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## One More Session to Play in Individual Events



### The Five Mind Sports Taking Part in the 4th Sport Accord World Mind Sports Games 2014

There is just one more short session of 21 boards to play in Individual competitions at the 2014 Sport Accord World Mind Games and then, after a hard week of competition, the championships will be over for another year.

After 48 boards of the open Individual three of the four players who tied for gold in the Pairs Championship occupy the top three places. Tor Helness leads the way from Ilan Herbst with Geir Helgemo in third. were Herbst to come out on top on Wednesday morning it would mean a treble for the Israeli, a remarkable achievement at a tournament of this quality, even in a relatively small field.

In the Women's competition, Pairs winner Marion Michielsen of the Netherlands is tied for first with Teams winner Catherine Draper of England.

A lot can happen in 21 boards in any form of the game, but particularly so in an Individual, so there are a lot of players going into the final session of both championships with realistic hopes of a medal.

#### Contents

- 2 Results
- 3 Open Pairs 3
- 5 Open Pairs 4
- 8 Women's Pairs 4
- 11 Women's Individual I

# Rankings After 48 Boards

## Open Individual

			%
1	HELNESS Tor	MON	59.08
2	HERBST Ian	ISR	58.67
3	HELGEMO Geir	MON	58.00
4	LALL Justin	USA	56.12
5	SHI Haojun	CHN	53.75
6	PADON Dror	ISR	53.04
7	LEE Roger C	USA	52.92
8	ZHUANG Zejun	CHN	52.00
9	DONG Li Dang	CHN	51.79
10	MULTON Franck	MON	51.75
11	JU Chuancheng	CHN	51.13
12	NUNES Claudio	MON	51.04
13	WU Yuwei	CHN	49.88
14	FANTONI Fulvio	MON	49.58
15	HERBST Ophir	ISR	49.04
16	SCHWARTZ Ron Haim	ISR	48.54
17	FISHER Lotan	ISR	48.33
18	SHI Zheng Jun	CHN	46.58
19	DEMUY Vincent	USA	46.13
20	KRANYAK John	USA	44.92
21	BIRMAN Alon	ISR	43.88
22	BERTENS Huub	USA	43.42
23	CHEEK Curtis	USA	41.04
24	ZIMMERMANN Pierre	MON	40.21

## Women's Individual

			%
1	DRAPER Catherine	ENG	59.17
-	MICHELSEN Marion	NED	59.17
3	LEVITINA Irina	USA	56.46
4	SMITH Nicola	ENG	55.83
5	DHONDY Heather	ENG	55.21
6	EYTHORSOTTIR Disa	USA	53.54
7	PASMAN Jet	NED	53.33
8	SIMONS Anneke	NED	52.08
9	VAN ZWOL Wietske	NED	51.46
10	DEAS Lynn	USA	51.04
11	WU Shaohong	CHN	50.83
12	WORTEL Meike	NED	50.21
13	LU Yan	CHN	49.17
-	WANG Wenfei	CHN	49.17
15	ARNOLDS Carla	NED	47.50
16	WANG Hong Li	CHN	47.08
17	BROCK Sally	ENG	46.67
-	SENIOR Nevena	ENG	46.67
19	ZHANG Yu	CHN	46.04
20	WITTES Pamela Susan	USA	45.83
21	SANBORN Kerri	USA	44.58
22	BJERKAN Cheryl Lou	USA	44.38
23	RAN JingRong	CHN	43.33
24	BROWN Fiona	ENG	41.25



# The Phantom Menace – Open Pairs Session 3

by Mark Horton

Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace is a 1999 American epic space opera film written and directed by George Lucas. It is the fourth film in the Star Wars saga to be released, the first of a three-part prequel to the original Star Wars trilogy, and the first film in the story chronology.

At the bridge table everyone is aware of the dangers of a phantom sacrifice – let's see if they played any part in the third session.

**Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.**

<p>♠ J 9 8 4 ♥ A J 5 4 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ 8 6</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">N W   E S</p> </div>	<p>♠ K Q 7 6 5 ♥ Q 9 ♦ 10 9 4 3 ♣ A 3</p>	<p>♠ 10 ♥ K 10 7 ♦ K J 6 ♣ K Q J 10 9 2</p>
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<p>♠ A 3 2 ♥ 8 6 3 2 ♦ A Q 8 ♣ 7 5 4</p>
--

West	North	East	South
<i>Multon</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
–	–	1♣	Pass
1(i)	1♠	Dble(ii)	2♥(iii)
Pass	2♠	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4♣	Dble
All Pass			

- (i) Transfer to hearts
- (ii) Heart support
- (iii) Spade support

When his partner doubled 3♠ East decided to run.

South cashed the ace of spades and continued with the three, covered by the eight and king and ruffed by declarer, who played a club to the eight and ace and then



covered North's switch to the ten of diamonds with the jack, South winning with the queen.

Now, exiting with a trump is sure to lead to at least one down, but South played another spade, covered by the nine and queen and ruffed by declarer, who drew trumps, played a heart to the ace, pitched a diamond on the jack of spades, played a heart to the king and then cashed his remaining trump to squeeze South in the red suits.

One down would have been a zero for EW, but +510 was, unsurprisingly 0/10.

**Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.**

<p>♠ 5 ♥ Q 9 ♦ Q 10 9 8 7 ♣ Q J 7 4 3</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">N W   E S</p> </div>	<p>♠ K 10 8 2 ♥ K 10 8 7 5 3 ♦ A 6 ♣ 9</p>	<p>♠ Q 7 ♥ A 6 2 ♦ J 5 4 3 2 ♣ 8 6 5</p>
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<p>♠ A J 9 6 4 3 ♥ J 4 ♦ K ♣ A K 10 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
–	–	Pass	1♠(i)
Pass	2♥(ii)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT(iii)
Pass	4♣(iv)	Pass	4♦(iv)
Pass	4♥(iv)	Pass	4NT(v)
Pass	5♦(iv)	Pass	6♣(iv)
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

- (i) 14+ (good 12/13) 5+♠ or 11-13 with 5+♠ and 4♥.
- (ii) 5+♥ game forcing
- (iii) Serious slam try
- (iv) Cuebid
- (v) Turbo


Turbo may be new to you. This convention was originally designed to be employed with Neapolitan cue bids, which show a first or second round control after a fit has been established. It became part of the Blue Club system developed by Benito Garozzo.

The fundamental concept of Turbo is that the partner bids 4NT to show an even number of keycards. This only happens after a cuebid has been made showing a first- or second-round control. A bid higher than 4NT promises an odd number of key cards and also first-round control in the suit bid.

Six Clubs was reached at every table and made easily on the lead of a diamond (three times) a club and a spade. That left this table, where West produced the nine of

hearts. When declarer put up dummy's king he was one down for 0/10.


**Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
–	Pass	1♣	3♠
Dble*	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Dble	All Pass

Declarer lost the obvious five tricks so was two down for –500. E/W +620 was recorded at every other table; 10/0.

**Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.**


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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	2NT(i)	4♦	4♠
5♦	5♠	All Pass	

(i) Spade raise

Three N/S pairs made 4♠ for +420, another made it doubled for +590, and one pair collected +500 from 5♦ doubled. Five Spades was one down, so 0/10.

**Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.**


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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
–	–	Pass	2♣(i)
Dble	3♣	Dble	All Pass

(i) 10-13 (good 9) 5+♣ unbalanced in 3rd seat could be weaker and maximum 12 (13)

West led the ten of diamonds and declarer won with the king and played the ace of clubs, followed by the jack. West took the queen, East discarding the two of hearts. According to the datum, declarer took only five tricks for –1100, for 0/10 (if it was six it would have saved a match point, 1/9, which can sometimes be significant).

**Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

South led the three of clubs and when declarer won with dummy's ace North contributed the jack. Declarer ran the ten of hearts to South's jack and South now found the devastating play of cashing the ace of diamonds and



playing a second round of the suit, holding declarer to ten tricks and +620. That was 8/2.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ KJ754 ♥ 65 ♦ A982 ♣ KQ	<table style="border: 1px solid black; 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></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		♠ Q10 ♥ 10874 ♦ 74 ♣ J8762	♠ A963 ♥ 9 ♦ K1053 ♣ 9543
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♥*
1♠	3♥*	3♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

North led the eight of hearts and South won, cashed the ace of clubs and exited with a club. Declarer won and played a spade to the ten and ace then finessed on the next round. That was one down and 10/0. What a pity – that would have been the perfect Phantom – a sacrifice that makes.

## No Country For Old Men – Open Pairs Session 4

by Mark Horton

Sailing to Byzantium is a poem by William Butler Yeats, first published in the 1928 collection *The Tower*. It comprises four stanzas in ottava rima, each made up of eight ten-syllable lines. It uses a journey to Constantinople (Byzantium) as a metaphor for a spiritual journey. Yeats explores his thoughts and musings on how immortality, art, and the human spirit may converge. Through the use of various poetic techniques, Yeats describes the metaphorical journey of a man pursuing his own vision of eternal life as well as his conception of paradise.

The first line of the poem is 'That is no country for old men', and the 2007 film set in the vicinity of the United States-Mexico border, in 1980, concerning an illegal drug deal gone awry in the Texas desert back country derived its title from the poem.

I cannot tell you if the life of a bridge player in any way replicates the concepts outlined in the poem, but the winning of a major championship must surely be part of the spiritual journey that every professional player undertakes over the years.

My choice of title was predicated by the fact that one needs nerves of steel to take the many risks that seem to be associated with a Pairs event.



Perhaps older (and wiser?) players are reluctant to take as many as they might have done earlier in their careers, making the Pairs game No Country for Old Men.

When the last session started only a handful of match points separated the leading pairs.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ KQ94 ♥ 83 ♦ AJ7 ♣ A1074	<table style="border: 1px solid black; 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></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		♠ J7 ♥ AQ9765 ♦ Q863 ♣ 8	♠ A108653 ♥ J ♦ 109 ♣ Q962
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Demuy</i>
–	–	2♦(i)	Pass
2♥(ii)	Pass	2♠	Dble
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	5♥	All Pass	

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


West adopted a subtle approach designed to persuade his opponents that he was sacrificing. However, when they refused to accept the bait, he should perhaps have taken the slight risk of doubling 5♥.

East led the ace of spades and switched to the jack of hearts. Declarer won with dummy's king, came to hand with the ace of hearts, ruffed a spade and played the three of clubs. When West went up with the ace he had

endplayed himself and declarer escaped for one down; -100 and a maximum 10/0.

Two pairs doubled 5♥ and collected +500 for 1/9 each.

**Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.**

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


West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Kranyak	Multon	Demuy
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Dble	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	2♠	Dble	All Pass

East led the king of clubs and when declarer ducked he continued the suit. Declarer won and ran the jack of diamonds. West ducked that, won the next diamond with the ace and played the queen of clubs. East pitched the two of hearts and declarer ruffed and played a heart to the king and ace.

The eight of diamonds return was ruffed by West and he returned his remaining heart. Declarer won with dummy's jack and played a spade to the queen, but East took the ace and played back the ten of hearts for West to ruff.

That elegant defence put the contract two down for -300 and 3/7.

**Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.**


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

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Fisher	Kranyak	Schwartz
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Dble	Pass	1NT	Dble
All Pass			

In the (good?) old days this deal would have been consigned to history with everyone passing.

South led the five of diamonds and declarer took North's king with the ace and ran the ten of clubs to North's ace. The defenders cashed three diamonds and South switched to the four of spades. Declarer had no chance of more than six tricks and was one down for -200 and 8/2, the top going to the Herbst brothers, who made 1NT doubled with an overtrick on the N/S cards for +280.

**Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Fisher	Kranyak	Schwartz
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

North led the ten of hearts and declarer elected to put in dummy's queen. South took the king and switched to the queen of spades. Declarer won with the king and played a diamond and South won with the ten and returned the five. Declarer ruffed and played the nine of hearts, covered by the jack and ruffed. A spade to the ace was followed by the ace of hearts pitching a diamond and the seven of hearts for a ruffing finesse against South's eight.

It was neat way to record ten tricks, but a modest result, 6/4 as two pairs took eleven tricks.

Notice the textbook situation in the club suit – if declarer plays a club at some point North is supposed to put up the king.

On Board 13 (is it just my imagination or does this deal enjoy more than its fair share of drama?) N/S held ♠ – ♥ K10753 ♦ AKJ642 ♣ 103 and ♠ A4 ♥ AJ962 ♦ 109 ♣ AKJ9. One pair missed 7♥, but it was not a zero, that honour going to the pair who tried 7NT and found no joy in either minor suit.

Lotan Fisher (Israel)



When the last round started the title seemed to rest between Helgeness and the brothers Herbst.

However, when the last board settled on the table it was the Monegasques who led but by only a single point.

**Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♠	Dble	2♣	3♦
4♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

South led the king of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace, played a heart to the queen and a spade, covered by the queen, king and ace. North switched to the king of clubs and declarer won and played his remaining spade. South took the jack and played a club to North's queen. Now the obvious move is for North to play a diamond, forcing dummy to ruff and ensuring two down. However, after some thought North found the disastrous play of the jack of hearts. Declarer ruffed high, crossed to dummy with a trump and could discard all his diamonds on the three good spades and the ten of hearts.

That was a huge slice of luck for E/W who collected 0/10 instead of 10/0.

**Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.**

♠ K 10 7 6 ♥ J 10 ♦ Q J 10 9 3 ♣ 5 3	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #90EE90; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 5 3 2 ♥ 4 ♦ A K 7 2 ♣ K Q 8 7 4	♠ Q J 9 8 ♥ A 9 8 3 ♦ 8 6 ♣ 10 9 6
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Dble	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the queen of spades, but with spades 4-4 declarer could set up a heart for a ninth trick and +600.

Two pairs duplicated that result, one went down in 6♣ and another in 7NT doubled!

At the table that mattered the Herbst brothers played in 4♥ and went one down. That gave them only 3/7, but Helgeness's –600 was worth only 8/2, so incredibly the scores were tied.


there is no splitting of ties in this event so the gold medals were shared, which was perhaps a just outcome after a dramatic final session. The bronze went to Justin Lall and Roger Lee of USA.



# Women's Pairs Session 4

The Dutch pair of Marion Michielsen and Meike Wortel went into the final 20-board session of the Women's Pairs with a 4% lead over the rest of the field. In all likelihood, an average session would be sufficient to see them take the gold medal, not to mention a very handy cash prize.

**Board .1 Dealer North. None Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Smith	Lu	Brock	H. Wang
–	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♣	All Pass


Pairs is a very different game to Teams, and this deal certainly illustrated that fact. When Yan Lu opened with 1NT then completed Hongli Wang's transfer, West would normally pass out 2♠ at Teams, as the risk – a large penalty – far outweighs the upside of bidding. However, when nobody is vulnerable it often pays to compete very aggressively on a partscore deal and Nicola Smith duly made a balancing double. The winning decision now would have been for sally Brock to leave in the double – 2♠ doubled will normally fail by a trick – but that was a little scary with that trump holding under the long spade suit. Two No Trump was not an option as that would not have been natural, showing two or more places to play, so Brock bid her only four-card suit and played there.

Wang led her singleton heart, ducked to Brock's king. She led a spade to the ace and a second spade to Lu's king. The ace of hearts, on which Wang threw a diamond, was



followed by a suit-preference ten for Wang to ruff and the spade return was ruffed with the ten and over-ruffed. Back came another heart. Brock ruffed with the king and Wang discarded a second diamond. Now Brock led a diamond to the king to lead dummy's low club through the ace, but Lu could go up with the ace and lead a diamond and, though Brock finessed, Wang ruffed for down two and –100. That was a complete top for the Chinese pair. Two Spades doubled down one would have scored 6 MPs for Brock/Smith, down one undoubled only 3 MPs.

**Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Ran	Pasman	W. Wang	Simons
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Ran's 1♣ was strong and 1♦ showed 0-7 HCP. Ran showed her hearts then rebid the suit when Wenfei Wang showed a smattering of values. Ran kept it very simple – she won the spade lead, drew trumps and set up a diamond, her eighth trick, for +110 and 7 MPs.

**Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.**

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

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

West	North	East	South
Ran	Pasman	W. Wang	Simons
2♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass



This time Ran opened a multi and Wang's 4♣ response asked her to transfer to her long suit, which she duly did. That made the strong hand declarer and, as it turned out, attracted a helpful lead for Wang, the six of clubs to the king and ace. Wang played ace of hearts and ruffed a heart then led dummy's diamond up and, of course, Jet Pasman shot up with the ace and returned the ten of clubs for jack and queen. Wenfei won the club continuation, drew trumps in two rounds and ruffed a diamond. The last diamond went away on the thirteenth club; eleven tricks for +450 and 8 MPs.

**Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.**

♠ AKQJ3 ♥ 83 ♦ Q64 ♣ J64	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 10974 ♥ J92 ♦ K975 ♣ 53	♠ 6 ♥ AQ754 ♦ A8 ♣ AKQ72
N						
W E						
S						

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Michielsens</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Smith</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♣	all Pass

The Leaders got to slam, something that two pairs failed to do, but the lowest scoring of the three that would have been successful. After a diamond lead, Wortel drew trumps, cashed the spades and took the heart finesse for the overtrick; twelve tricks for +920 and 6 MPs.

**Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.**

♠ AQ ♥ AK7532 ♦ K103 ♣ J6	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 9863 ♥ – ♦ 75 ♣ KQ98752	♠ 54 ♥ J1098 ♦ 98642 ♣ 104
N						
W E						
S						

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Michielsens</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Smith</i>
1♥	Pass	3♥	3♠
3NT	4♣	Pass	4♠
Dble	Pass	Pass	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

Yes, that is what a pre-emptive jump raise to 3♥ looks like, and it made certain that the Dutch pair would get to their cold heart game. Brock did not come in over 1♥ but she did introduce her long club suit over Michielsens's 3NT, and Smith judged to save over 4♥. Michielsens doubled, ending the auction.

It takes a diamond lead to defeat 5♣, but why should East find that?

On Wortel's actual heart lead, Brock could ruff, draw trumps and play on spades, though there were two losers in that suit, the fifth spade took care of declarer's diamond loser; +750 but only 4 MPs to N/S as three pairs were doubled in 4♠ or 5♠, all making eleven tricks.

**Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.**

♠ QJ109653 ♥ 8 ♦ 53 ♣ Q85	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ – ♥ K10753 ♦ AKJ642 ♣ 103	♠ K872 ♥ Q4 ♦ Q87 ♣ 7642
N						
W E						
S						

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Draper</i>	<i>W. Wang</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Ran</i>
–	1♦	Pass	1♥
2♠	3♠	4♠	4NT
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

Wenfei Wang opened 1♦ and, understandably, was rather excited by her partner's 1♥ response. She cuebid 3♠ and that was enough to see Ran ask for key cards, over which the 5NT response showed an even number plus a useful void – clearly in spades on this auction. Six Clubs was a grand slam try and, with powerful diamonds plus the fifth trump, Wang jumped to 7♥.

The grand slam was reached by all but one pair in the Women's event and, of course, there was nothing to the play. Plus 2210 was worth 6 MPs to N/S.

Sally Brock (England)



Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Draper</i>	<i>W. Wang</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Ran</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♦
2NT	Pass	4♥	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

Catherine Draper's 2NT showed a four-card heart raise and that was sufficient to see Fiona Brown jump to the heart game. Ran, however, bid out her five-five shape and Wang trusted her to be at least five-five so passed 5♣ doubled – Ran would have bid 4NT if diamonds were two cards longer than clubs, and could hardly be only 5-4, so 5♣ rated to be the better spot.

Draper led a heart, won by Brown, who switched to the king of spades. Ran won and played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing in dummy. When Brown could not over-ruff, the trump position was marked and Ran could use the power of dummy's trumps to cross-ruff her way to eight tricks; down three for -500 but 6 MPs to N/S.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
Dble	2♦	2♠	3♦
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Michielsen opened a potentially short club and Wortel jumped to 2♦ over the take-out double. Presumably, she intended this to show an invitational club raise, and that is indeed their agreement according to the convention card but Michielsen's diamond raise implies that she took it to be natural and weak, a swould have been the case had it

been a jump to two of a major. Wortel converted to 4♣ and that ended the auction.

Kerri Sanborn led the king of spades for a count signal then followed up with the queen and read her partner's eight as suggesting interest in hearts. Her heart switch was won by dummy's queen and a heart ruff in the dummy saw Michielsen home with ten tricks for +130 and 8 MPs.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

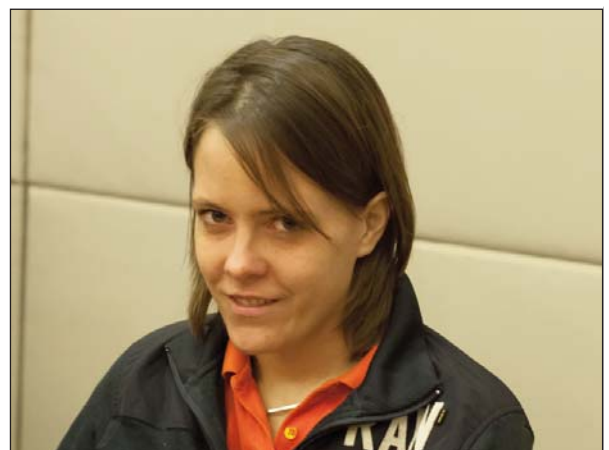
West	North	East	South
<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	2♣	All Pass	

Sanborn opened 1♦ as West and Wortel made a normal 2♣ overcall. Levitina was too weak to get involved with her long spades and Michielsen wasn't going to get involved with all that diamond length, so it wa sleft to Sanborn to compete or not. Looking at short spades and a near minimum opening, she judged to pass, and the E/W spade partscore was missed.

Levitina led the queen of diamonds to the king and ace and Sanborn switched to a trump. Wortel won dummy's queen and played a spade to the ace then ruffed a spade, followed by a winning diamond for a spade discard. But Levitina could ruff that and declarer could only make her trumps from here; eight tricks for +90 and 9 MPs – some E/Ws competed in spades and either made a partscore or pushed N/S up a level.

The Dutch pair, the most successful Women's pair in the world over the last year, had won the Sport Accord Mind Games Women's Pairs, with the other medals going to two Chinese pairs – silver to Wenfei Wang and JingRong Ran, bronze to Yan Lu and Hongli Wang.

Marion Michielsen (Netherlands)




# Women's Individual Session One

The two Individual Championships were each held over three sessions, of 24, 24 and 21 boards respectively. Each player partnered each of the other 23 players for one three-board round.

With so many irregular partnerships, the only fair way to arrange things was to require everyone, even if facing their regular partner, to play the same system – strong no trump, five-card majors, better minor. An Individual favours those players with greater flexibility of mind who can give a little leeway to a strange partner and judge when and when not to trust that partner to make a crucial decision.

Generally, keeping things relatively simple is a sound policy.

**Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Draper</i>	<i>Bjerkan</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Smith</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	2♠	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♣	Pass	6NT	All Pass

When Cheri Bjerkan made a weak jump overcall, Kerri Sanborn decided to invent a club suit rather than risk a negative double with fewer than four hearts when facing a strange partner. Catherine Draper cuebid to ask for further information then showed her club support and Sanborn closed proceedings with a leap to 6NT.




Kerri Sanborn (USA)



Nicola Smith led the ten of spades to declarer's ace and Sanborn played queen of diamonds and a diamond to the ace, then a club to hand to take the diamond finesse and cash out that suit. When Bjerkan discarded three spades and one heart on the diamonds, Sanborn threw two hearts, came to hand with a club and gave up a spade to set up a third trick in the suit; +1440.

That was worth 9 MPs out of 10. Two pairs stopped in game, while two of the other three to reach 6NT went down, leading a heart to the ten early and not having the communications for a squeeze after a heart return from South.

**Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>W. Wang</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Ran</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	2♥	2♠	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

Wenfei Wang couldn't bear to pass with the West hand but, looking at the wrong shortage, couldn't make a take-out double. she made a four-card overcall and Irina Levitina, as a passed hand, felt that she could afford to introduce her five-card heart suit. When that got raised to game by JingRong Ran, Wang doubled to show her extras, hoping that partner would have a winning option open to her.

Yu Zhang led a spade to the jack and ace and Levitina ruffed a spade then led a low diamond towards her jack-

ten. Wang went in with the king and forced dummy to ruff a second spade, won the next diamond and cashed the ace of clubs then forced dummy for a third time. this defence required only that Zhang hold hxJxx, when she would have been promoted a trump trick, but it was not to be and Levitina was home for +790 and all 10 MPs.

**Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.**

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

	♠ K 10 7 6	
	♥ J 7 2	
	♦ Q 9 6 5	
	♣ J 6	

West	North	East	South
<i>W. Wang</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Ran</i>
–	–	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

What should North lead on this auction? a club looks normal enough, does it not, but that is what Levitina chose and it picked up the jack for declarer, who quickly cashed hearts then played on clubs for twelve tricks and +690; 8 MPs for E/W. Just one North found the spade lead to hold the contract to eleven tricks, but two pairs played in 4♥, hence the 80% score for 3NT+3.

**Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.**

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

	♠ J 10 7 6 4	
	♥ 5	
	♦ Q 6 4	
	♣ A Q 4 2	

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Draper</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Senior</i>
–	–	–	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♠	5♥	All Pass

Should North make a take-out double when facing a passed partner? Draper didn't think so but Nevena Senior did great things for her side when she doubled in pass-out seat and that pushed her opponents up a level. To gain any benefit from this, it was necessary for the defence to beat

5♥, but Draper showed that she was up to the task. She cashed a top spade and switched to the seven of clubs and Senior took two winners there for down one and –100 and all 10 MPs to N/S.

**Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.**

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

	♠ A	
	♥ 9 7 5 4 3	
	♦ A Q 9 8 7 6 2	
	♣ –	

West	North	East	South
<i>Wortel</i>	<i>W. Wang</i>	<i>Bjerkan</i>	<i>v Zwol</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	5♥
Pass	7NT	Dble	All Pass

Perhaps on reflection Wietske van Zwol will think that her great leap to 5♥ to ask for good trumps was a bit much on what was still, after all, only a 10-count. It certainly got Wenfie Wang over-excited as she jumped to 7NT, not considering the possibility that one of her partner's first-round controls might be a void. Bjerkan rather unsportingly informed her that she had made an error and cashed the ace of clubs then switched to a spade. There were only eleven winners so Wang had to take the diamond finesse and was down two for –500 and, not surprisingly, zero matchpoints.

**Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.**

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

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


West	North	East	South
<i>Wortel</i>	<i>W. Wang</i>	<i>Bjerkan</i>	<i>v Zwol</i>
–	–	–	3♥
Dble	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Meike Wortel made a fairly revolting take-out double of van Zwol's heart pre-empt and Bjerkan felt that she was

far too good for a simple game bid. She cuebid then went on with 5♦ to show slam interest and, though Wortel quickly declined the offer, they were already too high.

With either 4♠ or 4NT a comfortable make, 5♦ was defeated by three rounds of spades, van Zwol getting a ruff for the setting trick; down one for -50 and 8 MPs to N/S.

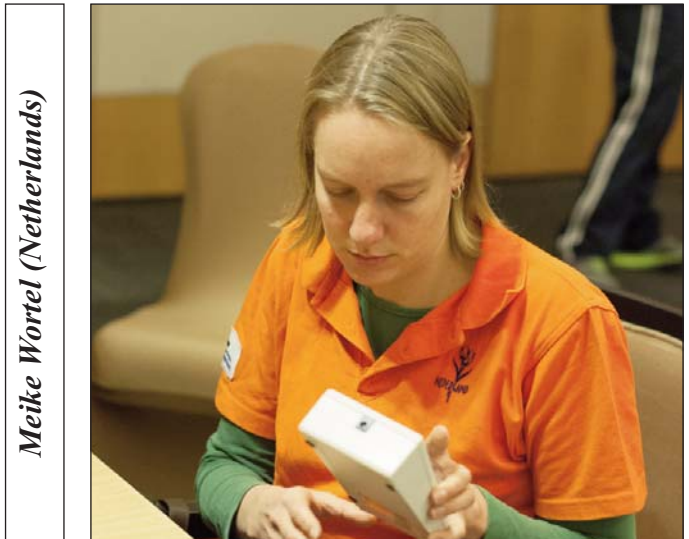
**Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.**

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


West	North	East	South
<i>Wortel</i>	<i>W. Wang</i>	<i>Bjerkan</i>	<i>v Zwol</i>
1♠	2♣	Dble	2♠
Pass	2NT	3♦	4♣
All Pass			

Being too weak to make a forcing bid in a red suit, Bjerkan began with a negative double. Van Zwol's unassuming cuebid club raise cut out Wortel, who was too minimum to bid freely at three level, and Wang showed extras with a spade stopper by rebidding 2NT. Now Bjerkan had distribution but few high cards, and felt that she wanted to compete but that a second double would be a bit of an overstatement of her high-card values. She settled for 3♦ but now the heart suit had been lost in the wash and van Zwol's competitive 4♣ bid scooped the pool.

With 4♥ making their way, E/W defended 4♣ and found that they could not defeat it. Bjerkan led the king of hearts, getting the jack from Wortel, and promptly switched to her spade. the spade ruff was the third and last trick for the defence; +130 and a complete top for N/S.



**Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lu</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Levitina</i>	<i>H. Wang</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♥	All Pass		


When her opponents stopped in 2♠, Levitina had a classic balancing double and Yan Lu responded 3♥. With neither North nor South holding an extra spade, both settled for defending against 3♥.

Sally Brock led the queen of clubs. Lu won the ace and led a spade to her nine and Brock's king. A diamond switch lost to the king and Hongli Wang reverted to clubs, returning a small card to Brock's jack.

Lu ruffed the next club, ruffed a spade and led the jack of hearts off the table, going up with the king when Wang played small, then playing a second round to crash the queen and ace. Lu ruffed the club return and took the diamond finesse so one spade went away on the ace of diamonds and the other was ruffed; nine tricks for +140 and 6 MPs.

Wang could have beaten the contract by rising with the ace on the first heart lead then playing the last club to promote the heart queen for the setting trick. Down one would have meant 8 MPs for N/S instead of 4.

**Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Draper</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

Regular partners on the Dutch Women's team, Meike Wortel and Marion Michielsens had a simple natural auction to 2♣. Draper led a club for the jack, king and ace and Wortel drew trumps then led a heart to the three (standard count), king and ace. When Heather Dhondy now pushed a spade through and Wortel played low, Draper could win but was then endplayed. She switched to a diamond to Dhondy's ace so came to a second spade trick in the endgame, but the diamond guess had been taken away and nine tricks meant +110. However, there were higher-scoring contracts around and +110 scored only 3 MPs.

At the point where she won the heart ace, Dhondy needed to underlead the ace of diamonds. If declarer, who was marked with 4-1-2-6 distribution, got it right, no harm would be done, but if she misguessed East would then have safe diamond exits and would come to two spade winners and the defence would have had the second diamond trick.

**Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Wortel	Draper	Michielsens
–	2♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

When Wortel opened with a weak two bid, Michielsens just jumped to 3NT, hoping that giving the opposition a blind lead might cause them big problems.

Dhondy led a spade to the ten, jack and ace and declarer had missed her first chance to make her contract. She played a heart to the king and ace and Dhondy continued with a low spade to dummy's queen. Now Michielsens ran the hearts and Dhondy came down to three spades and two diamonds, Draper to three clubs, a spade and the ace

Nicola Smith (England)



Lynn Deas (USA)



of diamonds. A club finesse would now have meant nine tricks, but Michielsens had convinced herself that the club was offside and that Draper had the diamonds, so instead exited with dummy's third spade for an endplay and found that Dhondy had three spade winners and could then lead a diamond to her partner's ace for the setting trick. Down one meant –50 and 3 MPs to N/S. Everyone else played the heart game and a diamond ruff defeated it on three occasions out of five after ace and another diamond lead.

**Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Wortel	Draper	Michielsens
–	–	3♥	Dble
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Wortel had an ugly choice of calls when her partner made a take-out double of the 3♥ opening. Eventually she bid her three-card spade suit rather than pass the double and hope to beat 3♥.

Draper led a diamond so wortel won and played three rounds of clubs, Dhondy winning and returning a trump. The six-nil split was not exactly what Wortel had been looking for. She won and gave up a heart but Dhondy won the king and played a second trump so all declarer could do was to win in dummy and play a winning club, ruffed and over-ruffed. She had five trump tricks and three minor-suit winners so was one down for –100 and 5 MPs.

Three Hearts doubled can be defeated if the defence work out that declarer is two-suited. she can be forced sufficiently often that the diamond blockage prevents her from taking more than two tricks in the suit. Three Hearts doubled was made once while 4♥ doubled was played twice and again made nine tricks on both occasions.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Simons</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>W. Wang</i>	<i>Pasman</i>
—	—	—	1♦
2♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	5♦	Dble	All Pass

When Jet Pasman opened 1♦ and Anneke Simons made a Michaels Cuebid, showing at least five-five in the majors, it was open to Lu to make a big pre-emptive diamond raise, which would have put pressure on her opponents. Instead, she passed and waited to see where the opposition would end up. When they bid to the vulnerable heart game, Lu decided to save in 5♦, and Wang had an easy decision to double, ending the auction.

Simons led ace and another heart. Wang switched to a low club to her partner's ace and back came a second club to the ten and jack. Wang cashed the king of clubs then got off play with a spade and there was still a trick to come in that suit for down four and -800. Though it is possible to make a heart slam on the E/W cards, it requires some good fortune and nobody got there so -800 scored only 1 MP for N/S.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Simons</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>W. Wang</i>	<i>Pasman</i>
1♠	All Pass		

There is, in my view, no rational alternative to the 1♠ opening selected by Simons. If you survive the first round of the auction, you are so much better placed than if you try any other opening. But Simons was partnering a Chinese player who, perhaps more used to playing

Precision, was therefore used to passing more 6- and 7-counts than are those used to natural methods. Passing out 1♠ could be the winning decision on another day but today it scored a big fat zero as everyone else bid to 4♠ and made eleven tricks for +650.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Disa</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Wittes</i>
—	—	—	1♣
1♠	2♥	2♠	3NT
All Pass			

When Dhondy could bid a forcing 2♥ over the 1♠ intervention, Pam Wittes made the practical jump to 3NT, where she played. Hjordis Eythorsdottir (Disa) led the ten of spades so Wittes put up dummy's jack and played ace of clubs then a second club to the jack. Disa won the queen and continued with a low spade to keep open communications. Wittes rattled off the clubs and Brock bared the king of hearts so that she could keep three diamonds and also her last spade to lead to partner. Wittes, however, promptly dropped the heart and cashed the queen. Disa had kept a heart stopper so now declarer led a diamond up. She had a complete count on the hand, making the diamond finesse 100% secure but, after several days of high-pressure bridge, settled for ten tricks by leading to her ace. Plus 630 was worth 9 MPs so, if declarer had the slightest doubt about the diamond position, perhaps she was right to play safe.

At the end of the first session of three, England held three of the top four places, Catherine Draper leading on 64.58% ahead of Heather Dhondy on 59.58%, USA's Lynn Deas being in third and Nicola Smith in fourth.

Catherine Draper (England)

