

ASOCIACIÓN CANARIA DE BRIDGE

Daily Bulletin

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Bulletin 8

Sunday, 24 June 2001

Italy Capture Another Title



Transnational Ladies Team Cup winners

The inaugural *Transnational Ladies Team Cup* was won by the team designated as **Italy 4**, **Carla Gianardi Laura Rovera Sara Cividin Ornella Colonna**. The runners up were **Italy 1**, **Marilyn Vanuzzi Vanessa Torielli Ilari Saccavini Marina Fransos Antonella Caggese Roberta Peirce** with an **England/Ireland** combination third, **Angela McCreedy Detta Bentley Petra O'Neill Patsy Meehan**.

Russia continue to lead the *Open Series*, closely followed by **Poland** while **England** are well ahead in the *Women's Series*, having collected a near maximum on the day. **France 2** (the real holders of the title) are on top of the *Seniors*.

LIVE VUGRAPH MATCHES

OPEN ROUND 19 10.00

Norway v Belgium

OPEN ROUND 20 13.45

France v Greece

OPEN ROUND 21 17.30

Italy v Bulgaria

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OPEN TEAMS RESULTS**ROUND 16**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	ITALY	DENMARK	42 - 65	10 - 20
2	LIECHTENSTEIN	LATVIA	56 - 50	16 - 14
3	CROATIA	RUSSIA	11 - 82	2 - 25
4	POLAND	TURKEY	66 - 18	25 - 5
5	AUSTRIA	bye	0 - 0	18 - 0
6	SWITZERLAND	SCOTLAND	23 - 47	10 - 20
7	WALES	LEBANON	33 - 41	14 - 16
8	FRANCE	SPAIN	50 - 42	16 - 14
9	ROMANIA	CZECH REP	52 - 48	16 - 14
10	SWEDEN	FINLAND	50 - 47	16 - 14
11	GERMANY	BULGARIA	11 - 118	0 - 25
12	ISRAEL	NETHERLANDS	49 - 48	15 - 15
13	IRELAND	BELGIUM	60 - 23	23 - 7
14	HUNGARY	PORTUGAL	38 - 47	13 - 17
15	SAN MARINO	UKRAINE	32 - 37	14 - 16
16	GREECE	ICELAND	53 - 15	23 - 7
17	LUXEMBOURG	SLOVENIA	31 - 80	5 - 25
18	NORWAY	ENGLAND	35 - 40	14 - 16

ROUND 17

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	DENMARK	LATVIA	68 - 16	25 - 5
2	ITALY	CROATIA	99 - 14	25 - 0
3	TURKEY	LIECHTENSTEIN	89 - 25	25 - 3
4	RUSSIA	AUSTRIA	56 - 46	17 - 13
5	SCOTLAND	POLAND	26 - 42	12 - 18
6	bye	WALES	0 - 0	0 - 18
7	SPAIN	SWITZERLAND	65 - 36	21 - 9
8	LEBANON	CZECH REP	38 - 12	20 - 10
9	FRANCE	SWEDEN	56 - 35	19 - 11
10	BULGARIA	ROMANIA	62 - 36	20 - 10
11	FINLAND	ISRAEL	15 - 38	10 - 20
12	IRELAND	GERMANY	27 - 94	2 - 25
13	PORTUGAL	NETHERLANDS	54 - 15	23 - 7
14	BELGIUM	SAN MARINO	52 - 24	21 - 9
15	GREECE	HUNGARY	71 - 28	24 - 6
16	SLOVENIA	UKRAINE	49 - 51	15 - 15
17	ICELAND	ENGLAND	23 - 12	17 - 13
18	LUXEMBOURG	NORWAY	17 - 58	7 - 23

ROUND 18

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	CROATIA	DENMARK	35 - 47	13 - 17
2	LATVIA	TURKEY	30 - 53	10 - 20
3	AUSTRIA	ITALY	31 - 42	13 - 17
4	LIECHTENSTEIN	SCOTLAND	31 - 62	9 - 21
5	WALES	RUSSIA	19 - 31	13 - 17
6	POLAND	SPAIN	38 - 32	16 - 14
7	CZECH REP	bye	0 - 0	18 - 0
8	SWITZERLAND	SWEDEN	10 - 49	7 - 23
9	LEBANON	BULGARIA	45 - 18	21 - 9
10	ISRAEL	FRANCE	21 - 52	9 - 21
11	ROMANIA	IRELAND	42 - 49	14 - 16
12	PORTUGAL	FINLAND	41 - 22	19 - 11
13	SAN MARINO	GERMANY	24 - 45	11 - 19
14	NETHERLANDS	GREECE	43 - 30	18 - 12
15	SLOVENIA	BELGIUM	38 - 35	16 - 14
16	ENGLAND	HUNGARY	32 - 41	13 - 17
17	UKRAINE	NORWAY	14 - 45	9 - 21
18	ICELAND	LUXEMBOURG	64 - 46	19 - 11

OPEN TEAMS PROGRAM**ROUND 19 10.00**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	DENMARK	TURKEY
2	CROATIA	AUSTRIA
3	SCOTLAND	LATVIA
4	ITALY	WALES
5	SPAIN	LIECHTENSTEIN
6	RUSSIA	CZECH REP.
7	SWEDEN	POLAND
8	bye	BULGARIA
9	SWITZERLAND	ISRAEL
10	IRELAND	LEBANON
11	FRANCE	PORTUGAL
12	SAN MARINO	ROMANIA
13	GREECE	FINLAND
14	GERMANY	SLOVENIA
15	ENGLAND	NETHERLANDS
16	NORWAY	BELGIUM
17	HUNGARY	LUXEMBOURG
18	UKRAINE	ICELAND

ROUND 20 13.45

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	AUSTRIA	DENMARK
2	TURKEY	SCOTLAND
3	WALES	CROATIA
4	LATVIA	SPAIN
5	CZECH REP.	ITALY
6	LIECHTENSTEIN	SWEDEN
7	BULGARIA	RUSSIA
8	POLAND	ISRAEL
9	bye	IRELAND
10	PORTUGAL	SWITZERLAND
11	LEBANON	SAN MARINO
12	GREECE	FRANCE
13	SLOVENIA	ROMANIA
14	FINLAND	ENGLAND
15	NORWAY	GERMANY
16	LUXEMBOURG	NETHERLANDS
17	BELGIUM	ICELAND
18	HUNGARY	UKRAINE

ROUND 21 17.30

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	DENMARK	SCOTLAND
2	AUSTRIA	WALES
3	SPAIN	TURKEY
4	CROATIA	CZECH REP.
5	SWEDEN	LATVIA
6	ITALY	BULGARIA
7	ISRAEL	LIECHTENSTEIN
8	RUSSIA	IRELAND
9	POLAND	PORTUGAL
10	SAN MARINO	bye
11	SWITZERLAND	GREECE
12	SLOVENIA	LEBANON
13	ENGLAND	FRANCE
14	ROMANIA	NORWAY
15	LUXEMBOURG	FINLAND
16	ICELAND	GERMANY
17	NETHERLANDS	UKRAINE
18	BELGIUM	HUNGARY

OPEN TEAMS RANKING after 18 rounds

1	RUSSIA	341.50
2	POLAND	341.00
3	GREECE	332.00
4	NORWAY	325.00
5	ITALY	323.00
6	France	314.00
7	Austria	310.00
8	Denmark	304.00
9	Bulgaria	302.00
10	Belgium	301.50
11	Israel	296.00
12	Scotland	279.00
13	Turkey	278.00
14	Netherlands	278.00
15	Lebanon	277.00
16	Hungary	277.00
17	Sweden	274.00
18	Wales	270.00
19	England	270.00
20	Germany	268.00
21	Iceland	264.00
22	Czech Rep	259.00
23	Slovenia	258.00
24	Portugal	257.00
25	Spain	256.00
26	Switzerland	253.00
27	Romania	246.00
28	Ukraine	243.00
29	Finland	242.00
30	Croatia	225.00
31	Ireland	208.00
32	Luxembourg	199.00
33	San Marino	192.00
34	Latvia	191.00
35	Liechtenstein	176.00

TRANSNATIONAL LADIES TEAMS

ROUND 7

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	Eng_Bel	Spain_2	20 - 56	5 - 25
2	Netherlands	Italy_2	19 - 34	10 - 20
3	Eng_Ire	Italy_4	37 - 16	21 - 9
4	Israel	Spa_Ita	23 - 36	11 - 19
5	Spain_1	Spa_Sco_Ger	18 - 6	19 - 11
6	Italy_1	Isr_Sco	27 - 45	9 - 21
7	Italy_3	Spain_3	53 - 23	24 - 6

ROUND 8

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	Italy_3	Eng_Bel	12 - 28	10 - 20
2	Spain_3	Italy_1	7 - 45	4 - 25
3	Isr_Sco	Spain_1	6 - 41	5 - 25
4	Spa_Sco_Ger	Israel	15 - 23	13 - 17
5	Spa_Ita	Eng_Ire	17 - 43	7 - 23
6	Italy_4	Netherlands	12 - 19	13 - 17
7	Italy_2	Spain_2	25 - 18	17 - 13

ROUND 9

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	Eng_Bel	Israel	1 - 26	8 - 22
2	Spain_1	Eng_Ire	13 - 44	6 - 24
3	Italy_1	Netherlands	30 - 28	16 - 14
4	Italy_3	Spain_2	23 - 20	16 - 14
5	Spain_3	Italy_2	1 - 80	0 - 25
6	Isr_Sco	Italy_4	9 - 30	9 - 21
7	Spa_Sco_Ger	Spa_Ita	27 - 25	16 - 14

ROUND 10

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	Italy_2	Eng_Bel	15 - 13	16 - 14
2	Spain_2	Italy_4	12 - 10	16 - 14
3	Netherlands	Spa_Ita	36 - 16	21 - 9
4	Eng_Ire	Spa_Sco_Ger	19 - 8	18 - 12
5	Israel	Isr_Sco	13 - 31	9 - 21
6	Spain_1	Spain_3	10 - 2	17 - 13
7	Italy_1	Italy_3	12 - 9	16 - 14

ROUND 11

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	Eng_Bel	Spain_3	50 - 12	25 - 4
2	Isr_Sco	Italy_3	34 - 31	16 - 14
3	Spa_Sco_Ger	Italy_1	21 - 16	16 - 14
4	Spa_Ita	Spain_1	32 - 8	22 - 8
5	Italy_4	Israel	26 - 20	17 - 13
6	Italy_2	Eng_Ire	26 - 20	17 - 13
7	Spain_2	Netherlands	10 - 27	10 - 20

ROUND 12

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	Eng_Bel	Italy_1	19 - 29	12 - 18
2	Italy_3	Spain_1	35 - 13	22 - 8
3	Spain_3	Israel	7 - 59	1 - 25
4	Isr_Sco	Eng_Ire	9 - 52	3 - 25
5	Spa_Sco_Ger	Netherlands	28 - 4	22 - 8
6	Spa_Ita	Spain_2	33 - 29	16 - 14
7	Italy_4	Italy_2	32 - 15	20 - 10

ROUND 13

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	Isr_Sco	Eng_Bel	1 - 19	9 - 21
2	Spa_Sco_Ger	Spain_3	52 - 10	25 - 3
3	Spa_Ita	Italy_3	42 - 25	20 - 10
4	Italy_4	Italy_1	16 - 17	15 - 15
5	Italy_2	Spain_1	61 - 6	25 - 1
6	Spain_2	Israel	31 - 34	14 - 16
7	Netherlands	Eng_Ire	45 - 21	22 - 8

**TRANSNATIONAL LADIES TEAMS
Final Ranking**

1	ITALY_4	245.00
2	ITALY_1	227.00
3	ENG_IRE	227.00
4	Italy_2	226.00
5	Israel	216.00
6	Netherlands	208.00
7	Spa_Sco_Ger	205.00
8	Spain_2	205.00
9	Italy_3	188.00
10	Isr_Sco	188.00
11	Eng_Bel	174.00
12	Spa_Ita	169.00
13	Spain_1	140.00
14	Spain_3	72.00

**LADIES TEAMS RANKING
after 9 rounds**

1	ENGLAND	183.00
2	AUSTRIA	165.00
3	FRANCE	163.00
4	SPAIN	162.00
5	ISRAEL	158.00
6	Netherlands	154.00
7	Czech Rep	152.00
8	Germany	151.00
9	Sweden	144.00
10	Italy	144.00
11	Poland	143.00
12	Croatia	142.00
13	Hungary	140.00
14	Russia	127.00
15	Norway	121.00
16	Greece	110.00
17	Denmark	110.00
18	Wales	105.00
19	Finland	97.00
20	San Marino	83.00
21	Scotland	80.00

LADIES TEAMS RESULTS**ROUND 8**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	GERMANY	SWEDEN	52 - 38	18 - 12
22	CROATIA	bye	0 - 0	18 - 0
23	ENGLAND	SAN MARINO	88 - 1	25 - 0
24	ISRAEL	RUSSIA	34 - 21	18 - 12
25	FRANCE	FINLAND	57 - 20	23 - 7
26	GREECE	SCOTLAND	43 - 24	19 - 11
27	NORWAY	DENMARK	40 - 26	18 - 12
28	ITALY	SPAIN	42 - 72	9 - 21
29	CZECH REP	WALES	106 - 2	25 - 0
30	NETHERLANDS	POLAND	58 - 1	25 - 4
31	HUNGARY	AUSTRIA	59 - 51	16 - 14

ROUND 9

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	GERMANY	SPAIN	23 - 40	11 - 19
22	SCOTLAND	ISRAEL	0 - 80	0 - 25
23	NETHERLANDS	GREECE	25 - 25	15 - 15
24	SWEDEN	ITALY	40 - 38	15 - 15
25	CZECH REP	SAN MARINO	74 - 29	24 - 6
26	bye	HUNGARY	0 - 0	0 - 18
27	FINLAND	NORWAY	22 - 77	4 - 25
28	POLAND	AUSTRIA	32 - 35	14 - 16
29	DENMARK	FRANCE	20 - 23	14 - 16
30	RUSSIA	CROATIA	16 - 31	12 - 18
31	WALES	ENGLAND	36 - 75	7 - 23

LADIES TEAMS PROGRAM**ROUND 10 13.45**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
21	AUSTRIA	GERMANY
22	HUNGARY	SWEDEN
23	RUSSIA	bye
24	SPAIN	POLAND
25	DENMARK	GREECE
26	ISRAEL	WALES
27	SAN MARINO	FINLAND
28	CROATIA	ENGLAND
29	NORWAY	CZECH REP.
30	ITALY	SCOTLAND
31	FRANCE	NETHERLANDS

ROUND 11 17.30

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
21	GERMANY	ENGLAND
22	WALES	SPAIN
23	ITALY	ISRAEL
24	AUSTRIA	CROATIA
25	NORWAY	bye
26	SWEDEN	FRANCE
27	GREECE	SAN MARINO
28	SCOTLAND	NETHERLANDS
29	FINLAND	DENMARK
30	POLAND	HUNGARY
31	CZECH REP.	RUSSIA

SENIOR TEAMS RESULTS**ROUND 7**

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
41 SPAIN 1	CROATIA	11 - 20	13 - 17
42 NORWAY	ITALY 2	14 - 34	10 - 20
43 ENGLAND 1	GERMANY 1	16 - 38	10 - 20
44 IRELAND	SWITZERLAND	25 - 25	15 - 15
45 SWEDEN	WALES 1	40 - 6	23 - 7
46 FRANCE 1	WALES 2	35 - 27	17 - 13
47 bye	MALTA	0 - 0	0 - 18
48 PORTUGAL	FRANCE 2	1 - 50	3 - 25
49 LEBANON	ENGLAND 2	18 - 44	9 - 21
50 GERMANY 2	ISRAEL 1	14 - 18	14 - 16
51 BELGIUM	SCOTLAND	15 - 26	12 - 18
52 POLAND 1	ISRAEL 2	19 - 29	13 - 17
53 ITALY 1	CZECH REP.	44 - 9	24 - 6
54 NETHERLANDS	POLAND 2	23 - 30	14 - 16

ROUND 8

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
41 CROATIA	POLAND 1	24 - 32	13 - 17
42 GERMANY 2	FRANCE 1	60 - 27	23 - 7
43 GERMANY 1	PORTUGAL	49 - 10	25 - 5
44 WALES 1	SPAIN 1	31 - 37	14 - 16
45 CZECH REP.	NETHERLANDS	32 - 50	11 - 19
46 SCOTLAND	NORWAY	36 - 15	20 - 10
47 ISRAEL 1	IRELAND	39 - 36	16 - 14
48 SWITZERLAND	LEBANON	36 - 57	10 - 20
49 ITALY 2	POLAND 2	15 - 10	16 - 14
50 ENGLAND 2	ITALY 1	16 - 31	11 - 19
51 FRANCE 2	ISRAEL 2	53 - 21	23 - 7
52 WALES 2	bye	0 - 0	18 - 0
53 MALTA	ENGLAND 1	23 - 58	6 - 24
54 SWEDEN	BELGIUM	45 - 15	22 - 8

ROUND 9

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
41 CROATIA	WALES 2	40 - 16	21 - 9
42 ENGLAND 2	SCOTLAND	12 - 19	14 - 16
43 PORTUGAL	SWITZERLAND	41 - 12	22 - 8
44 NETHERLDS	POLAND 1	51 - 11	25 - 5
45 ENGLAND 1	SWEDEN	32 - 19	18 - 12
46 ISRAEL 2	GERMANY 2	30 - 33	14 - 16
47 ITALY 1	WALES 1	39 - 16	21 - 9
48 SPAIN 1	ITALY 2	23 - 57	7 - 23
49 FRANCE 1	BELGIUM	17 - 11	16 - 14
50 POLAND 2	MALTA	26 - 12	18 - 12
51 LEBANON	bye	0 - 0	18 - 0
52 NORWAY	ISRAEL 1	7 - 18	12 - 18
53 IRELAND	GERMANY 1	10 - 22	12 - 18
54 CZECH REP.	FRANCE 2	10 - 22	12 - 18

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www.eurobridge.org

SENIOR TEAMS PROGRAM**ROUND 10****10.00**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
41	NORWAY	CROATIA
42	POLAND 2	ISRAEL 2
43	SWITZERLAND	SPAIN 1
44	SWEDEN	WALES 2
45	GERMANY 1	CZECH REP.
46	bye	ENGLAND 2
47	MALTA	NETHERLANDS
48	POLAND 1	FRANCE 1
49	SCOTLAND	FRANCE 2
50	BELGIUM	IRELAND
51	ITALY 2	ISRAEL 1
52	GERMANY 2	ITALY 1
53	WALES 1	PORTUGAL
54	ENGLAND 1	LEBANON

ROUND 11**13.45**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
41	CROATIA	GERMANY 2
42	BELGIUM	bye
43	SPAIN 1	POLAND 1
44	CZECH REP.	NORWAY
45	PORTUGAL	ENGLAND 1
46	ISRAEL 1	POLAND 2
47	IRELAND	SWEDEN
48	WALES 2	SCOTLAND
49	ISRAEL 2	LEBANON
50	FRANCE 2	WALES 1
51	FRANCE 1	ITALY 1
52	ENGLAND 2	MALTA
53	NETHERLANDS	SWITZERLAND
54	GERMANY 1	ITALY 2

ROUND 12**17.30**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
41	ENGLAND 2	CROATIA
42	FRANCE 2	ISRAEL 1
43	POLAND 1	WALES 2
44	ENGLAND 1	GERMANY 2
45	SWITZERLAND	GERMANY 1
46	ITALY 1	BELGIUM
47	WALES 1	CZECH REP.
48	NORWAY	ISRAEL 2
49	bye	ITALY 2
50	LEBANON	NETHERLANDS
51	SCOTLAND	MALTA
52	POLAND 2	IRELAND
53	SWEDEN	SPAIN 1
54	PORTUGAL	FRANCE 1

VIDEO NEWS

The Championships are being video-taped and a souvenir edition can be purchased.

To order a copy please go to the Information Desk located in front of the Bridge Rama room armed with just 2900 Ptas or 17.5 Euro.

SENIOR TEAMS RANKING after 9 rounds

1	FRANCE 2	176.00
2	ITALY 2	167.00
3	GERMANY 2	165.00
4	Germany 1	163.00
5	Sweden	157.00
6	England 1	157.00
7	Netherlands	156.00
8	France 1	155.00
9	Italy 1	155.00
10	Ireland	146.00
11	Poland 1	141.75
12	Scotland	140.00
13	England 2	132.00
14	Wales 1	131.00
15	Israel 1	129.75
16	Poland 2	129.00
17	Israel 2	128.00
18	Czech Rep.	121.00
19	Switzerland	120.00
20	Belgium	120.00
21	Norway	120.00
22	Lebanon	118.00
23	Wales 2	117.00
24	Croatia	108.50
25	Malta	102.00
26	Portugal	101.00
27	Spain 1	94.50

e-bridge 

ONLINE MATCHES

OPEN	ROUND 19	10.00
Norway v Belgium		
OPEN	ROUND 20	13.45
France v Greece		
OPEN	ROUND 21	17.30
Italy v Bulgaria		



TEAM PHOTOGRAPHS

Today morning is the turn of the following teams to have their photographs taken for the EBL database. Would the captains please ensure that all players of the team plus the npc are present at the LineUp desk as follows:

Sunday 24th June

13.15 hrs Hungary Ladies	17.00 hrs Norway Ladies
13.20 hrs Israel Ladies	17.05 hrs Poland Ladies
13.25 hrs Italy Ladies	17.10 hrs Russia Ladies
13:30 hrs Netherlands Ladies	17.15 hrs San Marino Ladies

Aggelos Mallios

EBL Photographer

Welsh Team



Profile

- Tim Rees** Plays for fun in Wales, for money in England.
- Peter Goodman** Welsh limbo dancing champion. Has a head start on the others.
- Paul Denning** Wales official bridge historian, he can tell you exactly how many matches Patrick Jourdain has lost for Wales. He spends his day off scoring for Latvia.
- Adrian Thomas** Wales' answer to Mount Teide - but still active.
- Filip Kurbalija** Known as 'Smiley' to his friends.
- Mike Pownall** Birthday boy and baby of the team.
- Laura Woodruff** Known as 'Laura the Scorer'. She wears the Welsh flag with pride, despite attempts to persuade her to remove it.
- Adam Dunn** Coach and member of the Welsh Tafia. (River Taf is in Wales). He recently retired from official spying duties at the English Bridge Union.
- John Salisbury** Captain and eternal optimist. The only person in Wales prepared to come to Tenerife with the above squad.

Some Belgian Chocolates

by Fara Bigdeli, NPC

Belgium is actually doing well in the open series.

Zvi Engel is probably the most talented Belgian player. He showed his skill and good judgment on this deal against Denmark.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ K 9 7 6 5 3 ♥ A 2 ♦ 9 6 4 ♣ 3 2</p>	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>♠ J 8 2 ♥ 9 7 4 ♦ J 10 8 ♣ Q 10 9 7</p>	<p>♠ A Q 4 ♥ J 10 8 ♦ A Q 7 2 ♣ J 8 5</p>
N						
W E						
S						
West	North	East	South			
	<i>Van Middeltem</i>		<i>Engel</i>			
		Pass	1♦			
2♠	3♥	Pass	3NT			
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♠			
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♦			
All Pass						

2♠ was a weak overcall and 4♠ a general cue-bid, showing a three-card fit in diamonds (with four diamonds the bid would have been 4♦). Only Zvi can explain 5♠, but when Guy proposed to play the slam in clubs, Zvi chose diamonds because a ruff at the short trump side would be needed. The spade ruff was indeed the twelfth trick.

Valerie Carcassonne is the lady bridge phenomenon of Belgium. In the match against Germany she combined with her husband Alain Labaere to defeat 5♦.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

<p>♠ 8 5 4 ♥ A 9 4 ♦ K Q 9 8 3 ♣ 6 3</p>	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>♠ 9 ♥ K J 8 ♦ A 7 6 4 ♣ K Q J 10 4</p>	<p>♠ A K Q J 10 7 6 3 ♥ — ♦ J 10 ♣ 8 6 2</p>
N						
W E						
S						
West	North	East	South			
	<i>Carcassonne</i>		<i>Labaere</i>			
	Pass	1♦ ⁽¹⁾	4♠			
5♦	All Pass					

⁽¹⁾ Precision

Alain led the ace of Spades and switched to the eight of clubs. Valerie took and returned a heart to defeat the contract in a minimum of time.

Alain Kaplan is forming a solid pair with Guy Polet. He stole a borderline 3NT against Germany.

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

Alain, East, took the Heart lead with dummy's queen. He immediately played a club to his queen. When South took this, that was the end of the defence. He took the club continuation and played a diamond. North continued hearts, ducked. After another heart, Alain played another diamond for his contract.

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SESSION 15
OPEN TEAMS



Russia v Italy



It would have been a good idea to sell tickets for the last match on Rama on Friday evening. The room was completely filled by all those who wanted to see the match between the two leaders at that stage. The defending champions, Italy, in full gear after a slow start against Russia, a team already having drawn the attention and esteem from the cognoscenti, but also surprising all of us by its constant flow of positive results. It was the right moment to create a gap. But which team would take the upper hand on its opponent?

The first three boards saw only two IMPs exchange hands, in favour of Russia, but the third board certainly deserves attention:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Rama

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Petrinin</i>
2♦	3♦	3♠	4♣
4♦	4♥	All Pass	1♥

From 3♠ onwards, the Italians were already beyond their safety level, but the shortest and most natural road on this board would be the one to game in hearts. On the two top diamond honours led by Duboin, Bocchi threw two clubs, thus making declarer's task much easier, but that's not yet the end of the story. Duboin continued his singleton spade to partner's ace, and Bocchi returned the suit. Petrinin took the ♣4 in his hands for a moment, thus causing the Russian supporters to hold their breath, but then he regained his composure and started to take the auction into account. The ♣4 quickly went back into his hand and was replaced by a safer-looking ♥J; Russia +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Zlotov</i>	<i>Versace</i>
3♦	Dble	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	1♥

The horizontals in this room stayed more quiet, as they are playing safe during the auction a little more, and the final contract was the same as N/S had less options to choose from.

In defence, however, something strange happened. Kholomeev led the ♦K, probably intending to stay on lead, but Zlotov did not allow this, taking the trick by ruffing it and continuing the ♠A and ♠8. Do you remember? They had not mentioned spades in this room and usually it's not so easy to hide away an eight-card suit. So, for Versace it was pretty natural to discard his second diamond and pretty natural to be astonished when Kholomeev ruffed this trick. So the problem of locating the ♣Q had come back. West continued the ♦A, ruffed by Versace who next played two rounds of hearts ending in his hand. After cashing the ♠A and noting the fall of the nine, Versace crossed to dummy with a trump, played the ♠K throwing a club and, with a perfect idea of the distribution of the hand in his mind, called for the ♣J which he overtook with the ♠K in his hand to halve the board.

Please note that Zlotov, contrary to what had happened on Rama, had held on to all the small clubs in his hand not to give away any vital indication to declarer.

The real first blood in the encounter went in the direction of the Azzurri:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Rama

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Petrinin</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

1♥ was a transfer to spades, of course, as we all know by now. After 2NT, a strong raise in spades, by Duboin, the Italian pair easily reached the proper game contract and made 11 tricks. Italy +650.

Things went wrong in the other room:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Zlotov</i>	<i>Versace</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	All Pass		

The Russian mechanism came to a premature halt in the first major suit available. Eight tricks, but only +110 to Russia and 11

IMPs to Italy.

Board 6, though being another flat board, was another worthwhile example of counting a hand:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Let's start with the Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Zlotov</i>	<i>Versace</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	1♥
All Pass		Pass	4♥

Kholomeev led the ♠3 and Versace, on lead with the ace, immediately decided the fate of the hand: he led a low diamond from hand and played low from dummy when West contributed the nine. Zlotov won the ♦10 and, being thrown in already, continued the ♦K. Versace won the ace and played two rounds of trumps. West could win his ♥Q but as he had no winning move available, continued a club after which declarer showed his cards, claiming the balance except the ♥K. Italy +420.

Rama

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Petrunin</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	1♣ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	3♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♠

⁽¹⁾ strong

Same contract, same lead, different story. After the ♠A, Petrunin too led a diamond from his hand, but put up the queen on West's nine. Bocchi too won the ♦K and returned the suit. Declarer won and threw in Duboin with a third round of diamonds. On the club return Petrunin took Bocchi's king with the ace and led a low heart. Duboin played low without a flicker and Bocchi took dummy's jack with his king. He returned another club to South's queen. East, who had passed in first position, had already shown up with three kings. This Italian pair would certainly not refrain from opening very light, so Petrunin played off the ♥A, felling the queen from West, and winning his contract as well as the applause from the Rama audience.

Halfway through the match the hand that would decisively change the direction of the encounter came up:



Vadim Kholomeev, Russia

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Rama

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Petrunin</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠
Pass	7♣	All Pass	

Chapeau for the Russian pair to arrive at the highest level in great style. 1♣ was strong and INT showed 8-10 hcp. 2♣ was a suit and started a series of relays. 2♥ showed a balanced hand without any four-card major and 3♠ then showed a five-card suit in diamonds. 4♠ was RKC for clubs, 4NT showing 1 keycard. 5♦ simply asked for the queen of trumps and 5♠ confirmed it. The only uncertain factor in the auction thus was the ♦J which proved to be a wonderful card. Even if the grand slam would have been impossible to make, it was a great auction, worth a shot at the maximum playing level. Gromov showed his hand at trick three after winning the heart lead and drawing two rounds of trumps.

Closed Room

West Kholomeev	North Lauria	East Zlotov	South Versace
Pass	1♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1♦

Rather lazy bidding by Lauria. There are hands on which 3NT might be the right contract, but not this one. Lauria paid the price for it when Versace brought a perfect fit and the Russians began to run away with this 16-IMP swing in their favour.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Rama

West Duboin	North Gromov	East Bocchi	South Petrudin
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dble
4♥	Dble	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

In spite of the Italian acceleration the Russians easily landed in the right contract. Duboin led the ♦J, covered all round. Petrudin continued with the ♠K and the ♦2 giving Duboin the chance to ruff and continue hearts. On lead with the ♥A, declarer drew a second round of trumps and played on clubs. Bocchi ruffed the second round of the suit and could cash one heart trick, but that was the last trick for the defence. Contract just made, Russia +620.

Closed Room

West Kholomeev	North Lauria	East Zlotov	South Versace
3♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Kholomeev, first to speak non vulnerable, decided to make life hard for his opponents by launching a bomb in clubs. This attack turned out to be a success as it guided the Italian pair into the wrong contract. Zlotov led the ♥K and, when this lead, continued the suit to the ace in dummy. Lauria cashed three rounds of clubs trying to put some pressure on east, but Zlotov was having no problems as he could safely discard a diamond and the ♥J. After the cashing the ♠AK, Lauria, with his hopes already down to nearly zero, turned his attention to diamonds, but to no avail. Down two, Russia +200 and another 13 IMPs. 3NT- 2, 200 per la Russia. Even a correct view in diamonds would have brought declarer only eight tricks.



Norberto Bocchi, Italy

Two more big swings sealed the Russian victory:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Rama

West Duboin	North Gromov	East Bocchi	South Petrudin
2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
	3♥	4♠	All Pass

A normal enough contract, but destined to fail on a diamond lead or also, to make things a little more difficult, on a spade lead to the ace and a diamond switch. Gromov made life easy by leading the ♦K. After this lead, the hand could soon be put into the archives. Duboin lost a trick to the ♠Q, but as he had conceded a trick to the ♥A and cashed the remaining hearts in dummy before, Gromov was forced to lead away from his ♣K when in with the ♠Q. Down only one, Russia +100.

Closed Room

West Kholomeev	North Lauria	East Zlotov	South Versace
Pass	1♠	2♦	
4♠	4NT	Dble	Pass
Pass	5♦	Dble	All Pass

Versace's weak overcall made Lauria put the brakes off. He certainly held a worthy hand opposite a stronger intervention. It

might well be that the hand belonged to the Italians, in which case they could not run the risk of losing their own possible game and conceding one to the opponents at the same time. As it was, they lost 500 points with no game on for the opponents, and the Russian lead had become even more serious.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Rama

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Gromov	Bocchi	Petrudin
		1♦	1♥
Dble	2NT	4♠	All Pass

Simple bidding on Rama, but it brought E/W into a contract they unfortunately could not make. The 4-0 trump break will cause declarer's undoing. The price to be paid would probably be small, however, and the board would be flat. Or would it?

No, not quite:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kholomeev	Lauria	Zlotov	Versace
		1♦	1♥
1♠	2NT	3♥	4♦
Pass	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
Pass	5♥	Dble	All Pass

In the Closed Room, Zlotov really thought he would make 4♠, and even if he did not think so, his poker move came off perfectly well as Lauria could not be sure of defeating the contract. When Lauria took shelter, he was severely punished by Zlotov who thus completed the success on this hand by taking a 500-points penalty.

The match ended with a 21-9 victory to Russia, a serious setback for Italy and a convincing step forward for Russia.

Did You Know?

- 43.6 % of all slam contracts fail.**
- 62.7 % of all bridge players are women.**
- 97.8 % of all bridge statistics, including these, are made up.**

Age is beauty... and slowness

by Ib Lundby

Earlier Peter Schaltz was known as a very fast player. I remember a match in the European Championships in Elsinore back in 1977, where Peter and his cousin Knud-Aage Boesgaard played 16 hands against Kreijns in less than one hour!

Apparently things has changed. In Denmark's match versus France I observed that Peter after a hand asked his wife to slow down a little: "I am not able to think in that tempo, dear!"

Against Poland it took Peter almost 20 minutes to get his nine tricks in a "very easy" 3NT:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Dorthe		Peter
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

In the closed room the lead was the ♣K, and declarer had an easy task, but Peter got a diamond lead which creates communication problems. I think the best plan is to win in dummy and play the ♥10, but after long thought Peter decided to go for the spades 3-3 or 4-2 thereby planning to take four spades, two hearts and three diamond tricks. He therefore won the first trick with the ♦Q and played a spade to the king. Next the ♠Q went to the ace, and the hand looked to be over, but ...

The Polish West presented a kind of a Greek gift by shifting to a low heart. In that way the number of heart tricks increased from two to three, but Peter could get only one of them as dummy otherwise would be squeezed.

Instead Peter had to go for a club trick, so he won with the ♥J and played a club towards dummy. As West had both honours there were no more problems, and he could have succeeded with other club distributions, but we have to discuss that at another occasion because of time problems Peter has already put the next board on the table and closed the screen.

SESSION 4
SENIOR TEAMS



Netherlands v Sweden



With so many events going on here simultaneously, it's only proper to divert from the Open Teams and the Ladies Teams at times to have a look at the other events taking place. That's why our reporters set off on Friday morning to watch the Seniors match between The Netherlands and Sweden. Right on the very first deal it was made clear to us once again what a wonderful game we are involved in.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

At both tables, North was declaring 3♦. This looks a straightforward enough contract, and indeed in the Closed Room it was when declarer simply took the diamond finesse to land his contract. Sweden +130.

In the Open Room, East led a club, won by West who shifted to a low spade. Declarer, Jan Willem Bomhof made as good a shot as any by running this to the nine in dummy. East won the ace and this time shifted to a heart. Declarer now seized his extra chance: ♥A, ♦Q overtaken by the ace when it was not covered, and two top spades to ditch the losing hearts. When East could ruff the second top spade with his low trump, yet another an ice-cold contract had gone down. Sweden +50 and 5 IMPs.

Two boards later the Dutch struck back when the weak NT could easily be dealt with by E/W:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ekberg</i>	<i>Bomhof</i>	<i>Alfredsson</i>	<i>Englander</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♠	All Pass	INT

Well, this auction was about silencing your LHO at the proper time. As it happened, both South and North managed to do so in quite natural fashion. After the 1♦-opening West could not make any sensible move, whereas East was shut out when North responded 1♠. A balancing double of 2♠ would have saved the day for Sweden, but when Ekberg stayed quiet a vulnerable game was missed. Down only two; Sweden +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rebattu</i>	<i>Hallén</i>	<i>Van Oppen</i>	<i>Backström</i>
Dble	2♠	Dble	INT
			All Pass

This time, the weak NT turned out a dubious weapon. Playing a natural defence against it, it was easy enough for both West and East to venture an opinion about their opponents' bids. The penalty was 500 when the contract went down three. The Netherlands +9 IMPs.

Near the end of the match (the Seniors are playing three 14-board matches a day) the difference between the strong and the weak NT again caused a swing, be it a peculiar one.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ekberg</i>	<i>Bomhof</i>	<i>Alfredsson</i>	<i>Englander</i>
All Pass			INT

This was easy going: The Netherlands +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rebattu</i>	<i>Hallén</i>	<i>Van Oppen</i>	<i>Backström</i>
Pass	Pass	Dble	1♦
1♥	All Pass		Pass

Well, what should East do in fourth seat? It's close between double and INT.

Well, what should West do after East's double? Our West made the rather obvious choice of the cheapest bid available, no

doubt hoping partner would rebid something. As it happened, he was left in a nice 3-3 fit. The advantage was, of course, that the defence did not know this...

North led a diamond and the defenders cashed their three tricks in the suit. Back came a club from North, ducked to South's king. With no good alternative available, South returned the suit and declarer cashed two tricks in it. Next came three rounds of spades so South was on play again as he understandably did not unblock both his jack and queen. Down to the 13th diamond and all his three hearts, what should he do? Double-dummy it's easy to see that only a heart honour beats the contract, as it will prevent declarer from scoring his ♠10 separately. When South returned his low heart instead, this ran to the 10, after which the ♠Q became an extra trick when declarer led his last spade. Contract made, The Netherlands another +80 and 5 IMPs.

The hypo-Moysian 3-3 fit phantom remained present at this table, as this was the next board:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ekberg</i>	<i>Bomhof</i>	<i>Alfredsson</i>	<i>Englander</i>
1♥	Dble	Pass	2♣
2♦	3NT	All Pass	

In the Open Room, Nico Englander did not bother to mention his best suit in reply to partner's take-out double. This turned out to be an excellent idea as it enabled Bomhof to jump to 3 NT without any further ado. The Netherlands +630.

Please note that there are nine tricks available for E/W in diamonds.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rebattu</i>	<i>Hallén</i>	<i>Van Oppen</i>	<i>Backström</i>
1♥	Dble	Pass	1♠
2♦	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Another reminiscence to Werner Herbert, very much a senior by now, at the other table. Once again, the response to the take-out double was made on the cheapest three-card suit available. Of course, we all know that from time to time one has to make bids like that, but once again it led to a pretty strange contract. Four Spades went down four, The Netherlands thus picking up another +400 or 14 IMPs.

A similar auction we saw on Rama in the Israel v. Norway match:



Lars Backström, Sweden

Closed Rama Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yaldin D.</i>	<i>Aa</i>	<i>Yaldin I.</i>	<i>Groethem</i>
2♥	Dble	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

As the Herbst brothers duly reached 5♣ to be played by South in the Open Room and made it when West made the natural opening lead of the ♦K, Israel too gained a similar 14-IMP swing.

On the board to follow, the Dutch pair in the Closed Room had a bidding misunderstanding which led to the wrong contract. They ended up in 5♣ which could not be made.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ekberg</i>	<i>Bomhof</i>	<i>Alfredsson</i>	<i>Englander</i>
1♥	Pass	1♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass	INT	Pass

As 3NT presented no problems the Swedes recouped 13 IMPs here, but the match was still won 37-24, or 18-12 VPs, by The Netherlands.

SESSION 8
LADIES TEAMS



Italy v Spain



It is time that we took a look at the host nation. The Spanish Women's team was lying sixth after seven matches, just outside the qualifying places. In Round 8 they met Italy, who were just one place behind them in seventh.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
De Lucchi	Sanchez	Rosetta	Babot
	Pass	1♣	4♠

All Pass

West	North	East	South
Santos	Manara	Matut	Ferlazzo
	Pass	INT	3♠

All Pass

When Maria Luisa Matut opened INT, Caterina Ferlazzo settled for a heavy 3♠ overcall, where she played. The lead was the queen of hearts and, with no defensive slip-ups, the contract made exactly for +140.

Annalisa Rosetta opened 1♣ and Mari Carmen Babot made the more aggressive 4♠ overcall. Francesca De Lucchi also led the queen of hearts, on which her partner took a couple of second to play low when Babot put up dummy's ace. Whether that slight tempo break affected De Lucchi or not, I cannot say but, when Babot drew trumps and continued with the nine of hearts from hand, De Lucchi put in the ten, crashing her partner's king and reducing the defensive heart winners to two; ten tricks for +420 and 7 IMPs to Spain.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
De Lucchi	Sanchez	Rosetta	Babot
	Pass	INT	Pass
2♠	All Pass	2NT	Pass
4♥			

West	North	East	South
Santos	Manara	Matut	Ferlazzo
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

De Lucchi's sequence showed the two-suited nature of her hand and was mild slam try, but it failed to get the job done when Rosetta chose to pass the 4♥ rebid. De Lucchi won the club lead on table and played the queen of hearts. When that held the trick she continued with the jack, to the king and ace. A spade to the king was followed by the seven of hearts, ducked, a club to hand and the nine of hearts. There was just a spade to lose now; +480.

The Spanish auction was more economical of bidding space and left room for cuebids to be exchanged at the four level. After which Carmen Santos took control and bid the slam after checking for key cards. She just lost a trump trick for +980 and 11 IMPs to Spain.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
De Lucchi	Sanchez	Rosetta	Babot
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Santos	Manara	Matut	Ferlazzo
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dble	4♠	All Pass	



Maria Luisa Matut, Spain

Italy struck back when Babot/Sanchez bid a poor slam which had to go down. It does seem that there is something wrong if that North hand is expected to cuebid after opening the bidding. Clearly, either 4♦ was too much or, if 4♦ is normal in the partnership style, then South cannot afford to take control as she did. There was just one trap for the defence to avoid. Nuria Sanchez won the club lead on table and played a heart. De Lucchi split her honours and Sanchez won the ace and crossed to dummy with a trump to lead a second heart up. Had DE Lucchi gone in with her second honour, there would have been an eventual heart winner on which to discard dummy's third club. De Lucchi passed the test, however, playing low, and now the slam had to go one down. In the other room, not only did Gabriella Manara not consider the North hand to be worth an opening bid, she did not consider it to be worth a splinter bid in support of her partner's 1♠ opening. Ferlazzo had no reason to go on over 4♠, of course, and she soon had +650 and 13 IMPs to Italy.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>De Lucchi</i>	<i>Sanchez</i>	<i>Rosetta</i>	<i>Babot</i>
		1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Santos</i>	<i>Manara</i>	<i>Matut</i>	<i>Ferlazzo</i>
		1♥	1♠
2♣	4♠	5♣	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	6♠
Dble	All Pass		

In the Italian auction, the easy solution would appear to be a 4♠ splinter over West's 3♣. As it went, De Lucchi didn't feel that she could do more, having already forced to game and shown very long clubs, and feared that a 4♥ cuebid would be taken as a high card; +420.

Santos and Matut did get to slam in the contested auction in the other room but Ferlazzo found the save in 6♠. Santos cashed the ace of clubs then switched to a low diamond. Matut won the queen and returned her low diamond to the ace. A third diamond went to the king and now Matut found the switch to ace and another heart to extract the maximum penalty of 800; 9 IMPs to Spain.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
<i>De Lucchi</i>	<i>Sanchez</i>	<i>Rosetta</i>	<i>Babot</i>
		Dble	Pass
1♥	2♦	3♥	Pass
2♥	Pass		All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Santos</i>	<i>Manara</i>	<i>Matut</i>	<i>Ferlazzo</i>
			2♠
Pass	3♠	4♦	All Pass

Ferlazzo's two-suited 2♠, coupled with Manara's well-judged raise, caught Matut who was unwilling to go quietly holding 16 HCP and a six-card suit. But 4♦ had to go down two, losing two spades and one trick in each of the other suits; -200.

Babot's pushy game invitation put Sanchez into a delicate contract in the other room. Sanchez won the imaginative lead of the king of diamonds with her ace and led a club up. Rosetta went in with the ace and switched to her low spade, dummy's ten winning the trick. Sanchez cashed the ♣K, throwing a diamond, and ruffed a club, then ruffed a diamond in dummy and led another club. When West proved to hold the remaining club, declarer threw her last diamond away. But that in turn allowed Rosetta to throw the queen of spades. De Lucchi gave her a spade ruff and she returned a diamond, ruffed and over-ruffed all round. Sanchez led her last spade, ruffed by the ace, and there was still another trump loser to come; down two for -200 and 9 IMPs to Italy.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
<i>De Lucchi</i>	<i>Sanchez</i>	<i>Rosetta</i>	<i>Babot</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Santos</i>	<i>Manara</i>	<i>Matut</i>	<i>Ferlazzo</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Dble	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

In the Spanish auction, 2♦ showed 15-16 with no major and 3♣ asked for controls, the response showing three. Babot now took a slightly cautious view and the decent slam was missed. I cannot translate the Italian auction, but it got the job done and earned the Italians a 12 IMP swing for +1370 against +690.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
<i>De Lucchi</i>	<i>Sanchez</i>	<i>Rosetta</i>	<i>Babot</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Santos</i>	<i>Manara</i>	<i>Matut</i>	<i>Ferlazzo</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Dble	Pass	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

With no particular reason to do otherwise, Rosetta made the normal looking lead of a low diamond. De Lucchi was only playing for an overtrick now when Sanchez played low from dummy. In practice, she rose with the ace and returned a diamond to the queen and king. Sanchez drew trumps and soon had eleven tricks for +450.

Santos had the opportunity to make a lead-directing double of the 4♦ cuebid and Matut rose to the occasion by selecting the queen. There was nothing that Manara could do. She had to ruff the third diamond, of course, but the bad trump break spelt her doom. If she drew all the trumps before playing on hearts then Santos would have two diamond winners to cash when she took the heart ace, while if declarer played on hearts before pulling the last trump Santos would win the second round and give her partner a ruff. The latter outcome actually applied; down one for -50 and 11 IMPs to Spain, starting them off on a strong finish to the match.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>De Lucchi</i>	<i>Sanchez</i>	<i>Rosetta</i>	<i>Babot</i>
5♥	Dble	2♥	4NT
5♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
All Pass			Dble

West	North	East	South
<i>Santos</i>	<i>Manara</i>	<i>Matut</i>	<i>Ferlazzo</i>
5♠	6♣	2♠	5♣
		All Pass	

The transfer weak two bid had no significant effect on the auction, it was more a matter of personal judgement. Babot chose to treat her hand as a two-suiter and then to settle for the sure plus score; -500 after the defence began with three rounds of diamonds for a ruff. Ferlazzo preferred to make sure of playing in her solid club suit - but now Manara wasn't as sure who was making what and bid on to 6♣. That had to lose the two aces, of course, so was one down for -100 and 12 IMPs to Spain.



Annalisa Rosetta, Italy

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
De Lucchi	Sanchez	Rosetta	Babot
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Santos	Manara	Matut	Ferlazzo
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Rosetta's 2♣ rebid was artificial and De Lucchi invented a non-systemic bid of 3♥. Rosetta bid the obvious game but that had four unavoidable losers for one down; -100.

The natural Spanish auction had no difficulty in getting to the correct spot; +620 and 12 IMPs to Spain.

The host nation came out on top by 72-42 IMPs, 21-9 VPs, and were up to fourth in the standings.

Morton's Fork A New Look

We tend to think of the well known Morton's Fork as a device used by declarer. This is the definition from the Official Encyclopaedia of Bridge:

The Morton's Fork Coup is a manoeuvre by which declarer presents a defender with a choice of taking a trick cheaply, or ducking to preserve an honour combination, either decision costing the defense a trick. If the defender wins the trick, he sets up an extra high card in the suit, while if he ducks, his winner disappears because declarer has a discard possibility. The name is derived from an episode in English history. Cardinal Morton, Chancellor under King Henry VII, habitually extracted taxes from wealthy London merchants for the royal treasury. His approach was that if the merchants lived ostentatiously, they obviously had sufficient income to spare for the king. Alternatively, if they lived frugally, they must have substantial savings and could therefore afford to contribute to the king's coffers. In either case they were impaled on "Morton's Fork".

However on this deal from the Women's match between Austria and Israel one of the players found herself impaled during the bidding:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Smederevac	Levit-Porat	Erhart	Zur-Campanila
Pass	1♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	4♠	Pass	4NT*
5♣	Pass*	5♦	Dble
Pass	?		

What could poor North do?

If she bid Five Spades the defenders would undoubtedly double and their brilliant defensive bidding would pinpoint the way to collect the maximum - club lead, diamond ruff, club, club, diamond ruff and heart for +800.

On the other hand North could pass and as actually happened at the table watch East collect +650 by avoiding a heart finesse.

At the other table a less revealing auction saw Austria record +650 when East led a heart against Five Spades and West did not find the diamond switch.

The enthusiasm is the important thing

Men always feel somewhat "macho" when they play against women!

Interview with Valerie Carcassonne - one of the four women players in the Open Series

by Svend Novrup, e-bridge correspondent

Valerie Carcassonne from Belgium is a vivid, intelligent woman, easily brought to laughter. She is one of only four females in the Open Series, and she enjoys every minute, playing with her husband Alain Labaere and pregnant with just one month to go. Ahead of round 17 they had not lost one single match, and Alain tells that he has sworn not to change his trousers until that happens. After round 12 they were 2nd in the overall butler, and after round 15 they are 3rd, just in case somebody would think that they could underestimate a lady player.



My husband and I are professionals. We teach bridge, mainly to private clients, we play with them, and a few times per year we organise bridge travels. Besides that

we play but you do not make money out of that. The important thing is the enthusiasm. Bridge has to be fun. Our daily life for sure is nice and much more important to us than the big championships, but we have a wonderful team which has played together now for four years. We know each other completely so now we know how to react if somebody has a crisis. We have known how to deal with adversity and to relax when we are not playing.

Belgium rarely placed in the top but we think that we stand a chance. Our best result was being in the quarter finals of the Maastricht Olympiad, losing to England despite leading by 40 IMPs ahead of the last 16 boards. A huge disappointment.

I was born in Casablanca, Morocco, by French parents. I learned bridge as a young girl and played a lot. I was only 19 when I married another of the players in our team, Guy Polet, and we soon got two children. My mother helped me so that I could continue playing bridge at a high level even then. Even if Guy and I were later divorced it causes no problems today. We are good friends playing in the same team.

There is a huge difference between bridge in the Open and the Ladies series. I had played a couple of times in the national ladies team, and it was a shock when I first played in the Open on Malta. Everything is much more aggressive but you soon get used to it and enjoy it. Moreover, most men are somewhat "macho" playing against women. She will not bid like that, she could not play like that, they continuously underestimate you, and whatever you do you will still be considered a weakness to the team. But let them believe it. That will only give us more points!

Women will stay weaker for as long as they play in the Ladies series, and many of them have a bad mentality losing their composure too easily. It is no problem to be selected for the Belgium Open team as there is a selection tournament. For this year it was a pairs' event, and the two best pairs could choose their third pair.

We play a French major five card system with Dutch openings at the two level, and between championships we hardly play internationally but we have a good cooperation with the Netherlands. We compete very aggressively, Alain even more than I and if it backfires on some occasions we do not care. We know that

partner is friendly and understanding, and you could only play at a high level if you have exactly that relation to your partner. I simply do not understand those pairs where one player is only too ready to accuse the other of making the mistakes.

Asked about good hands Carcassonne and Labaere do not point to brilliancies but to hands with competitive bidding which they find fascinating and a strong side of their game. Like this one from the match against Croatia:

Dealer East. All Vul

♠ A Q 9 8 5 4 3

♥ -

♦ J 8 5

♣ 9 7 6

♠ 6

♥ A K Q 9

♦ Q 6

♣ Q J 10 8 5 4



♠ K 10 7

♥ 8 7 5 4 3

♦ 4 2

♣ A 3 2

♠ J 2

♥ J 10 6 2

♦ A K 10 9 7 3

♣ K

West	North	East	South
Carcassonne		Labaere	
2♣	4♠	Pass	1♦
4NT!	Dble	5♣	Pass
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

North can make 4♠ so if West had passed Belgium would have suffered a heavy loss as their pair in the other room had stopped in 3♠. But West did not give in. 4NT showed 6-4 in the unbid suits. 5♣ doubled is a good sacrifice but of course it was even better that North took the push to go down one. +170 and +200 for a gain of 7 IMPs instead of a loss of 10.

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Scottish Open Team



Profiles

by Ian Crorie (npc)

John Matheson - 56, retired Doctor from Lenzie, near Glasgow. John is the team's theoretician. When the late Hugh Kelsey needed someone to check his analysis it was usually John he turned to; you will find his name in the acknowledgements section of many of Kelsey's books. John's own book "Improve your Opening Leads" is still available in bookstores for those of you needing help in that area.

Malcolm Cuthbertson - 36, Insurance Administrator from Edinburgh. Malcolm is the team's champion pacer, coming a close second nationally to our Ladies Team npc, Roy Bennett. We estimate he will wear out two or three carpets at these Championships. He plays at great speed too and invariably the right card.

David Walker - 42, Maths Teacher from Edinburgh. Dave is the rock of the team, in the sense that he often sits motionless at the table for what seems like centuries. He has a sense of humour too. One opposing team captain refused his player a sweet, on the grounds that he had to play well to deserve one. Dave asked if that was why he had so many left.

John Murdoch - 57, Librarian from Alloa. The team stoic. Dave and John were very unlucky to miss out on Maastricht due to being stuck with their npc as a teammate in the play-off but I see signs that they are ready to forgive me any day now. If you still have to play against John, ask him to tell you his Russell Crowe joke.

Les Steel - 43, Computer Expert from Edinburgh. Our only player with previous experience in this event, having partnered Barnett Shenkin for Great Britain in Menton. Les recently ended a run of consecutive Camrose caps that stretched back for 12 years. He has mellowed a little and even admits to the occasional mistake at the table now. The last was in 1998 if I remember correctly.

Willie Whittaker - Ageless, Undisclosed from London. Willie does something involving bridge and backgammon in London but whatever it is he manages to keep body and soul together. That he has nothing but kind words to describe his partner, Les, is testament both to his wonderful nature and his appalling lack of judgement.

James "Bif" McGeorge (Coach) - Young and ruggedly handsome, Management Accountant from Edinburgh. Bif is taking his duties as Coach so seriously that he expects to visit each bar in Arona no more than once, a considerable sacrifice compared with previous Championships. Since he is the npc's regular partner he suffers at bridge events too regularly to deserve any criticism here.

Ian Crorie (npc) - 44, Computer Expert from Edinburgh. The only past European champion on the team, assuming that the 8 1/2 table journalist pairs at Menton counts (and Hans-Olof Hallen sensibly played most of the hands himself). Strengths are shuffling and estimating matchpoint scores, neither of which skill has come in useful yet, but you never know.

SPORTS NEWS

Water Polo

At the European Championships in Budapest, Men's Semi-finals:

Yugoslavia 8 - 6 Croatia, Italy 8 - 7 Hungary

Cricket

Australia crushed Pakistan in the final of the one-day series. Having bowled Pakistan out for 152, Australia reached 156-1 in the 27th over.



Meanwhile, West Indies defeated Zimbabwe in their one-day match: West Indies 266/5, Zimbabwe 239/9.

Formula One



Michael Schumacher's early lap of 1:14.960 gives Ferrari their first pole at the European Grand Prix. The result leaves younger brother Ralf in second for Williams with 1:15.226 and Colombian Juan Pablo Montoya in third with 1:15.490 for Williams.

Rugby Union



The British Lions defeated New South Wales by 41-24 in a match marred by fighting and rough play, resulting in one red card and a series of yellows.

Golf



Karrie Webb raced three strokes clear of the field by firing a seven-under-par 64 in the second round of the McDonald's LPGA Championship at DuPont Country Club. She finished 11-under-par, three ahead of overnight leader Wendy Ward of the U.S. and Sweden's Helen Alfredsson. Britain's Laura Davies and American Michelle Redman (66) were another shot back.

Tennis

Lindsay Davenport has shown she will be a force to be reckoned when Wimbledon starts next week. The American, who has just recovered from a knee injury, took only 43 minutes to win her first Eastbourne grass court title, destroying Spain's Maoui Serna 6-2 6-0.

Thomas Johannson has won his second title in a week with a comfortable straight sets victory, 7-5, 6-3, over Harel Levy at the Nottingham Open. Belgian teenager, Justine Henin beat compatriot Kim Clijsters in the final of the Heineken Trophy in the Netherlands. The 19-year-old picked up her third title of the season as she overcame the French Open finalist 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.



Cycling



Kazakhstan rider Alexandre Vinokourov won the third stage of the Tour de Suisse. The Deutsche Telekom rider timed his attack to perfection on the final climb on the 144-kilometre (89-mile) stage, storming ahead of Giro d'Italia winner Gilberto Simoni and Laurent Jalabert. Italian Gianluca Bortolami finished two minutes and 20 seconds adrift but he retains the leader's yellow jersey.

Hand of the Day

By Svend Novrup, e-bridge correspondent

Midsummer is something special in countries where the nights are short during the summer while the sun is hardly seen during the winter. Add to that the fact that Sweden and Finland are fierce opponents in local derbies in many sports. We could mention ice hockey, soccer, athletics - and bridge, of course.

Their mutual encounter on this occasion was on the day of midsummer and was as hard fought as ever. Sweden, who are always favourites, took an early lead but late in the match Finland fought back and the result was a narrow 16-14 victory for Sweden.

Contributing to the Finnish catch-up was this board, extremely well bid by North/South, Koistinen/Kiemi of Finland, after which Koistinen went on to be one of the very few to make the contract - we do not know yet if he was the only one in the field.

Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ 8 5 4 3 ♥ J 10 6 3 ♦ 9 ♣ J 10 5 4	♠ K Q 7 6 2 ♥ K ♦ A 8 7 2 ♣ Q 3 2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 5px auto;"> N W E S </div> ♠ A J ♥ A 9 7 4 ♦ J 10 5 4 ♣ A K 7	♠ 10 9 ♥ Q 8 5 2 ♦ K Q 6 3 ♣ 9 8 6
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South 1♣ 2♣ 2♠ 3NT Pass	North 1NT 2♦ 2NT 6NT
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1♣ showed 17+ HCP, 1NT more than 8 HCP and 2♣ was a relay, showing either a balanced hand or a hand with clubs. After that all bids were natural (2NT forcing, of course!).

East opened aggressively with the ♥2 to the king, and now Koistinen was able to cash winners to reach this position:

♠ - ♥ - ♦ A 8 7 2 ♣ - ♠ - ♥ J 10 ♦ 9 ♣ J	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 5px auto;"> N W E S </div> ♠ - ♥ A ♦ J 10 5 ♣ -	♠ - ♥ Q ♦ K Q 6 ♣ -
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To ♥A, East followed with the queen, after which Koistinen ran the ♦J to East who was forced to lead away from his other honour, presenting the Finn with his twelfth trick. As 6♠ went down in the other room, this was a gain of 16 IMPs for Finland, ensuring that both nations could have nice midsummer night's dreams, as Heinz Guthwerth who came to report the hand, tells us. Thanks, Heinz!

Versace 3NT Revisited

by Maureen Dennison

Against the Netherlands, Giancarlo Zucchini of Liechtenstein, sitting West, was also faced with the problem of garnering nine tricks on Board 8 from Round 10. With no interference he and his partner Piero Fornaro, bid the hand, 1♦ - 1♠ - 2NT - 3♣ - 3♥ - 3♠ - 3NT.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 7 2 ♥ A K J 7 ♦ A Q J 4 ♣ K 9 5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 5px auto;"> N W E S </div> ♠ A J 4 ♥ 8 6 3 2 ♦ 10 9 6 5 ♣ Q 4	♠ K 9 8 5 3 ♥ Q 10 9 ♦ 3 ♣ J 10 6 2
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North, Gert-Jan Paulissen, also led a small diamond round to the jack. Declarer led a heart to the nine and the next trick was ♣J - four(!) five, ace. Now declarer has nine tricks but, when North exited with his second heart, Declarer could not unscramble the club blockage to reach them. He found an elegant solution. He took the heart on the table and led a low club to the queen and his king. He now cashed his last two hearts, which put North under pressure. Paulissen threw the six and then queen of spades and dummy a low spade. Next West led ♠2 to ten and five. South overtook to lead a diamond through. However, Zucchini rose with the ace, overtook the club nine with the ten and threw North on lead with ♣8. North had to lead from ♦K8 into declarer's ♦Q4!

Championship Diary

The Editor reports on the daily events at and around the Championship venue.

Saturday 23 June 2001

A glance at the Women's Championship cross table on the www.eurobridge.org web site suggests that the final stages will be very exciting as the leading teams have only played a handful of matches amongst themselves.

Hackett's Horses for today are Grand Slam in the 17.05 at Perth - possibly doubled with King of Trumps in the 14.25 at Lingfield.

Ton Kooijman told us that he eventually convinced Tenerife to provide some caddies for essential tasks. He felt quite relieved at being able to give the Italian staff and Tournament Directors more time for their own duties.



INTERVIEW

A Direct Line with Maria-Teresa Lavazza



Q. You are the first woman in Europe who is captaining a national Open team; could it be that this job of paving the way is not only gratifying, but also a bit uncomfortable?

A. I would not say uncomfortable, but certainly it is causing some stress. Though I have only been leading teams consisting of males so far, for the first time I am feeling the burden of responsibility...if things are not going as they should, I might even get into a crisis...

Q. You definitely are an attractive woman. To what extent has that been a factor in your life so far?

A. I think this may well have been favourable to me from many points of view, though I never considered it a special force, because my behaviour and mentality are rather masculine. I also realise that when you have this advantage, you tend to ignore and depreciate it. To get a more balanced reply you should ask this same question to those who are less gifted by Mother Nature in this respect.

Q. What is the most complicated aspect of being a captain?

A. To try and create a team spirit, without internal rivalries, and strong enough to survive any possible negative moments. Even more delicate is the job of selecting the four who are going to play in any single match: it's not only picking those whom you think are in best form, but also to assure that the two who are sitting out will graciously accept this.

Q. Did you ever regret that you were not born as a man?

A. I have to say no, but I have to admit that my life as a woman has been clearly privileged, thanks to my economical independence and a certain will power since I was young. To feel O.K. about yourself as a woman, it is fundamental that you first accept and respect your own opinions and next that your personality is strong enough to act accordingly. As it happens, all women have not yet reached this stage.

Q. What has been the most difficult thing for you: being a daughter, a mother, a wife or a captain?

A. Without doubt being a good mother, also because my sons are and will remain the most important thing in my life.

Q. What can drive you furious?

A. When I do not win!

Q. How would you like other people to talk about you?

A. I get a bad feeling when they call me haughty, or aloof. In fact, I am only distracted, very distracted, and as a result many people are thinking I am a quite different person than I am in reality.

Q. Women and bridge: the two don't go very well together...

A. I am not pleased to have to admit it, but I will not tell anything new when I say that women in general have less talent for the game than men. In general our character does not combine very well

with this type of activity: less concentration power, excessive antagonism, less strong nerves.

Q. Your weakest and strongest points?

A. I get furious too quickly but I also am very generous.

Q. Do you sleep badly before or after an important match?

A. Long ago, I nearly never slept the night before a match, but, getting older and more experienced, I was fortunate enough to lose this quite useless habit. At present, I only sleep badly after a match that did not go well.

Q. Is there anything in bridge that does not please you?

A. There are a few players whom you cannot trust and who behave in an unsporting manner.

Q. And is there anything that is still fascinating you, after so many years?

A. The more you play and win, the more you want to win. It looks as if it will never be enough. The desire to go on trying to win always and at every opportunity, even at the smallest local tournament, never leaves you.

Q. You get the chance to clone a super bridge player. You have all players of the world at your disposal. Whom would you choose and why?

A. I think that we would create a real phenomenon if we could bring together into one player the genius of Garozzo, the technique of Meckwell and the ability to almost never make any mistakes of Perron.

Mabel Bocchi

The Cross Table of the Open Teams on this page
is situated on the official EBL web site:

www.eurobridge.org

