

Sunday Evening 23 April 2000

## Daily Bulletin 4

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# A Comfortable Win



Pair	Points	Rank
Giorgio Duboin - Norberto Bocchi	842	1
Knud-Aage Boesgaard - Hans Chr. Nielsen	794	2
Krzysztof Martens - Marek Szymanowski	789	3
Jaggy Shivdasani - Rev Murthy	787	4
Anton Maas - Vincent Ramondt	770	5
Boye Brogeland - Erik Sælensminde	763	6
Zia Mahmood - Fu Zhong	762	7
Wang Weimin - Zhuang Zejun	755	8
Jan Jansma - Louk Verhees	752	9
Mads Krøjgaard - Jørgen Hansen	751	10
Bettina Kalkerup - Charlotte Koch-Palmund	740	11
Andrew McIntosh - Tony Forrester	735	12
Sabine Auken - Daniela von Arnim	730	13
Jens Auken - Dennis Koch-Palmund	729	14
Larry Cohen - Steve Weinstein	678	15
Eric Kokish - George Mittelman	629	16



# Final shots

Thank you  
FRIENDS





## *Dear bridge friends*

Soon we have to say goodbye – the 3<sup>rd</sup> Politiken World Pairs has come to an end. In my opinion it has been a successful event and for this I want to thank all of you:

**First of all thanks to the players:** In his opening speech the Minister Svend Auken mentioned that he didn't know what his brother had done for Bridge, but he knew what Bridge had done for his brother.

Now we know, what all of you have done for bridge here, during Politiken World Pairs – and I want to thank you for promoting our mutual sport.

Hopefully we will be able to invite you to the 4<sup>th</sup> Politiken World Pairs in two years. We will be looking forward to seeing you again.

**Secondly the staff:** The staff has done an excellent job. 60 volunteers have given up their Easter holidays in order to make this tournament a success by creating a very pleasant atmosphere for players and spectators alike. We hope you enjoyed it as well.

A special thanks ...

... to TD Hans-Olof Hallén and to his right hand, Jens Ulrik Foug.

... to the staff behind the Daily Bulletins: Jos Jacobs, Els Witteveen, Barry Rigal, Pernille Jakobsen and Thomas Kamp.

... to the IT people: Niels Wendell Pedersen, Thorvald Aagaard and Eva Ricard.

... to the Vu-graph people, Gianni Baldi, Anders Hagen and the Lundby family.

... to the commentators: Hans Werge, Steen Møller, Lars and Knut Blakset, Peter Lund, Mathias Bruun and Svend Novrup.

... to our hospitality girls: Inge Keith, Birgitte Tvede, Solveig Munch and Jeanette Bjerregaard.

... to the huge number of scorers, caddies, drivers, IT people etc. – everyone contributing to the smooth running of the tournament,

... and last but not least to my colleagues in the Organising Committee, Karsten Munch, Jens Auken, Svend Novrup and Ib Lundby.

**Thirdly our sponsors:** Let me be frank: No sponsors – no Politiken World Pairs.

Therefore, a special thankyou to our main sponsors, Politiken and Phoenix Copenhagen. Politiken has provided us with the prize money and Phoenix Copenhagen with the wonderful surroundings for the tournament.



And thanks to the pair sponsors:

Dragsted Schlüter Aros; Peter Hecht-Johansen, Dansommer; Bridgebutikken; Ventilhansen; Nykredit; Håndværkerteamet Asminderød Kro; Xerox Partner Nord, Nordisk Olie Kompagni; Blaksets Bridgecenter, Boisen & Nielsen; Advokatfirmaet August Jørgensen; and Bureau Ruder 7.

**During the play** we have seen the players doing their best to avoid mistakes – not always succeeding (for example I remember a couple of 3NT's redoubled, down 1000!

Likewise the staff has made some mistakes – for example a couple of errors in the duplicating.

And the hotel when the waiters were expecting 10 players for dinner and we showed up to be more than fifty.

It is impossible to avoid such mistakes, but the trick is to make a success anyway. And in my opinion all of you did.

We are grateful to all of you – we want to call you our friends – Thank you very much, friends!


I bring you my best wishes for the future, wherever you may be in the World – and want to express my hope of

**SEEING YOU ALL SOON!**

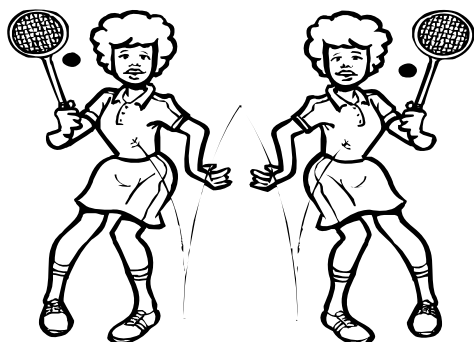
## Round 11

Two of the pairs in the top half of the field met each other when Forrester-McIntosh took on Kalkerup-Koch-Palmund. It seemed to be pretty much one way traffic to the ladies, though to be fair Forrester-McIntosh had no luck either.


Consider this:

Board 14	♠ 10 8 7 3		
E/-	♥ 4		
	♦ 9 8 6 5 3		
	♣ 7 6 3		
	N		
♠ A Q 4		♠ J 9 6 5 2	
♥ K J 8 2		♥ 10 7 6	
♦ K Q J 10		♦ A 2	
♣ 10 5		♣ A K 4	
	S		
	♠ K		
	♥ A Q 9 5 3		
	♦ 7 4		
	♣ Q J 9 8 2		

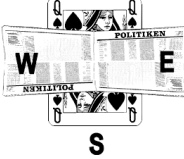
Although NS might get into trouble if South makes a Michaels cuebid over 1♠, West may simply commit the hand to spades and not seek to penalise a club contract. But Kalkerup opened a 12-14 NT and Forrester came in with 2♦ to show either spades and a minor or a heart suit. Koch-Palmund doubled, then doubled the retreat into 2♥. The defence went perfectly: two rounds of diamonds, then a spade to the king and ace followed by another top diamond to let Kalkerup pitch her small club. Forrester ruffed and played a club and the defence now cashed two clubs and led a heart to the nine and jack. Now Palmund let Forrester ruff a spade, but when he led a club Palmund threw away her last spade as Kalkerup ruffed. All Forrester would collect was his ♥A for five down and -1100 (11 imps).



On the next board, 3NT is a very reasonable spot but while it is easy to concede a ninth trick on a heart lead, can you make it on a spade lead?

Board 15	♠ J 9 6 5		
S/NS	♥ 9 5		
	♦ K 9 8 7		
	♣ J 6 3		
	N		
♠ A K 4 3		♠ 10	
♥ 7 6		♥ Q J 3 2	
♦ Q 5		♦ A 10 6 3 2	
♣ K Q 10 9 5		♣ A 7 2	
	S		
	♠ Q 8 7 2		
	♥ A K 10 8 4		
	♦ J 4		
	♣ 8 4		

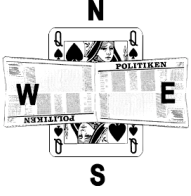
two tables succeeded, and double dummy it certainly looks possible. Say you duck the spade to North's jack. Back comes the ♥9 covered all round, then another spade allows declarer to win and peel off the clubs. This is the ending:

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

The last club forces an unwelcome discard out of South. If he pitches a spade, declarer cashes the ♠K and plays hearts, forcing the defence to give him two diamond tricks at the end. A heart discard is clearly fatal, and a diamond discard allows declarer to lead the ♦Q to pin the jack and collect two diamond tricks by force.

It would have been a pleasure to write about a declarer who played the hand this way. Alas, in rather more prosaic fashion one declarer got to score the ♠10 at trick one for the ninth trick...details to be preserved under the Official Secrets Act!

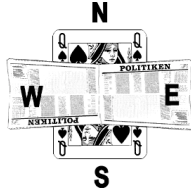
We all know aces are meant to take kings, but what are kings meant to take?

Board 17	♠ 8 2	
N/-	♥ K J 6 2	
	♦ A Q J	
	♣ A Q 7 5	
		
♠ Q 10 7 5		♠ K 3
♥ 8 7 4		♥ A Q 3
♦ 7 6 3		♦ K 8 5 2
♣ J 6 2		♣ K 10 9 8
	<b>S</b>	
	♠ A J 9 6 4	
	♥ 10 9 5	
	♦ 10 9 4	
	♣ 4 3	

Bettina Kalkerup put her ♠K to good work here. After a transfer auction Kalkerup defended 2♠ and guessed to lead a diamond to the ten, seven (odd number) and queen. When declarer played the ♠8 at trick two Kalkerup covered with the king - promoting her partner's trumps and ensuring the defeat of the hand. If declarer is allowed to pass the ♠8 to the ♠10 he will be in with a good chance to make the hand.

## Saturday's final round

The last round of the second day saw two pairs in the top four clash. The Poles Martens-Szymanowski took on Kalkerup-Koch-Palmund. Meanwhile, the leaders Duboin-Bocchi took on McIntosh-Forrester, who were still only just over half a match out of the lead despite being in 11th place!

Board 21	♠ J 10 8 4 3	
N/NS	♥ K 8	
	♦ J 9 6 2	
	♣ K 9	
		
♠ K 5		♠ 6
♥ J 10 4		♥ A 6 5
♦ K Q 8 5		♦ 10 4
♣ Q 6 5 3		♣ A J 10 8 7 4 2
	<b>S</b>	
	♠ A Q 9 7 2	
	♥ Q 9 7 3 2	
	♦ A 7 3	
	♣ -	

The Danes did sacrifice:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Koch-Palmund	Martens	Kalkerup	Szymanowski
	pass	1♣	1♠
2♠	3♠	4♣	4♠
pass	pass	5♣	pass
pass	dbl.	all pass	

Absolute par on the first board is for EW to sacrifice over 4♠ by South, since even on a passive club lead declarer can get the heart suit going before the defence set up diamonds.


On the lead of the ♠A and a heart shift declarer could not avoid the heart ruff since there was no entry to dummy for the club finesse. She did her best by playing a diamond at trick three but Szymanowski hopped up with the ♦A and gave Martens the heart ruff for +300.

Meanwhile, Forrester-McIntosh missed the sacrifice:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forrester	Bocchi	McIntosh	Duboin
	pass	pass	1♠
pass	2♣	3♣	3♥
pass	4♠	all pass	

On the lead of the ♦K declarer won the ace, laid down the ♠A and claimed ten tricks.

The Poles more than got their even luck here:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Koch-Palmund	Martens	Kalkerup	Szymanowski
pass	1♥	2♦	pass
redbl.	3♠	4♦	dbl.
dbl.	pass	pass	4♠
			pass

It looks as if 4♠ should make - declarer can afford one diamond and two spade losers. Kalkerup chose her singleton club lead, Martens won and returned the suit


letting Kalkerup score her singleton trump which looks a good start for the defence. She returned a diamond; Martens won the ♦A, ruffed a heart and cashed the third club to pitch his diamond. When East discarded the position was clear. Martens ran the clubs, overruffing Koch-Palmund and crossing back to dummy with heart ruffs to lead more clubs and eventually Koch-Palmund scored her ♠AQ but nothing else.

By contrast, Duboin did preempt with the South cards - and it worked less well in a sense:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forrester	Bocchi	McIntosh	Duboin
pass	3NT	4♦	3♣
5♦	dbl.	all pass	pass

The ♣10 lead to the ♣A allowed Bocchi to lead a heart and give his partner a ruff. Now a spade is best, but Duboin played a second club. Declarer ruffed and drove out the ♦A, then ran the trumps and squeezed North in the majors to escape for -200.


At another table, Shivdasani-Murthy were playing Maas-Ramondt. The Indians were having a very good evening session, scoring 209 (+59) over the session. They picked up heavily by bidding and making a marginal game here:

Board 29	♠ K 7 3		
N/ALL	♥ J 9 5		
	♦ J 10 6 2		
	♣ A Q 9		
	N		
♠ A Q 10 5		♠ 9 8 2	
♥ A K 10 2		♥ 4	
♦ K 9 8 7		♦ A Q 4 3	
♣ 2		♣ 10 8 7 6 5	
	S		
	♠ J 6 4		
	♥ Q 8 7 6 3		
	♦ 5		
	♣ K J 4 3		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Shivdasani	Maas	Murthy	Ramondt
1♦	pass	pass	pass
3♥	pass	3♣	pass
5♦	pass	4♦	pass
	pass	pass	pass

Anton Maas was almost endplayed at trick one, though against Zia, Dennis Koch-Palmund knew enough from the bidding to lead the ♣A and set the hand. Maas led a

low spade to the jack and queen. Now Jaggy ducked a club, took the ♠A, cashed the ♥AK and ruffed a heart, then ruffed a club, ruffed a spade, ruffed a club and now scored his ♦AKQ separately for eleven tricks and 10 imps.

In Danish bridge, Knud-Aage Boesgaard is nicknamed 'Lykkehjul.' If you see the board below you will understand why.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Brogeland	Nielsen	Sælensminde	Boesgaard
pass	2♦	pass	1♥
pass	3♠	pass	2♥
pass	4NT	pass	4♣
pass	pass	pass	6♥

If you choose your opponents carefully, you will know in advance that they will not lead spades! On a trump lead, Knud-Aage quickly made sure his reputation stayed intact.




'Knud-Aage Lykkehjul'

## Honourable Mention

In this morning's bulletin, we wrote on page 17:

The last board of the set is a study in defensive play.

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


What happens if you put up the ♠K after a low spade lead and lead a trump? East wins and continues spades. You ruff the third round, cross in diamonds and lead a low heart. East shows out, you contribute the jack and West ducks. Now you can cash the ♥K and play on diamonds, but West ruffs the third round and exits with a spade. You will lose a club in the end for down one. If you do not cash the ♥K, West will again ruff the third diamond and exit with the ♥Q. Cut off from dummy forever, you will have to surrender to East in due course.

We should have added that this defence of ducking the ♥Q was duly found at the table by Steve Weinstein, but missed by another West player who did not discover his error until this morning...



## Round 13

The top clash of today's first round undoubtedly was the match between the pairs ranked 2 and 3 overnight: Boesgaard-Nielsen and Martens-Szymanowski. the Danes drew first blood right on the first board, and it might have been worse for the Poles:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Szymanowski	Nielsen	Martens	Boesgaard
2♥	1♠	pass	pass
pass	dbl.	3♥	dbl.
	pass	pass	

Nielsen did well to sit Boesgaard's double that showed a maximum pass. On a passive defence, the contract might have gone three off for a 7- or 8-imp gain, but the ♠A lead meant Szymanowski could escape for down two and four imps only.


At another table, Kokish-Mittelman did even better:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Auken	Mittelman	Koch-Palmund	Kokish
2♥	1♠	pass	1NT
pass	dbl.	3♥	pass
pass	dbl.	pass	4♥
pass	5♣	all pass	

Here, Kokish could not double 3♥ because he did not have a maximum pass, but the meaning of 4♥ was clear enough. Mittelman duly converted to 5♣ which presented no problems on the friendly layout. Canada +6 imps.



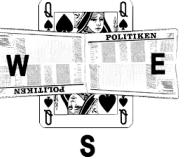
Too careful defence gave Boye Brogeland an unexpected chance:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Koch-Palmund	Sælensminde	Kalkerup	Brogeland
2♣	pass	2♠	2NT
pass	3♦	dbl.	4♥
pass	pass	pass	

Charlotte Koch-Palmund, knowing her partner held a top diamond, elected to lead low from her ♦QJ. This time, Brogeland was right in going for the possibility of a defensive 'mistake' rather than an underlead of an ace (see this morning's Bulletin). So he called for dummy's ♦9 and that was the end of the defence. 12 imps to the Norwegians.

On the next board, games went down more often than not. On Rama, Martens imposed the maximum penalty on Boesgaard, but away from the spectators we saw a real beauty by young Dutchman Vincent Ramondt against the leaders.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Duboin	Maas	Bocchi	Ramondt
pass	pass	2♣	dbl.
pass	dbl.	2♥	pass
pass	3NT	all pass	2NT

Bocchi was known to hold a weak two in hearts, but how would you play against the ♦J lead? Vincent won the ♦AK, noticing the distribution, and exited with a spade. Duboin had to win the ♠K, and could already see the impending doom. He therefore did his best by unblocking the ♠A and exiting with a top diamond. Now Vincent won the ♦Q and made the key play of cashing the ♥A to extract Duboin's most dangerous tooth. From then on, it was plain sailing. A low diamond put Duboin on play and though he could cash one more diamond trick, he had to present declarer with a club trick next. On the third round of clubs, Bocchi was inexorably squeezed out of his ♠Q and ♥QJ.

This declarer play certainly has to be a candidate for the best played hand in 2000. It gained Maas-Ramondt a very well-deserved 11 imps.

For those who check the scores carefully: Kokish-Mittelman also managed to make 3NT, but it was played by North who received a heart lead into his ♥K1097.

The other side of this coin we saw on Rama:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Szymanowski	Nielsen	Martens	Boesgaard
pass	pass	pass	1♦
pass	1♥	pass	1NT
pass	2♣	pass	2♦
pass	2NT	pass	3NT
pass	pass	dbl.	all pass

Knud-Aage Boesgaard did not have very much extra information. The only thing he knew was that the hearts were not breaking well. He did the normal thing by winning the ♥A and cashing the top diamonds, getting the bad news.

With the spades of course wide open, he next took the club finesse, so he had to be content with seven tricks only and a loss of 500 points or 11 imps.

Thanks to Martens' well-diagnosed double the Poles had taken the lead.



On the next board, dealing with the EW cards is not easy. Only Zia and Fu were allowed to declare the hand when Krøjgaard tried to walk the dog as North and it cost him dearly:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	Krøjgaard	Fu	Hansen
		pass	pass
2♦	2♥ (!?)	2♠	pass
3♠	4♥	4♠	dbl.
pass	pass	pass	

The tactical 2♥ gave room to introduce the spades. Fu's aggression later in the auction turned out remarkably well when he collected +990 and 13 imps.

Everyone else played 4♥ or 5♥, some doubled and some not.

Consider how tough it is to keep Bocchi out of any auction. After he passed in first seat Maas opened 4♥ in fourth chair - Bocchi bid 4♠! Now he got to defend 5♥ and on a diamond lead declarer finessed and went three down, undoubled...

Elsewhere only Koch-Palmund and Auker reached 4♠, again on an auction where the East hand (Koch-Palmund) took an aggressive view. When Kokish opened a weak 2♦ he might have closed out his opponents altogether. Not so:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Auker	Mittelman	Koch-Palmund	Kokish
		pass	2♦
pass	2♥	2♠	3♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	pass
pass	5♥	dbl.	all pass

The ♠A lead held the damage to 300 (it could have been 100 now had declarer guessed the clubs). Datum on the board was 130 to this misguess cost the Canadians 5 imps.

On Rama, the Danes played in 4♥ doubled for one down and a gain of 1 imp, so the Poles were still leading them at the start of this board:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Szymanowski	Nielsen	Martens	Boesgaard
		pass	pass
pass	1♠	pass	2♠
pass	pass	3♦	pass
3♥	pass	pass	pass

The bidding looks almost too innocent to be true, but the Poles were well and truly talked out of a vulnerable game. Nobody else achieved this feat, so a full 10 imps went to the Danes, in the lead again now.

And the next board:

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


WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Szymanowski	Nielsen	Martens	Boesgaard
pass	pass	1♦	pass
1♠	pass	1NT	pass
2♠	pass	2NT	pass
3♥	pass	pass	pass

Well, with all those top tricks and a four-card trump support, why not politely raise your partner just once? Missing game only lost 5 imps, so the result of the match was 60-40 to the Danes. It is not completely obvious to reach 4♥. At one table, NS managed to keep EW silent throughout:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Koch-Palmund	Sælensminde	Kalkerup	Brogeland
pass	1♦	pass	1♠
pass	1NT	all pass	

Why enter the auction when the opponents are bidding your suits? The contract went one light, but 7 imps moved to the North - about the margin of their win over the local ladies.


The real fireworks came on board 15:

Board 15	♠ K	
S/NS	♥ 10 7 3 2	
	♦ K J 8 7 4	
	♣ Q 10 5	
	N	
♠ A J 9 6		♠ Q 7 3 2
♥ K Q		♥ J 6 5
♦ Q 10 6 5		♦ A 9 3
♣ J 3 2		♣ K 7 6
	S	
	♠ 10 8 5 4	
	♥ A 9 8 4	
	♦ 2	
	♣ A 9 8 4	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	McIntosh	Fu	Forrester
1♦	pass	1♠	pass
2♠	pass	pass	dbl.
pass	3♥	dbl.	all pass

## The penultimate round


The boards ran very quiet for a second consecutive set. Still, we managed to spot one or two more or less exciting deals, our hopes mainly based upon the fact that Zia and Fu had to play Forrester-McIntosh. We were not to be disappointed, as this was the first board:

Board 11	♠ A 7		
S/-	♥ 10 3 2		
	♦ K Q 9 7 5 4		
	♣ J 3		
	N		
♠ J 10 3		♠ K Q 6 5 4	
♥ K 8 5		♥ Q 7	
♦ 8 3		♦ A 6 2	
♣ A K 9 8 5		♣ Q 7 6	
	S		
	♠ 9 8 2		
	♥ A J 9 6 4		
	♦ J 10		
	♣ 10 4 2		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	McIntosh	Fu	Forrester
pass	4♥	all pass	2♥

This contract went down three, but it was a good save against 4♠. This was bid at five tables and missed once, whereas one table could not avoid ending up in 3NT. The British scored 5 imps for their efforts.

Maybe, a trump lead is best, but it did not matter too much. A spade went to Zia's ace and out came the ♥K which held the trick. Another heart went to the ace and now declarer guessed to lead a club to the ten and king. Fu cashed his top trump and continued spades, so declarer could make only three clubs and three trumps for down three, a juicy 800 and 13 imps to Zia and Fu, who took the lead by 5 imps with this board.


On the board below the Chinese had the machinery to stop low.

Board 17	♠ J 9		
N/-	♥ J 9 6 5 4		
	♦ Q 10		
	♣ A 10 8 6		
	N		
♠ K 2		♠ A 8 6 5 3	
♥ Q 10 8 7 3 2		♥ -	
♦ K J 9		♦ A 8 4 3 2	
♣ Q 7		♣ K 5 2	
	S		
	♠ Q 10 7 4		
	♥ A K		
	♦ 7 6 5		
	♣ J 9 4 3		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zhuang	Martens	Wang	Szymanowski
2♥	pass	1♠	pass
2NT	pass	2♠	pass
	pass	pass	pass

Presumably, 3♦ would have been forcing or one would have bid it.

Now, on a club lead to the queen Zhuang made the natural play of a spade to the ace and a diamond to the jack and queen. The option of leading the ♦K and another from hand might look very silly if the ♣A was offside. However, on the line he actually selected Martens could win his ♦Q and play a second spade, setting up the sixth winner for the defence before declarer had eight tricks. It looks as if the better line might have been to win the ♣Q and play the ♦9 to the ace and then finesse the ♦J. This means that you bring in the diamond suit whenever it splits 3-2. More important is that when the defence take the ♦Q and shift to a spade you can win in hand and lead a club up to dummy's king for your eighth trick in relative safety. Going down one only cost the Chinese one imp, but they might have gained a couple had the contract been made.

The Chinese again landed on their feet on the next board, but with more success:

Board 18	♠ K Q 10 6 5 2	
E/NS	♥ Q 7	
	♦ K 2	
	♣ Q 6 5	
	N	
♠ J 7		♠ 8
♥ K 5 2		♥ A 10 3
♦ 6 4 3		♦ A Q 9 8 5
♣ 9 7 4 3 2		♣ A J 10 8
	S	
	♠ A 9 4 3	
	♥ J 9 8 6 4	
	♦ J 10 7	
	♣ K	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zhuang	Martens	Wang	Szymanowski
1♥	1♠	1♦	pass
pass	2♠	3♥	pass
4♣	pass	pass	pass

Zhunag's 1♥ response pushed his side to 4♣ (perhaps Wang might have doubled 2♠ but it would not have been easy to put on the brakes anyway). Martens led the ♥9 to the queen and ace. Declarer played the ♣A and the ♣J, on which Marek pitched the ♠9 to give preference for hearts. The message was not received. Martens tried the ♦K and now declarer could win and draw trumps then give up a diamond for his contract, scoring +130 and 1 imp back.

The last board of the set produced a neat play by Jørgen Hansen and revenge for Forrester-McIntosh.

Board 20			♠ 9 7 6 5 2	
W/ALL			♥ J 9 6 5	
			♦ Q 8 6	
			♣ 6	
♠ A 10				♠ 8 4
♥ 7 4				♥ K 10 8 3
♦ K 10 7 5 4 3 2				♦ -
♣ A 2				♣ K J 9 8 7 4 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hansen	Murthy	Krøjgaard	Shivdasani
1♦	pass	1♥	1NT
2♦	pass	pass	pass

On a heart lead, there would not have been a story. Nor should there on the actual club lead by Rev Murthy, but the ♣6 could not be read as a 100% singleton. Declarer won the ♣A and led a trump to Jaggy's nine. On a club return, Rev would have ruffed and returned a heart for down two, but Jaggy tried the ♠K. Hansen won and led another diamond to Jaggy's jack. Once again, Murthy could have saved the day by winning his ♦Q and returning a heart. When Jaggy continued with two more rounds of spades, the defence was over, but it still was left to declarer to exploit the mistakes made. Hansen ruffed and played a third trump to Jaggy, who exited with his last spade. On the run of the trumps Hansen blanked dummy's ♥K and Jaggy had to come down to his club guard and the blank ♥A. At trick 11, he was thrown in with it to concede the last two tricks and the contract. Nicely done for a small gain of 3 imps.

Zia, for once, did not fully respect his partner's bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	McIntosh	Fu	Forrester
1♦	pass	1♥	pass
2♦	pass	pass	2♠
pass	pass	3♣	dbl.
3♦	pass	pass	dbl.
pass	pass	pass	

As they say so often: 'It's only the last double that counts.' Most probably, 3♣ will be made as the defence cannot prevent the heart ruff except at the cost of the natural trump trick. With the ♥A coming down in three rounds anyway declarer will not have a problem. In 3♦, Zia lost the more or less obvious seven tricks when the defence found their club ruff. As a result, the match ended in a 64-36 loss to Zia and Fu Zhong.


## The decisive boards

Guess who's going to win this tournament? This morning it looked wide open, but when the last round got underway Duboin-Bocchi, the overnight leaders, had increased their margin to 26 VP. Would that be enough?

The issue was decided at an early stage during the last round, as this was the third board:

Board 23

S/ALL

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Koch-Palmund	Bocchi	Kalkerup	Duboin
pass	pass	1♠	pass
2♣	pass	2♦	pass
2♥	pass	3♣	pass
4♠	pass	5♣	pass
5♥	pass	6♠	all pass

There was nothing wrong with the bidding, nor with the final contract. The only problem left was to guess the winning play, which might well involve guessing who would be going to win the tournament. If the slam made, the Italians were bound to lose a double-figure swing; if it failed, they would register an even bigger swing in their favour.

Well, on anything except a diamond lead there would not have been a problem, but Giorgio Duboin kept alive the Italian hopes of deciding the tournament at once when he selected the ♦6 as his opening lead. The ♦A took North's ♦Q and the ♠AK disposed of the outstanding trumps. What now?


If the heart finesse is right, you are home, but there is a better theoretical chance. If you give up a diamond, you can discard a heart on the ♦J and take the ruffing finesse in hearts later. The extra chance is that you can arrange the play in such a way that you can play ♥A, heart ruff first before deciding on the ruffing finesse. The play might go: ♦K, ♣A, ♥A, ♦J (heart discard), heart ruff, ♠J, ♥Q for a club discard. This wins when the ruffing finesse

works (the same 50% as the straightforward finesse) plus the extra chance of the ♥K doubleton anywhere. Sabine Auken followed this line and made her contract!

But after North shows up with the ♦KQ, why not attribute some of the missing HCP to South as well? The right play on hands of this type will remain anybody's guess, but after this board no more guessing was needed as to who were going to win the tournament. Congratulations to Giorgio Duboin and Norberto Bocchi!

Board 27

S/-

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Nielsen	Murthy	Boesgaard	Shivdasani
1NT	dbl.	pass	pass
pass	2♣	redbl.	pass
4♣	pass	4♥	pass
5♦	dbl.	pass	pass
5♥	pass	6♠	pass

Double showed a one-suiter and 3♠ was forcing. 4♣ was a cuebid and 4♥ a Trelde asking. 5♦ showed three aces and a heart control and after the double, pass was another ask. Now, 5♥ was supposed to show some late diamond control, hence the jump to 6♠ which went only one off on the lead of the ♦10. In spite of this adverse swing, Knud-Aage Boesgaard and Hans Christian Nielsen held on to second place. Congratulations to them too.

Mind you: the Danes would have secured their 2nd place, had they (redoubled and) made 5♦. In fact, slam can be made if East is declarer, because the ♥Q is protected. If North leads a low heart against 5♦, West should duck when South produces the ♥10; thereafter the play is the same but the result is eleven tricks only.

Say East wins the club lead and runs the ♦9. North wins and a heart comes back to the queen, king and ace. Now a heart goes on the ♣A, the ♦J and another pick up the trumps (pinning the 10 in the process), the last trump is drawn and the spades run. Voilà mesdames et messieurs, we have conjured up the necessary twelve tricks for you. Isn't that wonderful?