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**DOLNY
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16TH WORLD BRIDGE SERIES



WROCLAW



The 16th World Bridge Series

**The Rosenblum Cup Open Teams
The McConnell Cup Women's Teams
The Rand Cup World Senior Teams
The World Mixed Teams
The World Open Pairs
The World Women's Pairs
The Hiron Trophy World Senior Pairs
The World Mixed Pairs**



**International Federation
recognised by the**



**INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE**

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A l'occasion de la
On the occasion of the



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OLYMPIQUE A SEOUL
*109th SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
IN SEOUL*
du 13 au 15 juin 1999
from 13th to 15th June 1999

the WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION (WBF)

A ÉTÉ RECONNUE, SELON L'ARTICLE 29 DE LA
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Introduction



In 2022 the World Bridge Federation returned to Wrocław, which hosted the 2016 World Bridge Games. Under the honorary patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Duda, the city again proved to be a magnificent setting for one of the major championships, this time the World Bridge Series.

The playing conditions were faultless and acknowledged the continuing battle against Covid-19 and its variants, the WBF again deciding against the provision of VuGraph. Given that the WBF had successfully staged the World Youth Transnational Championships which ended only 5 days before the start of the World Bridge Series one can safely say that 2022 represented one of the best years in its history.

This book could not have been produced without the help of a huge number of people. They include the contributors to the Daily Bulletin and the team of writers, David Bird, Brian Senior, Barry Rigal, Maurizio di Sacco and Ron Tacchi. Ron greatly simplified everyone's task by delivering within a couple of days of the end of the event various vital pieces of software that saved everyone a huge amount of time. Claudio Fossati was the photographer responsible for the magnificent pictures that adorn these pages. Countless players and officials were contacted in search of information, including Andrew Black, Anna Gudge, Sally Brock, Guy Mendes de Leon, Juan Carlos Ventin, Anna Sarniak, Zia Mahmood, Geoff Hampson, Christina Lund Madsen, Marion Michielsen, Marina Madia, Katherine Bertheau and Bas Drijver. Marc van Beijsterveldt was the incredibly brilliant chief proofreader, ably assisted by Monika Kümmel. I cannot thank them all enough.

*Mark Horton
Shrewsbury, December 2022*



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History of the World Bridge Series

These Championships have grown in stature and are now the biggest of all events in terms of entries. They began, however, on a modest scale, simply with a World Open Pairs and a corresponding Women's event and in the early years, a Mixed event of one kind or another to round out the program.

1962, Cannes - FRANCE

The first official World Pairs Championship was held in Cannes, largely at the initiative of Baron de Nexon, who was President of the French Bridge Federation, the European Bridge League and the WBF. The official name of the event was the World Pair Olympiad, and it contained three championships: Open Pairs, Women Pairs and Mixed Teams, all for national pairs or teams, but unlimited by nation.

The **Open** Pairs was contested by 78 pairs, representing 20 nations. Computer-scoring was used for the first time in an official international event.

Gold: Pierre Jaïs - Roger Trézel (FRA)

Silver: Terence Reese - Boris Shapiro (GBR)

Bronze: René Bacherich - Pierre Ghestem (FRA)

The **Women's** medalists were:

Gold: Fritzi Gordon - Rixi Markus (GBR)

Silver: Fanny Pariente - Marianne Serf (FRA)

Bronze: Dorothy Hayden - Helen Portugal (USA)

This would be the first of 10 World Championship medals for Dorothy Hayden. Two of her medals would be in Open championships.

There was in addition a Mixed Teams event, won from a field of 20 by

Gold: GREAT BRITAIN: Nico Gardener, Fritzi Gordon, Rixi Markus, Boris Shapiro (GBR)

Silver: NETHERLANDS: Herman Filarski, Bram Kornalijslijper, Dicky Vos-Hoogenkamp, Jopi Westerveld

Bronze: BELGIUM: Louis Bogaerts, Claude Ct. de Hemricourt, Helen Kover, Simone Moulia, Nicholas Savostin
The bronze medal to the Belgian mixed team is (as of 2022) the only one Belgium has ever won in World Championships.

1966, Amsterdam - THE NETHERLANDS

The second Championships, held in Amsterdam, were contested by 29 nations, with a Mixed Pairs event replacing the Mixed Teams. An overall trophy, the Solomon Trophy, was instituted and won by the United States.

The **Open** was attended by 106 pairs and the medalists were:

Gold: Hans Kreijns - Bob Slavenburg (NED)

Silver: Dr John Fisher - Jim Jacoby (USA)

Bronze: B. Jay Becker - Dorothy Hayden (USA)

44 pairs contested the **Women's** Championship, where the medalists were:

Gold: Joan Durran - Jane Juan (GBR)

Silver: Nancy Gruver - Sue Sachs (USA)

Bronze: Mary Jane Farell - Peggy Solomon (USA)

For Jane Juan (Jane Friday) this was the completion of a notable double, as she was already reigning Women's Teams Olympiad champion

The **Mixed** event was contested by 130 pairs.

Gold: Mary-Jane Farell - Ivan Erdos (USA)

Silver: Joan Durran - Maurice Weissburger (GBR)

Bronze: Nuccia Zeppegno - Vito Pittalà (ITA)

The **Charles Solomon Trophy** for the best overall performance by representatives of one nation was awarded for the first time at this tournament. It was won easily by the USA, and has been in the possession of the United States ever since.

1970, Stockholm - SWEDEN

The championships were played consecutively with the Bermuda Bowl in Stockholm. Appropriately - for their country of origin was Sweden - bidding boxes made their first appearance in world championship play. Scoring across the field was used. Computers enabled frequencies to be flashed onto a large screen visible to all the players well before the next round was finished. The ranking followed only a few minutes later. Again, there were three events: Open Pairs, Women Pairs and Mixed Pairs. The Combined event was won by the USA team, headed by Bobby Wolff.

The **Open** was attended by 158 pairs and the medalists were:

Gold: Fritz Babsch - Peter Manhardt (AUT)

Silver: Benito Garozzo - Federico Mayer (ITA)

Bronze: William Saulino - Italo Zanasi (ITA)

In the 72-pair **Women's** event the medalists were:

Gold: Mary Jane Farrell - Marilyn Johnson (USA)

Silver: Fritzi Gordon - Rixi Markus (GBR)

Bronze: Britt Blom - Gunborg Silborn (SWE)

Mary Jane Farrell added the Women's Pairs title to the Mixed Pairs from 1966. She would win the Women's teams at the 1979 Venice Cup and the 1980 Olympiad.

The **Mixed Pairs** event, contested by 228 pairs, saw a remarkable performance by a player who 40 years earlier had contested the very first international contract bridge matches between a Bridge World team and Britain and France, who had been an outstanding player of auction bridge before contract was even invented. Aged 74 and troubled by poor sight, USA's Waldemar von Zedwitz headed the field in the partnership with Barbara Brier. Von Zedwitz's service to the game of bridge as a player, administrator and theorist was later recognised by his election to WBF's Committee of Honour.

Gold: Waldemar von Zedwitz - Barbara Brier (USA)

Silver: Rixi Markus (GBR) - Georges Catzefflis (SUI)

Bronze: Riva Sinder - Michael Hochzeit (ISR)

The Solomon Trophy was won by the USA team headed by Bobby Wolff.

1974, Las Palmas - SPAIN

The fourth championships were held in Las Palmas, Canary Islands. A Mixed Teams event was held to be added to the three Pairs events.

In the **Open** contested by 192 pairs, there was a 60-pair final.

Gold: Bob Hamman - Bobby Wolff (USA)

Silver: Adriano Abate - Leandro Burgay (ITA)

Bronze: Federico de Paula - Italo Zanasi (ITA)

Europe's hold on the Open crown was broken by Bob Hamman and Bobby Wolff.

The **Women's Pairs** had a field of 74, playing nine sessions. It was won by a margin of seven boards, a feat unparalleled in the annals of world competition, by:

Gold: Fritzi Gordon - Rixi Markus (GBR)

Silver: Gerda Goslar - Rita Jacobson (RSA)

Bronze: Emma Jean Hawes - Dorothy Truscott (USA)

This gave the victors the remarkable record of two wins and a second in three World Pairs Championship appearances.

Mixed Pairs:

Gold: Tony Trad - Loula Gordon (SUI)

Silver: Jacqui Mitchell - Jimmy Cayne (USA)

Bronze: Nadine Cohen - Edmond Vial (FRA)

The **Mixed Teams** was played in a field of 72 over 4 days, culminating in an 8-team final round over one day. The eight finalists included teams from Italy, Sweden and Switzerland, with five American teams, who took the four top places.

Gold: MORSE: Peggy Lipsitz, Robert Lipsitz, Jo Morse, Steve Parker and Steve Robinson (USA)

Silver: STAYMAN: Tubby Stayman, Jacqui Mitchell, Victor Mitchell, Jimmy Cayne, Matt Granovetter (USA)

Bronze: CAPPELLETTI: Kathie Cappelletti, Lois Ann Veren, Bob Lewis, Mike Cappelletti Sr. (USA)

1978, New Orleans - Louisiana, USA

The 1978 Championships, held in New Orleans, saw the successful inauguration of a major event: the World Knockout Teams Championship for the Rosenblum Cup, named in the honour of Julius Rosenblum, the former WBF President who had died five months earlier.

The first edition attracted 64 teams. The format was based on the repêchage principle, borrowed from the sport of rowing. Eliminated teams from the 32-board knockout rounds entered a Swiss teams, run concurrently with the continuing knockout round with the prospect of re-entry to the main Championship.

The three divisions of the knockout, organised on a geographical basis, each produced a semi-finalist. The fourth semi-finalist came as a result of a playoff (Mini knockout) among the three last losers in the knockout and the top five teams from the Swiss.

The three KO-divisions semi-finalists were France, USA and Brazil. Successful in the Swiss was a four-man Polish squad. In the semi-finals Poland beat France and Brazil beat USA.

In the 64-board final, the winners by 164-80 were the Poles.

Gold: FRENKIEL: Marian Frenkiel, Andrzej Macieszczyk, Janusz Poleć, Andrzej Wilkosz, Leonard Michniewski (*) (POL)

Silver: CHAGAS: Pedro Paulo Assumpção, Sergio Barbosa, Marcelo Branco, Gabino Cintra, Gabriel Chagas, Roberto Taunay (BRA)

Bronze: CHEMLA: Paul Chemla, Michel Lebel, Christian Mari, Michel Perron (FRA)

and: **HAMMAN:** Bob Hamman, Dan Morse, Cliff Russell, Curtis Smith, Eddie Wold, Bobby Wolff (USA) (*) Leonard Michniewski did not play enough of the final to be given the title of World Champion.

Open Pairs:

Gold: Marcelo Branco - Gabino Cintra (BRA)

Silver: Eric Kokish - Peter Nagy (CAN)

Bronze: Roger Bates - John Mohan (USA)

In the 74-pair **Women's** Championship, the battle for the title was contested by two pairs who, as team-mates, later posted a series of outstanding wins in the world events:

Gold: Judi Radin - Kathie Wei (USA)

Silver: Betty Ann Kennedy - Carol Sanders (USA)

Bronze: Claude Blouquit - Elisabeth Delor (FRA)

The **Mixed Pairs**, dominated by the USA, featured an impressive performance by the late Barry Crane, who some considered the world's most effective pairs player, and Kerri Shuman (now Sanborn). They won the four session contest by more than 3 ½ boards.

Gold: Barry Crane - Kerri Shuman (USA)

Silver: Jim Jacoby - Heiti Noland (USA)

Bronze: Lou Bluhm - Carol Sanders (USA)

Next to the Rosenblum and the three Pairs events, the third Venice Cup was also held in New Orleans.

It was won by the USA. On the team were Emma Jean Hawes, Dorothy Truscott, Jacqui Mitchell, Gail Moss (now Greenberg), Mary Jane Farell and Marilyn Johnson, with Ruth McConnell as non-playing captain. In the final they defeated Italy (Anna Valenti, Marisa Bianchi, Marisa D'Andrea, Luciana Capodanno, Enrica Gut and Andreina Morini, with Guido Barbone as non-playing captain).

1982, Biarritz - FRANCE

The Sixth World Pair Olympiad was held in France.

For the second running of the **World Knockout Teams** there was a starting field of 129, reducing to 96 via a preliminary round of short matches held on the first afternoon. Some were four-way with three survivors, others three-way with two survivors.

Next came the knock-out stages, together with the Swiss in the same format as that staged in New Orleans, albeit with double the number of starters. WBF Master Point rankings were used in some degree to help to determine the draw. After five knockout rounds of 32-board matches, one undefeated team remained in each of the three brackets,

captained by Pierre Schemeil (France), Jim Zimmerman (USA), and Luca de Tena (Spain). Together with the winner of the Mini-knockout, captained by Chip Martel, these played off the 60-board semi-final matches, where Martel beat Zimmerman by 189 to 66 and Schemeil beat de Tena by 137 to 98. The losing semi-finalists re-entered the Swiss and finished fourth and fifth, behind team Andrews from Canada who were awarded the bronze medal.

The final, over five 16-board segments, was close all the way, Schemeil winning for France by 178-161. For the second time, this severe test of stamina was won by a four-man team!

Gold: SCHEMEIL: Albert Faigenbaum, Michel Lebel, Dominique Pilon, Philippe Soulet (FRA), Pierre Schemeil (NPC)

Silver: MARTEL: Chip Martel, Lew Stansby, Peter Pender, Hugh Ross, Ed Mansfield, Kit Woolsey (USA)

Bronze: ANDREWS: Allan Graves, Sammy Kehela, Eric Kokish, George Mittelman, Eric Murray, Peter Nagy (CAN)

In the **World Open Pairs**, from a record field in the four-session qualifying round, 224 pairs entered a three-session semi-final that reduced the number to 40 for a four-session final, resulting as follows:

Gold: Chip Martel - Lew Stansby (USA)

Silver: Anton Maas - Max Rebattu (NED)

Bronze: Gabriel Chagas - Roberto de Mello (BRA)

The **Women's pairs** was won, in a great feat of consistency, by a pair narrowly second four years earlier.

Gold: Betty Ann Kennedy - Carol Sanders (USA)

Silver: Lynn Deas - Beth Palmer (USA)

Bronze: Sally Horton - Sandra Landy (GBR)

Earlier, Canada had won its very first World Bridge Championship when Dianna Gordon and George Mittelman, both from Toronto, led home a record field of 450 pairs in the **Mixed Pairs**. Second by half a top were the husband and wife combination, John and Peggy Sutherlin.

Gold: Dianna Gordon - George Mittelman (CAN)

Silver: Peggy and John Sutherlin (USA)

Bronze: Isabelle and Jean-Louis Viennois (FRA)

1986, Bal Harbour (Miami Beach), Florida - USA

The Championships were restructured taking on an intricate, yet at the same time, more unified form and

saw the first use of the name “World Bridge Championships” to describe the four-year cycle of WBF events.

Bal Harbour also marked the first step in opening up these contests by enabling a wider group to earn places in main events by entering a preliminary stage. To provide stronger continuity, the various stages of the events were linked more closely by extending the repêchage principle.

Another new feature provided additional linkage: high achievement in one event could confer exemption from a preliminary stage of the next.

There were still just four events: the Rosenblum Cup and three Pairs championships.

In the **World Knockout Teams**, the winners (357-207) were the United States. The losers of the 128-board final were Pakistan. Sweden finished at the top of the Swiss to take third place overall.

Gold: ROBINSON: Steve Robinson, Peter Boyd, Bob Lipsitz, Ed Mansfield, Neil Silverman, Kit Woolsey (USA)

Silver: MAHMOOD: Zia Mahmood, Jan-e-Alam Fazli, Nisar Ahmed, Nishat Abedi (PAK)

Bronze: FALLENIUS: Björn Fallenius, Magnus Lindkvist, Mats Nilslund, Anders Wirgren (SWE)

In the **World Open Pairs**, a limited number of entrants from each nation were able to enter a qualifying round while the regular quota entered the mainstream. Qualifiers were joined progressively by eliminated mainstream pairs. Both streams played the same boards. For the first time, a continuing repêchage offered unsuccessful pairs the prospect of climbing back into contention.

After 13 sessions of play, not counting the qualifying rounds, a record-breaking field was led home by an American pair whose margin of nearly six boards set another record.

Gold: Jeff Meckstroth - Eric Rodwell (USA)

Silver: Heinrich Berger - Wolfgang Meinel (AUT)

Bronze: Stephen Burgess - Paul Marston (AUS)

The **Women's** event went to a newly formed US pair who barely survived the qualifying round. Thereafter, Amalya Kearse and Jacqui Mitchell steadily raised their game, the win establishing Mitchell as the world's top woman Master Point holder at that time.

Gold: Amalya Kearse - Jacqui Mitchell (USA)

Silver: Charlotte Palmund - Bettina Kalkerup (DEN)

Bronze: Sally Horton (Brock) - Sandra Landy (GBR)

The USA took the first three places in the **Mixed Pairs:**

Gold: Pam Wittes - John Wittes (USA)

Silver: Kerri Shuman - Bob Hamman (USA)

Bronze: Rozanne Pollack - Bill Pollack (USA)

A new four-session event, the WBF **Swiss Plate**, brought down the curtain. Open to all who failed to qualify for the finals of either the Open Pairs or Women's pairs, it was won by George Tornay and Walt Walvick (USA).

1990, Genève - SWITZERLAND

This marked the first championship to be organised entirely by the WBF under the leadership of José Damiani, while Jaime Ortiz-Patiño, President Emeritus, guaranteed the financial viability of the event. A Seniors Pairs event was added to the Championships.

The **World Knockout Teams** sponsored by **Louis Vuitton** had a record 195 teams. Sixteen teams were seeded through to the second round while the remaining teams were split into groups of 11 or 12 teams playing a round robin over two days with seven teams to qualify. For the second stage, the survivors were grouped into eight to play a further round robin with four teams to qualify, reducing the field to 64 teams for the next stage. The third stage was another round-robin reducing the field to 32 teams when the knockout began. Two 32-board matches reduced the field to just eight teams. In the semi-final, the two remaining USA teams, captained respectively by George Rapée and Mike Moss, had to play each other. Moss won comfortably (176-134). The other match featured Canada against a German team captained by Bernhard Ludewig, a match that went right down to the wire, Germany winning by 3.

In the final the German team defeated Moss by just 13IMPs.

Gold: LUDEWIG: Bernhard Ludewig, Jochen Bitschene, Georg Nippgen, Roland Rohowsky (GER)

Silver: MOSS: Mike Moss, Charles Coon, Michael Seamon, Drew Casen (USA)

Bronze: RAPEE: Russ Ekeblad, Dan Morse, George Rapee, John Solodar, Ron Sukoneck, John Sutherlin (USA)

and: **STEIN:** Boris Baran, Arno Hobart, Martin Kirr, Eric Kokish, George Mittelman, Mark Molson (CAN)

538 pairs started out on the long road to the **Labatt's World Open Pairs** Championships. After four qualifying and four semi-final sessions, the field reduced to a 72-pair final played over five sessions.

Gold: Marcelo Branco - Gabriel Chagas (BRA)

Silver: Peter Nagy - Ralph Katz (USA)

Bronze: Cezary Balicki - Adam Żmudziński (POL)

The regulations in 1990 did not permit transnational partnerships. Therefore, Peter Nagy, a Canadian, has to be considered USA for the occasion, and Mark Molson, an American playing for the bronze-winning Stein team in the Rosenblum, must be considered Canadian.

The **Labatt's Women's Pairs** produced a very tight finish:

Gold: Karen McCallum - Kerri Shuman (USA)

Silver: Judi Radin - Kathie Wei (USA)

Bronze: Carla Arnolds - Bep Vriend (NED)

In the **Mixed Pairs**, the USA proved yet again to be successful with Juanita Chambers and Peter Weichsel winning comfortably:

Gold: Juanita Chambers - Peter Weichsel (USA)

Silver: Eva-Liss Göthe - Lars Andersson (SWE)

Bronze: Walt and Kathie Walvick (USA)

In 1990, a new event was added: the **Paribas World Senior's Pairs**, for players over 55. Four qualifying sessions (an undemanding one per day) reduced the field to 28 pairs who played a three-session final.

Gold: Alan Hiron - Albert Dormer (GBR)

Silver: Jaap Kokkes - Kees Kaiser (NED)

Bronz: Franz Baratta - Karl Rohan (AUT)

Other events included the invitational **PAMP World Par Contest**, won comfortably by Benito Garozzo, and the **Nestlé Continuous Pairs**, won by Lionel Wright of New Zealand.

1994, Albuquerque - New Mexico, USA

The ninth World Bridge Championships saw the introduction of two additional events: Women Open Teams, playing for the McConnell Cup, and Senior Teams, as yet without a specific name.

158 teams entered the **NEC Rosenblum Cup**.

Gold: DEUTSCH: Roger Bates, Seymon Deutsch, Gaylor Kastle, Chip Martel, Michael Rosenberg, Lew Stansby (USA)

Silver: OTVOSI: Cezary Balicki, Marek Borewicz, Piotr Gawryś, Krzysztof Lasocki, Ervin Otvosi, Adam Żmudziński (POL)

Bronze: AUBY: Daniel Auby, Tomas Brenning, Tommy Gullberg, Mårten Gustawsson (SWE)

and: **LEVIT:** Dany Cohen, Avi Kalish, Yeshayahu Levit, Leonid Podgur (ISR)

48 Women's Teams entered the first **NEC McConnell Cup Teams**. They were divided into 12 groups and played an internal round robin over four days to qualify 16 teams for the direct knockout phase.

Gold: LETIZIA: Jill Blanchard (now Levin), Marinesa Letizia, Sue Picus, Rozanne Pollack, Judi Radin (USA)

Silver: WOOLSEY: Karen Allison, Jill Casen, Dori Cohen, Joann Glasson, JoAnn Manfield (now Sprung), Sally Woolsey (USA)

Bronze: ALDER: Mildred Breed, Tobi Deutsch, Amalya Kearse, Joyce Lilie, Jacqui Mitchell, Jo Morse (USA) and: **TORNAY:** Judy Cody, Shelley Lapkoff, Linda Perlman, JoAnn Stansby, Carolyn Steiner, Claire Tornay (USA)

35 teams entered the **NEC Seniors Teams**. Transnational teams were allowed.

Gold: ROHAN: Franz Baratta, Karl Rohan (AUT), Moshe Katz, Nissan Rand (ISR), Kees Kaiser, Bob Kaiser (NED)

Silver: LEVINE: Russell Arnolds, Bill Eisenberg, Fred Hamilton, Zeke Jabbour, Mike Levine, Tom Sanders (USA)

Bronze: RYDER: Howard Hertzberg, Robert Ryder (USA), Duncan Phillips, Bill Solomon (CAN)

The **NEC Open Pairs** drew 396 entries. The event was run over three stages: a four-session qualifying round, a four-session semi-final, and five-session final, with drop-ins to the main event.

Gold: Marcin Leśniewski - Marek Szymanowski (POL)

Silver: Bob Hamman - Michael Rosenberg (USA)

Bronze: Eric Kirchhoff - Anton Maas (NED)

The **NEC Women's Pairs** attracted 132 entries, and had the same format as the Open Pairs.

Gold: Carla Arnolds - Bep Vriend (NED)

Silver: Véronique Bessis - Catherine Saul (FRA)

Bronze: Lynn Deas - Beth Palmer (USA)

More than 500 pairs entered the six-session **NEC Mixed Pairs**. The field was cut to 180 pairs after three sessions.

Gold: Danuta Hochecker - Apolinary Kowalski (POL)

Silver: Sabine Zenkel (GER) - Bob Hamman (USA)

Bronze: Ewa Harasimowicz - Marcin Leśniewski (POL)

78 pairs entered the **NEC Senior Pairs**.

Gold: Hamish Bennett - Fred Hamilton (USA)

Silver: Simon Kantor - Murray Melton (USA)

Bronze: Duncan Philips - Bill Solomon (CAN)

1998, Lille - FRANCE

The 1998 Championships were held in Lille, France, and the many different events produced a record

attendance and an exceptional tournament. For the first time a Junior Triathlon was included.

The **Jean Besse Par Contest** was won by Michael Rosenberg of the USA, with Bart Bramley (USA) second and Eric Rodwell (USA) third.

The **Vivendi Rosenblum Cup** had a record entry of 234 teams. The field was initially divided into 16 groups playing a round robin within the group to determine the teams to go through to the knockout stages.

Gold: ANGELINI: Francesco Angelini, Antonio Sementa, Lorenzo Lauria, Alfredo Versace, Andrea Buratti, Massimo Lanzarotti (ITA)

Silver: CHAGAS: Gabriel Chagas, Marcelo Branco, Miguel Villas-Boas, João Campos (BRA)

Bronze: BRAMLEY: Bart Bramley, Drew Casen, Steve Garner, Sidney Lazard, Bill Pollack, Howard Weinstein (USA)

and **LINDKVIST:** Björn Fallenius, Peter Fredin, Magnus Lindkvist, Mats Nilsson (SWE)

The **Louis Vuitton McConnell Cup for Women's Teams** attracted an entry of 56 teams which were divided into 4 groups, playing a round robin within the group to determine the teams to go through to the knockout stages.

Gold: ERHART: Maria Erhart, Terry Weigkricht, Doris Fischer, Sylvia Terraneo (AUT)

Silver: AUKEN: Sabine Auker, Daniela Von Arnim, Katrin Farwig, Barbara Stawowy (Hackett) (GER)

Bronze: TRUSCOTT: Jill Meyers, Shawn Quinn, Carol Sanders, Tobi Sokolow, Jo Ann Sprung, Dorothy Truscott (USA)

and **WOOD:** Mickie Kivel, Ellis Lewis, Terry Michaels, Claire Tornay, Nadine Wood (USA)

The **Elf Transnational Senior Teams** drew an entry of 38 teams.

Gold: ROHAN: Karl Rohan, Franz Baratta (AUT), Nissan Rand, Moshe Katz (ISR), Christo Drumev (BUL)

Silver: SZENBERG: Aleksander Jezioro, Julian Klukowski, Stefan Szenberg, Andrzej Wilkosz (POL)

Bronze: ORLOW: Czesław Czyżkowski, Wacław Janicki, Andrzej Milde, Józef Pochroń, Kazimierz Pucyński, Włodzimierz Stobiecki (POL)

Nissan Rand won the first two editions of this competition. Having been instrumental in its conception, it was fitting that the trophy would receive his name after his death.

The **Société Générale Open Pairs** drew a massive 628 entries. The event was run in three stages with a four-

session qualifying round, a four-session semi-final, and five-session final, with drop-ins to the semi-finals and final permitted from the main team event.

Gold: Michał Kwiecień - Jacek Pszczoła (POL)

Silver: Larry Cohen - David Berkowitz (USA)

Bronze: Magnus Lindkvist - Peter Fredin (SWE)

The **Elf Zonal Open Pairs**. 220 pairs entered this event.

1 • Michel Carre - Christian Graglia (France).

2 • Mariusz Kita - Bogusław Lesiecki (Poland).

3 • Steffen Holm Pedersen - Lars Pedro Villinger (Denmark).

The **Louis Vuitton Women's Pairs** drew 119 initial entries, with the same format as the Open Pairs.

Gold: Shawn Quinn - Jill Meyers (USA)

Silver: Sabine Auker - Daniela Von Arnim (GER)

Bronze: Véronique Bessis - Catherine d'Ovidio (FRA)

Nearly 600 pairs contested the **JM Weston Mixed Pairs** Championship, with 260 going into the final

Gold: Enza Rossano - Antonio Vivaldi (ITA)

Silver: Claude Blouquit - Michel Bompis (FRA)

Bronze: Sabine Auker (GER) - Jens Auker (DEN)

The remaining pairs were also able to enter the **Zonal Mixed Pairs** Championship.

1 • Isabelle Chilaud - Jacques Chilaud (France).

2 • Gloria Meng - Harry Lin (Taiwan).

3 • Chafika Tak-Tak - Maurice Aujaleu (France).

100 pairs entered the **ELF Senior Pairs**. An amazing performance from Boris Shapiro, aged nearly 90, clinched the championship for the British pair.

Gold: Boris Shapiro - Irving Gordon (GBR)

Silver: Lea Dupont (USA) - Benito Garozzo (ITA)

Bronze: Burkhard von Alvensleben - Walter Höger (GER)

After a 15-year gap, Benito Garozzo added a 19th to his collection of World Championship medals, while Boris Shapiro had waited 34 years for his fifth medal.

The **Cara Boutique IMP Pairs** drew 149 entries.

1 • Michael Seamon - Russell Ekeblad (USA).

2 • Dominique Masure - Marcel Leflon (France).

3 • Alexander Ladyzhensky - A Povlov (Russia).

The **Coralia Continuous Pairs** ran throughout the two-week championship, with sessions being played in the mornings and evenings.

A new event for the Championships was the **Lipton Ice Tea Junior Triathlon**, which comprised a Junior Pairs Championship, contested by 66 pairs.

- 1 • Tomasz Przyjemski - Marcin Zaremba (Poland).
- 2 • Paolo Marino - Daniele Pagani (Italy).
- 3 • Marcel Lagas - Maarten Schollaardt (The Netherlands).

A **Junior Individual** event, in which 112 players participated:

- 1 • Rafal Jagniewski (Poland).
- 2 • Maarten Schollaardt (The Netherlands).
- 3 • Thomas Carmichael (USA).

And a **Junior Teams Championship**, contested by 29 teams:

- 1 • Intonti (Italy).
- 2 • Madsen (Denmark).
- 3 • Guariglia (Italy).

The overall result of the **Lipton Ice Tea Junior Triathlon** was:

- 1 • Paolo Marino (Italy).
- 2 • Daniele Pagani (Italy).
- 3 • Mik Kristensen (Denmark).

Another innovation was **Tropico Scholars** Championship, which comprised three different competitions for school children. There were 228 competitors in the three events.

- 1 • A Minibridge section for the least experienced (the youngest player was a boy, Aurelien Gerard, aged 8), won by Capucine Mouret and Amelie Imbenotte.
- 2 • A Minibridge competition, similar to real bridge without conventions, won by Michael and Marc Soussand.
- 3 • The first Schools Championship to be held at a World Championship, won by Piotr Madry & Lukasz Piworowicz of Poland.

The **Elf Zonal Teams** had an entry of 50 teams.

- 1 • Biondic (Croatia).
- 2 • Blumenthal (France).
- 3 • Monballiu (Belgium).

2002, Montréal - CANADA

The eleventh World Bridge Championships were held in Montréal (Canada). Entries were considerably lower than on the previous occasion in Lille. All events were now made transnational.

160 **Open Teams** entered the **Power Rosenblum Cup**. The qualifying stage was 16 seeded 10-team sections, playing a complete round robin of 20-board matches over three days. Following the round-robin segments, 64 teams qualified for the Knock-Out phase.

Gold: LAVAZZA: Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin,

Guido Ferraro, Lorenzo Lauria, Alfredo Versace (ITA), Maria Teresa Lavazza (NPC)

Silver: MUNAWAR: Taufik Absi, Franky Karwur, Henky Lasut, Eddy Manoppo, Denny Sacul, Robert Parasian (INA), Munawar Sawiruddin (NPC)

Bronze: BURGAY: Cezary Balicki, Michał Kwiecień, Jacek Pszczola, Adam Żmudziński (POL), Leandro Burgay, Carlo Mariani (ITA)

In the **Zonal Open Teams**, the winners were Morath (SWE): Anders Morath, Tommy Bergdahl, Bengt-Erik Efraimsson, Tomas Brenning, Sven-Olov Flodqvist, Lars Andersson.

36 teams entered the **Women's Teams** Championship for the McConnell Cup.

The field was divided into four seeded groups of nine to play complete internal round-robins of 24-board matches over four days, with the top four in each group to qualify for the 16-team knockout stage.

Gold: SANBORN: Lynn Deas, Irina Levitina, Jill Meyers, Randi Montin, Beth Palmer, Kerri Sanborn (USA)

Silver: RADIN: Mildred Breed, Rozanne Pollack, Shawn Quinn, Judi Radin, Valerie Weistheimer (USA)

Bronze: BESSIS: Véronique Bessis, Bénédicte Cronier, Catherine d'Ovidio, Sylvie Willard (FRA)

31 Seniors teams entered the **Seniors teams**.

This was a Swiss event with four daily matches of 12 boards. After 3 days, the first four teams played a semi final and a final/play off of 32 boards.

Gold: HOLT: Diana Holt, Joe Godefrin, Ed Schulte (USA), Boris Baran, George Mittelman (CAN)

Silver: FREED: Gene Freed, Nels Erickson, Lew Finkel, Joe Kivel, Chris Larson, Bernie Miller (USA)

Bronze: SCHIPPERS: Elly Schippers, Jan-Willem Bomhof, Roald Ramer, Henk Schippers (NED)

The **Open Pairs** drew 328 entries.

Gold: Fulvio Fantoni - Claudio Nunes (ITA)

Silver: Zia Mahmood - Michael Rosenberg (USA)

Bronze: Diego Brenner - Gabriel Chagas (BRA)

The **Zonal Pairs** was won by Yves Parain & Xavier Dubus (France) and George Cohner & Dirk Schroeder (Germany).

The **Women Pairs** had only 99 participating pairs, with a qualification stage of four sessions resulting in the following winners:

Gold: Karen McCallum - Debbie Rosenberg (USA)

Silver: Anne Frédérique Levy - Blandine de Hérédia (FRA)

Bronze: Kerri Sanborn - Irina Levitina (USA)

The small entry in the Zonal Women's Pairs led to the pairs being integrated into the Zonal Open Pairs Championship. The winners were Val Bloom & Maureen Holroyd from South Africa.

434 pairs contested the **Mixed Pairs** Championship with three qualifying sessions, and then the final was played as seven sections of 13 tables, a total of 182 pairs.

Gold: Becky Rogers - Jeff Meckstroth (USA)

Silver: Elisabeth Hugon - Jean-Jacques Palau (FRA)

Bronze: Sabine Auken (GER) - Jens Auken (DEN)

The remaining pairs were able to enter the Mixed Pairs Plate.

1 • Sylvia Uniwersal - Waldemar Frukacz (USA/CAN).

2 • Judy Gartaganis - Nicholas Gartaganis (CAN).

3 • Jan Assini - Peter Grover (USA).

72 pairs entered the **Senior Pairs**.

Gold: Christo Drumev - Ivan Tanev (BUL)

Silver: Bruce Gowdy - Arno Hobart (CAN)

Bronze: John Mohan - Claude Vogel (USA)

IMP Pairs.

1 • Masayuki Ino - Tadashi Imakura (JPN).

2 • Nick Sandqvist - David Burn (ENG).

3 • Wojciech Olański - Włodek Starkowski (POL).

Junior Pairs: only 18 pairs entered the event.

The winners were:

1 • Olivier Bessis - Godefroy de Tessières (FRA).

2 • Joon Pahk - Susan Doty (USA).

3 • Jillian Hay - Tony Nunn (AUS).

Junior IMP Pairs.

1 • Radek Lula - Piotr Świątek (POL).

2 • Niels de Groot - Sjoert Brink (NLD).

3 • Joshua Wyner - Peter Wilsmore (AUS).

The **Solomon Trophy** went to the United States Bridge Federation, with Italy second and France third.

2006, Verona - ITALY

A special dedicated stamp was issued by the Italian Postal Service on the occasion of the event.

Verona, with its monuments, history and tradition hosted a superb event. Magnificent was the Opening Ceremony at Gran Guardia Palace and memorable the Aida, directed by Franco Zeffirelli at l'Arena. The Championship has been attended by several notable people such as Bill Gates, Edma Castro, Antoine Bernheim. The players really enjoyed their stay.

In the **Rosenblum Cup**, the entry of 173 teams was up slightly from the "perfect" 160 in Montreal in 2002. The top 4 teams from each of 16 groups of 10 or 11 teams would qualify for the 64-team knockout phase.

Gold: MELTZER: Roger Bates, Kyle Larsen, Rose Meltzer, Alan Sontag (USA), Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness (NOR)

Silver: HENNER-WELLAND: Peter Bertheau, Peter Fredin, Magnus Lindkvist, Fredrik Nyström (SWE), Christal Henner-Welland, Marc Jacobus (USA)

Bronze: YADLIN: Eldad Ginossar, Avi Kalish, Leonid Podgur, Doron Yadlin, Israel Yadlin (ISR), Melih Özdil (TUR)

The 39 teams for the **McConnell Teams** was slightly higher than the 36 entries in Montréal. It was divided into four seeded nine or ten-team groups to play complete internal round-robins, with the top four in each group to qualify for the 16-team knockout stage.

Gold: STEINER: Marinesa Letizia, Janice Seamon-Molson, Tobi Sokolow, Carlyn Steiner (USA), Victoria Gromova, Tatiana Ponomareva (RUS)

Silver: NARASIMHAN: Jill Levin, Irina Levitina, Jill Meyers, Hansa Narasimhan; Debbie Rosenberg, JoAnna Stansby (USA)

Bronze: KATT-BRIDGE: Kathrine Bertheau, Catharina Midskog, Jenny Ryman, Mari Ryman (SWE)

68 teams entered the **Swiss Teams Plate**. This was a one-day Swiss event, scored on Victory Points, open to teams that did not qualify in the round-robins of the Rosenblum Cup and McConnell teams. The medalists were:

1 • Angelini Junior: Irene Baroni, Giuseppe Delle Cave, Robin Fellus, Arrigo Franchi, Federico Iavicoli, Matteo Montanari.

2 • Drenkelford: Herman Drenkelford, Willem van Eijck, Rene Hermans, Michel Jialal, Fred de Wilde.

3 • Rogoff: John Carroll, Tommy Garvey, Barry Rigal, Bruce Rogoff.

There were 42 entries in the **Senior Teams**, a four-day event, with the first two-and-half days devoted to a 10-round Swiss Qualifying stage of 10-board matches. The top eight teams would survive to the knockout phase.

Gold: MARKOWICZ: Jerzy Zaremba, Julian Klukowski, Aleksander Jezioro (POL), Victor Markowicz, Victor Melman (USA), Shalom Zeligman (ISR)

Silver: FINKEL: John Sutherland, Lew Finkel, Gaylor Kasle, John Mohan (USA)

Bronze: NETHERLANDS1: Jaap Trouwborst, Willem Boegem, Nico Doremans, Onno Janssens, Nico Klaver, Roald Ramer (NED)

The **Open Pairs** attracted a starting field of 336 pairs. 72 pairs from the qualifying event and drop-ins from the late stages of the Rosenblum teams played the five-session barometer final.

Gold: Zhao Jie - Fu Zhong (CHN)

Silver: Bobby Levin - Steve Weinstein (USA)

Bronze: Fulvio Fantoni - Claudio Nunes (ITA)

The 178 pairs that entered **IMP Pairs** would be eligible to play four qualifying sessions over two days. The five-session barometer A would be a 72-pair affair, with most participants coming from the qualifying round, the remainder dropping in from the semi-finals of the Open and Women's Pairs. Non-qualifiers from all of the parallel pairs events were eligible to play in the B final (consolation event).

1 • Tezcan Sen & Okay Gur.

2 • Bobby Richman & Zoltan Nagy.

3 • Irina & Alexander Ladyzhensky.

IMP Pair B Final.

1 • Sjoert Brink & Bas Drijver.

2 • Matt Granovetter & Katherine Wei-Sender.

3 • Gordon Campbell & Piotr Klimowicz.

81 pairs entered the **Women's Pairs**.

A three stage event: a five-session qualifying stage to send 54 pairs to the five-session semi-final, and a four-session barometer final.

Gold: Irina Levitina - Kerri Sanborn (USA)

Silver: Wang Wei Fei - Wang Hong Li (CHN)

Bronze: Sabine Auken (GER) - Janice Seamon-Molson (USA)

The **Mixed Pairs** attracted a field of 481 pairs, who competed in three qualifying sessions, the top 182 pairs surviving to the three-session final.

Gold: Karen McCallum - Matthew Granovetter (USA)

Silver: Jill Levin - Bobby Levin (USA)

Bronze: JoAnna Stansby - Lew Stansby (USA)

The remaining pairs (232) were able to enter the **Mixed Pairs (consolation) Plate**.

1 • Irene Baroni & Enriquo Guerra.

2 • Danielle Avon & Jean-Michel Voldoire.

3 • Catherine Ritter & Sartaj Hans.

The **Senior Pairs** attracted a field of 103 pairs. The event was a four-day eight-session play through, with the winners earning the Hiron Trophy.

Gold: Nico Klaver - Roald Ramer (NED)

Silver: Julian Klukowski - Aleksander Jezioro (POL)

Bronze: Entscho Wladow - Reiner Marsal (GER)

2010, Philadelphia - Pennsylvania, USA

Starting in 2010, the Championships were given a new title - the World Bridge Series.

The World Youth Championships were played alongside the World Bridge Series on this occasion.

The Senior Teams event also received a specific title - The Rand Cup.

In the **Rosenblum Teams** the entry was 144 teams. The top 4 teams from each of 16 groups of 10 or 11 teams would qualify for the 64-team knockout phase.

Gold: DIAMOND: John Diamond, Fred Gitelman, Eric Greco, Geoff Hampson, Brad Moss, Brian Platnick (USA)

Silver: NICKELL: Bob Hamman, Ralph Katz, Zia Mahmood, Jeff Meckstroth, Nic Nickell, Eric Rodwell (USA)

Bronze: ZIMMERMAN: Fulvio Fantoni, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Frank Multon, Claudio Nunes, Pierre Zimmerman (MON)

The 31 teams entered for the **McConnell Cup** were divided into four seeded nine or ten-team groups to play complete internal round-robins, with the top four in each group to qualify for the 16-team knockout stage.

Gold: CHINA LADIES TEAM: Feng Xuefeng, Gu Ling, Lu Yan, Sun Ming, Sun Yanhui, Wang Hongli (CHN)

Silver: NETHERLANDS: Carla Arnolds, Jet Pasma, Anneke Simons, Martine Verbeek, Bep Vriend, Wietske van Zwol (NED)

Bronze: FIREMAN: Shannon Cappelletti, Phillis Fireman (USA), Catherine d'Ovidio, Danielle Gaviard (FRA), Victoria Gromova, Tatiana Ponomareva (RUS)

The 39 teams in the **Rand Senior Cup** played the same format as the McConnell Cup.

Gold: HACKETT: Paul Hackett, Gunnar Hallberg, John Holland (ENG), Garey Hayden, Reese Milner (USA)

Silver: TEAM MARKOWICZ: Julian Klukowski, Jerzy Russian, Victor Markovicz (POL), Roald Ramer (NED), Shalom Zeligman (ISR), Victor Melman (USA)

Bronze: GABRIEL UI: Michael B. Hartono, Henky Lasut, Eddy Manoppo, Denny Sacul, Munawar Sawiruddin (INA)

The **Generali Open Pairs** had an entry of 246 pairs, and the medallists were:

Gold: Bobby Levin - Steve Weinstein (USA)

Silver: Björn Fallenius - Peter Fredin (SWE)

Bronze: Josef Piekarek - Alexander Smirnov (GER)

Bobby Levin, once the youngest world champion ever, had to wait 29 years for a second World title.

The winners of the **Generali World Women's Pairs**, which had an entry of 58 pairs, were:

Gold: Lynn Deas - Beth Palmer (USA)

Silver: Susan Culham - Kismet Fung (CAN)

Bronze: Carla Arnolds - Bep Vriend (NED)

The **Mixed Pairs** attracted a field of 432 pairs, who competed in three qualifying sessions, the top 156 pairs surviving to the three-session final.

Gold: Donna Compton (USA) - Fulvio Fantoni (MON)

Silver: Kismet Fung (CAN) - Brian Glubok (USA)

Bronze: Joan Lewis - Robert Hopkins (USA)

The **World Senior Pairs for the Hiron Cup** had an entry of 66.

Gold: Rich Demartino (USA) - Patrick McDevitt (IRL)

Silver: Kyoko Ohno - Akihiko Yamada (JPN)

Bronze: Farid Assemi - Edward Wojewoda (USA)

This was the first (and up until 2022 the only) world medal for an Irish player.

Seventy-two pairs qualified for the final of the **World IMP Pairs**.

1 • Wolfe Thompson & Marc Werling (USA).

2 • João Paulo Campos & Miguel Villas Boas (Brazil).

3 • Kelley Hwang & John Zilic (USA).

2014, Sanya - CHINA

The fourteenth World Bridge Series, held outside of Europe or North America for the first time, saw the addition of an eighth event: the return of Mixed Teams. Held in the wonderful resort of Sanya in Hainan this was a very enjoyable and successful Championships sponsored by Red Bull, normally a champion of extreme sports.

Nine players go home with two medals around their necks: Marion Michielsen won two gold medals (Mixed and Women's teams); Meike Wortel, Reese Milner and Hemant Lall won a gold and a silver, as did Kerri Sanborn; Roy Welland and Sabine Auken won gold and bronze; Suci Amita Dewi, Kristina Wahyu Murniati from Indonesia won bronze in both the Women's teams and Pairs. Michał Klukowski is only on his second world title,

after the under-20 championship in 2012, but he is only eighteen - by far the youngest Open World Champion ever! Sabine Auken and Zia Mahmoud also won gold in the mixed teams in 2004: they are the first players to achieve this feat. Kerri Sanborn becomes the first player since 1978 to win two gold medals in the World Mixed Pairs. Wang Liping adds a silver to two bronzes from 2004 and 2012 and becomes the first player with medals from three Mixed Teams World Championships. Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness now have a full set of Rosenblum medals, silver here after gold in Verona and bronze in Philadelphia. Indonesia won its first world title in Bridge. Only Jill Meyers and Tobi Sokolow have won three medals in a McConnell cup, and just one player has two golds: Marinesa Letizia (1994 & 2006). Reese Milner retains the title he won in Philadelphia. He becomes the fifth player to win the event twice.

123 teams entered the **Rosenblum Cup**:

Gold: MAZURKIEWICZ: Marcin Mazurkiewicz, Piotr Gawryś, Stanisław Gołębiowski, Krzysztof Jassem, Michał Klukowski, Włodzimierz Starkowski (POL)

Silver: MONACO: Pierre Zimmermann, Fulvio Fantoni, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Franck Multon, Claudio Nunes (MON)

Bronze: DIAMOND: John Diamond, Eric Greco, Geoff Hampson, Brian Platnick (USA), Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver (NED)

and **VENTIN:** Juan Carlos Ventin Camprubi (ARG), Sabine Auken, Roy Welland (GER), Johan Upmark, Frederik Wrang (SWE)

26 teams entered the **McConnell Cup**:

Gold: BAKER: Lynn Baker, Karen McCallum (USA), Sally Brock, Nicola Smith (ENG), Marion Michielsen, Meike Wortel (NED), Cenk Tuncok NPC

Silver: CHINA RED TEAM: Lu Yan, Ran Jing Rong, Wang Hongli, Wang Wen Fei, Wu Shaoyong, Zhang Yu (CHN), Wang Xiaojing (coach)

Bronze: MOSS: Sylvia Moss (captain), Lynn Deas, Hjördis Eythorsdottir, Joann Glasson, Kerri Sanborn, Janice Seamon-Molson (USA)

and **PERTAMINA EP:** Rury Andhani, Lusje Oha Bojoh, Suci Amita Dewi, Kristina Wahyu Murniati, Conny Sumampouw, Julita Grace Tueje (INA), Veterano Sitompul (NPC)

23 teams entered in the **Rand Cup**:

Gold: MILNER: Reese Milner, Hemant Lall (USA), Michel Bessis, Philippe Cronier (FRA), Apolinary Kowalski, Jacek Romański (POL)

Silver: STERNBERG: James Marsh Sternberg, Neil Chambers, Billy Eisenberg, Arnold Fisher, Fred Hamilton, John Schermer (USA)

Bronze: HACKETT: Paul Hackett, John Holland, John Sansom (ENG), Christian Mari (FRA)

and **LEWIS:** Paul Lewis, Ross Grabel, Mark Itabashi, Linda Lewis (USA), Jurek Czyzowicz, Dan Jacob (CAN)

The **Transnational Mixed Teams** which were held together with the Olympiads (now called World Bridge Games) of 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012 are now deemed to be the third to sixth World Mixed Team Championships. In 2014, this event returned to the World Bridge Series, and 89 teams entered:

Gold SALVO: Anita Sinclair (Captain, ENG), Sabine Auken, Roy Welland (GER), Zia Mahmood (USA), Marion Michielsen (NED), Nafiz Zorlu (TUR)

Silver: GEELY AUTOMOBILE: Gui Shen Yue (captain), Dai Jianming, Wang Hongli, Wang Liping, Yang Lixin, Zhang Yu (CHN), Wang Wen Fei (coach)

Bronze: ROSSARD: Martine Rossard, Danielle Avon, Jean-Michel Voldoire, Jerzy Romanowski (FRA), Grażyna Brewiak, Wojciech Gawel (POL)

and **SAIC:** Hu Mao Yuan, Liu Yi Qian, Wang Weimin, Wang Wen Fei, Zhou Yong Mei, Zhuang Zejun (CHN), Huang Rong (NPC), Hu Jihong (coach)

Open Pairs:

Gold: Ehud Friedlander - Inon Liran (ISR)

Silver: Jacek Kalita - Michał Nowosadzki (POL)

Bronze: Thomas Bessis - Cédric Lorenzini (FRA)

None of these very young players had won a medal in the World Championship pairs before.

55 Pairs competed for the **Women Pairs** Championship:

Gold: Liu Shu - Zhou Tao (CHN)

Silver: Huang Yan - Gan Lin (CHN)

Bronze: Suci Amita Dewi - Kristina Wahyu Murniati (INA)

207 Pairs entered the **Mixed Pairs** Championship:

Gold: Kerri Sanborn (USA) - Zhao Jie (CHN)

Silver: Meike Wortel (NED) - Jacek Pszczola (USA)

Bronze: Wang Nan - Zhang Bangxiang (CHN)

Kerri Sanborn became the first player since 1978 to win two gold medals in the World Mixed Pairs, and with three medals in total she equals Sabine Auken's feat of a silver and two bronzes in the event.

43 Pairs entered for the **Seniors Pairs** Championship:

Gold: Henky Lasut - Eddy M F Manoppo (INA)

Silver: Hemant Lall - Reese Milner (USA)

Bronze: Apolinary Kowalski - Jacek Romański (POL)
This was Indonesia's first world title in Bridge.

2018, Orlando - Florida, USA

The Championship was held at the magnificent Marriott Orlando World Center with the participation of 262 Teams and 705 Pairs.

The event showed a greater importance since it was also the occasion for the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the World Bridge Federation, founded in Oslo in August 1958. Special Medals struck for the Anniversary were awarded to the World Champions during a Celebration Evening by the WBF President Gianarrigo Rona and the WBF President Emeritus José Damiani. Bob Hamman won his 31st world medal. Reese Milner has won his third consecutive Rand Cup (2010, 14, 18). Sally Brock won her 15th medal at World Championships. Beth Palmer won her 11th medal, the sixth gold of her career. Piotr Gawryś and Franck Multon won seven World titles, Tor Helness six, Michał Klukowski five, Pierre Zimmermann four. Franck Multon becomes only the second player who has won all four team world titles (Bermuda Bowl, Rosenblum, World Games and Transnational). Piotr Gawryś achieved that particular milestone already in 2015. Giorgio Duboin won his tenth medal (six gold) at World Championship. Kerri Sanborn has nine World titles, Karen McCallum seven, Sally Brock six. Irina Levitina has seven world titles, six in bridge and one in chess. Nicola Smith has won the 19th world medal of her career, which puts her fourth on the all-time list. Kerri Sanborn has 15. Sally Brock and Véronique Bessis 14, Sylvie Willard 12, Irina Levitina 10. Second world title for the Rimstedt twins this year. They were on the Swedish Junior team that won the world title in Wujiang, China two months previously. Bénédicte Cronier and Franck Multon won their 15th medal at World Championships, Sylvie Willard her 13th (four gold). Sally Brock, Véronique Bessis, Anne-Laure Huberschwiller, Hemant Lall and Franck Multon won two medals at these championships. Multon's medals are both gold one. Tatiana Ponomareva has won her ninth medal at the world level. She has two previous titles, in the women teams of 2004 and 2006. Andrey Gromov has also won nine medals. Alexander Dubinin six. Anna Gulevich has four medals, Olga Vorobeychikova two. It is the first world title for all of them. It is Jill Meyers' 13th medal at the world level. She has won

seven titles. This is Cheri Bjerkan's second world medal, she was on the winning Venice Cup team in 1987. It is also Allan Graves' third, after winning the d'Orsi Trophy in 2017. He also won a bronze, for Canada, in the Rosenblum of 1982. Christal Henner also has a previous medal, silver in the 2006 Rosenblum (Open teams). Howard Weinstein has four medals now. Romania won its second medal in world championships: only one Romanian, Nistor Radu had previously won a medal, at the youth championships of 2011.

96 Teams from 43 Countries entered for the **Rosenblum Open Teams** championship.

Gold: ZIMMERMANN: Piotr Gawryś, Michał Klukowski (POL), Tor Helness, Franck Multon, Pierre Zimmermann (MON)

Silver: LAVAZZA: Alejandro Bianchedi, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Agustín Madala, Antonio Sementa (ITA), Dennis Bilde (DEN), Maria Teresa Lavazza (npc), Massimo Ortensi (coach)

Bronze: ALLFREY: Alexander Allfrey, Edward Jones, Thomas Paske, Andrew Robson (ENG)

and **SPECTOR:** Vincent Demuy, John Hurd, John Kranyak, Warren Spector, Gavin Wolpert, Joel Wooldridge (USA)

Piotr Gawryś and Michał Klukowski won their second Rosenblum in a row. Geir Helgemo was also a member of the winning team, but after the championship he turned out to be in violation of the WBF Anti-Doping rules.

McConnell Cup:

17 Teams from 16 Countries entered for the Championship.

Gold: BAKER: Lynn Baker, Karen McCallum, Irina Levitina, Kerri Sanborn (USA), Sally Brock, Fiona Brown (ENG), Beth Palmer (npc)

Silver: SMITH: Nicola Smith, Yvonne Wiseman (ENG), Kathrine Bertheau, Jessica Larsson (SWE), Paula Leslie (SCO), Solvi Remen (NOR)

Bronze: APEROL: Tatiana Dikhnova (pc), Victoria Gromova, Anna Gulevich, Tatiana Ponomareva (RUS), Catherine d'Ovidio, Sylvie Willard (FRA)

and **BARONI:** Irene Baroni, Simonetta Paoluzi (ITA), Véronique Bessis, Anne-Laure Huberschwiller (FRA)

Rand Senior Cup:

31 Teams from 20 Countries entered for the Championship.

Gold: MILNER: Reese Milner, Steve Garner, Michał Kwiecień, Mark Lair, Hemant Lall (USA), Krzysztof Martens (MON), Petra Hamman (npc), Jacek Pszczoła (coach)

Silver: CHINA EVERTRUST: Lin Rongqiang, Shen Mingkun, Shen Xiaonong, Sun Ming, Tao Jian Hua (CHN)

Bronze: SILVERMAN: Barnet J Shenkin, Neil Silverman, Fred Stewart (USA), Robert Lebi (CAN)

and **WOLFSON:** David Berkowitz, Bart Bramley, Bob Hamman, Michael Rosenberg, Jeff Wolfson, Kit Woolsey (USA)

Reese Milner has won this title three times in a row.

Mixed Teams:

107 Teams from 42 Countries entered for the Championship.

Gold: MANFIELD: Beth Palmer (Captain), William Cole, Melanie Manfield, William Pettis, Debbie Rosenberg, Michael Rosenberg (USA)

Silver: WILSON: Alison Wilson, Chris Willenken (USA), Richard Ritmeijer, Magdalena Tichá, Ricco van Prooijen (NED), Sally Brock (ENG)

Bronze: FERM: Sjoert Brink (Captain), Simon de Wijs, Bas Drijver (NED), Barbara Ferm (USA), Christina Lund Madsen (DEN), Daniela Von Arnim (GER)

Open Pairs:

238 Pairs from 46 Countries entered this Championship.

Gold: Mikael Rimstedt - Ola Rimstedt (SWE)

Silver: Joe Grue - Brad Moss (USA)

Bronze: Bogusław Gierulski - Jerzy Skrzypczak (LTU)
The brothers Rimstedt had won the World Junior Teams championship barely six weeks previously.

Women Pairs:

67 Pairs from 28 Countries entered for the Championship.

Gold: Véronique Bessis - Anne-Laure Huberschwiller (FRA)

Silver: Kathy Sulgrove - Candace Griffey (USA)

Bronze: Huang Yan - Wang Nan (CHN)

Mixed Pairs:

295 Pairs from 46 Countries entered for the Championship.

Gold: Franck Multon (MON) - Sylvie Willard (FRA)

Silver: Petra Hamman - Hemant Lall (USA)

Bronze: Bénédicte Cronier - Philippe Cronier (FRA)

Senior Pairs:

105 Pairs from 24 Countries entered for the Championship.

Gold: Marc Jacobus - Mike Passell (USA)

Silver: Apolinary Kowalski - Jacek Romański (POL)

Bronze: Mark Itabashi - Eddie Wold (USA)

Teams Competing in 2022

Rosenblum Open Teams

APRES BRIDGE CHAMPS	Sabine AUKEN, Wojciech GAWEL, Rafal JAGNIEWSKI, Roy WELLAND
AZS WRATISLAVIA	Stanisław GOŁĘBIEWSKI, Krzysztof JASSEM, Jakub PATREUHA, Patryk PATREUHA, Mateusz SOBCZAK, Wojciech SOLTYSIK, Stanisław GOŁĘBIEWSKI captain, Krzysztof JASSEM coach
BAMSA	Alex GIPSON, Paul GIPSON, Stephen PETERKIN, Sam PUNCH, Paul GIPSON captain
BORTOLETTI	Carlo BORTOLETTI, Giovanni DONATI, Apolinary KOWALSKI, Massimo MORITSCH, Giacomo PERCARIO, Jacek ROMĄSKI
BRIDGE 42	Csaba CZIMER, Gyorgy KEMENY, Tamas SZALKA, Peter TRENKA
BRIDGE24PL B	Jakub BAZYLUK, Igor CHALUPEC, Bartosz CHMURSKI, Tomasz KIELBASA, Rafal MARKS, Jakub WOJCIESZEK, Bartosz CHMURSKI captain
BRIDGESCANNER	Konrad ARASZKIEWICZ, Andrei ARLOVICH, Krzysztof KOTOROWICZ, Piotr MARCINOWSKI, Wojciech STRZEMECKI, Erikas VAINIKONIS, Konrad ARASZKIEWICZ captain
COMFORT	Grzegorz BAJEK, Jarosław CIESLAK, Dominik FILIPOWICZ, Bogusław PAZUR, Marek WÓJCICKI, Maciej WRĘCZYCKI, Dominik FILIPOWICZ captain
COOREMAN BELGIUM	Patrick BOCKEN, Philippe COENRAETS, Thierry COOREMAN, Bernard DEHAYE, Olivier NEVE, Philippe COENRAETS captain
COYNE	Ciaran COYNE, Peter GOODMAN, Daniel MCINTOSH, Peter PIGOT Jr
CZECH REPUBLIC	Erik KLEMS, Michal KOPECKÝ, Jakub SLEMR, David VOZÁBAL
DIAKUN	Anna DIAKUN, Andrzej JARZABKOWSKI, Jacek SIKORA, Roger SZAREK, Anna DIAKUN captain
DINKIN	Sam DINKIN, Jacob FREEMAN, Veri KILJAN, Anam TEBHA, Luc TIJSSEN
DON JULIO	Florian ALTER, Thomas GOTARD, Julius SIGURJONSSON, Alexander SMIRNOV
DRINTEAM	Joao-Paulo CAMPOS, Ben GREEN, Adriano RODRIGUES, Stefano TOMMASINI
ECF HOLDING	Lasse AASENG, Jo-Arne OVESEN, Jan Petter SVENDSEN, Siv THORESEN, Siv THORESEN captain
EXPOSURE	Vinay DESAI, Rajendra GOKHALE, Satya Kumar IYENGAR, Hemant PANDE, Anand Keshav Sakharam SAMANT, Anil TIKARE, Anand Keshav Sakharam SAMANT captain
FINLAND	Antti AIMALA, Kauko KOISTINEN, Oskari KOIVU, Jari SALONEN, Kauko KOISTINEN captain
FLEISHER	Thomas BESSIS, Martin FLEISHER, Joe GRUE, Cédric LORENZINI, Chip MARTEL, Brad MOSS, Jan MARTEL captain
FORMIDABLES	Keyzad ANKLESARIA, Debabrata MAJUMDER, Sumit MUKHERJEE, Kiran NADAR, Bachiraju SATYANARAYANA, Rajeshwar TEWARI
GILLIS	Ole BERSET, Mikael RIMSTEDT, Ola RIMSTEDT, Erik SÆLENSMINDE, Odin SVENDSEN

GOLDEN AGE	Victor ARONOV, Nikola BARANTIEV, Antoni IVANOV, Rumen TRENDAFILOV
GONZO GALICJA	Jerzy GORALCZYK, Marian GORECKI, Dariusz KULPINSKI, Jerzy MADERA, Bogusław NIDECKI, Andrzej PROCZKOWSKI, Jerzy GORALCZYK captain, Jerzy GORALCZYK coach
GUNS N ROSE	Prakash EASWARAN, Bindiya NAIDOO, Anrudh PRAKASH, Priya Ranjan SINHA, Prakash EASWARAN captain
GUPTA	Simon DE WIJS, Zachary GROSSACK, Vinita GUPTA, Bauke MULLER, Debbie ROSENBERG, Michael ROSENBERG
GWADA	Charles GARNIER, Dominique GÉRIN, Philippe MATHIEU, Francois PICARD, Guillaume PICARD, Luc SOUDAN
HANS	Nabil EDGTTON, Peter GILL, Sartaj HANS, Michael WHIBLEY
JANISZ	Przemysław JANISZEWSKI, Piotr LUTOSTAŃSKI, Jacek PSZCZOLA, Łukasz WITKOWSKI
KASIMIR	Doris FISCHER, Peter JOKISCH, Udo KASIMIR, Bernd SAURER, Peter JOKISCH captain
KRUSES CARDCIRCUS	Kjeld HANSEN, Lars Kirkegaard NIELSEN, Henrik Kruse PETERSEN, Flemming POULSEN, Henrik Kruse PETERSEN captain
KUWAIT	Abdulaziz ALDASHTI, Nabil ALHUSSAINI, Khaled ALOBAIDI, Ahmed ALRUWAYEH, Numan ALTURKI, Mohammad HUSAIN, Numan ALTURKI captain
LAUSANNE	Jerome AMIGUET, Jan FREY, Stephan MAGNUSSON, Juan PONT, Stephan MAGNUSSON captain
LEBOWITZ	Dennis BILDE, Adam GROSSACK, Geir HELGEMO, Laurence LEBOWITZ, Agustín MADALA, Fredrik NYSTROM
LEIBOWITZ	Paul DALLEY, Michael DOECKE, John Paul GOSNEY, Tony LEIBOWITZ, Tony NUNN, William O'SHEA
LUCKY FOUR	Richard CHAN, Shan HUANG, Ming SHENG, Zemin XU, Shan HUANG captain
MIKADINHO	Christian LAHRMANN, Andreas MARQUARDSEN, John NORRIS, Marcel VERHAEGEN, Marcel VERHAEGEN captain
MINITER	Jacek KALITA, Roger LEE, Gillian MINITER, Michał NOWOSADZKI, Antonio SEMENTA, Alfredo VERSACE, Roger LEE captain
MORAN	John CARROLL, Tommy GARVEY, Tom HANLON, Adam MESBUR, Mark MORAN, Frédéric VOLCKER, Grainne BARTON captain
MORIMURA	Shunsuke MORIMURA, Kyoko OHNO, Ayako SHIMAZAKI, Akihiko YAMADA, Jinlong ZHAO
NICKELL	Eric GRECO, Geoff HAMPSON, Ralph KATZ, Bobby LEVIN, Nick NICKELL, Steve WEINSTEIN, Jill LEVIN captain
OBJECTIVITY	Cathy BAŁDYSZ, Sophia BAŁDYSZ, Rob HELLE, Ed HOOGENKAMP, Jerry STAMATOV, Jie ZHAO
ODMET	David BAKHSHI, Krzysztof BURAS, Zdzisław INGIELEWICZ, Artur MALINOWSKI, Grzegorz NARKIEWICZ
ORCA	Erik BERG, Peter CROUCH, Andrew DYSON, Espen ERICHSEN, Glyn LIGGINS, Richard PLACKETT
PDC	Patricia CAYNE, Dano DE FALCO, Bob DRIJVER, Danny MOLENAAR, Bart NAB, Tim VERBEEK, Patricia CAYNE captain

PERICULO	Alexander ALLFREY, Oliver LAWRENCE, Patrick LAWRENCE, Andrew ROBSON
PODDAR HOUSING	Biswajit PODDAR, Dipak PODDAR, Vasudevan RAGHAVACHARY, Krishnan RAMARATNAM, Joyjit SENSARMA, Vijayraghavan SUBRAMANIAN
PREDDY	Kay PREDDY, Louise SELWAY, Norman SELWAY, Florian WEISS
REAL MAVERICKS	Marianne KARMARKAR, Sandeep KARMARKAR, Himani KHANDELWAL, Rajeev KHANDELWAL, Subodh MASKARA, Anal SHAH, Anal SHAH captain
ROBINSON	David BERKOWITZ, David GOLD, Daniel KORBEL, Zia MAHMOOD, Jeff MECKSTROTH, Eric ROBINSON, Eric ROBINSON captain
ROSENTHAL	Christian BAKKE, Boye BROGELAND, Jan JANSMA, Andrew ROSENTHAL, Aaron SILVERSTEIN, Chris WILLENKEN
SANDFIA	Michael BELL, Oliver BURGESS, Ben HANDLEY-PRITCHARD, Tim LESLIE, Ben NORTON, Tom TOWNSEND, Michael BELL captain
SEOUL	Seongseok KANG, Daehong KIM, Soo Ik LEE, Seungjin ROH
SLIM	Marius AGICA, Mihai GRIGORIU, Dragos IORDACHE, Florin SAFTA
SOUTH SWEDEN	Alon APTEKER, Peter FREDIN, Craig GOWER, Tor Eivind GRUDE, Marten GUSTAWSSON, Anders MORATH
SPECTOR	Kevin BATHURST, Vincent DEMUY, John HURD, John KRANYAK, Warren SPECTOR, Gavin WOLPERT
SPS EKO ROZANKA	Jerzy BRZUSTOWSKI, Michal KALETA, Rafal NIEDZIELSKI, Wojciech OKUNIEWSKI, Tomasz PAWLUK, Paweł SZYMONIK, Tomasz PAWLUK captain, Wojciech OKUNIEWSKI coach
STREET	Massimiliano DI FRANCO, Nicolas L'ÉCUYER, Andrea MANNO, Ron PACHTMAN, Paul STREET, Piotr ZATORSKI
SYNSYN	Maciej DĄBROWSKI, Piotr ILCZUK, Piotr KOŁUDA, Jakub KOTOROWICZ, Paweł MIECHOWICZ, Andrzej PAWLAK
SZCZECIN UNIVERSITY	Jacek BATOG, Wojciech BONDAREWICZ, Marcin DZIEMBOR, Adam MALDYK, Grzegorz RYBACKI, Paweł STEZALA
TEAM BLACK	Peter BERTHEAU, Andrew BLACK, Gunnar HALLBERG, Simon HULT, Andrew McINTOSH, Thomas PASKE
TEAM CANADA	Kamel FERGANI, Marc-Andre FOURCAUDOT, Nicholas GARTAGANIS, Michel LORBER
TEXAN ACES	Ajay KHARE, Anil PADHYE, Padmanabhan SRIDHARAN, Sundarram SRINIVASAN, Raju TOLANI, Gopal VENKATESH, Gopal VENKATESH captain
THE BLACK SWAN	Iancu BACALU, David Cristian CALIPETRE, Horia GEORGESCU, Razvan Andrei GHEORGHE, Anton NEGOESCU, Horia GEORGESCU captain, Anton NEGOESCU coach
THE MAVERICKS	Ashley BACH, Miklós DUMBOVICH, Carlos PELLEGRINI, Adam WILDAVSKY, Gabor WINKLER, Migry ZUR-CAMPANILE, Adam WILDAVSKY captain
TJARNEMO	Pierre CARBONNIER, Bjorn OHLSSON, Hakan TJARNEMO, Jonas TJARNEMO
UKRAINE	Ostap KUPNOVITSKY, Oleksandr NYEMTSEV, Oleg ROVYSHYN, Gennadii RYBNIKOV
VALUE MEDIA TEAM	Mariusz BARTKOWSKI, Maciej HUTYRA, Arkadiusz MAJCHER, Jeremi STEPINSKI, Radoslaw SZCZEPAŃSKI, Bogdan SZULEJEWSKI

VENTIN	Guy MENDES DE LEON, Joaquin PACAREU, Antonio PALMA, Thibo SPRINKHUIZEN, Juan Carlos VENTIN, Frederic WRANG
VYTAS	Bogusław GIERULSKI, Michał KWIECIEŃ, Wojtek OLAŃSKI, Jerzy SKRZYPCZAK, Włodzimierz STARKOWSKI, Vytautas VAINIKONIS, Wojtek OLAŃSKI captain
WISLA CCSOFT	Jan GOLIŃSKI, Grzegorz LATALA, Janusz LEKKI, Piotr RADZIKOWSKI, Piotr STOPA, Piotr STOPA captain
WOLFSON	Alon BIRMAN, Steve GARNER, Dror PADON, Ricco VAN PROOIJEN, Louk VERHEES Jr, Jeff WOLFSON
WORLD BRIDGE TOUR	Martin ANDRESEN, Thomas CHARLSEN, Tor HELNESS, Thor Erik HOFTANISKA
WROBELKI	Emilia GWOZDZ, Maciej GWOZDZ, Jakub PIETRZAK, Agnieszka PIETRZYK, Michał WROBEL
YOSHKA	Anne GLADIATOR, Michael GROMOELLER, Geeske JOEL, Stefan THORPE, Sibrand VAN OOSTEN, Daniela VON ARNIM
ZALESKI	Dario ATTANASIO, Irene BARONI, Giuseppe DELLE CAVE, Arrigo FRANCHI, Massimo LANZAROTTI, Romain ZALESKI
ZAMIR	Ehud FRIEDLANDER, Oren TOLEDANO, Asaf YEKUTIELI, Ami ZAMIR
ZIMMERMANN	Sjoert BRINK, Bas DRIJVER, Piotr GAWRYŚ, Michał KLUKOWSKI, Fernando PIEDRA, Pierre ZIMMERMANN, Fernando PIEDRA captain, Krzysztof MARTENS coach

McConnell Women's Teams

AUSTRALIA	Eva CAPLAN, Marina LEYBOURNE, Jenny THOMPSON, Viv WOOD
BAKER	Lynn BAKER, Sally BROCK, Fiona BROWN, Karen McCALLUM, Jill MEYERS, Kerri SANBORN
BRODY	Joan BRODY, Brigitta FISCHER, Marion MICHIELSEN, Cecilia RIMSTEDT, Sandra RIMSTEDT
EDMONDS	Katarzyna DUFRAT, Jodi EDMONDS, Danuta KAZMUCHA, Irina LEVITINA, Anna SARNIAK, Justyna ŻMUDA, Katarzyna DUFRAT captain
GALATASARAY SK	Mine BABAC, Gaye İNAL, Serap KURANOĞLU, Irem ÖZBAY, Hatice ÖZGÜR, Dilek YAVAŞ, Serdar ERDEM captain
GERMANY	Ingrid GROMANN, Gisela SMYKALLA, Claudia VECHIATTO, Karin WENNING, Gisela SMYKALLA captain
NO NAME	Carla ARNOLDS, Malene Holm CHRISTENSEN, Sandra KOLEN, Esther VISSER, Malene Holm CHRISTENSEN captain
TEAM CANADA	Yimei CAO, Wenmin CHEN, Lucy Yong Luo HE, Candice HUANG, Kelly JIA, Ivy ZHANG, Lucy Yong Luo HE captain
THISTLES	Susan AITCHISON, Fiona GREENWOOD, Joan LEES, Julia PALMER, Fiona GREENWOOD captain
TRI POLAR	Kathrine BERTHEAU, Hjördis EYTHORSDDOTTIR, Jessica LARSSON, Janice SEAMON-MOLSON, Nevena SENIOR, Nicola SMITH

Mixed Teams

BEACH	David BEAUCHAMP, Julia HOFFMAN, Robert KROCHMALIK, Christopher QUAIL, Jodi TUTTY, Viv WOOD, Viv WOOD captain, Jodi TUTTY coach
AARDVARKS	Paul BARDEN, Imogen LA CHAPELLE, Claire ROBINSON, Stefano TOMMASINI, Paul BARDEN captain
APA HEILI	Alon BIRMAN, Daniela BIRMAN, Axel JOHANNSSON, Karen McCALLUM, Jovanka SMEDEREVAC, Alexander (Sasha) WERNLE, David BURN captain
BINKIE	Brian CALLAGHAN, Christine DUCKWORTH, Peter GILL, Elisabeth SYLVESTER
BLAKSETS BIN	Jostein AUSTAD, Nadia BEKKOUCHE, Tonje Aasand BROGELAND, Flemming DANIELSEN, Jason HACKETT, Flemming DANIELSEN captain
BRIDGE24	Grazyna BREWIAK, Krzysztof BURAS, Tomasz LATOS, Grzegorz NARKIEWICZ, Ewa SOBOLEWSKA, Joanna ZALEWSKA, Krzysztof BURAS captain, Tomasz LATOS coach
BRIDGE24PL MIXED	Ewa BANASZKIEWICZ, Igor CHALUPEC, Bartosz CHMURSKI, Stanisław GOŁĘBIEWSKI, Anna SARNIAK, Marta SIKORA, Bartosz CHMURSKI captain
BROS1005	Sabine AUKEN, Vincent DEMUY, Brigitta FISCHER, Marusa GOLD, Ola RIMSTEDT, Roy WELLAND
BV WALDSOLMS	Marie EGGELING, Thomas GOTARD, Sven-Olai HØYLAND, Sofie Grasholt SJØDAL, Thomas GOTARD captain
CORIANDRE	Isabelle BELLO, Aurelie LORENZINI, Cédric LORENZINI, Pierre SCHMIDT, Joanna ŻOCHOWSKA
CROCODILE	Michael BAREL, Kaare BOGO, Paz KATZ, Stephen PETERKIN, Sam PUNCH, Ranja SIVERTSVIK
CZERBIA	Erik KLEMS, Selena PEPIĆ, David VOZÁBAL, Jovana ZORANOVIC
DENIZCI	Aylin DENIZCI, Volkan DENIZCI, Aliye UGUR, Ufuk UGUR, Volkan DENIZCI captain, Volkan DENIZCI coach
DINKIN	Giorgia BOTTA, Sam DINKIN, Jacob FREEMAN, Zachary GROSSACK, Anam TEBHA
DONNER	Leslie AMOILS, Per-Ola CULLIN, Kevin DWYER, Marion MICHELSSEN, Cecilia RIMSTEDT, Sandra RIMSTEDT, Gary DONNER captain
DRIM TIM	Joanna OKLA, Szczepan OKLA, Malgorzata PURTA, Marcin PURTA, Marcin PURTA captain
EDMONDS	Katarzyna DUFRAT, Jodi EDMONDS, Michał KLUKOWSKI, Joel WOOLDRIDGE, Piotr ZATORSKI, Justyna ŻMUDA, Michał KLUKOWSKI captain
FEPANANDRA	Patrick BOCKEN, Anastasia DI LORENZO, Federico IAVICOLI, Aleksandra MIERZWA, Ewa RODZIEWICZ-BIELEWICZ, Olgierd RODZIEWICZ-BIELEWICZ, Patrick BOCKEN captain
FERM	Sjoert BRINK, Simon DE WIJS, Bas DRIJVER, Barbara FERM, Christina Lund MADSEN, Daniela VON ARNIM, Sjoert BRINK captain
FORMIDABLES	Marianne KARMARKAR, Sandeep KARMARKAR, Himani KHANDELWAL, Rajeev KHANDELWAL, Kiran NADAR, Bachiraju SATYANARAYANA
GALATASARAY SK	Serdar ERDEM, Yusuf KAHYAOGU, Emre KAYA, Serap KURANOĞLU, Hatice ÖZGÜR, Dilek YAVAŞ, Serdar ERDEM captain
GERMANY SW	Hartmut KONDOCH, Michael SCHNEIDER, Gisela SMYKALLA, Claudia VECHIATTO, Karin WENNING, Ulrich WENNING, Michael SCHNEIDER captain

GILLIS	Ann Karin FUGLESTAD, Simon GILLIS, Marianne HARDING, Erik SÆLENSMINDE, Erik SÆLENSMINDE captain
GIZMO	Cathy BAŁDYSZ, Mike CAPPELLETTI JR, Allison HOWARD, Jacek KALITA, Jacek PSZCZOLA, May SAKR
GLOBETROTTERS	Laurence DUC, Claudia Valerie GAMIO, Stephan MAGNUSSON, Adam MEYERSON, Elianna MEYERSON, Carlos PELLEGRINI, Adam MEYERSON captain, Luis GAMIO KLAPIC coach
GUNSMOKE	Fredrik HELNESS, Gunn HELNESS, Svein Arild Naas OLSEN, Catherine SEALE
HEADS OR TAILS	Ilan BAREKET, Assaf LENGY, Michal NOSACKI, Nathalie SAADA
HETZ	Ronnie BENIN-BARR, Clara HETZ, Nathan HETZ, Ron PACHTMAN, Matilda POPLILOV, Yaniv ZACK
KNOTTENBELT	Michael BELL, Fiona BROWN, Oliver BURGESS, David GOLD, Maggie KNOTTENBELT, Nevena SENIOR
MAITRA	Uttam GUPTA, Rubinder Kaur KOCHAR, Manju LAW, Uday MAITRA
MAVERICKS	Özlem KANDOLU, Subodh MASKARA, Bindiya NAIDOO, Priya Ranjan SINHA
MCINTOSH FUNCLUB	Ann-Sophie ANDERSSON, Peter BERTHEAU, Sally CLARK, Gunnar HALLBERG, Andrew McINTOSH, Sara MORAN
MILLENS	Kathrine BERTHEAU, Thomas BESSIS, Shan HUANG, Amber LIN, Joan MILLENS, Shan HUANG captain
MINITER	Sanna CLEMENTSSON, Joe GRUE, Geir HELGEMO, Jessica LARSSON, Gillian MINITER, Fredrik NYSTROM, Joe GRUE captain
MIXING IT UP	Susan AITCHISON, Tracey BAUER, James FORSYTH, Metin GUVEN, William O'SHEA
NEDGERNED	Robbie DE KOSTER, Anne GLADIATOR, Michael GROMOELLER, Eva POPPE, Mark THIELE, Renée VERDEGAAL
NEW AMSTERDAM	Espen ERICHSEN, Helen ERICHSEN, Aida JANSMA, Jan JANSMA, Diana NETTLETON, Thomas PASKE
NO PASARAN	Mustafa AKHUN, Burak BASKAN, Eren ÖZAN, Riva SALHON, Mustafa AKHUN captain
OHNO	Kyoko OHNO, Ayako SHIMAZAKI, Akihiko YAMADA, Jinlong ZHAO ORCA Simon COPE, Peter CROUCH, Mia DESCHEPPER, Paula LESLIE, Richard Mark PLACKETT, Nicola SMITH
PDC	Sophia BAŁDYSZ, Patricia CAYNE, Malene Holm CHRISTENSEN, Dano DE FALCO, Bob DRIJVER, Tim VERBEEK, Patricia CAYNE captain
QUAGGAS	Nicola Mae BATEMAN, Larry CHEMALY, Craig GOWER, Diana ROSSLEE, Craig GOWER captain
REASON	Renee COOPER, Adam GROSSACK, Emma KOLESNIK, Beate 'Pony' NEHMERT, Ben THOMPSON, Adam WILDAVSKY
ROSENTHAL	Sally BROCK, Debbie ROSENBERG, Michael ROSENBERG, Andrew ROSENTHAL, Chris WILLENKEN, Migry ZUR-CAMPANILE
SCANDINAVIA MIX	Lise BLAAGESTAD, Katrine MARTENSEN-LARSEN, Jan PEDERSEN, Flemming POULSEN, Flemming POULSEN captain
SEOUL	Massimiliano DI FRANCO, Hye Young KIM, Andrea MANNO, Hye Min OH
SIEJA	Jacek DMOWSKI, Igor GRZEJDZIAK, Sabina GRZEJDZIAK, Ewa MISZEWSKA
SUSHI	Charlie BUCKNELL, Niklas (Nick) SANDQVIST, Nathalie SHASHOU, Ewa WIECZOREK

TEAM CANADA	Louise BERTHIAUME, Sondra BLANK, Kamel FERGANI, Marc-Andre FOURCAUDOT, Judith GARTAGANIS, Nicholas GARTAGANIS
TECZA SZCZECINEK	Grazyna BUSSE, Piotr BUSSE, Marcin DOBROWOLSKI, Anna MADUZIA, Grazyna BUSSE captain
THE ITEMS THOMPSON	Adi ASULIN, John Grayson McALLISTER, Olivia SCHIRESON, Ami ZAMIR Eva CAPLAN, Damon FLICKER, Jamie THOMPSON, Jenny THOMPSON, Jenny THOMPSON captain
VALUE MEDIA TEAM	Jelena ALFEJEVA, Monica CUZZI, Dominik FILIPOWICZ, Maciej HUTYRA, Danuta KAZMUCHA, Karlis RUBINS, Danuta KAZMUCHA captain
WILSON	Signe BUUS THOMSEN, Ida GRÖNKVIST, Mikael GRÖNKVIST, Mikael RIMSTEDT, Ricco VAN PROOIJEN, Alison WILSON
WOLFSON	Steve GARNER, Christal HENNER, Uday IVATURY, Jill MEYERS, Kerri SANBORN, Jeff WOLFSON
ZADRA	Rafal MARKS, Zuzanna MOSZCZYNSKA, Dominika OGLOBLIN, Artur WASIAK, Zuzanna MOSZCZYNSKA captain
ZALESKI	Dario ATTANASIO, Irene BARONI, Bénédicte CRONIER, Philippe CRONIER, Gabriella MANARA, Romain ZALESKI

Rand Senior Cup Teams

ANDRZEJKI	Andrzej FRONCZAK, Tomasz GOTARD, Kazimierz OMERNIK, Krzysztof SIKORSKI, Wacław WEJKNIS, Andrzej ZALESKI, Krzysztof SIKORSKI captain
AUSTRALIA	Richard J BRIGHTLING, Neil EWART, David HOFFMAN, Ian ROBINSON
CZTERECH SZWEDOW	Lars GOLDBERG, Ulla-Britt GOLDBERG, Henrik WEGNELIUS, Thomas WRANG, Lars GOLDBERG captain
GOODMAN	David BERKOWITZ, Andy GOODMAN, Mark LAIR, Jeff MECKSTROTH, Mike PASSELL, Andy GOODMAN captain
KALISH	Dani COHEN, Joseph ENGEL, Nir GRINBERG, Avi KALISH
KENDRICK	Roger BRYANT, David KENDRICK, Malcolm PRYOR, Nick SMITH, Malcolm PRYOR captain, Roger BRYANT coach
MARKOWICZ	Piotr BIZOŃ, Marek BLAT, Victor MARKOWICZ, Victor MELMAN, Mirosław MILASZEWSKI, Krzysztof MOSZCZYNSKI, Victor MARKOWICZ captain
PENFOLD	Paul D HACKETT, John HOLLAND, Alan MOULD, Kay PREDDY, Norman SELWAY, Brian SENIOR, Brian SENIOR captain
VYTAS	Apolinary KOWALSKI, Michał KWIECIEŃ, Wojtek OLAŃSKI, Jacek ROMAŃSKI, Włodzimierz STARKOWSKI, Vytautas VAINIKONIS, Wojtek OLAŃSKI captain
WISLA CCSOFT	Jan GOLIŃSKI, Janusz LEKKI, Piotr STOPA, Włodzimierz WALA, Piotr STOPA captain
WITEK	Adolf BOCHENSKI, Bogusław GIERULSKI, Jerzy RUSSYAN, Jerzy SUKOW, Marek WITEK, Marek WITEK captain
ZIMMERMANN	Marc BOMPIS, Piotr GAWRYŚ, Krzysztof MARTENS, Philippe SOULET, Piotr TUSZYŃSKI, Pierre ZIMMERMANN, Fernando PIEDRA captain

Women's Pairs

by Barry Rigal

My thanks to Herman De wael for helping with the initial reporting, and to my usual team of proof-readers.

The size of the women's field has been declining as the mixed field increases. This year was no exception. The initial qualifying round started when the McConnell qualifying tournament ended. Our coverage starts at the point where the A and B semi-finals begin. It would see 12 of the 16 pairs (which included drop-ins from the women's Teams Final) advance from the A semi-final, augmented by two from the 13-strong B semi-final, to create a 14-pair final.

The first deal of the set seemed to be about limiting the damage in a heart partscore.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Smederevac</i>	<i>Nettleton</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♥	All Pass		

Jovanka (Jovi) Smederevac stayed silent at her second turn but could not keep Sally Brock out. Heather Dhondy led the ♠J after some thought (a low spade is certainly a palatable alternative) to South's king and Brock did not unblock the ♠Q. Back came a club. The defenders cashed three rounds ending in South – at which point the 13th club leaves the defence very nicely placed. In fact, though, Diana Nettleton shifted to the ♥Q, perhaps not envisaging her partner with a top heart; Brock won the ace and

continued with the 10, trying to pin the nine. (Would South really have shifted to a high heart from KQ43?). Dhondy won and exited with a spade. Brock hopped up with the ace, crashing her ♠Q, finessed in diamonds and gave South her ♥9 for down one and 4-10 MP.

West	North	East	South
<i>Kandolu</i>	<i>İnal</i>	<i>Elmas</i>	<i>Babaç</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Gaye İnal decided not to overcall and heard the spades mentioned behind her. She selected the ♦4 as her lead. Özlem Kandolu took the ♦J, cashed the ♦A, played a spade to the table and ran the ♥J. North won her ♥K and played another spade and South won her king and played her ♦K. Declarer ruffed, played the ♥A (discarding a diamond), and the ♥10, which South took to cash another heart. South now attacked clubs, letting the defenders cash out that suit for two down, 11-3.

On the second deal, at pretty much every table, South would have been faced with the problem of whether to cash out an ace-king against 3NT or try for more, a 2NT opener by West having been raised to three.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

The ♥10 lead went to declarer's king. Ace and another diamond saw partner following to show count. With declarer having shown 20 HCP, dummy having a nine-count,

and you holding an 11-count, there was a cast-iron case for taking your tricks before something bad happened. If you failed to cash those winners, the rats got at them, and declarer took all but one of the remaining tricks, instead of all but two...For the record, only two of the eight tables cashed out. Sophia Bałdysz and Dilek Yavaş each defended accurately here.

On the next deal Brock heard the auction proceed (1♦)-Pass-(1♠)-2♥-(Pass) at favourable vulnerability back to her. She sportingly raised to 3♥ with a 3-3-2-5 six-count consisting of ♣KQJ. Right she was! Dhondy now had to guess whether to bid 4♦ or 5♦, and got it wrong by bidding game. Had Brock passed, Dhondy's 4♦ call would have got her side to the right spot. To add insult to injury, Smederevac doubled, and -100 was somewhat surprisingly worth only 6-8 – one pair sold out to 3♥ for -140 and no one stopped in 4♦.

At the end of the first session Sandra Kolen/Carla Arnolds were comfortably in the lead. I watched them over the next three deals, where some interesting opportunities presented themselves both on play and defence.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ J 9 3 2 ♥ J 10 9 ♦ 10 5 ♣ Q J 5 2 ♠ 5 4 ♥ A Q 8 ♦ Q 9 6 2 ♣ K 9 7 6 N W E S ♠ 10 7 6 ♥ 7 5 4 3 2 ♦ K J 3 ♣ A 4 ♠ A K Q 8 ♥ K 6 ♦ A 8 7 4 ♣ 10 8 3			
West	North	East	South
<i>Kandolu</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Elmas</i>	<i>Kolen</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Kolen took the ♥J in hand, and correctly diagnosed to go after clubs not diamonds. She tried the ♣10, West ducking impassively, and let it run. When that lost to the ace, she was well-placed already. Back came the ♠7, and when Kolen won this in hand it occurred to me that leading the ♦8 and letting it run if her LHO didn't put up the king was at least a plausible play. After all, an intra-finesse will get you in the bulletin whether it works

or not. Kolen actually played ♦A and the ♦7 to the ten and queen. When a spade came back, she won the ace, and tried a diamond to the nine, leaving herself a re-entry to hand. That ensured her of nine tricks; when West carelessly let go a spade on the third diamond, declarer suddenly had 10 tricks. That was worth all 14 MP while +600 would have been 10 MPs.

West	North	East	South
<i>Yavaş</i>	<i>İnal</i>	<i>Özgür</i>	<i>Babaç</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2NT Puppet

3♣ No 5-card major

Mine Babaç got the same ♥J lead, as indeed did all eight declarers, but took the ace in dummy. She did begin with a diamond to the ace and to the queen. That meant the contract ended up one down, when declarer lost four tricks in the minors and a long card in hearts. Presumably all four declarers who went down played on the wrong suit at trick two?

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ Q 7 4 ♥ Q 8 6 ♦ 8 ♣ A Q 8 6 5 3 ♠ A K 5 ♥ K J 5 3 2 ♦ J 4 3 ♣ J 9 N W E S ♠ 10 9 2 ♥ A 10 ♦ K 9 6 5 2 ♣ 10 7 2 ♠ J 8 6 3 ♥ 9 7 4 ♦ A Q 10 7 ♣ K 4			
West	North	East	South
<i>Kandolu</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Elmas</i>	<i>Kolen</i>
—	1♥	Pass	2NT*
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	4♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

2NT Limit+, 3+♥

Arnolds correctly determined that her side had more than half the deck, and expected that 3♥ would have been

**Gaye İnal**

making (as it would probably have done). The double was certainly reasonable to try and protect her expected +140. Now all she had to do was beat it.

She led a top spade and received discouragement, and now I think there is certainly a case for playing three rounds of spades, and not getting active. The heart shift at trick two was fatal. Declarer could arrange a heart ruff in dummy, trumps behaved in incredibly friendly fashion, and that was +510 and all the MP for EW. +100 would have been a dead average – there were three pairs making +140 and two other pairs doubling 4♣ but beating it.

West	North	East	South
Yavaş	İnal	Özgür	Babaç
—	1♥	Pass	1NT*
2♣	Pass	3♣	3♥
All Pass			

The defence cashed two club tricks and prepared the diamond ruff, which materialized after the trump ace. The spade loser went on the diamond. Just made and 12-2.

There is always some piquancy to watch teammates or compatriots play against one another. Over the next three deals I saw McCallum/Baker take on one of their teammates with whom they had played in the McConnell. On the first hand Baker brought home 3NT with ♥J4 facing ♥Q5 even though the opponents led the suit. (The opening lead was the ♥10, which Brock allowed to run to the queen – and yes, the defender in third seat with ♥A863 didn't seem to have much reason to duck, since declarer had denied more than three cards in this suit). Moving on to stuff more suitable for display where readers are known to have sensitive stomachs:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Eythorsdottir	Smederevac	Seamon-Molson	Brock
1♠	2♦	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Janice Seamon-Molson was unable systemically to make a pre-emptive raise in spades, so stayed silent. Brock declared 3NT and won the heart lead in hand then thoughtfully played the ♦A and was charmed with the result. Now she played a spade up. Eythorsdottir ducked, so Brock came to hand with the ♣K and led another top spade. Eythorsdottir won the ♠A as dummy pitched a heart, and, not knowing if the diamonds or spades were running for declarer, took her ♥A. That meant declarer had +660. I suppose this is the flip side of board two, where the failure to cash out cost a lot of matchpoints. I'm sure someone could explain why West should get it right, but if East's signal at trick two is Smith not count (and why would it be count?) I do not see how West is supposed to work this out. Of the five times 3NT was played, only one pair held it to ten tricks. That was here:

West	North	East	South
Yavaş	Elmas	Özgür	Kandolu
1♠	2♦	3♠*	3NT
4♠	Dble*	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

Yavaş's lead of the ♠4 did not cost. Özlem Kandolu was able to overcome the 4-1 split of the diamonds by starting with the ace. But since declarer had to expend a tempo to set up diamonds, she made only ten tricks.

On the last round of the stanza, I watched Cathy and Sophia Bałdysz take on Babaç and İnal. On the second deal Cathy had ♣Q1043 facing ♣92 and the only point

of the deal after trick one was how to score a trick in this suit. (The opponents could not be sure this was so.) She led the ♣9 from hand. Her LHO went up with the ace and shifted to a suit declarer could win in hand. Now should you stick with your original plan of playing for the jack onside or are diverted by LHO's decision to fly up with the ♣A into playing for the ♣AK onside. Be careful! If you go up with the queen and are wrong your LHO will 'own' you. If you lead to the ♣10 and are wrong, you were never going to get the suit right anyway.

So thought Cathy – but indeed her LHO had ♣AK without the ♣J.

On the last board of the stanza Sophia Bałdysz had decisions in the bidding and play.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Babaç	C Bałdysz	İnal	S Bałdysz
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Dble	2♥*	Pass
2♠	2NT	Pass	3♦*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

2♥ Spade raise

3♦ Transfer

South did not hold back in the auction, on a sequence where partner rated at most to have a jack – and was not that likely to have even that. Babaç's choice of a low diamond rather than the ♦Q certainly fooled İnal, who put in the nine (admittedly, though, this did not cost a trick). Sophia won her ♦10, ruffed a diamond, and led a heart to the king and ace. Back came a third diamond. Sophia pitched a spade and won her ♦A, cashed the ♥Q, and gave up a spade. With the club finesse working, declarer had her 10 tricks and a 12-2 split of the MP.

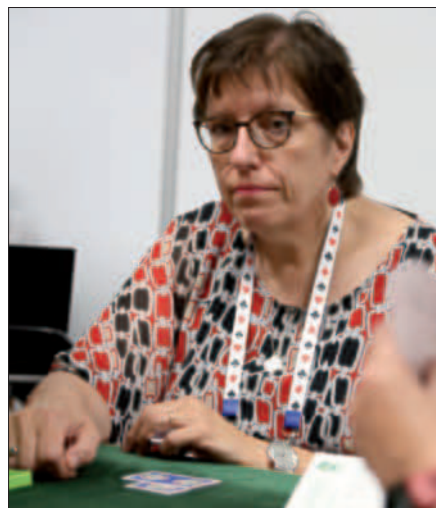
Time to try to get to see a few new faces for the second set. First up was Malene Christensen and Esther Visser against Dilek and Hatice Özgür. Honours were even off the first two deals, the Dutch pushing to a thin but playable game, down when although the other cards cooperated, they had an inevitable loser in trumps with Jxxx facing AK10x. On the second board they got back to average on the round, when Özgür was faced with an opening lead problem:

West	North	East	South
Christensen	Özgür	Visser	Yavaş
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2♣ ♦, GF
2♦ Temporising
2♥ Stopper

Holding: ♠ A K 4
♥ A 8 7 6
♦ 8 6 4
♣ 9 8 7

It wasn't clear whether 2♠ showed or asked so one could argue for leading the ♠A to have a look at dummy. The big winner would have been a small spade, since dummy had ♠Q10xx and each of the minors was running. A heart lead lets through 12 tricks, a top spade would doubtless hold declarer to 10 tricks if you defended accurately thereafter. On the club lead found at the table, one of the defenders' three top tricks got away. +460 was worth 9-5 for declarer, +430 was only 3-11.



Cathy Bałdysz

The third board of the round certainly provided an interesting bidding decision:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Christensen	Özgür	Visser	Yavaş
—	—	3♣	3NT
All Pass			

I admire Yavaş' 3NT call. They make you guess, you make them guess. Maybe Visser might have contemplated balancing into 4♦, but that would have been truly unilateral...of course an initial pass or even a weak 2♦ – if there is anyone left who plays one – might have done better. Against 3NT, the low spade lead to the ten, jack and king saw declarer take a few hearts, then lead a spade towards the ♠Q for the 12th trick. +690 was a clear top. For the record, few found the spade ruff against 4♥ to hold it to +650.

I took a few moments to watch some play from Semi-final B and timed it well to encounter a fine point of defence found by Eva Caplan.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Thomson	U. Stanisiewska	Caplan	A. Stanisiewska
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	Dble	Rdbl
2♦	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♦	3♠	All Pass	

Urszula Stanisiewska might have jumped to 3♠ at her second turn if that showed extras rather than high cards, but she ended in a sensible spot. The defenders led a top diamond and shifted to a trump. Declarer won in hand and played ♥A and another. Jenny Thomson took this and accurately shifted to a club, on which Caplan deviously contributed the king. Now it looked logical for South to lead a club towards the jack, but that play held her to nine tricks and 1 MP out of 10 instead of 4. Had Caplan played the ♣Q instead of the king, no doubt declarer might have ducked, then played for the club/heart squeeze on her LHO.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Thomson	U. Stanisiewska	Caplan	A. Stanisiewska
—	1♥	1NT	2♥
All Pass			

Urszula had won the battle by getting into the auction with sketchy values. Now the key was whether she could take all the tricks available. Thomson overtook the club king lead to shift to a trump; 10, 2, Q and A. Now came ♠A and a ruff, club ruff, ♠Q covered and ruffed and another club ruff. Worried perhaps by a possible 4-1 trump break declarer cashed the fourth spade and without taking the ♥K led a diamond up. Caplan took her chance. She rose with the ♦A and led her last club for her partner to ruff with ♥8, promoting an extra trump trick. That was good enough to get back to average on the deal instead of 1-9 for -170.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sarniak	Eythorsdottir	Kazmucha	Seamon-Molson
1♣*	1♠	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

1♣ Polish; 12-14, or clubs 15+, or any 18+

A nice, controlled auction, but it persuaded Eythorsdottir to lead the ♠A, then to shift to a club on seeing dummy. Cashing out was worth 10-14 for the defenders. No fewer than two declarers brought home 6NT here as West. Leaders Arnolds/Kolen and Baker/McCallum played 6NT on a club lead and the defenders did not find the spade shift.

After three sessions of the semi-final it was Sobolewska/Brewiak and Pyykko/Johannson who came back through the repechage to join the top 12 pairs from the A final to play a double round-robin of 52 deals in the Final.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Smykalla	Eggeling	Vecchiato	Bell
—	—	1♣	Dble
Rdbl	2♦	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Brock	Dhondy	Smederavac	Nettleton
—	—	1♣	Dble
1♠	2♦	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

At both our tables, after a diamond lead the defenders cashed the first seven tricks. (It was a good job I was not on lead as North; sitting behind Marie Eggeling, I was wondering if a spade might have been right.) Unlucky or ill judged by West? The same thing happened at four of the seven tables and scored 9 MP for NS and 3 for EW.

I suppose Sally Brock might have explored with 3♦ over 3♣, hoping partner would (as here) temporize with 3♥ so that 3NT would express doubt. Then again, 3NT is the only making game a fair amount of the time partner has a doubleton diamond. And even here, 3NT makes 10 tricks when the ♦J or ♦AK are well placed. It might even be with the odds?

(If South starts with a 1♥ overcall, that really doesn't make it any easier, does it? However, it did result in two Easts declaring 3NT, in one case on a spade lead for 11 tricks, the other on a heart lead for 13 tricks. Only Pyykko/Johannson bid the EW cards to 5♣.)

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pyykko	Özgür	Johannson	Yavaş
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	2♣	Pass
2♥	Dble	2♠	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

A thoughtful 3♠ call by Dhondy. Seated behind Karen McCallum I could see a good reason for not leading a spade. If partner had e.g., ♠Jx you didn't want to lead a trump, because you needed partner to retain their high trump to overruff dummy. After much internal cogitation McCallum did lead a trump to the 10 and jack. Diana Nettleton played a top diamond then ruffed a diamond, and now needed trumps 3-2 to survive, since she had to ruff two hearts to hand. After the trump lead has neutralized the ♠10, Dhondy pointed out to me later that a slight improvement would be to cash the ♦AK – if someone ruffs in, you were doomed. Then you ruff a diamond with ♠9, and now if the diamonds break you simply draw trumps, if not revert to plan B of the trump break.

West	North	East	South
<i>C. Baldysz</i>	Özgür	<i>S. Baldysz</i>	<i>Yavaş</i>
—	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

- 1♣ Polish
- 2♣ 5♣, 15+
- 2♦ GF any 10+
- 4♦ 0-1 ♦
- 5♦ 0/3 of 5

Hatice Özgür also led a trump and Cathy Bałdysz cross-ruffed some hearts and diamonds before claiming 13 tricks. 10-2 for the declaring side. Three grand slams, one small slam, two games, and 6NT one down is the sorry record of failure here.

West	North	East	South
<i>Nettleton</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Baker</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
7♠	All Pass		



Dilek Yavas

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nettleton</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Baker</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	2♦*	2NT*	Pass
3♣	Dble	Rdbl	3♥
3NT	All Pass		

2♦ Majors

2NT Clubs

Nettleton ducked the first two top hearts and Karen McCallum shifted accurately to her singleton club. Alas for her, the fact that it was the ten allowed Nettleton to win the ace, unblocking the king; a thoughtful play. She next led a spade to the ten. When the king appeared, declarer claimed her nine tricks. Had the spade lost to the jack, North would have been endplayed at once, so long as she had started with the singleton club that the auction suggested.

(Incidentally, I think you can make a decent case, if North has a singleton small club instead of the 10, for winning that club in hand and advancing the ♠Q, knowing North has the ♠K. That achieves the same endplay. If instead you run the clubs first, you are likely to squeeze your own hand or at the very least have to decipher a complex ending.)

West	North	East	South
<i>C. Baldysz</i>	<i>Özgür</i>	<i>S. Baldysz</i>	<i>Yavaş</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	Dble*	2♠*	Pass
3♣*	All Pass		

Dble 4M, 4+m

2♠ Transfer

3♣ Not maximum with 3♣

Here too the fact that the spade jack was onside meant declarer had a safe route to nine tricks. But +110 was 2-10 for declarer, while +600 was 10-2 the other way.

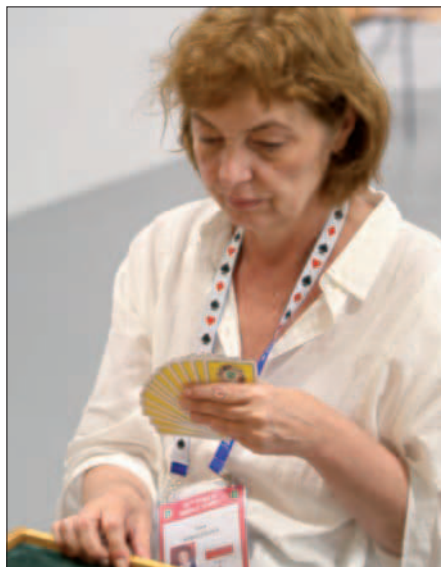
Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brewiak</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Sobolewska</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

2NT Puppet to 3♣

Danuta Kazmucha showed a non-forcing reverse with extras (because of the implications of not having opened a Polish Club). Anna Sarniak's 2NT call puppeted 3♣; but with a singleton club wouldn't a 3♦ break be a

*Ewa Sobolewska*

possibility here for North...you really do not want to play 3♣ under just about any circumstances; in fact, maybe passing 2NT is right if you deem partner to be weak here? Be that as it may, Kazmucha completed the transfer in disciplined fashion. Ewa Sobolewska found the incisive ♠K lead against 3♣. The defenders took three spades and shifted to hearts. Declarer took the ♥A, pitched dummy's spade on the good diamond and led a club up. Sobolewska put in the jack, for the queen and king. Back came an accurate heart. Declarer won, ruffed a diamond and led a low club to drop the bare ace. She could now ruff the heart return high and draw the last trump for down one. Nice try...but the MP were 5-7 in favour of the defence.

Elsewhere there was interesting play in both 2♠ and 3NT.

West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Baker</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

A heart was led and taken by the ace. South attacked diamonds and gave one up to West, who persisted in hearts. At the table for the last time, declarer cashed her tricks in hearts and diamonds and tried a spade. EW took the rest. Two down for 1-11.

By contrast, Sarah Bell won West's heart lead in hand and ran the diamonds with the aid of the finesse. The discards told her hearts were 5-2 so she cashed a heart to strip West of her exit and led a club in this ending, having taken the first seven tricks:

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

After a club to the jack, queen and king, the defenders could take their four black winners one way or another

but no more. The board ended at 10-2 for Bell/Eggeling against the leaders, Meyers/Sanborn.

Brock/Smederevac defended 2♠ on 1♦-1♠-2♠, which seems a very sensible auction to a nasty spot. On Brock's heart lead declarer won in hand and ducked a club to East, won the heart return in hand and ruffed a club, then cashed three diamonds pitching clubs. When she tried a third top heart, Brock ruffed, and played ♠A and another spade to her partner. Smederevac cashed a club and led a fourth heart to re-promote the ♠10 for the setting trick.

Time to mount a hobbyhorse. 5-3-3-2 may constitute a balanced hand but any time you pick up AKQxx in a major with a small doubleton, someone up there is trying to send you a message even if you are in your notrump range. If you ignore it, it's on you. With both vulnerable in third seat the field had the option of what to open: ♠A43 ♥AKQ96 ♦K106 ♣43. Sure enough, the atheists, to a woman, treated their hand as a strong notrump and played a partscore in notrump facing a 4-3-3-3 eight-count with no club stopper, making +120, with one exception, where Johansson led the ♥7 from ♥1075 rather than a club from ♣Axxx – for which I certainly couldn't blame her. Eythorsdottir emerged with +180 after the defenders subsequently went wrong. The honorable exception to the point-counters was Lynn Baker, who opened 1♥ and elected to raise 1♠ to 2♠ rather than going round the houses with a 2♦ rebid. That got McCallum to 2♠ making +170 on a benign lie of the cards. Deserved? You be the judge.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kolen</i>	<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>
—	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
All Pass			



Carla Arnolds

With a horrible lead problem, Arnolds guessed very well to start with a diamond. (Again, your scribe would have done far worse.) Eythorsdottir took the third diamond to lead a club to the queen – and yes, running the jack might well be a sensible alternative if you believe the opening leader has led from a 4-card suit hence some club length?

Kolen won and led a diamond to her partner's king. Dummy had pitched two spades, so when Arnolds continued her accurate defence by playing a spade, declarer could not duck, or a second spade would squeeze dummy. Having taken the $\spadesuit A$, declarer could only succeed by cashing $\clubsuit J$ then playing $\heartsuit AK$ and running the nine. (If no key doubleton appeared from West, declarer would play clubs from the top, or take her best guess in clubs should the eight have appeared on her right). Should you trust your opponents to give true reverse count even in world championships? I'm not telling.

West	North	East	South
Sarniak	Dhondy	Kazmucha	Nettleton
—	1NT	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♠*
Dble	3NT	All Pass	

2NT 5-card Stayman
 3♦ 1 or both 4-cards
 3♠ Is it hearts?
 3NT No

As a good partner, Danuta Kazmucha led her singleton spade. Heather Dhondy took the ace and started on the clubs (here leading the $\clubsuit J$ would certainly have been reasonable but Dhondy led to the $\clubsuit Q$ and $\clubsuit K$). Anna Sarniak tried the $\spadesuit K$, saw that North had a stopper, and switched to diamonds. Dhondy took the second one and played $\heartsuit K$ and $\heartsuit A$. Noting the drop of the jack, she ran the $\heartsuit 9$, took the $\clubsuit J$, crossed to the $\clubsuit A$ and cashed the $\heartsuit Q$. Admittedly, that brought her only to eight tricks but still 9-3 MP. For the record the whole field went minus as NS here. Five of the seven Souths thought their hand was a drive to game facing a 15-17 notrump. Hmmm. I guess you would know better than partner if they had a maximum or not...

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

$\spadesuit$ K Q J		
$\heartsuit$ K 9 8 5 2		
$\diamondsuit$ J 10 7 5		
$\clubsuit$ J		
$\spadesuit$ 8 7 4		
$\heartsuit$ J 6 4 3		
$\diamondsuit$ A		
$\clubsuit$ K Q 10 8 5		
	W	E
	N	S
$\spadesuit$ 10 5 2		
$\heartsuit$ A Q		
$\diamondsuit$ 9 8 6 4 2		
$\clubsuit$ 9 6 2		

West	North	East	South
Meyers	Arnolds	Sanborn	Kolen
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

Playing a variety of XYZ, even by a passed hand, Jill Meyers could invite game and suggest only four hearts. Kerri Sanborn wasn't interested, but 3NT does have nine tricks – and how is one supposed to work that out? With most of the field in 3♣ or wrapping up 150 in notrump, the play in clubs was critical.

Sanborn won the diamond lead and ducked a heart. When South cashed a second heart before playing spades, alarm bells went off. Sanborn won the spade shift, pitched spade losers on the diamonds, and ruffed a spade. Then she cashed $\clubsuit K$ and saw the jack fall. After a few seconds she took the $\clubsuit Q$ (heart discard from North) and followed up with the $\clubsuit 10$, hoping North had

begun with a 4-5-3-1 shape, when she would be caught in an overtaking squeeze. If she pitched a spade Sanborn would overtake the ♣10 and ruff a spade, if a heart Sanborn would ruff out the hearts. Alas for the lovers of aesthetics, North pitched a pedestrian diamond. But Sanborn still knew enough from her inferential count on the hearts to overtake the trump and set up spades. Well done if only for a 7-5 MP split.

There was one more fun deal to come (well, not everyone found it fun, but I did).

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A 3

♥ Q 10 4

♦ 10 9 5 3

♣ K Q J 10

♠ Q 9 6 2

♥ A 6 3

♦ K 7 2

♣ A 8 6

♠ —

♥ J 8 7 5 2

♦ Q J 8

♣ 9 7 4 3 2

♠ K J 10 8 7 5 4

♥ K 9

♦ A 6 4

♣ 5

N

E

W

S

West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>Yavaş</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Özgür</i>
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	6 ♠	All Pass	

6♠ has 11 tricks, but not 12. To have a chance to make the slam you need one suit singly guarded, and perhaps avoid a lead that severs communications.

(To show you what I mean by that, switch the club eight and nine so West has sole guard of clubs. A diamond lead or shift cuts the communications for the double squeeze. If declarer had heart not diamond length, then you would need to play that suit.)

At the table, the defence naturally led a top club, then took the ♠A to return a club. Declarer ruffed and ran trumps. Now the critical point of the defence is for West to abandon clubs to her partner, who has the menace over dummy.

This is the winning position for the defenders if West unguards a red suit, East still having to make a pitch on trick seven (she must discard a heart):

♠ —

♥ A 8 3

♦ K 7

♣ 8

♠ —

♥ Q 10 4

♦ 10 9

♣ 10

♠ —

♥ J 8 7

♦ Q J 8

♣ 9

♠ 8

♥ K 9

♦ A 6 4

♣ —

N

E

W

S

There are really only two rules you need to know about double squeezes – the rest is commentary, go and follow it.

Where the defenders have to abandon a suit, keep the suit guarded over your opponent, not under them.

Where (as here) declarer has a positional menace – in clubs, once East lets go their guard – West’s club stop is under the threat and West will have to abandon either hearts or diamonds early. BEFORE cashing the last threat, take the winners in the suit they have abandoned. THEN play the last card in the trump/long suit. If you do not you squeeze the dummy prematurely.

Thus, in the six-card ending when East keeps three cards in hearts and diamonds, West having unguarded diamonds earlier, declarer could have succeeded by taking the ♦AK, which she did, and leading her last trump as she did.

However, seeing the position coming Eythorsdottir nonchalantly abandoned her club stop...and declarer pitched the club eight from dummy, so the slam still went down.

Sanborn also reached this ending in 4♠ and did play the double squeeze successfully when the defenders fell into the same trap. That was 11-1 for her.



Janice Seamon-Molson



Jill Meyers

At the end of the ten-board stanza Sanborn/Meyers had a six percent lead (2 boards) over Bell/Eggeling and Eythorsdottir/Seamon-Molson.

Sometimes you can be at the mercy of your opponents as to whether you get a top or bottom. Witness the first round of the second stanza:

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Yavaş	Meyers	Özgür	Sanborn
—	Pass	1♥	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dble	All Pass		

Özgür's decision not to retreat from 1♥xx to 2♦ at her first turn, or from 1♠x at her second, worked very well. While Meyers' pass of 1♥xx is surely right, had she bid 2♣ I suspect East might have taken off the hook.

After a heart lead and club shift, declarer could not avoid a club ruff as well as an eventual club loser, with two trumps and three red-suit top tricks to lose as well. That was 200 for the defence, while 4♥ went down on an early trump shift and continuation on two out of the three times it was played. This was 5-7 for declarer.

On the next deal EW also pushed the boat out, with less success.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Yavaş	Meyers	Özgür	Sanborn
—	—	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
7♥	All Pass		

Sanborn was looking at three possible defensive tricks so was not unhappy to defend a grand slam. She led a top club and in due course declarer took the spade finesse. Down one and all 12 MP to NS. If the finesse works, EW get the 12 MP, with the whole field in the small slam here.

A few boards later it was the Americans' turn to go head-hunting.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nettleton	Meyers	Dhondy	Sanborn
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	1NT	2♠	Dble
3♦	Pass	3♠	Dble
All Pass			

Meyers might be the first to admit her hand wasn't worth a 1NT call, but no one gets rich passing in a pairs event. At her second turn she decided not to bid hearts because of her soft defence to spades and diamonds, and at her third turn it looked like she had a choice of -800 or -730 but passing was the best chance to go plus. Nettleton ruffed the heart lead and played a low diamond from hand. Meyers won and hopefully tried the ♣K and another club. Declarer did not unblock the queen, but on winning the ace Sanborn sensibly shifted to spades to try to kill the ruffs. (a club also works.)

Nettleton won and could not avoid two losers. She took the ruffing finesse in hearts, and still had to lose a trump. Down one for 200 was 11-1 to NS instead of the other way. If declarer plays a club at trick two, North rates to take her king. Now what? North can succeed by the unlikely defence of leading a diamond to partner for a second heart play, then a third heart play when in with ♣A – if I found THAT, I'd be mighty impressed. Equally difficult to find might be continuing clubs, taking the ruff, then putting partner in with ♦A for the second ruff. Spades played for nine tricks twice and eight twice. The other three tables played hearts NS at the three level or higher, and no East doubled.



Marie Eggeling

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Vecchiatto	Eggeling	Smykalla	Bell
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Smykalla led a top club, ducked all round, and shifted to a low spade to declarer's ♠10. When declarer advanced the ♦10 West wasn't ready to duck in tempo (did anyone?) so she won her ♦Q and played back a club. East took the nine and after much thought played a diamond, forcing declarer to run her long suit and take the heart finesse. When that held, she gave up a spade and claimed. Of course with the cards lying the way they do, 4♥ looks rather easier but the field was in 3NT. Three made, three failed, twice on a spade lead. (Bizarrely, the seventh table played diamonds not hearts.)

As an aside: you could certainly make the case for playing on hearts rather than diamonds after a spade lead?

On the next deal Bell scored a goal in fourth chair when she opened 2♠ holding:

♠ A Q 10 8 4 2
♥ Q J 8
♦ K 10
♣ 8 7

This bought the pot facing an ace and two kings; with three finesses losing, 2♠ was the limit. After a 1♠ opening and a Drury sequence, your LHO might be able to balance with their 1-3-4-5 10-count. And since their side is cold for 5♦ on the aforementioned three finesses and two breaks, the best you can hope to do is compete

to 3♠ for -100. Three pairs went plus in 2♠, four went down in more ambitious spots.

On to stanza 3, and an opening lead problem:

♠ Q J 10
♥ K 7 6 4 3
♦ 10
♣ A 7 6 5

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

A heart seems out, but assuming declarer has a source of tricks in diamonds, you'd surely prefer a spade lead to a club? So thought Cathy Bałdysz, but declarer had a 3-3-4-3 18-count with ♣1098 and dummy's sole entry to the spades was the club king. A club lead holds declarer to nine tricks, even on accurate play, while a spade lead give declarer an easy ten tricks. Since 4♠ makes +420 on normal play that overtrick was painfully expensive. Two tables did bring home +450 after a somewhat surprising heart lead from West.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
C. Bałdysz	Yavaş	S. Bałdysz	Özgür
—	—	1♦	Dble
2♣	Pass	3♣	3♠
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Cathy Bałdysz judged the hand nicely to take the advance save. With 11 tricks easy for her opponents, it was only the fact that two pairs bid the NS cards to 3NT down two that spoiled her MP score. Sanborn played 4♠

on a top club lead. East overtook to play a heart but declarer simply won and tested for 2-2 spades. When they did not break, she ruffed a club in dummy and ran trumps pitching dummy's hearts. The ♥7 in hand was enough to squeeze East in the red suits. Only one other South found the squeeze so that was 11-1 for her.

Another opening lead problem:

♠ 10 6 5 2
♥ 9 6 5 2
♦ J 10
♣ J 6 3

You are on lead against 2NT-3NT. A safe diamond sequence? A passive heart? A not quite so passive spade? What if I told you partner had ♦AQxx? What if I told you partner had a chunky four-card major?

The field split nicely here, on that extreme rarity of a deal where everyone played the same contract from the same hand on essentially the same auction. Two votes for the ♠2, two for the spade six, two for the ♦J and one for the ♥5. And the winner is...(drumroll):

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

As you can see, a spade lead leaves declarer with 10 tricks for 3MP out of 12. The heart lead is worst: declarer wins in hand, unblocks clubs, runs the hearts then clubs and now to hold declarer to 12 tricks South must unblock the ♦A! "Not gonna happen" as Dana Carvey might say. On a diamond lead, to avoid a similar fate maybe South should win the diamond ace and exit in diamonds. Then she can sit back and wait for her spade trick.

Sanborn had her fate in her own hands on our next exhibit, on opening lead. A 4♥ opening bid to her right opened and closed the auction. What would you lead with:

♠ K 6 5 2
♥ A 10 6 4
♦ —
♣ Q 9 7 5 2

If you lead a spade (Sanborn's choice) and dummy hits with ♠QJ1093 do you think you have done the right or the wrong thing? It was very much the right thing today, since partner had the ♠A and dummy also had ♣AKJ4 with declarer holding a void! Declarer had a 1-6-6-0 pattern, and your spade winner goes away unless you take it right now, after which your two trump tricks and partner's ♦K mean down one for 9 MP instead of -420 for 1 MP.

Board 9. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Baker	Eggeling	McCallum	Bell
—	1♥	Dble	1NT*
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

1NT Clubs

Everyone except Baker joined in the spirit of the auction by bidding at least as much as their hand was worth. McCallum led two rounds of diamonds, and Eggeling ruffed and after due consideration played ♥A and took the trump finesse. Nicely done. That was +480 for 10 MP. Of course, as the cards lie you did have time to misguess (and with four tables in partscore and one in 4♥x there were not that many MP at stake – but that isn't the point...).

At the end of stanza three, with 12 deals to play, Meyers/Sanborn remained a board in front of Eggeling/Bell with Eythorsdottir/Seamon-Molson two boards behind.



Karen McCallum

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Meyers	Arnolds	Sanborn	Kolen
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦
Dble	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Kolen led a diamond against 2♥; Q, 2, 10. Sanborn led a trump to hand and a trump to dummy, then advanced the ♣5 and put in the nine when Arnolds followed low (a tough example of second hand high). Now there was only one defence to hold declarer to nine tricks – and this wasn't one you could find in the appropriate tempo, was it? Kolen has to lead the spade jack, covered by the queen, and North has to win, not duck it. Of course, Kolen led ♠A and another spade; and now when declarer covered, she had two homes for her losers on the spades. +170 was worth 9-3 MP while +140 would have been only 3 MP.

On the following round both Anna Sarniak and Danuta Kazmucha judged a competitive auction extremely well.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sarniak	Meyers	Kazmucha	Sanborn
—	1♣	Pass	2♣*
Dble	2♠*	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

2♠ Invitational with unspecified shortness

Both East and West did well to sell out to 4♣, a ten-card fit, when they had a ten-card spade fit of their own. Nine tricks was the limit in each strain, (Kazmucha leading a heart to trick one) and that earned the defence 10-2. Two pairs made 3♣, one pair was doubled in 3♠, and the other three pairs went down as EW, two doubled.

This was the next deal:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sarniak	Meyers	Kazmucha	Sanborn
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♦*	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1♣ Polish
1♦ 0-7

Kazmucha's 1♠ call showed 18+. Sanborn decided this auction didn't demand a heart lead. Her diamond lead may look helpful but it gave declarer all sorts of problems. Having won trick one, she paused for about five minutes and eventually decided to rely on spades behaving. It is hard to see anything with a better chance of success (and there is no winning line at double-dummy). She unblocked clubs, crossed to the ♠A and cashed the ♣Q before finessing in spades. The defenders now had the chance for two down: if they take their diamonds then their club, and get out with a spade, declarer is endplayed. However, Meyers pitched her spade on the diamonds, so had to lead hearts after winning the ♣J. Only one pair made 3NT here after a club lead from South; curiously, three pairs stopped in 2♠ – perhaps they used Gazzilli. but that still strikes me as notable self-restraint.

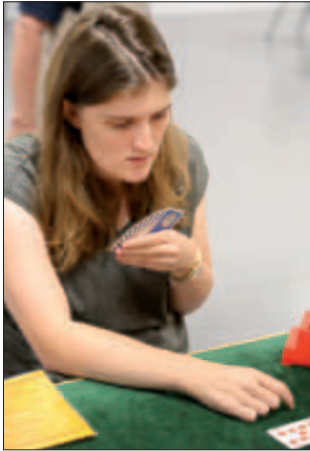
The leaders then accurately bid to 6♦ with:

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

Sanborn/Meyers bid unopposed: 1♦-2♦*-2♥ (Art. GF)-3♦ (extras and good diamonds)-5♦-6♦. Meyers' final call was based partly on her controls, and partly on the fact that at pairs 3NT was surely going to outscore 5♦. Trumps broke, and the spade king was doubleton onside, with the heart finesse working. +1390 was not surprisingly 10 MP out of 12; both the chasing pairs defended 3NT accurately to hold it to 690 for the same 10/12. (Bałdysz/Bałdysz and Sarniak/Kazmucha also hit the jackpot.)



Danuta Kazmucha



Sandra Kolen

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

	♠ Q 7 5 2 ♥ 3 ♦ A K 7 4 ♣ J 8 7 4		
♠ 8 ♥ A K 10 8 2 ♦ Q J 10 2 ♣ 9 6 5	♠ N ♥ W ♦ E ♣ S	♠ A J 9 6 ♥ J 6 5 4 ♦ 6 5 3 ♣ K 10	
	♠ K 10 4 3 ♥ Q 9 7 ♦ 9 8 ♣ A Q 3 2		
West	North	East	South
<i>Bell</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Eggeling</i>	<i>Kolen</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
1 ♥	Dble	2 ♥	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All Pass	

It is hard to argue with success (or excess) but the 4♠ bid looks a trifle optimistic. Bell led a top heart and guessed to shift to a trump. Declarer won the ♠10 in hand and played to ruff hearts and finesse clubs, then gave up a spade. Eggeling won and led a fourth heart, and declarer ruffed. Then she took ♠K, pitching a second diamond from dummy, and played on clubs, with East just scoring one more trump trick.

Meyers/Sanborn were doubled in 4♠, with the club position making up for the spade break. A complete top for them, while game was not generally being bid and made.

On the next deal Sarniak had a really awkward problem for Polish Club. Nobody vulnerable, partner opens 1♣, 2♥ weak to the right and you hold:

♠652 ♥- ♦KJ875 ♣KQ1094. If you double, it goes 3♥ to the left, back to you. I'm not sure if 4♣ would be

forcing now, but Sarniak took a very low road when she passed. As it happened, partner had a horrible 12-count with ♥KQJ4 and two small clubs...but 3♥ was cold and 4♦ was making 9 or 10 tricks. Competing to diamonds would have turned a 3-9 into a 9-3.

Our next deal presented awkward problems on bidding and defence:

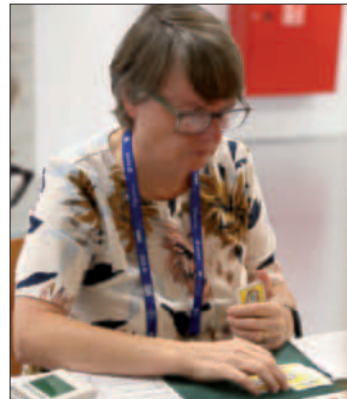
Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Meyers	Vecchiatto	Sanborn	Smykalla
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♥	Dble	1 ♠
1NT	2 ♥	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Bell	Sobolewska	Eggeling	Brewiak
—	—	—	2 ♠*
Pass	3 ♦*	Pass	3 ♥
All Pass			

- 2♠ Spades and a minor
 3♦ Hearts, invitational+

Meyers did well to go quietly here. It might have been tempting to compete with 2♠. After a diamond lead, club shift, and



Heather Dhondy

a diamond back, Meyers found the trump shift to hold declarer to six tricks. Declared the other way up, it wasn't quite so easy, and after the initial club lead and diamond shift Bell played a second club. Then on winning the second diamond she played a third club. That allowed declarer out for two down and the same 3-9, with +150 worth 9-3.

Both pairs saw their opponents bid a good and making slam on the next deal, and with two boards to go and the lead two tops now, first place was sewn up for the Americans. But 2nd place came down to the last round. If either pair had managed an above average result on the last two deals, they would have earned the silver for themselves; but in fact, neither could do that. This was the final deal:

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nettleton</i>	<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

After a club lead, won cheaply, Sanborn ducked a diamond, won the spade shift in dummy to take the heart finesse, and then gave up a second diamond for nine tricks and all the matchpoints. After the same strong notrump, Eggeling passed and sold out to 2♠. On a club lead to the ace for a spade shift and continuation, declarer was allowed to establish her clubs for -110, and 11/12, when North pitched a club on the third trump. Meanwhile Monica Cuzzi also passed against Eythorsdottir/Seamon-Molson but competed over 2♠ and defended 3♠ accurately for +200 and 9-3 MP.

While Eythorsdottir/Seamon-Molson had a 58% game and Bell/Eggeling a 40% game over the last 12 deals, the latter held off the former for the silver medal by less than 1 MP.

But it was a very comfortable win for Meyers/Sanborn, who added to their enviable tally of gold medals on a day where they had taken advantage of their opportunities and had also played well.



All smiles from the medalists in the Women's Pairs

The McConnell Cup Women’s Teams

by Ron Tacchi & Mark Horton

McConnell Round Robin

Although only ten teams were involved, the quality was high, with many World, European and National Champions taking part. However, with the Rosenblum taking centre stage, there was no coverage of the Round Robin on BBO which meant reporting in what might be considered the old-fashioned way by positioning oneself at the table.

Utilising the vast resources at our disposal we easily solved the problem of how to cover a match by dispatching two of our foot-soldiers to the playing rooms, leaving the rest of the crew to ply their trade at the BBO tables, the reporters comprising Barry Rigal, Brian Senior, Ron Tacchi, Herman De wael and your Editor.

In the opening round we were late arriving, missing the explosive start of the match between **Baker** and **Tri Polar**.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 9 7 4 3 2

♥ 8 6 4

♦ 10 9 6 2

♣ 5

♠ A 6

♥ 7 5 3

♦ Q J 8 4

♣ 10 7 6 2

♠ K Q J 5

♥ A K Q J 2

♦ —

♣ K Q 9 4

♠ 10 8

♥ 10 9

♦ A K 7 5 4 3

♣ A J 8 3

♠ 10 8

♥ 10 9

♦ A K 7 5 4 3

♣ A J 8 3

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Baker	Eythorsdottir	McCallum	Seamon-Molson
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

- 5♦ Exclusion
- 5♠ 1 keycard

We’ll leave you to decide how speculative it was to use Exclusion Blackwood on this deal.

On this layout the position in clubs meant there were only 11 tricks, -50.

Something similar happened in the other room – there was no swing.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A K 7

♥ A Q 10 8 7 2

♦ A K J 8

♣ —

♠ 6 2

♥ 5 4 3

♦ Q 9 7 5

♣ 9 8 7 5

♠ 10 9 8 4 3

♥ K

♦ 10 4 3

♣ A 6 4 3

♠ Q J 5

♥ J 9 6

♦ 6 2

♣ K Q J 10 2

♠ Q J 5

♥ J 9 6

♦ 6 2

♣ K Q J 10 2

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Baker	Eythorsdottir	McCallum	Seamon-Molson
—	—	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

3♣ Constructive



Hjördís Eythorsdottir

East led the ♣A and declarer ruffed and cashed the ♥A, +1460 and 13 IMPs when they stopped in game at the other table.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Larsson	Meyers	Bertheau	Sanborn
—	Pass	1♥	2NT
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

The opening lead was the ♣4 taken immediately by dummy's ace. The ♦10 was covered by the queen and ace. Now declarer took the heart finesse losing to the king and the defence swiftly cashed a club and took a club ruff, with two top trumps still to come, two off, -200. If declarer plays for North to have both the top trumps, then she can make her contract by playing small at trick one as this will cut communications for a ruff between the two defenders.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Baker	Eythorsdottir	McCallum	Seamon-Molson
—	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

1NT 14-16

2♥ Transfer

West's chosen sequence suggested an unbalanced hand, but whether that encompassed the possibility of a singleton is another matter. We don't know if that could include a hand with a singleton. On a good day partner might have a fit offering a play for 6♠, but perhaps mindful of Bob Hamman's advice of never playing

partner for the perfect hand, West was content with game.

Declarer won the lead of the ♦2 with dummy's ace, played a heart to the ace and advanced the ♥Q, covered by the king and ruffed in dummy. When a spade to the queen held declarer pitched a club on the ♥J and played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing. She was assured of 10 tricks, +620 and 13 IMPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Larsson	Meyers	Bertheau	Sanborn
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2♣ 6♦ or 5♦ + 4♥, 15-17

2♥ Artificial, game forcing

East upped the value of her hand to try and get the distribution across to partner, who forced to game. East considered at some length before passing 3NT. North led her fourth best ♣3 to the king and ace. South ducked the first finesse in diamonds, took the next one and seeing partner's ♥5 switched to the queen of spades. Declarer took that with her ace and tried a small heart towards dummy, but North took the ace and played a spade to her partner's jack and when a spade came back through her ♠108 North's ♠K9 ensured declarer was two down, -200.

5♦ might appear attractive, but it is not guaranteed to make – for example if South leads a club and declarer wins with dummy's ace and runs the ♦J South wins and returns a diamond which will hold declarer to ten tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Baker	Eythorsdottir	McCallum	Seamon-Molson
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	All Pass

Passing 2♦ was conservative.

South led the ♥3 and North took the ace and returned the five. Declarer won with the king, played a spade to dummy's ace and ran the ♦J. South won and tried the ♥4, but declarer had the rest, +150 and 8 IMPs for **Baker**.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Larsson	Meyers	Bertheau	Sanborn
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

North explained to East her 2♠ as 'I think it is weak'. When South bid out her shape North retreated to Four Diamonds and South wistfully passed. West led the ♠2 to declarer's ace. The ♣5 from hand brought the ♣6 from West and East overtook with her ♣8 to switch to the queen of diamonds which declarer took in her hand. A small club was ruffed, and the queen of spades passed to West's king as declarer discarded a heart. The exit was a small trump to dummy's ♦10. A successful heart finesse followed, another club ruffed felling the ace and establishing the suit for declarer. Though West now had a trump trick it would be her final trick leaving declarer with ten tricks and her contract, +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Baker	Eythorsdottir	McCallum	Seamon-Molson
—	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3♣ Stayman

3♦ No major

West led an attitude ♠2 and declarer won with the ace and cashed the top diamonds, East discarding the ♠7. A diamond to dummy was followed by a heart to the queen and when that held declarer cashed the ♥A, West pitching the ♠6. A diamond to dummy's jack was followed by the ♠Q and West won and returned a spade. A grateful declarer scored dummy's jack and played back a spade, claiming a ninth trick with the ♣K, +600 and 10 IMPs.

Having taken the ♠K West needed to exit with a low club.

If declarer had been able to read East's discarding she would have held on to the ♥A after which West has no winning move after taking the ♠K. On a club exit declarer wins and exits with a club. Even if East wins declarer will always score a heart and eventually be given a spade.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

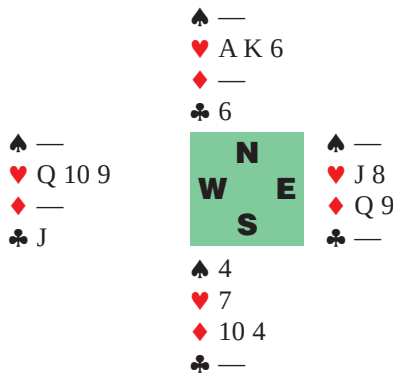
West	North	East	South
Larsson	Meyers	Bertheau	Sanborn
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2NT Game forcing

East selected the ♠10 as her lead taken in dummy with the ace. A small club collected the queen, king and ace.

She could be sure West held a diamond void and given that West must hold significant club length there had to be a double squeeze.

She took the lead in dummy and tested the trumps. When the suit divided, she crossed to dummy with the ♠K and cashed two clubs, pitching hearts from her hand. Next came the ♦J, covered by the king and ace and that was followed by two more spades. This was the position:

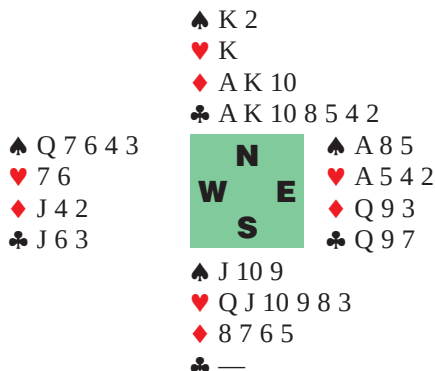


When Nicola cashed the ♠4 West had to part with a heart. Having served its purpose dummy's ♣6 went away and had East been looking at three hearts and the ♦Q she would have been without resource. It was a rare combination, precision bidding and perfect play that delivered 13 IMPs.

The multi-national **Tri Polar** team were slightly behind in their third round Women's round robin match against a Scottish squad, **Thistle**, after 9 of the 16 deals. However, that all changed when they picked up three consecutive 13 IMP swings on Boards 10, 11 and 12.

It is rarely a good idea for the same team to declare with the same trump suit at both tables, but Fiona Greenwood and Julia Palmer would not have thought anything about this deal after chalking up +620 in 4♥ on the NS cards. Little did they know.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.



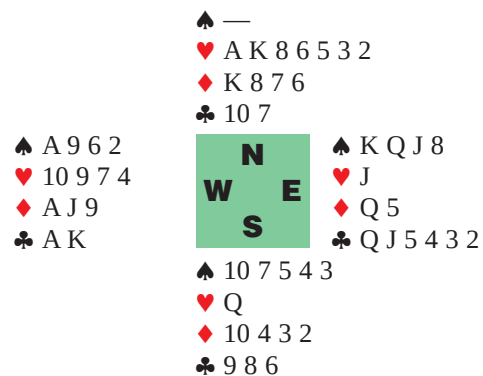
West	North	East	South
Aitchison	Senior	Lees	Smith
—	—	1♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Nicola Smith was probably considering whether to either open a weak two bid or make a weak jump overcall in hearts, depending on what her right-hand-opponent did as dealer. She must have been at least mildly surprised to see a 1♥ opening from her Scottish opponent. When that ran round to Nevena Senior, she was too strong for anything other than a takeout double, and Smith would have been delighted to pass. She would have been still more delighted when West stuck it out in 1♥ doubled.

Smith led the queen of hearts, and it wasn't long before the defence had established the club suit and drawn trumps. Declarer just made her two aces so was down five for -1400 and 13 IMPs to **Tri Polar**.

Round 4 saw first placed **Brody** facing **No Name** who rested in fourth position. **No Name** (Arnolds, Kolen – who is Carla's daughter, Christensen, and Visser) was a Dutch ensemble whilst **Brody** (Brody, Fischer, Michielsen, C Rimstedt and S Rimstedt) was a transnational team hailing from USA, Hungary and Sweden. With only four teams progressing to the knock-out phase continuing a good run of results is paramount.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Christensen	Brody	Visser	S Rimstedt
—	—	1♣	Pass
1NT*	2♥	Dble	All Pass

1NT Game forcing

Brody took her chances knowing that the opponents had sufficient ammunition for game. When Christensen transformed her partner's negative double it looked good for declarer as partner's hand had some useful cards: the ♥Q and four diamonds. Visser led her trump which was taken in dummy.

Declarer needed to take advantage of this singular entry to dummy to play a diamond towards her king. This would allow the contract to make as she would have six heart tricks and two diamond tricks as the ace was onside.

When a club was led from dummy West took two tricks in the suit and then switched to spades. Forced to play diamonds from hand, declarer finished two down, -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Michielsens</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Kolen</i>
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♦*	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

1♣ 2+♣
1♦ Hearts

The ♠K was led and ruffed, and Carla Arnolds played a trump to the queen. She immediately started on diamonds, to her king and another. Marion Michielsens thought for a long time before overtaking the ♦Q, and when she then cashed ♣AK, declarer could claim, with her fourth diamond providing the eighth trick. 15 IMPs to **No Name**.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Christensen</i>	<i>Brody</i>	<i>Visser</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	6NT	All Pass
2♣	GF Relay		
3♥	55M, short ♣		

Visser pondered on what to call over Christensen's heart bid and eventually fell back on the tried and tested 'bid what you think you can make'. Her ♠10 nicely complimented partner's spade suit and after the lead of the ♣J twelve tricks were claimed.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Michielsens</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Kolen</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

2♦ Game forcing
5♣ Cue

When South led the ♣J declarer's only loser was the ♠A for a score of +620 but a loss of 13 IMPs.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Christensen</i>	<i>Brody</i>	<i>Visser</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
—	—	—	3♣
All Pass			

Visser thought long and hard in the pass-out position before finding a green card. Had she doubled then the

spade game would probably have been reached. Christensen kicked off with her singleton ace of hearts and switched to a small spade, taken by the other singleton ace. A club to dummy’s queen held the trick and Rimstedt ruffed a spade and played the king of clubs, taken by the ace. Back came a spade, forcing declarer to ruff. A small diamond from hand saw the jack taken by dummy’s ace and a diamond from dummy was taken by West’s queen. Another spade left declarer to lose another trump and a heart for one off, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Michielsen	Arnolds	C Rimstedt	Kolen
—	—	—	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Here East did double, but West decided to try for a penalty.

The play lasted more than 10 minutes. West led the ♥A and switched to the ♠2, declarer winning, playing a club to the queen and ruffing a spade. She presented the ♣K, over which Michielsen thought for a long time before taking the ace. She then took even longer to continue with another spade. Now it was again up to Kolen to take more than a minute before cashing the ♣J, and another minute to play the ♣9 to the ten. Another spade was presented. Declarer could be sure of eight tricks and played a diamond to dummy’s ace. When East found the essential play of unblocking the king declarer tried for the endplay by continuing with a diamond and was two down, -500 and 9 IMPs to **Brody**.



Joan Brody

Let’s rewind to trick four. Instead of ruffing a spade, declarer should duck a diamond. If the defenders play another spade declarer ruffs, plays the ♣K, ruffs the next spade, cashes the ♣J and plays two rounds of diamonds, ruffing. Then a heart to the king is followed by the master diamond and declarer has nine tricks.

If West resists the temptation to lead the ♥A and starts with a spade declarer should finish a trick short, as long as East does not play the ♦K on the first round of the suit.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ A

♥ A 9 8 4 3 2

♦ K 8 3

♣ 9 4 3

♠ 10 8 3

♥ —

♦ A Q 10 7 5

♣ Q 7 6 5 2

N

W

E

S

♠ K 7 6 5 2

♥ Q J 10 7

♦ 9

♣ K J 8

♠ Q J 9 4

♥ K 6 5

♦ J 6 4 2

♣ A 10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Christensen	Brody	Visser	S Rimstedt
Pass	1♥	1♠	2NT
3♠	All Pass		

Visser ruffed the opening heart lead and set about the club suit, Rimstedt taking her ace and returning the ♠Q. It must have been annoying to see partner’s ace appear however it did not affect the outcome. Brody returned the ♥3 and Rimstedt’s king was ruffed in dummy. After cashing dummy’s ♦A declarer ruffed a diamond and claimed eight tricks, -50.

Had NS been left to play 3♥ it would have been easy to make after a spade lead, declarer winning, crossing to dummy with the ♥K and playing the ♠Q pitching a club. In due course declarer will get two further discards on dummy’s spades thanks to the fall of the ♠10.

Only an initial club lead would defeat 3♥.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Michielsen	Arnolds	C Rimstedt	Kolen
Pass	1♥	1♠	2NT*
3♠	4♥	Dble	All Pass

2NT Invitational with hearts



Malene Holm Christensen

A spade was led round to the singleton ace, and Arnolds played a club to the ace and then discarded a diamond on the ♠Q. Rimstedt cashed the ♣K and played a diamond to Michielsen's ace, duly receiving her diamond ruff. There was a heart trick to come for two down, -300 and 8 IMPs to **Brody**.

It's better to cross to dummy with the ♥K, which saves a trick.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Christensen	Brody	Visser	S Rimstedt
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Christensen's opening bid promised five cards. Dummy did not fill declarer's heart with joy. The opening lead of

the queen of diamonds was ducked as was the jack. Now Brody switched to the queen of spades and Rimstedt overtook with her king, but declarer played her ace and returned a spade to the ten. The jack of spades took the next trick and South then played three rounds of clubs, North ruffing declarer's queen. Declarer ruffed North's diamond exit and ducked a round of trumps, Rimstedt winning with the jack. Declarer ruffed the return with the ♥10 to secure another trick but was five down for -1100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Michielsen	Arnolds	C Rimstedt	Kolen
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

3♣ Fourth-suit forcing

3♥ No club stopper

Declarer took 10 tricks for +630 but lost 10 IMPs.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Christensen	Brody	Visser	S Rimstedt
—	—	1♥	2♠
3♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Rimstedt found the lead of a small club which did the defence no harm. When Visser played low in dummy Brody took her king and made the natural but potentially fatal return of a spade. South took declarer's queen with the king and returned the jack, declarer winning with the ace, cashing the ♣Q and ruffing a spade. She can make her contract by cashing the ace of clubs for a diamond

discard. However, uncertain of the club position she cashed all her trumps but one and was greeted with the bad news that both diamond honours were offside and was one down, -50. To be sure of beating the contract North has to switch to a trump or a small diamond at trick two – not easy to find.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Michielsens	Arnolds	C Rimstedt	Kolen
—	—	1♥	2♠
Dble	Pass	3NT	All Pass

A well-judged 3NT saw Cecilia Rimstedt reach the better contract. Kolen led a club to her mother’s king. A spade was the obvious return, ducked by Cecilia. Another club went to the queen and a diamond to the jack and queen. While North was thinking, Rimstedt claimed ‘one more trick for you’. ‘Only one?’ was the reply, but this was swiftly agreed upon. 10 more IMPs to **Brody**.
No Name won by the small margin of 45-38 or 12.03-7.97 VPs.
In Round 6 of the McConnell **Germany** needed to defeat **Canada** to keep their hopes alive.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wenning	Cao	Gromann	Huang
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥
All Pass			

South’s rebid over 1♠ seems to undervalue her five- loser hand, with the king of spades handily placed. With the kind layout of the diamond suit declarer quickly landed eleven tricks, +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Vechiatto	Chen	Smykalla
—	—	—	1♥*
Pass	2♥*	2♠	4♥
All Pass			

The system being employed by NS included Canapé, hence the 1♥ opening.
West led the ♠8 and East won with the ace and switched to the ♦K. Declarer took dummy’s ace, played three rounds of hearts, and then played a diamond to East’s queen. She finished with ten tricks, +620 and 9 IMPs for **Germany**.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wenning	Cao	Gromann	Huang
—	1♥	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	6♥	All Pass	



Yimei Cao

the six-level. East collected her two red aces for one off, +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Vechiatto	Chen	Smykalla
—	—	—	4♣
Pass	5♣	Dble	All Pass

West led the ♦9 and East won with the ace, cashed the ♥A and played a spade. Declarer ruffed, played a club and was soon claiming, +550 and 12 IMPs.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wenning	Cao	Gromann	Huang
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

North, no doubt, was waiting for a reopening double from partner, but when she elected to show her hearts rather than rebid her spades, North made the ‘normal’ bid of 3NT. There are some whose methods would be to double and then pull 3♦ to 3♥ to show a good hand. Unfortunately for North, East did not have a club in her hand, so could not lead her partner’s suit. This left diamonds as the unbid suit, and declarer took the third round and thought long and hard before running the ten of hearts which lost to the jack, one down, -100. Declarer’s plan seemed to be to take four hearts, a diamond, two clubs and then two spades when the spade king was onside. Playing hearts from the top offers a slightly better chance of four tricks as any 3-3 split or a singleton or doubleton jack suffices.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Vechiatto	Chen	Smykalla
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥*
2♣	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

1♥ Possible Canapé

West led the ♣Q and East thought for some time. As you can see, on this layout there is no way to prevent declarer arriving at 12 tricks. The probability of securing five tricks in spades is 73.47%, and you score four tricks in hearts 54.84% of the time. Here it was important the jack appeared early to provide an extra entry to dummy. +680 was worth 13 IMPs.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wenning	Cao	Gromann	Huang
—	1♦	1♥	2♦
2♥	5♦	All Pass	

Once South has shown diamond support North’s hand goes from being very good to enormous. Assuming South has nothing wasted in hearts it does not require much for a slam to be playable and here it was very good, +620 but a missed opportunity.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Vechiatto	Chen	Smykalla
—	1♣*	1♥	Pass*
2♥	Dble	4♥	Dble
All Pass			

1♣ Strong
Pass 0-5

We cannot be sure that NS would have reached 6♦ if North had preferred 3♦ to double, but it might have been in the picture.

South led the ♠7 and when declarer tried dummy's queen North calmly followed with the two. Declarer played a heart to the ace, ran the ♥8 and exited with the ♣2. North won with the ace and should now play a spade which produces two down. When she cashed the ♦A and continued with the king declarer could pitch a club, ruff in dummy and run the ♠J, escaping for one down, -200 and 9 IMPs.

Cecilia Rimstedt and Marion Michielsen were the only pair to bid 6♦ – collecting a mere 9 IMPs when their teammates doubled 5♦ in the other room.



Wenmin Chen

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wenning	Cao	Gromann	Huang
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

3♥ Fourth-suit forcing

Another deal where the bidding is 'the thing', not the play. You only need a sensible trump and/or a reasonable club split to make Six Diamonds. East's problem is how to get her hand across and it is difficult to argue against 3♣ as both 2♣ and 3♦ are not forcing. Having bid 3♥ and discovered that East held something useful in that suit West should have bid 4♦.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Vechiatto	Chen	Smykalla
—	—	1♣*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Dble	3NT	All Pass

1♣ Strong
2NT 11-13

North led the ♠3 and declarer finished with 11 tricks, +460. It was another missed opportunity.

Well done to the three pairs that managed to bid 6♦.

Germany won 51-40, 12.74-6.66 VP and still had an outside chance of qualifying.

In the penultimate qualifying match, **Edmonds** met **Baker**, the latter currently out of the top spots, the former in 3rd position but not by any means sure of a place in the semi-finals.

Both NS pairs avoided what was at best a marginal slam on the first deal, since it needed no diamond loser from ♦QJ1092 facing ♦A64. The finesse lost; but that was not quite the full story, since on lead after hearing an unopposed sequence 1♥-2♦-2♠-2NT-3♦-3NT-4♦-5♦ Sarniak chose a trump from ♠653 ♥QJ1085 ♦85 ♣A104. A heart lead would have found partner with ♦Kxx over the ace in dummy, and a singleton heart. Although at double-dummy declarer might make, most normal lines of declarer play would lead to defeat.

On the next board **Edmonds** had another chance, of sorts. Kazmucha heard her partner open a Polish Club at favourable vulnerability, and Meyers overcalled 1♦. With: ♠Q10 ♥109 ♦AQJ9 ♣J10742 Kazmucha bid 1NT and ended in 3NT for a flat board. Had Kazmucha gone out

on a limb and played for penalty, she would have caught partner with extra values and a classic 4-4-1-4 takeout double. The defenders have nine top tricks against 1♦ for -800 against their non-vulnerable game.

A non-vulnerable undertrick left the match score at 2-1 after three deals. There was no swing on the next deal, where 14-16 notrumps meant that East was hardly worth a try facing a 1NT opener unless a fit could be found. But the ♣9 and ♥10 made slam pretty decent.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Dufrat</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Žmuda</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	4NT	All Pass

After a Stayman enquiry, Brown invited Brock to bid slam but with an absolute minimum the offer was declined. Dufrat led the ♠9 taken in hand with the king and a small club to the ♣10 lost to Žmuda's queen. Spades were continued and ducked. When another spade was led declarer could claim the rest of the tricks for plus one.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sarniak</i>	<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

- 3♣ GF Relay
- 3♦ I have a 5-card minor
- 3♥ Which?
- 3♠ Clubs

By contrast, Kazmucha found her partner's long suit and subsided in 3NT. After a heart lead Sarniak won the ♥10, took the club finesse in logical fashion and claimed 12 tricks quickly. Slam looks to me to be upwards of 65% but none of the McConnell teams could work that out, and I don't really blame them. **Edmonds** led 3-1 now.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Dufrat</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Žmuda</i>
—	2♦*	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

2♦ Multi

In the Open Room, Žmuda elected to try to play in Two Diamonds, perhaps catching out Brown who might have been hoping to come into the auction at a later stage. After Brock's intervention Brown tried for a spade game but had to settle for the minor-suit partscore. The lead was the ♦2 to Žmuda's ace. The ace of hearts was cashed and the ♦10 returned for declarer's king. Declarer's third diamond was ruffed in dummy and an unsuccessful finesse of the king of clubs saw Dufrat win and cash the king of hearts. Declarer had the rest of the tricks and so finished one light.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sarniak</i>	<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
—	2♦*	Pass	2♥
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

2♦ Multi

The stakes were higher in the Closed Room. Sitting behind Sanborn, who was in deep thought on lead to 3NT, I wondered if she was going to lead the ♦ A, which seems the percentage action to me. When she led a low diamond, declarer could win the ♦ J, and now had to be very careful. It looks obvious to take, then repeat the club finesse but now (as the cards lie) your entries are screwed up. You must unblock spades at trick two and lead a low club to hand. When it holds, cash the ♠ K and duck a club and the defenders will eventually have to give you a trick in one of the side suits. Not by any means easy, and Kazmucha got away with taking a club finesse (holding) then losing a club to North when that player exited in hearts, not diamonds. Declarer could build an additional trick in a red suit in complete safety.

Edmonds led 13-1 now, and they increased that to 21-1 when Brown opened a concentrated 4-2-2-5 14-count a 14-16 notrump and reached 3NT off the whole diamond suit. Words such as ‘Serves you right’ spring quickly to the mouth of the less forgiving commentator but have been censored by the more generously inclined author.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Dufrat	Brown	Žmuda
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The opening lead of the ♣ 6 was ducked to the jack. South continued with the ♣ Q and Brock took the third round in dummy. Four rounds of hearts ensued followed by the ace and queen of spades. With Dufrat marked with five clubs and four hearts and no spades having been discarded by South, Brock then finessed against South's jack of spades to claim her contract, +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sarniak	Meyers	Kazmucha	Sanborn
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

3♣ Relay

Kazmucha explored for a 5-3 spade fit but settled in 3NT when none was found. Meyers led the club ten and Sanborn overtook with the jack to return the queen (in retrospect I suspect that playing back the low club might persuade declarer that clubs were 4-4, and that might change her plan in the endgame?). Meyers overtook the queen and played the honest ♣ 2, perhaps persuading declarer that the ♦ A was to her left. In any event after four rounds of hearts saw length in North it was clearly the percentage play to play ♠ A then ♠ Q and finesse in spades.

No swing and although **Edmonds** lost an IMP on the deal that followed they led 21-2.

Board 25. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Dufrat	Brown	Žmuda
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
2♣*	3♦	3♠	3NT
4♠	Dble	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

2♣ Majors

In an auction where everyone wanted to have their say Žmuda pulled Dufrat's penalty double and gave her partner

the choice of which minor to play. The defence took their two hearts, two diamonds and a trump for three off: -500, less than Four Spades doubled (perhaps with an overtrick) so a potentially good decision by Żmuda.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sarniak</i>	<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
2♣*	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

2♣ Majors

Kazmucha's raise to 3♠ was shape rather than a high-card invitation. Sarniak had no real reason to go on, but she was certainly tempted. Meyers (who might have had a way to show the minors and values at her first turn or even a club raise?) reopened to show the minors and give her opponents a second shot. But neither saw any reason to mistrust their earlier judgment and 4♣ on a spade lead lost two tricks in each red suit and eventually East scored a trump trick as well. No double no trouble and -100 against the somewhat unlikely but nonetheless cold 4♠.

The 9 IMPs that changed hands made it 21-11 for Edmonds.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Dufurat</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Żmuda</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♠*	All Pass		

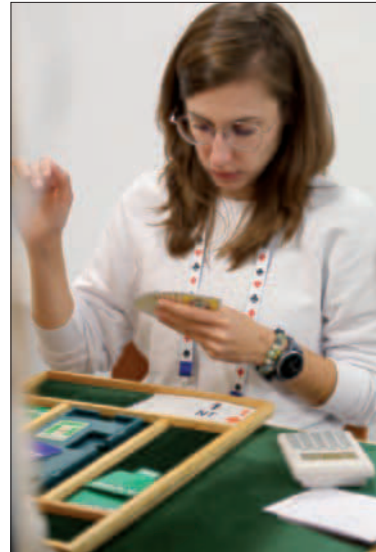
2♠ Invitational, 5♠

Brown had no reason to go on after the invite from her partner and they rested in the spade partscore. Dufurat led her singleton club to Żmuda's queen, and she returned her singleton diamond. Declarer hopped up with her ace and immediately took two rounds of trumps to avoid the defensive crossruff and finished up with nine tricks, +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sarniak</i>	<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
—	—	1NT	Dble*
2♥*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Dble Major + minor



Danuta Kazmucha

3NT on a low club lead was certainly not a terrible spot. Declarer took the club in hand to play on diamonds. Meyers won the first round and saw that she needed to shift to a high heart to retain the lead in case declarer had e.g., ♥K9x. The queen, however, turned out to be a card she could not afford. Declarer won and rattled off three more diamonds, reducing to a seven-card ending where South had three hearts and two cards in each side suit. Declarer had followed suit and now exited in clubs to South. When a spade came back, declarer accurately cashed two spades and the diamond, pitching a club, and endplayed South in clubs to lead hearts for the ninth trick and 10 more IMPs. It was 31-11 now.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sarniak</i>	<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

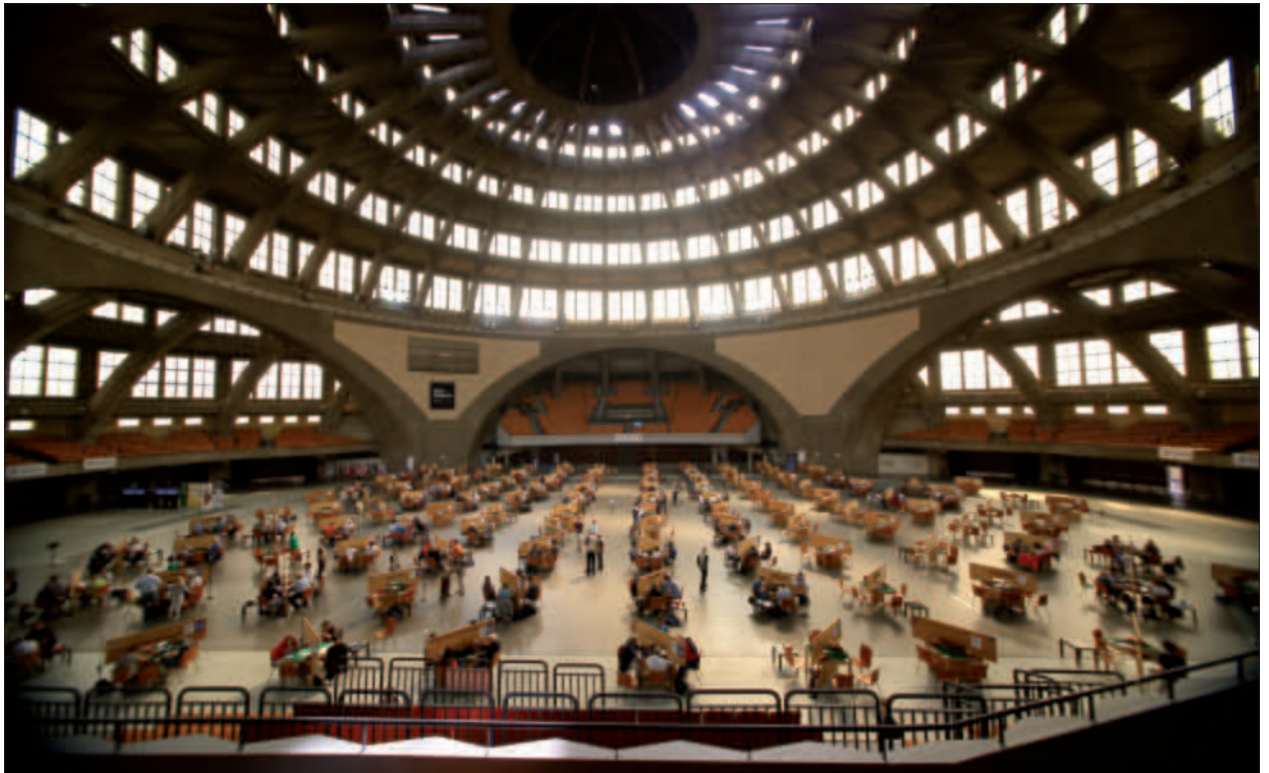
3♣ Invitational

Kazmucha's decision to bid on over 3♣ saw her partner in 3NT and Meyers did very well to lead a spade to the

nine, jack and king. With entries to declarer's hand all but gone, Sarniak could not see anything better than to cash the ♣A and play for a miracle in diamonds. It was not forthcoming, and she finished two down, -200 and 13 IMPs that took the score to 31-24.

A couple of extra IMPs to **Edmonds** when both teams missed a very respectable game but at least Sarniak reached a higher-scoring partscore, left it at 33-24. **Edmonds** looked safe now; **Baker** would have to beat **Canada** in their final match to make it through to the KO. They managed that easily enough, winning 44-20. The final table looked like this:

Team	BRO	TRI	EDM	BAK	TCA	NON	GER	AUS	GAL	THI	Pen	Total
Brody	♠♠♠	16.26	15.92	19.07	15.19	7.97	18.21	12.55	14.80	15.38		135.35
Tri Polar	3.74	♥♥♥	7.97	13.28	8.80	14.80	12.55	18.66	19.61	16.26		115.67
Edmonds	4.08	12.03	♦♦♦	12.55	10.91	19.69	15.74	9.39	16.88	13.75		115.02
Baker	0.93	6.72	7.45	♣♣♣	15.74	11.20	3.91	16.88	15.74	19.69		98.26
Team Canada	4.81	11.00	9.09	4.26	♠♠♠	14.18	6.66	6.72	16.88	14.18	0.50	87.78
No Name	12.03	5.20	0.31	8.80	5.82	♥♥♥	12.03	14.39	10.31	10.61		79.50
Germany	1.79	7.45	4.26	16.09	12.74	7.97	♦♦♦	7.97	8.80	10.91	0.30	77.98
Australia	7.45	1.34	10.61	3.12	13.28	5.61	12.03	♣♣♣	7.71	9.39		70.54
Galatasaray SK	5.20	-0.41	3.12	4.26	3.12	9.69	11.20	12.29	♠♠♠	15.74	0.80	64.21
Thistles	4.62	3.74	6.25	0.31	5.82	9.39	9.09	10.61	4.26	♥♥♥		54.09



Ready, Steady, Go!

McConnell Semi-finals

All four teams counted world champions amongst their ranks. The match between **Baker** and **Brody** pitted the old generation against the new, while both **Edmonds** and **Tri Polar** were a mixture of youth and experience.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Edmonds v Tri Polar Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levitina	Eythorsdottir	Edmonds	Seamon-Molson
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♠	2♦	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠*
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

It seems clear that while South was looking for a possible 3NT North interpreted things differently.

East led the ♠K and when it held she switched to a heart, declarer getting things tangled and finishing four down, -400.

If North had bid 3NT over 3♠ East would have needed to find a heart lead to put the defenders one step ahead.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Kazmucha	Larsson	Sarniak
—	—	1♣*	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1♣ 12-14 notrump or 10-22 4+♣

2♣ Natural

2♦ Asking for a Major

West led the ♠Q and declarer took dummy's ace and continued with the ♦2, which gave East pause for thought.

When she played the ♦6 declarer won with the queen and played a diamond back to dummy's ace. With three tricks in the bag she turned her attention to the club suit, playing a club to the ten. When that held she continued with the ♣K. East took that and declarer was soon claiming, stating 'I give you one club.' That was +600 and 14 IMPs.

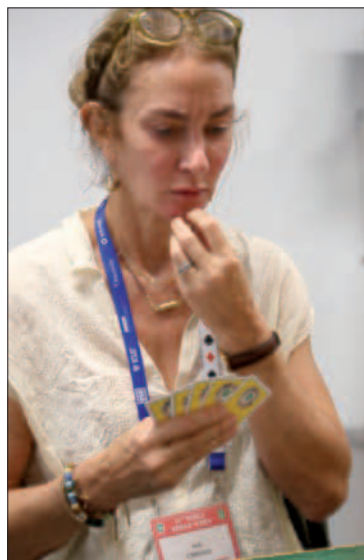
Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Edmonds v Tri Polar Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levitina	Eythorsdottir	Edmonds	Seamon-Molson
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♦ Balanced



Jodi Edmonds

East led the ♥2 for the nine, ten and queen and declarer cashed the ♣A and then played a club for the nine, jack and queen. West switched to the ♦3 and East won with the king and returned the two (the nine might have made things clearer). West ducked that and declarer cashed her club winners. When West discarded one of her hearts declarer cashed the ♥A and exited with a diamond. That meant West had to give the last two tricks to dummy's ♠AQ, +400.

As long as West holds on to two hearts declarer cannot take more than eight tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♣ 10-14, 5♣+4♥/♠ or 6♣

East led the ♠3 and when declarer played dummy's queen West elected to duck. Declarer played three rounds of clubs, West winning as East pitched the encouraging ♦2. West eventually switched to the ♦3 and East won with the king and could have returned a diamond or gone back to spades. However, she went with the ♥3 and declarer could win, play a diamond, win the heart return and cash her winners to flatten the deal.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Edmonds v Tri Polar

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>Edmonds</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>
1♦	Pass	2♥*	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West led the ♣A, and apparently unsure if the king would live, switched to a diamond (the way to solve this dilemma is to lead the ace for attitude and the king for count). Declarer won in hand and played two more rounds of the suit, overruffing East's ♠7. She cashed the ♥A and ruffed a heart as West pitched her remaining diamond. A club went on the fourth round of diamonds, but West ruffed and could wait for her trump tricks, one down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>
1♣*	1♦	3♥*	All Pass

1♣ 12-14 notrump or 10-22 4+♣

3♥ Preemptive

The defenders started with three rounds of diamonds and when declarer ruffed South discarded the ♣5. A spade to dummy's king was followed by a heart to the queen and South won and returned the ♣7. Declarer took dummy's ace, ruffed a spade and exited with the ♥7. South won with the nine and exited with a spade. When declarer rejected the finesse she was eventually forced by South's ♠Q and lost a trick to the ♥2 which meant she was two down, -200 and 9 IMPs to **Edmonds**, ahead 23-4.

It would no doubt be considered heretical to reopen with a double with North's hand.

Baker v Brody

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Brody</i>
1♣	1♦	3♥*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

3♥ Preemptive

Brown no doubt hoped that her quick tricks and the prospect of short diamonds in her partner's hand would give a play for game. It was not to be this time. Brock had no choice but to lose two diamonds and three trump tricks to fail by two tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Baker</i>
1♦	Pass	2♥*	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble			

2♥ Weak, about 4-8

South felt obliged to bid, but with such a poor suit there was certainly a risk involved. When North raised West expressed her opinion.

She cashed the top clubs and switched to the ♦7, declarer winning with the ace, cashing the ♥A and ruffing a heart. She pitched a heart on the ♣Q and continued with the ten, discarding a diamond, as did East. West, who had pitched a club on the second round of hearts could ruff with the ♠9 and had three more trump tricks to come, -500 and 12 IMPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Baker v Brody

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Brody</i>
—	—	—	1♦
2♣	Pass	3♣	3♦
All Pass			

With the buffer of having three diamonds North might have mentioned her spades, had she done so I suspect game would then have been reached. The play need not detain us as if you were in the diamond game you should make it.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Baker</i>
—	—	—	1♦
2♣	Pass	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

With three trumps, a singleton and an ace North might have considered raising to 4♦. Another point to consider – if South rebids 2NT does it suggest this type of hand with a good suit – and if so, should North raise to game?

Declarer took the spade lead with the ace, cashed the ♣A, ruffed a club and played a diamond to the jack. After drawing trumps she played the ♥Q for the king and ace which meant she lost three tricks, +130. It was a missed opportunity for both teams.

Board 9. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Edmonds v Tri Polar

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>Edmonds</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>
—	Pass	3♣	Dble
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

East led the ♦J and declarer won in dummy and played the ♥K, West taking the ace and switching to clubs, East winning with the ace and exiting with a club to dummy's king. The ♠6 went to the ten and queen and East continued with a heart, declarer winning in dummy and ducking a spade to East, who exited with a club. If declarer discards a red card from dummy on that she will escape for one down, but when she ruffed with dummy's jack West overruffed and whatever she did declarer could not avoid the loss of two more tricks to finish two down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>
—	Pass	3♣	Dble
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Once again East led the ♦J and declarer won in dummy and played on hearts, West taking the second round and exiting with her remaining heart as East pitched a club. Declarer won in hand and played a club, East taking the ace and returning the queen to dummy's king. A spade for the ten and queen forced East to return a spade and



declarer won and exited with a spade, endplaying West who had to lead into the split diamond tenace, +140 and another 6 IMPs.

To defeat 3♥ West must take the ♥A immediately and give her partner a ruff. Then, if East plays two rounds of clubs, the contract will fail.

Baker v Brody

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Brody</i>
—	Pass	3♣	Dble
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

After Rimstedt won the opening lead of the $\spadesuit J$ in dummy she set about the hearts. Brown took the second round and saw her partner peter. Brown now cogitated for some time before returning a club to Brock's ace and dummy took the club continuation. When Brown did not cover the $\spadesuit A$ Brock won with the queen and had to lead a trump or give a ruff and discard. Somehow declarer had escaped with one loser in each suit and so made her contract.

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Baker</i>
—	Pass	3♣	Dble
Pass	3♦*	All Pass	

3 ♦ Artificial, usually weak, forcing for one round

South had forgotten that 3♦ was artificial.

East led the ♥9 for the king and ace and West continued with the ♥6, declarer winning with the ten and

cashing dummy's top diamonds. It was all downhill from there, the contract finishing three down, -150 and a 7 IMP loss.

♠ A K Q J 4
♥ 8 5 4
♦ Q J 8
♣ 9 2

♠ 8
♥ A J 10 7 6 3
♦ A 7 5
♣ J 4 3

♠ 10 7 6 5 3 2
♥ K Q 9
♦ 10 4
♣ K Q

♠ 9
♥ 2
♦ K 9 6 3 2
♣ A 10 8 7 6 5

Edmonds v Tri Polar Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>Edmonds</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>
—	—	2♠	All Pass

South led the ♥2 and declarer could not avoid two down, -200.

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♥	2♠	4♥	All Pass

Declarer was not hard pressed to record ten tricks via the simple expedient of ruffing a diamond in dummy, +620 and 13 IMPs for **Tri Polar**.

♠ K 8 7 4 3 2
♥ 6 3
♦ 9 7 6 3
♣ 8

♠ Q J 6 5
♥ 2
♦ A K 4
♣ K Q 6 4 3

♠ 9
♥ Q 9 8 7
♦ Q 8 5 2
♣ A J 10 7

♠ A 10
♥ A K J 10 5 4
♦ J 10
♣ 9 5 2

Edmonds v Tri Polar**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>Edmonds</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West led the ♣8 and East took dummy's queen with the ace and unable to read declarer's ♣9 switched to the ♠9. Declarer could not believe that West would have failed to overcall with ♠K87432 but when she followed with the ten West won and the defenders could cross ruff for one down when declarer got the trumps right, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♣ 2+♣, Game forcing
 2♠ 11-14, not 4♠
 2NT Asking
 3♦ 6♥

East led the ♦5 and declarer won in dummy and forced out the ♥Q, contenting herself with nine tricks for +400 and a 10 IMP gain.

Baker v Brody**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Brody</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

On the lead of the ♦2 Rimstedt was not going to be troubled when the ♦10 held the trick. Hearts were played from the top, Brock taking the fourth round. Now Rimstedt had nine top tricks and could develop another in the club suit to bring home her contract with an overtrick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Baker</i>
—	—	—	1♥
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

South's decision to rebid 3♥ represented a missed opportunity. Had she doubled North would have passed after which careful defence should restrict declarer to four tricks. 3NT was easy enough, declarer ducking the spade lead to West's king and also ducking the diamond switch. She took the next diamond and played a heart to the jack and after cashing another heart she unblocked the ♠A and played a club, +400 to lose an IMP.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Edmonds v Tri Polar**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>Edmonds</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

As the cards lie it was easy enough to take all the tricks, +1390.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West led her diamond and declarer won and played three rounds of spades, claiming +680 but losing 12 IMPs. Why South adopted this approach must remain a mystery.

Baker v Brody Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Brody</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

South might have been more forceful with her three-loser hand, as playing in game when a grand slam is making is unfortunate. Perhaps keeping the ball in play with 4♦ over 3NT is the best move. Declarer took 12 tricks, +680.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Baker</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

2♦ Fourth suit forcing

3NT Extra values (2NT not forcing)

6♦ was a practical bid. The scientific approach is to bid 5♣ and then perhaps continue with 5♠ over 5♦. With spades breaking there was nothing to the play, +1390 and



Marion Michielsen

12 IMPs when, on a bad day, 13 might have gone in the opposite direction. Those IMPs meant **Baker** trailed 15-34 at the end of the session. Meanwhile, **Edmonds** led **Tri Polar** 39-31.

The second session saw **Brody** and **Tri Polar** in control, respectively outscoring their opponents 48-13 and 52-5.

They both gained heavily on this deal:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

For **Brody** it was Rimstedt and Michielsen who bid to 7♣ for a 13 IMP gain, while Eythorsdottir and Seamon-Molson did the same for **Tri Polar**.

That made the scores going into the third session 82-28 in favour of **Brody**, and 83-44 for **Tri Polar**.

In the third session the trailing teams recovered a little ground.

Board 38. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Meyers and Sanborn played in 3NT, declarer recording 11 tricks on the lead of the ♥4 for +660. Rimstedt and Michielsen came to rest in 6♣, and that went one down to lose 13 IMPs.



The waiting game

Board 40. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

It was a similar story here, Meyers and Sanborn stopping in 4♠ while Rimstedt and Michielsen got all the way to 6♠, which cost 10 IMPs.

There were only two significant swings in the other match:

Board 30. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

In the Closed Room Eythorsdottir and Seamon-Molson were in 3♥ which went one down for -50.

In the other room Dufrat and Žmuda were in 3NT which made when South lead the ♦5 (nothing else works) +400 being worth 10 IMPs.

Board 35. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Those 10 IMPs were recovered when EW stopped off to double 2♠ in the Open Room, -200 scoring up with +620 for making 4♥.

Going into the last session, **Tripolar** led **Edmonds** 103-73 while **Baker** trailed **Brody** 61-97. **Baker** made some modest gains over the early deals, but never really threatened. For the most part I'll concentrate on the other semi-final.

Board 44. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

**Tri Polar v Edmonds
Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Sarniak	Senior	Kazmucha	Smith
2♣*	Dble	3♣*	Pass
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

2♣ 10-14, 5♣+4♥/♠ or 6♣
3♣ Invitational with support

East led the ♣8 and West took the ace and returned the five, declarer winning with dummy's queen and playing the ♥10 for the queen and king. A heart to the nine saw West win with the jack and switch to the ♠8. Declarer took the ace and played another heart, West winning and switching to the ♦5. East won and played a spade and West's ruff was the setting trick, +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Dufurat</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Žmuda</i>
1♣*	1♥	2♦	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

1♣ 12-14 NT (not 5♥/♠) or 10-22, 4+♣
2NT Diamonds

South led the ♥9 and declarer took dummy's ace and played the ♠8, North winning with the king and switching to the ♦K. Declarer won, ruffed a spade and played the ♣2. When North went up with the king declarer no longer had a second loser in the suit. She ducked North's club exit, took South's queen with dummy's ace, ruffed a heart, ruffed a spade, ruffed a heart, drew trumps and claimed, +600 and 11 IMPs, 114-74.

Board 46. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Tri Polar v Edmonds**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Sarniak</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♥*	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

1♣ 2+♣, 11-14 balanced or 15+ or 18+ any
1♥ 4+♥, 7+

South led the ♠10 and when North followed with the seven, declarer won with the queen and played the ♥5. South went up with the king and continued with the ♠9. Declarer won with the ace and played a heart to the ten and the friendly breaks in the red suits meant she was soon claiming, +400.

As you can see, South needs to find a club switch at trick three. Had she ducked at trick two North would undoubtedly have switched, so perhaps the carding in spades was important? (Unusually for a World Championship, the players convention cards were not available online.)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Dufurat</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Žmuda</i>
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1♣ 12-14 NT (not 5♥/♠) or 10-22, 4+♣

South led the ♣2 and North took the ace and returned the five. South won with the queen and continued with the ♣3. In due course that meant one down, -50 and 10 IMPs, 116-84.

Board 51. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Tri Polar v Edmonds**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Sarniak</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

South led the ♣K and when North followed with the two she switched to the ♥J. Declarer put up dummy's king

and North took the ace, cashed the queen and continued with the ♥3. Declarer pitched the ♣8 and must have been delighted when South followed suit. She ruffed a club and when the ace appeared she could draw trumps ending in dummy and pitch her losing diamonds on the ♥8 and the ♣QJ, recording a remarkable +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Dufrat	Larsson	Žmuda
—	—	—	1NT
Dble	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble*	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Dble Takeout

South led the ♣K, continued with the ace and then took the ♦A before switching to the ♥9. North took the queen, cashed the ace and then played the ♣2. When declarer ruffed with the ♠8 South's overruff meant two down, -200 and 13 IMPs, 118-98.

Edmonds added another 6 IMPs over the next two deals to make the score 118-104.

Board 54. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Tri Polar v Edmonds

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sarniak	Senior	Kazmucha	Smith
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♥4 and declarer won with the jack and played the ♣2 for the six, eight and king. Back came a heart and declarer won the third round of the suit with dummy's ace, discarding the ♠7. When East discarded

on the ♣4 declarer ducked to West's nine and after winning the next trick with the ♥7 East switched to the ♠2 for the ten, king and ace. Declarer played a spade to the queen, cashed the ♣A and then took her diamonds, finishing two down, -200.

Declarer might have saved a trick at the end by exiting with a club, forcing West to open up the diamonds, but the main question is whether there is a winning line in 3NT?

The best line in clubs for three tricks is to start with a low card (81.95%) planning to put up dummy's jack if West plays a low card. However, if you need four club tricks then you have to hope to find someone with a doubleton ♣KQ, a mere 6.78% chance.

Suppose South cashes the ♣A at trick two and sees East's king? If declarer now applies the theory of restricted choice and continues with a club to the jack it is possible to get home, but only via the double dummy line of playing a spade to the seven.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Dufrat	Larsson	Žmuda
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1♣ 11-14 balanced or natural (4414, rarely 3415/4315) or 15+ 5(4)+♣ (4 only if 4414) or 18+ any shape

When West led the ♣9 declarer took East's king with the ace and immediately played a club back to dummy's eight, East discarding the ♦4. West took the next club with the queen and switched to the ♦J. Declarer took dummy's king and played a heart for the seven, queen and king. West continued with the ♦8 and declarer won



Jessica Larsson & Katherine Bertheau

with the ten, unblocked the ♥J and exited with a club, setting up her ninth trick, +600 and 13 IMPs making the score line 118-117.

Board 55. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

**Brody v Baker
Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

East went with the ‘movie star’ lead of the ♣K and declarer wrapped up 12 tricks, +480.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Brock</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♣
2NT*	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	5♣	All Pass	

West cashed her aces to ensure one down, -50 and 11 IMPs.

**Tri Polar v Edmonds
Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Sarniak</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	Dble*
4♠	5♣	All Pass	

From the comfort of my office, it looks obvious to double 4♠, but things are never easy at the table. Declarer could not avoid the loss of three tricks after East led the ♦Q, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Dufrat</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Žmuda</i>
—	—	—	3♣
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥*	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

- 3♦ Puppet to 3♥
4♥ Choice of games

If you are looking for points then 3♣ is not without merit (that’s as polite as I can get).

A direct 3♥ would have been game forcing. If North had jumped directly to 4♥ it would presumably have been to play. Given that her pointed kings would have been protected should South have preferred the major suit game?

West led the ♠A and switched to the ♦A, no swing.

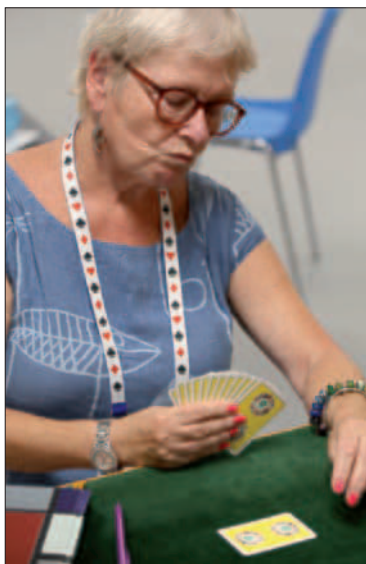
Board 56. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

**Brody v Baker
Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

East led the ♣K and declarer won with the ace, cashed the ♠A, cashed the ♦Q and the ♥K, overtook the ♥J and played another heart. If West ruffs this high and plays two rounds of spades declarer will lose two clubs, but when she discarded a diamond declarer could continue with winning diamonds and West was helpless, +650.



Sally Brock

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Brock</i>
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♥*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5 ♥*	Pass	6 ♠
All Pass			

East led the ♣K and declarer won, overtook the ♥K and played a spade to the jack, East pitching the ♥5. Declarer overtook the ♥J in dummy, ruffed a heart, West ditching a diamond, and could now get home by overtaking the ♦Q and playing diamonds. Instead, she ruffed a club, cashed the ♦A, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club and played the ♦K. West ruffed in with the ♠K and exited with a club, the ♠Q subsequently becoming the setting trick, -100 and 13 IMPs that made the final score 132-77.

Tri Polar v Edmonds**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Sarniak</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Smith</i>
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5 ♥*	Pass	5 ♠
All Pass			

4NT RKCB

5 ♥ 2 keycards

East led the ♥8 and declarer won in hand with the king and cashed the ♠A. When East discarded the ♥3 she overtook the ♦Q and continued with three rounds of the suit, discarding clubs. West could score two trump tricks, but that was all, +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Dufrat</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Žmuda</i>
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5 ♥*	Pass	5 ♠
All Pass			

4NT RKCB

5 ♥ 2 keycards

If declarer could take 12 tricks **Edmonds** would level the scores and, by virtue of having won the match between the teams in the Round Robin, advance to the final.

The first issue is how to tackle the trump suit? The odds play is to take two finesses, giving you a 76% chance of losing only one trick. However, entries to dummy are in short supply. If you take the opening lead in hand, cash the ♣A, ruff a club and take a losing spade finesse there are various layouts where 11 tricks will be the maximum.

Suppose you win the lead with dummy's queen and play a spade to the ten seeing East discard a heart?

You overtake the ♥K with dummy's ace and play a second spade, ducking when West plays an honour. You win the club return, overtake the ♦Q and play the top diamonds pitching clubs. When the suit divides you play another diamond and West is helpless. If she discards your last club goes away and you can then play a spade. If West ruffs, you overruff, ruff a club, ruff a heart and draw the outstanding trump. That's +680 and a place in the final!

However, declarer took the lead in hand, cashed the ♠A, played a heart to dummy's ace and a spade. West took the queen and could now have ensured the demise of the contract by cashing the ♠K and then exiting with a diamond! When she got off play with a club declarer won, ruffed a club and cashed the ♦AK pitching a club. Needing to get rid of one more club she guessed to play the ♥Q but when West was able to ruff she was left with a losing club, -100 and 13 IMPs away. Perhaps that was less painful than losing by making 5 ♠ and losing by a single IMP, but I suspect the players might not agree!

McConnell Cup Final

In the spirit of the competition two transnational squads had survived to the gold medal round, the American/Swedish/Hungarian alliance **Brody**, and the USA, Sweden and England triumvirate **Tri Polar**. They would contest six sessions of 14 deals.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A J 10 9 7
♥ J 8
♦ K Q 6
♣ 9 6 2

♠ K 6
♥ 10 9 7 5 4 2
♦ 4
♣ K 8 4 3

N
W E
S

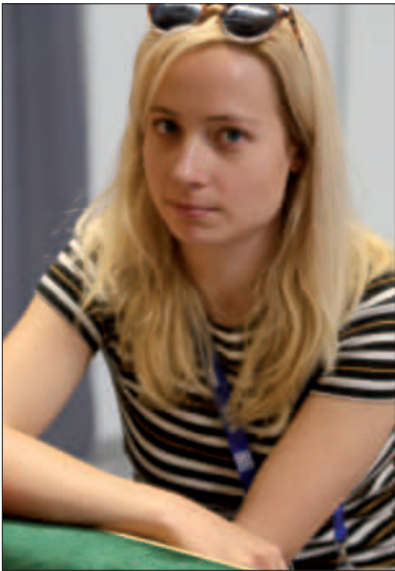
♠ Q 5 4 2
♥ K Q
♦ 10 8
♣ A J 10 7 5

♠ 8 3
♥ A 6 3
♦ A J 9 7 5 3 2
♣ Q

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
—	1♠	Pass	3♦*
All Pass			

3♦ Invitational

West led the ♥10 and declarer took ten tricks for +130.



Brigitta Fischer

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The more conventional sequence saw NS reach the nine trick game and when East led the ♣J it was a matter of moments before the defenders had amassed five tricks, +50 and first blood to **Brody** who collected 5 IMPs.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ J 7 4
♥ K J
♦ K J 8 6 5 4
♣ 9 5

♠ A 8 3 2
♥ 10 8
♦ Q 10
♣ 10 7 4 3 2

N
W E
S

♠ Q 9 6 5
♥ Q 5 4 3 2
♦ 9 7
♣ J 6

♠ K 10
♥ A 9 7 6
♦ A 3 2
♣ A K Q 8

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
—	—	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Everyone knows that six-card suits are potentially powerful weapons opposite a strong balanced hand, but they can be difficult to describe, especially when the suit is a minor. Imagine North had been able to respond 3♠ to force 3NT and then continue with 4♠ to show a single suited hand in diamonds. How good is the South hand then? In any event declarer took 11 tricks when West led the ♣3, +660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
—	—	Pass	2NT*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

- 2NT 20-21
- 4♠ Diamonds
- 5♣ Good hand for diamonds

East led the ♥2 and declarer won with the jack, played a diamond to the ace and a diamond and claimed when the queen appeared, +1370, 12 IMPs and a new leader.

On Board 3 NS held ♠AJ104 ♥J5 ♦A8 ♣QJ1072 opposite ♠83 ♥AK10873 ♦9 ♣AK96 and both teams bid to 7♣. Trumps were 2-2 and hearts 3-2, so there were no problems in the play.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2♦ Game forcing

North led the ♣9 and declarer could not avoid the loss of a trick in each suit, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2♣ Drury

As before North led the ♣9 and South won with the ace and returned the ♣2. Declarer winning with dummy's king and taking two top spades getting the bad news when South pitched the ♣5. When declarer continued with the ♦8 North played the three and declarer put up

dummy's king, ruffed a diamond and played a heart to the ace, and the ♣8, claiming when North ruffed in with the ♠J, +620 and 12 IMPs for **Brody**, back in front at 19-12.

As you can see, if North takes the ♦A and returns the ♠J declarer cannot score more than nine tricks.

On the deal that followed West was on lead with ♠J963 ♥Q72 ♦J983 ♣K2 having seen the opponents bid 1NT-3NT. Both defenders led a spade, which gave declarer four tricks in the suit and shortly thereafter nine tricks.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
—	1♥	1♠	Dble*
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

East led the ♠Q and declarer won with the ace and played the ♥K, West winning and cashing the ♣K followed by the ace, one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
—	1♥	Pass	1NT*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

1NT 3-11, can include a weak raise in hearts

The defence was essentially identical, West playing a third club hoping for a promotion, but declarer ruffed high and claimed, +420 and 11 IMPs for **Tri Polar**, back in front at 23-20.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	2NT	4♠	6♥
All Pass			

2NT Invitational+ raise with four trumps

South was not interested in using any form of safety net (perhaps continuing with 5♣ to make sure North held a diamond control) and made what has become known as a ‘Landy Slam Try’ – you bid a slam and then you attempt to make it.

Not unreasonably West led the ♣A and declarer ruffed, crossed to dummy with a trump, pitched a spade on the ♣K and lost only to the ♦K, +1430.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	2NT*	3♠	5♣*
Pass	5♠*	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

- 2NT Invitational+ raise with four trumps
- 5♣ Exclusion Blackwood
- 5♠ 2 keycards

West led the ♥4 and declarer won with dummy’s ten, ruffed a club and played a diamond for the eight, jack and king. Back came the ♠J and declarer won with the ace, crossed to dummy with a heart, ruffed a club, went back to dummy with another heart, ruffed a third club and then played a diamond, claiming when the ten appeared, +1430.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

South led the ♣3 and declarer won with the ace and played the ♠4, South winning with the queen and continuing with the ♣7. Declarer won with dummy’s ten and ran the ♠J, South winning with the king and playing the ♣2. North ruffed and cashed her aces, +100.

For once the intra-finesse had not paid off.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Here too South led the ♣3 and declarer (who subsequently revealed that she had miscounted her losers) won with dummy’s jack and played two rounds of spades, South winning and switching to the ♦J. Declarer won with the king, drew the outstanding trump with dummy’s ♠J and played the ♥2. When North withheld the ace declarer had an overtrick, +450 and 11 IMPs to leave **Brody** ahead 32-23.

Had South exited passively at trick four declarer would have faced a much tougher task, needing to avoid the loss of two diamond tricks.

After a potentially swinging set of boards for the first session of six for the McConnell Cup, **Brody** had a small lead of 32-23 over **Tri Polar** at the start of the second session.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
—	—	—	1 ♠
Dble	3 ♠	All Pass	

With no attractive lead West went with the ♣6 and that ran to declarer's queen. The ♠6 was taken by East's king, and the diamond continuation went to West's ace. Declarer ruffed the diamond return with the ♠Q, went to dummy with the ♠J and played the ♥10 for the queen, king and ace. After ruffing the next diamond declarer went to dummy with the ♠A and played a heart to the eight, claiming nine tricks when it lost, +140.

As the cards lie, only an initial trump lead (a triumph for Brother Hubert) or the ♦A will offer the defenders any chance of holding declarer to eight tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brody</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♥*	Pass	4 ♠
All Pass			

3 ♥ Spade support

West found the trump lead and declarer went up with dummy's ace and played the ♥10 for the queen, king and ace. West was never going to underlead her diamonds and she exited with the ♣6, declarer winning with the queen, and exiting with the ♠Q, West pitching the ♦2 and East winning and continuing with the ♦3 for the queen and ace. Back came the ♣9 and declarer won with the ace, crossed to dummy with a spade and played a heart to the eight. When it lost West cashed the ♣K for two down, -200 and 8 IMPs.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
2 ♣*	Pass	2 ♦*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3 ♥*	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5 ♦*	Pass	5NT*	Pass
6 ♠	All Pass		

2NT Up to 24

3 ♥ Transfer

4NT Invitational

5 ♦ 3 keycards

Over East's invitational 4NT West is supposed to show keycards only if accepting, which is slightly surprising holding a minimum. I have it on excellent authority that 5NT was in the system notes as being to play.

North found the excellent lead of the ♦3 and declarer won with the king and cashed the top spades, North discarding the ♦2. When declarer continued with dummy's ♦Q South ruffed and switched to the ♣6, North taking the ace and playing another diamond, declarer claiming the rest after South had ruffed, two down, -100.

Notice that a heart switch by South would result in three down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brody</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3 ♥*	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4 ♠	All Pass		

3 ♥ Transfer

Here too North found the diamond lead and declarer won with dummy's queen, cashed the top trumps and played a club. North won and returned the ♣10 and declarer won, pitched a heart on the ♣J and then played the ♦A. South ruffed and switched to the ♥6 which meant the defenders had four tricks, -50 and 2 IMPs.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♠	Dble*	3♦*
Pass	3♥	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

3♦ Weak raise in spades

East's jump to 5♦ was a decent three-way shot: it might be a making contract; it might provoke NS into bidding 5♠; it might be a good vulnerable save against 4♠. Alas, it proved to be a phantom, as nine tricks were the limit in spades, while against 5♦ doubled North led the ♣K (South following with the queen), cashed the ♦A and the ♣A for one down, -200.

If North had underlead the ♣A at trick two South would have won and switched to a heart, setting up a ruff for a second undertrick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brody</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	Dble	1♥	Dble*
2♥	4♠	All Pass	

Dble Four spades

Which do you prefer, North's double here, or the 1♠ overcall in the other room?

East led the ♦10 for the two, seven and ace and declarer continued with the ♥Q, East taking the ace and returning the ♦9. Declarer ruffed, ruffed a heart and played a spade for the seven and ten. When East pitched a diamond declarer ruffed a heart, came to hand with a club, ruffed a heart and then played winning clubs. She knew West was going to ruff the third round and that meant one down, -50 and a 6 IMP loss.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Both teams reached 3NT via 1♣-1♠-1NT-3NT and West led the ♥5, East winning and returning the four. In the Open Room South had followed with the eight and now played the queen, in the Closed Room it was the jack and queen. Both defenders took the king, playing partner for ♥KJ42 and ♥K842 respectively, allowing the game to make.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
1♦	1♥	2♣	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dble*	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

With a suit which was not 100% solid West preferred to open 1♦ and that made it a racing certainty that her side would reach game.

North led the ♥A and seeing her partner's two, switched to the ♠Q. Declarer took dummy's ace, played a diamond to the ace and the ♣10 to dummy's queen. When that held she cashed the ♣A, ruffed a club high and claimed, +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brody</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>Smith</i>
3♦	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

East led the ♦8 and West won and switched to the ♣10, which meant the defenders were assured of four tricks, -50, but 9 IMPs for **Tri Polar**.

Board 25. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

- 2♣ Two way checkback
 2♦ Forced
 2NT Invitational

South led the ♥8 and North won with the ace and switched to the ♦5, declarer winning with dummy's king and running the ♥10 to South's queen. Back came the ♦6 to dummy's ace and a spade to the ace collected South's queen. A spade to the king saw South pitch the ♥9 and declarer cashed two hearts and then played the ♣A, on which North essentially unblocked the king. South could win the club exit with the ten, cash the queen and play a diamond, North's jack (she had already pitched the queen on a heart) securing the setting trick, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brody</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

This time the opening lead was the ♥9 and North took the ace and played back the seven, South winning with the queen and exiting with the ♦6 to dummy's king. Declarer ran dummy's ♣9 to South's ten, won the diamond return and cashed two hearts. North, who had failed to unblock a diamond honour threw a spade and the ♣K, but declarer cashed the ♣A and then played the ♠9 to dummy's king. She could now play a spade to the seven, cash the ♠A and exit with a diamond, forcing North to surrender the last trick to dummy's ♠J, a well-played +600 and 12 IMPs.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
2♣	Pass	2♥	Dble
4♥	5♦	All Pass	

East led the ♥K and continued with the queen, West overtaking it with the ace and switching to the ♣K. In due course the defenders collected a spade and a club for two down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brody	Senior	S Rimstedt	Smith
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♦	All Pass	

West led the ♣K and declarer lost the four obvious tricks for +110 and 7 IMPs.

I am not a great fan of overcalling on a five-card suit, but West's clubs are chunky so overcalling 2♣ is not out of the question, and as David Burn commented, 'East-West can make game, but not if they pass throughout'.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Eythorsdottir	C Rimstedt	Seamon-Molson	Michielsen
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Against this uninformative sequence North led the ♥3 and declarer took South's ten with the ace, played a club to the king, a diamond to the ace and a club. North put in the jack, but declarer could win and exit with a club, North winning and returning the ♥2 to dummy's queen. Declarer cashed dummy's clubs and played a spade to the jack and ace. North switched to the ♦10 for the jack and king and South returned the ♦8. Declarer had been following North's discards on the clubs and made no mistake, pitching the ♠K. North could win, but had to give declarer another trick with the ♥K, a splendid +400.



What winners want!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brody	Senior	S Rimstedt	Smith
1 ♥	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	3 ♣	All Pass

North led the ♦2 and declarer won with the ace and played back the ♦3, North winning with the queen, cashing the ♣A and exiting with the ♣9. Declarer won in dummy, drew the outstanding trump and cashed the top hearts to pitch a diamond, claiming nine tricks, +110 and another 7 IMPs for **Tri Polar**. Brody won the second session 30-27 to lead 62-50.

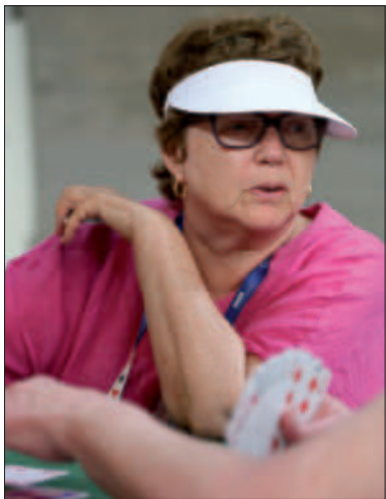
Board 29. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Fischer	Larsson	S Rimstedt
—	Pass	1 ♠	1NT
Pass	2 ♦*	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All Pass	

2 ♦ Transfer



Nicola Smith

Board 38. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Fischer	Larsson	S Rimstedt
—	—	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

East led the ♦3 and with both diamonds and spades breaking declarer soon had all the tricks, +640.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
C Rimstedt	Senior	Michielsen	Smith
—	—	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

When South rebid 3♦ she denied a major suit, so North’s 3♠ promised at least five (the BBO record says she jumped to 4♠, but there had been a transmission breakdown and the operator was trying to reconstruct the auctions on several deals). Here taking all the tricks was worth +710 and a couple of IMPs.

Board 39. Dealer South. None Vul.

	♠ Q 6 3		
	♥ 7 5		
	♦ K 6 5		
	♣ A J 8 6 2		
♠ 9 4 2	W N E S	♠ A	
♥ A 9 4		♥ K 10 8 2	
♦ Q J 8 7 4		♦ 10 9 3	
♣ K 10		♣ Q 9 7 5 3	
	♠ K J 10 8 7 5		
	♥ Q J 6 3		
	♦ A 2		
	♣ 4		
West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3 ♣*
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
All Pass			

2NT Spade support
3♣ Minimum

West led the ♦Q and declarer won in dummy and played a heart. There was nothing the defenders could do to prevent declarer both setting up a heart trick and ruffing a heart in dummy for +420.

West	North	East	South
C Rimstedt	Senior	Michielsen	Smith
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

3♣ Invitational raise with 3♠

Not for the first time, ignoring *Meckstroth’s Law* resulted in a missed game, +170 resulting in the loss of 6 IMPs.

Board 40. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Fischer	Larsson	S Rimstedt
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

When North showed no enthusiasm South decided to let matters rest. The alternative would be to make one more try with 4♣ – given that the South hand rates 23.10 on the Kaplan Rubens Hand Evaluator that would not be unreasonable. East led the ♥5 and having won with dummy's ace declarer played three rounds of clubs, East winning and switching to the ♠5 at which point declarer claimed, +660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
C Rimstedt	Senior	Michielsen	Smith
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

East led the ♣3 and declarer won with dummy's ace, unblocked the spades, and then played the ♣10 to dummy's king, claiming when West discarded the ♥3, +1440 and 13 IMPs. Although 6NT can be made on a heart lead, it would have been a tough assignment. 6♣ is straightforward, and one can make a case for South to prefer that.

This unexciting set of deals ended with **Brody** leading 80-66.

Board 43. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Eythorsdottir	Brody	Seamon-Molson	S Rimstedt
—	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West led the ♥J and declarer won with the ace, cashed the ♠A and continued with the eight for the jack, queen and king, East returning the ♥Q. Declarer won, crossed to dummy with the ♠7 and played the ♦9, putting up the jack when East followed with the three. West won with the queen and switched to the ♣Q, declarer taking dummy's king and playing a diamond to the six. That worked well, but when West discarded a heart on the ♦K declarer could not avoid the loss of a club and was one down, -50.

If declarer had let the ♦9 run, she would subsequently have been able to set up a diamond to dispose of one of dummy's clubs.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
C. Rimstedt	Larsson	Michielsen	Bertheau
—	Pass	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	2NT*
All Pass			

2♣ 18-19 notrump or any game force (not diamonds)
 2♠ Transfer to 2NT
 2NT 18-19

If South had held a game forcing hand she would have broken the transfer.

West led the ♥7 for the queen and ace and declarer continued with two rounds of spades. When dummy's queen held she played a diamond for the jack and queen,

won the heart return, crossed to dummy with the ♣K and ran the ♦7. When it held, she gave up a spade and had eight tricks, +120 and 5 IMPs.

As the play went East could have risen with the ♦A and switched to a club, putting the defenders one step ahead.

Board 47. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Eythorsdottir	Brody	Seamon-Molson	S Rimstedt
—	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

- 2♦ Weak Two
- 4♥ Splinter agreeing spades

With South unwilling to risk 2♥ East’s weak two stole the pot. Declarer had to lose five tricks, but ‘twas but a scratch’, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
C Rimstedt	Larsson	Michielsen	Bertheau
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	2NT*	Dble*	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

- 2NT Invitational, 4-card support
- Dble Support double

West’s speculative double was followed by the lead of the ♣6 for the ten, jack and king. Declarer continued with the ♥Q, but not wanting to risk losing to a bare king and suffer a possible club ruff, she put up dummy’s ace and played a club to the nine. When that held she played the ♣A and claimed ten tricks after West had ruffed and

cashed the ♠A, +790 and 12 IMPs, handing the lead to **Tri Polar** at 86-80.

Board 50. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Eythorsdottir	Brody	Seamon-Molson	S Rimstedt
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

- 3♣ Puppet Stayman
- 3♦ At least one major

East found the right suit when she elected to start with a spade, but she went with the nine and that was covered in turn by the ten, jack and ace. Declarer continued with a diamond and East went up with the ace and played the ♠4 for the seven, queen and five. Back came the ♠2 and when her six held declarer could play a diamond to the jack and queen and was assured of nine tricks, +400.

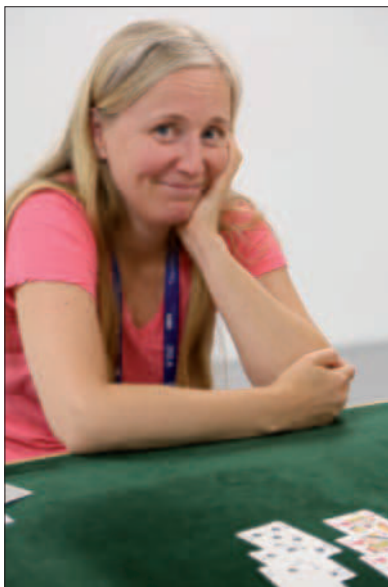
If East starts with a small spade declarer will probably try dummy’s ten, after which the defenders should have little difficulty restricting declarer to eight tricks. It is harder if declarer plays dummy’s seven, but as long as East takes the first diamond and returns the remaining low spade the defenders will still be in the box seats.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
C Rimstedt	Larsson	Michielsen	Bertheau
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

- 3♣ Puppet Stayman
- 3♦ At least one major

East led the ♥4 for the nine, jack and ace and declarer played the ♦8 for the three, jack and queen. West's switch to the ♠Q was taken by declarer's ace and a diamond saw East take the ace and return the ♠9 for the ten, jack and five. Back came the ♠2, and when declarer put up the king there were only eight tricks, -50 and 10 IMPs to regain the lead.



Jessica Larsson

Board 51. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Eythorsdottir	Brody	Seamon-Molson	S Rimstedt
—	1♣	1♦	2♦*
3♦	All Pass		

2♦ Club support

South ignored the fundamental principle that with an opening bid opposite an opening bid you should reach game.

She led the ♥A and switched to the ♣10, declarer taking dummy's ace, ruffing a club and playing a heart. South took the king and switched to the ♠9, declarer winning with the jack, playing a heart to dummy's queen, ruffing a club and exiting with the ♦Q. North won and returned the ♠4 and declarer claimed eight tricks, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
C Rimstedt	Larsson	Michielsen	Bertheau
—	1♣*	1♦	2♠*
3♣*	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

- 1♣ 2+♣, 12-14 balanced (not 5♥/♠) or 10-22, 4+♣
- 2♠ Game forcing with clubs
- 3♣ Diamond support

East led the ♦8 and declarer won with the ace and played the ♣K to West's ace. She ruffed the diamond return, played a spade for the jack and ace, drew the outstanding trump and played a second spade. East took the king, but declarer claimed the rest, +400 and 7 IMPs that brought the teams level, which is how they finished the set, tied at 96-96.

It was proving to be one of those matches where neither team could break away.

Board 57. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	All Pass	

2♣ Game forcing

It looks like North intended 4NT to agree spades and ask for keycards.

East led the ♥6 and West won with the king and switched to the ♣9, declarer winning with the ace and pitching dummy’s ♥3. A spade to the ace and a spade to the jack meant 11 tricks, +660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	6♣*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

4♣ Splinter

4NT RKCB

6♣ 2 keycards and a void

There were a lot of IMPs riding on the lead.

When East went with her diamond declarer won with the nine, cashed the ♠K and played a spade to the ace, a classic safety play that ensured 12 tricks, +1430 and 13 IMPs.

Had East found a heart lead they would have gone the other way.

Board 62. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dble
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

You may choose your adjective to describe West’s 2♥.

North led the ♦2 for the queen and king and South cashed the ♣K and switched to the ♥6, declarer winning with dummy’s ace and playing a spade to the king. When it held she continued with the ♥Q and North won and played two rounds of clubs, declarer ruffing, cashing the ♥J and playing a spade. South won with the ace and exited with the ♣J. Declarer ruffed and played the ♦8 for the ten, jack and ace, North’s ♥8 ensuring two down, -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Smith</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dble
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

When West led the ♠K declarer ducked, took the next spade, and cashed her winners, two down, -200 and 12 IMPs went away.

Board 63. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
—	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

3♣ Stayman

3♦ No major

South led the ♥4 and declarer took North's ten with the queen and cashed the top diamonds discarding a club from dummy while North pitched the ♠2. Declarer took the ♠A and played a second spade for the ten, queen and king and North returned the ♥7. Declarer had only eight tricks, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

1♦ 11-22, unbalanced, 4♦ only if 4441 or (14)44

1NT Transfer

2♥ Fourth suit forcing

South led the ♠10 and when declarer played dummy's queen North followed with the two. The early entry to dummy meant declarer could play a club to the jack and South took the ace and switched to a heart. Declarer was assured of 11 tricks, +460 and 11 IMPs.

Board 67. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
—	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠*	Dble	3NT*	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT*	All Pass

3♠ Relay

3NT Spade control

4NT Accepts diamonds and shows 3 keycards

On this layout you will always take 12 tricks in 6♦, which is where East thought her side was heading.

South led the ♠9 and North took the ace and switched to the ♥10. Declarer won with the ace and cashed the diamonds, finishing with 11 tricks. Taking the ♣A and ♠K first will see North get squeezed in the majors for an extra trick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♥*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	All Pass

1♣ 12-14 NT or 18-19 NT or 11-22, natural, (4)5+♣ (4♣ only if 4414)

1♥ Transfer, forcing but may be very weak

If I have interpreted the convention card correctly 2♥ was artificial. If the subsequent auction indicated the nature of East's hand West had a close decision over 4NT.

North led the ♥10 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the ♠K, continuing with the eight for the nine, jack and queen. When North exited with a heart declarer cashed her winners to flatten the deal.

Board 68. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
—	—	1NT	2♣*
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

2♣ Majors

South led the ♠9 and when dummy's queen held declarer played a diamond to the ace, a classic safety play that will deliver four tricks in the suit 78% of the time. She continued with a heart to the eight and North won with the jack and returned the ♠7 to declarer's ace. A heart to the ace and a heart ruff was followed by two rounds of diamonds, endplaying North, who could only return a club, +600.

I have lost count of the number of times leading away from a king has turned out badly. If South had started with a heart, it would not necessarily have defeated the contract, but declarer would have had some work to do.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♠10 and when dummy's queen held declarer played the ♦6 to the ace. Having collected South's king declarer played a diamond to dummy's ten and North's jack, won the spade return and cashed her winners, the fall of the ♣Q getting her up to 11 tricks, +660 and a couple of IMPs.

Board 69. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	2NT*
3♠	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

2NT Heart support

East led the ♠5 and West took the ace and switched to the ♣2. Declarer took the ace, cashed the ♣K and the ♥K, played a diamond to the ace and cross-ruffed diamonds and spades before claiming the rest, +480.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	4♥
4♠	5♥	All Pass	

The play was essentially the same, so no swing.

Why bother to report this push?

Only to wonder if jumping to 4♥ (or bidding 2NT) is the best move with South's hand. Wouldn't some sort of fit-showing bid in diamonds be a decent idea?

Whatever, **Brody** took the set 25-19 and led 121-115.

Board 72. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	3♦	4♥
All Pass			

West led the ♦2 and East took the ace and played two rounds of spades, declarer winning with the king, cashing the ♥A and claiming ten tricks, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	2♦	2♥
3♦	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

After a diamond lead to the ace East switched to the ♠9. When the king held declarer cashed the ♥A and then discarded two spades on dummy's diamond and club winners, no swing.

Board 76. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open & Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Fischer	Larsson	S Rimstedt
C Rimstedt	Senior	Michielsen	Smith
—	—	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

In the Open Room West led the ♥8 and declarer won with dummy's ace and tried to cash the top diamonds. East ruffed and played back the ♥J and West ruffed declarer's king and returned the ♦J, East ruffing with the



Katherine Bertheau

ten. Declarer overruffed and played a spade to the seven. When that held, she ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, cashed the ♠A and then played the ♣9 for the king and ace, emerging with ten tricks, +420.

In the replay West's heart lead went to the jack and king. After running the queen of spades successfully declarer turned to diamonds and East ruffed the second round and played a heart for West to ruff. When she exited with the ♠K declarer needed the club finesse, +420, no swing.

With half the deals gone **Brody** had scored three singles to lead 124-115. It was not exciting, but it was still anyone's title.

Board 78. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Fischer	Larsson	S Rimstedt
1♥	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

The lack of a sixth spade did not give North much of a safety net.

East led her heart and West won with the king, cashed the ♦K and switched to the ♠2. When declarer put in the jack East won with the queen and played the ♣K, declarer taking dummy's ace and playing the ♥Q, covered by the ace, ruffed by the ♠4 and overruffed by the five, East continuing with the ♦4, West taking the ace, cashing the ♣J and then playing the ♦10. Declarer won with the jack, cashed the ♠A and could then score the ♦8 and a spade for three down, -500.

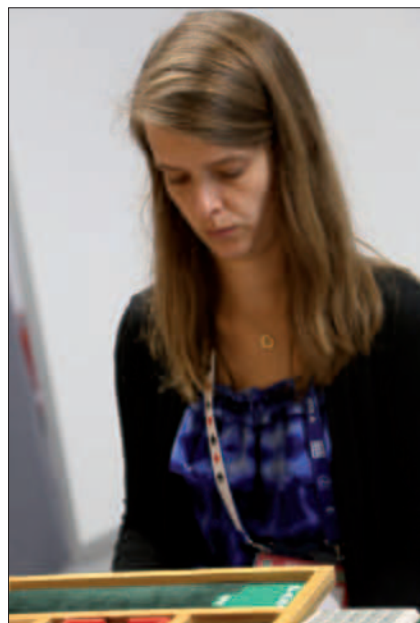
If East starts with a top club declarer is unlikely to score more than four tricks. That would also have been the case if East had switched to clubs after winning with the ♠Q. It looks odd, but declarer can save a trick by taking the first round of spades with the ace and then continuing with the jack.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Smith</i>
1♥	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South must have suspected that East was lying in wait with a spade stack. Rather than wait for a reopening double she took evasive action.

She led the ♣6 and declarer won with dummy's jack and played the ♥2, North winning with the ten and returning the ♣7. When the queen was allowed to hold declarer crossed to the ♦A and tried the ♥A. When North pitched the ♠4 East threw the ♠3 and declarer continued with a spade to the queen, a diamond for the queen and cashed the ♥K. When North pitched her remaining club declarer could play a spade and come to eight tricks, -50 and an 11 IMP swing that saw the lead change hands.

*Cecilia Rimstedt***Board 80. Dealer East. All Vul.**

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

Open & Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
All Pass			

In the Open Room West started with the ♦AK and switched to the ♠2 for the king and ace. When declarer played the ♣4 West withheld the ace which meant declarer had stolen a trick. She continued with dummy's heart and that went for the eight, king and ace. A spade for the jack and queen saw declarer cash the ♥Q and then ruff a heart. When East was able to overruff declarer was restricted to six tricks, -200.

In the replay West cashed the ♦KA and then switched to the ♠2 for the king and ace. Declarer continued with the ♥Q and West won and played another spade, declarer winning with the nine. After cashing the ♥K she ruffed a heart and East overruffed, cashed the ♦Q and exited with a club. West took the ace and that meant the contract was three down, -300 and a 3 IMP swing that moved **Brody** back into the lead by a single IMP.

On Board 81 North held ♠AQ965 ♥10832 ♦K76 ♣6 and saw partner open 1♣ and then raise the 1♠ response to 2♠. Neither North made a move and both made ten tricks opposite South's ♠KJ43 ♥97 ♦A95 ♣KJ102.

Board 82. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open & Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Smith</i>
4♠	5♣	Dble	All Pass

In the Open Room East led the ♦K and when West followed with the five she switched to the ♥K. Declarer took dummy's ace and, with a nod to the Rabbi, played a club to the ace. When the king refused to appear, the contract was two down, -500.

In the Closed Room the first two tricks were identical but then declarer ruffed a heart and cashed the ♣A so there was no swing.

The penultimate deal saw EW play in 2♠. As the cards lay it could not be defeated, but North held ♦A108 and could see dummy's ♦Q64. When she gained the lead Fischer switched to the ♦8 and that gave her side three tricks in the suit and earned a potentially precious IMP when her counterpart was not willing to risk it.

Board 84. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♦*	1♠	Pass	1NT
Dble	2♥	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

- 1♣ 2+♣, 12-14 balanced (not 5♥/♠) or 10-22, 4+♣
 1♦ Could be 3-3-3-4

East led the ♦5 and West took the ace and switched to the ♠2. When declarer played low from dummy East put in the ten and switched to the ♣6. Declarer put in dummy's queen and when it held, she played a spade for the jack and ace. She was in control now and could win the diamond return, cash the ♠K and play a heart for +110.

If West switches to a heart at trick two and the defenders play three rounds of the suit West will be able to score a heart ruff and defeat the contract. That was also possible after East had won the first round of spades but would not work if declarer had put in dummy's jack at trick two.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣*	1♠	Dble*	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

- 1♣ 12-14 notrump or 18-19 notrump

North led the ♠7 and when dummy's ten held declarer played a heart to the ace and a club for the jack and queen. The spade return was taken by North's eight and she exited with the ♠6 to dummy's ace. Declarer continued with the ♣6 and South took the ace and switched to the ♦2. North won with the queen and cashed her spades, and exited with a heart, at which point declarer knew there was no point in taking the diamond finesse as South had already produced the ♥QJ and the ♣AQ so could not have the ♦K. When it fell under the ♦A that was +90 and 5 IMPs.

The score in the final set was 12-11 to **Brody**, producing a score line of 133-126 that meant Sandra and Cecilia Rimstedt, Marion Michielsen, Brigitta Fischer and Joan Brody were the 2022 McConnell Cup winners and World Champions! Sandra Rimstedt joined her siblings, Cecilia, Mikael, and Ola as a World Champion.



The McConnell Cup winners

The Senior Teams for the Rand Cup

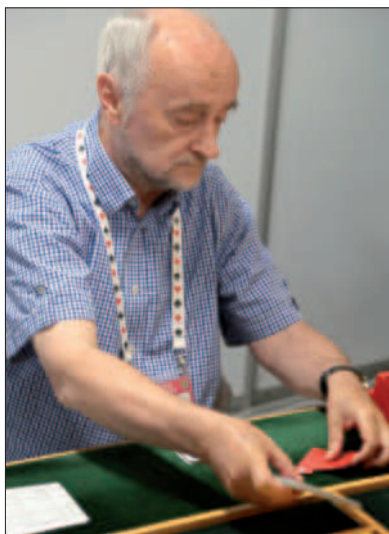
by Brian Senior

The Qualifying Round Robin

Had the entry been larger, the original plan had been to play a two-day Swiss qualifier to quarter-finals, but the actual 12-team field was ideal for a different format, and the 12 teams in practice played a complete round robin of 11 x 12-board matches over three days, with the top four going through to the semi-finals. The semi-finals and final were then played over one day each, 4 x 14-board segments.

These were the final qualifying rankings:

1	Zimmermann	147.40
2	Penfold	138.79
3	Vytas	135.45
4	Goodman	121.75
5	Kendrick	113.95
6	Kalish	113.51
7	Wisla Ccsoft	105.88
8	Andrzejki	103.90
9	Czterech Szwedow	91.12
10	Australia	86.67
11	Witek	82.59
12	Markowicz	72.99



Piotr Tuszyński

The Semi-finals

Having topped the qualifying rankings, **Zimmermann** opted to face **Goodman** in the semi-finals, leaving **Penfold** to face **Vytas**. All four teams contained multiple world champions, so picking a winner was no easy task.

Set One

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Zimmermann v Goodman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Passell	Zimmermann	Goodman	Martens
—	1♥	Pass	3♥*
Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gawryś	Berkowitz	Tuszyński	Meckstroth
—	1♥	Pass	1NT
Dble	Pass	2♥	Dble
2♠	All Pass		

Krzysztof Martens made a pre-emptive raise to 3♥ but this was not sufficient to shut out Mike Passell, who made a takeout double. With 10 HCP outside hearts, Andy Goodman had plenty with which to jump to game and did so. Martens cashed the king of hearts then, on sight of dummy, switched to a club. Pierre Zimmermann

won the ace and continued with the ♣5, which Goodman won in dummy. The queen of spades held the next trick, and a second spade went to the ace and jack, after which there was just the ♠K to be lost. It is pretty clear that this should have resulted in 10 tricks being made, but the official score says 11 for +450, so that is what we must go with.

Jeff Meckstroth responded 1NT rather than raise hearts, and that took all the momentum out of the auction. Piotr Gawryś doubled for takeout and Piotr Tuszyński responded with a 2♥ cuebid. Meckstroth doubled that, and Gawryś bid 2♠. In English style, Tuszyński owed his partner another bid now, the cuebid being forcing to suit agreement, but Tuszyński saw things differently and left his partner in 2♠. David Berkowitz led a low heart in response to the double of the cuebid, and Meckstroth won cheaply and continued with a second heart. Gawryś ruffed and led the queen of spades, which held the trick. After leading a second spade to the ace, Gawryś ruffed the last heart and played on clubs, losing to the ♣A and ♠K so making 10 for +170 but 7 IMPs to **Goodman**.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

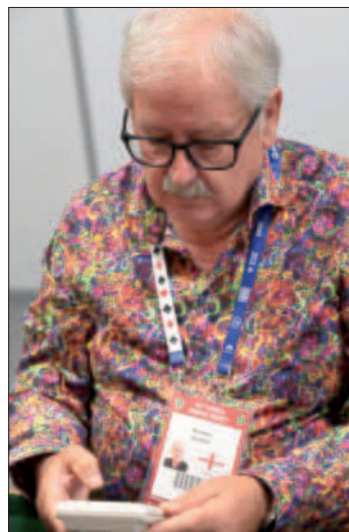
Penfold v Vytas Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olański</i>	<i>Selway</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Predy</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holland</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Mould</i>	<i>Kwiecień</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Dble	2♥	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

There were three passes to Vytas Vainikonis, who opened 4NT, showing a big minor two-suiter. There was no way for Wojciech Olański to guess that his partner held longer diamonds than clubs, so he did what we all do with no preference, he bid the lower-ranking suit. Five Clubs was impossible, of course. Norman Selway cashed the ace of hearts and continued with a second heart to the jack and king. Olański led a diamond to the jack and king, and from here the play record ceases to make any sense. We can see that, with both minors lying favourably, declarer can get out for down one, but in practice Olański was down two for -200.



Norman Selway

At the other table, Alan Mould opened at the one level. When he next jumped to 4♣, it was clear that he held a very shapely hand, but that his diamonds would be at least as long as his clubs. Hence, John Holland gave preference to diamonds, and Mould guessed to go on to game. If 5♣ had been impossible in the other room, 5♦ at least had play, but it still required a lot of good fortune. Michał Kwiecień led the jack of hearts, Mould playing dummy's king and Włodzimierz Starkowski ducking. Three rounds of clubs for a ruff in dummy went well, then Mould led dummy's remaining trump to the nine, jack and king. Kwiecień returned the eight of hearts and Starkowski won and played another heart. Mould's trumps were just good enough so that he could ruff with the eight then cash the ace, dropping the queen, and draw the last trump with his ten. Had Kwiecień held ♦K9x, or Starkowski ♦Hxx, the contract would have been defeated. As it was, Mould had 11 tricks for +600 and 13 IMPs to **Penfold**.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Zimmermann v Goodman**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Martens</i>
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gawryś</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Tuszyński</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dble
Rdbl	2♦*	Pass	2♥
3♦	3♠	All Pass	

Zimmermann opened a multi 2♦ and 3♣ asked him to bid the major he didn't have. Having made Martens declarer by doing as requested, Zimmermann then guessed to raise to game. The hands fit very well together, with no wasted diamond values in the South hand, but game still requires some good fortune in one of the majors. Passell led the four of clubs to the jack and king, and Martens gave up a diamond to open up his communications. Goodman overtook his partner's jack to return a club to the nine, queen and ace. With no club loser, Martens could afford a spade loser so, worried about a possible club ruff, he played a spade to the ace and a second spade, losing to the king, but coming to 10 tricks for +620.

Berkowitz didn't like his suit quality for a vulnerable weak two opening so passed. However, when Meckstroth could double the 1♦ opening, Berkowitz followed an invitational sequence, cuebidding then bidding 3♠, but Meckstroth, with a flat minimum, was not interested so the thin game was missed. Tuszyński led king and another diamond, Berkowitz ruffing and leading a low spade to the jack. When spades played for

no losers, Berkowitz ruffed the last diamond and led a heart to the jack and ace. Gawryś returned a heart and, when the suit did not divide evenly, there was nowhere for Berkowitz to park his club loser. He had 10 tricks for +170 but 10 IMPs to **Zimmermann**.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Penfold v Vytas**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Olański</i>	<i>Selway</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Preddy</i>
—	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holland</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Mould</i>	<i>Kwiecień</i>
—	4♥	Dble	Pass
4NT*	Dble	5♣	All Pass

Six Diamonds needs little more than trumps no worse than four-one, while 6♣ is also playable and likely to make after the 4♥ opening. However, getting to either slam requires that somebody take a big optimistic position, and neither EW pair got close to slam.

Selway was left to play in 4♥ when Vainikonis didn't like to double as East with an off-shape hand, and Olański was unwilling to risk the five level on his scrappy diamond suit when vulnerable. Selway was held to his eight trump winners, but down two for -100 was a small price to pay.

Mould doubled with the East cards and Holland responded 4NT to show both minors. Mould picked clubs, of course, and Holland did not go on to slam, though he must have been tempted. Would 4NT followed by a conversion of 5♣ to 5♦ show a good 5♦ bid, i.e., a slam try? Well, perhaps, but the East hand would be unlikely to go on anyway, so that is of only academic

interest. Kwiecień led the queen of hearts, Starkowski overtaking and switching to a diamond. Mould won, cashed the king of clubs, and led a club to the jack, so had 12 tricks for +620 and 11 IMPs to **Penfold**.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ Q10 6 5 4	♠ A	♠ K J 9 2
♥ 10 9 4 3	♥ Q	♥ A 8 6 5
♦ 8 6	♦ A Q J 10 2	♦ K 3
♣ J 5	♣ A K 9 8 4 2	♣ 7 6 3
	♠ 7 5 3	
	♥ K J 7 2	
	♦ 9 7 5 4	
	♣ Q 10	

Penfold v Vytas

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olański</i>	<i>Selway</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Predy</i>
Pass	1♣*	Dble	1♦*
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holland</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Mould</i>	<i>Kwiecień</i>
Pass	1♣*	Dble	Pass
1♠	2♣*	2♠	Dble
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Starkowski opened the strong variety of the Polish club, showed his clubs and a strong hand, then jumped to 4NT to show an extremely shapely minor two-suiter. Kwiecień gave preference to diamonds, and Starkowski guessed to raise himself to Six. Holland led a heart, so the defence took its ace immediately, and Mould could sit back and wait to make the king of diamonds for down one and -100.

Selway opened a potentially short 1♣, Vainikonis made a takeout double, and Predy showed hearts, and now Selway got very, very, lucky. Systemically, his 2♦ rebid should have been natural but only around 14-17, with all 18+ hands rebidding an artificial 1NT. Facing a limited reverse, Predy had no reason to go on over 2♦, so didn't. With the ♦K offside, Predy made 11 tricks for +150, and that was 6 IMPs to **Penfold**.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Zimmermann v Goodman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Martens</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT*	Dble	3♣*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gawryś</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Tuszyński</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Passell showed a game-plus spade raise and Goodman showed a minimum. Passell went slowly but, when Goodman was unwilling to cuebid, settled for game. Martens led the eight of hearts, so Zimmermann won the ace and continued the suit. Martens won the king and led a third round, but Goodman won that with the queen and had the rest of the tricks for +650.

Tuszyński opened 1NT and Gawryś used Stayman then showed his clubs before setting spades as trumps. Though Tuszyński signed off in game with his minimum, Gawryś went on with Keycard then bid the small slam. Meckstroth didn't believe that Gawryś would have bid the slam when lacking a heart control, particularly after Tuszyński's 3♦ call, showing strength there but saying nothing positive about hearts. He led his singleton club, and Tuszyński could win the king, draw trumps and, when Berkowitz discarded a club, had all 13 tricks for +1460

and 13 IMPs to **Zimmermann**. That gave **Zimmermann** a 24-21 IMP lead at the end of the first quarter.

Meanwhile, taking advantage of having had the better of the luck, **Penfold** led Vytas by 31-4 in the other semi-final.

Set Two

The three six-man teams all brought in the pair who had sat out the first set, while **Goodman** continued with the same four as had started the match.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Penfold v Vytas

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olański</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Hackett</i>
—	1♥	Dble	2♦
Pass	2♥	Dble	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♦	Dble
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holland</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Mould</i>	<i>Romański</i>
—	1♥	Dble	2♣
Pass	2♥	Dble	3♣*
All Pass			

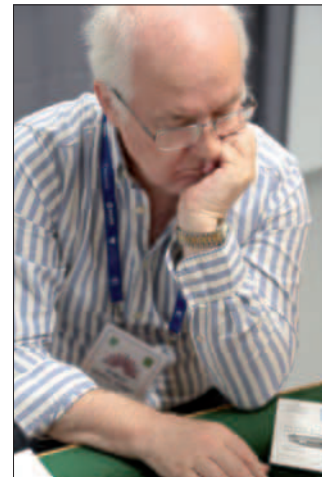
Mould doubled Apolinary Kowalski's 1♥ opening and Jacek Romański transferred to diamonds then showed his second suit at his next turn. Kowalski passed 3♣, which became the final contract. Holland led the nine of spades. Romański won the ace and led the king of hearts to the ace and ruff. He ruffed a diamond, cashed the ♥Q for a spade pitch, and called for another heart. Mould ruffed in with the queen, but this did not cause any great problem for Romański, who over-ruffed with the ace, ruffed another diamond and led a fourth heart off the table. Again, Mould ruffed in, this time with the eight,

and again Romański over-ruffed. He took a third diamond ruff followed by a fourth heart ruff, and still had the king of clubs to come for the overtrick; +130.

Vainikonis too doubled the 1♥ opening. Hackett bid a natural 2♦ with the South hand and, after a pass from Olański, Brian Senior rebid the hearts. When Vainikonis made his second double, Paul Hackett passed. Olański responded 2NT, scrambling, and Vainikonis took it out into the suit previously bid on his left. Hackett, of course, doubled 3♦, and that was that. Hackett led out three rounds of clubs, Vainikonis ruffing and playing the king of spades. Senior won the ace and returned the king of hearts to the ace and ruff, and Hackett returned the six of diamonds round to declarer's nine. Vainikonis cashed the queen of spades then ruffed a spade, and followed up with a heart. Senior won the queen and continued with another heart. Vainikonis discarded his last spade on this, so Hackett got another ruff, and still had the king of diamonds to come at the end for down three and -500; 9 IMPs to **Penfold**.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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



John Holland



Marc Bompis

Zimmermann v Goodman**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Martens</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Soulet</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
1♣	1♥	Dble*	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Dble
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Passell and Goodman had an uncontested auction to 4♠, against which Martens led the jack of diamonds to the queen, king and ace. Goodman led a club to the ace then ruffed a club, Zimmermann discarding a diamond. Goodman cashed the ace of hearts then ruffed a diamond, ruffed another club low, and ruffed his last diamond with the ace of spades. He ruffed another club with the ♠8 before conceding a heart. Zimmermann won that and returned a trump, but Goodman had 10 tricks now for +620.

Marc Bompis doubled to show four or more spades then bid an artificial 2♦, following up with a 3♥ cuebid when Philippe Soulet admitted to some spade tolerance. Having shown something in spades, however, Soulet now went back to his long club suit and, suspecting that the spade bid might have been based on only a strong doubleton,

Bompis raised him to 5♣. Soulet won the heart lead with the ace and led dummy's club to his ten, North's overcall suggesting that South was more likely to hold the jack than the king. Of course, when Soulet continued with the ace of clubs, he discovered that Meckstroth had both the king and jack of clubs and that they were both winners against him. Now Soulet needed Meckstroth to also hold three or more spades, or be out of hearts. He played ace, queen, then the third spade to dummy, but Meckstroth was ruffing, and he could cash the ♥Q, so the contract was down one for -100 and 12 IMPs to **Goodman**.

Penfold v Vytas**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Olański</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Hackett</i>
1♣	1♥	Dble*	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holland</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Mould</i>	<i>Romański</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Holland and Mould had a natural uncontested auction to 4♠, against which Romański led the ten of spades. Mould won in hand with the jack and led a club to the ace then ruffed a club. Getting the bad news when Kowalski showed out, discarding a heart, Mould switched to Plan B, cashing the ace of hearts then playing ace of diamonds and ruffing a diamond. He led another club off the dummy and Kowalski ruffed in with the nine, forcing Mould to over-ruff with the king. A second diamond ruff was followed by another club off the dummy, and Kowalski again ruffed in, this time with the seven. Seeing that to over-ruff once more would leave him with a losing spade, Mould instead discarded a heart, but this was no more successful. Kowalski won the seven of spades and cashed the king and jack of hearts. At trick 12 he led a fourth round of hearts, and this trapped declarer's low spade, which was over-ruffed for down one and -100.

Senior came in with a thin 1♥ overcall of the Polish club opening. Vainikonis doubled to show four or more spades, and this resulted in the contract being played the other way up when Vainikonis jumped to 4♠. Senior led his singleton club, which was fatal to the defence. Hackett played the king, losing to the ace, and Olański attempted to cash the queen of clubs. When Senior ruffed in with the seven, Olański did not over-ruff, instead discarding a heart from dummy. Senior returned the four of spades to

declarer's ace, and Olański ruffed a club, played ace then ruffed a diamond, and ruffed another club. That brought him up to seven tricks and there were the king and jack of spades and ace of hearts to come, 10 tricks for +620 and 12 IMPs to **Vytas**.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Zimmermann v Goodman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Martens</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	1NT	4♥	5♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Soulet</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	1NT	4♥	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

Meckstroth opened 1♣ then bid 5♣ over the opposing 4♥ and Soulet doubled. The contract was down one for -200.

Martens opened 1♦ then bid 5♣ over 4♥, and Passell did not double. Did the fact that Martens had shown a two-suiter make a difference? Maybe. Anyway, 5♣ undoubled was also down one for -100 but 3 IMPs to **Zimmermann**.

Penfold v Vytas

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olański</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Hackett</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	1NT	4♥	5♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holland</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Mould</i>	<i>Romański</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	1NT	4♥	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

Again, 5♣ was doubled at one table but not the other, in this case giving **Penfold** 3 IMPs for +200 against -100.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Zimmermann v Goodman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Martens</i>
—	—	1♦	1♥
3♦	4♥	Dble	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Soulet</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	—	1♦	1♥
3♦	3♥	3NT	Pass
Pass	4♥	Dble	All Pass

Both Easts opened 1♦, both Souths overcalled 1♥, and both Wests made pre-emptive raises to 3♦. Now the paths diverged.

Berkowitz competed to 3♥ with the North cards and Bompis took a stab at 3NT as East. Berkowitz judged correctly that 3NT would make, so saved in 4♥, which was doubled for down two and -300.

Zimmermann bid 4♥ immediately over 3♦ and was doubled by Goodman. This double too was left in for down two and -300, so no swing.

Five Diamonds was cold as the cards lay, while 6♣ was also making but, of course, nobody had bid that suit.

Penfold v Vytas**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Olański</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Hackett</i>
—	—	1♣	1♥
Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass
4♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holland</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Mould</i>	<i>Romański</i>
—	—	1♦	1♥
3♦	3♥	Dble	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Vainikonis opened 1♣ then doubled the pre-emptive 3♥ raise for takeout, and Olański made a slightly cautious 4♦ response, where he played. There were two major-suit losers, but 11 easy tricks; +150.

Mould opened 1♦, collecting a pre-emptive 3♦ raise from Holland. Mould too doubled 3♥ but, with diamonds already agreed, this was more in the way of a game try, and Holland could have been quite a bit worse than his actual hand so jumped to the cold game; +600 and 10 IMPs to **Penfold**.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Zimmermann v Goodman**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Martens</i>
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♦*
Pass	2♥	2♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Soulet</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
Pass	1♥	1♠	3♥
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Martens bid 2♦ to show a sound heart raise, then left any further move to his partner. Zimmermann signed-off in 2♥ and left Goodman to declare 2♠ when that came back round to him. Martens led a heart, Zimmermann winning and switching to a low trump. Goodman put in the jack and, when that held the trick, continued with the ace and third spade. Zimmermann won the ♠K and played two more rounds of hearts. Goodman ruffed, crossed to a top club, and took the diamond finesse. He had eight tricks for +110.

Meckstroth made a pre-emptive raise to 3♥, the LAWful bid with a known nine-card fit, and that bullied Bompis into repeating his chunky spade suit at the three level. Berkowitz won the ace of hearts, cashed the queen, then switched to a diamond to the queen and king. Meckstroth switched to a low club to dummy's ace, and Bompis then led a spade to the queen, cashed the ace, and also cashed the ace of diamonds in case the jack might fall, before playing a third spade. Berkowitz won that and returned a low club to the queen and king, and Bompis had to lose a club at the end so was down one for -50 and 4 IMPs to **Goodman**.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

**Philippe Soulet**

Zimmermann v Goodman**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Martens</i>
—	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Soulet</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Both Norths splintered in support of clubs, after which South was more than happy to commit to clubs and launch a slam try. After identical cuebidding auctions, both Souths signed-off in 5♣. Zimmermann passed that while Berkowitz raised to Six. With clubs two-one and no immediate ruff, there were 12 easy tricks, so that was +420 to Martens, but +920 to Meckstroth, and 11 IMPs to **Goodman**.

Penfold v Vytas**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Olański</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Hackett</i>
—	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holland</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Mould</i>	<i>Romański</i>
—	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Kowalski too splintered at his second turn. After the usual series of cuebids, Romański took control, asking for keycards then bidding the small slam, +920.

Senior was the only North not to splinter, raising quietly to 3♣ (forcing, of course). I'm not convinced by

Hackett's combination of showing heart strength then passing 3NT – how often will 3NT be better than 5♣ – but certainly the splinter looks to be a better call on the North hand. After a heart lead, 6♣ would always have been making if 3NT was making, so they were in the wrong contract. Plus 400 cost **Penfold** 11 IMPs, and we can't say that this swing was unlucky.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Zimmermann v Goodman**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Martens</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
2♣	Dble*	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Soulet</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

Meckstroth opened the South hand with 1♦ rather than open 1♣ and perhaps have to rebid a weak five-card suit, and Berkowitz responded 1♥. Meckstroth rebid 2♣ and Berkowitz gave preference back to 2♦ – after all, he wasn't to know that his partner's longer suit was actually clubs. Soulet led the nine of spades against 2♦, Meckstroth winning with dummy's king to lead the three of clubs to his king. Soulet won the ♣A and continued with a second spade round to declarer's ten. Meckstroth led a club, Soulet winning the queen and underleading in hearts. Bompis won the ♥Q and gave him a spade ruff, and Soulet underled in hearts for a second time, but this time Meckstroth was ruffing, and could then take a club ruff with the ♦J. He ruffed a heart with the ♦9 then

cashed the ace and king of diamonds and was down one for -100.

Martens too opened 1♦, but Passell overcalled 2♣ and Zimmermann made a negative double. Martens, of course, was delighted to be able to leave that in, and Zimmermann led the jack of diamonds. Martens won the king and switched to his singleton heart, Passell winning the king and leading a club and putting in the ten. Losing to the jack was not good news. Zimmermann gave his partner a heart ruff, and Martens cashed the ace of diamonds, then the ace of spades, before switching back to diamonds. Passell pitched his remaining spade, so Zimmermann could ruff the diamond and give his partner a second heart ruff. Martens took the ruff and got out with a spade, and there was still the king of clubs to come so down three for -800 and 14 IMPs to **Zimmermann**, who needed them.

Goodman picked up 9 IMPs over the last two boards in the set and led at the half by 71-46 IMPs.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Penfold v Vyatas Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olański</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Hackett</i>
Pass	1♣	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holland</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Mould</i>	<i>Romański</i>
Pass	1♣	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	4NT	All Pass	

So, what should South do when partner's reopening double comes round to him?

In the other semi-final, Meckstroth and Martens both bid 4♠ and played there, going two and three down respectively, for 3 IMPs to **Goodman**.

Looking at a 4-3-3-3 hand containing one ace and three jacks, Hackett decided to leave the double in. After all, as the actual deal confirmed, there was no guarantee of finding partner with four spades for his double. Hackett tried to cash the ace of clubs but Vainikonis ruffed and led a diamond to the king and ace. He ruffed the club return and crossed to dummy with a spade to the king to lead the singleton heart towards his hand. Senior won the ace and was powerless to prevent 10 tricks for +590.

At the other table, Romański took out the double into 4♠, and when that got round to Mould he doubled. Four Spades would have gone down, but Kowalski wriggled into 4NT, surely intending this to be takeout for the minors, but was left to play there. Between them, Kowalski/Romański had taken an inspired view to get to 4NT. Mould led the queen of hearts, won by the bare ace, and Kowalski crossed to the nine of clubs to lead a low diamond to the ten and queen. Mould got out passively with his remaining diamond, to the seven, eight and nine, and Kowalski led a spade to the jack. Holland won the ♠K and returned the ♠6, Kowalski getting that right, putting in the nine. Mould won the ace and cashed the ♥K for down one and -100 but 10 IMPs to **Vyatas**.

Penfold won the second set by an IMP and led by 65-37 at the halfway point in the match.

Set Three

Goodman and **Penfold** led by 25 and 28 IMPs respectively as we moved into the second half of the semi-final matches.

Board 29. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Penfold v Vytas**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Hackett	Romański	Senior
—	2♥	2♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
4NT	Pass	5♦	Dble
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Preddy	Starkowski	Selway	Kwiecień
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

After a pass on his right, Selway opened 1♠ then rebid a transfer to spades. Kwiecień led a diamond, Selway winning the king and leading his club up. Kwiecień won the ace and returned a low heart, Selway ruffing, then discarding his remaining hearts on the king and queen of clubs. He had to lose three trump tricks from here but that was all, nine tricks for +140.

**Brian Senior**

However, that was not the end of the matter. Preddy had forgotten to alert the 2♥ rebid, and Kwiecień said that he would have doubled had he known it was an artificial bid. The ruling was that Starkowski would now have jumped to 4♥ with the North cards and that Preddy would have saved, 4♠ doubled going down one for -100.

Hackett opened an aggressive weak two bid with the North cards and this added considerable momentum to the auction. Romański overcalled 2♠, Senior jumped to 4♥, and Kowalski bid 4♠. When Senior doubled that, Kowalski judged to run, bidding 4NT to ask partner to pick a minor. Romański picked diamonds, of course, and Senior doubled again to conclude the auction. Senior led ace and another spade for Hackett to ruff, and Hackett returned a club. Senior won with the ace and played another spade, but Romański ruffed with the ten, ruffed a club, and cashed the ace and king of diamonds. A heart ruff put him in the dummy to draw the outstanding trump and cash the clubs, so the contract was down just one for -100 and a flat board.

Board 30. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Penfold v Vytas**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Hackett	Romański	Senior
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Dble	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Preddy	Starkowski	Selway	Kwiecień
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Kowalski opened a Polish club and Hackett overcalled 2♦, at least five-five in the majors. Senior gave simple preference to hearts and Kowalski doubled for takeout.

Tuszyński won the ace and returned a club, but Meckstroth ruffed with the ten and drew a third round of trumps, making 10 tricks for +130.

Lair opened at the one level and the auction was exactly as we saw after that start in the other match, the auction ending in 4♠ doubled by Lair. Lair won the diamond lead and played ace and another club. Soulet won that and played two more rounds of diamonds for Bompis to take a ruff. There were the two major-suit aces to come so down two for -500 and 9 IMPs to **Zimmermann**.

Board 34. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Penfold v Vytas
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Hackett	Romański	Senior
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	3♣*	Pass	3♥*
Dble	Pass	4♠	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Preddy	Starkowski	Selway	Kwiecień
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣*	Pass	1♥*	2♥
4♠	All Pass		

Preddy opened a potentially short club and Selway transferred to spades. When Kwiecień overcalled 2♥ for the lead, Preddy jumped to the spade game. Starkowski led the four of hearts to the queen and king, and Kwiecień switched to the eight of diamonds for the queen and king. Starkowski reverted to hearts, Kwiecień winning two more of those, and there was still a spade to come; down two for -200.

Kowalski opened a Polish club and Hackett overcalled with a pre-emptive jump to 3♣. Senior's 3♥ also promised a club fit but, when Hackett failed to correct to clubs over Kowalski's double, Senior lost confidence that his bid had been understood so took the decision to save in front of his partner – neither the smartest nor the most successful decision of his career. Kowalski doubled 5♣, against which Romański led a spade. Kowalski won the king and switched to ace then queen of diamonds to dummy's king. There were the top clubs to be lost, so Hackett was down two for -300, and 11 IMPs to **Vytas**.

Board 40. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Zimmermann v Goodman
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Passell	Bompis	Lair	Soulet
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
1NT*	Pass	2♣	3♦
Pass	3NT	4♣	Pass
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gawryś	Berkowitz	Tuszyński	Meckstroth
2♥*	Pass	3♣*	All Pass

Gawryś opened 2♥, weak with at least five-five in hearts and a minor, and that caught Berkowitz with no good action on his decent 14-count. He passed, and Tuszyński responded 3♣, pass or correct. That ended the auction and Meckstroth led his singleton trump to cut down ruffs. Berkowitz won the ace of clubs and switched to the nine of spades, Meckstroth winning the ace and continuing with a second spade. Tuszyński won that in hand and played a club, and the ♣K and ♥A were his only losers; nine tricks for +110.

In range for a 15-17 NT, both Souths opted for that rather than open 1♣ and rebid 1♠, and both Norths raised to 3NT, as who would not? The opening heart lead saw both defences in control, having set up their winners immediately. The only hope for declarer was that the ♦Q would fall and, when it did not, all that our respective declarers had achieved was to create a sixth loser for themselves; down two at both tables for -100 and no swing.

Penfold v Vytas Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Hackett	Romański	Senior
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♥	2♥*	3♥	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Preddy	Starkowski	Selway	Kwiecień
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Senior was out of range to open 1NT so instead opened with a natural 1♣. Hackett's 2♥ showed a constructive raise to at least 3♣, and Senior introduced his spades, showing at least five-four or 4-1-4-4. Hackett's decision to play 3NT looks wrong to my highly biased eye, as this would surely require that he be able to run nine tricks, having only one heart stopper. Sure enough, after a heart lead, Hackett's only chance was that the ♦Q would fall under the ace-king. When it did not, he was down two for -100. That looked to be a chance missed by Senior/Hackett, having been the only NS pair to find the club fit, where game was cold.

Kwiecień opened 1NT and Starkowski basically used a psychic Stayman response. When Kwiecień responded 2♠ and Starkowski jumped to 3NT, it appeared to Preddy that dummy would show up with four hearts, so she fished out a diamond lead and Kwiecień had time to set up the clubs and come to an overtrick; +430 and 11 IMPs to **Vytas**.

In case you were wondering, 1NT-2♣*-2♥-3NT-4♠, would not have been a risk for Starkowski, as Kwiecień had a response to Stayman to show both majors, and Starkowski would therefore be bidding 3NT in full knowledge that his partner was four-four in the majors and so would not expect to see 3NT 'corrected' to 4♠.

Vytas had picked up a number of medium-sized swings through the middle of the set, and **Penfold's**

38 IMP lead early in the quarter had disappeared, so that they trailed by 81-87, going into the final quarter. Meanwhile, **Goodman** still led the other match, but by a slightly smaller margin at 79-61.

Set Four

Goodman added IMPs on a number of boards, losing only one 6 IMP swing in the set, but this deal was the final nail in the coffin for **Zimmermann**:

Board 49. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

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

Zimmermann v Goodman Open Room

West	North	East	South
Pasell	Bompis	Lair	Soulet
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	Dble*	2♦	4♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♠*
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gawryś	Berkowitz	Tuszyński	Meckstroth
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	Dble*	2♥	4♠
All Pass			

Meckstroth opened his shapely hand with 1♣ and, when Berkowitz doubled the 1♥ overcall to show four or more spades, jumped to the spade game. Gawryś cashed the ace of diamonds then switched to the seven of hearts. Meckstroth won the ace and played on spades, and the ace of spades was the only trick for the defence; 11 tricks for +650.

Bompis too could double 1♥ to show four-plus spades, and Soulet jumped to 4♠. Perhaps sensing that the match was slipping away and that a swing was

required, plus he liked his fifth trump, fitting ♣Q, and red-suit controls, Soulet asked for keycards but then quickly signed-off on finding that two were missing. Passell cashed the king of diamonds, but he then switched to his singleton club. Soulet won dummy's queen and led the jack of spades off the dummy. Lair, however, had no option but to win the ace and, when he then returned a club, Passell ruffed for down one and -100, giving 13 IMPs to **Goodman**.

Double dummy, even 4♠ can be beaten if West leads the singleton club at trick one. It requires that West underlead the top diamonds to put partner in to give a second club ruff. That would be an impressive defence to find.

Goodman won the fourth quarter by 32-6 IMPs, giving an overall winning margin of 111-67.

Penfold gained 7 IMPs over the first two boards of the set, but **Vytas** then took the lead with three medium-sized swings. Going into Board 53, **Vytas** led, but only by 104-92, so the match was still very much alive. It proved to be decisive.

Board 53. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Penfold v Vytas Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Holland	Romański	Mould
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	Dble
Rdbl	2NT	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hackett	Starkowski	Senior	Kwiecień
—	Pass	1NT	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	2♦
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		



Alan Mould

Senior opened a 14-16 NT and Kwiecień doubled, showing a four-card major and longer minor. Hackett showed values then left Kwiecień's run out into 2♦ round to Senior, who bid his chunky spade suit. Hackett raised to 4♠ and Kwiecień led his trump. Senior won that and drew the rest of the missing trumps, then led the queen of diamonds and ran it, followed by a second diamond to the jack. He cashed the red aces then led a heart to the queen and king, ruffed the heart return, and was at the crossroads. The fact that Kwiecień had at no point been tempted to lead a club strongly indicated that the club honours were split. A club to the jack followed by a club to the nine would be the winning play if North held the ten, while starting with the queen would be the winning play if South held the ten. Unfortunately for Senior, he had a complete count on the hand and knew that North had started with four clubs to South's three, hence, North was more likely to hold the ten. He started clubs by leading low to the jack and that meant three club losers and down one for -100.

Both EW's in the other semi-final played in 4♠ and both went down.

Romański also opened 1NT, 15-17, and Kowalski transferred to spades after a pass from Mould. However, when Romański completed the transfer, Mould doubled for takeout, Kowalski redoubled to show values, and Holland bid a scrambling 2NT, at least two places to play. Romański now did something very good for his side, by bidding 3NT despite the known five-four spade fit. With the diamond outside the contract was cold, and Romański actually came to an overtrick (according to the official scoresheet, though the play record suggests only nine tricks) for +630 and 12 IMPs to **Vytas**.

Board 54. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

**Penfold v Vytas
Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Holland	Romański	Mould
—	—	1NT	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hackett	Starkowski	Senior	Kwiecień
—	—	1NT	2♣*
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Both Easts opened 1NT and both Souths overcalled 2♣, showing both majors. When Starkowski simply responded 2♥, Kwiecień called it a day, while in the same position Mould raised to 3♥ to invite game and Holland, with a much better hand than he might have had, accepted the invitation.

Senior led a diamond against 2♥, Starkowski winning the bare king and playing the king of hearts in hope of forcing an entry to his hand. When Senior ducked the heart, Starkowski called for a low spade from the table. Senior won that and returned the king of clubs. Starkowski won the ace, ruffed a spade, and took a club pitch on the ace of diamonds. He could crossruff his way to 10 tricks now for an easy +170.

Romański too led a diamond to the bare king. Holland didn't touch trumps, just leading a low spade off the table at trick two. Kowalski won that with the nine and returned the jack of hearts, which ran to the king. But now Holland could crossruff, taking the club finesse along the way, and he too had 10 tricks; +620 and 10 IMPs to **Penfold**. However, this had come too late, and **Vytas** won the match by 116-102.

The Final

So, the final would be between the American team **Goodman**, and the Lithuanian/Polish team **Vytas**, and would be played over 4 x 14-board segments.

Set One

Vytas picked up an IMP on Board 1 for 3♥ just making against 2♦+1, then system helped them to a slightly larger swing on the second deal.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Romański	Berkowitz	Kowalski	Meckstroth
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣*	1♦	1♥*	Pass
1♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Passell	Vainikonis	Goodman	Olański
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♦	1♠	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Passell and Goodman had a natural auction to 2♠, in which Passell might well have rebid 1NT had his weak suit not been bid against him, making the strong three-card spade support look a more attractive option. Olański led the jack of diamonds, Vainikonis overtaking then playing three more rounds of diamonds. Passell discarded the ten of hearts from the dummy and ruffed with the king in hand. He cashed the ace and queen of spades then ran the jack of clubs, losing to the king. Vainikonis returned his last diamond, Passell ruffing and cashing the ace and

king of hearts then playing a club to hand. When he tried to cash the third club, Vainikonis could ruff then cash the jack of spades for down one and -50.

Passell could have made it on this defence, of course, by playing for a heart ruff at trick 12 and making dummy's ♠10 en passant, but he could not believe that the position was as it was, as Vainikonis should then have cashed the ♠J when in with the ♣K.

Kowalski could transfer to spades, and that enabled Romański to show his three-card support and weak NT type at the one level. With game out of the picture, Kowalski could pass out 1♠ and stop a level lower than the other room. Berkowitz cashed three rounds of diamonds then switched to the nine of hearts. Romański won the ♥A and led a club to the queen. That lost to the king and back came a second heart. Romański won the king and played ace, king, and a third spade to the queen, having no reason to play the hand with long diamonds to also have the spade length. He made five black tricks and the two top hearts for +80 and 4 IMPs to **Vytas**, who led by 5-0.

Goodman got on the scoreboard on the next deal.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Romański	Berkowitz	Kowalski	Meckstroth
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Passell	Vainikonis	Goodman	Olański
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦	All Pass



Vytautas Vainikonis

After identical starts to the two auctions, Kowalski made the deeply unattractive preference between his singletons and Romański played there, while Goodman was willing to go a level higher on the misfit to play in his own long and strong suit.

Kowalski was lucky to find Romański with such chunky spades, but 2♠ still proved to be a hopeless task. Berkowitz led his singleton diamond, Meckstroth winning the ace and continuing with a suit-preference ten for Berkowitz to ruff. Berkowitz duly underled in hearts and Meckstroth switched to the jack of spades to kill the heart ruff in dummy and, by doing so, ensure that dummy would never again be a factor in the play. Romański won the spade and cashed all the rest of his trumps before exiting with a heart in hope of an endplay, but the defence knew exactly what was going on and had no difficulty in winning in the right hand to pump a club through the ace, and that was down two for -200.

By contrast, 3♦ was all very comfortable, despite the four-one trump split. Olański played king followed by a low heart, and Goodman ruffed the second round. He led a club to the ace then continued with the ten of clubs, which Vainikonis won with the king. Vainikonis returned his diamond to the king and ace, and Olański returned a low diamond to dummy's nine, sacrificing his second trump trick to prevent a club ruff in the dummy. Goodman could win the ♦9 and cash the top spades to get rid of his remaining low clubs, then ruff a heart to hand to draw trumps and cash the ♣Q; 10 tricks for +130 and 8 IMPs to **Goodman**, who led by 8-5.

The score had moved on to 9-7 in favour of **Goodman** when the next significant swing came along.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Romański</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♦*	Pass	1♥*	Pass
1♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Olański</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Kowalski's 1♣ was Polish and the 1♦ response, whilst including the possibility of some invitational range minor-suit hands, would more often be a negative, 0-6 HCP. The 1♥ rebid was two-way, either a weak NT type, when it could occasionally be bid on a three-card suit, or natural in the context of a strong club opening. Romański responded 1♠, natural, but limited by the initial 1♦ response, and Kowalski, knowing of a maximum of 24 HCP combined, settled for the one level for the second time in the set. Berkowitz led a club. Romański won and promptly played the other two top clubs, Meckstroth ruffing the third round and returning a diamond to the queen and king. Berkowitz cashed the ♦ A then played a third round to attack declarer's trump position. Romański ruffed in dummy, throwing a heart from hand, then played three rounds of hearts, ruffing low. The last club was ruffed with the jack and back came a low spade. Romański played low, losing to the ten, but had to win one of the last two tricks so the contract was just made for +80.

Goodman opened a natural 1♥ and, when Passell scraped up a 1♠ response, made a game-forcing 3♣

rebid then went on to game when Passell admitted to heart tolerance. Olański cashed the ace of spades and, when Goodman dropped the jack, was unable to read the spade position so switched to a diamond. Vainikonis won the king and ace of diamonds, and could have cleared up the spade situation by switching to the suit, when he would have got his ruff for down three, but he had been taken in by declarer's falsecard at trick one, and instead switched to a club. Goodman won the queen and played three rounds of hearts, losing to the queen, and also losing a second spade for down two and -200; 7 IMPs to Vytas, who were back in the lead at 14-9.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Romański</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Olański</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

What should East do when the strong NT opening comes round to him? Kowalski, fearing that a double might see the contract making on a non-spade lead, instead made a jump overcall of 3♠ and was left to play there. Meckstroth had little difficulty in taking his four top winners, but there was no prospect of a fifth, so Kowalski quickly wrapped up nine tricks and his contract for +140.

Goodman opted for the double, but that was not penalty, merely showing a one-suited overcall. Two

Clubs asked, and 2♠ showed spades, with Passell raising to game. That looks a bit pushy to me, as Goodman had a pretty decent overcall yet also had four top losers, and Olański, like Meckstroth, had no problem in taking them, down one for -50 and 5 IMPs to **Vytas**, doubling the lead to 19-9.

Goodman picked up an overtrick IMP in what was, as the cards lay, a cold heart game, then came the big swing of the set.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Romański</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	1♠	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Olański</i>
—	1♠	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Both Easts overcalled 2♥ and both Souths passed, so that the overcall ran round to opener. The respective Norths, however, found two quite different actions.

Vainikonis didn't fancy a likely leave in from partner so, rather than make a reopening double, cuebid 3♥. When Olański converted to 3NT, Vainikonis was happy enough, as this seemed to confirm that a double would indeed have been left in. Passell led the five of hearts, Olański discarding a diamond from dummy as Goodman won the king and switched to a low diamond. Playing low would, of course, have made the contract, but

Olański wasn't to know that spades were five-zero. He won the ace of diamonds and led a spade to the nine and queen, then continued with three rounds of clubs. Passell won the third round and returned a diamond, and the fourth diamond was established. Olański could cash the thirteenth club then play the ♥Q, but Goodman had the ace of those plus the long diamond, and that meant down one for -100.

Berkowitz reopened with a double, and I wonder how many people would do as did Meckstroth, jumping to 3NT rather than taking the sure penalty from 2♥ doubled? Berkowitz converted to 4♠ and Romański resisted any temptation to double, so that was that. Berkowitz ruffed the top heart lead and cashed the king of spades, getting the bad news. However, in truth, it wasn't actually such bad news at all. Berkowitz simply crossed to dummy twice with top diamonds to win both his remaining small trumps with heart ruffs, and had six spades plus two ace-kings, so 10 tricks in all for +620 and 12 IMPs to **Goodman**.

An IMP to **Vytas** on Board 14 meant that the first quarter closed with **Goodman** ahead by 2 IMPs, at 22-20.

Set Two

For Set Two, the Americans retained the same line-up, while Starkowski and Kwiecień replaced Kowalski/Romański for **Vytas**. There were no double-figure swings in the set, but **Vytas** picked up a series of medium-sized swings to build a useful lead over the first seven boards.



Wojtek Olański

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Kwiecień</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	Dble	1♠
2♣	2♠	5♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Olański</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

Kwiecień doubled the 1♥ response so Meckstroth showed his second suit and, in the process, a distributional hand, and Starkowski introduced his own five-card suit. That simple free bid excited Kwiecień who jumped to the club game over Berkowitz's spade raise. Berkowitz led his singleton diamond, Meckstroth winning the ace and continuing with the queen to the king, ruff with the jack, and over-ruff with the ace. Starkowski cashed one top heart, seeing the fall of the ten, then led the six of clubs to the eight and nine. He ruffed a diamond with the ♣10, ruffed a spade back to hand, then cashed the king of clubs, drawing the missing trumps. From here he just had to give up a diamond to establish his eleventh trick, the heart loser going away on the ace of spades; +400.

Goodman preferred a 1♠ overcall of the 1♥ response and now Olański repeated the long diamonds. Two Diamonds was passed round to Goodman, who reopened with a double. EW could have done very nicely on defence to 2♦ doubled, but Passell took out the double to 3♣ and was left to play there. He too came to 11

tricks, but that was worth only +150 so 6 IMPs to **Vytas**, leading by 26-22.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Kwiecień</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	Dble	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Olański</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	Dble	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Berkowitz opened the North hand 1♦, doubled to show three-card heart support, then passed his minimum when Meckstroth made an invitational jump to 2NT. Trusting his opponents to have a spade stopper, Starkowski underled his spades to Kwiecień's bare jack. Kwiecień switched to a club, but Meckstroth won the ace in hand, cashed the king and jack of diamonds, then crossed to the king of clubs to cash the diamonds. Finally, he cashed the ♥A and settled for nine tricks for +150.

The auction followed the same lines up to 2NT in the other room, but Vainikonis converted 2NT to 3♦, thinking this might be a safer spot. However, knowing of long diamonds in partner's hand, Olański upgraded his prime hand and went on to 3NT, still gambling a little on the spade position. Passell led out four rounds of spades, hoping that he might have a chance to get back on lead before declarer had nine tricks. It was not to be; Olański won the fourth spade, unblocked the diamonds, and had 10 tricks for +430 and 7 IMPs to **Vytas**; 33-22.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Kwiecień</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	—	1♠	1NT
2♠	2NT	3♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Olański</i>
—	—	1♠	1NT
3♠	4♥	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Both Easts opened 1♠ and both Souths overcalled 1NT. Starkowski now raised to 2♠ and Berkowitz used lebensohl to compete in his long heart suit. Kwiecień went on to 3♠, and that concluded the auction with Berkowitz not having been able to show which suit he held – and this would have come as some surprise to Kwiecień, when it came to light. Meckstroth led the king of diamonds. Kwiecień ruffed and led the seven of clubs, Meckstroth rising with the ace and returning the queen of spades to reduce dummy's ruffing power. Kwiecień won the ♠A, ruffed a heart, and led the queen of diamonds, ruffing when Berkowitz followed with a low card. Ace and another heart, ruffing, was followed by a diamond, but Berkowitz could ruff in with the nine. Kwiecień over-ruffed and crossed to the king of clubs to lead yet another diamond, and this time there could be no intervening ruff so he could score with the six of spades for his ninth trick; +140.

Passell raised spades to the three level and, not being prepared to be shut out, Vainikonis bid 4♥. That could have been doubled and defeated by a couple of tricks, but from Goodman's perspective defensive prospects would be a lot less healthy if Passell had a fourth spade, while

that would also boost offensive prospects. He went on to 4♠, and Olański doubled. Goodman ruffed the top diamond lead and took a heart ruff. Next, he ran the queen of diamonds to the king, and Olański returned the queen of spades. Goodman won the ace of spades then led the eight of clubs towards dummy, Olański rising with the ace and returning the ♣6. Goodman played low, losing to the queen, and Vainikonis returned a club for his partner to ruff. Olański returned his remaining spade now, so Goodman had the rest; down one for -100 and 6 IMPs to **Vytas**, who led by 39-22.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Kwiecień</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♦*	3♦	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Olański</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Dble	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Both Souths preferred to open 1NT, rather than open 1♣ and rebid 3♣, and both Norths transferred to hearts.

Goodman doubled the transfer bid and Olański completed. When that came back to Goodman he competed with 3♦ and Vainikonis in turn competed to 3♥, where they played. Passell led the ten of diamonds, Goodman winning the ace and continuing with the queen in hope that his partner would be ruffing. Olański won the king then led a heart to the nine and king, and

Goodman made the natural return of his singleton club, in hope that he would get a ruff. But Olański won the ♣A and led his remaining heart to the ten and jack, cashed the ace of hearts, and could cash the clubs, making 11 tricks for +200.

Had Goodman switched to the club at trick one, he could then have beaten the contract, whether or not declarer played ace and another trump, as long as he returned a spade upon winning the ♥K, and now a diamond.

Kwiecień bid 3♦ over the transfer, and that encouraged Starkowski to bid 3♠ constructively. Kwiecień was content to play a spade contract but thought game unlikely so passed it out in 3♠, against which Berkowitz led a club and Meckstroth won the queen and switched to a heart for the ten, jack and king. Starkowski played a heart back to Berkowitz's six, and back came a second club. Starkowski ruffed, took a spade finesse, ruffed his last club, then played ace and another diamond, losing to the king. Meckstroth returned the ace of clubs, which Starkowski ruffed with the jack. He could cash the ♠A, but had only one of the last three tricks so was down one for -50 but +3 IMPs to **Vytas**, whose lead was up to 42-22.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Kwiecień</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
Pass	Pass	3♦	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Olański</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

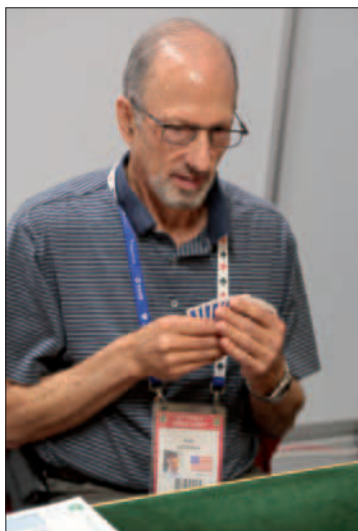
There were three passes round to Olański, who opened 1♠ and was raised to 2♠ by Vainikonis. Goodman did not compete with the seven-card diamond suit, nor did Olański make a try for game, so that was the end of the auction. Passell led the king of clubs. Goodman overtook and continued with the three of clubs, Passell winning the ten and cashing the queen. Goodman threw the jack of hearts on this trick and Passell read him for a singleton so switched to a heart and the ensuing ruff was the fourth and final defensive winner, +140.

Kwiecień opened 3♦ in third seat, and that added extra momentum to the auction, leading to an inevitable 4♠, played by South. Starkowski led the king of diamonds. Meckstroth won the ace and drew two rounds of trumps, then tried the hearts, hoping to get his diamond loser away then set up the thirteenth club. But Kwiecień ruffed the second heart, cashed the ♦Q, then switched to ace and another club, and the contract was down two for -200 and 8 IMPs to **Vytas**, who led by 50-22.

To succeed on this layout, Meckstroth would have had to play for the actual heart position, drawing three rounds of trumps then playing king of hearts followed by a heart to the nine, as otherwise he would have had four club losers. Could Meckstroth have changed horses in mid-stream on seeing the fall of the ♥J under his king? Well, maybe, but the jack could have been from ♥J10 or ♥J10x, as well as being bare. Had he cashed the third spade, he might well have then judged the odds to have changed sufficiently to justify the finesse of the ♥9, as East would have appeared to have 10 cards in diamonds and spades. His actual line would have picked up any three-three or four-two heart split, as the suit ruffs out if required, and also doubleton club holdings including the ten in the East hand, subject to the second heart standing up.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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



Andy Goodman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Kwiecień</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	1NT	4♥	Dble
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Olański</i>
—	1NT	4♥	Dble
Pass	4NT	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Both Norths opened 1NT, both Easts overcalled 4♥, and both Souths doubled for takeout. Now the paths diverged.

Lacking four spades, Berkowitz left in the double, and Meckstroth led the jack of clubs. Kwiecień ruffed and cashed four rounds of trumps before exiting with the jack of spades. Meckstroth won the queen and returned a spade, so Berkowitz won the king and continued with the ace. Kwiecień ruffed and led a low diamond. Meckstroth won the queen and played a club. Kwiecień ruffed and played a second low diamond, and the appearance of the ace meant that he had a ninth trick, in the shape of the king of diamonds, so was down only one for -100.

Vainikonis believed that a takeout double should be taken out, so responded with 4NT to ask his partner to pick a minor. Five Clubs would have made, despite the four-nil trump split, so Goodman made a winning decision when he went on to 5♥, where he was doubled. Olański too led the jack of clubs, Goodman discarding

the seven of spades on this trick but ruffing the club continuation. He drew trumps in two rounds then exited with the jack of spades, but Olański won that with the queen and returned a spade, so Goodman had to ruff and, after cashing a couple more hearts, play a low diamond. Like Kwiecień, he dropped the doubleton ace queen to set up the king, but this time that meant down two for -300 and 5 IMPs to **Vytas**, 55-22.

Goodman scored two overtrick IMPs in 3NT on Board 24, to make it 24-55, and there was one more small swing to come.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Kwiecień</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
Dble	2♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Olański</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
Dble	2♦*	Pass	Pass
2♥	3♣	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Vainikonis showed diamonds and clubs with his 2♦ call, and Olański left it in his better minor. When Passell competed to 2♥ Vainikonis in turn competed to 3♣, and Olański converted that to 3♦, ending the auction. Goodman led the jack of hearts to the queen and king, and Passell switched to the king of spades. Vainikonis won the ace and drew four rounds of trumps, discarding a club from dummy. Next, he played the jack of spades,

and Passell ducked. Vainikonis switched his attention to clubs now and the even split meant that he had three winners there and 10 in all for +130.

Berkowitz made a simple raise to 2♣ then let his opponents get on with it. Starkowski doubled for a second time then converted the 2♦ response to 2♥. Did that imply spades as well as hearts? Apparently not as far Kwiecień was concerned, because he passed out 2♥ when holding four spades and only two hearts. Berkowitz led the king of clubs against 2♥, continuing with the jack, and then the nine, as Starkowski ducked twice. Starkowski tried a heart to the nine, but that lost to the ten, and Meckstroth returned the king then ace of hearts. Starkowski ruffed and played the king of spades. Meckstroth won the ♠A and played a third diamond, Starkowski ruffing and cashing the ace and king of hearts before playing queen and another spade. Meckstroth had the last two tricks so the contract was down two for -200 and 2 IMPs to **Goodman**, who ended the set trailing by 26-55.

Set Three

For Set Three, Kowalski/Romański came back in for Vainikonis/Olański, completing the cycle, while Andy Goodman was replaced by Mark Lair for the Americans.

Board 30. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Berkowitz	Romański	Meckstroth
—	—	2♥*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Passell	Starkowski	Lair	Kwiecień
—	—	Pass	2♦
Dble	2♥	3♥	3♠
Dble	All Pass		

Vytas opened with weak bids at both tables on this one.

Romański could open 2♥ as dealer, showing at least five-five in hearts and a minor, and Kowalski asked, discovering that the second suit was diamonds, then made two slam tries before asking for keycards and finally signing off at the five level. You can understand Kowalski's enthusiasm, knowing that he had no black-suit losers and holding four good hearts and a useful-looking diamond holding, but he discovered that 5♥ was one level too high, with the ♥K and both missing diamond honours offside. Meckstroth led his singleton diamond, so the contract was down immediately; -50.

Lair did not have the two-suited weapon at his disposal and didn't like the suit quality for a simple weak two bid, so passed, and it was Kwiecień who opened with a multi 2♦ as South – even with seven-four shape, he didn't like that spade suit for a three-level opening. Passell doubled, 13-15 balanced or strong, and 2♥ was pass or correct. When Lair competed with 3♥, Kwiecień decided that his extra distribution justified competing with 3♠. Passell told him that he might be mistaken, and the double ended the auction. Passell cashed the ace of hearts and, on seeing dummy and Lair's four, switched to a low club. That worked out very nicely as Lair won the king and continued the suit, getting a ruff with his ♠Q and so avoiding any risk of that card being crashed under



Mike Passell

partner's ace-king. There were just the top spades to be lost from here, but down two was -500 and 12 IMPs to **Goodman**, closing to 38-55.

Board 32. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ J	♠ 7 2	♠ K Q 8 4 3
♥ AKQ865432	♥ J 9 7	♥ 7 3
♦ 10	♦ K Q 8 6 4	♦ 10 9 8 6 4
♣ 7 2	♣ K J 3	♣ A 10 9 6 5
		♥ —
		♦ A J 9 5 2
		♣ A Q 5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Berkowitz	Romański	Meckstroth
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Passell	Starkowski	Lair	Kwiecień
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♦
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4NT*	Dble	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
5♥	6♦	Pass	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

You rarely mind becoming declarer when you hold an ace-king-queen-to-nine suit, but Kowalski must have been delighted to get to play in only 4♥ doubled. Berkowitz led the seven of spades, Meckstroth winning the ace and switching to ace then five of clubs. Berkowitz won the second club and tried to cash a third, but Kowalski ruffed and rattled off the trumps before finally having to concede a diamond, so was down one for -200.

Passell opened at the one level and that led to a very different and highly competitive auction. Lair responded 1♠ and Kwiecień made a simple overcall, after which Passell jumped to 4♥. Despite his huge diamond support, Starkowski did not bid at this point but, when Kwiecień could double 4♥, Starkowski judged his hand

to be worth a slam try on the way to 5♦. Passell was pretty confident that 5♥ would be cheaper than defending 5♦, assuming the latter to be making, but when Starkowski went on to 6♦ and Lair couldn't double, Passell found himself having to save again, this time at the six level. Kwiecień doubled 6♥ and Starkowski led a club. Kwiecień won the ace and switched to ace and another diamond, ruffed. Passell drew trumps then played the jack of spades, but Kwiecień knew to win that and cash a club, so Passell was down three for -800 and 12 IMPs to **Vytas**, whose lead went back up to 67-39.

Board 34. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open & Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Berkowitz	Romański	Meckstroth
Passell	Starkowski	Lair	Kwiecień
—	—	Pass	1♦
1♥	Dble	2NT*	4♠
All Pass			

2NT Constructive four-card heart raise.

Identical auctions saw the respective Souths at the helm in 4♠, against which West led out two top hearts. There look to be only three losers, but of course it isn't quite as simple as that.

Meckstroth ruffed the second heart and played ace and another spade. Romański won the ♠K and returned a low diamond, which Meckstroth ducked to the king. He won the club switch with the ace and played a diamond to the ace then ruffed a diamond, came back to hand with the ♣K and ruffed another diamond, setting up the long diamonds and claiming the rest for +420.

Kwiecień also ruffed the second heart and played ace and another spade. When Lair won the king he returned

the queen of clubs. Kwiecień won the ace and led the ten of diamonds and ran it, losing to the bare king. Back came a club. Kwiecień won the king and played ace and another diamond, but the defensive club plays meant that he was defeated by the four-one diamond break, being an entry short to his hand, so the contract was down one for -50 and 10 IMPs to **Goodman**, closing to 49-67. Well defended by Lair to find the club switch, and of course declarer was not going to play for the actual club position when he had the possibility to establish diamonds.

Board 37. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Berkowitz	Romański	Meckstroth
—	1♦	Pass	1NT
2♦*	Pass	2♥	3♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Passell	Starkowski	Lair	Kwiecień
—	1♣*	Pass	1NT
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	2♦	Dble	Pass
Pass	2♥	Dble	All Pass

Kowalski's 2♦ cuebid, showing both majors, had got his side to a rather delicate-looking four-two fit. Fortunately for them, Meckstroth had undisclosed four-card diamond support and competed with 3♦, ending the auction. Berkowitz could not have been very happy when he saw the dummy. Romański led the two of hearts, low from a doubleton in Polish style, and Kowalski won the ace and continued with the three to Berkowitz's king. Berkowitz led a club to dummy's king



Mark Lair

followed by a spade to the nine and king. Next he conceded a club to set up ruffs in hand, and Kowalski won the queen and returned the nine of diamonds to the queen, and duck from Romański. Berkowitz gave up a spade, but Romański won the ten and returned the king of diamonds to dummy's ace. Berkowitz ruffed a club then played the queen of hearts, but Romański could ruff and return his last diamond, and had the last trick with the ace of clubs for down one and -50.

The NS auction at the other table was a little mysterious. If Kwiecień's redouble was strength-showing, then it should have been left in, and 1NT redoubled looks as though it might be made with all the missing honours well placed. But if, as seems more likely, redouble was SOS, surely that was for the minors, as South had denied a major with his 1NT response. Why, then, did Starkowski not stick it out in 2♦ doubled rather than run to a suit that was surely well held on his right? Lair led the ten of spades, and Passell ducked it to declarer's jack. Starkowski led the queen of diamonds to the king and ace, followed by a spade. Passell won the ace and returned the nine of diamonds to dummy's jack. When Starkowski now led a diamond off the dummy, Passell ruffed and returned the queen of spades, on which Starkowski played low. Lair, however, ruffed in front of dummy with the nine, and returned a low club. Starkowski shot up with the king and led a heart to his king, ruffed the winning king of spades to get back to dummy, and played another heart. Passell won the ♥A and played the ♣Q, but that was all for the defence; eight tricks for +470 and 11 IMPs to **Vytas**, growing the lead to 78-49.

Board 38. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Berkowitz	Romański	Meckstroth
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5NT*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Passell	Starkowski	Lair	Kwiecień
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Kwiecień opened a Polish Club and rebid 1♠, natural, and either clubs and spades or the strong variety of the 1♣ opening. Starkowski's leap to 3NT might not be to everyone's taste, but it got them to a sensible contract, which is all that really mattered. Lair led a club round to the bare king. Starkowski cashed the queen of spades then crossed to the ace of diamonds and cashed the ace and king of spades followed by the ace and queen of clubs. Next came the king and queen of diamonds, but that was all; nine tricks for +600.

Meckstroth opened 1♠ and the 2♥ response was natural and game-forcing. Meckstroth bid spades twice more and, on eventually getting spade tolerance out of Berkowitz, went on with keycard. The response showed zero or three, so Meckstroth made one more try, checking on the queen of trumps. Five NT said yes, and Meckstroth signed off in the small slam. Kowalski led the eight of clubs. Meckstroth won the king, cashed the

♠Q, then came to hand with a diamond to play the ace and king of spades. The four-two break was disappointing, but he had a second string to his bow, leading the ♦10 to the king and cashing the queen for a heart discard. Had diamonds split evenly, he could have also got rid of the fourth club, but as it was Meckstroth had to lose both to the ♠J and ♣J, so was down one for -100 and 12 IMPs to Vytas. They led by 90-49.

Board 39. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Berkowitz	Romański	Meckstroth
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥*
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Passell	Starkowski	Lair	Kwiecień
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	Pass
2♠	Dble	All Pass	

Berkowitz opened 1♦, showed his second suit, then made a natural game try. When Meckstroth co-operated by using fourth suit forcing, Berkowitz jumped to 5♣ to offer a choice of minor-suit games, Meckstroth, of course, choosing 5♦. Romański led the ten of hearts, Kowalski winning the ace and returning the suit to declarer's king. Berkowitz played ace then a low club, and was no doubt surprised to see Romański ruffing in front of dummy with

the jack. Berkowitz over-ruffed and played ace of spades then ruffed a spade, then led another club. Romański ruffed with the ten then returned his last trump, but Berkowitz could win, ruff his last low club, and come back to hand with a ruff to cash out; 11 tricks for +400.

At the other table, Starkowski was about to rebid in clubs, when Passell wandered in with a 2♣ overcall in front of him. Starkowski therefore passed and passed again when Kwiecień's balancing double came round to him. Lair made an SOS redouble, and Passell cannot have been thrilled at having to select the suit already bid on his right. Starkowski doubled 2♠ and that concluded the auction. Starkowski led his trump to the five, nine and queen. Passell played ace and another heart to Starkowski's king, and Starkowski underled in diamonds to put Kwiecień in to play two more rounds of trumps. Lair won the ♠10 and cashed the king, then the queen of hearts, and that was all; down three for -500 and 3 IMPs to **Vytas**, who led by 93-49.

Goodman needed something good to happen as the set came towards its end. They picked up a single IMP on Board 12 for 1NT+2 against 2♦+1, then a little more on the final deal.

Board 42. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Berkowitz	Romański	Meckstroth
—	—	1♣	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Passell	Starkowski	Lair	Kwiecień
—	—	1♣	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

After identical starts to the two auctions, Berkowitz gave simple preference to 2♠, which ended the auction, while Starkowski made the more optimistic bid of 2NT, which Kwiecień raised to game.

Kowalski led the five of clubs against 2♠, Meckstroth winning the ace and leading a heart off the dummy. Romański split his honours, playing the queen, and Meckstroth ducked. He went up with the king on Romański's low spade return and led a diamond to the jack, which Romański ducked. Meckstroth cashed the king of clubs for a diamond pitch, then led a heart to the jack, cashed the ace, and ruffed his last heart with the ten of spades. A club ruff was followed by an exit with the queen of diamonds, and Meckstroth could not be prevented from making another trump trick in the endgame so had an overtrick for +140.

Lair led the queen of hearts against 3NT, and continued with the king when Starkowski ducked. Starkowski led a low spade to the ten and jack, and Lair played the five of hearts to dummy's jack. The king of spades lost to the ace and Lair cashed the nine of hearts and still held the ace of diamonds for the setting trick; down one for -50 and 5 IMPs to **Goodman**, who trailed by 55-93 with one set to play.

Set Four

For the fourth quarter, Kowalski/Romański switched seats, otherwise there was no change to either team's line-up. **Vytas** led by 38 IMPs and there were 14 boards to play.

Board 43 was flat in 2♠+1 by East, but we didn't have to wait long for the first swing to come along.



Michał Kwiecień

Board 44. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Romański</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Lair</i>	<i>Kwiecień</i>
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Holding a minimum opening with a spade void, neither North was comfortable in making a reopening double, which must have disappointed the South players more than a little.

Starkowski repeated his six-card heart suit then introduced the diamonds over Kwiecień's invitational 2NT. When Kwiecień could only give preference to 3♥, Starkowski passed it out. Lair tried a low diamond lead but this proved to be a disaster for the defence. Starkowski put up the queen and, when that held the trick, the three top spades took care of all of declarer's club losers. Starkowski continued with a heart to the jack, Lair winning the ace and playing the ace of clubs, ruffed by Starkowski. The king of diamonds lost to Lair's ace and Lair played the jack of spades, on which Passell discarded his last diamond as Starkowski ruffed. The nine of diamonds went to the ten, ruff and over-ruff, and Starkowski had the rest for +170.

Berkowitz rebid 2♦ then, when Meckstroth bid 2♠, showed the sixth heart, and Meckstroth went on to game.

Ace and another club would have beaten 3♥, let alone 4♥. That was Kowalski's choice and Romański won the king and gave his partner a ruff. Ace and another diamond put Berkowitz in dummy with the queen, and he played off two top spades to discard his remaining diamonds to avoid a defensive ruff, then led a heart to the jack. That forced the ace, but there was still a second heart to be lost to the queen, so the contract was down three for -150 and 8 IMPs to **Vytas**, who led by 101-55.

Board 45. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Romański</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	2♣	Dble	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Lair</i>	<i>Kwiecień</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♣*
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	2NT*	Dble	3♣
All Pass			

Berkowitz raised to 2♣ but then had said his piece and left his opponents to play in 2♥. He led the six of clubs to the queen, eight, and jack, and Romański played a heart to the queen and ace, won the club continuation with the ace, and drew trumps before leading the nine of spades and running it. That lost to the ten and back came the king of clubs. Romański ruffed and led a second spade to the king and ace, and was left with two diamond losers so the contract was just made for +110.

Facing a Polish 1♣ opening, Starkowski did not bid over the 1♥ overcall, but competed with 2NT, both

minors, when Lair's heart raise came back to him. That saw Kwiecień declare 3♣, against which Passell led the queen of hearts. Kwiecień ducked that, Lair overtaking with the king and returning a heart to dummy's ace. Kwiecień led a spade to the king and ace followed by the jack of diamonds. Seeing the ten-nine in his own hand it was obvious to Passell that declarer could not have a guess in the suit, so he rose with the ace and played a heart, which Kwiecień ruffed low. He ducked a club to the jack, won the diamond return in hand, and ducked another club, bringing down the ace. A spade to the queen cashed the setting trick, but Kwiecień had the rest so was down just one for -50 but 2 IMPs to **Vytas**, 103-55.

Board 46. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Romański</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	—	1♣	1♦
Dble	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Lair</i>	<i>Kwiecień</i>
—	—	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠*	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Kowalski opened a Polish club and Meckstroth made a simple overcall. Romański's double was a transfer to hearts, and the jump to 2NT showed 18-20 balanced. Romański introduced his second suit, Kowalski gave preference to hearts, and Romański made a slam try. Kowalski, with a minimum and with diamonds bid over him, signed off, leaving any further move to his partner,



Apolinary Kowalski

but Romański had had enough and passed out 4♥. Meckstroth led the five of clubs to the queen and king. Kowalski led the ten of hearts to the queen, a heart back to the king, and a third heart to the ace. When clubs split three-two, he had 12 tricks for +480.

Lair opened 2♦, 18-19 balanced, and Passell responded 3♦, transfer to hearts. Lair did as requested, so Passell continued by showing his second suit, and Lair, with good cards in both his partner's suits and controls in the unbid suits, asked for keycards, then bid the small slam on finding his partner with two plus the queen of trumps. Of course, the state of the match was also an encouragement to bid up.

It looks easy, doesn't it? Hearts are three-two, clubs are three-two with the queen onside, so there are 12 tricks. But at this table there had been no opposition bidding, and Lair found an interesting combination play – interesting, but unsuccessful. He won the lead of the jack of hearts and drew a second trump, then cashed the king of clubs, took the third trump, and led a second club to the ace. Had the queen put in an appearance, Lair could have just unblocked the jack and cashed his 12 top tricks. When there proved to be a club loser, he took the diamond finesse, hoping to get his spade losers away if the ♦Q was onside. That lost and Kwiecień played ace then jack of spades. That looks like down two, as there is still the ♣Q to be lost, but it is scored as down one so that is what we must go with – not that the extra trick would have affected the swing on the board, which was 11 IMPs to **Vytas**.

That line looks to be an improvement on simply relying on the club finesse, does it not?

It was 114-55 in favour of **Vytas**, leading by 59 with only 10 boards to play. Was the match over? If so, nobody had told **Goodman**, as there was a sharp change in the momentum of the match.

Board 47. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Romański</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Lair</i>	<i>Kwiecień</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣*	1♠	All Pass

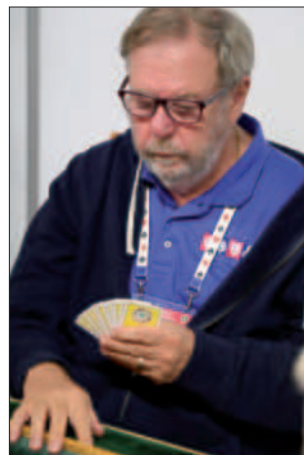
Starkowski opened the strong variety of a Polish club and Lair overcalled 1♠. When that came back to Starkowski, who knew that his partner must have a weak hand for his pass, he was not going to help his opponents to get out of what was, after all, his own longest suit. He passed out 1♠ and Kwiecień led the six of clubs, Starkowski winning the ace and continuing with the three. Yes, it might have been better defence to put in the ten at trick one, but Lair probably expected that he would have done exactly that so, playing him for a different holding, went up with the king. Lair led a spade to the queen and ace. Starkowski cashed the king of clubs then returned the three of spades and, not suspecting the five-one break, Lair went up with the king in case Kwiecień had started with honour-doubleton. Lair tried to cash the ace of diamonds, but Starkowski ruffed that and cashed the jack and ten of spades then played the ten of clubs. Lair discarded a diamond, so Starkowski had to play the

ace then king of hearts, and Lair could ruff and establish a diamond, but was down three for -300.

Minus 300 was hardly a triumph on the EW cards, Lair having made the minimum possible number of tricks, but it was good enough to earn a modest gain on the board. In the other room, Berkowitz opened the North hand with 1♠, and that silenced the opposition. Meckstroth scraped up a 1NT response, Berkowitz jumped to 3♣, game-forcing, and Meckstroth saw it through by bidding an asking 3♦ then raising to game when the four-four heart fit came to light. Kowalski led the ten of hearts and that was covered all around. Berkowitz played ace of spades then ruffed a spade, and played a club to his ten and Kowalski's king. Back came the eight of spades, ruffed with the seven and over-ruffed. A diamond back now might have beaten the contract, but Romański returned the seven of clubs. Berkowitz won the ace – why not run it to dummy's nine? – drew trumps, and gave up a spade. When clubs proved to be three-three, he had 10 tricks for +420 and 3 IMPs to **Goodman**, closing slightly at 58-114.

Board 48. Dealer West. All Vul.

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



Jeff Meckstroth



David Berkowitz

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Romański	Berkowitz	Kowalski	Meckstroth
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Passell	Starkowski	Lair	Kwiecień
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Both NS pairs bid to the spade game, Berkowitz/Meckstroth in a simple natural fashion, Kwiecień putting in a 2♦ game-forcing relay and discovering that his partner was precisely 2-3-5-3.

Passell found the excellent lead of the two of hearts, which Kwiecień ducked to the king. Lair returned the nine of hearts to dummy's ace, and Kwiecień cashed the top spades then played the king of diamonds. Lair won the ace and led the ♥J to Passell's queen. The ten of clubs was covered all around, and there was the queen of spades to come for down one and -100.

At the other table, Romański led the nine of clubs to the jack, queen and ace. Meckstroth played the king of diamonds, which Kowalski won, and he returned a club. Meckstroth won the king and took a club discard on the queen of diamonds before taking one top spade then going back to dummy with a heart to the ace. The jack of diamonds took care of a heart loser, and now Meckstroth led dummy's remaining spade to the ten. That lost to the jack and there was a heart to be lost, but the contract was made for +620 and 12 IMPs to **Goodman**, closing to 70-114.

On Board 49, **Vytas** picked up an IMP for 3NT+2 against 4♥ just making, but there was a major swing on the deal that followed:

Board 50. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Romański	Berkowitz	Kowalski	Meckstroth
—	—	1♣*	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	Pass
1♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Passell	Starkowski	Lair	Kwiecień
—	—	1♣	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Kwiecień overcalled 1♦ then raised the 1♠ response to 2♠. It seems that Starkowski's 2NT continuation requested that partner bid 3♣, and when Kwiecień did so he found himself declaring that contract. Passell led the ten of clubs round to Kwiecień's ace, and Kwiecień led a heart to the king and ace. He put up the queen on the heart return, discarding a diamond from dummy, then led a spade to the ten and king. Another heart return was won with the jack, and Kwiecień played ace of diamonds then ruffed a diamond with the six and was over-ruffed. A spade return went to the eight, queen and ace, and there was just the king of clubs to be lost; nine tricks for +110.

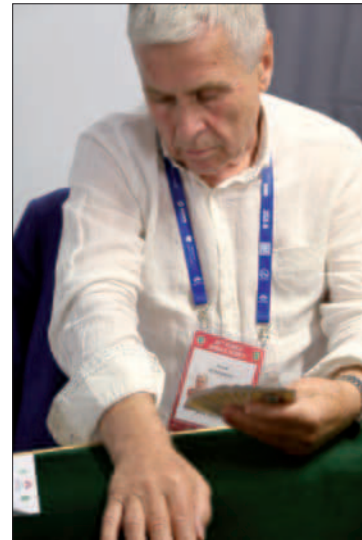
Meckstroth doubled the Polish 1♣ opening and that went back to Kowalski, who redoubled for rescue. When Meckstroth doubled Romański's 1♦ response for penalty, Romański tried again and landed in his partnership's

four-four fit, again doubled by Meckstroth, who was sensing blood. This time the double ended the auction. Berkowitz led the king of hearts to cut down ruffs, knowing that his side had the preponderance of high cards. The ♥K held the trick, so he switched to the three of diamonds to Meckstroth's ace. Meckstroth switched to hearts, leading the jack to Kowalski's ace, Kowalski led a spade to the queen and ace and Berkowitz a club to Meckstroth's ace, Kowalski playing low. Meckstroth played queen then nine of hearts to the ten, and Kowalski ducked a spade. Meckstroth won the jack and got out with his last spade. Kowalski could win his two black kings, but Berkowitz had two clubs and a spade to come, so the contract was down three for -800 and 12 IMPs to **Goodman**. There were only six boards left to be played, but the deficit was down to 82-115, so there was the slimmest of chances if the boards continued be lively.

Goodman picked up 2 overtrick IMPs in 3NT on Board 51 and 1 overtrick IMP in 1NT on Board 52. That reduced the deficit slightly to 85-115, but now there were only four boards remaining.

Board 53. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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



Jacek Romański

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Romański	Berkowitz	Kowalski	Meckstroth
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
1NT	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Passell	Starkowski	Lair	Kwiecień
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
1NT	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Kwiecień opened 1♦ and Passell overcalled 1NT. Starkowski could bid 2♣ to ask about majors and, when Kwiecień admitted to holding four spades, Starkowski raised invitational to 3♠, fearing that his partner would have too much wasted strength in diamonds for game to be good. Much as he may have been tempted to bid on, Kwiecień had a minimum opening with no aces, and declined the invitation. Passell cashed the king of diamonds then switched to the four of spades. Kwiecień ran that to his eight and gave up a heart, which Passell won with the king to continue with a second spade. Kwiecień won in hand, crossed to the ace of clubs and ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond, ruffed another heart, and ruffed another diamond to get to hand to draw the last trump. He had three club winners for the last three tricks so had 11 tricks in all for +200.

Meckstroth opened 1♣, Romański overcalled 1NT, and Berkowitz asked about the majors. When Meckstroth showed four spades, Berkowitz too contented himself with an invitational raise to 3♠, but Meckstroth, with one eye on the match situation, plus he had some distribution when he might have been 4-3-3-3, went on to game. Romański cashed the ace of diamonds followed by the ace of hearts, and continued with the king of hearts. Meckstroth ruffed the second heart and cashed the king and queen of spades, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, and ruffed another diamond. He drew the last trump and had four club winners and 11 in all for +450 and 6 IMPs to **Goodman**, 91-115.

Board 54. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Romański	Berkowitz	Kowalski	Meckstroth
—	—	2♥*	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Passell	Starkowski	Lair	Kwiecień
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Kowalski opened the East hand with a weak two-suited bid, and Meckstroth overcalled 2♠. Berkowitz had a good hand in support of spades, but he didn't like the heart situation, and contented himself with the underbid of a quiet raise to game. Romański led a spade, Meckstroth winning and drawing the missing trump before leading the nine of clubs off the dummy. Kowalski won the king of clubs and returned the seven of diamonds to the three, nine and ace. Eventually, Meckstroth had to play a second round of diamonds and lost two tricks in the suit; just made for +620.

There was no opening by East at the other table, so Kwiecień could open 1♠ as South, and Starkowski splintered. Kwiecień had a weak NT hand, completely minimum, but he loved his club holding so he cuebid 4♥, and Starkowski blasted the small slam. Passell led the jack of diamonds, which Kwiecień had no option but to run to his queen. Alas, even the favourable lead didn't help. Kwiecień needed a miracle in hearts and one was not forthcoming, so he was down one for -100 and 12 IMPs to **Goodman**.

It was 101-113 and there were two boards remaining. Board 56 was a dull and flat 1NT just making at both

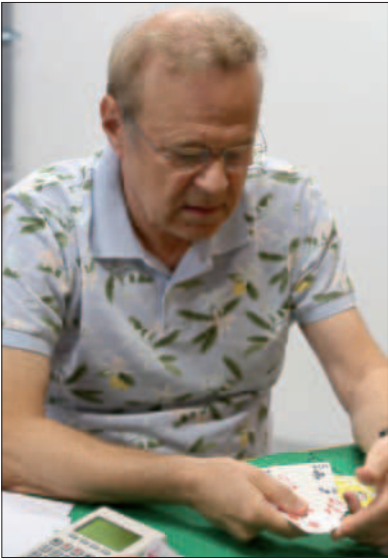
tables. When Board 55 hit the table, it was now or never for **Goodman**.

Board 55. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Romański	Berkowitz	Kowalski	Meckstroth
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	2♦	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Passell	Starkowski	Lair	Kwiecień
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		



Włodzimierz Starkowski

Romański opened 1♠, Berkowitz overcalled 2♦, and Kowalski jumped to 3♥, natural and forcing. Romański raised to game and that was that. Meckstroth led the queen of diamonds, Berkowitz winning the ace and continuing the suit to Kowalski's king. Kowalski cashed the ace of hearts, discovering the three-zero split. He continued with a spade to the ace, ruffed a spade, and led a heart to the eight. A second spade ruff established the fifth spade, so Kowalski could draw the last trump then get his club losers away, making 12 for +480.

You may have spotted that, being non-vulnerable, even bidding the slam would not be enough for **Goodman**, who could gain only 11 IMPs by doing so. They would need not only to bid it, but also to be doubled. It didn't come to that. Passell opened 1♠ and here there was no overcall. Lair responded 2♥, game-forcing, and made a mild slam try over Passell's raise. When Passell could only sign off in game, Lair had to give up. He won the trump lead and set about spades immediately, and when the diamond proved to be onside, he too came to 12 tricks for +480 and a push board.

The brave fightback had fallen short by 12 IMPs, **Vytas** defeating **Goodman** by 115-103 IMPs, and becoming the new Rand Cup winners and Senior champions of the world!

Rand Cup 2022

- Gold: **Vytas** (Vytas Vainikonis, Wojciech Olański (LTU), Apolinary Kowalski, Michał Kwiecień, Jacek Romański, Włodzimierz Starkowski (POL))
- Silver: **Goodman** (David Berkowitz, Andy Goodman, Mark Lair, Jeff Meckstroth, Mike Passell (USA))
- Bronze: **Penfold** (Paul Hackett, John Holland, Alan Mould, Kay Preddy, Norman Selway, Brian Senior, npc Sandra Penfold (ENG))
- Zimmermann** (Marc Bompis, Philippe Soulet (FRA), Krzysztof Martens (MON), Piotr Tuszyński (POL), Pierre Zimmermann, Piotr Gawryś, npc Fernando Piedra SUI))



Senior Teams Podium

2022 World Senior Pairs Championship

by Brian Senior

The Senior Pairs Championship comprised a two-day qualifying stage, one-day semi-final, and one-day final, with a modest carry-forward from one stage to the next and with drop-ins from the Senior Teams on each day.

The drop-ins meant that there were 36 pairs taking part in the first day of qualification, but 39 on day two. Twenty-six pairs took part in Semi-final A, and 16 in Semi-final B, from which two pairs got back into the main final via the repechage. As we shall see, that ability to get back into the main final through Semi-final B was to have an important bearing on the medal positions. The final itself comprised 18 pairs, and was all-play-all, 17 x three-board rounds, so 51 boards in total.

Session One

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Olański</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Hackett</i>
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

If you are a believer in omens, then the fact that the spade game, which depended on little more than the heart finesse, was down when the finesse failed, might be taken as a harbinger of things to come, as Brian Senior/Paul Hackett had a thoroughly miserable day. The defence had no difficulty in claiming its four tricks and down one for -50 was worth 3 MPs out of 16, as 4♠ was

down at three other tables. There were two 140s, one in 2♠, one in 2♥, while the three occasions on which 4♥ was reached saw it made every time.

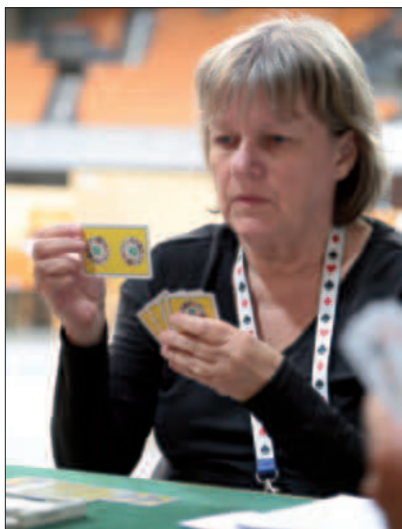
Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Olański</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Hackett</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass



Tomasz Gotard



Barbara Gotard

At six tables, East declared 3NT on the lead of the queen of diamonds. Three made it, three went down. 3NT by West was made, once on the ten of hearts lead and once on the queen of clubs lead. Beyond the fact that the play started queen, king, ace, a club back to the jack, and a third club, declarer finessing the seven so losing to the nine, I cannot for the life of me remember how Wojtek Olański managed to go down in what appears to be a completely cold contract – whichever major declarer plays on produces his ninth trick. Anyway, 3NT-1 saw us collect +50 and 13 MPs, cancelling out the disappointment of the previous deal.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

	♠ 9 6 5 3 2 ♥ J 4 ♦ 7 4 ♣ A 8 3 2		
♠ A J 10 4 ♥ 9 7 3 2 ♦ K 6 ♣ Q J 7	♠ N ♥ W ♦ E ♣ S	♠ K Q 8 ♥ K Q 10 5 ♦ Q 9 8 2 ♣ K 4	
	♠ 7 ♥ A 8 6 ♦ A J 10 5 3 ♣ 10 9 6 5		
West	North	East	South
<i>Olański</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Hackett</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Getting to 3NT was the big winner on this deal, with 4♥ easily beatable by leading South's singleton spade. Hackett led the jack of diamonds against 3NT, Vytutas Vainikonis winning the king and playing on hearts. When Hackett won the ♥ A, he returned a club, Senior winning and playing a diamond through. Hackett took two of those, but Vainikonis had the rest; nine tricks for +600.

The Lithuanians were a bit unlucky to score only 9 MPs for 3NT. There was one 3NT+1 and one other 3NT, just making, but 4♥ was let through on two of the five occasions when it was played. There was also the decidedly odd result of 3♥-5 by North for -250. No, I don't know what happened there.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
B Gotard	Vainikonis	T Gotard	Olański
—	—	1NT	Pass
2 ♦ *	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♣	3 ♠	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4 ♠
5 ♥	Dble	All Pass	

Tomasz Gotard opened 1NT and Barbara transferred to hearts then introduced her clubs. Vainikonis now came in with 3♠ and followed that up by doubling when Tomasz's 4♥ came back to him. With four-card spade support and not the slightest semblance of a defensive trick, Wojtek Olański opted to save in 4♠, and the Gotards had no winning option. In practice, Barbara took the push to 5♥, which Vainikonis again doubled. The defence took its top three tricks and that was a quick one down for -200 and zero MPs for EW.

Only one other pair found the 4♠ save, and that was Jerzy Russyan and Marek Witek, against Berkowitz/

Meckstroth, who took it two down for -300. Everyone else played the heart game, making 10 tricks, with Piotr Bizoń and Marek Blat doubling it to earn themselves a zero.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 8 6 5 2 ♥ J 9 7 5 ♦ K 10 9 ♣ A 10	♠ Q ♥ Q 8 3 ♦ 8 5 3 2 ♣ K Q 8 3 2	W N S E	
		♠ J 10 9 4	♥ K 2
		♦ A Q J	♣ J 9 5 4
		♠ A K 7 3	♥ A 10 6 4
		♦ 7 6 4	♣ 7 6
West	North	East	South
Kasprzak	Berkowitz	Chindelewicz	Meckstroth
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dble
1♥	Dble	1♠	2♥
2♠	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Berkowitz's double of 1♥ would appear to have shown hearts for Meckstroth, who happily competed in his four-card suit at his next turn, but not for Berkowitz, as he in turn was happy to support what he presumably expected to be a five-card suit. The Polish pair could have done well by defending against 3♥, but Alan Kasprzak went on to 3♠ and that was not a success.

Jeff Meckstroth led the seven of clubs, Paweł Chindelewicz rising with the ace and playing the ten of clubs back. Berkowitz won the queen, cashed the queen of spades, which must have pleased his partner, then got out with a diamond to declarer's jack.

Chindelewicz ruffed a club, Meckstroth discarding a diamond, then tried to cash two more diamonds. Alas, Meckstroth could ruff the third diamond and cash the top spades, and Chindelewicz was left with just six tricks, so down three for -300 and all 16 MPs to Berkowitz/Meckstroth.

Paul Hackett and I came up against Krzysztof Martens and Pierre Zimmermann in round six. The round was a nightmare, as we dropped from around 55% to around 45% in three boards.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ J 6 ♥ A 3 ♦ A 7 5 3 ♣ K J 8 4 3	♠ 9 8 5 4 3 2 ♥ J 8 ♦ 6 2 ♣ A 10 6	W N S E	
		♠ A K 10 7	♥ 9 7 5
		♦ K Q J 4	♣ Q 2
		♠ Q	♥ K Q 10 6 4 2
		♦ 10 9 8	♣ 9 7 5
West	North	East	South
Hackett	Zimmermann	Senior	Martens
1♣	2♠	3NT	All Pass

Krzysztof Martens led the king of hearts. I ducked and won the second heart. With clubs three-three and the ace in the hand that was out of hearts, there were 11 tricks there for the taking, simply by playing on clubs. But surely the ♠Q was onside, and North might fail to cover the jack or South might hold the bare nine or eight to provide four tricks in the suit and nine in all, without having to risk who held the ace of clubs? So, the jack of spades was duly run, losing to the singleton queen, and South's four heart winners, to which he had no entry, were resurrected and the contract was down three for -300, and you can guess the number of matchpoints.

3NT made 11 four times, 10 once and nine twice. Five Diamonds was made once, but the rather obscure 4♠ tried by one EW pair (Berkowitz/Meckstroth) was down two.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Martens</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4♠*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♦*	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

In the Hackett/Senior methods, 1♣ would always deliver at least four cards and more often than not five. 4NT was keycard for spades and 6♦ showed the ♦K.

Martens led the two of diamonds and, with no clue from the auction, I ran that to my hand and laid down the ace of clubs – down one and another zero.

Three pairs didn't bid even a small slam. 7NT, 7♠, 6♠ doubled, 6♠ and 6♣ were all bid and made once each.

If South comes in over 1♣ declarer gets the necessary clue to get the clubs right, while if 6/7♠ is doubled EW can convert to 7NT and the double tells declarer who has the club void. Silence is golden.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Martens</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

On a club lead, declarer is more likely to try to bring in four diamond tricks for a spade discard from hand, than play on spades in hope of getting a diamond discard on that suit. Playing on diamonds is convenient as there is a shortage of entries to play on spades. Playing on diamonds, of course, leads to down one.

A diamond lead also appears to beat the contract, again due to lack of entries to the North hand, even though the lead strongly suggests that the diamond queen is offside.

But after three rounds of spades, which looks to be a perfectly reasonable defence...declarer puts in the ten on the third round, West's ruff is with a natural trump trick, and now the diamond loser goes away on the ♠Q. I don't need to tell you what I led, and -620 was worth just 1 MP, and that solitary point was what we scored for the round, while our opponents collected 47.

Four Hearts was bid twice more once making, once down one, but always on a top spade lead. Three pairs stopped in 2♥, one was down one in 2NT, and one down one in 3NT. The last table saw West doubled in 3♦, down three for -500. No, I don't know how West managed to become declarer in 3♦ doubled, and I don't think that he would thank me for telling the world about it if I did.

Two Polish pairs met in Round 7:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bizoń</i>	<i>Lekki</i>	<i>Blat</i>	<i>Goliński</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1NT was 15-17, 3♣ asked about majors, and 3♦ showed at least one four-card but no five-card major. As he had only been interested in finding a five-three fit, Janusz Lekki now signed off in 3NT, against which Bizoń made the normal safe lead of the queen of diamonds.

Jan Goliński won the ♦A and took an immediate finesse of the ten of spades, losing to the jack. He ducked the diamond return but won the next diamond, perforce. A spade lost to the ace and Bizoń returned the queen of clubs. Goliński won that in hand, split the hearts, and had nine tricks for +400 but only 2 MPs out of a possible 16. Seven pairs made 3NT+1 and one went down one in 3NT.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bizoń	Lekki	Blat	Goliński
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Unfortunately, we do not have the players' convention cards to look at, but it seems that 2♣ might have asked partner to bid 2♦, and that North felt he had too much to spare to risk that being passed out. Clearly they were on the same wavelength that 3♠ was non-forcing.



Piotr Bizoń and Lena Leszczyńska

Lekki received a low club lead from Blat and drifted one off for -100 and 7 MPs out of 16 to NS.

Another Polish pair, Janik and Nowak, managed to bid 4♠ and make it, which looks to be a pretty good effort. It didn't get them a top on the board, however, as Kowalski/Sikorski made an overtrick in 3NT. The other three pairs to try 3NT were down one, two, and three, respectively.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bizoń	Lekki	Blat	Goliński
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Blat's 2♦ rebid showed the single-suiter and Bizoń just raised to 4♥, an odd-looking auction, but an effective one. Goliński led a spade to dummy's ace and Blat played the club up, losing to the bare king. Lekki couldn't tell who had the missing spade and tried to cash the ♠K. Blat ruffed, ruffed a club with the bare jack, and cashed the top diamonds, discarding a club from hand, and played a third diamond.

If the BBO record is to be believed, Lekki had discarded a diamond from the North hand when Blat took his club ruff, so Blat would have known that Goliński was out of diamonds. That makes it very strange that he ruffed low and was over-ruffed, costing him the overtrick. Ten tricks meant +420 and only 4 MPs to EW. The overtrick would have boosted that to eight.

Elsewhere, two pairs were allowed to bid and make 6♥ and one 4♥+2! How can 12 tricks be made? Simple – cash the ace of clubs, crashing the king, and fail to switch to a trump. That means seven hearts, one ruff, three top cards in the dummy, and the queen of clubs.

Leading Scores after Session One

1	Jeff Meckstroth	David Berkowitz	USA - USA	58.95
2	Krzysztof Martens	Pierre Zimmermann	MON - SUI	57.80
3	Piotr Bizoń	Marek Blat	POL - POL	56.62
4	Nedju Buchlev	Jacek Leśniczak	GER - GER	56.19
5	Vytautas Vainikonis	Wojtek Ołański	LTU - LTU	54.66
6	Janusz Gawęcki	Stanisław Pająk	POL - POL	53.83
7	Thomas Berg	Geert Jørgensen	DEN - DEN	53.40
8	Malcolm Pryor	David Kendrick	ENG - ENG	50.88

Session Two

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

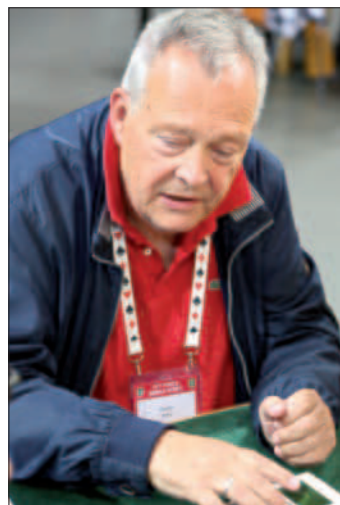
West	North	East	South
Berg	Senior	Jørgensen	Hackett
—	Pass	1♣*	Dble
1♥	Pass	2♥	Dble
3♥	3♠	All Pass	

1♣ 2+♣

In retrospect, 3♠ might not have been the wisest call on the North hand, but the vulnerability made it tempting to compete, resulting in our reaching a pretty poor contract.

Denmark's Geert Jørgensen cashed the ace of hearts, so I unblocked the king to create an entry to hand, and he then switched to the two of diamonds. Do you play that if everyone follows to the first round of a suit and the trick is won with the five, that is a drink for the trick winner? No doubt a rule which would appeal to the seven-of-diamonds is the beer card brigade. Anyway, the ♦2 was covered by the four, three and five, and I had a second entry to hand, and my diamond loser had disappeared, subject to my being able to take a finesse in the suit after trumps had been drawn.

The four of spades went to the nine and jack, and back came a club for the queen and king. A second round of



Thomas Berg

spades ensured that the defence could not collect a ruff with a small trump so, with trumps dividing evenly, there were the ace and king to be lost, along with a club. The contract was down one for -50 but 11 MPs to NS.

The defence needed to play a second heart early in the play and leave declarer to do his own work elsewhere.

Heart partscores made +140 at three tables for 14 MPs to EW, while NS played in 2/3♠ three more times – 2♠ just made and 2♠ and 3♠ down one. South also played in 1NT-1 and 2NT-2.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Berg	Senior	Jørgensen	Hackett
—	—	3♣	Dble
4♣	Pass	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Not the most exciting of deals, perhaps, but the seven tables at which NS played 4♠+1 for 8 MPs, were joined

by two non-standard results. Bizoń and Blat collected +800 defending against 5♣ doubled, while Berkowitz/Meckstroth conceded only -500 in 4♣ doubled, so a complete top for both of our challengers.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

		♠ 9 2 ♥ A Q 8 7 ♦ A 9 8 4 ♣ 9 6 3			
♠ 10 5 ♥ K 6 3 ♦ Q J 7 6 5 3 ♣ A 2	W N E S	♠ K Q J 7 ♥ J 10 9 5 ♦ 2 ♣ J 8 7 4			
		♠ A 8 6 4 3 ♥ 4 2 ♦ K 10 ♣ K Q 10 5			
West	North	East	South		
Berg	Senior	Jørgensen	Hackett		
—	—	—	1 ♠		
2 ♦	Dble*	Pass	3 ♣		
All Pass					

Hackett promised only four spades, and would open 1♠ with a flat 11-13, including when four-four in spades and a minor. When Thomas Berg overcalled 2♦, perhaps the wiser choice would have been to pass with the North cards; even if South does not reopen, 2♦ undoubled collects all the matchpoints, as most Wests appear not to have come into the auction and 2♦ would be down at least -200 against a partscore.

Once North does make a negative double, what should South respond? It's a personal style thing, but I would rebid the five-card spade suit, having only shown four to date, and would reserve 3♣ for either a non-minimum hand or one with five clubs. Two Spades should be made despite the three trump losers.

Three Clubs was more challenging. Hackett won the lead of the ♦Q with the king and returned the ♦10, running it and seeing Jørgensen ruff. Jørgensen returned a trump and Hackett was left with only three club tricks, four red-suit tricks, and one spade, down one for -50 and 5 MPs. Elsewhere, 3♣ made seven, nine and 10 tricks. Nobody played in diamonds, 2♠ made nine tricks twice, while 2NT, twice, and 3NT, once, were down one. Martens and Zimmermann were one of the pairs to concede 2♠+1, scoring only 1 MP.

Board 7 of Session 2 was flat across the field, all nine NS pairs playing in 4♥ with three top losers and making 10 tricks for +620 and 8 MPs to everyone.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

	♠ K J 9 7 2 ♥ — ♦ Q 9 8 2 ♣ Q 9 8 6	
♠ A 4 ♥ A 10 8 7 2 ♦ A 10 6 ♣ A J 5	♠ N ♥ W ♦ E ♣ S	♠ 10 6 2 ♥ Q 6 ♦ K 7 5 ♣ K 10 7 3 2
	♠ Q 8 5 ♥ K J 9 5 4 3 ♦ J 4 3 ♣ 4	
West <i>Berkowitz</i> 1NT	North <i>Senior</i> Pass	East <i>Meckstroth</i> 3NT
		South <i>Hackett</i> All Pass

A spade lead set up four defensive winners and Berkowitz played on clubs, setting up a fourth winner in the suit, and could claim the rest after the defence had taken its spade winners, down one for -50 and 8 MPs to each pair. 3NT down one was the normal result on the board. One pair were down two after a diamond lead, while Zimmermann/Martens earned themselves all 16 MPs by stopping in 3♣ for +130.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

		♠ A K Q 10 4 ♥ Q 4 3 ♦ A Q 5 ♣ 9 2			
♠ J ♥ K 10 7 6 5 2 ♦ K 10 4 3 ♣ Q 3	♠ N ♥ W ♦ E ♣ S		♠ 8 5 3 ♥ A ♦ J 8 2 ♣ K 10 8 7 6 4		
		♠ 9 7 6 2 ♥ J 9 8 ♦ 9 7 6 ♣ A J 5			
West	North	East	South		
Berkowitz	Senior	Meckstroth	Hackett		
—	1♠	Pass	3♠		
All Pass					

One Spade could have been a four-card suit in 11-13 balanced, and 3♠ was pre-emptive. Though the North hand has a lot to spare for the opening, being familiar with partner's style strongly indicated a pass, and right

that proved to be. Meckstroth cashed the ace of hearts then tried a low diamond, hoping to find partner with a fast entry to deliver a heart ruff. It was not to be; I could win, draw trumps, and concede one more trick in each side-suit, so the contract was just made for +140 and 8 MPs, to complete an average round. There were four more +140s, a +170, and a +150 in 1NT, while two pairs bid to game and were down a trick.

Round 12 saw a meeting of two pairs who were very much in contention for the title.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ A K 4 ♥ Q 3 ♦ K 10 8 3 ♣ A 10 5 2			
♠ Q J 9 8 7 ♥ K 10 6 ♦ 7 2 ♣ Q J 9	♠ 6 5 3 2 ♥ J 9 ♦ Q 9 ♣ K 8 7 6 4	♠ 10 ♥ A 8 7 5 4 2 ♦ A J 6 5 4 ♣ 3	
West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Martens</i>
—	1NT	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

1NT was 15-17. Martens transferred to hearts, showed his second suit and, when Zimmermann was willing to go past 3NT in support of diamonds, just blasted the



Krzysztof Martens

small slam. David Berkowitz led the queen of clubs. Martens won the ace, cashed the king of diamonds, and played a second diamond. When the queen hopped up, he won the ace and led a low heart towards the queen. Berkowitz took his king, but Martens had the rest for +1370 and 13 MPs.

Four pairs bid and made 6♦, the other five playing in 4♥, also making 12 tricks.

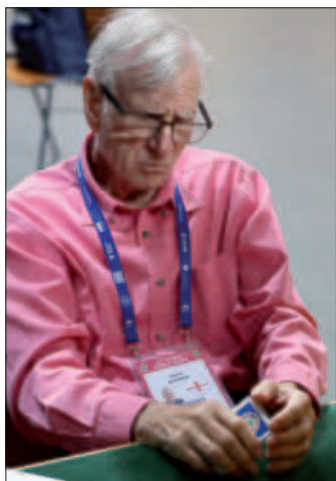
Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ 9 6 2 ♥ 3 ♦ A K 9 8 2 ♣ 10 8 6 3			
♠ Q 5 4 3 ♥ 4 ♦ Q J 10 5 3 ♣ Q 9 4	♠ A 8 ♥ K 10 8 6 5 2 ♦ 4 ♣ A J 7 2	♠ K J 10 7 ♥ A Q J 9 7 ♦ 7 6 ♣ K 5	
West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Martens</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Zimmermann passed at his first opportunity to bid but then, when his opponents stopped in 2♥, balanced with 3♦. Though the vulnerability was right to compete, this deal showed the dangers of balancing against a non-fit auction, as Berkowitz was delighted to double, ending the auction.

Jeff Meckstroth led ace and another spade, setting up his partner's queen as a winner. Zimmermann rose with dummy's king and led the seven of diamonds off the table. When Berkowitz played low in tempo, Zimmermann put up the king and continued with the ace, learning the bad news. He led a heart to the queen followed by the ten of spades. Berkowitz won the queen and drew the trumps, starting with the ten to let his partner know exactly what was going on. Zimmermann discarded dummy's winning spade on the diamonds, coming down to ♥AJ ♣K5, so Berkowitz had a spade to cash before leading a club to Meckstroth's ace. The contract was down three for -500 and a zero for Zimmermann/Martens.

Five pairs were down in 2♥, one in 2♣ and one in 2♠. The only EW pair to make a contract was the



David Kendrick

English pairing of Pryor and Kendrick, who managed an overtrick in 2♠.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ K 6 4 3 2 ♥ A K ♦ A 5 ♣ K J 7 3			
♠ A 8 ♥ J 8 7 6 3 ♦ J 10 8 7 ♣ Q 5	N W E S	♠ J 9 7 ♥ 9 4 2 ♦ 9 6 4 2 ♣ 10 9 6	
♠ Q 10 5 ♥ Q 10 5 ♦ K Q 3 ♣ A 8 4 2			
West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Zimmermann	Meckstroth	Martens
—	—	—	1♣
1♥	Dble*	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Zimmermann's double showed four or more spades, so Martens denied four cards when he bid only 1♠. Zimmermann made a spade slam try, declined by Martens, but when he went on with a second try that was accepted, reaching a sub-par but playable slam.

Berkowitz led the jack of diamonds. Martens won the king to lead a spade towards the king. The suit was always going to behave as Martens required, but Berkowitz rose with the ace to avoid a possible endplay

had he played low, and continued with a second diamond to dummy's ace. Martens had a decision to make now. If the ace of spades was bare, he had to lead a spade to the ten now to pick up jack-to-four on his right, but, if Berkowitz had begun with ♠AJ doubleton, that would result in his going down in a 'cold' contract. In practice, Martens couldn't go wrong, of course. He actually led low to the ten and claimed when that held the trick.

Plus 1430 was worth 10 MPs. There were two pairs in 6NT and two more in 6♠, three in 3NT+3 and one in 4♠+2.

Leading Scores after Session Two

1	Vytautas Vainikonis	Wojtek Olański	LTU - LTU	58.18
2	Krzysztof Martens	Pierre Zimmermann	MON - SUI	57.68
3	Piotr Bizoń	Marek Blat	POL - POL	56.47
4	Jeff Meckstroth	David Berkowitz	USA - USA	54.81
5	Nedju Buchlev	Jacek Leśniczak	GER - GER	53.34
6	Janusz Gawęcki	Stanisław Pająk	POL - POL	51.77
7	Thomas Berg	Geert Jørgensen	DEN - DEN	51.68
8	Stanisław Janik	Jerzy Nowak	POL - POL	50.80
9	Malcolm Pryor	David Kendrick	ENG - ENG	50.19

Session Three

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ K 6 5 ♥ Q ♦ A J 7 2 ♣ 10 7 5 4 3			
♠ A 10 8 4 ♥ J 10 6 5 3 ♦ Q 10 8 ♣ 2	N W E S	♠ J 9 7 3 2 ♥ 2 ♦ K 9 3 ♣ Q J 9 6	
♠ Q ♥ A K 9 8 7 4 ♦ 6 5 4 ♣ A K 8			
West	North	East	South
Hackett	Bizoń	Senior	Blat
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

One loser could go away on the king of spades, but after the singleton club lead there were two hearts to be lost and three side-suit tricks, so down two for -100 and 6 MPs to NS.

Four Hearts was down two twice more and once down one doubled, while 3NT was down two once, but

Zimmermann/Martens managed to make it for a complete top. Two Hearts made twice, earning 13 MPs for Berg/Jørgensen, while 5♣ doubled cost -500.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ A 8 ♥ K J 10 4 3 ♦ K Q J 10 5 ♣ 2			
♠ Q 6 5 4 3 ♥ 8 2 ♦ 7 ♣ J 10 9 8 7	N W E S	♠ K 7 2 ♥ 9 7 6 ♦ A 8 6 4 3 ♣ A 5	
	♠ J 10 9 ♥ A Q 5 ♦ 9 2 ♣ K Q 6 4 3		
West	North	East	South
Hackett	Bizoń	Senior	Blat
—	—	1♦	Dble
All Pass			

I suppose that it wasn't compulsory to open the empty East hand, but if you play a 14-16 NT specifically to allow for opening most 11s and narrowing the 1NT rebid range to 11-13, you tend to open such hands. Blat doubled, West might have bid 1♠ but chose not to do so, and Bizoń left it in. Now East might have redoubled for SOS, but stuck it out, and the combination of three losing decisions meant that EW were well and truly caught. Indeed, after the ♦9 lead, although the defence slopped

a trick later on, when Blat switched to a low club from the South hand, that was still down three, which was one too many; -800.

One pair played in 5♥, down one, while everyone else bid and made 4♥, twice with an overtrick. None of that affected the fact that Bizoń/Blat had all 16 MPs. Berkowitz/Meckstroth let through the overtrick in 4♥ to score 4 MPs, while Berg/Jørgensen made the overtrick for 12 MPs.

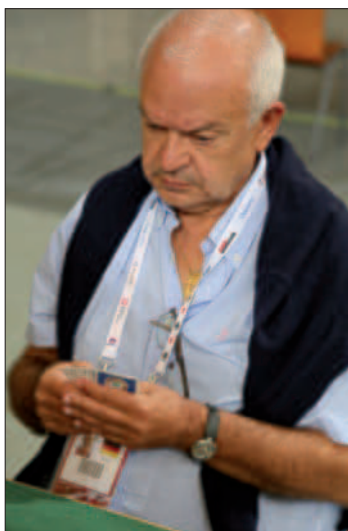
Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ K 8 4 3 ♥ K Q 6 5 ♦ 9 6 ♣ 9 8 6			
♠ J 10 5 ♥ J 9 4 ♦ K Q 8 ♣ A K Q 7	N W E S	♠ A Q 7 ♥ A 8 7 3 2 ♦ 7 2 ♣ J 4 2	
	♠ 9 8 2 ♥ 10 ♦ A J 10 5 4 3 ♣ 10 5 3		
West	North	East	South
Hackett	Bizoń	Senior	Blat
—	—	—	2♦
2NT	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Blat opened with a weak 2♦, but Hackett had a comfortable 2NT overcall. The East hand is a classic for a heart transfer followed by 3NT to offer a choice of games, and Hackett judged correctly to play the NT game.

Bizoń led the nine of diamonds, Blat ducking but playing an encouraging card. Hackett won the queen, crossed to dummy with a club, and led a low heart towards the jack-nine for the intra-finesse. When the ten appeared, he played the jack, losing to the king. Back came a diamond, Blat winning the ace then clearing the suit, but Hackett finessed in hearts and had 11 tricks without needing the spade finesse; four hearts, four clubs, two diamonds and one spade.

That left Bizoń/Blat with only 4 MPs, the same score as that achieved by Zimmermann/Martens. Berg/Jørgensen were the big scorers among the challenging pairs, their opponents making only nine tricks in 3NT, giving the Danes all 16 MPs. Everyone else in NT made 11 tricks, while three pairs preferred to play the heart



Nedju Buchlev

*Gnomes podium*

game, two making 10 tricks, but Berkowitz/Meckstroth salvaging a few MPs by making an overtrick.

And so to the final round of the competition.

Nedju Buchlev and Jacek Leśniczak were still in contention for a medal when they sat down against an out of form Hackett and Senior.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hackett	Buchlev	Senior	Leśniczak
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

A simple auction saw Buchlev declare a diamond partscore, against which Senior led the five of clubs to the queen, king and ace. Buchlev cashed the ace of hearts then played the king of diamonds. Senior won the ace and led the eight of clubs, consistent with his having started with

three low. Buchlev looked at that for quite a while before guessing wrong by putting up the jack. Hackett ruffed and got out passively with his remaining diamond. Buchlev won and led his last club towards dummy's nine, so Senior won the ten and returned a low spade, the defence taking the ace and king for down one and -100.

That was worth 7 MPs to Buchlev/Leśniczak. Of the contending pairs, Bizoń/Blat made 3NT+2 as NS for an outright top (16 MPs), Berkowitz/Meckstroth made 3♦ for +110 and 12 MPs, Berg/Jørgensen matched Buchlev's result of 3♦-1 for 7 MPs, and Zimmermann/Martens defended 3♦-1 for 9 MPs.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hackett	Buchlev	Senior	Leśniczak
—	Pass	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Leśniczak opened a strong and artificial 2♣, rebid 2NT to show 23-24, then admitted to having five spades. That was not what Buchlev had been hoping for so he signed off in 3NT. Hackett, warned off the spade lead, chose an attacking five of clubs to the jack and king. Leśniczak cashed the queen then ace of hearts, and continued by overtaking the ♥J and cashing the thirteenth heart, discarding a diamond from hand. He cashed the three top spades then played the ♦K, but Senior had kept all his clubs so the defence had the last five tricks for down one and -100. That was worth 4 MPs to Buchlev/Leśniczak.

Elsewhere, Berkowitz/Meckstroth and Bizoń/Blat were two of the four pairs to bring home 3NT, the former after a heart lead, the latter a spade. Berg/Jørgensen were down one in 3NT for 4 MPs, while Zimmermann/Martens beat it by a trick to earn 12 MPs.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ 8 6 3 ♥ K Q ♦ Q J 10 6 4 2 ♣ Q 6			
♠ K J 7 5 ♥ A 9 7 ♦ A 5 3 ♣ 8 4 2	N W E S	♠ Q 9 2 ♥ J 10 8 5 4 3 ♦ K 8 7 ♣ A	
♠ A 10 4 ♥ 6 2 ♦ 9 ♣ K J 10 9 7 5 3			
West	North	East	South
Hackett	Buchlev	Senior	Leśniczak
—	—	2♥	3♣
3♥	All Pass		

Senior thought the East hand just short of what was required for a one-level opening so instead opened a maximum weak two bid. Leśniczak overcalled in his long club suit, and Hackett competed with 3♥. No-one had anything to add to that, so Senior declared 3♥, against which Leśniczak led his singleton diamond. Senior won in hand with the king and played ace and another heart. Buchlev won the second heart and returned the queen of clubs. Senior won the ace and led a spade to the king, ruffed a club, and led a second low spade towards the jack, catering to ace-doubleton in the South hand. The nine of spades went to the ten and jack, and a third spade established a discard for the diamond loser; 11 tricks for +200 and 7 MPs to EW.

Meckstroth/Berkowitz suffered a serious blow to their overall prospects as they were one of three pairs against whom 4♥ was bid, making 11 tricks for -450 and only

2 MPs. Berg/Jørgensen suffered the same fate, also collecting only 2 MPs, while Bizoń/Blat conceded 3♥+2 to score 9 MPs, while Zimmermann/Martens scored +200 as EW in a rather different fashion, beating 3NT by four tricks.

Final Rankings

1	Piotr Bizoń	Marek Blat	POL - POL	58.45
2	Krzysztof Martens	Pierre Zimmermann	MON - SUI	55.70
3	Jeff Meckstroth	David Berkowitz	USA - USA	54.51
4	Thomas Berg	Geert Jørgensen	DEN - DEN	53.24
5	Nedju Buchlev	Jacek Leśniczak	GER - GER	52.86
6	Malcolm Pryor	David Kendrick	ENG - ENG	51.94
7	Alan Kasprzak	Paweł Chindelewicz	POL - POL	51.91
8	Vytautas Vainikonis	Wojtek Olański	LTU - LTU	51.25
9	Stanisław Janik	Jerzy Nowak	POL - POL	51.05
10	Jerzy Russyan	Marek Witek	POL - POL	50.63
11	Janusz Gawecki	Stanisław Pająk	POL - POL	50.42
12	Alan Mould	John Holland	ENG - ENG	47.51
13	Apolinary Kowalski	Krzysztof Sikorski	POL - POL	47.15
14	Avi Kalish	Nir Grinberg	ISR - ISR	46.91
15	Paul D Hackett	Brian Senior	ENG - ENG	46.16
16	Barbara Gotard	Tomasz Gotard	GER - GER	44.85
17	Ewart Neil	Ian Robinson	AUS - AUS	43.56
18	Janusz Lekki	Jan Goliński	POL - POL	41.15

A strong finish had seen Poland's Piotr Bizoń and Marek Blat win by a deceptively comfortable looking margin of 2.75%, from Krzysztof Martens (Monaco) and Pierre Zimmermann (Switzerland), with USA's David Berkowitz and Jeff Meckstroth taking the bronze medal. The top six was filled out with pairs from Denmark, Germany and England, in that order. The leaders going into the final session, Vytautas Vainikonis and Wojtek Olański, had a nightmare to collapse down to eighth place.

**Senior Pairs Podium**

Open Pairs

by Mark Horton & Maurizio di Sacco

As an experiment I tried dictating this report as opposed to typing it. Should I be surprised that it proved to offer an almost perfect transition from voice to page?

For those pairs having to contest the qualifying rounds, the World Open Pairs Championship in Wrocław was one of the most demanding events in the calendar, as to reach the final they had to play 12 sessions over four days. Then, they had to play a further eight sessions over two days.

Qualifying 1

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Almost everyone was in notrumps on this deal, so everything revolved around the number of tricks recorded. East was usually the declarer, and the popular lead was the ♠10. If declarer wins with the jack, the odds line in clubs for four tricks is to cross to dummy with a diamond and play a club. When North's king appears, declarer is up to 10 tricks, but the only way to have a shot at 11 is to unblock the queen, which is an unlikely move. As the play unfolds South will feel the heat as a heart is established and the winners in diamonds and spades are cashed.

Since 11 tricks were made on well over 30 occasions it is likely that declarer elected to run the ♣Q at trick two, North winning with the king. (If South has the king and covers, declarer wins in dummy, and should then aim to play a club to the ten.) Now as the cards lie there is no way to prevent the second overtrick. +660 was worth 37.63-150.37.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

The popular contract was 3NT, mostly played by West. The singleton ♥Q means that nine tricks are not in doubt, but how to secure a tenth? If North leads a spade a good guess will be enough to get declarer up to ten tricks, but what if North starts with two rounds of diamonds, South winning and switching to the ♥10? Declarer wins with the ace and cashes five clubs. This will be the position when the last of them is played:

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

When declarer discards dummy's ♦10 South has to pitch the ♦K. Then declarer plays three rounds of hearts to force South to lead into the split tenace.

Even if North finds a passive lead declarer can arrive at 10 tricks by playing on similar lines, as South will not enjoy five rounds of clubs. Three pairs recorded +460 for 9.11-178.89, while +430 was worth 45.49-142.51.

Qualifying 2

Herman De wael was on the spot to cover the second session.

Here is how he introduced his article in the Bulletin:
I am an idiot.

Mark had asked me to cover a few deals from the start of the Open Pairs qualification. I walked into the room at the start of the first session, looking for interesting people to follow. The only pair I briefly considered were Carić – Marinovski of Croatia, but I decided against it, as I did not want to follow a pair just because they are my friends. When I told Mark later that I had missed following the winners of the first session, he used some choice adjectives not suited for publication (idiot being the least offensive).

He could start following the second session, not behind his friends, but behind the current leaders of the event.

Jurica Carić is the president of the Croatian Bridge Federation. He recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of representing his country, and he was still active on the Croatian national team in Madeira in June 2022. Kiril Marinovski is a Bulgarian who has lived in Croatia for as long as I've gone there for the Pula festival. (I must please my Croatian friends by urging you to go to (one of) the best festival(s) in Europe.)

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Carić	Plocki	Marinovski	Sakowicz
—	Pass	1NT	2♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

- 2♣ Majors
3♦ Invitational or better with Spades

West found the best lead of a club, and Marinovski took the king and ace and returned the ♣7 for the uppercut. When declarer failed to ruff high, the trump ace was the setting trick and -50 was worth 7.26-180.74.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Carić	Plocki	Marinovski	Sakowicz
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2♣ Fourth suit forcing

Kiril took the lead of the ♥2 with the jack and immediately returned the suit, eventually setting up a third trick in it. In with the ♥A, South returned the ♠J, which was taken by North, who returned the ♠9. When South discarded a heart on this, declarer was pretty certain that South had a 4441 distribution. He played the ♣Q, which South took. He tried a diamond next, but Kiril took the king, and cashed three more winners on the table (♣K, ♠A and ♥Q).

This was the situation before the ♥Q was played:

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

When declarer discarded the ♣10 South threw a diamond and declarer made three more diamond tricks. Nicely done! The overtrick meant +430 and 33.08-154.92.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K Q 9

♥ K J 10 9 7 5

♦ K

♣ Q 8 4

♠ 10 8 6 5 4

♥ A 3

♦ J 9 7 4

♣ K 5

♠ J 3

♥ 2

♦ A 10 8 6 3 2

♣ A J 9 6

♠ A 7 2

♥ Q 8 6 4

♦ Q 5

♣ 10 7 3 2

W

N

E

S

West	North	East	South
Marinovski	T Bakkeren	Carić	F Bakkeren
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	2♦	3♥*
4♦	All Pass		

3♥ Weak

Carić gave up two spades and the trump queen. Just made, and 31.01-156.99 because of the brave support to the four-level.



Jurica Carić

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 7 6

♥ Q J 7 5 2

♦ J 9 6 3

♣ 9 8

♠ A K Q 10 8 4

♥ 9 6

♦ K 10

♣ A Q 7

♠ J 9 2

♥ 10

♦ A Q 5

♣ K J 10 6 5 2

♠ 5 3

♥ A K 8 4 3

♦ 8 7 4 2

♣ 4 3

W

N

E

S

West	North	East	South
Marinovski	Bartosiński	Carić	Witek
—	Pass	1♣	1♥
1♠*	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣*	All Pass		

Marinovski alerted his 1♠ and explained it could be a four-card suit. This time he had a few more. He alerted his call of 3♣ and said “oh oh” when the tray came back with a pass. After the lead of the ♥A, Carić claimed 12 tricks. Kyril explained that he intended to get partner to give a cuebid in hearts, two rounds later, so that he could bid 6♣. He had not expected a pass opposite and 166.28-21.72 was the meagre reward. +920 would have been 85.74-102.26 while +980 collected 39.27-148.73.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 10 8 7

♥ J 9 4 3

♦ Q 9 3

♣ J 8 4

♠ K 2

♥ A Q 7 6 5

♦ K 5 2

♣ Q 9 2

♠ A Q J 5 4

♥ K 2

♦ J 10

♣ A 7 6 3

♠ 9 6 3

♥ 10 8

♦ A 8 7 6 4

♣ K 10 5

W

N

E

S

West	North	East	South
Marinovski	Bartosiński	Carić	Witek
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		



Kiril Marinovski

After a diamond lead to the ace and a diamond return, Marinovski did not hold up his king. After all, there could be 12 tricks there. He cashed five spades and three hearts and gave up the last two tricks in clubs, +630 but only 111.55-76.45. Those who recorded +660 scored 16.55-171.45.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

		♠ A K Q 10 3 ♥ J 6 ♦ 9 4 2 ♣ 9 7 6	
♠ 8 ♥ A 10 4 2 ♦ A 8 ♣ A Q J 5 4 3		♠ 9 7 5 ♥ K Q 9 8 3 ♦ J 10 5 ♣ K 2	
		♠ J 6 4 2 ♥ 7 5 ♦ K Q 7 6 3 ♣ 10 8	
West	North	East	South
Marinovski	Hanlon	Carić	Volcker
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	All Pass		

Several pairs reached this slam, so +680 after the lead of the ♦K scored only 110.52-77.48. +1430 was worth 16.55-171.45.

After the board, Tom Hanlon shows his spade suit. “Sorry, I’m bad on leads” says Frédéric Volcker. Jokingly, Tom gave two explanations for his pass. After all, it was not a solid suit. And since he leads fourth best, he might give a trick to the jack!

After that, I got a message of a review being prepared, so I had to leave to go perform my real job. Luckily the further six deals proved dull. The Croatians had a 54.60% session, giving them a total of 62.36% and leaving them in second place.

Qualifying 3

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	3 ♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All Pass

More than 30 pairs played in spades on this deal while almost 30 were in 3NT doubled.

Those playing in spades will have been disappointed at the sight of dummy, but there were plenty of matchpoints available for those who could secure nine tricks.

If South has opened 3 ♦ declarer should forget about the possibility of the ♠K being singleton, and having ruffed the second diamond in dummy, exit with the ♠Q. If North wins and returns a heart declarer wins, draws trumps and plays three rounds of clubs, endplaying whoever wins for one down, with -100 scoring 63.69-122.31. Where the ♠A is cashed at trick three the defenders have to be at the top of their game to restrict declarer to eight tricks, North only winning the third round of the suit while South must pitch a club and a heart. Then North exits with the ♣Q, wins the third round of clubs and only then plays a low heart. Those who achieved two down were rewarded with 100.08-85.92.

Those who bid 3NT with North's cards scored well, as 3NT could not be defeated. It looks a decent shot to me, as give partner just a seven-card diamond suit headed by the king and you should have some sort of play.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

On this deal you can imagine the auction going 1♣-Pass-1♥-Dble-2♥-2♠-Pass-4♠.

A few pairs tried 3NT, but they were usually defeated, either by an immediate heart lead or a switch to that suit by West, -50 being only 12.14-173.86.

The vast majority played in spades, with +420 being worth 128.38-57.62.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Almost without exception the field took a shot at 3NT, usually played by East. The popular opening lead was a heart. Suppose North wins and returns the suit. Declarer wins and plays a club to dummy's queen. If South has played both his eights it should not be too difficult for North to switch to the ♠K followed by a low spade, which

results in two down, -100 and 178.91-7.09. Only four pairs managed it, but -50 was still worth 136.46-49.54.

Qualifying 4

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Most pairs reached a slam with the EW cards. 6♦ was the popular spot (7 pairs went 'all-in' by bidding 7♦) while a few tried a matchpoint orientated 6NT. On this layout it is easy enough to secure all the tricks in diamonds – one way is for declarer to play to ruff two spades in dummy. As the cards lie North will inevitably be squeezed. +1440 was worth 6.13-205.87, while +940 collected 66.26-145.74. Making 6NT secured 36.70-175.30.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Six Spades was a good spot – those pairs who bid it and gave a nod to the Rabbi by dropping the ♠K collected 18-194.

Five pairs saved in 7♣ which cost 1400, 79-133.

Those who stopped in game saw NS record 121-91 or 179-33, depending on how many tricks were taken.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

No less than 21 pairs attempted 6NT – only two were successful, scoring 1-211. I cannot tell you how the play went, but the odds play in clubs is to cash the top cards, which delivers four tricks in the suit 69.44% of the time. At the table where North led the ♥3 against 6NT declarer obviously did not do that.

Those who played in game and scored +690 received 16-196.

Qualifying 5**Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

As you can see, a heart lead (or an unlikely spade) will hold declarer to 10 tricks and 109-103. However, no less than 26 pairs recorded +460 for 185.00, some of them even when East did lead a heart.

On the afternoon of the fourth day's play I was approached by one of the excellent tournament directors who wished to consult me in my capacity as one of the

**Tomasz Wolfke and Mark Horton**

best misdefenders of bridge hands. This was the problem I was presented with:

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

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
1NT	All Pass		

After this brief auction you must lead from the North hand. Naturally you start with the ♠2 and partner takes the ace and returns the ten, covered by declarer's jack and your queen. When you continue with a third spade partner plays the seven and declarer wins with the eight. That is followed by a club to dummy's king, a heart to the eight and ace, four more clubs and the ♠K. Partner has discarded the ♥J, the ♦78 and the ♠3. Declarer now plays the ♥4 in this ending:

♠ —	♠ —
♥ K 10	♥ 7
♦ 10	♦ K 6
♣ —	♣ —

This is not a terribly difficult problem – you go up with the ♥K and play a diamond, partner taking the last two tricks with the ♦AQ.

This was the full deal:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Losing 120 was worth 118-94, while missing the crocodile coup and allowing declarer to score +150 would collect only 54-158. A few pairs reached 5♣ with the EW cards and most of them made 11 tricks. On a spade lead, if South takes the ace and returns the suit declarer only needs to avoid putting in the jack to take 11 tricks, worth 20-92. South can earn a credit by putting in the ♠9 at trick one! That will be one down, worth 162-50. Mind you, I don't think I would have had to face this problem at the table as I would have raised to 2♠. There were five +870's on the card for 208-4!

(The Director was asking about the deal because at trick 11 South apparently had a card ready to be played – might that influence North in any way?)

Qualifying 6

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Virtually everyone played in 3NT. After something like 1♦-1♥-1♠-3NT West has an awkward lead. Andrew

Robson was one of the few players who went with a diamond and when East came in with the ♠K he switched to the ♥2, West winning and returning the three to give the defenders four tricks and 81-131. Those who conceded +630 got only 144-68, while +660 was worth 190-22.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Thirty-seven pairs reached 6♣, worth 174-38, the top going to Andrzej Jurkiewicz and Artur Pomarański, who were doubled for +1090 and a rare 212-0. 5♣+1 was worth only 49-163, at least it beat +400 for 3NT, worth only 25-187. Two declarers in 3NT took a heart finesse after a spade lead and -50 gave them 1-211.

A total of 112 pairs qualified to Semi-final A, including drop ins from the Rosenblum Round of 16. Since the maximum number of drop ins was 32, the minimum number of pairs coming from the qualification was 80. All other pairs played in Semi-final B. There would be no carry-over in either semi-final. As written in the Conditions of Contest, a minimum of 52 pairs would qualify to Final A: 47 from Semi-final A and 5 from Semi-final B. They would be joined by pairs dropping in from the Rosenblum semi-finals (maximum 6).



The Future

Rank	Pairs		Nationality	%
1	Thomas Bessis	Cédric Lorenzini	FRA - FRA	59.79
2	Joe Grue	Brad Moss	USA - USA	59.38
3	Andrew Robson	Alexander Allfrey	ENG - ENG	58.34
4	Wojciech Strzemecki	Przemysław Zawada	POL - POL	57.94
5	Keyzad Anklesaria	Rajeshwar Tewari	IND - IND	57.89
6	Siv Thoresen	Jo-Arne Ovesen	NOR - NOR	57.81
7	Konrad Araszkiewicz	Krzysztof Kotorowicz	POL - POL	57.80
8	Andrea Manno	Massimiliano Di Franco	ITA - ITA	57.53
9	Zachary Grossack	Finn Kolesnik	USA - USA	57.51
10	Boye Brogeland	Christian Bakke	NOR - NOR	57.43
11	Csaba Czimer	Tamas Szalka	HUN - HUN	57.30
12	Kim Daehong	Lee Soo Ik	KOR - KOR	57.14
13	Radosław Szczepański	Arkadiusz Majcher	POL - POL	56.59
14	Krzysztof Kujawa	Cezary Komajda	POL - POL	56.55
15	Eliran Argelazi	Lee Rosenthal	ISR - ISR	56.53
16	Konrad Ciborowski	Maciej Kędzierski	POL - POL	56.53
17	Jerry Stamatov	Jie Zhao	BUL - USA	56.21
18	Sumit Mukherjee	Debabrata Majumder	IND - IND	56.20
19	Joyjit Sensarma	Biswajit Poddar	IND - IND	56.15
20	Mariusz Bartkowski	Bogdan Szulejewski	POL - POL	56.03
21	Piotr Kołuda	Piotr Ilczuk	POL - POL	55.82
22	Vittorio Golfarelli	Giuseppe Delle Cave	ITA - ITA	55.42
23	Igor Łosiewicz	Michał Błach	POL - POL	55.40
24	Adam Mesbur	Tommy Garvey	IRL - IRL	55.39
25	Robert Stoliński	Bogdan Szlacheta	POL - POL	55.12
26	Jan Jansma	Chris Willenken	NED - USA	54.99
27	Urban Kielichowski	Andrzej Kozikowski	POL - POL	54.94
28	Jakub Kotorowicz	Paweł Miechowicz	POL - POL	54.85
29	Przemysław Błaszczyk	Piotr Korecki	POL - POL	54.82
30	Michał Kwiecień	Włodzimierz Starkowski	POL - POL	54.74
31	Adam Wildavsky	Migry Zur-Campanile	USA - USA	54.70
32	Vit Volhejn	Ales Medlin	CZE - CZE	54.65
33	Krzysztof Mielnik	Adam Lonski	POL - POL	54.53
34	Sid Brownstein	Christal Henner	USA - USA	54.50
35	Thomas Gotard	Florian Alter	GER - GER	54.44
36	Juan Pont	Jan Frey	ESP - SUI	54.40
37	Andrzej Jurkiewicz	Artur Pomarański	POL - POL	54.32
38	Oliver Lawrence	Patrick Lawrence	ENG - ENG	54.29
39	Mikael Rimstedt	Ola Rimstedt	SWE - SWE	54.24

40	Chip Martel	Martin Fleisher	USA - USA	53.95
41	Ashley Bach	Carlos Pellegrini	NZL - ARG	53.89
42	Rachael Moller	David Gurvich	USA - USA	53.80
43	Nicholas Gartaganis	Michel Lorber	CAN - CAN	53.67
44	Tim Verbeek	Bart Nab	NED - NED	53.63
45	Roman Grzelak	Waldemar Szelka	POL - POL	53.57
46	Lars Kirkegaard	Flemming Poulsen	DEN - DEN	53.44
47	Bindiya Naidoo	Priya Ranjan Sinha	IND - IND	53.43
48	Tom Hanlon	Frédéric Volcker	IRL - FRA	53.39
49	Mike Passell	Andy Goodman	USA - USA	53.36
50	Vytautas Vainikonis	Wojtek Olański	LTU - LTU	53.35
51	Jarosław Molenda	Artur Winkler	POL - POL	53.34
52	Federico Iavicoli	Cristoforo Caffi	ITA - ITA	53.30
53	Péter Trenka	György Kemény	HUN - HUN	53.30
54	James Thrower	Henry Rose	ENG - ENG	53.15
55	Bauke Muller	Simon de Wijs	NED - NED	53.15
56	Todor Tiholov	John-Henry Vos	ENG - ENG	53.03
57	Grzegorz Gawron	Jakub Kowal	POL - POL	52.92
58	Grzegorz Narkiewicz	Zdzisław Ingielewicz	POL - POL	52.92
59	Peter Goodman	Daniel McIntosh	IRL - ENG	52.89
60	Mustafa Akgül	Bülent Aslan	TUR - TUR	52.83
61	Gay Keaveney	Enda Glynn	IRL - IRL	52.79
62	Robert Czarnecki	Artur Toeplitz	POL - POL	52.66
63	Stanisław Janik	Mirosław Bublewicz	POL - POL	52.60
64	Zhejun Liu	Christoph Danielewicz	CHN - SUI	52.59
65	Henrik Kruse	Kjeld Hansen	DEN - DEN	52.56
66	Craig Gower	Alon Apteker	RSA - RSA	52.54
67	Ajay Khare	Raju Tolani	IND - IND	52.51
68	Victor Aronov	Antoni Ivanov	BUL - BUL	52.51
69	Artur Malinowski	David Bakhshi	ENG - ENG	52.48
70	Tomasz Winciorek	Jacek Ciechomski	POL - POL	52.34
71	Ulrich Wenning	Hans Frerichs	GER - GER	52.32
72	Marius Agica	Florin Safta	ROM - ROM	52.22
73	David Vozábal	Jakub Šlemr	CZE - CZE	52.20
74	Charles Garnier	Dominique Gérin	GLP - GLP	52.17
75	Paul Street	Nicolas L'Écuyer	USA - CAN	52.12
76	Seongseok Kang	Seungjin Roh	KOR - KOR	51.88
77	Sławomir Bolesta	Tomasz Bliński	POL - POL	51.69
78	Sebastian Rawlik	Ryszard Smejda	POL - POL	51.62
79	Stanisław Adamczyk	Karol Ruszkiewicz	POL - POL	51.59
80	Kauko Koistinen	Jari Salonen	FIN - FIN	51.54

Semi-final 1**Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.**

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

The best score in the first session of the semi-final was posted by Peter Gill and Sartaj Hans, who racked up 68.02%. On this deal they played in 3NT by North and East led the ♥6. Declarer took 11 tricks, +460 being worth 106-4. I wonder if South responded 1♠ to North's opening bid?

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

*David Bakhshi*

3NT was the popular spot. Here and there East, no doubt guided by a heart overcall by West, led the ♥J for the queen, king and ace. If East then ducked declarer's ♦Q and then did not put up a club honour on the first round of the suit, declarer had an easy route to all the tricks, +520 being recorded four times for 105-5. Contrast that with the 11-99 you received for making 5♣ or 3NT on the nose.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

The pairs who missed 6♠ on this deal scored only 29-81 or 5-105, depending on the lead. +980 collected 61.15-48.85, while +1010 was worth 88.15-21.85. Artur Malinowski and David Bakhshi overreached to 7♠, but a trump lead saw them record +1510 and 110-0.

Semi-final 2

Peter Gill and Sartaj Hans could manage 'only' 63.30% in the second session, more than enough to see them remain at the top of the table.

Board 18. Dealer East N/S Vul.

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

The leaders were one of eight pairs to play in 5♦ doubled. After the lead of the ♠A South got squeezed in clubs and hearts for 12 tricks, +650 and 4-106.



You can leave your hat on!

Those pairs who played in 4♠ made eight or nine tricks, the pair who were doubled scoring only 22-88 for -500.

Two declarers went two down in 5♦ doubled after a trump lead, and -300 gave their opponents 109-1. No doubt they played for a 3-3 heart break, hoping to score all the tricks. Not unreasonable unless the bidding started 1♦-Dble.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

A fair number of pairs played in spades on this deal but it generally proved to be a poor spot, even though the defenders did not always manage to take all the tricks they were entitled to.

On a club lead by North, South wins and can switch to the ♥4, setting up two ruffs which will hold declarer to six tricks. That is more or less how Tom Hanlon and Frédéric Volcker collected -800 from 3♠ doubled, 106-4.

The leaders played in 2♠. Remarkably they emerged with eight tricks, +110 and 0-110.

Semi-final 3

In this session Joe Grue and Brad Moss amassed 75.10% to storm into the lead.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

On this deal NS can score 11 tricks in either minor by getting the club suit right and several pairs did that, scoring +400 for 85-25. That is what happened to Grue/Moss, but declarer contrived to go two down, -100 amounting to 8-102. One way that can happen is for declarer to ruff the second spade, draw trumps and play the ♣K. If West ducks and declarer then runs the ten...

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

NS are close to the values for game, but nothing makes. Grue and Moss defended 3NT doubled and took the first seven tricks for -500 and 0-110. Their opponents were the only ones to venture beyond a partscore.

trump leads won't help your cause when declarer (as here) doesn't need ruffs. After a spade to the ♠A and a spade back Hans finessed and claimed +170 for 58-60. Almost nobody found the defence to beat either game.

The next two deals didn't help Hans' and Gill's cause. Rachel Moeller and David Gurvich judged at unfavourable vulnerability to compete to 5♥ over 5♣, making 11 tricks, then played 6NT on a (winning) spade finesse rather than a 6♦ slam with 12 top tricks. That gave them 100-18 rather than 68-50.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Hans	Cooper	Gill
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	4♣*	Dble
4♥	All Pass		

4♣ Splinter

Hans obediently led the club eight against 4♥ and Gill won to shift to a trump. Jacob Freeman won with the ace and could be fairly confident that North was 5-0 in the majors. He could see that if he played three rounds of diamonds and the ♦Q did not fall, then South would pitch a spade and get a spade ruff to set the game. Could he do any better than rely on the ♦Q falling in two rounds?

Because I could see all four hands I'm not sure if I can give an unbiased opinion, but at the table Freeman led a low spade to the queen and ace. When a spade came back, he put in the ten, losing to the jack, and now needed the ♦Q to fall even to get out for down one, -50 giving NS 95-23. As you can see, simply playing on diamonds directly would have worked better.

On the next deal it proved hard for EW to get to the top scoring strain.

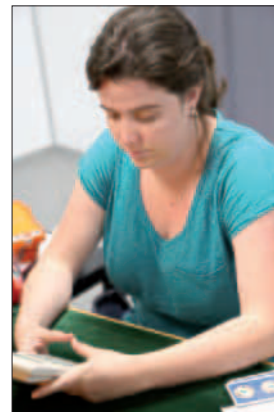
Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Hans	Cooper	Gill
—	—	1♣*	Dble
1♥	1♠	2♣	2♠
3♣	All Pass		

1♣ 2+

Even in the context of 1♣ showing 2+ cards I'm not sure 2♣ was wise. Gill led a top spade and shifted to a trump, the ♣9. Renee Cooper won in dummy and led a heart to the queen and ace, North giving honest count. Gill cashed a second spade and shifted to a diamond to the king and ace. Now it might well be right to lead a heart to the king, ruff a heart, and draw trumps ending in dummy. Since South has only three spades, he doesn't seem especially likely to have only one club, does he? Cooper chose to play a crossruff, using dummy's trumps to ruff diamonds, but this led to the ♣9 scoring a trick. +110 was only 18.32-99.68, while +130 would have been almost a dead average.



Renee Cooper

Those two deals got Hans and Gill back to average on the set. On the next round they found their Polish

opponents in generous mood. On the first deal a flight of fancy propelled the opposition to 5♥ when even 4♥ was not cold, and on the next a passed hand double of a 14-16 notrump on an 11-count (how can those methods be a good idea?) led to an exercise in counting on one's fingers...

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Gill</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

The ♣10 was covered all round and Hans won the third club to lead a low diamond to the nine and king. Back came a heart to the ace, and a heart ducked. At this point Hans cashed his ♦A and knew that his RHO as a passed hand has shown up with 11 points. So, he finessed the ♠10 and claimed, and it was rather disappointing to find spades 3-3 all along. As a consolation, +180 was worth 118-0.

The next pair to come to the table were confronted with a highly awkward bidding problem:

In third seat with both sides vulnerable, you open 1♥ with:

♠ A 3
♥ A 10 9 7 6 4
♦ A K J 7 4
♣ —

1♠ to your left passed back to you. If you double partner bids 2♣ – no surprise there! Assuming you now bid 2♦, partner will bid 2♥ and you face another decision. At the table, the player with the red two-suiter bid 2♥ over 2♣ which I freely admit I do not understand, and his partner with a 3-2-1-7 including the ♥J and ♣A wasn't

interested in more. With 4♥ unlucky to make only 10 tricks, the score of -170 was worth 100-18 for the defenders.

On the next deal Hans reminded me of Roxie Hart from Chicago, about whom Velma sang:

*I know a girl, about a girl who lands on top;
You could put her face into a pail of slop,
And she'd come up smelling like a rose.
How she does it, heaven knows.*

Playing against Brad Moss and Joe Grue, Hans went to the well not once but twice, and I'm fairly sure he would have expected to have tried it once too often as he put down dummy.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Gill</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	1NT	Dble	Pass
2♣	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

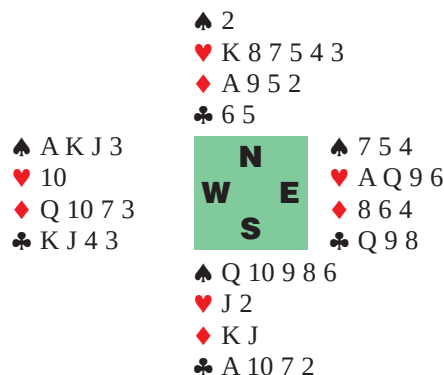
Moss led a small trump and Grue won to play a club through. Declarer won, ducked a heart, won the next club, repeated the process, then ruffed the third club low and led a third heart. He could not be prevented from scoring a diamond trick and from ruffing the fourth heart in dummy with the ♠9 if necessary. That meant -100 against the opponents' 400 in 3NT or partscore in their denomination of choice, and 104-14.

On the next deal Gill managed to show a balanced hand and reach 3NT without ever having mentioned his chunky ♠AKQ52. That meant the defenders stood no chance of cashing out accurately, and the difference between +660 and +630 was a third of a board, at 98.15-19.85.

all received a heart lead (that was good enough to defeat seven others). One defender led the ♠7 at trick one – can you work out why that should prove to be costly?

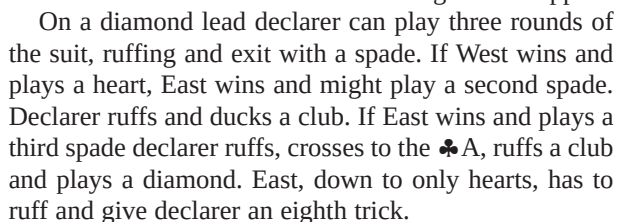
Semi-final 5

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

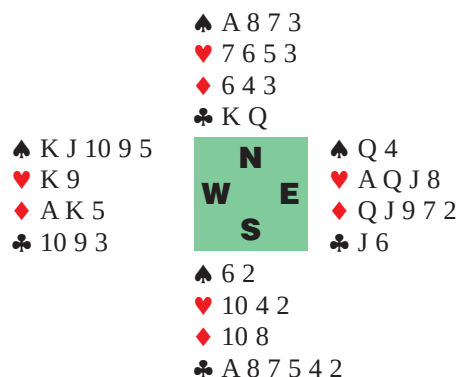


Two Hearts doubled was a popular spot. With accurate defence declarer can expect to take no more than seven tricks, and -200 was 42-76.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



Here the vast majority bid a slam and scoring +1460 was worth 104.76-13.24. Many pairs attempted 7♠, but it usually went down – if South is declarer, then a diamond, a club and the ♠5 should all be good enough. If North is at the helm the ♠9 or a diamond should be good enough. Hans and Gill reached 7♠ by North, no doubt North started with a Precision 1♣ and South responded with 1♥ showing spades. East led the ♥A and now declarer could get home by playing to ruff three hearts in his hand. The five players who made 7♠ (worth 113.92-4.08)



This looks like a regulation 4♠ for EW. However, +620 was 80-38 as many pairs played in 3NT and +630 was 33-85. Three pairs were -100, one going down in 5♠, one in 5♦ and one, amazingly, in 4♠. That gave each of their opponents 116-2.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

This deal was all about reaching 4♠ and then taking 11 tricks.

Assuming North leads a top diamond, declarer ruffs, crosses to dummy with the ♠A and takes the heart finesse. Two more rounds of the suit are followed by a spade to the jack.

Those who recorded +450 were rewarded with 95/23.

26 pairs stopped short of game, those who only took ten tricks recording a mere 11/107.

Italy's Federico Iavicoli and Cristoforo Caffi won the session with a monster 71.90%, but they were well off the pace. Meanwhile, Gill and Hanns had posted 61.835 to stay ahead, just a whisker in front of the Rimstedt brothers.

Semi-final 6

The leaders struggled managing only 35.19% which saw them drop to seventh place, well behind the new leaders, Mikael and Ola Rimstedt, who clocked up 64.92%.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

The first task for EW was to bid 6NT or 6♥, but 17 pairs stopped short for a miserable result. Those who played in slam were assured of 12 tricks and as the cards lay a squeeze developed against North which allowed declarer to take all the tricks, +1020 collecting 114.93-3.07 and +1010 97.64-20.36. A surprisingly large number took only 12 tricks which made a big difference, +980 being dead average, 59-59.

The Rimstedts received 105.78-12.22 when their opponents scored only +490.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

The predestined contract was 4♠. It made 9 times for 109.85-8.15. If North is on lead and cashes two diamonds before switching to a heart declarer can win with dummy's ace, take two rounds of trumps, ruff a diamond and cash a top club. Then exiting with a heart endplays South.

The three pairs who stopped in 3♠ scored +140 and 97.64-20.36 while the Rimstedts saw opponents go all the way to 6♠, -300 leaving them with just 0.02-117.98.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

3NT by North is the place to be on this deal, a truly Meckwellian contract. 5 pairs managed it, the four who made it scoring 106.80-11.20. They included the Rimstedts, East leading the ♦4. Declarer wins that, then tackles the clubs followed by the spades. Even if declarer

fails to divine the spade position, he can cash the remaining clubs ending in dummy. Meanwhile, East will have been feeling the pinch and in the ending declarer will be able to play a heart towards the ♥K10 to set up a ninth trick.

Semi-final A

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Pairs</i>		<i>Nationality</i>	<i>%</i>
1	Mikael Rimstedt	Ola Rimstedt	SWE - SWE	62.26
2	Joe Grue	Brad Moss	USA - USA	58.87
3	Thor Erik Hoftaniska	Thomas Charlsen	ENG - NOR	58.65
4	Geir Helgemo	Fredrik Nyström	NOR - SWE	58.59
5	Andrea Manno	Massimiliano Di Franco	ITA - ITA	57.88
6	Nabil Edgtton	Michael Whibley	AUS - NZL	57.80
7	Peter Gill	Sartaj Hans	AUS - AUS	57.32
8	Bauke Muller	Simon de Wijs	NED - NED	56.75
9	Franck Multon	Pierre Zimmermann	MON - SUI	56.62
10	Tim Verbeek	Bart Nab	NED - NED	56.26
11	Jakub Patreuha	Mateusz Sobczak	POL - POL	56.04
12	Jim Høyland	Sven-Olai Høyland	NOR - NOR	55.80
13	Thomas Gotard	Florian Alter	GER - GER	55.35
14	Mariusz Bartkowski	Bogdan Szulejewski	POL - POL	55.30
15	Krzysztof Jassem	Patryk Patreuha	POL - POL	55.11
16	Sabine Auken	Roy Welland	GER - GER	54.99
17	Adam Wildavsky	Migry Zur-Campanile	USA - USA	54.84
18	Marek Pietraszek	Jacek Znamirowski	POL - POL	54.59
19	Andrew Robson	Alexander Allfrey	ENG - ENG	54.44
20	Tom Hanlon	Frédéric Volcker	IRL - FRA	54.24
21	Alon Birman	Dror Padon	ISR - ISR	54.14
22	Michał Kwiecień	Włodzimierz Starkowski	POL - POL	54.12
23	Jan Jansma	Chris Willenken	NED - USA	54.08
24	Thomas Bessis	Cédric Lorenzini	FRA - FRA	54.06
25	Adam Grossack	Laurence Lebowitz	USA - USA	53.97
26	Krzysztof Mielnik	Adam Lonski	POL - POL	53.77
27	Nicholas Gartaganis	Michel Lorber	CAN - CAN	53.63
28	Mustafa Akgül	Bülent Aslan	TUR - TUR	53.23
29	Shan Huang	Zemin Xu	USA - CAN	53.01
30	Radosław Szczepański	Arkadiusz Majcher	POL - POL	52.92
31	Péter Trenka	György Kemény	HUN - HUN	52.81
32	Massimo Lanzarotti	Arrigo Franchi	ITA - ITA	52.24
33	Keyzad Anklesaria	Rajeshwar Tewari	IND - IND	52.13
34	Federico Iavicoli	Cristoforo Caffi	ITA - ITA	51.87
35	Chip Martel	Martin Fleisher	USA - USA	51.74
36	Adam Mesbur	Tommy Garvey	IRL - IRL	51.74

37	Oren Toledano	Ami Zamir	ISR - ISR	51.68
38	Krzysztof Buras	Piotr Lutostański	POL - POL	51.66
39	Ehud Friedlander	Asaf Yekutieli	ISR - ISR	51.38
40	Rachael Moller	David Gurvich	USA - USA	51.27
41	Dariusz Kowalski	Tomasz Sielicki	POL - POL	51.20
42	Giovanni Donati	Giacomo Percario	ITA - ITA	51.18
43	Ryszard Sakowicz	Paweł Plocki	POL - POL	50.86
44	Jakub Kotorowicz	Paweł Miechowicz	POL - POL	50.63
45	Erikas Vainikonis	Andrei Arlovich	LTU - LTU	50.52
46	Jerry Stamatov	Jie Zhao	BUL - USA	50.46
47	Eliran Argelazi	Lee Rosenthal	ISR - ISR	50.32
48	Ajay Khare	Raju Tolani	IND - IND	50.32
49	Lars Kirkegaard Nielsen	Flemming Poulsen	DEN - DEN	50.16
50	Daehong Kim	Soo Ik Lee	KOR - KOR	50.15
51	Måns Sjöqvist	Johan Säfsten	SWE - SWE	50.07
52	Zachary Grossack	Finn Kolesnik	USA - USA	50.02
53	Ashley Bach	Carlos Pellegrini	NZL - ARG	49.94
54	Andrzej Jaszczak	Jacek Pszczoła	POL - USA	49.94
55	Vittorio Golfarelli	Giuseppe Delle Cave	ITA - ITA	49.89
56	Zhejun Liu	Christoph Danielewicz	CHN - SUI	49.83
57	Bjorn Alenfalk	Mats Johansson	SWE - SWE	49.78
58	Peter Goodman	Daniel McIntosh	IRL - ENG	49.68
59	Sibrand van Oosten	Stefan Thorpe	NED - NED	49.57
60	Joyjit Sensarma	Biswajit Poddar	IND - IND	49.55
61	Paul Street	Nicolas L'Écuyer	USA - CAN	49.49
62	Boye Brogeland	Christian Bakke	NOR - NOR	49.42
63	Roger Lee	Gillian Minter	USA - USA	49.42
64	Artur Malinowski	David Bakhshi	ENG - ENG	49.35
65	Richard Chan	Ming Sheng	CAN - USA	49.21
66	Wojciech Strzemecki	Przemysław Zawada	POL - POL	49.11
67	Henrik Kruse	Petersen Kjeld Hansen	DEN - DEN	49.00
68	David Vozábal	Jakub Šlemr	CZE - CZE	48.90
69	Sumit Mukherjee	Debabrata Majumder	IND - IND	48.81
70	Serap Kuranoglu	Serdar Erdem	TUR - TUR	48.64
71	Victor Aronov	Antoni Ivanov	BUL - BUL	48.55
72	Konrad Araszkiewicz	Krzysztof Kotorowicz	POL - POL	48.50
73	Przemysław Błaszczyk	Piotr Korecki	POL - POL	48.44
74	Krzysztof Kujawa	Cezary Komajda	POL - POL	48.40
75	Stanisław Gołębiowski	Piotr Marcinowski	POL - POL	48.35
76	Grzegorz Gawron	Jakub Kowal	POL - POL	48.27
77	Ulrich Wenning	Hans Frerichs	GER - GER	48.24
78	Robert Czarnecki	Artur Toeplitz	POL - POL	48.23
79	Andrzej Jurkiewicz	Artur Pomarański	POL - POL	48.17
80	Mike Passell	Andy Goodman	USA - USA	48.12
81	Robert Stoliński	Bogdan Szlacheta	POL - POL	48.10
82	Vytautas Vainikonis	Wojtek Olański	LTU - LTU	47.99

83	Csaba Czimer	Tamas Szalka	HUN - HUN	47.94
84	Gay Keaveney	Enda Glynn	IRL - IRL	47.89
85	Marius Agica	Florin Safta	ROM - ROM	47.88
86	Joao-Paulo Campos	Adriano Rodrigues	BRA - BRA	47.72
87	Renee Cooper	Jacob Freeman	AUS - CAN	47.67
88	Jurica Carić	Kiril Marinovski	CRO - CRO	47.59
89	Tomasz Winciorek	Jacek Ciechowski	POL - POL	47.58
90	Todor Tiholov	John-Henry Vos	ENG - ENG	47.55
91	Bartosz Chmurski	Igor Chalupec	POL - POL	47.29
92	Konrad Ciborowski	Maciej Kędzierski	POL - POL	47.29
93	Urban Kielichowski	Andrzej Kozikowski	POL - POL	47.15
94	Seongseok Kang	Seungjin Roh	KOR - KOR	47.15
95	Philippe Mathieu	Luc Soudan	GLP - GLP	47.14
96	Petro Karlykov	Yuliy Chumak	UKR - UKR	47.10
97	Stanisław Janik	Mirosław Bublewicz	POL - POL	46.93
98	Piotr Kołuda	Piotr Ilczuk	POL - POL	46.89
99	Ben Norton	Stefano Tommasini	ENG - ENG	46.87
100	Oliver Lawrence	Patrick Lawrence	ENG - ENG	46.54
101	Przemysław Janiszewski	Łukasz Witkowski	POL - POL	46.53
102	Craig Gower	Alon Apteker	RSA - RSA	46.49
103	Jarosław Molenda	Artur Winkler	POL - POL	46.29
104	Bindiya Naidoo	Priya Ranjan Sinha	IND - IND	46.15
105	Igor Łosiewicz	Michał Błach	POL - POL	46.03
106	Giuseppe Failla	Luca De Michelis	ITA - ITA	45.97
107	Sebastian Rawlik	Ryszard Smejda	POL - POL	45.21
108	Victor Melman	Mirosław Milaszewski	USA - POL	45.19
109	Jeff Wolfson	Steve Garner	USA - USA	45.13
110	James Thrower	Henry Rose	ENG - ENG	45.02
111	Kauko Koistinen	Jari Salonen	FIN - FIN	44.72
112	Sławomir Bolesta	Tomasz Bliński	POL - POL	44.40
113	Charles Garnier	Dominique Gérin	GLP - GLP	44.16
114	Rumen Trendafilov	Nikola Barantiev	BUL - BUL	43.83
115	Roman Grzelak	Waldemar Szelka	POL - POL	43.70
116	Grzegorz Narkiewicz	Zdzisław Ingielewicz	POL - POL	42.89
117	Stanisław Adamczyk	Karol Ruszkiewicz	POL - POL	42.72
118	Vit Volhejn	Ales Medlin	CZE - CZE	42.47
119	Sid Brownstein	Christal Henner	USA - USA	41.19

Semi-final B

Rank	Pairs		Nationality	%
1	Tony Nunn	Paul Dalley	AUS - AUS	58.71
2	Aaron Silverstein	Andrew Rosenthal	USA - USA	58.64
3	Michele Cammarata	Cristiano Valsega	ITA - ITA	58.11

4	Piotr Walczak	Paweł Wittenbeck	POL - POL	56.26
5	Ton Bakkeren	Frank Bakkeren	NED - NED	55.95
6	Alexander Smirnov	Julius Sigurjonsson	GER - ISL	55.64
7	Bachiraju Satyanarayana	Kiran Nadar	IND - IND	55.63
8	Dario Attanasio	Gabriella Manara	ITA - ITA	55.49
9	Olgierd Rodziewicz-Bielewicz	Ewa Rodziewicz-Bielewicz	POL - POL	55.25
10	Roeland Maat	Mark de Meer	NED - NED	54.62
11	Mohamed Heshmat	Ahmed Hussein	EGY - EGY	54.62
12	Rafał Wolanski	Jarosław Stach	POL - POL	54.57
13	Gabor Winkler	Miklós Dumbovich	HUN - HUN	54.56
14	Yaniv Zack	Ilan Cohen	ISR - ISR	54.36
15	Sam Punch	Stephen Peterkin	SCO - SCO	54.22
16	Thomas Maccormac	Ellis Feigenbaum	IRL - USA	53.90
17	Filippos Kritsalis	Alexandros Zervogiannis	GRE - GRE	53.86
18	Nicolas Hammond	Axel Johannsson	USA - AUS	53.42
19	Debbie Rosenberg	Vinita Gupta	USA - USA	53.37
20	Lior Urman	Amir Ezion	ISR - ISR	53.08
21	Marta Janeczek	Andrzej Bunikowski	POL - POL	53.05
22	Kenneth Rae	Grzegorz Blicharz	SCO - ENG	53.04
23	Przemysław Galek	Rafał Synowiec	POL - POL	52.71
24	Malgorzata Turska-Marcinowska	Adam Marcinowski	POL - POL	52.66
25	Lucja Ciborowska	Konrad Ciborowski	POL - POL	52.47
26	John Carroll	Mark Moran	IRL - IRL	52.41
27	Tomasz Gotard	Adolf Bochenski	GER - POL	52.37
28	Wojciech Paszko	Adam Zarnowski	POL - POL	52.35
29	Sam Dinkin	Anam Tebha	USA - USA	52.25
30	Ryszard Jaskiewicz	Dariusz Sosin	POL - POL	52.15
31	Olivier Neve	Patrick Bocken	BEL - BEL	51.81
32	Jonas Tjarnemo	Bjorn Ohlsson	SWE - SWE	51.77
33	Hakan Tjarnemo	Pierre Carbonnier	SWE - SWE	51.60
34	Dariusz Kulpinski	Jacek Szczerba	POL - POL	51.49
35	Piotr Stopa	Grzegorz Latala	POL - POL	51.38
36	Krishnan Ramaratnam	Dipak Poddar	IND - IND	51.33
37	Kyoko Ohno	Akihiko Yamada	JPN - JPN	51.22
38	Bernard Jadczyk	Mirosław Fechner	POL - POL	50.94
39	Roy-Hugo Olsen	Are Sivertsen	NOR - NOR	50.88
40	Daniela Von Arnim	Geeske Joel	GER - USA	50.87
41	Grzegorz Gan	Marek Pietrzak	POL - POL	50.82
42	Antti Aimala	Oskari Koivu	FIN - FIN	50.72
43	John Paul Gosney	Tony Leibowitz	AUS - AUS	50.68
44	Krzysztof Latus	Jacek Zajac	POL - POL	50.59
45	Vijayraghavan Subramanian	Vasudevan Raghavachary	IND - IND	50.51
46	Peter Pigot Jr	Ciaran Coyne	IRL - IRL	50.37
47	Daniel Gulyas	Peter Hodosi	HUN - HUN	50.32
48	Daniel Tubak	Attila Viktor	HUN - HUN	50.24
49	Beate 'Pony' Nehmert	Hong Ding	GER - USA	50.20
50	Stephan Magnusson	Jerome Amiguet	SUI - SUI	50.17

51	Mariusz Kita	Bogusław Lesiecki	POL - POL	50.05
52	Maciej Bielawski	Jacek P Krystecki	POL - POL	49.99
53	Maciej Wręczycki	Grzegorz Bajek	POL - POL	49.96
54	Prakash Easwaran	Anrudh Prakash	IND - IND	49.75
55	Gennadii Rybnikov	Oleg Rovyshyn	UKR - UKR	49.54
56	Ed Hoogenkamp	Rob Helle	NED - NED	49.45
57	Piotr Kuc-Dzierzawski	Tomasz Stryzawski	POL - POL	49.43
58	Tomasz Latos	Marek Giza	POL - POL	49.32
59	Shunsuke Morimura	Jinlong Zhao	JPN - JPN	49.32
60	Marek Witek	Jarosław Bartosiński	POL - POL	49.27
61	Jacek Szczerbowski	Ryszard Zwolak	POL - POL	49.23
62	Jerry Goldberg	Eleanor Seaman	USA - USA	49.18
63	Metin Eksioğlu	Mehmet Hakan Akpınar	TUR - TUR	48.86
64	Clement Maamarbachi	Vassilis Vroustis	LIB - GRE	48.80
65	Edmund Czubak	Robert Glodowski	POL - POL	48.69
66	Maciej Kulikowski	Paweł Sierakowski	POL - POL	48.36
67	Edward Bednarczyk	Stanisław Krol	POL - POL	48.29
68	Piotr Klubinski	Marek Brosch	POL - POL	48.24
69	Andrzej Hunka	Eugeniusz Konik	POL - POL	47.90
70	Michael Barel	Paz Katz	ISR - ISR	47.78
71	Lin-Huana Chen	Ding-Hwshieh	USA - USA	47.65
72	Adam Krysa	Tomasz Kalinowski	POL - POL	47.56
73	Ylva Strandberg	Gunnar Andersson	SWE - SWE	47.49
74	Marek Ciesielczuk	Wojciech Soltysiak	POL - POL	47.29
75	Jeremi Stepinski	Maciej Hutyra	POL - POL	47.18
76	Edward Makarewicz	Zbigniew Telec	POL - POL	46.93
77	Krzysztof Lipowski	Dariusz Glowinski	POL - POL	46.92
78	Krzysztof Lewandowski	Mark Bałdysz	POL - POL	46.82
79	Dano De Falco	Patricia Cayne	ITA - USA	46.58
80	Arkadiusz Wodkowski	Paweł Lasota	POL - POL	46.53
81	Lukasz Ledochowski	Adam Lewandowski	POL - POL	46.52
82	Jacek Sikora	Andrzej Jarzabkowski	POL - POL	46.43
83	Janusz Kobylarski	Waldemar Warzala	POL - POL	46.43
84	Paweł Sosnowski	Ryszard Sawicki	POL - POL	46.29
85	Zbigniew Sosna	Marek Kozłowski	POL - POL	46.13
86	Robert Chmielak	Magdalena Czajkowska	POL - POL	45.78
87	Sylwester Cieslak	Krzysztof Chris Golas	POL - POL	45.76
88	Oleksandr Nyemtsev	Ostap Kupnovitsky	UKR - UKR	45.72
89	Cezary Kmiecik	Piotr Solecki	POL - POL	45.65
90	Andrzej Choniawko	Janusz Hliwa	POL - POL	45.55
91	Jos Kloet	Wim Arendse	NED - NED	44.24
92	Dominik Glowacki	Waldemar Slesicki	POL - POL	43.95
93	Leszek Szkudlarek	Włodzimierz Kocon	POL - POL	43.06
94	Przemysław Maliszewski	Waldemar Kozuchowski	POL - POL	42.61
95	Anal Shah	Subodh Maskara	IND - IND	42.43
96	Irene Baroni	Romain Zaleski	ITA - ITA	41.78
97	Tomasz Szymczyk	Henryk Kopernok	POL - POL	41.31

Open Pairs Final

Maurizio di Sacco covered the Final

The final of the 2022 Open Pairs was contested by what was probably the strongest field ever: no less than 36 players, out of 116 (31%!), had previously won a world championship of some kind, and many of them more than one. Among them the title holders, the Swedish twin brothers Ola and Mikael Rimstedt. The average age should also be noted, much lower than usual and so good for our game. Last note: I don't know whether this is a record, but it was certainly not very common to have two pairs of twins playing, though the Poles, Jakub and Patryk Patreuha, unlike the Rimstedts, were not playing together. Two other partnerships of brothers were also in the field: Bakkeren from the Netherlands and Høyland from Norway.

The level of the play was as expected, with many brilliancies and a few mistakes. Stamina – the participants got through 114 boards in two days – was quite a factor too.

BBO covered as many as eight tables per round, with the BBO VuGraph assigning the name of the ultimate pair at the table to the session. So, as well as offering a wide coverage in the first five sessions, I'll also assign pairs to their actual results as I report their excellence, misery, joy and mistakes. In the final session of the Championship, we will peek primarily at the leading pairs' tables.

First Session

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

The first board gave the tone of the level: to beat 4♥, bid at all tables with just two exceptions, you need to switch

to the ♠K from a doubleton after the lead, and all but one East player did so. Donati/Percario were denied a complete top, because two pairs did even better than them: Bertheau/Black were gifted by Auken/Welland's phantom save to take all 56 matchpoints, but sometimes things are not as you may imagine. Here is Sabine's comment: "Board 1 set the tone for us. Black opened 1♥, I overcalled 2♣ and Bertheau jumped to 4♥. I sometimes like to test the waters to see how things will be going (stupid superstition I guess) and bid a very questionable 4NT in the pass-out seat. I guess I found out how things would be going. Not defending my action, but I doubt many Easts, if any at all were put in the same position. The unusual jump to 4♥ proved very effective on this hand."

Next were Trenka/Nemely. Their table bid 1♥-(2♣)-3♣ (support, limit+)-Pass-3NT-All Pass. Arrigo Franchi sat East on lead and fearing his partner's club holding to be a singleton, tabled a diamond regretting it eleven tricks later. The happiest EW pair were Wildavsky/Zur-Campanile: their opponents did not stop before slam, conceding -150 and all the 56 matchpoints at stake.

Board 2 was played in 3♠ across nearly all the field. The contract should be defeated but was allowed to make three times. Among the exceptions were, again, Wildavsky/Zur-Campanile who watched the opponents climbing to 5♠. They dropped a trick yet scored 51 matchpoints to start the final with an average of almost 96%!

Board 3 required some delicate judgement: NS needed to stop in a spade partial with their combined 24 HCP and eight trumps, then some guessing was required to land nine tricks. Most pairs applied the brakes in time, but the number of tricks varied. Then came a truly wild deal:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

The results ranged from -800 (twice: 6♦x-3 and 7♣x-3) to +1370 (three times: always thanks to the spade lead from South). Slam was bid at many tables but doubled only three times. Most declarers guessed clubs correctly: some after a low heart lead away from the ace, which gave the hint to duck the club switch, but some put up the ace even after the same start. Some tables produced rather odd results too:

West	North	East	South
<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Akgül</i>	<i>Lanzarotti</i>	<i>Aslan</i>
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
2NT	Pass	3♦	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

2♦ Multi
2♥ Pass or correct

Unlike at other tables, where the auction took off rapidly, here both pairs stayed low, and this convinced Lanzarotti that all his honours were useful in defence: he was proven very wrong, but you can sympathise.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gold</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Zia</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
1♣	1♥	2♥	2♠
3♣	4♥	Dble	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Despite the double over 4♠, Lorenzini risked a final double which, with the heart lead, might even have been successful, but playing his partner for a stronger holding Bessis led a diamond. Gold misguessed trumps, but scored +950 nevertheless, worth 50 matchpoints.

Board 5 was another deal where you needed to stop before it was too late, yet, due to North's opening bid range (18-19 balanced) and six HCP in South, many pairs climbed to the hopeless game, which was made only once, thanks to it being played by South, and the favourable club lead from West.

Board 6 was a club partial for the most part, where to score ten tricks you needed to use dummy's two entries to finesse the ♥9, then the ♥J holding three small opposite ♥KJ9. Most did.

On Board 7 almost everyone bid 3NT (de Wijs/Muller bid and made 4♠, and Grossak/Leibowitz stopped in 2♠ with a combined 27 HCP) and all made it except Dalley/Nunn. The hand is tricky, but the way the cards lie in the end any play line succeeds. The real issue was to hold declarer to nine tricks. Here is how Jeff Meckstroth

failed to. He held ♠A943 ♥K7632 ♦102 ♣63 and led the ♦10 having learnt that RHO held a balanced, minimum opening bid with clubs, hearts and two spades, and LHO a game forcing hand with five spades. Dummy came down with ♠KQJ76 ♥A8 ♦KQ86 ♣74 and declarer won in hand with the ace, played a spade toward dummy, then a club to his ten. West continued with a spade to dummy and another spade. What would you play? Meckstroth played another diamond, and regretted it:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Iavicoli simply won in dummy, conceded the ♠A and eventually finessed in clubs for ten tricks and 46 of the available 56 matchpoints, while nine would have been worth just 20.

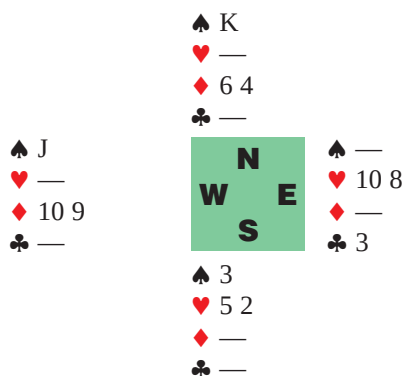
Board 8 was one of those "Pairs' fascinating ones":

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

After the same start, 1♠-Pass-2♣-3♦, the field was split between those who bid the spade game – the majority – and those who picked hearts instead, with a few exceptions: two 3NT, and three 3♦x. Since the number of tricks in the major suit game was mainly ten, and ten

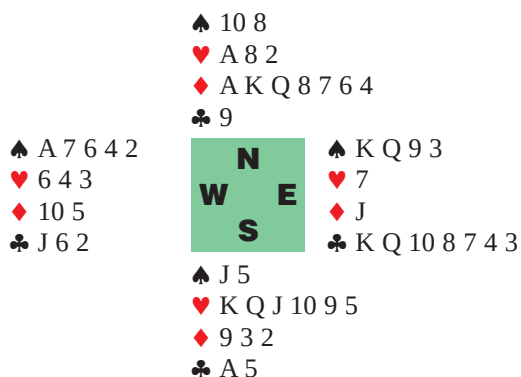
tabled the best card once more, a trump, and East responded well winning it and playing a third round of clubs, ruffed. Birman produced the best card for the third time, a heart, and East won (also best) but then erred by continuing the suit, and declarer finished his great job by winning, cashing the ♠Q, then tabling the ♦Q, covered and won by the ace. Another diamond to the jack produced this lovely ending:



South played a heart and could not be prevented from making his two trumps separately. To avoid that, upon winning the ♥A East needed to play a fourth round of clubs: whatever declarer does, he'll be forced to fatally weaken his trump holding.

Board 11 was a deal where EW had two tasks: to go not too high and to play in hearts instead of spades. Most managed it. We must have a deeper look at Board 12:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



At all tables North opened 1♦, but things changed from there: mostly East opted for a wise 2♣, looking for the opportunity to bid spades later, but some, having noticed their partner's pass and with an eye to the vulnerability leapt all the way to 4♣. Par is 5♠x, but it was rarely achieved. Here are two examples:



Krzysztof Jassem

West	North	East	South
<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Cammarata</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Valsega</i>
Pass	1 	2 	2 
2 	3 	4 	5 
Pass	6 	6 	Dble
All Pass			

Jassem went for the soft approach and was rewarded when West introduced spades. But when Cammarata found an imaginative raise to slam, he could not resist saving (more than reasonably so). -500 was worth 40 MP to NS.

West	North	East	South
<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>F Bakkeren</i>	<i>Nab</i>	<i>T Bakkeren</i>
Pass	1 	4 	4 
5 	5NT	6 	7 
Dble	All Pass		

It is not clear what 5NT meant, but it is obvious the message was not correctly received, since South felt it legitimate to jump to seven, learning immediately, from West's double, that something had gone wrong. -500 gave NS just 2 MP, while the full bottom belonged to Mielnik/Lonski who, in 5♠x, led the ♣A and continued with two rounds of hearts. Curtains. Top score for NS was +710, shared by four lucky pairs which did not get the spade lead in 5♥.

Board 13 saw all EW pairs but three declaring 3NT, and mostly scoring nine or ten tricks (four, however, went down, including Wildavsky/Zur-Campanile's

opponents who managed – I cannot tell you how – to go down three collecting 0 MP and giving NS another complete top). Exceptions were a couple of four spades in a Moysian fit (once making and once going down) and a partscore.

Board 14 is a nice problem. Suppose you are South, and play a spade contract (mostly 4♠, but some stopped below), and receive a heart lead and continuation. All you know is West opened a weak two in hearts, and East raised.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ K Q 4 2
♥ 2
♦ A Q 9 4
♣ A J 5 4



♠ A 10 7 3
♥ 8 6
♦ 10 7 6 2
♣ K 8 2

You ruff, and cash ♠KQ, West showing out on the second round. What now? Your communications are precarious, and drawing trumps can result in a disaster if, after four rounds, East wins any minor suit finesse. Migry Zur-Campanile showed the best way: club to her king, diamond to the queen, ace of diamonds and a diamond won by West. Here is the ending:

♠ 4
♥ —
♦ 9
♣ A J 5

♠ —
♥ K 10
♦ —
♣ Q 9 7

♠ J 9
♥ J 5
♦ —
♣ 10

♠ A 10
♥ —
♦ 10
♣ 8 2

West did his best by returning a heart, but South ruffed in dummy pitching a diamond, cashed the ♣A and tabled the last diamond. Unsuccessful declarers finessed the ♦9 instead of the queen, and when East won the jack and

played a third heart, they did not find the winning line, which is counter intuitive. Here is the position:

♠ 4
♥ —
♦ A Q 4
♣ A J 5

♠ —
♥ K 10 7
♦ K 8
♣ Q 9

♠ J 9
♥ J 5
♦ 5
♣ 10 6

♠ A 10
♥ —
♦ 10 7 6
♣ 8 2

All pitched a club ruffing in dummy but they could not avoid losing a diamond, then control when West played a heart. The winning play is to ruff in hand pitching a club from dummy (it is essential to keep all the diamonds for communication): your trumps get shortened, but you retain control. Fascinating.

Board 15 required EW to play either 3NT, or 5♣, since 5♦ failed thanks to a club ruff. The defenders should lead a heart against the NT game. Some did well, and some did not: the eventual winners, Buras/Lutostański did very badly when they bid slam in diamonds, but their opponents did much worse, not cashing an ace and missing a ruff. -920 gave all the MP to EW.

Board 16 was another deal where a pair (EW) needed to not get too high, and as usual some did and some did not.

Board 17 had as par 5♣x-2, EW saving over the opponents' cold 4♠, and at nearly all tables that was done. However, the points split evenly, and two pairs decided to double 4♠ and shared a bottom. Meanwhile the Rimstedt brothers allowed Gold/Zia to play 4♣ and missing a heart ruff allowed it to make, scoring only 4 MP (two NS pairs did even worse with really odd results).

Board 18 was everybody's 3NT with a combined 26 HCP, always down between one and three tricks, but it made three times due to serious misdefence. Once again, the future world champions received a very nice gift, even being allowed to make an overtrick.

Board 19 was a partscore battle, NS holding hearts and more HCP, and EW holding spades. Most of the time the contract was either played at the three level sometimes doubled (especially 3♥, since trumps split

5-0), and both sometimes made and sometimes failed. One of those typical pairs' boards, you might say. The first session ended with another interesting deal:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Three North players decided their hand was worth a 1NT opening bid, and regretted it, all scoring +150 and sharing a bottom; almost all the others bid the heart game, with just a few stopping low. Whatever the level, all declarers went after diamonds to eventually pitch a club from hand, so West was in the spotlight: when in with the ♦ A – some won the opening lead with it – they needed to find a club switch. Five of them, including a couple of multiple world champions failed to do so. Here are the ten leading pairs after 20 boards:

1	Krzysztof Buras & Piotr Lutostański	POL - POL	65.35
2	Alon Birman & Dror Padon	ISR - ISR	62.60
3	Nicholas Gartaganis & Michel Lorber	CAN - CAN	62.40
4	David Gold & Zia Mahmood	ENG - USA	61.47
5	Nabil Edgton & Michael Whibley	AUS - NZL	60.83
6	Mikael Rimstedt & Ola Rimstedt	SWE - SWE	59.03
7	Tony Nunn & Paul Dalley	AUS - AUS	58.38
8	Peter Bertheau & Andrew Black	SWE - ENG	56.67
9	Oren Toledano & Ami Zamir	ISR - ISR	56.42
10	Peter Gill & Sartaj Hans	AUS - AUS	56.31

Second Session

The new session started with an interesting bidding problem. Suppose you're West, Green v Red, holding: ♠ KJ96 ♥ AK104 ♦ KJ6 ♣ 96. You see LHO opening one in a minor (depending on the system) and RHO responding 1♥. What do you do? Some chose pass, some doubled, and some overcalled 1NT. Here is the full hand:

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Pass was the winning action. Left to themselves NS ended up in a horrible 1NT, going at least two down (some pairs ended up in a heart or spade partial, no fun there either). Those who decided otherwise ended up scoring between 90 and 150. I cannot tell you, but probably systems played a big role: whoever saw a 1♣ opening bid was encouraged to double, while 1♦ made it more awkward. Also, a large number recorded by one EW was due to a weak NT opening.

The first half of the second session was dominated by the Israelis, Birman/Padon, and here is one of their best results:

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

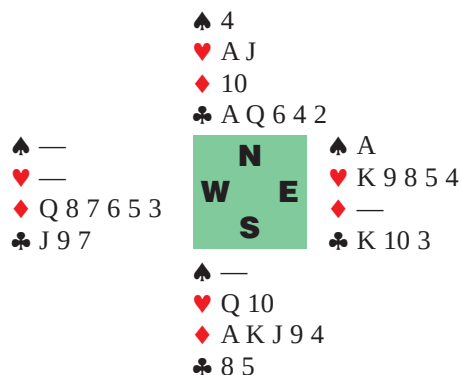
♠ 10 6	♠ K Q J 4	♠ A 9 7 3
♥ 6	♥ A J 2	♥ K 9 8 5 4 3
♦ Q 8 7 6 5 3 2	♦ 10	♦ —
♣ J 9 7	♣ A Q 6 4 2	♣ K 10 3
	♠ 8 5 2	
	♥ Q 10 7	
	♦ A K J 9 4	
	♣ 8 5	

West	North	East	South
Sakowicz	Birman	Plocki	Padon
—	—	1♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	1NT
2♦	Dble	All Pass	

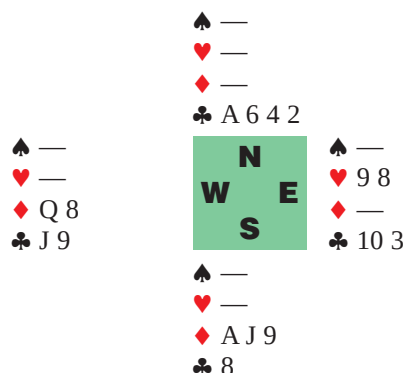
Poor Sakowicz should not be blamed too much for what many would consider an automatic bid, but never more

so than here, silence is golden. After the ♠K lead declarer might have escaped with down three had he ducked a heart, eventually playing a club toward dummy's king, but when he decided to duck a club instead, the defence was merciless: Birman won and cashed winners, then gave South a club ruff. Reduced to his seven trumps, West had to concede four more trump tricks and -1100, a result matched by Rosenthal/Silverstein, who climbed to 3♦ but saved a trick and 1 MP.

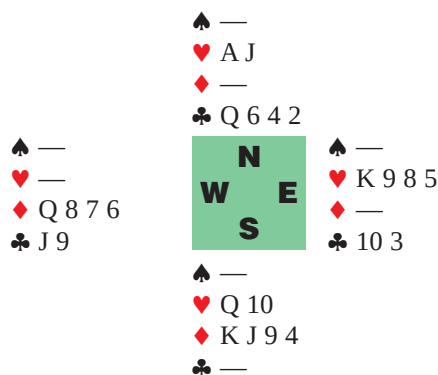
Nearly all the NS pairs bid 3NT, but not all made it. Here is how Sabine Auken went down (after the usual 1♥ opening bid Roy Welland overcalled 2♦ and she jumped to 3NT): she won the ♥3 lead with dummy's seven and played three rounds of spades, East ducking twice, then winning the nine and tabling the ace in this position:



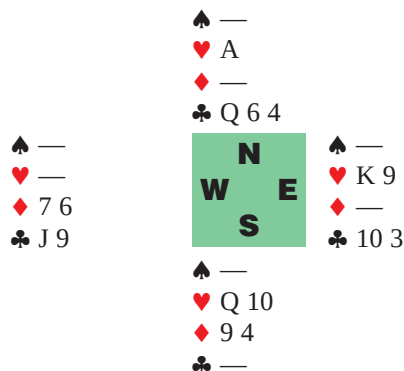
Sabine pitched dummy's ♣5, which is fatal in itself: had East switched to hearts, declarer has now no communication to produce the winning ending. Let's have a look at what happens if North ditches a diamond from dummy instead: heart to the queen, club to the queen (mandatory) and East's king (does not matter whether West covers or not) and another heart, won in hand. The ♦10 to dummy's king leaves:



When dummy plays a club, West is powerless: if he plays the nine, North wins the ace and endplays him in clubs, while if he plays the jack declarer simply ducks it. However, as we saw Auken threw a club, but East tabled the ♣K placing her in a position to collect ten tricks by just conceding a club. However, Sabine with no hints about the actual distribution won and played a diamond to dummy's king, leaving:



Declarer is still able to make it: two high diamonds make the nine good and whatever the defenders do, at the end she will come to nine tricks:



If West plays a diamond, North scores a diamond, a club and a heart; if he tables the ♣J, she wins and continues the suit. Obviously, one piece of information was still missing: whether East had started with 4603 or 4504, but declarer can cater for it by keeping ♥AJ in the four card ending. I leave the analysis to the readers. Anyway, Auken overlooked the position and played a heart, going down two and collecting just 3 MP. The happiest EW pair were Kotorowicz/Miekowicz: their South opponent (whose name we will leave unsaid) decided it was the right time to jump to 3♦. Two passes and a double produced a shameful -300 and 0 MP.

The next deal is also interesting:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Barring one very optimistic heart slam, everybody played 4♥ from West, receiving a heart lead at all tables but two (a ♣A and a ♦K). Four made twelve tricks by winning in hand, playing a club won by North who played a diamond. A club finesse, a third club pitching a spade, the ♦A and a crossruff ended the proceedings. Some went down, winning the lead and playing a spade: you can still come to ten tricks but you need to be careful. Here is a typical way, starring Roy Welland. He won the lead with dummy's ace and played a spade. South won and played a second trump, won in hand perforce. The path to ten tricks is now straightforward: a club up leads, sooner or later, to one diamond, two clubs, five trumps in hand and two diamond ruffs. You don't even need to finesse the ♣J, since the queen falls. However, Roy ruffed a small diamond, ruffed a spade, ruffed another small diamond, ruffed a further spade and cashed the last trump, to leave:

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

Only at this point did declarer play a club, and his line was rewarded when North won it and erred badly, continuing with a diamond, thus conceding eleven tricks.

Two unsuccessful declarers played along the same lines, but with a variation: they both ruffed a diamond immediately before going after spades. After the usual heart switch from South they produced a similar, but six-card ending: they ducked a diamond to South who returned a spade, ruffed. They then cashed the ♦A instead of playing a club, creating a fourth winner for the defenders.

Board 24 was another battle: EW were cold for 4♣ (well, almost: the impossible diamond lead away from king fourth would beat it) and EW had a 4♠ save available but the play is not so straightforward:

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

To legitimately beat 4♠ by two tricks, East must start with three rounds of spades, then, when North tables the ♥10, he should cover with the jack. But there's one more hurdle: when declarer now plays a club, West must win it immediately. Here is what happens if he ducks: North wins, plays three rounds of diamonds ruffing in dummy, then ruffs a heart leaving:

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

Declarer continues with a diamond, and when East wins and plays the ♥A pitches a club, forcing East to give a

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

The overcallers had an easier way to the tenuous, though lay-down game, while the doubler mostly missed it, leaving EW playing 3♠. However, Helgemo/Nyström doubled Gold/Zia's partscore to collect -300 and 30-26 MP.

Third Session

The third session started with a typical "pairs" hand:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

As the cards lie, 6♠ makes: declarer wins the lead (say the ♥Q, as at almost every table) in hand, plays two rounds of trumps ending in dummy, then cashes the ♦A and runs the ♦Q. The well placed ♦K and the diamond split allow for the clubs to be ditched. This is how the six slam bidders brought home the requisite twelve tricks to share a top of 51-5 MP. However, if you are in game you may think about a line which is the best to bring home eleven tricks, since if you try for twelve you risk ending up with ten. Some did that by playing on clubs at trick two. Suppose now that you're in a notrump game, a spot no less than Geir Helgemo found himself in. You can see

that nine tricks will be totally matchpointless, probably even ten will merit only dimes, so you might well risk going down by betting on eleven or twelve tricks. Let's see: playing from South, Geir won the ♣K lead in dummy to play a club to the ten and queen, then won the heart switch in dummy to cash the ♣J. When West showed out, he could have conceded a club and settled for at least nine tricks (three spades, three clubs, two hearts and a diamond) if spades were not to run, or eleven otherwise. However, that would have been still worse than any spade contract, so he continued instead with two rounds of spades, conceding one down when they did not split. Was Helgemo right? Perfectly so: the difference between +400 and -50 was 0 MP: they scored the same. To complete the picture, four pairs ventured to the NT slam, and one went down two in 3NT.

Board 2 was a partscore battle which required judgement: with some cards badly placed for both sides, best was to allow the opponents to play at the three-level. As you may imagine, there were many different shades of interpretation along that line, ranging from 1NT to 5♦x!

The next deal presented a couple of classic problems:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

After South opened 1♣, most Wests jumped to 4♥, but some, with an eye to the vulnerability, limited themselves to 3♥. On the 4♥ auctions, North doubled, whereafter thirteen Souths passed and found no way to beat it by more than one trick. After 3♥ NS had more room to bid and three pairs used that rope to hang themselves ending in slam, however, two made it when against 6♦x West led the wrong singleton. The last of the three ended up in 6♣; no luck there. One pair reached slam after 4♥, and they were the defending champions; instead of doubling, North jumped all the way to 5NT, and South picked spades and received the ♣4 lead. After winning East's ten with the king, playing

a spade to dummy's king, and running the ♠6 South is left with some options, but all of them include finessing the ♣9, which seems almost straightforward after the lead (it loses when West has led the ♣4 from ♣J4), but only almost; declarer missed it, scoring 7-49 MP instead of 52.

Board 4 was a big winner for those who use the Lauria 2♦ opening to show a balanced 18-19. Over that, a very brave West was needed to overcall, vulnerable, with a flat nine count, and NS were left an easy route to the lay-down spade game. However, opening a classic 1♣ attracted a normal 1♥ and a three-level raise and now, after South's double, North has to choose from either bidding spades holding ♠QJ42, or diamonds with ♦J109762. Many picked the wrong suit.

Board 5 would be Garozzo's favourite; you needed to apply his famous Bols' tip to beat East's heart slam by leading away from a king. But – life is never easy – you must choose which one, and it is even worse than that: you must not pick the suit bid by your partner, Red v Green! Here is the deal:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

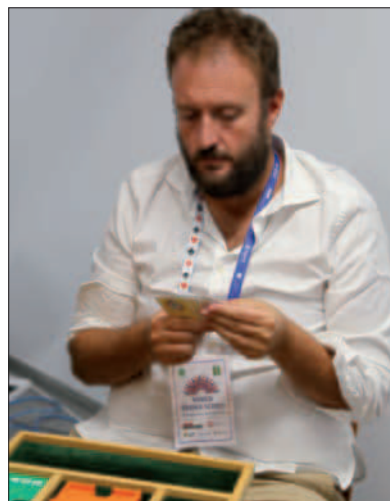
	♠ Q 2	
	♥ A 9	
	♦ Q J 10 8 7 6	
	♣ 7 6 5	
♠ A 10 8 4		♠ J 3
♥ Q J 8 2		♥ K 7 6 5 3
♦ —		♦ A 5 4
♣ A Q 9 3 2		♣ K 8 4
	♠ K 9 7 6 5	
	♥ 10 4	
	♦ K 9 3 2	
	♣ J 10	

Unfortunately, the tables where South led a spade (three times) were not covered by BBO, so I cannot tell how they managed it but in one case:

West	North	East	South
<i>Sakowicz</i>	<i>Lanzarotti</i>	<i>Plocki</i>	<i>Franchi</i>
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣*	pass
4♦*	Dble	4♥	pass
6♥	All Pass		

2NT Heart support

Franchi/Lanzarotti were not doing well – they ended the session in 56th position – but here Arrigo Franchi hit the



Arrigo Franchi

jackpot reasoning that the jump implied some weakness and could not be in diamonds. Very right he was when he led the ♠5, worth 55-1 MP.

Board 6 was another battle: EW could make 5♥, and they should bid it over the opponent's good 5♦ save. The play was basically a guess.

On Board 7, NS pairs bid 2♠, 3♠ or 4♠, and what mostly mattered was whether East or West was on lead. Where the latter, they did not struggle to find the winning lead from ♥AKQJ, but it was not so easy from East, and, in fact, all led either a diamond or a trump. A diamond was not immediately fatal since declarer still needed to guess the trump queen. The field scored between eight and eleven tricks.

Board 8 gave NS an opportunity to bid an odds-on slam, but only three pairs did, and in all cases thanks to North opening 1NT instead of 1♥ holding ♠A10 ♥J8752 ♦A3 ♣AK75. Partner held a 6142 ten count and whenever North opened 1♥ they devaluated the heart singleton.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

EW can make 3NT – actually, all who bid it made it – but it is not so easy to get there against active opponents, and the distribution and vulnerability combined to encourage them.

However, opening with North's cards was not advisable, as was proven at four tables, where East's takeout double over 2♠ was passed out. All that the defenders had to do was cash winners, pull trumps and lock declarer in hand, which two pairs did efficiently, extracting -800 and a shared top. However, Caffi/Iavicoli dropped a trick and had to be content with 31-25 MP. Here is how Bartkowski/Szulejewski beat it by three tricks: the ♥5 lead went to West's ace, who switched to a trump. After ♠KJ, ducked, East gave West a heart ruff, and went back to trumps. A diamond toward the jack was won by the queen, the ♦A cashed, followed by a club, won by West. He cashed the last spade and continued clubs, and North did his best by ducking it.

The last board of the session is one of those which show the fascinating power of cards:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Barring a few exceptions, EW bid NT, sometimes in game, and sometimes not, but the point is: who would you bet on for nine tricks?

Well, the answer is EW, but after the heart lead – best for NS – they must be very careful. If I were to cover all variants shown by Deep Finesse it would take me too many pages, so I leave it to you, but suffice it to say that: there are only two ways home: either by playing a diamond to the six (if declarer mistakenly plays the jack, South must throw the ten!) or a club to ♣J10. But the variety of possible routes from that point on are many and present different themes. Here is the provisional ranking:

1	Tony Nunn & Paul Dalley	AUS - AUS	62.40
2	Krzysztof Buras & Piotr Lutostański	POL - POL	61.69
3	Alon Birman & Dror Padon	ISR - ISR	61.07
4	Nicholas Gartaganis & Michel Lorber	CAN - CAN	61.07
5	Nabil Edgtton & Michael Whibley	AUS - NZL	58.32
6	David Gold & Zia Mahmood	ENG - USA	56.09
7	Mielnik Krzysztof & Adam Lonski	POL - POL	55.98
8	Mikael Rimstedt & Ola Rimstedt	SWE - SWE	55.90
9	Michele Cammarata & Cristiano Valsega	ITA - ITA	55.28
10	Keyzad Anklesaria & Rajeshwar Tewari	IND - IND	54.71

Fourth Session

As the last session of day one dawned, a NS diamond partscore was played at almost every table, unless EW competed in clubs or spades, and that was a success unless NS found a way to hammer the opponents. Not so easy, and achieved only twice, with Bessis/Lorenzini extracting -500, and a full top, from 2♠x against Donati/Percario.

The second deal of the session has lessons to teach us:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Despite the combined 25 HCP, a large majority of the NS pairs missed game after West's 1♠ opening bid, and though, after that opening, game is odds on, the ♥K rating to be onside, they were proven right by hearts 4-2 and clubs 4-1 (and after the spade lead removed South's entry for diamonds).

Board 13 was a NS diamond partscore, rarely contested, which produced exactly ten tricks (barring a couple of eleven, due to serious misdefence).

I'll not show Boards 14 or 15 either: in 14 most NS played 3NT, which was made without the spade lead, and went down after it (matter of who was declaring and not judgement).

On Board 15, the use of Gazzilli led to a bad, but ironclad 3NT, whilst natural sequences led to 2♠, making eight or nine tricks. Then something more interesting, which is about competitive style and leads.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

The bidding started the same way all over: 1♠-Pass-1NT-2♥, then paths diverged. Some Wests, with an eye on the vulnerability, passed, and quite surprisingly so too did some Norths, which means those pairs do not have much respect for two-level overcalls when not vulnerable. However, you may wonder what South would have bid with just a bit more, which would have made the game lay-down. When West bid 2♠, some Norths doubled, but some passed, applying a super pessimistic view (or, maybe, double would have been meant for penalty: a rather stone aged approach these

days). Three out of four declarers in 2♠ made it, while the outcome in 2♥ and 3♥ had a few variations. Declarers who got a diamond lead made nine tricks: the lead marked West with all the remaining eleven HCP (but one world champion still finessed in hearts and went down). However, a spade lead and continuation left declarer with a guess, and most got it wrong. Best performing were Gartaganis/Lorber, who earned one down in 2♥: after two rounds of spades and the losing heart finesse, West continued with a third round, ruffed and overruffed. Declarer was locked in hand and had to lose three diamonds and a club. Then a lead problem: no-one is vulnerable, you sit North holding: ♠32 ♥9 ♦KQ5 ♣AJ108642 and after you open 1♣, LHO shows a major two suiter and RHO jumps to game in spades. What is your choice? Here is the full deal:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

All declarers who went down did so after the heart lead, whilst neither the ♦K nor the ♣A caused any harm.

The deal that followed is another excellent one for partnership practice.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



Michel Lorber

Almost every NS pair (there were two exceptions) was in 4♥, all EW bid 4♠, and some NS went to 5♥, doubled. As you can see, 4♠ is doomed by three rounds of diamonds, but what may appear straightforward was not so at the table: nine Norths switched to hearts at trick two and regretted it. Discuss the position with your partner because it is maybe more straightforward at IMPs than at matchpoints: presumably South encourages on the diamond lead. But if South has the ♥A instead of the ♣A, North needs to switch to a heart at trick two in order to get two down. Or should South discourage looking at the ♥A? Maybe, but one down is probably above average: should you really risk a bottom for some more MP in such a long competition? I'm probably asking too much!

Particularly happy were Bessis/Lorenzini, who were playing 4♠x and recorded a second, consecutive +590 against Lanzarotti/Franchi, and a massive total of 111/112 MP. The only unassailable game for EW is 3NT, if NS let you play there, yet, the two pairs who did so had opposite destinies: Kemeny/Trenka duly made it earning 38-18 MP, while Arlovich/Vainikonis went down two – no doubt after some serious error – and got a full bottom.

The next deal is very interesting, since it presents many variations depending on systems, treatments, and judgement:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

To start with, it was about whether to open South's hand 1NT (as high-level Italians are used to doing when they hold 14-15 HCP but not 16-17) or 1♠. Whoever did the former mostly ended up in 3NT after West overcalled 2♠, and nearly all made it. However, opening 1♠ led to North responding 1NT, when at two tables that was passed out, and declarer scored between seven and ten

tricks. Five times West balanced with 2♣; three Norths wisely passed and collected -300 but twice North bid 2♥, making eight tricks. Where 1NT was forcing, South bid 2♣ and once was left there, but in all other cases North bid 2♥ and the result was between eight and ten tricks. What a great game bridge is.

Board 20 was another one where the outcome depended on agreements: West had a normal 1♦ opening, and North a normal 1NT overcall, however: The Easts who could bid 2♦ natural did it, and now South had to find a competitive bid holding a 4315, five count. All worked: both 3♣ with nine trumps and 2♥ (reached after a takeout double) with seven were a make. At two tables, however, West was left to play 2♦, making nine tricks in one case, and seven in the other. However, eight is the limit, if you guess the trump suit (not too difficult on the auction). Quite often EW competed to 3♦, which was a good save if not doubled and only one pair pulled the axe out of the pocket. Lucky were the Easts who could not bid a natural 2♦. Nowadays that bid is mostly used to show a major. In 1NT, after a diamond lead, the best declarer could do was to cash out for six tricks.

Board 21 was not very interesting, though not dull. EW held a combined 24 HCP and two five-card suits, yet, due to diamond weakness the limit in NT was eight tricks. That was all: some went overboard while some did not.

Board 22 deserves a deeper look. But first, a question: you're South, Green v Red, and you are declarer in 5♥x after RHO dealt and opened 1♠, you jumped to 3♥, LHO bid 4♠, partner bid 5♥ and RHO doubled ending the auction (as the bidding went at almost all tables). West leads the ♠K which East overtakes to switch to a club. What do you do now?

Board 22: Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

And what if East does not overtake and West plays a diamond? Here is the full deal:

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

After the club switch, fearing a doubleton honour in West followed by a club ruff, those declarers who banged down the ♥A regretted it, while the others tabled dummy's ♥J and were well rewarded. Kudos to Toledano/Zamir and Allfrey/Robson, who led the ♣Q leaving no chance for the unlucky Souths. No less than ten Souths did not overcall, and over 4♠ the Norths bid 5♣, which, with no fear of ruffs, was made nine times, Hallberg/Hult being the only pair who went down. Five EW pairs bid 5♠, but only two were doubled, and only one of them received a diamond lead losing 800 and getting a full bottom – Auken/Welland, who were not having much luck.

Barring three exceptions, on Board 23 all EW pairs played 1NT, though not always from the same declarer. You can score up to eight tricks guessing all well, but the most popular result was +90. Four declarers managed to go down, and two of them – including a multiple Bermuda Bowl winner – a painful two, sharing a bottom.

Board 24 was not interesting either: NS could pick either red suit as trumps for their partscore, and funnily enough, they would record the same score: +170 (ten tricks were available in hearts and twelve in diamonds). A handful bid and made game, and a few scored only +140 in hearts.

Board 25 was a slam at 20 out of 29 tables. The contract was fair: needing either the club finesse (which was wrong) or diamonds 3-3 (they were) and bidding it in hearts or NT was almost the same. Six pairs bid slam in NT, including the then world champions to be, but the top score was shared by Nab/Verbeek and Multon/Zimmermann, who, playing in hearts, received a club lead away from the king and made thirteen tricks.

As for Board 26, after a few hands where a pair held a combined 24 HCP and some distribution, yet 3NT did not make, here nine tricks were lay-down, and anyone who bid game made it, recording either 17-39 or

7-49 MP depending on whether they made nine or ten tricks.

This deserves more than a glance:

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

To start with, EW have the difficult task of playing game in NT and not in hearts: 19 declarers out of 21 went down in that contract. But 3NT is not exactly a cakewalk: here is how Fredrik Nyström brought it home, declaring after North had doubled his 1NT opening to show a classic – nowadays – 4/5 major/minor and had eventually admitted to some diamond length as well.

The diamond lead went to the queen and ace, and Nyström tabled the ♣Q covered all around. When the ♣10 held, declarer played the ♠A and another spade, winning with dummy's jack, and then switched his attention back to clubs, North winning with the jack and returning the suit, leaving:

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

West cashed the ace, then the ♥K, and North had no good answer. When he pitched a club declarer could exit with the ♠Q or a diamond.

The last deal of the set and of the day did not lack interest either and once more it is worth discussing it with your partner.

Sitting South, Red v Green, you see two passes then 1♦ on your right.

What do you do holding: ♠K107 ♥QJ874 ♦- ♣KQJ54?

Some players decided to show a two-suiter immediately, but the outcome was not pleasant: North, holding a doubleton in both suits picked clubs most of the times and paid -500, but 3♥ (North held ♥K3 there) was already bad enough, since the cost was -200 and the opponents had no game available.

1	Krzysztof Buras & Piotr Lutostański	POL - POL	63.12
2	Nicholas Gartaganis & Michel Lorber	CAN - CAN	59.26
3	Thomas Bessis & Cédric Lorenzini	FRA - FRA	57.12
4	David Gold & Zia Mahmood	ENG - USA	56.94
5	Alon Birman & Dror Padon	ISR - ISR	56.62
6	Tony Nunn & Paul Dalley	AUS - AUS	55.80
7	Geir Helgemo & Fredrik Nyström	NOR - SWE	55.66
8	Franck Multon & Pierre Zimmermann	MON - SUI	55.43
9	Mikael Rimstedt & Ola Rimstedt	SWE - SWE	55.30
10	Jerry Stamatov & Jie Zhao	BUL - USA	55.29

Fifth Session

The luck of the draw saw the leaders and their closest rivals meet in the opening round of the last day:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A 7 5 3

♥ A 7

♦ K 10 9 5

♣ A J 10

♠ 10 9 8 2

♥ K 8 6

♦ A J 8 3 2

♣ K

♠ Q

♥ Q J 5 2

♦ 7

♣ 9 7 6 5 4 3 2

♠ K J 6 4

♥ 10 9 4 3

♦ Q 6 4

♣ Q 8

West

Lorber

—

Dble

2♦

Pass

North

Lutostański

1♣*

Rdbl*

Dble

3NT

East

Gartaganis

Pass

Pass

Pass

All Pass

South

Buras

1♥

Pass

2NT

♠ N

♥ W

♦ E

♣ S

1♣ Polish Club
Rdbl Strong



Thomas Bessis

With best defence, playing 2♦x would lead to a massacre (East’s pass over it looks odd: whoever bid 3♣ got doubled, but only paid -100) yet, even 3NT, bid rarely (five pairs bid 4♠, going down three times), was good enough for the leaders to be off to a great start. West led the ♦3 and when dummy’s nine held declarer continued with the five to the queen, West won it as East pitched the ♣6. Declarer had an easy route to ten tricks, ducking a heart, which East won and switched to the ♠Q. Declarer won with the king, +430 and 48-8.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 6 4

♥ 9 7

♦ A J 8 7 5 4

♣ 10 2

♠ A K J 8 2

♥ K 10 3

♦ Q 10 9

♣ J 3

♠ 7

♥ Q 8 4

♦ 3

♣ A K Q 9 8 7 6 4

♠ Q 9 5 3

♥ A J 6 5 2

♦ K 6 2

♣ 5

West

Lorber

—

North

Lutostański

—

East

Gartaganis

3NT

South

Buras

All Pass

♠ N

♥ W

♦ E

♣ S

Having read them all, Buras made the textbook lead of the ♥A and when North followed with the seven he wasted no time switching to the ♦2. That gave the

defenders seven tricks, -150 and 46-10. Quite a disappointing result for EW, cold for 5♣ (bid at thirteen tables), and for ten tricks in NT had the ♦ J been onside. 3NT was bid at fifteen tables and beaten thirteen times: but two Souths had not had those books on the shelves: they underled in hearts and Bessis/Lorenzini and the Høylands happily wrapped up ten tricks.

The next deal offered EW a club partial and a careful tread to avoid going overboard bidding 3NT. Some did so, but it was then up to North to find the correct lead, or at least the right continuation:

Board 3. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

The old sayings are often the best: lead your longest and strongest. Yet, some tabled a diamond honour – not immediately fatal if you then switch to hearts – and most then continued the suit. Curtains.

Board 4 was a big winner for players with guts. When West's 2♠ opening bid, or a 2♠ conversion of a pass or correct 2♥ over a multi 2♦ arrives, you, South at Amber, must decide what to do holding ♠954 ♥J8542 ♦KJ76 ♣A. Nearly everybody played 2♠ down one (a couple made it on a misdefence), but six Souths bid 3♥, a winner if only partner could pass holding ♠Q6 ♥A763 ♦A8 ♣Q10763. Five raised: wrong. Two passed and were right, nine tricks were the limit since every West found the killing defence (three round of spades).

Board 5 was a grand slam, bid at 12 tables, but some did not even bid six, so that +1010 merited dead average: 28-28 MP. Birman/Padon were having a nightmare session which would see them going out of the top ten: they bid 7NTx-3 receiving 0 MP.

Board 6 offered EW a lay-down 3NT, and apparently not so difficult to bid as West had a normal 1NT opening and East held ♣AQJxxx, yet some Norths, holding a 4441, 15 count, decided to show the majors and that messed up some auctions.

Board 7 offered NS the chance to bid one of the many 24 HCP 3NT we have seen and it was all about how to play diamonds for five tricks holding ♦2 opposite ♦AKQ107. Finessing was the winner, as well as the percentage play. The hand had the same motive we have already seen, a strong hand opposite 7/8 HCP, so half of the field missed game.

Board 8 was played either in 2♥ from West, or 3♣ from North, and in that case often doubled. Doubling was a good idea, provided you don't make any mistakes:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Defending 3♣, East led the ♥A at two tables, then switched to spades. North won West's seven and played two rounds of trumps. Then two Easts erred badly cashing all their clubs, so rectifying the count (a heart and a diamond from dummy), before continuing with a spade. Declarers won the king, ruffed a spade and cashed the last trump in the following position:

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

That saw both defenders and dummy discard a diamond and then a heart to the king squeezed East in diamonds and spades.

After cashing the clubs, East could have avoided this by exiting with a diamond.

Board 9 was the first dull hand of the final: 27 tables bid the obvious 3NT and made 10 tricks (except Nunn/Dalley, who made 11 and got a full top). Exceptions were 6♦ missing two aces and 3♦.

Board 10 and 11 were not very exciting either: 24 West players opened their 3532 16 count 1NT and played there on Board 10, mostly recording 8 tricks. But with a heart game lay-down, even a heart partial was a winner for those who opened 1♥. At 28 tables on Board 11 2♠ was played by North and was all about guessing diamonds holding a doubleton opposite ♦KJ.

Board 12 was only slightly better: once again North opened 1NT and after two passes it all was about whether West had the guts – and the means – to balance holding a 5323 eight count, with jack fifth in spades at favourable vulnerability. Whoever did it, regretted it, losing -150 or more. Most tables recorded +120 and some managed +150.

On Board 13 North opened another 1NT and South held the requisite (9 HCP) to drive to game, but that was made only twice, thanks to a club lead, when declarer eventually guessed hearts. Some Wests, over South's Stayman bid, thought it a good idea to tell partner to lead a spade holding ♠KQ1083 ♥J8 ♦QJ103 ♣K5. They regretted it -500 points later, learning that the opponents would probably not make a game.

This deal deserves more attention:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

To start with, NS should play in spades not hearts; despite some Norths making only ten tricks, and some going down, eleven are available in that strain, while ten is the limit in hearts. But if you play hearts from South, the defenders must be careful, and not everybody was up to the task.

After a diamond lead, to hold declarer to 10 tricks East must win and continue the suit. Declarer does best by ruffing and pitching diamonds on ♣AK, but East ducks the heart switch, and West wins and plays a third diamond promoting his ♥9 to a winner. Even more interesting is what happens if West leads a club instead; declarer wins and plays a heart, and now there are two ways for the defenders to come to three tricks: either East playing the ♥Q, or West ducking if East plays low! That way the defence keeps control and South cannot avoid losing two diamonds. A well-known play holding the trump ace, but rarely seen in this combination.

Board 15 was boring: barring four overexcited pairs who bid slam on a combined 30, flat HCP, going down deservedly, nearly everybody else scored 11 tricks in 3NT (two Easts made 12, thanks to South leading a heart, and failing to cash the ♥A when in with a club).

Gold/Zia were doing very well and ended up in second place at the end of the morning session, but they got a very bad score here thanks to the opponents' enterprise:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Akgül	Gold	Aslan	Zia
Pass	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♦*	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

- 1♦ Hearts
- 2♣ Puppet to 2♦
- 3♣ Invitational with longer clubs

Zia led the ♥A followed by the ♥Q, but East had nine unassailable tricks at the ready, worth 53-3 MP. The rest of the field mostly played a club partscore.

Board 17 presented a classic bidding problem, and some interesting play. Here are the Rimstedt twins, who did not solve the bidding one, but managed the playing one.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Sielicki</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Hearts are definitively a better trump suit, but just a handful of pairs got there. North led the ♦5 and when the king held South continued with the three, declarer taking the ace and playing a spade to the nine and jack. He ruffed the diamond return, cashed the top hearts, played a club to dummy's ace, ruffed a club, crossed to

dummy with the ♠A and ruffed another club to get to eight tricks. That scored 25-31 MP.

That appears to be simple enough, but some went down.

On board 18 25 tables played a heart contract from EW, mostly at the three level, and nine tricks were the limit. Best was for NS to compete to 3♠ in the Moysian fit, and here is how Kowalski/Sielicki managed it:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Sielicki</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
1NT	Dble	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

North was not shy, despite the vulnerability, and he was proven right: West led the ♥7, but with trumps 3-3 the defenders could only score four tricks, +140 and a massive 55-1.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

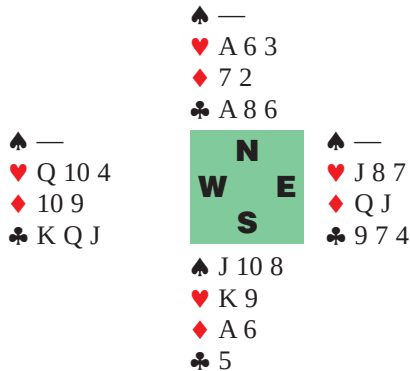
	♠ Q 9 6 2	
	♥ A 6 3	
	♦ K 7 2	
	♣ A 8 6	
♠ A 3	W N E S	♠ —
♥ Q 10 4		♥ J 8 7 5 2
♦ 10 9 5 3		♦ Q J 8
♣ K Q J 10		♣ 9 7 4 3 2
	♠ K J 10 8 7 5 4	
	♥ K 9	
	♦ A 6 4	
	♣ 5	



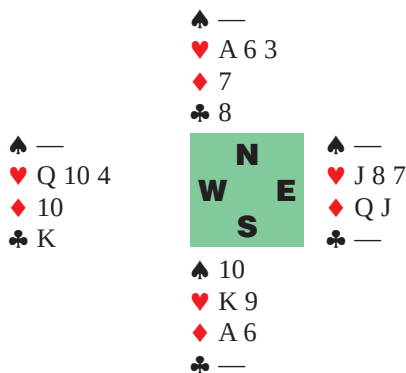
Mikael Rimstedt

Board 19 looked like a straightforward 4♠+1 for NS, and in fact that score was worth a dead average, but six pairs attempted slam, and two even made it thanks to a missed discard which led to a squeeze. Here is how Giovanni Donati made twelve tricks in his game contract:

West led the ♠A and continued the suit, declarer winning in hand, playing a diamond to the king, then running spades. Reaching this position:



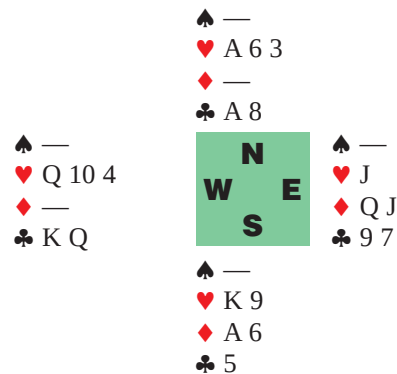
When declarer cashed the ♠J West erred badly, pitching a diamond, since that move left his partner as the only controller of the diamond suit. South ditched a diamond from dummy, and East had no answer: a diamond is immediately fatal, but a club allows declarer to play ♣A and ruff a club, isolating the club menace, while a heart leaves partner to look after the suit. East went for a club, and ♣A and a club ruff led to:



The last trump, dummy discarding a diamond forced East to pitch a heart to keep the diamond control, and the ♦A that followed finished West off. Had East thrown a heart in the eight-card ending, declarer would have produced the following, very elegant ending, simply cashing trumps:



Zia raises to game



The ♦A forces West to pitch a club and dummy lets go a heart. A heart to the ace and a second heart finish off East. A very rare example of a double squeeze where the transportation from one hand to the other produces the fatal blow.

Board 20 was the first where all tables played the same contract: 4♠, and even from the same player, East. The defenders had three tricks to cash, but some forgot one. Here are the top ten standings:

1	Krzysztof Buras & Piotr Lutostański	POL - POL	62.00
2	David Gold & Zia Mahmood	ENG - USA	56.01
3	Nabil Edgton & Michael Whibley	AUS - NZL	55.80
4	Peter Bertheau & Andrew Black	SWE - ENG	55.09
5	Mariusz Bartkowski & Bogdan Szulejewski	POL - POL	55.06
6	Thomas Bessis & Cédric Lorenzini	FRA - FRA	55.04
7	Geir Helgemo & Fredrik Nyström	NOR - SWE	54.67
8	Nicholas Gartaganis & Michel Lorber	CAN - CAN	54.67
9	Franck Multon & Pierre Zimmermann	MON - SUI	53.99
10	Peter Gill & Sartaj Hans	AUS - AUS	53.80

most famous Lauria sayings is “four-card overcalls are cursed”, and here he was right once more. Amongst the many who did it, some were left to play there in a 4-1 fit, and some propelled their side to 1NTx: either one not a great success. Some were lucky enough to see North bidding 1NT over it with five spades to the ♠Q109 and an eleven-count. Those who stayed silent saw NS playing a spade contract, where the limit was eight tricks, but inaccurate play – both in defence and attack – led to some score variations.

Board 30 was an easy spade slam for NS: two pairs bid seven missing an ace, two did not bid it, and one pair, the Australians Peter Gill and Sartaj Hans bid a 6NT which was bad, but it made. The leaders scored less than 45%, while their closest chasers got nearly 60%, yet the gap remained quite big.

1	Krzysztof Buras & Piotr Lutostański	POL - POL	60.01
2	David Gold & Zia Mahmood	ENG - USA	56.37
3	Peter Bertheau & Andrew Black	SWE - ENG	55.96
4	Geir Helgemo & Fredrik Nyström	NOR - SWE	55.50
5	Nabil Edgton & Michael Whibley	AUS - NZL	55.18
6	Franck Multon & Pierre Zimmermann	MON - SUI	54.52
7	Thomas Bessis & Cédric Lorenzini	FRA - FRA	54.33
8	Jerry Stamatov & Jie Zhao	BUL - USA	53.91
9	Alon Birman & Dror Padon	ISR - ISR	53.88
10	Mariusz Bartkowski & Bogdan Szulejewski	POL - POL	53.62

Seventh Session

Session 7 started as 6 had finished: with a boring hand. Everyone but six NS pairs played 4♠ where 10 tricks were exactly what they could make (despite that three pairs were allowed to score eleven). 11 played 3NT (from down one – strange – to plus two, even stranger) and one doubled the opponents' 3♣ (bad idea: not enough to compensate for the game). The variety of results on such a dull deal clearly comes from a combination of tiredness and depression: the players were through the sixth day of a very tough event, and many had no ray of hope for a good finish.

Board 2 is worth a glance, and I'll start with a question: suppose you're on lead against a spade contract (they ranged from four to six, most often five, reached after a save) and all you know is your partner has a normal opening bid and some club support, probably four cards; RHO, declarer, has a powerful hand with long spades and LHO has some spade support. You hold: ♠J108 ♥54 ♦97 ♣QJ10874: your choice?

Board 2 Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

A club is fatal. Declarer has now the needed communication to ruff a club and run trumps squeezing East in the red suits, since their ♥7 is high enough to be a menace. The heart lead immediately holds declarer to eleven tricks. The diamond lead, however, is in the middle: it is a good first step, but when in with a club the defenders ought to continue the diamond attack so cutting declarer's transportations. Probably the few diamond leads came after a 1♦ opening bid. This hand was particularly painful for Wildavsky/Zur-Campanile, who led a club against Donati/Percario's slam (the only ones who bid it), while three NS pairs bid 3NT, and in one case I can tell you how (my guess is, the same happened at the other two tables as well): Massimiliano Di Franco jumped to 3NT over 1♦. The three Wests led a club: down two and a shared bottom (the two other unlucky pairs were Friedlander/Yekuteli and Rosenthal/Silverstein).

Board 3 saw quite a variety of results, yet the whole point was what South would open – whoever picked 4♠ played there, doubled – and if 3♠, it was whether EW would reach slam or not.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Slam is poor: it needs diamonds splitting and the king onside, but it makes, yet only six pairs got there, and two of them bid it in NT. The EW top went to J Patreuha/Sobczak, who were doubled by Hallberg/Hult in 6♥ (Lightner, I guess but the killing spade lead was not delivered), whilst the NS top went to Anklesaria/Tewari, who were gifted by 6♣ down three. Strangely enough, de Wijs/Muller went two down in 6NT (I wish I could tell you how). The doublers got -1400 and 42-14 MP.

On board 4, everyone but one table played 3NT from West, the exception being a 6♣ down one, and the tricks ranged from ten (after the spade lead) to twelve (poor defence).

Board 5 was not worth a look: most NS competed to 3♦ over 2♥, which was already a good save if not doubled (only one pair pulled the axe out, regretting it), and became even better when the Easts led from ♣KQx, allowing it to make. A few gave up though.

The next deal offered many variations and is worth a look:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

In modern bridge it is not uncommon to see an opening bid from South, either at the two, or even one-level, and here is an example:

West	North	East	South
<i>Valsega</i>	<i>Høyland</i>	<i>Cammarata</i>	<i>Høyland</i>
—	—	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

2♠ was invitational, but South, despite the maximum, looked at his singleton spade through dark lenses, and his partner's play widely justified it. The defenders started with a club lead, followed by a ruff, a diamond and a second ruff. North ruffed the diamond continuation and was in a position to take the rest by drawing trumps, but

things went very differently. After a heart to dummy's jack, the ♠J was tabled and run. Disaster! East won and gave his partner a heart ruff. 15-41 instead of 33-23. You may wonder why -50 was not a bottom, and here is one answer:

West	North	East	South
<i>Alfrey</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♠	3♦	3♥
Pass	4♣	All Pass!	

Old fashioned here – but note West's choice of opening bid, which offered East the chance to preempt which crossed opponents' legs – and not very successfully: two down and 2-54 for the French pair, who were seventh after session six, a bit more than 1% behind a medal spot, but dropped to eleventh.

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Kwiecień</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Ultra-modern here, but no good either, though unluckily so. After the heart lead Michał Kwiecień drove out the ♣A and probably cursed in Polish when he found out later that hearts were not splitting. Sometimes, however, opponents may give you some help, in what was yet a further variation:

West	North	East	South
<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Sakowicz</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>Plocki</i>
—	—	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT(!)	All Pass	

East led a diamond, and fatally West played two more rounds. Declarer now had four hearts, two spades, two clubs and that diamond trick to sum up to nine, worth 46/56 MP. I'm able to show you another one:

West	North	East	South
<i>Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Miechowicz</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Kotorowicz picked the orthodox 1♣, and this left NS free to produce a delicate sequence which, cards face up,

did not get to the right target, yet you don't argue with success, and they were even gifted by some less than perfect defense.

West led the ♦ A and switched to a trump. Declarer won in dummy and tabled the ♣ K won by West who, fatally, continued the suit. Ten tricks. Not so easy – yet you know hearts are splitting badly – but to hold declarer to nine when on lead with the ♣ A West should continue with a diamond honour: this leaves East with the trump control and South cannot avoid losing a further diamond. The difference between 140 and 170 was not huge – 38-18 instead of 32-24 MP – but Stamatov/Zhao were in an excellent position – seventh at the end of the session – and the ranking was very tight.

Board 7 does not look very eventful at first glance, but it did cause some turbulence all around, and gave a full bottom to the eventual runners up, Edgton/Whibley. Most of the field played either a heart partscore from South (nine easy tricks), or a spade partscore from East. The latter was a good idea, but only if you could make eight tricks by either guessing diamonds – necessary if the defenders had forced you out of trumps – or thanks to poor defence. Many spade partials were doubled, and at all vulnerable the stakes there were high. A handful of NS pairs attempted 2NT, or even 3NT, and all EW had to do was lead or switch to spades to collect six tricks, yet against 3NT the Aussie/Kiwi pair led, then fatally continued diamonds conceding all 56 MP.

On the next deal North held a red 6-6, usually good for producing swingy results, and this was no exception, though less so than you might expect:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Most pairs played in hearts, making ten tricks after the club lead, or nine after a spade, but some played in the lay-down 5♦ and Cammarata/Valsega scored a complete top for bidding and making 6♦ after a club lead.

Next is another must for partnership agreements, this time when defending:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Barring four – rather weird – 2♥ results, the rest played mostly 4♥, a few resting in 3♥. Games, and even one partial, were often doubled. All but one scored ten tricks after two rounds of diamonds, which means that whatever signal was given by West, East could not read it. Any ideas for how to do better? Kudos to Hallberg/Hult, the only pair to find the winning spade switch, worth a complete top. NS's top went to Gold/Zia who were doubled in 3♥ and made the usual overtrick.

The next deal is another nice one:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

East opened 1♦ at almost all tables, and South had to decide what to do. Some passed then balanced, getting to 3♣, the best spot. Some overcalled 1NT, smiling to the spade lead and crying over the diamond lead. At a couple of tables East had a weak notrump available and used it, and after a transfer sequence South was left with an awkward decision. Those who passed scored +100 worth

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

EW have a combined 26 HCP splitting 19-7, the strongest hand had a 5422 and the weakest has no spade support. Those hands are borderline in bidding: for example, playing Gazzilli the auction starts 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♠ (two cards, less than 8 HCP) and now declarer has to choose whether to go on or not. Many didn't, resting in a partial. Not as many as you might expect bid game in NT, and as for the play, as is often the case, communications were precarious. In fact, nine tricks were easy, but as Kaplan used to say, "the contract is lay-down, but declarer may find a way to go down". Many did so, and here are a couple of examples: one West received the ♥Q lead, and ducked it, losing the ninth trick. Another one won the same lead, unblocked ♣AK (the correct move) then, fatally tabled the ♦K.

Here is the ranking of the top eight:

1	Krzysztof Buras & Piotr Lutostański	POL - POL	3415.603	59.80
2	Nabil Edgton & Michael Whibley	AUS - NZL	3184.278	55.75
3	Peter Bertheau & Andrew Black	SWE - ENG	3172.682	55.54
4	David Gold & Zia Mahmood	ENG - USA	3126.582	54.74
5	Geir Helgemo & Fredrik Nyström	NOR - SWE	3126.058	54.73
6	Franck Multon & Pierre Zimmermann	MON - SUI	3116.446	54.56
7	Jerry Stamatov & Jie Zhao	BUL - CHN	3102.094	54.31
8	Alon Birman & Dror Padon	ISR - ISR	3090.899	54.11

The Poles held a commanding lead of more than four tops and looked unreachable, but the gap between second and eighth was less than two tops, just one round.

On Board 15 the EW pairs could only sit and wait to see whether the opponents were bidding the available 6♦ or not, and if yes, whether they would make 13 tricks. The leaders were EW and their opponents, Berkowitz/Meckstroth, missed slam scoring +690: 44-12 to the Poles. Birman/Padon and Gold/Zia were also EW but not so lucky: they received just 15-41 thanks to NS's

+1390. Better off were Helgemo/Nyström: the opponents did bid slam, but missed the overtrick, and +1370 was worth 31-25 for the Scandinavian combination. NS were Multon/Zimmermann and Bertheau/Black, who scored +690, Stamatov/Zhao (a strange +660 and 2-54), and Edgton/Whibley who suffered a big blow – they bid 5♦ and the resulting +640 was worth only 2-54.

This was rather weird:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Eight pairs bid 4♠, doubled five times. The three who were not doubled went down, whilst only one doubled declarer did, against Helgemo/Nyström who grabbed all 56 MP against Auken/Welland. Here is how either Berkowitz or Meckstroth (I can't tell you who) went down against the leaders:

The ♦Q lead was won in dummy and a heart ducked to West, who continued diamonds. A club to the queen followed, then a heart ruff, a club to the ace and a spade to the queen and ace. East continued the suit and declarer put up his king: curtains. 3♠ was doubled eight times out of 12, and once even redoubled: they all made, of course, sometimes with overtricks, and that was the case for Multon/Zimmermann and Edgton/Whibley: +630 was worth 49-56. Birman/Padon and Stamatov/Zhao got almost average, conceding and scoring 420 respectively. Gold/Zia did very well when the board was passed out: 46-56. Here are the standings:

1	Krzysztof Buras & Piotr Lutostański	POL - POL	3510.603	60.28
2	Nabil Edgton & Michael Whibley	AUS - NZL	3235.278	55.55
3	Peter Bertheau & Andrew Black	SWE - ENG	3189.682	54.77
4	David Gold & Zia Mahmood	ENG - USA	3189.094	54.76
5	Geir Helgemo & Fredrik Nyström	NOR - SWE	3187.582	54.73
6	Franck Multon & Pierre Zimmermann	MON - SUI	3187.058	54.72
7	Alon Birman & Dror Padon	ISR - ISR	3158.446	54.23
8	Jerry Stamatov & Jie Zhao	BUL - USA	3123.899	53.64

Three tops between first and second, a bit less than one between second and third, then very close positions.

The next deal is very interesting with many different shades of bidding problem:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Percario</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Donati</i>	<i>Volcker</i>
—	1♣	1♥	4♣
Pass	All Pass		

The club opening did not help: West decided to stay silent, and after South's big jump North was not excited looking at his heart holding. To rub salt in the wound, declarer went one off after the spade lead, collecting 24-32.

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Gartaganis</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Lorber</i>
—	1NT	2♦*	Dble
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
4♥	Dble	All Pass	

2♦ One major
2NT Asking
3♣ Hearts

The weak NT generated some more excitement, and at the end North applied the obvious axe, -100 being worth 32-24 to NS.

West	North	East	South
<i>Martel</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Bessis</i>
—	1♦	1♥	5♦
Dble	All Pass		

Opening 1♦ helped to locate NS's fit, and Bessis wasted no time to jump to what he thought his side could make. In principle, West's double was right: the spade lead collects two down. However East led the ♥A, +550 and 52-4 to Bessis/Lorenzini. What would have you led in East's shoes?

West	North	East	South
<i>Lanzarotti</i>	<i>Høyland</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Høyland</i>
—	1♦	3♥	5♦
Dble	All Pass		

Another variation, yet the same result after the same lead. Perhaps a spade is too much to be asked for?

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Kwiecień</i>	<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>
—	1♣	2♥	4NT*
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

A further variation: 4NT looks a bit too much, but South was probably betting on finding only useful values in his partner's hand. West did not double here, but he was proved wrong: his partner found the spade lead, worth -100 and 41-15.

I conclude with:

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Bartkowski</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Szulejewski</i>
—	1♣	2♥	2NT
4♥	Dble	All Pass	



Frédéric Volcker

One down. Six BBO tables, and six different auctions!

The leaders did well again: they were allowed to play 3♦ and to make an overtrick despite the spade lead: 39-17. The Aussie/Kiwi pair did even better: they were doubled in 3♥ and scored 54 MP. Above average, Helgemo/Nyström too (46-10 playing 5♦ undoubled and made), Birman/Padon (opponents bid 3NT and went two down: 41 MP) and Multon/Zimmermann: 32 MP thanks to NS 3NT-1. Not so well off were Bertheau/Black, who were doubled in 4♥ and Gold/Zia, who received the spade lead against 5♦ x. They saved a trick, yet had to be content with 15 MP.

The next deal cannot be passed with silence either:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

You may think that everybody bid and made 4♠, often with some overtricks, but you'd be very wrong. To start with, one of the top pairs, Birman/Padon did bid it, but together with the Bakkeren brothers went down, while everybody else was making eleven or twelve tricks (I wish I could tell you how). Then, at six tables finding spades proved to be not so easy. Here is how Martel/Fleisher missed it, though Bessis/Lorenzini somehow rescued them (in a very unlucky way):

West	North	East	South
Martel	Lorenzini	Fleisher	Bessis
—	—	Pass	1♥
2♦	2♥	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

I cannot blame South for his 3♥, which ran into a storm: ♦A and diamond ruff, ♠Q, king, ace, spade to the jack, ♣A and a club ruff!

At another table the bidding went exactly the same way but South did not balance.

Edgtton/Whibley were doubled in 3♠, making only one overtrick, yet scoring 6-50, but the Polish leaders were unassailable: Hallberg/Hult were in 4♦ -1 conceding 2-54. Best in this round amongst the top pairs were Multon/Zimmermann who, doubled in 4♠, made two overtricks collecting a full top.

1	Krzysztof Buras & Piotr Lutostański	POL - POL	3603.603	60.71
2	Nabil Edgtton & Michael Whibley	AUS - NZL	3339.278	56.25
3	Geir Helgemo & Fredrik Nyström	NOR - SWE	3280.094	55.26
4	Franck Multon & Pierre Zimmermann	MON - SUI	3275.582	55.18
5	Peter Bertheau & Andrew Black	SWE - ENG	3251.682	54.78
6	David Gold & Zia Mahmood	ENG - USA	3220.058	54.25
7	Alon Birman & Dror Padon	ISR - ISR	3205.446	54.00
8	Jerry Stamatov & Jie Zhao	BUL - USA	3189.899	53.74

With eight boards still to be played, there were 448 matchpoints at stake, and the leaders were 264 clear of second. It meant that even should they score no more MP at all, the opponents needed to average something close to 59% to overtake them. Polish people were probably crossing everything they could, and touching all the iron or wood they could find, yet the gold medals looked pretty much in the safe. The runners up were more than a top clear of third.

Board 19 was not so interesting, but it is worth a question: after two passes, at favourable vulnerability, what would you open holding: ♠A ♥AJ109862 ♦75 ♣KJ3?

Some picked four, some three, and some two, and at all tables but one that choice ended the auction. Tricks were six (rarely) or seven all over, so the less you bid the happier you were. Nearly all pairs under the spotlight scored 26 MP losing -150, but Multon/Zimmermann collected -200 beating 4♥ by four tricks and received 52-4.

Board 20 does not need a look either, though it was not dull: NS had more than enough steam to play slam, but they had to do it in spades, in the 4-4 fit, and not in hearts, in the 6-2 fit. Both the spade king and the heart queen were wrongly placed, so in spades you could ruff the ♥Q out.

Easy to say it, but hard to do it after North's 1NT opening. Six pairs missed the best contract (plus one 7♠ bidder) and five did not bid slam. Amongst the latter were Stamatov/Zhao, who were the only game bidders to pick hearts: 450 was worth a disappointing 21-35 MP. Both Bertheau/Black and Gold/Zia bid 6♥ and sank further down. The two pairs were then 60 and 90 MP away from the bronze medal, six boards to go.

**Geir Helgemo**

Despite the heart lead, and the diamonds being kindly placed, declarer could not avoid going down one, scoring 15-41. The gap widened. Barring 5♦ contracts (ranging from four to six) the rest of the field played in clubs, ranging from three to five, and it is quite amusing to report that 3♣ was doubled (and obviously made) four times, whilst no one disturbed the higher contracts! Clearly the result of a thoughtful balancing double from East, eventually passed out. Stamatov/Zhao were among the beneficiaries of one of those doubles, inflicting a big blow to Bessis/Lorenzini who were climbing up.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

This was another very interesting one. At most tables West opened 4♠ sometimes passed out and sometimes contested by a South's balancing action (mostly 4NT, but some doubled too). Whatever South's choice, the cold slam could not be bid anymore. Anyone allowed to play a spade contract recorded +480 or +790 (once) but three

Wests were doubled in 5♠, +750. Among the doublers were the leaders, who received 19-37 thanks to the West who opened 1♠ and had no problem bidding six after East's club splinter: Bingo! Against the Aussie/Kiwi pair the opponents sacrificed in 6♣: good idea and only 7-49 to the runners up. Helgemo/Nyström gave up at the five level against Multon/Zimmermann and got 19-37. The Scandinavian combination had scored 60 MP against the opponents 52 in the round, keeping them at bay. They were 47 MP ahead with 112 MP still at stake. Helgemo/Nyström also had some hope of silver, being 60 MP behind. Meanwhile, Buras/Lutostański, were already World Champions, 154 MP clear of second.

1	Krzysztof Buras & Piotr Lutostański	POL - POL	3751.603	59.82
2	Nabil Edgtton & Michael Whibley	AUS - NZL	3597.095	57.35
3	Geir Helgemo & Fredrik Nyström	NOR - SWE	3537.453	56.40
4	Franck Multon & Pierre Zimmermann	MON - SUI	3490.833	55.66
5	Alon Birman & Dror Padon	ISR - ISR	3451.571	55.03
6	Peter Bertheau & Andrew Black	SWE - ENG	3430.058	54.69
7	Jerry Stamatov & Jie Zhao	BUL - CHN	3420.419	54.53
8	David Gold & Zia Mahmood	ENG - USA	3412.911	54.42

At first glance this deal looks harmless, but playing pairs, and given the vulnerability, it did cause some turbulence:

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

After two passes, most Souths opened 1♥ and West doubled. North offered some sort of raise, then East got involved, and EW ended up mostly in 2♠, with some 3♣ to be noted. Some NS competed further though, which led to some 3♥, some 3♥ doubled, some 3♠ and even a couple of 4♣.

2♠ cannot be beaten, but 3♣ should be, via a heart lead and a diamond switch, but not everyone found it. The leaders did it, but not Helgemo/Nyström: 47-9 to

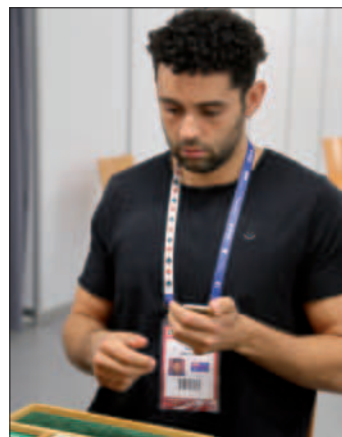
the Poles, and 9-47 to the Scandinavians, who lost hopes for silver – Edgtton/Whibley scored only 14-42 but that was enough to hold an insurmountable gap of 65 MP with only 56 still available. Multon/Zimmermann scored dead average, 28-28 and were still alive for bronze, 28 MP behind. Here are the standings before the last deal, showing only the pairs still in contention for bronze:

1	Krzysztof Buras & Piotr Lutostański	POL - POL	3793.603	59.95
2	Nabil Edgtton & Michael Whibley	AUS - NZL	3611.095	57.07
3	Geir Helgemo & Fredrik Nyström	NOR - SWE	3546.453	56.04
4	Franck Multon & Pierre Zimmermann	MON - SUI	3518.833	55.61
5	Alon Birman & Dror Padon	ISR - ISR	3493.571	55.21

The last deal offered some hope to the chasers:

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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



Nabil Edgtton

EW can make up to 4♥ if the opponents don't find the club ruff, not such an easy task, and Multon/Zimmermann did very well when they were allowed to steal the pot playing in 3♠ and making it after the correct spade guess: a very promising 52-2 to them. Yet, Helgemo/Nyström allowed the opponents to play 3♥, but found the club ruff and received 40 MP, enough to hold on, since the most likely result was 4♠ doubled, which gave -200 to EW. Buras/Lutostański became the third Polish pair to be crowned World Pairs Champions, after Leśniewski/Szymanowski in 1994 and Kwiecień/Pszczółka in 1998. Silver went to the “down under” combination Edgtton/Whibley, one Australian and one New Zealander, and bronze to Helgemo/Nyström, from Norway and Sweden.



The Open Pairs Podium

			Final		
Rank	Pairs		Nationality	%	
1	Krzysztof Buras	Piotr Lutostański	POL - POL	60.24	
2	Nabil Edgton	Michael Whibley	AUS - NZL	55.86	
3	Geir Helgemo	Fredrik Nyström	NOR - SWE	55.31	
4	Franck Multon	Pierre Zimmermann	MON - SUI	55.07	
5	Alon Birman	Dror Padon	ISR - ISR	54.28	
6	Jerry Stamatov	Jie Zhao	BUL - CHN	53.80	
7	Peter Bertheau	Andrew Black	SWE - ENG	53.59	
8	Keyzad Anklesaria	Rajeshwar Tewari	IND - IND	53.33	
9	Thomas Bessis	Cédric Lorenzini	FRA - FRA	53.01	
10	Mikael Rimstedt	Ola Rimstedt	SWE - SWE	52.99	
11	David Gold	Zia Mahmood	ENG - USA	52.99	
12	Tom Hanlon	Frédéric Volcker	IRL - FRA	52.78	
13	Mariusz Bartkowski	Bogdan Szulejewski	POL - POL	52.69	
14	Jan Jansma	Chris Willenken	NED - USA	52.62	
15	Marek Pietraszek	Jacek Znamirowski	POL - POL	52.40	
16	Adam Mesbur	Tommy Garvey	IRL - IRL	52.39	
17	Peter Gill	Sartaj Hans	AUS - AUS	51.94	
18	Bauke Muller	Simon de Wijs	NED - NED	51.84	
19	Jakub Kotorowicz	Paweł Miechowicz	POL - POL	51.61	
20	David Berkowitz	Jeff Meckstroth	USA - USA	51.22	
21	Joe Grue	Brad Moss	USA - USA	51.08	
22	Nicholas Gartaganis	Michel Lorber	CAN - CAN	51.03	
23	Oren Toledano	Ami Zamir	ISR - ISR	50.96	
24	Krzysztof Jassem	Patryk Patreuha	POL - POL	50.68	
25	Tony Nunn	Paul Dalley	AUS - AUS	50.54	
26	Andrea Manno	Massimiliano Di Franco	ITA - ITA	50.53	
27	Michele Cammarata	Cristiano Valsega	ITA - ITA	50.36	
28	Chip Martel	Martin Fleisher	USA - USA	50.12	
29	Gunnar Hallberg	Simon Hult	ENG - SWE	49.95	
30	Giovanni Donati	Giacomo Percario	ITA - ITA	49.76	
31	Mustafa Akgül	Bülent Aslan	TUR - TUR	49.56	
32	Krzysztof Mielnik	Adam Lonski	POL - POL	49.53	
33	Tim Verbeek	Bart Nab	NED - NED	49.45	
34	Sabine Auken	Roy Welland	GER - GER	49.41	
35	Andrew Robson	Alexander Allfrey	ENG - ENG	49.30	
36	Ton Bakkeren	Frank Bakkeren	NED - NED	49.07	
37	Eric Robinson	Daniel Korbel	USA - USA	48.95	
38	Thomas Gotard	Florian Alter	GER - GER	48.81	
39	Radosław Szczepański	Arkadiusz Majcher	POL - POL	48.80	
40	Shan Huang	Zemin Xu	USA - CAN	48.73	

41	Michał Kwiecień	Włodzimierz Starkowski	POL - POL	48.65
42	Dariusz Kowalski	Tomasz Sielicki	POL - POL	48.54
43	Massimo Lanzarotti	Arrigo Franchi	ITA - ITA	48.53
44	Jim Høyland	Sven-Olai Høyland	NOR - NOR	48.00
45	Thor Erik Hoftaniska	Thomas Charlsen	ENG - NOR	47.92
46	Ryszard Sakowicz	Paweł Plocki	POL - POL	47.37
47	Adam Wildavsky	Migry Zur-Campanile	USA - USA	47.32
48	Jakub Patreuha	Mateusz Sobczak	POL - POL	46.87
49	Aaron Silverstein	Andrew Rosenthal	USA - USA	46.70
50	Ajay Khare	Raju Tolani	IND - IND	46.20
51	Ehud Friedlander	Asaf Yekutieli	ISR - ISR	46.15
52	Peter Trenka	Gyorgy Kemeny	HUN - HUN	45.68
53	Rachael Moller	David Gurvich	USA - USA	45.62
54	Adam Grossack	Laurence Lebowitz	USA - USA	45.26
55	Eliran Argelazi	Lee Rosenthal	ISR - ISR	44.66
56	Erikas Vainikonis	Andrei Arlovich	LTU - LTU	44.46
57	Piotr Walczak	Paweł Wittenbeck	POL - POL	43.02
58	Federico Iavicoli	Cristoforo Caffi	ITA - ITA	42.48



A Gnome's guide to Opening Leads

Rosenblum Cup

by David Bird & Mark Horton

The Swiss Teams Qualifier for the Rosenblum by David Bird

A strong field of 79 teams entered the Rosenblum Cup. They would play a ten-round Swiss tournament, reducing the field to 32 teams for the knock-out matches.

This report on the qualifying stage will be somewhat of an hors d'oeuvre before the serious courses of the knock-out. The main objective of teams bridge is to score as many IMPs as possible. We will travel through the Swiss rounds, looking out for exciting and entertaining swing boards.



Rosenblum Cup

Round 1

We start with a mind-blowing possible defence that came to light on the second board of the championship. See if you can spot it while the actual play is described. I was commenting on the match between **Zimmermann** and **Zamir**:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

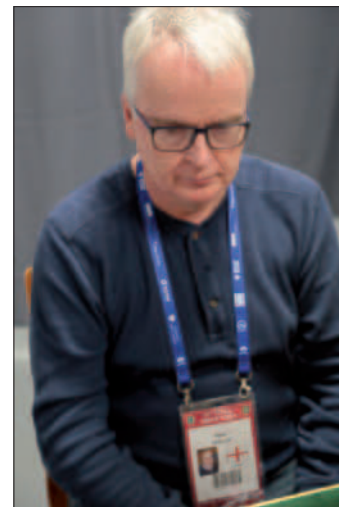
West	North	East	South
<i>Piedra</i>	<i>Zamir</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Toledano</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	3♣	All Pass

Oren Toledano led the ♠5, Ami Zamir winning with the jack. When the ♥3 was returned, Pierre Zimmermann rose with the ace and played a diamond, South winning with the ace. The queen of spades was covered by the king and ace, North then playing the king of hearts. Declarer won the trump switch, drew trumps and claimed his +110.

Did you spot how the defenders could have triumphed? North must play low at trick one, allowing declarer to win the trick! If his next move is a diamond, South will win with the ace and return the spade queen, Whether or not declarer covers with dummy's king, a fourth round of spades from North will promote South's ♣10. If instead declarer draws all the trumps at the start and sets up the hearts, he will lose two diamond tricks.

EW made an overtrick in 2♥ at the other table, **Zamir** gaining 1 IMP.

Board 3 offered a potential diamond slam. This was the action when **Lebowitz** faced **Orca**:



Peter Crouch

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Berg</i>	<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Crouch</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	—	—	2♣
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Fredrik Nyström's 3♠ was minor-suit Stayman. 4♥ was a control-bid, agreeing diamonds, and the 5♣ response to Roman Keycard Blackwood (hereafter, RKCB) showed zero keycards. Nevertheless, Geir Helgemo was happy to bid the slam without enquiring about the trump queen.

Nyström won the ♠7 lead with dummy's ace, reached his hand with a heart ruff and finessed the jack of diamonds successfully. The ♦A failed to drop the king, but the spade jack was subsequently discarded on the third round of clubs. That was +920.

At the other table, Espen Erichsen and Richard Plackett bid 2NT–3♣–3♥–3NT, making 11 tricks. **Lebowitz** gained 10 IMPs.

Let's see one more successful auction to the diamond slam, from the **Nickell v Czech Republic** match:

West	North	East	South
<i>Klems</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Vozábal</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Eric Greco's 1♣ was Precision, showing 16+ points. Geoff Hampson preferred to show his high-card control

(5♣), rather than the heart shortage. Since the 2NT rebid had limited his hand and partner was investigating a slam, Greco lost no time in jumping to 6♦.

The failing auction at the other table, by Jakub Šlemr and Michal Kopecký, was 2♣–2♦*–2NT–3♣*–3♦*–3NT, again for a loss of 10 IMPs.

There were few sizeable swings in this first round, and in several matches 3 IMPs was the highest swing recorded. We will end with Board 7 from the encounter between **Minit** and **Texan Aces**:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Padhye</i>	<i>R Lee</i>	<i>Venkatesh</i>	<i>Minit</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	3♠	Dble	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

It is popular nowadays to play a double jump in a major as pre-emptive, with at least 4-card support. Game-try hands use the Bergen 3♣ and 3♦ responses. On this deal, the method did not work so well.

An unlikely diamond lead from North would have set up a ruff for one down. Roger Lee led the ace of spades and then switched to a diamond. Dummy's jack lost to the ace, and Gillian Minit returned the ♦4 to the queen and king. When the king of clubs was played to South's ace, there was no entry to allow North to deliver a diamond ruff. Ten tricks were made, EW scoring +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Srinivasan</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Sridharan</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♠	Dble	Pass
3♣	3♠	All Pass	

At the end of Round 1, these teams led the field:

1. The Mavericks	20.00
2. Bridgescanner	18.58
3. Periculo	18.00

There was plenty of action in the second round, and we will start with this heart game from **Synsyn v Objectivity**.

♠ 7 2
 ♥ Q 10 7 5 3 2
 ♦ 9
 ♣ A Q 8 3

♠ J 6
 ♥ K 8 6
 ♦ 10 7 3
 ♣ K J 9 6 4

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

♠ K Q 5 3
 ♥ 9 4
 ♦ A K J 6 4 2
 ♣ 5

N
 W E
 S

West	North	East	South
<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Jie Zhao</i>	<i>Miechowicz</i>
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

2♦ Multi
2NT Asking
3♦ Hearts, not minimum

Declarer ruffed a club with the 4 and led another spade. West threw the ♦10 and declarer ruffed in dummy. East discarded the ♦8 on dummy's last club and declarer ruffed with his last trump. After Miechowicz ruffed the spade queen in dummy, he had ten tricks pointing his way. He exited with the ♥Q and the official score sheet credits him with 11 tricks, +450.

West	North	East	South
<i>Pawlak</i>	<i>S Bałdysz</i>	<i>Dąbrowski</i>	<i>C Bałdysz</i>
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

There was competitive bidding on Board 17 when **Preddy** faced **Kasimir**.

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

♠ 9
 ♥ Q 9 8 6
 ♦ A 8 6
 ♣ K J 10 9 5

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

♠ Q 7 5 4 2
 ♥ 7 5 3
 ♦ 7 4
 ♣ A 7 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fischer</i>	<i>N Selway</i>	<i>Saurer</i>	<i>Preddy</i>
—	1♠	Dble	4♠
Dble	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣	5♠	Pass	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Bernd Saurer's 4NT asked partner to choose a suit. When Doris Fischer bid 5♣, Norman Selway competed with 5♠. East's subsequent pass may or may not have been forcing. What West knew is that her partner had no clear preference for doubling 5♠. She advanced boldly to 6♣ and was doubled by South.

The slam could not be defeated, as the cards lay. Fischer ruffed the spade ace lead in dummy and played on trumps, Preddy winning the second round. Declarer won the trump return, finessed the jack of hearts and cashed the ace, dropping North's king. An eventual finesse of the diamond jack also succeeded (how much NS enjoyed this deal is not recorded), and that was +1090.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>L Selway</i>	<i>Kasimir</i>	<i>Weiss</i>	<i>Jokisch</i>
—	1♠	Dble	3♣*
3♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

At the other table North did not advance to 5♠. Louise Selway played in 5♣, making the same 12 tricks, and **Kasimir** gained 12 IMPs.

The next board offered another potential competitive battle. When **Cooreman Belgium** faced **AZS Wroslavia**, only one of the NS pairs decided to participate.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

*Udo Kasimir***Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Bocken</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Neve</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Krzysztof Jassem opened 1♠ and, with only his side vulnerable, Olivier Neve felt he should pass on the South cards. Would you have done differently? Patryk Patreuha raised to 4♠, and now it was Patrick Bocken (North) who had a decision to make. Should he double? Some players would, but he did not. The jack of hearts was led and, a few moments later, Jassem inscribed +420 on his card. Perhaps there would be more action at the other table.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dehaye</i>	<i>Sołtysik</i>	<i>Coenraets</i>	<i>Sobczak</i>
—	—	1♠	2♠*
4♣*	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
5♠	Dble	All Pass	

Mateusz Sobczak entered with a bold Michaels cuebid, showing hearts and a minor. Bernard Dehaye's 4♣ was a fit-jump, showing both the black suits. The aim was to help his partner to judge the future bidding. The predictable 4♥ and 4♠ bids were passed round to Wojciech Sołtysik in the North seat. Because he had club length alongside that of West, he judged that South's minor would be diamonds. In that case he held a splendid fit for his partner. He bid a well-judged 5♥, which would have been made.

After his partner's fit-jump in clubs, East might well have bid 5♠ from his side of the table. He passed the decision to Dehayé, who judged excellently to bid five-over-five. His 5♠ sacrifice was doubled and only one down, against a making vulnerable game the other way. Disappointingly for him, this was 11 IMPs to **AZS Wratistavia**, after the inaction of NS at the other table.

One of the biggest swings of the round occurred in the match between **Periculo** and **Vytas**:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olański</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Robson</i>
3♦	Pass	3NT	4♥
Pass	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Rdble	Pass
Pass	5♥	Dble	All Pass

It was an exciting auction. Against 5♦ redoubled, the defenders could have taken two clubs, a club ruff and a spade for a cool +1000. This was unclear to Alexander Allfrey, who retreated to 5♥.

Placing his partner with a high spade honour after his 3NT bid, Wojtek Olański led the queen of spades. This allowed Andrew Robson to win with dummy's ace and finesse the queen of clubs. When this won, he ditched a diamond on the club ace and then discarded a diamond on the ♣4. West won that with the nine, and when he failed to exit with a trump declarer could ruff both his losing diamonds in dummy. That was +850 to **Periculo**.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>P Lawrence</i>	<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>O Lawrence</i>	<i>Skrzypczak</i>
Pass	2♦*	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West passed and Bogusław Gierulski opened a multi on the North cards. Against East's 3NT, Jerzy Skrzypczak led the ♥7 to the jack and ace. Oliver Lawrence then ran dummy's diamond suit, arriving at this end position:

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

When dummy's queen of spades was played, Bogusław Gierulski (North) won with the ace and South thought it safe to throw the ♥7. Not so safe when his partner returned a heart instead of a club, though! After scoring two heart winners, Skrzypczak had to concede a trick to declarer's king of clubs. That was a double game swing: 5♥ made at one table and 3NT at the other. **Periculo** scored 16 IMPs.

The end of Round 2 saw these teams leading the field:

1. Periculo	34.59
2. Lebowitz	33.48
3. Kasimir	33.34



Andrew Robson

Round 3

The action worthy of our attention was somewhat sparse on this round. Let's begin with a deal where one side played at the five-level, the other at the four-level. **The Black Swan** faced **Comfort**.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Pazur	Georgescu	Wójcicki	Gheorghe
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦*
Dble	2♥	3♦	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Marek Wójcicki led ace and another diamond, ruffed in the dummy. The jack and 10 of trumps revealed the 4-1 break, and Horia Georgescu then led a club. East rose with the ace, and declarer was able to claim an overtrick for +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bacalu	Bajek	Calipetre	Wręczycki
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

Splinter bids by responder are normally used on a hand of around 10-12 HCP. The message is 'I have a minimum raise to game, with this shortage.' The splinter then tells the whole story of your hand. When the opener is strong, he can decide whether to advance, based on the fit in your splinter suit. Here, Grzegorz Bajek felt obliged to

control-bid the king of hearts, despite his bare minimum. Maciej Wręczycki, who held extra values for his splinter, was encouraged to stretch beyond game. RKCB revealed two missing keycards, and the brakes were applied in 5♠.

A club lead (or a heart) would sink the contract because declarer would have to give up a diamond to set up the necessary ruffs in dummy. David Calipetre gave declarer a chance by leading his singleton trump. Bajek won with the 10 and needed to concede a diamond next. After a mistaken second round of trumps to the king, his contract could not be made.

Declarer continued with a club to the jack, allowed to win. He then crossed to the heart queen and led the ♦ 10. When Iancu Bacalu put up the king of diamonds, his partner could see how to beat the contract. He overtook with the diamond ace and played ace and another club. West ruffed and that was one down for a swing of 11 IMPs to **The Black Swan**. East knew his partner would ruff because he had signalled a doubleton club on the first round (the ♣ 2, reverse count in their methods).

Next, we will see a slam deal from **Bridge for Business v Objectivity**:

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helle	Pszczółka	Hoogenkamp	Lutostański
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
Dble	6♥	All Pass	

Jacek Pszczółka's 2♣ was a transfer to diamonds. He subsequently control-bid clubs twice to show his void.



Craig Gower

The meaning of 6♣ is unclear; perhaps it asked partner to choose a major. Against 6♥, Ed Hoogenkamp led the ♣4 to the 8 and queen, declarer ruffing. Take the North cards now. How would you have continued the play?

‘Pepsi’, as he is called, led a trump to the king and called for the king of clubs. Rob Helle covered with the ace and declarer ruffed. A second round of trumps went to East’s ace, and he switched to the ♦5. Declarer ruffed with dummy’s last trump and crossed to his queen of spades. He then returned to the spade ace and discarded the ♦KQJ10 on the four good spades. The established jack of clubs was not needed, and +980 was scored. The other table stopped in 4♥, also making 12 tricks and that was 11 IMPs to **Bridge for Business**.

Do you see how this heart slam could have been beaten? This was the auction when **South Sweden** played **Gupta**.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gupta	Gower	D. Rosenberg	Apteker
—	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

What would you have led after this auction? Debbie Rosenberg pulled out just the right card – a diamond, which Craig Gower had to ruff in the dummy. When he led the king of trumps, East continued to defend sharply by ducking. She won the next round of trumps, and a diamond to West’s ace then beat the slam.

Once again, the other room played in 4♥ with two overtricks. This time the 11-IMP swing went in the other direction, to **Gupta**.

At the end of Round 3, these three teams led the way:

1. The Mavericks	48.58
2. The Black Swan	44.22
3. Periculo	44.20

Round 4

This round saw plenty of interesting action. **Periculo** faced **Gupta** here:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Allfrey	Muller	Robson
1♥	2♣	4♥	Pass
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

West’s opening bid of 1♥ is explained by the need to retain as much space as possible for the relay bids encompassed in the system.

Alexander Allfrey’s 4NT showed diamonds as well as clubs. With no shortage in the major suits, this was an ambitious venture. The opponents’ 4♥ might have been going down, so far as he could tell. As the cards lay, the resultant doubled club game might go five down, vulnerable, on any lead.

Bauke Muller led the ♠10 to West’s ace, declarer dropping the king, and he ruffed the ♠2 return. The bidding (also the choice of the ♠2 to ruff) told him that a diamond return would be rewarded. Simon de Wijs ruffed the ♦2, and returned the ♥3 to the queen and ace.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Black	Lahrman	Bertheau	Verhaegen
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Christian Lahrman reached 3NT, which had nine tricks on top. Meanwhile, the defenders had five tricks on top. Peter Bertheau duly led the ♠5, putting the game one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marquardsen	Hult	Norris	Hallberg
2♣*	Dble	3♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

We will never know whether Simon Hult would have opened 2NT. If he chose 1♦ instead, East would probably overcall 1♠, steering NS away from 3NT. As it was, West's 2♣ opening showed the majors. North doubled and East raised pre-emptively to 3♠. Bidding 4♠ on the East cards would have been too much, since the opener had promised only a minimum of 4-4 in the indicated suits.

Hult doubled for takeout again, and Gunnar Hallberg (who usually accepts any invitation to a party) jumped to 5♦. The king of spades was led, and he ruffed the spade continuation with the 9. After drawing trumps, Hallberg played the club ace and continued with a club to the 9, when East contributed the 7. Three club tricks provided a heart discard from dummy, and the game was made. **Team Black** gained 10 IMPs.

Two boards later, in the same match, we were offered an unusual spectacle. West bid to a vulnerable game,

resulting in a score of 600. "Such deals occur by the million," did you say? Yes, but this was in a major-suit game.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Black	Lahrman	Bertheau	Verhaegen
—	—	1NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Not only were NS deprived of a very playable spade game; neither of them felt able to double 4♥. The ace of spades was led and it seemed possible that declarer would escape for two down, losing three trump tricks and the black aces. Andrew Black ruffed the spade continuation and crossed to the trump ace.

To preserve trump control and escape for two down, declarer needed to play diamonds next. When he called for a low club instead, Marcel Verhaegen won with the king and forced the West hand with the club ace. Declarer now had his original diamond holding, plus ♥J108 against North's ♥KQ9. Turning to diamonds at this stage would result in four down; playing a trump honour would be five down. When Black placed the ♥8 on the table, North won with the 9 and drew trumps. The defenders then scored four more winners in the black suits and wrote +600 on their card. Would the **Black** team be rescued by a +620 score in spades from the other table?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marquardsen	Hult	Norris	Hallberg
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♦*	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	3♥	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

West's 1♦ response showed hearts, and North's 3♥ was a strong spade raise. Contrary to what I said on the last deal, Hallberg did decline this particular invitation and played in 3♠. He won the club lead in his hand, crossed to the spade ace and finessed the ♠10 successfully. A heart to the king and ace saw a trump return, Hallberg finessing the jack. When declarer conceded a diamond trick, John Norris played a fourth round of trumps. Nine tricks were claimed for +140, and it was 10 IMPs to **Team Black**.

Had Hallberg been in game, he might have played differently. On 14 of the 78 tables in the Rosenblum qualifier, 4♠ was bid and made (eight times doubled and six times undoubled). 4♠ went down seven times.

At the end of Round 4, the first three places were occupied by these teams:

1. The Mavericks	63.63
2. Gupta	59.32
3. Bridge for Business	58.18

Round 5

We will start with a big contract discrepancy, from the match between **Orca** and **Objectivity**:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helle	Plackett	Hoogenkamp	Erichsen
—	—	—	2♣
Pass	2♦	3♦	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

North might have bid 3♥ instead of 3NT, it's true, but should South have given up so easily over 3NT?

Hoogenkamp cashed the ♦A and switched to a heart. Declarer then ended with +430 when the club finesse failed.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Crouch	Z Baldysz	Berg	C Baldysz
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♦	2♦	Dble
Pass	3♥	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5♠	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

The opening was Polish Club (multiple types, most often 12-14 NT, or 18+). North's jump to 3♥ surprised me a bit, but it was in the context of her 1♦ negative response. South's 5♦ was Exclusion Blackwood, asking for keycards outside the diamond suit, and 5♠ showed the king of trumps.

Presumably South could have continued with 5NT to see if partner held the club king. No, she jumped to the grand slam. Since this needed a 3-2 trump break and a club finesse, it was not a good contract.

Declarer won the spade lead in dummy and drew trumps in three rounds. She then held her breath and finessed the queen of clubs. No luck today, and that was one down.

The Open Room result made North-South's overbidding in the Closed Room all the more tragic. An 11-IMP swing in their direction was available by bidding the par contract of 6♥. As it was, they lost 10 IMPs.

Let's see two more auctions on this board, this time from the match between **Bridge for Business** and **Drinteam**:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Campos	Witkowski	Rodrigues	Janiszewski
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♦	3♦	Dble
All Pass			

The defence slipped a trick, Łukasz Witkowski at one stage overtaking partner's ♥Q for no apparent reason. Collecting only +300 for two down was a seriously inadequate return on the NS cards. As in the other match, North would have done better to show his hearts. It's true that here he knew only that partner held 18+ HCP, rather than Espen Erichsen's values for a 2♣ opening.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nawrocki</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Wiankowski</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
—	—	—	2♣
Pass	2♦	4♦	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Ben Green knew that his diamonds were worthless in a suit contract. He judged well that his trump holding was not good enough to accept partner's grand-slam try. That was 12 IMPs to **Drinteam**.

There were some 'strange happenings' on our next board, when **Odmet** faced **Spector**:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Buras</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Dble	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Krzysztof Buras bid a Lebensohl 2NT to show a lower-range hand (9 HCP facing a passed partner). John Hurd then led the ace of hearts against 3♣. When this dropped declarer's king, he continued with the heart jack. Grzegorz Narkiewicz ruffed and played the trump ace, East discarding a heart. Placing the ♦K with the opener, declarer ran the ♦Q to West's king.

When the ♣6 was returned, no recovery was possible. Declarer won with the nine, played a diamond to the nine and followed it with the ace. West ruffed and exited with the ♠4, declarer taking dummy's ace, drawing the outstanding trump and ruffing a diamond which got him up to eight tricks, -50.

You didn't witness any strange happenings there and are wondering why this deal was included? Can you believe that two highly regarded players ended in 6♣ on those NS cards?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Demuy</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠*
2♥	Dble	3♦	3♥
4♥	Pass	Pass	4NT
Dble	5♦	Dble	6♣
Dble	All Pass		

Vincent Demuy's 1♠ denied four spades, suggesting values in diamonds, or both minors. John Kranyak wanted to compete to the three-level, but his takeout double was borderline with the wasted king of hearts. Artur Malinowski's 3♦ was a game-try in hearts, and South's 3♥ suggested that he expected more from his partner's hand.

When EW reached 4♥ (well done!), South decided to sacrifice in a minor. His chosen route was via 4NT, and he then ended in 6♣ doubled. The play went the same way as in 3♣ at the other table, and that was four down for 800 away. **Odmet** were happy to pocket 13 IMPs.

A double-digit swing arose on a partscore deal when **South Sweden** faced **Morimura**:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Morimura</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Jin Zhao</i>	<i>Grude</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♥*	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Peter Fredin had a 2♦ overcall available to show a weak hand with an unspecified major. His actual 2♥ was billed as ‘constructive’. He ended in 3♥ and Jin Zhao led the queen of spades. Declarer won with the ace and led the ♦3, East rising with the ace. Fredin won the ♠7 switch with dummy’s king and cashed the king of diamonds. A club ruff to his hand was followed by the jack of diamonds, covered and ruffed. The contract was then made for the loss of a spade, two trumps and a diamond. That was +140 for NS.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Ohno</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Alon Apteker’s takeout double might have located a good spot for his side, but he had limited defence if partner chose to pass, which is what happened. What else was East supposed to do on his cards? 2♠ might have gone two down; 3♦ might be three down. 2NT was the cheapest spot, perhaps going only one down. Many players would pass West’s double, as Craig Gower did, hoping for more defence opposite. On this deal, declarer’s club void rendered East-West’s club values worthless.

Akihiko Yamada had no cause to utter his partner’s name when the dummy went down. The play was essentially the same as in the Open Room, but when East did not cover the ♦10 declarer could discard dummy’s remaining spade and ten tricks were made. NS’s +1070 meant 14 IMPs to **Morimura**.

The last deal of the round was worth the wait. I was commentating on the match between **Golden Age** and **Lebowitz**:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Barantiev</i>	<i>A Grossack</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>
Pass	1♣*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Nikola Barantiev opened a Precision 1♣ and Rumen Trendafilov responded 3♠. Expecting a raise to 4♠, I was surprised when 6♠ appeared on the screen. I rather suspect that 3♠ was meant to show a 7-card suit, while denying the 8 HCP for a positive response.

Agustín Madala led the king of clubs and down went the dummy. Ten top tricks were visible, plus an eleventh if a long card could be established in hearts. Where was a twelfth trick?

Trendafilov won with dummy’s ace of clubs and called for the one possibly winning card from dummy, the ♠5 to his ace. At trick three he led the jack of hearts, running it when Madala declined to cover. The slam was now there. He crossed to the trump king, ruffed a heart in his hand and drew the last trump. He then returned to dummy with the diamond ace and discarded three minor-suit losers on the ♥AK9.

‘It’s always there if declarer guesses the hearts correctly,’ a kibitzer told me.

Suppose the heart jack had been covered with the queen and dummy’s ace. Declarer would be faced with a subsequent guess in this heart position:

♥ 8	♥ 9 7 2	♥ 10 6
	♥ —	

One side entry remains to the dummy, and the winning play is to lead the ♥9, which will pin West’s 8. However, it is twice as good to lead a low card, since you might then find a singleton ♥10 on either side of the table. It therefore seems that declarer would have gone down if Madala had covered with his queen of hearts.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Ivanov</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Helgemo saw only six spades in his hand, and **Golden Age** picked up 13 IMPs.

At the end of Round 5, the half-way point of the qualification, these teams headed the table:

1. The Mavericks

77.35
2. Apres Bridge Champs

73.49
3. Drinteam

70.05

Round 6

How easy is it to bid a grand slam when you have 14 top tricks, as on the deal below? ‘Everyone will reach it, at this level,’ claimed the kibitzers. Marc Smith and I, commentating, were not so sure. It seemed that it might be tricky. **The Mavericks** faced **Apres Bridge Champs**, on Table 1:

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ A K

♥ Q J 8 5

♦ K 2

♣ A K J 10 9

♠ 10 2

♥ K 4 2

♦ Q 8 3

♣ 8 5 4 3 2

♠ 6 4

♥ A 10 9 7 6 3

♦ J 10 7 4

♣ 7

♠ Q J 9 8 7 5 3

♥ —

♦ A 9 6 5

♣ Q 6

N

E

W

S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gawel	Zur-Campanile	Jagniewski	Wildavsky
—	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			



Roy Welland

South was missing the ♠AK and had a bundle of losers in the minor suits. I have every sympathy for his view that it was ‘just too difficult’ to investigate a grand slam. Indeed, with some 10 HCP missing, even 6♠ might go down. The ace of hearts was led and thirteen tricks were soon claimed.

Would NS bid their cards more energetically at the other table?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bach	Auken	Pellegrini	Welland
—	2NT	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠	Pass	5♥*
Pass	5♠*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♦*	Pass	6♥*
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

Well bid, indeed! Roy Welland’s 5♥ was Exclusion RKCB, asking for keycards outside the heart suit. 5NT then asked for side-suit kings (again outside the heart suit). Finally, 6♥ was a grand slam try, which Sabine Auken accepted in the blink of an eye. It was 11 IMPs to **Apres Bridge Champs**. The spade grand slam was reached at only 18 tables out of 78; the majority played in a small slam, with 11 pairs stopping in game.

We continue with a game that was misdefended, with the necessary information seemingly available. **Moran** faced **Bridge for Business**. Take the South cards and see how you fare:

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ A K Q 3

♥ 10

♦ 7 6 5 2

♣ K J 6 2

♠ J 10 9 6 4

♥ A K Q 7 6

♦ K 9

♣ 5

♠ 5 2

♥ J 5 3

♦ Q J 10 4 3

♣ A 4 3

N

E

W

S

♠ 8 7

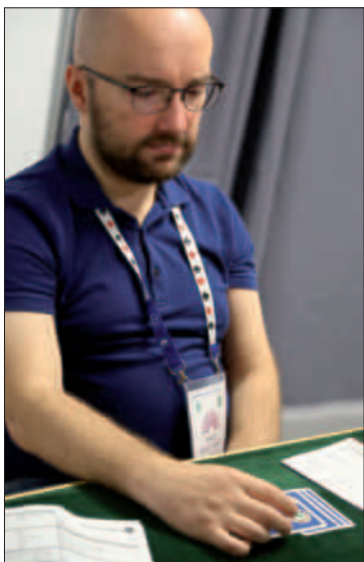
♥ 9 8 4 2

♦ A 8

♣ Q 10 9 8 7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nawrocki	Carroll	Wiankowski	Moran
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass



Piotr Nawrocki

John Carroll leads the ♣2, won with dummy's ace. When Piotr Nawrocki calls for the ♦3, you win with the ace; the ♦K comes from declarer and the ♦6 (standard count) from your partner. What will you lead to the next trick?

When Mark Moran returned the ♣10, declarer ruffed and drew trumps in four rounds. He then added dummy's four diamond tricks, claiming the contract.

How might South have diagnosed the winning defence? West had shown 5-5 in the majors during the auction. North's ♦6 even-count signal indicated that declarer had started with two diamonds and one club. A club return would therefore be ruffed. A spade switch would have allowed North to score two tricks in the suit and then promote a trump trick for South with a third spade. (Returning the ♦8 would also be good enough. Declarer would no longer be able to draw trumps and cross to dummy's diamond winners.) It was EW +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Volcker	Janiszewski	Hanlon	Witkowski
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Frédéric Volcker let it rest in 2♠, the second-best fit. Przemysław Janiszewski led the ♣2, won with dummy's ace. As the cards lie, declarer must play hearts next to preserve trump control. When he played a trump instead, to the jack and queen, North persevered with clubs. Volcker ruffed, his trump length now matching North's. The king of diamonds was ducked and South won the next diamond.

Another club forced declarer to ruff again. When he played the ace of hearts followed by the seven, North could have ruffed low for two down. He discarded instead, and dummy's jack scored. A diamond ruffed with the 9 was declarer's last trick, and he was one down. **Bridge for Business** won 10 IMPs.

On the very next board from the same match, there was a big discrepancy in the valuation of the South hand:

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nawrocki	Carroll	Wiankowski	Moran
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	2♥	3♦
All Pass			

What would you have bid on the South cards when West's 1♥ overcall runs back to you? Mark Moran assessed it as a 1NT rebid, which was passed by his partner. Piotr Wiankowski competed with 2♥, and South's 3♦ closed the auction. Piotr Nawrocki led the queen of clubs, won in the dummy. The ♥9 was run to the queen, West persisting with the ♣10, to declarer's ace. Nawrocki won the jack of hearts with the ace and switched to the ♠4, drawing South's ace. Declarer lost two hearts, a trump and a club, scoring +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Volcker	Janiszewski	Hanlon	Witkowski
—	Pass	Pass	1♣*
1♥	Pass	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Łukasz Witkowski rebid 3NT, which seems nearer the mark. Frédéric Volcker then led the ♦8, won with

dummy's 10. East showed out on the next diamond and the queen lost to West's king. After a spade switch to his ace, declarer played the diamond winners and crossed to the club king. When the ♥9 was run to the queen, West cashed the spade king. He was down to ♠7 ♥A ♣Q and could not avoid giving a trick to dummy's isolated queen of spades. It was the second consecutive 10-IMP swing to **Bridge for Business**.

At the end of Round 6, these teams headed the table:

1. Apres Bridge Champs	91.33
2. Drinteam	85.57
3. Lebowitz	82.79

Round 7

We will look first at a board where the defence was interesting in two different contracts. **Seoul** faced **Periculo**:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
P Lawrence	Kang	O Lawrence	Roh
—	1NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Seongseok Kang upgraded his hand to a 15-17 1NT. Seungjin Roh's 3♣ was Puppet Stayman, seeking a 5-3 spade fit. Look only at the East hand now. What would you have led against 4♠?

Oliver Lawrence found the winning lead of the jack of diamonds. Kang played low from dummy, drawing the king from West. How would you continue the defence

from the West hand? To beat the contract, you need to cash the ace of diamonds and cross to partner's hand with a club. A diamond ruff will then put the game one down.

Patrick Lawrence switched to the ♣2 instead, drawing the king and ace. The contract could not then be beaten. When East returned the ♣4, to the 10, jack and queen, Kang drew trumps and ran the ♦9 to the ace. A satisfying +420 was his.

Suppose North had held ♣A64. Then a club switch from West would have been necessary, before the diamonds were set up. However, this club holding would leave North short of points for his announced 15-17 1NT. If he held ♣AQ6, the contract could not be beaten, anyway.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Soo Ik	Alexander	Daehong	Andrew
—	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Daehong Kim led the ♥8, dummy's king winning. The ♣5 was led to the king, and Kim defended well by ducking smoothly. When Allfrey returned to dummy with the spade ace and led the ♣9, he was faced with an awkward guess. Since not every East would be up to a duck of the ace, the odds favoured his choice of rising with the queen. Three club tricks and two diamonds then put the game one down. It was 10 well-deserved IMPs to the Korean team. (Some players reckon that it is harder to find East's duck if declarer plays the queen instead of the king.)

Later in this match, there was a competitive bidding battle:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Tor Eivind Grude ventured 4♠ over East's 4♥ opening, and the ♥9 was led. Declarer must have nodded happily at the dummy that was laid out. He won with dummy's king and played a trump to the queen and king. After winning the next heart, he crossed to the ace of diamonds and led another trump. East won with the ace and returned the ♥5, declarer ruffing with the ♠10. West's ♠9 was promoted, and declarer would now have to avoid a club loser.

East showed out on the next trump, leaving West with the master ♠9. Declarer played good diamonds and West could not avoid the endplay. He chose to ruff the last diamond and then had to lead away from his king of clubs. That was +620 for **South Sweden**.

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Ohno</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♥*
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

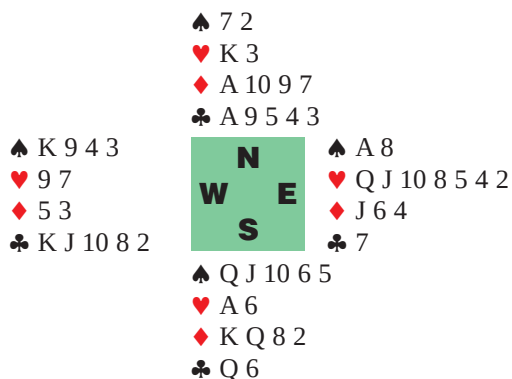
Akihiko Yamada took a much brighter view of his hand, despite his partner rebidding only 3♥. When he heard of a control-bid in clubs, he headed boldly for the slam. Antonio Sementa led the jack of spades, and the resultant +1430 brought in 13 IMPs for **Morimura**.

At the end of Round 7, the leader-board was headed by these teams:

1. Apres Bridge Champs	108.11
2. Lebowitz	102.79
3. Seoul	98.86

Our first noteworthy deal from this round comes from the match between **South Sweden** and **Team Black**:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



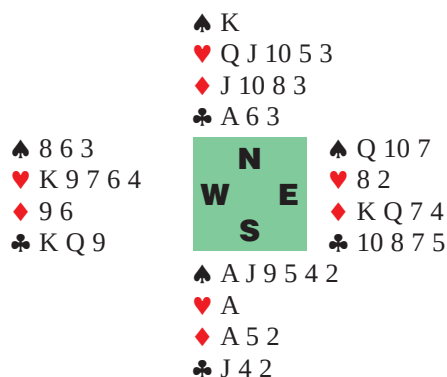
West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Fredin	Hult	Grude
—	—	4♥	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Black</i>
—	—	3♥	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Here Peter Bertheau chose to play in 3NT. He won the queen of hearts lead with the ace and played a spade to the queen and king. West cleared the heart suit, and Craig Gower cashed the contract three down when he won with the spade ace. That was 14 IMPs to **South Sweden**.

We continue with a 3NT contract from **Apres Bridge Champs v Seoul**, where both sides missed one or more chances to swing the result their way.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

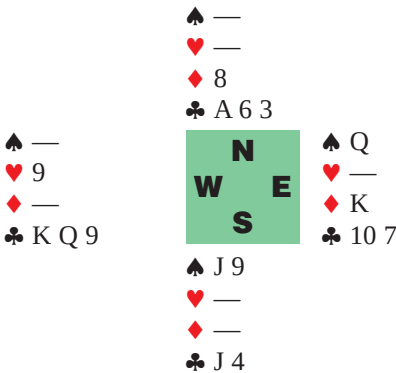


West	North	East	South
<i>S Lee</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>D Kim</i>	<i>Welland</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The first chance fell to Daehong Kim. What would you have led against 3NT from the East hand? A club would leave declarer with little chance. She could set up and enjoy five spade tricks, but the three outside aces would bring the total to only eight. A heart lead would work well too, in fact, removing a vital entry to the dummy.

When Kim led the queen of diamonds, it was Sabine Auken who had a chance to do well for her side. She needed to win the first diamond with the ace and continue diamonds, benefitting from the fall of West's ♦9. West cannot then avoid an eventual endplay to give two extra tricks to dummy's spades, or declarer's hearts.

Auken ducked the first round of diamonds and East switched to the ♥8, won with dummy's ace. Declarer crossed to the spade king and played the queen of hearts to West's king. Soo Ik Lee made the good return of a diamond, declarer's jack winning. The ♥J10 and a diamond to dummy's ace left declarer still staring at one down. She cashed dummy's spade ace to leave this position:



When Auken called for dummy's ♠9, West released the ♣9 and North the ♣3. East won with the spade queen, the defenders' third trick, and cashed the king of diamonds. It was a sad moment for the defenders when West discarded the queen of clubs. Auken scored the last two tricks with the ace and jack of clubs, recording +400.

Closed Room

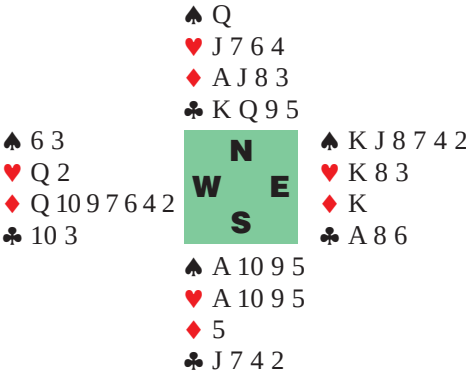
West	North	East	South
Gawel	Kang	Jagniewski	Roh
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Once again, the queen of diamonds was led and ducked in dummy. The first six tricks echoed the play at the other

table. Kang then called for dummy's ♣2, winning West's ♣9 with the ace. After a club exit, Wojciech Gawel scored two clubs and the ♥9. That was one down and 12 IMPs to **Apres Bridge Champs**.

We return to the match between **South Sweden** and **Team Black** for our final deal from this round:

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Fredin	Hult	Grude
—	—	1 ♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All Pass	

West led the ♠6, covered with the queen, king and ace. Grude ruffed the ♠5 in dummy, continuing with a trump to the 10 and queen. Hallberg returned a trump to the 8 and 9. When declarer turned his attention to the club suit, East ducked the first two rounds. Grude drew the last trump with his ace and ran the ♠10 to East's jack. He won the spade return and set up a third club trick, claiming the contract.

Was there any reason to expect a swing on the board? Let's see:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Apteker	Bertheau	Gower	Black
—	—	1 ♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2 ♠*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All Pass	

2 ♠ Any game force
2NT Waiting

Andrew Black won the first trick with the ace of spades, crossed to the ace of diamonds, and led the ♣5. Gower rose with the ace and returned a club to dummy's king. Declarer ruffed a diamond in his hand and a spade in dummy. He would still be on track if he played trumps now, but he called instead for the ♦8, which was not OK. East threw a spade and declarer ruffed with the ♥9. He then led the ♠9, West discarding a diamond, and ruffed in the dummy.

When Black called for dummy's ♦J, East discarded again, and declarer ruffed with the ♥10. Eight tricks were already made and Black played the ♥A to make it nine. He led the ♠10 and West stepped in with the ♥Q in front of dummy's ♥J. East then claimed the last two tricks with his ♥K8. That was one down, for a loss of 12 IMPs.

Although 4♥ was nearly always made, many IMPs were exchanged in other matches when the game was not reached. Let's see a couple of failing auctions, first from **Lebowitz v World Bridge Tour**:

West	North	East	South
<i>Lebowitz</i>	<i>T. Helness</i>	<i>A. Grossack</i>	<i>Charlsen</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

The 2NT bid showed two places to play. Since South might hold both minors, North was obliged to bid 3♣. Should Charlsen have bid 3♥ instead of 2NT?

More often, NS stopped in a heart partscore. **Drinteam** faced **Street** here:

West	North	East	South
<i>Manno</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

After a protective double, we are in 'take away a king' territory. I don't think that North can do more. South might have bid 3♥ instead of 2♥, as Grude did at our featured table.

At the end of Round 8, these teams remained in the lead:

1. Apres Bridge Champs	124.08
2. Lebowitz	116.79
3. Seoul	102.89

Round 9

Sometimes the pressure of being doubled may have a bearing on declarer's play. Look at this board from **Zimmermann v Drinteam**:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Gawryś</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥
4♠	All Pass		

Should North find a double of the spade game, do you think? West is a passed hand, and East may have taken a liberty in third seat at this vulnerability. As it was, South would have made 4♥ easily on this lie of the cards. Meanwhile, Piotr Gawryś was left to pay only 50 per undertrick in 4♠.

A trump lead works best, but Stefano Tommasini led the ace of hearts, continuing with the ace and jack of diamonds. Gawryś won with the king and led a club to the king and ace. South ruffed the diamond switch and returned a club, ruffed by declarer. Gawryś then managed two heart ruffs, escaping for two down and a loss of just 100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Campos</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Rodrigues</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	Pass	2♠	3♥
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

The weak-two opening made Bas Drijver's decision to double the spade game entirely clear. Once again, South began with the heart ace and the ace-jack of diamonds. This time, Adriano Rodrigues chose to win with dummy's queen. After this start, declarer must lead a

club from dummy, away from the king. This may not be such a hardship, since South has already shown the ♥AK and ♦AJ. North is therefore likely to hold the ♣A.

Rodrigues played the trump ace instead and continued with the ♦10, Sjoert Brink ruffing with the jack. After a club to the king and ace, Drijver continued with king and another trump, depriving declarer of any heart ruffs. Two more heart tricks had to be lost, and that was four down for 800 away. **Zimmermann** gained 12 IMPs.

Nickell faced **World Bridge Tour** on this competitive bidding board:

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Andresen</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	2♣*	Dble	5♣
Dble	Pass	5♥	Dble
All Pass			

North's 2♣ was natural, showing 11-15 HCP. East had a minimum hand for his initial double, one that might be unproductive in defence. As I see it, this in no way indicates that he should attempt eleven tricks, instead of three (or more) defending 5♣ doubled.

Eric Greco led the ace of clubs, declarer ruffing. When Martin Andresen turned to the trump suit, South held up the ace until the third round and exited to dummy's king of clubs (best defence). After a spade to the king, declarer crossed to the diamond ace and led another spade. Geoff Hampson rose with the ace and gave his partner a spade ruff. There was still a diamond trick to be lost and that was two down for -500.

Judging sacrifices is not a precise art. If you go one down and find that the opponents would have gone one down, this is nothing much to worry about. A four-trick discrepancy (here, for example, when both sides might

go two down) suggests that at least one player has made a questionable bid.

Let's see how well they do at the other table:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>T Helness</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Charlsen</i>
—	1♣	1♥	2♣
2NT*	3♣	4♥	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

Steve Weinstein's 2NT showed a heart raise with at least four trumps. What should Thomas Charlsen (South) say at his second turn? He knew of a heart shortage opposite, and could hope that there would be notrump loser. Even then, his two doubletons were a worry. North's 3♣ had shown extra club length, rather than any extra HCP. Well, it's hard for us to judge the 5♣ bid when we can see all four hands. South's defensive values certainly towered over his playing strength.

After a heart lead to dummy's ace, declarer pitching a diamond, a spade was led to the jack and queen. Bobby Levin switched to the jack of diamonds and West cashed two tricks there. A further loser, in trumps, meant two down for 500 away. **Nickell** scored 14 IMPs.

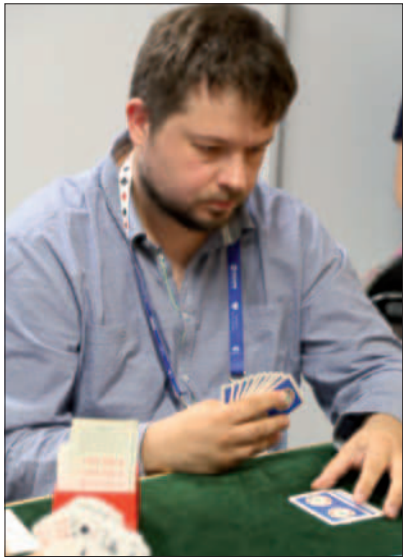
Let's continue with a deal type that we have not yet seen. At one table game is bid and made; at the other table, a partscore in the same denomination goes down. **Bridge for Business** faced **Lucky Four**:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Xu</i>	<i>Pszczoła</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Lutostański</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♦
2♥	Pass	3♣	Dble
3♦	Pass	3♥	Dble
Pass	3♠	All Pass	



Piotr Wiankowski

Shan Huang starts the defence with ace and another heart, ruffed with dummy’s ♠9. The queen of clubs goes to East’s king. What should he do next?

It is essential to cash the ace of diamonds and Huang found this play. When he continued with the queen of hearts, Jacek Pszczoła ruffed with dummy’s king. The ace of trumps was followed by the ace and jack of clubs, for a diamond discard. Declarer ruffed a club in his hand, continuing with the jack of trumps to West’s queen. Zemin Xu’s diamond queen return then promoted East’s ♠8 for one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nawrocki	Chan	Wiankowski	Sheng
Pass	Pass	1♥	Double
3♦*	3♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Ming Sheng preferred a double on the first round, and Piotr Nawrocki’s 3♦ was a fit-jump. Richard Chan’s 3♠ was somewhat wild, as I see it, and he ended in 4♠ doubled. Piotr Wiankowski started well by cashing the ♦A. He then led the ♥6 to partner’s king. What should West do next?

Only a low heart continuation (3 or 8) heads towards two down. Any black card (or the ♥10) is fine for one down. What is not so good is a diamond (the 2 was chosen). East ruffed, but dummy’s ♠AK9 grew in value. Declarer ruffed the ♥A with dummy’s 9 and drew trumps with the ace and king. The king and 9 of

diamonds, declarer ruffing West’s queen, allowed him to discard his last heart on the established ♦10. That was +590 and **Lucky Four** collected 12 IMPs. (In five other matches, the defence shone and 4♠ was three down doubled for 500.)

South has a big two-suiter on our last deal from this round. **Zimmermann** face **Drinteam** again, and it will be important for NS to end in the right suit:

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ Q 9 5

♥ A 6 4 3

♦ K Q 7 6 5 4

♣ —

♠ 8 7

♥ J 8 2

♦ A 10 2

♣ Q J 6 5 2

N

W

E

S

♠ A K J 10 6 4 3 2

♥ 7

♦ J 8 3

♣ 4

♠ —

♥ K Q 10 9 5

♦ 9

♣ A K 10 9 8 7 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Green	Gawrys	Tommasini
Pass	1♦	4♠	4NT*
Dble	Pass	Pass	6♣
Dble	6♦	Dble	6♥
Dble	All Pass		

Stefano Tommasini’s 4NT indicated two places to play (one of which might be in diamonds, if partner’s suit was good). Michał Klukowski now started to double. After two passes, South showed his lower suit, clubs. Double! North pulled to 6♦, in case South was playable there. Double! South then bid his second suit, hearts. With such a stranglehold over South’s clubs, West doubled for a third time.

Klukowski led the ♠7 and must have been taken aback by the dummy that appeared, particularly when South ruffed the first trick. (No-one had forced South to jump to the six-level, so he had to hold something special.) Tommasini led the ♦9 at trick two, West playing low and dummy’s king winning. A diamond ruff with the 9 was followed by the king of trumps and the club ace.

East showed out on the king of clubs but could not ruff. The ♣10 was covered and ruffed in dummy, declarer returning to hand with a diamond ruff, which established dummy’s suit. Tommasini then overtook the trump queen with dummy’s ace and played good

The play began as at the other table: a $\spadesuit 9$ lead to the king, the ace of trumps and a low club. Here, where it scarcely mattered, Giovanni Donati rose sharply with his ace and delivered a diamond ruff. That was +140 and 10 IMPs to **Bortoletti**. The $4\spadesuit$ contract was reached 64 times on 78 tables; it was made 23 times.

Miniter faced **South Sweden** on our next board:

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

$\spadesuit$ J 10 9 3

$\heartsuit$ A K Q 10 7 6 2

$\diamondsuit$ 10 7

$\clubsuit$ —

$\spadesuit$ K 8 7 6 5 2

$\heartsuit$ 5

$\diamondsuit$ A K 8 2

$\clubsuit$ J 9

N

W

E

S

$\spadesuit$ A Q

$\heartsuit$ 4 3

$\diamondsuit$ 5

$\clubsuit$ A K Q 10 8 5 4 3

$\spadesuit$ 4

$\heartsuit$ J 9 8

$\diamondsuit$ Q J 9 6 4 3

$\clubsuit$ 7 6 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Morath	Nowosadzki	Gustawsson	Kalita
—	—	1 $\clubsuit$	Pass
1 $\spadesuit$	4 $\heartsuit$	5 $\clubsuit$	5 $\heartsuit$
6 $\clubsuit$	All Pass		

Jacek Kalita led the $\spadesuit 4$ to the 10 and ace. Mårten Gustawsson drew trumps and claimed 13 tricks. He would cash the spade queen, cross to the ace of diamonds and discard his hearts on dummy’s two kings. A diamond lead (or a heart, of course) would have prevented the overtrick.

Should either North or South have found the very profitable sacrifice in $6\heartsuit$? Not so easy, perhaps, at Game All. Let’s see what happened at the other table:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Gower	Sementa	Apteker
—	—	1 $\clubsuit$	Pass
1 $\heartsuit^*$	4 $\heartsuit$	5 $\clubsuit$	5 $\heartsuit$
Dble	Pass	6 $\clubsuit$	Pass
Pass	6 $\heartsuit$	Dble	All Pass

Alfredo Versace’s $1\heartsuit$ showed spades. As I see it, this was an impeccable auction by all concerned. Well bid!

The heart sacrifice was only two down for a loss of 500, and that was a 13-IMP gain for **South Sweden**.

The next board of the same match delivered another potential slam:

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

$\spadesuit$ 9 6 3 2

$\heartsuit$ K J 4

$\diamondsuit$ A 9 3

$\clubsuit$ 7 5 2

$\spadesuit$ A K J 10 7

$\heartsuit$ A 8 3

$\diamondsuit$ J 10 7 4

$\clubsuit$ 8

N

W

E

S

$\spadesuit$ 8

$\heartsuit$ 9 7 5 2

$\diamondsuit$ —

$\clubsuit$ A K Q J 10 9 6 3

$\spadesuit$ Q 5 4

$\heartsuit$ Q 10 6

$\diamondsuit$ K Q 8 6 5 2

$\clubsuit$ 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Morath	Nowosadzki	Gustawsson	Kalita
—	—	—	Pass
1 $\spadesuit$	Pass	2 $\clubsuit$	2 $\diamondsuit$
Pass	3 $\diamondsuit$	3 $\heartsuit$	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Gustawsson had eight running tricks opposite an opening bid. Should he have advanced to $4\clubsuit$? What were the odds of partner providing four side-suit winners, when his 3NT had suggested wasted values in diamonds? The defenders took their three diamond tricks against 3NT, and Morath claimed the remainder for +430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Gower	Sementa	Apteker
—	—	—	Pass
1 $\spadesuit$	Pass	2 $\clubsuit^*$	Pass
2 $\diamondsuit$	Pass	3 $\clubsuit$	Pass
3 $\heartsuit$	Pass	4 $\clubsuit$	Pass
4 $\heartsuit$	Pass	5 $\diamondsuit$	Pass
5 $\spadesuit$	Pass	6 $\clubsuit$	All Pass

The $2\clubsuit$ response was forcing to game. The club slam was reached, and Alon Apteker led the $\heartsuit 6$, ducked to North’s king. A heart return would have left the slam dependent on a spade finesse. Declarer ruffed the ace of diamonds return, pleased that dummy’s heart entry was still intact. He then needed just a 4-3 spade break to make the slam.

A spade to the ace was followed by a spade ruff with a high trump. A trump to the 8 permitted another high spade ruff, the suit breaking 4-3 and South's queen falling. Declarer was then able to draw trumps and claim the slam; he would discard his remaining heart losers on the ♠KJ. It was 10 IMPs to **Miniter**. The club slam was bid (and always made) at only 9 tables out of 78.

In the lower reaches of the table, two pairs desperate for qualification attempted 7♣. They both received the helpful lead of the diamond king. Arrigo Franchi made the grand slam for **Zaleski**; the declarer for **Synsyn** went one down. EW recorded a plus score at 77 of the 78 tables.

The Rosenblum Swiss qualification ended, with these teams reaching the KO stage:

1. Lebowitz	145.11
2. Apres Bridge Champs	141.39
3. Nickell	135.61
4. Robinson	
5. Wolfson	
6. Lucky Four	
7. Zimmermann	
8. Ventin	
9. Drinteam	
10. South Sweden	
11. Odmet	
12. Zamir	
13. Miniter	
14. Bortoletti	
15. Team Black	
16. Street	
17. Seoul	
18. ECF Holding	
19. World Bridge Tour	
20. Cooreman Belgium	
21. The Black Swan	
22. Bridge for Business	
23. Fleisher	
24. Mikadinho	
25. AZS Wratistavia	
26. Objectivity	
27. Formidables	
28. Team Canada	
29. Periculo	
30. Hans	
31. Zaleski	
32. SPS EKO Rozanka	

World Bridge – Wrocław – Round of 32, session 1

In the round of 32 the teams would play 56 board matches divided into four sets of 14.

On Board 2 NS were looking at: ♠AQ3 ♥AJ102 ♦QJ86 ♣J10 and ♠KJ974 ♥Q5 ♦AK52 ♣K2. 15 of the 32 pairs bid a slam, but only three of them played in diamonds. The advantage of doing that is that West might not lead a club, which is what happened when Michal Kaleta and Okuniewski bid it for **Sps Eko Rozanka** against **Apres Bridge Champs** – it was worth 12 IMPs in a match where the teams managed 9 double-digit swings in the first session, amassing 126 IMPs between them.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Seoul v Lebowitz

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>S Lee</i>	<i>Nyström</i>	<i>D Kim</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West led the ♥K and declarer won with dummy's ace, ran the ♠10, drew trumps and was soon claiming 12 tricks, +480.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lebowitz</i>	<i>S Kang</i>	<i>Grossack</i>	<i>S Roh</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

It looks as if North's 3♥ was some kind of spade raise, with South splintering in hearts and then bidding the slam after North's 5♦ cuebid.

After the same lead declarer crossed to the ♠K, went back to dummy with a diamond and ran the ♠10. That meant he was +980 and 11 IMPs to the good.

Only 4 pairs bid 6♠.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>S Lee</i>	<i>Nyström</i>	<i>D Kim</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

If North had bid clubs for a third time I suspect South would have taken his chances in 3NT, but after a spade or diamond lead he would have been defeated in short order. Mind you, 4♥ was hardly an improvement.

West led the ♠6 and East won with the queen, cashed the ace and switched to the ♦5, West taking declarer's ten with the jack and switching to the ♣Q. Declarer won in dummy and played a heart to the queen, West winning and returning a club. Declarer let that run to his jack, cashed the ♠J, ruffed a diamond, ruffed dummy's ♣K with the ♥A, ruffed a diamond and played another club, ruffed in turn by the four and eight of hearts and overruffed by West, who cashed the ♦A for three down, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lebowitz</i>	<i>S Kang</i>	<i>A Grossack</i>	<i>S Roh</i>
—	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

East led the ♦5 and when the seven held West returned the nine, declarer ruffing, cashing the ♣A and playing a heart to the queen. West won and switched to the ♠9 so declarer finished with nine tricks, +110 and 9 IMPs.

On Board 5 both sides reached a thin 4♥ which depended on guessing how to play ♥AJ65 facing ♥K1032. Lee discovered that North had started with only two spades, but then played South for the ♥Q – it was worth 10 IMPs taking the score to 32-0.

Only two pairs stayed out of game and 19 made 10 tricks.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>S Lee</i>	<i>Nyström</i>	<i>D Kim</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	1♥	Dble	2NT*
3♠	4♦	4♥*	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

2NT Hearts

4♥ Agreeing spades

With the ♦A not where East was hoping, declarer easily made an overtrick, +750.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lebowitz</i>	<i>S Kang</i>	<i>A Grossack</i>	<i>S Roh</i>
—	1♥	Dble	3♣*
3♠	4♦	4♠	5♥
All Pass			

3♣ Mixed raise

That was +480, but 7 IMPs were lost.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

**David Gold****Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>S Lee</i>	<i>Nyström</i>	<i>D Kim</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

South could hope that his partner would be short in spades, but the location of any honour cards his hand might contain was a guess. Here partner's hand was wonderful, and the contract was virtually laydown, +650.

As you can see, EW had a paying save in 5♠.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lebowitz</i>	<i>S Kang</i>	<i>A Grossack</i>	<i>S Roh</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	3♦*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

3♦ Diamonds and hearts

Would you have considered bidding 4♣ with East's cards? It looks risky but would have worked well here. Hands with double fits remind me of chess games where the players have opposite coloured bishops.

Periculo v Robinson

The match between **Periculo** and **Robinson** saw sometimes partners Zia and Andrew Robson in opposition. In the first set **Robinson** had established a 22 IMP lead.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Periculo v Robinson**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>P Lawrence</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>O Lawrence</i>	<i>Zia</i>
—	—	—	1♦
1♠	2♣	4♠	5♦
Pass	5♠*	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

5♠ Cue

Do you think that North's 5♠ guaranteed a first round control in all three side-suits?

West led the ♥Q but there was nothing to the play, declarer ruffing one spade in dummy before claiming, +1390.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Korbel	Allfrey	Robinson	Robson
—	—	—	1♦
1♠	2♣	4♠	5♦
Pass	7♦	All Pass	

After an identical start, North jumped to the virtually cold grand slam, +2140 and the recovery of 13 IMPs.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
P Lawrence	Gold	O Lawrence	Zia
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West led the ♣8 and when declarer played low from dummy East won with the king and returned the five. Having won with the queen declarer played a heart to dummy's ace, a heart to the king and the ♦Q. When West covered declarer could establish a long diamond and dispose of all his spades, +480.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Korbel	Allfrey	Robinson	Robson
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	2♠*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

- 2♠ Heart support, game forcing
- 3♥ Stronger than a jump to 4♥ as 2NT would have been invitational
- 4♣ Cuebid

Despite the lack of interest shown by partner, North pressed on to the slam.

West led the ♣8 and declarer took dummy's ace, played a heart to the king and ran the ♦Q. A heart to dummy's queen allowed declarer to pitch his remaining club on the ♦A and he then ruffed a diamond. When the king refused to appear the next card to hit the green baize was the ♠7! It did not matter that West went up with the ace, as had he ducked, allowing East to win with the jack, declarer would subsequently have been able to take a ruffing finesse against the ♠A. That was a majestic +980 and 11 IMPs, reducing the deficit to 6 IMPs.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
P Lawrence	Gold	O Lawrence	Zia
—	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

In principle it is generally a good idea to contest the partscore in this type of situation, but bidding does not come with a guarantee. It would have been interesting to see how things would have panned out if West had started with a double.

If North had started with a spade declarer would have been struggling to take more than four tricks, but naturally North led the ♣A, switching to the ♥10. Declarer won with the ace, played back a heart, won the diamond switch with the ace and exited with a diamond. He ruffed the diamond return, crossed to dummy with a spade and ruffed a heart, surrendering the remaining tricks to finish three down, -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Korbel	Allfrey	Robinson	Robson
—	1♣	Pass	1♦*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

1♦ Hearts

2♥ Minimum with four hearts

East started with two rounds of spades and declarer won and played a heart, West hopping up with the ace, cashing the ♦A and then playing a spade for East to ruff, -50 and 12 IMPs.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
P Lawrence	Gold	O Lawrence	Zia
			Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Commentating on BBO Canadian Martin Johnson observed that, '3♣ is marginal, 4♣ dubious.' How polite!

The slam required a 2-2 trump break, or North to hold a singleton honour when there would be chances even if North did not hold a spade honour. Here there was no way to avoid the loss of two tricks, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Korbel	Allfrey	Robinson	Robson
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led the ♥J and declarer took dummy's ace and played on clubs, soon claiming nine tricks, +600 and 12 IMPs for **Robinson**, now ahead by 30.

Periculo halved the deficit with a series of partscore swings, and also picked up 12 IMPs on the final deal where Allfrey made a 3NT that went down at the other table. However, on the penultimate deal bidding a grand slam that was short of an ace cost 14 IMPs to leave them trailing 62-79.

After two sets the most surprising score line was in the match between **Nickell** and **The Black Swan** (no doubt inspired by the swashbuckling film of the same name) where the formidable American team trailed by 3 IMPs.

Board 29. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bacalu	Weinstein	Calipetre	Levin
—	Pass	1♣	1♠
2♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

South led the ♠K and then tried two rounds of hearts, but declarer could claim the rest, +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Katz	Georgescu	Nickell	Gheorghe
—	2♠*	3♣	4♣*
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
5♣	Pass	Pass	5♠
6♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

2♠ Spades and a minor

4♣ Cuebid

From the comfort of my office West's 6♣ looks too much. Doubling would probably have collected -300, although at double dummy more is available. Declarer had to lose to the missing aces, -100 and an 11 IMP loss.

Robinson v Periculo

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>P Lawrence</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>O Lawrence</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	Pass	1♣	1♠
3♠	4♠	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Who was overbidding here?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>D Gold</i>	<i>Robson</i>
—	Pass	1♣	1♠
2♥	4♠	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Writing in the Daily Bulletin Jos Jacobs said the auctions reminded him of a famous line from Goethe's Faust: 'Da steh'ich nun, ich armer Tor, und bin so klug als wie zuvor.' (There I am, poor silly me, not any smarter than I was earlier).

Board 32. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bacalu</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Calipetre</i>	<i>Levin</i>
2♦*	2♥	2♠	4♥
All Pass			

2♦ Weak

East led the ♠A and, ignoring declarer's king, continued with the ten, West ruffing and cashing his diamonds, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Georgescu</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Gheorghe</i>
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♠*
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

2♠ Heart support

When East led the ♣8 declarer won with dummy's ace, played a heart to the ace, a heart to the king, drew the outstanding trump and played the ♠K, finishing with ten tricks, +620 and 12 IMPs, **The Black Swan** setting sail at 98-72.

Board 33. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bacalu</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Calipetre</i>	<i>Levin</i>
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

East led the ♦A and when West followed with an encouraging two he continued with the four, West winning with the queen and switching to the ♠4. When declarer put in the jack East won, cashed two diamonds, West discarding the ♣5 and then played the ♥K, West following with the seven. When East continued with the ♥A declarer ruffed, and played three rounds of spades. He still had a club to lose so was three down, -300.

Having cashed the top spades declarer could have played a club to the ace and ruffed a heart after which a spade exit forces East to surrender the last trick to dummy's ♥J.

East can avoid this by replicating his play in the diamond suit, continuing with a low card after cashing the king or simply switch to the ♣9.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Katz	Georgescu	Nickell	Gheorghe
Pass	3♠	3NT	All Pass

South led his spade and when North put in the seven declarer won with the ten and played the ♣9. South took the ace and switched to the ♥J, declarer winning with the king and cashing four rounds of diamonds. He then played the ♥2 in this position:

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

If South splits his honours declarer wins with dummy's queen and plays three rounds of clubs endplaying South for 11 tricks. When South followed with the ♥4 declarer had a free shot of putting in dummy's eight. Even if it lost, he would be sure of nine tricks. However, he was content to take the 10 tricks on offer, +430 and 4 IMPs.

Board 34. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bacalu	Weinstein	Calipetre	Levin
—	—	Pass	1♠
2♣	2♠	3♣	3♠
4♥	Pass	5♣	All Pass

North led the ♠10 and South won with the queen, cashed the ♦A and switched to the ♥6, North winning with the king and eventually scoring a trump trick, two down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Katz	Georgescu	Nickell	Gheorghe
—	—	Pass	1♠
2♠*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	All Pass		

2♠ Hearts and a minor
2NT Asking
3♣ Clubs

North led the ♠2 and South won with the queen and continued with the ace, declarer ruffing with the ♣10 and cashing the ace. When South discarded the ♠3 he played the ♥5 and North took the king and switched to the ♦Q. When it held he exited with a heart to dummy's queen and declarer ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart and claimed, +110 and 7 IMPs.

Board 36. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bacalu	Weinstein	Calipetre	Levin
2♦*	Pass	3♦	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

2♦ Weak

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Georgescu</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Gheorghe</i>
Pass	Pass	1 ♣ *	1 ♥
3 ♣	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
All Pass			

West led the ♣3 and when East withheld the ace declarer won with the ten and played back the six for the jack and ace. When East switched to the ♦K declarer won, crossed to the ♠Q, pitched a diamond on the ♣K and advanced the ♥9. There was nothing East could do – when he ducked and West discarded declarer cashed his top spades and exited with a diamond, West winning and returning a diamond. Declarer ruffed and endplayed East with the ♥10 for +420 and 11 IMPs, the lead going back up to 19 IMPs.

Board 37. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bacalu</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Calipetre</i>	<i>Levin</i>
—	Pass	1 	3 
Dble*	4 	4 	All Pass

Dble Majors

South led the ♣K and when North followed with the queen he continued with the ace, declarer ruffing, playing a heart to the king, a heart back to the ace and the ♠10, putting up dummy's ace when South produced

the three. It looked natural to draw the outstanding trump, but here it cost the contract. Declarer came to hand with a diamond to play a spade and North won and forced out dummy's last trump with a club. He had a club to cash when he took the next spade, -100.

If declarer plays on spades before drawing the last trump, he will score ten tricks, and that is equally the case if he plays on spades without taking any rounds of trumps. Two players went down in 4♥.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Georgescu</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Gheorghe</i>
—	1 ♣	Dble	5 ♣
Dble	All Pass		

North's emaciated opening did not turn out well, East leading the ♦K and continuing with the ace followed by the four, West's ruff giving the defenders six tricks, -800 and 14 IMPs.

Board 40. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ K 10 6 4 3 2
♥ Q
♦ A 9 8 5
♣ 10 8

♠ J 9 8 7
♥ J 9 6
♦ Q 10 4 3 2
♣ J

♠ Q
♥ 10 8 7 4 2
♦ 7 6
♣ A 6 5 3 2

♠ A 5
♥ A K 5 3
♦ K J
♣ K Q 9 7 4

Robinson v Periculo

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>P Lawrence</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>O Lawrence</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Dble
2♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	2♠	Dble
Pass	Pass	3♣	Dble
All Pass			

West's light opening bid ran into trouble.

South led the ♣K (you could scarcely blame him for failing to start with the ♣4!) and declarer won and played the ♠Q, South taking the ace, cashing the ♣Q and then playing his red kings, starting with the ♥K.

Declarer took dummy's ♦A, pitched a diamond on the ♠K, ruffed a diamond and exited with a club. South drew trumps and then played a low heart, North winning with the jack and cashing the ♦10 for five down, -1100 (commonly known in the trade as 'sticks and wheels').

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Allfrey	D Gold	Robson
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led the ♠4 and declarer took East's queen with the ace and continued with the ♦K followed by the jack. When they held he played the ♠5 and West took his king and switched to the ♣8 for the jack and ace. Back came the ♣6 and when declarer innocently put in the nine West won with the ten and exited with the ♠6 to dummy's now bare jack. When a heart to the ace collected West's queen declarer claimed ten tricks, +630, but lost 10 IMPs, **Robinson** going into the final session with a 25 IMP cushion.

The final session was not without drama.

Odmet started it with a 33 IMP lead over **Drinteam** and as this deal hit the table 26 of them were still intact:

Board 41. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open & Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bacalu	Weinstein	Calipetre	Levin
Katz	Georgescu	Nickell	Gheorghe
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass

In the Open Room South led the ♦5 and declarer made the natural but fatal play of putting up dummy's queen, North taking the ace and returning the six. Declarer won

the third round of the suit, dummy and North pitching clubs, and exited with the ♠10. South won, cashed his diamonds and switched to the ♣2. Declarer won with dummy's now bare ace, played a spade for the nine and queen and went for the endplay, cashing the ♣K and exiting with a spade. When North proved to be the defender with the ♠A declarer knew from the earlier play that he could not have the ♥K and he was two down, -200.

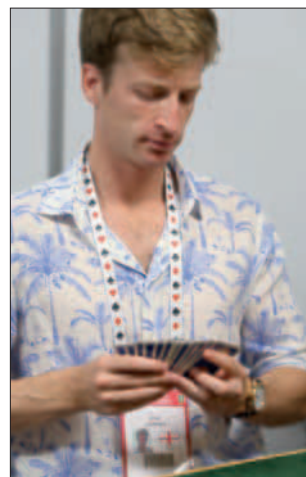
In the other room South led the ♥9 and when dummy's queen held declarer played a spade to the queen and ace, won South's switch to the ♦J with the king and forced out the ♠A, finishing with eight tricks, +120 and 8 IMPs that saw **Nickell** win the set 45-34 and take the lead, 117-109.

Board 48. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Campos	Malinowski	Rodrigues	Bakhshi
1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass



Oliver Lawrence

North led the ♠8 and declarer won with the nine and with a nod to the Rabbi, cashed the ♥A. He then treated the defenders to another five rounds of the suit and North parted with three spades and two clubs. Declarer cashed the ♦A and played the ♣4 and when North followed with the ten, putting in dummy's jack would have delivered three overtricks. When declarer played dummy's ace he had to be content with +660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Buras</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
1♥	1♠	Dble*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

North led the ♣10 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a heart to the queen and king, North returning the ♣9. Declarer won with dummy's king, cashed to diamonds and then played all his remaining hearts. There was no endplay, one down, -100 and 13 IMPs away.

Board 49. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Campos</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Rodrigues</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

- 2♣ Game forcing, Acoll
2♥ Weak

The precise meaning of East's 3♦ is unclear, it may have been predicated by the possibility that 3♣ would have been a double negative.

North led the ♦A and that was enough to give declarer his slam. He ruffed the club continuation, cashed the ♥A, ruffed a heart, came to hand with a trump, ruffed another heart, ruffed a club and claimed, +980.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Buras</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
5♣*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

- 2♣ Any game force
2♦ 0-2 controls
5♣ Exclusion Blackwood
5♦ Zero keycards

North led the ♥J and declarer won with the ace, ruffed a heart and played a diamond for the king and ace, North cashing the queen for one down and 14 IMPs that gave **Drinteam** a 1 IMP lead. There were still seven deals remaining, but remarkably they were all flat!

The match between the reigning Bermuda Bowl champions and **Cooreman Belgium** was a terrific struggle. Going into the final session **Zimmermann** led 90-77. It featured three dramatic deals. With six deals remaining the lead was down to 9 IMPs.

Board 51. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dehay</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Coenraets</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Dble	Rdbl
All Pass			

You can bet a Euro to a cent that East's double was asking for a spade lead. With none at hand West went with the ♦6 for the seven, king and ace. Declarer must have feared the worst, as West was likely to hold one of the heart honours as well as a significant number of diamonds. He continued with a heart to the ten and ace and back came a diamond – miraculously (a 0.3060 miracle to be precise) it was the jack, which meant dummy's ten was now a winner.

Declarer continued with the ♥Q and West won with the king and exited with the ♦9 to dummy's ten. A spade to the nine and queen saw declarer continue with the ♥J and when East discarded the ♣2 a club to the ace was followed by a spade to the ten and ace. East had pitched one spade, but had also played the ten and nine, so declarer could exit with the ♠8 knowing he would be sure of nine tricks, +1000.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Bocken</i>	<i>Gawryś</i>	<i>Neve</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Here West led the ♦8 for the king and ace and declarer played a club to the king, a spade to the queen (West pitching the ♦3) and a heart for the ten and ace. Back came the ♦J and declarer won and played the ♥J, West winning and exiting with a diamond to dummy's ten. A spade to the ace and the ♥Q were followed by a club to the ace for eight tricks, +120 but a 13 IMP loss.

A partscore recovered 3 of those IMPs, and was followed by:

Board 53. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dehaye</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Coenraets</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

4NT RKCB

5♥ 2 keycards

South led the ♥A and switched to the ♣4. Declarer won with the king, played two rounds of trumps, ruffed a club, cashed the ♠A, ruffed a spade, drew trumps and claimed, +1370.

Declarer would have had a tougher assignment if South had led a club. He wins with the king and might easily go wrong, for example cashing a top spade and ruffing a spade, relying on reasonable breaks will fail.

One line that works is to draw trumps, North discarding hearts. Then declarer must play a spade to the ten and cash two more spades discarding hearts. Then he ruffs a heart, cashes the ♣A and exits with a club forcing North to win and lead into the spade tenace. Wouldn't that be something!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Bocken</i>	<i>Gawryś</i>	<i>Neve</i>
—	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♦*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

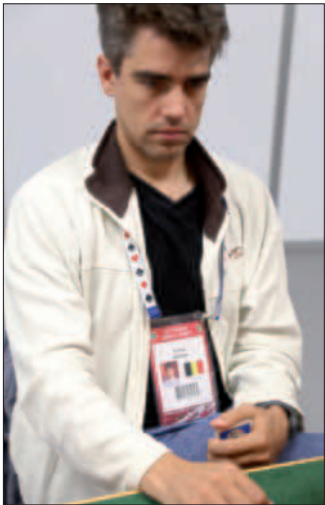
1♣ Polish, 11-14, balanced or natural (4414, rarely 3415/4315) or 15+ 5(4)+♣ (4 only if 4414) or 18+, any

1♦ 0-6 or 7-10(11) both minors or 16+ balanced, neither five-card minor, nor four-card major

2♠ Strong

It was just as well that EW stopped in game, as West would have been the declarer.

South led the ♣7 and declarer won with the king and played four rounds of spades, North winning and switching to the ♥9 for the king and ace. South cashed the ♥Q, but that was the last trick for the defence, +620 but a 13 IMP loss to close the gap to 6 IMPs.



Patrick Bocken

Board 54. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dehaye	Drijver	Coenraets	Brink
—	—	5♦	All Pass

As you can see, the situation in diamonds is such that declarer can always take 12 tricks. He ruffed the heart lead, went to dummy with a club and played a diamond, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Bocken	Gawryś	Neve
—	—	5♦	All Pass

Here South led the ♣6 and declarer took dummy’s ace, played a diamond, drew trumps and claimed all the tricks when North pitched a club, +640 and an IMP. Had East opened 6♦ (as did Joe Grue for team **Fleisher** or David Calipetre for **The Black Swan**) the world champions would have been eliminated!

Results

Lebowitz	24	56	62	0	142
Seoul	32	32	7	0	71
Fleisher	36	25	28	24	113
Bortoletti	44	62	20	43	169
Ventin	42	21	17	6	86
ECF Holding	11	4	31	31	77
Wolfson	69	42	22	0	133
Mikadinho	3	34	22	0	59
World Bridge Tour	20	10	22	0	52
Zamir	60	53	36	0	149
Hans	20	19	60	25	124
Team Canada	36	1	4	22	63
Robinson	33	46	29	33	141
Periculo	11	51	21	21	104
AZS Wroclaw	18	69	27	29	143
Street	30	14	36	32	112
Nickell	43	29	45	39	156
The Black Swan	44	31	34	20	129
Odmot	27	34	22	2	85
Drinteam	16	23	11	36	86
Lucky Four	41	45	23	11	120
Formidables	38	12	24	19	93
Zimmermann	41	23	26	18	108
Cooreman Belgium	18	29	30	28	105
Minitier	48	32	19	24	123
Zaleski	22	26	34	21	103
Team Black	33	20	49	23	125
Objectivity	8	16	22	33	79
Apres Bridge Champs	79	24	50	35	188
SPS EKO Rozanka	47	8	6	52	113
Bridge for Business	40	35	25	15	115
South Sweden	14	28	27	17	86

Rosenblum Round of 16

The teams that had advanced to the round of 16 would play 56 board matches over four sessions.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Robinson v Hans
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Edgton	Gold	Whibley	Zia
—	—	1NT	3♣
3♥*	Pass	3♠	All Pass

3♥ Spades

1NT was advertised as 14-16. The resultant 3♠ contract went one down, declarer losing two spades, two hearts and a diamond.



Daniel Korbel

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Korbel	Gill	Robinson	Hans
—	—	1♣	3♣*
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

A heart lead would have given the defenders every chance of defeating 3NT, the only potential pitfall being a failure by East to unblock the ♥Q at some point. When East led the ♠K declarer took the ace, played a club to the king and ran the ♦Q. When it held he went back to clubs, playing dummy's queen. East took the ace and exited with a heart, but declarer could win in dummy and clear the clubs, setting up the tricks he required, +600 and 11 IMPs.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Edgton	Gold	Whibley	Zia
1♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

East's jump to 4♥ was no doubt predicated against a possible spade game. South led the ♦A and when North followed with the king he continued the suit, North winning and returning the ♦5. Declarer ruffed with the ten and when South pitched the ♣5 he continued with a spade to dummy's ace and a heart for the queen and ace, South exiting with the ♣7. At this point the play record ends, declarer being credited with seven tricks, -300, so perhaps he tried to cash a second club at some point.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Korbel	Gill	Robinson	Hans
1♣	1♦	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

The decision to overcall 1♦ is a partnership affair, as is the preference for 2♠ as opposed to a double that would show spades and diamond tolerance.

West cashed his top clubs and switched to the ♦6. Declarer won with the ace, cashed the ♥A and then played a spade. West made the cost nothing play of winning with the king and exited with the ♦10. Declarer won in dummy, discarded hearts on the ♣Q10, ruffed a diamond and played the ♥K, claiming eight tricks, -500 and 13 IMPs to **Robinson**. (In the match between **Ventin** and **Bortoletti**, 4♥ doubled and 4♠ doubled were both -800 down, for a swing of 17 IMPs to **Ventin**.)

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ 8 7 6 5 3 2
♥ A 10 8
♦ 8 3 2
♣ 7

♠ K Q
♥ K 3
♦ 10 6
♣ K J 10 9 8 5 3

N
W E
S

♠ J 10 9
♥ J 9 7 5 4
♦ Q 4
♣ Q 6 4

♠ A 4
♥ Q 6 2
♦ A K J 9 7 5
♣ A 2

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Edgton	Gold	Whibley	Zia
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

3♥ Transfer

West led the ♦10 for the queen and ace. Two rounds of trumps saw declarer claim, +650. Least you consider South’s opening bid as overly aggressive I should mention that his hand rates 20.55 on the Kaplan Rubens Hand Evaluator.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Korbel	Gill	Robinson	Hans
—	—	—	1♣*
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

1♣ Strong

Scoring only +200 meant the loss of 10 IMPs. Game was bid and made at 12 of the 16 tables.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ A K Q J 4
♥ 8 5 4
♦ Q J 8
♣ 9 2

♠ 8
♥ A J 10 7 6 3
♦ A 7 5
♣ J 4 3

N
W E
S

♠ 10 7 6 5 3 2
♥ K Q 9
♦ 10 4
♣ K Q

♠ 9
♥ 2
♦ K 9 6 3 2
♣ A 10 8 7 6 5

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Edgton	Gold	Whibley	Zia
—	—	1♠	2NT*
3♥	4♦	4♥	All Pass

2NT Minors

North toyed with the idea of bidding 5♦ over 4♥, eventually deciding to let matters rest. Assuming East leads a heart, it would probably cost -500. After the lead of the ♠A declarer claimed ten tricks, +620.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Korbel	Gill	Robinson	Hans
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♥	2♠	3♥	4♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Although 4♠ was clearly a ‘sitting duck’, East declined to double. Had he done so South would have had a nasty decision. If he elects to bid 4NT or 5♣ he will emerge relatively unscathed.

East led the ♥K and West overtook it and switched to his spade, declarer taking six tricks, -400, but a 6 IMP gain which contributed to **Hans**’s lead of 32-23 after 14 boards.

Zimmermann had taken the opening session of their match against **Miniter** 28-21.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Zimmermann v Miniter**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Sementa	Gawryś	Versace
—	—	—	1♣
Dble	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

1♦ Weak

South led the ♣Q and declarer won in dummy and played a heart for the jack and ace. When South continued clubs declarer won in dummy, played the ♥Q ruffing North's king, took three rounds of trumps via the finesse and pitched a spade on the ♥10, +280.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Drijver	Nowosadzki	Brink
—	—	—	1♣
Dble	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

1♦ Weak

No doubt guided by his poor trump spots, South opted to follow Edgar Kaplan's advice that 'take out doubles should be taken out'. West started with three rounds of clubs and declarer ruffed, played a spade to dummy's king and ruffed a club, West finding the strongest defence of discarding a spade. Declarer took the top hearts ending in dummy, West splitting his honours, and exited with the ♥8, claiming eight tricks when West took his queen, +110 and 9 IMPs.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Drijver	Nowosadzki	Brink
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

2♣ Game forcing, 2+♣

North led the ♦3 and declarer won in dummy and played a heart to the king, North taking the ace and switching to the ♠K. Declarer ducked, covered the next spade with dummy's ten and then won the third round of the suit with dummy's ace. He was up to nine tricks, and when the club position came to light he could finesse against South for an overtrick, +430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Sementa	Gawryś	Versace
—	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West was unwilling to bid 3NT opposite a passed partner because he knew partner would be short in clubs and likely to reopen with a double if he held some values.

West led the ♦A and when East followed with the queen he switched to the ♥4, declarer electing to put in dummy's seven, East winning with the ten and returning the ♥2 for the king and ace. When declarer continued with dummy's ♠3 East does best to take the ace and play a second diamond. As long as he scores a diamond ruff with the ♣K the defenders will hold declarer to five tricks. When he followed with the ♠4 declarer won with the queen and played the ♣J. Now he could not be prevented from securing six tricks, still -500 and a loss of 2 IMPs.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Gawryś</i>	<i>Versace</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♥*	Pass	6♣*	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

- 1♣ 11-14 balanced or 4441♦ or 15+ 5(4)+♣ or 18+ any
 1♠ 4+♠, 7+
 3♣ 5♦+4♣, strong
 5♥ Exclusion Blackwood
 6♣ 2 keycards

Declarer won the trump lead, took a second round and claimed, +2140.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Brink</i>
1♦*	Pass	1♠	2♥
3♥*	4♦*	4♥*	5♥
6♦	All Pass		

- 1♦ 3+♦, 11-23, 3♦ only with 4432
 3♥ Forcing
 4♦ 'No defence'
 4♥ Cue

The intervention deprived EW of bidding space and the ability to exchange information; +1390 but 13 IMPs for **Zimmermann**.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Gawryś</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

2NT Invitation to 4♥

3♣ Not minimum

West led the ♣2 and declarer won with the ace, unblocked the ♠A, cashed the ♦A, ruffed a diamond and pitched his clubs on the top spades, West ruffing and returning the ♦4. Declarer ruffed with dummy's ten and East overruffed and played the ♣Q. Declarer ruffed with the ♥Q, played a heart to the ace, pitched a diamond on the ♠J and claimed ten tricks as West ruffed, +420.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2NT*	3♣	4♥
All Pass			

It's unclear as to whether 3♣ was simply lead directing or promising spades and clubs. As before West led the ♣2 and declarer won with the ace, cashed the ♦A, ruffed a diamond, played a spade to the ace and ruffed a diamond with the ♥A, East pitching the ♠4. Two top spades saw West ruff and exit with the ♥5, East winning and playing the ♣K. Declarer could not avoid the loss of two tricks, -50 and a 10 IMP swing.

Zimmermann took the set 36-18 to establish a 25-IMP lead (64-39) at the midway point.

Zamir went into the third session of their match against **Wolfson** trailing 35-48.

Board 30. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zamir	van Prooijen	Toledano	Verhees
—	—	1NT*	Pass
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

1NT 13-15

2♦ Multi Landy

2NT Relay

3♦ Spades

3♥ Transfer

East led the ♣A and switched to the ♠2 and after two rounds of the suit declarer could not avoid the loss of three more tricks, one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Padon	Yekutieli	Birman	Friedlander
—	—	1NT*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

1NT 15-17

With his flat hand West did not bother looking for a fit. South led the ♦5 and when dummy's eight saw North discard the ♠3 declarer was off to a good start. He continued with a heart to the nine, South winning with the ten and switching to the ♠Q followed by the king. Declarer took that with dummy's ace and played a heart for the queen and ace followed by a diamond to dummy's

nine. Now a third heart set up a ninth trick for declarer, +400 and 7 IMPs.

Lebowitz v AZS Wratistavia

Open Room

West	North	East	South
P Patreuha	Nyström	Jassem	Helgemo
—	—	1NT	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

South led the ♦4 and declarer won with dummy's eight and played back the king. He was assured of eight tricks, +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Gołębiowski	Bilde	J Patreuha
—	—	1NT	Dble
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♦2 and declarer won with dummy's eight and played a heart for the nine and ten, South continuing with the ♦A and a diamond as North discarded two spades and a club.

Declarer now took three rounds of clubs and cashed the ♦Q. When he then played a spade to dummy's ace there were only eight tricks, -50 and a 5 IMP loss that might have been a 7 IMP gain.

Nickell v Bridge for Business

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nawrocki	Weinstein	Wiankowski	Levin
—	—	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

South realised his partner might have a weak hand, so he contented himself with an invitational raise.

East led the ♠10 when dummy's queen held declarer played a club for the jack and king, East continuing with the ♦3, declarer ruffing West's king, playing a heart to the king and then discarding a heart on the ♦A. When declarer exited with dummy's ♣9 East won with the ten and played a second spade, West taking the ace and switching to the ♦9. Declarer ruffed, ducked a club, and claimed when the suit broke, +140.

In with the ♣10 East should play a red suit. Then the best declarer can do is ruff, ruff a club and ruff a red card, finishing a trick short.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Katz	Pszczola	Nickell	Lutostański
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♠*	Dble	Pass*	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

2♠ Range ask or clubs
Pass Minimum

South led the ♠K and continued with the queen, switching to a heart when North contributed the jack. Declarer took North's queen with the ace played a diamond to dummy's king and a heart to the seven and ten. South cashed the ♥K before switching to the ♣9. Declarer won with the ace, played the ♦Q and claimed when it held, +120 and 6 IMPs.

Board 31. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zamir	van Prooijen	Toledano	Verhees
—	—	—	1♣*
Dble*	2♣	2♠	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1♣ Strong
Dble Majors

West led the ♥J and declarer won with the queen and played back the three, West taking the ace and switching to the ♠8. Declarer won, cashed the ♦A and then played on clubs, claiming eleven tricks, +460.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Padon	Yekutieli	Birman	Friedlander
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

3♠ Minors
4NT RKCB
5♣ 1-4 keycards

West led the ♥A and continued with the jack, declarer claiming the rest when East ruffed, -50 and 11 IMPs away.

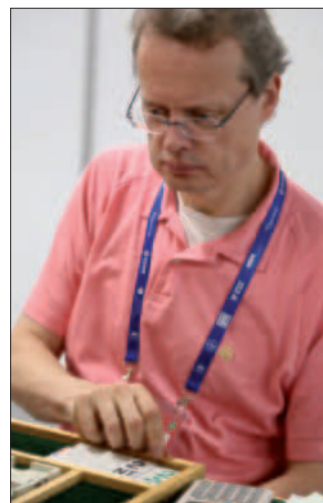
Wolfson went on to win the set 22-2 to establish a commanding lead, 70-37.

Nickell v Bridge for Business**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Nawrocki	Weinstein	Wiankowski	Levin
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♦ Inverted raise

West led the ♥J and declarer won in hand and played on clubs, East taking the fourth round and switching to the ♠J. When his queen held declarer played a heart to establish an eleventh trick, +460.



Ricco van Prooijen

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Katz	Pszczola	Nickell	Lutostański
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥*	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

- 1♣ Polish Club
 2♠ Minors
 2NT Strong balanced
 4♥ Cuebid

East led his heart and West won and returned the jack, -50 and 11 IMPs.

Board 33. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

N
W
E
S

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

Lebowitz v AZS Wroslavia**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
P Patreuha	Nyström	Jassem	Helgemo
—	Pass	2♣*	3NT
All Pass			

- 2♣ Majors

South's optimistic approach saw West lead the ♦J and take his winners which left declarer with five tricks, -400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Golebiowski	Bilde	J Patreuha
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♦	Pass	1♠	2♣
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♣5 and when dummy could not contribute a trick declarer was one short, -50 and 10 IMPs changed hands.

Robinson v Hans**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Edgton	Gold	Whibley	Zia
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
3NT	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West had three tricks, but with East's honours being worthless that was +710.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Gill	Meckstroth	Hans
—	Pass	Pass	1♣*
3♦	All Pass		

- 1♣ 16+

When North led the ♣4 the defenders opportunity to defeat the contract had vanished, declarer winning, drawing trumps and playing on hearts, +110 and 13 IMPs.

Board 39. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

N
W
E
S

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

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

Nickell v Bridge for Business**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Nawrocki	Weinstein	Wankowski	Levin
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

- 3♣ Puppet Stayman
 3♦ At least one major
 3♥ Spades

Was East suggesting game in spades?

South started with three rounds of hearts and switched to the ♦ 3. Declarer cashed all his high cards, going three down, -150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Katz	Pszczola	Nickell	Lutostański
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♦*	Dble	3♥*
Dble*	All Pass		

2♦ Multi

3♥ Pass or correct

Dble Takeout

West led the ♦ Q and East won with the king, cashed the ace and switched to the ♠ Q, West following with the jack. East continued spades and declarer ruffed the third round in dummy, cashed the ♥ AK and played a club to the king. When that lost to the ace declarer could not avoid three down, -500 and a 12 IMP loss.

Lebowitz v AZS Wroclaw

Open Room

West	North	East	South
P Patreuha	Nyström	Jassem	Helgemo
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Dble	2♦*
2♠	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2♦ Hearts

North led the ♥ 2 and South won with the king and continued with the jack, declarer ruffing, unblocking the diamonds, ruffing a heart, pitching a club on the ♦ J, playing a spade to the queen, ruffing a heart, crossing to dummy with the ♣ A and cashing the top trumps for +420.

As you may have realised, only a trump lead will defeat 4♠.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Gołębowski	Bilde	J Patreuha
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♠ 6 and declarer won with the king, unblocked the diamonds and played a club, South taking the queen, and cashing the ♥ A before going back to spades. Declarer won with the ace and played a second club to dummy's jack, North winning and returning the ♥ 4. South won with the jack and played a third spade which meant declarer could win, cash two clubs and exit with a heart, forcing South to give the last trick to dummy's ♠ J, a mildly triumphant one down, but a loss of 10 IMPs.

Board 42. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Nickell v Bridge for Business

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nawrocki	Weinstein	Wiankowski	Levin
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♦	Pass	Pass
2♥	Dble	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

East led the ♠ 4 (low from a doubleton) and West took the ace and returned the six, declarer winning with the jack and playing three rounds of diamonds. East won and switched to the ♥ 10 but declarer took dummy's ace and was soon claiming the rest, +150.

It looks as if West does slightly better to duck the first spade, which sets up the possibility of a spade ruff. That would be important if the contract was 5♦. However, there is a beautiful countermeasure. Declarer wins and cashes the top diamonds. When West discards on the second round declarer crosses to the ♥ A, ruffs a heart, cashes the top clubs, crosses to the ♣ J, ruffs a heart and cashes the ♣ 10 discarding a spade. Then he exits with the ♠ K and must score one more trump trick.

East led the ♣K and declarer won with the ace, played a spade to the queen and the ♦Q, West taking the ace and returning the ♣7. East ruffed and played the ♠3, declarer taking dummy's ace, cashing the ♦K, ruffing a diamond, ruffing a club and playing a spade. West ruffed in with the ♥J and East's ♥A was the setting trick, -100 and a small step in the right direction for **Lucky Four** in the form of 6 IMPs.

Board 44. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Lucky Four v Drinteam

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Campos</i>	<i>Sheng</i>	<i>Rodrigues</i>	<i>Chan</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥*
Dble	2NT*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

2♥ Transfer

2NT Maximum with spades

3♥ Retransfer

East led the ♥6 and when declarer called for dummy's ten West covered with the jack, declarer winning with the king, cashing the ♠AK and continuing with the ♠9. West had thrown the ♣2 on the second round of spades and now fatally parted with the ♦9. Declarer now played a club to the queen and West took the ace, cashed the ♥Q and switched to the ♦5 for the king and ace. Declarer ruffed the next diamond and exited with a heart, which established two more tricks in the suit with the ♣K as an entry, +140.

As long as West holds on to all his diamonds, declarer must go down, which is also the case if West wins the first heart and returns the queen.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Xu</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
1♣	1♥	2♦	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

South led the ♥10 and declarer put up dummy's ace and played the ♠8, North winning with the king and playing the ♥K. Declarer ruffed, ruffed a spade and played a diamond, claiming 11 tricks when the king appeared, +150 and another 7 IMPs on the road to recovery.

Board 45. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Lucky Four v Drinteam

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Campos</i>	<i>Sheng</i>	<i>Rodrigues</i>	<i>Chan</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

East led the ♥5 and West took the ace and switched to the ♦5, declarer winning with the ace and playing the ♣6. When East withheld the ace declarer won with dummy's king, ruffed a club, ruffed the ♥J and played the ♠10. The defenders could score two trump tricks, but that was all, +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Xu</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
—	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

East led the ♥5 and West won with the ace and switched to the ♠5. After two rounds of trumps West played the ♥7 and East took declarer's jack with the queen and declarer claimed nine tricks, -50 and 10 IMPs.

As you can see, if East's ♣A takes a trick that is two down and an extra IMP. (The deal is shrouded in mystery, as the official score is 3♠ -1, so perhaps the ♣A scored a trick.)

Over the next eight deals Drinteam outsourced their opponents 2-1 in overtricks to lead by 12 IMPs.

Board 54. Dealer East. All Vul.

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



**Lucky Four v Drinteam
Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Campos</i>	<i>Sheng</i>	<i>Rodrigues</i>	<i>Chan</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

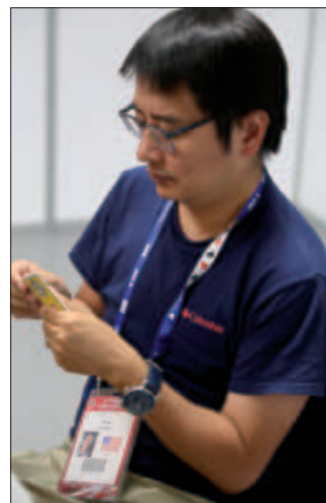
1NT Forcing

East led the ♠2 for the ten, king and ace and declarer continued with the ♣8 for the king and ace. The next club was covered by the ten and jack and declarer exited with a club, West taking the nine as East parted with the five and three of hearts. West's spade return went to the jack and queen and declarer exited with a club, West winning and returning the ♥4. Declarer won with dummy's jack, cashed the ♣7 discarding a heart and played the ♠7, claiming an overtrick, +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Xu</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♥*	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣
1♥ Spades
2♣ Forces 2♦
2NT Invitational



Ming Sheng

East led the ♥5 for the jack and king and when declarer ducked West returned the ♥4 to dummy's queen. When declarer continued with the ♣2 East took declarer's jack with the king and exited with a heart, declarer discarding dummy's ♦9, winning with the ace and playing a club. When East discarded the ♦5 declarer knew his fate. West won with the nine and played back the ♣10, as East pitched a second diamond. Declarer won in dummy and exited with a club, West winning and cashing the ♥10. When he switched to the ♦2 declarer took East's queen with the ace and cashed the ♣7, squeezing West to save an undertrick, -100 and a swing of 12 IMPs that brought the teams level.

After the more testing heart lead declarer has a narrow path to nine tricks. He cannot afford to duck a club, but must cash dummy's ace and continue with a club to the jack. Then he must abandon the suit and play a spade to the seven, scoring three spades, two hearts, two diamonds and two clubs.

Board 55. Dealer South. None Vul.

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



Lucky Four v Drinteam**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Campos</i>	<i>Sheng</i>	<i>Rodrigues</i>	<i>Chan</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

East led the ♠Q for the king and ace and West switched to the ♣10. Declarer put up the ace, cashed the ♥AKQ and played the ♣8, East winning with the king and exiting with the ♦4. When dummy's jack forced the ace declarer could claim, +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Xu</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	Dble*
2NT*	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

2NT Spades

South led the ♥2 and North won with the ace, continued with the queen and then cashed the king, South discarding the ♣2 followed by the ♣7. North cashed the ♣A and had only to switch to a diamond to ensure three down, as declarer has no way to reach his hand to take the spade finesse. When he preferred the ♠10, declarer was only two down, -300 and 3 IMPs that meant **Lucky Four** regained the lead they had last held on Board 3.



Richard Chan

Board 56. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

**Lucky Four v Drinteam****Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Campos</i>	<i>Sheng</i>	<i>Rodrigues</i>	<i>Chan</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

1NT Forcing

4NT RKC

5♥ 2 keycards

East led the ♥7 and perhaps fearing the possibility of a heart ruff, declarer won with the king and cashed the ♠A. When East discarded the game was up, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Xu</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
Pass	1♠	3♥	4♣*
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♥*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

4♣ Slam try with spades

4NT RKC

5♥ 2 keycards

East led the ♣K and declarer won with the ace and played the ♠J. West won with the queen and found the killing return of a low club, forcing dummy to ruff. There was no way to neutralise West's trump holding and declarer went through the motions before conceding one down, ending a thrilling match on a dramatic note.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Piedra</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>
—	—	1♠	2♥
2NT*	Pass	4♠	5♣
Dble	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

2NT Spade support

South faced a classical dilemma – should he make a simple overcall in hearts, or indicate a two-suited hand via a Michaels cuebid? Having adopted the former approach he felt compelled to introduce the clubs on the next round.

West led the ♠4 and the defenders collected their aces and trump tricks for two down, -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	1♠	2NT*
Dble	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

2NT Clubs and Hearts

Brink and Drijver use 2NT over all one-level openings to indicate specific two-suiters. West's double sounded a warning note and NS were happy to retire from the auction.

With an awkward hand to lead from South went with the ♣A and continued with the queen, declarer winning with the king and running the ♦Q to North's king. Back came the ♥J and when declarer pitched the ♣3 South took the ace and played the ♣10. When declarer ruffed

with dummy's ♠7 North could have overruffed and returned a diamond for South to ruff, which should lead to two down but apparently, he pitched the ♥9. If declarer continues with a top heart and North ruffs, declarer can overruff and play a spade to dummy's queen, subsequently using the ♦A as an entry to pick up North's remaining trumps. When he preferred to play the ♠Q North covered and declarer won, crossed to dummy with a diamond and pitched two diamonds on the top hearts. However, there was no way to neutralise North's trump holding and two more tricks had to be lost for one down, -50 and 11 IMPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Piedra</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	6♣*
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

2NT Hearts

3♥ Club shortage

4♦ Cuebid

4♠ Cuebid

4NT RKCB

6♣ 2 keycards and a void in clubs

West led a devilish ♣4 and dummy's jack was covered by the queen and flamboyantly ruffed by declarer with the ace. A heart to dummy's king was followed by a club ruff, a heart to the jack, another club ruff and a diamond to the eight, jack and king. Declarer ruffed East's club exit, cashed the ♠A and played a diamond to dummy's ace. When West's ten appeared declarer could cash dummy's ♦9 and claim, +1430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

David Bird expressed it well in the Daily Bulletin when he wrote, ‘What is a humble scribe meant to say when a current Bermuda Bowl champion opens 4♥ on that hand? An ace and a void outside? You could spend months searching for a textbook to recommend it’.

It meant the loss of 13 IMPs.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Piedra</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

West’s hand rates 18.55 on the Kaplan-Rubens Hand Evaluator, so it might be prudent to start with 1♦. North led the ♦6 and declarer won and played a heart, easily securing 11 tricks, +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Brink</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

South led the ♦J and declarer won in dummy and played a heart, covered in turn by the queen, king and ace. When South switched to the ♠9 declarer took dummy’s ace, drew trumps, cashed the other top diamond and played the eight. When North covered declarer ruffed and claimed 11 tricks, +450 and 6 IMPs.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Piedra</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>
—	2♠	Pass	4♠
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

A dramatic bidding sequence, with South, West and East all making big decisions.

A diamond lead and a ruff would have been a cruel blow, but not unreasonably North went with the ♣Q. Declarer won with dummy’s ace and after considerable thought he called for the ♦2. Now South had to don his thinking cap. Would his partner have led a singleton diamond? Could declarer hold a singleton king or a void? Eventually South played the...four.

Having won with the king declarer cashed the ♠A, ruffed a spade, came to hand with a heart, ruffed his remaining spade, cashed dummy’s ♣K, ruffed a club and cashed the ♥A and could claim when the suit divided, +1430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	All Pass

North again led the ♣Q and declarer won in dummy and played to ruff two spades, +680 but a 13 IMP swing that might have gone the other way.

Team Black took the session 37-25.

As the second session got under way, only **Nickell**, leading **Lucky Four** by 33 IMPs, held a substantial advantage. Only 7 IMPs separated **Robinson** and **Wolfson**.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Wolfson v Robinson

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wolfson</i>	<i>Robinson</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Korbel</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

2NT 22-23

3♥ Transfer

4NT Quantitative

North led the ♣A and continued with the ten, declarer winning with the king and cashing the ♠K. When North discarded on the next round the die was cast and the contract finished three down, -150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT*	All Pass

North led the ♦6 and declarer won with dummy's queen and played a club for the queen and ace, North returning the ten. Declarer won with the king, played two rounds of diamonds ending in dummy and ran the ♥Q, claiming the rest when it lost, +460 and 12 IMPs.

Change East's ♥Q into the ♠Q and you would want to be in 6♠ or 6♦.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wolfson</i>	<i>Robinson</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Korbel</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3♣ Invitational

Bidding methods are a partnership matter, but if North can only bid 3NT over 3♣ then perhaps more work is required. East led the ♥5 and declarer claimed 12 tricks, +690.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♦*
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

1♣ 15+

1♦ 0-8

1♥ 18+

2♥ Clubs

Close, but no cigar, +620 costing only 2 IMPs.

Only one pair managed to bid a slam:

Nickell v Lucky Four

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Chan</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Sheng</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

West led the ♥6, and when declarer put in dummy's queen he was home, +1370 and 13 IMPs.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wolfson</i>	<i>Robinson</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Korbel</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

1NT 11-14

South led the ♦4 and having won with dummy's king declarer ran the ♣9, South winning with the ten and returning the ♦6 to dummy's ace. Declarer continued with two rounds of clubs and South won and played the ♦10, North cashing two tricks in the suit and cashing the ♥A, which simplified declarer's task. He took the next heart with the king, cashed the ♠A and could claim when her majesty appeared, +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♥9 and North took the ace and returned the seven, South taking declarer's jack with the queen and exiting with the three (perhaps suggesting something useful in clubs?) to dummy's ten. Declarer was undoubtedly trying to persuade South that the hearts were 4333 round the table and so avoid a potentially awkward diamond switch. The play record says that North made the spectacular discard of the ♣K.

That was all the help Gold needed, although van Prooijen's spectacular discard of the ♣K at trick three perhaps did not hurt. The ♣9 was run to South's ten and now Verhees switched to diamonds, but it was too late. A club to the ace and a third round of clubs to South's queen established the ♣9 as a trick for declarer. The favourable spade position then gave declarer three tricks there to accompany two in each of the other three suits. EW +600 and another 10 IMPs to **Robinson** who won the set 52-8 to lead by 37 IMPs.

Suppose South had found a diamond switch at trick three?

Declarer wins in dummy and runs the ♣9 to South's ten. Back comes a diamond and after winning declarer cashes dummy's ♥10, comes to hand with a club and cashes the ♥K. North, down to ♠10543 ♦QJ is forced to part with a diamond. When the ♠Q falls under the ace declarer can exit with a diamond to endplay North.

You might care to ponder what would happen if North were to unblock in diamonds?

Declarer would have to alter course, cashing dummy's ♠K and then playing low to the nine, an almost impossible sequence to find.

This was the opening deal of the third session:

Board 29. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Team Black v Zimmermann

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Paske</i>
—	Pass	1♠	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
2♠	2NT	All Pass	

2♦ Transfer

West led the ♠Q and declarer won with the king and played on diamonds, West taking the second round and

**Andrew Black**

playing his remaining spade. East won and continued the suit and declarer cashed his winners for +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Dble
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Dble	All Pass		

South could not overcall 1NT as it would have promised four cards in the other major and a longer minor.

A low spade lead would have been good for two down, but East started with the ♣A and continued with the queen, followed by the three, which was good enough for one down, -100 and 6 IMPs.

AZS Wratistavia v Ventin**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Jassem</i>
—	Pass	1♠	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Jumping to game left nothing unsaid about North's hand, but when West led a the ♦4 declarer had a theoretical chance of making his contract. He won with dummy's ten and played a spade to the jack, West winning with the queen and switching to the ♣7. When East put up the jack declarer won and played a diamond, but West took the ace and continued with the ♣10, the defenders cashing out for two down, -100.

The winning line is for declarer, having taken the opening lead in dummy, to cash his heart winners, (following

Patrick Jourdain's *Bols Bridge Tip*) which will make live awkward for East. For example, if he comes down to ♠A87 ♣AQJ3 declarer can play a spade to the king and then play a diamond, when he must come to two more tricks. Interestingly if East had started with the ♠AQ he would be able to survive by rising with the ♠A and switching to clubs – as long as West holds on to all his clubs.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>J Patreuha</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Gołębiowski</i>	<i>Palma</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

North led the ♥3 and five rounds of hearts saw declarer pitch two spades and a diamond from dummy. When North switched to the ♠4 declarer played dummy's seven and South won with the king and switched to the ♦Q which ensured three down, -150 and a 6 IMP swing.

Board 35. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Almost everyone played in 4♠, but West's club lead usually led to the defeat of the contract as declarer played low from dummy and suffered a club ruff. However, those defenders leading low from a doubleton did not always read the situation which allowed the contract to make. That is what happened in the Open Room when Klukowski led the ♣4.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	—	1♣
1♦	Dble*	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♦ Transfer

West led the $\heartsuit 4$ and declarer won with dummy's king and after a slight defensive hiccup emerged with 11 tricks, +660 and an IMP.

Board 36. Dealer West. None Vul.

	$\spadesuit$ A K J	
	$\heartsuit$ A K Q 10 9 4	
	$\diamondsuit$ A Q	
	$\clubsuit$ 10 9	
$\spadesuit$ Q 10 7 5 2		$\spadesuit$ 9 6 4
$\heartsuit$ 7		$\heartsuit$ J 8 6 3 2
$\diamondsuit$ J 6 3		$\diamondsuit$ 9 8
$\clubsuit$ A 6 5 2		$\clubsuit$ K 7 3
	$\spadesuit$ 8 3	
	$\heartsuit$ 5	
	$\diamondsuit$ K 10 7 5 4 2	
	$\clubsuit$ Q J 8 4	

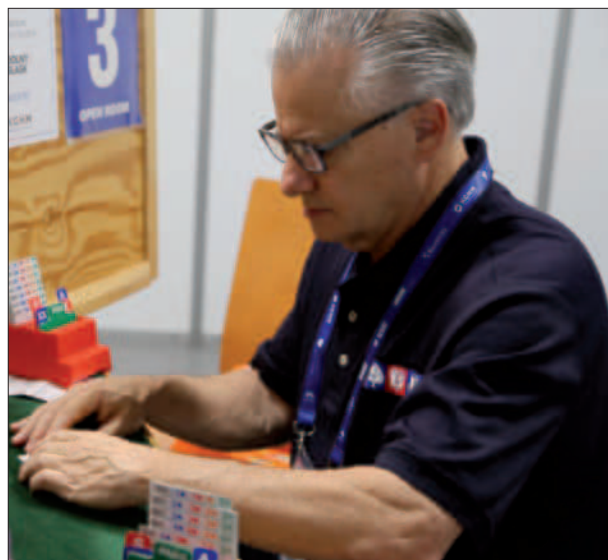
This deal looked like a regulation heart game for NS.

Robinson v Wolfson

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Gold	van Prooijen	Zia
2 $\spadesuit$ *	Dble	Pass	3 $\diamondsuit$
Pass	3 $\heartsuit$	Pass	4 $\diamondsuit$
Pass	4 $\heartsuit$	All Pass	

2 $\spadesuit$ 5 $\spadesuit$ and 4+ $\clubsuit$ / $\diamondsuit$



Jeff Wolfson

East led the $\spadesuit 4$ and declarer took West's queen with the ace and cashed the $\heartsuit AKQ$, West discarding the $\clubsuit 56$. It looks easy enough to continue playing on hearts, losing only two clubs and a heart, but declarer spotted a possible snag; suppose East had started with a doubleton club? He would win the fourth round of hearts and then three rounds of clubs would promote his $\heartsuit 8$ into the setting trick. Looking for an answer to that, declarer played three rounds of diamonds, overtaking the queen, to pitch a club. However, when it was West who produced the $\diamondsuit J$ on the third round of the suit East could pitch a spade and now the defenders could organise a spade ruff. That meant one down, -50- and a 10 IMP loss against the 4 $\heartsuit$ made at the other table.

Team Black v Zimmermann

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	McIntosh	Gawryś	Paske
Pass	2 $\clubsuit$	Pass	2 $\diamondsuit$
2 $\spadesuit$	3 $\heartsuit$	Pass	3 $\spadesuit$
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the $\spadesuit 4$ and declarer took West's queen with the ace and played on hearts. He was sure of ten tricks and when East did not switch to a club when in with the $\heartsuit J$ and West subsequently pitched a diamond declarer had the rest, +490.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Drijver	Black	Brink
2 $\diamondsuit$ *	Dble	3 $\heartsuit$ *	4 $\diamondsuit$
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5 $\clubsuit$ *
Pass	5NT*	Pass	6 $\clubsuit$
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

- 2 $\diamondsuit$ Multi
- 3 $\heartsuit$ Pass or correct
- 4NT Optional Blackwood
- 5 $\clubsuit$ 1 keycard, not a really weak hand
- 5NT Pick a slam

East led the $\spadesuit 6$ and declarer took the queen with the ace, cashed the top hearts, then the spades and tried his luck in diamonds. When the jack refused to appear on the second round, he was four down, -200 and 12 IMPs worse off.

Elsewhere **Lucky Four** got all the way to 7 $\diamondsuit$ to lose 11 IMPs against the +420 recorded at the other table. The auction is best consigned to the dustbin of history.

Board 37. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

A routine 4♠ for EW with NS having a paying save in diamonds. That is how **AZS Wratistlavia** picked up 3 IMPs against **Ventin**.

**Robinson v Wolfson
Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Gold	van Prooijen	Zia
—	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♥*	2♥	3♠*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♥*	Pass	5♠	All Pass

- 1♣ 15+, any distribution
 1♥ Spades
 4♦ Cue

3♠ was intended to show at least a nine-card fit. It appears to have convinced West that East had more than a minimum and the five-level was one too high, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Birman	Meckstroth	Padon
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT*	3♠*	3NT	5♣*
Pass	5♦	Dble	All Pass

- 2NT Game forcing with spades
 3♠ Hearts and a minor
 5♣ Pass or correct

East led the ♠A and when West followed with the two, he continued with the queen. Declarer ruffed and played the ♥K, and West took the ace and switched to the ♣J, declarer winning with dummy's ace and playing two

more rounds of hearts. When East ruffed in with the ♦Q declarer was restricted to eight tricks, -500 and a useful 12 IMPs for **Robinson**.

Lucky Four recovered the IMPs they had mislaid on the previous deal with interest when Katz and Nickell went all the way to 6♠ which cost 13 IMPs.

Board 38. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

**Robinson v Wolfson
Open Room**

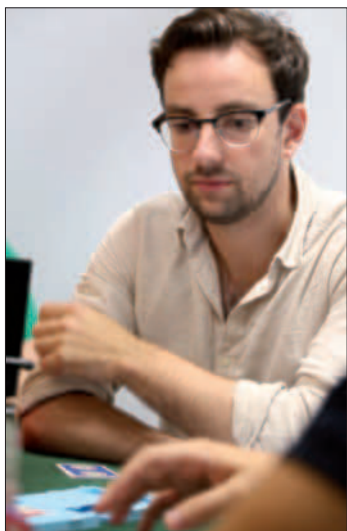
West	North	East	South
Verhees	Gold	van Prooijen	Zia
—	—	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Three Hearts was waiting, but could also be a double negative (they now play North can bid 3♠ to show a weak hand). When North raised spades Zia decided that he was likely to find partner with a working queen or a queen-jack. He did find a queen, and even though it was not where he would have liked it to have been located 6♦ had the merit of being unbeatable, +1370.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Birman	Meckstroth	Padon
—	—	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

3NT promised a running minor. When West led the ♦10 declarer could score 12 tricks, +690 but 12 IMPs for **Robinson**.



Thibo Sprinkhuizen

Team Black v Zimmermann**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Gawryś</i>	<i>Paske</i>
—	—	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	5♥*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

4NT RKCB

5♣ 0 keycards

5♥ ♠Q?

North's sixth spade persuaded him to represent possession of the ♠Q, and that translated into +1430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♦ Relay

3♥ Asking for club or heart stopper

3♠ Heart stopper, no club stopper

East led the ♣J and when West won with the king and returned the eight the defenders took the first five tricks, -100 and a whopping 17 IMPs for **Team Black**.

Board 40. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

AZS Wratistavia v Ventin**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Jassem</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

6♣ was where you wanted to be with these cards, the club suit delivering 5 tricks 87.6% of the time, +1370.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>J Patreuha</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Golebiowski</i>	<i>Palma</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
All Pass			

Such things can only be explained by fatigue, +170 but 15 IMPs to **AZS Wratistavia**.

Robinson v Wolfson**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Zia</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

East led the ♠6 and declarer won with the queen and, not bothering to unblock the spades, played the ♣10 to the ace. When the jack fell, he continued clubs, East winning the third round and exiting with a heart to dummy's ace, removing an important entry. Declarer opted to cash the

top spades, but the ten did not fall and there was no squeeze, -100.

If declarer had cashed dummy's clubs instead, the last of them would have seen West, down to ♠10742 ♥K ♦8 forced to throw a diamond. Then, in the five-card ending, a diamond to dummy's ace would squeeze West in the majors.

One suspects that declarer's plan had been to go back to dummy with the ♠J if both defenders had followed to the first round of clubs with low cards, intending to continue with a club to the seven. He was so pleased when the jack fell that he forgot about the spades, not at all unlikely given the huge number of deals he had already played.

On the surface it may appear that an unlikely heart lead will defeat 6NT, but that is not the case. Having won with dummy's ace, declarer can come to hand with a spade and play the ♥Q. West wins and will probably exit with a spade. Declarer wins, cashes the ♥J and the ♦A, goes to dummy by playing the ♣10 to the ace and takes the top spades, squeezing East in the minors.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Padon</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

5NT Pick a slam



Jeff Meckstroth

East led the ♥5 and declarer won performe with dummy's ace and ran the ♦9, East winning with the queen (the spectators were hoping he would duck!) and exiting with the ♠5. Declarer won with the queen, advanced the ♥Q, ruffing in dummy, came to hand with a spade, drew trumps and claimed, +1370 and 16 IMPs.

Lucky Four was also in 6♦ and declarer received a spade lead. Having won with the queen he went to dummy with a club and took the diamond finesse. East won and played back a club, West's ruff ensuring one down and a 16 IMP swing as they made 6♣ in the other room.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Gawryś</i>	<i>Paske</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

5NT Pick a slam

West led the ♥3 and declarer won and played the top clubs, soon claiming his contract, +1370.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Brink</i>
2♦*	Dble	2♥*	2NT*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

2♦ Multi

2♥ Pass or correct

2NT Usually weak, but can be game forcing with a suit

3♦ Equal level conversion

5NT Pick a slam

Given the methods, perhaps North should have converted 6♠ to 6NT, but that is easier to suggest when you have had plenty of time to think about it.

West led the ♦6 and declarer won with dummy's ace, unblocked the ♠QJ, played the ♣10 to the ace and cashed the ♠A. All would have been well had the spades divided, but when East discarded the game was up, declarer finishing with 11 tricks, -100 and a 16 IMP loss.

In the space of five deals **Zimmermann** had lost 45 IMPs and **Team Black** had taken the set 51-4 to storm into the lead, 115-71.

South led the ♥2 and North won with the queen and switched to the ♠6 for the nine and queen. Declarer played dummy's diamond, the king taking the trick and continued with the ♦Q pitching a club. North won and played a second spade, declarer winning with dummy's ace and playing a club. North shot up with the ace and played a third spade and now there were only nine tricks, -50 and just the start **Zimmermann** needed as 11 IMPs changed hands.

As the cards lie, declarer must come to hand with a heart ruff to ensure a diamond ruff.

Board 44. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Black v Zimmermann

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Gawryś</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>
1♦	4♥	Dble	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

North led the ♣6 and declarer won with dummy's ten, drew trumps and claimed all the tricks, +1390. Was that a missed opportunity?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Brink</i>
1♦	4♥	Dble	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	5♥
Dble	All Pass		

East led the ♦K and when West followed with the ten, he switched to the ♠4. West ruffed and returned the ♣7, East taking the king and giving West a second ruff, which meant three down, -500 but a 13 IMP gain.

AZS Wroclaw v Ventin

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Jassem</i>
1♦	4♥	Dble	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

North led the ♣6 and after winning with the jack declarer crossed to dummy with the ♣J and ran the ♣9, claiming +1390.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>J Patreuha</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Golebiowski</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
4♦	4♥	5♦	Dble
All Pass			

Opening four of a minor with two aces and a void is a matter of taste. Here it netted +1150 after North's lead of the ♣6, but resulted in the loss of 6 IMPs.

For **Lucky Four**, Chan opened 5♦ and played there, losing 15 IMPs against the +1740 recorded at the other table for making 6♦ doubled with an overtrick.

Everyone who had the chance overcalled 4♥ and with no one finding a way to introduce spades the good save in that suit went abegging.

Board 45. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Black v Zimmermann

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Gawryś</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>
—	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

South led the ♥K and declarer won with the ace, cashed the ♦K and played a diamond to dummy's nine. After

drawing the outstanding trump, he started on the clubs, claiming 11 tricks, +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	4♥	All Pass	

East led the ♠4 and declarer won with the nine and played a heart, East taking the ace as declarer unblocked dummy's king. When East continued with the ♠10 West ruffed and declarer dropped the queen. West cashed the ♣K and when East followed with the queen he cashed the ♦A but then went back to clubs which allowed declarer to ruff high and claim nine tricks, -50 and 8 IMPs.

Board 46. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Black v Zimmermann

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Gawryś</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♥3 and declarer won with the queen and played back the jack. When that held he overtook the ♣10 with dummy's king and played the ♥10, East taking the ace and returning the ♥4 to dummy's king. Declarer tried a spade to the jack, claiming 11 tricks when it lost, +660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
3♠*	Dble	All Pass	

3♠ Weak

North led the ♣Q and when South followed with the five he continued with the ace and king, West ruffing and playing a diamond for the nine, jack and king. South's switch to the ♥J was ducked and declarer won the next heart with dummy's ace and played the ♠3, South taking the king and exiting with the ♦10. North won and played the ♥K enabling South to dispose of his remaining diamond. Declarer ruffed and claimed one more trick, five down, -1100 and another 10 IMPs had left the building.

AZS Wroclaw v Ventin

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Jassem</i>
—	—	2♥	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the ♦Q and declarer won with the ace and played a heart, East taking the ace and switching to the ♣6. Declarer won with dummy's jack, unblocked the ♥Q, came to hand with a club and played a diamond to the ten, +690.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>J Patreuha</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Golebiowski</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦*
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

2♣ Stayman



Antonio Palma

The meaning of the 3♦ bid was unclear – North calling the Director at the end of the auction.

East led the ♠3 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the ♥J, East taking the ace and returning the ♥4 to dummy's queen. Declarer cashed the top diamonds ending in hand and pitched a diamond on the ♥K. West ruffed and returned the ♠10 and when declarer pitched a diamond East ruffed and exited with the ♥8. Declarer ruffed with dummy's jack, played a club to the queen and ruffed a diamond, claiming ten tricks, -200 and a 13 IMP loss.

Board 47. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

AZS Wratistavia v Ventin

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Jassem</i>
—	—	—	1♠
4♥	5♥*	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

5♥ Cue

West led the ♥K and continued with the ace, declarer ruffing in dummy with the ♠9 and continuing with a spade. After the welcome appearance of his majesty, he drew the outstanding trump and claimed, +980.

Would you have risked leading the ♥2? Imagine your heart-rate when partner plays the eight!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>J Patreuha</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Golebiowski</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
—	—	—	1♠
4♥	4♠	All Pass	

West led the ♥J and with no way to give partner the lead that was +480 but an 11 IMP swing that saw **AZS Wratistavia** take the lead, 82-75.

Board 49. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Black v Zimmermann

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Gawryś</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>
—	1♦	Dble	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

West led the ♠2 and declarer put up dummy's ace and continued with the ace and queen of clubs. West won and continued spades, East winning with the queen, cashing the ♦K and then playing two more spades, West winning with the jack and playing a diamond to ensure one down, -100.

On this layout declarer does best to play low from dummy at trick one. Say East wins and cashes the ♦K before playing a second spade. Declarer can win in dummy, play the ♥10 for the queen and king and then test the hearts. When they fail to break declarer takes the club finesse, cashes the ♣A and exits with a spade to endplay East.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	1♦	1NT	2♥
All Pass			

West led the ♠6 and declarer took dummy's ace and played two rounds of clubs, West winning and switching to the ♥5, dummy's nine holding the trick. Declarer continued with a heart to the jack and claimed 11 tricks, +200 and 7 IMPs for **Zimmermann**, who, *mirabile dictu*, had taken the lead, 121-116, having outscored **Team Black** 50-1 over the first seven deals.

I suspect most of the spectators anticipated that the World Champions would pull away, but it was **Team**

North led the ♣8 and South put in the jack, declarer winning with the queen and playing a diamond for the ten and ace. South cashed his clubs and switched to the ♥9 so that was three down, -150.

EW appeared to have stolen the pot.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦ *	Pass	1 ♥ *
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2 ♣ *
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♦ *
Pass	6 ♥	All Pass	

- 1♦ Usually 0-6
- 1♥ Balanced minimum or natural, unbalanced
- 1NT 0-9, 4♥+4♠
- 2♣ Sets hearts as trumps
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♣ 1 keycard
- 5♦ Heart queen?
- 6♥ Yes

When West led the $\heartsuit$ Q declarer must have thought he was in with a shout. Having won with the $\heartsuit$ A he played a heart to dummy's king, and a club to the jack, but West won and continued with the $\heartsuit$ 3, declarer ruffing and playing the $\spadesuit$ 8. East won and exited with a heart, and declarer claimed 11 tricks, -50. The 5 IMPs that changed hands meant **Team Black** had regained the lead by 4 IMPs.

AZS Wratislavia v Ventin

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Jassem</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♣*
Pass	1 ♦*	Pass	2 ♣*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

- 1♣ Polish Club
1♦ 0-8
2♣ 15+

East led the ♠5 and when declarer put up dummy's ace West unblocked the king. A heart to the queen saw East take the ace and continue with the ♠2, West winning with the queen and switching to the ♦3. For reasons that are not immediately obvious, declarer followed to the second

round of spades with the ten, which was almost certainly a *fingerfehler*. That meant he had only eight tricks, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>J Patreuha</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Gołębowski</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♣*
Pass	1 ♦*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	4 ♥	All Pass	

- 1♣ 2+♣
1♦ Hearts
2NT Hearts

East led the ♣2 and declarer won with dummy's ace and continued with the ♣5 discarding a diamond. East won and switched to the ♠5 and declarer took dummy's ace, ruffed a club with the ♥Q, played a heart to dummy's nine and a heart for the king and ace. East continued with the ♠3 and West won and tried the ♣Q but declarer could ruff with the ♥10, cross to dummy with a diamond and draw the outstanding trump for +420 and another 10 IMPs that left **Ventin** 18 IMPs ahead and they won comfortably, 106-83.

Board 54. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

East led the ♠J and declarer won with the king and played a club for the three, eight and nine, West returning the ♣7. East won and played a low spade and declarer won with dummy's seven, cashed two more spades and

played a diamond to dummy's king. When that held, he was assured of eight tricks and West came under pressure in the ending. He discarded a diamond on the third round of hearts and declarer exited with the ♦ Q to pin the jack and secure an overtrick, +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Dble	3♦*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

2NT 20-22

3♣ Muppet Stayman

3♥ 4♠, not 4♥

4♥ You declare 4♠

Systems guru Al Hollander was expecting North to pass over the double of 3♣ to show no stopper, but concluded that 3♦ showed any hand with 4♥ and/or 4♠ regardless of the club holding.

West led the ♥4 and declarer won with dummy's ace and cashed the ♠AK. When West discarded the ♥6 declarer played a heart to the queen and exited with the ♣6, West taking the queen and returning the ♥7 to dummy's king. A diamond to the king followed by a diamond to the ten saw East win with the ace and return the ♠J. Declarer won, ruffed the ♦Q and exited with a club. West put up the ace crashing partner's king, but he could play a heart giving East the last two tricks, -200 and 8 IMPs.

That gave **Team Black** a 12 IMP cushion, and a desperate psyche by Klukowski on the final deal resulted in the loss of a further 5 IMPs. It was **Team Black** who advanced to the last four.

Results

AZS Wratistlavia	16	14	19	34	83
Ventin	28	21	20	37	106
Nickell	43	36	34	77	190
Lucky Four	10	33	20	8	71
Robinson	26	52	25	45	148
Wolfson	33	8	32	40	113
Team Black	37	27	51	23	138
Zimmermann	25	42	4	50	121

Rosenblum Semi-finals

The four survivors would have 56 deals to determine who would contest the gold medal round.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Nickell v Team Black

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♠*	Dble	3♥
Dble*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

2♠ Heart support

Dble Game try

North led the ♥A and seeing the ♥5 from partner, switched to the ♣10, three rounds of the suit ensuring the contract was two down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	2NT*	3♠	4♣
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

2NT Heart support

North led the ♣10 and South took dummy's jack with the king and switched to the ♦5 for the ten, nine and king, declarer continuing with a spade to the ace and the ♠Q. North won, cashed the ♠J and then went back to clubs, South winning with the seven and switching to the ♥Q for three down, -500, in theory a good save against the hearts game, but in practice a loss of 9 IMPs.

**Bobby Levin****Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.**

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

Nickell v Team Black**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Levin	Hult	Weinstein	Hallberg
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

David Bird opined that South's rebid was predicated on the desire to claim a world record for 'the worst ever rebid club suit'.

West led the ♥2 and when East played the queen declarer ducked and repeated the manoeuvre when East returned the nine. Seeing no future in the suit West overtook it with the jack and switched to the ♦3. Declarer won with the ten and played a club to dummy's queen. When that held he continued with the king and when East ducked for a second time declarer had nine tricks, +400.

West had followed to the first round of clubs with the six. In the cold light of day perhaps the jack would have been the card to play.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Paske	Hampson	McIntosh	Greco
—	—	—	1♦*
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- 1♦ 2+♦, 11-15, stiff honour possible
- 2♣ Both minors or 1444 or 14(35 or 53)
- 2♥ Game forcing, artificial
- 2♠ 4♥ or a 2NT bid without a stopper
- 2NT Asking
- 3♣ 14(53 or 35)
- 3♦ Asking
- 3♥ All the 1435 exactly

East led the ♦9 and when dummy's ten held declarer was off to a good start. He continued with a club for the six, king and ace and East switched to the ♥9, continuing with the queen when it held. Declarer ducked, took the next heart with dummy's ace, crossed to the ♣Q, went to dummy with a spade and exited with a club. When West won he cashed the ♥J for one down, -50 and 10 IMPs.

Ventin v Robinson**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Korbel	Ventin	Robinson	Palma
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♥*	Pass	1♠*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- 1♣ 2+♣
- 1♥ Spades
- 1♠ 2/3 ♠
- 2♦ 5♠

East led the ♣8 for the two, ten and king and he ducked the return of the ♣Q which allowed declarer to cross to dummy with the ♠A and play a club. That ensured the contract and declarer finished with 10 tricks, +430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♣ Checkback

2♦ Not 3♠

West led the ♥2 and declarer took East's queen with the ace and played a club for the ten, queen and ace, East returning the ♥9. After cashing three tricks in the suit West exited with the ♣6 and declarer won, came to hand with a spade and stoically played a club, one down, -50 and a 10 IMP loss, the only significant result of a set that **Ventini** won 23-11.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Nickell v Team Black

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>
—	1♣	1♦	2♦*
3♦	Pass	Pass	Dble*
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Dble Takeout

East led the ♦K and declarer won, played the ♣K to West's ace, ruffed the diamond return and played a spade for the jack and ace. A second round of trumps was followed by a spade to the nine and a third spade, declarer soon claiming 11 tricks, +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	2♦*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

2♦ 11-15, short diamonds (could be 0)

2NT Asking for strength and shape

3♣ Minimum

3♦ Asking

3NT 4414

4♦ Puppet to 4♥ for sign off somewhere

4♥ Forced

East led the ♦3 and declarer won and played the ♣Q followed by the king, West taking the ace and exiting with the ♦6. Declarer ruffed, played a spade to the nine and continued with the ace followed by the ten, claiming, +400 and 6 IMPs.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Nickell v Team Black

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♠*
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

4♦ Cuebid

East led the ♥2 and declarer took West's king with the ace, cashed three rounds of trumps ending in hand and played a diamond for the queen and ace. Back came the ♥5 and when East followed declarer claimed, +920.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	—	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

3♦ Transfer

West led the ♦A and switched to the ♣J, declarer winning with the ace, playing a heart to the ace and continuing with the queen which resulted in 11 tricks, +450, but a loss of 10 IMPs.

Team Black would start the second set leading 27-22.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Nickell v Team Black**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Black</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

- 2♣ Game forcing
- 4♣ Cuebid
- 4♦ Cuebid
- 4♥ Last train
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♥ 2 keycards

East found the devastating lead of the ♥6 and declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed the top spades and then played on diamonds, hoping to get rid of his losing heart. When East could ruff the second round the contract was one down, -100.

Should declarer have tried three rounds of clubs, hoping to see the jack appear on the third round? Then he would be able to dispose of four hearts from dummy.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

- 1♣ 16+
- 2♥ 12-13 or 16+ balanced
- 3♣ Stayman
- 3♠ 4♠, not 4♥
- 4♠ Minimum, no slam interest facing 12-13
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♣ 3 keycards
- 5♦ ♠Q?

When North asked for the ♠Q South wanted to be in slam so he jumped to 6♠. He knew it was unlikely that North would bid 7♠ knowing South did not have any side kings. Had he denied the ♠Q by bidding 5♠ it ran the risk of North passing.

East led the ♦7 and declarer won with the queen, ruffed the ♣10, cashed the ♠A and seeing the ten from East he ran the nine, soon claiming, +1430 and 17 IMPs.

Ventin v Robinson**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Korbel</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Robinson</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- 2♣ Game forcing

East led the ♣2 and declarer won with the ten, cashed the ♦QJ, the ♣AK and then took dummy's top diamonds before playing a spade to the jack. Although that lost, he had the rest, +690.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Zia</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	6♦*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

4♣ Splinter

4NT RKCB

6♦ 3 keycards and a void

The BBO operator reported that East was about to lead the ♥8, but then changed his mind, selecting the ♦7. Declarer won with the queen, played a spade to the ace and a spade to the jack, claiming when East won and returned the ♠10, +1430 and 12 IMPs.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Nickell v Team Black**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Black</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

North led the ♥2 but there were only three tricks to lose, +590.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	—	2♥	2NT
All Pass			

West's decision to leave 2NT unmolested might be considered conservative in some circles.

He led the ♠J and declarer won with the ace as East followed with the ten. When he continued with the ♦10 West won with the king, cashed the ♠Q and took his winners in the pointed suits before switching to the ♥7. Declarer won with the ace, cashed the ♣A and exited with the queen, West winning but being forced to lead into dummy's ♦J8 for three down, -300. It was a minor triumph for declarer who would have been four down if West had unblocked the ♣K under the ace. However, it was another 7 IMPs to **Nickell**.

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Writing in the Daily Bulletin about this deal, Marc Smith opined that his good friend David Bird might not have chosen to include it in his report.

Nickell v Team Black**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Black</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	Pass	1♠	Dble
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

East led the ♠4 to West's king and declarer took the third round of the suit, cashed four clubs and then tried a heart to the king. East won, cashed his spades and accepted declarer's claim of seven tricks, +90.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Greco</i>
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the ♥A and switched to the ♦Q, declarer winning with the ace as West followed with the nine. The ♥10 was covered by the jack and king and declarer continued with his nine, establishing his game-going trick. When West exited with the ♦5 declarer's seven forced out the jack and declarer emerged with 11 tricks, +660 and 11 IMPs.

With 10 boards completed, **Nickell** had added 47 IMPs.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Nickell v Team Black
Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Black</i>
—	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4NT	All Pass

3♣ Stayman
4♣ Diamonds

South led the ♣3 for the queen and ace and when he ducked the return of the ♣J declarer cashed his winners for 11 tricks, +660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	6♦	All Pass

3♦ Stayman
4♥ Cue
5♣ Cue

North led the ♠A and switched to the ♥3, declarer winning in dummy, cashing the ♠K, the ♣A, ruffing a club, ruffing a spade with the ♦A and claiming, +1370 and 12 badly needed IMPs.

Ventin v Robinson
Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Korbel</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Robinson</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
—	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

3♣ Stayman

North led the ♣6 and declarer took dummy's ace, drew trumps and played the ♠4, North taking the ace and exiting with the ♥3. Declarer won with dummy's ace, ruffed a club, went to dummy with a spade and ruffed the ♣10, claiming 12 tricks, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Zia</i>
—	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4♠*	Pass	6♣*	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

2NT 21-23
3♣ Muppet Stayman
3♦ 1 or 2 four-card majors
3♥ Spades
3NT 4♥, not 4♠
4♠ Slam try in diamonds
6♣ Accept with 5♣+4♥

South led the ♥6 and declarer won with the ace, cashed the ♣A, ruffed a club, took two rounds of diamonds ending in hand, ruffed a club high and drew the outstanding trump. He crossed to hand with a heart and could now take a ruffing finesse in clubs, relying on the ♠K as an entry. Alas, he cashed a third heart before taking the finesse, so when North came in with the ♠A he could cash the ♥10 for one down, -100 and 12 IMPs that could have gone the other way.

Robinson won the set 39-14 to lead by 13 IMPs, 50-37.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

**Nickell v Team Black
Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Black</i>
—	—	1NT	2♦*
Dble	Rdbl*	Pass	2♠
3♠*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

- 2♦ Multi Landy
Rdbl Bid your suit
3♠ Stopper ask

South led the ♠10 and when dummy's queen held (North dropped the jack) declarer played a diamond to the ace and ducked a diamond to the nine, North returning the ♠7. Declarer won, cashed his diamonds and then played a club, collecting South's by now unguarded queen and claiming 11 tricks, +660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	—	1♦	1♠
Dble	2♠*	3♣	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

- 2♠ Weak raise

South led the ♠9 and having seen dummy's queen hold, declarer played a diamond to the ace and ducked a heart, North winning with the jack and returning the ♠3. A heart to the ace was followed by a heart ruff, and a club to dummy's nine, declarer claiming 11 tricks, +150 but an 11 IMP loss.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

**Nickell v Team Black
Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Black</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	3♠*
Dble	4♣*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

- 3♠ Splinter
4♣ Cuebid

East led the ♠5 and West took the ace and returned the ♣8, declarer winning with the ace, drawing trumps, cashing the ♣K and then running the ten, discarding dummy's ♦2. When it held, he claimed the rest, +480.

Do you think South should have given a nod to the old Russian proverb 'Having said A you must say B' and shown his diamond control over 4♣?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	4♦*
4♠	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

- 4♦ Fit Jump
4NT RKCB
5♦ One keycard

Appreciating that partner was likely to have at most one spade, North dismissed the idea of doubling 4♠ and went in search of higher things.

East led the ♠5 and West took the ace and switched to the ♣5, declarer winning with the ace, drawing

trumps, playing a diamond to the ace, ruffing a diamond, ruffing a spade, ruffing a diamond and claiming when the king appeared, +980 and 11 IMPs.

Nickell had won the set 69-13 and led 93-40.

Board 29. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Nickell v Team Black

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Katz	Bertheau	Nickell	Black
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦	All Pass

South led the ♥A and when North followed with the three he switched to the ♣K and a club. Declarer ruffed the third club high, cashed all his trumps and the top spades, +130.



Andrew McIntosh

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Paske	Weinstein	McIntosh	Levin
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Looking at a likely seven tricks East rebid what he hoped he could make – sometimes described as a ‘*Landy Game Try*’.

South led the ♥A and switched to the ♠10, declarer winning with the ace and playing the ♥6. South won and exited with the ♥10 and declarer cashed out for +430 and 7 IMPs.

Ventin v Robinson

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Ventin	Gold	Palma
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

North led the ♥5 and South won with the king and switched to the ♣4 for the queen and ace, North returning the ♥3. South won, cashed the ♣K and exited with a heart, declarer winning, cashing the ♠A and taking the spade finesse, which meant he was three down, -150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Berkowitz	Mendes de Leon	Meckstroth
—	Pass	1♦	Dble
1♠	2♥	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♥K and continued with the ace and ten, declarer cashing his winners which gave him ten tricks, +430 and 11 IMPs.

Board 30. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Nickell v Team Black Open Room

West	North	East	South
Katz	Bertheau	Nickell	Black
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West led the ♦2 and East won, cashed the ♠A and continued with the nine, declarer winning with the king, cashing the ♥A and claiming, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Paske	Weinstein	McIntosh	Levin
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	3♦	4♦*
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

You might think that missing four significant cards opposite a passed partner 4♦ was a tad optimistic. North showed his club control but with the ♥K offside declarer had to lose three tricks once West had led the ♦J so that was -100 and 12 more IMPs for **Team Black**.

Board 31. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Nickell v Team Black Open Room

West	North	East	South
Katz	Bertheau	Nickell	Black
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	2♠	Dble*	3♠
Pass	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	Dble	All Pass	

Although East's hand is defensive in nature, he probably thought the ♠K would be well placed and did not want to sell out to 3♠. When West took him seriously North did well to double. He led the ♣A and when South followed with the two he switched to the ♠Q, continuing with the six when it held. South won and played back the ♣9, two down, -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Paske	Weinstein	McIntosh	Levin
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	1♠	Dble*	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♦	All Pass

The less aggressive approach from NS saw EW stop at a safe level, +110 and 12 more IMPs that meant **Team Black** now trailed by only 22 IMPs.

Board 32. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Ventin v Robinson Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Ventin	Gold	Palma
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♥2 and South won with the king and returned the five, North winning with the ten and playing a third heart to South's ace. After carefully cashing the ♦A South led his last heart, and declarer subsequently scored four spade tricks to escape for one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Mendes De Leon</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Dble
Rdbl*	2♥	3♦	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Rdbl 3♠

The initial response is very much in the 'Mafia' style (*majors always first in answering*). South led the ♥K and switched to the ♠2 for the nine and jack and declarer continued with the ♦K, covered by the ace and ruffed with dummy's ten. Declarer cashed the ♣A, ruffed a heart, played a club to the king, ruffed another heart, cashed the ♦Q, ruffed a diamond and claimed, +140 and 6 IMPs for Ventin.

Board 33. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Ventin v Robinson**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Palma</i>
—	1NT	2♦*	Dble
Rdbl*	3NT	All Pass	

2♦ Diamonds and a major
Rdbl Equal length in the majors

East led the ♠6 and declarer won with dummy's queen, played a club to the queen and the ♦4, East taking the king and exiting with the ♥10 for the two, jack and king. That meant declarer could cash some winners and repeat the club finesse to get up to nine tricks, +600.

If East exits with a second spade declarer must work much harder. He wins in hand, crosses to dummy with the ♦Q, cashes the ♠A, repeats the club finesse and

cashes the ♣A, squeezing East, who is down to ♠108 ♥A10 ♦J9. He must pitch a spade after which declarer can play two rounds of diamonds, scoring the ♥K at the end.

East's best move is to withhold the ♦K. Declarer wins with dummy's queen but has no way to score more than eight tricks. The reason for that is the situation in spades, one which can be avoided if declarer unblocks the ♠K once the club finesse has worked. Then it won't help East to duck the diamond as the line of play mentioned earlier will still deliver nine tricks via the squeeze and endplay.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	1NT	All Pass	

East led the ♠8 and declarer won with the king, played a diamond to the queen, took the club finesse and ducked a diamond, East winning with the nine and continuing with the ♠3 to dummy's queen. Declarer repeated the club finesse and then played two rounds of diamonds, East winning, cashing the ♥A and exiting with the ten. That left declarer with eight tricks, +120, but a 10 IMP loss which moved **Ventin** into a 9 IMP lead, 64-55.

Board 34. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Ventin v Robinson**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Palma</i>
—	—	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

East led the ♦ Q and declarer won with the ace, played a club to dummy's queen and a diamond to the king, East ruffing and switching to the ♥ 2. Declarer won with the ace, played a club to dummy's ace and tried to cash the ♥ K. West unexpectedly ruffed and played the ♦ 8, East ruffing with the ♠ 10. When declarer discarded dummy's ♥ 10 East could cash the ♣ K for one down, -50.

All declarer needed to do was overruff the ♠ 10 in dummy and play a spade to the seven.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
—	—	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Here East ignored the vulnerability and followed the principle that with a seven-card suit you preempt at the three-level. He would have paid a heavy price if South had passed his partner's double as the defenders can restrict declarer to five tricks.

West led the ♥ 8 and declarer took East's jack with the king, passed the ♠ Q and then tried to cash dummy's top diamonds. East ruffed and continued with the ♥ 2, West ruffing and returning the ♦ J. Declarer ruffed, ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond, played a spade to the ace and a club, claiming when East produced the king, +420 and 10 IMPs that restored **Robinson's** lead.

Board 36. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Ventin v Robinson Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Palma</i>
1♥	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	2♣
Dble	All Pass		

West led the ♠ 6 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a diamond to the queen, West winning with the king and exiting with a spade, declarer ruffing East's queen and playing a diamond to West's ace. He took the diamond exit with dummy's jack, played a heart to West's king and ruffed the heart return with dummy's ♣ 5. East overruffed and played his remaining diamond, ruffed with the ♣ 8 and overruffed by West with the jack, who exited with the ♥ 4. If declarer discards a spade East ruffs, but that will be the last trick for the defence. When declarer ruffed the heart with dummy's ♣ 7 East overruffed and returned the ♣ 2 leaving declarer with a losing heart which meant he was two down, -300.

There is a way for the defenders to ensure two down – West must lead a top heart and then continue with a low one. East overruffs dummy, returns a diamond, overruffs another heart and exits with a club, West scoring three more tricks.

An initial trump lead might appear to be promising, but declarer can duck and subsequently play on hearts for seven tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
1♥	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♥	All Pass		

North led the ♦ 7 and declarer took South's queen with the ace, cashed the ♥ A and played the ♣ J. When it held he cashed the ♥ K, but when North discarded he could not avoid the loss of six tricks, -50 and 8 IMPs to Robinson.

If declarer had cashed a second heart immediately, disclosing the bad break, he could then have played a spade to dummy's queen followed by a low club. When the jack holds, he cashes the ♦ K and then exits with a club. As the cards lie, he must come to eight tricks.

Nickell v Team Black Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Black</i>
1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

East led the ♥ 7 and West won with the king, cashed the ♦ K and played the ♠ 2 for the jack, queen and seven, East continuing with the ♦ 4. West won and returned the ♦ 10 to declarer's jack. A club for the king and ace was followed by the ♥ Q for the ace, ruffed by declarer's four

and overruffed by East, who exited with the ♦6, ruffed by West, who cashed the ♣J and then played the ♥4, East ruffing when declarer pitched his remaining club. Declarer ruffed the club return but had to lose another spade, so that was four down, -800.

Declarer can save a trick by taking the ace of spades at trick three and returning the jack.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Levin</i>
1♥	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♥	All Pass		

North led the ♣5 and declarer won with the jack, cashed the ♥A and then played the ♠2, North taking the ace and switching to the ♦7. Declarer took South's queen with the ace, cashed the ♥K and played the ♣4, South taking the ace and returning the ♦9. Declarer went up with the king and played a spade to the queen. South ruffed but could not avoid giving declarer his eighth trick with dummy's ♣K, a well-played +110, but a loss of 12 IMPs.

Board 38. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Nickell v Team Black Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Black</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
All Pass			

2♣ Gazzilli

West led the ♠2 and declarer took East's king with the ace and played the ♥K, West winning and returning the ♠5 for the ten, jack and queen. Declarer pitched a

diamond on the ♥Q and played a club to the king and a club, soon claiming his contract by virtue of ruffing a third heart high and playing another club, +90.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Levin</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
1NT	All Pass		

North led the ♣2 and declarer won with the eight, cashed the ♦K and exited with the ♥4, South winning with the queen and returning the three. Declarer took that with the nine, unblocked the ♦A and played two rounds of hearts, South winning and returning his remaining heart. Declarer won, played a spade to the jack and South took the queen, cashed the ace and exited with a spade to ensure a diamond trick, holding declarer to eight tricks, +120 and 5 IMPs.

Suppose declarer unblocks the diamonds before playing a heart. Then he can win South's heart return with dummy's eight, cash the ♦Q and exit with a diamond. That way he makes nine tricks.

Board 39. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Nickell v Team Black Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Black</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥*	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

1♥ Spades

West led the ♦4 and declarer won with dummy's king and played the ♣6, East taking the ace which solved

Ventin v Robinson**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♦	2♥	Dble
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the ♥J and when declarer pitched dummy's ♠3 West followed with the seven. East continued with the five and declarer took West's ten with the ace and ran the ♦Q, which meant three down, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Zia</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥	2♥	2♠
3♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

South led the ♣A and switched to the ♠K for a routine one down, -100 and 9 IMPs.

Nickell v Team Black**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥	2♥	2♠
3♥	All Pass		

South led the ♣A, cashed the king and switched to the ♠K. When declarer won with the ace and played a diamond South took the ace and cashed the ♠Q at which point declarer claimed eight tricks, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♥*	2♥	Dble
3♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

1♣ 16+ or 17+ balanced
1♥ 8-11

West led the ♥10 and declarer took dummy's ace pitching a spade and ran the ♦Q. West won, returned the ♦3 for East to ruff and the ♠A meant the contract was two down, -200 and 6 IMPs for **Team Black**.

Board 45. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Ventin v Robinson**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dble	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

North led the ♠J and South took the king and returned the six, declarer ruffing, playing three rounds of trumps ending in dummy and a heart to the ten, +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Zia</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dble	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

South led the ♣2 and declarer won in dummy and played the ♦6, North winning with the king and returning the ♣7. Declarer won in dummy, cashed the top hearts and must have been delighted when for the second time on the deal South contributed an honour. Declarer crossed to the ♥J, went back to dummy with a diamond, pitched a diamond on the ♥10, ruffed a diamond and gave up a spade for a magnificent, miraculous, 11 tricks, +400 and 7 IMPs.

Nickell v Team Black Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Hult	Weinstein	Bertheau
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Dble	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3 ♠*	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
5 ♣	All Pass		

2NT Scrambling

South led the ♠K and switched to the ♦9, North winning with the king and returning the two. Declarer won with the ace, cashed the ♣AK and seeing South's jack continued with a low club to dummy's nine. A heart to the ten was followed by a claim of ten tricks, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Paske	Hampson	McIntosh	Greco
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Dble	2 ♠*	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3 ♠*	Pass	4 ♣	All Pass

2 ♠ Weak

2NT Natural

East remarked that this is probably a very uncomfortable hand to have if you don't play 2NT as natural. (It would be a triumph to reach 3NT!)

South led the ♠A and switched to the ♦8, North winning with the king and returning the two. Declarer won, cashed the ♣AK and the ♥A, played a club to the nine and a heart, claiming ten tricks, +130 and 5 IMPs.

Board 46. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Ventin v Robinson Open Room

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Palma	Meckstroth	Wrang
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2 ♦*	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All Pass	

Declarer took West's lead of the ♠K with the ace, played hearts in regular fashion, drew trumps, and played a diamond for the three, jack and king. West continued spades and declarer took the third round with the ten and finessed in diamonds, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Gold	Mendes de Leon Zia	
—	—	2 ♣*	2NT
Pass	3 ♦*	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2 ♣ Weak in clubs or any game force

3 ♦ Transfer

West led the ♣2 for the queen and ace and declarer played the ♦J for the king and ace followed by a second diamond to East's queen. Back came the ♣9 and when declarer put in the jack, he was two down, -200 and 13 IMPs went away.

Nickell v Team Black Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Hult	Weinstein	Bertheau
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2 ♦*	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♣*	Dble	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All Pass	

2 ♦ Transfer

3 ♣ Transfer

East resisted the temptation to open 3 ♣ – as did everyone else.

West led the ♣2 and declarer took East's queen with the ace and ran the ♦J, East taking the queen and returning the ♣10 for the jack, king and a ruff. Declarer cashed dummy's ♥K, played a heart to the ace and ran the ♦10, claiming 12 tricks when it held, +680.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	—	3♣	3NT
All Pass			

West led the ♣2 for the three, queen and eight. When East continued with the five, declarer needed to go up with the ace to block the club suit.

Easier said than done, and when declarer played the jack West won and played his remaining club. Declarer won and played hearts in the approved fashion, cashing all five tricks in the suit.

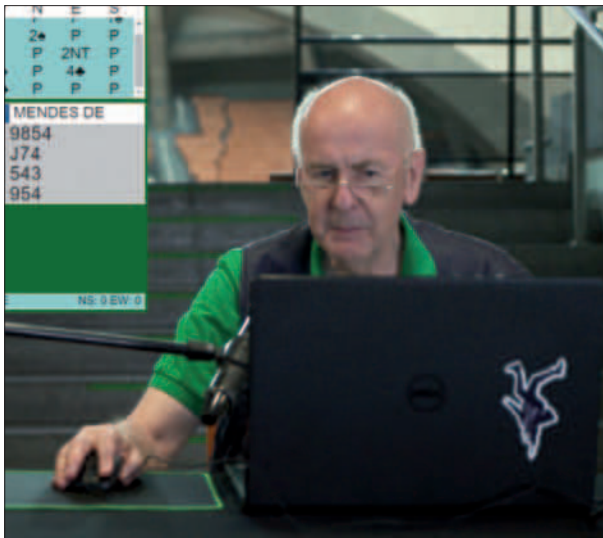
East pitched all his remaining clubs and the ♠2 and when declarer continued with a low diamond from dummy East not unreasonably followed with the three, West taking the jack with the king and switching to the ♠K.

South took the ace and returned the eight, West winning with the queen and exiting with the ♦6. When declarer put in dummy's nine, he was one down, -100 and 13 IMPs away making the score 115-114!

Declarer had played East to be 5-1-1-6 – possible, but perhaps unlikely.

On Board 48 McIntosh held ♠875 ♥A109642 ♦KJ3 ♣10 and opened 2♥ third in hand. When South doubled, Paske, looking at ♠J93 ♥J8 ♦A8762 ♣A76 raised him to 3♥ and that went two down which cost 3 IMPs when NS made 2♠ in the other room.

By the time four deals remained **Ventin** was ahead, 101-93.



Simply the best!

Board 53. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Ventin v Robinson**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

- 2♣ Gazzilli
- 2♥ Less than 8
- 3♠ 16+, game forcing

East led the ♥K and declarer took dummy's ace and played the ♦9, East winning with the king and switching to the ♣2. Declarer won with dummy's king and played the ♦J, West taking the ace and returning the ♣6 to dummy's ace. Declarer ruffed a heart, ruffed a club, ruffed a heart and played the ♦Q, ruffed by the ♠5 and overruffed with dummy's jack. A heart ruff was declarer's eighth trick, and he had the top spades for +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon Zia</i>	
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The first five tricks were basically the same, but here declarer then cashed the ♠A and continued with a spade to the king. Declarer cashed the ♦Q, ruffed a diamond and ran the ♥8 pitching a club. East won, cashed the top spades, and played a club for three down and 11 IMPs that gave **Ventin** some breathing space at 112-93.

Board 54. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

**Ventin v Robinson
Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♣	All Pass

2NT Forcing

4♦ RKCB for clubs

4NT 2 keycards

I confess I'm a little mystified by West's 5NT, as it usually implies that a grand slam is in the picture, but 6♣ was a sound contract. South led the ♠A and declarer was soon claiming, +1390.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon Zia</i>	
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♥*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
6NT	Pass	7♣	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣

1♥ 8+, 4+♥, may have longer diamonds

2♦ 5+♣ & 4+♦ game forcing or 18-20 balanced

2♥ Relay

3♣ 5+♣, 4+♦

3♦ Slam interest in a minor

3♠ Shortness, and or 4♦, 6+♣

South led the ♥6 so when the clubs behaved (53.13%) the slam was home.

The only lead to give the defenders any hope is a club – but even then, declarer might make – for example, he draws trumps, plays three rounds of hearts ruffing, and runs the clubs to squeeze South.

It was a 13 IMP swing and with the lead up to 32 IMPs the match was as good as over.

In the other match both teams bid 7♣!

Board 55. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

**Ventin v Robinson
Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2NT 22-23

East led the ♥4 and declarer managed 11 tricks, +460.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon Zia</i>	
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

2♥ Kokish

2♠ Forced

2NT Balanced

East led the ♥8 and declarer took West's queen with the ace and played on spades, claiming for one down when the finesse lost, another 11 IMPs away that saw **Ventin** take the last set 61-22.

Meanwhile in the other match an overtrick IMP on Board 51 had brought **Team Black** to within 3 IMPs, but the last five deals were pushes – over the final ten deals only 4 IMPs had been scored. It would be **Nickell v Ventin** for the Cup!

Rosenblum Final

If the semi-finals were a guide, the final promised to be an exciting affair. The match comprised six sessions of 16 boards.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Ventin	Weinstein	Palma
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	3♣	4♠	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

4NT RKCB

5♥ 2 keycards

This was not a support double position for EW.

North led the ♦10 for the queen, king and ace and declarer played a spade to the ace, a spade to the king and a heart. North ruffed and cashed the ♦J, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Hampson	Mendes de Leon	Greco
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	3♣	Dble*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Dble 3♠

South led the ♣6 and declarer took dummy's ace and played a heart, winning with the ace when North pitched the ♣4. Declarer continued with the ♠8, running it to North's ten and back came the ♦J covered in turn by the queen, king and ace. Declarer continued with the ♠5 for the jack, ace and queen and played a third spade, but South ruffed and played a diamond to North's ten. South's trump trick ensured one down, -50 so no swing.

One way to secure ten tricks is to play three rounds of spades after taking the ♥A. If South pitches a club and North continues with a club declarer ruffs low and South overruffs and exits with the ♥J. Now declarer can play three rounds of hearts to endplay South.

A stronger defence is for North to switch to the ♦J. Then the only winning line is for declarer to cover with the queen and duck South's king. If South exits with a diamond declarer takes the ace collecting North's ten, cashes the ♦9, ruffs a diamond and plays a low heart restricting South to just one trump trick. Not exactly easy.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Ventin	Weinstein	Palma
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	2♦*	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

2♦ 5+♠, 4+♥, 4-8

South led the ♦5 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the ♠J, covered in turn by the queen, king and ace. When South returned the ♦Q declarer took dummy's king, cashed the ♣A and ducked a club, North, having dropped the queen on the previous round, winning with the ten and returning the ♦6. Declarer won with the jack, crossed to the ♥K and played a club,

North winning with the king. At this point declarer is credited with 10 tricks and +630, but I would be surprised if North did not cash the ♦7.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3NT*	All Pass		

- 1♣ 2+♣
 2♥ Reverse or 15+♣ or 18+♣ +3♠
 2♠ Asking
 3♦ Clubs, short spades or 18+ with 3♠
 3♥ Asking
 3NT 0-1♠

North led the ♦8 for the jack, queen and ace and declarer cashed the ♣A to which North contributed the king. When declarer continued with the ♣6 he won with the ten and switched to the ♠Q for the king, two and jack. Declarer came to hand with the ♥K and cashed the queen, North following with the two and six, South with the eight and nine. With both defenders having suggested they held an even number of cards in hearts (the convention card says, 'Lo=even') declarer played a third club and North won and played the ♠9 which gave the defenders five tricks, +100 and 12 IMPs.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Palma</i>
1♥	Pass	3♥	Dble
Rdble	4♦	All Pass	



Juan Carlos Ventin

East led the ♦5 and West won with the king and switched to the ♠8 for the seven, ten and ace. East won the spade return with the queen and exited with the ♥J, declarer ruffing, ruffing a spade and playing a diamond for the nine and ace. West exited with his remaining diamond and declarer claimed for one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Greco</i>
1♥	Pass	3♣*	Dble
4♥	All Pass		

- 3♣ Mixed raise

North led the ♦Q and declarer won with the ace as South followed with the ♦9 and ducked a club. South won and returned the ♦4, declarer winning and ducking a second club. North won and switched to the ♠J. South's ace got the defenders up to three tricks and North's ♥Q meant one down, -100 and a 5 IMP swing to Nickell.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Ventin	Weinstein	Palma
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♦9 and when dummy's king held declarer played a club to the queen, cashed the ace and exited with a third club which assured him of nine tricks. The official scorecard records the result as +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Hampson	Mendes de Leon	Greco
—	—	1♥	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2♣ Game forcing relay

2♦ Minimum, not 4♠

2♥ Relay

2NT 5+♥, no second suit (5332, 6331, 6322, etc)

South led the ♠5 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a club to the queen. When it held he continued with the ace and a third club, North winning with the king and astutely switching to the ♥6. Declarer tried the eight, but South won with the nine and returned the four, declarer taking the ace and playing a diamond to the king. North won with the ace and played the ♥2, South's ♥K10 ensuring the demise of the contract, -100 and another 12 IMPs for **Nickell** who was setting a hot pace, ahead 37-3.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Ventin	Weinstein	Palma
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

2♣ Two-way checkback

2♦ Artificial

It is possible that 2♦ indicated a modest hand with three hearts.

North led the ♦5 and declarer won with the king and played a heart for the three, king and ace, South returning the ♦4. Declarer won with the ace, cashed the ♥Q and played a third heart, South winning and playing the ♦9. Declarer won with the queen and played a spade and North hopped up with the ace and cashed his diamonds at which point declarer claimed, +120.

If South had switched to a spade at any point declarer would have been unlikely to take more than seven tricks. As far as I can see North's ♥3 conveyed no message about the quality of his diamonds.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Hampson	Mendes de Leon	Greco
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	Pass	1♥*	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

1♣ 2+♣

1♥ 8+, may have longer diamonds

2♣ Forces 2♦

2♠ 4♠, 5(+)♥, invitational

South led the ♣Q and when North followed with the king declarer won with the ace, played three rounds of diamonds pitching two clubs, ruffed a club and played a spade for the queen and ace. North returned the ♠7 and declarer took the king, ruffed a spade and played a club, overruffing North's ♥10 and ruffing a spade with the ♥8 as South pitched the ♦J. Declarer exited with the ♥Q and eventually secured his game going trick with the ♥9, +620 and 11 IMPs.

The winning defence is to lead a heart at trick one, denying declarer any spade ruffs. No doubt Brother Hubert would consider it routine.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Ventin	Weinstein	Palma
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West led the ♣5 for the ten and king and declarer continued with the ♦Q and then ran the ten when it held, East winning with the ace. He cashed the ♣A and when West followed with the seven he switched to the ♠3, West winning with the king and returning the four. Declarer won with dummy's queen and played a heart to the ten, claiming on the next round, +420.

**Geoff Hampson****Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Hampson	Mendes de Leon Greco	
Pass	Pass	1NT*	Dble*
Pass	Pass	2♣	Dble*
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

1NT 12-14
Dble 14+
Dble Takeout

2♣ doubled would have been no picnic, but players are wary of converting with modest trumps.

East led the ♠3 and West won with the king and switched to the ♦8, East taking the ace, cashing the ♣A and exiting with the ♦3. Declarer won, cashed the top hearts and claimed the rest, +170 but a loss of 6 IMPs.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Ventin	Weinstein	Palma
—	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West led the ♠J and declarer won with the ace and played a heart to the ten and ace, East returning the ♣3 for the king and ace. When West switched to the ♦3 declarer played dummy's queen followed by the ♥Q, claiming ten tricks, +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Hampson	Mendes de Leon Greco	
—	2♥*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

2♥ 4-10, 6(5)♥

East led the $\spadesuit 4$ for the five, king and ace and when declarer continued with the $\heartsuit 10$ he shot up with the ace and switched to the $\clubsuit 3$, West taking the ace and returning the $\spadesuit 3$. When East was able to ruff that the contract was one down, -50 and 10 IMPs.

There was a way to counter the threat of the diamond ruff, but it is not easy to see. Declarer must play three rounds of spades intending to discard both his clubs. If West ruffs in on the third round, declarer overruffs and plays a heart. It is a neat variation of the classical scissor's coup.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 4
♥ K Q 8 7 6 4 3
♦ Q 9 6
♣ 8 4

♠ 3
♥ J 10
♦ K 8 5 4 3
♣ A 9 6 5 3

♠ A 9 8
♥ 9 5
♦ A J 7 2
♣ K J 7 2

♠ K Q J 10 7 6 5 2
♥ A 2
♦ 10
♣ Q 10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Palma</i>
—	—	—	1 ♠
3 ♥	Pass	Pass	4 ♠
All Pass			

West led the ♥K and when it held he switched to the ♣8, East winning with the king and returning the two to declarer's queen. The ♠Q was taken by East's ace and he exited with the ♥9. Declarer won and played four more rounds of trumps but when East discarded both his remaining clubs declarer played a diamond to the king and ace for one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	—	—	1 ♠
3 ♥	Pass	Pass	4 ♠
All Pass			

Here too the ♥K was ducked, but when West continued with the seven declarer won and played on spades, East

taking the second round and exiting with the ♠9. Declarer won and played his spades to reach this position:

♠ —
 ♥ —
 ♦ Q 9 6
 ♣ 8

♠ —
 ♥ —
 ♦ K 8
 ♣ A 9

♠ —
 ♥ —
 ♦ A J
 ♣ K J

♠ 2
 ♥ —
 ♦ 10
 ♣ Q 10

N
 W E
 S

When he tabled the ♠2 East was the victim of a strip-squeeze and forced to part with the ♦J, whereupon declarer exited with a diamond to force a lead into the split club tenace, ten tricks and a well-deserved 10 IMPs.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Palma</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the ♥9 and declarer wasted no time, claiming nine tricks, +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Greco</i>
1NT*	Dble	All Pass	

1NT 9-12, 5♥/♠ or 6♦/♣ possible

North led the ♦ Q and South overtook it and returned the jack, North following with the five. If that had suit preference overtones one would expect South to switch to a heart (the convention card says, 'Trick 2 suit pref. vs NT, unless count is needed' but it's not clear in which situations that would apply).

When South persisted with the ♦ 9 North played the four and South switched to the ♠ 5. To get the maximum now North must take the ace and switch to a heart, but that is bordering on the miraculous. When he put in the ten declarer won with dummy's king and played the ♣ Q. North winning with the ace and cashing two diamonds on which South pitched the four and seven of clubs. When North switched to the ♠ 4 declarer emerged with six tricks, -100 and 11 IMPs.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Ventin	Weinstein	Palma
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2♠ Forcing

North led the ♣ 5 and South took the ace and returned the two, North winning with the queen and exiting with the four, South following with the ten as declarer won with the king and played a heart to the four, jack and queen. South cashed the long club and switched to the ♠ 5 and when North turned up with the king that was one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Hampson	Mendes de Leon	Greco
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

- 3♣ Fourth-suit forcing
- 3♦ Not 3♠, 6♥ or good stopper
- 3♥ Asking for a stopper in clubs
- 3♠ Half stopper, maybe better in your hand than mine

The first three tricks were as in the other room, but at trick four declarer cashed the ♦ A, played a diamond to dummy's king and a spade to the three, ten and king. When North switched to the ♥ 5 declarer took dummy's ace, cashed the ♥ K and claimed 10 tricks when the queen appeared, +630 and 12 IMPs that meant **Ventin** had taken the lead, 53-47.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Ventin	Weinstein	Palma
—	—	1♦	2♦*
2♠*	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♥*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

- 2♦ Majors
- 2♠ Diamond support
- 4♥ RKCB
- 5♣ 2 keycards

Knowing that the ♦ Q was missing West settled for game, South leading the ♥ K and continuing with the

two. Declarer ruffed in dummy, cashed the $\heartsuit A$ and the $\clubsuit A$ and ruffed a club, claiming when the queen appeared, +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	—	1 $\heartsuit^*$	2 $\heartsuit^*$
4NT*	Pass	5 $\heartsuit^*$	Pass
6 $\heartsuit$	All Pass		

- 1 $\heartsuit$ Natural, but unbalanced, (not 5332, only 4 $\heartsuit$ if 4441 $\clubsuit$)
 2 $\heartsuit$ Majors
 4NT Optional RKCB, but the response is always keycards after a jump like this
 5 $\heartsuit$ 2 keycards

The play was essentially the same as in the other room although here declarer cashed the $\clubsuit AK$ on route to his claim, +920 and another 11 IMPs.

At the end of this dramatic session **Ventin** led 64-48.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

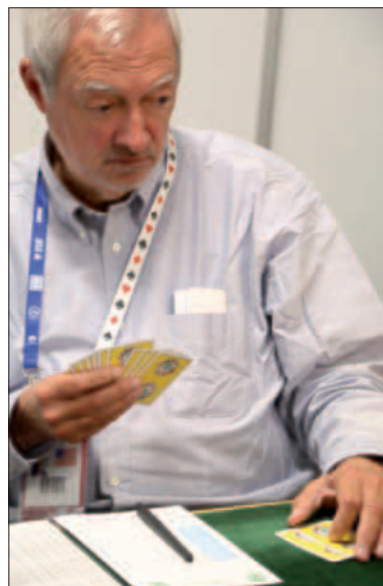
	$\spadesuit$ K J 4	
	$\heartsuit$ K 4	
	$\diamondsuit$ A Q 9 8 7	
	$\clubsuit$ K 6 5	
$\spadesuit$ Q 10 6		$\spadesuit$ A 9 8 5 2
$\heartsuit$ 7 5 2		$\heartsuit$ 8 3
$\diamondsuit$ K 10 5 3 2		$\diamondsuit$ J 6 4
$\clubsuit$ Q 7		$\clubsuit$ 10 9 3
	$\spadesuit$ 7 3	
	$\heartsuit$ A Q J 10 9 6	
	$\diamondsuit$ —	
	$\clubsuit$ A J 8 4 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2 $\heartsuit^*$
Pass	2 $\heartsuit$	Pass	3 $\clubsuit$
Pass	3NT	Pass	5 $\heartsuit$
Pass	6 $\heartsuit$	All Pass	

- 2 $\heartsuit$ Transfer

With little to go on East went with the $\heartsuit 4$ and declarer took West's king with the ace, drew trumps, cashed one more heart and then took the top clubs ending in hand and claimed all the tricks, +1460.



Nick Nickell

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Greco</i>
Pass	1 $\clubsuit^*$	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2 $\clubsuit^*$	Pass	2 $\heartsuit^*$
Pass	2 $\clubsuit^*$	Pass	3 $\heartsuit^*$
Pass	4 $\heartsuit$	Pass	5 $\heartsuit$
Pass	5NT*	Pass	6 $\heartsuit$
All Pass			

- 1 $\clubsuit$ 16+, artificial
 1NT 5+ $\heartsuit$, 12+
 2 $\clubsuit$ Relay
 2 $\heartsuit$ 6+ $\heartsuit$
 2 $\spadesuit$ Relay
 3 $\heartsuit$ 5 $\clubsuit$
 4 $\heartsuit$ Discouraging
 5 $\heartsuit$ Slam try
 5NT Pick a slam

South could have shown his diamond void, but appreciating that might help the defenders he made a less revealing slam try.

When West led the $\heartsuit 2$ declarer put in dummy's queen and must have been pleased when it held. He discarded a second spade on the ace, drew trumps, crossed back to dummy with the $\clubsuit K$ and took the club finesse, +1430 to lose only an IMP.

That was the only flicker of excitement during the first eight deals, **Nickell** outscoring **Ventin** 6-1.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Katz	Mendes de Leon	Nickell	Sprinkhuizen
—	1♣*	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

- 1♣ 2+♣
 2♦ Reverse or 17-19 balanced
 2♠ Relay, no slam interest or 3-suited (4441)

East led the ♠8 and declarer won with dummy's nine, cashed the ♦AK, played the ♠10 to dummy's ace and two more rounds of spades, discarding a heart from dummy. A diamond to dummy's queen was followed by a club to the jack and queen and East switched to the ♥6, West winning and playing a club, which gave the defenders five tricks, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	Hampson	Palma	Greco
—	1♣*	Pass	1♦*
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠*	All Pass	

- 1♣ 16+, artificial
 1♦ 0-7
 1NT 17-18
 2♣ Stayman
 2♠ 4/5 ♠ (not 4/5 ♥)

East led the ♥6 and West won with the king and switched to the ♦4, declarer winning with the ace and running the ♠J to West's queen. A second diamond saw

declarer win, draw trumps and play the ♥Q, establishing an eighth trick for +110.

Once declarer had taken the wrong view in spades the defenders had a chance, albeit a difficult one, to beat the contract. West must switch to a club and East wins and must then go back to diamonds. That leaves declarer between a rock and a hard place. If he draws trumps he will lose three clubs, but if he doesn't, he will suffer a diamond ruff.

Whatever, it was 4 IMPs for **Nickell**.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Katz	Mendes de Leon	Nickell	Sprinkhuizen
—	1NT	2♦*	Dble
Pass	Pass	2♥	Dble
All Pass			

- 2♦ One major

Dummy's modest assets fitted well, ensuring that there was no catastrophe. South led the ♦3 and North took the king and switched to the ♠7 for king and ace, South returning the ten to dummy's jack. Declarer played a heart to the king and a second heart, ruffed the diamond return, cashed the ♠Q and played a club to dummy's queen. He was sure of six tricks, -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	Hampson	Palma	Greco
—	1NT	2♥	3♥*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- 3♥ Short ♥, game forcing without 4+♠ and typically not 6♣/♦

East led the ♠Q and when it held he continued with the king, declarer taking dummy's ace, unblocking the diamonds and giving up a spade. He won West's switch to the ♥J, cashed the ♠9 and could afford to run the ♣J, eventually claiming, +600 and 3 IMPs.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Katz	Mendes de Leon	Nickell	Sprinkhuizen
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
1NT	All Pass		

North led the ♠Q and declarer ducked, won the next spade with the ace and played a diamond for the nine and ten, South switching to the ♣K. Declarer took the ace and played a diamond, putting up dummy's king. South won, cashed the ♠K and then played a club setting up three tricks for North, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	Hampson	Palma	Greco
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
1NT	All Pass		

North led the ♥2 and when declarer played dummy's three South won with the jack and did well to switch to the ♠5, declarer taking the ace and playing a diamond to the jack, which South did well to duck, keeping the defence in the game. When declarer continued with dummy's ♦K South won, but North now had to find the extraordinarily difficult play of unblocking the queen. Unsurprisingly he followed with the two and South continued with the ♠3 for the ten and queen. North continued with the ♣J for the queen, king and ace and declarer played the ♥9 to dummy's ace and ducked a

diamond. North won and cashed the ♣10, but declarer was home, even recording an overtrick when North tried a third club, +120 and 6 IMPs to Ventin, the biggest swing of the set.

Nickell had knocked 4 IMPs off the deficit to trail 61-73.

Board 36. Dealer West. All Vul.

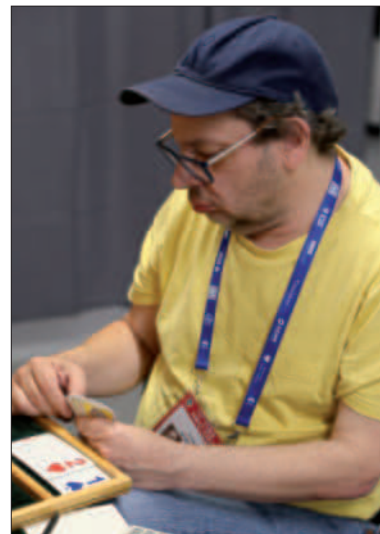
	♠ J 9 2	
	♥ 9 7 4	
	♦ J 6 4 3	
	♣ Q 9 2	
♠ Q 10 3		♠ A 7 6 4
♥ A Q 8 6		♥ K 10
♦ 10 9		♦ 5 2
♣ A 10 8 7		♣ K J 6 5 3
	♠ K 8 5	
	♥ J 5 3 2	
	♦ A K Q 8 7	
	♣ 4	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Mendes de Leon	Weinstein	Sprinkhuizen
1♣	Pass	1♠	Dble
Rdbl*	2♦	Dble	3♦
Pass	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Rdbl 3♠

East's double should be read in the context that the partnership employs reverse Flannery over a 1♣



Steve Weinstein

opening, so 1♠ denied four hearts unless East held a game forcing hand.

Five Clubs would have had no chance if the defenders had started by cashing two diamonds, but North led the ♥4 for the ten, jack and ace. Declarer played a heart back to dummy's king, came to hand with the ♣A, pitched a diamond on the ♥Q and continued with the ♥8. North ruffed with the ♣9 and declarer overruffed with dummy's jack, cashed the ♠A and played a spade to the queen for a useful looking +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Palma</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Greco</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥*	Dble
1♠*	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	3♣*	All Pass

- 1♥ Spades
 1♠ 3♠
 2♣ Two-way
 2♦ Forced
 3♣ 5+♣, 4♠ invitational

After the same opening lead declarer took two rounds of hearts, cashed the top clubs, and played two more hearts, arriving at 11 tricks by getting the spades right, +150 but a 10 IMP loss.

Board 37. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♣
3♦*	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West's 3♦ was a game try which East was happy to accept. Adherents of 'Meckstroth's Law' would have bid 4♠ directly with West's cards.

North led the ♥5 and South took the ace and continued with the queen, North overtaking it with the king and playing the ♦2, perhaps hoping partner might be able to ruff. Declarer let it run to his hand and after winning with the jack he cashed the ♠A and then played the ♦K. South discarded a heart and when declarer continued with a spade to the queen he won and switched to the ♣10, declarer claiming nine tricks, -100.

As the cards lie, declarer must find the anti-positional line of taking the diamond switch with dummy's ace and finessing in spades. Not obvious, especially after North's double.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Palma</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♣
3♥*	Dble	3♠	All Pass

North led the ♠2 for the three, king and ace and when both defenders followed to the ♠J, the result was +170 and 7 IMPs.

Board 39. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	1NT*
2♥	All Pass		

1NT 5♠+4♦

South led the ♣9 and when North ducked dummy's king declarer ducked a diamond to South's ten, South

returning the ♣4. North took two tricks in the suit and played the ♦K, followed by the queen. Declarer ruffed in dummy, ran the ♥J, then ran the ten and cashed the last two hearts, squeezing South for an overtrick, +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Palma</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦*	1 ♠
2 ♥	All Pass		

1 ♦ Hearts

North led the ♠3 for the ten and queen and declarer played a diamond to South's ten. The club return saw North duck dummy's queen and declarer played a heart to the ace and the ♠9 for the jack and ace. When declarer continued with the ♠8 North pitched the ♦Q and declarer discarded dummy's ♣3, South winning with the king and returning the ♣4. North won with the jack and played the ace and when declarer ruffed with dummy's ♥7 South overruffed with the nine, cashed the ♦A and played the ♦6, promoting North's ♥Q into the setting trick, -100 and a 6 IMP loss.

One way for declarer to prevail is to ruff the third round of clubs with dummy's ♥A and then play a heart.

Board 44. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

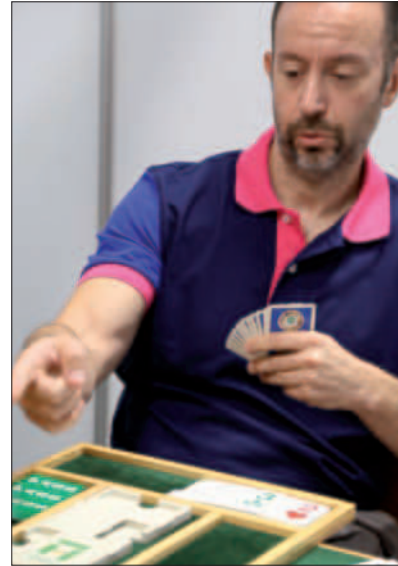
	♠ J 4 3	
	♥ 9 2	
	♦ 10 8 6 5	
	♣ K J 4 3	
♠ A Q 9 8		♠ 7
♥ 10 4		♥ K 8 7 3
♦ A J 4		♦ Q 9 3 2
♣ A Q 9 7		♣ 10 6 5 2
	♠ K 10 6 5 2	
	♥ A Q J 6 5	
	♦ K 7	
	♣ 8	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>
1NT	Pass	Pass	2 ♣*
Dble*	2 ♠	3 ♣	3 ♦
All Pass			

2 ♣ Majors

Dble 1 minor or both majors



Eric Greco

Clearly South did not intend his 3 ♦ to be interpreted as a natural bid. That East's competitive 3 ♣ had to be in the 'pass or correct' style' offered corroborative evidence.

West found the best lead of the ♣A and had he continued the suit declarer would have been likely to go four down. However, it hardly looked appealing and West switched to the ♥10, declarer winning with the queen, cashing the ace and then playing the six. West pitched the ♣7 and declarer ruffed, pitched a spade on the ♣K and ruffed a club with the ♦7. When he continued with the ♥5 West might have ruffed in with the ♦J which must lead to four down but he discarded allowing declarer to record a sixth trick, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Palma</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Greco</i>
1NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥*
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
All Pass			

Dble One minor or both majors or good ♠ overcall or strong hand not two-suited

2 ♣ Pass or correct

2 ♥ Both majors

Such is the lure of a vulnerable game that South was willing to make a try even though the strong hand was sitting over him. Change North's ♣KJ into the ♠A and add a trump and the contract would have some play.

An identical line of play led to an identical result. The score was different, +140 handing **Ventin** 5 IMPs.

Board 51. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Ventin	Greco	Palma
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

1♥ Spades

South's 3♠ was alerted for some reason, and presumably 4♦ was a slam-try. As for North's 3NT, it must have been some response to the mysterious 3♠. Let's move on to the play.

Antonio Palma won the jack of hearts lead with the ace, and led a club to the queen and king. When Eric Greco returned a trump, declarer rose with the king. What would happen after a second club now? West would win and return a trump. Two ruffs would give declarer only nine tricks but, as the cards lie, he could run the ♦J and survive when East began with a doubleton honour.

Palma instead played ace and another diamond to East's king. A second trump was returned, won with the ace. West won the next trick with the club jack and returned a safe ♥10. Declarer was out of steam and went one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Weinstein	Mendes de Leon	Levin
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

North was declarer at this table and the ♥6 was led, won with dummy's ace. When a club was played, West rose with the ace and returned a heart to South's king. A club to the queen and king was followed by yet another heart, ruffed in hand. The jack of diamonds was covered by the king and ace. A second diamond then set up that suit.

West led a third diamond, ruffed by East and overruffed with the ♠8. Declarer then ruffed the ♣9 high and claimed the last three tricks with his ♠AKJ. The contract had never been in trouble at this table, and it was 10 IMPs to **Nickell**.

Board 52. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Ventin	Greco	Palma
1♦*	Pass	1♥	1♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	All Pass

1♦ 11-15, usually 2+♦

South led the ♠3 and declarer took dummy's ace and played a club to the jack. When it lost to the queen prospects were poor. South switched to the ♥4 which went to the two, nine and ten. Declarer cashed the top clubs pitching dummy's spades, ruffed a spade and played the ♥J. North won and exited with a club, the defenders eventually scoring a trick in each red suit for one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Weinstein	Mendes de Leon	Levin
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

If West had rebid 1NT it would have promised 3♥, so East could be sure he was facing four-card support. That

information might have tempted South into bidding 2♠. South led the ♠3 and North won with the king and returned the jack to dummy's ace. When declarer continued with two rounds of diamonds South won with the ten and switched to the ♥4, the defenders playing three rounds of the suit. Declarer won, cashed his top clubs pitching a spade and then played the ♣J, claiming nine tricks when the queen appeared, +140 and 6 IMPs.

Board 53. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Ventin	Greco	Palma
—	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♠*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

1♣ 16+, artificial

1NT 5+♥, 12+

4♠ RKCB

5♥ 2 keycards + ♦Q

South led the ♠10 and declarer won with the ace and played two rounds of diamonds, claiming, +920.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Weinstein	Mendes de Leon	Levin
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♣*	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	6♦	All Pass

3♣ 15+, 6+♦ or 18+, 6+♦ and 3♥

4♣ Cuebid for diamonds

4NT Optional RKCB

5♠ 2 keycards + ♦Q

South led the ♣2 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the ♦Q, claiming when North covered, +940 and an IMP.

Board 56. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Ventin	Greco	Palma
1♦*	Pass	2♦*	2♥
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥*	Dble	Pass	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

1♦ 11-15, usually 2+♦

2♦ Forcing for one round

North led the ♣J but declarer had to lose a spade and two hearts, -50.

3NT would have had chances but is not easy to reach. West might try 3NT after North's double of 3♥ (which presumably showed a high heart honour) but that requires some very firm understandings to be viable. If the defenders start with three rounds of hearts declarer has his ninth trick, but things are not so clear if North leads (or switches to) the ♣Q. Declarer wins in dummy and plays a spade. If South plays low declarer needs to put in the jack – not an impossible play, but not an easy one.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Weinstein	Mendes de Leon	Levin
1♦	Pass	2♣	2♥
Pass	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Perhaps East might have tried 3♥ at his second turn, although whether it would have led to 3NT is open to question.

Kit Woolsey thought West should have doubled 2♥ for penalties, but that is a matter for partnership agreement. I doubt East considered doubling 2♥ given his lack of spades and huge support for diamonds. North started with two rounds of hearts and South won and switched to the ♠K, no swing.

Board 58. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Ventin	Greco	Palma
—	—	2♣*	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Dble	4♦	All Pass	

2♣ 6♣ 11-15

Was North worth a response of 3♣?

With four decent diamonds and an ace North's decision to run to 4♦ after West's double is open to question. If you don't fancy the idea of playing 3NT doubled then you could remove it to 4♣, which would give you a chance of reaching the virtually cold diamond game.

West led the ♣7 and East won and switched the ♠7 but declarer was not hard pressed to record 11 tricks, +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Weinstein	Mendes de Leon	Levin
—	—	1♣	1♦
Dble*	3♦	4♥	All Pass

Dble 4-5♥

Am I being overly optimistic if I suggest that North is too good for 3♦? Is there a case for bidding 2♣ to indicate a good raise in diamonds?

South led the ♦K and declarer ruffed, played the ♠7 to the jack and a spade for the queen and ace, North following with the five and three. South switched to the ♥K and then played the ♦2 forcing declarer to ruff. When declarer continued with the top clubs North ruffed, cashed the ♥A and exited with a diamond, declarer claiming eight tricks, -200 and a 2 IMP loss.

Board 63. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Ventin	Greco	Palma
—	—	—	1♥
Dble	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

West led the ♠4 and declarer won with the ace and played the ♦5, West taking the ace and playing two rounds of clubs. Declarer won in dummy and played the ♥Q for the king and ace. A spade ruff was followed by the ♦K for a club pitch, a diamond ruff with the ♥8 and the ♥J, declarer claiming, +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Weinstein	Mendes de Leon	Levin
—	—	—	1♥
Dble	3NT*	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

3NT Hearts

South led the ♦5 and when declarer put in dummy's queen North won and switched to the ♥7 for the king and ace. South returned the ♥3 and North won and switched to the ♦J. Unsure about the location of the ♣Q, South discarded a heart and declarer won with

East led the ♣A and continued with the eight. Declarer ruffed in dummy and when the queen appeared declarer could draw trumps and claim, +620.

The only way to defeat 4♥ is for East to lead a diamond when declarer cannot cope with the threat of a diamond ruff as drawing trumps will mean the loss of two club tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Nickell</i>
—	—	1♣*	1♠
Pass	2♥	3♣	3♥
4♣	All Pass		

1♣ 2+♣

South led the ♠Q and declarer won with the king and ducked a diamond, South winning with the six and continuing with the ♠J, declarer playing low from dummy and North pitching the ♥9. South carefully switched to the ♥2 and North won with the ace and exited with the ♣6. In due course the ♣J was the setting trick, -50, but 11 IMPs that gave **Ventin** the lead.

Board 69. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
—	1♥	Pass	3♣*
3♦	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

3♣ Hearts

East led the ♦4 and West took the ace and returned the nine, declarer winning with the king and cashing the ♥Q. When West pitched the ♦10 declarer drew trumps

via the marked finesse and with West throwing three diamonds, ran the ♠9. When it lost to the queen East returned the ♦6 which forced out declarer's remaining trump, but West could score only his two aces, -200.

The way the play went, if West had come down to ♠A7 ♦Q97 ♣AJ9 were declarer to have cashed the ♥K he could safely have pitched a spade, diamond or club for two down, but declarer could come to nine tricks by playing a spade to the king followed by a club to the king. That does give up on the idea of making the contract, and West might easily have held the ♠Q.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Nickell</i>
—	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Dble	Pass	2NT	3♥
4♦	All Pass		

2♦ Flannery, 11-16, 4♠ and 5+♥, rare 5♠ and 6♥

North led the ♥A and declarer ruffed and played two rounds of clubs, South winning with the eight and returning the ♥3. Declarer ruffed with the ♦10, cashed the ♦A and exited with the ♣9, South winning with the queen and continuing with the ♣K, declarer ruffing in dummy and playing a diamond. North won and got off play with a heart, declarer ruffing, cashing the ♠A and continuing with the six. When North followed with the jack declarer elected to duck so was two down, -100 so 7 IMPs for **Nickell**, giving them a 1 IMP cushion.

Board 70. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
—	—	2♠	3♣
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

South led the ♥K and when North followed with the nine he switched to the ♦6, North taking the ace and switching to the ♣4. South took declarer's king, cashed the queen and continued with the jack, declarer ruffing, drawing trumps and giving up a heart, two down, -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Nickell</i>
—	—	2♠	3♣
4♠	Dble	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West led the ♦Q and declarer took dummy's ace and played the ♠5, East taking the ace and returning the ♦5 to West's king. Back came the ♥J and declarer went up with dummy's ace, played a club to the queen, ruffed a spade, ruffed a heart and cashed the ♣A. When the king refused to appear he was one down, -100 and 12 IMPs for **Ventin**.

Board 72. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦*	1♥
3♣*	3♦*	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

- 1♦ 11-15, usually 2+♦
- 3♣ Minors, weak
- 3♦ Heart raise

West led the ♦4 and declarer went up with dummy's ace and played back the ♦9, East winning with the king and switching to the ♠2. Declarer put up the king, played a club to dummy's ace, ruffed a club, ruffed a diamond,

ruffed a club and ruffed a diamond with the ♥K. A fourth club was ruffed by East with the ♥6 and overruffed by declarer, who exited with a spade. East won with the queen and switched to the ♥4, West's queen holding declarer to his contract, +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Nickell</i>
Pass	1♣	Dble	1♥
1NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

I have never been a fan of the style which requires one to make a takeout double with a balanced hand.

North led the ♥K and continued with the ten, South putting up the ace and cashing three more tricks in the suit, North discarding the ♣4 and ♠3. South switched to the ♣2 and North allowed declarer to win with the queen. He ducked the ♣J, took the next round and returned the ♠4 South winning with the king and returning the ♦7 to North's ace for two down, -300 and 4 IMPs.

Board 75. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

- 2♥ 10-13
- 2NT Hearts, invitational

East led the ♦5 to West's ace and when he returned the two declarer ruffed with the ♥8, drew trumps and claimed shortly thereafter, +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Nickell</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	3♥
3♠	All Pass		

I'll leave you to debate the merits of a 2♠/2NT bid by South (the partnership uses them to distinguish between three and four card support) but if nothing else this deal illustrates the danger inherent in ignoring Meckstroth's Law.

South led the ♥4 and North won and switched to the ♦Q, continuing with the ♥A when it held. Declarer ruffed in dummy and ran the ♠8, South winning with the queen and playing the ♦6. Declarer played low from dummy and North ruffed and exited with the ♠K. A club had to be lost, -50 but a 9 IMP gain for **Ventin**, who took the set 45-19 to lead 145-135.

Board 82. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	2♦*	2♠*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2♦ ♥+♣
2♠ 4♠

North led the ♦4 and declarer put up dummy's king and cashed the ♠K, North discarding the ♣3. When declarer

continued by running the ♣J North won, cashed the ♥A and followed it with the jack, declarer winning in dummy, coming to hand with the ♣A, cashing the ♦A and pitching the ♥K on the ♣Q. South ruffed and had to come to another trump for one down, -50.

Suppose declarer puts in dummy's ♦J at trick one? When it holds is that a sufficient clue as to the winning line? Declarer comes to hand with a diamond and plays a heart, North taking the ace and returning the suit. Declarer wins in dummy, pitches a heart on the ♦K and ruffs a diamond. After cashing the ♣A declarer exits with a club and North wins and returns a club. Declarer ruffs with dummy's ♠K and plays the ♥K. If South ruffs with the ♠6 declarer overruffs and ruffs a club. South can overruff but must then lead into the split tenace.

As an aside, when an opponent has announced a two-suited hand it increases the possibility of a bad trump break. If you have what Reese described as 'reserves of strength' it may be better to play in 3NT.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♥*	1♠*	2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣
1♥ Spades
1♠ 'A takeout double of spades showing at least a preference for clubs'

South led the ♥9 and North won with the ace and returned the three to declarer's king. The ♠4 was covered by the ten and ace, North discarding the ♥6. Declarer cashed the ♦A, played a diamond to the jack and cashed the king discarding the ♥7. So far, so good, and if he now ruffs a diamond and plays two rounds of clubs North will have no good move, as exiting with a club sees declarer ruff with the ♠J. South overruffs and exits with a trump, but declarer scores the last two tricks with a high crossruff.

However, declarer continued with the ♥Q and the spotlight was on South. He found the only way to defeat the contract when he ruffed with the ♠6. Declarer overruffed with dummy's nine and exited with the ♣Q. North won and played the ♥J and declarer conceded one down as South's ♠Q83 were good for two tricks, -100 and 2 IMPs for **Nickell**.

Board 83. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Mendes de Leon	Weinstein	Sprinkhuizen
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT*	Pass	Pass
Dble*	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble*
All Pass			

1NT 9-14

Dble Modified DON'T

Dble Takeout

With an awkward hand to lead from North went with the ♠Q. Declarer won with the king, played a spade back to the jack and ace and cashed the ten, pitching the ♦6. When a club to the king held declarer exited with the ♦5 and North went up with the king and played the ♣Q. When it held he exited with the ♦3 and South won with the ace and cashed the ♣A to reach this position:

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

South played the ♠9 and declarer ruffed with the ♥Q. If North discards the ♦J he can win the heart exit with the

jack and exit with the five, getting two more tricks with the ♥A9 for -500.

When he overruffed with the ace it cost his side a trick, reducing the penalty to -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	Hampson	Palma	Greco
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT*	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble*
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

1NT 14-16

Dble Takeout

Here North did not convert partner's double.

East led the ♥10 and declarer took West's queen with the ace and returned the five to West's king. Back came the ♣7 and when declarer played the five, East's jack forced the ace, declarer playing a spade for the queen and ace. West took the club return with the king and switched to the ♦6 for the three, queen and ace. When the ♠6 saw West win with the king declarer was in control, winning the heart exit with the nine, cashing the ♠J and claiming eight tricks, +110 but a 3 IMP loss.

Board 84. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Mendes de Leon	Weinstein	Sprinkhuizen
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass

South led the ♦6 for the ten, jack and queen and when declarer played the ♥4 South went up with the king and continued with the ♦5. Declarer won with dummy's

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Greco</i>
1♣*	2♣	All Pass	

East led the ♠8 and West won with the queen, cashed the ace and played the five, East ruffing with the ♣8 (the ♣10 is an interesting possibility) and switched to the ♦3 (the ♦A followed by the three would leave declarer to solve the issue of the trump suit) West winning with the king and exiting with the ♠9. Declarer discarded the ♦J and East ruffed and played the ♦Q. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ♣A, took three rounds of hearts, ruffing and played a club to the jack, +90 and 5 IMPs.

Board 85. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ A 7 5
♥ K Q 10 9 6 5
♦ J 8
♣ K 9

♠ K Q 10 2
♥ 3
♦ A K 10
♣ Q J 10 7 6

N
W **E**
S

♠ J 8 6 4
♥ 8 4 2
♦ 9 6 3
♣ A 5 4

♠ 9 3
♥ A J 7
♦ Q 7 5 4 2
♣ 8 3 2

Open Room

South led the $\heartsuit 2$ and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the $\spadesuit K$, North taking the ace and switching to the $\clubsuit K$. After winning a second round of trumps allowed declarer to claim 11 tricks, +200.

West	North	East	South
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	1 ♥	Pass	1NT*
Dble	2 ♥	All Pass	

Although the NS fit was not so clear here, West must have considered a second double. By the same token, East must have been close to bidding $2\spadesuit$ over $2\heartsuit$.

East led the $\heartsuit 3$ and West won with the king and switched to the $\clubsuit J$ for the king and ace. He won the club return with the ten and continued with the queen, but declarer could ruff with the nine and play a second diamond, setting up the suit for spade discards and easily scoring nine tricks, +140 and 8 IMPs that saw **Nickell** regain the lead, 150-148.

Board 86. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

N

W

E

S

♠ Q 8 5
♥ 5
♦ A Q J 10 9 3
♣ A K 8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>
—	—	1♠	2♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	3♦
All Pass			

Given that you could more or less be certain that partner's double guaranteed four hearts, is West, with only one high card (and that of uncertain value) worth 3♥?

West led the ♠J, but East let it run and declarer won with the queen and played two rounds of diamonds, West ducking the jack, taking the queen with the king and playing the ♥10. East won with the jack and continued with the ace and declarer ruffed, drew trumps and emerged with nine tricks, +110.

Kit Woolsey thought East should have got it right.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	—	1♠	2♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	Rdbl
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

South's redouble left room for West to bid 2♥.

North led the ♦7 and South won with the ace, cashed the ♣K and continued with the ace followed by the eight. Declarer ruffed in dummy, cashed the ♠A, ruffed a spade, pitched a spade on the ♦K, ruffed a club, ruffed a spade and claimed on the high crossruff, +620 and 12 IMPs that restored the 10 IMP cushion **Ventin** enjoyed at the start of the set.

Given that North did not lead a heart at trick one, South needs to switch to a heart, either after taking the ♦A or after cashing the ♣K. Then, although declarer can establish the spades, the 4-1 trump break will prevent him from enjoying them.

Board 87. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥*	1♠
2♥	2♠	3♦	Pass
3♠*	Dble	4♥	All Pass

1♥ May have longer diamonds

North's simple raise might appear to be a little restrained, but his partner had not opened the bidding. Having said that, 4♠ is not going to be expensive.

South led the ♠2 and North won with the queen and switched to the ♦Q, declarer winning with the ace,

playing a club to the ace, cashing the king for a diamond discard and then playing the jack, ruffing when North pitched the ♠6. The ♥9 came next, declarer overtaking it with dummy's ten, ruffing a club with the ♥K and playing the ♥J. South won with the ace, but declarer claimed, +620.

Declarer's task would have been more complicated if North had played a second spade, forcing dummy to ruff. Then the winning line is to come to hand with a diamond and play a club to the jack. If declarer tries playing a heart to the king at trick three South must duck.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	Pass	1♦*	1♠
3♦*	3♥*	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣
1♦ Hearts
3♦ 13-15, 4♥
3♥ Spades

West led the ♣A and switched to the ♥8, declarer winning with the ace, drawing trumps and playing a diamond to the king and ace. When East returned a heart declarer soon claimed nine tricks, -200 but 9 IMPs, reducing the deficit to a single IMP.

When Nickell added an overtrick IMP on the next deal the teams were level with 8 deals remaining.



Guy Mendes de Leon



Frederic Wrang

Board 89. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Mendes de Leon	Weinstein	Sprinkhuizen
—	Pass	1♠	3♦
4♠	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West led the ♠6 and East won with the king and switched to the ♣5, West taking the king and returning the ten, East taking the ace and continuing with the queen. Declarer ruffed and cashed the ♦A, two down, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	Hampson	Palma	Greco
—	Pass	1♠	2♦
2NT*	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

2NT Spades

The defence ran along similar lines and there was no swing.

It must have been annoying for both NS pairs to discover that 4♠ was hopeless.

As an aside, if you play an opening bid of 2♥ to show a limited three-suiter which always contains 4♥ (a method that works well in conjunction with a strong club system which is described in detail in *The Mysterious Multi*) then South would be more likely to double a possible 4♠ than sacrifice.

Board 90. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Mendes de Leon	Weinstein	Sprinkhuizen
—	—	Pass	2♣*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

2♣ Weak two in clubs or any game force

Over 2♣ North's choices included a non-forcing relay of 2♦, a 2♥ relay and a forcing 2NT.

East led the ♥3 for the four, queen and ace and declarer played the ♠A followed by the queen, losing two spades, a heart and a diamond, one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	Hampson	Palma	Greco
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣*	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

- 1♣ 2+♣
- 2♦ Michaels
- 3♠ 'Natural descriptive bid'

West led the $\heartsuit 5$ and East won with the ace and switched to the $\clubsuit 10$ for the king and ace, declarer ruffing in dummy, ruffing a spade and playing a heart for the six, jack and king. Now East had to guess how best to tap the dummy. On this layout a diamond is a killer, but when East played the $\clubsuit 3$ declarer put up the queen and played a heart, after which he could draw the outstanding trump, cash the $\spadesuit A$ and claim ten tricks, +620 and 12 IMPs.

Board 91. Dealer South. None Vul.

	$\spadesuit Q$	
	$\heartsuit A K J 10 2$	
	$\diamond A 10 7$	
	$\clubsuit K J 9 8$	
$\spadesuit A 8$	N	$\spadesuit J 7 6 3$
$\heartsuit 9 4$	W	$\heartsuit 8 7 6 5$
$\diamond Q 9 5 4$	E	$\diamond K 6$
$\clubsuit A 7 6 4 3$	S	$\clubsuit Q 5 2$
	$\spadesuit K 10 9 5 4 2$	
	$\heartsuit Q 3$	
	$\diamond J 8 3 2$	
	$\clubsuit 10$	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Mendes de Leon Weinstein	Sprinkhuizen	
—	—	—	3 $\spadesuit$
Pass	4 $\spadesuit$	All Pass	

The tactic of preempting one level higher than you absolutely need to is well-known, but not always successful.

West led the $\heartsuit 9$ and declarer won with the queen, played a heart to the ten and continued with the jack, pitching the $\clubsuit 10$. West ruffed and switched to the $\diamond 5$, East winning with the king and returning the $\heartsuit 8$. When declarer ruffed with the $\spadesuit 10$ West pitched the $\clubsuit 3$. He won the next trick with the $\spadesuit A$ and played the $\diamond 4$, declarer winning with dummy's ten, ruffing a club and playing a diamond to dummy's ace. East ruffed and returned the $\spadesuit J$, declarer winning and claiming eight tricks, two down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	Hampson	Palma	Greco
—	—	—	2 $\spadesuit$ *
Pass	3 $\clubsuit$ *	Pass	4 $\heartsuit$
All Pass			

2 $\spadesuit$ 4-10
3 $\clubsuit$ Hearts

West led the $\heartsuit 4$ and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the $\spadesuit Q$, West taking the ace and exiting with the $\heartsuit 9$. Declarer won with the queen, cashed the $\spadesuit K$ pitching a diamond and played the $\clubsuit 10$, overtaking it with dummy's jack when West followed with the six. East won and returned the $\heartsuit 8$ to dummy's ten and having drawn the outstanding trump declarer played the $\clubsuit 8$ pitching a spade. West won and returned a club, declarer claiming nine tricks, -50. With the official scorecard showing only seven tricks at the other table that was 3 IMPs for **Nickell**.

Board 92. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

	$\spadesuit Q J 8 5$	
	$\heartsuit J 8 2$	
	$\diamond 8 2$	
	$\clubsuit K Q 8 6$	
$\spadesuit 9 6 4 3$	N	$\spadesuit 2$
$\heartsuit K 4 3$	W	$\heartsuit 10 9 7 6$
$\diamond A K Q 3$	E	$\diamond J 7 6 5 4$
$\clubsuit A J$	S	$\clubsuit 10 7 5$
	$\spadesuit A K 10 7$	
	$\heartsuit A Q 5$	
	$\diamond 10 9$	
	$\clubsuit 9 4 3 2$	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Mendes de Leon Weinstein	Sprinkhuizen	
1NT	All Pass		

North led the $\spadesuit Q$ and South won with the ace, cashed the king and then played the ten, followed by the seven, declarer discarding the $\heartsuit 6$, $\clubsuit 5$ and $\heartsuit 7$ from dummy. North knew from the way South had carded in spades that he held values in hearts, so he switched to the $\heartsuit 2$, but that only served to set up a seventh trick, +90.

If declarer had pitched hearts from dummy on the second and third spade South would have needed to find a club switch. As it was, once a club went from dummy North might have switched to the $\clubsuit K$ which would have defeated the contract.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	Hampson	Palma	Greco
1NT	Pass	2 $\diamond$ *	Pass
2NT	Pass	3 $\diamond$	Pass
3 $\heartsuit$	All Pass		

Al Hollander wondered if he could have predicted this auction with a copy of the EW notes.

One possibility is that 2NT promised a maximum and 3♦ was a retransfer, another that 2♦ showed 4♥ with a longer minor (but would usually be stronger than this East hand). The flaw is that if West is allowed to break the transfer with only three-card support then 2♦ is a gamble, hoping to prevent the opponents from finding a playable 4♠.

North led the ♠Q and South overtook it with the king and switched to the ♣4 North winning with the queen and returning the ♠5. Declarer ruffed in dummy, played a diamond to the ace, ruffed a spade, played a club to the ace, ruffed a spade, ruffed a club and played diamonds, eventually scoring the ♥K for eight tricks, one down, -50 and another 4 IMPs for **Nickell**, now ahead by 19 IMPs.

Board 93. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Mendes de Leon	Weinstein	Sprinkhuizen
—	1♠	1NT	2♠
Dble*	3♦	Pass	3♠
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
4♣	All Pass		

Dble Takeout

North led the ♥3 and declarer went up with dummy's ace and played a club, South taking the ace, cashing the ♥K and then playing the nine, hoping North would be able to ruff. That proved to be a forlorn hope and declarer won with the ten, pitched a diamond on the ♥Q, played a diamond to the ace and claimed ten tricks, +130.

How would 3NT doubled have fared?

On a spade lead say North puts in the ten and declarer wins and plays on clubs, South winning the third round as North pitches diamonds. Now South must play the

♠9. If declarer takes that he has no chance, but if he ducks South must switch to a diamond (not too difficult).

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	Hampson	Palma	Greco
—	1♠	1NT	2♠
Dble*	3♦	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

East led the ♣2 and declarer won with dummy's ace, played a diamond to the jack and ace, ruffed the club return and played a heart, East taking the ace and exiting with the ♣K. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ♦K, ruffed a diamond, played a spade to the ace and the ♦9, claiming nine tricks, +140 and 7 IMPs that pushed the lead to 26 IMPs.

Board 94. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levin	Mendes de Leon	Weinstein	Sprinkhuizen
—	—	1♣	1♥
3♦	3♥	3NT	All Pass

South led the ♥3 and declarer took North's jack with the king and played diamonds from the top which got him up to seven tricks, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	Hampson	Palma	Greco
—	—	1♣*	1♥
2♣*	3♦*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

- 1♣ 2+♣
- 2♣ Diamonds
- 3♦ Mixed raise

West led the ♠10 and East won with the king and returned the four, declarer overtaking his nine with dummy's ace (if declarer had unblocked the nine at trick one and East had still returned a spade the contract could be made by winning with dummy's eight and taking the heart finesse, a losing diamond eventually going on dummy's ♠A) and running the ♥J. A second heart accounted for the missing trumps and declarer cashed the ♠Q, went to dummy with a trump, ruffed a spade and exited with a diamond. West took the king and returned the ten, West's ♣K securing the setting trick, -50 and 4 IMPs that reduced the margin to 22 IMPs.

However, the penultimate deal was a straightforward game bid by both teams so the fact that both teams then allowed a beatable 3NT to make on the final deal did not matter.

It had been a great final, with many twists and turns, **Nickell** eventually prevailing 186-164.

Congratulations to Nick Nickell, Ralph Katz, Bobby Levin, Eric Greco, Geoff Hampson & Steve Weinstein. Jill Levin was the Captain, Eric Kokish the Coach and Norberto Bocchi the Manager.

The runners-up were Guy Mendes de Leon, Thibo Sprinkhuizen, Frederic Wrang, Antonio Palma, Juan Carlos Ventin and Joaquin Pacareu.

During the round of 32 Joaquin was made aware of a family emergency, and he decided to return to South America. From then on, team **Ventin** played five-handed, with Guy Mendes de Leon and Thibo Sprinkhuizen playing throughout, and Antonio Palma alternating between Fredric Wrang and his captain. The WBF President confirmed that all six players in the team would receive medals, which meant Joaquin became the first world championship medal winner from Chile. Portugal as well had now found their first medallist, while Spain had won just one world medal previously, by Juan Carlos Ventin himself, bronze in the Rosenblum in 2014.

The bronze medals went to **Team Black**, Andrew Black, Thomas Paske, Andrew McIntosh, Peter Bertheau, Simon Hult & Gunnar Hallberg and **Robinson**, Eric Robinson, Daniel Korbel, Jeff Meckstroth, David Berkowitz, David Gold & Zia Mahmood.



The Rosenblum Cup winners

Mixed Pairs

by Mark Horton

175 Pairs from 33 countries entered the competition in search of a coveted World title. Many of them would drop into the event as it progressed alongside the Mixed Teams. The early stages were covered by the time-honoured way of watching at the table.

During the second session Ron Tacchi was despatched to the playing rooms. As he was strolling about the auditorium deciding where to park his sylph-like frame he noticed a table where a young gentleman was wearing a suit with a waistcoat and a pink spotted bowtie, while the other gentleman at the table appeared to have blue dye in his hair (if it was a natural colour Ron apologises). There can be no other place than this was his immediate thought, so down he sat.

The NS pair were a husband-and-wife team from Switzerland: Adam and Elianna Meyerson. Their current opponents were Sophia Bałdysz and Patryk Patreuha from Poland.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 6

♥ K J 7 2

♦ K J 6 3

♣ A J 6 3

♠ A J 8 2

♥ 8 5 4 3

♦ 8 5

♣ 8 5 4

N

W

E

S

♠ K 10 7 5 3

♥ 9 6

♦ A Q 10 4

♣ Q 10

♠ Q 9 4

♠ A Q 10

♦ 9 7 2

♣ K 9 7 2

West	North	East	South
Patreuha	A Meyerson	Baldysz	E Meyerson
—	—	1♠	Pass
3♠	Dble	All Pass	

For want of anything better South converted North’s double and led the ♣7, North winning with the ace and returning a club to the king. When South continued with a third club declarer pitched a heart. South took the heart switch and returned the ♥A, declarer ruffing, cashing

the ♠A and playing a spade to dummy’s jack. Declarer ruffed a heart and cashed two more trumps, squeezing North, who was down to ♥K ♦KJ6. A diamond discard saw declarer score three tricks in the suit via the finesse for +530 and 104-2.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ A 7 3

♥ A 10 9 5

♦ 5 3

♣ K 5 4 3

♠ J 2

♥ 6

♦ A K 4

♣ A Q J 10 9 8 6

N

W

E

S

♠ K 9 5

♥ K 7 4 2

♦ Q 9 8 2

♣ 7 2

♠ Q 10 8 6 4

♥ Q J 8 3

♦ J 10 7 6

♣ —

West	North	East	South
Heinrichs	A Meyerson	Peter	E Meyerson
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass



Patryk Patreuha

South led the ♠6 and North won with the ace and returned the seven, East taking the king and playing a club to the queen. When North produced the king the defenders cashed their tricks for -200 and 72-34.

If declarer ducks the second spade South wins with the queen and should not be too hard pressed to switch to a heart, which should lead to the same result.

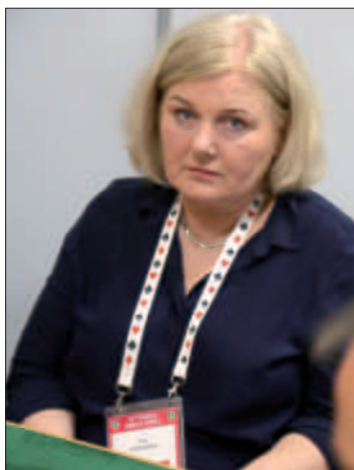
The contract was 3NT at 41 of the 54 tables and it made ten times, once with two doubled overtricks for +1150 and all 106 matchpoints.

The next round saw another married couple join the table, Poland's Ewa Dziekanska and Krzysztof Dziekanski.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠ 8 6 2		
	♥ 6 5 3 2		
	♦ K 9 4 3 2		
	♣ 4		
♠ A J 5 3	♠ N ♥ W ♦ E ♣ S	♠ K 10 7 4	
♥ 7 4		♥ 10	
♦ J 7 6		♦ A 8 5	
♣ Q 8 7 6		♣ A J 10 9 3	
	♠ Q 9		
	♥ A K Q J 9 8		
	♦ Q 10		
	♣ K 5 2		
West	North	East	South
<i>Dziekanska</i>	<i>A Meyerson</i>	<i>Dziekanski</i>	<i>E Meyerson</i>
—	Pass	2♣*	2♥
Dble*	Pass	2♠	3♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	All Pass

2♣ 5♣+4♥/♠ or 6+♣



Ewa Diszewska

South led the ♥A and continued the suit, declarer ruffing and playing South for the ♠Q to record an effortless +420 which was worth 91-15.

A diamond switch at trick two is more testing but should not defeat the contract. One way for declarer to prevail is to duck the first diamond, win the second round with the ace and having negotiated the trump suit, run the ♣8. South wins, but is out of diamonds. 4♠ failed on eight occasions.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

	♠ 8 4 3		
	♥ 2		
	♦ A Q 10 8 7 5		
	♣ 10 5 4		
♠ K J 10 9	♠ N ♥ W ♦ E ♣ S	♠ Q 2	
♥ K Q J 10 7 5		♥ A 9 8 3	
♦ 6		♦ K 9 2	
♣ J 6		♣ A K Q 8	
	♠ A 7 6 5		
	♥ 6 4		
	♦ J 4 3		
	♣ 9 7 3 2		
West	North	East	South
<i>Hetz</i>	<i>A Meyerson</i>	<i>Pachtman</i>	<i>E Meyerson</i>
1♥	3♦	4NT*	Pass
5♦*	Pass	5♥	All Pass

4NT RKC
5♦ 1 keycard

North led the ♦A and in the fulness of time South scored the ♠A, +450 being a fraction over average for NS, 55-51.

Remarkably 16 pairs bid a slam – all of them going down for only 15-91.

At this point Ron had to return to the office and as soon as what is sometimes described as ‘the Editor’s Curse’ (surprisingly not mentioned in any of the Harry Potter books) was lifted NS started scoring heavily, finishing the session with 56.44% which left them in 19th place.

The leaders were Allison Howard and Mike Cappelletti Jr with 67.13%, Diana Nettleton and Thomas Paske with 60.31% and Serap Kuranglu and Erdem Serdar on 60.08%.

In session 4 Barry Rigal went to watch two of the favourites, Bénédicte and Philippe Cronier, intending to stay till they drove him away or they scored a below average result, and finished up staying to the end. It

wasn't that they wiped the floor with the opponents, more that nothing bad happened.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Dziekanska	B Cronier	Dziekanski	P Cronier
—	1♥	1♠	2♥
Pass	3♥	3♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Bénédicte's 1♥ opener was a little frisky given the generally sound French weak-two bids. Her 3♥ was obstructive, but Phillippe inferred short spades opposite and took a flyer at game...lo and behold it is cold on the most unlikely diamond layout. As it was when West went on Philippe doubled and led a trump (sensibly inferring that the only way this contract could come close to making was a ruff in dummy). Declarer drew trumps and played on diamonds; the defence won and returned the suit, leaving East with three club losers at the death for down two, -300 124.57-33.43 for the French pair.

After a normal 3NT gave the Croniers a 58% result, they came to a deal that might determine the feel of the set for quite a few boards. Had this gone the wrong way they would perhaps have felt things were not going to work out well, but as it was it seemed like they might have a following wind.

Would you and your partner be able to bid these cards to 6♥?

Barry thought Claire Robinson and Paul Barden did well here:

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



Philippe Cronier

West	North	East	South
Robinson	B Cronier	Barden	P Cronier
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	6♥	Pass
All Pass			

2NT Jacoby
 3♣ Minimum
 3♦ Tell me more
 3♠ Short diamonds
 4NT RKCB
 5♠ 2 keycards + ♥Q

Robinson won the ♦J lead and paused for some while, trying to calculate what percentage of the room would be in 6♥. If the whole field is in slam, you must take your best shot for 13 tricks and not worry about going down; if no one is in slam the safety play is paramount... what is your call here?

Before I reveal all, there were 80 tables in play; 28 pairs missed the slam, three played the grand slam, and 50 bid the small slam. 31 of the pairs in the small slam with or without leading a low from dummy to see the ♥9 appear (or course!) then took the ♥A, catering for the singleton king on their left, while losing to a void. By my calculation the odds are 15:11 in their favour for that play but it discounts the fact that just making the slam cannot be so terrible here. 19 pairs took the safety play. Indeed, hearts WERE 3-0 offside so you have just

turned an 88% board into a 22% board. Had the singleton ♥K been to your left you would have collected about an average.

By now you will have realised that declarer rejected the safety play, scoring only 36-122.

On the next deal a Multi-Landy auction after a double showing a minor plus a major saw Philippe Cronier invite game in hearts and Bénédicte reject it. Unfortunately for them the negative feature of Bénédicte's hand (a weak club suit) was facing a void and game rolled home. That scored them only 54-104.

Three deals later they took on the might of the WBF in the form of Douglas Rotchell and Sevinç Atay:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Rotchell</i>	<i>B Cronier</i>	<i>Atay</i>	<i>P Cronier</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♣	Pass
2♦	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Dble
All Pass			

After passing initially Philippe heard the auction develop better than he might have hoped for. As you will imagine, not many contracts came home on this deal; partscores in notrump and clubs once each and low diamond partscores four times. The question was what the damage would be in 3NTx. Philippe led the ♠K and shifted after mature cogitation to the ♦10. Declarer's prospects might look gloomy but she started out well by cashing the ♣AK. Now if she had believed that South was short in diamonds she might have found the unlikely play of pitching a diamond from dummy and exiting with the ♠Q, pitching another diamond. North can do little but

win and return a top diamond; declarer ripostes by winning and leading a low heart to South. That player can exit in clubs to East, who cashes two spades and puts South back in with a club. South has two clubs and one more heart to come, but declarer finishes up with two tricks in each suit.

In fact, Atay discarded hearts from dummy on the top club and the spades, before throwing North in to cash diamonds then exit in hearts to dummy. Declarer finished with three diamonds, one heart and two club tricks and never scored her spades. Down -800 was 155.96-2.04 for NS.

On Board 28 the Croniers' opponents were confronted with a typical matchpoint decision, at favourable vulnerability.

You deal and pass and hear a strong notrump come back to you. Holding:

♠ A Q J 9 5
♥ 6 4
♦ 8 7 2
♣ Q 10 9

and playing with an aggressive partner who normally gets into the auction before you, do you stick or twist?

May Sakr passed and found the double whammy that facing a balanced 12-count the opponents could scramble home in 1NT via a good guess while 2♠ her way was cold on normal play. Given that the vast majority of the field were faced with precisely this problem, do you want to guess how many Norths recorded 1NT here?

Answer 22/80 which was worth 127.61-30.39.

That concluded the excitement for the set, but I had seen some good bridge and excellent spirits at the table. I wish bridge could always be played with such cheerfulness.

Back in 1989 I was the assistant onsite organiser of the World Junior Championships that were staged in what was then my hometown of Nottingham. The Australian team included one Ben Thompson and I have fond memories of dealing with their request for six tickets for the third day of the Test Match between England and Australia that was being staged at Trent Bridge the day after the Championships ended.

Returning from a shopping expedition I bumped into Ben during the interval between the fifth and sixth sessions of the Mixed Pairs Qualifier. He showed me a deal that I have adapted into what might be called by Robert Darvas or Julian Pottage '*The Story of the two of Spades*'.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

After an auction where West had overcalled 3♦ Ben found himself in 4♠. West led the ♦K and having won with the ace pitching a heart he played the ♥K, East winning and returning a diamond. Declarer ruffed in dummy, played a heart to hand and a club to the nine and queen. When East exited with a trump, declarer was back in the game. He won in dummy, cashed the ♠K and pitched a club on the ♥J. He then played dummy's ♣K forcing East to cover. He ruffed and played two rounds of spades, using East as a stepping-stone to dummy's two club winners. That was worth 127-31.

Thinking about it later, Ben realized that he had overlooked a small detail. He had used the ♠2 to cross to dummy! If East had unblocked the nine ten of spades, retaining the five, then he would be able to underplay in the spade suit leaving declarer with two losing diamonds.

However, looking at the deal later, I spotted a counter. Instead of pitching the losing club declarer throws a diamond. He then plays another heart forcing East to ruff after which he can draw trumps and play a club, forcing East to give dummy a club trick.

Only an initial ♣ lead defeats 4♠ – I'll leave you to work out the best way to play 4♠ after a diamond lead. (Here's a small clue – leave those clubs alone!)

What makes this story extra special is that Ben was playing against Tomasz Winciorek and Renata Dancewicz – the latter being one of Poland's best-known film and television stars.

After the event Adam Wildavsky revealed on *Bridgewinners* that he also played in 4♠. He ruffed the diamond lead in dummy and led a spade, then a heart. He had not kept the ♠2 but it didn't matter. East won the ♥A and returned a diamond. Adam won with the ace, unblocked the hearts, and played a spade to dummy. When he ran the hearts, East could ruff in when he pleased but when he put him in with his last trump he had

to give him an entry to dummy. Had he unblocked in trumps he would have lost only two clubs and the ♥A. It would not have helped him to exit with a trump, cutting declarer off from the long hearts as he would have to give him an entry eventually.

At the end of that fifth session Ida Grönkvist and Mikael Grönkvist had taken the lead with 62.20%, followed by Allison Howard and Mike Cappelletti Jr with 61.77% and Giorgia Botta and Zackary Grossack on 58.92%.

In the first session of the semi-final, Barry Rigal watched Adam Grossack and his partner, Emma Kolesnik, hoping that he would bring the pair the same good fortune of his previous victims, the Croniers, who had led the qualifying (no carry-forward alas).

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bendiks</i>	<i>A Grossack</i>	<i>Romanowska</i>	<i>E Kolesnik</i>
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	3♥	3♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Romanowska, who had shown an unbalanced hand at her first turn eventually decided she had too much to pass out 3♠ and Bendiks did not like his chances on defence (in fact on the lead of anything but ♥A 3♠ goes down). Kolesnik doubled 4♥ and after a club lead to her king she went for all the match points by shifting to a diamond, specifically the ♦6, hoping declarer had ♥K and her partner both the diamond honours. She might have reasoned that Grossack probably had six spades for his entry into the auction on a terrible suit, so passive defence was called for.

In fact, there is only one defence to set the hand if declarer plays for the ♠A to be offside. While the devious ♥9 might look an attractive shift at trick two, declarer has a repeating triple squeeze looming on South (the entries are not there to ruff out the clubs and run trumps). The winning defence is to play a third club. Declarer wins the jack, draws trump but cannot come back to hand except in diamonds and that disrupts the squeeze.

Declarer ran the diamond to the queen and ace, played the ♣Q to the ace, and when the ♦3 came back he elected to rise with the ♦K. We were back to down one but it was a clear indication that we would be on a rollercoaster all day, 61-33 for NS.

Adam found himself in a thin game on the second board, when after passing initially in second seat Emma heard her partner open 1♠ and the next hand overcalled 2♦. Vulnerable against not she competed to 2♠ with ♠1042 ♥K62 ♦Q1093 ♣952. That didn't work well when Adam boosted himself to 4♠ and the defenders negotiated a ruff to beat them, 14-80. The field played partscore.

Things got worse on the next deal when a hand that looks like a pre-empt to me looked like a one-level opener to Emma. A few twists and turns later -670 from 2♠x was being inscribed onto the scoresheet, only 4-90.

Nothing daunted, our heroes stuck with the principle of doubling 2♠ until they managed to beat it.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

				♠ 4 3											
				♥ A Q 5 2											
				♦ Q 6 5 3											
				♣ A K 5											
♠ 10 5	W N E S	♠ A K J 8 2													
♥ J 4 3		♥ 10 9 6													
♦ 10 4		♦ A K 9													
♣ Q 10 8 7 6 4		♣ 9 3													
				♠ Q 9 7 6											
				♥ K 8 7											
				♦ J 8 7 2											
				♣ J 2											
West	North	East	South												
<i>Basaran</i>	<i>A Grossack</i>	<i>Elmas</i>	<i>E Kolesnik</i>												
Pass	1NT	2♦*	Dble												
Rdbl*	Pass	2♠	Dble												
All Pass															

2♦ One major
Rdbl Bid your suit

Maybe that is the consequence of overcalling vulnerable on a flat hand. Kolesnik led the ♣J and with a myriad of attractive defensive possibilities Grossack shifted to a trump, confident that if a club ruff was coming partner might be able to put him in again. In fact, Kolesnik won her trump queen and returned the suit. Declarer tried a club from dummy; Grossack won and rather than unnecessarily open up diamonds, he played ♥A then continued the suit. The defenders cashed three hearts and still had a diamond to come for -500 and 90-4.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠ Q J 10		
	♥ A		
	♦ A K J 2		
	♣ K Q 7 5 3		
♠ 9 5 2	W N E S	♠ A K 6 3	
♥ K J 10 7		♥ Q 8 5 2	
♦ 8 5		♦ Q 7 6 3	
♣ 10 8 6 4		♣ A	
	♠ 8 7 4		
	♥ 9 6 4 3		
	♦ 10 9 4		
	♣ J 9 2		
West	North	East	South
<i>Augustyniak</i>	<i>A Grossack</i>	<i>Waszkiewicz</i>	<i>E Kolesnik</i>
—	1♣	1♦	Pass
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

On this deal East appeared to have a heart in with his diamonds. Having sold out to 1NT he played three rounds of spades. Grossack won and led a low club, and East won, cashed a spade on which Grossack pitched the ♦J, then shifted to a heart. Now came the clubs, and when East discarded two diamonds trick 13 was taken with the ♦2 and a rare 100% board was recorded for NS, 94-0.

On the next deal the Americans under-competed in a difficult auction, selling out to 2♥ when they could make 2♠, and that meant a 10-84 result for NS. After six boards NS had only a fraction below average but three deals where they had scored less than 15%, not a recipe for success...

On the next round the two results came in just about average but on the first a defensive ruff seemed to get away for no good reason, and on the second though Grossack did his best, his opponents were too wide awake.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ivatury	A Grossack	Henner	E Kolesnik
1♣	1NT	3♥	Dble
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Against 4♠ Crystal Henner led the ♣J. When Uday Ivatury discouraged with the seven Grossack thoughtfully overtook the king, cashed the ace then advanced the six...and Henner carefully ruffed in to prevent the second heart going away. Nicely done and scoring 46-48.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	A Grossack	Žmuda	E Kolesnik
—	—	1♦	2♣
Pass	2♦*	3♦	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

A fit-jump to 3♠ would have bought the hand in 4♠ for Grossack; as it was, when he passed 5♦ round to Kolesnik it was very hard for her to bid on (but maybe not impossible). The defenders cashed two spades and a

club, then led a third spade. Declarer ruffed high and drew trumps, ruffed a club, and led a heart to the king and ace, and claimed down two.

Despite a remarkable percentage of the field playing partscore on the NS cards -500 was only 33-61 for NS while +680 would have been 68-26.

After yet another unsuccessful attempt to double a partscore (here against 3♦x with 22 HCP between them NS found they could not defeat a nine-card fit at the three level) resulting in just 5-89, it was time for the opponents to start doubling. Put yourself in East's shoes here:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sarniak	A Grossack	Chalupek	E Kolesnik
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♠*
Dble*	4♠	?	

2♠ Spades +♣/♦

Chalupek doubled but I'm not sure why since his values look good on offence. Then when his partner led the ♣8 he was going to be faced with an awkward problem had South not contributed the ♣9 – which was the one card that cleared up the ambiguity of a possible ♣98 doubleton. If that had not happened what card should East play next? If you try the ♦A for attitude what should West do to alert you to the club ruff, drop the queen or simply follow with the two? If you prefer the ♦K to get a count West can follow with the two so then you are sure South's minor is clubs.

Down one for -200 was an excellent result for NS, 68-26. Two pairs collected 89-5 for recording +790 for 4♠x, but that was eclipsed by the +1070 that was achieved by Zur-Campanile/Rosenthal for 3♣x+2 and Winciorek/Dancewicz for 2♠x+2 giving them 93-1.

The last four boards all scored well for Grossack/Kolesnik. Adam reached a thin game and had to guess

whether to take a finesse for 12 or 10 tricks or settle for 11. He went with the percentages and took the finesse for a 65-29 result instead of a 32-62 one. Then Emma negotiated a nine-card trump fit missing QJ by guessing which honour to cash first and then taking restricted choice to collect 51-43.

Then on the last round against Pszczoła/Sakr the first deal saw a forcing defence generate four tricks for NS where not everyone was managing to set up and score their long trump, -140 securing 59-35. Then this monstrosity:

♠ K Q J 10 9 4
♥ 9 7
♦ K 5 2
♣ 8 3

At unfavourable vulnerability, partner opens a Polish Club, and you are somewhat surprised to see a 1♠ overcall. You bide your time and pass. 2♥ to the left, 3♣ from partner 3♥ to the right – and it is over to you.

Pepsi agonized and passed, and the auction concluded a few seconds later.

Have a look at the North and East hands only and decode how you would defend when partner starts three top clubs:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ A 7 6 5 3 2
♥ K 5 4
♦ 8
♣ J 5 2

♠ 8
♥ 10 8 6
♦ A 9 6
♣ A K Q 9 7 4

♠ —
♥ A Q J 3 2
♦ Q J 10 8 7 4
♣ 10 6

♠ K Q J 10 9 4
♥ 9 7
♦ K 5 2
♣ 8 3

West	North	East	South
Sakr	A Grossack	Pszczoła	E Kolesnik
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♥
3♣	3♥	All Pass	

Seated behind Pepsi it seemed to me to be a good idea to do what he did and pitch a diamond (though maybe the ♦2 if encouraging might be best?). When he did so, declarer ruffed and advanced the ♦J. Sakr saw no reason not to win this and shift to a spade. Declarer took the ace and crossed to a heart, ruffed a diamond low dropping the king, drew trumps and claimed ten tricks. Easy game! To stop EW making ten tricks in clubs, North will have to

shift to a low spade very early in the game. 4♥ did come home a few times but +170 was a 60-34 result, just enough to get our heroes up to 49%, but with a lot of deals still to play.

At the end of the first session of the semi-final Sabine Auken and Roy Welland had stormed to the top scoring 68.35%. They were followed by Renee Cooper and Ben Thompson with 64.03% and Ann Karin Fuglestad and Erik Sælensminde on 63.43%.

Ron Tacchi was back on duty to report on the second session of the final.

This deal featured three different scores ranging from -100 (40 MP) to -500 (0 MP) with -140 (20 MP) taking the middle ground.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ K 7 6
♥ 10 8 4
♦ Q 8 7 5
♣ 8 7 5

♠ 4 3
♥ A 9 5 3
♦ K 6 4 2
♣ J 6 3

♠ 10 9 8 2
♥ J 7 6 2
♦ A 9
♣ A K Q

♠ A Q J 5
♥ K Q
♦ J 10 3
♣ 10 9 4

West	North	East	South
Helness	Auken	Seale	Welland
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♦*	Pass	2♥	Dble
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

1♦ Hearts

NS were adventurous in a typical pairs auction but were allowed to drift peacefully two off for an excellent score, 40-12. Were East to double 3♦ West would probably be happy to take the money.

West	North	East	South
Millens	Thompson	Huang	Cooper
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

It looks as though East may have ‘borrowed’ a point for his 1NT, but this sort of thing happens in mixed pairs events. With the hearts kindly positioned declarer swiftly came to nine tricks for +140 but only 20-32.

West	North	East	South
<i>Majcher</i>	<i>Buras</i>	<i>Zalewska</i>	<i>Sobolewska</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Dble
Pass	2♠	Dble	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

EW were less tolerant of the interference and got their red cards out. After cashing the ♣A East switched to the ♠2 and declarer won with dummy's queen and played the ♦J, East winning with the ace and returning the ♠8. Declarer won with the king and played a diamond for the ten and king and West returned the ♣3, East winning with the queen and playing the ♠10. West ruffed and the defenders still had another club and the ♥A to come for three down, -500 and a maximum, 0-52.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Manara</i>	<i>Meyerson</i>	<i>Attanasio</i>	<i>Meyerson</i>
1♠	2♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

East adopted an interesting approach, electing to play for a penalty rather than look for the best game.

Not being blessed with second sight he led the ♥A and when West followed with the seven he continued with the king, declarer ruffing and playing the ♦K. East took the ace and switched to the ♣3, declarer winning with the ten and playing two rounds of diamonds. East won and exited with the ♣Q, but declarer won and exited with a spade. After cashing three tricks in the suit West played the ♥9 but declarer could ruff with the four and although East could overruff declarer was sure to take the last two tricks for two down, -300, but 47-5 for NS.

It would not help East to exit with a third heart, as when West gains the lead in spades East will end up

having to ruff something in the three-card ending and have to lead into declarer's ♣A10.

The winning defence is for East to duck the ♦K (defensive ducks are always harder to find). If declarer continues with the queen East wins, cashes the ♦J and exits with a heart which leads to three down and -500 which would be 20-32.

Six Hearts was reached 11 times, only failing at two tables. It was worth 8-44.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Tutty</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Beauchamp</i>	<i>Johannsson</i>
—	2♦*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥
4♠	5♦	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

- 2♦ Multi
 4♣ Please transfer to your major
 4♦ Hearts

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Žmuda</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
—	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Edmonds</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
—	2♥	Pass	2NT*
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

Three different openings, three different contracts and three different scores, +680 (33-19), +850 (44-8) and +990 (52-0).

The Four Hearts opening acted, as is frequently mentioned, as a transfer to Four Spades and when South upped the ante West decided he warranted a double.

When North started proceedings with a weak 2♥ South made a forcing enquiry of 2NT and West stepped in with an overcall of Three Spades. After South's raise to game as East I would have regarded West's subsequent double as primarily takeout – you know he is not very strong as he would have doubled first and then bid spades. Five Clubs is cold when played from the East hand – but naturally no-one played in that suit!

The last day of a world championship is always a rush to get reporting in. The first six deals of the day all included stimulating points and I was lucky enough to be seated in a corner of the room where I could see a series of pairs in contention fight it out. So I got to see some stimulating differences in valuation in the auction and some fine points in the play.

Having said that there were more differences than similarities, all three EW pairs did bid our first deal to the best spot, 6♥.

At the end of the session Cathy Bałdysz and Jacek Kalita were on top, their 59.47% giving them a miniscule advantage over Zuzanna Moszczynska and Artur Wasiak on 59.39% and the 59.37% of Bénédicte and Philippe Cronier.

Barry Rigal was in the box seat for the fourth session of the final:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

All three tables, Żmuda/Klukowski, Cathy Bałdysz/Kalita and Wasiak/Moszczynska had an unopposed sequence which started 1♥-2♦-2♥-3♣-3♥-3♠-4♥. Two tables then used keycard Blackwood, while Wasiak jumped to slam. All three Souths led ♠Q, and declarer competently won ♠A, ruffed a spade, pitched their spades on top diamonds and led dummy's remaining top trump. Cronier ducked his ♥A, the others won it, but either way declarer had 12 tricks and a solid if unremarkable 23-29.

There was far more disparity on the second deal. All three above-mentioned pairs play Polish Club, and one

of the main weaknesses of this system is that high pre-emption against a Polish Club when opener has the strong hand often does not allow responder to compete, knowing his partner has extras, as opposed to 12-14 balanced. Similarly, opener needs to differentiate moderate extras with primary clubs from, for example real two- or three-suited hands or those hands with clubs and a second suit. The three EW pairs were about to encounter different levels of pre-emption and deal with it in different ways.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wasiak	Botta	Moszczynska	Z Grossack
—	—	1♣	3♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Kalita	P Cronier	C. Bałdysz	B Cronier
—	—	1♣	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	H Bakhshi	Żmuda	D Bakhshi
—	—	1♣	3♠
Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Zach Grossack played 3♠ on a diamond lead and won cheaply to lead a low spade from hand. He lost three spades, a heart and only two clubs when his RHO cashed the ace and king prematurely. -200 earned him 46-6.

Bałdysz made 12 tricks in some comfort in 4♥ on a spade lead into the tenace, and that was worth 20-32.

David Bakhshi found the low club lead to give declarer a problem in her slam. Żmuda won and led a low diamond from hand to Bakhshi's king. Back came a club

and declarer won, crossed to the ♥K, advanced the ♦Q covered and ruffed, then drew the trump, played the ♠A, ruffed a spade and ran the ♦9 to establish a diamond for her 12th trick. Nicely done and 2-50 for her pains.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Botta	Żmuda	Z Grossack	Klukowski
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣*	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Dble	Rdbl
5♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
P Cronier	Majcher	B Cronier	Zalewska
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣*	Dble	1♦*
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

1♦ 5-7



Joanna Zalewska

It is almost impossible to believe that the two East players above were bidding the same cards, isn't it? It looks hard for declarer to come to more than 10 tricks without some defensive help, but Arkadius Majcher showed no help was necessary. He thoughtfully ruffed the top heart lead with an intermediate trump, drew trumps and led a low diamond towards dummy. Had East ducked, declarer would have won the ♦Q and pitched his diamond on the ♥A. So, Cronier took the ♦A and returned the suit, and declarer crossed to dummy in spades and got rid of three clubs on the three red suit top cards. That was 19-33 (as opposed to 8-44 for +420 because of the number of tables where EW had gotten into serious problems).

Zach Grossack discovered, live by the sword...his actions with the East cards would have looked excellent if the South and West hands had been switched. Not today, though. 5♥x went for -800 and 44-8 whereas +590 would have been 25-27. Klukowski's redouble really paid off!

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Botta	Żmuda	Z Grossack	Klukowski
Pass	1♣	Dble	1♦
1♠	Dble	2♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
P Cronier	Mucher	B Cronier	Zalewska
Pass	1♣	Dble	1♦
1♠	Dble	2♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Beauchamp	Kalita	Tutty	C Bałdysz
Pass	1♣	Dble	1♦
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♣
All Pass			

Philippe Cronier and Georgia Botta both got to declare 2♠ on a low heart lead. Cronier ducked and Zalewska



Jovana Zoranovic

won to shift to ♣J, which effectively held declarer to eight tricks with no realistic chance of an overtrick.

Georgia Botta seemed to give herself a better chance when she rose with ♥A and passed the ♦Q to North. At this point Żmuda thoughtfully shifted to ♠Q, and the defenders could play three rounds of trumps to hold declarer to four trumps and four plain-suit winners. That was still 22-30 but the overtrick would have carried an extra 15 matchpoints.

Since 3♣ came to eight tricks, even after a trump lead, Kalita/Bałdysz scored 35-17 for -100.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	F Helness	Żmuda	Seale
—	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

3NT Five hearts

4♦ Transfer

West	North	East	South
Botta	Kazmucha	Z Grossack	Hutyra
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♣	Dble	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Mucher	Beauchamp	Zalewska	Tutty
—	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♦*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♣*	All Pass		

1♣ Polish Club

1♦ 0-7

3NT Five hearts

4♦ Transfer

6♣ Explained by the player making the call as '???'

The declarers in 4♥ had to cope with the trumps to make 12 tricks but it looks as if the entries do not permit it against accurate defence. Żmuda won Seale's spade lead and advanced the ♥K ducked all round. Then she crossed to a club to pass the ♥10, and when North again refused to cover, she had the timing right to play a third trump since the ♦A had not been dislodged and +480 scored 13-39.

As the cards lie declarer can always score 12 tricks, but cannot afford the luxury of playing a heart honour at trick two. A low club to dummy followed by the ♥10 is the way to go, as we will see in a moment.

Grossack's prospects were even less rosy after a diamond lead but declarer won, ruffed a diamond, ran the ♥10, came to hand in spades to ruff a diamond, crossed to the ♣A and advanced the ♥K, North mistimed the defence, shortening declarer by leading the fourth diamond. Declarer ruffed, cashed the second top spade, went to the second club and led the ♠J, with the timing right in the three-card ending for the trump coup.

Having finally taken the ♥A North should have exited with a black card, but the simplest defence is to take the ♥10 with the ace and exit with a diamond, forcing dummy to ruff.

There is a slightly double-dummy line that ensures 12 tricks. Declarer must cross to dummy with a club at trick two and advance the ♥10. If North ducks declarer must now unblock the spades and when the ♠Q10 fall he ruffs a diamond and plays the ♠J which leaves North with no good move.

It does not help North to take the ♥A on the first round of the suit, as declarer can pick up the trumps. Covering with the ♥J does not help as declarer wins, unblocks the spades, ruffs a diamond and plays the ♠J.

What of 6♣? Credit Jody Tutty for finding the singleton lead (Garozzo would have been proud of her) to beat the slam on a ruff, and collect 50-2. Wasiak and Moszczynska made 6♣ for a maximum, 0-52.

3NT on a diamond lead has only 10 tricks at best, but the five pairs who received a spade lead scored +490 for 6-46. +480 was worth 13-39, while +450 scored only 28-24.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Everybody's slam you'd think? But getting to 6♥ rather than 6♠ might be beyond most of us after South's 1♠ opening bid? So would the defenders find their ruff against 6♠ after a diamond lead?

Two of our three tables didn't shine here. One NS pair bid to 7♠ after a Blackwood miscount; one EW pair let through the slam after the ♦Q lead. And one EW pair covered themselves in glory after a keycard auction had disclosed the missing ace. Klukowski doubled the slam as West and led the ♦10, hitting his partner with the hammer in case she needed the hint. 6♠x down one was 2-50.

At the end of the session Joan Millens and Shan Huang had assumed the lead, their 57.83% leaving them ahead of Justyna Żmuda and Michał Klukowski (56.88%) and Sally Brock and Chris Willenken (56.82%).

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Everyone defending 3NT lead a heart, usually that was West, who started with the ♥J. Five pairs took 12 tricks for +490 and 46-6.

There are several ways in which the defenders can make sure that does not happen. If declarer wins with dummy's ace and plays the ♦Q, East can match it with the ♥Q which makes it clear that East has something useful in the spade suit.

If East discards something less clear, West can always duck the first round of diamonds, giving East a second chance to make a telling discard.

Millens/Huang were one of the pairs who allowed declarer to score 12 tricks, while Brock/Willenken and Żmuda/Klukowski restricted declarer to nine tricks for 18-34.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

A slam on a finesse, where your odds would be pretty good if East has bid (and some players made a noise on the first round, overcalling 1NT with 2♦ or 2♥).

Millens/Huang saw Zalewska/Majcher bid to 6NT which meant they suffered 49-3, while Żmuda/Klukowski were one of the other three pairs who bid 6NT. Brock/Willenken were in 6♣, worth only 27-25.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

This appears to be a regulation 4♥ for NS, but it failed four times. It was almost always played by North (South was at the helm just twice), East usually starting with the ♣K. If declarer ducks that, wins the next club and then plays three rounds of spades East ruffs, but declarer overruffs, unblocks the diamonds and plays a fourth spade. If East ruffs, declarer overruffs, pitches a club on the ♦A, ruffs a club and tries a heart to the king, emerging with 10 tricks.

If South is the declarer and West leads a diamond (which happened once) declarer wins in dummy and plays a heart to the ten. Suppose West wins with the ♥A (!) and switches to a club. Would you blame declarer for winning and playing a heart to the jack?

That is not what happened when McCallum/Johannsson took on Kazmucha/Hutyra. After West's lead of the ♦3 to dummy's queen, declarer played a heart to the jack and West won with the queen and switched to the ♣5, declarer taking the ace and playing three rounds of spades. When East ruffed, declarer discarded a club, but that meant the loss of three trumps and a club and only 3-49.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Virtually everyone played in 4♠ on this deal. Two defenders led a club, one declarer scoring 11 tricks, the other ten. The difference in matchpoints was 50-2 plays 40-12 while those declarers who took a winning view in trumps for 12 tricks were rewarded with 15-37. They included Brock/Willenken. Żmuda/Klukowski were up against Millens/Huang, and when North led a club they collected only 11 tricks.

With one session to go Żmuda/Klukowski had a significant lead, their 57.61% leaving them clear of Brock/Willenken on 55.48% and Moszczynska/Wasiak on 54.77%. Millens/Huang had dropped to fourth.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Several pairs got into difficulties on this deal. If West opens 1♣ and North overcalls 1NT East's double sees South run to 2♦ and that gets doubled. With perfect defence (a spade lead, followed by two more rounds of the suit, East then switching to the ♦6) declarer can be restricted to just four tricks, but no-one managed that (although Yavaş/Kaya collected -800 and 0-52 from 3♣x). Żmuda/Klukowski collected +500 for 8-44, while Moszczynska/Wasiak were -500 in 2♣ doubled. Brock/Willenken stayed out of trouble, EW playing in 2♥ for +140 but only 38-14.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

It was also possible for NS to get into trouble on this deal. If East opens 1♣ what could be more natural than overcalling 1♦. With West and North joining in 4 pairs ended up in 2♦, three of them doubled. Żmuda/Klukowski were one of the pairs on the right side of the deal, their second consecutive +500 giving them 2-50. Brock/Willenken were in 1NTx by North, declarer somehow recording seven tricks after East's heart led. It was worth 51-1. Moszczynska/Wasiak were defending

1NT by East and South's lead of the ♥10 held declarer to +90, worth 30-22.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Here the field was pretty much split between 4♥ (16 pairs) and 3NT (10) pairs.

If West leads a club against 4♥ the defenders must score at least two tricks. On a spade lead declarer has a shot at 12 by collecting the trump suit and then playing Rabbini. Żmuda and Klukowski scored +480 for 47-5, but Moszczynska/Wasiak were in 4♥x and +690 gave them a full house, 52-0. Brock and Willenken were in 3NT with West leading the ♣2. If declarer puts in dummy's queen and gets the hearts right that should be 11 tricks (that happened three times for 40-12) but here declarer took only nine and +400 was only 13-39.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

This was a wild affair. 5 EW pairs got all the way to 6♠ and those who went two down scored only 46-6.

Brock/Willenken defended 4♠ and declarer took 12 tricks for +480 and 16-36. Moszczynska/Wasiak got a maximum on the deal when their opponents came to rest in 4♥ which went five down, -250 delivering 52-0.

Żmuda and Klukowski doubled 5♠ and lost 750 for only 8-44.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Żmuda and Klukowski recovered the lost ground with interest on this deal, as they doubled 3♦ and declarer could manage only six tricks for -500 and 52-0. Brock/Willenken were in 2♠, but declarer did not find a route to eight tricks, let alone the nine that were frequently taken, -200 for two down translating to only 2-50. Moszczynska/Wasiak were one of the pairs to record +140, worth 41-11.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Brock/Willenken's poor result on the previous deal had been against Karlis Rubins and Jelena Alfejeva and they were now one of the pairs chasing a medal, although by this stage Żmuda and Klukowski were already certain to be crowned. The Latvians saw their opponents bid 3NT on this deal and East led a heart. Declarer was somehow allowed to score eight tricks, but even -50 was worth 17-35. Brock/Willenken managed a similar result by playing in 3♦, +110 scoring 35-17. Moszczynska/Wasiak stopped in 1NT for +90 and 29-23.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

If NS bid 5♦ EW need to find their club ruff to defeat it. Moszczynska/Wasiak went overboard, getting to 6♦. They were only one down absent the ruff, but -100 was 22-30. Rubins and Alfejeva saw their opponents bid all the way to 6♣, another -100 and 22-30.

West	North	East	South
Basaran	Willenken	Elmas	Brock
2♦*	Dble	2♥	3♥*
Pass	3♠	Dble	Rdbl
Pass	3NT	Dble	All Pass

2♦ Both majors

Although 3♥ was clearly forcing, NS had omitted to agree if it asked for a showed a stopper.

East led the ♥5 but mindful of the double of 3♠ West, worried that the hearts might be blocked withheld the ace and declarer rattled off ten tricks for +950 and that was 52-0 instead of 0-52!

Justyna Żmuda and Michał Klukowski had posted 65.77% in the final session to become the second married couple to win the World Mixed Pairs. Karlis Rubins and Jelena Alfejeva had scored 68.65% to win the session and thereby secured the silver medals. Sally Brock and Chris Willenken's 55.38% was enough to give them the bronze medals.



Mixed Pairs Podium

Sven-Olai Høyland

spade, and the game was made. Declarer could have prevented this elegant defence by playing the ace of trumps, instead of the king, before switching her attention to clubs.

In the Closed Room the ♠J was led to the queen, East's king and South's five. Andrew Rosenthal cashed the king of diamonds and returned the ♠8 to the 9, 10 and dummy's ace. This defence had set up declarer's ♠7, so after playing off the ace and king of hearts, Thomas Gotard could cash the ♠7 and ♠6. A trump trick had to be lost, but that was +620 for a push board.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Høyland	M Rosenberg	Sjødal	D Rosenberg
—	Pass	2♥	3NT
4♥	Dble	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zur-Campanile	Eggeling	Rosenthal	Gotard
—	Pass	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♦*	2♥	Dble
3♥	Pass	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♣ Polish

1♦ Normally 0-6

Against 4♥x South led the ace of clubs, ruffed by declarer. A low trump fetched South's ace, and Debbie Rosenberg continued with another high club, Sjødal ruffing. With a spade and two trumps to be lost, East needed to guess who held the diamond queen. This was not really needed to make up South's 3NT bid, and the auction had surely implied that North was likely to hold

the greater diamond length. However, one can hardly argue with success, and when Sjødal played a diamond to the ♦10, that earned her a spectacular +590.

In the Closed Room where East passed initially, declarer won the ♥9 lead with the ace and promptly led the ♠4. West defended well by rising with the ace. She continued with another heart, East winning and switching to a low diamond. The diamonds were now run for three down, vulnerable. But that was still 7 IMPs to the German/Norwegian team.

In Round Two, (**Wilson** of the **Netherlands/Sweden** v **Knottenbelt** of the UK), we just have space for one deal, and with it an early bid for a brilliancy prize – or at the very least a small round of applause since there were no card-play prizes awarded at this championship. Let's start with events at the other table.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Knottenbelt	van Prooijen	Gold	Wilson
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

2♦ GF relay

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
M Grönkvist	N Senior	I Grönkvist	M Bell
1♣	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1♥	Dble	Rdbl	1♠
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1♦ Hearts

Maggie Knottenbelt rebid 1NT and David Gold forced to game with an artificial 2♦. Having investigated unsuccessfully for a fit in a major, the English pair settled on the normal contract in such circumstances.

North led a club around to declarer's king, and Knottenbelt played on spades. When the defenders had only three club winners to cash, she claimed her contract. EW +400.

In the other room Marc Smith commented accurately on how easy it can be to mentally tune out when you pick up a shapeless two-count. Had he done so, though, Michael Bell would not have found the way to earn a swing for his side.

On lead as South, what are your thoughts? The bidding has told you only that dummy has a weak notrump hand type, that the opponents have a 3-4 heart fit, and declarer has at least one spade stopper. To set 3NT you must find partner with values...but he did not compete at his first turn over the 1♣ opener. The best reason for doing that is club length; Bell duly tabled the only card in his hand to defeat the contract, the ♣J.

No matter how declarer played, the defence would make four club tricks and the ♠A. EW -50 and another 10 IMPs to Knottenbelt, who won the match 42-22 and led after the second round.

As if to make this reporter's task easier, Jos Jacobs covered a series of matches in Round Three and skimmed off the best of the action.

In the **Aardvarks v Gizmo** match, the contrasts were clearly visible:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Howard	La Chapelle	Cappelletti	Tommasini
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
C Robinson	Kalita	Barden	C Baldysz
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

In the Open Room East led a fourth-highest heart to dummy's ten and West's jack, after which West made the unpleasant return (for declarer, that is) of a diamond. That forced declarer to cash her winners in this suit prematurely. When she followed this with a heart to the king, West could take the ace and continue the ♠K to dummy's ace. From here on in, the defence was in control with six winners ready to cash. One down, Gizmo +50.

They took a rosier view in the Closed Room in a sense after South's initial pass. In her ambitious contract, Cathy Baldysz needed to utilize a classic trick. She ducked the ♠K lead and when West, after seeing partner's ♠3, continued the ♠Q, she ducked again. Her main hope was that West would play yet another spade – and so it turned out! Just made, Gizmo +400 and 10 IMPs to them.

The next deal was also a play problem:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

The popular contract was of course 4♠. As the cards lie, you should not let yourself be influenced by the presence of the ♥Q10 in West and try to guess that suit for a second trick. What about instead trying for four outside top tricks and six trumps? Even if South leads a trump to the queen, king and ace, this plan might work.

After winning the spade ace, play the club ace and ruff a club. Cash the spade jack to get the unwelcome news, take the top diamonds and ruff another club, then ruff a diamond, and lead the fourth club. Had trumps broken,

then even if the club gets overruffed your long club is the tenth trick. As the cards lie, South has to follow suit in clubs so you are home in different fashion. However, even if South could ruff in, he would have to draw the last trump to stop you singling it in. After that, unless he has both outstanding diamonds, in say an original 4-1-5-3 shape, your fifth club is again good.

For the record, 4♠ went down twice as often as it made. Team **Zadra** of Poland (the name being four initials of the players) led after three matches.

A couple of boards stood out for me from Round Four's clash of **Wilson v Bridge24PL Mixed**. Both featured elegant plays by the Scandinavian members of the Wilson squad.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chmurski</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Banaszkiewicz</i>	<i>Buus Thomsen</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

2♥ Transfer

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M Grönkvist</i>	<i>Chalupec</i>	<i>I Grönkvist</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

The field had played 4♠ from the East seat after an auction similar to the one in the Open Room. The deal features an important element of suit preference (one that is overlooked by many intermediate players, but which nonetheless is obvious enough – once you think about it).

If South cashes two rounds of clubs North will signal attitude on the first, but on the second, whether playing standard or reverse signals will be left with two irrelevant cards in the suit. Those cards can be used for suit preference. So, whether playing standard signals – when you follow with the three at the first turn – or reverse – when you follow with the six, you can use your remaining two cards to indicate interest in the red suits.

As it happened Signe Buus Thomsen shifted to a heart at trick two here, without waiting for partner to signal. Declarer took an immediate spade finesse and South cashed her club and played a second heart, leaving declarer with an inevitable diamond loser. Down one.

It is worth noting that in at least two of our top eight matches (where expert bridge should be the norm rather than the exception) North followed with their lower remaining club at trick two and South duly shifted to a diamond, correct if partner has the ♦K and declarer queen-fifth of hearts. But it was fatal to the defence here.

The play in the Closed Room was vaguely humorous – if you weren't sitting NS at the relevant table. Mikael Grönkvist followed an invitational sequence and Ida Grönkvist simply bid game. Igor Chalupec led a 2nd/4th ♦8, so low from doubleton is systemic. When declarer put up the king, Anna Sarniak false-carded with the ♦10. Nice idea but...put yourself in West's shoes. Now you know the diamond finesse is working! Diamonds must be 4-1, so the only danger is losing a ruff. If you play three rounds of spades you hope to find the suit breaking; you will then repeat the diamond finesse as many times as necessary using the hearts as re-entry to your hand. Accordingly, declarer laid down the top spades and found he did have a diamond loser after all, but no spade loser... 10 tricks made.

Both Wilson pairs did very well on our next exhibit:

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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





Signe Buus Thomsen

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chmurski	M Rimstedt	Banaszkiewicz	Buus Thomsen
—	—	Pass	1NT
Dble*	2♣	2NT	3♠
5♣	All Pass		

Dble Minor + Major
2NT Asks for minor

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
M Grönkvist	Chalupec	I Grönkvist	Sarniak
—	—	Pass	1♠
2♣	2♠	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In the Closed Room Mikael Grönkvist thought he was looking at nine tricks in his own hand, and he was right. After a diamond lead to the king and a heart shift he won and played three rounds of clubs to dummy to lead the ♠J. The defence won their ♠A, cashed their diamond and exited in hearts. Nice try, but not enough, and +400 for declarer.

In the other room, against 5♣, Mikael Rimstedt did extremely well to my way of thinking to lead his singleton trump rather than the unthinking spade. Now declarer could not find a way to dummy; his only sensible chance was to play for ace-third of spades to his left or serious defensive error. His best chance was to lead a low spade from hand; but when South could win cheaply and return a trump, declarer was out of ammunition. 10 IMPs to Wilson, in a 47-9 win. Halfway through the qualification we saw the meeting of the teams in first and third places,

Czerbia and Wilson; the former, not surprisingly, a mixture of Czech and Serbian players.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Buus Thomsen	Pepić	Rimstedt	Klems
—	1♠	3♦	Dble*
5♦	5NT*	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

5NT Pick-a-slam

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Vozábal	van Prooijen	Zoramović	Wilson
—	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

In the Open Room the Scandinavians constructed a huge pre-emptive barricade as fast as they could. Yes, the cost would have been 1100 if the opponents could double 5♦; but who does that anymore? As North, Selena Pepić could sniff a slam, after her partner's three-level negative double. In response to the choice of slam, Erik Klems offered 6♣, and there was no further bidding. The ♦5 was led to the queen and ace, declarer throwing a spade from dummy. The ace and queen of clubs revealed the 4-1 break, and declarer continued with three rounds of spades. East discarded the ♦2 and declarer ruffed with the ♣4. Twelve tricks were then claimed for +920. Given the bad club break, South's 6♣ call suddenly becomes extremely well-judged rather than yellow-bellied...

In the Closed Room Ricco van Prooijen's 5NT seems to suggest that he placed his partner with two keycards and the trump queen, after her 5♠ bid. All ended well when spades were 3-2. +980 for a 2 IMP gain.

Around the room 15 pairs scored 980, 7 picked up 920, eight played in game, 19 went one down in 7♣ on the unlucky trump break. One pair were two down in 6NT, while just one pair took the top score of 1100 against 5♦ doubled.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Buus Thomsen Pepić</i>		<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Klems</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	7♣	All Pass

2♠ Clubs
 3♣ Fit
 4♥ Void
 4NT RKCB
 5♠ 2 keycards + ♠Q

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Vozábal</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Zoramović</i>	<i>Wilson</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
5♥*	Dble	5♠*	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

2♠ Clubs
 3♣ Fit
 5♥ Exclusion
 5♠ 2 keycards

In the Open Room West's 4♥ showed a heart void (3♥ would have shown a singleton). When Mikael Rimstedt heard of two aces and the trump queen opposite, he relied on his diamond suit to carry the partnership to thirteen tricks. This was a very sensible evaluation, earning his side +1440.

In the Closed Room David Vozábal's 5♥ was Exclusion Blackwood, asking for keycards outside the heart suit. If North had passed, the response would have been 6♣, the third step showing two keycards without the trump queen. Over a double, many pairs use redouble and pass as the first two steps, in which case 5♠ does show the ♣K and the ♦A. Had West continued with a king-ask (again outside hearts), he would have discovered the ♦K opposite and bid the grand.

20 pairs bid 7♣ for +1440. Well done. Another 20 played in 6♣ for +940. Four brave NS pairs scored well by finding a vulnerable sacrifice in hearts. Only three NS pairs managed a plus score, in 7NT doubled twice and 6♦ doubled once (and yes, it was maybe a little fortunate that the opponents didn't run to 7♣!).

Wilson collected a well-deserved 11 IMPs to take the match by 36-8 (17.51VPs to 2.49).

From Marc Smith's perspective, the Great Shuffler was obviously in a benevolent mood for Round Seven on the second morning, with fast and furious action.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>A Grossack</i>	<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Kolesnik</i>	<i>Dwyer</i>
—	1♥	Dble	Rdbl
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Amoils</i>	<i>Cooper</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>B Thompson</i>
—	1♥	Dble	Rdbl
1♠	Pass	2♠	3♠
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

Marc commented that he could hardly wait to see how much Canada's Les Amoils would bid when some of his cards had pictures, not pips, on them. The defence against 4♠x started with two top hearts and a heart ruff, followed by two high clubs and the ace of trumps. Declarer claimed the rest. NS +500 was a cheap save against a vulnerable game. Which game, though, might NS make on these cards?

In the Open Room, the auction began in similar fashion, but Emma Kolesnik did not raise her partner's spades and Kevin Dwyer ended in 3NT. Adam Grossack led the ♠4 to the king and ace. Dwyer crossed to the ♥A and advanced the ♣J, covered by queen and king. Looking at all four hands, we can see that declarer can make only eight tricks before the defenders get in to cash their spades. When declarer ran his clubs, though, East had trouble finding discards. She released one spade and one diamond but, on the last club she relinquished the ♥10. Declarer then played his remaining heart towards dummy, West followed low, and now things came to a grinding halt. Declarer could take the legitimate chance for his contract and play West for the ♥Q, or he could assume that East had misdefended. After much thought, Dwyer went with his table presence and rose with the ♥K. Down came East's queen and declarer claimed ten tricks. NS +630 and an exciting 4 IMPs to **Donner** to open the match.

*Adam Grossack***Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.**

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>A Grossack</i>	<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Kolesnik</i>	<i>Dwyer</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
Dble	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Amoils</i>	<i>Cooper</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>B Thompson</i>
—	—	2♠	3♦
4♠	All Pass		

A sensible auction in the Closed Room led to what looks like a normal contract. Sandra Rimstedt won the heart lead in dummy and played the ♠4 to her jack and South's ace. The defence would make the ♠Q later, but that was their lot: EW +650.

In the Open Room, the question for West was what sort of hand could partner have, where she could not open 1♠, 2♠ or 3♠ but could then jump to game after a one-level takeout double. Is the obvious answer that her spades are not very good? King doubleton hardly seems like the ideal holding for trumps in a slam facing a partner with a weak suit — not to mention the question of a diamond control.

However, Adam had evidently had his Wheaties for breakfast, so he merrily raised to 5♠, perhaps hoping for a very good five-card suit. Did this ask for good trumps or a diamond control? Kolesnik clearly thought the latter, and I agree. Where there is a danger suit, five-level tries focus on that.

South led a diamond, declarer winning and running the ♠J to North's queen. When Dwyer subsequently regained the lead with his ♠A, he was able to deliver his partner's diamond ruff for two down. EW -200 and 13 IMPs to **Donner**.

Our next offering was a potential trap for EW:

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

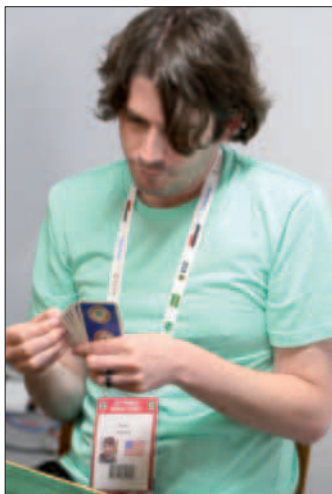
**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
A Grossack	C Rimstedt	Kolesnik	Dwyer
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
Dble	2♠	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Amoils	Cooper	S Rimstedt	B Thompson
—	2♠	All Pass	

In keeping with the post-modern style, Renee Cooper opened with a weak 2♠ for the Australians in the Closed Room. As we had seen earlier, Amoils is not shy about acting on weak hands, so perhaps we might have expected him to back in with 2NT on this West hand. His pass here was very well judged, as 2♠ drifted one down: NS -50 was about the only way for the Australians to go minus.



Kevin Dwyer

Cecilia Rimstedt did not open the North hand, so it fell to Dwyer to flex his imagination, non-vulnerable in third seat. Grossack made a penalty double of the 10-14 notrump, and Rimstedt removed to 2♠, which left Kolesnik with a problem. Established partnerships may have specific meanings for pass and double here, and perhaps 2NT would be Lebensohl. Kolesnik probably had no agreement, so she guessed to bid 3♥. Grossack must have bid 3NT with no great expectations; but even so, this was not the dummy of his dreams. North did not double – no doubt trusting the opponents more than partner in this seat. 3NT drifted two down: NS +200 and another 6 IMPs to **Donner**.

At the midway point of the match, **Donner** led 24-2. But the tide was about to turn.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
A Grossack	C Rimstedt	Kolesnik	Dwyer
—	—	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Amoils	Cooper	S Rimstedt	B Thompson
—	—	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

I would guess that most players not using Gazzilli (a 2♣ rebid for hands with extra values) would take another bid with Grossack's hand, especially with the lure of the vulnerable game at IMPs. Weak trumps, a shortage in partner's first suit, and the likelihood that some of his high cards would be wasted opposite partner's shortages all persuaded Grossack to back his judgement and pass.

A foul trump split did not hurt Grossack's case, and declarer managed nine tricks: EW +110.

After the same start, Amoils raised to 3♦. Sandra then decided that was all she needed to hear and took a shot at game. Cooper expressed her opinion regarding the viability of the contract in the traditional way. Nine tricks here too: EW -500 and 12 IMPs to **Reason**, back in the match; and there was still one explosive deal in store.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>A Grossack</i>	<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>Kolesnik</i>	<i>Dwyer</i>
—	2NT	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	5♠*
Pass	7NT	All Pass	

3♦ Transfer
 4NT RKCB
 5♣ 1 keycard
 5♦ ♠Q?
 5♠ No

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Amoils</i>	<i>Cooper</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>	<i>B Thompson</i>
—	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♥
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

3♣ Muppet Stayman
 3♥ No major
 5NT Pick a slam

In the Closed Room Cooper opened a heavy 20-22 2NT and Thompson started with Muppet Stayman, the 3♥

response denying as many as four cards in either major. Thompson then offered his partner a choice of slams with 5NT, and they eventually meandered their way to notrumps.

Declarer won the diamond lead and played the ♥A and a second heart to East's king. (As the cards lay, cashing a second diamond early would squeeze dummy, but would have simplified life today.) She won the diamond continuation pitching a spade, and ran hearts, then came to the ♣A to play diamonds. Eventually she came down to a three-card ending with three spades in both her hand and dummy. However, with West known to still hold a diamond and having started with the heart length Cooper sensibly cashed the ♠A, West's discard then enabling her to claim on the marked finesse. NS +1440.

Cecilia also started with 2NT. Here, though, Dwyer transferred to hearts and then bid his spades. There then seems to have been some confusion about the meaning of North's jump to 4NT. It looks as if Rimstedt intended it as natural, showing a maximum without a fit. Judging from his continuations, though, it appears that Dwyer thought it was Blackwood for spades, his 5♣ then showing one keycard (the ♠K) and 5♠ denying the ♠Q. Rimstedt clearly had a completely different interpretation.

With the ♥K offside, and the cards lying in about as hostile a way as one could imagine, the grand slam had no chance at all: NS -100 and 17 IMPs to **Reason**, who came from behind to win the match 35-24. After seven matches it was still **Zadra, Wilson** and **Knottenbelt** in the leading places (averaging about 14 VPs a match).

In Round 8, Jos Jacobs did another deep dive across the matches. The score sheet for board 3 saw the number of 800's exceeding the 620's. But even together, they were only half the number of 100, 200 and more in undertricks when 4♠ was the final contract by East.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Many Norths went overboard in clubs for -800, but the spade game looks the standard final contract here. On perfect defence, 4♠ cannot be made. But normal defence began with three rounds of diamonds, North ruffing in. Then on a number of occasions that player returned a low club rather than a trump. This left declarer still in the game...but it wasn't yet fatal to the defence.

East won the club in hand and unblocked the ♥A then cross-ruffed clubs and hearts. In the six-card ending below:

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

Several Souths thought it would be a clever idea to pitch the ♥K – but that just let declarer draw trumps ending in dummy. Had he discarded a diamond, declarer would be able to ruff a heart low (yes, North might have discarded her heart on the second top diamond to prevent this) but declarer will never be able to complete drawing trumps and cash the heart.

On the penultimate deal of the set, there were a few remarkable scores.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

No fewer than two pairs managed to end up in 7♠, (presumably a Keycard 1/4 disagreement?) much to the

joy of their opponents who were able to collect 800 and 1100 respectively.

Four Spades also went down occasionally. What do you think of this defence, produced by Ben Thompson and Renee Cooper? Thompson led the ♥A and followed this by the ♣A and a club to partner's king. Cooper then exited with a low spade. East might have asked themselves why North would not lead a plain suit here, but these things are always easier in the postmortem...

The last deal of the set was an exceptionally good slam; but bidding it proved too difficult for the field. Only three Polish pairs and another Australian Thompson pair (Jenny, Ben's better half, playing with Damon Flicker), bid it. Here is one of the exemplary Polish sequences:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Schmidt	P Busse	Żochowska	G Busse
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

We will not discuss the players who missed slam by opening the South cards 1NT. But the key here is to be able to show extras with the 3♣ call, and for North to support with support. The great majority of the NS pairs stopped in 3NT, good for 11 tricks in most cases.

The opportunity to watch one Rimstedt brother try to assert superiority over the other comes but once every two years (at least, according to Mikael). So, I had no choice but to settle in at their table in Round Nine and hope for blood all over the carpet.

All four pairs are playing natural and non-forcing but potentially short clubs. Several are playing transfer responses, with many transfers in competition.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Buus Thomsen</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M Grönkvist</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>I Grönkvist</i>	<i>Welland</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥*	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

1♥ Spades

Strike one (rather randomly) for transfer responses to 1♣. Since this is my preferred method, I'm not unhappy to see it. But it was pure chance that Ola Rimstedt's three-card suit lead (hitting declarer's four-card suit) worked better than Ida Grönkvist's four-card suit lead, hitting dummy's length.

In the Open Room declarer won the heart and might have played one back. Instead, she advanced a top diamond, which the defenders won to shift to clubs. After that, they took two tricks in every suit and one in clubs.

Normal enough, in a sense, but in the other room the club lead from Ida went to the eight, king and ace. Sabine Auken returned the suit, and when her nine held, she too played a top diamond from the South hand. The king held, logically enough, so declarer ducked a heart; now East was almost endplayed. She tried ♦A and another diamond and declarer ducked a second heart, won the third, cashed the long heart, and had six tricks in. Meanwhile the defenders had two hearts, a diamond, and

a club, so when declarer led a low spade towards the king Mikael Grönkvist played small. Auken put in the ten, and the defenders could not prevent eight tricks being made. **Bros1005** led 6-0.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Buus Thomsen</i>
2♠	Pass	3♠	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M Grönkvist</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>I Grönkvist</i>	<i>Welland</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦*
1♥*	Dble	Rdbl	2♦
2♠	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

1♦ Hearts

1♥ Spades

I wish I could tell you that Ola Rimstedt's 2♠ opener got what it deserved; but happy endings only exist in fairy tales. Buus Thomsen's double of 3♠ left Mikael Rimstedt poorly placed (after all, his partner's minors might have been switched). If you are going to bid over 3♠, non-leaping Michaels – yes, there are a plethora of Mikael/Michaels this set – might be a plausible alternative to the double, should that be in your partnership's armoury. Anyway, 3NT on the ♠J lead ducked saw declarer win the second spade. He lost five spades and two aces in the fullness of time.

In the other room Roy Welland's poison of choice over the short club is to play transfers. Mikael Grönkvist

responded in kind and eventually Auken bought the hand in 4♦ on a deal where 4♠ goes down on repeated heart leads shortening the East hand. 4♦ lost just the three aces, and **Bros1005** had 10 IMPs. Wilson trailed 16-0.

A flat game and a flat slam followed (Buus Thomsen making the slam on a friendly opening lead, Welland having to find a far more careful line on a neutral lead). The score was 16-1 after four deals.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Buus Thomsen</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Dble	Rdbl*	3♣	4♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Rdbl 3♠

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M Grönkvist</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>I Grönkvist</i>	<i>Welland</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

2♣ Drury

You can decide for yourself whether a support redouble on the North cards is wise facing a passed hand – or maybe South did too much? Mikael Rimstedt would point to the 10 IMPs in the in-column as proof enough – and it might be hard to argue with that. Not that 4♠ wasn’t anything but a stinking awful contract, since repeated club leads weaken dummy’s trumps to the

extent that you need honour-ten or possibly honour doubleton to be able to make game here. Whoop! There it is.

In the other room a sedate Auken/Welland auction (not words that normally appear together in the same sentence) led to the disciplined 2♥ contract that made +140, but for the loss of 10 IMPs.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Buus Thomsen</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M Grönkvist</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>I Grönkvist</i>	<i>Welland</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦*	1♥*
Dble	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

- 1♦ Hearts
- 1♥ Spades, and better diamonds than clubs

Welland’s slightly frisky entrance into the auction at his first turn persuaded Auken to try for game. After a heart lead, Ida took the ♣K at trick two, and accurately shifted to a trump. Mikael won his ♠A and reverted to hearts; Welland won dummy’s ♥K and led a second club (heart from Ida) to the queen and ace. Declarer ruffed the third heart, played ♦A and ruffed a diamond and a third club. Ida pitched the ♦K, meaning that declarer could no longer ruff a diamond low in dummy. When he tried, East overruffed and returned a spade, after which declarer had just seven tricks.

By contrast Buus Thomsen balanced over 2♥, and Brigitta Fischer did not compete to 3♥, knowing that her partner with short spades might balance with the right hand. Defending 2♠, Fischer led her ♣K and shifted to hearts. Declarer played a second club, and Ola won to cash ♠A and play a diamond. At this point declarer could take two hearts, a diamond, and six trumps separately for +140.

Those 6 IMPs meant **Wilson** had gone into the lead 17-16.

♠ Q 8 2
♥ 8
♦ Q 9 7
♣ Q J 10 9 8 2

The match was effectively decided when Ola Rimstedt and Mikael Grönkvist each had to decide what to do in response to a strong notrump with the above hand. Ola transferred (range/clubs) and converted the 2NT response to 3♣.

Mikael showed a game force with clubs and short hearts (following the sound principle that if you can show your hand precisely at the overbid of a jack, do it!).

Partner converted to 3NT; now the question was whether she would be able to access the clubs in dummy. Her holding was ♣Kxx, and when the opponents could not hold up the ♣A for two rounds, game at least had play – although it still wasn't anything special. The cards forgave, however, and 3NT rolled home, leaving Wilson winners 24-18.

With one round to go and 32 of the 57 teams to advance, dead average would have seen you in 30th place. The same three teams were leading as after Round Eight.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Maduzia</i>	<i>Nehmert</i>	<i>Dobrowolski</i>	<i>Wildavsky</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5NT*	Pass	7♥	All Pass

2♣ Game forcing
2♠ Balanced, not minimum
4♣ Cue
4NT RKCB
5NT 2 keycards, +♥Q and a king

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>P Busse</i>	<i>Cooper</i>	<i>G Busse</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

2NT Heart support

How to interpret the Open Room auction? 2♣ was an artificial game force. 2♠ a balanced hand, not dead minimum. 4NT extracted the information via the 5NT call that West had two keycards and the trump queen and one side king, enough for East to bid the almost laydown grand slam.

Declarer won the spade lead in dummy, took a round of trumps, and claimed when everyone followed, +2210. (Had West had the ♦K and ♣Q, slam would at worst be on the club finesse.)

Whatever the precise meaning of the bids after 2NT in the Closed Room, East knew West held a minimum with at least five hearts headed by the ♥KQ and the ♣AK, but was unwilling to drive to a grand slam on their own, (or perhaps to have one more try with 6♦?) since here a 3-5-3-2 hand opposite might make slam no play. It cost 13 IMPs. 15 pairs bid 7♥, the biggest swing being 21 IMPs when EW had an accident in the other room, playing in 6♣.

If Nicola Smith sends you a deal, you can be sure it will be something special. This came up in the last qualifying round of the Mixed Teams:

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Svendsen</i>	<i>Crouch</i>	<i>Harding</i>	<i>Smith</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led the ♠4, and when declarer played dummy's nine, Nicola won with the queen and switched to a heart, North winning with the jack and returning a diamond for the ten, jack and ace. Declarer's next move was a club to the ten, queen and three. When declarer continued with a club to the eight, North won with the jack and played a second diamond. Now declarer had no way to score more than eight tricks, which resulted in a swing of 10 IMPs.

*Marianne Harding***Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.**

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Maduzia</i>	<i>Nehmert</i>	<i>Dobrowolski</i>	<i>Wildavsky</i>
1♣*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

1♣ Polish Club
 4NT RKCB
 5♥ 2 keycards

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>P Busse</i>	<i>Cooper</i>	<i>G Busse</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Dble
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Another mildly complex auction. Here East was showing two keycards.

It was clear that everything would turn on how declarer guessed in spades.

He took the lead of the ♣Q in dummy, cashed five diamonds pitching a club, and then took three rounds of hearts, South pitching the ♠5. Now came the ♠J. When South followed with the seven, declarer let it run and was one down, -50.

If South had started by leading a red suit, declarer might have tried running the ♠J at trick two. If North wins but does not return a spade, South will eventually be squeezed in the black suits! The club lead disrupts this. In any event, that was 11 IMPs for Reason, down 34-16 now.

Jacob Freeman, playing for **Dinkin**, was in 6NT as West and North led the ♥7. He won with dummy's ace and played the ♠J, going up with the king when South

followed with the five. As Zia's BOLS Bridge Tip suggested: "If they don't cover they don't have it."

After the last qualifying match, 97 VPs out of a possible 200 would have sneaked you into the final qualifying spot. **Knottenbelt**, **Zadra** and **Wilson** in that order were the leaders, the top score of 137 VP suggesting that no one had run away with the qualifying event.

For the knock-out stage of the Mixed Teams we will be spoiled for choice in the matches covered. We shall be keeping an eye on **Knottenbelt** (UK) against **Thompson** (Australia) but will also try hard to pick up the details from other tables where the action seemed to be exciting or cast light on our featured table's results.

On the second deal of the match NS belong in 5♦, after East has opened the bidding. Getting there was by no means routine, as we can see from **Apa Heili** and **Bridge24 PL**.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Johannsson	Narkiewicz	McCallum	Zalewska
—	—	1♥	2♦
2NT*	Dble	Pass	Pass
3♥	5♦	All Pass	

2NT Mixed+ raise in hearts

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Buras	A Birman	Sobolewska	D Birman
—	—	1♥	2♦
2♥	3♥*	Pass	3NT
Dble	4♦	All Pass	

For **Bridge24 PL**, Grzegorz Narkiewicz took a flier at 5♦; on the lead of the ♥A, declarer could arrange to



Selena Pepić

ruff, take a spade finesse, lead a diamond to hand and eventually repeat the spade finesse. Then she could come to her hand and play a trump for +620.

In the other room Alon Birman for **Apa Heili** knew of the wasted values in hearts; but should Daniela Birman have raised to 5♦ anyway? After a spade lead, she played safe for +130.

For **Czerbia**, Zoranovic/Vozábal duplicated the Israeli auction to 4♦ – making 11 tricks on a club lead – while Żmuda/Klukowski for **Edmonds** produced a variation on the theme:

West	North	East	South
Pepić	Żmuda	Klems	Klukowski
—	—	1♥	2♦
2♥	Dble	3♥	Pass
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Again, after the heart ace lead, declarer had a straightforward route to his game.

On the next deal let's just focus on the EW cards. Does the West hand look like a 3♠ opener to you? Or would you open at the one level?

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Both tables in **Donner** v **Seoul** opened 3♠. Andrea Manno for **Seoul** passed the 3♠ call, Sandra Rimstedt for **Donner** balanced with a double, and Les Amoils played 4♥ down one. Kevin Dwyer raised the 3♠ opener to game and Cecilia Rimstedt wrapped up 10 tricks for an 11 IMP swing.

Geir Helgemo generated a swing for **Minitier** by opening 1♠ as West. Now Jessica Larsson had no problem in driving to 4♠, whereas in the other room Jostein Austad (for **Blakset**) passed Tonje Brogeland's 3♠ opener.

In our featured match:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Flicker</i>	<i>Knottenbelt</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Gold</i>
—	1♣	2♠	Dble
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>Caplan</i>	<i>Burgess</i>	<i>Thompson</i>
—	1♣	1♠	Dble
Pass	1NT	2♠	3NT

Sitting East, what would you have led against 3NT? Jenny Thompson found the splendid lead of a heart (a club would also have been successful). Declarer could have settled for two down but eventually played low from dummy. Flicker won with the heart king and returned a spade. The game was then three down, EW collecting 300.

While Thompson was apparently sure that his partner would have a spade stopper for her 1NT bid, Ollie

Burgess was less certain and opted to lead the ♠K; with no side entry to his hand, this might have been a questionable decision. Too late, he switched to the ♥7. Fiona Brown won with the king but had no spade to return. Declarer claimed three hearts, four diamonds and two clubs for her contract, and +600. It was a 14 IMP body-blow for the **Knottenbelt** team.

In **Apa Heili** against **Bridge24 PL**, Karen McCallum overcalled 3♠ over 1♣. When Joanna Zalewska doubled and Narkiewicz rebid 3NT, McCallum knew to lead a heart for the same +300.

Against Alon Birman, Eva Sobolewska overcalled 1♠, heard a double to her left, rebid 2♠ over his 1NT rebid, and led a top spade against 3NT for the same 14 IMPs to her opponents.

Roman Zaleski could open 1NT as North. Michal Nosacki overcalled 3♠, Irene Baroni doubled, and Zaleski left it in. Not absurd, but when Baroni could not put her fingers on the ♣K, leading a trump instead, declarer had nine tricks (and made 10 on a subsequent misdefence). That went nicely for Heads or Tails with the +630 from the other room when Bénédicte Cronier led a top spade on the same auction as Sobolewska had faced. That was 15 IMPs.

In **Minitier** v **Blakset**, Austad overcalled 2♠ over 1♦ and led a spade on a two-round auction to 3NT. Larsson overcalled 1♠ and heard North guarantee a spade stop on a slower auction; so she led a heart, preferring the two to the seven.

Helgemo covered the eight with the ten. No worries: declarer repeated the heart finesse, and we were back to +300 and 14 IMPs again.

On our next deal, 3NT went down rather more often than not. I thought both halves of **Ferm** deserved a swing here, though:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Z Grossack	Drijver	Botta	Lund Madsen
1♦	2♠	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Dinkin	Von Arnim	Tebha
1♣	3♠	3NT	All Pass

For **Dinkin**, Anam Tebha led an obedient ♠8 against 3NT. Daniela Von Arnim won her ace and smoothly led a diamond to the king, then a club to South's ace, establishing her nine winners. Would you as South have contemplated hopping up with the diamond to play hearts? I guess you should – but I'm not sure I would.

In the other room Christina Lund Madsen (who isn't backwards about coming forwards with a unilateral play) knew her partner's style well enough to attack with a heart to trick one to North's ♥K. Giorgia Botta ducked, whereupon the defence could not go wrong. But I don't think she had any winning options. South would have held up the club ace to get a discouraging spade (or ♥J?) discard, and eventually would have had no choice but to try to run hearts, I think. **Ferm** led 34-7 against **Dinkin** now.

The match between **Gillis** and **Value Media Team** then saw a fierce tussle in a 4♠ contract that both teams had done well to reach:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Alfejeva	Sælensminde	Rubins	Fuglestad
—	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Dble
4♠	All Pass		

2♦ Both majors

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Harding	Kazmucha	Svensden	Hutyra
—	Pass	2♦*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2♦ Both majors

Both pairs could use a 2♦ opener to show both majors, but in one room Fuglestad could double an artificial call for a club lead. Erik Sælensminde duly led the ♣10 to the queen and ace. Jelena Alfejeva cashed the top diamonds to pitch the club, then took a club ruff, heart ruff, and a club ruff, on which North pitched his second heart. That suggested South was 1-5-2-5, so next came the ♠Q, the ♠K, a heart ruff high, and the ♦10. North could win but had to concede the ♦8 to West for the tenth trick.

In the other room on an unopposed sequence Danuta Kazmucha led a diamond. Marianne Harding cashed a second diamond and ruffed a club, then a heart, then a club, as before. North pitched a heart and declarer tried to ruff a heart with ♠10, overruffed with the ♠J, for a trump return. Declarer ruffed a heart with ♠A and led the ♦8. When North played low, she had to decide whether to run it or ruff in dummy, and when she got it wrong by ruffing, she was down.

On our next deal, in the match between **Coriandre** and **Reason**, declarer was faced with an awkward problem:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Żochowska	Cooper	Schmidt	B Thompson
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West leads the ♣5, you put up the king, and East wins with the ace. If East plays another club, your basic plan

will be to ruff, play a heart to the king and if it holds return to hand with a spade to play a second heart. However, what if East returns the ♦ 8 at trick 2?

The devil seems to have produced the killing switch, finding partner with something like ♦ AJ10x(x) in the suit. However, you spot a countermeasure and play the ♦ Q from your hand, hoping to cut the communications. When the queen holds you play a heart, but West wins with the ace and returns a diamond. That sees East win two tricks in the suit, so you are one down.

It was Pierre Schmidt who found the devastating switch to the ♦ 8. He realized at trick one that prospects for defeating the contract were not good. The best chance seemed to be to find partner with something like ♦ Q9xx, and a quick trick in spades (the king... would declarer refuse the finesse before playing three rounds of hearts?) or even better in hearts (the ace).

He was about to play the ♦ 10 when he realized that the ♦ 8 would be good enough and also that if the actual position existed, declarer was an excellent player who would probably think of inserting the ♦ Q.

Back to the featured match:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

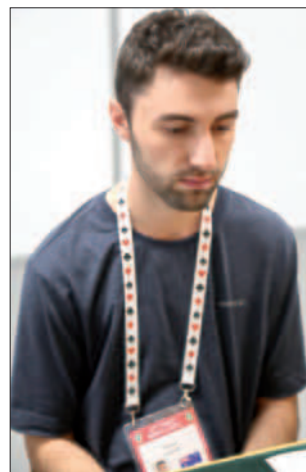
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Flicker	Knottenbelt	Je Thompson	Gold
1♠	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brown	Caplan	Burgess	Ja Thompson
1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Flicker found the right moment (perhaps an inference from the tempo of the auction) to double the exuberant



Damon Flicker

raise to 3NT, perhaps sensing that both North and South could be stretching. The ♠ Q was led and ducked. Gold won the next spade with dummy's ace and eventually played ace and another club. Back came another spade, to the king. There was another long pause, then two more rounds of clubs. When a diamond was led, West won with the king and cashed two spade winners for 500.

We will never know how high Eva Caplan and Jamie Thompson would have climbed, since the response with the East hand curtailed the NS ambitions. 1NT went one down after the lead of the ♥ J, and that was 11 IMPs to the **Thompson** team. They led by 35-19, with another 14 boards still to be played.

With a number of the matches already looking like they were decided by the halftime break, Marc Smith chose one between teams who had finished mid-table in the qualifying Swiss. After the first 14 deals, **Reason** (USA/Germany/Australia) led **Coriandre** (France) 29-20.

The second-half action began with the first deal:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Cooper	Żochowska	B Thompson	Schmidt
—	—	—	1♦
1♠	2♥	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
C Lorenzini	Nehmert	A Lorenzini	Wildavsky
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♠*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♥*	All Pass	

2♣ Fourth suit forcing

4♣ Cue

4NT RKCB

5♠ 2 keycards + ♥Q

5NT Kings?

6♥ No

Cooper's feather-weight 1♠ wreaked unexpected havoc. Joanna Żochowska's 2♥ was forcing, but not to game after the intervention. Thus Schmidt had to cuebid to create a force, though in his methods this might just have been a hand with no sensible call. At the time his partnership played that a rebid of 3♥ over 3♣ (as opposed to 2NT) would not have been forcing. Even so, his jump to game would seem to show much less than he had, so Żochowska had no reason to bid on. NS +680.

When Pony Nehmert used fourth suit, Adam Wildavsky's jump to 3♥ made getting to slam easy. Blackwood found the two missing keycards and Wildavsky checked to see if his partner also held the ♦K before settling for the small slam. The play was equally straightforward, Nehmert winning the spade lead, drawing trumps, then ruffing out West's ♦K. Away went three of declarer's losers and she took the club finesse for the overtrick at the end. NS +1430 and a 13-IMP bonus for **Reason**, ahead now by 22.

In **Gillis v Valute Media Team** both tables bid the grand slam and received a trump lead. Sælensminde won the ♥K, took the ruffing finesse in diamonds, then repeated it, ruffed a club and drew trumps. Dominik Filipowicz played ♦A and ruffed a diamond. Now he could set up two diamond tricks, but still needed a black-suit finesse; today was not his day.

By contrast, when **Orca** played **Tęcza Szczecinek**, **Orca** gained 13 IMPs for settling sedately in 4♥ while the Polish declarer took the simple diamond finesse in 7♥. That gave them a 45-36 lead.

Coriandre recovered 9 IMPs over the next couple of deals, and then came:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Cooper	Żochowska	B Thompson	Schmidt
—	—	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

2♣ Extras/♠+♣

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
C Lorenzini	Nehmert	A Lorenzini	Wildavsky
—	—	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Ben Thompson's 2♣ rebid was Gazzilli, showing either clubs or 16+, and Cooper's sequence via 1NT showed a weak spade raise. With the Australians having stopped at about the limit of what they can make, Schmidt backed in with 2NT, showing minors and Żochowska chose diamonds. There was little to the play: EW -110.

The French pair took a much rosier view of their values at the other table. Aurelie Lorenzini did not pussyfoot around, simply jumping to game after the 1NT response. After a heart lead to South's nine and declarer's jack, a club to the king won. When South took the ♣Q continuation and continued with the ♣10, prospects looked bleak for the young French star. He

won with the ♣J and played a spade, winning with the king when North put in the queen. If only he could steal a diamond trick now! Curiously, despite holding four winners, Wildavsky played low when declarer led a diamond from dummy. Back in his hand with the ♦Q, Lorenzini played a spade to the ten. When that held, he had nine tricks: EW +400 and 11 IMPs to **Coriandre**, trailing now by only 2 IMPs.

The NS hands on Board 21 offered a chance for slam. The duplication in clubs meant slam was certainly worse than the diamond finesse, but there were reasonable chances of overcoming a bad heart break, so long as the defenders did not take a ruff immediately. The auction from the Open Room is lost, alas, but it ended in 4♠. In the Closed Room Nehmert took a normal if mildly optimistic view:

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ K 10 9 6
♥ K Q 8 7
♦ A Q 7 3
♣ 9

N

W

E

S

♠ Q J 4 3 2
♥ A 4 3 2
♦ 8 4
♣ A Q

North

Nehmert

1♦
3♠
4♠
5♥
Pass

South

Wildavsky

1♠
4♣
4NT
6♠

Perhaps Nehmert’s hand is only worth a raise to 2.5♠. Having chosen the fractional overbid at her second turn, she refused to cuebid when Wildavsky continued with a control-showing 4♣. The American thought he had too much to pass, though, and used Blackwood to drive the partnership to slam. When neither red suit behaved, declarer was two down. NS -200 and 13 to **Coriandre**. Just because North produces a jump raise doesn’t mean that NS are committed to slam. Sanna Clementsson (for **Miniter**) did that, but Frederik Nyström asked for shortage then signed off after finding the club singleton.

At the other table, after an identical start, Nadia Bekkouche cuebid 4♥ and Danielsen drove her to slam. 13 IMPs to **Miniter** who had turned a half-time deficit into a 30 IMP lead.

This board also generated a much-needed swing for **Sieja** against **Bros1005**. Ola Rimstedt and Brigitta Fischer followed the unsuccessful Danish auction. By contrast, Igor Grzejdzia (playing with his wife Sabina) was able to open 1♦ and raise 1♠ to 2♠, since his 1♦ opener had already promised an unbalanced hand. That kept them out of trouble, and gave his side the lead in their match.

Thompson picked up the same swing against **Knottenbelt**. Both tables treated the North hand as a jump raise but Caplan had a mini-splinter available that let Jamie Thompson make one cuebid of 3♥, then settle for game when his partner raised to 4♥, bypassing diamonds.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 8 7 6 5
♥ Q 2
♦ A 5 3
♣ Q J 5 4

N

W

E

S

♠ A Q 10
♥ A K J 9 3
♦ 10 8 4
♣ 10 9

♠ 2
♥ 10 7 5 4
♦ K Q J 7 2
♣ K 8 7

♠ K J 9 4 3
♥ 8 6
♦ 9 6
♣ A 6 3 2

Open Room

West

Cooper

—
3♥

North

Żochowska

—
4♠

East

B Thompson

Pass
5♥

South

Schmidt

2♠*
All Pass

2♠ Spades and a minor

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
C Lorenzini	Nehmert	A Lorenzini	Wildavsky
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Schmidt’s 2♠ opening showed spades and a minor, a sign that the French are moving moving towards

21st-Century bidding, (although that may be Żochowska's Polish origins showing through?). They certainly reaped the reward for their enterprise on this deal. Ben Thompson was left with a nasty decision. It hardly seems unreasonable to expect that his partner's side-suit values would be in the minors. You could easily be cold for 11 tricks (or more) in hearts, and does 4♠ not rate to be relatively cheap too? Bidding on to 5♥ seemed indicated; but it was not the winning action on this layout. EW -100.

In the other room the French pair conducted a normal-looking auction to the top spot. North led a spade to king and ace, and Cédric Lorenzini cashed the top trumps, solving the problem in that suit. When he then led a diamond, North hopped up with the ace and switched to clubs, so the defenders got their three tricks: EW +620 and another 12 IMPs to **Coriandre**.

Of course, it was not all bad news for the Thompson family. Jamie Thompson (in **Knottenbelt v Thompson**) could open 2♠ systemically to get his side to 4♠ in a hurry and bulldoze the opponents into 5♥ down one. Those 12 IMPs solidified his team's eventual victory over one of the high-flyers in the qualifying event.

On the next deal your 2 HCP are a solitary queen, and you also hold four-card support for partner's suit. Just how much bidding, though, are you going to do on this North hand? What's more, are you feeling lucky?

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Cooper	Żochowska	B Thompson	Schmidt
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	1NT	Dble	Rdbl
2♣	Pass	Pass	2♦
3♣	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
C Lorenzini	Nehmert	A Lorenzini	Wildavsky
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

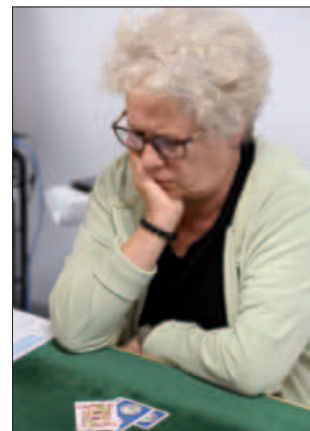
In the Closed Room NS tried to play the hand in 1♠, then tried to pass it out in 2♠, before finally buying the contract at the three-level. With the ♠K onside, it perhaps looks as if declarer has to lose only one club and two hearts. Ah, but there is no entry to dummy to take the trump finesse, so it was well judged to stop out of game, then...?

West's trump lead solves that problem and declarer duly claims ten tricks. NS +170. Realization that the ♠K was dropping singleton, and thus ten tricks would always make, perhaps leads you to conclude that perhaps it was just not meant to be your day.

In the Open Room, with North taking two free bids, nothing was ever going to keep South out of game at this table. West also led a trump here, so declarer did not actually need to rely on the low-percentage chance in trumps. It is worth noting that at every other table I could find where 4♠ was declared, the defenders led two rounds of clubs. Now since the defenders had not established their slow heart trick, declarer would have been able to make by picking the diamond position, even had spades not behaved.

In any event that was NS +620 and another 10 IMPs to **Coriandre** who ended up winning in a canter. After losing a slam swing on the first deal of the set, **Coriandre** blanked their opponents 68-0 over the remaining boards.

Board 28 saw a handful of matches still in the balance. And it was a corker of a final deal too.



Joanna Żochowska

Where **Tęcza Szczecinek** was playing **Orca**, after 27 deals the score was 61-67. Then came:

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Crouch</i>	<i>G Busse</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>P Busse</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦
1♠	2♥	Dble	3♦
4♠	All Pass		

Peter Crouch pulled out what looked to be a match-winning performance in 4♠. Can you blame South for overtaking the heart lead to give his partner a diamond ruff? Back came a heart. Crouch ruffed, advanced the ♠J, covered all round, then crossed to the club ace to finesse in spades, draw trumps, and duck a club. Bingo!

Alas for him, his teammate Richard Plackett, South for **Orca** in the Closed Room, saw 2♠-4♠ to him and certainly cannot be criticized when he pressed on to 5♦, which was of course doubled. -1100 and 12 IMPs to **Tęcza Szczecinek**, who won the match by 6 IMPs.

For **Miniter**, in 4♠, Helgemo as West duplicated Crouch's play (here North had opened 2♦ Multi). Meanwhile, in the other room, defending 3♠, Nyström (South) – who knew his partner rated to have four trumps since West had dealt and passed then had come in with 3♠ over 3♦ – simply played two rounds of hearts at tricks one and two. Declarer ruffed and shortened himself by taking the trump finesse then ruffing another heart – and that meant down one in 3♠! **Miniter** took the second half by 60 IMPs to advance in some comfort.

Bros 1005 led **Sieja** 53-51 as the last board hit the table. In one room Marusa Gold declared 3♠, having passed initially and heard partner open 1♣. The defenders led a top heart and continued hearts. She ruffed, played a spade to the queen then the spade ace and now led a club to the ace and ducked one to the bare king. Down to all diamonds South played one and North

ruffed and led a low heart. Declarer took the ten and conceded the trump loser to North for a solid +140.

However, this was the auction in the other room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Dmowski</i>	<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Miszewska</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦
1♥*	Dble	1♠	2♦
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦
3♠	Dble	All Pass	

1♥ Spades

Fischer led a top heart, then gave her partner a ruff with the ♦J; Rimstedt shifted to a low club for the three, king, and ace. Declarer was now in control and though he led a spade to the queen, he still had nine tricks for +530 and nine IMPs. And that was the match.

For the first set of the round of 16, Jos Jacobs did his best impersonation of a Tasmanian Devil, watching every match and summarizing the action from them all.

In the **Edmonds v Heads or Tails** match, the spade suit did not make its usual impact, at either of the tables:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Nosacki</i>	<i>Dufrat</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♥
3♠	4♥	All Pass	

2♦ Transfer

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Saada</i>	<i>Żmuda</i>	<i>Bareket</i>
—	2♥*	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

2♥ Hearts and a minor

In the Open Room, the spades finally put in an appearance on the third round, and Piotr Zatorski trusted his partner not to have too much wasted values in spades. Nice try: no cigar. Four Hearts went two down for +100 to **Heads or Tails**. Still, -100 wasn't terrible.

However, Nathalie Saada's Muiderberg 2♥ and Ilan Bareket's pre-emptive raise kept the Poles entirely out of the auction and out of spades, for that matter. One down, +50 to Edmonds but 2 IMPs to **Heads or Tails**.

Ferm did even better, as this is what happened at their two tables in their match v **Sieja**:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lund Madsen	I Grzejdzia	Drijver	S Grzejdzia
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	2♠	3♥
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Miszewska	De Wijs	Dmowski	Von Arnim
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

A simple +420 to **Ferm** in the Open Room. However, in the Closed Room, spades were mentioned by EW, but no more than that. The 3♦ contract was made when West continued a trump when in with the ♦K, and East discarded a club when the trumps were drawn. Ferm another +110 and 11 IMPs to them.

On Board 5, a spade partscore was the popular place to be for EW. Once again, the **Edmonds v Heads or Tails** match was the exception, as at one table they produced one auction without spades:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lengy	Zatorski	Nosacki	Dufrat
—	1♣	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Saada	Żmuda	Bareket
—	Pass	1♣	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
2♠	3♦	3♠	All Pass

In the Open Room, when East did not double on the two occasions she got, Katarzyna Dufrat was allowed to play her 1NT contract and make an overtrick when West led a diamond. **Edmonds** +120. In the other room, the Poles did their job after North passed in first seat. 3♠ came home when the defence did not force dummy to ruff diamonds. Declarer now had ample time to draw trumps and concede a trick to the ♥A. **Edmonds** another +140 and 6 IMPs to them.

In the **Wilson v Coriandre** match, we saw two nearly spadeless auctions:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
C Lorenzini	van Prooijen	Bello	Wilson
—	1♦	Dble	2NT*
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

2NT Limit+ in diamonds

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Buus Thomsen	Schmidt	M Rimstedt	Żochowska
—	Pass	1♣	1♦
1♠	2♣	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

South's raise in the Open Room was too much for West's spades. **Wilson** +110, whereas 4♦ one down, undoubled, was at least less expensive than defending 3♠ for the French. Another +100 and 5 IMPs to **Wilson**.

On the next deal, we saw a lively auction in the **Minitier v Crocodile** match:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Barel	Clementsson	P Katz	Nyström
—	—	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1NT	Dble	Rdbl
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠	Dble
2NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
3 ♣	Dble	3 ♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Bogo	Larsson	Sivertsvik
—	—	2 ♠	3 ♥
All Pass			

Opening a weak two on the East hand might have been a less disastrous idea, in retrospect. However, it required an early trump lead to punish declarer to the full in 3 ♦ x. Declarer was allowed to win the ♦ K in hand, and he next tried the ♠ K to Nyström's ace. Three top hearts and a fourth heart saw Clementsson pitch two spades as declarer ruffed in hand. The ♠ 2 was ruffed low in dummy. North overruffed and played ace and another diamond, to dummy. Now all declarer scored after that was his two club winners. That was +1100 to **Miniter**.

Talking about weak twos, that is what they did at the other table. When West led the ♣ A and next gave his partner a club ruff, the defence could wait in peace for three more tricks in the black suits. One down, +50 and 15 IMPs to **Miniter**.

In **Thompson v Value Media Team**, Jamie Thompson played 3 ♥ on Sivertsvik's auction, down one on the top club lead. This was the auction from the other room:

West	North	East	South
Flicker	Kazmucha	Je Thompson	Hutyra
—	—	2 ♠	Dble
Pass	2NT	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Kazmucha won the spade jack lead in dummy and ran five rounds of hearts, West pitching a card from each minor, East a diamond and a spade, then led a low club from dummy.

When West cashed his three club winners before playing the ♦ Q, declarer had the club trick established that she needed. That was +400 and 10 IMPs for **Value Media Team**.

An opening lead problem faced unsuccessfully by many came up next:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

The normal contract was of course 4 ♠. The only lead to beat this is ♠ A and another. Clementsson of the **Miniter** team was the only one to find that lead. (Here East had made a simple overcall in hearts rather than bid 2NT).

Elsewhere:

West	North	East	South
C Lorenzini	van Prooijen	Bello	Wilson
—	1 ♣	2NT	Pass
4 ♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Buus Thomsen	Schmidt	M Rimstedt	Żochowska
—	1 ♣	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♠	All Pass		

Both Norths led a club, and each declarer took 10 tricks. **Coriandre** led 17-16 now over **Wilson**. Both pairs in **Thompson v Value Media Team** started in the same way as in the Closed Room above. But the two Wests at their final turn showed hugely different valuations. Flicker duplicated Buus Thomsen and bid 2♠ for +170, Rubins jumped to 4♠ instead. (And yes, you might indeed ask what was wrong with a 3♠ invitation?) After a club lead, both tables had 10 tricks. But **Value Media Team** had 10 IMPs, to lead 34-15.

The next deal also constituted a lead problem:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Four Hearts is defeated on a spade lead, and not on the popular lead of the ♦ A and another. The killing lead was only found by the happy few who were supported by partner after their spade overcall. For example, in **Tęcza**



Nathalie Saada

Szczecinek v Formidables, Himani Khandelwal overcalled 1♠ over 1♥ and Rajeev Khandelwal competed to 3♠ over a 2NT heart raise. Those 12 IMPs meant **Formidables** now led 36-5.

Of course that wasn't quite the end of the story. In both rooms in **Thompson v Value Media Team** South overcalled in spades and North showed a raise. Alfejeva bailed out in 3♥, making +170 on a diamond lead. In the other room Hutyra as South overcalled, and heard Kazmucha raise spades over West's cuebid raise. After Jenny Thompson's 4♥ call he saved in 4♠; doubled and down 500 for 8 IMPs to **Thompson**, trailing 23-34.

Back again to the **Edmonds v Heads or Tails** match:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lengy	Zatorski	Nosacki	Dufurat
—	Pass	1♣	1♠
2♥	2♠	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Saada	Żmuda	Bareket
—	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
Dble	Pass	3♣	All Pass

3NT was bid at only four tables but to defeat it, the defence had to be alert. Bidding and supporting spades does not mean that the successful defence has to be based on that suit. As North you lead a spade, and declarer puts up the ace, partner discouraging. You duck the first club, win the ♣ A as partner pitches a spade... and now what? It is not dummy's entry that has to be attacked but declarer's. He needs his ♥ A as an entry to be able to cash

his 3rd top spade. At three of the four tables in 3NT, spades were continued, so the contract came home. Zatorski for the **Edmonds** team was the only one to find a switch. He continued the ♦10 after immediately winning his ♣A. Dufrat put up her ace and did not continue diamonds but tried the effect of the ♥K instead. This should have proved lethal for the contract, in theory – though the defence gave declarer another chance by discarding too many spades per the BBO record. That would have enabled declarer to overtake dummy's ♠Q and cash his ♠9 as the game-going trick. When declarer did not believe his luck, he still was one down. **Edmonds** +100.

In the Closed Room, the Poles had less ambition, and 3♣ was made with an overtrick. **Edmonds** +130 and 6 IMPs to them to lead 40-3.

In **Wilson v Coriandre**, Lorenzini/Bello bid unopposed 1♣-1♥-2♣-2NT-Pass making 150 on the defence of three rounds of diamonds. Declarer won and drove out ♣A, won the heart shift and ran diamonds. Both defenders pitched spades, so Lorenzini could overtake the queen and cash the nine for +150.

In the other room Żochowska (South) did overcall 1♠ and Schmidt raised her. So, they defended 3NT by East on a low spade lead to the jack and queen. Schmidt won the third club as Żochowska pitched a diamond then heart. Now North had no reason not to continue spades. The defence appears harder with east as declarer.

Speaking about ambitions: would you like to be in a slam on this last deal of the set?

Unless the defenders lead a diamond and establish a winner there, slam looks to be approximately reliant on one of the club finesse or hearts 3-3 with the king inside. That is technically much better than 50%; but in practice slam looks no better than a toss-up. Do you feel lucky, punk?

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Three EW pairs did feel lucky, to their detriment, among them both EW pairs in our **Edmonds v Heads or Tails** match. Missed chances thus continued there...though **Edmonds** were leading **Heads or Tails** by a comfortable margin at halftime. **Ferm** continued their excellent first half when their opponents also reached slam. They led by 47-6 at the break and four other matches seemed almost over. **Minitier** had a 51-9 lead over **Crocodile**, **Bridge24 PL** a 47-8 lead over **Zadra**, and **Formidables** a 36-6 lead over **Tęcza Szczecinek**. This did not prove to be the case, as we shall see. But for the second half report we will focus on the matches where the result was still in doubt.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
M Karmarkar	G Busse	S Karmarkar	P Busse
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	3♣*	Dble	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

3♣ Diamonds

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Maduzia	Satyanarayana	Dobrowolski	Nadar
—	—	—	1NT
2♠	All Pass		

The 2♠ overcall was a valiant attempt to create a swing and as is the wont, created one in the out-column when the Karmarkars did exceedingly well to reach 4♥. The defenders led diamonds at every turn, giving a ruff and discard, so the 3-2 trump break was all that declarer needed. Another 7 IMPs to **Formidables**.



Piotr Busse

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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



On the next deal almost everyone had the equivalent of a 2NT-3NT auction. Kiran Nadar facing a slightly higher range for 2NT transferred to diamonds and bid 4NT quantitative, reaching 6NT from North, which is a pretty decent spot. Alas for declarer, after the lead of ♣J, the 4-1 diamond break proved just too much even when spades and hearts behaved. That was 11 IMPs back to **Tęcza Szczecinek**.

We haven't seen a marginal slam for at least one board; time for another.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
M Karmarkar	G Busse	S Karmarkar	P Busse
—	—	3♣	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Maduzia	Satyanarayana	Dobrowolski	Nadar
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	2♣	4♣*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

4♣ Splinter
4NT RKC
5♦ 3 keycards

3NT handled for a comfortable 10 tricks. 6♠ suffered from an obvious deficiency but it wasn't entirely without chances, so long as declarer could arrange an admittedly unlikely squeeze. If you could just duck a diamond to East...

Satyanarayana correctly played for the squeeze without the count, ruffing a club and running his trumps, pitching diamonds from dummy. When he cashed the ♣K and no diamond honour appeared, he knew he was out of chances (but see below). A diamond went to West's ♦K and that player scored trick 13 with his ♥10. Down one and 12 IMPs away. We had a match again, at 43-32 for **Formidables**.

In **Donner v Wolfson**, Michielsen for **Donner** opened 3♣, and when South doubled, Cullin gently raised to 4♣. Wolfson bid 4♠ and collected 650. This was the auction in the other room:

West	North	East	South
Meyers	Dwyer	Garner	C Rimstedt
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	3♣	4♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

4NT RKC
5♦ 3 keycards

Dwyer duplicated the line above, winning the club, ruffing a club, and running trumps. West correctly came down to the bare ♦K, and when Dwyer led a diamond up East (down to three hearts and ♦A8) flew up with the ace from his remaining doubleton, crashing the ♦K and

establishing the ♦10 for the 12th trick. 13 IMPs to **Donner**, making it 20-20.

Caplan/Jamie Thompson stayed out of slam after East had passed initially then backed in in clubs, letting Thompson cuebid 4♣. Caplan bid 4♥ and passed the 4♠ signoff; well done. In the other room Jenny Thompson opened 3♣, doubled by South and Flicker tried 5♣, doubled and down 1100. Well done again, here by Filipowicz/Cuzzi, and 10 IMPs to make it 52-26 for **Value Media Team**.

Remarkably, these precise results were exactly duplicated by Mikael Rimstedt/Buus Thomsen to collect 1100 against Schmidt/Żochowska. Meanwhile the Lorenzini's were coming to rest in 4♠. The 10 IMPs meant **Wilson** led **Coriandre** 39-25.

A couple of boards later, though, that match turned on the unluckiest of breaks:

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

♠ —	♠ —
♥ J 8 5 3 2	♥ —
♦ K J 9 6 5 3	♦ —
♣ 6 5	♣ —



Mikael Grönkvist



Pierre 'le chat' Schmidt

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schmidt	M Rimstedt	Żochowska	Buus Thomsen
—	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♠*	Pass
6♣	Pass	6NT	All Pass

3NT Fewer than three spades

4♥ Cue

4NT RKCB

5♠ 2 keycards + ♦Q

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
M Grönkvist	A Lorenzini	I Grönkvist	C Lorenzini
—	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♠*	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♣*	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

4NT RKCB

5♠ 2 keycards + ♠Q

5NT Kings?

6♣ ♣K

Not an easy hand to bid to 7NT by East – which might make if the clubs do not break. The Grönkvists did well to reach a grand slam by East, but played 7♠, a contract that would only be in additional danger against the 6-0 spade break. The lie of the cards turned a 10 IMP gain into a 14 IMP loss, leaving **Wilson** up by an IMP.

Elsewhere:

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>M Karmarkar</i>	<i>G Busse</i>	<i>S Karmarkar</i>	<i>P Busse</i>
—	Pass	1♣	1♦
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Maduzia</i>	<i>Satyanarayana</i>	<i>Dobrowolski</i>	<i>Nadar</i>
—	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♥*	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	5♠*	Pass
6♦	Pass	7♣	All Pass

- 1♣ Strong
- 1♥ 5♠, GF
- 2♠ 4+ clubs
- 2NT asking
- 3♠ 5 clubs
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♥ 2 keycards
- 5♠ asking for kings
- 6♦ 2 kings

The same 13 easy tricks. Thanks to the Polish Club system the slam was played from the East hand, as with the North hand on lead, the slam could be defeated at trick one.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Rubins</i>	<i>Caplan</i>	<i>Alfejeva</i>	<i>Ja Thompson</i>
—	—	Pass	2♠*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

2♠ Spades and a minor

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Flicker</i>	<i>Filipowicz</i>	<i>Je Thompson</i>	<i>Cuzzi</i>
—	—	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Both Wests led a club. Jamie Thompson finessed then played a spade to let East win and shift to a heart. West won and gave his partner a ruff. Alfejeva returned a top heart now. Jamie Thompson won, pitching a diamond and took ♦ A and a ruff, then ruffed a club, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club, and ruffed a heart. One more club ruff, then a heart ruff, and at trick 13 the ♠ K rather piquantly drew West’s ♠ Q.

In the other room, after the club lead, Monica Cuzzi flew with the ace to play a trump. Again East won to play a heart and now the ♣ K and another club set the hand at once. 10 IMPs to **Thompson**, down 42-53.

You aren’t bored of slam hands yet, I hope?

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Schmidt</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Żochowska</i>	<i>Buus Thomsen</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

2♦ Transfer

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M Grönkvist</i>	<i>A Lorenzini</i>	<i>I Grönkvist</i>	<i>C Lorenzini</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

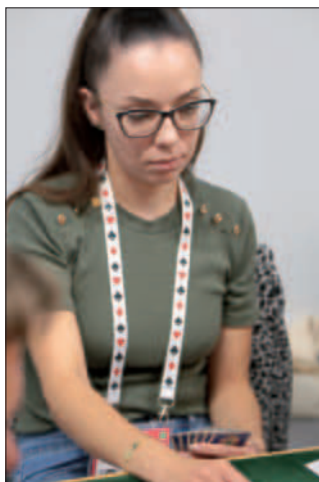
2♦ Transfer

It is a very useful gadget to play on the given auctions that a jump to 4♦ over 3♣ shows three hearts and four+ clubs, not unsuitable for slam. Neither South had that available; after their respective choices, one North took the high road, one the low road. When the cards were not unfriendly, **Wilson** had 10 IMPs to go back in front by double digits.

Formidables' once huge lead evaporated with four deals to go:

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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



Anna Maduzia

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M Karmarkar</i>	<i>G Busse</i>	<i>S Karmarkar</i>	<i>P Busse</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣*	1♠
Pass	3♥*	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

1♣ Strong
3♥ Mixed spade raise

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Maduzia</i>	<i>Satyanarayana</i>	<i>Dobrowolski</i>	<i>Nadar</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♦*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥	All Pass

1♣ Strong
1♦ Weak
3♦ Hearts

The pre-emption over the strong club worked well. You can understand East's acting here, though defending 3♠ for +50 would have been his best choice today. Even though declarer misguessed trumps in 3♥, he still collected +140 to go with 50 from 5♣. It was now 49-48 for **Formidables**.

With three deals to go, **Coriandre** finally moved decisively in front of **Wilson**.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Schmidt</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Żochowska</i>	<i>Buus Thomsen</i>
—	—	1♦	Pass
Pass	2♥	3♦	3♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M Grönkvist</i>	<i>A Lorenzini</i>	<i>I Grönkvist</i>	<i>C Lorenzini</i>
—	—	1♦	Pass
Pass	2♥	2NT	Dble
4♣	Dble	4♦	4♥
All Pass			

An accident of tempo gave the two Souths the decision at a very different point in the auction. Facing an intermediate jump, should one play in the Open Room that a double of 3♦ is Maximal? Neither side has agreed a fit, but against sane opponents you are not likely to have a trump stack. Buus Thomsen took the low road and found game playable, and cold on the lie of the cards.

Conversely, Cédric Lorenzini was virtually forced to raise hearts at his final turn (indeed, it looks a little odd that he did not do so over the 2NT call). 620 here meant 10 IMPs to **Coriandre** and a 59-51 lead.

On Board 27 a keycard accident saw **Wolfson** commit to a grand slam off an ace; that gifted **Donner** 14 IMPs plus the match. Which brings us to the final deal, with **Czeczinek** leading **Formidables** by one IMP.

Board 28. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

In the Open Room, the Indian EW settled in 2NT after a strong club from East, 2♥ overcall from South and 2NT in balancing seat from East. Yes, West might have argued that one could raise to 3NT – since precisely eight tricks is unlikely with this dummy. Declarer won the ♥Q lead and led the ♣9 to the queen and ace. Back came a diamond to the ten and jack and South now cleared hearts, after which declarer had the rest.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Maduzia</i>	<i>Satyanarayana</i>	<i>Dobrowolski</i>	<i>Nadar</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣*	2♦*
Pass	2♥	Dble	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

- 1♣ Strong
- 2♦ One major

Endplayed at trick one, South needed to lead a trump to get four tricks via the heart ruff; but that would still be only one IMP back to tie the match. After a diamond lead to the queen and king, the fact that the diamond jack could be ruffed out meant declarer was able to come to ten tricks. And a tied match...but let us go to the rules. In the case of a tie, if the teams have met in the qualifying stage, that match is decisive, otherwise the total ranking counts. The Poles’ victory in the qualifying event meant they advanced to fight another day.

In the first segment of the quarter-finals (all four matches being shown on VuGraph) we shall focus on **Miniter** against **Value Media Team** while trying to keep abreast of action from other matches.

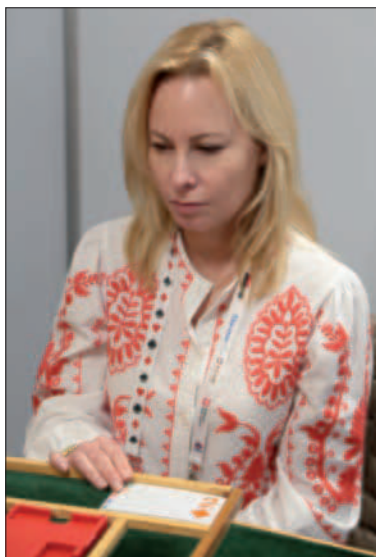
In the first two deals **Donner** and **Edmonds** broke on top (the former through a thin game reached by Dwyer/Cecilia Rimstedt, the latter via an opponent’s failure to draw trumps in a game).

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Hutyra</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Dble	2♠	5♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		



Gillian Minitier

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rubins	Grue	Alfejeva	Minitier
—	—	—	Pass
2♦*	All Pass		

2♦ Both majors

In the Open Room North took a pessimistic view at her second turn, but this did not impact the final contract. Against deals of this type (where declarer has a two-suiter and dummy may be short in those suits), a trump lead can be effective. As the diamonds lie, the trump lead must come from North. So the killing lead from South is a heart, North winning dummy's king with the ace and switching to the ♦9. If declarer rises with the ace, she has two trump losers. If instead, she finesses, South will win and play a second trump.

Hutyra however led the ♠A, declarer ruffing and cashing the two top clubs. A club ruff found the suit 3-3, and Larsson then (wrongly?) discarded a heart on the spade king. A finesse of the ♦J lost to the king, and South switched to the heart jack. North's ♥A was the last trick for the defenders, since although there was no longer a re-entry to dummy, the trump queen subsequently fell under declarer's ace. That was +600 for **Minitier**.

In the Closed Room, West's 2♦ pre-empt worked admirably, although it was East who went as low on this occasion as Larsson had gone high. Two overtricks were made, and 10 IMPs were lost.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Kazmucha	Larsson	Hutyra
1♦	1♠	2♠*	3♦*
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rubins	Grue	Alfejeva	Minitier
1♦	1♠	1NT	2♦
Pass	2♠	3♦	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The spade game is quite playable here. If East does not hold ♠Kx or ♠K, you may well be able to set up a club discard on the hearts. Failing that, the defenders may assist you in some way. At her second turn, was North just about worth 3♥ as a game-try? The singleton diamond, where the defenders were likely to hold their values, was surely a positive feature.

Larsson led the ♦K and switched to the ♣3. Declarer won West's queen with her ace and found that the trump suit was obliging, just when she didn't want it to be. Eleven tricks were made for +200.

In the other room game was reached, and Alfejeva led king and another diamond, declarer ruffing. The trump queen was then covered by the king and ace. Grue returned to his hand with a diamond ruff and... ran the ♠8 to the 10. It was the natural play after East's 1NT bid.

Rubins switched to the ♥3, to the 10 and jack, and ducked the next heart. When the hearts did not break evenly, declarer had a loser in every suit and went one down. Contrary to NS's expectations in the Open Room, they had gained 7 IMPs.

4♠ came home for **Bridge24 PL** to virtually level the match.

Three of our four matches then went quiet; meanwhile **Ferm** and **Bridge24PL** embarked on an orgy of punch

and counter-punch – the equivalent of double-digit swings on the eight deals from board 6 to 13.

We do not have space, alas, to cover all the deals, but they included Daniela Von Arnim misguessing a slam that was not bid elsewhere, Sjoert Brink misguessing a nine-card fit in a 3NT contract not attempted in the other room, and **Bridge24PL** being doubled in game with an overtrick. So **Bridge24PL** led 45-13 as we reached Board 9. (The margin in all the other three matches was approximately single digits.)

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Kazmucha	Larsson	Hutyra
—	4♥	Dble	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

4NT Two places to play

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rubins	Grue	Alfejeva	Minitier
—	4♥	Dble	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	6♥	Dble	All Pass

Helgemo's 4NT showed two places to play. This would often be the minor suits, because 4♠ had been bypassed. When West bid 5♦ over 5♣ from partner, East marked time with 5♠, and passed happily when a 6♣ card appeared.

As you see, the slam is better in diamonds. You avoid a club guess, since two club discards are available on the spades. Hutyra led the ♥Q, Kazmucha overtaking and playing another top heart, ruffed in the dummy. After the 4♥ opening, it seemed that the odds clearly favoured a finesse in trumps, and that was +1370 for **Minitier**.

In the Closed Room the second-best slam was also duly reached, but Joe Grue found an excellent vulnerable sacrifice in hearts. He was four down for minus 800 and that was 11 IMPs to **Minitier**.

Each North saved in **Edmonds v Coriandre**. In **Bridge24 v Ferm** Narkiewicz took the save over 6♦ in 6♥ for -800. Well done...and that held the loss to 12 IMPs because Tomasz Latos and Grazyna Brewiak passed out 4♥. Remarkably, each EW pair in **Donner v Tęcza Szczecinek** did the same (Dwyer opened 3NT to show this hand, so his opponents had an extra chance to act).

Bridge24PL added 12 more IMPs after a Multi kept their opponents out of the bidding, but handed it back when a sporting Lightner double of a game saw Von Arnim turn the cube. Had the defender on lead worked out the position, the game might have gone down; but after an uninspired opening salvo, Von Arnim emerged with +1080. The wildness continued on a hand where **Ferm** played partscore with slam on a failing finesse (but the slam was let through by **Donner**) for 13 IMPs to **Tęcza Szczecinek** instead of 12 the other way.

As we reach board 13, **Bridge24PL** led by 30, **Minitier** by 20 and the other two matches were tied.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Kazmucha	Larsson	Hutyra
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

3♠ Forcing
4♣ Cue
4NT RKC
5♥ 2 keycards

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rubins	Grue	Alfejeva	Minter
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♠	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

4NT RKCB

5♥ 2 keycards

Against 6NT, one can hardly blame Maciej Hutyra for leading a passive diamond, so +1440 was recorded. Against 6♠, Gillian Minter led a totally obvious singleton club, and the slam was made, for no swing.

Ferm had an uncultured (if well-judged in practice!) auction to slam, **Bridge24PL** a cultured one to 5♠, identifying the lack of heart control. But the IMPs went to **Ferm**, reducing the deficit to 17 at the break. Both tables in **Edmonds** v **Coriandre** reached slam. Schmidt led a diamond, Klukowski the ♥5. Żmuda won and returned...a club, trying for the ruff instead of finding partner with ♥K. At the end of the quarter, **Minter** led by 21, **Tęcza Szczecinek** by 8 IMPs, **Edmonds** by 2 IMPs.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



Jelena Alfejeva

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Buras	Drijver	Sobolewska	Lund Madsen
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Narkiewicz	Von Arnim	Zalewska
—	—	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥*	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♣	All Pass

3♣ Muppet Stayman

3♥ No major

5NT Pick a slam

4♦ Cue

4♥ Cue

In the Open Room, in 3NT, declarer won the opening spade lead, crossed to the ♣K and eventually ended with 10 tricks: EW +430.

In the Closed Room, de Wijs opened 2NT and showed no major of more than three cards with his 3♥ response to Muppet Stayman.

With the odds on a fit high, Daniela Von Arnim was thus encouraged to venture beyond 3NT. After an exchange of cuebids, de Wijs offered a choice of slams and Von Arnim chose clubs.

South led the ♠Q, and it is now technically possible to make 6♣ by picking up trumps and playing for South to hold both missing diamond honours.

When Von Arnim instead won the spade lead and played three rounds of hearts, ruffing in dummy, she was no longer able to overcome the combination of the 5-0 trump break and the 5-1 diamond break.

Might she still have followed the same line had she cashed her ♣Q early to discover the 5-0 break? EW -50 and a highly fortunate 10 IMPs to **Bridge24PL**.

For **Edmonds**, Żmuda/Klukowski had an accident after Muppet Stayman and reached 6♦ instead of 6♣. Although this contract was not without play, it ended up -150 on the foul lie of the cards. And for **Minter**, Nyström/Clementsson also reached 6♣. Nyström duplicated Von Arnim's line, for down one.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>	<i>Zalewska</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Sobolewska</i>	<i>Lund Madsen</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
1♠	Dble	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

In the Open Room South was systemically obligated to bid the major first, Lund Madsen in the Closed Room had a choice. Both Norths showed support, but Narkiewicz's auction showed extras with long clubs and Zalewska angled towards 3NT.

The top spade lead left declarer needing to decide whether to go after clubs or diamonds. Neither work today, but he chose diamonds, and the defence cashed out at once for down one.

In the Closed Room Drijver's double showed extras in the context of not having opened a 10-13 notrump. Lund Madsen's 3♦ call was intended to show extras and was not inconsistent with a canapé. I'm not sure if Drijver was aware of the hand-type opposite, but he put his partner in a game which at least had some play as the cards lay.

West led the ♣Q, and Lund Madsen won to play the ♦J. West won with the ace and continued clubs, so

declarer won and played the ♥A and a heart to the king. Leaving two trumps out, Lund Madsen now switched to diamonds, discarding spades from dummy. West also pitched a spade on the fourth round of diamonds (ruffing doesn't help), so away went the last spade from dummy. Lund Madsen now ruffed a spade and cashed the ♣10 on which she pitched her last spade. The defenders made just two trump tricks and the ♦A. Nicely done, and NS +420 for 10 IMPs to **Ferm**.

Pavel Busse played 3NT for **Tęcza Szczecinek**, on a similar auction to Narkiewicz, down 150 when declarer went after clubs. In the other room, Cullin opened 2♣ for **Donner**, and played there, for +110 and 6 IMPs. **Donner** led 34-26.

Filipowicz played 3♣ on a natural auction (preferring to jump to 3♣ rather than use a support double) for **Value Media Team**. Nicely done – but he hadn't reckoned with Grue in the other room. The North hand looked like a strong notrump to him, and Puppet Stayman got him to 3NT on the ♥Q lead.

The ♦J was ducked, of course, when he overtook it. The ♣J was covered all round, and Grue tested clubs then played on hearts, eventually coming to the ♠K for his ninth trick.

The board was played in a heart partscore in our fourth match.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Sobolewska</i>	<i>Lund Madsen</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	1NT	4♥	4NT*
Dble	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>	<i>Zalewska</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	1♠*	4♥	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

1♠ Negative double without four spades

Having opened her six-card suit, Lund Madsen got her second suit into play with 4NT. This deal seems to raise the question of whether East has something extra or if, having jumped to 4♥, she has already bid her hand. Sobolewska decided that she should bid a fifth heart (maybe this makes sense if the double of 4NT encourages action?) and Drijver ended an explosive auction with a double. Declarer had two spades, two hearts and a diamond to lose: NS +500.

Zalewska started with 1♦ and Narkiewicz's 1♠ was like a negative double, but denying as many as four spades. Was 1NT a more practical alternative? His actual choice made it easier and more attractive for Zalewska to show her second suit, and Von Arnim was not even slightly tempted to act again here. De Wijs made the ♠A and two trump tricks to nip 5♣x by a trick: EW +200 and 12 IMPs to **Ferm**, trailing now by only a single IMP at 75-76.

In **Tęcza Szczecinek v Donner**, Busse played 5♣ undoubled after a Polish Club opener and competition to 5♣. Michielsen/Cullin had far less competition after a strong club opener, but ended in 6♣x when Cullin jumped to slam while his partner was trying to find the best game. That was -500 and 9 IMPs to **Tęcza Szczecinek**, up 35-34.

The same sort of thing happened in **Miniter v Value Media Team**. Cuzzi as South boosted herself to slam single-handedly, facing a 1NT response; down 500. Meanwhile Grue as North played 4NT (passing his partner's request to play a minor). Right he was, in a sense, since that contract would make whenever clubs behaved. As it was, he ended up down 200 but still picked up 7 IMPs.

Yet again, **Edmonds v Coriandre** was the exception when it came to producing a real swing. Each table played 5♣, Edmonds gaining 3 IMPs for doubling the final contract.

Do you prefer to get to the final contract quickly, without giving any information away, or would you rather risk giving the opponent's information and space in the hope of reaching a better contract? Let's see which approach worked best on our next deal:

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>	<i>Zalewska</i>
—	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Sobolewska</i>	<i>Lund Madsen</i>
—	1♣	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

2♦ Limit+ with clubs
 3♥ Splinter
 4♦ Cue
 4♥ Cue
 4♠ RKC
 4NT 0-3 keywords

In the Open Room the Polish pair conspired to blast away and keep their opponents in the dark. Narkiewicz set the ball rolling with his off-shape 1NT opening, and Zalewska refused to assist East with her opening lead. Von Arnim led hearts of course, but declarer had just enough tricks before he had to surrender the lead. NS +400.

Let's see how science fared in the Closed Room. Drijver could jump to 3♥, showing a shortage and establishing a game force. Lund Madsen marked time with 4♣, so that Drijver could show controls in both pointed suits so as to allow for the use of Blackwood. 12 elegant tricks and a well-earned 11 IMPs to **Ferm**.

Donner and **Edmonds** both had natural auctions to reach the slam for double-digit swings to their side.

The last significant swing of the set saw all eight Souths pick up in second seat with both sides vulnerable:

♠ A 10 2
♥ 8
♦ A K 9 4
♣ K 8 7 5 4

Minter and Cuzzi opened 1♣, ending in 2♥ and 2♣ respectively, the latter coming home after a slight misdefense despite a 5-2 trump break offside. The other six tables opened 1♦, and four of them got their just desserts, ending in 2♦ facing a 4-5-2-2 seven count while the fifth played a 4-3 spade fit; all went down one. The lucky exception was Schmidt, who heard Michał Klukowski overcall 2♣ (as five-card suit overcalls go, this was not an unreasonable one) and his partner make a negative double. Schmidt knew what to do now, and passed. That was 500 out of nowhere.

At set-end three of the matches were separated by fewer than 6 IMPs, while **Minter** were leading by 26 IMPs.

For the third set the boards were much quieter around the room, with most tables generating only two or three big swings. Let's focus on just the tables where those took place.

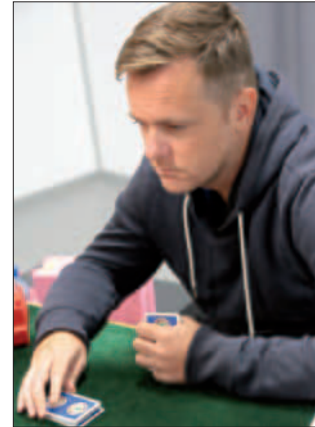
All Vulnerable, you open 1♣; 1♦ to your left, pass from partner, 1♥ to your right. Put up or shut up?

♠ Q J 10 5
♥ 5
♦ A J 9
♣ A J 10 8 4

In **Ferm** v **Bridge24PL**, Von Arnim for Ferm bid 1♠. Consequently her partner with a 5-3-3-2 four count including ♠K9xxx bid 4♠ over his RHO's raise to 3♥. The bad news was that 4♠ was two down. The good news was that nobody doubled and 4♥ – reached by Lund Madsen/Drijver in the other room – was cold, for a 9 IMP swing to **Ferm**.

Bello/Lorenzini also found the save, and were also not doubled, for 9 IMPs to **Coriandre**.

On the next deal Clementsson/Nyström missed a close but making vulnerable 3NT game when Clementsson quite reasonably with a 1-4-3-5 15-count opened 1♣ and rebid the suit over a response showing spades. (In the other room Kazmucha did the same – but in Polish Club this shows 14-16 or so.) That was 10 IMPs to **Value Media Team**.



Per-Ola Cullin

Board 34. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

♠ 2	♠ A K 10 9 7
♥ 9 8 7 6	
♣ Q 7 4	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>P Busse</i>	<i>Dwyer</i>	<i>G Busse</i>
—	—	Pass	2♥
Dble	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dobrowolski</i>	<i>Cullin</i>	<i>Maduzia</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣*	3♣	Pass	4♥*
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	5♣	Dble	All Pass

1♣ Strong
4♥ Fit

The Open Room reached a normal enough contract, North getting a ruff with his trump trick. When the ♦K did not behave, that was one down.

In the other room, spades were never mentioned or implied once clubs entered the scene. Down two in the

advanced sacrifice. **Tęcza Szczecinek** notched up another +300 for a 9 IMP swing.

The last board of the set proved too difficult for most of our contestants:

Board 42. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Rimstedt</i>	<i>P Busse</i>	<i>Dwyer</i>	<i>G Busse</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♥	1NT	2♥	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dobrowolski</i>	<i>Cullin</i>	<i>Maduzia</i>	<i>Michielsens</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣*
2♥	Dble	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

1♣ Strong

The Open Room sequence was a popular if unsuccessful one around the room. Two down, **Donner** +100.

The Closed Room auction was an equally popular alternative for the strong clubbers. Just one down; **Donner** another +100, and 5 IMPs to them.

Note that 5♣ is cold against all but the most hostile of distributions: would anyone find it? The short answer is no:

West	North	East	South
<i>C Lorenzini</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Bello</i>	<i>Duftrat</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♥	1♠*	2♥	Dble
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

1♠ No major

The consolation award goes to Zatorski/Duftrat, where Zatorski made a spadeless negative double, Duftrat showed extras and at her next turn offered 3NT. But she then passed what looks to me like a forcing 4♣ call from Zatorski? 4♣ still gained 6 IMPs against 3NT down two. But the big winners here were **Value Media Team** when Helgemo (who had bid hearts as West and heard them raised) led a spade against 3NT. Strike one for trusting the opponents.

With one set to go the **Minitier v Value Media Team** match had tightened up dramatically; **Minitier** led by five, **Donner** by nine, **Ferm** by 21, **Coriandre** by 25.

Ferm increased its lead on the first deal of the final set when a Polish Club opener tempted responder, Narkiewicz for **Bridge24PL**, to lead the ♣Q from ♣QJ8 against a notrump contract, rather than his own six-card spade suit. This was the only way to let through the contract.

In a curious parallel to that, on the very next deal Rubins for **Value Media Team** heard his partner open a natural 1♦ in third chair and led ♦J from his doubleton rather than his five-card heart suit. Again, that was the only way to let through 1NT.

Can we keep the trend going? Yes, we can!

Board 45. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Both tables in **Ferm v Bridge24PL** managed to let 3NT through by leading spades rather than their nine-card heart fit (Lund Madsen opened 1♠ in third seat as South, so Drijver led the ♠8. Meanwhile, Narkiewicz psych'd a 1♠ response to 1♥ after a double and Zalewska rather naively led ♠A and continued the suit).

At all other tables when South opened 1♥, West doubled and North bid 3♥. After that the paths diverged. Cullin/Michielsens, Duftrat/Zatorski and Clementsson/

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

With East first to speak, and opening 1NT, would you be able to find your way to 3NT?

Two tables managed that feat. Buras for **Bridge24PL** – who knew he needed swings – raised 1NT to 3NT. After a diamond lead, with dummy's ♦10 holding, declarer was simply playing for overtricks. Cullin-Michielsen bid 1NT-2♥-♠-3NT-Pass. I think Cullin deserved his swing. With the ♥K wrong and ♣K104 over the queen, only a double-dummy approach to 4♠ would succeed and no declarer was prepared to do anything after a diamond other than take finesses in normal and unsuccessful fashion. The fortunate exception was Dufrat, for **Edmonds**, since Aurelie Lorenzini led a club to trick one, solving the club guess and seeing declarer home. **Coriandre** now led by 15, while **Donner's** lead was back to 20 IMPs, with three deals to go now.

After a flat game, **Edmonds** closed the gap on the next board by getting to a partscore the right (if random) way up; so the margin was 8 IMPs with one deal to go. But the flattest of games on the final deal saw **Coriandre** hang on. It would be **Coriandre v Ferm**, (who we shall be focusing on initially), and **Minitier v Donner** in the semi-finals.

The latter had a remarkably quiet set, with only three deals on which there was any significant swing. The first came on the initial deal, where, rather to my surprise, Sandra Rimstedt passed out a strong (a la Grue) notrump in balancing seat with:

♠ K 9 7 4 3
♥ 4
♦ A 7 3
♣ A 7 6 4

Grue wrapped up 120 with the other room playing 3♠ for +140 and a 6 IMP gain to **Minitier**.

In our featured match Bello then created a swing for **Coriandre** as a passed hand by doubling after (1♠)-Pass-(1NT) with:

♠ J 6 4
♥ K Q 6 3
♦ A 10 3 2
♣ 8 5

That pushed her opponents to 4♦ down one, while all the other three tables were declaring 2♦, making at least nine tricks.

Then something more substantial:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 9 8 5
♥ A 10 7 6
♦ A 10
♣ Q J 5 4

♠ K 7 4 3 2
♥ K
♦ J 8 3 2
♣ K 9 6

♠ J 10 6
♥ 8 4 3
♦ 9 7 6 5
♣ 8 7 3

♠ A Q
♥ Q J 9 5 2
♦ K Q 4
♣ A 10 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schmidt	Ferm	Żochowska	Brink
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

3♠ Slam try in hearts

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lund Madsen	Lorenzini	Drijver	Bello
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

2♠ Enquiry

In the Open Room, since Brink was more than a little light for his 2NT call, and he was facing a passed hand, he had an easy rejection of the invitation. Declarer won the diamond lead with the king and drew trumps, West's king appearing on the first round. The club queen was run to the king, and declarer then had a discard for the ♠Q. That was a painless +680.

In the Closed Room, North's 3♥ call showed four hearts and a minimum. Two control-bids and RKCB then carried the French pair to 6NT. Bello won the diamond lead with the ace and ran the club queen to the king. When the hearts then came in, there were 12 tricks. The slam is not quite as good as 'one of two finesses' but quite playable after the overcall. That was 13 IMPs to

Coriandre, leading 20-0. That had increased to 25-1, thanks to an unsuccessful 14-count strong notrump from Brink. Meanwhile, **Minitier** led just 7-4 with nothing really worthy of report having occurred.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schmidt	Ferm	Żochowska	Brink
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dble	2♥	2♠	3♥
Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lund Madsen	Lorenzini	Drijver	Bello
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3NT*	All Pass		

- 2♣ 20-21 balanced or any game force
 2♦ Puppet to 2♥ (if 20-21 balanced) to play or any 5-5 ♥=♦/♣ or waiting
 2♥ 20-21 balanced
 2♠ Relay to 2NT
 2NT Forced
 3♣ Puppet
 3NT No 4/5 card major

In the Closed Room the normal contract of 3NT was reached and the ♠J led. Declarer won and cleared the diamonds. She eventually surrendered the last two tricks and entered +630 on her card; the normal result but...

In the other room, Brink's antics dislodged his opponents from the normal contract. In 4♠ the only

thing Żochowska 'knew' for sure was that the ♥A was outside. She won the diamond lead, came to hand with a spade and at trick three led a second diamond. Curtains! Brink ruffed and switched to a heart. Ferm claimed two winners in the suit and delivered another diamond ruff. That was one down and 12 IMPs for **Ferm**.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schmidt	Ferm	Żochowska	Brink
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	Rdbl	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lund Madsen	Lorenzini	Drijver	Bello
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	All Pass

- 2♦ One major
 2♥ Pass/correct

EW had done well to play in 3NT, though on a heart lead, the defenders can give declarer an eighth trick, in hearts, and sit back for one down. Ferm had no reason not to lead the ♣10, though, and Brink let this run to the king. How should declarer continue the play?

Only 17 HCP were missing, and South had opened a strong 1NT. It was therefore likely (though admittedly far from certain given the player involved) that he held the ace and king of hearts, leaving declarer with a certain stopper if South attacked the heart suit. Schmidt led the ♠9 to dummy's ace, confirming that South did not hold

all four missing spades. Instead of playing a diamond, he ran his spades, squeezing both South and himself, but confident he could read the ending.

Declarer had to retain his ♥Q107 and ♣Q8. He therefore threw all his diamonds. Brink, in the South seat, kept ♥AK ♦A and ♣A5. When a heart was played from dummy, South scored four winners and had to give declarer the ♣Q for his ninth trick. Had Brink discarded the ♥J, reducing to ♥AK3 ♦A ♣A declarer might have had a little more to think about. But the fact that North had not transferred to hearts might have been enough information to provide a count of the hearts.

In the Closed Room, East ended in 2♠. After the heart ace lead, Bello switched to ace and another club for -170, and that was 6 IMPs to **Coriandre**, leading 31-13.

Donner gained 6 IMPs against the same pair of contracts – but there 2♠ made 170 in one room while Dwyer as North led a heart to trick one against Helgemo’s 3NT to simplify the defence. Accordingly, **Donner** had taken the lead in the match at 13-8.

Ferm clawed back 7 IMPs after a Director adjusted score. Then:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ A K Q 8 5 4

♥ —

♦ 10 9 8 5

♣ A K 2

♠ J 10 9 7 2

♥ 10 7 5

♦ 4 3

♣ Q 9 8

♠ —

♥ A K 8 6 3 2

♦ Q J 6 2

♣ J 6 4

♠ 6 3

♥ Q J 9 4

♦ A K 7

♣ 10 7 5 3

N

W E

S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schmidt	Ferm	Żochowska	Brink
—	1♠	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lund Madsen	Lorenzini	Drijver	Bello
—	1♠	2♥	Dble
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Against 3NT, Żochowska won the ♥5 lead with the ace. She switched to the ♦2, Brink rising with the ace. At double-dummy, declarer could have cleared two heart tricks now, and brought home the game. It was, of course, entirely natural to lead a spade instead. Schmidt inserted the ♠9, taken by the queen, and East discarded a heart. Brink played ace, king, and another club, finding the 3-3 break, but it was not enough. West won the third round with the queen and returned the ♠J to cut off the dummy. Declarer conceded one down shortly afterwards, losing 100.

In 4♠, Lorenzini ruffed the ♥A opening lead and played the trump ace, finding the 5-0 break. He crossed to the diamond ace and ruffed a heart with the ♠5. After cashing the ♣AK, he returned to dummy with the ♦K and ruffed another heart with the ♠8. Six trump tricks and two ace-kings brought his total to ten, for +620 and a gain of 12 IMPs.

Grue also brought home 10 tricks in 4♠, on very similar lines, while in the other room Dwyer as North reopened with a double against Larsson’s 2♥ overcall and Cecilia Rimstedt left it in. After a top diamond lead and spade switch, ruffed, declarer drove out the top diamond honour and then played to ruff the fourth diamond in dummy. All the defenders could get was two tricks in trumps and each of the minors, for down one. Those 9 IMPs meant **Miniter** led **Donner** 13-8 at set end. Meanwhile **Coriandre** led 45-20.

The second-half action in **Donner** v **Miniter** began at once:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ J 7 4 2

♥ Q J 5 4 3

♦ 3

♣ J 7 2

♠ —

♥ 8 7 6

♦ K 10 9 7 6

♣ K 9 5 4 3

♠ A Q 6 5 3

♥ A K 9 2

♦ 4

♣ A 10 6

♠ K 10 9 8

♥ 10

♦ A Q J 8 5 2

♣ Q 8

N

W E

S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Michielsens	Grue	Cullin	Miniter
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	Dble	2♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Amoils</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
—	—	—	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Dble	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♠	Dble	All Pass

2♦ Hearts
Pass Fewer than three hearts

No one was quite sure who could make what. As it turns out, the answer was no one and nothing, but that didn't stop both sides from bidding game. When the music stopped, though, it was the Americans who were left holding the baby. Michielsens led a diamond to the ace and Cullin switched to spades. Michielsens won and cashed the ♠A, and the defenders still had a heart to come. NS -100.

Sandra Rimstedt's slightly off-centre 1NT opening created an entirely different scenario. When Nyström introduced his spades North's 3♦ was intended as a re-transfer, but Rimstedt quite reasonably thought 3NT was as sensible a spot as hearts. Amoils decided he still preferred to play in hearts, however. Nyström led the ♦10, and Clementsson won with the ace. Of course, she could have beaten the contract by one by switching to spades, but doesn't the singleton club play look more attractive? Indeed, it also opens the way to a second undertrick via a later ruff. Rimstedt won with the ♣A and played a heart to the nine and East's king. Now Clementsson's decision was critical. Perhaps she expected declarer to have more in the pointed suits for her 3NT bid. Was it not more believable that declarer would have the ♠A and a third diamond (and West, therefore, a singleton)? When she played a diamond, declarer won, repeated the trump finesse, and claimed the rest. NS +450 and another 11 IMPs to **Donner**, who had outscored their opponent 32-2 over the first five boards of the stanza to lead 45-19.

Coriandre declared the contract in both rooms against Ferm after each South opened 1♣. 3♥ by North on the singleton club lead drifted one down; 4♠ on a diamond lead from North eventually had to lose three top tricks, and repeated club leads left South with a trump trick. **Coriandre** led 60-38.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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



Irene Baroni

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Michielsens	Grue	Cullin	Minitier
—	1NT	Dble	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Dble
Pass	2♠	3♥	3♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Amoils	Clementsson	S Rimstedt
—	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Donner missed their chance at 500 when Michielsens pulled the double of 1NT, but with 4♠ making for NS, the eventual -170 wasn't terrible for EW – in theory.

In the other room, though, Clementsson as East did even better. Sandra Rimstedt had no reason to bid anything other than 3NT once she failed to find an eight-card spade fit, and Clementsson wasn't challenged on opening lead. NS -400 and 11 IMP to **Minitier**.

Drijver collected the same 400 against **Coriandre**, while in the other room Aurelie Lorenzini contented herself with a 4♥ overcall over 1NT. That was doubled and down only 100 when the ♦A fell in two rounds.

The set finished with a difficult potential slam deal for the EW pairs. However, the Great Dealer must have been in a grumpy mood, as the decent slam had little play on the lie of the cards today:

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Cullin</i>	<i>Miniter</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	5NT*	Pass
6♥*	Pass	7♥	All Pass

2♣ Game forcing

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Amoils</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

In the Closed Room Clementsson might perhaps have bid more, and few players who made their debut in their country's Under-16 team less than a decade ago would be able to resist the allure of "But I had 19 points, partner." However, her partner had denied a solid suit at his second turn, so she expected to be off an ace and a trump trick. Her partner's void was bad news, but she was rewarded for her discipline by the 4-1 trump break that held declarer to +450.

By contrast, in the Open Room a wheel came off the relays, when Marion Michielsen miscounted one of the steps and showed a 3703 (or similar, they can't show a 7420). The bad trump break was almost good news for the Swedes, because it meant they might just lose the

cost of an extra undertrick. Not today, though: EW -100 and 11 IMPs to **Miniter**, back to all square at 45-45.

In **Ferm v Coriandre**, Drijver was able to use Keycard and stop in 5♥ while Aurelie Lorenzini jumped to slam at the point where Clementsson had passed 4♥. After the ♦A lead declarer played ♥A and ♥Q; down one. Is the winning line impossible to find? Ruff the diamond, play a spade to dummy, play a heart to ♥Q and then ♥A. When North shows out, overtake the club to ruff a diamond, then club to dummy and cash a top diamond to pitch the fourth spade. Reduce the trumps once more with a diamond ruff and go to the ♠A to cash winners, with the trump coup in place. 11 IMPs to **Ferm**, trailing 61-69 at set end.

On to the third set. At unfavourable vulnerability in second seat the four tables had different views as to how to handle:

♠ J 10 9 8 5 3 2
♥ 9
♦ 4
♣ Q J 9 6

For **Coriandre**, Bello opened 2♦ Multi and her partner Cédric Lorenzini ended up in 2♠x. Nyström opened 3♠ and heard a 3NT overcall, ending the auction. Von Arnim heard 2♥ (two-suited) to her right and backed in with 3♠ but defended 4♥. Both games made easily enough, while 2♠x cost only 200. The unlucky player was Cecilia Rimstedt who passed over the 2♥ opener, then when it was raised to 4♥, tried a balance of 4♠ – doubled and down 800. Her LHO was 4-4 in the majors with a powerhouse.

After **Donner** recovered 7 IMPs on a 50% non-vulnerable game, the next deal was probably the most exciting of the set.

Board 32. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ J		♠ 7 2
♥ AKQ865432		♥ J 9 7
♦ 10		♦ K Q 8 6 4
♣ 7 2		♣ K J 3
		♠ K Q 8 4 3
		♥ 10
		♦ 7 3
		♣ 10 9 8 6 4
		♠ A 10 9 6 5
		♥ —
		♦ A J 9 5 2
		♣ A Q 5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Cullin</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
1♥	1♠	4♥	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Dwyer</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>C Rimstedt</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
1♥	Pass	2NT*	3♦
3♥	4♦	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Next:

♠ 7 6
♥ 7
♦ A Q 9 6 2
♣ K 6 5 4 2

Donner gained 2 IMPs on defence here to trail 59-82, then picked up another partscore swing when Helgemo-Larsson had a bidding accident, while Lorenzini was defending a partscore better than his counterpart in the other match for **Coriandre**.

On the next deal how would you advance this hand:

♠ A K 10 8 6 4
♥ 6
♦ A 10
♣ A Q 4 3

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	??
All Pass			

Nyström on this same auction passed 3NT, which came home in comfort, while in the other room Cecilia Rimstedt declared 4♠ on a murky auction where she seems never to have shown her extra values. But one shouldn't argue with success? **Miniter** led 82-68.

♠ Q 7 3
 ♥ A 6
 ♦ 9 3
 ♣ Q J 7 6 5 3

♠ 6
 ♥ K 4
 ♦ A Q 8 5 4
 ♣ A K 9 8 2

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

♠ A J 9 4 2
 ♥ J 8 5 2
 ♦ K 7 6
 ♣ 4

N
 W E
 S

West	North	East	South
<i>Żochowska</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Schmidt</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Lund Madsen</i>	<i>C Lorenzini</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Bello</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1	1	Dble
1NT	Pass	2	Dble
Pass	Pass	2	Pass
Pass	3	All Pass	

After the same lead, Michielsens also played ♠A and ruffed a spade, then led a club to the queen and king. Back came a club to the jack and ace, and a spade ruffed low in dummy and overruffed. But now when a low diamond came back, Michielsens pitched the ♠10, playing for Helgemo to have counted out her hand and underled the ♦A, or for the ♥6 to be to her left. Larsson won the ♦A and returned another spade, and Helgemo's ♥6 was the setting trick. That gave **Minitier** 10 IMPs, to trail 94-101.

In the other match **Ferm** played 1♠ making 140 on the heart lead, while a 2♦ pre-empt from Schmidt got his side to 3NT, which had no play as the cards lay. **Ferm** had gained 5 IMPs to lead 127-102.

Board 48. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
C Lorenzini	De Wijs	Bello	Von Arnim
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lund Madsen	A Lorenzini	Drijver	Schmidt
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

In the Open Room, Lorenzini led the ♥Q. Declarer ducked, won the second heart, and ran the ♠8 to West's jack. A heart saw East win and continue with the ♥K and a fourth heart. Declarer ruffed with the ♠9, drew trumps and played the ♦K, East taking the ace for one down, -100.

In the Closed Room West naturally led the ♦6, but now declarer had a parking spot for a couple of hearts;

+650 and 13 IMPs to **Coriandre**. It was 127-115 to **Ferm**.

In our other match, Dwyer as East doubled a nebulous club and found himself on lead to 4♠ after a transfer sequence. With the cards apparently lying well for declarer, he tried an ambitious underlead of the ♦A. Declarer won, played three rounds of trumps, won the heart shift, and passed the ♦Q, ending up with 680.

For **Minitier**, Larsson led hearts against 3NT, Helgemo shifting to diamonds on winning the ♠J. So that was 13 IMPs to **Minitier**, now leading 107-101.

Cullin regained those IMPs for **Donner** at once. Holding:

♠ Q J 9 7
♥ A K 10 6
♦ Q 3
♣ A K 4

He heard his partner pass and RHO open 1♠. He doubled, and when Michielsens bid 2♥ he tried 2NT, raised to game. Partner had queen-fourth of hearts and ♦KJ10xxx – in a 2-4-6-1 shape; enough to make 3NT in comfort, while the 4-1 diamond break was defeating 4♥, the contract reached at all three other tables.

Board 50. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
C Lorenzini	De Wijs	Bello	Von Arnim
—	—	1♣	Dble
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lund Madsen	A Lorenzini	Drijver	Schmidt
—	—	1♣	Dble
1♦	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Against 1♣x South followed the textbooks and led the ♣A. When North contributed the nine, she switched to the ♠5, North putting in the nine. Declarer took the king and played back the two, but North won with the ace and played the ♣Q. South took the diamond exit, cashed the ♠8 (would you have found a low heart?) and played the ♥Q. Declarer won and eventually scored a trick with dummy's ♦Q. That was three down, for -800.

In 2♠, declarer could scramble +110 but that still represented a 12 IMP loss. That put **Ferm** ahead 139-115. Although there were a couple of minor swings over the closing four deals, **Ferm** advanced to the final 147-126 without any real further alarms.

Let's focus on our other match. Would you have redoubled 1♣ as East on the Open Room auction? I'd say yes, in a New York minute. Both our Easts did so, then redoubled the runout to 1♦, and got their partner to 1♥x, North leading the mandatory ♥K. Each declarer ducked. Clementsson shifted to the club queen, ducked to Nyström's ace. Cecilia Rimstedt ducked the ♥Q return; now Nyström cashed the ♦A before playing a third trump to dummy. A spade went to the queen and ace, the ♣J was covered and ruffed.

Declarer won the spade return, ruffed a spade, and could have cashed the ♦Q and ♦10 for down two. When she advanced the ♦10 instead to endplay South (unless North had begun with precisely ♦J3) North turned up with that card and two club winners, so declarer was down 800, and could count herself very unlucky.

However, it turned out that the difference between 500 and 800 was only 2 IMPs because of developments in the other room.

Defending 1♥x after the ♥K held trick one, Michielsen shifted to a low diamond at trick two. Cullin took this and led the ♥Q. Helgemo won and tried a spade to the queen and ace. A low club came back; Helgemo did extremely well to duck this, and Cullin scored his ♣A. Now ♥J and another heart endplays dummy. But Cullin played a low diamond to the 10, J and ruff. That let Helgemo play ♠K and ruff a spade, then ruff a diamond, and lead a fourth spade. Cullin ruffed in, drew the last trump, but had only diamonds to lead into declarer's tenace for a remarkable +160 and 14 IMPs. **Miniter** now led 121-114.

On the next deal Clementsson invited game, vulnerable facing a 15-17 notrump, via Stayman with:

♠ 4 2
♥ 10 9 7 6
♦ A K 10 8 3
♣ 7 3

That got her to 3NT, which needed diamonds to run. Nyström holding J52.

All was well, while in the other room facing a 14-16 notrump Michielsen did not make a try. And at that point the match was effectively over, since over the final few deals the only remaining swing was a partscore. That went to **Miniter**, who won 139-115, outscoring their opponents 32-1 in the last seven deals.

On we go to the final!

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A K 10
♥ A K Q 8
♦ 10 6 5
♣ 10 9 2

♠ 5 4
♥ J 4 3
♦ K 9 7 2
♣ K J 6 4

♠ 3 2
♥ 10 7 6 5 2
♦ A J 8 3
♣ 8 7

♠ Q J 9 8 7 6
♥ 9
♦ Q 4
♣ A Q 5 3

N
W E
S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Ferm</i>	<i>Miniter</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

- 2♣ 2+♣, game forcing
- 4♣ Cue
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♣ 1 keycard

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Lund Madsen</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

3NT Lower range

In the Open Room, South’s club control-bid was compulsory with an ace, and North’s 4♦ was a lead inhibitor. Grue followed up his 4♦ bid with RKCB, reaching the spade slam. Only a club lead would allow the slam to be made. Brink had doubtless played often enough against Grue to find the ♦7 lead painlessly enough. The defenders scored two tricks in that suit and could not be deprived of the ♣K as well.

In the Closed Room, South’s 3NT, as opposed to an immediate 4♣ control-bid, showed a lower-range hand. North’s 4♥ denied controls in either minor, and 4♠ was then clear, for an 11 IMP gain to **Ferm**.

Ferm gave the IMPs right back when a Drury confusion saw Ferm/Brink play a partscore on a deal where slam had play.

On to the next excitement:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Grue	Ferm	Minitier
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Drijver	Larsson	Lund Madsen
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

In the Open Room Brink escaped a double in 4♠, going three down.

Meanwhile, NS were good for 11 tricks in hearts. Should someone have doubled the spade game? Either

North or South might have done so – but to my mind the lion’s share of responsibility goes to North. Once again, the other room made it look easy; Drijver did double 4♠, picking up 800. That was 11 IMPs to **Ferm**.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Grue	Ferm	Minitier
—	1♠	3♣	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Drijver	Larsson	Lund Madsen
—	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			



Christina Lund Madsen & Barbara Ferm

now. Alas for her, Larsson ran the diamond to North's queen. The heart queen was ruffed in the dummy, and North won the ♠K with the ace. When the ♥J was played, Larsson could have ruffed in her hand for one down. She preferred to discard a diamond, ruffing in the dummy. She next led out good diamonds; but South could ruff the fourth and North still had a spade to come. That was an 800 loss and 14 IMPs to **Ferm**.

The set ended at 51-24 in favour of **Ferm**.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
—	Pass	Pass	3♦
Dble	4♦	Dble	Pass
5♦*	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Lund Madsen</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dble	Pass	2♦*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3NT	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

5NT Pick a slam

In the Open Room, Nyström chose to pre-empt in third seat. Thereafter, EW had to worry about strain as well as level. Von Arnim knew some of her diamond values would be wasted (I suspect that with the ♣Q instead of the ♦Q she might have considered doing more.) This was not a deal on which to prefer the 4-4 fit, against which there was a potential ruff. However, there was no spade ruff available against a heart contract, so 5♥ was not quite high enough. EW +480.

Rather than taking away bidding space from her opponents, Lund Madsen chose to try convincing the Scandinavian pair that she had more values than she did. However, cuebids from both sides of the table quickly established that EW had most of the high cards. Facing a maximum pass, even one with wasted diamond values, Helgemo decided his hand was worth playing in slam, and he offered Larsson a choice of strains. EW +980 and 11 IMPs to **Miniter**.

The gap had closed to 11 IMPs, after a slightly pushy non-vulnerable game attempted by Drijver/Lund Madsen had gone down, when:

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

3♣ Puppet Stayman

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Lund Madsen</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

De Wijs arranged for Von Arnim to play the diamond slam from the short side in the Open Room. South led a low trump, won the third round of the suit, and exited safely with a fourth diamond. This meant that declarer could unblock the hearts, cross to her hand in spades, and cash the ♥Q. Returning to dummy with the ♠A, Von Arnim then cashed her remaining diamond winners. She had to judge from the play which defender held the

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	6♥*	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

4NT RKCB
 5♦ 3 keycards
 5♠ ♥Q?
 6♥ No

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Lund Madsen</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

I am sure most players would have upgraded the West hand, but Helgemo quite surprisingly settled for a 15-17 1NT. Larsson perhaps had enough to make a slam try, but with a poor suit and no guarantee of safety at the five-level facing a minimum, she simply settled for offering a choice of games. With trumps 3-2, there were 12 easy tricks: EW +480.

De Wijs did open 1♠, presumably intending to treat his hand as 18-19 balanced.

But he was then able to agree hearts at the three-level after Von Arnim's game-forcing 2/1 response. The primary question had now become 'which slam?' Hearts certainly need trumps to break 3-2, and that is also the main chance in a notrump slam.

The best slam, but also the most difficult to reach, is 6♠, where you have 11 top tricks (assuming trumps split no worse than 4-2) and a club ruff provides the twelfth trick. With hearts behaving, though, simply getting to the six-level was sufficient: EW +980 and 11 IMPs to Ferm.

Ferm added a partscore swing after staying out of a game on a losing finesse, so that although **Miniter** won the stanza 39-33, **Ferm** were still leading by 85-64 with 64 boards remaining.

After a long quiet period at the start of Stanza Three, the deals finally woke up:

Board 40. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
2♦	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Lund Madsen</i>
2♦	Pass	3NT	4♣*
Dble	4♦*	Dble	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

4♣ Clubs and a major
 4♦ Bid your major

The natural weak two made it easy for EW to arrive at the right contract. A heart lead might have given declarer a problem. After South's actual choice of a club, declarer had a perfect safety play available against a possible 4-0 diamond break: just run the ♦10.

However, when East called for the ♣Q first and the ♦Q next, she had to fall back on the line needed after the heart lead: ♦9, spade to the jack, ♠K, ♦K overtaken by the ace and a finesse of the ♠9. This way, she came to nine tricks after all. **Ferm** +400.

In the Closed Room the trump lead found by West was helpful to declarer. She could now win the ace and immediately play a club to the king and a club back. East's best continuation now probably would still have been a diamond. But when she continued a heart, declarer could draw trumps, concede one more club and escape for just two down. **Miniter** +300 and 3 IMPs to **Ferm**.

Board 41. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Clementsson	Von Arnim	Nyström
—	3♦	Dble	4♦
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Drijver	Larsson	Lund Madsen
—	3♦	Dble	4♦
All Pass			

In the Open Room West's 4♥ looks to be a reasonable action, but the contract had no play on the unfortunate lie of the black suits. Two down, **Miniter** +200. At the other table, the auction started in the same way, but Helgemo as West found a very well-timed pass of 4♦. The contract also went two down, for another +100, and 7 IMPs to **Miniter**.

Board 42. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Clementsson	Von Arnim	Nyström
—	—	Pass	1♠
2♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Drijver	Larsson	Lund Madsen
—	—	Pass	2♠*
All Pass			

2♠ 10-13 5332/5422

On this deal de Wijs became the victim of his own aggressive style of overcalling. He might even consider himself lucky to have escaped the double. Down two, **Miniter** +200.

By contrast, against 2♠ West was less tempted to act – luckily for him. He led the ♥J rather than the killing ♦J, and that ran to the ace. A heart came back immediately, taken by West's king. Helgemo now found the ♦J shift, but declarer took dummy's ace and played the ♥Q from dummy. East ruffed in with the ♠10, and a diamond was discarded.

The defence continued diamonds, so declarer scored one of her small trumps. The ♠Q then went to East's king and her club return went to the queen and ace. West tried a winning heart, on which East shed a club, but declarer again scored a small trump now. After this, she could draw the outstanding trumps and cash her clubs for her contract. **Ferm** +110, so only 3 IMPs to **Miniter** after all.

On the next deal, NS in the Open Room reached the worst of their five possible strains:

Board 43. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♥*
Pass	1♠	Dble	2♣
All Pass			

1♣ 2+

1♥ Spades

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Lund Madsen</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	2♥*	All Pass

2♥ Hearts and a long minor

Nyström's operation was singularly unsuccessful – as indeed was that of his team-mates. Was 2♣ intended as a puppet to 2♦? 2♣ went three down, while in the other room, the 2♥ overcall implied a five-card minor, but neither denomination would have been very successful. The good news, if any, was the vulnerability: down two, for another +100 and 6 IMPs to **Ferm**.

We saw another partscore struggle on the next deal:

Board 44. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦*	Pass	1♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

1♦ Hearts

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Lund Madsen</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	Pass	1NT
Dble	All Pass		

When East protected over 1♥, West immediately expressed the full values of his hand. North led a heart to the king and declarer's ace, and a spade went to South's ♠10. A heart came back to North's queen, after which North's club shift went to the jack and declarer's queen. Next came ♠A and a spade to North, and another heart exit to declarer's ♥10. The ♣10 was ducked, and a club went to South's ace. When he continued the ♦K, declarer ducked and South now had only diamonds left. Nicely done, and **Ferm** +110.

In the other room, East found a light opening bid in third position, so it was South who had to do the balancing job. Helgemo had an obvious double available and found the best lead in theory: a low club to the king. The ♠9 would in practice have worked far better. The point was that when the club king held, East decided to attack dummy's entries first by continuing the ♠J. Dummy won the ♠K and a heart went to declarer's king. West took his ace and, unsure about what was going on, continued the ♣Q. Declarer could now win her ace and simply duck a heart. She could not be denied a diamond trick in the end, and thus could actually bring home her contract for +180. A remarkable 7 IMPs to **Ferm**.

Two boards later, EW found what was technically a phantom sacrifice...

**Bas Drijver**



Christina Lund Madsen

Board 46. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
—	—	1♣	1♠
2♥	3♣	Pass	3♦
4♣	4♦	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Dble	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Lund Madsen</i>
—	—	1♣	1♠
2♥	2NT*	3♥	4♠
5♣	Dble	All Pass	

2NT Mixed raise

In the Open Room, EW might have tried 5♣, but opted to defend. A heart lead followed by three rounds of diamonds led to a simple +100.

In the other room, they did bid 5♣. Was the ♠A an impossible lead to find here? It is easy to be wise after the event. South might have led her heart singleton to pave the way for a ruff, but when she tried the ♦J, declarer's spade loser disappeared... The ace of trumps being the only trick for the defence. **Miniter** +650 and 11 IMPs to them. They trailed 86-103.

The last deal of the set produced curious contracts at both tables:

Board 48. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
Pass	1♦	Dble	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Dble	2♦
2♥	All Pass		

2♣ Extra diamond length

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Lund Madsen</i>
Pass	1♦	Dble	1♠
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Should East's second double show clubs? West was unsure, apparently, and settled for what turned out to be a 4-2 fit. However, when North led a spade, and persisted with spades after taking dummy's ♥K with the ♥A at trick two, declarer could continue trumps to South's queen. Finally, the defence got round to diamonds; but when South could not force declarer in diamonds a second time, **Ferm** registered a somewhat unusual +110.

Helgemo's gambling 3NT turned out unluckily when dummy had all the expected high cards, but not even half a

diamond stopper. Down three meant **Ferm** had another +300 and 9 IMPs to take the set 27-23. They led 112-87 at the half.

On the first deal of the second half, a 14-count strong notrump from Grue got him to 4♠ as declarer on a deal where the defenders needed to lead hearts to set the game. In the other room a 1♣ opener saw the other hand declarer. Fortunately for Grue, his opening leader had ♥KJ108, so led a small doubleton diamond instead. In the other room the natural lead was from queen-fifth of hearts, defeating the game.

Minit closed the gap still further, when both Souths were faced with what to do over his RHO's strong notrump, holding:

♠ J 7
♥ A Q 8 7 6 5 4
♦ 8 4
♣ A 7

Brink tried 3♥ and played there.

Nyström bid 2♥, passed round to Von Arnim, who balanced with a takeout double. De Wijs removed to 2♠, and Nyström went to the well again with a balancing call of 3♥. Now Clementsson reassessed. With ace-third of spades, ♥KJ, and five clubs to the 1098, she decided she had enough to bid game. Right she was (on a trump lead). Nyström could win and play ♣A and another, and exploit the 3-3 break in that suit plus the 2-2 trumps to bring home +420. Either a spade or diamond lead would have set the game, of course. **Ferm** led 119-104.

Board 57. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ A 10 6 3
♥ Q 5
♦ 6 2
♣ A 10 6 5 4

♠ 9 8 4
♥ K 9 7
♦ A K Q 9 8
♣ 8 2

♠ J
♥ J 4 3 2
♦ J 7 3
♣ K Q 9 7 3

♠ K Q 7 5 2
♥ A 10 8 6
♦ 10 5 4
♣ J

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Clementsson	Von Arnim	Nyström
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♦	2NT*	3♦	Pass
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

2NT Spade raise

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Minit	Ferm	Grue	Brink
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♦	3♦*	4♦	4♠
All Pass			

It turned out that both Easts did well not to throw in a 'safe' lead-directing call in clubs here. In the Open Room two top diamonds were followed by a trump switch to the jack and king. (Can you make a case for putting up dummy's ace? I think so.) As the cards lay, it was necessary to ruff a diamond now, but dummy's ♥Q acted as a distraction. When a low heart was led, West rose with the king and returned a heart to the queen (the best exit). ♣A and a club ruff were followed by the heart ace and a diamond ruff with the 6. The third round of clubs was ruffed with the ♠7 and overruffed by West. That was one down.

In the other room Minit cashed the ♦AK and continued with a club switch to dummy's ace. A trump to the king was followed by... yes, a heart again, instead of the diamond ruff. That was one down for a push board.

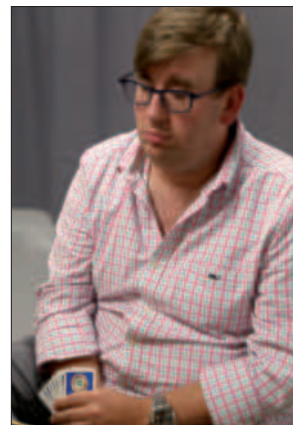
Board 58. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ 2
♥ K Q
♦ A Q J 10
♣ J 9 8 6 5 4

♠ Q J 10 8 7 5
♥ A 7 6 2
♦ 8 5
♣ K

♠ 6 3
♥ J 9 8 5 3
♦ 7 2
♣ A 7 3 2

♠ A K 9 4
♥ 10 4
♦ K 9 6 4 3
♣ Q 10



Joe Grue

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
1♠	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
3♠ Shortness			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miniter</i>	<i>Ferm</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
1♠	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

If West leads a spade, declarer winning and playing the ♣Q to the king, West would need to find a heart switch. De Wijs spared himself this dilemma by leading a heart. Nyström won in dummy and played five rounds of diamonds. When he next led the ♣Q to West's king, Von Arnim overtook with the ace. Four hearts were then cashed to take the game one down.

In the Closed Room, Brink won the ♠Q lead with the ace, crossed to the ♦Q and led the ♣4. Grue rose with the ace, crashing his partner's king. Declarer ended with three overtricks for +690, and that was a 13-IMP swing to **Ferm** now in front 132-105.

This was the penultimate deal of the set:



Simon de Wijs

Board 63. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miniter</i>	<i>Ferm</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

3♦ No major

The cautious pass of 2NT in the Open Room was more than justified by events. A diamond lead went to the jack and king. The ace and jack of clubs were ducked, and Von Arnim led the ♠9 to South's king. A diamond to the queen won the next trick, Clementsson returning the ♦9 to declarer's ace. Declarer took her spade tricks and was one down.

Brink led the ♦6 to the jack and ace. According to the record, the ♣A drew the 3, 5 and 10. The ♣7 to the eight was allowed to win, and the ♠Q was then run to South's king. At this point Brink switched to the ♥10, won by declarer's king. The play record stops there, with +430 announced. You would assume that the clubs were cleared next. A heart return would have beaten the game, but presumably North played back a diamond. That was 10 IMPs to **Miniter**, and they had narrowed the gap to 137-119 with 32 deals to go.

Board 66. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

**Sjoert Brink****Board 68. Dealer West. All Vul.**

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Lund Madsen	Helgemo	Drijver	Larsson
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	Dble	Pass	1NT
2♣	2♥	4♣	Pass
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nyström	De Wijs	Clementsson	Von Arnim
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	2♥*	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

2♥ Spades and a minor

De Wijs started with a Michaels Cuebid, showing spades and a minor, and Von Arnim gave simple preferences to spades at the minimum level. De Wijs showed his massive strength with a jump cuebid, but Von Arnim was not interested. Declarer had to lose a diamond, a spade, and a heart: NS scored what looked like a fairly straightforward +620.

However, things were far from straightforward in the other room, where once Helgemo had started with a double, things became much more difficult for the Scandinavians. Lund Madsen did remarkably well to get her second suit into play, perhaps paving the way for a sacrifice but, perhaps more importantly, allowing Drijver to jam the auction. When that came back to Helgemo, he bid his longest suit, leaving Larsson to try to unravel a very tricky conundrum. Bidding 4♠ looks very hard. In the end, she passed, which at least produced a plus score to save a couple of IMPs. NS +130 and 10 IMP to **Ferm**.

Then came:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lund Madsen	Helgemo	Drijver	Larsson
1NT	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♠*	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

- 2♦ Transfer
- 3♠ Balanced, choice of games or slam-try
- 4♣ Cue
- 4♦ Cue
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♣ 1 keycard

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nyström	De Wijs	Clementsson	Von Arnim
1NT	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

- 2♦ Transfer

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lund Madsen Helgemo	Drijver	Larsson	
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	1♠	3♣	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nyström	De Wijs	Clementsson	Von Arnim
Pass	1♠	2♣	2♠
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

In the Closed Room, Nyström did not really have 3NT in his sights. Clementsson gambled on finding a singleton spade opposite, and hit the jackpot with her dummy. When trumps broke, she had 11 tricks with the aid of the ruffs in dummy.

In the other room the diamond finesse was for the contract, or, as it turned out, four down. 12 IMPs to **Miniter** reduced the margin to 60 IMPs.

Board 80. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lund Madsen Helgemo	Drijver	Larsson	
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	1♥	Pass	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nyström	De Wijs	Clementsson	Von Arnim
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1NT	2♣*	3NT	All Pass

2♣ Majors

Helgemo's spade lead saw Lund Madsen win in hand and finesse the ♦ J. Larsson won the ♦ Q to return a heart and declarer settled for eight tricks. In the other room

Clementsson aware of the need for desperate measures, took a shot at game facing her partner's 1NT call, which showed a maximum pass.

Against 3NT, de Wijs' low heart lead saw Nyström win cheaply and guess diamonds. Now he could play on spades for 10 tricks. Sometimes bridge seems like an easy game. The running score was now 144-202.

Board 83. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Helgemo	Von Arnim	Larsson
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	2♥	Dble*
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

Dble Support**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Drijver	Clementsson	Lund Madsen
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	2♣*	3♣
3♦	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

2♣ Red suits

You'd expect there to be a fair chance of a swing to NS in the Closed Room for their superior auction to reach their nine-card club fit not eight-card spade fit. There was, indeed, a swing here...

After Von Arnim's club lead against 5♠, Helgemo cashed a top trump and simply drew trumps for 11 tricks when the ♠ Q appeared.

By contrast, in 5♣ on the ♦9 lead Lund Madsen covered with the jack, and ruffed away the queen. She drew two rounds of trumps, ending in dummy and led a heart: jack, queen king, ace. Nyström exited with the third trump and Lund Madsen won and passed the ♠J – an entirely logical line, but one that let Clementsson win and cash a heart. Down one. That made it 155-203.

Board 86. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 4

♥ Q 7

♦ A J 8 4

♣ A Q 7 4 2

♠ 7 2

♥ J 6 5 4 3 2

♦ Q 10 3

♣ 9 3

♠ A J 10 8 6 5

♥ 10 9

♦ K 9 5 2

♣ J

♠ K Q 3

♥ A K 8

♦ 7 6

♣ K 10 8 6 5

N

W

E

S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Helgemo	Von Arnim	Larsson
—	—	2♠	2NT
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

3♠ Minor-suit Stayman

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Drijver	Clementsson	Lund Madsen
—	—	2♠	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the context of the match score, Helgemo’s decision to bid slam looks more than reasonable. He might even have done the same if not playing for a swing. I suppose a quantitative 4NT (directly or after the Minor Suit Stayman) might also have been a possibility.

Slam, alas, had no play on the indicated spade lead, while the sedate 3NT wrapped up 11 tricks.

The margin was back to 54 IMPs. There were still some excitements left in the last few deals (including Drijver-Lund Madsen scoring 1160 in 1NTxx when Clementsson caught her partner with a true Yarborough after a penalty double of 1NT, while at the other table Von Arnim as the doubler ran to her five-card suit in the same position and escaped the axe). The match was effectively over, the final margin being 53 IMPs at 237-184.

Barbara Ferm and her warriors (Sjoert Brink, Simon de Wijs, Bas Drijver, Christina Lund Madsen, Daniela Von Arnim) had fully deserved their victory.

Geir Helgemo was winning the 20th world medal of his career, becoming only the fifth player in history to achieve that total (after Belladonna, Hamman, Wolff and Smith). Daniela Von Arnim now has 11 medals, Bas Drijver 10. For Christina Lund Madsen and Barbara Ferm, it was a first World title.



Mixed Teams Podium

Butler Scores

Rosenblum

Player1	Player2	IMPs	Boards
1 Agustín MADALA	Dennis BILDE	1.68	40
2 Geir HELGEMO	Fredrik NYSTRÖM	1.60	80
3 Zia MAHMOOD	David GOLD	1.45	80
4 Dario ATTANASIO	Giuseppe DELLE CAVE	1.40	20
5 Giovanni DONATI	Giacomo PERCARIO	1.33	70
6 Luc TIJSSEN	Veri KILJAN	1.32	100
7 Kevin BATHURST	John HURD	1.21	80
8 Massimo LANZAROTTI	Romain ZALESKI	1.20	10
9 Piotr GAWRYŚ	Michał KLUKOWSKI	1.16	80
10 Mateusz SOBCZAK	Jakub PATREUHA	1.10	20
11 Ehud FRIEDLANDER	Asaf YEKUTIELI	1.07	99
12 Juan Carlos VENTIN	Joaquin PACAREU	1.05	60
13 Nick NICKELL	Ralph KATZ	1.00	40
14 Jeff MECKSTROTH	David BERKOWITZ	0.97	70
15 Joe GRUE	Brad MOSS	0.97	70
16 Sumit MUKHERJEE	Debabrata MAJUMDER	0.96	70
17 Sabine AUKEN	Roy WELLAND	0.95	100
18 Andrew McINTOSH	Thomas PASKE	0.94	70
19 Artur MALINOWSKI	David BAKHSHI	0.94	100
20 Shan HUANG	Zemin XU	0.93	100
21 Peter FREDIN	Tor Eivind GRUDE	0.86	70
22 Seongseok KANG	Seungjin ROH	0.83	100
23 Michael ROSENBERG	Zachary GROSSACK	0.81	70
24 Kauko KOISTINEN	Jari SALONEN	0.81	100
25 Tomasz KIELBASA	Jakub BAZYLUK	0.80	60
26 Odin SVENDSEN	Ola RIMSTEDT	0.80	10
27 Bobby LEVIN	Steve WEINSTEIN	0.75	80
28 Philippe COENRAETS	Bernard DEHAYE	0.75	100
29 Tor HELNESS	Thomas CHARLSEN	0.71	96
30 Shunsuke MORIMURA	Jinlong ZHAO	0.68	99
31 Rafal JAGNIEWSKI	Wojciech GAWEL	0.65	100
32 Michal KALETA	Wojciech OKUNIEWSKI	0.65	60
33 Adam GROSSACK	Laurence LEBOWITZ	0.65	60
34 Alon BIRMAN	Dror PADON	0.64	76
35 Ed HOOGENKAMP	Rob HELLE	0.64	59
36 Piotr LUTOSTAŃSKI	Jacek PSZCZOŁA	0.63	60
37 Thomas GOTARD	Florian ALTER	0.62	100
38 Tony NUNN	Paul DALLEY	0.60	80
39 Tom HANLON	Frédéric VOLCKER	0.60	80
40 Roger LEE	Gillian MINITER	0.60	40

41	Siv THORESEN	Jo-Arne OVESEN	0.58	100
42	Gabor WINKLER	Miklós DUMBOVICH	0.56	80
43	Krzysztof JASSEM	Patryk PATREUHA	0.54	70
44	Eric GRECO	Geoff HAMPSON	0.54	80
45	Craig GOWER	Alon APTEKER	0.52	60
46	Jakub KOTOROWICZ	Paweł MIECHOWICZ	0.51	80
47	Dariusz KULPINSKI	Andrzej PROCZKOWSKI	0.50	50
48	Florian WEISS	Louise SELWAY	0.50	100
49	Marc-Andre FOURCAUDOT	Kamel FERGANI	0.50	100
50	Boye BROGELAND	Christian BAKKE	0.49	70
51	Iancu BACALU	David Cristian CALIPETRE	0.48	100
52	Thibo SPRINKHUIZEN	Guy MENDES DE LEON	0.48	80
53	Jeff WOLFSON	Steve GARNER	0.48	40
54	Louk VERHEES Jr	Ricco VAN PROOIJEN	0.47	76
55	Dominik FILIPOWICZ	Jarosław CIESLAK	0.46	80
56	Konrad ARASZKIEWICZ	Krzysztof KOTOROWICZ	0.46	80
57	Krishnan RAMARATNAM	Dipak PODDAR	0.45	80
58	Rajeev KHANDELWAL	Himani KHANDELWAL	0.44	70
59	Tom TOWNSEND	Ben NORTON	0.44	80
60	Sjoert BRINK	Bas DRIJVER	0.44	80
61	Ben GREEN	Stefano TOMMASINI	0.42	100
62	Radosław SZCZEPAŃSKI	Arkadiusz MAJCHER	0.41	80
63	Jakub PIETRZAK	Maciej GWOZDZ	0.40	30
64	Grzegorz NARKIEWICZ	Zdzisław INGIELEWICZ	0.40	30
65	Jakub PATREUHA	Wojciech SOLTYSIK	0.40	20
66	Alfredo VERSACE	Antonio SEMENTA	0.39	80
67	Michał KWIECIEŃ	Włodzimierz STARKOWSKI	0.36	90
68	Ron PACHTMAN	Piotr ZATORSKI	0.35	80
69	Erikas VAINIKONIS	Andrei ARLOVICH	0.35	60
70	Paweł STEZALA	Wojciech BONDAREWICZ	0.34	70
71	Giuseppe DELLE CAVE	Romain ZALESKI	0.33	80
72	Peter GILL	Sartaj HANS	0.32	100
73	Christian LAHRMANN	Marcel VERHAEGEN	0.31	100
74	Andrea MANNO	Massimiliano DI FRANCO	0.30	80
75	Bartosz CHMURSKI	Igor CHALUPEC	0.30	60
76	Erik SÆLENSMINDE	Ole BERSET	0.30	60
77	Bart NAB	Bob DRIJVER	0.30	70
78	Charles GARNIER	Francois PICARD	0.28	60
79	Jerzy BRZUSTOWSKI	Tomasz PAWLUK	0.28	60
80	Lars Kirkegaard NIELSEN	Flemming POULSEN	0.28	100
81	Espen ERICHSEN	Richard Mark PLACKETT	0.28	100
82	Michał WROBEL	Agnieszka PIETRZYK	0.27	70
83	Andrew ROBSON	Alexander ALLFREY	0.26	100
84	Mihai GRIGORIU	Dragos IORDACHE	0.26	90
85	Piotr NAWROCKI	Piotr WIANKOWSKI	0.26	90
86	Joao-Paulo CAMPOS	Adriano RODRIGUES	0.21	100
87	Peter PIGOT Jr	Ciaran COYNE	0.20	100
88	Cathy BAŁDYSZ	Sophia BAŁDYSZ	0.19	70
89	Keyzad ANKLESARIA	Rajeshwar TEWARI	0.16	80
90	Jeremi STEPINSKI	Maciej HUTYRA	0.16	70

91	JanPetter SVENDSEN	Lasse AASENG	0.13	100
92	Piotr KOŁUDA	Piotr ILCZUK	0.13	70
93	Jan JANSMA	Chris WILLENKEN	0.13	79
94	Roger SZAREK	Anna DIAKUN	0.09	90
95	Piotr STOPA	Grzegorz LATALA	0.08	89
96	Frederic WRANG	Antonio PALMA	0.05	59
97	Andreas MARQUARDSEN	John NORRIS	0.05	100
98	Anil PADHYE	Gopal VENKATESH	0.03	70
99	Vytautas VAINIKONIS	Wojtek OLAŃSKI	0.03	40
100	Jerry STAMATOV	Jie ZHAO	0.01	70
101	David VOZÁBAL	Erik KLEMS	0.00	100
102	Agustín MADALA	Adam GROSSACK	0.00	20
103	Prakash EASWARAN	Anrudh PRAKASH	-0.01	100
104	Stephan MAGNUSSON	Jerome AMIGUET	-0.04	100
105	Massimo LANZAROTTI	Arrigo FRANCHI	-0.06	90
106	Richard CHAN	Ming SHENG	-0.09	100
107	Marten GUSTAWSSON	Anders MORATH	-0.10	70
108	Nicholas GARTAGANIS	Michel LORBER	-0.10	100
109	Nicolas L'ÉCUYER	Paul STREET	-0.10	39
110	Daehong KIM	Sook Lee	-0.11	100
111	Thomas BESSIS	Cédric LORENZINI	-0.11	70
112	Pierre ZIMMERMANN	Fernando PIEDRA	-0.13	40
113	Michael GROMOELLER	Anne GLADIATOR	-0.15	60
114	Peter TRENKA	Gyorgy KEMENY	-0.15	100
115	Bogusław GIERULSKI	Jerzy SKRZYPCZAK	-0.16	70
116	ThorErik HOFTANISKA	Martin ANDRESEN	-0.19	96
117	Oliver LAWRENCE	Patrick LAWRENCE	-0.21	100
118	Horia GEORGESCU	Razvan Andrei GHEORGHE	-0.21	100
119	Danny MOLENAAR	Tim VERBEEK	-0.21	80
120	Apolinary KOWALSKI	Jacek ROMAŃSKI	-0.21	70
121	Gavin WOLPERT	Warren SPECTOR	-0.23	40
122	Gunnar HALLBERG	Simon HULT	-0.23	60
123	Juan PONT	Jan FREY	-0.24	100
124	Csaba CZIMER	Tamas SZALKA	-0.24	100
125	Jacek BATOG	Marcin DZIEMBOR	-0.24	70
126	Michal KOPECKÝ	Jakub SLEMR	-0.25	100
127	Rumen TRENDABILOV	Nikola BARANTIEV	-0.26	99
128	Michael WHIBLEY	Nabil EDGTON	-0.27	100
129	Daniela VON ARNIM	Geeske JOEL	-0.30	80
130	Rafał NIEDZIELSKI	Paweł SZYMONIK	-0.30	80
131	Stanisław GOŁĘBIEWSKI	Jakub PATREUHA	-0.30	50
132	Krzysztof BURAS	Grzegorz NARKIEWICZ	-0.30	70
133	Bogusław PAZUR	Marek WÓJCICKI	-0.30	70
134	Victor ARONOV	Antoni IVANOV	-0.30	100
135	Olivier NEVE	Patrick BOCKEN	-0.31	100
136	Anal SHAH	Subodh MASKARA	-0.31	80
137	John CARROLL	Mark MORAN	-0.32	60
138	Michael BELL	Tim LESLIE	-0.32	50
139	Jakub WOJCIESZEK	Rafał MARKS	-0.33	80
140	Ashley BACH	Carlos PELLEGRINI	-0.35	60

141	Oren TOLEDANO	Ami ZAMIR	-0.35	99
142	Marius AGICA	Florin SAFTA	-0.36	90
143	Philippe MATHIEU	Luc SOUDAN	-0.37	60
144	Grzegorz RYBACKI	Adam MALDYK	-0.37	60
145	Peter BERTHEAU	Andrew BLACK	-0.37	70
146	Nicolas HAMMOND	Axel JOHANSSON	-0.38	100
147	Chip MARTEL	Martin FLEISHER	-0.38	60
148	Aaron SILVERSTEIN	Andrew ROSENTHAL	-0.39	49
149	Udo KASIMIR	Peter JOKISCH	-0.40	100
150	Bauke MULLER	Simon DE WIJS	-0.40	80
151	Michal WROBEL	Emilia GWOZDZ	-0.40	20
152	Stanisław GOŁĘBIEWSKI	Patryk PATREUHA	-0.40	20
153	JohnPaul GOSNEY	Tony LEIBOWITZ	-0.42	60
154	Doris FISCHER	Bernd SAURER	-0.43	100
155	Kay PREDDY	Norman SELWAY	-0.43	100
156	Jacek KALITA	Michał NOWOSADZKI	-0.44	80
157	Jaap STOMPHORST	Finn KOLESNIK	-0.44	90
158	Oliver BURGESS	Ben HANDLEY-PRITCHARD	-0.45	69
159	Anil TIKARE	Anand Keshav Sakharam SAMANT	-0.46	59
160	Silvana ROJKO	Tracey BAUER	-0.46	100
161	John KRANYAK	Vincent DEMUY	-0.46	80
162	Sibbrand VAN OOSTEN	Stefan THORPE	-0.47	60
163	Gennadii RYBNIKOV	Oleg ROVYSHYN	-0.49	90
164	Massimo MORITSCH	Carlo BORTOLETTI	-0.50	60
165	Henrik Kruse PETERSEN	Kjeld HANSEN	-0.51	100
166	Mikael RIMSTEDT	Ola RIMSTEDT	-0.53	90
167	Przemysław JANISZEWSKI	Łukasz WITKOWSKI	-0.54	50
168	Kyoko OHNO	Akihiko YAMADA	-0.55	100
169	Odin SVENDSEN	Ole BERSET	-0.55	20
170	Paul GIPSON	Alex GIPSON	-0.56	90
171	Peter GOODMAN	Daniel MCINTOSH	-0.56	100
172	Sundarram SRINIVASAN	Padmanabhan SRIDHARAN	-0.57	70
173	Wojciech STRZEMECKI	Piotr MARCINOWSKI	-0.58	60
174	Mohammad HUSAIN	Ahmed ALRUWAYEH	-0.58	60
175	Dominique GÉRIN	Guillaume PICARD	-0.60	60
176	Bachiraju SATYANARAYANA	Kiran NADAR	-0.60	50
177	Debbie ROSENBERG	Vinita GUPTA	-0.60	50
178	Ben THOMPSON	Renee COOPER	-0.60	90
179	Adam WILDAVSKY	Migry ZUR-CAMPANILE	-0.62	60
180	Daniel KORBEL	Eric ROBINSON	-0.62	50
181	Alexander SMIRNOV	Julius SIGURJONSSON	-0.63	100
182	Sam DINKIN	Jacob FREEMAN	-0.63	30
183	Marianne KARMARKAR	Sandeep KARMARKAR	-0.64	50
184	Ajay KHARE	RAJU TOLANI	-0.65	60
185	Jonas TJARNEMO	Bjorn OHLSSON	-0.66	90
186	Peter CROUCH	Erik BERG	-0.68	100
187	Mariusz BARTKOWSKI	Bogdan SZULEJEWSKI	-0.70	50
188	Adam MESBUR	Tommy GARVEY	-0.72	60
189	Vinay DESAI	Satyakumar IYENGAR	-0.72	100
190	Bindiya NAIDOO	Priya Ranjan SINHA	-0.81	99

191	Joyjit SENSARMA	Biswajit PODDAR	-0.82	60
192	Numan ALTURKI	Nabil ALHUSSAINI	-0.83	70
193	Hakan TJARNEMO	Pierre CARBONNIER	-0.84	90
194	Vijayraghavan SUBRAMANIAN	Vasudevan RAGHAVACHARY	-0.85	60
195	Marian GORECKI	Bogusław NIDECKI	-0.87	70
196	Maciej DĄBROWSKI	Andrzej PAWLAK	-0.90	50
197	Erik SÆLENSMINDE	Odin SVENDSEN	-0.90	20
198	Antti AIMALA	Oskari KOIVU	-0.91	100
199	Anam TEBHA	Jacob FREEMAN	-0.93	40
200	Michael DOECKE	William O'SHEA	-0.93	60
201	Jacek SIKORA	Andrzej JARZABKOWSKI	-0.97	90
202	Janusz LEKKI	Piotr RADZIKOWSKI	-1.00	89
203	Jerzy GORALCZYK	Jerzy MADERA	-1.08	50
204	Sam PUNCH	Stephen PETERKIN	-1.18	90
205	Maciej WRĘCZYCKI	Grzegorz BAJEK	-1.22	50
206	Anand Keshav Sakharam SAMANT	Hemant PANDE	-1.23	40
207	Jakub PIETRZAK	Emilia GWOZDZ	-1.27	60
208	Sam DINKIN	Anam TEBHA	-1.40	30
209	Khaled ALOBAIDI	Abdulaziz ALDASHTI	-1.72	50
210	Oleksandr NYEMTSEV	Ostap KUPNOVITSKY	-1.77	90
211	Michal WROBEL	Maciej GWOZDZ	-1.80	10
212	Mateusz SOBCZAK	Wojciech SOLTYSIK	-2.10	20
213	Dano DE FALCO	Patricia CAYNE	-2.10	50
214	Maciej GWOZDZ	Emilia GWOZDZ	-3.90	10
215	Andrzej PROCZKOWSKI	Jerzy MADERA	-4.80	10

McConnell

Player1	Player2	IMPs	Boards
1 Marion MICHIELSEN	Cecilia RIMSTEDT	1.44	144
2 Nicola SMITH	Nevena SENIOR	1.06	96
3 Dilek YAVAŞ	Gaye İNAL	0.75	16
4 Jill MEYERS	Kerri SANBORN	0.53	112
5 Mine BABAC	Dilek YAVAŞ	0.50	16
6 Jessica LARSSON	Kathrine BERTHEAU	0.40	96
7 Malene Holm CHRISTENSEN	Esther VISSER	0.39	144
8 Justyna ŻMUDA	Katarzyna DUFRAT	0.38	128
9 Wenmin CHEN	Ivy ZHANG	0.35	127
10 Irina LEVITINA	Jodi EDMONDS	0.31	48
11 Anna SARNIAK	Danuta KAZMUCHA	0.19	112
12 Sandra RIMSTEDT	Joan BRODY	0.19	80
13 Janice SEAMON-MOLSON	Hjördis EYTHORSOTTIR	0.14	96
14 Ingrid GROMANN	Karin WENNING	0.13	144
15 Sally BROCK	Fiona BROWN	0.05	128
16 Irem ÖZBAY	Hatice ÖZGÜR	0.03	144
17 Lynn BAKER	Karen McCALLUM	-0.02	48
18 Yimei CAO	Candice HUANG	-0.13	128
19 Eva CAPLAN	Jenny THOMPSON	-0.24	144
20 Viv WOOD	Marina LEYBOURNE	-0.36	144

21	Sandra RIMSTEDT	Brigitta FISCHER	-0.38	64
22	Gisela SMYKALLA	Claudia VECHIATTO	-0.40	144
23	Lucy Yong Luo HE	Kelly JIA	-0.44	32
24	Fiona GREENWOOD	Julia PALMER	-0.58	144
25	Mine BABAC	Gaye İNAL	-0.66	32
26	Susan AITCHISON	Joan LEES	-0.72	144
27	Carla ARNOLDS	Sandra KOLEN	-0.85	143
28	Dilek YAVAŞ	Serap KURANOĞLU	-1.71	80

Mixed Teams

	Player1	Player2	IMPs	Boards
1	Matilda POPLILOV	Ron PACHTMAN	1.90	10
2	Geir HELGEMO	Jessica LARSSON	1.63	80
3	Marianne KARMARKAR	Sandeep KARMARKAR	1.33	70
4	Nevena SENIOR	Michael BELL	1.28	80
5	Sabine AUKEN	Roy WELLAND	1.23	70
6	Cédric LORENZINI	Aurelie LORENZINI	1.20	20
7	Giorgia BOTTA	Zachary GROSSACK	1.18	100
8	Sam PUNCH	Stephen PETERKIN	1.17	60
9	Ricco VAN PROOIJEN	Alison WILSON	1.10	40
10	Beate 'Pony' NEHMERT	Adam WILDAVSKY	1.08	40
11	Signe BUUS THOMSEN	Mikael RIMSTEDT	1.06	80
12	Cecilia RIMSTEDT	Kevin DWYER	0.94	70
13	Bas DRIJVER	Christina Lund MADSEN	0.80	70
14	Christal HENNER	Uday IVATURY	0.80	60
15	Krzysztof BURAS	Ewa SOBOLEWSKA	0.74	80
16	Piotr ZATORSKI	Katarzyna DUFRAT	0.73	80
17	Michael ROSENBERG	Debbie ROSENBERG	0.69	90
18	Artur WASIAK	Zuzanna MOSZCZYNSKA	0.68	99
19	Daniela VON ARNIM	Simon DE WIJS	0.67	60
20	Justyna ŻMUDA	Michał KLUKOWSKI	0.66	80
21	Diana NETTLETON	Thomas PASKE	0.66	50
22	Per-Ola CULLIN	Marion MICHIELSEN	0.65	80
23	Marcin DOBROWOLSKI	Anna MADUZIA	0.64	100
24	Nadia BEKKOUCHE	Flemming DANIELSEN	0.63	100
25	Dilek YAVAŞ	Emre KAYA	0.63	70
26	Gunnar HALLBERG	Sally CLARK	0.62	60
27	Vincent DEMUY	Marusa GOLD	0.61	70
28	Oliver BURGESS	Fiona BROWN	0.61	70
29	Dominika OGLOBLIN	Rafal MARKS	0.61	100
30	Federico IAVICOLI	Anastasia DI LORENZO	0.60	80
31	Danuta KAZMUCHA	Maciej HUTYRA	0.58	60
32	Nicola SMITH	Peter CROUCH	0.57	70
33	Erik SÆLENSMINDE	AnnKarin FUGLESTAD	0.55	100
34	Irene BARONI	Romain ZALESKI	0.52	60
35	Piotr BUSSE	Grazyna BUSSE	0.48	100
36	Daniela BIRMAN	Alon BIRMAN	0.47	70
37	Eva CAPLAN	Jamie THOMPSON	0.47	90

38	Thomas BESSIS	Kathrine BERTHEAU	0.46	100
39	Ewa WIECZOREK	Charlie BUCKNELL	0.46	100
40	Michael GROMOELLER	Anne GLADIATOR	0.45	60
41	Peter GILL	Elisabeth SYLVESTER	0.43	100
42	Elianna MEYERSON	Adam MEYERSON	0.43	68
43	Assaf LENGY	Michal NOSACKI	0.36	100
44	Aliye UGUR	Ufuk UGUR	0.32	100
45	Bob DRIJVER	Sophia BAŁDYSZ	0.31	80
46	Ida GRÖNKVIST	Mikael GRÖNKVIST	0.30	80
47	Adi ASULIN	Ami ZAMIR	0.30	90
48	Louise BERTHIAUME	Kamel FERGANI	0.27	70
49	Massimiliano DI FRANCO	Hye Young KIM	0.27	100
50	Jovanka SMEDEREVAC	Alexander (Sasha) WERNLE	0.23	90
51	Bachiraju SATYANARAYANA	Kiran NADAR	0.23	60
52	Stanisław GOŁĘBIEWSKI	Marta SIKORA	0.22	60
53	Jeff WOLFSON	Kerri SANBORN	0.20	60
54	Ben THOMPSON	Renee COOPER	0.19	90
55	Philippe CRONIER	Bénédicte CRONIER	0.19	80
56	Mike CAPPELLETTI JR	Allison HOWARD	0.18	60
57	Ewa BANASZKIEWICZ	Bartosz CHMURSKI	0.18	80
58	Erik KLEMS	Selena PEPIĆ	0.16	100
59	Shan HUANG	Amber LIN	0.16	70
60	Grzegorz NARKIEWICZ	Joanna ZALEWSKA	0.14	70
61	Joanna ŻOCHOWSKA	Pierre SCHMIDT	0.14	100
62	Lise BLAAGESTAD	Jan PEDERSEN	0.13	90
63	Robert KROCHMALIK	Viv WOOD	0.13	60
64	Peter BERTHEAU	Ann-Sophie ANDERSSON	0.12	59
65	Andrew McINTOSH	Sara MORAN	0.11	80
66	Jill MEYERS	Steve GARNER	0.10	80
67	Fredrik NYSTRÖM	Sanna CLEMENTSSON	0.10	80
68	David VOZÁBAL	Jovana ZORANOVIC	0.10	100
69	Jacek KALITA	Cathy BAŁDYSZ	0.09	100
70	Migry ZUR-CAMPANILE	Andrew ROSENTHAL	0.04	50
71	Jan JANSMA	Aida JANSMA	0.03	70
72	Ilan BAREKET	Nathalie SAADA	0.02	90
73	Marianne HARDING	Odin SVENDSEN	0.01	100
74	Sally BROCK	Chris WILLENKEN	-0.02	60
75	Dominik FILIPOWICZ	Monica CUZZI	-0.02	60
76	Karen McCALLUM	Axel JOHANNSSON	-0.03	30
77	Renée VERDEGAAL	Mark THIELE	-0.03	60
78	Stefano TOMMASINI	Imogen LA CHAPELLE	-0.04	100
79	Paul BARDEN	Claire ROBINSON	-0.04	100
80	Karlis RUBINS	Jelena ALFEJEVA	-0.05	80
81	Gunn HELNESS	Svein Arild Naas OLSEN	-0.06	80
82	Stephan MAGNUSSON	Laurence DUC	-0.07	70
83	Sven-Olai HØYLAND	Sofie Grasholt SJØDAL	-0.07	98
84	Igor GRZEJDZIAK	Sabina GRZEJDZIAK	-0.08	100
85	Clara HETZ	Ron PACHTMAN	-0.09	70
86	Ewa MISZEWSKA	Jacek DMOWSKI	-0.09	100
87	Rajeev KHANDELWAL	Himani KHANDELWAL	-0.11	70

88	Hartmut KONDOCH	Claudia VECHIATTO	-0.12	60
89	Jenny THOMPSON	Damon FLICKER	-0.12	100
90	Adam GROSSACK	Emma KOLESNIK	-0.14	70
91	Joel WOOLDRIDGE	Jodi EDMONDS	-0.18	40
92	Andrea MANNO	Hye Min OH	-0.21	90
93	Julia HOFFMAN	Christopher QUAIL	-0.22	60
94	Nicholas GARTAGANIS	Judith GARTAGANIS	-0.22	60
95	Serap KURANOĞLU	Serdar ERDEM	-0.22	50
96	Isabelle BELLO	Cédric LORENZINI	-0.23	80
97	Espen ERICHSEN	Helen ERICHSEN	-0.24	80
98	Matilda POPLILOV	Nathan HETZ	-0.24	50
99	Ranja SIVERTSVIK	Kaare BOGO	-0.26	70
100	Marc-Andre FOURCAUDOT	Sondra BLANK	-0.27	70
101	Katrine MARTENSEN-LARSEN	Flemming POULSEN	-0.28	100
102	John Grayson McALLISTER	Olivia SCHIRESON	-0.29	100
103	David GOLD	Maggie KNOTTENBELT	-0.30	50
104	Patrick BOCKEN	Aleksandra MIERZWA	-0.35	60
105	Craig GOWER	Diana ROSSLEE	-0.38	99
106	Joe GRUE	Gillian MINITER	-0.40	40
107	Marcin PURTA	Malgorzata PURTA	-0.41	90
108	Manju LAW	Uday MAITRA	-0.43	90
109	Leslie AMOILS	Sandra RIMSTEDT	-0.44	50
110	Kyoko OHNO	Akihiko YAMADA	-0.45	89
111	Burak BASKAN	Riva SALHON	-0.45	99
112	Volkan DENIZCI	Aylin DENIZCI	-0.46	100
113	Richard Mark PLACKETT	Mia DESCHEPPER	-0.47	60
114	Bindiya NAIDOO	Priya Ranjan SINHA	-0.49	89
115	Sam DINKIN	Anam TEBHA	-0.50	50
116	Brigitta FISCHER	Ola RIMSTEDT	-0.52	60
117	Anam TEBHA	Jacob FREEMAN	-0.52	50
118	Tonje Aasand BROGELAND	Jostein AUSTAD	-0.52	100
119	Olgierd RODZIEWICZ-BIELEWICZ	Ewa RODZIEWICZ-BIELEWICZ	-0.53	60
120	Gisela SMYKALLA	Michael SCHNEIDER	-0.54	70
121	Eren ÖZAN	Mustafa AKHUN	-0.55	99
122	Yusuf KAHYAOGU	Hatice ÖZGÜR	-0.56	50
123	Tim VERBEEK	Malene Holm CHRISTENSEN	-0.56	80
124	William O'SHEA	Tracey BAUER	-0.60	90
125	Dano DE FALCO	Patricia CAYNE	-0.60	40
126	Grazyna BREWIAK	Tomasz LATOS	-0.62	50
127	Larry CHEMALY	Nicola Mae BATEMAN	-0.66	99
128	Christine DUCKWORTH	Brian CALLAGHAN	-0.71	100
129	Dario ATTANASIO	Gabriella MANARA	-0.72	60
130	Jinlong ZHAO	Ayako SHIMAZAKI	-0.72	89
131	Ulrich WENNING	Karin WENNING	-0.73	70
132	Michael BAREL	Paz KATZ	-0.77	60
133	Paula LESLIE	Simon COPE	-0.77	70
134	Susan AITCHISON	James FORSYTH	-0.80	90
135	Marie EGGELING	Thomas GOTARD	-0.85	98
136	Niklas (Nick) SANDQVIST	Nathalie SHASHOU	-0.93	100

137	Joanna OKLA	Szczepan OKLA	-0.94	80
138	Uttam GUPTA	Rubinder Kaur KOCHAR	-0.99	90
139	Carlos PELLEGRINI	Claudia Valerie GAMIO	-1.00	58
140	Robbie DE KOSTER	Eva POPPE	-1.07	60
141	Anna SARNIAK	Igor CHALUPEC	-1.07	60
142	Yaniv ZACK	Ronnie BENIN-BARR	-1.08	60
143	David BEAUCHAMP	Jodi TUTTY	-1.12	60
144	Shan HUANG	Joan MILLENS	-1.27	30
145	Jacek PSZCZOŁA	May SAKR	-1.33	40
146	Özlem KANDOLU	Subodh MASKARA	-1.36	89
147	Emre KAYA	Hatice ÖZGÜR	-1.50	30
148	Catherine SEALE	Fredrik HELNESS	-1.56	80
149	Sjoert BRINK	Barbara FERM	-2.13	40

Seniors

Player1	Player2	IMPs	Boards
1 Marek WITEK	Adolf BOCHENSKI	1.00	24
2 Apolinary KOWALSKI	Jacek ROMAŃSKI	0.82	84
3 Paul D HACKETT	Brian SENIOR	0.82	84
4 Kay PREDDY	Norman SELWAY	0.80	84
5 Philippe SOULET	Marc BOMPIS	0.70	96
6 Piotr TUSZYŃSKI	Piotr GAWRYŚ	0.60	108
7 Krzysztof MARTENS	Pierre ZIMMERMANN	0.48	60
8 Mike PASSELL	Mark LAIR	0.39	72
9 Alan MOULD	John HOLLAND	0.38	96
10 Michał KWIECIEŃ	Włodzimierz STARKOWSKI	0.35	120
11 Jeff MECKSTROTH	David BERKOWITZ	0.27	132
12 Joseph ENGEL	Dani COHEN	0.27	132
13 Tomasz GOTARD	Kazimierz OMERNIK	0.22	108
14 Andrzej FRONCZAK	Andrzej ZALESKI	0.20	60
15 Mike PASSELL	Andy GOODMAN	0.18	60
16 Roger BRYANT	Nick SMITH	0.13	132
17 Richard BRIGHTLING	David HOFFMAN	0.05	132
18 Vytautas VAINIKONIS	Wojtek OLAŃSKI	0.02	60
19 Malcolm PRYOR	David KENDRICK	-0.06	132
20 Victor MARKOWICZ	Krzysztof MOSZCZYNSKI	-0.08	72
21 Włodzimierz WALA	Piotr STOPA	-0.10	132
22 Janusz LEKKI	Jan GOLIŃSKI	-0.11	132
23 Victor MELMAN	Mirosław MILASZEWSKI	-0.23	84
24 Jerzy RUSSYAN	Marek WITEK	-0.23	108
25 Krzysztof SIKORSKI	Wacław WEJKNIS	-0.28	96
26 Avi KALISH	Nir GRINBERG	-0.30	132
27 Lars GOLDBERG	Ulla-Britt GOLDBERG	-0.33	132
28 Thomas WRANG	Henrik WEGNELIUS	-0.61	132
29 Neil EWART	Ian ROBINSON	-0.74	132
30 Bogusław GIERULSKI	Jerzy SUKOW	-0.95	132
31 Piotr BIZOŃ	Marek BLAT	-1.30	108

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POLSKA WIEDZ

Objectivity



Hala
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TVP

SPORT

TVP 3

WROCLAW



ROSENBLUM CUP OPEN TEAMS
NICKELL



WORLD OPEN PAIRS



McCONNELL CUP WOMEN'S TEAMS
BRODY



WORLD WOMEN'S PAIRS



RAND CUP WORLD SENIOR TEAMS
VYTAS



HIRON TROPHY WORLD SENIOR PAIRS



WORLD MIXED TEAMS
FERM

£30, US\$35, €35



WORLD MIXED PAIRS