



3rd WBF Online Women's Teams

Daily Bulletin N. 3

Sunday, 29 March 2026

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Long Day's Journey into Night

In this extraordinary feat of organisation by the end of the event the 65 teams will have completed 844 matches involving 60 hours over almost continuous play (there was one hour that had no matches – I must have missed it). That's a feat of endurance for the 396 players and captains and we should not forget the efforts of the 11 Directors from Hong Kong, Argentina, Poland, India, England, The Netherlands, Wales, France, and Greece.

You may not have noticed, but Amigos withdrew the day before play was due to start, but the indefatigable Mary Kelly-Rogers somehow assembled a replacement team (Canirl).

Its going to be another long day, the last match being due to finish at 20.00 and you should be able to see the final ranking list a few minutes after that. Don't forget that there might be appeals so the results won't be official until sometime after 21.00.

The last time I looked the scores were close, so we have an exciting day in prospect.

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TEAM ROSTERS



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MATCHES



RANKING LISTS


ROUND 13

DAWN PATROL

Mark Horton

With play continuing through the night, the first task was to check the deals from those rounds. The Great Shuffler was in a benign mood, as there was little excitement until we reached round 13. Along came three deals on the theme of Dein ist mein ganzes herz:

Board 50. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Caledonia v Latvia

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mikelsone</i>	<i>McGowan</i>	<i>Straume</i>	<i>McQuaker</i>
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥*	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

1♣ 12-14 balanced, 16+ with 5♣ or 18+ balanced

2♦ Game forcing

3♦ Values in diamonds

4♦ RKCB

4♥ 1 keycard

With three seven-card fits available, EW alighted in the one where the suit was breaking.

North led the ♣4 for the jack and ace and declarer immediately ran the ♦Q. When it held she drew trumps and played a spade for the queen and ace. The ♠K took care of the losing diamond, +980.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Bethere</i>	<i>Adamson</i>	<i>Gise</i>
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣
1NT 11-14
2♦ Game forcing checkback

South led the ♣6 and declarer won with the ♣8, played a heart to the ace, ran the ♦Q, played a diamond to the nine and cashed the ♦A. When she continued with the ♠K South won, but declarer took the rest, +490 but 10 IMPs for Latvia.

The only other pair to bid a slam were Patricia Herrera and Norinne Anderson, but they unluckily chose 6♣.

Board 52. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Caledonia v Latvia

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mikelsone</i>	<i>McGowan</i>	<i>Straume</i>	<i>McQuaker</i>
Pass	1♥	2♥*	3♥
4♠	5♥	All Pass	

2♥ Spades and a minor

East led the ♠A and switched to the ♣5, declarer winning with the ♣8, drawing trumps, crossing to dummy with the ♣K and playing a diamond to

the queen. When it held she pitched a spade on the ♣A and, having cashed the ♦A and ruffed a spade, lost only to the ♣Q, +650.

I'm not sure declarer should have risked the diamond finesse. A diamond to the ace can be followed by the ♣A discarding a spade from dummy. Then declarer plays the ♦Q and whatever the defenders do will lose only one more trick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Bethere</i>	<i>Adamson</i>	<i>Gise</i>
Pass	1NT	2♠*	Dble*
Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		


2♠ Spades and a minor
Dble Takeout

Holding a maximum and a good five-card suit North should probably bid 4♥. If West then bids 4♠ North can double, leaving South to make a final decision.

South led the ♥4 and the defenders took all their tricks for one down, -100 but 11 IMPs to Caledonia.

Hila Levy and Dana Tal saved in 4♠x as did Carol Richardson and Andi Boughey, and -500 is a winning move unless NS bid on to 5♥.

Board 56. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Caledonia v Latvia

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mikelsone</i>	<i>McGowan</i>	<i>Straume</i>	<i>McQuaker</i>
1NT*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♦*	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

1NT 15-17
2♦ Transfer
4NT RKCB
5♦ 3 keycards

With the ♣K offside, declarer had to go down, -50.

It occurred to me that if East had bid 4♠ over 4♥, West's next bid would be 5♥, denying any minor suit controls, enabling East to let matters rest.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Bethere</i>	<i>Adamson</i>	<i>Gise</i>
1NT*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	4♠*	Pass
5♦*	Pass	5♥	All Pass

1NT 15-17
2♦ Transfer
3♥ 4♥ minimum
4♠ RKCB
5♦ 2 keycards

Knowing a keycard and the ♥Q were missing East signed off, giving Caledonia 11 IMPs and a good win, 32-11 16.68-3.32.



ROUNDS 14 & 15

CATCHING UP

Mark Horton

The almost continuous play (60 hours over 3 days) means that coverage is basically a case of trying to keep up with the action.

Here are highlights from Rounds 14 & 15:

Board 63. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

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

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

Italy v Las Camelias

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Marangunic</i>	<i>Ruscalla</i>	<i>Mina</i>	<i>Costa</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

4♣	Control
4NT	RKCB
5♦	1 keycard

Appreciating that East would not make a positive response with a weak suit West did not hesitate to bid the virtually laydown grand slam, +1510

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Golin</i>	<i>Lama Barna</i>	<i>Pomares</i>	<i>Zalaquett</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♦*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

2♣	Game forcing or 22-23 balanced
2♦	Waiting
2♥	4+♥ or 24+ balanced
2♠	Asking
2NT	24+ balanced
3♥	Transfer
4♣	Control
5♣	Control
5♦	Control

West could not be sure East held the ♠Q, and +1010 meant 11 IMPs for Las Camelias. However, it was Italy who won, 33-11 16.90-3.10.

4 Szpilki v Kiwi Ferns

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Alabaster</i>	<i>Pietrzyk</i>	<i>Barrack</i>	<i>Sautaux</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
3NT*	All Pass		

2♣	Strong, game forcing or nearly
2♦	Waiting
3NT	25+ balanced or semi-balanced

If East wanted to proceed, she would do best to bid 4♥ over 3NT as a transfer and then bid 5♣. North led the ♥J and when North parted with a club while declarer was cashing spades that was +520.

For the first time in EBL history



**1st European Online Transnational
Mixed Teams Championship**



14 - 17 May, 2026
Online on RealBridge

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Waniurska</i>	<i>Terry</i>	<i>Czajka</i>	<i>Somerville</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♦*	Pass	5♠*	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

- 1♣ Polish Club
- 2♦ Strong, game forcing, asking
- 3♠ 7-10, 5♠, no shortage
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♣ 1 keycard
- 5♦ Asking
- 5♠ ♠Q

That was +1510 and 14 IMPs for 4 Szpilki.

Board 64. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Ganainm v Steel Rose

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu</i>	<i>Dowling-Long</i>	<i>Zheng</i>	<i>Horan</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

- 3NT Serious
- 4♣ Control
- 4♦ Control

West led the ♦K and declarer won and ran the ♥J. When it held she continued with the ♥10, allowing East to win as West pitched the ♦7. East exited with the ♥4, declarer finishing with 10 tricks, +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O'Keeffe-Brown</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Pender</i>	<i>Hu</i>
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♠*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	6♥
All Pass			
1♣ 2+♣			
4♦	Splinter		

4♠ was alerted as a control, but 5♣ was described as 3 keycards.

West led the ♦K and declarer won, played a heart to the king, a club to the king and the ♥J. When West discarded the ♦7 declarer played dummy's ♥A, cashed dummy's ♣AQ discarding a spade, played a spade to the ace, ruffed a diamond, cashed the ♠K and continued with the ♠8. If East ruffs in with the ♥Q and exits with a heart declarer will be a trick short, but when she discarded a diamond declarer could ruff, ruff a diamond and play a spade ensuring a trick for the ♥10, +980 and 11 IMPs for Steel Rose.

When West discarded on the ♥J declarer does best to let East win, unblocking dummy's ♥8. A trump return is taken by the ♥6 and declarer ruffs a diamond, comes to hand with a spade and draws the outstanding trump. By this point West will have been forced to unguard a black suit and with the ♠Q onside there will be 12 tricks.

Steel Rose won 13-11 10.86-9.14.



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Spring 2026

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Board 66. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Guo</i>	<i>Milne</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Adamson</i>
—	—	1NT	3♥
4♣	4♥	5♣	All Pass

North led the ♠K, and then cashed the ♠A, +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>McQuaker</i>	<i>Zheng</i>	<i>McGowan</i>	<i>Liu</i>
—	—	1♦	1♥
3♣*	3♥	4♣	4♥
5♦	5♥	6♦	All Pass

3♣ Clubs and diamonds

When South led the ♥A declarer had all the tricks, +940 and 11 IMPs for Caledonia.

Easy to see afterwards, but North might have bid 3♠ over 3♣.

Despite this setback, Steel Rose won 27-20 12.77-7.23.

Jan Alabaster and Emma Barrack also made 6♦, their auction going 1♦-(3♥)-5♦-(5♥)-Pass-(Pass)-6♦.

For the first time in EBL history

1st European Online Transnational
Mixed Teams Championship

14 - 17 May, 2026
Online on RealBridge

Board 69. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kay</i>	<i>Turley</i>	<i>Fonseca</i>	<i>Collins</i>
—	1♣*	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	5♣

All Pass

1♣ 2+♣

1NT 11-14

East led the ♦4 and declarer won with dummy's ♦A, cashed the ♥A and played a club, West winning perforce and returning the ♠J. Declarer won with the ♠A, ruffed a heart and drew trumps, discarding a diamond from dummy. When West parted with a spade declarer had 12 tricks, +620. No one else managed to avoid playing in 3NT.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Alabaster</i>	<i>Pouseiro</i>	<i>Barrack</i>	<i>Calamaro</i>
—	1♣*	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

1♣ 3+♣

With such miserable holdings in the red suits it might be best to rebid 2♠ with North's cards. East led the ♥3 and having won with dummy's ♥A declarer played a club. West won and when East followed with the ♣3 she switched to the ♠3. That meant declarer finished with an overtrick, +630 and a lucky escape. However, Kiwi Ferns won 17-0 15.75-4.25.

ROUNDS 16, 17 & 18


REAL TIME

Mark Horton

By the time Round 16 got under way, my calculations were that we were back in real time. The leader board had Sunshine Sisters leading, hotly pursued by Thunder, Ruya and Dante Istanbul.

Here is a selection from that round and the two that followed it.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Swimming Dragons v Italy

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Burgio</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Aghemo</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
—	1NT*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♦*
Dble	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

1NT	15-17
2♠	Clubs or range ask
2NT	No accept
3♦	Shortage
4♣	Control
4NT	RKCB
5♦	3 keycards

The club suit will play for no loser 73.47% of the time. Not today, and declarer had to go one down, a most unlucky -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Costa</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Ruscalla</i>
—	1♥	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣*	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

2♣	Game forcing
2♥	4♠
2♠	Asking
3♣	5♥ 4♠ 11-15
3♦	Asking
3NT	5422
4♦	Control
5♣	Odd number of aces

5♣ was Turbo, where bypassing 4NT promises an odd number of keycards.

East led the ♦6 and declarer won, and played a spade to the ace. If you know your suit combinations, the best way to tackle the trump suit in isolation is to start with the ♥Q, which offers a 76% of losing only one trick and that is what declarer did here. When West covered with the ♥K declarer took the ♥A, ruffed a diamond and played the ♥4. West could score the ♥J but that was all, +980 and 14 IMPs to Italy.

If West ducks the ♥Q declarer can continue with the ♥9 but now West plays the ♥J forcing declarer to win. Declarer can ruff a diamond, but the horrendous club split means there is no way back to hand as West will ruff a club.

As the cards lie, declarer must start by playing a heart to the eight, or first ruff a diamond and then play the ♥Q. That was the line followed by Amulya Rao Atluri (playing with Malina Krishina).

6♥ was made three times, but failed on six occasions.

Italy won the match 21-7 14.96-5.04.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ A 2 ♥ K 8 5 3 ♦ K 10 8 ♣ 10 9 7 5 ♠ 9 7 5 4 ♥ Q 7 6 ♦ Q 9 5 3 ♣ 6 4		♠ K 10 8 6 3 ♥ J 4 ♦ 7 4 ♣ A J 3 2 ♠ Q J ♥ A 10 9 2 ♦ A J 6 2 ♣ K Q 8
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Swimming Dragons v Slam Femmes

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jukas Preljevic</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Rabusic</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

- 3♣ Puppet Stayman
- 3♦ Not 5♥/♠
- 3♠ 4♥
- 4♣ Good heart hand
- 4♦ Transfer

West led the ♦3 and when dummy's ♦8 held declarer cashed the ♥K and played a second heart for the jack and ace. A diamond to the ten was followed by the ♦K and when a club to the king held declarer pitched spade on the ♦A and finished with 11 tricks, +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Costa</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Ruscilla</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

- 2♣ Stayman

Here West led the ♠5 and East won with the ♠K and switched to the ♣2, declarer winning with the ♣Q, cashing the ♥A and continuing with the ♥10. When she elected to let it run East won and played two rounds of clubs. Although declarer subsequently located the ♦Q she was one down,

-100 and 13 IMPs to Swimming Dragons, who recorded a rare maximum, winning 51-1 20-0. The passive lead meant that even if declarer had avoided the club ruff she would have needed to divine the whereabouts of the ♦Q.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Zorlu</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Kotan</i>
Pass	1♥	2♦	2NT*
Pass	4♥	Dble	All Pass

2NT Heart support

East led the ♣A and switched to the ♦A followed by the ♦4. Declarer put up dummy's ♦K and West ruffed and returned the ♣10. When declarer discarded the ♦10 East's ruff meant one down, -200.

10 declarers went down in 4♥ after the lead of the ♣A.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Kurtoglu Zabci</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Ozan</i>	<i>Smith</i>
Pass	1♥	Dble	4♥
All Pass			

East led the ♦A, cashed the ♣A and then played the ♦Q, covered and ruffed by West who returned the ♣Q. Declarer ruffed with the ♥K, drew trumps and pitched the losing diamond on the ♣K for +620 and 13 IMPs for Swimming Dragons who won 23-0 16.90-3.10.

The winning defence is for East to continue with the ♦Q at trick two. West will ruff dummy's ♦K and return a club (not strictly necessary)

enabling East to win and cash the ♦J.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ — ♥ A Q J 10 8 6 2 ♦ 8 6 3 ♣ A 5 2		♠ K Q 9 6 ♥ 7 4 ♦ A K Q 10 5 4 ♣ 4	♠ 10 3 2 ♥ 3 ♦ J 9 2 ♣ Q J 10 9 8 3 ♠ A J 8 7 5 4 ♥ K 9 5 ♦ 7 ♣ K 7 6
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The Noise Festival v Italy
Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Aghemo</i>	<i>Robertson</i>	<i>Burgio</i>	<i>Green</i>
Pass	1♥	2♦	3♦*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

3♦ Good heart raise

East led the ♦A and switched to the ♣4, but declarer could play to ruff two diamonds in dummy for +480.

You would like to be in 6♥. Even if East finds a trump lead you can win with dummy's ♥9, ruff a spade and play a diamond. East wins and plays a second heart but you win in dummy, ruff a spade, cross to the ♣K, ruff a spade, ruff a diamond and claim.

No one found a route to the slam.

Were North to rebid 4♣ South can bid 4♦ and if North then makes a move with 4♠ South's 5♣ should be enough for North to jump to 6♥.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hoff</i>	<i>Paoluzi</i>	<i>Sandford</i>	<i>Saccavini</i>
Pass	1♥*	2♦	2♠
3♦	3♥	3♠*	4♥
Pass	4♠*	5♦	Dble
All Pass			

- 1♥ 4+♥ 12-14, canapé possible
- 3♠ Good hand with spade stop
- 4♠ Control

South led the ♥5 North winning and switching to the ♦3. Declarer won, played a club to the queen and ace, ruffed the heart return in dummy and ran the ♣J pitching a spade. South won, cashed the ♠A and gave partner a spade ruff for three down, -500 and an IMP for Italy who won 16-6 13.78-6.22.

If declarer ruffs the second round of clubs, crosses to dummy with a diamond, ruffs a club, draws the outstanding trump and plays the ♠K she will escape for two down.

If South leads the ♥K at trick one North can follow with the ♥Q after which it should be possible for South to cash the ♠A and continue with the ♣4. North ruffs and returns a low club for South to win and deliver another spade ruff.

Spring 2026

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lots of points and other prizes




April 13-19, 2026

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ROUND 19 & 20

THE RIGHT GAME

Mark Horton

In Round 19 selecting the right strain did not always produce a successful outcome.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Fire Horse v Driti

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>BS</i>	<i>Szatmary</i>	<i>Jacob</i>	<i>Cheung</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

With the heart suit wide open, you would obviously prefer to play in spades, but your luck would be out.

West led the ♣5 and declarer took dummy's ♣A and played two rounds of spades, West discarding the ♣2. When East switched to the ♦J declarer won with dummy's ♦A and played another spade. At this point, West's best shot is probably to discard the ♣Q and hope for the best. Her actual choice of the ♥7 saw declarer finish with 11 tricks, +460.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Huang</i>	<i>Bakeri</i>	<i>He</i>	<i>Somani</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

North correctly applied Meckstroth's Law (when partner raises your six-card major bid game) but East led the ♥4 and there were four losers, -50 and 11 IMPs for Fire Horse.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Fire Horse v Driti

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>BS</i>	<i>Szatmary</i>	<i>Jacob</i>	<i>Cheung</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

North led the ♦Q and declarer won with the ♦A. played a spade to the jack and a heart for the two, queen and ace. The return of the ♦2 was taken by dummy's ♦K and declarer continued with a club to the king and a spade to the king, South discarding the ♦10. Declarer played a club to the jack, cashed the ♥K, ruffed a heart and followed it with the ♠A, but North ruffed, cashed the ♠A and played the ♦J. Declarer could ruff, but was left with a losing heart, -50. Declarer needs to retain the ♥K. Ruffing a heart and then playing winning clubs pitching hearts will restrict the defenders to just two more tricks.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Huang</i>	<i>Bakeri</i>	<i>He</i>	<i>Somani</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Dble	Rdbl*	Pass
Pass	1♠	2♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

It was a little surprising that East did not double 1♠ - even if NS had located their diamond fit 2♦x

would have been no picnic.

However, 3NT was cast iron, declarer recording 11 tricks for +460 and 11 IMPs to Fire Horse.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Fire Horse v Driti

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>BS</i>	<i>Szatmary</i>	<i>Jacob</i>	<i>Cheung</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

2♥ Good raise

North led the ♥Q and declarer won with dummy's ♥K and played the ♠3, South winning and returning the ♥J. Declarer won, cashed the ♠K and ran the ♣Q. South won and continued with the ♥10, North overruffing declarer's ♠7 and exiting with the ♠5. Having won in dummy declarer played the ♦4 and South took the ace and returned the ♥6, removing declarer's last trump. She played safely for eight tricks, +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Huang</i>	<i>Bakeri</i>	<i>He</i>	<i>Somani</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♥*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		


2♥ 3+♠, 10+

North led the ♥Q and declarer won with the ♥A and played a spade to the ten, South winning and returning the ♥J to dummy's ♥K. A spade

to the nine revealed the 4-1 split and declarer continued with a spade to dummy's queen and the ♠6. South took the ♠K and had only to play the ♥10 to force declarer ensuring the demise of the contract. When she cashed the ♦A declarer was in control, recording +620 for 11 IMPs to Fire Horse who won 55-0 20-0.

In Round 20, this deal was a question of 'find the lady'.

Board 34. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Caledonia v ADV Ladies

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Trifance</i>	<i>Piper</i>	<i>Bonocuore</i>	<i>Punch</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

2♦ Transfer
2NT 4♥ not minimum
3♦ Retransfer

East led the ♠10 and West played the ♠A, ♠K and the ♠5. Expecting East to have started with a doubleton declarer ruffed with the ♥A, ran the ♥J, drew trumps via the marked finesse, played a spade to the ace and spade, claiming when the ♠K appeared.

No one else made 4♥.

One observation. If you know West has the ♠AK, you might be inclined to place East with the ♥Q simply because West did not open third in hand. I would have given the game away by opening 3♣.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
McQuaker	Cassetti	McGowan	Gravili
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	1NT	Dble	2♦*
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

East led the ♦K and declarer won and played a heart to the nine, drew trumps and continued with two rounds of spades for +170, 10 IMPs to Caledonia, who won 40-13 17.87-2.13.



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ROUND 22

THE ULTIMATE QUESTIONS

Mark Horton

In The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, the number 42 is the answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe and Everything. Bridge poses many questions, but producing the answers is not so simple.

Board 42. Dealer East. All Vul.

<p>♠ 2 ♥ A 9 8 2 ♦ K 8 5 ♣ Q J 5 4 3</p> <p>♠ A Q J 10 8 7 5 ♥ Q 10 6 ♦ A 7 ♣ 2</p>		<p>♠ K 9 6 4 ♥ 4 ♦ J 10 6 4 3 ♣ A 10 7</p>	<p>♠ 3 ♥ K J 7 5 3 ♦ Q 9 2 ♣ K 9 8 6</p>
---	--	--	--

Turquoise v Supernova

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versin</i>	<i>Kutuk</i>	<i>Cucu</i>	<i>Seker</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Dble	4♠	Dble
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

If West leads her singleton club East can win and return the ♣10 which should result in three down, which is -800 if 5♥ is doubled.

It is possible that West considered her pass of 5♥ to be forcing. However, East's jump to 4♠ did not guarantee any significant strength, so West should probably double 5♥.

She led the ♦A, then played the ♠A followed by a second diamond, declarer finishing two down for -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ozan</i>	<i>Iancu</i>	<i>Kurtoglu Zabci</i>	<i>David</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North led the ♣Q and declarer had a straightforward route to 11 tricks, +650 and 10 IMPs for Turquoise.

Everyone else played a game in spades on the EW cards, two pairs being doubled in 4♠ for +990 and two scoring +850 for making 5♠x.

Board 50. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ 9 6 2 ♥ — ♦ A K Q J 7 ♣ A K J 9 3</p>		<p>♠ A K 10 8 4 3 ♥ A 10 9 ♦ 10 6 4 ♣ Q 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 7 5 4 ♥ K J 8 ♦ 5 3 ♣ 7 6 5 4</p> <p>♠ J ♥ Q 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♦ 9 8 2 ♣ 10 8</p>
--	--	---	--

Parker v Supernova

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Robinson</i>	<i>David</i>	<i>Dufrat</i>	<i>Iancu</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

North led the ♣5 for the ten and ace and having drawn trumps declarer claimed, +1440.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versin</i>	<i>Parker</i>	<i>Cucu</i>	<i>Tebha</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	6♦	All Pass
4♥	Control		
4NT	RKCB		
5♥	2 keycards		

Stopping short meant 11 IMPs for Supernova.

Sunshine Sisters v Down South

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Abu Jaber</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Edis</i>	<i>Balderson</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♦*	Pass	5♠*	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

- 4♥ Control
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♣ 3 keycards
- 5♦ ♠Q?
- 5♠ No

Imagining her partner held at least six spades West went 'all in.'
South led the ♣10 and declarer won with the ♣Q

and cashed the ♠A. When the ♠J appeared she crossed to dummy with the ♦A and ran the ♠9 for a dramatic +1510.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lang</i>	<i>Sakr</i>	<i>Bernstein</i>	<i>Freeland</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

- 3NT Non serious
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♦ 3 keycards

That meant 14 IMPs for Sunshine Sisters. Only two pairs bid a grand slam on the EW cards.



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ROUND 23

THE LAST WORD

Mark Horton

If I have kept count correctly (not a bad attribute when playing bridge) we have reached Round 23, the last one we will cover today. Swimming Dragons have won three of their four matches and are currently leading this session.

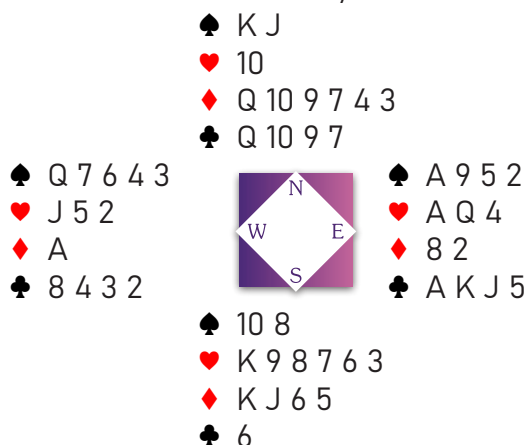
On Board 58 EW held

♠AQJ1072 ♥- ♦104 ♣KJ1093 opposite

♠K65 ♥KJ104 ♦QJ ♣AQ62.

Ten pairs attempted a black suit slam and six of them escaped a diamond lead. In our featured match the Dragons picked up an IMP by playing in spades.

Board 63. Dealer South. N/S Vul.



Swimming Dragons v Unity

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bobb</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Bhagwati</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
—	—	—	2♦*
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass

2♦ One major 3-7

On this layout it was easy to take 10 tricks, declarer winning the heart lead with dummy's ♥A, crossing to dummy with a diamond and playing two rounds of spades for +170.

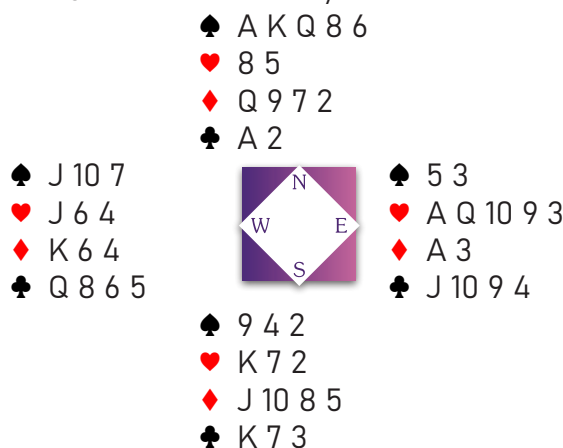
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Menon</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Chadha</i>
—	—	—	2♦*
Pass	2♥*	2NT	Pass
3♥*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

- 2♦ Weak major
- 2♥ Pass or correct
- 3♥ Transfer

South led the ♣6 and declarer took North's ♣Q with the ♣A, and played two rounds of spades, finishing with an overtrick when North discarded a club, +450 and 7 IMPs to Swimming Dragons.

Board 64. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



Swimming Dragons v Unity

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bobb</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Bhagwati</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
Pass	1NT*	All Pass	

1NT 15-17

East led the ♥Q and when it held she switched to the ♣J, declarer winning with the ♣A, cashing five spades and playing a heart to the king for +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Smith	Menon	Senior	Chadha
Pass	1♠	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

When East led the ♣J declarer could win, draw trumps and play on diamonds for +420. Not so easy to lead the ♦A after North's 3♦, which happened twice when North bid 4♠ without mentioning the suit. It meant 7 IMPs for Unity. Swimming Dragons edged this low scoring encounter 14-9 12.05-7.95.

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