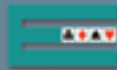


Menton - France
14th - 28th June 2003



Daily Bulletin

Editor: Jean-Paul Meyer - Co-Editor: Marc Horton

Journalists: Alberto Benetti, Franco Broccoli, Guy Dupont, Jos Jacobs, Philippe Brunel, Brent Mainley - Lay-out Editor: George Hadzidakis

Photographer: Ron Tacchi - Printing: Roberto Luchin

Bulletin 14

Saturday, 28 June 2003

France in Pole Position for the Grand Prix de Menton



Big Deal in Menton

Although there are still many deals to be played there is the possibility of a remarkable French treble. In the Open Paul Chemla & Phillippe Cronier are a near (0.01) behind India's Anil Phadye & Rajesh Dalal while Catherine d'Ovidio & Danielle Allouche are on top of the Woman's event, and the Seniors are led by François Leenhardt & Patrick Sussel.

Final Bulletin

We hope to bring you a final bulletin today with photos of the winners and the results. It should be available after the medal ceremonies.

Schedule of play

Today

10.00-14.00 O/W/S Pairs (Final A, B 3rd Session)
15.00-19.00 O/W/S Pairs (Final A 4th Session)

Prize Giving Ceremony

The Prize giving ceremony of the European Open Pairs Championships (Seniors, Women, Open) will be held today 28 June in the Theatre (VuGraph) at 19.45.

The following will be awarded:

- The three best classified pairs in each final (Title and Medals).
- The three best European Pairs in each category, coming from Europe - same country - best classified in the final (European Trophy to the Federation and replicas to the players).
- The three best classified pairs in the finals B & C (Open) and in the finals B (Women and Seniors)

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OPEN PAIRS

Final - 1st Session

An Impression

On Friday morning, 52 pairs were present at the start of the last stage of these Championships: the Final of the Open Pairs. It took some time before the boards had woken up, but once they had, some good and some nice stuff was in the air.

On board 10, the average score was -110 when EW made 3♣. Before they arrived there, they had already missed a chance, as this was the auction at one table:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K Q 3	♠ A K Q 3
♥ 6 4 2	♥ 6 4 2
♦ Q 6	♦ Q 6
♣ 8 6 3 2	♣ 8 6 3 2

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♠	1♦	1♠ (!)
3♣	All Pass	Dble (!)	Pass



Michel Bessis - Alain Lévy
Jean-Christophe Quantin - Michel Abécassis

Anyone for sitting the double and lead the ♥K?

3♣ makes because as trumps are drawn North is caught in a red-suit squeeze.

On the next board, the popular score was +450 as only three Easts led diamonds. Nobody made 12 tricks, however, but the chance was there when East led the ♠Q.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

If you guess the lead to be a singleton, 12 tricks are there: overtake the ♥Q, discard the diamonds and finesse the trumps. Pairs is a nervous game.

Take for example the next board, another useful 6-6:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 8 7 5 4 3	♠ A 8 7 5 4 3
♥ -	♥ -
♦ A K Q 8 6 2	♦ A K Q 8 6 2
♣ 8	♣ 8

As usual on this sort of wild hand, simply scoring +620 in 4♠ was way under average - just 13 M.P. The most spectacular bidding sequence on this hand we probably saw on VuGraph:

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Lévy	Abécassis	Bessis
Pass	Pass	INT (!)	2♦ (!)
3NT	Pass	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

2♦ showed spades and diamonds and so proved an excellent description of the South hand - just one mistaken little club. The real virtue of this convention, however, is that it is not forcing. Don't worry, someone will always bid again, it's pairs. In the end, justice was done and an nearly average score reached (only 31 M.P. for scoring +790).

On board 15, one strange score appeared: -480. What had happened?

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Did someone forget to cash the ♣AK first? Yes.
 Did declarer dare to finesse the ♥J immediately? Yes, as there had been an easy clue: a second-round take-out double by South after 1♠ - Pass - 2♣.
 Well played, Doron Yadlin.

A few boards later, the squeeze specialists could shine again:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

The optimum contract is 3NT (or optimistically 6NT) in West. Win the ♣Q lead with the king and play a heart to the queen. North takes and continues clubs. Win the ace, unblock the ♥Q, cross to the ♠K, throw a diamond on the ♥A and play all the spades. You have to decide to finesse the diamond or play for the squeeze in the end. Yet, there was just one 490 on the score sheet.

Overcalling on tram tickets has to be practised in pairs from time to time, but on the board below, West was caught speeding at eight tables and had to pay 800.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

It all happened very easily:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	Pass	1♣
All Pass			Dble

On the last board of the session, a very aggressive overcall after INT brought a very good score to the overcallers:

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gotard		Piekarek	
2♦	4♣	INT	2♣*(!)
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass
All Pass		Pass	Dble

2♣ showed majors (of any sort, apparently) and the final double settled the issue at 45 M.P. for NS for one down. In fact, 4♣ played by North even makes if the defenders don't lead hearts to prepare their heart ruff.

WOMEN PAIRS

Final - 1st Session

The Bidding Battle

The first session of the Women's Pairs final was very much a question of making the right bid at the right time - at least on the deals I watched. I leave it to you the reader to judge for example when the right bid was made at the wrong time.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 2		♠ Q J
♥ 8 6 5 4 2		♥ K Q J 9
♦ 9 3		♦ J 4
♣ J 9 7 3		♣ A Q 6 5 2
♠ K 9 6		
♥ A 10 7 3		
♦ 10 7 5		
♣ K 10 4		
	W	E
	N	S
♠ A 8 7 5 4 3		
♥ -		
♦ A K Q 8 6 2		
♣ 8		

West	North	East	South
Erhart	Delogh	Smederevac	Avon
Pass	Pass	INT	4♠
Dble	Pass	5♣	5♦
5♥	All Pass		

When Maria Erhart made a card showing double of Four Spades Jovi Smederevac did very well to bid Five Clubs. Her side was now assured of a fine score whatever happened. The defenders cashed a spade and two diamonds, but that was all they could take. Declarer could cope easily with the 5-0 trump break. After one round of trumps she cashed three top clubs followed by the king of spades and could claim the rest via a high cross ruff. Minus 50 was worth 26 of the 30 available matchpoints, and at this stage the leaders had retained their position at the top of the table.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ K 10 7		♠ A Q J 8 2
♥ A J 6 4		♥ 8
♦ Q J		♦ K 10 8 7 5 4
♣ A Q 8 5		♣ 2
♠ 9 6 4 3		
♥ K Q 9 7 5 3		
♦ -		
♣ 10 9 6		
	W	E
	N	S
♠ 5		
♥ 10 2		
♦ A 9 6 3 2		
♣ K J 7 4 3		

West	North	East	South
Weigkrich	Gromova	Kellner	Ponomareva
	INT	2♦*	Dble*
2♠	Dble	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

Two Diamonds promised spades and South made a card showing double. If East had passed Two Spades would South have moved? You certainly need to, as East is a certainty to make at least eight tricks, should make nine, and might come to ten against inaccurate defence. It seemed strange for North to remove her partner's double, but in a sense she was right to do so. However, 3NT would have been the winning choice. Five Clubs had no real chance. West led the nine of spades and East won and switched to the king of diamonds. West ruffed and had to come to a heart trick. That was worth 26/30 for the Austrian pair, who were well in the hunt for a medal.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ Q 8 6 5		♠ K 10 3 2
♥ K 7 6 5		♥ -
♦ 10 5 3		♦ A 8 7 6
♣ 10 7		♣ K Q 8 5 3
♠ J 9		
♥ A 9 4		
♦ Q J 9 4 2		
♣ 9 6 2		
	W	E
	N	S
♠ A 7 4		
♥ Q J 10 8 3 2		
♦ K		
♣ A J 4		

West	North	East	South
Weigkrich	Gromova	Kellner	Ponomareva
		1♠*	2♥
Dble	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	5♣	Dble
All Pass			

One Spade was the start of a potential Canapé, but East decided not to bid over Three Hearts. However, when South went on to game East decided it was time to come again.

That was not a good idea here, with Four Hearts due to fail, but if you are going bid then 4NT must be best, suggesting that you are playable in both minors. Five Clubs proved to be a very uncomfortable spot.

Declarer won the opening heart lead with the ace, pitching a spade and took the diamond finesse. Forced at trick two she tried the queen of clubs. West won and played a third heart. Declarer ruffed, cashed the king of clubs and played diamonds. West

bided her time, and eventually came in with the ace of spades, drew declarer's last trump and cashed a heart. +500 and 26/30.

The young Danish pair were doing well, but they didn't cope well with this board:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Simons	Krefeld	Pasman	Kirstan
	1♦	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

Three Hearts showed more than a minimum and in theory no singletons. West cashed the ace of clubs and then switched to a diamond. Declarer won in hand and played the jack of hearts. West followed with the three - maybe the nine would be better? - and East won and returned a club. +50 was worth 21/9.

The Netherlands had qualified several pairs and one of them was having an excellent session.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A J 9 3 ♥ Q 6 4 ♦ Q J 9 ♣ Q J 8	<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 4 ♥ A K J 10 3 2 ♦ K 10 8 7 4 ♣ -	♠ Q 10 8 7 2 ♥ 9 7 5 ♦ 2 ♣ A 7 6 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
Van Zwol	Belogh	Hoogweg	Avon
	Pass	1♥	Pass
Pass	Pass	4♦	1♠
Dble	3♠		All Pass

Missing this game was very expensive, giving East/West only 5 points. Where does the blame lie? Well, I don't think there is any case for West to take another bid, so East must accept responsibility. When partner has shown some cards it is surely right to simply bid Four Hearts over Three Spades. Assuming you buy the hand eleven tricks are possible and would be worth 24/30.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Van Zwol	Belogh	Hoogweg	Avon
	Pass	1♦	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	3♥	Dble	3♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

North chose a singularly unfortunate moment to protect. Declarer had to get the clubs right to escape with -500, but that did not trouble the scorer.



Danielle Avon, France

OPEN PAIRS

Final

Eyes on the prize

Going into the final four sessions of the Open Pairs, Americans Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell were leading - and attracting attention.

They were first up on the vugraph presentation, and they made a second appearance before the first final session was completed.

When all was said and done, they were still in the lead, by a bit more than 2 percentage points. As usual with the two, often referred to collectively as Meckwell, there was lots of action at their table.

Rodwell started the day by making an overtrick in INT for 39 out of 50 matchpoints. On the second deal, against Alain Lévy and Michel Bessis, a less-than-robust raise by Lévy got the pair too high.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

	♠ A 7 6										
	♥ J 9 4										
	♦ K J 7										
	♣ Q 10 8 2										
♠ 8 4 2	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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 J
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ Q 6 3 2	♥ A K 10 7 5										
♦ 8 5 3	♦ Q 9										
♣ 7 5 4	♣ A K 9 3										
	♠ Q 10 9 5 3										
	♥ 8										
	♦ A 10 6 4 2										
	♣ J 6										

West	North	East	South
Lévy	Rodwell	Bessis	Meckstroth
2♥	2♠	1♥	1♠
		4♥	All Pass

Lévy's feather-light raise did not provide the dummy Bessis needed. Just one more queen, perhaps that of clubs, would have been sufficient. As it was, nine tricks was the limit and Bessis was minus 50. The Americans were off to a good start with another 36 MPs.

The next four rounds were not so kind, and the leaders dropped into second place with a total of 58 matchpoints out of a possible 200. Their comeback began on the following deal.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ A K 6 4 3 2										
	♥ A 10										
	♦ J 9 8										
	♣ 4 3										
♠ J	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ 4 3	♥ 9 7 6 2										
♦ A Q 10 7 4 3	♦ 6 5										
♣ K J 6 5	♣ Q 9 8 2										
	♠ 10 8 5										
	♥ K Q J 8 5										
	♦ K 2										
	♣ A 10 7										

West	North	East	South
	Rodwell		Meckstroth
Pass	2♥	Pass	INT
3♦	4♠	All Pass	2♠

INT was ostensibly 14-16, but as vugraph commentator Eric Kokish pointed out earlier in the day, some 13-point hands get upgraded, as was Meckstroth's on this occasion. It served the pair well, guiding the spade contract to the South hand.

West started with his singleton trump, taken in dummy. Meckstroth cashed the other top spade and ran five rounds of hearts, discarding all of dummy's diamonds. The defenders got only a club and the high spade. Plus 650 was worth all of the matchpoints.

Meckstroth played well on the following deal in an awkward spot to land his contract.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

	♠ K J 8 7 5										
	♥ A 10 9 6										
	♦ 10 8 5 3										
	♣ -										
♠ A Q 9	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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		♠ 10 6 4 3 2
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ K Q	♥ J 8 5 2										
♦ Q 7 6 4	♦ K										
♣ Q 6 4 2	♣ 10 9 3										
	♠ -										
	♥ 7 4 3										
	♦ A J 9 2										
	♣ A K J 8 7 5										

West	North	East	South
	Rodwell		Meckstroth
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

2♣ showed a good hand but not necessarily a fit for the over-called suit. With a void in each hand, notrump was not an ideal spot, but Meckstroth handled it adroitly.

West started with a low diamond to the king and ace, and Meckstroth returned a diamond to dummy's 8. A third round of diamonds was ducked by West. Meckstroth, in his hand, played a low heart, ducking when West played the queen. West cashed the ♦Q and East, who had discarded the ♣10 and ♠3 on the second and third rounds of diamonds, now discarded the ♣3. West continued with the ♥K, taken in dummy with the ace, and Meckstroth played the ♥9 to East's jack, West discarding a club.

It seems best for East to stick North in by returning a heart to dummy's 10, forcing him to lead away from the ♠K, but West has an awkward discard on the fourth round of hearts. If he pitches a club, declarer can play a low spade from dummy, losing two spades but no other tricks. East can win the ♠10, but if East

returns a club, the ace and king will drop West's queen. If West discards a spade, declarer can lead any spade from dummy. If West wins the queen, he will be endplayed after cashing the ace. If he wins the ace and sticks declarer back in dummy with the queen, dummy's spots are good enough to overcome East's length.

All that was moot, however, because East returned a club. Meckstroth cashed the high clubs and put West in with the queen. West had to give dummy two of the last three tricks. Plus 120 was good for 34.44 matchpoints.

Round five was excellent for the Americans, as East-West had a bidding accident, landing in 2♣ on a 4-2 fit that played very badly. That was minus 300 and 45 MPs to Meckstroth and Rodwell. The next deal was passed out - another 43 MPs to the Americans.

On most occasions when you play 4♣ doubled, making, it's very close to a top. Not in a field such as the Open Pairs in Menton. Have a look:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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



Jean-Christophe Quantin

West	North	East	South
Pass	Rodwell	INT	Meckstroth
Dble	Pass		4♠
	All Pass		

There was nothing East-West could do. Meckstroth lost two spades and a club for plus 790, but only 31 MPs. Sixteen other pairs recorded the same score, and there were two lower-level spade contracts that were doubled, making with overtricks, of course. Still, you don't sneeze at 62% of the matchpoints. Consider the poor South players who went undoubled in 4♠. Plus 620 was a mere 13 out of 50 MPs.

The Americans received another gift on Board 14 when a defender against Meckstroth's 3♥ ducked the setting trick, winding up minus 140 for about 7 MPs when taking the trick would have given his side a score four times higher.

By the end of round seven, Meckstroth and Rodwell had rehabilitated their game, which at one point stood at 44%, to nearly 61%.

The next four boards were two bad ones and two averages. It was time for another rally. As it happened, it occurred in round 11 against the pair sitting second to Meckstroth and Rodwell after the 10th round - French stars Michel Abecassis and Jean-Christophe Quantin.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Abecassis	Rodwell	Quantin	Meckstroth
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
3♦	Pass	Dble	Pass
	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The previous day, Meckstroth had played 3NT with the heart suit wide open, but the opponent on lead had a more attractive suit to start proceedings with. That happened to let the contract through with overtricks. Quantin might have been similarly lucky - he has nine tricks if he can gain the lead in time -- although on this occasion Meckstroth could lead his partner's suit but would have to switch to something else at trick two. Meckstroth cut out the middleman by simply leading his best suit, to devastating effect. On the lead of the ♣9, Quantin put up the queen in desperation, but Rodwell won the ace and returned the 3, Quantin discarding a diamond. Meckstroth won the ♠10, unblocked the ♥A and returned a club to Rodwell, who won the jack, cashed the ♥K and went back to clubs. Meckstroth and Rodwell had the first seven tricks for plus 150 and 43 MPs.

They did even better on the next deal.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 7 6 4 ♥ - ♦ K Q 8 7 4 3 2 ♣ 6 3	♠ K Q 10 8 ♥ 10 7 3 ♦ 9 6 5 ♣ A 10 7 N W E S	♠ A J 5 ♥ K J 6 4 ♦ 10 ♣ Q J 9 5 2
	♠ 3 2 ♥ A Q 9 8 5 2 ♦ A J ♣ K 8 4	

West	North	East	South
Abecassis	Rodwell	Quantin	Meckstroth
		1♣	1♥
Dble	2♦*	Pass	2♥
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♥
4♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Rodwell's 2♦ was alerted as showing a "decent" three-card heart raise. North-South can make game - indeed, 11 of the 26 pairs bid game in hearts or notrump. Had Abecassis passed 3♥, the likely minus 170 would have been worth 32 MPs for his side. The void in hearts and long suit were too tempting, however, so Abecassis tried one more time. Meckstroth expressed his doubts, and Rodwell started with a low heart to the jack and queen, ruffed in the closed hand.

West played a low club, ducked by Rodwell to Meckstroth's king, and the defense was deadly accurate from there.

Meckstroth switched to the ♠3, to the queen and ace, and when declarer played dummy's diamond, Meckstroth hopped up with the ace, played a spade to Rodwell's king, ruffed the spade return and played a club to Rodwell's ace. Rodwell still had the ♠10 to cash for plus 800 and 49 out of 50 MPs.

On the penultimate round, the Americans were slightly below average (they doubled 1♠ for penalty but could not manage more than plus 500 against their vulnerable game).

The final round - a wild one - improved the American's score, but it could have been better.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ A ♥ K J 9 6 2 ♦ Q 10 9 8 6 ♣ 3 2	♠ K Q 5 3 ♥ - ♦ A 4 3 2 ♣ A K 10 9 4 N W E S	♠ J 10 8 7 6 ♥ 10 8 7 3 ♦ 7 ♣ 8 7 5
	♠ 9 4 2 ♥ A Q 5 4 ♦ K J 5 ♣ Q J 6	

West	North	East	South
	Rodwell		Meckstroth
	1♣*	Pass	1♥*
Dble	2♣	Pass	2♦*
Dble	Pass	2♠	Dble
3♦	Dble	3♥	Dble
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♣ was Precision, 1♥ showed 8+ HCP and five or more spades or 11-13 balanced. 2♦ showed the latter. West had reason to double both of Meckstroth's artificial bids, with strong holdings in both suits. When East stuck his nose in with 2♠, Meckstroth had visions of a big number for the plus column of his scorecard. It got better when West ran to the three level, and even in their nine-card heart fit, East-West were going for at least 500. Rodwell, however, pulled the double to 3♠ and Meckstroth had to settle for the notrump game. He made 11 tricks easily enough on a heart lead for an above-average score, but plus 500 would have been worth 46 MPs.

The final deal of the set also featured lots of action.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ 8 ♥ 10 8 2 ♦ Q 10 8 7 5 4 2 ♣ A 4	♠ 7 6 5 3 2 ♥ K 9 5 3 ♦ - ♣ K J 3 2 N W E S	♠ A Q 10 ♥ A 6 ♦ A 9 3 ♣ Q 10 9 7 5
	♠ K J 9 4 ♥ Q J 7 4 ♦ K J 6 ♣ 8 6	

West	North	East	South
	Rodwell		Meckstroth
		INT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Redble	3♥
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	4♦	All Pass

West obviously was encouraged by his partner's redouble - perhaps he envisioned East with the ♦A K x, in which case his hand would be worth seven tricks. It is interesting to note that only a club lead defeats 3NT - it is necessary to remove the entry to the diamonds, since South can hold up his king to cut declarer off. Whether Meckstroth would have found the lead will never be known since East ran from the double. Lesser players might have doubled simply from being in the rhythm of doing so, but not Meckstroth.

The contract could not be defeated, so the Americans were minus 130, but they scored 36 to end their session still in first place with a 58.32% game.

Jack Retains Title of World Computer-Bridge Champion

Jack defeated Bridge Baron in the 64-board final, 188-117, to retain the title of World Computer-Bridge Champion. This is Jack's third year in a row as title holder. Jack won the 2000 championship in Maastricht by defeating Micro Bridge in the final and the 2001 championship in Montreal by defeating Wbridge5 in the final. Jack started with a 2 IMP carryover. To get a carryover you have to have beaten your opponent in your head-to-head round robin match and end up higher in the round robin standing.

	Carryover	1-15	16-32	33-47	48-64	Total
Bridge Baron, USA		26	29	6	56	117
Jack, The Netherlands	2	79	34	56	17	188

Jack accumulated an early lead, in part due to board 7, and never looked back.

Dealer West. All Vul

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

West	North	East	South
BB	Jack	BB	Jack
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT!
Pass	3♥!	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

After 2♠ by North, South made an asking bid and North showed good trumps and a minimum hand. South judged that game was over 40% and bid the vulnerable game. BB led the ♣Q. Of course Jack ducked and eventually ruffed out the ♣A to set up the ♣K for a diamond pitch. + 620 to Jack

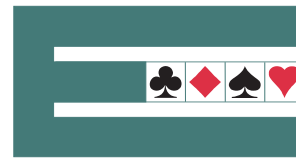
In the replay,

West	North	East	South
Jack	BB	Jack	BB
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

South made a general game try and North, with minimal values, passed. Jack led the ♦5. BB won the ♦K in hand and led a club to the king and ace. Eventually, BB lost a heart, club, spade and the fourth diamond. + 140 to Bridge Baron, and 10 IMPs to Jack.

Al Levy

New Officers in the EBL



At the first meeting of the new Executive Committee of the European Bridge League, which was elected by the EBL General Assembly last week, the following officers were nominated by the President Gianarrigo Rona and unanimously confirmed by the Executive:

First Vice President: Jens AUKEN (Denmark)
Second Vice President: Radoslaw KIELBASINSKI (Poland)
Hon. Secretary: Panos GERONTOPOULOS (Greece)
Treasurer: Marc de PAUW (Belgium)

The President, the above officers and in addition Jean-Claude BEINEIX (France) & Marijke BLANKEN-BURGERS (The Netherlands) will constitute the EBL **Presidential Council**.

Bill PENCHARZ (England) was confirmed EBL General Counsel.

The following were elected delegates of the European Zone to the Executive Council of the World Bridge Federation for the period 2003-07:

Gianarrigo RONA
 Jens AUKEN
 Radoslaw KIELBASINSKI
 Panos GERONTOPOULOS
 Marc de PAUW

In addition, Anna Maria TORLONTANO is to take up a special position, being in charge of the Women section and Protocol within the WBF.

The following appointments were also made:

WBF & WBF Zones Liaison: Panos GERONTOPOULOS
Protocol & Ceremonies: Anna Maria TORLONTANO
IT Systems Consultant: Gianni BALDI
Technical Director: Ton KOIJMAN
Championships Director: Federigo FERRARI CASTELLANI
Head Tournament Director: Antonio RICCARDI

Finally, the various EBL Committees were appointed, to be listed in the EBL website (www.eurobridge.org)

Do you play Barbu?

The online Barbu score is taking off. If you would like to play please look here: <http://www.math.ucsd.edu/~ghazel/barbuwin.html> Or send an email to Andy.Bowles@virgin.net There are games most evenings around 18.00 - midnight UK time on weekdays, and throughout the day at weekends. The game is free to play.

Message from the Chairman of the Appeals Committee

Herman De Wael tells me that the number of appeals made here in Menton is below the average for a European Championship. When you bear in mind that the *chaleur* has increased the heat generated by the competition this is a remarkable statistic and reflects great credit on the skills of the Tournament Directors and good sense of the players. I would like to send a big **thank you** to:

- Antonio Riccardi and his team for the consistently high standard of the Tournament Director's rulings;
- all members of the Appeals Committee who gave their time and expertise with a special mention to Steen Møller, Gary Blaiss, Grattan Endicott and Jean-Paul Meyer.
- Herman De Wael for attending and scribing every Appeal
- and most of all to you the players for avoiding litigation where you can and when you can't for being gracious in success and stoical in defeat.

*Bill Pencharz
Chairman, Appeals Committee*

Double Chicane

Mark Horton

If you have been driving around the hills surrounding Menton you may have noticed there are some very severe bends - what might be called chicanes. They can be difficult to negotiate for all but the most skilful drivers. On this deal the defenders had to negotiate not one chicane but two.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

The popular contract on this deal from the first session of the pair's semi-final was Four Spades. The contract was made several times, but not at the table occupied by Maria Erhart & Jovanka Smederevac, who are leading the women's event. What is more, Jovi, who was South, had doubled the final contract.

She led the ace of hearts and continued the suit, declarer winning with the queen. When declarer played the king of spades Jovi ducked. When she also ducked the queen of spades declarer saw the 4-1 break and realised it would be fatal to play a third spade as South could win and simply play a fourth spade. So declarer played a diamond. Jovi won and promptly played a heart into the double chicane. Declarer had no answer and had to concede one down.

Statistics from the Appeals Committee

by Herman De Wael

During these championships (not counting the last day), 38 cases were brought before the Appeals Committee. Compared to the total number boards (see below), this means the Board Appeal Ratio is 0.31 appeals per 1,000 boards, which is a small number when compared to the 0.58 from Warszawa (European Pairs 1999) or 0.56 from Salsomaggiore (European Teams 2002).

15 appeals were from the Teams' tournaments (BAR:0.31) and 23 from the Pairs (0.31).

The Women proved very appealing, with 8 cases (0.67) against 21 for the Open (0.38) and 8 for the mixed (0.19). The seniors were apparently very satisfied with their Directors, as they appealed only once.

Only in 13 cases was some change brought to the Director's ruling.

The deposit was kept 5 times, but a number of other appellants came very close to losing theirs.

The Appeals Committee did not need to use outside help, as all cases were heard from within the group of six members. Despite members having to abstain when players of their own country were involved, an average of 4.54 members served on the Committees. Only once, a Committee was convened composed of the minimum number of 3 members.

All the Appeals have been written up and will be published, although the precise method has not yet been decided.

With regards to the question asked at the end of Appeal 20, whether the players would understand and appreciate rulings such as the one described in the personal note, I received three kinds of answers: a majority said, "no and yes", a minority answered "yes and yes" and one person joked "I think there ought to be a square root in there somewhere".

Total number of boards:

Not counting possible drop-outs during the final day, 123,623 boards will have been played during these championships. This includes the extra boards in two knock-out matches, and the replayed boards of last week, but excludes boards not played in sit-outs.

This makes these first Open European Championships the largest ones ever organised by the EBL, easily doubling the 54,396 of Malta.

In order to compare the championships to those in the ACBL, we have also counted the number of "tables", which is the way the Americans usually measure tournaments. The counter stopped at 5,089, which makes this event larger than most Regionals, but only about half as large as the Nationals.

Vanishing Tricks

Mark Horton

How many tricks do you think your trump suit will be worth if it is ♠63 opposite ♠K10872?

Take a look at this deal from the Open Teams round of 32 match between Reps and Karavainov.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Gotard</i>		<i>Piekerek</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♦*	Pass	1♠	All Pass

South led the jack of hearts and declarer took the ace and king of both red suits and then exited with the jack of clubs. North won with the king, and returned a club to South's ace. When declarer won the heart exit this was the position:

	♠ Q 9 4		
	♥ -		
	♦ Q 10 6		
	♣ -		
♠ 6 3	N	♠ K 10 8 7 2	
♥ -	W E	♥ 8	
♦ 8 7	S	♦ -	
♣ Q 6		♣ -	
	♠ A J 5		
	♥ -		
	♦ -		
	♣ 9 7 3		

Remember, the defenders need five of the last six tricks to defeat the contract.

Declarer ruffed a heart but allowed North to overruff with the four. On the ten of diamonds declarer ruffed with the ten of spades and South scored the jack. He exited with a club and North discarded a diamond. Declarer had to ruff and exited with the seven of spades. North won with nine and played a diamond. You will probably be ahead of me by now - declarer put up the king and had achieved one down.

Apologies

Dear friends,

I am defenceless. What can I do, what can I say? At the first cocktail I presented my most heartfelt apologies. Now I am truly dismayed; it seems like a bad dream, in fact a nightmare, but instead I realise that it's the unbearable reality.

I am truly saddened because we have worked for months and months with care and enthusiasm to organise everything in the best way possible, so that you could be at ease here and so that the Championship could offer you moments of joy and serenity. I am truly saddened because your presence at the Championship does not deserve to be repaid in this way. I am truly saddened because our magnificent staff (which has worked with passion and dedication and continues to do so, heart and soul, amid conditions which are utterly prohibitive also for them) do not deserve to see their efforts thwarted, do not deserve to feel disheartened as they do seeing you voicing your justifiable dissatisfaction. I am truly saddened because the image we have presented is certainly not what we wanted, and I can assure you it is not usual for us. I am truly saddened to have disappointed you.

Believe me, I am the first to realise that I cannot hide behind the excuse of the heat wave. It is true, however, that such a scourge has not occurred for over forty years, but it is also true that one should plan for all eventualities.

As President of the EBL, and especially according to my principles, I personally assume all responsibility for what has happened. I will make amends for this and I promise that such a situation will never happen again. I assure you that I have never not lived up to my word throughout my whole life, and for me this is worth more than an oath.

In another part of the Daily Bulletin you will find an announcement from the EBL Executive Committee inviting you to let us have your comments and suggestions for the future. I assure you that all of them will be given due consideration. My letter here is intended as a personal message not only from the President of the EBL, but from a bridgeplayer and friend.

I would like to thank you, dear friends, all of you, for your exemplary behaviour even in these conditions, which demonstrates your true love of bridge. I wish to thank you for the calm and civil way in which you have voiced your rightful complaints, presented almost more as suggestions for the future rather than reproaches. I wish to thank you because I feel you are all close to me.

Un abbraccio to you all.

Gianarrigo Rona
EBL President

Thank you for coming!

The EBL wishes to thank all competitors for coming to Menton and being part of a historic event, the 1st European Open Championship.

This event reflects a new philosophy in that the EBL now embraces all European players, not just the top ones. And this happens in cooperation with the NBOs who are actively supporting this idea. The European Open Championships will be held every odd-numbered year in a place suitable for bridge, holidays and fun for everybody!

The first event in Menton brought us back to a place that won universal acclaim when the European Team Championships were held here exactly ten years ago. The idea was to combine the wonderful surroundings with a first-class tournament. A lot of effort was put into this, but unfortunately we have had to face many difficulties.

The main one was, of course, the heat. We are told that such weather occurs rarely. But it has occurred now, and the lack of air-conditioning in *Palais de l'Europe* has showed this as much as one could imagine. Other people complained about the timing, noise, smoking, mobile phones, etc. All in all, things did not go the way we planned - much to everyone's regret.

Our aim has always been - and still remains - to offer you the best service possible. **Have no doubt that we are going to achieve this, and you are going to enjoy it.** However, we need your cooperation.

When you get home, please take a moment to think what you liked and what you didn't in the 1st European Open Championship. Then, send us an email message to the address menton@eurobridge.org, mentioning the points you wish to see improved. You don't need to write much - just mention the points. And please, don't think that others will do it for you. Everybody's opinion counts - and the opinions of a large group takes precedence over those of a smaller one.

The EBL Executive Committee has already decided that **all complaints will be considered thoroughly.** The outcome will be used for a much better 2nd European Open Championship in 2005. That's a promise.

With your help and support.

For You.

For Europe.

For Bridge.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

The EBL Executive Committee

Slow but Deadly

Peter Lund (aided by Mark Horton)

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Pass	INT	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT

All Pass

The "old" Danish top player Stig Werdelin, who made his debut in a European Championship more than 40 years ago, is still playing as in his young days - but may be a little slower. On this board he made one of the best technical play we have seen here in Menton: "entry-shifting-endplay-squeeze" - or what is the name for this squeeze? Maybe it's a Stepping Stone?

Declarer won the opening lead of the two of spades with dummy's queen and played the queen of hearts. When that held he played the jack of hearts. West won and returned the nine of spades. Declarer won and played a heart to West's seven. His club switch was taken by East's king and declarer won the club return in hand.

Now Stig took a pause of at least five minutes trying to find a way to nine tricks - His left hand opponent said: 'Give up - you have no chance,' but Stig didn't give up. This was the ending:

♠ - ♥ - ♦ K J 9 8 7 ♣ A	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; 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 10 8 ♥ - ♦ 10 4 ♣ 6
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ - ♥ A ♦ Q 6 3 ♣ 10 7	♠ A 6 ♥ 10 6 ♦ A ♣ Q										

Stig took the ace of diamonds and then the ace of spades forced West to discard a club. Stig promptly discarded the ace of clubs! He cashed the club queen and then played a heart, forcing West to win and play a diamond.

There is away to defeat the contract, but it is not easy. West must win the queen of hearts and switch to a club. But East must withhold the king! When West regains the lead he plays a second club and declarer has no counter.

François COLIN

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All the statistics are categorised by choice of opening bid, strength, vulnerability.

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It's on opening bids of 2♠ with five cards (or less) and 8 HCP or less when the opponents are vulnerable. This is just a small free sample of what is available.

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Philippe Toffier

"These papers have been very useful to us. Those on the atypical opening bids played abroad and on the weak NT are very precious as they enable you to judge quickly if your defence against it will work."

Jérôme Rombaut

"It's good for your own morale to see hands "murdered" by champions and know this does not only happen to you..."

Michel Duguet

"Thanks for this wonderful device. I hope that it will help us to reach the podium!"

Guy Lasserre

(This quote is before his two gold medals in Salsomaggiore and here in Menton)

Training Papers for the French national teams:

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3. Defence against preemptive 2♦ opening bids (121 deals)	Eur 22,00
4. Defence against preemptive and natural 2♣ opening bids (83 deals)	Eur 20,00
5. Opening bids on strong hands (86 deals EW)	Eur 20,00
6. Opening bids on strong hands (86 deals NS)	Eur 20,00
7. Defence against classic weak 2♥ opening bids (66 deals)	Eur 18,00
7bis. Defence against modern weak 2♥ opening bids (56 deals)	Eur 16,00
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8bis. Defence against classic weak 2♠ opening bids (56 deals)	Eur 16,00

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François Colin, France

No Escape

Mark Horton

Here is a neat piece of play from the third session of the pairs qualifying contest.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ 7 ♥ 10 8 5 4 3 ♦ 7 6 2 ♣ 9 7 5 4</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; 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		<p>♠ J 10 4 3 2 ♥ - ♦ A K Q 10 5 ♣ K J 3</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>♠ A 9 8</td> <td>♥ K Q J 7 6 2</td> <td>♦ 8 3</td> <td>♣ Q 8</td> </tr> </table>	♠ A 9 8	♥ K Q J 7 6 2	♦ 8 3	♣ Q 8						
♠ A 9 8	♥ K Q J 7 6 2	♦ 8 3	♣ Q 8								

<p>♠ K Q 6 5 ♥ - ♦ - ♣ A 10</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; 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		<p>♠ J 10 4 3 ♥ - ♦ - ♣ K J</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										
<p>♠ 7 ♥ 10 ♦ - ♣ 9 7 5 4</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>♠ A 9 8</td> <td>♥ 2</td> <td>♦ -</td> <td>♣ Q 8</td> </tr> </table>	♠ A 9 8	♥ 2	♦ -	♣ Q 8						
♠ A 9 8	♥ 2	♦ -	♣ Q 8								

West won his side's third trick with the ten of hearts but when declarer discarded the ten of clubs from the dummy East had no answer.

West	North	East	South
	<i>Burg</i>		<i>Buchmayr</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

The defence started with three rounds of diamonds, forcing declarer to ruff. As there were ten top tricks if hearts were 4-1 declarer was not prepared to risk playing a heart to the nine, although it must have been tempting. Instead he played a heart to the ace and continued the suit when East showed out.

When he played the last heart this was the position:

It's also a Pleasure

Yesterday we published an unsigned appreciation. You have probably worked out it was by the Editor, Jean Paul Meyer. He is the perfect Chief. If he were in the army, he would be awarded his Marshall's Baton long ago. (We recall the words of Napoleon, Every soldier carries a Marshall's baton in his pack!)



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We look forward to welcoming you to Malmö and the Bridge Festival 2004!

www.bridgefestival.net



La Gazette du Palais

par Guy Dupont et Philippe Brunel

Les raisons d'une défaite

WBridge5, le logiciel français, a terminé bon premier des éliminatoires du championnat du monde des ordinateurs. Mais on n'épiloguera pas trop sur sa défaite, face à Bridge Baron, en demi-finale. Yves Costel, son père, croyait que l'épreuve se disputait en 48 donnes, à l'issue desquelles il pensait avoir gagné (il possédait une avance de 55 imp). Quand il fut informé, le lendemain matin, qu'il restait 16 donnes à jouer, accouru en toute hâte, il n'introduisit pas les bons paramètres dans sa machine pour se défendre contre les conventions spécifiques de son adversaire. Résultat : celui-ci lui reprit 59 imp en 16 donnes, et il fut battu de 4 imp.

Sam suffit !

Gaston Méjane et Patrice Dumazet ont oublié de jouer la dernière position de la demi-finale A ! Heureusement pour eux, ils avaient suffisamment d'avance ! En effet, malgré deux zéros sur les donnes non-jouées, ils ont tout de même fini 11e. Assez sportif... mais mauvais pour le carry-over de la phase finale.

Propulsion

Bogdan Marina et Gilles Quéran avaient terminé 190èmes des éliminatoires du championnat par paires. Le second, malade, avait dû déclarer forfait pour la suite de l'épreuve. Et c'est finalement avec Yves Jeanneteau, qui ne souhaitait pas poursuivre la compétition, après sa modeste prestation dans les éliminatoires, que Marina s'associa - avec l'accord des arbitres - pour la suite du tournoi dans la demi-finale B. Que croyez-vous qu'il arriva ? Trois séances " canon " à 60,07 %, 61,36 et 64,69 les propulsèrent en tête de l'épreuve, et c'est ainsi qu'ils obtinrent le premier billet de repêchage pour la finale A.

A la croisée des chemins

Le sacrifice est l'apanage des champions. N'imaginez pas qu'ils en font par altruisme, car ceux qu'ils choisissent de faire sont généralement assez payants.

Finale A - Donne 16 - OIEO

♠ D 6 5 4		♠ A 10 9 2									
♥ A R 10 9 5 2		♥ 8 7									
♦ 7		♦ 8 5 3									
♣ D 10		♣ 6 5 4 3									
♠ V 8 7 3											
♥ -											
♦ A R V 6 4											
♣ R 9 7 2											
	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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		
	N										
O		E									
	S										
♠ R											
♥ D V 6 4 3											
♦ D 10 9 2											
♣ A V 8											

Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
A.Lévy		M.Bessis	
1♦	1♥	Passe	4♥

Sur l'entame du 3 de ♦ (pair-impair), le mort appelle le 2. **Comment voyez-vous la défense avec la main d'Ouest ?**

Alain Lévy a immédiatement visualisé que, s'il prenait la levée du Valet, le déclarant allait lui expasser successivement l'As puis le Roi de ♦ pour défausser un ♣. En conséquence, il décida de lui cacher le Valet de ♦ en prenant l'entame du Roi. Le retour à ♠ fut pris de l'As et un petit ♣ arriva sur la table. Le déclarant était à la croisée des chemins. Fallait-il fournir petit, ou taper l'As et tenter l'affranchissement des ♦ ?

N'ayant pu localiser le Valet de ♦, le déclarant s'en remit à l'impasse ♣ et ne fit que 10 levées.

Les deux Claude

Un coup de la deuxième séance des demi-finales seniors. Les deux Claude (Bindi et Bensoussan), comme on les appelle sur la Côte, ont encore frappé !

Donne 10, E/T

♠ 7		♠ 9 8 2									
♥ A 8 6 3		♥ R D 9 4									
♦ R V 10		♦ D 7 4									
♣ A R 8 7 3		♣ V 9 4									
	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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		
	N										
O		E									
	S										
		♠ A D 6									
		♥ 10 7 5 2									
		♦ 6 5 3									
		♣ D 6 2									

Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
Bindi		Bensoussan	
1♣	2♠	Passe	Passe
4♥	(Fin)	X	3♠

Nord entame à ♠, pour l'As de Sud, qui insiste à ♠, coupé. Bindi présente le Roi de ♦, qui fait la levée, puis le Valet. Nord encaisse de l'As et rejoue ♦, pour la Dame du mort. Le déclarant en profite pour couper le dernier ♠, et tire alors As et Roi de ♥, constatant la chute du Valet puis la défausse en Nord.

Mauvaise répartition des atouts, certes, mais tout est maintenant en place pour un rendement de main final des plus efficaces : As-Roi de ♣ et ♠, pour la Dame, et Sud doit livrer les deux derniers atouts, dans la fourchette du mort.

Trop de précision nuit

Faut-il défendre au niveau de 7 quand l'adversaire est lui-même parvenu à ce niveau un peu à tâtons, après une succession d'enchères compétitives ? That is the question. Nicolas Déchelette et François Combescure ont bien décidé, sur cette donne du 3ème tour des demi-finales par paires, sur laquelle la foudre semblait s'être abattue.

Donne 24, O/P

♠ 10 9 7		♠ A D V 8 5 3
♥ A D 6 5 3		♥ -
♦ A V 10 6 4		♦ 9 7 3
♣ -		♣ R 5 4 3
♠ R 6 4 2		
♥ 7		
♦ R 8		
♣ A D 10 9 8 2		

	N	
O		E
	S	

♠ -		
♥ R V 10 9 8 4 2		
♦ D 5 2		
♣ V 7 6		

Ce fut un combat homérique à l'enchère :

Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Déchelette</i>		<i>Combescure</i>	
1 ♣	2 SA *	4 ♠	5 ♥
5 ♠	6 ♥	Passe	Passe
6 ♠	X **	Passe	7 ♥
Passe	Passe	7 ♠	X (Fin)

* bicolore ♥-♦ ** chicane ♣

Jusqu'à 6 ♠, tout paraît limpide. C'est après que s'engage la partie de bras de fer. Le Contre de Nord est alerté comme révélateur d'une chicane à ♣ (quelle précision !), ce qui incite son partenaire à prendre la décision d'enchérir à 7 ♥, au nom de sa chicane à ♠ et de ses bons compléments dans les rouges. Est-ce la bonne ? Le Passe de Déchelette est alors plutôt encourageant pour ne pas laisser la situation en l'état. Et, en raison de sa chicane à ♥, Combescure accepte d'en rajouter une couche, en déclarant 7 ♠, plutôt que de contrer.

Le bon choix, en l'occurrence, car mieux vaut laisser marquer dans la colonne de l'adversaire 300 (deux de chute) que 1510. Car 7 ♥ était bien sur table.

Christian Mari, écarté de la finale pour trois fois rien, garde un mauvais souvenir de la donne. Avec Hervé Vinciguerra, ils étaient parvenus à 7 ♥. Si l'adversaire avait défendu à 7 ♠, ils n'auraient pas eu à regretter leur élimination, mais, en l'occurrence, 7 ♥ fut suivi de trois Passe ! Pouvait-on imaginer de ne pas être contré à ce contrat ? La paire française fut la seule à ne pas l'être ! L'eut-elle été ? Elle aurait disputé la finale.

Le champ du possible

Un problème de déclarant, sur cette donne de la troisième séance des demi-finales par paires :

Donne 11, S / P

♠ 7 6 3 2
♥ A 7 2
♦ A V 9 4 2
♣ D

	N	
O		E
	S	

♠ D V 8
♥ V 9 5
♦ 6 5 3
♣ A R V 4

Ouest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Engel</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Bausback</i>	<i>Saporta</i>
1 ♠	2 ♦	Passe	1 ♣
			2 SA (Fin)

Ouest entame du 10 de ♠, pour votre Valet. Vous jouez ♦ vers le mort. La Dame apparaît en Ouest. **Votre plan de jeu ?**

"A qui ai-je affaire ? ", s'est demandé Pierre Saporta ? " Si Ouest est un bon joueur, tâchons de nous montrer à sa hauteur ! "

D'où peut provenir cette Dame ? D'une Dame sèche, seconde - pourquoi pas ? -, ou encore de Roi-Dame secs, ou de Roi-Dame-10 ? Possible. De Roi-Dame-x ? Certainement pas : le défenseur aurait fourni petit, le déclarant étant parti pour jouer vers le 9. Mais encore de D-10-x, si Ouest, clairvoyant, cherche à vous brouiller les pistes. Ayant fait le tour de la question, Saporta couvrit de l'As, poursuivit par la Dame de ♣ prise de l'As, encaissa le Roi, et rejoua ♦. Quand Ouest fournit le 8, il appela le 9 du mort, qui poussa au Roi. Non mais !

♠ 7 6 3 2
♥ A 7 2
♦ A V 9 4 2
♣ D

	N	
O		E
	S	

♠ A R 10 9 5
♥ D 8
♦ D 10 8
♣ 10 9 3

♠ 4
♥ R 10 6 4 3
♦ R 7
♣ 8 7 6 5 2

♠ D V 8
♥ V 9 5
♦ 6 5 3
♣ A R V 4

Pour 120 et une bonne moyenne.

Cose di casa nostra

by Franco Broccoli

Ieri abbiamo chiuso con il board 10 della prima sessione di finale delle donne, Italia contro Olanda. Ripartiamo con la mano immediatamente successiva.

Board 11. Dichiarante Sud. Tutti in prima.

♠ K Q 7 6 2 ♥ 9 6 4 ♦ J 6 2 ♣ J 9	<table border="1" style="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		♠ 10 9 8 5 ♥ K 7 5 ♦ 8 5 ♣ K Q 10 5	♠ J ♥ J 10 ♦ A K 7 3 ♣ A 8 7 6 4 3
	N											
O		E										
	S											
♠ A 4 3 ♥ A Q 8 3 2 ♦ Q 10 9 4 ♣ 2												

Rama

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Forti</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Buratti</i>	<i>Simons</i>
passo	2♣	passo	2♦
passo	2♠	passo	3♠
passo	4♦	passo	5♦
tutti passano			

Una licita naturale e molto descrittiva da parte delle olandesi. Dopo il 5♦, quando il carrello è andato dalla parte di Nord per la decisione finale, Pasman si è fermata a pensare a lungo, combattuta tra la forte tentazione di rialzare a slam e la disciplinata obbedienza al segnale scoraggiante della compagna. Ha vinto la seconda. Certo, se Simons avesse intrapreso un altro tipo di azione sul 4♦ di Nord (per esempio 4♥ o 4♠, in linea con il sistema giocato), la coppia avrebbe potuto raggiungere lo slam. Dopo l'attacco Re di picche, Simons, non avendo necessità di fare il massimo delle prese, ha realizzato 5♦+1, +420.

Chiusa

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Van Zwol</i>	<i>Manara</i>	<i>Hoogweg</i>	<i>Ferlazzo</i>
passo	2♣	passo	2♦
passo	3♦	passo	3♥
passo	4♥	tutti passano	

Appurato il fit a quadri la coppia siciliana, non avendo velleità di slam, decide di giocare la manche più corta. 4♥+1, +450.

Board 12. Dichiarante Ovest. N/S in zona.

♠ A J 10 7 ♥ J 6 3 ♦ K Q J 8 7 ♣ 5	<table border="1" style="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		♠ Q 8 6 4 2 ♥ K 10 ♦ A 2 ♣ A K J 7	♠ 5 ♥ A Q 9 7 5 2 ♦ 10 ♣ 10 9 8 4 2
	N											
O		E										
	S											
♠ K 9 3 ♥ 8 4 ♦ 9 6 5 4 3 ♣ Q 6 3												

Rama

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Forti</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Buratti</i>	<i>Simons</i>
1♦	2♥	2♠	passo
4♣	passo	4♦	passo
4♠	passo	6SA	tutti passano

La coppia italiana, dopo il salto debole di Pasman, raggiunge lo slam in scioltezza passando per una splinter di Ovest e una cuebid di Est. Se dovesse mancare il Re d'atout, come nella realtà, il salto debole di Nord dà una piccola spinta verso Sud. Buratti opta per 6SA per una ragione supplementare, quella di evitare un eventuale taglio a cuori su attacco e ritorno nel colore. La compagna è corta a fiori, potrebbe benissimo avere una quadri in meno e una cuori in più. Sud ha attaccato cuori per l'Asso di Pasman che, tornando fiori ha manifestato l'assenza del Re di picche tra le sue carte. Con un certo sollievo da parte della dichiarante. 6SA mi, +990.

Chiusa

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
<i>Van Zwol</i>	<i>Manara</i>	<i>Hoogweg</i>	<i>Ferlazzo</i>
1♦	1♥	1♠	passo
2♠	passo	2SA	passo
4♣	passo	4♦	passo
4♠	passo	4SA	passo
5♣	passo	5♠	tutti passano

In questa sequenza molto articolata le olandesi appurano la mancanza di due carte chiave. Dopo il 5♣ di Ovest, Est sarebbe in condizione di interrogare a livello con 5♦ per sapere se la carta utile di Ovest è un Asso o il Re d'atout. C'è da considerare però che Manara è intervenuta a livello e non con un salto debole, fatto che, contrariamente all'altra sala, piazzerebbe la maggior parte dei punti della difesa tra le sue carte. Stesso attacco, ritorno quadri di Nord, impasse a picche, 12 prese. 5♠+1, +480.

Una presa in più nel parziale a Senza per Mosca (board 13) ci traghettò al

Board 14. Dichiarante Est. Tutti in prima.

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

	N	
O	E	
	S	

♠ J 8 4 2
♥ A
♦ K 8 7
♣ Q 10 9 8 7

Rama

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Forti	Pasman	Buratti	Simons
3♥	tutti passano	passo	passo

Darinka Forti, terza di mano - tutti in prima, tira una bella saszata nello stagno avversario ponendo la Pasman di fronte all'immediata decisione di entrare o meno in licita con 3♠, avendo lunghezza e un po' di forza nel colore avversario. La sua scelta, abbastanza impopolare in rama, è stata quella di astenersi. Dopo l'attacco Asso di picche, Forti ha realizzato sei prese. 3♥-3, +150.

Chiusa

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Van Zwol	Manara	Hoogweg	Ferlazzo
2♦	passo	passo	passo
passo	contro	2♥	passo
passo	4♠	passo	3♠
		tutti passano	

Van Zwol, compressa tra la lunghezza del colore e la sua consistenza, dà retta alla seconda e decide di aprire in multi, lasciando più spazio di azione alla coppia italiana. Il gioco non comporta problemi. 4♠+1, +450.

Board 15. Dichiarante Sud. N/S in zona.

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

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

	N	
O	E	
	S	

♠ Q J 8 7
♥ A 7 5 4 2
♦ Q 7 3
♣ 5

Rama

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Forti	Pasman	Buratti	Simons
passo	ISA	3♣	passo
4♣	contro	passo	4♥
passo	passo	5♣	contro
tutti passano			

Questo è il primo board giocato in rama, uno dei due senza confronto immediato. Forti appoggia al passaggio il barrage per cercare di disturbare il dialogo avversario. Così facendo, però, genera nella compagna una certa aspettativa in una mano più sbilanciata, una distribuzione che renda favorevole la difesa a 5♣. E' tutto molto forzato e il sacrifico diventa salato. Simons ha attaccato Dama di picche riuscendo in seguito e far realizzare a Pasman un taglio nel colore. La difesa totalizza due picche, un taglio, due cuori, una quadri e l'Asso d'atout. 5♣x-5, -1100.

Chiusa

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Van Zwol	Manara	Hoogweg	Ferlazzo
passo	ISA	passo	passo
passo	2♦	passo	2♥
passo	3♥	passo	4♥
tutti passano			

Le avversarie non entrano in licita e Manara/Ferlazzo raggiungono la manche a cuori realizzando 11 prese dopo l'attacco di 7 di fiori di Sud. 4♥+1, +650.

Board 16. Dichiarante Ovest. E/W in zona.

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

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

	N	
O	E	
	S	

♠ K 5 3
♥ 10 9 6 3
♦ Q 3
♣ A 8 5 3

Questo è l'ultimo board della sessione. Mano pari a 4♥ mi per E/O nelle due sale. Se N/S dovessero trovare la difesa a 5♣, per rendere la penalità redditizia (4 down), E/O dovrebbero incassare tre picche non muovendo il colore e, specialmente, non aiutando il dichiarante a eliminare completamente cuori e quadri. In caso contrario Nord sarebbe in condizione di giocare piccola picche da tutt'e due le parti, eventualmente indovinando a stare basso sul ritorno di cartina nel colore di Est.

Il primo dei tre turni di gioco previsti finisce con FIGB Mosca in vantaggio di 32 imps (55 a 23).

OPEN PAIRS - FINAL A

(standings after 2 sessions - provisional)

	1st total	2nd total			
1 ANIL - RAJESH	55.02	56.77	27 MULTON - PALAU	50.88	52.23
2 CHEMLA - CRONIER	51.69	56.76	28 PEICHEV - ARONOV	51.89	52.06
3 ABECASSIS - QUANTIN	56.27	55.96	29 AABYE - HELNESS	50.87	51.46
4 MECKSTROTH - RODWELL	58.88	55.87	30 KALISH - PODGUR	53.53	51.43
5 BIRMAN - LEVIN	53.96	55.75	31 BOMPIS - DE ST.MARIE	49.96	51.12
6 PAZUR - JAGNIEWSKI	54.31	55.37	32 JEANNETEAU - MARINA	50.75	50.81
7 VERHEES - JANSMA	53.99	55.03	33 MEJANE - DUMAZET	53.31	50.75
8 FURUTA - TERAMOTO	53.20	54.97	34 WERNLE - SCHIFKO	52.84	50.66
9 HERBST - HERBST	55.40	54.89	35 FAGIER - SCHERDIN	52.38	50.65
10 BESSIS - LEVY	56.19	54.39	36 BUSSEK - ROHOWSKY	52.24	50.61
11 ROBSON - BAKHSHI	54.59	53.71	37 WLADOW - ELINESCU	51.88	50.49
12 MORATH - GUSTAWSSON	54.98	53.67	38 OZDIL - MESBUR	52.74	50.48
13 SANDQVIST - HOLLAND	55.23	53.63	39 HENRI - LAFOURCADE	54.21	50.26
14 WIKNER - PETERSSON	53.91	53.41	40 ANDREEV - VOROBEI	52.41	50.03
15 WIJS - MULLER	52.08	53.41	41 REPS - LUDEWIG	49.03	49.96
16 ZNAMIROWSKI - OPALINSKI	54.50	53.24	42 BALDURSSON - JONSSON	49.79	49.80
17 SADEK - ELAHMADY	50.14	53.17	43 KUJAWA - OLECH	54.20	49.65
18 ASSAEL - ZORLU	51.60	53.05	44 EIDI - MARTENS	47.51	49.09
19 GOTARD - PIEKAREK	55.68	52.99	45 PROOIJEN - BRINK	52.83	48.88
20 STARKOWSKI - TUSZYNSKI	50.24	52.88	46 PIKUS - LUCKO	47.88	48.84
21 MADSEN - MADSEN	50.83	52.84	47 ATABEY - KOLATA	52.36	48.78
22 HOEYLAND - HOEYLAND	56.43	52.48	48 GIBBONS - COOKE	52.50	48.43
23 POLETYLO - WOJCICKI	51.80	52.45	49 USZYNSKI - RENOUIARD	48.80	47.48
24 BIZON - KOWALSKI	52.76	52.34	50 DE FALCO - DEL BUONO	50.24	47.28
25 CHMURSKI - PUCZYNSKI	54.68	52.31	51 OURSEL - FLEURY	48.66	47.03
26 YADLIN - YADLIN	54.06	52.31	52 VICENT - GODED	51.48	46.95

OPEN PAIRS - FINAL B

(standings after 2 sessions - provisional)

	1st	2nd	total				
1 FISCHER - SAURER	63.12	57.97	60.54	28 SALOMONE - BERTELLO	54.72	53.89	54.28
2 DELMOULY - POTIER	56.45	63.87	60.16	29 HENRIQUES - BARBOSA	51.55	56.84	54.18
3 BASTIANSEN - SANDVIK	62.66	55.28	59.02	30 UCAN - SAKRAK	51.01	57.09	54.00
4 SHARKANAS - JANKUNAITE	60.73	57.13	58.92	31 KHAZANOV - TATARKIN	56.67	51.23	53.91
5 WILDE - TUWANAKOTTA	58.20	58.72	58.49	32 SERGENT - PEPPER	51.63	55.76	53.72
6 BITRAN - ROCAFORT	63.83	52.70	58.27	33 COMPERNOLLE - DEBUS	52.60	54.69	53.67
7 KRISHNAKUMAR - KIRUBAKARA	61.40	54.36	57.90	34 ESKIZARA - DALKILIC	57.52	49.43	53.45
8 HACKETT - WATERLOW	53.32	62.22	57.81	35 MORTAROTTI - RUSSO	55.13	51.16	53.20
9 NATALE - DI BELLO	55.94	55.72	57.24	36 OVESEN - KINDSBEKKEN	51.17	55.24	53.16
10 MARINO - MARINO	53.39	59.79	56.55	37 BAUSBACK - ENGEL	53.66	52.45	52.99
11 JELENIEWSKI - KRAJEWSKI	59.18	53.29	56.25	38 ASLAN - AKGUL	55.33	50.46	52.87
12 KYTCHANOV - KHANTIMIROV	52.08	59.70	55.88	39 CLAIR - TOTARO	55.33	49.62	52.47
13 SCHILHART - BUCHLEV	52.83	58.63	55.76	40 LEWACIAK - MICHALEK	50.20	54.71	52.43
14 ARASZKIEWICZ - PASTERNAK	47.55	63.88	55.72	41 BOGACKI - LUNA	56.26	48.53	52.38
15 REGEL - SIN DEUT	54.58	56.75	55.67	42 SAVIN - MATEI	51.33	53.29	52.24
16 TUTKA - GAWECKI	52.03	59.15	55.60	43 ASH MIKE - MCPHEE	50.14	53.99	52.10
17 DUDZIK - ZAWADZKI	57.04	54.10	55.54	44 OZKAN - YILMAZ	52.92	51.31	52.07
18 DELIBALTADAKIS - KANNAVOS	60.29	50.61	55.46	45 SHIVAM - MADALA	54.12	49.86	52.01
19 GONCA - ALFEJEVA	51.25	58.65	54.98	46 VOZABAL - SVOBODA	57.02	46.85	51.95
20 RUBENIS - JANSONS	52.41	57.34	54.85	47 LUPU - LUPU	53.83	50.03	51.88
21 IYILIKCI - ZOBU	50.64	58.75	54.71	48 KHIOPPENEN - STERKIN	50.15	53.66	51.86
22 ROTARU - LUNGU	49.51	59.55	54.57	49 HONTI - HARANGOZO	51.71	51.81	51.83
23 KROJGAARD - CASPERSEN	55.29	53.82	54.52	50 WESTRA - EIJCK	53.54	49.42	51.50
24 ARMSTRONG - MELBOURNE	55.74	53.33	54.50	51 NOBERIUS - TORNQUIST	52.71	50.19	51.49
25 MASSA - MARMONTI	55.13	51.87	54.42	52 AGENES - GIAVARINI	56.94	46.01	51.47
26 GROMOLLER - KIRMSE	57.70	50.94	54.31	53 VERSACE - CORSO	53.87	48.95	51.43
27 MARKOVIC - DRENKELFORD	54.29	54.28	54.31	54 MUSSO - RIOLO	54.55	48.17	51.35
				55 MAARI - KOWALSKI	51.27	51.32	51.30

56	BOVE - DI STEFANO	52.09	50.37	51.26	99	ISPORSKI - KOVACHEV	53.44	42.36	47.93
57	PALAZO - BANCHEREAU	53.45	48.81	51.18	100	TERENZI - NICOLODI	43.54	52.05	47.81
58	MINTZ - LIMOR	57.42	44.81	51.17	101	JAGGER - PAGAN	48.13	47.42	47.76
59	BURG - BUCHMAYR	56.61	45.47	51.01	102	CHADHA - ORSMOND	49.81	45.34	47.55
60	DRIJVER - SCHOLLAARDT	43.65	58.26	50.97	103	FRENCKEN - VANDERVORST	47.40	47.40	47.42
61	SIMON - TERRANEO	56.76	45.08	50.96	104	PEHLIVAN - UZUM	50.82	44.01	47.39
62	BENASSI - DEVINCENZO	58.15	43.74	50.95	105	TOMESCU - STIRBU	53.13	41.60	47.34
63	BARRETT - MAMULA	51.94	51.86	50.83	106	CATUCCI - SAVELLI	45.44	48.95	47.21
64	ZONCHEV - SHOKOV	46.00	55.27	50.66	107	BOASSA - DE MONTIS	45.50	48.91	47.21
65	BERG - JORGENSEN	49.32	51.65	50.50	108	IOVESCU - LEPADAT	44.25	50.02	47.15
66	PEDERSEN - BECK	48.67	52.16	50.44	109	MARIPUU - SESTER	50.16	44.11	47.09
67	HEIN - HELLING	48.00	52.58	50.33	110	PETROZZIELLO - GIANNOTTI	46.24	48.54	47.06
68	CZUL - PIETRASZEK	46.41	54.03	50.17	111	THOMPSON - CLARK	48.53	44.55	46.58
69	GIERULSKI - SKRZYPCZAK	41.22	59.14	50.14	112	JANSSON - BJORKLUND	45.49	47.31	46.44
70	SIKORSKI - HENCLIK	50.77	49.24	49.96	113	MECKSTROTH - MECKSTROTH	50.40	41.41	45.97
71	FILIOS - PAPAKYRIAKOPOUL	42.50	57.17	49.80	114	BELLA - CARZANIGA	43.94	46.21	45.11
72	SHUDNEV - OSAULENKO	47.22	52.24	49.71	115	KOWALEWSKI - BUZE	45.27	45.05	45.10
73	OSTERGAARD - JENSEN	51.65	47.32	49.62	116	MILO - VOLPI	39.85	49.53	44.67
74	QUINN - KEAVENEY	47.32	51.61	49.50	117	HOLMGREN - WESTLIN	48.10	39.96	44.05
75	LITVAK - RUDAKOV	46.02	52.72	49.34	118	DEL VIGO - FILIPPINI	48.25	39.75	44.00
75	RYNNING - BRANDSNES	44.39	54.26	49.34	119	JAUNIAUX - COLINET	35.65	52.56	43.61
77	BACH - EVANS	44.70	53.91	49.31	120	HACKETT - DE BOTTON	41.78	45.47	43.56
78	FRANK - BRAUNSTEIN	52.93	45.61	49.27	121	HAAS - MARACHE	41.95	45.16	43.49
79	BONGIOVANNI - ROMANSKI	46.36	51.48	49.23	122	BAKIR - BING	42.86	43.62	43.28
80	BRUGGEMAN - GROOT	46.74	51.54	49.14	123	VANG-LARSEN - NORMAN	44.01	42.38	43.27
81	TURCI - RAFFA	46.94	51.21	49.08	124	TROMBETTA - LODATO	47.12	39.31	43.26
82	BEAUMIER - NAHMIAS	52.42	45.76	49.04	125	CICHOCKI - ZURAKOWSKI	39.80	45.63	42.73
83	HALLBERG - RYMAN	43.17	54.42	48.76	126	MANDRUTA - DOBRIN	54.05	31.36	42.71
84	STERN - PORAT	53.65	43.63	48.67	127	DHANDY - BUSN	43.15	41.77	42.42
85	SMITH - CZERNIEWSKI	48.79	47.45	48.62	128	BREMARH - NYSTROM	45.30	39.31	42.36
86	MARTIN - BOSS	52.25	44.91	48.61	129	BROGELAND - GILLIS	40.54	44.06	42.27
87	SCHRODEL - ZEITLER	48.14	49.19	48.59	130	APTEKER - GOWER	41.09	43.28	42.17
88	TER LAARE - MEIJS	50.95	46.10	48.47	131	CRENN - CRENN	41.96	40.90	41.40
89	SLEMR - KOSICKA	47.00	49.78	48.41	132	SOUDAN - SAINT	40.61	42.08	41.38
90	ROBERTI - LEONETTI	37.33	59.51	48.39	133	PEDERSEN - BARDBSEN	48.58	35.96	40.84
91	HAMMELEV - MONSTED	47.69	49.13	48.37	134	NEUT - BOMHOF	40.78	37.52	39.10
92	VEGER - JONG	54.26	42.31	48.32	135	GRAGLIA - CARRE	35.36	40.40	37.87
93	FRITSCHKE - MARSAL	47.95	48.59	48.31	136	BOWLES - MOHANDDES	48.33	-	24.15
94	KARAMANLI-LYDAK - KARAMANLIS	48.80	47.84	48.31	137	MATRICARDI - CORCHIA	47.99	-	23.99
95	GILBOA - WAX YACOV	46.33	50.11	48.23	138	TACIUC - VOINESCU	46.16	-	23.03
96	FERRARI - CARAMANTI	41.82	54.27	48.07	139	RUSSO - KUCHARSKI	42.55	-	21.33
97	IZISEL - PILON	45.29	50.66	48.03	140	DE MARTINIS - FIORETTI	42.38	-	21.22
98	MOIR - CROFTS	53.82	42.02	47.94					

OPEN PAIRS - FINAL C

(standings after 2 sessions - provisional)

		1st	2nd	total	16	GAGLIARDI - SPINELLI	56.25	43.03	49.64
1	HALLBERG - RUNDGREN	64.96	53.82	59.39	17	FLACKS - LEATHER	45.08	54.17	49.62
2	KOUTOUGOS - TSEVIS	58.14	56.60	57.37	18	SHEATHER - SHEATHER	47.35	51.51	49.43
3	WILMOTT - MCGUIRE	55.87	54.18	55.03	19	LEDGER - SQUIBB	53.79	45.04	49.42
4	MOFAHKAMI - ODELLO	53.22	55.84	54.53	20	ILLA - FORT	51.33	47.19	49.26
5	PIECZKA - ROG KAZIMIERZ	52.46	54.39	53.43	21	ABLEY - EDDLESTON	49.24	49.02	49.13
6	DELANEY - O'LUBAIGH	49.24	57.23	53.24	22	VARDAPETYAN - BALOYAN	50.95	46.56	48.75
7	DANIC - COLOMBARO	44.32	61.12	52.72	23	DAURER - HOFLINGER	50.57	46.56	48.56
8	ARAZI - CHLIAPAS	43.94	60.23	52.08	24	COHEN - GONFREVILLE	51.33	43.40	47.37
9	BRUHN - ERIKSEN	52.46	51.57	52.01	25	WETTENSCHWILER - RANIS	51.51	40.88	46.19
10	FALAY - UYSAL	48.49	54.51	51.50	26	MARTIN - HYNES	45.08	46.97	46.02
11	AJELLO - NOZZOLI	45.64	56.63	51.14	27	BRUCE - MCEWING	47.16	43.35	45.26
12	DELLA - BIANCHI	49.24	52.69	50.96	28	PANERO - CHAMPION	41.10	44.35	42.72
13	DIEDEN - BJORKMAN	49.05	52.12	50.59	29	COMELLA - CARELLI	38.26	45.99	42.12
14	MARRAY - HAMPSON	59.09	42.04	50.57	30	DI MEMMO - GENTILE	42.99	40.56	41.78
15	MAUBERQUEZ - ALLIX	51.89	48.45	50.17					

WOMEN PAIRS - FINAL A

(standings after 2 sessions - provisional)

	1st total	2nd total			
1 D'OVIDIO - ALLOUCHE	59.69	58.55	17 FARHOLT - RAHELT	49.38	51.00
2 HOOGWEG - VAN ZWOL	57.78	57.62	18 PASMEN - SIMONS	49.78	50.62
3 OLIVIERI - ARRIGONI	55.55	55.39	19 SENIOR - PENFOLD	48.92	49.84
4 ERHART - SMEDEREVAC	57.79	54.77	20 ROSETTA - DE LUCCHI	49.26	49.54
5 CIVIDIN - COLONNA	52.97	54.76	21 THUILLEZ - JEANNIN-NALTET	49.53	49.44
6 LEVY - HEREDIA	54.90	54.69	22 DUMON - CLEMENT	48.32	49.28
7 CRONIER - WILLARD	54.69	54.65	23 POULAIN - LACROIX	49.67	48.59
8 BURATTI - FORTI	53.30	54.13	24 DE SERAFINI - DEI POLI	50.87	48.57
9 KELLNER - WEIGKRICHT	52.67	54.12	25 BABAC - OZAN	53.92	48.42
10 KREFELD - KIRSTAN	54.25	54.09	26 CAPRIATA - GOLIN	52.83	47.82
11 ARNOLD - VRIEND	54.64	53.96	27 KOCH - KLEMMENSEN	48.88	47.70
12 MIDSKOG - BERTHEAU	51.09	53.26	28 CATTANI - VENNI	44.83	47.56
13 GRONKVIST - FORSBERG	53.35	53.03	29 MENIL - RENOUX	47.85	47.51
14 GACKOWSKA - BREWIAK	50.54	52.64	30 GROMOVA - PONOMAREVA	48.88	47.24
15 AVON - BELOGH	52.26	51.97	31 BUKET - WITTEVEEN	47.56	45.83
16 GIRARDIN - FISHPOOL	49.92	51.25	32 RUDENSTAL - TENGA	47.48	45.31

WOMEN PAIRS - FINAL B

(standings after 2 sessions - provisional)

	1st	2nd	total				
1 MCCALLUM - BAKER	74.17	54.01	64.09	16 TETAL - LINDE	54.54	46.83	50.69
2 BREVIK - HARDING	59.62	59.22	59.42	17 MOSCATELLI - BASILICO	53.07	47.68	50.37
3 MARTELLINI - MARTELLINI	57.25	61.19	59.22	18 ANASTASIADOU - KIRITSI	48.76	51.92	50.34
4 LAVAGGI - COLAMARTINO	55.47	58.85	57.17	19 SAUVAGE - GUILLEBON	50.00	49.26	49.63
5 LEVIT-PORAT - AS ILANA	55.32	57.11	56.22	20 GROMOLLER - PANTLE-REICHERT	47.78	49.40	48.59
6 PICCIONI - PASQUARE'	59.19	51.28	55.24	21 BOSLY - CONTARINI	50.88	42.52	46.70
7 MEZEY - KEREKES	63.64	45.80	54.72	22 PARADISI - CAGNER	45.61	45.22	45.41
8 MEEHAN - O'FARELL	51.39	57.78	54.58	23 GROSMANOVA - DITETOVA	36.45	53.68	45.06
9 COCCA - COCCA	51.15	57.16	54.16	24 CHIAVARELLI - FRANCOLINI	45.19	42.90	44.04
10 OIKONOMOU - KANELLOPOULOU	56.75	50.93	53.84	25 KOWALSKA - ADAMCZYK	40.72	46.98	43.85
11 BAIETTO - BALDASSIN	51.48	54.10	52.79	26 CUTELLI - LANDI	37.88	49.71	43.79
12 BARTHE - CHATARD	50.29	54.33	52.31	27 O'NEILL - LYNCH	42.58	43.83	43.20
13 CROCI - FERRE'	51.41	53.01	52.21	28 FAIRCLOUGH - HECHT-JOHANSEN	46.87	38.30	42.58
14 HONTORIA - LEON	50.07	52.53	51.30	29 VELLA - PARNIS-ENGLAND	40.29	44.58	42.44
15 VOULGARI - LINARA	46.56	55.44	51.00	30 FOSSAN - MOEN	40.76	42.78	41.77
				31 CIOFFI - DE IANNI	39.05	41.66	40.35

What a preference!

It's not often that you find yourself looking at seven-card support for the suit partner has overcalled. It happened in the third session of Semifinal B of the Open Pairs. North-South preferred to remain nameless, but we can report that they are from England.

The South hand itself is remarkable, but South's actions in the competitive sequence are even more noteworthy.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 10 9 7		♠ A Q J 8 5 3									
♥ A Q 6 5 3		♥ -									
♦ A J 10 6 4		♦ 9 7 3									
♣ -		♣ K 5 4 3									
♠ K 6 4 2	<table border="1" 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		
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♥ 7											
♦ K 8											
♣ A Q 10 9 8 2											
♠ -											
♥ K J 10 9 8 4 2											
♦ Q 5 2											
♣ J 7 6											

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♥	1♠	4♥
4♠	5♦	5♥	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	6♦	Dble	All Pass

Imagine holding seven-card support for partner's overcalled suit and taking one bid. Imagine, also, giving preference to partner's second suit with only three cards.

Here's what led to the unusual action.

West took some time to bid 5♠, and South surmised correctly that he did so because he held the ♦K, meaning it was well placed for declarer in a diamond contract. South also reasoned that the opponents would probably bid 6♠ if 6♥ became the contract. That contract would be defeated on the lead of either minor suit, but South couldn't tell, and there was a virtual certainty that 6♦ was going to make. Why not take the sure plus? As it happens, had the opponents bid 6♠, that might have prompted North-South to "save" in 7♥ or 7♦. Both, as you can see, are makers.

When North wrapped up an overtrick in 6♦, the opponents were annoyed, particularly on viewing the dummy, but that might be because they need some lessons in logic.

SENIOR PAIRS - FINAL A

(standings after 2 sessions - provisional)

	1st total	2nd total			
1 LEENHARDT - SUSSEL	56.87	55.98	17 BOEGEM - JANSSENS	52.27	52.04
2 LASSERRE - POIZAT	55.60	55.49	18 MASSAROLI - POZZI	50.90	51.56
3 BUER - MUNKVOLD	54.94	55.14	19 KLAPPER - WILKOSZ	56.29	51.37
4 ADAD - AUJALEU	57.40	54.79	20 ROUQUILLAUD - ELBAZ	53.29	51.26
5 SAGIV - SCHWARTZ	54.04	54.36	21 LASOCKI - WIELEMANS	48.38	50.91
6 OMERNIK - POCHRON	54.33	54.35	22 BRAV - SHKEDY	47.87	49.58
7 BROUWER - GROENENBOOM	51.97	54.02	23 HJERKINN - PEDERSEN	47.52	49.50
8 SZENBERG - WALA	52.46	53.83	24 FORNACIARI - VIVALDI	49.57	49.46
9 FRANKEN - VERHEES	54.22	53.82	25 BINDI - BENSOUSSAN	53.26	48.52
10 DAMIANI - FAIGENBAUM	53.63	53.50	26 HIRST - JOURDAIN	50.77	47.70
11 BARONI - RICCIARELLI	53.63	53.20	27 BAXTER - MCGOWAN	44.65	47.46
12 FRANCO - RESTA	53.58	52.85	28 CHMELIK - SCHROEDER	45.59	47.38
13 NORRIS - FLEMMING	51.47	52.78	29 BAHNIK - JAROS	48.92	47.28
14 JEZIORO - RUSSYAN	52.58	52.40	30 KLESSER - WENGELAAR	49.58	47.05
15 OHANA - PALADINO	54.52	52.23	31 HOBSON - GARTHWAITE	47.08	45.76
16 HASSETT - HIRST	50.99	52.20	32 ALBARET - GUITTA	43.32	45.65

SENIOR PAIRS - FINAL B

(technical problems prevents the publication of the full results)

	2nd session		
1 POKORNA - JANSA	65.02	23 FLEISCHMANN - FLEISCHMANN	50.91
2 THERKELSSON - WENANDER	61.33	24 KOSIANKO - PUCZYNSKI	50.44
3 CANAL - DUNOGUIER	60.67	25 PATUZZI - POLLAK	50.24
4 DIEUDONNE - COUPERE	59.31	26 SIMM - SULA	49.68
5 BARDIN - BARZAGHI	56.75	27 CORTE-REAL - OLIVEIRA	49.5
6 STANLEY - RUE DEREK	56.43	28 WESTMAN - HOGLUND	48.98
7 SENIKIES - FARGEOT	55.61	29 PRIDAY - PRIDAY	48.89
8 PIERROT - HANSART	54.81	30 RAND - LEVIT	48.19
9 OSTERBERG - WICKSTROM	54.67	31 SAXON - DAN ORA	47.50
10 SCHNEIDER - GROMOLLER	54.49	32 ARCIERI - MAGLIETTA	47.08
11 GOVONI - FICUCCIO	54.28	33 LOMBARD - ELIE	46.01
12 CONNORS - CONNORS	54.08	34 CROCOLI - DE SANDRO	45.52
13 GRENSIDE - HOGER	53.21	35 MOCHI - GAZZARI	44.02
14 BALLESTRA - DANNAY	52.20	36 TAKK - RAUDE	43.45
15 RUNACHER - MOHTASHAMI	51.81	37 MONTWILL - MONTWILL	43.12
16 ZDZIENICKI - ALEKSANDRZAK	51.76	38 PALAZZO - CALVITTO	42.56
17 KRAUSE - KRAUSE	51.72	39 MANCA - RIZZUTI	42.47
18 OTVOSI - BOREWICZ	51.67	40 GOMMERS - SEIJ	42.28
19 HUMBURG - MATTSSON	51.59	41 GULDEN - DROOGENDIJK	40.67
20 BYSTROM - BERTILI	51.49	42 GHIRAGOSSIAN - GUTH	38.39
21 FRANZEN - OLSSON	51.33	43 CABEZAS - VAISBERG	38.31
22 BOESIGER - SPENGLER	51.21	44 FREI - IMHOF	36.33

Dangerous Double

by Patrick Jourdain (Wales)

Israel Yadlin was the star of Board 15 in the battle for gold in the Teams. Michel Abecassis must have regretted his double that gave the clue to the winning line.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

	West	North	East	South
	Abecassis	Doron	Soulet	Israel
				2♣*
	Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
	Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♥
	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
	Dble	All Pass		

Three Clubs was a second negative.

Abecassis, West led a trump. The normal line for declarer would be to use dummy's trump entry to lead towards one of the kings, but the double suggested that this was doomed to failure. So Israel won the lead in hand, unblocked the top clubs, crossed to the queen of trumps, ruffed a club in hand, and rattled off all his trumps. With one trump to go five cards remained. West was down to a winning club and two ace-queens. When the last trump was cashed he was in trouble. If he bared either ace he would be put on lead with it to give declarer a trick in the other suit. He actually chose to discard the winning club, but that made no difference. Yadlin exited with a diamond and came to the king of spades at the end.