

Daily Bulletin

46th European Bridge
Teams Championships

Salsomaggiore Terme - Italy
15th - 29th June 2002

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Bulletin I

Sunday, 16 June 2002

Sizzling Salso !



Edition 46 gets under way

A brilliantly orchestrated opening ceremony, hosted by **Annamaria Torlontano**, marked the opening of the *46th European Bridge Championships*, the seventieth anniversary edition, on what had been a gloriously sunny day. Speeches of welcome by **Adriano Grolli**, the *Mayor of Salsomaggiore*, and **Gianarrigo Rona**, *President of the EBL*, were followed by a spectacular presentation of the flags of the competing nations via of a display of roller skating from the same schoolchildren who had earlier performed the Bridge Rap.

It was then time for Gianarrigo to formally declare the Championships open.

Bonne Chance!

Antidoping test

Antidoping tests will take place on Thursday 20th June:

Open Series at 20:30

Women's Series at 11:30

Three players in the Open series and three players in the Women's series will be chosen by the Appeals' Committee by random draw on Wednesday 19th June at 12:00. Team Captains are welcome to be present at the draw.

Badges

As a security precaution, **BADGES MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES.**

No one will be allowed to enter the Congress Center without displaying his badge. Badges are issued by reception upon receipt of a properly completed Security Form which requires, among other information, your Passport or Identity Card number.

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Welcome Message from the President



Gianarrigo Rona
European Bridge League President

Dear friends,

Good afternoon and welcome to Salsomaggiore. For many of you this is a return visit to Salsomaggiore, which since 1979 has hosted many European and World events. For others it is your first time, but I hope that for all of you it will be an occasion to enjoy the town's warm hospitality and friendship.

Since 1978 Salsomaggiore has been the home of Italian bridgeplayers, who come here five or six times a year to play the Italian Championships, and for them it would be impossible to think of changing to another venue, because Salsomaggiore really is a "town made for bridge". I hope when you go back home you will feel this way too.

We have worked very hard to organise this event in the best way possible and I wish to thank the whole Town of Salsomaggiore, led by my great friend, the Mayor, Adriano Grolli, the Organising Committee, led by Vittorio Brandonisio, the Tournament Committee, led by my "brother" Jean-Claude Beineix, and the Congress Centre staff led by Attilio Ricci. There are 112 people working for us: an impressive number of people, which gives one a good idea of the work done behind the scenes.

This year the event is particularly important as we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the European Teams Championships which started in Scheveningen in 1932. During the Championship we will have a special celebration to mark the anniversary and I am sure you will all attend to honour our great Champions, winners of the European Teams Championships, and Officers who opened the way for us and gave us the right guidelines. It will be a fantastic celebration to show our spirit of friendship, solidarity, aggregation, without barriers of any kind. This is the message that our great Champions and Officers gave to us and that we are proud to try to perpetuate. It is difficult for me to pronounce correctly these words - since, as you can clearly tell, English is not my mother-tongue - but believe me, my heart does so perfectly.

Thank you, dear friends, for your attention. Now I leave the stage to you, declaring officially open the 46th European Bridge Teams Championships.

Bonne chance!

Additional Conditions of Contest

Pursuant to the provision of Condition L the following additions provisions are added to the conditions of contest of the Open, Women's and Senior Team Championships:

D. Ethics

5. Leaving the table during the bidding and play.
No player may leave the table during the bidding. Dummy may leave the table after the opening lead has been made with the consent of his screen-mate.
6. No "Time Out"
A player may leave the table between hands to go to the lavatory or to get a drink. But no partnership may leave the table together and no partnership may have any discussion during the match except through the screen aperture (between hands) in the presence of their opponents.

Mobile Phones - Spot Checks

Team Captains and Players, Scorers and Kibitzers are reminded that Mobile Phones may not be brought into the playing area and toilets.

In order to ensure that this regulation is strictly adhered to there will be random spot checks of all the members of a team, including the captain and scorer at the start of each match. Teams are asked to co-operate with these spot checks which will include a search of personal belongings.

Mobile phones may be left with Reception for the duration of the match.

In the News

The Gazzetta Di Parma - a snip at Euro 0.88 - will be carrying a daily report on the Championships.

Israel - Lebanon

The Executive Committee recognises that in the current international political situation it is impossible for Lebanon to play against Israel. The Executive Committee also recognises that the Israeli team is ready and willing to play against Lebanon.

In the circumstances Lebanon will not be penalised for not playing against Israel and the two teams will be allotted the following scores for their match:

Israel: 18VP or the average of its score against all other teams, rounded to the nearest half VP, whichever is the greater

Lebanon: the average of its score against all other teams, rounded to the nearest half VP.

Panos Gerontopoulos
EBL Honorary Secretary

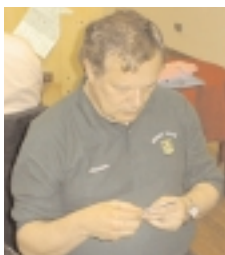
I PROFILI DEGLI AZZURRI

Si gioca contro la statistica e per la storia.

Già pronto il filo delle lame, diamo una lustratina alle medaglie in bacheca.

Francesco Angelini

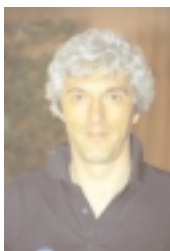
56 anni, romano. Imprenditore industriale. Gioca da quattro anni in coppia con Antonio Sementa. Tesserato per il Tennis Club Parioli Roma, in ambito italiano ha conquistato quattro volte la Coppa Italia (94 - 96 - 99 - 2001) e, nei Campionati italiani a Squadre, due ori (95 - 99), tre argenti (96 - 98 - 2001) e un bronzo (2002). In ambito internazionale, ha conquistato nel 1998 la Rosemblum e nel 1999 il Grand Prix IOC.



Ai Campionati Europei a Squadre 2002 di Salsomaggiore il suo esordio in maglia azzurra.

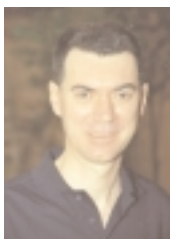
Norberto Bocchi

41 anni, parmense. World Life Master ed European Grand Master. Gioca in coppia con Giorgio Duboin. Con l'Associazione Allegra di Torino: otto volte campione italiano a Squadre ('86 - '91 - '96 - '97 - '98 - 2000 - 2001 - 2002), tre nel Misto ('85 - '88 - '91), sei vincitore della Coppa Italia ('84 - '86 - '90 - '91 - '98). Per dieci anni al primo posto della classifica individuale dei giocatori italiani. In azzurro, ha vinto tre Europei a Squadre ('97 - '99 - 2001), un argento nel Coppie ('99) e l'oro alle Olimpiadi (2000). Nel suo palmarès anche due primi posti nel MEC a Coppie ('89 - '96), due nei Nationals Americani (Reisinger 2000, Spingold 2001) e nel Forbo Teams (2001 - 2002), uno al Politiken World Pairs (2000), e all'Australian Summer National Open Teams (2001).



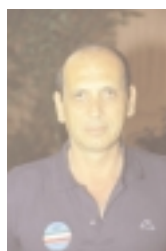
Giorgio Duboin

43 anni, torinese. World Life master ed European Grand Master. Gioca in coppia con Norberto Bocchi. Tra i migliori junior del mondo, ha conquistato un oro nel MEC a Squadre ('79), un titolo europeo ('80), e due titoli italiani a Squadre ('78 - '84). Con la nazionale Open ha vinto tre ori nel MEC a Coppie ('85 - '87 - '96), uno nello Squadre ('83), tre agli Europei a Squadre ('97 - '99 - 2001), uno nel Coppie ('99) e un titolo olimpico (2000), un Europeo Misto a Squadre (2002). Con la Società Allegra di Torino, nove Assoluti a Squadre ('82 - '87 - '91 - '96 - '97 - '98 - 2000 - 2001 - 2002) e cinque Coppe Italia ('83 - '90 - '91 - '97 - '98). Nel suo palmarès anche due ori nei Nationals Americani (Reisinger 2000 e Spingold 2001) e nel Forbo Teams (2001 - 2002), uno al Politiken World Pairs (2000), e all'Australian Summer NOT (2001).



Lorenzo Lauria

55 anni, romano. World Grand Master ed European Grand Master. L'attuale partner è Alfredo Versace e da due stagioni mili-



ta nella Società Allegra di Torino, dopo avere militato a lungo per la formazione Angelini. Nel 1979 i primi due importanti successi in azzurro: l'oro agli Europei a Squadre e l'argento nella Bermuda Bowl. In seguito, sempre in nazionale, altri tre titoli continentali ('95 - '97 - 2001), lo IOC Grand Prix ('99 - 2002), l'oro olimpico (2000). Vincitore di cinque Coppe Italia ('74 - '80 - '94 - '96 - '99) e di otto titoli italiani ('82 - '89 - '92 - '93 - '95 - '99 - 2001 -

2002), ha inoltre conquistato due volte il Cavendish Teams ('96 - '97), la Rosemblum Cup ('98), La Reisinger Cup (2000), la Spingold Cup (2001), il Forbo Teams (2001 - 2002), l'Australian Summer NOT (2001).

Antonio Sementa

34 anni, parmense. World Master. Gioca da quattro anni con Francesco Angelini. Nel 1992 il suo primo importante successo in maglia azzurra agli Europei a Squadre Juniores. Nel '95 vince con la nazionale Open il titolo continentale a Squadre e, nello stesso anno, il bronzo in quello a Coppie. Sempre in campo internazionale, conquista nel '98 la Rosemblum, nel '99 il Grand Prix IOC e nel 2000 l'oro ai Campionati Mondiali Individuali di Atene. In ambito italiano, ha conquistato con la formazione Angelini due Coppe Italia ('99 - 2001) e negli Assoluti a Squadre un oro ('99), due argenti ('98 - 2001) e un bronzo (2002).



Alfredo Versace

32 anni, torinese. World Grand Master ed European Grand Master. L'attuale partner è Lorenzo Lauria. E' stato uno dei più forti juniores del mondo e, dopo diversi anni passati a Roma, giocando per la squadra Angelini, da due stagioni è ritornato nella Società Allegra di Torino con la quale ha raggiunto i primi importanti successi della sua prestigiosa carriera. Nella categoria juniores il migliore risultato l'ha ottenuto ai Campionati Europei a Squadre del '92 e nel MEC a Coppie del '93, dove ha conquistato l'oro. Con la nazionale Open, altri tre titoli continentali ('95 - '97 - 2001), due IOC Grand Prix ('99 - 2002), l'oro olimpico (2000), un Europeo Misto a Squadre (2002). Vincitore di cinque Coppe Italia ('90 - '91 - '94 - '96 - '99) e di otto titoli italiani ('85 - '88 - '91 - '93 - '95 - '99 - 2001 - 2002), ha inoltre conquistato due volte il Cavendish Teams ('96 - '97) e il Forbo Teams (2001 - 2002), la Rosemblum Cup ('98), La Reisinger Cup (2000), la Spingold Cup (2001), l'Australian Summer NOT (2001).



The Really Beautiful Game

The journey of a lifetime in the form of a trip to Bali to contest the 2003 World Championships is the goal for the teams competing in the 2002 European Team Championships.

The French Open Tennis Championships, Formula 1, Wimbledon, The Derby, and the World Cup set June alight in a blaze of sport. The build up to all these great contests seems to last forever, dominating the headlines everywhere. Now comes for us the real highlight, the Premiership and Series A of bridge rolled into one, the toughest challenge of all, the European Team Championships 2002.

The twin questions on everyone's lips are 'Who will win and who will qualify?'

Let's see if we can provide the answers.

Open

With home advantage reigning Champions Italy will take some stopping. They took some time to get into their stride in Tenerife, but still emerged as winners. Boards like this helped them on their way:

Dealer West. All Vul

♠ -		♠ 10 5 3 2									
♥ A K 10 8		♥ Q J 6 5 2									
♦ 9 7 6 5 4 2		♦ -									
♣ A 4 2		♣ J 10 5 3									
	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; 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 6									
		♥ 7 4 3									
		♦ Q J 8 3									
		♣ K Q 8 6									

West	North	East	South
Whittaker	Bocchi	Steel	Duboin
1♦	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

East led the queen of hearts but West did not overtake, so the contract was in no danger. When East played a second heart declarer had eleven tricks, +990.

West	North	East	South
Ferraro	Cuthbertson	De Falco	Matheson
1♦	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

This time East led the jack of hearts, his normal card from his holding and from J10 combinations. West could see the ten, so he overtook and played the two of diamonds. Two ruffs and the ace of clubs meant one down and +200.

It would be a brave man who would bet against another Italian triumph but...

Russia is a real force and they will be hoping to improve on their fourth place in Tenerife. They can certainly handle the



Giorgio Duboin, Italy

dummy, as this deal demonstrates to perfection:

Dealer East. East/West Vul

♠ K Q 10 9		♠ 8 7 2									
♥ J 5 3		♥ K 9 6									
♦ Q 7 4 2		♦ K 10									
♣ 8 7		♣ K 10 9 6 4									
♠ J 6 5 4 3											
♥ Q 2											
♦ J 9 3											
♣ J 5 3											
	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; 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									
		♥ A 10 8 7 4									
		♦ A 8 6 5									
		♣ A Q 2									

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Gromov	Bocchi	Petrinin
Pass	INT	Pass	1♣*
Pass	3♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♠

West led a spade and after winning with the ace declarer led a diamond and put up the queen when West played low. In the other room Versace had ducked, and made his game easily enough when East won and returned the king of diamonds by winning and playing two rounds of trumps. East took the queen and returned the suit. Declare won and played a third round, leaving West on play. On the club return he took the king with the ace and led a low heart. West played low without a flicker and East took the jack with the king and played a club to South's queen.

Declarer had already seen East produce three kings, but he had passed as dealer. Out came the ace of hearts, felling the queen, earning a round of applause from the VuGraph audience.

Russia will surely be one of the qualifiers.

Bulgaria has been making steady progress over the last few years and is likely to be up with the pace – this deal will show you why:

Dealer North. North/South Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Karaivanov	Gromov	Trendafilov	Petrinin
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♦*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	3♠	Pass
6♣	All Pass	5♦*	Pass

Two Hearts showed clubs so Three Diamonds was fourth suit forcing.

North led the jack of spades and declarer drew trumps and played the ten of clubs to the king and ace. South switched to the three of hearts, but declarer won with the ace and played a heart to the ten. Dummy's hearts took care of the losing diamonds and +980 was worth 11 IMPs.

Poland will be on everyone's list for a top five finish. They can



Adam Zmundzinski, Poland

take any team apart - last time they trounced Italy 57-27.

Dealer South. East/West Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Kwicien	Lauria	Pszczola	Versace
Dble	3♠	Pass	1♠
5♣	Pass	Pass	4♣
All Pass			Dble

Declarer finished the obvious one down, -100.

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Balicki	Bocchi	Zmundzinski
Dble	3♠	Pass	1♠
5♣	Pass	Pass	4♥
Dble	All Pass		5♠

Zmundzinski felt that facing four trumps he might well make eleven tricks - and right he was. +650 for Poland and 11 IMPs.

Norway will be regarded as 100% certainties to finish in the top five - just as France was to reach stage two of the World Cup - but then the Norwegians are unlikely to be affected by injuries to their squad.

Geir Helgemo is the focus of attention but Tor Helness knows a thing or two, as witness this deal from the 1993 Championships.

Dealer East. North/South Game

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brunzell</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Nielsen</i>	<i>Helness</i>
		INT	Dble
Rdble	2♣	Dble	Pass
Pass	Rdble	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		



Geir Helgemo, Norway

Helgemo bid Two Clubs planning to redouble for rescue - but Tor's leap to Four Spades was something of a surprise. West led the king of hearts and East might have overtaken that and returned the suit. When he played low West played a second heart to East's ace. Declarer won the trump switch and drew a second round. He needed three rounds of clubs to survive, so he cashed the ace and king and then played the jack. When West declined to ruff with the master trump it was all over. A heart went from the dummy and another on the queen of clubs as West ruffed - one trick too late.

Who else can we expect to be in at the shake up?

Denmark, France and Sweden are never far away, and they all have powerful squads this time. Every tipster should provide a few good outsiders, so watch out for Austria, Belgium, England, Greece, The Netherlands & Spain.

And keep in mind that every team is capable of causing an upset - which is why these are the toughest Championships.

Women

It's a mystery why the Women's Championship is not graced by more teams, but there is no shortage of quality.

England is the holder and can be expected to put up a stout defence of their title. They were in great form in Tenerife, where this deal caught the eye of Alan Truscott and appeared in his column in the New York Times.

Dealer South. All Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>McQuaker</i>	<i>Goldenfield</i>	<i>McGowan</i>	<i>Brunner</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

West led a diamond and after winning with the ace in dummy declarer cashed the top spades and ruffed a spade. She cashed the ace of clubs to reach this position:

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

A low trump caught West by surprise. She played low but only after a slight hesitation that told declarer what to do. She put up the jack of clubs and played winning spades and the queen of clubs was the only trick for the defence.

It would not have helped West to go up with the queen but an in tempo play of the four would have given South a chance to go wrong.

Making a slam was rather good as at the other table Five Clubs failed.

West led the jack of hearts, covered all round. Declarer crossed to the ace of diamonds, came back to hand with a trump and cashed the king of diamonds, discarding a heart. Now she gave up a heart. East won and played another heart, forcing

dummy to ruff while West discarded a spade and when declarer played three rounds of spades ruffing low, West overruffed and exited with the queen of clubs to leave declarer with a losing diamond.

Germany will be among the favourites to win the title but they have a habit of starting poorly and last time they had to work hard to secure a medal. However, as reigning Venice Cup Champions they are on everyone's list. Pony Nehmert is just one of their stars. Here she is in action in Malta in 1999.

Dealer South. Game All

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

West	North	East	South
Ozan	Auken	Altinok	von Arnim
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	5♦

North's Two Diamonds promised a heart suit and Four Diamonds was a splinter. Hoping to set up a club trick East led the four of clubs. Sabine Auken, playing just a week after the birth of her second son (!) won with the king and drew trumps, taking a couple of diamond ruffs along the way before claiming twelve tricks.

West	North	East	South
Rauscheid	Aykut	Nehmert	Kara
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	5♦

When South denied any key cards in response to the Four No-Trump enquiry Pony Nehmert was sure the king of spades would be with South. Her partner could not have much in the way of high cards so she led the ace of spades. Her partner's nine promised an odd number but North's opening bid told East what she wanted to know. A second spade allowed West to ruff, 17 IMPs for Germany.

France is in great form and may well be the team to beat this time.

Catherine d'Ovidio is one of their brightest stars. Here she is in action at the recent Mixed championships in Ostend:

Dealer North. All Vul

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

After East opened One Spade South came to rest in 3NT. West led the three of spades and when East put in the jack South won with the king.

With eight tricks in sight the obvious thing is to finesse in diamonds through the opening bidder but Catherine realised that she could do better and played off her winning clubs. What could East discard?

She must keep the ace of hearts and four spades and therefore only two diamonds. So, when declarer then played off the



Sabine Auken, Germany

top diamonds the queen fell - not by magic but by skill.

Who else will be in the race?

The Netherlands took the silver medals last time and Israel will surely do well and Italy must be a threat playing at home. What I hear you say, no mention of mighty Austria? They are missing three of their stars, so they, along with Russia and Sweden are my dark horses.

Seniors

This is going to be a tough event, featuring as it does some outstanding players.

England must be in with a chance, and they include the redoubtable John Collings, who won a silver medal in the 1981 Championships. Here is a famous deal from that event:

Dealer South. All Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Rose	Dumbovich	Sheehan	Kovacs
Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass
2♥	3♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	4♠

Declarer won the ten of clubs lead and cashed the ace and queen of spades before playing the king of diamonds. He only needed diamonds to be 5-1, but West was able to ruff and cash the ace of hearts.

West	North	East	South
Hackett		Collings	
Pass	1♦*	Pass	Pass
Dble	Rdble	2♣	Pass*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♥*
Dble	3♠*	Pass	4♠*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♦*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Paul Hackett and John Collings were playing Walpurgis Club, a weird system that only they understood. Colling's initial pass promised 9-12 points and although he refused to co operate in North's initial slam investigation of Three Spades, he dutifully showed his assets in response to his partner's subsequent efforts.

West led the jack of clubs and declarer won and cashed the ace of spades. Now Collings played a heart and when East played low he was able to claim his contract, as he could not be prevented from ruffing a heart high in dummy. It was enough to win Collings the Bols Brilliancy prize in 1981

France has a terrific team and is sure to do well. Two of their stars were on the French team that won the Olympiad here in

Salsomaggiore in 1992.

Dealer South. Game All

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

Six Clubs is clearly the top spot as you may be able to cope with various bad breaks. However it is not so easy to get there as this effort demonstrates:

West	North	East	South
Milovic		Kostic	
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

Declarer was lucky to find this had any play at all - just reverse East's holdings in the minor suits - and although he located the queen of clubs the 4-2 heart break meant he had to go one down.

West	North	East	South
Adad		Aujaleu	
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	6♣	All Pass

When West started with Two Diamonds East used a series of relays to discover his partner was 5-4-0-4 with bad clubs. However, since the minimum holding West was permitted to have had to include the ♣10 it was a simple matter for East to choose the best contract. On the lead of the eight of hearts declarer won and took a winning view in clubs for +1390.

With Israel, Poland and Italy all having strong sides it is anyone's guess who will mount the rostrum. The chances of Denmark, Germany and Sweden should not be discounted.

So, there you have it. An all too brief guide to just some of the mighty teams and individuals that make up the greatest bridge show on earth.

Captains Meeting
 The meeting will take place at 11.30 in
 the Congress Room on the second floor.