



3rd WBF Online Women's Teams

Daily Bulletin N. 4

Monday, 30 March 2026

Mark Horton Editor • Francesca Canali Layout Editor

SONG OF NORWAY

After three days of almost constant play, they will be dancing in the streets of Oslo tonight!

Norway's Viking Queens (Virginia Chediak, Torild Heskje, Ranja Sivertsvik, Gunn Tove Vist) averaging 14.85 VP from their 13 matches were the winners.

Thunder, an alliance between USA and Israel (Adi Asulin, Nancy Katz, Hila Levy, Dana Tal, Noga Tal and Migry Zur-Campanile) averaged 14.65 to finish as runners up.

E18 Norway (Aase Birbakken, Siri Hove Bjerger, Marianne Homme, Anja Prestvik) with an average of 14.33 VP complete the podium.

Hand	Contract	Score	Result	Score	Result
48	INT-3 E	300	40	500	5
49					
50					
51					
52					
53					
54					
55					
56					
57	4♠-2 W	200	♥2	680	13
58	4♠X=S	790	♥4	200	14
59	4♠+2 S	480	♥2	450	1
60	4♠+1 W	450	♥6	420	1
61	3NT-2 N	200	♠10	500	12
62	6♣= N	920	♠A	480	10
63	4♥= S	620	♠6	620	-
64	1NT-2 S	100	2♥+1 E	140	1



EVENT'S WEBSITE



RANKING LISTS

World Bridge Series
KATOWICE, POLAND
20 AUGUST - 3 SEPTEMBER, 2026

OPEN TO PLAYERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

ALL INFORMATION AT:
championships.worldbridge.org/2026WBS

8 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

TEAMS	PAIRS
Open Teams	Open Pairs
Women's Teams	Women's Pairs
Senior Teams	Senior Pairs
Mixed Teams	Mixed Pairs



All good things come to an end and so it is with our 3rd WBF Online Women's Teams but it is not quite over.

President Franck Riehm will present Certificates and prizes on the podium of the World Bridge Series taking place in Katowice, Poland on 20 August – 3 September 2026. Try to be there to cheer our winners and show the world that Women's Bridge is active, strong and powerful. No other category supports its players like we do and we are here to support our tournament players, our professional players, our inspiring players and simply Bridge.

Behind the scenes for this event, though less visible than at a face-to-face tournament, unless they were called to your table, was a team of Tournament Directors headed by our WBF Online Manager Marc van Beijsterveldt. They are indispensable and how come they always stay cool! TD's, virtually please take a bow.

Less visible also was the RealBridge team of Shireen Mohandes and Andy Bowles who organised an amazing schedule with team web pages, personal player links, practice sessions and more – which took a lot of work—and then delivered a successful running of our event. It required working overnight sleep shifts to cater for play across many time zones, yet we merrily played each match smoothly without any hitches, as if it just happened! Shireen and Andy please take your bow.

How fortunate are we to have had Chief WBF/EBL Editor, Mark Horton, producing our Bulletins! Mark, with Francesca Canali on Layout, brought our event alive. I'm thinking they did not get much sleep either as they covered play around the world through day and night. Mark and Francesca please take your bow.

Fiona Greenwood of team Gresco wrote this morning, "I can't imagine how much paddling under the water there is organising something like this. We are very much enjoying the tournament". This feedback makes all the hard work worthwhile for all the teams involved and now it is the turn of the WBF team to take their virtual bow.

Next for our WBF Women's Committee is the Spring WBF Online Women's Festival on BBO April 19 to 26. That's just a few weeks away. Please see the Poster and do come along, there are lots of opportunities each day to play and lots of prizes to include the winner's free entry to the Pairs at the World Bridge Series in Katowice.

Final word is to you the players and on your behalf, congratulations to the winners. Thank you for playing and I hope that you enjoyed interacting with players from across the globe. Thank you for being part of President Riehm's international family.

Mary

Teams for the 3rd WBF Online Women's Teams on RealBridge

WBF

Online Manager:	Marc van Beijsterveldt
Microsite:	Francesca Canali and Fotis Skoularikis
Commitment Forms:	Anna Newton
Bulletins:	Chief Bulletin Editor Mark Horton Layout Francesca Canali
Assistant Treasurer:	Dirk de Clercq
Event Coordinator:	Mary Kelly Rogers

RealBridge

Shireen Mohandes and **Andy Bowles**

Tournament Directors

Marc van Beijsterveldt	Netherlands
Camila Nuñez	Argentina
Kuba Kasprzak	Poland
Jacob Duschek	Denmark
Sanjay Chakraborty	India
Jacek Marciniak	Poland
Gordon Rainsford	England
Jeanne van den Meiracker	Netherlands
Sarah Amos	Wales
Aurélien Lecoq	France
Miltos Koutougkos	Greece
Maria Mączka	Hong Kong


ROUND 24, 25, 26, 27

WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING

Mark Horton

The first job of the day was to review the play from the previous evening, which involved Rounds 24 through 27.

Board 66. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shokhan</i>	<i>Hernandez</i>	<i>Bandrankova</i>	<i>A Castells</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♣	2♠	3♣	4♠
All Pass			

Once her spades had been supported South was fully justified in bidding game.

West led the ♣K and declarer won and played the ♥10, ducked to East's ♥J.

Back came the ♠9 forcing dummy to ruff and declarer ruffed a heart, collecting West's ♥A. A spade to the jack saw East win and return the ♠3, but declarer was in control, losing only to the ♠Q, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M Castells</i>	<i>Simanaitiene</i>	<i>Pavlushko</i>	<i>Gupta</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

2♣ 12-16, 5+♣

2NT Weak raise to 3♣ or both majors

When North was constrained not to double 2♣ NS were shut out.

North led the ♣3 and South won and switched to the ♥10, declarer taking dummy's ♥A and playing a heart. North won, South discarding the ♠2 but when she exited with a heart could overruff South's ♣6 cross to dummy with a club and discard her diamonds on the ♥QJ making an overtrick for +130 and 13 IMPs for Castells. South should perhaps have ruffed her partners ♥K and switched to diamonds, but everything is easy when you can see all the hands.

Sunshine Sisters v Carmen

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Martorell</i>	<i>Edis</i>	<i>Cafranga</i>	<i>Abu Jaber</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣*	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♣	Dble*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

1♣ 2+♠ may have 5♦
Dble Spade support or a strong hand

West led the ♠K and having won declarer played the ♥10, West taking the ♥A and forcing dummy with a club. Declarer ruffed, pitched a club on the ♥K and played two rounds of spades, claiming 10 tricks, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Freeland</i>	<i>Sainz de Vicuna</i>	<i>Sakr</i>	<i>Frances</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣*	1♥	1NT	All Pass

1♣ 'May be short'

South led the ♥10 and declarer took dummy's ♥A and played two rounds of clubs before exiting with dummy's ♥6. North won with the ♥K and switched to the ♠9 declarer winning with the ♠K. At this point cashing both top hearts is as good as anything, but declarer took only one of them before exiting with a club and the

defenders had the rest for two down, -100 but 11 IMPs for Sunshine Sisters, who won 51-13 19.50-0.50.

Only two pairs reached 4♠. No one opened the South hand 1♠, but Maria Jose Calamaro was able to start with 2♠, promising spades and another suit. Peta Lynn Balderson overcalled 3♣ and when Cristina Pouseiro jumped to 4♠ Vanessa Armstrong bid 5♣ which was doubled. Declarer escaped for two down, -300, losing 6 IMPs when 3♣ went one down in the other room.

Board 71. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Castells v Baltic Breeze

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shokhan</i>	<i>Hernandez</i>	<i>Bandrankova</i>	<i>A Castells</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♣	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

- 3♥ Spade support
- 4♥ Control
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♣ 1 keycard

West led the ♥9 and declarer took dummy's ♥A, came to hand with a diamond and ran the ♠7, +680.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M Castells</i>	<i>Simanaitiene</i>	<i>Pavlushko</i>	<i>Gupta</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♣*	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	5♥
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

- 2♣ Game forcing can be clubs
- 4♣ Control
- 4♦ Control
- 4♥ Control
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♣ 1 keycard
- 5♦ ♠Q?
- 5♥ No

The six-card holding with a decent sequence encouraged South to advance, and that was worth 13 IMPs, enough to see Baltic Breeze win 21-14 12.77-7.23.

On Board 73 NS held ♠AJ6 ♥KJ2 ♦AK84 ♣A52 opposite ♠84 ♥6 ♦J10972 ♣KQ973. The ♦Q was singleton onside and clubs 3-2, so 12 tricks were valuable in diamonds.

Opposite North's 2NT opening bid South might respond 3♠ forcing 3NT and then bid 4NT to show 5-5 in the minors, but that's perhaps a bridge too far and everyone played in 3NT.

For the first time in EBL history

1st European Online Transnational
Mixed Teams Championship

14 - 17 May, 2026
Online on RealBridge

Board 79. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Christaki</i>	<i>Greenwood</i>	<i>Politou</i>	<i>Phelan</i>
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♥*	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2♥ Spade raise

North led the ♥6 and declarer won with dummy's ♥A and played a spade for the ten and jack, declarer running the ♣J to South's ♣A. South cashed the ♥K, cashed the ♠A and then played the ♥Q, but declarer could ruff in dummy, come to hand with the ♦A, cash the ♠K and claim, +420.

Having cashed the ♥K South must continue with the ♥Q, forcing dummy to ruff. She wins the spade continuation with the ♠A and plays another heart, promoting North's ♠9 into the setting trick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Burns</i>	<i>Walker</i>	<i>Crocker</i>	<i>Taylor</i>
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

2♥ Spade raise

North led the ♥6 and declarer collected eight tricks for +110, 7 IMPs going to Gresco. However it was Canirl who edged the match, 11-10 10.44-9.56.

Board 82. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hu</i>	<i>Czajka</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Waniurska</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the ♣5 and declarer won performe with dummy's ♣A and played a diamond to the ten. When that held she ran the ♠Q and then played the ♥K, West winning and returning the ♣6. East won with the ♣J as declarer pitched dummy's ♥7 and switched to the ♥5. When declarer put in dummy's ♥8 West won with the ♥9 and now needed to switch to the ♠J, establishing a fifth trick for the defence. That was not easy to see, and when she exited with the ♣4 it established declarer's ninth trick, +600.

At the point where East played a second heart declarer can win with the ♥Q and then play two rounds of spades.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sautaux</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Pietrzyk</i>	<i>Guo</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the ♣5 to dummy's ♣A and the play was identical, West also missing the switch to the ♠J, +600 and no swing.

This is a very tough deal for both sides. It occurred to me that West could make life difficult for declarer by ducking the ♥K. As the cards lie declarer would then have to cash her diamond winners ending in hand and play a heart. Even

then its extremely complicated depending on how the defenders have discarded. If East has kept only two clubs declarer must do the same so that after West wins the heart exit and returns a club, East, having cashed two clubs will have to lead a spade. Declarer wins with the ♠A and plays back a spade forcing East to surrender the game going trick to the ♠10.

On Board 91 South held ♠Q6 ♥A2 ♦J94 ♣A108543. When South opened 1♣ West overcalled 1♥ with ♠K74 ♥KQ976 ♦AQ6 ♣72 and East, holding ♠A9532 ♥J1083 ♦K32 ♣6 could bid 3♣ or 4♥, everyone reaching the cold heart game. Not quite everyone, because Beatriz Marangunic was happy to pass with South's cards and when West opened a 12-14 1NT East transferred to spades and lost 6 IMPs.



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Silesian
Voivodeship



KATOWICE
for a change



Metropolis
GZM



Ministry
of Sport and Tourism
of the Republic of Poland

<https://championships.worldbridge.org/2026wbs>

ENDLESS NIGHT

Mark Horton

Having dealt with the deals from Saturday evening it was time to move on to the rounds that went through the night (there were eight of them).

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Steel Rose v Fire Horse

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gong</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Cao</i>	<i>Lu</i>
3NT*	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	5♣	5♥
All Pass			

3NT Gambling

West led the ♣K and switched to the ♠Q, declarer taking dummy's ♠A, drawing three rounds of trumps and playing a diamond. East won and returned the ♣7, West winning with the ♣10 and continuing with the ♣Q. Declarer ruffed and played on diamonds, East eventually ruffing and cashing the ♠K for three down, -150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Guo</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>He</i>
3NT*	Pass	4♣	Dble
All Pass			

The was no way for the defenders to score more than three tricks, +710 and 11 IMPs for Steel Rose, giving them a last gasp win, 14-3 14.09-5.91.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Japan Girls v Kiwi Ferns

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Mizobe</i>	<i>Terry</i>	<i>Kuniyoshi</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	Dble	Pass
2♣	All Pass		

Two Clubs drifted two down, -200.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Horiguchi</i>	<i>Barrack</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>	<i>Alabaster</i>
—	—	—	1NT*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	Pass
4♣	Dble	All Pass	
1NT	12-14		
2♥	Transfer		

East's double was reasonable. The text book way to describe the West hand is to respond 2NT intending to pass East's forced response of 3♣, hoping you are not breaking Burn's Law of Total Trumps. That allows you to show some values with an immediate response of 3♣. Here it looks as if East was on a guess as to the whereabouts of the missing high cards. North led the ♠Q followed by the ♠J and declarer took dummy's ♠A, played a club to the king and

a club to the jack. When that lost to the queen she could not avoid four down, -1100 and 14 IMPs for Kiwi Ferns.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Japan Girls v Kiwi Ferns

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Mizobe</i>	<i>Terry</i>	<i>Kuniyoshi</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

If you are familiar with the works of Oscar Wilde, you may recall Lady Bracknell line 'To lose one parent, Mr Worthing, may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness.' South spurned the opportunity to support clubs and +170 was a modest return.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Horiguchi</i>	<i>Barrack</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>	<i>Alabaster</i>
—	1♦	2♠*	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

If East had managed to find a heart lead 3NT would have gone down, not ideal when a grand slam is available. When East led the ♠10 and dummy's ♠J held declarer cashed out for +600 and 10 IMPs.

If North chooses to rebid 3♣ and South raises NS are likely to get to 6♣.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Japan Girls v Kiwi Ferns

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Mizobe</i>	<i>Terry</i>	<i>Kuniyoshi</i>
1♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♠*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	6♦	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

- 1♣ 13+ any11
- 2♦ Game forcing 5+♦
- 3♥ First round control
- 3♠ Control
- 3NT One of the top three honours
- 4♣ Control
- 4♠ Control
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♥ 2 keycards
- 5♠ Asking
- 6♦ No ♦Q

South led the ♦5 and that was that +1440.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Horiguchi</i>	<i>Barrack</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>	<i>Alabaster</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	All Pass
3♠	Splinter		

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Spring 2026

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South led the ♥7 and declarer took all the tricks for +520, but that was 14 IMPs for Kiwi Ferns who won 50-7 20.00.

Board 36. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Kiwi Ferns v SG U26W

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gao</i>	<i>Terry</i>	<i>Ang</i>	<i>Somerville</i>
2♠	Dble	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♠*
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

4NT RKCB
 5♠ 2 keycards +♦Q

West led the ♠K and declarer won, drew trumps and played three rounds of clubs, +1370. With diamonds and clubs 3-2 you can always make 13 tricks, and if East had ♣Q875 you will still be able to do so.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Collins</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Turley</i>	<i>Seah</i>
2♠	Dble	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

If 3♦ showed values, North might have made a move over 3NT.

West led the ♠K and switched to the ♥8, declarer taking 11 tricks for +660, but it was 12 IMPs for Kiwi Ferns.

Board 39. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Kiwi Ferns v SG U26W

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gao</i>	<i>Terry</i>	<i>Ang</i>	<i>Somerville</i>
—	—	—	1NT*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

1NT 12-14
 2♦ Transfer

West led the ♣5 and declarer finished with 10 tricks, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Collins</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Turley</i>	<i>Seah</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥	4♠	All Pass

Don't you just love that 4♠ bid!
 South led the ♥9 and declarer ruffed and played a spade to the ace, +650 and 15 IMPs for Kiwi Ferns, who won 39-26 14.68-5.32.

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Board 44. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Yunnan v Jemisakikily

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wu</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Coleman</i>	<i>Dong</i>
2♠	Dble	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♠ 5♠+another, weak

West led the ♥10 and East decided to overtake it and switch to the ♠6, +690.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhang</i>	<i>L Carter</i>	<i>Ding</i>	<i>J Carter</i>
Pass	1♣*	2♥	Dble*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥*
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣

East led the ♠6 and declarer won in dummy and played the ♣J, +1370 and 12 IMPs for Jemisakikily who won 37-5 18.68-1.32.

On Board 47 NS held

♠KQ8 ♥AJ1098743 ♦J9 ♣-

opposite ♠A54 ♥Q65 ♦6 ♣AK9742. The ♥K was singleton onside, but no one went higher than 5♥.

Two boards later EW held

♠107 ♥10764 ♦92 ♣K10953

facing

♠A85 ♥AKQJ95 ♦- ♣AQ62

but it proved to be impossible to find a route to 6♥, let alone the excellent grand slam in clubs.

At one table the bidding went 2♣-2♦-2♥-4♥. If you play that as promising four card support with some values (but denying a first round control) East might risk 4♠. If West then bids 5♣ East bids 5♦ and over 5♥ continues with 6♣, a clear try for a grand slam. If West is minded to bid 7♣ (!) East might just find a pass.

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SATURDAY NIGHT AND SUNDAY MORNING

Mark Horton

Here are a couple of deals from the session that started at 04:00 UTC (or 05.00 if you had already advanced your clocks).

Board 11. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Jemisakikily v Shree

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Venkataraman</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Mathias</i>	<i>Coleman</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Dble	2♦	Pass
3♦	3♥	4♦	4♥
5♦	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

East led the ♦2 and having won declarer played the ♥K, West winning and switching to the ♠3. Declarer put in the ♠9 and when it held she exited with the ♥J, east winning and playing the ♦K. Declarer ruffed high and played the ♣K, East winning and exiting with a spade. Declarer won, crossed to dummy with a heart and played a club, two down when the ♣J appeared, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>L Carter</i>	<i>John Stephanos</i>	<i>J Carter</i>	<i>Mohta</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Dble	Pass	1♥
1♠	4NT*	All Pass	

4NT RKCB

East led the ♦2 and declarer won and played the ♥K. Six down was now a certainty and discarding on five rounds of diamonds was no fun at all. When declarer elected to part with two spades eight down was on the cards, but when West exited with the ♠K rather than a low one declarer managed two more tricks, -350 but only 2 IMPs for Jemisakikily.

Board 40. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

This deal was the last of the session.

No one reached 6♥, although Ayse Nazli Metin and Sirma Sanus over stretched to 7♥.

Obviously, that has no chance barring a couple of miracles in the black suits, but how should you play 6♥ on a diamond lead?

The best plan is to ruff, cross to dummy with a heart. ruff a diamond, go back to dummy with a heart and ruff a diamond. The dummy reversal has got you up to 11 tricks and now you need to decide which black suit to play on.

If you try your luck in spades you will score three tricks 52.66% of the time.

You can attack clubs, starting with a low club to the ten. Here that loses to an honour and West will doubtless exit with a spade or diamond. You win and cash the ♣A and having noted the fall of the ♣98 you run the ♣7 on the next round and can then cross to dummy with a spade to enjoy the ♣K.


The chance of scoring three club tricks is 56.94%.

LAST ORDERS

Mark Horton

The last session started at 08:00 GMT – I am prepared to confess that I have no idea who was leading! There would be 13 matches of eight boards – what gems would be on offer?

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Swimming Dragons v Shamrocks

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Power</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Harty</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
—	Pass	1♥	Dble
3♦*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

3♦ 4♥, 10+

South led the ♣K and declarer pitched a spade on dummy's ♣A and played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing as South pitched the ♣5. A club ruff was followed by a diamond ruff and declarer proceeded to ruff another club and then played the ♠9. South took the ♠A, cashed the ♥A and then played a club. Declarer could ruff, but North had disposed of all her spades and that meant there were only nine tricks, -100. One way to avoid this would be to play a heart after the second diamond ruff.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>O'Gorman</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>James</i>
—	Pass	1♥	Dble
2NT*	Pass	4♣*	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

2NT 4♥, invitational+
4♣ Void

West led the ♥7 and having won declarer played a club to the jack (East discarding the ♦8) and a spade to the queen, West winning and continuing with a heart. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ♠A and played a third spade, East winning as West pitched the ♦5. If East plays the ♠J at this point West can ruff and play a diamond when five down will be a certainty, but that was not obvious and East continued with a heart, declarer ruffing and playing a spade. West ruffed with the ♣3 and played a diamond, but declarer had to score two more trump tricks, four down, -1100 and 15 IMPs to Swimming Dragons.

On Board 15 EW held ♠Q4 ♥A54 ♦107653 ♣KJ9 opposite ♠A8 ♥Q1063 ♦AK52 ♣AQ8. It was everybody's 3NT, but if you played it from the West side, the ♠Q4 turned out to be badly placed as North led a spade from ♠J10652 ♥J82 ♦9 ♣1053. It meant 11 IMPs went to Swimming Dragons when East was the declarer, and they won the match 27-8 16.23-3.77.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Swimming Dragons v Gaels

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>McGoldrick</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Meagher</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣*	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1♣ 2+♣

East led the ♥4 and West took the ♥A and returned the ♥J followed by the ♥9, declarer winning while dummy parted with a club and a spade. Declarer cashed five diamonds and then played a spade and could not be prevented from securing nine tricks, +400.

I wonder what declarer would have done if West had played the ♥J at trick one?

Closed Room

West <i>Smith</i>	North <i>Friel</i>	East <i>Senior</i>	South <i>Leopold</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣*	Pass	1♥	Dble
Rdbl*	3NT	All Pass	

1♣	2+♣
Rdbl	3♥

East led the ♥4 and West took the ♥A and returned the ♥J. Declarer won with the ♥K and cashed five diamonds there were only eight tricks, -50 and 10 IMPs for Swimming Dragons.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

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

Swimming Dragons v Gaels

Open Room

West <i>McGoldrick</i>	North <i>Clementsson</i>	East <i>Meagher</i>	South <i>Bertheau</i>
—	—	—	1♠
2♥	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West led the ♥K and switched to the ♣Q, declarer taking dummy's ♠A, playing a spade to the king (West pitching the ♦4) unblocking the ♥AK and exiting with a club. West took the ♣J and played the ♥A followed by the ♥5, East discarding a diamond then ruffing. At this point two rounds of spades will result in one down as

West will be sure to score the ♥J. When East played the ♣K declarer ruffed and ruffed a heart with dummy's ♠10. East could overruff, but that was the last trick for the defence, +670.

Declarer might have ducked the club switch. She can win the next club, ruff a club, unblock the diamond and play a heart and must come to eight tricks.

The man on the Clapham Omnibus was in favour of bidding 3♣ over partner's double, his argument being that East's spades are not quite strong enough.

Closed Room

West <i>Smith</i>	North <i>Friel</i>	East <i>Senior</i>	South <i>Leopold</i>
—	—	—	1♠
2♥	All Pass		

North led the ♠4 and declarer pitched a diamond on dummy's ♠A, ruffed a spade, played a club to the king and ruffed spade. North won the next club and exited with the ♣8, South ruffing, cashing the ♦KA and continuing with the ♠Q. When declarer pitched the ♦7 South continued with the ♠J and declarer ruffed with the ♥A and exited with the ♣J. North ruffed with the ♥8 and when South failed to overruff with the ♥9 declarer scored the last two tricks with the ♥KJ, one down, -100 and 11 IMPs for Swimming Dragons who won 22-17 -12.05-7.95

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

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

Swimming Dragons v Diamonds and Hearts

Open Room

West <i>Jalan</i>	North <i>Senior</i>	East <i>Saiprasad</i>	South <i>Smith</i>
—	—	3♠	Dble
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

East led the ♠2 and having won with dummy's ♠A declarer cashed the ♣A, played a club to the seven and a heart to the ten. West won and returned the ♠K, declarer ruffing, playing a diamond to the ace, drawing trumps via the marked finesse and cashing the hearts, +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Sundarraaj</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Reddy</i>
—	—	2♦*	Dble
3♥*	Pass	3♠	Dble
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

- 2♦ Multi
3♥ Pass or correct

East led the ♠2 to dummy's ♠A and declarer cashed the ♣A, played a club to the ten and cashed the ♣K. She ran the ♥J and West won and returned the ♠K, declarer ruffing and playing three rounds of hearts. West ruffed and played the ♠Q and when declarer ruffed she discarded dummy's ♥8 which meant her tenth trick had vanished. Going one down for -100 meant 12 IMPs for Swimming Dragons, who took the match 29-11 16.00-4.00.

Board 39. Dealer South. All Vul.

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



Swimming Dragons v Maak

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hassan</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Millership</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♥	Dble*
Pass	3♣	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

I am willing to confess that I would have been tempted to double 4♥.

South led the ♣9 and North won, cashed the ♦K and switched to the ♠6. Declarer took the ♠A, cashed the ♥AK and then played a club. South ruffed and exited with a diamond and declarer ruffed and played the ♠2, South winning with the ♠J and exiting with a diamond. South was sure to score her major suit queens for three down, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Fitzpatrick</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Kelly-R</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♥	2♦
Dble*	5♦	Dble	All Pass

East led the ♠K and seeing partner's ♠5 switched to the ♥K, West following with the ♥J. Declarer ruffed the continuation of the ♥A, cashed the ♦A and ♣A, ruffed a club, played a diamond to the king and ruffed a club. She could pitch a club on the ♥Q but West could not be denied a club trick, one down, -200 and 11 IMPs to Swimming Dragons who won 28-0 18.04-1.96.

It was their fifth win in a row, but only enough for fourth place in the session so far.



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<https://championships.worldbridge.org/2026wbs>

THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD

Mark Horton

With the finishing line in sight, here are the eye-catching deals from the closing rounds:

Board 46. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

The Noise Festival v ADV Ladies

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Esposito</i>	<i>Sandford</i>	<i>Grisetti</i>	<i>Hoff</i>
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

When North led the ♠10 South won with the ♠K and returned the ♠4, giving the defenders the first seven tricks, three down, -150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fairclough</i>	<i>Bonocuore</i>	<i>Stynes</i>	<i>Trifance</i>
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led the ♥5 and declarer won with the ♥Q and returned the ♥4. When South followed with the ♥7 declarer ran for the hills, +400 and 11 IMPs for The Noise Festival.

When Sonata Simanaitiene after an identical sequence led the ♥5 against 3NT declarer won with dummy's ♥J and played a second heart, but South won and switched to the ♠K for three down.

Marianne Homme was another to find the same defence and when her teammates bid and make

5♣ (South led the ♦J which simplified matters, but with careful play you can always make 11 tricks in clubs) E18 Norway (the session leaders) had 11 IMPs on the way to a 20-0 16.46-3.54 win over Maak.


Zsofia Szatmary and L. Fu Cheung also bid 5♣ and made thanks to a small slip by the defenders.

Basak Kutuk doubled 3NT after the same auction (I was hoping someone would) and East, Cristina Marcelli, wisely removed it to 4♣ (should she had bid 5♣?).

Nilgun Kotan and Mey Zaim also reached 5♣, but declarer could not find a route to 11 tricks.

As you can see, after a passive lead the defenders still have a chance to defeat 3NT but it made on ten occasions.

Board 50. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Thunder v Carmen

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Martorell</i>	<i>Zur-Campanile</i>	<i>Cafranga</i>	<i>Katz</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♠*	Dble
6♣	All Pass		

3♣ Fourth suit forcing
 4NT RKCB
 5♠ 2 keycards +♣Q

South led the ♠A and continued with the ♠5 but

when North could not ruff declarer ran the ♣9 and was home, +920.
No one else was in 6♣.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Asulin</i>	<i>Fernandez</i>	<i>Levi</i>	<i>de Lorenzo</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♠*	Dble
6♥	All Pass		

North led the ♠J and South took the ♠A and switched to the ♦J. Declarer won with the ♦A, cashed the ♠K, cashed the ♦K pitching a club, played the ♣9 to dummy's ♣A and pitched a club on the ♠Q. North's ruff was the setting trick and meant 14 IMPs went to Carmen.
6♥ failed five times and was made only twice.

Board 52. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Martorell</i>	<i>Zur-Campanile</i>	<i>Cafranga</i>	<i>Katz</i>
Pass	2♣*	3♣	3♠
4♣	4NT*	Pass	5♠*
Dble	6♠	All Pass	

4NT RKCB
5♣ 1 keycard

West led the ♥10 and declarer won with dummy's ♥A, cashed the ♠A, played a spade to the ten, a diamond to the ace and cashed the top hearts pitching clubs. A club ruff was followed by a spade to the queen, a heart ruff and a diamond, +1430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Asulin</i>	<i>Fernandez</i>	<i>Levi</i>	<i>de Lorenzo</i>
Pass	2♣*	3♣	3♠
4♣	4♠	All Pass	

That meant 13 IMPs went to Thunder, but Carmen won the match 28-20 13.12-6.88.

Board 62. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

4 Szpilki v JNZN

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ozen</i>	<i>Sautaux</i>	<i>Avsar Koseoglu</i>	<i>Pietrzyk</i>
—	—	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

2♥ 6-10 5♥+4♣/♦
2NT Asking

East led the ♣A but declarer had 12 tricks, +980.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Waniurska</i>	<i>Darilmaz</i>	<i>Czajka</i>	<i>Somer</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♠	Dble	1NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Missing the slam meant 11 IMPs went to 4 Szpilki who won 21-8 14.68-5.32.

The most unfortunate result on this deal was in the match between E18 Norway and Israel U26. The Norwegians bid 2♥*-2NT*-3♥*-6♠ while in the other room the auction went Pass-2♣*-2♥-2♠-3♣-3♦-3♠-5♣ (intended as Exclusion Blackwood)-Pass.

3rd WBF Women's Teams

Board 70. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Say North leads the ♦10 and declarer wins with dummy's ♦Q and plays the ♥9. There are two ways in which the contract can be defeated. If North is allowed to win the ♥K she must switch to the ♠Q! If South put puts up the ♥K she must switch to spades, playing the ace followed by the ♠J is simplest. Although 3NT failed 8 times, no one found that line of defence.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

1♣ 2+♣

Devi Mutha Bhatnagar found the opening lead of the ♠2 and her partner Alka Jain switched to the ♥K followed by a second heart. Devi won and tabled the ♠Q for a stupendous one down. That's not a bad way to end our coverage of this amazing feast of bridge!



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