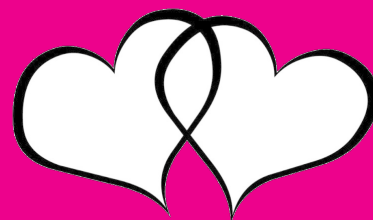


MONTHLY MIXED TEAMS



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Meet our Mixed Family

Before our last day, the two international squads Scanscots and Mixed Goods are in the lead. Last round will be played as a Danish, which means 1 plays 2 and 3 plays 4 etc, and those results count the same as the rest, so on a good day (or bad depending on your perspective) both number 1 and 2 can be overtaken by the third place.

We have a tradition of bringing interviews in this bulletin, yet it is not always convenient to conduct such interviews. Today we share an interview with you featuring the one and only superstar, we have in the bridge world - Zia Mahmood. This interview was first published in the bulletin at the World Championships in Marrakech.

And of course Mark Horton reports from yesterday's matches. Enjoy!



All players should enter BBO 5 minutes before the beginning of a match. TD Denis Dobrin will instruct you where to sit. All players must have their name in their BBO-profile. Private isn't allowed for the sake of opponents and kibitzers.

Today's Schedule

December 21st

10:00 EST / 16:00 CET – RR7 (16 boards)



12:15 EST / 18:15 CET – Danish (16 brds)

Results & Today's Draw

Results

Ranking after round 6		
rk	team	VPs
1	 <u>SCANDISCOTS</u>	85.01
2	 <u>MIXED GOODS</u>	75.14
3	 <u>TURNIPS</u>	66.81
4	 <u>MIKADINHO</u>	64.86
5	 <u>ALPERT</u>	57.60
6	 <u>PARKER</u>	46.15
7	 <u>NETTEALE</u>	43.30
8	 <u>FAWERITES</u>	41.13

Round 7

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	 <u>PARKER</u>	 <u>ALPERT</u>
2	 <u>SCANDISCOTS</u>	 <u>NETTEALE</u>
3	 <u>MIKADINHO</u>	 <u>MIXED GOODS</u>
4	 <u>TURNIPS</u>	 <u>FAWERITES</u>

The Law of Diminishing Returns



Round 5

By Mark Horton

Output remains positive, but productivity and efficiency decrease.

Here are a couple of deals from Round 5. I would write more, but the house is full of grandchildren, and they want to watch a Harry Potter movie with Grandpa.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Mikadinho v Alpert

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Alpert	S de Wijs	Versace	Verhaegen
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	2♥*	All Pass	

2♥ 5+♥ and 4+♣/♦

East led the ♣5 and declarer won with dummy's jack and played a heart for the two, jack and seven. East won the next round of the suit with the ♥9 and switched to the ♦8, West winning and

returning the ♣3. East ruffed and exited with a diamond and West had to score two trumps and two spades, one down, -100.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Paverd	Fruscolini	L de Wijs	Todd
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	2♥	All Pass	

After an identical opening trick declarer played a heart to the king and exited with a heart, East winning and switching to the ♦7. West won, cashed the ♠K and then went back to diamonds. Declarer won and exited with a heart and now had eight tricks, +110 and 5 IMPs.

Netteale v Fawerites

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kober	Cope	Yoon	M Gold
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	2♥*	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Dble	3♦*	4♣
4♦	All Pass		

2♥ 5+♥ and 4+♣/♦

2NT Relay to 3♣

3♦ Weak with diamonds

South led the ♥3 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played two rounds of trumps, North winning and playing clubs.



Thomas Paske

Declarer ruffed the second round and played three rounds of spades, South winning and exiting with the ♠Q. Declarer ruffed that and had to lose two hearts for two down, -100.

Discarding a heart on the ♠Q saves a trick.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Paske	Tokay	Nettleton	Fawer
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	2♣*	Pass	3♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

2♣ Clubs and a major

East led the ♦7 and declarer claimed for one down, -200 and a 7 IMP swing.

Turnips v Parker

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hotamisligil	Franceschetti	Tunçok	Setton
—	—	Pass	2♠*
2NT	Dble	Rdbl*	Pass
3♥	Dble	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	Rdbl	All Pass	

2♠ 5♠+♣/♦
RdblRelay to 3♣

West led the ♣3 and in due course collected three tricks for one down, -400.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	A Grossack	Tartarin	Parker
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	2♥*	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

2♥ Hearts and a minor

West led the ♣8 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a spade to the nine and king. East ruffed the club continuation and returned the ♦7, declarer unblocking dummy's king under the ace.

West took the ♥A and continued with the ♥2, declarer winning with dummy's ♥K, coming to hand with a diamond and playing the ♠Q. When it held, felling the ♠10 she had only to continue trumps for eight tricks, but unfortunately pulled out a club and West's ruff meant one down, -100 and a 7 IMP loss.



Tracey Bauer

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Trendafilova	Brenner	Becklen	Dolera
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	Dble*	2♦	Pass
3♦	3♥	All Pass	

Dble 'Usually one suit – DON'T'

I was under the impression that playing this convention a double showed at least a six-card suit, and that 2♣ promised clubs and another suit, at least 5-4 or 4-5.

East led the ♣5, but never scored a ruff, declarer escaping for one down, -100, still a loss of 7 IMPs.

Despite breaking Burn's Law, 2♠ is not easy to defeat. One way is for West to start with the ♦A, playing another if declarer unblocks dummy's king. However, if declarer does not unblock then declarer must switch to a club (cashing the ♥A first is also possible). That sets up a club ruff for East, after which the defenders play diamonds at every opportunity.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Scandiscots v Mixed Goods

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hammond	M-Larsen	Bauer	Poulsen
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	Dble	Rdbl*	All Pass

Mikadinho v Alpert

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Alpert	S de Wijs	Versace	Verhaegen
—	—	1♦	1♥
Dble*	3♥	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

RdblAsks partner to bid 2♣ (runout)

The defenders started with five clubs and South then switched to the ♥3 for the six and jack. Declarer won the return with the ♥Q and played two rounds of diamonds for one down, -200.

West led the $\diamond 2$ and declarer played three rounds of the suit, discarding dummy's spade. He then crossruffed his way to 11 tricks and +850.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pavard	Fruscoloni	L de Wijs	Todd
—	—	1 \diamond	Pass
1 \spadesuit	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4 \spadesuit	Dble
All Pass			

North led the $\diamond 10$ and South played four rounds of the suit, North ruffing with the $\heartsuit J$ and switching to the $\clubsuit 7$, South's ruff ensuring two down, -500, still an 8 IMP loss.

Netteale v Fawerites

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kober	Cope	Yoon	M Gold
—	—	1 \diamond	1 \heartsuit
Dble*	4 \heartsuit	4 \spadesuit	5 \heartsuit
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Here West tabled the $\heartsuit 8$ and East won with the queen but instead of cashing the $\heartsuit A$ switched to the $\clubsuit K$. Declarer ruffed and might have escaped for one down, but instead ducked a spade and East overtook West's $\spadesuit Q$ but then exited with a diamond.

Declarer won and could now play to ruff all her losing spades in dummy. While this was going on East covered dummy's $\diamond 10$ and ended up being endplayed to lead into declarer's $\diamond Q8$ for one down, -200.



Katherine Todd

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Paske	Tokay	Nettleton	Fawer
—	—	1 \clubsuit^*	Dble
1 \spadesuit	2 \heartsuit	4 \spadesuit	Dble
All Pass			

1 \clubsuit 2+ \clubsuit

North led the $\diamond 10$ and four rounds of diamonds saw North ruff and switch to the $\heartsuit 2$. Had declarer finessed, one down would have been a possibility, but he had pitched a heart on the fourth diamond and went up with the $\heartsuit A$ and ran the $\spadesuit 9$.

When it held he ruffed a heart, took the $\spadesuit AQ$ and played a club to the ace, but South ruffed and played a heart so that was three down, -800 and a 14 IMP swing.



Chris Parker

Scandiscots v Mixed Goods

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hammond	M-Larsen	Bauer	Poulsen
—	—	1♦	1♥
Dble*	3♥	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West led the ♦2 and that meant -850.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Trendafilova	Brenner	Becklen	Dolera
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

North led the ♥2 and when dummy's queen held declarer played a spade to the ace and a spade to the king, North discarding the ♣10. A spade to dummy's eight was followed by a club to the ace and South ruffed and cashed the ♦QK before switching to the ♥5.

Declarer won and played the ♦9 and when that held(!) declarer could ruff a diamond and take the club finesse for +620 and 16 IMPs.

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Turnips v Parker

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hotamisligil	Franceschetti	Tunçok	Setton
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	3♣	3NT	All Pass

South cashed three diamonds and switched to the ♥J and it was easy enough for declarer to negotiate the black suits for 10 tricks, +630.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	A Grossack	Tartarin	Parker
—	—	1♦	1♥
Pass	3♥*	Dble	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

3♥ Mixed raise

Four rounds of diamonds followed by a club switch meant a rapid two down, -200 and a 13 IMP pickup.

The Last Superstar

Interview with Zia

by Christina Lund Madsen



Zia is the kind of person everybody knows, but nobody really knows. He has an authority and charisma not only unique for the bridge world. If he walks into a restaurant without a reservation and there is a line of people waiting, he walks straight in and begins to order the waiters around and nobody dares question him. He is the closest we will ever have to bridge royalty and we will never see his like. So I decide to interview the Bridge world's last superstar.

It turns out to be harder than expected.

"I have been interviewed millions of times, what more can there be to say? Nobody wants to read another interview with me. How long is it going to take?"

Since I want to hear the better part of his life story, I want to say three hours, yet I sense that is the wrong approach, so I lie and say: "One hour?"

"No, no, no," he says and waves his arm rejectingly at me. "You can have half an hour. You are just going to ask me the same questions as everyone else."

After our negotiations he agrees to give me half an hour at the end of the day.

This article was originally written for the World Bridge Federation and published in the bulletin at the World Championships in Marrakech.

Zia Mahmood is born in 1946 in Karachi, Pakistan, yet grew up on English boarding schools from the age of six when his mother, who was a renowned gynecologist, moved to England with Zia and his older brother.

"My father died in a plane crash in Pakistan when I was two. The only thing they found in the wreckage was that he had started to write down all the places he had assets, bank accounts and whatever. He was a very famous lawyer. 40 years later my brother was going to England to buy a house, and on the coffee table of the English family there was a picture of my father from his time as the captain of the Oxford Debating Society. My brother bought the house because he thought it was an omen."

Zia talks very quickly while waving his hands as if he is in a hurry to get it over with.

"Don't write all that down, nobody wants to hear about my father."

He summons the waiter. "Where are our Margaritas? Remember not too much alcohol. We have been waiting for 35 minutes."

We have waited five. I try to regain his attention.

How do you think it affected you growing up without any of your parents around?

“We never felt we missed anything because my mother was a very strong woman and we loved her very much. We were in boarding schools and going on holidays with her. We had a very big family with lots of cousins, one brother and three or four half-sisters from my father’s first marriage, but they were all much older than me.”

Knowing Zia, it might only have been two half-sisters. For him the glass is always in danger of spilling.

How did you like going to boarding schools?

“I enjoyed it because I played sports a lot. If you don’t do sports, you don’t have a good time.”

Zia played cricket mostly, but also squash, tennis and other sports. No bridge yet.

“I used to love table tennis, which surprisingly I see so many bridge players are good at - don’t ask me why.”

For the boys not good at sports boarding school was less fun.

“Salman Rushdie was at boarding school with me, and he didn’t have a great time. In one of his books, he wrote that the schools were divided between the nerds and those who were good at sports. Very few were both. “The best example is Zia Mahmood, who was very bright and also very good at sports.” I don’t think it is true, but it is a nice compliment.”

The Crack in the Armour

Zia’s mother had gone back to Pakistan and ran a hospital where the poor people were treated for free and the rich people subsidised them.



“At three or four in the morning she would go alone in the car to deliver babies in areas that westerners would consider savage places, but she didn’t care. In those days there was a lot of respect for women in Pakistan.”

After Zia finished school, he trained to become a chartered accountant, but spent more time in the casino than at the office. “First I was a croupier in London, I didn’t work, I gambled all day long. I somehow managed to qualify anyway, and when my mother died, I went back to Pakistan.”

How did your mother die?

“She died very sudden at 52 with a heart attack. I was 22 at the time. She was an exceptional lady.”

That was a very young age to become an orphan, I say full of sympathy.

“It is the way life goes sometimes,” he shrugs and takes a cashew nut.

It is hard to penetrate Zia’s armour. He speaks and replies very quickly to all my questions and seems to not let his own words sink in.

How was that for you?

“Terrible. When you love someone very much and you haven’t met death before, it is a very painful thing. Since then, I always try to make my children aware of human mortality and that it is just a part of life, but it is very shocking when it is the first time in your life.”

Zia is instructing the waiter on how to make margaritas. He asks for his room number for the check. Zia waves his arm at him: “First bring the drinks, then you get the room number.” He humbly bows for Zia, before he runs off to tell the bartender to hurry up.

How did you begin to play bridge?

“I have told this story so many times I prefer not to tell it again.” He looks impatiently at his phone to check how his team is doing.

I would like to hear it.

“I started playing bridge to meet a girl who was only allowed to go out to bridge parties, so I turned up at the bridge party, fell in love with the game and haven’t stopped playing since then. That was 50 years ago at least.

What happened to the girl?

“She got married and lived happily ever after, but she still tells people “I am the reason he learned bridge.””

Have you ever had your heart broken?

“In several places, every time I go down in a slam my heart is broken. As far as love is concerned you cannot have love without pain; both the joy is extreme, and the pain is extreme. My greatest heartbreak was with a girl I was going to marry and then she died. That was the saddest day of my life.”

This is the only time throughout our conversation he pauses. I feel a crack in his armour.

“I don’t want to go into the details too much. I was younger. I think certain things are personal and you keep it to yourself.”

The Immortal Father

After his mother died, Zia began to work for his family’s newspaper group, which was the biggest in Pakistan. His older brother was responsible for the family business, but he became more and more politically involved in opposition to the government and ended up in jail.

“My brother was more rebellious than me and very brilliant. He had one of the highest IQs ever tested in school. They said he had the IQ of Einstein.”

Zia’s brother spent nine months in jail, and when he came out, he decided to go to Abu Dhabi because of the oil boom, and Zia went with him.

“When we came to Abu Dhabi, I didn’t like it, so I said “I am going to London to play bridge. I will be back to work.” It is 50 years ago, and I never went back to work.”

How old were you when you had children?

“56, I married at the age of 55 principally to have children. I am not a believer in marriage, even my bridge partnerships don’t last too long. My wife was only prepared to give me children if I married her, which I think was reasonable enough. She was an English lady who I loved very much.”

What role have women played in your life?

“I have enjoyed the company of women my whole life and I much prefer to be in the company of women more than most men, whether it is a dear friend or a beautiful partner. I give you one line from my book:

“I think I am growing old now because there was a girl who always used to send me a message before a tournament “to play bridge like I made love”, and now she just texts me “good luck”. I still have a few girlfriends and I try to have them make me feel young.”

How are you with family?

“I am a very family oriented person and my children and my brother come before anything in life, I would give up bridge and immortality if it could help them.” I am not surprised to hear Zia is immortal.

Tell me about your sons Zain and Rafi.



Zia with his oldest son Zain.

“They are beautiful people as well as looking, They are totally different like me and my brother. He is a workaholic, and I am a playerholic.

What are their best qualities?

“You should see Zain one day with young children That is how you can tell. Rafi has got a smile that makes everyone believe he is their best friend, but he is a bit of a rascal like his father. He recently came home with an earring, so I almost cut his ear off. I am just too old for that. I think I would be a terrible father for a daughter, I am so eastern and possessive and would follow them around every time they went out on a date.”

Do you kids worry that you won’t be with them long?

“Frankly I think the opposite. I keep telling them I won’t last long, they keep telling me they heard that so many times they don’t believe me anymore. They think I am going to live to be a hundred.”

The waiter finally brings the Margaritas. Zia has emptied the bowl of nuts and looks impatiently at his phone, while I type madly.

"If we get knocked out soon you can bother me when we have more time."

What scares you?

"The thought that my kids might become even slightly sick. The first time my son had a bad stomach I took him to the hospital. He had food poisoning. When they took a blood sample from him, I actually fainted. A friend told me before I had kids: "You should be careful cause when you have kids the fear that anything should happen to them is the most perpetual and constant fear of every parent."

"The only place where a human being is completely incapable of being selfish is when it comes to their children except in the most weird of people. Every time they go in a car or every time they go on a plane, I track the plane. When one of my bridge partners goes on a plane, I hope it doesn't land for a few days.
Stop writing, you are writing 54 pages."

What is the worst thing about getting older?

"Nothing bothers me, I welcome old age. This year I am celebrating because it is five years since I had cancer. I didn't tell anyone when I had it, only one family member. I didn't even tell my kids, because what is the point of telling someone when it is very sad?"

When did you tell them?

"After the treatment was over.

I had many surgeries. I got throat cancer from shouting at my partner too much. They said: "Of course you should have told us", but I don't believe in hurting anyone unnecessary. Don't write too much about cancer, it is not going to help anybody."

"I was completely non-concerned about life and death until I had children. I used to sit on an airplane and think that if this plane crashed, would I be bothered by it? Until I had children. I want to see my children one more time."

The Love Story

At the American Nationals in July Zia launched his book with the title: "Bridge – A Love Story", which made people wait in long lines for a signed copy.

Zia tells me to write that he has 10 copies left of his new book that he doesn't want to carry back home.

"So tell people who want to buy it to come find me," he commands.

What was your motivation for writing this book?

"Covid gave everybody time to do things they had left on the shelf. During covid I used to play bridge with friends for money 3-4 hours/day, and the rest of the day I wrote the book and drank champagne."

Why did you choose that title?

"Because every bridge addict knows there is no greater love than the one they have for this game, and I have been faithful to my obsession for the last 50 years. Bridge is my longest love affair. It is not just a book about bridge, it is a book of stories, a book or romance, a book of fantasy."



He gives me a bridge hand as an example of his imaginative approach to bridge despite my protests that I don't write about bridge hands in my interviews, which doesn't land well with him. I try to explain that the entire world has been aware of his creativity as a player for about 40 years. A day does not go by without Zia signing at least seven autographs and posing for 11 pictures. And he gladly does it. Zia may not have time to talk to a journalist, but he is always generous to his fans.

When were you in your prime?

"What are you talking about? Life, bridge, sex? I think in my thirties or forties. I started golf when I was 40, I think that was a wonderful way to combine bridge and activity. Write that I still haven't reached my prime, it is yet to come."

I sense his growing impatience and know that my 30 minutes are well overdue. I try to keep him with me a little longer by tickling his vanity.

How does it feel to be the superstar of bridge?

"I am not a superstar, I am an old fart. There are just not very many colorful people in the bridge world."

I try to ask him some of the questions that usually makes people give lengthy answers in an attempt to keep him, but he doesn't fall for it.

What makes you angry?

"It would take a separate interview to tell you. Mostly when I play bridge badly, I get angry with myself, which happens more often than most people would realize."

For someone with his vocabulary, the replies are becoming shorter and shorter.

How would your ex-girlfriends describe you in three words?

"You can ask them, there are quite a few around."

If you could pass on a piece of life advice to future generations, what would it be?

"Follow your passion."

He sits looking at his phone and I try one last time to strip him from his armour.

Tell me something about yourself very few people know.

"I am desperate to go for dinner now."



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OUR SCHEDULE 2024

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FRIDAY JULY 26

- 14.30-18.00 Bronze 1, handicap
- 15.30-21.00 Silver 1, gold bonus MPs, i-a-f*
- 19.00-22.30 Bronze 2, strata

SATURDAY JULY 27

- 10.00-13.30 Bronze 3
- 12.00-12.30 Chairman's Cup, Captain's meeting
- 13.30-21.30 Chairman's Cup, swiss
- 14.30-18.05 Bronze 4, handicap
- 15.30-21.00 Silver 2
- 19.00-22.30 Bronze 5, strata

SUNDAY JULY 28

- 10.00-19.45 Chairman's Cup, swiss
- 10.00-13.30 Bronze 6
- 14.30-18.00 Bronze 7, handicap, seminar
- 15.30-21.00 Silver 3
- 19.00-22.30 Bronze 8, strata

MONDAY JULY 29

- 10.00-14.10 Chairman's Cup, 32 teams
- 10.00-14.10 Chairman's Cup, bonus cup, 32 teams
- 10.00-13.30 Bronze 9
- 14.30-18.05 Bronze 10, handicap, seminar
- 15.30-21.00 Silver 4
- 15.50-20.00 Chairman's Cup, 16 teams
- 15.50-18.30 Chairman's Cup, bonus cup, 32 teams
- 19.00-22.30 Bronze 11, mixed, strata
- 19.00-21.40 Chairman's Cup, bonus cup, 16 teams

* Entry fee, three tickets.

TUESDAY JULY 30

- 10.00-20.00 Chairman's Cup, quarter finals
- 10.00-14.10 Chairman's Cup, bonus cup, 16 teams
- 10.00-13.35 Bronze 12
- 14.30-18.00 Bronze 13, handicap, seminar
- 15.30-20.00 Chairman's Cup, bonus cup, 8 teams
- 15.30-21.00 Silver 5
- 19.00-22.30 Bronze 14, strata

WEDNESDAY JULY 31

- 09.30-13.00 Bronze 15, max 2 MPs
- 09.30-13.00 Bronze 16, max 15 MPs
- 10.00-20.00 Chairman's Cup, semi final
- 10.00-14.30 Chairman's Cup, bonus cup, 8 teams
- 10.00-13.30 Bronze 17
- 14.30-18.00 Bronze 18, handicap, seminar
- 15.30-21.45 Silver 6, swiss, teams
- 15.30-20.00 Chairman's Cup, bonus cup, 4 teams
- 19.00-22.30 Bronze 19, strata

THURSDAY AUGUST 1

- 09.30-14.00 Bronze 20, Swiss, lag
- 10.00-20.00 Chairman's Cup, final
- 10.00-14.30 Chairman's Cup, bonus cup, 4 teams
- 10.00-13.30 Bronze 21
- 14.30-18.05 Bronze 22, handicap, seminar
- 15.30-21.25 Silver 7, swiss pairs
- 19.00-22.45 Bronze 23, strata

FRIDAY AUGUST 2

- 10.00-13.30 Bronze 24
- 14.30-18.00 Bronze 25, handicap
- 15.30-21.00 Silver 8
- 19.00-22.30 Bronze 26, silver bonus, strata

SATURDAY AUGUST 3

- 10.00-13.30 Bronze 27
- 14.30-18.05 Bronze 28, handicap
- 15.30-21.15 Gold Mine, swiss pairs, qualification
- 19.00-22.30 Bronze 29, silver bonus, strata

SUNDAY AUGUST 4

- 09.30-14.50 Gold Mine, finals
- 10.00-13.30 Bronze 30, handicap

The Dynamic Duo

Round 6



By Mark Horton

I was planning to cover three deals this morning, but I have to go and buy tickets for an FA Cup tie and then go and watch the new release Napoleon at 11.00 so that I will be back in time to cover Round 7 and I ran out of time.

Board 6 Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

At some point I coined the phrase (at least I think it was me) Meckwellian referring to low point count 3NT contracts that made more often than not.

Alpert v Netteale

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Paske	Versace	Nettleton	Alpert
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

- 1♣ 'Can be short'
- 2♣ Puppet to 2♦
- 2NT Invitational

East cashed three diamonds, declarer pitching dummy's ♠3 and switched to the ♠4. Appreciating that West was now odds on to hold the missing high cards declarer took dummy's ace and played three rounds of clubs ending in hand, East discarding the ♠2. A heart to the king was followed by two clubs.

On the last of them, West, down to ♠K ♥Q7 ♦10 had no answer. If he parted with the ♦10 declarer would run the ♥J and then exit with a spade, forcing West to surrender the game going trick.

Not wishing to be endplayed West discarded the ♥Q, so declarer claimed the rest, +430.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Laitano	Cope	Berrettini	M Gold
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

West led the ♦5 and East played three rounds of the suit. Declarer ruffed, played the top hearts and took a losing spade finesse, finishing two down, -100 for a loss of 11 IMPs.

You might have noticed that 4♥ cannot be defeated!

If East tries three rounds of diamonds declarer can pitch a spade from dummy, win the first round of spades with dummy's ace and draw trumps via a finesse against West.

Parker v Mikadinho

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
S de Wijs	A Grossack	Verhaegen	Parker
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♣ Puppet to 2♦-various

3♣ Invitational

East led the ♦K and switched to the ♠2. Declarer took dummy's ace, played a club to the king and a heart to the jack. When West produced the ♥Q the roof fell in, three down, -150.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Rubenstein	L de Wijs	Tebha	Nijssen
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

1♣ 2+♣

East cashed three diamonds and switched to the ♠4. Declarer put in dummy's queen and West won and cashed his diamonds for one down and 3 IMPs.



Fawerites v Scandiscots

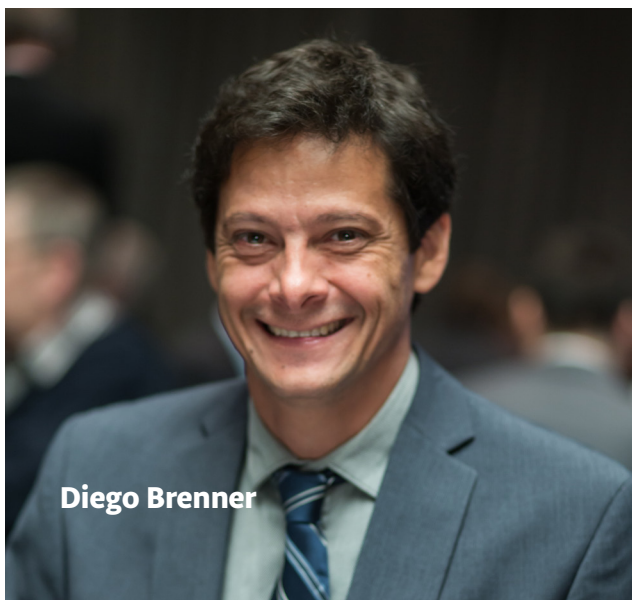
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Trendafilova	Tokay	Becklen	Fawer
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

After three diamonds and a spade switch declarer took dummy's ace and cashed five clubs, finishing with 10 tricks when West discarded a heart, +180.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kober	M-Larsen	Yoon	Poulsen
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠*
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

1♠ 'Natural but unbalanced'

Declarer followed a similar line at this table, but West held on to her hearts and declarer did not risk the finesse, +120 costing a couple of IMPs.



Diego Brenner

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Mixed Goods v Turnips

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Brenner	Tartarin	Dolera
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

2♦ Fourth-suit forcing

Declarer ruffed the third round of diamonds, cashed the ♥K and ran the ♥J, but could not avoid one down, -50. Pity North did not pass 4♥!

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Bauer	Franceschetti	Boyd-Bowman	Setton
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

After three diamonds and a spade declarer took dummy's ace and cashed out for +120 and 5 IMPs.

Alpert v Netteale

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Paske	Versace	Nettleton	Alpert
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

I have never been a Losing Trick Count aficionado, but as I understand it South's rebid suggests a five loser hand and North has approximately seven. That makes 12 and when you deduct that from 24 it leaves 12, suggesting you should have a play for 6♠.

If North makes a try with 5♣, then bids 5♥ over South's 5♦, you can bet your bottom dollar that the next bid will be 6♠.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Laitano	Cope	Berrettini	M Gold
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5♠	All Pass	



Flemming Poulsen

4NT* RKCB
5♦ 0/3 keycards

Oops.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Rubenstein	L de Wijs	Tebha	Nijssen
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣
3♣ Asking for a major

That was a surprising 11 IMP gain.

Fawerites v Scandiscots

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Trendafilova	Tokay	Becklen	Fawer
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

I refer the reader to my previous statement.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kober	M-Larsen	Yoon	Poulsen
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♦*
All Pass			

- 3♥ 18-19 balanced, 4♠, or splinter
- 3NT Asking
- 4♣ Balanced
- 4♥ Cue
- 5♦ Cue

North had poor trumps, but the knowledge that partner did not have a club control perhaps suggested her values would be in the right places.

Parker v Mikadinho

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
S de Wijs	A Grossack	Verhaegen	Parker
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	6♦	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

4♠ No shortage
 4NT RKCB
 5♦ 3 keycards
 5♥ ♠Q?
 6♦ ♠Q+♦K

That was +920 and 10 IMPs.

A delightful sequence!

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Bauer	Franceschetti	Boyd-Bowman	Setton
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Mixed Goods v Turnips

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Brenner	Tartarin	Dolera
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

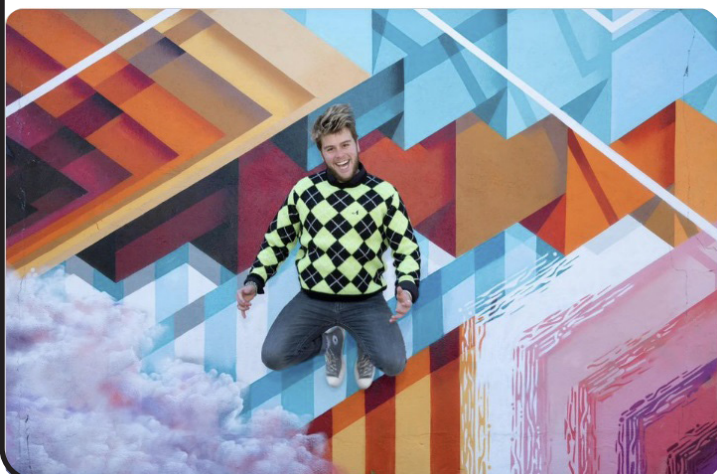
That meant the loss of 11 IMPs.

Before the last match in the Round Robin, Scandiscots are leading with 85 VPs, Mixed Goods in second with 75 and Turnips and Mikadinho in 3rd and 4th with 66 and 64 VPs.

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