



# 44<sup>th</sup> World Bridge Team Championships

International Federation recognised by the  
INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



## Wuhan China 14-28 September 2019



WUHAN CHINA

## DAILY BULLETIN

Editor: **Brent Manley** • Journalists: **David Bird, Jos Jacobs, Brian Senior, Marc Smith, Ron Tacchi** • Lay-out Editor: **Monika Kümmel** • Photos: **Francesca Canali**



ARISF  
Association of Registered International Sports Federations



AISF  
Global Association of International Sports Federations



IMSMA  
International Mind Sports Association

Issue No. 14

Saturday, 28th September 2019

# FIVE THRILLING FINALS IN PROSPECT

With three sessions remaining we are on course for an exciting finish in all four series.

In the *Bermuda Bowl* **The Netherlands** leads **Poland** by a single point, 91-90. The *Venice Cup* is close, **Sweden** leading **China** 111-102. The biggest lead belongs to **Denmark's Seniors**, who are ahead of **England** 96-78. In the *Wuhan Cup*, **Russia** has a narrow lead over **USA I**, 85-74.

The *Transnational* Final will be between **San Chen Fund** and **Shanghai Cheng**.

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!**



*The winners of today's Wuhan Grand Prix, team DINKIN:  
Sam Dinkin, Lynn Baker, Karen McCallum, JoAnna Stansby, with Gianarrigo Rona and Yong Haihong, the General Manager Assistant of Hubei Shihua Wine*

### Convention Cards

If you want to check out a Convention Card this link will be useful:  
<http://championships.worldbridge.org/wuhanwt19/faq/the-registered-convention-cards>

### Closing Ceremony

The prize giving and closing ceremony will take place in the playing area (Changjiang Hall) **tonight 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.

### DISCLAIMER

All material published in the Bulletins is the responsibility of its author. Nothing published in these Bulletins may be reproduced without the express permission of the WBF.



#### Today's Programme

BB, VC, DT, MT	Transnational
Finals, Play-offs 10.00 - 12.20	Finals, Play-offs 10.00 - 12.20
13.30 - 15.50 (play off ends)	13.30 - 15.50 (play off ends)
16.10 - 18.30	16.10 - 18.30

#### All Finals and Play-Offs on BBO

10.00

VC      China - Sweden      VG/BBO I

other stanzas  
to be decided





Contents

THANKS TO THE STAFF .....3

Brackets .....4

Press Conference .....6

The Wuhan Cup .....7

I had a dream... .....7

How long can a Knock-Out match last? .....8

China v Netherlands (VC SF3) ...9

USA I v Poland .....13

    (BB SF 4 and 5) .....13

    (BB SF 6) .....18

What a defence! (or No free lunch) .....21

Romania v Russia .....22

    (WC SF 5) .....22

    (WC SF 6) .....26

Every card tells the story .....25

China v Sweden (VC F SI) ....30

Ranking Wuhan Grand Prix ...34

Two new books

Krzysztof Martens and Marek Wójcicki of Bridge University have published two new books on competitive bidding, titled Professional Competitive Bidding. One focuses on tactics and decisions, the other on examples from actual high-level play.



For more information, email [marek.wojcicki@bridge.com.pl](mailto:marek.wojcicki@bridge.com.pl)

The WBF in social media



Videos



16 to 26 July 2020  
62nd International Festival  
**BRIDGE**  
DEAUVILLE, France





# THANKS TO THE STAFF OFFICIALS BY THE WBF PRESIDENT

I would like to thank the entire team of Championship officials, both Chinese and coming from all over the world, working harmoniously together before and during these Championships, enabling its great success.

First of all, I would like to thank all the Chinese volunteers: they have done a truly wonderful job and made our stay here in Wuhan most memorable.

Coming to the WBF Staff I am pleased to remark on the huge activity undertaken by the Management Team with Jan Kamras, as co-chairman, Marc De Pauw, Philippe Cronier, Maurizio Di Sacco, Simon Fellus and Giorgio Duboin as consultant.

The Reviewer Ton Kooijman and his assistant Herman De wael. The Tournament Directors who have worked unstintingly headed by Matt Smith and Antonio Riccardi, ably assisted by Jeanne van den Meiraker, Bertrand Gignoux, Laurie Kelso, Bernardo Biondo, Marc van Beijsterveldt, Gustavo Chediak, Anthony Ching, Waleed El Menyawi, Ken Horwedel, Jakub Kasprzak, Ihsan Qadir, Gordon Rainsford, Chen Xiangyang, Fu Qiang, Tang Yunjian and Zhang Xin.

The Secretariat ran smoothly with Marina Madia, Arianna Testa, always helpful, who worked very hard and also backstage, and Dirk De Clercq who when he appears is welcomed unanimously. For the Protocol and Ceremony, our thanks go to Sevinç Atay.

The Communications section coordinated with skill and competence by Simon Fellus was masterful run by Anna Gudge with the invaluable support of Mark Horton and Francesca Canali, at the Live News, Brent Manley and Monica Kümmel, Brian Senior, David Bird, Jos Jacobs, Marc Smith, Martin Cantor and Ron Tacchi at the Daily Bulletin; Mario Chavarria Kaifmann organised and directed the video footage with Bas van Beijsterveldt, Cristian Cuchian, Sandra Leal, Alberto Benetti and Fernando Lema for interviewing, filming and editing; Jan Swaan, friendly courteous and always available, chaired the Press Room; Amaresh Deshpande well supported the presentation of tools and systems to develop bridge.

Bridgerama, as usual, offered a magnificent show and was very well conducted by Barry Rigal, David Stern, Pierre Schmidt, Simon Stocken and Chicco Battistone who was responsible for the technical side with Giulio Crevato Selvaggi and the support of Giusi Di Dio, Eria Franco and Fabio Lo Presti.

The Hospitality & Registration made a superb job of a very difficult task and our sincere appreciation goes to

Silvia Valentini and Gildana Caputo, ably assisted by Vicki Chediak and Joanna Kowalczyk.

Dr. Jaap Stomphorst coordinated the medical and anti doping procedures.

The Main Office and Caddies were skilfully overseen by Gianluca Barrese ably assisted by Gianni Bertotto and Alex van Dongen. The duplication team, responsible for duplicating a terrific number of no less than 58,000 boards was led by Monica Gorreri assisted by Franco Crosta.

The Technological Team did a tremendous job in this very delicate area, the hardcore of the entire organisation. Hans van Staveren was responsible for the IT Systems assisted by Song Zhao. All the data of the championship was elaborated and managed by Fotis Skoularikis, with Manolo Eminent as Scoring Manager assisted by Peter Eidt and Anton Osipov. Marcin Waslowicz managed the surveillance system assisted by Piotr Palczewski. Traian Chira provided, with excellent results, despite having to face a lot of practical problems, the coordination and direction of the broadcasting via internet of the matches, with the assistance of Jurica Maricic and Zhihao Zeng.

A special thank to the IBPA here represented, in addition to Barry Rigal and Jan Swaan, by Per Jannersten, John Carruthers and Elisabeth van Ettinger.

Dear Friends, thank you, all of you. You made a precious job, you deserve the merit of the success of the event and we are proud of you. It's a privilege to be able to count on you, to work with you. I personally hope and I am confident to continue to have this privilege.







Un abbraccio and ad majora.











Gianarrigo Rona

# Thank You !



















## Bermuda Bowl

	<b>USA I</b>	195							
	<b>ENGLAND</b>	162							
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>tot</b>
	<b>USA I</b>		3	22	34	38	18	19	134
	<b>POLAND</b>		20	44	32	12	45	33	186
	<b>CHINA</b>	141							
	<b>POLAND</b>	215							
CHINA	Gang CHEN, Linlin HU, Chuancheng JU, Yinghao LIU, Zheng Jun SHI, Zejun ZHUANG, Jihong HU captain, Kai ZOU coach								
ENGLAND	Jeffrey ALLERTON, David BAKHSHI, Tony FORRESTER, Chris JAGGER, Artur MALINOWSKI, Andrew ROBSON, Neil ROSEN captain, Andrew MURPHY coach								
ITALY	Norberto BOCCHI, Giorgio DUBOIN, Lorenzo LAURIA, Agustin MADALA, Antonio SEMENTA, Alfredo VERSACE, Maria Teresa LAVAZZA captain, Massimo ORTENSI coach								
NETHERLANDS	Simon DE WIJS, Bob DRIJVER, Bauke MULLER, Bart NAB, Ricco VAN PROOIJEN, Louk VERHEES Jr, Anton MAAS captain, Ton BAKKEREN coach								
NORWAY	Terje AA, Boye BROGELAND, Nils Kare KVANGRAVEN, Espen LINDQVIST, Allan LIVGARD, Ulf Haakon TUNDAL, Christian VENNEROED captain, Sten BJERTNES coach								
POLAND	Krzysztof BURAS, Bartosz CHMURSKI, Jacek KALITA, Grzegorz NARKIEWICZ, Michal NOWOSADZKI, Piotr TUCZYNSKI, Marek PIETRASZEK captain, Marek WOJCICKI coach								
SWEDEN	Simon EKENBERG, Simon HULT, Fredrik NYSTROM, Mikael RIMSTEDT, Ola RIMSTEDT, Johan UPMARK, Jan LAGERMAN captain								
USA I	Ralph KATZ, Robert (Bobby) LEVIN, Jeff MECKSTROTH, Nick NICKELL, Eric RODWELL, Steve WEINSTEIN, Jill LEVIN captain, Eric O. KOKISH coach								

	<b>NORWAY</b>	239							
	<b>ITALY</b>	202							
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>tot</b>
	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>		55	63	42	60	0	0	220
	<b>NORWAY</b>		9	22	22	24	0	0	77
	<b>SWEDEN</b>	173							
	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	207							
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>tot</b>
	<b>POLAND</b>		19	32	39				90
	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>		37	37	17				91
			<b>penalty</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>tot</b>
	<b>NORWAY</b>		54	27	17				98
	<b>USA I</b>		7	16	19	50			92






## Venice Cup










	CHINA	192							
	JAPAN	114							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
	CHINA		7	29	45	56	52	0	189
	NETHERLANDS		30	13	24	22	23	0	112
	NORWAY	161							
	NETHERLANDS	238							
CHINA		Yan LIU, Yan LU, Qi SHEN (I), Nan WANG, Wen Fei WANG, Xiaoxue ZUO, Xiaojing WANG captain, Xiaojing WANG coach							
ENGLAND		Heather DHONDY, Catherine DRAPER, Gillian FAWCETT, Nevena SENIOR, Nicola SMITH, Yvonne WISEMAN, David GOLD captain, David BURN coach							
JAPAN		Yuki FUKUYOSHI, Toshiko KAHO, Ruri KATO(OTE), Ayako MIYAKUNI, Makiko SATO, Akiko YANAGISAWA, Kazuo FURUTA captain							
NETHERLANDS		Merel BRUIJNSTEEN, Laura DEKKERS, Jet PASMAN, Anneke SIMONS, Wietske VAN ZWOL, Martine VERBEEK, Aarnout HELMICH captain, Peter IJSSELMUIDEN coach							
NORWAY		Ann Karin FUGLESTAD, Liv Marit GRUDE, Marianne HARDING, Torild HESKJE, Bodil Nyheim OIGARDEN, Gunn Tove VIST, Anne-Lill HELLEMANN captain, Jon-Egil FURUNES coach							
POLAND		Cathy BALDYSZ, Sophia BALDYSZ, Katarzyna DUFRAT, Danuta KAZMUCHA, Anna SARNIAK, Justyna ZMUDA, Mirosław CICHOCKI captain, Marek WOJCICKI coach							
SWEDEN		Kathrine BERTHEAU, Sanna CLEMENTSSON, Ida GRONKVIST, Jessica LARSSON, Emma OVELIUS, Cecilia RIMSTEDT, Kenneth BORIN captain, Carina WADEMARK coach							
USA I		Lynn BAKER, Irina LEVITINA, Karen McCALLUM, Kerri SANBORN, Sylvia SHI, JoAnna STANSBY, Sam DINKIN captain, Beth PALMER coach							

	USA I	199							
	SWEDEN	225							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
	ENGLAND		3	15	25	56	39	0	138
	SWEDEN		43	37	57	39	57	0	233
	POLAND	165							
	ENGLAND	217							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
	CHINA		44	21	37				102
	SWEDEN		53	30	28				111
			1	2	3	4	5	6	tot
	ENGLAND		37	52	13				102
	NETHERLANDS		43	13	51				107



















## d'Orsi Trophy

	USA 2	182					
	NETHERLANDS	210					
		1 2 3 4 5 6 tot					
	NETHERLANDS	25 9 72 8 36 18 168					
	ENGLAND	24 26 27 87 32 49 245					
	ENGLAND	168					
	CHINA	164					
CHINA	Yixiong LIANG, Rongqiang LIN, Mingkun SHEN, Xiaonong SHEN, Ming SUN, Jian Hua TAO, Rongqiang LIN captain, Jian Hua TAO coach						
CHINESE TAIPEI	Chung Mou CHANG, Jen-Chien CHUNG, Patrick K. H. HUANG, Chii-Mou LIN, Juei-Yu SHIH, Chen YEH, Shu-Ping YEH TONG captain						
DENMARK	Knud-Aage BOESGAARD, Soren CHRISTIANSEN, Henri Norman HANSEN, Jorgen Cilleborg HANSEN, Hans Christian NIELSEN, Steen SCHOU, Bo Loenberg BILDE captain						
ENGLAND	John HOLLAND, David KENDRICK, Alan MOULD, David MULLER, Malcolm PRYOR, Trevor WARD, David S JONES captain						
FRANCE	Michel ABECASSIS, Guy LASSERRE, Michel LEBEL, Alain LEVY, Philippe POIZAT, Philippe SOULET, Eric GAUTRET captain, Solange D'ELBEE coach						
INDIA	Sukamal DAS, Subhash DHAKRAS, Dipak PODDAR, Subrata SAHA, Jitendra SOLANI, Ramamurthy SRIDHARAN, Vinay DESAI captain, Anal SHAH coach						
NETHERLANDS	Hans DEVRIND, 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						

	FRANCE	180
	DENMARK	181
		1 2 3 4 5 6 tot
	INDIA	27 13 40 57 3 14 154
	DENMARK	38 65 33 12 56 20 224
	INDIA	170
	CHINESE TAIPEI	167
		1 2 3 4 5 6 tot
	ENGLAND	18 21 39 78
	DENMARK	61 7 28 96
		1 2 3 4 5 tot
	INDIA	27 28 47 102
	NETHERLANDS	58 16 24 98

## Wuhan Cup

	<b>ENGLAND</b>	185												
	<b>LATVIA</b>	173												
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>tot</b>					
	<b>ENGLAND</b>		38	25	18	17	35	33	166					
	<b>USA 1</b>		45	37	57	24	11	20	194					
	<b>CHINA</b>	150												
	<b>USA 1</b>	170												
<b>CHINA</b>	Jien CHEN, Zhengjiang LIAO, Ping WANG, Haotian WU, Shaohong WU, Zhaobin XIE, Bangxiang ZHANG captain, Bangxiang ZHANG coach													
<b>ENGLAND</b>	Sally BROCK, Fiona BROWN, Michael BYRNE, Frances HINDEN, Barry MYERS, Graham OSBORNE, Paul BARDEN captain													
<b>FRANCE</b>	Benedicte CRONIER, Philippe CRONIER, Nathalie FREY, Daniele GAVIARD, Jerome ROMBAUT, Frederic VOLCKER, Francois COMBESURE captain													
<b>LATVIA</b>	Jelena ALFEJEVA, Janis BETHERS, Maija ROMANOVSKA, Karlis RUBINS, Karlis RUBINS captain, Martins LORENCS coach													
<b>ROMANIA</b>	Mihaela BALINT, Marius IONITA, Bogdan MARINA, Geta MIHAI, Radu MIHAI, Marina STEGAROIU, Bogdan MARINA captain													
<b>RUSSIA</b>	Alexander DUBININ, Alexej GERASIMOV, Andrey GROMOV, Anna GULEVICH, Tatiana PONOMAREVA, Olga VOROBAYCHIKOVA													
<b>USA 1</b>	Cheri BJERKAN, Allan GRAVES, Christal HENNER, Uday IVATURY, Jill MEYERS, Howard WEINSTEIN, Joe STOKES captain													
<b>USA 2</b>	Huub BERTENS, Debbie ROSENBERG, Andrew ROSENTHAL, Chris WILLENKEN, Jenny WOLPERT, Migry ZUR-CAMPANILE, Jeff AKER captain													

	<b>RUSSIA</b>	250										
	<b>FRANCE</b>	210										
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>tot</b>			
	<b>ROMANIA</b>		20	42	45	25	19	23	174			
	<b>RUSSIA</b>		24	21	26	53	34	16	174			
<i>Russia qualifies thanks to their win in the Round Robin match (11.5 VPs).</i>												
	<b>USA 2</b>	139										
	<b>ROMANIA</b>	196										
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>tot</b>			
	<b>USA 1</b>		25	38	11				74			
	<b>RUSSIA</b>		37	16	32				85			
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>tot</b>			
	<b>ROMANIA</b>		53	42	37				132			
	<b>ENGLAND</b>		29	32	15				76			





# WBF and CCBA Press Conference



The traditional press conference was held on Friday morning at the venue, this time organized by the WBF and CCBA.

Present to answer questions from the local and the international press were:

- Gianarrigo Rona, WBF President
- Guo Yujun, Vice President and Secretary-General of the Chinese Contract Bridge Association, Deputy Director of Board and Card Games Administrative Center of General Administration of Sport in China.
- Wang Shenshun, Director of Wuhan Sports Bureau
- Marc De Pauw, WBF Treasurer,
- David Harris, General Counsel to the WBF
- Jan Kamras, EBL President & WBF Secretary
- Simon Fellus, WBF Secretary
- Maurizio Di Sacco, Operations Manager

Gianarrigo Rona started by recalling that this year sees the 20th anniversary of the recognition by the International Olympic Committee of the WBF as an International Federation. The WBF is invited to all IOC meetings. Important steps in the process of Olympic Integration were the inclusion of Bridge as one of the sports contested at the 2018 Asian Olympic Games, and the same inclusion for the 2022 games.

Important innovations in these championships were the introduction of a fourth series, the Wuhan Cup for Mixed Teams, and the increase in the number of tables shown on BBO to 32. The aim for 2021 is to have all 96 tables shown on BBO.

The meeting rooms here in Wuhan were exceptional and Rona thanked the Chinese Contract Bridge Association for their support.

Rona concluded by stating that "China is really the Home of Bridge".

Guo Yujun, Vice-President of the CCBA introduced the Wuhan Cup. In following the examples of Bermuda in 1950 and Venice in 1974, Wuhan wished to present a trophy for the Mixed Teams championship. The Wuhan Cup is silvery white, made of Aluminum, and 50 cm high.

It celebrates the Wuhan spirit: 'Dare to be the First and pursue Excellence'.

The speech part of the Press Conference was followed by the signing ceremony of the agreement between the WBF and the city of Wuhan regarding the presentation and naming of the Wuhan Cup.

By this agreement, the city of Wuhan not only donates the Cup to the WBF but also promises to provide the winners of future editions of the Mixed Teams championships with replicas of the original.

The floor was then opened to questions.

A representative of Wuhan radio wished to know what Rona's impressions of Wuhan were. Rona called his impressions 'more than positive'. Wuhan is a truly international city, with the World Basketball Championships, the World Bridge Championships and the

World Military Games all within the space of two months. Everybody is made to feel welcome.

Another Chinese reporter wished to know what positive influence the Wuhan Cup would have on sport in Wuhan. Wang Shenshun replied that this was a special day for Wuhan, as this was the first time an international trophy was named after the city. It would certainly help to promote bridge in Wuhan, which already boasts 10,000 bridge players. He thanked the WBF for allowing the world to see that Wuhan is able to organize international sporting events and in future also non-sporting events.

A radio reporter wanted to know what influence this event would have on bridge in China. Guo Yujun replied that this was the third time that the World Championships were held in China, after Beijing in 1995 and Shanghai in 2007. He welcomed the fact that the Transnational Team Championships permitted many Chinese bridge players to taste the atmosphere of international bridge. It will give great publicity to the game of Bridge in China. Live broadcasts from the event have reached 200,000 viewers, and the Internet has also helped in getting the sport of Bridge to be better known in China. Teams from 42 countries and regions were present in Wuhan and this is a great way to get the city of Wuhan known in the rest of the World. Also the naming of the trophy for the Mixed Teams to be named after Wuhan will leave a lasting mark on the world of bridge. He wished to thank the WBF for their support in achieving this.

Barry Rigal (IBPA) asked if a training programme would be introduced for BBO Operators and Jan Kamras replied that any problems would be seriously considered.

Potential venues for upcoming WBF Championships are:

- 2020 China or Turkey (Istanbul)
- 2021 Morocco (Marrakesh)
- 2022 Poland
- 2023 China Hong Kong
- 2025 Bermuda





## The Wuhan Cup

The World Bridge Team Championships is the world's highest level team competition of Bridge. The Championships started in 1950 and is held every two years, including the Bermuda Bowl, the Venice Cup, d'Orsi Trophy and the Mixed Teams – a new category for this competition.

It is a tradition of World Bridge Team Championships to name a new event after the name of city where the event is first held in order to memorize the special contribution of the city. The first World Championship, held in Bermuda in 1950, was named as Bermuda Bowl. The Venice Cup was born out of a challenge match between the women's team from Italy and a United States women's team and took the name from the City of Venice where the first edition was held in 1974. The 44th World Bridge Team Championships is held in Wuhan in 2019, with the first mixed team competition. World Bridge Federation decides to name the mixed events as "Wuhan Cup". Wuhan will become the first city in China to win the permanent name of an international event hosted by the World Bridge Federation.

The "Wuhan Cup" trophy is made of aluminum alloy and is silvery white. With the height of 50cm and the width of 34.2cm, the trophy weighs 15 kilograms together with the base. The front of the cup is engraved with the logo of the World Bridge Federation, the "World Mixed Teams Championship" and "Wuhan Cup", while the back is engraved with the image symbol of Wuhan city -- a sealed "Han" character written in classical Chinese and "Wuhan, China".

To name the World Bridge Mixed Team as "Wuhan Cup" is not only to honor and continue the tradition of the World Bridge Team Championships, but also the highly recognition of the outstanding contribution and support of the Chinese Organizing Committee, Hubei Sports Bureau, Wuhan Municipal People's Government and all the relating units for the successful hosting of this World Championships. It is also a positive response to the Wuhan spirit, which is "Dare to be the first and pursue excellence". The World Bridge Mixed Team is permanently named "Wuhan Cup", leaving an eternal impression of Bridge World Team Championships in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China and a deep mark on the history of the World Bridge Championship. With the help of bridge, the name of Wuhan has been promoted to the world, which is the most vivid explanation of the theme of the current World Championships – "Bridge links the globe, card links the all overseas regions".



## I had a dream...

by Ib Lundby, Denmark

As I look back on my life in bridge, I realise that it was right for me to choose a job as editor of the magazine Dansk Bridge for 35 years instead of playing the game. Why? My skills as a bridge player were not good enough – I did much better at the table as South/East or North/West!

In the very first session of the Wuhan finals, Board 5 confirmed what I mean:



Ib Lundby

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

I checked the scores at every table – 5♣ was made at one table, but elsewhere 3NT was the most popular contract. It was only made twice, while all the others went down, as did those who tried 5♦. Double dummy, which is my area, I realised that 3NT is lay down, because you can always set up an endplay against West.

The bidding at the Norwegian table was: 2♣ – (2♠) – 3♦(weak) – (3♠) – 3NT.

A spade was led to the ace, a spade back to the queen, and a third spade to declarer's king. Declarer now may cash all his clubs and, down to five cards West is left with one spade and Kx in both red suits. Therefore, cash one of the red aces and endplay West to give you the last two tricks.

I checked the two players who made 3NT, but was disappointed. In the Venice Cup, Sweden's Ida Grönkvist got a spade lead to the ace and a heart return, ducked – nine tricks. In the d'Orsi Trophy the Dutchmen, Van der Hoek got the ♠10 back from East at trick two and (mis)played the hand by playing the king. Notice that East now has an entry with the ♠8 but, when South cashed his clubs, West kept his ♠Q9, and therefore was endplayed to lead from one of his red kings.

I had a dream – I will continue as South/East or North/West....



# How long can a Knock-Out match last?

by Herman De Wael

Astute readers of the bulletin may have noticed in yesterday's issue that San Chen Fund was shown without an opponent in the round of 8 of the transnational teams.

This was because the end of the Transnational Round of 16 Match between YBT and USA 2 Mixed proved a long and tiring one for players and directors alike. At the end of the match, won by YBT by a score of 35 to 24, the players from team USA 2 Mixed approached the Directors with two requests for rulings. So the Directors went to work. At one point a huddle of directors could be seen bent over a TV-screen, watching a recording of some of the happenings. After some consultation among the Directors, it was decided that a further poll would be necessary. Since by now the venue was empty of players, that poll could not be done on the spot. So it was agreed with all the players to reconvene at 9 o'clock the following morning, at which time the final polling would be conducted and the results of the rulings be given. It was hoped that this would be enough time before the start of the next round, which was scheduled at 10.00.

The Directors were not idle, however. During dinner all over the city, players were spotted and asked for their opinion on the cases. We observed two directors, in the lobby of the hotel that houses the staff, at half past ten, deliberating the answers of the poll.

The morning came, and a few more Directors were involved in the discussions. At 9.30 came the results of both rulings – in the first case, the table result would be

maintained, while in the second the result was changed, giving 11 IMPs to USA 2 Mixed. That was however not enough, as this turned the match into a tie. YBT would then still win the encounter since they had ended up higher in the qualifying Swiss (normally any match between the two teams would be determinate, but the teams had not met).

This was not to the satisfaction of both teams (one ruling going against each of them), and so both teams requested a review. Since USA 2 Mixed could only win from a review of the first of the two cases, that one was held first. Only in case the score would be changed on that ruling, would the review on the second case be necessary.

The review was heard at 9.45 and a result was ready at 10.05. The ruling was upheld, so the result was now final and team YBT would be playing the round of eight. As their match would start a little behind the others, this meant that they would get to play a different board one, but the tournament could now continue as if nothing had happened. And then an amazing set of coincidences. Team YBT had tied the first half of this match, and after the score adjustment also the second half. They won this match on tie breaker rule 2: the total qualification ranking. This morning, team YBT also tied both halves of their quarter-final match with 'San Chen Fund'. This time however, they had met this other team, and so tie breaker rule 1 came into operation, which was the direct match. They had lost that one and will no doubt be thinking back on all the missed IMPs.



**WBFF ROBOT TOURNAMENTS**

★ WIN GREAT PRIZES AND WBFF ONLINE MASTERPOINTS! ★

To play in these fun, enjoyable Robot Tournaments, just go to: <https://www.funbridge.com> and download their application.

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

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





Venice Cup SF S3

China v Netherlands



Ron Tacchi

The Netherlands has a mere 7 IMP lead over China, both teams having won one of the first two stanzas. The Chinese pairs play Precision with a 13-15(6) no-trump. Van Zwol/Verbeek play five-card majors with two-over-one and a 14-16 no-trump and transfers over an opening 1♣, whereas the other Dutch pair also play five-card majors with two-over-one but their no-trump is variable, ranging from 9-13 in third position right up to a normal 15-17.

Spoiler alert: if you are a fan of long club suits and club contracts then this is the stanza for you.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A K Q J 8 4 2

♥ 2

♦ J 10 9 7

♣ 10

♠ 10 3

♥ K 10 8 7 6

♦ 6 2

♣ Q J 5 2

♠ 6

♥ A Q J 9 4 3

♦ K Q 4 3

♣ A 3

♠ 9 7 5

♥ 5

♦ A 8 5

♣ K 9 8 7 6 4

N

W E

S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Van Zwol	Zuo	Verbeek	Wang N
—	1♠	Dble	2♥*
3♥	4♠	5♥	Dble
All Pass			

South's 2♥ was support for spades and North, remembering Meckstroth's law, raised to game. East took out insurance and South's Double inhibited North from continuing, but only after a lengthy pause. North cashed her king of spades and switched to the ♣10. In an attempt to make her contract declarer let this ride, but South took her king and returned the suit for North to ruff. That along with the ace of diamonds took the contract two off.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shen	Bruijnsteen	Wang W	Dekkers
—	4♠	Dble	All Pass

North, with a virtual certain seven tricks, pre-empted at a higher level. East doubled and when West passed, she might have remembered a dictum from a bridge legend, even more famous than myself, that takeout doubles should be taken out. However, she elected to pass and was soon writing 690 in the out column. 9 IMPs and first blood to the Netherlands.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K Q 6 3

♥ Q 4

♦ A 9 2

♣ J 10 4 2

♠ A J 9 5

♥ A J 8 5

♦ Q 5 3

♣ K Q

♠ 10 8 7 4 2

♥ 10 9 3

♦ J 7 4

♣ 9 5

♠ —

♥ K 7 6 2

♦ K 10 8 6

♣ A 8 7 6 3

N

W E

S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Van Zwol	Zuo	Verbeek	Wang N
—	—	—	1♦*
INT	Dble	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

One suspects that North was hoping her partner would reopen with a double. I was surprised when North passed the 3♣ bid, I had already started typing 3NT when her Pass hit the table, but of course the Precision base meant that 1♦ could be based on a modest hand. West got off to the best lead of the ♣K, taken by declarer, who then played a small heart towards the queen, which held. A small heart was the continuation and East's nine held the trick. East got off lead with a trump to West's queen. It is not obvious, and almost certainly counter-intuitive, to exit with a small spade, but this is the only way to hold declarer to just ten tricks. When she chose the ace of hearts, declarer was able to ruff this and use the now established ♥K to discard a diamond in dummy. Then, after a diamond was ruffed, the 3-3 split gave declarer her eleventh trick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shen	Bruijnsteen	Wang W	Dekkers
—	—	—	1♣*
Dble	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
1♣	2+♣ and forcing 1 round		
2♦	Forcing		

North believed her partner had a sound opening bid and essayed the no-trump game. At first glance it looks an uphill task for N/S and when East found the lead of the ♥10 prospects did not look good, but with East having no entry life was going to be surprisingly easy for declarer. The heart



ran round to the queen and declarer then ran the ♣J to West's king. The ♥J was West's exit card, which dummy took with the king. When the ace of clubs felled the queen, declarer came to hand with the ♣10 to lead the king of spades to establish her ninth trick. After taking the ace of spades West could only cash her two heart tricks and then surrender the remainder to declarer. Another 6 IMPs to The Netherlands.

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

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



## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Van Zwol	Zuo	Verbeek	Wang N
—	—	3♣	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

West's 3♦ was forcing (I am not sure what the precise meaning of 3♥ is) and West carried to the minor-suit game. South led her singleton queen of hearts, taken in dummy. Declarer drew trumps and played a spade towards dummy. South promptly went up with her ace, led a diamond to her partner's ace and North was able to cash the king of hearts to take the contract one down.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shen	Bruijnstee	Wang W	Dekkers
—	—	3♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

West did not bother with any fripperies but went directly to game. South elected to lead the ace of spades and now the contract was impregnable as the heart loser could be discarded on one of the established spades. The effect of the lead was 12 IMPs to China.

## Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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



## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Van Zwol	Zuo	Verbeek	Wang N
3♣	Dble	5♣	Dble
All Pass			

East took an advanced sacrifice, over which South expressed an opinion with a red card. North led the king of hearts, which held the trick. She then cashed the ace of diamonds before switching to a spade. When South inserted the jack, declarer could win with the queen, draw trumps with the aid of a successful finesse and then cash the king of diamonds to discard her losing heart and get out for one down. You might like to ponder how the defence should have taken their four tricks.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shen	Bruijnstee	Wang W	Dekkers
3♣	Dble	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			



Merel Bruijnstee, Netherlands



East was not inclined to raise the level of the pre-empt, perhaps she valued the defensive nature of her hand. The N/S hands only fitted in diamonds and by the time they were mentioned at the four-level it was already too high. South elected to try for the major-suit game and this was not a success. West commenced with her singleton diamond, taken in dummy with the ace. A trump to the nine followed, taken by West's ten. The ♣Q was the continuation to dummy's king and won by East with the ace. Another club followed with declarer discarding a heart whilst West won with the jack. West exited with a heart won by declarer in hand. Declarer now ducked a trump taken by East with the king and she could now cash the diamond king allowing West to discard her remaining heart and so when East then pushed a heart through East was able to ruff for the third undertrick. Another 6 IMPs to China.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Both teams arrived in 4♠ and failed by one trick, but at one table there was a chance to make the contract that was not seized. South was declarer and the lead was the jack of hearts and the suit continued when declarer ducked the first round, but took the second with the ace. The ace of trumps revealed the bad break and a second trump towards dummy forced West to split her honours. The king and ace of clubs followed, and when declarer tried to ruff a club, West overruffed the jack with her queen and exited with her last trump to prevent declarer ruffing the last club.

This was the position as West played her last trump:

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

Declarer called for the nine of trumps and played for East to have the ♦KQ, and so the contract failed. Can you see how she could have made it? She must win in hand with the eight, ruff a heart then follow this up with the last trump. East is now squeezed in three suits; she cannot afford to discard her club, nor her heart and so has to come down to the bare king of diamonds. When declarer plays a diamond, the king falls under the ace and a small diamond from hand sets up a diamond for the tenth trick. A three-suit squeeze without the count; you do not get many of them to the pound.

Should declarer have spotted this - I think probably yes - East must have the ♥KQ (remember the lead) and is known to have the last club so if she has one of the diamond honours her situation is untenable. Yes, declarer could possibly play West for ♦KQ but split honours are much more likely and wouldn't you prefer to do something as pretty as that squeeze? Much more importantly, by not playing the squeeze she robbed your humble scribe of the possibility of writing up a brilliancy.

So, it was just a boring flat board.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Van Zwol	Zuo	Verbeek	Wang N
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Non-vulnerable against vulnerable opponents West pre-empted to the maximum. Unfortunately, no game was readily available to N/S and when South doubled, North converted it to penalties. The king of hearts was the opening lead, which declarer ruffed in hand. Declarer ran the jack of spades to South's queen and a trump was returned which declarer took with the ace and continued with another to North's king. North now led her eight of spades (having played the six on the first round of the suit) to South's ace. To take the contract down two South must return a diamond. If, as happened, she returns a spade, a simple finesse takes the rest of the tricks. If she returns a heart there is a squeeze ending since South must always retain her two spades. If with them she keeps a heart, then North's diamond holding can be finessed and if she opts to keep the diamond then North is squeezed in the red suits.



## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shen	Bruijnsteen	Wang W	Dekkers
4♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

A more restrained pre-empt brought the same action from South and again North converted it to penalties. The king of hearts was the lead. Declarer ruffed and played ace and another trump. Winning with the king, North continued with hearts, which compelled declarer to ruff. A couple more rounds of trumps saw both North and South discard spades and now declarer was home as she could force out the ace and queen and the long spade would be good. I would like it to be noted that I have maintained a serious approach to this hand and have not at any point referred to Double Dekkers - it was a strain, but I managed it.

Another 12 IMPs to China.

On board thirteen, a further 7 IMPs went to China when both Dutch pairs reached failing part-scores.

At the end of the stanza China had outscored The Netherlands 45-24, giving China a lead of 81-67. Not a mortal blow, but a blow to morale.

An unusual statistic from this set - over one third of the contracts were played in clubs. It will be a while before you will see that again.



Laura Dekkers, Netherlands

## 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 11th – 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 enjoyable it can be.








Bermuda Bow SF S4 and 5

USA I v Poland



Jos Jacobs

At the halfway point of this semi-final, USA I were trailing Poland by only 37 IMPs, far less than was their halfway deficit against England in the quarter-finals (-63). So we were looking forward to yet another possible US Houdini act, and the opening board of the set certainly looked a good omen for the USA I team.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A K 9 7 5 2

♥ Q 9 2

♦ 5

♣ 10 7 6

♠ Q J 8

♥ A

♦ A K J 9 7 6 4

♣ J 9

N

W

S

E

♠ 10 6

♥ K 10 8 6 5

♦ 10 3

♣ A 8 5 3

♠ 4 3

♥ J 7 4 3

♦ Q 8 2

♣ K Q 4 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Buras	S Weinstein	Narkiewicz	R Levin
—	2♠	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

When the weak two runs round to you (West), you simply bid what you think you can make. The only problem is how to tackle the diamond suit. Would the weak two bidder be unbalanced?

Jeff Meckstroth, USA I

North leads a low spade so you cannot afford to lose the lead any more. When Buras next laid down the ♦AK, he was one down as North had already discarded a spade winner; USA I + 50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Nowosadzki	Meckstroth	Kalita
—	2♦*	Pass	2♥
3NT	All Pass		

We will never know whether Rodwell was following his intuition here or whether he was playing for the swing. On the same low spade lead, he cashed the ♦A, crossed to the ♣A and led a diamond to his jack. One overtrick and +430 to USA I, worth the first 10 IMPs of the set.

On the next board, either North (or South, for that matter) might have doubled the opponents to collect +500 on a normal enough overbid but a few boards later, the Americans showed they had learnt their lesson:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ J 8 6 5

♥ A 10 2

♦ K Q J 10 5 2

♣ —

♠ K Q 3

♥ K 9 8

♦ A 9 6 4

♣ J 4 2

N

W

S

E

♠ A 10 7 2

♥ Q J 7

♦ 3

♣ Q 10 9 7 6

♠ 9 4

♥ 6 5 4 3

♦ 8 7

♣ A K 8 5 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Buras	S Weinstein	Narkiewicz	R Levin
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♦	1♥	Pass
1♠	2♦	Dble	3♦
All Pass			

East's 1♥ showed spades, of course. Over South's aggressive raise, mainly based on a pretty useless ♣AK, nobody had anything to say. Down three without any problems; Poland +300 and again a chance missed.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Nowosadzki	Meckstroth	Kalita
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	2♦	Dble	All Pass

13







Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

On the next board, game could be made but you first of all would have to bid it.

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Buras	S Weinstein	Narkiewicz	R Levin
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	2♥*	2NT*	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

East's 2NT showed clubs with invitational values but when West signed off, there it rested; ten tricks, Poland +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Nowosadzki	Meckstroth	Kalita
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	2♥*	2♠*	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Over North's two-suiter, Meckstroth's 2♠ also showed clubs but when he spoke again, game was reached. With West being declarer and the diamonds were protected, but when the clubs were good for an immediate seven tricks, 3NT could not be defeated anyway. USA 1 +430 and 7 IMPs to go into the lead by the odd IMP. The segment score stood at 38-0 so the only question remaining was: "Would

Poland get off the Schneider?"

This was the last board of the segment:

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Nowosadzki	Meckstroth	Kalita
1♦*	Pass	2♣	2♥
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Well, even with a peek there are not yet nine top tricks so declarer would need a working plan. North's heart lead went to the king and ace and Rodwell next ducked a club to South's ♣8. South persisted with the hearts, declarer winning the 3rd round and cashing the ♣A. A losing spade finesse came next and North exited in diamonds, dummy putting up the ace. Declarer could cash his spade winners but South now had a quick entry to his hearts when the clubs did not break; one down; Poland +100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Buras	S Weinstein	Narkiewicz	R Levin
1♣*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Over the Polish Club and East's transfer to 2NT, South could not safely show his hearts, so North made a natural lead of the ♣10 (Rusinow style) taken in dummy and followed by a losing spade finesse. North switched to a low heart but it was already too late. Declarer won the queen and ducked a diamond to South's ♦Q. South continued the ♣Q which was allowed to hold the trick and only then came another heart, which also won the trick. With the count now well and truly rectified, the scene was set for an elementary squeeze ending. When declarer cashed the ♦A and next ran the spades, North could not hold on to both his club guard and the last diamond winner, so declarer emerged with nine tricks. Well played anyway for another +600 and 12 much-needed IMPs to Poland. They had lost the segment 12-38 but they were in the lead again, by 11 IMPs with 32 boards to go and, a psychological point, they had averted the Schneider.

Over now to segment five:



## Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kalita	S Weinstein	Nowosadzki	R Levin
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	2♥	Dble	4♥
Dble	Pass	5♦	Dble
All Pass			

For the Poles, getting to 5♦ almost looked a matter of routine. One down; USA 1 +100.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Buras	Meckstroth	Narkiewicz
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♥	Dble	Pass
2♦	2♥	3♦	Dble
Pass	4♣	4♦	4♥
All Pass			

Slightly surprising, I thought, that E/W sold out to 4♥. In a theoretical sense, they were right because N/S can make 6♣ but I am not sure they had considered this aspect. No overtricks but still +620 and 11 IMPs to Poland. Would this be a good omen for them?

Two boards later, we saw the first of two characteristic part-score decisions, in just the same fashion that we had had in the previous segment.

## Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kalita	S Weinstein	Nowosadzki	R Levin
Pass	2♥	3♦	3♠
All Pass			

South's spades looked solid enough and with the suit breaking 3-2, they even were. Still, the contract had no play. Down two; Poland +200. Declarer lost two clubs, a trump and three diamonds.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Buras	Meckstroth	Narkiewicz
Pass	2♦	3♦	All Pass

Buras, for Poland, also opened a weak two, this time in Multi fashion. When Meckstroth overcalled, Narkiewicz simply passed, which resulted in +200 more when this contract, too, went down two; 9 IMPs to Poland.

And a few boards later another one:

## Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kalita	S Weinstein	Nowosadzki	R Levin
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Well judged by the Poles. 3♠ was more than enough; Poland +140.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Buras	Meckstroth	Narkiewicz
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Two nice distributions but not enough combined values led to an inevitable one down for another +100 and a 6 IMP part-score swing to Poland. These two hands form a nice contrast to the two hands I published in the report about the morning segment.



**Krzysztof Buras, Poland**

With five boards to go in this segment, the Polish lead had nearly reached the overnight margin again: 140-104, a difference of 36. This was board 12:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kalita	S Weinstein	Nowosadzki	R Levin
Pass	Pass	3♣	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

With West on lead, defeating 4♥ was almost too easy. A, K ruff, A. Poland +100

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Buras	Meckstroth	Narkiewicz
Pass	Pass	3♣	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

With no adverse bidding, Buras took his fate into his own hands when he sort of gambled 3NT over partner's overall. Yes, his hand pattern is very suitable for it but the contract would perhaps not have survived a spade lead, as so often at no-trumps. When East, not being clairvoyant, led

a low diamond, declarer was home because the spades were well placed for him. One overtrick and a not unlucky +630 to Poland, worth 12 IMPs.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kalita	S Weinstein	Nowosadzki	R Levin
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

The play was remarkable. East led the ♦Q to partner's ace and West returned a low diamond. Declarer put in the nine and East ruffed. He exited in clubs but Weinstein won the ace perforce and drew three rounds of trumps. The ♦K and ♠A were cashed and West's last diamond ruffed out. After this, dummy was reached with a spade ruff and declarer only lost the last club. Just made; USA 1 +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Buras	Meckstroth	Narkiewicz
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

The same contract at the other table, reached in transfer fashion. When West led a trump, declarer was entirely left to his own resources. He won the ace in dummy and unblocked both the ♠A and the ♣A. A spade was ruffed in hand and a diamond went on the ♣K. Two top trumps followed and then came the ♠Q, covered by East with the king. Declarer discarded a low diamond from hand and East exited with a high club, dummy ruffing. When West did not follow suit on the ♠J, declarer had to go one down. Because West can overruff spades, it is highly unlikely that declarer would have been able to find a winning line this way. USA 1 +50 and 10 IMPs back to them. In spite of this late setback, Poland had won the segment 45-18, ample compensation for the loss of the 4th segment earlier in the day. They would go into the last 16 boards with a lead of 38. Would a real Houdini act occur after all?





Bermuda Bowl SF S6

## USA I v POLAND



David Bird

USA I, who had pulled back a large deficit in their quarter-final against England, were faced with a similar task once again. Only 16 boards were left and the score was: Poland 153 – USA 115. On voice commentary, Marc Smith and I agreed that Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell were the best pair in the world, famed for many last-set heroics. They would need some suitable boards, a lapse or two from their world-class opponents, and perhaps a bit of luck. It was not going to be easy.

This was the second board:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Rodwell	Nowosadzki	Meckstroth
–	–	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♠	All Pass

It was a peaceful enough board in the Open Room. N/S had little chance to contest the auction, at adverse vulnerability. Meckstroth led a diamond to the ace, and the ♦J was returned to the king. Declarer played the ace and king of trumps, continuing with the jack.

Rodwell won and played a low heart to partner's king, declarer ruffing the next heart and drawing the last trump. He played a third round of diamonds, hoping that a 3-3 split would give him a club discard. Not today, and that was +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Buras	Levin	Narkiewicz
–	–	1♠	2♠*
Pass	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Wow! Grzegorz Narkiewicz risked a Michaels 2♠, red against white. That was both brave and surprising. He found a great hand opposite, and Levin had an automatic 4♠ bid over a heart game that would not have been made.

The ♠K lead was ducked, and Narkiewicz switched to a heart. Winning with the ace, Buras returned the ♠10 to dummy's jack. The ♠A was ruffed with the ♠2, overruffed with the ♠5. Levin played the ace, king and jack of trumps. He had to lose two diamonds tricks and that was 500 away. The Michaels bid, which might on another day have cost a big number, pulled in 12 IMPs.

USA I had a chance to recover the lost IMPs on the next deal:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Rodwell	Nowosadzki	Meckstroth
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	1♠	2♦*	2NT*
3♣	Pass	3♥	All Pass

There would be four losers in 4♥, perhaps only two in 5♣. Nowosadzki's 2♦ was a transfer to hearts and Meckstroth's 2NT was a spade raise. When Poland stopped in 3♥, the defenders claimed their spade tricks and later two heart tricks. It was +140 for Poland. Could the American E/W do better at the other table?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Buras	Levin	Narkiewicz
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	1♠	2♥	3♥*
3♠*	Pass	4♣	4♠
Pass	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Steve Weinstein's 3♠ implied good clubs and asked for a spade stopper. South's 4♠ over 4♣ was dubious, to put it politely. He had already announced a strong spade raise, and his side-suit holdings were very weak. After two passes, we were expecting Bobby Levin to double. USA I could then collect +800 against a part-score at the other



table. It would be a gain of 12 IMPs.

Bobby Levin preferred to bid 4NT, asking partner to choose between five-level contracts. Weinstein did not take long to select 5♣. If he could land this contract, it would still be a gain of 10 IMPs for the Americans.

Krzysztof Buras led the ♠A, his partner following with the ♠K. After a spade continuation to the queen, Narkiewicz switched to the ♣5. A long pause followed. Weinstein needed to ruff a diamond in dummy. If he intended to finesse South for the ♣Q, he would need to do it on the first round.

Why should he want to finesse, though? It was true that N/S had bid very high on their spade fit, but it was South who had bid strongly. If anything, he might be short in clubs. Time ticked by; then the ♣J appeared on the table. North won with the queen and returned a trump, putting the club game two down. 8 IMPs were lost where 10 or 12 might have been gained.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

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

N  
WSE  
S

♠ J 10 6 5  
♥ J 5  
♦ K 10 8 5  
♣ 4 3 2

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Rodwell	Nowosadzki	Meckstroth
—	1♥	Pass	3♥
4♦	4♥	All Pass	

South's 3♥ was described as a mixed raise. Nowosadzki led the ♦K (♦9 from partner) and switched to the ♠J. Kalita won with the king and returned the ♦Q, ruffed by declarer. When trumps broke 2-2 and the ♣K was onside, the game was made for +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Buras	Levin	Narkiewicz
—	1♥	Pass	3♦
4♦	4♥	5♦	All Pass

Now it was Poland that had a chance to collect +800. Ace and king of hearts, followed by a ♣J switch. Should North not double 5♦, with two aces in his hand? The required defence was found, but only +300 entered the Poland coffers. That was a loss of 3 IMPs instead of a gain of 9 IMPs.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

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

N  
WSE  
S

♠ 8 6 5 4 2  
♥ Q 10 9 5 2  
♦ 5 4 3  
♣ —

♠ K J 7  
♥ K 8 4  
♦ K  
♣ A J 10 8 3 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Rodwell	Nowosadzki	Meckstroth
—	—	Pass	INT
All Pass			

E/W had a game available in either red suit, but Kalita had nothing to say over the INT opening. At first glance this seemed a likely bad board for Poland. However, when West led the ♦A, dropping declarer's king, we could see that a substantial number of 100s might be harvested.

Kalita took six diamond tricks, no doubt enjoying the

Jacek Kalita, Poland

19



experience. East discarded the ♠8 and ♠6 (upside-down attitude) to show that he had (a) little interest in spades, and then (b) no interest at all in spades. The kibitzers cried 'No, no!' when East released one of his hearts on the sixth round of diamonds. Dummy, meanwhile, had thrown two hearts and a spade.

West switched to the ♥6, drawing the queen and king. Meckstroth cashed the ♣A, and East threw the ♠5. The ♣2 went to West's king and East discarded the ♥9. What attraction did he see in the ♠42 that he was keeping instead? The defenders could then take only two hearts, with their six diamonds, the ♠A and ♣K. Dummy's ♣Q claimed the last trick and the penalty was 500.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Buras	Levin	Narkiewicz
–	–	Pass	1♣
Dble	Pass	1♠	2♣
2♦	2NT	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

The Americans reached game in hearts, collecting +650 after a lead of the ♦K. That was a gain of 4 IMPs.

## Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Rodwell	Nowosadzki	Meckstroth
–	1♦	1♥	2♦*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Meckstroth's 2♦ was inverted after the intervention. East led the ♣K, asking for unblock or upside-down count. To show three cards, West would normally follow with the ♣9. He actually played the ♣5. Perhaps he was worried about setting up a trick for dummy's ♣8 if declarer held ♣Q10.

East switched to the ♠J, won with dummy's king. A diamond to the queen was followed by a heart, East rising with the king. Still unwilling to continue clubs, Nowosadzki returned the ♥J. Rodwell won with dummy's queen and cashed four rounds of diamonds. When he followed with the ♥A, East threw the ♠10.

On another day, the prolonged failure to cash the defenders' club tricks might have given away the contract. Here, Rodwell had only eight tricks. When he exited with a club, East took two club tricks and West scored an eventual spade. It was one down, as nature had always intended.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Buras	Levin	Narkiewicz
–	1♣	1♥	1♠*
Pass	1NT	2♣	Dble
All Pass			

Poland were about to bid 3NT, no doubt for a push board, when Levin took a second bid. He was doubled in 2♣, which seems an 800 touch on best defence. If the defenders force declarer in diamonds, he can make no more than his four trump tricks.

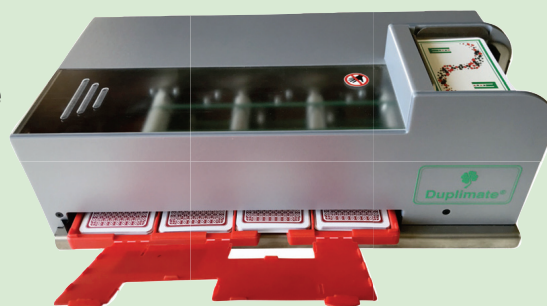
South led the ♣2 to the queen and king. He won the ♠10 with the king and played another trump. When declarer won and led the ♠J to North's ace, 800 was still available. Surely the defenders would now force declarer in diamonds? North could achieve the same result by giving his partner a spade ruff.

A diamond switch did come, South winning with the jack. He returned a club, however, and declarer was then able to draw trumps and score two spade tricks in the dummy. It was 'only 500', still good for a 12-IMP Polish gain.

Poland took the final set 33-19, winning the semi-final by 186-134. If they have seen the score from the other semi-final, they may be a bit nervous about tomorrow. Still, that won't stop them celebrating tonight. Very well played!

## 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](mailto:anna@jannersten.com)





# What a defence! (or No free lunch)

by Ron Klinger

This arose in Session 2 of the Bermuda Bowl final:  
Netherlands v Poland

Board 22 Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Chmurski	Van Prooijen	Tuczynski
—	—	INT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♥	All Pass
3♠	4 spades, 5 hearts		

South led the ♥Q – two – three – king. East played the ♣9, ace. South switched to the ♠4: jack – queen – ace. Declarer cashed the ♦A, discarding the ♠7 from dummy. Then came the ♣10 – two – king – ♥4. Declarer made the rest; eleven tricks, +650.

That seems a normal result. Indeed, at ten other tables in the finals or play-offs for third in the world teams, 4♥ made, scoring +620, +650 or +680. One E/W pair score 630 in 3NT, one was +140 in 3♥ and two went down in 4♥.

This was the only table where East/West were defending, and what a defence it was.

West	North	East	South
Kalita	De Wijs	Nowosadzki	Muller
—	—	INT	Pass
2♣*	2♦	Dble	3♦
Dble*	All Pass		
Dble	Take-out		

With the favourable vulnerability, North thought that little damage would be done by overcalling 2♦. It would be a convenient way to compete and indicate a good lead for partner when E/W end up declaring. Things did not quite go that way.

Looking at all four hands, what would you expect to be the outcome in 3♦ doubled? North looks to have two losers in spades, two in hearts and two in diamonds. That would be two down for –300, a nice 8-IMP pick-up against

+650 at the other table. Watch how Michael Nowosadzki expanded two down into four down.

He led the ♥A – jack – ten – three and switched to the ♦4! – five – ♥2 – ♦3. Declarer played dummy's ♠4: seven – ten – ace. East reverted to the ♦J! – six – ♣4 – ♦Q. Declarer played the ♥4. East took the ♥K, cashed the ♦A – ten – ♣8 – ♦8 and played the ♥5. West won with the ♥8 and continued with the ♥9. North ruffed with the ♦9, East discarded the ♠2 and dummy let another club go. North cashed the ♦K and these cards remained:

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

North played the ♣J to the ♣A, followed by the ♠5. West took the ♠K and East claimed the last two tricks with the seven of trumps and the top club; four down; E/W +800 and +4 IMPs to Poland, plus a message to North that there is no such thing as a free lunch.

## World Championship Book 2019 Pre-ordering

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

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

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

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

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

1. Through Jan Swaan in the Press Room, which can be found opposite the bottom right-hand exit from the vugraph theatre.

2. By email from Brian Senior, the editor, and pay by PayPal.

The address is bsenior@hotmail.com



	<b>Wuhan Cup SF S5</b> <b>Romania v Russia</b>	
<b>Martin Cantor</b>		

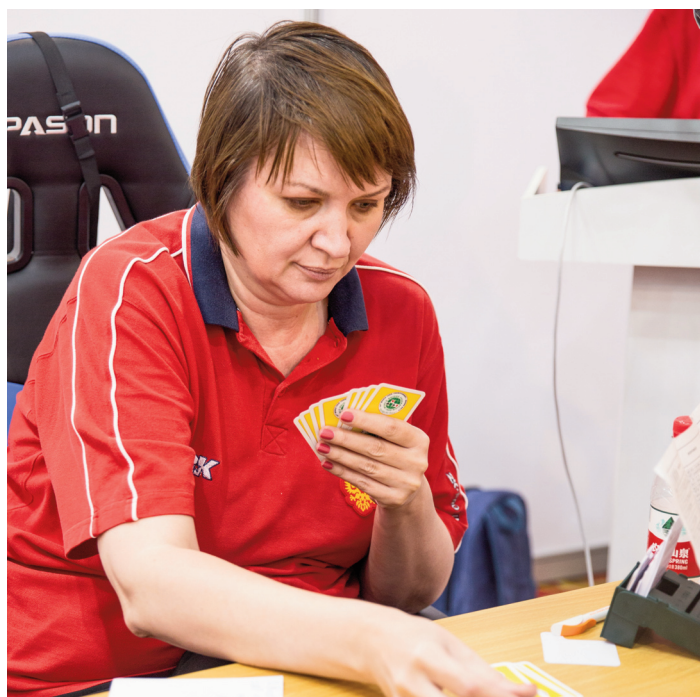
For the fifth session of the semi-finals the editor offered me a free choice of any of the four matches in the Seniors or Mixed, so of course I went for the one where the score was tightest. Which also meant I got to watch and write about these two teams for the first time. They started with Romania 8 IMPs ahead, 132-124, so even small swings could make a significant difference. What you can read about here are the five larger swings, and two boards where swing opportunities were missed.

#### Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

<p>♠ K J ♥ Q 2 ♦ K 8 7 6 ♣ A 10 8 4 2</p>	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">W      E</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> </div>	<p>♠ A 6 2 ♥ J 10 9 7 5 ♦ 10 9 4 2 ♣ J</p>	<p>♠ 10 5 4 ♥ K 8 6 3 ♦ Q J 5 3 ♣ 6 5</p>
---	--	--	---

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dubin	Ionita	Ponomareva	Stegarioiu
–	1♦	Pass	1♥
2♦*	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT*	Pass	4♠	All Pass



**Tatjana Ponomareva, Russia**

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
R Mihai	Gromov	G Mihai	Gulevich
–	INT	Pass	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Tatiana Ponomareva puzzled long and hard looking for a way to make her contract, but to no avail, nine tricks at both tables, and 6 IMPs to Romania, who won the auction again on the next hand to gain a further 13.

#### Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ 9 4 ♥ A Q 10 6 5 4 ♦ 7 ♣ A Q 10 2</p>	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">W      E</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> </div>	<p>♠ Q J 6 3 ♥ 7 2 ♦ K J 10 8 ♣ 6 5 4</p>	<p>♠ A 8 7 5 ♥ 8 3 ♦ 6 4 ♣ K J 9 8 7</p>
--	--	---	--

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dubin	Ionita	Ponomareva	Stegarioiu
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♥	Dble*	Pass
1♠	2♥	3♦	3♥
4♦	4♠	All Pass	

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
R Mihai	Gromov	G Mihai	Gulevich
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♥	Dble*	1♠
2♦	2♠	3♦	All Pass

West's 1♠ bid in the open room wasn't alerted on BBO, but East's failure to raise the suit suggests it showed only three. Whether N/S would have reached game without being pushed we will never know, but with both heart honours onside it was always going to make. After two rounds of diamonds Marius Ionita gave quite some thought to the best line to guard against a bad trump position and/or club ruffs, but in the end took what looks to me like the best single dummy line of crossing to dummy in spades and finessing the ♥10, giving him 12 tricks.

In the other room 3♦ lost the obvious four tricks. And so straight onto the next board where the pendulum started



to swing the other way. Once more the auction was decisive.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dubin	Ionita	Ponomareva	Stegarioiu
—	—	—	1♦
INT	2♣*	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
R Mihai	Gromov	G Mihai	Gulevich
—	—	—	INT*
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

Anna Gulevich's no trump opener was 12+-15. I would have doubled with Radu Mihai's hand - you'd like to have a bit more, but pass is just too dangerous. Geta Mihai couldn't reasonably intervene in a live auction, and Radu couldn't produce a re-opening double with just two spades, so the Russians had stolen the pot. 2♥ went one down but ten tricks were easy in 3NT, all of which meant 11 IMPs to Russia. A flat board came next, then another telling difference in the auctions, and an unfortunate (you might say ill-advised) lead by Radu, saw another 13 for Russia.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dubin	Ionita	Ponomareva	Stegarioiu
—	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
R Mihai	Gromov	G Mihai	Gulevich
—	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♥
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

The Romanian N/S had a fairly normal auction. They each made a mild slam try, both gave some thought to doing more, but settled for the game. Slam in spades makes, but only if you take the heavily anti-odds backward finesse in trumps, or you get a friendly lead. East found the best lead of a heart, but in trying to beat game West ducked this, so two overtricks. At the other table, after the limited 1♠ opening (Gromov/Gulevich play Precision) an aggressive auction took the Russians to slam, and in no trumps. The same conditions apply to making 12 tricks in no-trumps as in spades, and when Radu chose the ♠10 the friendly lead condition had been met. We had to wait five boards to see another swing, and again it was all on the lead:



Radu Mihai, Romania



Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dubinin	Ionita	Ponomareva	Stegaroiu
—	—	1♣*	1♥
1♠*	2♥	Pass	3♣*
Dble	3♥	All Pass	
1♠ Minors			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
R Mihai	Gromov	G Mihai	Gulevich
—	—	1♣	1♥
2♣*	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

I can only guess what clues the two Wests had for their opening lead, but it was Alexander Dubinin in the open who found the killing trump lead. With no club ruff available Marina Stegaroiu could only muster eight tricks. After a club lead Anna Gulevich made nine, and gained 6 IMPs, giving Russia a lead of 4. The only other swing of the match also went to Russia, who gained three when they “saved” in 4♠ one off not vulnerable against the making 3♥ in the open room (of course the swing would have been more had they stopped in 3♠). No further swings, but here are the two missed opportunities I promised you.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

In both rooms West declared 3♦, and both Norths led the ♥A. It seemed clear to me that South should play the 9 on this lead, suit preference for spades, and in the closed room she did just that. Her partner did as requested, switching to the ♠7 to the queen and ace. Declarer cashed the ace of trumps and led his second heart, taken by North, who continued spades to partner's king. She now cashed the ace of clubs and ..... played another club, allowing a grateful declarer to win, draw trumps, and claim. I don't know what went wrong with N/S signalling here, but the signalling error in the other room was worse, when South followed to the first trick with the ♥4, and partner dutifully switched to a club.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dubinin	Ionita	Ponomareva	Stegaroiu
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	3♣	Dble	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
R Mihai	Gromov	G Mihai	Gulevich
Pass	Pass	2NT*	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

This was another one where it was all about the lead. The closed room auction put East on lead after her opening bid had shown either a club pre-empt or a strong two-suiter with clubs and another, and South had presumably shown hearts. The diamond lead she chose seems reasonable, since partner can have fair diamonds without having enough to double the artificial bid, or he could just about have the diamond king, club jack, and enough to stop nine tricks elsewhere. In the open room the Puppet Stayman auction gave East the chance to double to show her clubs for a lead. For whatever reason West decided to ignore that in favour of his own suit, and right he was. However, he picked the ace out, and wrong he was. It seems to me that Dubinin is at fault here. Maybe he wanted to see dummy, but with no outside entry the danger of killing your own suit is altogether too high. Whatever the rights and wrongs, a chance for 12 IMPs either way had gone begging. That left Russia leading by 158-151 at the end of the stanza, and the match wide open heading into the final set.



## Every card tells the story

by Marek Wójcicki

Every card tells the story, but sometimes the storyteller can paint the picture quite different than in fact it is...

In round 22 of the D'Orsi Bowl you hold:

♠ A | 5 3 ♥ A Q ♦ K | 7 3 ♣ A K Q

After two passes, vulnerable against not, you open 1♣(17+PC), LHO overcalls 1♠ (natural) and you are the declarer in 6NT:

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

♠ A J 5 3  
♥ A Q  
♦ K J 7 3  
♣ A K O

West leads (Polish leads – 2nd/4th) ♣9. You take with the queen and start with a small spade. West takes the king and continues ♣8. East follows. You cash the last club – both opponents follow. Now ace and queen of hearts – both opponents follow. Spade to the queen – East discards the club. Now king of hearts – jack falls from West, low diamond from the hand. Spade to the ace – West follows, while East discards a heart... Now the position is:



**Piotr Bizoń, Poland**

♠ —  
 ♥ —  
 ♦ A 10 6 5  
 ♣ —  
 [Redacted]  
 ♠ J  
 ♥ —  
 ♦ K J 7  
 ♣ —

West has shown five cards in spades, 3 hearts and 3 clubs... East – one spade, 4 clubs, 4 hearts... Key problem is the diamond suit distribution. The position of one outside card ( $\heartsuit 10$ ) is unknown.

You cash the last spade. West follows, low diamond from dummy and  $\diamond 2$  from East.

Yes, yes, yes... he could, but it is also possible that he HAD to discard a diamond – his hand could be 4441!

So you play  $\diamond 7 - 9$ , ace, 4.

Now the “marked” diamond finesse and two down, as the whole board was:

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

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

♠ 10  
♥ 10 6 5 4 2  
♦ 8 4 2  
♣ 6 4 3 2

♠ A J 5 3  
♥ A Q  
♦ K J 7 3  
♣ A K Q

East, who has found this imaginative defense was Piotr Bizoń from Poland, and the hand was played in the Seniors match Ireland – Poland.





Ron Tacchi

Wuhan Cup SF S6

## Romania v Russia



I will be reporting on two matches. Firstly, the final stanza of the Venice Cup semi-final between England and Sweden and secondly the deciding stanza between Romania and Russia in the Mixed Teams. In this match after 80 boards Russia has the slender lead of seven IMPs. It will be a tense struggle where holding one's nerve may be equally as important as skill. Both Romanian pairs employ five-card majors, strong no-trump and two-over-one whilst their 1♣ opening can be two cards. The Russians, meanwhile, are Precision bidders. Gulevich/Gromov's no-trump is weak in first and second position and strong in the last two. The other pair's no-trump is basically weak. I shall give you my write up on the Venice Cup match first:

'England concede.'

Back to Romania vs. Russia

(In the bidding sequences, your humble lay-out editor will use Olga for Olga Vorobeychikova to keep things easily readable)

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gerasimov	Ionita	Olga	Stegaroiu
—	1♣	Pass	1♦*
1♥	2♣	2♥	3♣
4♥	All Pass		
1♦	weak 0-7 or natural 8+		

North did well not to bid further, either for the contract or a Double. As with many of the hands in this set there was little to the play and declarer swiftly gathered ten tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marina	Gromov	Balint	Gulevich
—	2♣*	Pass	2NT*
3♥	4♣	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	
2♣	11-15, 6+♣ or 5♣ 4M		
2NT	artificial, bad raise or 9-11 6+♦ or 55M		

North looked at his defensive strength and thought that E/W may have overstretched themselves, but East turned up with the perfect cards and there was no way the contract could be beaten. That was 5 IMPs to Romania.

At the end of every deal, I shall give the running score: Russia 158-156 Romania.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gerasimov	Ionita	Olga	Stegaroiu
—	—	4♠	All Pass

Against vulnerable opponents East bid the full value of her hand and there the matter rested. South led her king of clubs, which was ducked by declarer, who then inserted the jack when the suit was continued. When declarer attempted to cash the ace of clubs, North ruffed in with the deuce and declarer overruffed. Three rounds of trumps followed allowing North to score a trick with his queen. The ace of hearts and another heart meant declarer would have to play from her hand and so she finished three down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marina	Gromov	Balint	Gulevich
—	—	1♠	2♠*
Pass	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

2♠ Hearts and clubs

East valued her hand more highly than a pre-empt and commenced with One Spade. South showed her two suits and North took a chance on the vulnerable game. It would not have been a success, but East was not going to defend. North applied the red card to the final contract. As in the other room, South played the king of clubs, which was taken by the ace in dummy. Declarer now immediately tried a diamond from dummy, which fetched the ace from North. Having set up a diamond trick, declarer was now



only going to fail by two tricks but that was still 4 IMPs to Russia.

Russia 162-156 Romania.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gerasimov	Ionita	Olga	Stegarioiu
—	—	—	Pass
2♣*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
4♣	All Pass		
3♥	6+♥ invitational		

It was difficult for E/W to realise their perfect fit and so they failed to bid the minor suit game. Even Geoff Boycott's mother in her pinny with her stick of rhubarb might have got this one on the card, although a losing view in trumps would see 5♣ go down.



Marius Ionita, Romania

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marina	Gromov	Balint	Gulevich
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	1♠	2♦*	4♠
All Pass			

With the Romanian West having to open with One Club North could enter the fray with One Spade. 2♦ was obviously for hearts, but I cannot find a precise confirmation in the convention card. South with her good fit for partner's major bid game. They were fortunate to remain undoubled - there was some talk on BBO that perhaps East might have expressed an opinion holding two aces opposite an opening bid. The defence was swift and correct, taking three aces, two kings and two ruffs for the first seven tricks and 2 IMPs to Romania.

Russia 162-158 Romania.

Over the next three boards Russia gained an overtrick IMP.

Russia 163-158 Romania.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gerasimov	Ionita	Olga	Stegarioiu
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣*	Dble	1♥*
Pass	1♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marina	Gromov	Balint	Gulevich
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦*	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
INT	All Pass		

In both rooms the Romanian pairs managed to steal the contract at the one level. In both cases there were seven tricks for the taking. 5 IMPs to Romania - the match was now tied. Questions were being asked about extra boards, but it was discovered that the rules state that in the event of a tie the result shall be the same as the match in the



Round Robin. In that match Russia had beaten Romania 15-5 VPs. This meant Romania still needed another IMP.

Russia 163-163 Romania.

Boards 24 and 25 were flat.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gerasimov	Ionita	Olga	Stegarioiu
—	—	Pass	1♣
Dble	Pass	1♦	2♣
2♦	3♣	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

I initially assumed that the 1♦ was an error by the BBO operator, but it seems it was the bid made at the table. I have searched the convention card to try and find an explanation and 1♦ after a Double of 1♣ is a negative response. Once West eventually elicited some life from East she pressed on to game.

On a spade lead declarer managed to ruff three clubs in dummy and when the diamond king proved to be singleton there were twelve tricks.

Closed Room.

West	North	East	South
Marina	Gromov	Balint	Gulevich
—	—	Pass	2♣*
Dble	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	Pass
4♦	All Pass		

After a Precision 2♣ West doubled and when North raised the level, East did not feel she had anything to add. Unsurprisingly South tried 3NT. West passed hopefully, but not knowing that his side could take at least ten tricks against 3NT. Even less surprisingly was North taking out into 4♣. West re-entered the fray with 4♦. Those watching on BBO thought East might possibly try Four Hearts - maybe because they were mainly Romanian supporters. The same twelve tricks were taken, but now Russia had a 10 IMP lead.

Russia 173-163 Romania.

Board 27 was flat.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gerasimov	Ionita	Olga	Stegarioiu
Pass	Pass	INT	Dble
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marina	Gromov	Balint	Gulevich
Pass	Pass	1♣*	Dble
INT	All Pass		

Another hand where the Romanians stole the contract in a part-score in both rooms. Again, there were no insoluble problems for declarer. 5 IMPs for Romania. They were now only 5 IMPs behind with four boards to play.

Russia 173-168 Romania

Board 29 was flat - now only three boards remaining.



Bogdan Marina, Romania



Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gerasimov	Ionita	Olga	Stegarioiu
—	—	Pass	1♦
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	1♠	2♣	2♠
All Pass			

East needed to lead a trump to make life difficult for declarer, but she chose the king of hearts. West overtook with his king to cash the queen and then shift to the jack of clubs which declarer took immediately with his ace. A diamond to the ace was the precursor to a crossruff and eight tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marina	Gromov	Balint	Gulevich
—	—	Pass	1♦*
INT	All Pass		

When West valued his hand fit for a no-trump contract, he stole the pot and when North led a spade to the ace and the continuation of the queen West was home and ended up with an overtrick. 6 IMPs to Romania; they had taken the lead for the first time in this set. Only two boards to go and they looked like flat games.

Russia 173-174 Romania

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

**Mihaela Balint, Romania**

By the time the Open Room came to play this deal, the Closed Room had bid and made Four Spades. So it was with interest that the onlookers watched to check if the same result was going to be duplicated here.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marina	Gromov	Balint	Gulevich
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♦*	Pass	INT	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gerasimov	Ionita	Olga	Stegarioiu
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass


The Russians also reached the game contract. South led the ♥8. North won with the ace and returned the ♥3, hoping that declarer might misguess holding three hearts to the queen. This meant that Russia scored an IMP. The scores were now level.

Russia 174-174 Romania


Board 32 was flat though North tried to go down – East came to the rescue and there was no swing.

It was a heart-breaking way to lose a match.





Venice Cup F S I



Brian Senior

China v Sweden

So it would be the host nation, China, versus the young and hungry Swedish team in the final of the 2019 Venice Cup – 96 boards in total played over two days in 6 x 16-board segments. Both teams had won their semi-finals with ease and thereby earned themselves a session off, so would be that little bit fresher than usual going into the final. As to who would win, my tip from the start of these championships was China, but with Sweden in such good form the match was really too close to call.

China were fast out of the blocks, scoring big swings on each of the first two deals.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 7 6 4

♥ Q 10 8 3

♦ K 8 7

♣ Q 4 3

♠ Q J 10 8 5

♥ 9

♦ J

♣ J 8 7 6 5 2

♠ A

♥ A 6 4 2

♦ 10 9 4 3 2

♣ A K 9

West

Övelius

–

All Pass

North

Lu

2♠\*

East

Clementsson

Dble

South

Liu

4♠

West	North	East	South
Shen	Rimstedt	Wang	Grönkvist
–	2♦*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

For China, Yan Lu opened the North hand with a two-suited weak 2♠, spades and a minor, and Yan Liu raised her to game over Sanna Clementsson’s take-out double. Clementsson led the ace of clubs and switched to a low diamond on the sight of dummy. Lu rose with the ace and ruffed a diamond. Next, she led her heart up and put up the king when Clementsson played low. From here a grand crossruff saw Lu home with ten tricks for +420.

Cecilia Rimstedt opened a multi 2♦, either weak with a major or game-forcing with diamonds, and Ida Grönkvist responded 4♣, asking Rimstedt to transfer to her major. After the Swedes had unwound, Wenfei Wang doubled for take-out and Qi Shen left it in, seeing no prospect of making anything at the five level with her balanced seven-count. Shen found the best lead for the defence, a trump, and Wang won the bare ace and switched to a low diamond. With clubs three-three, the contract was makeable by rising with the ace and giving up a club, eventually ruffing out the suit and coming to ten tricks. However, there was no reason to assume that the clubs would behave as required, while the diamond finesse seemed to be odds on to work given the double. Grönkvist played low from hand and lost to the king, at which point the defence could, of course, have cashed out for down one. In practice, Shen returned a trump. Grönkvist won in hand and cashed the ace and queen of diamonds, pitching

30



the heart loser and a club from dummy. Next she ruffed her last diamond and led a club towards her hand. Best defence is to play low and allow partner to win and play a third round of trumps, but Wang could not know the club position and went in with the king. She returned a low heart but Grönkvist put up the king and crossruffed hearts and clubs. This left her one trick short, losing a trick to Shen's remaining trump for down one and -100; 11 IMPs to China.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Övelius	Lu	Clementsson	Liu
—	—	Pass	2♣
2♠	3♣	3♥	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Shen	Rimstedt	Wang	Grönkvist
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♦	Dble	All Pass	

Liu opened a Precision 2♣ and Emma Övelius overcalled 2♠. Lu competed with 3♣ and Clementsson introduced her moderate heart suit. Perhaps Övelius should have passed that, but she probably imagined that the bid, coming from a passed hand, had to be based on at least a partial spade fit, so went back to 3♠, where she played. Lu led the two of clubs, Liu winning the ace and leading a second club which Övelius ruffed. She led a diamond, putting up the king when Lu played low, and took a second club ruff then conceded a diamond. Back came a spade to dummy's ace, so Overlius played a heart to the ten and queen. She came to the king and queen of spades and ace of hearts, but that was all, so was down two for -100.

Grönkvist opened 1♣ and that left West with more room, allowing the diamond fit to be found. Shen overcalled 1♠ then waited until her opponents stopped in 3♣, making it clear that Wang should have some useful values, then competed with 3♦. Rimstedt promptly doubled that for penalties and led a club. Rimstedt must have been very disappointed to see the ♦KJ sitting over her. Grönkvist won

the ♣A and switched to her diamond to Rimstedt's ace. Grönkvist had the right idea, cutting down declarer's ruffs with her small trumps, but Rimstedt saw the hand rather differently and switched back to clubs, leading the king. Shen ruffed and led a diamond to the jack, Grönkvist pitching a heart, followed by a heart to her ten and Rimstedt's queen. Rimstedt continued with the forcing game, but that suited Shen just fine. She ruffed Rimstedt's club lead and cashed the ace of hearts. That brought down the king but it didn't matter. A spade to the ace was followed by a heart ruff and the king and queen of spades, and dummy's ♦K was the ninth trick; +470 and 11 IMPs to China, who led by 22-0 after two deals.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Övelius	Lu	Clementsson	Liu
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Shen	Rimstedt	Wang	Grönkvist
Pass	1♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Dble	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The Chinese N/S had a simple Stayman auction to the spade game. Played by North, the doubleton diamond looked to be an attractive lead and that is what Clementsson chose. Lu played low so Övelius won the king and continued with a second diamond to dummy's queen. Lu cashed the king of spades then led a second spade to her jack, losing to the queen. A heart lead now would have put Övelius in to give her a diamond ruff, but that looked to be an unnecessary risk to Clementsson, who got out passively with her remaining trump, and the defence just came to the ace and king of hearts for down one and -100. Rimstedt opened 1♣, natural or balanced. The 1NT



the red kings – simply win the third spade and cash all the clubs then play ace and another of a red suit and endplay West to lead away from the other king. Of course, not only does declarer have to judge to play West for both kings, but she must also watch the discards carefully in case West bares one of the kings to keep sufficient spade winners to defeat the contract. In that case, the choice of which ace to cash after running the clubs could be crucial.

On Board 6, Sweden declared failing part-scores at both tables, 2♦-1 and 3♣-1, for 4 IMPs to China, but the next few boards were quiet affairs. The next major swing deal was Board 10.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

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

N  
W E  
S

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

♠ A 2  
♥ 9 8  
♦ Q 8 7  
♣ K 9 8 7 5 2

West	North	East	South
Övelius	Lu	Clementsson	Liu
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT	Dble
Pass	2♥	2♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Shen</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Grönkvist</i>
—	—	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

After two passes, Övelius opened 1♠ and Clementsson responded 1NT. Liu doubled for take-out and Lu responded 2♥. However, when Clementsson now competed with 2♠, neither Chinese player bid again. I would have thought that Liu, knowing of the nine-card fit, should have competed to 3♥. Anyway, 2♠ ended the auction and Lu led her singleton club. Liu won the ace and returned the six for her partner to ruff. Declarer had followed with the jack then the ten, but it should have been clear that the ♣6 was the higher of South's remaining clubs. It was therefore a surprise when Lu cashed the ace of diamonds and continued with a second round, after which Övelius could win, draw trumps and claim the rest for +170. Had Lu followed her partner's suit-preference signal, the defence could have come to two heart tricks and a second club ruff to defeat the contract.

The misdefence proved to be almost irrelevant, courtesy of events at the other table, where Grönkvist had a system bid for the South hand. Her 2♥ opening showed 11-14 with five hearts in a balanced hand (5-4-2-2 with the second suit



being a minor was also possible), and Rimstedt raised straight to game. Shen led the king of spades, which Wang overtook to return her remaining spade in hope of collecting a ruff. She did indeed get to ruff a third spade, but that was over-ruffed, and Grönkvist could draw trumps and claim ten tricks for +620 and 13 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Övelius	Lu	Clementsson	Liu
Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Shen	Rimstedt	Wang	Grönkvist
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Clementsson opened 2♦ with the East cards, 17-18 balanced or GF with diamonds. Three Clubs asked about the majors, assuming the balanced hand-type and Clementsson became declarer in 3NT when the exploration for a major-suit fit did not find one. Liu led the jack of clubs, Lu winning the ace and continuing with the four of clubs to declarer's king. Clementsson led a heart to the queen then back to the ♥10, and Liu won that with the jack and returned her last club. Clementsson won that and played ace and another spade, and Lu had two of those and two clubs to cash for down two and -100.

Wang opened a strong club and rebid 1NT over the 1♦ negative response. Shen used Stayman then invited the no trump game and Wang, holding a maximum, accepted. Grönkvist led the jack of clubs and, knowing that declarer held both the king and queen because of their partnerships' leading system, Rimstedt played low, Wang winning the king. Wang led a heart to the queen then did well by switching her attention to spades and leading low to the ten. When that held she was in good shape. Wang played ace and queen of diamonds then thought a little – was it possible that diamonds were four-two and spades three-three, when it might be better to play ace and

another spade now rather than the third diamond? No, Wang eventually led the third diamond and, when the jack showed up, won the king then cashed the ten, carefully discarding the nine of spades to keep three hearts, else she could have been defeated on the actual heart layout. Finally, she played a club up and the queen was her game-going trick; +400 and 11 IMPs to China.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Övelius	Lu	Clementsson	Liu
—	1♣	Dble	2♦
2♥	3♣	4♥	Pass
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Shen	Rimstedt	Wang	Grönkvist
—	1♠	2♥	Dble
3♥	4♥	Pass	5NT
Pass	7♣	Pass	7♦
All Pass			

Lu opened a strong club and Clementsson doubled to show both majors. Liu's 2♦ was a natural positive and Övelius bid 2♥ on her weak hand. Lu showed the clubs and Clementsson, with much greater distribution than promised, jumped to 4♥. Lu passed for now, forcing as the Chinese pair were in a game-forcing situation, and Lu bid 5♦. Having shown five-plus diamonds with the 2♦ bid, and then passed rather than bid 5♣ over 4♥, Liu's 6♣ bid now surely showed a good hand with interest in greater things. It seemed not impossible that Lu would work it out and bid 7♦ but no, after some thought, she passed out 6♣, which was a little disappointing. Clementsson led the king of hearts so Lu won the ace, cashed the queen and ten of clubs, and came to hand with a spade to draw the remaining trumps; 13 tricks for +1390.

Rimstedt opened 1♠ and Wang overcalled 2♥. Grönkvist made a negative double and Shen made a weak raise to 3♥. Now Rimstedt cuebid 4♥, presumably showing the void in a strong hand, and Grönkvist jumped to 5NT and, when Rimstedt jumped to 7♣, converted to 7♦. After a heart lead, Grönkvist could win, draw trumps, unblock the clubs



and cross to the ace of spades to cash the rest of the clubs; +2140 and 13 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Övelius	Lu	Clementsson	Liu
–	–	Pass	2♣
Dble	Rdbl	2♠	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Shen	Rimstedt	Wang	Grönkvist
–	–	Pass	1♣
1♥	1♠	2♥	2NT
3♥	4♣	All Pass	

Four of a major can be defeated by cashing the defensive club trick then finding the diamond switch for a ruff. That would, of course, be easier where South was on lead to switch to king and another diamond, rather than North, who would have to underlead her ace fifth. Four Spades was actually played only twice in the finals and play-offs, and was beaten on both occasions. In our match, both Souths declared 4♣.

Grönkvist opened 1♣, natural or balanced, and Rimstedt's 1♠ denied four spades. When Wang raised to 2♥, Grönkvist bid 2NT as a weaker way of rebidding clubs, and Rimstedt was happy to compete to the four level, ending the auction. Shen led the ace of spades, Wang following with the seven, reverse carding, then the king, Wang playing the jack. That was a very clear signal for the higher-ranking side-suit and Shen duly switched to ace and another heart; down one for –50. Three Hearts would have made so that was the best the Swedes could do.

Liu opened a Precision 2♣ and Övelius doubled. Lu showed values by redoubling and Clementsson bid a quite 2♠ when I would have thought the hand worth a jump to 3♠ – five-card suit, eight working points, nothing wasted – as she would surely want to compete to 3♠ over 3♣, so better to get there quickly and put the pressure on the opposition. When she bid only 2♠, Liu rebid her clubs freely and that encouraged Lu to try for game, cuebidding 3♠ to ask for a spade stopper. However, queen-doubleton didn't look like a stopper to Liu – just as well – and she signed off

in 4♣. Övelius too led the ace of spades, getting the jack from partner. When she continued with the ♠K, Clementsson followed with the seven, but that combination doesn't seem to have got the message across as Övelius switched passively to a trump. Liu could win, play three rounds of diamonds, ruffing, then draw the missing trump and take two heart pitches on the established diamonds; 11 tricks for +150 and 5 IMPs to China.

After 16 boards the score was 53-44 in favour of Sweden. There was a long way to go, with five more 16-board sets still to play.

## Wuhan Grand Prix

### Friday 27 September

1	DINKIN	66.56
2	DALIAN AOXIN	62.40
3	SEOUL	61.08
4	SWISS TEAM	60.00
	TO WIN	60.00
6	JINSHUO	59.00
7	EXCELLENT FOUR	58.00
8	BANGKOK MIND SPORT	57.00
9	REIGNWOOD	55.80
10	CHINA JUNIORS	54.00
11	HUAXINHUANBAO	53.00
12	FORMIDABLES	51.20
13	WHIBLEY	51.00
14	WUHAN	50.00
	INDONESIA Open	50.00
16	UICC WUHAN	49.00
16	LATVIA	49.00
18	BBC THAILAND	48.80
19	DONGFENG FENGSHEN	48.00
	GUIZHOU ZHENGYE	48.00
21	ANIT NEGRA	47.00
	INDONESIA Seniors	47.00
23	TAMEWARE	46.00
	CHINA HUOCHETOU	46.00
	INDIA TSANGPO	46.00
	THAILAND Mixed	46.00
27	TIANYA BRIDGE FATE	45.00
28	CANADA CHINA UNITED	43.00
	WE THE NORTH	43.00
	WUHAN ENGINEERING	43.00
31	BEIJINGXUGUANG	42.00
32	WARHORSE	41.00
	POLAND Women	41.00
34	DONGFENG AUTO CO LTD	40.00
	HUANG HU	40.00
36	HUBEI FUXING	39.00
37	HUBEI BRIDGE TEAM	38.00
38	XINJIANGYILI	37.00
40	ENSEMBLE	32.00
41	NEWB	30.00



# THE JOSEPH GREENFELD ASIA PACIFIC BRIDGE FEDERATION CONGRESS

Open Event

APRIL 15-22 2020

Perth Convention Centre  
Western Australia



## Proposed Timetable and Catagories

Open, Women's, Senior's, Mixed and Youth.  
(<26, <21 and <16 all subject to entries)

### Bridgefest daily side events

Date	Event
Wed 15 April	Swiss Pairs
Thurs 16 April	Swiss Pairs
Fri 17 April	APBF Teams Q1
Sat 18 April	APBF Teams Q2
Sun 19 April	APBF Teams Q3
Mon 20 April	APBF Teams Q4
Tue 21 April	APBF Teams SF APBF Pairs Q
Wed 22 April	APBF Teams F APBF Pairs F Presentation and close

## To enter follow this link

[www.abfevents.com.au/events/apbf/2020/](http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/apbf/2020/)

## ACCOMMODATION

Many hotels are offering special rates to APBF 2020 participants. For example: The Ritz-Carlton Perth, situated in the heart of Elizabeth Quay, will have 40 of its 204 rooms/suites available for the APBF, and the Melbourne hotel will hold 20 rooms for APBF participants.



## Convenor

Robina McConnell [Bina360@hotmail.com](mailto:Bina360@hotmail.com)



