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Daily Bulletin 2

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Preserve your good luck



Yesterday the Politiken World Pairs 2000 was opened officially by Svend Auken, Danish Minister of the Environment and Energy.

In his speech Svend Auken told that he was impressed that so many eminent bridge players had come to Copenhagen and he wished everyone an enjoyable time during the stay. He continued:

My brother already has told me, that he himself has made a dramatic impact today. As we say: Bottoms up!

Actually I have made only one contribution to bridge: I taught Jens to play bridge when he was only 11 years old, but he has overtaken me. I do not know what Jens has done to bridge, but I know what bridge has done to him, and that is quite a lot. It has given him numerous friends, exciting experiences, a lot of travelling, a few results and – of course – Sabine, and she is the most fantastic prize he has won in the game.

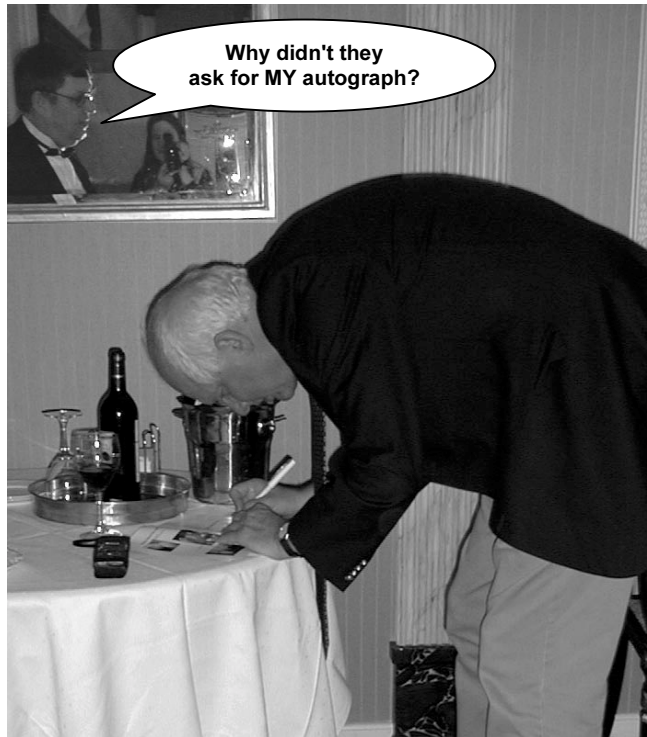
I hope you will all preserve your good luck, and if not at the table, then in the city. Have an enjoyable time here in Copenhagen.

With these words I officially open the Politiken World Tournament here at the Phoenix Copenhagen Hotel.

Actually, I made only one contribution to bridge!



Hot shots from Day 1



Standings after Day 1

Pair	Points	Rank
Anton Maas - Vincent Ramondt	356	1
Knud-Aage Boesgaard - Hans Chr. Nielsen	352	2
Boye Brogeland - Erik Sælensminde	335	3
Giorgio Duboin - Norberto Bocchi	315	4
Andrew McIntosh - Tony Forrester	312	5
Sabine Auken - Daniela von Arnim	309	6
Krzysztof Martens - Marek Szymanowski	305	7
Jaggy Shivdasani - Rev Murthy	305	7
Wang Weimin - Zhuang Zejun	289	9
Jens Auken - Dennis Koch-Palmund	288	10
Mads Krøjgaard - Jørgen Hansen	283	11
Zia Mahmood - Fu Zhong	282	12
Eric Kokish - George Mittelman	281	13
Bettina Kalkerup - Charlotte Koch-Palmund	274	14
Larry Cohen - Steve Weinstein	271	15
Jan Jansma - Louk Verhees	240	16

Allocation of tables - ROUND 7

Vu-graph Room (The Salon): table 3
 Pit Room (Gyldensteen): tables 1 and 8
 Open Room (Frederik 3): tables 2, 6 and 7
 Closed Room (Kabinet): tables 4 and 5

Players - NO smoking please!




Contrary to the earlier announcement smoking is **not** allowed at the tables during play. We regret the mis-information.

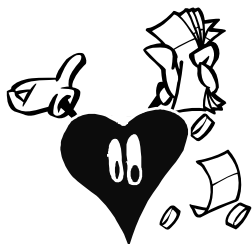
The Sponsor-Player Tournament

The third POLITIKEN World Pairs started off on Thursday night with a Pro-Am Tournament. From this overture, we collected a few amusing hands for you.

At many tables, board 5 was a comedy of errors. Krzysztof Martens, however, managed to recover a couple of matchpoints in very determined fashion.

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

When East opened 3♦ the normal action is for South to double – thereafter the paths diverged. At the table I was watching Martens as North guessed to introduce his powerful heart suit – minors are for children – and Nanna Wæde passed, when perhaps it would have been more prudent to bid 3♠. In his unappetizing contract Martens received a club lead and played the ♦K at once. The defence took the ♦A and drew two rounds of trumps at once before playing on diamonds. That let Martens score a ruff in hand and now the ♠A made his third trick. Six down vulnerable against non-vulnerable opponents rarely scores well, but on this occasion it was scarcely below average! Why is that you may ask. Well look at the play in 5♦ doubled, a ‘sacrifice’ attempted by a couple of pairs. South invariably led his two top clubs, and East could ruff and draw trumps aided by the convenient fall of the ♦K, then could similarly not misguess the hearts, for 650. That third trick in 3♥ was worth its weight in gold...



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Cohen	Hecht	Vestergaard	Forrester
	pass	3♦	dbl.
pass	4♦	pass	6♠
pass	pass	pass	

Here we saw the real Pro in action. In a Pro-Am, it is not done to double a colleague. Still, Larry could not avoid scoring +200 and most of the matchpoints when the contract went down two.

An off-shape auction we saw at a table where Boye Brogeland was facing three ladies:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Karin Blakset	Sabine Auken	Boye Brogeland	Annette Apitz
	pass	3♦	dbl.
pass	4♣	4♦ (!?)	4♠
pass	pass	pass	



All is well that ends well.

It is always interesting to watch what happens when Sabine and Jens Auken take on one another – after all there is more than mere matchpoints at stake here. And the first board of the pair gave Jens a chance to test his declarer play.

Board 7	♠ K Q 8 2
S/ALL	♥ 10 2
	♦ J 8 4
	♣ K 8 4 3
	N
♠ A 10 3	♠ 9 7 5 4
♥ A 8 6 3	♥ Q 4
♦ A K 10 9 7 2	♦ Q 3
♣ -	♣ A Q 10 7 2
	S
	♠ J 6
	♥ K J 9 7 5
	♦ 6 5
	♣ J 9 6 5

It is easy to sympathize with Jens' partner here. After 1♦-1♠-3♦-3NT Ole Eske-Bruun tried 4♠, leaving Jens in a less than appetizing spot. On a heart lead Jens won this in hand with the ♥Q and carefully led a spade to the six ten and queen, leaving Sabine on play. A heart was clearly going to achieve nothing, so Sabine shifted to a club. Jens finessed the queen, and when it held he could lead trump to the jack and ace, then play a third spade from dummy, and hold his losers to just two trump tricks. Superficially it appears that a diamond shift by Sabine scuttles the contract. It does not matter which hand declarer takes the trick in, when he plays ace and another spade Sabine wins and shifts to a second heart, locking declarer in dummy without the communications to draw trumps and run the diamonds. That is not so however, so long as Jens reads the cards well. He must win the diamond and play the ace of spades, then abandon trumps, simply leading out diamonds from dummy. The best Sabine can do is to trump the fourth round of diamonds high and play a heart. Declarer wins in dummy and leads diamonds, overruffing Sabine and still with a small trump in dummy to get back to that hand to cash the last diamond.



Jens and the queen

11 tricks was a fine score for Jens Auken – a couple of pairs had managed to make 11 tricks in 3NT on a heart lead by the same play in spades described above, but the field as a whole had only collected 630, or worse.

Larry Cohen was faced with a difficult lead problem here I thought.



Difficult

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


Sitting West, he heard his opponents bid

1♣	1♥
1NT	2♣
3♣	3♠
3NT	

where 2♣ was checkback stayman. The choice seemed to be between a spade and a diamond, with dummy being marked with short diamonds and declarer possessing the guards. I thought he did well to lead a diamond, and although declarer still guessed the clubs for ten tricks, the difference between holding 3NT to 430 instead of 490 was worth about half a top. The logic in leading diamonds might be that if partner turns up with the queen in the suit you lead you have a

sure reentry to get you in to cash the suit if your choice of a diamond is right. You may never regain the lead if the spade lead sets up the suit when partner contributes a minor honour.

Board 11
S/-

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

Jørgen Klausen and Hans Christian Nielsen did a fine job on defence here I thought, although they were not alone in collecting a penalty. When South opened 1♥ and North responded 1NT Klausen doubled for take-out, and that led to Nielsen subsequently doubling 2♥ for penalties. Nielsen led the ♣J and declarer ruffed and should perhaps have tried to develop diamonds by leading the suit from her hand. In fact she played a spade to the king and ace and Klausen accurately shifted to a trump, to the nine and ten. Nielsen then made a good decision to give up a trump trick by returning the suit. Declarer won and could do little but lead spades. Nielsen won the third round and pressed on with hearts, and declarer exited with her last heart. That let Nielsen win and then run the clubs. Declarer managed to collect a diamond trick at the end since East had pitched a club on the trumps, but down three for 500 was still an excellent score for E/W.

At another table, the bidding took a remarkably different turn:

When Zia was playing his partner in the main event, this was the auction:


WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Heilskov	Nymark	Fu	Zia
			1♥
pass	1 NT	2♣	2♦
3♣	pass	pass	3♦
pass	3♥	3♠	pass
pass	dbl.	pass	pass
4♣	dbl.	all pass	

Fu apparently was not too eager to hear his partner double 3♥, and thus looked set for a mediocre result.

For EW, +130 would not have brought very many matchpoints. When North doubled again, things changed dramatically. There was no way to beat the contract and +510 is more than +500!

On the board below, for once the spades were not worth mentioning:

Board 15
S/NS


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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Heilskov	Martens	Fu Zhong	Wæde
			pass
pass	1♣	1♥	pass (?)
2 NT (?)	pass	4♥	dbl.
all pass			

We will never know why South did not introduce her spades. Nor will we know if West intended her 2 NT as showing minors. Well, the latter need not be true. As South did not bid spades, West need not have a spade stopper to bid NT after all...

When Fu Zhong rebid his hearts, Mrs. Wæde pulled the trigger. Four Hearts doubled went down three, but 500 to NS was not enough compensation for the vulnerable game lost.

Board 18
E/N-S

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


Finally, Helge Frederiksen and Anton Maas, demonstrated the real secret of playing a Pro-Am; get the right player as declarer! The field played 3NT here, and on a spade lead there is time to set up the hearts and even to take the club finesse, to make ten tricks – although not everyone managed that. Helge rejected that route. He opened 1♣ and raised Maas' response of 1♥ to 4♥! Zia as North greeted the appearance of dummy with a raised eyebrow. He asked Helge 'I suppose he is a good player?' Helge said 'No!' 'Well, do you play six-card major responses?' said Zia. On receiving a second negative, he said 'Well, Larry Cohen would not approve!' but it turned out the joke was on him! Zia as North had led the ♦K of course. Maas won and drew two rounds of trumps then crossed to the ♠Q to draw the rest of the trumps. When Zia played a third spade declarer could pitch a club and ruff the fourth spade to hand, then take the club finesse and ruff a club to hand to eventually play a second diamond to the jack and collect his eleventh trick for an excellent result.



Helge Frederiksen displayed a "Ma(a)s"-sive trust in partner

From a Quiet 1st Round


In the first round, the boards were rather quiet. Not too many fireworks, but the first chance of a slam appeared on the very first board.

Board 1	♠ K J 6 2	
N/-	♥ K 8 5 3	
	♦ 7	
	♣ K J 8 2	
	N	
♠ 7		♠ A Q 8 5 3
♥ A 10 9 6		♥ 4
♦ A K Q 9 4		♦ J 6 5 3
♣ 9 7 3		♣ A 10 6
	S	
	♠ 10 9 4	
	♥ Q J 7 2	
	♦ 10 8 2	
	♣ Q 5 4	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fu Zhong	Mittelman	Zia	Kokish
	pass	1♠	pass
2♦	pass	3♥	pass
4NT	pass	5♥	pass
6♦	pass	pass	pass

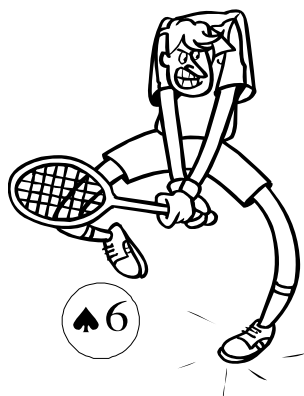
George Mittelman led his trump, which went to declarer's nine. When Fu decided to take an immediate spade finesse, the hand was quickly over. As Zia and Fu were the only ones to reach the slam, they chalked up a juicy 11 imps, in fact the whole margin of their eventual win over the Canadians.

On the last board of the set, Jens Auken and Dennis Koch-Palmund settled the issue against their fellow-countrymen Mads Krøjgaard and Jørgen Hansen. Some subtle rebids by Jens Auken placed the declaration in his hand:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hansen	Koch-Palmund	Krøjgaard	Auken
		pass	1♦
pass	1♠	pass	2♣
pass	2♦	pass	2NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

3NT was the popular contract, which went down when the declarers won the heart lead perforce with the king in South and played a club to the king straight away. Jens Auken as South took full advantage of his being the closed hand. He also won the heart lead with the king, but he found an extra chance. He played a spade at trick two, which went to East's jack. Of course, the contract still cannot be made, as the defence have three spades and two clubs for the taking, but at trick two, this is not so easy to see. What is more, playing a spade first cannot possibly cost as the defence can never take more than three tricks in the suit and if the ♣A is right, it will be right later in the play as well. When East led another heart, Jens suddenly was home. Can we really blame East for not taking into account that declarer might hold the singleton king of hearts? Full marks to Jens Auken who deserved the game swing when his well-conceived bidding wrongfooted the opponents.



Two more potential swing boards involved challenging game contracts, where the choice of opening leads would have a big impact on the result.

Board 2	♠ K Q 6 5 4	
E/NS	♥ Q 9 4	
	♦ A 9 2	
	♣ K 2	
	N	
♠ A J 8 2		♠ 3
♥ K J 7		♥ A 10 8 6 5 3 2
♦ J 6 5		♦ Q 7 4
♣ Q 8 6		♣ 9 4
	S	
	♠ 10 9 7	
	♥ -	
	♦ K 10 8 3	
	♣ A J 10 7 5 3	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Murthy	Bocchi	Shivdasani	Duboin
		4♥	pass
pass	4♠	pass	pass
5♥	dbl.	all pass	

Shivdasani's decision to open 4♥ meant that his side was the only one to sacrifice in 5♥ over the marginal 4♠ - in fact, Duboin seriously considered bidding on to 5♠ over his partner's double of 5♥ - wouldn't you?

He led the ♠10 and declarer picked up the trumps, on which Duboin threw a spade and two clubs. Next came a low club from declarer's hand, and when Duboin followed low he put in dummy's eight. The defence can still collect 500 if Bocchi exits with a club now, letting Duboin win his ♣A and lead his last spade. But Bocchi led a top spade, ruffed by Jaggy who led his second club. Now Duboin had to win and return a minor and that let Jaggy out for down two.




Bocchi - Duboin at the players presentation

The popular spot, however, was 4♠, and only the ♥A lead (or, even better, the double-dummy small heart) could challenge declarer. When Sælensminde was declarer on the ♥A lead he played to ruff three hearts in dummy, while cashing all the minor suit aces and kings. He ended up in dummy to ruff a club with the ♠4. Both pleased and surprised when this held the trick, he could exit with a diamond and collect two more trump tricks in due course.

There is much more to be said, however, for ruffing the last club not with the ♠4, but with the ♠Q. From the play so far, declarer can deduce that East probably is 1-7-3-2. The singleton ♠J or ♠8 is as likely as the singleton ♠4 or ♠2. So why not ruff high and exit with the ♠K, hoping to pin the ♠J or ♠8 rather than the small ones? Playing this way, Dennis Koch-Palmund went down.

Where the defence led a diamond declarer had a far easier task since he no longer had a diamond to lose. However, when Fu and Zia were defending they had a chance to set the game. Declarer ruffed the ♥A lead and led a trump to hand before ruffing a second heart. Fu unblocked the ♥K, which might have been necessary on a different day, but here it simply allowed declarer to hold his losses to three trump tricks only.

On board 5, Jaggy and Murthy again deviated from the standard contract.

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

This time, Jaggy merely bid 2♥ when his partner produced a Michaels cuebid over the 1♦ opening. 2♥ made a peaceful 140 on a diamond lead, but elsewhere the stakes were far higher. Forrester and McIntosh made 4♥ on a club lead; declarer could pitch a diamond and arrange to ruff a spade low (overruffed by the ♥Q for the ♥A play) and one spade high, simply conceding a trick to the ♥9 in the end. Brogeland and Sælensminde similarly conceded 4♥ on the ♠10 lead.


But it was far more challenging elsewhere, when the defence led a diamond either from the singleton or the six-card suit. There, South could get in with the ♥Q to give partner a diamond ruff, and again with the ♥A by overruffing the spade to take a second diamond ruff for one down. Cohen-Weinstein, among others, defeated 4♥ this way.

Nice defences

by

Eskil Hagen ("Bridge i Norge")

A simple defensive move by Boye Brogeland led declarer astray on the board below.

Board 19	♠ 5 3	
S/EW	♥ 8 7 3	
	♦ K 9 6 3 2	
	♣ K 3 2	
	N	
♠ J 10 9 6 4		♠ A Q 7
♥ A 10 5	W	♥ 9 6 2
♦ J 8	E	♦ A 5 4
♣ A 8 7	S	♣ Q 10 6 5
	♠ K 8 2	
	♥ K Q J 4	
	♦ Q 10 7	
	♣ J 9 4	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jansma	Sælensminde	Verhees	Brogeland
pass	2♥	pass	1♥
2♠	pass	pass	pass

After this perfectly normal auction, North led a heart to South's jack and declarer's ten. Jansma won the ♥K continuation with the ace and led a spade to the queen, ducked by Brogeland. After this, Jansma placed the ♣K with South who had opened the bidding, and decided to play accordingly. Thus, he called for the ♣Q from dummy. When North won a 'surprise' ♣K, there was no longer any play for the contract and Jansma had to concede one down.

At another table, after a similar auction Andrew McIntosh led a trump. Forrester won the ♠k and created the same illusion for declarer when he returned the ♥Q. As a result, Hansen also misguessed the clubs and went one down.

We saw a variation when Martens-Szymanowski were playing Auken-Von Arnim.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Von Arnim	Martens	Auken	Szymanowski
1♠	pass	2♣	1♣
2♠	all pass		pass

Martens led a trump, won by Szymanowski who returned a more pedestrian ♥K, ducked by declarer. Daniela won the next heart and pulled the trumps. A low diamond then went to the jack and king. North returned his last heart, won by South who exited with the ♦Q. Dummy's ace won this trick and now the moment of truth had come. Club to the ace and club to the ten and jack. One down the straightforward way.

More news from Round 2

In the second round, Daniela von Arnim and Sabine Auken had to face Krzysztof Martens and Marek Szymanowski. The ladies won the round 65-35, mainly because the Poles let through two vulnerable games:

Board 13	♠ Q J 3 2
N/ALL	♥ 8 6 3
	♦ A J 10
	♣ J 8 2
	N
♠ 10 8 5	♠ A K 9 4
♥ 10 9 4 2	♥ K Q 5
♦ K 6 3	♦ Q 4
♣ Q 10 5	♣ A K 4 3
	S
	♠ 7 6
	♥ A J 7
	♦ 9 8 7 5 2
	♣ 9 7 6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Von Arnim	Martens	Auken	Szymanowski
1♦	pass	1♣	pass
1♠	pass	1NT	pass
3NT	all pass		

After this strong club relay auction, Szymanowski led the ♦8 which ran to declarer's queen. next came the ♥K which held the trick. A low spade now went to the ten and queen, and Martens apparently had no idea of what was going on, as he returned a spade. Of course, at this point a heart return would lead to a swift three down. In real life, Sabine won the ♠A and next led a diamond to the king herself. Martens won the ace and now once again had the chance to defeat the contract by three tricks. When he returned yet another spade, Sabine inserted the nine. When this held, she was home when the clubs were 3-3 after all.

A few boards later:

Board 16	♠ K 7 4 3
W/EW	♥ J 9 3
	♦ J 6 3 2
	♣ A 2
	N
♠ A 5	♠ 9 6 2
♥ Q 10 4	♥ A 6 2
♦ 10 8 5	♦ A K Q 9 4
♣ K Q J 8 3	♣ 7 4
	S
	♠ Q J 10 8
	♥ K 8 7 5
	♦ 7
	♣ 10 9 6 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Von Arnim	Martens	Auken	Szymanowski
1♦	pass	1♥	pass
1NT	pass	3NT	all pass

Once again a precision-style auction with an element of improvisation in it. North found the best lead of a low spade, won immediately by declarer with the ace. The diamonds were then tested, declarer unblocking the ♦10 from her hand in the second round of the suit as they did not break. In the meantime, South had to find a discard. With the spade situation already clear from the cards played to trick one, an encouraging heart looks O.K., but this leaves the club situation in doubt.

The value of this point was proved at the table when Daniela led a low club to her king, won immediately by Martens. End of story. Kokish-Mittelman defended along the same lines and thus also let the contract through. Eric Kokish pointed out afterwards that maybe the ♣10 is the clearest discard.

Against Forrester-McIntosh, Jørgen Hansen followed a different line. He also won the first spade, but he then cashed only one top diamond before leading a club to the king and ace. Two spades were cashed by the defence and Forrester then exited with a club. This way, declarer found out that clubs were 4-2 and spades 4-4. Was this enough reason for him to finesse the diamonds? He did not think so, and that led to him playing diamonds from the top for one down.

On the next board to be shown, Forrester-McIntosh were the only pair in the proper contract.

Their 3NT cannot possibly be defeated, but all other seven tables were in 4♥.

And then Round 3

Board 12	♠ A 7 5 2
W/NS	♥ 3
	♦ K Q J 9 7 3
	♣ K 5
	N
♠ J 9 6	♠ Q 10 8 4
♥ A Q	♥ 9 8 5
♦ A 5	♦ 8 6 4 2
♣ J 9 8 7 6 4	♣ 3 2
	S
	♠ K 3
	♥ K J 10 7 6 4 2
	♦ 10
	♣ A Q 10

On a club lead, declarer has to diagnose the danger and play diamonds to create a home for the third club. But this line is by no means indicated, unless the opponents' signals make it so. Three declarers duly went down, four made the contract, (some avoiding the club lead), but Marek Szymanowski made the contract on a club lead by playing ♦ at once.

The round had started nicely for the ladies, as this had been the first board:

Board 11	♠ Q J 9 8
S/-	♥ Q 7
	♦ A J 10 8 7 2
	♣ 4
	N
♠ 4	♠ A K 7 6 5
♥ A 9 6 3	♥ K 10 8
♦ K Q 6 5 3	♦ 9 4
♣ K Q 6	♣ 10 5 3
	S
	♠ 10 3 2
	♥ J 5 4 2
	♦ -
	♣ A J 9 8 7 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Von Arnim	Martens	Auken	Szymanowski
1♦	pass	1♠	2♣
dbl.	2♦	dbl.	all pass

Overcalling against artificial diamonds is always difficult. 2♣ would probably have gone down two, but as west happened to have a diamond suit of her own 2♦ was down three, 500 and 6 imps to the ladies who thus were off to a flying start.

Matches between husband and wife are always worth watching. In round 3 it was Charlotte Koch-Palmund against Dennis. This match basically hinged on two Grand Slam decisions. Here is the first:

Board 23	♠ 5 3
S/ALL	♥ K 6 5 2
	♦ K 7 4
	♣ K Q 8 3
	N
♠ 9 6	♠ A K Q 7 4 2
♥ A Q J 4 3	♥ 10
♦ A J 9 5	♦ Q 8 6 3
♣ A 9	♣ 10 5
	S
	♠ J 10 8
	♥ 9 8 7
	♦ 10 2
	♣ J 7 6 4 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Charlotte	Dennis	Kalkerup	Auken
1♥	pass	1♠	pass
2♦	pass	3♠	pass
4♣	pass	4♥	pass??

This was how the auction started:

3♠ was forcing, of course. Now, does 4♥ promise a high-card control or could it be shortage? Charlotte thought one thing, Bettina another, and when the smoke had cleared the partnership was in 7♠. Jens Auken led the ♦10, and when Bettina ran this to her Queen she was quickly one down. In fact, she had little else to play for. One down was a huge swing out whereas playing and making 6♠ would have been an equally large swing in.

At another table, EW did not solve the problems of this hand either.


WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Weinstein	Maas	Cohen	Ramondt
1♣	pass	1♠	pass
2♥	pass	2♠	pass
3♠	pass	3NT	pass
4♠	pass	pass	pass

With diamonds never mentioned, assessing the full value of the East hand had become a little difficult. 9 imps away for the Americans.

On the final deal of the set, the ladies set up a barrage which reminds one of a comment by the Duke of Wellington on his own troops: 'I do not know what they do to the enemy but by God, they frighten me!'



Charlotte scared the s...lam out of her husband


Board 30	♠ A K 4		
E/-	♥ A 10 8		
	♦ Q 10 6 5		
	♣ K 7 6		
	N		
♠ Q 8 7 2		♠ J 10 9 6 3	
♥ J 6 5 3		♥ -	
♦ 7 4		♦ J 9 8 2	
♣ Q 5 2		♣ J 10 9 3	
	S		
	♠ 5		
	♥ K Q 9 7 4 2		
	♦ A K 3		
	♣ A 8 4		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Charlotte	Dennis	Kalkerup	Auken
3♠	3NT	2♠	3♥
pass	pass	pass	4♥

When Charlotte raised to 3♠, Dennis was robbed of his 3♠ cuebid. he tried 3NT and Jens Auken took a full five minutes to sign off in 4♥, losing 13 imps for his pains.

Only four pairs reached the grand, twice in NT and twice in hearts.

On board 26, Cohen-Weinstein found a good anticipatory save against 5♦, only to find out that most of the field were languishing in 3NT:

Board 26	♠ Q 8 7		
E/ALL	♥ A		
	♦ Q J 10 9 8 7 6		
	♣ J 4		
	N		
♠ K 4		♠ J 9 6 5 3	
♥ Q J 4 3 2		♥ 10 9 7 6 5	
♦ K 5 2		♦ 3	
♣ K Q 5		♣ 7 6	
	S		
	♠ A 10 2		
	♥ K 8		
	♦ A 4		
	♣ A 10 9 8 3 2		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Weinstein	Maas	Cohen	Ramondt
1♥	2♦	pass	1♣
pass	pass	4♥	dbl.
		pass	

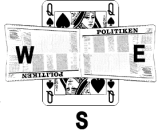
This contract went two off for a loss of only 500, but yet the Americans had lost 10 more imps.



The Americans at the player presentation

The evening session starts

The most interesting encounter of the round no doubt was the match between Sabine and Jens Auken. In 1997, the ladies won by a big margin, in 2000 they won again. As the boards were pretty quiet (a good idea of the randomizer, just after dinner) the exchanges were not very big, the final score being 56-44 to Sabine and Daniela. The two biggest swings were of 7 and 6 imps only. Here they are:

Board 3	♠ Q 9 6	
S/EW	♥ A Q J 10 9 5 3	
	♦ A 7	
	♣ 8	
	N	
♠ 10 4		♠ A K 8 5 3 2
♥ 4		♥ K 7 6
♦ K 3		♦ J 9 2
♣ A K Q J 10 7		♣ 3
	S	
	♠ J 7	
	♥ 8 2	
	♦ Q 10 8 6 5 4	
	♣ 9 6 2	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Von Arnim	Koch-Palmund	Sabine	Jens
1♣	4♥	4♠	pass
5♣	pass	5NT	pass
6♣	pass	pass	pass

One down and 6 imps to the men. After the strong club and the preempt, it would have been superhuman for Sabine to pass 5♣.

This deal produced fireworks all over the place. When you go down in a slam and lose only 6 imps it is clear your colleagues are also having problems with the deal!

Of the eight EW pairs facing the problems of this deal three solved them successfully, three were unsuccessful and two were abject failures.

Two pairs reached 3NT with the EW cards. When Steve Weinstein opened 3♦ as South and Zia overcalled 3NT, Larry Cohen decided not to compete and conceded 690.

Tony Forrester opened 2♦ and Brogeland also bid 3NT. Andrew McIntosh now competed to 4♥, but

Brogeland pulled his partner's double of that bid to 4NT to collect the same 690.

The third table to score a game were Shivdasani-Murthy. They were helped by Charlotte Koch-Palmund's pass in first seat, after which the auction developed as follows:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Murthy	Kalkerup	Shivdasani	Koch-Palmund
1♣	1♥	1♠	pass
3♣	3♥	3♠	pass
5♣	pass	pass	pass

Murthy did well to jump to 5♣ at his final turn to get to a sensible spot.

Though Martens-Szymanowski were unsuccessful, one has to have some sympathy for them. Szymanowski opened a Polish club and Maas jumped all the way to 4♥. Martens bid 4♠ and Szymanowski was obliged to pass this as bidding 5♣ now would show a powerhouse.

Playing 4♠, Martens received a heart lead and continuation. He ruffed in dummy and next cashed the ♠AK. Then, he tried to run the clubs, but Maas ruffed the second round and exited with a heart to collect two diamond tricks in the end.

Kokish-Mittelman had a typical problem after an off-centre 3NT overcall:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kokish	Wang	Mittelman	Zhuang
3NT	4♦	4♠	pass
5♣	pass	5♥	pass
6♣	pass	pass	pass

Is 5♣ a cuebid or is West bidding his own suit?

Still, at least, they did better than Verhees-Jansma:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jansma	Krøjgaard	Verhees	Hansen
3NT	4♥	4♠	pass
4NT	pass	5NT	pass
6♣	dbl.	6♠	pass
pass	dbl.	all pass	

The defence cashed their two red aces and collected a trump trick for down two and +500. That is not bad, of course, but compare it to what Nielsen-Boesgaard did to 4♠ by Bocchi:

A heart went to the ace and North led his club. Bocchi led a second club, ruffed by Nielsen with the ♠9 and overruffed with the ♠K. Now a diamond to the king and ace, a diamond to the ten and the ♦Q ruffed and overruffed. When Nielsen exited with his last trump, declarer had to lose a trump and a heart trick and thus was down three!

The outcome of the board below depended very much on the lead.

Board 5	♠ J 9 5 2
N/NS	♥ A 9 5
	♦ 9 8 3
	♣ 10 5 4
	N
♠ 10 8	♠ Q 6 3
♥ K 8 7 6 4 3	♥ 10 2
♦ 5	♦ A K Q 6
♣ A K 9 7	♣ J 8 6 2
	S
	♠ A K 7 4
	♥ Q J
	♦ J 10 7 4 2
	♣ Q 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Von Arnim	Koch-Palmund	Sabine	Jens
4♥	pass	1NT	pass
	pass	pass	pass

On a spade lead, you lose two spades and three hearts. On a diamond lead, found at two tables, you make 4♥ because the spades go away and the ♣Q duly comes down. The Greek gift is the club lead, found by north at

three tables. If you play dummy's jack, you are one down because you lose a club in the end, apart from the three hearts. As Dennis Koch-Palmund put a low diamond on the table, the men lost the imps won two boards before.

Board 7 looks like a quiet partscore hand, but with the diamonds well protected, the hearts 6-2 in the entryless hand and both black suits 3-3, 3NT cannot be defeated. Wang and Zhuang came back to respectability when they managed to bid this contract and score 11 imps for their efforts.

Board 7	♠ Q J 7
S/ALL	♥ K 10
	♦ K 9 5 3
	♣ Q J 7 6
	N
♠ A 4 2	♠ 10 6 5
♥ A 6	♥ Q J 9 7 5 4
♦ Q J 10 7 4	♦ 2
♣ K 4 3	♣ 10 9 2
	S
	♠ K 9 8 3
	♥ 8 3 2
	♦ A 8 6
	♣ A 8 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kokish	Wang	Mittelman	Zhuang
1♦	dbl.	pass	1♣
pass	3NT	all pass	1♠

On a heart lead and continuation, declarer's problems were over soon.

