



Daily Bulletin



47TH EUROPEAN BRIDGE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS AND 10TH SWEDISH BRIDGE FESTIVAL JUNE 19TH TO JULY 3RD 2004

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Bulletin 5

Thursday, 24 June 2004

ITALY REMAIN IN POLE POSITION



There is a rumour that this car is the magnificent prize on offer for the most brilliant play of the Championships.

Italy, with two big wins, maintained their position at the top of the table, but they are hotly pursued by Sweden, who recorded two maximums and Poland, another team to score heavily. These three are beginning to break clear of the pack, as they are more than a match clear of fourth-placed Greece. Then it's Belgium, Russia, Turkey, Wales (five wins in a row) and Germany.

Sweden Move Ahead

Two victories, allied to a heavy defeat for France, have put Sweden's women on top of the table. France drop to second, while Austria are delighted to be third. These three are clear of Netherlands, England & Germany, and the contest between these teams for those precious Venice Cup places promises to go down to the wire.

Today's VuGraph Matches

OPEN TEAMS - Round 12

Sweden v Israel 10.30

WOMEN'S TEAMS - Round 8

Austria v England 14.15

OPEN TEAMS - Round 14

Netherlands v Italy 17.40

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NOTICE!!!

The journalists' excursion will depart at 10.00.



OPEN TEAMS RESULTS**ROUND 10**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	AUSTRIA	RUSSIA	18 - 27	13 - 17
2	BULGARIA	BYE		18 - 0
3	LATVIA	ITALY	14 - 47	8 - 22
4	ROMANIA	FAROE ISL.	56 - 68	13 - 17
5	WALES	CZECH REP.	42 - 33	17 - 13
6	BELGIUM	SAN MARINO	53 - 15	23 - 7
7	NETHERLANDS	PORTUGAL	18 - 51	8 - 22
8	LITHUANIA	IRELAND	29 - 54	10 - 20
9	FINLAND	ISRAEL	33 - 74	7 - 23
10	CROATIA	NORWAY	30 - 45	12 - 18
11	SWEDEN	TURKEY	74 - 11	25 - 3
12	SWITZERLAND	SPAIN	32 - 53	11 - 19
13	SERBIA/MONT.	SCOTLAND	46 - 32	18 - 12
14	DENMARK	POLAND	12 - 59	6 - 24
15	FRANCE	GREECE	33 - 50	11 - 19
16	ICELAND	HUNGARY	38 - 57	11 - 19
17	ENGLAND	GERMANY	34 - 53	11 - 19

ROUND 11

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	RUSSIA	BULGARIA	74 - 14	25 - 3
2	BYE	LATVIA		0 - 18
3	ITALY	ROMANIA	73 - 23	25 - 5
4	FAROE ISL.	WALES	15 - 77	3 - 25
5	CZECH REP.	BELGIUM	48 - 72	10 - 20
6	SAN MARINO	NETHERLANDS	32 - 79	6 - 24
7	PORTUGAL	LITHUANIA	90 - 31	25 - 4
8	IRELAND	FINLAND	70 - 50	19 - 11
9	ISRAEL	CROATIA	50 - 53	14 - 16
10	NORWAY	SWEDEN	39 - 88	5 - 25
11	TURKEY	SWITZERLAND	78 - 55	20 - 10
12	SPAIN	SCOTLAND	83 - 19	25 - 3
13	AUSTRIA	DENMARK	53 - 49	16 - 14
14	POLAND	FRANCE	73 - 26	24 - 6
15	GREECE	ICELAND	63 - 48	18 - 12
16	HUNGARY	ENGLAND	27 - 92	3 - 25
17	GERMANY	SERBIA/MONT.	78 - 77	15 - 15

Tourist Information

Welcome to our tourist information service. Here, you can make restaurant reservations, buy parking cards and bus passes (10/20/30 rides) and get general tourist information on Malmö and the region of Skåne.

Highlights

- Celebrate Midsummer Eve in the traditional Swedish way. Friday 25th of June at Mölleplatsen. Get info sheet!
- Sightseeing tour of north-western Skåne 1st of July. Breath-taking views, Swedish handicraft, lunch in a pleasant restaurant. Book your tickets ASAP.
- The best of Malmö in 90 minutes - guided sightseeing tour of Malmö! Every day at 12.00 noon.

Welcome to visit us in the exhibition hall. We are here every day 9.30 a.m.-6 p.m. (Midsummer Eve 25th of June 9-30 a.m.-2 p.m.).

OPEN TEAMS PROGRAM**ROUND 12**

10.30

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	LATVIA	RUSSIA
2	ROMANIA	BYE
3	WALES	ITALY
4	BELGIUM	FAROE ISL.
5	NETHERLANDS	CZECH REP.
6	LITHUANIA	SAN MARINO
7	FINLAND	PORTUGAL
8	CROATIA	IRELAND
9	SWEDEN	ISRAEL
10	SWITZERLAND	NORWAY
11	SCOTLAND	TURKEY
12	SERBIA/MONTENEGRO	SPAIN
13	DENMARK	BULGARIA
14	FRANCE	AUSTRIA
15	ICELAND	POLAND
16	ENGLAND	GREECE
17	GERMANY	HUNGARY

ROUND 13

14.15

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	RUSSIA	ROMANIA
2	BYE	WALES
3	ITALY	BELGIUM
4	FAROE ISL.	NETHERLANDS
5	CZECH REP.	LITHUANIA
6	SAN MARINO	FINLAND
7	PORTUGAL	CROATIA
8	IRELAND	SWEDEN
9	ISRAEL	SWITZERLAND
10	NORWAY	SCOTLAND
11	TURKEY	SPAIN
12	LATVIA	DENMARK
13	BULGARIA	FRANCE
14	AUSTRIA	ICELAND
15	POLAND	ENGLAND
16	GREECE	GERMANY
17	HUNGARY	SERBIA/MONTENEGRO

ROUND 14

17.40

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	WALES	RUSSIA
2	BELGIUM	BYE
3	NETHERLANDS	ITALY
4	LITHUANIA	FAROE ISL.
5	FINLAND	CZECH REP.
6	CROATIA	SAN MARINO
7	SWEDEN	PORTUGAL
8	SWITZERLAND	IRELAND
9	SCOTLAND	ISRAEL
10	SPAIN	NORWAY
11	SERBIA/MONTENEGRO	TURKEY
12	DENMARK	ROMANIA
13	FRANCE	LATVIA
14	ICELAND	BULGARIA
15	ENGLAND	AUSTRIA
16	GERMANY	POLAND
17	HUNGARY	GREECE

WOMEN'S TEAMS RESULTS**ROUND 6**

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21 SPAIN	GERMANY	25 - 53	9 - 21
22 CROATIA	ENGLAND	40 - 35	16 - 14
23 POLAND	DENMARK	99 - 22	25 - 1
24 AUSTRIA	TURKEY	57 - 31	20 - 10
25 HUNGARY	SWEDEN	45 - 78	8 - 22
26 ICELAND	FRANCE	12 - 68	4 - 25
27 NORWAY	LEBANON	48 - 8	23 - 7
28 ISRAEL	SCOTLAND	17 - 44	9 - 21
29 FAROE ISL.	IRELAND	21 - 65	6 - 24
30 NETHERLANDS	FINLAND	52 - 36	18 - 12
31 CZECH REP.	ITALY	47 - 72	10 - 20

ROUND 7

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21 GERMANY	FAROE ISL.	70 - 48	20 - 10
22 ENGLAND	NETHERLANDS	35 - 37	15 - 15
23 DENMARK	CZECH REP.	45 - 26	19 - 11
24 TURKEY	ITALY	53 - 34	19 - 11
25 SWEDEN	FINLAND	85 - 36	25 - 5
26 FRANCE	SPAIN	55 - 75	11 - 19
27 LEBANON	CROATIA	57 - 84	9 - 21
28 SCOTLAND	POLAND	40 - 46	14 - 16
29 IRELAND	AUSTRIA	25 - 89	3 - 25
30 ISRAEL	HUNGARY	54 - 81	9 - 21
31 NORWAY	ICELAND	62 - 63	15 - 15

WOMEN'S TEAMS PROGRAM**ROUND 8 14.15**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
21	POLAND	GERMANY
22	AUSTRIA	ENGLAND
23	HUNGARY	DENMARK
24	ICELAND	TURKEY
25	NORWAY	SWEDEN
26	ISRAEL	FRANCE
27	IRELAND	LEBANON
28	FAROE ISL.	SCOTLAND
29	NETHERLANDS	CROATIA
30	CZECH REP.	SPAIN
31	ITALY	FINLAND

ROUND 9 17.40

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
21	GERMANY	AUSTRIA
22	ENGLAND	HUNGARY
23	DENMARK	ICELAND
24	TURKEY	NORWAY
25	SWEDEN	ISRAEL
26	FRANCE	IRELAND
27	LEBANON	SCOTLAND
28	POLAND	NETHERLANDS
29	CROATIA	CZECH REP.
30	SPAIN	ITALY
31	FINLAND	FAROE ISL.

SENIOR TEAMS RESULTS**ROUND 1 14.15**

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
41 NETHERLANDS	FINLAND	42 - 42	15 - 15
42 SWITZERLAND	WALES	54 - 41	18 - 12
43 SCOTLAND	POLAND	27 - 68	6 - 24
44 ITALY	NORWAY	35 - 28	16 - 14
45 IRELAND	FRANCE	14 - 81	1 - 23
46 ENGLAND	GERMANY	42 - 20	20 - 10
47 SWEDEN	CZECH REP.	45 - 36	17 - 13
48 ISRAEL	DENMARK	42 - 11	22 - 8

SENIOR TEAMS PROGRAM**ROUND 2 10.30**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
41	WALES	NETHERLANDS
42	POLAND	SWITZERLAND
43	NORWAY	SCOTLAND
44	FRANCE	ITALY
45	GERMANY	IRELAND
46	CZECH REP.	ENGLAND
47	DENMARK	SWEDEN
48	FINLAND	ISRAEL

ROUND 3 14.15

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
41	NETHERLANDS	POLAND
42	SWITZERLAND	NORWAY
43	SCOTLAND	FRANCE
44	ITALY	GERMANY
45	IRELAND	CZECH REP.
46	ENGLAND	DENMARK
47	SWEDEN	ISRAEL
48	WALES	FINLAND

ROUND 4 17.40

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
41	NORWAY	NETHERLANDS
42	FRANCE	SWITZERLAND
43	GERMANY	SCOTLAND
44	CZECH REP.	ITALY
45	DENMARK	IRELAND
46	ISRAEL	ENGLAND
47	FINLAND	SWEDEN
48	WALES	POLAND

NOTICE!!!

There has been a change in the timetable for the Senior Teams on Tuesday 29 June:

Round 12	14.15
Round 13	17.40

OPEN TEAMS RANKING after 11 rounds

1	ITALY	231.50
2	SWEDEN	226.50
3	POLAND	224.00
4	GREECE	195.50
5	BELGIUM	194.00
6	RUSSIA	191.50
7	TURKEY	189.50
8	WALES	181.50
9	GERMANY	179.00
10	ISRAEL	177.00
11	AUSTRIA	175.00
12	NETHERLANDS	172.00
13	PORTUGAL	167.00
14	FINLAND	164.00
15	SERBIA/MONTENEGRO	163.00
16	SPAIN	162.00
17	ENGLAND	162.00
18	NORWAY	157.00
19	ICELAND	156.50
20	BULGARIA	156.50
21	DENMARK	156.00
22	LATVIA	150.00
23	FRANCE	150.00
24	LITHUANIA	148.50
25	SCOTLAND	146.00
26	HUNGARY	146.00
27	CROATIA	145.00
28	IRELAND	137.50
29	ROMANIA	131.00
30	SWITZERLAND	127.50
31	CZECH REP.	126.00
32	FAROE ISLANDS	124.00
33	SAN MARINO	96.50

WOMEN'S TEAMS RANKING after 7 rounds

1	SWEDEN	146.00
2	FRANCE	144.00
3	AUSTRIA	134.00
4	NETHERLANDS	120.00
5	ENGLAND	118.00
6	GERMANY	116.00
7	IRELAND	113.00
8	NORWAY	111.00
9	SPAIN	110.00
10	TURKEY	109.00
11	ITALY	106.00
12	POLAND	102.00
13	FINLAND	102.00
14	HUNGARY	100.00
15	ISRAEL	100.00
16	SCOTLAND	98.00
17	CZECH REP.	92.00
18	ICELAND	89.00
19	CROATIA	82.00
20	DENMARK	73.00
21	LEBANON	64.00
22	FAROE ISLANDS	58.00

SENIOR TEAMS RANKING after 1 round

1	POLAND	24.00
2	FRANCE	23.00
3	ISRAEL	22.00
4	ENGLAND	20.00
5	SWITZERLAND	18.00
6	SWEDEN	17.00
7	ITALY	16.00
8	NETHERLANDS	15.00
9	FINLAND	15.00
10	NORWAY	14.00
11	CZECH REP.	13.00
12	WALES	12.00
13	GERMANY	10.00
14	DENMARK	8.00
15	SCOTLAND	6.00
16	IRELAND	1.00

OPEN TEAMS

Round 8

Scotland v Sweden

The high-flying host nation, Sweden met mid-table Scotland in the eighth round of the Open series, hoping to strengthen their challenge for the top spot. Early on, signs looked good for the Swedes.

the king of clubs to come so that was two down for -500 and 9 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Murdoch	Berthau	Piper	Nystrom
Pass	Pass	2♣ ⁽⁰⁾	2♥
2♠	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
5♠	Dble	All Pass	

(i) Precision

In the other room, Sweden were left to play 4♠, which failed by a trick. Here, Peter Berthau judged to go on to 5♥ over 4♠ and John Murdoch saw the danger of a double fit so went on to 5♠. That was doubled and Berthau led a top heart then switched to a diamond for the queen and ace. Murdoch played a club up and Berthau ruffed and played another diamond. There was still



Fredrik Nystrom, Sweden

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Murdoch	Berthau	Piper	Nystrom
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
	4♦	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Fredin	Matheson	Lindkvist	Patrick
Pass	1♥	1♠	Dble
Pass	2♦	2♠	3♠
Dble	4♥	Pass	5♦
	All Pass		

Fredrik Nystrom's immediate 2♦ bid worked out better than James Patrick's negative double. Patrick cuebid at his next turn but that committed his side to game when John Matheson responded 4♥, simply describing his hand as he was not aware of the big diamond fit, and Peter Fredin added a double to the final contract. After a spade lead there were three inevitable losers; -200. Nystrom caught a diamond raise and asked for a second spade stopper. When one was not forthcoming and Berthau could only repeat his diamonds cheaply, Nystrom was willing to stop short of game and chalked up a painless +130 to gain 8 IMPs for Sweden.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West Murdoch
North Berthau
East Piper
South Nystrom
3♣

All Pass

West Fredin
North Matheson
East Lindkvist
South Patrick
3♣
3♦ Pass 3NT All Pass

It was surprising to see Murdoch pass over the 3♣ pre-empt and, of course, Douglas Piper had no reason to protect. Three Clubs went a couple off for -100 but it was the fate of 3NT in the other room that really mattered after Fredin's normal overcall and Lindkvist's aggressive shot at 3NT. Patrick led the ten of clubs and dummy's queen held. Lindkvist led out ace and another diamond to the king and Matheson tried a heart switch - not that a spade would have beaten the contract either. Lindkvist won the ♡J, crossed to a heart and cleared the diamonds. Patrick cashed the ace of clubs and Lindkvist had the rest; +630 and 11 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠	Q 9 5 3
♡	A J 9
♦	Q 6 3
♣	A Q 9

West Murdoch
North Berthau
East Piper
South Nystrom
3♦ Dble Pass INT
Pass 4♠ All Pass 3♣

West Fredin
North Matheson
East Lindkvist
South Patrick
3♦ Dble Pass 3NT
All Pass

System decided this one. Having already shown a balanced hand, it was normal for Nystrom to show his spades over the negative double. It was equally normal for Berthau to raise to 4♠ but that contract was swiftly defeated when the defence began with three rounds of diamonds for a ruff. There was just the ♠K to come after that; -100.

Having opened 1♣, it seemed normal to Patrick to show his balanced hand and diamond stopper at the other table and he played in 3NT. Fredin led a heart and Patrick won to play ace and another spade. Lindkvist went in with the king to switch to a diamond, won by Fredin who reverted to hearts. Patrick could pick up the spades then knock out the diamond ace. He did not risk the club finesse so had nine tricks for +600 and 12 IMPs to Scotland.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠	A 8 6 5 4 3
♡	A K 4
♦	K J
♣	9 3

West Murdoch
North Berthau
East Piper
South Nystrom
Pass 2♦ Pass 1♠
All Pass Pass Pass 4♡

West Fredin
North Matheson
East Lindkvist
South Patrick
Pass INT Pass 1♠
All Pass Pass Pass 2♠

Again system decided the deal, but this time in Sweden's favour. The natural Scottish methods reached an inevitable contract of 2♠, where Patrick lost two tricks in each black suit for +140. At the other table, Berthau could respond 2♦, transfer, without promising the values for a two-over-one response. Nystrom, with a useful heart fit and sound values, could leap to the heart game. Murdoch cashed the top clubs then switched to a diamond to the queen and king. When the hearts behaved, Nystrom had eleven tricks for +650 and 11 IMPs to Sweden.

The match ended in a 51-19 IMP, 22-8 VP win for Sweden, who moved ever closer to the top of the table.



Douglas Piper, Scotland

OPEN TEAMS
Round 9
Bulgaria v Italy

The new young Bulgarian team had made a reasonable start to the tournament but on Tuesday evening they faced the might of Italy - and the champions were coming into the match on the back of two 25s earlier in the day. Early on it seemed that the Bulgarians were well up to the task of holding their illustrious opponents. Bulgaria struck first on the opening deal of the match:

When Claudio Nunes transferred to diamonds, Victor Aronov had no space in which to describe his hand accurately so made a practical jump to the heart game. A club lead and continuation allowed him to avoid a diamond loser; eleven tricks for +450.

In the other room, Giorgio Duboin could double then bid hearts to show a strong overcall, but Norberto Bocchi had no heart fit and insufficient values to go on to game; +170 after a club lead and diamond switch, and 7 IMPs to Bulgaria.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Fantoni	Stefanov	Nunes
	INT	Pass	2NT
4♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Duboin	Karakolev	Bocchi	Zahariev
	1♦	Pass	INT
Dble	Pass	2♠	3♦
3♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Fantoni	Stefanov	Nunes
	INT	Dble	Pass
Pass	Rdbl	Pass	2♣
2♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Duboin	Karakolev	Bocchi	Zahariev
	1♦	INT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass



Zahari Zahariev, Bulgaria

Italy leveled the match by reaching a game that was missed at the other table. It does look as though Aronov should have done more, facing a double of INT. Anyway, both declarers made eleven tricks for +200 to Bulgaria but +450 to Italy and 6 IMPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Fantoni	Stefanov	Nunes
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♣	Pass	4♠
All Pass			6♣

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Karakolev	Bocchi	Zahariev
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	6♣	All Pass	5♦

Both North/South pairs sailed into the small slam. After a heart lead into the ace-queen, Fantoni won the ♥Q, ruffed his low heart and played ace and another club, holding himself to twelve tricks for +1370. On a heart lead through the ace-queen, Zahari Zahariev won the ace and immediately took the trump finesse; +1390 and 1 IMP to Bulgaria.

That IMP moved the score on to 8-7 to Bulgaria after seven boards, then came two swings to Italy.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Fantoni	Stefanov	Nunes
1♦	1♠	2♣	Dble
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Karakolev	Bocchi	Zahariev
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Fantoni's normal overcall worked out better than Georgi Karakolev's cautious pass as Italy won the auction at both tables. In 2♣, Fantoni received the lead of a diamond to the ten and queen. He played a spade to the nine, ducked, and the ♠10, also ducked. Fantoni led a diamond to West's jack and Aronov led the ♣10 to Fantoni's king. Aronov won the next diamond play and got

out with his last diamond, Fantoni pitching his heart loser. Now Fantoni played dummy's last spade and had nine tricks for +140.

Zahariev led a low heart against 2♥. That went to the ten and queen and Bocchi led the ♣8 to dummy's ten and North's king. Back came the ♥J to the ace and Bocchi unblocked the king so as to win the next trick in hand with the ♥8 over dummy's seven. The ruffing club finesse worked, of course, and Bocchi soon had ten tricks for +170 and 7 IMPs to Italy.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Fantoni	Stefanov	Nunes
All Pass	Pass	Pass	INT

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Karakolev	Bocchi	Zahariev
1♥	Pass	Pass	1♦
2♥	Dble	2♦	Pass
All Pass	Pass	Pass	2♠



Giorgio Duboin, Italy

Nunes' weak no trump was passed out and Aronov led a heart. The defence took their hearts but slipped a trick in the ending so Nunes got out for one down; -50.

Zahariev's 1♦ opening led to a quite different auction, at the end of which he judged to compete in the known four-three spade fit. This was not a success. Duboin led a diamond to dummy's king and Zahariev tried a spade to his king and the ace. Duboin switched to a low club for king and ace and Zahariev led a second spade to the jack. Ace and another heart now put Bocchi in to draw the remaining trumps and the defence had three more hearts and two clubs to come; down six for -300 and 6 IMPs to Italy.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Fantoni	Stefanov	Nunes
		Pass	2♥
Dble	Pass	2♠	3♥
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Karakolev	Bocchi	Zahariev
		Pass	1♥
Dble	Pass	1♠	3♥
3NT	All Pass		

Italy led by 25-12 when this board arrived and it was to be the one that decided the match in their favour. Zahariev opened 1♥ and, despite his free 3♥ rebid, Duboin tried 3NT. He was under pressure but really had little option but to bid this, I think. Duboin won the heart lead and cashed the clubs then played a diamond to his king and ran for home; +400.

Nunes opened 2♥, 10-13 with at least five hearts in an unbalanced hand, and he too took another free bid at the three level because of his extra distribution and solid hearts. Aronov chose to double for a second time and, having already shown his spades, it looked reasonable for Julian Stefanov to pass that out. Reasonable, perhaps, but the big East/West club fit meant that they had less defence than they had hoped and the contract proved to be an easy make. Aronov cashed the top hearts then tried the ace of clubs. When that got ruffed he must have already begun to worry. Nunes played a diamond to the queen then ace and another diamond. Aronov got out safely with a club, ruffed, but Nunes simply led a spade to the queen and one back to his ten; nine tricks for +530 and 14 IMPs to Italy.

The match ended in a 47-12 IMP win to Italy, converting to 22-8 VPs, and completing a 72 VPs out of 75 day as the Italians stormed into the lead in the Championship.

Unheard Melody

Bridge is full of might have beens. This classic example comes from the match between Italy and Poland.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Bocchi	Balicki	Duboin
	Pass	1♦	Dble
Rdbl	1♥*	1♠	2♣
Pass	Pass	2♦	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Bocchi bid One Heart because a pass would have suggested defending One Diamond redoubled. Why he didn't double Three Diamonds must remain a mystery.

Three Diamonds went two down, enough for a flat board as in the other room the contract was Two Diamonds doubled down one.

At the time the commentators suggested that the reason Zmudzinski passed Two Hearts was that he knew his partner would remove the double - a classic case of VCD - VuGraph Commentators Disease, 'being wise before the event'.

However, that may not be the reason, as you cannot defeat the contract.

Say West leads the ace of diamonds. Declarer ruffs and plays three rounds of clubs. As long as the ruff is with the jack of hearts the defenders will be helpless. Now you lead a spade and in due course you will score a ruff in dummy and, thanks to the preponderance of trumps in the West hand all three trumps in hand.

The importance of ruffing with the jack of hearts is that if West subsequently wins an early spade trick then a trump exit will run to the South hand, whereas a ruff with the two will result in a fatal blockage.

Barbu

- If you are interested in online Barbu, then look at
- www.barbu.co.uk
- It is a free barbu playing club, which welcomes bridge players.
- Warning - highly addictive!

OPEN TEAMS

Round 9

Russia v Poland

by Jos Jacobs

On Tuesday, as a result of the draw, Poland really had a tremendous job to do. In the morning, they were scheduled to play Italy and had been beaten all ends up, only to find themselves back at the table for the evening derby against another strong contender, Russia. Fortunately enough, the Poles had been able to enjoy a bye earlier in the afternoon, and this must have done them some good as we saw a very tight, low-scoring match.

Though the two teams did not really bother the scorers on vugraph, strange things happened there from time to time. At a certain stage, knowing that on BBO the running score in the match was supposed to be 8-7 to Russia after 14 boards, I took a quick glance at the vugraph screens only to see the score in this match, after the same 14 boards, standing at 8-5. Half a minute later, while I was still in the vugraph, the score had dropped even further and stood at 8-2 now. Of course, I was quite intrigued by these reverse developments, so I stayed there until the next board hit the screen. By then, suddenly, all was well again. To my experience, Gianni Baldi's vugraph show is a joy to watch as it has always been over recent years, but I will never understand the intricacies of what is really going on inside those machines from time to time.

Five of these scattered Polish IMPs came from Board 2:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

The most interesting contract is 3NT by West. This needs a low diamond lead by North to beat it, a far from automatic move if the defenders know that dummy will contain a running club suit. If North leads a more normal top diamond, the suit is blocked.

In our featured match, neither team came anywhere near this challenging gamble.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Zlotov</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
		2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	3NT	Dble
Pass	Pass	4♣	Pass
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

2♣ was natural and 2NT a multiway transfer to 3♣. When Balicki made a balancing double, Zlotov tried to express the full value of his hand by announcing 3NT. When Zmudzinski doubled this, East made the wise move of retreating into 4♣, as on the ♦Q lead from the South side 3NT would definitely have gone down. The auction then inspired Balicki to make one further move to 4♦, and there it rested. As declarer was short in trumps at trick two, eight tricks were the limit; Russia +200.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chmurski</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Puczynski</i>	<i>Petrinin</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Once the bidding at the three-level revealed that the E/W hands did not contain any wasted values in diamonds, West could see that even game might have a chance. He proved right, as with the help of the heart finesse 11 tricks were no problem. Poland +400 and 5 IMPs.

On Board 8, Russia equalized when the Poles overbid to a hopeless game. From then on, the vugraph scoreboard was troubled only by itself, as explained above, and not by the players until near the end.



Alexander Petrunin, Russia



Bartosz Chmurski, Poland

This was Board 18:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kholomeev	Balicki	Zlotov	Zmudzinski
1♣	1♦	Pass	1♠
All Pass			

When Zmudzinski could not make any more positive move over the transfer overcall, Balicki called it a day. Nine tricks in a quite reasonable contract; Poland +140.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chmurski	Gromov	Puczynski	Petrinin
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

In the Open Room, the Russians showed there was much more in this deal than one might expect. After the natural overcall 2♦ promised some extra values and 3♦ asked about a diamond stopper to reach 3NT from the right side of the table.

This was a touch-and-go contract, but Petrunin made no mistake after the favourable lead of a low club to the ten. He crossed in hearts and ran the ♠J to successfully keep East out of the lead. Nine tricks, Russia +600 and 10 IMPs. The stalemate had finally been broken.

On the next board, Poland got their partial revenge when the transfers so freely used by these teams for once backfired:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kholomeev	Balicki	Zlotov	Zmudzinski
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	All Pass		

Zlotov showed his four-card major with a transfer, which Kholomeev accepted without any enthusiasm. Balicki did well to pass throughout and was rewarded with four vulnerable undertricks; Poland +400. Please note how difficult it is nowadays to find even quite decent club fits.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chmurski	Gromov	Puczynski	Petrinin
1♣	Dble	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

When Gromov made his presence felt at his first turn, the Poles were out of trouble. Here too, one wonders why North could not show his second suit over 1♠. As a result, a cold game in diamonds was missed, Russia scoring a mere +140 to lose 6 IMPs where they might have tied the board.

The final result of this tight match thus became 18-13 or 16-14 in VP to Russia.

NOTICE

From Saturday onwards (and possibly earlier) the organizing Committee is hoping to show the Euro 2004 football matches live on the big screen in the vugraph theatre.

OPEN TEAMS

Sweden v Turkey

Round 10

(with England-Germany & Denmark-Poland highlights)

Double duty for your Editor, who, thanks to the wonder of modern technology, was able to follow two matches at the same time - rather like watching Sweden-Denmark & Bulgaria-Italy on Tuesday evening. One featured the two high-flying teams, the other a battle between traditional rivals where, continuing the footballing analogy, 'Bridge is a simple game; eight men play with cards for 170 minutes and at the end Germany wins.'

Meanwhile Jos Jacobs brings you the best of the action from Denmark and Poland.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Jason</i>
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
		All Pass	



Justin Hackett, England

A typically aggressive bid from Justin Hackett backfired. The traditional advice against this type of bidding is to lead an ace, but declarer was not going to be let off lightly. East led the two of spades and West won and switched to the ten of diamonds. East took the king with the ace and advanced the jack of spades. When declarer covered that with dummy's queen he was held to five tricks; -400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Reps</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ludewig</i>
1♦	3NT	Pass	Pass
		4♦	All Pass

Rightly or wrongly East decided to take out insurance. After three rounds of clubs declarer came to nine tricks, but that was 10 IMPs for Germany.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Assael</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Zorlu</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West's decision to show his doubleton heart rather than bid 3NT turned out badly, as the 5-1 trump break proved to be fatal. Declarer won the club lead in dummy and played a diamond. North won with the king and played a club. Declarer won in hand, ruffed a diamond and went after the trumps. He was two down; -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Atabey</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Kolata</i>
1♠	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

2♦ 5+♥, 6-12

A simple auction to the top spot, +600 and 13 IMPs for Sweden.

On vugraph, the auctions on this board proved interesting contributions to the never-ending argument about the choice of opening bid holding 5-5 in the black suits. In the Closed Room, the Danes stuck to the classical theory of opening 1♣ on a weak hand, and they struck gold:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hansen	Balicki	Bilde	Zmudzinski
1♣	3♠	Dble	All Pass

Morten Bilde took a certain risk when he doubled 3♠ holding a void himself, but with less than a strong four-card holding in spades Jørgen Hansen would certainly not pass. ♠AQ832 were more than enough, however, for down three and +800 to Denmark.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Puczynski	M. L. Madsen	Chmurski	L.L. Madsen
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

When Puczynski had to open 1♠ the Danes were out of trouble here. 3NT was duly reached and made, but 5 IMPs went to Denmark.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Reps	Gold	Ludewig
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

I doubt you would be thinking in terms of a slam on the West hand facing a passed partner, but one was available this time. One suspects East should have done more, but on the other hand the heart finesse might have been wrong! Declarer quickly claimed 12 tricks; +420.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Elinescu	Justin	Wladow	Jason
	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

4♣ RKCB
4♦ 1/3

The same twelve tricks, but this time with the bonus 500; Germany +920 and 11 IMPs. In Sweden-Turkey both teams bid the slam.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Reps	Gold	Ludewig
			Pass
1♣	1♦	1♥	1♠
2♣	Pass	3♣	3♦
3♠	Pass	4♣	All Pass

I wonder if East would have achieved a coup by bidding 3NT over Three Diamonds? Whatever, this was a good auction that saw East/West stop in time; +130.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Elinescu	Justin	Wladow	Jason
			Pass
1♣*	2♦	3♦	Dble
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Obviously something went wrong - perhaps West hoped East would read Four Spades as a cuebid? This hopeless contract was six down; -600, giving England 12 IMPs.

How suitable a suit does one need to pre-empt or overcall? Is the blank king of a suit a solid stopper when you are playing in no-trumps? The auctions on the board below centered all about these two issues.

Closed Room

West <i>Hansen</i>	North <i>Balicki</i>	East <i>Bilde</i>	South <i>Zmudzinski</i>
2♥	Pass	2NT	2♦
3NT	All Pass		Pass

2♦ certainly was not everybody's choice of opening a multi. 2♥ showed a take-out double with spades, 2NT and 3NT were natural. What would you lead, holding the South hand?

Adam Zmudzinski did well to find the lead of a low diamond. No doubt, he was helped by the auction that had suggested hearts in East and spades in West. When declarer discarded one heart too many, the contract even went down five, for a remarkable +500 to Poland.

Open Room

West <i>Puczynski</i>	North <i>M. L. Madsen</i>	East <i>Chmurski</i>	South <i>L.L. Madsen</i>
1♣	1♦	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	1♠
3NT	All Pass		Pass

In the Open Room, the proceedings were much more quiet when Lars Lund Madsen did not consider his hand worth a multi. On the natural auction developing after West's natural 1♣ opening, Puczynski was in a position to gamble about the blank ♦K being a stopper in the suit. This is a fully justifiable idea, as either it will be, or partner will produce something in addition.

On a low diamond lead, he ran home in record time after winning his ♦K; Poland another +600 for a huge swing of 15 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Assael</i>	North <i>Sylvan</i>	East <i>Zorlu</i>	South <i>Sundelin</i>
1♦	1♥	1♠	Dble
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

If you overcall with this type of hand you will sometimes pay the price. This was one such moment, as South led the king of hearts, after which declarer was not in trouble. He unblocked



Peter Fredin, Sweden

dummy's ten, won in hand and played a diamond to dummy. South allowed the queen of spades to hold, and when North showed out on the jack of spades declarer took the ace, crossed to a diamond and finessed the nine of hearts, claiming when it held; +420.

Closed Room

West <i>Fredin</i>	North <i>Atabey</i>	East <i>Lindqvist</i>	South <i>Kolata</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Dble
2♦	3♣	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

South led the two of clubs and North put in the ten and continued the suit. Declarer ruffed, crossed to a diamond and played a heart to the queen. South won and continued with the force in clubs. In due course he made a couple of trump tricks; +50 and 10 IMPs.

Closed Room

West <i>Townsend</i>	North <i>Reps</i>	East <i>Gold</i>	South <i>Ludewig</i>
1♦	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

I will let you in to a secret - I hate that overcall, even though it is the modern style. Out came the king of hearts. Declarer won - not bothering to unblock the ten of hearts, crossed to dummy and ran the queen of spades. South won and played another heart, covered all round. Declarer played a low spade to the jack, followed by a low club. North won and played the jack of diamonds. Declarer won in dummy and now has several ways to make the contract. The most elegant is to play a spade. North cannot spare a red card, so has to discard a club. East wins the ace of spades and plays a spade. South wins and North has to discard his last club. Now the forced club from South squeezes North.

Alas, declarer did the one thing he could not do when he played a diamond to the ten. South could ruff and exit with a trump, leaving declarer a trick short; -50.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Jason</i>
1♦	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♣	All Pass

Once again the overall saw South lead the disastrous red king - 'He who sows the wind reaps the whirlwind.' However, declarer did not give the contract enough attention. First he did not unblock the ten of hearts - not in itself fatal but, after winning in hand, crossing to dummy with a diamond and, seeing the queen of spades hold, he played the jack of spades, which should have led to defeat. South was allowed to win with the king and had only to switch to a low club to put his side in control (North had discarded the ten of clubs on the second spade). When he played a heart, declarer was back on track and claimed ten tricks; +420 and 10 IMPs to Germany.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ —		♠ A 9 6									
♥ 10 7 4 3 2		♥ A K 5									
♦ 2		♦ K Q 6									
♣ Q 8 7 6 5 3 2		♣ A K 10 9									
♠ K J 7 5 4 2	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <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		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ Q J											
♦ A J 9 8 5											
♣ —											
♠ Q 10 8 3											
♥ 9 8 6											
♦ 10 7 4 3											
♣ J 4											



Entscho Wladow, Germany

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Assael</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Zorlu</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
2NT*	Pass	2♣*	Pass
4♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
5NT*	Pass	4♥	Pass
7♠	All Pass	6♥	Pass

According to the convention card, 2NT promised 5+♥, so I can't be sure as to exactly what was going on. Seven Spades needed trumps to be kind not this time; -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Atabey</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Kolata</i>
1♥*	Pass	1♣*	Pass
7NT	3♣	6NT	Pass
	All Pass		

1♥ 8+, 4+♠ or 12+ balanced

Seven No Trumps needed spades to be less kind than before; +2220 and a whopping 20 IMPs.

In the other match this was flat in 6NT+1. This board caused havoc all over the place. In the Open and Women's events, there are 54 tables in play, and they managed to exchange well over 300 IMPs on this board, mainly consisting of swings of 20 and 17 IMPs.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hansen</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
3♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
6♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
7♦	Pass	6♥	Pass
		7NT	All Pass

Bilde was one of a significant minority of declarers to go down, as he thought North's singleton diamond made him the more likely person to hold three spades. He played accordingly: spade to the king first, only to see North show out.

In the Open Room, we saw a jolly good auction but for East's final pass:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Puczynski</i>	<i>M. L. Madsen</i>	<i>Chmurski</i>	<i>L.L. Madsen</i>
5♣	3♣	Dble	4♣
7♠	Pass	6♣	Pass
	All Pass		

When North made a super-light pre-empt the Poles were already deprived of nearly half their bidding space. They tackled the problem quite well; West might even have bid 7♣ instead of 7♠. In the end, it was difficult to understand why Chmurski did not correct to 7NT. Partner is sure to hold six spades and the ♦A, which to my calculations amounts to 13 top tricks. So why not

take any extra chance there might be?

Then came another board where overcalling turned out badly, even though this time there was little wrong with the quality of the suit:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ A K 9 4 ♥ A K 4 ♦ Q 6 ♣ Q 10 8 3	♠ 8 7 6 ♥ J 10 8 7 6 3 ♦ — ♣ 9 7 6 4 <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin: 10px 0;"> N W E S </div> ♠ Q J 5 2 ♥ Q 9 2 ♦ J 10 8 4 2 ♣ K	♠ 10 3 ♥ 5 ♦ A K 9 7 5 3 ♣ A J 5 2	
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
Assael	Sylvan	Zorlu	Sundelin
1♣	Pass	1♠	2♦
2NT*	Pass*	3♣*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	All Pass

South attacked with three rounds of diamonds, but declarer could ruff high, draw trumps and claim; +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	Atabey	Lindqvist	Kolata
1♣*	Pass	1♥*	2♦
Dble*	All Pass		

1♥ 8+, 4+♠ or 12+ balanced

I expect many players would have done as Kolata did, but he had picked the worst possible moment. There was nothing to the play, declarer, making five tricks; -800, and a loss of 9 IMPs.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Reps	Gold	Ludewig
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	All Pass

South led his singleton heart, but declarer simply won and drew trumps, claiming ten tricks; +420.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Elinescu	Justin	Wladow	Jason
2♦*	Pass	2♠	3♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	3♥	Dble	All Pass

I expect many players would have done as Jason did, but he had picked the worst possible moment. There was nothing to the play, declarer, making six tricks; -800, and a loss of 9 IMPs.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ A J 9 6 5 ♥ J 10 3 ♦ Q 3 ♣ 10 7 2	♠ K 8 ♥ A 9 6 2 ♦ 9 8 6 ♣ J 5 4 3 <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin: 10px 0;"> N W E S </div> ♠ 10 7 4 ♥ Q 8 ♦ A K J 5 4 ♣ A K 6	♠ Q 3 2 ♥ K 7 5 4 ♦ 10 7 2 ♣ Q 9 8	
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
Assael	Sylvan	Zorlu	Sundelin
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♣	All Pass

South led a heart and North won and switched to a club. Declarer won and passed a spade to North, who played another club. When declarer advanced the ten of spades and South played low, he became another victim of a dubious piece of advice 'If they don't cover they don't have it,' by trying to drop the queen of spades. As a result he had to go one down; -50.



P-O Sundelin, Sweden

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Atabey</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Kolata</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♥*	Pass	1♠*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

This time declarer made no mistake; +420 and 10 more IMPs to the rampant Swedes. They gave nothing away in the run in and won by 74-11, 25-3 VP.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Reps</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ludewig</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dble	2♥	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Dble	2♠
			All Pass

I have no idea why Klaus Reps did not simply raise to Two Hearts. Of course, he would probably not have escaped, as East would almost certainly double and West would Pass.

Declarer took three tricks to lose 1100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Jason</i>
1♦	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass	4♣	Pass

Declarer would have had chances in 3NT, but Five Clubs was hopeless; -50 and 15 IMPs, putting England back in the game. But of course, Germany went on to win by 53-34, or 19-11 VPs.

The Danish team missed an opportunity:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hansen</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
INT	1♦	1♠	Pass
	All Pass		

This was a perfectly solid contract that was made with an overtrick on the lead of the ♦8.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Puczynski</i>	<i>M. L. Madsen</i>	<i>Chmurski</i>	<i>L.L. Madsen</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
2NT	2♥	2♠	Pass
	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Much more action on vugraph, however. When Chmurski made a bold overcall at his second turn, Puczynski could hardly be expected to sit back. Holding a respectable suit and an outside ace, Chmurski quickly understood that this might well be enough for game.

North led a heart, won by South's king. Now the problem of the hand is the heart spots. North probably holds the ♥A, but what are declarer's spot cards?

After a long huddle, South returned the ♣J. Now, had declarer won the ace and finessed the ♣Q on the way back, he would have been home before having to make up his mind about the best line of play.

As it was, Puczynski believed in the ♣J being a true card, so he won the king in hand and led his spade, putting up the queen. South won and finally returned to hearts, declarer playing the queen. At this point, North should have deduced from his partner's previous switch, that his hearts were not too good. Once he would have reached this conclusion, ducking the ♥A would have been automatic, as would have been the setting of the contract.

North won the ♥A, however, and returned a club. Now it was too late for the defence. The ♣Q made the trick, but the next heart could no longer do declarer any harm, provided he would put up the jack and take the diamond finesse later. Another 7 IMPs to Poland who finally won the match 59-12 or 24-6 VP.

Championship Diary

Here in Malmö the bridge players relax by watching the football. During an interview yesterday David Beckham revealed that England's footballers relax by watching bridge-base.

When we heard that the organizing committee is hoping to show the Euro 2004 football matches live on the big screen in the vugraph theatre our first question was 'Will Barry be the commentator?'

Watching Sweden pile on the points in their opening match one of the journalists said it must be Christmas, as Sweden were having Turkey for lunch!

Saturday 19 July 2004 - La Gazzetta dello Sport features an entire page devoted to bridge, featuring stories by Mabel Bocchi and Riccardo Magrini. Alas, it is too large to scan, otherwise we would have reproduced it here.

One player was distressed to discover that he had forgotten to turn off his mobile telephone. When it rang during play, it cost him 100 Euro, and his team 2VP. We are sworn to secrecy as to the identity of the player, but you might ease his discomfort by buying him a cigar!



Tales from the Senior Crypt

There are some stories to be told from the Swedish Senior Teams.

Dealer West. East/West Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

After an entirely natural sequence West leads the three of spades to the king and ace. A heart to the king which you win, despite that partner shows an even number of hearts, which card are you now most interested in?

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



♠ A 6 ♥ 9 4 ♦ Q J 10 9 8 6 2 ♣ A 4

Yes, of course! The two of diamonds, since if you duck the first heart and declare doesn't have the two of diamonds he cannot make his contract.

Some boards are just bound to be washouts, regardless of what silly contracts that are played.

Menu 24 June 2004



Lunch, served between 11.30 and 15.00
 Minced meat beef with chili and tzatziki 70 Skr
 Vegetarian: Vegetarian crepes 70 Skr

Dinner, served between 16.30 and 20.00
 Midsummer buffet including desserts 175 Skr

Dealer West. North/South Vul.

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



♠ Q 7 4 3 2 ♥ A 10 ♦ K 7 3 ♣ A 10 3
--

♠ A 10 6 ♥ K ♦ Q J 8 2 ♣ K J 9 4 2

What would you expect to be the contract played at both tables? Two or three hearts making eight or nine tricks? No way! At both tables West opened 1♠ and East decided not to abandon partner there, so they emerged with the negative INT, which was passed out. North/South can score four diamonds and four spades for two down, but South naturally enough led a club to the queen and declarer happily collected nine tricks.

An even bigger miracle was this one.

Dealer East. North/South Vul.

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



♠ K J 9 7 ♥ K 3 ♦ 8 6 5 2 ♣ A Q 7
--

♠ A 10 ♥ Q 8 2 ♦ A K Q J 9 3 ♣ K 2

Peter Backlund opened 1♣, strong, and North bid a negative 1♦. Hoping for some useful bits and pieces in dummy Peter optimistically ended the auction with a jump to 3NT.

This is a nice sacrifice since the opponents can make Five Clubs, although they may have problems getting there. Anyway, West was not a believer in fourth best leads in his longest and strongest suit, so he led a diamond to the ten. A heart to the eight was captured by the king and West persisted with another diamond. Peter ran all his diamonds and when East dutifully refused to win the heart ace when Peter played the queen, South played his third heart.

Meanwhile West came down to ♠KJ and ♣AQ. In response to his partner's signals East played a spade to the ace and West rather unwisely played the jack. The ten of spades to the king was followed by the ace of clubs and the queen to the king.

At the other table South bid 2♦ after the strong club and weak diamond response. East led a club and West cashed his ace and queen. The king of hearts was followed by a heart to the ace and a heart ruff. Since declarer could not draw trumps and enjoy his good hearts the contract sadly went one down.

Talking about cards

Arriving at Malmö, I knew that I was going to have some kind of official function, but not which. When I leafed through the championship booklet I discovered that I was a journalist. There is a first time for everything I thought. Wondering what a bridge festival journalist might do, I decided to do some research on what journalists do at bridge festivals. First and foremost they write articles. I had heard that journalists give the articles that they have written to someone called "the editor", who either accepts or refuses to publish them. Concluding that I should probably report for duty to "the editor" I asked who "the editor" was. The reply was satisfactory in the respect that I do know who Martin Nygren is, and unsatisfactory from the point of view that I am Martin Nygren.

At my disposal I have two battle worn veterans in Tommy Gullberg and Sven-Olov "Tjolpe" Flodqvist. They do, as usual, an excellent job in covering the Chairman's Cup, the Swedish Championship finals and all side events. With the bridge being well covered it remains for me to report on interesting non-bridge events and general gossip. That is not an easy task for a man that is generally uninterested in gossip. Or to be more accurate, most things that people gossip about are very interesting to do but not to talk about. I am afraid that the gossip column will not be up to the standards that the bridge festival participants are used to.

Talking about non-bridge events, this must be some kind of record in underbidding:

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

Eight pairs reached 6NT! Surely enough the unlucky five-one break in hearts keeps declarer to only fifteen tricks, but that should do nicely. If your partner and you - with your favourite methods - end up in game or a part-score on the above hand, please tell us the sequence. We can offer a Swan Bridge voucher in exchange for the information.

Sweden's NPC, Jan Kamras showed off a cunning piece of coaching yesterday evening. All players on the team wanted to see the Sweden-Denmark game but the schedule was a bit tight to make it back in time for the kick-off. To increase the odds of finishing the bridge in time, Kamras decided to side-step P-O Sundelin.



Bridge Festival Schedule

23 June 2004

Chairman's Cup Rounds Two and Three

10.00 - 12.10	Final, first session
12.20 - 14.30	Final, second session
14.30 - 15.30	Lunch
15.30 - 17.40	Final, third session
17.50 - 20.00	Final, fourth session
12.00 - 14.15	Third place playoffs, first half
14.15 - 15.30	Lunch
15.30 - 17.45	Third place play-offs, second half

Gold Barometer

10.00 Gold three

Silver Barometer

11.00 Silver nine, IMPs across the field
18.00 Silver ten

Bronze Barometer

19.00 Bronze five

Swedish Senior Pairs Championship

10.00 - 12.15 Sixteen boards
12.15 - 12.30 Coffee break
12.30 - 14.20 Fourteen boards
14.50 - 15.00 Prize giving ceremony

Thomas Larsson, Stockholm responsible for Press and Sponsors

Hello, could I ask some questions for the bulletin?

Yes, no problem.

How many journalists are there here?

I can arrange for your transport to arrive at 17.00.

At this point I realise that Thomas is not talking to me but to his mobile phone.

Thomas, do you mind answering some questions for the bulletin?

No, not all. As long as you do not mind that I have my sandwich while we are talking.

Press and Sponsors it says on your badge?

Yes, I am responsible for all contacts with radio, TV and newspapers that are not dedicated to bridge. There has been a large interest from local media but nationally we have only had Swedish radio channel three so far.

Our sponsors, are they happy with the publicity they get?

They find this to be a very exciting event and there have been a lot of people in the exhibition hall. They have not sold very much of their merchandise yet, but I think that people will buy their souvenirs towards the end of next week. Casino Cosmopol are surprised that not more people avail themselves of the free bus service.

Do you get to play any bridge?

So far no, but I hope to be able to participate in a bronze barometer towards the end of the week.

Is there anything special that you look forward to?

Good weather so that we can treat our guests to a really nice midsummer party. I look forward to introduce them to the local wine, Skåne.

