

The Hague Bridge Experience

Daily Bulletin No. 1

Sunday 14 August

This new tournament 'The Hague Bridge Experience' sponsored by the Holland Casino Scheveningen is in the mold of the famous and well-loved tournaments that took place in earlier years in The Hague. From 1987 till 2002 The Cap Gemini Invitational Pairs (under various names) was held in The Hague. I was fortunate enough to work on the bulletin for the last two editions held at the Hotel Des Indes. The Forbo was also held in The Hague from 1993 till 2002.

The take up for this event has been so good that already next year has been planned for August 12 till August 20 with a similar format to this year – we are already looking forward to seeing you all (and some additional friends) next year.

Anyone to whom I have spoken remembers participation in either or both of the events with much affection. The very first Cap Gemini was graced by the presence of HRH Prince Claus who then partnered Omar Sharif for a few hands. This first contest was won by Fucik and Terraneo, who were also to win the third running.

There was an amusing deal with Omar and HRH against a Dutch pair Leufkens and Westra.

	♠ 9		
	♥ K9653		
	♦ AQ2		
	♣ K984		
♠ AJ64	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 10853	
♥ 8742		♥ J	
♦ 73		♦ J10654	
♣ Q107		♣ A52	
	♠ KQ72		
	♥ AQ10		
	♦ K98		
	♣ J65		
West	North	East	South
<i>Leufkens</i>	<i>Sharif</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>HRH</i>
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

The 6♥ bid requires a little explanation, it was prearranged that the score on this hand would be multiplied by ten and turned into guilders to be donated to charity and so HRH 'stretched' a little. Unfortunately the defenders immediately cashed their two aces to defeat the slam and deny the charity over fourteen thousand guilders. At the end of the deal Omar turned to East and West and said 'You are good bridge players but poor actors!'

There has been one player who was present at every edition and that is Zia Mahmood and he won the event six times with four different partners. The Norwegian (now Monegasque) pair of Helgemo and Helness have the greatest number of wins with three victories.

Saturday saw the start of the Mixed Pairs.. Rather than follow one pair and be accused of casting the ‘commentator’s curse’ on the poor pair I discovered that in the C Section on the high numbered tables the boards remained still and the pairs moved so I could see what different outcomes befell our contestants. Boards 25, 26 and 27 particularly came under my gaze.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vulnerable.

		♠ K982		
		♥ 53		
		♦ QJ86		
		♣ A104		
♠ Q103		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>		♠ A7
♥ KQJ862				♥ 10974
♦ A4				♦ K732
♣ J3				♣ 984
		♠ J654		
		♥ A		
		♦ 1095		
		♣ KQ762		

On three tables the good contract of 3♥ was reached and made on the nose to give nearly 60% to East West. On one table North South competed to 3♠ and West took a rosy view of his six-card major and chanced game. North fell from grace and snatched defeat from the jaws of victory when he lead a small spade giving the contract away and 95% to East West. My final story is when North South competed to 3♠ and were allowed to play there. They were booked for a good result as going one off undoubled was worth almost 80% of the matchpoints. On the lead of the king of hearts declarer performe won with the ace and she now had to tackle the trump suit. The majority of declarers who were in this contract took the simple line of playing small to the ace and consequently lost three trump tricks. If you play small towards the king and play the eight (or cover West’s card if is an honour) you will have a lot more information on the next round when you play towards the king. It seems to me that playing the king at the first opportunity is putting too many eggs in one basket. By delaying the decision you may immediately find a favourable lie of the cards or be better placed at the second attempt to know what to do. Double dummy of course East West can always make two trump tricks and take a diamond ruff along with their two club tricks, but defenders do not always do the right thing and there was an additional 15% available for making the contract.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vulnerable.

		♠ J62		
		♥ A1096		
		♦ 85		
		♣ 10842		
♠ 875		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>		♠ A10943
♥ Q43				♥ J
♦ AKJ42				♦ Q963
♣ Q3				♣ 976
		♠ KQ		
		♥ K8752		
		♦ 107		
		♣ AKJ5		

As we are in The Netherlands East frequently opened the bidding with a Muiderberg 2♠ bid which was freely supported by his partner to the three-level. On two occasions East West won the contract with 3♠ and lost their five top losers for one-off and just above average. On one of the deals East elected to pass and South tried a slightly off centre 1NT which was passed out. The defence have an obvious six tricks and declarer would appear to have seven but on the run of the diamonds declarer did not discard optimally (she should have discarded two clubs and a heart from dummy and three hearts from hand) and so lost communication between herself and dummy. This resulted in scoring less than 20%. Twice North South arrived in the heart game after the Muiderberg opening. One failed by two tricks and the other by one. In both cases East West started with two top diamonds. The first continued with a spade to her partner's ace who got off lead with a small club which declarer took with a high honour. The other continued with another diamond presenting declarer with a ruff and discard as she ruffed in dummy and discarded a club from hand. After the opening two-bid showing a minimum of nine cards in a major and a minor it seems to me that if the trumps split 3-1 it is much more likely that West will be the culprit and therefore the correct way to address the trump suit is to cash the king in hand. When the jack falls from West one applies the theory of restricted choice and finesse against West for the missing queen. Now all you have to do is correctly guess the club suit (not trivial) to bring home the contract.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vulnerable.

	♠ A62										
	♥ A987										
	♦ AQ652										
	♣ K										
♠ J10873	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;"> </td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 3		♥ KQ2									
♦ K873		♦ 109									
♣ 974		♣ AJ106532									
	♠ K954										
	♥ J10654										
	♦ J4										
	♣ Q										

A typical auction was

West North East South

—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	2♣	Double
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

10 tricks were not difficult for North South, just losing two trumps and the ace of clubs. At one table South opened 2♣ and with my less than limited understanding of the explanation in Dutch I deduced it showed a weak hand with the majors. North responded 2NT, alerted, and East intervened with 3♣. There was now a system malfunction as North transposed South's 3♥ bid to 4♠, whereupon West expressed an opinion with a double and was rewarded by defeating the contract by two tricks and a 95% score. On my final view of this hand North opened 1♦ and East tried 3♣. This appeared to cause East some difficulty and after a long pause extracted the 5♣ card from her bidding box and North immediately riposted with a red card and this time the contract was three light rewarding North South with 97%.

More Haste Less Speed

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vulnerable.

<p>♠ J854 ♥ K962 ♦ QJ10 ♣ 65</p>	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div> </div>	<p>♠ AQ2 ♥ A8 ♦ AK864 ♣ 1083</p> <p>♠ 10973 ♥ Q73 ♦ 532 ♣ 942</p>
	<p>♠ K6 ♥ J1054 ♦ 97 ♣ AKQJ7</p>	

I saw this hand a couple of times and in both cases a sudden leap to 3NT killed the auction. A third of the pairs reached a slam. All but two in No-trumps, one pair bid 6♣ whilst Anneke van der Meer & Rob Jagroop reached the grand slam in clubs which made as the diamonds broke 3-3. Notice that 6NT always makes. 'Not on a heart lead' some of you might say, but you would be wrong. Let us take the case of North being declarer and East leads a heart (otherwise declarer ducks a diamond and claims when the suit breaks 3-3). The ten is covered by West's king, taken by North's ace. North runs his clubs and comes to hand with a diamond and then leads towards the heart jack establishing his twelfth trick. If South is declarer and West finds the heart lead, declarer plays low from dummy letting East win with his queen and takes the return with the ace in dummy. I watched one South now lazily cash out for eleven tricks. Had she bothered to allow for the small chance that one hand guarded both the diamonds and the hearts then that hand would be irrevocably squeezed, and on this occasion that was the situation. If South cashed her three spades and then her five clubs West cannot keep three diamonds and the king of hearts, notice it was the nine of diamonds on the South hand which made the squeeze possible, but I doubt there are many Scotsmen here at this tournament.

I had my spies out and I was given a couple of reports of some interesting hands.

Our first hand features an excellent defence

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vulnerable.

<p>♠ 542 ♥ AK105 ♦ A105 ♣ KJ4</p>	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div> </div>	<p>♠ K98 ♥ 42 ♦ KQ873 ♣ AQ10</p> <p>♠ QJ103 ♥ J987 ♦ 6 ♣ 8753</p>
	<p>♠ A76 ♥ Q63 ♦ J942 ♣ 962</p>	

	West	North <i>Stuurman</i>	East	South <i>Chorus</i>
	–	–	Pass	Pass
	1♦*	Pass	Pass!	Pass
1♦	Precision			

North commenced hostilities with a small trump to the jack and ace. Declarer played a small spade towards dummy won by Chorus who returned a small trump. North won with the eight and cashed the king. He followed with the king of spades and exited with a small one to dummy. A small club from dummy went to declarer's jack and Stuurman's queen, exiting with a heart. Declarer cashed a second heart and tried a third, North ruffed with the queen! He then led a small trump to South's jack who could then push a club through declarer's king to exact a three trick defeat and a score of 88%.

Our second hand show that bridge is a bidder's game.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vulnerable.

	♠ 864	
	♥ 1073	
	♦ K7	
	♣ 8543	
♠ KQ109	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J752
♥ KQJ4		♥ 862
♦ 82		♦ 1053
♣ J108		♣ A62
	♠ A3	
	♥ A95	
	♦ AQJ964	
	♣ 97	

	West	North	East	South
	<i>Glabbek</i>		<i>Maas</i>	
	–	Pass	Pass	1♦
	2♦*	Pass	2♠	3♦
	Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass
2♦	Majors			

Glabbek's 2♦ bid showed the majors, not everyone would do this on just 4-4, His partner showed confidence in his bid by competing to the three-level. When South led the ♣9 declarer had only one club loser and so finished one light for a near outright top.

Glabbek and Maas were the European Mixed Pairs Champions in Ostend in 2002.



**Hedwig van Glabbek & Willemjan
Maas**

Standings after First Session

Pos.	Name	%	Pos	Name	%
1	Thea Willemsse & Niki Pfeiffer	66,74	29	Marianna Hiel & Hans Hiel	50,00
2	Marlou Duijvesteijn & Peter Alleblas	63,92	30	Carla van Ekeren & Ronald Paping	49,24
3	Hedwig van Glabbeek & Willemjan Maas	63,70	31	Rosalind Hengeveld & Jan van Cleeff	48,96
4	Janine van Ipenburg & Onno Janssens	62,50	32	Esther Stok & Leo Stok	48,66
5	Enny Bellen & Rob van Wel	58,38	33	C. Riedijk & G. Riedijk	48,47
6	J. Groot & B. Groot	58,16	34	Hedy Stegge & John Misjaar	48,37
7	Ada v Benthem & Frank v Benthem	57,76	35	Evelyne Alster & Rob Pieterse	47,88
8	Annemieke Dekkers & Jos de Wit	57,27	36	Miep Houben & Hans Eliens	47,36
9	Machteld Giesbers & Remco Bruggemann	57,20	37	Jacqueline Voerman & Martin Holling	46,70
10	Mieneke Vliegthart & Aris Bremer	57,00	38	E. Vlaar & C. Vlaar	46,61
11	Marianne Smit & Fred van Emmerik	55,30	39	G. Belderbos & Eef Ebbelaar	46,53
12	Renee Verdegaal & Mark Thiele	55,23	40	L. Kuiper & Frans Bitter	46,30
13	Madelon Spek & Erik van Egmond	55,16	41	Christa Feddema & Roelof Santing	46,24
14	Vera Drost & Gerrit Ros	54,85	42	Christine Winckel & Hans Metselaar	45,83
15	Annemarie Swinkels & Kees Gunter	54,27	43	Kay Agterof & Mans Jansen	45,73
16	Inge Schildermans & Rudi van Mol	54,10	44	Els Witteveen & Harry Burmania	45,35
17	Marina Witvliet & Koos Vrieze	53,78	45	Wiveca Jongeneel & Jos Winkelman	45,21
18	Francine v.d. Aa & Cor Denis	53,58	46	Rebecca de Bruijn & Eppo Hartman	44,57
19	Lucie Nijmeijer & Hans Guttlich	53,56	47	Anneke van der Meer & Rob Jagroop	43,98
20	Sahar Ouda & Hans Kreuning	52,92	48	M. Aanen & A. Beerens	43,84
21	Ang Hooijdonk & Marcel vHooijdonk	52,52	49	v.d. Arend & Bergers	43,37
22	Ella van der Sanden & Geert Dirks	52,47	50	Ruth Murkes & Bieleman	43,23
23	Danielle de Jong & Jan de Jong	52,01	51	Corrie van der Slot & Wil van der Slot	41,41
24	Lotty ten Veen & Jan Tulp	51,13	52	M. Blom & C. Roetman	40,08
25	Marjo Chorus & Dennis Stuurman	50,61	53	Helene Cromjongh & Coen Cromjongh	38,92
26	Anneke Posthumus & Max Rebattu	50,52	54	J. Beukers & Michiel Beukers	36,81
27	Annemieke Poort & Robbie de Koster	50,36	55	I. Slikker & M. van Dongen	35,50
28	Ingrid v Schagen & Sjoerd Zandvoort	50,16	56	M. v.d. Maas & R. v.d. Maas	29,70

Schedule

August 14 **Butler Pairs** **Two Sessions**

August 17/18 **Knockout Pairs**

August 19 **Pro-Am**

August 20 **Open Teams**

August 21 **Open Pairs**

Mixed Pairs - Second Session

Between the first and second session there was a medley of pastas and salads provided by the Holland Casino to fortify the competitors for the second half. Copious cream cakes followed, evidence of which can be found on my keyboard.

After the first session **Thea Willemse and Niki Pfeiffer** were in the lead with 66.74%, nearly 3% ahead of the field so a good second session would give them an excellent chance of winning the event. Not only did they have a good second session they won the second session again with over 66%. So their final score was 66.65%, 4.5% ahead of **Marlou Duijvesteijn and Peter Alleblas** who normally would have won such an event by finishing second in both sessions. Third place were **van Glabbeek and Willemjan Maas** who occupied that position after the first session. So the positions of the top three after the first session was the same as after both sessions.



**Mixed Pairs Winners
Thea Willemse & Niki Pfeiffer**

There was one hand posed declarer problems in the play.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vulnerable.

♠ K54	♠ Q8	♠ A
♥ 109653	♥ Q87	♥ AJ2
♦ 1082	♦ KJ3	♦ AQ9765
♣ K3	♣ 109865	♣ AQ4
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ J1097632	
	♥ K4	
	♦ 4	
	♣ J72	

Only three pairs reached a slam on the East West cards, all in diamonds, and all made it. After a diamond opening by East when South pre-empted in spades it aided declarer in the play of the hand. To make the slam is not trivial, and to make the slam in hearts is even less so. You have to decide early on to play North for three trumps (including both the honours). As you can see the entry situation is very delicate – You need to finesse twice in trumps and then play the heart suit for one loser. Having decided to play South for a singleton diamond you will then have to play her for a doubleton heart. The idea being you can take a diamond finesse by entering dummy with the king of clubs, stripping South of her only trump and can now play the hearts without risking a ruff. You will need to ruff your second high club honour in dummy to create another entry for the appropriate finesse. I think you will find it rewarding to plug the hand into Deep Finesse to appreciate all the subtleties of the play of the hand in both slam contracts.

Standings after Final Session

Pos.	Name	%	Pos	Name	%
1	Thea Willemse & Niki Pfeiffer	66,55	29	Mavis Aanen & Fon Beerens	49,84
2	Marlou Duijvestijn & Peter Alleblas	62,04	30	Hedy Stegge & John Missaar	49,67
3	Hedwig v Glabbeek & Willem jan Maas	59,32	31	Marianna Hiel & Hans Hiel	49,29
4	Machteld Giesbers & Remco Brüggemann	59,11	32	Wiveca Jongeneel & Jos Winkelman	49,21
5	Sahar Ouda & Hans Kreuning	58,05	33	Madelon Spek & Erik van Egmond	48,34
6	Annemiek Dekkers & Jos de Wit	57,95	34	Loes Kuiper & Frans Bitter	48,14
7	Marjan Smit & Fred van Emmerik	57,62	35	Christine Winckel & Hans Metselaar	47,03
8	Renée Verdegaal & Mark Thiele	56,84	36	Ella van der Sanden & Geert Dirks	46,98
9	Janine van Ipenburg & Onno Janssens	56,62	37	Els Witteveen & Harry Burmania	46,81
10	Jens van Ginhoven & Bas Groot	56,61	38	Miep Houben & Hans Eliëns	46,44
11	Marina Witvliet & Koos Vrieze	56,27	39	Mirjam Blom & Cees Roetman	46,41
12	Inge Schildermans & Rudi van Mol	55,55	40	Jacqueline Voerman & Martin Holling	46,31
13	Ingrid v Schagen & Sjoerd Zandvoort	54,76	41	Christa Feddema & Roelof Santing	46,15
14	Mieneke Vliegthart & Aris Bremer	54,00	42	Kay Agterof & Mans Jansen	45,59
15	Annemieke Poort & Robbie de Koster	53,90	43	Rebecca de Bruijn & Eppo Hartman	45,58
16	Lucie Nijmeijer & Hans Gütlich	53,50	44	Anneke van der Meer & Rob Jagroop	45,40
17	Vera Drost & Gerrit Ros	53,33	45	J. Beukers & Chiel Beukers	44,24
18	Ada v Benthem & Frank v Benthem	53,22	-46	Carla van Ekeren & Ronald Paping	44,18
19	Annemarie Swinkels & Kees Gunter	53,05	-46	Clemens Vlaar & Esther Vlaar	44,18
20	Daniëlle de Jong & Jan de Jong	52,96	48	Ruth Murkes & Joffrey Bieleman	43,84
21	Esther Stok & Leo Stok	52,87	49	Leonie van der Arend & Thijs Bergers	43,58
22	Anneke Posthumus & Max Rebattu	52,72	50	Evelyne Alster & Rob Pieterse	42,17
23	Anh Nguyen & Marcel v Hooijdonk	52,15	51	Hans Riedijk & Gonnie Riedijk	42,11
24	Rosalind Hengeveld & Jan van Cleeff	51,99	52	Ingeborg Slikker & Michel v Dongen	41,68
25	Francine van der Aa & Cor Denis	51,53	53	G. Belderbos & Eef Ebbelaar	41,39
26	Enny Bellen & Rob van Wel	50,77	54	Helene Cromjongh & Coen Cromjongh	39,47
27	Lotty ten Veen & Jan Tulp	50,76	55	Corrie v der Slot & Wil v der Slot	37,36
28	Marjo Chorus & Dennis Stuurman	50,70	56	M. v.d. Maas & R. v.d. Maas	33,88