

## Il nuovo volto del bridge La Premier League cinese 2020

Il **futuro del bridge** è già realtà in Cina come ci racconta il giornalista e bridgista, Jerry Li nel suo lungo articolo pubblicato sul Bollettino dell'I.B.P.A. di questo mese (vedi PDF allegato).

Con la pandemia COVID-19 del 2020, il live bridge si è spostato sull'online. La Premier League 2020 – il maggior trofeo cinese - si è giocato online tramite l'App cinese Bridge-Friends (fac-simile a BBO).

La Federazione Bridge Cinese (CCBA) al fine evitare imbrogli tipici del bridge online, ha adottato rigide misure di controllo.

C'erano 11 aree di gioco in nove città, tutte sotto il controllo di supervisor e direttori di gara e webcam. I giocatori hanno utilizzato computer, laptop e tablets. Tutta l'attrezzatura da torneo è stata verificata per assicurarsi che non vi fossero social media o altri software di comunicazione in uso.

Tutte le partite sono state trasmesse in diretta su internet con un ritardo di mezz'ora per evitare l'auto-kibitzing. Le registrazioni di tutte le partite visibili su Internet, idem la raccolta di dati statistici (attacchi, tempi di licita e gioco).

### Nota finale

Dopo quasi un secolo di gioco, finalmente un bridge pulito tra i top players. Stop quindi alle varie insinuazioni da parte di tutti: americani, norvegesi e bergamaschi ☺ .

Aspettiamo il software della nostra Federazione per fare altrettanto nelle varie sedi italiane. Bene ha fatto la FIGB a intraprendere questo percorso che, con il dovuto rodaggio, ci porrà all'avanguardia a livello mondiale. I vantaggi sono tantissimi, i costi di gara abbattuti, finalmente anche gli italiani possono dimostrare di essere in prima linea contro gli imbrogliatori di turno.

A mio parere, EBL e WBF avrebbero dovuto darsi da fare per creare un unico software di gara per abbattere costi realizzazione e garantirne la massima funzionalità, ma non è detto!



The live broadcast, with commentators.



All of the playing areas, being videotaped by the CCBA.

### La sala gioco di SHANGHAI

monitorata da una telecamera panoramica a 360 gradi



The Shanghai playing area: there were four clubs and 18 players.



## La sala gioco di BEIJING



One of the Beijing sites, with three clubs and 11 players.



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## The New Face of Bridge The 2020 Chinese Premier League



The live broadcast, with commentators.



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One of the Beijing sites, with three clubs and 11 players.



All of the playing areas, being videotaped by the CCBA.

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## First Leg

With the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, live bridge has changed to online bridge. The Chinese Premier League is played as a double round robin over two legs. This year, the first leg was from September 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, and was held online; the platform being the Chinese App: *Bridge-Friends*. The second leg was also held online from October 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. After the double Round Robin, the top four teams qualified for the Final.

The Chinese Premier League is the highest-level bridge tournament in China. This year, the difference was that it could not be played face to face. In order to avoid cheating and unfair competition, the Chinese Contract Bridge Association (CCBA) adopted these strict measures:

1. There were 11 playing areas in nine cities, all under the supervision of TD supervisors.
2. The players used computers, laptops and pads only. All tournament equipment was checked to ensure there was no social media and other communications software.
3. Any delay, disconnect or pause caused by the network had to be reported to the TD.
4. All matches were broadcast live on the internet with a delay of half an hour.
5. There was a professional TD team and Appeals Committee.

Sixteen teams played a round-robin format of 15 boards per round. All match records can be watched and researched on the internet; gathering statistics is very easy. All players were actors in this film, the new height of bridge broadcasting.

CCBA did not reject foreign players, but due to the pandemic and quarantine requirements, only one foreign player participated in the tournament this year. He was Poon Hua, a Singaporean player who lives in China.

These were some of the excellent deals from the League:

## Take My Queen Away!

Leg 1. RR 4. Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wang	Wang	Kang	Yang
Xiaoqing	Kui	Meng	Lixin
—	Pass	INT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	2♠
Double	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

One notrump was 15-17 HCP; two diamonds was a transfer; double was for takeout. South led a trump. Declarer won with dummy's king and led another trump to the ace. Declarer played a low diamond. What would you play?

Yang Lixin, who is a former Chinese Open Team member, and one of the best players in China, played the queen of diamonds on this trick! That was the killing defence. Yang knew his partner held at most one point, and that it had to be the jack of diamonds, so he could force an entry for a lead through the king of spades. "Take my queen away, but bring the contract to me!"

## An Accurate Endplay

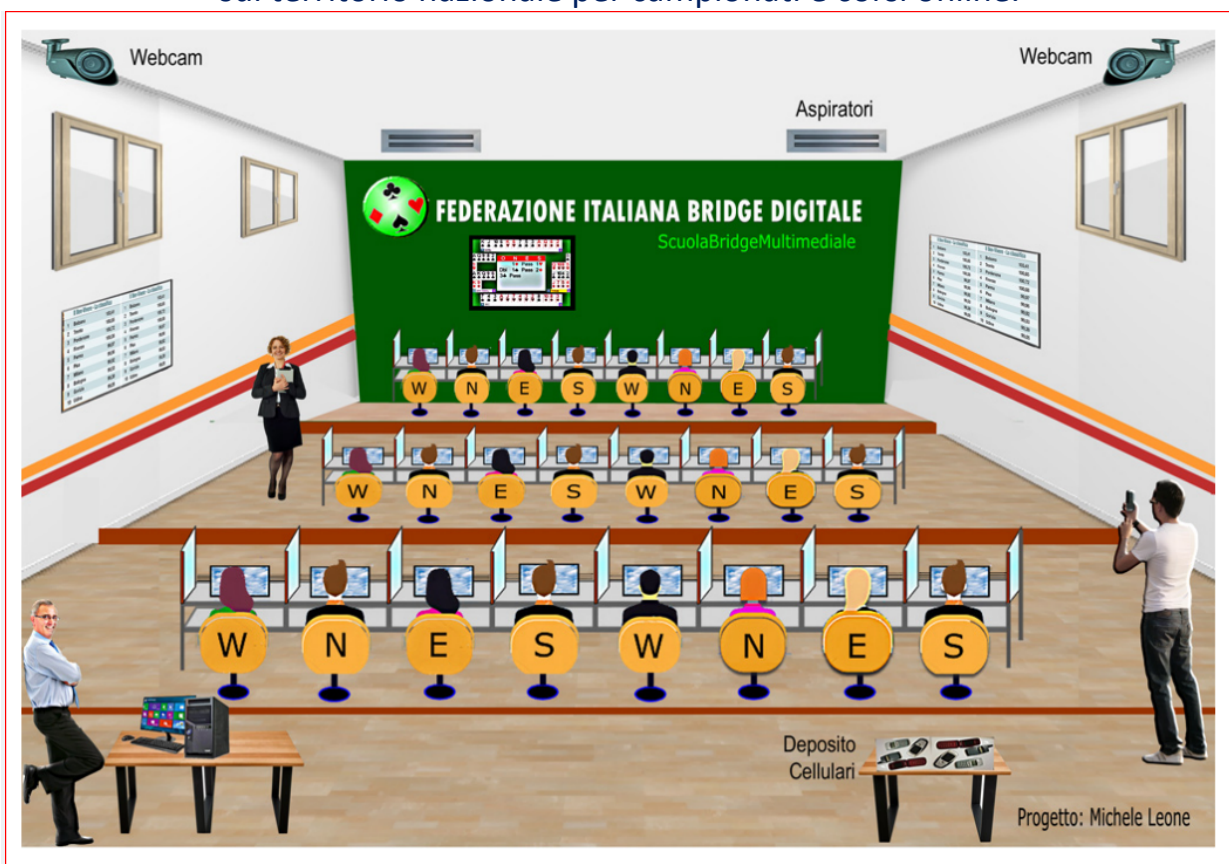
Leg 1. RR 9. Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♥	Zhu Chenyu	2♦ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3NT	Double	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	Double	4♠	Pass
Pass		Pass	Pass

1. A better raise than a direct two-heart bid

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