



44th World Bridge Team Championships

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WUHAN CHINA

DAILY BULLETIN

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ARISF
Association of Bridge Fairs



GAISF
Global Association of International Sports Federations



IMSMA
International Mind Sports Association

Issue No. 7

Saturday, 21st September 2019

FINISH LINE IN VIEW

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 19

BB	USA I - Norway	VG/BBO I
BB	Russia - Poland	BBO 2
VC	Japan - England	BBO 3
VC	Norway - USA I	BBO 4
BB	China HK - New Zealand	BBO 5
VC	Russia - Netherlands	BBO 6
VC	Denmark - Canada	BBO 7
SD	USA2 - India	BBO 8
MX	Poland - Romania	BBO 9
SD	USA I - Sweden	BBO 10
SD	Australia - England	BBO 11
MX	Sweden - Denmark	BBO 12

13.30 Round 20

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

16.30 Round 21

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



The CCBA have mobilised a staff of 150 people to make this tournament happen. Here you see WBF President Gianarrigo Rona surrounded by Mr. Ge Feng, Vice President of the CCBA, Mrs. Wang Yannan, Deputy SG of the CCBA & Deputy Secretary Generals, Mr. Yuan Yujie, Deputy SG of the CCBA, Mr. Gan Derun, Deputy Chief of the LOC, Mr. Li Jingcheng, On Site Organiser, Mr. Li Minghua, Deputy On Site Organiser and the local BBO operators, Duplication staff, Caddies, Transportation Team, Reception Team and the Medical Support

Competitors in the four main teams events have now finished 18 of 23 rounds of the qualifying round robin and can take a breath knowing only five rounds remain – three today and two on Sunday.

In the **Bermuda Bowl**, **USA I** is in a comfortable position at the top of the bracket with 277.76 victory points. **Sweden** is in second place with 244.90. **The Netherlands** are third with 233.43.

In the eighth and last qualifying spot is **England** with 217.36. In ninth and in danger of missing the cut is **Israel**.

In the **Venice Cup**, **China** is leading with 241.17 VPs. **Poland** is close behind at 236.15. Neither is in danger of missing a qualifying spot at this point. **USA I** is in eighth. Two strong teams – **Sweden** and **USA 2** – are just outside the top eight.

India, in first place, looks good as a qualifier in the **d'Orsi Seniors Trophy**, as do **Denmark** and **Chinese Taipei**, second and third, respectively. **Netherlands**, in 9th place, is in danger of missing out on the quarter-finals.

In the **Mixed Teams**, **England** leads the pack with 249.53 VPs, followed in second by **USA 2** with 244.83. In the eighth and final qualifying spot are **Sweden** with 211.85, but **USA I**, in ninth, is within shouting distance with 207.71 VPs.

Captain's Meeting

The Captain's Meeting on Sunday 22nd will be held in the Vugraph Theatre at 16.30. Because playing time is one hour earlier each day, we decided to move it up one hour earlier as well.

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Videos

Check out the following videos from the Championships:

Bermuda Bowl
After Round 18

TEAM	VP
1 USA 1	277.67
2 SWEDEN	244.90
3 NETHERLANDS	233.43
4 CHINA	229.74
5 POLAND	223.48
6 NORWAY	222.78
7 ITALY	219.29
8 ENGLAND	217.36
9 ISRAEL	214.69
10 NEW ZEALAND	196.87
11 AUSTRALIA	189.97
12 CHINA HONG KONG	189.39
13 INDIA	176.75
14 INDONESIA	174.59
15 CHILE	170.17
16 USA 2	168.62
17 CANADA	165.31
18 ARGENTINA	150.32
19 SINGAPORE	150.05
20 RUSSIA	147.30
21 EGYPT	129.08
22 BANGLADESH	113.70
23 GUADELOUPE	70.65
24 MOROCCO	31.89

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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

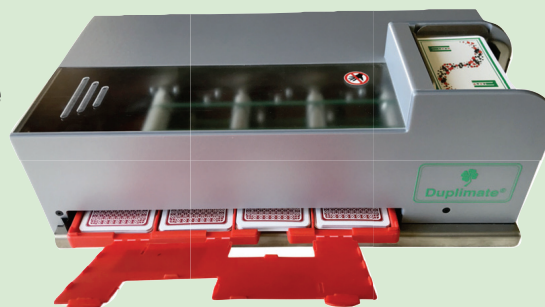


Championship offer

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 18		d'Orsi Trophy After Round 18		Mixed After Round 18	
TEAM	VP	TEAM	VP	TEAM	VP
1 CHINA	241.17	1 INDIA	240.02	1 ENGLAND	249.53
2 POLAND	236.15	2 DENMARK	224.90	2 USA 2	244.83
3 ENGLAND	231.76	3 CHINESE TAIPEI	222.52	3 ROMANIA	233.78
4 NORWAY	225.88	4 ENGLAND	219.58	4 FRANCE	228.40
5 JAPAN	220.65	5 USA 2	215.98	5 CHINA	222.47
6 CANADA	218.55	6 CHINA	214.55	6 RUSSIA	218.64
7 NETHERLANDS	215.93	7 FRANCE	212.79	7 LATVIA	218.16
8 USA 1	215.52	8 TURKEY	200.18	8 SWEDEN	211.85
9 SWEDEN	212.05	9 NETHERLANDS	197.34	9 USA 1	207.71
10 USA 2	210.83	10 SWEDEN	192.63	10 DENMARK	204.03
11 RUSSIA	201.26	11 POLAND	190.64	11 INDONESIA	201.72
12 SCOTLAND	195.39	12 USA 1	189.86	12 POLAND	192.24
13 FRANCE	190.30	13 AUSTRALIA	182.21	13 BRAZIL	182.62
14 CHINESE TAIPEI	182.28	14 JAPAN	170.48	14 CHINESE TAIPEI	182.44
15 DENMARK	178.63	15 CANADA	169.33	15 ITALY	180.35
16 NEW ZEALAND	177.98	16 ITALY	168.13	16 AUSTRALIA	169.54
17 BRAZIL	174.28	17 CHINA HONG KONG	165.82	17 THAILAND	156.96
18 AUSTRALIA	154.74	18 IRELAND	164.58	18 INDIA	138.93
19 CHINA HONG KONG	131.99	19 INDONESIA	156.55	19 CANADA	131.77
20 PAKISTAN	124.45	20 NORWAY	155.83	20 NEW ZEALAND	128.94
21 INDIA	121.63	21 U.A.E.	125.89	21 BARBADOS	125.40
22 TUNISIA	92.66	22 NEW ZEALAND	119.43	22 EGYPT	120.67
23 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	83.37	23 BULGARIA	113.09	23 MOROCCO	105.23
24 SOUTH AFRICA	76.55	24 REUNION	102.17	24 PAKISTAN	59.79



WBFR ROBOT TOURNAMENTS



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The ranking lists can be found at: <http://robot.wbfrmasterpoints.com/> and these give details of the titles achieved and the master point awards.

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.

M19

M20

M21

Bermuda Bowl**10.00 - 12.20**

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

13.30 - 15.50

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

16.30 - 18.50

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

Venice Cup**10.00 - 12.20**

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

13.30 - 15.50

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

16.30 - 18.50

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

d'Orsi Trophy**10.00 - 12.20**

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

13.30 - 15.50

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

16.30 - 18.50

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

Mixed**10.00 - 12.20**

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

13.30 - 15.50

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

16.30 - 18.50

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

Venice Cup RR - R14

Marc Smith

France v Netherlands

Perennial contenders in women’s events, France and Netherlands, met head on in the Venice Cup Round Robin. Netherlands had scored a much-needed 20-0 win over New Zealand in the morning match, which lifted them into seventh place. The French, on the other hand, had suffered an 8-IMP loss to Brazil and had dropped to eleventh. Both teams were in desperate need of Victory Points, with matches running out in the quest to secure a place in the knockout stage of the event.

I joined Peter Lund in commentary on BBO at what, for us, was stupid o’clock in the morning. Neither of us had even finished the day’s first cup of coffee when a spectacular production by the Great Dealer was revealed:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



Wietske van Zwoel, Netherlands

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Verbeek	Puillet	Van Zwol
—	—	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

The auction at this table was relatively sedate. Peter agreed with Wietske van Zwol’s pass of Three Clubs, whereas I thought bidding was automatic, even at adverse vulnerability. The only question for me was whether to settle for a pedestrian Three Spades or to overstate your values in order to get both suits into the auction via a Leaping Michaels Four Diamonds (diamonds and a major). It was probably moot anyway, as it is far from clear that North, with a relatively balanced hand, would find the ‘red’ save in Five Spades over Five Clubs. There was little to the play; the defence cashed their aces and declarer claimed eleven tricks; E/W +400. The action at the other table was much more exciting:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Simons	Reess	Pasman	Zochowska
—	—	1♣	1♠
2♦*	3♠	Pass	4♠
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	6♠
Dble	All Pass		

Here, Jet Pasman not unreasonably chose to open One Club, giving South an easy one-level overcall. Anneke Simons bid Two Diamonds (showing hearts), North preempted to Three Spades, and South awarded herself game. Now Simons advanced with Four No Trump...

Are you sure what your regular partner would make of this? Is it RKC♢ for hearts? Or perhaps clubs? Or two places to play? Pasman responded Five Clubs and whilst we were waiting for the next bid the commentators debated whether South should now find the save in Five Spades to gain a handful of IMPs.

Eventually, South’s pass appeared on the screen, immediately followed by West’s jump to Six Hearts. The Dutch pair, with more than 70 years of international experience, two World Championship titles and a host of European titles between them, had presumably had a misunderstanding about Four No Trump and/or the response thereto.

Zochowska might have passed but surely a Lightner double asking for a club lead was marked. Indeed, it would be spectacularly successful on this deal as not only would you score the ruff and your ace, but partner’s ace and her trump trick would be still to come; N/S +500 and 14 IMPs to France.

After an inordinate length of time, though, the French player emerged with a Six Spade bid. This was sharply doubled by West, who led a top heart and then tried to cash her ♣A. After ruffing, declarer should reason that West is unlikely to be void in spades as she used Blackwood, and thus lay down the ♠A. She could then play two rounds of diamonds and eventually ruff two diamonds in dummy to 'escape' for -500 and at least limit the loss on the deal to 3 IMPs.

Declarer opted instead to play a low spade from hand at trick three. East won with the ♠Q and forced declarer with a second round of clubs. Now came a diamond to the ace and a second diamond, East winning with the jack. East could have ensured a fourth defensive trick now with a third round of diamonds, promoting partner's ♠K. However, she continued with a third round of clubs, providing declarer with a ruff and discard that is unwelcome as she cannot afford to ruff in either hand. She threw a diamond from hand and ruffed in dummy, then played a trump to the ace. With only one trump left in dummy, though, declarer still had to lose a trick to the ♦K in the endgame; E/W +800 and 9 IMPs to Netherlands.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Verbeek	Puillet	Van Zwol
—	1♣	1♦	Dble
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Traditionally, a negative double after 1♣-1♦ shows either 4-4 in the majors or 5-4/4-5 and a hand not strong enough for two bids. If you have only one four-card major, you just bid it. There was no alert of South's double to show that it was a transfer to hearts, (*In some parts of the world, perhaps including the Netherlands the double simply shows four hearts. Ed.*) but if that was the case here, that is unfortunate. The effect was to play the right contract but from the wrong side. Sure, West can beat Four Hearts by leading a black suit, but is she not almost certain to kick off with the ♦A after this auction?

As expected, Carole Puillet led her singleton club. She then won the first round of trumps, cashed her ♠A (discouragement from partner), played a diamond to West's ace, and collected her ruff to beat the contract; N/S -100

and, what seems to me, a self-inflicted 12 IMPs out for the Dutch. But, perhaps not...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Simons	Reess	Pasman	Zochowska
—	1♣	1♦	Dble
Rdbl	2♥	2♠	4♥
All Pass			

For whatever reason, the French auction started the same way and, once again, North became declarer in the heart game. Presumably, now, the Dutch would escape with a flat board... No, Pasman led the ♦Q rather than her singleton and declarer was soon claiming ten tricks; N/S +620 and 12 much-needed IMPs to France.

With 31 IMPs on the scorecard after just four deals, we finally got our first flat board. Of course, it couldn't last, and the next swing was created by one of the legion of 'stick-it-to-them' two-level opening bids that seem to have been wreaking havoc throughout the first week of this tournament:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Simons	Reess	Pasman	Zochowska
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Vanessa Reess might have opted to attack with a heart lead and, indeed, K-Q-x can be quite an attractive option against Three No Trump. On this auction, it is clear that the opponents have no extra values and thus the objective may be simply not to give away a trick, so I have considerable sympathy for the diamond lead she chose. Unfortunately for the French, this did not unduly test declarer, who quickly wrapped up nine tricks via four clubs, three diamonds and two aces; E/W + 600.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Verbeek	Puillet	Van Zwol
—	—	—	2♥*
Dble	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Van Zwol started proceedings with a Two Heart opening, showing a weak hand with at least nine cards in the majors (5-4 either way around). Veronique Bessis doubled and now her partner had to decide whether to defend or take a shot at Three No Trump. Defending Two Hearts would have given the French at least +500 but Puillet elected to try to flatten the deal.

Her partner's pass helped Van Zwol to find the best lead for the defence, a heart. Declarer duly ducked until the third round and then ran the ♣8 to North's queen. Winning the spade return with the ace, declarer now cashed her club tricks and then had to guess the diamonds for three tricks. Of course, she knew the suit was breaking 5-2. (If declarer starts getting these guesses right against you, tell your partner to hold her hand up.)

Although she thought for some considerable time after cashing the ♦A and playing a second one towards her hand, Puillet inevitably put in the ten. South claimed the remaining tricks; E/W -200 and 13 IMPs to Netherlands.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Verbeek	Puillet	Van Zwol
—	2♠*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

I am sure that most players at this championship would open something on this North hand. Here, Martine Verbeek had a choice between a Multi Two Diamonds, showing a weak two in a major, or Two Spades, spades and a minor. For me, this hand is much closer to a natural weak two and I'd have preferred to describe it as such. It certainly had more upside on this deal as East is surely likely to be encouraged into the auction by a Multi. Of course, the Two Spade opening warned East off and South gaily opted to play in opener's minor. The good news for the Dutch was that no one managed to find a double, as that would have been -800 territory.

Perhaps the defenders lost interest as they were only playing for fifties. Puillet led a top club and switched to the ♦Q. When she then continued with the ♦J, Bessis made the strange decision to overtake and cash her other trump winner. Overtaking actually doesn't cost a trick, provided West then switches to the ♥A or her second club. When

she switched to a spade, though, declarer was out for three down. Then, in the four-card end position, when declarer had only three of the remaining tricks, a claim for the rest was apparently accepted. A rather disappointing two down; E/W +100 when it might have been so much more.

At the other table, the stakes in the card play were much higher:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Simons	Reess	Pasman	Zochowska
—	Pass	1♠	3♥
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

The French North chose not to open and when the bidding came back to her she must have thought that all of her Noels had arrived at once. I'm sure we all would have doubled gleefully too. Curiously, though, the contract can legitimately be beaten only on a heart lead. When Joanna Zochowska fished out the ♦2 for her opening salvo, declarer was in position to make one of the more spectacular +790s of the championships.

Pasman's winning position lasted only until trick two, though; instead of playing minor suits, she immediately led the ♠Q from hand. North won and switched to the ♥9, to the jack and dummy's ace. Now declarer called for the only card in dummy that would give the defence a chance to beat the contract by two, the low diamond. Winning with the ♦J, she then played three rounds of clubs, ruffed, and over-ruffed by North. If North now plays the ♥Q (or a low trump) declarer can make no more than eight tricks, but Reess instead cashed her ♠A before exiting with her heart. Now declarer was able to scramble nine tricks; E/W -200 and 7 IMPs to France.



Martine Verbeek, Netherlands

Think about what the swing might have been: 12 IMPs to the Dutch for making Four Spades doubled and conceding -100 at the other table, or 16 IMPs to the French for +500 against Four Spades and +800 from Three Diamonds. Those hidden IMPs sure add up!

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Verbeek	Puillet	Van Zwol
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	3♥
All Pass			

Van Zwol opened a 14-16 One No Trump and the Dutch tried to stop in Two Hearts after a transfer auction. When East then reopened with a double, van Zwol had to decide what to do, and her Three Heart bid is surely one that many players would duplicate. Perhaps E/W will manage to scramble nine tricks in clubs, perhaps not. The one certain thing is that, once again, the Dutch were happy not to get doubled, as Three Hearts had six obvious losers; E/W +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Simons	Reess	Pasman	Zochowska
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥	INT	2♥
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Out of range for One No Trump, Zochowska had to start with One Club and, in theory, Reess did well to respond. Has anyone noticed that no one passes a one-level opening bid any more? As I recall, we have a Bols Tip to blame for that!

Undeterred, Pasman joined in with a natural One No Trump overcall, and South raised hearts. Now Simons used Lebensohl to deny a heart stop or four spades on the way to Three No Trump. As we can all see, the contract has no play if the defenders just play three rounds of hearts, and after North's bid, that would not appear to be particularly difficult to find.



Joanna Zochowska, France

Zochowska did indeed kick off with the ♥A and got the ♥7 from partner, presumably discouraging. I don't know if 'ace for attitude, king for count' has made it to the darkest parts of the EU yet (no, not Brussels), but leading the king and getting a count signal showing an odd number would surely have told you everything you need to know on this deal. Here, perhaps Zochowska was worried that her partner had only four hearts, or maybe a suit headed by J-9? Partner is marked with at most a queen, though, so looking for her entry seems like a fruitless endeavor. For whatever reason, she now made the disastrous switch to the ♠Q.

You may say, well the queen was coming down anyway. If so, then take another look at that spade suit – declarer now has a fourth spade trick that she could not make left to her own devices. And Pasman needed all four of them! Plus a 3-3 diamond break. She now had seven tricks in the pointed suits to go along with one heart trick and the ♣A; E/W +400 and another 7 IMPs to Netherlands.

Netherlands won the match 51-25 (16.09-3.91 VPs) and climbed to fourth place behind Poland, China and Japan. France, meanwhile, dropped to twelfth, into a packed group all about 10 VPs behind eighth-placed Sweden. Still all to play for, but boards are running out fast.





Jos Jacobs

Mixed Teams RR - R14

USA I v Italy



In the early years of contract bridge, matches between the USA and Italy were considered top of the bill and many Bermuda Bowl finals have indeed been contested by the teams from these two strong bridge-playing countries. In Thursday's middle round, another USA – Italy match was scheduled, this time in the Mixed event. So for me, choosing this match for my report not only felt part of the normal daily work but also as a tribute to bridge history.

Another tradition has it that in mixed events, from time to time contested by less well-established partnerships, accidents of all sorts frequently occur. Because we already reached Round 14 of this long event for which teams first had to qualify at zonal level, I did not expect the spectacular misunderstandings that usually are part of this tradition.

Having said that, I had to form an opinion about the second board of the match.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chavarria	Ivatury	Gandoglia	Henner
—	—	4♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Looking at this E/W auction, I got visions of Namyats until it occurred to me that West might not be wanting to give up her 100 honours so easily. Of course, 4♥ is quite an acceptable contract with a solid enough trump suit and ample support for partner; it might even be that the heart game is on and the more straightforward-looking club game is not.

Still, heart contracts really were a rarity all over Wuhan, the non-experimental 5♣ being most people's favourite.

Another question, however, is whether you can make 4♥. Margherita Chavarria could not, because she was treated to the ♦A lead and a shift to the ♣10, suggested by partner playing the ♥2 under the ace. The ♠A and North's still intact natural trump trick, even after South's ruff, did the rest; USA I + 50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
H Weinstein	Attanasio	Bjerkkan	Manara
—	—	3♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

In the replay, Weinstein had even more reason to go for a heart contract, or so he thought. North led a spade to South's ace but her return of a diamond to his ace did not suggest a club switch to Attanasio. When he simply played another diamond, declarer ruffed and just lost a trump trick when the ♥Q came down in time; USA I another +420 and their first 10 IMPs of the match.

Two boards later, East had a little defensive problem.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chavarria	Ivatury	Gandoglia	Henner
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥
Pass	2♥	2♠	3♣
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

When the opponents stop in 3♥, it might occur to you, East, that partner is holding an ace. So you win partner's spade lead and try your singleton club. Just made when the ♦A with partner ensures your ruff; USA I +140

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
H Weinstein	Attanasio	Bjerkkan	Manara
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

When it did not occur to the American East that partner's ace might be useful at a different moment, the heart game

came home. Spade lead and switch to the $\diamond Q$. Italy +620 and 10 IMPs back to them to almost level the match again.

Another two boards later, we saw a sequence of three double-figure swings.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	\spadesuit 9 5 4	
	\heartsuit 7 3	
	\diamond K J 10 3	
	\clubsuit J 10 9 4	
\spadesuit K J	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	\spadesuit A Q 10 2
\heartsuit A Q 9 6		\heartsuit J 8 5 2
\diamond 9 7 2		\diamond Q 4
\clubsuit K Q 7 3		\clubsuit 8 5 2
	\spadesuit 8 7 6 3	
	\heartsuit K 10 4	
	\diamond A 8 6 5	
	\clubsuit A 6	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chavarria	Ivatury	Gandoglia	Henner
—	—	Pass	1 \clubsuit
INT	Pass	2 \clubsuit^*	Pass
2 \heartsuit	Pass	2 \spadesuit	Pass
3 \clubsuit	Pass	4 \heartsuit	All Pass

South's 1 \clubsuit showed a balanced type of hand.



Alessandro Gandoglia, Italy

North led the $\clubsuit J$ to partner's ace and South played $\diamond A$ and another. North won the king and continued the suit, declarer ruffing. Gandoglia's next move was the $\heartsuit J$, covered and taken. A spade was overtaken in hand and a low heart to dummy's nine then successfully settled the issue; Italy a fine +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
H Weinstein	Attanasio	Bjerkan	Manara
—	—	Pass	Pass
INT	Pass	2 \clubsuit^*	Pass
2 \heartsuit	Pass	4 \heartsuit	All Pass

No opening bid from South, so when North led the $\clubsuit J$ to South's ace and a club came back to declarer's $\clubsuit K$, Weinstein saw no immediate reason to play for any other chance than the pretty remote Kx onside. As the defence had not yet taken their two diamond tricks, getting to dummy was a bigger problem than it had been next door. One down, Italy another +100 and 12 IMPs to take the lead.

Next:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

	\spadesuit 8 6	
	\heartsuit K Q 6	
	\diamond 9 8 6 5 4	
	\clubsuit Q 4 2	
\spadesuit Q J	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	\spadesuit A 4 3 2
\heartsuit 10 8 3		\heartsuit A 7 2
\diamond A J 3		\diamond K 10 7
\clubsuit A J 6 5 3		\clubsuit 10 9 8
	\spadesuit K 10 9 7 5	
	\heartsuit J 9 5 4	
	\diamond Q 2	
	\clubsuit K 7	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chavarria	Ivatury	Gandoglia	Henner
—	—	—	Pass
1 \clubsuit	Pass	1 \spadesuit	Pass
INT	Pass	2 \clubsuit^*	Pass
2 \diamond^*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

After this unrevealing natural auction, Ivatury led a thoughtful $\heartsuit K$. Suddenly, declarer was in trouble. She won the third round of the suit and took a losing club finesse. North won and immediately played a spade, so declarer could place the 13th heart with South. A losing spade finesse thus would mean an immediate one down, so Chavarria called for dummy's ace and ran the $\clubsuit J$ successfully and repeated the finesse, bringing down South's king in the process. From South's ensuing spade discards declarer could deduce that it would be North

who was looking at a lot of diamonds and thus more likely to hold the $\diamond Q$. To bring home the contract after all, declarer needed three tricks in the suit and therefore had to find the queen. When she took the second-round finesse through North, she thus went a slightly unlucky two down; USA 1 +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
H Weinstein	Attanasio	Bjerkkan	Manara
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

When North led a less inspired $\diamond 8$, there was no story. Just made, USA 1 another +600 and 13 IMPs back.
And next:

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chavarria	Ivatury	Gandoglia	Henner
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The standard contract, against which South led a normal enough low spade. Declarer won the jack in hand, lost to the $\diamond Q$ and had an overtrick when North next played the $\clubsuit A$ and another; Italy +430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
H Weinstein	Attanasio	Bjerkkan	Manara
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

With West the declarer, North made a more challenging lead of the $\heartsuit 8$. After a diamond to North's queen and another heart, it came down for declarer to the question of which finesse to take. A spade to the jack would see him home immediately and a club to the king might also work; but only if the hearts were 4-4. So it's quite understandable that declarer chose the less risky line of a spade, only to find out that a club play would have been worth the risk

after all... One down, Italy another +50 and 10 IMPs to them to lead 37-26 at the half-way point.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chavarria	Ivatury	Gandoglia	Henner
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	2♦	3♦
All Pass			

Even 2♥, played by West of course, after East showed his majors, might have been a problem, but when South made an encouraging bid of 3♦, it rested there; USA 1 +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
H Weinstein	Attanasio	Bjerkkan	Manara
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

South's old-fashioned strong 1NT worked very well here as it prevented East from showing her suits. When West led a natural enough club, declarer had an easy ride after dummy's $\clubsuit J$ won the first trick. Even on a heart lead, ducked to South's queen, declarer will get home because it's West who holds the $\spadesuit A$. Just made, Italy +600 and 10 more IMPs to them.

At this point, we had seen five double-figure swings in seven boards. Entertaining going but also time for the dealing machine to go back to sleep again, apparently, because over the final six boards the score was 5-3, making it a win for Italy by 55-30 or 15.92 – 4.08 VPs.



Masterclass

by Mark Horton

Viewing figures suggest that if big numbers are the sole criterion to justify selection for an appearance on BBO then Meckwell are the biggest draw. When they are in full cry, you can learn a lot from watching them. Here are a couple of deals from their R17 match with England, which provided full value for money.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

In the Closed Room, North (as was usually the case) declared 3NT and East's lead of the ♦10 saw the contract defeated in double-quick time.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Allerton	Meckstroth	Jagger
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♣4 and when declarer put up dummy's queen East followed with the seven and South the three. The jack of spades saw East contribute the ten (upside down Smith) and West took the ace and switched to the ♦J to flatten the board – not exactly shabby and too difficult for some of the pairs confronted by the problem.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Allerton	Meckstroth	Jagger
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣*	Pass	1♠*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♠*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	6♦*	Pass
6♥	All Pass		
1♣	16+		
1♠	5+♥		
3♠	Splinter, tending to minimum		
4♣	RKCB		
4NT	3 key cards		
6♦	Transfer to hearts		

Every ten years or so I pester Eric about writing a book on RM Precision – when you see a sequence like this you can understand why.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Robson	Weinstein	Forrester	Levin
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	4♥	All Pass
2♦	Multi, weak major, 4-9 or 4441	16+	
2♠	Pass or correct		
3♥	1444		

I leave you to ponder the merits of some further move by East (presumably 3♠ would have been asking for controls or range).

USA I just got the better of things to stay more than a match ahead of the field.



Eric Rodwell, USA I



Bermuda Bowl RR - R15

USA I v Australia



David Bird

USA I had recently ascended to the summit of the leader board. Australia were on a ledge just below the top eight qualifying positions. Roland Wald and I took our seats, knowing that both teams would be fighting for every IMP. This was the first board:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gill	Rodwell	Hans	Meckstroth
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣*	Dble
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Sartaj Hans bid a Reverse Drury 2♣. You don't know what that means? Well, look it up on Google, like I've just had to do. Ah, it means that the opener's 2♦ and 2♥ rebids are reversed. Peter Gill liked his hand and rebid 2♠, reaching 4♥ a few moments later.

Eric Rodwell led the ♣2 to the queen and ace. When a trump was led, the king appeared from North and dummy's ace took the trick. Gill played a spade to the queen and king, ruffing the club continuation.

The key point of the deal had been reached. Declarer needs to believe North's ♥K and play on diamonds rather than leading another trump. After ace, king and another diamond, he can ruff the next club and play winners in spades and diamonds. South is then powerless.

When Gill preferred to play a second trump to the queen, there was no way home. He continued with jack and another spade, Jeff Meckstroth ruffing and cashing the ♥J. Declarer had to lose an eventual diamond trick and was one down.

I cannot describe any INT or 2♦ contracts, since I promised to pay \$100 to the first reader of any such write-up from me. I must therefore merely say that East at the other table stopped in some part-score, scoring +130.

Only a single IMP changed hands on the next five boards, so we will 'walk on by' until we reach this heart game:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gill	Rodwell	Hans	Meckstroth
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Meckstroth's 2♣ showed 5-7 points (either any hand, or diamonds, depending on which kibitzer you believe...) and Rodwell closed shop in 4♥. Hans found an excellent lead, the jack of spades, covered by the queen, king and ace. Rodwell played his singleton diamond, East rising with the ace. Would you bet on declarer's chances after this start?

If East cashes his spade winner, the game is down. Declarer will have to lose a trump and a club. When Hans preferred to switch to the ♣2, declarer won with dummy's ♣9 and discarded his spade loser on the king of diamonds. This was a pity for East, since he had found a great opening lead.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Hung	Levin	Edgton
—	—	—	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Bobby Levin missed the successful spade lead, choosing an unfortunate trump. Andy Hung won West's ♥Q with the ace and led his diamond, the ace going up. Levin's ♠J switch was then covered by the three higher honours, as at the other table. Declarer had no quick entry to dummy, to ditch his spade loser, and chose to exit with a spade. West won and played a third spade, declarer ruffing in his hand. A low club to the jack won the next trick. Declarer did not risk playing the ♦K, finessing the ♥10 successfully instead. He then conceded a club trick and picked up +620 to

flatten the board. It was an opportunity missed by Australia at the other table.

A huge number of IMPs were at stake on our next board, where Lady Luck was destined to play a major role.

Board 11. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gill	Rodwell	Hans	Meckstroth
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Rodwell's 2NT was Puppet Stayman, looking for a 5-3 heart fit. His subsequent 3♥ showed a spade singleton. Gill led the ♠5 against 3NT, East's 10 forcing the queen. Meckstroth led the ♣10, covered by the jack and ace. He then led the ♣5, East covering with the ♣6. The play record claims that Meckstroth contributed the ♣2 to this trick! Oh, yes? He wanted to give East a chance to win with the ♣6 from ♣Q6 and return a spade?

We can safely assume that Meckstroth played the ♣7, West winning with the queen. This was a standard avoidance play to keep the danger hand (East) off lead. Gill scored his spade ace, and it was +460 for the Americans.

The stakes were higher on the other table:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Hung	Levin	Edgtton
—	—	—	INT
2♦*	Dble	3♥	Pass
3♠	Dble	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5NT*	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Steve Weinstein's 2♦ (multi defence) showed spades or hearts. North doubled and Levin raised the pre-emption to the three-level. The bidding might have stopped in 3NT, but North had slam ambitions. South's 4NT over 4♦ was a sign-off, but North was still hoping for a high minor-suit contract. He persisted with a pick-a-slam 5NT and South landed in 6♣.

Weinstein cashed the ace of spades and switched to a heart, drawing the queen and king. Nabil Edgtton led a low trump, winning West's ♣J with dummy's ace. When he led a second trump from dummy, East followed with the remaining spot card. Should declarer finesse or not?

In the absence of any bidding by E/W, Restricted Choice dictates that the ♣J is twice as likely to be a singleton than part of a doubleton ♣QJ. Many inexperienced players dispute this endlessly. The easiest way to explain it to them is that the West holdings of ♣Q, ♣J, ♣QJ are roughly equal in frequency. When an honour appears, it is therefore '2-to-1 on' that it's a singleton. Here West had indicated six spades on the bidding, so odds were even more than 2-to-1.

Edgtton correctly decided to finesse in clubs and went down in the slam. He lost 11 IMPs instead of gaining 10, entirely due to bad luck.

With four boards to play, Australia had another chance to make their first entry in the plus column:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gill	Rodwell	Hans	Meckstroth
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Dble
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West had to choose between 1♥ and INT at his first turn. What should he rebid when partner responds 1♠ to his 1♥ overcall? I can see he might think that INT was not enough, with 15 points and a potential double diamond stopper. That said, a jump to 2NT sounds like a stronger hand than he held.

Partner cue-bid 3♦ in response, judging that he had enough for game now. Whether or not South doubles this, surely 3NT is a clear next move on the West cards? Gill passed but was able to bid 3NT at his next turn.

Meckstroth won the ♦3 lead with the ace and switched to the ♠2. Declarer won with the ace and indicated the complexity of the deal with a very long pause. He eventually led the queen of clubs, covered by the king and ace. A spade to the queen, followed by running the ♣9 is

no good now, since South can return the ♠10, giving him three further tricks to cash.

Gill called for a heart instead and South won with the king, Declarer won the ♠3 return with the queen and led the ♥Q to South's ace. Meckstroth returned the ♠10 to dummy's king. Declarer had no need to play the ♣J now, luckily dropping the ♣10. He led the ♠7 to South's ♠9. Meckstroth then had to play a club or a diamond – a choice of two poisons. When he chose a diamond, Gill finessed the ♦J. He then cashed the ♦K and the ♥J, before crossing to the ♣J to score the ♠8. Well played!

The American E/W opted for a less stressful contract:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Hung	Levin	Edgtton
–	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass

North led a diamond and you wouldn't thank me for the details of how declarer made +140. It was a much-needed 10 IMPs for Australia.

USA I struck back immediately on the next deal:

Board 14. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gill	Rodwell	Hans	Meckstroth
–	–	INT	2♣*
3NT	All Pass		

South's 2♣ showed the major suits. It's not obvious which major suit he should lead against 3NT. A spade lead (perhaps the ♠4) might give the defenders four spades and the heart ace. Meckstroth recalled the sunny afternoon, decades before, when an elderly aunt had offered him some valuable advice: 'I like to lead fourth-best of my longest and strongest, dear. You won't go far wrong if you do that.'

Nodding happily at the memory, Meckstroth reached for the ♥6. Declarer won with dummy's king, Rodwell pitching the queen. The game then went two down when the diamonds failed to divide evenly.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Hung	Levin	Edgtton
–	–	INT	2♣*
3♠*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Weinstein's 3♠ showed a shortage. Edgtton then had to decide what to lead, armed only with the information that declarer had been happy to bid 3NT opposite a spade singleton. He decided to lead a spade, in fact choosing the ♠4 that I suggested a few moments ago. Dummy turned out to have a third stopper in the suit and the game was made with an overtrick. That was 11 IMPs to USA I.

The final score was a 44-10 win for USA I. The Australians had missed a few chances and been very unlucky on a slam deal. Would they be able to overcome this disappointing match and qualify for the knock-out stages? We would know in three days time.



Andy Pei-en Hung, Australia



Venice Cup RR - R15

USA 2 v France



Ron Tacchi

USA 2 was lying in tenth place and the French two positions behind them. If either could inflict a serious defeat on the other they would find themselves in that elite top eight group.

All four pairs play five-card majors with two-over-one. Bernstein/Wheeler employ a weak no-trump.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Bernstein	Puillet	Wheeler
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

The convention card is strangely silent as to the precise nature of the 2♣ bid (it was not alerted by the BBO operator) but I think we can safely say that it was showing heart support, probably in the range 9-11. West, with her shapely hand, had no hesitation in bidding the game. North did not find the best of starts when she tabled the queen of diamonds, which declarer took in hand before leading a small trump to the king, ace, and a small one from South. A finesse of the spade queen drew the ten from South and North won with the king and returned a club to the queen and ace. A small heart to the queen confirmed the suspected 4-1 trump split. Declarer then played dummy's ten of trumps, South taking the jack and exiting with a club. Declarer ruffed, drew the outstanding trump and then cashed three rounds of spades before taking the diamond finesse for an overtrick. Someone suggested this was dangerous. Not so, as no one had discarded a diamond. The last four cards were all diamonds, so even if the finesse had failed the king would still have taken a trick. Furthermore, it would have meant that North's initial lead of the ♦Q was from Q72 – I don't think that has yet been suggested in Mr Bird's books on leads.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Deas	Mourgues	Seamon-Molson	Tartarin
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	All Pass

From my reading of the convention card, 2♥ showed three hearts and 7-9 and, if interpreted as such by West one can understand her Pass. However, it was an initial 7 IMPs to France.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Bernstein	Puillet	Wheeler
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT*	Pass	2♦
All Pass			

INT Forcing

South could not open INT as they play it as 12-14. Not an auction that is a fine advertisement for the forcing INT. We will not intrude on private grief but just note that the contract failed by two tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Deas	Mourgues	Seamon-Molson	Tartarin
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

I was busy writing down a contract of Four Hearts when I saw the initial NT opening but, after North decided not to invoke a transfer, that frequent contract of 3NT was reached. The opening lead of the ♣3 did not, as the oft repeated cliché (that accent is for you Herman) goes, exactly paralyse declarer. She ran it to the ten in hand and

continued with the ace of hearts followed by the ten, ducked by West, who perforce took the third round, whereupon South then her nine top tricks. 13 more IMPs to France.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Bernstein	Puillet	Wheeler
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	All Pass

When East showed less than an opening bid it was not easy for West to go on to game. The fortunate lie of the cards meant that East amassed ten tricks on the opening lead of a club.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Deas	Mourgues	Seamon-Molson	Tartarin
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The 2♥ rebid showed a six-card suit and now it was much easier for East to take a stab at game. With the heart suit playable for one loser and the queen of clubs onside declarer soon had ten tricks piled up in front of her and 10 IMPs back for her team.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Bernstein	Puillet	Wheeler
Pass	1♥	2♥*	3♦*
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

2♥ Michaels cue-bid, spades and a minor

I am uncertain as to why the BBO operator alerted 3♦ as it looks pretty natural to me. Maybe North expected more from South when she essayed 3NT. West obviously has a high opinion of East's Michaels bids for she produced a red card. The queen of spades was the opening lead to West's ace and the six was promptly returned, taken in hand by the king. The king of diamonds followed by the ace revealed the bad news in the diamond suit. A small heart from hand was won by East's ace and she then cashed three rounds of spades and the ace of clubs, to leave this position:

♠ —	♠ —	♠ —
♥ K 8	♥ —	♥ —
♦ —	♦ —	♦ —
♣ K Q	♣ —	♣ J 9 5 4
♠ —	♠ —	♠ —
♥ 10 9 5	♥ —	♥ —
♦ Q	♦ —	♦ —
♣ —	♣ —	♣ —
	♠ —	
	♥ Q	
	♦ 10 9	
	♣ 6	

East got off lead with a club. Whilst declarer now has potentially three tricks, she cannot get to the third one, but for you squeeze aficionados notice what happens when she cashes the last club. She can discard a diamond from dummy but what does West do? If she discards a heart then declarer cashes the king and the eight is good, or if she discards a diamond then declarer plays her small heart to the queen and cashes the now good ten of diamonds. I suspect it was of little solace to declarer to play the pretty ending as it was still -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Deas	Mourgues	Seamon-Molson	Tartarin
Pass	1NT	2♣*	2♦
Dble	3♦	All Pass	
2♣	Clubs and a major		

South had no intention of going to game opposite a normal strong NT. With the ace of spades onside, there was no difficulty for declarer to record nine tricks and another 12 IMPs to France.

Four deals and 42 IMPs changing hands!

The play on the following hand will not tax us but we have the pleasant surprise of two identical auctions.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 5 4

♥ 8 5

♦ 8 7 6 4

♣ A J 4 3 2

♠ A Q 10 8 7 3 2

♥ A Q

♦ A 5 3

♣ 7

N

W

E

S

♠ K J 9 6

♥ K 9 7 6 2

♦ K Q 9

♣ Q

♠ —

♥ J 10 4 3

♦ J 10 2

♣ K 10 9 8 6 5

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Bernstein	Puillet	Wheeler
Deas	Mourgues	Seamon-Molson	Tartarin
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Dble
6♠	All Pass		

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A 6

♥ A K 10 7 3 2

♦ 4

♣ A Q 7 4

♠ K 9 8 5 4

♥ Q J 8

♦ J 2

♣ 8 5 3

N

W

E

S

♠ J 10 3 2

♥ 9 4

♦ A Q 8 3

♣ K 10 2

♠ Q 7

♥ 6 5

♦ K 10 9 7 6 5

♣ J 9 6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Bernstein	Puillet	Wheeler
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT*
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

INT Forcing

South had no reason to continue after North’s 3♥ bid. The defence found the best lead of the jack of spades, covered by the queen, king and ace. A small diamond towards dummy saw East take the ace and she now has to continue spades to prevent overtricks. When she switched to a trump, no doubt nervous that declarer might be able to ruff spade losers in dummy, the upshot was that declarer played West for both trump honours and ended up with an overtrick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Deas	Mourgues	Seamon-Molson	Tartarin
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

INT Semi-forcing
2♠ Game forcing unspecified two suiter

North valued her hand more highly and forced to game. At the conclusion of the auction, I swiftly switched over to the Open Room and, when I returned, I was astounded to see that 12 tricks had been recorded to N/S. I turned to the bridge movie to find out what had happened. East started with a trump lead (obviously a follower of Brother Hubert) to the jack and ace. Declarer now played a diamond, which East took, continuing with her final trump, thereby ensuring declarer did not lose a trump trick. The last trump was drawn, and the queen of clubs was led. At this point BBO says ‘12 tricks claimed’ an obvious error, and the official result was changed to +1, just as well as that additional overtrick would have been worth an IMP. However, it was still 10 of them to France.

That was the end of any significant swings, though France did gain on Board 15 when USA failed in a game attempt and the French rested in a making part-score.

France had put a serious dent in USA2’s hopes as they ran out 59-24 or 17.45-2.55 VPs. France had moved up to ninth place with USA2 now 10 VPs behind.



Carole Puillet, France



d'Orsi Trophy Round RR - R16



Brian Senior

India v Norway

Going into Day 6 of the d'Orsi Trophy round robin, India were at the top of the rankings and looking to be shoo-ins to the knockout stages. Norway, meanwhile, were languishing in 19th place, something of a surprise to me, as I am used to Norway being competitive in every series. Well, it was time to take a look at the leaders and we would see if the Norwegians could raise their game.

The Norwegians consisted of two pairs of brothers, so to distinguish between them they will be referred to by their given names.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tolle S.	Poddar	Leif-Erik S.	Solani
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	INT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Sridharan	Helge M.	Dhakras	Roald M.
—	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

For Norway, Helge Maesel opened INT and Roald Maesel used Stayman on his weak hand then passed the 2♠ response. Subhash Dhakras led the ten of clubs to dummy's bare queen. Helge led a spade to his ace and cashed three more club tricks, discarding all of dummy's diamond losers. Next, he led a low heart to the queen and continued with a second heart for the king and ace. Dhakras cashed the ♥10 then played a diamond, so Helge ruffed in dummy and led a heart. Ramamurthy Sridharan ruffed with the ten and cashed the ♠Q, leaving Helge with an overtrick for +140.

For India, Dipak Poddar opened 1♣, Precision and Jitendra Solani responded with a negative 1♦ then transferred to hearts over the INT rebid. When Poddar's

completion came round to him, Tolle Stabell made a balancing double and Leif-Erik Stabell responded 2NT, offering a choice of minors. Tolle duly chose clubs and when 3♣ came round to Solani he in turn made a balancing double. I have to say that I would have played for penalties now if I held the North hand, but Poddar knew there was an eight-card heart fit so removed the double to 3♥, ending the auction. The lead was again the ten of clubs to dummy's queen. Poddar too crossed to the ace of spades to cash all the clubs for diamond pitches, then he led a heart to the queen and a second heart to the king and ace. Leif-Erik returned a low diamond, ruffed in dummy, and Poddar played a spade. Tolle won the ten and queen of spades then gave his partner a spade ruff, and there was still the ♥10 to come, so the contract was down one for -50 and 5 IMPs to Norway.

It may have been convenient for declarer to lead a heart to the queen at trick five, but all the indications from the bidding and the first round of spades were that East would hold the heart length, so I think it was an error. Get the hearts right, and declarer should be able to take nine tricks.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tolle S.	Poddar	Leif-Erik S.	Solani
—	—	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Sridharan	Helge M.	Dhakras	Roald M.
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Leif-Erik opened the East hand with 1♦, supported his partner's clubs then, on seeing a stopper-showing spade bid, completed the picture of his hand with 3NT. Lacking aces, Tolle wisely chose to leave his partner in that contract

despite the likely 11-card club fit. Solani led the seven of spades to the two, nine and queen. Leif-Erik led a club up, Solani winning the ace and continuing the spade attack. Poddar won the ♠A and played back the ten, so Leif-Erik won and cashed his winners; ten tricks for +430.

Dhakras did not open the East hand, no doubt downgrading the bare queen. Sridharan opened a Precision 2♣ in third seat so Dhakras inquired and found his partner with a single-suited hand. He continued with a 3♦ probe and Sridharan bid 3NT. I am not familiar with the intricacies of this sequence, but clearly the lack of a 3♠ bid from partner concerned Dhakras as regarded a no trump contract, because he now jumped to 5♣. Alas, there were three aces missing and there was nowhere to park any of the losers. Helge led the ten of hearts. So Sridharan won dummy's ace and led a club. Roald won the ace and led a spade, Helge winning the ace and cashing the ace of diamonds; down one for -50 and 10 IMPs to Norway.

In the d'Orsi Trophy, ten pairs made a no trump game while nine were down in 5♣. There were four pairs going down in 6♣ and one stopping in 3♣.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tolle S.	Poddar	Leif-Erik S.	Solani
—	—	—	2♥
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Sridharan	Helge M.	Dhakras	Roald M.
—	—	—	1♥
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

So, how would you treat the South hand.? Would you open with a weak 2♥, open at the one level, or pass because you consider the hand to be too flawed for either of those actions? Or maybe even you would contemplate a 3♥ call?

Solani opened with a weak two bid and Tolle overcalled 3♣ then raised his partner's 3♠ response to 4♠. Solani led the queen of hearts. Leif-Erik won the ♥A and ran the jack of diamonds, losing to the king. Solani played the ten of hearts and Poddar ruffed that and returned a club for

Solani to ruff. There was still the ♠K to be lost so the contract was down one for -100.

Roald opened 1♥ and the Indian E/W also got to 4♠ without difficulty. Roald too led the queen of hearts, but here declarer knew that the missing kings were likely to be offside so followed a very different line. He won the ♥A but then played a spade to the ace and a second spade. Roald went in with the king and made the rather optimistic return of the two of hearts. Of course, his partner could not ruff so that just allowed dummy's nine to win the trick. Dhakras cashed the jack of spades, crossed to the ace of diamonds and cashed the ♠Q to draw the last trump. He continued with the ace and king of clubs, discarding his heart loser, then gave up a diamond and had 11 tricks for +650 and 13 IMPs to India.

On Board 23 Norway declared unsuccessful partscores at both tables to lose 5 IMPs, then came a bidding test for the E/W pairs.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tolle S.	Poddar	Leif-Erik S.	Solani
1♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Sridharan	Helge M.	Dhakras	Roald M.
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

It is refreshing to see a good old-fashioned strong jump shift — when used correctly they can make life very straightforward. Leif-Erik's combination of 2♠ followed by 3♠ set trumps, and Tolle therefore raised to game to deny interest in greater things. But Leif-Erik was too strong to settle for game and cuebid 5♥. With controls in both minors, Tolle could cuebid 6♦ now, implying first-round diamond control but also second-round control of clubs, and Leif-Erik signed off in the cold 6♠. Solani cashed the ace of clubs, so that was +980.

Sridharan opened a Precision 1♦ and for Dhakras a jump to 2♠ would have been weak, so he had to begin with 1♠. Sridharan showed genuine diamonds and Dhakras made a forcing rebid in spades. When Sridharan now showed hearts, Dhakras launched into Key-card then bid the small slam on finding his partner with one. This auction was less-well defined than the one in the other room – they could have been in Six off the ace and king of clubs – but all was fine as Roald cashed the ace of clubs and Dhakras had the rest for +980 and a flat board.

One pair missed the slam while one overbid to 7♠ down one.

On Board 26 it was India’s turn to go down in partscore at both tables for 5 IMPs back to Norway, and then came another bidding test, this time for the N/S pairs.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

♠ Q 8 6 4

♥ 8 7

♦ A 9 8 4

♣ 7 4 2

N

W E

S

♠ K J 7 3 2

♥ K J 6 5

♦ K J

♣ K Q

West	North	East	South
Tolle S.	Poddar	Leif-Erik S.	Solani
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Sridharan	Helge M.	Dhakras	Roald M.
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Solani opened a strong club and once he had admitted to heart support Poddar took control, asking for key cards, then bid the small slam. Leif-Erik led a diamond so there was no overtrick; +980.

Roald opened 1♠ then made a forcing heart raise and, when Helge showed the ace of spades, asked for key cards and bid the slam. Here the lead was a club and declarer could win, draw trumps and get rid of the diamonds on the clubs and claim all 13 tricks for +1010 and 1 IMP to Norway.

Four pairs missed this one.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

♠ A K 10 6 5 2

♥ 8 5

♦ K 8 5

♣ K 9

N

W E

S

♠ Q J

♥ K Q 10 4

♦ A 3 2

♣ Q J 5 2

West	North	East	South
Tolle S.	Poddar	Leif-Erik S.	Solani
1♠	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Sridharan	Helge M.	Dhakras	Roald M.
1♠	Pass	INT	Dble
2♠	3♣	All Pass	

Solani overcalled INT in fourth seat, 12-16, and Poddar inquired. Two No Trump showed a maximum and Poddar went on to game. Had Tolle started spades from the top, he



Tolle Stabell, Norway

could have cashed the first six tricks, but his opponents appeared to have a spade stopper, so he started with a low spade. Solani scooped in the jack and led the queen of clubs to the king and ace then cashed the rest of the clubs. He just cashed out now rather than risk a heart finesse in search of an overtrick, so that was nine tricks for +600.

Dhakras responded INT to the Precision 1♠ opening and, though Roald doubled, take-out of spades, game was never in the picture. Helge played safely in 3♣, making exactly once the clubs behaved; +110, but 10 IMPs to India.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

<p>♠ K J 8 7 ♥ 8 ♦ K 8 4 2 ♣ J 7 5 2</p>			
♠ 10 4 3 ♥ Q 10 9 7 3 ♦ 9 3 ♣ 9 4 3	<p>N W E S</p>	♠ A Q 5 2 ♥ 6 5 ♦ A Q J 6 ♣ K 10 6	
<p>♠ 9 6 ♥ A K J 4 2 ♦ 10 7 5 ♣ A Q 8</p>			
West	North	East	South
Tolle S.	Poddar	Leif-Erik S.	Solani
—	—	INT	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Sridharan	Helge M.	Dhakras	Roald M.
—	—	INT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Unless the contract is INT, it is rarely wise for the same team to declare the same contract at both tables, and this was no exception to the rule, as India went a combined six down in 2♥.

Solani's overcall showed a single-suited major and 2♥ was pass or correct. Leif-Erik led the five of hearts and Poddar called for the jack, losing to the queen. Tolle returned a diamond to his partner's jack, and Leif-Erik went back to trumps, Poddar winning the ace, cashing the king, and getting the bad news. Poddar played the seven of diamonds, ducking Tolle's nine, but that didn't work out well when the nine held the trick. Tolle could cash the nine and ten of trumps then play a spade through and Poddar, who had discarded two spades on the hearts, had to lose three of those (it could have been worse, as Leif-Erik had also discarded a spade), and the ace of diamonds, so was down four for -200.

Roald did not come in over INT so Sridharan transferred to hearts then passed the completion. Roald cashed the king of hearts to take a look at dummy, then switched to the nine of spades, which ran to declarer's queen. Dhakras led a heart up so Roald won the ace and played a second spade to declarer's ace. Dhakras now tried the jack of

diamonds from hand but Helge could win that with the king and cash the king of spades, Roald pitching a diamond, then play a club through. Roald took the queen and ace then exited with a third club and still had to come to the jack of hearts at the end for down two and -100; 7 IMPs to Norway.

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ K 10 5 ♥ A 5 ♦ Q 7 5 3 ♣ A 10 5 4</p>			
♠ Q 8 3 ♥ 10 7 2 ♦ K 4 ♣ Q J 8 7 6	<p>N W E S</p>	♠ A ♥ K 9 8 6 4 3 ♦ A 10 6 ♣ K 3 2	
<p>♠ J 9 7 6 4 2 ♥ Q J ♦ J 9 8 2 ♣ 9</p>			
West	North	East	South
Tolle S.	Poddar	Leif-Erik S.	Solani
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Sridharan	Helge M.	Dhakras	Roald M.
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠	3♥	3♠
All Pass			

Poddar opened 1♦, Precision, and Leif-Erik overcalled 1♥. Vulnerable, and knowing that his side could at best have half the high card strength, Solani did not get involved with the South cards — there would be time for that if, for example, his partner could make a take-out double of hearts. Given a free run to the contract of their choice, the Stabells looked for game then stopped in 3♥. Solani led his singleton club, Poddar winning the ace and returning the five. Solani ruffed with the jack and returned a diamond, Leif-Erik winning dummy's king and leading a heart up. When Poddar played low, Leif-Erik got it wrong by playing low and losing to the by now bare queen. From here he had to lose just the ace of trumps so had nine tricks for +140.

Facing a standard 1♦ opening, Roald did introduce the spades after the 1♥ overcall. When Helge supported spades, Roald was willing to compete to the three level and bought the contract in 3♠. Sridharan led a heart, so Roald played low from dummy, losing to the king, and back came a heart to the ace. He played ace of clubs then ruffed a club back to hand, followed by a spade to the ten and ace. The hand was an open book to Dhakras, who found the killing

return of a low diamond. Sridharan won the king and continued with his remaining diamond and a few seconds later had a diamond ruff to defeat the contract by a trick. That was -100 but still 1 IMP to Norway.

It looked as though Norway might sneak a narrow win but, as they say, it ain't over till it's over, and India snatched the victory with a big swing on the final deal.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tolle S.	Poddar	Leif-Erik S.	Solani
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Sridharan	Helge M.	Dhakras	Roald M.
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Leif-Erik, playing a standard system, opened 1♣ in third seat, while Dhakras, playing Precision, had no reason to open and passed as East. It didn't matter, at least in the auction, as both Souths sailed into 4♠.

Sridharan, facing a passed partner, led a heart. Roald played low from dummy so Dhakras won the queen and promptly switched to the jack of clubs. Roald had no option but to play low and hope this was away from the king. Sridharan switched back to hearts so Dhakras won the ace and cashed the ♦A for down a quick down one; -50.

Facing a 1♣ opening, Tolle led the nine of clubs, middle of three cards in Polish style. Solani could have made his contract by putting up dummys' queen, but he was convinced that the king would be offside so played low and also played low from hand. Now Tolle could have defeated the contract by finding a heart switch, but that was far from obvious and he continued with the five of clubs to declarer's ace. Solani led the five of spades to dummy's queen, retaining the two in hand, then led a low diamond off the table. Leif-Erik could see an impending endplay so rose with the ace and got out with a club. Solani ruffed, cashed a top spade, then unblocked the diamonds before crossing to the three of spades to cash the ♦K for a heart discard from hand, and had 10 tricks for +420 and 10 IMPs to India.

Had Leif-Erik played the ten on declarer's diamond play, Solani would have cashed a top spade then would have had to play for diamonds to be four-two and played a low diamond from both hands in order to succeed.

That swing gave India a win by 38-31 IMPs, translating to 12.03-7.97 VPs, and allowing them to retain their place at the top of the rankings.



The Indian Senior Team

IBPA Awards 2019

Shortlist of candidates

Here are the candidates for the four main categories: declarer play, defence, bidding and Junior deal of the year. At the left you see the issue and page number, then the player and the journalist to the right:

Declarer Play

645 October 2018	8	Fu Zhong	Jerry Li
648 January 2019	3	Barbara Travis	Klinger
649 February 2019	4	Tom Johansen	Kjaernsrod
649 February 2019	5	Nils Kvangraven	Kjaernsrod
650 March 2019	19	Michael Whibley	Milne
652 May 2019	8	Tor Eivind Grude	Kvangraven
652 May 2019	7	Norberto Bocchi	Stern

Defence

643 August 2018	20	Justyna Zmuda	Wojcicki
644 September 2018	7	Milne/Grude	Klinger
645 October 2018	15	Pablo Ravenna	Roth
649 February 2019	3	Thomas Bessis	Jerry Li
653 June 2019	2	Wildavsky/Doub	Suzi Subeck
653 June 2019	6	John Diamond	Suzi Subeck
653 June 2019	17	Ajay Khare/Raju Tolani	Anant Bhagwat

Bidding

643 August 2018	5	Klukowski/Zatorski	Fu Qiang
645 October 2018	12	Meckwell	Bird
645 October 2018	13	Bilde/Duboin	Senior
645 October 2018	16	Andrew Robson	Bird
647 December 2018	6	Boyd/Robinson	Dombrowski
651 April 2019	13	Hult/Bertheau	ACBL Bulletin
653 June 2019	13	Wiseman/Smith	Horton

Junior Deal of the Year

642 July 2018	19	Tuana Altun	Suleyman Kolata
644 September 2018	13	Aleksi Aaltu	Tammens
648 January 2019	4	Julien Bernard	Tammens
651 April 2019	6	S. Clementsson	Horton
651 April 2019	12	K. Rosenberg	Hurd
652 May 2019	15	Mendes/Sprinkhuizen	Helmich

We will present all candidate articles in The Daily Bulletin today and tomorrow.



IBPA Annual General Meeting Monday September 23rd



The IBPA annual general meeting will be at **9.00 on Monday September 23rd.**

Meeting room is the VBF Meeting Room
near the VuGraph theater next to the Press Room.



IBPA Awards



IBPA Awards Shortlist - Declarer Play

11th Rosenblum Cup Swiss Qualifying R 8

PD TIMES v CAYNE

(Jerry Li, Beijing, China)

Many world champions are playing in this World Bridge Series. Here is an exciting board from one of these, Zhong Fu from China, who was the World Open Pairs winner in Verona, Italy, in 2006.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jerry Li	G. Donati	Zhong Fu	M. Tokay
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	Pass	Double	2♣
Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Tokay led the king of clubs. Fu ducked twice, and Tokay continued with clubs, clearing the suit. If declarer could take four diamond tricks, the game would be made easily enough. But you have to be aware that South is the danger hand. Declarer wants to make sure he keeps that player off lead – so playing ace, king and another diamond looks reasonable, doesn't it?

Fu played a low diamond toward dummy! The low diamond play worked spectacularly well. Dummy's ten lost to the jack in North, but the two entries to dummy could be used to finesse diamonds and take four diamond tricks. Fu made three notrump and won 10 IMPs.

What was the reason for Fu's play? Why wasn't he afraid Tokay had the stiff jack or queen of diamonds? As Fu analysed the deal: South had bid two suits, vulnerable, so rated to be 5-5 or better (and, even if not, a 4-4 club break would not be a problem for declarer – the contract would always make in that case). As for the other side suits, what was his shape: 3-0 or 2-1? If he were 2-1 (with two spades and one diamond), North would have had five spades, and since it is a World Championship, surely no one would pass a one heart opener with five spades! So that is why Fu did what he did and brought home his unlikely game.

The Australian Team Playoffs

Another Happy Ending

(Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW, Australia)

In the 128-board final of the 2018 Australian Women's Playoff, PITT (Helene Pitt – Helena Dawson, Lorna Ichilcik – Rena Kaplan, Giselle Mundell – Avril Zets) defeated TRAVIS (Barbara Travis – Candice Ginsberg, Margaret Bourke – Jane Reynolds, Marianne Bookallil – Jodi Tutty) by 236-214.

This deal comes from the semifinals of that event:

Board 37. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

With East/West silent, it went one spade by South—two clubs (natural, forcing to game)—two diamonds—four spades—four notrump—five clubs—six spades—pass. West led her singleton eight of clubs—three—jack—queen. As this was dummy's suit, Barbara Travis (South) took the lead to be a singleton. She also placed the ace of hearts with East. Why would West lead a singleton in dummy's suit if West had the heart ace?

If South drew trumps and cashed the ten of clubs, she had no sure entry to dummy to reach the clubs. Accordingly, she played the ace of diamonds, ruffed a low diamond and drew trumps. East shed a low heart, a diamond and a club. Declarer played her fifth trump and East pitched another heart, leaving:

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

South cashed the king of diamonds, discarding the ten of

hearts from the dummy, and East was doomed. She discarded the five of hearts. South cashed the ten of clubs and played a heart, using East as the stepping-stone to reach dummy's ace-king of clubs. That was plus 980 and a win of 11 IMPs. At the other three tables, North/South played in four spades.

What a Year! (Knut Kjærnsrød, Tored, Norway)

One of our European champions, Nils Kvangraven, performed well in this one-notrump contract from a training session before Christmas:

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Voll	Tundal	Kindsbekken	Kvangraven
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠ ²	Pass	INT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. 2+ diamonds, 11-16 HCP			
2. 4+ hearts, 6+ HCP			

Voll started with the three of diamonds. Kindsbekken put in the ten and cashed the king before switching to a spade, won by the knave. West led the queen of diamonds and another to East's ace; Kvangraven discarded a club and a heart from hand and a heart from dummy. Kindsbekken shifted to the queen of hearts, taken by the king, and a heart to the ace brought good news when the knave fell. Since East had an opening pass, he could not hold the king of spades and more good news emerged when the king fell under the ace. This was the position:

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

On a spade to dummy's ten, West had to discard a heart. Nils cashed dummy's ten of hearts, discarding his queen of spades! He then played a club, inserting the ten. Voll won with the knave, but had to lead away from his king of clubs at trick 12 and declarer had seven tricks.

What a Year! - 2 (Knut Kjærnsrød, Tored, Norway)

Finally, we take a look at one of our other superstars, Terje Lie, showing his skill in a three notrump contract. The board was played against very competent opponents at a training session prior to the Marit Sveaas International Tournament.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hantveit	Kvangraven	Dale	Lie
1♠	2♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Helge Hantveit started with the king of clubs. Wishing to avoid a diamond switch, Lie took it with his ace and played a heart to the king and ace. East won the next trick with the queen of hearts and continued with a club to West's ten. The king-of-diamonds shift was won by dummy's ace, and Terje ran dummy's hearts. Before the ultimate one, the position was:

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

On the five of hearts, East discarded a club, Terje let his knave of spades go, but what should West have done? If he had discarded a spade, the ace and queen would have landed the contract, and if he had thrown his queen of

diamonds, he would have been endplayed with two rounds of spades, forced to surrender the ninth trick to the knave of clubs.

West finally threw his six of clubs, but Terje played the three of diamonds from dummy, discarding his nine of clubs. West could cash his two queens, but then had to lead away from his king of spades to allow the contract to make.

2018 Gold Coast Congress Open Teams Qualifying Match 4 (Liam Milne, Sydney, Australia)

In the last match of day one of the Open Teams, the second seeds McALLISTER (John McAllister/Sartaj Hans, Michael Whibley/Matthew Brown) took on ninth-seeded CORMACK (Jan Cormack/Stephen Lester, Jet Liu/Jun Lei). This was a fine piece of deception by Whibley:

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ J 10 6 4		♠ A 9
♥ J 9 8 5		♥ K Q 10
♦ K Q 9 7		♦ 6 5 4
♣ 3		♣ J 10 8 6 5
♠ K Q 8 5	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 7 3 2
♥ 7 4 3		♥ A 6 2
♦ A 8		♦ J 10 3 2
♣ A K 4 2		♣ Q 9 7

West	North	East	South
Whibley	Cormack	Brown	Lester
1NT	Pass	3♣1	Pass
3♦2	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Puppet Stayman			
2. No 5-card major			

Cormack led the spade jack. If declarer takes this and misguesses clubs, the defence will have no problem switching to diamonds and the final result will be one down. Many tables did exactly that. Not Whibley: he ducked the jack of spades in both hands! The defence naturally continued spades and when they got in with the queen, they played another spade, transfixed by the trick one duck into believing that this was declarer's weak suit. Now Whibley had time to set up the ninth trick in hearts for plus 600.

11th Yeh Bros Cup Final China vs. Lavazza (David Stern, Sydney, Australia)

As the winner of the Upper (undefeated) Bracket, Lavazza had a carryover of 6.5 IMPs.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ A		♠ 10 7 3
♥ J 9 5 3		♥ 10 8 7 6 2
♦ K 9 6 5 4 2		♦ 3
♣ A 6		♣ K 10 9 2
♠ K J 9 6 2	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q 8 5 4
♥ Q		♥ A K 4
♦ J 10 8 7		♦ A Q
♣ 5 4 3		♣ Q J 8 7

West	North	East	South
Madala	Ju	Bilde	Shi
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Board 4 saw the Chinese play in a normal but unambitious three notrump by South. Madala led the queen of hearts. Shi won, cashed the ace and queen of diamonds, Bilde discarding the ten of spades, then ran the queen of clubs to the king. A spade went to the bare ace and declarer knocked out the diamond jack. When Madala did not cash the king of spades, declarer had the rest for plus 660.

West	North	East	South
Liu	Bocchi	Hu	Sementa
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT ¹
Pass	2♦2	Pass	2NT ³
Pass	3♣4	Pass	3♦5
Pass	3♥6	Pass	4♦7
Pass	4♠8	Pass	4NT ⁹
Pass	5♦10	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Artificial game-force			
2. Hearts			
3. Relay			
4. 4 hearts, 6 diamonds			
5. Relay			
6. Minimum			
7. Sets trumps			
8. Spade control, no heart control			
9. Key-card ask			
10. 0 or 3 key cards			

Bocchi/Sementa bid to what seemed to be a failing six diamonds, but Bocchi proved why he is a multiple World Champion. I should note that he took an inordinate amount of time to bid and play this board, so follow along. Without the opening lead of the ten of clubs by East, there is no doubt that Bocchi would have failed but, even with that lead, life was going to be an uphill struggle.

Bocchi won with the queen of clubs, cashed one diamond, crossed to the ace of spades and went back to dummy with

the second diamond to discover the bad break in the trump suit when East discarded a spade. He came back to hand with the ace of clubs and cashed the king of diamonds, East letting go a heart this time. A heart to the ace saw the good news when the queen appeared from West. Attempting to pin the nine of clubs, declarer led the jack from the dummy. When West followed low, Bocchi ruffed it, the nine appearing from East. This was the ending:

♠ —
♥ J 9 5
♦ 9 6
♣ —

♠ K J 9 6
♥ —
♦ J
♣ —

♠ —
♥ J 9 5
♦ 9 6
♣ —

♠ Q 8
♥ A 4
♦ —
♣ 8

♠ 10
♥ —
♦ —
♣ K

10 8 7

The problem was what to discard from the dummy on the fourth round of trumps. A spade discard would have allowed West to exit with the king of spades, but that would have squeezed East between hearts and clubs. Still not 100% certain of the location of the king of clubs, Bocchi let the club go from the dummy. If it turned out that West did have the king of clubs, an exit with that card would hopefully squeeze East in the majors. When West exited with a low spade, Bocchi concluded that he did not have the king of clubs, so ran the low spade to the queen, playing for the precise layout that actually existed, i.e., no more spades in the East hand; plus 1370 and 12 IMPs to Lavazza.

China won 109-81½. Well done to Liu Yinghao, Chen Gang, Zhuang Zejun, Shi Zhengjun, Ju Chuancheng, Hu Linlin, and especially to Hu/Liu, who played brilliantly throughout.



A Fun Deal
(Nils Kvangraven, Kristiansand, Norway)

The Norwegian knockout team championship has a proud history: the first event was held in 1936. The competition runs through the whole season, starting in October with the first of six stages of knockout matches. Each succeeding stage is amongst the surviving teams; they have about 30 days to play the match. It sure is exiting to go to visit a team at their home, where you most likely have never been before. The tournament ends with an eight-team round-robin final played in late May.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ Q J 9 7 4
♥ 7 6
♦ A Q 9
♣ A 5 4

♠ 6 3 2
♥ 10 9
♦ 6 4 2
♣ K Q 10 8 2

♠ K 10 8 5
♥ Q J 8
♦ K J 10 8 5 3
♣ —

♠ A
♥ A K 5 4 3 2
♦ 7
♣ J 9 7 6 3

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	Passs	Pass
Pass			

To be a top-level bridge player needs a lot of talent and intuition. Many of us manage to acquire the technical skills to handle simple endplays, squeezes and more elementary stuff, but only the true master finds the play of brilliancy.

Tor Eivind Grude is among the finest bridge players in Norway. He has all the skills needed and has already a record to admire, holding a World Junior Teams title and several national championships.

During the fifth knockout match, Grude made an impressive play on this deal when he trusted his intuition.

West led the king of clubs, covered by the ace and ruffed. East returned a spade. Grude took his ace and pulled trumps, playing the ace and king. The continuation was a diamond: seven, two, nine(!), ten.

It seemed like Grude had given away a sure trick; East grabbed the ten of diamonds, but what was he supposed to do in this position?

♠ Q J 9 7
♥ —
♦ A Q
♣ 5 4

♠ 6 3
♥ —
♦ 6 4
♣ Q 10 8 2

♠ K 10 8
♥ —
♦ K J 8 5 3
♣ —

♠ —
♥ 5 4 3 2
♦ —
♣ J 9 7 6

Grude would discard a club from hand on any card played from East. When in the dummy, he plays the queen of spades, discarding another club from hand! East finds himself endplayed. The defence couldn't do much else but accept Grude making his contract.

But wait, let's have a second look at the play of the cards. As so often, the first trick is very interesting. How about

Grude playing low on the lead, allowing West to win the king of clubs?

Yes, it would certainly succeed as the cards lie, but is it really an option for declarer? How about East, on lead at the second trick. Could he avoid the endplay? Certainly he

can, by accepting the endplay as soon as possible and returning a big diamond at trick two! That would not have made Grude's play any less impressive, but it just shows us why we love this game so much – every little card makes a difference in almost every trick!



IBPA Awards



IBPA Awards Shortlist - Bidding

Yeh Bros. Cup Not Much Consolation (Fu Qiang, Beijing, China)

It is hard to be consoled when you have been eliminated from the main event – but I suppose winning a consolation is a decent way to start the healing process.

The Polish teams swapped partnerships for this event and Michal Klukowski and Piotr Zatorski, who play together in the Polish League, produced a splendid auction here.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Marsal	Zatorski	Klumpp
—	—	—	Pass
1♣ ¹	1♥	2♣	Pass
4♣ ²	Pass	4♦ ³	Pass
4♠ ³	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♥ ³	Pass	5NT ⁴	Pass
7♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Polish Club: (a.) 12-14 balanced HCP, or (b.) 15+ with long clubs, or (c.) any 18+ HCP
2. Slammish
3. Controls
4. Nothing further to say, but still interested

After the natural and forcing two-club call, Klukowski set clubs as trump, then bypassed the heart suit, knowing that if his partner did anything but bid five clubs, he would be able to bid the grand slam. When his partner denied a heart control, his five-heart call would let his partner sign off with no extras, bid five spades with second-round control

(which would be bad news) or do anything else appropriate. The five-notrump call was intended as, and interpreted as, extra club length or an extra diamond control; i.e., further interest. Klukowski now knew his partner had at least two spades and two hearts, so relatively short diamonds were therefore almost guaranteed. That meant that, if his partner had seven clubs, he would be almost able to claim the grand slam and, of course, as the cards lie, there were 13 top tricks.

11th Rosenblum Cup Round of 32 Stanza I NICKELL v MAHAFFEY (David Bird, Eastleigh, Hants., UK)

This was an encounter that I believe could be described as 'all American'. May I request that any letters correcting me on this matter be addressed directly to your trash bin? Let's see some action.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cohen	Rodwell	Cohler	Meckstroth
—	Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹
1♥	2♦ ²	3♣	Double
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥ ³
Pass	4NT ⁴	Pass	5♣ ⁵
Pass	5♦ ⁶	Pass	6♠ ⁷
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 16+ HCP
2. 2 suits of the same colour
3. 5-7 HCP
4. Pass or correct

Cohler led the king of clubs. I expect I would have done the same, but a lead of any other suit would have given declarer too much work to do. Rodwell won with the ace of clubs and ruffed a club immediately. He played a trump to the queen, which won, and ruffed another club, West showing out. When the ten of spades was led to the jack (nice nine, Partner!), West won and returned the king of hearts to the ace. Rodwell crossed to the ace of diamonds, drew the remaining trumps and claimed. He made three trump tricks, five diamonds, the ace of hearts, the ace of clubs and two club ruffs. What a splendid plus 980!

West	North	East	South
<i>Dwyer</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
—	1♦	1♠	2♣
2♥	Double	3♣	3♦
3♥	3NT	4♣	Pass
5♣	5♦	6♣	Pass
Pass	6♦	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1.	Transfer to diamonds		
2.	Power double		

Huang led the ace of spades, Bilde dropping the queen in an attempt to avoid the impending ruff, then switched to the king of clubs, asking for count. Dwyer's nine was a very clear signal to show four cards, so the spade ruff was the only hope of a further trick. Sure enough, Dwyer ruffed the spade switch and dealt Huang a heart ruff, but that was that. The contract was down three for minus 500, but that was worth 15 IMPs to LAVAZZA.

11th Rosenblum Cup Semifinals Stanza 1
ALLFREY v LAVAZZA
(David Bird, Eastleigh, Hants., UK)

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ K 9 8 6
 ♥ 9
 ♦ A K Q 9 7 4 3
 ♣ 3

♠ A J 7 4 2
 ♥ 8 7 5
 ♦ 10 6
 ♣ A 7 6

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

♠ Q 10 5 3
 ♥ K 10
 ♦ J 8 5 2
 ♣ K 9 2

N
 W E
 S

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Jones</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Paske</i>
—	—	4♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

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available totally free of charge for all comers!) We imagined that the options there would be five diamonds, pass and double. Indeed, we both ranked our own preferences in that very order, awarding ten, seven and four marks to the three actions. (IMO, Pass=0 – Ed.)

On that basis, Jones will be sad to receive only four marks. South quite reasonably passed the double, and two overtricks were made for a score of plus 1190.

West	North	East	South
Allfrey	Bocchi	Robson	Sementa
–	–	4♥	Pass
Pass	5♦	6♣	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Sementa had the rounded kings sitting over an opponent who had opened four hearts and rebid six clubs. He doubled, of course, but the contract could not be beaten. It was plus 1660 and 10 IMPs to ALLFREY.

The 2018 ACBL Fall NABC Honolulu Inclusion
(Chip Dombrowski, Memphis, TN, USA)

Playing in the quarterfinals of the Baze Senior KO, Steve Robinson and Peter Boyd employed an unusual control-asking treatment that landed them in the plum spot.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Robinson		Boyd
–	1♠	Pass	4♣ ¹
Pass	5♣ ²	Pass	5♠ ³
Pass	5NT ⁴	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Splinter

2. ‘Key-Card’ ask, including a club void

3. 2 key cards (club void is a key card), no ♠Q

4. King ask; guarantees all key cards and the spade queen

A handy little gadget to have in the toolbox! Should it be called “Roman Key Card Inclusion Super Gerber”?

The 2019 Memhis Spring NABC Very Well Bid!
(ACBL Bulletin)

Simon Hult and Peter Bertheau are not a regular partnership, but they improvised very nicely here. This was from the first final session of the Platinum Pairs.

(See top of next page.) Given the space available (yes, West might have done better to bid two notrump, but who knew how the hearts were divided?), the two-club call was intended as forcing without spade support, else some other call such as double, two notrump or three of a minor.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Hult		Bertheau
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
INT	2♣	Pass	2♦
Double	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The four-diamond jump showed the void, so Bertheau bravely drove to slam and was absolutely right. The top clubs proved enough to allow the spade loser to be discarded in peace and quiet.



The Great British Bid Off

Mark Horton, Shrewsbury, Shrops., U.K.

Baking is one of the currently popular competitions involving members of the public who battle against each other on British television in the guise of the Great British Bake Off. The show makes awards for special achievement, not unlike those made once a year by the IPBA.

In the Lady Milne Trophy, the Home Unions compete for the cup that was originally awarded to the winners of the Ladies Team Championship of the Hubert Phillips National Bridge Association. There are no special prizes for outstanding achievement, but this effort might have been a contender:

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Punch</i>	<i>Clench</i>	<i>Leslie</i>	<i>Ingham</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣1	Pass	1♦2	Pass
1♥3	Pass	2♦4	Pass
2♥5	Pass	3♥6	Pass
3♠7	Pass	4♦7	Pass
4♠8	Pass	4NT ⁹	Pass
5♠10	Pass	5NT ¹¹	Pass
6♥12	All Pass		

1. 2+ clubs
2. 4+ hearts
3. 11-13 balanced and 2/3 hearts
4. Game-forcing check-back
5. 3 hearts
6. Slam interest
7. Control-bids
8. First-round control in spades and a club control
9. RKCB
10. 2 key cards + heart queen
11. Side kings?
12. No

There were no star bakers involved, but this auction was certainly a show-stopper. The most important bid was perhaps East's five notrump, appreciating that if West had held the king of clubs instead of the queen of diamonds, the grand slam would have been an excellent prospect.

North led the nine of diamonds, but she pitched a club while trumps were being drawn, so when declarer then played the queen of clubs, she took all the tricks for plus 1460.

Missing the Point

by Mark Horton

Counting at bridge comes in many forms – one of which is to keep track of the number of high cards each player has shown. This deal from R14 is a typical example:

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

South leads the ♣K and you win with the ace and play two rounds of hearts, South winning the second as North discards the ♠6. South exits with the ♦6 and you elect to put up dummy's ace, draw the outstanding trump and play the ♦5. North takes the king and plays the ♣5, South winning with the queen and exiting with the ♦J. You win with the queen and these cards remain:

♠ A J 9 4	♠ K 8 7
♥ J	♥ K 8
♦ —	♦ —
♣ —	♣ —

Having lost three tricks, you need to locate the ♠Q. Any ideas?

Declarer cashed the ♠K to discover this was the full deal:

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Were you counting South's points?

He has already shown up with the ♥A, ♦J, ♣KQ but passed as dealer, making North an overwhelming favourite to hold the ♠Q. So the indicated play is to cross to dummy with the ♠A and advance the ♠J.

In the Closed Room South's somewhat unlucky lead of the ♠10 had given declarer an easy route to eleven tricks and +650, so the cost was 10 IMPs.

Cumulative Medal Table for all World Championships

updated after Opatija, this is the current situation:

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
USA	96.34	78.30	56.22	230.86
France	23	31.67	39.03	93.7
China	16.5	23.67	31.33	71.5
Italy	39.27	18.83	12.83	70.93
Poland	23.31	26.16	17.25	66.72
Netherlands	15	14.67	25.25	54.92
England	16.16	17.63	21.19	48.98
Sweden	12.67	8.16	16.57	37.4
Norway	7.67	8.17	10.25	26.09
Germany	5.58	6	10.32	21.9
Israel	10.19	5.67	5	20.85
Canada	1.25	8.87	10.48	20.6
Denmark	4	2.67	12.17	18.83
Austria	6.73	7.17	2	15.9
Russia	2.33	4.5	7	13.83
Brazil	4.33	3	6	13.33
Indonesia		6	3	9
Australia		5	4	9
Bulgaria	1.2	2	5	8.2
Argentina	0.17	2	4.2	6.37
Monaco	2.63	3	2	7.63
Japan	1.5	2		3.5
Chinese Taipei	1	1.83	0.33	3.17
Iceland	2.67		0.33	3
India			3	3
Turkey	0.17	1	1.17	2.33
Scotland	1	0.54	0.58	2.12
New Zealand	1	1		2
Serbia	1	1		2
Croatia	1		1	2
Pakistan		2		2
South Africa		2		2
Singapore		1	1	2
Venezuela		1	1	2
China Hong Kong			2	2
Egypt	1.5			1.5
Switzerland	0.83	0.67		1.5
Greece	1		0.25	1.25
Hungary	1			1
Serbia		1		1
Latvia		1		1
Uruguay		0.5	0.5	1
Belgium			1	1
Lithuania			1	1
Romania			0.75	0.75
Czechia	0.5			0.5
Ireland	0.5			0.5
Belarus		0.17		0.17
Thailand		0.17		0.17
total	303	298	310	911

(49 different NBOs)

Explanation: Every medal is counted equally (teams, pairs and individual), and medals gained by multi-national participants are divided. Competitions are counted from eight categories: Open, Women, Mixed, Seniors, Juniors, Girls, Youngsters and Kids.

All World Championships since 1950 are counted.

The success of the Chinese youth in Opatija last month saw that country climb up to third on the all-time World Medal listings, behind the USA and France.

RESULTS

Bermuda Bowl

Round 16

Match		IMPs		VPs	
AUSTRALIA	CHILE	54	53	10.31	9.69
ITALY	INDONESIA	23	32	7.45	12.55
USA 2	NEW ZEALAND	9	48	2.03	17.97
SINGAPORE	GUADELOUPE	42	16	16.09	3.91
INDIA	EGYPT	59	38	15.19	4.81
CANADA	SWEDEN	43	44	9.69	10.31
NORWAY	MOROCCO	76	22	19.52	0.48
ARGENTINA	USA 1	16	65	0.93	19.07
ENGLAND	POLAND	26	32	8.24	11.76
CHINA HONG KONG	BANGLADESH	51	34	14.39	5.61
RUSSIA	ISRAEL	30	32	9.39	10.61
NETHERLANDS	CHINA	31	28	10.91	9.09

Round 17

Match		IMPs		VPs	
CHILE	EGYPT	50	37	13.52	6.48
AUSTRALIA	CHINA	39	38	10.31	9.69
ITALY	NORWAY	23	18	11.48	8.52
GUADELOUPE	CANADA	23	39	5.82	14.18
USA 2	INDONESIA	19	53	2.69	17.31
INDIA	NEW ZEALAND	29	27	10.61	9.39
MOROCCO	POLAND	24	50	3.91	16.09
SINGAPORE	SWEDEN	21	55	2.69	17.31
ARGENTINA	RUSSIA	46	23	15.56	4.44
BANGLADESH	ISRAEL	16	58	1.67	18.33
ENGLAND	USA 1	21	40	5.20	14.80
CHINA HONG KONG	NETHERLANDS	33	27	11.76	8.24

Round 18

Match		IMPs		VPs	
USA 2	CHILE	39	24	13.97	6.03
INDIA	AUSTRALIA	27	16	13.04	6.96
CANADA	USA 1	15	65	0.84	19.16
ENGLAND	GUADELOUPE	20	19	10.31	9.69
SINGAPORE	ITALY	3	45	1.67	18.33
ARGENTINA	ISRAEL	49	16	17.17	2.83
SWEDEN	MOROCCO	52	5	18.87	1.13
RUSSIA	CHINA HONG KONG	10	49	2.03	17.97
POLAND	NEW ZEALAND	10	33	4.44	15.56
CHINA	BANGLADESH	34	9	15.92	4.08
NORWAY	NETHERLANDS	63	27	17.59	2.41
INDONESIA	EGYPT	17	22	8.52	11.48

Venice Cup

Round 16

Match		IMPs		VPs	
TUNISIA	JAPAN	6	25	5.20	14.80
SCOTLAND	BRAZIL	51	40	13.04	6.96
INDIA	SWEDEN	23	41	5.40	14.60
CHINESE TAIPEI	CHINA	56	50	11.76	8.24
USA 2	NETHERLANDS	40	18	15.38	4.62
SOUTH AFRICA	CANADA	21	54	2.83	17.17
USA 1	POLAND	19	59	1.91	18.09
PAKISTAN	ENGLAND	12	70	-0.10	19.85
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	AUSTRALIA	59	15	18.55	1.45
FRANCE	NEW ZEALAND	20	32	6.72	13.28
NORWAY	RUSSIA	11	38	3.74	16.26
CHINA HONG KONG	DENMARK	58	25	17.17	2.83

Round 17

Match		IMPs		VPs	
TUNISIA	NETHERLANDS	4	78	0.00	20.00
ENGLAND	CHINA	38	13	15.92	4.08
AUSTRALIA	INDIA	35	35	10.00	10.00
CHINESE TAIPEI	FRANCE	51	47	11.20	8.80
BRAZIL	NEW ZEALAND	54	30	15.74	4.26
SOUTH AFRICA	SWEDEN	25	46	4.81	15.19
DENMARK	NORWAY	18	46	3.58	16.42
PAKISTAN	RUSSIA	19	17	10.61	9.39
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SCOTLAND	21	40	5.20	14.80
JAPAN	USA 1	15	45	3.27	16.73
CANADA	POLAND	31	26	11.48	8.52
CHINA HONG KONG	USA 2	9	49	1.91	18.09

Round 18

Match		IMPs		VPs	
TUNISIA	USA 2	9	31	4.62	15.38
CANADA	NEW ZEALAND	56	20	17.59	2.41
POLAND	RUSSIA	40	15	15.92	4.08
CHINESE TAIPEI	USA 1	9	24	6.03	13.97
NETHERLANDS	BRAZIL	34	32	10.61	9.39
SOUTH AFRICA	ENGLAND	14	72	0.15	19.85
FRANCE	AUSTRALIA	11	44	2.83	17.17
PAKISTAN	SWEDEN	18	39	4.81	15.19
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	NORWAY	24	58	2.69	17.31
DENMARK	CHINA	14	45	3.12	16.88
SCOTLAND	INDIA	39	29	12.80	7.20
CHINA HONG KONG	JAPAN	27	29	9.39	10.61

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d'Orsi Trophy

Round 16

Match		IMPs		VPs	
USA 2	BULGARIA	48	15	17.17	2.83
NETHERLANDS	POLAND	13	23	7.20	12.80
REUNION	USA 1	7	71	0.00	20.00
DENMARK	AUSTRALIA	53	13	18.09	1.91
UAE	CANADA	30	36	8.24	11.76
INDIA	NORWAY	38	31	12.03	7.97
JAPAN	CHINA HONG KONG	36	42	8.24	11.76
CHINA	CHINESE TAIPEI	61	35	16.09	3.91
IRELAND	TURKEY	37	59	4.62	15.38
ITALY	FRANCE	23	48	4.08	15.92
SWEDEN	INDONESIA	34	32	10.61	9.39
ENGLAND	NEW ZEALAND	19	46	3.74	16.26

Mixed

Round 16

Match		IMPs		VPs	
SWEDEN	CHINESE TAIPEI	52	33	14.80	5.20
USA 1	ENGLAND	47	37	12.80	7.20
DENMARK	INDONESIA	59	41	14.60	5.40
INDIA	MOROCCO	83	11	20.00	0.00
LATVIA	RUSSIA	36	11	15.92	4.08
BRAZIL	ITALY	24	54	3.27	16.73
CANADA	POLAND	51	47	11.20	8.80
ROMANIA	EGYPT	49	20	16.58	2.92
USA 2	PAKISTAN	50	20	16.73	3.27
CHINA	THAILAND	41	27	13.50	6.25
BARBADOS	AUSTRALIA	19	35	5.82	14.18
FRANCE	NEW ZEALAND	54	16	17.85	2.15

Round 17

Match		IMPs		VPs	
ENGLAND	USA 2	27	22	11.48	8.52
SWEDEN	NETHERLANDS	47	51	8.80	11.20
ITALY	REUNION	39	34	11.48	8.52
IRELAND	DENMARK	49	10	17.97	2.03
CHINA	UAE	39	33	11.76	8.24
BULGARIA	INDIA	25	46	4.81	15.19
POLAND	JAPAN	44	20	15.74	4.26
USA 1	CHINA HONG KONG	19	34	6.03	13.97
AUSTRALIA	NORWAY	36	20	14.18	5.82
NEW ZEALAND	CANADA	40	27	13.52	6.48
CHINESE TAIPEI	INDONESIA	51	38	13.52	6.48
TURKEY	FRANCE	23	59	2.41	17.59

Round 17

Match		IMPs		VPs	
CHINESE TAIPEI	USA 1	38	46	7.71	12.29
ENGLAND	DENMARK	26	40	6.25	13.75
SWEDEN	INDIA	57	27	16.73	3.27
INDONESIA	LATVIA	36	15	15.19	4.81
MOROCCO	BRAZIL	16	69	0.57	19.43
RUSSIA	CANADA	51	16	17.45	2.55
ITALY	ROMANIA	21	38	5.61	14.39
POLAND	USA 2	6	49	1.56	18.44
EGYPT	CHINA	21	44	4.44	15.56
PAKISTAN	BARBADOS	41	37	11.20	8.80
THAILAND	FRANCE	29	28	10.31	9.69
AUSTRALIA	NEW ZEALAND	33	29	11.20	8.80

Round 18

Match		IMPs		VPs	
NORWAY	USA 2	25	15	12.80	7.20
CHINA HONG KONG	NETHERLANDS	48	48	10.00	10.00
JAPAN	REUNION	42	38	11.20	8.80
INDIA	DENMARK	34	35	9.69	10.31
NEW ZEALAND	UAE	41	18	15.56	4.44
CHINESE TAIPEI	CANADA	33	5	16.42	3.58
TURKEY	AUSTRALIA	39	41	9.39	10.61
FRANCE	USA 1	42	23	14.80	5.20
INDONESIA	POLAND	27	63	2.41	17.59
ENGLAND	BULGARIA	24	37	6.48	13.52
SWEDEN	CHINA	13	28	6.03	13.97
ITALY	IRELAND	15	46	3.12	16.88

Round 18

Match		IMPs		VPs	
BARBADOS	CHINESE TAIPEI	34	45	6.96	13.04
FRANCE	ENGLAND	23	46	4.44	15.56
NEW ZEALAND	SWEDEN	22	44	4.62	15.38
AUSTRALIA	INDONESIA	42	20	15.38	4.62
THAILAND	MOROCCO	46	33	13.52	6.48
PAKISTAN	RUSSIA	1	48	1.13	18.87
EGYPT	ITALY	47	23	15.74	4.26
USA 1	POLAND	27	26	10.31	9.69
DENMARK	CHINA	8	18	7.20	12.80
INDIA	USA 2	12	51	2.03	17.97
LATVIA	ROMANIA	37	28	12.55	7.45
BRAZIL	CANADA	38	19	14.80	5.20