



2013 YEH BROS CUP

22nd-26th April, 2013 Yokohama JAPAN

Thursday, April 25, 2013
Bulletin Number 4

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

It's Italy Lavazza vs Denmark for "Top Dog" in Top Bracket Six teams in the Lower Bracket hunt for a top-four finish

Denmark entered the knock-outs as the third seed, Italy Lavazza as the fourth seed, and now they're the last two teams standing in the Top Bracket of the 2013 Yeh Bros Cup. Italy Lavazza had no trouble in their match against China Red in the first KO round, but Sweden proved a more difficult foe, Italy winning by a mere 9imps. Similarly, Denmark also had few problems in their first-KO round match against USA Kranyak, but China Blue took them to the wire before the "Danes" emerged with a mere 7-imp victory. The winner of Italy-Denmark will get a bye tonight to prepare for tomorrow's final, while the loser will join the two survivors of today's two three-way matches in the Lower Bracket for a right to play the winner of the Top Bracket for the championship.

The Lower Bracket will play two three-ways this morning/afternoon, the first pitting previous top seed Yeh Bros I against China Blue and Russia, the second pitting Sweden against USA Kranyak and The Netherlands. The two three-way winners plus the loser of the Top Bracket will play a three-way tonight, the survivor to meet the winner of the Top Bracket for 1st and 2nd places, the two losers to play-off for 3rd place.

BBO coverage of the Top Bracket match will begin at 9:30 am, so get your popcorn and your slippers ready because you certainly won't want to miss it. (There will be no BBO match this evening.)

The Top and Lower Brackets can be found on page 2. The standings in the Swiss Plate, which concludes this afternoon, are 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 Match will feature Italy Lavazza (1) vs Denmark (2)

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		
A4 Italy Lavazza (127)				
	B2 Italy Lavazza (69)			
A5 China Red (42)				
			E1	E1
A3 Denmark (92)				
	B3 Denmark (89)			
A6 USA Kranyak (51)				
		C2 Denmark		
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		
	B9 USA Cheek (33)			
A16 England+Ph (63)		C4 China Blue	D2	
	B6 China Red (56)			
A12 Russia (84)		C6 Russia		
	B10 Russia (82)			
A13 Chinese Taipei (55)			D1	E2
	B7 USA Kranyak (120)			
A11 Yeh Bros II (107)		C7 USA Kranyak		
	B11 Yeh Bros II (27)			
A14 Hungary Sr. (54)		C3 Sweden	D3	
	B8 Netherlands (80)			E3
A10 Australia Youth (99)		C8 Netherlands		
	B12 Australia Youth (52)			E4
A15 New Zealand (55)				

Championship & Third-Place Playoff

Teams	1-16	17-32	33-48	Final
E1				
E2				
E3				
E4				

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 Standings after Day One (5 Matches)

	Rank	Team Name	Total VPs
	1	Indonesia Senior	70.68
	2	England+Pharon	66.32
	3	Poland	63.87
	4-8	Chinese Taipei	61.66
	4-8	Australia Youth	61.66
	4-8	China Red	61.66
	4-8	Yeh Bros II	61.66
	4-8	USA Cheek	61.66
	9	India	59.03
	10	Australia	53.82
	11	Japan Open	47.67
	12	New Zealand	39.11
	13	Hungary Senior	38.19
	14	England Ladies+	35.68
	15	Japan Ladies	35.05
	16	South Africa	34.2

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

KO1 – 1st Half: China Blue vs The Netherlands

by Barry Rigal



De Wijs



Ju



Zhengjun



Muller



Wang



v Prooijen



Verhees



Haojun

With two players commonly referred to as Shi, the Editors made the executive (if Solomonic) decision to refer to them by their given names (a counter-proposal to use the title “Shi who must be obeyed” being rejected on a recount).

You’d like to start things off with a quiet game, wouldn’t you? The Netherlands did so but the Chinese had other ideas.

Bd: 1
 Dlr: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ A74
 ♥ AK2
 ♦ K862
 ♣ 1042

West
 ♠ Q9852
 ♥ 107
 ♦ QJ97
 ♣ 63

East
 ♠ 1063
 ♥ 63
 ♦ 1053
 ♣ AQ985

South
 ♠ KJ
 ♥ QJ9854
 ♦ A4
 ♣ KJ7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Zhengjun</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♦(FG)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Haojun</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

In the Closed Room Verhees produced a (normally-hearts) transfer and jump to game to make a mild slam-try but van Prooijen was minimum for his opening. In the Open Room South used Forcing Stayman and now it was hard for North (who had denied four trumps already) not to cooperate once.

(Was he really worth a diamond cue-bid at his next turn, though? If all partner needs is a diamond control he will come again and your 4333 pattern should then sound the alarm.) Slam by my calculation needs the ♣Q plus either the ♠K or ♣A onside. China Blue would point to the score sheet in Hammanesque fashion and claim that any slam that makes has to be good. After a diamond lead declarer won in hand, drew trumps, then led a club towards his king-jack. Bauke Muller flew with the ace and returned the suit, but declarer finessed and claimed.

For the record, in Pharon+England versus USA Cheek, when Jason Hackett played 6♥ as North he received the lead of ace and another club, West encouraging. Quite reasonably, he misguessed by playing for the spade finesse instead of the actual lie of the cards. Li as South misguessed the play against Italy, as did Magyar against Yeh Bros II.

China led 11-0 and had the chance to increase that lead if they could bid to another marginal slam on the next deal. Of course double-dummy, wouldn’t you know it, the bad slam makes and the good slam — well, play or defend?

Bd: 2
 Dlr: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ K98542
 ♥ 864
 ♦ AQ2
 ♣ 4

West
 ♠ A7
 ♥ K2
 ♦ 87643
 ♣ AQ53

East
 ♠ QJ3
 ♥ AQJ9753
 ♦ J
 ♣ KJ

South
 ♠ 106
 ♥ 10
 ♦ K1095
 ♣ 1098762

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Zhengjun</i>
		1♥	Pass
1♠(R)	2♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room
 West North East South
 Wang v Prooijen Haojun Verhees

2♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass	4♣	Pass

How do you fancy your chances in 6♥? On a black-suit lead declarer wins, draws trumps, then takes his diamond discard on the clubs. So I lead a diamond, but now the defenders cannot shift to spades successfully. Okay, change of plan. I'll lead the ♦K to retain the lead and now a spade shift disrupts the entries. Not at all. I win the ♠A, ruff a diamond, draw two trumps ending in dummy, ruff a diamond, and squeeze South in the minors. Checkmate. Neither of our teams got close, though, and the score remained 11-0 to China Blue.

In our second VuGraph match Dennis and Morton Bilde bid unopposed: 1♥-2♣; 3♥-4♣; 4♦-4♠; 5♣-6♥ for 11imps. Only they and Scott-Wignall (who were doubled for the diamond lead) reached slam. And of course both made it.

Bd: 3 North
 Dlr: South ♠ 1086
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q2
 ♦ AQJ4
 ♣ KJ107

West	East
♠ A2	♠ Q543
♥ AK	♥ 10873
♦ 753	♦ K62
♣ AQ8532	♣ 96

South
 ♠ KJ97
 ♥ J9654
 ♦ 1098
 ♣ 4

Open Room
 West North East South
 De Wijs Ju Muller Zhengjun

3♣	All Pass		
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Closed Room
 West North East South
 Wang v Prooijen Haojun Verhees

1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	All Pass		Pass

2NT was not a fun contract after van Prooijen's spade lead. Declarer put up the queen and won the first spade to lead clubs from hand. North won and cleared diamonds, got in again in clubs and cashed out nine tricks via three clubs, three diamonds and three spades. By contrast, 3♣ also lost three trump tricks but only three tricks in the side-suits. A "triumph" at -200; 5imps to The Netherlands.

While only Russia doubled their opponents in game (3NTx for +1400) Australia Youth collected 800 from 3♦ by East while at one point in our second match it was N/S who were in 3♦; remarkably, Auken did not double 5♣ when West declared that contract.

Time for the E/W pairs to get some revenge.

Bd: 4 North
 Dlr: West ♠ KJ93
 Vul: Both ♥ 8
 ♦ K732
 ♣ 8765

West	East
♠ 52	♠ 108764
♥ K1043	♥ Q97
♦ Q9	♦ AJ6
♣ KQ943	♣ A10

South
 ♠ AQ
 ♥ AJ652
 ♦ 10854
 ♣ J2

Open Room
 West North East South
 De Wijs Ju Muller Zhengjun

Pass	Pass	1♠	Dbl
Rdbl	1NT	All Pass	

Closed Room
 West North East South
 Wang v Prooijen Haojun Verhees

Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦(1)
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

(1) Minimum balanced or canapé

Verhees could have opened 2♦ to show this hand-type but he elected to go low and rebid to show a minimum balanced hand. West chose to lead a top club and East overtook and returned the suit. Wang ducked the ♣J, an interesting but not unreasonable shot, and now Verhees tried for his contract by unblocking spades and leading a diamond up to dummy's ♦K. East won his ace, shifted to hearts, and all Verhees could take was his ♥A. If that looks bad, against 1NT (which van Prooijen might have doubled, though that could have led to his opponents reaching a contract of 2♦, which plays just fine) Muller as East led a spade which was won in dummy for a diamond ducked to West's nine. The defenders avoided crashing their club honors and declarer emerged with his three winners in dummy and no more. 3imps to The Netherlands, down 11-8.

Wooldridge-Hurd did double Welland, South, in a balancing 2♥ for +800, but everyone else escaped unscathed. It was 12-16 for Denmark.

China bought the contract in both rooms on the next deal for a 2-imp gain. Then...

Bd: 6 North
 Dlr: East ♠ J86
 Vul: E/W ♥ KQ6543
 ♦ AK3
 ♣ 3

West	East
♠ AK92	♠ Q107543
♥ A2	♥ 10
♦ J10	♦ Q72
♣ KQJ107	♣ 954

South
 ♠ ---
 ♥ J987
 ♦ 98654
 ♣ A862

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Zhengjun</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣(STR)	1♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Haojun</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	Pass	3♣(Mixed)
Dbl	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	4♠	Dbl
All Pass			

The auction did not time out well for either Dutch pair but one of their real problems was a disagreement about whether in the Closed Room South's double of 4♠ was action or defense. Had the partnership been on the same wavelength North would have bid 5♥, of course, though I suspect East might have competed to 5♠ anyway.

Note that South had a number of killing leads against 4♠ but that a heart was not one of them. Declarer drew trumps and claimed +790, while 5♥x, reached via the Grosvenor-style auction, with the intermezzo in 5♣, was equally painless. Had The Netherlands got the auctions and defense right they might have gained 11imps. As it was, China Blue had 16imps to lead 29-8.

Hurd-Wooldridge escaped with -200 in 5♠x but in the other room N/S bid themselves to 5♥ via a keycard sequence. Then Kranyak as South re-raised his partner to 6♥ with what he doubtless thought was a useful void. So it was, but only up to a point, Lord Copper.

Most of the results here were penalties one way or the other. Other than in our featured match, two pairs made game on the N/S cards, one on the E/W cards.

Bd: 7	North		
Dlr: South	♠ 7		
Vul: Both	♥ K1085		
	♦ KQ8542		
	♣ J4		
		East	
West		♠ K5	
♠ 102		♥ 7432	
♥ AQJ9		♦ AJ963	
♦ 7		♣ 82	
♣ AK7653			
	South		
	♠ AQJ98643		
	♥ 6		
	♦ 10		
	♣ Q109		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Zhengjun</i>
			4♠
5♣	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Haojun</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
			4♠
All Pass			

Do you think the auction would have gone differently if the East and North hands had been interchanged? Then 4♠ is easy to make while the Dutch would have been defending 5♠x for +200. So one might (if so inclined) argue that the Dutch were a little unlucky. It is interesting to speculate on what might have happened had either West doubled 4♠, but as Doctor Watson might say, "That is a story for which the world is not yet prepared."

The lie of the cards was singularly unfriendly for both 4♠ and 5♣. After a club lead followed by a diamond to the ace and a diamond continuation, 4♠ lost the first five tricks when Verhees took his best shot by throwing his heart away at trick three, and ran into both a diamond and a club ruff. 5♣ received a spade lead and heart shift and De Wijs cut his losses by rising with the ace and drawing trumps. Down three when he still had two hearts to lose at the death. That was 11imps to China Blue, suddenly up 40-8.

Denmark had basically the identical pick-up against Kranyak. They led 34-12 now. The Netherlands gained an overtrick in 3NT and followed it up with something juicier...

Bd: 9	North		
Dlr: North	♠ K		
Vul: E/W	♥ QJ973		
	♦ A		
	♣ AQ9762		
		East	
West		♠ J95	
♠ A6432		♥ A86	
♥ 1054		♦ KQ964	
♦ J7		♣ 103	
♣ K85			
	South		
	♠ Q1087		
	♥ K2		
	♦ 108532		
	♣ J4		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Zhengjun</i>
Pass	1♣(STR)	1♦	Pass
1♠	Dbl	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Haojun</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	Dbl
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

You might think van Prooijen's handling of the North hand somewhat presumptuous, in that the jump to game looks a touch optimistic. But there again I think we would all prefer it to the Open Room sequence where Ju's double of 1♠ looks incomprehensible and a bid in one of his suits looks vastly preferable. As it was, the hearts were lost for good though, to be fair, the final contract might well have gained imps for China Blue had the hearts been less friendly. On the lie of the cards van Prooijen had no problems in 4♥

after a diamond lead, when he won in hand, led a heart to the king, then the ♣J, covered all around. He reverted to trumps, found the cards as friendly as could be, and wrapped up +450. That was worth 8imps when declarer at the other table tackled trumps by playing ace and another and settled for 10 tricks.

After an overtrick imp to China Blue the next deal clearly had potential for action.

Bd: 11 North
 Dlr: South ♠ 83
 Vul: None ♥ AKQJ9752
 ♦ A
 ♣ J4

West	East
♠ J	♠ K104
♥ 43	♥ 106
♦ Q9865	♦ KJ74
♣ 109852	♣ AQ63

South
 ♠ AQ97652
 ♥ 8
 ♦ 1032
 ♣ K7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Zhengjun</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Haojun</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
			4♠

All Pass

Neither auction leaves you exactly overjoyed, does it? Still, I guess we can all sympathize with the N/S pairs here. Ju held himself to 11 tricks by playing for 13, slightly inaccurately, while Verhees, in 4♠ on a heart lead, cashed two hearts early (pitching a diamond), unblocked the ♦A, came to hand with the ♠A and ruffed a diamond to lead a third heart and ensure 10 tricks. That made it 41-18 for China Blue.

Both pairs in Denmark-Kranyak found their way to 6♥, the only pairs to do so. Auken as North put Welland into slam after a controlled sequence where she had found her LHO doubling an artificial 4♣ bid and her partner showing a club control. At the other table Demuy reached slam on a wild swing for the fences. Both tables led clubs, both ran their winners, but Demuy, who was of course aware things were going badly, guessed in the two-card ending to play for the drop of the ♠K offside and handed over another 14 imps to the enemy. That made it 51-16.

Bd: 12 North
 Dlr: West ♠ Q94
 Vul: N/S ♥ 8
 ♦ Q108
 ♣ AK8632

West	East
♠ J	♠ AK10872
♥ 10943	♥ KQ75
♦ A9643	♦ K5
♣ J107	♣ 5

South
 ♠ 653
 ♥ AJ62
 ♦ J72
 ♣ Q94

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Zhengjun</i>
Pass	2♣	Dbl	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Haojun</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	2♣	2♠	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	All Pass

The nuances of the Closed Room auction may be less than obvious to an outside eye, but it did sound like East either showed 6-4 in the majors or a very powerful hand. In that case, East has enough to move on, perhaps with 4♣ as a choice of games. Haojun justified his partner's decision to pass when the defenders led a club to the king to get a heart shift to the king and ace and a heart ruff. The defenders were left with an inevitable heart trick when van Prooijen thoughtfully exited with a low club to avoid squeezing his partner.

In the other room the inferences about East's pattern were far less clear and de Wijs simply raised spades to game. Muller justified his partner's decision when the defenders gave him the helping hand of a trump lead at the first trick, after which Muller ran for home in a canter, not normally words associated with Bauke's style of declarer play. The 7 imps made it 41-25 for China Blue.

Two other declarers made game here after a club lead and heart shift when South did not give his partner the ruff. Of course the heart continuation might be fatal on a different day.

Bd: 13 North
 Dlr: North ♠ J104
 Vul: Both ♥ J2
 ♦ K732
 ♣ AQ87

West	East
♠ KQ7	♠ 6532
♥ K73	♥ 95
♦ J104	♦ Q98
♣ J1064	♣ K932

South
 ♠ A98
 ♥ AQ10864
 ♦ A65
 ♣ 5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Zhengjun</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦(FG)
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♥

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Haojun</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠(3+)	Pass	2NT(1)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Raise to 3♥ with three spades

In one room *De Wijs*, looking for an active defense to 4♥, can hardly be blamed for leading a top spade, disastrous as the outcome turned out to be. *Wang* knew better in his room; there was no need to be active and spades rated to be the opponents' suit. He led a diamond and declarer quite sensibly led a low spade to the eight. That let him win the diamond return in hand and go to the ♣A to repeat the spade finesse while remaining in dummy, and then take the heart finesse later. As the cards lay, with all four finesses wrong, nothing was going to help him. 12 imps to China Blue, up 53-25 now.

Only one other declarer went down here when North declared on a spade lead. But *Auken*, for example, as North brought home 10 tricks on a low spade lead by ducking, winning the club shift to take the heart finesse, then setting up the thirteenth diamond after drawing trumps.

Bd: 14	North
Dlr: East	♠ KQ10
Vul: None	♥ J842
	♦ J42
	♣ 1093

West
♠ 8753
♥ 1063
♦ 10
♣ AK875

East
♠ J2
♥ AK975
♦ K876
♣ J2

South
♠ A964
♥ Q
♦ AQ953
♣ Q64

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Zhengjun</i>
		1♥	Dbl
2♦(♥)	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♦

All Pass

Closed Room

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

Both Chinese pairs did a lot of bidding, the 2NT raise in the Closed Room being especially noteworthy. But

Ju's balance over 2♥ (suggesting only three spades) had a decent chance to get his side to an eight-card fit, and so it proved.

Declaring 3♥ *Hagen* ran *Verhees'* unfortunate club lead to his hand, cashed a second but not a third club, and ran the ♦10 to South, who misread the position when he exited in clubs rather than cashing his side's spade tricks. Declarer won the third club pitching a spade, led a fourth club pitching a second spade (North pitching a diamond), forcing South to ruff, and then played to cross-ruff spades and diamonds. North could overruff, but it was with a trump winner and East had his nine tricks.

In the other room 3♦ lost the first four tricks to two clubs, a ruff and a top heart but declarer had plenty of entries to finesse in trumps and make the rest. Note that on a low heart lead to the ace East might have a shot to set the game by returning a low heart at trick two. The lead was 59-25 now for China Blue.

Bd: 15	North
Dlr: South	♠ AK852
Vul: N/S	♥ 6

♦ AQJ
♣ 8752

West
♠ Q764
♥ AKQ
♦ 9643
♣ 63

East
♠ J1093
♥ ---
♦ 752
♣ AKJ1094

South
♠ ---
♥ J109875432
♦ K108
♣ Q

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Zhengjun</i>
			4♥
Pass	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Haojun</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
			4♥

All Pass

No prizes for guessing the Editors' unanimous award for wildest action of the tournament. No, it wasn't East in the Open Room. *Van Prooijen* unsportingly doubled 5♥ and naturally led the ♥Q to cheer partner up. Since 5♣x was down 300 at least, that 5♥ bid cost at least 18 imps. The set closed at 59-35 to China Blue.

Not surprisingly, no contracts made on this deal. 4♥ was doubled a fair number of times, while 5♣ (and one 5♠) made up the series of unfortunate events here.

Bd: 16
 Dlr: West
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ 1076
 ♥ Q6542
 ♦ J753
 ♣ 5

West
 ♠ AKQ92
 ♥ J7
 ♦ Q10
 ♣ KQ82

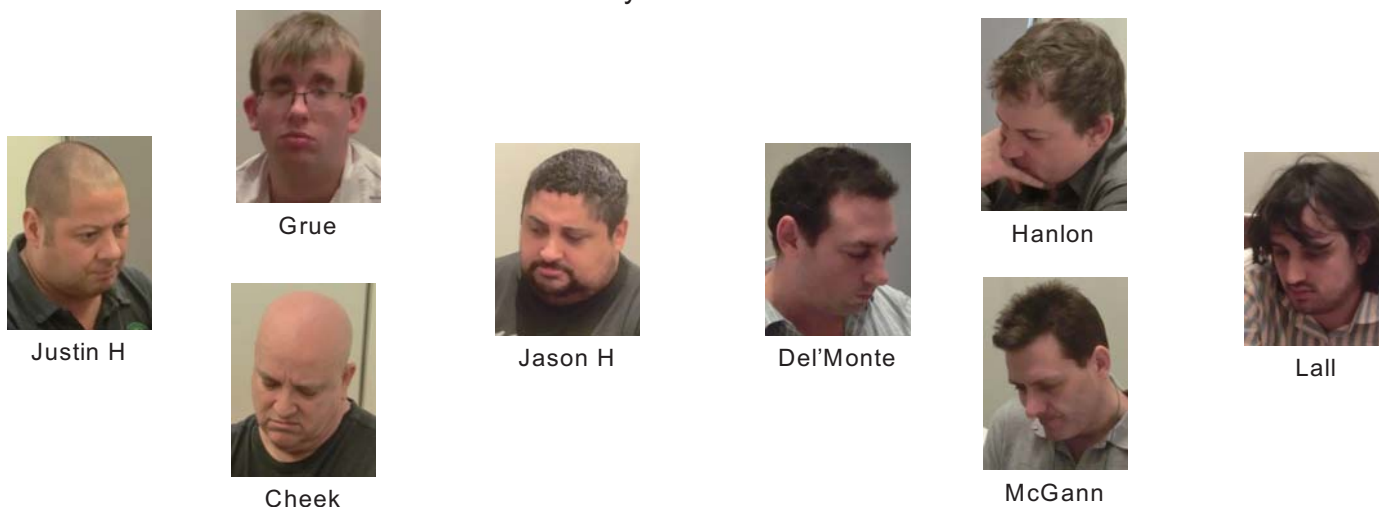
East
 ♠ 543
 ♥ A
 ♦ AK42
 ♣ A10764

South
 ♠ J8
 ♥ K10983
 ♦ 986
 ♣ J93

If left to your own devices you'd expect to reach the grand slam here with a minimum of effort. If West used keycard he could almost count the tricks. The Chinese missed it on an unopposed sequence while Muller-de Boer had to deal with the opponents at 4♥ on the first round of the bidding. Sweden was the only team to pick up a swing by having its opponents miss the slam. At the end of the set The Netherlands trailed by 25 imps, and they were the close match in the top bracket. In the second bracket Cheek led England+Pharon by single digits and the leads in the other three matches were all smaller than 25 imps.

KO1 – 2nd Half: USA Cheek vs England+Pharon

by Rich Colker



With all of the matches in the top bracket seemingly approaching blow-out proportions (famous last words) we switch our coverage of the second half to two competitive matches in the lower bracket. In the modern version of the American Revolution USA Cheek leads England+Pharon by 7, 32-25, while in the Battle from Down Under Australia Youth leads New Zealand by 17, 52-35.

Bd: 17
 Dlr: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ Q83
 ♥ AJ102
 ♦ QJ1062
 ♣ A

West
 ♠ AK
 ♥ Q
 ♦ A53
 ♣ KJ87532

East
 ♠ 654
 ♥ K98753
 ♦ 97
 ♣ 64

South
 ♠ J10972
 ♥ 64
 ♦ K84
 ♣ Q109

Open Room
 West North East South
Justin H Grue Jason H Cheek
 1NT
 Pass
 2♥(♠)
 3♣ 3♠ All Pass

Closed Room
 West North East South
Del'Monte Hanlon J Lall McGann
 1♦ 1♥ 1♠(5+)
 2♣ 2♥ Pass 2♠
 3♣ 3♠ Pass Pass
 4♣ All Pass

North's 3♠ contract can be defeated on either a club or a diamond lead, but the defense must negotiate some difficult choices along the way. Jason led the ♣6 to the ace, and Grue played back the ♠Q to the king. Justin cashed the ♠A and, to guarantee success, needed to exit with the ♥Q. Instead he played the ♣K, ruffed, and now declarer played the ♦Q. Justin won the ace and now shifted to the ♥Q, but it was too late. Grue won, crossed to hand with the ♦K, drew the last trump and claimed +170.

Suppose West returns the ♥Q at the critical point above. Declarer wins but has no effective continuation. If he draws the last trump the defense

can duck two diamonds, win the third, cash the ♣K and exit with a club and declarer will still have a heart to lose. If declarer plays on diamonds after winning the ♥A, leaving East with a trump, West ducks the first round and now threatens to give East a ruff if the third trump is not drawn before North plays a second round of either red suit.

In any case, Ish Del'Monte played 4♣ in the Closed Room on the lead of the ♦J (Rusinow). He ducked, won the spade shift, and played the ♥Q. Hanlon won the ace and led the ♠Q to the king. Now Ish played ♦A, diamond ruff, followed by a club to the ten, jack and ace and had to lose one more club for down one, -50; 3 imps to USA, ahead by 10 at 35-25.

In our second featured match Australia Youth defeated 3♠ in one room and made it in the other to increase their lead to 22 imps.

Bd: 18
Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ 103
♥ KJ942
♦ K10754
♣ J

West
♠ QJ9762
♥ A6
♦ J
♣ 9543

East
♠ A54
♥ Q83
♦ A96
♣ KQ106

South
♠ K8
♥ 1075
♦ Q832
♣ A872

Open Room

West <i>Justin H</i>	North <i>Grue</i>	East <i>Jason H</i>	South <i>Cheek</i>
2♥(♠)	Dbl	1NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass	2♠	3♥

Closed Room

West <i>Del'Monte</i>	North <i>Hanlon</i>	East <i>J Lall</i>	South <i>McGann</i>
4♥	Dbl	1NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass	Pass	Pass

In the Open Room Cheek led the ♥5 against 4♠ and now the contract hinged on Jason's decision. If he ducks North wins the ♥K, leads back a club for a ruff, and the defense must still score their ♠K. The only way to prevail is to win the ♥A and play ace and a trump to assure losing just one heart, one spade and the ♣A. Jason ducked and the roof fell in; -50. Even if Jason had overcome the hurdle at trick one, he might still have taken the spade finesse, mightn't he?

In the Closed Room the contract was played the other way around and now Hanlon led the ♣J. McGann won, led back the ♣7 for Hanlon to ruff, but when Hanlon could not read the club spot for the middle card it was (Ish had followed to the first two clubs with the four and the nine, concealing the ♣53) he returned a heart. Now Ish won the queen and claimed ten tricks for +420. It is not clear why South did not return the ♣2; surely a diamond back must be

right unless North can tell from his own hand to play hearts. In any case, that was 10 more imps to USA, ahead now 45-25.

Only three declarers made 4♥ here; one came in our other featured match when South led the ♥10, maybe in an effort to clarify the position in the suit. Be careful what you wish for.

Bd: 19
Dlr: South
Vul: E/W

North
♠ J953
♥ 76
♦ A54
♣ J653

West
♠ K86
♥ Q103
♦ Q
♣ AKQ1092

East
♠ AQ2
♥ 542
♦ K10632
♣ 84

South
♠ 1074
♥ AKJ98
♦ J987
♣ 7

On Board 19 both Souths got to show hearts in the auction, Cheek by bidding them, McGann by doubling a 1♥ transfer response. Now both Norths led a heart against West's 3NT, South inserting the jack, and when the clubs failed to come home both tables finished down one, -100. push. Still 45-25.

In our second match, though, Howard led a spade against 3NT after a less revealing auction. That was 13 imps to New Zealand, and the lead was back down to 19 imps for Australia Youth.

Bd: 20
Dlr: West
Vul: Both

North
♠ Q
♥ 108
♦ AQJ976
♣ K642

West
♠ K109876
♥ ---
♦ K54
♣ Q1053

East
♠ J53
♥ J976543
♦ 3
♣ A8

South
♠ A42
♥ AKQ2
♦ 1082
♣ J97

Open Room

West <i>Justin H</i>	North <i>Grue</i>	East <i>Jason H</i>	South <i>Cheek</i>
2♠	3♦	4♠	5♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West <i>Del'Monte</i>	North <i>Hanlon</i>	East <i>J Lall</i>	South <i>McGann</i>
2♠	3♦	4♠	Dbl
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Both N/S pairs reached the eminently reasonable contract of 5♦, which makes if any of several things

goes well for declarer including West holding the ♣A, East holding either the ♣Q or ♣10, one of the club honors falling doubleton, or a club being led. Of course declarer must guess the position in most cases (unless a club honor pops up singleton on declarer's left). Here the doubleton ♣A meant that 5♦ was cold (absent spade ruffs) unless declarer led low to the king on the first round of the suit. In the Open Room Jason led a low spade. Grue rose with the ace, drew trumps via two finesses and eventually played a club to the king, and was down one, -100.

In the Closed Room Lall found the same low spade lead and Hanlon began as Grue had by rising with the ace and taking a diamond finesse. When that won he suddenly abandoned trumps and ruffed a spade, then tried to reenter dummy with a heart. Ish ruffed, led a club to the ace, ruffed the ♥J return when dummy covered, and declarer still had a club to lose for down two, -200. 3 moreimps to USA, leading now 48-25.

Only one defender doubled 5♦, and he had the poor taste to do so against Chen Yeh, collecting 800 on repeated heart ruffs plus the club misguess. Is hospitality worth *nothing*?

The Brits know all about keeping a stiff upper lip, of course, and now was certainly the right time to Hunker Down (not at all dissimilar to Bunker Hill) and stage a comeback.

Bd: 21 North
 Dlr: North ♠ 654
 Vul: N/S ♥ 52
 ♦ K932
 ♣ AQ105

West
 ♠ AQ97
 ♥ 10964
 ♦ 75
 ♣ 872

East
 ♠ KJ102
 ♥ AKQ
 ♦ 1086
 ♣ J96

South
 ♠ 83
 ♥ J873
 ♦ AQJ4
 ♣ K43

Open Room
 West North East South
Justin H Grue Jason H Cheek
 Pass Pass 1NT All Pass

Closed Room
 West North East South
Del'Monte Hanlon J Lall McGann
 2♣ Pass 1NT Pass
 2♥ Dbl Pass Pass
 Pass 3♠ All Pass

The problem with "Garbage Stayman" (West's 2♣ bid in the Closed Room) is that sometimes partner can't take a joke. When Ish rolled out the trash Lall, who had opened a 14-16 notrump, instead of just correcting 2♥ to 2♠ thought he had a maximum (with his flat 14-count, an unsupported jack, but with two 10s) and jumped to 3♠, perhaps overly influenced by his dense heart holding after partner had shown the

suit. The defense had no problem cashing their five top minor-suit winners (indeed, down one was claimed at trick 2) for -50.

Jason got a heart lead against 1NT and immediately claimed 7 tricks when the ♥J failed to drop; +90. That was 4imps back to England+Pharon, trailing now 48-29.

Bd: 22 North
 Dlr: East ♠ K983
 Vul: E/W ♥ 974
 ♦ KQ109
 ♣ AJ

West
 ♠ Q7
 ♥ KQ2
 ♦ J86432
 ♣ 106

East
 ♠ A5
 ♥ A85
 ♦ 5
 ♣ Q987543

South
 ♠ J10642
 ♥ J1063
 ♦ A7
 ♣ K2

Open Room
 West North East South
Justin H Grue Jason H Cheek
 Pass 1♦ Pass Pass
 Pass 2♣ 2♣ Dbl
 Pass 4♣ Pass 3♠
 All Pass

Closed Room
 West North East South
Del'Monte Hanlon J Lall McGann
 Pass Dbl Pass 3♣
 Pass 3NT Pass Pass
 Dbl 4♣ Pass 4♠
 Pass Pass Dbl All Pass

It's unclear how a 4-4-3-2 13-count rates a game bid opposite an invitation by a passed hand, especially with 5 of the 13 points in LHO's suit. Jason led his singleton diamond against 4♣. Grue won the ace in dummy and passed the ♠J to the ace. Now Jason played ace and a heart to Justin who cashed his third heart, then gave Jason a ruff for down two, -100.

As bad as that was for the Americans, it was even worse for their teammates in the Closed Room. Hanlon-McGann were about to go for 300 (or 500, depending on the play in the trump suit) when suddenly the clouds parted and the sun came out. With 4♣ played this time by South, Ish led the ♣10 and now the diamond ruff was gone. But you would expect down one to be a good bet with four top tricks still cashing. McGann won the club in hand, guessed spades by playing low to the eight and ace, won the diamond return in dummy, cashed the ♠K, crossed to the ♦A, then back to the ♣A, and two heart pitches later he was claiming +590 for 12 moreimps to England+Pharon, who closed to within 7 at 48-41.

Two other declarers also brought home 4♠ here, with New Zealand staying low in 3♠ and stealing the hand

in 3♣ to reduce the margin to 14imps. But the Pharon comeback wasn't over yet.

Bd: 23
 Dir: South
 Vul: Both

North
♠ 832
♥ A62
♦ AKQ8
♣ K103

West
♠ A105
♥ J54
♦ J97
♣ Q987

East
♠ KJ964
♥ KQ983
♦ 1053
♣ ---

South
♠ Q7
♥ 107
♦ 642
♣ AJ6542

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Cheek</i>
Pass	1NT	2♣(♥+♠)	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>J Lall</i>	<i>McGann</i>
Pass	1NT	2♣(♥+♠)	2NT(1)
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

(1) Lebensohl (puppet to 3♣)

It is not clear in the Open Room whether Cheek intended his 2NT bid as Lebensohl or not, but it seems clear from his major-suit holding — especially his spades — that Grue did not take it that way. Jason led the ♥8, covered around to Grue's ace, and Grue now cashed four diamonds, then led a low club and claimed eight tricks for down one, -100. That was 6 more imps to England+Pharon, who had closed USA's lead to a single imp at 48-47.

Australia Youth picked up the same swing to go back in front by 19 imps.

Bd: 25
 Dir: North
 Vul: E/W

North
♠ A852
♥ AQ
♦ AQ75
♣ J62

West
♠ KJ76
♥ K4
♦ K32
♣ K1095

East
♠ Q103
♥ J5
♦ J986
♣ Q874

South
♠ 94
♥ 10987632
♦ 104
♣ A3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Cheek</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	4♦(♥)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>J Lall</i>	<i>McGann</i>
Pass	1♣(STR)	Pass	1♦(Neg)
Pass	1NT(STR)	Pass	2♦(♥)
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Both Norths showed a strong notrump and both Souths transferred to hearts, Cheek at the four level, McGann at the two level. When McGann invited Hanlon passed (he was minimum for his 17-19 1NT rebid and had only two hearts). The play went quickly when a diamond was led at both tables, North winning, crossing to dummy in either clubs or with a diamond ruff and taking the heart finesse to claim 11 tricks. But while Hanlon was only +200, Grue was +450 for 6 imps back to USA, leading now 54-47.

The field (10 of 12 pairs) bid to game here, perhaps as a function of ranges or strong clubs.

Bd: 26
 Dir: East
 Vul: Both

North
♠ 9
♥ AJ5
♦ Q1072
♣ KQ974

West
♠ J7642
♥ Q2
♦ A4
♣ J1063

East
♠ KQ1083
♥ 10764
♦ 96
♣ 52

South
♠ A5
♥ K983
♦ KJ853
♣ A8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Cheek</i>
Pass	3♠(1)	Pass	1NT
Pass	6♣	Dbf	4♠
All Pass		Pass	6♦

(1) 5+-4+ minors, spade shortness

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>J Lall</i>	<i>McGann</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3NT

Grue's 3♠ bid showed 5+-4+ in the minors (either way) with short spades. Cheek's 4♠ bid may not necessarily have shown the ace, but it certainly said he had a good hand for play in a minor and was interested in more than just game (a holding such as three small spades was also possible). Grue accepted with a pass-or-correct 6♣ and Cheek corrected to 6♦. An excellent auction. There wasn't much to the play and Cheek was soon scoring up +1370 without even needing the heart finesse.

In the Closed Room Hanlon appears to have been unable to get across both of his minors to McGann in what appears to be a mostly natural (except for 2♣)

auction. He settled for game in the four-three heart fit. Ish led a spade; McGann won and knocked out the $\diamond A$ in two rounds. He ruffed the spade return, cashed the $\heartsuit AK$, then played winners conceding two trump tricks for +620. But that was another 13 imps back to USA, whose lead had grown to 20 at 67-47.

Nine of the 16 pairs bid the slam (well done), and while we could tell you which pair played 3NT down two, we are far too nice to do that. And you know where to leave the hush-money. Australia Youth had the methods and increased their lead to 32 imps.

After Boards 27 and 28 the score was 68-47, USA, when another swing board was placed on the table.

Bd: 29
 Dir: North
 Vul: Both

North
 \spadesuit 102
 \heartsuit 8732
 \diamond A104
 \clubsuit AJ52

West
 \spadesuit J765
 \heartsuit AQJ
 \diamond J63
 \clubsuit 1063

East
 \spadesuit AQ983
 \heartsuit K654
 \diamond K5
 \clubsuit K4

South
 \spadesuit K4
 \heartsuit 109
 \diamond Q9872
 \clubsuit Q987

Open Room
 West North East South
Justin H *Grue* *Jason H* *Cheek*
 Pass Pass $1\spadesuit$ Pass
 $2\spadesuit$ Pass 2NT Pass
 $4\spadesuit$ All Pass

Closed Room
 West North East South
Del'Monte *Hanlon* *J Lall* *McGann*
 Pass 1NT All Pass

In the Open Room the twins reached game needing two of three finesses and scored it up for +620. The Closed Room auction is one that gives Koach agita, East having a hand that is able to open $1\spadesuit$ and rebid $2\heartsuit$ naturally (with only a point or so to spare). The spade game is nothing special but vulnerable at imps you don't make your fortune stopping in partscore with these cards. Ish chose not to invite opposite a 13-16 notrump (for which we don't blame him) and when Lall took eight tricks (+120) England+Pharon took 11 imps, now down 9 at 68-58.

Bd: 30
 Dir: East
 Vul: None

North
 \spadesuit 764
 \heartsuit A94
 \diamond A62
 \clubsuit KJ95

West
 \spadesuit AJ985
 \heartsuit ---
 \diamond KQ1093
 \clubsuit 1063

East
 \spadesuit 102
 \heartsuit K863
 \diamond J
 \clubsuit AQ8742

South
 \spadesuit KQ3
 \heartsuit QJ10752
 \diamond 8754
 \clubsuit ---

Open Room
 West North East South
Justin H *Grue* *Jason H* *Cheek*
 Pass Pass All Pass $2\heartsuit$

Closed Room
 West North East South
Del'Monte *Hanlon* *J Lall* *McGann*
 $2\spadesuit$ Pass $2\clubsuit$ Pass
 $4\heartsuit$ Dbl Pass $3\heartsuit$
 $5\clubsuit$ Dbl All Pass Pass

In the Open Room Justin led the $\diamond K$ and Cheek ducked — not the best moment for this play. Justin followed with the $\diamond Q$, also ducked, then the $\diamond 10$ for a spade back. Jason ruffed and dutifully returned the $\spadesuit 10$ to the king and ace and Justin played a fourth diamond in case a promotion was possible. Cheek ruffed with the $\heartsuit 9$ and led a low club. Jason went in with the queen as Cheek ruffed, then played the $\heartsuit 10$ to the ace and a heart to the king claiming down two, -100, when he still had to lose a spade.

Ish's auction seems odd (that's politic for "What the heck!?") when he made a non-forcing $2\spadesuit$ bid and then drove to the five level after finding out only that South had hearts. Mind you, we're not saying that East's hand is anywhere close to a "real" opening bid. Still, if West wanted to gamble out playing game regardless of East's hand then perhaps he might have made a forcing bid on the first round. McGann led the $\heartsuit J$, ruffed, and Lall called for a low heart. Hanlon rose with the ace, led the $\clubsuit J$ to the queen, and followed when a second heart was ruffed. Next Lall pitched his two hearts on two high diamonds and led a third diamond winner. Hanlon ruffed with the $\clubsuit 9$, declarer over-ruffed with the ace, and settled for down one when he had to lose a club and a spade, -100. That was 5 more imps to England+Pharon, down just 14 at 68-63 with two deals to go.

Bd: 31
 Dir: South
 Vul: N/S

North
 \spadesuit AJ852
 \heartsuit A109653
 \diamond ---
 \clubsuit Q10

West
 \spadesuit Q10
 \heartsuit K
 \diamond Q1098642
 \clubsuit 632

East
 \spadesuit K4
 \heartsuit Q74
 \diamond KJ5
 \clubsuit KJ875

South
 \spadesuit 9763
 \heartsuit J82
 \diamond A73
 \clubsuit A94

Open Room
 West North East South
Justin H *Grue* *Jason H* *Cheek*
 All Pass $4\diamond$ $5\diamond$ Pass $5\spadesuit$

Closed Room
 West North East South
Del'Monte *Hanlon* *J Lall* *McGann*
 $3\diamond$ $4\diamond$ $5\diamond$ Pass Dbl
 All Pass

Cheek's 5♠ bid in the Open Room looks dangerous, but when trumps broke two-two and the heart suit behaved nicely he scored up +650. McGann's double in the Closed Room looks like a better bet and the defense took its five tricks (two clubs and three other aces) for down three, -500; 4imps to USA, leading now 72-63.

Australia sowed up its match when the New Zealanders overreached to 6♠, down one, and ended up winning by 44imps. On to the last hurrah; 9imps for the most famous English recovery since Roarke's Drift. And not a lot of people know that.

Bd: 32 North
 Dlr: West ♠ Q6
 Vul: E/W ♥ 1042
 ♦ K87632
 ♣ 93

West
 ♠ 984
 ♥ AKJ973
 ♦ 5
 ♣ A75

East
 ♠ AJ753
 ♥ Q6
 ♦ 109
 ♣ Q842

South
 ♠ K102
 ♥ 85
 ♦ AQJ4
 ♣ KJ106

Open Room
 West North East South
Justin H *Grue* *Jason H* *Cheek*
 1♥ Pass 1♠ Dbl
 1NT 3♦ Pass Pass
 3♥ Pass 4♥ All Pass

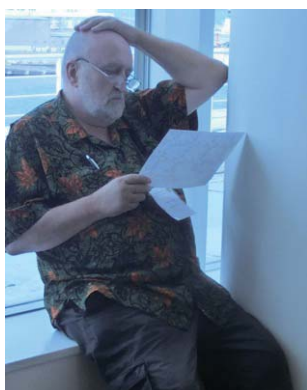
Closed Room
 West North East South
Del'Monte *Hanlon* *J Lall* *McGann*
 1♥ Pass 1♠ Dbl
 2NT 4♦ 4♥ Pass
 Pass 5♦ Dbl All Pass

Justin's 1NT rebid in the Open Room failed to deter the opponents from finding their diamond fit and now it was just a matter of how high to go. Jason, never one to languish below game when game was even remotely possible, raised 3♥ to four and there was just no way to avoid losing two spades, two clubs and a diamond for down two, -200.

In the Closed Room Ish's 2NT rebid, within the context of his club system, probably showed a 3♥ rebid with side three-card spade support, for which he was perhaps just a tad shy strength-wise. Well there's a surprise. When McGann failed to double Hanlon decided to trust the opponents (always a dangerous practice) and took the 5♦ save. After all, the vulnerability was right, even if he was not. Hanlon could not avoid four losers (two hearts, one club and one spade) for down two, -300, and 11 moreimps to USA, who won 83-63.

The Brits had staged an impressive comeback in the second half but just could not keep it together over the final two deals. They will join the field in the Swiss Plate while USA Cheek will continue to fight the good fight, looking for a chance to play for all the marbles on Friday.

Images of Our Game



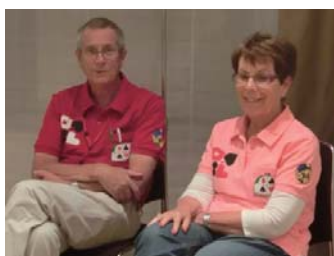
"OK, pat my head, rub my belly... then what?"



"Nothing to do. What say we storm the Bastille?"



"Slow? My partner?"



Beauty & the Beast



"Now, you grab my other arm and pull it..."



"All by myself, I'm sitting here..."

KO2 – 1st Half: Sweden vs Italy Lavazza

by Barry Rigal



Duboin



Upmark



Sementa



Sylvan



Bocchi



Wrang



Nystrom



Madala

Bd: 1
Dlr: North
Vul: None

North
♠ 64
♥ Q1074
♦ KJ8
♣ 10765

West
♠ AQJ87
♥ J2
♦ Q72
♣ 432

East
♠ 102
♥ A6
♦ A10543
♣ AK98

South
♠ K953
♥ K9853
♦ 96
♣ QJ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Upmark	Sementa	Nystrom
	Pass	1♦	1♥
Dbl(1)	1NT	Dbl	2♥
Dbl	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

(1) 4/5 spades

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Bocchi	Wrang	Madala
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

An entirely satisfactory (aesthetically speaking) 6-imp swing to Italy on the first deal came when Wrang's ugly notrump opening got him to 3NT, down 100 on a heart lead, while Duboin showed some values, then gave preference to 3♦, and Sementa, who had already shown some extras by his second-round double, had nothing extra in the tank. See Antonio, when you pass with nothing to say, good things happen. (To this, Sementa's response was: "I tried it once, and didn't like it.")

Wrang won the second heart, played spades from the top, and when the ♠9 refused to behave he was down two. Like the rest of the world? No, since in our other undefeated match Dennis Bilde escaped for

down one with an early finesse of the ♦10, and at the other table Welland as South doubled a strong 1♣. Ju still ended up in 3NT but now when declarer advanced the ♠10 at trick three Welland covered, in error. Declarer crossed back to hand and took the spade finesse of the eight and had nine tricks. Well played, Ju, but even so. 10-0 for China Blue.

Bd: 2
Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ A8
♥ Q1094
♦ KQ32
♣ A93

West
♠ 942
♥ K2
♦ A1098
♣ J1054

East
♠ QJ75
♥ 8765
♦ J
♣ KQ86

South
♠ K1063
♥ AJ3
♦ 7654
♣ 72

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Upmark	Sementa	Nystrom
	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥(4+♠)
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Bocchi	Wrang	Madala
	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥(♠)
Pass	1NT(15-17)	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

Both Souths propelled their strong notrump-showing partners to 2NT and both Easts led a high heart. Each declarer used their entries to dummy to lead diamonds towards hand at an appropriate moment and recorded +120.

Neither N/S in our other match played the notrump partscore. Welland-Auken heard Ju open 2♦ to show the majors and ended up in 3♦ on an auction where it would appear there may have been a slight confusion about scrambling/natural 2NT bids in response to a take-out double. Not to worry. Both players judged it perfectly, since 3♦ on a top spade lead by East played for +130 while 3NT, reached after Morten Bilde opened 1♦, went one down on East's singleton ♦J lead. That was 11-6, China Blue.

Bd: 3
Dlr: South
Vul: E/W

North
♠ K9543
♥ J983
♦ 109
♣ 32

West
♠ J62
♥ Q6
♦ KJ74
♣ AK98

East
♠ A
♥ A10754
♦ Q865
♣ J65

South
♠ Q1087
♥ K2
♦ A32
♣ Q1074

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
Pass	1♥(♠)	Dbl	1♣
Dbl	3♠	Pass	2♣
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	2♥	Dbl	1NT
4♥	All Pass		3♠

Presumably Sementa's double of the spade-showing 1♥ was hearts and a minor; one can certainly play the double and cue-bid as each showing a specific minor along with hearts. Duboin drove to game when confident he was facing short spades, and Sementa had to play 5♦ on a spade lead. He took an uncharacteristically long time to play to trick two, eventually leading a trump to dummy to run the ♥Q. Nystrom won and also took his time before playing ace and another diamond. Declarer won in hand, passed the ♣J, covered all around, finessed in hearts, set up the hearts, ruffed a spade back to hand, and finally took the second club finesse for 11 tricks. Even the ranks of Tuscany could scarce forbear to cheer.

4♥ isn't the worst spot you've ever seen but repeated spade leads when in with the ♥K and ♦A meant declarer could take four hearts, one spade, and three tricks in the minors, but then had to surrender control. Two down meant Italy led 19-0.

Morten Bilde also reached 5♦ but as West, and having been doubled by South. He was happy to receive the lead of a doubleton club from North and a club continuation from South when in with the trump ace. So he simply drew trumps and brought

the club suit in for four tricks. That gave him one spade, two hearts, four trumps and four clubs for a painless +750. E/W also found their diamond fit in the other room but it would appear that Ju passed what Shi thought was a forcing bid and China Blue's +170 cost them 11imps. Denmark led 17-10.

Bd: 4
Dlr: West
Vul: Both

North
♠ Q10
♥ ---
♦ AK107643
♣ AJ64

West
♠ J3
♥ A952
♦ 52
♣ KQ1085

East
♠ A954
♥ QJ10764
♦ 98
♣ 9

South
♠ K8762
♥ K83
♦ QJ
♣ 732

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
Pass	1♦	2♥	Dbl
4♥	5♥	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♦	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	Dbl
2NT	Dbl	3♥	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

The defense to 5♦ on the singleton club lead saw declarer win and draw trumps, then play a second club, and the defenders took their spade and two club tricks in due course. By contrast, in 6♦ Upmark was treated to a top heart lead. He ruffed and led a low spade from hand. Sementa won and returned the suit, declarer winning in hand to draw trumps and concede two clubs at the end. Down two, cheap at the price; 22-0, Italy.

Both E/W pairs bid to the four-level in Denmark-China Blue. Auken bid diamonds twice and thought her partner (who had passed initially) would have six spades when he offered that strain; so she passed 4♠, down 400 on a misguess in the play. Lian as North insisted on diamonds and played 5♦ down 100. That made it 17-17 after four deals.

Bd: 5
Dlr: North
Vul: N/S

North
♠ 532
♥ A1093
♦ KQ10
♣ A95

West
♠ KJ1097
♥ KJ
♦ 42
♣ K632

East
♠ AQ6
♥ 862
♦ AJ963
♣ 74

South
♠ 84
♥ Q754
♦ 875
♣ QJ108

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
	1♣	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	1♣	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass

I'm reliably informed that when dummy came down Duboin asked Sementa if he had ever seen the movie King's Row (in which Ronald Reagan wakes up legless in bed and asks "Where's the rest of me?") since dummy appeared to be missing its legs. Not to worry. The miraculous lie of the diamonds proved to declarer (if not necessarily to N/S) that the rewards of living a virtuous life are sometimes apparent on earth as well as in heaven. Upmark's underlead of the ♡A neither helped nor hindered; declarer simply had five spade tricks, four diamond tricks and a heart. Easy game bridge, and since 2♠ had made +140 in the other room Italy led 29-0.

Denmark added 6 imps over the next two deals via some stolen overtricks and a save at favorable vulnerability. Then came a remarkable stroke of good fortune for Italy.

Bd: 8	North
Dlr: West	♠ J4
Vul: None	♡ 4
	◇ AQJ87652
	♣ AJ

West	East
♠ 7532	♠ 10986
♡ 97652	♡ AQJ8
◇ 10	◇ 943
♣ Q63	♣ 107

South
♠ AKQ
♡ K103
◇ K
♣ K98542

The oft quoted line by Guido Ferraro from the 2000 Maastricht Olympiad finals (after Balicki-Zmudzinski had gone down in a 90 percent slam against Italy), that "The Pope may be Polish, but God is an Italian," could never be more strongly reinforced than by what happened here. The Swedes had a 12-bid auction to 6♦, making +940, while the Italians had a natural auction: 1♦-2♣; 3♦-4♣; 4♡-5NT; 6♣-Pass. I cannot bring myself to criticize Sylvan for failing to find the diamond lead that sets the slam. Instead he led a spade. Declarer won in hand, crossed himself for luck, finessed in clubs, cashed the ace, came back to hand in spades, and drew the last trump before running diamonds. No swing in either match; still 31-0, Italy.

On the following deal both tables bid a straight-forward enough grand slam with a key void via an Exclusion sequence in a three-round auction for a

flat board. But in our other match the Chinese had a miscommunication and gifted their opponents 11 imps. It was 34-26 now for Denmark.

Bd: 10	North
Dlr: East	♠ J754
Vul: Both	♡ 3
	◇ QJ76
	♣ J985

West	East
♠ A102	♠ Q863
♡ Q42	♡ 986
◇ K1085	◇ A432
♣ A104	♣ 62

South
♠ K9
♡ AKJ1075
◇ 9
♣ KQ73

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
		Pass	1♡

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Madala</i>
		Pass	1♡
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT(♣)
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

4♣ was out of the stratosphere and into the ionosphere. The defenders led a spade to the nine and ace, shifted to a diamond to the ace, and returned that suit. Bocchi ruffed and played the two top clubs from dummy. Sylvan won and dislodged dummy's slow entry of the ♠K, and declarer was out of options. He could ruff a heart to hand but had eight tricks and no more since dummy was dead. 31-8 now for Italy.

Lian-Haojun had a similar accident, bidding 1♡-1♠; 3♡; down one, but 5 imps away after a diamond lead and club shift forced declarer to play trumps from the top just to escape for down one. 39-26 now for Denmark.

Bd: 11	North
Dlr: South	♠ AQ96
Vul: None	♡ AK82
	◇ Q87
	♣ A3

West	East
♠ J732	♠ K54
♡ J96	♡ Q1054
◇ 1043	◇ 6
♣ 762	♣ Q9854

South
♠ 108
♡ 73
◇ AKJ952
♣ KJ10

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣(♦)
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♠(♦)
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

One simple auction, one complex auction, in which both pairs adequately expressed their values. In the Open Room South showed six diamonds and a club stopper, then a minimum hand with two keycards and no trump queen plus the ♣K, and North gave up knowing partner would move on with any other king. Madala showed his diamonds and controls, then rejected a grand slam try. No swing.

In Denmark-China Blue Welland lived dangerously, playing 6NT instead of 6♦ with the twelfth trick of a club ruff no longer available. The defenders led a club, though, and Welland was able to afford the luxury of the spade finesse for the overtrick and a gain of 2 imps. 41-26 to the Danes.

Bd: 12	North
Dlr: West	♠ 10643
Vul: N/S	♥ Q1095
	♦ 103
	♣ AK10

West
♠ KQ972
♥ K84
♦ Q85
♣ 72

East
♠ J85
♥ 62
♦ AJ94
♣ QJ54

South
♠ A
♥ AJ73
♦ K762
♣ 9863

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
Passed out			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	Dbl	2♠	3♥
All Pass			

Nystrom followed general principles of not opening in fourth chair with short spades and marginal hand

(plus a partner who would open some 11 counts). Madala was not constrained by such factors. He opened 1♦ and competed to 3♥, and the defenders led spades. He won, crossed to a top club to lead a diamond to the king, then went to the remaining club honor to ruff a spade and gave up a diamond. East won and played a heart through. Madala took the ace, then cross-ruffed to score all of his trumps separately ending with four plain-suit winners and six trump tricks for +170. 5 imps for Italy, leading 36-8.

Both auctions started like our Closed Room sequence but then, remarkably, Hagen passed 2♠ while Welland bid 3♥ and was trustingly raised to 4♥. 2♠ lost five tricks and a ruff, while Welland's 4♥ collected +620 when the play virtually duplicated that from our other match. That made it 52-26, Denmark.

Bd: 14	North
Dlr: East	♠ KJ108
Vul: None	♥ QJ107
	♦ J2
	♣ J73

West
♠ 53
♥ A9843
♦ AK9
♣ A64

East
♠ Q
♥ K52
♦ Q1087543
♣ 52

South
♠ A97642
♥ 6
♦ 6
♣ KQ1098

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
		Pass	1♠
Dbl	1NT(♠)	3♦	4♣
4♦	4♠	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Madala</i>
5♦	Dbl	Pass	4♣(♣+M)
All Pass			5♠

In the Closed Room Bocchi's double of 5♦ in a forcing-pass auction encouraged Madala to bid and Madala's sixth spade seemed to him to be a reason to act. Nobody doubled and Sweden collected +100 in one room and +50 in the other to make it 36-12.

That seems painless enough but in China Blue-Denmark, Lian-Hagen went one down doubled in 5♠ in one room while Auken-Welland elected to defend 5♦ after South had shown spades only over 3♦. Welland led a top club and when it held he shifted to a trump. Declarer ran trumps, discarding hearts from dummy as South discarded spades and the ♣10, and it appears, if the record is correct, that North discarded two hearts on the run of the diamonds. In any event, China Blue notched up a very surprising +400 to make the match score 52-36 for Denmark.

Bd: 16
 Dir: West
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ 10532
 ♥ A32
 ♦ 852
 ♣ AKQ

West
 ♠ KJ4
 ♥ QJ10
 ♦ 10763
 ♣ J43

East
 ♠ A976
 ♥ K65
 ♦ AKQ
 ♣ 987

South
 ♠ Q8
 ♥ 9874
 ♦ J94
 ♣ 10652

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	1NT	Dbl	2♣
Dbl	Pass	2♦	All Pass

3NT made a not-unfortunate 600 with clubs blocked; 2♦ made +130 and Italy had 10 moreimps to lead 46-12 in a set where they had certainly had most of the breaks but had been full value for their lead.

China Blue picked up 10imps in almost identical fashion, Dennis Bilde doubling 1♣ to play a partscore and Ju overcalling a nebulous club with 1NT to reach 3NT. It was 54-47 at the break.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
Pass	1♣	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		



KO2 – 2nd Half: Denmark vs China Blue

by Barry Rigal



Zhengjun



Auken



Ju



M Bilde



Lian



Welland



Haojun



D Bilde

The match margin was 7imps to Denmark at 54-47 as the second half began. Italy had a 34-imp lead over Sweden while in the once-defeated pool there were small leads for Australia Youth over The Netherlands, Yeh Bros I over USA Cheek, and China Red over Russia, but a big lead for Kranyak over Yeh Bros II.

Bd: 17
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ A9864
 ♥ K84
 ♦ 974
 ♣ K10

West
 ♠ QJ103
 ♥ AJ6
 ♦ AJ8
 ♣ Q86

East
 ♠ K75
 ♥ 1093
 ♦ KQ2
 ♣ A542

South
 ♠ 2
 ♥ Q752
 ♦ 10653
 ♣ J973

The normal way to play 3NT is to go after hearts, and that produces nine tricks easily enough. This was what Zhengjun did after a spade lead, but Dennis Bilde as East trod a more dangerous route. At some point he led a club to the queen before going after hearts, and now needed North to have only two clubs as well as a heart honor. The cards cooperated with his approach. No swing here or indeed in any of our matches except that Yeh Bros II found their way to 1NTxx, down 1000, with the N/S cards and Australia Youth went down in 3NT on a spade lead.



"Haven't you ever bowled before?"

Bd: 18
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

West
 ♠ K3
 ♥ KJ3
 ♦ AJ109
 ♣ KJ64

North
 ♠ 9865
 ♥ Q765
 ♦ 2
 ♣ Q1087

East
 ♠ QJ
 ♥ A842
 ♦ 8764
 ♣ A32

South
 ♠ A10742
 ♥ 109
 ♦ KQ53
 ♣ 95

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhengjun	Auken	Ju	Welland
		1♦	1♠
Dbl	3♠	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
M Bilde	Lian	D Bilde	Haojun
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Morton Bilde was fortunate enough to receive a heart lead. He won cheaply in hand, crossed to the ♥A to finesse in diamonds, successfully, then ducked a diamond. He now had nine winners, while in the other room a spade lead left 3NT without the proverbial prayer. Yeh Bros made 3NT in very similar fashion. It is somewhat surprising that passing the non-opening bid as East "preempts" the opponents out of bidding spades. Surprising, but entirely satisfying in every respect.

The next deal was a partscore deal everywhere, except that Yeh Bros I gave back their game swing from the previous deal by overreaching to game, and being smacked for 500.

China Blue picked up a couple of overtrick imps on Board 20, then a little more on the following deal.

Bd: 21
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

West
 ♠ A107
 ♥ AQ10
 ♦ J4
 ♣ QJ1064

North
 ♠ 9642
 ♥ K6
 ♦ 10852
 ♣ K97

East
 ♠ J85
 ♥ 97543
 ♦ 763
 ♣ 53

South
 ♠ KQ3
 ♥ J82
 ♦ AKQ9
 ♣ A82

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhengjun	Auken	Ju	Welland
		2♦	Dbl
1NT	Pass	2♦	Dbl
2♥	3♦	Pass	3NT
Dbl	Pass	Pass	4♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
M Bilde	Lian	D Bilde	Haojun
		2♦	1♣(2+)
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Welland's gamble at 3NT was answered by Zhengjun, who spun the cube on him and dared him to stick it out doubled. Welland was not prepared to take the risk, and retreated to 4♦, which could only fetch nine tricks. Meanwhile, in the other room 2♥ saw the defenders win the club lead to play diamonds and tap declarer. When Morton misguessed hearts he went two down, and China Blue had 5 imps.

Bd: 22
 Dir: East
 Vul: E/W

West
 ♠ K86
 ♥ K84
 ♦ A64
 ♣ AQJ2

North
 ♠ QJ754
 ♥ 6532
 ♦ 2
 ♣ K43

East
 ♠ 93
 ♥ 10
 ♦ J1098753
 ♣ 1095

South
 ♠ A102
 ♥ AQJ97
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ 876

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhengjun	Auken	Ju	Welland
		Pass	1♣
1NT	2♣(♥+♠)	2♦	3♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
M Bilde	Lian	D Bilde	Haojun
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Looking at the South hand it is not clear to me if Welland was treating his hand as a balanced 12-14 or 17+ when he opened 1♣. (The idea of treating it as hearts is obviously hopelessly old-fashioned.) He got to invite game in hearts, but Auken was not interested; you cannot blame her for that. In fact, even 3♥ goes down on a club lead but West naturally led a passive trump, and declarer could establish a diamond to take care of the club loser. The defenders took the same number of tricks in the other room, but had +50 and 5 imps. The lead stood at 16 now.

In our other undefeated match a series of small pluses had given Sweden 7 imps back in total. They trailed by 27 now. The Netherlands were also reinforcing their position against Australia Youth; they had a partscore in both rooms here, to lead by 11 imps.

A quiet game saw China Blue pick up 3 overtrick imps and Yeh Bros a somewhat larger number from three *doubled* overtricks. Denmark led China Blue by 13 — but not for long.

Bd: 24
 Dlr: West
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ J
 ♥ 1084
 ♦ AKJ10752
 ♣ 72

West
 ♠ AK4
 ♥ 632
 ♦ 98643
 ♣ 54

East
 ♠ Q1053
 ♥ KJ95
 ♦ Q
 ♣ AQJ9

South
 ♠ 98762
 ♥ AQ7
 ♦ ---
 ♣ K10863

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhengjun	Auken	Ju	Welland
Pass	1♦	Dbl	Pass
1♠	2♦	2♠	3♣
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
M Bilde	Lian	D Bilde	Haojun
Pass	3♦	Dbl	All Pass

Let he who is without sin cast the first stone. Was it so terrible to pass 3♦x here? I think not. As North only Bocchi and Auken appear not to have preempted with their hand; every other pair doubled diamonds, or somewhat entertainingly played 2♦ down five on the E/W cards. (If you were a Russian would you find it amusing to come back with +250 from 2♦ and lose 6 imps to 3♦x? I thought not.)

3♦x made +570 and China Blue had 10 imps against 130 from the other room; down by just 3 imps. Meanwhile, Sweden picked up 8 imps in the same fashion and trailed now by 22 imps.

Bd: 25
 Dlr: North
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ KQ10654
 ♥ K76
 ♦ A74
 ♣ 7

West
 ♠ AJ98
 ♥ A
 ♦ KQ32
 ♣ QJ52

East
 ♠ 732
 ♥ QJ1095
 ♦ 98
 ♣ K108

South
 ♠ ---
 ♥ 8432
 ♦ J1065
 ♣ A9643

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhengjun	Auken	Ju	Welland
1NT	1♠	Pass	Pass
	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
M Bilde	Lian	D Bilde	Haojun
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Both Norths played their 6-0 fit, Auken running into a diamond ruff from the short trump hand while Lian managed to shorten his trumps so as to score five of them plus two minor-suit aces (but he never scored the ♥K). 2 imps to Denmark; the margin was down to 1 imp.

Both Swedish pairs did even better. Ahlesved opened the North cards 2♠ (9-13 with six spades) and Duboin balanced with 2NT, ending up in 3♥ down 200. Meanwhile, Nystrom caught Madala speeding when he responded 1NT to 1♠ by doubling him for take-out in 2♥ and subsequently doubling the retreat to 2♠. The defenders led diamonds, got a ruff, and eventually a trump promotion for 300, for 11 imps. The margin was down to 11 imps.

On the next deal the Swedes crept even closer. Sementa pushed his opponents to the five level, doubled them off, and found that with the help of a finesse and two useful singletons 18 HCP was enough for 11 tricks and 6 imps. The Italian lead was down to 5 imps.

Bd: 27
 Dlr: South
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ 105
 ♥ J753
 ♦ K7
 ♣ 87542

West
 ♠ QJ83
 ♥ A1098
 ♦ J53
 ♣ Q3

East
 ♠ A2
 ♥ KQ642
 ♦ AQ10
 ♣ AJ9

South
 ♠ K9764
 ♥ ---
 ♦ 98642
 ♣ K106

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhengjun	Auken	Ju	Welland
			2♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	Dbl
4NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
M Bilde	Lian	D Bilde	Haojun
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Welland's innocent preempt (I suppose guilt and innocence are somewhat in the eye of the beholder) seemed to ignite a fire under his opponents. West, Zhengjun, has what looks like a normal constructive 3♥ bid, but he jumped to 3NT and then East could be forgiven for driving to slam; but why didn't West at

least offer hearts? Welland's anti-lead-directing double of 4♠x stopped Auken from one losing lead, and since a diamond was never in the picture it was heads (with a club) I win, tails (the actual heart lead chosen) I lose 11imps, and the lead in the match. China Blue by 10imps.

Scores on this deal were all over the place. Kranyak collected 1100 from 2♠x, while the two tables playing 6♥ from East on a diamond lead both went down. You might make the slam by East playing a low spade early, but there again if North doesn't waste his ♦K declarer has no sure entry to the West hand outside of trumps.

Bd: 28 North
 Dlr: West ♠ K10
 Vul: N/S ♥ AKJ1076
 ♦ 7543
 ♣ 7

West
 ♠ A8
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ KQJ1086
 ♣ K109

East
 ♠ 97543
 ♥ 952
 ♦ A
 ♣ J654

South
 ♠ QJ62
 ♥ 84
 ♦ 92
 ♣ AQ832

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhengjun</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Welland</i>
1♦	1♥	Dbl	Pass
2NT	Pass	Pass	Dbl
3♦	3♥		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M Bilde</i>	<i>Lian</i>	<i>D Bilde</i>	<i>Haojun</i>
1NT	2♦(♥/♠)	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	4♥	Dbl	All Pass

The Editors are rarely driven to laugh out loud at the antics of the players, but on this occasion both Junior and Senior Editors could not resist a chuckle when China Blue contracted in total for 17 tricks in notrump on the deal. At least they had the good sense to run in both cases when doubled. But note that in each case their opponents would have done better to let them stew undoubled since they were due to go three down in each room. Of course the doubles are not the only actions worth noting on the board. The jump to 2NT in the Open Room and the 1NT opening in the Closed Room are worthy of savoring.

The play is, of course, also worth following. Both defenses led the ♦A and shifted obediently on the sight of the ♦K to a spade. East cashed his diamond and played a third to promote the ♦9. Had East shifted to a club at trick two eight tricks appear to be the limit. Denmark had +140 and +200 and now trailed by 2imps.

Meanwhile, in Italy-Sweden, against 2♥ Sementa found the club shift to hold declarer to +110, but that was still 2imps to Sweden when they played 3♦ down one after a heart lead and trump shift. Italy led 53-49. After a couple of overtrickimps to China Blue (Welland distorting his hand to miss a 5-4 major fit and play a risky 3NT instead of 4♥), both matches were separated by just fourimps.

Three deals to go; hold on to your hats.

Bd: 30 North
 Dlr: East ♠ A6
 Vul: None ♥ Q875
 ♦ A874
 ♣ Q52

West
 ♠ 43
 ♥ KJ1092
 ♦ 9
 ♣ KJ974

East
 ♠ K1097
 ♥ A64
 ♦ Q1052
 ♣ 103

South
 ♠ QJ852
 ♥ 3
 ♦ KJ63
 ♣ A86

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhengjun</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Welland</i>
Contract: 3♦ by South			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M Bilde</i>	<i>Lian</i>	<i>D Bilde</i>	<i>Haojun</i>
2♠	Dbl	2NT	Pass
3♣	3♥	Dbl	3NT
All Pass			

Why do the computers always go down at the critical moments? We could speculate on whether Welland opened or balanced when hearts had been bid (and raised?) but the bottom line is that Welland declared 3♦ on the lead of the ♥J. The defenders have a club a heart and spade, and can force South to ruff twice. But after drawing one round of trumps using a back-suit entry, he can lead spades and limit East to one trump trick. Welland brought home +110, while in the other room, despite guessing diamonds for four tricks, Haojun could manage only eight tricks. The match was tied.

Meanwhile, in Italy-Sweden Ahlesved played 3NTx as North by jumping to that contract after Petterson had opened 1♠ and Duboin had shown a two-suiter. He was allowed to win the first heart trick and when he misguessed diamonds he had only seven tricks before the defenders could take six. That was 6imps to Italy since Madala had also opened the South hand and Bocchi played 3NT undoubled, down a trick. Italy led by 10imps now.

The closest of all our matches was China Red-Russia. The score in the second half with two deals to go was 19-6 for Russia, who trailed 55-56 after 30 deals.

Bd: 31
 Dir: South
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ KQ4
 ♥ 82
 ♦ A10932
 ♣ KQ4

West
 ♠ A9
 ♥ AK1053
 ♦ J754
 ♣ 82

East
 ♠ 8732
 ♥ QJ74
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A763

South
 ♠ J1065
 ♥ 96
 ♦ KQ8
 ♣ J1095

Open Room
 West North East South
 Zhengjun Auken Ju Welland
 1♥ Dbl 2NT(♥) Pass
 3♣ Pass 3♥ All Pass
 Closed Room
 West North East South
 M Bilde Lian D Bilde Haojun
 1♥ Dbl 2NT(♥) Pass
 3♦ Pass 3♥ All Pass

The defenders here both led trumps; declarer scored his seven obvious winners; still tied. No one was going anywhere.

Both tables in Sweden-Italy played 4♥ after North had doubled 1♥. Both tables led the ♠K and West ducked. Bocchi shifted to a trump, killing the ruff, Ahlesved continued spades allowing the cross-ruff. Italy's lead had gone up to 20; surely they were safe now.

Russia picked up the same swing; they made 4♥ (after repeated spade leads) and defeated it on an initial trump lead, to go in front by 9.

Bd: 32
 Dir: West
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ 8
 ♥ Q8432
 ♦ K104
 ♣ 10986

West
 ♠ KJ1095432
 ♥ 7
 ♦ J7
 ♣ 42

East
 ♠ A7
 ♥ AKJ10965
 ♦ 95
 ♣ AK

South
 ♠ Q6
 ♥ ---
 ♦ AQ8632
 ♣ QJ753

Open Room
 West North East South
 Zhengjun Auken Ju Welland
 3♠ Pass 4♣ 4NT
 5♣ 5NT 6♠ Dbl
 All Pass
 Closed Room
 West North East South
 M Bilde Lian D Bilde Haojun
 3♠ Pass 4♣ 4♦
 4♥ 5♦ 5♥ Pass
 5♠ Pass Pass Dbl

Both N/S pairs intervened in their opponents' slam bidding, then doubled for the heart lead. Auken led a high heart, Welland ruffed and underled in diamonds. Auken knew better than to play a second heart so the defense had 500. Lian led the ♦K against 5♠x and when Haojun dropped the ♦Q he led a low heart to his partner to prevent any further underleads. Down one, but a 7 imp win for Denmark.

In the Sweden-Italy match Petterson-Ahlesved almost duplicated the Chinese +200, the only difference being Duboin's second-round action to show one keycard. By contrast, after a 4♠ opening from Nystrom Upmark asked about diamonds with a 5♣ bid. Madala bid 5♦, Bocchi raised to 6♦, and Nystrom doubled in the passout seat for +300 and 11 imps, reducing the final margin to just 9 imps.

In China Red-Russia the Chinese E/W pair did extremely well, doubling 6♣ and collecting +300. Any plus score from the other room would at least tie the match. In fact, Brink-Drijver reached 6♠, doubled by South after he had shown the minors. Wang Rui led...a club; +1860 meant 17 imps and the match for Russia. For the record, Furuta-Chen also made 6♠x for Yeh Bros I, who would make it through to the three-way match, thereby pleasing all the spectators who are happy to see Chen Yeh advance in his own tournament.



. "Now, when I start the clock you chug the beer as fast as you can."

2013 Yeh Bros Cup Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Boards	Venue	
Thursday (Apr. 25)	09:30-11:40	Knockout 3, Seg. 1	1-16	503	
	12:00-14:10	Knockout 3, Seg. 2	17-32		
		Lunch Time			
	15:30-17:40	Knockout 4, Seg. 1	1-16	503	
	18:00-20:10	Knockout 4, Seg. 2	17-32		
	09:30-10:50	Consolation Swiss Round 6	21-30		
	11:10-12:30	Consolation Swiss Round 7	1-10		
	Note Time Change	12:50-14:10	Consolation Swiss Round 8	11-20	
			Lunch Time		
		16:20-19:50	Open Pair Qualifying	1-27	
Friday (Apr. 26)	09:30-11:40	Final & Play-off, Seg. 1	1-16	503	
		Lunch Time			
	13:10-15:20	Final & Play-off, Seg. 2	17-32	503	
	15:35-17:45	Final & Play-off, Seg. 3	33-48		
	09:30-13:00	Pair Semi-Final	1-27		
	14:00-17:30	Pair Final, Consolation	1-27		
			Lunch Time		
	19:00	Victory Dinner		502	

Sichuan Earthquake

At last count over 200 people have died and 12,000 been injured in the earthquake in Ya'an in Sichuan province, China. This is in the same area that was affected so badly by an even stronger earthquake five years ago. Efforts to reach victims have still not been successful in all cases and on the third night after the earthquake the authorities are still trying to get through with supplies of food and shelter and to restore running water. The Yeh Bros and all of us the Yeh Bros Cup bridge tournament send our deepest sympathies and condolences to everyone affected by the quake, and wish the authorities success in their rescue mission.

Players Requested to Register for Tonight's Open Pairs

Players who plan to play in tonight's Open Pairs are requested to please register on the sign-up sheet at the line-up desk outside the playing area before leaving for lunch today. Thank you.

Appeal Committee Members

Barry Rigal (Chairman)

Members:

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