

Issue No. 15

BRIDGE ACROSS THE

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As we predicted yesterday, there was no shortage of excitement on the last day of these extraordinary Championships. The only match that failed to get the pulse racing was in the d'Orsi Trophy where **Denmark** kept **England** at bay. In the Bermuda Bowl, Poland and the Netherlands played a terrific match, finally decided by a tough slam deal (Board 27 reported inside) just six boards from the end. The Venice and Wuhan Cup finals were nail-biting

affairs before **Sweden** managed to draw away at the end for a famous victory, while **Russia** prevailed against **USA I**. The Transnational title went to China's **Shanghailvcheng** who defeated their compatriots San Chen Fund. It was no surprise that one bronze medal match was finally decided on the last board; it happens so often that someone should write a book about it.

By winning a bronze medal in the Venice Cup, Nicola Smith has advanced her total of medals to 20. That draws her level with two other bridge immortals, none other than Giorgio Belladonna and Bobby Wolff. Only one player has succeeded in winning more than 20 medals, the incredible Bob Hamman, whose total currently stands at 31.

Nicola won her first medal in 1976 and she has since won six world titles, eight silver medals, and six bronzes.



Nicola Smith, England

WBF PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL

Mr. Chen Xiexin, Deputy Mayor of Wuhan Municipal People's Government, Mr. Guo Yujun, Vice President of the Chinese Contract Bridge Association, Authorities, dear colleagues of the WBF, dear players, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends.

We are at the end of the Championship, the curtain falls, and I am delighted that it has proved to be successful.

The Chinese Contract Bridge Association and the Local Organising Committee have done a sterling job in organizing this event, which under the coordination of the Championship Committee has gone very smoothly from all points of view.

I think that you will all agree that Wuhan welcomed and hosted us in an excellent way, they made us feel at home, they treated us as their own, the playing conditions have been splendid and we will all have taken advantage of the services which were provided.

We must, of course, thank our sponsor-friends for their generosity in supporting the Championships. We owe a huge debt of thanks to the General Administration of Sport of China, the Wuhan Municipal People's Government, the Hubei Sports Bureau, the Wuhan Sport Bureau, the Hubei Bridge Association and the Wuhan Bridge Association. Finally, I want to express my gratitude personally to three friends that have been very close to us in these days, Mr. Yuan Shanla, Mr. Gan Derun and Mrs. Sun Chengmo. Thank you!

We strived to be worthy of the task we had been set, hoping to have satisfied your expectations, being sorry for any inconvenience and apologizing if something passed by our inspection. I can assure you that we tried to do our best to enable the success of the event.

I would like to thank the entire operations staff, Chinese and coming from all over the world, and working harmoniously together, before and during these Championships. First of all, I would like to thank all the Chinese volunteers, boys and girls, many of them working hard backstage; they made a great job! Then our marvellous WBF Staff. To all of them, I would like to express my warmest appreciation. I would like you all to know just how much we appreciate your efficiency, professionalism and dedication. Please stand up: you deserve a great applause from all the participants in the Championship. Well done! Bravò! Thank you.

Above all, on behalf of the WBF and personally I am proud and honoured to congratulate you, the players, the true protagonists, and to express to all of you our sincere and heartfelt gratitude.

With your behaviour, creating an unforgettable atmosphere, you guaranteed the success of this event showing, once again, the values of fair play, friendship, harmony, aggregation, rejecting any discrimination which, as



Gianarrigo Rona

I said in my opening speech, are our flag, the flag of our fantastic discipline, that here in Wuhan we have been proudly waving higher than ever.

Not only the medallists, you all are winners!

Dear Friends, going back home and leaving you I am a little bit sad, but I will bring with me the memory of this great event, of you, of the old and new friends I met, and the enrichment of another extraordinary experience, another unforgettable bridge adventure. I am confident that you too will share my sentiments.

Thank you, dear Friends, enjoy this night and have a safe trip back home.

I officially declare closed the 44th World Bridge Teams Championship.

Un abbraccio to you all and ad majora!



Family Dinner in Wuhan

The many different departments involved in the preparation and operation of the Championships rarely have an opportunity to get together. As a result everyone anxiously awaits the arrival of a communication from the President's office. This reveals the time and place at which the staff party hosted by the President of the World Bridge Federation Gianarrigo Rona will take place.

This time D-day (Dinner Day!) arrived yesterday night. After play, the official shirts were rapidly replaced by party attire. Almost one hundred members of staff and officials made their way to the Tairyo Teppanyaki Restaurant (大渔铁板烧花园道) which specializes in the style of cooking which involves the diners sitting around a table, the centre of which contains a metal plate on which the chef cooks a variety of dishes.

It proved to be a wonderful and unforgettable experience, the perfect way to conclude everyone's Wuhan adventure.

Gianarrigo rounded off the evening by personally thanking everyone and presenting them with a memento.

Un abbraccio Mr President! The staff



Deals

Herman has calculated that over these two weeks, 63,744 deals have been played. All those boards were used just once, so this is also the number of deals that were produced by Monica and her staff.

Goodbye

This year the Daily Bulletin & Live News shared an office with the Press. It worked like a dream, with many journalists and players delivering interesting stories that we hope you enjoyed. Brent Manley looked after the Bulletin, aided by Brian Senior and the off-site Journalists. David Bird, long acknowledged as one of the great bridge writers, delivered a fabulous series of articles and he was ably assisted by Marc Smith, los Jacobs, Ron Tacchi and Martin Cantor. They all worked at unsocial hours to deliver the copy you could enjoy over breakfast. Monika Kümmel was the tireless Layout Editor, and with the help of our brilliant photographer, Francesca Canali, she gave substance to our writers' words. Herman De wael offered invaluable assistance, which included proof reading duties with Press Room Manager, Jan Swaan, Barry Rigal and 'the all seeing' Peter Eidt.

Francesca was also in charge of the presentation of the Live News, which delivered real time information to those following the Championships from afar.

If our humble words doth offend, forgive us friends.

Mark Horton Live News Editor

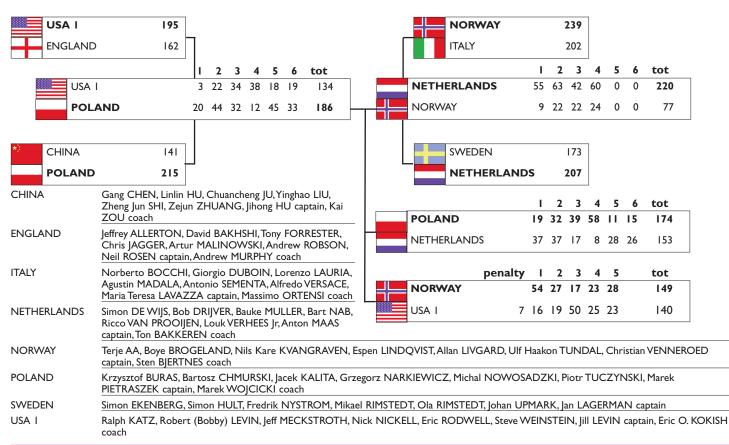
Clarification

In the report on the WBF and CCBA Press Conference which we published in Bulletin 14, it was stated that the aim for the 2021 championships was to have all 96 tables shown on BBO. Some may well have wondered where we hoped to find 96 competent BBO operators, quite apart from any other logistical issues.

What the article should have said was that the aim for the 2021 championships was to have all 96 tables under video surveillance.



Bermuda Bowl



Venice Cup

| CHINA | 192 |] | | | | | | | | | | USA I | | | 199 | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|--------|----------------|---------|-------|--------|---------|--------|---------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|----------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|----------|
| JAPAN | 114 | Π | | | | | | | | | | SWEDEN | | | 225 | | | | |
| | | I | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | to | t | | | | I | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | tot |
| * Сні | INA | 7 | 29 | 45 | 56 | 52 | 0 | I | 89 | - | ENGLA | ND | 3 | 15 | 25 | 56 | 39 | 0 | 138 |
| NET | HERLANDS | 30 |) 3 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 0 | I | 12 | - | SWEE | DEN | 43 | 37 | 57 | 39 | 57 | 0 | 233 |
| | · | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 145 | 7 | | | |
| NORWAY | | | | | | | | | | | | POLAND | | | 165 | | | | |
| NETHER | LANDS 238 | | | | | | | | | | | ENGLAND | | | 217 | | | | |
| INA | Yan LIU, Yan LU, Q WANG, Xiaoxue Z | | | | | | | | | | | | I | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | tot |
| | WANG coach | .00 | , A lac | ojing v | / VAI | NG C | арса | un, A | laojing | *): | CHINA | ۱. | 44 | 21 | 37 | | 41 | 15 | 169 |
| GLAND | Heather DHOND FAWCETT, Nevena | | | | | | | | 0 | | SWED | EN | 53 | 30 | 28 | 32 | 9 | 37 | 189 |
| | WISEMAN, David | GOL | D ca | ptain | , Da | vid B | | | ach | | | | | | | | | | |
| AN | Yuki FUKUYOSHI, | | | | | | | | | | - | | 1 | 2 | - | - | 5 | | tot |
| | Ayako MIYAKUNI, Kazuo FURUTA ca | | | ATO, | Aki | ko Y/ | ٩NA | GISA | WA, | | ENGL | AND | 37 | 52 | 13 | 16 | 44 | | 162 |
| THERLANDS | Merel BRUIINSTE | | | DEK | KER | S. let | : PAS | SMAI | Ν. | | NETHE | RLANDS | 43 | 13 | 51 | 19 | 31 | | 157 |
| | Anneke SIMONS, \ | Viets | ske V | AN Z | w | DL, M | lartii | | , | | | | | | | | | | |
| | VERBEEK, Aarnout | | MIC | H cap | otair | i, Pet | er | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RWAY | Ann Karin FUGLE | |), Liv | Marii | t GF | RUDI | E, Ma | arianr | ne HAR | DING, Tor | ild HESKI | E, Bodil Nyheim | OIGAF | | ۱, Gi | unn 1 | love ' | VIST, | Anne-Lil |
| | HELLEMANN capt | ain, J | on-E | gil FL | JRU | NES | coad | ch | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LAND | Cathy BALDYSZ, S Marek WOJCICKI | | | LDYS | Z, K | (atar: | zyna | DUF | FRAT, D | anuta KAZ | MUCHA, | Anna SARNIAK | , Justyn | a Z⊵ | 1UD | А, M | irosla | aw C | ICHOCI |
| EDEN | Kathrine BERTHEA | | | CLE | MEN | ITSS | ON, | Ida (| GRON | VIST, Jessi | a LARSS | ON, Emma OVEI | lUS, C | ecilia | RIM | 1STE | DT, I | Kenn | eth BOF |
| A 1 | Lynn BAKER, Irina | | | N Kai | non | McC | <u></u> | IMI | | | | | | | | | tain | Path | |

| NETHER | LANDS 210 DENMARK | | | 181 | | | | |
|---------------|--|-----------|--------|-------|------|--------|--------|-----------|
| | I 2 3 4 5 6 tot | I | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | tot |
| NET | HERLANDS 25 9 72 8 36 18 168 🛛 💀 INDIA | 27 | 13 | 40 | 57 | 3 | 14 | 154 |
| | GLAND 24 26 27 87 32 49 245 | 38 | 65 | 33 | 12 | 56 | 20 | 224 |
| ENGLAN | ID 168 | | | 170 | 7 | | | |
| CHINA | 164 CHINESE TA | IPEI | | 167 | | | | |
| HINA | Yixiong LIANG, Rongqiang LIN, Mingkun SHEN, Xiaonong SHEN, Ming SUN, Jian Hua TAO, Rongqiang LIN captain, | I | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | tot |
| | Jian Hua TAO coach ENGLAND | 18 | 21 | 39 | 13 | 37 | 39 | 167 |
| HINESE TAIPEI | Chung Mou CHANG, Jen-Chien CHUNG, Patrick K. H. HUANG, Chii-Mou LIN, Juei-Yu SHIH, Chen YEH, Shu-Ping YEH TONG captain | 61 | 7 | 28 | 17 | 24 | 57 | 194 |
| ENMARK | Knud-Aage BOESGAARD, Soren CHRISTIANSEN, Henrik | I | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | tot |
| | Norman HANSEN, Jorgen Cilleborg HANSEN, Hans | 27 | 28 | 47 | 20 | 38 | | 160 |
| | Christian NIELSEN, Steen SCHOU, Bo Loenberg BILDE captain NETHERLANDS | 58 | 16 | 24 | 30 | 13 | | 141 |
| NGLAND | John HOLLAND, David KENDRICK, Alan MOULD, David MULLER, Malcolm PRYOR, Trevor WARD, David S JONES captain | | | | | | | |
| RANCE | Michel ABECASSIS, Guy LASSERRE, Michel LEBEL, Alain LEVY, Philippe POIZAT, Philippe SOU coach | LET, Eric | GAI | JTR | ET c | aptai | n, Sol | ange D'E |
| IDIA | Sukamal DAS, Subhash DHAKRAS, Dipak PODDAR, Subrata SAHA, Jitendra SOLANI, Raman SHAH coach | nurthy SR | NDH | ARA | N,V | 'inay | DESA | A captain |
| etherlands | Hans DE VRIND, Leo HOFLAND, Andre MULDER, Frans TEN BRINK, Bas VAN DER HOEK, | Hans VE | RGO | ED, S | Sche | lte V | /IJMA | captain |
| SA 2 | David BERKOWITZ, Steve GARNER, Mark LAIR, Michael ROSENBERG, Alan SONTAG, Jeff V | | NE L 6 | | EDV | -1/A/I | T7 | otain |

d'Orsi Trophy

Wuhan Cup

| ENGLA | ND 185 | RUSSIA 250 |
|--------|---|---|
| | | |
| LATVIA | 173 | FRANCE 210 |
| | I 2 3 4 5 6 tot | I 2 3 4 5 6 tot |
| EN EN | GLAND 38 25 18 17 35 33 166 | ROMANIA 20 42 45 25 19 23 174 |
| US US | 5A I 45 37 57 24 11 20 194 | RUSSIA 24 21 26 53 34 16 174 |
| | | Russia qualifies thanks to their win in the Round Robin match (15-5 |
| CHINA | 150 | USA 2 139 |
| | | |
| USA I | 170 | ROMANIA 196 |
| | | 1 2 3 4 5 6 tot |
| | | USA I 25 38 II 22 4I 33 I70 |
| 1A | Jien CHEN, Zhengjiang LIAO, Ping WANG, Haotian WU, Shaohong WU, Zhaobin XIE, Bangxiang ZHANG captain | RUSSIA 37 16 32 37 31 22 175 |
| | Bangxiang ZHANG coach | |
| AND | Sally BROCK, Fiona BROWN, Michael BYRNE, Frances | penalty I 2 3 4 5 tot |
| | HINDEN, Barry MYERS, Graham OSBORNE, Paul | ROMANIA I 53 42 37 24 33 190 |
| | BARDEN captain | ENGLAND 29 32 15 39 51 166 |
| CE | Benedicte CRONIER, Philippe CRONIER, Nathalie FREY | |
| | Daniele GAVIARD, Jerome ROMBAUT, Frederic VOLCKER, Francois COMBESCURE captain | |
| ΊA | | Karlis RUBINS, Karlis RUBINS captain, Martins LORENCS coach |
| | | MIHAI, Radu MIHAI, Marina STEGAROIU, Bogdan MARINA captain |
| 4 | | 10V,Anna GULEVICH, Tatiana PONOMAREVA, Olga VOROBEYCHIKOVA |
| | | IVATURY, JIII MEYERS, Howard WEINSTEIN, Joe STOKES captain |
| 1 | UDERI BIEKKAIN Allan GKAVEN UDRISTAL HENNER LIda | |

Roll Of Honour

Bermuda Bowl

Gold: POLAND

Krzysztof Buras, Bartosz Chmurski, Jacek Kalita, Grzegorz Narkiewicz, Michał Nowosadzki, Piotr Tuczyński, Marek Pietraszek (npc), Marek Wójcicki (coach)

Silver: NETHERLANDS

Simon de Wijs, Bob Drijver, Bauke Muller, Bart Nab, Ricco van Prooijen, Louk Verhees, Anton Maas (npc), Ton Bakkeren (coach)

Bronze: NORWAY:

Terje Aa, Boye Brogeland, Nils Kåre Kvangraven, Espen Lindqvist, Allan Livgård, Ulf Haakon Tundal, Christian Vennerød (npc), Sten Bjertnes (coach)

Jacek Kalita and Michał Nowosadzki have now won eight world medals, including the 2017 Bermuda Bowl win. Michał Nowosadzki has two more world titles, both in 2004, at the U21 teams and at the U26 individual.

Krzysztof Buras has won five medals, Grzegorz Narkiewicz four, Piotr Tuczyński two. It is their first world title.

Bauke Muller now has seven world medals, Simon de Wijs has six. Ricco van Prooijen, Louk Verhees and Bob Drijver have a total of four medals now; Bart Nab has two.

Boye Brogeland has won his seventh world medal, Terje Aa his fifth. Ulf Haakon Tundal was on the winning Bermuda Bowl team of 2007, and also won bronze in 2008. Espen Lindqvist and Allan Livgård won their first medal at the Open level, they both won two bronzes in U21 (2004) and U26 (2008).

Bermuda Bowl



POLAND: Bartosz CHMURSKI, Michal NOWOSADZKI, Jacek KALITA, Piotr TUCZYNSKI, Grzegorz NARKIEWICZ, Krzysztof BURAS, Marek PIETRASZEK captain, Marek WOJCICKI coach



NETHERLANDS: Ton BAKKEREN coach, Louk VERHEES, Bart NAB, Bauke MULLER, Ricco VAN PROOIJEN, Simon DE WIJS, Bob DRIJVER, Anton MAAS captain



NORWAY: Boye BROGELAND, Sten BJERTNES coach, Nils Kare KVANGRAVEN, Terje AA, Ulf Haakon TUNDAL, Allan LIVGARD, Espen LINDQVIST, Christian VENNEROED captain

Roll Of Honour

Venice Cup

Gold: SWEDEN

Kathrine Bertheau, Sanna Clementsson, Ida Grönkvist, Jessica Larsson, Emma Övelius, Cecilia Rimstedt, Kenneth Borin (npc), Carina Wademark (coach)

Silver: CHINA

Liu Yan, Lu Yan, Shen Qi, Wang Nan, Wang Wen Fei, Zuo Xiaoxue, Wang Xiaojing (npc & coach)

Bronze: ENGLAND:

Heather Dhondy, Catherine Draper, Gillian Fawcett, Nevena Senior, Nicola Smith, Yvonne Wiseman, David Gold (npc), David Burn (coach)

Sanna Clementsson may well be the youngest Venice Cup winner ever. She was world U21 champion in 2018. Ida Grönkvist also has 2 previous world titles, at U21 in 2014 and U26 in 2018. Cecilia Rimstedt won the U26 Pairs in 2006. Both of them, and Emma Övelius as well, were on the Venice Cup team that won bronze two years ago. Jessica Larsson won silver in last year's McConnell. Wang Wen Fei has won her twelfth medal at world championships. Lu Yan won her seventh. Liu Yan, Shen Qi and Wang Nan were also on the winning team in Lyon and they have an additional bronze from the World Games in 2016. Wang Nan additionally won two bronzes in pair

championships, bringing her medal total to five.

Nicola Smith joins a very short list of players who have won 20 world medals (or more), the first one in 1976. Other players with twenty world medals were Giorgio Belladonna and Bobby Wolff. Bob Hamman, with 31 medals, is the only player with more than 20.

Nevena Senior has won seven world medals, Heather Dhondy six, Catherine Draper four and Yvonne Wiseman two.

Venice Cup



SWEDEN: Carina WADEMARK coach, Emma ÖVELIUS, Ida GRÖNKVIST, Kathrine BERTHEAU, Cecilia RIMSTEDT,Sanna CLEMENTSSON, Jessica LARSSON, Kenneth BORIN captain



CHINA: Yan LIU, Yan LU, Qi SHEN, Xiaojing WANG coach & captain, Wen Fei WANG, Nan WANG, Xiaoxue ZUO



ENGLAND: Catherine DRAPER, Gillian FAWCETT, Nicola SMITH, Heather DHONDY, Yvonne WISEMAN, Nevena SENIOR, David BURN coach, David GOLD captain

Roll Of Honour

d'Orsi Trophy

Gold: DENMARK

Knud-Aage Boesgaard, Søren Christiansen, Jørgen Hansen, HC Nielsen, Henrik Norman, Steen Schou, Bo Bilde (npc), Jan Nielsen (coach)

Silver: ENGLAND

John Holland, David Kendrick, Alan Mould, David Muller, Malcolm Pryor, Trevor Ward, David S. Jones (npc)

Bronze: INDIA:

Sukamal Das, Subhash Dhakras, Dipak Poddar, Subrata Saha, Jitendra Solani, Ramamurthy Sridharan, Vinay Desai (npc), Anal Shah (coach)

Four Danish players have previously won a medal in world championships: Steen Schou won bronze in the 1984 World Games, Søren Christiansen won bronze in the 1996 World Games (both Open teams). Jørgen Hansen, HC Nielsen and Steen Schou previously won bronze in the 2016 World Games (Seniors).

Only one of the England players, and none of the Indians, has previously medalled: John Holland, who won the (first edition under that name) D'Orsi Trophy in 2009, he has a bronze from the Rand Trophy in 2014.

d'Orsi Trophy



DENMARK: Jan Nielsen, Knud-Aage BOESGAARD, Hans Christian NIELSEN, Soren CHRISTIANSEN, Henrik Norman HANSEN, Jorgen Cilleborg HANSEN, Steen SCHOU, Bo Loenberg BILDE captain



ENGLAND: John HOLLAND, Trevor WARD, David KENDRICK, Alan MOULD, Malcolm PRYOR, David MULLER, David S JONES npc

INDIA: Dipak PODDAR, Jitendra SOLANI, Subhash DHAKRAS, Ramamurthy SRIDHARAN, Sukamal DAS, Subrata SAHA,



Roll Of Honour

Wuhan Cup

Gold: RUSSIA

Alexander Dubinin, Alexej Gerasimov, Andrey Gromov, Anna Gulevich, Tatiana Ponomareva, Olga Vorobeychikova

Silver: USA I

Cheri Bjerkan, Allan Graves, Christal Henner, Uday Ivatury, Jill Meyers, Howard Weinstein, Joe Stokes (npc)

Bronze: ROMANIA:

Mihaela Balint, Marius Ioniță, Bogdan Marina (pc), Geta Mihai, Radu Mihai, Marina Stegaroiu

Tatiana Ponomareva has won her ninth medal at the world level. She has two previous titles, in the women teams of 2004 and 2006.
 Andrey Gromov has also won nine medals. Alexander Dubinin six. Anna Gulevich has four medals, Olga Vorobeychikova two. It is the first world title for all of them. It is Jill Meyers' 13th medal at the world level. She has won seven titles.
 This is Cheri Bjerkan's second world medal, she was on the winning Venice Cup team in 1987. It is also Allan Graves' third, after winning the d'Orsi Trophy in 2017. He also won a bronze, for Canada, in the Rosenblum of 1982. Christal Henner also has a previous medal, silver in the 2006 Rosenblum (Open teams). Howard Weinstein has four medals now.

Only one Romanian had previously won medals in world championships: Nistor Radu at the Junior championships of 2011.

Wuhan Cup



RUSSIA: Anna GULEVICH, Alexej GERASIMOV, Olga VOROBEYCHIKOVA, Andrey GROMOV, Tatiana PONOMAREVA, Alexander DUBININ,



USA 1: Joe STOKES NPC, Cheri BJERKAN, Howard WEINSTEIN, Jill MEYERS, Allan GRAVES, Christal HENNER, Uday IVATURY



ROMANIA: Marina STEGAROIU, Geta MIHAI, Radu MIHAI, Mihaela BALINT, Marius IONITA, Bogdan MARINA pc

Roll Of Honour

Transnational Open Teams

Gold: SHANGHAILVCHENG:

Chen Yong, Lian Yong, Luo Yide, Sun Shaolin, Yu Xiaoguang, Zhang Shengle, Zheng Lin (npc)

Silver: SAN CHEN FUND

Jiang Huibo, Li Rui; Shen Siyuan, Wu Shangjie, Xie Zhaobin, Xin Guofang, Su Hongbin (npc)

Bronze: ZHEJIANGQIANTANG:

Dai Jianming, Huang Yan, Ran Jing Rong, Yang Lixin, Zhang Yu, Zhao Jie, Zhang Feilan (npc)

This is proof of the depth of Chinese bridge, since none of the players in the final have won any previous medals in a world championship. The bronze winning team has several previous medal-

lists

Huang Yan has won her sixth world medal (she was on the winning Venice Cup team in 2017), Zhang Yu has also won her sixth medal, Dai Jianming his fourth. Yang Lixin has three medals, Ran Jing Rong two. Zhao Jie (aka Jack) has four medals; he has twice won a World pairs' title, the Open Pairs in 2006 and the Mixed Pairs in 2014.

World Transnational Open Teams



SHANGHAILVCHENG: Shaolin SUN, Yong CHEN, Lin ZHENG captain (npc), Xiaoguang YU, Yong LIAN, Yide LUO, Shengle ZHANG



SAN CHEN FUND: Shangjie WU, Hongbin SU captain, Rui LI, Huibo JIANG, Siyuan SHEN, Zhaobin XIE, Guofang XIN



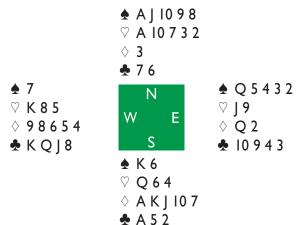
ZHEJIANGQIANTANG: Feilan ZHANG captain, Lixin YANG, Yu ZHANG, Jing Rong RAN, Yan HUANG, Jianming DAI, Jie ZHAO

Front Page News

by Mark Horton

This deal from the final session was sure to play a significant role:

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.



Open Room

| West | North | East Sout | th |
|---------|------------|--------------|--------|
| Verhees | Nowosadzki | Van Prooijen | Kalita |
| _ | _ | _ | 📥 |
| Pass | ♠ | Pass | 2NT* |
| Pass | 3♡ | Pass | 3NT |
| Pass | 4 ♡ | All Pass | |

 4^{\heartsuit} was easy enough, declarer managing to take 12 tricks. Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Buras | De Wijs | Narkiewicz | Muller |
| _ | _ | _ | ♣* |
| Dble | ♡* | 3♣ | Pass* |
| Pass | 3♡ | Pass | 4♣ * |
| Pass | 4 \diamond | Pass | 4 ♡ |
| Pass | 5♡ | Pass | 6 \diamond |
| Pass | 60 | All Pass | |

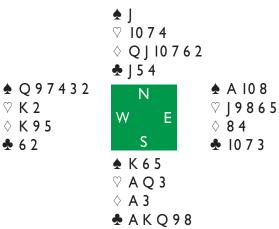
If declarer could take 12 tricks Netherlands, who were winning the last set 15-0, would move to within 6 IMPs.

The club lead was taken in dummy, and two rounds of diamonds took care of the losing club. A heart to the ten lost to the jack and declarer ruffed the club return and passed the \bigstar J. That worked, but the $\heartsuit K$ did not fall under the ace and the Bowl was on its way to Poland once more.

Cancel that Misplay!

Manoj Kumar writes from Bangalore India about this deal reported in Bulletin 14 (Deal 5 Closed Room): https://tinyurl.com/y680xh2c

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



There is a column by Ib Lundby where he analyses a deal which was also analysed by me when reporting the India Seniors vs Netherlands match. In the column Mr Lundby states that the Dutch player Van Der Hoek "got the Spade 10 back at Trick two and (mis) played the hand by playing the King." He does the Dutch veteran great injustice in saying it was misplayed. I had congratulated Van Der Hoek in my report as he was the ONLY person to find an imaginative play, it was missed by none less than Boye Brogeland, Bauke Muller and G Narkiewicz in the Bermuda Bowl all of whom played in 3NT on similar bidding. They all took a losing finesse after entering dummy with the club Jack and promptly went down, some as many as 3 down.

https://tinyurl.com/y2p2l7hr https://tinyurl.com/y67oh78x

The bidding and play have so far shown 6-3 spade division (spade ten return), with East unlikely to hold any of the red kings. As suggested by Mr Lundby's report, if West discards the spade NINE and to allow East to win the third spade with the 8, there is still no defense available as that is only the second trick for defense. Declarer has a wealth of information available from West's three discards to decide on the endplay or drop even at this stage. So nothing is lost by keeping the third spade for a strip and endplay with the alternative of switching to the red suit throw in suggested by Lundby in case East does win the third spade.

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

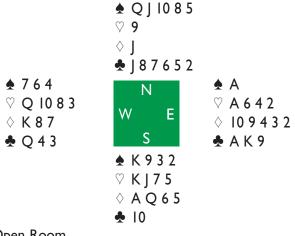




After nearly two weeks of top-level play, the Bermuda Bowl finally reached its apotheosis, the final. And what a final it is; two countries who both have won the Bermuda Bowl in this decade are now competing for it in a direct encounter. Apparently, both countries have such a large reservoir of good players that a few interesting changes in either team do not prevent them from reaching this prestigious final again.

The first board was instructive because the play was a matter of choosing the right tempo.

Board I. Dealer North. None Vul.



Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|---------|------------|
| Nab | Buras | Drijver | Narkiewicz |
| _ | 2♠ | Dble | 4♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Dble | All Pass |

An uncomplicated auction, and a normal enough lead of a top club followed by the $\Diamond 10$ to dummy's ace. Declarer has two problems: he should draw the opponents' trumps and also find a way to get the clubs going. The danger is that he won't have enough trumps left in either hand.

So Buras immediately went after the trumps, leading low from dummy to the queen and East's ace. A diamond came back, declarer ruffing in hand. A club was ruffed in dummy and another diamond ruffed in hand, which brought down West's king. When another club ruff with dummy's \bigstar K established the suit, declarer was home as trumps could now be drawn and the club winners cashed; Poland +590.

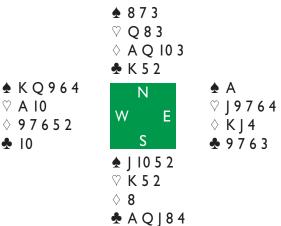
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|---------|--------------|--------|
| Tuczynski | De Wijs | Chmurski | Muller |
| _ | Pass | I \diamond | Dble |
| \heartsuit | 2♠ | 3♡ | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

In the other room, De Wijs did not open as dealer but the final contract and the opening lead were the same. The only

difference was that E/W had not doubled. At trick two, Chmurski also played a diamond to dummy's ace but at this point, declarer lost a tempo by immediately ruffing a diamond in hand himself. Club ruff, diamond ruff, club ruff with the ♠K and only then a trump to East's ace. When East returned a low heart, declarer now had to guess right for his contract. When he called for dummy's jack, West won the queen and returned the suit to fatally shorten declarer's trumps; one down, Poland another +50 and 12 IMPs, a flying start to these friendly hostilities. Next:







Bartosz Chmurski, Poland

| Open Room | | | |
|------------|-------|----------|------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Nab | Buras | Drijver | Narkiewicz |
| _ | _ | Pass | 📥 |
| I ♠ | Dble* | Rdbl | 2 📥 |
| 2 ◇ | 3♣ | Pass | Pass |
| 3♢ | Dble | All Pass | |

A pretty natural auction, dummy no doubt containing some unpleasant surprises for North.

If you look at this hand superficially, you would think the defenders can choose from a number of evils. A trump lead does not shorten declarer's trumps but a forcing defence in clubs will allow declarer to score many small trumps in hand together with the four top tricks and the two trumps in dummy. On a club lead to South's ace, followed by two rounds of trumps, declarer had an easy enough ride when he won dummy's \Diamond J, South pitching a heart rather than a club, and led a low heart next, on which South inserted his king. With the hearts established with ease, nothing could prevent declarer from getting at his nine tricks; Netherlands +470. Russia and China also recorded +470 on the deal, I found out later.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|---------|----------|--------|
| Tuczynski | De Wijs | Chmurski | Muller |
| _ | _ | Pass | 2◊* |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

Opposite a classic Precision-style three-suited opening bid, Simon de Wijs immediately had a go at the right contract. East did not make the expected or suggested diamond lead, obvious with his vulnerable holding in the suit, but opted for a more normal heart. When West put up the ace and continued the suit, one of declarer's problems had been solved. Next came five rounds of clubs, on which East, not wanting to discard a heart, let go a diamond from his KJx. A diamond from dummy to the \Diamond Q lost to East's king but when the \Diamond J appeared under the \Diamond A on the next round of the suit, declarer suddenly had his nine tricks to add +600 to the +470 already registered. The Dutch had taken the lead: 14-12.

On the next seven quiet boards, the Poles regained the lead at 19-17 when Board 10 arrived.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| ▲ K Q 6 5 3 ♡ J 7 ◇ K 4 3 ♣ Q J 10 | N W E S ▲ J I0 ♡ K Q 5 4 3 ◊ J 6 5 ♣ A 6 3 | ▲ A 2 ♡ 9 8 ◇ Q 8 7 ▲ K 9 8 7 5 2 |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|-------|---------|------------|
| Nab | Buras | Drijver | Narkiewicz |
| _ | _ | Pass | Pass |
| | Pass | 2 📥 | Pass |
| 2 ◇ | Pass | 3 🙅 | All Pass |

It was difficult for N/S to enter the auction at any time after South's initial pass, so they eventually sold out to $3\clubsuit$; Netherlands +110.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|------------|----------|------------|
| Tuczynski | De Wijs | Chmurski | Muller |
| _ | _ | Pass | \bigcirc |
| ♠ | 4 ♡ | Dble | All Pass |

Bauke Muller showed no inhibitions in second position. Once he found an opening bid, the Dutch could not stop below game; Netherlands a smooth +790 and 14 IMPs to regain the lead.

The scorers had to wait till the last board of the set before they were put into action again.

| Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul. | | | |
|--|---|---|--------------------|
| ▲ A K 8 7 ♡ 10 6 ◇ J 10 8 7 1 ▲ J 2 | ♡ J 2 ◇ K 9 ▲ K 9 2 ▲ J 9 ♡ A 1 ◇ Q | 9 6 8 4 ► ← 4 ♡ C ◇ A ► 9 6 | 2 9 7 5 3 5 4 3 |
| Open Room | | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| Nab | Buras | Drijver | Narkiewicz |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 🐣 |
| $ \diamond$ | \heartsuit | 2 📤 | Dble |
| Pass | 2♠ | All Pass | |

A natural Polish Club transfer auction with both players holding a little in reserve, not vulnerable. Just made; Poland +110.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|---------|----------|--------|
| Tuczynski | De Wijs | Chmurski | Muller |
| Pass | INT | Pass | 2◊* |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

Opposite the 10-12 INT, Muller had more than enough to go to game. When East led a heart, which ran to



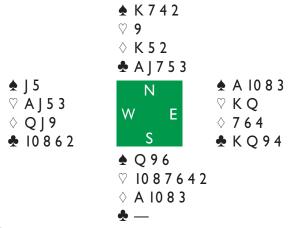
Simon de Wijs, Netherlands

declarer's jack, nine tricks were easy; Netherlands a more aggressive +400 and 7 more IMPs to finish the segment with a 37-19 lead.

Segment 2

After a flat opening board, the Poles eliminated half their deficit in amusing fashion on the second board.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| Verhees | Chmurski | Van Prooijen | Tuczynski |
| _ | _ | INT | Pass |
| 2 ♣ * | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| 2NT | All Pass | | |

When South led a diamond, ducked all round, there were exactly eight tricks when the clubs behaved (more or less); Netherlands +120.

Closed Room

| North | East | South |
|---------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| De Wijs | Nowosadzki | Muller |
| _ | INT | Pass |
| Dble | Rdbl | All Pass |
| | De Wijs — | De Wijs Nowosadzki – INT |

When Kalita introduced classic Stayman, he was immediately caught by North. South led a heart, so North duly got his ruff in the suit but the defenders could not prevent declarer from getting to his required eight tricks. With North holding four spades, he would never be able to score an overruff and South, of course, would never be able to lead a trump. One way or another, declarer would thus come to his eight tricks for an unexpected +560 and 10 IMPs to Poland.

The Dutch lead had gone down to 4 when Board 23 arrived.

| Board | 23. Dealer Sou | th. All Vul. |
|--|---|---|
| | ▲ A 10 7 6 ♡ A 8 7 4 ◊ 5 ♣ K Q 8 2 | |
| ♠ Q J 4 ♡ Q 9 ◇ J 9 8 6 3 ♣ J 7 5 | N W E S ♠ K 9 5 2 ♡ J 10 6 5 ◊ 10 2 ♣ A 4 3 | ▲ 8 3 ♡ K 3 2 ◇ A K Q 7 4 ▲ 10 9 6 |
| Don Room | | |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|----------|--------------|------------|
| Verhees | Chmurski | Van Prooijen | Tuczynski |
| _ | _ | _ | Pass |
| Pass | ♣ | $ \diamond$ | Dble* |
| 3♢ | 3♡ | Pass | 4 ♡ |
| All Pass | | | |

Despite the intervention, N/S had no trouble in getting to the heart game, but how to play the hand?

Top diamond by East and a spade shift to the jack and ace. When declarer next played $\heartsuit A$ and another, he had to lose two trump tricks and a spade in the end as there was no endplay (and no defensive mistake, for that matter); one down, Netherlands +100.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| Kalita | De Wijs | Nowosadzki | Muller |
| _ | _ | _ | Pass |
| Pass | 2◊* | Dble | 2NT* |
| Pass | 3 📥 | Pass | 3♢ |
| Pass | 3NT | Pass | 4 \diamond |
| Pass | 4 ♡ | All Pass | |

Once De Wijs could (again) open a classic Precision style 2 \diamond , we got an entirely different auction towards the same contract. Here too, East led a top diamond and continued a spade to the jack and ace. When declarer next played $\heartsuit A$ and another, East rose with the $\heartsuit K$ to play another spade. This cost a defensive trump trick and thus the contract. Netherlands another +620 and 12 IMPs to them to lead by 16 again.

The Dutch scored 3 more IMPs on overtricks over the next two boards but Board 26 was more substantial:

| Board | 26. Dealer E | ast. All Vul. |
|--|---|--|
| | ▲ A 10 8 ♡ Q 8 6 5 ◇ A 5 ▲ J 9 6 5 | |
| ▲ Q 6 5 4 ♡ J 9 2 ◊ 10 4 2 ♣ 10 3 2 | N W E S ▲ K J 7 2 ♡ 10 3 ◇ Q J 9 3 ♣ K Q 8 | ▲ 9 3 ♡ A K 7 4 ◇ K 8 7 6 ♣ A 7 4 |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| Verhees | Chmurski | Van Prooijen | Tuczynski |
| - | - | INT | All Pass |

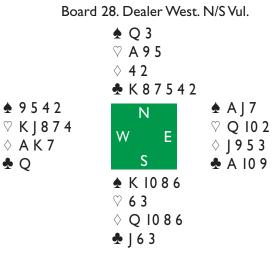
Over East's rather strong (14-16) INT, nobody had anything to say. South led the $\Diamond Q$, East won his king and led a heart to dummy's nine and thus finished with five tricks; Poland +200.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|---------|-------------|--------|
| Kalita | De Wijs | Nowosadzki | Muller |
| _ | _ | $ \diamond$ | Pass |
| Pass | Dble | Pass | 2◊* |
| Pass | 2♡ | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

When East had to open I \Diamond at the other table,West could hardly find a response and thus N/S got enough room to get to a razor-thin game contract. These are made more often than not once it is known where the missing high cards are.

East led a diamond to dummy's $\Diamond Q$ and the $\clubsuit KQ$ came next. When they both won the trick, a third round of the suit put East on lead again. Had East now continued a diamond, we might have had a different story, but he exited with the $\bigstar 9$ which ran round to declarer's $\bigstar 10$. Simon de Wijs then cashed the last club followed by the $\Diamond A$, $\bigstar A$ and $\bigstar K$ before putting East on lead with the last diamond. The $\heartsuit Q$ thus became the game-going trick. Nicely done, I have to admit...; Netherlands thus a fine +600 for a gain of 9 more IMPs. Two boards later, the play was again the thing.



Both Wests were in 4°. For Poland, Chmurski led a club which Verhees successfully ran to his queen. When he next ducked a spade to South, intending to do something with his fourth spade, South returned a trump to the seven, nine and dummy's °10. Verhees next cashed the A and the ◇AK before leading another spade, this time to the queen and ace. Next came a diamond, ruffed in hand and a spade to the jack. When South was given his second spade trick, he had a trump left to enable partner to play two more rounds of the trumps, so declarer was left with one loser too many. Well defended, one down and a fully deserved +50 to Poland.

In the Closed Room, North led the $\diamond 4$ to the jack, queen and ace. A trump went to dummy's queen and another trump was won by North's ace. The $\diamond 2$ return then went

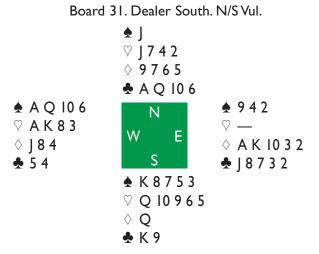


Louk Verhees, Netherlands

to the $\Diamond 8$ and $\Diamond K$ and the last trump was drawn, South discarding a spade.

From here, it was plain sailing for declarer: $\mathbf{A}Q$ to the king and ace, $\mathbf{A}10$ covered with the jack and ruffed, followed by the $\Diamond 7$. South had to win the $\Diamond 10$ but dummy's $\Diamond 9$, too, had now become a parking place for a spade loser. Just made; Poland +420 and 10 IMPs back to them.

On the penultimate board, again the play was the thing. West opens INT and ends up in 3NT. North leads a heart. How would you play?



Kalita, in the Closed Room, chose an interesting line. He won South's $\heartsuit Q$ with the king and immediately ran the $\diamondsuit J$. South returned a heart but when declarer did not use his diamond communication for a number of spade finesses (an unlikely approach), he had to go one down; Netherlands +50.

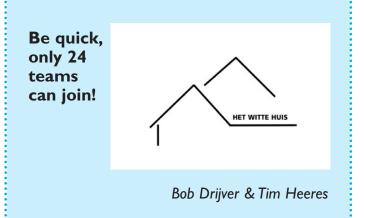
In the Open Room, Verhees followed a more straightforward line. He won the heart lead, cashed the $\Diamond A$ and played a spade to the queen. After this successful catch as catch can, he could not be prevented from scoring up an overtrick; Netherlands +430 and a surprise 10 IMPs to them to finish off the segment 37-32, thus increasing their lead to 74-51. Still 64 boards to go so by no means a 'Vorentscheidung', as the Germans would say.

Invitation

White House Juniors International 15 – 20 March 2020 Amsterdam

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

We gladly invite any junior captain/NBO to sign up for our junior tournament in Amsterdam (15 - 20 March 2020) by sending an e-mail to whitehousejuniors2020@gmail.com.We will contact you with further details.





Fall North American Bridge Championships

Inaugural running of the Soloway Knockouts

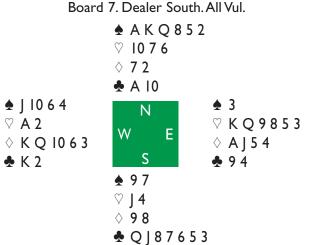
Two-day Swiss qualifying round followed by five days of head-to-head knockouts

Playing site is the Marriott Marquis.

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No-one could challenge the right of these two fine teams to play for the biggest prize in world bridge. Roland Wald and I were hoping for some great boards to watch, as we took our seats for the final session of the first day. Let's take a look at the first swing of any size:



Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|------------|--------|----------|
| De Wijs | Nowosadzki | Muller | Kalita |
| _ | _ | _ | Pass |
| $ \diamond$ | | 2◊* | Pass |
| 2♡ | 2♠ | 3♡ | All Pass |

Bauke Muller's $2\Diamond$ was a transfer to hearts. Four Hearts was a great game to be in. What had gone wrong?

East could not be sure of the diamond length opposite, nor did he know of any heart support. West would be forced to rebid 2^{\heartsuit} on many mundane hands without support. Even so, East must have considered bidding 4^{\heartsuit} instead of 3^{\heartsuit} . There could so easily be ten tricks in the red suits.

North led the \bigstar A, receiving the \bigstar 7 from his partner (upside-down count). When he continued with the \bigstar 2, Simon de Wijs discarded a club from dummy and won with the \bigstar J. The red suits were good for the remaining tricks and it was +230 for the Netherlands.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|--------------|------------|---------|
| Buras | Van Prooijen | Narkiewicz | Verhees |
| _ | _ | _ | Pass |
| $ \diamond$ | I.♠ | 2♡ | Pass |
| Pass | 2♠ | 3♠* | Pass |
| 5◇ | All Pass | | |

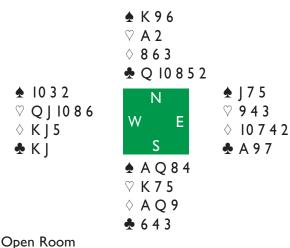
There seemed to be no risk attached to re-opening with $2\clubsuit$, but Van Prooijen must have been surprised when his opponents were at the five-level at his next turn. He led the \clubsuit A, followed by the \clubsuit A. Declarer won the switch back

22

to clubs, drew trumps and was soon writing +600 on his card. It was 9 IMPs to Poland.

If I tell you that the next five boards produced a scoreline of 6-3, you will understand why I now leap-frog to Board 13.





| West | North | East | South |
|---------|------------|----------|--------|
| De Wijs | Nowosadzki | Muller | Kalita |
| _ | Pass | Pass | INT |
| Pass | 3♣* | Pass | 3♢ |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

North's $3\clubsuit$ was Puppet Stayman. A heart lead would be necessary to beat 3NT and the Great Dealer had decided to make this easy for West. Kalita won with dummy's ace, crossed to the \bigstar A and led the \bigstar 3. What should West do on this trick?

If West goes up with the $\pounds K$, declarer can duck the next round of hearts and make the contract. East will have no heart to play when he takes his $\pounds A$. De Wijs gave the matter some consideration, eventually playing the $\oiint J$. He could reason that declarer would surely have crossed to the $\pounds A$ at trick two if he held that card. East won the first round of clubs the ace and continued hearts. Declarer won the third round and led another club, going one down.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|--------------|------------|---------|
| Buras | Van Prooijen | Narkiewicz | Verhees |
| _ | Pass | Pass | INT |
| Pass | 2♠* | Pass | 3 📥 |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

At this table, Louk Verhees ducked the first round of hearts. He won the heart continuation in dummy and crossed to the Q to lead a low club. Krzysztof Buras played the \oiint{J} , and the game was one down for no swing. In the d'Orsi Seniors final, Alan Mould made 3NT when

the Danish West went in with the $\clubsuit K$.

-

. .

| Board | 14. Dealer East | . None Vul. |
|--|---------------------|--|
| | ▲ A Q 9 5 3 ♡ 9 8 2 | 2 |
| | A Q 9 4 A | |
| | ♣ — | |
| ▲ K 10 4 ♡ K 6 5 4 ◊ 7 5 3 ▲ Q 10 8 | N W E S | ▲ — ♡ A 7 3 ◊ K 8 6 2 ♣ A K 6 5 3 2 |
| | ▲ J 8 7 6 | |
| | ♡ Q J 10 | |
| | ♦ J I0 | |
| | 📥 J 9 7 4 | |
| Open Room | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|------------|---------------------|--------|
| De Wijs | Nowosadzki | Muller | Kalita |
| _ | _ | 2♣ | Pass |
| 3♣ | 3♠ | 4 \diamond | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

In the Tarzan strong club system, $2\clubsuit$ showed six clubs and 11-15 points. Since Muller's $4\Diamond$ would force his side to at least $5\clubsuit$, it was rather surprising that he allowed the opponents' contract of $4\clubsuit$ to stand.

Michal Nowosadzki ruffed the \clubsuit A lead and then had a choice of red suits to play. When he reached for a heart, West won with the \heartsuit K and forced declarer with a \bigstar 10 return. Declarer now found the necessary switch to diamonds, leading the \diamond 4. After prolonged thought, Muller played low on the first round of diamonds. Declarer then scored an overtrick for +450.

East should have won with the $\Diamond K$, but a further club force would be unsuccessful. Declarer ruffs, crosses to the $\Diamond J$ and plays the $\bigstar J$, covered by the king and ace. He can then play the $\bigstar Q$ and two good diamonds, ditching the $\heartsuit J10$ from dummy. He loses a trump trick but collects 420. If instead East cashes the $\heartsuit A$ and then plays a club, declarer has the entries to pick up the trump suit for no loss. (Note that East's 4 \diamond bid had allowed declarer to place him with 0=3=4=6 shape at an early stage.)

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|--------------|------------|----------|
| Buras | Van Prooijen | Narkiewicz | Verhees |
| _ | _ | ♣* | Pass |
| \square | ♠ | Dble | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | Dble | All Pass |

Again declarer ruffed the A lead and led a heart, won by West's king. This time, declarer had no clear picture from the bidding of what East's shape was likely to be.

West forced declarer to ruff a club. Van Prooijen now missed the necessary switch to diamonds, continuing with a second heart. East won with the ace and played a club to partner's queen, ruffed by declarer. A heart to the queen stood up and the $\Diamond 10$ was run to East's king. The $\clubsuit K$ then killed the contract. Declarer ruffed and had to concede a trump trick to West. It was 11 IMPs to Poland, the only double-digit swing of the match.

You will judge from my continuation with a part-score deal, that the fare offered in this set was meagre. Still, those who go fishing do not always return with a full basket.

| Board I | 5. Dealer South | n. N/S Vul. |
|--|--|---|
| ▲ A K J 6 ♡ 8 7 4 2 ◇ A Q J ▲ Q 2 | ♣ 8 7 4 ◇ A K Q ◇ 3 2 ♣ K J 10 9 6 N W E S ♠ Q ◊ 6 5 3 ◊ K 7 6 5 4 ♣ A 8 4 3 | ▲ 10 9 5 3 2 ♡ J 10 9 ◊ 10 9 8 ♣ 7 5 |

Closed Room

| North | East | South |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Van Prooijen | Narkiewicz | Verhees |
| _ | _ | Pass |
| Pass | ◊* | Pass |
| Pass | 2♡* | Pass |
| All Pass | | |
| | Van Prooijen — Pass Pass | Van ProoijenNarkiewiczPassI ◊*Pass2♡* |

INT 17-19

West broke the transfer and ended too high, even though the $\Diamond K$ and $\bigstar Q$ were well placed. I suppose it was fair enough with 17 points. I certainly don't agree with one of my fellow commentators that you should always break with four-card support and a minimum. When no-one has bid on the first round, you have every chance of buying it in $2\bigstar$. You might be more inclined towards pre-emption when the suit is hearts.

North led the $\heartsuit K$, partner showing an even number, and cashed one more heart. He then switched to a diamond, drawing the king and ace. Buras drew trumps and exited with a heart. Was North half-asleep? No, he switched to the \clubsuit J and the defenders scored two tricks in the suit for one down.

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|------------|--------|--------|
| De Wijs | Nowosadzki | Muller | Kalita |
| _ | _ | _ | Pass |
| ♣* | Pass | ◊* | Pass |
| INT | Pass | 2♡* | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3♡* | Pass |
| 3♠ | All Pass | | |

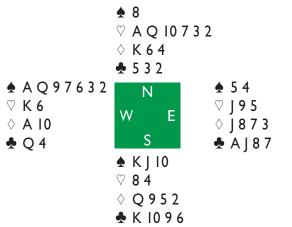
A transfer, a break and a re-transfer led to the same $3 \pm$ contract. This time Nowosadzki cashed three hearts, before switching to the $\Diamond 2$. Kalita contributed the $\Diamond 7$,

declarer winning with the queen. De Wijs was then able to draw trumps and play the established \Im 8 for a club discard. The contract was made for +140.

We can now appreciate Van Prooijen's wisdom in switching after only two rounds of hearts at the other table. Well defended!

I don't want to supply short measure on my last report of this great tournament, so I will show you one more deal from this low-scoring set:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|------------|--------|----------|
| De Wijs | Nowosadzki | Muller | Kalita |
| ♣* | 3♡ | Dble | Pass |
| 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ | All Pass |

Who was the hero of this auction? It was Nowosadzki. If he had bid a mundane 2° instead of 3° , E/W might not have bid so high.

North's club lead went to South's king, setting up a discard for declarer's diamond loser. A diamond lead would have allowed declarer to set up a discard for his club loser, so nothing was lost. South switched to a heart and ruffed the third round of the suit with the $\pm K$, declarer discarding the $\Diamond 10$. That was one down.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|--------------|------------|---------|
| Buras | Van Prooijen | Narkiewicz | Verhees |
| | 2♡ | Pass | Pass |
| 2♠ | All Pass | | |

Again a club was led, South this time inserting the $\clubsuit9$. Buras won and played the \bigstarA . He then crossed to the \bigstarA and played a trump towards the queen. It was +140 and 6 IMPs to Poland, who took the set by 39 IMPs to 17. The first day of the final ended with the Netherlands leading by 91-90.

May I end by thanking the BBO VuGraph operators for their sterling efforts. How they perform such an exhausting task for two weeks, I do not know. It was also a very welcome innovation to provide such comprehensive VuGraph coverage for all four main championships, rather than 80% going just to the Bermuda Bowl. My thanks also go to the great Monika Kümmel, who set the bulletins so attractively, distracting the readers' attention from any errors committed by elderly writers.

I must certainly commend also the organisers of this great tournament in Wuhan. The format of a complete round robin, followed by two-day knockout matches was excellent. The tournament website was magnificent -a great service for bridge fans and writers worldwide. Many thanks to everyone involved!

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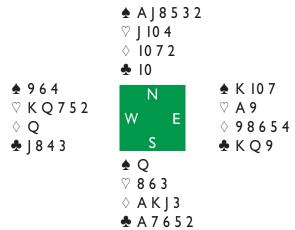




4 🌩

After an explosive first set that saw Denmark jump out to a 43-IMP lead (61-18), the second stanza began in much more sedate manner. Both E/W pairs missed a fairly easy chance for a modest gain on this early deal:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|-------|
| Nielsen | Holland | Boesgaard | Mould |
| _ | _ | _ | ♣ |
| \bigtriangledown | I.♠ | Dble* | Pass |
| INT | 2♠ | All Pass | |

The defence began with three rounds of hearts and West then switched to his singleton diamond. Declarer won in dummy and ran the riangle Q to East's king, and Boesgaard returned the $ilde{4}$ for his partner to ruff. This low suitpreference signal encouraged Nielsen to play a club rather a heart, which would have promoted East's riangle 10 into the setting trick; N/S +110.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|-------|----------|----------|
| Kendrick | Schou | Ward | J Hansen |
| _ | _ | _ | ♣ |
| \heartsuit | ♠ | INT | Pass |
| Pass | 2♠ | All Pass | |

The defence also began with hearts, but here Kendrick did not cash his third winner in that suit before switching to his diamond. The Danish North now attempted a different line in trumps, quashing the queen with the ace on the first round and continuing with a low card. East won with the $\bigstar10$ and simply has to give West a diamond ruff the beat the contract. (Does he really think his partner has a second diamond after the switch to the queen into that dummy?) When he instead played the \bigstar K declarer was able to make an overtrick, the losing heart eventually disappearing on the fourth round of diamonds; N/S +140 and 1 IMP to Denmark.

Then came the largest swing of the set:

| | 0 | 0 | |
|--|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| B | Board 20. De | aler West. Al | l Vul. |
| | | 2 Q J 8 7 6 5 | |
| ▲ A 6 2 ♡ K Q 9 7 ◊ 3 ♣ K J 7 3 | 5 ₩ ★ 9 | N E S S 4 J 10 6 4 | K J I0 7 3 8 K 4 Q I0 8 6 5 |
| Closed Room | | | |
| | North | East | South |
| 1/ 1 / 1 | C 1 | 14/ / | |

KendrickSchouWardJ HansenI♡3◊DblePass

All Pass

There is no good solution on the East hand after North's pre-emptive jump overcall. Three Spades is game forcing



Steen Schou, Denmark

and a distinct overbid, but a negative double will not unveil a 3-5 spade fit. Equally bad, what is West going to bid over a negative double with a 3-5-2-3 shape? Four Hearts, presumably. How much will you enjoy that?

Ward opted to double and was presumably grateful to hear partner bid a black suit. He produced dummy in Four Clubs and recorded a plus score when the riangle Q lead made it easy for declarer to rack up ten tricks; E/W +130.

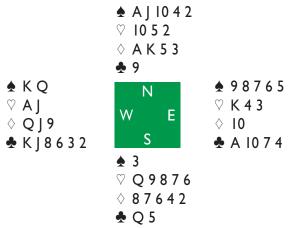
Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|----------|-----------|-------|
| Nielsen | Holland | Boesgaard | Mould |
| \heartsuit | 3◊ | 3♠ | Pass |
| 4♠ | All Pass | | |

For the Danes, Boesgaard opted for the bid with the highest upside and was duly raised to game. Of course, ten tricks are an easy make seeing all four hands. The defense led a diamond to the ace, a club to the ace, and then ace and another heart. Having avoided a potential club ruff, all declarer now had to do was to pick up the trumps. Of course, after North's pre-emptive jump overcall, he was always likely to guess wrong, and Boesgaard duly did so; E/W - 100 and a rather fortunate 6 IMPs to England.

Our next deal was a bidding challenge for E/W. Could either pair reach the impregnable 3NT?

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.



Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|------------|-----------|----------|
| Nielsen | Holland | Boesgaard | Mould |
| | _ 2♠ | - D | Pass |
| INT | 2 . | Pass | Pass |
| 3♣ | Pass | 5♣ | All Pass |

East passed John Holland's Two Spade overcall, presumably hoping that partner could re-open with a double. Nielsen did have that opportunity, but instead chose belatedly to introduce his six-card suit. How easy is it for East, with a singleton diamond, to now bid 3NT? Boesgaard settled for a raise of partner's suit to game.

Holland cashed the $\Diamond K$ and, remembering West's INT opening bid, counted the spades he could see and decided that South must be short. A reasonable deduction, and the spade ruff put the Danish game one down; N/S +50.

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|----------|------|----------|
| Kendrick | Schou | Ward | J Hansen |
| _ | _ | _ | Pass |
| INT | Pass | 2♡* | Pass |
| 2♠ | All Pass | | |

The English West also opted for the slightly off-centre INT opening but, at his table, North did not overcall. Instead, East transferred to North's (and his own) five-card suit. Two Spades ended the auction with North probably wishing he had a penalty double available.

Steen Schou led a top diamond and then switched to his club, won in dummy with the ace. A trump to the queen was allowed to win, and North took the second round of the suit. North's heart switch ran to declarer's jack and the \clubsuit K was advanced, North ruffing. North could take his two trump winners, but that was it for the defence; N/S –110 and 4 IMPs to England.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

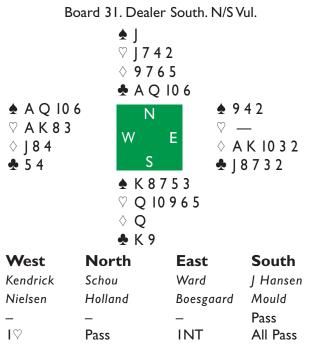
| | | 11000 | 41. |
|---|--|-----------------------|------------|
| | ▲ Q 3 ♡ A 9 5 ◊ 4 2 ▲ K 8 7 | 5 4 2 | |
| ♦ 9542 ♡ K J 874 ◇ A K 7 ♣ Q | N ₩ S ▲ K 10 8 ♡ 6 3 ◊ Q 10 | ► 0) 9 ♣ A 3 6 | 102 953 |
| | ✓ Q 10 ♣ 6 3 | 00 | |
| West | North | East | South |
| Kendrick | Schou | Ward | J Hansen |
| Nielsen | Holland | Boesgaard | Mould |
| \bigcirc | Pass | 2 📥 | Pass |
| 2 ◇ | Pass | 4 ♡ | All Pass |

A straightforward auction carried West to Four Hearts and both North players found the good opening of the $\mathbf{\Phi}Q$. Both declarers took their ace on the first round and continued with the $\heartsuit 10$. Curiously, both Norths grabbed the $\heartsuit A$ immediately, without waiting to see if declarer would play the $\heartsuit Q$ from dummy on the second round of trumps. (If he does, this sets up a trump promotion for the $\heartsuit 9$ on the fourth round of spades.) North continued spades, South cashed his two tricks in the suit and played a fourth round, a ruff with the $\heartsuit 5$ over-ruffed by dummy's queen. With only one entry to dummy, there was now no way for declarer to avoid a diamond loser; N/S +50 and a flat board.

Declarer can still make the contract after the riangle Q lead, by winning and playing dummy's low trump to hand. If North wins and the defenders play three more rounds of spades, dummy overruffs on the fourth round. A diamond to hand

then allows declarer to lead the $\mathbf{A}Q$, forcing a cover from North. Winning with the $\mathbf{A}A$, declarer can then play the $\mathbf{A}10$ for a ruffing finesse against South's $\mathbf{A}J$. It matters not whether South covers, as there is still a trump entry to dummy and declarer's diamond loser disappears on the established club winner.

There was one last chance for the E/W players to shine, a combined 22-count on which 3NT cannot be defeated.



Neither South considered their hand worth an opening bid, which might, perhaps, have created some action. Both

West players then opened a four-card One Heart. The Easts' INT response ended the brief auction that, presumably, left North wondering what had happened to the spade suit.

Boesgaard, for Denmark, played the queen on the $\clubsuit5$ opening lead, skewering North's jack. His next choice was less inspired, though: the \Diamond J. This ran to Mould's bare queen and a heart came back. Declarer won, cashed his four diamond tricks, and took the marked spade finesse for nine tricks. E/W +150.

For England, Ward played low from dummy at trick one and North's \bigstar J scored. Declarer won the heart switch (discarding a spade from dummy) and he also called, mysteriously, for the \Diamond J. Again, South scored his bare \Diamond Q and cleared the hearts. Declarer cashed his diamonds and now could not afford to take a losing spade finesse; E/W +90 and 2 IMPs to Denmark when ten tricks were available, no matter which option you chose at trick one.

England won a thoroughly uninspiring set of boards 21-7, reducing the deficit to 29 IMPs. By the end of the day, at the midway point of the match, the Danes led by 18 IMPs (96-78). All still to play for on the final day of what has been a marvelous championship. Everyone involved in the organization of this event is to be commended for a job well done. The format was excellent, the web site most informative and, with 12 tables of every round carried live on BBO's VuGraph coverage, the event was thoroughly enjoyed by thousands of kibitzers around the world. Great job, everyone.



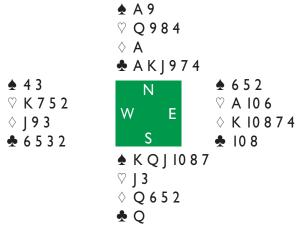
*):

Ron Tacchi

Venice Cup Final S3 China v Sweden

After two of the six sessions Sweden have an advantage of 18 IMPs, with 64 boards still to play not a significant lead, but should China lose this session then their overnight sleep might be more restless than they would wish. The Chinese pairs all play Precision, the Swedish employ fivecard majors, two-over-one and strong no-trump but Clementsson and Övelius use a 10-13 no-trump in first and third position non-vulnerable.

Board I. Dealer North. None Vul.



Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|-------|--------------|--------|
| Övelius | Lu | Clementsso | on Liu |
| _ | ♣* | I \diamond | ♠* |
| Pass | 2 📥 | Pass | 2♠* |
| Pass | 3 📥 | Pass | 3NT |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

After North opened a Precision club South's $1 \pm$ showed 8-13 or 16+ balanced, $2 \pm$ promising the former. The following bids were all natural and the correct contract was reached. Eleven tricks were soon neatly stacked in front of declarer.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|----------|--------------|------------|
| Shen | Rimstedt | Wang W | Grönkvist |
| _ | ♣* | $ \diamond $ | ♡* |
| Pass | 2♡ | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 3♡* | Pass | 4♠ |
| Pass | 5 🛧 | Pass | 5 ◇ |
| Ass | 5♡ | Pass | 6♠ |
| All Pass | | | |
| ♣ 2+♣ | | | |

I know that South's I^{\heartsuit} showed spades but after that I am unclear as to when and where the wheel fell off. West obviously was more aware than me as to the meaning of the auction as she unerringly led a heart to her partner's ace and won the heart return with her king to take the

slam one down. An initial 11 IMPs to China.

| Board | 2. Dealer East. | N/S Vul. |
|---|-----------------|--|
| ▲ K 5 2 ♡ 10 6 2 ◊ 9 3 ♣ Q 7 6 5 4 | N W E S | ▲ 10 8 7 3 ♡ A ◇ Q 10 8 7 6 ▲ K 9 3 |
| | 🛧 A 6 4 | |
| | ♡ K Q 9 8 5 | 3 |
| | ♦ A 2 | |
| | 🐥 A 8 | |
| Open Room | 2 | |
| | | |

West North East South Övelius Clementsson Liu Lu Pass |♣* Pass 2♡ Pass Pass Pass 3♡ ?♠* All Pass Pass 40 Precision, 16+ 8-13 or 16+ balanced 8-13 2♠



Sanna Clementsson, Sweden

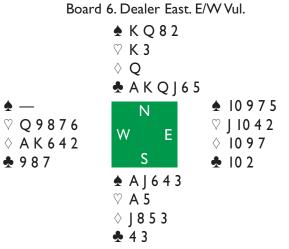
North showed she held 8-13 and readily supported South's natural heart bids. Again, the play was simple and South easily took ten tricks.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|----------|--------|---------------|
| Shen | Rimstedt | Wang W | Grönkvist |
| _ | _ | Pass | $ \heartsuit$ |
| Pass | 2♡ | Dble | 4 ♡ |
| 5 🙅 | Pass | Pass | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

East's decision to double could be described as bold and it resulted in West being tempted by the vulnerability. The play of the cards was a sad affair and neither side covered themselves in glory, West being permitted to escape for four down when with more careful defence -1100 could have appeared on the scorecard. That was 5 IMPs immediately back to Sweden.

Board 4 was a success for China when they managed to steal the contract in a part-score in both rooms and bring home both contracts for a gain of 6 IMPs.



Open Room

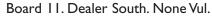
| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|-------|-------------|-------|
| Övelius | Lu | Clementsson | Liu |
| _ | _ | Pass | Pass |
| \square | Dble | 2♡ | 4♠ |
| Pass | 4NT | Pass | 5♡ |
| Pass | 6♠ | All Pass | |

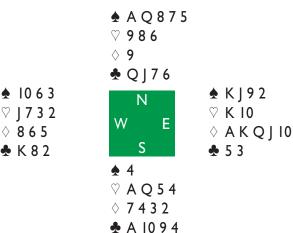
N/S easily swatted aside the opening bid and swiftly and economically bid the small slam. Again, this deal will not appear as a play problem as declarer claimed at trick two. Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Shen | Rimstedt | Wang W | Grönkvist |
| _ | _ | Pass | Pass |
| ◊* | Dble | Pass | 4♠ |
| Pass | 4NT | Pass | 5♡ |
| Pass | 6♠ | All Pass | |

An amazingly similar auction for a flat board. A hand to steady the nerves.

The following four deals saw 2 overtrick IMPs gained by China.





Open Room

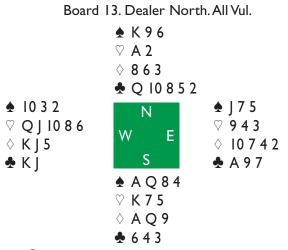
| West | North | East | South |
|------------------------|-------|-----------|--------|
| Övelius | Lu | Clementss | on Liu |
| _ | _ | _ | Pass |
| Pass | 2♠* | Dble | 2NT* |
| Pass | 3 🛧 | 3♢ | 4 🙅 |
| All Pass | | | |
| 2♠ 5♠ 4+i 2NT Which | | | |

Whoever won this auction was going to concede points as no bid was makeable on best defence. Unfortunately for China they won the auction. East found the best lead of a trump which ran to her partner's king. The trump attack continued, and declarer won in hand and immediately took a successful heart finesse, cashed the ace of hearts and exited with a small one. Unfortunately, she could not see that East held AKQJI0 and no other trump. Had she been aware of this she would have exited with a diamond and come to eight tricks and failed by only two tricks rather than three.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|----------|------------|-----------|
| Shen | Rimstedt | Wang W | Grönkvist |
| _ | _ | _ | Pass |
| Pass | I ♠ | INT | Dble |
| Pass | 2 桊 | 2 ◇ | 3♣ |
| All Pass | | | |

The Swedish pair managed to stop at the three-level and, when East made the natural attack of a high diamond and continuation, declarer ruffed in hand and crossed to dummy by finessing the queen of hearts. A diamond ruff, a heart to the ace and another diamond ruff, was followed by cashing the ace of spades and ruffing a spade before ruffing the last diamond ,to give her seven tricks with a guaranteed two trumps tricks still available to give her nine tricks, her contract and 6 IMPs.



Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|-------|-------------|-------|
| Övelius | Lu | Clementsson | Liu |
| _ | Pass | Pass | INT |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

West commenced hostilities with the queen of hearts. Declarer ducked but perforce took the continuation in dummy and then played a spade back to her queen. The key point of the play was now upon us when South led a small club. After some consideration, West inserted the king and switched to a small diamond. She had needed to duck and let her partner win and clear the heart suit whilst she still had a club entry. Was this the correct defence – we can see that her partner had the club ace and what the correct play



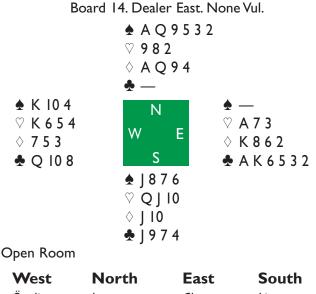
Emma Övelius, Sweden

was – but I maintain the error was to lead a small diamond. Why, I hear you ask? Well, to break the contract you need five tricks, and leading a small diamond can only get you three diamond tricks. That, with your club trick, will be your limit. Declarer has four clubs, two hearts and three spades, so if you are playing partner for the diamond ace, you must play her for five of them to the A9 or A10 and therefore, when you win the club trick play the king of diamonds and, when it holds, play the jack. Of course, that is not the layout here. However, West needs to judge whether declarer would play this way holding the ace of clubs and perhaps should also ask herself whether declarer would duck the first heart if she was wide open in diamonds.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Shen | Rimstedt | Wang W | Grönkvist |
| _ | Pass | Pass | INT |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

West at this table took a different view to the other table and, after her heart lead had been captured by dummy's ace and then a spade won in hand, she – after long cogitation – played small when declarer tried a small club from hand. Now the contract was doomed when East won with her ace and returned a heart. That was 12 IMPs to China.



| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| Övelius | Lu | Clementsson | Liu |
| _ | _ | ♣ | Pass |
| ◊* | ♠ | Dble | 2♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |
| l◊ 4+ ♡ | | | |

North, in fine Meckstrothian style, bid the spade game. The ace of clubs was led and ruffed by declarer, who led a small heart towards dummy, which was taken by West who returned a diamond, ducked to East's king. East cashed the heart ace and exited with a diamond to dummy's jack. Declarer now correctly led the jack of spades towards her hand, which was covered by the king and taken by the ace. Now it is apparent to beginners of the game why it was the right thing to lead the jack as now declarer could re-enter dummy with a heart and finesse against the ten. Had she not done so and led a spade towards her queen she would then have had to lose a trump trick.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------|----------|--------|-----------|
| Shen | Rimstedt | Wang W | Grönkvist |
| _ | _ | ♣* | Pass |
| INT | 3♠ | Dble | All Pass |

By now, we are all aware of the law pertaining to take-out doubles, as I have already used at least once in one of my articles, and I am sure countless others have done the same. I am sure East meant her double to be for take-out. North followed the exact same path to ten tricks and reclaimed 5 IMPs for her team.

At the end of the session China had outscored Sweden by 37-28, thereby halving the Swedish lead to 9 IMPs. Everything to play for today. 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 by email from Brian Senior, the editor, and paid by PayPal.

The address is bsenior@hotmail.com

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.

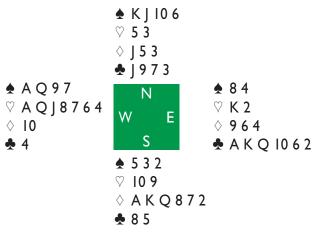




Sweden had won each of the first two sessions the previous day by 9 IMPs, and China the third set, also by 9 IMPs. The more astute reader will therefore realise that Sweden went into the second day with a lead of... 9 IMPs.

There were three 16-board sets to play, and it was still anyone's guess who would be the new world champions at the end of the day.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



| West | North | East | South |
|---------------------|----------|---------|-------------|
| Bertheau | Wang | Larsson | Shen |
| _ | _ | _ | Pass |
| \square | Pass | 2 📥 | 2 ◇ |
| 3♡ | Pass | 4 🙅 | Pass |
| 4 \diamond | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 5♠ | Pass | 6♡ | All Pass |
| West | North | East | South |
| Lu | Rimstedt | Liu | Grönkvist |
| _ | _ | _ | $ \diamond$ |

4♡

All Pass



Yan Lu, China

For Sweden, Ida Grönkvist, playing naturalish methods with an unbalanced $I \diamond$ opening, made that opening bid on her excellent suit but limited values, and Yan Lu just overcalled 4%. That ended the auction and Lu made II tricks, losing a diamond and a spade, for +650.

Playing Precision, such that a $1\diamond$ opening would not have promised the suit, Qi Shen passed as dealer and saw her opponents bid smoothly to the small slam. Shen's overcall attracted a diamond lead from Wenfei Wang and Shen won with the ace and switched to the two of spades. Kathrine Bertheau rose with the ace and cashed all seven hearts and, needing to keep all her clubs, Wang was forced to discard the \bigstar K, hoping Shen would hold the queen. Bertheau had the \bigstar Q, however, and cashed it followed by the top clubs; +1430 and 13 IMPs to Sweden.

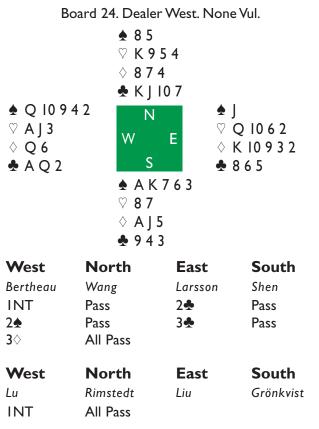
| e top clubs, i | 1450 and 15 m | Trs to swede | :n . |
|--|--|--------------|-------------|
| Bo | oard 22. Dealer | East. E/W Vu | ıl. |
| | ▲ K 9 8 ♡ 7 ◊ 9 5 3 ♣ A Q 4 | | |
| ▲ A Q ♡ Q 10 9 3 ◇ K Q 10 ♣ K 9 7 5 | N ₩ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ | ♣ j i 1 | J 8 4 2 |
| West | North | East | South |
| Bertheau | Wang | Larsson | Shen |
| _ | _ | Pass | Pass |
| INT | Pass | Pass | 2 ◇ |
| Pass | 2♡ | All Pass | |
| West | North | East | South |
| Lu | Rimstedt | Liu | Grönkvist |
| - | _ | Pass | 3♡ |

Grönkvist again opened a hand which was passed in the other room, and again opening worked out well for her side. The 3° pre-empt bullied Lu into a 3NT overcall and that proved to be too high despite dummy turning up with a source of tricks in diamonds. Cecilia Rimstedt led the two of clubs to dummy's jack and Lu played the jack of hearts. Grönkvist won the $^{\circ}$ K and returned the four of spades to the queen and king. Rimstedt returned the nine of spades to the ten, jack and ace, and Lu cashed the diamonds then exited with dummy's last spade. There was no defensive slip up so Lu made no more tricks; down two for -200.

All Pass

3NT

Shen passed as South but, when Bertheau's INT came round to her, overcalled $2\Diamond$ to show a single-suited major. Wang responded $2\heartsuit$, pass or correct, and that ended the auction. Jessica Larsson led the jack of clubs, which ran round to Wang's queen. She took a diamond discard on the ace of clubs, cashed the ace and king of hearts, then played a spade. Bertheau won her ace and there were two hearts and a diamond to lose; +140 but 2 IMPs to Sweden.



Lu opened a 14-16 NT and was left to play there, Rimstedt leading the ten of clubs round to declarer's queen. Lu led a spade to the jack and king and Grönkvist



Yan Liu, China

returned a club, Lu ducking to the jack and Rimstedt continuing with the \clubsuit K to declarer's ace. Lu played the ten of spades, which was allowed to hold the trick, then tried the jack of hearts. That too was ducked, so now she went back to spades, leading the queen. Grönkvist won the \bigstar A and returned a spade to the ten, and now Lu played the queen of diamonds. Grönkvist won the ace, cashed her spade winner, then led a heart. Lu won the ace and cashed the king of diamonds; seven tricks for +90.

Bertheau opened a 15-17 NT and Larsson used Stayman then, not liking the response, was able to make a secondround transfer to get to diamonds, passing Bertheau's completion. Wang led the eight of spades, Shen winning the ace and switching to the nine of clubs. Bertheau put in the queen, losing to the king, and Wang continued with the \clubsuit J to declarer's ace. Bertheau played the queen of diamonds, which Shen won to play a third club to Wang's ten, and Wang returned a trump to the ten and jack. Shen played a third diamond to dummy and when the heart finesse lost the contract was two down for -100 and 5 IMPs to China.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

| DO | al U 23. Dealei | | vui. |
|--------------|-----------------------------|----------|------------|
| | ▲ 1076 ♡KQ9 ◇K ♣K2 | 9854 | |
| 🔶 K 8 | N | 🔶 A | Q 4 |
| ♡ 2 | | _ ♡7 | 63 |
| ♦ Q 10 9 8 | 37 W | E ¢I! | 543 |
| ♣ J 10 9 8 | | ♣ A | |
| £] 10 / 0 ! | J932 | | 75 |
| | • | | |
| | ♡ A J I(| | |
| | ♦ A 6 2 | | |
| | 뢒 Q 4 3 | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| Bertheau | Wang | Larsson | Shen |
| _ | $ \heartsuit$ | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 4 ♡ | All Pass | |
| | | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| Lu | Rimstedt | Liu | Grönkvist |
| _ | $ \heartsuit$ | Pass | 2 📥 |
| Pass | 20 | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3 📥 |
| Pass | 3◊ | Pass | 4 ♡ |
| All Pass | | | |
| | | | |

The two N/S pairs followed different uncontested auctions to the heart game. There are four top losers and, at first sight, only one discard from a four-card holding so little prospect of success. However, it will not be easy for the defence to cash its spade winners, so there is a chance if declarer can guess who to play for the ace of clubs and try for a Morton's Fork Coup.

Liu led the four of diamonds to the queen and king and Rimstedt cashed the ace of hearts, came back to hand with the $\heartsuit K$, and led the two of clubs. To beat the contract, Liu had to rise with the ace of clubs and lead the four of spades to cash the spade winners. Well, good luck to anyone who would find that defence. Liu played low so dummy's queen scored, and Rimstedt discarded her $\bigstar K$ on the ace of diamonds. Now she could draw the missing trump and give up three spade tricks; contract made for +420.

Of course, if East goes up with the ace of clubs and plays a second diamond, declarer has two club tricks and two spade discards on the $\Diamond A$ and $\clubsuit Q$, so again comes to ten tricks.

In the other room, Larsson cashed the ace of spades and collected what looked to be a high, and therefore discouraging, eight from Bertheau. When she failed to continue spades to unblock them, Wang found another way home - despite misguessing the clubs. Larsson switched to a diamond to the queen and king and Wang led a heart to the ten followed by a club to the jack, king and ace. Larsson had one more chance to untangle the spades but nothing had changed for her and she exited safely with a club to dummy's queen. But safely proved not to be good enough. Wang ruffed dummy's last club, played a heart to dummy, and cashed the ace of diamonds for a spade pitch followed by a diamond ruff. Now she exited with a spade, and Bertheau was endplayed. The ruff and discard enabled Wang to pitch her last spade from hand while ruffing in dummy; ten tricks for +420 and a far from dull push.

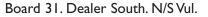
Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

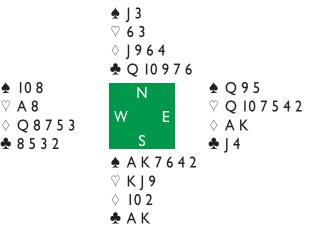
| ▲ 8 ♡ K Q 5 ◊ 5 3 2 ♣ K Q J 10 | | E ♠ K ♡ A ◊ J I ♣ 6 | 83 084 |
|---|---------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Bertheau | Wang | Larsson | Shen |
| _ | - | _ | $ \diamond $ |
| 2 📤 | Dble | 3♣ | All Pass |
| West | North | East | South |
| Lu | Rimstedt | Liu | Grönkvist |
| - | _ | - | ♣ |
| Pass | $ \heartsuit$ | Pass | 2♠ |
| 3♣ | 3♡ | Pass | 3♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

Shen opened a Precision $1\diamond$ and Bertheau overcalled $2\clubsuit$ and was raised to $3\clubsuit$ over the negative double. That took the bidding beyond Shen's comfort level so she passed, and when $3\clubsuit$ came round to Wang she had no guarantee of a

fit so also passed. Wang cashed the top diamonds and switched to the two of spades, third and fifth, and Shen won and cashed the queen of diamonds; down one for -50.

Grönkvist opened I_{2} , natural or balanced, and Lu did not have a natural club overcall available to her so had to pass. That allowed Rimstedt to make a transfer response, showing spades, and Grönkvist to jump to 2^{-} to show the minimum opening with a spade fit. Now Lu could introduce her clubs, but it was too late, with the spade fit already established for her opponents. Rimstedt made a 3° game try but Grönkvist signed off in 3^{-} , only to find that the spade was onside and dummy's club loser was going away on the queen of diamonds; ten tricks for +170 and 3 IMPs to Sweden.





| West | North | East | South |
|----------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| Bertheau | Wang | Larsson | Shen |
| _ | _ | _ | 🐣 |
| Pass | $ \diamond $ | $ \heartsuit$ | Dble |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2♠ |
| All Pass | | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| Lu | Rimstedt | Liu | Grönkvist |
| _ | _ | _ | |
| Pass | Pass | 20 | 2NT |
| Pass | 3♣ | All Pass | |

Shen opened a strong club, Wang making the negative $I \diamond$ response. When Larsson overcalled, Shen made a take-out double then bid her spades at her next turn and played there. Bertheau cashed the ace of hearts then switched to a trump. Shen won the $\bigstar K$ and played king of hearts then ruffed her last heart with the $\bigstar J$, crossed to hand with a club, and played ace and another spade; nine tricks for +140.

Grönkvist opened I \bigstar and Rimstedt passed. Liu overcalled 2 \heartsuit in fourth seat and Grönkvist, liking her heart holding, bid 2NT. Rimstedt, however, was less enthusiastic about no trump and corrected to 3 \clubsuit , ending the auction. Liu led the king of diamonds then switched to a low heart. Rimstedt got that wrong, calling for the king. Lu won the \heartsuit A and returned her remaining heart to Liu's queen. Liu cashed the ace of diamonds then played the nine of spades, declarer

rising with the ace and playing the jack of hearts, ruffed and over-ruffed. She continued with the jack of diamonds, ruffing with the \clubsuit K as Liu pitched a spade, cashed the king of spades then ruffed a spade with the \clubsuit Q then her last diamond with the \clubsuit A. She had to lose to the jack of clubs and was down one for -100 and 6 IMPs to China.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

| ▲ A Q J 9 8 ♡ 10 9 8 ◊ K 6 ♣ Q 10 9 | | 2 E \$ 5 \$ 10 € 4 3 | 2 |
|--|----------|-------------------------------|------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Bertheau | Wang | Larsson | Shen |
| ♠ | Pass | 2♠ | All Pass |
| West | North | East | South |
| Lu | Rimstedt | Liu | Grönkvist |
| ♠ | Pass | 2♠ | 3♡ |
| Pass All Pass | 3NT | Dble | 4 ♡ |

We began our look at this session with two deals on which Grönkvist opened the bidding while Shen passed with the same cards, and we complete the set with a deal where Grönkvist overcalled while Shen did not.

Where Shen did not overcall on the South cards, Bertheau declared $2 \clubsuit$ as West and soft defence allowed her to come home with an overtrick for +140.

Grönkvist overcalled $3\heartsuit$, as much for the lead as in hope of buying the contract, and Rimstedt converted to 3NT. Liu doubled that and Grönkvist ran back to the relative safety of her long heart suit. There was no double this time, which was good news as it suggested that the trump suit would behave nicely. And so it proved. Lu's opening lead of the king of diamonds did not exactly paralyse Grönkvist, who won the ace and played queen of hearts and a heart to the king. When they proved to be three-two she continued with the \heartsuit A and, with diamonds three-two and the ace of spades onside, soon had 11 tricks for +450 and 11 IMPs to Sweden.

That completed a very satisfactory set for Sweden, 32-12 IMPs in their favour, and they now led by 143-114 with 32 boards to play. Sweden has already made a step up from two years ago, when they took the bronze medal, and were now clear favourites to win their first ever Venice Cup. There was still plenty of time for China to recover and defend their title successfully, but the Swedes were playing well so it would not be easy.

No Escape by Brian Senior

Alan Sontag was for many years one of the finest Open players in the world. Now concentrating on the Seniors, at least at world championship level, he showed on this deal from the quarter-finals of the d'Orsi Trophy that he is still as sharp as he ever was when at the helm in a tricky contract.



| Doard 27. Dealer South. None Val. | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------|-----------|
| | ▲ K J 10 ♡ 9 3 ◊ J 7 6 ♣ 4 3 | 642 | |
| A Q 7 5 | N | ≜ 9 | 83 |
| ♡74 | | ♡ A | 6.5 |
| ♦ Q 8 | W | | K 1032 |
| - | S | ↓ / ♣ 6 | |
| 📥 A J 8 7 2 | | T 0 | 5 |
| ♠ — | | | |
| ♡ K Q J I0 8 2 | | | |
| ◊ 9 5 4 | | | |
| 📥 K Q 10 9 | | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| Berkowitz | Mulder | Sontag | Vergoed |
| _ | _ | _ | \square |
| Dble | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |
| | | | |

Hans Vergoed, of the Netherlands, led the king of hearts, which Sontag ducked. He also ducked the continuation of the $\heartsuit Q$ but won the third round of the suit, throwing a club from dummy, while Andre Mulder pitched an encouraging $\bigstar 2$. Sontag led the eight of spades and Vergoed had to find a discard. The Dutch pair were playing reverse signals, and he did not wish to pitch the nine of diamonds in case Mulder held, for example, king-ten doubleton. He therefore discarded the $\bigstar 9$, aware that this might look like a high, and therefore discouraging, card to partner. Of course, this should not matter because South should have made his suit-preference signal with his choice of heart to lead to trick three.

Sontag ducked the spade in dummy, so Mulder won the ten and, not reading the position, led the jack of diamonds. Sontag won the queen and rattled off all five diamond winners. Vergoed, South, was under no pressure, but what was Mulder to keep when dummy came down to $\triangle AQ7$ $\triangle A$? If he kept two cards in each black suit, Sontag would play ace and another spade and win the last two tricks with the $\triangle A$ and $\triangle Q$, just making his contract. So Mulder came down to three spades and one club. But that was no good either. Sontag cashed the ace of clubs then led the seven of spades from the $\triangle AQ7$, and Mulder won the jack but then had to lead into the ace-queen to give the contract. There was no escape.

