



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

Daily bulletin – Wednesday 10th September

Table Presents. Gifts on offer – but few takers



The four matches of day two saw Canada move to the top of Group 1, just ahead of England. These two have established a commanding lead from Chairman's and Scotland.

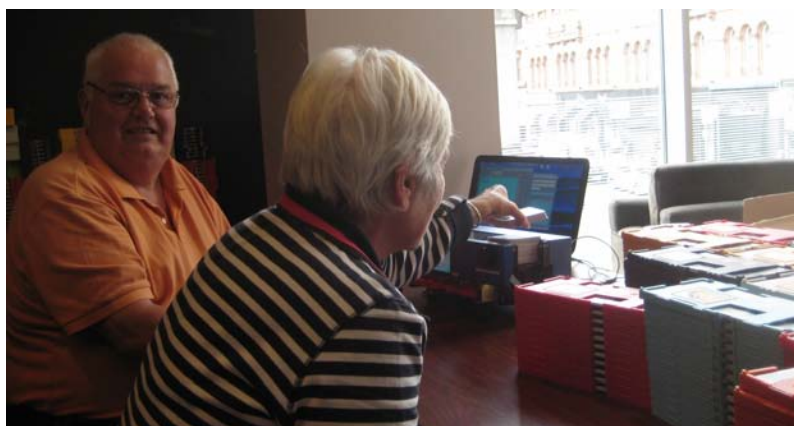
In Group 2 Pakistan 2 lead from their perennial rivals India. Australia are a little off the pace in third with Wales some way further back in fourth.

Today's matches on VuGraph and BBO

Round 7 – 10:30 to 12:20	
VuGraph:	Scotland v Chairman's
BBO:	Malaysia v England
Round 8 – 12:45 to 14:35	
VuGraph:	Scottish President's v England 2
BBO:	South Africa v SBU

Round 9 – 15:35 to 17:25	
VuGraph:	South Africa v England
BBO:	Harris v Canada
Round 10 – 17:50 to 19:40	
VuGraph:	England 2 v Kenya
BBO:	Pakistan 2 v South Africa 2

Dealing at over 600 boards per hour!



Terry Collier is the real deal. With over 5,000 boards needed for the round robin matches alone, and many more required for the subsequent final stages, he and the PlayBridge Dealer4 are producing a board every 5½ seconds. And then there are the Swiss Teams and Swiss Pairs events ...

To see this amazing machine in action, please visit the display area outside the playing rooms during the lunch breaks on Wednesday and Thursday. He will be there from 14:45 on each day.

Today's Matches

Championship Teams round robin – Day 3

Group 1

Group 2

Round 7 – 10:30 to 12:20

Match			Match		
1	Australia Women	South Africa	11	SBU	Kenya
2	Pakistan	Malta	12	Guernsey	Isle of Man
3	Wales 2	Barbados	13	England 2	India
4	Malaysia	England	14	Black Swan	Wales
5	Guernsey 2	Harris	15	Jersey	Scottish President's
6	Scotland	Chairman's	16	Northern Ireland	South Africa 2
7	Canada	Singapore	17	Pakistan 2	Australia

Round 8 – 12:45 to 14:35

Match			Match		
1	South Africa	Pakistan	11	Kenya	Guernsey
2	Scotland	Malaysia	12	Northern Ireland	Black Swan
3	Singapore	Guernsey 2	13	Australia	Jersey
4	Harris	Wales 2	14	Scottish President's	England 2
5	Chairman's	Australia Women	15	South Africa 2	SBU
6	England	Canada	16	Wales	Pakistan 2
7	Barbados	Malta	17	India	Isle of Man

Round 9 – 15:35 to 17:25

Match			Match		
1	Guernsey 2	Wales 2	11	Jersey	England 2
2	Harris	Canada	12	Scottish President's	Pakistan 2
3	Barbados	Singapore	13	India	Australia
4	Pakistan	Chairman's	14	Guernsey	South Africa 2
5	South Africa	England	15	Kenya	Wales
6	Malta	Scotland	16	Isle of Man	Northern Ireland
7	Malaysia	Australia Women	17	Black Swan	SBU

Round 10 – 17:50 to 19:40

Match			Match		
1	Canada	Chairman's	11	Pakistan 2	South Africa 2
2	Singapore	Pakistan	12	Australia	Guernsey
3	Scotland	Harris	13	Northern Ireland	Scottish President's
4	England	Barbados	14	Wales	India
5	Australia Women	Malta	15	SBU	Isle of Man
6	Malaysia	Guernsey 2	16	Black Swan	Jersey
7	Wales 2	South Africa	17	England 2	Kenya

In each match, the first-named team will sit North-South in the open room and East-West in the closed room at the table number shown. The second-named team will sit North-South in the closed room and East-West in the open room at the corresponding tables.

These matches will be on Vugraph (SUB room)

These matches will be on BBO

Yesterday's Results

Championship Teams round robin – Day 2 Group 1

Group 2

Round 3

Match		IMPs	VPs	Match		IMPs	VPs
Malaysia	South Africa	4-17	6.28-13.72	Black Swan	Kenya	19-30	6.77-13.23
Guernsey 2	England	0-63	0.00-20.00	Jersey	Wales	14-52	1.83-18.17
Canada	Scotland	24-44	4.74-15.26	Pakistan 2	Northern Ireland	26-24	10.66-9.34
Harris	Malta	36-14	15.66-4.34	Scottish President's	Isle of Man	32-21	13.23-6.77
Wales 2	Australia Women	26-10	14.42-5.58	England 2	SBU	41-11	17.04-2.96
Pakistan	Barbados	38-30	12.44-7.56	Guernsey	India	27-28	9.67-10.33
Singapore	Chairman's	12-53	1.47-18.53	Australia	South Africa 2	46-12	17.63-2.37

Round 4

Match		IMPs	VPs	Match		IMPs	VPs
Scotland	Pakistan	23-15	12.44-7.56	Northern Ireland	Guernsey	44-13	17.19-2.81
Barbados	South Africa	19-61	1.35-18.65	India	Kenya	58-20	18.17-1.83
Malta	Wales 2	1-87	0.00-20.00	Isle of Man	England 2	32-26	11.87-8.13
Chairman's	Guernsey 2	47-10	18.04-1.96	South Africa 2	Jersey	13-41	3.28-16.72
England	Harris	35-9	16.38-3.62	Wales	Scottish President's	5-17	6.52-13.48
Australia Women	Singapore	20-22	9.34-10.66	SBU	Australia	2-48	0.92-19.08
Canada	Malaysia	32-5	16.55-3.45	Pakistan 2	Black Swan	57-23	17.63-2.37

Round 5















Match		IMPs	VPs	Match		IMPs	VPs
Guernsey 2	Canada	5-50	1.02-18.98	Jersey	Pakistan 2	5-64	0.00-20.00
Wales 2	Singapore	47-21	16.38-3.62	England 2	Australia	25-34	7.29-12.71
South Africa	Chairman's	29-10	15.06-4.94	Kenya	South Africa 2	37-48	6.77-13.23
Pakistan	Australia Women	27-15	13.48-6.52	Guernsey	SBU	34-34	10.00-10.00
Malaysia	Malta	25-33	7.56-12.44	Black Swan	Isle of Man	37-55	5.15-14.85
Scotland	England	24-21	10.97-9.03	Northern Ireland	Wales	11-56	1.02-18.98
Harris	Barbados	31-13	14.85-5.15	Scottish President's	India	18-19	9.67-10.33

Round 6

Match		IMPs	VPs	Match		IMPs	VPs
Singapore	Harris	50-39	13.23-6.77	Australia	Scottish President's	39-25	13.96-6.04
Australia Women	Scotland	5-49	1.13-18.87	SBU	Northern Ireland	31-24	12.16-7.84
England	Pakistan	52-15	18.04-1.96	Wales	Guernsey	29-20	12.71-7.29
Canada	Wales 2	35-8	16.55-3.45	Pakistan 2	England 2	33-13	15.26-4.74
Malta	South Africa	21-29	7.56-12.44	Isle of Man	Kenya	45-29	14.42-5.58
Barbados	Guernsey 2	23-32	7.29-12.71	India	Jersey	40-12	16.72-3.28
Chairman's	Malaysia	31-19	13.48-6.52	South Africa 2	Black Swan	48-16	17.34-2.66















Championship Teams round robin – Ranking after 6 rounds

Group I

Rank	Team	Total	Can	Eng	Sco	Cha	SA	Wal2	Mala	Aus W	Sin	Har	Pak	Malt	Gue2	Bar	Adj
1	 Canada	96.20			4.74		19.38	16.55	16.55				20.00		18.98		
2	 England	95.17			9.03			19.56			12.16	16.38	18.04		20.00		
3	 Chairman's	80.74					4.94	9.03	13.48		18.53	16.72			18.04		
4	 Scotland	80.31	15.26	10.97			8.13			18.87			12.44			14.64	
5	 South Africa	72.36	0.62		11.87	15.06			13.72					12.44		18.65	
6	 Wales 2	65.66	3.45	0.44		10.97				14.42	16.38			20.00			
7	 Malaysia	59.02	3.45			6.52	6.28						16.03	7.56		19.18	
8	 Australia women	57.04			1.13			5.58			9.34	19.83	6.52		14.64		
9	 Singapore	53.20		7.84		1.47		3.62		10.66		13.23		16.38			
10	 Harris	44.35		3.62		3.28				0.17	6.77			15.66		14.85	
11	 Pakistan	39.41	0.00	1.96	7.56				3.97	13.48						12.44	
12	 Malta	36.99				3.62	7.56	0.00	12.44			4.34			9.03		
13	 Guernsey 2	32.02	1.02	0.00		1.96				5.36				10.97		12.71	
14	 Barbados	27.53			5.36		1.35		0.82			5.15	7.56		7.29		

Championship Teams round robin – Ranking after 6 rounds

Group 2

Rank	Team	Total	Pak2	Ind	Aus	Wal	Eng2	IoM	Pre	SA2	NI	SBU	Gue	Ken	Jer	BS	Adj
1	 Pakistan 2	92.29					15.26				10.66		12.71	16.03	20.00	17.63	
2	 India	89.01							10.33		13.72		10.33	18.17	16.72	19.74	
3	 Australia	80.22				8.42	12.71	8.42	13.96	17.63		19.08					
4	 Wales	71.58			11.58		3.62		6.52		18.98		12.71		18.17		
5	 England 2	70.30	4.74		7.29	16.38		8.13		16.72		17.04					
6	 Isle of Man	69.49			11.58		11.87		6.77					14.42	10.00	14.85	
7	 Scottish President's	58.03		9.67	6.04	13.48		13.23		3.45		12.16					
8	 South Africa 2	56.05			2.37		3.28		16.55					13.23	3.28	17.34	
9	 Northern Ireland	55.15	9.34	6.28		1.02						7.84	17.19	13.48			
10	 SBU	51.07			0.92		2.96		7.84		12.16		10.00		17.19		
11	 Guernsey	42.64	7.29	9.67		7.29					2.81	10.00				5.58	
12	 Kenya	37.90	3.97	1.83				5.58		6.77	6.52					13.23	
13	 Jersey	34.64	0.00	3.28		1.83		10.00		16.72		2.81					
14	 Black Swan	31.63	2.37	0.26				5.15		2.66			14.42	6.77			

Round 3 round-up

Mark Horton

In Round 3 I decided to keep an eye on both matches being featured on BBO, Wales 2 v Australia Women and Canada v Scotland. I also managed to glean a few details from events at other tables.

Board: 3 Dealer: South E-W game

♠ Q 9 8
 ♥ Q 8 7 5 4 3
 ♦ J
 ♣ Q 5 3

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

♠ A 6 5 3
 ♥ A J 6
 ♦ K 7 6
 ♣ A 7 2

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Ginsberg	Shields	Travis	Denning
Double*	2♦*	Pass	INT
All pass			2♥

Double Penalties
2♦ Transfer

I was looking at an old convention card, so it is possible that West's double had a different meaning.



Australia's Barbara Travis and Candice Ginsberg

Candice led the nine of clubs and when East played the ten declarer won with the ace and cashed the ace of hearts and continued with the jack. East won and returned the ten and declarer had to go one down, -50.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Plackett	Bourke	Pottage	Lusk
1♦	1♥	Pass	1♣
2♠	3♥	Pass	INT
Pass	Pass	Double	4♥
			All pass

East led the five of diamonds and West won with the queen and now does best to switch to the nine of clubs, which should lead to a comfortable two down.

When he preferred the ace of diamonds declarer could ruff and can now escape for one down by playing a trump, putting in the six if East follows with the two. Easy when you can see all four hands, but much harder at the table. Declarer finished two down, -300, so 6 IMPs to Wales.

Board: 4 Dealer: West Game all

♠ J
 ♥ 9 8 6
 ♦ K Q 9 2
 ♣ A K Q 6 5

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

♠ A Q 3
 ♥ A K 5
 ♦ A 4
 ♣ 10 8 7 4 3

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Ginsberg	Shields	Travis	Denning
Pass	1♣*	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♠*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♣	All pass	

- 1♣ Strong
- 3♠ Splinter

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Plackett	Bourke	Pottage	Lusk
Pass	1♣*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	6♣
All pass			

- 1♣ 10-20 3+♣ (only when 4333 and 15+)
- 2NT Slam try
- 3♠ Splinter
- 4♣ Minorwood
- 4NT 2 key cards and the ♣Q

They did much better in the other match:

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Mould	Maksymetz	Matheson	Korbel
Pass	1♣	Pass	2♣*
Double	3♠*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♠*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	7♣	All pass	
2♣	Game forcing raise		

Man Bites Top Dog

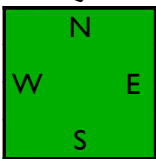
Mark Horton

I am reliably informed that one of the pairs representing England 2 runs a kennels, but I only acquired that information after deciding upon the title of this report.

After three rounds England 2 were well clear of the field in Group 2. In Round they were opposed by an Isle of Man team hoping to move up the field.

The English team included Andrew Jonathan Mestel (best known by his middle name) Professor of Applied Mathematics at Imperial College London. A distinguished chess player, he was the first person to be awarded chess Grandmaster titles by FIDE in both over-the-board play and problem solving. He announced his arrival on the international chess scene by winning the World Cadet Championship in 1974 at Pont-Sainte-Maxence. Playing in Tjentiste in 1975, he took the bronze medal at the World Junior Championship, finishing behind Valery Chekhov and Larry Christiansen. There followed a string of British Championship successes, where he took the title in 1976, 1983 and 1988. His victory at Portsmouth in 1976 was remarkable for a start of nine consecutive wins, a record for the competition.

Board: 20 Dealer: West Game all

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Fegarty</i>	<i>Elliot</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Baggs</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♥*	Pass	4♥	All pass

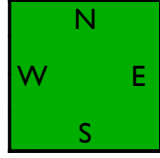
2♥ Weak

North led the ten of diamonds and declarer won in dummy and made the natural looking play of ace of hearts and a heart. South went with the king (best, as if South ducks West can go up with the queen and exit with a spade) and accurately switched to the three of clubs, covered by the ten, queen and ace.

Seeking a way back to hand declarer played a club and

North won with the king. Now the simplest defence is to cash the ace of spades and then exit with a diamond when declarer must inevitably lose a diamond for one down.

However, North exited with a diamond immediately and, worse still, it was the nine (the three should still lead to one down). Declarer won in dummy, felling the queen, ruffed a club, drew the outstanding trump and cashed another heart to reach this ending:

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

If declarer plays off the last trump North is caught in a neat way – discarding a low spade allows declarer to exit with a spade forcing a return into the diamond tenace, while unblocking the ace allows declarer to cash a diamond and then exit with a spade,

Alas, declarer exited with a spade immediately and North won and exited with a spade and now declarer had to ruff and lose a diamond to North for one down, -100.

For the record the only way to be sure of making 4♥ is for declarer to play a spade at trick two. If North wins then a ruffing finesse is available to dispose of the potential club loser.

If South is bright enough to go in with the king and switch to a club declarer wins, ruffs a spade, crosses to the ace of hearts, ruffs a spade and must then exit with the queen of hearts, pinning the jack.

Now wouldn't that be something to write home about!

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
<i>O'Mahony</i>	<i>Kendrick</i>	<i>Large</i>	<i>Mestel</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
Pass	INT	2♣	Pass
2♥	All pass		

2♥ was a much simpler affair and although declarer lost a trick to the queen of diamonds and two trumps, +110 was enough to give the Isle of Man 5 IMPs.

Board: 21 Dealer: North N-S game

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Fegarty	Elliot	Curtis	Baggs
	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	6NT
All pass			

3♣ Puppet Stayman

3♦ At least one four card major

When North starts with 2NT South has an awkward hand. Rather than look for a 5-3 spade fit it might be best to explore the possibilities in the minors - give North a club more and a spade fewer and 7 ♣ would be very good.

Here is the one possible scheme that I helped Sandra Landy & Sally Brock to develop in the eighties:

2NT	3♠	Forces 3NT
3NT	4♣	Clubs and Diamonds
	4♦	Diamonds and Clubs
	4♥	Clubs
	4♠	Diamonds
4NT		5-5 or better in the minors, non forcing
5♣		to play but more encouraging than a direct 5♣ so can be raised
5♦		to play but more encouraging than a direct 5♦ so can be raised
5NT		5-5 or better in the minors, forcing

There is no 4-4 club fit here, but you would probably make a grand slam if you bid one. 6NT was excellent, declarer losing a trick to the queen of spades but taking the rest, +1440.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
O'Mahony	Kendrick	Large	Mestel
	2NT	Pass	3♠*
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♦
Pass	6NT	All pass	

Clearly NS were playing some version of the method outlined above. East led a heart, so England gained an IMP.

Board: 25 Dealer: North E-W game

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Fegarty	Elliot	Curtis	Baggs
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	2NT*	3♥*	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♣	All pass

2NT Red suits

Don't you just love North's intervention? Thereafter the auction resembled many of my school reports - 'could do better'.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
O'Mahony	Kendrick	Large	Mestel
	Pass	2♣*	2♥
3♣	3♠	Double	Pass
7NT	All pass		

Was that 2♣ a tribute to a certain Albert Benjamin, denoting an Acol Two Bid in an unspecified suit? Whatever, it enabled E-W to brush aside some spirited intervention by N-S and reach the unbeatable grand slam which was worth 13 IMPs.

Board: 26 Dealer: East Game all

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Fegarty	Elliot	Curtis	Baggs
		INT	Pass
3NT	All pass		

notes). What for instance would a jump to 4♣ mean?

With both red suits behaving all the tricks were there, +510.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Mould	King	Matheson	Small
	3♠	Double	4♠
4NT*	Pass	5♣	Double
5♦	All pass		

4NT Two places to play

The more aggressive opening took away space and left EW guessing. +440 gave England a couple of IMPs.

Board: 5 Dealer: North N-S game

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Holland	Sime	Green	Murdoch
	1♠	Pass	2♣*
3♦	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	3NT	All pass	

2♣ Mostly game forcing

East led the nine of diamonds and declarer ducked, won the next diamond and ran the clubs. When he then took the ♥AK West was caught in a show up squeeze - forced to retain the ♦7 he had to blank the king of spades, +690.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Mould	King	Matheson	Small
	1♠	Pass	2♣*
3♦	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All pass	

2♣ Game forcing

4♦ Cue bid

4♥ Cue bid

4♠ Cue bid

West led the king of diamonds and declarer won with the ace and drew trumps, West parting with a couple

of diamonds. Declarer ran the rest of the trumps and cashed the ♥AK, West coming down to ♠K9 ♦J and East ♠J ♥Q10.

When declarer exited with the ♥9 hoping to endplay East he was one down and Scotland had 13 IMPs.

Suppose East had started out with the ♠K and, say, ♥Q1074. It is not difficult to see what declarer has in mind but as long as West retains three hearts and two diamonds East can happily reduce to, say, two spades, two hearts and a diamond, when declarer must go down.

So perhaps declarer should have got it right.

Soon afterwards, with ♠64 ♥AKQ10863 ♦K64 ♣10 opposite ♠K1098 ♥J ♦A5 ♣AK9765 neither pair went beyond 4♥. The ace of spades was onside and the clubs were 3-3, so a slam was unbeatable.

Board: 12 Dealer: West N-S game

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Holland	Sime	Green	Murdoch
1♦	Pass	1♠	2♥
Pass*	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	3♣	Double	All pass

Pass denies 3♠

East led the king of spades and switched to the nine of hearts. Declarer put up dummy's ace and played a club to the jack, king and ace. East switched to the seven of diamonds and West won with the king and played the king of hearts ruffed by the six and overruffed by the eight. If East now continues with the ace of spades and a spade West ruffs and plays a heart. Declarer ruffs and East discards, wins the trump exit with the ten and plays a diamond. West wins and plays another heart and that promotes the lowly ♣3 – a beautiful way to collect +1400.

When East missed this and returned a diamond declarer 'escaped' for -1100.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Mould	King	Matheson	Small
1NT	Pass	3♥*	Double
3NT	All pass		

3♥ Shortage

North led the four of hearts and South took the ace and returned the ten of diamonds. Declarer won, cashed another diamond then played the queen of clubs for the king and ace.

A club back to the jack and a diamond to North's queen allowed to claim the rest, +460, but 12 IMPs to England who led 21-19.

Board: 13 Dealer: North Game all

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Holland	Sime	Green	Murdoch
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	All pass

North led the king of hearts and declarer won, cashed the ace of spades and played a spade to the jack and king. South cashed the queen of hearts and gave North a ruff. A club and two diamonds meant one down, +100.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Mould	King	Matheson	Small
	Pass	Pass	1♣*
1♠	2♣*	Pass	3♣
All pass			

2♣ Club support

West led the six of diamonds for the two, queen and king and declarer played two rounds of clubs ending in hand as West pitched the two of spades. A heart to the king was followed by a heart to the eight and jack, and West won and exited with the ace of hearts, ruffed in dummy.

At this point declarer can get home by playing on diamonds. Ace and another diamond endplays West who must either lead a spade or give a ruff and

discard. A low diamond is also good enough as West must win and has no good continuation, a diamond return allowing declarer to win in dummy and play a fourth diamond for a spade discard.

Missing this, declarer played a club from dummy and East won and switched to a spade. The defenders played three rounds of the suit and declarer had to lose a diamond at the end for one down and a match winning +100 and 5 IMPs to Scotland.

Sometimes it all just gets too much ...



Maybe Malaysia's Tan Sze Guan was simply deep in thought? Re-running the opponents' play of that Heart suit which cost him an IMP or two in the mid-afternoon set, perhaps? Or conjuring a defence on Hand 12 so perfect that even Deep Finesse would struggle to find it?

I'm sorry? Asleep, did you say? But he's got a set of hands on his lap. Surely they weren't THAT dull?

