



2013 YEH BROS CUP

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Netherlands is 2013 Yeh Bros Cup Champion



2013 Yeh Bros Champion: Netherlands



2013 Yeh Bros 2nd: Italy Lavazza

It was Netherlands (Ricco van Prooijen, Louk Verhees, Bauke Muller, Simon de Wijs) versus Italy Lavazza (Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Guido Ferraro, Agustin Madala, Antonio Sementa, Maria Teresa Lavazza), the two teams which had met in the 2011 World Championship semi-finals in Veldhoeven. Then the Dutch team went on to win their first world title, and so too here the Dutchmen were victorious. The Dutch won all three segments, though Italy was in it till the very end. Congratulations.



Yeh Bros 3rd: Denmark



Yeh Bros 4th: Yeh Bros I

The playoff for 3rd/4th between Denmark (Sabine Auken, Roy Welland, Morten Bilde, Dennis Bilde) and Yeh Bros I (Chen Yeh (PC), JY Shih, Chen Dawei, Kazuo Furuta, Yalan Zhang, Wang Ping) was won by Denmark, 127-103. Again, congratulations.



Yeh Bros Open Pairs winners



Yeh Bros Consolation Pairs

The Yeh Bros Open Pairs was won by Krzysztof Buras and Grzegorz Narkiewicz. The Consolation pairs was won by Munawar Sawirudin and Bert Toar Polii. Congratulations.

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	C/O	1-16	17-32	33-48	Final
E1 Italy Lavazza	6.5	25	25	22	78
E2 Netherlands		27	48	27	102
E3 Denmark		51	32	44	127
E4 Yeh Bros I		21	68	14	103

Yeh Bros Open Pairs: Final Standings

Rank	Player Names		IMPs
1	Krzysztof Buras	Grzegorz Narkiewicz	134
2	Shi Haojun	Shan Baisong	119
3	Fu Zhong	Jie Li	113
4	Subhash Gupta	Sartaj Hans	88
5	Frederic Wrang	Johan Sylvan	35
6	John Hurd	Joel Wooldridge	-24
7	Jason Hackett	Justin Hackett	-46
8	Paul Hackett	David Bakhshi	-65
9	Sebastiaan Drijver	Sjoert Brink	-163
10	Krister Ahlesved	Jonas Pettersson	-191

Consolation Pairs

Rank	Player Names		IMPs
1	Munawar Sawirudin	Bert Toar Polii	232
2	Manas Mukherjee	Arun Jain	98
3	Patrick Huang	Grace Huang	66
4	CM Lin	Walter Chen	64
5	Paul Gosney	Peter Gill	63
6	Sumit Mukherjee	Subir Majumder	58
7	Michael Whibley	Liam Milne	38
8	Nelson Ho	Kirk Shen	-149
9	Sue Grenside	Nakatani Tadayoshi	-156
10	Larry Chemaly	Robert Stephens	-314



"Oh, just missed qualifying...by 87 imps."



"You just *had* to ruff my winner."



"Wow, 2700! Now that's a number you just don't see every day."



"I can't believe it's all over."

Championship – 1st Segment: Italy Lavazza vs Netherlands 3rd/4th Playoff: Denmark vs Yeh Bros I

by Barry Rigal



De Wijs



Bocchi



Madala



Muller



Duboin



v Prooijen



Verhees



Sementa

This would be a replay of the World Championship semi-finals from Veldhoeven, 2011, when the Dutch had home advantage and ultimately their first world title. This one would be played on neutral territory; the cheering crowds would be somewhat smaller, though the tangible rewards of victory might be just as significant.

Italy as bracket winner would have a 6.5 imp carry-over. We will add this in to the totals as we go through, but round it to 6 imps.

Bd: 1
Dir: North
Vul: None

North	South
♠ 72	♠ 6543
♥ KQ1076	♥ 5
♦ AJ	♦ KQ62
♣ QJ84	♣ 10765

West
♠ KQ
♥ J94
♦ 87543
♣ K32

East
♠ AJ1098
♥ A832
♦ 109
♣ A9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	1♥	1♠	Pass

2♠ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	2♥(1)	2♠	2NT
Dbl	Pass	Pass	3♣

All Pass

(1) Hearts plus clubs

In the Closed Room N/S found their club fit at once

and Verhees' decision to compete looks reasonable. The defenders led and continued spades in a futile attempt to let West pitch hearts and get a ruff or to promote a trump for one defender or another. Indeed, the play did finally involve some sort of guess for the location of the ♣9 but declarer held his losses to the five top winners.

In the other room de Wijs' simple spade raise looks the least misdescriptive way to keep the auction open. The defenders led trumps, establishing the ♥8 as a slow heart winner. That was 140 and 3 imps; first blood to Netherlands.

Bd: 2
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North	South
♠ Q1032	♠ 98
♥ 6	♥ A83
♦ AKQ8643	♦ 102
♣ 10	♣ Q96432

West
♠ AJ75
♥ QJ4
♦ J75
♣ AK5

East
♠ K64
♥ K109752
♦ 9
♣ J87

South
♠ 98
♥ A83
♦ 102
♣ Q96432

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
		2♥	Pass
4♥	5♦	All Pass	

Both Easts took advantage of the vulnerability to open 2♥. (Yes, we aren't sure that they would have

resisted temptation at equal vulnerability but “Don’t ask don’t tell” is the order of the day.) Had East declared 4♥ after North got diamonds into the auction at a lower level, then declarer might still have had a slim chance: Ruff the second diamond, dislodge the trump ace, win the trump continuation (a shift to the ♠9 sets up a slow winner in the form of the ♠7), draw trumps, play ♠A, ♠K, a spade up, and now you know North’s precise shape. You ruff and play the ♣J, since the chance of pinning the nine or ten is better than dropping the bare queen.

Both tables in 5♦ could take just their seven diamonds and one trick in each major since the defenders could get around to trumps when in with the ♠K and prevent declarer from making more than one trick out of the spades. No swing; still 3-0 to Netherlands, 6-3 overall.

While Wang Ping made 4♥ from Yeh Bros on the lead of the ♠9, 5♦ doubled lost 800 in the other room; Denmark led 9-1.

Bd: 3 North
 Dlr: South ♠ A2
 Vul: E/W ♥ A653
 ♦ QJ1085
 ♣ A6

West
 ♠ ---
 ♥ QJ1092
 ♦ AK64
 ♣ KQ94

South
 ♠ KJ876
 ♥ K4
 ♦ 32
 ♣ 10732

East
 ♠ Q109543
 ♥ 87
 ♦ 97
 ♣ J85

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>

1♥	2♦	Pass	2♠
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>

1♥	2♦	All Pass
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The swing on this deal seems somewhat fortuitous rather than due to any great philosophical difference in strategy. Whether you respond to partner’s two-level overcall as a passed hand with the South cards is more about personal style, and Agustin Madala doesn’t like to pass twice on any deal. I’m not sure what Bocchi would have done had West passed but

de Wijs certainly appeared to have a normal double. Thereafter E/W were in deep doo-doo. Madala did not go all out for overtricks (I suspect he might have come close had he needed to). He won the heart lead in hand, led a diamond up, won the next heart, ruffed a heart as Muller pitched a club, then crossed to the ♣A and ruffed another heart low. That gave him five trump tricks and three side winners. With –470 in the other room declarer’s fate in 2♦ stood to hold the imp loss to 9 or 11. After a heart lead van Prooijen took the king and led a trump, though, to the queen, successfully, and now it was easy to relax. Instead of simply playing a second top trump he led to the ♠K, and when Duboin ruffed, then cashed a high trump and reverted to hearts, declarer was left with six top losers. 17-3 now to Italy.

Chen Yeh made the same play as van Prooijen to go down in 2♦, but in the other room Welland opened the South cards 2♠ and after Shih doubled and Auken raised to 3♠ Shih bid an inferential 4♥. Auken challenged his inference and the defenders collected 800. Auken’s diamond lead let declarer try to ruff a diamond in dummy but Welland overruffed, played back a trump, and declarer let it run to dummy for a club play. Auken won and forced declarer with diamonds, then spades, and Shih ended up with four trumps two diamonds and one club. Denmark led 22-1 now.

Bd: 4 North
 Dlr: West ♠ A
 Vul: Both ♥ A94
 ♦ J102
 ♣ AQ10965

West
 ♠ KQ853
 ♥ K762
 ♦ 8765
 ♣ ---

East
 ♠ 10962
 ♥ J
 ♦ Q943
 ♣ K843

South
 ♠ J74
 ♥ Q10853
 ♦ AK
 ♣ J72

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>

Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦(♥)
1♠	Dbl	3♠	Dbl
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>

Pass	1♣(STR)	Pass	1♥(1)
1♠	2♣	3♠	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) Balanced 8-11 or three-suited

Cui culpa? There must be more than enough blame

to go around with 6♣ on no more than the club finesse, while 4♥ is cold on normal, if slightly careful, play. Declarer will win the top spade lead and use his two diamond entries to ruff spades, then cash the ♥A, cross to hand with a diamond ruff, and lead a club towards the ace. West can score all three of his trumps one way or another, or discard and let declarer score the ♣A for his eighth trick with two more trump tricks to come.

Bocchi showed 2+ clubs, extras, then suggested notrump with an unbalanced hand. Van Prooijen showed a strong hand, then clubs, where he could have doubled for take-out and then at his second turn had to choose between a take-out double and 3NT. Verhees (who was systemically obligated to conceal his hearts at his first turn) almost knew his partner had a singleton spade but thought the opponents might be 4-4 in that suit. Maybe it is just too difficult a hand.

Both declarers in 3NT won the top spade lead from East and crossed to a diamond to run the ♣J, and now the defenders duly cashed out. No swing; still 17-3 to Italy.

Both our tables in the 3rd/4th match managed to collect +620. Yalan Zhang brought home 4♥ on a top spade lead by playing clubs before trumps, while in the other room Shih's 2♦ opening for the majors (as West) made it much easier for N/S to get to clubs.

Bd: 5
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North	♠ K75	♥ KJ862	♦ A106	♣ K3
West	♠ QJ106	♥ 9754	♦ 84	♣ A64
East	♠ A82	♥ Q103	♦ QJ72	♣ 1092
South	♠ 943	♥ A	♦ K953	♣ QJ875

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	1♥	Pass	1NT
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Bocchi likes to upgrade as much as the next man, if

not more, but here with a 14-count and a five-card major he had no reason to put his hand into a 15-17 notrump range. By contrast, van Prooijen was within his notrump range and as is the common style these days was essentially obligated to treat his hand as balanced, not hearts. I don't dislike the style, but we should not be blinkered to the fact that it is not an unfettered blessing.

While Madala could never make more than 1NT on the lead of the ♠Q van Prooijen was definitely in with a chance from the East seat. If Sementa had led a low diamond declarer could have won cheaply in hand and knocked out the ♣A. Even on the lead of the ♦Q the contract should have come down to the spade view. Declarer wins in hand and runs the ♦10, then crosses to the ♣K. When that holds, he repeats the diamond finesse and sets up the clubs. When West shifts to a spade honor the crux of the deal is whether to play East for ace-third or three small spades; a lot will depend on what you know about each individual leader's style. Of course, that is why they pay the coaches the big bucks. Auken, in this precise position (after a low diamond lead won in hand), did duck two spades and brought home 3NT while in the other room 3NT by South went down on West's ♠Q lead. It was 24-3 now for Italy and 34-1 for Denmark.

The E/W pairs at both tables bid to a straightforward major-suit game for +620, then...

Bd: 7
 Dir: South
 Vul: Both

North	♠ 108732	♥ K5	♦ AKJ953	♣ ---
West	♠ Q4	♥ 104	♦ 10642	♣ KJ752
East	♠ K965	♥ 9873	♦ Q87	♣ A8
South	♠ AJ	♥ AQJ62	♦ ---	♣ Q109643

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♠(♦)	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
			1♥
Pass	2♣(R)	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥(R)	Pass	2♠(♣)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥(5-6)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Both Souths suggested 6-5 in clubs and hearts, Madala showing extras, Verhees' auction consistent with a minimum. Bocchi received a spade lead against his 3NT (had South been declarer West would not have enjoyed his choice, though of course the defense can succeed easily enough). He finessed and when a spade came back cashed out his eight winners rather than trying for any remote chances, which might have generated a large number of undertricks. Minus 100 was not a terrible result here, but Duboin went for aggression with a top spade lead rather than a trump (for which one should not be too fast to blame him; he knew declarer's most likely hand pattern was 2-5-0-6 and that East could overruff in clubs very early on, so that it was only if dummy hit with a club void that a trump would be essential). Verhees was charmed to be able to score his three side-suit winners and seven trump tricks painlessly for 12imps. Italy 23-15 now.

Both N/S pairs then had a somewhat random chance to gain 10imps on the spin of a coin.

Bd: 8	North		
Dlr: West	♠ J1085		
Vul: None	♥ QJ72		
	♦ KQ6		
	♣ K9		
		East	
West		♠ 94	
♠ K6		♥ K10843	
♥ 96		♦ 10	
♦ A87542		♣ A10875	
♣ 432			
	South		
	♠ AQ732		
	♥ A5		
	♦ J93		
	♣ QJ6		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	1♦	1♥	Dbl(4/5♠)
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

It is not that playing spades from the South seat is so clearly superior to playing it by North. But as the cards lie, as our two declarers from the North seat discovered, a diamond lead by East sinks you from the get-go, while if you play game from the South seat West would probably lead a heart, and now you would win and play ace and another spade to kill the heart ruff, and find that the play worked for an entirely different reason. (And the counter-argument to this is that you go down in 4♠ from the South seat when East is 3-5-1-4 by taking the "unsafety" play.)

Both pairs in Denmark-Yeh Bros I made game, Zhang 4♠ from South, Auken 3NT as North after she opened 1♣ and West showed diamonds, on a diamond lead. Yes, a club lead was certainly possible on this auction.

Bd: 9	North		
Dlr: North	♠ AJ7632		
Vul: E/W	♥ K		
	♦ 74		
	♣ 10743		
		West	East
		♠ K54	♠ 1098
		♥ A985	♥ 632
		♦ AJ2	♦ KQ103
		♣ QJ5	♣ AK6
			South
			♠ Q
			♥ QJ1074
			♦ 9865
			♣ 982

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	3♠	Pass	Pass

3NT All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	2♠	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Bocchi-Madala have given up on weak-twos at favorable in favor of two-suited actions. The 3♠ bid put de Wijs under more pressure than Duboin was under in the other room but both Wests came through. It is a lot easier to face your teammates when you are wrong by bidding too much than by underbidding here.

Van Prooijen led a spade, while Bocchi fished out a club. Declarer won, ducked a heart, then cashed all his plain winners reducing down to a four-card ending where he led a spade from dummy and covered South's card to force North to give him a

spade at the death.

Both tables made game in the other match, though the Yeh Bros E/W pair had to contend with a comic notrump from Welland after North passed in first seat.

A flat vulnerable game for all four N/S pairs was followed by a far from straightforward deal.

Bd: 11 North
 Dir: South ♠ 76
 Vul: None ♥ 65
 ♦ AKQJ86
 ♣ 973

West
 ♠ AJ82
 ♥ KJ43
 ♦ 9
 ♣ KQ54

East
 ♠ KQ95
 ♥ A10972
 ♦ 105
 ♣ A2

South
 ♠ 1043
 ♥ Q8
 ♦ 7432
 ♣ J1086

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
2♦(1)	3♦	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
1♣	3♦	Dbl	4♦
Dbl	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Sementa rarely needs additional reasons to go searching for the gold at the end of the rainbow. I suspect had Verhees not bid 4♦ Duboin would have done so, and that would have got E/W to slam. As it was, when Duboin showed extras and had virtually guaranteed a singleton diamond Sementa had an easy drive to slam. It was not quite as easy for Muller facing a limited hand. In my opinion he did well to give up on the safety of the four level to look for slam, and his 5♥ bid here was just a general try. The Bildes virtually duplicated the Italian auction to slam, but Shi as West was handicapped by having to open 1♦ and that kept his opponents silent, thus making Ping's job nearly impossible. They played game and Denmark led 45-2. It was still 24-15 to Italy in our main match.

In what had been a set of boards where there were a remarkable number of deals with no potential for swing (the next was the seventh), all four tables next played 4♥ off the two top clubs, making +450 on the trump finesse. Then...

Bd: 13 North
 Dir: North ♠ Q9853
 Vul: Both ♥ 8654
 ♦ A93
 ♣ 2

West
 ♠ AJ
 ♥ KJ9
 ♦ K10872
 ♣ J94

East
 ♠ 102
 ♥ 103
 ♦ J65
 ♣ AK8765

South
 ♠ K764
 ♥ AQ72
 ♦ Q4
 ♣ Q103

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1♦	1♥(♠)	2♦	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Muller did well to compete to the three level and push his opponents to 3♠, but surely his choice of 3♦ as opposed to 3♣ was short sighted (though in his defense he might have expected a diamond lead not to be fatal and he didn't want to tip off the lie of the cards). Personally, I'd rather get partner to do the right thing; that way he gets less irritated both with himself and you when he leads a diamond, as here. Madala scooped up the trick and ran for home when spades split, collecting +140 while in the other room the club lead and heart shift left declarer very poorly placed. It was 30-15 now, advantage Italy. Chen Yeh did well to bring home +140 as North here to flatten the board against 2♠ making 140 by South; Denmark still led 45-2.

Bd: 14
 Dir: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ K7652
 ♥ 874
 ♦ AKJ
 ♣ J2

West
 ♠ A43
 ♥ J95
 ♦ 954
 ♣ 10986

East
 ♠ Q8
 ♥ AK1062
 ♦ Q63
 ♣ K75

South
 ♠ J109
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ 10872
 ♣ AQ43

Open Room

West <i>De Wijs</i>	North <i>Bocchi</i>	East <i>Muller</i> 1♥	South <i>Madala</i> Pass Dbl
2♥	Pass	Pass	
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West <i>Duboin</i>	North <i>v Prooijen</i>	East <i>Sementa</i> 1♥	South <i>Verhees</i> Pass
2♥	2♠	All Pass	

Though there were noimps at stake in our main match the underlying philosophical issues for a partnership (who is the catcher, who is the pitcher?) makes this deal a very stimulating one to me. Should South stretch to balance and North play him for a Yarborough? Should North pre-balance and South play *him* for less than customary here? It doesn't matter so long as you have a defined style; color me...undecided.

Denmark bought the hand in 1NT (after the ♠J lead) and in 2♠ and made them both. The lead was up to 51-2.

Bd: 15
 Dir: South
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ J8753
 ♥ Q982
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 1096

West
 ♠ Q
 ♥ AJ743
 ♦ K62
 ♣ Q754

East
 ♠ AK4
 ♥ 106
 ♦ 1093
 ♣ AKJ82

South
 ♠ 10962
 ♥ K5
 ♦ AQJ754
 ♣ 3

Open Room

West <i>De Wijs</i>	North <i>Bocchi</i>	East <i>Muller</i>	South <i>Madala</i>
1♥	Pass	2♣	1♦
3♣	Pass	3♦	2♦
5♣	All Pass		Pass

Closed Room

West <i>Duboin</i>	North <i>v Prooijen</i>	East <i>Sementa</i>	South <i>Verhees</i>
Pass	3♠	3NT	1♠
5♣	All Pass		Pass

I don't see how Madala could have got this right on opening lead. Facing a passing partner a spade lead seemed far more likely to get the tricks going for his side than playing for ruffs. In the other room, of course, Italy might well have counted themselves lucky to lose only 10imps when Duboin picked his partner's "minor," assuming that 3NT was unusual. But the singleton diamond was on lead and the defenders cashed out quickly. It was now 31-25 Italy.

Yeh Bros I picked up their first sizeable swing of the set playing 3NT by West on a spade lead, and defeating 4♥. They trailed 15-12.

Bd: 16
 Dir: West
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ KQ83
 ♥ J10
 ♦ 642
 ♣ AQ97

West
 ♠ A5
 ♥ AK9
 ♦ A873
 ♣ 10652

East
 ♠ J6
 ♥ Q75432
 ♦ K105
 ♣ 83

South
 ♠ 109742
 ♥ 86
 ♦ QJ9
 ♣ KJ4

Open Room

West <i>De Wijs</i>	North <i>Bocchi</i>	East <i>Muller</i>	South <i>Madala</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

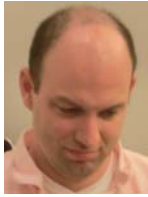
Closed Room

West <i>Duboin</i>	North <i>v Prooijen</i>	East <i>Sementa</i>	South <i>Verhees</i>
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
3♥	3♠	All Pass	

Against 3♠ the defenders did nicely by leading two hearts and signaling for diamonds to let the defenders cash two tricks and play a third. Declarer won and led a spade up. Duboin took the ace and played a fourth diamond and Verhees misguessed by ruffing low. Not enough: 2♥ on a trump lead made +170 painlessly enough and Netherlands gained 2imps to trail 31-27 at set end. Meanwhile in our other match while Shi-Ping overreached to 4♥, down after the (necessary) active black-suit lead, The Bildes misjudged and defended 2♠x. Declarer did not misguess trumps at the critical moment, and claimed +470. That reduced the match margin to 51-21 at set end.

Championship – 2nd Segment: Italy Lavazza vs Netherlands 3rd/4th Playoff: Denmark vs Yeh Bros I

by Rich Colker



De Wijs



Bocchi



Madala



Muller



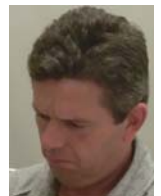
Duboin



v Prooijen



Verhees



Sementa

The Italians had lost the first segment by 2 imps, 27-25, but their 6.5-imp carryover still gave them the upper hand at 31.5-27 — though that is certainly no reason to get complacent. When the Dutchmen decided not to concede just yet the players all took their seats. Buckle up, buckaroos. Giddyup!

The first deal was an easy 4♠ game for both N/S pairs, and with three inescapable losers (absent a trump lead from K107) and no more, both declarers took 10 tricks for a push at +420.

Bd: 18
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ QJ2
♥ Q10964
♦ AK1072
♣ ---

West
♠ 106
♥ 8532
♦ J65
♣ AQJ9

East
♠ K98743
♥ KJ7
♦ ---
♣ K653

South
♠ A5
♥ A
♦ Q9843
♣ 108742

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass(0-9)	2NT(♥+♦)	1♠	Pass
Dbf	3♦	4♣	3♣(♦)
All Pass			6♦

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
1NT	2♠(♥+m)	Pass	Pass
Pass	3♦(♥+♦)	Pass	2NT(R)
Pass	5♦	Pass	4NT
All Pass			6♦

In the Open Room Bocchi got a club lead. He ruffed, crossed to the ♥A, led a diamond to the ace (Muller showing out), ruffed a heart (jack from Muller), diamond to the seven, ♥Q covered and ruffed, and then claimed (draw trumps and concede a spade — no finesse); +1370.

We'd like to tell you that 4NT in the Closed Room was keycard asking and that 5♦ showed two keycards. We'd like to — but we can't. It turns out that 4NT was undiscussed. Van Prooijen took it as a general try for slam and Verhees deduced (that's code for guessed) that his partner had to have reasonable controls, good enough diamonds for slam and a "likely" club void. So he bid 6♦. In any case van Prooijen brought home the slam (club lead, ruffed, spade finesse, ducked, spade to the ace, ♥A, club-heart cross-ruff) for +1370. Still 31.5-27.

Bd: 19

Dir: South
Vul: E/W

North
♠ 1075
♥ 109643
♦ J10
♣ AQ3

West
♠ AQ83
♥ 82
♦ AK932
♣ 108

East
♠ 4
♥ AQJ75
♦ Q754
♣ J94

South
♠ KJ962
♥ K
♦ 86
♣ K7652

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
			1♠
2♦	2♠	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
			2♣
2♦	Dbl	3♣	3♠
Pass	Pass	5♦	All Pass

5♦ looks to require declarer to pick up the stiff ♥K offside (barring a defensive lapse in leading clubs where declarer gets to pitch one on the third heart). Bocchi led the ♣A followed by the ♣Q. Madala overtook (in case Bocchi had the doubleton), led a third club and now de Wijs pitched a heart as Bocchi followed helplessly. Now de Wijs cashed the ♥A and when the king fell he claimed 11 tricks; +600.

In the Closed Room van Prooijen led a low spade (since Verhees had bid the suit) to the king and ace and now things weren't quite as simple as in the Open Room. Duboin, not knowing where the defenders' values were (none of the club honors had yet been revealed and South had bid both black suits), reasonably tried the heart finesse. Verhees won, played a club to the queen, and quicker than two shakes of a lamb's tail Duboin was down two when van Prooijen gave Verhees a heart ruff after cashing the ♣A, -200. 13 imps to Netherlands, who took over the lead at 40-31.5.

Bd: 20	North
Dlr: West	♠ A8
Vul: Both	♥ KQ854
	♦ J94
	♣ K107

West	East
♠ KQ9432	♠ 76
♥ 109	♥ AJ632
♦ ---	♦ AK1076
♣ A8642	♣ 5
South	
♠ J105	
♥ 7	
♦ Q8532	
♣ QJ93	

Both Wests played a comfortable 4♠. In the Open Room de Wijs won the ♥K opening lead, cashed the ♦AK pitching a heart and a club, ruffed a heart, cashed the ♣A, ruffed a club, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a second club, ruffed a heart and exited with the ♣8 to Madala who ruffed with the ♠J and returned the ♦9, presenting de Wijs with a losing

choice. If de Wijs started with the doubleton ♠J10 he must ruff high and play his other high trump, smothering the ♠10. But if Madala started with his actual spade holding de Wijs had to ruff with the ♠9. De Wijs ruffed high for +620.

In the Closed Room Duboin slightly mistimed the play. He won the ♥K with the ace, cashed the ♦AK pitching a heart and a club, then led a club to the ace and ruffed a club instead of taking the opportunity to shorten his trumps immediately before taking the first club ruff. He continued: heart ruff, club ruff, heart ruff. But now, in his hand with the ♠KQ94 and ♣8, he led the ♠K to the ace and still had to lose a trump and a club. That was just a lost overtrick, +620. No swing; Netherlands leading 40-31.5.

Bd: 21	North
Dlr: North	♠ K6
Vul: N/S	♥ 4
	♦ 10986
	♣ AQ7632

West	East
♠ A8532	♠ QJ1097
♥ J1097	♥ K532
♦ KJ4	♦ 32
♣ 8	♣ J9

South
♠ 4
♥ AQ86
♦ AQ75
♣ K1054

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	3♣(♣+♦)	3♦	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
Dbl	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	3♣(♣+♦)	4♠	5♣
All Pass			

Both N/S pairs reached five-of-a-minor via a fit-showing jump by North. Madala played in his four-four diamond fit doubled while Verhees played in his seemingly safer six-four club fit undoubled. (Well then, clubs was safer — at least illusorily.) Both declarers lost one spade and two diamonds so Netherland picked up 3 more imps to lead 43-31.5.

Bd: 22
 Dlr: East
 Vul: E/W

North	South
♠ J10842	♠ 76
♥ 7	♥ KQ1082
♦ AK8652	♦ QJ74
♣ Q	♣ J6

West	East
♠ 5	♠ AKQ93
♥ AJ654	♥ 93
♦ ---	♦ 1093
♣ AK98754	♣ 1032

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
		Pass	Pass
2♣	2♦	2♠	3♥
5♣	Pass	6♣	6♦
Dbf	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	1♦	1♥(♠)	3♥(♥+♦)
4♣	4♦	4NT	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

In the Open Room De Wijs bid clubs and clubs (“Majors, we don’t need no stinkin’ majors.”) and reached the excellent 6♣, only to have Madala rain on his parade and save in 6♦. The save turned out to be a good one when Madala had to lose just two spades, one heart and one club for down three, –500. Verhees’ fit-showing jump in the Closed Room seems to have inhibited van Prooijen, and Duboin was allowed to rest in 6♣. He ruffed the opening ♦K lead, drew a round of trumps and claimed 12 tricks (lose a heart, ruff a heart, and pitch two on top spades) for +1370, and 13 imps back to Italy Lavazza, who regained the lead, 44.5-43.

Bd: 23
 Dlr: South
 Vul: Both

North	South
♠ 9852	♠ ---
♥ J8	♥ Q965
♦ AK4	♦ J973
♣ Q1043	♣ J9652

West	East
♠ AJ104	♠ KQ763
♥ 10732	♥ AK4
♦ 106	♦ Q852
♣ K87	♣ A

Both Easts declared 4♠ on a club lead. Muller won and crossed to a high spade to lead a diamond up. Bocchi won and returned a spade to dummy. Muller pitched a diamond on the ♣K and led another diamond up. Bocchi won and Muller claimed 10 tricks; +620. Sementa won the ♣A and immediately led a low diamond to the jack. Verhees continued clubs and Sementa won the king, pitching a heart, then led the ♦10 to the king. Van Prooijen tried a heart but now Sementa ruffed a diamond, noting the fall of the ace, and drew trumps while ruffing his losing diamond to claim 11 trick; +650. Another imp to Italy, now 45.5-43.

Bd: 24
 Dlr: West
 Vul: None

North	South
♠ 6	♠ K1032
♥ AJ96	♥ K10872
♦ 6	♦ A2
♣ AQ109754	♣ 86

West	East
♠ QJ5	♠ A9874
♥ 54	♥ Q3
♦ KQJ985	♦ 10743
♣ 32	♣ KJ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
3♦	5♣	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	1♥	1♠	4♥
4♠	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

De Wijs’ 3♦ opening made it difficult for Bocchi to show both of his suits — especially given their discrepancy in lengths. Bocchi won the diamond lead and led a club to the queen and king. Muller cashed the ♠A and continued the suit. Bocchi won the king, pitching a heart, ruffed a spade, establishing the ten for a heart pitch, the cashed the ♣A and claimed 11 tricks; +400.

In the Closed Room van Prooijen’s 5♣ bid may have guaranteed longer clubs (since a 2♥ opening would have shown a heart-club two-suiter with longer or equal hearts). No matter: Verhees was always coming in hearts. The defense could only get one club and one spade (♠A led, diamond shift to the ace, heart to the ace and heart back, losing club finesse, claim) for +450 and 2 useful imps back to

the Dutch, 45.5-45.

Bd: 25 North
 Dlr: North ♠ 108632
 Vul: E/W ♥ 109
 ♦ J82
 ♣ K86

West
 ♠ AJ94
 ♥ ---
 ♦ Q97653
 ♣ A42

East
 ♠ Q75
 ♥ AJ432
 ♦ K104
 ♣ 95

South
 ♠ K
 ♥ KQ8765
 ♦ A
 ♣ QJ1073

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♦	Pass	2NT	3♣
3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣(STR)
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♦	All Pass

In 5♦ de Wijs won the club lead and played a diamond to...the ten. No problem. Easy game, this bridge. Madala won the ace, perforce, and played the ♣Q and a third club, ruffed in dummy. Next the ♦K revealed the trump position and de Wijs cashed the ♥A, pitching a spade, then called for a low spade and when the king appeared claimed 11 tricks; +600. Did we mention that bridge is an easy game?

In the Closed Room Duboin-Sementa came to rest in the far more secure (though less rewarding) 3♦. Duboin won the heart lead in dummy, pitching a spade, led a spade to the king and ace, cashed the ♣A and got out with a second club. Van Prooijen won and returned a heart. Duboin ruffed and led a diamond to the king and ace, later losing a second trump for +130 and 10 imps back to Netherlands, who retook the lead, 55-44.5.

On Board 26 both Norths declared club partials and made 11 tricks for a push. On Board 27 3NT and 4♥ were both viable contracts, each needing a pointed-suit finesse to work. But 3NT needed specifically the ♦K onside while 4♥ needed either that or the ♠Q onside. The diamond finesse was on, the spade

finesse was not, but both contracts came home on-time: +420 for Italy, +400 for Netherlands, 1 imp to Italy, now 55-46.5.

Bd: 28 North
 Dlr: West ♠ 96432
 Vul: N/S ♥ K764
 ♦ 63
 ♣ J4

West
 ♠ 85
 ♥ A95
 ♦ K4
 ♣ KQ10965

East
 ♠ K107
 ♥ QJ
 ♦ AQ972
 ♣ 732

South
 ♠ AQJ
 ♥ 10832
 ♦ J1085
 ♣ A8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

A spade lead will beat 3NT from the West side but the contract is impregnable by East. (On a heart lead declarer must duck to North's king but after a spade back North has no re-entry to lead a second spade.) Both declarers sat West so in both cases the defense was critical. Bocchi led a spade and Madala found the heart back for a quick and dirty +50. Van Prooijen led a heart to the queen and now Duboin led a club to the queen and banged down the king for +430. That was 10 more imps to Italy, who regained the lead at 56.5-55. Ping Pong anyone?

Bd: 29 North
 Dlr: North ♠ KQ
 Vul: Both ♥ K3
 ♦ KJ8732
 ♣ KJ6

West
 ♠ A96
 ♥ QJ52
 ♦ A
 ♣ A10872

East
 ♠ 10542
 ♥ A1094
 ♦ 6
 ♣ Q953

South
 ♠ J873
 ♥ 876
 ♦ Q10954
 ♣ 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	3♦	Dbl(T/O)	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Dbl	Pass	Pass	2♦
Dbl	3♦	Dbl	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

Muller's double of 3♦ got his side to the incredible heart game with no high cards, mirrored shortages and needing both rounded-suit kings onside (not totally unlikely given North's opening bid). Madala led his club and Muller rose with the ace, drew trumps in three rounds via the finesse, then led a club toward the queen. Bocchi won the king and shifted to the ♠K. Sensing North's shape from his 3♦ bid Muller won, cashed the ♣Q and the ♦A, then exited with a spade to endplay Bocchi for a ruff and a discard to claim 11 tricks; +650.

Duboin's double of 2♣ seems to have prevented van Prooijen from showing his diamonds; perhaps a 2♦ bid in this position would have shown something else (majors; club strength/weakness; heart transfer?). But Sementa's double of 3♦ looks much the equivalent of Muller's in the Open Room. Here, though, Duboin simply settled for bidding 3♥ and that ended the proceedings (not surprising given the tenuousness of a 4♥ contract). Duboin also made 11 tricks on much the same line of play but only scored up +200 for his efforts. 10 imps to Netherlands, back on top again at 65-56.5. Our necks are getting sore.

Bd: 30	North
Dlr: East	♠ AQ84
Vul: None	♥ Q5
	♦ K
	♣ A96532

West	East
♠ J7632	♠ 109
♥ J972	♥ K10864
♦ 10963	♦ J84
♣ ---	♣ QJ8

South
♠ K5
♥ A3
♦ AQ752
♣ K1074

Both N/S pairs reached the excellent 7♣ contract here needing only for trumps not to be three-zero.

They were; a push at -50.

On Board 31 both Souths declared 1NT and took seven tricks for +90. Still 65-56.5, Netherlands.

Bd: 32	North
Dlr: West	♠ A8
Vul: E/W	♥ 763
	♦ A104
	♣ AQ953

West	East
♠ 1064	♠ KQ532
♥ QJ1085	♥ 4
♦ 983	♦ J52
♣ 76	♣ KJ102

South
♠ J97
♥ AK92
♦ KQ76
♣ 84

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	1♣	1♠	Dbl
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Muller got off to a low spade lead to dummy's jack and Bocchi tried a club to the queen and king. Back came the ♠K and now we can see that all Bocchi had to do was to cash his winners from the top. But that is not how the game is played. With the spades lying five-three and the length likely with East he decided to play the odds in diamonds by crossing to dummy's queen and leading back to the...ten. Ugh! Now Muller quickly cashed out for down one, -50.

In the Closed Room Sementa led the ♠Q (Rusinow). Van Prooijen won, led a heart to the nine and ten (trying to find the suit three-three) and back came a spade to the king for a third spade. In dummy with the ♠J van Prooijen cashed the ♦K, then led a diamond to the...ace. When a third diamond revealed the suit to be three-three he was up to nine tricks and he cashed them all quickly for +400 and another 10 imps.

The battle this set was fierce, with the lead changing hand five times, often less than a single imps separating the two teams. But at the end it was 75-56.5.

Championship – 3rd Segment: Italy Lavazza vs Netherlands

3rd/4th Playoff: Denmark vs Yeh Bros I

by Barry Rigal



De Wijs



Bocchi



Madala



Muller



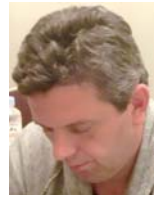
Duboin



v Prooijen



Verhees



Sementa

Bd: 33
Dlr: North
Vul: None

West
♠ J1093
♥ J43
♦ QJ10
♣ 863

North
♠ Q8652
♥ K986
♦ K652
♣ ---

East
♠ AK7
♥ Q
♦ 984
♣ AQJ1074

South
♠ 4
♥ A10752
♦ A73
♣ K952

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	2♥(1)	3♣	4♥

All Pass
(1) majors

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	4♥	1♣	1♥
Pass		All Pass	

Both tables reached 4♥ with a minimum of fuss. Bocchi-Madala have given up on weak twos non-vul., 2♥ is majors, 2♠ minors, hence the auction here.

Bd: 34
Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

West
♠ J9764
♥ 642
♦ Q9
♣ QJ10

North
♠ 52
♥ AQJ10
♦ J86432
♣ 7

East
♠ A108
♥ 73
♦ AK10
♣ K9654

South
♠ KQ3
♥ K985
♦ 75
♣ A832

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1♦	Dbl	1♣(15+!)	Pass
2♥(♠)	Dbl	1NT	Pass
All Pass		Rdbl	3♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
2♥	Dbl	1NT	Pass
Pass	Pass	2♠	3♥
		3♠	All Pass

Muller's optimistic strong club went some way towards stealing the board but Bocchi showed his red suits and Madala raised hearts. Declarer won the club lead and played a diamond. Muller overtook de Wijs' queen and played a second club. Declarer ruffed, played a spade and Muller rose with the ace to play a third club. Dummy was now dead but declarer's hand was high bar a diamond loser +170.

The game looks close to unbidable, but if East had not opened a strong notrump, N/S might have had a chance in the Closed Room. However, Sementa not only opened a strong notrump he competed to 3♠. Right he was. He escaped for two down, losing two hearts, two clubs and two trumps (South could have given his partner two clubs ruffs for down three but ensured the set by cashing his hearts early).



"Mine says they're out of Kung Pao Chicken."

Bd: 35
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ Q875
 ♥ A98
 ♦ 32
 ♣ AQ93

West
 ♠ AK93
 ♥ 652
 ♦ KQ865
 ♣ 8

East
 ♠ J642
 ♥ J10
 ♦ J
 ♣ KJ10752

South
 ♠ 10
 ♥ KQ743
 ♦ A10974
 ♣ 64

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
			1♥
2♦	3♥(FG!)	Pass	4♥

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
			2♦(♥+♦)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT (5-5)
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥

All Pass

Duboin had an easy top spade lead and trump shift. He won the second diamond to play another trump and declarer took the diamond ruff. But when he tried the club finesse the defenders won, then took a ruff and two diamonds for down three.

By contrast, Madala came a little closer after two top spades. He ruffed and took the club finesse. East won and gave his partner the ruff. Now declarer had a one trick in each suit and six trump tricks for down one and 3 imps. 75-61 now.

Bd: 36
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ 964
 ♥ K92
 ♦ K87
 ♣ J974

West
 ♠ J32
 ♥ AJ853
 ♦ J5
 ♣ AQ6

East
 ♠ AQ75
 ♥ Q106
 ♦ 964
 ♣ K105

South
 ♠ K108
 ♥ 74
 ♦ AQ1032
 ♣ 832

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1♥	Pass	2♦(♥)	Dbl
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
1♥	Pass	2NT(♥)	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

While Sementa is an optimist, here his 3NT bid seems really out in left field. It might have worked, I admit, but it still seems wild to me. Equally, de Wijs' 2♥ bid after the double looked to deny extras (here of course he was a little better than he might be but at the vulnerability he was close to minimum). Both Wests seem blameless to me. In context, facing an invitation, de Wijs was not ashamed of his hand. 3 imps to Netherlands when 3NT went two down in the appropriate way while 4♥ was down one. 88-61 now.

Bd: 37
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ AJ4
 ♥ 9753
 ♦ KQ92
 ♣ AK

West
 ♠ 1063
 ♥ KQJ64
 ♦ A5
 ♣ Q98

East
 ♠ K752
 ♥ 1082
 ♦ 1076
 ♣ 1053

South
 ♠ Q98
 ♥ A
 ♦ J843
 ♣ J7642

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♦(♥/♠)	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Dbl	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

After Bocchi's normal but maximum strong notrump Madala seems to have decided that simply finding a fit would give him a positive expectation against the result in 1NT, and he might have been right. But of

course van Prooijen opened a strong club to let South describe his three-suited hand. The partnership was always going to game and once South showed short hearts the final destination was going to be the 4-4 fit (if there was one).

While Bocchi followed a very safe line for ten tricks in the Open Room, setting up spades while ruffing hearts in dummy and eventually losing a trump promotion to East's $\diamond 10$, Verhees could not afford such luxuries. He was fortunate enough to receive a spade lead. When he played low from dummy and the king went in he had arranged a late entry to his hand. Spade continuations might have been the most challenging but nothing mattered. After the heart shift he unblocked clubs while drawing trumps and played to take four clubs, four trump tricks and three major-suit winners, ruffing out the clubs and coming back to his hand while drawing the last trump. 88-61 now.

Bd: 38
 Dir: East
 Vul.: E/W

North
 \spadesuit Q
 \heartsuit 9632
 \diamond Q1098542
 \clubsuit 6

West
 \spadesuit A9742
 \heartsuit J10
 \diamond 73
 \clubsuit AQJ10

East
 \spadesuit KJ86
 \heartsuit A54
 \diamond AKJ
 \clubsuit 984

South
 \spadesuit 1053
 \heartsuit KQ87
 \diamond 6
 \clubsuit K7532

Open Room

West <i>De Wijs</i>	North <i>Bocchi</i>	East <i>Muller</i>	South <i>Madala</i>
		1 \clubsuit	1NT(1)
2 \heartsuit (\spadesuit)	3 \diamond	3 \spadesuit	Pass
4 \clubsuit	Pass	4 \diamond	Pass
4 \spadesuit	Pass	5 \diamond	Pass
6 \spadesuit	All Pass		

Closed Room

West <i>Duboin</i>	North <i>v Prooijen</i>	East <i>Sementa</i>	South <i>Verhees</i>
		1NT	Pass
2 \heartsuit	4 \diamond	Pass	Pass
DbI	Pass	4 \spadesuit	All Pass

We think Muller showed a minimum with his 3 \spadesuit bid, hence van Prooijen was only worth one slam try. But Muller, despite being minimum, had such great controls and he assumed well-placed diamonds that he went on over the non-cooperating bid, and promised a heart control at the same time. That was enough for van Prooijen to bid slam. Following

Garozzo's rule Madala led his singleton, which speeded up play just a little. Muller decided sensibly that North was more likely to have the four spades than South. He led a spade to the ace and claimed 13 tricks and 13 imps a moment later. 101-61 for Netherlands.

Bd: 39
 Dir: South
 Vul: Both

North
 \spadesuit 83
 \heartsuit AK9873
 \diamond A8
 \clubsuit AK3

West
 \spadesuit Q9742
 \heartsuit 2
 \diamond 965
 \clubsuit 10862

East
 \spadesuit 6
 \heartsuit 10654
 \diamond J42
 \clubsuit QJ954

South
 \spadesuit AKJ105
 \heartsuit QJ
 \diamond KQ1073
 \clubsuit 7

Open Room

West <i>De Wijs</i>	North <i>Bocchi</i>	East <i>Muller</i>	South <i>Madala</i>
			1 \spadesuit
Pass	2 \heartsuit	Pass	3 \diamond
Pass	3 \spadesuit (1)	Pass	4 \clubsuit
Pass	4 \diamond	Pass	4 \spadesuit
Pass	4NT	Pass	5 \heartsuit
Pass	6 \heartsuit	Pass	7 \heartsuit

All Pass

Closed Room

West <i>Duboin</i>	North <i>v Prooijen</i>	East <i>Sementa</i>	South <i>Verhees</i>
			1 \clubsuit
Pass	1 \heartsuit	Pass	3 \diamond (\spadesuit + \diamond)
Pass	3 \heartsuit	Pass	3 \spadesuit
Pass	4 \clubsuit	Pass	4 \heartsuit
Pass	4 \spadesuit	Pass	4NT
Pass	5 \clubsuit	Pass	6 \clubsuit
Pass	7NT	All Pass	

Both tables reached the grand on artificial auctions. We could tell you what they meant if we had time to find out. But then we'd have to kill you. No swing.

Bd: 40
 Dir: West
 Vul: None

North
 \spadesuit Q865
 \heartsuit 42
 \diamond J107
 \clubsuit Q1083

West
 \spadesuit K10
 \heartsuit J873
 \diamond K532
 \clubsuit A92

East
 \spadesuit J742
 \heartsuit 6
 \diamond AQ64
 \clubsuit KJ65

South
 \spadesuit A93
 \heartsuit AKQ1095
 \diamond 98
 \clubsuit 74

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
1♠(not ♠)	Pass	2♣	2♥
Dbl	Pass	3♣	3♥
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Both tables played 5♦, Muller being doubled there. In the Closed Room Sementa received the defense of two rounds of hearts. He ruffed, guessed spades and played a second spade. The defense won the ♠A and played a third spade. Declarer ruffed in dummy and led a third heart. North pitched his spade so Sementa ruffed, cashed the ♦AQ, and could now have crossed to dummy, drawn the trump, taken the club finesse, then pitched his heart on the good spade. Instead he drew two rounds of trumps and played the spade to let North ruff in for down one.

Muller received the defense of two top hearts as well. He guessed spades but next ruffed a heart to hand, drew trumps, and relied on clubs being three-three with the queen right. Not his best effort, I think. 2 imps to Italy, down 101-63.

Bd: 41	North
Dlr: North	♠ A1054
Vul: E/W	♥ A103
	♦ Q87
	♣ J102

West
♠ Q
♥ K7652
♦ J965
♣ A97

East
♠ K863
♥ QJ94
♦ A43
♣ Q4

South
♠ J972
♥ 8
♦ K102
♣ K8653

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	1♦	Dbl	1♥(♠)
Dbl	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	3♠
Dbl	All Pass		

Sementa's opening lead of the ♥Q went to the ace. Van Prooijen got the ♣Q past Sementa, and Duboin ducked. Now declarer guessed to lead a low club to the queen, king and ace. A heart came back, ruffed in dummy, then a club to the ten, ruffed by Sementa who returned a third heart, ruffed in dummy. Declarer now led the ♠J from dummy, covered all around, and at this point had a way to make by drawing trumps (ruffing the last heart in the process), then leading a diamond to the king to cash dummy's good clubs. When he finessed in diamonds he had an extra diamond loser and was down 100.

In the other room Bocchi also won the heart lead and passed the ♣J, but then he tried to pin the ♣9 by leading the ten from hand; the defenders forced him again and he was now a tempo and a trick behind. He ended up losing control, and was two down. No swing. Still 101-63.

Bd: 42	North
Dlr: East	♠ AK10743
Vul: Both	♥ A4
	♦ 432
	♣ 94

West
♠ Q98
♥ 85
♦ Q98
♣ KJ875

East
♠ 52
♥ KQ10963
♦ A
♣ Q1062

South
♠ J6
♥ J72
♦ KJ10765
♣ A3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
		1♥	Pass
Pass	1♠	2♥	Dbl
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
		1♥	Pass
1NT	2♠	All Pass	

We can all see how to defeat 4♠ after the ♥K lead went to the ace and a heart came back. Muller had to play his partner for the ♦Q and ♣K. Play back a heart to kill the ruff, then win the ♦A and shift to a club. But the distribution was not so clear to Muller. If declarer had been 6-2-2-3 maybe a club back was necessary. Even if this does not stand up to analysis, Muller did shift to a club. Declarer won in hand and ran the ♠J, covered all around, and now

claimed when he led a diamond and the ace appeared. 10 imps to go and Italy still had life in them, 28 imps down.

Bd: 43
Dir: South
Vul: None

North
♠ Q102
♥ QJ
♦ 432
♣ QJ543

West
♠ 53
♥ 105
♦ AQJ1098
♣ 872

East
♠ AJ9864
♥ A62
♦ ---
♣ AK96

South
♠ K7
♥ K98743
♦ K765
♣ 10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥
3♦	Pass	3♠	All Pass

After South led his singleton club against 4♠ Muller ducked a heart and North won to play a top club through, covered and ruffed. Muller won the next heart and laid down the ♠A before trying to ruff the last heart. North overruffed, cashed his trump and club winner, and gave up.

In 3♠ Sementa knew about the bad breaks. He won the club lead and played ♠A, ♠J. Verhees won and shifted to hearts and declarer gave up two trumps, two hearts and eventually a club. 2 more imps to Italy, 26 down, five to play.

Bd: 44
Dir: West
Vul: N/S

North
♠ Q754
♥ 865
♦ AJ
♣ AJ82

West
♠ 1082
♥ J432
♦ 4
♣ Q10643

East
♠ 3
♥ K1097
♦ KQ1096532
♣ ---

South
♠ AKJ96
♥ AQ
♦ 87
♣ K975

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	1♣(2+)	5♦	Dbl

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	1♦	5♦	Dbl

All Pass

Another board with huge swing potential. N/S can make 6♠ by North but go down on the Lightner double for the club ruff if South is declarer. The weakness and strength of the short minor came to the fore here. Both Norths could open, both Souths doubled 5♦ expecting there was a chance they could buy a foot not a hand opposite. And they were right in a sense. 5♦x went quietly two down in both rooms. No swing, still 101-75 to Netherlands.

The Danes sealed their match with a somewhat fortuitous goal; they were leading 104-103 at this point. After 1♣-(5♦) Morten Bilde offered a choice of slams with 5NT, his partner bid 6♠, *Bingo!* That was 15 imps and the match since 5♦x down 300 was the result from the other room. They finished up winning 126-103 so had slam gone down it would have swung 24 imps. And you can see what the margin would have been then.

Bd: 45
Dir: North
Vul: Both

North
♠ 976
♥ AJ86
♦ K5
♣ KQ93

West
♠ Q1082
♥ K9
♦ AQ9842
♣ 2

East
♠ AJ54
♥ 743
♦ 10
♣ J10854

South
♠ K3
♥ Q1052
♦ J763
♣ A76

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
2♦	1♣	Pass	1♦(♥)
2♠	2♥	Pass	Pass
	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
2♦	1♦	Pass	1♥
2♠	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	3♥(♠)	Pass
	All Pass		

In the Open Room Bocchi led a top club and

continued the suit: 8, A, and declarer ruffed. Next he finessed in spades and the defenders won and played three rounds of hearts. Duboin ruffed high and drew trumps ending in dummy, then gave up a club for down one. De Wijs took a totally different tack after two rounds of clubs. He ruffed in hand, then cross-ruffed diamonds and clubs. Madala pitched his fourth diamond on the fourth club, so de Wijs was forced to ruff with the ♠A, then ruff the fourth club back to hand for his eighth trick. But he had run out of steam, and in a sense it is not clear that this line would ever have made the hand unless a straightforward approach would have succeeded as well. No swing, music to Dutch ears. 26 up, 3 to go.

Bd: 46
 Dlr: East
 Vul: None

North	♠ A82		
	♥ 8764		
	♦ K105		
	♣ Q93		
West		East	
	♠ QJ4		♠ K
	♥ J1095		♥ AK3
	♦ QJ8		♦ 742
	♣ A84		♣ KJ7652
	South		
	♠ 1097653		
	♥ Q2		
	♦ A963		
	♣ 10		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
		2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
		1♣	1♠
Dbl	2♠	3♣	3♠
3NT	All Pass		

Duboin had a tough run to 3NT, Muller an easy one. Both made comfortably but Muller guessed both clubs and hearts for the overtrick. 27 up, two to go.

Bd: 47
 Dlr: South
 Vul: N/S

North	♠ AJ105		
	♥ Q2		
	♦ A973		
	♣ J63		
West		East	
	♠ Q92		♠ K83
	♥ J654		♥ K107
	♦ KQ64		♦ 102
	♣ Q4		♣ K9875
	South		
	♠ 764		
	♥ A983		
	♦ J85		
	♣ A102		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

A quiet 1NT was not what Italy wanted to see. Bocchi made an overtrick after a club lead. 77-102.

Bd: 48
 Dlr: West
 Vul: E/W

North	♠ AK		
	♥ AK1082		
	♦ 10862		
	♣ A6		
West		East	
	♠ 106		♠ Q985
	♥ J76		♥ Q9543
	♦ AJ54		♦ Q
	♣ 10842		♣ J53
	South		
	♠ J7432		
	♥ ---		
	♦ K973		
	♣ KQ97		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Madala</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣(1)	Pass	2♦(2)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
(1) 16+ / ♥+♣			
(2) 8+			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT(R)	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both tables played 3NT, and both managed to unscramble the diamond spots to cash their nine winners with a minimum of fuss. It was 102-78 to Netherlands, and what had seemed to me to be a remarkably well-played match by both sides had seen the losers concede just over 2 imps per deal but yet lose comfortably to a Dutch team playing in good form and good luck.