

The Hague Bridge Experience

Daily Bulletin No. 4

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**Winner of the Teams
Witte Huis**



**Second in the Teams
Tosca**



**Third in the Teams
Onstein Boys**



**Winner of the Pairs
Steven de Donder &
Steve de Roos**



**Second in the Pairs
Joris v Lankveld &
Berend v den Bos**



**Third in the Pairs
Vincent Ramondt &
Barry Westra**

The Hague Bridge Experience comes to the end of its first edition after a week of exciting and interesting bridge. A successful Pro-Am tournament and a new format Pairs competition - The Knock-out Pairs being some of the highlights. The event was hosted in the Holland Casino Scheveningen. The Hague is now definitely back on the map as an important bridge tournament.

The event has already been scheduled for next year, so get out your diaries and block August 12 - August 20 for The Hague Bridge Experience 2017.

IMP Wars

Mark Horton

When Patrick Jourdain asked Alain Levy for a good board during a tournament the French star replied 'I have no good boards'. Each morning at breakfast Patrick repeated his question to Alain, only to receive the same reply, 'I have no good boards'. After receiving the same answer for the fifth time Patrick said, 'So give me a bad board'.

In a team event one man's good board can easily be the other man's bad board. Let's take a look at a few deals from Saturday's team tournament:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

	♠ AK4		
	♥ AQ32		
	♦ 973		
	♣ Q75		
♠ J965		♠ Q872	
♥ 9		♥ 54	
♦ A10842		♦ KJ	
♣ K63		♣ J9842	
	♠ 103		
	♥ KJ10876		
	♦ Q65		
	♣ A10		
West	North	East	South
–	1NT	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

In theory the only way to be sure of defeating 4♥ is for East to lead the king of diamonds, when the defenders should be able to score two diamonds, a diamond ruff and a club. However, a club lead will probably keep the defenders in the game, as declarer might well play dummy's ten, allowing West to win with the king. (If you consider that East is unlikely to lead away from a king then rising with dummy's ace, drawing trumps and playing a club towards the queen is the way to go.)

In with the king of clubs West should realise that there are only two plausible ways in which 4♥ might be defeated. One is to find partner with the ♠AQ, the other with a doubleton king of diamonds. You want to know which is more likely? Me too!

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

	♠ 10942		
	♥ QJ		
	♦ AQJ1097		
	♣ 2		
♠ Q86	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ AKJ753	
♥ K965		♥ 10732	
♦ K8		♦ —	
♣ A1054		♣ QJ8	
	♠ —		
	♥ A84		
	♦ 65432		
	♣ K9763		

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	3♦	3♠	5♦
Pass	Pass	5♠	All Pass

If South leads a diamond declarer ruffs and cashes a top trump. When South discards the natural play is a heart to the king, followed by a second heart. North wins and plays a diamond, forcing declarer for a second time. Playing a heart now will allow North to pitch a club and receive a club ruff, so declarer must draw trumps. When the last one is played this will be the position:

	♠ 10		
	♥ —		
	♦ J1097		
	♣ 2		
♠ —	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K	
♥ 96		♥ 107	
♦ —		♦ —	
♣ A1054		♣ QJ8	
	♠ —		
	♥ A		
	♦ 6		
	♣ K976		

In order to look after both clubs and hearts South must pitch a diamond, but now declarer can simply give up a heart.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠ 62	
	♥ QJ106	
	♦ QJ1086	
	♣ Q10	
♠ AJ75	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ KQ1093
♥ A7		♥ 8543
♦ K2		♦ 4
♣ AJ962		♣ 743
	♠ 84	
	♥ K92	
	♦ A9753	
	♣ K85	

If West opens 1♣, East responds 1♠ and is likely to be raised to game.

Suppose West starts with 1NT?

If East decides to transfer to spades West will probably jump to 3♠, when East should press on to 4♠.

If East responds 2♣ West bids 2♠. Now East should raise to 3♠. The rationale behind this is simple; once your five card suit is supported the fifth card acquires significant value, roughly that of an extra king.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

	♠ QJ932	
	♥ QJ8	
	♦ KJ3	
	♣ 32	
♠ A84	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K10
♥ 943		♥ AK752
♦ AQ1074		♦ 5
♣ K5		♣ AQ1097
	♠ 765	
	♥ 106	
	♦ 9862	
	♣ J864	

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠*	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

- 4♣ Cue-bid
- 4♦ Cue-bid
- 4♠ Cue-bid
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♥ 2 key cards

If West had been able to show 2 key cards plus the trump queen, East might have asked for side kings, contemplating a possible grand slam if West shows the ♣K.

Not a difficult slam to bid, but at one table East doubled 1♠ and then rebid 2♥ – which ended the auction!!

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

	♠ 76432		
	♥ K		
	♦ AQJ63		
	♣ 72		
♠ QJ6	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ AK5	
♥ A942		♥ 753	
♦ K9		♦ 8752	
♣ A1086		♣ KQ4	
	♠ 109		
	♥ QJ1086		
	♦ 104		
	♣ J953		
West	North	East	South
1♣	1♠	3NT	All Pass

South led the queen of hearts and declarer elected to put up dummy's ace. He crossed to hand with a club and played a heart. South won and made the natural, but fatal decision to switch to the ten of diamonds before cashing a second heart. When declarer covered North could win and cash two more diamonds, but now South was inexorably squeezed in hearts and clubs.

If declarer ducks the heart lead North wins and switches to a spade. If declarer wins and tries a diamond to the king North wins and plays another spade. Declarer wins and plays a diamond and North wins. Cashing a third diamond will lead to the squeeze we have already seen, but playing a third spade allows declarer to win in dummy, cross to hand with a club and play a heart, ducking when South plays an honour. Declarer will still need to get the clubs right, but that should not be too difficult as South is known to be 2-5-2-4.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul

	♠ Q		
	♥ Q94		
	♦ J10743		
	♣ AKJ2		
♠ AK75	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J962	
♥ AK852		♥ 3	
♦ AK2		♦ 9865	
♣ 3		♣ 9854	
	♠ 10843		
	♥ J1076		
	♦ Q		
	♣ Q1076		

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	Pass
2♣*	2♦	Pass	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Not a triumph for E/W—but declarer managed nine tricks – and that was worth a couple of IMPs against the +80 recorded at the other table – yes, West opened 1♥ and was left to play there.

Clearly you need to be clear if the sequence 2♣-2♦-2♥ is forcing (if you play Kokish then East has to bid 2♠). Assuming you agree that East is not allowed to pass, then you need to know if you are employing a second negative over 2♥ - the choice is between 2NT and 3♣.

Once you have sorted that out, North’s intervention does not alter things.


Let’s Play Bridge!

Mark Horton

In his classic book, *Play Bridge with Mike Lawrence*, the author points out the well known principle that you can’t win at Pairs with bad hands. You will be at the mercy of your opponents and will have to hope for gifts – perhaps they will miss a game, bid a poor slam or misplay their contracts. You might come in first – but don’t count on it.

The deals in the pairs tournament offered plenty of opportunities – but who would be able to take them?

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠ J 10 9 8 7 4 2		
	♥ —		
	♦ A Q 10 9 8		
	♣ J		
♠ 3		♠ A Q	
♥ Q J 8 6 5		♥ A K 10 9 4 3 2	
♦ 7 6		♦ 2	
♣ A 9 8 7 3		♣ 10 5 2	
	♠ K 6 5		
	♥ 7		
	♦ K J 5 4 3		
	♣ K Q 6 4		
West	North	East	South
–	4♠	Double	All Pass

East led a top heart so declarer emerged with an overtrick, but even leading a diamond and putting partner in with a club to secure a ruff with the ♠Q will not help much in terms of matchpoints. Far better for East to overcall 5♥ – especially if South goes on to 5♠ and East finds the diamond lead – or for West to bid 5♥ over the double.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

	♠ J6 ♥ J105 ♦ K95 ♣ J9873		
♠ AKQ9 ♥ AQ ♦ A1076 ♣ A106	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 107542 ♥ K7643 ♦ Q2 ♣ 4	
	♠ 83 ♥ 982 ♦ J843 ♣ KQ52		
West	North	East	South
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

With trumps 2-2 and hearts 3-3 it was not difficult to collect all the tricks.


I suspect it may be better to start by transferring to spades and then introduce the hearts, when West will surely bid at least 6♠.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

	♠ 10954 ♥ 10985 ♦ J109 ♣ QJ		
♠ A873 ♥ J732 ♦ 654 ♣ A2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ KQ6 ♥ AKQ ♦ Q32 ♣ K863	
	♠ J2 ♥ 64 ♦ AK87 ♣ 109754		
West	North	East	South
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
3♣	Checkback		

South led the ace of diamonds and when North followed with the nine South decided that was encouraging and continued with the seven, handing declarer a vital overtrick. Better to play the jack at trick one, promising the ten, but denying the queen – but not so simple if partner thinks you started with ♦J10xx or ♦J10xxx.


Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K5 ♥ K10982 ♦ KJ ♣ AKQ5		♠ 74 ♥ 643 ♦ A1093 ♣ J1087	♠ AQ1082 ♥ AQJ ♦ 42 ♣ 932
♠ J963 ♥ 75 ♦ Q8765 ♣ 64			
West	North	East	South
–	–	–	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3♠	Pass	6NT	All Pass

North led the jack of clubs and declarer cashed five hearts and three clubs before testing the spades – one down.

It looks better to play spades first – if they come in you have all the tricks and if, as here, they don't break you can fall back on a winning view in diamonds, hoping that the hand with the long spade does not have the ace.


Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ K9742 ♥ A8 ♦ 7543 ♣ 87		♠ A ♥ QJ6 ♦ J862 ♣ J9643	♠ QJ1063 ♥ 109743 ♦ Q ♣ Q2
♠ 85 ♥ K52 ♦ AK109 ♣ AK105			
West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	Double*	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	Double
All Pass			

Having bid 3♠ East should have been happy to defend 4♥. You can see why South bid 4♥, but the sounder choice is a responsive double, when North has a number of options, including a double edged 3NT.


4♠ cost 500 – but N/S can score more in three denominations, so it was by no means a disaster. In passing one might add that with this type of hand South might be best to start with 1♣.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ 87542 ♥ 1052 ♦ J5 ♣ AQ9		♠ — ♥ AKJ87 ♦ KQ1082 ♣ J83	♠ AJ106 ♥ 943 ♦ 96 ♣ K1072
			♠ KQ93 ♥ Q6 ♦ A743 ♣ 654
West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1NT*
Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Double*	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Double*	Pass
3♥	All Pass		
1NT	Weak		
Dble	Values		
Dble	Takeout		

The trouble with this auction was that West never managed to show any values. Assuming 2♥ promised hearts and a minor, then perhaps West should have jumped to game over the double.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 1086 ♥ A2 ♦ Q52 ♣ KJ1087		♠ J ♥ K108 ♦ A109876 ♣ Q95	♠ AQ743 ♥ Q7654 ♦ K ♣ 42
			♠ K952 ♥ J93 ♦ J43 ♣ A63
West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	2♦	2NT*
3♣	4♠	Pass	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣	Double
All Pass			
2NT	Spade support		
4NT	Diamond tolerance		

North led the four of hearts for the eight, nine and ace and declarer played a spade, South winning with the king and returning the jack of hearts to dummy's king. A diamond to the ace was followed by a club to the ten and when that held declarer ruffed a spade, ruffed a heart, ruffed a spade and played the ten of diamonds. North ruffed and South's ♣A was the setting trick.

The fortuitous position in diamonds means that you can make 5♣ – but you need to play trumps at trick two, which looks risky. However, as you can see that 4♠ is likely to fail it might be right to play for the situation that exists.

To be sure of defeating 5♣ the defenders need to cash a spade and then switch to diamonds, South taking the first club and giving North a diamond ruff.

Notice that 5♦ is unbeatable – should East have preferred that to 5♣?

At the end of the first session Steven de Donder and Steve de Roos had racked up 68.14% to give them a handy lead over Joris van Lakveld & Berend van den Bos (65.71%) with Frank & Ton Bakkeren third on 64.04%.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠ AKQ52		
	♥ —		
	♦ AKQ8		
	♣ AJ98		
♠ 983	N	♠ J6	
♥ Q7632	W	♥ J10985	
♦ 103	E	♦ 965	
♣ KQ10	S	♣ 763	
	♠ 1074		
	♥ AK4		
	♦ J742		
	♣ 542		
West	North	East	South
—	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	5♥*
Pass	6♦*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			
2♣	Strong		
2♦	Any positive		
4♣	Cue-bid		
4♥	Cue-bid		
5♦	Cue-bid		
5♥	Cue-bid		
6♦	Cue-bid		

With spades 3-2 twelve tricks were there.

If you reach 7♦ you make it. If North is in the mood to gamble then a jump to 7♦ over 5♥ would offer South a choice of contracts—and it should not be difficult for South to avoid going back to spades.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ 3 ♥ AQ10987 ♦ 64 ♣ 9752		
♠ K86 ♥ K63 ♦ 732 ♣ A1064	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ QJ752 ♥ 5 ♦ AQJ95 ♣ KJ	
	♠ A1094 ♥ J42 ♦ K108 ♣ Q83		
West	North	East	South
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	2♦*	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Double
All Pass			

South led the two of hearts (the jack is a fair alternative) and North won with the queen and continued with the ace. Declarer ruffed and played the five of spades. when South followed with the four declarer played dummy's six and when it held the defenders were helpless. Declarer could play to draw trumps as dummy's king of hearts stood guard.

South should have put up the nine (or ten) of spades, ensuring two trump tricks, which, along with the king of diamonds would have ensured the defeat of the contract.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

	♠ Q10 ♥ KQ93 ♦ J8632 ♣ 106		
♠ 987654 ♥ — ♦ KQ1054 ♣ 82	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A32 ♥ 102 ♦ A7 ♣ AKQ954	
	♠ KJ ♥ AJ87654 ♦ 9 ♣ J73		
West	North	East	South
–	–	–	4♥
4♠	4NT*	6♠	Pass
Pass	7♥	7♠	Double
All Pass			

4NT Heart support

They do say that opening 4♥ operates as a transfer to 4♠ by the opponents, but even so, West's overcall was bold. East was convinced that her partner must have a heart void (correct!) and, expecting to find a somewhat stronger hand in dummy, she bravely bid the grand slam. Better luck next year!

The leaders posted a massive 70% plus score to win by a distance.

Pairs Results

Pos	Name	%	Pos	Name	%
1	Steven de Donder & Steve De Roos	69,91	32	Jan Bing & Leo Huvers	50,56
2	Joris van Lankveld & Berend van den Bos	61,13	33	Rob Lindeman & Maarten Schollaardt	50,09
3	Vincent Ramondt & Berry Westra	60,15	34	Bob Drake & Jan van Cleeff	50,07
4	Frank Bakkeren & Ton Bakkeren	59,26	35	Bas Groot & Pieter Buijs	49,94
5	Mark Thiele & Jacco Hop	58,99	36	Thomas Albertz & Niki Pfeiffer	49,52
6	Roderik Oranje & Victor Oranje	58,73	37	Sijke Hoekstra & Rebecca de Bruijn	49,44
7	Pim Coppens & Gé Schellen	58,07	38	Edie van Os & Frits den Haring	49,36
8	Aida Jansma & Jan Jansma	57,66	39	Rob Jagroop & Ivar de Hoogt	49,10
9	Frankvan Gorp & Joop Stronks	56,57	40	Loes Kuiper & Frans Bitter	48,73
10	Helmut Hoogeveen & Dennis Stuurman	56,53	41	Eduardo Fernandes & Ria Bartelomij	47,70
11	Rosalind Hengeveld & Mienke Vliegthart	56,08	42	Pien van Soest & Knoek van Soest	47,53
12	Bas van Roosmalen & Hans Eliëns	55,96	43	Miep Houben & Ankie van Randeraat	47,50
13	Wim Vanparijs & Pieter Vanparijs	55,86	44	Yvon Fris & Merel Bruijnsteen	47,47
14	Carlos Luiz & Miguel Teixeira	55,37	45	Leontien Hoogweg & Peter Hoogweg	47,04
15	Peter Ladan & Thea Willemse	55,21	46	Sherina Stougie & André Stougie	45,36
16	Chris van Gestel & Marc Been	54,92	47	Kay Agterof & Jan Huijerman	45,03
17	Harry Burmania & Willem Flisijn	54,50	48	Alex Krappen & Ron Trampé	44,68
18	Sipko Woudstra & John Linse	54,49	49	Erik van Noort & Pierre Speiser	44,60
19	Erik ten Oever & Gabriella Parra	54,07	50	Koen Gijsman & Betty Speelman	44,53
20	Jeroen Boers & Marco Koopman	53,70	51	Gerard IJsebrands & Peter Jansen	43,83
21	René de Waele & Jannes van 't Oever	53,13	52	Harold Joëls & Marcel Mol	41,18
22	Rob van Leeuwen & Rob Wijman	53,12	53	Lidy 't Hart & M. Schuurman	40,31
23	Henk den Boer & Cees Harinck	53,08	54	Marga Linssen & Ine de Vrugt	39,78
24	Joost Brouwer & Els van Uden	52,99	55	Ruth Murkes & V. Nieuwenhuys	39,47
25	Leeuw Beijdorff & Ruud Oltmans	52,58	56	Annelies de Koning & Elly Smelik	39,03
26	Inge Schildermans & Rudi Van Mol	52,53	57	Diet Toet & Franny Groenhuizen	38,95
27	Mads Eyde & Anders Hagen	52,48	58	Frank van Mansvelt & Raymond Aghen	38,85
28	Pedro Pratas & Reinaldo Timoteo	51,84	59	Sahar Ouda & Hans Kreuning	38,45
29	Ernst Hopstaken & Ko Ravenhorst	51,32	60	Helene Cromjongh & Coen Cromjongh	38,04
30	Peter Vandereet & Ben Vandereet	51,31	61	Greetje Keukeler & A. van Veen	37,92
31	Henk Bunt & Sjoeding Cho	50,85	62	Jill van de Lint & Irene Nieuwenhuis	33,57