

DAILY BULLETIN

Bulletin 8

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Lavazza Brew Too Strong For Stoppa



All smiles from the newly crowned Champions



The Silver Medals go to France

It is Team Lavazza, predominantly Italian with a dash of Austrian, that is crowned as the new European Bridge Mixed Team Champions. Congratulations to Maria Teresa Lavazza, Giorgio Duboin, Alfredo Versace, Monica Cuzzi, Guido Ferraro & Maria Erhart. They breezed past the French squad Stoppa, Danielle Avon, Marianne Serf, Jean-Louis Stoppa, François Stretz by 81 IMPs.

Third place went to **Popova**, a tripartite alliance of Bulgaria, Israel & Turkey, **Dessy Popova**, **Rossen Gunev**, **Ahu Zobu**, **Ofer Hara-mati** (the latter playing in only his second ever tournament!). They overpowered Mali's Norwegian/Polish combination of **Artur Mali-nowski**, **Anna Sarniak**, **Siv Thoresen** & **Tomasz Winciorek** by 41 IMPs.

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Farewell from the President



Gianarrigo Rona European Bridge League President

Dear friends,

As you already know, with the closing of this championship a new chapter in the history book of EBL Championships will begin.

Starting next year, 2003, a new event will be held: The European Open Championships, an event involving Mixed, Men's, Women's and Senior Pairs and Teams. "Open" because it will be open to all registered bridge players from every country, without restrictions. "Open" also because it will be open to all registered players from other Zones outside Europe. "Open", finally, because it will be completely trans-national.

The Championships will be held from Saturday 14th to Saturday 28th June 2003 in a venue to be announced shortly, but most likely they will be in France, in Cannes or Menton. We are sure the Championships will meet with favour among all bridge players and we hope they will be a great success. I can guarantee that for our part we will do our utmost on the 'technical-organisational-logistical' side to reach this objective.

Returning to Ostend, I have already thanked the Authorities and our sponsor friends for the fantastic support they have given us, allowing us to have organised this Championship and to have achieved this success. I again wish to thank them, all of them, and I again wish to thank our extraordinary staff. Our applause goes to all of them without distinction and, believe me, it would really be impossible to praise anyone of them more than another: all of them were outstanding.

I don't want to repeat what I already mentioned at the Prize-giving of the Pairs since I certainly don't want to bore you, but allow me just to repeat that we are proud of your participation, behaviour, fair play, sportsmanship; that we are proud of the friendly atmosphere you were able to create in this event following our best tradition.

I wish to thank and congratulate you again, hoping that all of you, winners or not, will be able to return home with great memories of your time in Ostend, enriched by meeting there your old friends and new ones and with hopes to see them all again soon. If so, our most important aim will have been achieved.

Thank you and safe home. Tot ziens.

Bidding Challenge

These Championships have produced a huge number of deals to test to bidding skills of the competitors. If you want to compare your efforts with those of the contestants, why not try bidding these hands with your favourite partner? You will find the East hands on page 7 of this bulletin.

West

Dealer South N/S Vul South Opens 2 $\heartsuit,$ North raises to 4 \heartsuit

- 🛦 A K 10 8
- ♡ A 4 2
- ◊ Q 8
- \Lambda 763

Dealer North N/S Vul

- ♠ J 9 2
- V AK54
- ♦ J 9 5 3
- 뢒 K 6

Dealer West Love All

- **≜** Q 9 6
- ♡ A 7 3
- ♦ K Q 10 6 4
- \Lambda Q

Dealer West E/W Vul

- **♦** Q 10 7 2
- ♡ K Q 9 8
- ◊ A J 8
- 🛧 A 9

Dealer East Love All South overcalls 2^{\heartsuit} , North raises to 4^{\heartsuit}

- **▲**] 9 8 6 4
- ♡ 103
- ◊ 10 5 3 2
- \Lambda K 9

Dealer West All Vul

★ 7 4
♡ K Q 5 2
◊ A Q 6 3
★ 10 3 2

Dealer South N/S Vul South opens 3 to 3

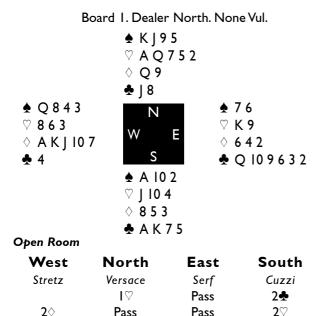
- ▲ 8 4
 ♡ K 10 9 5
- ◊ A Q 5 3
 ♣ Q 6 4

The Final

T wo of the strongest pre-championship favourites had made it into the Finals: LAVAZZA, the six-player squad from Italy, aided by Austrian Maria Erhart, would play STOPPA, the very experienced French team. They would meet in a relatively short match of 32 boards only, and from the pace they ran through the first 16 of them, one might think there only were 24 boards to play. Looking at the halftime score, however, the conclusion could only be that the match already was all over...

So below you will find a rather one-sided report of the oneway traffic that dominated the first half of the match.

On the first board, there was no swing, but it did not look a good omen for the French.



Pass All Pass

Serf led the $\diamond 2$, so after cashing two tricks Stretz could switch to his singleton club, thus ensuring the ruff necessary to beat the contract. STOPPA +50.

Pass

4♡

2♠

At the other table, we saw a completely different picture:

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|------------|----------|-------|
| Duboin | Stoppa | Lavazza | Avon |
| | I ♡ | Pass | 3NT |
| Pass | 4 ♡ | All Pass | |

Avon's practical bid of 3NT shut out West and also induced East to lead a spade, thus solving one of declarer's problems. Stoppa might have continued the \heartsuit A and another, which would have been a successful line, but when he chose to cross to dummy's \clubsuit A to take the heart finesse, not an irrational line at all, he was unlucky to go one down when Lavazza returned a club after winning her \heartsuit K. LAVAZZA +50 and no swing.

On the next board, STOPPA opened his account when the hand distribution proved too much for the Italians at both tables.



Alfredo Versace, Italy

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

| 500 | and Z. Dealer Las | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| | ▲ A ♡ Q 6 5 ◇ Q 8 6 5 4 ♣ Q 6 4 3 | |
| Q 10 7 7 A K J 10 9 J 10 8 5 | N W E S ♠ 98432 ♡ A K 83 ◊ 73 ♣ K 2 | ▲ K J 6 5 ♡ J 10 9 4 2 ◇ 2 ▲ A 9 7 |

Open Room

 \heartsuit

 \diamond

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|---------|-----------|-------|
| Stretz | Versace | Serf | Cuzzi |
| | | Pass | Pass |
| $ \diamond$ | Pass | \square | Pass |
| 2 🙅 | Pass | 2♡ | 2♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

Though Monica Cuzzi did well to go only one down, she had not chosen the right moment to balance. STOPPA +100.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|----------|---------|-------|
| Duboin | Stoppa | Lavazza | Avon |
| | | Pass | Pass |
| ♣ | Pass | IV | Pass |
| INT | Pass | 2 🛧 | Pass |
| 2 ◇ | Pass | 2♡ | Pass |
| 2NT | All Pass | | |





Maria Teresa Lavazza, Italy

Playing strong diamond, Duboin had to open 1 & which could conceal a good diamond holding. When Lavazza enquired further with 24, there was no safe spot left. On a diamond lead to his jack, Duboin would easily have made his contract had he played spades first, as the ace comes down much more quickly than one would expect. As he could not see through the cards he finessed a club first, won the diamond return, took another club finesse and cashed the \clubsuit A before tackling the spades. Now the defence had six tricks established. STOPPA another +50 and the first 4 IMPs of the match.

On board 4, both teams missed a chance, as both 6 and 6NTare cold (but 64 fails on the heart ruff).

Board 4. Dealer West, All Vul.

| West | North | East | Sou |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| Open Room | ♣ Q J 8 | 0 4 2 | |
| | | 642 | |
| | ♦ 8 | | |
| | ♡ 109 | 8 7 | |
| | 🛦 A 7 | | |
| 📥 K 5 | S | * | A 9 7 |
| ◊ Q J | VV | | A 9 3 |
| ♡ A Q 2 | | \heartsuit | K J 6 5 3 |
| 🔺 K Q J 6 4 | 12 N | • | 93 |
| | 뢒 l0 3 | | |
| | ◊ K 10 | 76542 | |
| | ♡4 | | |
| | 🔶 l0 8 . | 5 | |
| | Bourd I. Bou | | , an |

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|---------|------|----------|
| Stretz | Versace | Serf | Cuzzi |
| ♠ | Pass | 2♡ | Pass |
| 3♡ | Pass | 4 🙅 | Pass |
| 4♠ | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 5◇ | Pass | 5♡ | All Pass |

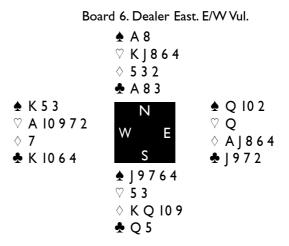
It looks as if West should have taken over the initiative at any time. All he needs is a reasonable heart suit and two aces. STOP-PA +680.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|--------|-----------|----------|
| Duboin | Stoppa | Lavazza | Avon |
| ♣ | Pass | \square | Pass |
| l ♠ | Pass | 2 📥 | Dble |
| 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ | All Pass |

Duboin showed 16-18 hcp. with six spades and three hearts, but apparently this message did not reach his partner in time. LAVAZZA +680 when Stoppa led a club rather than a heart.

A routine play to trick I created a swing on board 6:



At both tables, West was in $3\clubsuit$ and North led a trump. Duboin played low from dummy and Avon inserted the queen. Now Giorgio could win and set up a complete cross-ruff to get to eight tricks. As the defence had to give one spade trick in the end, he just scrambled home.

Stretz inserted dummy's nine on the club lead, but Cuzzi rightly played low. Now she could overruff the third round of hearts and play a spade to partner who could then play $\clubsuit A$ and another. One down. +110 and +100 meant 5 IMPs to LAVAZZA to level the match at this stage.

Then, the Italians launched an offensive. Here is board 7:

| Boa | ird 7. Dealer Sou | uth. All Vul. |
|---|--|--|
| | ▲ Q J 8 4 ♡ 8 7 4 ◇ Q 8 7 ▲ Q 7 5 | |
| ▲ 10 6 2 ♡ K Q ◊ K 10 6 2 ◆ J 10 9 3 | N W E S ▲ 3 ♡ J 10 9 2 ◇ 9 5 3 ▲ A K 8 4 2 | ▲ A K 9 7 5 ♡ A 6 5 3 ◊ A J 4 ♣ 6 |

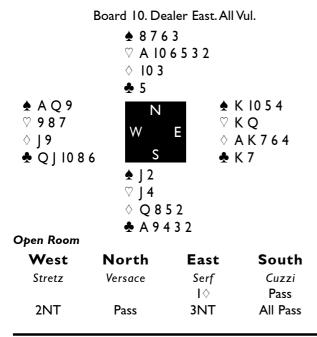


M. Serf, France

At both tables East was in $4 \pm$ and both Souths led a top club. When Stoppa gave count with the five, Avon switched to a diamond, so Lavazza's problems had disappeared. She lost two trumps and scored +620.

At the other table, Versace also gave count with the \clubsuit 5, but the Italian pair play reverse count. Holding four trumps, he wanted Cuzzi to continue clubs rather than give away the diamond position. So Cuzzi continued the \clubsuit K ruffed by Serf. Dummy's hearts were unblocked and two top trumps followed, declarer discovering the bad break. Next came the \heartsuit A for a club discard and the last heart, ruffed and overruffed. North cashed his winning trump and had a safe exit now with the \clubsuit Q, ruffed by declarer who then proceeded to misguess the diamonds for one down. A surprise 12 IMPs to LAVAZZA.

Three boards later 3NT was reached at both tables, but the outcome was quite different.



North led a straightforward low heart for two undertricks. LAVAZZA +200.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|----------|-------------|-------|
| Duboin | Stoppa | Lavazza | Avon |
| | | $ \diamond$ | Pass |
| ♠ | Pass | INT | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

The strong diamond did the job for the Italians here. Is showed two controls and the rest was natural. South led a straightforward low club for two overtricks. LAVAZZA +660 and I3 IMPs.

Then, a serious error at both tables.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

| ▲ A 6 3 2 ♡ 8 7 5 ◇ Q 8 6 ♣ 5 4 2 Open Room | ▲ K J I ♡ A K ◊ 3 ♣ 9 № S ▲ Q 4 ♡ J I0 ◊ J 9 5 ♣ 8 7 5 | E | |
|---|---|------|---------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Stretz | Versace | Serf | Cuzzi Pass |
| Pass | ♠ | 2NT | Pass |
| 3♢ | 3♡ | 3♠ | 4 ♡ |
| 4♠ | 5♡ | 6 🛧 | All Pass |

This looks an easy enough contract. You win the spade lead, draw TWO rounds of trumps and check the diamonds. Maybe, the hand with the last trump also holds four diamonds. This routine play cannot cost when diamonds are 3-2, and wins the contract for you if they are 4-1 with the last trump in the same hand as the long diamonds. As this was the case, the contract was cold, but the French declarer still managed to go down as she drew three rounds of trumps...LAVAZZA +50.

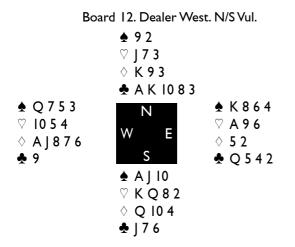
Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|--------|---------|----------|
| Duboin | Stoppa | Lavazza | Avon |
| | | | Pass |
| Pass | ♠ | 2NT | Pass |
| 3♢ | 3♡ | 5♣ | All Pass |

Far less bidding than at the other table. In fact, Duboin considered bidding the slam on the basis of his A, but he eventually passed. Lavazza, in 5A, did not bother to make the routine play

of checking the diamonds after two rounds of trumps, but the difference was that she could not go down. LAVAZZA another +400 or 10 IMPs, instead of an 11-imp loss...

And on the very next board, once again an advantage gained and thrown away:



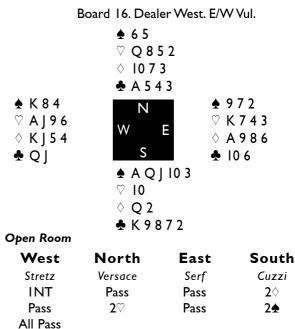
Both teams in a stretched 3NT. Duboin had overcalled in diamonds as west, Stretz had not. The difference this time was that Duboin (West) decided to lead his own suit, diamonds, after which declarer made her contract by first knocking out the $\heartsuit A$ and then taking the club finesse. Serf (East), on the other hand, led a spade as once again the contract was played from the other side of the table. Now declarer should go down if the defenders establish their spades as quickly as possible, but Stretz won the first spade with the queen and returned...a diamond. Curtains.

Lightning Leitner

One of the Austrian players rejoices in the name of Leitner. He made a spectacularly unsuccessful double of his screen mates Four Spade contract. After the play was over his opponent inspected his name badge. 'Ah', she said, 'It was a Lightner double'.

(We bet it has never happened to him before!)

The score stood at 40-9 to LAVAZZA now, but worse was to happen when Stoppa forgot about a convention on the last board of the set.



 $2\Diamond$ showed one major only, so Versace corrected to $2\heartsuit$ as he had no preference. Cuzzi thus had to recorrect, but there were no further problems and one overtrick. LAVAZZA +140.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|--------|---------|-------|
| Duboin | Stoppa | Lavazza | Avon |
| INT | Pass | Pass | 2♡ |
| All Pass (?!) | | | |

Here, 2^{\heartsuit} was clearly meant as a transfer to spades, but Stoppa was not connected. The contract went down three for another 7-imp gain to LAVAZZA. At halftime, the score stood at 51-9. It looked all over, and so it turned out.

Board - Appeal - Ratio

During the championships of the past few years, AC Scribe Herman De Wael has been calculating the Board-Appeal-Ratio (BAR). The relative number of Appeals is expressed in Appeals per 1000 boards played. The number has been as follows:

| year | championship | venue | boards | appeals | BAR |
|------|-------------------------|------------|--------|---------|------|
| 1999 | EC Open & Senior Pairs | Warszawa | 49,840 | 29 | 0.58 |
| 1999 | EC Teams | Malta | 54,396 | 38 | 0.70 |
| 2000 | Bermuda Bowl,Venice Cup | Bermuda | 39,528 | 13 | 0.33 |
| 2000 | EC Mixed Pairs & Teams | Bellaria | 45,096 | 10 | 0.22 |
| 2000 | Olympiad | Maastricht | 66,692 | 21 | 0.31 |
| 2001 | EC Open & Senior Pairs | Sorrento | 47,328 | 10 | 0.21 |
| 2001 | EC Teams | Tenerife | 50,820 | 41 | 0.81 |
| 2001 | Bermuda Bowl,Venice Cup | Paris | 29,592 | 2 | 0.07 |
| 2002 | EC Mixed Pairs & Teams | Oostende | 45,292 | 23 | 0.51 |

Of the 23 Appeals, the AC changed the decision of the Director in 8 cases, and the deposit was forfeited on 4 occasions.

Bidding Challenge

You will find the West hands on page 2 of this bulletin.

East

Dealer South N/S Vul South Opens 2 $^{\heartsuit}$, North raises to 4 $^{\heartsuit}$

♦ 953 \heartsuit – ◊ A K J 9 6 뢒 K Q | 98 Dealer North N/S Vul AKQ54 ♡8 ◊ K \Lambda Q 10 9 8 5 Dealer West Love All ♠ A 4 ♡ K Q | 10 4 2 ♦ A 5 3 🕭 K 4 Dealer West E/W Vul 🛦 K J 6 5 Ϋ-◊ 10 9 ♣ K Q J 10 8 7 6 Dealer East Love All South overcalls 2%, North raises to 4%🛦 A K 5 3 ♡ 5 ◊ A K Q | 8 뢒 A Q 7 Dealer West All Vul ▲ K Q J 9 8 6 5 2 \heartsuit – ♦ | 7

\Lambda K Q

♦ K 4 🛧 5

Dealer South N/S Vul South opens 34 **▲** A K 9 7 ♡ A Q J 6 4 3

The "Dream Team" took the Bronze medals



| Lavazza | Final | | |
|---------------|----------|--|--|
| Stoppa | Final | | |
| Auken | 5 | | |
| Willard | 6 | | |
| Zimmererman | 8 | | |
| Burgay | 16 | | |
| Damiani | 18 | | |
| Mavromichalis | 31 | | |
| Volina | Withdrew | | |

7

MIXED TEAMS Final Results

| | | mari | 103 | Juits | |
|----|---------------|-------|-----|--------------|-------|
| 5 | Auken | 287.0 | 49 | Porteous | 237.0 |
| 6 | Zimmermann | 275.0 | 50 | Russo | 237.0 |
| 7 | Vives | 275.0 | 51 | Garthwaite | 237.0 |
| 8 | Fornaciari | 274.0 | 52 | FIGB 2 | 235.0 |
| 9 | Willard | 273.0 | 53 | Sagiv | 234.0 |
| 10 | Uisk | 269.0 | 54 | Dehaye | 233.0 |
| П | Labaere | 266.0 | 55 | , Kondoch | 233.0 |
| 12 | Miszewska | 266.0 | 56 | Marsal | 232.0 |
| 13 | Mavromichalis | 263.0 | 57 | Sin Deut | 231.0 |
| 14 | Van der Neut | 262.0 | 58 | McGowan | 231.0 |
| 15 | Blouquit | 261.0 | 59 | Tobias | 231.0 |
| 16 | Damiani | 261.0 | 60 | Kostur | 230.0 |
| 17 | Grenthe | 259.0 | 61 | Chodorowska | 230.0 |
| 18 | Beccuti | 258.0 | 62 | Barr | 230.0 |
| 19 | FIGB I | 255.0 | 63 | Churlin | 228.0 |
| 20 | Riberol | 255.0 | 64 | Kaplan | 226.0 |
| 21 | Huijben | 253.0 | 65 | Meyer | 226.0 |
| 22 | Allix | 253.0 | 66 | Henri | 225.0 |
| 23 | Eginton | 253.0 | 67 | Thordarson | 225.0 |
| 24 | Vriend | 252.0 | 68 | Budd | 222.0 |
| 25 | Hocheker | 252.0 | 69 | Johnson | 221.0 |
| 26 | Ulla Koch | 252.0 | 70 | Smykalla | 220.0 |
| 27 | Bruchhauser | 251.0 | 71 | Weir | 219.0 |
| 28 | lvarsdottir | 251.0 | 72 | Resta | 216.0 |
| 29 | Bonori | 251.0 | 73 | Meehan | 213.0 |
| 30 | Farholt | 250.0 | 74 | Leitner | 211.0 |
| 31 | Tisserand | 250.0 | 75 | Toffier | 210.0 |
| 32 | De Botton | 248.0 | 76 | Xtrouble | 210.0 |
| 33 | Burgay | 248.0 | 77 | Van Woerden | 209.0 |
| 34 | Kitabgi | 247.0 | 78 | McGloughlin | 209.0 |
| 35 | Falay | 247.0 | 79 | Alberti | 208.0 |
| 36 | Renoux | 247.0 | 80 | Harris | 208.0 |
| 37 | Ditetova | 245.0 | 81 | De Graeve | 207.0 |
| 38 | Bamberger | 245.0 | 82 | Samy | 206.0 |
| 39 | Blondal | 243.0 | 83 | Hardeman | 206.0 |
| 40 | Juuri-Oja | 243.0 | 84 | Brekiesz | 204.0 |
| 41 | Sterkin | 242.0 | 85 | Budzik | 201.0 |
| 42 | Senior | 241.0 | 86 | Mayda | 198.0 |
| 43 | Maybach | 240.0 | 87 | Jonsson | 195.0 |
| 44 | Al-Shati | 240.0 | 88 | Sigurjonsd | 188.0 |
| 45 | Vechiatto | 239.0 | 89 | Langston | 185.0 |
| 46 | Gotard | 239.0 | 90 | Backstrom | 155.0 |
| 47 | Alla | 238.0 | 91 | Volina | 155.0 |
| 48 | Juhas | 237.0 | 92 | Sanglier | 116.0 |
| | | | 1 | | |

MIXED TEAMS

| Final | | | | |
|------------------|--------|---------|---------|--|
| | 1-16 | 17-32 | Total | |
| Lavazza - Stoppa | 51-9 | 47 - 8 | 98 - 17 | |
| 3rd Place | | | | |
| | 1-16 | 17-32 | Total | |
| Popova - Mali | 52 - 4 | 22 - 29 | 74 - 33 | |
| PATRICK GRENTHE | | | | |

SHINES

Patrick Grenthe is not only a player in the highest ranking in France - première série nationale- but Chairman of the International trials committee.

Some communications problems

It should be no surprise that Grenthe's team from France is doing well when you see him as declarer on round seven of the Mixed Teams event.



The contract was 3 NT by West, on the queen of spades lead. Apparently easy with two spade tricks, three club tricks, and five diamond available. But not quite, look at the communication problems.

Patrick took the first spade in hand played a club to the dummy and a diamond to his hand but South, wide awake, played brilliantly the ace, making things awkward for the declarer.

West threw his king under the ace and South played back a spade taken in the dummy. Now five high diamonds were cashed leaving a four card ending.

North had an inescapable choice:

He could bare the queen of hearts in which case, the king is played from the dummy, or keep two spades and two hearts, as was the case. A spade was played and now North must lead away from the queen of hearts at trick 12.

They are many other ways to win the contract but that was a spectacular choice.