

World teams *by Derrick Browne*

Today's two deals come from the recent World Teams, and illustrate how small decisions can lead to big swings. Consider this offering from the Seniors event, England versus Indonesia:

Dealer East, Both vul.

NORTH
S T2
H AT73
D AT953
C AQ

WEST
S KQ9
H 9862
D 842
C J52

EAST
S 853
H 54
D KJ76
C KT94

SOUTH
S AJ764
H KQJ
D Q
C 8763

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Sawiruddin</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Sacul</i>	<i>Simpson</i>
<i>Holland</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>
Pass	2D	Pass	1S
Pass	3NT	All pass	2NT

The auction was the same at each table. South's 1S opening and North's 2D response are clearcut. South is not balanced yet the notrump rebid is sensible – the hand is not strong enough to bid 3C, and a desperation rebid of spades is also flawed.

Against 3NT, a club lead would have given declarer no chance but both West players made the normal lead of a heart, one choosing the H9 and the other the H2 (the H8, second top from three or four small, would also be a popular choice). In each case, declarer won in hand then led the DQ and played low from dummy.

The English East, Swedish-born Gunnar Hallberg, found the killing play of ducking this. Now declarer had no recourse. He tried leading a low spade but West rose with the SQ and switched to the C2. The finesse lost to East's CK, and back came the C4, with West finding the unblock of the CJ. Later, West got in with the SK and led another club, so East took two more club tricks for one down.

The defence was less precise at the other table. At trick two when South led the DQ, East took his DK and switched to the S3. South could have won this with the SA and established the diamonds for nine tricks. However, South played low and West won with the SQ. Now West needed to find the club switch, but instead returned the spade, and declarer had ten tricks.

Why did West continue spades? East's S3 lead was at fault. During the mid-game, the lead of a low card normally promises a high card in the suit and suggests partner lead the suit back. East would have done better to lead the S8, and then West would know to switch.

Dealer East, Nil vul.

NORTH
S 87652
H JT954
D J43
C —

WEST
S KJ43
H AK
D T6
C KT754

EAST
S Q9
H 873
D K75
C AQ832

SOUTH
S AT
H Q62
D AQ982
C J96

In this deal from the quarter-finals of the Bermuda Bowl (open teams world championships), the Italian East passed as dealer and finished in 4C, which was comfortable. The Russian East, Khiuppenen, opened 1C, propelling the partnership to 5C. South, who had overcalled 1D, led a heart.

Even looking at all four hands, it is not easy to see how to make this contract with the DA offside, but Khiuppenen managed it at the table. Any ideas?

One possibility would be to finesse to the S9; if North had the S10, this would set up surplus spade winners on which two diamonds could be discarded from the East hand. Khiuppenen did not want to stake his all on that, but found an elegant way to give himself a small extra edge without any downside.

He cashed the two heart winners, crossed to hand with a trump, and ruffed his last heart. Next he played two more rounds of trumps, finishing in the East hand. Now he led the S9. South, Nunes, could see that if he ducked this trick he would be forced to win the next, and would then be end-played into leading diamonds. Instead, he rose with the SA, but that established all declarer's spade honours as winners, allowing him to discard two diamonds from hand and make his contract.