's early club play to concede the second overtrick. Israel +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Birman	Nowosadzki	Padon
1♣	Pass	1♥	Dble
1♠	2♥	4♠	All Pass

The auction can easily be explained. East showed spades, South showed hearts and West confirmed three cards in spades. When the defenders started off with two rounds of hearts followed by South's ♣A, they could sit back and wait for their diamond trick. Israel +50 and 6 more IMPs to them.

More action again on board 10, two boards later:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

N
W E
S

♠ A Q 9 8	♠ A Q 9 8
♥ 10 3 2	♥ 10 3 2
♦ K J 9	♦ K J 9
♣ A K 8	♣ A K 8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Kalita	Roll	Klukowski
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	Pass	3♣	All Pass

With his 5-4-4-0, West seems to hold the action hand here but it was actually East who took action. West unhappily passed 3♣ but when South led a top club and

the spades behaved very well, declarer made his contract when South shifted to a heart rather than a spade at trick 2. Israel +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Birman	Nowosadzki	Padon
—	—	Pass	INT
2♣*	2♦	2♥	3♦
All Pass			

In the replay, West showed his majors alright but what he had not told his opponents was his nasty diamond holding. Competing in a 5-3 fit for one down against 2♥ making looks a good proposition but this time, N/S were lucky that nobody doubled. Down four, Switzerland +400 and 7 IMPs to them. The score now stood at 92-78 to Israel.

Two more boards later, diamonds again were not really the place to be:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

N
W E
S

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Kalita	Roll	Klukowski
2♦*	3♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Well, 3♦ would have been an excellent spot but after West's opening bid showing majors, it was difficult for N/S to stop at the three-level. Once again, however, nobody doubled so the costs were a mere +200 to Israel when 5♦ was down two.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Birman	Nowosadzki	Padon
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♦
Dble	2♥	2♠	3♦
All Pass			

Given a free run, N/S now could manage to stop at a safe level. 3♦ was the place to be 😊 Just made, Israel another +110 and 7 IMPs to them.

The next board reminded me of the bridges over the Thames, or the Seine, for that matter, the places to sleep for those who would draw trumps either too early or too late...

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

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

♠ K 10		
♥ J 5		
♦ J 10 3		
♣ A K J 10 7 4		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Kalita	Roll	Klukowski
—	Pass	Pass	INT
2♣*	3NT	All Pass	

With the spades 2-2 in N/S, any major suit game in E/W should make. North's raise to 3NT thus proved to be a cheap advanced sacrifice. Down three undoubled, Israel only +300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Birman	Nowosadzki	Padon
—	Pass	Pass	INT
2♣*	3NT	Pass	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Zimmermann, after the same start of the auction, was more courageous than Levin and bid on over North's 3NT. On the actual layout, he should even have made his contract but once again, the tiredness must have struck (and the heat, for that matter). The defence led the ♦A and shifted to the ♣8. South won the ♣10 and continued the suit, ruffed by declarer. Rather than pulling trumps first and thereby avoiding having to sleep under a bridge, he played ♠A and a spade first. South won the ♠K and continued yet another low club, which declarer ran to dummy's queen. When North could ruff this, declarer suddenly had managed to go one down. Israel a shock +100 but 9 more IMPs to them rather than an 8-IMP loss.

On #15 Israel scored one more peanut and this was the final board of the day.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

♠ A Q		
♥ 9 2		
♦ A J 9 6 4		
♣ K J 9 8		

♠ J 10 4 3 2		
♥ K Q		
♦ K 3 2		
♣ Q 7 5		

At the two tables, the auctions were identical. West opened INT and East transferred himself to 4♥ played by West.

In the Open Room, Kalita led a low diamond to the king and ace. Declarer then ruffed a diamond in dummy and led a heart up. Kalita overtook partner's ♥Q with his ace and shifted...to a club. Declarer won South's ♣Q with his king and led another heart. This ran to South's king but with the ♥J now his only other loser, Levin had made his contract. Israel +620.

At the other table, North led a spade to declarer's queen and here, declarer immediately played a heart. South won the queen and exited in spades. Declarer won in dummy and played another heart, South winning with the king. This time, South exited in diamonds so declarer won the ace and had to guess the ♣Q himself. When he next played a club to dummy's ten, South could win the queen and thus put the contract one down for another +100 and 12 IMPs to Israel. They had scored 29 unanswered IMPs over the last four boards to finish the day with the score at 121-78 to them, a lead of 43 with ...still 48 boards to be played! An exciting Tuesday was in prospect.



Dror Padon, Israel





Bermuda Bowl QF4
Norway v China



by David Bird

The one other time that I commentated on China, they were not in top form. They lost heavily to USA1 in the penultimate match of the round-robin, dropping to 6 VPs below the qualifying zone. What a recovery they have made since then! They won their final match by a substantial margin, climbing back into the top eight. Norway, who finished in 1st place, chose China as their opponents. Half-way through this encounter, China leads by 113 IMPs to 103. Well done, indeed.

Right, play is about to start, so I will have to save this file and see what drama unfolds.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yi Liu	Bakke	L Hu	Brogeland
—	—	3♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

For the knock-out stages, all bids are being entered on tablets. Our VG operator told us that Brogeland had made a last-ditch, but unsuccessful, attempt to correct his final pass on this deal!

Regrouping his thoughts, Brogeland led the ♦A and switched to the ♣J, which won. Hu ruffed the club continuation and advanced the ♥10, North ducking. A second heart went to the king and ace, Bakke returning the ♣K. Declarer ruffed with the ♠10 and Brogeland discarded a heart. The ♦J went to North's queen, and declarer ruffed the ♣A return with the ♠K, South discarding a diamond. Brogeland won the next diamond and played the ♠Q. The contract was three down for 500 away.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	J Liu	Grude	Zhuang
—	—	2♠	Pass
3♠	Dble	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Should Grude have bid again, after defining his hand with

a pre-empt? Zhuang, who would doubtless have passed the double anyway, licked his lips at the juicier target. China defended accurately, North ducking the first round of hearts, and the maximum -800 was secured. It was 7 IMPs to China.

On the assumption that you prefer to see big deals, rather than ones of little consequence, we can safely skip the next five boards. (China scored 6 IMPs to 1 on them.)

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yi Liu	Bakke	L Hu	Brogeland
1♥	1♠	4♣*	4♥*
Dble	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♥	All Pass		



Zejun Zhuang, China

East's 4♣ was a fit-jump, showing clubs and hearts; South's 4♥ was a splinter bid. The spade game would have been made, but Liu judged wonderfully to go to 5♥, despite his shortage in partner's second suit.

When ace and another spade were played, declarer ruffed the second round and led the ♣8. Bakke ducked and dummy's king won. The ♥K was followed by a diamond to the ace and a second diamond to the queen and king. Eleven tricks were claimed for +450.

As you see, North-South would be only one down in 5♠. Choosing the right moment to bid five-over-five is never easy.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	J Liu	Grude	Zhuang
1♦	1♠	2♥	4♣
4♠	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Again, 5♥ won the day and eleven tricks were made. If you would have seen a reason to bid 5♠ on the North or South cards... well done!

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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



Tor Eivind Grude, Norway

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yi Liu	Bakke	L Hu	Brogeland
—	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

On commentary, I expressed the view that East's 2NT was on the bold side, facing a protective overcall and holding only one heart, Mistake! I suffered several messages from kibitzers, backed by David Burn, informing me that 25 points were enough for a vulnerable game. Ah yes, how kind of them to correct my ignorance.

Brogeland led the ♦2, won with dummy's jack. A club to the queen, and Brogeland's 10, was followed by the ♥9 to dummy's ace. Hu now called for the ♠2, Bakke eventually rising with the king. A spade back went to dummy's queen, and the ♠A was cashed. Three spades, two hearts, three diamonds and a club added up to... +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	J Liu	Grude	Zhuang
—	1♠	Pass	INT
2♥	All Pass		

Grude agreed with my much-scorned valuation. He didn't venture 2NT, even opposite a 2♥ overcall that was not in the protective position. Ten tricks were made for +170 and a loss of 10 IMPs.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yi Liu	Bakke	L Hu	Brogeland
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣*	2♦
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

China stretched to a worthwhile game, and ran into a bad trump break. Bakke followed up his double with ace and another diamond, Brogeland winning and switching to the ♥2. Liu won with the ♥Q and cashed dummy's ♣AK. He then returned to the ♥A and ruffed his remaining club low. A trump to the ace was followed by a ruff of the ♦J. Two trump tricks had to be lost, and the game was one down doubled for 200 away.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	J Liu	Grude	Zhuang
—	—	Pass	1♦
1♠	INT	2NT*	3♦
3♠	3NT	Pass	4♦
All Pass			

The opening bid, vulnerable in second seat, was questionable. (I have resisted the temptation of several other adjectives available to me.) Anyone shown the card diagram, and told that 3NT had been reached, would ask “How did East-West get so high?”

Zhuang retreated to 4♦ and was mercifully left undoubled at this precarious level. He went three down for minus 300 and a loss of 11 IMPs. China was unimpressive this one board, yes, but they were a bit unlucky in the Open Room. This was the only sizeable swing they were to be destined to suffer.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yi Liu	Bakke	L Hu	Brogeland
—	—	—	3♦
3NT	All Pass		

The ♠3 was led, and everything was to turn on the first card played from dummy. What would you have done?

Declarer can guarantee a spade trick by playing low, of course. Liu did wonderfully well to rise with dummy's king, on which Brogeland unblocked the queen. This manoeuvre is recommended in a book I am currently writing, but it was ineffective here. The ♥Q was covered by the king and ace. Declarer then cashed two more hearts and ran the ♣Q to the king. Bakke cashed the ♠A and declarer claimed 11 tricks for +460.

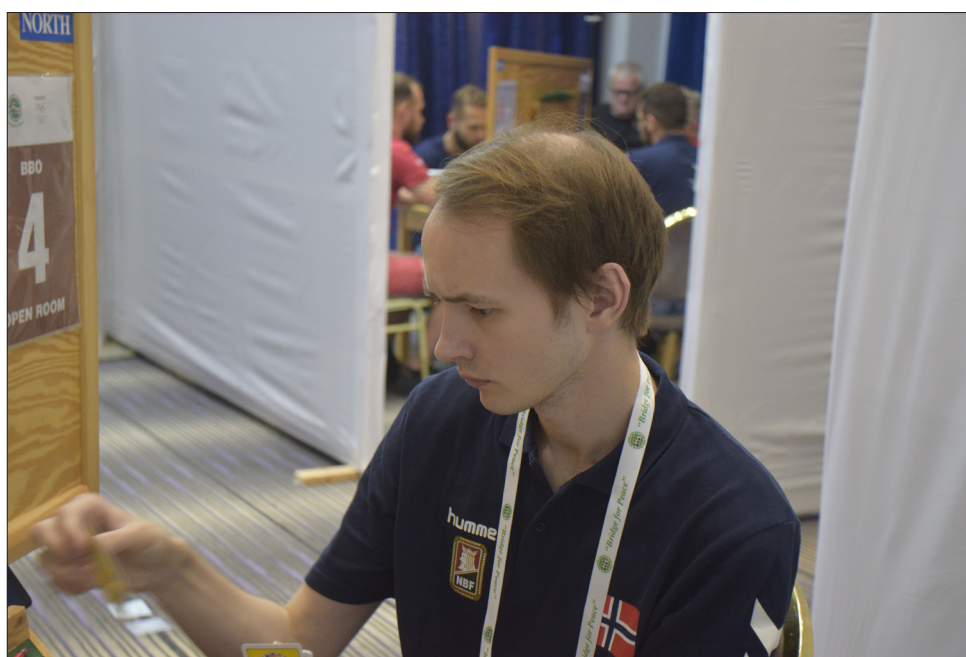
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	J Liu	Grude	Zhuang
—	—	—	1♦
INT	2♠	3♦*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

J Liu led the ♠4 and the great Helgemo played low from dummy. Zhuang won with the ♠Q and returned a spade to the ace. A third spade went to the jack, and the ♥A then failed to drop the king. Zhuang won the next heart with the king and switched to the ♣5. North won with the ♣K and scored his remaining spades for down three. Who would have guessed that the first card played from dummy would make a difference of five tricks!

It was +150 to China and another 12 IMPs in their direction. The flow of IMPs then dried up. After four segments, China led their mighty opponents by 149-119. How well they had played!

Before I head downstairs to scan the contents of the fridge, may I say a few words about the VG operators? I am informed by the organiser that they are using professional operators from Poland. ‘How well are they doing?’ I was asked. Their job is arduous, spotting each card from quite a distance and not letting the concentration drop for a second. I replied that at my tables the operators had been immaculate in every way – a credit to this great tournament!



Christian Bakke, Norway

WTOT Butler

PLA1	PLA2	Butl	CntBrd	Cntry1	Cntry2
STEPINSKI Jeremi	WROBEL Michal	2.08	40	Poland	Poland
DAS Badal Chandra	BARDHAN Pranab Kumar	1.61	70	India	India
GODED Federico	GODED Gonzalo	1.42	100	Spain	Spain
LAVEE Daniel	KLIMOWICZ Piotr	1.34	79	Canada	Canada
SAKOWSKA Natalia	BUTRYN Piotr	1.33	80	Poland	Poland
GU Jiang	ROGOFF Bruce	1.24	100	U.S.A.	U.S.A.
CULLIN Per-Ola	MICHIELSEN Marion	1.24	80	Sweden	Sweden
TISLEVOLL Geir-Olav	NUNN Tony	1.22	60	New Zealand	Australia
VERBEEK Tim	ROS Gert-Jan	1.13	70	Netherlands	Netherlands
AUKEN Sabine	WELLAND Roy	1.05	100	Germany	Germany
KHO Jie Min	TOH Zhen Huai	1.03	80	Singapore	Singapore
PACHTMAN Ron	ZATORSKI Piotr	0.99	100	Israel	Poland
JUCHIMOWICZ PUGLIESE Esteban	PEJACSEVICH Pierre	0.98	50	Argentina	Argentina
ROMBAUT Jerome	ROMBAUT Leo	0.98	100	France	France
GOLD David	BLACK Andrew	0.97	60	England	England
ERICHSEN Espen	PLACKETT Richard Mark	0.96	100	England	Wales
FLEURY Herve	CHOTTIN Philippe	0.93	70	France	France
BITRAN Albert	STRETZ Francois	0.90	60	France	France
MAUBERQUEZ Eric	PAYEN Bernard	0.85	40	France	France
SUN Ming	SHEN Mingkun	0.83	70	China	China
BUUS THOMSEN Signe	JEPSEN Peter	0.81	100	Denmark	Denmark
KHANDELWAL Rajeev	KHANDELWAL Himani	0.80	70	India	India
BAREKET Ilan	SAADA Nathalie	0.80	60	Israel	Israel
LIGGINS Glyn	DYSON Andrew	0.79	100	England	England
FRUEWIRTH Robert	THOMPSON Jamie	0.78	80	Australia	Australia
EDIS Timur	EDIS Elvan	0.77	100	United Arab Emirates	United Arab Emirates
McINTOSH Andrew	PASKE Thomas	0.76	70	England	England
JUURI-OJA Jouni	NYBERG Clas	0.75	100	Finland	Finland
YADLIN Doron	ZACK Yaniv	0.75	40	Israel	Israel
BACH Ashley	MAYER Malcolm	0.68	50	New Zealand	New Zealand
HANLON Tom	McGANN Hugh	0.68	80	Ireland	Ireland
KOLESNIK Alex	DOECKE Michael	0.68	40	U.S.A.	Australia
HACHIMI Hayet	BENKIRANE Fattouma	0.67	100	Morocco	Morocco
WHIBLEY Michael	BROWN Matthew	0.64	90	New Zealand	New Zealand
LORENTZ Gabi	BURGESS Stephen	0.62	100	Australia	Australia
KHARE Ajay	TOLANI Raju	0.59	80	India	India
TOMMASINI Stefano	NORTON Ben	0.59	80	England	England
HANDLEY-PRITCHARD Ben	TOWNSEND Tom	0.57	70	England	England
RIMSTEDT Mikael	RIMSTEDT Ola	0.56	100	Sweden	Sweden
MADALA Agustin	BILDE Dennis	0.56	100	Italy	Denmark
TSAI Po-Ya	FAN Kang-Wei	0.56	59	Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taipei
HOFTANISKA Thor Erik	ANDRESEN Martin	0.53	90	England	Norway
PELLEGRINI Carlos	ROCCA Silvana	0.53	70	Argentina	Argentina
MILLINGTON Jenny	JONES Barry	0.53	70	New Zealand	New Zealand
GOMEZ Ramon	GONCALVES Pedro	0.52	100	Spain	Spain
ONG Jin Xiang	XU Jiening	0.49	80	Singapore	Singapore
CUMMINS Patricia	ROTCHHELL Douglas	0.48	60	Barbados	Barbados
SOULET Philippe	VINCIGUERRA Herve	0.47	70	France	France
SALLIERE Gerard	MOUTTET Patrick	0.47	100	France	France
EVENSTAD Stian	HEIBERG-EVENSTAD Nicolai	0.47	90	Norway	Norway
BERTHEAU Peter	HULT Simon	0.44	70	Sweden	Sweden
LIANG Yixiong	SHEN Xiaonong	0.44	70	China	China
FRUSCOLONI Leonardo	TODD Katherine	0.44	100	Italy	U.S.A.
KREFELD Camilla Bo	HAMMELEV Johan	0.44	80	Denmark	Denmark
WILDAVSKY Adam	GERARD Ronald	0.43	100	U.S.A.	U.S.A.
LHUISSIER Nicolas	BERNARD Julien	0.43	70	France	France
FISCHER Doris	SAURER Bernd	0.41	100	Austria	Austria
CARROLL John	MORAN Mark	0.40	60	Ireland	Ireland

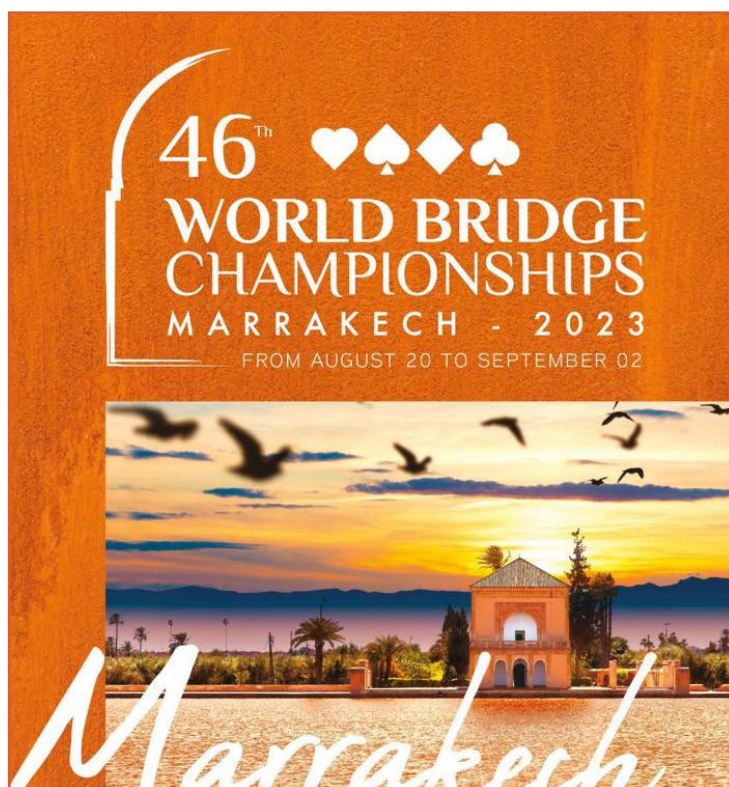
ROBSON Andrew	CROUCH Peter	0.39	100	England	England
THOMPSON Ben	COOPER Renee	0.38	60	Australia	Australia
LANZAROTTI Massimo	FRANCHI Arrigo	0.36	100	Italy	Italy
TAO Jian Hua	LIN Rongqiang	0.33	60	China	China
T'KINT DE ROODENBEKE Pierre	T'KINT DE ROODENBEKE Cathy	0.32	100	Morocco	Morocco
KARMARKAR Marianne	KARMARKAR Sandeep	0.32	50	India	India
STOKKA Adam	WRANG David	0.32	100	Sweden	Sweden
LIN Chii-Mou	CHUNG Jen-Chien	0.30	60	Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taipei
PALMA Antonio	DIAS Paulo	0.30	100	Portugal	Portugal
BURROWS Wayne	MIAO Clair	0.30	70	New Zealand	New Zealand
OURSEL Christophe	RIEHM Franck	0.29	80	France	France
KAPLAN Adam	VAN OOSTEN Sibrand	0.28	100	U.S.A.	Netherlands
DE LA MAZA Manuel	MINGOT Lola	0.26	50	Spain	Spain
BYRNE Michael	KNOTTENBELT Maggie	0.24	50	England	England
CHAMAR Ismail	FARHANI GONCALVES Maissa	0.22	100	Morocco	Tunisia
PATEL Vidhya	BALIRAM GURJAR Kalpana	0.21	80	India	India
FREDIN Peter	EKENBERG Simon	0.14	100	Sweden	Sweden
BENALI Mohamed	CHAOUKI Bensaid	0.13	60	Morocco	Morocco
KOWALSKI Dariusz	SIELICKI Tomasz	0.12	90	Poland	Poland
WODNIANSKY Beatrix	ALTER Florian	0.12	100	Germany	Germany
DUBOIN Giorgio	ZALESKI Romain	0.12	100	Italy	Italy
ARRIGONI Gianna	OLIVIERI Gabriella	0.10	70	Italy	Italy
CHEN Lin-Huan	HSIEH Ding-Hwa	0.10	100	U.S.A.	U.S.A.
SATYANARAYANA Bachiraju	NADAR Kiran	0.09	80	India	India
MESBUR Adam	GARVEY Tommy	0.08	60	Ireland	Ireland
HE Cindy	LUO Jianfeng	0.08	60	Canada	Canada
LING Roger	CHEUNG L. Fu	0.08	50	Hong Kong China	Hong Kong China
GOWER Craig	FICK Hennie	0.08	40	South Africa	South Africa
TOMA Marcos	DIAS Rafael	0.08	80	Brazil	Brazil
SHEN Nai Jeng	YANG Hsin-Lung	0.07	60	Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taipei
VAN LANKVELD Joris	VAN DEN BOS Berend	0.05	80	Netherlands	Netherlands
ZETS Avril	JOHANNSSON Axel	0.04	70	Australia	Australia
SHIH Juei-Yu	CHENG Kuo-Paw	0.04	80	Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taipei
NACRUR Francisca	GURIDI Gonzalo	0.02	100	Chile	Chile
YUEN Michael	BUCHEN Peter Walter	0.00	80	Canada	Australia
HENNEBERG Marlene	HENNEBERG Jens Ove	0.00	50	Denmark	Denmark
THOMPSON Jenny	FRYDA David	-0.01	80	Australia	Australia
BENOIT Alain	GHOSN Rita	-0.03	100	France	Lebanon
GUEDIRA Larbi	CHRAIBI Mohammed	-0.03	60	Morocco	Morocco
STRAFNER Michael	WEINBERGER Simon	-0.04	100	Austria	Austria
CHEN Kuan-Hsuan	LIU Ming-Chien	-0.06	69	Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taipei
LING Roger	LEIGH Alex	-0.06	50	Hong Kong China	Hong Kong China
MUKHERJEE Sumit	TEWARI Rajeshwar	-0.07	59	India	India
SAELENSMINDE Erik	GILLIS Simon	-0.08	100	Norway	England
MALINOWSKI Artur	ROSENTHAL Lee	-0.11	100	England	Israel
LIU Pei-Hua	HSIAO Kuan-Chu	-0.11	70	Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taipei
BAREL Michael	KATZ Paz	-0.12	60	Israel	Israel
GRZEJDZIAK Igor	GRZEJDZIAK Sabina	-0.13	80	Poland	Poland
BIANCHEDI Alejandro	COLE Margie	-0.14	100	Argentina	U.S.A.
BENINGER Nicola	ROBBINS Boyce	-0.17	100	Mexico	Mexico
DINKIN Sam	SCHIRESON Olivia	-0.18	50	U.S.A.	U.S.A.
SBILI Said	MIRI Mohammed	-0.19	70	Morocco	Morocco
HUSAIN Mohammad	ALREFAE Bader	-0.19	100	Kuwait	Kuwait
CHEN Yin-Shou	LIN Yin-Yu	-0.20	60	Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taipei
BOTTA Giorgia	TEBHA Anam	-0.20	50	U.S.A.	U.S.A.
NOSHY Sherif	ZAITOUN Mahmoud	-0.21	100	Egypt	Egypt
LEUNG Louis	HUI Joanne	-0.23	100	Hong Kong China	Hong Kong China
HU Zhenghui	CHEN Yuan	-0.24	70	Canada	Canada
MOSES Neville	MOSES Kinga	-0.25	60	Australia	Australia
REES Tim	PIERCE Ceri	-0.26	100	Wales	Wales
TEBHA Anam	GOLD Marusa	-0.30	50	U.S.A.	England
BATRA Puja	SHARMA Asha	-0.32	60	India	India
MARKEY Phil	TRAVIS Lauren	-0.32	60	Australia	Australia
CAMPOS Joao-Paulo	RODRIGUES Adriano	-0.35	99	Brazil	Brazil

FIGUEIREDO Mauricio	PAIVA Marcos	-0.35	99	Brazil	Brazil
KOISTINEN Kauko	SALONEN Jari	-0.36	100	Finland	Finland
HUANG Candice	WANG Michael	-0.37	70	Canada	Canada
LAWRENCE Oliver	LAWRENCE Patrick	-0.38	100	England	England
WENNING Ulrich	WENNING Karin	-0.39	70	Germany	Germany
PSZCZOLA Jacek	SAKR May	-0.40	100	U.S.A.	U.S.A.
IAVICOLI Federico	SCATA Sebastiano	-0.41	100	Italy	Italy
VALRANI Darshan	VALRANI Vandana	-0.42	100	United Arab Emirates	United Arab Emirates
ELSAYYAD Rafat	MOHAMED Wael	-0.42	100	Egypt	Egypt
ROCAFORT Jean-Pierre	CLARET Michel	-0.43	70	France	France
PEDANI Perla	GEMIGNANI Manuela	-0.44	100	Italy	Italy
MIRALI Ahmed	MIRALI Rachid	-0.45	100	Morocco	Morocco
LEVY Alain	MAUBERQUEZ Eric	-0.45	60	France	France
WOODRUFF Laura	JONES Gary	-0.47	100	Wales	Wales
WU Tzu-Lin	SO Ho-Yee	-0.47	70	Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taipei
THAKRAL Sandeep	SHIVDASANI Jaggy	-0.52	60	India	India
HERRERA Gonzalo	HERRERA Patricia	-0.52	100	Mexico	Mexico
SAFSTEN Johan	ABRAGI Andreas	-0.53	70	Sweden	Sweden
BOHLKE Eckhard	HERZ Kathryn	-0.56	70	Germany	Germany
LIU Violet	YANG Ming-Ching	-0.56	70	Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taipei
LAM Hon Shing, Henry	FUNG Kwok Lau	-0.57	70	Hong Kong China	Hong Kong China
GROSSACK Adam	KOLESNIK Emma	-0.62	60	U.S.A.	U.S.A.
SUMAR Humayun	QASIM NORANI Nermeen	-0.66	100	United Arab Emirates	United Arab Emirates
ZACK Yaniv	BENIN-BARR Ronnie	-0.67	60	Israel	Israel
DAWSON Helena	ZHANG Catherine (Runmei)	-0.67	70	Australia	Australia
GOLDBERG Connie	LEVITINA Irina	-0.68	60	U.S.A.	U.S.A.
VALENTI JANIAK Marie Christine	MONNET Luc	-0.69	100	France	France
BAUSBACK Nikolas	DING Hong	-0.69	100	Germany	U.S.A.
MEDIERO Marina	SAINZ DEVICUNA Maria	-0.73	60	Spain	Spain
SAHA Subrata	DAS Sukamal	-0.75	80	India	India
ABECASSIS Michel	BOMPIS Marc	-0.77	60	France	France
SMYKALLA Gisela	DELLA MONTA Annaig	-0.83	60	Germany	Germany
GOTARD Barbara	GOTARD Thomas	-0.84	50	Germany	Germany
LIRAN Inon	POPLIOV Matilda	-0.85	60	Israel	Israel
BILDE Lone	RASMUSSEN Helle	-0.87	70	Denmark	Denmark
LASSERRE Guy	EL GHRARI Abdellah	-0.92	100	France	Morocco
TUMILOWICZ Mariusz	WU Mindy	-0.93	60	New Zealand	New Zealand
ALMIDFA Ahmed	MEKKY AMR	-0.95	100	United Arab Emirates	United Arab Emirates
STEPINSKI Jeremi	HUTYRA Maciej	-0.97	60	Poland	Poland
CORNELL Michael	BACH Ashley	-0.98	50	New Zealand	New Zealand
WILTSHIRE David	ASHTON Sophie	-1.00	80	Australia	Australia
LAM Bacon	TO Jenny	-1.06	100	Hong Kong China	Hong Kong China
NARUNSKY Maureen	ALEXANDER Mike	-1.09	100	South Africa	South Africa
PRIMAVERA Federico	SCHUSTER Walter	-1.12	50	Italy	Austria
MEZIATI Mohammed	MEDDOUN Tahar	-1.13	60	Morocco	Morocco
ALBAIDI Khaled	ALDASHTI Abdulaziz	-1.28	100	Kuwait	Kuwait
BREWIAK Grazyna	DABROWSKI Maciej	-1.30	40	Poland	Poland
GOSNEY John Paul	LEIBOWITZ Tony	-1.33	60	Australia	Australia
SBILI Tariq	BENSAID Jamal	-1.39	70	Morocco	Morocco
JALAN Hemant K	BASAK Samir	-1.44	50	India	India
FICK Hennie	STEPHENS Robert	-1.50	40	South Africa	South Africa
HINDS Roglyn	SPRINGER Adelle	-1.57	70	Barbados	Barbados
TAN Selene	TAN Paul Kayzen	-1.63	40	Singapore	Singapore
DEY Bharati	KSHIRSAGAR Alka	-1.73	60	India	India
BENTALEB Hamid	BOUTKHIL Mohamed	-1.88	100	Morocco	Morocco
HAMMANS Clive	HAMMANS Marcia	-1.93	70	Barbados	Barbados

World Championship Book 2023 pre-order

The book of the
Marrakech World Championships
edited by Mark Horton can be
pre-ordered in the Daily Bulletin Room located on level -1.

It will cost €35, US\$35 or £30.
Purchasers will be able to collect the book at a future championship of
their choice, or have it mailed to them
(at an additional cost of €10, US\$10 or £10).



Publication is expected to be before the summer of 2024. The reporters
will include David Bird, Brian Senior & Barry Rigal.
All payments must be in cash.