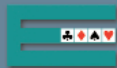


Menton - France
14th - 28th June 2003



Daily Bulletin



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Bulletin 1

Sunday, 15 June 2003

A Star is Born



Menton's annual Lemon Festival pays Homage to Bridge

In a simple ceremony the President of the European Bridge League, Gianarrigo Rona, welcomed everyone to the first European Open Championships here in Menton yesterday. It was a historic moment, signaling as it did the start of these ground breaking events which are open to players from all over the world.

The backroom boys are trying to calculate the number of World, European, North American and National Champions taking part - our first guess is that the figure will comfortably exceed one hundred.

Meanwhile we gently remind you that our best source of information is you the players. We cordially invite you to bring us your stories - good, bad, humorous. They are all equally welcome.

Schedule of play

Today

10.00-13.15 Mixed Teams (2nd Qualifying rounds 1-2)
14.30-20.00 Mixed Teams (2nd Qualifying rounds 3-4-5)

Tommorow

10.00-14.15 Mixed Teams (16 Final/Consolation Swiss)
15.30-19.45 Mixed Teams (8 Final/Consolation Swiss)
16.00-19.00 Mixed Pairs Registration

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Welcome Message from the President



Gianarrigo Rona
European Bridge League President

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Menton to participate and enjoy all together the 1st European Open Bridge Championship. A special welcome to all of you who came from overseas and who, by your presence, gratify all in European bridge who are extremely happy and proud to have you here.

Thanks to your significant adhesion, our hope to organise a good bridge event has been transformed into a certainty to be able to organise a great event, and now our hope is to be able to satisfy all your more than legitimate expectations.

Together with my colleagues from the European Bridge League I hope to realise the task we gave ourselves, and I am confident in being able to count on both the dedication and professionalism of our staff, and on the cooperation of all of you. I often repeat that bridge is more than fair-play, because it is a way of thinking and not just a way of being, and I am sure that this great event will increase my conviction.

The numbers of entries, over 2000 players representing 41 European and 13 non-European countries, have confirmed the players' approval of the idea of this Championship. Now I hope to achieve the approval of the realisation of this idea.

I am sure that the town of Menton and the Côte d'Azur will live up to their reputation for offering a great welcome and I take the occasion to thank the Mayor of Menton, Mr Jean-Claude Guibal, the French Federation led by Mr Maurice Panis, and all our Sponsor-friends who have allowed us to manage to organise and run this Championship.

Now let's enjoy ourselves all together in friendship and serenity, without any differences or discrimination, in the pure spirit of bridge. Under these auspices I declare the 1st European Open Bridge Championship officially open.

All the best and "un abbraccio".

A Question of Sport

Mark Horton

In recent years the potential entry of bridge into the Olympic Games has made the question 'Is Bridge a sport?' a popular topic of conversation. The following observations might help the undecided to make up their minds.

Wimbledon (Roland Garros for our French hosts), The World Series, The Masters, The Super Bowl, Royal Ascot, The European Cup Final - the list of outstanding sporting events is endless and everyone has their own favourites. All of them require physical training and lengthy preparations.

In the case of a soccer team they train during the close season, practising various routines, (Bend it like Beckham), studying videos of potential opponents and generally planning for the matches ahead. The golfer and tennis player spend hours practising and refining their skills. (Do you recall the spectator who chided Gary Player for a 'lucky' shot. 'Yes', said Gary, 'the more I practice the luckier I get.')

The Blue Team used to deal hundreds of hands prior to every tournament. Almost all today's top teams put in hours of work between Championships.

To be a great player you require physical endurance, a gentle disposition towards partner and the wisdom to recognise that the pair in the other room always play well. Ruthlessness towards opponents, who must be - courteously and cordially - destroyed. A measure of fanaticism in accepting a monastic life during the championships and the rigours of constant practice at other times. Add a knowledge of mathematics, the memory of an elephant, the gift of intuition and a lively imagination. And yes, it helps to play bridge well. (The wise words of Carlo Alberto Perroux, the greatest Captain in the history of bridge.)

The basic skills of all sportsmen and women never alter, but the way in which they are utilised are subject to endless variations. For example, in Ice Hockey, teams employ an entirely different strategy when faced by a 'Power Play'. It is just the same in bridge. A team trying to overturn a deficit must adopt a different strategy - 'playing down the middle' will no longer do.

To many, Bridge is 'just a game'; the idea that it might be regarded as a sport is difficult to comprehend. Yet, at the highest levels - events such as these Championships - Bridge is indeed a sport, making severe demands upon the participants and often extracting a physical toll. The necessity to prepare psychologically is no less a consideration.

The physical tension of a major tournament is similar to that of many sports, even those involving 'contact'. (You can readily draw an analogy between golf and bridge, where a great performance can be followed by a less spectacular effort just one day later).

International teams now employ various coaches, including those designed to look after their physical and psychological well being. They play practice matches before important events, apart from spending many hours refining their bidding systems and honing their card playing skills. Many players include physical exercise as part of their daily routine - we have the pictures to prove it.

Almost uniquely in bridge, a player's career can span an amazing number of years - no one ever stopped playing because they couldn't run fast enough! Experience is a tremendous factor, and in a long match between two equally strong teams there is no guarantee that a much younger team would triumph.

The physical stress involved in playing takes its toll. Many players have succumbed to heart attacks. Sleepless nights as every vital deal is replayed in the mind's eye are commonplace.

There is also the question of concentration. The average human cannot concentrate effectively for much longer than 45 minutes, so, with sessions lasting for several hours, the effort required of a player is considerable.

After football Bridge is arguably the second most popular game on the planet earth.

Cherchez La Femme

Mark Horton and Sabine Auken are currently working on a new book, 'May the Best Woman Win'.

The World's leading bridge publishing house, Canada's Master Point Press, have kindly given us permission to reproduce an extract.

The next deal turned out to be a clear candidate for inclusion in the next edition of Larry Cohen's 'To Bid or Not To Bid - The Law of Total Tricks'. Larry, if you only had been there, your heart would have jumped with excitement over this new proof of your theory. Never mind that it caused Daniela a lot of hard mental work to master this difficult task.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

<p>♠ Q J 9 5 3 ♥ Q 4 3 ♦ K J 10 9 ♣ 4</p>	<p>♠ 8 4 ♥ K 8 6 ♦ 7 6 3 2 ♣ A 6 3 2</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <p style="text-align: center;">W E</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> </div>	<p>♠ K 7 6 ♥ 10 5 ♦ Q 5 4 ♣ K Q 10 8 7</p>	<p>♠ A 10 2 ♥ A J 9 7 2 ♦ A 8 ♣ J 9 5</p>
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West	North	East	South
Andrea	Cronier	Pony	Willard
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	2♠	All Pass

In the closed room the bidding died at two spades. After a heart lead to the ace the defenders had lots of time to arrange their diamond ruff, so the contract had to go one down for 100 points to France.

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Sabine	d'Ovidio	Dany
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	Dble	2♠	Dble
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

In our strong club system had a maximum hand for opening One Heart, which she expressed by doubling Two Spades. My 2NT asked for further description and we landed in our eight-card fit. Maybe mentally on page 48 of Larry's book where it clearly says in a little framed box that cannot be missed: 'Never outbid the opponents on the three level with sixteen trumps' the French declined to bid anymore leaving Daniela with the challenge of finding a way to bring home Three Hearts. Which is exactly what she did in spectacular fashion.

The opening lead was the four of clubs. Correctly diagnosing it as a singleton Daniela rose with dummy's ace, even though it

would have been superior to duck the first trick in case East had better diamond intermediates or two spade honours all of which would guarantee an entry before Daniela could arrange her spade ruff in dummy and which would allow the defenders to promote the queen of trumps as a trick. But from then on everything was flawless and brilliant. Next followed a spade to the ten to keep East off lead and for the same reason Daniela also ducked the jack of diamonds continuation. After Daniela had won the next diamond with the ace she started to do some counting. West's distribution appeared to be 5-3-4-1 and East's 3-2-3-5. It seemed likely that East had one spade and one diamond honour in addition to the club king-queen. Might Catherine not have bid more strongly if she also had the heart queen? If this analysis was correct, there was only one chance left for the contract. Daniela took a deep breath and played the jack of hearts out of her hand, passing it when Veronique played low. When it held she could now ruff her spade loser in dummy and return to hand with a diamond ruff to finish drawing trumps for a breathless +140 and 1 IMP to Germany where it could easily have been 5 IMPs for France instead. So thanks to Daniela's razor sharp analysis the LAW prevailed: 'The Total Number of Tricks on any deal is equal to the Total Number of Trumps.'

Larry, I think you owe us a drink.

Or do we owe you one?

Locating a missing queen is always a very rewarding experience and is often considered the domain of real experts. Most experts hate guessing and go out of their way to collect as many clues as possible to give them better than 50/50 odds when they have to make the final decision. For situations where they cannot avoid a guess they often have their own private rules. Some of my favourites are from the legendary Barry Crane, arguably the greatest matchpoint player of all times. When he had a two-way finesse for the queen in a situation of



Sabine Auken, Germany

e.g. Ajx facing K10x his rule was 'The queen is always over the jack in the minors. In the majors it is always over the ten.' Silly? Maybe, but sticking to rules like that in situations where it is simply impossible to dig up any clues as to the winning decision has an incredibly relaxing effect. It not only saves you from wasting brainpower on insoluble problems and spares you the agony of having to make a guess, but it also ensures that you consistently do the same thing in comparable situations, which is highly recommended. When he was missing four to the queen Barry also had another rule, which takes your own distribution into account. If you hold one singleton in your combined hands, then play for the key suit to break 3-1 as well. If you hold two singletons they even out and the key suit will break even, play for the drop. Why not?

The best known rule for what to do when trying to find a queen is already taught to beginners: 'Eight ever, nine never' meaning with eight cards of the suit in your combined hands you should always finesse and with nine you should never finesse. So obviously this means with even fewer cards than eight in your combined hands you should also finesse. If you don't find this obvious you should probably be returning this book to where it came from and get something else instead. But first read on for a little while and find out why it is so enjoyable to break the rules once in a while.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ A K 5 4 ♥ 10 8 5 3 ♦ 9 3 ♣ Q J 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 9 7 ♥ A K 4 2 ♦ 10 6 5 2 ♣ 8 6	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ J 10 8 6 3 2 ♥ Q 9 ♦ Q 7 ♣ A 7 5	♠ — ♥ J 7 6 ♦ A K J 8 4 ♣ K 10 9 4 3											

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Sabine	Gu	Dany
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♣

The setting is the quarterfinal against China at the Team Olympiad 2000 in Maastricht, Netherlands. The organisers had decided to put the third segment of our match on VuGraph. Going into the set we were leading China by 30 IMPs, but by the time the above deal came up our lead had shrunk to 9 IMPs. My One Heart response to Daniela's One Diamond opening was an artificial relay promising at least game invitational values and didn't necessarily have anything to do with hearts. So against 3NT Gu started with the heart ace and continued with a low heart to Zhang's queen.

I won the jack of spades continuation and advanced the club queen, which was taken by Zhang's ace. She persisted with another spade, which I again won to cash one high diamond and then two more rounds of clubs ending in my hand to collect as

much information as possible before making the key decision in the diamond suit. Gu parted with her remaining low heart on the third round of clubs; on the two rounds of spades she had contributed the seven and the nine. She had played all her cards in natural fashion, which convinced me that her distribution was 3-4-4-2 with the spade queen and heart ace-king in high cards for sure.

I was beginning to feel an itch; it was suspiciously starting to look as if the diamond queen was doubleton offside. With the diamond queen in addition to her other high cards might not Gu have opened the bidding? Our opponents were playing Precision and Precision players tend to open most 11 point hands.

This was delicate; somehow playing on VuGraph always adds some extra spice to a situation like that. What would the commentators say if I went for the big play of trying to drop the doubleton queen offside and it turned out to be wrong? What would the spectators think? Surely they would all say I was playing for the gallery. For some reason it seems to be so much easier to have the courage of your convictions when no one is watching. Sort of like the golfer that never can hit a drive at the first tee by the clubhouse where everyone is watching. In theory we all know that thoughts like that do absolutely nothing to help you find the winning line of play, but believe me they are difficult to block out of your head. It was time to make a decision; I was rechecking my analysis, but couldn't convince myself that it was wrong. So a diamond to the king it was dropping the queen for the ninth trick and the contract. The next day I ran across Paul Marston from Australia right outside the MECC (the convention centre where the championships were taking place). 'Nice play in the diamond suit, Sabine', he waved from the distance. I was beaming (my usual reaction when someone pays me a compliment), but I couldn't help wondering what he would have said if that diamond queen had been onside.

Numerous plays have been developed to try and find a missing queen and stories of players famed for never misguessing a queen have acquired cult status. Legend tells of a player that privileged by nature with his body height would always know where to find a queen. Once an opponent tried to trap him by hiding the queen of a key suit behind another card and then nonchalantly holding his hand so that declarer could very easily see his cards. Declarer promptly finessed him for the queen. The player almost exploded and burst out: 'How could you possibly get this right? There is no way you could have seen the queen in my hand!' 'No', declarer smiled 'but you were going out of your way of showing me your cards.'

Some of those plays have even received their own name, like the Alcatraz Coup. As the name already implies just like peeking in other players' cards the Alcatraz Coup is not exactly on the legal side. Imagine a holding of AJ10 in dummy and K32 in your hand. You call the jack from dummy and when RHO plays low you discard a side suit from your hand. LHO will now either follow with a small card or attempt to win the trick with the queen. When he has played his card you correct your revoke knowing whether to play the king or a small card from your hand now. I recall being told that the original Alcatraz Coup actually comes from Rubber Bridge. A player with something like AJ109 opposite K432 in the trump suit would claim 100 points for honours and watch his opponents' reaction. Surely the one with the queen would start protesting!

Before you are going to call the cops on me let's get back to some more legitimate methods. How about squeezing your opponents a little to force them to tell you where the queen is. All it requires is a little bit of pressure and some patience.

Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ A J 10 9 7 ♥ 8 7 ♦ K 9 8 ♣ 9 7 2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 6 4 ♥ A K J 9 5 ♦ A 4 3 ♣ A 4 3	♠ K 8 5 2 ♥ Q 2 ♦ J 7 6 5 2 ♣ 6 5
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West	North	East	South
Dany	Berkowitz	Sabine	Sanders
Pass	Pass	1♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

⁽¹⁾ 16+HCP

I am taking you to the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland, the setting of the second IOC Grand Prix in 1999. With President José Damiani in front the World Bridge Federation (WBF) has for many years now worked very hard for bridge to gain access into the Olympic world. The first success was scored in 1995 when the IOC awarded the WBF the status of a 'Recognized Sport Organization'. Pursuing the goal of bridge gaining entry into the Winter Olympic Games the WBF started organizing the International Olympic Committee Grand Prix, which for the first time took place in 1998 at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne presided over by Juan Antonio Samaranch, then President of the IOC. It was at the opening ceremony of that event that President Samaranch spoke his famous words: 'Bridge is a sport and, as such, its place is here in the Olympic Museum like all other sports.' It was a great moment.

Participating at the first edition of this event were the Open Teams of all the countries that had been victorious at the Bridge Team Olympiad throughout the existence of the WBF: France, Italy, Brazil, Poland and USA supplemented by China as representative of the Asian zone. With the event being a big success and as it seems to be men's wont when given enough time realizing they cannot really thrive without women, there also was to be a women's competition at the second edition of the IOC Grand Prix and this is where we are now.

The format for the women's competition was different from the open competition. There were two teams, one from Europe and from North America. Daniela and I had the honour of representing Europe at this memorable event together with Veronique Bessis-Catherine d'Ovidio from France, Pat Davies-Nicola Smith from England and Maria Erhart-Sylvia Terraneo from Austria.

You have probably already peeked at the hand above and discovered another doubleton queen offside in a seven-card fit. We haven't reached the stage of wizardry yet, that comes later in this

chapter. On this hand the play simply developed in such a fashion that anybody that can count to thirteen would have dropped the doubleton heart queen offside, almost foolproof. A few more hands like that and you may feel tempted to get your old school abacus from the attic. Are you ready?

Carol Sanders started with a low diamond to Lisa Berkowitz' queen and my ace. The spade finesse lost to the queen and back came the diamond ten, which I ducked. Now Lisa switched to the club king and when that was ducked as well continued with the club queen. It was time to win some tricks, so I took my ace now, repeated the spade finesse, cashed the spade ace and exited with a spade. Carol had no more clubs left and got off lead with a diamond to dummy's king, Lisa already having discarded two clubs on the play of the spades was beginning to feel uncomfortable and parted with a heart. The hand was an open book now, the situation before the play of dummy's last spade being:

♠ 7 ♥ 8 7 ♦ — ♣ 9	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ — ♥ 10 6 4 ♦ — ♣ J	♠ — ♥ A K J ♦ — ♣ 3
♠ — ♥ Q 2 ♦ J 7 ♣ —			

Lisa had to keep the winning club and accordingly pitched another heart, but as North was marked with a 2-4-2-5- and South with a 4-2-5-2-distribution I now knew there was no need to take the heart finesse. No matter who had it, it would come tumbling down under the king. Easy, isn't it?

In all the above deals the missing queen could be located by simple counting and logical deduction. The real beauty comes when another element is involved, an ability that often is described as the mark of a true natural card player, table presence. Having good table presence is a most powerful and very feared weapon, the slightest itch, the blink of an eye, a minimal change in posture can give away the lie of the cards to a player with great table presence. One claim to fame of another American legend, John Crawford, was that he would never mis-guess a queen. One day a friend bet him 100 dollars that he would not be able to tell which defender held the trump queen on a hand he would prepare. Never one to refuse a bet Crawford accepted. When everything was set and he came to the table he looked at both defenders in turn and exclaimed in total astonishment: 'I don't believe this! Neither one of them looks like he has got the queen!' His friend handed him a hundred-dollar bill in disbelief; he had removed the trump queen from the deck.

Time to enter this world of magic, this world of plays that cannot be explained by pure logic alone. Your heart has to be at it, your antennas have to be out. You have to be able to look into people's heads, understand human reaction; otherwise you will never be able to even come close to performing a play like the ones I am going to show you now.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ K 3 ♥ 4 ♦ J 8 7 6 5 4 3 ♣ Q 4 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A 10 8 7 5 4 ♥ Q 7 6 ♦ 9 ♣ 10 8 7	♠ J 9 2 ♥ K 9 8 3 ♦ A K 10 2 ♣ K 5
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
Ivanova	Sabine	Halatcheva	Dany

I don't remember, but it finished in Six Hearts with Daniela being the declarer.

You will not find this deal anywhere on the internet. As a matter of fact, unless you are in the habit of collecting souvenirs, you will not find it anywhere. I found it during my Easter holiday on the attic of my parents' house in bulletin no. 15 from the European Teams Championships in Turku, Finland in 1989.

The deal occurred towards the end of the Championships in our match against Bulgaria. Back in those days the Bulgarian girls were the toast of town. Deleva-Lorer had won the European Ladies Pairs Championships in Brighton in 1987 and they grabbed the bronze in Turku. In 1988 at the Team Olympiad in Venice the Bulgarian squad had scored a Cinderella victory in the quarterfinals against the highly fancied team from the United States. Bridge players' hearts everywhere were beating for them to do well. Germany on the other hand had not really distinguished themselves anywhere yet. But all of a sudden at this tournament, out of nowhere, we had reached the top and playing steadily for more than a week already we were a cinch to grasp one of the two qualifying spots for the Venice Cup in Perth, Australia, later that year. Nobody could have been more surprised than we were ourselves. For all those reasons the match between Bulgaria and Germany was shown on VuGraph.

I don't remember the bidding on the above deal, but somehow Dany and I must have had some kind of a misunderstanding, because we reached an ambitious Six Heart contract. Not only were we off the first two spade tricks, but there also was a little hole in the trump suit. Ivanova found the sneaky lead of the three of spades, low from king doubleton. Halatcheva won with the ace and took her time considering what to return finally hitting upon the nine of diamonds. Ivanova who had anxiously been awaiting her partner's continuation almost collapsed in her chair at the sight of the Diamond Nine. This did not go unnoticed by Daniela, who was sitting on the same side of the screen with Ivanova. But what did this reaction mean?

Daniela reasoned as follows: Clearly West had led a spade away from the king and was hoping to beat the contract by taking two spade tricks after her partner had won the first trick with the ace. When East did not continue with a second round of spades all hopes of another trick in that suit had vanished and apparently also all hopes West had of beating the contract. Ergo she could not possibly be looking at the trump queen, because otherwise she would still be very tense hoping to score a trump

trick. I always think having the courage of your convictions is quite heroic, especially when playing on VuGraph. Daniela had no qualms, she cashed the heart ace and finessed East for the queen on the next round, 12 tricks. Wow!

Once up in the attic I rummaged around a bit more. It was a real trip down memory lane, which brought out more than a sentimental tear or two. Amazing what the sight of a 35-year old rocking horse can do to you. Then I found a deal that dates back even earlier than the last one, the European Championships in Brighton in 1987.

Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ Q 7 6 5 2 ♥ Q 10 9 6 2 ♦ 7 ♣ 8 3	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A 8 ♥ 5 4 ♦ A K J 9 6 5 2 ♣ A 2	♠ 9 4 3 ♥ A J 7 ♦ Q 4 3 ♣ K J 10 7
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
Smith	Dany	Davies	Sabine
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

*Acol Two in diamonds (we were not playing our strong club system yet!)

Brighton was the very first time that Daniela and I represented Germany on the National Women's team. I still remember we shared a room at this tiny family hotel, where in order to get into the bathroom I had to climb over Daniela's side of the bed. There simply wasn't enough space to walk around it. In Brighton I also learned that a steak can be cooked in more than one way: rare, medium and well done with all sorts of graduations. And I found out that avocado with shrimps is a very delicious appetizer. This will probably give you the idea.

The above deal occurred in our match against Great Britain. Playing against the home country and their star pair of Nicola Smith and Pat Davies the organizers had put us in the pit in the open room. Pits were commonplace in the days before VuGraph. The playing table is put into sort of a little arena with elevated chairs surrounding it to give room to as many spectators as possible. On this occasion the pit was packed with spectators rooting for their home country, it was almost frightening.

Nicola Smith led the six of hearts against 3NT, fourth best from her longest and strongest. I followed low from dummy and there it was, this fraction of a hesitation that maybe only lasted a nanosecond. I doubt any of the kibitzers noticed anything. Our captain Peter Spletstösser, who because it was so crowded was sitting so close behind me that I could feel his breath in my neck, said he hardly noticed anything. But to me it was like a light breeze from the sea that woke me up. When it had passed Pat Davies played the jack of hearts and I was marvelling at what just

happened. Suddenly it became crystal clear. Of course! She must have been thinking of playing the ace instead, but correctly inserted the jack realizing that it was important to keep communications with her partner open. If my analysis was correct, she surely was also looking at the guarded diamond queen. Otherwise she could see nine likely tricks for me and would rather try for five heart tricks playing partner to have led from king fifth. In that case I could only make my contract if I ducked the heart jack, because I would have to lose the lead in diamonds and the defenders' communication would be open to cash four heart tricks. So I ducked. When Pat continued with the ace of hearts and another heart the contract was safe. I knew the diamond queen was offside, but it didn't matter. I simply finessed losing to the queen, but the defenders couldn't reach the West hand to cash their heart tricks and could do nothing to prevent me from scoring ten tricks. I was so proud.

One of the finest pieces of table presence involving finding a critical queen that I have ever seen occurred at the Team Olympiad 2000 in Maastricht. Italy was playing Poland in the final and the maestro Lorenzo Lauria was at the helm.

Dealer West. None Vul.

<p>♠ A K J ♥ J 9 3 ♦ 8 2 ♣ K Q 6 4 3</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>♠ Q 5 ♥ Q 10 7 6 4 ♦ J 9 4 3 ♣ J 8</p>	<p>♠ 9 8 4 3 ♥ K 8 ♦ K Q 5 ♣ A 7 5 2</p>
N						
W E						
S						

Lauria - Versace bid to the normal 3NT against Jassem - Tuszynski, against which Tuszynski led his fourth-best heart. Jassem won with the ace and returned the five, his partner contributing the seven to this trick with the air of a man who had led from only a



Lorenzo Lauria, Italy

four-card suit. But Lauria knows his customers, he was more inclined to believe the heart five to be a true card. So instead of staking everything on a 4-4 heart break, when there would be time to establish a diamond trick, he started reeling off his club tricks, cashing the spade ace in the process; both opponents discarded two diamonds. When he then asked for the spade nine from dummy, Jassem followed low and time stood still. The longer he was thinking the more convinced the VuGraph commentators became that he actually would go for the big play of dropping the spade queen offside. But nobody could come up with any convincing argument what could possibly have made Lauria seriously consider this huge play. Finally he had made up his mind, up went the king and down came the queen, +400 to Italy.

Eric Kokish has long been one of the main contributors to the official World Championship books and he was also the one reporting on the Final between Italy and Poland in Maastricht. From the occasions where I have been involved myself I know that Eric is tireless in trying to get to the bottom of any hand and finding out what a player's motive was for a particular bid or play. But he doesn't just speculate, he actually corresponds per email with all the players involved in a match making sure he has all the facts right and that he does everyone justice. As a result his contributions to the World Championship books are always wonderful tales with correct facts that have come to live by the players' own thoughts and comments. Eric, how many hours has your day?

Of course the above deal merited further investigation by Eric. This is what Lauria says in the World Championship book regarding how he found the winning line of play:

'When I played the fourth club, West did not discard in tempo in a situation where everything should be clear, so I had something to think about and with queen fourth, he would have made up his mind already whether to discard a spade or a second diamond, so in my mind he could not have the spade queen.'

The next time you run across Lauria take a closer look. Doesn't he resemble Al Pacino in the movie 'Scent of a Woman' playing the blind retired Lt. Colonel Frank Slade who has the amazing ability of tracing women by his enhanced sense of smell?

You can order a copy of the book in advance from Mark Horton in the Daily Bulletin at the special prepublication price of Euro 20, post free to anywhere in the world.

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

DAY	MIXED TEAMS	MIXED PAIRS	OPEN LADIES SENIORS TEAMS	OPEN LADIES SENIORS PAIRS	RAMA
SAT 14	X				
SUN 15	X				
MON 16	X				
TUE 17	X	X			
WED 18	X	X			
THU 19		X			
FRI 20			X		
SAT 21			X		
SUN 22			X		
MON 23			X		X
TUE 24			X	X	X
WED 25			X	X	X
THU 26				X	
FRI 27				X	X
SAT 28				X	X

Fast Starters

Getting off to a good start does not guarantee success, but it's much better than facing the pressure of making up for a poor start.

In the opening round of the Mixed Teams, the Schaltz squad (Denmark) took advantage of several slips by their opponents to forge a good beginning with a 41-26 win (22-8 in Victory Points) over the Carmil squad (Italy-Venezuela).

The first three boards represented small swings for each side. There were fireworks on board 4 - in the open room, anyway.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ A 9 8 3 ♥ 10 8 3 ♦ K 5 4 2 ♣ K 4	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 7 6 ♥ K 4 2 ♦ 10 9 ♣ 10 9 8 6 2	♠ 5 4 2 ♥ 9 6 5 ♦ A Q 7 ♣ A Q 5 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
Jens A.	Hamaoui	Sabine A.	Ziguelboim
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dble
Redbl	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

It was quiet enough in the closed room, as Jens Auken played carefully for eight tricks. He won the opening lead of the ♦10 with dummy's ace, followed by a low spade from dummy. Jens ducked when Ziguelboim played the 10, but Hamaoui overtook with the jack to play his second diamond. Jens won with the ♦Q, played a spade to his ace then played on clubs, discarding a heart on the third round when South ruffed in with the ♠K. He lost three spades and two hearts for plus 110.

At the other table, there was a bidding misunderstanding by the unfamiliar partnership of Lars Blakset and Dorthe Schaltz that worked out very much in their favor.

West	North	East	South
Gusso	Blakset	Pacheco	Schaltz
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dble
Redbl	All Pass		

This is a good sequence for discussion between partners. Does North's pass mean he is happy with the contract - or simply a loss for a bid? When 1♣ redoubled came back to Schaltz, she apparently believed North's pass indicated that he liked the spot.

Seven tricks are not available to East-West on proper defense, and Blakset-Schaltz did not go wrong. She started with the ♠Q, to dummy's ace. Declarer then cashed the ♣K and played a

club to her queen, following with the top two diamonds in her hand. She exited with the ♠5, overtaken by North with the jack. North played the ♣9 to force out the queen, declarer's last trick. When she played a diamond to dummy's king, North ruffed and picked up declarer's last trump. It was down one and plus 400 for North-South, an 11-IMP gain.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ Q J 9 8 2 ♥ Q 8 5 ♦ 7 6 5 ♣ 9 3	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 10 7 5 ♥ 7 2 ♦ J 10 2 ♣ Q 10 6 4	♠ A 6 4 3 ♥ A J 3 ♦ K 9 8 3 ♣ J 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											

This deal, good for 12 tricks in clubs, was played in a part score at both tables.

Open room

West	North	East	South
Gusso	Blakset	Pacheco	Schaltz
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
All Pass			2♣



Lars Blakset, Denmark

Closed room

West	North	East	South
Jens A.	Hamouie	Sabine A.	Ziguelboim
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Redbl
2♠	3♣	All Pass	

The North-South hands would be good ones for a bidding contest - and 5♣ certainly looks like a good contract. There was nothing to the play, with trumps 2-2, hearts 3-3 and the ♠A onside.

There was more trouble with doubles on board 8, and Jens made the opponents pay for their error.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gusso	Blakset	Pacheco	Schaltz
Pass	INT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
2♠	3♥	All Pass	

The INT opener and transfer allowed North-South to uncover the eight-card heart fit, making it easier for Blakset to take the push when West balanced with 2♠. Blakset won the opening lead of the ♠10 with dummy's ace and took a trump finesse at trick two. East won and switched to the ♦J, taken in dummy by the king. Blakset played a heart to his ace, cashed the ♦A and ♦Q, pitching dummy's losing spade, and ruffed a diamond. From there, it was an easy route to 10 tricks and plus 170. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Jens A.	Hamouie	Sabine A.	Ziguelboim
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Hamouie's double of 2♠ was described by him to his screen-mate as takeout. Obviously, South did not see it that way. Jens still had to make it, however.

The trump lead went to South's ace, and she continued the suit to West's king. He played a diamond from hand, to North's queen. Next came the ♥A and the ♥Q, taken by dummy's king. A diamond from dummy produced the king from South, and Jens ruffed the heart return with the ♠J. The ♠Q picked up the last

trump, and Jens played the ♣Q for a finesse. South won and knocked out declarer's last trump with a fourth round of hearts. Jens had an accurate inferential count on the opponents' hands, however, so he did not misfire in the end, playing a club to dummy's ace and a low club to the 9 in his hand to record plus 470 and a 12-IMP gain.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

The Carmil squad was in a position to gain IMPs on board 9, but the defense slipped and they ended with a 9-IMP loss.

West	North	East	South
Gusso	Blakset	Pacheco	Schaltz
	INT	2♦	2NT
3♥	All Pass		

The so-called weak INT opening (12-14) can make it tough to reach the best spot, as it did on this deal. What should West do when his partner overcalls a natural 2♦? Does the fact that everyone is bidding (2NT was a relay) make a difference? A contract of 5♦ seems a long shot, but is a free bid forcing? Obviously, to East it was not, and East-West had the dubious pleasure of writing in plus 200 for 3♥ making five. South won the opening club lead with ace and switched to a heart, picking up the suit for declarer and making 11 tricks easy.

At the other table, the Sabine Auken needed that same number of tricks to avoid a minus score.

West	North	East	South
Jens A.	Hamouie	Sabine A.	Ziguelboim
	1♣	1♦	3♣
Dble	Pass	3♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

South started with the ♣A and could have made short work of the contract with a switch to a spade. Instead, she played a diamond at trick two. Sabine considered her prospects at length before playing low from dummy, winning the ♦9 in hand when North played low. Sabine ruffed a club with dummy's ♦Q, then played a heart to her jack, followed by the ♥K and a second club ruff with dummy's ♦K. When both opponents followed on the ♥A (Sabine pitched a spade), she was home. On a fourth round of hearts, North discarded and Sabine pitched her other spade. She gave up a diamond trick at the end for plus 600 and a 9-IMP gain.

The Schaltz team lost a 13-IMP swing on the final board when the Aukens missed a vulnerable grand slam that was bid at the other table, but their opening charge in the Mixed Teams was a success.

La Gazette du Palais

Par Guy Dupont

Place au mixte !

Le 1er championnat d'Europe de Menton ouvert à tous débute par le mixte. Nulle part autant qu'en France on n'apprécie la compétition mixte. Allez savoir pourquoi ! Certains vous diront que c'est en raison de la rigoureuse parité qu'elle impose, qu'en d'autres domaines - sur fond de perspective électorale, par exemple - on cherche tant à atteindre. Pas de jaloux: s'il y a autant d'hommes que de femmes au départ, c'est encore vrai à l'arrivée, sur le podium. D'autres, beaucoup moins nombreux, féministes au troisième degré, estiment plutôt que, le bridge étant une activité purement cérébrale, il faut user modérément du mixte, qui, selon eux, serait comme un pied de nez à l'égalité des sexes.

Quelle que soit votre opinion, ce qui est sûr c'est que le mixte est en constante progression, et que le dernier championnat de France mixte par équipes fut un franc succès, avec 3222 formations engagées. Au delà des résultats, ce que l'histoire retiendra de ce championnat sera certainement ce coup réussi par Patrick Sussel en finale de ligue mixte, à Angers. Prenez sa place, en Ouest:

(O/P)											
<p>♠ A 8 ♥ A 7 4 ♦ R D 6 ♣ V 9 8 4 2</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>O</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		O		E		S		<p>♠ V 7 3 ♥ V 6 2 ♦ AV 10 7 4 ♣ D 6</p>
	N										
O		E									
	S										
Ouest		Est									
Sussel 1 SA*		Mme Fishpool 3 SA									

* 15-17 points, cela en englobe 14 beaux...

Nord entame du 5 de ♣, pour l'As de Sud, qui rejoue le 3 de ♣. Où sont vos neuf levées ?

Tout cela sent le roussi. Sussel estima qu'il n'était déjà pas malheureux d'avoir échappé à une entame en majeure, qui ne lui aurait laissé aucune chance de réaliser neuf levées. Cependant, après cette entame à ♣, il ne se faisait pas davantage d'illusion sur la suite des événements: Nord, qui avait apparemment entamé sous Roi-10 quatrièmes, dès qu'il allait prendre la main à ♣, n'allait pas manquer de visualiser la situation, et de contre-attaquer en majeure. Pour une levée de chute pratiquement certaine.

LE REGLEMENT DU MIXTE PAR EQUIPES

On a joué samedi une poule entre 6 équipes, Les deux premières sont qualifiées pour le Suisse A, aujourd'hui, qui se disputera en 7 matches de 10 donnes. Les autres équipes disputeront le suisse B de la même façon. Ce soir, les 27 premières équipes du suisse A et les 5 premières du suisse B seront qualifiées pour la phase par KO qui débute lundi.

A moins, à moins... qu'Ouest ne lui donne du grain à moudre ! Celui-ci commença déjà par appâter ses clients, en fournissant le 8 de ♣ sur l'entame (Sud n'y fut peut-être pas insensible). Puis, grandissime sacrifice, il jeta sans la moindre hésitation le Valet sur le deuxième tour de ♣!

Qui aurait pu résister à cette carte trompeuse, qui situait de toute évidence pour la défense le Valet second en Ouest ? Personne ! Et surtout pas Nord, qui prit du Roi, et s'empressa d'encaisser le 10, croyant assurer la chute, grâce aux cinq cartes à ♣ localisées chez le partenaire...

<p>♠ A 8 ♥ A 7 4 ♦ R D 6 ♣ V 9 8 4 2</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>O</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		O		E		S		<p>♠ R 9 4 ♥ D 9 3 ♦ 9 8 3 ♣ R 10 7 5</p> <p>♠ V 7 3 ♥ V 6 2 ♦ AV 10 7 4 ♣ D 6</p> <p>♠ D 10 6 5 2 ♥ R 10 8 5 ♦ 5 2 ♣ A 3</p>
	N										
O		E									
	S										

Nord n'en crut pas ses yeux, quand il vit Sud défausser sur le 10 de ♣ ! Il eut beau, alors, contre-attaquer en majeure. Trop tard ! Le piège s'était brutalement refermé. Le déclarant put récolter ce qu'il avait si brillamment semé: l'affranchissement de deux levées de ♣, qui suffirent à son bonheur. Dans l'autre salle, on n'avait pas joué la manche.

Un coup simple, efficace, facile à mettre en œuvre... mais prodigieux, car peu y auraient pensé ! Qui a dit que le bridge était un jeu pour les matheux ?

Stetten, le virtuose

Sur le triste registre du carnet noir français, l'année 2003 aura été marquée par la disparition de Jacques Stetten, à 77 ans, des suites d'une maladie. Il fut l'un des champions les plus doués et les plus imaginatifs du bridge français. Ancien dirigeant de la JMF (Jeunesse musicale française), il avait envisagé une carrière de pianiste, mais le jeu (et pas seulement le bridge) eut finalement trop d'emprise sur lui. Homme de grande courtoisie et d'une rapidité d'esprit exceptionnelle, il fut deux fois champion d'Europe, en 1962 (à Beyrouth) et en 1966 (à Varsovie), avec Léon Tintner pour partenaire. Il a également participé à trois Bermuda Bowl.

Son "coup de Varsovie", au championnat d'Europe, restera dans les mémoires: en troisième position, il avait ouvert de 3♦, avec une main 4-3-3-3 et seulement As-Roi-Dame de ♦ troisièmes ; derrière lui, avec un monument, on avait contré, et Tintner avait soutenu son partenaire à 4♦, avec une main quasiment blanche et trois petits ♦. Les adversaires étaient alors parvenus finalement à 6♥, chacun étant convaincu que son vis-à-vis détenait un singleton ou une chicane à ♦ (l'un y possédant trois cartes, et l'autre, quatre). Deux de chute, sur l'entame à ♦!

Plus classique, ce coup qu'il avait gagné à cent à l'heure:

O/N-S

♠ A D V 9
♥ A D 9 4 3
♦ A 8 6
♣ 2



♠ R 10 8 6
♥ V 10
♦ R V 10 5 4 2
♣ A

Ouest

1 ♥
2 ♠
4 ♣
4♥
5♣⁽¹⁾
6♠⁽³⁾

Est

2 ♦
3 ♠
4 ♦
4SA
5♦⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ 3 ou 0 clés⁽²⁾ "As-tu la Dame d'atout?"⁽³⁾ "Oui, sans autres valeurs particulières que celles déjà décrites"

Nord entame de la Dame de ♣. Les atouts sont 3-2. Comment jouez-vous?

Une fois les atouts purgés, il faut veiller à ne pas perdre une levée de ♦ et une levée de ♥. Si vous maniez les ♦ en tirant d'abord l'As, vous serez en danger avec la Dame au moins troisième en Sud, car la réussite de l'impasse au Roi de ♥ n'en sera pas moins nécessaire pour trouver la douzième levée.

Stetten s'en remet au maniement de sécurité qui consistait à jouer ♦ pour le Roi (en espérant tout de même que Sud ne défausserait pas), puis à présenter le Valet, en le laissant filer: ou bien la Dame se situait en Sud, et la perdante à ♦ disparaissait, ou bien Nord prenait de la Dame, mais celui-ci devait ensuite livrer le contrat (n'ayant pas de carte de sortie à ♦), en se jetant dans la fourchette à ♥, ou en rejouant ♣ dans coupe et défausse (le déclarant défaussant un ♥ du mort, tout en coupant de sa main, avant de débloquer l'As de ♦ et de terminer par As de ♥ et ♥ coupé, pour exploiter les ♦).

♠ 7 4 2
♥ R 6
♦ D 7
♣ D V 9 7 5 4

♠ A D V 9
♥ A D 9 4 3
♦ A 8 6
♣ 2



♠ R 10 8 6
♥ V 10
♦ R V 10 5 4 2
♣ A

♠ 5 3
♥ 8 7 5 2
♦ 9 3
♣ R 10 8 6 3

Et si Sud avait défaussé au deuxième tour de ♦, Ouest aurait pris de l'As et rejoué ♦, afin de mettre Nord en main, pour une fin identique.

Pick a card...

Mathematicians love the world of risk, chance, probability and gambling. Persi Diaconis, a mathematics professor at Stanford University, used to be a magician in New York and became fascinated by the playing cards with which he earned his living.

After decades spent studying the laws of probability, he turned his mind to the problem of deciding how many shuffles are required to produce a deck of cards in random order.

He analysed hundreds of shuffles, modelling them on a computer, and discovered that there is still order in the deck after six shuffles. Seven shuffles, however, results in a sudden jump into randomness, which is little increased even by eight or more shuffles.

As a result of this research, dealers from casinos to bridge tables have been advised to shuffle the deck seven times, rather than just three or four times, as they might have done in the past.

GAMBLERS WELCOMED

There is free entry to the Casino Lucien Barriere of Menton on presentation of your badge. A passport or an identity card will also be required.

**LE BRIDGEUR
BRIDGE SHOP**

The bridge shop is located on the first floor near the entrance to the playing area.

Opening times:	Sunday	09.00 to 18.30
	Monday	09.00 to 18.00
	Tuesday	14.00 to 16.00 18.00 to 20.00

Mixed Teams

We play the second day of the Mixed Teams today. The first two teams in each group qualified for the Swiss A (ties resolved using the match(es) between and the IMP quotients, if necessary), and the others in the Swiss B. Within these groups the teams are ranked according to their VP's (IMPs Quotient, IMPs surplus) with team ranked 1 playing team ranked 2 and so on. There is no carryover. At the end of the day (after 5 matches of 10 boards) the 27 highest teams in the Swiss A together with the 5 highest in the Swiss B form the K.O. Group of 32 teams. All others play a Consolation Swiss for one day.

The Swiss A will be played on the second floor.

The Swiss B will be played on the first floor - starting time 10.00.

The Open Room has black numbered tables.

The Closed Room has the red numbered tables.

Ton Kooijman

Cose di casa nostra

by Franco Broccoli

Parliamo di noi. Non lo facciamo mai (!), perciò una volta ogni tanto è doveroso (ancora?). Il primo giorno di questo *Ronablum*, campionato europeo open nuovo di zecca, parte con lo squadre miste e i campioni in carica di Lavazza, nell'incontro d'esordio, si siedono al tavolo I del girone A contro la formazione svizzera Duong. Gli italiani, schierati per l'occasione con l'additivo austriaco, sono Maria Teresa Lavazza/Giorgio Duboin in chiusa e Maria Erhart/Guido Ferraro sotto gli occhi di tutti in aperta (molti angolisti, è una coppia che tira anche perchè il colonnello, Maria, non è una compagna facilissima da gestire se, di fronte, non si giocano tutte le carte giuste nel giusto ordine. Ferraro ci prova e, raramente, ci riesce). Gli esordienti (come coppia) Francesca De Lucchi e Norberto Bocchi completano il team Lavazza in sostituzione di Monica Cuzzi e Alfredo Versace. E' una giornata fresca e ventilata come l'interno di un tostapane in funzione. Il bridge, per fortuna, promette d'essere altrettanto caldo. E si vede da subito....

Benvenuti

Board 1

Dich. Nord, Tutti in prima

<p>♠ K 8 3 ♥ A 10 6 3 ♦ K 9 6 5 4 2 ♣ —</p>	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">O E</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	O E	S	<p>♠ A J 10 9 5 ♥ 2 ♦ J 8 ♣ A J 10 7 3</p>	
N						
O E						
S						
<p>♠ Q ♥ K Q J 9 8 7 4 ♦ A 10 ♣ 5 4 2</p>						
	<p>♠ 7 6 4 2 ♥ 5 ♦ Q 7 3 ♣ K Q 9 8 6</p>					

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Duong	Ferraro	Horvath	Erhart
	1♥	2♥*	passo
3SA	tutti passano		

* quella bicolore

Dovete sapere che Ferraro/Erhart giocano una variante del *Blue Club*, sistema in cui la quarta nobile è religione, dogma, legge assoluta. La quarta nobile giustifica anche cose come la partenza in corto lungo perchè l'anticipo del maggiore non si discute, si ama. L'apertura di 1♥ di Ferraro, perciò, sterilizza le cuori di Ovest che, dopo la bicolore della compagna, sapendo di trovare le cuori messe male, ha creduto di tentare la manche a Senza Atout. Brutta partita in quanto 4♥, così stando le carte, si fanno spesso (batte l'attacco di pezzo di fiori per lo scarto di nord) mentre contro 3SA Ferraro, in attacco, ha tirato fuori la sorpresina della sesta a lato totalizzando più prese degli avversari. 3SA-3, pari a 150 punti per Lavazza da sommare ai 140 realizzati dalla coppia italiana nell'altra sala nel contratto di 3♥.

Sotto subito o mai più

Beccatevi queste carte in Est

♠ K 6
♥ A Q 7 4 3
♦ 9 6 5 4
♣ J 10

e prestate l'orecchio (con obbligo di restituzione) a questa licita:

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Duong	Ferraro	Horvath	Erhart
passo	1♠	passo	passo
passo	4♠	tutti passano	2SA*

* fit limite (è passata di mano)

Avete un certo numero di imps in mano in quanto dal vostro attacco dipende la riuscita del contratto o la caduta immediata. Est nella fattispecie, ha intavolato il Fante di fiori. Non era il colore giusto.

Board 6

Dich. Est, E/O in Zona

<p>♠ 10 9 7 ♥ J 2 ♦ A Q 8 3 2 ♣ 9 3 2</p>	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">O E</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	O E	S	<p>♠ K 6 ♥ A Q 7 4 3 ♦ 9 6 5 4 ♣ J 10</p>	
N						
O E						
S						
		<p>♠ A J 4 3 ♥ 9 8 5 ♦ K J 7 ♣ Q 8 7</p>				



Guido Ferraro, Italy

Ferraro si è avventato sul Fante di fiori con il Re della mano e, via impasse a picche, ha battuto gli atout avversari, non perdendo prese nel colore. In seguito, dopo aver incassato le fiori per lo scarto di due cuori dal morto, ha prodotto questo elegante finale:

♠ 8 ♥ K 10 6 ♦ 10 ♣ -	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">O</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		O	E		S	♠ - ♥ A Q 7 ♦ 9 6 ♣ -
N								
O	E							
	S							
♠ - ♥ J 2 ♦ A Q 8 ♣ -	♠ 4 ♥ 9 ♦ K J 7 ♣ -							

Il 10 di quadri ha raggiunto la Dama di Ovest. Sul ritorno piccola cuori Ferraro è stato basso ed Est, in presa con la Dama, non ha potuto impedire la surlèvee al dichiarante. Maria Erhart ha abbozzato un sorriso (facciamo mezzo sorriso). Intavolando una quadri in attacco, invece, le prime quattro prese (Asso di quadri, due cuori e il taglio nel colore) avrebbero potuto cambiare padrone, indovinando la prosecuzione. Nella vita reale lo score è stato di 450 meno i 170 delle 3♠+1 dell'altra sala.

Mano da scuola

Board 8

Dich. Ovest, Tutti in prima

♠ 8 5 3 ♥ A Q J ♦ A Q 9 7 5 ♣ 6 3	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">O</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		O	E		S	♠ 10 9 7 ♥ K 10 5 ♦ J 10 8 3 ♣ A 5 4
N								
O	E							
	S							
♠ K Q J 4 2 ♥ 8 7 ♦ 6 2 ♣ Q J 9 2	♠ A 6 ♥ 9 6 4 3 2 ♦ K 4 ♣ K 10 8 7							

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Duong	Ferraro	Horvath	Erhart
passo	1♦*	passo	1♥
1♠	2♥	2♣	4♥

tutti passano

* non ho quarte nobili

Catturato l'attacco di Re di picche con l'Asso della mano, la dichiarante ha proseguito con l'impasse a cuori. Est è entrata con il Re - meglio filare - (Ferraro ha bisbigliato: "Belle cuori !") e ha giocato picche, rilevata dal compagno che ha intavolato la Dama

di fiori per l'Asso di Est. Sul ritorno nel colore Maria è entrata con il Re e, dopo aver battuto solo un altro colpo d'atout, ha anticipato quadri tagliandone una in mano per non affidarsi semplicemente alla 3-3 nel colore. 4♥ dichiarate e fatte più le 2♣ mantenute da Duboin nell'altra sala fanno 11 imps per Lavazza.

Risvegli

Board 9

Dich. Nord, E/W in zona

♠ A Q 10 4 ♥ Q 6 3 ♦ J 6 3 ♣ K 6 5	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">O</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		O	E		S	♠ 9 5 ♥ K J ♦ A 10 9 7 5 2 ♣ Q 8 7
N								
O	E							
	S							
♠ K J 8 2 ♥ A 9 7 4 2 ♦ K Q 4 ♣ 3	♠ 7 6 3 ♥ 10 8 5 ♦ 8 ♣ A J 10 9 4 2							

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Duong	Ferraro	Horvath	Erhart
	1♠	passo	passo
2♥	passo	passo	3♣
passo	passo	3♥	3♠
passo	4♣	tutti passano	

Una licita, come dire, strana, con abbandoni immediati e accelerazioni improvvise. Il risveglio della Erhart, la sua proposta di parziale a picche e la successiva preferenza di Ferraro hanno convinto gli orizzontali ad abbandonare la lotta. La Erhart, non indovinando la fiori, ha incassato 8 prese per 4♣ - 2. Ben poca cosa rispetto alla manche a cuori chiamata e realizzata da Lavazza/Duboin in sala chiusa. Altri 11 imps per i campioni in carica. L'incontro è finito 59 a 9 per Lavazza, pari a 25 a 2 in VP.



Duong, Switzerland

MIXED TEAMS ROSTERS

1	LAVAZZA	IT1	Lavazza Mt., Duboin G., Erhart M., Ferraro G., De Lucchi F., Bocchi N.
2	CURETTI	F01	Curetti Mn., Le Poder J., Birault-I F., Michaud-L X., Allavena F., Allavena G.C.
3	EVANS	ASI	Evans B., Robb M., Jones B., Stern L., Bach A., Laurie O.
4	HETZ	IS1	Hetz N., Porat-L R., Hetz K., Schneider R.
5	JACKSON	EN	Jackson R., Ford J., Zinger M., Altberger A.
6	DUONG	SW1	Duong H., Pana A., Tomescu S., Horvath K., Mucha R., Tomescu T.
7	CHAGAS	BR1	Chagas G., Pain L., Meyers J., Mahmood Z.
8	BELLO	F02	Bello I., VanDerNeut J., Lesur S., Cassar H., Baudu M., Boniol S.
9	ARTMER	AT1	Artmer I., Babsch A., BindeKranz T., Schiffko M.
10	SVINDAHL	NO1	Svindahl F., Anjer M., Blaagestad L., Fodstad A.
11	RAND	IS2	Ramd N., Emodi G., Sverker D., Yadlin D., VanUliet M, Lacaciu A
12	DE CRESCENZO	IT2	DeCrescenzo M., Pizza E., Caldarelli Ve, Fonti F., Maci G., Barbarisi E.
13	MELTZER	US1	Meltzer R., Weichsel P., Sanborn K., Larsen K., Stansby L., Stansby J.
14	DITETOVA	CZ1	Ditetova E., Fort T., Grosmanova T., Grosman z.
15	LJUNG	SW2	Ljung A., Larsson S., Karlsson P., Roos A.
16	CANESI	IT3	Canesi M., Cedolin F., Corchia R., Donatelli D., Malaguti G., Matricardi G.
17	COLOMBARO	F06	Colombaro A., Danic J., Aubonnet B., Boulicaut J.
18	SCHALTZ	DE1	Schaltz D., Auken S., Blakset L., Auken J.
19	ALMIRALL	SP1	Almirall N., Almirall M., Lanzarotti M., Ventin J., Marimon F., Gianardi C.
20	COMPTON	USWIH	Compton D, Melander M, Stocker H, Rassaval C
21	ALLIX	F03	Allix J., Raczynska J., Mauberquez E., Reess V., Oursel C., Leger R.
22	BARRETT	US2	Barrett J., Barrett K., Smolski R., Petty V.
23	BERTILI	SWIR	Bertili, Turson C., DeRaimaker K, Onischuk A.
24	CARMIL	VE1	Zighelboim O, Hamaoui S., Pacheco M., Gusso F.
25	O'ROURKE	US3	O'Rourke L., Rogers B., Meckstroth J., Eythorsdottir, Fredin P., Cheek C.
26	LEON	SP2	Leon P, Hontoria P, Lantaron L, Wasik A.
27	KREFELD	DE2	Krefeld C., Kirstan M., Hammelev J., Nils M.
28	KORDOV	TU1	Kordov M., Taga F., Pekoz N., Kurtulus C., Kordov M.
29	DUGUET	F04	Duguet M, Duguet MA, Duguet MI, Moers J, Bouveresse J
30	GOLAY	F05	Golay F., Ades H., Chojnowski C., Chojnowski A.
31	THUILLEZ	F17	Thuillez L., Thuillez P., De Guillebon, Magis I., Voldoire J., Sebbane L.
32	SELCUK	TU3	Selcuk, Ginar, Selcuk K., Aluf T., Kokten N.
33	CHAMAA	LE1	Chamaa I., Latala, Martens K., Wasak, Kreglewska, Przyjemski
34	RYNNING	NO3	Rynning E., Thoren V., Bergheim G., Kjaer E.
35	TELTSCHER	EN6	Teltscher K., Teltscher B., Nelson K., Eginton S.
36	HOLT	US9	Holt D., Schulte E., Seamon-Molson, Molson M., Kokish E., Cronier B.
37	GRAMBERG	GE5	Gramberg A., Schilhart N., Wenning K., Wenning U.
38	HIRCHWALD	F18	Hirchwald J., Chatard D., Rocafort J., Barthe C., Combescure F., Cochet A.
39	ASLANLI	TU4	Ozan E., Falay F., Mine D., Uysal A.
40	WEIR	EN7	Weir S., Weir G., Dempster R., Dempster L.
41	SEUTET	F19	Seutet M., Aubry F., Caporali J., Caporali, Marani M., Bravermann L.
42	LAWSON	EN8	Lawson J., Armstrong J., Hackett B., Hackett J.
43	BARR	IS8	Barr R., Herbst I., Van Ettinger, Jansma J.
44	BEAUMIER	F20	Beaumier A., Beaumier D., Kitabgi A., Nahmias A.
45	LISS	GE6	Liss U., Rohowsky R., Schreckenber, Meybach R.
46	VARENNE	F21	Varenne M., Hishmat M., Grey H., Azzam A.
47	WILLS	USIT	Wills, Ini' A., Caramanti F., Wills
48	AVON	F07	Avon D., Stoppa J., Serf M., Stretz F.
49	BERTHEAU	SW3	Bertheau K., Nystrom F., Magnusson M., Midskog K.
50	STEEN	DE3	Steen K, Moller G, Hecht-JP, Hecht-JJ, Atali P
51	ALBERTI	GE2	Alberti A., Bausback N., Kuzselka B., Engel B.
52	GERARD	US4	Gerard J., D'Orsi E., Nudelman B., Blaiss G., Blaiss C.
53	OUTRED	SCI	Outred C., Outred V., Harper R., Harper U.
54	SOROLDONI	IT4	Soroldoni M., Vanosi G., Olivieri G., De Falco D., Du Pont L., Garozzo B.
55	GODFREY	ENF	Godfrey L., Gauither E., Lhere L., Delmas T., Smith N.
56	SAVOLAINEN	FI1	Savolainen P., Andersson L., Lara M., M. Capucho, Nehmert P.
57	GROMANN	GE3	Gromann I., Stahl W., Weber E., Weber F., Tetal C., Amann K.
58	GODET	SP3	GodeT F., Viola M., Fernandes J, CriadoDelRey
59	CARGEN	VE2	Bernazzani M., Rosen E., Tonon S., Bellini G.

60	LEENHARDT	F08	Leenhardt M., Leenhardt F., Renoux M., Mari C.
61	BROGELAND	NO2	Brogeland B., Aasand T., Fuglestad A., Saelensminde
62	DUCKWORTH	EN2	Duckworth C., Callaghan B., Moore J., Burn D.
63	CERSANIT	PO1	Adamczyk A., Kucharski P., Kowalska H., Majcher A.
64	TEDESCHI	CR1	Tedeschi E., Julius D., Matijevic I., Petrovic Z.
65	BICACO	TU2	Bicaco C., Ozdil M., Pisak M., Eskinaz N., Gokce G., Campanile P.
66	POLLACK	US5	Pollack B., Pollack R., Sontag A., Morse J.
67	VIVES	FO9	Vives K., Vives J.L., Poizat R., Poizat P.
68	DE BOTTON	EN3	De Botton J., Sandqvist N., Dhondy H., Hackett P.
69	GOTARD	GE4	Gotard B., Gotard T., Krogulska J., Jagniewski R.
70	WAKSMAN	UK1	Waksman S., Uszinski W., Chikhi M., Marill P., Lejuste F., Pigeaud F.
71	SVEDLUND	SW4	Svedlund H., Efraimsson B., Ternblad B., Ternblad S.
72	ZIMMERMANN	F10	Zimmermann P., D'Ovidio C., Moretti R., Saporta P., Bessis V., Bessis M.
73	BAK	NE1	Bak C., Van Cleeff J., Buket W., Ter Laare M.
74	MOKHBAT	LE2	Mokhbat J., Chacar J., Elkhazen M., Canto J.
75	GOLDBERG	FUS	Goldberg C., Levy D., Certain-M. C., Tardy
76	SJOBBERG	SW5	Sjoberg A., Sjoberg M., Ahlesved K., Sundberg G.
77	ROMANO	IT5	Pisani R., Marino L., Venini L., Marino P., Romano E., Marinoni P.
78	HARRISON	ENA	Harrison J., Fenwick N., Domichi N., Drik
79	GROMOVA	RU2	Gromova V., Gromov A., Ponomareva T., Krasnosselski, Romanovska M., Shudnev A.
80	RUSSO	IT8	Russo B., Attanasio D., Guerra E., Kowalski A., Manara G., Paoluzi S.
81	VANPOPERINGHE	F22	VanPoperinghe, Faivre E., Vincentelli T, Toffier P.
82	LEVY	USA	Levy A., Levy B., Retek G., Retek M.
83	COHEN	SC4	Cohen P., Cohen H., Alexander M., Alexander M.
84	DIX	MA1	Dix M., Stanley M., Grant P., Hornby S.
85	LEMAITRE	F23	Lemaitre, Dechelette, Naltet J, Counil
86	PENFOLD	EN9	Penfold S., Senior B., Senior N., Wolfarth G.
87	UISK	SW8	Uisk A., Nohren U., Evelius-Noren, Karlsson-Uisk, Swanstrom M. Gullberg T.
88	SPRING	USB	Spring J., Spring D., Lewis P., Lewis L.
89	BUONOCORE	ITRU	Buonocore A, Magnani C, Zarubenko I., Brushtunov
90	VRIEND	NE2	Hoogweg F., Van Prooijen, Schippers E., Niemeijer C., Vriend B., Maas A.
91	ROMBAUT	F12	Rombaut J., Klemmensen C., Lormant C., Lormant Y.
92	SAGIV	IS4	Sagiv Y., Poplilov M., Sagiv S., Poplilov L.
93	BROWNSTEIN	US6	Brownstein S., Pincus c., Myerson Al., Myerson Ab.
94	ZAGAJSEK	CR2	Zagajsek S., Refi B., Traub I., Krautsak D., Loncar I, Filjar D
95	KREMER	CA1	Kremer J., Kremer C., Blouquit C., Guillon J.
96	QUANTIN	F13	Quantin J., Halfon D., Faigenbaum A., Dutilloy N.
97	LABAERE	BE1	Labaere V., Labaere A., Dewasme I., Dehaye B.
98	FORNACIARI	IT6	Fornaciari E., Gigliotti D., Rosetta A., Ruspa G., Rossano E., Vivaldi A.
99	RYMAN	SW6	Ryman M., Ryman S., Ryman J., Hallberg G.
100	RAHELT	DE4	Rahelt M., Koch U., Aagaard T., Gregers B.
101	HAUGE	SC2	Leslie P., Cohen S., Hauge R., Svendsen J., Malinowski A., Thorensen S.
102	MOUIEL	F14	Mouiel H., Willard S., Levy A., Levy A.
103	WELLAND	US7	Welland R., Henner-W. C., Levin R., Levin J., Rosenberg M., Rosenberg D.
104	GRAIZER	IS5	Graizer N., Orvitz S., Naveh N., Mermelshtein
105	BANASZKIEWICZ	PO2	Banaszkiewicz, Pikus K., Hochecker D., Cichocki M., Pasternak M., Araszkiwicz
106	BRUNNER	EN4	Brunner M., Holland J., Goldenfield R, Goldenfield B
107	ZWILLINGER	IS6	Birman D., Liberman R., Birman D., Zwilling U., Smederevac J., Wernle S.
108	SOLARI	F15	Solari J., Rainbaud S., Isolard M., Mus M., Denoize
109	ABOUSLEIMAN	BU1	Abousleiman L, Karaivanon K., Ragi D., Stamatov J.
110	SANDERS	F12	Sanders D., Ievenko V., Koistinen K., Backstrom S.
111	LORENZ	AU2	Lorenz B., Sattler K., Semmelrath K., Hatlauf A.
112	SAESELLI	SW7	Saesseli I., langer D., Piedra F, Gwinner H.
113	BONORI	IT7	Bonori M., Gavelli G., Capodanno L., Franco A., Capodanno F, Calzoni M.
114	KAPLAN	F16	Kaplan L., Lustin C., Van Zwol W., Bitran A.
115	NAFTALY	IS7	Naftaly G., Arami R., Levit Y., Enciu S., Gelbard M., Zur-Campanila
116	MISZEWSKA	PO3	Miszewska E., Bizon P., Zalewska J., Golebiowski S
117	PRIDAY	EN5	Priday T., Priday V., Tokcan M., Tockan N.
118	MARTIN	SC3	Martin A., Wald R., Mc Gowan L., Baxter K.

PLEASE TELL THE BULLETIN STAFF ABOUT ANY ERROR IN THIS LIST

MIXED TEAMS - 1st QUALIFYING*(Standings after 5 rounds)*

GROUP A		
1	LAVAZZA	92
2	CURETTI	83
3	JACKSON	71
4	DUONG	69
5	HETZ	69
6	EVANS	63

GROUP B		
1	RAND	83
2	CHAGAS	74
3	BELLO	74
4	SVINDAHL	74
5	ARTMER	73
6	DE CRESCENZO	72

GROUP C		
1	MELTZER	97
2	CANESI	79
3	COLOMBARO	75
4	ALMIRALL	70
5	LJUNG	68
6	DITETOVA	56

GROUP D		
1	SCHALTZ	88
2	BARRETT	84
3	ALLIX	78
4	COMPTON	76
5	BERTILI	63
6	CARMIL	61

GROUP E		
1	KREFELD	92
2	DUGUET	89
3	O'ROURKE	80
4	LEON	68
5	KORDOV	67
6	GOLAY	52

GROUP F		
1	THUILLEZ	93
2	TELTSCHER	81
3	SELCHUK	80
4	RYNNING	78
5	CHAMAA	58

GROUP G		
1	HOLT	103
2	GRAMBERG	88
3	SEUTET	83
4	WEIR	71
5	HIRCHWALD	53
6	ASLANLI	52

GROUP H		
1	BARR	92
2	LISS	89
3	BEAUMIER	87
4	LAWSON	73
5	VARENNE	71
6	WILLS	28

GROUP I		
1	OUTRED	90
2	ALBERTI	89
3	AVON	80
4	BERTHEAU	73
5	GERARD	62
6	STEEN	54

GROUP J		
1	SOROLDONI	98
2	GROMANN	86
3	GODED	77
4	SAVOLAINEN	71
5	GODFREY	59
6	CARGEN	58

GROUP K		
1	BROGELAND	94
2	CERSANIT	92
3	DUCKWORTH	74
4	TEDESCHI	69
5	BICACO	64
6	LEENHARDT	50

GROUP L		
1	POLLACK	94
2	SVEDLUND	77
3	DE BOTTON	77
4	VIVES	73
5	WAKSMAN	66
6	GOTARD	60

GROUP M		
1	ZIMMERMANN	107
2	BAK	80
3	HARRISON	74
4	ROMANO	62
5	SJOBORG	62
6	GOLDBERG	57

GROUP N		
1	RUSSO	92
2	GROMOVA	88
3	DIX	75
4	LEVY	73
5	COHEN	66
6	VANPOPERINGHE	56

GROUP O		
1	LEMAITRE	88
2	SPRUNG	86
3	PENFOLD	76
4	BUONOCORE	74
5	UISK	67
6	MOKHBAT	52

GROUP P		
1	ZAGAJSEK	89
2	KREMER	86
3	ROMBAUT	86
4	VRIEND	84
5	BROWNSTEIN	56
6	SAGIV	48

GROUP Q		
1	QUANTIN	91
2	FORNACIARI	76
3	HAUGE	75
4	LABAERE	73
5	RAHELT	68
6	RYMAN	64

GROUP R		
1	BRUNNER	93
2	MOUIEL	83
3	WELLAND	78
4	BANASZKIEWICZ	72
5	GRAIZER	64

GROUP S		
1	ZWILLINGER	96
2	SAESSELI	95
3	SOLARI	68
4	ABOUSLEIMAN	67
5	LORENZ	61
6	SANDERS	61

GROUP T		
1	KAPLAN	88
2	PRIDAY	80
3	MARTIN	78
4	MISZEWSKA	72
5	BONORI	70
6	NAFTALY	62