



44th World Bridge Team Championships

International Federation recognised by the
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WUHAN CHINA

DAILY BULLETIN

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Issue No. 5

Thursday, 19th September 2019

MOMENTUM BUILDS FOR LEADING TEAMS IN MAIN EVENTS

Today's Programme
**Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup,
d'Orsi Trophy, Mixed**

10.00 - 12.20

13.30 - 15.50

16.30 - 18.50

10.00 Round 13

BB	Netherlands - Sweden	VG/BBO 1
BB	Italy - England	BBO 2
BB	Poland - Norway	BBO 3
SD	China - USA I	BBO 4
BB	Chile - USA I	BBO 5
VC	Scotland - China	BBO 6
BB	Australia - USA2	BBO 7
SD	Chinese Taipei - Denmark	BBO 8
MX	Romania - USA I	BBO 9
SD	France - India	BBO 10
MX	China - Brazil	BBO 11
MX	Russia - Italy	BBO 12

13.30 Round 14

BB	China - USA I	VG/BBO 1
BB	Israel - Chile	BBO 2
VC	Netherlands - France	BBO 3
BB	Australia - England	BBO 4
BB	USA2 - Russia	BBO 5
VC	Norway - Scotland	BBO 6
VC	Russia - Japan	BBO 7
SD	Netherlands - England	BBO 8
MX	USA I - Italy	BBO 9
SD	France - Chinese Taipei	BBO 10
MX	Latvia - China	BBO 11
SD	India - China	BBO 12

16.30 Round 15

MX	England - Latvia	VG/BBO 1
BB	Israel - Netherlands	BBO 2
BB	USA I - Australia	BBO 3
BB	Chile - England	BBO 4
BB	Poland - Indonesia	BBO 5
VC	Sweden - USA I	BBO 6
VC	Norway - Poland	BBO 7
SD	USA2 - Denmark	BBO 8
MX	Italy - China	BBO 9
VC	USA2 - France	BBO 10
SD	India - Turkey	BBO 11
MX	Russia - USA2	BBO 12



The WBF Executive Council

On top: David Harris, Marc De Pauw, Gianarrigo Rona

Second row: Georgia Heth, John Wignall, Nader Hanna, Al Levy, Simon Fellus, Adam Wildavsky, Arianna Testa, Ben Thompson

Third row: Bernard Pascal, Panos Gerontopoulos, Jan Kamras, Marcelo Caracci, Eitan Levy, José Damiani, Kirubakara Moorthy, Giorgio Duboin, Eric Laurant

Bottom row: Suzi Subeck, Mazhar Jafri, Douglas (Kip) Rotchell, Esther Chodchoy Sophonpanich, Chen Zelan, Kari-Anne Opsal, Patrick Choy

Winning a major teams championship is a marathon, not a sprint, so it's not unusual to see some competitors slow down a bit as the grind of the round robin qualifying matches goes on.

That's not true in all cases, however, as some of the leaders in the *Bermuda Bowl*, *Venice Cup*, *d'Orsi Seniors Trophy* and *Mixed Teams* appear to be picking up the pace in anticipation of making the knockout phases of their respective events.

For example, the *Bermuda Bowl* leaders, **USA I**, have recently recorded scores of 65-29, 52-15, 55-11 and 62-16 among many similar results – some of them against strong opposition.

Against a strong team from **Russia**, **England** scored a surprising 84-23 win.

Poland, leading in the *Venice Cup* had several big wins, and in the *Seniors*, **Denmark**, the leaders, had scores of 69-27, 63-27 and 66-24.

In the *Mixed Teams*, one of the scores that helped **England** to the top spot was 82-1 for them.

Teams are striving to finish in the top eight of their respective brackets so that they can continue playing after the round robin is completed on the coming weekend.

Convention Cards

If you want to check out a Convention Card this link will be useful:

<http://championships.worldbridge.org/wuhanwt19/faq/the-registered-convention-cards>

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Bermuda Bowl After Round 12

TEAM	VP
1 USA 1	178.17
2 NETHERLANDS	173.13
3 SWEDEN	163.81
4 ENGLAND	161.13
5 CHINA	155.98
6 ITALY	155.82
7 NORWAY	153.40
8 ISRAEL	143.99
9 AUSTRALIA	139.70
10 POLAND	136.78
11 CHILE	122.83
12 USA 2	120.64
13 NEW ZEALAND	114.24
14 CHINA HONG KONG	113.13
15 INDIA	107.48
16 RUSSIA	107.22
17 CANADA	106.71
18 ARGENTINA	102.18
19 INDONESIA	102.14
20 SINGAPORE	94.37
21 EGYPT	83.16
22 BANGLADESH	80.27
23 GUADELOUPE	33.90
24 MOROCCO	17.82



WBF Honorary Members
Back: Marc De Pauw, Panos Gerontopoulos, John Wignall, José Damiani, Gianarrigo Rona
Front: Patrick Choy, Mazhar Jafri, Georgia Heth, Chen Zelan, Al Levy

Book signing

Mazhar Jafri will sign his book
“Memoirs of a Veteran Bridge Administrator” (10 US \$)

In the press room **today (Thursday)** at **18.15**
Friends, journalists, colleagues,
players are welcome

Championship offer

The new dealing machines that are [only] used during the championships will be sold at the end for **EUR 2299**.
Price incl. aluminium carrying case and five years warranty. Cards and boards are also sold at **special prices**.
Shipping at subsidised rates from Sweden. See the Duplimate stand or email anna@jannersten.com



Venice Cup After Round 12		d'Orsi Trophy After Round 12		Mixed After Round 12	
TEAM	VP	TEAM	VP	TEAM	VP
1 CHINA	162.34	1 DENMARK	164.75	1 ENGLAND	168.22
2 POLAND	159.42	2 INDIA	158.69	2 LATVIA	156.37
3 NORWAY	153.51	3 CHINESE TAIPEI	153.39	3 USA 2	153.80
4 JAPAN	146.22	4 ENGLAND	151.80	4 ROMANIA	153.70
5 DENMARK	144.19	5 TURKEY	149.83	5 CHINA	149.43
6 ENGLAND	143.20	6 USA 2	149.65	6 FRANCE	147.96
7 FRANCE	142.88	7 CHINA	149.38	7 RUSSIA	144.93
8 SWEDEN	142.55	8 FRANCE	145.70	8 USA 1	141.08
9 NETHERLANDS	139.21	9 NETHERLANDS	130.77	9 DENMARK	134.86
10 USA 1	139.11	10 CANADA	127.63	10 POLAND	134.01
11 CANADA	137.01	11 SWEDEN	126.56	11 INDONESIA	128.81
11 SCOTLAND	137.01	12 USA 1	125.56	12 SWEDEN	127.04
13 RUSSIA	136.09	13 AUSTRALIA	118.89	13 ITALY	124.87
14 NEW ZEALAND	134.06	14 NORWAY	114.72	14 CHINESE TAIPEI	116.94
15 USA 2	132.88	15 INDONESIA	109.51	15 AUSTRALIA	112.81
16 CHINESE TAIPEI	112.48	16 CHINA HONG KONG	108.23	16 BRAZIL	110.40
17 BRAZIL	100.70	17 ITALY	107.57	17 THAILAND	110.22
18 AUSTRALIA	93.96	18 POLAND	107.28	18 CANADA	100.20
19 PAKISTAN	85.75	19 JAPAN	102.07	19 INDIA	96.12
20 CHINA HONG KONG	84.77	20 IRELAND	96.22	20 NEW ZEALAND	90.52
21 INDIA	77.55	21 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	76.67	21 EGYPT	83.62
22 TUNISIA	61.53	22 BULGARIA	76.48	22 MOROCCO	82.94
23 SOUTH AFRICA	60.38	23 REUNION	75.03	23 BARBADOS	78.57
24 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	47.70	24 NEW ZEALAND	49.87	24 PAKISTAN	29.58



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At the end of 2019 the leading three players in the 2019 overall ranking, determined on their best results achieved over a minimum of 100 tournaments will be invited to participate in the 2020 World Championships with a partner of their choice.

M13

M14

M15

Bermuda Bowl**10.00 - 12.20**

CHILE	USA 1
ISRAEL	NEW ZEALAND
CHINA HONG KONG	CANADA
GUADELOUPE	INDONESIA
NETHERLANDS	SWEDEN
CHINA	SINGAPORE
MOROCCO	INDIA
EGYPT	ARGENTINA
AUSTRALIA	USA 2
BANGLADESH	RUSSIA
ITALY	ENGLAND
POLAND	NORWAY

13.30 - 15.50

ISRAEL	CHILE
CHINA HONG KONG	SWEDEN
NETHERLANDS	SINGAPORE
EGYPT	GUADELOUPE
CHINA	USA 1
INDONESIA	ARGENTINA
CANADA	MOROCCO
AUSTRALIA	ENGLAND
ITALY	INDIA
POLAND	BANGLADESH
USA 2	RUSSIA
NORWAY	NEW ZEALAND

16.30 - 18.50

CHILE	ENGLAND
RUSSIA	SINGAPORE
POLAND	INDONESIA
GUADELOUPE	SWEDEN
NORWAY	ARGENTINA
NEW ZEALAND	EGYPT
MOROCCO	CHINA
USA 1	AUSTRALIA
ISRAEL	NETHERLANDS
BANGLADESH	USA 2
CHINA HONG KONG	ITALY
INDIA	CANADA

Venice Cup**10.00 - 12.20**

SWEDEN	TUNISIA
DENMARK	POLAND
NEW ZEALAND	NETHERLANDS
NORWAY	CHINESE TAIPEI
RUSSIA	INDIA
JAPAN	SOUTH AFRICA
SCOTLAND	CHINA
USA 2	PAKISTAN
USA 1	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
CANADA	AUSTRALIA
FRANCE	BRAZIL
ENGLAND	CHINA HONG KONG

13.30 - 15.50

AUSTRALIA	TUNISIA
BRAZIL	CANADA
DENMARK	USA 1
SWEDEN	CHINESE TAIPEI
NORWAY	SCOTLAND
NEW ZEALAND	SOUTH AFRICA
RUSSIA	JAPAN
CHINA	PAKISTAN
USA 2	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
INDIA	ENGLAND
NETHERLANDS	FRANCE
POLAND	CHINA HONG KONG

16.30 - 18.50

TUNISIA	BRAZIL
SWEDEN	USA 1
NORWAY	POLAND
CHINESE TAIPEI	DENMARK
NEW ZEALAND	CHINA
SOUTH AFRICA	RUSSIA
JAPAN	SCOTLAND
PAKISTAN	INDIA
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	CANADA
USA 2	FRANCE
ENGLAND	AUSTRALIA
CHINA HONG KONG	NETHERLANDS

d'Orsi Trophy**10.00 - 12.20**

REUNION	USA 2
NEW ZEALAND	NETHERLANDS
CHINESE TAIPEI	DENMARK
TURKEY	UAE
FRANCE	INDIA
INDONESIA	JAPAN
ENGLAND	CHINA HONG KONG
SWEDEN	NORWAY
ITALY	CANADA
IRELAND	AUSTRALIA
CHINA	USA 1
BULGARIA	POLAND

13.30 - 15.50

USA 2	INDONESIA
NETHERLANDS	ENGLAND
REUNION	SWEDEN
DENMARK	ITALY
UAE	IRELAND
INDIA	CHINA
JAPAN	BULGARIA
CHINA HONG KONG	POLAND
NORWAY	USA 1
CANADA	AUSTRALIA
FRANCE	CHINESE TAIPEI
TURKEY	NEW ZEALAND

16.30 - 18.50

USA 2	DENMARK
NETHERLANDS	REUNION
UAE	CHINESE TAIPEI
INDIA	TURKEY
JAPAN	FRANCE
CHINA HONG KONG	INDONESIA
NORWAY	ENGLAND
CANADA	SWEDEN
AUSTRALIA	ITALY
USA 1	IRELAND
POLAND	CHINA
BULGARIA	NEW ZEALAND

Mixed**10.00 - 12.20**

CHINESE TAIPEI	AUSTRALIA
ENGLAND	THAILAND
SWEDEN	PAKISTAN
INDONESIA	EGYPT
MOROCCO	POLAND
RUSSIA	ITALY
NEW ZEALAND	DENMARK
FRANCE	INDIA
BARBADOS	LATVIA
CHINA	BRAZIL
USA 2	CANADA
ROMANIA	USA 1

13.30 - 15.50

NEW ZEALAND	CHINESE TAIPEI
AUSTRALIA	ENGLAND
THAILAND	SWEDEN
PAKISTAN	INDONESIA
EGYPT	MOROCCO
POLAND	RUSSIA
USA 1	ITALY
DENMARK	FRANCE
INDIA	BARBADOS
LATVIA	CHINA
BRAZIL	USA 2
CANADA	ROMANIA

16.30 - 18.50

CHINESE TAIPEI	INDIA
ENGLAND	LATVIA
SWEDEN	BRAZIL
INDONESIA	CANADA
MOROCCO	ROMANIA
RUSSIA	USA 2
ITALY	CHINA
POLAND	BARBADOS
EGYPT	FRANCE
PAKISTAN	NEW ZEALAND
THAILAND	AUSTRALIA
DENMARK	USA 1



Bermuda Bowl RR - R8



Norway v Sweden

Marc Smith

The much-anticipated Scandinavian face-off between Sweden and Norway pitted together the teams lying second and third behind England overnight. Sweden had won narrowly against Egypt in the day's first match to move to the top of the table, whilst Norway had slipped to fifth after suffering an 11-IMP loss to Indonesia. With much more than just local bragging rights to play for, the action began on the very first deal of the match:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aa	O Rimstedt	Livgard	M Rimstedt
—	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The Swedish brothers took a reasonable stab at 3NT, against which Terje Aa led a top heart and then switched to a spade. Declarer seems to have eight tricks, six clubs and two aces, assuming that he gets clubs right. Looking for a ninth, Mikael Rimstedt won the ♠A at trick two and immediately led his low diamond towards dummy. The ♦Q lost to East's king and the defenders quickly cashed two more winners in each major to set the contract by two: N/S -100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Lindqvist	Upmark	Brogeland
—	3♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♠	3NT
Dble	All Pass		

Here, Boye Brogeland passed his partner's Three Club opening. After West's takeout double and East's spade response, though, he decided that his spade intermediates justified reconsideration of his earlier decision, Fredrik Nystrom's double closed the brief auction and he also led a top heart. Perhaps expecting declarer to hold better spades, though, Nystrom exited at trick two with the ♣K and now Brogeland was in with a chance. He can make the

contract either by leading the ♦Q or by playing a diamond to the ace and another back to dummy's ♦10. Brogeland opted for the second option but, understandably, then misguessed the diamonds, playing West for the ♦K. The ♦Q lost to the king and the defenders now had five tricks, three hearts and two diamonds: N/S -100 and one of the day's more exciting flat boards.

The huge gallery of kibitzers watching on BBO's VuGraph platform did not have to wait long for the Great Dealer's next firecracker:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Lindqvist	Upmark	Brogeland
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥*	Pass
1♠*	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4♠*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

It seems to be my week to report a slam-deal bid using relay systems: Johan Upmark's One Heart response showed a hand with no shortage and at least five 'zz' points (ace=3, king=2, queen=1). Nystrom then relayed to find out that partner held precisely 5-2-3-3 shape with 8/9 zz points. Four Clubs asked about controls, Four Hearts showing an odd number of aces, and now Four Spades was an 'honour scan'. The Five-Heart response confirmed at least one honour in each minor (the suits skipped) but not in hearts. Nystrom decided that he had heard enough, and jumped to the slam, which needs either trumps to come in for no loser or the diamond finesse. With both pointed suits behaving, declarer made thirteen tricks: E/W +1460.

I am periodically asked what defense is best against a Strong Club, and I sometimes offer the sage advice to “Open in front of it.” Perhaps my tongue-in-cheek suggestion has made it all the way to Scandinavia, because that is exactly what Mikael Rimstedt did at the other table, choosing an opportune moment to upgrade his flat nine-count to a mini (10-12 HCP) INT opening:

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Aa	O Rimstedt	Livgard	M Rimstedt
–	–	–	INT
Dble	2♣	Dble	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Aa doubled for penalties and Ola Rimstedt quickly removed himself to the slightly safer haven of Two Clubs. Allan Livgard doubled showing balanced values and Aa now jumped to Three Spades. You may feel that East’s simple raise to game was a bit feeble, and there is something to be said for that view. There is little doubt, though, that reaching the good slam was made much more difficult by the ultra-aggressive Swedish methods. E/W +710 and 13 well-deserved IMPs to Sweden.

Defense is undoubtedly the most difficult part of the game, and it is heartening for us mere mortals to see that even the best players in the world can sometimes make a mess of things. The Norwegians can consider themselves rather fortunate on our next exhibit:

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Aa	O Rimstedt	Livgard	M Rimstedt
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dble	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Not unreasonably, North chose to enter the fray with a takeout double. Whether this was a Lebensohl position for them (it probably should be), and thus South’s Three Clubs showed positive values, I can’t tell you. With such a minimum hand, though, North could not risk bidding again despite the paucity of his fit. The good news for the Swedes was that neither defender could find a double: West passed

because he didn’t want to frighten the opponents out of the only contract he was fairly certain he could beat, and East because he simply didn’t have the values.

Aa led a spade to his partner’s king, and Livgard found the optimal return of his trump. Aa won with the ♣Q, and continued the good work by cashing first his ♠Q and then the ♣A before playing his third spade. Livgard could now hold declarer to just five tricks by simply continuing spades, but he instead cashed his ♥A. He switched back to spades to promote his partner’s ♣8, but that was still only three down: E/W +300 should be okay, though, since North/South can probably make eight tricks in diamonds with no problem.

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Lindqvist	Upmark	Brogeland
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Nystrom’s Two Heart response showed a constructive spade raise, and North chose not to come in at his first turn. However, when Upmark’s sign-off came back to him, Lindqvist backed in with Two Notrump, showing two places to play. Naturally, South bid his clubs and North advanced with Three Diamonds. Maybe this sequence promised only 4-4 in the red suits, as Brogeland ‘corrected’ to hearts. However, with North marked by the opponents’ bidding with only a doubleton spade, would he not have passed Three Clubs with 2-4-4-3 or doubled Two Hearts with 2-5-4-2? Be that as it may, the Norwegians had climbed to Three Hearts and Johan Upmark closed the auction with a sharp double.



Terje Aa, Norway

A spade lead is probably best for the defence, but Nystrom opted for a trump. That is still okay, though, and it doesn't matter whether East wins or ducks at trick one. In practise, Upmark chose to take the ♥A and now needs to cash his top spades to simplify the defence. Instead, though, he switched to his singleton club at trick two, West winning with the queen and then cashing the ♣A. To extract the maximum penalty, the defenders must cash their spades before playing the third round of clubs. From this position, that means West playing a spade and East then underleading his second honour back to the queen. Instead, Nystrom just led a third club and declarer pitched a spade loser as East ruffed. Upmark now had just one spade winner to come: E/W +200 was 3 IMPs to Norway when it really should have been a swing in the other direction.

The Swedish had steadily built a 15-IMP lead (26-11) over the first twelve boards, but then came three potential slam deals in a row. Buckle your seatbelts!

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aa	O Rimstedt	Livgard	M Rimstedt
—	2♥	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♦	All Pass

We've seen plenty of examples of five-card two-level openings already in this championship, but Ola Rimstedt began this auction with a much rarer bird, the seven-card weak two. And quite reasonable it seems too at this vulnerability. Perhaps galvanized by the temerity of a vulnerable opponent pre-empting against him, Aa reached for the stars in response to Livgard's three-level overcall. He first introduced his spades and then invited his partner to pick a slam with 5NT. Alas for the Norwegians, whilst the operation was a success, in that they had reached the optimum level on the deal, the patient was still fated to die.

Mikael Rimstedt obediently led his partner's suit against Six Diamonds. North teased his partner and declarer by ducking the first round of trumps, but he won the second round and duly delivered the fatal ruff; E/W what has to be considered an unlucky -100. With the ♣K onside, of course, 6NT would have been an easy make, but how on

Earth was Livgard supposed to work that one out?

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Lindqvist	Upmark	Brogeland
—	2♥	3♦	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

After the same start to the auction, Fredrik Nystrom chose not to introduce his spades and, instead, initiated a slam try in diamonds by cue-bidding and removing 3NT. When Upmark could do no more than simply raise to game, Nystrom gave up. Perhaps he had simply imbibed less caffeine during the lunch break than his counterpart at the other table.

The Norwegians also found their heart ruff, but it was worth so much less at this table. E/W +600 and 12 IMPs to Sweden. The next deal was a combined 30-count 6NT for East/West that simply needed one of two finesses to work: surely meat and drink to the Nystrom-Upmark relay system. No, they somehow divined to stay out of this one, flattening the deal at +460 when both missing kings were offside. And then came:

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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



Allan Livgard, Norway

West	North	East	South
<i>Aa</i>	<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Livgard</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
—	—	—	INT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

The final result was a 55-11 (18.55-1.45 VPs) win for Sweden, consolidating their place atop the table and dropping their fellow Scandinavians to eighth place. The ♠9 has always been traditionally known as “The Curse of Scotland”. Perhaps from this day forward the other red nine will be afforded a similar stigma in Norse folklore.



by Mark Horton

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

N

W

E

S

♠ J 9 6 3
♥ J
♦ A J 8 3
♣ Q 10 5 3



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Deas</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Kato</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Dble
Rdbl	All Pass		

Remarkably despite collecting another 28 IMPs with slam and game swings USA 2 lost this match 50-56, which says a lot for the resolve of their Japanese opponents.



Ayako Miyakuni, Japan

	Bermuda Bowl RR - R8	
Poland v Netherlands		
Jos Jacobs		

On early Tuesday afternoon, the representatives of Europe's largest bridge federation had to face their colleagues from possibly the strongest European federation as far as average standard of play is concerned. At present, the Dutch have about 80,000 members and the Poles about 7,000 but over the years, it has always looked to me that Poland were having enormous numbers of strong bridge players available at any time, even well before the Dutch first made their mark at world team level.

No more nostalgia, but over to today's match. As always, I expected a very good match with a lot of high-level play by either side, together with the odd unlucky decision. Let's have a look, not at the flat boards (half the set) but at the swingy ones. This was the first of the latter group.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Nowosadzki	Muller	Kalita
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	Pass	1♥*	Pass
1♠*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Tarzan Precision at its very best: Once East showed his spades by bidding 1♥, West, the Strong Clubber, started a relay sequence. East showed a one-suiter with shortness in hearts (2♠), a 5-2-3-3 (3♦) and 4 controls (4♣). West had already shown a strong hand (19+) with his 3♥ relay and his 4♦ was a general scan. East showed two top honours (A, K or Q) in spades and one each in either minor and that was about all West wanted to know.

As long as the ♦K behaves well, 6♠ can even be made double-dummy if North holds all four trumps but looking at it more superficially, the slam is a good proposition of well over 70%: either no trump loser or the ♦K right. The Netherlands +1460 when every card behaved.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chmurski	Van Prooijen	Tuczynski	Verhees
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

4♣ 17-19 with four spades, better than 4♠

Polish Club allows a strong 2NT rebid even with four-card support but does not have a way to deal with these specific uncertainties at the four-level. Both East and West were having something in reserve, it appears, with East maybe worth a 5♣ cuebid over 4♥. Poland +710 but 13 IMPs to The Netherlands.

Two more flat boards and then:

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Nowosadzki	Muller	Kalita
—	—	1♣*	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Would you as East think of passing 3♦? With a club loser going on dummy's 13th spade, there was no defence against 5♦. Poland +550. Please note North's fine pass of partner's 3♦...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chmurski	Van Prooijen	Tuczynski	Verhees
—	—	1♥	2♦
3♥	Dble	4♥	4♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Well, North is looking at a good hand, but does this also apply to South? Had West not led his partner's suit, the contract might even have been made but as it was, the result was a quick one off. Poland another +100 and 12 IMPs back to them.

Two boards later, another diamond slam came along:

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Nowosadzki	Muller	Kalita
Pass	1♥	2♠	Dble
Pass	4♥	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♦	All Pass	



Piotr Tuczynski, Poland

South's message (pick a minor) was well understood by North for a fully deserved +920 to Poland.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chmurski	Van Prooijen	Tuczynski	Verhees
Pass	1♥	2♠	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

To have any chance to get to a diamond slam, you would have to either bid that suit or at least suggest you have some values in it. Ten tricks, The Netherlands +430 but 10 more IMPs to Poland who thus took the lead: 22-17.

Two more boards later, a cow flew by, as they say, or so it seemed at least:

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chmurski	Van Prooijen	Tuczynski	Verhees
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dble	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

No double, no trouble for a normal enough (?) down two. Poland +200.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Nowosadzki	Muller	Kalita
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♣
Dble	3♦	Dble	All Pass

Full-blooded aggression all around the table here. Three Clubs would have gone down two quite easily, but the play and defence in 3♦ was a different story.

West led the ♠6 to East's king. East also cashed the ♠A and only then played the ♣5 to dummy's jack and West's queen. Declarer contributed the ♣6 so West was missing the two and thus could not be sure his ♣A would survive, though East's play of the two top spades strongly suggested it. He shifted to the ♥3 and at this point, declarer might



Ricco Van Prooijen, Netherlands

have escaped for down only one had he simply won the trick (East played the ten) and drawn trumps. When he did not, but continued a heart instead, apparently playing East for four trumps, it was West who got a heart ruff for the second undertrick. The Netherlands a surprise +500 and 7 IMPs to go back into the lead: 24-23.

By scoring 2 IMPs themselves, the Poles regained the lead on the very next board but two boards later, we saw a much bigger swing:

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Nowosadzki	Muller	Kalita
–	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

With a vulnerable overcall behind him, West apparently never thought of a slam, even less so when East could only rebid his diamonds at the second attempt. North had led a heart, so declarer simply conceded to the ♦A and cashed out for 11 tricks, +660 to The Netherlands.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
Chmurski	Van Prooijen	Tuczyński	Verhees
–	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♦	All Pass

At the other table, North did not overcall but opened a natural weak two. To East, slam looked odds-on now but it was difficult to see for him that 6NT would have been about as good a shot as 6♦. Unlucky to go down on the heart ruff because the suit broke 7-1 and not 6-2 but North's weak two does not necessarily imply that the missing ♣K is right for declarer, so statistically speaking, justice was done in the end as the diamond slam played by East looks less than 50%. And don't forget diamonds might have been 5-0 as well. If West is the declarer, the chances in 6♦ would improve because it might then be possible to establish the 13th spade.

South led a heart and duly got his ruff later on. The Netherlands +100 and 13 IMPs to make the final score 37-26 or 13.04- 6.96 VPs to them.




Michal Nowosadzki, Poland



Bermuda Bowl RR - R9

Italy v China



David Bird

You wouldn't guess it by looking at me (or so I hope), but I am a serious wine drinker. The major wine growing countries are divided into the Old World (France, Italy, Spain, etc.) and the New World (Australia, New Zealand, USA and South America).

The same division could be applied to the world's bridge nations. Roland Wald and I took our seats, looking forward to a clash between Italy (Old World) and China (New World), both of which teams were prominently installed in the leader-board top eight.

There were big contracts available early in the match. Let's see some of them.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ J

♥ K 10 6 3

♦ 10 7

♣ K 10 9 5 3 2

♠ 9 5 2

♥ J 9 7

♦ A K Q J 4

♣ 8 4

♠ A K Q 10 7 6 4

♥ A 8 4

♦ 8 3

♣ 6

♠ 8 3

♥ Q 5 2

♦ 9 6 5 2

♣ A Q J 7

N

W E

S

West	North	East	South
Chen	Lauria	Zhuang	Versace
		1♣*	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Zejun Zhuang opened with a Precision 1♣. Spades were agreed and two control-bids followed. RKCB discovered one key-card opposite and the small slam was reached. The New World had produced a very efficient auction.

Versace led a trump and that was thirteen tricks for a score of +1010.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Ju	Bocchi	Shi
—	—	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

My formative years at the bridge table occurred during the fabulous reign of the Italian Blue Team, famed for their accurate slam bidding. By comparison, this auction was disappointing. 2NT shows 3+ spades and a limit bid – a

restrained evaluation by Antonio Sementa. Even so, we were expecting a rebid of 4♣ from Norberto Bocchi. No, he bid just 4♠. That was +510 on a diamond lead, and 11 IMPs to China.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 10 7 3 2

♥ 8 6 4

♦ 10 4

♣ J 7 4 2

♠ A K Q J 8 6 5

♥ —

♦ Q 7 6 2

♣ 10 5

♠ 4

♥ Q 5

♦ A K J 8 5

♣ A K 9 8 3

N

W E

S

♠ 9

♥ A K J 10 9 7 3 2

♦ 9 3

♣ Q 6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	Lauria	Zhuang	Versace
1♠	Pass	2♦	4♥
5♥	Pass	7♦	All Pass

Simply magnificent! A control-bid at the five-level promises first-round control and Zhuang had heard enough to bid a grand slam. Versace led the ace of hearts and the China declarer claimed another +2140 for his side.

Was it possible that the proud descendants of the Blue Team would be outbid on two consecutive slam deals? Let's see.



Zejun Zhuang, China

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Shi</i>
3NT*	Pass	4♦*	4♥
5♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass

3NT showed a 'good 4M preempt', and 4♦ was a mild slam-try. Antonio Sementa showed the void heart, but Bocchi could not be sure that the trump suit was solid. That was +1460 and a further loss of 12 IMPs. China led 28-0 after just four boards.

Did the Great Dealer decide that it was time for all concerned to take a part-score breather? No, another slam deal descended from above:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	Pass	1♠	3♥
4♥	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

The normal meaning of 4♥ is to indicate a good raise to 4♠, while not guaranteeing anything specific in hearts. Zhuang bid 5♠, perhaps intending to show equal-rank controls in diamonds and clubs. Gang Chen was facing a hand that had not opened with a strong 1♣. Feeling that his cards did not merit a grand-slam try, he raised to 6♠.

Alfredo Versace led his singleton diamond and all thirteen tricks were made, for +1010. Sementa and Bocchi would have a chance to redeem themselves. Would they reach the grand slam, do you think?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Shi</i>
—	Pass	1♠	3♥
4♣	Dble	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

Wow, brilliant! Sementa was able to start with a 4♣ control-bid. When this was doubled by North, Bocchi spurned the chance to redouble (to show first-round club

control), preferring to show his diamond control. His subsequent response to 4NT showed two key-cards and a useful void. This was enough for Sementa to leave just one card in the bidding-box. It was +1510 and an 11-IMP launch for the Italy plus-column.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2♣*	Dble	3♣	Dble
4♣	Dble	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Versace and Lauria both demonstrated their familiarity with the Responsive Double. How do you fancy Lorenzo Lauria's chances in the heart game, with the trumps breaking badly?

Zhuang led the ♣7 to the jack and king, declarer ruffing. When the ♥5 was led, Zhuang did not split his honors. To keep his hopes alive, declarer needs to finesse now. (He must then abandon trumps, believing West's ♥7, and set up the diamond suit. He ruffs the next club and plays side-suit winners, losing two trumps and a diamond.)

This was all rather double-dummy. Lauria called for dummy's ace on the first round of trumps and ended two down for minus 200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Shi</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Dble	Pass	1NT
2♣	Dble	3♣	3♦
All Pass			

Chuancheng Ju was uninspired by partner's 1NT response, suggesting wasted values in clubs. Instead of bidding 2♥ at his second turn, he made a second double. The bidding subsided in 3♦, when the heart game was a very playable alternative. Their +110 turned out to be worth 8 IMPs in the plus column.

Our next board provided interesting action in both the bidding and the play:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	Lauria	Zhuang	Versace
Pass	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT*	Dble	3♣	4♥
4♠	5♥	All Pass	

Zhuang's 2♠ showed five spades and four or more cards in one of the minors. 2NT was an enquiry, presumably to be followed by a 3♠ game-try here. Lauria entered with a take-out double of spades. When East showed his minor, Versace jumped to 4♥. What should North do when West bids 4♠?

A double would have netted 300, and this is what I was expecting. Lauria surprised all present by advancing to the five-level. He could visualize the club position and hope for something good in diamonds opposite.

If North had been the declarer in 5♥, a lead of the ♦Q would have dispatched the contract speedily. Chen (West) led the jack of clubs and Versace was in with a chance. He spent quite a while considering the matter. Ace and another trump would have spared him the possible diamond ruff. If East held the ♥K, though, a successful trump finesse might land the contract when there were two diamond tricks to be lost.

Eventually, Versace played a trump to the queen. This is surely the best line. Even if the finesse loses, there may be no diamond ruff available or the defenders may miss it. If the ♥K is with West, declarer will in any case require the ♦Q to be onside.

Chen won with the ♥K and paused for quite a while. A nett swing of 17 IMPs was at stake and only ace and another diamond would beat the contract. Should he find it, do you think? Eventually Chen reached for the ♥8. Versace won and was careful to lead the ♦2 to the next trick. When East's ♦Q appeared, his bravery in the bidding had been rewarded with a fine +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Ju	Bocchi	Shi
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣*	Dble	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

It was a strange auction. Ju carried his side to 4♥ with no apparent encouragement from across the table. There was no way for N/S to match the Italians' 5♥. (*Perhaps 3♥ was constructive since 2NT would have been a scramble, allowing a subsequent 3♥ call to be non-invitational?, Ed.*) Indeed, it had been a near miracle that they reached 4♥. China collected +300 and it was 8 IMPs to Italy.

I might have waved you all goodbye at this stage. It was a splendid match, though, and I feel impelled to show you the very last board, where both N/S pairs bid well.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	Lauria	Zhuang	Versace
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♣	3♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

The diamond fit was found and a control-bid sequence carried the Italians to the fine contract of 6♦. A club was led, allowing Lauria to ditch his spade singleton. He was soon writing +940 in his card.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Ju	Bocchi	Shi
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠*
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Zheng Jun Shi's 2♠ was artificial and game-forcing. The meaning of 4♥ is not revealed by their convention card. It may have shown North's lengths in the red suits. Bocchi picked up an IMP by cashing the ♠A.

It was a classy board to end a very well-played and enjoyable match. China won by 36 IMPs to 24.



Trio

by Simon Stocken

I will be joining the VuGraph commentary team next week and am hoping to see deals like these that were played on Monday:

BB R5. Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	Pellegrini	Malinowski	Pejacsevich
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

England have started well in all competitions – after five rounds they were in the top four in all four formats. The unbeaten Open Team took on Argentina in the fifth round and in a close match they had surrendered their slender lead with two boards remaining. In the other room the Argentinian opened 1NT on the West cards and found himself declaring 4♥ after a Stayman - Smolen auction. The natural ♣10 lead from North gave West an easy run to 12 tricks with sufficient entries to take two spade finesses and trump a spade in dummy.

Malinowski played 6♥ from the East cards. He'd elected to treat his hand as 5-5 (I think with his 1♠ response) and 4♣ confirmed hearts as trumps and everything hinged on the lead – a diamond or a club? A diamond lead would defeat the slam. The club lead had the attraction of possibly forcing declarer to a club guess at trick one. Pejacsevich chose the ♣5 and declarer now had an extra trick and an extra entry when he inserted the queen at trick one. The extra trick seemed superfluous, but it was to give declarer additional options in the end-game. Malinowski ran the ♠9 at trick two, losing to South's queen. South exited with the ♥J to East's king. Declarer cashed the ♠A and trumped a spade (crossing to the ♦A and taking a second spade finesse is a simpler route to 12 tricks as the cards lie, but Malinowski was aware of his other options should the ♠K not appear). South trumped the third spade with the ♥7

(yes, ruffing with the ♥10 might have misled declarer, Ed.) forcing the ♥Q from dummy and now came the key play: Artur Malinowski cashed ♣A, discarding a spade, and played a club off dummy to isolate South's club menace, setting the stage for a double squeeze. Malinowski reeled off his trumps, reaching this three-card ending:

♠ K		
♥ —		
♦ Q 10		
♣ —		
♠ —	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J
♥ —		♥ 2
♦ A J		♦ 9
♣ 3		♣ —
♠ —		
♥ —		
♦ K 7		
♣ K		

Declarer's final trump forced South to part with the ♦7 and dummy's club could now be discarded, having served its purpose. North, now squeezed, was forced to part with a diamond to retain the ♠K. Declarer crossed to dummy's ♦A, felling ♦K and ♦Q to set up the ♦J for his 12th trick and an 11-IMP swing. England had regained the lead, remaining unbeaten as they moved from third up to second with many strong teams still to play.

In the final match of the day, England took on mid-table Russia. The English lost 800 (and 12 IMPs) against a part-score on the first board and another IMP on the second board. By the fourth board they were 7 IMPs ahead and by the seventh board they'd dropped 10 IMPs to fall three behind. On Board 8, there was a double-game swing as Allerton brought home 3♣ doubled while Forrester landed



Andrew Robson, England

5♦ in the Closed Room and England were 10 ahead. By the time Board 29 arrived, that lead had extended to 27 IMPs:

BB R6. Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Robson	Khiuppenen	Forrester	Kholomeev
—	Pass	1♣	4♥
All Pass			

South's 4♥ bid kept his strength concealed with slam highly unlikely opposite a passed partner. The ♣8 lead went to East's ace and the Russian declarer failed to play the ♣Q – a mandatory false-card, disguising which player held the singleton club. Forrester returned ♣J – to show his spade re-entry. Robson trumped this and underled his ♠A to Forrester's queen and another club left declarer unable to avoid the trump promotion. Trumping high, he hoped for a 2-2 trump break but was left ruining his play at trick one. In the Open Room I can only presume Jagger dropped ♣Q as he landed the heart game. I saw Meckstroth do this in USA 1 v USA 2 to give the defence a losing option: Lall (for USA 2) cashed the ♠K before playing the club and the game could no longer be defeated.

Twelve more IMPs to England. The next board saw the Russians reach a marginal slam which was destined to fail with trumps 5-0 while Forrester/Robson wisely stopped in game. For the final board, you have to imagine you are Tony Forrester – a daunting prospect perhaps. If you really wish to imagine this a little further I would strongly advise you to read one of the most entertaining bridge books ever written: "Your Deal Mr Bond" by Philip King and his father Robert. Part of a series, this is a wonderful collection of three short stories. The hands are brilliant and the writing equally so – witty and clever; they raise the bar for bridge literature. And if you want to know how Tony Forrester came to be as good as he is, this book may solve the mystery.

You are East as Tony Forrester, faced with this motley collection after this illuminating auction and you have to choose a lead. (Dealer West. E/W Vul.)

♠ 10 7 3
♥ 10 7 6 4 2
♦ A 9 6
♣ 8 5



Tony Forrester, England			
West	North	East	South
Robson	Khiuppenen	Forrester	Kholomeev
—	INT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	


Forrester found the ♦A lead after relatively little thought, but he had been listening to the bidding. His partner was a passed hand who had not doubled the 3♣ bid and the opponents were interested in both majors (3♣ was 5-card Stayman).

At matchpoints, the lead would be almost unthinkable, but at IMPs it hit the jackpot and another 11 IMPs. The lead was brilliant but South can take much of the blame: with a 4-3-3-3 14-count, a straight 3NT bid would have undoubtedly resulted in a heart lead and 12 tricks. In the Open Room, Jagger and Allerton found the superior 4♠ contract. The contract might have been in jeopardy had the spade suit not been 3-3 but only if the defence start with three rounds of ♦. Here was the full deal:

BB R6. Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.


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

England won the match 84-23 and bagged a deserved 20-0 to take them to the top of the leaderboard going into Day Three. England also lead the Mixed event and are placed second and fifth in the Ladies and the Seniors respectively. It's been a strong start all round.



Venice Cup RR - R9

France v China



Ron Tacchi

France had a dismal start to the competition, losing their first four matches, albeit each by a slender margin. They have since picked up the pace and have climbed the table to occupy the eighth position. They will need to continue this upsurge if they are to guarantee a place in the quarter-finals. China, the home team, have been at the top of the table for the previous four rounds and are obviously the team with momentum, but they have some tough matches ahead of them as they have yet to play six of the chasing seven teams.

The Chinese pairs use Precision and a weak(ish) NT whereas the French employ five-card majors and a strong NT.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ J

♥ K 10 6 3

♦ 10 7

♣ K 10 9 5 3 2

♠ 9 5 2

♥ J 9 7

♦ A K Q J 4

♣ 8 4

N

W

E

S

♠ A K Q 10 7 6 4

♥ A 8 4

♦ 8 3

♣ 6

♠ 8 3

♥ Q 5 2

♦ 9 6 5 2

♣ A Q J 7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Q Shen	Reess	W Wang	Zochowska
—	—	1♠	Pass
3♦*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

According to the convention card 3♦ showed three-card support with 9-11. Was not East worth an extra effort? It may not be easy to reach the slam but when there are the coldest possible 12 tricks available, it suggests that there may have been a better auction available. When South failed to cash her ace declarer was not hard-pressed to take all the tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Zuo	Puillet	N Wang
—	—	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
2♦	Strong, any shape		
2♥	relay		
3♠	Self supporting suit		

At this table maybe it was West who could have applied the accelerator. After all she has four tricks and partner

ought to have guaranteed eight and when I went to school $4 + 8 = 12$ and that is normally enough for a small slam – unless the opponents can take two tricks first.

Both teams had dodged a bullet – this may become a recurring theme.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ J 10 9 8

♥ 8 2

♦ Q 9 8 5

♣ 10 6 3

♠ K 6

♥ K 10 4

♦ K J 10 2

♣ A Q J 2

N

W

E

S

♠ A 7 5 3 2

♥ Q

♦ 7 6 3

♣ K 8 5 4

♠ Q 4

♥ A J 9 7 6 5 3

♦ A 4

♣ 9 7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Q Shen	Reess	W Wang	Zochowska
—	—	—	1♥
INT	Pass	2♣	2♥
Pass	Pass	2♠	All Pass

With a combined 26 count, you would normally expect a partnership to be playing in game – especially when they had a double stop in the opponents’ suit, perhaps South’s aggression kept them out of 3NT. Two Spades made nine tricks but I suspect West was having negative thoughts. Would China dodge this bullet?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Zuo	Puillet	N Wang
—	—	—	1♥
INT	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

E/W were made of sterner stuff in the Closed Room and reached the NT game. North led the eight of her partner’s suit, which South correctly ducked. A small diamond from dummy was taken by declarer’s king and she now fell from grace by continuing with the knave. With the diamonds breaking 4-2 she could no longer establish a second diamond trick. Had she crossed to dummy with a club and then led another diamond towards her hand she would have been rewarded with the sight of the ace appearing from South. Adopting the line of leading a diamond from dummy never loses compared to the play of the diamond jack from hand and gains on some layouts, especially the one at the table. Six IMPs out instead of ten IMPs in.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Q Shen	Reess	W Wang	Zochowska
1♠	Pass	2♦	4♥
6♦	All Pass		

South applied the maximum pressure and West made a pragmatic bid of 6♦. There was a long think from East. We can all see the four hands and know there are tricks galore in diamonds, but can you construct a hand for West where 6♦ was a rational bid and there is no play for the grand slam? I tried and failed but then my imagination is not top drawer. Again, West would be having palpitations. Could she possibly have dodged yet another bullet?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Zuo	Puillet	N Wang
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass



Veronique Bessis, France

Another pre-emptive bid applied unwanted pressure – but to her own side. The convention card just says that a four-level opening is a pre-empt, nothing else. What was poor East to do? If she makes a forward move then partner turns up with eight spades to the KJ and a doubleton heart and if no effort... South tried to come to the rescue (what an enormous Biltcliff coup if they then reached the grand!) with her 5♥ bid, but East was still in the dark as to the contents of West's hand and could only double. Still, the 800 saved a point, only 11 IMPs out.

And now for something completely different – a grand slam!!

Look at South's hand – she had held 23 hearts in just three hands!

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Q Shen	Reess	W Wang	Zochowska
—	Pass	1♠	4♥
5♥*	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

I wonder what your agreements are in this sort of situation. For me the 5♥ bid agrees spades and shows a control and it would seem to be the same here. So why did East bid diamonds. Had she cue-bid 6♣ West could then have bid 6♥ and surely this must mean 'do you have a diamond control?' and so East could then bid the grand slam. West must now be wondering how far behind they are or was it just possible, yet another bullet was dodged.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Zuo	Puillet	N Wang
—	Pass	1♠	3♥
4♥*	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5NT*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

With South only pre-empting at the three-level with her eight-card suit it gave E/W more room to manoeuvre. East is not overburdened with points but what a hand opposite a heart control and spade fit. You could not have much better cards, so surely an effort rather than a tame 4♠ is

required? 5NT was alerted but no detail given. I assume it showed two aces and a void. Whatever the agreement in this situation, if West can picture something like the real hand opposite does it not become her to make some further move rather than the unilateral action of bidding the small slam?

Just another flat board. The Chinese were not just dodging bullets, they had Kevlar vests on.

There was now calm after the slam storm, and each side traded 6 IMPs, so there was no change in the score.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ A Q 9 2

♥ K 3 2

♦ Q 6 5 4

♣ 5 2

♠ K 6

♥ Q J 10 9 6 5 4

♦ 2

♣ Q 7 6

N

W

E

S

♠ 10 8 7

♥ —

♦ A J 9 8 7 3

♣ A K 10 8

♠ J 5 4 3

♥ A 8 7

♦ K 10

♣ J 9 4 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Q Shen	Reess	W Wang	Zochowska
—	—	—	Pass
3♥	All Pass		



North led the ♣5 to the eight, nine and queen. Declarer played the ♥9 from hand which South was forced to win with her ace, when North mistakenly ducked. She continued with a small spade. West's king lost to the ace and the ♣2 was returned by North, taken in the dummy. Declarer got back to hand by cashing the ace of diamonds and ruffing a small one and tried another heart. North rose with the king and played a small spade to her partner's jack and ruffed the club return. Bad luck, one down. I hope you have spotted how declarer could have made her contract. Had West been able to see through the backs of the cards, and guessed that the spade finesse was losing, she could have ducked the first spade. That would have cut the defensive communications.

That this would be the only way to go down if the spade ace was onside is just unfortunate. Either way you would surely merit an entry in The Bulletin.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Zuo	Puillet	N Wang
—	—	—	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

If, in the Open Room it was a candidate for Misplay These Hands With Me, in this room a candidate for Misdefend These Hands With Me. It was North who fell from grace. The same start and the same misdefence at trick two. Again West inserted the ♠K but when North regained the lead with the trump king she elected to cash the ♠Q and now did not get her contract-breaking ruff – oops. Five IMPs to France.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ J 7 3

♥ 9 5 3

♦ A 10 8 7 5

♣ 5 2

♠ K 10 9 8

♥ K Q 10 4

♦ 6

♣ A Q J 3

N

W

E

S

♠ 6 5 2

♥ A 7

♦ Q J 9 4 3

♣ K 9 4

♠ A Q 4

♥ J 8 6 2

♦ K 2

♣ 10 8 7 6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Q Shen	Reess	W Wang	Zochowska
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♠	All Pass
2♦	4414 or 4405, 11-15		

Would you value the West hand at only 15 points? I would be sorely tempted to upgrade. With a misfit and an absolute maximum of 25 points East elected to bid 2♠ and easily made her contract.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Zuo	Puillet	N Wang
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Unencumbered with such specialist opening bids, West tried a natural 1♣. I am unsure as to why the 2♣ was alerted but it did not stop the French pair from reaching 3NT. When North not unreasonably led a spade, it was simple for West to create a second spade trick by force and bring home the contract, along with 8 IMPs.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Q Shen	Reess	W Wang	Zochowska
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

An auction not requiring explanation saw South in 4♠. West found the lead of the ace of diamonds and continued with the king and then the nine, ruffed by East. The continuation was a heart won in hand. A small spade to dummy's ace drawing the 3 and 4 and a small one back. The crossroads had been reached when East played the nine. Did East start with four trumps to the queen or just three? Vacant places tell us that East is slightly more likely to have three rather than four so you cannot blame declarer for playing the king. Unfortunately today the vacant spaces were not behaving, and she was two down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Zuo	Puillet	N Wang
—	—	—	INT
All Pass			

When South opened a 13-15 NT North saw no reason to go on. South took eight tricks.

At the end China had won 31-21 or 12-8-7.2 VPs. Both teams could be glad that the result was not much worse.

A Combination of High Technique and Low Cunning

Bert Polii of the Indonesian Senior team came in to tell us about a board he played against Australia during their Round 8 victory. Not for the first time in his bridge life, Bert found himself in a completely hopeless contract.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
Sugiarto	Braithwaite	Polii	De Livera
—	—	Pass	1♣
Dble	1♦*	1♠	3♣
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
1♦	Hearts		

It's safe to say that nobody left any values unbid and, as we can see, Polii's contract should have had no chance as the cards lay. However...

South led the king of clubs and North thought for a long time before overtaking, surely marking him with ace-doubleton, and switching to the four of spades. Polii played low and the queen lost to dummy's king. Polii led a low spade to the nine and jack, followed by a cunning/desperate three of hearts. Fortunately, South was having his mid-afternoon nap – this was in the Seniors, after all – and played low, so dummy's queen scored. Polii took full advantage. He led a heart back to his ace followed by a low diamond. South played low so the queen scored and Polii took a heart ruff, bringing down the king. He ruffed a club low and cashed the ♥K for a diamond discard, then played the king of diamonds to South's ace.


It didn't matter what South played, and Polii actually claimed at this point, as the distribution was known. If South played a diamond, Polii would get an easy ruff while North followed. If a club, he could ruff with dummy's ace and lead a diamond and, though North would have discarded his last diamond on the third club, he would be powerless to prevent the eight of spades being made en passant for the tenth trick.

Nicely done.



Venice Cup RR - R10

Japan v China



Brian Senior

At the end of the third day's play China headed the rankings in the Venice Cup and were already looking good for a place in the last eight. Meanwhile, Japan lay in eighth position and, it seemed, might well be in the shake-up for a knockout berth, but would have to fight for it.

The Chinese line-up includes two Wangs, so to distinguish them from each other I will refer to them as Nan and Wenfei.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A 10 7

♥ 10 5 4

♦ 7 6

♣ A K 9 6 3

N

W

E

S

♠ 8 6 2

♥ Q J 9 8 7 6

♦ A 5 4

♣ 7

♠ Q 9 5 3

♥ A K 3 2

♦ 10 9 8

♣ Q 10

♠ K J 4

♥ –

♦ K Q J 3 2

♣ J 8 5 4 2

West	North	East	South
Shen	Miyakuni	Wenfei W.	Kato
–	–	2♦	Dble
3♥	Dble	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Fukuyoshi	Zuo	Yanagisawa	Nan W.
–	–	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K 6

♥ J 9 8 7 5

♦ 6 4

♣ 9 7 6 2

N

W

E

S

♠ J 9 5 2

♥ K Q 10

♦ 9 8

♣ K Q 8 4

♠ A Q 8

♥ A 3

♦ A K Q J 10 5

♣ A 10

♠ 10 7 4 3

♥ 6 4 2

♦ 7 3 2

♣ J 5 3

West	North	East	South
Shen	Miyakuni	Wenfei W.	Kato
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
7NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Fukuyoshi	Zuo	Yanagisawa	Nan W.
–	–	–	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Fukuyoshi opened 2♣ then followed a Kokish sequence, treating her hand as a balanced game-force. The 2♦ response was waiting, promising at least one king or two queens and a jack. Yanagisawa used Stayman then, on finding that there was no major-suit fit, jumped to 6NT. However, the sequence had not managed to address the problem of actually counting how many tricks were available and, with 13 on top, there was a danger that +1470 would prove to be inadequate.

And so it proved. Shen opened a strong club and the response showed a balanced positive, 8-13 or 16+ HCP. Shen showed the diamonds, Wenfei the spades, and Shen marked time with 2NT. I'm not quite sure what information she gleaned from Wenfei's next two calls of 3NT then 4NT, beyond the fact that she was in the 8-13 range and wasn't interested in a diamond contract, but Shen closed proceedings with a leap to 7NT over 4NT and found that the contract was 100% secure; +2220 and 13 IMPs to China.

That put China in the lead by 19-0, but the next few boards saw Japan score heavily, beginning with:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shen	Miyakuni	Wenfei W.	Kato
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Fukuyoshi	Zuo	Yanagisawa	Nan W.
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

By slightly varying routes the two E/W pairs bid to 3NT, played by East on a low club lead. Both ran the club to their hand, winning cheaply. However, the two declarers chose different lines of play.

Wenfei led a spade to the jack and king and Miyakuni returned the seven of hearts, which Wenfei ducked to the jack. Kato continued with the queen of hearts, also ducked, so now switched to a club. Wenfei won the ace, cashed the queen and came to hand with the ace of spades and played another spade without cashing the heart and club winners,



Wenfei Wang, China

which would each have set up a winner for the defence. Kato won the queen and returned a low diamond. Wenfei put in the queen and, when that held, cashed the ♠10 and ♦A but had then to concede a diamond, so was down one for -100.

Yanagisawa played a heart at trick two, Nan winning the jack and returning the three of diamonds. Yanagisawa played low from dummy and Xiaoxue Zuo played low. Yanagisawa scooped in her bare nine and cashed the ace and queen of clubs before leading the nine of hearts to the ten, ace and queen. She continued with a low heart, hoping to split the suit, but Nan showed out as Zuo won the seven. Zuo, who had earlier pitched a spade on the clubs, cashed the king of hearts, then switched to the king of spades. Yanagisawa won the ace and cashed the long heart then played a spade to Nan's queen, and dummy's ♠J and ♦A won the last two tricks, making nine in all for +600 and 12 IMPs to Japan.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shen	Miyakuni	Wenfei W.	Kato
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Fukuyoshi	Zuo	Yanagisawa	Nan W.
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Again, the two E/W pairs both bid to 3NT, this time played by West.

Zuo led the nine of hearts and, when Fukuyoshi played low from dummy, Nan failed to put up the jack, allowing the ten to win the trick. That was all the help Fukuyoshi required. She led a spade to the queen, then a club to the king and a second club to the ten and ace. She put in the queen on the diamond return, cashed the ace of hearts, and led a club to the queen. Though clubs did not divide evenly, there were nine tricks – three hearts and two in each of the other suits; +400.

Miyakuni also found the heart lead but chose the three. That went to the six, jack and ten, and Kato continued with a second heart to declarer's ace. Shen led a club to the queen, planning to pin her hopes on the diamond suit, and that lost to the ace and the hearts were cleared. Shen led a diamond to the nine and, when it scored, played a spade to the queen and a second diamond to the jack and queen, giving her hope that she was about to make her contract. Shen cashed the ace of diamonds and played a fourth round but Kato won that and had two hearts to cash for down one; -100 and 12 IMPs to Japan.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shen	Miyakuni	Wenfei W.	Kato
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
INT	3♦	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Fukuyoshi	Zuo	Yanagisawa	Nan W.
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The Japanese E/W had a very simple auction to 3NT played from the East hand. Nan led the eight of spades round to declarer's king and Yanagisawa led the jack of hearts and, when that held the trick, continued with the queen. That too was ducked by Zuo, who hoped to see a helpful discard on the next round, and Yanagisawa duly played a third heart, Nan pitching the two of spades. Zuo won the ♥A and returned the six of clubs to the queen and king, and Nan played back a club round to declarer's ten.

That gave the ninth trick, but declarer can always succeed from here whatever South plays. If South gets out with a spade, declarer can simply win and play ace then queen of clubs to set up dummy's nine, while if South switches to the jack of diamonds declarer can cover with the king and North can win but can only play one minor through declarer's holding. If North returns a club, declarer can just win the ace and return the queen to set up the nine, while if North returns a diamond, declarer wins the queen, cashes her winners, then exits with the ♦9 to get a lead into the club tenace at the end.

In the other room, Wenfei opened a strong club and Kato's 1♥ overcall is covered on their card by 'Exclusion

bids at the one level', i.e. short hearts. That enabled Miyakuni to jump pre-emptively to 3♦ over Shen's natural positive INT response, but Wenfei ignored her and raised to 3NT, ending the auction. Miyakuni led the two of diamonds to the nine, ten and king, and Shen played on hearts, leading low to the queen and continuing with the jack. Miyakuni won the ace and led the three of diamonds and Shen guessed to play low, playing South for ace to three, when this would leave the suit blocked. That is a perfectly plausible play, but it always looks a little silly when it doesn't work, as here. Kato won the diamond with the jack and returned the eight to her partner's ace and Miyakuni cashed two more diamonds for down one and -50; 10 IMPs to Japan.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shen	Miyakuni	Wenfei W.	Kato
—	—	1♠	Dble
2♥	Dble	Pass	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Fukuyoshi	Zuo	Yanagisawa	Nan W.
—	—	1♠	Dble
2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

When Kato doubled the 1♠ opening, Shen treated her hand as a good 2♠ raise by transferring with 2♥. Miyakuni doubled 2♥ and Wenfei passed it round to her partner. Was that a mildly encouraging move, a 2♠ sign-off being the weakest option for East? That is how I would play, but Shen simply bid 2♠ now, suggesting that she didn't think game was still in the picture, and that was that. The hands fit very well so that, even with East's wasted ♦K, game is good. Kato led a club, so Wenfei won the queen and played on spades. Kato switched to a heart on winning the ♠A, but Wenfei could win and discard dummy's heart loser on the thirteenth club. Two heart ruffs meant that she had 11 tricks for +200.

Plus 200 proved to be an inadequate return on the E/W cards as in the other room Fukuyoshi judged the West hand to be worth a constructive raise to 3♠ and Yanagisawa bid the cold game. Here the lead was the queen of hearts, which stopped the overtrick, and in doing so saved an IMP,

but there was no way to threaten the contract and Yanagisawa soon had ten tricks for +620 and 9 more Japanese IMPs.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 6 4 2

♥ 10 4 2

♦ K Q 6 2

♣ A 4 2

♠ 10 5

♥ J

♦ A J 10 3

♣ K Q J 9 8 6

N

W

E

S

♠ Q J 9 8 3

♥ 9 5

♦ 8 7 5

♣ 10 5 3

♠ A K 7

♥ A K Q 8 7 6 3

♦ 9 4

♣ 7

West	North	East	South
Shen	Miyakuni	Wenfei W.	Kato
—	—	—	2♣
3♣	Pass	4♣	4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Fukuyoshi	Zuo	Yanagisawa	Nan W.
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	



Qi Shen, China

Nan opened with a strong club then showed her suit over the balanced positive response. Zuo supported the hearts but was then unwilling to co-operate in a slam hunt when holding a flat minimum with no top heart honour, and Nan respected her sign-off. With the ♦A onside, there were 12 easy tricks for +480.

Kato opened a strong and artificial 2♣ and Shen overcalled a natural 3♣ and collected a raise from Wenfei. On another day, having to start to describe her hand at the four level might have inconvenienced Kato, but not today. She had a comfortable 4♥ bid and Miyakuni had sufficient to make a slam try via a 5♣ cuebid. That suited Kato very well and she jumped to slam, trusting that Miyakuni would have at least another king to go with the ♣A. And right she was, though slam did need the ♦A to be onside to provide a parking place for the spade loser. When it did indeed prove to be well placed, with 2-1 trumps providing an entry to dummy, Kato had 12 tricks for +980 and 11 IMPs to Japan, who led by 54-20.

At last there was some relief for China:

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ K Q J 8 2

♥ J 8

♦ Q 10 9 4 3

♣ 8

♠ A

♥ Q 10 2

♦ J 5 2

♣ A 9 6 5 3 2

N

W

E

S

♠ 10 7 6 5

♥ K 9 7 6 4

♦ 8

♣ K J 10

♠ 9 4 3

♥ A 5 3

♦ A K 7 6

♣ Q 7 4

West	North	East	South
Shen	Miyakuni	Wenfei W.	Kato
—	1♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Fukuyoshi	Zuo	Yanagisawa	Nan W.
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
2♣	2♠	3♣	3♠
All Pass			

Miyakuni opened very aggressively, given that she was vulnerable, and Kato, I believe, showed three-card support and, initially, only invitational values. However, Kato had game values so went on over the 3♠ sign-off, offering a choice of contracts, Miyakuni making the obvious decision to go back to spades. Wenfei led her singleton diamond. Miyakuni won dummy's ace, following with the four from hand, and led a trump up. Shen won the ace as Wenfei followed with the seven, petering to show interest in a ruff in traditional style. Shen, who had discouraged with the five on the first trick, gave the ruff with the ♦2. Wenfei could

have had a second ruff now had she trusted her partner to hold the ♣A, and there would still have been a heart to come for down two, but she got out with a trump and now there was no second ruff so the contract was just one down for -100.

Zuo did not open the North hand and the Chinese N/S pair did not get to game. However, we have seen that there is the possibility to take two club ruffs and that would be sufficient to defeat even 3♠. Alas, Yanagisawa led the ten of clubs, probably planning to play a forcing game because of her spade length. But when Zuo played low from dummy Fukuyoshi won the ♣A and switched to a heart, and Zuo could win and play a spade up. That was ten tricks for +170 and 7 IMPs to China.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shen	Miyakuni	Wenfei W.	Kato
-	-	1♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Fukuyoshi	Zuo	Yanagisawa	Nan W.
-	-	1♣	1♠
2♥	2♠	3♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	Dble	Pass
5♥	Dble	All Pass	

Wenfei opened a Precision 1♦ and, when Kato chose not to overcall in the weak five-card spade suit, Shen responded 4♣, transfer to hearts. Wenfei did as requested and it was too late for the Japanese pair to get involved. Kato cashed the ace of clubs followed by the ace of diamonds, then switched to the jack of spades. But that let the contract through, as Wenfei could eventually take three club discards on the top spades and just lose to the ace of hearts. +420.

South needs to play a second club at trick three, establishing North's queen. As declarer has no fast entry to hand to take discards on the spades, the contract has to fail by a trick.

Yanagisawa opened a better minor 1♣ and Nan overcalled 1♠. After a competitive auction, Zuo saved in 4♠ over the opposing 4♥. She must have felt quite confident and Fukuyoshi's removal to 5♥ was a sorry disappointment



The Japanese Venice Cup Team

to her. Zuo doubled that to complete the auction. Of course, one can understand Fukuyoshi's point of view, looking at a low point-count seven-five hand with a void in the opponents' suit – she could hardly be expected to envisage partner's spade holding.

As we have seen, 4♥ can be beaten by a trick, so 5♥ by two tricks, but Zuo led a spade and the diamond went away. Fortunately for the defence, there was no way to avoid two club losers so the contract was down one for -100 and 11 IMPs to China.

On the final deal, Japan played in partscore at both tables, each being down one for -50 and -100, and that gave China 4 more IMPs. Having been in danger of suffering a serious beating, they had come back well, to hold the loss to 42-54 IMPs, converting to 6.72-13.28 VPs. China slipped to second behind Poland, while Japan moved up to sixth in the rankings.

World Championship Book 2019 Pre-ordering

The official book of these World Championships in Wuhan will be out around April or May next year. It will comprise approximately 400 full colour large pages as in previous years.

Principal contributors will be Ron Klinger, Maurizio Di Sacco, Barry Rigal, Brian Senior and GeO Tislevoll.

The book will include many photographs, a full results service, and extensive coverage of the major championship events.

The official retail price will be US\$35 plus postage but you can pre-order while in Wuhan at the special price of US\$30/200 Yuan post free (surface mail). The books will be posted from England before your local retailer has a supply.

The pre-order can be done in either of two ways:

1. Through Jan Swaan in the Press Room, which can be found opposite the bottom right-hand exit from the vugraph theatre.
2. By email from Brian Senior, the editor, and pay by PayPal.

The address is bsenior@hotmail.com

RESULTS

Bermuda Bowl

Round 10

Match		IMPs		VPs	
NETHERLANDS	CHILE	32	17	13.97	6.03
CHINA	ISRAEL	5	45	1.91	18.09
INDONESIA	ENGLAND	29	38	7.45	12.55
ITALY	GUADELOUPE	29	21	12.29	7.71
EGYPT	CHINA HONG KONG	18	45	3.74	16.26
AUSTRALIA	RUSSIA	51	36	13.97	6.03
ARGENTINA	MOROCCO	57	19	17.85	2.15
USA 2	POLAND	14	27	6.48	13.52
INDIA	SINGAPORE	31	24	12.03	7.97
NEW ZEALAND	BANGLADESH	54	14	18.09	1.91
CANADA	NORWAY	7	37	3.27	16.73
SWEDEN	USA 1	21	40	5.20	14.80

Venice Cup

Round 10

Match		IMPs		VPs	
INDIA	TUNISIA	42	51	7.45	11.55
USA 2	NORWAY	26	25	10.31	9.69
USA 1	NEW ZEALAND	41	29	13.28	6.72
CANADA	CHINESE TAIPEI	35	35	10.00	9.50
POLAND	AUSTRALIA	37	25	13.28	6.47
NETHERLANDS	SOUTH AFRICA	28	30	9.39	10.61
ENGLAND	FRANCE	7	48	1.79	18.21
BRAZIL	PAKISTAN	45	34	13.04	6.96
DENMARK	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	51	24	16.26	3.74
SWEDEN	SCOTLAND	31	13	14.60	5.40
JAPAN	CHINA	54	42	13.28	6.72
RUSSIA	CHINA HONG KONG	60	22	17.85	2.15

Round 11

Match		IMPs		VPs	
CHILE	ITALY	14	48	2.69	17.31
USA 2	EGYPT	58	6	19.34	0.66
INDIA	SWEDEN	32	41	7.45	12.55
GUADELOUPE	ARGENTINA	18	42	4.26	15.74
CANADA	AUSTRALIA	19	36	5.61	14.39
SINGAPORE	USA 1	29	65	2.41	17.59
MOROCCO	NEW ZEALAND	2	100	-7.00	20.00
ENGLAND	ISRAEL	52	13	17.97	2.03
RUSSIA	NORWAY	11	65	-0.02	19.02
BANGLADESH	NETHERLANDS	6	79	0.00	20.00
POLAND	CHINA HONG KONG	51	16	17.45	2.55
CHINA	INDONESIA	67	3	20.00	0.00

Round 11

Match		IMPs		VPs	
CANADA	TUNISIA	39	27	13.28	6.72
USA 1	RUSSIA	41	27	13.75	6.25
NETHERLANDS	JAPAN	24	37	6.48	13.52
POLAND	CHINESE TAIPEI	63	23	18.09	1.91
ENGLAND	SWEDEN	55	22	17.17	2.83
FRANCE	SOUTH AFRICA	64	17	18.87	1.13
AUSTRALIA	BRAZIL	33	39	8.24	11.76
DENMARK	PAKISTAN	78	11	20.00	0.00
NEW ZEALAND	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	67	23	18.55	1.45
NORWAY	INDIA	60	26	17.31	2.69
CHINA	USA 2	35	42	7.97	12.03
SCOTLAND	CHINA HONG KONG	36	31	11.48	8.52

Round 12

Match		IMPs		VPs	
CHILE	POLAND	2	14	6.72	13.28
NORWAY	ENGLAND	24	14	12.80	7.20
NEW ZEALAND	AUSTRALIA	26	21	11.48	8.52
GUADELOUPE	ISRAEL	23	50	3.74	16.26
SWEDEN	RUSSIA	29	17	13.28	6.72
USA 1	ITALY	22	18	11.20	8.80
MOROCCO	EGYPT	10	21	6.96	13.04
CHINA HONG KONG	USA 2	9	21	6.72	13.28
NETHERLANDS	INDONESIA	53	25	16.42	3.58
BANGLADESH	CANADA	12	47	2.55	17.45
CHINA	INDIA	55	23	17.03	2.97
SINGAPORE	ARGENTINA	44	1	18.44	1.56

Round 12

Match		IMPs		VPs	
NORWAY	TUNISIA	30	19	13.04	6.96
NEW ZEALAND	ENGLAND	20	11	12.55	7.45
JAPAN	FRANCE	33	15	14.60	5.40
RUSSIA	CHINESE TAIPEI	32	28	11.20	8.80
SCOTLAND	CANADA	21	16	11.48	8.52
CHINA	SOUTH AFRICA	31	15	14.18	5.82
INDIA	USA 2	17	43	3.91	16.09
USA 1	PAKISTAN	8	36	3.58	16.42
NETHERLANDS	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	63	48	13.97	6.03
POLAND	SWEDEN	7	51	1.45	18.55
BRAZIL	DENMARK	16	66	0.84	19.16
AUSTRALIA	CHINA HONG KONG	28	19	12.55	7.45



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d'Orsi Trophy

Round 10

Match		IMPs		VPs	
USA 2	TURKEY	43	34	12.55	7.45
NETHERLANDS	FRANCE	40	65	4.08	15.92
REUNION	INDONESIA	39	63	4.26	15.74
DENMARK	ENGLAND	21	58	2.28	17.72
UAE	SWEDEN	27	35	7.71	12.29
INDIA	ITALY	68	17	19.25	0.75
JAPAN	IRELAND	40	45	8.52	11.48
CHINA HONG KONG	CHINA	15	51	2.41	17.59
NORWAY	BULGARIA	17	27	7.20	12.80
CANADA	POLAND	54	24	16.73	3.27
AUSTRALIA	USA 1	30	37	7.97	12.03
CHINESE TAIPEI	NEW ZEALAND	55	16	17.97	2.03

Round 11

Match		IMPs		VPs	
AUSTRALIA	USA 2	29	53	4.26	15.74
CANADA	NETHERLANDS	61	1	20.00	0.00
NORWAY	REUNION	43	20	15.56	4.44
CHINA HONG KONG	DENMARK	24	66	1.67	18.33
JAPAN	UAE	63	6	19.77	0.23
NEW ZEALAND	INDIA	32	34	9.39	10.61
CHINESE TAIPEI	USA 1	16	29	6.48	13.52
TURKEY	POLAND	21	21	10.00	10.00
FRANCE	BULGARIA	34	24	12.80	7.20
INDONESIA	CHINA	11	49	2.15	17.85
ENGLAND	IRELAND	44	20	15.74	4.26
SWEDEN	ITALY	34	48	6.25	13.75

Round 12

Match		IMPs		VPs	
ITALY	USA 2	14	31	5.61	14.39
IRELAND	NETHERLANDS	17	22	8.52	11.48
CHINA	REUNION	29	21	12.29	7.71
BULGARIA	DENMARK	7	26	5.20	14.80
POLAND	UAE	30	29	10.31	9.69
USA 1	INDIA	18	27	7.45	12.55
AUSTRALIA	JAPAN	41	22	14.80	5.20
CANADA	CHINA HONG KONG	25	27	9.39	10.61
NEW ZEALAND	NORWAY	4	36	2.97	17.03
CHINESE TAIPEI	SWEDEN	17	25	7.71	12.29
TURKEY	ENGLAND	30	27	10.91	9.09
FRANCE	INDONESIA	11	16	8.52	11.48

Mixed

Round 10

Match		IMPs		VPs	
CHINESE TAIPEI	BRAZIL	30	48	5.40	14.60
ENGLAND	CANADA	64	20	18.55	1.45
SWEDEN	ROMANIA	33	35	9.39	10.61
INDONESIA	USA 2	42	53	6.96	13.04
MOROCCO	CHINA	26	48	4.62	15.38
RUSSIA	BARBADOS	76	27	19.07	0.93
ITALY	FRANCE	40	22	14.60	5.40
POLAND	NEW ZEALAND	64	21	18.44	1.56
EGYPT	AUSTRALIA	34	58	4.26	15.74
PAKISTAN	THAILAND	24	64	1.91	18.09
LATVIA	DENMARK	40	34	11.76	8.24
INDIA	USA 1	32	32	9.50	9.50

Round 11

Match		IMPs		VPs	
ITALY	CHINESE TAIPEI	38	55	5.61	14.39
RUSSIA	ENGLAND	36	49	6.48	13.52
MOROCCO	SWEDEN	43	63	5.00	15.00
USA 1	INDONESIA	48	29	14.80	5.20
DENMARK	POLAND	32	20	13.28	6.72
INDIA	EGYPT	39	34	11.48	8.52
LATVIA	PAKISTAN	74	10	20.00	0.00
BRAZIL	THAILAND	67	27	18.09	1.91
CANADA	AUSTRALIA	46	33	13.52	6.48
ROMANIA	NEW ZEALAND	47	37	12.80	7.20
USA 2	FRANCE	34	24	12.80	7.20
CHINA	BARBADOS	45	39	11.76	8.24

Round 12

Match		IMPs		VPs	
EGYPT	CHINESE TAIPEI	21	43	4.62	15.38
POLAND	ENGLAND	39	28	13.04	6.96
ITALY	SWEDEN	18	35	5.61	14.39
RUSSIA	INDONESIA	19	39	5.00	15.00
USA 1	MOROCCO	30	31	9.69	10.31
DENMARK	PAKISTAN	49	12	17.72	2.28
INDIA	THAILAND	12	47	2.55	17.45
LATVIA	AUSTRALIA	32	38	8.24	11.76
BRAZIL	NEW ZEALAND	36	27	12.55	7.45
CANADA	FRANCE	12	56	1.45	18.55
ROMANIA	BARBADOS	33	15	14.60	5.40
USA 2	CHINA	13	16	9.09	10.91