



Seattle

Turin

Běijīng



# YEH ONLINE BRIDGE WORLD CUP

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## A GAME OF ZONES



*José Damiani (Chairman) delivering his welcome speech before the start of the first match*

It was almost as if time had ceased as the giants of the bridge world battled it out on day one of the Yeh Online Bridge World Cup. A decisive win against BBO gave Lavazza a handsome lead at the top of the table and they were well clear of the CCBA who secured a narrow victory over Yeh. However, when the latter secured a good win against BBO they closed to within just 0.44 VP.

One of the highlights was the participation of Bill Gates, who played two sessions, impressing commentator Zia Mahmood on numerous occasions (make sure you visit: <http://www.geekwire.com/2016/geekiest-game-town-bill-gates-joins-worlds-best-bridge-players-global-online-tournament/>)

Despite the unfamiliarity of some of the partnerships there was much to savour, although the occasional banana skin was lying in wait for the stars who stepped out of line.

The media coverage is intense - it includes a TV channel in Italy plus press coverage in La Stampa and Gazzetta Dello Sport while in the UK The Daily Telegraph is carrying daily reports.



# FIRST LIGHT

Mark Horton

When play got under way in the Yeh Online Bridge World Cup the sun was still below the horizon. It did not take long for the interesting deals to start to appear:

continued with the queen of diamonds, covered by the king and ace, came to hand with the jack of diamonds, East pitching the six of clubs and played the seven of spades, West following with the five. This was the critical moment. If declarer lets the seven run she will finish with ten tricks. However, she went up with dummy's king and ran the ten of spades to West's jack. Back came a diamond and declarer won and continued with the queen of spades. West won, and cashed his diamonds, and when declarer parted with the nine of spades the contract was two down, -100.

Should declarer have taken the winning view in spades?

She knew that West held five diamonds and had found a short suit lead. In addition East's discard of the ♣6 suggested a five card suit, which meant West must be 4-3-5-1. I guess you know the answer to my question.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Li Jianwei	Chen Yeh	Gu Ling	Zhang Ya-Lan
—	—	—	1♣
1♦	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chen Dawei	Z. Bangxiang	Sun Ming	Lu Yan
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♦ Game forcing

West led the nine of hearts and declarer ducked East's jack, won the heart return with dummy's ace and played a club to the queen. When that held she

West led the six of diamonds and declarer won with the ten, and with time in hand, played a spade to the king and ran the ten of spades to West's jack. Back came the nine of hearts and declarer ducked East's jack, won the next heart perforce with dummy's ace, played a club to the queen, ran the queen of diamonds and forced out the ace of spades, +400 and 11 IMPs.







Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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



the two of diamonds, he switched to the seven of clubs. Declarer won in dummy and played a heart for the four, five and eight. North returned a club to dummy's ace and declarer played a heart for the queen and ace, North parting with the four of spades. Declarer cashed the queen of clubs and three rounds of diamonds before exiting with a spade. He was sure to score a heart, +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chen Dawei	Z. Bangxiang	Sun Ming	Lu Yan
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Li Jianwei	Chen Yeh	Gu Ling	Zhang Ya-Lan
—	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Here it was North who got the surprise in the spade suit.

North led the seven of clubs and declarer won perforce in dummy and played the jack of spades, North winning with the queen as South threw the four of hearts. A club return to dummy's king saw declarer cross to hand with a diamond and play the five of spades. North took the king and played a third club, but declarer could win, go to dummy with a diamond and force out the ace of spades. North could cash a club, but declarer had the rest, +400 and 7 IMPs.

East must have been surprised to see North open 1♠. When the opponents died in 2♣ West came to life and now East must have considered making a contribution.

North led the ace of spades and when South pitched






# THE CASE OF THE DUBIOUS DOUBLE

Mark Horton

Perry Mason is a fictional character, a criminal defense lawyer who is the main character in works written by Erle Stanley Gardner. Perry Mason is featured in more than 80 novels and short stories, most of which involve a client's murder trial. Typically, Mason establishes his client's innocence by implicating another character, who then confesses. Every Perry Mason story has a title that begins 'The Case of.....'.

On this deal from the second set of the match between CCBA and Yeh even Perry Mason would not have been able to secure an acquittal for one of the players.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Z. Bangxiang	Shih Juei Yu	Yang Lixin	Wang Ping
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led a diamond and declarer won in dummy and as on a deal from the first half of the match had to try and locate the jack of spades. A spade to the king was followed by a spade to the jack and South switched to a heart. When the queen held declarer played a club to the nine and South won and returned the king of hearts. Declarer won with the ace, played a club to the ten and cashed the ace of clubs. The appearance of the king meant there were eight tricks, but that was all, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chen Dawei	Li Jianwei	Sun Ming	Gu Ling
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Having decided to pass initially South could not resist getting involved on the next round, but it turned out badly.

East cashed the king of diamonds and switched to a spade. With perfect defence declarer can be held to just four tricks, for example: West wins with the nine and returns a spade, declarer winning and playing a heart. West wins and switches to a club, declarer winning with the queen and playing a second heart. West takes that and plays a club and East cashes two tricks in that suit followed by a spade. In the three card ending East can play any of his remaining cards and declarer, down to ♥KJ ♦J opposite ♥10 ♦Q5 cannot avoid the loss of another trick to West's ♥8 ♦98 - whatever declarer does West discards his heart and will get a trump trick.

However, it generally proves to be difficult to collect all ones tricks in this type of situation and when declarer played dummy's four on the spade switch West won with the king and returned a spade, so declarer managed a fifth trick, 'escaping' for -800.





# NOISES OFF

Mark Horton

Noises Off is a play by the English playwright Michael Frayn. The idea for it came in 1970, when Frayn was watching from the wings a performance of *The Two of Us*, a farce that he had written for Lynn Redgrave. He said, "It was funnier from behind than in front, and I thought that one day I must write a farce from behind." The prototype, a short-lived one-act play called *Exits*, was written and performed in 1977. At the request of his associate, Michael Codron, Frayn expanded this into what would become *Noises Off*. It takes its title from the theatrical stage direction indicating sounds coming from offstage.

The Commentators, including the legendary Zia Mahmood, were out in force for the third session and kept the audience entertained with their lively discussions, which were not always confined to bridge, with Poker and Golf being just two of the other sports to be mentioned. There was some excellent bridge too.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang Lixin	Chen Yeh	Lu Yan	Zhang Ya-lan
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Dble	2♥
Dble	3♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

West led the six of clubs and declarer won perforce with the ace and played a spade to the king. She ruffed the club return and calmly played the two of hearts from her hand. East won with the seven and played a third club and declarer ruffed and cross ruffed

hearts and spades for eleven tricks, +600.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sun Ming	L. Rongqiang	Chen Dawei	Gu Ling
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♦*	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

1♣ Precision Club  
1♦ 0-7

East led the queen of clubs and declarer won with dummy's ace, played a diamond to the queen, East pitching the two of clubs and played a heart to the jack and queen. West was not slow to return her remaining trump and declarer won in hand and played a spade to the king. When East was able to win with the ace declarer could only ruff two hearts in dummy and had to go one down, -100 and 12 IMPs.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang Lixin	Chen Yeh	Lu Yan	Zhang Ya-lan
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led the four of diamonds and the defenders played three rounds of the suit. Declarer won in hand and ran the jack of spades to North's king. The heart switch was taken by dummy's ace and declarer played





a thoughtful club to the ace, followed by the queen of clubs. When South won with the king two more diamonds meant the contract was two down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sun Ming	L. Rongqiang	Chen Dawei	Gu Ling
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♥*	Dble	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2♥ Transfer

South led the queen of hearts and continued with the eight when it held, declarer winning in dummy and playing a club to the queen and king. South returned the three of spades and when declarer played low North won with the king and played a third heart. Declarer won with the king, cashed the clubs and then overtook the jack of spades with the queen and cashed the ace, one down when the ten did not fall but it was worth 3 IMPs.

Suppose declarer unblocks the jack of spades under the king? Now North must be wide awake and switch to the ace of diamonds and a diamond - how easy would that have been?





## A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

Mark Horton

At the start of a bridge deal it is clear that the situation is one in which everyone has a fair and equal chance of succeeding. However, that can quickly change as you will see on these deals from the fourth session:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sun Ming	Lin Rongqiang	Chen Dawei	Gu Ling
Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
5♥	Dble	All Pass	

When South overcalled at the four level, East decided to reopen but it left West between a rock and a hard place. Passing would have meant declarer scoring at least +790 (and +990 would be more likely). However, bidding 5♥ was no panacea either.

South cashed a top spade and switched to the nine of clubs. Declarer put up dummy's ace and ran the jack of hearts to South's king. At this point a diamond switch should net +1100 - North wins with the ace and returns a club and South ruffs and exits with a spade and the defenders still get two diamonds.

However, South played a second spades and declarer ruffed, cashed the ace of hearts (breathing a sigh of relief when South followed) and the king of clubs, crossed to dummy with a heart and played the ten of clubs, down three -800.

Well played in a lost cause.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lu Yan	Shih Juei-Yu	Yang Lixin	Wang Ping
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Rdbl
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Here South preferred to overcall at the one level. She showed a strong hand by redoubling and then rebidding her suit, but North was not inclined to show any enthusiasm. Perhaps South should have rebid 3♠ on the third round when North would have had an easy raise to game. The price to pay was 11 IMPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sun Ming	Lin Rongqiang	Chen Dawei	Gu Ling
—	—	—	2♥
3♥*	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

The West hand rates 31.20 on the Kaplan-Reubens Hand Evaluator - personally I think it looks significantly stronger than that.

West wisely refrained from doubling - that would have seen East pass - not ideal when you are cold for all the tricks. However, it is far from clear how to approach the West hand - give partner the ♠Q and the ♥A and you still need a way to reach them, which can only be in the club suit. When East jumped to 4♠ (perhaps thinking that 3♥ was Michaels style) West was unwilling to do more than bid 6♦ (how about try-



ing 5♥ - if partner bids 6♣ you will be in clover) and although East though for a long time it would have been heroic to go on to the grand slam.

ans a certainty that East would deliver the right cards. Bidding 5♠ over 5♦ might have seen East bid 6♣. However, I doubt West will lose any sleep over it.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lu Yan	Shih Juei-Yu	Yang Lixin	Wang Ping
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

1♣ Precision Club

Although West took the plunge it was by no me-



## QUARTET

Mark Horton

At the start of a bridge deal it is clear that the situation is one in which everyone has a fair and equal chance of succeeding. However, that can quickly change as you will see on these deals from the fourth session:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sun Ming	Lin Rongqiang	Chen Dawei	Gu Ling
Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
5♥	Dble	All Pass	

When South overcalled at the four level, East decided to reopen but it left West between a rock and a hard place. Passing would have meant declarer scor-

ing at least +790 (and +990 would be more likely). However, bidding 5♥ was no panacea either.

South cashed a top spade and switched to the nine of clubs. Declarer put up dummy's ace and ran the jack of hearts to South's king. At this point a diamond switch should net +1100 - North wins with the ace and returns a club and South ruffs and exits with a spade and the defenders still get two diamonds.

However, South played a second spades and declarer ruffed, cashed the ace of hearts (breathing a sigh of relief when South followed) and the king of clubs, crossed to dummy with a heart and played the ten of clubs, down three -800.

Well played in a lost cause.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lu Yan	Shih Juei-Yu	Yang Lixin	Wang Ping
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Rdbl
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Here South preferred to overcall at the one level. She showed a strong hand by redoubling and then rebidding her suit, but North was not inclined to show any enthusiasm. Perhaps South should have rebid 3♠ on the third round when North would have had an easy raise to game. The price to pay was 11 IMPs.





Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sun Ming	Lin Rongqiang	Chen Dawei	Gu Ling
—	—	—	2♥
3♥*	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

for all the tricks. However, it is far from clear how to approach the West hand - give partner the ♠Q and the ♥A and you still need a way to reach them, which can only be in the club suit. When East jumped to 4♠ (perhaps thinking that 3♥ was Michaels style) West was unwilling to do more than bid 6♦ (how about trying 5♥ - if partner bids 6♣ you will be in clover) and although East though for a long time it would have been heroic to go on to the grand slam.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lu Yan	Shih Juei-Yu	Yang Lixin	Wang Ping
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

1♣ Precision Club

Although West took the plunge it was by no means a certainty that East would deliver the right cards. Bidding 5♠ over 5♦ might have seen East bid 6♣. However, I doubt West will lose any sleep over it.





## TRIPLE PLAY

Mark Horton

As you will all be aware a momentous event is currently taking place in the United States. I am of course referring to the World Series of Baseball between the Cleveland Indians (a team immortalised in the classic baseball movie Major League) and the Chicago Cubs.

In baseball, a triple play is the rare act of making three outs during the same continuous play.

In the match between BBO and Lavazza there were three stand-out deals:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

♠ 10 8 7 5			
♥ 10 8 5 4 2			
♦ Q 4			
♣ 5 4			

♠ A K J 6 4 3			
♥ J 3			
♦ A 10 6 2			
♣ K			



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gates</i>	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Osberg</i>	<i>Willard</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4♠*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

- 2♥ Fourth suit forcing
- 4♥ Cue bid
- 4♠ Cue bid
- 5♣ Cue bid

Perhaps the key to the auction was South's jump to 4♦, suggesting four card trump support.

East led the ace of hearts, but declarer had the rest, +1390.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Calandra</i>	<i>Meyers</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

2♥ Fourth suit forcing

Close, but missing the slam cost 13 IMPs.







Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gates	Duboin	Osberg	Willard
—	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Zia was of the opinion that South should have raised to 3NT.

West led the two of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace and played four rounds of diamonds pitching hearts. She took ten tricks, +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bocchi	Hamman	Calandra	Meyers
—	1♦	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3♣ Invitational



East led the two of spades and West won with the ace and returned the nine. Declarer won with the king, played a diamond to the ace and a heart to the ten. East won with the queen and returned a spade, so declarer claimed, +600.

As an aside, suppose declarer had been forced to rely on bringing in the club suit? If the jack is covered by the king you take the ace and will probably play the ten, relying on the principle of restricted choice.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ — ♥ 7 4 3 2 ♦ 6 5 ♣ A K Q 8 7 3 2		♠ AKQ10975 ♥ Q 6 5 ♦ Q 7 2 ♣ —	♠ 8 2 ♥ A K J 9 8 ♦ J 9 8 3 ♣ 10 6
--	--	---	---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gates	Duboin	Osberg	Willard
Pass	1♣	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Realising that if her partner was looking at two losing diamonds he could not possibly have more than one spade South backed her judgement with a raise. Declarer ruffed the spade lead and gave up a heart, West winning and playing a trump. It was a good try, but declarer could not be prevented from ruffing all three hearts in dummy for +920.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bocchi	Hamman	Calandra	Meyers
—	1♣	4♠	Dble
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

South did not have the same inferences here and Lavazza added 11 IMPs to their total.

