



World Bridge Games

Daily Bulletin

Beijing / China



3rd -18th October 2008

Co-Ordinator: Jean-Paul Meyer, Chief Editor: Brent Manley, Layout Editor: George Hatzidakis, WebEditor: Akis Kanaris, Photographer: Ron Tacchi, Editors: Phillip Alder, Mark Horton, Barry Rigal

Bulletin 14 - Saturday, 18 October 2008

PHOTO FINISHES

Two incredibly close matches that left spectators breathless ended in triumph for England and Japan, new champions in the Women's and Seniors series, respectively.

England, leading China 190-143 with 16 boards to go, survived a huge rally in the final set. England lost 10 IMPs on the final deal by letting a no-play 3NT make, but they prevailed 223-222. (continued on page 13.)



Italy, Gold Medal, Open Teams



England, Gold Medal, Women's Teams



Japan, Gold Medal, Senior Teams



Yeh Bros, Gold Medal, Transnational Mixed Teams





England, Silver Medal, Open Teams



Norway, Bronze Medal, Open Teams



China, Silver Medal, Women's Teams

Because of technical problems, there is no photo of USA, the bronze medal winners in the Women's series.



USA, Silver Medal, Senior Teams



Indonesia, Bronze Medal, Senior Teams



Russia, Silver Medal, Transnational Mixed Teams



A-Evertrust, Bronze Medal, Transnational Mixed Teams

OPEN TEAMS RESULTS - Final

Match	Ist-3rd Session	4th Session	5th Session	6th Session	Total
I Italy England	123 - 78	17 - 42	28 - 13	32 - 37	200 -170

WOMEN TEAMS RESULTS - Final

Match	Ist-3rd Session	4th Session	5th Session	6th Session	Total
I China England	58 -141	66 - 19	19 - 30	79 - 22	222 -223

SENIOR TEAMS RESULTS - Final

Match	Ist-3rd Session	4th Session	5th Session	6th Session	Total
I USA Japan	124 - 81	12 - 44	12 - 44	52 - 33	200 -202

TRANSNATIONAL RESULTS - Final

Match	Ist Session	2nd Session	3rd Session	Total
I Russia Yeh Bros	12 - 34	27 - 31	30 - 36	69 -101
I A- Evertrust Auken	28 - 28	32 - 16		60 - 44

A quick correction

This was the last-but-one board in Phillip Alder's report on the women's semi-final match between China and the United States.

Board 91. Dealer North. None vul.

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

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

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

East's three-spade cue-bid asked for West to bid three notrump with a spade stopper. East was supposed to have a solid minor suit. And South's double asked North not to lead a spade.

A team effort



Another world championship has come and gone, and another set of Daily Bulletins has been produced through the combined efforts of a team of professionals.

My thanks go to Mark Horton and Phillip Alder, who worked tirelessly and expertly to cover the bridge play. Barry

Rigal also chipped in when his duties as Vu-Graph commentator allowed. Ron Tacchi took dozens of great photos.

George Hatzidakis did excellent layout work with the mountain of prose thrown his way each day, and Akis Kananis managed the Internet version of the Daily Bulletin with skill.

Harvey Fox was not an official member of the Daily Bulletin team, but he helped immensely with proof-reading and suggestions on many occasions.

Thanks also to our coordinator, Jean-Paul Meyer, for his support and guidance, and to the WBF, principally President José Damiani, for giving us the chance to do this interesting work while enjoying the excitement of the tournament.

Brent Manley, Chief Editor

Another truly great Championship!

by Jose Damiani

Our delightful Chinese hosts have welcomed us with open arms and have provided us with two superb venues, warm hospitality and an event that we will always remember.

You will, I know, wish to join me in thanking the Chinese Contract Bridge Association under the leadership of their President, Mr. Xiang Huaicheng, and with the able assistance of my dear friends, Chen Zelan and Fan Guang Sheng, for all they have done to ensure the undoubted success of these Championships. I would also like to thank Mr Liu Peng, Minister of the General Administration of Sport of China, Mr Guo Jinlong, the Mayor of Beijing, as well as Mr Liu Siming, Director General of the Board and Card Games Administrative Center of the General Administration of Sport of China, and, too, all their respective teams without whose support we would not have been able to organize these World Bridge Championships within 1st World Mind Sports Games.

We have been fortunate indeed to have had the wonderful sponsorship offered by Air China, Shanghai GM and not forgetting Generali, which has been a most generous sponsor of bridge for many years. Our sincere appreciation goes, too, to all our other sponsors for their support.

You will all, I am sure, recognise the enormous amount of work involved in the organisation of our Bridge Championships; the technology involved, the hospitality – there are so many aspects, many of them unseen by you, the players. There are many staff who have worked long and hard throughout this fortnight, in every field and I am very pleased to have the chance to thank them all personally through the medium of this Bulletin.

The Hospitality Team – Odile Beineix, Michèle Meyer and Livia Saibante at CNCC and Barbara Nudelman and Venetia Georganta at BICC.

The Bulletin Team, with its co-ordinator Jean-Paul Meyer and Editor Brent Manley, Mark Horton, Barry Rigal, Phillip Alder, photographer Ron Tacchi, Layout Editor George Hatzidakis, and Web Editor Akis Kanaris, while Brian Senior was Chief Editor of the Youth Organization ably assisted by editors Micke Melander and Jan van Cleeff, Layout Editor Panagiotis Papadopoulos and photographer Wattanai Chanakot. Jos Jacobs was Chief

Editor of the 1st WMSG.

Our line-up team were Irena and Janek Chodorowski while Chris Diment manned the Systems Desk.

Scoring and Results – Tomas Brenning, Carl Ragnarsson, Gianluca Barrese, and Andreas Winge.

The Internet vu-graph broadcasts were provided by Bridge Base On-Line.

The Press Room was ably overseen by Jan Swaan. Antoine Auer was responsible for contact with the media.

Behind the scenes on the technical side, Harvey Fox co-ordinated the IT, keeping the computers linked and the Internet alive. Aggelos Mallios and Yannis Issaris ran the technical side at the BICC. Christine Francin, Anna Gudge and Carol von Linstow worked within the WBF with the assistance of Laurene Wolff.

In the Vu-Graph, there was the Bridge Vision Team headed by Hervé Lustman, with Quentin Robert and Lea Robert and the Vu-Graph team, led by Bernard Delange, with Bernadette Pasquier and Isabelle Barrière. Vu Graph at the BICC was provided by Gianni

Baldi assisted by Chicco Battistone.

Fulvio Colizzi organized the equipment, while the duplication team of Monica Gorreri, Vanessa Allodi, David Chu, Franco Costa and Hélène Vivier dealt the many thousands of boards needed for the event. A big thank you to Per and Britt Jannersten for lending us some of the machines. The team of caddies who distributed the boards amongst you so efficiently, was led by Albert and Yvette Ohana. Terry and Lesley Collier together with Bo-Lennart Grahs were responsible for the duplication of boards for all the Youth events at the BICC.

The TMS at the BICC was run by Fotis Skoularikis, assisted by Yankos Papakyriakopoulos and Marc van Beijsterveldt.

The excellent Vu-Graph Commentators, who kept you so well entertained were Barry Rigal, David Stern, Julien Gaviard, PO Sundelin and Patrick Huang, with their co-ordinator Jean-Paul Meyer at the CNCC. The commentators at the BICC were Guido Ferraro and Hans Werge.

The World Bridge Federation is fortunate to have a very experienced team of Tournament Directors, led by



its Chief, Max Bavin, Assistant Chief TDs, Antonio Riccardi and Sol Weinstein together with Rick Beye, Christian Bordonneau, Gustavo Chekiak, Anthony Ching, Sanda Enciu, Bernard Gignoux, Ishan Qadir, Laurie Kelso, Jeanne van den Meiracker, Magdy Mesdary, Sean Mullamphy, Jean-Louis Pennec and Matt Smith at the CNCC, while the BICC team was lead by Richard Grenside, Assistant Chiefs Pierre Collaros, Eitan Levy and Guillermo Poplawsky, together with Rahmi Iyilikci, Mathew McManus and Matthias Schuller.

We also have to thank the Appeals Committee, under the able Chairmanship of Joan Gerard: Jens Auken, Richard Colker, Ernesto d'Orsi, Ton Kooijman, Jean-Paul Meyer, Dan Morse, Jeffrey Polisner, George Retek, William Schoder, Brian Senior and John Wignall, for their work. A special mention, too, for Grattan Endicott, the co-ordinator, and to Patrick Jourdain, who was Chairman of the Youth Appeals Committee.

Maurizio Di Sacco did an excellent job of overseeing the entire operation with care and skill, working tirelessly throughout the event ably assisted by Duccio Geronimi and Manolo Eminenti. We are fortunate indeed to have such a professional and dedicated team. Dimitri Ballas was in charge of the operations at the BICC while the main office at the BICC was under the management of Gianni Bertotto and Thomas Schøenveldt.

A big thank you, also, to Jean-Claude Beineix who was always on hand wherever he was needed and facilitated many aspects of the event. One other person who deserves a special mention is Panos Gerontopoulos, to whom the success of the Youth events is mostly due. Panos has worked for many years on the WBF Youth programmes and I believe that these 1st World Mind Sports Games with the special participation of all the young players is the culmination of all his efforts.

The bridge at the Championships has been – as we have come to expect from all of you – of a very high standard, with many close matches giving us plenty of excitement as we have watched in the excellent auditorium; I have been impressed as always with your ethics, deportment and sportsmanships and the spirit that you bring to our great sport.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the winners and the medallists.

But I do not forget those amongst you who do not come up to the podium – you too are winners for taking part in a great Championship, and I thank you all for joining us here in Beijing.

For the future, we have what I am sure will be a fantastic championship in São Paulo to look forward to and I hope that those of you who do not qualify for the Bermuda Bowl or Venice Cup will come to play in the Transnational Open Teams, which is sure to be well attended and great fun, so that you can be with us.

Thank you all for your attention – and we hope to see you next year in São Paulo!

A top-notch tournament

by David Stern

One of my passions as a bridge player is to attend great bridge tournaments around the world. Apart from the obvious bridge delights, the opportunity of visiting places like Santiago, Yokohama, Monte Carlo, Estoril, Istanbul, Shanghai, Jakarta, Hong Kong and others and spend two weeks there is something quite memorable.

The one tournament that has eluded me thus far is the Yeh Cup. This tournament comprises 24 invited teams. Consider that in 2008:

- The top three finishers at the 2007 world championships were invited with substantial subsidy.

- The top three finishers at Zone 1 (Europe), Zone 2 (North America) and Zone 6 (Pacific Asia) championships were invited without subsidy. Only national teams with at least four original players are qualified under this criterion.

- Other teams may apply for an entry on payment of US\$10,000. This money increases the prize pool.

To give you an idea of who plays in the event, see if you know some of these names: Norberto Bocchi, Georgio Duboin, Geir Helgemo, Cezary Balicki, Adam Zmudzinski, Eric Kokish, Frerik Nystrom, Peter Bertheau, Benito Garozzo, Alfredo Versace, Hugh McGann, Tom Hanlon, Patrick Huang.

The prize money is not insignificant, being the result of a substantial sponsorship by Mr Yeh Chen, who entirely sponsors the event.

- Main event 1st \$US70,000 2nd \$US30,000
3rd \$US10,000 4th \$US5,000
- Swiss Teams 1st \$US6,000 2nd \$US4,000
3rd \$US2,000
- Open Pairs 1st \$US20,000 2nd \$10,000
3rd \$US2,500 4th \$US1,500
- Consolation events total prize pool \$US3,600

Mr Yeh founded a furniture manufacturing company with his brother and these days his children are part of the company, which has offices all over the world.

Nine years ago after a serious health problem, Mr. Yeh decided that it was time to go back to his university passion: bridge. The best way to do that and to play at the highest level was to find a suitable partner, and Patrick Huang has proved to be the ideal match. Having done that, he wanted to play bridge against the best, and to provide a tournament to show off the talents of the bridge players of Chinese Taipei. To that end, he set up the Yeh Cup Tournament.

Thank you

The Open team of Georgia would like to thank the WBF and the Chinese Organizing Committee for the 1st World Mind Sports Games. The team also thanks their sponsor, VD Group, who made their participation in the WMSG possible.

WOMEN TEAMS FINAL - 2ND

China v England

England Accelerate

by Mark Horton

As the second session unwound England continued to dominate the play. They looked much the sharper of the two teams – as you may judge for yourselves from what follows.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Senior	Sun	Dhondy
Pass	1♦	Dble	1♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠*	Pass	4♥*
All Pass			6♣

When South showed a powerful hand with her jump to game North went in search of a slam. A couple of cue bids later they were there. That was an easy +920.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	Zhang	Smith	Gu
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♣*
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	Pass	4♥
All Pass		Pass	5♦

The Precision start led to what was essentially an identical auction, but this time South was unwilling to bid beyond game, +420 losing 11 IMPs.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Senior	Sun	Dhondy
1♠	Dble	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Dble	All Pass

North's solo flight to the five level was... shall we say remarkable.

East cashed the king of diamonds and followed it with the ace, West following with the nine and then a helpful eight. East switched to the six of spades and West won with the king and cashed the queen of diamonds. She had only to cash the ace of spades and then play a club to ensure +1100, but she switched to her singleton club. Declarer went up with the ace, drew trumps and exited with a spade, forcing West to concede a ruff and discard. -800 was no triumph, but I wonder who felt worse, N/S or E/W?



Heather Dhondy, England

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Gu</i>
1♠	2♥	3♥*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

There were no heroics at this table, declarer taking the obvious eleven tricks, +450 representing a loss of 8 IMPs.

One of the many attributes a good pair needs is the ability to put a bad result out of their minds. England's players all possess this essential element.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
All Pass	2♥	Pass	6♥

One of the simplest rules is to support partner if you have four cards in their suit. Once North did that South knew where she wanted to be. That was +1010.



Yalan Zhang, China

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Gu</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

On a different day I would not have been too surprised to see the Chinese pair bid these hands to Seven Hearts – but for the moment at least the spark they had shown in the semi-final was missing.

Two Hearts was Kokish and Three Clubs confirmed a big heart/club two suiter.

When South bid Three Spades North ought to bid Four Diamonds – when she didn't South, no doubt reluctantly, settled for game and lost 11 IMPs.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
2♣*	3NT	All Pass	1♦*
			INT

2♣ Majors

West led the six of spades (a Marston-style heart lead is one way to trouble declarer) and East won and returned the suit. Declarer won and played three rounds of diamonds. East won and was helpless – there was no way to reach the West hand. She tried the ace of hearts and then switched to a club but declarer claimed the rest, +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Gu</i>
Pass	2♣*	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2♥

The opening lead was the same, but this time East astutely switched to the four of clubs, a much more testing de-

fence, attacking dummy's entry to the diamond suit. Declarer tried three rounds of diamonds and East won and switched to a spade. Declarer won, cashed the ace of clubs and rather than try a heart to the ten, exited with a low club. East won, played back a club and in due course the defenders took two heart tricks to defeat the contract by a trick and earn 12 IMPs.

After the club switch declarer needs to adopt a different approach. She can cash the king of diamonds but must then take a top club and extract East's exit card by cashing the king of spades. Then two rounds of diamonds put East on play, and she is endplayed in two suits.

You know from the opening bid that East must have the ace of hearts. You get to see West's jack of clubs – and she must have at least one spade honour. Surely that indicates that the jack of hearts is with the opening bidder. Playing on diamonds relies on West having the jack of hearts – and declarer did not even try for that.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Wang</i>	North <i>Senior</i>	East <i>Sun</i>	South <i>Dhondy</i>
			Pass
2♣	2♦	2♥	2♠
2NT	3♦	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

South led her diamond and declarer won and tried the king of clubs. When North impassively played the six she ruffed and exited with a diamond.

North had two ways to beat the contract, either by playing two rounds of hearts to stop a diamond ruff, or by switching to the jack of spades – South ducking and later giving her partner a spade ruff.

North did play a trump – but it was the five. Now declarer could organize a diamond ruff and with the jack of spades well placed she was home, +420.

Closed Room

West <i>Brock</i>	North <i>Zhang</i>	East <i>Smith</i>	South <i>Gu</i>
			2♠
2NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Two Spades promised a major+minor weak two-suiter, and when South led the ten of diamonds declarer ducked. North won and returned the suit, so the contract was down almost immediately. –50 gave China 10 badly needed IMPs.

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Wang</i>	North <i>Senior</i>	East <i>Sun</i>	South <i>Dhondy</i>
			Pass
INT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North followed the oft repeated (at least by me) maxim of the late Barry Crane, 'When God deals you AK of a suit it's so you don't have a lead problem', and tabled the ace of hearts. That was a swift +50.

Closed Room

West <i>Brock</i>	North <i>Zhang</i>	East <i>Smith</i>	South <i>Gu</i>
			Pass
INT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Here North led the two of spades and declarer won in hand with the ten, cashed the king and took two more spades via the finesse, South discarding a couple of hearts.

Declarer now played on diamonds, the fall of the jack giving her the nine tricks she needed, +400 and 10 IMPs for England.

England now led 87-44, and although there were still a lot of boards left the signs for China were ominous.

Japanese thanks

We, the Japan Senior, Open, Women and Youth U28 teams, would like to express our gratitude to the WBF, IMSA and the Chinese Organizing Committee, for giving us the wonderful opportunity to join in the memorable 1st World Mind Sports Games.

Our special thanks go to Hakubunsha, Angel Playing Card Inc., Osaka Shogyo University and Cosmo Engineering Co., who supported not only bridge but the whole WMSG Team Japan. Thank you, everyone.

Japan Contract Bridge League

WOMEN TEAMS FINAL - 3RD

China v England

England's Charge Continues

by Mark Horton

Any hopes of a Chinese comeback in the third session were dispelled as England piled up the IMPs in the middle of the set.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ A Q 8 2		♠ 9 7 3									
♥ A K 5		♥ J 10 7 4 2									
♦ A 9 4		♦ 8									
♣ Q 10 9		♣ A J 4 2									
♠ 4											
♥ Q 9 3											
♦ K Q J 10 3											
♣ K 8 7 3											
	<table border="1" style="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 J 10 6 5											
♥ 8 6											
♦ 7 6 5 2											
♣ 6 5											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Wang</i>
2♦	1♣*	1♥	Pass
Pass	3♥	All Pass	2♠

Disaster struck at this table when South passed her partner's cue bid. The only remotely good thing was that there was no game available on the North/South cards.

East led her singleton diamond and declarer was in a hopeless position, finishing five down, -500.



Yi Qian Liu, China

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Brock</i>
2♦	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
	4♠	All Pass	

Four Spades had to go one down but England added another 9 IMPs to their tally.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 4		♠ A 7 2									
♥ K 10 9 6		♥ 4 3 2									
♦ A 10 5		♦ K J 9 2									
♣ K 9 7 5		♣ A 10 2									
♠ Q J											
♥ J 8 7 5											
♦ 7 6 4 3											
♣ J 6 3											
	<table border="1" style="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 10 8 6 5 3											
♥ A Q											
♦ Q 8											
♣ Q 8 4											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Wang</i>
Pass	INT	1♣	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2♠

East led the two of diamonds, which ran to declarer's ten. A spade to the king was followed by another spade, West winning with the queen and playing back a diamond. East won with the king and exited with the nine of diamonds. Declarer won, played a heart to the queen and led a spade, East winning and cashing out for one down, +50.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Brock</i>
Pass	INT	1♦*	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♠

West found the unfortunate lead of a club and that was basically that as far as the defenders' hopes were concerned. East took the ace and tried a diamond, but declarer

er put up her queen, went to dummy with a diamond and played a spade to the eight. East won with the jack and switched to a heart, but declarer won with dummy's king and played a spade to the king, claiming when the queen appeared, +420 and 10 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Wang</i>
Pass	Pass	4♥	Dble
All Pass			

What was North thinking when she passed her partner's double? Declarer wrapped up eleven tricks, +690.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Brock</i>
Pass	Pass	4♥	Dble
Pass	4♠	5♦	5♠
6♥	Dble	All Pass	

With her huge two-suiter East came again, and South showed excellent judgement by going on to Five Spades. West did the best she could for her side – Five Spades is cold – by going on to Six Hearts. It was one down, doubled -100 and 13 IMPs more for England.

That was good bidding all round.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Wang</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West led the queen of diamonds and East won and switched to the ace of hearts. When East encouraged she played another heart and West won and gave her partner a ruff, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Brock</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West led the queen of diamonds and East won and... returned a diamond. That was -620, 12 IMPs to an England team who at the half way mark, looked almost certain winners.

Farewell and thanks from BBO

All good things must come to an end. It has been a privilege to watch the world's best players in action, from afar (7,300 km in my case) and yet so close through the internet and Bridge Base Online.

Some years ago many predicted that bridge would never become a spectator sport. That was before the Internet, but things have changed dramatically and the "experts" have been proven wrong. Over the past couple of weeks BBO has accommodated around 350 tables. We broadcast all 39 sessions with roughly 475,000 spectators in total.

Although the hours have been awkward for most people in Europe, Africa, South and North America, we managed to recruit 127 commentators from 31 nations, providing commentary in English, French, Spanish, Polish, Turkish, Norwegian, Danish, Japanese, Indonesian and Chinese.

Spectators and commentators alike, we all had a great time. Our gratitude to the World Bridge Federation and Chinese Contract Bridge Association for ensuring that this inaugural event was brought to the whole world through BBO and inviting us to participate.

Many congratulations to the winners and other medalists, and our commiserations to those who were less lucky. No matter where you finished, you have all contributed to this tremendous success.

And now it is time to get some sleep!

*Roland Wald, Denmark,
Vugraph Coordinator, Bridge Base Online*

WOMEN TEAMS FINAL - 4TH **China v England**

China's Counter Attack
by Mark Horton

A new day – and for China the fourth set of the final brought them renewed hope as they finally started to get onto the scoreboard in a significant way.

However, the first deal of the day did nothing to suggest that China was about to launch a comeback:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Wang</i>
	4♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

East decided to sit for the double and right she was (I am tempted to add as usual, but that may sound partisan). She led the eight of hearts and West played three rounds of the suit. When declarer ruffed with the nine of clubs East discarded a spade. East won the club exit with the king and played another spade (cashing the ace of diamonds first is better, but not easy to find). West won and played a fourth heart. Declarer should have discarded her diamond on this to escape for three down, but she ruffed high and exited with a trump. West won and played a spade, and East, who had discarded a spade on the fourth heart, ruffed and cashed the ace of diamonds, down four, +800.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Liu</i>	<i>Draper</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Rosen</i>
	4♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

We saw the same start of three rounds of hearts, but when declarer ruffed high, East discarded a diamond. Declarer exited with a club and West won with the ace and can ensure four down with a diamond or a trump. When

she played a heart declarer disposed of her losing diamond and was three down, - 500 as England added 7 IMPs.

With England's lead up to 90 IMPs the outlook for China looked bleak – but the wind was about to change.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Wang</i>
			1♣*
Pass	1♦*	Pass	1♠*
Pass	2♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Declarer ruffed the lead of the king of clubs and played a spade to the nine. When that held she played a diamond to the queen and then went back to spades. West won and played a club, but declarer ruffed, cashed the ace of diamonds and went back to spades, claiming eleven tricks, +400.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Liu</i>	<i>Draper</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Rosen</i>
			1♠
Pass	INT*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

West led a club and declarer ruffed, cashed the ace of diamonds and then attacked spades. West won at once and switched to a heart. Declarer put up dummy's ace, ruffed a club, played a spade to the nine and ruffed dummy's last club. Now she played the queen of spades, but when she ruffed it the contract died. East took the jack of diamonds on the next trick and fired back the queen of hearts, locking declarer in her hand. There was no way to prevent East

scoring a trick with the nine of diamonds. Down one, -50, 10 IMPs for China.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Brock</i>	North <i>Sun</i>	East <i>Smith</i>	South <i>Wang</i>
	1♣*	Pass	1♠*
Pass	2♣*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

China produced a sound auction, quickly agreeing a trump suit and eventually playing there. There was no spade ruff, so that was +1370.

Closed Room

West <i>Liu</i>	North <i>Draper</i>	East <i>Wang</i>	South <i>Rosen</i>
	1♣*	1♥	1♠
3♥*	Dble	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

That emaciated overcall allowed East/West to crowd the auction – and that was enough to deter North/South. They were +680 but lost 12 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Brock</i>	North <i>Sun</i>	East <i>Smith</i>	South <i>Wang</i>
1♣*	Pass	3♣	Dble
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

That West hand is not much of an opening bid – but you may notice that 3NT can be made with the E/W cards.

Three Spades was one down more or less whatever the defenders did – in practice East cashed the king of clubs and then played a low one and declarer had to lose five tricks, -50.

Closed Room

West <i>Liu</i>	North <i>Draper</i>	East <i>Wang</i>	South <i>Rosen</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣*	Dble
3NT	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

3NT would probably have made, so in a sense declarer was saving a couple of points provided she could escape for two down. (A spade lead to the ace and a low spade back would have tested declarer, but North would probably have started with the ace of diamonds, giving the game away as to the location of the missing spade honours.)

East cashed the ace of clubs and switched to the six of hearts for the jack and queen. West exited with a diamond and declarer went up with the ace, crossed to the ace of spades, and fatally cashed the king. Now when she exited with a heart West could win and draw a third round of trumps before playing a club.

There was nothing declarer could do to avoid three down, -500 and that gave China another 10 IMPs.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Brock</i>	North <i>Sun</i>	East <i>Smith</i>	South <i>Wang</i>
		Pass	INT
2♠*	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Four Hearts was not difficult – declarer was soon writing

down +480.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Liu	Draper	Wang	Rosen
1♠	2♦*	Pass	1♦
Pass	5♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass		Pass	6NT

West led the jack of clubs and declarer won in hand with the king. Six diamond tricks would be enough to bring home the bacon and she crossed to dummy with a diamond and played another one. She had seen West's ten on the first round, and rather than get involved in some long-winded discussion about possible false cards, relevance of the obviously thin overcall, etc, suffice it to say that declarer went up with the king – and could not recover. She got the heart right, but that was only enough for eleven tricks. China were +50 and added another 11 IMPs.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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



Wenfei Wang, China

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Brock	Sun	Smith	Wang
Dble	Rdble*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	Pass	Dble*	2♠
3♦	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	5NT*	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Once West took immediate action over South's Multi it was only a question of whether they would stop short of a grand slam – and notice that Seven Diamonds makes.

East was able to discover that her partner had ♥A ♦AK but no side kings and was happy to settle for the small slam. Declarer made all the tricks, +940.

By the way, neither pair in the Open got beyond game.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Liu	Draper	Wang	Rosen
Pass	Pass	Dble	3♠
			All Pass

Rightly or wrongly West was attracted by the vulnerability and the hope of a large penalty. She started off with her top diamonds and declarer ruffed and played a spade. East won and played a diamond and declarer ruffed, drew trumps and played a club to the jack and queen. East switched to the king of hearts and a heart and declarer ruffed the third round of the suit and played a club.

West, who had played the nine of clubs on the first round of the suit followed with the three and declarer had a guess – she opted for the king – unlucky – down three, -800 – but the excellent result from the other room delivered 4 IMPs to England's cause.

England were still the clear favourites, but by winning the set 66-19 China had put themselves in with a fighting chance.

(continued from page 1.) In the Seniors, Japan led by 21 IMPs with a set to go but had to come from behind. Down 10 IMPs with two deals to play, the Japanese collected 800 from 3♦ doubled in one room against 400 (3NT) in the other room for 9 IMPs. On the final deal, the contract was 4♠ by South at both tables. The American declarer went three down, opening the door for Japan. When the Japanese declarer went one down, the team had a 3-IMP gain and a gold medal with a 202-200 victory.

In the Open series, Italy defeated England 200-170. In the World Transnational Mixed Teams, Yeh Bros prevailed over Russia 101-69.

The Senior Teams Final I-3

by Phillip Alder

The Japanese team of Hiroya Abe, Makoto Hirata, Masayuki Ino, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Kyoko Ohno and Akihiko Yamada started the Senior final as underdogs against the United States team of Reese Milner, Grant Baze, Russ Ekeblad, Matthew Granovetter, Billy Eisenberg and Sam Lev.

At the beginning, form meant nothing, with Japan jumping out of the starting stalls into an early lead.

Board 2. Dealer East. North-South vul.

♠ 9 4 ♥ Q J 8 7 5 3 ♦ 8 7 ♣ A 8 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; 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 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						
W E						
S						

West <i>Abe</i>	North <i>Lev</i>	East <i>Ino</i>	South <i>Eisenberg</i>
		Pass	Pass
2♦ ^(a)	Pass	3♥ ^(b)	All Pass

- (a) Weak two in either major.
- (b) Pass or correct.

West <i>Granovetter</i>	North <i>Yamada</i>	East <i>Ekeblad</i>	South <i>Ohno</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT ^(a)	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(a) 11+-14.

Lev understandably did not balance when three hearts came back to him. The defense against three hearts was nearly perfect. Eisenberg led a trump, and Lev shifted to a diamond. North-South took two diamond tricks, then switched to clubs, declarer ducking the first trick. Eisenberg now played the heart ace and another heart to stop the club ruff. Declarer took the trick in the dummy and called for the spade king. If North had ducked this, the contract would have been down three, losing one spade, two hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. But North took the first spade, letting West out for down two.

Not that it mattered 1 IMP. Granovetter could not open with a weak two in hearts, and Yamada had no worries about opening one notrump with a singleton king.

Declarer took the second spade and played a club to South's ten, West taking the ace. After that, North got

everything right to win 11 tricks and gain 11 IMPs. Two deals later:

Board 4. Dealer West. Both vul.

♠ 6 ♥ 5 ♦ 5 2 ♣ A K 9 8 6 5 4 3 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; 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	♠ 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						
W E						
S						

West <i>Abe</i>	North <i>Lev</i>	East <i>Ino</i>	South <i>Eisenberg</i>
5♣	All Pass		

West <i>Granovetter</i>	North <i>Yamada</i>	East <i>Ekeblad</i>	South <i>Ohno</i>
4♣	All Pass		

Against five clubs, North led the diamond ace: four, three, five. North, not knowing who had the diamond two and wondering if declarer had to be put immediately to a heart guess, shifted to the heart nine. Declarer put up dummy's king, and South won with his ace. Now South misguessed, returning a heart.



Hiroya Abe, Japan

Against four clubs, North led a spade, so declarer took 11 tricks.

Plus 600 and minus 150 gave Japan 10 IMPs and the lead by 15.

But the rest of the session was 54-7 to the United States. As dealer with only your side vulnerable, you hold:

♠ 8 7 3
♥ A K 7 6
♦ K 7
♣ A 9 5 4

The bidding starts like this:

West	North	East	South
		<i>You</i>	
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Dble
Pass	2♠	??	

Do you pass or compete to three hearts?

This is a dangerous situation because South should have something like 4=1=4=4 or 4=0=5=4 distribution. The hearts are breaking badly. Ekeblad wisely passed, conceding 140. Ino bid three hearts, which Lev was happy to double and collect 500.

Then there was this bidding exercise that both pairs failed:

Board 8. Dealer West. None vul.

♠ K Q J 10 6 5
♥ J 10 5
♦ K 5
♣ A J

♠ 8 7 2
♥ A K Q 8 7 3
♦ 8 4 2
♣ 9

♠ 4 3
♥ 9 4 2
♦ Q 10 9 7 3
♣ Q 8 5

♠ A 9
♥ 6
♦ A J 6
♣ K 10 7 6 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Abe</i>	<i>Lev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Eisenberg</i>
2♦ ^(a)	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♠

All Pass

(a) Weak two in either major.

West	North	East	South
<i>Granovetter</i>	<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Ekeblad</i>	<i>Ohno</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
2♥	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	6♣

All Pass

Six spades is the best contract and easy to make as the cards lie.

In six clubs, though, Ohno had to guess the trump suit. Do you know the odds?

A priori, you should play out the ace and king. But if you think West has five hearts and East four, the odds have become exactly equal between playing for the drop and taking a second-round finesse through East. And if you place West with six hearts, the percentages now favor finessing through East.

What did Ohno do? He took the ace and king to go down one and lose 11 IMPs instead of gaining 10.

A few deals later, Lev and Eisenberg outbid their opponents.

Board 12. Dealer West. North-South vul.

♠ K 9 8 2
♥ K J 10 5
♦ K 8 7 6 5
♣ —

♠ A Q 6
♥ 7 6 4 3
♦ J 4
♣ 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

West	North	East	South
<i>Abe</i>	<i>Lev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Eisenberg</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	



Sam Lev, USA

West	North	East	South
<i>Granovetter</i>	<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Ekeblad</i>	<i>Ohno</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♠
Dble	Pass	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

It is funny how one side can open the bidding and not get to game, when the other pair balances and does reach game.

Obviously, taking 11 tricks did not tax either declarer, and the United States gained 10 IMPs.

The final big swing came on the last deal of the set, which was another defensive problem.

Board 16. Dealer West. East-West vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Abe</i>	<i>Lev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Eisenberg</i>
2♦ ^(a)	2♠	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(a) Weak two in either major.

West	North	East	South
<i>Granovetter</i>	<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Ekeblad</i>	<i>Ohno</i>
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Both Easts led the club ace. Each pair was using normal signals, so the Easts knew that partner had started with a singleton club.

Ekeblad cashed the club king, then played another club, letting West ruff away dummy's winner. Now, with the diamond finesse losing, the contract had no chance.

Ino, on the other hand, shifted at trick two to the heart queen: three, ace, king. West returned a heart, declarer drew trumps, played a diamond to dummy's ace, and discarded his second diamond on the heart ten. Lev lost only one heart and two clubs, the United States gaining 10 IMPs and leading by 60-28.

For the second session, the Japanese stayed with the same lineup. The United States brought in Grant Baze and Reese Milner to replace Eisenberg and Lev.

On the third board, Japan gained 14 IMPs when Milner overruled his partner, the Blackwood bidder. Milner corrected the laydown six diamonds to six notrump, which had only 11 tricks after East led the heart king. Baze must

take some of the blame because he could have bid six clubs, the agreed suit, which was also cold.

They made amends a few deals later:

Board 26. Dealer East. Both vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Abe</i>	<i>Baze</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Milner</i>
		Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Granovetter</i>	<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Ekeblad</i>	<i>Ohno</i>
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the open room, Abe guessed to lead the diamond jack. Milner won with his king, played a diamond to dummy's ace, and conceded a diamond to East. Back came a club, declarer winning in the dummy and cashing three of his four diamond tricks. Now came a heart and there was nothing East could do.

At the other table, Granovetter found the killing heart lead, Ekeblad covering dummy's ten with his jack. Declarer lost one trick in the play hoping for some luck in clubs and went down two.

Plus 630 and plus 200 gave the United States 13 IMPs. The next deal was déjà vu.

Board 27. Dealer South. None vul.

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

	♠ A 9 8 7 3	
	♥ 8 3	
	♦ 10	
	♣ A 9 8 5 3	

West <i>Abe</i>	North <i>Baze</i>	East <i>Ino</i>	South <i>Milner</i>
INT 4♥	Pass All Pass	4♦	Pass Pass
West <i>Granovetter</i>	North <i>Yamada</i>	East <i>Ekeblad</i>	South <i>Ohno</i>
INT	3♦	4♥	All Pass

West <i>Abe</i>	North <i>Lev</i>	East <i>Ino</i>	South <i>Eisenberg</i>
3♣ All Pass	3♠	Pass 5♣	Pass Dble

Baze sat back, hoping to defeat three notrump, but Ino used a Texas transfer to reach four hearts.

Baze led the diamond king. Declarer, trying to keep control, ducked. North led another diamond, which his partner ruffed. Milner cashed his spade ace, and the heart ace came later.

Ohno led her diamond ten. Ekeblad won with dummy's ace and played another diamond to North, South discarding the spade six. North could have shifted to trumps, but he switched to the spade jack, which was also good enough if either South had ducked or won and returned a trump. Ohno did the latter, but for some mysterious reason, North ducked his heart ace. This permitted declarer to ruff his diamond loser in the dummy and concede only one spade, one heart and one diamond.

Plus 50 and plus 420 was another 10 IMPs to the United States.

The rest of that set was quiet. It ended with the United States ahead by 93-57.

For the third session, Eisenberg and Lev came back in for Baze and Milner. The Japanese retained the same lineup.

The Japanese scored 24 IMPs from four swings, but gave back 22 IMPs in two reverses. For example:

Board 34. Dealer East. North-South vul.

		♠ A 10 9 8 5 4	
		♥ Q 8 5	
		♦ A J	
		♣ 8 7	
♠ Q J 3			♠ 6 2
♥ 3			♥ K 10 6 2
♦ 7 5 4			♦ K 10 6 2
♣ A Q J 9 3 2			♣ K 10 4
		♠ K 7	
		♥ A J 9 7 4	
		♦ Q 9 8 3	
		♣ 6 5	
West <i>Granovetter</i>	North <i>Yamada</i>	East <i>Ekeblad</i>	South <i>Ohno</i>
2♣ ^(a)	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	Dble ^(b)	Redbl
All Pass		Pass	3♥

- (a) 10-16 points, 6-plus clubs or 5-plus spades and 4-plus clubs.
- (b) Inquiry.

Against three hearts, Granovetter led a diamond, Ekeblad winning with his king and shifting to a club. West took two tricks in that suit before returning a diamond. Ohno played a spade to her king, followed by a heart to dummy's queen. East won with the king and played back a heart, declarer winning with her jack to give this position:

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

Now declarer mistimed the play. She cashed the diamond queen, played a spade to dummy's ace, and ruffed a spade. But this allowed East to discard his last diamond, after which he had to score his heart ten for down one.

In the diagrammed position, South should have played a spade to dummy's ace and ruffed a spade in her hand. If East discards the club king, South cashes her diamond queen, ruffs the diamond, and leads a card for a trump coup. And if East pitches a diamond, declarer ruffs a dia-



Kyoko Ohno, Japan


mond and leads a winning spade. If East ruffs, South over-ruffs, draws the last trump, and takes the final trick with his diamond queen. Or, if East discards, so does South and again has a trump coup.

At the other table, when Ino jumped to five clubs, hoping it would be a good sacrifice against a vulnerable spade game, Eisenberg had no choice but to double.

The defense was accurate, collecting two spades, one heart and two diamonds for down three.

Plus 100 and plus 500 was worth 12 IMPs to the Americans. Here are two bidding gains for Japan.

Board 27. Dealer South. None vul.

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


West <i>Granovetter</i>	North <i>Yamada</i>	East <i>Ekeblad</i>	South <i>Ohno</i>
			Pass
1♦ ^(a)	1♠	2NT	All Pass

(a) 10-16 points, 0-plus diamonds.

West <i>Abe</i>	North <i>Lev</i>	East <i>Ino</i>	South <i>Eisenberg</i>
			Pass
1♣	1♠	3NT	All Pass

Of course, some days three notrump would go down, but this was not one of them and Japan pocketed 7 IMPs.

Board 28. Dealer West. North-South vul.

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

West <i>Granovetter</i>	North <i>Yamada</i>	East <i>Ekeblad</i>	South <i>Ohno</i>
INT	2♣ ^(a)	2♠ ^(b)	Pass
3♣ ^(c)	All Pass		

- (a) Any one-suiter.
- (b) Transfer to clubs.
- (c) Not fond of clubs

West <i>Abe</i>	North <i>Lev</i>	East <i>Ino</i>	South <i>Eisenberg</i>
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Granovetter took 12 tricks, losing one diamond trick. Lev sat back and his opponents did end in three notrump. He happily led the heart king and continued the suit, Abe winning the third trick. Declarer ran his club jack, then played a club to dummy's ace, thinking that if North had his actual hand, he would bid, and that South had ducked the king. West recovered by playing a diamond to his queen, cashing the diamond ace, and throwing South in with a diamond. Eisenberg shifted to the spade jack, but declarer ran it to dummy's queen to get home.

Minus 170 and plus 400 gave Japan another 6 IMPs. The session ended with the United States ahead by 124-81 with 48 boards to go.

Thanks to the staff

Taking into account the long week of preparation before the start, the staff members have been working very hard in the last three weeks, often around the clock, in order to offer the best possible service to the players, and to make their experience here truly enjoyable.

I leave to you to decide whether we have achieved our goal. As for me, I want to thank the group as a whole for the high level of professionalism and the constant application demonstrated.

Special thanks go to the fantastic group of Chinese officials and volunteers, all of them always smiling, friendly, fully available.

Last but not least, thanks to the Chinese Contract Bridge Federation for the continuous help and support.

I met here many people I didn't know before, and I have now many great friends.

As for China, I publicly admitted last year that I fell in love with this country and its great people, so much so that I took lessons in Chinese. Even though I was maybe not so successful, the attempt has had the advantage of giving my Chinese friends great fun whenever they heard me trying to emit unlikely sounds.

However, whether I spoke my poor Chinese, or any other language, including the well-known Italian gesturing, wherever I went I felt warmth, friendship and a sense of hospitality. Everybody here in China is ready to help the foreigners and to give them all possible support.

We shall look forward for coming back soon, and sharing more great and entertaining moments with our Chinese friends, as well as hoping to meet them all over the world; they will be always as welcome as we were here.

Xie xie, zai jian.


Maurizio De Sacco, Operations Director

USA – Japan Seniors final Set 4

by Brent Manley

The Americans started the day with a 43-IMP lead against their Japanese opponents in the fourth of six sets in the Seniors series final. By the time 16 boards had been played, the margin had shrunk to 11 IMPs. Japan's rally started with the first deal.


Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West <i>Milner</i>	North <i>Yamada</i>	East <i>Baze</i>	South <i>Ohno</i>
3♣	Pass	Pass	
Dble	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Kyoko Ohno started with the ♠K, ducked by Grant Baze. A low spade was continued, and when Baze inserted dummy's 10, losing to the jack. He could still have made the contract from there, but he drifted one off (the play record was not complete). The auction from the other room was not recorded, but Masayuki Ino played 3NT from the East seat. Matt Granovetter led the ♦K, taken by Ino with the ace. He returned a diamond at trick two, won by Granovetter, who then switched to the ♠9: 10, jack 2. Russ Ekeblad played a second round of spades and Granovetter falsecarded with the king. Ino won the ace and promoted dummy's ♠7 to a winner by playing a third round to his 8 and Granovetter's queen. Ino played a heart to the ace, cashed the ♠7 and played the ♣A and a club to the king. On the second round of clubs, Granovetter was squeezed in the red suits and Ino had an overtrick for plus 430 and 11 IMPs. USA got 6 IMPs back two deals later when Ekeblad and Granovetter outbid their opponents.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

♠ K Q J 10 4
♥ K J 6 4
♦ A Q 7 4
♣ —

West <i>Milner</i>	North <i>Yamada</i>	East <i>Baze</i>	South <i>Ohno</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	1♠
All Pass			2♥

When Ohno showed her second suit, Akihiko Yamada thought that was high enough. Reese Milner led his singleton diamond. Baze declined to cover the jack. Ohno played the ♠9 at trick two, taken by Milner with the ace. He played a club to Baze's king, ruffed by declarer, who cashed the ♠K and the ♠J, pitching a club from dummy. She continued with the ♠Q, pitching another club. Baze ruffed and played the ♣5, which held (declarer discarding a diamond from dummy). Baze played a diamond for Milner to ruff. The club exit was ruffed in dummy. Declarer cashed the ♥A and played a diamond to his ace, ruffed by Milner. Declarer had the ♥K J left for the last two tricks. Plus 140. Granovetter and Ekeblad had a much more successful auction.


West <i>Abe</i>	North <i>Ekeblad</i>	East <i>Ino</i>	South <i>Granovetter</i>
			1♣*
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Ino started with the ♣A, ruffed in dummy. Ekeblad played a low spade from dummy at trick two, and Hiroya Abe rose with the ace to tap dummy again with a club. Ekeblad played a heart to the ace and took the diamond finesse. When he cashed the ♦A and Abe discarded, Ekeblad claimed for the loss of a diamond and a spade. Plus 400 was good for 6 IMPs to the Americans.

Japan tacked on 8 IMPs when Ekeblad and Granovetter overbid to 4♥, going two down for minus 200 while Yamada and Ohno stopped in 2♥ and made nine tricks.

On board 8, USA was in danger of another loss, but Granovetter and Ekeblad cooperated on a nice defense to earn 2 IMPs for their side.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West <i>Milner</i>	North <i>Yamada</i>	East <i>Baze</i>	South <i>Ohno</i>
Pass	Pass	3♣	Dble
4♣	4♠	All Pass	

Baze cashed the ♣A at trick one and switched to the ♥6. Milner won the 10, cashed the ace and gave Baze a heart ruff. Milner still had a trump trick coming, so USA scored plus 100.

At the other table, West was playing the contract in 3NT.

West	North	East	South
Abe	Ekeblad	Ino	Granovetter
1♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Ekeblad started with a low spade. Granovetter won the king and switched to a low heart. There would have been no story if Abe had inserted the 10, but he played the queen. He was up to eight tricks, and he inferred correctly that Granovetter had the ♠A, so he led a club to dummy and a spade toward his queen. Granovetter went in with the ♠A and made the excellent switch to the ♦J, covered by Abe with the queen. Ekeblad won the ♦K and made the great play of a low diamond from his ace, putting Abe to the guess. He guessed wrong, inserting dummy's 8. Granovetter took the ♦9 and returned a diamond to Ekeblad's ace for one down. That was a well-earned 4 IMPs for USA.

On board 12, Granovetter fell for a sneaky play by Ino.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Milner	Yamada	Baze	Ohno
1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠
Dble*	2♠	3♣	All Pass

Milner could not avoid the loss of three diamonds and a heart and a club for one down. At the other table, Ino played in 3♥, which should have gone three down.

West	North	East	South
Abe	Ekeblad	Ino	Granovetter
1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠
INT	2♠	3♣	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

Abe didn't like his club holding, so he put the burden of making a three-level contract on his partner.

Granovetter led the ♦Q, covered by the king and ace, and two more diamonds left Granovetter on play. He exited with a low spade, taken by declarer with dummy's ace. Rather than playing on his anemic heart holding, Ino attempted to score some low trumps. He played the ♠J, covered by the queen, and ruffed, then played a club from hand to dummy's king, ruffing another spade when the ♣K held. Ino next played the ♣J. Granovetter examined the card at length, finally ducking. He won the next club with

the ace and could only play the ♥A and another heart for two down. Had he covered the ♣J with the ace, it would have been three down for plus 150. It was only 1 IMP, but the way the match was going, every one counted.

The Japanese team completed a good set on the next to last board with a second double-digit swing.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Milner	Yamada	Baze	Ohno
Pass	Pass	Dble	3♠
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Milner had two chances to get to the proper level, the first being when Baze balanced with a double, forcing to the four level. Milner's bid of 4♦ did not come close to describing his opening hand. The second chance was when Baze raised him to 5♦. The bid of 5♦ must have indicated a very strong hand, considering Milner might have been very weak for his bid of 4♦. There was nothing to the play and Milner soon was scoring plus 440.

Granovetter made it easier for his opponents to exchange information at the other table.

West	North	East	South
Abe	Ekeblad	Ino	Granovetter
Dble	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Abe's double of 2♠ was aggressive, but he did have an opener. Had Granovetter started the bidding one level higher, it would have been a real stretch for Abe to take the same action. In any case, once Abe showed a sign of life, there was no stopping Ino unless he found that his side was off two aces. That was plus 940 and 11 IMPs to Japan, now trailing only 136-125.

Thank you

On behalf of the journalists, I would like to thank the Chinese Contract Bridge Association, the WBF and sponsors for the facilities offered in the Press Room during the 1st World Mind Sports Games in Beijing.

Jan Swaan, Press Room manager