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Bulletin 13 Saturday, 3 July 2004

SWEDEN CROWNED CHAMPIONS



The New European Women's Champions

Congratulations to the new European Women's Champions, Sweden, represented by Kathrine Bertheau, Catarina Midskog, Pia Andersson, Linda Långström, Catharina Forsberg, Maria Grönkvist, with Anna Järup, NPC and Bror Bjerner, Coach. It is Sweden's fourth win, following victories in Beirut, 1962, Dublin, 1967, and Menton 1993, where Linda Långström & Catarina Midskog were members of the winning team.

The silver medals are in the hands of the Netherlands, Carla Arnolds, Bep Vriend, Femke Hoogweg, Wietske van Zwol, Jet Pasman, Anneke Simons, with Ed Franken, NPC and Chris Niemeijer, Coach. France, Véronique Bessis, Bénédicte Cronier, Catherine d'Ovidio, Daniéle Gaviard-Allouche, Christine Lustin, Sylvie Willard, NPC Gérard Tissot, collect the bronze. Austria and Israel secured the remaining Venice Cup places.

Today's VuGraph Matches

OPEN TEAMS - Round 33 Italy v Denmark

10.30

PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY

The Prize-Giving Ceremony will be held in the vugraph room at 7.30 p.m. today, 3rd July.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

As the space between the stage and the first row of the stalls is very narrow, we are obliged to ask photographers to please note the following:

- The right and left hand sides of the first two rows are reserved for them.
- Photographers may approach the stage to take photographs ONLY after the winners' anthem has been played.
- Photographers must return to their seats immediately after players leave the podium.
- This procedure will be repeated for all series.

Please follow this procedure to help our organisation of the Ceremony.











OPEN TEAMS RESULTS

		ROUND 30		
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	CZECH REP.	RUSSIA	26 - 70	6 - 24
2	FAROE ISL.	BYE		18 - 0
3	SERBIA/MONT.	ITALY	60 - 76	12 - 18
4	DENMARK	SAN MARINO	86 - 24	25 - 3
5	FRANCE	PORTUGAL	100 - 14	25 - 0
6	ICELAND	IRELAND	19 - 36	11 - 19
7	ENGLAND	ISRAEL	50 - 57	14 - 16
8	GERMANY	NORWAY	80 - 31	25 - 5
9	HUNGARY	TURKEY	35 - 57	10 - 20
10	GREECE	SPAIN	53 - 39	18 - 12
11	POLAND	SCOTLAND	56 - 27	21 - 9
12	AUSTRIA	SWITZERLAND	42 - 49	14 - 16
13	BULGARIA	SWEDEN	49 - 43	16 - 14
14	LATVIA	CROATIA	27 - 66	7 - 23
15	ROMANIA	FINLAND	55 - 7	25 - 5
16	WALES	LITHUANIA	50 - 70	11 - 19
17	BELGIUM	NETHERLANDS	18 - 80	3 - 25

			ROUND 31		
		Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VP s
	- 1	RUSSIA	FAROE ISL.	63 - 6	25 - 4
	2	BYE	ITALY		0 - 18
	3	CZECH REP.	DENMARK	15 - 61	6 - 24
	4	SAN MARINO	FRANCE	25 - 60	8 - 22
	5	PORTUGAL	ICELAND	13 - 98	0 - 25
	6	IRELAND	ENGLAND	15 - 76	3 - 25
	7	ISRAEL	GERMANY	54 - 53	15 - 15
	8	NORWAY	HUNGARY	95 - 31	25 - 3
	9	TURKEY	GREECE	58 - 23	22 - 8
	10	SPAIN	POLAND	8 - 45	7 - 23
	11	SCOTLAND	AUSTRIA	44 - 39	16 - 14
	12	SWITZERLAND	BULGARIA	50 - 34	18 - 12
	13	SWEDEN	LATVIA	78 - 6	25 - 2
	14	CROATIA	ROMANIA	65 - 48	19 - 11
	15	FINLAND	WALES	68 - 39	21 - 9
	16	LITHUANIA	BELGIUM	38 - 48	13 - 17
	17	NETHERLANDS	SERBIA/MONT.	24 - 39	12 - 18
ı					

		ROUND 32		
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
- 1	ITALY	RUSSIA	32 - 47	12 - 18
2	SERBIA/MONT.	BYE		18 - 0
3	DENMARK	FAROE ISL.	64 - 12	25 - 5
4	FRANCE	CZECH REP.	31 - 35	14 - 16
5	ICELAND	SAN MARINO	84 - 24	25 - 3
6	ENGLAND	PORTUGAL	43 - 18	20 - 10
7	GERMANY	IRELAND	68 - 20	25 - 5
8	HUNGARY	ISRAEL	31 - 54	10 - 20
9	GREECE	NORWAY	50 - 34	18 - 12
10	POLAND	TURKEY	38 - 24	18 - 12
П	AUSTRIA	SPAIN	65 - 26	23 - 7
12	BULGARIA	SCOTLAND	19 - 66	6 - 24
13	LATVIA	SWITZERLAND	60 - 36	20 - 10
14	ROMANIA	SWEDEN	8 - 39	9 - 21
15	WALES	CROATIA	53 - 57	14 - 16
16	BELGIUM	FINLAND	39 - 51	13 - 17
17	NETHERLANDS	LITHUANIA	81 - 21	25 - 3

OPEN TEAMS PROGRAM

	ROU	ND 33 10.30
Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
ı	RUSSIA	BYE
2	ITALY	DENMARK
3	FAROE ISL.	FRANCE
4	CZECH REP.	ICELAND
5	SAN MARINO	ENGLAND
6	PORTUGAL	GERMANY
7	IRELAND	HUNGARY
8	ISRAEL	GREECE
9	NORWAY	POLAND
10	TURKEY	AUSTRIA
П	SPAIN	BULGARIA
12	SCOTLAND	LATVIA
13	SWITZERLAND	ROMANIA
14	SWEDEN	WALES
15	CROATIA	BELGIUM
16	FINLAND	NETHERLANDS
17	LITHUANIA	serbia/montenegro









WOMEN'S TEAMS RESULTS

		ROUND 20		
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VP s
21	DENMARK	GERMANY	32 - 44	13 - 17
22	FAROE ISL.	ENGLAND	10 - 85	I - 25
23	NETHERLANDS	TURKEY	53 - 20	22 - 8
24	CZECH REP.	SWEDEN	12 - 74	3 - 25
25	ITALY	FRANCE	51 - 63	13 - 17
26	FINLAND	LEBANON	89 - 14	25 - I
27	SPAIN	SCOTLAND	55 - 24	21 - 9
28	CROATIA	IRELAND	68 - 59	17 - 13
29	POLAND	ISRAEL	42 - 43	15 - 15
30	AUSTRIA	NORWAY	57 - 79	10 - 20
31	HUNGARY	ICELAND	17 <i>-</i> 48	9 - 21

		ROUND 21		
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	GERMANY	ENGLAND	61 - 48	18 - 12
22	DENMARK	NETHERLANDS	37 - 31	16 - 14
23	TURKEY	CZECH REP.	25 - 46	11 - 19
24	SWEDEN	ITALY	61 - 8	25 - 5
25	FRANCE	FINLAND	32 - 59	9 - 21
26	LEBANON	SPAIN	6 - 68	3 - 25
27	SCOTLAND	CROATIA	32 - 64	8 - 22
28	IRELAND	POLAND	33 - 30	16 - 14
29	ISRAEL	AUSTRIA	28 - 34	14 - 16
30	NORWAY	HUNGARY	43 - 28	18 - 12
31	ICELAND	FAROE ISL.	24 - 48	10 - 20

SENIOR TEAMS RESULTS FINAL A

		ROUND 4		
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VP s
41	POLAND	GERMANY	43 - 49	14 - 16
42	ENGLAND	DENMARK	6 - 74	I - 25
43	SWEDEN	FRANCE	39 - 32	16 - 14
44	NETHERLANDS	ITALY	21 - 35	12 - 18

	ROUND 5		
Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
GERMANY	ITALY	15 - 62	4 - 25
DENMARK	FRANCE	23 - 23	15 - 15
POLAND	NETHERLANDS	30 - 52	10 - 20
ENGLAND	SWEDEN	17 - 62	5 - 25
	Home Team GERMANY DENMARK POLAND ENGLAND	Home Team Visiting Team GERMANY ITALY DENMARK FRANCE POLAND NETHERLANDS	Home TeamVisiting TeamIMPsGERMANYITALY15 - 62DENMARKFRANCE23 - 23POLANDNETHERLANDS30 - 52

		ROUND 6		
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VP s
41	FRANCE	GERMANY	21 - 34	12 - 18
42	ITALY	DENMARK	10 - 25	12 - 18
43	SWEDEN	POLAND	17 - 37	10 - 20
44	NETHERLANDS	ENGLAND	32 - 17	18 - 12

SENIOR TEAMS PROGRAM FINAL A

	RC	OUND 7	10.30
Table	Home Team	Visitir	ng Team
41	GERMANY	DENM	ARK
42	FRANCE	ITALY	
43	POLAND	ENGL	AND
44	SWEDEN	NETH	erlands

Notice

On Saturday July, 3rd the Press Room will close at 15.00hrs



Victory Banquet

May we remind you that the Victory Banquet (wine, water, coffee included) will be held in Hall B at 8.30 p.m. today 3rd July immediately after the Prize-Giving Ceremony.

There will be a show during the Banquet.

A bar will also be open in the Banquet room, serving drinks from 40 Skr.

SENIOR TEAMS RESULTS FINAL B

	ROUND 4		
Home Team	Visiting Team	IMP s	VP s
FINLAND	ISRAEL	66 - 36	22 - 8
SWITZERLAND	NORWAY	37 - 45	13 - 17
WALES	CZECH REP.	36 - 44	13 - 17
IRELAND	SCOTLAND	17 - 38	10 - 20
	FINLAND SWITZERLAND WALES	Home TeamVisiting TeamFINLANDISRAELSWITZERLANDNORWAYWALESCZECH REP.	Home TeamVisiting TeamIMPsFINLANDISRAEL66 - 36SWITZERLANDNORWAY37 - 45WALESCZECH REP.36 - 44

		ROUND 5		
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMP s	VPs
45	ISRAEL	SCOTLAND	44 - 34	17 - 13
46	NORWAY	CZECH REP.	44 - 7	24 - 6
47	FINLAND	IRELAND	31 - 41	13 - 17
48	SWITZERLAND	WALES	40 - 14	21 - 9

	ROUND 6				
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VP s	
45	CZECH REP.	ISRAEL	22 - 68	5 - 25	
46	SCOTLAND	NORWAY	44 - 30	18 - 12	
47	WALES	FINLAND	29 - 33	14 - 16	
48	B IRELAND	SWITZERLAND	11 - 37	9 - 21	

SENIOR TEAMS PROGRAM FINAL B

	ROUND 7	10.30
Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
45	ISRAEL	NORWAY
46	CZECH REP.	SCOTLAND
47	FINLAND	SWITZERLAND
48	WALES	IRELAND

On behalf of all the journalists present at the 47th European Bridge Teams Chiampionships in Malmö, I would like to thank the European Bridge League and Förbundet Svensk Bridge for the excellent facilities offered in the Press Room. Bravo!!

Jan Swaan, Press Room Manager

EBL Seniors Committee Meeting

This meeting will be held in the EBL meeting room on the 2nd floor today 3 July at 13.30, immediately after play finishes

Agenda

- I The 2004 Senior Teams Championship Malmö
- 2 The 2004 World Senior Bowl Istanbul
- 13 Future Senior events
- 4 Change of age Regulations
- 5 Any other business

Göran Mattsson - Chairman

OPEN TEAMS RANKING after 32 rounds

I	ITALY	651.00
2	SWEDEN	599.50
3	RUSSIA	571.50
4	NETHERLANDS	566.00
5	POLAND	565.50
6	ENGLAND	561.00
7	TURKEY	542.00
8	GERMANY	537.00
9	FRANCE	529.00
10	DENMARK	521.00
П	ICELAND	515.50
12	ISRAEL	511.00
13	BELGIUM	507.50
14	GREECE	501.50
15	FINLAND	498.50
16	NORWAY	479.00
17	BULGARIA	472.50
18	AUSTRIA	466.00
19	CROATIA	461.50
20	SCOTLAND	460.00
21	HUNGARY	451.00
22	SERBIA/MONTENEGRO	435.00
23	WALES	428.50
24	SWITZERLAND	427.00
25	SPAIN	419.50
26	LATVIA	419.00
27	ROMANIA	415.00
28	IRELAND	414.50
29	PORTUGAL	398.50
30	CZECH REP.	375.00
31	LITUANIA	374.50
32	FAROE ISLANDS	367.00
33	SAN MARINO	284.50

WOMEN'S TEAMS FINAL RANKING

ı	SWEDEN	402.00
2	NETHERLANDS	395.00
3	FRANCE	377.00
4	AUSTRIA	370.00
5	ISRAEL	361.50
6	GERMANY	358.00
7	ENGLAND	347.00
8	FINLAND	344.00
9	POLAND	343.00
10	SPAIN	333.00
11	NORWAY	332.00
12	ITALY	319.00
13	TURKEY	309.00
14	DENMARK	304.00
15	CZECH REP.	291.50
16	IRELAND	290.00
17	HUNGARY	275.00
18	SCOTLAND	274.00
19	CROATIA	260.00
20	ICELAND	218.00
21	FAROE ISLANDS	180.00
22	LEBANON	179.00

SENIOR TEAMS RANKING FINAL A after 6 rounds

ı	DENMARK	382.00
2	POLAND	363.10
3	GERMANY	362.00
4	SWEDEN	360.00
5	FRANCE	360.00
6	ITALY	356.00
7	ENGLAND	317.00
8	NETHERLANDS	312.50

SENIOR TEAMS RANKING FINAL B after 6 rounds

I	ISRAEL	350.00
2	NORWAY	318.00
3	SCOTLAND	297.40
4	CZECH REP.	293.50
5	FINLAND	278.00
6	SWITZERLAND	268.00
7	WALES	214.00
8	IRELAND	121.00

OPEN TEAMS

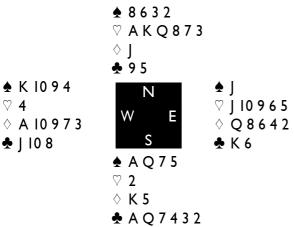
Round 27

Sweden v Greece

Going into this match, Sweden were still lying second but looking much less secure than a few days ago, while the Greeks were in eighth and in need a of a good result to keep themselves in contention for a qualification spot. The action began straight away, with Greece perhaps fortunate not to get doubled in a freely bid $5 \clubsuit$.

club from dummy, and cashed the ace of spades before playing ace then ruffing a club. That brought down the ΦK and now Filios played the ∇K , pitching a club, then the ∇Q and another heart, ruffing. Nystrom, who had correctly discarded on the two top hearts, over-ruffed, drew the last trump and cashed diamonds for down four; -200 and 4 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

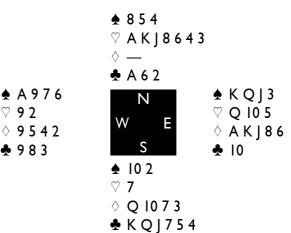


West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Papa'	Berthau	Filios
,	ľΫ́	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♡	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
Lambrinos	Lindkvist	Zotos	Fredin
	I♡	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♡	Pass	4♣
Pass	4◊	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

In the Swedish auction, Peter Fredin's 2♣ response was a game-forcing relay and 3♥ showed Magnus Lindkvist's precise distribution. Four Clubs set spades as trumps and 4♦ showed a minimum opening, hence the sign-off. Alekos Lambrinos led his singleton heart to dummy's ace. Fredin took the club finesse, then cashed the two black aces before ruffing a club in dummy. He played a top heart but Lambrinos could ruff that and cash the ace of diamonds then sit back and wait to collect two more trumps for down one; -50.

The Greeks had an essentially natural auction to 5♣, Yiankos Papakyriakopoulos not having any reason to go on once Aris Filios signed off in that contract. It must have been tempting for Fredrik Nystrom to double and lead the ace of diamonds, as that card was surely going to stand up on this auction and he could expect two trump tricks also, but he was not willing to risk telling declarer how to make an otherwise impossible contract so passed. Nystrom cashed the ace of diamonds then switched to his heart and Filios won and took the losing spade finesse. Now Nystrom played a diamond and Filios won the king, throwing a

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



		-	
West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Papa'	Berthau	Filios
•	ľΫ	Dble	INT
Pass	4 ♡	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Lambrinos	Lindkvist	Zotos	Fredin
	ΙŸ	Dble	INT
Pass	3♡	All Pass	



Yiankos Papakyriakopoulos, Greece

Both INT responses were transfers to clubs, but then Papakyriakopoulos took a rosier view of the North hand than did Lindkvist.

Against the partscore, Loukas Zotos led a top diamond, ruffed, and Lindkvist conceded a spade. Zotos switched to a club and Lindkvist won in dummy and ruffed a diamond then played a second spade. Lambrinos won that and gave his partner a club ruff. Zotos returned the $\triangledown Q$ to prevent the spade ruff but Lindkvist had the rest for +170.

Peter Berthau also led a top diamond and Papakyriakopoulos ruffed, crossed to dummy with a club and took the heart finesse. When that lost, Berthau played three rounds of spades, Nystrom winning the third to give his partner a club ruff; down two for -200 and 9 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

•	304,6 0. 204,6, 2454	. _ , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
	♠ 983♡ 5♦ 1072♠ A87654	
♠ J 10 6 ♡ K 9 4 3 2 ◇ Q 6 ♣ J 9 3	N W E S ♠ A Q 7 5 2 ♡ A 7 ◊ K J 9 5 ♣ O 10	♠ K 4 ♡ Q J I0 8 6 ◇ A 8 4 3 ♣ K 2

West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Papa'	Berthau	Filios
		ΙŸ	I♠
2♡	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			



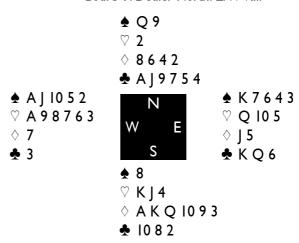
Alekos Lambrinos, Greece

West	North	East	South
Lambrinos	Lindkvist	Zotos	Fredin
		Ι♡	I♠
3♡	Pass	4♡	All Pass

Lambrinos' more aggressive raise shut Lindkvist out of the auction and Zotos won it in 4° . Fredin led ace and another trump and Zotos won in dummy to pass the jack of spades. Fredin won the ΦQ and switched to the queen of clubs to his partner's ace. Back came a spade to the ace and Fredin exited with a third round and waited to get a diamond in the ending for down two; -200.

In the other room, Nystrom's quiet heart raise left room for Papakyriakopoulos to raise the spades and Filios played the spade game. He received a heart lead to the ace and ruffed his heart loser then took the spade finesse. He cashed the \triangle A then led the \triangle 10 to dummy's ace and passed the \lozenge 10 to the queen; one down for -50 and 6 IMPs to Sweden.

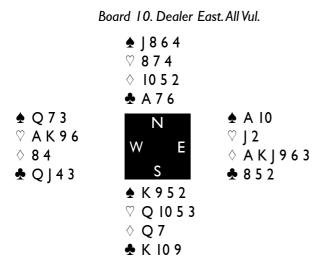
Board 9. Dealer North, E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Papa'	Berthau	Filios
	Pass	I♠	2◊
2NT	5◊	Dble	Pass
5♡	Pass	5♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Lambrinos	Lindkvist	Zotos	Fredin
	Pass	Pass	I♦
3♣	4 ♦	4♠	5◊
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Berthau opened the borderline East hand and Nystrom showed spade support then went on to the five level despite the discouraging double. He can hardly be blamed for that with his exceptional distribution, but 5\(\Delta\) was one too high; down one for -100.

Zotos passed as East and Lambrinos showed the majors with his 3\$\,\infty\$ overcall. When 5\$\circ\$ came around to him, Zotos had a tricky decision. His soft values suggested defending, but he did have five spades and a heart fit so that 5\$\,\infty\$ might have been cold facing \$\,\infty\$A and \$\sigma AK\$. Zotos judged well to double and Lambrinos cashed his aces before trying a second spade. That allowed Fredin to eliminate before taking a club finesse and the resultant endplay meant that the contract was only down one for another +100 to Greece and 5 IMPs.

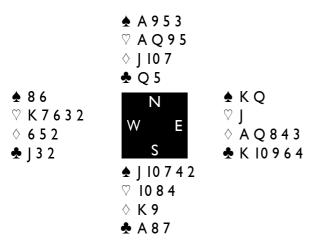


West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Papa'	Berthau	Filios
	•	2♦	Pass
2♡	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Lambrinos	Lindkvist	Zotos	Fredin
		I ♦	Pass
Ι♡	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Lindkvist led a low club to the ace and Fredin returned the suit for the queen and ace. Now Lindkvist switched to a spade, ducked to the king, but it was far too late to put declarer under any sort of pressure. Lambrinos won the heart switch now and took a diamond finesse. That lost, of course, but that was it for the defence; +600.

Filios led a heart and Berthau ran this to his hand jack successfully. That looked to be a good start for declarer but he took his eye off the ball for a moment and did not appreciate the danger in cashing a top diamond before crossing to dummy with a heart to finesse the \lozenge J. When that lost to the queen, Filios switched to a low spade for the jack and ace and declarer was in hand for the last time so had to cash the diamonds. But that squeezed dummy in all three suits and the diamonds were all that he made from here; down one for -100 and 12 IMPs to Greece.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Papa'	Berthau	Filios
Pass	I ♦	Pass	I♠
Pass	2♠	2NT	3♠
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
Lambrinos	Lindkvist	Zotos	Fredin
Pass	I♣	1♦	Ι♡
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Against 2Φ , Zotos led the king of trumps which, as they say, did not exactly paralyse declarer. Lindkvist won and played a second spade to the queen and Zotos now tried ace and another diamond. Lindkvist won the $\Diamond K$, played a spade to his nine then ruffed the $\Diamond J$. He ran the $\heartsuit 8$ now and, though that lost to the jack, Zotos was endplayed. His club switch ran to the queen and Lindkvist had the rest for +170.

South was declarer in 3\(\Delta\) in the other room and Nystrom led a club for the queen, king and ace. Filios ran the jack of spades to the queen and back came the \(\Delta\)10 to the jack followed by a heart switch, which he ducked to the jack. Now Berthau switched to ace and another diamond and declarer needed to get the trumps right to make his contract. When he took a second finesse, he was one down for -100 and 7 IMPs to Sweden.

	— ,		
West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Papa'	Berthau	Filios
Lambrinos	Lindkvist	Zotos	Fredin
			I♠
4♣	Dble	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

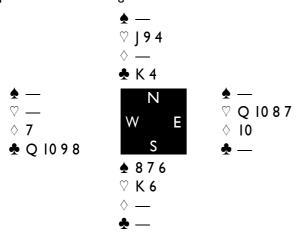
Identical auctions saw both Souths declare the heart game on a diamond lead. Both declarers played low from dummy. Berthau rose with the ace of diamonds and returned the suit. Filios cashed the ace of hearts then took the spade finesse, cashed the Δ and Q, throwing his club, and played the two top clubs. Berthau ruffed in with the seven and Filios over-ruffed, cashed the Q and ruffed a spade, over-ruffed. Berthau exited with his last diamond and had two more trump tricks to come for down one; -100.

Zotos put in the \$9 at trick one and the king scored. Fredin cashed the ace of hearts then took the spade finesse, cashed the ace of spades and played off the top clubs. When Zotos ruffed in, Fredin threw his diamond loser away. He won the spade return with the queen, cashed the other top heart and started playing spades. All Zotos could come to were the two trump tricks; just made for +620 and 12 IMPs to Sweden, who were building a useful lead in the match.

West	North	East	South
Baldursson	Atabey	Jonsson	Kolata I ♠
4♣ All Pass	Dble	Pass	4 ♡

This was the action from the vugraph match between Turkey and Iceland, as reported by Barry Rigal. Suleyman received a club lead which he won in dummy. He found the fine play of the jack of hearts next, and that was covered by the queen and king. A spade to the jack was followed by the ♣A then a low diamond. Thorlakur Jonsson went in with the ◇A and played the suit back to the king. Kolata cashed the queen of spades then ruffed a winning spade with dummy's three, forcing Jonsson to over-ruff with the eight. Declarer won the diamond return in dummy and had the trump spots to hold East to just one more trick; +620 and 13 IMPs to Turkey as the result in the other room was 4♠ down two.

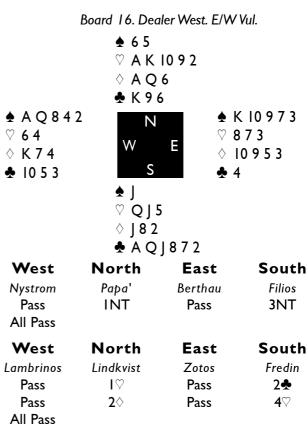
According to Deep Finesse, the double dummy analyzing program, $4\heartsuit$ can always be made by careful play even if declarer cashes the ace of hearts at trick three after a diamond lead to the ace and a diamond back. He continues with two rounds of spades then the $\clubsuit A$, before ruffing the winning $\lozenge Q$. The $\spadesuit Q$ for a club pitch leaves this ending:





Peter Fredin, Sweden

Having already won seven tricks, declarer must lead a spade winner and pitch the low club from dummy. East ruffs and plays the $\lozenge 10$. Declarer ruffs in dummy and leads the king of clubs, pitching the last spade when East ruffs to leave him to lead away from the $\triangledown Q$ at trick twelve.



It just goes to show that the simple auctions are not always the best as the Greeks were swiftly down in 3NT after the inevitable spade lead; -50.

Meanwhile, Lindkvist opened in his good five-card major and was soon in the heart game, where he made all the tricks after a club lead for +510. Having missed a cold slam, the Swedes would not have been too disappointed to find that they had gained 11 IMPs.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

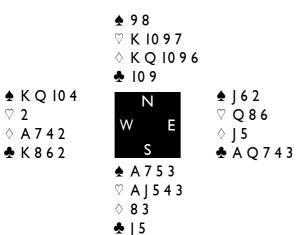
E	Board 19. Dea	ler South. E/W	Vul.
	♠ AJ9	2	
	♡ 652	<u>)</u>	
	♦ 108	6	
	♣ 5 4 3	3	
★ K 8 3	Ν	♠ 6	5
♡ 10983	W	♥ J	
♦ K 7		-	J 9 5 3 2
♣ K Q 9 2	S	♣ A	876
	♠ Q I(
	♡ A K	Q 7 4	
	♦ Q 4		
	♣ J 10		
West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Papa'	Berthau	Filios
			ΙŸ
Pass	INT	2♦	2♡
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Lambrinos	Lindkvist	Zotos	Fredin
			IΦ
Pass	INT	2♦	Pass
2♡	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

When Filios repeated his chunky five-card heart suit, Nystrom tried a penalty double, ending the auction. He led the $\Diamond K$ then switched to $\bigstar K$ and a low club to the ace. Berthau cashed the $\Diamond A$ then played another diamond, ruffed and over-ruffed. Filios ruffed the club continuation, cashed the hearts and took the spade finesse for a very handy +470.

Fredin did not rebid his hearts and Lambrinos cuebid 2° then tried 3NT, thereby showing doubt about the correct denomination. Zotos could see that his $^{\circ}$ J would be helpful in no trump so passed, and Lindkvist kicked off with a low heart. Fredin won the heart with the king and returned a low heart but there was no guess and declarer won the ten. Lambrinos cashed the clubs then played $^{\diamond}$ K and a diamond to... the jack. The defence had the rest for down three; -300 but still 5 IMPs to Greece.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Papa'	Berthau	Filios
I♦	Pass	INT	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass	2♡
3♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Lambrinos	Lindkvist	Zotos	Fredin
l 🕭	I ♦	3♣	All Pass

The Greek East/West pair stopped safely in 3♣, making eleven tricks for +150, and probably thought nothing more about the deal. It is easy enough to beat the club game — any red-suit lead should do the trick as there is time to switch to a diamond after a heart lead. But Filios led a trump, and declarer could draw the remaining trumps and knock out the ace of spades for a painless +750 and 12 IMPs to Sweden.

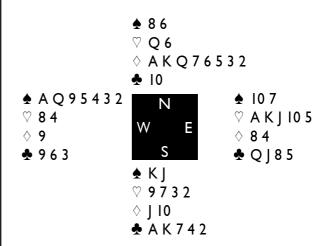
That completed a comfortable 71-34 IMP victory for the Swedes, and the $23-7\,VP$ win consolidated their hold on the silver medal.

The Hunt For New Records

by Jos Jacobs

During these Championships, new records have already been set as to the biggest penalty (3400) and the largest swing (37 IMPs). In Wednesday morning's vugraph match, we saw a few new records coming up on Board 4.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
P. Schaltz	Atabey	D. Schaltz	Kolata
3♠	4♦	Pass	5◊
All Pass			

This quietly went two down on a heart lead. Denmark +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	M. L. Madsen	Assael	L.L. Madsen
2♦	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

In the Closed Room, things got out of hand. The bidding looks quite innocent, but Assael's double certainly was not. Either Lund Madsen could have saved the day by taking shelter in 40 but, when neither did, it was up to Zorlu to find the heart lead already suggested by the double. When he did, the Turkish defenders took the first 12 tricks in the majors, for a score of 2300 and 19 IMPs to them.

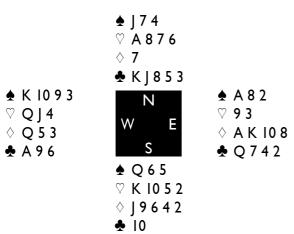
As we all saw on vugraph, after this board the Turkish team went on to blitz Denmark by a humiliating score of 116-16 IMPs, converting into no peanuts at all to Denmark.

WOMEN'S TEAMS

Round 18

Israel was the hot team in the Women's series after a disappointing start to the tournament, and with four rounds to go were right on the edge of the qualifying places. They needed to keep piling on the points, however, if they were to make it to Estoril.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Matut	Z-Campanile	Santos	Poplilov
	Pass	I ♦	Pass
I♠	Dble	Rdbl	2♡
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
West	North	East	South
L-Porat	C. Viola	Birman	M. Viola
	Pass	♣	Pass
I♠	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT			



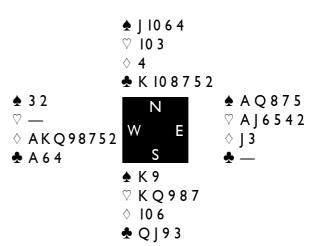
Carmen Viola, Spain

Israel v Spain

East's choice of opening bid probably settled the outcome of this first deal. Where Carmen Santos had opened I ♦, North was able to make a two-suited take-out double and West became declarer. Had East played the hand, the lead would have been a heart on this auction, just as was the actual case. The defence played three rounds of hearts and Marisa Matut threw a spade from dummy. She tried a club towards the queen and, had Migry Zur-Campanile ducked this, a switch to spades would have netted nine tricks. But Zur-Campanile did go in with the ♣K and cashed the heart trick before exiting with a spade to dummy's now bare ace. There was no squeeze and declarer's spot cards were not quite good enough in either minor so the contract had to fail by one trick; 50.

In the other room, East was declarer having opened I♣. It was natural for Margarita Viola to lead a diamond but that was the ninth trick. Daniela Birman won cheaply and played ace of spades then a spade to the ten and jack. Carmen Viola switched to hearts but the defence had only two tricks to cash there. A slight defensive lapse permitted an overtrick for +430 and 10 IMPs to Israel, the perfect start for them.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Matut	Z-Campanile	Santos	Poplilov
		I♡	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♡	Pass
6◊	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
L-Porat	C. Viola	Birman	M. Viola
		I♠	2♡
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
6◊	Pass	7 ♦	All Pass

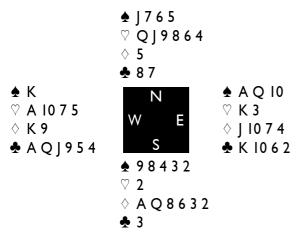
Santos opened I^{\heartsuit} then reversed and bid out her major-suit shape. Matut checked on key cards then settled for the small slam, making all thirteen tricks after a spade lead by rising with the ace, pitching her spade loser on the ${}^{\heartsuit}A$ and ruffing the two low clubs; +940.



Migri Zur-Campanila, Israel

Birman preferred to open I♠, thereby misleading partner about the relative lengths of her majors but not about her strength. When Ruth Porat-Levit could jump to slam, Birman looked at her three first-round controls and raised to seven. On a heart lead the play was quite straightforward for +1440 and 11 IMPs to Israel, leading by 21 IMPs after only two deals. But it is a pity that trump leads against grand slams are rather out of fashion these days, because there does not appear to be a way home if North does lead a trump, as declarer needs to pitch a club on the ♥A so is dependent on the losing spade finesse for her contract.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



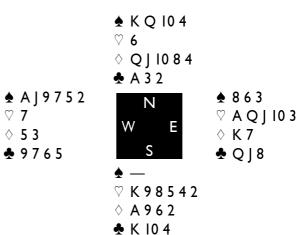
West	North	East	South
Matut	Z-Campanile	Santos	Poplilov
	Pass	I ♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♡	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
L-Porat	C. Viola	Birman	M. Viola
	Pass	♣	I ♦
I♡	Pass	INT	Pass
2◊	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♡	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	6♣	All Pass

On Board 4 both East/West pairs suffered the misfortune of bidding a good 6 which only failed because there was a singleton on lead facing the ace. The same fate awaited East/West on this deal and, sure enough, Zur-Campanile led her singleton diamond and received a ruff for down one; -50. The Israeli East/West pair might have judged to play in no trump, I suppose, after the I overcall, but it was perhaps difficult to count twelve tricks without heart ruffs, and they too alighted in the club slam. However, system had put the declaration in the East hand and South led a heart, letting the contract through for +940 and another I4 IMPs to Israel; 35-1.

The deals quietened down for a while and the score had moved on to only 40-I at the half-way point, but then the action began again:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Matut	Z-Campanile	Santos	Poplilov
			ΙŸ
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
L-Porat	C. Viola	Birman	M. Viola
			Pass
2♦	2♡	Dble	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

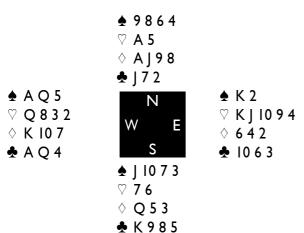
Matilda Poplilov opened the South hand then did well to reopen with a double when the weak jump overcall came back to her. Zur-Campanile passed, of course, and led the queen of diamonds, which was allowed to hold the trick. She switched to her heart and Matut rose with the ace and returned the ∇Q , covered, ruffed and over-ruffed. Now North should play a diamond because she knows that it is standing up (South would not have

reopened with a double if six-five and with such a weak hand) and she does not want to risk partner playing for a trump promotion. When Zur-Campanile actually switched to ace and another club, that is exactly what happened. Poplilov won the king and played a heart through and declarer's remaining diamond went away. South's defence would have been correct had declarer been three-three in the minors and North needed a trump promotion. This allowed Matut out for just one down; 100.

In the other room, Viola did not open as South and Levit-Porat opened a multi. North's 2° overcall was for take-out of hearts and Birman doubled for penalty. Carmen removed herself to 3° and Margarita converted to 3NT. The heart lead went to the ten, ducked, and the $^{\circ}$ J was won with the king. Margarita crossed to the ace of clubs to run the queen of diamonds and subsequently knocked out the Φ A for her ninth trick; +400 and 7 badly-needed IMPs to Spain.

Israel got those IMPs back straight away when Zur-Campanile/Poplilov stayed out of a thin and unsuccessful game bid at the other table; 7 IMPs to Israel for +110 and +200, then picked up another major swing on the next deal.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

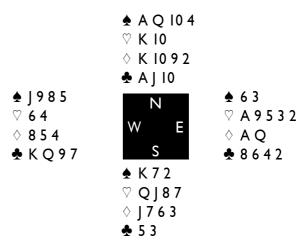


West	North	East	South
Matut	Z-Campanile	Santos	Poplilov
	Pass	Pass	Pass
♣	Pass	I♡	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
West L-Porat	North C.Viola	East Birman	South M. Viola
	1101011		
	C. Viola	Birman	M. Viola
L-Porat	C. Viola Pass	Birman Pass	M. Viola Pass

Matut did well to rebid 2NT rather than support hearts but, when Santos repeated her hearts, it was difficult not to raise to the heart game. Alas, there were four unavoidable loser as the cards lay, despite the spade lead permitting declarer to pitch one diamond from hand; 100.

Levit-Porat opened INT and Birman showed an invitational raise with five hearts. Now Levit-Porat did well to appreciate that nine tricks might be easier than ten. She chose to ignore the nine-card heart fit to play in 3NT and that proved to be an inspired decision as there were nine tricks in 3NT courtesy of the club finesse; +600 and 12 IMPs to Israel.



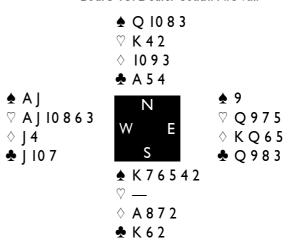


West	North	East	South
Matut	Z-Campanile	Santos I♡	Poplilov Pass
I♠	INT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
L-Porat	C. Viola	Birman P ass	M. Viola Pass
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Santos found a shaded opening with the East cards and, though Zur-Campanile had a natural INT overcall available, Poplilov was just short of what was required to raise. The heart lead went to the king and declarer played the $\lozenge 10$ from hand, losing to the queen. Now Santos switched to a spade for the jack and queen and declarer cleared the diamonds. A second spade was won in hand with the ten and Zur-Campanile played the $\lozenge 10$, ducked, then crossed to the $\clubsuit K$ to play another heart. East switched to clubs but it was way too late; +180.

Birman did not open the East hand and the Violas bid freely to the no trump game. The lead was a heart and Carmen won and returned the suit, overtaking in dummy to run to the jack of diamonds. The hearts were cleared but she knocked out the ace of diamonds and West could not guard both black suits on the run of the reds so it was an easy +400 and 6 IMPs to Spain.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

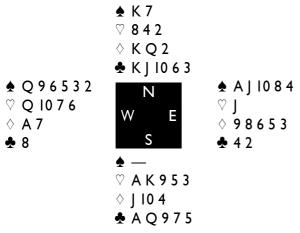


West	North	East	South
Matut	Z-Campanile	Santos	Poplilov I♠
2♥ All Pass	2♠	4 ♡	4♠
West	North	East	South
L-Porat	C. Viola	Birman	M. Viola Pass
I♡ All Pass	Pass	3◊	3♠

Again Poplilov opened a hand that was passed in the other room. Indeed, this South hand is remarkably similar to that on Board II, where the same difference in style was shown. When East/West bid to 4%, Poplilov had to go on to $4\frac{1}{2}$, not knowing whether this might be making or just a good save. On the lead of the ace of hearts, the answer was that $4\frac{1}{2}$ was making in comfort, the %K providing a parking place for the club loser; +620.

In the other room Margarita passed as dealer then over-called at the three level when her right-hand-opponent showed a limit heart raise. With a $\heartsuit K$ of dubious worth, Carmen could not find a raise to game and, as it turned out, she was correct not to do so as there were only nine tricks after a club lead; +140 but 10 IMPs to Israel.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.



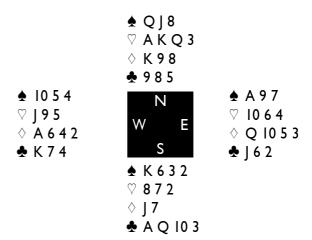
West	North	East	South
Matut	Z-Campanile	Santos	Poplilov
	INT	2♦	3♡
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♣
5♠	Dble	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
L-Porat	C. Viola	Birman	M. Viola
	♣	I♠	2♡
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

When Zur-Campanile opened a weak no trump, Santos overcalled to show spades and another suit and Poplilov forced in hearts. Matut jumped to $4 \pm$, of course, and Poplilov showed her second suit when Zur-Campanile passed it round to her. When Matut bid a fifth spade, Zur-Campanile did the right thing when she doubled, not liking her lack of aces, three low hearts and wasted \pm K for slam purposes, despite the five-card club support. She led a heart and Poplilov won and switched to ace and an-

other club. Matut ruffed then forgot about the bidding and played a trump to the ace. Oops! She was two down for 300.

Carmen's I \clubsuit opening allowed Birman to overcall I \spadesuit at the other table. Margarita bid her hearts and Levit-Porat jumped to $4\clubsuit$, which Carmen doubled. Clearly the double is a warning that North does not want to hear partner bid $5\heartsuit$, but should South pass with her spade void and big club support (North must surely have real clubs if she dislikes hearts and the opposition are willing to play $4\spadesuit$)? Rightly or wrongly, Margarita passed and led a top heart then switched to the jack of diamonds. Birman won the ace and led the •Q to tempt a cover. There was none forthcoming but Birman played low from hand in tempo, having clearly decided that trumps had to be two-zero for the double. That was +590 and 13 IMPs to Israel.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Matut	Z-Campanile	Santos	Poplilov
		Pass	Pass
Pass	♣	Pass	I♠
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
1 D			
L-Porat	C. Viola	Birman	M. Viola
L-Porat	C. Viola	Birman Pass	M. Viola Pass
Pass	C. Viola INT		
_	5,,,,,,	Pass	Pass

The odds surely suggest finessing the ♣Q but, after some considerable thought, both declarers judged the situation correctly, rising with the ace and cashing out the majors, playing for both suits to break or perhaps that they might recover with a squeeze should East have begun with ♣Kx and a 4-3-4-2 distribution, or maybe that East held both club honours and four spades with hearts splitting. It was flat at +600.

That was a nice way to end the match. Israel had done what they needed to do, winning by 84-14 IMPs, 25-2 VPs, and were still very much alive in the race for Estoril.

The Press Conference in Malmo 10.45 a.m. 2nd July, 2004

IBPA President, **Patrick Jourdain**, introduced **Giannarigo Rona**, EBL President, and **Panos Gerontopoulos**, Press Liaison Officer for the EBL.

Mr. Rona congratulated the Swedish Bridge Federation on its excellent facilities and organisation for the Championships, and outlined his disappointment that entries were lower than Salsomaggiore. In particular, the entries in the Senior Teams were much lower than Federations themselves had predicted at the time of the Chef de Mission Meeting in February, and that caused major difficulties when the starting dates were changed. The EBL had decided that at future

championships the closing date for entries would be six months before the event and there would be no change to start and end dates. The Womens teams would be nine days of play, on the same schedule of 20 board matches as the Open, and the Senior Teams eight or nine days, playing 16-board matches on the same schedule as the Open. The EBL was considering a possibility that one of these events would start at the same time as the Open Teams and the other would finish at the same time as the Open.

Mr. Rona then outlined the fu-

ture schedule of EBL events. He drew attention to the new Youth Girls event in Prague next month (for females under the age of 25) that had attracted 12 countries. The Youth Open had 26 entries and the Schools had 15, matching the records in Cardiff and Torquay. Mr. Rona also emphasised that in 2006 the European Open and WBF Rosenblum would swap their usual places in the calendar, with the Rosenblum in Verona in June (with air conditioning), and the Europeans in October in Warsaw.

Mr. Gerontopoulos expanded on the Youth Programme now approved by the EBL. The 30-page statement would go to NBOs. In New York this August there would be the new World Schools Championships with all three countries that qualified from the EBL Youth event in Torquay, namely Israel, Poland and Norway all competing. This would be followed by the new World Junior Individual, that had already attracted 120 entries compared with the target of 80. In October 2005 the EBL was planning a new knock-out team event for Juniors where the draw was regionalised and teams arranged their own matches, which could be via internet if both agreed. This would be called the European Junior Bowl. Once-defeated teams would drop into the European Junior Cup, teams that had lost twice would drop into the European Junior Plate, and when a team had lost three times it would be eliminated. The event would last from October through to the following May. He could not see any reason why the entry should not exceed a thousand. Journalists should publicise the new event.

Mr José Damiani. President of the WBF joined the Meeting. Mr. Damiani reported that the USA had reversed its plan not to send teams to Istanbul, and would be fielding teams in the Open, Women and Senior events. Entries for Istanbul were good for all events except the University event being run with FISU. He was very disappointed that major countries such as the USA, Australia, and some of the major Nordic countries had not yet entered teams. Mr. Damiani reported no further progress with the IOC except that the matter of a Mind Sports Olympics was being pursued.

The Meeting was thrown open to the floor. Jean-Paul Meyer (Le Bridgeur) asked three questions. The first was whether the results service could include a report of all scoring penalties so that journalists knew why a match result was, say, 16-12. Both Mr. Rona and Mr. Damiani agreed to ask their technical staff to look into this. The second question concerned the speedy, but frequently inaccurate results from one of the satellite services. Mr. Rona reported that many errors arose from the scoring slips that could only be resolved when the match finished. A test of machine entry of data at the table was to be made. Mr. Jourdain suggested that all results services should

say a result was unofficial or provisional until it became official, so journalists would know the risk they were taking in reporting results that had not be checked. Mr Meyer's third question was to ask where he could find the membership of each EBL member. Mr. Gerontopoulos replied that this was available with a history on the EBL website. Mr. Rona said the EBL now had 47 Federations with the new ones of Albania and Bosnia & Hercegovina.

Armand Trippaers, President of the Dutch BF, said the women members of his Fed-

women members of his Federation preferred the format when the Womens Pairs took place before the Teams but at the same place. Mr. Rona explained the reasons for transferring this event to the Open in the alternate years. Nissan Rand, Israel, asked whether the EBL and WBF were concerned about the effect on the budget of countries having the main Europeans and Olympiad in the same year, and whether they had any solution to the problem. Mr. Damiani pointed that Mr. Rand had voted for the change in schedule that led to this when he was on the EBL Executive. He was aware of the problem, but returning to the old schedule would not solve it. Mr. Jourdain said it was not only a matter of money but also of time for players who had ordinary jobs and could not take four weeks off work to attend both Malmo and Istanbul. Mr. Damiani acknowledged that it was not good that so many Federations seemed to have restricted their entries to one of

Mr. Jourdain, London Daily Telegraph, asked whether any bridge player had failed a drug test since Montreal. Both Mr. Damiani and Mr. Rona replied negatively. The results of the test of eight players in Malmo would not be known for several weeks. Any failure would be announced when official. A second player would be tested from the same team and if both failed the team would be disqualified. The player would be suspended anyway. Mr. Auby pointed out that teammates of tested players would have to remain 'clean' until their team-mate was known to have passed. Mr. Horton asked whether the authorities had any plan to extend testing and was told there was no such intention.

the two events, thereby having an adverse effect on both.

Per Jannersten (publisher, of Sweden) asked whether the authorities could seek cheap accommodation for journalists at championships. Mr. Damiani reported that hotel rooms were available in Istanbul for 60 dollars per night, in Estoril from 70 dollars, and in Verona from 80 dollars, so if journalists shared this would be cheap.

The Meeting closed with an announcement about the Journalist Pairs.

OPEN TEAMS

Round 30

Belgium v Netherlands

by Jos Jacobs

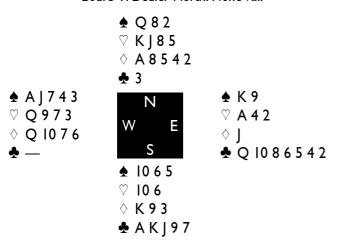
On Friday morning, the derby of the Low Countries was the first course on the day's menu. The Netherlands were in fourth position, half a VP behind Russia, half a VP up on Poland, and only marginally ahead of sixth-placed England, so their journey to Estoril was by no means a certainty yet. Belgium had been doing quite well earlier in the Championships, but they had lost a bit of ground over the past weekend from which they were trying hard to recover. When the day started, they found themselves back in eighth, still in with a remote chance of qualifying should any of the better-placed teams drop out. With still four matches to go, the fight for the three remaining berths for the Bermuda Bowl was a long way from being over, Italy and Sweden appearing to be secure.

There was one more point to take into consideration, however. By tradition, Belgium do well in their matches against the Netherlands, certainly in European Championships. For this reason, a good match was in sight prospect. As the relations between numerous Belgian and Dutch staff members at ECs have been excellent over the years, the Dutch too knew that before the match, the Belgian camp said that the team's performance looked very much the old story again — a good solid start, slowing down around half-way and getting worse later on. So the Dutch would have little to fear, some Belgians were willing to admit. Maybe, their disinformation service was at work ...

On vugraph, they were displaying the England-Israel match. England started the day only 2 VP behind the Netherlands, so anything would still be possible for them too. Below, we will present you a report on the Belgium v Netherlands match, together with a good look at England v Israel.

In our derby, we saw the first major swing of the match right on the first board:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
A. Labaere	Bertens	V. Labaere	Bakkeren
	Pass	Pass	♣
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	Pass
I♠	Pass	INT	Pass
Pass	2♦	3♣	Dble
All Pass			

Well, I♣ by Bakkeren need not promise a serious suit, but sometimes openers do have clubs. Just a trifle unlucky, maybe, but Belgium were off to a bad start when they lost 500 here.

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Coenraets	Muller	Neve
	Pass	♣	Pass
I♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♡	Pass	2♠	All Pass

A more normal auction here when Muller was the one to open 1\$\,\text{\\\\\\}\$, which kept the Dutch more or less on track. Due to the bad distribution this contract could not be made either but, as it cost only 100 for down two, the Dutch got off to a 9-0 lead straight away.

This board created a similar type of swing to England in the vugraph match as this is what the audience got to see:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Levinger	Gold	Liran
	Pass	Pass	♣
Dble	I ♦	All Pass	

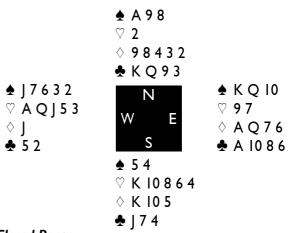
East led the \bigstar K and continued the suit. West did not return a spade for East to ruff, but first played a low heart. Declarer put up the king, which looks best after West's double, but East won and returned the suit. Only now, he got his spade ruff. So with two trump tricks still to lose declarer had gone down one; England +50.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Pachtmann	Justin H.	Ginossar	Jason H.
	IΦ	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

A Hackett-style very light opening led to a wonderful result for them when East overcalled; down three, England +500 more and 11 IMPs.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
A. Labaere	Bertens	V. Labaere	Bakkeren
		INT	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

 $4\lozenge$ showed both majors at game level. South, Ton Bakkeren, found the good lead of a trump, won by North's ace. Then came the ΦQ to dummy's ace followed by a successful heart finesse. Another round of trumps was won in dummy and the heart finesse repeated. North did not ruff the $\heartsuit Q$, but it no longer mattered as one way or another declarer could not come to ten tricks any more; Netherlands +100.

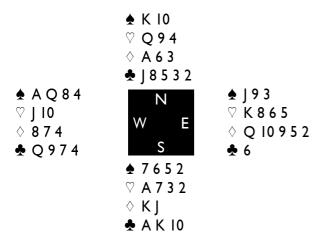
Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Coenraets	Muller	Neve
-		INT	Pass
2♡	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♡	Pass	3♠	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4♡	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

A simple transfer auction saw E/W reach the same contract as in the Closed Room. South led a club, ducked by declarer. Muller then won the club return and took a heart finesse. A diamond went to the ace and the heart finesse was repeated, North ruffing the $\heartsuit Q$. Coenraets now played the $\clubsuit K$ felling his partner's jack, and dummy ruffed. Muller next called for dummy's $\heartsuit A$, ruffed by North with the $\clubsuit A$. With the $\clubsuit 10$ established declarer had ten tricks now, no matter what North returned; Netherlands +620 and 12 more IMPs to lead 25-1.

On the next board, both Israel and Belgium earned a partscore swing of 5 IMPs, but then an interesting defensive problem came up:

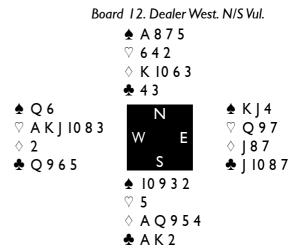
Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.



At both tables, after three passes South opened INT and North raised to three. Both Wests led a low spade, taken by dummy's king. Both declarers then played a club to the ten, West winning his queen. When West next cashed the Φ A, both Easts contributed the jack and both Wests continued the \heartsuit J. Apparently, they both were unable to read the actual spade position. From there, the paths diverged. Neve, for Belgium, won the \heartsuit J and went on to cash the Φ AK, followed by a heart to the ten, queen and king. As East still had one spade left, he thus went quickly one down; Netherlands +50.

For the Netherlands, Bakkeren took a certain risk when he ducked the \heartsuit J. When West continued clubs, Bakkeren could cash his minor-suit winners and pin the \heartsuit 10 to make his contract; Netherlands another +400 and 10 IMPs.

After three quiet boards, the Dutch registered some more IMPs on Board 12 when Belgium missed a game:



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
A. Labaere	Bertens	V. Labaere	Bakkeren
Ι♡	Pass	2♡	Dble
3♣	3♠	Pass	4♠
5♡	Dble	All Pass	

After a diamond lead to South's ace, Bakkeren had no trouble in cashing the AK and giving his partner a club ruff. That was down three for +500 to the Netherlands, but still a profitable save against the cold 44.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Coenraets	Muller	Neve
10	Pass	INT	Dble
2♡	2♠	3♡	3♠
All Pass			

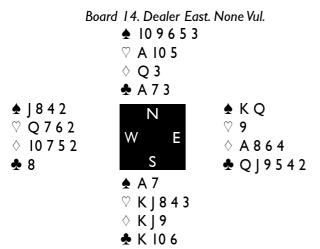
The forcing NT did its job on this one, as the rhythm of the bidding got unsettled. At the lower level, it was more difficult to tell if the N/S bids were really forward-going or merely compet-



England v Israel in the Rama

itive. This left the Belgians stranded in 3♠, which was played safely by Neve for exactly nine tricks. With spades 3-2, 4♠ would not have been a problem had he played there but, as it was, Belgium scored +140 here to lose 8 more IMPs and trail by 7-43.

Two boards later, it was to become even worse for them:



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
A. Labaere	Bertens	V. Labaere	Bakkeren
		♣	I♡
Pass	I♠	2♣	Dble
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

West led the $\clubsuit 8$ which ran to declarer's king. Bakkeren now played a heart to the ten which held the trick and drew the $\heartsuit 9$ from East. This first hurdle taken, he continued with a diamond to the king and ran the $\heartsuit 8$ successfully. From then on it was plain sailing: $\heartsuit A$, $\spadesuit A$, $\heartsuit K$ and a diamond. East could win his ace and cash a spade trick, but ten tricks were there, declarer losing a club at the end. Well done, Netherlands a fine +420.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Coenraets	Muller	Neve
,		♣	I♡
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

At the other table, Neve followed a different line of play. He too won the §8 in hand with the king but first played a diamond to dummy's queen and East's ace. East returned a diamond to declarer's king. Next came a low club, ruffed by West who returned yet another diamond. Fearing a 6-2 break in that suit, considering the earlier diamond return by East, declarer ruffed this with dummy's ace and ran the \heartsuit 10. When West could win this, Neve still had to lose a spade trick as well and thus was one down; Netherlands +50 and again 10 IMPs to them.

On vugraph, there also was a swing on this one. Here are the two auctions:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Levinger	Gold	Liran
		♣	I♡
Pass	2♣	Dble	3♣
Pass	3♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

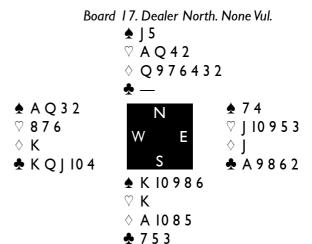
Declarer won the club lead with the king and drove out the $\Diamond A$. East returned a diamond, and now Liran went on to cash the ∇AK , hoping for the queen to drop. When this did not materialize he even went down two when he next tried to cash the $\triangle A$ only to see it ruffed by West; England +100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Pachtmann	Justin H.	Ginossar	Jason H.
		l ♣	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The twins wasted to time in getting to the right contract, so why waste comments on it? Well done, England +430 and a fully deserved 11 IMPs. They led by 50-23 now.

Israel recouped 10 IMPs when the English E/W had a misunderstanding on the next board, but on Board 17 below there was no swing in the vugraph match, as both sides scored +550 in diamonds. This is what happened in our other featured match:



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
A. Labaere	Bertens	V. Labaere	Bakkeren
	Pass	Pass	I♠
INT	2♦	2♡	2NT
3♡	Dble	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	5◊	Dble	All Pass

When Valérie Labaere did not open the bidding in second seat, the Dutch got a semi-free ride to their best contract. Once North disclosed the N/S diamond fit over INT, they were bound to compete to at least the five-level. As there was nothing to guess in the trump suit, the contract was made easily once declarer got the lead, as two spades were the only tricks Bertens lost; Netherlands +550

At the table East led the \heartsuit J. On a spade lead, however, declarer would have had his anxious moments had West played off three rounds of the suit. Going for his only chance would have seen him home anyway: ruff the third spade with the \diamondsuit Q and cash the \diamondsuit A. Curtains.

Open Room

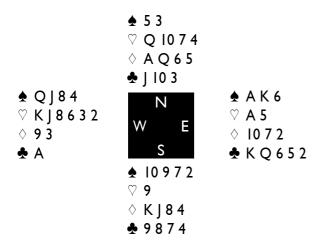
West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Coenraets	Muller	Neve
	Pass	2♡	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♡	Pass	Pass	3♠
Dble	4 ♦	All Pass	

The Dutch lived dangerously in this auction once Muller elected to open the party with a very light two-suited opening bid. They might have sold out to $3\lozenge$, and $3\spadesuit$ doubled might well have been made in light of dummy's club void. After $4\lozenge$, South might well have raised to game, and West thought for a long time before he finally passed $4\lozenge$.

So, from a Dutch point of view, the old saying: "All is well that ends well" very much applied on this board. Belgium scored +150 here, but the swing of 9 IMPs went their neighbours' way again. It was 62-7 now.

On the next board, Belgium finally struck back:

Board 18. Dealer East, N/S Vul.

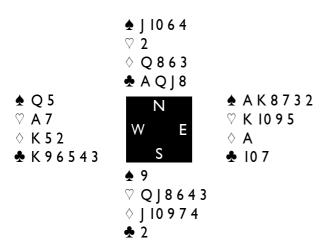


On a simple INT and transfer sequence, both Easts were in 4%. On the actual trump split, declarer loses two trump tricks, so much depended on the opening lead. Only a diamond lead works for the defence. Bakkeren led the $\clubsuit10$, letting through the contract with an overtrick, but Neve for Belgium found the winning lead of the $\diamondsuit4$.Well done, Belgium II much wanted IMPs back to trail 18-62.

The same problem arose in the vugraph match. Here, the auctions had been different, so at both tables, North was on lead. Justin Hackett led the ♣J, but for Israel, Levinger found the ◇A lead to pick up 11 IMPs; England by 50-44 now.

On Board 19, better defence saw the Dutch beat 3\(\Delta \) by two tricks in one room, while they made the same contract on the same lead at the other table for another 6 IMPs, and then came the apotheosis:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
A. Labaere	Bertens	V. Labaere	Bakkeren
♣	Pass	I♠	Pass
2♡	Pass	2♦	2♡
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

When Alain Labaere showed a genuine spade raise by bidding $2 \frac{1}{2}$ voluntarily, Valérie was quickly in game. This time, it was Ton Bakkeren as South who found the winning lead, the $\frac{1}{2}$ 2. Three rounds of clubs gave the defenders an extra trump trick when declarer could not possibly foresee the actual lay-out of the trump suit. That meant one down; Netherlands +100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Coenraets	Muller	Neve
♣	Pass	I♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West having shown a balanced hand by his INT rebid, Muller had little trouble in selecting $4 \triangleq$ as the final contract. After the $3 \triangleq$ rebid, South saw no future in leading his singleton, so he put the $\heartsuit Q$ on the table. Now Muller could win this with the ace, unblock the $\lozenge A$, cross to the $\triangleq Q$ and discard a club on the $\lozenge K$. The contract was made as he went on to lose a trump, a club and a heart. Netherlands thus gained a final big swing of 12 IMPs to win the match by 80-18 or 25-3 in VPs.

In the England v Israel match it also was a matter of the right lead. For the second time within a few boards, Israel got it right where England failed. Jason Hackett led the $\heartsuit Q$ so Ginossar, like Muller in the other match, quickly had ten tricks. Liran led the $\clubsuit 2$, so Gold, like Valérie Labaere in the other match, was quickly one down.

The Dutch had thus consolidated their fourth place, Russia also scoring the maximum, but Belgium's chances to go to Estoril had gone down to about zero. For once, the Belgian feelings of pessimism, expressed before the match, had come very, very true.

The late rally by Israel saw them take the lead over England on this very last board to win by 57-50 or 16-14 VPs. Well done! Here, Christer Andersson, our Swedish friend, joins this report with a marvellous story about some beautiful declarer play on this same last board in the match between Hungary and Turkey.

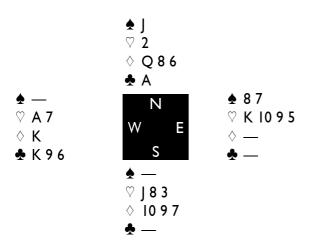
The bidding had been like this:

West	North	East	South
Kolata	Honti	Atabey	Harangozó
♣	Pass	l ♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	2♡
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	Rdbl	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Rdbl	All Pass

South found his distributional hand with meagre values not worth mentioning on the first round of bidding but entered with a natural bid after East's checkback of 2. When East increased the penalties with a double, North introduced an SOS redouble,

and the Hungarians reached a playable diamond partscore. Yalcin Atabey gave up on taking a big penalty and bid his own game. When North had the impoliteness to double, he had the courage to trust in his abilities and redoubled.

South led his singleton club to North's jack, and ruffed the continuation of a low club. South chose to continue with the jack of diamonds which went to declarer's ace. A spade to the queen on the table revealed the expected trump position as South discarded a diamond. Declarer reduced North's club stoppers by ruffing a club and then cashing the two top honours in spades. The small diamond was discarded from the table. Declarer had now reached a position to throw North in:



Declarer cashed the $\heartsuit K$ (but the play would have functioned also if North had been void in hearts, although the defence would have been poor in that case) and threw North in with his last spade. A club went from the table. North tried a diamond to the king on the table, but Atabey now ruffed out the clubs and had the heart ace to enter the table to cash them. A real beauty created by the Turkish hands of Atabey.



Philippe Coenraets, Belgium

None better!

by Jon Sveindal

♣ Q 10 9 5 3

★ K 10 6
♡ K 9 7 6 3
◇ 9 8 4 2

A Q

♥ A 10 5

♦ A O 10 7

♣ A K 4 2

	♣ 6		
West	North	East	South
Brogeland		Sælensminde	
	Pass	Pass	
2♣*	Pass	2◊*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4♡	Pass
4NT	Pass	5◊	Pass
6♣	Pass	7 ♦	All Pass

This may well be the best bid hand of this tournament, and Brogeland/Sælensminde was the only pair to bid to the near waterproof grand slam.

Brogeland showed his 22-24 NT, and Sælensminde showed minors with $3 \clubsuit$. Thinking about how to get as much information as possible later in the bidding, Brogeland preferred diamonds as trumps. Following the 4% splinter bid, Sælensminde showed his diamond key card, and Brogeland bid $6 \clubsuit$, asking for third round control! Having previously defined his hand, he knew that Sælensminde would not bid seven without something extra. The jack of diamonds and the fifth club was what he needed.

The play was no challenge. Two hearts were ruffed - and Sælensminde claimed six trump tricks, two major aces and five club tricks.

Another pair bid Seven Clubs (which won when the spade finesse was on), at 13 tables small slams were bid, and at 17 tables matters rested in games.

Championship Diary

Working under pressure it is possible to say the daftest things. One of the Editors managed to pen the following: There were no problems in the play once the $\heartsuit A$ was right; Italy +400 and the first big swing of the match, I I IMPs.' Now guess which board of the match that swing came on?

Having heard that all the equipment being used at the tournament is going on sale, Tacchi, in a last deparate attempt to become Lord of the Badges, has put in a bid for the badge making machine.

We are delighted the EBL and WBF are using the right criteria for selecting Championship venues, i.e. their suitability for Limerick production. Tacchi is already working on 'There was a young girl from Verona' - far too easy - and the more complex, 'A young lady from Estoril'.

Barry Rigal enquired as to the opposite of a 'hive of activity'. The instantaneous reply was, 'The Bulletin Office.'

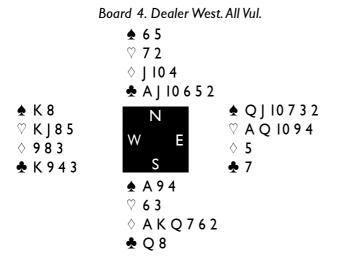


Sweden v Denmark

by Martin Nygren, Ib Lundby and Tommy Gullberg

This event had attracted just 191 pairs from each country so it took some planning to figure out how to cover it. We leafed through a printout of the pairs who had entered and decided that Martin was going to follow what happened at Bettina Kalkerup's table and Tommy to kibitz Sven-Åke Bjerregård. Ib was assigned the task of studying the events at this own table.

First blood in this world record match between Sweden and Denmark was drawn on Board 4, the first to be played at that table. Göran Hammarström/Mikael Arnberg faced Bo Meier/Jesper Søndergaard and an unorthodox opening bid paid well for Denmark:



West	North	East	South
Во	Göran	Jesper	Mikael
Meier	Hammarström	Søndergaard	Arnberg
Pass	Pass	I♡(!)	2♦
3♡	Pass	4 ♡´	All Pass

Mikael, in the South seat, led the ace of diamonds and switched to a small spade. Declarer won with the king, draw trumps and established his spade suit. Göran attempted to give his partner count by signalling for an even number of spades, but Mikael failed to appreciate the danger of declarer discarding dummy's clubs on the spades. In all fairness, very few pairs in the Stockholm area play canapé openings in the major suits.

Sven-Åke Bjerregård does always look on the bright side of life. It might be a misfit is a thought that very rarely passes his mind. Most of the time his judgement is excellent, but there are exceptions. With \spadesuit —, \heartsuit A 8, K Q J 8 6, \spadesuit J 9 7 6 5 3 he heard his regular, at both the bridge and kitchen table, Gunilla open I \heartsuit .

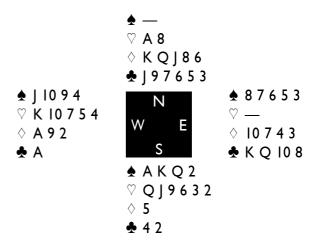
Menu 3 July 2004

Lunch, served between 11.30 and 15.00

Lamb casserole with timjan and garlic 70 Skr Vegetarian: Springroll with rice and salsa 70 Skr Sven-Åke bid 2Φ and Gunilla $2\heartsuit$, Sven-Åke bid a game forcing $3\diamondsuit$ and was delighted to hear his partner bid hearts a third time.

"I was just about to raise to 4% when my right-hand opponent doubled for penalties" said Sven-Åke,

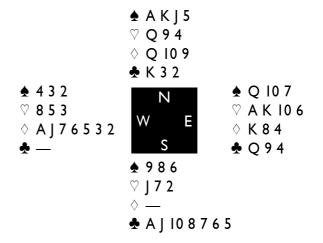
Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Høgni	Sven-Åke	Kaj	Gunilla
Hansen	Bjerregård	Alstrup	Bjerregård
			Ι♡
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♡
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♡
Dble	All Pass		

West led the ace of clubs and switched to a spade to declarer's ace. Gunilla played a small diamond towards dummy and West won with the ace. Owing to the club blockage the defenders could only come to two more tricks in hearts. It has to be said that the Danes had superior judgement than Sven-Åke, but he had the luck on his side.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

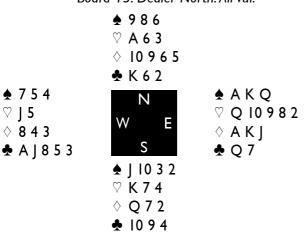


Board 12 was declared identically by Bettina Kalkerup and Sven-Åke Bjerregård. Both were sitting North and played no

trumps after a weak two in diamonds from West. The lead was a diamond to the ace and a small diamond back. Both declarers played the ten of diamonds and had the pleasure to see the king of diamonds followed by another diamond. Eleven tricks were made at both tables as both declarers, more or less habitually, squeezed East in the majors. The only difference was in the bidding and the 1150 scored by Sven-Åke was worth just 128 MPs more than the 210 that Bettina wrapped up.

Sven-Åke Bjerregård has a brilliant technique that came to good use on Board 13.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Wladimir	Sven-Åke	Carl	Gunilla
Sidorenco	Bjerregård	Engelbrechtsen	Bjerregård
	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	2♡	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

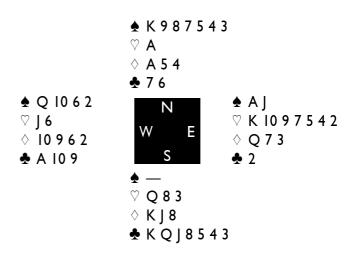


Sweden v Denmark

Sven-Åke led the ten of diamonds to the jack and queen. After a diamond dummy, declarer should maybe have played on hearts but he played the queen of clubs that won the trick. A club to the jack was less successful and defence proceeded to establish a diamond trick for one down.

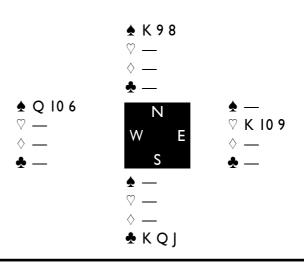
Clubs would have been a convenient trump suit for N/S on Board 8 and it takes a trump lead to stop declarer from making a small slam. It is, however, not always the case that contracts are played in the best trump suit.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
	Bettina		John
	Kalkerup		Dalgaard
Pass	I♠	2♡	3♣
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

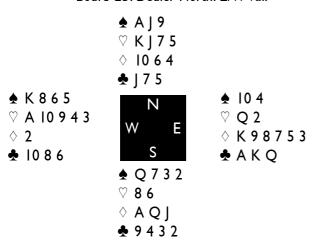
East lead his singleton club which West won to give his partner a club ruff. West returned a heart to the ace and Bettina played a small spade to the ace. West erred by returning a small heart and Bettina could now make her contract by ruffing the heart, cash the ace of diamonds, finesse the queen of diamonds with the jack, ruff another heart, play a diamond to the ace and finally ruff a club to end up in her own hand in the following end position:



If declarer plays the eight of spades, West has to play away from the queen of spades. She did, perhaps correctly, prefer to attempt to trigger a ruff a winner reflex in East by playing two rounds of high clubs. As it happened, this line did also succed.

Fourteen year old Niclas Raulund was planning to play with his junior partner Dennis Bilde, also fourteen, but there was a last minute change and Niclas got to play with his dad Ole. On Board 25, father and son had an opportunity to demonstrate their nice defensive skills.

Board 25. Dealer North, E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
	Ole		Niclas
	Raulund		Raulund
	Pass	I ♦	Pass
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

Niclas led the two of spades to his father's jack. Ole returned a diamond to the king and his son's ace. Niclas shifted to a heart that was won by the king. North continued hearts and declarer played a second round of diamonds. Niclas won with the jack and put his dad back on lead with the ace of spades. A third round of hearts was ruffed with the queen of diamonds and the ten of diamonds scored a seventh trick for the defence for 294 out of 380 MPs.

Nice efforts by Danish players may have dominated the report, but the Swedish players did manage to wrap up enough MPs to win the match, Sverige 8389.4, Denmark 7565.3



Bridge Festival Schedule 3 July 2004

Swedish Women's Pair Championships

 10.00 - 12.15
 16 boards

 12.15 - 12.30
 Coffee break

 12.30 - 14.20
 14 boards

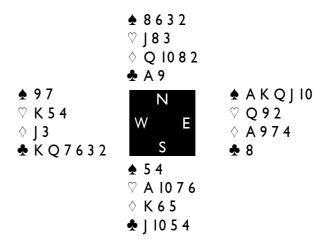
14.50 - 15.00 Prize giving ceremony

Heads I Win Tails You Lose

Germany picked up a useful swing in their match against Belgium on this deal from Round 20 of the Open series, making a contract that failed by two tricks at the other table.

Declarer read the cards well to arrive at a position where he would force one defender or the other to provide dummy with the game going trick(s).

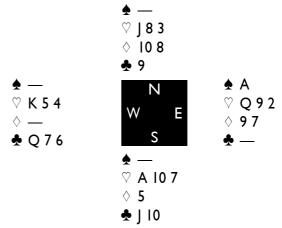
Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Gotard	Carcassone	Piekarek	Labaere
			Pass
Pass	Pass	I♠	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

2NT 5+♣, not 3♠

North led the two of diamonds and South won with the king and returned the six, covered by the jack, queen and ace. Declarer played a club to the king and North won with the ace. She now exited passively with a spade, (a forgivable error) and declarer won and played three more rounds of the suit to arrive at this position:



When declarer cashed the ace of spades South was in trouble. He discarded a heart, declarer and North parting with clubs. A heart to the ace was followed by a heart ducked to South's ace. South exited with a diamond and North could win, but then had to give dummy the last two tricks.

If South discards a diamond, declarer plays a heart to the king, cashes the queen of clubs and exits with a club to force South to give dummy a heart trick.



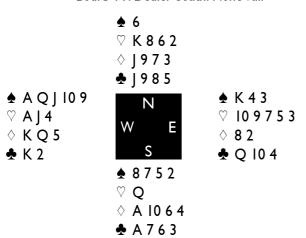
Women's Pairs Championship on its way

by Martin Nygren

This year's Women's Pairs Championship kicked off on Friday morning. With several of the normal favourite pairs on duty elsewhere, it is difficult to identify any clear-cut favourites. Predictions are hard to make, especially about the future, but I suppose that I am meant to say something about who I think might win the event. Current holders Margareta Ehlin/Christina Ahl should fancy their chances of retaining the title and my guess is that the main challengers will be Jenny Evelius-Nohrén/Ylva Karlsson-Uisk, youngsters Sandra Rimstedt/Cecilia Rimstedt and evergreens Ragnhild Jonsson/Margaretha Norbäck. As I am a notoriously bad tipster this is probably good news for the other 44 pairs.

Fastest out of the blocks were Margaretha Ehlin/Christina Ahl who took the lead after eight boards. Most pairs played a pretty dull $4 ^{\circ}$ contract on Board II, but Cecilia Rimstedt went for those extra ten points.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.



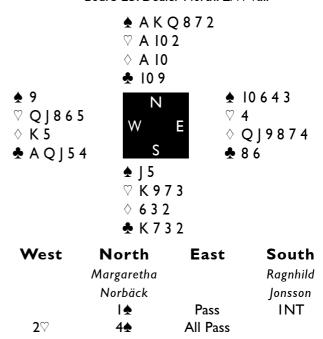
West	North	East	South
Cecilia	Eva-Marie	Sandra	Tin
Rimstedt	Martinsson	Rimstedt	Wickström
			Pass
2◊*	Pass	2♡	Pass
2NT	Pass	3◊*	Pass
3♡*	Pass	3NT*	All Pass

Cecilia opened a Multi 20 and showed 20-21 balanced with the rebid of 2NT. Sandra transferred to hearts and Cecilia decided to let it be when she was asked to choose between 3NT and 47. Such a cheeky decision can pay well, but that will normally require declarer to both play and guess well. Cecilia received the seven of diamonds lead to the ace and another diamond. I think that she now has two good chances to collect a nice score: the first is that both heart honours are offside, in which case she should establish her ninth trick in clubs and make 3NT when 4% is one off; the second is that South holds a stiff honour, honour doubleton, or both honours in hearts. In that case, declarer should cross to dummy on the king of spades and play a small heart. South must play her presumed honour, West wins the ace and plays the jack which North must duck. Declarer now establishes her tenth trick in clubs. On a lucky day, a sleepy South might play low for an eleven trick bonanza.

At the table, Cecilia played the jack of hearts out of her hands. This can succeed if North holds a stiff honour, honour doubleton or South both honours and defenders cannot manoeuvre themselves into a position to cash enough diamond tricks. The opening lead and return did clearly indicate that diamonds broke four-four, in which case Cecilia's line cannot bring her more than nine tricks whenever $4 \mbox{\ensuremath{\heartsuit}}$ makes. As expected, the decision was expensive, 430 would have been 35 out of 46 MPs but one off gave 5 MPs.

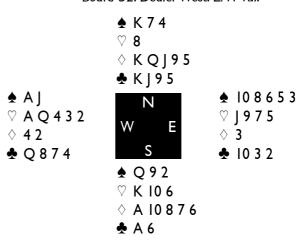
Marvellous squeezes and imaginative defences are headline stuff, but bridge tournaments tend to be decided by small inaccuracies in the bidding. Just take a look at what happened when West failed to apply some judgement and made an instinctive overcall

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



Margaretha had an easy journey after East had led her singleton heart. A club lead could very well have defeated the contract as I think there is a good chance that West would have found the killing diamond switch.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Betty	Jenny	Gunvor	Ylva
Karlsson	Evelius-Nohrén	Ragnar	Karlsson-Uisk
IΫ́	Dble	Pass	2♡*
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT

Ylva Karlsson-Uisk proved that she is a cunning declarer on Board 32. West led a passive diamond and the good news for her was that a heart lead would have presented declarer with her ninth trick and, as West cannot find three safe discards, a tenth would have materialised. The bad news for Betty was that it did not matter. Declarer played four rounds of diamonds, West discarding two hearts ending up in her hand and played a low spade won by dummy's king. Ylva cashed her last diamond winner and West had to part with a third heart. Next came the ace of clubs, club finesse, king of clubs and spade to West's ace. This end-played West who was forced to give declarer a tenth trick with the ace of hearts and a technical mishap made matters even worse, declarer coming out with eleven tricks.

After thirty-two boards lunch was called by the director, Ralf Byström. This was not the time for the lunch-break according to the published schedule, but Raffe did as usual find his way to be better than the efforts of the Swedish Bridge Federation. After one third of the event Gull-Inger Johansson/Marie Petersson and Jenny Evelius-Nohrén/Ylva Karlsson-Uisk had broken free by a bit more than a round.

Standings after 32 boards:

I 962 Gull-Inger Johansson - M. Petersson Karlshamns BK - Svängsta BK

2 951 J. Evelius-Nohrén - Y. Karlsson-Uisk Upsala BS - BK Fyris

3 852 Ulla-Britt Alfredsson - Lena Lund Bohus Nations BS

4 849 D.Ekman - Ann-Katrin Vikström Skellefteå BK

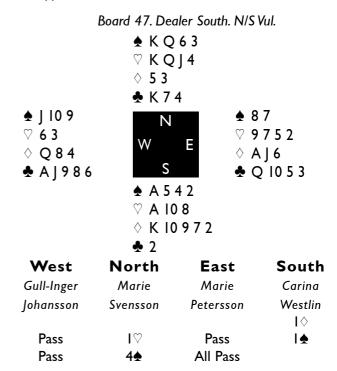
5 843 Ragnhild Jonsson - M. Norbäck Glädjen-Väsby BK - Lidingö BK

Passive leads are not my cup of tea, but half-time leaders Gull-Inger Johansson/Mari Petersson are evidently of a different opinion. I find it that I too often get a poor score defending by declar-

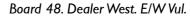


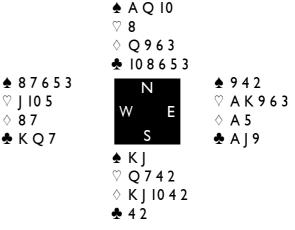
Margaretha Norbäck, Sweden

er's beat. On Boards 47 and 48 the leaders presented South with two opportunities that I think she should have made more from.



Gull-Inger as West did not have an easy lead and elected to lead as passively as possible with the jack of spades. I would have preferred the ace of clubs for the two reasons that it leaves me in the driving seat and the trump lead is by no means safe. It could have been disastrous if her partner had held the ace or king of spades. Declarer should, at least in my opinion, win the lead in dummy and test the defenders with a small diamond. This time, there should be no problem for the defence to cash the ace of clubs.





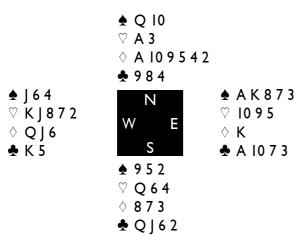
West	North	East	South
Gull-Inger	Marie	Marie	Carina
Johansson	Svensson	Petersson	Westlin
Pass	Pass	I♡	2◊
I♡	3♦	All Pass	

Marie Petersson probably did well by not competing with 3° , on the actual lay of the cards Carina Westlin might very well have given it the good old pairs tickle. Gull-Inger as West led the jack of hearts which was won by East. Marie considered her options and decided to play the ace of diamonds and another diamond,

which would have been correct had the defenders only cashed their two club tricks first. Again, declarer failed to put the defenders under pressure by discarding a heart on the third spade. Three rounds of spades, discarding a club, and a small club from dummy does at least ask East the question if she has counted the hand. It should not be a problem for her to allow her partner to win the club, but should it happen that she wins the ace of clubs an overtrick would have materialised itself.

Pairs can sometimes be such an easy game and sometimes so darned difficult. Evelius-Nohrén/Ylva Karlsson-Uisk had climbed to the top when the tournament entered the second half. Jenny enjoyed an easy ride to 43 out of 46 MPs

Board 58. Dealer East. All Vul.

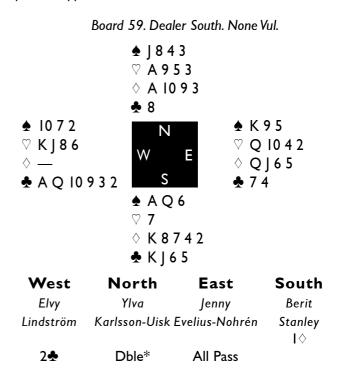


West	North	East	South
Ylva	Annette	Jenny	Berit
Karlsson-Uisk	Hansson	Evelius-Nohrén	Samuelsson
		I♠	Pass
3♡*	Pass	4♠	All Pass



Jenny Evelius-Nohrén, Sweden

Ylva's 3° showed spade support and invited her somewhat pregnant partner to bid game. The lead was the queen of clubs which Jenny won in dummy and played a small diamond towards the king. Connoisseurs in the art of sneaking a trick might have preferred the queen of diamonds, but North played a small diamond. Jenny tried the heart finesse and when it worked she cashed the ace and king of spades for twelve tricks when the queen dropped.



Ylva Karlsson-Uisk is a comparatively fast player, if you compare with P-O Sundelin that is. On this board she did for sure take her time before she finally decided to pass, but I must admit that she did have a very difficult decision to take. Jenny Evelius-Nohrén led the ace of diamonds which was ruffed by declarer. I dare say that West should attempt to sneak through a heart, even if North cashes the ace of hearts it can be a vital blow to defender's communications. Declarer did in reality play the ace of trumps and another trump. Things looked to be on track when Ylva played a heart to Jenny's ace, but the spade return was not what South had hoped for. Once again Ylva took her time, but did eventually find a solution. She won the queen of spades, cashed the ace of spades and played a third spade. Declarer did her best by playing the queen of diamonds which was covered and ruffed. The queen of clubs was won by South who put dummy on lead with another diamond. By now, all would have been well for declarer had she only been able to draw Ylva's last trump. A heart from dummy gave Ylva her ruff and one down.

Director Byström did, at the in his view appropriate time, call it a day after 64 boards. So far I have done surprisingly well in predicting the final result, with all four of my suggested top pairs in contention for a medal.

2 4 5	1743 1743 1676 1672	J. Evelius-Nohrén - Y. Karlsson-Uisk Eva Glans - Petra Svantesson Margareta Ehlin - Christina Ahl G-I Johansson - M. Petersson Ulla-Britt Alfredsson - Lena Lund E-M Martinsson - T. Wickström	Upsala BS - BK Fyris Orust BK - Ljungskile BK Gävle BK Karlshamns BK - Svängsta BK Bohus Nations BS Visby BS - Stånga BK
		Cecilia Rimstedt - S. Rimstedt	Harplinge BK
8	1636	A-C Nordbjörk - C. Torstensson	Bjärnums BK
9	1627	Ragnhild Jonsson - M. Norbäck	Glädjen-Väsby BK - Lidingö BK
10	1610	Eva Andersson - Kerstin Forsberg	Karlstads BK

PROFILES OF THE DUTCH LADIES TEAM

BEP VRIEND

Bep Vriend, a bridge teacher from Amstelveen learned bridge in 1965. With Carla Arnolds she won the European Ladies Pairs in 1993 and the World Ladies Pairs in 1994. From 1994 until the Venice Cup in Monte Carlo (2003) she partnered Marijke van der Pas. Bep Vriend is a honorary member of the Dutch Bridge Federation and in April, 1998 received a Royal decoration in recognition of her great contribution to bridge. Bep has played in

six Olympiads and six Venice Cups (silver in 1989, Perth gold Bermuda 2000 and bronze in Monte Carlo 2003). For Malmö, Sweden she has renewed her partnership with Carla Arnolds and will be playing her fifteenth European Championship. In Tenerife 2001 the Netherlands won the silver medal. Following the 2002 event in Salsomaggiore, Italy she is a reigning European champion.

CARLA ARNOLDS

Carla Arnolds is a bridge teacher and journalist from Tilburg and is married to Jan Kolen. They have four children, Martijn (11) Sandra (9) Astrid (8) and Ingrid (7). Carla learned to play bridge in 1981. With partner Bep

Vriend she won the European Ladies Pairs in 1993 and the World Ladies Pairs in 1994. Then she switched from bridge to raising kids. Carla has played in two Olympiads and three Venice Cups (silver in Perth 1989 and bronze in Monte Carlo 2003). For Malmö, Sweden she has renewed her partnership with Bep Vriend and will play there her fourth European Championships.

JET PASMAN

Jet Pasman comes from Broek in Waterland, a small village north of Amsterdam. She started playing bridge in 1974. Since 1979 she has been partnering Anneke Simons. Jet is a sports teacher and is married to the coach of the Ladies team Chris Niemeijer, a former player in the Dutch Open team. Apart from bridge, golf is her great hobby. Jet has played in three Olympiads and four Venice Cups (gold in Bermuda 2000 and bronze in Monte Carlo 2003). After silver in Tenerife 2001 she is, following the 2002 event in Salsomaggiore, Italy reigning European champion. In Malmö she is playing her eighth European Championships.

ANNEKE SIMONS

Anneke Simons, a personnel manager, lives in Amsterdam together with Kees Tammens a bridge journalist. They have a son Bas who is playing in the Dutch University team.

She learned bridge at the age of 20 and since 1979 she has been playing with Jet Pasman. Anneke played in three Olympiads and four Venice Cups (gold in Bermuda 2000 and bronze in Monte

Carlo 2003). After silver in Tenerife 2001 she is, following the 2002 event in Salsomaggiore, Italy a reigning European champion. In Malmö she is playing her eighth European Championships.

WIETSKE VAN ZWOL

Wietske van Zwol lives in Tilburg and is married to Carel Berendregt. She has a degree in business economics and works at the Tilburg University as a controller. Apart from bridge, music is her

great hobby. She likes to sing and to play the guitar. Wietske also likes sports: jogging, skating, skiing if she can find the time. In 1982 she learned to play bridge. Since 2000 she has been playing with Femke Hoogweg. Wietske has played in two Olympiads and four Venice Cups (gold in Bermuda 2000 and bronze in Monte Carlo 2003)). In Tenerife 2001 she won silver. Following the 2002 event in Salsomaggiore, Italy, she is reigning European champion. In Malmö she is playing her sixth European Championships.



FEMKE HOOGWEG

Femke Hoogweg is married to Ricco van Prooijen and lives with their son Martin (born in Oc-

tober 2003) in Nieuw-Vennep. She studied Technical Mathematics at the University of Delft. She works as a scientific researcher at the Ministry of Defence.

At the age of 12 she learned to play bridge. In 2000 she formed a partnership with Wietske van Zwol. Femke has played in one Venice Cup. With her first appearance in the European Championship in Tenerife 2001 she won silver and in her second in Salsomaggiore 2002 gold, making her a reigning European Champion.

ED FRANKEN, lives in Haarlem (west of Amsterdam). He has been the Team Manager and Captain of the Dutch Ladies Team since early 1995. He captained the team during two Olympiads and four Venice Cups. Under his leadership the Dutch ladies won the Venice Cup in Bermuda 2000 and bronze in Monte Carlo 2003. After silver in Tenerife 2001 and gold in Salsomaggiore 2002, Malmö, Sweden will be his sixth European Championships.

CHRIS NIEMEIJER, has been the coach of the Dutch Ladies Team since 1987. He is married to Jet Pasman and is a former player in the Dutch Open team. Chris was coach during five Olympiads and five Venice Cups (gold in Bermuda 2000 and bronze in Monte Carlo 2003). After silver in Tenerife 2001 and gold in Salsomaggiore 2002, Malmö, Sweden will be his ninth European Championships.