

## Issue No. 8

Sunday, 22nd September 2019

## FOUR TEAMS ARE IN



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

I0.00-I 2.20
13.30-|5.50

### 10.00 Round 22

BB
BB
BB
VC
SD
MX
VC
SD
MX
VC
SD
VC China - England

VG/BBOI New Zealand - Italy BBO 2 Israel - Canada BBO 3 Russia - USA2 Chinese Taipei - India Latvia - France BBO 4 BBO 5 BBO 6 Sweden - Japan BBO 7 Denmark - Netherlands BBO 8 USAI - Russia BBO 9 Canada - France BBO 10 Sweden-Australia BBO II Scotland - USAI BBO 12
13.30 Round 23 to be announced
BBO.

When you are No. I in a competitive endeavor, it's not unusual for every opponent to come at you extra hard. The veteran Nick Nickell team - USA I in the Bermuda Bowl - know what that's like as one opponent after another views a match against them as a chance for fame and maybe a championship. The Nickell team's impressive record in high-level bridge competition indicates they know how to handle these situations. That's not to say, however, that the team is unbeatable just nearly so.
On Saturday in Wuhan, USA I suffered two defeats, one of them by the surprising score of 54-3 at the hands of the strong team from Norway. That disappointment was followed by a narrow loss to Israel, who moved from ninth to seventh.
Even with the two losses, USA I is still a lock to qualify for the quarter-finals, which begin on Monday, by virtue of the fact that they are nearly 50 victory points ahead of the team in ninth place. Any of those behind them can earn a maximum of 40 victory points with just two rounds to go, so USA I is mathematically safe from being overtaken. Three other teams are in the same position - Sweden in the Bermuda Bowl and England and USA 2 in the Mixed Teams.

## Captains' Meeting

The Captains' 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.

## DISCLAIMER

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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:
I.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 |  | d'Orsi Trophy |  |  | Mixed |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| After Round 21 |  | After Round 21 |  |  | After Round 21 |  |  |
| TEAM | VP |  | TEAM | VP |  | TEAM | VP |
| 1 CHINA | 282.60 | 1 | INDIA | 268.82 | 1 | ENGLAND | 281.66 |
| 2 NORWAY | 267.52 | 2 | USA 2 | 259.67 | 2 | USA 2 | 278.91 |
| 3 USA I | 259.54 | 3 | DENMARK | 254.34 | 3 | ROMANIA | 266.35 |
| 4 POLAND | 258.91 | 4 | ENGLAND | 247.07 | 4 | CHINA | 261.27 |
| 5 SWEDEN | 254.26 | 5 | CHINA | 245.21 | 5 | RUSSIA | 261.16 |
| 6 ENGLAND | 253.83 | 6 | FRANCE | 244.94 | 6 | FRANCE | 259.11 |
| 7 JAPAN | 253.52 | 7 | CHINESE TAIPEI | 240.22 | 7 | LATVIA | 249.43 |
| 8 NETHERLANDS | 253.34 | 8 | NETHERLANDS | 236.34 | 8 | USA I | 240.87 |
| 9 USA 2 | 244.88 | 9 | TURKEY | 234.22 | 9 | SWEDEN | 236.62 |
| 10 CANADA | 242.85 | 10 | SWEDEN | 228.55 | 10 | DENMARK | 229.31 |
| II SCOTLAND | 225.67 | 11 | POLAND | 228.12 | 11 | INDONESIA | 229.11 |
| 12 RUSSIA | 224.63 | 12 | USA I | 226.03 | 12 | POLAND | 225.87 |
| 13 FRANCE | 223.89 | 13 | AUSTRALIA | 206.71 | 13 | CHINESE TAIPEI | 225.53 |
| 14 CHINESE TAIPEI | 220.49 | 14 | ITALY | 204.37 | 14 | ITALY | 224.33 |
| 15 DENMARK | 214.53 | 15 | CANADA | 204.18 | 15 | AUSTRALIA | 208.51 |
| 16 NEW ZEALAND | 195.09 | 16 | NORWAY | 195.19 | 16 | BRAZIL | 203.25 |
| 17 BRAZIL | 192.32 | 17 | IRELAND | 195.08 | 17 | THAILAND | 187.91 |
| 18 CHINA HONG KONG | 179.26 | 18 | JAPAN | 192.71 | 18 | INDIA | 172.73 |
| 19 AUSTRALIA | 171.46 | 19 | CHINA HONG KONG | 183.63 | 19 | CANADA | 169.85 |
| 20 PAKISTAN | 149.10 | 20 | INDONESIA | 177.54 | 20 | EGYPT | 157.98 |
| 21 INDIA | 142.99 | 21 | U.A.E. | 148.18 | 21 | NEW ZEALAND | 153.84 |
| 22 TUNISIA | 117.73 | 22 | NEW ZEALAND | 140.93 | 22 | BARBADOS | 129.31 |
| 23 SOUTH AFRICA | 104.58 | 23 | BULGARIA | 140.05 | 23 | MOROCCO | 108.71 |
| 24 TRINIDAD \& TOBAGO | 100.01 | 24 | REUNION | 130.15 | 24 | PAKISTAN | 72.13 |

## The WBF Women's Online Autumn Bridge Festival

The next in the series of very successful Online Women's Festivals organised by the WBF in co-operation with BBO will be held from IIth - 17th November 2019. Women players from all over the world are able to participate in the tournaments held at different times to account for different time zones.

Full details will be published very shortly at:
http://www.wbfwomensbridgeclub.org/
These Festivals, started by the late Anna Maria Torlontano, an outstanding advocate of Women's Bridge, provide a relaxed environment in which women can play and have fun competing in the various tournaments.


The prize for the winner, offered by the World Bridge Federation, is free entry to the Women's Pairs Championship at the 2020 World Bridge Games (venue and dates to be announced) together with bed and breakfast accommodation in a double room for herself and a female partner of her choice for the duration of the Pairs event.

In addition to the main prize there will be spot prizes offered during the sessions so it's not all about winning! It's about having fun as well!

We hope as many women players as possible will join us discover just how

[^0]| M22 |  | M23 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Bemmuda Bowl |  |  |  | 「" |
| 10.00-12.20 |  | \| 3.30 - | 5.50 |  | Lost and Found |
| BANGLADESH | CHILE | GUADELOUPE | BANGLADESH |  |
| GUADELOUPE | MOROCCO | MOROCCO | CHILE | - A large number of items are ac- |
| NORWAY | AUSTRALIA | NORWAY | CHINA HONG KONG | l cumulating at the Hospitality |
| NEW ZEALAND | ITALY | NEW ZEALAND | NETHERLANDS | "Desk, so if you have mislaid |
| SWEDEN | USA 2 | SWEDEN | CHINA | , Desk, so if you have mislaid |
| USA I | INDIA | USA I | INDONESIA | - something important you might |
| ISRAEL | CANADA | ISRAEL | EGYPT | be re-united with your property |
| CHINA HONG KONG | SINGAPORE | AUSTRALIA | SINGAPORE | " by paying the staff a visit. |
| NETHERLANDS | ARGENTINA | ITALY | ARGENTINA |  |
| CHINA | ENGLAND | USA 2 | ENGLAND |  |
| INDONESIA | RUSSIA | INDIA | RUSSIA | Partnership Desk |
| EGYPT | POLAND | CANADA | POLAND |  |
| Venice Cup |  |  |  | If you are looking for a partner <br> for the Transnational Teams, you |
| 10.00-12.20 |  | 13.30-15.50 |  | can visit the WBF web site: |
| PAKISTAN | CHINA HONG KONG | CHINA HONG KO | TRINIDAD \& TOBAGO | 1 http://championships.worldbridge.org/44th- |
| TRINIDAD \& TOBAGO | SOUTH AFRICA | TUNISIA | PAKISTAN | world-bridge-teams-championships/partner- |
| TUNISIA | CHINESE TAIPEI | CHINESE TAIPEI | SOUTH AFRICA | - ship-desk-2 |
| SWEDEN | JAPAN | NETHERLANDS | SWEDEN |  |
| CANADA | FRANCE | JAPAN | CANADA |  |
| NORWAY | CHINA | FRANCE | NORWAY | Closing Ceremony |
| POLAND | BRAZIL | CHINA | POLAND | Closing Ceremony |
| RUSSIA | USA 2 | BRAZIL | RUSSIA |  |
| ENGLAND | DENMARK | USA 2 | ENGLAND | - The prize giving and closing |
| SCOTLAND | USA I | DENMARK | SCOTLAND | ceremony will take place in the |
| AUSTRALIA | NEW ZEALAND | USA I | AUSTRALIA | "playing area on Saturday 28 |
| INDIA | NETHERLANDS | NEW ZEALAND | INDIA | September at 19.30, followed by |
| d'Orsi Trophy |  |  |  | a Buffet dinner. |
| 10.00-12.20 |  | \| $3.30-15.50$ |  | I must inform the Hospitality |
| U.A.E. <br> DENMARK <br> NEW ZEALAND <br> CHINESE TAIPEI <br> TURKEY <br> FRANCE <br> INDONESIA <br> ENGLAND <br> SWEDEN <br> ITALY <br> IRELAND <br> CHINA | USA 2 | USA 2 SWEDEN |  | Desk, and collect your invitation, otherwise you risk not being admitted. |
|  | NETHERLANDS | NETHERLANDS | ITALY |  |
|  | REUNION | REUNION | IRELAND |  |
|  | INDIA | DENMARK | CHINA |  |
|  | JAPAN | U.A.E. | BULGARIA |  |
|  | CHINA HONG KONG | INDIA | POLAND |  |
|  | NORWAY | JAPAN | USA I | IBPA |
|  | CANADA | CHINA HONG KO | AUSTRALIA | Annual General Meeting |
|  | AUSTRALIA | NORWAY | CANADA | Annual General Meeting |
|  | USA I | ENGLAND | CHINESE TAIPEI |  |
|  | POLAND | INDONESIA | TURKEY | Monday September 23 rd |
|  | BULGARIA | FRANCE | NEW ZEALAND |  |
| Mixed |  |  |  | The IBPA annual general |
| 10.00-12.20 |  | \| 3.30 - | 5.50 |  | will be at |
| THAILAND | CHINESE TAIPEI | USA 2 | CHINESE TAIPEI | 9.00 on September 23rd. |
| PAKISTAN | ENGLAND | CHINA | ENGLAND | Meeting room is the Press |
| EGYPT | SWEDEN | BARBADOS | SWEDEN | Room |
| POLAND | INDONESIA | FRANCE | INDONESIA | (not WBF meeting room as |
| ITALY | MOROCCO | NEW ZEALAND | MOROCCO | previously announced) |
| USA I | RUSSIA | AUSTRALIA | RUSSIA | previously announced) |
| DENMARK | AUSTRALIA | THAILAND | ITALY |  |
| INDIA | NEW ZEALAND | PAKISTAN | POLAND |  |
| LATVIA | FRANCE | USA I | EGYPT | Santion briog |
| BRAZIL | BARBADOS | DENMARK | ROMANIA |  |
| CANADA | CHINA | INDIA | CANADA | association |
| ROMANIA | USA 2 | LATVIA | BRAZIL |  |

## The Safe Hand

by Brian Senior

Often declarer will know that he can afford to lose the lead to one defender, the safe hand, but not to the other, the dangerous hand, and must play accordingly. Take this deal from Round 20.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

- 5
$\triangle$ AKQ 4
$\triangleleft A K 6$
\& K Q 854


West led a low spade to the nine and jack, and declarer led a club up to the two, queen and nine. If the spades are six-two, it is vital that declarer continues with the
when the queen scores. The point is that West cannot do anything to threaten the contract as, with him on play, declarer has two more spade stoppers so can afford to lose two club tricks. But see what happens if he instead continues with a low club, hoping to bring down a now bare ace on his left. East wins the and pushes a spade through and the suit is established while West still has the \& as an entry and down goes the contract.
If West actually began with AJ2, it would not matter what declarer played to the second round of the suit - he would always be successful. So West has to put in the jack on the first round, hope that East holds the ten, and that declarer gets careless/greedy by leading low on the second round.
In the Bermuda Bowl, a spade lead saw the contract succeed 13 times and fail seven times, while in the Venice Cup it was II to six. The other two series did less well, five making and six going down in the Mixed teams, and eight making and II going down in the Seniors.
Of course, this is all assuming that spades are six-two. If they are five-three and declarer plays queen then king of clubs to a doubleton ace, West can lead a second low spade and when East wins the third club he pushes a spade through to beat a contract that could have been made by leading low to the second club. As West is unlikely to have rebid his suit, the only time declarer can be certain that the suit is six-two would be if West had opened a constructive weak two bid or similar, going up to 11 or 12 HCP .

# YOUTH BRIDGE MAGAZINE 



> World Bridge Youth News is your bridge on-line newspaper: Videos, photos, articles and news from Youth events around the world. youth.worldbridge.org


Martin Cantor

## England v Denmark

As we head towards the sharp end of the round robin, England have a healthy lead at the top of the table and look heavily odds on to qualify for the knockout stages, while Denmark occupy the last qualifying spot, less than one VP from their nearest challengers. The BBO commentary team featured the same lineup with Peter Lund from Denmark and me with my English hat on.
Board I saw England playing 24 in both rooms, Byrne in South in the Open failing by one trick, Myers in the Closed failing by two tricks. Bringing to mind Lady Bracknell's famous line in "The Importance of Being Earnest." To lose one parent, Mr. Worthing, may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness." So, a careless 4 IMPs to Denmark to get us going.

> Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.
> J 7
> © K 852
> Q 54
> - A Q 95
> 1098
> Q Q 76
> $\diamond$ K 10972
> \& 76
> - K Q 52
> คAJ9
> $\diamond 63$
> \& KJ 83

- A 643

P 1043
$\checkmark$ AJ 8
\& 1042

The auctions were identical:

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Hammeler | Brown | Krefeld | Byrne |
| Myers | Caspersen | Brock | Farholt |
| - | IQ | Pass | IS |
| Pass | INT | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

The lead was identical too, the $\diamond I 0$. In the open room, Hammelev took the ace, returned the jack, and the defence took its six tricks. In the Open Room, Myers played the jack to the first trick, and now declarer was in with a chance. Double dummy we can all see that you 'just' take a successful heart finesse and find the suit 3-3. Easy-peasy. At the table, Caspersen went for the possibly better-odds line of diamonds 4-4 when he attacked spades after cashing his four clubs. Was it better odds? I'm not so sure. Firstly, and most importantly, from North's point of view the lead could have been from A/KIO9(+) or from 109(+), from West's either of those or Q109(+). So, what four-card holding does West have from which he plays the jack? Secondly, on the first round of clubs both players gave (according to the convention card) a negative Smith signal, which doesn't add up. Thirdly, on the third round of clubs,

East discarded the (high encouraging). Whatever his reasons, Myers was quick to take his ace of spades and cash out the diamonds. One off for a loss of 3 instead of +13 had it made.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

|  | ¢ J 982 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\bigcirc 3$ |  |
|  | $\diamond$ K Q 8 |  |
|  | \& K Q 83 |  |
| ¢ K Q | N | ¢ A 106 |
| $\bigcirc$ K Q J 10952 |  | $\bigcirc$ A 64 |
| $\diamond 92$ | W E | $\diamond$ J 1074 |
| * 76 | S | - J 94 |
|  | ¢ 7543 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc 87$ |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ A 653 |  |
|  | \& A 105 |  |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Hammelev | Brown | Krefeld | Byrne |
| $1 \otimes$ | Dble | $2 \diamond$ | $2 \varsigma$ |

Closed Room


Stense Farholt, Denmark

Denmark missed an opportunity here. In the Open Room their E/W pair stopped in a safe 3 ? making an overtrick when North led a spade, quite reasonably on the auction. In the Closed Room North took more notice of his own hand than partner's bid, and led the 2 K then a small one to South's ten. South then tried to cash the ace of clubs, which Peter described as lazy. It surely can't be wrong to cash the $\diamond A$ first, when partner will signal violently for a continuation with the king. 6 IMPs to England instead of 5 IMPs the other way.
More missed opportunities at both tables on:

| Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul. |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | - A 1075 |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ A Q 7 |  |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ A 9 |  |  |
|  | 2 A 1084 |  |  |
| - Q 8 | N |  | - KJ642 |
| ¢KJ854 |  |  | $\bigcirc 1032$ |
| $\diamond$ KJ 106 |  | E | $\diamond 732$ |
| - Q 9 | S |  | -73 |
|  | - 93 |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc 96$ |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ Q |  |  |
|  | - KJ |  |  |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Hammelev | Brown | Krefeld | Byrne |
| - | $1 \$$ | Pass | $3 \%$ |
| Pass | $3 N T$ | All Pass |  |

Krefeld led a fourth best 4 to the queen and ace. Brown cashed the ace of clubs and after some thought finessed the jack. Maybe she sensed something at the table, because the odds certainly favour playing for the drop, especially when the spades might be 5-3. Hammelev returned his partner's suit but she now cashed a further top spade before switching, too late, to diamonds Declarer now had two spade tricks, two hearts, one diamond and four clubs. Declarer's play of the ace of spades at trick one surely marks her with four, so mistakes here on both sides.
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Myers | Caspersen | Brock | Farholt |
| - | $22^{*}$ | Pass | $2 \diamond^{*}$ |
| Pass | $20^{*}$ | Pass | $2 \bullet^{*}$ |
| Pass | $2 N T$ | Pass | $3 N T$ |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

2\% 18-19 balanced or 22+ balanced, the next three bids showing the weaker option.
With nothing much to go on East led a club, so nine tricks were easy for a flat board. If I have read the N/S convention card correctly, they didn't look for a major-suit fit, so maybe a major-suit lead was indicated. On the other hand, leading away from honours into big balanced hands is usually
wrong, so a spade lead was contra-indicated.
Ahead by 16-9 after II boards, England added another 10 to their score when system - a weak $2 \triangleleft$ opener - and a bit of luck - the $\diamond$ K onside and hearts 4-4 - put them into a making vulnerable 3 NT , while their teammates were going three down in $3 \Omega$ for -I50. This was the deal:

Board I2. Dealer West. N/S Vul.
© K 102
Q 93
$\diamond$ QJIO 975
$\%$ Q 2

```
& &43
& KQJ5
\diamond
&K983
```



A J 7
$\bigcirc 842$
A 42
\& A 765
Denmark needed to gain some swings if they wanted to stay in a qualification place. They got 9 IMPs on:

Board I3. Dealer North. All Vul.
. 32
$\bigcirc$ KQ 5
$\diamond$ Q J 97
\& K Q J 7


At both tables North opened $1 \boldsymbol{q}$, South responded is, and West intervened with $2 \diamond$, followed by two passes, and it was decision time for South. I opined that England might gain here if Michael Byrne found a re-opening double, but Peter pooh-poohed that, saying he was too weak for that action, and $2 \boxtimes$ would show the hand. Byrne agreed with him for that is what he bid, and Fiona Brown closed the auction with 2NT, which she made on the nose. In the other room, Stense Farholt was made of sterner stuff and doubled for +500 . I expect Peter will have words with her when she gets home.
Two boards later Denmark gained II more, this time fairly luckily when they bid a slam where on the surface you need to find two of three queens - two of them with twoway finesse positions, the other a finesse or drop decision with a nine-card fit. Not to mention the fact that their auction failed to disclose East's void, when West would have devalued his king of that suit and might well have stopped short of slam. But when your weak no-trump system makes West declarer, North is endplayed on the


Henrik Caspersen, Denmark
opening lead to find one of the queens for you or to give you a useful discard. In the other room England played in game, also from the West hand.

Board I5. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

|  | 4 A 86432 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\bigcirc$ Q 64 |  |
|  | $\diamond$ Q |  |
|  | \& Q 52 |  |
| ¢ K 75 | N | Q - |
| $\bigcirc$ J 109 |  | $\checkmark$ AK 8752 |
| $\diamond$ K J 107 |  | $\diamond$ A 643 |
| ¢ AJ9 | S | ¢ K 103 |
|  | \& QJ 109 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc 3$ |  |
|  | $\checkmark 9852$ |  |
|  | ¢ 8764 |  |

It looks on the surface as though leading the $\forall \mathrm{Q}$ doesn't cost too much, since declarer still needs to find one of the others, and finding the $\oslash Q$ is odds against. But in fact declarer can simply play trumps from the top then continue with diamonds, and if North declines to ruff just exit with the third round and North is endplayed again. The best chance of beating the slam is the unfindable, but truly devilish, lead of a small heart. But even then, declarer can make by finding the club queen. In the event, Brown led the ©A so a small club subsequently went away from the East hand. Where East is the declarer, as will often be the case around Wuhan, the obvious $\uparrow \mathrm{Q}$ lead makes life harder but still by no means impossible.
And Denmark gained yet more on the final board.

Board I6. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

- 165

『J 94
$\diamond 53$
2A9632

| - Q 4 | N | - K 1093 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Q 865 | N | $8 \mathrm{KQ1032}$ |
| $\checkmark \mathrm{K} Q$ | W E | $\checkmark$ A 18 |
| Q QJ875 | S | - 4 |
|  | - A 872 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ A |  |
|  | $\checkmark 1097642$ |  |
|  | - K 10 |  |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Hammelev | Brown | Krefeld | Byrne |
| Pass | Pass | 18 | $2 \diamond$ |
| 2NT* | Pass | 4 | All Pass |

2NT 4+ heart fit and $10+\mathrm{HCP}$
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Myers | Caspersen | Brock | Farholt |
| Pass | Pass | $1 \varangle$ | Pass |
| $\mathbf{2} \diamond^{*}$ | Pass | $\mathbf{4} \oslash$ | All Pass |

In both rooms the $\diamond 10$ was led, and the key to making the game was playing the trump suit for just one loser. In the Open Room Byrne's $2 \diamond$ overcall on al 0 -high suit suggested at least a six-carder, and when the second round of the suit wasn't ruffed Krefeld did the right thing by finessing against the jack. In the other room the auction offered declarer no help, and she went down; 12 IMPs to Denmark who had scored 32 IMPs in the last four boards to win the match 40-26 (I3.75-6.25). Disappointingly for them they still dropped to 10th place, while England held onto a rapidly narrowing gap at the top.


The Mixed Team from England

## Nicely Played Slam

David Stern came on from the vugraph to tell us about this slam, played by Espen Lindqvist of Norway in their big Round I9 win over long-time leaders, USAI. Lindqvist and Boye Brogeland had bid to $6 \triangleleft$ on the E/W cards, South having overcalled It, while in the other room, Steve Weinstein and Bobby Levin had played 3NT+4 as E/W.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.


How would you play $6 \diamond$ on the lead of the king of spades? You will have to bring in the heart suit and it is tempting to set about the hearts immediately, but which way to take the finesse?
You have to assume that South does not hold jack to four diamonds, as that will surely doom the contract, while if North holds $\diamond \mathrm{Jxxx}^{\prime}$ you will have to play hearts via the simple finesse and hope that South does not have queen to four or more. Prospects are much better if trumps split three-two, which is when you have genuine options in the heart suit.
Lindqvist delayed his red-suit play, instead winning the ace of spades and playing a spade straight back towards the jack. South won the queen and, fearing that declarer might need a discard on the $\boldsymbol{\Phi}$, played a third round to ruff it out. North duly ruffed and Lindqvist over-ruffed. He led a heart to the ace then ruffed a heart, and drew two rounds of trumps ending in dummy. Next he cashed the king of hearts and the fall of the queen meant that the hand was over; +920 and 9 IMPs to Norway.
Because trumps were two-two after the third trick, Lindqvist would have been OK if someone had held queen to four hearts, as he could have ruffed out the queen and still had a trump with which to get back to dummy to cash the two established winners.
One interesting question. Had North discarded on the third trick, would declarer have assumed that he was protecting a four-card trump holding and found a way to go down when trumps were actually three-two all along?

## Stepping Stone by Adam Stokka

by Povl Sommer (Danish Mixed team captain)
Round 19. Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

- AJ 752
© K 1083
$\diamond K$
- A 103

| N | ¢ Q 1096 |
| :---: | :---: |
| W E | $\bigcirc$ A Q 2 |
| W E | $\diamond 98764$ |
| S | 2 5 |
| ¢ 8 |  |

$\bigcirc 7654$
$\diamond$ A 52

- KJ874

```
@ K43
QJ9
QJ|}10
* Q962
```

In the Mixed match between Denmark and Sweden, Sweden's Adam Stokka reached the tough 4 $\triangle$, playing as North against Blakset/Bekkouche.
East led the singleton club and dummy's seven was allowed to win the trick. Stokka led a heart to the nine, ten and queen, and back came a diamond to the ten and king. He cashed the ace of spades then ruffed a spade to get to dummy to lead a second heart to the jack, king and ace. East returned the two of hearts to prevent any further ruffs in the dummy and Stokka won the eight, cashed the ace of clubs, then played a club to the king and ruffed a club, bringing down the queen.
Down to only ${ }^{\mathbf{~}} \mathrm{xx}$, Stokka used West as a Stepping Stone by playing the $\$ 3$ to West's king, and West had to give the table the last two tricks with the $\diamond \mathrm{A}$ and j . Contract just made.
Of course there are other chances to make the contract, and in the other room the Danes took II tricks but were only in $2 \boxtimes$. That meant 9 IMPs to Sweden in the battle for eighth place. The match ended in a single IMP win to Denmark, leaving them in tenth place in the rankings, while Sweden held on to that vital eighth spot with four matches to play.


Adam Stokka, Sweden

Turkey v. France

For the Seniors match between France and Turkey, I was expecting a contrast in style. Over the years, Turkish bridge has always been entertaining, due to their usually enterprising approach which may as well include the odd spectacular disaster. The French, on the other hand, have been impressive over the years with their steadiness and discipline. The different approaches have led their Senior teams to great successes in the past.
Here in Wuhan, the Turkish team took its time to get to the top eight but has stayed there since. On the other hand, France showed the consistency we have seen on many earlier occasions but this time, mainly in staying around the 8th and last qualifying spot. Would this match bring any major changes?
The first board was a perfect illustration of what I suggested in my opening paragraph, I think.


Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lévy | Ince | Abécassis | Kokten |
| - | Pass | $1 \diamond$ | Dble |
| 19 | Pass | INT | Pass |
| 2 | Dble | 24 | Dble |
| Pass | 3\% | Pass | 3NT |
| Dble | All Pass |  |  |

North's double of $2 \boxtimes$ was for penalties and so was South's double of 24, obviously. When North did not believe in this (his own double had been very light indeed), N/S had to pay the price. When West did not lead a heart but tried a spade to the ten and king, declarer escaped for down two; France +300 .

## Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Zorlu | Lebel | Avcioglu | Soulet |
| - | Pass | $1 \diamond$ | $1 \$$ |
| Dble* | Pass | $2 \boldsymbol{2 s}$ | $2 \boldsymbol{}$ |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

When Soulet preferred spades over strength, West's double first of all showed hearts, his spades just being 'collateral damage' later on. One off,Turkey +50 but 6 IMPs to France.
Another example of this difference in style and approach came only two boards later.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/WVul.

- A 74
$\triangleright 3$
$\diamond 54$
\% AJ 97432

| - 65 | N | - K Q J 109 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 8 J 104 | N | ¢K875 |
| $\checkmark$ AKQ 7 | W E | $\checkmark 862$ |
| - 10865 | S | \& K |
|  | - 832 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ A Q 962 |  |
|  | $\diamond$ J 1093 |  |
|  | - Q |  |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Léry | Ince | Abécassis | Kokten |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| Pass | 3 | All Pass |  |

Declarer won the second round of spades and tried a heart finesse, hoping to actually make his contract if it worked. Dummy's $\triangle Q$ won the trick, a diamond went on the $\vee \mathbf{A}$ but when it turned out that declarer had to lose two trump tricks, the earlier good work had been in vain after all. One down; France +50 .

## Closed Room

| West | North |
| :--- | :--- |
| Zorlu | Lebel |
| - | - |
| Pass | 39 |
| 49 | All Pass |


| East | South |
| :--- | :--- |
| Avcioglu | Soulet |
| - | Pass |
| 34 | 49 |

In the replay, Avcioglu indeed made the 3 overcall Abécassis had rejected and when Soulet made a tactical raise of partner's suit, Zorlu could not possibly pass. A double would have saved the day for him but when he opted for the likely (from his point of view) vulnerable game instead, he could call himself lucky that Soulet had no reason to double this. Down two; France another +200 and 6 more IMPs.
Another two boards later, we saw 'a spectacular disaster.'

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

|  | - J 7 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | ¢K852 |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ Q 54 |  |
|  | - AQ9 5 |  |
| - A643 | N | - 1098 |
| $\bigcirc 1043$ |  | Q Q 76 |
| $\checkmark$ AJ 8 |  | $\checkmark$ K 10972 |
| - 1042 | S | - 76 |
|  | - K Q 52 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ AJ9 |  |
|  | $\diamond 63$ |  |
|  | 2KJ8 3 |  |

## Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Zorlu | Lebel | Avcioglu | Soulet |
| - | In | Pass | 18 |
| Pass | INT | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

A perfectly normal transfer auction against which East led an equally normal $\diamond 10$. When West forgot to take the $\diamond A$ and continue the suit, declarer suddenly had a chance. Lebel could even afford to establish his spades once East discarded a diamond on the run of the clubs, thus avoiding the working heart finesse; France a lucky +600 .

## Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Léry | Ince | Abécassis | Kokten |
| - | $1 \&$ | Pass | 1 1. |
| Pass | INT | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

Basically, the same auction and the same lead but Lévy made no mistake; France another +200 and 13 unexpected IMPs to them.
On the next board, for once the French were more enterprising.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

|  | ¢ Q J 863 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\bigcirc$ AJ 5 |  |
|  | $\diamond$ K Q J 3 |  |
|  | \& 5 |  |
| ¢ A 10742 | N | ¢ K 9 |
| $\bigcirc \mathrm{K} 2$ |  | $\bigcirc 743$ |
| $\diamond 975$ | W E | $\diamond 864$ |
| \% Q 92 | S | ¢ AK 764 |
|  | - 5 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ Q 10986 |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ A 102 |  |
|  | \& 」 1083 |  |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Lévy | Ince | Abécassis | Kokten |
| - | - | Pass | Pass |
| Is | Pass | INT | All Pass |

With his main suit already bid on his right, Ince wisely passed. South led the SIO to the king and ace, North cashed the $\vee \mathrm{J}$ and continued the $\diamond K$. When he went back to hearts, the defence did not cash out immediately for down three, but first tried the effect of a spade from South. This resulted in down only two; +200 to Turkey.
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Zorlu | Lebel | Avcioglu | Soulet |
| - | - | Pass | $2 \diamond^{*}$ |
| Pass | $2 N^{*} *$ | Pass | $3 \mathbf{2 0}^{*}$ |
| Pass | $4 \triangleright$ | All Pass |  |

In the replay, Soulet decided to use a gadget. His $2 \diamond$ showed a strong hand or a weak two in hearts. In either case, Lebel was interested. When East led his top clubs, he had made it easy for declarer to get to ten tricks. Lebel ruffed in hand, crossed to the $\diamond$ A (overtaking his jack) and ruffed another club, bringing down West's queen. The $>\mathbf{A}$ was cashed and a low diamond went to dummy's $\diamond I 0$. A trump went to West's king and at this point, even the defence of a low spade away from the ace would not have helped West as he did not have any trumps left to ruff a club; France +420 and 6 more IMPs to them.
Two boards later, Namyats caused an interesting auction.
Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

|  | ¢ J 982 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\bigcirc 3$ |  |
|  | $\diamond$ K Q 8 |  |
|  | \% K Q 832 |  |
| \& K Q | N | - A 106 |
| $\bigcirc \mathrm{KQ}$ J 10952 |  | $\bigcirc$ A 64 |
| $\diamond 92$ |  | $\diamond$ J 1074 |
| ¢ 76 | S | ¢ 194 |
|  | ¢ 7543 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc 87$ |  |
|  | $\diamond$ A 653 |  |
|  | \& A 105 |  |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Lévy | Ince | Abécassis | Kokten |
| $4 \dot{9}$ | Dble | 4 |  |
| Pass | $4 \varrho$ | 5 | Dble |
| Al |  | Dble |  |

All Pass
Well, 4 looks as good a shot as anything but for the fact that there are four top losers. East adopted the strategy of the lesser risk, not wanting to score -420 and thus finishing with - 100 .

| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| West | North | East | South |
| Zorlu | Lebel | Avcioglu | Soulet |
| $4 \Omega$ | All Pass |  |  |

When West could not open 4e but simply showed his suit, everyone nodded in respect. Turkey an undisturbed +420 and their first II IMPs of the match.
Two more boards later, slam time started.
Board IO. Dealer East. All Vul.


Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lévy | Ince | Abécassis | Kokten |
| - | - | Pass | Pass |
| $1 \diamond$ | Pass | 2 | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | $3 \diamond$ | Pass |
| 34 | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| 4** | Pass | $4 \diamond$ | Pass |
| 4NT* | Pass | 5 ${ }^{*}$ | Pass |
| 68 | All Pass |  |  |

The classic approach of a fit-showing jump shift on a passed hand worked very well here. With diamonds set as trumps for the time being, the excellent slam was reached easily; France a fine +1430 . The slam was missed more often than not, by the way.
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Zorlu | Lebel | Avcioglu | Soulet |
| - | - | Pass | Pass |
| 10 | Pass | $1 \diamond *$ | $1 Q$ |
| $4 \triangle$ | All Pass |  |  |

East's l $\diamond$ just showed hearts, so when West did not splinter, the double fit in the red suits remained a secret. Turkey +680 but 13 more IMPs to France.
Another slam appeared on Board I4:
Board I4. Dealer East. None Vul.
(1) K 6

- J 987
$\diamond K$ Q 2
- AK 98

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \wedge \text { Q J } 102 \\
& \diamond 53 \\
& \diamond 10987 \\
& \& \text { Q J } 6
\end{aligned}
$$

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lévy | Ince | Abécassis | Kokten |
| - | - | Pass | 18 |
| Pass | 2\% | Pass | 28 |
| Pass | 3 | Pass | 32 |
| Pass | 4\% | Pass | $4 \bigcirc$ |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

North's 29 was FG but when South denied a diamond control over North's $4 \%$, North quite rightly called it a day. The $\diamond \mathbf{A}$ has to be well-placed and the trumps have to behave for the slam to make, so +450 was the deserved reward for the Turkish discipline.
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Zorlu | Lebel | Avcioglu | Soulet |
| - | - | Pass | 18 |
| Pass | 2NT* | Pass | 3** |
| Pass | 38 | Pass | 34* |
| Pass | 3NT* | Pass | 5 |
| Pass | 6 | All Pass |  |

To me, South's 5 implies that something is missing in the red suits, so North's $6 \triangleright$ looks a bit optimistic. One down when declarer had to lose two diamonds in the end.Turkey another +50 and II IMPs to them.
A good slam on the next board brought I more IMP to Turkey to make the final score 59-23 or $17.59-2.4 \mathrm{I}$ VPs to France.As a result of all this, France went up again to 7th and Turkey managed to stay within the top eight, just over 3 VPs ahead of the now 9 th-placed team: the Netherlands, another of the teams that has hovered around the 8th qualifying spot over the last few days.


## David Bird

Norway and the Netherlands are familiar teams to BBO followers in Europe. Marc Smith and I took our seats, expecting plenty of worthwhile action. Were we right? That will be for you to judge. Feel free to write your eventual 'Yes!' answer in capital letters.

Board I9. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

- A Q 97
- J 75
$\diamond 972$
\& 852


## Q K J

Q Q 83
$\diamond$ J 4
\& K 97643

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Verhees | Lindqvist | Van Prooijen | Brogeland |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | INT | Pass |
| 2NT* | Pass | 32 | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass |  |  |

Louk Verhees' response of 2NT was Puppet Stayman, looking for a 5-3 heart fit. Boye Brogeland led the $\diamond A$ and continued with a low diamond. Declarer won with the jack and was soon writing +660 on his card. On the face of it, I was not expecting to write up this deal in my bulletin report.

| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| West | North | East | South |
| Aa | Bob Drijver | Livgard | Nab |
| - | - | - | $2 \boldsymbol{N}^{*}$ |
| Pass | $2 \Delta^{*}$ | Pass | Pass |
| $3 \%$ | All Pass |  |  |

Bart Nab opened 2e, which could be (a) a weak two in diamonds, (b) forcing to game, not with diamonds, or (c) 22-24 balanced. Five-card two-level openings have been incredibly successful in these championships, bringing in IMPs by the bucket-load. Allan Livgard did not like to double $2 \diamond$, nor to bid further after partner's 3\% protection. Terje Aa collected +IIO, but it was II IMPs away.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

- J874

Q QJ 72
$\diamond 93$

- QJ 8


Open Room

| West | North |
| :--- | :--- |
| Verhees | Lindquist |
| $1 \boldsymbol{\&}^{*}$ | Pass |
| Dble | All Pass |

East South<br>Van Prooijen Brogeland<br>I $\diamond$ 4

Verhees' opening was the Blue Club, East giving a negative response. What action should West take over South's leap to $4 \diamond$ ? When he chose to double, his partner didn't like to guess which major to bid. He elected to defend. Marc and I preferred a 4s bid on the West cards, but it's difficult to be sure we weren't influenced by a sight of the full deal.
Brogeland ruffed the $\Phi K$ lead and led the $\diamond Q$. East won and crossed to the \&A for a club ruff. Declarer rose with the $\ulcorner A$ on the heart return, drew trumps and gave up a heart trick to West's king. He was only 200 down, and all present had noted that a bigger prize was available to East/West in spades.
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $A a$ | Bob Drijver | Livgard | Nab |
| I | Pass | $3 \&$ | $5 \diamond$ |
| $5 \$$ | All Pass |  |  |

Allan Livgard's 3\% is described as 'mini-splinter in a minor'.Aa took the push to 54, and this ended the auction. He won the diamond lead with dummy's ace, ditching a heart. After ace of clubs and a club ruff, he led a heart, Nab rising with the ace. The diamond continuation reduced declarer to four trumps. He played the $\Delta \mathrm{A}$, discovering the break, and ruffed another club in dummy.
A heart to the king permitted a third club ruff. South's overcall then guided declarer to lead a heart, rather than a diamond, from dummy. He ruffed with the 43 , North following, and claimed +650 for a swing of 10 IMPs.
After ten boards, the Netherlands led 27-I3. Was this a foretaste of how the match would continue? No. Norway
proceeded to win the last six boards by 50 IMPs to nil. Ardent Netherlands fans might like to switch to a different report. Let the big swings roll!

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.


Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Verhees | Lindqvist | Van Prooijen | Brogeland |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| Pass | $I \diamond$ | Pass | 14 |
| Pass | $2 N T$ | Pass | $3 \diamond *$ |
| Pass | $3 \diamond$ | Pass | $4 \diamond$ |
| Pass | 4 | All Pass |  |

With a 5-4 fit in hearts and two aces missing, this board did not seem to have much swing potential. East led the $\$ 2$ to the three, five and king. Declarer drew trumps and led a club to the king. West won and returned a diamond, declarer claiming +450 .


Bart Nab, Netherlands

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Aa | Bob Drijver | Livgard | Nab |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| $2 \Delta *$ | $2 N T$ | Pass | $3 \nabla^{*}$ |
| Pass | $3 \Phi$ | Pass | $4\ulcorner$ |
| Pass | $4 \Phi$ | All Pass |  |

Once more, a five-card two-level opening caused havoc. Whether it should have done is another matter. The opening $2 \diamond$ showed a five-card major and 4-8 points. Nab's $3 \vee$ was a transfer to spades and his $4 \oslash$ rebid apparently then showed 5-5 in the majors. Drijver took a different view and returned to 4s. There was no happy ending to this strange story. The spade game went three down and Norway gained 12 IMPs.
What other interpretation was possible for the $4 \checkmark$ bid? It could hardly be a control-bid, with spades agreed, since this would mean that South held no controls in either minor. Anyway, a passed hand was unlikely to have a slam in mind opposite a 2NT overcall.
My colleague, Marc Smith, has already written up several deals where these five-card pre-empts have reaped sizeable swings. Personally, I cannot remember a single board where they have misfired.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

- KJ5
©K85
$\diamond$ Q 7
- K 10976


Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Verhees | Lindquist | Van Prooijen | Brogeland |
| - | 19 | Dble | Pass |
| $2 \mathbf{2 0}^{*}$ | Pass | $2 \boxtimes$ | Pass |
| $3 \diamond$ | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

Brogeland led the $\$ 3$ to the king and ace. A heart to the queen lost to North's king, and North's 10 cleared the club suit, South unblocking the ${ }^{2} \mathrm{~J}$. Van Prooijen led the $\rangle$ J, not covered, to the ace. He cashed three heart tricks next, North throwing a spade, and ran the $\diamond 9$ to the queen. North's 996 then put the game one down
Everything had depended on declarer's guess in diamonds. North had opened the bidding, vulnerable in first seat. I4 points were missing, after South had produced the \%. If North did not hold the $\diamond \mathbf{Q}$, he would need the $\uparrow K Q J$ to
bring his hand up to an aceless I2-count. All one could say is that it was a difficult guess for declarer.
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Aa | Bob Drijver | Livgard | Nab |
| - | 19 | Dble | Pass |
| $2 \boldsymbol{2}$ | Pass | $2 \varnothing$ | Pass |
| $3 \diamond$ | Pass | $3 N T$ | All Pass |

The bidding was the same, as you see. This time Nab led the 88 to the king and ace. The next few tricks were the same as in the Open Room. Livgard then led the critical second round of diamonds and rose with the $\diamond \mathcal{K}$. The queen fell from North and it was +660 for Norway and a swing of 13 IMPs.
You may have noted that the swings so far portrayed do not yet add up to 50 IMPs. Well, I will end my report with the one more double-digit swing that edged the total closer to that mark.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.


PAJ9 4
$\diamond$ K Q 53

- J 106

| ¢ K 109 | N | ¢ 7643 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\bigcirc$ KQ 10632 |  | $\bigcirc 75$ |
| $\diamond$ A98 | W E | $\checkmark 74$ |
| $\bigcirc 2$ | S | \& AK974 |
|  | - A Q 52 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc 8$ |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ J 1062 |  |
|  | ¢ Q 853 |  |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Verhees | Lindqvist | Van Prooijen | Brogeland |
| - | - | Pass | Pass |
| I $\diamond$ | Pass | 1s | Dble |
| Rdbl | $2 \diamond$ | Pass | Pass |
| 2 | 3 | All Pass |  |

I can imagine Terence Reese wincing at South's secondround double. "Did you see that awful double by the Brogeland fellow? What was the point of it?" However, it was made at both tables of this match. Verhees was glad to hear it, because he could make a Support Redouble to show three spades. He rebid his hearts at his next turn and North's $3 \triangleleft$ closed the auction.
A spade lead would have beaten the contract, and this was indeed the recommendation of that fine player, Mr. GIB. Few humans have yet reached his level of prowess (give us a few more decades), and East yielded to the seductive allure of his \&AK. Switching to a spade would then have been too late, since the club ruff would be lost.
Van Prooijen delivered a club ruff at trick two, and declarer won the $\triangleleft \mathbf{Q}$ return. Lindqvist continued with the
king of trumps to the ace and won the trump return. He was then able to ditch a spade on the 2 Q and claim his +110 .
You may be wondering how this mundane action could develop into a double-digit swing...
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Aa | Bob Drijver | Livgard | Nab |
| - | - | Pass | Pass |
| I $\otimes$ | Pass | IS | Dble |
| Rdbl | $2 \diamond$ | Pass | Pass |
| $2 \otimes$ | Dble | All Pass |  |

Bob Drijver, perhaps with previous boards in mind, ventured a penalty double of $2 \boxtimes$. Terje $A$ a ducked the $\Delta K$ lead and won the switch with dummy's ace. After discarding a spade on the $\& K$, he crossed to the $\forall A$ and ruffed a diamond in dummy.
A spade to his king is needed next, but declarer mysteriously gave the defenders a chance by ruffing a club instead. Now came another key trick - declarer led the $\bigcirc$ K. If North lets this win, declarer must dig his own grave. Another trump will allow North to win and force declarer. If declarer then exits with another trump, North draws his last trump and gives South the $上 \mathrm{~A}$ and 2 Q . If instead declarer exits with a spade after the 8 K wins, he loses two spades and two trumps.
Sadly for the Netherlands, North missed this difficult chance and won the $\vee \mathrm{K}$ with the ace. His $\uparrow$ exit ran to declarer's king and eight tricks were made. It was +470 and another II IMPs to Norway.
Their thirst not yet quenched, Norway picked up 8 and 6 IMPs on the final two boards, winning by 63 IMPs to 27.The match had been a exhilarating or harrowing experience, depending on which team you supported. For the two thousand or so kibitzers on BBO, it had been time well spent.


Bob Drijver, Netherlands


After 17 rounds China maintain their first place in the table whilst the Danes are languishing in sixteenth place some 25 VPs behind that crucial eighth spot, they desperately need a big win if they are to maintain hopes of reaching the quarter-final stage.
Both Chinese pairs play Precision Club with a 13-I5 notrump whereas the Danish pairs employ five-card majors, two-over-one and a 14 -16 no-trump.
The first five boards arrived at the same contract in both rooms. There was little scope for creative bidding or interesting play as Denmark surged to a I IMP lead.

Board 2I. Dealer North. N/S Vul.


| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Shen $Q$ | Rasmussen | Wang W | Bilde |
| - | $I \boxtimes$ | Pass | 19 |
| Pass | $3 \diamond$ | Pass | $4 \triangleright$ |

All Pass
South had a INT bid available to her where one meaning was 3-7 with three hearts. One might have thought that limiting her rather sparse collection was the better option and might have deterred North from being a little forward. Although the $3 \triangleleft$ bid was limited to a 15 -count as hands with 16 points or more she would use an artificial 29 rebid. I will leave you, dear reader, to decide if you agree with South's jump to game. After a club lead declarer was always going to be two down if the defence continually punched her with clubs. This was not the most difficult defence to find and so 200 out.
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Buus Thomsen | Zuo | Houmoller | Wang $N$ |
| - | $1 \boxtimes$ | Pass | $1 乌$ |
| Pass | $2 \diamond$ | Pass | $2 \oslash$ |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

N/S were much more circumspect and did not value their combined 19-count worthy of game and this gained them seven IMPs.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/WVul.

|  | - Q 10 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\bigcirc \mathrm{K} 5$ |  |
|  | $\diamond 1085$ |  |
|  | \& A Q 7532 |  |
| ¢ 9654 | N | ¢ K |
| - J 93 |  | $\bigcirc$ A Q 108642 |
| $\diamond$ A Q 42 |  | $\diamond$ K 963 |
| \% 98 | S | ¢ 6 |
|  | - AJ8732 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc 7$ |  |
|  | $\diamond$ J 7 |  |
|  | \% KJ104 |  |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Shen Q | Rasmussen | Wang W | Bilde |
| - | - | 18 | $1{ }^{1}$ |
| 2 | 3\% | $4 \diamond$ | 4 ${ }^{*}$ |
| $5 \diamond$ | 6\% | All Pass |  |
| $4 \bigcirc$ alerted as a cue-bid |  |  |  |

After North had shown her club suit South was almost never going to allow E/W to win the auction. $6 \%$ was a good save against $5 \diamond$ or $5 \triangleleft$ and even better when it was not doubled. The defence cashed their three top tricks on the go for two off.
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Buus Thomsen | Zuo | Houmoller | Wang $N$ |
| - | - | 2)* | 2. |
| 38 | Dble | Pass | 48 |
| Pass | 5\% | All Pass |  |
| $2810-13,6$ |  |  |  |

I have tried using similar openings to the Two Hearts bid here but gave them up because as a partnership we found that it was difficult for responder to know how well the hands fitted. In this case the answer is that the fit is exceptional and $4 \checkmark$ is gin even if the king of hearts is offside. But if you were to swap the $\diamond A Q$ with the 98 then Two Hearts might be the limit. East did not compete over North's Double, which permitted South to show her clubs. North with her exceptional fit and good partial fit in declarer's first suit tried for the game. Little did she know she was saving against a potential Four Hearts and that failing by one trick would be an excellent result. Not many IMPs in, just two, but could so easily have been a loss.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

- A 1093
$\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{ }$
$\diamond$ KQJ8
-K875
- QJ 7

810962
$\checkmark 642$

- J 96

. K 5
- K Q 87

109753
A 3

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Shen Q | Rasmussen | Wang W | Bilde |
| Pass | $1 \diamond$ | Dble | 18 |
| Pass | 14 | Pass | 2** |
| Pass | $2 \diamond$ | Pass | 5 |
| All Pass |  |  |  |
| 2\% For |  |  |  |

Had South redoubled it would have shown a doubleton in her partner's opening suit. Her subsequent $2 \%$ bid was forcing and when North showed a genuine diamond suit she leapt to game. There was little to the play and declarer soon had written +400 in her scorecard.
Closed Room


The Danish Venice Cup Team

Opposite her partner's 14-16 no-trump North unilaterally decided to go to game. Not a success as West was not hard-pressed to find the diamond lead and hence take the first six tricks.
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Buus Thomsen | Zuo | Houmoller | Wang $N$ |
| - | - | Pass | INT* |
| $2 \triangleleft$ | 32 | All Pass |  |
| INT |  |  |  |

North had no interest in game opposite a 13 -15 notrump and just bid her suit and took ten tricks and 8 IMPs.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.


Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Shen $Q$ | Rasmussen | Wang W | Bilde |
| - | - | Pass | Pass |
| 18 | Pass | 14 | Pass |
| 28 | All Pass |  |  |

I was surprised to see that the normally aggressive Danes let this one go quietly.When declarer organised a diamond ruff in dummy she was comfortably home.
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Buus Thomsen | Zuo | Houmoller | Wang N |
| - | - | Pass | Pass |
| 2 ® $^{*}$ | Pass | Pass | Dble |
| Rdbl | 2NT | Dble | All Pass |
| $2 \backsim$ | $10-13,6+\odot$ |  |  |

It was the turn of the Chinese pair to be mildly aggressive. I assume the redouble showed a maximum. North, with a good double stop in the heart suit, essayed 2NT and East, believing her side to have at least half the points, tried a double. Her opening lead was the 4 which declarer ran to her six. The queen of diamonds was ducked and a small diamond continuation to the jack was taken by West's ace. She then tried the effect of the $\vee 2$, and after some thought declarer inserted the jack which held the trick. The jack of spades was run round to West's king and she got off lead
with a diamond, taken in dummy with the ten. With her contract now assured, a low club from dummy was passed to East who exited with a spade. Had declarer come to hand with the last diamond and cashed her ace of hearts, she could then have discarded from dummy the same suit as East and then exited with a club to make an overtrick. I suspect the prospect of making a doubled into game contract overrode the prospect of having made an error in the reading of the ending and so she just took her eight tricks.

Board 3I. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

- 983
$\bigcirc$ Q J
$\diamond$ A Q 10984
2 5

```
, K 54
『 97542
K 75
\& 82
```

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Shen Q | Rasmussen | Wang W | Bilde |
| - | - | - | 24* |
| Pass | Pass | Dble | Pass |
| 3 | Pass | $4 \bigcirc$ | All Pass |
| 24 5 | + a minor |  |  |

Having seen her partner's bid, North led a spade, taken with the ace by South, who continued with the queen. In with the spade king, declarer cashed the ace and king of trumps felling the queen and jack, then cashed three rounds of clubs, discarding a diamond from hand and claimed ten tricks.
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Buus Thomsen Zuo | Houmoller | Wang N |  |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | $10^{*}$ | Pas |
| 18 | Pass | $4 \mathbf{e}^{*}$ | Pass |
| $4 \varnothing$ | All Pass |  |  |

With no bid opposite to guide her North started with the 95 , won in dummy. One round of trumps was cashed, drawing the queen from North. Declarer then inexplicably cashed a second top club and led a third round, which was overruffed by North who switched to a spade. In with the ace of spades, South returned a diamond for North to take two tricks in the suit and an unexpected 10 IMPs.
China had run out $45-14$ winners or $16.88-3$. 12 VPs. This put a severe dent into the already slender hopes of the Danish team.

round robin, the Netherlands lay in seventh position, just 3.88 VPs clear of ninth-placed Sweden, while Russia lay eleventh, 14.26 behind eighth-placed USA I. With the strong USA 2 squad also in the mix in tenth place, and a couple of other teams still in with a shout if they could put together a big finish, this was a crucial match for both teams.
The first couple of deals were not particularly exciting, but we didn't have long to wait for the first potential swing deal to come along.

| Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul. |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Q Q 87 |  |  |  |
| $\bigcirc$ J10972 |  |  |  |
| $\diamond$ Q 9 |  |  |  |
| 2864 |  |  |  |
| ¢ K 642 |  | $\triangle$ A 109 |  |
| $\bigcirc \mathrm{C} 3$ |  | $\bigcirc$ A 86 |  |
| $\checkmark$ J 75 |  | $\checkmark$ AK 6432 |  |
| \% A Q 10 | S | \% 5 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| $\bigcirc$ Q 54 |  |  |  |
| $\checkmark 108$ |  |  |  |
| \% KJ 932 |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Van Zwol | Gromova | Verbeek | Dikhnova |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| INT | Pass | 3 | Pass |
| 49 | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 5\% | Pass | 6 | All Pass |
| West | North | East | South |
| Khonicheva | Bruijnsteen | Rakhmani | Dekkers |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| 1\% | Pass | $2 \diamond$ | Pass |
| 28 | Pass | 38 | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | 4\% | Pass |
| $4 \diamond$ | Pass | 49 | Pass |
| 4NT | Pass | 5 | Pass |
| $6\rangle$ | Pass | 6 | Pass |
| 6NT | All Pass |  |  |

For the Netherlands, Wietske van Zwol's INT opening was 14-16. According to my reading of their convention card, Martine Verbeek's $3 \triangleleft$ response should have been invitational, with 30 being either weak or strong with diamonds. Obviously, that is not the case. Van Zwol responded $4 \boldsymbol{\&}$, presumably simply a cuebid facing a known slam try, and Verbeek checked on key-cards then bid the small slam. Tatiana Dikhnova led the four of hearts, Verbeek
winning dummy's king and leading a diamond to the ace followed by a club to the queen. When that won, she cashed a second diamond, and had all 13 tricks when they proved to be two-two; +1390.
For Russia, Elena Khonicheva's le opening was a variant of Polish Club and Diana Rakhmani's $2 \diamond$ response natural and game-forcing. From there things got a little mysterious. I suspect that Rakhmani took Khonicheva's $2 \checkmark$ rebid as natural with the 17+ variety of strong club, otherwise why raise with ace to three and later convert $6 \diamond$ to $6 \checkmark$ ? Anyway, I'm quite sure that they will know what it means next time it comes up.
Six No Trump is quite a bit inferior to $6 \diamond$, needing another trick even if diamonds come in, and needing significant good fortune if there is a diamond loser. Today, of course, it was impossible to go wrong. Khonicheva won the heart lead in hand and cashed the ace and king of diamonds then the jack. She crossed to the ace of spades to cash the rest of the diamonds, by which time she had seen a spade discard from South so led a spade to the king and another spade to establish her twelfth trick; + 1440 and 2 IMPs to Russia. Had spades proved to be four-two, she could have fallen back on the club finesse.

## Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

- A Q 86
$\bigcirc$ AJ
$\diamond A K 1054$
- 102


『K762
$\diamond 976$
\& Q 8764

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Van Zwol | Gromova | Verbeek | Dikhnova |
| - | - | 12 | Pass |
| Pass | Dble | Pass | I $\$$ |
| Pass | Is | Pass | INT |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Khonicheva | Bruijnsteen | Rakhmani | Dekkers |
| - | - | I2 | Pass |
| I $\diamond$ | INT | All Pass |  |

Verbeek opened 14, possibly two cards if 4-4-3-2 in an II-I3 balanced hand, and that was passed round to Victoria Gromova, who doubled in pass-out seat, then went on with

Is over the $I \vee$ response. When Dikhnova now bid INT, Gromova raised her to game. On a spade lead, this would have been a hopeless spot, but why would West lead dummy's likely five-card suit? With no particularly attractive alternative, Van Zwol chose to lead the three of clubs, hoping to find partner with a genuine suit. There might still have been a chance for the defence had Verbeek won the ace, though her next play would have been an awkward one. But in practice she put in the nine, losing to declarer's queen. Dikhnova led a diamond to the ten and jack, and Verbeek played ace then jack of clubs. That set up two club winners for declarer, who rose with the ace on the spade switch and cashed the diamonds, then crossed to the ace of hearts to cash the clubs; ten tricks for +430 .
Rakhmani opened a Polish Club and Khonicheva responded $\mid \diamond, 0-6$. Merel Bruijnsteen overcalled a slightly heavy INT and was left to play there. Against that contract Rakhmani led the ten of spades round to declarer's queen. Bruijnsteen played three rounds of diamonds so Rakhmani was back on lead and, having seen her partner's signal on the diamonds, Rakhmani played the king of spades. Bruijnsteen won the ace and cashed the diamonds, then the top hearts and had eight tricks for +120 but 7 IMPs to Russia.

| Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul. |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - AJ 102 |  |  |  |
| $\bigcirc$ AK |  |  |  |
| $\checkmark$ Q 94 |  |  |  |
| \& Q 962 |  |  |  |
| ¢ 96 N Q 85 |  |  |  |
| Q10953 W Q QJ742 |  |  |  |
| $\diamond$ K 6 |  |  |  |
| \& AK 1087 |  |  |  |
| - K 74 |  |  |  |
| $\bigcirc 86$ |  |  |  |
| $\checkmark$ A 10832 |  |  |  |
| - 543 |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Van Zwol | Gromova | Verbeek | Dikhnova |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| Pass | INT | Pass | Pass |
| Dble | Pass | $2 \checkmark$ | Dble |
| 28 | All Pass |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Khonicheva | Bruijnsteen | Rakhmani | Dekkers |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| Pass | INT | All Pass |  |

Both Norths opened INT. Bruijnsteen was left to play there and made eight tricks after a heart lead, taking the double diamond finesse; + 120.
Van Zwol could double with the West hand, showing a four-card major and longer minor. Two Diamonds asked for the major, and Van Zwol duly bid $2 \checkmark$ and played there. Gromova led out the top hearts, Dikhnova following eight,
six as suit preference for a higher-ranking suit, and Gromova did as suggested by switching to the jack of spades. That was covered by queen and king and Dikhnova returned the seven of spades to the ten. Gromova switched now, to a low diamond to her partner's ace, after which declarer had the remainder for +IIO and 6 IMPs to the Netherlands.
Incidentally, if you overbid to 3NT, played by North after West has shown clubs, you might get the jack of clubs lead, ducked by West. To make the contract you must duck this, or West has four club tricks to cash when in with the king of diamonds. (Akiko Yanagisawa duly found this play for Japan in their win over England in the Venice Cup. Of course, she also subsequently got the spades right to make her game and pick up 12 IMPs when combined with the Japanese E/W pair's +110 in $2 \checkmark$ in the other room.)

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

- A 1073
- A 94
$\diamond A 2$
- J 1096

| ¢ 542 | N | ¢ K Q J 8 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\bigcirc$ Q J |  | $\bigcirc$ K 1075 |
| $\diamond$ Q J 98 | W E | $\diamond$ K 1076 |
| 2 Q 432 | S | 2 A |
|  | ¢ 96 |  |
|  | 88632 |  |
|  | $\checkmark 543$ |  |
|  | \& K 875 |  |


| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Van Zwol | Gromova | Verbeek | Dikhnova |
| Pass | 18 | Dble | Pass |
| $1 \diamond$ | Pass | 29 | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | $3 \diamond$ | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Khonicheva | Bruijnsteen | Rakhmani | Dekkers |
| Pass | 1\% | Dble | Pass |
| INT | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

Both Wests became declarer in 3NT after North had opened le not that either opening promised the suit. Gromova was playing Polish Club and could have had any 16+, a weak no trump, or a three-suiter including clubs, while Laura Dekkers could have held a doubleton club.
Gromova led the three of spades, Van Zwol winning dummy's king and leading a diamond to her queen. Gromova won the ace, and led the jack of clubs to dummy's bare ace, but it was too late. Van Zwol led a heart to the queen and ace and Gromova continued with the ten of clubs. Dikhnova won the king and played another club and van Zwol had nine tricks for +400 .
Bruijnsteen led the jack of clubs. Khonicheva won the ace and led a heart to the jack and ace. Bruijnsteen continued with the club attack, leading the nine, and Dekkers played
low, allowing declarer's queen to win the trick. The defence had five tricks to cash now, but the position apparently was not clear to Bruijnsteen. Khonicheva led a low spade, winning the king when Bruijnsteen ducked, then led a heart to the queen, a spade up, again ducked, and cashed the king and ten of hearts. Finally, she led a diamond to the jack and ace and Bruijnsteen returned a diamond. The contract was made exactly for +400 and a push board, but a big chance squandered by the Netherlands.


The Russian Venice Cup team


Martine Verbeek, Netherlands
$\$ 6$ and made her contract, but she had lost track of the spade spots and instead played her club winner, discarding the $\diamond \mathbf{Q}$ from dummy. Dikhnova scooped in the trick with the seven of hearts for down one and -I00.
That was worth 3 IMPs to the Netherlands, but it could have been more.

Board I2. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

|  | ¢ 5 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\bigcirc$ Q 1098753 |  |
|  | $\diamond$ K 2 |  |
|  | ¢ J 106 |  |
| ¢ J 74 | N | ¢ K Q 962 |
| $\bigcirc$ KJ 4 | W E | $\bigcirc$ A 2 |
| $\checkmark$ J 64 |  | $\diamond$ Q 93 |
| \% K Q 54 | S | \% A92 |
|  | - A 1083 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc 6$ |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ A 10875 |  |
|  | \& 873 |  |


| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Van Zwol | Gromova | Verbeek | Dikhnova |
| Pass | $2 \diamond$ | $2 \varsigma$ | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | $3 N T$ | All Pass |
|  |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Khonicheva | Bruijnsteen | Rakhmani | Dekkers |
| Pass | $3 \diamond$ | $3 \Phi$ | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass |  |  |

Both E/W pairs did well to bid and make 3NT on this one.Around the room, five pairs bid to 4s and were down, twice doubled, five went down in 3NT and ten made it. There were three spade partscores and one +500 from 38 doubled. Anyway, back to our match.
Gromova led the jack of clubs so Van Zwol won the king and led a spade to the king, Dikhnova taking the ace and returning her heart to the seven and ace. Van Zwol played a spade to the jack, then back to the queen and a fourth spade. Dikhnova won that and played a club and Van Zwol crossed to the ace of clubs, cashed the long spade, then split the clubs; nine tricks for +400 .
Bruijnsteen led the ten of hearts round to declarer's jack and Khonicheva led a spade to the king, ducked, and continued with a low spade to her jack then a third round to South's ten. Dekkers tried a low diamond, Bruijnsteen winning the king and returning the $\diamond 2$. When Khonicheva played low from dummy, Dekkers thought for a bit then tried a not very hopeful ten and Khonicheva won the jack and had ten tricks when the clubs broke three-three; +430 and I IMP to Russia.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

|  | ¢ J 8 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\bigcirc \mathrm{K} 6$ |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ A 87632 |  |  |
|  | \& K 83 |  |  |
| ¢ 103 | N |  | - AK96 |
| ¢A 754 |  |  | $\bigcirc$ Q 1083 |
| $\checkmark$ Q 105 |  | E $\quad \diamond$ |  |
| \& J 952 | $S$ e |  |  |
|  | Q Q 7542 |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ J 92 |  |  |
|  | $\checkmark \mathrm{K}$ |  |  |
|  | \% A Q 64 |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Van Zwol | Gromova | Verbeek | Dikhnova |
| - | $1 \diamond$ | Pass | I® |
| Pass | 2\% | Pass | 2NT |
| All Pass |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Khonicheva | Bruijnsteen | Rakhmani | Dekkers |
| - | $1 \diamond$ | Pass | $1{ }^{1}$ |
| Pass | $2 \diamond$ | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 3 | All Pass |  |

Gromova's $2 \boldsymbol{2}$ rebid was a transfer, showing six diamonds (had she held clubs she would have rebid INT, transfer). Dikhnova looked for game with 2NT but, holding a minimum opening, Gromova passed. Van Zwol led the two of clubs to the ten and ace and Dikhnova led a spade to the jack and king.Verbeek returned the three of hearts to her partner's ace and Van Zwol continued with the $\odot 4$ to dummy's king. Dikhnova led the eight of spades to her queen then cashed the king of diamonds, crossed to the king of clubs, and cashed the ace of diamonds. Finally, she
led a club back to her queen, but when the suit was not three-three she was out of breath and the defence had the rest, down one for -I00.
The Dutch N/S had a natural auction at the end of which Bruijnsteen judged that her long weak diamonds might be difficult to establish and cash in no trump but could be more useful as trumps, so corrected 2NT to $3 \diamond$. Rakhmani led the ten of clubs. Bruijnsteen won dummy's ace and cashed the king of diamonds, crossed to the king of clubs and played ace and another diamond. The three-three split was good news, and it got better when Khonicheva won the $\diamond \mathbf{Q}$ and led a low heart and Bruijnsteen put up the king and it scored. She cashed out now and had nine tricks for +110 and 5 IMPs to the Netherlands.


Gromova overcalled a simple $\mathbf{I} \diamond$ and was then content to leave her opponents to declare INT. She led the ten of diamonds, which proved not to be the best start for the defence, and Van Zwol won dummy's jack. Van Zwol played the king of clubs and Dikhnova won immediately and played back the nine of hearts to the ten and king. Gromova returned a heart, so Van Zwol won the queen, cashed the clubs, and cashed the ace of hearts before playing ace and another spade to the king and had eight tricks for +120.
Bruijnsteen made a weak jump overcall of $2 \triangleleft$ and Rakhmani made a negative double. Khonicheva now did well when she passed it out on a not particularly good trump holding. I suppose that nothing else appealed very much with her weak no trump and no major. It is often a good idea to lead trumps when partner leaves in your takeout double, but I wouldn't have thought that this was such a situation, particularly when holding such an easy alternative lead as the club holding. Anyway, Rakhmani led
the jack of diamonds so Bruijnsteen won the queen and played the ten of spades. Khonicheva won the ace and returned a club to the jack, ducked. Rakhmani continued with the eK to dummy's ace and Bruijnsteen led a heart up. Khonicheva won the ace and played a club. Brujnsteen discarded her losing spade but had ruffed when Rakhmani won and played the fourth club. Now declarer played ace and another diamond but Khonicheva could win and get out safely so had to make the $\triangleleft \mathrm{Q}$ at the end for down one and -200; 2 IMPs to Russia.

| Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul. |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| -109 |  |  |
| 887642 |  |  |
| $\checkmark 192$ |  |  |
| - Q 62 |  |  |
| 32 | N | , A Q 6 |
| 5 |  | ¢ J 10 |
| Q 63 |  | $\checkmark$ K 875 |
| 9 | S | - A 543 |
| - KJ84 |  |  |
| $\bigcirc \mathrm{K}$ Q 3 |  |  |
| $\checkmark 104$ |  |  |
| \& KJ 87 |  |  |

West
Van Zwol
Pass
20
$3 N T$
West
Khonicheva
Pass
IS

North
Gromova
Pass
Pass
All Pass
North
Bruijnsteen
Pass
Pass

| East | South |
| :--- | :--- |
| Verbeek | Dikhnova |
| INT | Pass |
| $2 \diamond$ | Pass |
|  |  |
| East | South |
| Rakhmani | Dekkers |
| I $\quad$ Pass |  |
| INT | All Pass |

Rakhmani, playing a $15-17$ no trump, opened 10 and rebid INT and played there. Dekkers led the king of hearts, Rakhmani winning dummy's ace and playing a spade to the queen. That lost to the king and Dekkers played queen and another heart, establishing her partner's suit. Rakhmani simply cashed out her winners; eight tricks for +120 .
Verbeek's INT showed I4-16 andVan Zwol used Stayman then raised to game. Any lead other than a spade should see the defence prevail, but Dikhnova knew that declarer did not have a four-card major so led a spade - a club round to a hand with minor-suit length didn't look any more attractive, and why should partner have heart rather than spade values - but that proved to be fatal to the defence. Verbeek won the SQ and played on hearts to establish a second trick in the suit and a ninth overall, and that was +600 and 10 IMPs to the Netherlands.
What had been a tight match throughout saw the Dutch finally break the virtual tie at the last gasp to win by 26-13 IMPs, converting to $13.52-6.48 \mathrm{VPs}$. They moved up to sixth, but still too close to ninth for comfort, while Russia slipped to twelfth and would need a big finish over the remaining four rounds if they were to make the knockouts.

BPA Awards

## Just a Child

## (Süleyman Kolata, Istanbul)

At the 20th Iskenderun Bridge Festival Hatay, Turkey, you are playing in the Swiss Teams and hold this hand:

Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

- Q 85
$\checkmark$ A
$\diamond$ J 76543
\& 75
The bidding has gone:

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Tuana | Sinan | Toygar T. | Mehmet Ali |
| Altun | Seyfittinoglu | Altun | Kuru |
| - | - | Pass | 18 |
| Pass | 20 | Pass | 30 |
| Pass | $4 \varnothing$ | Pass | 68 |
| Pass | Pass | Pass |  |

What do you lead?
The killing lead was found by Tuana Altun, an eight-yearold girl playing with her brother, Toygar Tuncay Altun.
Tuana led a club. Then, when she regained the lead with the ace of hearts, she led another club. Her brother ruffed the second club to put the contract one down.
This was the full deal:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \& 972 \\
& \& Q 93 \\
& \diamond \text { AK Q } \\
& \& \text { Q } 1086
\end{aligned}
$$



That represented an II-IMP gain for their team. As a consequence, this win made them the leader of our U-16 teams. Twenty-three of 31 tables made six hearts.
When her dad asked Tuana about her lead and continuation of a club after winning with her ace of hearts, Tuana replied:"I knew from the bidding that the opponents held a lot of clubs. I thought my partner was likely to ruff the first trick. He did not ruff the first trick, but I was sure he was going to ruff on the second round, so I played another club without hesitation."

## Hengtong WYBTC Round 9 U-2 I, FRA v FIN (Kees Tammens, Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Christophe Oursel, the French coach and a strong player himself, reported a pretty coup executed by Aleksi Aalto of the Finnish Youngsters team. It is sure to be on the shortlist for 'Best Defensive Play'

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

- K 108
$\bigcirc 76$
$\diamond$ K Q J 4
\& AK 75
A 3
$\vee Q 83$
$\diamond 9532$
+11093

|  | - J 6 |
| :---: | :---: |
| N | -KJ952 |
| W E | $\diamond$ A 1087 |
| S | - $\mathrm{Q}^{6}$ |
| - Q 97542 |  |
| $\bigcirc$ A 104 |  |
| $\checkmark 6$ |  |
| + 842 |  |


| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sammalisto | Fragola | Aalto | Dufrene |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| Pass | 1\% | Pass | 14 |
| Pass | INT ${ }^{1}$ | Pass | $2{ }^{2}$ |
| Pass | 24 | Pass | 31 |
| Pass | 4 | Pass | Pass |
| Pass |  |  |  |
| I. 15-17 |  |  |  |
| 2. Check | back Stayn |  |  |

West led the jack of clubs. Declarer won with the ace and continued with the queen of diamonds to the ace, followed by the queen of clubs to the king. Declarer disposed of his losing club on the king of diamonds and carried on with a low spade to the queen and ace. West played the ten of clubs, North following suit, and East ... ?
Without any hesitation, Aalto discarded a heart! If he had ruffed, the deal would have been over. A losing heart would have disappeared on that trick and the other heart would have gone on the jack of diamonds. However, after Aalto's defence, declarer had a tricky decision in the trump suit. When he played a spade to the ten, East made his trump trick after all, with a heart still to come, for down one.
That defence won Finland 12 IMPs when four hearts, declared by North at the other table after a one notrump opening bid, came home on the jack-of-spades lead from East.

## Venit, vidit, vincit' <br> (Kees Tammens, Amsterdam)

On the following deal, Julien Bernard of France found an excellent defence to defeat a four-heart game contract.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.


Bernard, West, led his singleton club. Declarer took the ace of clubs and three top spades to dispose of the two clubs from South. Declarer had arrived at an interesting moment - should he play a diamond from dummy to the king, or the jack of spades to see what happens? The latter was the winning move: East ruffs with the ten of hearts and South overruffs with the jack and plays the ace and queen of hearts for the loss of just one trump trick and two diamonds. In real life, declarer played a diamond to his king; West won with the ace and crossed to East's queen of diamonds for a club play. Declarer ruffed with the nine of hearts and West rightfully discarded a diamond. Declarer played the ace and queen of hearts to West's king. Bernard exited with his last spade, and when East was able to produce the ten of hearts, that card uppercut the jack of hearts to promote the eight in West for down one.

Ist European Mixed Team Championship
Round 17 Bulgaria v. Sweden
(Mark Horton, Shrewsbury, Shrops., U.K.)
Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

- 8

Q Q 952
$\diamond 964$
\& 1964



Two spades accepted the spade transfer and showed a balanced hand in context. A series of natural bids at the three level, control-bids at the four level and Roman Key Card Blackwood led to the superior slam.
South led the ten of hearts. Declarer won with dummy's ace, overtook the jack of diamonds with the queen and played the two of spades. When South followed with the three, declarer put in dummy's nine(!) and had 12 tricks. This was the only table where a slam was made. I daresay that, at the other tables, declarer started with two rounds of spades, intending to claim as long as the suit was no worse than 4-2, and then fell back on a 3-3 club break. That was probably declarer's intention here, but I am informed that she noticed an almost imperceptible flicker when she played the spade. Even had the nine of spades lost to the ten or jack, Clementsson would have been no worse off than the other declarers.
At the other table, declarer won the heart lead, cashed the ace of spades and led another, getting the bad news; minus 100 and minus 17 IMPs.


## 2019 Memphis Spring NABC <br> Hurts So Good <br> (John Hurd, New York, NY, USA)

Although it is always nice to be able to have played the deals where the great plays occur, sometimes you can receive more of a challenge when you don't know the deals. Take this board from the final of the Platinum Pairs...

Board 8. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

- A Q 83
- J 52
$\diamond$ K Q 43
- A 10


410
ค K 10876
$\diamond$ A 1076
\& K 7
Here, you reach four hearts from the South seat:

| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - | - | Pass | 18 |
| Pass | 20 | Pass | $2 \diamond$ |
| Pass | 2 | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 3 | Pass | 38 |
| Pass | 34 | Pass | 3NT |
| Pass | $4 \bigcirc$ | Pass | Pass |

Pass
South showed his $2=5=4=2$ shape and admitted that he would cooperate with a slam venture over three spades, rejected by North. As declarer, you win the club lead in dummy and have to decide how to play trumps. At the table, declarer, Hurd, led a low heart from the board, took the queen with the king, then ran the eight of hearts. This was the full deal:

|  | - A Q 83 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | ¢J5 2 |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ K Q 43 |  |
|  | - A 10 |  |
| - K 9764 | N | - 52 |
| $\bigcirc 43$ |  | $\bigcirc$ A Q 9 |
| $\checkmark 985$ | W E | $\checkmark \mathrm{J} 2$ |
| -943 | S | \& QJ8652 |
|  | - J 10 |  |
|  | ¢ K 10876 |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ A 1076 |  |
|  | ¢ K 7 |  |

When Kevin Rosenberg made the nine, he not only had a brilliancy prize entry, but the admiration of his opponents, Hurd and Jeff Meckstroth, and partner David Gold!

## The Most Famous Guy of All (Aarnout Helmich, Rotterdam, Netherlands)

Perhaps the best-known player in the tournament is the Dutch junior, Guillermo Pedro Herman Maria Mendes de León, Guy to his friends.
The Dutch Junior team had an excellent first day of the tournament. The following board contributed to their success. At most tables, the bidding went Pass-Pass-One Club-Pass-One Heart-Pass-Two Notrump-Pass-Three Notrump-All Pass. No West could find any other bid than three notrump, because three clubs wouldn't have been natural. However, Mendes and his partner Thibo Sprinkhausen showed that, with some esoteric agreements, bidding slams can be much easier.

Round 5. Board I2. Dealer West. NS Vul.

- QJ 8
- 754
$\diamond$ Q 8754
- 84


Mendes knew it would be an excellent grand, as he could ruff dummy's heart losers in hand. A well-deserved 14 IMPs to the Netherlands when the other table ended up in three notrump.

# IBPA Awards Shortlist - Defence 

## Championship Defence

## Ostend Redux

## (Marek Wójcicki, Nienadowa, Poland)

In the European Team Championships Women's series, from the Poland-Italy match, Justyna Zmuda was sitting East with: AQ1053 $\vee$ K8 $\triangleleft$ A876 97
With both sides vulnerable, the bidding went ...

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Dufrat | Pomares | Zmuda | Campagnano |
| Pass | INT | Pass | $2 \diamond$ |
| Double | $2 \searrow$ | $2 \downarrow$ | $4\rangle$ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass |  |

After a I5-I7 notrump and transfer, Zmuda led the diamond ace. This is what she saw (hands rotated):


On the diamond ace, the nine appeared from partner and the two from declarer. What next?
Except for diamond honours, partner has at most a jack. Thus, there is no hope for a trick in clubs. The only chance was in trumps. Zmuda found the only defence to defeat four hearts.
Zmuda cashed the spade ace (Dufrat followed with the four, upside-down signals) and continued with another spade (eight from Dufrat). When declarer took the second spade in hand with the jack and played the ace of trumps and another, Zmuda won with her king and played one more spade, promoting a trick for the trump jack and setting the contract.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

- KJ 976
-A 4
$\diamond$ J 32
- AK5

| - 84 | N | . A Q 1053 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ¢ J 109 |  | $\bigcirc \mathrm{K} 8$ |
| $\checkmark$ K 10954 | W E | $\checkmark$ A 876 |
| \& 1043 | S | -97 |
|  | - 2 |  |
|  | QQ76532 |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ Q |  |
|  | QJ862 |  |

It was the only table in the Women's series where the contract was set. In the Open and Senior series, the fourheart contract was set only a few times.

## 2018 NABC Life Master Pairs <br> A Club Tale ... <br> (Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW, Australia)

The timing of the Australian Nationals (July 28 - August 9) clashed with the World Youth Teams (August 8-18) and the USA Summer Nationals in Atlanta (July 26-August 5). Liam Milne of Sydney contested the USA Life Master Pairs, an event of three days duration. He partnered Eivind Grude, a 27-year old Norwegian and an Under-26 world champion. They finished thirteenth out of a field of 336 pairs. This deal from the final was one of their triumphs:

Dealer West. EW Vul.


With South prepared for a spade lead,West chose the ten of diamonds for the opening lead. East took the ace and returned the jack. After a little thought, South played low and West followed with the nine. If West had started with the king-ten-nine-to-five diamonds and a certain entry, such as the ace of clubs, West would have followed with a low card at trick two to encourage East to continue the suit.
The diamond nine therefore denied such a holding. East interpreted the message correctly. Logically, the diamond nine must be simultaneously discouraging and showing tolerance for a shift. South's choice of three notrump was also revealing. Would South have bid three notrump without the ace of clubs? As a spade was out of contention, East switched to a club. Not the two or the ten, which would have been fatal, but the king!
South took the ace of clubs, cashed the king of diamonds and ran dummy's hearts. The first three discards for East and West were three spades each. On the last heart, East discarded the ten of clubs, and West the 'five of clubs. Thinking that East had started with the king-queen-ten and had been strip-squeezed down to the spade king-ten and
the club queen, declarer exited with the two of clubs from dummy, expecting to endplay East. West promptly claimed the last three tricks for one down.
East/West's plus 50 scored $99 \%$ for a shared top. East/West minus 400 for three notrump making would have been an average board.

## IIth Rosenblum Cup Quarterfinal Stanza 2 CHAGAS v LAVAZZA

## (Ana Roth, Buenos Aires, Argentina)

The LAVAZZA versus CHAGAS match was dramatic until the last board. In the end, LAVAZZA won by 6 IMPs and made their way to the semifinals. At one of the tables, the Italian team was represented by Dennis Bilde/Giorgio Duboin as North/South while for the CHAGAS team, Marcos Thoma sat West and Pablo Ravenna East.
The following board saw an excellent defence by Ravenna that managed to fool the declarer into going down in a cold contract.

Board 52. Dealer West. Neither Vul.


Ravenna led the ace of clubs.After winning the first trick, East shifted to a trump to stop declarer's potential heart ruffs. Looking at dummy's nine-eight of spades, he led the two so that declarer could not develop a late entry to the table with the nine of spades. Bilde played the eight of spades, Thoma the queen, and declarer won with his trump ace.
The BBO commentators thought that it looked like minus 590 at this point. However, Bilde continued with a club and Ravenna discarded the eight of hearts. He was still thinking about denying declarer the nine of spades as an entry to the clubs in dummy. Declarer won the trick with the king of clubs. At that point, Bilde believed that Thoma had both of the remaining trumps.
Declarer played another club and, after this play, he could no longer make the contract. When Bilde played dummy's
six of clubs, Thoma played his queen, Bilde ruffed with the seven of spades and Ravenna discarded another heart. Declarer continued with the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart in dummy, and played a club. Thoma ruffed with his four of spades and Bilde threw his last heart loser. Ravenna pitched his last heart too. Thoma returned the king of hearts; Bilde ruffed with the six of spades, but Ravenna now over-ruffed and the diamond trick to come meant one off. That was fantastic defence. Bravo!
Double dummy, there is no legitimate way to beat four spades. After the ace of clubs lead and, say, a spade shift, declarer utilizes the bidding to deduce that West holds all the red high cards and draws trumps, squeeze-endplaying him.

## 2018 Chinese Premier League Final (Jerry Li, Beijing, China)

In the Hengzhou Jinrongjia vs. ORG match, at one table, the Hengzhou team's East/West pair were in three notrump by East. South led the three of spades to the jack and queen. North continued with the six of spades to the nine and king. Declarer played a diamond to the ace and set up his club trick with the king of clubs to North's ace. The defence cashed their spades. Declarer won the club shift and cashed the king of diamonds. When they were 2-2, he had nine tricks. Had the diamonds not broken, declarer had planned to take the heart finesse for the contract. That was plus 600 to Hengzhou.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

|  | ¢ Q 1086 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\bigcirc$ Q 8 |  |  |
|  | $\checkmark 74$ |  |  |
|  | \& AJ975 |  |  |
| ¢ K J 2 | N |  |  |
| $\bigcirc$ AKJ 94 |  |  | 02 |
| $\diamond 9853$ |  | E | KJ 62 |
| ¢ 8 |  |  | Q 63 |
|  | ¢ A 943 |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc 7653$ |  |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ Q 10 |  |  |
|  | ¢ 1042 |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Demuy | Bessis | Kranyak | Lorenzini |
| - | - | $1 \diamond$ | Pass |
| 18 | Pass | 2\% | Pass |
| 2 | Pass | 3\% | Pass |
| $3 \checkmark$ | Pass | 3 | Pass |
| $4 \bigcirc$ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

In this room, Thomas Bessis executed an excellent defence. He led the seven of diamonds. Demuy won with the ace and ran the heart ten to North. Bessis ducked this card very smoothly. Demuy continued with another heart to the jack and queen. Now Bessis shifted to the eight of spades, won by Lorenzini's (South's) ace. Lorenzini
continued with spades. From Demuy's point view, it appeared that diamonds were 3-I with the queen offside, so he needed spades and clubs to be good for him, but when Demuy chose to finesse the spade jack, the contract went down.
Bessis's defence was very beautiful: duck the heart, erase the dummy's ruffing value, then shift to spades, attacking declarer's weakness.
Well done by Bessis!

## USBF Trials for USA2

(Suzi Subeck, Chicago, IL, USA)
Round Robin Match I,Wolfson v. Lo


| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Wildavsky | Garner | Doub | Wolfson |
| - | - | Pass | INT |
| Pass | $2 \boldsymbol{2}$ | Pass | $2 \triangleleft$ |
| Pass | $3 N T$ | Pass | Pass |

Pass
Adam Wildavsky led the seven of spades to the four, ten and declarer's ace. Declarer played a club to the ace and a club to the jack and West's queen. Doug Doub, East, followed with the four-two of clubs, a Hawk Echo, showing an even number of spades remaining. It looked as though declarer had nine tricks on passive defence, so West switched to the ten of hearts. Declarer covered with the jack, forcing Doub's ace. He returned the three of hearts. Declarer did well to go up with the king but Wildavsky unblocked the queen to prevent declarer from ducking a spade to East's queen.
Declarer instead played a diamond to the ace, cashed the king of clubs, and led a diamond to the ten and cashed the king as Doub pitched two winning clubs. Declarer exited from dummy with a heart, which Doub ducked to Wildavsky's eight so that West could lead a spade through. Down one.

## USBF Trials for USA2

## Semifinals, Segment I, Fleisher v. Kriegel (Suzi Subeck, Chicago, IL, USA)

Board 7. Dealer East. Both Vul.


Both Wests led a fourth-best spade. Both declarers ducked in dummy and both Easts won with the king. In the Open Room, Hampson continued spades and Kriegel won with his jack. Declarer played a club toward the ten, West ducking. A club to the queen followed, Greco winning with his king. Greco played another spade to the queen in dummy. Kriegel cashed the ace of spades, played the king of hearts and the jack of hearts to the ace. He cashed the clubs and made nine tricks, plus 600.
In the Closed Room, Diamond won the opening spade lead with his king and found the critical switch... Diamond switched to diamonds! His five of diamonds rode to Platnick's queen, ducked in dummy to isolate the suit if the diamonds were 5-2 and the king of clubs was offside. (If diamonds were 4-3 with the ace-ten-fourth in East there was nothing to be done.) Platnick continued diamonds to the jack and ace, and the ten of diamonds went to the king. Moss played a spade to his jack. He tested hearts by cashing the ace and leading to the king. When the queen didn't drop, he took his high spades and finessed for the king of clubs. When Platnick won, he was able to cash his remaining diamond for down one. It was very disappointing to Moss to find the thirteenth diamond with West. Twelve IMPs to Kriegel. Well-played and well-defended.
Double-dummy, Moss could have succeeded by winning the first diamond and taking an immediate club finesse without cashing two hearts.

## The Shoe Is on the Other Foot (Anant Bhagwat, Thane, Maharashtra, India)

This bewitching deal came up in the Otters Club State Level tournament in Mumbai.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

, -
81964
$\diamond 1098532$

- $\mathrm{A} J 2$



At some tables, South led the jack of spades. East won with his ace and immediately played back the nine of spades. South covered with the ten and dummy won. Now East made sure of his ninth trick by playing a heart from
dummy towards his king. Later, declarer finessed the seven of spades. The defence could take three clubs and the ace of hearts, but that was all. Nobody noticed anything amiss in the defence and they happily proceeded to the next deal.
At another table, South found the potentially effective lead of a low club. North won and, in spite of knowing declarer had four hearts, shifted to the four of hearts. When declarer played low from hand to ensure two heart tricks, it was all over bar the shouting.
At one table though, the defenders were wide awake. They were Ajay Khare and Raju Tolani, bronze medallists in the Ist Asian Games Bridge Championship. Khare knew dummy had four cards in spades, so it was pointless to lead the spade jack. He also noted that declarer had four cards in hearts. That left only the club suit, so Khare led the six of clubs. Tolani, North, won with the ace and played back the two of clubs, dropping declarer's queen.
Now Ajay Khare paused for thought. And he found the deadly shift to the seven of hearts; dummy played the eight, Tolani the nine, and declarer won with his king. When declarer cashed the ace of spades and North discarded, East had to resort to the club suit for his ninth trick. He travelled to dummy with the king of diamonds and played a club. Tolani won with his jack and played the jack of hearts. Declarer covered and Khare won.Then, because of the farsighted unblock of the seven of hearts, Khare was able to lead the five of hearts to partner's six. The four of hearts brought the three from declarer to take the contract two down.
It was a perfect defensive intra-finesse, normally considered to be a prerogative of the declarer.


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

## RESULTS

## Bermuda Bowl

| Round 19 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Match |  | IMPs |  | VPs |  |
| SWEDEN | CHILE | 43 | 20 | 15.56 | 4.44 |
| USA I | NORWAY | 3 | 54 | 0.75 | 19.25 |
| ISRAEL | INDIA | 42 | 38 | 11.20 | 8.80 |
| CHINA | GUADELOUPE | 68 | 19 | 19.07 | 0.93 |
| CHINA HONG KONG | NEW ZEALAND | 6 | 24 | 5.40 | 14.60 |
| NETHERLANDS | CANADA | 34 | 25 | 12.55 | 7.45 |
| USA 2 | MOROCCO | 59 | 17 | 18.33 | 1.67 |
| INDONESIA | SINGAPORE | 19 | 61 | 1.67 | 18.33 |
| EGYPT | ITALY | 1 | 40 | 2.03 | 17.97 |
| ENGLAND | BANGLADESH | 41 | 25 | 14.18 | 5.82 |
| AUSTRALIA | ARGENTINA | 38 | 28 | 12.80 | 7.20 |
| RUSSIA | POLAND | 22 | 42 | 5.00 | 15.00 |


| Round 20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Match | IMPs |  | VPs |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CHILE | CHINA | 14 | 57 | 1.56 | 18.44 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| INDONESIA | CHINA HONG KONG | 20 | 28 | 7.71 | 12.29 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| EGYPT | RUSSIA | 34 | 45 | 6.96 | 13.04 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| GUADELOUPE | USA 2 | 33 | 20 | 13.52 | 6.48 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| AUSTRALIA | NETHERLANDS | 27 | 25 | 10.61 | 9.39 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ITALY | POLAND | 43 | 52 | 7.45 | 12.55 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MOROCCO | ENGLAND | 15 | 73 | 0.15 | 19.85 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| INDIA | NORWAY | 10 | 45 | 2.55 | 17.45 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CANADA | ARGENTINA | 46 | 14 | 17.03 | 2.97 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| BANGLADESH | SWEDEN | 8 | 46 | 2.15 | 17.85 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SINGAPORE | NEW ZEALAND | 33 | 46 | 6.48 | 13.52 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| USA I | ISRAEL | 20 | 25 | 8.52 | 11.48 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Venice Cup

| Round 19 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Match |  | IMPs |  | VPs |  |
| CHINA HONG KONG | TUNISIA | 53 | 37 | 13.68 | 5.32 |
| CHINESE TAIPEI | TRINIDAD \& TOBAGO | 51 | 23 | 16.42 | 3.58 |
| SOUTH AFRICA | PAKISTAN | 20 | 18 | 10.61 | 9.39 |
| SWEDEN | USA 2 | 31 | 17 | 13.75 | 6.25 |
| DENMARK | CANADA | 43 | 27 | 14.18 | 5.82 |
| NORWAY | USA I | 33 | 37 | 8.80 | 11.20 |
| NEW ZEALAND | POLAND | 15 | 27 | 6.72 | 13.28 |
| RUSSIA | NETHERLANDS | 13 | 26 | 6.48 | 13.52 |
| JAPAN | ENGLAND | 47 | 18 | 16.58 | 3.42 |
| SCOTLAND | FRANCE | 31 | 18 | 13.52 | 6.48 |
| CHINA | AUSTRALIA | 54 | 15 | 17.97 | 2.03 |
| INDIA | BRAZIL | 21 | 21 | 10.00 | 10.00 |


| Round 20 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Match |  | IMPs |  | VPs |  |
| CHINESE TAIPEI | CHINA HONG KONG | 19 | 60 | 1.79 | 18.21 |
| SOUTH AFRICA | TUNISIA | 34 | 24 | 12.80 | 7.20 |
| PAKISTAN | TRINIDAD \& TOBAGO | 46 | 29 | 14.39 | 5.61 |
| SWEDEN | NEW ZEALAND | 63 | 25 | 17.85 | 2.15 |
| SCOTLAND | USA 2 | 20 | 40 | 5.00 | 15.00 |
| POLAND | FRANCE | 3 | 40 | 2.28 | 17.72 |
| DENMARK | RUSSIA | 38 | 39 | 9.69 | 10.31 |
| CHINA | CANADA | 19 | 16 | 10.91 | 9.09 |
| NETHERLANDS | AUSTRALIA | 37 | 25 | 13.28 | 6.72 |
| NORWAY | JAPAN | 50 | 23 | 16.26 | 3.74 |
| INDIA | USA I | 26 | 52 | 3.91 | 16.09 |
| ENGLAND | BRAZIL | 34 | 12 | 15.38 | 4.62 |


| RoUnd 21 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Match | IMPs |  | VPs |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| BANGLADESH | MOROCCO | 30 | 25 | 11.48 | 8.52 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CHILE | GUADELOUPE | 31 | 19 | 13.28 | 6.72 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SINGAPORE | NORWAY | 24 | 62 | 2.15 | 17.85 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ARGENTINA | NEW ZEALAND | 13 | 48 | 2.55 | 17.45 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ENGLAND | SWEDEN | 15 | 54 | 2.03 | 17.97 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| RUSSIA | USA I | 37 | 37 | 10.00 | 10.00 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| POLAND | ISRAEL | 14 | 41 | 3.74 | 16.26 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CHINA HONG KONG | AUSTRALIA | 23 | 41 | 5.40 | 14.60 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NETHERLANDS | ITALY | 40 | 27 | 13.52 | 6.48 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CHINA | USA 2 | 33 | 6 | 16.26 | 3.74 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| INDONESIA | INDIA | 30 | 54 | 4.26 | 15.74 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| EGYPT | CANADA | 31 | 37 | 8.24 | 11.76 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |


| Round 21 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Match |  | IMPs |  | VPs |  |
| CHINA HONG KONG | SOUTH AFRICA | 40 | 18 | 15.38 | 4.62 |
| PAKISTAN | CHINESE TAIPEI | 14 | 77 | 0.00 | 20.00 |
| TRINIDAD \& TOBAGO | TUNISIA | 22 | 31 | 7.45 | 12.55 |
| FRANCE | SWEDEN | 27 | 29 | 9.39 | 10.61 |
| NEW ZEALAND | SCOTLAND | 27 | 33 | 8.24 | 11.76 |
| USA 2 | POLAND | 31 | 21 | 12.80 | 7.20 |
| AUSTRALIA | DENMARK | 36 | 43 | 7.97 | 12.03 |
| RUSSIA | CHINA | 17 | 26 | 7.45 | 12.55 |
| CANADA | NETHERLANDS | 15 | 17 | 9.39 | 10.61 |
| BRAZIL | NORWAY | 19 | 48 | 3.42 | 16.58 |
| JAPAN | INDIA | 40 | 31 | 12.55 | 7.45 |
| USA I | ENGLAND | 43 | 13 | 16.73 | 3.27 |

# d＇Orsi Trophy 

| Round 9 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Match |  | IMPs |  | VPs |  |
| USA 2 | INDIA | 46 | 28 | 14.60 | 5.40 |
| NETHERLANDS | UAE． | 26 | 12 | 13.75 | 6.25 |
| REUNION | DENMARK | 14 | 37 | 4.44 | 15.56 |
| JAPAN | CHINESE TAIPEI | 31 | 24 | 12.03 | 7.47 |
| CHINA HONG KONG | TURKEY | 9 | 63 | 0.48 | 19.52 |
| NORWAY | FRANCE | 37 | 27 | 12.80 | 7.20 |
| CANADA | INDONESIA | 39 | 9 | 16.73 | 3.27 |
| AUSTRALIA | ENGLAND | 15 | 41 | 3.91 | 16.09 |
| USA I | SWEDEN | 32 | 33 | 9.69 | 10.31 |
| POLAND | ITALY | 37 | 45 | 7.71 | 12.29 |
| BULGARIA | IRELAND | 9 | 26 | 5.61 | 14.39 |
| CHINA | NEW ZEALAND | 26 | 48 | 3.72 | 14.78 |


| Round 20 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Match |  | IMPs |  | VPs |  |
| USA 2 | NEW ZEALAND | 86 | 4 | 20.00 | 0.00 |
| NETHERLANDS | CHINESE TAIPEI | 59 | 29 | 16.73 | 3.27 |
| REUNION | TURKEY | 54 | 28 | 16.09 | 3.91 |
| DENMARK | FRANCE | 19 | 17 | 10.61 | 9.39 |
| UAE | INDONESIA | 42 | 19 | 15.56 | 4.44 |
| INDIA | ENGLAND | 39 | 28 | 12.79 | 6.96 |
| JAPAN | SWEDEN | 23 | 42 | 5.20 | 14.80 |
| CHINA HONG KONG | ITALY | 34 | 37 | 9.09 | 10.91 |
| NORWAY | IRELAND | 53 | 34 | 14.80 | 5.20 |
| CANADA | CHINA | 38 | 69 | 3.12 | 16.88 |
| AUSTRALIA | BULGARIA | 26 | 22 | 11.20 | 8.80 |
| USA I | POLAND | 28 | 40 | 6.72 | 13.28 |


| ROUnd 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Match | IMPs |  | VPs |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| USA 2 | IRELAND | 15 | 18 | 9.09 | 10.91 |  |  |  |  |  |
| NETHERLANDS | CHINA | 20 | 25 | 8.52 | 11.48 |  |  |  |  |  |
| REUNION | BULGARIA | 20 | 29 | 7.45 | 12.55 |  |  |  |  |  |
| DENMARK | POLAND | 19 | 49 | 3.27 | 16.73 |  |  |  |  |  |
| U．A．E． | USA I | 1 | 55 | 0.48 | 19.52 |  |  |  |  |  |
| INDIA | AUSTRALIA | 19 | 17 | 10.61 | 9.39 |  |  |  |  |  |
| JAPAN | CANADA | 7 | 27 | 5.00 | 15.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| CHINA HONG KONG | NORWAY | 24 | 30 | 8.24 | 11.76 |  |  |  |  |  |
| ITALY | CHINESE TAIPEI | 25 | 14 | 13.04 | 6.96 |  |  |  |  |  |
| SWEDEN | TURKEY | 22 | 24 | 9.39 | 10.61 |  |  |  |  |  |
| ENGLAND | FRANCE | 15 | 38 | 4.44 | 15.56 |  |  |  |  |  |
| INDONESIA | NEW ZEALAND | 39 | 27 | 13.28 | 6.72 |  |  |  |  |  |

## Mixed

| Round 19 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Match |  | IMPs |  | VPs |  |
| CHINESE TAIPEI | ENGLAND | 35 | 54 | 5.20 | 14.80 |
| SWEDEN | DENMARK | 35 | 36 | 9.69 | 10.31 |
| INDONESIA | INDIA | 31 | 26 | 11.48 | 8.52 |
| MOROCCO | LATVIA | 0 | 85 | 0.00 | 20.00 |
| RUSSIA | BRAZIL | 46 | 17 | 16.58 | 3.42 |
| ITALY | CANADA | 41 | 22 | 14.80 | 5.20 |
| POLAND | ROMANIA | 26 | 15 | 13.04 | 6.96 |
| EGYPT | USA 2 | 31 | 19 | 13.28 | 6.72 |
| PAKISTAN | CHINA | 11 | 49 | 2.15 | 17.85 |
| THAILAND | BARBADOS | 83 | 16 | 20.00 | 0.00 |
| AUSTRALIA | FRANCE | 45 | 29 | 14.18 | 5.82 |
| NEW ZEALAND | USA I | 33 | 27 | 11.76 | 8.24 |


| MoUnd 20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Latch | IMPs |  |  |  |  |  |  | VPs |  |
| LATVIA | CHINESE TAIPEI | 23 | 75 | 0.66 | 19.34 |  |  |  |  |
| BRAZIL | ENGLAND | 30 | 24 | 11.76 | 8.24 |  |  |  |  |
| CANADA | SWEDEN | 72 | 29 | 18.44 | 1.56 |  |  |  |  |
| ROMANIA | INDONESIA | 37 | 17 | 15.00 | 5.00 |  |  |  |  |
| USA 2 | MOROCCO | 64 | 25 | 17.97 | 2.03 |  |  |  |  |
| CHINA | RUSSIA | 27 | 43 | 5.82 | 14.18 |  |  |  |  |
| BARBADOS | ITALY | 6 | 82 | 0.00 | 20.00 |  |  |  |  |
| FRANCE | POLAND | 39 | 43 | 8.80 | 11.20 |  |  |  |  |
| NEW ZEALAND | EGYPT | 22 | 27 | 8.52 | 11.48 |  |  |  |  |
| AUSTRALIA | PAKISTAN | 49 | 33 | 14.18 | 5.57 |  |  |  |  |
| USA I | THAILAND | 61 | 18 | 18.44 | 1.56 |  |  |  |  |
| DENMARK | INDIA | 36 | 49 | 6.48 | 13.52 |  |  |  |  |


| Round 2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Match |  | IMPs |  | VPs |  |
| MOROCCO | CHINESE TAIPEI | 17 | 61 | 1.45 | 18.55 |
| INDONESIA | ENGLAND | 23 | 20 | 10.91 | 9.09 |
| USA I | SWEDEN | 20 | 33 | 6.48 | 13.52 |
| DENMARK | RUSSIA | 20 | 26 | 8.24 | 11.76 |
| INDIA | ITALY | 36 | 30 | 11.76 | 8.24 |
| LATVIA | POLAND | 35 | 33 | 10.61 | 9.39 |
| BRAZIL | EGYPT | 37 | 46 | 5.45 | 12.55 |
| CANADA | PAKISTAN | 54 | 32 | 15.38 | 4.62 |
| ROMANIA | THAILAND | 33 | 31 | 10.61 | 9.39 |
| USA 2 | AUSTRALIA | 30 | 32 | 9.39 | 10.61 |
| CHINA | NEW ZEALAND | 38 | 16 | 15.38 | 4.62 |
| BARBADOS | FRANCE | 18 | 44 | 3.91 | 16.09 | china railway major bridge engineering group co．，LTD





[^0]:    "Bridge for Peace" enjoyable it can be.

