



# Daily Bulletin

Editors: **Mark Horton**, Jos Jacobs, Barry Rigal, Patrick Jourdain, Marek Wójcicki. Photos: Ela Wojciechowska. Layout: G. Hadzidakis

48th  
**PROKOM**  
SOFTWARE SA

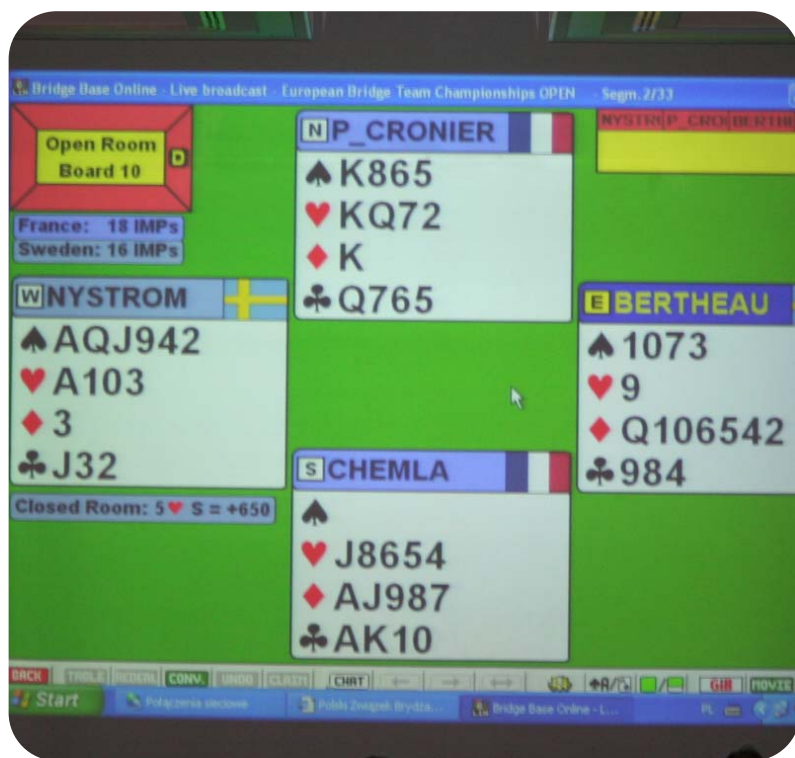
European Bridge Team  
Championships



Issue No. 2

Monday, 14 August 2006

# OVERTURE AND BEGINNERS PLEASE



*Six Hearts anyone?*

As we discovered on Saturday music is alive and well in the Polish capital, so it seems appropriate to retain that theme as the Championships start in earnest. Appropriately, it is **Italy**, a country with a rich musical history that leads the way after the first day's play, and they are no strangers to such an exalted position.

They are closely followed by **Norway** - I would have no difficulty in reminding you of their musical heritage, nor that of third placed **Turkey**, tied with **Luxemburg**.

We will need to see a great deal more play before any real pattern emerges, but with so many powerful teams in the field everyone is hoping for a good start. That puts an onus on those countries that have started indifferently, notably **Russia**, **France** and **The Netherlands**, to demonstrate that they are contenders for a trip to Shanghai in 2007.

## Today's VuGraph Matches

### Intercontinental Hotel - 2nd Floor

Italy - Romania	10.30
Spain - Turkey	14.15
Netherlands - Norway	17.35

### BBO OnLine Transmissions

Italy - Romania	10.30
Poland - Hungary	10.30
Bulgaria - France	10.30
Croatia - Serbia	10.30
Spain - Turkey	14.15
France - Ireland	14.15
Latvia - Italy	14.15
Russia - Netherlands	14.15
Italy - Serbia	17.35
Netherlands - Norway	17.35
Poland - Estonia	17.35
Turkey - France	17.35

### Swan Games OnLine

Sweden - Switzerland	10.30
Israel - Denmark	14.15
Iceland - Russia	17.35

The Opening Ceremony of the 48th Prokom Software Bridge Team Championships for the Women and Seniors series will take place on Wednesday August 16 at 17.00 in the Intercontinental Hotel (2nd floor).

The ceremony will be followed by a concert by 'Motion Trio'.

**OPEN TEAMS PROGRAM****ROUND 3 10.30**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	ITALY	ROMANIA
2	TURKEY	ICELAND
3	POLAND	HUNGARY
4	WALES	ISRAEL
5	FINLAND	SAN MARINO
6	IRELAND	SPAIN
7	LITHUANIA	ESTONIA
8	SWEDEN	SWITZERLAND
9	BELARUS	BELGIUM
10	DENMARK	GREECE
11	BULGARIA	FRANCE
12	CROATIA	SERBIA
13	ENGLAND	LATVIA
14	SCOTLAND	RUSSIA
15	PORTUGAL	NETHERLANDS
16	LUXEMBURG	NORWAY
	GERMANY	BYE

**ROUND 4 14.15**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	FRANCE	IRELAND
2	BELGIUM	HUNGARY
3	ROMANIA	FINLAND
4	LATVIA	ITALY
5	ISRAEL	DENMARK
6	ICELAND	PORTUGAL
7	ESTONIA	GERMANY
8	WALES	CROATIA
9	SWITZERLAND	BULGARIA
10	SAN MARINO	LITHUANIA
11	SPAIN	TURKEY
12	NORWAY	SCOTLAND
13	GREECE	SWEDEN
14	SERBIA	ENGLAND
15	BELARUS	LUXEMBURG
16	RUSSIA	NETHERLANDS
	BYE	POLAND

**ROUND 5 17.35**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	ITALY	SERBIA
2	IRELAND	SWITZERLAND
3	FINLAND	LATVIA
4	LUXEMBURG	SCOTLAND
5	ENGLAND	WALES
6	GERMANY	SAN MARINO
7	ICELAND	RUSSIA
8	LITHUANIA	ROMANIA
9	HUNGARY	BELARUS
10	POLAND	ESTONIA
11	SWEDEN	ISRAEL
12	NETHERLANDS	NORWAY
13	BULGARIA	GREECE
14	TURKEY	FRANCE
15	DENMARK	CROATIA
16	PORTUGAL	SPAIN
	BYE	BELGIUM

**OPEN TEAMS RESULTS****ROUND 1 - subject to official confirmation**

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1 PORTUGAL	NORWAY	9 -102	0 - 25
2 GERMANY	BELARUS	61 - 57	16 - 14
3 SWEDEN	SPAIN	59 - 58	15 - 15
4 LUXEMBURG	RUSSIA	66 - 61	16 - 14
5 CROATIA	ROMANIA	38 - 43	14 - 16
6 ITALY	ESTONIA	57 - 32	20 - 10
7 DENMARK	FRANCE	51 - 33	19 - 11
8 POLAND	BELGIUM	50 - 63	12 - 18
9 ENGLAND	SAN MARINO	51 - 26	20 - 10
10 ISRAEL	LATVIA	46 - 15	21 - 9
11 BULGARIA	ICELAND	54 - 24	21 - 9
12 SERBIA	GREECE	33 - 50	11 - 19
13 TURKEY	SCOTLAND	41 - 17	20 - 10
14 LITHUANIA	HUNGARY	64 - 55	17 - 13
15 IRELAND	NETHERLANDS	61 - 30	21 - 9
16 WALES	SWITZERLAND	65 - 36	21 - 9
FINLAND	BYE		18 - 0

**ROUND 2 - subject to official confirmation**

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1 SWITZERLAND	DENMARK	40 - 34	16 - 14
2 SAN MARINO	ITALY	25 - 80	4 - 25
3 FRANCE	SWEDEN	31 - 75	6 - 24
4 ROMANIA	ENGLAND	43 - 27	18 - 12
5 BELARUS	POLAND	29 - 48	11 - 19
6 RUSSIA	NORWAY	26 - 46	11 - 19
7 GREECE	WALES	61 - 55	16 - 14
8 SPAIN	BULGARIA	49 - 39	17 - 13
9 LATVIA	CROATIA	31 -110	1 - 25
10 ESTONIA	FINLAND	50 - 40	17 - 13
11 HUNGARY	GERMANY	49 - 51	15 - 15
12 SERBIA	ISRAEL	71 - 44	21 - 9
13 NETHERLANDS	TURKEY	27 - 51	10 - 20
14 BELGIUM	LUXEMBURG	33 - 76	6 - 24
15 ICELAND	IRELAND	48 - 35	18 - 12
16 SCOTLAND	PORTUGAL	23 - 42	11 - 19
BYE	LITHUANIA		0 - 18

**MOBILE PHONES**

During the Captains' Meeting, it was agreed that during each round the players in one match will be checked on the possession of "dangerous equipment" not to be brought into the playing area.

So far, you behaved wonderfully well, as we could not collect any money or distribute any penalty points.

We will, however, continue this procedure hoping to stay as poor as we are at this moment. Please, keep in mind that the fine for bringing in "forbidden fruits" may well exceed the price of your mobile phone!

Ton Kooijman

## OPEN TEAMS RANKING after 2 rounds

*subject to official confirmation*

1	ITALY	45.00
2	NORWAY	44.00
3	TURKEY	40.00
	LUXEMBURG	40.00
5	CROATIA	39.00
6	SWEDEN	38.50
7	GREECE	35.00
	WALES	35.00
	LITHUANIA	35.00
10	ROMANIA	34.00
	BULGARIA	34.00
12	IRELAND	33.00
	DENMARK	33.00
14	ENGLAND	32.00
	SERBIA	32.00
	SPAIN	32.00
17	POLAND	31.00
	GERMANY	31.00
	FINLAND	31.00
20	ISRAEL	30.00
21	HUNGARY	28.00
22	ESTONIA	27.00
	ICELAND	27.00
24	BELARUS	25.00
	RUSSIA	25.00
	SWITZERLAND	25.00
27	BELGIUM	24.00
28	SCOTLAND	21.00
29	NETHERLANDS	19.00
	PORTUGAL	19.00
31	FRANCE	16.50
32	SAN MARINO	14.00
33	LATVIA	10.00

## Championship Diary

There is a very tight time scale for delivery of the Bulletin to the printer - it must arrive no later than 22.00. With that in mind I suggested a simplified front page for yesterday's issue - There was an excellent opening ceremony, and a pianist.

Ron Tacchi is not here in Warsaw, but we keep in touch by email. Last Thursday he sent me the latest edition of his popular series 'A Letter from France' (The alternative title was vetoed). There followed a short exchange:

Finally another missive worthy of the bard.

Do read it first and don't just send it off as you may want to change just one thing - the ashtray.

T

PS Have fun in Warsaw, but not quite as much as if I were there.

Will read it on the plane - if there is one.

H

You'll only read it on the plane if you are in the hold with it.

T

Talking of planes, the 'London plot' that has thrown the world's transportation system into turmoil is having an impact on the Championships, as I discovered at the opening ceremony that several teams were still incomplete and keeping their fingers crossed that they would be able to get four players to the table in time for yesterday's opening match.

My computer only spell checks in Polish - not promising news for those who are aware of my legendary spelling skills.

It would be interesting to know how the teams competing in the Open series were chosen. One country held a trial in which the winning team would be allowed to choose the third pair. At the end of the final one of the winners was offered a chocolate by another player. 'Okay,' he said, 'you are in the team.' (You will understand that in the Championship Diary anonymity is everything so we cannot name anyone. However, we can tell you that one of the dramatis personae in this anecdote has a penchant for large cigars.)

We are happy to recommend the odd restaurant - especially the ones offering us a good commission - so if you are looking for something a little special with plenty of ambience and offering classic Polish food, try restaurant Tradycja, ul. Belwederska 18a, a short taxi ride from the Palace of Culture.

**OPEN TEAMS**

**Round 1**

**Ireland v Netherlands**

by Jos Jacobs

Prior to these Championships the Netherlands certainly looked like one of the teams with a good chance to qualify for Shanghai 2007, the next Bermuda Bowl. They had participated in Estoril, though they just failed to reach the knock-out stage there. Before that, they had done very well as a team in both Tenerife 2005 and Istanbul 2004, winning a gold medal and a silver one.

Istanbul 2004, the World Team Olympiad, also saw a recent big match between the two countries involved in this first-round encounter, as they had to face each other in the quarterfinals, both teams having survived the first of the knock-out rounds there. On that occasion, the Netherlands recorded an easy enough victory and went on to finish the event as runners-up.

For the Irish this match thus could be a good chance to get their revenge for what had happened in the past when they played the Dutch.

The first board immediately saw the Dutch into the lead when they judged the situation better than their opponents.

Board: 1. Dealer: North. None vul.

<p>♠ A 7 ♥ A K 10 9 ♦ A J 8 ♣ A 10 3 2</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">W</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">S</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ 3 ♥ 7 3 2 ♦ 10 7 4 ♣ J 9 8 6 5 4</p>	<p>♠ K J 4 ♥ J 5 ♦ K Q 6 5 2 ♣ K Q 7</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Garvey</i>	<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Carroll</i>
	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

The disadvantage of introducing 5♣ is that partner will have to guess your actual strength. This certainly came true in another match, when an Italian West (no mean performer of course, as we all know) raised his partner to slam over 5♣ only to go down one more.

When 4♠ lost the normal four tricks The Netherlands had scored +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>McGann</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

In spite of this useful dummy Hanlon could not possibly bring home all 11 tricks so +100 again to the Dutch for a 5-0 lead.

On the next board the Irish hit back with double force:

Board: 2. Dealer: East. N/S vul.

<p>♠ 8 6 3 ♥ Q 10 6 ♦ A 9 6 4 3 2 ♣ K</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">W</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">S</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ A K Q 9 ♥ K ♦ — ♣ A Q J 10 8 7 3 2</p>	<p>♠ J 7 2 ♥ A J 5 2 ♦ J 10 8 7 5 ♣ 9</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Garvey</i>	<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Carroll</i>
		2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Dble	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	5♣	All Pass

In a completely natural and quite decent auction the Dutch reached a respectable contract for a score of +440 when South did not bother to lead his ♥A.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>McGann</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Dble	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass

After his partner's raise Hanlon knew that there would be play for a slam and thus after some hesitation he bid it. It all came down to the ♣K behaving. Though rumours

are that it's often a singleton behind the ace, this time its early appearance ensured the contract in the easiest of fashions. Ireland +940 as Ramondt too had not bothered to lead his ♥A.

After only two boards, the score thus stood at 11-5.

More trouble for the scorers on the next episode:

Board: 3. Dealer: South. E/W vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Garvey</i>	<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Carroll</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♠	Dble	All Pass



Ton Bakkeren, Netherlands

When the diamonds behaved, declarer lost just a club and three trump tricks due to East's superior spade spots. Had declarer held the ♠98 and dummy the ♠32 instead, this might well have been a different story...As it was: The Netherlands +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>McGann</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
All Pass			INT

The game you really want to be in is 3NT. There are nine top tricks if the diamonds behave. How to get there is another problem which Westra-Ramondt could not solve in spite of an impeccable auction. Any suggestions?

Nine tricks duly made, +150 to The Netherlands and 6 IMPs to level the match at 11 all.

More action on the next board, be it at only one table:

Board: 4. Dealer: West. All vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Garvey</i>	<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Carroll</i>
2NT	Pass	3♣	All Pass

The 2NT gadget, showing a weakish minor suit hand, backfired when Bertens gave preference for his partner's clubs instead of launching a heart offensive. Maybe he was hoping to get a second life with so many spades out but both Irishmen made polite passes. When the two relevant queens came down in quick succession EW could write a rare +190 into their column.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>McGann</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
1♦	1♠	2♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	All Pass

McGann judged his hand worth a straightforward opening bid and must have felt pleased when he first got the chance to introduce his second suit and next heard his partner rebid his hearts. We can forgive him for not raising this to slam. Playing safe he ensured 11 tricks by establishing the diamonds and ruffing two losing spades. Ireland +650 and a juicy swing of 10 IMPs.

We saw an even bigger swing on the next board, and again Ireland were at the positive end of it:

Board: 5. Dealer: North. N/S vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Garvey</i>	<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Carroll</i>
5♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
	Pass	5♦	All Pass



Tom Garvey, Ireland

Maybe or even probably East should have passed 5♣ but that would not have been a success either. Undertricks are cheap at this vulnerability so the Irish only scored +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>McGann</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
	Pass	3♦	3♥
5♣	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

The Open Room result turned out to be more than enough for the Irish when the Dutch NS were led into temptation by either preempt. McGann had the last word on this and a simple spade lead for a ruff brought the Irish +500 more and 12 IMPs. They led by 22, all of a sudden, as the score after only 5 boards had stood at 33-11 to Ireland. The revenge was getting some shape.

On board 7 the Dutch just slightly overbid to reach a not unreasonable vulnerable game which had to go down two with a finesse wrong and trumps 4-1. The Irish stayed on firm ground and thus added another 7 IMPs to their tally.

Two boards later, the Dutch recovery started:

Board: 9. Dealer: North. E/W vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Garvey</i>	<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Carroll</i>
	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Singleton aces do not disqualify a strong hand for an opening 2NT so Bertens' approach worked well when the spade fit was easily revealed and the king of trumps behaved. Netherlands +1430.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
McGann	Westra	Hanlon	Ramondt
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

In the Closed Room, McGann could only guess at what was really going on so his decision to go after a big penalty looks completely sensible. The Irish duly got their +800 but lost 12 IMPs in the process to lead by 16 at the time.

However there was another major swing on the next board, much to the disappointment of those Dutch supporters whose hopes had just been raised again:

Board: 10. Dealer: East. All vul.

♠ 6 5	♠ K J 10 8 4	♠ Q 7 3 2									
♥ J 7	♥ A 6 2	♥ K Q 8 5 3									
♦ K 10 6 5 3 2	♦ Q 4	♦ 9 7									
♣ 8 5 4	♣ K Q 10	♣ A 9									
	<table border="1"> <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 9										
	♥ 10 9 4										
	♦ A J 8										
	♣ J 7 6 3 2										

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bakkeren	Garvey	Bertens	Carroll
2♣	2♠	Pass	Pass
All Pass		Pass	3NT

When Bertens did not open, it almost looked as if Bakkeren's 2♣ opening (showing a diamond weak two in this case) made it inevitable for the Irish to end up in the most popular of contracts. When Bakkeren did not lead his ♥J but led a club instead, beating the contract had become well and truly impossible. Ireland +600.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
McGann	Westra	Hanlon	Ramondt
Pass	1♠	1♥	Pass
Pass		All Pass	



Berry Westra, Netherlands

When NS took a conservative stance after Hanlon's opening bid another vulnerable game was gone. Netherlands +140 but 10 more imps to the Irish.

Not very much happened after this first half of the match. Watching on BBO I saw one major swing on board 18, again to Ireland, but on the Official Score Card of the Open Room this board was scored as a push when I went over to check it. However, as these lines are being written the Official Score Card of the Closed Room, for which the Dutch NS are responsible, was still missing.

So the final result of the match is provisional but at this moment it stands at 61-30 or 21-9 V.P. to Ireland. They definitely have done very well as their score can only go up into the 23-7 area to make their revenge even sweeter.

# LAVAZZA

## ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE

**OPEN TEAMS**

**Round 1**

**France v Denmark**

by Mark Horton

Ask any player competing in a major championship what he hopes for at the beginning of the competition and I am sure they will tell you a couple of easy deals so they can get their eye in. Well, anyone hoping for time in the comfort zone before the real action started was disappointed by the arrival of the first deal.

risked a second double with the West cards – which is why writing is so much more enjoyable than playing.

East led the three of hearts and West took the king and ace and then played ace of spades and a spade. Declarer had to lose a diamond, so that was another +50 for Denmark and an early lead that was immediately increased.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levy</i>	<i>D Schaltz</i>	<i>Mouiel</i>	<i>P Schaltz</i>
	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

The merits of preempting with a four card major on the side have been debated for years – the jury is still out – but the modernists are not inhibited at all. You can't blame East for going on to Six Clubs – it would not be difficult to construct a deal where it was lay down.

South led the king of diamonds and declarer took dummy's ace, cashed the ace of spades and ruffed a spade. When he advanced the eight of clubs South did not cover, so it held the trick.

That meant declarer could play a diamond, unblocking the jack when South won with the queen. He took the club return with dummy's ace, crossed to the ten of diamonds, cashed the top hearts and exited with a trump, endplaying South for a well played one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Askgaard</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Bjarnarson</i>	<i>Chemla</i>
	Pass	Pass	INT
Dble	4♠	All Pass	

I doubt you could find a living Frenchman who would open Three Spades with the North cards, but once South had opened with a strong notrump it was automatic to advance to game.

At the risk of being called old fashioned I would have

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levy</i>	<i>D Schaltz</i>	<i>Mouiel</i>	<i>P Schaltz</i>
		2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	All Pass

The key to this deal was the degree of club support West could deliver. Clearly East was not confident West's preference to clubs promised more than two, although his subsequent bid of 4NT was perhaps an additional indication as he had rejected a possible 3NT bid earlier in the auction. With clubs 1-1 declarer was soon claiming an overtrick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Askgaard</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Bjarnarson</i>	<i>Chemla</i>
		1♣*	Pass
1♦*	Pass	1♥*	Pass
INT*	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
3NT*	Pass	6♣	All Pass

The Danish pairs version of relay Precision came into its own on this deal, and with West known to be 3-5-2-3 it was clear to bid the slam – 11 IMPs for Denmark, ahead 14-0.

France picked up an IMP when both sides missed a fair game on the next deal, but immediately followed that by getting onto the scoreboard in a more significant way.



Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levy</i>	<i>D Schaltz</i>	<i>Mouiel</i>	<i>P Schaltz</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♣	3♥*	Dble	4♠
4NT*	Pass	5♣	All Pass

The singleton queens meant thirteen tricks were a formality – how expensive would that be for France?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Askgaard</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Bjarnarson</i>	<i>Chemla</i>
2♦*	Pass	3♣*	All Pass

The answer was not at all! West had a gadget, but East was not in the least bit interested – after all, he had no great fit and his partner could easily have been much weaker. +170, but 10 IMPs for France.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levy</i>	<i>D Schaltz</i>	<i>Mouiel</i>	<i>P Schaltz</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♣	2NT*	3♦	3♥
3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

For the second time in the match we were able to see the

different bidding philosophies that prevail in Denmark and France. 2-2-7-2 is a rotten distribution for a preempt, and the suit quality is nothing special, so it was a routine pass for East, especially second in hand. However, he was not afraid to come in on the next round. When North/South bid it was routine for West to bid Five Clubs as insurance. There were three aces to lose, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Askgaard</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Bjarnarson</i>	<i>Chemla</i>
		2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Dble	3♦	4♥
All Pass			

Here East was happy to use a conventional aid to describe his hand. With both majors North was happy to get in on the act, despite his modest values. West had more reason to pass, as there was every chance his partner would be short in spades. He cashed the ace and king and gave East a ruff. There was still a diamond to come, another +100 and 5 IMPs.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levy</i>	<i>D Schaltz</i>	<i>Mouiel</i>	<i>P Schaltz</i>
		Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

I'm not exactly sure what went wrong here, but when West led the six of spades declarer was in with a chance. He won with dummy's ace, drew trumps (being careful to preserve a trump entry to dummy) and cashed a spade to discard a club. Now he played a low club off dummy and East took the ace and returned a club. (It looks better to return a spade to kill any possible threat that might be caused by dummy's ten.) Declarer ruffed and cashed a heart before playing the ace of diamonds. Had he played off some of his remaining trumps instead West would have been forced to release a diamond and then a backward finesse would have brought home the slam.

That's not exactly obvious, and declarer took the simple view, finessing in diamonds to go one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Askgaard	Cronier	Bjarnarson	Chemla
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	4♦

It was clear to North that a club control was missing. That was also true for West, who led the six of clubs. The defenders cashed two tricks and declarer claimed – no doubt a little surprised to discover it was worth 11 IMPs. France led for the first time, 22-19 IMPs.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	D Schaltz	Mouiel	P Schaltz
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	All Pass		



Herve Mouiel, France

North led the five of hearts and declarer took South's jack with the ace, played a heart to the ten and ran the eight of clubs to North's queen. The heart return was taken by dummy's king and he took a second club finesse, cashing three rounds of the suit before playing the queen of spades, covered by the king and ace. The nine of spades ran to North's jack and after cashing the queen of hearts North, who had discarded a spade, had to lead away from the king of diamonds, +150 for France.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Askgaard	Cronier	Bjarnarson	Chemla
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The same heart lead – okay this time it was the four – saw declarer win in hand and play a diamond. North went in with the king and switched to the king of spades. Declarer won in dummy and ran the eight of clubs. North won and went back to hearts, but declarer put in the ten and could claim his contract when the clubs came in. That aggressive piece of bidding gave Denmark 7 IMPs and put them back in the lead, 29-26 IMPs.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	D Schaltz	Mouiel	P Schaltz
Dble	2♣*	1♣	INT
		Dble	All Pass

The North hand is of the type that caused me to abandon Rubber Bridge and it looked as if declarer was going to go for a big number. However it is quite easy to drop a trick or two in this sort of situation. East led the eight of spades and declarer took dummy's ace and returned the suit – that should be four down – West winning and cashing a third spade. However, on this trick East discarded the nine of diamonds, and that cost his side two tricks. West continued with ace of diamonds and a diamond and East ruffed and switched to a heart. Declarer finessed, cashed the ace of hearts and played a winning diamond discarding her last heart. East tried a heart, but declarer discarded dummy's remaining diamond, ruffed in hand and played a club – only two down, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Askgaard	Cronier	Bjarnarson	Chemla
		2♣	2NT
All Pass			

On the evidence of this match West had was not wearing his doubling boots, although his singleton club was hardly ideal. West led a diamond and declarer took East's queen with the jack and played on spades. West won the second round and played another diamond. Next time he was in he switched to a heart for the king and ace. Declarer cashed his spade and heart winners and exited with a low club, eventually scoring a seventh trick with the king of clubs, -50 and 6 IMPs for France, back in the lead at 33-29 IMPs.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	D Schaltz	Mouiel	P Schaltz
1♦	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
		INT	All Pass

South led the two of clubs and declarer won with dummy's jack and played the ten of hearts. North won, cashed another heart and switched to a spade. The defenders had established five tricks, +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Askgaard	Cronier	Bjarnarson	Chemla
		2♣	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the three of hearts, surely indicative of a strong holding when dummy had bid the suit, but when South followed with the two declarer won with the ten and simply played the jack of clubs. There was no way to prevent nine tricks, +400 and 7 IMPs to Denmark, once more ahead, 38-33 IMPs.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	D Schaltz	Mouiel	P Schaltz
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦
1♠	2♥	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

I cannot tell you why East did not support spades – maybe West had not promised a five card suit? It allowed the Danish pair to steal the partscore. The play record is incomplete (I know South won the first trick with the ace of spades) but declarer was +110, which looks about right.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Askgaard	Cronier	Bjarnarson	Chemla
4♠	All Pass		

No, I don't believe that was West's opening bid either, but as we go to press that is all the information we have.

It looks as if declarer must lose a trick in every suit, but according to the record North led the five of hearts. Clearly the defenders now need to score a heart ruff, but the result is posted as +650, a whopping 13 IMPs for Denmark, who had won 51-33 IMPs, 19-11 VP.



Peter Schaltz, Denmark



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