



Editors: Mark Horton & Brian Senior

Bulletin No 1 Thursday December 11th

Sport Accord Games Underway



The Opening Ceremony, with the cards representing the different mind sports taking part in these championships

Thursday saw the start of the Open and Women’s Teams competitions, with the first of two round robins in each series – three 16-board matches, being played. Friday sees the second round robins, after which the top two teams in each series will play a 48-board match for first and second, with the other two teams playing for third and fourth.

At the end of Day One, China leads the Women’s series from England. Though below average, both USA and the Netherlands are close enough to have realistic hopes of turning things around and making it into the top two with a good performance in the second round robin.

The same cannot be said for the Chinese Open team, however. Taking only 11.28 Victory Points out of a possible 60 on Day One leaves them with a huge task to make the main final. It isn’t quite impossible but, against this standard of opposition it is highly unlikely. Israel leads the Open from USA, with Monaco well in touch in third place.

As you would expect in a tournament of this calibre, there were some very nice pieces of play from the experts on display. There were also one or two disasters but that is par for the course in today’s high-pressure style of top-level bridge. You can read about some of the best of the action inside.

Contents

- 2 Results/Rankings/Participants
- 3 USA v China (Open 1)
- 6 Monaco v Israel (Open 1)
- 8 Press Conference
- 9 Israel v USA (Open R3)

Results

Open Round – One

		IMPs	VPs
Monaco	Israel	15-20	8.52-11.48
USA	China	46-6	18.09-1.91

Women – Round One

		IMPs	VPs
England	Netherlands	47-8	11.20-8.80
USA	China	16-12	17.97-2.03

Open – Round Two

		IMPs	VPs
Israel	China	69-22	7.20-12.80
USA	Monaco	35-45	18.87-1.13

Women – Round Two

		IMPs	VPs
England	China	14-43	16.58-3.42
USA	Netherlands	28-30	9.39-10.61

Open – Round Three

		IMPs	VPs
Monaco	China	35-29	11.76-8.24
USA	Israel	41-41	10-10

Women – Round Three

		IMPs	VPs
England	USA	37-22	13.97-6.03
China	Netherlands	22-9	13.52-6.48

Rankings

Open Teams

1.	Israel	40.35
2.	USA	35.29
3.	Monaco	33.08
4.	China	11.28

Women's Teams

1.	China	38.90
2.	England	35.36
3.	USA	26.62
4.	Netherlands	19.12

Participants

China

Lidang Dong, Shi Haojun, Junsheng Shi,
Yuwei Wu, Zejun Zhuang

Israel

Alon Birman, Lotan Fisher, Ilan Herbst,
Ophir Herbst, Dror Padon, Ron Schwartz

Monaco

Fulvio Fantoni, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness,
Franck Multon, Claudio Nunes, Pierre Zimmermann

USA

Huub Bertens, Curtis Cheek, Vincent Demuy,
John Kranyak, justin Lall, Roger Lee

China

Jingrong Rang, Hongli Wang, Wenfei Wang,
Shaohong Wu, Yu Zhang

England

Sally Brock, Fiona Brown, Heather Dhondy,
Catherine Draper, Nevena Senior, Nicola Smith

Netherlands

Carla Arnolds, Marion Michielsen, Jet Pasman,
Anneke Simons, Wietske van Zwol, Meike Wortel

USA

Cheri Bjerkan, Lynn Deas, Hjordis Eythorsdottir,
Irina Levitina, Kerri Sanborn, Pam Wittes

Open Round One – China v USA



The fourth Sport Accord Mind Sports Games featured four teams in the Open and four in the Women's series. In the Open, those four teams were China, the hosts, USA, and two European teams – the new European champions, Israel, and the European Championship and Bermuda Bowl runners-up, Monaco. For Round One, we will take a look at the match between USA and China.



doubled for another +1090 and a flat board. Five Hearts was unbeatable so, of course, 6♥ would have been a very cheap save, but it wasn't easy for N/S to appreciate that the hand didn't belong to them.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Z. Shi</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦
3♣	3♥	5♣	Pass
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
6♣	Dble	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>H. Shi</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	2♣	3♣
5♣	5♥	Dble	Pass
5♠	Dble	6♣	Dble
All Pass			

After a pass from East, Huub Bertens upgraded his 11-count to open 1♦, based no doubt on the decent five-card diamond suit. Zhenjun Shi made an off-centre weak jump overcall – he was, of course, facing a passed partner, and could always choose to come again with a spade bid if that seemed like a good idea. However, he found his partner with excellent club support so could afford to keep the spades hidden as a potentially nasty surprise for his opponents. When he saved in 6♣ over 5♥, Curtis Cheek had 11 HCP facing a one-level opener so took the normal action when he doubled. However, Cheek found that he could not beat the slam. Shi soon had the spades established and that meant twelve tricks for +1090.

Zejun Zhuang did not open the South hand so Roger Lee got first crack with his shapely eight-count and chose to open at the one level. When Justin Lall could show club support, Lee jumped to 5♣ then removed Lall's penalty double to 5♠ in case there was also a fit in that suit. When Lall corrected to 6♣, Lee was known to hold a very shapely hand, but it seemed that he was saving so Zhuang

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Z. Shi</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>H. Shi</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	All Pass	


The first swing of the young match came on a quiet partscore deal and was created, at least to some degree, by a difference in opening no trump ranges.

Cheek, playing a 15-17 no trump, opened 1♦ and rebid 1NT. It didn't really make any sense for Bertens to bid on now and he duly passed. With hearts bid by dummy, Chuancheng Ju tried the effect of a low club lead. This ran to the jack and queen and Cheek led the jack of spades from hand. Shi won that with the king and returned the ten of diamonds to pin the bare nine. The jack lost to the king and Ju, placing his partner with better diamonds, returned the suit, Shi ducking. Cheek won the diamond eight and continued with the queen of spades. Ju won his ace and played a third diamond, picking up four tricks in the suit for declarer. Not knowing that spades were breaking, Cheek ducked a club now. He won the heart return with the ace and had nine tricks for +150.

Haojun Shi opened 1NT, 13-15, and Zhuang used scrambling Stayman in hope of recaching a better spot. The four-three spade fit did not play too well. Lall led a low spade, ducked to declarer's queen. Shi tried a heart to the queen at trick two and, when that lost to the queen, was up against it. Lee returned his remaining low spade so Lall won the ace and played a third spade. Lee won the king

and led a diamond through, Shi playing low. Lall won the king and returned a heart to declarer's ace – he was known to be down to bare ace as his correction to 2♠ indicated only a doubleton heart, so the heart lead was quite safe. Shi led a club to the nine and ten and Lee returned a heart, Lall winning and leading his last heart to dummy's ten. Shi had to lose a second club so was down two for -100 and 6 IMPs to USA.

Board 4. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Z. Shi	Cheek	Ju	Bertens
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dble
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
Lee	H. Shi	Lall	Zhuang
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dble
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♥
All Pass			


Both Souths doubled then made a simple heart raise in competition. That encouraged Shi to make a try for game, which Zhuang accepted, while Cheek did not, disliking the spade bid over his holding and giving partner some leeway to compete the partscore.

It is hardly a crime to bid a combined 26 HCP with an eight-card major-suit fit to game, but it was a bad idea on this deal. Lall cashed the top diamonds then got off play with a club. Shi won in dummy and cashed one top heart then tried a spade to the nine. That lost to the ten and Lall could get off play again with a club, duly coming to two more spade tricks at the end for down two and -200.



In the other room, Ju led three rounds of diamonds so a spade went away and Cheek made nine tricks in 2♥ for +140 and 8 IMPs to USA.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Z. Shi	Cheek	Ju	Bertens
Lee	H. Shi	Lall	Zhuang
–	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	All Pass	


Identical auctions saw the respective Norths get to 2♠ on the six-zero fit.

Lall led the six of diamonds, Lee winning the eight then cashing the ace before switching to a club. Shi won the ace and cashed the king then crossed to dummy in hearts to ruff a diamond. He continued with two more hearts, ending in dummy, then led the last diamond. When Lee ruffed in with the ace of spades, Shi was forced to under-ruff. A club through now ensured that declarer could come to only one more trump trick for down one and -100.

Ju led the ten of clubs. Cheek won and played a low spade, won the club continuation and played another low spade. Shi won that and played the nine of clubs through but that played into Cheek's hands. He threw a diamond as Ju ruffed, won the heart return and led a third low spade, the ace and jack falling together. Shi cashed the ace of diamonds but that came too late and Cheek had his contract; +110 and 5 more IMPs to USA.

The boards ran quietly for a while and the score had moved on only to 28-6 in favour of USA. Then came another burst of scoring, again from the Americans.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

♠ Q 10 4 ♥ Q J 5 3 ♦ K ♣ K 10 8 3 2
--

Justin Lall (USA)



West	North	East	South
<i>Z. Shi</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
–	–	–	1♣
1♥	Dble	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>H. Shi</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

As we have seen before, Bertens is willing to open hands that Zhuang is not. Sure enough, Zhuang passed the South hand and now Lee opened the two-suited West hand – an aggressive action even at favourable vulnerability. Lee rebid 2♦ and Lall passed, and now Zhuang was not willing to compete vulnerable on what sounded like a misfit auction. He passed and Lee was left to play 2♦. It is often correct to lead trumps against this kind of auction as, just as on this deal, declarer will often want to ruff his first suit on the dummy. Sure enough, Shi led a low diamond to his partner's bare king, won the spade return and played ace and another diamond. Lee won the third diamond in dummy and led the nine of hearts, running it to Shi's ten. Now Shi played the only suit which could help declarer, a heart. Lee could win, draw the missing trump and give up a heart to establish a third trick in the suit. He just needed a successful club finesse now but the king was offside so he was down one for –50.

Bertens opened the South hand and, after a 1♥ overcall from Shi, the Americans drove to 3NT. Bertens won the diamond lead with his king and crossed to dummy with a spade to lead the jack of clubs. Ju rose with the ace to return a heart, which did declarer no harm at all. Shi ducked in hope of finding his partner with a second heart so Bertens won the ten and led the nine of clubs, overtaking with the ten to play two more rounds of the suit. Ju returned a diamond but Bertens had nine tricks now, three clubs, three spades, a heart and two diamonds, for +600 and 11 IMPs to USA.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Z. Shi</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
1NT	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>H. Shi</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	1NT
All Pass			

Zhenjun Shi opened a 13-15 no trump and was left to play there as Bertens did not have a penalty double in his armoury. Cheek led the eight of diamonds to the king. Bertens cashed the ace then led a low diamond to Cheek's seven, won the fourth diamond and tried his low heart, No luck there, as Shi won the queen, but marking himself with the top hearts to go along with the diamond honours paid dividends as it convinced Shi that the spade king had to offside. He therefore played on clubs and set up Cheek's long card in the suit so the defence had an extra winner and declarer came to only two spade tricks at the end for down two and –200.

At the other table, Lee opened 1♣ as he was playing a strong no trump, and Lall responded 1♥. Zhuang overcalled a natural 1NT and played there, Lee leading the queen of hearts in response to Lall's bid. Zhuang won the king and led a low club, ducking Lee's queen. Lall overtook to play a heart through so Zhuang won the ace and cashed a top diamond before leading a second club, ducking the jack. Lee cashed the jack of hearts and underled to the queen and king of spades. Zhuang led his last club now but, as he had retained the nine, could not finesse against Lee's ten. He won the ace and took a diamond finesse and the defence had the rest of the tricks for down two and –100; 7 IMPs to USA. The final score was 46-6 IMPs, 18.09-1.91 VPs in favour of USA.

Haojun Shi (China)



Lost in Space – Monaco v Israel Open Round I

by Mark Horton



The Great Wall of China is no doubt the longest manmade project on earth.

It was constructed over thousands of years from the era of the Warring States (476 BC - 221 BC) to that of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

The Great Wall was listed as a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1987. Just like a gigantic dragon, it winds up and down across deserts, grasslands, mountains and plateaus, stretching approximately 8,851.8 kilometers (5,500 miles) from east to west of China (the length of all the wall built is estimated at 21,196.18 kilometers (13,170 miles). With a history of more than 2000 years, some of the sections are now in ruins or have disappeared. However, it is still one of the most appealing attractions all around the world owing to its architectural grandeur and historical significance.

It was widely believed that it can be seen from space. The media reported, "The biggest building the astronauts could see from space is the Great Wall, which looks very much like a black worm." Consequently, this statement has gone deep into people's minds and become an honour that Chinese people enjoyed for years.

Is the Great Wall truly visible from the moon? Yang Liwei, China's first astronaut who was lifted into the outer space by the spacecraft Shenzhou V on Oct.15, 2003, gave a definite answer "No" to a reporter after he reached the ground. Yang's negative response in a practical way may probably put out a fair number of people's passion. But it powerfully corrected the misconception. The wall is indeed majestic, but you won't see it from space!

In fact, besides Yang Liwei, there are a lot of astronauts said the Wall could not be seen from space. Neil Armstrong, who first set foot on the moon in 1969, was asked a thousand times whether or not he had seen the Great Wall from the moon. Recently from a sound recording that announced by NASA Johnson Space Center, Armstrong said that he had seen the continent, lakes and blue spots touched with red. But he could not make out any manmade object on the earth from the moon.

Theoretically speaking, the Great Wall is absolutely invisible from space. It is narrow and irregular. In space, something irregular is hard to be observed. Measuring about 10 meters (11 yards) wide on average, it blends easily into the surrounding environment. With unaided eyes it is hardly distinguished at an altitude of 65,617 feet. It is totally invisible at 196,850 feet. To see the wall from the moon is equivalent to seeking for a single hair from 2,688 meters (2,940 yards) away. For an astronaut to see it from space is obviously impossible.

It has been suggested that if bright spotlights are installed on the wall, astronauts would be able to see the lights at night. But this suggestion has not yet been the subject of a scientific experiment. So, for the moment it is generally accepted that the Great Wall cannot be seen from space.

By contrast, thanks to the efforts of BBO and Our Game bridge events are almost certainly visible from space (and

will doubtless be a key feature of the in flight entertainment when the Virgin Galactic spacecraft embarks on its first commercial trip).



By now I expect the reader is wondering what happened in my featured match, so, turning reluctantly to the bridge here are the key moments from what proved to be a low scoring affair:

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ K 8 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="background-color: #90EE90;"></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 7
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A Q 8 7 6 5 3	♥ 10 9 2										
♦ Q 5 2	♦ A 9 4 3										
♣ –	♣ Q 7 4 2										
♠ J 10 5 4 3		♠ Q 9 6									
♥ –		♥ K J 4									
♦ 6		♦ K J 10 8 7									
♣ A K 10 8 6 5 3		♣ J 9									

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	5♥	6♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

The expert player with a wealth of experience, is not a magician or a fortune-teller, but he or she has learned to pay attention to the pluses and minuses of a hand and come up with an educated guess about which action will be right more often than wrong.

Even so, it is not possible to get every decision right, especially when the information at your disposal is limited in nature. Here North might have overcalled 5♥, but it would be a significant gamble. East could consider raising to 6♣ but it will need partner to have perfect cards – and as Bob Hamman would tell you – partner almost never does.

Ron Schwartz (Israel)



South's double saw his side reach a contract that was unbeatable – but unfortunately matters did not come to rest there as East knew that 6♣ must be a cheap save – indeed, they don't come any cheaper than this one, as the contract was unbeatable. Declarer ruffed the lead of the ace of hearts and played a spade to the ace and a spade. He ruffed the heart continuation and claimed, +1090.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	2♠*	3♣*
5♣	5♥	Dble	Pass
5♠	Dble	6♣	Dble
All Pass			

Here West was unwilling to rule out the possibility of playing in spades and the auction had of time to unwind. 2♠ must have shown club support and South's 3♣ showed a good raise in hearts. When East doubled 5♥ West's judgement was that it was wrong to defend and how right he was. I guess you would call it a dull push.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

♠ 8 5 3	♠ 8 5 3
♥ A Q J 7	♥ A Q J 7
♦ Q 3	♦ Q 3
♣ A K Q 6	♣ A K Q 6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dble
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♦*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

I think North's 2♠ was designed to show a stopper in that suit along with some scattered values.

East cashed the ace and king of diamonds and exited with the five of clubs. Declarer won with dummy's king and played a spade to the nine and ten. He lost two more spades to finish two down; –200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1NT
Pass	2♣(i)	2♠	Pass
3♦	Dble(i)	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Two Clubs was Stayman and double for take-out.

West led the jack of diamonds and East cashed two tricks in the suit and exited with the seven of clubs. Declarer won with the ace, cashed the ace and queen of hearts and when East discarded the six of diamonds on the second round he took the king of clubs and then played a spade to the nine and ten.

The partial elimination meant East was endplayed, forced to give declarer a spade trick or offer up a ruff and discard, so that was +140 and 8 IMPs to Israel.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	2♠
Dble	3♦	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the queen of diamonds and when declarer played low from dummy South was forced to win with the ace. He switched to the jack of clubs and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the two of spades to the nine. When that held he went back to dummy with a club and played a heart to the king and a heart. North won with the jack, but the contract was secure, +400.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Here North judged it right to reply (far be it for me to point out that he was simply adopting the world's most quoted Bols Bridge Tip – 'Don't be afraid to Respond') and that kept E/W quiet.

West led the five of diamonds and when declarer tried dummy's queen East withheld the king, declarer winning with the ace and playing the queen of spades. When West ducked declarer continued with the three of spades and East won with the ten and switched to the seven of hearts. Declarer took the ace and played the five of spades to West's jack. West cashed the ace of spades and the king of hearts before exiting with a heart to leave declarer with two losing clubs, three down, –150, but 6 IMPs to Israel.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
–	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♦ (i)	Pass	2♥ (ii)
3♦	All Pass		

- (i) Multi-Landy
 (ii) Pass or correct

North led the eight of hearts for the king and ace and South returned the king of clubs. When it held he continued with the queen and then the four, declarer ruffing in dummy and then running the queen of diamonds. When North discarded on the next diamond there was a trump to lose; +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
–	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	Dble(i)	All Pass	

- (i) DONT – an unspecified one suiter

South led the nine of spades for the ten, jack and king and declarer ran the ten of diamonds, followed by the queen. After cashing five diamonds declarer took dummy's queen of spades and played a heart to the king and ace. The defenders could cash four clubs, but it was North who won the last one with the five of clubs, and declarer pitched a heart and took his eighth trick with the ace of spades, +380 and 7 IMPs to Monaco.

Two small swings gave Israel a narrow 20-15 IMP, 11.48-8.52 VP win.

Press Conference – Mind Games IV

Nicolas Messner acted as MC at Wednesday's Press Conference at the 2014 Sport Accord World Mind Games in Beijing.

In his welcoming speech Vlad Marinescu, the Director General of Sport Accord drew attention to the global nature of Sport Accord, which encompasses 92 Federations and the 150 athletes from 37 countries who will contest 14 disciplines over the next seven days and revealed that this will be the first Integrity Certified Event for a multi sport contest staged in China. 61 Million homes will have access via television to live and recorded reports on the Games, while extensive news coverage will be supplied by Euronews, SNTV and China News Asia.

Chen Jie, the Deputy Director of the Beijing Municipal Sports Bureau emphasised the role that the local staff will play in the organisation of the Games.

Ambassadors for each sport outlined their hopes for the Games.

Fulvio Fantoni (the number one world ranked bridge player) spoke about his pride in being asked to act as an Ambassador for the second time and his delight in the passion and enthusiasm that was demonstrated when bridge visited a school in Beijing last year, reminding him of his own sense of excitement when he first started playing.

The reigning Women's World Champion, China's Hou Yifan, spoke on behalf of Chess, Haijin Lee represented Go, Sinan Tang Xiangqi and Victoria Motrichko Draughts.

Harry Otten, President of the World Draughts Association, spoke about the discussions that will take place regarding the venue for the 2015 Games, and Gianarrigo Rona, President of the World Bridge Federation applauded the decision to continue the schools visits this year.



Videos

Videos are being made every day of all the mind sports including bridge. To see them follow this link:

<http://www.worldbridge.org/SAWMG14-Videos.aspx>

Open Round Three – Israel v USA



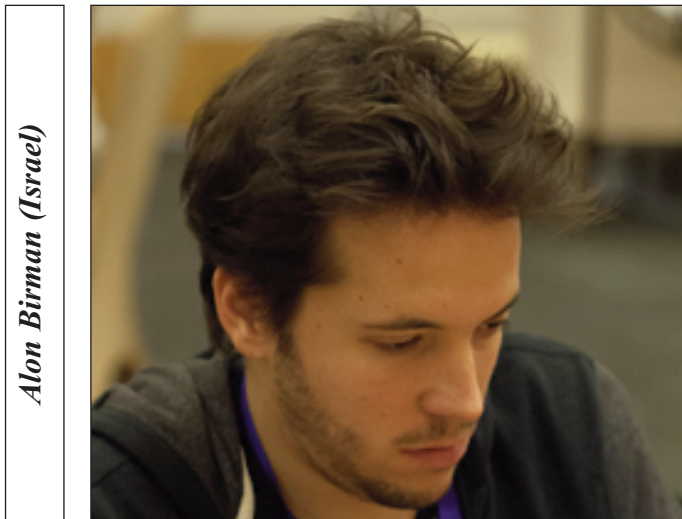
Israel and USA lay first and second in the Open standings after two rounds. They met in Round Three in a match-up which would decide who would top the table overnight.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>I. Herbst</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
–	–	–	2♦
Pass	4♣	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Padon</i>
–	–	–	2♥
Pass	3♣	3♦	3♥
Dble	All Pass		

Huub Bertens opened with a multi 2♦ and Curtis Cheek's 4♣ response asked him to transfer to his major. However, when Ophir Herbst overcalled 5♦ as an advance sacrifice, that absolved Bertens of the obligation to bid and he passed it around to Cheek, who doubled. Bertens led his spade against 5♦ doubled, collected his ruff and returned a club. Cheek won that and led a third spade through but Herbst could ruff high, draw a round of trumps and claim the rest, the ruffing spade finesse providing the tenth trick; down one for –200.



Dror Padon opened 2♥ and Alon Birman responded 3♣, a one-round force. When John Kranyak overcalled and Padon repeated his hearts, Vincent Demuy made an aggressive double and, though low on defence for his previous action, Kranyak left it in. Demuy led a spade so Padon went up with the ace and led dummy's diamond. Desperate to get his partner in to lead a trump, Kranyak ducked and Padon played the queen. When that held, he ruffed his remaining diamond and just conceded two trump tricks for +1130 and 14 IMPs to Israel.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>I. Herbst</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♣	2♥	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Padon</i>
–	–	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	2♥	All Pass	

When partner opens a 15-17 no trump an optimist uses Stayman in search of a spade fit, as did Ilan Herbst, while a pessimist passes, knowing that there will be no game his way. As for who is the realist, what I can say is that today was the day of the optimist.

Cheek bid his hearts over the opposing 2♣ bid but the Herbsts were soon in 4♠. Bertens led his singleton heart and Cheek won and switched to his own singleton. Ophir won that in the dummy and led a spade to his ace and a second spade. When Bertens followed smoothly with the ten, declarer put up dummy's queen anyway and, when it held, was in control. He now left trumps alone and took two the heart king and two heart ruffs so came to ten tricks for +620.

In the other room, Demuy passed 1NT – it is worth bearing in mind that Kranyak is a frequent upgrader, which reduces the chance of their being a good game, but I must confess I have sympathy with passing. Birman's 2♦ showed a single-suited overcall in a major but Padon left it in, having a pretty good idea which that major

would be. However, when Demuy doubled for take-out, Birman bid his hearts anyway and was left to play there, making an overtrick for +140 and 13 IMPs to Israel.

These two deals had put Israel into the lead by 32-14 IMPs, but the momentum was to shift as USA scored two big swings themselves in rapid succession.

Board .12 Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>I. Herbst</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Padon</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Ilan led the five of clubs. Bertens won and played don spades and the even club break meant an easy overtrick and +630.

Demuy chose to lead his stronger minor. The ten of diamonds went to the king and back came a diamond to the queen and ace. A third diamond cleared the suit and Padon played on spades, being one down when Kranyak had the ace along with two diamond winners; down one for -100 and 12 IMPs to USA. Nice lead.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>I. Herbst</i>	<i>Cheek</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
-	1♥	Dble	3♥
Dble	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Padon</i>
-	2♥	Dble	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

Curtis Cheek (USA)



Birman opened at the two level so Padon jumped to game over Ophir's double. Demuy made a responsive double and, looking at a weak no trump, Kranyak left it in, not expecting to make anything at this level.

Kranyak led a trump so Birman won and drew the remaining trump then led a club to his queen. Kranyak won and switched to the king of spades and the defence came to the five obvious tricks for down two and -500.

Cheek opened at the one level, and collected a pre-emptive raise to 3♥ from Bertens after the take-out double. When Ilan now made a responsive double, Ophir left it in - true, he had no trump holding to talk about but neither did he have four spades or any great hope of making anything worthwhile. Meanwhile, there should be enough high cards between the two hands to come to five tricks, right?

Well, yes, but he hadn't allowed for some brilliant deceptive play from Curtis Cheek.

Ophir led the three of hearts to the queen and king and Cheek ducked a spade. Ophir went in with the queen to lead a second trump and Cheek won in dummy and ducked a second round of spades. Ilan had pitched the king of diamonds on the second trump so Ophir now underled his ace. Ilan won the ten and, taken in by declarer's spade plays, returned the spade jack, expecting his partner to hold the ace. Imagine his shock when Cheek won the spade and crossed to dummy with a heart to take a club discard on the thirteenth spade. Contract just made for +730!

Israel got some of their money back a couple of boards later when Demuy/Kranyak played the wrong game to lose 10 IMPs, and the match ended in a single-IMP win for the Israelis; 42-41.

Vincent Demuy (USA)





49th Annual Tel Aviv International Bridge Festival

February 20-26, 2015



Save the Date!

The 49th Annual Tel Aviv International Bridge Festival,
Will take place on February 20-26, 2015

We look forward to welcoming you to Tel-Aviv,
the city that never sleeps & where all the action happens!

This year, you will enjoy a variety of competitions
with prizes totaling €30,000

Free parking and refreshments are offered.

For more information and help: ibf@bridge.co.il | +972-3-9794862