

Editors: Mark Horton & Brian Senior

Bulletin No 7 Wednesday December 17th

Monaco Takes Open, England Women's Individual Titles



The Open Individual Medalists

Gold: Geir Helgemo (MON)
Tied Silver: Ilan Herbst (ISR)
Tor Helness (MON)
(EBL President, Yves Aubry standing in for Helgemo)



The Women's Individual Medalists

Gold: Nicola Smith (ENG)
Silver: Marion Michielsen (NED)
Bronze: Catherine Draper (ENG)

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Final Rankings

Open Individual

Women's Individual

			%				%
1	HELCEMO C	MON		1	CMITH NI: - 1-	ENC	
1	HELGEMO Geir	MON	59.33	1	SMITH Nicola	ENG	57.39
2 =	HERBST Ilan	ISR	56.90	2	MICHIELSEN Marion	NED	57.25
	HELNESS Tor	MON	56.90	3	DRAPER Catherine	ENG	56.52
4	SHI Haojun	CHN	53.62	4	DHONDY Heather	ENG	54.78
5	PADON Dror	ISR	53.57	5	LEVITINA Irina	USA	53.62
6	DONG Li Dang	CHN	52.55	6	BROCK Sally	ENG	52.32
7	LALL Justin	USA	52.52	7	WORTEL Meike	NED	51.45
8	HERBST Ophir	ISR	52.38	8	EYTHORSDOTTIR Dis	aUSA	51.01
9	MULTON Franck	MON	51.51	9	PASMAN Jet	NED	50.87
10	LEE Roger C	USA	50.87	10	SIMONS Anneke	NED	50.43
11	JU Chuancheng	CHN	50.06	11	WU Shaohong	CHN	50.29
12	ZHUANG Zejun	CHN	49.94	12	VAN ZWOL Wietske	NED	49.71
13	SCHWARTZ Ron Haim	ISR	49.71	13	DEAS Lynn	USA	49.42
14	NUNES Claudio	MON	49.28	14=	WANG Wenfei	CHN	48.84
15	DEMUY Vincent	USA	49.19		ARNOLDS Carla	NED	48.84
16	FISHER Lotan	ISR	48.41	16	LU Yan	CHN	48.70
17	WU Yuwei	CHN	48.17	17	SENIOR Nevena	ENG	48.26
18=	FANTONI Fulvio	MON	46.81	18	ZHANG Yu	CHN	48.12
	ZIMMERMANN Pierre	MON	46.81	19	BJERKAN Cheryl Lou	USA	46.96
20	BIRMAN Alon	ISR	46.75	20	WANG Hong Li	CHN	46.23
21	SHI Zheng Jun	CHN	46.46	21	RAN JingRong	CHN	45.51
22	BERTENS Huub	USA	45.71	22	BROWN Fiona	ENG	44.64
23	KRANYAK John	USA	44.29	23	SANBORN Kerri	USA	44.49
24	CHEEK Curtis	USA	38.84	24	WITTES Pamela Susan		44.35
- '	CIILLII Cuitis	0011	50.01		THE TAILED I WINCH SUSUII	0.011	55

2014 Sport Accord World Mind Games Roll of Honour

Open

Women

Teams

Gold: ISRAEL
Silver: USA
Bronze: MONACO

Pairs

Tied Gold: Ilan & Ophir Herbst (ISR)

Tied Gold: Geir Helgemo & Tor Helness (MON)

Bronze: Justin Lall & Roger Lee (USA)

Individual:

Gold: Geir Helgemo (MON)
Tied Silver: Ilan Herbst (ISR)
Tied Silver: Tor Helness (MON)

Teams

Gold: England
Silver: Netherlands
Bronze: USA

Pairs

Gold: Marion Michielsen & Meike Wortel (NED)
Silver: JingRong Ran & Wenfei Wang (CHN)
Bronze: Hongli Wang & Yan Lu (CHN)

Individual:

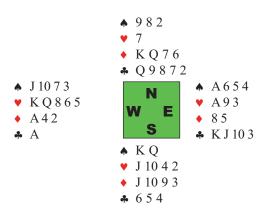
Gold: Nicola Smith (ENG)
Silver: Marion Michielsen (NED)
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One For All, All For One Open Individual I by Mark Horton

One for all, all for one is the motto of Alexander Dumas' Three Musketeers (and the traditional motto of Switzerland. It is singularly appropriate for an Individual event, where the players join forces to play a common system and produce a single winner.

The methods in force for everyone were five-card majors with a 15-17 NT, weak twos in three suits and standard signals with 3/5th leads against suits and 4th best versus no trumps.

Board 11. Dealer North. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Herbst	Lee	Zimmermann	Kranyak
_	_	1.	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
4 ♠	All Pass		

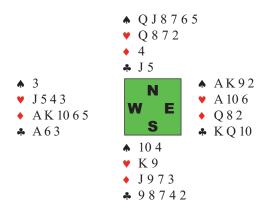
South led the jack of diamonds and declarer won with dummy's ace, unblocked the ace of clubs, crossed to the ace of hearts, pitched a diamond on the king of clubs, and ran the jack of clubs, throwing dummy's remaining diamond. North took that and returned the eight of clubs. South ruffed with the king of spades, returned the jack of hearts for North to ruff and the last club enabled South to score the setting trick with the queen of spades for -50 and 9/1.

Lidang Dong (China)



In passing, I'll mention that one way to tackle this trump suit is to play the jack and run it if it is not covered. Assuming that loses you cash the ace on the next round, avoiding two losers 27% of the time.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

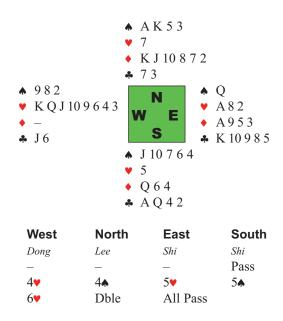


West	North	East	South
Herbst	Lee	Zimmermann	Kranyak
_	_	_	Pass
1♦	3♠	Dble	Pass
4♥	Pass	6NT	All Pass

South led the ten of spades and declarer won with the king, cashed the queen of diamonds, played a diamond to the ace, a club to the king and two more diamonds. North pitching the two of hearts, the five of spades and the eight of hearts. Declarer continued with a club to the jack and queen, a club to the ace and the last diamond followed by a heart to the ten, South winning and cashing the nine of clubs for one down,; –100 and 2/8.

One declarer went two down in 6NT, the others all taking twelve tricks (although two stopped in 3NT).

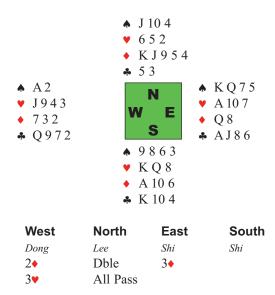
Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.



I have seen it written that opening 4 operates as a transfer to 4. by the opponents. Here was one of the more esoteric examples. The theorists can debate the situation if North doubles intending to bid 5♦ over a possible 5♣ response by partner. Note that if North passes then South might well take some action.

North cashed the king of spades and switched to the seven of clubs, which must be the right defence - if declarer has eight hearts and three spades then playing a trump will not stop any ruffs in dummy. Plus 500 was 10/0 – remarkably, 11 tricks were made at all the other tables (twice when the contract was 5 doubled).

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

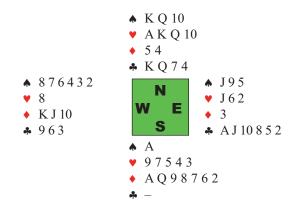


North's opening bid (of which your editors thoroughly approve) saw E/W go overboard.

North led the four of diamonds and South won with the ace and returned the ten, North winning with the king and switching to the four of spades (a club is best, ensuring two down). Declarer won with the ace and played a heart to the ten and king, South returning a spade to dummy's king. Declarer cashed the queen of spades pitching a diamond and then played the ace of hearts and a heart, South winning with the queen and playing the eight of spades. Declarer ruffed and played a club to the jack and king, South's diamond return giving North the last three tricks.

I make that four down for -400, but even the three down that appears on the datum was more than enough for 10/0.

Board 10. Dealer East, All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Fantoni	Lee	Birman	Helness
_	_	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	2♣	4 ♣ (i)
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5NT(ii)
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

- (i) **Splinter**
- 2 key cards and a void (ii)

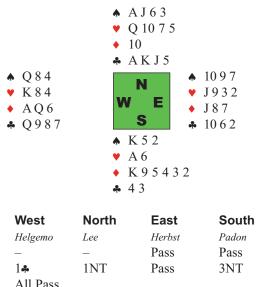
With the diamond king offside this had to go one down for −100. However, with two pairs attempting 6NT (and one 6
ightharpoonup) it proved to be worth 7/3.

Maybe the answer is for North to bid 4♠? Then South could ask for key cards and bid 6. over North's response (gambling that North has the VAKQ), which should locate a second round diamond control? Anyhow it's not often that you go down in a freely bid grand slam and score over average.

On Board 13 South held (at game all) ♠ Q7642 ♥ 108 ◆ 102 ♣ AKQ4 and saw partner open 3♦. East overcalled 3♥. Your bid?

South tried 4♦ and found partner with ♠ 98 ♥ KJ3 ♦ KJ87543 ♣ 10. 3♥ was making, but 4♦ was three down for -300 and 0/10.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.



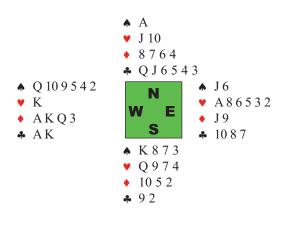
All Pass

East led the two of hearts and West won with the king and returned the eight to dummy's ace. With West marked with most of the missing high cards declarer played a spade to the jack, a spade to the king, a club to the jack, cashed all his winners and exited with a club, forcing West to surrender a trick to the king of diamonds. That was worth +430, but only 5/5 as one E/W got caught in 1♥ doubled for -800 while one declarer scored +460.

On Board 18 North (at red) was looking at ▲ J84 ♥ 9865 ◆ 972 ♣ A75. East opened 3♥ and partner doubled.

Your move? Nothing obvious springs to mind, so North (in common with the action at three other tables) decided to pass. Partner held ★ AKQ2 ♥ 104 ♦ A10 ♣ K10842 and declarer ♠ – ♥ AQJ732 ♦ 86543 ♣ Q6. Declare ruffed the spade lead and played a diamond. South took it with the ace and returned a diamond, a soft defence that gave declarer an easy route to nine tricks and 2/10 (two others recorded +530). But if South had played a second spade declarer would have been struggling to take more than eight tricks.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

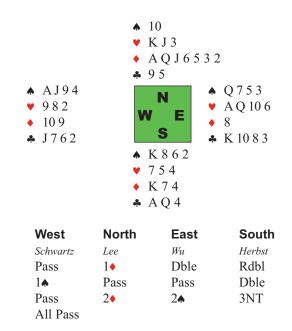


West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Lee	Lall	Multon
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Offered a choice of two suits, East introduced his own, which looks reasonable, but when West bid 3NT he stood his ground rather than bid 4.

South led the four of hearts and declarer won perforce with dummy's king and played a spade. North took the ace and decided to switch to the three of clubs, turning a top into a bottom; 1/9.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.



West led the nine of hearts and East took the jack with the queen and switched to the seven of spades. When declarer put up the king West won and returned the eight of hearts, so the defenders had soon amassed the first eight tricks; -200 and 1/9.

Would West have led the nine of hearts against 3NT if South had bid it immediately? We will never know, but 3NT was made four times, once with an overtrick, the leads being the 4 (+430) the 9 and the 7 (twice).

Absolute Zero Open Individual Session 2 by Mark Horton

It was pretty cold in Beijing last night but still a long way short of absolute zero, which is the lower limit of the thermodynamic temperature scale, a state at which the enthalpy and entropy of a cooled ideal gas reaches its minimum value, taken as 0. The theoretical temperature is determined by extrapolating the ideal gas law; by international agreement, absolute zero is taken as -273.15 on the Celsius scale.

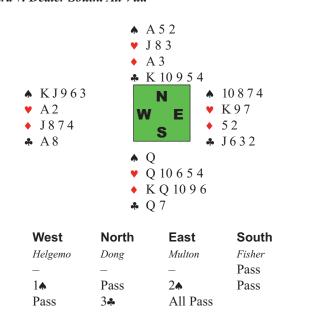
It is much easier to record an absolute zero at the bridge

The state of the s

Geir Helgemo (Monaco)

table, as you will see from my review of the second session of the Open Individual.

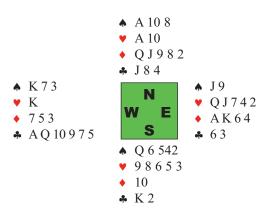
Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.



N/S do very well in hearts, so playing in 34 was not a triumph. Could South have risked a bid on the second round? Would it have made a difference?

East led the ten of spades and declarer took West's king with the ace, ruffed a spade, played a diamond to the ace, and then two more diamonds pitching a spade. East ruffed and played the king of hearts and a heart, West winning and playing a diamond. There was no way to avoid two down now, and -200 was 0/10.

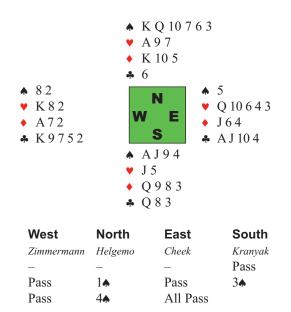
Board 10. Dealer East, All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Ju	Fantoni	Herbst	Bertens
_	_	1♥	Pass
2*	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

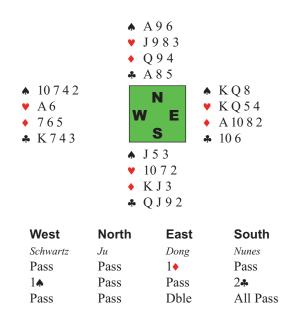
South led the four of spades and when North put in the ten (I would say it is near impossible for North to find the winning defence of rising with the ace and switching to diamonds) declarer won with the jack and played a club to the ten and jack. North cashed the ace of hearts and exited with a heart and declarer won, cashed another heart and played a club for the king and ace. Now cashing the clubs squeezed North in spades and diamonds for eleven tricks; +660 and 0/10.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.



East led the four of hearts for the five, king and ace and declarer drew trumps and played a heart to East's queen. The four of diamonds was taken by West's ace and he innocently returned a diamond so declarer could dispose of his losing club for a valuable overtrick, +650 and 10/0.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

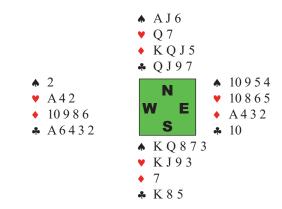


E/W probably won't make 1NT, whereas in theory they can take eight tricks in spades. A player brought up on Acol would raise 1 to 2 to 1, but that is not de rigueur in the land of the five-card major. When South reopened East elected to double rather than bid 2 to which should have put his side on the road to a top.

West led the five of diamonds (a spade is the killer, probably leading to two down) and East put in the eight, declarer winning with the jack and playing a heart. East won with king and switched to the king of spades. Declarer won with dummy's ace and played a diamond, East taking the ace, cashing the queen of spades and exiting with the eight to declarer's jack. The queen of clubs took the next trick and declarer exited with a heart to West's ace.

When West exited with a spade rather than a low club declarer pitched a heart from dummy and when East ruffed with the ten of clubs he over-ruffed and exited with a heart. West had to lead a club and declarer was home with ± 180 and ± 100 .

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Schwartz	Ju	Dong	Nunes
_	1NT	Pass	2*
Pass	2•	Pass	3 ♥ (i)
Pass	3♠	Pass	4
All Pass			

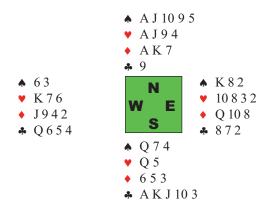
(i) 4♥ and 5♠, forcing

East led his club and the defenders quickly wrapped up the first five tricks: \clubsuit A, club ruff, \blacklozenge A, \blacktriangledown A and another club ruff. With the rest of the field taking ten or eleven tricks in 3NT, -200 was 0/10.

On Board 22 E/W held ★ A643 ♥ A943 ★ KQJ87 ♣opposite ★ K72 ♥ KJ8 ★ A103 ♣ QJ106

Only one pair attempted 6♦, which delivered all thirteen tricks (South had ♠ QJ95 ♥ 652 ♦ 52 ♣ AK52) for a maximum.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Birman	Schwartz	Helgemo	Helness
_	_	_	1.
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2• (i)	Pass	2♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦ (ii)
Pass	5♥	Pass	6 ♣ (iii)
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

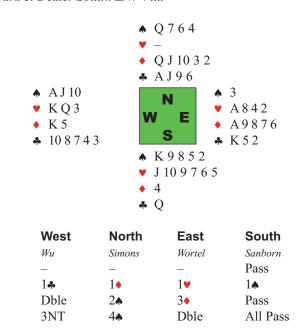
- (i) Forcing relay
- (ii) One key card
- (iii) ♣ K and ♠ Q

East led the three of hearts and declarer won with the nine, cashed dummy's top clubs pitching a diamond, ran the queen of hearts, played a spade to the jack, ruffed the jack of hearts with the queen of spades and played a spade to the ten and king. When East played the eight of hearts declarer must have feared he had been the victim of another Helgemo brilliancy, but West's discard meant he could claim for +1430 and 9/1.

Women's Individual 2

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. Pairs winner, Marion Michielsen of the Netherlands was close behind in ffth and it would be no surprise if her challenge were to grow as the second session unfolded.

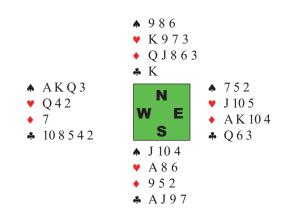
Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



Wu/Wortel bid to a thin 3NT which was unlikely to get close to making on this lay-out but they were not allowed to play there as Anneke Simons took the favourable vulnerability save in 44 doubled.

Kerri Sanborn ruffed the lead of the king of hearts and led the queen of diamonds round to Wu's king. Back came a club, Sanborn putting up the ace and leading the jack of diamonds to the ace and ruff. Next Sanborn led the heart jack, throwing a diamond from dummy when Wu followed low. Meike Wortel won the ace and returned a diamond. Sanborn discarded a heart, while threw a club. There were two trumps to be lost for down one and -100, giving N/S 2 MPs out of 10.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

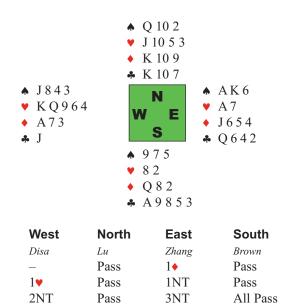


West	North	East	South
Disa	Lu	Zhang	Brown
1.	1♦	1NT	2♦
3♣	Pass	3NT	Dble
4 •	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Disa (Hjordis Eythorsdottir) assumed that her partner's 1Nt bid would deliver some club support as it presumably denied a major, so judged to compete to 3. despite her minimum opening. However, Yu Zhang took 3. to show extra values and tried 3NT. When that got doubled, Disa had a pretty good idea that it would not be a success and ran to 4. doubled even more happily by Fiona Brown.

Yan Lu led the queen of diamonds. Disa won the ace an dplayed a low club off the table, losing to the bare king. The defence played three rounds of hearts now so disa won the third round in dummy and cashed the king of diamonds for a spade discard then played the queen of clubs. She had three more trump losers so was down three for –800 and a predictable zero matchpoints.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



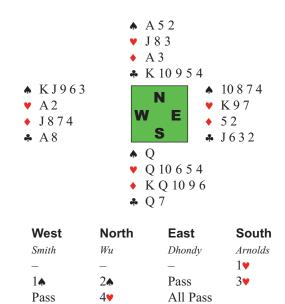
Zhang/Disa followed a natural and invitational auction to 3NT but the contract was down before Zhang even got on

J_{SBF}

lead. Brown led her fourth-best club to the jack and king and the ten of clubs continuation allowed the defence to pick up five tricks in the suit.

Zhang committed herself to hearts, pitching spades and diamonds from dummy, so brown switched to a diamond after cashing the clubs and Zhang found that she had only six tricks for down three, –150, and another complete top for N/S.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

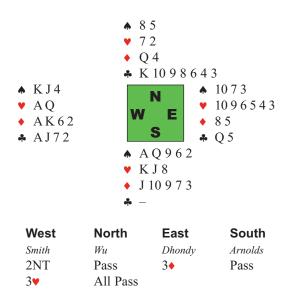


Carla Arnolds opened the South hand at the one level and her partner drove to game via a constructive-raise cuebid.

Nicola Smith led a low diamond, which sorted that suit out for declarer as it ran around to her ten. Arnolds played a heart to the jack and king and now Heather Dhondy erred by switching to a spade. Arnolds won the ace and played a second heart and soon had ten tricks for +620 and 9 MPs.

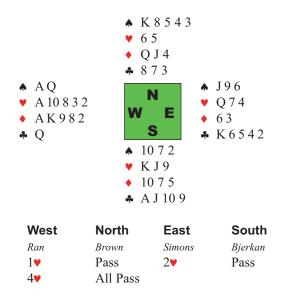
Had Dhondy returned her remaining diamond at trick three, Smith would have won the next round of trumps and could have led a third diamond for Dhondy to overruff the dummy for down one.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.



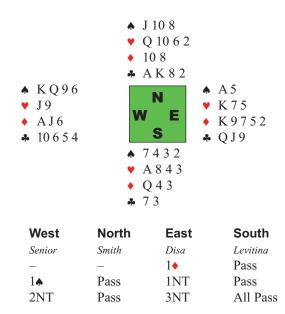
Dhondy transferred to hearts then past Smith's completion. Wu led the eight of spades to Arnolds' ace and back came a second spade. Smith put in the jack, played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing, and took the heart finesse. She had to lose one heart and one club so had ten tricks for +170 and 7 MPs. One E/W pair bid and made game.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



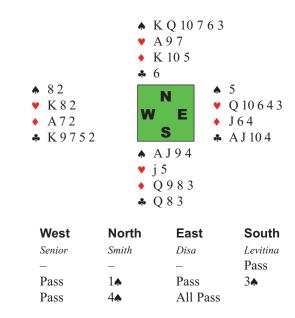
A straightforward auction saw Ran declare 4 an the lead of the queen of diamonds. She won and played the queen of clubs, rose with the ace on the spade return and played two more rounds of diamonds, ruffing in dummy. the queen of spades went away on the club winner and now a low heart for the nine and ten meant only one loser there so 11 tricks and +450, winning all the matchpoints.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.



Nevena Senior invited game and Disa accepted. Irina Levitina's club lead was not exactly dynamic, but it cost nothing. Smith won the king and returned a low club so Disa won, led a diamond to the jack and cashed out her ten tricks for +430 and 8 MPs. A heart lead would also have given the tenth trick.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

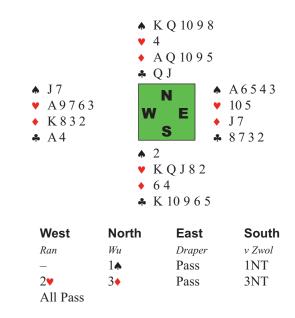


Another simple auction saw Smith declare a spade game which proved to be all about the diamond position.

Disa led a heart to the king, Smith ducking but winning the heart continuation and ruffing her last heart. She ducked a club round to the ten, ruffed the club ace return and crossed to dummy with a trump to lead the queen of clubs to the king and ruff.

Having drawn the last trump, she was ready to tackle diamonds. West had passed in second seat and shown up with $K \vee K$ – non-vulnerable, she might have opened her 11-count if holding both the diamond honours. East had shown $A \vee Q$, and if also holding a minor-suit jack plus the $A \vee A$ might have doubled the $A \vee A$ opening on her 11-count with a stiff spade. There were no guarantees, but the clues hinted at the actual diamond position and that is what Smith played for, leading the king of diamonds from hand then running the ten; ten tricks for +620 and 8 MPs.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

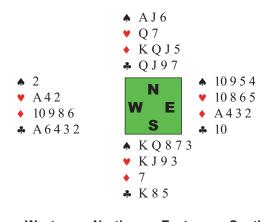


A regular partnership might know more about North's strength for the 3◆ rebid – if one plays double here to

show a good (semi)-balanced type, then 2Nt can be used as a kind of Lebensohl, showing a more competitive hand with a second suit, while a direct 3. / becomes stronger. In an Individual tournament, such methods are not available and sometimes 3. will be competitive and sometimes rather stronger. anyway, Wietske van Zwol didn't like either of her partner's and figured that she might as well play 3NT as provide partner with a disappointing dummy.

Ran led a low heart to the ten and queen and van Zwol playe don clubs, Ran winning the second round. She returned her low spade, not knowing who held the heart jack and not wishing to give declarer a free trick should she not have the jack. The king lost to the ace and Catherine Draper returned a heart to the king and ace. Now Ran knew the heart situation so switched to a low diamond. Van Zwol put in the queen and was charmed to see the jack of spades fall under the queen on the next trick. She cashed out the spade then exited with the ten of diamonds, just in case West held • KJxx. In practice, Draper won the jack and had to lead to declarer's two winners at trick twelve; +400 and 9 MPs.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



vvest	North	East	South
H. Wang	Senior	Brown	W. Wang
_	1NT	Pass	2.
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4.
Dble	Pass	Pass	4
All Pass			

Wenfei Wang showed a game-force with five spades and four hearts via a Smolen sequence. Senior agreed spades

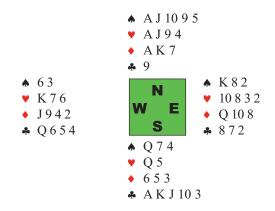
Fiona Brown (England)



and Wang made one slam try then gave up in game.

Brown led her singleton club and Hongli Wang won the ace and returned the six of clubs – high for a high side-suit – ruffed by Brown, who could have defeated the contract by following her partner's suit preference signal and returning a heart, when she would have got a second club ruff. No, Brown returned a trump. Senior drew trumps then cashed her club winners to get rid of dummy's diamond loser. Many a club player would now play the queen of hearts and go down when the ten did not fall in three rounds, but Senior instead followed the odds by leading low to the heart nine and had her contract for an excellent +620 and 8 MPs (one pair made an overtrick in 3NT).

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Michielsen	Smith	v Zwol	Brock
_	_	_	1.
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4
Pass	4NT	Pass	5
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

Marion MIchielsen was very much in the battle at the top of the standings going into this deal and its outcome did her no harm at all. Smith/Brock ar a regular partnership but, perhaps distracted by the lack of their usual methods, failed to get to the good slam. Plus 680 was worth 3 MPs to N/S, 7 to Michielsen.

The session ended with Michielsen in a tie for the lead with England's Catherine Draper. there were 21 boards to come in the third and final session the next day.

Top Gear Open Individual 3

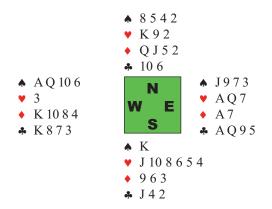
by Mark Horton

Top Gear is a British television series about motor vehicles, primarily cars, and is the most widely watched factual television programme in the world. It began in 1977 as a conventional motoring magazine programme. Over time, and especially since a relaunch in 2002, it has a quirky, humorous and sometimes controversial style. The programme is currently presented by Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May, and has featured three different test drivers known as The

When the last session started it was very likely that the medals lay between Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness and Ilan

The question was which of them would take the chequered flag.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Padon	Shi	Cheek	Dong
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
4	All Pass		

That seemed quite a bad miss – once West bid 4♥ I expected East to take another bid with every suit controlled as well as the certainty that the heart king was onside.

llan Herbst (Israel)



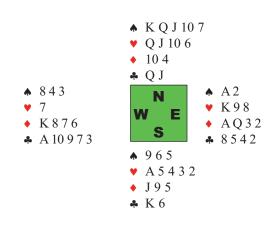
Thirteen tricks were trivial, but only one pair bid the slam, so +710 was 6/4.

On Board 5 NS held ♠ KQ ♥ 104 ♦ K76 ♣ AKQJ97 opposite ♠ J1093 ♥ Q98 ♦ AQ!03 ♣ 43.

Everyone was in 3NT, sometimes by North, sometimes by South.

West held ♠ A876 ♥ AK532 ♠ 5 ♣ 1085 so the way to the matchpoints was to get three tricks. When West led a low heart declarer was +660 for 8/2.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

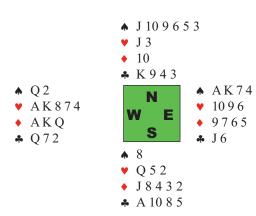


West	North	East	South
Zhuang	Helness	Dong	Fantoni
Pass	1♠	Dble	2♠
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♠
Dble	All Pass		

East led the two of clubs and West took the ace and switched to the seven of hearts for the queen, king and ace. A spade went to the king and ace and West ruffed the return of the nine of hearts, played a diamond to East's queen, ruffed the heart return and played a diamond, two down, -300 and a dreadful 9/1 for the leader.

On Board 9 Helness was declarer in 4♥ with ♠ K6 ♥ Q9765 ♦ KQ10 ♣ K86 facing ♠ 5 ♥ AJ1084 ♦ A754 ♣ J72. He did not take the trump finesse and with East holding ★ A109743 ♥ K2 ◆ J93 ♣ Q9 scoring only +420 was worth only 2/8.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

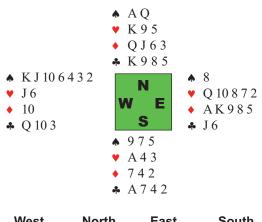


West	North	East	South
Multon	Padon	Fantoni	Helgemo
_	_	_	Pass
2NT	Pass	3 .	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led the three of clubs and South won and returned a club, North winning and exiting with a club. Declarer had nine tricks, +400.

At every other table North led the jack of spades and declarer took ten tricks, so Helgemo had a top, 10/0 and took the lead.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

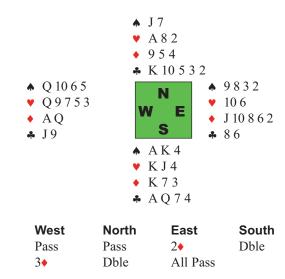


West	North	East	South
Herbst. O	Zhuang	Helgemo	Ju
_	_	_	Pass
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

North stretched to 3NT and East led his spade, declarer winning with the queen, playing a club to the ace and a diamond to the queen and ace. East exited with a club and declarer won with the king and returned a club. West won and played a spade and declarer won and cashed his club. East, down to red cards could not prevent declarer from collecting an eighth trick, so only one down for –100 and another top; 0/10 for the leader.



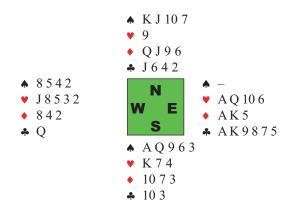
Board 16. Dealer West, E/W Vul.



East's suicide mission was a complete success.

South cashed the ace of spades and North followed with the jack. For reasons that are far from clear at no point did South consider the possibility of giving his partner a spade ruff, so declarer 'escaped' (if that is the right word) for only -800, - still 10/0.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Dong	Herbst. O	Zimmermann	Schwartz
_	Pass	1.	1♠
Pass	2 . (i)	2♠ (ii)	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

- (i) Spade support
- (ii) Take-out

Three pairs bid this excellent slam, so +480 was a miserable 8/2.

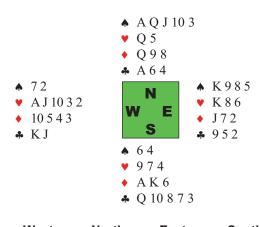
If East had bid 3♠ rather than 4♥ West might have bid 4♣ when East can surely ensure the bidding does not stop short of 6♥?

As you may have guessed it was Top Geir who cruised to victory.

Women's Individual Session 3

Going into the last 21-board session of the Individual championship, England's Catherine Draper and Marion Michielsen of the Netherlands were tied at the top of the rankings. A number of other players were still well in touch, however.

Board 3. Dealer South, E/W Vul.



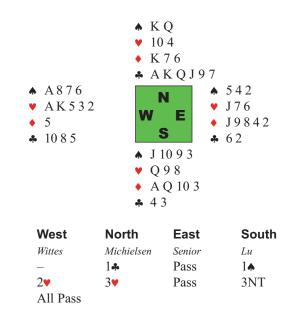
West	North	East	South
Pasman	H. Wang	Ran	Wortel
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The simplest of auctions saw Hongli Wang declare everybody's favourite contract. Ran led the five of spades round to the seven and jack. Wang played ace and another club, being delighted to see the fall of the jack on the first round. It was open to the defence to cash five heart tricks now for down two, but Jet Pasman returned her partner's spade suit and Wang grabbed the ace and cashed out for +400 and the only plus score in the N/S line.

Marion Michielsen (Netherlands)



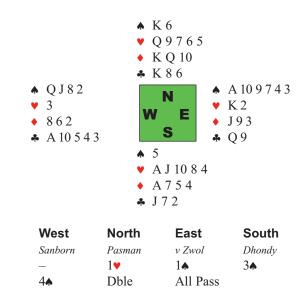
Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



Looking at a running six-card suit and stoppers in the other side suits, Michielsen cuebid to ask Yan Lu if she could bid no trump. Looking at a heart stopper, of sorts, Lu could indeed bid 3NT. Pam Wittes led the king of hearts, getting the six from Nevena Senior. Cashing out would have held the contract to ten tricks and earned Wittes 5 MPs. Hoping to beat the contract, however, she continued with a low heart and Lu had eleven tricks and Wittes only 1 MP.

This is the type of board which is far more difficult at matchpoints than at teams scoring. In the latter form of the game one is willing to risk an overtrick in hope of beating an opposing game contract, while at matchpoints that overtrick could cost a lot of points.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

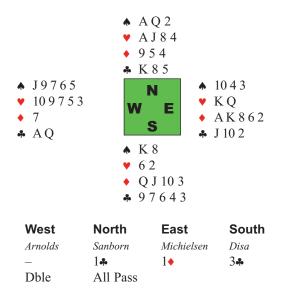


Heather Dhondy showed a strong raise in hearts by cuebidding her opponents' suit and now Kerri Sanborn bid

on to 4.4 on the West cards, figuring that, with the opposition having a heart fit, even if 4.4 went down it might prove to be a good save against a heart game. Not fancying the five level with her minimum opening and wasted spade value, Pasman doubled.

Dhondy cashed the ace of hearts then switched to a low diamond and the defence collected three of those. there was still a club to come so the contract was down two for –500 and only 1 MP to E/W.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.



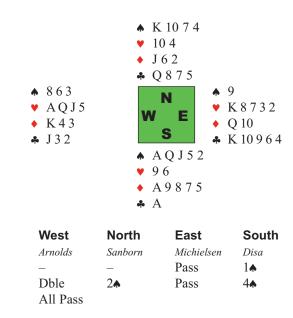
When Disa made a pre-emptive raise of partner's better minor 1* opening, Carla Arnolds made a competitive double and Michielsen, with no extra length in any other suit, judged that her best chance of a good score was to play for a penalty, and right she was.

Michielsen led the king of hearts but Sanborn won and played three rounds of spades to get rid of dummy's heart loser. Now, however, she was in the wrong hand to lead towards the club king but played the suit anyway, Arnolds winning the queen. Three rounds of diamonds saw Arnolds ruff with the ace of trumps and Michielsen still had a trump trick for down one; –200 and a top for E/W.





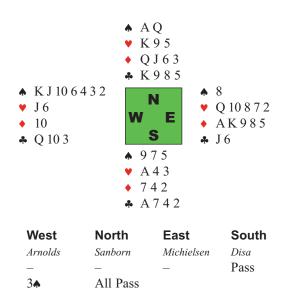
Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.



What is your style with the South hand – bash game and leave the defence in the dark about your hand, or make a game try of 3., enlisting partner's opinion but giving away information to the opposition? Disa was one of three Souths to take the former approach, jumping to 4., while the other Souths made a game try and stopped in 3.

Disa won the trump lead and drew a second round then ducked a diamond. The defence cashed its heart winners and there was a second diamond to be lost; down one for -50 and 2 MPs. One declarer made 11 tricks – don't ask me how – but she was in partscore.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

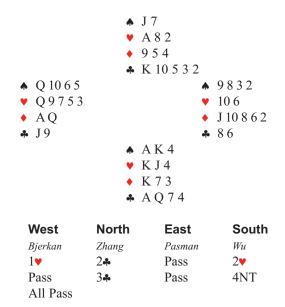


And, having asked about you style on the previous deal, what about this one? Would you pass with the North hand or would you overcall 3NT? This is not the simplest of decisions. If you bid, you will often turn a plus into a minus when partner has just enough to help you to defeat 3 , but not sufficient to allow you to make 3NT. Against that, you have a strong suspicion that, as on the actual deal, if you don't come in neither will partner, and an easy game could be missed.

Perhaps this is another of those situations which is different at the two forms of scoring. You would be more inclined to overcall 3NT at teams, where the size of any swing is important, where at pairs you might be inclined to pass because now the frequency of the gain or loss is of more relevance.

Well, whatever the rights and wrongs of the matter, Sanborn passed, as did two other Norths. they all collected +50, while the three Norths to overcall 3NT collected +600. That was 2 MPs to the passers and 8 to the bidders.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



Yu Zhang made a truly disgusting two level overcall and was fortunate to get out alive facing such a b ig hand. No doubt Wu intended her jump to 4NT as asking for key cards, but Zhang grabbed the opportunity to pass and everything was OK for her side.

Cheri Bjerkan led a spade so Zhang put up dummy's jack and rattled off the clubs. As Bjerkan was covering all three suits, she first gave up her spades and Wu could afford to cash the ace and king. Down to three hearts and two diamonds, Bjerkan could be thrown in with the third round of hearts to concede a trick to the king of diamonds and that was 11 tricks and +460, giving 7 MPs to the Chinese pair.

The session turned into a tussle between Michielsen and three English players – Draper, Smith and Dhondy – but with one result to come in from the final table, it seemed that Michielsen was ahead by just 1 MP. Then that result did come in and she was 1 MP behind.

Nicola Smith was the gold medalist, ahead of Michielsen and Draper, with Dhondy fourth.

The tournament had provided several gripping finishes – this last result swing, the last result in the Women's Teams final also changing the winner, and a tie for gold in the Open Pairs and for silver in the Open Individual – making this one of the most exciting tournaments on record.