



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 10 - Tuesday, 14 October 2008

HARD KNOCKS IN BEIJING



The WBF Meeting of Congress earlier in the tournament. See page 10 for minutes of the meeting.

Reality set in for the Cinderella team from Romania, as the four-man squad was dispatched with relative ease by England in the Open series. The Romanians weren't the only losers, of course. Eleven other teams were sent to the sidelines in the quarterfinal rounds of the Open, Women's and Seniors.

The German women seemed unstoppable in the round robin and then blasted Brazil in the round of 16. In their quarterfinal match with China, the Germans trailed by only 2 IMPs going into the last set, but were trounced over the final 16 boards 48-2 to exit the event.

The USA women were in a nail-biter with Denmark until they pulled away over the last few boards.

Two days of semi-final play begin today. The key matches look to be Italy-Norway in the Open and China-USA in the Women's.



Today's Schedule

- 11.00** Open - Women - Senior Teams, S-Final, 1st Session
- 14.20** Open - Women - Senior Teams, S-Final, 2nd Session
- 17.10** Open - Women - Senior Teams, S-Final, 3rd Session

10.30 - 20.00
Transnational Mixed Teams,
Swiss Matches 8-12



OPEN TEAMS RESULTS - Q-Final

Match		1st-3rd Session	4th Session	5th Session	6th Session	Total
1 Poland	Italy	69 - 106	38 - 23	33 - 49	33 - 32	173 - 210
2 China	Norway	63 - 102	37 - 33	28 - 31	31 - 50	159 - 214
3 England	Romania	106 - 62	54 - 41	47 - 22	60 - 21	267 - 146
4 Germany	Netherlands	101 - 95	72 - 15	27 - 47	17 - 39	217 - 196

WOMEN TEAMS RESULTS - Q-Final

Match		1st-3rd Session	4th Session	5th Session	6th Session	Total
1 Germany	China	88 - 66	24 - 40	36 - 44	2 - 48	150 - 198
2 Denmark	USA	82 - 98	40 - 26	17 - 40	37 - 36	176 - 200
3 England	France	97 - 53	35 - 26	28 - 26	29 - 38	189 - 143
4 Turkey	Russia	88 - 73	25 - 24	45 - 40	11 - 27	169 - 164

SENIOR TEAMS RESULTS - Q-Final

Match		1st-3rd Session	4th Session	5th Session	6th Session	Total
1 Hungary	USA	92 - 119	34 - 33	46 - 39	26 - 31	198 - 222
2 Egypt	Australia	106 - 86	29 - 17	9 - 34	28 - 29	172 - 166
3 Indonesia	Netherlands	81 - 98	46 - 31	61 - 17	29 - 13	217 - 159
4 England	Japan	52 - 104	22 - 35	21 - 60		95 - 199

TRANSNATIONAL MIXED TEAMS - AFTER 7 SESSIONS

1	BEIJING HUAYUAN	150	WELLWISE	116	N3Z	106	TEAM SECURE	93
2	YEH BROS	137	31 DONGFENG	115	60 SENI-BRIDGE	104	89 HAIGUANZONGSHU	92.5
3	A - EVERTRUST	136	SEE FAH THAI/ENG	115	SHANGHAI PUDONGPUFA	104	90 BALDURSSON	92
	ZIMMERMAN	136	33 ATMU	114	SHANXI GUOMAO	104	QINGHAI	92
5	INDONESIA A	131	JIANGSU	114	TOPBRIDGE	104	92 PTT	91
6	MAHAFFEY	130	35 EST28	113	64 GREEPAK	103	93 HUANHE	89
7	KYRIAKIDOU	129.5	INDIAN ACES	113	NEW SLOVAKIA	103	HUBEI - FED	89
8	GOLDBERG	129	RIKI	113	66 SHANXI LANXI	102	95 HEILONJIANG	88
9	SHENZHEN WOMEN'S	128	XMG	113	67 GOODMAN	101	96 HESEN FUND	87
10	HERBST	127	39 CHENGDULIAOZHI	112	HUBEI	101	TRUMP QUEEN	87
11	BEIJING HENGSHA	126	CHINA WESTERN VIP	112	INDONESIA B	101	98 GLOBAL FABTECH	86
12	ARCOVEN	124	CONNACHT-LEINSTER	112	70 SAGUENAY	100	NEW STAR	86
13	BROWN	123	HUBEIZHUJIANG	112	SUNG KYUNG HAE	100	TIANJIN TEAM	86
14	LATVIA	122	JILIN	112	WARE	100	101 XUZHOU INSTITUTE	85
	TISLEVOLL	122	44 B - EVERTRUST	111	73 KAKASI	99	102 BEIJING LAWYER	83
16	NORAUT	121	CHAGAS	111	NANIWADA	99	DIAMONDS	83
	RUSSIA	121	46 NEWTON	110	ROSSARD	99	104 MA STEEL	82
	VITAS	121	47 BEIJING BAXY LY	109	TIANJIN FUTURE TEAM	99	105 LIAONING	81
19	CHINA KANG JIAN	119	CLEARY	109	77 SHENZHEN QIAOYOU	98	106 KARUS	79
	GUANGDONG CHINA	119	KYOKO	109	78 A TEAM	97	LEE	79
	HANLON	119	PIRET	109	79 BEIJING BEIDIK	96	108 NANJING INSTITUTE	76
	HAPPY BRIDGE	119	S RIMSTEDT	109	EURO-PAK	96	109 BEIJING INST.OF CIV.ENG	72
	ZOBU	119	52 NANFANGDIANWANG	108	81 ONI	95	WELSH DRAGONS	72
24	HUA AN SECURITIES	118	53 JACKSON	107	82 BEIJING RED BULL	94	111 TIANJIN NORMAL	69
	SHORT	118	SHANGHAI THINKBRIDGE	107	GOWER	94	112 TEAM PURSUIT	68
26	HEBEI	117	55 BEIJING ALLEYS	106	KOSK	94	113 JAMAICA	65
	TRINERGY	117	BLACK SEA	106	85 ERIK	93	114 URU-VEN	62
28	FOS	116	HANGZHOU	106	GEOLIT	93	115 SHANGHAI WUSONG	61
	JINYING	116	MTK	106	PEKING UNIVERSITY	93	116 EBER	15

WOMEN TEAMS ROUND OF 8 - 2ND

China v Germany

by Phillip Alder

After the first 16 boards of this match between the local heroines and a German team that had been on cruise control, China led by 4 IMPs. I watched the battle between two top pairs, Sun Ming and Wang Hongli playing East-West against Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim.

In the Closed Room, Zhang Yalan and Gu Ling took on Ingrid Gromann and Pony Nehmert.

To start, an opening-lead problem. Sitting North with neither side vulnerable, you hold:

♠ 10 3
♥ 10 9 8 4 2
♦ Q 10
♣ 8 7 6 2

West	North	East	South
		1♦	Pass
2NT ^(a)	Pass	3NT	All Pass

(a) Balanced game-force

What is your poison?

The session was very quiet, with only 41 IMPs changing hands. The Chinese lead did not survive the first deal.

Board 17. Dealer North. None vul.

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

N	
W	E
S	

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

West	North	East	South
Wang	Auken	Sun	von Arnim
	Pass	1NT ^(a)	3♦
3NT	All Pass		

(a) 14-16 points.

West	North	East	South
Nehmert	Zhang	Gromann	Gu
	Pass	1♣	1♦
1♠	Pass	2♣	2♦
3♣	All Pass		

In the Open Room, Wang must have wanted to double three diamonds for penalty. (It can be taken down three, minus 500, if West gets a heart ruff.) But double must have been negative because Wang almost immediately respond-

ed three notrump.

This contract was no joy ride. South led the diamond queen, asking partner to throw the jack if she had it. Declarer took the trick in the dummy and started well by calling for the club jack, which was covered by the king, ace and eight. But then East tried a heart. South shot in with her ace and cashed her diamonds. Then South exited with the heart nine to dummy's king. Now declarer ran the club nine. South won with the ten and took the heart jack for down four.

The natural sequence in the other room reached a desirable spot. And declarer did as well as possible, winning ten tricks.

Plus 200 and plus 130 gave Germany 8 IMPs and the lead by 4.

Only 2 IMPs changed hands, both to Germany, on the next four boards. Then came:

Board 22. Dealer East. East-West vul.

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

N	
W	E
S	

♠ Q 7 5 4	♠ Q 7 5 4
♥ A 9	♥ A 9
♦ —	♦ —
♣ Q 7 6 5 4 3 2	♣ Q 7 6 5 4 3 2



Ingrid Gromann, Germany

West <i>Wang</i>	North <i>Auken</i>	East <i>Sun</i>	South <i>von Arnim</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦ ^(a)	Pass	1♥	3♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(a) 11-15 points with at least zero diamonds!

West <i>Nehmert</i>	North <i>Zhang</i>	East <i>Gromann</i>	South <i>Gu</i>
		Pass	Pass
INT	Pass	3♣ ^(a)	4♣
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

(a) Puppet Stayman.

The nebulous diamond hurt Wang and Sun, when East was unwilling to risk a three-diamond rebid. Note that five diamonds can be made by ruffing three clubs in the dummy. (If North ruffs in twice, after overruffing both times, West draws one round of trumps before taking the third ruff.)

Three clubs went down one, South losing one spade, one heart and three clubs.

In the other room, West was able to double four clubs for down two.

Minus 50 and plus 300 gave Germany 6 IMPs. Afterwards, though, Nehmert thought that she should have jumped to five diamonds because, for her partner to use Puppet Stayman, not regular Stayman, and be short in clubs (given South's overcall), East had to have diamond length. That would have gained another 2 IMPs – will that matter in the end?

Over the next seven deals, China scored 1 unanswered overtrick IMP. The last sizable swing came when Auken found a winning opening lead.



Ling Gu, China

Board 30. Dealer East. None vul.

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

West <i>Wang</i>	North <i>Auken</i>	East <i>Sun</i>	South <i>von Arnim</i>
		1♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West <i>Nehmert</i>	North <i>Zhang</i>	East <i>Gromann</i>	South <i>Gu</i>
		1♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

The obvious lead is the heart ten, which was selected by Zhang. Now Nehmert guessed well, playing spades twice toward her hand to gather in nine tricks: one spade, three hearts, one diamond and four clubs.

At the other table, Auken led the diamond queen! In their methods, this showed either a strong king-queen-ten-nine suit, asking partner to unblock the jack, or a queen-jack holding.

This completely fooled West, who won with her ace and immediately played a diamond back to dummy's jack. South promptly took three diamonds and two spades for down one.

Plus 400 and plus 50 gave Germany 10 IMPs.

The same team scored two more on the penultimate board to win the set by 28 IMPs to 13 and to lead after one-third of the match by 55-44.

WBF Cards etc.

WBF cards, World Championship books and some other items will be sold on the second floor of the Intercontinental Hotel near the Vugraph auditorium.



WBF Systems Committee

There will be a meeting of the WBF Systems Committee in the WBF Meeting Room at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

Italy – Poland Open Quarterfinal Set I

Poland pulled a bit of a surprise in the Open series round of 16 by knocking off Nick Nickell's USA squad in relatively easy fashion. Their reward for beating the three-time world champions was to play the powerful team from Italy.

The Italians got off to a good start, winning IMPs on the first two boards. This was good for 6 IMPs.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A 10 9 ♥ A K J 7 5 2 ♦ 5 4 ♣ A 10	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ K 7 5 ♥ 10 9 ♦ Q 10 8 ♣ J 9 8 4 2	♠ Q 6 3 2 ♥ 4 ♦ J 9 7 3 2 ♣ Q 7 6
N							
W							
E							
S							
West <i>Gierulsi</i>	North <i>Fantoni</i>	East <i>Skrzypczak</i>	South <i>Nunes</i>				
1♥	All Pass	Pass	Pass				

Most players would keep the bidding open with the East hand, but Jerzy Skrzypczak took a dimmer view of his 6-pointer and passed. Fulvio Fantoni started with the ♦A, switching to a low spade at trick two. Boguslaw Gierulski took the queen with the ace and played a second diamond. Fantoni won the king and got out with a club. Declarer played the ♠10 from hand, covered, took his club pitch on the ♦Q and then floated the ♥10 to North's queen. That was it for the defense. Plus 170.

West <i>Versace</i>	North <i>Martens</i>	East <i>Lauria</i>	South <i>Jassem</i>
1♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣*	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass	2NT	Pass

Alfredo Versace's 2♣ was artificial and forcing, showing a good hand. Lorenzo Lauria soon found himself in the notrump game.

Krzysztof Jassem led a low diamond and Krzysztof Martens took the top two diamonds and played a third round to declarer's queen. The ♥10 was ducked by Martens, but he won the second and tried a club. Declarer had nine tricks for plus 400 and a useful swing.

Poland struck back for 11 IMPs on the next deal.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ Q 2 ♥ 7 6 5 3 ♦ A 9 8 6 3 ♣ Q 5	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ K 9 8 4 ♥ A K 10 9 8 4 ♦ 5 ♣ K 4	♠ 10 6 3 ♥ 2 ♦ K J 7 ♣ A J 10 9 8 6
N							
W							
E							
S							
♠ A J 7 5 ♥ Q J ♦ Q 10 4 2 ♣ 7 3 2							

West <i>Gierulsi</i>	North <i>Fantoni</i>	East <i>Skrzypczak</i>	South <i>Nunes</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♠	3♣	Dble
Redbl	3♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Gierulski led the ♣Q, covered by the king and ace. Skrzypczak cashed the ♣J and switched to a diamond. Claudio Nunes inserted the 10, which was taken by the ace. Nunes made the normal play in spade, finessing, to finish one down.



Krzysztof Jassem, Poland

West <i>Versace</i>	North <i>Martens</i>	East <i>Lauria</i>	South <i>Jassem</i>
Pass	1♥	2♣	Pass
Redbl	2♠	Pass	Dble
All Pass			4♠

Lauria, perhaps believing his partner's redouble showed a better honor than the queen, started with the ♣A. He then played a club to declarer's king, West following with the queen. Martens played a spade to dummy's ace and followed with a low spade. He could claim the rest of the tricks when Versace's ♠Q popped up. Plus 480 gave Poland an 11-IMP swing.

Another 11 IMPs went to Poland on this deal.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

	♠ Q 7 6	
	♥ A K J 8 6	
	♦ 10	
	♣ K 7 3 2	
♠ A J 9 4 3	N <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> W <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> S <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> E	♠ K 5 2
♥ 4 2		♥ 7
♦ A K J 6		♦ 8 7 4 3
♣ Q 4		♣ J 10 8 6 5
	♠ 10 8	
	♥ Q 10 9 5 3	
	♦ Q 9 5 2	
	♣ A 9	

West <i>Versace</i>	North <i>Martens</i>	East <i>Lauria</i>	South <i>Jassem</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
All Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥



Boguslaw Gierulski, Poland

South's 2♣ seems to be a tactical bid aimed at keeping the opponents out of the bidding. It worked, and Martens lost only two spades and a diamond for plus 420.

West <i>Gierulsi</i>	North <i>Fantoni</i>	East <i>Skrzypczak</i>	South <i>Nunes</i>
4♠	2♥	Pass	4♥
	5♥	Dble	All Pass

Skrzypczak started with the ♠K. He continued with a spade to his partner's ace. Gierulski cashed the ♦K for the set and another double-digit gain.

Interestingly, both North-South pairs appeared to be playing the same major-suit takeout against a 1♣ opening. Italy handled theirs better.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

	♠ 6	
	♥ 8 6	
	♦ K 10 9 8 6 4	
	♣ A 10 9 6	
♠ A 4	N <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> W <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> S <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> E	♠ Q 10 5 2
♥ 10 7 5		♥ A J 9
♦ Q 7 5 2		♦ J 3
♣ 8 7 5 2		♣ K Q J 4
	♠ K J 9 8 7 3	
	♥ K Q 4 3 2	
	♦ A	
	♣ 3	

West <i>Versace</i>	North <i>Martens</i>	East <i>Lauria</i>	South <i>Jassem</i>
All Pass		1♣	2♦

Jassem's 2♦ overcall obviously promised the major suits. Martens, of course, did not like either, so with six nice diamonds, he passed instead of picking a major.

Versace started with a low diamond. Jassem played low from dummy and won the ♦J perforce. He played the ♥K from hand, ducked by East. Lauria took the ♥Q with the ace, switching to a spade, which went to the jack and ace. A club was returned, declarer ducking in dummy. Lauria won the jack and played a diamond, Versace playing low. Declarer followed with the ♣10. Lauria won the queen and forced dummy with the ♥J. Now all he could do was cash the ♦K and exit with a diamond. He still had to lose a club, so he was off one.

West <i>Gierulsi</i>	North <i>Fantoni</i>	East <i>Skrzypczak</i>	South <i>Nunes</i>
Pass	2♥	1♣	2♦
All Pass		Pass	2♠

Gierulski started with a low club, taken by declarer with the ace. Nunes played a heart to his king and a low heart from hand. Skrzypczak won the ♥J and played a spade to the jack and ace. A diamond went to declarer's singleton ace and another heart cleared the suit. Declarer still had to lose two spade tricks, but that was plus 110 and 5 IMPs to Italy.

Poland was leading 25-19 with two deals to go, and they picked up another swing on the next-to-last deal.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West <i>Versace</i>	North <i>Martens</i>	East <i>Lauria</i>	South <i>Jassem</i>
			Pass
1♠	Dble	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	All Pass

Martens cashed the first four tricks for plus 50. The Poles at the other table bid more accurately.

West <i>Gierulski</i>	North <i>Fantoni</i>	East <i>Skrzypczak</i>	South <i>Nunes</i>
			Pass
1♠	Dble	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2NT
Dble	3♣	3♠	All Pass

Fantoni took the same four tricks, but Poland scored plus 140 and were leading 30-19 going into the final deal of the set.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West <i>Versace</i>	North <i>Martens</i>	East <i>Lauria</i>	South <i>Jassem</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Looking at all the cards, Martens could have succeeded with some finesses and unlikely plays, but the six-level contract on a 4-3 fit was decidedly inferior to one in clubs. Not blessed with X-ray vision, however, he won the opening lead of the ♠8 with the ace and played a diamond to his jack and Lauria's queen. It wasn't long before declarer was recording minus 100.

Fantoni and Nunes got to the top spot.

West <i>Gierulski</i>	North <i>Fantoni</i>	East <i>Skrzypczak</i>	South <i>Nunes</i>
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	7♣
All Pass			

Fantoni's 2♥ showed a hand with 10-13 high-card points and five or more hearts. Nunes relayed, starting with 2♠, to find out more about the North hand, finally settling on the grand slam in clubs.

He won the opening trump lead in hand, cashed the ♠A, cashed another high trump to make sure they were 3-2, then played a heart to the ace. He was able to ruff a couple of hearts to establish that suit and claim 1440 for 16 IMPs, enough to put them in the lead at 35-30.



Alfredo Versace, Italy, being watched by NPC Maria Teresa Lavazza

Defending against yourself, or the self sausage squeeze

by Christian Vennerød

The Norwegian language has an expression which might be adopted by the international bridge community. We talk about a “sausage squeeze” instead of a pseudo squeeze. This means that the defender might have beaten the contract, but he discarded the wrong card. In everyday language, he got saused!

It is, of course, a great pleasure to sausage an opponent if it is done deliberately, and a maybe worse disgrace to get saused if you should have known how to escape it.

But the worst tragedy is to sausage yourself! Sometimes you have to be wide awake not to fall into your own trap.

The Norwegian rising star Haakon Bogen is at present fighting his way in the quarterfinals for the World Championship Trophy in the Under 21 class. (The U26 and U21 are having a competition similar to the Bermuda Bowl, not the Olympics, as they have had a zonal qualification first.)

Haakon was earlier this week in a 2♠ contract on this deal:

WC U21. Round 9. Norway-Bulgaria.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

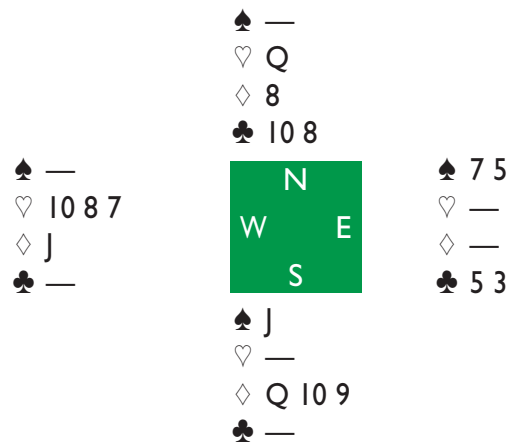
♠ 10 ♥ J 10 8 7 4 3 2 ♦ J 5 2 ♣ 9 4	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>N</td><td>♠</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>W</td><td>♥</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>E</td><td>♦</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>S</td><td>♣</td></tr> </table>	♠	N	♠	♥	W	♥	♦	E	♦	♣	S	♣	♠ A 7 5 3 2 ♥ A 9 ♦ A 4 ♣ K Q 5 3	♠ Q 8 ♥ Q 6 5 ♦ 8 7 3 ♣ A 10 8 7 6 ♠ K J 9 6 4 ♥ K ♦ K Q 10 9 6 ♣ J 2
♠	N	♠													
♥	W	♥													
♦	E	♦													
♣	S	♣													
West	North	East	South												
Pass	INT	Pass	1♠												
Pass	2♠	All Pass	2♦												

West led the jack of hearts, which ran to the king. A trump to the queen stood up, but West played an ominous ten. Now what?

Haakon saw that he had to lead a diamond now in order to be able to play the suit twice towards his hand. East grabbed the ace of diamonds and banged down the king of clubs, which Haakon captured with the ace. Now he played the eight of spades which stood up, as West discarded a heart.

Haakon led a diamond to the king and a third trump, which East finally won with the ace. East cashed the club queen and tried to take a trick with the ace of hearts, but Haakon ruffed.

Haakon realised that the contract would make, but over-tricks are important in short matches. There was also an element of pride involved. He fingered his last trump...

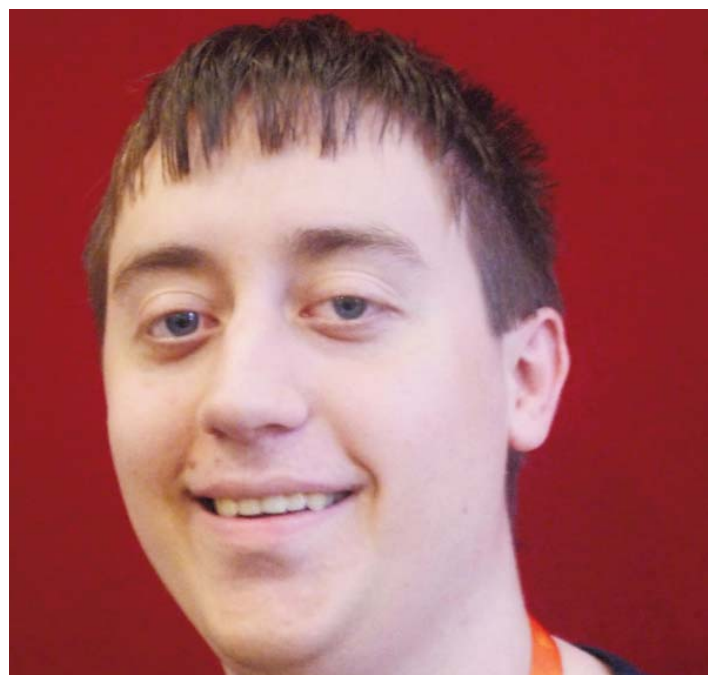


It looks natural to play the jack of spades as East has two lower trumps. But what will happen when Haakon plays the queen of diamonds next, dropping West’s jack?

Haakon had enough respect for his Bulgarian opponent to know that East was perfectly capable of ducking the diamond. When Haakon then plays to the penultimate trick, he has to throw either the high heart or the high club from dummy as East ruffs in. And Haakon had no way of knowing what card East had kept as his last. (In practice Haakon would probably have misguessed as East held only two hearts and West seven from the start.)

Consequently, Haakon played the queen of diamonds in the diagrammed position. Now he was in control. East could ruff whenever he wished, but Haakon had enough winners to take the rest of the tricks. He had avoided sausing his own dummy!

To put it another way – it was a reverse rectification of the count. He gave up a trick, not in order to be able to squeeze an opponent, but in order not to sausage squeeze himself.



Håkon Bogen (Norway U21): No sausage for me, please!

Life's Tough at the Top

by David Stern

The Australian Youth Teams are all doing well so far in this tournament with the U26 very close to be locked in to qualify while the U21 and U28 teams are 'knocking on heaven's door' so to speak.


As you will see life gets hard when you get towards the end of a tournament and everybody is angling for qualifying positions

Arian Lasocki comes with excellent genes, being the nephew of the great Polish champion Krzysztof Lasocki, so I wasn't surprised when he told me about this hand from round of the U28 Championship.

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

Lasocki West, playing with Nick Rodwell, had a simple auction INT: 3NT and North produced the fourth highest ♥3.

Lasocki, holding the ♥2, believed the hearts to be breaking 4-4. He covered the lead with the ♥Q, king from South. Fearing the possibility of a deadly club switch, he took the first heart with the ace and passed the ♦J to South with this being the full deal:

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

As you can see, North had deceptively led his fifth highest heart, and on winning the ♦Q, South cashed the ♦10 and a third heart for partner to cash out the hearts for one down.

Had Lasocki received the fourth-highest ♥5 lead, he may have ducked two hearts and tested South to switch to a club after the second heart was ducked. Would South have passed the test? We will never know, but Fisher for Israel against China won the ♥K and when the ♥10 was ducked, he accurately switched to the ♣2 to defeat the contract by two tricks – well done and a positive sign for the future of Israeli open players.

Beijing Boulders

by Tim Bourke

CAUTION

Dealer South. E-W Vul.

♠ 6 4 2
♥ 3
♦ A K Q 10 9 3
♣ Q 5 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K J 10 8
♥ 9 7 6
♦ 8 7 6
♣ A 9

West	North	East	South
2♥	3♦	3♥	1♠*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	Pass

* 5+ suit.

West leads the two of diamonds and the queen of diamonds wins the trick. How do you plan to make ten tricks? Solution is on page 11.



Today's Coverage

Semifinals - 11.00

England - Germany (O)	VG
China - USA (W)	BBO2
USA - Egypt (S)	BBO3
Italy - Norway (O)	BBO4
Indonesia - Japan (S)	OurGames1
England - Turkey (W)	OurGames2

Semifinals - 2nd & 3rd Sessions to be decided

Appendix to yesterday's story about the Seniors

The hounds yesterday were too fast for the foxes. The order in which to play the cards should be adjusted a little. After ♠A, declarer should first cash the clubs, as North can throw clubs on the heart ruffs. If declarer does so, he can then discard a diamond and give up a diamond. If North wins and returns a trump, you win in hand to ruff a diamond first, then ruff a heart and ruff the last diamond with the ♠K. If South wins and returns a heart, you can still ruff this in hand and ruff a diamond low. The rest will be the same as above. In either case: mission accomplished.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CONGRESS

Thursday, 9th October 2008 at 10.30 a.m. - Beijing, China

In Attendance

Mr. José Damiani, President in the Chair, **Mr. J. Ortiz-Patiño**, President Emeritus, **Mr. Ding Guangen**, President of Congress, **Mr. Xiang Huaicheng**, President CCBA, **Mr. Ernesto d'Orsi**, Past President, **Mr Gianarrigo Rona**, 1st Vice President, **Mr Jean-Louis Derivery**, Treasurer, **Mr. Dan Morse**, Secretary, **Mr. John Wignall**, Executive Vice President, **Mr Jeff Polisner**, General Counsel

The following Executive Council Members attended

Mr. Dick Anderson, **Mr. Yves Aubry**, **Mr. Jens Auken**, **Mr. Patrick Choy**, **Mr. Marc De Pauw**, **Mr. Panos Gerontopoulos**, **Mr. Mazhar Jafri**, **Mr. Al Levy**, **Mr. George Retek**, **Mr. Armand Trippaers**

Also in Attendance

Ms. Carol von Linstow, Secretary to the President

Excused

Mr. Jim Kirkham, **Mr. Tushar Pujara**

The President, Mr. Damiani, welcomed the delegates to this Congress meeting and thanked them for their presence.

Roll Call to Determine Quorum

Mr. Jeffrey Polisner declared a quorum.

The President declared the meeting open, there being 87 NBOs represented.

I. Approval of the Minutes of the 2006 Meeting

The minutes of the 2006 meeting of Congress in Verona, Italy, were approved. President's Report

The President first asked for a minute's silence in memory of Mr Marc Hodler, former Vice President of the IOC, President of the International Ski Federation and President of the Swiss Bridge Federation and former President of the Congress who helped so much in the WBF Olympic destiny. Also for Mr Rao Gao Tang, former President of the Chinese Contract Bridge Association with whom the WBF had cooperated for so many years for the good of Bridge in China and Worldwide.

He then went on to introduce and welcome Mr Ding Guangen, the new President of Congress who has been holding posts within the party and state of China for many years but who is also an accomplished bridge player. Mr Ding Guangen has made many important contributions to the development of bridge in China and played a major role in the organization of the 1st World Mind Sports Games.

The President then gave the floor to Mr Ding Guangen who addressed the Congress.

The President then thanked the Chinese Contract Bridge Association and its President, Mr Xiang Huaicheng for their

fantastic organization of these 1st World Mind Sports Games and their warm hospitality, mentioning too Mr Liu Si Ming, Mr Fan Guang Sheng and Mrs Chen Zelan, all of whom had done so much to make these Championships so successful.

After completing his report, the President also expressed his thanks to the members WBF Laws Drafting Committee, which had done a wonderful job in producing the 2007 Code.

The President agreed with the delegate from Bangladesh that it was necessary to organize Youth championships every year and said that perhaps after these Championships the NBOs might see the benefit. In future, the World Youth Championships for the Under 25 and Under 20s will be held every second year in even years and the new World Youth Championships will be held next year in Istanbul and from then on every second year in the odd years. He added that he would see what the WBF could do to arrange TD courses to teach the teachers and, eventually, to provide materials. With respect to the tenure of the delegates, he said that this was irrelevant as the WBF is on a 4-year bridge cycle. However, he did agree that two terms was probably the optimum for any one delegate.

2. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Derivery presented his report, which summarized the financial position of the WBF at end 2007.

The President then asked Mr Geert Magermann to make a short presentation on the upcoming FISU events, with the 5th World University Bridge Championships in 2010 programmed to be held in Chinese Taipei. He also mentioned the University Bridge Pairs on Internet, the new University Bridge Platform that contained all the information on university bridge activities.

The President thanked him for his presentation. He also thanked the Polish Bridge Federation on their organization of the last University Bridge Championships that were held in Lodz.

Mr Ata Aydin, President of the Turkish Bridge Federation, then made a short presentation on the new World Youth Championships that will be held in Istanbul from 15-21 August 2009. This will be another good opportunity for the youth to meet other youngsters.

Mr Leo Battesti then made a presentation of what he was doing with Chess in Corsica, where he has succeeded in having Chess lessons introduced into schools. He said that, despite the fact that the island was very small, he did have 4,500 players and many sponsors.

Finally, Mr Ernesto d'Orsi made a presentation on the 2009 Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup that will take place in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from 29th August to 13th September. He also mentioned that Mr Ortiz-Patiño would be showing his world-renowned stamp collection in Sao Paulo.

Proverbially Speaking

by Mark Horton

Chinese history is incomplete without the mention of Confucius. As a thinker, philosopher, and teacher, Confucius expounded his views on social behavior and ethics. His wise words inspire us to enjoy life.

As a former lawyer who now makes a modest living from bridge, I can strongly commend you to the following:



Look for an occupation that you like, and you will not need to labour for a single day in your life.

This is another one that is more than useful – especially for those of us who are advancing in years:

A smile will gain you ten more years of life.

I'm sure the Chinese players are familiar with many of the great man's sayings, and after this deal from the second stanza of their Women's quarterfinal against Germany, some of them may have sprung to mind:

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Auken	Sun	von Arnim
2NT*	Pass	1♦*	Pass
		3NT	All Pass

3NT looks easy enough, and in the Closed Room Pony Nehmert had made the contract by taking the heart lead in dummy and playing on spades.

However, Sabine Auken is one of those players who are prepared to back their judgment, and she found the devilish lead of the queen of diamonds!

West checked the convention card, which revealed that the queen was the regular lead from KQ10, asking partner to unblock the jack, so she could see an easy route to her ninth trick. She won with the ace and played a diamond back, covering North's ten with the jack. You can imagine her dismay when South produced the king and cashed out for one down.

In the hope of cheering up the declarer let me say that she is by no means the first and will certainly not be the last player to fall victim to the skill of Germany's superstar.



In addition, two more Chinese Proverbs spring to mind:

A fall into a ditch makes you wiser.

Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

SOLUTION

As the lead is an obvious a singleton, you should play on trumps at trick two by leading a low trump to your jack. Suppose the full deal is something like:

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

If the West takes the trick jack of trumps with the queen then the defenders can only take one trump, one heart and a diamond ruff.

The next question to ask yourself is "What should I plan to do if the jack of trumps holds?"

On the above layout, if you decide to continue by cashing the ace or king of trumps you will no longer be able to make the contract. The best you can do is play on diamonds. West will ruff the third round of diamonds and play two rounds of hearts, forcing dummy to ruff. Then if you play another diamond he will score a second diamond ruff with a heart or a club trick to come. If you come back to hand with the ace of clubs to draw trumps then you will lose a heart and a club at the end.

The way around these difficulties is to play the eight or ten of trumps at trick three. West will win the trick, cross to partner with a heart and obtain a diamond ruff. When West exits with a heart you can ruff the heart in dummy and cross to hand with the ace of clubs to draw West's last trump. Then you can run the remaining diamonds to make four trumps, a heart ruff, three diamonds and a club. On a club exit from West, you can win in it hand, draw West's trumps and claim ten tricks, this time taking fourth diamond instead of a heart ruff.

Of course, had the trumps proven to be 3-2 when the jack of trumps held then the defenders could take at most a trump, a heart and a diamond ruff.



QUARTER FINALS

A swing a minute

by Mark Horton

The first three sessions of the Quarter finals delivered a whole host of deals with swing potential. Here are a few that caught my eye:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bakkeren	Gromoeller	Bertens	Kirmse
Pass	1♥	2♣	Pass
3♣	4♠	All Pass	Dble



Simon de Wijs, Netherlands

West's decision to bid Three Clubs (as opposed to Two Diamonds) saw East led the ace of clubs, making life very easy for declarer, who won the club continuation and cashed the top spades for an effortless +480.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Smirnov	de Wijs	Piekarek	Muller
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
Pass	4♠	All Pass	1♠

This time South was the declarer and West led the queen of clubs, covered by the king and ace. East cashed the ten of clubs and switched to the seven of diamonds, West taking the ace and playing a heart. Declarer won in hand, played a spade to the king and a spade to the jack (East did not peter or play the ten on the second round) so West won and returned a heart for East to ruff, two down, -100 giving Germany 11 IMPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Fu	Helness	Zhao
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Dble
			All Pass

South led the king of clubs and declarer won with the ace, pitching a heart from dummy, and played a spade to the queen, North winning with the king and switching to the jack of hearts. Declarer won with the ace and played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing with the nine of spades. South

overuffed, but declarer claimed ten tricks, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shi	Tundal	Zhuang	Groetheim
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

South led the five of hearts and declarer ducked the first round, won the second, pitched a heart on the ace of clubs and played a spade to the queen and king. North played a club, forcing the dummy, and declarer played three rounds of diamonds, ruffed and overuffed by South, who exited with the king of clubs. Declarer ruffed and had to guess how the outstanding spades were divided.

He went for 1-1 by cashing the ace and was two down, -200 meaning 13 IMPs for Norway.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Westra	Gromoeller	Ramondt	Kirmse
		3♥	Pass
4♥	Dble	All Pass	

When you suspect your side has a lot of strength in the side suits it is frequently right to lead a trump. When South preferred the six of clubs declarer was able to organize two club ruffs and emerge with ten tricks, +790.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Elinescu	Wijs	Wladow	Muller
		2♥	Pass
4♥	Dble	All Pass	

No trump lead here either, South preferring the four of

spades. Declarer won with dummy's ace and played a club. North won and switched to a heart, covered by the two, queen and king. Declarer had an easy route to ten tricks now by following the line adopted at the other table, but when he played a diamond North pounced with the ace and played another trump to ensure one down, -200 handing 14 IMPs to Netherlands.

The USA Seniors are doing well (as expected) although some of their slam bidding has been a little on the dodgy side.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kovacs	Lev	Dumbovich	Eisenberg
			1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠*
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			



Glenn Groetheim, Norway

Two Spades promised 5-4 in the majors or a single suited hand with hearts.

West led the ten of diamonds and declarer won in hand with the king and cashed the ace of hearts. West's nine allowed a glimmer of hope and declarer crossed to dummy with the nine of hearts and played the king of clubs.

East could (should?) have been a hero by ducking, but he covered and declarer ruffed.

Now came an avalanche of trumps.

In play West gave up his diamond guard so declarer could claim twelve tricks, but here is how the ending might have looked:

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

When declarer plays his last trump West has to retire hurt. Either minor gives declarer three more tricks, while on a spade discard declarer crosses to the ace of diamonds and throws West in with a diamond to lead into the club tenace.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Granovetter</i>	<i>Szappanos</i>	<i>Ekeblad</i>	<i>Magyar</i>
Pass	2♣*	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	2♥
All Pass			3♥

Two Clubs was forcing to game unless the responder simply rebid his suit, but even so, to miss a game on these cards is incredible. It cost 13 IMPs.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kovacs</i>	<i>Lev</i>	<i>Dumbovich</i>	<i>Eisenberg</i>
Pass	2♣*	Pass	INT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♣*	Pass	3NT
Pass	6♥	Pass	4NT
All Pass			7♥

With the spade king offside this optimistic contract was one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Granovetter</i>	<i>Szappanos</i>	<i>Ekeblad</i>	<i>Magyar</i>
Pass	2♦*	Pass	INT
Pass	3♥	Pass	2♥
All Pass			4♥

This pessimistic contract scored +480 for 11 IMPs to Hungary.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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



Geza Szappanos, Hungary

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>
1♣*	1♠	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		


Declarer was not impressed with East's bidding, especially when he recorded all thirteen tricks, +720.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

West's rebid of Two Clubs looks artificial, but there is no alert on the BBO screen, and the Convention card is silent. Still, whatever it all meant the Dutchmen handled the auction well to reach a sound contract that secured them 12 IMPs.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

East led the nine of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace, drew trumps, eliminated the clubs ending in hand and exited with a heart. East allowed West to win and he exited with a low diamond (they tell me the jack is the best shot – but it never seems to work when I try it). Declarer took East's queen with the ace and the diamond finesse gave him +920.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

This time East led the seven of hearts. You would not expect a swing unless declarer goes wrong in diamonds but something strange happened, as after winning with the ace of hearts declarer simply played five rounds of spades!!

Perhaps he thought he was in 6NT, but whatever, he could make no more than eleven tricks, and lost 14 IMPs.

New technology in action

by Terry Collier

You might not have noticed anything different at the table, especially as you are playing with standard bar coded cards, but behind the scenes new technology is at work. For the very first time at a major event, the new dealing machine PlayBridgeDealer4 is proving that it delivers excellent dealing speed, accuracy and reliability. The machine's main advantage over other dealing machines is that as PlayBridgeDealer4 reads the face of standard playing cards rather than the bar-coded cards. This means that standard European, American and Symmetrical designs as well as traditional French, German, Dutch and Danish cards, not to mention French and American Braille cards can all be used.

PlayBridgeUK's offer to loan these machines was originally made to Jose Damiani and very bravely accepted by both Panos Gerontopoulos and Dimitris Ballas, bearing in mind that they needed to be confident that they could provide 90,000 boards over the course of the championship. This target is easily being achieved, in fact with time to spare, which is good, bearing in mind the queue of interested people who want to see the machines in action.

It is well known that WBF President Damiani is determined to introduce new technology into the game and in this regard, stated that he was pleased to see the advances in dealing technology shown by these machines.

Terry and Lesley Collier of PlayBridgeUK, who market the PlayBridgeDealer4 globally, have not only provided the machines but also practical help and can generally be found in the Youth Championship's dealing room, showing just how easy dealing really can be. For further information you can visit www.playbridgedealer4.com or email terry@playbridgeuk.com, or if you want to see the dealer in action, please leave Terry a message at the CNCC Grand Hotel (Room 0906).

OPEN TEAMS ROUND OF 8 - 3RD

England v Romania

by Phillip Alder

One of the Cinderella stories at these championships has been the Romania Open team. They have no sponsors or coach and had no training camps before coming to Beijing. But playing four-handed they have made it to the quarter-finals, where they have given England a run for its pounds.

After half the match, England led by 44 IMP, a lot for Romania to make up. To see if the East Europeans could make any headway against their western rivals, I went into the closed room to watch Marius Briciu and Ovidiu Ghigeci play East-West against David Gold and Tom Townsend.

At the other table, Ionut Coldea and Marius Ionita, playing a strong-club system, took on Artur Malinowski and Nicklas Sandqvist, using Polish Club.

The session featured only three flat boards, and most of the swings were created in the bidding. Try a few of the problems for yourself.

1. Dealer West. Both vul.

♠ K 8 4
♥ 9
♦ K 9 6
♣ A K 10 9 7 5

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	3♥ ^(a)	?

(a) Pre-emptive.

What would you do?

2. Dealer West. None vul.

♠ J 6
♥ J 10 9 8 7 5 3 2
♦ K
♣ A Q

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	?	

Your bid?

3. Dealer West. North-South vul.

♠ A Q
♥ A K 7 6 4 2
♦ Q 10 8 7
♣ 6

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	INT ^(a)	Dble
?			

(a) Forcing for one round.

What would you do?

4. Dealer North. Both vul.

♠ A 10 9 2
♥ K 10 9
♦ 3 2
♣ J 9 6 4

West	North	East	South
?	Pass	1♠	Dble

What is your choice?

Going back to the third problem, if you bid two hearts, it goes pass - three clubs - pass. What now? If you redouble, it goes two spades - three clubs - pass. What would you do?

5. Dealer South. North-South vul.

♠ 8
♥ K Q 7 5
♦ A Q J 3
♣ K J 8 3

West	North	East	South
1♠	Dble	Pass	1♣ ^(a)

(a) Natural or any balanced 18-20.

What is your rebid?




Marius Ionita, Romania

Would you do something different if you had opened one diamond, lefty had overcalled two clubs, and partner had made a negative double?

The swing on the first board was created because Cold-
ea overbid.

Board 17. Dealer North. None vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Coldea</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Ionita</i>
1♥	Pass	2♥	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	All Pass
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

(a) Forcing for one round.

West	North	East	South
<i>Briciu</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ghigheci</i>	<i>Townsend</i>
2♠ ^(a)	All Pass		

(a) Five-plus spades and a five-plus minor.

Gold and Townsend had a sensible sequence. Then the defense was double-dummy accurate. East led the heart ten (Rusinow). West took dummy's king with his ace and shifted to a trump, which East correctly ducked. Declarer tried the diamond finesse, but East won and switched to his singleton club. Again West played perfectly, winning with his ace and returning his second trump. Now the defenders had to get two spades, one heart, two diamonds and one club for down one. All that to save 1 IMP!

The Romanians could have duplicated this result because their two-spade opening bid is identical, but Coldea called his hand 11-15 and opened one spade. Once he had done that, though, he should have passed out two hearts, especially because that delayed entry into the auction implied spade values.


When North did bid a third time and South gave preference to spades, Sandqvist was happy to double.

East did well, leading the heart six, not the heart jack. Now, when declarer failed to put in dummy's nine and the defense was similarly accurate, North was doomed to go down four.

Minus 50 and plus 800 gave England 13 IMPs.

After each team gained an overtrick IMP, there came:

Board 20. Dealer West. Both vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Coldea</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Ionita</i>
1♥	Pass	2♥	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Briciu</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ghigheci</i>	<i>Townsend</i>
1♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass

Ghigheci's pre-emptive three-heart response worked well when Townsend was unwilling to risk a takeout double. (A four-club overcall would probably have been met by a raise to five clubs, which would have been one too high.)


Against three hearts, North led the diamond four. When declarer made the normal misguess of calling for dummy's queen, he was destined to finish down three, losing two spades, two hearts, one diamond and two clubs.

When Sandqvist had to content himself with two hearts, it was easy for Ionita to overcall three clubs, and for Coldea to advance with three notrump, a contract that was unbeatable.

Minus 300 and plus 600 gave Romania 7 IMPs.

The next deal was similar to this one, except the gain was on the other side of the scoresheet.

Board 21. Dealer North. North-South vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Coldea</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Ionita</i>
Pass	INT ^(a)	Pass	2♥
	2♠	All Pass	

(a) 15-17 points.

West	North	East	South
<i>Briciu</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ghigheci</i>	<i>Townsend</i>
	1♣ ^(a)	Pass	1♥ ^(b)
Pass	1NT ^(c)	Pass	2♥ ^(b)
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT ^(c)
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

- (a) Natural or any balanced 18-20.
- (b) Transfer.
- (c) 18-20 balanced.
- (d) Game-invitational with five spades.

It isn't clear why Coldea downgraded his hand to 17 points. Perhaps once he had done that, he should have made a superaccept over two hearts.

Note that in contrast Gold jumped to game despite having a minimum 18 points.

Of course, at double-dummy, the Romanians were right, but Briciu and Ghigheci lost their way. East led the club ten, declarer winning with his ace and playing a heart. Now West, on winning with his queen, surely should have shifted to a trump. Then the defenders could have collected one spade and three red-suit tricks. But West switched to the diamond queen. Declarer won with his ace and played a second heart, East rising with his ace and returning his remaining diamond. North took that and cashed his other top clubs, discarding dummy's remaining diamond. A diamond ruff and overruff, a heart ruff, and a trump left the defenders helpless.

At the other table the play followed almost the same path.

Minus 170 and plus 620 gave England 10 IMPs and a match lead of 60.

Two boards later England gained another 4 IMPs when Coldea doubled a cold (sorry!) four spades, his ace and king of hearts being worth only one trick when declarer had a singleton.

This was the next deal:

Board 24. Dealer West. None vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Coldea</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Ionita</i>
Pass	1♦	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Briciu</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ghigheci</i>	<i>Townsend</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	1NT
Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	3♥	All Pass

I think most players would overcall one heart (or four hearts!), thinking that game was still possible even opposite a passed partner. But three hearts worked well. North made a balancing takeout double, and South passed.

South led a trump, but then failed to find a spade shift. Instead, understandably, he tried the diamond jack. Declarer put up dummy's ace to swallow his king, discarded a spade on the diamond queen, and took the club finesse. Now East lost only one spade and three hearts.

At the other table, Townsend easily found the right trick-two shift given his partner's two-spade bid.

Plus 530 and plus 50 gave England 11 IMPs.

The one-way traffic continued ...

Board 25. Dealer North. East-West vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Coldea</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Ionita</i>
	2♥ ^(a)	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- (a) Five-plus hearts and five-plus minor.

West	North	East	South
<i>Briciu</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ghigheci</i>	<i>Townsend</i>
	2♦ ^(a)	Pass	2NT ^(b)
Pass	3♥ ^(c)	All Pass	

- (a) Weak two in either major or a balanced 23-24.
- (b) Inquiry.
- (c) Minimum weak two in hearts.

Three notrump was no fun after West led the diamond jack. When the smoke cleared, South had lost one spade, one heart and five diamonds for down three.

Gold could not open two hearts, because that would have been Flannery. And they play an aggressive style of weak twos at favorable vulnerability. The way the cards lay, four hearts was laydown.

Plus 150 and plus 170 gave England another 8 IMPs.

The match was getting away from Romania, but they recovered 26 IMPs over the last seven boards. On Board 26 Briciu held:

♠ K Q 10 5 3
 ♥ A J 2
 ♦ 9 4 3
 ♣ K 9

At both tables the bidding started:

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♣	Pass	Pass
?		Pass	Pass

It looked clear-cut to pass to me, but Briciu doubled. Partner converted to two diamonds and made it when Gold did not find the killing defense. Malinowski did pass out two clubs, which was laydown. Plus 90 at both tables gave Romania 5 IMPs. And:

Board 27. Dealer South. None vul.

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

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



Marius Briciu, Romania

West <i>Malinowski</i>	North <i>Coldea</i>	East <i>Sandqvist</i>	South <i>Ionita</i>
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♣	Dble	All Pass	Pass

West <i>Briciu</i>	North <i>Gold</i>	East <i>Ghigheci</i>	South <i>Townsend</i>
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Briciu bid in disciplined style, and Gold failed to pull the double trigger.

It was, of course, easier for Coldea at the other table when Malinowski took a punt at game.

Both contracts went down three, giving Romania 8 IMPs. England benefited from too much bidding by Briciu on this deal:

Board 28. Dealer West. North-South vul.

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

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

West <i>Malinowski</i>	North <i>Coldea</i>	East <i>Sandqvist</i>	South <i>Ionita</i>
1♥	Pass	3♣ ^(a)	Dble
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

(a) Natural, nonforcing.

West <i>Briciu</i>	North <i>Gold</i>	East <i>Ghigheci</i>	South <i>Townsend</i>
1♥	Pass	INT ^(a)	Dble
Redble	2♠	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	5♣	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(a) Forcing for one round.

I think Malinowski was correct to pass over South's double. When each partner has a long suit facing shortage, it is usually better to play with the weaker hand's suit as trumps.

Three spades went down two.

Briciu overbid with his redouble, then should have passed

out three clubs. Of course, East did not have to raise to four hearts, but he expected his partner to have a stronger hand.

Five clubs went down one, of course, so England gained 7 IMPs.

Those points went straight back:

Board 29. Dealer North. Both vul.

♠ 8 5 ♥ J 5 4 ♦ Q 10 8 7 ♣ K Q 7 5	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> W E <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> S </div>	♠ K Q 6 4 3 ♥ Q 7 6 ♦ K J 6 4 ♣ 8
♠ A 10 9 2 ♥ K 10 9 ♦ 3 2 ♣ J 9 6 4		♠ J 7 ♥ A 8 3 2 ♦ A 9 5 ♣ A 10 3 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Coldea</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Ionita</i>
	Pass	1♠	Dble
2NT ^(a)	3♣	3♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

(a) Game-invitational or stronger.

West	North	East	South
<i>Briciu</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ghigheci</i>	<i>Townsend</i>
	Pass	1♠	Dble
3♠ ^(a)	Pass	Pass	Pass

(a) Pre-emptive.

That West hand is a textbook mixed raise, but neither pair had a bid for that hand. It is too good for a pre-emptive jump, but not good enough for a game invitation.

Four spades went down one when declarer misguessed hearts, and three spades came home with an overtrick when South shifted to a heart early in the play.

Plus 100 and plus 170 gave Romania 7 IMPs.

The final swing came on this deal:

Board 31. Dealer South. North-South vul.

♠ A 10 9 3 2 ♥ A 10 8 6 ♦ K 10 2 ♣ 10	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> W E <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> S </div>	♠ 7 5 4 ♥ 9 4 3 2 ♦ 9 7 5 4 ♣ 5 4
♠ K Q J 6 ♥ J ♦ 8 6 ♣ A Q 9 7 6 2		♠ 8 ♥ K Q 7 5 ♦ A Q J 3 ♣ K J 8 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Coldea</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Ionita</i>
2♣	Dble	Pass	1♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	4♥

West	North	East	South
<i>Briciu</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ghigheci</i>	<i>Townsend</i>
1♠	Dble	Pass	1♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♥

Six hearts was laydown, giving Romania 13 IMPs. But England had won the set 54-41, extending the lead to 57 with only 32 boards to be played.

Championship Diary

At every Championship we try to pay at least one visit to the VuGraph theatre. An opportunity arose yesterday and we can confirm that it is as ever spectacular in appearance. At one point a result flashed up from one of the matches showing that a pair had bid a dreadful Grand Slam, been doubled and then, having taken a successful finesse in one suit and located a missing queen in another recorded +2490.

One overly eager commentator remarked 'I have the details of the bidding.'

A wiser colleague counselled him, 'I don't think anyone would be interested.'

Undaunted he continued, 'I don't know, there are a lot of masochists.'

At which point someone added, 'Yes, they are all in the audience.'

Speaking of the VuGraph we overheard two spectators discussing the merits of one of the commentators. 'He can always be counted on to say the right thing, after exhausting every other possibility. So far he has been true to form.'

I enjoyed the following exchange between two pairs:

'What is your system?'

'Why, do you by any chance want to learn it?'

Beijing is a great place to go shopping. On Friday, a player from Guadeloupe returned to his hotel from such a trip, only to discover that his wallet, which contained all his money and credit cards, was missing.

He was naturally disconsolate, but shortly afterwards the taxi driver who had brought him back to the hotel walked into the lobby – 'This must have fallen out of your pocket in my taxi.' Wonderful!

On Sunday, Donna Manley was flying to Beijing to join her husband, Chief Editor Brent Manley. During the flight she heard a voice behind her announce, '4NT'.

It turned out the seats behind her were occupied by four bridge players who just happened to be about to start a holiday travelling around China!