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lssue: **7 24 JUNE 2005**

HELNESS'S GOLDEN DOUBLE



Norway celebrate another gold

Played two, won two, not a bad record in any sport, and that simple statistic reflects a magical start to the championships for Norway's Tor & Gunn Helness who followed up Wednesday's victory in the Mixed Teams with another in the European Open Mixed Pairs Championship. A powerful performance in the first session gave them a big lead, and although they posted a relatively modest score in the second no-one could take advantage.

The silver medal went to a pair with a terrific record in mixed events, France's Sylvie Willard & Herve Mouiel, the former adding to the silver medal she won in the Women's Pairs in Menton two years ago, while the United States Michael & Debbie Rosenberg

prevented another clean sweep for Europe by finishing third. It was their second European Open medal as they won the Mixed Teams two years ago.

Schedule

10.00 EBL General Assembly

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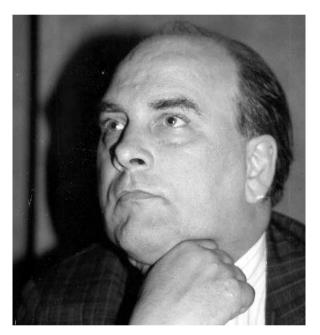
21.00 Open Teams (1st Qualifying Rounds in Groups 1/2)

21.00 Women & Senior Teams

Qualifying Round Robin

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ANDRÉ BOEKHORST (1934-1995)

Today is the tenth anniversary of the death of André Boekhorst of the Netherlands, former President of the EBL.

As many would remember, Boekhorst played a dominant role in bridge, whether in his native country or internationally.

In The Netherlands, Boekhorst served the Dutch Bridge Federation as member of the board, Secretary and President for 31 years. When he joined, NBB membership was 20,000; when he left, it had risen to about 100,000!

Boekhorst served on the EBL board for 22 years. In the late 60s, he founded Junior bridge, by establishing the European Junior Team Championship and later the European Junior Camps. Then, he turned towards bridge development and organized the first two EBL Promotion Weeks in 1989 and 1993.

Boekhorst was elected President of the EBL in 1995, but his term was destined to be very short, as he died just three days later. However, his legacy remains as vivid as ever, thanks to his great achievements.

A ceremony in memory of A.Boekhorst will be held next Friday. Details will be announced.

OPEN, WOMEN, SENIOR TEAMS

Tonight we will start the team events with the first round(s). Looking at the pre-registration the most likely set ups are as follows:

Open teams

Groups of 7 or 8 teams playing a round robin, 2 rounds this evening and 5 tomorrow. The first 4 teams in each group qualify for the Swiss A, the others for Swiss B. There is a carry-over of 6, 4, 2 and 0 VP into the Swiss A, and 2 and 1 VP for the teams ranked 5 and 6 into Swiss B.

We will play in Los Espejos with the groups A up to F, Tenerife (groups G, H, K and L and Minerva (M, if necessary). To enter Los Espejos Friday evening you will have to pass along the registration room (Cibeles) because the normal entrance will be blocked.

Women and Senior teams

We will form two groups in each of these events of comparable strength in which we play a round robin over 3,5 day, finishing Tuesday. The number of boards will probably be 16 (with groups of 10 teams). On Wednesday we will start the quarterfinals with the top four in each group playing each other.

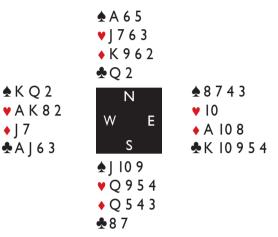
The women play in Minerva on Friday evening and the next days in Imperial.

The seniors play in Royale (hotel Mediterraneo) throughout.

QUARTER FINALS SET I & II

The bridge players who really make themselves popular with the journalists are those who voluntarily confess their sins (mea culpa, mea maxima culpa). Well we do not have the power to absolve the miscreant of their offense, but we can at any rate thank them for their thoughtfulness in providing the bulletin with the details. (By the way, I'm sure you know the definition of an expert is someone who never makes a mistake - or if they do, they only make interesting mistakes.)

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Khazanov	A Levy	Lebedeva	A-F- Levy
	Pass	Pass	Pass
♣	Pass	2♣	pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

The I♣ opening was strong, and Khazanov made no move to slam since he knew his partner was a passed hand, who might have opened a shapely 10 or 11-count.

Alain Levy did well when he led a heart to the first trick; Khazanov then followed the natural line of winning in hand and drawing trumps in two rounds, then leading a spade to the nine, king and ace. The count in the spade suit was unclear (his partner might have had Q1092 for example) but in any event Levy could really do nothing but return a spade at trick five. With the suit splitting 3-3 declarer could shake his diamond loser on the fourth spade. Had Levy played a diamond back instead, Khazanov could have changed tack and set up a diamond to discard his spade loser.

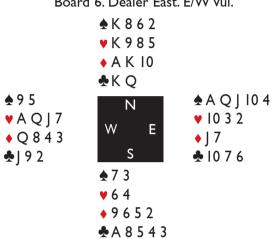


Gunn Helness, Norway

As Alain pointed out, since declarer is sure to hold either the spade jack or queen, maybe the winning defence is not impossible to find. If he ducks the spade, declarer is caught on the horns of a dilemma; if he continues to play on spades the defence have time to cash their winners by shifting to diamonds. If he switches his attention to diamonds the defence go back to spades.

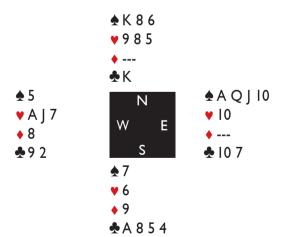
We also owe our thanks to Gunnar Hallberg for letting us have the details of this deal, very nicely played by Lars-Erik Goldberg.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
Pass	I ♣ (I)	l 🏚	Pass
Pass	INT	All Pass	
(I) Strong			

Janet De Botton did well not to lead a spade, although a heart lead might have caused some real problems. On the low club lead to the \clubsuit and \clubsuit K, Goldberg played three rounds of diamonds to West, as East pitched a heart. Now Hallberg knew declarer was specifically 4-4-3-2. He led the ♠9, which held the trick, then the ♥Q, (not best) covered with the VK.

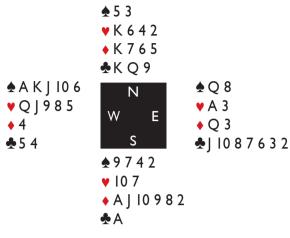


Declarer can now succeed by force; he cashes the &K, exits with a low heart, and comes to two more tricks by force, one way or another. He actually chose to cash the club king and get out with a spade, De Botton won cheaply and led the ♥10. The defence had one more chance: if Hallberg ducks this, East can cash the spade ace and play another spade, so that West takes the last two tricks. Instead Hallberg overtook the ♥10 with the ♥J and cashed the VA, planning to endplay North to concede the last two tricks. But Goldberg saw this coming, and unblocked the ♥8 under the ♥J and the ♥9 under the ♥A! Now Hallberg could cash the ♥7 but was left with a

losing diamond and club to concede to dummy.

In the second half of the matches Tor Helness perpetrated a significant overbid, then had to find a way to justify his bidding.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Helness	Moss	Helness	Greenberg
	Pass	Pass	2 •
2♠	4♦	Pass	Pass
4♥	Dble	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Brad Moss' jump to 4♦ worked to lure Helness into the auction again on the basis that he thought someone was stealing from him. Not so; in fact 4♠ doubled did not look a healthy spot, until the &K lead crashed Gail Greenberg's A. Gail did her best by returning the A and another diamond, which declarer had to ruff. Now when Tor advanced his second club, how would you rate the defenders' chances? Personally I think only Deep Finesse and the Rueful Rabbit could defeat the hand. When Brad Moss rose with the ♣Q he had to shift to the ♥K to dislodge dumy's entry and declarer could draw trumps and run hearts easily enough.

If Moss had ducked the club Greenberg would have ruffed and now can play a heart again forcing North to give up his trump trick - or could give a ruff and discard, letting declarer ruff in dummy and ruff a club, then draw trumps and claim. So what is the defence? Moss must duck the club, and South must throw a heart! The Rueful Rabbit could do this easily enough - thinking he was defending to 4♥ - but could any of you have found the play? Declarer can only play another club, pitching a heart from hand to retain control, but South pitches her second heart and gets a heart ruff to set the game!

Ilan Herbst and Marion Michielsen produced a couple of splendid results to win their match against Armstrong. The first was a deal they bid to 3NT avoiding a 5-3 spade fit, reported by Jos Jacobs elsewhere.

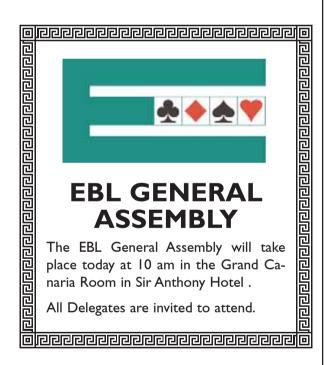
Two boards later came the critical, deal:



Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul. **★**| 10 9 6 **9** 10 8 9864 **♣**642 **♠** 2 **★**AKQ8743 Ν **♥** K 7 5 3 W Е ♦ J 10 3 2 ♦ K 5 S ◆K 10 8 7 **♣**A95 **♠** 5 ♥ A Q J 9 4 2 ♦ A Q 7 **♣**Q|3

Arnolds opened the East hand I♠, then jumped to 3♠ after a 2♥ overcall came back to her. Michielsen opened 4♠ -- a trifle rustic with so many controls, but the play's the thing. Smith as South doubled and everybody passed. What would you lead to the first trick now?

Smith started well when she selected the only card in her hand t give the defence a chance, namely the ♥A. After that, she again only had one card in her hand to set the game, namely her trump. Had she found the play, declarer is forced to use her entry to dummy at an inconvenient moment to grab her discard, and she can no longer make. But Smith quite reasonably played the ♠A, hoping her partner had either the ♠K or ♣A - which is certainly what she would have expected to be the case. After the play of the ♠A Michielsen could concede a trump and claim ten tricks.



BRIDGEMATE

We are going to use an electronic device for the scoring in all events. Each table gets a box - the Bridgemate - which the North player is supposed to handle. Experience tells us that players don't have problems using this box, but it requires accuracy. After North has entered the score on a board East has to check this result and to confirm it with an OK. The TD's are instructed to penalize players who do not pay enough attention to this data entry.

Ton Kooijman

Appeal No. 5

Sweden v Norway

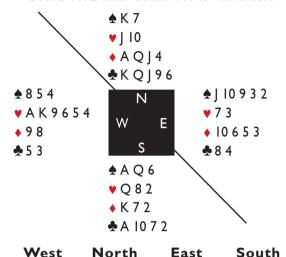
Appeals Committee:

Bill Pencharz (Chairman, England), Jens Auken (Denmark), Jean-Claude Beineix (France), Grattan Endicott (England), Jean-Paul Meyer (France)

Herman De Wael sat in on the meeting to act as Scribe

Mixed Teams Final Session 3

Board II. Dealer South. None Vulnerable.



*****			Joacii
Brogeland	Goldberg	Brogeland	Goldberg
			INT
2 🔷	Dble	Pass	2NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
Dble	All Pass		

Comments: INT 14-16

Contract: Six No trumps doubled, played by

South **Lead**: ♥A

Result: 11 tricks, NS -100

The Facts:

2 showed one major, and was explained like that by West to South. East explained it to North however as four of a major and a longer minor. North called the Director at the end of play to complain about this misinformation.

The Director:

Established that the Convention Card clearly showed that West's explanation (one major suit) was the correct one, and that North had been misinformed. When asked how the bidding would have gone with correct information, North stated that he would have doubled 2 • anyhow, but he was unclear how the bidding would go on after that. After some time he came up with a bid of 4♣, after which South could show controls (or rather not show the missing heart control). When the Director then asked why North had not bid 4♣ in the actual auction, it again took some time for him to come up with the answer that this was because West (according to what he had been told) had shown a minor suit, and bidding clubs might have caused confusion. North also told the Director that when West shows four of a major, the chances of him having VAK are smaller than when he shows six in a single major.

Although these answers had come quite slowly, the Director accepted that North was trying to concentrate on playing the rest of the boards, and he gave North/South some benefit of the doubt.

Ruling

Score adjusted to

Both sides receive:

50% of 5♣ by South (NS +400)

plus 50% of 6NT*-I by South (NS -100)

(The Director immediately converted this to +5.5 IMP in favour of the team of North/South, after comparing with the other table, which had also scored 6NT*-1.)

Relevant Laws:

Law 75A, 40C

Law12C3, Code of Practice enabling Tournament Director to award Adjusted Scores under Law 12C3.

North/South appealed.

Present: All players

The Players:

North started by explaining that he had tried to focus on the remainder of the boards (this was board II of the last set of I6 in a closely fought final). He had not wanted to analyse this board, which was why he was not quick to come up with the alternative auctions. The Director confirmed that he had asked his questions while play was still going on, in order to get "fresh" information from North.

North explained that with his double he had shown diamonds, so if he would have bid clubs later on (with the explanation that West had shown a minor), this should indicate a club stopper rather than a suit. With the correct information however, he could have doubled to show the diamonds and then bid 4. to complete showing his hand.

After bidding 4. it would be impossible to reach 6NT, since the missing heart control would have been noticed. But with this explanation North could not come up with any other way than to bid 4NT quantitative.

North was asked what other methods they played over the 2 • multi overcall. Double shows 8+ points and 4+ diamonds. With more balanced hands, only Pass, 2NT and 3NT are available. South explained that with 2NT she had shown a minimum, so when North asked again, she accepted the invitation on her 15 points.

West apologised for the misinformation given by his partner and the need for a ruling and an appeal. He pointed the Committee to the bidding at the other table. There, South had opened a 15-17 NT, and West had also overcalled with a Multi. Tor Helness had jumped to 6NT.

The Committee:

Started by confirming the Director's decision that there had been misinformation.

It was noted that it was not altogether clear that North would have bid 4. with the correct information. That might result in North becoming declarer in 6. and that would not be so great a position when a heart is lead through dummy. If West's suit was hearts it would only be in a small minority of cases that he would hold the Ace King. The Committee felt that North had valued his hand well, and that he had run into an unfortunate holding.

The Committee felt that the Director had been correct in giving North some benefit of the doubt, but certainly not more than the 50% awarded. One member suggested adjusting the ruling downwards, but since East/West were not appealing, this suggestion was not carried.

The Committee's decision:

Director's ruling upheld.

Deposit: Returned

Note: the result at the other table was -100 so the final result on the board was:

50% of +11 IMPs

plus 50% of 0 IMPs

which equates to +5.5 IMPs to the team of North/South, not rounded as this was a Knock-Out match (actually the final).

HERBST v. ARMSTRONG

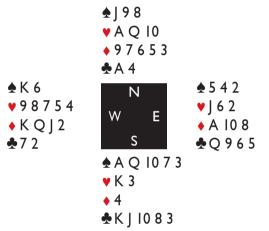
by Jos Jacobs

The most interesting of the quarterfinal pairings no doubt was the match between the Herbst and Armstrong teams. The reason for this was a very peculiar one: it really is a rarity to see two mainly Dutch teams meeting on the occasion of an international championship. As the losing semifinalists would not have a playoff for the bronze, it also meant that the Netherlands contingent could already be sure of their first medal before this match started.

So much for the patriotism; time to go over to the action. For the first half, it would be lan van Cleeff and Elisabeth van Ettinger against John Armstrong and Nicola Smith in the Open Room and Jan Jansma with Carla Arnolds against Ilan Herbst and Roni Barr in the Closed Room.

The scorers were troubled right at the start of the match:

Board I. Dealer North. None Vul.



In the Closed Room, they easily got to 4♠ via a Drury 2♣ response by North over South's I♠ opening. Carla Arnolds then simply bid 4♠ and had little trouble in producing the ten tricks required. On the actual layout and forcing defence in diamonds, she might well have made an overtrick on what basically comes down to a dummy reversal. After ruffing three diamonds the 13th diamond becomes the 11th trick.

Not that it mattered very much here, except for the connoisseurs at and around the table, but in the Open Room, it might have mattered. NS had a bidding misunderstanding

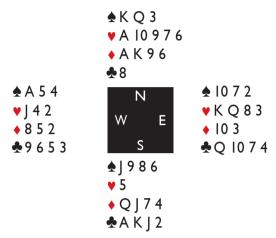


Roni Barr, Israel

and ended up in 5♣ which had to go one down. However, there would have been a very reasonable play to land even 5♠ and that's what makes a misunderstanding like this one a lot more painful. Armstrong +10 IMPs.

Two boards later, a slam came along, but it was not at all easy to bid.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Herbst	Jansma	Barr	Arnolds
			I •
Pass	I ♥	Pass	♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

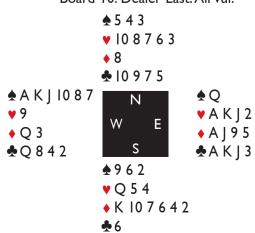
West leads a trump. With every suit behaving, landing the slam was not so difficult but behind the screens we are still wondering what the best line would have been. The plan to ruff two clubs followed by Arnolds worked well anyway, though it needed spades 3-3 (or the last trump with the 4th spade) in the end as there was no quick entry back to hand after the first club ruff. ♦A, ♣A, ♣ ruff, ♠ to jack and ace, trump taken by the queen, 🙅 ruff. Now, declarer has to cash dummy's spades first before ruffing herself back to hand with ♥A and a ♥ ruff. Hair-raising play, it looked from dummy's point of view, whose main concern in fact had been the trump suit.

Please note the nice cuebid of 4♥ with the singleton, possible now after the 3NT signoff.

At the other table they did not investigate beyond 3NT so another 10 IMPs went to Armstrong.

The Herbst team got its revenge when the Israeli pair bid to an easy grand on board 10:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Armstrong	Van Cleeff	Smith	Van Ettinger
		2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♣	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

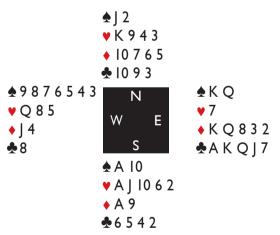
Whenever partner produces a positive response in the singleton of a strong 4-4-4-1 opposite, there will be trouble. We have seen that often enough and it occurred again this time. Though the club suit seemed to have come into the picture the uncertainty was already there and thus the grand was missed.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Herbst	Jansma	Barr	Arnolds
		♣	Pass
♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5 🔷	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

Once Roni Barr decided to go quietly by opening I hit was virtually impossible to miss the grand. Had they been able to show the singleton QUEEN of spades in the process, they would no doubt have reached the top spot of 7NT. Their grand slam in clubs was good enough to bring them a much needed swing of 12 IMPs anyway.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Armstrong	Van Cleeff	Smith	Van Ettinger
	Pass	1 •	۱v
I♠	2♥	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Dble
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Declarer's spade pips were decisive here. The defence played and continued hearts, so dummy had to ruff with an honour. The diamonds went away on the top clubs but it did not matter any more. There still was another losing heart to be ruffed and declarer could not manoeuvre the hand any more. After ruffing himself back to hand he had to lead a spade to South's 10 and the return of the 4th club meant that the ♠ had to score a thirddefensive trick with the ace of trumps still to come. Well done.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Herbst	Jansma	Barr	Arnolds
	Pass	I ø	ΙΨ
2♠	All Pass		

At the table I thought that the only adequate description of Roni Barr's pass of 2 can be: "superhuman." Making five against different defence (planned to beat 2 of course) gained the Herbst team another 7 IMPs so they went into the halftime interval with a deficit of just I IMP. An interesting second segment looked likely, and so it turned out!

For the second half, Roni Barr would be re-

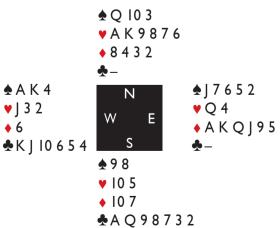


Nicola Smith, England

placed by Marion Michielsen, another Dutch player to increase the percentage of Dutchness of the teams playing even more. She would partner Ilan Herbst in the Closed Room against the British, whereas the four other Dutch would fight it out between them in the Open Room, the main difference being that we are all on Tenerife instead of, for example, in Utrecht at the Dutch Federation (NBB) headquarters.

After two partscore swings early on, one each way, Armstrong struck when Arnolds found a little Canapé:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Jansma	Van Cleeff	Arnolds	Van Ettinger
♣	I v	I♠	Pass
2♠	Dble	4	All Pass

When Carla Arnolds refrained from ruffing the third round of hearts with the jack, she found herself one down in a contract she could have made. But the board still was a gain for her team:

Closed Room:

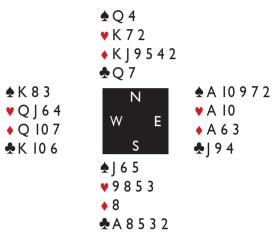
West	North	East	South
Herbst	Armstrong	Michielsen	Smith
♣	۱v	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

Herbst could not believe his partner had introduced another five-card suit at the three-level, so he rebid his clubs again, much to the liking of South who quietly passed and collected 400.

Armstrong 7 IMPs to lead by 11 at this stage.

But then the tide turned:

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Jansma	Van Cleeff	Arnolds	Van Ettinger
		I 🏚	Pass
2NT	3 ♦	4♠	All Pass

2NT showed a spade raise, but the straight jump to 4♠ maybe came too quickly. Had East given her partner the chance to express an opinion, it might well have resulted in a double for a profitable 500 or 800. And there was another possible development, as was shown at the other table:

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Herbst	Armstrong	Michielsen	Smith
		l 🏚	Pass
INT	2 🔷	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass



Jan Jansma, The Netherlands

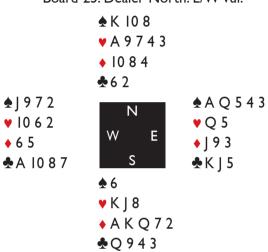
When Herbst expressed his type of hand by rebidding 2NT, Michielsen had no trouble in raising that to game. As you can see, 4♠ has no practical chances of success, but 3NT was quite challenging on Armstrong's low heart lead. Herbst won dummy's ♥10, then led ♠A and passed the ♠10 to North, who played a low club away from his ♠Q7 to Smith's ace for a diamond switch.

Herbst put in the ◆10 and ducked the ◆J, and now had nine tricks by force. On a heart return he would win the ♥A and cross to the ♠K to drive out the ♥K, with the ♠K as a reentry for the fourth heart. Nicely played. Herbst 12 IMPs to go into the lead by I now.

There was more to come for them on a deal covered in the quarterfinal round-up to give them a 10 IMP lead.

And the next board:

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Jansma	Van Cleeff	Arnolds	Van Ettinger
	Pass	I 🏚	2 •
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Van Ettinger chose to overcall 2 ◆ rather than double for take-out at her first turn. This resulted in 3 ♠ coming back to her. As her hand was easily worth one more action, her double at the second attempt gave her partner the opportunity to introduce his five-card heart suit. Nicely bid for a well-deserved +450.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Herbst	Armstrong	Michielsen	Smith
	Pass	I 🏚	Dble
2♠	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

The disadvantage of an immediate take-out double was shown in the replay. Though the South hand looks strong enough, the knowledge that partner need not hold five hearts means that a raise to four is far from obvious. Three Spades went one down so Herbst had scored another 8 IMPs to lead by 18 with three boards to go.

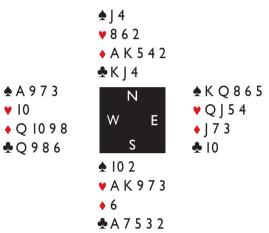
An overtrick on 26 meant they could even afford to let 4\(\preceq\) slip through on 27 to lose 10. The final score thus became 59-50 to Herbst, who would go on to meet the Swedish Goldberg team in the Semifinals.

ROUND OF 16: GROMOVA VS ERICHSEN

At the halfway stage of the Round of 16, the outcome of most of the matches looked rather clear, as one team was leading the other by a margin of 30 or more. There were two exceptions, one of them being the Gromova v. Erichsen encounter. The Norwegians were leading the Russians by 8 IMPs so there should be a lot to play for. Alas, this was not fully the case, as at both tables we would see a few mistakes, probably due to fatigue after more than 40 boards already played in the day.

Still, there was more than enough excitement, of course also due to the same tiredness of the players. After a quiet first board we saw a good slam bid at both tables on board 16, and then came an interesting hand:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Helness	Gromov	Helness	Gromova
	♣	I 🏚	3♠
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

South's 3♠ showed hearts and a minor. Four Spades went down two for 300 to Gromova, but what about 4♥? Let's have a look at what they thought about that in the other room.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South	
Dubinin	Erichsen	Ponomareva	Erichsen	
	I ø	Pass	ΙΨ	
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣	
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	
All Pass				

Surprisingly enough, EW were not to be heard from at this table. The disadvantage was that declarer had nothing to guide her in 4♥, but maybe she should have succeeded after all against the lead of the ♣6. Please keep in mind that 2♣ was Checkback, so declarer's second suit was concealed. East plays the ♣10 and you win the ace. Your first move is to discard a spade on the ♠AK; next you play a trump to the ace, noting (or not) the fall of West's ♥10. What now?

If both trumps and clubs are 3-2: next board please. But what if either suit breaks 4-1? What if they both break 4-1?

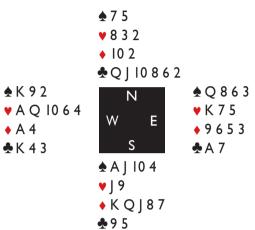
If West led a singleton club, playing a club next does not cost. West cannot hold two clubs, as he led his lowest. The danger in drawing a second round of trumps is that East can draw a third round of trumps after ruffing a club, if trumps are 4-1. So why not play a club to the jack first? Of course this line fails if East ruffs from a doubleton trump...

If you do so, on the actual layout East can ruff and cash a top spade, but he can do no further harm. Still, you have to play on carefully. After ruffing the spade you should not draw another trump, but first cash the &K. It does not matter if East ruffs or not, as the top trump is the entry needed to ruff out the last club. Contract made.

At the table declarer drew a second round of trumps, causing her undoing. Down two and 9 IMPs to Gromova.

The IMPs just lost were to come back with interest to Erichsen on the next board.

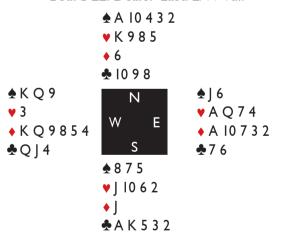
Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



How can you go down in 4♥? Win the club lead, draw TWO rounds of trumps and try to ruff a club in dummy. If you play spades first, you will almost certainly run into sort of an automatic trump promotion, except if you happen to find ♠A doubleton in East (or if a less competent East hops up with her ♠A immediately). When the Russian declarer went down 10 IMPs went Norway's way.

Board 22 was a real bidding triumph for Tor Helness.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Helness	Gromov	Helness	Gromova
		Pass	Pass
I 🔷	I♠	Dble	INT
Pass	2♣	3♦	3♠
3NT	All Pass		

For this contract, the only thing needed was the \forall K right and so it proved. Erichsen +600.

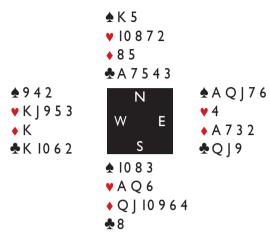
Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Dubinin	Erichsen	Ponomareva	Erichsen
		I •	2♣
Dble	3♣	Pass	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

An interesting difference of opinion as to the requirements for an opening bid. Both East and West can open $I \bullet if$ they so wish, but the Nor-

wegian East left it to her partner. Probably expecting a club singleton with his partner, Dubinin never thought of 3NT, only to find out that there were three top losers in $5 \spadesuit$. Erichsen +12 IMPs.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

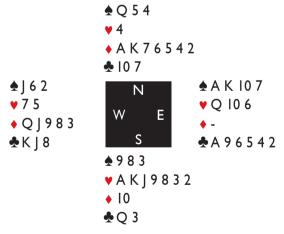


Fatigue struck again on board 23, but this time at both tables. Sighs of relief from both camps when they compared the results...

The problem is: how can you go down in 4♠ after a club lead to the ace, a club ruff and a diamond continuation? You know that North does not have the ♥A, as otherwise he would have led a high club for his partner to ruff. The ♠K has to be onside, for if not there are four losers. The alternative chance is that South started with only two trumps, in which case the ♠A followed by two more rounds of clubs will do. Percentages are against that line, I would assume, so the simple line of ruffing a diamond and finessing in spades looks best. It would have been successful too, but it was not adopted at either table. So we saw a remarkable push.

On the penultimate board, the Norwegians really proved they had been the better team in the second half:

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Helness	Gromov	Helness	Gromova
			4♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Though a trick was lost in defence, the double still netted 300 and 4 IMPs to the winners.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Dubinin	Erichsen	Ponomareva	Erichsen
			4 🕶

All Pass

On a diamond lead ruffed by East, declarer could not avoid down three for a loss of a mere 150.

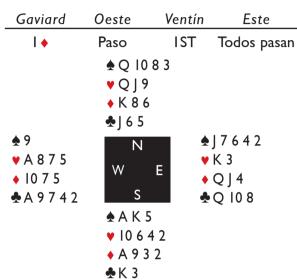
The final result: 40-16 to Erichsen over the session, 58-26 overall.

FINAL PAREJAS MIXTAS

52 parejas están compitiendo en la final A para ganar el Torneo de Parejas Mixtas. Entre ellas, Gaviard - Ventín, con un arrastre del 54% de las semifinales, y a los que hemos seguido en la primera sesión de 26 manos. La segunda (y definitiva) sesión se está disputando mientras escribimos esta crónica.

Varias manos presentaron situaciones interesantes, propias de los torneos por parejas. Vean lo ocurrido en la mano 7.

Dador Sur. Todos vulnerables.



En este caso, subastar IST con 4 cartas a pic funcionó a la perfección cuando Este salió del ♣4, que Ventín ganó con el ♠10. La ♥Q fue ganada con el ♥K y otro pic fue jugado. Ventín jugó más corazones y finalmente puso en mano a Este (que había descartado un ♠) con la ◆Q para forzarle a abrir el trébol. Cuando pidió pequeño trébol desde el muerto consiguió un total de 9 bazas (4 pics, 2 corazones, 2 diamantes y I trébol) para un top absoluto.

Hacer IST+I ya era recompensado con un 92%, por lo que se deduce que prácticamente nadie jugó IST con las cartas de Norte, sino con las de Sur, ya que después de la salida del \$4 hay 6 bazas obvias para la defensa.

Más tarde, en la mano 14, vino una decisión difícil en la subasta.

Dador Este. Nadie vulnerable.

Este	Gaviard	Oeste	Ventín
Paso	IST	2 ♣	Doblo
2♥	Paso	Paso	¿?

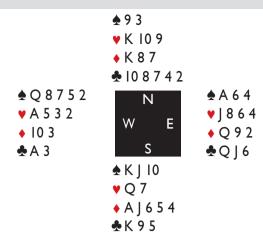
2♣ = mayores. Tiene las siguientes cartas:

♦ 9 3♥ K 10 9♦ K 8 7♣ 10 8 7 4 2

Aunque el compañero ha abierto de IST (15-17), la situación no parece ideal. Oeste ha mostrado 5-4 en los mayores, hemos doblado mostrando un cierto juego y parece que los contrarios han encontrado un buen fit. Si fuera un torneo de equipos tal vez pasaríamos, pero por parejas podemos luchar un poco más.

Por tanto, Ventín escogió 2ST como su subasta. Cuando su contrario insistió en 3 ♥, sin embargo, dobló, siguiendo la máxima de los torneos de parejas que obliga a doblar a los contrarios cuando te alejan de tu parcial ganadora. La subasta y la mano completa eran:

Este	Gaviard	Oeste	Ventín
Paso	IST	2♣	Doblo
2♥	Paso	Paso	2ST
3♥	Paso	Paso	Doblo
Todos pasan			



Sólo la salida a triunfo regala el contrato, así que la decisión resultó la correcta ya que se pierden 2 triunfos, 2 diamantes y I pic. Sin embargo, ¿valía la pena dicho riesgo? Apuntar +50 ya era una nota del 54% para N-S, mientras que +100 era el 78%. Por tanto, el doblo conseguía cambiar una media por una nota muy buena; además, no todo el mundo encontraría el doble fit y competiría hasta el nivel de 3, así que es muy probable que -140 y -430 fueran notas igual de desastrosas.

La mano 19 es un ejemplo de juego en defensa.

Dador Sur. Este-Oeste vulnerables.

Este	Gaviard	Oeste	Ventín
	Paso	۱v	Paso
2♥	Paso	4♥	Todos pasan

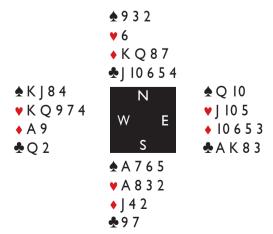
Su compañero sale en Norte del \$4 (terceras y quintas) y aparece el siguiente muerto:



El muerto juega el \$3, para nuestro \$7 y la \$Q\$ del declarante. Éste juega ahora triunfo hacia el \$\vert J\$, que cedemos, el \$\vert 5\$ que ponemos pequeña para su \$\vert Q\$ y el compañero descarta el \$2 (negativa al palo). Viene otro triunfo que ganamos con el \$\vert A\$. ¿Y ahora?

Si el declarante tiene 4 tréboles no hay problema en la mano. Perderá los pics y diamantes que le correspondan. Pero si la salida del compañero era una quinta, el declarante tiene preparado un descarte para una perdedora en diamante. ¿Cruzamos enonces diamante? No.

Lo que debemos hacer, mientras consevamos un triunfo, es volver a trébol para romperle las comunicaciones. La mano completa:



Si cruzamos diamante, el declarante ganará con el ◆A, nos quitará el triunfo y descartará sobre el trébol para -650. En cambio, si jugamos ♣ está perdido: si intenta descartar, le fal-

lamos el ♣K y perderá 3 bazas en total. Sólo hay que ir con un poco de cuidado si juega la ♠Q en lugar de adelantar el trébol. En ese caso, debemos ceder esa baza o bien ganar con el ♠A y volver a ♠ de nuevo. ¡Qué duros somos con él!

No todos los defensores vieron la contra correcta: de los 15 declarantes que jugaron 4♥ (hubo algunos que quisieron practicar aquí su pericia en el carteo a ST), 4 consiguieron hacer 11 bazas, aunque no sabemos si todos recibieron la misma salida, mientras que el resto se tuvieron que contentar con 10. -620 era un 56% para N-S, mientras que permitir -650 sólo se pagaba con un 26% de la mano.

Por último, la mano 23. Ésta fue jugada realmente al límite:

Dador Sur Todos vulnerables

Dador Sur. Iodos vulnerables.						
Este	Gaviard	Oeste	Ventín			
2 ♠ 4 ♥	Paso Doblo 4♠	IST 3♣ Paso	Paso 3♠ Paso			
5♣	Paso	Paso	1 aso			
	Todos pasan	1 aso	3*			
♠ A 7 ♥ A 5 4 2 ♦ A K 6 2 ♣ 10 6 3	 ♣ 10 8 4 ♥ K 10 7 ◆ Q 9 8 ♣ - ₩ S ♠ K Q J ♥ Q 9 8 ◆ 7 ♠ Q 5 4 	7 3 4 3 • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	9 6 J J 10 5 A K J 9 8 7 2			

El 2♠ de Este era transfer a tréboles, mientras que su siguiente voz de 4♥ indica semifallo en el palo y el paso de Oeste después de 4♠ era forcing, por supuesto. Lo que ya se sale, por valentía, de las subastas típicas competitivas es que Norte-Sur lleguen hasta 5♠ con esta mano, vulnerables.

La salida fue del ♣A, fallado, y el declarante no puede a priori bajar de 800, con el conseguiente cero. Si arrastra, Oeste gana el primer triunfo con el ♠A, da el fallo a su compañero en ♥, recupera la mano con diamante y arrastra de nuevo, dejando a Norte con sólo un triunfo y 2 tréboles perdedores en el muerto.

Si, en cambio, juega ◆ para romper las comunicaciones, la defensa cobra su fallo y arrastran 2 veces para llegar a una situación parecida. Sin embargo, en la mesa Ventín consiguió tener sólo 2 multas para -500, para un 44% de la mano, ya que 5♣ no se ganan. En este caso, dejar jugar a los contrarios este contrato para +50 era muy buena nota, un 74%.

Al finalizar la primera sesión, Gaviard-Ventín ocupan la posición 24, con aproximadamente un 52%. Sólo una segunda sesión histórica les llevaría a las posiciones de cabeza.

Make a trip to Maya!

Every afternoon from 17.00 in front of the Pyramid you will find a free shuttle to the Maya Department store. (The store stays open until 22.00 and you have a Euro 20 discount voucher in your hospitality bag!)

Gabriella CAPRIOGLIO - Filippo RAFFA Carlo TOTARO - Maria Pia TOTARO

Nicole SCHULMANN - Jacques GONFREVILLE

Jari BACKSTROM - Eija MULTIMAKI

Irene BARONI - Ezio FORNACIARI

Barbara CESARI - Francesco NATALE

Catherine D'OVIDIO - Serge ELBAZ

Wafik ABDOU - Connie GOLDBERG

Maria STOPPINI - Lorenzo STOPPINI

Carlo ROMANI - Anna BRUCCULERI

Massimo MUROLO - Anna ROMANO

Shimshon HORVITZ - Nurit GRAIZER

M. Fahir UZUMCU - Umran SEMERCI

Bernard JADCZAK - Anna MATWIJOW

Nathalie MARX - Thierry BINEAU

Robert BOEDDEKER - Flora ZARKESCH

Janet DE BOTTON - Gunnar HALLBERG

Maria Luz CORTES ARNAL - Penev DIMITAR DENCHEV

Ran SCHNEIDER - Klara HETZ

James BUGDEN - Sally BUGDEN

Vivian PRIDAY - Tony PRIDAY

Eva DITETOVA - Tomas FORT

Pilar LEON - Arturo WASIK

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MIXED PAIRS

FINAL A - FINAL RESULTS

- 1	Tor HELNESS - Gunn HELNESS	57.76	27	Ulla-britt GOLDBERG - Lars GOLDBERG	50.73
2	Sylvie WILLARD - Herve MOUIEL	57.42	28	Paul LEWIS - Linda LEWIS	50.72
3	Michael ROSENBERG - Debbie ROSENBERG	55.63	29	Christoffer NIEMEIJER - Jet PASMAN	50.70
4	Gedrius SARKANAS - Giedre JANKUNAITE	55.46	30	Fulvio FANTONI - Paola SCALAMOGNA	50.64
5	Wietske Van ZWOL - Huub BERTENS	55.20	31	Tatiana PONOMAREVA - Alexander DUBININ	50.35
6	Siv THORESEN - Jan Petter SVENDSEN	55.00	32	Rosen Geourgiev GUNEV - Desislava Borissova POPOVA	50.28
7	Piotr JUREK - Ewa KATER	54.88	33	Rhona GOLDENFIELD - Bernard GOLDENFIELD	50.25
8	John ARMSTRONG - Nicola SMITH	54.25	34	Lou Ann O'ROURKE - Peter FREDIN	50.19
9	Pony Beate NEHMERT - Entscho WLADOW	54.25	35	Gail MOSS - Brad MOSS	50.17
10	Rino TRAPANI - Michaela POPA	54.23	36	Sandra PENFOLD - Brian SENIOR	49.64
11	Naci DEMIRBAS - Merih TOKCAN	54.21	37	Monica CUZZI - Alfredo VERSACE	49.59
12	Anne-Frederique LEVY - Alain LEVY	53.87	38	Carla ARNOLDS - Jan JANSMA	49.22
13	Erik SAELENSMINDE - Ann Karin FUGLESTAD	53.79	39	Joanna ZALEWSKA - Stanislaw GOLEBIOWSKI	49.00
14	Sue BACKSTROM - Kauko KOISTINEN	53.79	40	Vanessa REESS - Erick MAUBERQUEZ	48.81
15	Daniela HNATOVA - Otakar SVOBODA	53.36	41	Malgorzata PASTERNAK - Konrad ARASZKIEWICZ	48.46
16	Judi RADIN - Jeff MECKSTROTH	53.27	42	Doron YADLIN - Gila EMODI	48.44
17	Daniela ROMANI - Mario D' AVOSSA	53.26	43	Nicklas SANDQVIST - Heather DHONDY	48.19
18	Antonio CUCCORESE - Angela De BIASIO	53.18	44	Marianne SERF - Jean-Claude FOUASSIER	47.88
19	Piotr LUTOSTANSKI - Ewa BANASZKIEWICZ	53.12	45	John HOLLAND - Michelle BRUNNER	47.81
20	Bengt-erik EFRAIMSSON - Helena SVEDLUND	52.07	46	Cristina GOLIN - Massimo LANZAROTTI	47.53
21	Boye BROGELAND - Tonje BROGELAND	51.96	47	Francesca CARAFA - Matteo MONTANARI	47.30
22	Pablo LAMBARDI - Daniela Von ARNIM	51.89	48	Terry WALSH - Brid KEMPLE	47.17
23	Piotr KUCHARSKI - Agnieszka KUCHARSKA	51.73	49	Migry ZUR-CAMPANILE - Michael BAREL	46.78
24	Carel BERENDREGT - Marjo CHORUS	51.53	50	Igor GRZEJDZIAK - Sabina GRZEJDZIAK	46.54
25	Ronnie BARR - Ilan HERBST	51.37	51	Angela GRAMBERG - Norbert SCHILHART	45.51
26	Juan Carlos VENTIN - Daniele GAVIARD	50.89	52	Helen ERICHSEN - Espen ERICHSEN	44.94

FINAL B - FINAL RESULTS					
1	Helen COLTER - Eric RODWELL	59,98	75	David JENSEN - Catherine JAGGER	48,88
2	Vera CALDARELLI - Franco FONTI	59,66	76	Joann GLASSON - Bob GLASSON	48,68
3	Maureen HIRON - Irving GORDON	58,82	77	Diego BRENNER - Nina ANIDJAR	48,60
4	Christina MORTENSEN - Morten Lund MADSEN	58,59	78	Jose ARANAZ - Consuelo DIAZ	48,35
5	Ken BAXTER - Elizabeth (liz) McGOWAN	58,38	79	Alessandro CROCI - Lorenza CROCI	48,21
6	Anna SARNIAK - Piotr TUSZYNSKI	58,05	80	Barbara GOTARD - Tomasz GOTARD	48,13
7	Pavla SVOBODOVA - Lukas PAVLIK	57,82	81	Dennis RYAN - Barbara TYSDAHL	48,06
8	Beverly PERRY - John KRANYAK	57,56	82	Luca BELLUSSI - Fiorenza BELLUSSI	47,99
9	Arne LARSSON - Pia ANDERSSON	57,07	83	Audhild VISTNES - Fred Arne MOEN	47,95
10	Rosie WHITE - David BURN	56,71	84	Giorgio ODELLO - Shalh MOFAHKAMI	47,93
П	Ilse B ARTMER - Andreas BABSCH	56,46	85	Elsa BISCOTTI - Giovanni LEPRE	47,81
12	Alan NELSON - Kath NELSON	55,76	86	Andrew MCINTOSH - Lila PANAHPOUR	47,75
13	Nicole Van POPERINGHE - Philippe TOFFIER	55,75	87	Michail ROSENBLUM - Larissa PANINA	47,72
14	Ewa MISZEWSKA - Apolinary KOWALSKI	55,20	88	Karin CAESAR - Hartmut KONDOCH	47,54
15	Valeria BELLINI - Flavio PASSI	55,17	89	Hanna KOWALSKA - Andrzej MAJCHER	47,48
16	Matilda POPLILOV - Lilo POPLILOV	55,10	90	Petra Von MALCHUS - Nedju BUCHLEV	47,26
17	David BIRMAN - Daniela BIRMAN	54,87	91	Iman CHAMAA - Krzysztof MARTENS	46,68
18	Jean-Michel VOLDOIRE - Nadine PEYROT	54,81	92	Natalia CECI - Leonardo CAPORILLI	46,59
19	Ahu ZOBU - Victor ARONOV	54,65	93	Tos MCGEE - Antoinette MCGEE	46,37
20	John PHELAN - Lucy PHELAN	54,45	94	Benedicte CRONIER - Moza PANAHPOUR	46,10
21	Valentin Ivan KOVACHEV - Roz WOLFARTH	54,45	95	Aliye UGUR - Ufuk UGUR	45,79
22	Pierre ZIMMERMANN - Renata SAPORTA	54,42	96	Anthony N GORDON - Maureen DENNISON	45,35
23	Dominique BEAUMIER - Anne BEAUMIER	54,34	97	Herve CASSAR - Sylvie LESUR	45,34
24	Maria MENICHETTI - Giuseppe ROCCHI	54,26	98	Vittorio CATANZARO - Anna Maria BENEDUCE	45,23
25	Georgi SHOKOV - Anni KOVACHEVA	54,17	99	Erdal Olkay ERCAN - Lori SARDINAS	45,17
26	Nawal FENWICK - John HARRISON	54,17	100	Ross HARPER - Christine LUSTIN	45,12
27	Roberta COSTANTINI - Verino CALDARELLI	54,10	101	Annet VAN LEIJEN - Ronald VERDONK	44,52
28	Joao PASSARINHO - Maria PANADERO	53,89	102	Francisco JIMENEZ GARRIDO - Sofia SUAREZ	44,29
29	Francesca COLAMARTINO - Massimo De VINCENZO	53,86	103	Maria PEL - Peter IJSSELMUIDEN	44,15
30	Enrico BENASSI - Chia MARTELLINI	53,83	104	Lucie CRISTOFARI - Quentin ROBERT	44,03
31	Martine ROSSARD - Georges ROMANOWSKI	53,56	105	Dominique PORTAL - Denis FROUEIN	43,81
32	Jane JENSEN - Chris JAGGER	53,45	106	Mary FINN - Sean O'LUBAIGH	43,58
33	Sascha WERNLE - Jovanka SMEDEREVAC	53,36 53,05	107	Lone MORTENSEN - Morten Dam MORTENSEN	43,24
34	Jean-yves DANIC - Anne-marie COLOMBARO	,	108	Stefania MASSARA - Rocco PAGANO	43,19
35	Mario DIX - Margaret PARNIS-ENGLAND	52,70	109	Tjali TUWANAKOTTA - B.Van Den BOOM	43,05
36 37	Maria Brun MORELLI - Guido MICHELI	52,65 52,57	110	Elvira D'ANDREA - Galileo VIOLINI	42,66
37	Karl De RAEYMAEKER - Anna ONISHUK	52,57 52,56	111	George COLTER - Donna RODWELL	42,04
38 39	Gadi LEIBOVITZ - Thalia KOREN Igor KHAZANOV - Maria LEBEDEVA	52,56 52,56	112 113	Marit LANGSTON - Peter LANGSTON	41,75 41,74
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	,		Gaetano LEONETTI - Silvana MORELLI	,
40 41	Irmeli SALONEN - Marc VERDURMEN	52,51 52,34	114	Klaas BRINK - Veri BRINK-BAKENS	39,65
41 42	Muriel CLEMENT - Paul CHEMLA	52,34 52,17	115 116	Patrizia JEREB - Santino CASADIO	37,17 35,57
43	Mine BABAC - Aydin UYSAL	52,16		Pedro ROCA - Rosa MUNOZ CAMPOS	,
	Laszlo HONTI - Katalin MEZEI	,	117	Janet CAHM - Maurice CAHM	0.00
44 45	Marie Louize DAS - Pierre D' OVIDIO	52,08 51,94	118	Tom GISBORNE - Sandy DAVIES	0.00
45 46	Patrick JOST - Nicole JOST Donatella BUZZATTI - Francesco RANDAZZO	51,94 51,91	119	Krzysztof BURAS - Anna GRUNT	0.00 0.00
47		51,62	120	Valerie CARCASSONNE-LABAERE - Thierry COOREMAN	
	Leonardo CIMA - Marc TEMPESTINI Buth LEVIT BORAT - Notan HETZ	51,62 51,60	121	Isabel ROCA AROZENA - Aureliano YANES	0.00
48 49	Ruth LEVIT-PORAT - Natan HETZ	,	122	Moyna MACKENZIE - Greer McKENZIE	0.00 0.00
49 50	Jana POKORNA - Josef KURKA	51,49 51,21	123	Heidy HUPE - Alan MADDOCK	0.00
	Fabienne PIGEAUD - Philippe MARILL	,			,
51	Caroline GREGSON - Victor SILVERSTONE	51,04	1	Presentation Internet	-

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Bridge Club StepBridge

In 2001 the Dutch Bridge League started it's own internet bridge club called StepBridge. Since then StepBridge has seen an enormous growth in both members an popularity. At this moment the club has more than 7000 members, and is still growing. This makes StepBridge one of the main pillars of the Dutch Bridge League, since every member of StepBridge has to become a member of the league too.

To learn more about StepBridge, and what it has to offer, you are welcome to join the presentation that will be given by StepBridge founder Epko Steinmetz on Saturday 25 June at 9:30 in the Press Room of the EBL. Besides getting more information about StepBridge, you'll get the opportunity to play some hands in real-time on the internet! Also you can get the information how this internet bridge club can be integrated in your own national bridge league.