



2013 YEH BROS CUP

22nd-26th April, 2013 Yokohama JAPAN

Friday, April 25, 2013
Bulletin Number 5

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

It's Italy Lavazza vs Netherlands for the 2013 Yeh Bros Cup

Italy Lavazza (Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Guido Ferraro, Agustin Madala, Antonio Sementa, Maria Teresa Lavazza), the original fourth seed in the knockouts, defeated Denmark (Sabine Auken, Roy Welland, Morten Bilde, Dennis Bilde) yesterday morning to win the Top Bracket of the Open Teams. Today they will face Netherlands (Ricco van Prooijen, Louk Verhees, Bauke Muller, Simon de Wijs), the winners of the Lower Bracket, for the 2013 Yeh Bros Cup championship. The match will be played over 48 boards in three 16-board segments. Italy led Denmark 53-28 at the half and coasted to a 97-47 victory. The playoff in the Lower Bracket between Denmark, Yeh Bros I and Netherlands came right down to the wire, with Netherlands edging out Denmark at the end to win by 1.63 VPs. Denmark (Sabine Auken, Roy Welland, Morten Bilde, Dennis Bilde) will play Yeh Bros I (Chen Yeh (PC), JY Shih, Chen Dawei, Kazuo Furuta, Yalan Zhang, Wang Ping) today for 3rd/4th place. The KO brackets can be found on page 2.

The Open Pairs concludes today with a semi-final and final session. The list of qualifiers along with their assigned sections can be found on page 4.

Poland Wins Swiss Plate

The final standings in the Swiss Plate (Consolation) are on page 3. First place was the team from Poland with 116.18 VPs. Yeh Bros II finished second with 100.00 VPs followed closely by England+Pharon with 99.90. The final placings and a photo of the winner is on page 3.

PCs with Internet access are available for player use in front of the Secretariat (Room 511), along the wall to the right of the door.

**Today's VuGraph Matches will feature Italy Lavazza (1) vs The Netherlands (2)
and Denmark (3) vs Yeh Bros I (4)**

Yeh Bros Cup on the Web

Follow the action at the Yeh Bros Cup by surfing to:

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/home/English/yehbros/tabid/1027/Default.aspx>

Follow our featured matches on Vugraph each day at: www.bridgebase.com

KnockOut Brackets

Top Bracket				
A1 Yeh Bros I (43)				
	B1 Sweden (60)			
A8 Sweden (148)				
		C1 Italy Lavazza (97)		
A4 Italy Lavazza (127)				
	B2 Italy Lavazza (69)			
A5 China Red (42)				
			====>	E1 Italy Lavazza
A3 Denmark (92)				
	B3 Denmark (89)			
A6 USA Kranyak (51)				
		C2 Denmark (47)		
A2 China Blue (86)				
	B4 China Blue (82)			
A7 Netherlands (67)				

Lower Bracket				
	B5 Yeh Bros I (114)			
A9 USA Cheek (83)		C5 Yeh Bros I (36.62)		
	B9 USA Cheek (33)			
A16 England+Ph (63)		C4 China Blue (17.65)	D2 Yeh Bros I (17.95)	
	B6 China Red (56)			
A12 Russia (84)		C6 Russia (5.73)		
	B10 Russia (82)			
A13 Chinese Taipei (55)			D1 Denmark (20.21)	E2 Netherlands
	B7 USA Kranyak (120)			
A11 Yeh Bros II (107)		C7 USA Kranyak (17.91)		
	B11 Yeh Bros II (27)			
A14 Hungary Sr. (54)		C3 Sweden (19.19)	D3 Netherlands (21.84)	
	B8 Netherlands (80)			E3 Denmark
A10 Australia Youth (99)		C8 Netherlands (22.90)		
	B12 Australia Youth (52)			E4 Yeh Bros I
A15 New Zealand (55)				

Championship & Third-Place Playoff

Teams	1-16	17-32	33-48	Final
E1 Italy Lavazza				
E2 Netherlands				
E3 Denmark				
E4 Yeh Bros I				

2013 Yeh Bros Cup: Conditions of Contest

The complete CoC are on pages 2-4 of Monday's Yeh Bros Cup daily bulletin. Additional copies of the CoC only may be obtained in the Secretariat, including later changes and corrections that have been made.

Yeh Bros Cup Smoking Policy

Team Events:

Once play in a match starts, smoking is prohibited at ALL times (including when a player leaves the playing room to go to the bathroom), until the player completes the play of all boards in the match or session. (For those wishing to smoke at other times, smoking rooms are located on the 3rd and 5th floors of the Conference Center.)

Other events:

Once a session has started, and until the player has finished all boards in the session, smoking is prohibited at ALL times other than a single designated smoking break, which may be announced at the option of the Director.

Smoking areas:

Smoking is only permitted in the smoking rooms located on the 3rd and 5th floors of the Conference Center.

Penalties:

Penalties for violations are on page 4.

Team Rosters (and assigned numbers): 2013 Yeh Bros Cup

#	Team Name	Members
1	Sweden:	Fredrik Nystrom, Johan Upmark, Krister Ahlesved, Jonas Pettersson, Frederik Wrang, Johan Sylvan
2	Chinese Taipei:	Nelson Ho, Jerry Huang, CM Lin, Walter Chen, Kirk Shen
3	Russia:	Andrey Gromov (PC), Evgeny Gladysh, Alexander Dubinin, Mikhail Krasnosselski, Sebastiaan Drijver, Sjoert Brink
4	Japan Open:	Masayuki Ino, Takahiko Hirata, Tadashi Teramoto, Hiroshi Kaku
5	Italy Lavazza:	Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Guido Ferraro, Agustin Madala, Antonio Sementa, Maria Teresa Lavazza
6	China Blue:	Lian Ruoyi, Shi Haojun, Shi Zhengjun, Ju Chuancheng, Gao Fei, Wang Xiangyang, Hu Jihong (NPC)
7	South Africa:	T.Cope, C.Bosenberg, L.Chamaly, R.Stephens
8	Yeh Bros II:	Patrick Huang (PC), Fu Zhong, Jie Li, CJ Zhuang, JM Dai
9	Netherlands:	Ricco van Prooijen, Louk Verhees, Bauke Muller, Simon de Wijs
10	China Red:	Zhang Bangxiang, Wang Weimin, Shen Jiaxiang, Li Jianwei, Gan Xinli, Wang Rui, Wang Xiaojing (Coach)
11	Denmark:	Sabine Auken, Roy Welland, Morten Bilde, Dennis Bilde
12	India:	Subhash Gupta, ArunJan, M.Mukherji, S.Mukherji, S.Majumdar, D.Majumdar
13	USA Kranyak:	John Kranyak, Vincent Demuy, John Hurd, Joel Wooldridge
14	Yeh Bros I:	Chen Yeh (PC), JY Shih, Chen Dawei, Kazuo Furuta, Yalan Zhang, Wang Ping
15	England plus Pharon:	Paul Hackett, Tom Hanlon, David Bakhshi, Jason Hackett, Justin Hackett, Hugh McGann
16	Australia Youth:	Justin Howard, Peter Hollands, Michael Whibley, Liam Milne
17	Hungary Senior:	Géza Szappanos (PC), Miklós Dumbovich, Mihály Kovács, Péter Magyar
18	New Zealand:	Peter Newell, Martin Reid, Matthew McManus, Michael Ware, John R Wignall, Bob Scott
19	USA Cheek:	Curtis Cheek, Ishmael Del'Monte, Joe Grue, Justin Lall
20	Japan Ladies:	Kyoko Shimamura, Michiko Ono, Natsuko Nishida, Akiko Yanagisawa, Makiko Sato, Yuki Fukuyoshi
21	England Ladies Plus:	Nicola Smith, Sally Brock, Heather Dhondy, Fiona Brown, Nevena Senior, Brian Senior
22	Australia:	Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Peter Gill, Paul Gosney
23	Poland:	Adam Zmudzinski, Krzysztof Buras, Grzegorz Narkiewicz, Jacek Pszczola
24	Indonesia Senior:	Munawar Sawiruddin, Donald Gustaaf Tuerah, Bert Toar Polii, Memed Hendrawan, Mochamad Apin Nurhalim

Swiss Plate Final Standings

Rank	Team Name	Total VPs
1	Poland	116.18
2	Yeh Bros II	100.00
3	England+Pharon	99.90
4	China Red	99.09
5	Indonesia Senior	93.37
6	USA Cheek	92.24
7	Chinese Taipei	86.11
8	Australia Youth	83.57
9	England Ladies+	80.69
10	South Africa	76.63
11	India	76.58
12	Australia	76.35
13	Japan Open	74.19
14	New Zealand	68.10
15	Hungary Senior	56.47
16	Japan Ladies	52.45



Swiss Place Winners: Poland

Open Pairs Qualifiers

Today's Section	Pair Names		IMPs
A	Larry Chemaly	Robert Stephens	1223
B	Frederic Wrang	Johan Sylvan	737
C	Nelson Ho	Kirk Shen	658
C	Krzysztof Buras	Grzegorz Narkiewicz	583
B	Sumit Mukherji	Subir Majumdar	435
B	Wang Rui	Gan Xinli	349
C	John Hurd	Joel Wooldridge	312
C	Andrey Gromov	Jacek Pszczola	312
B	Subhash Gupta	Sartaj Hans	301
A	Joe Grue	Justin Lall	252
A	Sebastiaan Drijver	Sjoert Brink	220
B	Fredrik Nystrom	Johan Upmark	191
C	CM Lin	Walter Chen	178
C	Natsuko Nishida	Yuki Fukuyoshi	174
B	Shi Haojun	Shan Baisong	146
A	Heather Dhondy	Nevena Senior	118
A	Paul Hackett	David Bakhshi	112
B	Curtis Cheek	Ishmael Del'Monte	98
C	Matthew McManus	Michael Ware	89
C	Fu Zhong	Jie Li	73
B	CJ Zhuang	Jian Ming Dai	-69
A	Nicola Smith	Sally Brock	-96
A	Michael Whibley	Liam Milne	-142
B	Haruko Koshi	Sachiko Yamada	-227
C	Jason Hackett	Justin Hackett	-294
B	Peter Gill	Paul Gosney	-313
C	Kyoko Shimamura	Michiko Ono	-361
A	Krister Ahlesved	Jonas Pettersson	-429

Doing more with less

by Barry Rigal

Bd: 21
Dlr: North
Vul: N/S

North
♠ J105
♥ 107
♦ 874
♣ QJ753

West
♠ Q98743
♥ 8
♦ J93
♣ AK6

East
♠ A
♥ KQJ5432
♦ Q102
♣ 104

South
♠ K62
♥ A96
♦ AK65
♣ 982

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Dbf
Rdbl	2♣	4♥	All Pass

Bob Scott and John Wignall defended 4♥ on this deal from the Open Pairs Qualifier. Scott, South, led a top diamond as Wignall discouraged and observed that with only 16 HCP missing it would be too much to ask partner to have a natural trick. What was the least he could find partner with to beat the game?

He found the answer when he led three rounds of diamonds, then hopped up with the ♥A at his first turn and played the fourth diamond for Wignall to ruff in with the precious ♥10 and promote the ♥9 into the setting trick.

Convention Regulations for Side (Pair) Games

Pairs playing against Mr. Yeh in the Yeh Bros Cup will be asked to play a natural/standard system and are restricted to methods that are consistent with JCBL's "List C" (see below). Note: the use of the Multi-2♦ is prohibited.

LIST C

Opening Bids

- 1♣ or 1♦ may be used as an all-purpose opening bid (artificial or natural) promising a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g.: Precision 1♣ and 1♦; Polish 1♣, etc.)
- 2♣ artificial opening bid indicating one of:
 - a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
 - a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
- 2♦ artificial opening bid showing one of:
 - at least 5-4 distribution in the majors with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Flannery, anti-Flannery etc.)
 - a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
 - a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
- Opening suit bid at the two level or higher indicating the bid suit, another known suit, a minimum of 10 HCP and at least 5-4 distribution in the suits.
- Opening notrump bid at the two level or higher indicating at least 5-4 distribution in the minors, 10 or more HCP.
- Opening 3NT bid indicating:
 - any solid suit or
 - a broken minor suit.
- Opening four-level bid transferring to a known suit (e.g., Namyats, etc.).
- Strong opening at the two level or higher, asking Ace, King, Queen, singleton, void, trump quality.

Responses and Rebids

- 1♦ as a forcing, artificial response to 1♣.
- 1NT response to a major-suit opening bid, forcing for one round; may not guarantee game invitational or better values.
- Conventional responses which guarantee game forcing or better values. May not be part of a relay system.
- 2♣ or 2♦ response to 3rd- or 4th-seat major-suit opener asking the quality of the opening bid.
- Single or higher jump shifts (including into notrump) to indicate a raise or to force to game.
- All responses to;
 - artificial strong opening bids with 15 HCP or more.
 - opening bids of 2♣ or higher (weak 2s must guarantee 10 opening points: opening points=HCP + number of cards in longest suit).

- All constructive calls starting with the opening bidder's second call.
- Calls that ask for aces, kings, queens, singletons, voids, trump quality and responses thereto.
- All calls after a natural notrump (including those that have two non-consecutive ranges, neither of which exceeds 3 HCP). No conventional responses are allowed over natural notrump bids with a lower limit of fewer than 10 HCP or with a range of greater than 5 HCP.

Competitive Bids

- Any conventional balancing calls.
- Conventional doubles and redoubles and responses (including free bids) thereto.
- Notrump overcall for either:
 - two-suited takeout showing at least 5-4 distribution and at least one known suit. (At the 4 level or higher there is no requirement to have a known suit.)
 - three-suited takeout (as with a takeout double, at least 3 cards in each of the 3 suits).
- Jump overcalls into a suit to indicate at least 5-4 distribution in two known suits, and responses thereto.
- Cuebid of an opponent's suit and responses thereto, except that a cuebid that could be weak, directly over an opening bid, must show at least one known suit.
- Comic 1NT overcall.
- Defense to:
 - conventional calls (including takeout doubles).
 - natural notrump opening bids and overcalls.
 - opening bids of 2♣ or higher.
- Nos. 5 through 9 under "Responses and Rebids" above apply to both pairs.
- Transfer overcall to show a specified suit at the four level.

Carding

- All leads and signaling methods are approved except for: a) odd-even signals, b) encrypted signals, c) dual-message carding strategies, except on each defender's first discard, d) any method when the pair using it are deemed to be playing it in a manner which is not compatible with the maintenance of proper tempo.

Category 3 of WBF Systems Policy applies

A Defensive Gem

by Rich Colker

Bd: 17
Dir: North
Vul: None

van Prooijen
♠ A9864
♥ K84
♦ 974
♣ K10

Milne
♠ QJ103
♥ AJ6
♦ AJ8
♣ Q86

Whibley
♠ K75
♥ 1093
♦ KQ2
♣ A542

Verhees
♠ 2
♥ Q752
♦ 10653
♣ J973

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♦(1)	Pass	2♠(2)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

(1) 13-16 balanced GF
(2) Transfer to 2NT

This was the first board of the second half of Wednesday night's knockout match between The Netherlands and Australia Youth. Ricco van Prooijen, North, led the ♠6 against Liam Milne's 3NT contract, the seven winning in dummy. Next Milne led a club to the queen and king (setting up spade and/or heart tricks might have been better) and van Prooijen switched to...the ♥K?! What, you may ask, was he thinking? Well, just you wait and see.

Milne won (we know you would have ducked, dear reader, for the very reason given below), led a spade to the ace, then switched to the ♣10, Louk Verhees overtaking with the jack. Milne ducked so Verhees continued with the nine to the ace and now the brilliance of the ♥K shift reveals itself. Verhees had a club to cash and, because of van Prooijen's foresight, had the ♥Q as an entry to cash it. And now you can see why Milne should have ducked the ♥K and taken the finesse for the queen later.

That was 10 imps to The Netherlands, which helped fuel their 80-52 victory in the match. Bravo! Encore!

Message from John Wignall

(Vice President, WBF)

When I told Gianarrigo Rona, the WBF President, that I would be taking part in the Yeh Bros Cup this year, he asked me to pass on his congratulations and greetings to the organizers and the participants, and in particular to thank Chen Yeh for his support of bridge in so many ways. The WBF recognizes that sponsors are necessary to help fund its events and activities, and is grateful to all of them.

Mr. Yeh has created a unique event, and by holding his Cup in different parts of the Asia-Pacific area he has helped the development of bridge here. I myself first came to Japan in 1964, for what was then the Far East Bridge Championships. Tokyo and Yokohama were very different cities in those days, just as bridge has changed considerably in the last 50 years. Even so, when compared to Go and Chess, it is very young game and we can expect it to become even more challenging.

Mr. Yeh's enterprise and initiative will help in this process, and so on behalf of the WBF and all the players here I am delighted to say to him, "Thank you very much – we wish you good health and good fortune for many years to come."

Images of Our Game



"So, what do you think?
Will Bauke Muller
ever finish?"



"It say here our next match
is in the basement."



"But you're the Director. You
already know the hands!"



"Here, this is my
good side."

KO3 – 1st Half: Italy Lavazza vs Denmark

by Barry Rigal



Duboin



Auken



Welland



Sementa



M Bilde



Bocchi



Madala



D Bilde

Throughout the set we shall refer to the Italy Lavazza team as Italy; Maria-Teresa Lavazza is here and potentially a playing member of the squad; we are happy to see her. The Bildes, father and son, will be Dennis and Morten.

Madala felt no compunction about bidding his hearts, attracting a simple raise from North on a hand where he might have felt worried about missing slam when his partner produced the $\diamond A$ at trick one. First blood to Italy; 7-0. What's twice seven?

Bd: 1
 Dlr: North
 Vul: None

North
 \spadesuit 64
 \heartsuit Q9754
 \diamond QJ8
 \clubsuit K72

West
 \spadesuit Q108753
 \heartsuit 82
 \diamond 93
 \clubsuit Q93

East
 \spadesuit AKJ2
 \heartsuit J10
 \diamond K7654
 \clubsuit J5

South
 \spadesuit 9
 \heartsuit AK63
 \diamond A102
 \clubsuit A10864

Bd: 2
 Dlr: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 \spadesuit AQ4
 \heartsuit 1074
 \diamond J94
 \clubsuit A862

West
 \spadesuit J10982
 \heartsuit AQJ82
 \diamond 5
 \clubsuit 93

East
 \spadesuit K63
 \heartsuit 95
 \diamond Q10832
 \clubsuit QJ7

South
 \spadesuit 75
 \heartsuit K63
 \diamond AK76
 \clubsuit K1054

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Auken	Sementa	Welland
Pass	Pass	1 \diamond	2 \clubsuit

Pass 3 \clubsuit All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
M Bilde	Bocchi	D Bilde	Madala
Pass	Pass	1 \diamond	2 \clubsuit
Pass	3 \clubsuit	Pass	3 \heartsuit
Pass	4 \heartsuit	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Auken	Sementa	Welland
2 \clubsuit	Dbl	2 \spadesuit	Dbl
Pass	3 \spadesuit	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
M Bilde	Bocchi	D Bilde	Madala
2 \clubsuit	Dbl	2 \spadesuit	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	1 \clubsuit
All Pass		Pass	3NT

The first board threw up a style and system issue. As South do you overcall? (if South had passed and doubled spades his side would get to 4 \heartsuit or double 4 \spadesuit .) If you overcall 2 \clubsuit do you raise as North or bid/make a Rubens transfer into hearts? (There is surely a better case for the transfer into hearts than bidding the suit, but of course if the opponents bid again the club raise may be at an uncomfortable level.) And finally, as South, when partner makes the weakest club raise, should you bid again or pass? Welland looked at his spade shortage and inferred spade length opposite, hence no heart fit, while

3NT by North was quite playable. Bocchi won the spade lead cheaply and tried to pin the doubleton $\diamond 8$ or singleton $\diamond 8$ or $\diamond 10$ by passing the $\diamond J$, then the $\diamond 9$. East covered on both occasions so declarer gave up a club, won the spade return, then cashed his winners and tried to endplay West in spades to lead hearts. Morten had retained his $\spadesuit 2$ so Dennis could win his $\spadesuit 6$ and cash out. Well played all around.

In the other room 3NT on the lead of the ♠J saw declarer cover, duck the second spade, then win the third pitching a heart. Now, when he tried to develop the minors, both major suits were running for the defenders and Welland was -500. Italy led 14-0.

On the next deal both Wests failed the ESP test.

West	East
♠ K	♠ J10762
♥ Q87643	♥ ---
♦ KQJ	♦ 9832
♣ K92	♣ AQJ5

The West hand opened 1♥, heard a 1♠ response (of course), then “woodenly” rebid 2♥ — down only one when every suit split evenly but the ♥AK did not come down. I suppose a rebid of 2♣ or 1NT is only attractive when you know what partner’s heart holding is. 1NT might also be beaten, I suppose, so there was not much at stake here.

Bd: 4	North
Dir: West	♠ 104
Vul: Both	♥ Q9865
	♦ 942
	♣ AQ10

West	East
♠ J98	♠ AQ32
♥ KJ7	♥ 32
♦ KJ108653	♦ AQ
♣ ---	♣ KJ842

South
♠ K765
♥ A104
♦ 7
♣ 97653

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Welland</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>M Bilde</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>D Bilde</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Against 3♦ the defenders led and continued spades. Declarer drew trumps and decided North’s failure to lead hearts suggested the ace, so they misguessed hearts for +130.

In the other room, where the stakes were higher, Madala took some considerable time to the first trick. Eventually he ducked. Declarer won, drew trumps, then ducked a spade to South. Back came a club, of course, and Morton misguessed. Bocchi won his ♥Q and played...the ♣A, a play that the assembled commentators could not justify (declarer had to have a club void since otherwise he would be playing clubs before spades – or trumps). Denmark would not reject the 10 imps; they trailed 14-10.

Bd: 5	North
Dir: North	♠ AK642
Vul: N/S	♥ AJ32
	♦ Q
	♣ 864

West
♠ Q107
♥ K106
♦ AJ103
♣ K73

East
♠ J983
♥ 94
♦ 862
♣ AJ109

South
♠ 5
♥ Q875
♦ K9754
♣ Q52

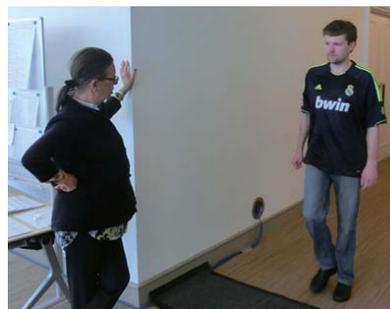
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Welland</i>
	1♠	Pass	Pass
1NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>M Bilde</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>D Bilde</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Madala’s conservative pass of 2♥ was based on his partner’s denial of extra values via a Gazzilli 2♣. Dennis led a small trump: five, ten jack. Bocchi advanced the ♦Q and Morten took it to return a trump. Bocchi went up with the ace, ruffed a spade in dummy to pitch his club, and emerged with eight tricks...as did Duboin in 1NT when Auken hit upon the exceedingly unfortunate club lead (had she led either major declarer would have misguessed clubs and gone down). As it was Duboin, even though Welland ducked the first trick, was a trick and a tempo ahead. He played on spades, and diamonds, and Auken eventually exited with a second club. So Duboin emerged with +120 and 6 imps. Italy, 20-10.

Both E/W pairs did well to stop in 2♠ when East opened 2♠ and West passed with the hands below.

West	East
♠ 7	♠ KQ10983
♥ A986	♥ Q73
♦ AQ865	♦ 1094
♣ KQ6	♣ 8

The quick tricks are presumably more than offset by the singleton spade. Both declarers took normal lines, Sementa playing trumps from the top to emerge with an overtrick when the ♠AJ was doubleton offside. 21-10 for Italy.



“Do you have your entry permit?”

Bd: 7
 Dlr: South
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ 64
 ♥ Q52
 ♦ 8654
 ♣ Q1084

West
 ♠ 982
 ♥ K963
 ♦ K7
 ♣ 9763

East
 ♠ AQ105
 ♥ J84
 ♦ J9
 ♣ AK52

South
 ♠ KJ73
 ♥ A107
 ♦ AQ1032
 ♣ J

Open Room

West <i>Duboin</i>	North <i>Auken</i>	East <i>Sementa</i>	South <i>Welland</i>
Pass	3♦(PRE) All Pass	Dbl	1♦ Pass

Closed Room

West <i>M Bilde</i>	North <i>Bocchi</i>	East <i>D Bilde</i>	South <i>Madala</i>
Pass	2♦	Dbl	3♦
All Pass			

The defenders led the ♠8 against 3♦. Dennis won and shifted to the ♥J, won by West's king. Back came yet a third suit, a club to East's ace (thoughtful play by Dennis) for a second spade, but now all declarer lost was a trump. In the other room 3♦ was no picnic despite the favorable lie of the trumps. After a diamond lead, ducked to West for a spade play, Welland won to lead a low trump to the queen for a second spade play. Now the defenders could play on spades early enough to kill any discard and all Duboin could take was two trumps, two clubs and one trick in each red suit. I guess it served Sementa right for having his bid; -300 and +110 meant 5imps for Denmark, trailing 21-15.

Bd: 8
 Dlr: West
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ J96
 ♥ KQJ973
 ♦ ---
 ♣ Q732

West
 ♠ 1042
 ♥ 8
 ♦ AQ1052
 ♣ A654

East
 ♠ AK
 ♥ A2
 ♦ J87643
 ♣ J98

South
 ♠ Q8753
 ♥ 10654
 ♦ K9
 ♣ K10

Open Room

West <i>Duboin</i>	North <i>Auken</i>	East <i>Sementa</i>	South <i>Welland</i>
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West <i>M Bilde</i>	North <i>Bocchi</i>	East <i>D Bilde</i>	South <i>Madala</i>
Pass	1♥	2♦	2NT(♥)
4♥	Pass	5♦	All Pass

I'm not sure what vibrations there were at the table, but Duboin's decision to pass out 3♥ when non-vulnerable and a passed hand is untypical of my idea of the Italian "all-in" style. The defenders had two chances to take the spade ruff. Sementa showed his doubleton ♠AK, Duboin tried to suggest diamonds, and when declarer ruffed to play trumps Sementa won his ace and led a low club to set the contract trick. But that simply held the loss on the board.

In 5♦ Dennis received a spade lead, then carefully cashed the ♦A and stripped off the majors before exiting with a second diamond. With 23 HCP between the two hands he could be reasonably confident by now that South would be endplayed to lead a club to his partner and then he would at worst have to guess clubs at the next turn. Had the ♣7 and ♣10 been switched he might well have gone wrong, given the one-level opening found by Bocchi, but as it was Madala shifted to the ♣10 (in the hopes that his partner had ♣Q9xx?) and declarer immediately ducked in dummy and claimed +400. Denmark led 23-21 now.

Bd: 9
 Dlr: North
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ A87642
 ♥ 9
 ♦ K976
 ♣ 95

West
 ♠ Q1093
 ♥ AKJ107
 ♦ 108
 ♣ A10

East
 ♠ ---
 ♥ Q32
 ♦ J52
 ♣ KQ87432

South
 ♠ KJ5
 ♥ 8654
 ♦ AQ43
 ♣ J6

Open Room

West <i>Duboin</i>	North <i>Auken</i>	East <i>Sementa</i>	South <i>Welland</i>
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West <i>M Bilde</i>	North <i>Bocchi</i>	East <i>D Bilde</i>	South <i>Madala</i>
2♣	Pass	Pass	1NT
	All Pass		

Neither team takes any prisoners but both Norths were discreet enough to recognize that they did not have a weak-two here — at favorable vulnerability, yet. Sementa elected to open 3♣ and Duboin had seen enough of his partner's preempts not to advance with 3♥. When he passed, that allowed Auken to balance with 3♠, where the combination of the 4-0 trump break and the absence of the trump nine was fatal to declarer's chances. Still, one down was not a tragedy.

In the Closed Room Dennis passed initially and had the auction time out perfectly to allow him to play the suit he wanted at the level he would have chosen, if asked. Mind you, since E/W could make 11 tricks in

hearts that did take a little of the guilt off the gingerbread. 3 imps to Denmark, to lead 26-21.

Both E/W pairs then failed a bidding challenge. After a 2NT opening could you get to 4♥ here? And if your partner used Puppet Stayman is there a case for showing five hearts as West? (That wouldn't be too bright if partner's small doubleton was in clubs; maybe you need to be 4-4 or to have your weakness in the other major to consider that.)

West	East
♠ A105	♠ KQJ
♥ AKQ7	♥ 954
♦ 986	♦ J4
♣ AQJ	♣ 109843

Again, perhaps, if hearts were 5-1, diamonds were 4-4 and the club finesse was working we would not be having this discussion. Today, though, 4♥ was easy and 3NT lost the first five diamonds. No swing, and after an unexciting 3NT making +460 in both rooms the score remained 26-21.

Bd: 12	North
Dlr: West	♠ K6
Vul: N/S	♥ 942
	♦ KQ9743
	♣ A3

West	East	South
♠ J84	♠ 109732	♠ AQ5
♥ 7	♥ AJ108	♥ KQ653
♦ 862	♦ J	♦ A105
♣ KQ10986	♣ J72	♣ 54

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Welland</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♣(♥)
2♠	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>M Bilde</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>D Bilde</i>	<i>Madala</i>
3♣	3♦	4♣	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Dennis Bilde's opening lead would be quite a tester in a panel forum; switch the ♥4 and ♠4 and everyone would laugh at the lead of the ♥A. And of course East knows that his partnership style of preempting is entirely consistent with a six-card suit. After a club lead declarer cashed the ♦K and (if the record is to be believed) claimed six — a result that requires just a little care. After the ♦A he must play three rounds of spades, pitching the club, then draw the last trump and lead a heart to dummy, ruff a club, and play a heart up again. If you draw all the trumps before

taking the discard on the spades you run out of entries to hand to play hearts up.

In the other room East would have known to give his partner the heart ruff against 6♦, so one could argue that Welland's decision was a reasonable one (and had partner held e.g. ♥J98 or better it would have been a winning one). Nonetheless, I'm not sure Welland was correct to overrule his partner here with such bad trumps himself. Italy had 16 imps to lead 37-26.

Bd: 13	North
Dlr: North	♠ 10
Vul: Both	♥ Q2
	♦ 1042
	♣ KQ109753

West	East	South
♠ AJ98642	♠ KQ5	♠ 73
♥ 97	♥ KJ10	♥ A86543
♦ K6	♦ AQJ873	♦ 95
♣ J8	♣ 2	♣ A64

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Welland</i>
	3♣	3♦	5♣
5♦	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>M Bilde</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>D Bilde</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	3♣	Dbl	5♣
5♠	All Pass		

Denmark again played in the higher-scoring strain, this time at the five-level. As will be the theme of this match, Welland tried to give his partner a heart ruff at trick one, then changed his mind and cashed the ♣A to save the overtrick. In the other room the defenders led the ♣K. Madala overtook and played ace and another heart. 37-28 now for Italy.

Bd: 14	North
Dlr: East	♠ Q93
Vul: None	♥ K62
	♦ 104
	♣ A7653

West	East	South
♠ 10752	♠ K864	♠ AJ
♥ QJ9	♥ 84	♥ A10753
♦ Q983	♦ K52	♦ AJ76
♣ J8	♣ K1092	♣ Q4

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Welland</i>
Pass	2♠(R)	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♣(Max)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M Bilde</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>D Bilde</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	3♥	Pass	1♥
All Pass		Pass	4♥

Bocchi's raise to 3♥ was based on the partnership playing weak notrump here, while Welland's opening bid leaves those of us who believe Reese's theory that 5422 is a suit distribution simply scratching our heads. Yes, the South hand has some of its honors in the short suits but where will the madness end?

Welland would simply point to the fact that while a spade lead against 3NT would leave you struggling, on the heart lead chosen he was playing for overtricks. He ducked, won the diamond shift in hand and when hearts broke he set up a spade for his ninth winner.

Meanwhile, 4♥ might have been struggling had the ♠K been wrong. Madala won the spade lead, led a diamond to the ten and queen, won the trump shift in dummy and led a club towards the queen. East took the king to play a trump but Madala won in hand, unblocked clubs, and ruffed one diamond in dummy and pitched the other on the ♣A. Each side would move on, convinced of the merits of its arguments, and Italy would take the overtrick imp to lead 37-28.

Bd: 15	North
Dlr: South	♠ A64
Vul: N/S	♥ J7
	♦ KJ73
	♣ J1094

West
 ♠ Q9832
 ♥ K
 ♦ Q984
 ♣ A52

East
 ♠ J
 ♥ A98532
 ♦ A2
 ♣ Q873

South
 ♠ K1075
 ♥ Q1064
 ♦ 1065
 ♣ K6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Welland</i>
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M Bilde</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>D Bilde</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Both E/W pairs, lemmings to a man, went racing off the cliff as fast as their little legs would carry them. I would have thought a 2♥ opening in fourth seat by Dennis might have saved the day, but equally both Duboin's decision to open and Sementa's to drive to game look aggressive in the extreme.

Both Souths led the ♦5. Sementa guessed well at trick one to play the eight from dummy, Dennis went up with the queen. One saved undertrick left Italy down three instead of four, and with whatever the reverse of a Pyrrhic victory might be. On to the last, Italy leading 40-28.

Bd: 16	North
Dlr: West	♠ 3
Vul: E/W	♥ 109853
	♦ KQJ6
	♣ J75

West
 ♠ AJ865
 ♥ 6
 ♦ ---
 ♣ AQ98632

East
 ♠ K1072
 ♥ Q74
 ♦ 9874
 ♣ K4

South
 ♠ Q94
 ♥ AKJ2
 ♦ A10532
 ♣ 10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Welland</i>
1♣	1♦(!)	Pass (!)	2♣
2♠	Pass	3♦	3♥
4♠	5♥	5♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M Bilde</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>D Bilde</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1♣	1♥(!)	Dbl	2NT(♥)
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Madala may have hoped to have a little defense to 6♠ but he knew enough not to double. The defenders cashed their heart trick and declarer had no real reason to guess spades; down one.

Meanwhile, with 6♦ by North down only a trick (here the defenders could not really fail to cash out properly, could they?) who was supposed to save? Welland surely knew he had two heart tricks on this auction and posterity, alas, does not preserve his reactions. But when North showed up with only four diamonds at the first trick maybe he already knew the score. 13imps to Italy, and they led 53-28.

KO3 – 2nd Half: Italy Lavazza vs Denmark

by Rich Colker



Welland



Bocchi



Madala



Auken



Duboin



D Bilde



M Bilde



Sementa

The second half started with Italy Lavazza leading Denmark by 25, 53-28. This was it, put up or go play in the Lower Bracket.

Bd: 17
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ AQ
 ♥ J972
 ♦ K32
 ♣ A843

West
 ♠ 743
 ♥ Q83
 ♦ J54
 ♣ KQ109

East
 ♠ KJ9
 ♥ A104
 ♦ A1086
 ♣ J72

South
 ♠ 108652
 ♥ K65
 ♦ Q97
 ♣ 65

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	Bocchi	Auken	Madala
	1NT	Pass	2♥(♠)
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	D Bilde	Sementa	M Bilde
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

N/S at both tables reached 2♠, albeit from different sides (South's decision in the Closed Room looking idiosyncratic). In the Open Room Auken led a low club to the queen and ace. Bocchi led a heart to the king and a second heart to the nine and ten. Auken switched to diamonds, playing ace and another to dummy's queen. Now came the losing spade finesse and Auken tabled the ♣J. Welland overtook with the king and switched to the ♦J. Bocchi won the king, cashed the ♠A, ruffed a club, then led a spade. When the suit split evenly he claimed seven tricks for down one, -50,

In the Closed Room Duboin led the ♣K, ducked, followed by the ♣Q. Morten Bilde (from now on we will use just the first names to distinguish between

the two Bilde) won, ruffed a club, and took the losing spade finesse, Sementa returning the ♠9 to the ace. Morten played a third spade to the jack, and now Sementa led a low heart. Duboin won when Morten ducked and returned the suit to the ace. Sementa got out with a third heart and, locked in his hand, Bilde had to lose two diamonds for down two, -100; 3 imps to Italy, ahead now 55-28.

Bd: 18
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ 2
 ♥ KJ642
 ♦ AQ8765
 ♣ K

West
 ♠ KQ8654
 ♥ 105
 ♦ J104
 ♣ Q7

East
 ♠ 93
 ♥ Q
 ♦ K32
 ♣ AJ106532

South
 ♠ AJ107
 ♥ A9873
 ♦ 9
 ♣ 984

6♥ in the five-five fit was a fine contract for N/S here; declarer simply sets up dummy's diamonds with two ruffs, drawing trumps along the way, and claims. The Bilde stopped in 4♥, never really sniffing at slam, while Bocchi-Madala did get to 5♥ but only because they were pushed there by the opponents. Both tables made 12 easy tricks for a push at 680.

Bd: 19
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ 986
 ♥ 43
 ♦ Q842
 ♣ AQ82

West
 ♠ AQ2
 ♥ 9765
 ♦ K76
 ♣ 765

East
 ♠ J3
 ♥ J8
 ♦ A1093
 ♣ K10943

South
 ♠ K10754
 ♥ AKQ102
 ♦ J5
 ♣ J

Both N/S pairs had uncontested auctions to 4♠ from the South seat, but neither pair was especially happy with the result. Both declarers took the club finesse early, hoping to pitch of one of their diamond losers. When that failed, the defenses quickly cashed two diamonds and got out with a heart. Still hoping to hold their losses to a minimum both declarers tried to reach dummy with a heart ruff in order to lead trumps toward their hand, but East over-ruffed and, with two trumps still to lose, both tables were down three, -150, for a second straight push.

Bd: 20
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North	♠ 6
	♥ Q103
	♦ AKQ4
	♣ K10854

West	♠ A74
	♥ 42
	♦ 9853
	♣ Q762

East	♠ KQ8
	♥ K9875
	♦ J106
	♣ 93

South	♠ J109532
	♥ AJ6
	♦ 72
	♣ AJ

Yet another deal from the "Let's Not Give the Bulletin Editors Anything Good to Write About" collection. Both N/S pairs bid their way to 3NT, Madala declaring in the Open Room, Dennis in the Closed Room. Welland led a diamond to the ace and Madala played a club to the ace, passed the ♣J, ducked, then got out with the ♠J to Auken's queen. A second diamond went to dummy and Madala now passed the ♥10, which held, then tested clubs. When Auken pitched on the ♣K Madala simply cashed out, repeating the heart finesse along the way, for +600.

Sementa led the ♠Q in the other room, then switched to the ♥K. Dennis won the ace and continued with the ♠J, setting up three spade tricks to claim 10 tricks for +630 and 1 imp for Denmark, who now trailed 55-29.

Bd: 21
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North	♠ J72
	♥ QJ94
	♦ J8
	♣ KJ97

West	♠ AK103
	♥ A10753
	♦ 94
	♣ Q5

East	♠ Q8654
	♥ 6
	♦ Q107652
	♣ 6

South	♠ 9
	♥ K82
	♦ AK3
	♣ A108432

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	Bocchi	Auken	Madala
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Dbl	Pass	1♠	2♣
2♠	Dbl(♥+♠)	4♠	Dbl
Pass	5♣	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	D Bilde	Sementa	M Bilde
	Pass	Pass	1♣
2♣(♥+♠)	3♣	4♠	5♣
All Pass			

Finally a deal with some meat on the bone. 5♣ had no play if E/W found their heart ruff (or two) at trick one (or two, after a top spade lead and heart switch). Were it not for that, the 5♠ save would have been a good bet at this vulnerability. Madala led the ♦A, then switched to the ace and a second club. Auken ruffed, played a trump to dummy, then led a diamond to the jack, queen and king. Madala led a third diamond but Auken was up to it, ruffing high in dummy and leading the ♠3. We may never know what she would have done had Bocchi followed with the seven, but he rose with the jack, apparently trying to lock declarer in dummy if she had started with only four trumps (but then why wouldn't she have led the ♠10 to avoid that possibility?) and she claimed the rest for down one, -100.

The actions in the Closed Room may have some bearing on the question of whether it is wise to take a cheap save against a contract that you may beat but where the defense is uncertain. We'll leave it to the bridge philosophers out there to sort it all out (wait a minute, we are the bridge philosophers). In any case Duboin led the ♠A (Sementa playing the six) and switched to...the ♦9. Now Bilde drew trumps and claimed for +600 and a highly useful 11 imps, to draw closer at 55-40.

Bd: 22
 Dir: East
 Vul: E/W

North	♠ KQ87543
	♥ 75
	♦ 54
	♣ J10

West	♠ 92
	♥ Q
	♦ Q9632
	♣ AQ865

East	♠ J
	♥ KJ983
	♦ KJ1087
	♣ K4

South	♠ A106
	♥ A10642
	♦ A
	♣ 9732

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Welland	Bocchi	Auken	Madala
		1♥	Pass
1♠(1)	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

(1) Substitute 1NT bid (1NT would show 4+spades)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	D Bilde	Sementa	M Bilde
		1♥	Pass
2♠(♣+♦)	4♠	5♦	5♥
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

In the Open Room the Italians bounced quickly into the spade game and on the ♠J lead Bocchi claimed 10 tricks upon sight of dummy; +420. In the Closed

Room Duboin was able to show his minor suits and now Auken could not be stopped from taking the rare but good unfavorable-vulnerability save, which would have gone for just 200 except that the Bildes bid on to the five level. Duboin offered an opinion on the wisdom of that decision and was proven right when he emerged with +100, and 11imps for Team Lavazza, building their lead back up to 26 at 66-40.

Bd: 23
 Dlr: South
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ K8
 ♥ KQJ2
 ♦ A62
 ♣ AKQJ

West
 ♠ AQ95
 ♥ 105
 ♦ 10753
 ♣ 1053

East
 ♠ J643
 ♥ A43
 ♦ 9
 ♣ 98642

South
 ♠ 1072
 ♥ 9876
 ♦ KQJ84
 ♣ 7

Both N/S pairs played in 4♥, Madala from the South side in the Open Room, Dennis from the North side in the Closed Room. Welland led the ♠A and switched to a trump, declarer claiming 11 tricks for +650. Sementa, on lead with the singleton diamond, led it. Dennis won the king, then played four rounds of clubs hoping to get rid of dummy's spades. But Duboin ruffed the fourth round and gave his partner a diamond ruff, holding declarer to 10 tricks. That was another imp to Italy, now ahead 67-40.

Bd: 24
 Dlr: West
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ ---
 ♥ J52
 ♦ 97
 ♣ AKJ109762

West
 ♠ AJ842
 ♥ Q7
 ♦ A10843
 ♣ 8

East
 ♠ KQ753
 ♥ K10864
 ♦ QJ
 ♣ 3

South
 ♠ 1096
 ♥ A93
 ♦ K652
 ♣ Q54

Open Room
 West North East South
 Welland Bocchi Auken Madala
 1♠ 5♣ 5♠ 6♣
 Pass Pass Dbl All Pass

Closed Room
 West North East South
 Duboin D Bilde Sementa M Bilde
 1♠ 5♣ 5♠ 6♣
 Pass Pass 6♠ Dbl
 All Pass

5♠ is unbeatable as the cards lie so Madala was spot-on with his 6♣ bid, as was Auken to double. The defense started with a spade, ruffed by Bocchi, who then eliminated dummy's spades while drawing trumps in two rounds. He then played a low heart to the ace, Welland unblocking the queen to avoid

being endplayed, and now Bocchi had to lose two hearts and two diamonds for down three, -500.

The wheels seem to have come off in the Closed Room, in more ways than one. Sementa would have done best (at least in theory) to have doubled 6♣ and taken his +500 to match the Open Room result. Instead, he judged to bid 6♠ and now the defense simply had to cash their two aces to win 12imps. Dennis led the ♥2 to the ace and Morten returned the suit, thinking to give his partner a ruff, which would have been a very good plan on some days — this not being one of them. Duboin won, drew trumps (Dennis throwing the ♣A on the first round so Morten had extra time to realize the situation), pitched his club loser on the ♥K, and took the diamond finesse for 12 tricks. That was +1210, and 12 moreimps to Italy, who had increased their lead to 39 at 79-40.

Next came a string of four push boards. Both Easts played and made 4♠ on Board 25. Then both Norths played and made 3NT on Board 26. Both Souths went down one trick on Board 27 (Madala in 3♥, Morten in 3NT — better to be hanged for a sheep as for a lamb). And finally, both E/W pairs bid and made 3NT on Board 28. Now there were four boards left to play with Italy leading by 39. Not a lot of hope in the Danish camp — but not quite impossible yet.

Bd: 29
 Dlr: North
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ 542
 ♥ AJ106
 ♦ K832
 ♣ K8

West
 ♠ 108
 ♥ KQ75
 ♦ Q10
 ♣ AQ952

East
 ♠ KQ63
 ♥ 432
 ♦ J7654
 ♣ 6

South
 ♠ AJ97
 ♥ 98
 ♦ A9
 ♣ J10743

Open Room
 West North East South
 Welland Bocchi Auken Madala
 1♦ Pass 1NT 1♠
 Dbl Pass 1NT Dbl
 Pass Pass 2♥ Dbl
 Pass Dbl All Pass

Closed Room
 West North East South
 Duboin D Bilde Sementa M Bilde
 1♦ Pass 1NT 1♠
 Dbl Rdbl 1NT Dbl
 All Pass

West's double caught East with a misfit in both rooms and now the choice was to either sit it out in 1NTx or to run toward (hopefully) greener pastures. Beware those with red-green color-blindness. Auken chose to try 2♥ where she could hope to score some extra tricks with ruffs. Madala had seen this before and lost no time tabling a trump. Auken's king lost to Bocchi's ace and back came a spade to the king and ace. Madala returned to trumps and must have been surprised when his eight held the trick. He exited with

the ♠J to the queen and now Auken played a club to the ace and ruffed a club, happy to see the king fall. She ruffed a spade to score dummy's last low trump, cashed the ♥Q, then played a diamond. Madala won the ace, cashed the ♠9, and led a diamond to Bocchi who still had a trump but had to concede a trick to the ♦J at the end. That was two down -500,

Sementa in the Closed Room chose to sit it out in 1NTx. Morten led the ♥9 to the king and ace and back came a spade, ducked to the jack. A second heart was ducked, Dennis over-taking with the ten to play a second spade, ducked to the ten. Now Sementa cashed the ♥Q and played the ♦Q, ducked to the ace, and Morten exited with the ♦9 to the ten and king. Dennis cashed the ♥J and got out with the ♣K to the ace and Sementa led back the ♣2, hoping for something good to happen there. But Dennis's eight held the trick and he could now play a spade to Morton's ace. The ♣J10 had to take one of the last two tricks for down three, -800, and 7 imps back to Denmark. Not a bad start for a comeback, now trailing by "only" 32 at 79-47.

Bd: 30
 Dir: East
 Vul: None

West
 ♠ 108
 ♥ A865
 ♦ 974
 ♣ 10754

North
 ♠ AQJ73
 ♥ Q4
 ♦ K1052
 ♣ A2

East
 ♠ K942
 ♥ KJ10932
 ♦ J8
 ♣ 9

South
 ♠ 65
 ♥ 7
 ♦ AQ63
 ♣ KQJ863

Open Room

West <i>Welland</i>	North <i>Bocchi</i>	East <i>Auken</i>	South <i>Madala</i>
2♠	Dbl	3♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	4♠	Pass
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
5♥	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West <i>Duboin</i>	North <i>D Bilde</i>	East <i>Sementa</i>	South <i>M Bilde</i>
4♥	5NT	2♥	3♣
All Pass		Pass	6♣

Welland's 3♠ bid looks like a bald-faced psychic to us — and we know bald-face actions only too well. But here it seemed to work to perfection with N/S cold for 6♦ and able to take only four tricks against 5♥x for +300. Of course Auken's well-timed 3♥ bid, shutting Madala completely out of the auction, played a major role in the score as well. Sementa's 2♥ opening didn't quite get the job done as Morten had no problem overcalling 3♣. Dennis did his best to steer Morten to the right slam (6♦) by bidding a pick-your-slam 5NT but Morten chose 6♣, which simply could not generate enough tricks, and he eventually had to rely on the spade finesse and went one down, just a tad unluckily, when it failed. That was -50 and 8 imps back to Italy, who led 87-47 with just two

boards to go. They will face the survivors of the Lower Bracket for the Yeh Bros Cup championship on Friday.

Next both Easts went down one in 3♠. Still 87-47.

Bd: 32
 Dir: West
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ 96
 ♥ AKQ
 ♦ K102
 ♣ K10542

West
 ♠ AKJ1042
 ♥ J97
 ♦ 83
 ♣ 96

East
 ♠ 753
 ♥ 543
 ♦ J654
 ♣ AQ7

South
 ♠ Q8
 ♥ 10862
 ♦ AQ97
 ♣ J83

Open Room

West <i>Welland</i>	North <i>Bocchi</i>	East <i>Auken</i>	South <i>Madala</i>
2♠	Dbl	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Dbl	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West <i>Duboin</i>	North <i>D Bilde</i>	East <i>Sementa</i>	South <i>M Bilde</i>
2♠	Dbl	3♠	4♥
All Pass			

We all know that the Italians' reputation precedes them, but this one can only be attributed to smoke and mirrors. Bocchi drove his side to 3NT with his stopper in the opponents' bid-and-"raised" spade suit featuring Q8 opposite 96. Welland, thinking Auken's double of 3♠ would be taken by Madala as showing an honor (which it might have in their system), led the ♠10, thinking the queen-third would come down in dummy (for Bocchi's 3NT bid) and that declarer would duck, hoping Auken held something like Ax or Kx and that the suit would block. Well, imagine his surprise when dummy hit with that holding and Madala, not Auken, showed up with the queen. Smoke and mirrors. But that was not all. We can see that N/S now had nine tricks with the help of the diamond finesse and the ♥J falling third (and the non-refundable spade trick). Madala played all out, cashing two top hearts, then leading the ♦10 and passing it, and now had nine tricks for +400.

In the Closed Room the Bilde's played in 4♥ but the mirror spade holdings made taking ruffs in either hand difficult. Duboin cashed the ♠AK, then switched to the ♦8 to the ten, jack and ace. With limited hand entries Morten tried a club to the ten, hoping for something like Qx onside, but Sementa won the queen and returned a diamond hoping Duboin could ruff. But the diamond went around to the king, and now declarer cashed the three top trumps in dummy and conceded down one, -50. That was 10 more coals to Newcastle...err, imps to Italy, who won the match going away by 50 imps, 97-47.

The last of the Eternal Triangles

Denmark vs Netherlands vs Yeh Bros I

Three into two won't go, as we all know, but here we had three teams and had to reduce them to one.

First Half:

In the first half of the knockouts Netherlands emerged into the pole position. They and Yeh Bros I were virtually tied, but Netherlands led Denmark by 25 imps while Denmark were the same number up on Yeh Bros. Here are some of the key deals from that first half.

Bd: 1	North		
Dlr: North	♠ J864		
Vul: None	♥ J5		
	♦ Q964		
	♣ 932		
	West		East
	♠ Q52		♠ A
	♥ KQ86		♥ 1092
	♦ 875		♦ AK1032
	♣ 865		♣ AQJ7
	South		
	♠ K10973		
	♥ A743		
	♦ J		
	♣ K104		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>v Pr'en</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
		1♦	1♠
Dbf	3♠	Dbf	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Shih</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Ping</i>
		1♣(STR)	Dbf(♥+♠)
Rdbl(6-8)	1♠	Dbf	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Furuta judged well to show extras and balanced. Chen wasn't happy to pass but had nowhere to go. On a diamond lead and club shift Verhees put in the king and tried a low heart from hand. Chen gave that some thought and won it, then played back a club and the defenders took their two clubs tricks and waited for their two trump winners. Plus 300 was a very nice position, and so it proved when in 3NT de Wijs won the spade lead and played the ♥10 at once. Ping ducked (in theory unwisely, perhaps) but declarer won in hand, took the club finesse and was sunk when it lost.

Declarer might have cashed the ♦A at trick two, playing South for 5413 with a singleton honor (since you cannot pick up 4-1 diamonds and there really are not enough entries to make 3NT both by playing on clubs and also taking two diamond finesses). If no honor appears lead a heart to hand and play on clubs, using the second entry in the form of the ♠Q to take a diamond finesse. If South hops up with the ♥A on either the first or second round of the suit you have three hearts, three diamonds, two clubs and a spade.

Clearly this line smacks of double dummy but I'm not sure it is absurd. You be the judge. Yeh Bros I had 8 imps.

A couple of boards later Ping and Verhees both picked up the South hand. How high to preempt?

Bd: 3	North		
Dlr: South	♠ Q32		
Vul: E/W	♥ 962		
	♦ J987		
	♣ K54		
	West		East
	♠ K1085		♠ A94
	♥ ---		♥ K84
	♦ AQ63		♦ K102
	♣ J9832		♣ AQ76
	South		
	♠ J76		
	♥ AQJ10753		
	♦ 54		
	♣ 10		

Ping opened it 3♥, while Verhees considered it worth 4♥. 3♥ led to Ping playing 4♥x while the 4♥ opening was passed out. Since E/W can make 6♣ in a canter (in fact they could make 7♣ by East without working too hard at it) -100 in 4♥ was a decent return on investment for Verhees. Both Wests led a spade, by the way, to minimize the damage for declarer. Ping escaped for -500 after Muller ducked trick one to avoid letting declarer get to the board for the trump finesse. That made it 10-8 for Netherlands.

Chen struck back on the next deal.

Bd: 4	North		
Dlr: West	♠ QJ852		
Vul: Both	♥ A104		
	♦ 9654		
	♣ 6		
	West		East
	♠ A64		♠ 1093
	♥ 863		♥ KQ92
	♦ 1032		♦ AKQ87
	♣ A1073		♣ 8
	South		
	♠ K7		
	♥ J75		
	♦ J		
	♣ KQJ9542		

Both Easts opened 1♦ and both Souths tried 3♣, doubled by East in the balancing seat and passed out by West. De Wijs led a diamond to the queen, and Muller shifted immediately (well, as immediately as Bauke does anything) to the ♥Q to kill the threat in spades. Reasonable enough, but declarer could escape for down one now. In the other room Chen found the spectacular heart lead. Furuta won, switched to trumps, and declarer was toast since Chen could win and press on in hearts for 500 to the defense; 16-9 for Yeh Bros I.

Netherlands picked up a partscore when Muller opened a 5-3-3-2 11-count and pushed his opponents to 3♦ down one while Furuta passed the hand and never bid, selling out to 1NT making +120.

This board gave Netherlands the lead at the half.

Bd: 7	North		East
Dlr: South	♠ Q652		♠ A9874
Vul: Both	♥ A92		♥ 10
	♦ Q876		♦ 952
	♣ K8		♣ Q1096
	South		
West	♠ 10		
♠ KJ3	♥ 87543		
♥ KQJ6	♦ AK10		
♦ J43	♣ J542		
♣ A73			

Both Wests opened 1NT and were transferred into spades. When Shih led a diamond Ping played king, ace and a third diamond and Shih won to find himself endplayed. He got out with a low trump. De Wijs won cheaply in hand, sneaked a heart through to the ten, then led a spade to the king. Now he ruffed out the ♥A, came to the ♣A, cashed one heart to pitch a club, led a fourth heart, ruffed and overruffed, then exited from dummy with a club. Shih won his bare king and could either let declarer cross-ruff the last two tricks or lead his trump and give the lead to dummy; a scintillating +140.

In the other room Verhees won van Prooijen's diamond lead, cashed the ♦K, then shifted to a club. Van Prooijen won his king, cashed his diamond, then got out with his second club. Declarer won in hand and led a low heart. Van Prooijen hopped up with his ace and exited with the fourth diamond, ruffed with the seven, and overruffed by the ten and jack. Down to two trumps in hand, declarer had to be very careful to avoid losing a trick to the ♠Q. The winning line is to cash two hearts pitching clubs from dummy, then ruff a club. Then he can come back to hand with the ♠K and finesse in trumps. Once he cashed the ♠K prematurely, it was too late to pick up the trumps.

The match between Netherlands and Denmark was almost level going into the final two deals of the half. Then the excitement started.

Bd: 23	North		East
Dlr: South	♠ K1065		♠ Q732
Vul: Both	♥ 106		♥ KJ9
	♦ J86		♦ A109432
	♣ J943		♣ ---
	South		
West	♠ 84		
♠ AJ9	♥ Q543		
♥ A872	♦ K7		
♦ Q5	♣ K10876		
♣ AQ52			

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Welland</i>	<i>v Pr'en</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
			Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣(♦)	Pass
3NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

In the other room a strong club had seen East show spades and a canapé in diamonds with club shortage, whereupon de Wijs shut up shop in 3NT, making +660. Against 5♦ van Prooijen led the ♠6 to the nine. Declarer played a diamond to the nine and back came the ♠8. If the lead was a singleton declarer needed to finesse, if from four then declarer had to go up with the ace. Declarer finessed and the defenders took the king and a ruff for down one and 13 imps.

Bd: 24	North		East
Dlr: West	♠ Q987		♠ J10432
Vul: None	♥ K103		♥ 98
	♦ QJ64		♦ 5
	♣ A7		♣ J9652
	South		
West	♠ 6		
♠ AK5	♥ AQ7652		
♥ J4	♦ AK8		
♦ 109732	♣ K108		
♣ Q43			

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Welland</i>	<i>v Pr'en</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	1♦	2♠	3♦(♥)
3♠	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

It is not easy for South to see how well the cards fit, but the spade barrage, coupled with North's free raise of hearts, suggested extras. So Verhees took a shot at keycard and bought the perfect fitting minor-suit cards without too much wasted in spades. Slam was missed in the other room so after the first half Netherlands led 31-3.

Second Half:

The first half of the three-ways had left Netherlands with a commanding lead over their rivals. Things had changed, slightly for the worse as far as they were concerned. They had lost imps to Yeh Bros I, while Denmark had gained slightly on Yeh Bros I. As result Netherlands had 7.45 VPs while Denmark had 14.6, but Denmark trailed Netherlands by 28 imps. They needed to get back to down 13. If they did so they would pip Netherlands, while a loss by 14 would leave the boot on the other foot. The eight deals were exactly what a reporter would have liked to see; plenty of blood all over the carpet.

After a quiet game for the two E/W pairs making +450 in spades, the action started.

Bd: 18
Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ Q
♥ KJ1075
♦ K64
♣ A952

West
♠ KJ104
♥ A632
♦ Q1092
♣ 4

East
♠ 98765
♥ Q8
♦ 87
♣ QJ108

South
♠ A32
♥ 94
♦ AJ53
♣ K763

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Welland</i>	<i>v Pr'en</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
4♠	All Pass	2♠	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>D Bilde</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>M Bilde</i>
		Pass	1♦

Dbl	1♥	2♠	Pass
3♠	Dbl	Pass	3NT

All Pass

E/W had done well in the Open Room to get in their opponents' faces and play 4♠, though on a different day maybe North might have doubled at his first turn. The defenders took their four plain-suit winners but declarer guessed trumps to get out for 100.

Clearly 3NT is the only game to have a chance to make. If declarer is allowed to win the ♠Q the defenders have to be just a little careful. However, de Wijs was having none of that and led the ♠K to the first trick. Declarer ducked twice, then went after hearts, but van Prooijen went up with the ace and cashed out the spades. Now Morten might simply have played to repeat the heart finesse and gone down 200. Instead, he cashed the club winners before repeating the heart finesse and that set up two extra club winners for down 400 instead of 200; a gain of 11 imps instead of 7 for Netherlands.

Bd: 19
Dlr: South
Vul: E/W

North
♠ Q87
♥ J863
♦ K9842
♣ 3

West
♠ A962
♥ A
♦ Q103
♣ KQJ94

East
♠ K
♥ Q109742
♦ A76
♣ 752

South
♠ J10543
♥ K5
♦ J5
♣ A1086

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Welland</i>	<i>v Pr'en</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
1♣	1♦	Dbl(♥)	1♠
Pass	2♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>D Bilde</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>M Bilde</i>
1♣(STR)	1♦	1♠(♥)	Pass
1NT(R)	Pass	2♠(1)	Pass
2NT(R)	Pass	3♥(2)	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

(1) Short spades

(2) 1-6-3-3

Both tables guessed their way to 4♥ in an extremely complex position for West. Both Souths led the ♦J amid some humorous comments comparing the accuracy of South and West on lead from the previous deal. At both tables the diamond went to the queen, king and ace. Both declarers cashed the ♥A, came back to the ♠K and made what seems the natural play of the ♥Q. Not a success. South could win the ♥K and, whether he gave the club ruff immediately or not (Verhees did, Morten exited with a spade first and let his partner in with ♥J to take the ruff) both declarers found a quite reasonable way to go down. No swing; Netherlands still by 39 imps.

Both E/W then pairs bid to a normal game and wrapped up 10 tricks. Time was running out for Denmark; time to turn on the after-burners.

Bd: 21
Dlr: North
Vul: N/S

North
♠ Q64
♥ KQ
♦ K1082
♣ KJ85

West
♠ A983
♥ 6542
♦ AJ94
♣ 7

East
♠ K7
♥ A10973
♦ 3
♣ AQ1093

South
♠ J1052
♥ J8
♦ Q765
♣ 642

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Welland</i>	<i>v Pr'en</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	1♦	1♥	Pass
2NT(♥)	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>D Bilde</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>M Bilde</i>
	1♣	1♥	Pass
2NT(♥)	Pass	4♥	All Pass

I'm not sure if de Wijs' 2NT bid was limited or not, but you can see why Muller wasn't think about slam. There again add the ♥J to West's hand and slam is

suddenly more than playable. Both declarers found a painless way home with 12 tricks, Auken taking the club finesse for herself while Morten led a club to speed up play. 11 imps to Denmark, now trailing by 28 imps.

Bd: 22 North
 Dir: East ♠ 1084
 Vul: E/W ♥ A42
 ♦ KQ987
 ♣ Q8

West
 ♠ AJ97652
 ♥ 8
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K973

East
 ♠ K3
 ♥ KQ9763
 ♦ 106
 ♣ 652

South
 ♠ Q
 ♥ J105
 ♦ AJ532
 ♣ AJ104

Open Room
 West North East South
Welland v Pr'en Auken Verhees
 3♠ All Pass
 Closed Room
 West North East South
De Wijs D Bilde Muller M Bilde
 2♠(NF) Pass 2♥ Pass
 4♠ 5♦ 3♠ Dbl
 All Pass

Denmark were full value for their 12-imp gain here when the Dutch partnerships each took a series of unfortunate or unsuccessful views. To start with, North's failure to act over 3♠ and South's failure to balance may be a function of the possible hand-types in the 1♦ opening. But it surely cannot be right for both hands to pass, can it? In the Closed Room E/W constructed an auction to let their opponents into the auction, but note that on a top heart lead 5♦ would be down, while the save at unfavorable vulnerability was never going to cost less than 500 unless the opponents' game was hopeless. Both defenses got around to leading clubs early and scored two clubs and a trick in each red suit. Plus 500 and +140 meant the margin was down to 16 imps. Two deals to go, three imps to find.

Bd: 23 North
 Dir: South ♠ KJ753
 Vul: Both ♥ Q32
 ♦ 5
 ♣ 10742

West
 ♠ A96
 ♥ K97
 ♦ KJ96
 ♣ J93

East
 ♠ 842
 ♥ AJ108
 ♦ 82
 ♣ AKQ8

South
 ♠ Q10
 ♥ 654
 ♦ AQ10743
 ♣ 65

Open Room
 West North East South
Welland v Pr'en Auken Verhees
 1♣ 1♠ Dbl 2♦
 Pass Pass Dbl All Pass
 Closed Room
 West North East South
De Wijs D Bilde Muller M Bilde
 Pass Pass Dbl 2♦
 All Pass

This was certainly the opportunity both sides needed. One cannot blame Morten Bilde for using his system opening though the same argument does not necessarily extend to the bids in the Open Room. Let's not intrude too closely into private grief. Both defenses got this just right, leading hearts and cashing a top club before playing trumps through. Each reached a position where they would have promoted a third trump for West by the lead of the thirteenth heart, even if his trumps had originally been rather weaker. Each defense scored the six plain winners and three trumps for 1100; no swing and one deal to go.

Enter the Last Chance Saloon. No spitting or cursing, and please tip the waitress.

Bd: 24 North
 Dir: West ♠ K1065
 Vul: None ♥ J854
 ♦ J84
 ♣ J5

West
 ♠ 8
 ♥ A9
 ♦ Q10652
 ♣ KQ1082

East
 ♠ J973
 ♥ K62
 ♦ AK
 ♣ 9764

South
 ♠ AQ42
 ♥ Q1073
 ♦ 973
 ♣ A3

Open Room
 West North East South
Welland v Pr'en Auken Verhees
 1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass
 1NT(♣) Pass 3♣ All Pass
 Closed Room
 West North East South
De Wijs D Bilde Muller M Bilde
 1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass
 2♣(1) Pass 3♣ All Pass
 (1) 4-5/5-4

Both Wests had extra shape and no fit. Noth Easts had nowhere near enough to go past the three level facing a partner who would open light. I don't see that anyone did anything terribly wrong but game is superb and duly makes. No swing, and it would be the Dutch heading to the party while the Danes would have to console themselves with the playoff for 3rd/4th.

2013 Yeh Bros Cup Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Boards	Venue
Friday (Apr. 26)	09:30-11:40	Final & Play-off, Seg. 1 Lunch Time	1-16	503
	13:10-15:20	Final & Play-off, Seg. 2	17-32	
	15:35-17:45	Final & Play-off, Seg. 3	33-48	
	09:30-13:00	Pair Semi-Final	1-27	503
	14:00-17:30	Pair Final, Consolation Lunch Time	1-27	
	19:00	Victory Dinner		502

Appeal Committee Members

Barry Rigal (Chairman)

Members:

Paul Hackett	Sabine Auken	Munawar Sawiruddin	John Wignall
Guido Ferraro	Curtis Cheek	Richard Colker	



“Just pretend he’s alive, like in Weekend at Bernie’s.”



“I think I have Excedrin headache #35.”



“Second word, five syllables...”



“Why didn’t I draw that last trump?”



“It’s been a l-o-n-g pair of tournaments.”



“This is the most boring TV show...”