

Daily Bulletin

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Issue No. 3

Tuesday, 15 August 2006



VARIATIONS ON A THEME



The imposing Championship venue

After only two days nothing is even close to being certain, but the top of the table has a familiar ring to it, as **Italy** lead the way. They are followed by **Sweden**, **Germany**, **Turkey** and the **Netherlands**, the latter having an excellent day to rocket up the table.

Despite recording three wins, **France** are still in the doldrums, and so too are **Poland**.

Full credit to **Latvia**, who, having been hammered by **England** 25-3 VP, came back to restrict Italy to 14-16 VP.

Today's VuGraph Matches

Intercontinental Hotel - 2nd Floor
Denmark - England 10.30
France - Russia 14.15
Sweden - Italy 17.35

BBO OnLine Transmissions

Denmark - England 10.30 Wales - Italy 10.30 10.30 San Marino - Poland 10.30 France - Portugal France - Russia 14.15 Italy - Denmark 14.15 Poland - Romania 14.15 14.15 Spain - Norway 17.35 Sweden - Italy 17.35 Norway - France Latvia - Poland 17.35 17.35 England - Bulgaria

Swan Games OnLine

Norway - Iceland 10.30 Sweden - England 14.15 Netherlands - Iceland 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

	RC	DUND 6 10.30
Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	LATVIA	LITHUANIA
2	SWITZERLAND	TURKEY
3	FRANCE	PORTUGAL
4	DENMARK	ENGLAND
5	RUSSIA	SPAIN
6	HUNGARY	LUXEMBURG
7	NORWAY	ICELAND
8	SERBIA	FINLAND
9	BELGIUM	ESTONIA
10	SCOTLAND	NETHERLANDS
- 11	WALES	ITALY
12	SAN MARINO	POLAND
13	ROMANIA	GERMANY
14	GREECE	IRELAND
15	CROATIA	SWEDEN
16	ISRAEL	BULGARIA
	BELARUS	BYE

		ROUND 7	14.15
Table	Home Team	n Visitin	g Team
1 2 3 4	BULGARIA PORTUGAL POLAND LITHUANIA	CROAT SWITZ ROMA SERBIA	ZERLAND NIA
5 6 7	ESTONIA ICELAND GERMANY	BELAR SCOTL LATVIA	AND
8 9 10	SWEDEN TURKEY SPAIN FINLAND	ENGLA GREEC NORW WALES	CE VAY
12 13 14 15	SAN MARING FRANCE ITALY LUXEMBURG IRELAND BYE	O BELGIU RUSSIA DENM	JM A ARK ERLANDS

	ROUND 8 17.3		
Table	Home Team	Visiting Team	
ı	DENMARK	FINLAND	
2	NETHERLANDS	ICELAND	
3	SCOTLAND	SPAIN	
4	BELGIUM	ROMANIA	
5	ENGLAND	BULGARIA	
6	SERBIA	GERMANY	
7	GREECE	PORTUGAL	
8	WALES	LITHUANIA	
9	RUSSIA	SWITZERLAND	
10	HUNGARY	ESTONIA	
П	SWEDEN	ITALY	
12	NORWAY	FRANCE	
13	ISRAEL	TURKEY	
14	CROATIA	IRELAND	
15	BELARUS	SAN MARINO	
16	LATVIA	POLAND	
	BYE	LUXEMBURG	

OPEN TEAMS RESULTS

	ROUND 3 - su	bject to official o	confirmati	on
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VP s
- 1	ITALY	ROMANIA	107 - 21	25 - 0
2	TURKEY	ICELAND	27 - 34	14 - 16
3	POLAND	HUNGARY	4 - 49	6 - 24
4	WALES	ISRAEL	37 - 59	10 - 20
5	FINLAND	SAN MARINO	38 - 63	10 - 20
6	IRELAND	SPAIN	56 - 78	10 - 20
7	LITHUANIA	ESTONIA	42 - 54	13 - 17
8	SWEDEN	SWITZERLAND	103 - 24	25 - I
9	BELARUS	BELGIUM	68 - 40	21 - 9
10	DENMARK	GREECE	56 - 57	15 - 15
П	BULGARIA	FRANCE	38 - 51	12 - 18
12	CROATIA	SERBIA	43 - 47	14 - 16
13	ENGLAND	LATVIA	84 - 25	25 - 3
14	SCOTLAND	RUSSIA	70 - 44	20 - 10
15	PORTUGAL	NETHERLANDS	35 - 72	7 - 23
16	LUXEMBURG	NORWAY	31 - 40	13 - 17
	GERMANY	BYE		18 - 0

	ROUND 4 - subject to official confirmation				
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMP s	VP s	
1	FRANCE	IRELAND	38 - 34	16 - 14	
2	BELGIUM	HUNGARY	25 - 46	11 - 19	
3	ROMANIA	FINLAND	21 - 49	9 - 21	
4	LATVIA	ITALY	41 - 47	14 - 16	
5	ISRAEL	DENMARK	25 - 45	11 - 19	
6	ICELAND	PORTUGAL	54 - 13	23 - 7	
7	ESTONIA	GERMANY	43 - 60	11 - 19	
8	WALES	CROATIA	22 - 47	10 - 20	
9	SWITZERLAND	BULGARIA	25 - 16	17 - 13	
10	SAN MARINO	LITHUANIA	45 - 4	23 - 7	
Ш	SPAIN	TURKEY	18 - 58	7 - 23	
12	NORWAY	SCOTLAND	55 - 26	21 - 9	
13	GREECE	SWEDEN	18 - 56	7 - 23	
14	SERBIA	ENGLAND	23 - 17	16 - 14	
15	BELARUS	LUXEMBURG	39 - 22	19 - 11	
16	RUSSIA	NETHERLANDS	15 - 62	6 - 24	
	POLAND	BYE		18 - 0	

	ROUND 5 - subject to official confirmation					
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VP s		
I	ITALY	SERBIA	70 - 31	23 - 7		
2	IRELAND	SWITZERLAND	24 - 43	11 - 19		
3	FINLAND	LATVIA	61 - 12	25 - 5		
4	LUXEMBURG	SCOTLAND	9 - 60	5 - 25		
5	ENGLAND	WALES	47 - 36	17 - 13		
6	GERMANY	SAN MARINO	86 - 18	25 - 2		
7	ICELAND	RUSSIA	47 - 54	14 - 16		
8	LITHUANIA	ROMANIA	45 - 51	14 - 16		
9	HUNGARY	BELARUS	46 - 41	16 - 14		
10	POLAND	ESTONIA	18 - 59	7 - 23		
Ш	SWEDEN	ISRAEL	28 - 48	11 - 19		
12	NETHERLANDS	NORWAY	59 - 15	24 - 6		
13	BULGARIA	GREECE	55 - 14	23 - 7		
14	TURKEY	FRANCE	50 - 61	13 - 17		
15	DENMARK	CROATIA	62 - 44	19 - 11		
16	PORTUGAL	SPAIN	48 - 42	16 - 14		
	BELGIUM	BYE		18 - 0		

OPEN TEAMS RANKING after 5 rounds

subject to official confirmation

-1	ITALY	109.00
2	SWEDEN	97.50
3	GERMANY	93.00
4	TURKEY	90.00
	NETHERLANDS	90.00
6	NORWAY	88.00
	ENGLAND	88.00
8	HUNGARY	87.00
	FINLAND	87.00
10	DENMARK	85.50
- 11	CROATIA	84.00
12	BULGARIA	82.00
13	ICELAND	80.00
14	ISRAEL	79.50
15	BELARUS	79.00
16	ESTONIA	77.00
17	SCOTLAND	75.00
18	SPAIN	73.00
19	SERBIA	71.00
20	LUXEMBOURG	69.00
21	IRELAND	68.00
	WALES	68.00
	LITHUANIA	68.00
24	FRANCE	67.50
25	GREECE	64.00
26	SWITZERLAND	62.00
	BELGIUM	62.00
	POLAND	62.00
29	SANMARINO	59.00
	ROMANIA	59.00
31	RUSSIA	57.00
32	PORTUGAL	49.00
33	LATVIA	32.00

Championship Diary

One of my mathematically inclined informants has confided in me that he expects that in order to qualify for the Bermuda Bowl you will have to

average 18 VP. That has been the case in the last five European Championships, although in a strong field you might just get away with 17 point something. Only time will tell.

Today's restaurant tip is for Bazylisek, 1/3 Rynek Starego Miasta - which is the Old Town Market Square.

Thanks to the power of the Internet we are able to call for help from all corners of the globe. Our man down under, the legendary Tim Bourke is currently converting BBO files into text, which considerably simplifies some our tasks. Good on yer mate!

Good news for all our readers - Tacchi is following the proceedings and will forward his contributions for the diary as and when he is suitably inspired.

Tasty, Not Expensive, Not Far!



There is a cafe at the playing area in the Palace of Culture & Science located between the Open & Closed Rooms that has been opened especially for the Championships.

You can try some typical Polish specialities as well as European dishes. Prices are very moderate

and given the short interval between matches it is the ideal spot to visit. There have already been numerous recommendations!



Calling all VuGraph Captains

For the teams playing on VuGraph the line up forms for the next match are available in the Intercontinental Hotel, on the third floor. So, captains do not have to run to the line up desk after finishing the round.

Ton Kooijman

OPEN TEAMS

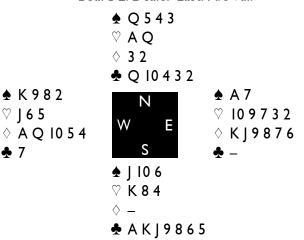
Round 2

Russia v Norway

by Mark Horton

This had to be one of the matches of the round, featuring Norway — a shoe — in on everyone's list for one of the Bermuda Bowl berths — and one of the strong contenders Russia.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South	
Helness	Matushko	Helgemo	Khokhlov	
		Pass	2♣	
2♦	Dble	5♦	Pass	
Pass	Dble	All Pass		

In theory it is possible to defeat Five Diamonds but it is



Andrei Gromov, Russia

asking a lot of North to start with the ace of hearts. On the lead of the two of clubs declarer ruffed in dummy, played a diamond to the ace and then eliminated spades, drawing the last trump in the process. Now a low heart left the defenders without recourse and declarer racked up +550.

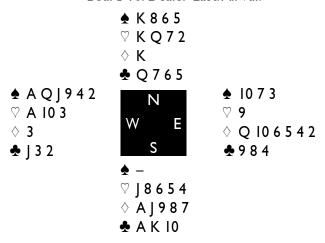
Closed Room

West	North	East	South	
Dubinin	Ekren	Gromov	Tundal	
		2♡*	3♣	_
3♡	3NT	4 ♦	6♣	
6◊	Dble	All Pass		

East had a gadget and when West supported his first suit he was not afraid to show the second. When South speculated on the possibility that his side might be able to make a slam — clearly taking his partner's bid very seriously—West entered the phantom zone, -100 and 12 IMPs for Norway.

There followed a series of boards where, as Tacchi would put it, 'suddenly nothing happened.' During this period the most interesting deal was this one:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helness	Matushko	Helgemo	Khokhlov
		Pass	IΫ́
I♠	4♡	All Pass	

To my untrained eye Four Hearts looks a bit heavy—but you can understand why North rejected any idea of a splinter in diamonds without a single first round control. Still, that would have been one way to get South interested. Al-

ternatively one might start with a simple Two Spades and see how things developed.

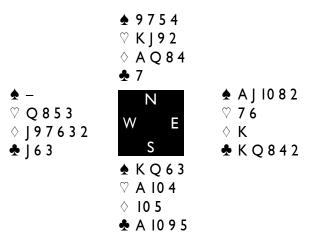
Closed Room

West	North	East	South	
Dubinin	Ekren	Gromov	Tundal	
		Pass	ΙŸ	
♠	4♡	All Pass		

Oh well, another push.

The score had advanced to 16-4 when this deal settled on the table:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



Open Room

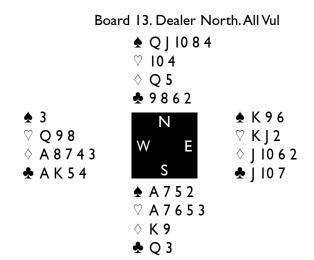
West	North	East	South
Helness	Matushko	Helgemo	Khokhlov
Pass	Pass	l ♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

When North doubled it was pretty clear to convert that with the South hand. South led the ten of diamonds and North won and accurately switched to a trump. South took the ace and continued with the ten. Barring a mistake declarer was booked for two down, and he was soon conceding —300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South	
Dubinin	Ekren	Gromov	Tundal	
Pass	Pass	I♠	Pass	
INT*	Pass	2♣*	Pass	
Pass	Dble	4♣	Dble	
All Pass				

East picked a very bad moment to raise the ante. Being two levels higher than his counterpart he was two tricks worse off, -800 and those I I IMPs meant Norway now led 27-4 IMPs.



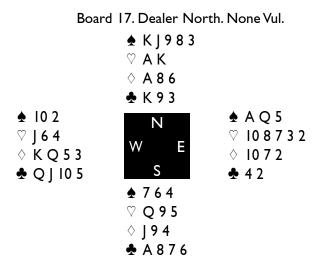
Open Roon	n		
West	North	East	South
Helness	Matushko	Helgemo	Khokhlov
	Pass	Pass	I♡
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

No doubt I am in a minority of one, but I would respond to an opening bid with the North hand. When East protected West made an invitation that was politely declined. South led the six of hearts and declarer won in hand with the king and played a diamond to the ace and a diamond. South won and continued with the three of hearts. Declarer took that with the jack and advanced the jack of clubs. South covered — not that it mattered — and declarer had nine tricks, +150.



Closed Room	m			
West	North	East	South	
Dubinin	Ekren	Gromov	Tundal	
	Pass	Pass	I♡	
All Pass				

Personally I would not want to travel all the way from Moscow to Warsaw to defend One Heart, but there you are. West led the ace of clubs for the two, jack and three, but then switched — fatally — to his singleton spade. That was covered by the queen, king and ace and declarer ducked a heart to East, who gave West a spade ruff. He continued with the ace of diamonds and a diamond but declarer won in hand, cashed the ace of hearts and conceded a heart—now assured of the seven tricks he needed for his contract, +80 and another 6 IMPs for Norway.



Open Room	า			
West	North	East	South	
Helness	Matushko	Helgemo	Khokhlov	
	♣*	Pass	♦*	
Pass	I♠	Pass	INT	
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT	
All Pass				

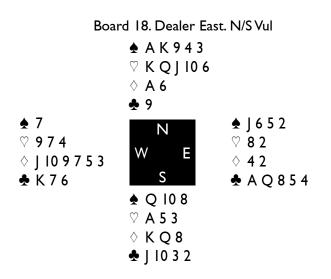
West led the queen of clubs and declarer won with dummy's king and tried a low spade. That ran to West's ten, and he continued with the ten of clubs. When declarer ducked West switched to the king of diamonds, setting up a fifth trick for the defenders, who in due course were +100.

Closed Room

· -			
North	East	South	
Ekren	Gromov	Tundal	
♣*	$Dble^*$	Pass	
INT	Pass	2♣	
2♠	Pass	2NT	
3NT	All Pass		
	Ekren I♣* INT 2♠	Ekren Gromov I♣* Dble* INT Pass 2♠ Pass	EkrenGromovTundalI♣*Dble*PassINTPass2♣2♠Pass2NT

I would like to explain the meaning of East's double, but the convention card is silent.

East led the three of hearts and declarer won and played the king of spades. East won and continued with a heart, declarer winning and playing the jack of spades. The appearance of West's ten was what declarer was hoping to see and he was +400, giving Norway 11 IMPs and leaving them well ahead at 46-9 IMPs.



Open Roon	n		
West	North	East	South
Helness	Matushko	Helgemo	Khokhlov
		Pass	♣
3♦	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	6♡	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

East led the ace of clubs and continued with the four, declarer ruffing West's king. He cashed the ace of spades and played a spade to the ten. That's the down side of West's action, but on balance I believe such bids bring in far more points than they lose. A well played +1430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dubinin	Ekren	Gromov	Tundal
		Pass	♦*
Pass	Ι♡	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3◊*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5◊*
Pass	5♡*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

West led the six of clubs and East won and returned the suit. Declarer ruffed and with nothing to guide him played the ace of spades and a spade to the queen, one down, - 100 and 17 badly needed IMPs for Russia, reducing Norway's winning margin to 46-26 IMPs, 19-11 VP.

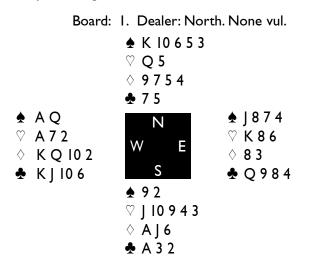
OPEN TEAMS

Round 3

Italy v Romania

by Jos Jacobs

After a first day of many surprises, at least one certainty remained intact: the Italians found themselves back in the standings in a position quite familiar to them over recent years. On the other hand, Romania also could look back on the first day with some satisfaction having opened their account with a useful 34 VP. So the Vugraph audience could expect a morning match between two confident teams and so it proved right on the first board:



West	North	East	South	
Briciu	Fantoni	Ghigheci	Nunes	
	Pass	Pass	Pass	
I♦	I♠	Pass	Pass	
INT	Pass	2NT	Pass	
3NT	All Pass			

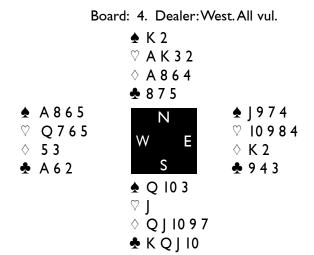
This board looks like a warming-up routine game for EW. So it proved in the Open Room when West was given the chance to open his strong hand in 4th position. North overcalled I♠ but EW reached 3NT without any problems. North led a spade and that was the end of the story. Romania +430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South	
Versace	Rotaru	Lauria	Munteanu	
	Pass	Pass	I♡	
Dble	I♠	Pass	Pass	
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the Closed Room, however, the aggressive style used by the Romanians gave Munteanu the chance to open a fully systemic 17. Here too, game was easily reached by EW but his partner's opening bid enabled Rotaru to find the only lead to beat the contract: the ∇Q . The relatively solid heart suit and the two aces would always leave South one tempo ahead. One down. Romania +50 and away to a flying start: 10-0.

Italy scored I IMP on both boards 2 and 3 to trail by 8 when this board arrived:



Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Briciu	Fantoni	Ghigheci	Nunes	
Pass	INT	Pass	3♡	
Pass	3NT	All Pass		

3♥ showed a minor-suit-oriented hand with three spades and 3NT thus confirmed a solid stopper in hearts. Knowing all this, Ghigheci elected to lead a spade to Briciu's ace. A switch to the ∇Q (!) should give the defence a chance to prevail after all but when a spade came back (and who can



Iulian Rotaru, Romania

blame West for that?) it was all over. Italy +630.

Closed	Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Rotaru	Lauria	Munteanu
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2◊	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

With nothing to guide him Lauria opted for the safest lead: the \heartsuit 10. After that, beating the contract had become inevitable. Italy +100 and 12 IMPs to take the lead for the first and last time in the match.

A stolen game saw the Italian lead go up into double figures on board 8:

Board: 8. Dealer: West. None vul.

◆ 9865
♡ 98652
◇ K I0

Q 3



♠ K 4 2 ♡ A K 10 7 ◇ 8 7 6 3 2 ♣ 7

♣ 10 7♡ Q J♦ Q J 5♣ A J 9 8 5 2



Lorenzo Lauria, Italy

Open Room

West	North	East	South	
Briciu	Fantoni	Ghigheci	Nunes	
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT	
All Pass				

As an Italian BBO-commentator put it: "Let's assume Ghigheci got a phone call from Moggi (the ex-president of Juventus Football Club) about which suit to lead." The actual diamond lead did the Romanian cause no good at all: Italy + 430 again.

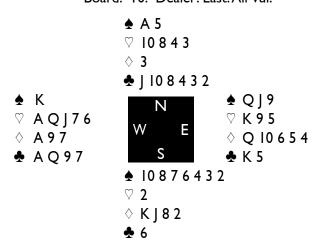
Closed Room

West	North	East	South	
Versace	Rotaru	Lauria	Munteanu	
Pass	♣	Pass	2♠	
Pass	3◊(2)	Pass	5♣	
All Pass	, ,			

2♠ was invitational with clubs and 3♦ was a feature. The cruel heart duplication meant that the contract needed two working finesses to make and that was one too many. Italy +50 and 10 more IMPs to lead by 19 now.

Worse for the Romanians was to come two boards later:

Board: 10. Dealer: East, All vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South	
Briciu	Fantoni	Ghigheci	Nunes	
		Pass	Pass	_
Ι♡	Pass	2♣	2♠	
3♣	Pass	4♡	All Pass	

Fantoni saw no reason to disturb the EW auction after his partner's weak overcall and right he was. The contract was just made and Romania registered +620.

Closed Roc	om		
West	North	East	South
Versace	Rotaru	Lauria	Munteanu
		I ♦	2♠
3♣	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

3♣ showed hearts but Rotaru's little raise gave Versace the chance to express a firm opinion at his next turn. The save proved too expensive as there was no way for declarer to get rid of all his losing diamonds. Down four, +1100 to Italy and another 10 IMPs. The score now: 42-12.

After an adverse partscore swing of 9 IMPs on board 12 Romania finally recouped a few points on the next board:

Board: 13. Dealer: North. All vul. **★** K 5 ♥ 9743 ♦ Q 6 ♣ J 10 6 5 4 8 7 ♠ Q | 9 4 2 ♡ K J AKJ10752 ♦ 83 A 9 7 ♣ Q832 ♠ A 10 6 3 ♥ A Q 10 8 5 2 ♦ 9 4 **♣** K



Alfredo Versace, Italy

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Briciu	Fantoni	Ghigheci	Nunes
	Pass	Pass	I♡
2♦	3♡	All Pass	

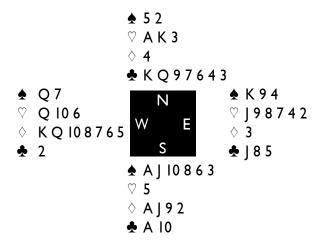
All credit to Nunes for respecting the discipline and passing the weak raise to 3♥. But his one level opening had already shown 14+, so he had no extras. Italy +200 when he made 11 tricks on an underlead by West of his ♣A after cashing the two diamond tops.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Rotaru	Lauria	Munteanu
	Pass	Pass	ΙΫ́
2♦	3♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

Munteanu had mainly the same information available as Nunes but he took a shot at game. Not unreasonable either, keeping in mind his nice 6-4 distribution. With the trumps behaving, 10 tricks were easy enough. Romania +620 and 9 IMPs back to trail by 32.

Board: 15. Dealer: South. N/S vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South	
Briciu	Fantoni	Ghigheci	Nunes	
			♠	
3 ♦ All Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠	

After the interference, Nunes did not bother to investigate about the quality of Fantoni's clubs but simply rebid his fair major suit. He was left to play there and made 11 tricks in comfort; Italy an ambiguous +650, I thought. When looking at the NS hands in isolation, wouldn't you prefer to declare 64? Once you ruffed your losing heart 12 tricks seem to be there more often than not...

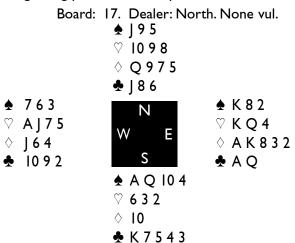
Closed Room	m		
West	North	East	South
Versace	Rotaru	Lauria	Munteanu
			I♠
3♦	4♣	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5◊
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

As East led his lowest diamond it may or may not be easy to read this as a singleton, depending on the EW lead agreements. What is the best line? If you proceed to ruff a heart you look stranded in dummy. As soon as West gets the lead in spades he will play a diamond to promote the .

So the better line might be to establish your spades. In that case, ruffing a heart is no longer necessary. So you win the $\Diamond A$, draw trumps and lead a spade from hand? This looks ill-advised against Lauria as we all know he has done it before (2004 v. Netherlands, the $\clubsuit Q$). He would most certainly have gone up with the $\spadesuit K$ to present you with an almost insoluble problem.

At the table, declarer ruffed a heart and got off dummy with A and a spade. When West could win this the diamond continuation meant one down and I3 IMPs more to Italy.

A signalling problem came up two boards later:



Open Room

West	North	East	South	
Briciu	Fantoni	Ghigheci	Nunes	
	Pass	2NT	Pass	
3NT	All Pass			

Simple and straightforward bidding to reach the normal contract. South led a club to declarer's queen and the $\Diamond A$ came next. Noting the fall of the ten declarer followed with with a low diamond to the jack. Nunes contributed an interesting $\heartsuit 6$ to this trick, clearly not a suggestion to continue clubs. Fantoni thus won his $\Diamond Q$ and without any hesitation put one of the two winnings cards on the table: the $\clubsuit 9$. We all know this suit combination: it is essential to start with the nine if you want to pick up the whole suit even though $\spadesuit 1$ also wins today. Well done anyway, +50 to Italy.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South	
Versace	Rotaru	Lauria	Munteanu	
	Pass	2NT	Pass	
3♣	Pass	3♡	Pass	
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Here too, a club was led to the queen but Lauria, after cashing the $\lozenge K$, crossed to the $\image J$ and led the $\lozenge J$ from dummy, ducking when North covered. South, who had followed with the two to the first heart, now discarded the $\image 3$. As there was no shade of a spade suggestion in this card, North simply continued clubs and that was the end of the defence. Italy another +430 and 10 IMPs more to lead by an unassailable 61 now.

Two more double-figure game swings on the last two boards brought the final score to 107-21 or 25-0 VP to Italy who would remain even more clearly at the top of the standings. Will anyone here in Warsaw be able to remove them from this position before the end of the Championships?

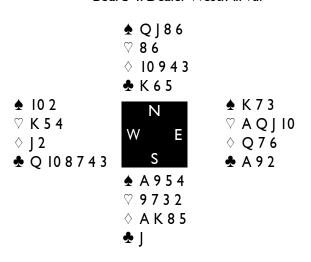


A Little bit of (D)rama

by Barry Rigal

Every now and then Barry Rigal will deliver a few snippets from one of the Vugraph matches - in the old days it used to be called the Bridgerama. Here are his selections from the match between Sweden and France in Round 2 of the Open series.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul



Open Room

West	North	East	South	
Nystrom	Cronier	Bertheau	Chemla	
Pass	Pass	INT	2♣*	
Pass	2◊*	Pass	Pass	
3♣	3♦	All Pass		

East led a trump and declarer won and ducked a heart to East who played a second trump. When he got in with the next heart he could cash the queen of diamonds, producing an easy one down, +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South	
Sainte Marie	Efraimsson	Bompis	Morath	
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass	
2♠*	Pass	3♣*	Pass	
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♦	
All Pass				

Here East led the ace of hearts and then continued the suit (a trump switch is too late now). West won the trick and forced dummy with a heart, but declarer simply ran the queen of spades and then followed that with the jack. He was assured of nine tricks, +110 and 5 IMPs for Sweden.

However, France had the better of things, leading 31-16 IMPs at the half, partly because of this deal:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul. **★** K 8 6 5 ♡ K Q 7 2 ♦ K ♣ Q 7 6 5 **A** Q J 9 4 2 **★** 10 7 3 ♡ A 10 3 ♡ 9 ♦ 3 ♦ Q 10 6 5 4 2 ♣ J 3 2 ◆ 984 ♥ J8654 ♦ A J 9 8 7 ♣ A K 10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Cronier	Bertheau	Chemla
		Pass	ΙΫ́
I♠	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♡	Pass	4♠
Pass	5◊	Pass	6♡
All Pass			

That was well bid by the French pair. On the helpful lead of the ace of spades declarer played a dummy reversal, ruffing three spades in hand, so he did not need any help from



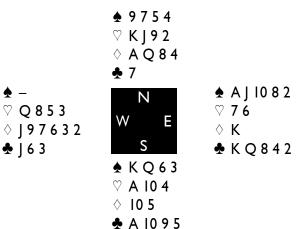
the club suit, +1430. Of course, even the best pairs can bid a slam missing two cashable aces, but other leads would have been more challenging — a diamond for example makes life very awkward for declarer — although the contract can be made if declarer reads the trump position.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sainte Marie	Efraimsson	Bompis	Morath
		Pass	I♡
I♠	2NT*	Pass	4 ♡*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♡
All Pass			

The Swedish pair flirted with the slam but called it a day at the five level. West did lead his diamond at this table and declarer did not try for any heroics, playing on cross ruff lines after one round of trumps had stood up to record +650 — but a loss of 13 IMPs.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Cronier	Bertheau	Chemla
3♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4 \diamond *	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Some aggressive bidding got the French pair to a thin game and with his trump stack East was happy enough to double. (Perhaps there is a case of some sort to pass partner's double of Three Diamonds on the North hand — especially if you know, as one suspects everyone does — that your opponents are hyper-active in this particular area of bidding.)

West led the seven of diamonds and declarer elected to play low from dummy, East winning with the king and switching to the jack of spades, taken by declarer with the king as West discarded a diamond. Declarer cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club, but now got into deep trouble by playing East for the queen of hearts. When the finesse lost he was booked for three down, and a slight slip in the



Peter Fredin, Sweden ending pushed the penalty up to four figures, -1100.

Closed Room					
	West	North	East	South	
	Sainte Marie	Efraimsson	Bompis	Morath	
	Page	Doss	I 🛦	All Page	

I would be prepared to stake my entire per diem that no French player would dream of opening Three Diamonds. The bidding never got off the ground so the result here was of academic interest only. The contract was three down, -150, a loss of 15 IMPs.

That brought the score level and remarkably the Swedes outscored their opponents 48-0 over the remaining 8 deals, to win going away, 75-31 IMPs, 24-6 VP.

For France it was a case of tout est perdu, fors l'honneur - everything is lost, excepted honour.



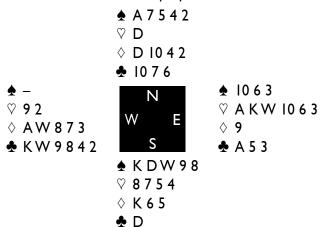
Włosi już na czele

W turnieju open drużyna włoska, która wygrała pięć ostatnich turniejów mistrzowskich już jest na prowadzeniu. W czym tkwi sekret włoskich mistrzów? Biją oni przeciwników na głowę głównie w licytacji i na wiście. Najprawdopodobniej jest to efektem zgrania par — trzy pary, stanowiące od lat o sile włoskiego brydża — Lauria - Versace, Bocchi - Duboin oraz Fantoni - Nunes to stuprocentowi zawodowcy, żyjący z brydża dzięki lukratywnym kontraktom sponsorskim. Przy czym kontrakty te nie zmuszają ich do rozmieniania się na drobne i grania ze sponsorami w turniejach parowych, a pozwalają grać cały czas ze stałym partnerem. Dzięki temu pary te rozgrywają rokrocznie tysiące rozdań, najczęściej przeciwko silnej opozycji, grając razem. Wydaje się, że to jest recepta na sukcesy.

W dwóch pierwszych rundach Włosi spotkali się z drużynami nie należącymi do europejskiej czołówki — Estonią i San Marino, wygrywając odpowiednio 20-10 (55-32 w imp) oraz 25-5 (78-25).

Pary włoskie potrafią wykorzystać wiele sytuacji, stwarzanych przez przeciwników, w których można "docisnąć" i zdobyć punkty. Oto przykład z meczu z Estonią:

Rozdanie 4. Obie po partii, rozdawał W.



Pokój otwarty

West	North	East	South	
Versace	Oja	Lauria	Kask	
pas	pas	ΙŸ	♠	
2♣	2♡	4♡	pas	
pas	4♠	5♣!	pas	
6♣!	pas		-	

Do wysokości 4♥ w licytacji nie działo się nic nadzwyczajnego. Ale gdy Estończycy spróbowali opłacalnej obrony 4♠, które po optymalnej obronie jest za 500, Włosi dostali swoją szansę — Lauria trafnie ocenił swoją rękę — trzy blotki pik pozwoliły dostrzec krótkość u partnera, która po 2♥ nie była jeszcze ewidentna — i spróbował kontraktu treflowego. Po 5♣ Versace ze swoją rewelacyjną ręką nie miał problemu z dołożeniem szlemika.

Dla uzupełnienia relacji opisu wydarzeń dodam, że na

drugim stole para estońska zatrzymała się w kontrakcie 3♣ po otwarciu z ręką W 2BA na młodszych.

Drugie rozdanie pochodzi z meczu z San Marino. Pokazuje ono, że mistrzom nie zawsze jest lekko a przeciwnicy, zdając sobie sprawę z przewagi Włochów, niejednokrotnie stwarzają problemowe sytuacje. Postawmy się w pozycji Nunesa, który z ręką ♠KD974 ♡D10962 ◇W ♣64 w założeniach obie przed partią zajmuje pozycję S po następującej licytacji:

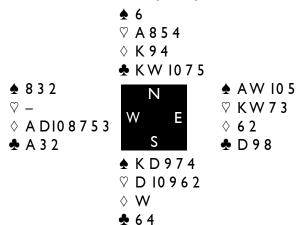
Pokój zamknięty

West	North	East	South
Fiorini	Fantoni	Briolini	Nunes
		pas	pas ¹
4 ♦	pas	pas	?

¹ para Fantoni - Nunes nie stosuje podlimitowych otwarć dwukolorowych

Nunes zdecydował się na wznowienie licytacji kontrą. Na ile jest to decyzja statystycznie uzasadniona? Wydaje się, że jeżeli w stylu gry pary taka kontra może być dana z ręką zawierającą góra jedną lewę defensywną, to można sobie na nią pozwolić. Natomiast, jeżeli partner mógłby ukarnić np. z kartą typu ♠Axx ♡Kxx ⋄xxx ♣KDxx, to kontra wydaje się nadmiernym ryzykiem. W każdym razie, w jakimkolwiek panelu licytacyjnym kontra na pewno nie byłaby odzywką, która zebrałaby 100% głosów. Tutaj była skuteczna, gdyż partner miał starszą czwórkę i zalicytował 4♡, które zostało wygrane. Oto całość rozdania:

Rozdanie 14, obie przed partią, rozdawał E



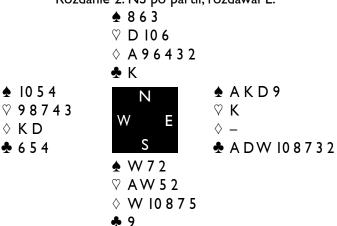
Zwróćmy uwagę na nietypowe otwarcie Fioriniego 4♦ karta W jest na pewno bliższa otwarciu I♦, ale grając przeciwko zdecydowanie silniejszej drużynie starał się on zdynamizować rozdanie, upatrując w tym szansy na zysk. Taktyka taka jest uzasadniona, gdyż grając przeciwko drużynie lepszej, lepiej wyszkolonej, w płaskich rozdaniach trudno liczyć na zdobycze, a można ich częściej oczekiwać w sytuacjach, gdy zmusi się przeciwników do trafiania, niwelując przewagę techniczną, jak w tym przykładzie.

Jak idzie? Najważniejsze, że inaczej niż w 1966

Jak pisałem w biuletynie zapowiadającym mistrzostwa, w 1966 nasza reprezentacja zaczęła bardzo szczęśliwie — w pierwszym rozdaniu inauguracyjnego meczu przeciwko Irlandii Polacy zagrali wielkiego szlema na dwóch impasach, który "poszedł"! Przeciwnicy zatrzymali się w końcówce. Dalszy ciąg mistrzostw był mniej radosny i skończyło się na jedenastym miejscu.

Te mistrzostwa zaczęły się pod inną gwiazdą. Popatrzmy na kilka rozdań z meczu I rundy Polska — Belgia:

Rozdanie 2. NS po partii, rozdawał E.



Pokój zamkniety

,	ι,			
West	North	East	South	
Kowalski	Caputo	Tuszyński	Demarcin	
		♣	pas	
1♦	pas	IBA ¹	pas	
2 ◊²	pas	3♣³	pas	
3BA	pas	4♣⁴	pas	
4 ♦⁵	ktr.	pas	pas	
4BA ⁶	Das	5♣	Das	

- dynamiczne bez atu forsujące na jedno okrążenie, układ dowolny
- ² transfer 4-6 PC, 5+ kierów
- ³ naturalne, forsujace do dogranej
- ⁴ solidny kolor, szlemikowe
- ⁵ cue bid
- 6 nie podgrywalne zatrzymanie w karach, ale nie as...

Po tak precyzyjnej licytacji Tuszyński wiedział na pewno, że partner nie ma ani asa kier, ani króla trefl. W tej sytuacji słusznie poprzestał na końcówce. Po ataku w karo, N pobił asem figurę ze stołu, a rozgrywający przebił atutem i ściągnął asa trefl. Gdy spadł król, 13 lew wypadło z ręki...

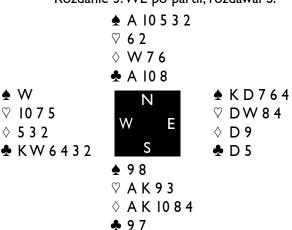
Na drugim stole Belgowie zalicytowali szlemika praktycznie w ciemno:

Pokój otwarty

1 OKOj Otwai ty				
West	North	East	South	
Polet	Chmurski	Kaplan	Gawryś	
		2◊	pas	
3♡	pas	4♣	pas	
4 ♦	ktr.	6♣	pas	

Trudno zinterpretować tą sekwencję... Według karty konwencyjnej pary belgijskiej, $2\diamondsuit$ to forsing do dogranej na składzie dowolnym, a $3\heartsuit$ kolor sześciokartowy z jedną przegrywającą... Nie bardzo wygląda na to. Bardziej prawdopodobne, że $2\diamondsuit$ to multi z wariantem "forsing do dogranej na kolorze młodszym", $3\heartsuit$ blokujące z fitami w obu starszych, $4\clubsuit$ silne na treflach, a $4\diamondsuit$ cue bid. W każdym razie o wysokości końcowego kontraktu na pewno przesądziła potęga ręki E... Wist także nastąpił w karo i 13 lew... Pierwsza duża strata w meczu. A dalej:

Rozdanie 3. WE po partii, rozdawał S.



3BA na linii NS ma lekko ponad 40% realizacji — trochę mniej niż udany impas damy karo. Jak na przedpartyjną końcówkę jest to kontrakt na pograniczu szans opłacalności. Polacy licytowali następująco:



Pokój otwarty				
West	North	East	South	
Polet	Chmurski	Kaplan	Gawryś	
			I♦	
pas	I♠	pas	IBA	
pas	2♣¹	pas	2♦	
pas				

¹ transfer na 2◊

Można dyskutować czy IBA jest optymalnym rebidem z ręką S. Ale końcówka, do której być może doprowadziłby wybór innej odzywki, jak pisałem we wstępie, jest graniczna. Jednak przy drugiej damie karo pod impasem realizacja 3BA nie nastręcza żadnych trudności. Belgowie doszli do nich po następującej sekwencji:

Pokój zamknięty

West	North	East	South	
Kowalski	Caputo	Tuszyński	Demarcin	
			I♦	
Pas	I♠	Pas	2◊	
Pas	3♦	Pas	3BA	
Pas				

A że N mógł po tej sekwencji mieć na przykład

♣ ADxxx♡ Dxx♦ Dxx

🛧 xx

gdzie obrona mogła ściągnąć trefle? Cóż, zwycięzców się nie sądzi...

Miejmy nadzieję, że tak samo, jak początek, tak i za-



Piotr Tuszynski, Poland

kończenie tegorocznego turnieju będzie diametralnie różne od mistrzostw z 1966 roku i Polacy zajmą dużo bardziej satysfakcjonujące miejsce.



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