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US DOUBLE



The always smiling team of volunteers assisting in the bridge event.

Monday's finalists are Netherlands and USA in the Men, and USA and Great Britain in the Women. Going into the last qualifying round, Netherlands had already qualified for the final and it was a shoot-out between USA and China, who were playing each other, with USA having a single VP advantage at the start of the match. USA managed a narrow win, 54-38 VPs, so our hosts were out and will contest the bronze medal with Norway

It was the same story in the Women, where USA were assured of a place in the final while France and Great Britain played each other to decide who would meet them. Great Britain had a useful but not overwhelming advantage

going into the match and in the end qualified comfortably, gaining a solid win in the match. France will play China in the bronze medal play-off.

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RESULTS

MEN SERIES

ROUND 4

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs
1	NETHERLANDS	CHINA	28-14
2	UNITED STATES	NORWAY	58-31

ROUND 5

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs
1	UNITED STATES	NETHERLANDS	18-33
2	NORWAY	CHINA	39-16

ROUND 6

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs
1	NORWAY	NETHERLANDS	39-37
2	CHINA	UNITED STATES	20-28

WOMEN SERIES

ROUND 4

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs
11	FRANCE	UNITED STATES	21-35
12	CHINA	GREAT BRITAIN	7-44

ROUND 5

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs
11	GREAT BRITAIN	UNITED STATES	27-7
12	FRANCE	CHINA	33-27

ROUND 6

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs
11	UNITED STATES	CHINA	44-37
12	GREAT BRITAIN	FRANCE	47-18

Rankings after Round Robin phase

MEN SERIES

1	NETHERLANDS	419
2	UNITED STATES	255
3	CHINA	238
4	NORWAY	186

WOMEN SERIES

1	UNITED STATES	363
2	GREAT BRITAIN	344
3	FRANCE	234
4	CHINA	163

Other Sports in the Sport Accord World Mind Games

On the official website of the Sport Accord World Mind Games, <http://www.worldmindgames.net/en/>, you can also find information about the other sports participating in this event, along with photos and other relevant material.

WOMEN SERIES

Round 4



France

v

United States



The top two in the overall standings met in Round 4, the first match of the second round robin. USA led by 5-1 IMPs after four deals. This was the first significant swing:

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Neve	Levitina	Gaviard
—	1♣	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♠	Dble
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Willard	Sokolow	Cronier	Molson
—	1♣	Pass	1♥
1♠	Dble	2♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

The big difference between the two auctions was created largely by systemic considerations. At her second turn it was a matter of system that Tobi Sokolow had to make a support double, showing three hearts, with the North cards. That added momentum to the auction as now Janice Molson had an easy 4♥ bid as South and West, Sylvie Willard, was rather bullied into bidding 4♠, which Molson doubled.

Sokolow led a heart, which Molson won with the ace. She switched to ace and another club and the defence had its five tricks for -300.

At the other table, Joanna Neve was not playing support doubles so passed as a double would instead have shown extra values. Now Daniele Gaviard could not jump to 4♥, of course, and instead doubled. Kerri Sanborn's 3♠ reaise shut Neve out for now but it also meant that Sanborn had done all her bidding for the deal. When Gaviard made a second double and Neve, of course, finally admitted to heart support, neither American player felt that they should bid 4♠.

Sanborn led the ace of spades, Irina Levitina dropping the queen, promising the jack. Sanborn duly underled her spades to Levitina's jack and back came the five of diamonds to the nine and ace. Gaviard drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and queen, planning on a three-two split to try to ruff out the queen of clubs then cross to the heart king to cash the established winners. The four-one break put paid to Plan A, but Gaviard had a Plan B in reserve. She cashed the heart king also, crossed to the ace of clubs and drew the last trump, then took the club finesse and had the remainder; eleven tricks for +650 and 8 IMPs to France, in the lead at 9-5 IMPs.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Neve	Levitina	Gaviard
1♠	2♦	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Willard	Sokolow	Cronier	Molson
1♠	2♦	2♥	4♦
Pass	Pass	5♣	All Pass

The place to play this one is 6♣, as declarer will usually be able to overcome the loss of a club trick in that contract. It isn't easy to get to the club slam, however, as evidenced by the results in our featured match.

After the heart overcall, Benedicte Cronier, for France, chose to focus initially on her major, bidding hearts ahead of the longer and stronger club suit. However, when Molson raised diamonds pre-emptively and that came back to her, Cronier now introduced the clubs. It was impossible from here to consider the slam, of course, and France scored +440 after a diamond lead.

In the other room, Levitina started by bidding clubs and that permitted the American E/W pair to explore slam. Sanborn stressed her excellent spade suit despite the club fit but Levitina was willing to cuebid diamonds twice, happy with her spade support. Sanborn herself, however, was only prepared to cuebid hearts once and, when she signed off in 5♠, Levitina, who did not know about the club fit, felt that she had done all that she could.

Neve led a deceptive four of clubs against 5♠. Sanborn rose with the ace then gave up a club to establish the suit, and that was twelve tricks for +480 and 1 IMP to USA, trailing by 7-10 IMPs at the midpoint of the match.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Neve	Levitina	Gaviard
–	Pass	Pass	1♥
1NT	2♦	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Willard	Sokolow	Cronier	Molson
–	Pass	Pass	1♥
1NT	Pass	2♥	Dble
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Neve's 2♦ bid showed a heart raise and Levitina used Texas, 4♥ demanding 4♠. In the other room, Sokolow did not raise hearts and Cronier transferred at the two level, Molson doubling for take-out of spades, then just invited game, Willard accepting.

It was all about the opening lead. Neve looked no further than the one suit shown by her partner, selecting the two of hearts. Sanborn won the bare ace in dummy, crossed to the ace of diamonds, and played winning hearts to pitch dummy's club losers. She then cashed the ace of spades followed by the last heart for a diamond pitch and just lost a diamond and two trump tricks; +620.

Molson had suggested values outside her bid suit by doubling the transfer and Sokolow found the excellent lead of the nine of clubs. Molson took two club winners and switched to a diamond. Though the diamond loser went away on the hearts, there were two inescapable spade losers so the contract was one down for –100 and 12 IMPs to USA, ahead at this point by 19-10.

Board 28. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Neve	Levitina	Gaviard
2♠	3♦	4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Willard	Sokolow	Cronier	Molson
Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass
2♠	3♦	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Sanborn's weak 2♠ opener, not worrying about the four-card heart suit on the side, made for a short and sweet auction in the Open Room, as Levitina simply raised to game after Neve's overcall. Neve led the ace of diamonds then switched to the ace of clubs and Sanborn claimed eleven tricks for a quick and painless +450.

It is not really the French style to open off-centre weak two bids and four cards in the other major made Willard pass. She bid 2♠, however, at her next turn, showing both spades and heart support. Cronier cuebid and Willard signed off. However, there had been some miscommunication as Cronier now went on with RKC and took the one-key-card response as showing a key-card for hearts, while Willard was assuming spades to be trumps. Molson's diamond lead made it easy for Sokolow to take the first two tricks and the slam was one down for –50 and 11 IMPs to USA, stretching the lead to 30-10.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Neve	Levitina	Gaviard
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	3♥	Dble	4♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Willard	Sokolow	Cronier	Molson
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	2♦	2♥
3♦	3♥	Dble	Pass
4♦	All Pass		

Facing a passed partner, Neve made a heavy 3♥ pre-empt and Gaviard raised her to game. At the other table, Sokolow made a simple overcall then, when she collected a raise from Molson, competed with 3♥ over 3♦, not really imagining that game could be a good prospect with six losers to be covered by a hand that could only raise to 2♥. Cronier doubled 3♥ to show a maximum for her initial pass and Willard went back to 4♦, ending the auction.

Molson led a heart against 4♦. Sokolow won a deceptive

king and switched to a low spade for the ten and ace. Cronier won the spade continuation with dummy's queen and played the jack then ten of diamonds, both ducked. She continued with a spade to the king and ruffed her heart loser. A club to hand was followed by the king of diamonds and Molson could only make the ace; ten tricks for +130.

It appears that 4♥ has no chance of success, declarer having to lose two clubs and two spades. Levitina led the queen of clubs and, when that was allowed to hold the trick, switched to the nine of spades, zero or two higher. Sanborn cashed the king of clubs then switched to the jack of diamonds. Neve won the ace and ruffed a diamond, cashed the ace and king of hearts and led the heart two to dummy's five. That allowed her to ruff another diamond, leaving only Levitina to guard the suit. Now came the remaining trumps and Levitina was positionally squeezed. She had to keep the diamond guard so, at trick eleven, away went dummy's diamond. Now a low spade dropped the king and Neve had made her impossible game, the jack of spades winning the last trick; +420 and 11 IMPs to France.

That board helped France to hold the loss in the match to 14 IMPs, 21-35, or 32-60 VPs.

Devious Dutchman

For me, the hand of the first day was this one, on which the Netherlands picked up a big swing against USA in the Men series. Note that, as in the Olympic Games, we have Men and Women here, not Open and Women. The parallel with the Olympic regulations also explains why the English Women's team is playing here under the banner of Great Britain.

Round 3. Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Rosenberg	van Prooijen	Willenken
—	Pass	Pass	INT
3♥	Dble	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the other room, Muller/de Wijs for the Netherlands were able to find their five-three spade fit after a 1♦ opening from North and played 4♠, making twelve tricks after a heart lead, for +480.

Here, Michael Rosenberg did not open as North but he made a take-out double of the 3♥ overcall then, having game values but fewer than four spades, went on with 3NT

over Chris Willenken's 3♠. No doubt Willenken suspected that there might be a five-three fit but he could not be certain and he did have two heart honours, so he passed.

Louk Verhees led the queen of hearts, looking for an unblock and, when Ricco van Prooijen followed with the six and Willenken ducked, switched to the nine of clubs, denying any interest in clubs. Willenken thought that the biggest danger to his contract was that East would win this trick and clear the hearts while West had an entry with the king of spades, so he rose with the club king in hope that the ace was on his left.

Van Prooijen won the ace of clubs and returned his remaining heart, Willenken winning the ace. Now he ran the diamonds. Willenken could see a way home if East held three spades and five clubs, as on the actual deal, or perhaps four-four in the black suits. In either case there was the prospect of an endplay which would not require the actual lucky lay-out of the spade suit.

On the fourth diamond, van Prooijen pitched the two of clubs and Willenken the four of spades. On the last diamond, van Prooijen threw the five of spades. This made it look as though he had begun life with four-four in the black suits. After all, who throws a spade from king to three in this situation? Taken in by the spade discard, Willenken led a spade to the jack, seeing the nine drop on his left, then exited with the jack of clubs, hoping to see East win a couple of club tricks then be forced to lead away from the king of spades at trick twelve.

That was a nicely thought out line of play but it had one fatal flaw, van Prooijen had three clubs to cash, not two, and the king of spades was bare. A very thoughtful defence from Ricco van Prooijen and fully deserving of the 11 IMPs it earned for his team.

The Netherlands won the match by 68-30 IMPs, 84-8 VPs.

Double Dutch

The Netherlands earned two game swings in its fifth round match against USA – each Dutch pair had a board on which they made a vulnerable 4♠ while their teammates defeated the same contract at the other table.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

		♠ 8			♠ A 10 9
		♥ Q 5 4 3			♥ 10 7 2
		♦ 9 6 2			♦ K Q J 10
		♣ A 9 6 4 3			♣ Q 8 2
♠ J 6 5 4 3 2	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K Q 7			
♥ K J 8		♥ A 9 6			
♦ A		♦ 8 7 5 4 3			
♣ K J 7		♣ 10 5			
West	North	East	South		
Gitelman	Drijver	Moss	Brink		
–	Pass	1♦	Pass		
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass		
2♦(i)	Pass	2NT	Pass		
4♠	All Pass				

(i) GF Enquiry

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Rosenberg	van Prooijen	Willenken
–	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣(i)	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥(ii)	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

(i) Artificial GF; (ii) Transfer

The contract was reached from different seats due to the artificial Dutch methods. On lead with the South cards, nothing looked particularly appealing to Chris Willenken and he chose the passive lead of the eight of diamonds, with some small hope that his partner might get a ruff as there had been a natural 1♦ opening on his right and he also held five cards in the suit. Ricco van Prooijen won the ace of diamonds and crossed to the ace of spades to play three winning diamonds, pitching all three hearts from dummy. It would not have mattered if the fourth diamond had been ruffed as that would have been with a trump honour. Van Prooijen just lost two trumps and the ace of clubs; +620.

On lead with the North cards, Bas Drijver had a rather more attractive option in a low heart. Sjoert Brink won the ace and continued hearts, not that it mattered any more – once the heart is cashed there is no escape for declarer. Fred Gitelman rose with the king of hearts, cashed the ace of diamonds, then crossed to the ace of spades to take a heart pitch on the king of diamonds. He tried to split the trumps next and, when they failed to oblige, was one down for –100 and 12 IMPs to Netherlands.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

		♠ A K Q J 10 6 5 2			♠ 9 7
		♥ 9 6			♥ Q J 5 4
		♦ –			♦ 10 4
		♣ K 8 7			♣ A Q 9 6 2
♠ 4 3	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 8			
♥ K 7 2		♥ A 10 8 3			
♦ A Q 7 5 3 2		♦ K J 9 8 6			
♣ 10 4		♣ J 5 3			

West	North	East	South
Gitelman	Drijver	Moss	Brink
–	–	–	Pass
2♦	4♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Verhees	Rosenberg	van Prooijen	Willenken
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Gitelman opened with a perfectly good example of a weak two in diamonds and Drijver overcalled 4♠, where he played. On this auction the natural opening lead was the ten of diamonds. That was covered by jack and queen and ruffed by declarer. Drijver drew trumps, pitching a diamond from dummy. His main chance was to lead up to first the king of clubs then the jack, making if either ace or queen was onside. However, it could not hurt to attempt to enlist the defence's aid, just in case. Drijver next led the six of hearts to the eight and king. If Gitelman had returned a heart, no harm would have been done, with the main chance still waiting to be played for. But Gitelman actually switched to the ten of clubs and now there was a sure club winner simply by playing low to this trick; +620.

In the other room, Verhees did not have the option of opening 2♦. When he passed and Michael Rosenberg opened 4♠, van Prooijen had a blind lead. The most promising line of attack appeared to be in hearts so van Prooijen kicked off with the queen of that suit. Rosenberg won the ace as Louk Verhees encouraged. Now the dummy entry had been taken away before trumps had been drawn. If Rosenberg wanted to take both his shots in the club suit it was now or never. He led a club to the king and ace. Van Prooijen led a low heart to the king and Verhees promptly reverted to clubs, collecting his ruff a few seconds later for down one; –100 and another 12 IMPs to Netherlands.

Of course, Rosenberg could have made his game by relying on the queen of clubs to be on his left, when he can afford to lead twice from hand, but the risk of a ruff looks worth taking to retain both chances of ace or queen being onside. Unlucky.

Netherlands won the match by 33-18 IMPs, or 61-31 VPs.

USA Men Take Second Final Spot

Going into the sixth and final round of Men's qualifying, USA led China by a single VP in the battle to join Netherlands in the final.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>H. Shi</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Lian</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Hou</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>M. Shi</i>	<i>Sontag</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Both E/W pairs reached 4♥ but from different sides of the table. The Chinese Precision auction saw it declared from the natural hand, the one with five cards in the trump suit, while the Americans played it from the short side after Brad Moss had shown five plus hearts via a 2♦ bid at his second turn, asking partner to bid 2♥ with two or three of the suit – Gitelman was happy to play game facing five hearts so bid it.

Haojun Shi led the seven of clubs against Gitelman. Ruoyi Lian won and switched to a spade. Gitelman played three rounds of spades for a diamond discard, then the king of clubs for a second discard. He continued with a club ruff, tried the ten of diamonds off the table and, when that did not get covered, ruffed it. He played another club next and ruffed with the queen, Lian over-ruffing with the ace and returning a diamond, on which Gitelman pitched a spade. He won the heart return cheaply in hand and played a spade and could pick up North's trumps without loss so had ten tricks for +620.

Life was not very comfortable for Hou. On Alan Sontag's diamond lead he pitched a club from dummy and David Berkowitz won the ace. He returned a diamond to the ten, queen and ruff. When Hou next led a heart to the queen and bare ace, the contract was doomed. Sontag cashed the ace of clubs then led a diamond for Berkowitz to ruff for one down; –100 and 12 IMPs to USA.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>H. Shi</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Lian</i>
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Hou</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>M. Shi</i>	<i>Sontag</i>
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Moss opened with a strong no trump, 15-17, and Gitelman followed a Smolen sequence, showing game values with five hearts and four spades. With most of his strength in the minors, Moss chose to play 3NT rather than in the five-three heart fit. In the other room, the Chinese strong club auction found the five-three fit when West, Xu Hou showed a positive with five hearts then four spades, and Miao Shi put him in the heart game.

Moss received the lead of the nine of clubs, zero or two higher, in 3NT. He won the jack, cashed a top heart, noting the fall of the ten, and led a spade to his king then ducked a heart. He could now rise with the ace on Haojun Shi's diamond switch and cash three hearts and two clubs; nine tricks for +400.

Four Hearts was hard work for Hou and he was quickly defeated. Berkowitz led his singleton club and Hou ran it to the queen and promptly conceded a ruff as Sontag returned the suit. On Berkowitz's return of the jack of diamonds, Hou, who had a lot of losing spades to get rid of, finessed the queen and lost to the king, followed by a second club ruff. There was still the ace of spades to lose so the contract was down two for –100 and 11 IMPs to USA.

These two 4♥ failing contracts were the difference between Chinese qualification and not. Losing the match by 20-28 IMPs, 38-54 VPs, they finished up 17 VPs behind USA. With any swing between the two teams in direct competition for second counting double, had either game made, they would have finished second.