



## 4th EUROPEAN OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS Sanremo, Italy, June 2009

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# Holders Dethroned



*The ever helpful Hospitality Desk*

The elimination of the reigning Champions, **Dhondy**, from the European Open Mixed Teams demonstrated just how hard it is to hang on to a major title.

With 32 teams entering the KO rounds the first 8 teams in Swiss A were able to choose their opponents and then the teams ranked from 9 onwards could do so unless they had already been chosen. For obvious reasons no one wanted to play **Lavazza** or **Erichsen**, so those two teams were left on the shelf and find themselves meeting in the match of the round.

### Today's - Schedule

- 08.30-10.00 Mixed Pairs Registration
- 10.00 Mixed Teams Round of 32
- 10.30 Mixed Pairs (Qualifying 1st)
- 15.00 Mixed Teams Round of 16
- 15.30 Mixed Pairs (Qualifying 2nd)



Gestetner

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## MIXED TEAMS RANKING SWISS A

1	HANSEN	101
2	VRIEND	100
3	BERTHEAU	96
4	CAPTAIN KANGAROO W/WO	95
5	BADGER	94
6	HAUGE	92
	DE BOTTON	92
8	ALIZEE	91
	CALANDRA	91
	SERF	91
11	RO.MIXT	86
12	PENFOLD	84
13	VYTAS	83
	ZIMMERMANN	83
	FAMILY TEAM	83
16	MCGANN	81
17	QUEEN	80
18	BUDKIN	79
	BEAUMIER	79
20	CALLAGHAN	78
	LAVAZZA	78
	MAAREK	78
	ZALESKI	78
24	ERICHSEN	77
25	JOEL	76
26	ALBAMONTE	75
	BRIDGE AKARANA	75
28	VENTIN	73
	SLOVI	73
	DARKMOON	73
31	ZOBU	72
	PRAHA	72
	FORNACIARI	72
34	SEALE	71
35	GLADIATOR	70
	BLAKEY	70
	MIOZZI	70
	STIENEN	70
39	DHONDY	68
	ACOL PRAHA	68
41	DONATELLA	66
	GRASSO	66
	ALBATROS	66
44	VILLA FABBRICHE	58
45	BRUNNER	57
46	PIEDRA	56
	SCHILHART	56
48	CROATIA	43

## MIXED TEAMS RANKING SWISS B

1	NEVE	107
2	ROSSARD	95
3	PAYEN	93
4	BUAIGH	91
5	KHONICHEVA	90
6	BLONDIE	89
7	ALAIN LEVY	87
	LATIN MIX	87
	TISLEVOLL	87
	HERBST	87
11	GISBORNE	86
12	MCGOWAN	85
13	TESSARO	84
	BARONI	84
	CALDARELLI	84
16	BAVARIA	83
17	GOTARD	82
	MCLEISH	82
19	GREMANIA	81
20	SITTON	79
21	BRIDGE MIT FREUNDEN	76
22	FINN	75
23	RUSSIA	74
24	AC/DC	73
25	HARPER	72
	ADELE	72
27	SWEDEN I	71
28	INDEMINE	70
	MIRAGLIA	70
30	BIRIN	69
	STUMPEN	69
32	BRIGADA	67
	GWINNER	67
	NORWAY	67
35	PENNY BANKERS	64
36	MATUJONA	63
37	EUROAROUND	61
	SEALS	61
39	MICHELIN	60
40	UPPSALA	59
41	CARAFI	51
	HOTEL PARIGI BORDIGHERA	51
43	LIMERICK	48

# MEET THE PLAYERS (OR IN THIS CASE AND OTHERS) - BILL BAILEY

by David Stern

What? Has Stern gone completely mad? Who is Bill Bailey and what is his relevance to bridge? OK, here's a clue – Bill revolutionised bridge discussion and you will likely use his 'baby' each time you play bridge. Yes, Bill was the developer of Deep Finesse. This piece of software analyses bridge hands with perhaps the most useful part being the analysis telling you all the makeable contracts for a bridge hand. Just think:

1	♠ 108	<i>Dlr: N</i> <i>Vul: None</i>											
	♥ AKQ5												
	♦ KJ108												
	♣ 652												
	♠ KQ97	♠ A43											
♥ J8	♥ 9743												
♦ 9432	♦ A5												
♣ J74	♣ AQ83												
	♠ J652	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣♦♥♠NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>- 1 1 - -</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>- 1 1 - -</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>2 - - 2 -</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>2 - - 2 -</td> </tr> </table>			♣♦♥♠NT	N	- 1 1 - -	S	- 1 1 - -	E	2 - - 2 -	W	2 - - 2 -
	♣♦♥♠NT												
N	- 1 1 - -												
S	- 1 1 - -												
E	2 - - 2 -												
W	2 - - 2 -												
13	♥ 1062												
7 14	♦ Q76												
6	♣ K109												

That little box on the bottom right which shows how with best defence and double-dummy declarer play N/S can make 1♦ and 1♥ and E/W can make 2♣ and 2♠. However, it must be noted that it assumes you can see all four hands so always take finesses the right way, always drop the singleton king or doubleton queen offside and finesse the J-x-x-x.

He admits not being a very strong "real-time" player but tends to be fanatical about analysing hands post-mortem. Existing bridge software is geared toward man competing against machine, and he wasn't interested in that. He wanted a tool that would allow him to sleep at night instead of sweating the really tough deals he thought he had perhaps blown when playing but wasn't sure.

An imperfect, analysis assistant was not good enough as he didn't want fuzzy assessments of positions even if they were accurate 98% of the time. He needed to know the truth, always. Enter Deep Finesse...

Bill is 44 years old and lives in Palo Alto California in the USA with his wife of 15 years, Susan, son Bolton and daughter Caroline.

Like most of us, he started playing hearts (Ricky-Kate) with friends at Harvard University. Some found it easy and bought bridge books teaching themselves how to play. Actually his history is unusual in that he became an avid reader of bridge books and really studied the game long before he did any serious playing. He didn't start

tournaments until he was working on Deep Finesse.

His favourite bridge books include "Bridge with the Blue Team" by Forquet, anything written by Hugh Kelsey and "Better Bridge for the Advancing Player" by Frank Stewart. The latter was the first book he read after finishing with beginner books, which he confesses made the game seem easy to him while Stewart's books were the first to open his eyes to the subtleties of the game.

Deep Finesse was a natural fit for him. Bridge was a passion and computer programming a strong skill so it was an obvious combination. Unlike chess computers which were well developed at that time nobody had written any bridge software that could play at any reasonable standard. His initial ambition was to start with a double-dummy analyser and then advance it to a full bridge playing robot.

After 11 years as a database developer at Oracle Corp and tired of the pressures of Silicon Valley, Bill finally decided to take a year off and pursue a dream. Bridge and computers are his two passions in life (besides wife and kids he notes), and building a bridge program was a long time goal. While some players like Fred Gitelman were helpful in the early years giving advice and incorporating DF into his online bridge playing software, Deep Finesse has been very much Bill's own baby.

Deep Finesse uses a series of search technique, transposition tables, alpha-beta pruning, intelligent heuristics to de-



Bill Bailey

termine which lines of play to explore first and if they bear fruit there is no need to do further searching from that point. If they fail, a more detailed analysis becomes necessary. ED: A set of 36 boards can take between 10 and 20 minutes to fully analyse depending on the complexity of the hands and the computer power employed.

In the early months Deep Finesse occasionally made mistakes. It almost always came down to being too aggressive in deciding a play line was not worth pursuing. He remembers some early errors in his "quick peek" algorithm. That's something which at each position quickly determines fast winners in each suit. If they sum to more than are sufficient for the contract, then an exhaustive analysis of the position is not necessary a certain time saver. He notes that nobody has reported an error in a Deep Finesse since those early days.

With the completion of the Double Dummy Analyser (Deep Finesse) he's been side-tracked for a long time after he was offered the post of Chief Technology Architect at an Internet start-up. It was a tough decision but in the end he opted for the "real" job. Unfortunately this has been very demanding and has afforded no time for continued work on Deep Finesse. Someday he says he will return to Deep Finesse but it is not on the immediate horizon.

Bill has opened up Deep Finesse for a number of people to use in their products. There is a Deep Finesse analysis engine which can be incorporated into outside software which is how we can see the analysis outputted by various different hand generating software packages.

Currently, Deep Finesse is available for \$US39.95 via Internet download from [www.deepfinesse.com](http://www.deepfinesse.com). There is a free demo you download first and if you like what you see, you can purchase an unlock-code for the full version online.

## Quarter?



Someone pointed out that the program has something called the 16<sup>th</sup> final, while it is actually a round of 32. That is because the program was written by people using the Dutch language, in which the round before the quarterfinal is called the "eighth final" and the one before

that the "sixteenth". Maybe the English speakers should follow the example, even if the addition of too many THs creates words unpronounceable by many. So maybe we ought to create words like "half" and "quarter", to indicate smaller fractions. The Latin "octavus" indicates the eighth of something (including notes), but not one eighth. An "octant" does refer to an eighth, but only of a circle (i.e. an angle of 45°), where a quadrant is a quarter circle. So maybe we should invent the "Octar Final".

That does not bring us anywhere nearer a word for the round before that. "The Hexadecimar Final" does not have a particular ring to it. The Sixteenth Final it shall therefore be.

## A Matter of Style



Regular followers of the major Championships will be aware that the various reporters tend to have an easily recognisable style, so much so that even if an article is unsigned it is easy to workout who penned it.

It dawned on me that it might be a cunning idea (a variation on the 'cunning plans' of one Baldrick) to develop a new style that would throw the reader off track. Searching for an idea I happened to come across an account of the Interzonal Chess Tournament played in Sousse in 1967 by the legendary Chess writer Harry Golombek.

Golombek had a unique style, usually starting each of his reports with a short (or sometimes long) digression before plunging into the minutiae of the actual results of play.

No Golombek report was complete without a reference to Mozart, a quote from Moliere, and a reminder that he was the 1929 London Boys' Champion. The tournament at Sousse is famous for Bobby Fischer's dramatic withdrawal whilst leading but Golombek's account concentrates on his description of the camels on which tourists could take rides along the nearby beach. Golombek never did take such a ride, he explains, because to him the camels always seemed to have an evil look in their eye, and indeed, his fears were confirmed when he saw one attempt to bite a Russian Grandmaster, although to be fair, it may have been that the camel was more intelligent than it looked and had seen how wretchedly the said Grandmaster was playing...etc...etc.

This flowery style of writing is often referred to as 'rambling' and one problem for a rambler is how to move on to a description of the games. Golombek was famous for the line 'Turning reluctantly to the play'. Another of his classics was the line, 'Whilst engaged in the entrancing subject of talking about myself, I almost lost sight of the first round...'

## Round of 32

1 HANSEN	BUAIGH
2 VRIEND	BUDKIN
3 BERTHEAU	BRIDGE AKARANA
4 C.KANGAROO W/WO	KHONICHEVA
5 BADGER	MAAREK
6 HAUGE	QUEEN
7 DE BOTTON	ALBAMONTE
8 CALANDRA	BEAUMIER
9 VYTAS	NEVE
10 SERF	CALLAGHAN
11 RO.MIXT	PAYEN
12 ALIZEE	JOEL
13 ZIMMERMANN	ROSSARD
14 PENFOLD	FAMILY TEAM
15 MCGANN	ZALESKI
16 LAVAZZA	ERICHSEN

In the next round the winners of 1 and 16 will meet and so on.

# Mixed Grill

by David Stern

A late decision to play in the Mixed Teams in Sanremo emerged after Espen Erichsen 'pimped' me to an English threesome seeking an eligible male – hmm perhaps I could have expressed that a little better.

It was interesting discussing system from afar, agreeing that we will keep it simple and watching ten pages of notes develop before my eyes. I don't normally get nervous before bridge events but playing with somebody you have never met let alone played with is a scary undertaking. Anyway, all went extremely well as we qualified in second place. Here are some hands from day one.

Over the fifteen years that I have been using Deep Finesse – yes I own a legitimate purchased copy - I don't recall ever seeing it produce an error. One thing it does very well is remedy blind spots, something I am prone to. Look at the following hand and see if you can see how to make 6♣ from East, albeit double dummy.

## Round One Board 9 - Dealer North, Vul E-W

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

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

To have any chance you have to divine that the clubs are 3-1 otherwise you will lose a spade and a club. My cursory analysis suggested that you could ruff one spade low and one spade high and I focused on trying to set up spades. However this ignores high card tricks and the three discards you have on the ♥K and ♦A-K.

So the tricks you will make are one spade ruffed low and one spade ruffed high, three hearts, two diamonds and five trumps in dummy for a total of 12. Moral of the story DF is a cure for blindness.

It is interesting how the smallest afterthought can be so valuable at the time and how easy it is to find when you think about it - usually too late.

## Round Three Board 30 - Dealer East, None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
	Stern		Fawcett
		1♦	Pass
2♦	4♦	5♦	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

I am not proud of my bidding on this hand but I thought if partner has one black ace and we have no heart loser we may have some chance, especially on a diamond lead. When the club was led I commented to partner that I did not like this lead and how right I was!

As you can see on any lead other than a club the contract make. West at our table 'guessed' to lead a club, taking the contract one down, but look how easy it was for East to bid 5♣ instead of 5♦ and fill in the pieces for partner. These little nuances really do make the game easier and take pressure off partnerships in key situations.

When Boye Brogeland gives a member of the press a hand it is usually time to sit up and listen. See if you can outdo him on this one.

## Round Three Board 2 - Dealer North, None Vul

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

You are playing 5♣ from the North seat on a heart lead, after East has shown a two-suiter 5+/4+. Clearly you must

win the opening lead or a spade shift would doom the contract. A club finesse loses to the ♣K. If West lazily plays a heart back and East continues the suit declarer is in good shape in this ending:

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

Playing the ♦A first allows you to play the suit for no loser but not enjoy any discards. Alternatively the ♦J is a sound and reasonable play when it seems that East has 8 or 9 points in the majors and seemingly a singleton diamond, with the only losing situation being East with the singleton ♦Q. Look at the effect if however, West plays back a spade

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



Boye Brogeland, Norway

You can 'pick' the diamonds by running the jack but an alternative option now emerges on the hand, you can play a diamond to the ace and run the ♦J catering for East having ♦10 x and losing only to the actual layout – which is what Brogeland did to go one down. Fine defence by West.

My final offering on this first day is a wonderful squeeze hand – a progressive double squeeze. How many people played 3NT and made it on this hand?

Round Five Board 20 - Dealer West, None All

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

North leads the ♠3, which allows the defence to take the first four spades with East and West discarding a club and South a diamond. North then exits with a passive diamond. Declarer need to now cash three rounds of hearts and two rounds of diamonds leading to this ending.

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

Having squeezed North into discarding a club on the third heart in order to protect diamonds, declarer now turns his attention to South by cashing the ♦Q – a discard of either a club or a heart is fatal. A spot check shows that of the fourteen (of thirty) times that North led a low spade the contract made 11 times and failed 3 times probably being a good testament to the quality of the event. Ciao...



## Mixed Teams Qualification, Round Robin, Round 5

by Jos Jacobs

On Saturday evening the final round of the Round Robin was played. This time, we selected a match between a French and a New Zealand team (Zaleski v. Bridge Akarana) and one between Acol Praha, the Czechs v. Matujona, a combined Portuguese-Turkish team.

On the first board, a Czech defender had the unusual luxury of holding an ace and being on lead against 7NT. That was a quick 14 IMPs to Acol Praha when their team-mates stopped in six, as they all did in our other featured match.

The next board was much more interesting:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Zaleski v. Matujona:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Faigenbaum</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Willard</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All pass		

West's soft values don't look very useful opposite partner's known 5-5 in the majors but it takes careful defence to beat 4♥, as we shall see from what happened at other tables. Sylvie Willard showed no mercy at her table, however. She led a diamond to partner's jack and North continued the suit, declarer ruffing the 3rd round. Next came the singleton club but Willard jumped in with her ace and simply played another diamond, ruffed in dummy and overruffed by North with the queen, an up-percut. As there was no entry to dummy, declarer had to lose a spade trick as well: down two and a very good +100 to Zaleski.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zaleski</i>	<i>Jacob</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Jacob</i>
Pass	1♣	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All pass		

In the Closed Room, North found an opening bid somewhere, so Bessis showed her major two-suiter by way of overcalling 2♦. As a result, West became declarer in 4♥ and North led the ♦A. He continued the suit to South's king. What should South do after cashing her ♣A? Once you think of it, the solution is easy. Just exit in trumps and hope for the best. At the table, South elected to continue a diamond, giving declarer an entry to his hand. Zaleski went on to take the spade finesse and when it held, he could cash the ♠A and ruff a spade. When they proved to be 3-3, all he needed was a favourable trump position... Just made, Zaleski +420 and 11 IMPs.

Acol Praha v. Matujona

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passarinho</i>	<i>Bahnik</i>	<i>Panadero</i>	<i>Bahnikova</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All pass

In the other match, Panadero emerged with an overtrick in 4♥. How come?

South led the ♣A and shifted to the ♦2. North took the ace (!) and tried to give his partner a club ruff...

This way, declarer could reach dummy for a spade finesse, getting rid of her remaining diamond loser in the process. Matujona +450.



Albert Faigenbaum, France

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Svoboda</i>	<i>Kokten</i>	<i>Svobodova</i>	<i>Aluf</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	All pass

A sensible pass by West here but to no avail. Nine tricks were duly made but Matujona had won 7 IMPs.

On the very next board, we saw remarkable judgement in one match:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Acol Praha v. Matujona

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passarinho</i>	<i>Bahnik</i>	<i>Panadero</i>	<i>Bahnikova</i>
Pass	1♠	2♦	4♠
5♦	Pass	Dble	Pass
	5♠	All pass	

Maybe, North was a little surprised to find out that 5♠ was a make but his lack of defensive potential made 5♠ a clear-cut action.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Svoboda</i>	<i>Kokten</i>	<i>Svobodova</i>	<i>Aluf</i>
Pass	1♠	2♦	3♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
	5♠	All pass	

After some cuebidding, the Turkish pair also reached 5♠, be it on a more voluntary basis. No swing.

Zaleski v. Akarana

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Faigenbaum</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Willard</i>
Pass	1♠	2♦	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
	4♠	All pass	

When East did not take any further action, the French were allowed to play 4♠, making an overtrick for a score of +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zaleski</i>	<i>Jacob</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Jacob</i>
5♥	4♠	Dble	Pass
All pass	Pass	Pass	Dble

At pairs, one might consider doubling 5♥ but at teams, I vastly prefer the 5♠ insurance action. Both opponents are probably bidding on their respective spade voids...

With the diamonds 2-2, there was no way to beat 5♥, so the French had scored a game at both tables for a tremendous swing of 17 IMPs.

One board later, it was a matter of judgement once again:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Acol Praha v. Matujona

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Passarinho</i>	<i>Bahnik</i>	<i>Panadero</i>	<i>Bahnikova</i>
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♠	All pass	3♥

After the Multi, South showed a fair hand with spades but North was not tempted. Rightly so, as 3♠ is already too high. But when the defence led a trump and persisted with trumps when on lead with a heart, declarer had time to get rid of a club loser to land his contract: Acol Praha +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Svoboda</i>	<i>Kokten</i>	<i>Svobodova</i>	<i>Aluf</i>
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♠
All pass		Pass	3♠





On a spade lead, nine tricks would have been easy for N/S but when East led a logical top diamond first, the defenders were able to cash the first seven tricks. Down three, Akarana +300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zaleski	Jacob	Bessis	Jacob
2♠	Dble	1♠	2♣
4♠	All pass	3♦	Pass

This is the situation what I was talking about earlier. South leads a top club, you ruff and lead a spade to the king and ace. North returns a club and you ruff again. What next?

Playing in game, you have no choice. Ruff again and play a trump. If the defender with a doubleton trump wins this trick, you are home. Win any return and simply play on diamonds. Dummy's trumps will take care of the losing heart and the defence can decide for themselves at which moment they will score their high trump.

At the table, North was friendly enough to return the ♥Q after winning the ♠A. Now Bessis could win and play a trump without the risk of going down a lot, as she will still hold the last trump if the defence can cash two rounds of them...

Playing the recommended way, she thus easily made her contract: Zaleski +420 and 3 IMPs to them.

Acol Praha v. Matujona

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Passarinho	Bahník	Panadero	Bahníková
Pass	Pass	1♠	3♣
3♠	All pass	Dble	Pass

Playing in three, you can afford to let the defenders score their three remaining trumps separately but no more than that. This way, Panadero made exactly nine tricks. Matujona +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Svoboda	Kokten	Svobodova	Aluf
Pass	Pass	1♠	3♣
3♠	All pass	3♦	Pass

Svobodova, also playing in three, showed no inhibitions whatsoever. She ruffed the ♥A, lost a trump to the king and ace, ruffed the club return and...led a trump. As we have seen earlier, this leads to ten tricks on the actual layout. Acol Praha +170 and 1 IMP to them...

Though 3NT was a normal enough contract on the final board of the set, it was by no means laydown.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

If East is the declarer, South might well lead a heart, giving the ninth trick immediately. If West has to play the hand, North would lead a spade, giving the defenders four spade tricks straight away. However, on the 13th spade, discards have to be found. Declarer and dummy both have to throw clubs to keep all the chances in hearts intact. However pitching a club from East gives up a some squeeze chances in that suit. South has to discard from either minor suit; a diamond looks best but it does not really matter.

Say North continues a club. Now dummy can win the king and three rounds of hearts are cashed, on which North has to throw a club as he cannot afford a diamond. Next come three rounds of diamonds, forcing South to throw a club as well as she has to keep her high heart.

As a consequence, neither defender holds the club stopper any more so declarer's low club becomes the game-going trick. It may look easy when you are reading this story but in our textbooks you will find the complete analysis in the chapter about non-simultaneous double squeezes, because that's what has happened. North is squeezed first and a few tricks later, South is the victim.

Of course, if North happens to hold four hearts, your next move should be to cash the ♣KA, squeezing North in the reds if South was not yet squeezed on the third heart.

Very good, though not effective on a double dummy basis, defence might be to refrain from cashing the 13th spade and then, when declarer plays a low club to dummy's ♣K108, to insert the jack. Maybe, declarer believes you and thinks you are holding the queen as well...Of course, if he next runs the ♣10, nine tricks are ensured after all.

So full marks to Passarinho for finding the winning line when he had to. At all our three other featured tables, executing this squeeze was not necessary – so no chance to shine for the other declarers!

The final scores:

Acol Praha v. Matujona: 31-7 or 22-8 VP

Zaleski v. Akarana: 40-13 or 23-7 VP

As a result of these matches, both winning teams progressed to the Swiss A. Akarana just finished 3rd in their group to move to the Swiss A as well but Matujona dropped out and will have to be content with a place in Swiss B for the next stage.

## Detective Story

by Mark Horton



### Joel v Hague Swiss Round I

Judging by some of the outfits I saw last night Sanremo has a lively night life, although I have not yet discovered where all the action takes place.

As I made my way over to the Palafiori yesterday morning it was much quieter, although the

serenity of the office was soon disturbed by the bells of the church next door.

I had traveled to Nice on the same flight as Janice Seamon-Molson and I had also brought a gift for Dessy Popova's recently born son, Christian. In one of those strange coincidences that one seems to habitually encounter these two stars of the women's game found themselves on the same table in the day's opening match.

Preparing for the Championships (yes, despite evidence to the contrary, some preliminary work has to be undertaken) it occurred to me that some of the world's most famous literary detectives would be the ideal people to solve the problems that arise at the bridge table and it might be an idea to mention a few of them in an article.

Turning reluctantly to the play, I was treated to some exciting bridge.

Board I. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 10

♥ A 10 9 8 6

♦ K Q J

♣ A J 7 2

♠ A Q 9 6 3 2

♥ Q 7 5 4 3

♦ 9

♣ 9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 8 7 5

♥ K 2

♦ 10 8 7 6

♣ K 10 5 3

♠ K J 4

♥ J

♦ A 5 4 3 2

♣ Q 8 6 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gunev	Zmudzinski	Popova	Molson
	1♥	Pass	INT*
2♠	3♣	3♠	5♣
All Pass			

3NT would have been hopeless on a spade lead, but Five Clubs offered excellent chances provided declarer could overcome the 4-1 trump break.

East led the seven of spades and West won with the queen and switched to the nine of diamonds. Declarer won with the queen, cashed the ace of clubs (starting with the ♣J appears to cover more of the bases) and followed it with the jack of clubs. The winning defence is for East to win with the king and simply play back another club, after which there is no way declarer can get home, but when East played low declarer was in with a chance. He cashed the king of diamonds, discovering that West had started with two minor suit singletons, and then played the jack of diamonds. That won the trick and declarer now played a club. East took that and returned a club and declarer was just about out of ammunition, having no way to avoid two down, -200.

Let's rewind to the point where declarer played the jack of diamonds.

'When you have excluded the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.'

**Sherlock Holmes** – *The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet*

The Baker Street sleuth would have overtaken the jack with dummy's ace and played a spade, ruffing West's ace. Then he cashes the ace of hearts, ruffs a heart, cashes the winning spade, ruffs a diamond and plays a heart, scoring the queen of clubs en passant.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Saelensminde	Joel	Malinowski
	1♥	Pass	INT
2♠	3♣	3♠	5♣
All Pass			



Janice Seamon-Molson, USA

This time East led the eight of spades and declarer was allowed to win with the ten. Now came the ace of clubs followed by the jack. East took that and had only to play back a club to leave declarer a trick short, but when he played a spade declarer was in control. He ruffed, unblocked the diamonds and played a trump, claiming his eleven tricks, +600 and 11 IMPs for Hague.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A K 8 ♥ 7 2 ♦ A K 8 5 ♣ J 9 8 5	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">W</td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ 6 ♥ Q 9 8 5 ♦ J 10 9 7 4 ♣ Q 10 4
N								
W	E							
	S							
	♠ Q 10 5 4 3 ♥ K 10 3 ♦ 3 ♣ A K 3 2							

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gunev	Zmudzinski	Popova	Molson
Pass	3♦*	Pass	1♠
All Pass		Pass	4♣

3♦ Bergen raise

Facing a passed partner, West was not disposed to get involved. He led the king of diamonds and followed that with three rounds of trumps. Declarer was now confident where the queen of hearts was, but that was not quite



Louk Verhees, Netherlands

enough for the contract to get home. The 4-2 heart break eventually ensured the defenders collected +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Saelensminde	Joel	Malinowski
INT	2♠	Pass	1♠
2NT	All Pass	Dble*	Pass

This time West was not to be denied, and when North raised spades, East made a takeout double. With support for both minors, did West assume his 2NT bid would impart that information to his partner?

This is what Dashiell Hammett's fictional character might have made of it:

'You gotta convince me that you know what this is all about, that you aren't just fiddling around hoping it'll all... come out right in the end!'

**Sam Spade** – *The Maltese Falcon*

When the diamonds failed to behave, 2NT had to go two down, -100. It was a pity East/West did not play in diamonds – the defenders would have had a chance to show off, playing three rounds of clubs for North to ruff, then two hearts ending in the South hand and another club promoting the queen of diamonds in an amusing echo of what might have happened on the previous board.

Hague was plus in both rooms, now ahead 16-0.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 10 9 ♥ — ♦ A Q 10 8 3 ♣ Q 10 9 8 7 3	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">W</td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ 8 6 5 4 ♥ K Q 10 8 6 3 ♦ 7 6 4 ♣ —
N								
W	E							
	S							
♠ A K 7 3 ♥ A J 9 5 4 ♦ J 9 ♣ A 6		♠ Q J 2 ♥ 7 2 ♦ K 5 2 ♣ K J 5 4 2						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gunev	Zmudzinski	Popova	Molson
1♣*	2NT*	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	5♥	5♣*
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

1♣ Strong  
2NT Minors

It was very hard for North not to take the save over Five Hearts, but it proved to be a phantom and he was two down in top tricks, -300.

overtook the jack with dummy's queen, +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Saelensminde	Joel	Malinowski
			Pass
1♥	2NT*	4♥	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Saelensminde	Joel	Malinowski
INT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Here the save cost only -100, so Hauge added another 5 IMPs, now 21-0 ahead.

With less to go on, East/West finished up in their 5-2 spade fit.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

North led the three of hearts and South won with the queen and switched to the two of clubs.

To make the contract declarer has to put in the queen, but she tried the ten, losing to the jack. Back came the four of hearts and when declarer took another losing finesse the 4-2 trump break meant he was two down, -200.

That gave Hauge another 13 IMPs and an impressive 34-0 lead.

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

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gunev	Zmudzinski	Popova	Molson
INT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gunev	Zmudzinski	Popova	Molson
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dble
2NT*	Dble	4♥	Pass
All Pass			

- 2NT Transfer to clubs
- 3♦ Long minor with a shortage in the other minor
- 3♥ Which?
- 3♠ Diamonds with club shortage

I have mentioned several times a piece of advice from one Jeff Meckstroth (currently working hard in the US Trials in an attempt to earn a shot at another World title).

The Bulgarian's system worked well on this deal and they ended up in an excellent contract. Agatha Christie's Belgian detective would have been proud of them:

'There are those who have to exercise their little grey cells'

As an American TV detective might say:

**Hercule Poirot** – *Dead Man's Folly*

'Just one more thing...'

**Columbo**

North led the five of clubs for the king and ace and declarer played a spade to the king, South winning with the ace and returning the six of clubs. North took the ten with the jack and cleared the suit. After winning with the ace, declarer tried the spades. When North discarded a club on the third round he played the ace of diamonds and then

If you have a six-card major and partner freely supports your suit you should bid game just about regardless of the strength of your hand. It seems to work more often than not and on this deal declarer was not hard pressed to make eleven tricks on a cross ruff, + 450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Saelensminde	Joel	Malinowski
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dble
2NT*	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

East was not interested in taking a shot at game, even when West took another bid and then North/South suggested that there would not be any wasted values in the club suit.

Four Clubs was a hopeless affair and declarer finished three down, -150, but still picked up 7 IMPs.

Hauge was now ahead 43-0 and Joel must have been wondering where an IMP might be found.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gunev	Zmudzinski	Popova	Molson
	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

East was notionally a point light for One Club, but the K&R hand evaluator rates it at 18.5. North led the queen of clubs and declarer won in dummy and ran the eight of hearts to North's queen. He took the nine of clubs with the ace, crossed to the king of diamonds, played a diamond to his ace and then ran his spades, North discarding down to ♥K7 ♦Q ♣8 while South kept ♥103 ♦9 ♣10.

On the jack of spades North could safely discard a club, but perhaps an oriental detective influenced him:

'Ancient Chinese philosopher say, 'Hope is sunshine which illuminate darkest path'

**Charlie Chan** – *Charlie Chan at the Olympics*

when he parted with the seven of hearts. Declarer cashed the last spade, both dummy and North discarding a dia-

mond, and played the nine of hearts, covered by the ten.

Time stood still as declarer tried to work out what was going on. Had North really given him a chance to make an impossible contract?

Eventually he finessed – two down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Saelensminde	Joel	Malinowski
	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

That finally put Joel on the scoreboard, and on the last board they added another IMP to the 13 IMPs they collected here. Still that represented a deserved 23-7 win for Hague.

## Badge Wars



On no account should you lose or forget to bring your badge to the playing areas. You cannot get in without it and a replacement will cost you 5.00 Euros.

## Mixed Pairs

Today we start the Mixed Pairs for two days of qualification. Pairs who are defeated in the KO-16 or KO-8 today have to play the second day of this qualification tomorrow. They will start with 53% if knocked out in the KO-8 and 52.5% if knocked out in the KO-16.

But the following pairs, if they are playing in the KO are entitled to enter the pairs in the semi-final, provided they have registered in time:

- \*Golin – Lanzarotti
- \* Maas – Vriend
- Gaviard – Ventin
- Rossano – Vivaldi
- \* Harasimowicz – Lesniewski
- \* Poplilov – Poplilov
- \* Duboin – Lavazza
- De Falco – Oliviera
- \* Helness – Helness
- \* Brogeland - Brogeland
- Fredin – Zur-Campanile
- Fischer - Saurer
- Gromov - Gromova
- Quantin - Willard
- Dubinin - Ponomareva
- \* Bertens – van Zwol
- \* Arnolds – Bakkeren
- \* Auken – Bocchi

Furthermore, the pairs marked with an asterisk (\*) may enter the semi-final without having played in the KO.

## Day Two Swiss Round Two Badger versus Stienen

by Barry Rigal

The second round paired up two teams that had met already in the earlier stage of the event. I was watching Rene Stienen and Elly Schippers take on Graham Osborne and Frances Hinden - (the Badgers).

In the other room it would be Allerton/Leslie against the van Eijcks.

The Badgers broke on top by handling an awkward partscore deal better than their opponents, then both E/W pairs scored a goal:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ Q J 6 5 ♥ Q 8 7 3 2 ♦ Q J 10 3 ♣ —</p>	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	<p>♠ 4 2 ♥ A K J 4 ♦ 9 6 5 ♣ Q 9 8 3</p>	<p>♠ A 10 ♥ 10 9 6 ♦ K 8 4 ♣ A 10 7 4 2</p>
N							
W							
E							
S							

West <i>Stienen</i>	North <i>Osborne</i>	East <i>Schippers</i>	South <i>Hinden</i>
2♥*	Pass	3♥	All Pass

\* Both majors, weak

It is hard to criticize either North or South for not getting involved here (South's spade length did not encourage a take-out call and North was well short of the values for



Frances Hinden, England

direct action). With 5♣ makeable even against 4-0 trumps and 4-2 spades on a good view in the latter suit, -140 from 3♥ did not look an awe-inspiring result, but it turned out to be flat after similar action in the Closed Room.

Both E/W pairs stretched to a thin vulnerable game, down when the opening bidder turned up with the expected ace in the critical suit, before the Dutch had a painful accident.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

<p>♠ K 5 ♥ 8 4 3 ♦ A K Q J 8 7 ♣ K 7</p>	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	<p>♠ A J 7 3 ♥ K 9 7 6 ♦ 5 ♣ A Q 10 6</p>	<p>♠ 8 6 4 2 ♥ A J 10 5 ♦ 9 6 ♣ 5 3 2</p>
N							
W							
E							
S							

West <i>Stienen</i>	North <i>Osborne</i>	East <i>Schippers</i>	South <i>Hinden</i>
		1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	All Pass

A bizarre auction on the face of it, with 1♥ promising only four and 2♠ my side of the screen described as extras. Some dispute as to whether 3♥ was the right bid with the West cards was not resolved – and my Dutch fortunately was not up to determining the allocation of blame. 5♥ went down 100, which was not a triumph with 6♦ a makeable slam (it is spectacularly good from the East seat and at worst on a finesse – with the odd break or two needed) from the West seat. Leslie/Allerton stopped in 4NT after East showed a 14-16 hand with this precise shape, then rejected a quantitative slam try.

Stienen regained those 11 IMPs on the next deal when Hinden opened 1♣ with

♠ A Q
♥ A J 3
♦ 5 4
♣ A Q 8 7 6 3

And heard the auction go: 1♠ on her left, double from partner, 2NT as a spade raise on her right. It looks normal if a little aggressive to bid 3NT now. Hinden tried 3♣ and when this was passed round to her RHO, who bid 3♠, she

passed again – here, perhaps, 3NT might have been minors, although with that hand one might have bid 3♦ over 2NT? Alternatively, it might show a weaker hand or a weaker club suit. Partner had the right pile of garbage – a 2-4-5-2 six count with ♣10-9 and 3NT was bid and made on an unopposed auction in the other room – the 1♠ overall being one that Versace would have been proud of!

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Board 16 saw the game swing promptly return in the other direction:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Both tables bid to 3NT, but Osborne had opened the North cards 3♣ – as who would not? Apparently Willem van Eijck, who passed, but did manage to get in a lead directing double of 3♣. Both tables played 3NT from the East seat, but Hinden obediently led a club – even though she was NOT playing with her husband. Inez van Eijck led a top heart and she WAS playing with her husband. What to make of it? Does familiarity breed contempt, or is ‘love, honour and obey’ going out of fashion? Leslie had nine tricks on top now, while Schippers turned her eight tricks into six; the defenders were having none of it, and tried to turn their seven winners into four. They still collected five at the end of the day on a defense better suited to a Hammer Horror movie and certainly one unsuited for the sensitive readers of this column.

Of course, there were other good as well as bad stories on this deal. When Geeske Joel was East and played with Louk Verhees, she also doubled 3♣ and elected to raise 3♥ to 4♥ – why suffer herself when she could make her part-

ner suffer? Right she was, when South incautiously doubled, making the trump position more transparent. On a top club lead Verhees won and cashed a top trump, four spades to pitch a club, and led a second club. South could not gain by ruffing a loser so he pitched a diamond and Verhees ruffed and led a diamond to the jack and ace. South returned a top heart, and Verhees won on the board, unblocked the ♦K, and led a club to make his ♥10 en passant.

With Badger now leading by 18, both sides stayed out of a delicate slam:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

6♦ is a delicate slam, but on a spade lead the percentages in the diamond suit surely demand that you get the suit right. In order to pick up a singleton queen in either hand and any diamond queen in East you would lead to the ♦K and finesse on the way back. There are two awkward leads that the defenders might find; a heart lead leaves you short of entries to the North hand and now you might misguess diamonds. The alternative is the even more diabolical lead of ♣10, found by Jan van Cleeff against 6♦! Now declarer opted to take the ace and misguessed the whole hand, for which one can hardly blame him.

The last two deals also provided some stimulation:



Graham Osborne, England



Both tables in our match played 3NT; how should you tackle this on a small diamond lead to a slow eight from East, and your queen?

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 10 9 7 6 4 ♥ J 6 4 3 ♦ J 7 3 ♣ 8	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W     E	S	♠ A K ♥ A 10 7 5 2 ♦ 10 9 5 4 ♣ Q 4	♠ Q 8 ♥ K 8 ♦ K 8 6 2 ♣ J 10 9 3 2
N						
W     E						
S						
♠ J 5 3 2 ♥ Q 9 ♦ A Q ♣ A K 7 6 5						

Hinden opted for simplicity, leading a club to the queen and a club back. East had to split her honours to prevent declarer winning cheaply, and now when the bad news came to light Hinden took two heart finesses and had nine tricks. My instinct is that with diamonds highly likely to be 4-3 on the lead, one should go after hearts immediately. This would only lose if West had led from diamonds from the 3-2 doubleton. In the other room 3NT made 11 tricks on a less testing defence.

With the match-margin at 21 Stienen found a ray of sunshine in the final deal.

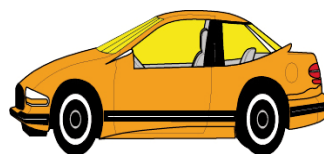
Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 10 4 3 ♥ J 6 3 ♦ A K Q ♣ A 8 7 6	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W     E	S	♠ K 8 6 5 ♥ A 9 ♦ 10 7 ♣ K Q 10 5 4	♠ A J 9 ♥ 2 ♦ 9 8 6 4 3 2 ♣ J 9 3
N						
W     E						
S						
♠ Q 7 2 ♥ K Q 10 8 7 5 4 ♦ J 5 ♣ 2						

Both tables bid to 4♥ from the South seat after South had shown long hearts. It looks trivial to cash out the four defensive winners, since West is unlikely to duck the ♣A. But it turned out not to be quite so easy. Stienen/Schippers took their tricks, Allerton cashed two diamonds and got heavy spade suit preference then shifted to the spade ten in an attempt to deny a top honour – a low spade might have been more thoughtful? Leslie was now worried that declarer had e.g. Qx/QJxxxx/xx/Ax. If she ducked her spade ace it might get away...so she took her spade ace. No harm had been done, but when she returned the suit declarer could draw trumps and pitch his club on the 13th spade. While it is easy to sympathize with her, a club switch at trick four was probably the indicated play.

## No big deals

by the Invisible Man



My trip to Monte Carlo on Friday took longer than I had foreseen. I'm not counting the fact that the coast road might have been longer than the 40 kilometres claimed by the receptionist at my hotel. But parking for over an hour proved to be a mistake. The policemen insisted that once my car was on their truck they couldn't release it – I had to pick it up from their office in the outskirts of town. Mind you, no outskirts are very far away in Monte Carlo, but still .. (The fact that the first bus number 6 ignored me didn't improve my good mood). Having finally found the police station I informed them that they had my car. Oh yes, no problem, just show your documents. Documents? Yes, to prove you're the owner... Well, I don't have them on me. Perhaps in your car suggested the policeman (let's call him Paul). I doubt it, but I'll go look. I did go look, the car was in a garage a tunnel away, but no owner papers. Back to Paul, I have all papers in Sanremo. I could feel and see how sad Paul was from his eyes and body language: Sorry, no papers, no car.

Hmm, what if I call my insurance company and let them fax you the information? Yes, fine, said Paul.

The fifth person there let me know that of course they had my name in their files but all they were prepared to disclose was if the insurance was in order. You must contact the official car registry, he said.

I did that. Customer service was closed for the weekend.

However, I found out there was a voice service – if you said a registration number it would tell the owner name. I called, said my number, gave Paul my phone - five times – the first four his face was a question mark as the Swedish voice tried to verify that it had understood the number correctly. Finally a big smile spread over Paul's face; he had recognized my name.

It took him less than ten minutes to write a receipt for \$160. My Dutch friends assure me it would have been much more in Amsterdam. As it would in Stockholm.

The hero in the next police incident shall remain anonymous for obvious reasons:

A female player arrived late in Nice, no transportation to Sanremo was available, but a train took her to Menton from where she called her teammate and asked him to pick her up. He was reluctant, having had some wine, but he fell for her arguments (apparently easily fooled by the fairer sex – see later) borrowed his father's car (hopefully with his permission), decided to take the motorway, and was stopped by the police.

They asked for documents (seemingly a Mediterranean habit), and statements like "my father has them" had no obvious effect. During the conversation in order to avoid breath checks our hero flashed his player badge which made the policemen curious. He told them about the tournament, which impressed them enough to let him go.

He reached Menton, asked a (good-looking) girl how to find the station. Oh, it's on my way, not far at all, she said, I'll show you. She entered his car, showed him the way to where she was going, which turned out to be a considerable distance up the hills. She said goodbye after explaining how he should continue. He did, drove some kilometres downhill again, and found that he was back within 100 meters from where he had picked her up – at the station.

He did find his team-mate there, and returned here without further incident.

# Bad day in Sanremo

by Brent Manley

Some days, it just doesn't pay to get out of bed. The Romanian Marina team must have felt that way after their first-round Mixed Teams Swiss match against the Helness team from Norway.

The match started quietly, the Romanians scoring scoring 2 IMPs when Tonje Brogeland went down two in 3NT on board 1 and Geta Mihai managed one off in 5♣ at the other table. Both pairs took phantom saves on board 3 for a push.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 10 9											
♥ —											
♦ A Q 10 8 3											
♣ Q 10 9 8 7 3											
♠ A K 7 3		♠ 8 6 5 4									
♥ A J 9 5 4		♥ K Q 10 8 6 3									
♦ J 9		♦ 7 6 4									
♣ A 6		♣ —									
	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ Q J 2											
♥ 7 2											
♦ K 5 2											
♣ K J 5 4 2											

West started with 1♥ at both tables. With their big club fit discovered via an unusual 2NT by North, East/West were pushed to the minus position of the five level in hearts, but the favourable vulnerability made a save of 6♣ too tempting, so it was minus 300 North/South a both tables.

Board 4 could have been a vulnerable game swing for the Erichsen squad, but it ended up as a 1-IMP gain instead.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 8 4											
♥ 6 4 3											
♦ 9 8											
♣ J 9 8 5 4 3											
♠ Q J 7 5 2		♠ K 9									
♥ J 7 2		♥ A 10 9 8									
♦ A J		♦ Q 10 7 5 4 2									
♣ A Q 10		♣ 7									
	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ A 10 6 3											
♥ K Q 5											
♦ K 6 3											
♣ K 6 2											

The bidding was the same at both tables:

West	East
1NT	2♣
2♠	3♦
3NT	

Boye Brogeland started with a club from his six-card suit. Bogdan Marina took Tonje Brogeland's ♣K with the ace

and played a spade to dummy's king. Tonje won the ace and returned a club to the 10 and Boye's jack. With no semblance of an entry, Boye knew there was no point in setting up his club suit, so he switched to a low heart. Marina had a clear path to nine tricks from that point – ♦A followed by the ♦J, overtaking with the queen – but he cashed his two high spades instead, then played on diamonds.

Tonje won the ♦K, the fourth trick for the defense, and could have cashed the ♠10 for one down, but she returned a heart instead, giving declarer a reprieve and plus 600.

At the other table, Radu Mihai also started with a club (the 5), but South, Geta Mihai, did not part with the king, so Espen Erichsen had three club tricks to go with five diamonds, a heart and spade. Plus 630 for 1 IMP instead of 12.

On the next board, the Romanians gained 2 IMPs when they doubled 5♦ by West at their table, defeating it one trick, while the Brogelands got the same three tricks against the same contract but did not double.

The match started falling apart for the Romanians on board 7.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ K 9 8 7 5 2											
♥ K 8 7 3											
♦ A											
♣ 10 2											
♠ A		♠ J 3									
♥ A Q 10 9 2		♥ J 5									
♦ K 8 7 5		♦ J 10 9 6 4									
♣ K Q 4		♣ J 9 6 5									
	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ Q 10 6 4											
♥ 6 4											
♦ Q 3 2											
♣ A 8 7 3											



Geta Mihai, Romania

West	North	East	South
Marina	B. Brogeland	Stegarioiu	T. Brogeland
1♥	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		3♠

Marina Stegaroiu's decision to convert her partner's take-out double to penalty would not be endorsed by many players, and the team paid dearly for the error.

Stegarioiu led the ♥J, taken by the ace. Boye won the heart continuation with the king and pushed the ♠7 through East. When that fetched the ♠A, Boye could have claimed four, but he tried in vain to ruff out the ♦K for two overtricks. As it was, he scored plus 930 for the doubled overtrick.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
E. Erichsen	R. Mihai	H. Erichsen	G. Mihai
1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2NT	2♠
3♦	All Pass		Pass

Helen Erichsen's 2NT indicated that she could stand either minor. Radu Mihai led a spade to Espen's ace. With no fast entry to dummy and no desire to play on other suits, which might result in a ruff or two, Espen played the ♦K from hand, hoping for a singleton queen with one of his opponents.

Radu won the ♦A and played a club to his partner's ace. She continued with the ♠Q, ruffed. A diamond went to the jack and queen, and Espen won the club continuation, eventually taking the losing heart finesse. That was plus 110 and 14 IMPs to the Norwegians.

Two boards later, there was more excitement.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Marina	B. Brogeland	Stegarioiu	T. Brogeland
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Tonje Brogeland started with a trump. Stegaroiu won and played a second round, then ran the ♥8 to North's queen. Boye exited with the ♦J, taken by Stegaroiu with the king.

She then played three rounds of trumps, on which South pitched one club and North two. The ♣2 in Stegaroiu's hand suddenly was trick 12, but she played the ♥9 to the jack and Boye's king. That was plus 450 for Romania.

The Erichsens were more ambitious at the other table.

West	North	East	South
E. Erichsen	R. Mihai	H. Erichsen	G. Mihai
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Radu Mihai led the ♥Q, ducked by Espen Erichsen. Radu switched to a spade at trick two. Erichsen won in hand and played four more rounds of spades. Geta Mihai discarded three diamonds on the spades. Radu pitched a low heart, a club and another heart, blanking his king. If Erichsen read the cards correctly, he was now in position to make the slam. After cashing the ♦K, however, Erichsen discarded the ♥J from his hand on dummy's last spade, allowing Radu to part with his king. Now the contract status returned to doomed, but when Erichsen played a heart to his ace, Radu, down to the doubleton ♦Q J, threw the ♦Q. Erichsen did not go wrong from there, cashing his ♣K, then playing a club to the ace and a diamond to his ace, dropping North's jack. The ♦10 was trick number 12. Plus 1440 was good for 13 IMPs.

The Norwegians had prevailed 34-3.

## Championship Diary

We use a number of artificial aids to assist us in the preparation of the Bulletins and some of them deserve to be better known. One such is the web site that will give you an evaluation of the real strength of a hand:

<http://www.jeffgoldsmith.org/cgi-bin/ knr.cgi?hand=Qxx+AQxx+KQ10+Axx>

A question. What is the capital of Italy? You will find the answer at the end.

The Press Room is located approximately 4 meters from the one occupied by the Daily Bulletin. It came as something of a surprise when we were handed a note saying if we wanted to contact them their Fax Number was +39 0184 500 297.

Have you noticed that whatever you do your badge will almost certainly turn the wrong way round? That gives us several hundred players all called Gestetner.

A player looking for a partner was asked how good they were. That is always a difficult question for a bridge player to answer, but we suggest if you respond 'If I was half as good as I think I am I would be twice as good as I really am', you will not go far wrong.

If you said Rome I regret to say you are wrong! The capital of Italy is I.

# Mixed Teams, Day One, Round 3

by Barry Rigal

If ever there was a deal that demonstrated the idea that discretion was the better part of valour, this one might be the one.

Dealer East, East-West Vul

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

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

Where Heather and Jeremy Dhondy were East-West, Heather was able to stay silent throughout the auction and declarer received a heart lead against 5♣. He won the first heart, lost a club finesse, and the defence cashed their heart, to shift to a spade. Declarer won and drew trumps then took his best a priori line in the diamonds of cashing the ♦K and playing a second diamond, conceding down two when East showed out.

In the other room Lilo Popilov heard East come in with 2NT over his game-forcing 2♣ bid. East introduced spades and Popilov eventually finished up in 5♣. The first five tricks were the same but Popilov cashed the ♦A and led a diamond to the seven. When this held he could cash the ♦K and then ruff a heart to dummy to ruff out the diamonds, with a trump entry back to the board to cash the fifth diamond and pitch his spade loser.

Had the defenders found the spade shift at trick three (which arguably they should have?) then declarer's task is far harder. He must win and draw the second trump before advancing the ♦J from dummy – a play that no-one except a man with excellent peripheral vision would ever consider – would they?

Nick Sandqvist, playing with Nevena Senior, reached 3NT from the North side. He also received a top heart lead and ducked twice, then won the third and took a club finesse. Back came a spade so he went up with ♠A and ran the clubs, inconveniencing West into pitching a diamond and two spades. Had West discarded the ♠K, Sandqvist would have cashed ♦A and run the ♦J. when West kept his top spade Sandqvist endplayed him with that card to lead diamonds into the tenace and did not need the fall of the ♦10 to make his contract.

What is the best N/S can do here? Game looks implausible, doesn't it, since though reaching 4♠ is plausible, and appears to need a couple of favourable lies in the side-suits. Unless the defenders do something very careless (perhaps a diamond lead to the ♦Q and a non-heart shift?) nine tricks appear to be the limit. That was not the case though:

Dealer West, N/S Vul

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Sandqvist</i>		<i>Senior</i>
Pass	Pass	INT	Dble
Rdble*	Pass	2♣	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

\* Rescue

Senior doubled INT for penalty then suggested six spades. Sandqvist was not sure 3♣ would be artificial here so settled for the simple route to goal – and right he was. On a club lead declarer finessed and crossed to hand a third round of spades to lead a heart to the king for his ninth trick. Easy game, bridge!

Dealer East, None Vul

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

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

This was the auction when Senior/Penfold were N/S. On a diamond lead Penfold wrapped up 13 tricks. When their teammates Ettinger/Van Cleeff were E/W Van Cleeff as West bounced to 4♦, and over North's 4♠ Ettinger sensibly bid 5♣. South bid 5♠, Van Cleeff joined in with 6♣, and North took out insurance in 6♠. That was +100 for E/W but even had South become declarer in hearts the lead-director would have done its duty. Penfold therefore gained 12 IMPs, but since 6♦ was only going to cost 300 it would have been 5 IMPs to Penfold even if North had guessed right.