

Holland coasts to gold *by Derrick Browne*

The Netherlands team of Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Ton Bakkeren and Huub Bertens won the Yeh Cup, held on the Gold Coast in early March, to walk away with the \$US 76 000 first prize.

Their opponents in the final were Sweden, who were leading until this deal came along:

Dealer East, nil vul.

NORTH
S KJ86
H QT3
D KJ5
C KJ6

WEST
S A95
H AK9862
D 3
C 843

EAST
S Q4
H J4
D AQ9872
C Q97

SOUTH
S T732
H 75
D T64
C AT52

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|-----------------|----------|----------------|-------|
| <i>Bakkeren</i> | | <i>Bertens</i> | |
| 1H | Pass | 1D | Pass |
| 4H | All pass | 1NT | Pass |

Despite having two doubletons, East chose to rebid 1NT and West then jumped to 4H. North led a low spade and declarer called for the SQ, which won.

Next step was to play a spade to the ace, then a third round of spades, gaining an extra trick by ruffing in "the short hand" (the hand with fewer trumps).

Next, two rounds of trumps were drawn. Despite the promising start, there was still a trump and three clubs to lose so declarer took a deep breath and finessed the DQ. Luckily that won, so a club could be discarded on the DA and the contract made.

The Netherlands picked up again here:

WEST
S 843
H KT32
D 94
C AQ76

EAST
S A
H AQ64
D AQT863
C KJ

Brink passed with the West hand and Drijver opened 1D on the East cards, to which Brink responded 1H. Next player now overcalled 1S; what should you bid on the East hand?

Drijver bid 3S, a splinter, showing a fit with hearts, a singleton or void in spades, and slam interest. Knowing there is spade shortage opposite improves the West hand with its three small spades, and 6H was reached.

The D2 was led from the North hand; what should be played from East? Brink rightly picked the diamond lead as a singleton, and rose with the DA. After drawing trumps in three rounds, there were entries enough to the East hand to set up the diamonds, conceding a trick to South's DJ and then ruffing South's DK, to make 12 tricks.