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# ALL TO PLAY FOR TOMORROW



*Live television broadcast during the pairs event.*

The Bridge Pairs Championships reached the half-way point on Tuesday with the twelve pairs in each series playing two 22-board sessions. The schedule is repeated on Wednesday.

Leading in the Men's series are China's Xu Hou & Miao Shi, on 59.32%, just ahead of Michael Rosenberg & Chris Willenken (USA) who have 59.14. Then there is a gap to the Dutch pairs, Bauke Muller & Simon de Wijs and Sjoert Brink & Bas Drijver.

In the Women, reigning World Women's Pairs champions, Lynn Deas & Beth Palmer of USA lead the way on 61.91%. That gives them a significant advantage going into the

second day as there is a gap of nearly 6% to second-placed Veronique Bessis & Catherine D'Ovidio of France. Close behind them are Heather Dhondy & Nevena Senior (GB), Benedicte Cronier & Sylvie Willard (France), and Xuefeng Feng & Yanhui Sun (China).

## Contents

Tournament Results .....	2
United States vs Netherlands (Men) .....	3
Women's Pairs – Session One .....	6
Fantastic Fred .....	9

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# RESULTS

## MEN SERIES

### SESSION 1

1	Michael ROSENBERG - Chris WILLENKEN	63.91
2	Xu HOU - Miao SHI	57.45
3	Sjoert BRINK - Bas DRIJVER	53.64
4	Bauke MULLER - Simon de WIJS	53.18
5	Fred GITELMAN - Brad MOSS	50.27
6	Glenn GROETHEIM - Ulf Haakon TUNDAL	50.18
7	Jie LI - Jing LIU	46.18
8	David BERKOWITZ - Alan SONTAG	45.64
8	Ricco van PROOIJEN - Louk VERHEES JR	45.64
10	Artur MALINOWSKI - Arild RASMUSSEN	44.82
11	Ruoyang LIAN - Haojun SHI	44.73
12	Thomas CHARLSEN - Thor Erik HOFTANISKA	44.36

### SESSION 2

1	Xu HOU - Miao SHI	61.18
2	Thomas CHARLSEN - Thor Erik HOFTANISKA	58.27
3	Bauke MULLER - Simon de WIJS	55.91
4	Michael ROSENBERG - Chris WILLENKEN	54.36
5	Ruoyang LIAN - Haojun SHI	51.64
6	David BERKOWITZ - Alan SONTAG	50.64
7	Sjoert BRINK - Bas DRIJVER	49.18
8	Jie LI - Jing LIU	47.73
9	Fred GITELMAN - Brad MOSS	46.09
10	Glenn GROETHEIM - Ulf Haakon TUNDAL	43.00
11	Artur MALINOWSKI - Arild RASMUSSEN	41.91
12	Ricco van PROOIJEN - Louk VERHEES JR	41.00

### AFTER 2 SESSIONS

1	Xu HOU - Miao SHI	59.32
2	Michael ROSENBERG - Chris WILLENKEN	59.14
3	Bauke MULLER - Simon de WIJS	54.55
4	Sjoert BRINK - Bas DRIJVER	51.41
5	Thomas CHARLSEN - Thor Erik HOFTANISKA	51.32
6	Fred GITELMAN - Brad MOSS	48.18
6	Ruoyang LIAN - Haojun SHI	48.18
8	David BERKOWITZ - Alan SONTAG	48.14
9	Jie LI - Jing LIU	46.95
10	Glenn GROETHEIM - Ulf Haakon TUNDAL	46.59
11	Artur MALINOWSKI - Arild RASMUSSEN	43.36
12	Ricco van PROOIJEN - Louk VERHEES JR	43.32

## WOMEN SERIES

### SESSION 1

1	Lynn DEAS - Beth PALMER	65.05
2	Veronique BESSIS - Catherine D'OVIDIO	59.36
3	Janice SEAMON-MOLSON - Tobi SOKOLOW	55.00
4	Ling GU - Yan LU	52.91
5	Xuefeng FENG - Yanhui SUN	52.73
6	Ming SUN - Hongli WANG	51.55
7	Benedicte CRONIER - Sylvie WILLARD	50.86
8	Daniele GAVIARD - Joanna NEVE	49.36
9	Heather DHONDY - Nevena SENIOR	48.18
10	Sally BROCK - Nicola SMITH	45.45
11	Irina LEVITINA - Kerri SANBORN	44.27
12	Fiona BROWN - Susan STOCKDALE	27.09

### SESSION 2

1	Heather DHONDY - Nevena SENIOR	62.09
2	Sally BROCK - Nicola SMITH	60.27
3	Lynn DEAS - Beth PALMER	58.77
4	Benedicte CRONIER - Sylvie WILLARD	58.09
5	Xuefeng FENG - Yanhui SUN	56.18
6	Daniele GAVIARD - Joanna NEVE	53.27
7	Veronique BESSIS - Catherine D'OVIDIO	52.68
8	Ming SUN - Hongli WANG	48.73
9	Irina LEVITINA - Kerri SANBORN	43.82
10	Ling GU - Yan LU	38.55
11	Janice SEAMON-MOLSON - Tobi SOKOLOW	35.91
12	Fiona BROWN - Susan STOCKDALE	33.18

### AFTER 2 SESSIONS

1	Lynn DEAS - Beth PALMER	61.91
2	Veronique BESSIS - Catherine D'OVIDIO	56.02
3	Heather DHONDY - Nevena SENIOR	55.14
4	Benedicte CRONIER - Sylvie WILLARD	54.48
5	Xuefeng FENG - Yanhui SUN	54.45
6	Sally BROCK - Nicola SMITH	52.86
7	Daniele GAVIARD - Joanna NEVE	51.32
8	Ming SUN - Hongli WANG	50.14
9	Ling GU - Yan LU	45.73
10	Janice SEAMON-MOLSON - Tobi SOKOLOW	45.45
11	Irina LEVITINA - Kerri SANBORN	44.05
12	Fiona BROWN - Susan STOCKDALE	30.14

## MEN FINAL

## 3rd Set



United States

v

Netherlands



Netherlands led USA by 112-52 going into the last set of the Men's final. It was asking a lot of the Americans for them to come back against the new Bermuda Bowl champions, whose form has been outstanding up to now in Beijing. Still, we could be certain that they would give it their best shot.

USA picked up 2 IMPs on overtricks on Board 33 and the next two boards were flat. If the Americans were hoping to mount a comeback, Board 36 must have seriously dampened those hopes.

Board 36. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Berkowitz	v Prooijen	Sontag
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Gitelman	de Wijs	Moss	Muller
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
INT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Ricco van Prooijen opened INT and was raised directly to game by Louk Verhees. True, the East hand can easily be bid by opening 1♣ planning to rebid 1♠, but van Prooijen liked the idea of the lead coming up to his two queen-doubletons, plus INT did show the all round strength of the hand. This proved to be a very winning decision.

Alan Sontag led the nine of diamonds round to van Prooijen's queen and declarer played on clubs, knocking out the ace. The defence in turn cleared the diamonds and van Prooijen cashed his nine winners for +600.

At the other table, Brad Moss opened a lead-inhibiting 1♦ and raised Fred Gitelman's INT response to 2NT. Gitelman had enough to go on to game but, played by West, Simon de Wijs's natural lead of a low heart through the queen swiftly put paid to the contract. The defence estab-

lished four heart winners to go with the two minor-suit aces and that meant two down for -200 and 13 IMPs to the Netherlands; 125-54.

Board 41. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Berkowitz	v Prooijen	Sontag
-	Pass	Pass	1♦
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Gitelman	de Wijs	Moss	Muller
-	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	1♠	2♥	2NT
4NT	5NT	Pass	6♦
6♥	7♦	Dble	All Pass

Verhees overcalled a heavy 4♥ and Sontag did well to reopen with a double on his shapely minimum. Verhees doubled 5♦ to show a strong 4♥ overcall and van Prooijen, who of course had a sure trump trick, judged to defend as he had no reason to imagine that there would be eleven tricks available in a heart contract. Right he was, as a trump lead or switch holds declarer to ten tricks in hearts.

There were two spades and a diamond to be lost in 5♦ doubled; down one for -100.

Gitelman overcalled only 1♥ and de Wijs bid 1♠ to show values but deny four spades. Moss considered ace-doubleton to be perfectly adequate support for partner's overcall and raised to 2♥ - I agree with him, what is wrong with a strong doubleton in support? Muller's 2NT was the way to launch a purely competitive bid in a minor, 3♣/♦ being stronger, and now Gitelman attempted to take control, asking about key cards. De Wijs bid 5NT to make the response as difficult as possible while also expressing a willingness to sacrifice. Muller converted to 6♦ and Gitelman



bid the heart slam, Moss's pass of 5NT suggesting willingness to continue. Thinking that his vulnerable opponents were about to make their slam, de Wijs went on to the seven level and now Moss doubled. There were the same three losers as at the other table and that was -500 and 9 IMPs to USA; 69-135.

Board 42. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Berkowitz	v Prooijen	Sontag
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Gitelman	de Wijs	Moss	Muller
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Dble	3NT	All Pass	

Berkowitz began with a forcing 1NT response and 2♠ set up a force, with Sontag completing the picture of his hand



Ricco van Prooijen, Netherlands

with a jump to 3NT. De Wijs began with a game-forcing relay of 1♠ then showed some heart support. Muller probed and de Wijs bid 3NT.

The crucial difference between the two auctions was that Gitelman had doubled 3♣ while Verhees had been silent throughout. The double persuaded Moss to lead his singleton club, covered by the queen and ducked. De Wijs could test the hearts then establish a second club trick for his overtrick; +630.

Left to himself, van Prooijen led the ten of spades to the king, and Verhees returned the suit to declarer's ace. Sontag took his best shot, finessing the heart ten. When that lost he was two down for -200 and 13 IMPs to Netherlands; 148-69.

Board 44. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Berkowitz	v Prooijen	Sontag
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Dble	5♣	6♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Gitelman	de Wijs	Moss	Muller
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Both Souths began with an artificial slam try of 4♣, asking for key cards and, with or without a double from West, North showed his solid suit with a response of 5♣. When van Prooijen now saved in 6♣, Sontag followed a pass then pull approach to invite the grand slam, while Muller simply settled for 6♠. Sontag, of course, was desperate for swings at this point in the set.

The double of 4♣ by Verhees meant that van Prooijen got off to the killing lead of a club. With the defensive club trick established, when the diamond finesse failed the slam was one down for -100.

In the other room, Moss had been given no clue to help with his opening lead. He chose his strongest holding, the queen of hearts, and now the contract was cold for +1430 and 17 IMPs to Netherlands; 168-69.

Board 45. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Berkowitz	v Prooijen	Sontag
—	Pass	Pass	2♣
Dble	3♥	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Gitelman	de Wijs	Moss	Muller
—	Pass	Pass	2♣
Dble	5♣	All Pass	

Both Souths opened 2♣, natural but limited, Precision style, and both Wests doubled for take-out. De Wijs leaped all the way to the club game, while Berkowitz preferred to make a fit jump, showing decent hearts plus club support, and leaving the decision to partner. Sontag might have bid game over this, I think. True, his hand is a minimum, but he does have an excellent heart holding plus extra distribution in the unbid suits. He saw things differently and settled for 4♣.

Verhees led two rounds of diamonds against Sontag, who ruffed the second round, drew trumps and played three rounds of hearts, ruffing. He was able to establish the fifth

heart for a spade discard and take two ruffs in the dummy; +150.

Gitelman too began with a top diamond but he cashed the ace of spades before playing a second diamond. It mattered not, as Muller followed the same line as Sontag to eleven tricks. Here, however, that meant +600 and 10 IMPs to Netherlands; 178-69.

Board 46. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Berkowitz	v Prooijen	Sontag
—	—	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Gitelman	de Wijs	Moss	Muller
—	—	3♠	Pass
4♠	5♣	Dble	All Pass

USA had been comprehensively outplayed in the final but we complete our coverage with a deal where Moss/Gitelman out-defended van Prooijen/Verhees.

Both tables reached the same contract of 5♣ doubled by North and both Easts led the jack of hearts, declarer playing low from the dummy. Verhees followed with the nine, Gitelman the ten.

Now van Prooijen switched to ace and another spade, hoping to give his partner a ruff. That established the queen of spades so Berkowitz could discard one of his heart losers after drawing trumps; down two for -300.

Moss switched to the two of spades, expecting his partner to hold the king. De Wijs put up the queen so Gitelman won the king. He cashed the king of hearts next just to confirm the situation, then switched to the queen of diamonds, knowing that the heart winners were not going to disappear anywhere. There were two more hearts to be lost so de Wijs was three down for -500 and 5 IMPs to USA.

Netherlands won by 178-76 IMPs and were the 2011 Sport Accord Mind Games champions.



Fred Gitelman, USA

## Women's Pairs – Session One

The Sport Accord World Mind Games Bridge Pairs Championships are being played over four sessions, in each of which each pair plays every other pair over two boards, making each session 22 boards long and the overall event 88 boards.

For Session One, we will concentrate on the Women's Pairs. Due to other duties, it was not possible to watch the entire session and, while the records show which pairs were playing at which table and in which direction on any given round, they do not show which player was in which seat, so my apologies for the incomplete information and for any errors when I put the players in the wrong seats.

You hear right-hand-opponent open a 15-17 no trump and her partner raise to 3NT via Stayman, opener denying a major. What is your choice of lead holding:

♠ K 7 6 2  
♥ Q 8 6 2  
♦ 8  
♣ A 8 5 3

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ Q 9 8 3 ♥ 10 9 5 4 ♦ A J 6 2 ♣ 2	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">W      E</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> </div>	♠ K 7 6 2 ♥ Q 8 6 2 ♦ 8 ♣ A 8 5 3	♠ 5 4 ♥ K 7 3 ♦ 10 9 4 ♣ K Q 10 6 4
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West	North	East	South
<i>Gaviard</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Neve</i>	<i>Senior</i>
–	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East chose the two of hearts, which was the unanimous selection of the four women in this position, or when INT was raised directly to game, and that cost a trick as it ran around to Heather Dhondy's jack. Dhondy led the seven of clubs to dummy's king then the four of diamonds, West rising with the ace and looking for a quick kill by returning the queen of spades, right if, for example, declarer has just king-to-three in the suit.

Dhondy won the ace and cashed the king of diamonds, seeing the four-one split. She switched her attention to clubs now and East grabbed her ace and played king and another spade, hoping to find partner with the jack. Dhondy had the rest now, +630 scoring 9 MPs out of a maximum of 10.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gaviard</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Neve</i>	<i>Senior</i>
–	–	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♣	3♠	4♦
4♣	5♦	All Pass	

The British pair completed a good round when they saved in 5♦ over the cold 4♣. Nevena Senior ruffed the lead of the ace of spades and conceded a heart. West returned a club to the jack and king and Senior ruffed a heart with the eight and led a diamond to the ten, losing to the bare king. That in itself might not have been fatal, but the fact that East was ruffing the next club was. Senior ruffed the spade return, ruffed a heart and played a winning club, ruffed and over-ruffed, ruffed a heart and had the rest for down one; –50 but 7 MPs out of 10.

The play went exactly the same at the table where Janice Molson was declaring 5♦ against her fellow Americans, Kerri Sanborn and Irina Levitina.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ Q 10 4 2 ♥ 9 6 2 ♦ J 7 ♣ K 9 8 5	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">W      E</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> </div>	♠ J 9 6 5 ♥ Q 8 7 ♦ 10 5 4 ♣ Q 6 3	♠ 3 ♥ A K 4 ♦ A K 9 8 6 3 ♣ A 10 4  ♠ A K 8 7 ♥ J 10 5 3 ♦ Q 2 ♣ J 7 2
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West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Bessis</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Only one other pair, Great Britain's Nicola Smith and Sally Brock, got to slam on this deal. When Senior led a trump, Catherine D'Ovidio could win, draw trumps and play ace, king and another heart to set up her twelfth trick while she still had a spade entry to the dummy; +920. Brock received a club lead so could draw trumps and establish a second club trick, pitching the low heart on the king of spades.

Both N/S pairs scored 9 out of 10 for their efforts, so well done. But actually they were in the wrong slam. Try making 6♦ after a spade lead – I don't think it can be done – while 6NT is cold as, on a spade lead, the queen of diamonds can be the entry to the long heart.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Sokolow</i>		<i>Molson</i>
–	–	–	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Four pairs out of six bid to the small slam and all made it exactly, collecting 7 out of 10 MPs for their trouble. I like the simplicity of the American auction. Two Clubs was strong and artificial, 2♦ negative or just waiting, unsuitable for a positive, and 2♠ natural and game-forcing. Four Spades now showed some values but not controls – a really poor hand with spade support would make a second negative then bid 4♠ at its third turn – and Molson just jumped to slam, knowing that dummy would offer some values and that more often than not they would be sufficient.

Molson/Sokolow had another slam to bid on the other board of the round also, though this time they had to over-

come some serious competitive bidding from their opponents.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Sokolow</i>		<i>Molson</i>
3♠	4♥	4♠	4NT
Dble	5NT	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Tobi Sokolow overcalled 4♥ and East's raise to 4♠ inconvenienced Molson not at all. She asked for key cards and heard that Sokolow held two plus a useful void. That was clearly in spades. Molson had no room to make an intelligent grand slam try so settled for six, ending the auction.

The Chinese East led the three of clubs to the king and ace. It is possible to make all thirteen tricks via the double heart finesse, but Sokolow was quite happy to make her contract, playing in simple fashion, hearts from the top. The ace of spades and fourth club provided discards for two diamonds so the position of the diamond queen was irrelevant; +1430 and a maximum 10 MPs.

At the other extreme, three N/S pairs reached 7♥ and went down a trick, collecting just 2 MPs for their efforts. An example auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Gaviard</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Neve</i>	<i>Stockdale</i>
4♠	4NT	6♠	Dble
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

Fiona Brown made a take-out bid of 4NT then, when Susan Stockdale doubled 6♠, tried the grand slam. A bit optimistic, I fear, even if the contract had played. The extra pre-

## 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.



emption meant the British pair were guessing and youthful optimism guessed high. Brown ruffed the spade lead and led a heart to the ace so was one down.

As an aside, is this an auction where South's double should tell partner not to bid on, with pass forcing to invite further bidding? It is, after all, hugely likely that E/W are sacrificing.

Brown and Stockdale got some revenge on the French nation a couple of boards later:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Stockdale	d'Ovidio	Brown	Bessis
—	—	1♦	1♥
3♦	4♥	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Stockdale's diamond raise was essentially pre-emptive, but Brown needed only one ace to have play for game so went on to 5♦ when D'Ovidio bid the heart game.

Veronique Bessis led the ace of hearts, ruffed, and now it was plain sailing for Brown. She led a club up and D'Ovidio rose with the ace and returned the suit. Brown won the king and played king then ruffed a heart, followed by a trump; +550.

It appears that the only successful defence is to start with a diamond to the ace and a second diamond.

Five Diamonds doubled made at two other tables also and it also made undoubled at two more, so nobody found the trump lead. Plus 550 was worth 8 MPs to the British pair.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Sun		Wang
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♦	3♠	3NT
All Pass			

This one proved to be a tricky combination for N/S, with three pairs stopping short of game and one of the others getting to 5♣. The Chinese pairing of Ming Sun and Hongli Wang made short work of it when East's pre-empt rather forced Wang's hand. The opening 1♣ was Precision, any 16+, and 1♦ a negative, 0-7. Wang could have passed or bid 4♣ over 3♠, but in typical fashion for a generally optimistic bidder she took the bull by the horns and gambled on 3NT.

West led the ten of spades to the queen, king and ace. Wang led the ten of diamonds to the ace and ran the jack of clubs. When West won that and played a second spade, the nine was established for the overtrick. Plus 630 was worth 9 MPs.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



Fiona Brown, Great Britain



West	North	East	South
Sun	Brown	Wang	Stockdale
—	—	2♥	Pass
4♠	Dble	Pass	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

Hongli Wang opened 2♥, weak with both majors, and Ming Sun jumped to 4♠. Perhaps, with a balanced hand with no great support for the minors, Brown might have been better advised to go quietly. However, fearing that her opponents were stealing from her, she doubled, and Stockdale removed to 5♣, promptly doubled by Sun.

Sun led the king of spades. Stockdale won the ace and returned a spade. Sun won the jack and cashed the ace of diamonds then continued with the queen to dummy's king. Stockdale ruffed a spade and led a club to the king and ace. Wang cashed the jack of clubs, and there was still a club and a heart to lose; down four for -1100 and all 10 MPs to Sun/Wang.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Sun	Levitina	Wang
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	1♥	2♦	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Sun had the wrong shape to come in immediately over 1♦. However, when Levitina passed that around to her, not having a suitable systemic action for this kind of raise particularly at adverse vulnerability, Wang reopened with a double. Though Sun responded with only a quiet 1♥, when Levitina competed and Wang bid again freely, Sun revalued her hand and jumped to game. There was nothing to the play with every important card onside for Sun. She had eleven tricks for +450 and all 10 MPs.



## Fantastic Fred

When this deal came up on the screen in the vugraph theatre, three results were already in – all three were West playing in 3NT and making exactly. Fred Gitelman defended the same contract beautifully to put Norway's Thor Erik Hoftaniska under terrible pressure.

Men's Pairs Session 2.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hoftaniska	Gitelman	Charlsen	Moss
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Thomas Charlsen opened a shaded 1♥ and the two-over-one auction wended its way to the inevitable conclusion. What should North lead?

Gitelman didn't fancy anything. Neither doubleton honour was very appealing into declarer's holdings, but neither was either red suit, given that one or other opponent had shown length in them.

Gitelman selected the eight of hearts. Hoftaniska put in the ten in hope of inducing a cover from jack-to-four, but that was hardly likely to succeed even had Brad Moss had that holding. Hoftaniska won the heart king and played four rounds of diamonds, throwing a club and two spades from the dummy. Meanwhile, Moss threw spades.

Gitelman was on lead and again he wished it were not so. He cashed the ace of spades, eliminating dummy's exit card in that suit, then led a second heart. While it is easy for us to see that putting gin the nine works, the position was not at all clear to declarer, who had seen an opening lead of the eight of hearts and now North had shown up with the diamond length. Hoftaniska rose with the ace of hearts and tried a club to the jack, queen and king. Back came a club from Gitelman. Declarer took dummy's ace and exited with a club in hope of endplaying South to lead into the heart tenace. Instead, he collected the last trick with the king of spades; down two for -100 and 7 MPs out of 10 for Gitelman/Moss.

A very nice defence from Fred Gitelman.