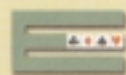




46th European Bridge
Teams Championships

Salsomaggiore Terme - Italy
15th - 29th June 2002



Daily Bulletin

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PDF version, courtesy of EBL

Bulletin 11

Wednesday, 26 June 2002

Record Breaking Victory in Sight

Despite losing to **Poland** in their final match of the day, **Italy** continued their inevitable march towards victory in the Open series. They increased their lead at the top to 76VP. **Spain** is the new leader of the peloton while **Bulgaria** and **Norway** are tied for third, ahead of fifth placed **Poland**. The teams in the next six places still have time to stake a claim, but it will be no surprise if the teams currently holding one of the top five positions are still there at the end.

In the Women's series the overnight leaders **Germany** survived a difficult day where they had to play **England** and **France**, and remain at the top of the table. However, their lead over the chasing teams has been reduced, with second placed **Netherlands** only 8VP behind. **England** is third, another 4 points away, with **Denmark** fourth and **Norway** and **Sweden** tied for fifth.

The Seniors continues to be a close run thing, but the defeat of **France** by **England** means that **Denmark** has taken over the lead, albeit by just two points. **Israel** is a further three points behind, and it looks as if the Gold medals rest between the three leading teams.

VICTORY BANQUET

The Victory Banquet will be held in the Salone Moresco (Palazzo dei Congressi) immediately after the Prize-Giving Ceremony in the Auditorium.

All Team Captains are kindly requested to collect invitations for their teams from the Hospitality and Information Desk NO LATER THAN 19:00 today.

Players, Captains and Coaches are entitled to receive tickets up to a maximum of 8 tickets per team. NBO Presidents and their spouses are also invited. IBPA-registered journalists are entitled to receive tickets and should request these from the Press Room Manager, Mrs. Elly Ducheyne, before the above-mentioned deadline.

Extra tickets for accompanying guests are available at a cost of 45 Euro.

Today's VuGraph Matches

OPEN TEAMS - Round 28

Austria v Turkey 10.30

OPEN TEAMS - Round 29

Bulgaria v Iceland 14.15

SENIOR TEAMS - Round 16

Israel v France 17.35

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OPEN TEAMS RESULTS**ROUND 25**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	POLAND	SCOTLAND	57 - 26	21 - 9
2	HUNGARY	MONACO	56 - 16	23 - 7
3	FINLAND	ITALY	30 - 50	11 - 19
4	IRELAND	CZECH REP	36 - 35	15 - 15
5	ISRAEL	LEBANON	0 - 0	18 - 15
6	FRANCE	PORTUGAL	22 - 39	11 - 19
7	SWITZERLAND	SLOVENIA	51 - 32	19 - 11
8	FAROE ISLANDS	DENMARK	12 - 51	7 - 23
9	CYPRUS	UKRAINE	50 - 72	10 - 20
10	BULGARIA	SWEDEN	25 - 57	8 - 22
11	ENGLAND	GREECE	31 - 60	9 - 21
12	TURKEY	NETHERLANDS	17 - 43	10 - 20
13	YUGOSLAVIA	BELGIUM	14 - 57	6 - 24
14	GERMANY	ICELAND	44 - 19	20 - 10
15	NORWAY	AUSTRIA	57 - 45	17 - 13
16	CROATIA	ROMANIA	39 - 35	16 - 14
17	SAN MARINO	SPAIN	27 - 82	4 - 25
18	RUSSIA	WALES	25 - 32	14 - 16
19	LATVIA	LIECHTENSTEIN	38 - 46	14 - 16

ROUND 26

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	SWITZERLAND	LATVIA	34 - 39	14 - 16
2	SLOVENIA	FRANCE	28 - 28	15 - 15
3	PORTUGAL	ISRAEL	25 - 20	16 - 14
4	LEBANON	IRELAND	43 - 30	18 - 12
5	CZECH REP	FINLAND	33 - 29	16 - 14
6	ITALY	HUNGARY	58 - 23	22 - 8
7	MONACO	POLAND	27 - 38	13 - 17
8	SCOTLAND	RUSSIA	52 - 49	16 - 14
9	WALES	SAN MARINO	58 - 27	21 - 9
10	SPAIN	CROATIA	46 - 29	19 - 11
11	ROMANIA	NORWAY	42 - 56	12 - 18
12	AUSTRIA	GERMANY	45 - 68	10 - 20
13	ICELAND	YUGOSLAVIA	48 - 24	20 - 10
14	BELGIUM	TURKEY	44 - 54	13 - 17
15	NETHERLANDS	ENGLAND	20 - 43	10 - 20
16	GREECE	BULGARIA	47 - 22	20 - 10
17	SWEDEN	CYPRUS	110 - 11	25 - 0
18	UKRAINE	FAROE ISLANDS	31 - 60	9 - 21
19	DENMARK	LIECHTENSTEIN	54 - 21	22 - 8

ROUND 27

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	POLAND	ITALY	56 - 30	20 - 10
2	HUNGARY	CZECH REP	45 - 25	19 - 11
3	FINLAND	LEBANON	36 - 52	12 - 18
4	IRELAND	PORTUGAL	22 - 48	10 - 20
5	ISRAEL	SLOVENIA	75 - 32	24 - 6
6	FRANCE	SWITZERLAND	69 - 24	24 - 6
7	LIECHTENSTEIN	UKRAINE	39 - 49	13 - 17
8	FAROE ISLANDS	SWEDEN	42 - 54	13 - 17
9	CYPRUS	GREECE	21 - 72	5 - 25
10	BULGARIA	NETHERLANDS	23 - 36	12 - 18
11	ENGLAND	BELGIUM	41 - 14	21 - 9
12	TURKEY	ICELAND	47 - 40	16 - 14
13	YUGOSLAVIA	AUSTRIA	71 - 19	25 - 5
14	GERMANY	ROMANIA	63 - 27	22 - 8
15	NORWAY	SPAIN	15 - 67	5 - 25
16	CROATIA	WALES	32 - 68	8 - 22
17	SAN MARINO	SCOTLAND	35 - 110	1 - 25
18	RUSSIA	MONACO	24 - 90	2 - 25
19	LATVIA	DENMARK	61 - 42	19 - 11

OPEN TEAMS PROGRAM**ROUND 28****10.30**

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

ROUND 29**14.15**

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

ROUND 30**17.35**

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

OPEN TEAMS RANKING after 27 rounds

1	ITALY	575.00
2	SPAIN	499.50
3	BULGARIA	491.00
4	NORWAY	491.00
5	POLAND	481.00
6	SWEDEN	475.00
7	TURKEY	462.00
8	FRANCE	461.00
9	ISRAEL	461.00
10	ENGLAND	459.00
11	NETHERLANDS	454.00
12	ICELAND	446.00
13	WALES	426.00
14	HUNGARY	426.00
15	GERMANY	421.00
16	CZECH REP	419.00
17	DENMARK	415.00
18	RUSSIA	412.00
19	AUSTRIA	405.00
20	LEBANON	399.00
21	FINLAND	398.00
22	GREECE	397.00
23	SCOTLAND	393.00
24	ROMANIA	384.00
25	IRELAND	380.00
26	PORTUGAL	373.00
27	CROATIA	368.00
28	MONACO	366.00
29	UKRAINE	362.00
30	SLOVENIA	353.00
31	SWITZERLAND	343.00
32	BELGIUM	340.00
33	YUGOSLAVIA	332.00
34	FAROE ISLANDS	330.00
35	LIECHTENSTEIN	273.00
36	SAN MARINO	267.00
37	CYPRUS	263.00
38	LATVIA	235.00

CHAMPIONSHIP WATCHES



To mark the 70th Anniversary of these Championships the EBL has produced special commemorative watches in a limited edition. These watches may be purchased from the Bridge Partner and Danish Federation stand in the Scandinavian Pavilion of the Salone Moresco.

CHAMPIONSHIP & ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY VIDEO

Videos of the Championship and Anniversary Ceremony may be purchased by booking at the Hospitality and Information Desk. Videos cost 25 Euro (includes postage and packaging).

The first part of the video filmed so far is being shown on the screen in the lobby of the Palazzo dei Congressi, just outside the entrance to the Salone Moresco.

WOMEN TEAMS RESULTS**ROUND 14**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	AUSTRIA	DENMARK	21 - 53	8 - 22
22	ITALY	SWEDEN	14 - 38	10 - 20
23	CZECH REP.	CROATIA	30 - 48	11 - 19
24	ENGLAND	GERMANY	62 - 26	22 - 8
25	FRANCE	SCOTLAND	35 - 52	11 - 19
26	Bye	ICELAND	0 - 0	0 - 18
27	NETHERLANDS	RUSSIA	47 - 7	23 - 7
28	FINLAND	HUNGARY	43 - 32	17 - 13
29	POLAND	IRELAND	40 - 34	16 - 14
30	NORWAY	SPAIN	52 - 34	19 - 11
31	ISRAEL	FAROE ISLANDS	58 - 11	24 - 6
32	SAN MARINO	TURKEY	70 - 46	20 - 10

ROUND 15

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	DENMARK	ITALY	27 - 90	3 - 25
22	SWEDEN	CZECH REP.	42 - 39	16 - 14
23	CROATIA	ENGLAND	32 - 40	14 - 16
24	GERMANY	FRANCE	48 - 44	16 - 14
25	SCOTLAND	ICELAND	21 - 19	15 - 15
26	AUSTRIA	NETHERLANDS	46 - 26	19 - 11
27	RUSSIA	FINLAND	44 - 43	15 - 15
28	HUNGARY	POLAND	37 - 36	15 - 15
29	IRELAND	NORWAY	34 - 66	8 - 22
30	SPAIN	ISRAEL	34 - 41	14 - 16
31	FAROE ISLANDS	SAN MARINO	24 - 61	7 - 23
32	TURKEY	Bye	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 16

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	CZECH REP.	DENMARK	41 - 40	15 - 15
22	ENGLAND	SWEDEN	34 - 23	17 - 13
23	FRANCE	CROATIA	30 - 30	15 - 15
24	ICELAND	GERMANY	22 - 78	4 - 25
25	Bye	SCOTLAND	0 - 0	0 - 18
26	NETHERLANDS	ITALY	69 - 19	25 - 5
27	FINLAND	AUSTRIA	46 - 57	13 - 17
28	POLAND	RUSSIA	31 - 47	12 - 18
29	NORWAY	HUNGARY	58 - 30	21 - 9
30	ISRAEL	IRELAND	60 - 31	21 - 9
31	SAN MARINO	SPAIN	21 - 75	4 - 25
32	TURKEY	FAROE ISLANDS	105 - 24	25 - 0

**WOMEN TEAMS RANKING
after 16 rounds**

1	GERMANY	307.00
2	NETHERLANDS	299.00
3	ENGLAND	295.00
4	DENMARK	277.00
5	NORWAY	275.50
6	SWEDEN	275.00
7	ITALY	271.00
8	RUSSIA	262.00
9	SCOTLAND	260.00
10	FINLAND	259.00
11	CROATIA	256.00
12	SPAIN	244.00
13	ISRAEL	240.00
14	FRANCE	235.00
15	CZECH REP	232.00
16	POLAND	228.00
17	AUSTRIA	223.00
18	HUNGARY	213.00
19	TURKEY	209.50
20	IRELAND	196.00
21	ICELAND	194.00
22	SAN MARINO	147.00
23	FAROE ISLANDS	106.00

WOMEN TEAMS PROGRAM**ROUND 17 14.15**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
21	DENMARK	ENGLAND
22	SWEDEN	FRANCE
23	CROATIA	ICELAND
24	GERMANY	SCOTLAND
25	CZECH REP.	NETHERLANDS
26	ITALY	FINLAND
27	AUSTRIA	POLAND
28	RUSSIA	NORWAY
29	HUNGARY	ISRAEL
30	IRELAND	SAN MARINO
31	SPAIN	TURKEY
32	FAROE ISLANDS	Bye

ROUND 18 17.35

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
21	FRANCE	DENMARK
22	ICELAND	SWEDEN
23	SCOTLAND	CROATIA
24	Bye	GERMANY
25	NETHERLANDS	ENGLAND
26	FINLAND	CZECH REP.
27	POLAND	ITALY
28	NORWAY	AUSTRIA
29	ISRAEL	RUSSIA
30	SAN MARINO	HUNGARY
31	TURKEY	IRELAND
32	FAROE ISLANDS	SPAIN

SENIOR TEAMS RESULTS**ROUND 13**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
41	SCOTLAND	WALES	46 - 21	14 - 16
42	DENMARK	TURKEY	58 - 15	24 - 6
43	FRANCE	SPAIN	101 - 12	25 - 0
44	SWEDEN	ENGLAND	66 - 28	23 - 7
45	ITALY	Bye	0 - 0	18 - 0
46	GERMANY	CZECH REP.	53 - 42	17 - 13
47	SWITZERLAND	CROATIA	18 - 59	7 - 23
48	POLAND	IRELAND	47 - 70	10 - 20
49	PORTUGAL	NETHERLANDS	39 - 65	10 - 20
50	AUSTRIA	ISRAEL	57 - 58	15 - 15

ROUND 14

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
41	TURKEY	SCOTLAND	58 - 52	16 - 14
42	SPAIN	DENMARK	29 - 93	3 - 25
43	ENGLAND	FRANCE	34 - 30	16 - 14
44	ISRAEL	SWEDEN	73 - 28	24 - 6
45	Bye	WALES	0 - 0	0 - 18
46	CZECH REP.	ITALY	36 - 54	11 - 19
47	CROATIA	GERMANY	64 - 27	23 - 7
48	IRELAND	SWITZERLAND	40 - 52	13 - 17
49	NETHERLANDS	POLAND	47 - 25	20 - 10
50	AUSTRIA	PORTUGAL	75 - 72	16 - 14

SENIOR TEAMS PROGRAM**ROUND 15 14.15**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
41	SCOTLAND	SPAIN
42	DENMARK	ENGLAND
43	FRANCE	SWEDEN
44	TURKEY	Bye
45	WALES	CZECH REP.
46	ITALY	CROATIA
47	GERMANY	IRELAND
48	SWITZERLAND	NETHERLANDS
49	POLAND	AUSTRIA
50	PORTUGAL	ISRAEL

ROUND 16 17.35

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
41	ENGLAND	SCOTLAND
42	SWEDEN	DENMARK
43	ISRAEL	FRANCE
44	Bye	SPAIN
45	CZECH REP.	TURKEY
46	CROATIA	WALES
47	IRELAND	ITALY
48	NETHERLANDS	GERMANY
49	AUSTRIA	SWITZERLAND
50	PORTUGAL	POLAND

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**SENIOR TEAMS RANKING
after 14 rounds**

1	DENMARK	276.00
2	FRANCE	274.00
3	ISRAEL	271.00
4	CROATIA	252.50
5	NETHERLANDS	245.00
6	POLAND	230.00
7	SCOTLAND	216.00
8	TURKEY	209.00
9	CZECH REP	208.50
10	ITALY	208.00
11	GERMANY	208.00
12	ENGLAND	205.00
13	SWEDEN	201.00
14	AUSTRIA	198.00
15	WALES	193.00
16	PORTUGAL	161.00
17	SWITZERLAND	158.00
18	SPAIN	144.00
19	IRELAND	144.00

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pencils, Micro20, BridgeBaron12 and the Swedish 2004
Elk-mascot.

See you in the Scandinavian Pavillion.

OPEN TEAMS
Round 23
Poland v Spain

When this match was played on Monday afternoon, both teams were within the top five of the rankings and thus had everything to play for. Please don't forget that there really are only four more tickets for Bali at stake, as the qualification of Italy is looking well beyond any doubt at this stage. For once, Spain decided not to play their "guest pair," whereas Poland fielded Balicki-Zmudzinski and Lesniewski-Martens. It should be an interesting match as there would be much at stake for either side. As you can see, the difference in style and approach between the way bridge is played in the two countries caused many of the significant swings in this match.

On the first board, we saw an interesting defensive problem:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lantaron	Lesniewski	Ventin	Martens
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Against this natural auction, Lesniewski led a trump. Lantaron won in hand and immediately led a diamond up. Lesniewski took the ace and saw the 9 from his partner, showing an odd number. What should he do now? The answer is that he cannot know. The solution would have been to duck the ♦A, which probably does not cost anyway, and look at the spot cards partner will be playing. On the second round, the ♦4 will appear and then the club switch is marked. When Lesniewski led a second trump the hand was over. Spain +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Frances	Balicki	Torres
	Pass	INT	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

When East opened INT he became declarer in 4♠ and Torres led the ♦4 to the ace. Of course, it was easy now for Frances to return a club, defeating the contract. Spain +50 and 10 IMPs.

A few boards later we saw a big swing when Frances was reluctant to accept the consequences of his opening bid.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lantaron	Lesniewski	Ventin	Martens
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Dble	All Pass	

3♥ was either a spade preempt or minors. As Lesniewski had passed in advance, he could easily venture a double of 3♠. Martens had little trouble in finding a pass this time, and the contract went four off, Poland +1100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Frances	Balicki	Torres
Pass	1♥	2♠	All Pass

Here, Frances found a very light opening but apparently could not imagine partner to hold the hand he actually held. As Guido Ferraro pointed out in the Vugrap Auditorium, it may well be best to make the agreement always to reopen. This certainly would have restricted the Spanish loss to 5 IMPs here instead of the 14 it cost now. Poland were in the lead, 14-10.

After one more easy slam, we saw board 6:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lantaron	Lesniewski	Ventin	Martens
		1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

Remarkable things happened in the play and defence on this board. Martens led the ♣A and, upon seeing the ♣7 from his partner, switched to the ♥A and another. Lesniewski took his king and exited with a third heart, dummy winning. Now Ventin made the good play of taking a diamond finesse first. Of course, Martens followed suit with the ♦10, a card led at many other tables. According to the theory of empty spaces it already looked very much as if the ♠Q would be with South, as he appeared to have much more room to hold it. At the moment of truth, Ventin did not take the finesse and so went one down. Poland +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Frances	Balicki	Torres
		1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

Balicki, on the other hand, would have nothing of this. He won the ♦10 lead with the queen and immediately played the ♠K and a spade to the eight. Mission accomplished. Poland +12 IMPs.

For the remainder of this report, the main issue has to be: Missed Chances. On all the boards below a good chance to score was missed at either table.

On the first of these boards, both teams had their chances, maybe more than one, but did not take them.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lantaron	Lesniewski	Ventin	Martens
			1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

When West led the ♦10, the chance to beat this contract had gone. Either major suit lead will defeat it. It should be noted, however, that the bigger chance had been missed by N/S. On the



Ignacio Juan Torres, Spain

actual layout, the Russians bid and made 6♦ in their match, but 5♦ is a reasonable proposition even on a heart lead. Poland +150 when 2NT made with an overtrick as Lantaron duly switched to the ♠Q after winning his first club trick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Frances	Balicki	Torres
			2♣
			All Pass

Though Frances had a fit in any second suit partner might hold, he preferred to pass, a sensible approach. Nine tricks, but a chance and 1 IMP gone.

Spain levelled the match, however, when this chance came their way:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lantaron	Lesniewski	Ventin	Martens
		1♣	Pass
1♥	2♦	Dble	2♠
3♣	3♠	3NT	All Pass

The 2NT opening to solve all problems was not available

here, so at both tables East started off with 1♣, thus inducing N/S to overcall vigorously in all sorts of suits. Still, Lantaron could should both his suits, one of them at the three-level, so game was duly reached in the proper denomination. Nine easy tricks on a diamond lead and spade continuation. Spain +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Frances	Balicki	Torres
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	2NT	Dble	3♠
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

When Torres introduced his spades at his first attempt, it had become extremely difficult for the Poles to at all reach the proper contract. Certainly with the spade lead given, 5♣ has no play so Poland had to concede one down quickly. Spain gained 12 IMPs and the match was tied at 27 all.

Interesting things happened on board 14:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lantaron	Lesniewski	Ventin	Martens
Pass	Dble	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	2♠
			All Pass

Ventin opened an off-shape weak two in 1st position and thus managed to deceive everyone. Lesniewski doubled for take-out, of course, and Lantaron competed once more, only to see his partner go to game. Nobody doubled this, and Martens made the good lead of the ♣Q. It looks as if Lesniewski should have realised that declarer might well hold more than six hearts and at least three spades, in which case dummy's trumps have to be attacked, the danger of the diamond suit coming in being near to zero. When he decided to play low instead of overtaking and leading the ♣A and another, Martens understandably switched to a spade. Ventin won in dummy, ruffed a spade and played trumps to score ten tricks and a valuable +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Frances	Balicki	Torres
Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♠
	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Here, Balicki had made a more normal-looking preempt, fol-



Adam Zmudzinski, Poland

lowed by an interesting Lightner type of double of 4♣. Zmudzinski led the ♦A accordingly and, upon seeing the dummy, switched to a heart. Dummy won the ace and led a trump to the jack and ace, thus losing a diamond, a heart and three trumps for down two, Poland +300.

The score on this board thus became a Spanish gain of 3 IMPs where they looked like losing 8 IMPs. Poland led 31-30.

Poland led 34-30 when this board settled the issue:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lantaron	Lesniewski	Ventin	Martens
1♦	1♠	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♣	Pass	INT
Pass	2♠	All Pass	2♦

Well bid by the Poles, but they were already too high. Five top tricks and a club ruff should have meant one down, but not when Lantaron cashed the ♦AQ first and then returned a diamond, enabling Lesniewski to ruff high, draw trumps and make eight tricks. Poland +110.

This really mattered, because in the Closed Room, this happened:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Frances	Balicki	Torres
		Pass	INT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Zmudzinski, on lead against 3♠ after Torres opened his weak NT, pulled out the ♣A immediately. After this, getting six defensive tricks was no longer a problem. Poland +200 and suddenly a significant swing of 7 IMPs instead of three. They led 41-30.

On the next board, both teams had chances again.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lantaron	Lesniewski	Ventin	Martens
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

From the bidding, it was clear that Ventin had to lead a black suit. Had he chosen the ♣J, the hand would have been quickly over, but out came the ♠Q on which Lantaron contributed the eight. Declarer is faced with an interesting problem now: he can either duck and hope for a spade continuation in view of the positive signal (probably showing just count) or he can win and hope for the missing ♦A to be with East too. After some consideration, he played low and East continued...a spade. Poland +430.

In the Closed Room, Spain did very well to reach a contract that could not be defeated.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Frances	Balicki	Torres
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

With the ♣K behind the ace, there are always 11 tricks. Well done, be it for the loss of one more IMP. The final score became 42-33 or 17-13 VP to Poland. Both teams had held their chances for Bali intact.

EBU SUMMER MEETING Seniors Congress 2002
 an official European Bridge League competition

Brighton, England 12th-15th August 2002

Programme

Friday 9th 8:00pm Swiss Pairs, session 1 (3 matches)

Saturday 10th 1:00pm Swiss Pairs, session 2 (4 matches)
 8:00pm Swiss Pairs, session 3 (3 matches)

Sunday 11th 12:30pm Swiss Pairs, session 4 (4 matches)
 8:00pm Open Pairs and Open Teams

Monday 12th 2:00pm Afternoon Knock-out Teams, round I
 2:00pm Open Pairs
 7:15pm 'The Really Easy' Reception/Session 1
 8:00pm 'Play with the Experts' Pairs
 8:00pm Seniors, Pairs, Session 1

Tuesday 13th 2:00pm Afternoon Knock-out Teams, round II
 2:00pm Open Pairs
 2:00pm 'The Really Easy' Session 2
 2:00pm Seniors, Pairs, Session 2
 8:00pm Tuesday Pairs Championship
 8:00pm 'The Really Easy' Session 3
 8:00pm Seniors, Pairs and Consolation Pairs Finals

Wednesday 14th 1:00pm 'The Really Easy' Session 4
 1:00pm Seniors, Swiss Teams, Session 1
 2:00pm Afternoon Knock-out Teams, round III
 2:00pm Open Pairs
 8:00pm Mixed Pivot Teams Championship

Thursday 15th 1:00pm Seniors, Swiss Teams, Session 2
 2:00pm Afternoon Knock-out Teams, round IV
 2:00pm Open Pairs
 8:00pm Mixed Pairs Championship

Friday 16th 8:00pm Afternoon Knock-out Teams, semi-final (if necessary)
 12 noon Afternoon Knock-out Teams, final
 1:00pm Open Pairs

Saturday 17th 8:00pm Swiss Teams, session 1 (3 matches)
 1:00pm Swiss Teams, session 2 (4 matches)
 8:00pm Swiss Teams, session 3 (3 matches)

Sunday 18th 11:00am Four Stars, session 1 (3 matches)
 12:30pm Swiss Teams, session 4 (4 matches)
 3:20pm Four Stars, session 2 (4 matches)
 8:00pm Open Pairs and Open Teams

And More... Night Owls Speed Ball:
 Both Fridays and Saturdays and on Wednesday.
The Competitive Bidding Quandary:
 Join internationals Sandra Lardy and Christine Duckworth for a two-day workshop on Thursday and Friday (15th/16th) from 10:00am to 4:00pm.
Discuss it with an Expert:
 Every morning, some of the country's top players and professionals will bring you thought provoking analysis and discuss hands which have given you problems.
Club Director Courses:
 A full set of Courses will run Monday to Thursday from 10:30am to 3:00pm

OPEN TEAMS
Round 24
Iceland v Norway

The Nordic encounter between Iceland and Norway turned out to be one of the liveliest matches so far. On board 2 Tor Helness was faced with a lead problem:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Einarsson	Aa	Ingimarsson	Grotheim
		Pass	1♣
2♥	3♠	4♥	Dble
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed it all ended in 4♠ which, after the heart lead, was made with two overtricks.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Jonsson	Helness	Johannsson
		Pass	1♦
1♥	1♠	3♥	3NT
4♥	6♠	All Pass	

In the Open Room Stein Jonsson didn't want to settle for that and Helness as East had to find a lead against 6♠. With all cards open it is easy to see that a club or a diamond (in with the ♠K East gives his partner a ruff) and not a heart lead is killing. At the table not to lead your partner's suit against a slam takes a lot of courage. After a long pause Helness decided to table the ♣J. Now declarer was faced with a huge problem. It looks as if the sensible thing for him to do is to win the ♣A and take the finesse in hearts in order to discard his club loser on the ♥A. In view of the 1♥ overcall Jonsson didn't want to rely on the position of the ♥K and right he was. He won the ♣A, crossed to dummy in diamonds and played a spade to the queen. This line of play would land the slam with the king of trumps doubleton in West or West having the ♠K and three or more diamonds. It was not to be. On the contrary, Helness won the ♠K and pressed in diamonds ruffed by Helgemo, who underled his ♣KQ to his partner's ten to obtain another diamond ruff. Six spades minus three. Nice defence and a great result for the Norwegians.

On board 5 Iceland won a lot of IMPs back:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Einarsson	Aa	Ingimarsson	Grotheim
	1♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

In the Closed Room declarer in 4♠ played on a dummy reversal. He therefore went after the club suit, but couldn't avoid that extra trump tricks were created for the defence and finally had to give in for down one.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Jonsson	Helness	Johannsson
	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

In the Open Room East led the ♦10 for the ace and a heart was ducked, followed by the ♣K for the ace. Declarer cashed his two other top diamonds, pitched a heart from dummy, played ♥A and ruffed the third heart with the ♠6. Helgemo overruffed with the queen and returned a trump for the nine and king. Declarer entered his hand with a club ruff, ruffed his fourth heart in dummy, ruffed another club in hand, cashed the ♠A and claimed eleven tricks. 13 IMP's to Iceland.

Two boards later:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Einarsson	Aa	Ingimarsson	Grotheim
Pass	1♥	1♠	1♦
Redble	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♣	2♠	INT
			All Pass

In the Closed Room, on a club lead and continuation by South after winning the ♠K, East made 2♠ with an overtrick, as the squeeze possibility had been effectively broken.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Jonsson	Helness	Johannsson
Pass	1♥	1♠	1♦
2♣	2♦	3♠	Dble
4♠	All Pass		Pass

In line with their aggressive style Helness-Helgemo bid all the way to 4♠ in the Open Room. Due to the unfavourable club layout the contract seemed hopeless. South led the ♦J for the ace and a heart came back. Declarer inserted the ten, South won the jack and the next diamond was ruffed. At this point declarer knew it was unlikely for North to have the king of trumps and so he refrained from taking the finesse. He played Ace of trumps and another. South won the king and back came another diamond ruffed by declarer, followed by the ♠Q leaving this position:

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

With all cards open one can see that North is caught in a trump squeeze, but would Helness work this out at the table? From the bidding and the play he visualized that North originally started with a 1-4-4-4 distribution. So Helness realised that the position of the ♣Q was irrelevant. If South had this card, he had it doubleton and if North had it, he was squeezed. Helness played another spade, discarding the ♣J from dummy. North got rid of a club, whereafter Helness cashed his two high clubs and enjoyed the ♣7 as his tenth trick.

A brilliant piece of declarer play and a very well earned 10 IMP's to Norway.

The contract could have been defeated however, if South had switched to clubs in time.

Board 9 had everything to do with ♥Q:



Tor Helness, Norway

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Einarsson	Aa	Ingimarsson	Grotheim
Dble	1♠	2♣	3♠
	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In the Closed Room, making 3NT basically came down for declarer to guessing the ♥Q. Ingimarsson correctly finessed the essential card through North, who had opened at the one-level.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Jonsson	Helness	Johannsson
5♣	2♠	3♣	4♠
	All Pass		

In the Open Room Jonsson-Johannsson reached the four-level quickly. Though 4♠ doubled would lead to a juicy 800, Helgemo decided to bid 5♣. In spite of the bad break in clubs, the contract can be made if again the ♥Q is found. In view of North's weak two suiter, Helness decided to find the essential card in South. 12 IMP's to Iceland.

Norway did well on board 11:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Einarsson</i>	<i>Aa</i>	<i>Ingimarsson</i>	<i>Grotheim</i>
		2♦	
Pass	2♥	3♦	All Pass

In the Closed Room Glen Grotheim's 2♦ opening showed five cards in one of the majors. After the 2♥ relay the auction died at 3♦. In the partial Ingimarsson made ten tricks.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Jonsson</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Johannsson</i>
		2♠	
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♥	3♠	4♥	All Pass

In the Open Room Helness-Helgemo reached game, since Helness gave it another shot with good hand for hearts. On a club lead 4♥ is in danger, but North led the ♠J for the ace. Helgemo knocked out the ♦A at trick two and got a club back which he took with the ace. Next came two high diamonds to which declarer pitched the two club losers from his hand. Helgemo played a heart to the jack and the ace, ruffed the next club in hand, finessed in trumps and made eleven tricks. 8 IMP's to Norway.

Though board 15 did not produce a swing in this match, it is worth reporting because only one declarer in the Open Series found the right play to make the grand:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

In the Iceland-Norway match both NS pairs ended up in 6♥ making. Andrea Buratti was one out of three declarers in 7♥. The

winning line of play is easy once you think of it, apparently that was the main problem, as the other two declarers went down. Ruff the ♦A lead (or win the ♣A and ruff a diamond, depending on the lead). The dummy reversal works if the trumps are 2-2 and also if you take a finesse of the ♥8, playing for the trumps to be 3-1. Play a middle heart to the jack, noting the fall of the eight, ruff a diamond, another middle heart to the king, ruff a diamond high, cross in spades, ruff the last diamond with your last trump, cross in spades and pitch your losing club on the ♥7. Thirteen tricks.

The strange thing is that on a diamond lead, this line of play looks automatic as it cannot possibly cost to ruff and play a middle trump to the jack first. Once the eight appears, you will only need the spades to be 3-2 if the hearts do not break.

Board 16 turned out to be the last big swing of the match:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Einarsson</i>	<i>Aa</i>	<i>Ingimarsson</i>	<i>Grotheim</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	2♦
Dble	2♥	Dble	4♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

In the Closed Room a heart was lead against 5♦ whereafter Glenn Grotheim had no trouble in making his contract since he had the tempo and the trumps to ruff two hearts in dummy. Grotheim even managed to make an overtrick since defenders somehow got squeezed in the endplay.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Jonsson</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Johannsson</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	2♦
Dble	5♦	All Pass	

Open this time it was Geir Helgemo who made an excellent lead: a trump. Declarer won in dummy and played a heart. Helness won the ace and played a second trump, won in hand. A heart ruff, three spades and a zillion of diamonds later, declarer ended up one trick short, since the ♠J did not come down.

However, after the heart ruff, there is a funny squeeze that works. On the run of all but one diamonds and TWO high spades from hand, West can be endplayed in hearts and is obliged to play a club which declarer can ruff, establishing dummy's king for his 11th trick. If West unblocks his hearts instead, on the last diamond East is squeezed. To keep his guards in both majors, he has to get rid of his two clubs. But then he will be endplayed in hearts to play spades.

The final result of the match: 69-25 or 24-6 VP to Norway.

A Superior Bidding System

by Marco Cetellani

I don't know if your superior bidding system can arrive at the best contract on this deal:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

I think no trumps, clubs or hearts are possible (You also have

ten tricks in diamonds. Editors) and the level I leave to your judgement.

In 3NT you must simply find the queen of hearts. Not very much to write about.

In Clubs, possibly five, you must simply take the spade lead, ruff a spade, (You can also play a diamond to the ace, ruff a diamond, ruff a spade and play the king of diamonds discarding a spade. Editors) play the top diamonds pitching a spade and ruff a diamond. You will be overruffed but you can enter dummy with the king of trumps, play another diamond and ruff. You will only lose two trump tricks.

In hearts, possibly six, you must take the spade lead, cash the top diamonds discarding a spade and ruff a diamond with the jack of hearts. Then a club to the king is followed by a diamond ruffed by the ace of hearts and a heart. You only lose a trick to the queen of hearts as hearts are 3-3.

(An initial club lead upsets declarer's timing and holds declarer to eleven tricks. Editors)

So, I don't know what contract you played (nor do I know if my line in Six Hearts is the best) but some one played Six Hearts down a lot. What do you want, a superior bidding system doesn't necessarily guarantee superior dummy play.

Bidding Downwards

by Peter Lund

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Møller		Lund	
Pass	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♥	All Pass!		

Lead: jack of clubs

In Christmas tournaments in Denmark, as a special gadget, each pair is allowed to bid downwards once. Using a special Danish convention, you can do exactly the same at a European Championship after partner's 2NT opening: in other words, opening 2NT and now 2♥ or 2♠ by responder!

It sounds weird, I know, but the explanation is quite simple. If your 2♣-opening contains a balanced 20-21, partner may sign off directly by bidding 2♥/♠ showing 0-3 HCP and a 5-card suit.

This convention, invented by Lauge Schaffer (Danish Open team), worked perfectly for Steen Møller (Danish seniors) on this layout (Round 16/board 20).

Møller never touched trumps and cross ruffed his way - with a little bit of help from South - to 9 tricks. Who else would be able to stay this low in a natural system I wonder?

(Other special bids: 2♣ - 2NT: weak with minor, 2♣ - 3♣/3♦: 0-3 and 6 cards - can only be played with strong 2-openings in ♠ and ♥)

Italian TV 22 June 2002

The Angels were playing a football match against the Devils. When they tossed the coin the White Captain said to his opponent: 'You can give up now, all the best players go to Heaven.' Red Captain: 'Ah, yes, but the Referees!'

In the News

GAZZETTA DI PARMA

The GAZZETTA DI PARMA - a snip at Euro 0.88 - will be carrying a daily report on the Championships.

OPEN TEAMS
Round 25
Bulgaria v Sweden

At the start of this match, Bulgaria were in a comfortable 2nd position, 10VP ahead of Norway and 38VP clear of the qualification mark. Sweden, on the other hand, needed the VP badly as they shared 7th/8th spot with France, 12VP behind 5th-placed Poland. Looking at the way both teams performed so far, one would expect another tight match, but this did not come quite true. Possibly, the first board on VuGraph already was an omen of what the bridge gods had in store for us this time.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gustawsson	Stamatov	Morath	Karaivanov
			1♠
2♥	2♠	4♦	Pass
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

After Morath's fitbid, Stamatov decided to save in front of his partner. To him, it possibly looked like one of those insurance situations, where both sides may make their contracts or go down one. In one respect he was right: 4♠ might have gone one down. As 4♥ would have gone down two on the actual layout taking the insurance did not really pay off. Things got worse when Ivo Karaivanov misguessed the club position in the end. Gustawsson took the ♣A on the first round of the suit and returned a club, but declarer did not take the finesse and played for the drop instead. Down two, Sweden a useful +300 to start proceedings.

About two hours later, this board was due in the Closed Room.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Karaivanov	Sylván	Trendafilov	Sundelin
			1♠
Dble	2♥	2NT	Pass
3♣	3♠	All Pass	

First of all, the difference in bidding approach should be noted. Kalin Karaivanov doubled whereas Gustawsson had overcalled on his ugly-looking heart suit. This difference also had its consequences in the play. West led the ♥A and continued the ♣A and another, but Sundelin had no trouble in taking the finesse. Sweden +140 and 10 IMPs.



P.O. Sundelin, Sweden

Two boards later, board 1 appeared on the VuGraph screens.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gustawsson	Stamatov	Morath	Karaivanov
	2♠	Dble	All Pass

The Bulgarian major/minor two-suiter did not work out well on this deal. Morath had an easy take-out double and Gustawsson an even easier conversion. Though Stamatov took the finesse when Morath led a heart, he could not avoid down three. Sweden +500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Karaivanov	Sylván	Trendafilov	Sundelin
	Pass	2♣	2♥
Dble	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

When Sylván did not open, his side were out of trouble. 2♣ was natural and so was the rest of the auction. For a short while, the Bulgarians were in the right contract, but understandably West made one further move.

A funny thing happened in the play. A diamond went to the king and a heart was taken by the nine. South then cashed the ♥A and played another heart, dummy ruffing with the jack. Next came the ♣K and a club to the nine and ten! On lead, South simply continued another heart for his partner to ruff with the ♣7! Down three instead of one, one extra IMP lost, 12 IMPs to Sweden.

Two boards later, another chance was missed by the Bulgarians:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gustawsson	Stamatov	Morath	Karaivanov
2♥	2NT	3♦	1♦
3♠	4♣	4♥	Pass
All Pass			Dble

Gustawsson did very well to introduce his spades and thus suggest an alternative lead to his partner. Karaivanov might well have bid one more in view of his partner's bidding, instead of putting his money on his trump strength. The play in 5♣ might have been very interesting, as it was made at a significant minority of the tables in play when East led a heart. On a spade lead, three down will be the outcome, of course. Here, Sweden got +790, about the best score available on the board for E/W.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Karaivanov	Sylván	Trendafilov	Sundelin
2♣	2♠	3♦	INT
3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	4♣	Pass	3NT
4♥	All Pass	Pass	Pass

2♣ showed majors and 2♠ showed clubs. Sundelin competed once more with his club fit, but could not go any further when Karaivanov made another try. So the Bulgarians had in fact obtained the second best score available to EW on the board: +620, but still lost another 5 IMPs. Sweden led 19-1 with board 19 still to be scored.



Marten Gustawsson, Sweden

Very little movement on the next seven boards. The score had moved on to 25-6 at the halfway stage, and then came:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gustawsson	Stamatov	Morath	Karaivanov
Pass	2♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♣	Dble	2NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	6♥	All Pass	5♠

Once Karaivanov opened the bidding, the odds were that the Bulgarians would fall overboard. Stamatov got one more chance to resign when Morath a little untimely doubled 3♣, but after a long huddle he decided to go all out with 4NT. Slam is not impossible looking at the N/S cards only, but certainly far off. It needs something like the spades 3-3 with the king onside. When they were 5-1 behind in reality, declarer could not avoid two down. Sweden +100.



Ivo Kraivanov, Bulgaria

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Karaivanov	Sylván	Trendafilov	Sundelin
Pass	1♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♠
All Pass			3NT

Once Sundelin passed in 1st position, the Swedes were likely to land on their feet. And so they did, adding another +430 to their score and getting 11 more IMPs for it.

On the next board, both the weak and the strong NT were caught speeding:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gustawsson	Stamatov	Morath	Karaivanov
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

On a diamond lead this contract would have gone down anyway, but the bad club break made it worse. Sweden +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Karaivanov	Sylván	Trendafilov	Sundelin
INT	Dble	3♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

INT was 9-12 and 3♦ was to play. When North doubled again South had no trouble in converting, as partner doubling very much suggested the classic 2NT-opening he actually had.

This contract went down two too, another +300 and 11 IMPs to Sweden who suddenly led 47-6.

We had to wait till the last board on VuGraph to see the first (and thus only) major swing to Bulgaria:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gustawsson	Stamatov	Morath	Karaivanov
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass		Pass	4♠

Here, the auction was natural and West, who knew about the long clubs with declarer, made the unlucky lead of a heart. Declarer won, played off two rounds of trumps and led a club. Morath could win the ace and give his partner a club ruff, but after that the ♦A was all the defenders could get. Bulgaria +620.

At the other table, strange things happened:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Karaivanov	Sylván	Trendafilov	Sundelin
Pass	4♠	INT	2♦
		All Pass	

Once again, the weak NT was launched and 2♦ showed spades and a minor, so Sylván bid game immediately. Trendafilov found the useful lead of a low heart, in fact the four, to the jack, queen and ace. Sylván next played a club from hand, but Trendafilov went up with the ace to lead the two of hearts. Going up with the king and drawing a few rounds of trumps would have made declarer's life easy, but he decided to insert the nine. Kalin Karaivanov won the 10, led a diamond to partner's ace and got a club ruff for an unexpected one down. Bulgaria another +100 to finally recoup 12 IMPs. The result of the match thus became 57-25 or 22-8VP to Sweden. Bulgaria stayed in 2nd position, but only just, and Sweden rose to 6th, nearer again to the tickets for Bali, though still 11 VP behind Poland.

Minutes Senior Congress

June 24, 2002 - Salsomaggiore

Present: G. Rona (EBL President) J. Damiani (WBF President) N. Rand (EBL Chairman S.C.) G. Mattson, H. Humburg (Germany) J. Oliviera (Portugal) P. Hebak (Czech) R. Kielbasinski (Poland) J. Kokkes M. Blanken, A. Trippaers, J. Meyer, E & H. Schippers, O. Janssens, W. Boegem (Netherlands) N. Jensen, M. Melander (Sweden) A. Torlontano, M. Ricciarelli, R. Guido (Italy) R. Harper, T. Priday (U.K.) J. Caric, E. Kulovic (Croatia) A. Yalman, E. Korkut (Turkey) P. Romik, Z. Ben Tovim (Israel) M. Callon, B. Liochon, Y. Aubry (France) P. Gagne (Wales) S. O'Lubaigh, J. MacHale, A & A. Montwill (Ireland) D. Kalavanas (Cyprus) K. Baxter (Scotland) G. Pollak, O. Sova, D. Schiller (Austria) M. Hiron (Spain).

Chairman: Nissan Rand, EBL Seniors Committee opened the meeting. Introduced President Emeritus, **N. Jensen** and expressed gratitude for his contribution to the senior program in the past.

G. Rona (EBL President) gave greetings and thanks for participation of seniors, thanks to J. Damiani, N. Rand and Senior Committee and notes the growing importance of the senior movement. After important decision by Executive Committee in Tenerife, there is now an Official seniors championship as in Open and Ladies which is one team/country. The participation of 19 teams is satisfactory.

J. Damiani (WBF President) gave greetings and expressed satisfaction with the 19 teams. There are budget problems for the NBO to send three teams. Senior bridge is more active in Europe than in other zones. Originally Senior bridge was considered more recreational, however due to the express wish of participants senior bridge has become highly competitive. The ideal situation is to combine both functions. There is a problem of finances in the WBF in organizing the Senior Bermuda Bowl since senior bridge is as yet underdeveloped in other zones. In Bali there would have been 8 senior teams (one for each zone). Three teams withdrew after the transfer to Paris. Perhaps the WBF should allow 2 senior teams each from Europe and USA.

N. Rand (EBL Chairman Senior Committee)

- 1) Since Villamoura senior bridge has made the transition from social to competitive bridge with increased competition. In Malta there were 27 teams although 2 teams/ country and in 2 cases 3 teams/country. In Tenerife, the Executive Committee has decided that the senior format should be the same as the open and ladies which is 1 team/NBO. The chairman was disappointed at the participation of only 19 teams and hoped for 24 teams. Greece, Hungary, Belgium, Norway and Bulgaria all thought they would participate but at the end cancelled, each for different reasons.
- 2) When only 19 teams registered, the EBL tournament Committee decided to change from 16 to 20 boards a day. There have been some complaints from seniors about the number of boards. The bridge level among the seniors is good and certainly on the same level as the average of the Open series. Pleased that former champions are playing in the senior competition for example, Kokkes, Priday and Valdi, which is gratifying.
- 3) So far the Bridge rama has shown open and women's series but later in the week a senior match will appear on rama.
- 4) The format of 1 team/country shall continue for the next teams championship in Malmo, Sweden in 2004. In Menton, in 2003, however there will be an Open European Championship which is open to unlimited number of teams including transnational teams.

Comments from floor. (All expressed thanks for excellent EBL organization)

- 1) Harper (UK) urged flexibility in EBL exec and suggested 2 teams/NBO to make up uneven numbers and thus allow for more comfortable format and shorter matches.
- 2) Hebak (Czech) Although may have more than one team wishing to participate, financial limitations allow only one team. Teams with only 4 players find timing difficult and urge longer break between playing sessions.

- 3) Ali Yalman (Turkey) Would prefer more than one team/country as in Turkey great enthusiasm for senior bridge.
- 4) A. Montwill (Ireland) Senior bridge should have the same format as the open and ladies. The Butler ranking provides a good indication to team captains but no data relating to individual boards.
- 5) Gagne (Wales) Agrees with predecessor. Thinks that systems should be received at least ½ hour before match, all agree that systems should be available in advance.

Could be available on internet although the problem is not serious as senior bridge does not allow complicated systems.

Questions to floor

Question: Do seniors support 1 team/country? Unanimous YES

Question: Should extra team be allowed to round up uneven number of teams? NO

Question: Should host country be allowed extra team? NO

Question: Timing of sessions? Majority of participants prefer morning and early afternoon sessions in preference to 2 afternoon sessions, or morning and evening session.

Trippaers (Netherlands) Support playing senior competition in 7 days and 3 sessions per day to save NBO finance. Most participants objected to this 7 days and preferred the present timing.

G. Rona (EBL President) A Salsomaggiore trophy is offered to the winning senior team this year. The country winning three times will receive the trophy permanently.

J. Damiani (WBF President) Invites participants to senior event in World Bridge Championship in Montreal in August 2002. There will be 2 sessions per day and open to transnational teams. The team event begins on August 23rd in a Swiss Teams format. There will be morning and afternoon sessions with a comfortable break between sessions. All seniors are urged to participate.

Montreal is a lovely city with North American efficiency combined with European charm. Any team in good standing with its NBO is eligible to participate.

EBL Senior Congresses

Two years ago the EBL initiated the EBL sponsored senior congress. The EBL provides their Emblem for promotional purposes, affords master points and plaques for the winners. The host Country has to invite an EBL pair or team. The EBL Congresses were held in Poland, Malta, U.K. and Israel.

Future Senior Congresses 2002-2003

R. Kielbasinski (Poland) Baltic Congress in Sopot, an attractive seaside resort. Senior Congress begins July 11, 2002. Participants invited to play in Baltic Congress 13-21 July. All top Polish seniors will participate. A Prokom Grand Prix will take place and 250 pairs are expected.

Tony Priday (U.K.) Third year the EBU holds Senior EBL Congress in Brighton, seaside resort. Each year improves in quality and quantity. Held between August 11-15, 2002. 200 English Senior Pairs are expected. Two day team event and two day pair event.

ITALY First Italian EBL Senior Congress will take place in Viareggio, near Pisa, organized by Maurizio di Sacco, on October 22 to 29, 2002.

Nissan Rand (Israel) Tel Aviv Senior Congress will take place in February 2003. Last year more than 40 non Israeli participants. Security provided.

MALTA Third Malta Senior Congress will take place over the Easter weekend in 2003 in Collaboration with the English Bridge Union.

D. Kalavanas The first EBL sponsored Senior Congress will take place in May 2003 in Larnaca. The venue is a hotel right on the beach. Larnaca is situated 10 minutes from the airport. Could possibly be combined with the international bridge festival.

GLI INCONTRI DEGLI AZZURRI

BOARD PER BOARD

25° INCONTRO OPEN: FINLANDIA - ITALIA

Aperta: NORD Koistinen / SUD Nyberg FIN
EST Lauria / OVEST Versace ITA

Chiusa: NORD Angelini / SUD Sementa ITA
EST Juuri-Oja / OVEST Kiema FIN

BOARD 1



3 senza in Est il contratto della mano, dopo che Sud ha dichiarato la sua sesta di cuori in salto debole sull'apertura di 1 fiori di Est; l'attacco è cuori nelle due sale, ma Lauria fa

una surlevée. 1 I.M.P. Italia. 1-0.

BOARD 2

4 picche in NS nelle due sale; 2 surlevée Italia; 2 I.M.P. Italia. 3-0.

BOARD 3

Board 3 - dich. Sud - EO in zona

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

Ottimo controgioco di Lauria-Versace in aperta, dove la Finlandia gioca 5 fiori contrate in NS in difesa sul nostro 4 cuori; incassiamo Asso, Re di picche e picche taglio, Asso di quadri e quadri taglio e la Finlandia finisce 3 down.



Nell'altra sala Sementa fa nove facili prese, con l'attacco quadri per l'Asso di Est, giocando 3 senza in Sud. 14 I.M.P. Italia. 17-0.

BOARD 4

Perdiamo 2 I.M.P. per due surlevée a 3 senza in EO. 17-2.

BOARD 5

Board 5 - dich. Nord - NS in zona

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

Ottima valutazione di Versace; Lauria-Versace, senza tante storie, in tre dichiarazioni chiamano 4 picche con 20 punti e le fanno, gli omologhi finlandesi, nonostante una dichiarazione più elaborata, non vanno oltre 3 picche +1.

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Versace		Lauria	
	Passo	Passo	Passo
1♠	Passo	2♠	Passo
4♠	Passo	Fine	

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Kiema		Juuri-Oja	
	Passo	Passo	Passo
1♠	Passo	1NT	Passo
2♦	Passo	2♠	Passo
3♦	Passo	3♠	Fine

6 I.M.P. Italia. 23-2.

BOARD 6

Pari a 4 picche -1 in EO.

BOARD 7

I finlandesi giocano manche a picche nel fit 5-3 e fanno +2; noi scegliamo la manche a senza e cadiamo di una presa; 13 I.M.P. Finlandia. 23-15.

BOARD 8

Manche a senza +1 noi in aperta; manche a picche giusta loro in chiusa. Pari.

BOARD 9

Mentre in aperta Versace gioca e realizza 2 quadri in EO, in chiusa l'intervento a picche quarto di Sementa (ARDx) porta Sementa-Angelini al contratto di 2 picche nella 4-3, che l'equa divisione dei resti d'atout, la buona divisione del colore laterale di fit della linea (fiori) ed il favorevole piazzamento dell'Asso di cuori

consentono di realizzare con una surlevée con soli 19 punti sulla linea. 6 I.M.P. Italia. 29-15.

BOARD 10

In aperta i finlandesi raggiungono il parziale di 2 picche nella 5-2, che mantengono, mentre in chiusa tutti passano. 3 I.M.P. Finlandia. 29-18.

BOARD 11

Manche nobile fatta in chiusa, manche a senza +1 in aperta. Pari.

BOARD 12

Dove i finlandesi in aperta vanno 3 down a 3 senza in NS; sulla stessa linea, in chiusa, cadiamo di due prese a 4 fiori. 3 I.M.P. Italia. 32-18.

BOARD 13

In aperta Lauria-Versace giocano 3 senza +2; in chiusa la Finlandia gioca, nonostante l'intervento a picche di Sementa, 6 fiori sulla stessa linea, dove paga Asso e Re di picche e picche taglio (unico controgioco vincente) sull'attacco. 13 I.M.P. Italia. 45-18.

BOARD 14

Tutto messo bene a 4 picche +2 in Est nelle due sale. Pari.

BOARD 15

In EO in aperta 2 quadri +1 Italia; in chiusa 1 senza +3 Finlandia. 2 I.M.P. Finlandia. 45-20.

BOARD 16

Pari a 3 senza +2 in NS.

BOARD 17

La Finlandia gioca 3 quadri fatte in EO in chiusa; in aperta Lauria-Versace non perdono l'occasione di contrare il parziale a 3 fiori finlandese in NS e di batterlo di due prese grazie alla divisione 5-0 degli atout. 5 I.M.P. Italia. 50-20.

BOARD 18

Pari a 4 cuori fatte in Sud.

BOARD 19

Andiamo 1 down a 3 cuori in EO in aperta e a 4 picche contrate in NS in aperta. 5 I.M.P. Finlandia. 50-25.

BOARD 20

Tutti passano in chiusa; in aperta cadiamo di due prese a 1 senza. 5 I.M.P. Finlandia. 50-30.

FINALE

Italia - Finlandia 19 - 11 (50 - 30). Match classico degli azzurri, che accumulano 23 I.M.P. di vantaggio nei primi cinque board, amministrando poi la gara e concludendola, dopo alterne fortune, in vantaggio di 22. "Abbiamo giocato un buon incontro - dice Alfredo Versace - realizzando tutto quanto le varie smazzate, decisamente piatte, ci consentivano e subendo molto poco".

Questa vittoria, a fronte della pesante sconfitta inflitta dalla Svezia alla Bulgaria, consente al Blue Team di incrementare di molto il vantaggio sui secondi della classifica provvisoria, i bulgari appunto, che ora si trovano a 74 VP dai nostri ragazzi. Seguono la Norvegia a -75, la Spagna a -88, la Polonia a -89 e la Svezia, ora sesta, a -110.

8th Red Sea International BRIDGE FESTIVAL

Eilat-Israel, 10-17 November 2002

**Tournament Program**

Royal Beach Hotel, Eilat November 10-17, 2002

Sunday, November 10	20:30	National Simultaneous
Monday, November 11	20:30	IMP Pairs - 1st session
Tuesday, November 12	16:00	IMP Pairs - 2nd session
Wednesday, November 13	19:30	Get together Cocktail & Official Opening Ceremony
Wednesday, November 13	20:30	Open Pairs - 1st session
Thursday, November 14	16:00	Open Pairs - 2nd session
Friday, November 15	16:00	Open Pairs - 3rd session
Saturday, November 16	10:00	Teams - 1st session
Saturday, November 16	16:00	Teams - 2nd session
Saturday, November 16	20:30	Distribution of Prizes

Participants from all over the world, including the Israeli teams, European and World champions

- * Additional Tournaments each morning at 10:30 (Monday - Friday).
- * Results within 20 minutes after end of session.
- * Special prizes for foreign best pairs and for best mixed pairs.
- * Special prizes for best unclassified pairs.

Entrance fee

Each session: \$15
Participation in 7 main events: \$90

Invitational Master Tournament

Thursday, November 14 - 22:00

For information and registration:

The Organizing Committee
David Birman, 50 Pinkas St. Tel-Aviv, Israel
Tel: 972-3-6058355, Fax: 972-3-5465582
e-mail: birmand@inter.net.il

MOMENTI DI GLORIA

Riccardo Vandoni

Nella loro sesta giornata di gara (l'altro ieri), enorme prestazione delle ladies, che si rendono protagoniste di due turni esaltanti. Il 17 a 13 contro la fortissima Germania ed il 25 a 5 contro la Croazia che le seguiva in classifica proiettano la nostra squadra al quinto posto (e cioè in zona qualificazione) ed aprono loro qualche spiraglio di podio. La classifica, dopo 13 turni dei 23 (bye compreso) da giocare, è:

I°	Germania	258
II°	Inghilterra	240
II°	Olanda	240
IV°	Israele	237
V°	Italia	231
VI°	Svezia	226

Il che significa che siamo a soli nove punti dal secondo posto e che quindi nessun traguardo ci è precluso. Devo dire che la squadra si sta comportando aldilà delle più rosee aspettative e che dimostra nell'occasione una costanza di rendimento che altre volte le è mancata. Oggi qualche mano delle ladies prese dall'incontro con la Germania capolista.



Un bello slam chiamato in aperta dalla coppia De Lucchi / Rosetta al board 3. E/O in zona, dichiara Ovest:

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

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
	Rosetta		De Lucchi
3♠	4♠	Contro	1♣
Passo	6♣	Fine	5♣



Al board successivo, invece, le tedesche pagano dazio.

Board 4, tutti in zona, dichiara Ovest:

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

	N	
O		E
	S	

♠ A Q J 9 7
♥ A
♦ A K 9
♣ J 8 6 3

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
	Rosetta		De Lucchi
Passo	Passo	2♦	Passo
Passo	Contro	2♠	Contro
Fine			

L'attacco è Asso di cuori seguito dall'Asso di quadri e quadri. Nord taglia e gioca cuori. La De Lucchi taglia con il 7 di picche ed alla fine realizza i tre Assi e 5 picche per un totale di 800 punti.



How I Sold The match for a Drink

by Ergun Korkut

As everybody knows Salso maggiore is very hot these days. In our match against Italy in the seniors the air conditioning was not working properly. Mr Ricciarelli showed his hospitality by bringing us cold drinks.

At the end of the 17th board we were leading 42/28.

This was the bidding on the next deal:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

West	North	East	South
Ricciarelli	Sarimsakci	Baroni	Korkut
		1♦	2♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	All Pass

North led the ace of spades and this is what I could see:

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

I played a small spade indicating a club switch. North led the seven of clubs showing a doubleton. When declarer played small from dummy I won with my queen. If I put the declarer in dummy I can win the second diamond and give my partner a club ruff. I played the king of clubs. My hopes were shattered when declarer ruffed the second diamond, ruffed his losing spade and conceded a trump trick to my partner. This was the full deal:

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

In the open room they played Four Spades down one on the North/South cards so the difference was +320 points meaning 8 IMPs.

If I had led a heart or a spade rather than the club, West would be one down meaning 4 IMPs to Turkey. We lost the match 42/45. Without this result it would have been 46/37.

Mr Ricciarelli was very quick to bring another drink - a glass of cold water.

Championship Diary

As you can see, our long range weather forecasting is on a par with our analysis, i.e. hopeless, as the rain arrived with a vengeance on Monday evening. We got a spectacular view from the Al Tartufo restaurant (highly recommended if you have a car - just go up the hill when leaving the playing areas - its only a couple of miles at most) of the pyrotechnical lightning storm.

We overheard someone saying what a remarkable coincidence it was that the first appearance of the Women on VuGraph coincided with the World Cup semi final between Germany and South Korea. We were reminded that football is a game where two teams play for 90 minutes - and then Germany wins.

We managed a great coup yesterday, to remove all Peter Fredin's hair! Mind you, he was partly to blame, as he and his partner sat in the wrong seats in round 5 and were misidentified by our photographer.

This is what the Swedish pair really look like:



Peter Fredin, Sweden



Magnus Lindkvist, Sweden

The other side of the Option

by Arsen

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ K 5 4		♠ A 10 7 6									
♥ Q 9 7 6 5 2		♥ K 10									
♦ Q 3		♦ 10 6 4 2									
♣ J 9		♣ A K 5									
♠ Q J 9 3	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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									
♥ 4 3	♠ 8 2										
♦ J 8 5	♥ A J 8										
♣ Q 10 4 2	♦ A K 9 7										
	♣ 8 7 6 3										

You are playing 4♥ after this sequence:

West	North	East	South
	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Play starts with ace-king-small of clubs. You ruff and successfully play a heart to the jack and then the ace, felling the king.

Now as declarer you have two options: if you think the ace of spades to be before the king, you simply play a spade; if you think the ace is over the king, you must hope the same hand to have four diamonds, squeezing him without the count by playing all your hearts.

Maybe you choose the winning or the losing option, but your problem is nothing in respect to West's problem. As West you have two options after the initial lead: If you think partner will understand, you play the ten, he leads a small club, and you're in to play spades through declarer; if you think partner will continue from the top, you are giving the contract if declarer has the jack-nine bare.

Maybe you choose the winning or the losing option, but your problem is nothing in respect of MY problem. Because I also have two options: will I write a good and interesting story, losing the friendship of the guy who let the eight of clubs in dummy win a trick; ... or not??

Sponsors corner

The Hungarian Bridge Federation, and the Hungarian Open and Ladies Team would like to thank their sponsors: Magyar Villamos Muvek Rt., MOL Rt., Interfruct Kft., Markeline Rt., Hegyvidék SE. and Postabank Rt., for their financial support, which helped to the Hungarian players to take a part in the European Championship in Salsomaggiore!

The England player who supplied the disparaging remark in the Bulletin about the Welsh Ladies got his come uppance in Round 9 of the Seniors. The Welsh team, with two ladies in it, beat England 20-10.

Patrick Jourdain

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(Ely Culbertson, 1891 - 1955, the founder of duplicate bridge, resting in heaven)

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TEAM PHOTOGRAPHS



Today 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:

Women Teams

Norway	9.40	Turky	13.20
Netherlands	9.50	Israel	13.25
Sweden	10.00	Poland	16.40
Scotland	10.15	Russia	16.50
Italy	13.10	San Marino	17.00

All the teams must be at the front of the bulding for the picture.

Marco Marin

EBL Photographer

Transfers

Today forms for transfers to the airports will be put in the **Captain's pigeon holes**. Please fill them in carefully and return to the **Hospitality Desk** as soon as possible. Remember to include any guests/visitors who will be travelling.

First Italian European Senior Congress

Viareggio (Lucca) October 22nd - October 27th 2002

The Congress consists of two main events, the Pairs Tournament and the Teams Tournaments, alongside with other Tournaments, which will be open to all other categories of players, but having each special prize for Seniors Contestants. The EBL will award plaques to the winners, and EBL Master Points to the leading Pairs and Teams awarded in accordance with the normal EBL scale as posted by the EBL Master Point Secretary prior to the event being played.

The Pairs and the Teams Tournaments of the Event will be conducted with the sponsorship of the European Bridge League. The Tournaments will be played under the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge 1997 and the EBL's Conditions of Contest such as in Salsomaggiore Seniors European Championship. EBL's System Policy and WBF Code of Practice will apply.

The other Tournaments will be conducted under the auspices of the Federazione Italiana Gioco Bridge (F.I.G.B.), played under the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge 1997 and the F.I.G.B.'s General Conditions of Contest for Tournaments. F.I.G.B.'s System Policy will apply.

Viareggio is a wonderful venue spread along the Mediterranean Sea, famous for its beaches - crowded from early April to late October -, its sunny weather, its elegant shops where the most known fashion designers are present, and its Bars and Restaurants. Only 25 km. Away from Viareggio there are Pisa - with the world famous Square of Miracles and the amazing Leaning Tower - and Lucca, where you can look at wonderful buildings, monuments and estates of the late Middle Ages. A bit further, 70 and 100 km. respectively, are Firenze and Siena, reachable through what is probably the best country in the world, possibly visiting on the way S. Gimignano and Volterra. Communications are excellent too, with the International Airport of Pisa only 22 km. away, and a train each half an hour from there (anyway transfers will be arranged on request)

For detailed information's about hotel accommodations and travelling pls contact:

Maurizio Di Sacco
tel./fax (39)050985910
mob. (39)3388378198
e-mail mdisacco@tiscalinet.it

and

Leonardo Cima
mob. (39)3483043875
e-mail cimaleon@inwind.it
or visit: www.bridgeitalia.it and www.allbridge.com

STAFF "THANKSGIVING"

On Thursday 27th June at 10 p.m. in the Auditorium (Rama Theatre) of the Palazzo dei Congressi the E.B.L. wishes to thank all the staff officers and operators who, working very hard, with great enthusiasm and high professionalism, have managed to run the Championship and have contributed greatly to its success.

All players, Captains, NBO Officials, and journalists are also welcome to attend to give their thanks to the staff.

Festival Schedule

Tuesday 22/10

- | | | |
|----------|------------|---|
| h. 16.00 | Open Pairs | Mitchell 2/0/22 boards
single session event |
| h. 21.00 | Open Teams | Board-A-Match 24 boards
single session event |

Wednesday 23/10

- | | | |
|----------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| h. 16.00 | Seniors Pairs
1st session | Mitchell 20/22 boards |
| h. 21.00 | Seniors Pairs
2nd session | Mitchell 20/22 boards |

Thursday 24/10

- | | | |
|----------|--|---|
| h. 16.00 | Seniors Pairs
Final Session
Final A
Final B (C) | Barometer 22 boards

Mitchell 20/22 boards |
| h. 21.00 | Individual | Rainbow Mitchell 20/22 boards
single session event |

Friday 25/10

- | | | |
|----------|--|--|
| h. 14.00 | Seniors Teams
1st session
Students & NC
Teams 1st session | Lagged Swiss 4x8 boards
Lagged Swiss 4x8 boards |
| h. 21.00 | X-IMPs Open
Pairs | Mitchell 20/22 boards
single session event |

Saturday 26/10

- | | | |
|----------|--|--|
| h. 14.00 | Seniors Teams
2nd session
Students & NC
Teams | Lagged Swiss 4x8 boards
Lagged Swiss 4x8 boards |
| h. 21.00 | Mixed Pairs | Mitchell 20/22 boards
single session event |

Sunday 27/10

- | | | |
|----------|--|---|
| h. 10.00 | Seniors Teams
3rd session
Students & NC
Teams 3rd session | Lagged Swiss 2x8 boards
Lagged Swiss 2x8 boards |
| h. 15.00 | Seniors Teams
KO Final
Students & NC
Teams KO Final
PRO-AM Pairs | 2x12 boards Stanzas

2x12 boards Stanzas
Mitchell 20/22 boards
single session event |

Sponsors Corner

The Czech Bridge Federation wants to thank the company Chance for their support of all Czech teams at this Championship and great help for Bridge.

Gala dinner

On Sunday night, the great champions of the past and present attended a gala dinner at the Castelo Soragna. Our photographer, Ron Tacchi, captured the event for the Daily Bulletin.



Dazzling Discard

by Adam Mesbur

Spain v Ireland, Round 20

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 6 4	♠ 2	♠ 8 5 3									
♥ 6 4 3	♥ A 10 8 7	♥ Q 9 5 2									
♦ A K J 7	♦ 4 2	♦ Q 9 6 3									
♣ K 8 2	♣ Q J 10 9 7 4	♣ 5 3									
	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; 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 K Q J 10 7										
	♥ K J										
	♦ 10 8 5										
	♣ A 6										

Nick FitzGibbon, West and Adam Mesbur, East defended 4♠ played by Andrea Buratti, South. The right hand is dummy and this looks like it makes the defence easier but it was more complicated than you might think.

Nick led the ace of diamonds and switched the four of hearts. Dummy played the eight and after sometime I passed the first test, playing the nine. South won the jack and advanced the ten of diamonds. West contributed the jack and East played the queen to switch a spade. South cashed six rounds of trumps and both defenders have to discard carefully, West much more carefully than East. On the last spade everyone is reduced to four cards. West has two clubs and two diamonds and East must keep two hearts and two diamonds. Now South plays the ♥K and West found the fine discard of the ♦K. Declarer has no chance now because East has two diamond winners and West cannot be thrown in.