

Issue No. 13 Friday, 27th September 2019

EIGHT DIFFERENT NBOS IN FINALS

Seven finalists were known with many boards to spare: Netherlands, Poland, China, Sweden, England, Denmark and USAI.

The eighth semi-final was a close match between **Russia** and **Romania** in the Wuhan Cup.

The match ended in a tie, which meant that **Russia** moves on to the final on the basis of having won their direct match in the Round Robin.

Press Conference

The joint Press Conference of WBF and CCBA will be held **today at 9.00** in the YOU HAO PALACE

at the 3rd floor (escalator down from Registration/Hospitality area).

All journalists and players with great interest are requested to attend the conference. Please do arrive well before the indicated hour.

Today's Programme			
BB,VC, DT, MT	Transnational	Wuhan Grand Prix	
Finals, Play-offs	Quarter-finals		
10.00 - 12.20	10.00 - 12.00	SI 10.00	
13.30 - 15.50	12.20 - 14.20	S2 13.30	
	Semi-finals		
16.30 - 18.50	15.20 - 17.20	S3 16.30	
	17.40 - 19.40	afterwards Prize Giving	
	ı	i iize Giving	

10.00			
BB	Poland - Netherlands	VG/BBO1	
BB	Norway - USA I	BBO 2	
VC	England - Netherlands	BBO 3	
VC	China - Sweden	BBO 4	
SD	England - Denmark	BBO 5	
SD	India - Netherlands	BBO 6	
MX	USA I - Russia	BBO 7	
MX	England - Romania	BBO 8	
TR	Zhejiangqiantang - Poland Seniors	BBO 13	
TR	Millens - Shanghailvcheng	BBO 15	
other stanzas			

to be decided



The winners of today's Wuhan Grand Prix, team ONE ESSENTIAL OF RED (Junqiang Cai, Wenshu Zhang, Xiaodong Fang, Dawei Jiang, Shurong Yu) with Sevinç Atay and Mr Yang Haihong, Assistant of General Manager of Hubei Shihua Wine Company

If you have left your mobile phone at the Hospitality Desk during play, please make sure you collect it as soon as possible after the last round! Otherwise, you risk it being retained overnight!



Wuhan Grand Prix

Teams who did not qualify for the knockout phase of the Transnationals can play in the **Wuhan Grand Prix** today. You can play in this Board-a-Match event. Register online or at the Hospitality Desk.

If you are not changing the roster, the hospitality desk is your best option. There is no entry fee, provided you have played in the Transnational Teams.

The prize-giving for today's event will take place in the playing area as soon as play has finished.

Closing Ceremony

The prize giving and closing ceremony will take place in the playing area (Changjiang Hall) on Saturday 28 September at 19.30, followed by a Buffet dinner in the Golden Ballroom on the 5th floor (the venue for the opening ceremony). If you are planning to attend **you must inform the Hospitality Desk,** and **collect your invitation**, otherwise you risk not being admitted.

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The WBF in social media You can follow us on: World Bridge Federation Worldbridgefederation WBF Official

www.worldbridge.org

A hearty Thank You!

On behalf of the International Bridge Press Association and the assembled journalists in Wuhan, I would like to offer my thanks to the CCBA and the local Organizing Committee for the generous buffet followed by the drama and light show in the harbour.



As someone who has spent much of his time in the hotel or Press Room, I had no idea of the spectacular opportunities available at night

on the river to admire the coordinated electronic display on the buildings. Having seen Las Vegas and Shanghai I can confidently say they have nothing compared to what can be seen here.



Barry Rigal President IBPA

Videos

















Championship offer

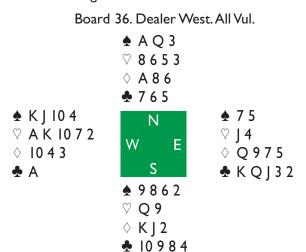
The new dealing machines that are [only] used during the championships will be sold at the end for **EUR 2299**. Price incl. aluminium carrying case and five years warranty. Cards and boards are also sold at special prices. Shipping at subsidised rates from Sweden. See the Duplimate stand or email anna@jannersten.com



Squeezed in Three Suits

by Brian Senior

The youngest member of the Swedish Venice Cup squad, Sanna Clementsson, brought off a nice squeeze and endplay during the third session of her team's comfortable semifinal win over England. This was the deal:



West	North	East	South
Ovelius	Senior	Clementsson	Dhondy
ΙŸ	Pass	INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Two Clubs was Gazzilli, clubs or 16+, with 20 showing game values facing the strong variety and the rest of the auction natural.

Heather Dhondy led the ten of clubs, Nevena Senior playing a discouraging seven. Now, according to the BBO

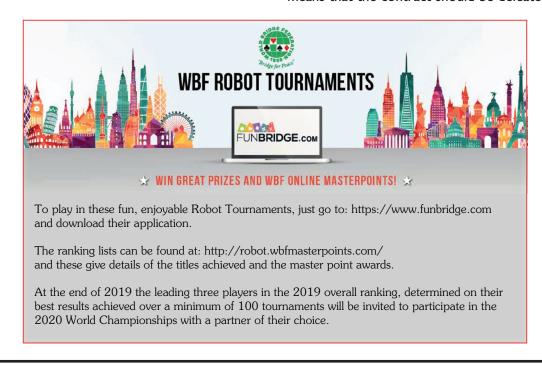
record, declarer won the ace of clubs and led the ten of diamonds at trick two, with Senior shooting up with the ace to lead a club through. Even with the heart onside, there were only eight tricks so the contract was one down.

However, the BBO record is actually a complete fantasy, and the actual play was much more interesting. Clementsson did indeed play the ten of diamonds at trick two but Senior did not play the ace. Instead, she played low and Dhondy won the jack. She played a club so declarer was in hand and could cash all four club winners. Clementsson discarded one heart, one spade and two diamonds from dummy, and Senior had a problem. For her last seven cards she needed to keep two spades, four hearts and two diamonds, and even for a double world champion that was not possible. So Senior bared the ace of diamonds to keep both her major-suit guards intact.

Clementsson led the jack of hearts to the queen and ace, cashed the king and ten of hearts, and exited with the fourth heart. Senior could win and cash the ace of diamonds, but then had to lead away from the \$AQ\$ to concede the ninth trick to dummy.

And if Senior had thrown the $\Diamond A$ to keep her small diamond, thereby preserving communications with partner? Then, after leading the jack of hearts to the queen and ace, Clementsson could have played a spade and established her ninth trick in that suit before establishing North's $\nabla 8$ as a winner.

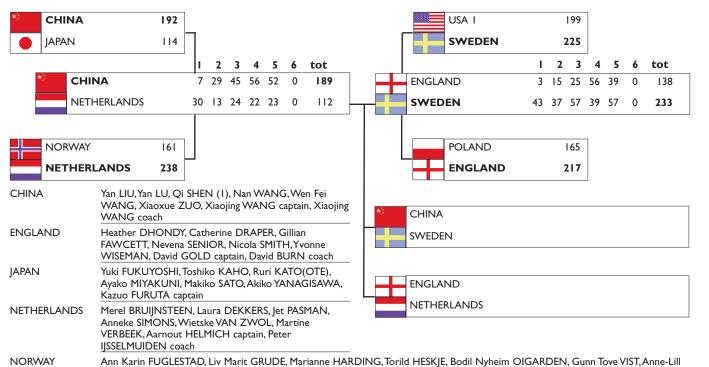
As it turns out, the killing defence was to play as in the fictitious BBO record, rising with the ace of diamonds. Even if the defenders do not immediately cash out their diamond and spade winners, instead playing a club as in real life, the fact that North can keep a small diamond without having to throw away the third defensive diamond winner means that the contract should be defeated.



Bermuda Bowl



Venice Cup



HELLEMANN captain, Jon-Egil FURUNES coach

Cathy BALDYSZ, Sophia BALDYSZ, Katarzyna DUFRAT, Danuta KAZMUCHA, Anna SARNIAK, Justyna ZMUDA, Miroslaw CICHOCKI captain, **POLAND**

Marek WOJCICKI coach

Kathrine BERTHEAU, Sanna CLEMENTSSON, Ida GRONKVIST, Jessica LARSSON, Emma OVELIUS, Cecilia RIMSTEDT, Kenneth BORIN captain, **SWEDEN**

Carina WADEMARK coach

USA I Lynn BAKER, Irina LEVITINA, Karen McCALLUM, Kerri SANBORN, Sylvia SHI, JoAnna STANSBY, Sam DINKIN captain, Beth PALMER coach

d'Orsi Trophy **FRANCE** LISA 2 182 180 **NETHERLANDS** DENMARK 210 181 ī 2 3 5 5 tot 3 4 6 tot **NETHERLANDS** 25 9 72 8 36 168 INDIA 13 40 57 3 154 **ENGLAND** 24 26 27 87 32 49 245 **DENMARK** 38 65 33 12 56 20 224 **ENGLAND** 168 INDIA 170 CHINA **CHINESE TAIPEI** ٧ 167 164 CHINA Yixiong LIANG, Rongqiang LIN, Mingkun SHEN, Xiaonong SHEN, Ming SUN, Jian Hua TAO, Rongqiang LIN captain, **FNGLAND** Jian Hua TAO coach **CHINESE TAIPEI** Chung Mou CHANG, Jen-Chien CHUNG, Patrick K. H. DENMARK HUANG, Chii-Mou LIN, Juei-Yu SHIH, Chen YEH, Shu-Ping YEH TONG captain Knud-Aage BOESGAARD, Soren CHRISTIANSEN, Henrik DENMARK Norman HANSEN, Jorgen Cilleborg HANSEN, Hans INDIA Christian NIELSEN, Steen SCHOU, Bo Loenberg BILDE NETHERLANDS captain **FNGI AND** John HOLLAND, David KENDRICK, Alan MOULD, David MULLER, Malcolm PRYOR, Trevor WARD, David S JONES

FRANCE Michel ABECASSIS, Guy LASSERRE, Michel LEBEL, Alain LEVY, Philippe POIZAT, Philippe SOULET, Eric GAUTRET captain, Solange D'ELBEE

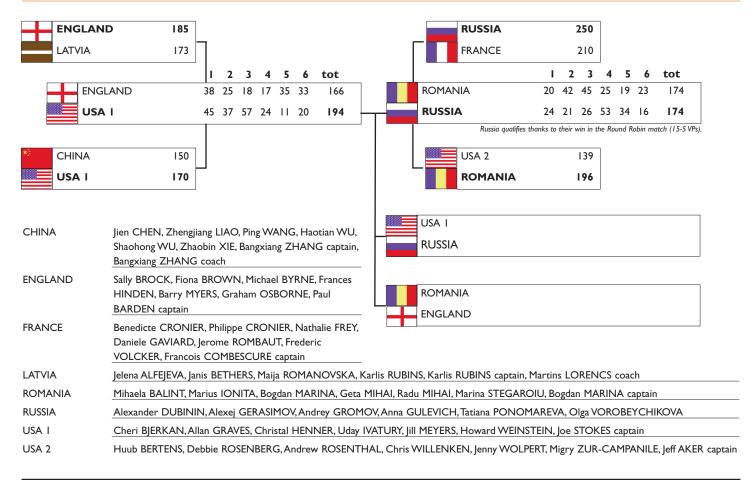
Sukamal DAS, Subhash DHAKRAS, Dipak PODDAR, Subrata SAHA, Jitendra SOLANI, Ramamurthy SRIDHARAN, Vinay DESAI captain, Anal INDIA

SHAH coach

NETHERLANDS Hans DE VRIND, Leo HOFLAND, Andre MULDER, Frans TEN BRINK, Bas VAN DER HOEK, Hans VERGOED, Schelte WIJMA captain USA 2

David BERKOWITZ, Steve GARNER, Mark LAIR, Michael ROSENBERG, Alan SONTAG, Jeff WOLFSON, Lisa BERKOWITZ captain

Wuhan Cup



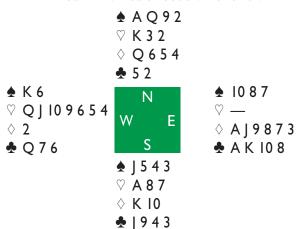
A letter from France

by Ron Tacchi

hose of you who are subscribers to 'A New Bridge Magazine' (What, you are not a subscriber?! Then go immediately to www.newbridgemag.com to register for the FREE bridge magazine.) will know that from time to time I pen 'A Letter From France'. The first half is a small piece on life in rural France compared with that in Perfidious Albion followed by the examination of a hand as I guide a semi-fictitious pupil through the machinations of a real bridge player. I have given him the name Watson because he has been a good student of the French bidding system (SEF) but still needs to progress in his declarer play. The upshot is that he frequently finishes one behind the winner and at the end of every session I take great delight in saying 'Watson second?'

This is a hand from Round 9 of the Round Robin upon which I reported:

Board II. Dealer South. None Vul.



Open & Closed Room

West	North	East	South
_	_	_	Pass
3♡	All Pass		

North led the $\clubsuit5$ to the eight, nine and queen. Declarer played the $\heartsuit9$ from hand, which South took with her ace before continuing with a small spade. West's king lost to the ace and the $\clubsuit2$ was returned by North, taken in the dummy. Declarer got back to hand by cashing the ace of diamonds and ruffing a small one and tried another heart. North rose with the king and played a small spade to her partner's jack and ruffed the club return for one down.

I maintained that West should have played small on the spade return – I was over-ruled and my copy changed to say: 'on this layout West does best to play small...' I am now going to guide Watson through this hand and see what he would have done. Bear in mind, Watson can only see the E/W hands.

'Evening Watson, how do fancy the challenge of playing hand from the World Championships?'

'Sounds OK and it will probably give you another chance to have fun at my expense.'

'Right you have this hand and in the second seat you open the proceedings with a Three Heart pre-empt which is passed out. The lead is the five of clubs, and to save time I will tell you that from their carding methods you can be sure that this is a doubleton. Over to you.'

'It looks to me as though there are nine tricks available

but I sense a threat of a club ruff.'

'Top of your game this evening Watson. So what are you going to do?'

'The sensible thing would be to try and draw trumps, so I start with the ten.'

'As good a card as any. South takes this with the ace and returns a spade. Back to you.'

'Knowing you I suspect that putting the king on is not the right answer otherwise the problem would be simple – so I need to work out why not playing the king is the right thing to do.

'You are beginning to see through my wiles, Watson. Firstly, let's see if you can work out the downside of playing the king of spades.'

'Well if North has the ace then I will obviously lose two spade tricks and North could then lead his second club and when I play a second round of trumps South could eventually get the lead with a spade and give North his club ruff.'

'That is true but what if South had the ace?'

'In that case I would need to put up the king. So it seems 50-50 to me.'

'But is it 50-50?'

'Initial thoughts are yes.'

'OK, you know the routine by now. I am going to ask you to reconstruct the South hand. What do you know about it so far?'

'She has the ace of hearts and the jack of clubs, can't see much more than that.'

'What about the diamond suit?'

'What about it? As Manuel would have said "I know nothing."

'Are you sure? What did North lead?'

'A club. You told me that.'

'OK, but what did he not lead?'

'I'm guessing you are wanting me to say "A diamond".'

'True, would North have led from a doubleton club in preference to a diamond if she held the king and queen?'

'Aha, I get your drift. It is certainly not beyond the realms of possibility that with the two top diamond honours that would have been the lead of choice, so I deduce that South has a diamond honour.'

'So, before I ask you what do we know of South's hand, tell me what was South's opening bid.'

'Looking at the record above it was Pass. But we have now deduced that South has five points in hearts and clubs and at least two points in diamonds so if South has the ace of spades that gives her an absolute minimum of eleven points. If that is her hand she must not have either the queen or jack of spades and her diamond honour must be the queen or she would have had an opening bid. That layout seems a lot less than a 50% chance.'

'Well done Watson. Whilst none of this is cast in stone it does seem one would do better to play small on the spade return. If we had more time we could worry about where the king of hearts might be found and whether North not leading a spade increases the likelihood of her holding that card. Carry on at this rate Watson, and you will be playing in World Championships soon, and to celebrate I'll buy the aperitif today.'



Invitation

White House Juniors International 15 – 20 March 2020 Amsterdam

When looking at the playing field during these wonderful World Team Championships, there's a long, long list of players who also once competed in one of the largest privately held international junior tournaments in the world. We're only just a few years shy of adding players from the d'Orsi Trophy to the list, since the first White House Junior Tournament was originaly played as long ago as 1993.

We gladly invite any junior captain/NBO to sign up for our junior tournament in Amsterdam (15 - 20 March 2020) by sending an e-mail to

whitehousejuniors2020@gmail.com. We will contact you with further details.

Be quick, only 24 teams can join!



Bob Drijver & Tim Heeres

Wuhan Grand Prix Thursday 26 September

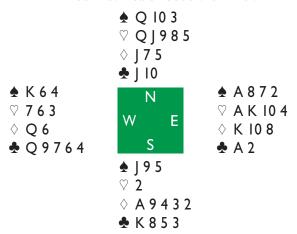
	<u> </u>	
	ONE ESSENTIAL OF RED	66.00
2	JSQX NJZS BRIDGECLUB	65.00
3	PIONEERS	61.00
	LATVIA	61.00
5	AUSTRALIA OPEN	58.00
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9	INDONESIA Open	56.00
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	POLAND Women	43.00
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33	HUBEI BRIDGE TEAM	41.60
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35	BANGKOK MIND SPORT	40.00
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39	PD HEART	35.00
40	ENSEMBLE	31.00

More Low Cunning

by Bert Polii

It is hard to believe, but I found an incident similar to the previous article entitled 'A Combination of High Technique and Low Cunning'. In the I3th round of the World Transnational Teams we faced JSQX NJZS BRIDGECLUB and I had the same problem.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
T. Sugiarto		B. Polii	
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	Pass	♣*	Pass
1♦	I 🛇	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	I♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Dble
All Pass			
I♣ Strong			

The lead was the two of hearts to the three, jack and king. I played a diamond to the queen and followed up with a second diamond to the ten. South won the ace and returned a diamond. I won the king and played the two of clubs. South played low and the queen scored. Now I

played a heart to the ten and South ruffed. However, the contract was secured when I won the club return and played the king and ace of spades and everyone followed, losing just one spade, one diamond and one ruff; +790.

On this next board, my opponents tried the same trick against me.



West	North	East	South
T. Sugiarto		B. Polii	
_	_	♣*	Pass
1♦	I	Dble	2♡
2♠	3♦	Pass	4♡
All Pass			
I♣ Strong	3		

I led the ace then queen of spades. Declarer won the king of spades, cashed the ace and king of hearts, and led the six of diamonds towards dummy's ten. I rose with the king and cashed the ace of clubs, so the contract was one down; –50.

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



Wuhan Cup SF SI and 2

Romania v Russia

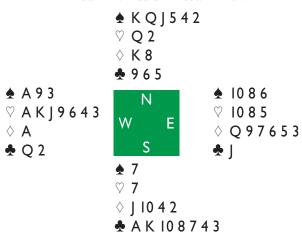


After Tuesday's excitement in some very close finishes, it started all over again on Wednesday morning, albeit with only half the participants of the day before. For my report, I chose the Mixed Teams match between two countries from Eastern Europe who had both reached the semi-final stages by a substantial margin; Romania, who had beaten USA 2 all ends up, and Russia, who were always having the edge over France.

The first segment, however, was a little bit of a disappointment for any kibitzer; no less than 10 boards (out of 16) did not trouble the scorers at all, nor did they cause much excitement for the connoisseurs. Below, you will thus find only four boards from this first segment.

On Board 3, Russia opened their account with an extra undertrick worth 2 IMPs, but the next board produced the first double-figure swing of the set.

Board 4. Dealer West, All Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dubinin	Ionita	Ponomareva	Stegaroiu
♣	I♠	Pass	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Some fearful passing and a fearless reopening action by the Strong Clubber led to an undisturbed 4% contract for the Russians. Dummy held a useful card or two, such as a few trumps and a singleton club, so making 10 tricks was easy; Russia +620.

Closed Room

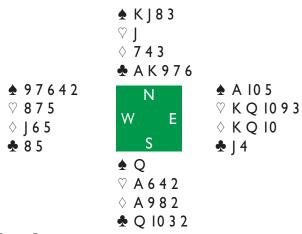
West	North	East	South
Marina	Gromov	Balint	Gulevich
ΙŸ	I ♠	Pass	2♣
2♠	3♣	3♦	4♣
4♡	Pass	Pass	5♣
Dble	Pass	5♡	All Pass

Over partner's overcall, Gulevich showed no inhibitions so the N/S club fit duly came to light, as did the sacrifice.

Understandably, with her very weak hand, Balint did not want to sit the double, but with 620 already scored at the other table, it was only a matter of I extra IMP. Five Clubs would have been one down for +100 and 5% was one down for -100. Thus a loss of 12 IMPs to Romania rather than only 11.

The next three boards brought just one extra overtrick to Romania, but Board 8 again was a case of a double-figure swing:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dubinin	Ionita	Ponomareva	Stegaroiu
Pass	♣	10	♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♡
Pass	2♠	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Opposite the semi-natural 1 - 4 by North, South's 1 - 4 was a transfer to INT and the rest of the auction was natural enough.

When East selected the $\heartsuit K$ as her opening lead rather than its red colleague, declarer could win the ace and immediately advance the $\clubsuit Q$. This way, she created two parking places for her diamond losers, enough to fulfil the contract; Romania +400.

Closed Room

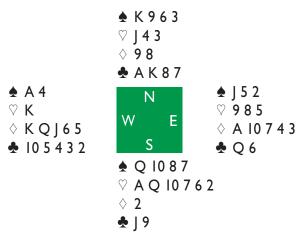
West	North	East	South
Marina	Gromov	Balint	Gulevich
Pass	2♣	2♡	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♡
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♡
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

On the Precision-style auction, Balint knew that a heart

lead might make little sense, so she selected the $\lozenge K$ as her opening lead. Well done for a now inevitable down two; Romania another +100 and 11 IMPs to them.

Two more flat boards and then a much more lively one.

Board II. Dealer South. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dubinin	Ionita	Ponomareva	Stegaroiu
_	_	_	I 🛇
2♦	Dble	4 ♦	Pass
Pass	4 ♡	All Pass	

Maybe, Dubinin was looking at his defensive values when he let 4% go. He was quickly disappointed. Declarer ruffed the second round of diamonds and continued the %A. So much for his defensive values. After this brisk start, Stegaroiu could afford to lose two spades by misguessing the suit. When she duly did so, Romania had to be content



Alexander Dubinin, Russia

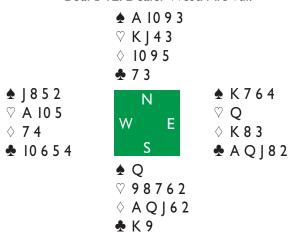
with +420 only.
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marina	Gromov	Balint	Gulevich
_	_	_	2♡
3♦	3♡	5◊	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

At the other table, South could open a natural weak two in hearts without having to worry about her spade holding. Bogdan Marina now had to enter the auction at the three-level and Mihaela Balint also joined in one level higher. Well, as we can see, 5% should not be a problem double dummy but at the table this is asking too much, I think. Double seems the safer option but if you do so, you will only get +100, which in this case would cost you 8 IMPs.

Another swing on the very next board:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dubinin	Ionita	Ponomareva	Stegaroiu
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♡
All Pass			

lonita did very well, I think, to venture a double showing his majors even though Dubinin suggested a strong hand with his 2NT reply. Apparently, Stegaroiu did not judge her red two-suiter and well-placed ♣K good enough to finish off partner's fine work by bidding game. As long as the diamond finesse works, you can afford to lose two trump tricks; Romania only +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marina	Gromov	Balint	Gulevich
Pass	Pass	♣	I♦
Pass	I	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

When partner introduces your other five-card suit, what's the problem? Russia +620 and 10 IMPs to them.

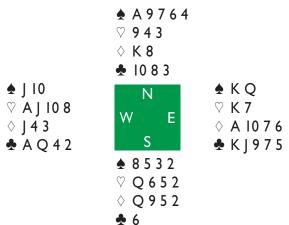


Geta Mihai, Romania

At this point, the score stood at 24-20 to Russia. The remaining four boards of the set did not bring any changes, so Russia would enjoy a 4-IMP lead at the start of the second segment.

This slender lead quickly grew because on the opening boards of the second segment we saw some slight overbidding and some unlucky guesswork on the Romanian side. The Russian lead had thus gone up to 21 when Board 21 arrived:

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gromov	Ionita	Gulevich	Stegaroiu
_	Pass	♣	Pass
INT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♡	Pass	4♣	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Precision style, East describing both her minors in response to partner's relays. When declarer misguessed the diamond position in the ending she was one down; Romania +50.

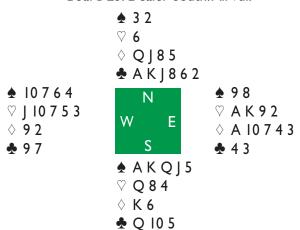
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
R Mihai	Vorobeychikova	G Mihai	Gerasimov
_	Pass	INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The Romanians did not bother about the best denomination but simply bid a variation of the classic INT – 3NT. This certainly works well as long as the opponents don't find the killing lead and this board was one of these cases. South led a heart and declarer made I I tricks; Romania +460 and I I IMPs to wipe out most of the deficit.

Two boards later:

Board 23. Dealer South, All Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gromov	Ionita	Gulevich	Stegaroiu
_	_	_	INT
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♡	Pass	4♣
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Once Ionita had shown his club suit and his heart shortness, 3NT was out of the question for Stegaroiu. The Romanians settled for 5♣ which proved the best contract; Romania a fine +600.

Well, believe it or not, you are not going to be punished when you end up in 3NT as N/S. The \heartsuit AK are both with East so the \heartsuit Q in South can be considered a stopper.

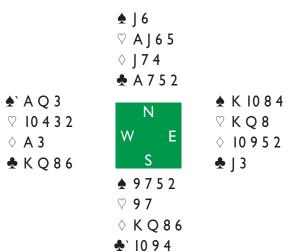
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
R Mihai	Vorobeychikova	G Mihai	Gerasimov
_	_	_	♣
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

But what do you do if West leads a heart to his partner, who takes the ace and returns a low heart? We have all seen this before but you might still go wrong here for any combination of technical and/or psychological reasons and decide to go for anything but your legitimate chance of playing the $\triangledown Q$. That's exactly what happened...; two down, Romania another +100 and 13 more IMPs to them to take the lead.

More quiet flat boards until the last board of the segment arrived.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gromov	Ionita	Gulevich	Stegaroiu
♣	Pass	INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Precision style but not quite classic. Not that it mattered, because South was on lead and found a killing low diamond for a quick (and not painless) one down; Romania +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
R Mihai	Vorobeychikova	G Mihai	Gerasimov
INT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♡	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

A more standard auction but once West opened INT, North would be on lead. For her, finding the diamond lead would be extremely difficult, one would think, and so it proved. A club was led, and declarer now had time to lead hearts from his hand twice for his contract. He even ended up with an overtrick; Romania another +630, good for 12 more IMPs.

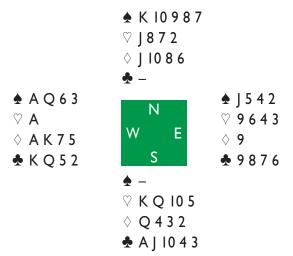
The segment thus ended 42-21 to Romania, who now led overall by 62-45 with...still 64 boards to go. It was still early days!

A Suitable Dummy

by Brian Senior

Australia's Ian Thomson found an imaginative call on this deal from Round 12 of the Transnational Open Teams, and Peter Buchen put down an extremely suitable dummy.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Thomson		Buchen	
_	_	Pass	I♦
Dble	I 🏚	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Holding a 22-count, Thomson had little option but to double the Precision I♦ opening on his right. When North bid I♠ and South rebid 2♠, Thomson, who had had all his three suits bid against him, decided to keep quiet – after all, a double would surely see partner bid some number of hearts and that would not be good news, while it was unclear where he would be able to go for tricks if he played in no trump. However, when North gave preference to diamonds, Thomson reassessed the situation, seeing that partner must be short in diamonds so might have a little spade support. He therefore ventured 2♠ on his four-card suit, despite their having been bid on his left.

Two Spades ended the auction and North led the jack of diamonds. Dummy was just perfect. Thomson won the king of diamonds and cashed both red-suit aces then took a diamond ruff, a heart ruff, and a second diamond ruff. After taking a second heart ruff, he exited with the king of clubs, and there was no way to prevent him making both the ace and queen of spades to bring his total to nine for +140.

As you can imagine, quite a lot of E/Ws went minus on this deal, including the Australians' counterparts in the other room, so Thomson's judgement, allied to Buchen's perfect dummy, earned his side 6 IMPs.



Wuhan Cup SF S2

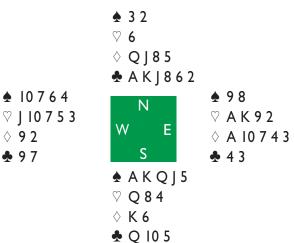
England v USA I



The England Mixed Team had won the round robin stage of the event with more than a match to spare, but had struggled past Latvia by just 12 IMPs in their quarter-final. Their opponents in this semi-final, USA I, had finished eighth, just qualifying for the knockout stage by 5 VPs, but they then defeated the hometown Chinese team by 20 IMPs in the first knockout round. The Americans jumped out to a 35 IMP lead after just six boards of the match, but England had pegged them back and at the end of the first stanza USA I led by 7 IMPs (45-38).

The second session of this match began with a series of dull boards on which the score advanced to 50-41. Then came something more substantial:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Myers	Ivatury	Brock	Henner
_	_	_	I♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

This invitational, natural jump to the three-level after a major-suit opening from partner is a pet peeve of mine, for exactly the reason demonstrated on this deal. Whenever opener has extra values, he has a complete guess: looking at this South hand, it could be right to play in spades, clubs or notrump and South has no sensible way to find out which.

Christal Henner guessed 3NT. Quite a reasonable choice looking at just her cards, but clearly the wrong game once you match them with partner's hand. Today was the Americans' lucky day, though, as both the ace and king of hearts lie with East. Indeed, West led the \heartsuit J. Sally Brock won with the ace and returned a low heart, so declarer sensibly put up the queen and claimed twelve tricks when it held; N/S +690.

Open Room

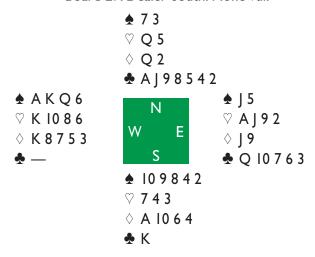
West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Hinden	Bjerkan	Osborne
_	_	_	♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

The English pair's system card describes this INT response as 'up to 12 HCP, nearly forcing, may have three spades'. Graham Osborne's 2NT rebid was 18-19, and from the description above it would seem reasonable to expect that Three Spades now showed that three-card support hand mentioned above. Nevertheless, Osborne opted for 3NT rather than Four Spades.

Now Hinden advanced with Four Clubs. Can this really, by any stretch of the imagination, be a sudden wish to rescue partner from 3NT? Whether Four Clubs actually shows clubs or is some sort of further try for something beyond game with spades agreed is a matter for partnership agreement. Surely, though, in any sensible method, it must be forcing. Indeed, Hinden had done the right thing, in trying to get to one of the two against-the-wall black-suit games as opposed to the very poor 3NT.

I would, however, question the decision to respond INT. For me, you simply have to bid Two Clubs on this hand, even if it is forcing to game. Sure, sometimes you'll land in a poor 3NT with insufficient tricks, but that risk surely far outweighs those posed by starting with INT, as evidenced by what happened on this deal. Hinden/Osborne have been superb throughout this tournament, finishing third in the Butler, and are probably one of the best mixed pairs in Europe, so this was a truly uncharacteristic blunder on both sides of the table; N/S +150 and 11 IMPs to USA I, when really both teams deserved to lose that number.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Hinden	Bjerkan	Osborne
Myers	Ivatury	Brock	Henner
_	_	_	Pass
1♦	3♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

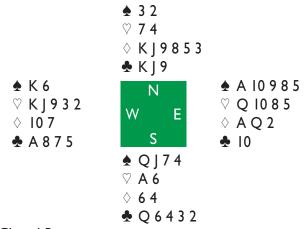
Of the 16 tables in play in the four semi-finals, at only two did E/W bid and make Four Hearts. (Only Draper for England and Zho for China passed on the North hand, both in the Venice Cup.) At the other 14 tables, North overcalled either Two or Three Clubs, and duly went down some number (two, three or four) doubled.

During the first ten days of this tournament, we have seen an amazing level of success from five-card weak two openings (even from many of the Americans), with virtually no bad boards. It is perhaps surprising, therefore, that not one of the 16 Souths thought this hand suitable for Two Spades in first seat non-vulnerable, even those playing it as 5\(\frac{1}{2}\)/4-minor. "That's because none of them are maniacs," I can hear my fellow commentator, David Bird, saying. Might such an opening not have bought the auction untroubled on this layout, going down two or three undoubled rather than watching partner concede a large number? At least food for thought, perhaps?

In our match, both Frances Hinden and Uday Ivatury opted for the more aggressive jump overcall. Now booked for at least –500, both received the lead of the \lozenge J. Both played low from dummy and now the defenders at both tables had the potential to rake in an even bigger penalty. West cashed two high spades, crashing his partner's jack in the process. Declarer discarded a heart when the third big spade was played, and this allowed East to dispose of her second diamond. Now came a diamond ruff, a heart to the king and a third round of diamonds. The carnage was complete; N/S –800 and an undignified flat board.

The Americans led overall by 13 IMPs (69-56) with three deals left in the set.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Myers	Ivatury	Brock	Henner
_	_	I♠	Pass
2♡	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4 ◊*	Pass	4♡	All Pass

Brock agreed hearts with a splinter bid. Although Barry Myers advanced with a 'last train' Four Diamonds, Brock thought she had done enough, and Myers gave up too. Not that slam is wonderful, although it is perhaps a little better than the finesse if a diamond is not led. After a series of drab hands, though, it was sufficient to temporarily galvanise those watching on BBO or VuGraph.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Hinden	Bjerkan	Osborne
_	_	I♠	Pass
2♡	Pass	4♣*	Dble
Pass	Pass	4 ◊*	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

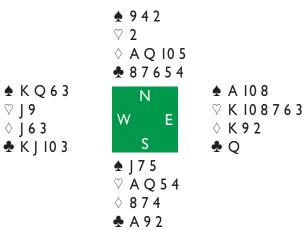
The Americans got a little closer, perhaps, but only thanks to a really curious double of the Four Club splinter by Osborne. Not only is it far from clear that you want a club lead, but the double also gives the opponents more bids to describe their hands before having to commit above game. (It is perhaps possible that N/S play the double as suggesting

Indeed, West passed to show some interest (although perhaps a redouble promising first-round club control would have encouraged partner more). Cheri Bjerkan made one more try with a diamond cue-bid, but still Howard Weinstein did not think he had enough to venture beyond game; E/W +480 and another push.

a spade or at any rate <u>not</u> a diamond lead? Ed.)

Of the 16 E/W pairs in the semi-finals, only one bid the slam. That was Verhees/van Prooijen of the Netherlands in the Bermuda Bowl, gaining 11 IMPs as they built a massive first-day lead against Norway.

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Myers	Ivatury	Brock	Henner
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	Pass	2♡	All Pass

The Closed Room auction was very simple and eminently sensible: Sally Brock opened an intermediate two bid in fourth seat and played there. Two Hearts had five obvious losers, one club and two tricks in each red suit; E/W +110.

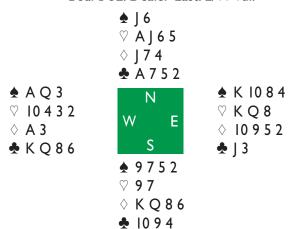
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Hinden	Bjerkan	Osborne
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	Pass	Ι♡	Pass
I♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3◊	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Bjerkan preferred to open One Heart and then, not unreasonably, supported her partner's spades. Weinstein's 2NT was an artificial game try, but it was all about how many spades to bid rather than which major to play. They were already overboard by that stage, though, so it was just a matter of how many undertricks and whether anyone could find a double.

Hinden led her singleton heart and Osborne played three rounds of the suit, declarer pitching a losing diamond from hand at trick three. The defence was not done, though. Hinden cashed the ⋄A, played a club to the ace, and Osborne now effected a trump promotion with a fourth round of hearts. Declarer ruffed with the ♠K and thus Allerton later scored his ♠J for two down; E/W −100 and 6 IMPs to England, squaring the score on this set at 24-24. In theory, the final deal of the stanza came down to a lead problem for the respective North players:

Board 32. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Hinden	Bjerkan	Osborne
INT	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3◊*	Pass	3♡	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Three Clubs was Puppet Stayman, and Three Diamonds showed at least one four-card major. Three Hearts showed four spades and declarer closed proceedings with 3NT. With dangerous-looking holdings in all four suits, North has a particularly unattractive hand from which to lead. There are only three cards that let the contract through immediately, though, the three non-ace hearts. Neither minor looked particularly attractive to Frances Hinden, and she eventually opted for the $\heartsuit 5$.

Howard Weinstein won with the ∇K and immediately set

about clubs, playing the jack and, when that held, a second round to his king. Hinden could do no better than give declarer a guess now; a diamond switch gives him the option of playing for the $\clubsuit 10$ to fall or leading towards the $\triangledown Q$ and hoping the defenders cannot untangle their diamond tricks. When, instead, Hinden continued with a second low heart, Weinstein put up the king and had ten tricks when the $\clubsuit 8$ became good; E/W +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Myers	Ivatury	Brock	Henner
♣	Pass	I♠	Pass
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

On a less informative auction, lvatury opted for dummy's suit, the ♠|, and he was over the first hurdle. Declarer won in hand and played a heart, and now North must go in with the ace and switch to a diamond to beat the contract legitimately. When Ivatury played low, the ∇K won and declarer advanced the 4, which North also ducked. The favorable club position means that declarer now has nine tricks by continuing that suit. Of course, Myers did not know that, so he returned to hand in spades and played another heart, giving North a second chance. When Ivatury ducked again, the ∇Q won and declarer could now secure his contract simply by setting up his second club trick. For some inexplicable reason, though, Myers played a third round of hearts. Ivatury won and switched to the obvious diamond, establishing five tricks for the defense whilst he still had the ♣A; E/W -100 and 12 IMPs to USA 1, who finished the session with a 19-IMP lead, 82-63.



Cheri Bjerkan, USA I

The Wonder of Wuhan

by Mark Horton

Bulletin number nine of the 2019 World Bridge Championships carried an announcement about IBPA awards for play in online events. Incredibly, a candidate deal was dealt in a Robot tournament on Wednesday night — and the declarer was in Wuhan! Simon Stocken, eager to get his hands (metaphorically speaking) on some cards, had invested US\$1.35 to play in an ACBL Robot tournament when this hand appeared on the screen:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

	A	8 7	4	3	2
\Diamond	ΑΙ	K			
\Diamond	K :	3			
•	Α	10)		

West	North	East	South
Robot	Robot	Robot	Simon
_	_	Pass	♠
Pass	2◊*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5 ♠ *	Pass	5NT*
Pass All Pass	6♠	Pass	7NT
4NT RK	ey cards +♠Q gs?		

Simon (no mean Poker player) was holding the South cards and decided to go 'all in' by bidding 7NT. He knew that partner held the \bigstar KQ and the \diamondsuit A, but absent any side kings, must have a little more, and if that was in diamonds there would probably be a play for all the tricks.

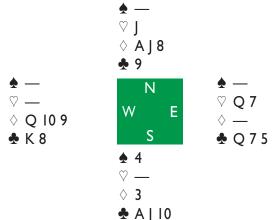
West led the $\heartsuit 10$ and dummy was a little disappointing:

Simon won with the $\heartsuit \mathbf{A}$ and cashed five rounds of spades to reach this position:



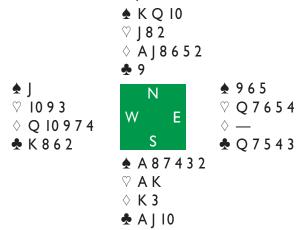
With a nod to Vienna, he cashed the $\heartsuit K$ and followed it with the $\diamondsuit K$. So far West, who had turned up with a singleton $\clubsuit J$ had pitched a diamond, a heart and two clubs. East, who had three spades, had parted with two clubs and a heart and now discarded a second heart on the $\diamondsuit K$.

At this point, these cards remained:



When Simon cashed the last spade, West had to part with a club and the now redundant $\lozenge 8$ went from dummy. East could happily part with a club, and then threw a heart when a diamond went to the jack. However, when Simon played the $\lozenge A$ from dummy, East became the second victim of the non-simultaneous double squeeze. He had to throw a club and declarer played a club to the ace, felling the outstanding honours and promoting the \clubsuit 1 to glory.

This had been the complete deal:



The Card is cast

by Francesca Canali

Lots of thanks to Barry Rigal for the analysis of the following deals!

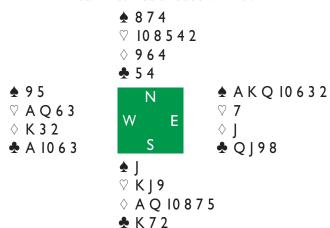
According to Suetonius, in 49 B.C., Julius Caesar entered Italy with his army in order to start a war against the Roman Senate. When the Latin general led his troops across the Rubicon river he exclaimed: "Alea lacta Est" (The die is cast), a Latin saying meaning that the game has begun and can't be stopped.

The following story also features warriors, a river and a 'Bridge'. 2068 years* later, Caesar's descendants, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Agustin Madala, Lorenzo Lauria, Antonio Sementa and Alfredo Versace crossed the Yangtze river. They were playing the Bermuda Bowl quarter-finals against Norway and were 100 IMPs behind. With only 48 boards left, they tried the impossible in order to try not to disappoint the Italian supporters. After all, Bridge history tells us of several 'coups de théâtre' of the Blue Team on the very last boards, sometimes with positive and sometimes with negative outcomes for the Italian squad.

The card is cast.

Quarter-final, segment 4.

Board 23. Dealer South, All Vul.



West	North	East	South		
Sementa	Lindqvist	Bocchi	Brogeland		
_	_	_	1♦		
Pass	Pass	3NT*	Pass		
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass		
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass		
6♠	All Pass				
3NIT C 1.4A/\times 1 1					

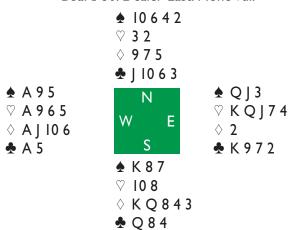
3NT Good 4♠/♡ hand

The defenders led a diamond, but slam was still on the club finesse and duly succeeded. I2 IMPs to Italy (4\(\phi\)+3 was the result at the other table).

With only 16 boards left, the Italians were still trailing by 78 IMPs. But still they did not give up hope.

Quarter-final, segment 6:

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

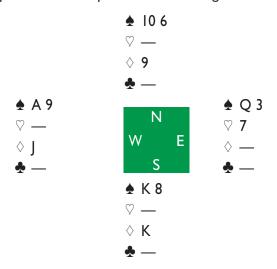


West	North	East	South
Duboin	Livgard	Madala	Aa
_	_	ΙŸ	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♡	Pass
3♡	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4♣	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5◊	Pass	6♣	Pass
7♡	All Pass		



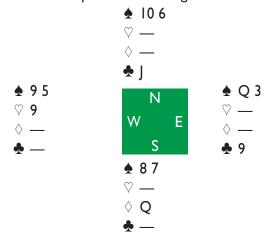
Agustin Madala, Italy

Madala won the trump lead in hand and when he advanced the **4** South did not cover. Now Madala ruffed the clubs in dummy and ran trumps, subjecting South to a spade/diamond squeeze in this ending:



Superficially, it might appear that South could defeat the grand slam by covering the \clubsuit J. If declarer times it right, it is North who falls victim to the squeeze. Declarer can use the club and trump entries to ruff three diamonds in hand, and catch North in a black-suit squeeze. Say after the trump lead, had you played \lozenge A, diamond ruff, \clubsuit J covered by the King and Ace, \lozenge ruff, \heartsuit A, \lozenge ruff, \clubsuit A and two more rounds of clubs.

The last trump sees this ending:



and North must concede.

The board was worth 11 IMPs to Italy.

Unfortunately for the Italians, two boards earlier they had tried an unmakeable 6. Had the Norwegians misdefended, the last board would have started with a score difference of 7 IMPs only.

But as Italians say "History is not made up of IFs and BUTs" ... and there was no 'coup de théâtre' this time. The match finished 239-202 for Norway, who proceeded to the semi-finals.

- (*) Herman, typically pedantic, assures us that this should be 2067 years due to the non-existence of a year zero.**
- (**) It is hard to admit, but according to our research he is actually right.





Bermuda Bowl SF S3

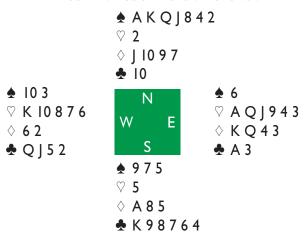
Netherlands v Norway



After just two sets of this semi-final, the Netherlands led Norway by 118-31. How was that possible, when many punters would rate the two teams equally? Marc Smith and I took our seats for the third set, keen to see for ourselves.

Did we have to twiddle our thumbs while a few drab partscores limped by? No!

Board I. Dealer North. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tundal	De Wijs	Kvangraven	Muller
_	4♠	5♡	5♠
607	64	Dhle	All Pass

Boards involving spades-v-hearts decisions at a high level are always interesting and instructive, particularly at world level. It is wrong to look at one bid that didn't work effectively, saying "Well, I wouldn't have bid that." You must seek to justify your opinion with some general principle or other.

As I see it, the first four bids were absolutely normal, barely open to dispute. I am not so happy with North's 6\(\Delta\). Had he not already given a good picture of his hand? He had little idea of what his partner might hold and should perhaps have left the final decision to him.

Nils Kare Kvangraven led the $\heartsuit A$ against $6 \triangleq$ doubled and switched to the $\diamondsuit K$. De Wijs won in dummy, drew trumps and led the $\triangleq 10$. East rose with the ace and cashed the $\diamondsuit Q$, scoring +300.

Closed Room

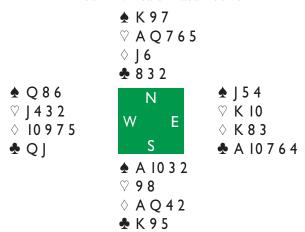
West	North	East	South
Verhees	Lindqvist	Van Prooijen	Brogeland
_	4 ♠	5♡	5♠
6♡	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Page			

Espen Lindqvist left the final decision to Boye Brogeland, who was happy to double. North won the spade lead and switched to the \$10. Ricco Van Prooijen rose with the \$A,

drew trumps and conceded two tricks in the minors. It was 300 the other way and 12 IMPs to Norway.

On the evidence of just this one board, our wonderment at the 118-31 score-line was still intact. Perhaps the Netherlands would display their prowess on the next deal.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tundal	De Wijs	Kvangraven	Muller
_	_	I ♦	Pass
 ♠ *	Pass	INT	Dble
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
Pass	Dhle	All Pass	

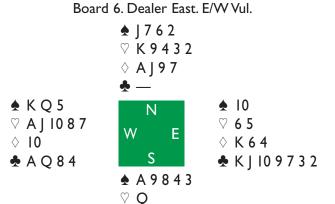
Indeed they would! Kvangraven's I♦ was Relay Precision, promising no more than one diamond. Ulf Tundal's I♠ response showed hearts, rather than spades, and Bauke Muller's double was for take-out of hearts. When this was left in for penalties, East sought refuge in 2♠. Simon De Wijs doubled this, passed by South.

Wow! We had watched a couple of tigers. They had hidden motionless in the long grass, watching as their prey strolled around. Then, suddenly, they pounced. Holding three trumps each, was it not an achievement to catch their opponents in 24 doubled?

Muller led the \heartsuit 9 to partner's ace and De Wijs switched to the \lozenge J, covered with the king and ace. The \lozenge Q and a diamond ruff were followed by the \heartsuit 7 to declarer's king. Declarer led a low trump from his hand, South rising with the king. A fourth round of diamonds was ruffed with the \clubsuit 8, overruffed with the \clubsuit 10.

Kvangraven played a spade to the queen, North winning with the king. The $\heartsuit Q$ was ruffed with the $\clubsuit 7$, overruffed with the bare $\clubsuit 9$. South was forced to lead from his $\spadesuit A103$, but it was still a fine +500 to N/S, Magnificent!

At the other table, the bidding was $I\lozenge - I\heartsuit - INT$. No big cats were present in this part of the jungle, and the contract went two down for -I00. The Netherlands collected 9 IMPs.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tundal	De Wijs	Kvangraven	Muller
_	_	3♣	Pass
3◊	Pass	3♡	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

♦ Q8532

♣ 6 5

The E/W convention card is silent on the meaning of $3\Diamond$ and $3\heartsuit$. Maybe $3\Diamond$ asked East to name major-suit side stoppers and $3\heartsuit$ denied any. (Perhaps you're a better guesser than I am.)

Muller found the killing lead of the $\heartsuit Q$. Declarer won in the dummy, crossed to the $\clubsuit J$ and led the $\spadesuit I0$. South rose with the ace and crossed to the $\diamondsuit A$ for his partner to cash the $\heartsuit K$. That was one down and +100 to N/S.



Nils Kare Kvangraven, Norway

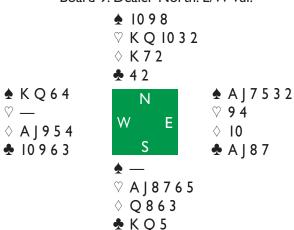
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Lindqvist	Van Prooijen	Brogeland
_	_	3♣	Pass
5♣	Dble	Pass	5♠
Dble	All Pass		

Lindqvist made an adventurous double on his shapely nine-count and West doubled the 5♠ response. Brogeland ruffed the ♣A lead in dummy and led a heart to the queen and ace. East won the ♦10 switch with the king and returned the ♠10 to declarer's ace. Two trump tricks had to be lost and it was 300 away. The Netherlands picked up their second swing of 9 IMPs.

You rather enjoyed the heart-spade battle on Board I and would like to see another one? Right, let's see what I can find.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tundal	De Wijs	Kvangraven	Muller
_	2♡	2♠	6♡
6♠	All Pass		

In the commentary box, we were suggesting an everyday 5% from South. In the torrid heat of a Bermuda Bowl semifinal, only a 6% bid was good enough.

Tundal had a clearcut $6 \triangleq$ bid on the West cards and this was passed out. Muller led the \heartsuit A, ruffed in the dummy, and declarer had no way to avoid two club finesses. When the second of these had to be taken while North still had a trump left, declarer lost two clubs and a club ruff. That was two down for -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Lindqvist	Van Prooijen	Brogeland
_	2♦	2♠	Pass
3♡	Dble	Pass	Pass
4♡	Pass	4♠	5◊
Pass	Pass	5♠	6♡
Pass	Pass	6♠	7♡
Dble	All Pass		

It was a thrilling auction, particularly when you consider that the two pairs held 20 points each. Brogeland's advance to 7° may seem surprising, but West had made forcing passes over both the spoof 5° and 6° . The second of these must have promised a void heart, so no defensive heart trick would be available. 7° was likely to cost less than an opposing game, let alone a slam.

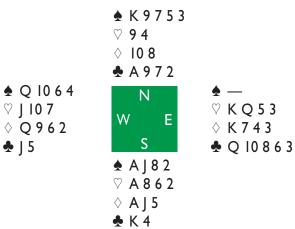
A minor-suit lead would have led to a defensive diamond ruff. Louk Verhees led the $\bigstar K$ and Brogeland escaped for two down. He discarded one of dummy's diamonds on his club winners, losing 300. It was I I IMPs to the Netherlands.

On Board II, both declarers exhibited some dazzling cardplay.



Louk Verhees, Netherlands

Board II. Dealer South. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tundal	De Wijs	Kvangraven	Muller
_	_	_	INT
Pass	2♡*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♡*	Dble	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Muller broke the transfer, and the 3% rebid by De Wijs was a re-transfer. The %J opening lead was ducked. Declarer won the next heart and played the \triangle A, East throwing a club. After cashing the \triangle K, declarer ruffed a heart in dummy. He then played the \triangle A and ruffed a club with the \triangle 8

Tundal over-ruffed with the $\clubsuit10$ and had to assist declarer with his return from $\clubsuit26 \diamondsuit2962$. He chose to play the $\clubsuit6$, run to South's jack. A trump to the king drew West's $\clubsuit2$ and East then had to find a discard from $\heartsuit K \diamondsuit K73 \clubsuit10$. The two singletons were important guards, so he threw the $\diamondsuit3$.

Dummy's $\clubsuit 9$ now finished the job. East had to throw the $\lozenge 7$ and declarer ditched his heart loser. He then led the $\lozenge 8$ to the king and ace, continuing with the $\lozenge 5$ towards the bare $\lozenge 10$ in dummy. West had to win with the $\lozenge Q$ and return the $\lozenge 9$ to South's jack.

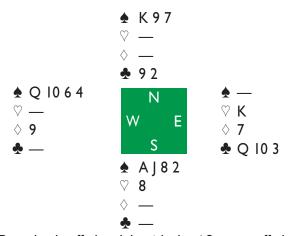
So, that is the standard of cardplay required to reach a Bermuda Bowl semi-final. Impressive, indeed!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Lindqvist	Van Prooijen	Brogeland
_	_	_	INT
Pass	2♡*	Dble	3♣
Pass	3♡*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Brogeland won the heart lead and played a second heart to East's queen. He won the club return with dummy's ace and led the $\lozenge 8$ to the jack and queen. He took the next club with the king and ruffed a heart in dummy. The $\lozenge 10$ to the king and ace was followed by a diamond ruff in dummy.

Only five tricks remained, and the trump suit had not yet been touched! This was the position:



Brogeland ruffed a club with the 48, over-ruffed with the 10.West had no good return. If he played the 9, declarer would ruff with the 2, continuing with the 4 and the 4 (or a heart). If instead, West played a low trump, declarer would win with the 4 and play a heart.

It was a high-quality push board. In the other semi-final, both Jeff Meckstroth and Jacek Kalita went one down in 4.16.

The Netherlands took this third set by 42-22, extending their lead to 160-53. The standard of play had been wonderful and great entertainment for the kibitzers.



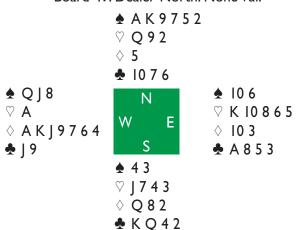
Venice Cup SF S4

China v The Netherlands

Brian Senior

China ended the first day of their Venice Cup semi-final against the Netherlands leading by 81-67 IMPs, having recovered from a first set deficit of 7-30. The new day began well for the host nation when Qi Shen found a more enterprising bid than that chosen by Anneke Simons to get to a good game missed at the other table.

Board 49. Dealer North. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Simons	Lu	Pasman	Liu
_	2♦	Pass	2♠
3♦	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Shen	Verbeek	Wang	Van Zwol
_	2♦	Pass	2♠
3NT	All Pass		



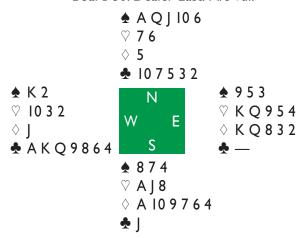
Qi Shen, China

Both Norths opened with a multi $2\Diamond$ and both Souths responded $2\spadesuit$, pass or correct, so showing interest in hearts but not in spades.

Anneke Simons overcalled $3\Diamond$ on the West cards and played there. Yan Lu led three rounds of spades, giving Yan Liu an over-ruff with the $\Diamond Q$. Liu's switch to the $\clubsuit K$ meant that Simons was unable to take a club pitch on the $\heartsuit K$, but still had nine tricks for +110.

Qi Shen overcalled 3NT which, while far from being guaranteed to win, looks nearer the mark to me. Martine Verbeek led the two of hearts to the six, seven and ace. Playing safely, Shen led a low diamond to dummy's ten. Wietske van Zwol won the $\Diamond Q$ but Shen had nine tricks for +400 and 7 IMPs to China.

Board 50. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

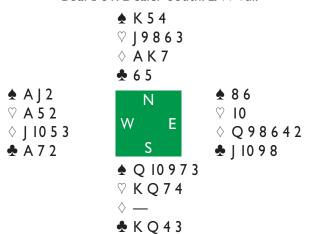


West	North	East	South
Simons	Lu	Pasman	Liu
_	_	Ι♡	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3◊	Pass
4♡	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Shen	Verbeek	Wang	Van Zwol
_	_	I	2♦
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Given an uncontested auction, Simons responded with a GF 2Φ then bid 2NT and, on seeing that Jet Pasman was two-suited, jumped to $4\heartsuit$. Liu led the jack of clubs to dummy's ace, Pasman pitching a spade from hand. She continued with the Φ K for a second spade pitch, and Liu ruffed. She returned a spade to the king and ace. Lu switched to a heart for the king and ace, and Liu in turn switched to ace and another diamond. Best would have been to ruff with dummy's ten. When Pasman actually discarded, Lu could ruff with the \heartsuit 7 and give Liu a club ruff with the jack; down three for -150.

In the other room, Van Zwol overcalled 2¢, forcing Shen to go to the three level to show her clubs. With king-queen to five diamonds, Wenfei Wang rebid 3NT and Verbeek, knowing that clubs were dividing badly and having a rather useful spade suit, doubled. Nobody ran, though both East and West had reason to be a little concerned, so 3NT doubled it was. Van Zwol led a low diamond to dummy's bare jack. Wang played four rounds of clubs, knocking out the ten, and back came a heart, Van Zwol ducking Wang's king. Wang had one chance for her contract, and she took it, leading to the king of spades. That lost to the ace and the defence had the rest; down four for –800 and 12 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Board 51. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



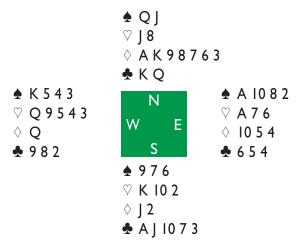
West	North	East	South
Simons	Lu	Pasman	Liu
_	_	_	l 🏚
Pass	INT	Pass	2♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
West Shen	North <i>Verbeek</i>	East Wang	South Van Zwol
			Van Zwol
Shen —	Verbeek –	Wang –	Van Zwol I♠

Given an uncontested auction, the Chinese N/S found the heart fit and easily bid to game. Of course, $4\heartsuit$ can be beaten via a spade ruff, but who would lead a spade from that West hand? Simons led a low diamond, Liu winning the ace and discarding a club from hand. She led a heart to the ten, king and ace and back came a second diamond. Winning the king, she this time discarded a spade from hand, drew trumps ending in hand, and led the ten of spades. Simons played low in tempo and Liu did very well when she ran the ten and had only to lose the two black aces; ten tricks for +420.

Shen doubled the opening bid and Verbeek redoubled. When Wang bid her diamonds, Van Zwol made a take-out double and Verbeek jumped to 3\(\Delta\), inviting game. Van Zwol accepted the invitation and hearts were never mentioned. Shen led a diamond. Van Zwol played low from dummy,

ruffing and playing a spade to the king followed by a second spade to her ten. She had two spade losers and there were two more aces to lose, so the contract was down one for –50 and 10 IMPs to China. That looked to be the normal way to play the spades in isolation, given the take-out double, though had Shen held ace-doubleton trump, she might have been able to find a heart switch to give partner a ruff to defeat the contract anyway.

Board 53. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

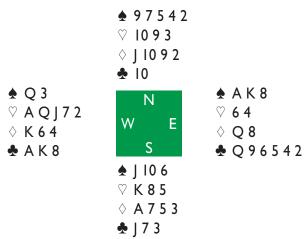


West	North	East	South
Simons	Lu	Pasman	Liu
Shen	Verbeek	Wang	Van Zwol
_	I ♦	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The two N/S pairs had identical auctions to 3NT, played by South, and both Wests made the natural lead of a low heart. Pasman and Wang both won the ace of hearts and laid down the ace of spades. On collecting an encouraging signal from partner they both continued with the two of spades and a few moments later the defence had cashed four spade tricks to defeat the contract by one; –100 and no swing.

In the other semi-final the board was flat at +690 N/S, and between the four series it made five times and was beaten five times after a low heart lead from West, so well done to both our East players.

Board 54. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

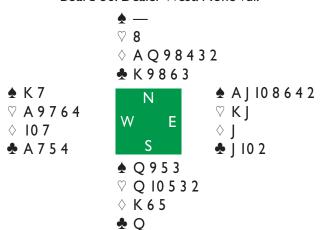


West	North	East	South
Simons	Lu	Pasman	Liu
_	_	♣	Pass
I	Pass	2♣	Pass
2◊	Pass	2♡	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Shen	Verbeek	Wang	Van Zwol
_	_	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Pasman opened I♣ then rebid the suit and Simons relayed twice then agreed clubs, made a clear slam try by moving with 4♣ over 3NT, then signed off in game on finding that Pasman had the ♠A but not the ♦A. Slam is, I suppose, about a 45% shot, so in the long term you would want to stop in game. After a spade lead Pasman could take all 13 tricks for +640.

Wang opened 24, Precision. Shen inquired, discovered that her partner held the sixth club and no major, and just jumped to 64. Knowing that Chinese players generally like to bid their slams, I would have put good money on Shen driving to slam once Wang had opened the bidding with 24. The 45% shot duly came in but Van Zwol cashed the ace of diamonds and that saved an IMP; +1370 and 12 IMPs to China.

Board 56. Dealer West. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Simons	Lu	Pasman	Liu
I♡	2♦	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Dble	5♦
Dble	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Shen	Verbeek	Wang	Van Zwol
Ι♡	4 ♦	4♠	Pass
Pass	4NT	Dble	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

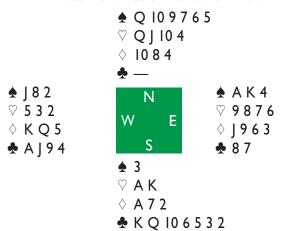
What is your style with the North cards – a simple overcall, a pre-empt, and if so at what level, or, I suppose, a two-suited overcall?

I don't like the two-suited option, not with two-card disparity in the suit lengths. I might overcall $2\Diamond$ one day and $4\Diamond$ the next, but I guess that my preference is for the preempt. That was also Verbeek's chosen bid. When Wang's 4Φ came back to her, Verbeek bid 4NT, showing the second suit but suggesting that there was a significant difference in length between the two suits. Van Zwol, of course, had an easy decision to choose $5\Diamond$, and Wang doubled.

In the other room, Lu started with the simple overcall and again East bid 4 - 1. Lu now bid 5 - 1 and Liu gave preference to $5 \cdot 1$, doubled by Simons.

Both Easts led the king of hearts and, after some thought, switched to the jack of diamonds. Declarer won the king and played the queen of clubs and both Wests gave that a long look then played low, hoping to find partner with the king. However, when the ΔQ held the trick, both declarers could ruff a spade, ruff a club, ruff a spade and ruff another club. Finally, they came back to hand with another spade ruff, drew the missing trump and gave up a club; I I tricks for +550 and a push board.

Board 57. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Simons	Lu	Pasman	Liu
_	Pass	Pass	♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass All Pass	3♡	Pass	4♣

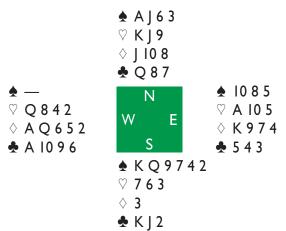
West	North	East	South
Shen	Verbeek	Wang	Van Zwol
_	3♠	All Pass	

Verbeek opened with an off-centre spade pre-empt and that silenced everyone. Wang led a club, so that went to the king, ace and ruff, and Verbeek led a heart to the ace followed by a spade to the ten and ace. Wang returned the a diamond, which Verbeek ducked, then came a heart to dummy's king. Verbeek took a diamond pitch on the queen of clubs, then played ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond,

followed by a low spade from hand. Shen won that and played a heart so Verbeek won that and played another spade and the even split meant that she had nine tricks for +140.

That was an excellent result for the Dutch pair on a deal where many N/Ss had trouble in stopping in a making contract. In the other room, Lu did not open as North – one can hardly blame her – and now Liu opened a strong club then showed her clubs. Lu had to show her spades and, when Liu repeated the clubs, introduced the hearts. When Liu bid clubs for a third time, Lu had finally had enough and passed, but they were way too high on this layout and fortunate to have escaped undoubled. Simons led the king of diamonds and there were two diamonds, a heart and three trumps to be lost; down three for –150 and 7 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Board 58. Dealer East. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Simons	Lu	Pasman	Liu
_	_	Pass	2◊
Pass	3♡	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

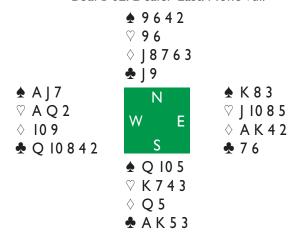
West	North	East	South
Shen	Verbeek	Wang	Van Zwol
_	_	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Dble	Rdbl	3♦	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

Liu opened a multi and Lu responded 3%, pass or correct and not constructive. Liu duly corrected to spades and Simons led a low heart. Liu called for the nine and lost to the ten. However, Pasman switched to a low diamond and Liu ruffed the second round, drew trumps and knocked out the ace of clubs. Eventually, she played a heart up and the normal play of the jack forced the ace; nine tricks for +140.

Van Zwol also opened a multi but Verbeek responded with a quiet 2° , also pass or correct. When Van Zwol showed that her suit was actually spades, Shen made a take-out double and Verbeek redoubled to show good values. When she next competed with $3 \clubsuit$, Van Zwol raised

herself to game, promptly doubled by Shen. The opening lead was again a low heart to the nine and ten and Van Zwol had to go one down for -200 and 8 IMPs to China.

Board 62. Dealer East. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Simons	Lu	Pasman	Liu
_	_	Pass	INT
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
Shen	Verbeek	Wang	Van Zwol
_	_	I♦	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	I 🛇
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

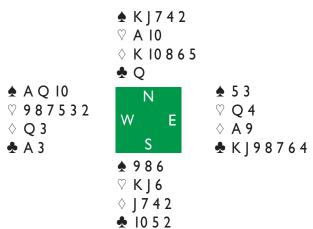
After a pass from Pasman, Liu opened a 14-16 INT and played there. Simons led the two of clubs, Liu putting up dummy's jack and leading a low diamond. Pasman played low so Liu put up the queen then continued with a second diamond to the ten, jack and king. Pasman returned the jack of hearts to the four, two and six. Had she continued with a second heart, declarer would have had an opportunity to set up a heart winner for a fith trick, but Pasman now switched to clubs and that possibility did not materialise. Liu won the club switch and played two more rounds of clubs, hoping to come to another trick in the endgame. However, there was no defensive error. Simons won the cub, cashed the fifth club and switched to a low spade to her partner's king; down three for -150.

At the other table, Wang opened a Precision $I \diamondsuit$ on the II-count and Van Zwol doubled then took out into $I \heartsuit$ when Shen's strength-showing redouble came back to her. Where the Dutch pair would have ended up had their opponents played for a penalty is unclear, but E/W can make $4 \heartsuit$, so $I \heartsuit$ doubled would have been a bloody affair. However, Wang bid INT and Shen raised to game.

Around the semi-finals, 3NT was played 13 times by E/W, making eight times and failing five times. There was only one penalty, the English N/S pair being caught for -800 in $2\Diamond$ doubled after South had doubled a mini no trump opening.

Van Zwol led the ace of clubs and switched to the queen of spades. Wang won in hand and led a club, putting up the queen when Van Zwol played low. Wang could set up two more club winners and had 11 tricks in all for +460 and 7 IMPs to China.

Board 63. Dealer South. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Simons	Lu	Pasman	Liu
_	_	_	Pass
$I \heartsuit$	2♡	2NT	Pass
3♡	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Shen	Verbeek	Wang	Van Zwol
_	_	_	Pass
ΙŸ	I♠	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The Chinese E/W had a natural auction to 3NT, against which Verbeek, who had bid spades and seen her opponents show cover in the suit, tried a diamond lead instead. That ran round to Shen's queen and, when the ace of clubs now brought down the queen, Shen just took her ten top tricks for +430.

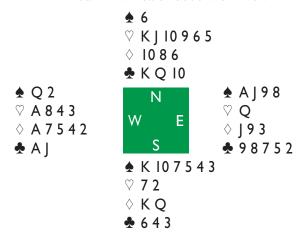
In the other room, Lu made a two-suited overcall and Pasman bid 2NT. I can't find anything about that on their convention card, but the evidence of the hand certainly suggests that it was intended as a transfer to clubs. However, if that was the case, Simons' 3% rebid rather than a completion of the transfer looks strange. Anyway, the bottom line was that the Dutch pair played in 3% and Lu led her singleton $\clubsuit Q$. Simons won the ace and led a low heart, so Lu took the ace and tried a spade. That ran round to declarer's ten and Simons played a second heart. Liu had two of those but the diamond and spade losers could go away on the clubs, so Simons had ten tricks for +170 but 6 IMPs to China.

The set had gone in favour of the host nation by 56-22 IMPs, and they now led by 137-89 with two sets to play.

Top of Nothing? – Well, Not Exactly

China has a huge number of promising junior players. One of them, C. Zhu found a spectacularly effective opening lead on this deal from Round 14 of the Transnational Open Teams. Thanks to his Australian opponent, Susan Humphries, for coming to tell us about it.

Board 19. Dealer South, E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Humphries	Zhu	Hollands	Jin
_	_	_	2◊
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♡	Pass	3NT	All Pass

For CHINA JUNIORS, K. Jin opened a multi 20 and Susan Humphries overcalled 2NT on her borderline hand. Peter Hollands used Stayman then settled for 3NT when his partner proved to have the wrong major.

On a spade lead, partner's known suit, the lucky diamond position means that 3NT has chances. Similarly, leading the jack of hearts, North's own suit, gives declarer hopes for success. Zhu put paid to even the faintest of hopes declarer might have had when, figuring that either partner or dummy might turn up with a bare queen, he fished out the king of hearts — top, but not exactly top of nothing. That pinned the bare queen in dummy and declarer went down five for —500. Yes, she admits that she might have got out for a mere down four and —400, but who's counting?







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