



4th Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship 8th to 14th September 2014

Daily bulletin – Sunday 14th September

Chairman captures Cup



Photograph by Norma Bain

After yesterday's excitement the final of the 4th Commonwealth Bridge Championship proved to be one-sided as the Chairman's team cruised to a comfortable victory over Wales. England secured the silver medals by defeating India, who join them on the podium.

In today's Trans-national Semi-finals Canadonia meets Scottish President's and Australia faces Canada , with the winners meeting in the Final.



Today's matches on VuGraph and BBO

Both Trans-national Teams Semifinals, and the subsequent Final,
will be shown on VuGraph and BBO

Semi-finals – 10:30 to 13:45

Final – 14:45 to 18:00

Today's Events

Trans-national Teams Semi-finals

Session 1 (12 boards) – 10:30 to 12:00

Session 2 (12 boards) – 12:15 to 13:45

Canadonia	Scottish President's
Australia	Canada

Trans-national Teams Final

Session 1 (12 boards) – 14:45 to 16:15

Session 2 (12 boards) – 16:30 to 18:00

Open Swiss Pairs

Session 1 (4 x 6-board matches) – 10:30 to 13:45

Session 2 (4 x 6-board matches) – 14:45 to 18:00

Yesterday's Results

Championship Teams Final and Play-off

Final	Wales	Chairman's	62 – 132
Play-off	India	England	57 – 73

Trans-national Swiss Teams

Rank	Team name	Brought forward	Matches					Total VPs
			7	8	9	10	11	
1	Canadonia	91.56	20.00	14.09	13.78	5.91	7.95	153.29
2	Australia	41.32	17.31	15.23	6.22	13.45	16.90	143.43
3	Canada	42.48	12.77	16.68	12.77	6.55	12.05	136.30
4	Scottish President's	34.68	19.95	14.68	16.46	14.09	3.10	135.96
5	Taylor	56.42	14.68	14.68	18.21	11.27	16.23	131.49
6	Scotland	39.32	2.69	12.77	17.69	10.44	15.50	131.41
7	Pakistan I	70.27	17.50	5.32	16.90	12.05	8.73	130.77
8	Seale	70.05	2.50	17.11	9.14	15.23	16.00	130.03
9	Harris I	68.05	12.42	6.22	14.96	16.23	11.27	129.15
10	Moseley	66.82	0.05	6.22	19.24	17.11	15.50	124.94
11	Bokkies	55.22	16.90	7.95	19.37	13.45	11.67	124.56
12	Pryor	83.22	13.78	5.91	7.23	7.95	4.50	122.59

Trans-national Swiss Teams (continued)

Rank	Team name	Brought forward	Matches					Total VPs
			7	8	9	10	11	
13	The Roofuls	80.33	6.22	4.77	2.31	13.78	14.09	121.50
14	Adamson	76.89	7.23	15.50	3.54	8.73	8.33	120.22
15	SBU	83.59	0.00	4.50	10.86	6.55	14.39	119.89
16	Clow	59.90	20.00	13.78	11.27	9.56	3.77	118.28
17	Guernsey Chillis	74.92	15.50	3.32	8.73	11.67	4.00	118.14
18	England 2	63.50	19.95	7.23	12.00	8.33	4.50	115.51
19	Smith	60.63	12.05	2.89	14.39	12.77	11.27	114.00
20	Shenkin	43.93	15.75	14.39	17.11	5.61	16.90	113.69
21	Hodgson	64.94	13.78	14.09	3.10	6.22	10.00	112.13
22	Rainsford	65.98	6.22	12.05	13.78	4.77	8.73	111.53
23	Wiseman	55.41	14.68	16.00	6.88	7.23	10.00	110.20
24	Pakistan 2	68.55	7.58	10.44	1.79	6.55	14.96	109.87
25	McKinnon	57.55	16.46	5.91	19.85	3.77	5.91	109.45
26	Verran	48.74	15.75	18.37	6.22	14.39	5.61	109.08
27	Iersey	55.62	5.32	7.23	18.04	13.45	9.14	108.80
28	Alexander	52.44	19.62	5.32	5.61	14.68	10.86	108.53
29	Mitchell	56.84	3.54	5.61	4.25	14.68	19.11	104.03
30	Kenya	74.59	4.50	9.56	0.00	2.89	10.44	101.98
31	Plant	38.65	6.22	14.39	18.53	14.09	9.56	101.44
32	Singapore	61.12	0.05	12.77	2.89	16.68	5.04	98.55
33	Malta	54.97	3.10	13.45	1.96	13.78	11.27	98.53
34	Black Swans	60.06	7.95	4.00	0.76	16.46	8.73	97.96
35	NIBU	52.21	4.77	6.55	15.75	13.78	3.10	96.16
36	Mixed Fortunes	45.46	13.78	18.37	0.15	3.54	14.09	95.39
37	Bruce	51.15	15.23	13.78	0.63	5.32	9.14	95.25
38	Harris 2	54.12	0.38	5.61	16.46	3.32	11.67	91.56
39	Isle of Man	48.00	4.25	13.45	10.00	10.00	5.61	91.31
40	Malaysia	56.48	5.32	1.63	1.47	15.23	10.86	90.99
41	Perkins	36.02	17.31	14.68	10.00	6.22	5.91	90.14
42	O'Brien	39.16	15.50	8.73	3.54	5.32	14.09	86.34
43	S Africa 2	58.40	0.00	1.63	17.50	5.91	0.89	84.33
44	Graham	46.11	4.25	5.32	4.50	5.61	14.39	80.18
45	Unethical	39.01	4.50	6.55	15.50	4.77	8.33	78.66
46	Barbados	35.32	2.69	11.27	2.50	14.39	5.91	72.08

The Duellists

Patrick Jourdain (Wales)

As the Chairman's Team defeated England in one semifinal that meant our gold medal match would be the semifinal against India.

Board 15 of the first half was actually played first at the table where Tim Rees and Gary Jones were sitting EW for Wales. It proved to a fascinating battle between declarer and the defence but Tim coped successfully with the challenge set:

Board: 15 Dealer: South N-S game

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Jones	Bendre	Rees	Thakrai
		1♦	
Double	Pass	4♥	All pass

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Jalan	Ratcliff	Malhotra	Jourdain
		1♦	
Double	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All pass			

The Indian team has a reputation for aggressive bidding but on this occasion it was Wales bidding game at both tables.

Where I was declarer the defence was quick and effective. West led the ace of clubs and when his partner played the lowest in sight (encouraging), continued the suit. East ruffed and returned a diamond. When West proved to hold two trump tricks I was disappointed to have to accept one off. The good news was, with East having two black singletons Four Hearts must stand a chance.

Rees reached that game in quick time.

South led the king of clubs to dummy's ace, North giving count, and a diamond went to the nine and ten. South returned a low diamond and when Rees ruffed the king fell.

Next came ace of spades and a spade ruff and a third diamond. Expecting North to be out Rees carefully ruffed with the ACE of trumps, North discarding a club. A further spade ruff was followed by a diamond ruffed with dummy's remaining trump.

North over-ruffed with the ten. After a moment's thought North exited with a low trump. That was good play. Had North exited with a black card declarer trumps small, cashes one high trump and exits with a diamond to leave the defence endplayed.

Rees thought it through and came up with the winning play of putting in the eight. When this held he drew trumps and conceded a diamond.

This was ten tricks and 8 IMPs to Wales.

The first half win for Wales was 40 IMPs less the 5 IMPs carry-over that India had from the round robin.

Semi-final Round Up

Mark Horton

With Wales enjoying a significant lead over India it looked natural to concentrate on the other match between England and the Chairman (I keep wanting to write Chairman's XI, must be a cricket thing), especially when Wales immediately went further ahead:

Board: 17 Dealer: North Love all

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Tedd	Datta	Salisbury	Nandi
	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All pass	

East led the five of hearts and West took the ace and returned the seven to declarer's king. Declarer played a club to the jack and tried to slip a diamond past West – no joy as up went the ace and the defenders cashed their hearts for one down, -50.

It is of passing interest that neither East nor West saw fit to enter the auction. (Bakhshi and McIntosh got all the way to 4♥ – on a good day it might have made.)

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Thakral	Jones	Bendre	Rees
	1♣	Pass	1♠
2♥	Double	3♥	5♣

All pass

East led the three of hearts and West won with the ace and switched to a low diamond. Declarer saw his opportunity and went up with the king, pitched a diamond on the king of hearts, ruffed a diamond, crossed to dummy with a trump, ruffed a diamond, went to dummy to ruff the last diamond and played ace of spades and a spade. Even if West had held the king he would have been endplayed.

That was a well played +400 and 10 IMPs to Wales, ahead 72-27.

However, India kept going and were soon back in the match:

Board: 22 Dealer: East E-W game

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Tedd	Datta	Salisbury	Nandi
		Pass	Pass
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♣
Double	Pass	2♦	All pass

A somewhat conservative approach saw Wales stop well short of game.

Playing in only 2♦ West was under no pressure and allowed the defenders to score a spade, a diamond and a club for +130. Had he been in 5♦ he would have almost certainly have made it.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Thakral	Jones	Bendre	Rees
		Pass	Pass
1♣*	1♦*	Pass	1♠
Double	Pass	Pass	2♣
Double	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass

1♣ Strong
1♦ Spades

North led the ace of spades and continued with the

four. Declarer won with dummy's ten, discarding a club, played two top hearts ending in dummy and the king of spades, discarding another club when South ruffed. With the diamonds behaving he was assured of ten tricks, +620 and 10 IMPs.

Board: 23 Dealer: South Game all

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Tedd	Datta	Salisbury	Nandi
			Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥

All pass

East led the jack of diamonds and declarer won with the ace, played a heart to the king and a heart to the seven, West pitching a diamond. When East ducked declarer played a third heart and East won and returned the nine of spades. West took the ace and returned his last diamond and declarer won, drew the outstanding trump and played a spade to the jack. When East threw a club declarer unblocked the king of clubs, cashed the queen of diamonds and the king of spades and could exit with either a spade or a diamond, secure in the knowledge that the ace of clubs would take the last trick, +620.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Thakral	Jones	Bendre	Rees
			Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥

All pass

West led the two of clubs and declarer won perforce with dummy's king and played a heart to the queen and heart to the seven, East ducking as West pitched a club.

The winning line now is to play four rounds of diamonds, ruffing the last and then playing a spade towards dummy.

However, declarer played a low spade and West won with the queen and exited with a diamond. Declarer won in dummy and played a heart but East won and

played a club. Declarer ruffed that in dummy, cashed two diamonds and tried the king of spades, but West could win, give East a spade ruff and the ace of hearts was the setting trick, -100 and 12 IMPs to India.

After a succession of flat boards there was finally a swing in the other match:

Board: 25 Dealer: North E-W game

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Holland	Justin	Green	Jason
	1♣	1♥	Pass
2♣*	3♣	3♥	3♠
4♥	Pass	Pass	5♣
Double	All pass		

2♣ Heart support

Declarer lost a spade, two hearts and a diamond, two down, -300.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	King	McIntosh	Small
	1♣*	1♥	Pass
4♥	All pass		

West's more direct approach gave NS no chance to find the save. Declarer lost a spade, a diamond and a club, +620 and 8 IMPs to Chairman.

Meanwhile India had added another 10 IMPs to reduce their deficit to just 6 IMPs.

Board: 27 Dealer: South Love all

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Tedd	Datta	Salisbury	Nandi
			Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3NT

All pass

North's tactical opening passed off peacefully. East led the king of clubs and declarer took his tricks, +400.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Thakral	Jones	Bendre	Rees
			Pass
Pass	3NT	Double	All pass

This was very much a case of North saying anything you can do I can do better. Not only did he open two levels higher than his counterpart with a suit that was as full of holes as a Swiss cheese, but he also stood his ground when doubled.

East made the classical lead of the ace of hearts and declarer had an overtrick, +650 and 6 badly needed IMPs for Wales that settled their supporter's nerves.

India had no further opportunities and Wales added a few more points to win 92-68.

With time running out England, trailing 25-45, needed a result:

Board: 32 Dealer: West E-W game

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Holland	Justin	Green	Jason
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥
3♥*	4♥	4♠	All pass

3♥ Spade support

South led the jack of hearts and North won with the king over the queen and returned his club. South took the ace and returned the seven of clubs, North ruffing and returning the nine of hearts. South did not have another club, but he cashed the ace of diamonds for two down, +200.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	King	McIntosh	Small
Pass	Pass	2♥*	3♥
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
Double	All pass		

2♥ 5+♠ and 4+♣, opening values

With trumps 2-2 5♥ was cold, +650 and 10 IMPs to England, 35-45.

There were still three deals to play (the boards having arrived out of order) but England could not pull a rabbit out of the hat and it was Chairman who advanced to meet Wales in the final.

Chairman's Charge

Mark Horton

After 6 deals Wales were ahead on the set 4-2.

Board: 19 Dealer: South E-W game

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Jones	Hackett	Rees	Mossop
2♣	2♦	Pass	1♦
All pass			6♦

I am not a fan of this somewhat agricultural style of bidding – if North had held the ace of hearts, then 7♦ would almost certainly have been laydown. (Opening 4NT, anyone?)

However, when West led his red ace declarer was soon claiming, +920.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	Ratcliff	McIntosh	Jourdain
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♦*
Pass	4♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	6♦	All pass	4♠*

2♦ Game forcing

2♥ Relay

4♠ Cue bid

West led the two of diamonds and declarer won with the king, unblocked the ace of spades, played a

diamond to the nine, cashed the king of spades and the ace of clubs pitching hearts and played the eight of hearts. Strictly speaking East should cover this, ensuring that declarer must lose a heart, but he was sure declarer was not going to run it and for the second time in the match Mr Grosvenor made an appearance. West took the king with the ace and in due course declarer lost a heart, one down, -50 and 14 IMPs to Chairman.

Suppose declarer goes to dummy with the nine of diamonds at trick two and advances the eight of hearts. If East covers and declarer plays an honour West can win but must now give declarer access to dummy. Then declarer can take a heart finesse. If West withholds the ace of hearts declarer must guess the layout - has West ducked with ♥A6 or ♥A63 or does East have ♥A/J/A10. Of course, East would not cover the eight and declarer would play an honour as before.

Board: 21 Dealer: North N-S game

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Jones	Hackett	Rees	Mossop
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
All pass	2♠	Pass	6NT

East led the ten of diamonds and when West took the jack with the king declarer claimed – but only eleven tricks as he could not avoid losing a club, -100.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	Ratcliff	McIntosh	Jourdain
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
All pass	2NT	Pass	6NT

East led the four of hearts and declarer won with the nine and cashed three more hearts pitching two diamonds. A club to the king saw East win and return a club and declarer won with the nine, cashed the jack, came to hand with a spade and cashed the queen of clubs.

I think West must have blanked the king of diamonds

now, declarer cashing two spades and then playing a diamond. He knew West had started with six spades, three hearts, three diamonds and a club, so if he had the $\heartsuit K$ it was now a singleton. Given that East had had two chances to switch to a diamond declarer took the finesse and was two down.

The legendary Giorgio Belladonna used to say of this type of deal that you set up the squeeze and then take the finesse, so declarer was in good company, but lost 3 IMPs.

Board: 22 Dealer: East E-W game

	\spadesuit 7 3		
	\heartsuit J 5 3		
	\diamondsuit A K 8 3		
	\clubsuit 9 7 5 4		
\spadesuit J 9 5	N	E	\spadesuit Q 2
\heartsuit A K Q 7	W	S	\heartsuit 9 4 2
\diamondsuit 10 7 6 5 4			\diamondsuit J 9
\clubsuit 8			\clubsuit A Q J 6 3 2
	\spadesuit A K 10 8 6 4		
	\heartsuit 10 8 6		
	\diamondsuit Q 2		
	\clubsuit K 10		

N-S reached $2\spadesuit$ at both tables and both E-W pairs defended perfectly, collecting three hearts, the ace of clubs and a club ruff when the fourth heart saw East ruff with the queen of spades, promoting a trick for West's jack.

At the end of the set Chairman was in a strong position, leading 59 – 17 IMPs.

Opening Gambits

Mark Horton

Both side bid a regulation $4\spadesuit$ on the opening deal, with \spadesuit 10932 \heartsuit AK4 \diamondsuit K103 \clubsuit J86 facing \spadesuit AKQ86 \heartsuit J109 \diamondsuit J874 \clubsuit 9 which made in comfort. I only mention it because South missed a chance for a brilliancy. Holding \spadesuit 74 \heartsuit Q652 \diamondsuit A5 \clubsuit K10732 a low diamond lead at trick one through the \diamondsuit K103 might have been too tough for declarer to cope with.

Board: 2 Dealer: East N-S game

	\spadesuit A 2		
	\heartsuit 9 8		
	\diamondsuit 10 9 8 3		
	\clubsuit A K J 10 6		
\spadesuit J 8 7 6 5 4 3	N	E	\spadesuit K Q 9
\heartsuit 4	W	S	\heartsuit A J 7 6
\diamondsuit Q 7 4			\diamondsuit K 5
\clubsuit 5 3			\clubsuit Q 8 4 2
	\spadesuit 10		
	\heartsuit K Q 10 5 3 2		
	\diamondsuit A J 6 2		
	\clubsuit 9 7		

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Tedd	Hackett	Salisbury	Mossop
		1 \heartsuit	Pass
Pass	2 \clubsuit	Pass	Pass
2 \spadesuit	Pass	Pass	3 \clubsuit
Pass	Pass	3 \spadesuit	All pass

East's opening bid neatly picked off the suit in which NS could make a game.

Although West did not respond to the opening bid he was more than happy to reopen and that led to the laydown partscore, +140.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Justin	Ratcliff	Jason	Jourdain
		INT	2 \heartsuit
2 \spadesuit	4 \heartsuit	Pass	Pass
4 \clubsuit	Double	All pass	

North cashed his clubs and in due course the defenders bagged a pair of aces, one down, -100 and 6 IMPs to Wales.

Board: 3 Dealer: South E-W game

	\spadesuit Q 9 8 4 2		
	\heartsuit K 7 3		
	\diamondsuit 3		
	\clubsuit A 10 7 6		
\spadesuit K 10	N	E	\spadesuit A J
\heartsuit 10 9 8	W	S	\heartsuit J 4 2
\diamondsuit Q J 9 7			\diamondsuit A 8 6 5 4 2
\clubsuit 8 5 4 3			\clubsuit J 9
	\spadesuit 7 6 5 3		
	\heartsuit A Q 6 5		
	\diamondsuit K 10		
	\clubsuit K Q 2		

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Tedd	Hackett	Salisbury	Mossop
			1 \clubsuit
Pass	1 \spadesuit	Pass	2 \spadesuit
All pass			

With trumps 2-2 it was not difficult to record ten tricks, +170.

North should have taken another bid. Once spades have been supported the fifth card becomes the equivalent of a king. Still, it was only a non vulnerable game.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Justin	Ratcliff	Jason	Jourdain
			INT*
Pass	2 \heartsuit *	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3 \heartsuit *	Pass	3 \spadesuit
Pass	4 \spadesuit	All pass	

- 1NT 12-14
- 2♥ Transfer
- 2NT Maximum with 4 spades
- 3♥ Retransfer

Well bid by the Welsh pair – it was only a non vulnerable game so it cost the Chairman only 6 IMPs.

Board: 7 Dealer: South Game all

♠ J 10 4	♠ K 8 5 3	♠ 2									
♥ A 7	♥ Q 9 6 5	♥ J 10 4 3 2									
♦ K Q 7 2	♦ A 10 6	♦ 9 5 3									
♣ 8 5 3 2	♣ 10 9	♣ A Q 6 4									
<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>				N		W		E		S	
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ A Q 9 7 6										
	♥ K 8										
	♦ J 8 4										
	♣ K J 7										

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Tedd	Hackett	Salisbury	Mossop
Pass	3♣*	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	All pass	3♠

3♣ 5-8 with support

On this layout the defenders were helpless.

Declarer took the king of diamonds lead with dummy's ace, drew trumps and played a diamond to the jack and West's king. When West switched to the five of clubs East took the ace and declarer claimed, +620.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Justin	Ratcliff	Jason	Jourdain
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
2NT*	3♠	4♣	All pass

2NT Minors

Although North came again over West's protective reopening South was unwilling to take any further action. Perhaps North might have doubled 2NT to show his defensive potential and near maximum. (A double of 4♣ by South is mildly speculative, but works like a dream here.)

South led the ace of spades and continued the suit. Declarer ruffed, played a heart to the ace and a heart to South's king. He ruffed the spade continuation and played a heart and South elected to ruff in front of dummy and played a diamond for the queen and ace.

A diamond or a trump would lead to three down (800 if South had doubled) but he played the queen of hearts and declarer could ruff in dummy and play a club to the queen. Although that lost he was only two down, -200 and the Chairman had 9 IMPs and the lead.

Board: 10 Dealer: East Game all

♠ J 9 8 4 3	♠ A K 10 7									
♥ A J 6	♥ 8 5									
♦ J	♦ A 10 7									
♣ K 10 9 8	♣ 7 6 5 3									
<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>			N		W		E		S	
	N									
W		E								
	S									
	♥ Q 10 9									
	♦ K Q 8 6 2									
	♣ A Q J 4 2									
	♠ Q 6 5 2									
	♥ K 7 4 3 2									
	♦ 9 5 4 3									
	♣									

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Tedd	Hackett	Salisbury	Mossop
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
3♣	All pass	2♣	Pass

No doubt East felt his spade void was not much of an asset when partner had bid the suit, but it's always disconcerting to play a possible slam in a part score. Wales +170.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Justin	Ratcliff	Jason	Jourdain
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
		5♣	All pass

After the same start East did not hesitate to bid on, +620 and 10 IMPs.

Board: 11 Dealer: South Love all

♠ 10 4	♠ A 9 8 5									
♥ 6 3	♥ A 8 7									
♦ 10 5 4 3	♦ 9									
♣ A 10 8 6 2	♣ K Q J 5 4									
<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>			N		W		E		S	
	N									
W		E								
	S									
	♠ K 7 6									
	♥ J 9 5 4 2									
	♦ K J 6 2									
	♣ 7									
	♠ Q J 3 2									
	♥ K Q 10									
	♦ A Q 8 7									
	♣ 9 3									

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Tedd	Hackett	Salisbury	Mossop
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
All pass			

West led the five of diamonds and declarer took East's king with the ace, played a spade to the ace and a spade and won with the jack when East ducked. Eleven tricks were not in doubt now, +450.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Justin	Ratcliff	Jason	Jourdain
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠
All pass			

3♥ Shortage in diamonds, denies 4 hearts

If North's 3♥ promised 4 spades then perhaps a serious 3NT slam try would work better than 4♣ as it would give South a chance to cue bid in clubs. Alas, 3♥ does not guarantee four spades.

West led the two of clubs and declarer put up dummy's king (would you dare to run it to the nine?) played a heart to the king and ran the queen of spades to East's king.

When East returned the two of diamonds declarer put up the ace (would you have finessed?) drew trumps ending in hand and played the nine of clubs.

West knew he could probably defeat the contract by covering that with the ten, but he went for a Grosvenor by following with the eight. Declarer could now get home by running the nine, but naturally he put up the queen and could now only muster ten tricks, one down, -50 and 11 IMPs to Chairman, who took the set 33-13.

Sunday's problem

Dealer: West N-S game

♠ 8 5 3	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A K 9 2
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ K 5 3	♥ Q 8 2										
♦ A Q 9 5	♦ K										
♣ K Q 6	♣ A J 10 5 3										

Contract: 6NT by West Lead: ♦J

What are your chances here if there is no doubleton ace of hearts?

Saturday's problem – solution

	♠ 9 4 3 2										
	♥ 7 6 3										
	♦ A 6 3										
	♣ 10 3 2										
♠ A J 10 7 6	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K Q
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A	♥ Q 10 9 5 4										
♦ 2	♦ J 10 8 5 4										
♣ A Q 8 7 6 4	♣ K										
	♠ 8 5										
	♥ K J 8 2										
	♦ K Q 9 7										
	♣ J 9 5										

Contract: 6♠ by West Lead: ♦A

North leads the ace of diamonds and follows with a diamond to the queen. How do you play?

Obviously, you must get the clubs going, but you cannot deal with bad breaks in both black suits. One suit will need to break 3-3. The way to cope without guessing is to play the ace of clubs at trick 2.

Play the queen and ruff a club. If clubs are 3-3, cash the other high spade and come back to the ace of hearts to draw trumps. If clubs are 4-2, you play a heart to ruff another club. Then ruff a heart and hope that trumps are 3-3.

If you unblock the king of clubs at trick 2 and return to the ace of hearts, you must guess which suit is breaking. If clubs, draw trumps; if spades, you ruff a club and ruff a heart to draw trumps.

Fiona Greenwood

There are many people to thank and congratulate, but everybody will know that the driving force behind the planning and delivery of the whole event has been Fiona Greenwood.



We are sure that more will be said at the closing banquet, but we know that all players, spectators and helpers would like to thank her for the tremendous job that she has done.