

DAILY BULLETIN

Bulletin 7

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Eric Laurant | Editor

Francesca Canali | Head of Communications

Mark Horton | Journalist Coordinator

David Bird, Amy Casanova, Brian Senior, Jos Jacobs,

David Burn, Marjo Chorus, Marek Wójcicki

Journalists

A NEW CHAPTER



Team Ticket to Ride playing... Ticket to Ride. Going for the world title in this one too?

The Rosenblum Cup and the Women's Teams Championship are under way, and after four rounds of qualifying the early running is being made by two English sides in the Open.

Periculo (Alexander Allfrey, Oliver Lawrence, Patrick Lawrence, Andrew Robson) lead on 64.14 VP, with Knottenbelt just over a victory point behind on 62.89 and Schonfeld Finesse third on 61.95. Simson, China Open Team 1 and PKB International complete the top six, with 137 teams in the field.

In the McConnell Cup, Ace (Sally Brock, Marina Pilipovic, Jovanka Smederevac, Nikica Sver) head the 25-team field on 62.79 VP, closely followed by Jiangsu Runtai on 61.00. GGEM are third on 57.33 and Baker fourth on 53.78.

SPECIAL AWARDS

You have certainly noticed the BONUS booth just outside the playing area.

BONUS will be awarding special themed prizes to players and/or pairs who achieve some unusual results.

Today's challenge is: **the pair who will be closer to a Butler score of 0.00** will receive a special BONUS gift, plus a cash prize.

The winners will be announced and awarded tomorrow.

Good luck!



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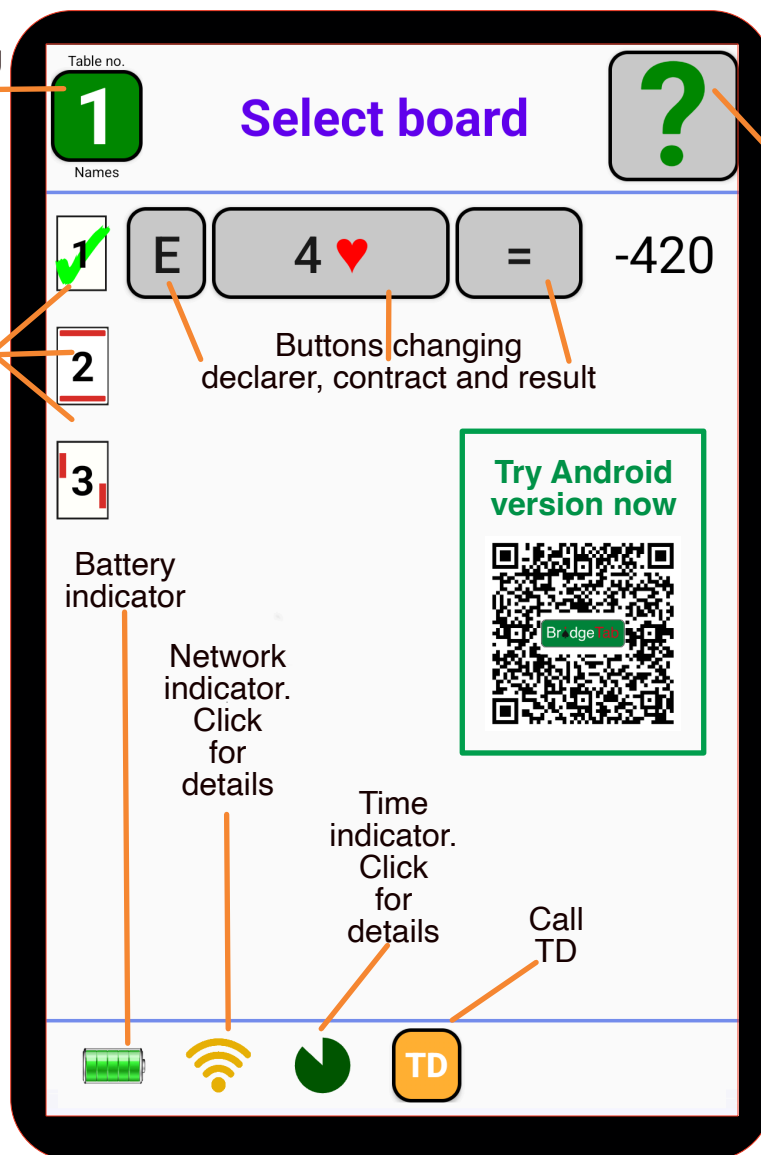
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Mixed Teams Final, Session 3

TICKET TO RIDE v YETTICK

by David Burn

Ticket to Ride (hereinafter TTR) led Yettick by 61 IMPs to 39 halfway through the Mixed Teams final. They led by more after Emma Kolesnik took a spectacularly good view.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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



Open Room

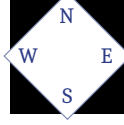
West	North	East	South
Welland	de Wijs	Auken	Yettick
—	1♦	1♠	2♣
2♥	5♣	5♥	Dble
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Z Grossack	A Grossack	Schireson	Kolesnik
—	1♦	4♠	5NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	de Wijs	Auken	Yettick
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♥	1♠	Dble	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Z Grossack	A Grossack	Schireson	Kolesnik
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Dble	2♥	Pass
2♠	Dble	Pass	2NT
Dble	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Adam Grossack (hereinafter Adam) had a minimum opening bid that fitted remarkably well with Kolesnik's request to pick a slam. When Zach (heretofore Zach Grossack) doubled rather than sacrificing Adam had 1090, and when the defenders at the other table failed to add a heart ruff to their three top tricks they had only 100 for a 14-IMP loss.

Sabine Auken opened her ten count in full accord with the partnership style, and Roy Welland's response showed spades. That let Lotte de Wijs bid 1♠ for takeout, and Auken doubled to show three-card support. De Wijs showed her values with 1NT when this came round, and Welland doubled on the way out in case Auken actually had anything. She didn't, so she retreated to 2♦ and Welland closed the auction in the known fit. He could have made the contract if someone had shown him the hand record before he embarked on the play, but down one looked a normal result. At the other table Olivia Schireson did not open

her ten count, and when Zach opened his Adam was going to have to get to the two level to show what he had. Schireson raised spades via an artificial 2♥ and Adam doubled again when Zach rebid his suit. Kolesnik, who had been sitting there waiting for this deal to go away, used 2NT to show a bad hand and Zach doubled it for reasons that doubtless seemed sound at the time (it is true that 2NT would not have made). North-South bailed out into 3♥ and when that came round to East she took a little while to double for penalty. Since Zach had mostly been spoofing with his third-round double he retreated to 3♠ and went down two (it is also true that 3♥ would not have made). The Director was summoned because of the tempo issue, but all concerned were content that nothing untoward had occurred.

Board 3 was another part score affair – North-South, who had an eight-card heart fit, played instead in a seven-card diamond fit in the Open Room, but came to no harm because eight tricks were available in either red suit. East-West, who had an eight-card club fit, competed to the three level and went down two; since they were vulnerable this sent 3 more IMPs to **TTR**, ahead 19-0 on the set and by 41 IMPs in all. The East-West cards on board 4 were:

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Welland</i>	<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Yettick</i>
2♣	2♥	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

I was expecting Auken to bid 4♥ over 4♦, but she chose what looks like an all-round 5NT opposite which Welland was in no position to bid or even try for seven.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>A Grossack</i>	<i>Schireson</i>	<i>Kolesnik</i>
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

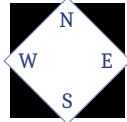
I don't think I've ever seen that start to an auction before; I suppose if you play an opening 5♠ as a pre-empt you might use it on a hand that was solid apart

from the ace and king of spades (a traditional 5♠ opening) but that was nothing like what Zach had. Schireson had some bits and pieces but no guarantee she could show specifically which ones, so she raised to six and hoped for the best. The declarers won the opening heart lead and ran nine spades. The Yettick defenders threw losers and kept winners while the TTR defenders did not, so the trailing team picked up its first IMP of the set.

It failed to continue this encouraging trend on the next board, where a normal uncontested auction at one table reached a normal 2♦ on a 6-2 fit that scored a normal 110. The DD solver, knowing that the defenders' ♣KQJ85432 were divided 6-2 with the two missing aces in the hand with the doubleton ♣J, would have bid 3NT and made it. What it would not have done is reach 3♥ on a 5-1 fit instead, Garth Yettick having rendered the auction competitive by doubling an opening 1♦ with ♠AJ73 ♥8764 ♦A32 ♣J3. Zach, who had ♠Q85 ♥K10532 ♦K8 ♣1096, rather trapped himself by passing over the double and hearing 3♣ to his left and 3♦ from partner. He could not really afford to pass that out, since Schireson could easily have nine running tricks in 3NT if she had a club stop, but his 3♥ wasn't regarded by his partner as forcing and didn't play all that well. 5 IMPs to **TTR**.

Board 6 was a part score on which no IMPs changed hands, and so was board 7. The stanza had reached halfway and the **TTR** lead had advanced to 46. Ghostbusters weren't going to be much use – Rotstoppers were who Yettick badly needed to call. On cue:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Welland</i>	<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Yettick</i>
1♦	1♥	2♥*	3♥
Dble	Pass	4♥*	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>A Grossack</i>	<i>Schireson</i>	<i>Kolesnik</i>
1♦	1♥	2♦*	3♥
7♣	Pass	7♦	All Pass

In the Open Room Auken's 2♥ showed spades, and her 4♥ looks like some sort of Last Train effort with diamonds. With no clear path forward Welland bid what he hoped he could make, in which respect I suppose one could say he succeeded. In the Closed Room Schireson's 2♦ showed clubs, so Zach raised them to the seven level and Schireson, who by now had realised what she had done, beat one of the hastier retreats the game has seen. 11 IMPs to **Yettick**, not entirely on purpose.

The start of a comeback? No, for on board 9 the East-West pairs had to choose between seven-card major-suit fits at the two level. Yettick chose 2♥, a 5-2 fit against which Kolesnik, with a decidedly unattractive set of candidates, selected by far the best opening lead and followed it up with defensive plays that the DD solver could not have bettered. Schireson in her turn was on course to make what had become a very difficult contract until a few tricks from the end when she misguessed the location of a critical card and ended down one. TTR chose 2♠, a 4-3 fit, when Welland made that bid on a 3=2=5=3 seven count after a weak 2♦ to his left and a takeout double from his partner. Passing would have netted 100 on best play all round, but 2♠ was easier to play than 2♥ and Welland came home with plus 110 and 5 IMPs.

There arrived a slam on which the only real danger was reaching seven rather than missing six.

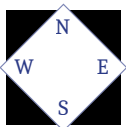
Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ 9
 ♥ K 8 7 5
 ♦ A K 10 2
 ♣ A Q 8 5

♠ 8 6 3
 ♥ Q J 10 9 2
 ♦ 8 6 3
 ♣ 9 4

♠ A K Q J 10 4
 ♥ A 6 4
 ♦ 4
 ♣ J 6 2

♠ 7 5 2
 ♥ 3
 ♦ Q J 9 7 5
 ♣ K 10 7 3



In the Open Room de Wijs and Yettick conducted an auction in which the ten bids between 1♠ and 6NT were all alerted. Half of them were relays, the other half responses to relays, and the efficacy of the methods (and the memories of their employers) was triumphantly exhibited with the par contract of 6NT and a score of 1440.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>A Grossack</i>	<i>Schireson</i>	<i>Kolesnik</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♦*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

2♣ was natural or balanced in the modern style, and the rest was natural with control-bids. When Kolesnik bid 5NT to show that all keycards were present Adam had a couple of kings his partner did not know about and a queen that might afford a last-resort finesse for seven if need be. He temporised by showing the king of diamonds, and temporised some more by thinking hard when Kolesnik did not offer a further try with 6♥. Eventually he reached the right conclusion, and Yettick's flickering hopes of a huge swing if he'd reached the wrong one were extinguished.

The next deal did not at first look the stuff of which swings are made.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	de Wijs	Auken	Yettick
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	2♦	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Z Grossack	A Grossack	Schireson	Kolesnik
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1NT	2♦	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

I suppose if you open most of the time when you have a load of rubbish partner will eventually start to play you for a load of rubbish whenever you open. More charitably, perhaps de Wijs was trying to swing on the downside when, having responded 1♠ because it showed a forcing no trump hand type, she forswore her natural continuation of 2NT when (a) the hand on the left bid diamonds and (b) you can score IMPs by staying out of a game you think they will bid at the other table and you hope will fail. Auken gave de Wijs another chance, but not only did she not bid 3NT, she did not double 3♦ either (which would have vindicated her strategy because it would have netted a 500 penalty). 3♦ went down three, the routine 3NT at the other table made four, and **TTR** had another 7 IMPs.

The next deal had some puzzling features.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	de Wijs	Auken	Yettick
1♣	1♠	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

I am not sure what went wrong with this – perhaps Welland thought he had agreed hearts when he bid 2♠ and was merely trying to offer an alternative contract. Whatever he was doing he ended up in a hopeless spot, down one.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Z Grossack	A Grossack	Schireson	Kolesnik
1♣	1♠	Dble*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The first eight calls were the same as at the other table, but Zach didn't think he'd shown hearts thus far so he showed them at his third turn and was raised by Schireson. He won the opening spade lead, crossed to the king of diamonds, and ran the queen of clubs. This looked odd, because if the club finesse was wrong and the heart finesse was right North would win ♣K and play three rounds of spades on the last of which South would overruff dummy. But the kings were the right way round for Zach's line of play as well as for the heart-finesse-first approach, and he scored 420 for 10 IMPs to **Yettick**.

Another start of a comeback, after the last one had fizzled out? Dear me, no.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	de Wijs	Auken	Yettick
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♠	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Z Grossack	A Grossack	Schireson	Kolesnik
—	1♣	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Roy Welland led a thoughtful ace of spades against the notrump game by South – if he had led a spot card or not a spade at all and if the DD solver had temporarily replaced Yettick as declarer Welland would have found one of two leads to defeat the contract (not a reflection on Garth Yettick's dummy play, but he probably would not have won the jack of spades in dummy to run the eight of hearts). At single dummy it probably didn't matter, but Welland should be proud of himself anyway. With the diamond blockage impossible to overcome Yettick had to go down two, but at the other table the systemic response to the opening 1♣ was 2♦ rather than 1♦ and Zach deemed it too dangerous to stick in a vulnerable overcall at that level. He must have feared the worst when North jumped to 3NT, and sure enough Schireson found no reason to prefer a spade lead to one of her longer suits (she actually chose a club). 630 to Adam, 13 IMPs to **TTR**.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Welland	de Wijs	Auken	Yettick
Z Grossack	A Grossack	Schireson	Kolesnik
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

I confess, if I'd had the North cards I'd have raised 1NT to 3NT and uttered profanities shortly thereafter. Both Norths transferred to the spade game and neither East doubled 4♥, a marginal decision. Welland led a heart anyway and that beat the contract by force, but Zach led a club and declarer was in with a shot. Kolesnik won with ♣J and drew four rounds of trumps before playing a club to her hand. So far so good, but her next move was to lead a low club and ruff it in the dummy (continuing with the other high club, or playing on diamonds, were both successful alternatives). If Schireson had thrown a diamond on this trick there would have been no way home for declarer, but she threw a heart instead (the position was difficult if not impossible to read and the defence was equally tough even if she did read it). Now South needed to cross to her hand with a heart, but she played a diamond instead and East had one last chance – if she put up ♦K, she could draw dummy's last trump and play a heart, after which the defence would win the last two tricks with ♦A and ♥Q. The robot would be shaking its head by now at the inability of humans to make or beat the simplest of contracts, but I'd assess the number of clearly analysable mistakes in the actual play as somewhere not very far at all from zero.

11 IMPs came to **TTR**, and the segment was over with the margin at 61. That has been overcome in the final session before now, but it seemed to me that Paul McCarney had been wrong about Ticket to Ride. They were not going to be sad.

Mixed Teams Final, Session 4

YETTICK v TICKET TO RIDE

by Amy Casanova

In the Mixed Teams Final, Ticket to Ride (Sabine Auken, Roy Welland, Emma Kolesnik and Adam Grossack) faced off against Yettick (Garth Yettick, Lotte de Wijs, Adam Kaplan, Gunn Tove Vist, Olivia Schireson and Zach Grossack).

Yes, the Grossacks are brothers. And there's another connection: Kaplan was Adam Grossack's teammate on the U.S. team that won the 2025 Bermuda Bowl.

Who will add to their world championship trophy case?

Ticket to Ride took out some insurance in the first quarter, building a 31-IMP lead. Yettick gained some ground in the second, outscoring Ticket to Ride 20-9 to make the halftime score 61-39, including Ticket to Ride's 2-IMP carryover.

The third quarter swung decisively back to Ticket to Ride, 61-22, producing an eerily parallel score of 122-61.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	Z Grossack	Auken	Schireson
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Auken led a low club and Welland won with the king to continue trumps; declarer could claim nine tricks once they were cleared.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Vist	A Grossack	Kaplan	Kolesnik
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♠	3♦	3♥*	3NT
Pass	4♦	Dble	All Pass

North volunteering 3♦ enticed South into venturing 3NT. North showed doubt, removing to 4♦, but this was doubled for penalty. West led the ♣K and continued with a club to East's ace, then ruffed the third round. She exited with a spade and declarer won with the ace, drew trumps and lost the ♥A for down two and -500, giving **Yettick** 12 IMPs.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	Z Grossack	Auken	Schireson
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

One wonders if this was a "state of the match" 3♣ bid or if it's just Zach's normal action at these colors. He caught a nice dummy, but East led her top two hearts, West playing the ♥4 and ♥2, then switched to a low

diamond. The defense collected the first five tricks for down one.

Closed Room

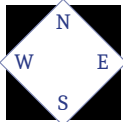
West	North	East	South
<i>Vist</i>	<i>A Grossack</i>	<i>Kaplan</i>	<i>Kolesnik</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	Pass
1♥	Dble	All Pass	

With par on the board at +90 for either 1NT or 2♣ or 2♦, North-South did well to trap their opponents in a rare doubled one-level contract. North led the ♠7 to the queen. South cashed the ♠A and led the ♠2 for the ruff. North returned the ♣4 to South's ace.

When South led the ♠9, declarer could discard a club from her hand, turning down two into one down. North ruffed the spade and could cash one club, but declarer ruffed the next club and played the ♥A K and a third heart. South was now forced to lead diamonds, taking the guess out of that suit. The second undertrick was avoided, but +200 to **Ticket to Ride** was good for 6 IMPs.

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Welland</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Schireson</i>
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥*
Dble	6♠	All Pass	

North-South's range at this vulnerability is 14+-17. 2NT was asking for a five-card major. East duly led the ♥10, West won with the ace and played the ♥Q. With spades and clubs behaving, declarer was soon claiming 12 tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Vist</i>	<i>A Grossack</i>	<i>Kaplan</i>	<i>Kolesnik</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

South splintered with 3♥, showing exactly this pattern with 5-4 either way in the minors and three spades. North bid his spades naturally, and rebid them over 3NT, but no slam try was made after that. **Yettick** gained 13 IMPs on the deal and were now down by 39 IMPs.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Welland</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Schireson</i>
—	1♣	Pass	3♠*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

This pair plays 1♣-2♦ shows one weak major. Was 3♠ invitational? Zach accepted by jumping to slam.

West led the ♥K. Declarer won with the ace and played a crafty ♣Q. When East ducked, declarer discarded two hearts and she was only down one.

Closed Room

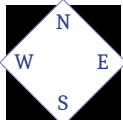
West	North	East	South
<i>Vist</i>	<i>A Grossack</i>	<i>Kaplan</i>	<i>Kolesnik</i>
—	1♣*	Pass	1♥*
Dble	2♥*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

South's 1♥ showed four or more spades. The lead was the same, but only in 4♠, Kolesnik took the safe route to 10 tricks. She won the ♥A, discarded a heart on the ♣A and led the ♣Q for a ruffing finesse. When East covered with the king, she ruffed and played spades,

knowing she could discard a diamond on the good ♣J. 12 IMPs back to **Ticket to Ride**, whose lead was back up to 51.

The next board was a push, then Ticket to Ride added 12 IMPs over the next three boards to effectively seal the deal. Still, bridge is always interesting!

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	Z Grossack	Auken	Schireson
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	3♥*	Dble	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

3♥ was weak, South passed the double initially because bidding later will show the strong hand. She certainly got the message across with 6♥, which was effective in that E-W are cold for game, but not cold for 3♠, so a potential plus score was turned into a negative score.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Vist	A Grossack	Kaplan	Kolesnik
—	—	—	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	4♦	4♥
5♦	Dble	All Pass	

South opened a strong 2♣ and North's 2♦ - waiting - was overcalled naturally with 4♦. South bid hearts and West raised diamonds. North doubled to show no interest in competing further. However, this is the contract that E-W are cold for.

South led the ♥K and declarer ruffed. He played a diamond to South's ace, and she continued with another heart. This was ruffed, the last trump pulled and three rounds of clubs played, declarer ruffing the third round. When he played a spade towards the king, South took her ace and East claimed 11 tricks. **Yettick** won 10 IMPs on the deal.

The final score was **157-102 to Ticket to Ride**, completing a convincing victory in the Mixed Teams Final.



3RD SMALL FEDERATIONS ONLINE OPEN TEAMS

Online on RealBridge

15 - 18 October
22 - 25 October, 2026



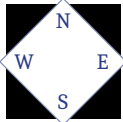
Rosenblum Teams, Round 2

JULS v EASY STREET

by Mark Horton

A new day brings what for many will be the twin highlights of the World Bridge Series, the Rosenblum and McConnell Cups. 138 teams were contesting the Rosenblum, only 26 the McConnell.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Juls v Easy Street

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zamir	Stefanov	Toledano	Zahariev
—	Pass	Pass	1♦*
1♠	Dble*	2♠	2NT*
Dble	3♣	Pass	3♦
All Pass			
1♦ 0+♦, 10-15 if unbalanced			

The system card says after intervention T/O, ART suit bids, so presumably 2NT was the start of a way to show a good diamond suit. Only a non vulnerable game was on offer, but even so I expected North to take a shot at 3NT.

West led the ♥5 and declarer took East's ♥Q, drew trumps and played a heart, +150.

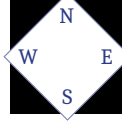
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Stamatov	L'Ecuier	Nanev	Street
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	Dble*	2♠	3♦
All Pass			

With South volunteering 3♦ it was a little surprising that North let matters rest.

65 of the 136 pairs bid 3NT.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Juls v Easy Street

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zamir	Stefanov	Toledano	Zahariev
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♥	All Pass	
3♣ Puppet Stayman			
3♦ No five card major			
3♠ Hearts			
4♣ Control			
4♦ Control			
5♣ Control			

East led the ♣4 and declarer won with the ♣10, drew trumps and claimed, +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Street</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♥
All Pass			
2♣ Stayman			
4NT RKCB			
5♥ 2 keycards			

There is nothing on the system card about the meaning of 3♠.

Although East led a club there were only 11 tricks, -100 and 13 IMPs to **Juls**.

Agreman v Parker

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Altindag</i>	<i>Rubenstein</i>	<i>Varder</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠*
Dble	4♥	4♠	Pass*
Pass	Dble	All Pass	
2♣ Stayman			

That cost -2000.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zorlu</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Ucar</i>	<i>Moss</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	6NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

My immediate thought was that 2NT was Puppet Stayman, but the cars says 'diamonds'.

East led the ♠3, -200 and 19 IMPs to **Agreman**.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Juls v Easy Street

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zamir</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Toledano</i>	<i>Zahariev</i>
—	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♦*	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
1♣ 16+ artificial			
1♦ 0-7			
1♥ First step often a waiting bid			

South led the ♠3 and North won with the ♠A and switched to the ♣Q. Declarer could not avoid the loss of two clubs and a diamond, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Street</i>
—	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♦*	Pass	1♥*	Pass
1♠*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
1♣ 16+ any			
1♦ 0-7			
1♥ Artificial			
1♠ Forced			

South led the ♠3 and North took dummy's ♠10 with the ♠A. When he returned the ♠4 declarer was home, +400 and 10 IMPs to **Juls**.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Juls v Easy Street

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zamir	Stefanov	Toledano	Zahariev
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	7♣

All Pass

1♣ 17+ balanced/(15)16+ unbalanced

2♥ 8-9 balanced

4♦ Control

4NT RKCB

5♥ 2 keycards

West led the ♣5 and declarer took two rounds of trumps ending in dummy and cashed the ♥AK, claiming, +1440.

By my count 60 pairs bid 7♣ – well done!

19 stopped in game.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Stamatov	L'Ecuyer	Nanev	Street
—	—	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

2♣ Any game force or 22-24+ balanced

2♦ Artificial game force

2♥ 5+♥ or 25+ balanced

2♠ Forced

4NT RKCB

Warren Spector suggested that South's 3♥ showed hearts and clubs (playing Kokish 3♣ would show 5+♥ and 4+♣). It looks like 4NT was keycard for clubs, but North's response does not fit with that. Whatever, it meant the loss of 10 IMPs.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Juls v Easy Street

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zamir	Stefanov	Toledano	Zahariev
—	—	—	2♣*
2♥	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
2♣ 5+♣ and 4+♥/♠, 10-15			

East led the ♥6 and West won with the ♥K and continued with the ♥10 followed by the ♥9. East won and switched to the ♠J and declarer was four down before he had started, -400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Stamatov	L'Ecuyer	Nanev	Street
—	—	—	1♣
1♥	Pass	2♥	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Declarer had no trouble taking 12 tricks and must have been pleased to discover that was worth

11 IMPs.

18 Pairs recorded +1370 and at three tables that was worth 15 IMPs when the opponents stopped in a part score.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Juls v Easy Street

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zamir	Stefanov	Toledano	Zahariev
—	1♥	Pass	2NT*
3♠	Pass	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

East led the ♠4 and West won and switched to the ♦6. When the ♦Q held declarer played the ♥K and was soon claiming, +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Stamatov	L'Ecuier	Nanev	Street
—	1♥	Pass	2NT*
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Here declarer too no chances, putting up the ♦A at tricks two, +420 and 6 IMPs to **Juls**.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Juls v Easy Street

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zamir	Stefanov	Toledano	Zahariev
—	—	Pass	1♦*
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♠*
Pass	6♣	All Pass	
1♦ 0+♦, 10-15 unbalanced or (10)11-13 unbalanced			
2♠ Fourth suit forcing			
4♠ Control			
4NT RKCB			
5♠ 2 keycards + ♣Q			

West led the ♥10 and declarer won with the ♥Q. If clubs were 2-2 or hearts 4-2 there would be 12 tricks, but on this layout declarer needed the ♦A to be onside, one down, -100.

Frank & Ton Bakkeren were one of the pairs who bid 6♣ and West duly led the ♥10, declarer winning and playing the ♣A followed by the ♣Q. When East discarded the ♥3 declarer could cross to dummy and establish the hearts for +1370 and 20 IMPs - the contract in the other room was 3♠x+1 for +930 (North led the ♦9 which ran to declarer's ♦J).

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Stamatov	L'Ecuier	Nanev	Street
—	—	1♥	Dble
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

North led a club and declarer recorded +140 to win an IMP.

Jules won 41-23, 14.85-5.15 VP and were in fourth place.

Open Teams, Qualifier Round 1

ZIMMERMANN v REASON

by David Bird

The Open Teams begins today and we will watch Zimmermann (Switzerland and Poland) v Reason (USA, Greece and Germany). It is well known that I look for spectacular plays and double-figure IMP swings, neatly side-stepping any so-called 'interesting 2♦ contracts'. In this match there were no fewer than **EIGHT** double-figure swings. Am I therefore a happy bunny? Yes, and no. If I had to write all of them up, I would have to wait until supper time to have my lunch.

I will just pick six of the best ones. We'll begin at the beginning:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kontomitros</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Koukouselis</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
—	1♠	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Pierre Zimmermann led the ♠5, Tassos Koukouselis rising with dummy's ace and leading a low diamond. Franck Multon considered this carefully for 0.01 seconds and rose with the ace. He then switched to the ♥J, followed by the ♥10 to the queen. The ♥K was overtaken by the ace, and 3NT was soon two down for +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Alter</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Felmy</i>
—	1♠	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The ♠2 was led won with the ace. Jacek Kalita dropped the queen on this trick, noting that his heart protection was not optimal. One diamond was allowed to pass, but declarer needed two diamond tricks.

When Florian Alter won the second diamond he laid down the ♥A, perhaps hoping to deal with a singleton king in the East hand. The spotlight then swung to Matthias Felmy, South. After a few moments the ♥5 appeared. He claimed the next two heart tricks, but it was +400 to Zimmermann.

Our next deal required a very difficult defence to beat a heart game.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

♠ A K Q	♠ A K Q	♠ A K Q
♥ K Q 10 7 4	♥ K Q 10 7 4	♥ K Q 10 7 4
♦ K 5 4	♦ K 5 4	♦ K 5 4
♣ A 10	♣ A 10	♣ A 10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kontomitros</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Koukouselis</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

East's 3♣ was Puppet Stayman, with West showing five hearts. On lead against 4♥, Multon diagnosed a

spade shortage with partner. He led the ♠2 to declarer's queen, and won the trump king with his ace. At this stage, a club switch is required. Can you believe that?! Needless to say, North gave his partner a spade ruff.

Declarer won the club switch, drew the last two trumps, and cashed the ♠K-Q. He then entered dummy by leading the carefully preserved ♥4 to the 6. Away went the club loser on the ♠J.

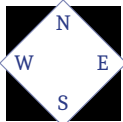
West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Alter</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Felmy</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	Pass	1♦*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

The play was identical at this table. Despite it being a push-board, I hope you agree that it was well worth an airing.

Continuing our romp through the odd-numbered boards, we will see both tables in 3NT.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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



♠ J 10 6 5 3	♠ J 10 6 5 3
♥ A 10 9 6	♥ A 10 9 6
♦ —	♦ —
♣ 9 6 5 4	♣ 9 6 5 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kontomitros</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Koukouselis</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West's 2♣ was inverted, with East's 2♠ showing a stopper. Kontomitros won the ♦5 lead cheaply and played the ♦K to North's ace. After the ♥Q to the ace and a spade back, declarer ended with an overtrick for +430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Alter</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Felmy</i>
—	Pass	1♣*	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West's response was natural and game-forcing. East's 2♦ was either game-forcing or strong diamonds. You can place your bets on the 3♠ bid, but they did end in 3NT. Felmy found the winning spade lead, to the queen and ace. A diamond to the king and ace, was followed by the ♠9 to the 10 and another spade. Declarer cashed winners to bring his total to eight, but then had to surrender the remainder to the ♦A and two spades. That was +50, and 10 IMPs to the **Reason** team.

Board 6, being even numbered, need not concern us. Both tables reached 4♠ here:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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



♠ A 10 8	♠ A 10 8
♥ A J 10 9 5	♥ A J 10 9 5
♦ 9 8 4	♦ 9 8 4
♣ A 6	♣ A 6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kontomitros</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Koukouselis</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Zimmermann cashed the ♥A and ♣A. He then switched to the ♣6, drawing the jack, queen and king. Koukouselis now tackled the spades. Had his fingers alighted on the ♠Q, all would have been well. A low spade to the king and North's jack was not so effective, and he went one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Alter</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Felmy</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	Pass	2♠*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Felmy cashed the ♣A and switched to the ♦8. Kalita then placed the ♠Q on the table - well done. There was no beating 4♠ after that, and +620 was worth 12 IMPs.

There will be a big swing on Board 9, as expected, but I fear it is my duty to show you this spade game.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kontomitros</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Koukouselis</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦*	2♥
Pass	3♥	Dble*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Multon started the defence with king and another heart, ruffed in the dummy. Kontomitros cashed the ♠A and played a club to the king. A continuation of either minor would be OK, but a trump to the jack was not. The ♣A dropped the queen and South won the third round with the jack.

Zimmermann could not safely play a diamond, but his ♥A worked fine, despite giving a ruff-and-discard. Declarer ditched the ♦9 and ruffed with dummy's bare king. He cashed the ♦A-K, but then had to play one or other minor, promoting North's ♠Q-6 into two tricks. That was -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Alter</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Felmy</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦*	2♥
Pass	4♥	Dble	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Klukowski followed the same line of play, also playing a trump to the jack at trick six. With eleven tricks played, he was resigned to one down. North was on lead after ruffing the ♦K with the 6, and these cards were out:

♠ 10	♠ Q	♠ K
♦ J	♥ 5	♦ 7
	♥ 6	
	♦ Q	

As you see, the ♠Q would allow South to make the setting trick with the ♦Q. Declarer ruffed the chosen ♥5 with his ♠10 and made the game. It was 10 IMPs to **Zimmermann**.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

♠ K J 9 6 5	♠
♥ K Q 7	♥
♦ Q 9 6	♦
♣ K 3	♣

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kontomitros</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Koukouselis</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
2♥*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Kontomitros won the ♠3 lead with the ace, and played ace and another trump. South's diamond switch went to North's king, but declarer had his +620 when the club finesser succeeded. +620.

Closed Room

West

Klukowski

—

2♥

North

Alter

Pass

4♠

East

Kalita

Pass

All Pass

South

Felmy

1♠

This went three down undoubled, for just -150 away. It was a welcome second 10-IMP swing to **Reason**. Nevertheless, Zimmermann won 74-20, 19.83-0. VP.



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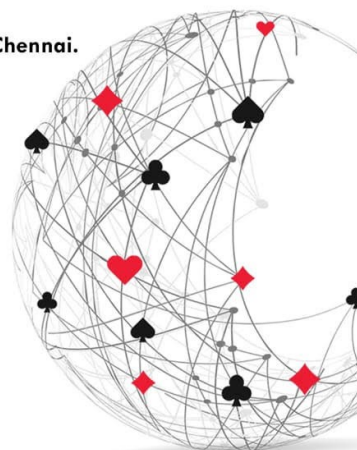
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Round Up

RETURN OF THE BRIDGE DETECTIVE

by Mark Horton

You may be enjoying sunshine in Katowice, but here in Shrewsbury it has been raining steadily since 06.00. It was the perfect time to catch up on the events that finished on Wednesday.

Senior Pairs

Krzysztof Martens and Marek Witek took the title in a thrilling finish that went down to the last board.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>	<i>B Gotard</i>	<i>Witek</i>	<i>T Gotard</i>
—	1♠	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Five pairs played in 3NT, everyone leading a spade. The contract failed at three tables, but here declarer scored an overtrick. How do you think that happened?

Declarer must have won North's lead of the ♠J and played the ♣9. (Playing the ♣10 might tempt North to cover – and that is the winning defence! North can then play three rounds of hearts and South still has a club entry.) South wins with the ♣K and returns a spade and declarer wins and ducks a club. North plays a third spade and South parts with a diamond, giving up a tenth trick when declarer refuses the diamond finesse. +430 gave the winners 100% on the final deal of the event.

Their winning margin was 0.13% – and the runners up, Rajesh Dalal and Padmanabhan Sridharan had defeated 3NT to score 93.75% on the deal!

Mixed Pairs

Yu Wu and Weiming Huang were the winners. Here too a 3NT contract in the final session had a role to play.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Matisons</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Brikmane</i>	<i>Huang</i>
—	3♣	Dble	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

For what it's worth, it is probably best to overcall 3NT with East's hand. Holding the club ace, you can at least duck once, which may take North out of the game.

South led the ♣10.

If declarer ducks the first round of clubs, wins the second and then plays three rounds of diamonds South wins and must then switch to spades to be sure of holding declarer to eight tricks. That would give EW a 58.33% score. (At two tables East made 3NT, South presumably switching to a heart when in with the ♦Q which allows declarer to win, cash the diamonds and then play on hearts.)

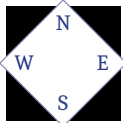
That didn't happen here, and although there is no play record, we do know that declarer took only four tricks (!) -250 giving EW 100%.

Although it's difficult to see how that might happen, it is not impossible. If declarer wins the first round of clubs (assuming that North started with a seven card suit) and plays three rounds of diamonds South wins and produces a second club. When North cashes the clubs declarer might panic and come down to ♠K♥K92. Now North can cash the ♦9 and exit with a spade and declarer will score only one more trick.

Barbados Swiss Cup

Millens (Joan Millens, Shan Huang, Sandra Rimstedt, Keven Dwer Rimstedt and Cecilia Dwyer Rimstedt) scored a come from behind win. They showed the fortitude that champions need after a significant setback in the penultimate round of the Final.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Millens v Geely Automobile

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mak</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
—	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♥*	Pass	6♠	All Pass
2NT 19+–21			
3♣ Stayman			
4♥ Control			
4NT RKCB			
5♥ 2 keycards			
5NT Kings?			
6♥♥♥K			

South led a spade and declarer took 12 tricks, +1430 (I suspect you can see how declarer might score a no risk overtrick).

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>K Dwyer</i>	<i>Lai</i>	<i>C Dwyer</i>	<i>Rimstedt Wang</i>
<i>Rimstedt</i>			
—	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		
2♣ Any game force or 20-21 balanced			
2♦ Waiting or hearts			
2♥ Game forcing or 20-21 balanced			
2♠ Waiting			
2NT 20-21			
3♣ Stayman			
4NT RKCB			
5♦ 3 keycards			
5♥ ♠ Q?			
6♦ ♠ Q+♦ K			

North led the ♣4 and fearing a singleton declarer took dummy's ♣A, played a spade to the ace and the ♦J, putting up dummy's ♦A when North followed with the ♦5. A diamond ruff was followed by two rounds of spades, but declarer was a trick short, -100.

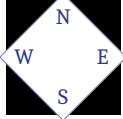
One way to get up to 12 tricks is to cross to dummy with a spade after taking the diamond ruff. Then you cash the ♥AJ, ruff a diamond with the ♠A and play the ♥KQ pitching clubs,

When North cannot ruff the fourth round you end up with an overtrick.

Although they lost 17 IMPs on this deal, Millens won the match 22-18, 11.67-8.33 VP and went on to secure the title, defeating the newly crowned World Senior Champions Simson in the final round.

First Week BAM

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

London Calling v Reignwood

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang	McIntosh	Liu	Moran
—	Pass	2♦	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
2♦ Multi			

West led the ♥K and that was a rapid two down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
A Rosen	Sun	N Rosen	Liu
—	Pass	2♥	Dble
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥*
Dble*	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

East led the ♥A, but with diamond behaving declarer had an easy +1370 and a win for **Reignwood**.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

London Calling v Reignwood

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang	McIntosh	Liu	Moran
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	1♥	1♠	2♥
3♣	3♥	4♣	Pass
4♥*	Pass	6♣	All Pass

North led the ♥A and probably continued the suit. Now declarer can play for a complete crossruff, +920.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
A Rosen	Sun	N Rosen	Liu
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	1♥	1♠	2♥
3♣	3♥	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Declarer took 12 tricks, but that was a win for **Reignwood** that saw them home by 0.80 when Zhang could only draw their last match 3-3.

First Week Pairs

Arkadiusz Jaranowski and Marek Pietrzak amassed an impressive 66.25% over two sessions to win the B Final.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jaranowski	Bundinszky	Pietrzak	Talyigas
—	1NT	Dble	All Pass

East led the ♦3 and the defenders had no trouble restricting declarer to four tricks, three down, -800 and 100%.

If South runs to 2♠, and that gets doubled declarer might emerge with six tricks, -500 giving most of the matchpoints to NS.

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WBS Katowice DZIEŃ 8

by Marek Wójcicki

Dzisiaj ruszyły mistrzostwa świata teamów open Rosenblum Cup i kobiecych. Teamy z Polakami, a właściwie z Polkami w składzie lepiej spisują się turnieju kobiet – prowadzi ACE (Sally Brock, Marina Pilipovic, Jovanka Smederevac, Nikica Sver, ale na III miejscu jest GGEM (Grażyna Brewiak, Grażyna Busse, Maija Romanowska – Łotwa, Ewa Sobolewska), a na IV BAKER – Lynn Baker, Katarzyna Dufrat, Cecilia Dwyer Rimstedt, Sandra Rimstedt, Olivia Schireson – USA, Justyna Żmuda.

W turnieju open na czele dwa teamy angielskie – PERICULO (Alexander Allfrey, Oliver Lawrence, Patrick Lawrence, Andrew Robson) przed KNOTTENBELT (Michael Byrne, Ben Handley-Pritchard, Maggie Knottenbelt, Ben Norton, Stefano Tommasini, Tom Townsend. Z teamów z Polakami najwyżej – na VI miejscu – jest PKB INTERNATIONAL – Aleksandra Jarosz, Jacek Leśniczak, Ewa Morawska, Edgars Olla, Karlis Rubins – Łotwa, Vasil Valchev, a na IX EASY STREET z Piotrem Zatorskim.

I jeszcze ładny szlemik z zakończonego już turnieju Barbados Swiss:



Rozd. 1. Rozd. N, NS po partii.

♠ K 3		
♥ A D 5		
♦ A 9 7 2		
♣ 7 6 5 2		
♠ 8 5 2		♠ D 10 7 6 4
♥ 10 9 6 4		♥ K 8 7 3 2
♦ D W 10		♦ 8 4
♣ 10 8 3		♣ D
		
	♠ A W 9	
	♥ W	
	♦ K 6 5 3	
	♣ A K W 9 4	

W akcji była nasza para mikstowa Sophia Bałdysz – Kamil Nowak:

Mecz MINITER – SCHOENEFELD FINESSE

West	North	East	South
<i>Cappelletti</i>	<i>S. Bałdysz</i>	<i>Allison</i>	<i>Nowak</i>
—	1♣*	1♠	2♠
pas	3♣	pas	3♦
pas	3♥	pas	3BA
pas	4♦	pas	6♣
pas...			

- 1♣ – Wspólny Język;
- 2♠ – 5+♣, sign off lub forsujące do dogranej;
- 3♣ – słaby trefl przygotowawczy;
- 3♦ – naturalne, forsujące do dogranej;
- 3♥ – z wartości, niechęć gry 3BA do krótkości pikowej;
- 3BA – propozycja;
- 4♦ – karta ukierunkowana do gry kolorowej.

Sophia wydusiła z karty N wszystko, a może i jeszcze więcej i w efekcie zagrano świetnego szlemika.

Na drugim stole po otwarciu N 1BA NS zagrali 3BA.

#	TEAM	VP
1	PERICULO	64.14
2	KNOTTENBELT	62.89
3	SCHONFELD FINESSE	61.95
4	SIMSON	61.18
5	CHINA OPEN TEAM 1	60.77
6	PKB INTERNATIONAL	59.08
7	WOLFSON	59.06
8	TRICK OR TREAT	58.99
9	EASY STREET	58.74
10	CERCOL ROM	58.62
11	ANDRESEN	58.50
12	ZHAO	57.03
13	MILANBRIDGE	56.40
14	TEAMNL OPEN	56.21
15	LIVIA	56.04
16	GOODMAN	55.86
17	CETA	55.54
18	FLEISHER	53.91
19	ALTERIS NUCLEAR	53.54
20	TEAM SWEDEN	52.21
21	MESCO 2 BYTOM	51.14
22	JULIAN MIGLANC	50.82
23	CONTRA	50.67
24	KRAKOW AND RZESZOW	50.53
25	LEBOWITZ	49.91
26	ZIMMERMANN	48.86
27	ROSENBERG	48.39
28	ROSENTHAL	48.17
29	SPS KIELCE POLAND	48.00
30	BAKKEREN	47.48
31	1907	47.34
32	AMANDA	47.01
33	NICKELL	46.48
34	PUZI	46.28
35	EMI	46.14
36	JULS	46.07
37	AGILERO	45.66
38	SHOURIE	45.63
39	TEAM PHOENIX	45.54
40	DEEP FINESSE	45.33
41	BIANCHI	45.11
42	GUPTA	44.91
43	DINKIN	44.86
44	MALI	44.85
45	HOBRA	44.67
46	AGREMAN	44.35

#	TEAM	VP
47	YOUTH	44.34
48	ULI	44.24
49	GDANSK	43.71
50	PIONEERS	43.66
51	ARDENNES	43.65
52	CHINA EVERTRUST	43.25
53	SEOUL	42.97
54	VISTULA TEAM	42.73
55	JUSTJUMP	42.65
56	PARKER	42.01
57	CAMBEROS	41.89
58	GX2S	41.80
59	MORAN	41.11
59	NEW FRIENDS	41.11
61	AZS UW	41.09
62	VENTIN	40.78
63	PTGU PLOCKA NUTKA	40.77
64	ALLARD	40.71
65	AUGE	40.67
66	BONUS	40.47
67	KUPCLUB	40.40
68	BV WALDSOLMS	40.04
69	RUSZKIEWICZ	40.01
70	TELEDIAGNOSIS	39.62
71	DANGERS AND A HAZARD	39.60
72	SILESIA GLIWICE	39.58
73	ALTSHULER	39.13
74	RUWAYEH	39.12
75	OVERDECK	38.86
76	GILLIS	38.81
77	GOVIT	38.72
78	SV BRIDGE CLUB	38.69
79	INON LIRAN	38.48
80	RILAKKUMA	38.37
81	SAXENA VEDANTA	38.19
82	SILVER SURFERS	38.02
83	MAVERICKS	37.73
84	OMEGA	36.88
85	GROUP ONE	36.74
86	FOURSQUIRE	36.73
87	BLUE SKY THINKING BC	36.41
88	MCALLISTER	36.21
89	TURKON	35.61
90	ONEGIRL	35.59
91	CHINA OPEN 2	35.04
92	MSV	34.75

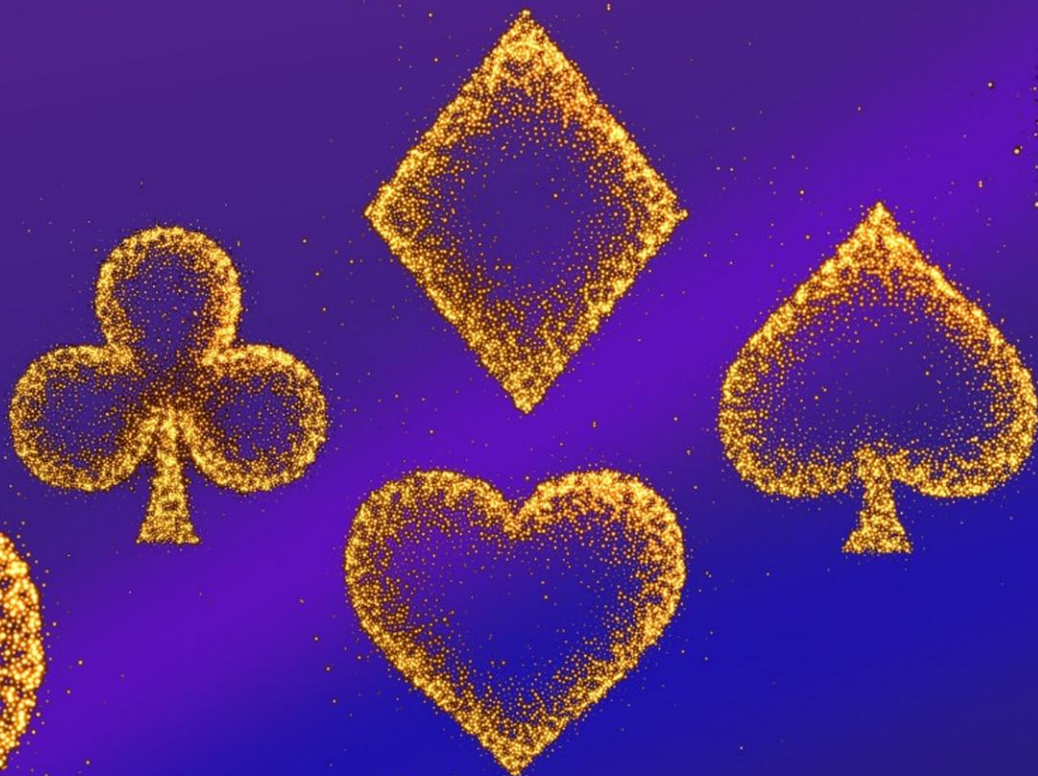
#	TEAM	VP
93	SYNERGIA	34.25
94	MAGIC	33.94
95	BRIDGESCANER	33.88
96	FORMIDABLES	33.77
97	OPOLSKI DUO TEAM	33.69
98	LOSS	33.65
99	PLITLI	33.39
100	GRANT THORNTON ICELAND	33.34
101	AS TECHNIK PL	33.25
102	PATRICK SAADA	33.22
103	MAPLE BAGUETTES	32.76
104	RATRUT	32.16
105	KBS LEGIONOWO	31.97
106	JARA CIMRMAN	31.87
107	TRESET	31.31
108	SHANGHAI BRIDGE	31.18
109	SUPER COOPER	30.84
110	SZT MERITUM	29.22
111	FAZOKLUB EKO ROZANKA	29.09
112	PCTB	29.05
113	CARPATHIA	27.88
114	KARTALITE	27.84
115	EQUIPO DELPRESIDENTE	27.80
116	ZIP	27.67
117	CZECHOSLOVAKIA V2	27.55
118	OLBACI	27.23
119	TUFF	26.84
120	ASHE	24.91
121	MESCO BYTOM	24.90
122	OMNIBUS	24.63
123	TWOB	24.27
124	AVIXA	24.16
125	WRATISLAVIA STUDENTS	23.90
126	SARLA FIBERS	23.87
127	DESJARDINS	23.81
128	PIGOT	23.73
129	NO PTO	23.10
130	DUBOIN	23.08
131	REASON	21.08
132	GONZO	18.39
133	GWADALOGNE	17.38
134	SZCZECIN UNIVERSITY	15.28
135	MORROCO	14.96
136	COHLER	14.86
137	HEIMO	11.85

#	TEAM		VP
1	ACE		62.79
2	JIANGSU RUNTAI		61.00
3	GGEM		57.33
4	BAKER		53.78
5	CASTOLDI		51.38
6	BEIJING RUHAI		49.53
7	FOCA		49.11
8	HUANG		45.44
9	SWIMMING DRAGONS		42.48
10	CHINA		42.07
11	COLE		41.71
12	ITALY WOMEN		38.16
13	ZHANG		37.12
14	YUNNAN		36.91
15	NIC		36.60
16	AVENGERS		36.13
17	FIVE OF HEARTS		35.65
18	LEWIS		35.09
19	HONG KONG LADIES		32.54
20	NORDIC FOURS		31.23
21	4MNA		30.90
22	MEXICO LINDO		26.44
23	CANADA		26.23
24	NORTHERN LIGHTS		26.01
25	TEAM GREEN		19.37

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For Queries Contact

T.C.Pant
Tel: +91 9811094407 Email: tcpant@hotmail.com
Sudhir Aggarwal
Tel: +91 9810100361 Email: sgagarwal@gmail.com
Srinivasan Iyengar
Tel: +91 9974164676 Email: cardpacker@gmail.com
Sandeep Thakral
Email: sthakral@technalyse.com

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