



2nd Online Women's Teams

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A Brief Moment in Time

An event involving 38 countries from so many different time zones means that an unusual format is required, all the matches having to be determined well in advance. That means that you may not meet teams with similar scores and may never encounter your closest rivals. The teams hoping to win or finish high up the leader board must aim for a significant victory point average over the course of the event. I wonder how many of the teams have made any estimation of what sort of average is required to be in with a chance of winning.

There are still three rounds to be completed and looking at the ever-changing scoreboard Athens Team, having competed nine matches are averaging 15.45 VP. Valkyrie has also completed nine matches for 13.82 VP. Alpert are on 15.17 VP but they have only played 6 matches.

If you want to keep pace with the results, go to:

realbridge.online/wbf-women-2025-ranking-list.html

With so many matches still to be played it is too soon to predict a winner, but it looks like an average of more than 15 VP will be required.

Only time will tell!

Important Links

WBF website

<http://championships.worldbridge.org/2025-wbf-online-womens-teams>

Kibitzers

<https://kibitz.realbridge.online> (deferred by 55 minutes)

Results

realbridge.online/wbf-women-2025-ranking-list.html



Rise and Shine

Mark Horton

The first task of the day was to catch up with Friday's outstanding deals.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Athens Team v Slam Femmes

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jukas</i>	<i>Kasimopoulou</i>	<i>Rabusic</i>	<i>Karatzas</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	3♣	All Pass	

East led the ♦J, ruffed the third round of the suit and switched to the ♠2, One down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kotronarou</i>	<i>Cujetanovic</i>	<i>Zerva</i>	<i>Ceovic</i>
—	—	—	2♠*
2NT	Pass	3♦*	Pass
4♥	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	5♦
Dble	All Pass		
2♠	5♠+4♣/♦		

West led the ♥6 for the king and ace and declarer played three rounds of clubs, discarding two hearts. West ruffed, cashed the ♠A and continued with the ♠3. Declarer elected to ruff in dummy and then pitched the ♥10 on the ♣10, West ruffing and exiting with the ♠6. When declarer discarded the ♣6 from dummy East ruffed and played a heart. Declarer ruffed in dummy and played a diamond (a club saves a trick) and West could take the ♦AK and the ♠K for five down, -1100 and 14 IMPs.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Hibernians v Paris et Bordeaux

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Halfon</i>	<i>Brady</i>	<i>Avon</i>	<i>Timoney</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♠2 and declarer went up with dummy's ♠K and played a heart to the ten. When that passed off peacefully she cashed the ♣K and played a club for the eight and queen. North returned the ♠10 and when the ♠Q held declarer played a club to the ace and a diamond to the queen. South could win and cash two spades, but declarer had the rest, +600.



Closed Room


West	North	East	South
O'Connor	Poussou	Hill	Paulissen
—	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

1♣ 2+♣

Here South led the ♠4 and having won with the ♠8 declarer played three rounds of clubs, South winning as North pitched the ♠5. South switched to the ♥9 and when declarer played low from dummy North won with the ♥K and played a diamond for the queen and king. South exited with the ♠7 and declarer discovered there were only eight tricks available, -100 and a 12 IMP loss.

When South switches to the ♥9 declarer must go up with dummy's ♥A and play on spades. If South ducks twice, declarer goes to dummy with a club and plays a heart, establishing a ninth trick.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Alpert v Sunrise

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Katz	Alpert	Zur-Campanile	Baroni
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♠	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Dble	All Pass

Opposite a vulnerable overcall with some well-placed hearts East was happy to double. West led the ♥Q for the king and ace and East switched to the ♠J. Declarer took the ♠A and played the ♣2 for the six, seven and queen. Back came a spade and West cashed the queen and king. At this point West needs to find the Garozzo like play of exiting with a club, tangling declarer's entries to such an extent that she cannot get up to nine tricks. Switching to the ♠J allowed declarer to unlock the ♠AQ, cross to the ♣A and claim the rest, +550.


Declarer can avoid this by ducking East's spade switch. She wins the next spade and must play the ♣10, East winning. Now there is no defence. If East exits with a club declarer can cash her winners in the suit, unlock the diamonds and exit with a heart, forcing East to surrender two more tricks to dummy.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dufurat	Levi	Kazmucha	Asulin
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♠	2♥	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

West led the ♠J and declarer won with the ♠A and ran the ♣9, East winning with the ♣Q and switching to the ♠J. Declarer won, unblocked the ♠Q and cashed her winners, +120 but 10 IMPs away.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Alpert v Silver Darlings

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Garden	Kazmucha	Coles	Dufurat
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♥	2♠	Dble*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
1♣	2+♣		
Dble	3♥		

North led the ♠J and declarer took dummy's ♠A, cashed the ♥AK and played a spade, North going up with the ace and playing a second diamond, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Baroni	Glass	Alpert	Dearden
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♥	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

East led the ♥5 and West won with the king and switched to the ♠5, East winning with the ♠J, cashing the ♥Q and then playing the ♣8. West took three tricks in the suit and when East discarded the ♥8 West continued with the ♥10. When declarer discarded the ♦9 she had manufactured an extra undertrick, East ruffing with the ♠7 and cashing the ♦A. That put the defenders ahead 8-0 and there was still the ♠K to come, four down, -1100 along with 10 IMPs.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Alpert v Silver Darlings

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Garden</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Coles</i>	<i>Dufrat</i>
—	—	1♣*	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	
1♣	2+♣		

Many years ago I wrote a Bols Bridge Tip about not being afraid to respond. It was considered by some to be heretical, but nowadays almost everyone has embraced it.

It would have served EW well here.

South led the ♥3 (low from a doubleton) and North took the ♥A and switched to the ♣9. The best declarer can do at this point is duck, win the next club and play the ♦K. If that holds she can cash the ♥K for four down. When she won and exited with the ♠Q the defenders could draw trumps and cash winners for five down, -1100.

If South leads the ♣K on the go, two tricks is all declarer can hope for.

As an aside, once South has passed the double of 1♣ West should probably do something, either redoubling for rescue or bidding 1♦.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Baroni</i>	<i>Glass</i>	<i>Alpert</i>	<i>Dearden</i>
—	—	1♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♣
2♦	2♠	All Pass	

East led the ♦K and declarer won, cashed the top spades and played a club, finishing with eleven tricks, +170 but a loss of 11 IMPs.

With four card support for spades and a great suit it was surprising that South didn't raise to 3♠, but a lot of pairs missed this game.

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Alpert v Silver Darlings

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Garden</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Coles</i>	<i>Dufrat</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♥J for the king and ace and East switched to the ♣6. When the ♣Q held declarer ran dummy's diamonds and finished with twelve tricks, eventually scoring dummy's ♠9, +690.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Baroni</i>	<i>Glass</i>	<i>Alpert</i>	<i>Dearden</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♥*
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

A six card suit is a powerful asset facing a strong balanced hand.

East led the ♥A which meant that declarer no longer required the club finesse, +1370 and 12 IMPs. An initial club lead would have given declarer a nasty problem.

Board 22. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Athens Team v Valkyrie

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Politou</i>	<i>Nettleton</i>	<i>Arslanglou</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♠J and when dummy's ♠K held declarer came to hand with a diamond and played a second spade, establishing her ninth trick, +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dinozou</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Vrochidou</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
1♠	1NT	All Pass	

East led the ♣Q and declarer ducked, won the next club perforce with dummy's ♣A and played a spade, West taking the ♠A and playing a club, +150 but a 10 IMP loss.

Board 45. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Athens Team v Valkyrie

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Politou</i>	<i>Nettleton</i>	<i>Arslanglou</i>
—	1♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West led the ♣K and East took the ♣A and returned the ♣10 to West's ♦K. When she switched to the ♦6 declarer let it run to her queen and had ten tricks, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dinozou</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Vrochidou</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The first two tricks were identical, but then West continued with the ♣4, ruffed and overruffed by declarer who played the ♠K, East winning and switching to the ♦9 for the queen, king and ace. Declarer played all her trumps, but the hoped for show up squeeze against West did not materialize and she was one down, -100, a loss of 12 IMPs.

Looking at the overall scores, Athens Team had 107.75, Mexico Lindo 105.74, Paris et Bordeaux 101.51, Minerva 99.01 and Valkyrie 91.11. However, this is an event where we have to wait a long time before we have a clear idea of who is doing well!



Natural Break

Mark Horton

Having written up rather more than I intended from Friday night's play, a quick coffee and a mince pie was followed by a return to the action. Those of a nervous disposition should look away now.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A 6 ♥ A K Q 9 8 7 3 ♦ K ♣ A K J		♠ K 7 4 3 ♥ — ♦ 9 8 7 6 4 2 ♣ 10 9 2	♠ Q J 10 9 5 2 ♥ J 6 5 4 2 ♦ — ♣ 7 3
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CC United v Bridge Babes

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Travis	Li	Therault	He
—	—	—	2♦*
3♦	6♥	7♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

2♦ Both majors, weak

Do you think South's Pass should be forcing? If it shows a first-round control in diamonds it is quite tempting for North to try 7♥.

North led the ♠A and continued with the ♠6, declarer discarding the ♥10 on dummy's ♠K, cashing the ♦A, crossing to dummy with a diamond and running the ♣10 for four down, -1100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	Wilson	Zhang	Brahma
—	—	—	2♠
Pass	2NT*	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

2NT Strong enquiry

There was a spade to lose, +980 but a 3 IMP loss.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

CC United v Bridge Babes

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Travis	Li	Therault	He
1♠	Pass	2NT*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

2NT Strong raise
 4♦ 5♠+5♦, 11-14
 4NT RKCB
 5♥ 2 keycards



North led the ♣K and declarer won with dummy's ♣A, cashed the ♠K, drew the outstanding trump and played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing. When the suit divided she could claim the rest, +1460.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Wilson</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Brahma</i>
1♠	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
4♦	Splinter		

The same lead and an identical outcome, but +710 meant the loss of 13 IMPs.

Perhaps West is worth a Last Train 4♥?

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

CC United v Bridge Babes

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Travis</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Therault</i>	<i>He</i>
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♦	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass
2♠	Forcing		

When West led the ♥7 away went the ♦10. The ♥K took care of a club and a club to the queen, the ♣A and a club ruff meant +1660.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Wilson</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Brahma</i>
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♦*	Dble	6♠
All Pass			

3♣	Fourth suit forcing
4NT	RKCB
5♦	1 keycard

West led the ♦2 and East won with the ♦Q and switched to the ♠8. Declarer won and played two more rounds of spades, West winning and exiting with a heart which allowed declarer to escape for only one down, -100 and an 18 IMP swing.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Miso Cod v Black Diamonds

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lennon</i>	<i>Seamon</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Alabaster</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dble
Pass	2♦	Dble	3♦
3♥	All Pass		

South led the ♣Q and declarer won with the ♣A, cashed the ♥A and played the ♦Q, North winning and returning the ♣2. Declarer won, cashed the ♥K and ran the ♠6, North winning with the ♠J, cashing the ♥Q and exiting with the ♦2. Declarer ruffed and played the ♠10 and South took the ♠A and played the ♦A. Declarer ruffed and played a spade to dummy's king which meant she was one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Hajmasi</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Smith</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dble
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

South led the ♣Q and declarer won with the ♣A, cashed the ♥A, played a spade to the king and ran the ♥J. When South discarded the ♦5 she drew the outstanding trump and exited with the ♦Q. North won, played the ♠J and exited with the ♦6. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ♣K and ruffed a club, claiming when the ♣J appeared, +420 and 10 IMPs.

They were the only pair to bid game.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Avocado v Japan Girls

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Tucker</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>	<i>Sylvester</i>
—	Pass	Pass	2♠
Dble	3♠	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

South led the ♠K and declarer ruffed, played a club to the ace and a club to the king. When South discarded she played a diamond to the ace collecting North's ♦Q, ruffed a spade, cashed the ♣Q and played on diamonds for a splendid +1370.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Zhang</i>	<i>Inamura</i>	<i>W Zhang</i>	<i>Heffernan</i>
—	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♥Q and declarer won with the ♥A and played two rounds of clubs. South discarded the ♦7 and declarer cashed her winners for +630 – and a 12 IMP loss.

I recall reading somewhere that this situation is not dissimilar to that appertaining to a gambling 3NT opening. If North leads the ♠A...

In the match between Leading Ladies and Six Diamonds 5♣ was bid in the Closed Room, declarer collecting eleven tricks for +600.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Johnstone</i>	<i>Yoffa</i>	<i>Udomsriprung.</i>	<i>Bird</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♠*	Dble
Pass	3♣*	Dble	3♠
Dble	All Pass		

2♠ Range ask or clubs
 3♣ was explained as Pass or correct.

West led the ♠2 and declarer mistakenly took dummy's ♠A and played the ♦Q, East winning and switching to the ♥5 (West might have overtaken the king to play a second spade). West won and exited with the ♠7. Declarer won with the ♠Q and continued with the ♥10. If West takes that and exits with the ♠J the contract will be two down, but when she ducked declarer could ruff a diamond, ruff a heart and cash the ♠K for +730 and 16 IMPs.

There is beautiful double dummy defence to 3♠ doubled.

West must start with two rounds of clubs, declarer ruffing and playing a heart. West wins and must now underlead in diamonds, East winning and playing a club. Declarer has to ruff high but when she plays a second heart West wins and plays the ♦A, forcing dummy to ruff. Now declarer cannot avoid the loss of one more trick.

Are you a fan of off-shape notrump openings? Perhaps this deal will persuade you?

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Smashing Desis v Sunshine Sisters

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Howard</i>	<i>Jalan</i>	<i>Coleman</i>	<i>Chhabria</i>
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♥10 and declarer won, cashed five clubs and the ♥K by which time here spades were all winners, +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Viswanath</i>	<i>Weingold</i>	<i>Iyer</i>	<i>O'Neill</i>
—	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1NT	All Pass		
1♣	2+♣		

North led the ♥4 and here too declarer emerged with 11 tricks, +210 but a 10 IMP loss.

Afternoon Adventures

Mark Horton

After a light lunch – on we go.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Bharat v CC United

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zuo	Khot	Yuan	Limaye
—	1♣*	Pass	1♦*
Pass	1♥	All Pass	

1♣	16+
1♦	Negative

East led the ♠5 and West took the ♠A and switched to the ♣5 for the king and ace, East continuing with the ♣Q. Declarer ruffed, played two rounds of hearts ending in dummy and ran the ♦Q, East winning and exiting with the ♣4. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ♦AJ, ruffed a diamond and played a spade for ten tricks, +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Deole	Liu	Karmarkar	Zheng
—	1♣*	Pass	1♦*
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

1♣	16+
1♦	0-7, any

East led the ♠9 and West took the ♠A and returned the ♠6. When the ♠J held declarer drew trumps ending in hand and played two rounds of diamonds, East taking the ♦K and exiting with the ♦10. Declarer won in dummy and tried a club to the king, claiming when it lost, +620 and 10 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Bridge Babes v India Queens

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Thakur	Therault	Basu	Travis
Pass	1♦	1♥	Dble*
2♥	Pass	Pass	5♦
Dble	All Pass		

East led the ♣K and declarer won with dummy's ♣A and played four rounds of spades, discarding her losing clubs. When East could not ruff declarer cashed the ♥A, ruffed a heart, played a diamond to the ten, ruffed a heart and played a diamond. West won and exited with a club, declarer winning and ruffing her last heart. West could overruff, but declarer was home, +550.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brahma</i>	<i>Baliram</i>	<i>Wilson</i>	<i>Patel</i>
Pass	1♦*	1♥	Dble*
2♦*	Pass	3♣	3♦
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	5♦	All Pass	
1♦	0+♦		
2♦	Heart support		

Declarer won East's club lead and played three rounds of spades discarding a club. When a diamond slipped by West's ace she cashed the ♥A< ruffed a heart and ditched her remaining club on the ♠J before cross ruffing her way to eleven tricks, +400 but a 4 IMP loss.

No one else reached 5♦, but Jan Alabaster and Audrey Lennon bid 3NT, declarer winning the second round of clubs and forcing out the ♦A for ten tricks, +430 giving Black Diamonds 7 IMPs against Sarlafibers when North's 11-13 1NT was passed out.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Istanbul v Avacado

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>J Tobin</i>	<i>Yavas</i>	<i>R Tobin</i>	<i>Özbay</i>
—	Pass	1♣*	Dble
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
1♣	3+♣		
2♣	Cue for spades		

With her 4333 South saw no reason to play in spades.

East led the ♣8 and declarer won with the ♣10 and played a spade, taking East's ♠K with the ace and returning the ♠J. East won and played the ♣A followed by the ♣Q. declarer winning and playing a heart for the ten and king which gave her ten tricks, +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Erkan</i>	<i>Tucker</i>	<i>Acar</i>	<i>Sylvester</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Dble
1♥	Dble	Rdbl*	4♠
All Pass			
Rdbl	3♥		

West led the ♣6 and East won with the ♣Q and switched to the ♥8, West winning with the ♥K and switching to the ♦10. Declarer won with the ♦K, ran the ♠9 and played a spade for the king and ace. She had to lose a spade and a club for one down, -100 and a 12 IMP loss.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Turkish Girls v Six Diamonds

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lindsay</i>	<i>Sankur</i>	<i>Klassen</i>	<i>Uz</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
2♥	2♠	4♥	All Pass

It would not be much of a stretch for East to open 1♣ – but no one did. When West introduced her chunky hearts East had an easy raise. The question is how best to do so? The possibilities include a fit non jump of 3♣, a fit jump of 4♣, a support showing 2NT or 3♠. With South marked with at most one heart it was surprising that North did not press on to 4♠.

Declarer ruffed the spade lead in dummy and played a heart, South winning and switching to the ♦2. That gave declarer the rest, +680.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tort</i>	<i>Yoffa</i>	<i>Yildrim</i>	<i>Bird</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Dble	Pass
3♥	3♠	All Pass	

You can make a case for West to bid 4♥ after partner's double – every card is working.

West led the ♥K and declarer won, crossed to dummy with the ♠A and played a diamond to the queen. West won and continued with the ♥Q and when declarer ruffed and played the ♦A West ruffed and exited with the ♥J. Declarer ruffed and drew trumps which meant she was two down, -200 but 10 IMPs to the good.

Board 35. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Turkish Girls v Cymru

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Commins	Sankur	Kurbalija	Uz
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass
2♣	Game forcing		
2♦	Relay		
2NT	23-24 balanced		
3♣	Stayman		

South led the ♦8 for the king and ace and declarer played ace and another club for twelve tricks, +690.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
Tort	Deschapper	Yildirim	Pierce
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♦*	Pass	6♣	All Pass

South led the ♦8 for the king and ace and declarer crossed to the ♥K and played a club to the nine. When it held she cashed the ♣A, finishing with twelve tricks,

+1370 and 12 IMPs.

Nine pairs bid a slam – never easy when one player has most of the ammunition.

Board 36. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Bharat v Polish Ladies

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Morawska	Khot	Jarosz	Limaye
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♠*	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
1♣	16+		
1♠	8+, spades		

West led the ♠10 for the jack, queen and ace and declarer cashed the ♦AK and then played dummy's top clubs pitching a spade. When the ♥Q was ducked declarer cross ruffed in spades and diamonds, but West overruffed the third round of spades and was sure to score the ♥K, +650.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Deole	Lucka	Karmarkar	Susanowicz
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	6♥
Dble	All Pass		
2♣	Drury		
4♣	Control		
4♦	Last Train		
4NT	RKCB		
5♣	1 keycard		

West led the ♠10 and declarer won with the ♠A and cashed dummy's top clubs pitching a spade. Three rounds of diamonds, ruffing, were followed by a spade ruff, a diamond ruff with the ♥Q and the ♥10. When East showed out declarer ruffed a club and claimed, +1660 and 14 IMPs.

Board 55. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Castells v Polish Ladies

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sarniak	Hernandez	Baldysz	Mestres
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♦*	Dble	6NT	All Pass
1♣	Polish Club		
2♣	5+♣, 15+		
2♦	Game forcing, any		
4♥	Control		
4NT	RKCB		
5♦	3 keycards		

South led the ♠10 and declarer won with the ♠A, unblocked the ♣J, crossed to dummy with the ♠Q and cashed two clubs pitching hearts while North parted with two diamonds. A diamond saw North go up with the ♦A and exit with a spade, declarer winning and playing the ♦K followed by the ♦Q. When South parted with the ♠J declarer had her twelfth trick, +1440.

That was very lucky in more than one way. If clubs had been 4-2 the play to the first trick would in theory have cost declarer the contract.

Do you think North should have doubled 4♥?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Castells	Morawska	Pavlushko	Jarosz
—	—	—	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3NT	All Pass
2♣	11-16, 5+♣		
2♦	Asking		
3♣	6+♣		

South led the ♠5 and declarer won with dummy's ♠Q, played a club to the jack and the ♦Q. North took the ♦A and returned a spade. Only the bad break in clubs denied declarer of 12 tricks, +630 resulting in the loss of 13 IMPs.



Night Moves

Mark Horton

The final session of day two comprises seven rounds. By the time I was ready to see what was happening the sun had long since departed.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Makarewicz</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Jaworska</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
—	3♠	Dble	4♠
5♥	All Pass		

North led the ♠A, +480.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Senior</i>	<i>Wojcik</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Zareba</i>
—	3♠	Dble	4♠
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

One advantage of bidding 6♥ is that, apart from that it might be making, is that sometimes the opponents take a save when it is not. (Here 6♠ might cost -1100.)

The same lead and the same number of tricks, but a different score, +980 and 11 IMPs.

Only four pairs bid the slam.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 10 9 6 5 2 ♥ 10 6 5 ♦ A K 3 ♣ 7 5	♠ K 3 ♥ K Q 4 3 ♦ J 10 9 8 6 ♣ 9 6	♠ A Q J 8 4 ♥ J 7 ♦ 7 4 ♣ 10 8 4 3	♠ 7 ♥ A 9 8 2 ♦ Q 5 2 ♣ A K Q J 2
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Valkyrie v Serbia 1

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mitic</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Djordjevic</i>	<i>Senior</i>
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♥	1♠	3♠*
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

- 1♣ 1+♣, unbalanced with clubs or 12-14 or 18-19 balanced, 5♦ possible or 4441♣
- 3♠ Splinter

South led the ♣K, cashed the ♣A but then switched to the ♥7, allowing declarer to escape for one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Eric</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Simic</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♥
4♠	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

West led the ♦K and when declarer followed with the ♦Q she switched to the ♠10, East taking dummy's ♠K and trying to cash the ♠Q, which meant declarer was only two down, -100 and a 5 IMP swing that should have been more.



Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

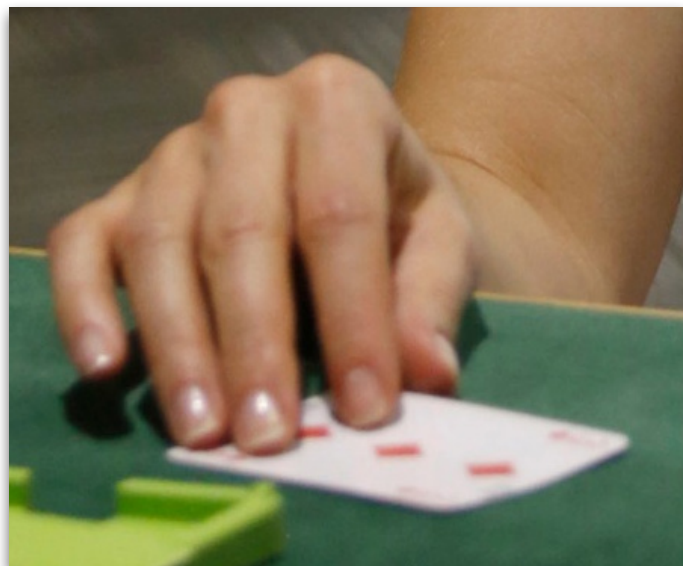
West	North	East	South
<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Cossvyas</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Christaki</i>
—	1♥	Pass	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

East led the ♠K and three rounds of the suit saw her ruff partner's ♠8, cash the ♣A and switch to the ♦4. West won and played her remaining spade after ruffing with the ♥8 a diamond to West's ace meant six down, -1400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pollatou</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Bompolaki</i>	<i>Nettleton</i>
—	1♥	Pass	3♥
Dble	3NT	All Pass	

A heart lead saw declarer take twelve tricks but lose 14 IMPs.



Five pairs reached 6♣.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Cossvyas</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Christaki</i>
—	—	—	1♦
1♠	3♦	4♠	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

That was one down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pollatou</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Bompolaki</i>	<i>Nettleton</i>
—	—	—	1♦
1♠	5♦	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Rdbl	6♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

South's final decision was unfortunate (other adjectives are available).

There were three aces to lose, -500 and a loss of 7 IMPs.