



World Bridge Games

Daily Bulletin

Beijing / China



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Bulletin 13 - Friday, 17 October 2008

BACKS AGAINST THE WALL



The Great Wall

After their stirring match against the USA to make it to the gold-medal round of the Women's series, China struggled in the first three sets against England. They will start play today trailing by 83 IMPs.

In the Open series, the powerful Italian squad has a 45-IMP lead over England, which recovered in the third set after a rocky start. The USA Seniors are leading Japan by 43 after three sets.

Three bronze medal winners were determined yesterday. Norway defeated Germany in the Open, USA beat Turkey in the Women's and Indonesia got the best of Egypt in the Seniors.

In the World Transnational Mixed Teams, today's three-session final was set when Russia beat A-Everything Trust Group and Yeh Bros defeated Auken.

Medal ceremonies

Medal ceremonies for the Seniors and Transnational Mixed Teams will take place at 7:30 p.m. today in the auditorium at the BICC.

The medals for the Open and Women's teams will be awarded at 8:15 p.m. Buses for players and supporters will leave the Intercontinental Hotel for the BICC at 8 p.m.



Today's

Schedule

- 11.00** Open - Women - Senior Teams, Final, 4th Session
- 14.20** Open - Women - Senior Teams, Final, 5th Session
- 17.10** Open - Women - Senior Teams, Final, 6th Session

10.00 - 21.00

Transnational Mixed Teams, Final



OPEN TEAMS RESULTS - Final & Playoff

Match	1st Session	2nd Session	3rd Session	Total
I Italy England	60 - 44	46 - 4	17 - 30	123 - 78
I Norway Germany	39 - 42	54 - 14		93 - 56

WOMEN TEAMS RESULTS - Final & Playoff

Match	1st Session	2nd Session	3rd Session	Total
I China England	23 - 37	21 - 50	14 - 54	58 - 141
I USA Turkey	67 - 24	35 - 26	32 - 38	134 - 88

SENIOR TEAMS RESULTS - Final & Playoff

Match	1st Session	2nd Session	3rd Session	Total
I USA Japan	60 - 28	33 - 29	31 - 24	124 - 81
I Egypt Indonesia	8 - 44	29 - 41	19 - 23	56 - 108

Beijing Boulders

by Tim Bourke

Dealer West. N-S Vul.

♠ 8 5
♥ 9 6 3
♦ Q 10 8 6 4 2
♣ 9 7



♠ A
♥ A Q J 10 4
♦ A
♣ A K Q 10 4 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	4♠	5♠
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♥
All pass			

After East's pre-emptive opening, Five Spades promised a powerful two-suited hand. As expected West leads a spade, which turns out to be the two. How do you plan the play?

Solution see page 15.

TRANSNATIONAL

Round of 8

Match	1st	2nd	Total
1 Russia Herbst	28 - 10	17 - 19	45 - 29
2 A - Evertrust Zimmermann	45 - 7	6 - 38	51 - 45
3 Yeh Bros Zaleski	42 - 36	8 - 10	50 - 46
4 Hugon Auken	49 - 30	16 - 47	65 - 77

Round of 4

Match	1st	2nd	Total
1 Russia A - Evertrust	40 - 17	25 - 42	65 - 59
2 Yeh Bros Auken	22 - 30	56 - 38	78 - 68

Press Conference on Saturday



A press conference has been arranged by the International Mind Sports Association, bridge federations participating in this year's championships and the organizing committee for the 1st World Mind Sports Games.

The event is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Saturday on the second floor of the BICC. All journalists and players are invited to attend.

WOMEN TEAMS 5-FINAL - 5TH & 6TH

China v USA

by Phillip Alder

These two teams gave us full value for money over the last 32 boards of the semi-final. Let's look at the main deals over those two sessions.

Board 65 began with the United States leading 114-107.

In the open room, Liu Yi Qian and Wang Wenfei played East-West against Marinesa Letizia and Mildred Breed. At the other table, Wang Hongli and Sun Ming faced Janice Seamon-Molson and Tobi Sokolow.

The open room was notable for two things: Letizia's soda container, which is so large it probably has to be sent as checked luggage; and Wang Wenfei's demeanor. I don't think I have ever seen so relaxed a player on such an important occasion.

To start, one quick bidding question:

Board 77. Dealer North. Both vul.

♠ A J
♥ K Q 10 6 5 4
♦ 6 3
♣ 8 7 3

West	North	East	South
	I♦	Pass	I♥
INT ^(a)	Pass	Pass	?

(a) 15+-18

What would you do?

Board one was a flat slam. On board two, China went down two in three clubs in the open room, but the United States went down four in four spades (mercifully undoubled) in the closed room to lose 3 IMPs. After a flat board, the Americans bought the auction in both rooms and made their contracts to gain 5 IMPs. Then China tried the same trick, but failed both times to give the U.S. another 4 IMPs. After a third flat board came:

Board 71. Dealer South. Both vul.

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

	♠ N	
	W	E
	♠ S	

♠ A 10 9 8 6 4
♥ J 6 2
♦ 8
♣ A 9 4

West	North	East	South
Wang Wenfei	Letizia	Liu	Breed
Dble	3♠	4♠	2♠
5♦	All Pass		Pass

West	North	East	South
Sokolow	Wang Hongli	Seamon-Molson	Sun
Dble	3♠	Dble	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	4♠
			All Pass

Players who are not so fond of the Law of Total Tricks will enjoy this deal. In the closed room, Sun opened one spade because she had two aces and her count was limited to 15 high-card points. Over West's takeout double, North jumped pre-emptively to three spades, not bidding four because of her balanced hand. Over East's responsive double, South bid one more spade because she had one more spade. East was happy to double again. And the contract went down three, minus 800, losing three hearts, one diamond and two clubs.

At the other table, Breed did not mind opening a vulnerable weak two-bid with two aces. Then, over West's double, Letizia similarly drew in her belt by one notch because she had no singleton or void. Then East cue-bid four spades, asking her partner to pick a minor.

Against five diamonds, North led the spade king, thinking that she might need to hold the lead and make a telling shift at trick two. Then South, who knew from the auction that West had the club king, carefully signaled with her ten, the high card asking for a shift to the higher-ranking of the



Marinesa Letizia, USA

other two side suits, hearts. North did as requested.

West won the trick with dummy's king, drew trumps and cashed her other heart tricks, discarding a club from the dummy, to leave this position:

<p>♠ — ♥ — ♦ Q 9 3 ♣ K 10 8</p>	<p>♠ 7 3 2 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ J 7 3</p> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <table style="border: 1px solid white; width: 100px; height: 100px; text-align: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <p>♠ A 9 8 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ A 9 4</p>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ — ♥ — ♦ A 6 5 ♣ Q 6 5</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										

To make the contract now, declarer had to take a backward finesse in clubs, leading the ten from her hand, forcing North to cover with the jack. Then, after South took dummy's queen with her ace and returned the four, West could finesse her eight.

Instead, West led her club king, which South correctly ducked. Now declarer had to lose two club tricks and go down one.

That was excellent defense, especially by Breed.

Plus 100 and plus 800 gave the United States 14 IMPs and the lead by 27 IMPs.

After a flat board, China gained 7 IMPs by making five hearts doubled with an overtrick in the closed room, the Americans having the same result undoubled in the open room. (There were two aces missing.)

Another flat board was followed by ...

Board 75. Dealer South. None vul.

<p>♠ A ♥ K 10 ♦ A 8 6 3 ♣ K Q J 7 6 4</p>	<p>♠ K J ♥ Q J 9 8 2 ♦ Q 10 7 2 ♣ 5 3</p> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <table style="border: 1px solid white; width: 100px; height: 100px; text-align: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <p>♠ Q 10 9 6 4 ♥ 6 4 ♦ 9 5 ♣ A 9 8 2</p>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ 8 7 5 3 2 ♥ A 7 5 3 ♦ K J 4 ♣ 10</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang Wenfei</i>	<i>Letizia</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Breed</i>
			Pass
1♣ ^(a)	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

(a) 16-plus points.

West	North	East	South
<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Wang Hongli</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Sun</i>
			2♠ ^(a)
3♣	All Pass		

(a) Five-plus spades and a four-plus minor, 5-10 points.

When Wang Wenfei opened one club and received a positive response, her partnership was always going to bid game. When Sun opened two spades (they bid two diamonds, Multi, with a weak two in a major), it was a tough task for East-West to play in anything other than three clubs.

Breed found the best lead against three notrump, a low spade. And Letizia threw her king under dummy's ace, hoping her partner had led from Q-10-9-8-6. But it was not to be, and Liu lost only three spades and one club.

Three clubs made six, North being squeezed in the red suits while declarer was drawing trumps.

Plus 400 and minus 170 gave China 6 IMPs.

A flat slam bid by both East-West pairs was followed by...

Board 77. Dealer North. Both vul.

<p>♠ K 10 4 2 ♥ A J ♦ A 8 ♣ K 9 5 4 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 9 7 5 ♥ 9 7 ♦ K Q 9 5 2 ♣ A Q</p> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <table style="border: 1px solid white; width: 100px; height: 100px; text-align: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <p>♠ A J ♥ K Q 10 6 5 4 ♦ 6 3 ♣ 8 7 3</p>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ 8 6 3 ♥ 8 3 2 ♦ J 10 7 4 ♣ J 10 6</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										



Ming Sun, China

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang Wenfei</i>	<i>Letizia</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Breed</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
INT	Pass	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Wang Hongli</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Sun</i>
	INT ^(a)	Pass	4♦ ^(b)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

- (a) 14-16.
- (b) Texas transfer.

This was the earlier bidding problem. The winning action was double. If West had sat for that and North had led a heart, the contract would have gone down four, minus 1100. Of course, West might have run to two clubs, which would have been down only one. But then South could have rebid two hearts.

It is easy to say that looking at the full deal, though. If we exchange the spade two and heart two between East and West, one notrump goes down only one.

Regardless, Breed took the low road, rebidding two hearts. She won nine tricks when West scored her heart jack late in the play.

In the closed room, Wang Hongli added a point for her five-card suit and opened one notrump. Then South transferred into game in hearts. When declarer was not psychic, she lost one spade, two hearts and one diamond to go down one.

Plus 140 and plus 100 gave the United States 6 IMPs.

The next two boards gave the Americans one overtrick IMP and 3 IMPs for one fewer undertrick. The final board was the third flat slam of the set, six diamonds being bid by both North-South pairs.

With 16 boards to play, the score was United States 147 China 123.



Tobi Sokolow, USA

For the last 16 boards, the Chinese pairs switched rooms and the American players changed seats!

First, though, an opening-lead problem. With both sides vulnerable, you hold as West:

♠ A 10 6 5
♥ 6 4 2
♦ 10 7 6 4 3
♣ 5

West	North	East	South
		3♣	4♥
Pass	4NT ^(a)	Pass	5♠ ^(b)
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

- (a) Roman Key Card Blackwood
- (b) Two key cards and the heart queen

What would you lead?

China gained 1 IMP on the first two boards, then six more on an imaginative lead by Letizia that backfired. The fourth board was flat, and on the fifth board both East-West pairs bid to six diamonds with this trump suit that had to play for no losers:

♦ K Q 10 6 4 ♦ 9 7 5 2

Sadly for the declarers, ♦ A J 8 3 sat over the king-queen. Down one for a third flat board.

Then came:

Board 86. Dealer East. East-West vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Breed</i>	<i>Wang Hongli</i>	<i>Letizia</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣ ^(a)	Pass	INT ^(b)	Pass
2♦ ^(c)	Pass	2♠ ^(d)	Pass
5NT ^(e)	Pass	6♦	All Pass

- (a) 16-plus points.
- (b) 8-13 or 16-plus balanced.
- (c) Natural and asking.
- (d) 8-10 with three-plus diamonds.
- (e) Please decide: six diamonds or six notrump.

West	North	East	South
<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Wang Wenfei</i>
2♣	Dble	Pass Redble	Pass All Pass

In the Open Room, Sun and Wang bid smoothly to six diamonds. North led her singleton spade, but declarer drew trumps and gave up a club trick. She easily took four spades, one heart, five diamonds and two clubs.

At the other table, West opened with a big two clubs, North doubled to show clubs, and East redoubled to suggest playing there. Despite holding only a doubleton, Seamon-Molson thought, "Why not?"

A heart lead would have defeated the contract, but North understandably led her singleton spade. Declarer won with her queen and played the spade ace, North ruffing. At this point, surely South should have dropped the nine, her highest card showing a useful heart card, but she played the six.

North shifted to a low trump. West won with her jack, cashed the club ace and now should have turned to her diamonds, but she led another spade. After North ruffed, South played the nine, but North remembered the first signal, switching to a diamond.

Declarer just played on diamonds, letting North ruff the third round. She cashed the club king, but West had the rest for plus one -- what does that score?



Plus 1370 and minus 160 gave China 5 IMPs. The U.S. lead was down to 12.

After two boring games, Breed opened a flat 11-count, which propelled her side into a four-spade contract with four losers. At the other table, Liu passed that hand and Sokolow opened a flat 11. Now her side bought it in three diamonds, also going down one without the option.

Plus 50 and plus 100 gave China 4 IMPs; the margin was only 8.

Then:

Board 90. Dealer East. Both vul.

♠ A 10 6 5	♥ 6 4 2	♦ 10 7 6 4 3	♣ 5	♠ K J 9 8 4 3	♥ 10	♦ A Q	♣ A 7 6 4	♠ Q	♥ J 7 5	♦ 5 2	♣ K Q J 10 9 8 2
											
West	North	East	South								
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Breed</i>	<i>Wang Hongli</i>	<i>Letizia</i>								
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦								
Pass	4♠	All Pass									

West	North	East	South
<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Wang Wenfei</i>
Pass Pass	4NT 6♥	3♣ Pass All Pass	4♥ 5♠



Four spades came home with an overtrick in the open room. So a lot was riding on Seamon-Molson's lead against six hearts. Since the opponents had used Blackwood and she had an ace, there was surely a very strong case for selecting the spade ace. Then, when partner dropped the queen, it should have been possible to find the spade continuation even though Seamon-Molson and Sokolow were using standard signals. And if it turned out that the opponents had had an accident, bidding a slam off two aces, a club shift at trick two would probably have been in time.

But West led her singleton club. Declarer won on the board and played her three top heart honors, which was the correct percentage play. This gave her an a priori 54.1 percent chance of no losers, but only 43.3 percent given that West had one club and East seven. However, the jack did drop, and later Wang guessed spades correctly to make her contract.

Minus 650 and plus 1430 gave China 13 IMPs and the lead by 5.

That lead evaporated immediately.

Board 91. Dealer North. None vul.

				♠ Q J 8 7 3 2				
				♥ 8 3 2				
				♦ K J				
				♣ 7 2				
♠ A 10 9 5	♥ 10 9 7 6 5 4	♦ 6 2	♣ J	♠ K	♥ A J	♦ A Q 8 7 3	♣ K 10 9 8 5	
								
								♠ 6 4
West	North	East	South					
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Breed</i>	<i>Wang Hongli</i>	<i>Letizia</i>					
Pass	2♠	Dble	Pass					
4♥	All Pass		Pass					
West	North	East	South					
<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Wang Wenfei</i>					
Pass	2♦ ^(a)	Pass	2♥ ^(b)					
Pass	2♠ ^(c)	3♠ ^(d)	Pass					
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble					
All Pass								

(a) Multi: weak two in either major.
 (b) Pass or correct.
 (c) Spades.
 (d) Both minors.

Against four hearts, North led the spade queen. Declarer won with dummy's king and called for a low club. South went in with the queen and returned her second spade: nine, jack, ruff. West cashed dummy's heart ace, then ran the club eight, discarding a diamond. After the diamond ace came the club nine, covered, ruffed and overruffed. South ruffed the next spade with her heart king, but declarer had the balance. West had lost only two hearts and one club.

Wang Wenfei, who was on the same side of the screen as Seamon-Molson, probably sensed she was unhappy about bidding three notrump. So South doubled. Those of you with the patience or Deep Finesse may calculate all the possibilities. Here is what actually happened: North led the club seven, South taking the trick with her queen. A spade shift went to dummy's king, South ducked the club eight, took the club nine and switched to the heart king. Declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed the clubs and played the heart jack to South's queen. West won the spade return, took her two heart winners and played a diamond to dummy's queen to collect two spades, three hearts, two diamond and three clubs.

Minus 420 and plus 650 gave the United States 6 IMPs and the lead by 1.

The next board was a flat game; then:

Board 93. Dealer North. Both vul.

♠ K J 8 ♥ K Q J 10 ♦ A 9 8 5 4 ♣ 8	<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 6 2 ♥ A 8 6 3 ♦ Q J 10 2 ♣ A K 2
N					
W E					
S					
♠ A 7 ♥ 5 4 ♦ K 7 6 ♣ Q J 10 6 4 3	♠ Q 10 9 5 4 3 ♥ 9 7 2 ♦ 3 ♣ 9 7 5				



Janice Seamon-Molson, USA

West <i>Sun</i>	North <i>Breed</i>	East <i>Wang Hongli</i>	South <i>Letizia</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♣	Dble ^(a)	2♠	Pass
3♣	Dble ^(b)	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

- (a) Three-card spade support.
- (b) Extra values.

West <i>Seamon-Molson</i>	North <i>Liu</i>	East <i>Sokolow</i>	South <i>Wang Wenfei</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♣	Dble ^(a)	2♦	2♠
3♣	3♥	Dble	3♠
All Pass			

- (a) Three-card spade support.

In the open room, Wang Hongli made the stronger two-spade cue-bid; Sun (West) signed off in three clubs; Breed (North) doubled again to show extra values; and East cue-bid three spades, asking her partner to bid three no-trump with a spade stopper, which West did.

We can see that a spade lead could have defeated this contract, but if North had led the eight, South would have had to be careful not to play her queen, which would have blocked the suit. However, Letizia took out insurance by bidding four spades. West doubled and the defense was perfect, West leading the heart five and eventually getting her heart ruff for down one.

At the other table, Sokolow bid cautiously with 14 high-card points and three good clubs opposite a partner who overcalled vulnerable at the two-level.

Three spades was unbeatable. West led the heart five, East ducking her ace but signaling encouragement. West took the next trick with her spade ace, played a heart to her partner's ace, received a heart ruff, and shifted to the club queen. East overtook with her ace but had no winning continuation. If she had led her last trump, South would have ruffed one club in the dummy and discarded the other on dummy's high heart. And when East led her last heart, declarer trumped high, then crossruffed home.

Plus 200 and plus 140 gave China 8 IMPs, putting them ahead by seven with three boards to play.

The United States needed action, but all they got were dull games. China had squeaked home 161-154.

Finally, note that if Sokolow had competed to four clubs on Board 93 and had bought the contract, it would have made, China would have gained only 2 IMPs and won the match by 1.

Granovetter invitation

USA Senior team member Matthew Granovetter will host a Sabbath "kiddish" in the "succah" outside the playing area after the last session Friday night. All are invited.

WOMEN TEAMS FINAL - 1ST

England v China

Laying Foundations

by Mark Horton

Would the weight of expectation sit too heavily on the shoulders of the Chinese team? Could they overcome the extremely experienced English squad?

In a contest that most thought too close to call who would make the better start?

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 9 4 ♥ Q J 8 7 5 3 ♦ 8 7 ♣ A 8 4	<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		E	W				S		♠ A 6 5 ♥ K ♦ K 5 3 2 ♣ K 9 7 6 5	♠ K Q J 7 3 ♥ 10 6 4 ♦ Q 9 6 ♣ J 2
N		E										
W												
	S											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Draper	Sun	Rosen
2♦*	Pass	3♥*	All Pass

North had no convenient way into the auction on the first round and then had to guess on the next. The singleton king of hearts was of dubious value and her main suit was hardly robust – she decided to pass.



Anne Rosen, England

South led a trump and thereafter declarer was easily held to six tricks, -150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Wang	Senior	Liu
2♦*	Dble	Pass 2♥	Pass 3NT
All Pass			

As I mentioned earlier, with no obvious way into the auction – well, clearly the word obvious has no Chinese equivalent as North was right there with a double after which South jumped to the obvious game.

West led the seven of hearts and declarer won with dummy's king. With some good guesses you can make eleven tricks, but when declarer started with a club to the queen West followed with the eight! Naturally, declarer played a club to dummy's six and East won with the jack, played the king of spades and then went back to hearts. Declarer ducked, won the next heart, and knocked out the ace of clubs. All she needed to do now was locate the queen of diamonds – save for the fact that it was West who now produced the ace and proceeded to cash her heart tricks for +300.

A brilliant start for Dhondy, giving England a 10-IMP lead.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 6 ♥ 5 ♦ 5 2 ♣ A K 9 8 6 5 4 3 2	<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		E	W				S		♠ Q 9 8 5 3 ♥ Q 9 ♦ A 9 8 7 ♣ Q 10	♠ A K 7 4 2 ♥ K J 8 7 ♦ Q 10 6 4 ♣ —
N		E										
W												
	S											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Draper	Sun	Rosen
5♣	All Pass		

North led the ace of diamonds, collecting the four, three and five. (We could spend a long time debating which card declarer should play from hand – but the air conditioning

has failed and as the temperature soars towards 37°C I am keen to finish it as quickly as possible.) North switched the queen of hearts, covered by the king and ace and South had to guess what to do.

She tried for the heart ruff, -600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Wang	Senior	Liu
5♣	All Pass		

As before North led the ace of diamonds, four, three and five. She too switched to a heart, but she chose the nine. South took the ace and....cashed the king of diamonds to earn 12 IMPs.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Draper	Sun	Rosen
	INT	Pass	2♣*
Dble	Pass*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		



Catherine Draper, England

North's pass over the first double was neutral with four clubs. When North then forgot that Two Spades was in no way invitational her side was in deep trouble.

East led the three of hearts and West took the ace and returned the suit (a club switch is best, which probably results in three down). Declarer won and played a diamond. When dummy's jack held she played a spade and West won, cashed a second spade and played a third heart, declarer winning, cashing a top diamond and exiting with a club. East put up the jack and West overtook it and exited with a heart to ensure two down, +300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Wang	Senior	Liu
2♥	1♣*	2♦	Pass
	All Pass		

North led the ten of clubs and declarer put up dummy's jack. When it held she played a club to the ace and ruffed a club. South overruffed and switched to the two of spades, declarer winning and playing the ace of hearts (the ten works better as the cards lie, as it keeps control) and a heart. North won and should now cash the king of clubs. South will discard a diamond and then two rounds of diamonds enable the defenders to make their trumps separately for one down.

When North exited with a spade, declarer won, exited with a heart and was +110 – holding the loss to 5 IMPs.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Draper	Sun	Rosen
Pass	Pass	1♠	2NT*
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

South's daring entry into the auction paid a huge dividend as North raised to the cold game, +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Wang	Senior	Liu
Pass	1♦*	1♠	3♣*
3♠	All Pass		

Three Clubs looks like a fit jump, but it did not inspire North.

Three spades drifted a couple down, -100, but England added another 11 IMPs to their total.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ 6 ♥ 10 7 4 2 ♦ 9 7 4 ♣ K 9 8 3 2	<table style="border: 1px solid green; background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K Q J 9 5 4 ♥ K 6 5 ♦ Q 6 3 ♣ 4 ♠ A 10 2 ♥ A Q J ♦ K 2 ♣ A Q 10 7 6 ♠ 8 7 3 ♥ 9 8 3 ♦ A J 10 8 5 ♣ J 5
N					
W E					
S					

Open Room

West <i>Wang</i>	North <i>Draper</i>	East <i>Sun</i>	South <i>Rosen</i>
1♦*	1♠	1♣*	Pass
Pass	Pass	Dble	2♠
3♣	All Pass	2NT	Pass

With a slam on with East as declarer, the Chinese stopped in a part score!

As an aside, South might have preferred Two Diamonds to Two Spades – sometimes that can help partner – but the



Heather Dhondy, England

English pair must have been delighted when declarer recorded +170.

Closed Room

West <i>Dhondy</i>	North <i>Wang</i>	East <i>Senior</i>	South <i>Liu</i>
3♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
		3NT	All Pass

South led the ten of diamonds and declarer won in hand, cashed the ace of clubs and followed it with the queen. With the heart king onside and the suit 3-3 there are eleven tricks, but declarer delayed the heart finesse and could only take ten, +430, and 6 IMPs.

Both sides missed a difficult chance on the last board of the set:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ J 9 3 ♥ A 9 6 5 4 2 ♦ K 7 4 ♣ 4	<table style="border: 1px solid green; background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A K 8 7 6 5 2 ♥ K J ♦ J 3 ♣ 9 8 ♠ 4 ♥ Q 7 ♦ 8 5 2 ♣ A K J 10 7 5 2 ♠ Q 10 ♥ 10 8 3 ♦ A Q 10 9 6 ♣ Q 6 3
N					
W E					
S					

Open Room

West <i>Wang</i>	North <i>Draper</i>	East <i>Sun</i>	South <i>Rosen</i>
Pass	1♠	2♣	2♦
2♥	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West <i>Dhondy</i>	North <i>Wang</i>	East <i>Senior</i>	South <i>Liu</i>
2♦*	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Both East's led the king of clubs.

What to do next?

The winning defence is to cash a second club, then either play a third club to kill the potential discard on the queen of clubs, or switch to a diamond.

However, both East's switched to the queen of hearts and there was no swing.

England had survived a few adventures to secure an early lead – and China would have to work hard if they were to stay in contention.

OPEN TEAMS FINAL - 1ST

Italy v England

A real donnybrook

by Brent Manley

Donnybrook is a district of Dublin, Ireland, and home to the Donnybrook Fair, where disorderly conduct (translation: fighting) was so common that the name became synonymous with a fracas or brawl.

Ireland did not make it to the final of the Open series, but the first set put up by Italy and England had many of the characteristics of a slugfest.

Italy jumped ahead on the first board when a feather-light opener by Justin Hackett led his brother, Jason, to a serious overbid in a competitive auction.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ J 10 7 6 5 2 ♥ A 6 ♦ A 9 6 ♣ 9 8	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A 8 3 ♥ 8 7 ♦ K Q J 7 5 ♣ 7 3 2
N					
W E					
S					
♠ K 9 ♥ 10 ♦ 10 8 4 3 2 ♣ K Q J 10 4	♠ Q 4 ♥ K Q J 9 5 4 3 2 ♦ — ♣ A 6 5				

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Justin H.</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Jason H.</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♥
2NT	Pass	5♦	6♥
All Pass			



Jason Hackett, England

It would have taken a monumental screw-up by the defense to let even 5♥ through, and the slam was quickly down two for minus 100. The auction was short and sweet at the other table, just what Italy needed.

West	North	East	South
<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Versace</i>
	Pass	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

It was a lot more difficult for Tom Townsend, West, to get involved when the bidding started at the four level, so England went quietly and Alfredo Versace took his eight hearts and two aces for plus 420 and 11 IMPs to Italy.

The Italians stole the pot on the next deal for another big gain.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A 6 5 ♥ K ♦ K 5 3 2 ♣ K 9 7 6 5	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K Q J 7 3 ♥ 10 6 4 ♦ Q 9 6 ♣ J 2
N					
W E					
S					
♠ 9 4 ♥ Q J 8 7 5 3 ♦ 8 7 ♣ A 8 4	♠ 10 8 2 ♥ A 9 2 ♦ A J 10 4 ♣ Q 10 3				

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Justin H.</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Jason H.</i>
		Pass	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Double-dummy defense could have led to two down, but the Hacketts did manage plus 50. It was still a big loss.

West	North	East	South
<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Versace</i>
		Pass	1♦
1♥	2♣	Dble	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Dble	5♣	All Pass	

Lorenzo Lauria ducked the opening lead of the ♠K and took the heart switch in hand with the king. He ran the ♣9 to West's ace and took the heart continuation in dummy, pitching a spade. He played a spade to the ace and another

club from hand, taking the jack with dummy's queen. The last trump was picked up and Lauria cashed the $\diamond K$ and played a diamond to dummy's jack, claiming when it held. Plus 600 was good for another 11 IMPs. Italy was ahead 22-0.

England picked up 2 IMPs when Tom Townsend made 3 \clubsuit in the open room while Jason went one down in 3 \diamond in the closed room.

The first haymaker landed by England was on the next deal.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

<p>\spadesuit Q 9 8 5 3 \heartsuit Q 9 \diamond A 9 8 7 \clubsuit Q 10</p>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> NE</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> WS</div> </div>	<p>\spadesuit A K 7 4 2 \heartsuit K J 8 7 \diamond Q 10 6 4 \clubsuit —</p>	<p>\spadesuit J 10 \heartsuit A 10 6 4 3 2 \diamond K J 3 \clubsuit J 7</p>
---	---	---	--

The auction was the same at both tables – and opening bid of 5 \clubsuit by West.

In the closed room, Justin started with the $\diamond A$, switching to the $\heartsuit 9$ a trick two. Nunes went up with the $\heartsuit K$, taken by South with the ace. Correctly diagnosing the situation, Jason cashed the $\diamond K$ for down one.

At the other table, Lauria also started with the $\diamond A$ and the $\heartsuit 9$ at trick two. Townsend also went up with the $\heartsuit K$. Versace, however, tried a second heart. Townsend ruffed and was home with plus 600, pitching his losing diamond on the $\spadesuit K$. That was 12 IMPs for England.

Another 6 IMPs went England's way on a routine INT that was made at one table and defeated at the other.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

<p>\spadesuit Q 8 \heartsuit 8 4 3 \diamond 10 8 7 5 \clubsuit A J 6 3</p>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> NE</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> WS</div> </div>	<p>\spadesuit A K 7 5 4 \heartsuit 7 5 2 \diamond J 6 \clubsuit Q 8 2</p>	<p>\spadesuit J 6 3 2 \heartsuit A Q 6 \diamond A K 3 \clubsuit 9 7 5</p>
---	---	--	--

West <i>Nunes</i>	North <i>Justin H.</i>	East <i>Fantoni</i>	South <i>Jason H.</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 \spadesuit
Pass	INT	All Pass	

Fulvio Fantoni started with the $\spadesuit 4$. Justin took West's $\spadesuit 9$ with the queen and played a diamond to the ace. He cashed the $\diamond K$ and played a third round. Claudio Nunes won the $\diamond Q$ and exited with the $\spadesuit 10$. Fantoni won the $\spadesuit A$ and switched to a heart, ducked by declarer and taken by West with the 9. Nunes got out with a diamond to declarer's 10, East and South pitching spades.

Justin then played a low club from hand and Fantoni erred by playing the queen. He cashed the $\spadesuit K$ and played a heart. Justin went up with the ace, took the club finesse and cashed the $\clubsuit A$, claiming eight tricks when the suit split 3-3.

West <i>Townsend</i>	North <i>Lauria</i>	East <i>Gold</i>	South <i>Versace</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 \clubsuit
Pass	1 \diamond	1 \spadesuit	Pass
Pass	INT	All Pass	

David Gold also led a spade, and Lauria duplicated Justin's play with three rounds of diamonds. Townsend took the $\diamond Q$ and returned a spade to his partner's king. Townsend won the heart continuation with the 9, but instead of exiting with a diamond, he played the $\clubsuit K$. Lauria won the $\clubsuit A$, cashed the $\diamond 10$, pitching dummy's $\heartsuit Q$, and played a low club from hand. The $\heartsuit A$ was declarer's last trick – one down and 6 IMPs to England, now trailing by only 2 IMPs. They took the lead on the next board.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

<p>\spadesuit 5 4 \heartsuit J 10 3 2 \diamond A J 10 6 \clubsuit Q 8 7</p>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> NE</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> WS</div> </div>	<p>\spadesuit 8 7 3 \heartsuit A K 7 6 \diamond K 7 \clubsuit A 9 5 4</p>	<p>\spadesuit A 9 6 2 \heartsuit Q 9 8 5 4 \diamond 8 5 4 \clubsuit 3</p>
--	---	--	--

West <i>Nunes</i>	North <i>Justin H.</i>	East <i>Fantoni</i>	South <i>Jason H.</i>
Dble	3 \spadesuit	INT	2 \diamond
4 \diamond	Pass	Pass	Dble
4 \heartsuit	Dble	All Pass	

Jason's 2 \diamond indicated possession of the spade suit, and Justin took advantage of the vulnerability to put pressure on the opponents. The double of 3 \spadesuit was East-West's last chance at a plus score, and when they ran from their 4-2 diamond fit to the 4-4 heart fit, declarer caught a 5-0 break.

Justin started with the $\spadesuit A$ and a spade to Jason's jack. Nunes ruffed the third round of spades and played the $\heartsuit J$, covered by the queen and ace. Declarer played a low club from dummy, won by Jason with the king. He gave his

brother a club ruff, and there was still a trump trick to come. Plus 500.

West <i>Townsend</i>	North <i>Lauria</i>	East <i>Gold</i>	South <i>Versace</i>
1♦*	Pass	1♣	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	Dble
3♣	Pass	3♥	All Pass

The defense started with three rounds of spades, the third ruffed in dummy. Gold ran the ♥J, not covered by Lauria, abandoning trumps when South showed out. Guided by Versace's takeout double, Gold played a club to his ace, following with the ♦K and a diamond to dummy's 10. He pitched a club on the ♦A and another club when he played the ♦J and Lauria ruffed in with the 8. Lauria was down to hearts and a spade at that point, so he got out with his spade, ruffed in dummy. Gold had his nine tricks for a well-earned plus 140 and 12 IMPs to England, now in the lead 32-22.

Italy regained the lead, however, on the next deal.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A K 8 4	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 7 2
N					
W E					
S					
♥ 10 6 3		♥ A K 7 4			
♦ J 10 3		♦ K 9 8 7			
♣ K 9 4	♣ A 10 5				
♠ 9 6 5 3					
♥ Q 8					
♦ Q 6 5 4					
♣ Q J 3					



Tom Townsend, England

West <i>Nunes</i>	North <i>Justin H.</i>	East <i>Fantoni</i>	South <i>Jason H.</i>
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Jason started with the ♣Q, presenting declarer with his ninth trick. Fantoni won the ♣A. Assuming he had three club tricks, Fantoni needed only two from diamonds to go with his four top tricks in the majors. Not willing to open himself to an attack in a major, he simply played a low diamond from hand at trick two. Jason ducked and his brother won the ace. The fate of the contract was revealed at the next trick when Justin played back a club: 10, jack, ace. Fantoni had only to play a diamond to the king and a diamond to score up plus 600.

West <i>Townsend</i>	North <i>Lauria</i>	East <i>Gold</i>	South <i>Versace</i>
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		Pass

Versace gave away nothing with his opening lead of a low spade. Declarer won in dummy and played the ♦J to South's king. Another spade went to declarer's ace. In with a second diamond, Lauria cashed the ♠10 and played a heart. Gold did the best he could by playing a diamond to dummy, then exiting with the ♠8, hoping South would have to break the club suit. All Versace had to do, however, was get out with his diamond and Gold was left a trick short. That was 12 IMPs to Italy, back on front 34-32.

It was 38-32 for Italy when this deal came along.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ K 9 8 2	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 10 7 5 4 3
N					
W E					
S					
♥ K J 10 5		♥ A 9 8			
♦ K 8 7 6 5		♦ 9			
♣ —	♣ A K 7 6				
♠ A Q 6					
♥ 7 6 4 3					
♦ J 4					
♣ J 8 5 4					
♠ J					
♥ Q 2					
♦ A Q 10 3 2					
♣ Q 10 9 3 2					

West <i>Nunes</i>	North <i>Justin H.</i>	East <i>Fantoni</i>	South <i>Jason H.</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	3♣*
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Fantoni tried the ♣A, but Justin ruffed and played a heart from hand. Fantoni studied the card briefly before rising with the ace and playing a spade. The two major-suit aces were it for the defense. Plus 600.

West <i>Townsend</i>	North <i>Lauria</i>	East <i>Gold</i>	South <i>Versace</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Dble	All Pass

The same two tricks were available to Gold and Townsend, who wrote minus 750 in their scorecards, a loss of 4 IMPs.

Two deals later, England came up with another big punch.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ K Q J 9 5 4											
♥ K 6 5											
♦ Q 6 3											
♣ 4											
♠ 6		♠ A 10 2									
♥ 10 7 4 2		♥ A Q J									
♦ 9 7 4		♦ K 2									
♣ K 9 8 3 2		♣ A Q 10 7 6									
	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ 8 7 3										
	♥ 9 8 3										
	♦ A J 10 8 5										
	♣ J 5										

West <i>Nunes</i>	North <i>Justin H.</i>	East <i>Fantoni</i>	South <i>Jason H.</i>
Pass	1♠	1♣	1♦
2♣	2♠	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Nunes didn't know about the big club fit because the bidding indicated only that Fantoni had a strong, balanced hand.

Fantoni started with the ♣A, continuing with the ♥A and ♥Q. Justin won the ♥K and played the ♠Q, ducked by Fantoni. He took the next high spade with the ace and cashed



Lorenzo Lauria, Italy

his ♥J, but that was it for the defense. Plus 140 to England.

West <i>Townsend</i>	North <i>Lauria</i>	East <i>Gold</i>	South <i>Versace</i>
		2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Versace led the ♦J to Gold's king. He played a club to the king and a heart to the jack, following with the ♣A, ♣Q and a club to dummy's 8. A second heart finesse followed, and when the suit proved to be 3-3, Gold had 11 tricks with five clubs, four hearts, a spade and a diamond for plus 460. The 12-IMP gain put England back on top 44-42.

Italy scored a big blow on the next deal to go back ahead, however.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ J 9 8 7 6 3											
♥ 5 2											
♦ 8											
♣ 10 8 6 4											
♠ 10		♠ A 5 2									
♥ 7 6		♥ K J 9 3									
♦ A 10 7 4 2		♦ Q 6 3									
♣ Q 7 5 3 2		♣ A J 9									
	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ K Q 4										
	♥ A Q 10 8 4										
	♦ K J 9 5										
	♣ K										

West <i>Nunes</i>	North <i>Justin H.</i>	East <i>Fantoni</i>	South <i>Jason H.</i>
Pass	Pass	Dble	1♥
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Jason led the ♥A, continuing with a low heart at trick two in hopes partner had some card that would help establish his suit. It was bad news when Fantoni won trick two with the ♥9, then played the ♣A, felling Jason's king. The ♦Q was next, ducked all around, and when Jason played the ♦K on the second round of the suit, Fantoni played low. Too late, Jason switched to the ♠K. Fantoni won the ♠A, played a diamond to dummy's 10 to finished with 10 tricks for plus 430.

West <i>Townsend</i>	North <i>Lauria</i>	East <i>Gold</i>	South <i>Versace</i>
			1♥
2NT	Pass	3♣	All Pass

With fits in both partner's suits and a strong holding in opener's suit, Gold's bid of 3♣ seems very conservative (some would take a shot at 3NT). Versace led the ♣K, but Gold did not have to strain to come to nine tricks for plus 110 – but a loss of 8 IMPs.

Italy had taken the first round 50-44.

SOLUTION

You will have few problems making twelve tricks unless clubs are 4-1 or the trumps are 5-0. In the former case you will have to ruff a club in dummy and you can only survive if West has four clubs and East has one or two trumps. The distribution you hope to survive is something like the one on this full deal:

<p>♠ 7 3 2 ♥ K 8 7 ♦ K J 3 ♣ J 8 6 2</p>	<p>♠ 8 5 ♥ 9 6 3 ♦ Q 10 8 6 4 2 ♣ 9 7</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%; text-align: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="border: none;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: none;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: none;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>♠ K Q J 10 9 6 4 ♥ 5 2 ♦ 9 7 5 ♣ 5</p>
N						
W E						
S						
	<p>♠ A ♥ A Q J 10 4 ♦ A ♣ A K Q 10 4 3</p>					

What you need to do is to draw two rounds of trumps before touching the club suit. If you play the ace and queen of trumps, West will take the latter with the king of trumps and play a third round of trumps to defeat the contract. So, after winning the ace of spades, you should play the queen of trumps at trick two. When this holds, you will cash the ace of trumps and then play the ace-king of clubs and ruff a club. After returning to hand with the ace of diamonds, you will knock out the king of trumps and claim the balance of the tricks. (Of course, if West took the queen of trumps with the king, you would ruff the spade continuation, draw a second round of trumps and play on clubs as before.)

After playing the queen of trumps at trick two and finding that trumps are 5-0, you will only make six hearts when clubs are 3-2. If West takes the queen of trumps with the king and plays a spade, you will ruff, cash the ace of diamonds and then run the clubs. At some point West will have to ruff and you will overruff with dummy's nine of trumps, draw the remaining trumps and claim twelve tricks. If West ducks the queen of trumps, you must abandon trumps. After cashing the ace of diamonds, you will neutralise West's fifth trump by ruffing the clubs. Inevitably, West must ruff one of the clubs with a low trump and you will overruff with the nine of trumps and then drive out the king of trumps; once West takes his king of trumps, you will have one more trump that he does and that will be enough to ensure your contract.

Today's Coverage

Final - 11.00

Italy - England (O)	VG
USA - Japan (S)	BBO2
Yeh Bros - Russia (Final - Transnational)	BBO3
China - England (W)	BBO4
Auken - A-Evertrust (Playoff - Transnational)	OurGames2

Final - 5th & 6th Sessions to be decided

Championship Diary

You would be amazed at the nonsense we think up from time to time. If an Italian player checks into his hotel and gets his room key presumably it must be a Roman Keycard?

If it won't open the door to his room does it become Exclusion Keycard?

England has excelled by reaching the final of both the Open & Women's Championship (plus the final of the U21 Championship). They have played well – and taken full advantage of being in the right half of the draw in both events.

Barry Rigal spotted that on the penultimate deal of their final RR match the Open team missed an easy slam. If their opponents (who were kind enough to stop in a part score) had matched that result (let alone bid the slam) then England would have swapped places in the draw with the USA and had to play Poland (and assuming they survived that encounter) Italy in order to reach the final.

The BBO commentary can often raise a smile.

David Bird, following the last set between England and Germany (where some desperate actions led to some remarkable penalties) observed that when it comes to bridge penalties there is a difference between a telephone number and a telephone directory! (The Germans had given up 4700 on four boards!)

Although its already ancient history, we might mention that Germany conceded their semi final to England half way through the final session. Their desperate attempts to recover the situation on the early boards had totally failed and one of their players was unwell.

More evidence of the outstanding hospitality offered by the local people was in evidence on Wednesday evening when two young Chinese girls offered up their subway seats with the words, 'We want you to enjoy your trip to China!'

OPEN TEAMS 5-FINAL - 5TH

Italy v Norway

Last gasp

by Brent Manley

With four sets completed in the semi-final match between Italy and Norway, the latter team found themselves in deep trouble, trailing 167-79. They would need a rally of huge proportions to have a chance at the Open series championship.

The Norwegians' hopes took a serious blow on the very first board of the fifth set.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

In the closed room, Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes bid the East-West cards to 6♠. The defense got the ♦A but that was all. Plus 980.

In the open room, Glenn Groetheim and Ulf Tundal had a long, complicated bidding sequence after Tundal (East) opened the bidding with 1♣ (strong). Somewhere along the way, a relay bid must have gone awry because the final contract ended up being 7♠ by East. Had Antonio Sementa (North) been on lead, he might have made the wrong choice – any lead but a diamond lets the contract make. Fortunately for Italy, Duboin was the first defender to play, and his choice was the ♦A. One down – 14 IMPs to Italy.

The margin had grown to more than 100 when board 4 arrived.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Groetheim	Sementa	Tundal	Duboin
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Sementa led the ♣5, ducked by Duboin. Groetheim won the ♣J and played the ♣Q at trick two. Duboin returned a club, but Groetheim discarded his losing spade. Sementa ruffed and returned a spade to his partner's ace. Groetheim ruffed and played a diamond to the jack. Declarer played the ♣K, pitching a diamond. Sementa ruffed again and exited with a diamond to dummy's ace. Groetheim ruffed a spade and ruffed a diamond in dummy. Duboin overruffed and played the 13th club. Groetheim discarded the ♦Q and Sementa took his third ruff. The defense still had a trump trick coming for one down.

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Helness	Fantoni	Helgemo
2♥	Pass	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

The 2♥ opener showed a limited opening bid. Geir Helgemo's balancing 2NT was a reasonable action that didn't work out. Nunes started with a low diamond, taken by Fantoni with the jack. Fantoni switched to the ♥8: king, 3, 5. Helgemo, tried a diamond to the 9, and Fantoni won the ace and continued hearts. Helgemo ended with six tricks for minus 200 – another 7 IMPs to Italy.

Norway finally broke through with a useful swing on board 8.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
Groetheim	Sementa	Tundal	Duboin
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Sementa led the ♠7, taken in hand by Groetheim with the jack. He played a spade to the ace and another spade. In with the ♠Q, Duboin tried the ♦K. It held, but without another diamond to play Duboin could only try a club. Groetheim won the ♣A and cleared the spade suit. He took four spades, three hearts and two clubs for plus 400.

At the other table, Fantoni and Nunes played in 4♠, and they could not avoid the loss of four tricks for minus 50 and 10 IMPs to Norway.

Another big swing came their way on board 12.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ Q 10 7 ♥ — ♦ Q 6 5 2 ♣ Q J 10 9 7 4		♠ K 8 2 ♥ K Q 9 8 7 6 5 ♦ J 3 ♣ 5	♠ 9 6 5 3 ♥ J 3 ♦ A 10 7 4 ♣ 8 6 2
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West	North	East	South
<i>Groetheim</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Tundal</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
1♣*	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

The lead of the ♣Q from Sementa was taken in dummy with the ace. Groetheim played the ♥K and a heart to his ace. Cashed the ♣K, pitching a diamond from dummy, then ruffed his third club and played a diamond. That gave him two chances for the contract. If South played the ♦A, the ♦K would provide a parking place for one of dummy's spades. If North had the ♦A, declarer could try to spade finesse.

At the other table, Fantoni and Nunes arrived in 6NT by West. With the ♦A in the right place for declarer, he should have taken 12 tricks. The play record is not available, so it

Indonesian Seniors say thanks

The Indonesian Senior team wishes to say thank you to PT Djarum, who sponsored the team to participate in the 1st World Mind Sports Games in Beijing.


Seniors meeting

All Senior players and officials are invited to a meeting Friday, Oct. 17, at 11:30 a.m. in the WBF Meeting Room on the fourth floor. The meeting is expected to last about one hour.

has to be assumed that he took the spade finesse instead of leading up to the ♦K.

That was 14 IMPs to Norway. Unfortunately, almost all of it went back to Italy on the next deal.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

♠ A J ♥ K Q 10 6 5 4 ♦ 6 3 ♣ 8 7 3

Fantoni and Nunes bid to 4♥, losing only three tricks for plus 620.

Helgemo and Helness reached a different game contract at the other table.

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Dble	Pass	1♠	3NT
All Pass			

Nunes started with a low club, and when the queen held, Helgemo ran the ♥9 to Nunes' jack. A second club knocked out the ace, and when Helgemo played a second heart, Nunes had three clubs and the ♦A to cash for two down and plus 200 – 13 IMPs to Italy.

Norway earned a non-vulnerable game swing late in the set, but when it was over, the score was 210-111 for Italy. With too much ground to make up, Norway conceded with a set to go.

Thanks from Australia

On behalf of the Australian Bridge Federation, the members of the six representative teams and officials attending the 1st World Mind Sports Games and myself personally, I would like to thank the World Bridge Federation, our hosts, the Chinese Contract Bridge Association and the Chinese Government, for their generous hospitality and making these World Championships a most enjoyable and memorable event for all of us.

It is hard to imagine what more could have been done by the organisers and officials. I congratulate them all on an outstanding achievement and event.

*David Stern,
Chef de Mission, Australia*

4th EUROPEAN OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS
 Sanremo, Italy
 12/27 June 2009

Logos: Italian Olympic Committee (Coni), FIGB, Comune di Sanremo, Regione Liguria, Provincia di Imperia, Sanremo Turismo.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY 12th

- 12.00/20.00 Mixed Teams Registration
- 20.00 Opening Ceremony

SATURDAY 13th

- 10.30 Mixed Teams Qualification

SUNDAY 14th

- 10.30 Mixed Teams Qualification
- 12.00/24.00 Mixed Pairs Registration

MONDAY 15th

- 08.30/10.00 Mixed Pairs Registration
- 10.00 Mixed Teams (16[^] Final - 8[^] Final)
- 10.30 Mixed Pairs Qualifying Session

TUESDAY 16th

- 10.30 Mixed Teams (4[^] Final - Semi-Final)
- 10.30 Mixed Pairs Qualifying Session

WEDNESDAY 17th

- 10.30 Mixed Teams Final
- 10.30 Mixed Pairs Semi-Final

THURSDAY 18th

- 10.30 Mixed Pairs Final
- 12.00/20.00 O/W/S Teams Registration
- 20.30 O/W/S Welcome & Mixed Prize-giving

FRIDAY 19th

- 10.00/18.00 O/W/S Teams Registration
- 20.00 Open, Women & Senior Teams Qualification

SATURDAY 20th

- 10.30 Open, Women & Senior Teams Qualification

SUNDAY 21st

- 10.30 Open, Women & Senior Teams Qualification
- 12.00/20.00 O/W/S Pairs Registration

MONDAY 22nd

- 08.30/10.00 O/W/S Pairs Registration
- 10.00 Open Teams (16[^] Final - 8[^] Final)
- 10.30 O/W/S Pairs Qualification

TUESDAY 23rd

- 10.30 O/W/S Teams (4[^] Final - Semi-Final)
- 10.30 O/W/S Pairs Qualification

WEDNESDAY 24th

- 10.30 O/W/S Teams Final
- 10.30 O/W/S Pairs Semi-Final
- 20.30 O/W/S Teams Prize-giving

THURSDAY 25th

- 10.30 O/W/S Pairs Semi-Final

FRIDAY 26th

- 10.30 O/W/S Pairs Final

SATURDAY 27th

- 10.30 O/W/S Pairs Final
- 20.30 O/W/S Pairs Prize-Giving & Closing

4th EUROPEAN OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

PALAFIORI SANREMO - ITALY 12th-27th June 2009

The prices are in Euro and have to be intended per person per day for people staying at least 5 nights. For a shorter stay a 5% supplement will be added. Additional 3rd bed: up to 35%.

ENTRY FEES

To be paid in cash (Euros and US Dollars) or by Credit Card at the Tournament Reception and Registration Desk at the venue:

- Mixed Teams 800 Euros
- Mixed Pairs 270 Euros
- Open, Women & Senior Teams 950 Euros
- Open, Women & Senior Pairs 400 Euros

The entries are calculated on the basis of approximately 20 Euro per person per qualifying session (and Semi-Final in pairs). There is no extra cost for players reaching the Pairs Finals or the KO phase of the Team events. Players from the Finals of the Teams can drop into the Final of the Pairs event of the same category free of charge.

A 25% reduction on the entry fees will be recognized to all the players entering the four events. A personalized identification badge will certify this agreement.

AWARDS

European Bridge League Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals will be awarded. The winners in each category will receive the title of European Open Champions. Honour prizes will be presented to the best ranking pairs and teams in each category. WBF and EBL Master Points will also be awarded.

CHAMPIONS' PRIZES

The Teams and Pairs winning the European title in Sanremo will be hosted by the EBL at the 5th European Open Championship to be held in 2011 for one week (the winners of the Mixed events will be invited to the Mixed playing week, the winners of the Open / Women's and Seniors events will be invited to the O/W/S playing week) with free entry and B&B Hotel accommodation in a double room.

CASH PRIZES

	OPEN	WOMEN	SENIOR
1 st	4000	2500	2500
2 nd	2000	1500	1500
3 rd	1250	1000	1000
4 th	1000	750	750
5 th	750	500	500
6 th to 10 th	500	400	400
11 th to 15 th	400		6 th to 10 th

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact:
 Marina Madia - EBL Secretariat
 Via Ciro Menotti 11/C
 20129 Milano - Italy
 Tel. +39 02 7000 0022
 Fax +39 02 7000 1398
 E-mail: eb@federbridge.it

RIGHT OF ENTRY

Bridge players from all WBF zones are entitled to participate, provided they are a) members of and b) in good standing with their Federation. All events will be TRANSNATIONAL and there will be no restrictions on the number of entries per NBO.

REGISTRATION

All entries to the Championships tournaments must be submitted electronically, (not by e-mail) starting from 1st November 2008 at

<http://www.eurobridge.org/competitions/09Sanremo/Information.htm>

through the EBL Web-site by 20 April 2009. All entries will be automatically forwarded to the NBO of the applicant, and are subject to their approval. Applications submitted after the deadline of 20 April 2009 will be accepted only if technically convenient. Withdrawals of accepted entries must be acknowledged by e-mail to the EBL (eb@federbridge.it) by the same deadline, to avoid payment of the entry fee.

HOW TO REACH SANREMO

- By plane: • Nice (France) International Airport (shuttle to Sanremo)
 By car: • From Italy: Motorway A 7 - Motorway A 26 exit Arma di Taggia - Sanremo
 • From France: Autoroute du Soleil - Motorway A 26 exit Sanremo
 By train: • Sanremo Railway Station

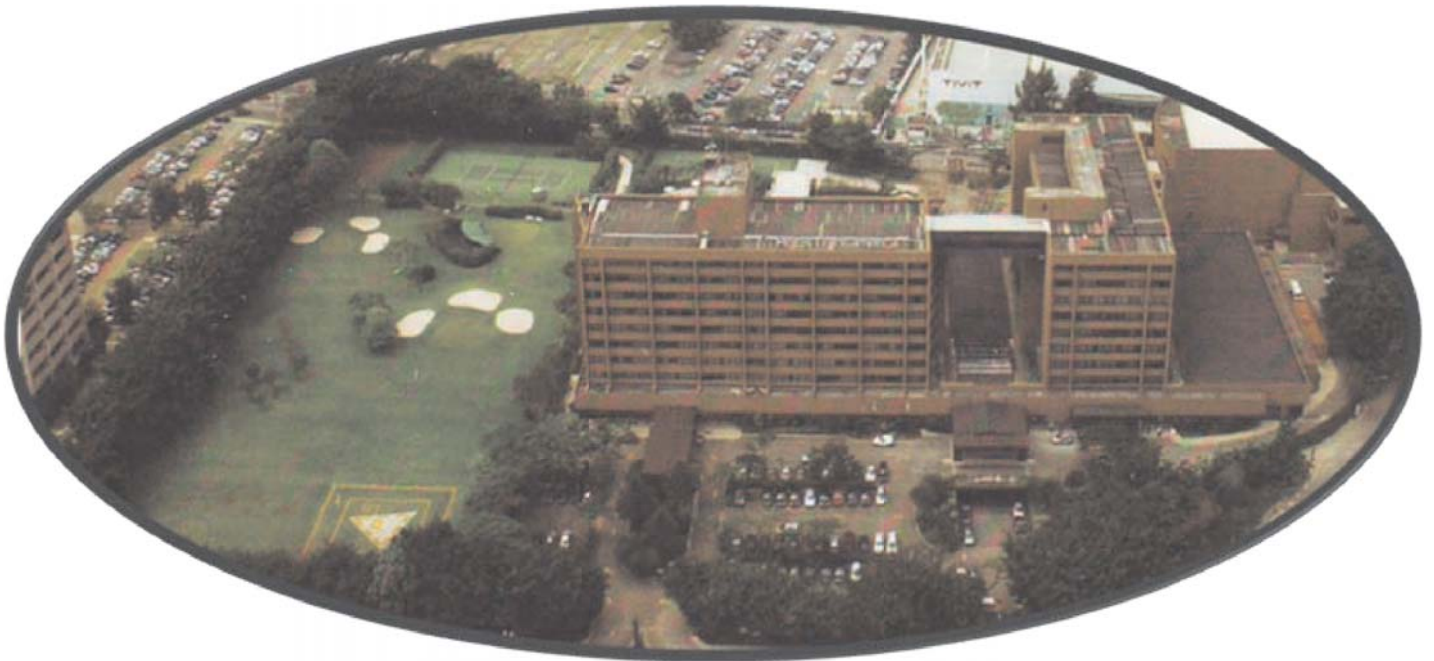
HOTEL ACCOMMODATION - BOOKING

Please contact: Sanremo Promotion S.p.A.
 Tel.: 0039.0184.591600
 Fax: 0039.0184.547563
booking.bridge@sanremopromotion.com
www.sanremopromotion.com

HOTEL RATES PER NIGHT

	Double B&B	Duis B&B	H.B. (+)
Hotel Royal (5 Stars De Luxe)	161 Junior suite 307 Suite 375	255	60
Other Hotels			
• 4 Stars Superior	78	120	25
• 4 Stars Standard	67	94	24
• 3 Stars Superior	67	94	24
• 3 Stars Standard	54	79	20
• 2 Stars	41	64	18
• 1 Star (room only)	30	33 (single)	==

Looking forward to São Paulo and the 2009 World Team Championships



The 39th World Team Championships, incorporating the Bermuda Bowl, the Venice Cup, the Senior Bowl and the World Transnational Open Teams will be held from 29 August – 13 September in São Paulo, Brazil. As normal, the Transnational Teams will be held in the second week.

The World Transnational Open Teams is one of the most enjoyable of the WBF Championships. It gives participants the opportunity to play bridge against some of the world's great players while at the same time being able to appreciate all the atmosphere and excitement of the closing stages of what many believe to be the toughest of all the World Championship events, the Bermuda Bowl. We hope that as many teams as possible will visit Brazil to enjoy playing in this excellent Championship.

The Headquarters and playing area will be at the 5-star Hotel Transamerica and accommodation will also be available at a second Hotel – Transamerica Flat (seven minutes from the HQ). Shuttles will be provided on a regular basis between the two hotels. Information about both hotels can be found at www.transamerica.com.br.

The hotels are located near the best shopping area of São Paulo and also close to an important business center. In the area, there are six different shopping malls and many restaurants of different types and price ranges. There will be a scheduled shuttle service between the hotel and the shopping area.

The Hotel Transamerica has free Internet in all rooms (Ethernet or wi-fi) and in public spaces (wi-fi); there is one "Cyber Point" (six computers) for free use of the guests. The hotel also offers a three-hole practice golf course, tennis courts, soccer field for teams of eight, fitness and health center, heated pool, snooker tables, etc.

There are two restaurants and one bar; the bar remains open every night, until the last client is ready for bed! Sandwiches and snacks are served at the bar at all times, and there will be cash bars in the playing area.

Accommodation in the Hotel Transamerica is approximately US \$180 per room per night, single or double occupancy, buffet breakfast included; three nights' deposit will be required and a minor penalty will be charged in case of early check-out. All reservations will be managed directly by the hotel or by the organizing committee.

The second hotel, Transamerica Flat costs approximately US\$110 per room per night, single or double occupancy, breakfast included; the same booking conditions apply (an additional 25% will be charged for a third bed in the room).