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Issue No.3

Tuesday, 17 June 2008

Half Time Approaches



Palais Beaumont

After two day's play only the holders Italy are undefeated, which readily illustrates the rising standard of play in the European Bridge Team Championships. The Italians sit atop Group A, however it is Germany who has amassed the most victory points en route to pole position in Group B.

We will be half way through the qualifying rounds at the end of today, so it's time for the peloton to move up a gear.

Round 7		
16	Ireland - Sweden	RAMA
11	France - Russia	BBO 1
6	Finland - Italy	BBO 2
19	Germany - Poland	BBO 3
9	Iceland - Netherlands	BBO 4
1	Turkey - Denmark	SWAN

Round 8		
9	Czech Rep. - Ireland	RAMA
11	Wales - France	BBO 1
5	Italy - Spain	BBO 2
3	Monaco - Greece	BBO 3
1	Croatia - Turkey	BBO 4
15	Sweden - Hungary	SWAN

Round 9		
18	Russia - Poland	RAMA
11	France - Portugal	BBO 1
4	Serbia - Italy	BBO 2
6	Finland - Israel	BBO 3
16	Ireland - Bulgaria	BBO 4
8	Denmark - Netherlands	SWAN

Delegates to the General Assembly



The delegates of every NBO are requested to confirm their attendance at the General Assembly which will take place on Sunday 22 June 2008.



OPEN TEAMS PROGRAM

GROUP A

ROUND 7 10.30

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	TURKEY	DENMARK
2	LITHUANIA	CROATIA
3	GREECE	SWITZERLAND
4	SERBIA	MONACO
5	SPAIN	ENGLAND
6	FINLAND	ITALY
7	ISRAEL	LATVIA
8	SCOTLAND	LUXEMBOURG
9	ICELAND	NETHERLANDS
	CZECH REP.	BYE

ROUND 8 14.15

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	TURKEY	CROATIA
2	SWITZERLAND	LITHUANIA
3	MONACO	GREECE
4	ENGLAND	SERBIA
5	ITALY	SPAIN
6	LATVIA	FINLAND
7	LUXEMBOURG	DENMARK
8	NETHERLANDS	SCOTLAND
9	CZECH REP.	ICELAND
	ISRAEL	BYE

ROUND 9 17.35

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	TURKEY	SWITZERLAND
2	LITHUANIA	MONACO
3	GREECE	ENGLAND
4	SERBIA	ITALY
5	SPAIN	LATVIA
6	FINLAND	ISRAEL
7	LUXEMBOURG	CROATIA
8	DENMARK	NETHERLANDS
9	SCOTLAND	CZECH REP.
	ICELAND	BYE

Today's Schedule

10.30 Open Teams, Round 7

14.15 Open Teams, Round 8

17.35 Open Teams, Round 9

GROUP B

ROUND 7 10.30

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
11	FRANCE	RUSSIA
12	SAN MARINO	WALES
13	AUSTRIA	PORTUGAL
14	ESTONIA	BELARUS
15	HUNGARY	NORWAY
16	IRELAND	SWEDEN
17	BULGARIA	MALTA
18	SLOVAKIA	BELGIUM
19	GERMANY	POLAND
	ROMANIA	BYE

ROUND 8 14.15

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
11	WALES	FRANCE
12	PORTUGAL	SAN MARINO
13	BELARUS	AUSTRIA
14	NORWAY	ESTONIA
15	SWEDEN	HUNGARY
16	MALTA	IRELAND
17	SLOVAKIA	RUSSIA
18	POLAND	BELGIUM
19	ROMANIA	GERMANY
	BULGARIA	BYE

ROUND 9 17.35

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
11	FRANCE	PORTUGAL
12	SAN MARINO	BELARUS
13	AUSTRIA	NORWAY
14	ESTONIA	SWEDEN
15	HUNGARY	MALTA
16	IRELAND	BULGARIA
17	WALES	SLOVAKIA
18	RUSSIA	POLAND
19	ROMANIA	BELGIUM
	GERMANY	BYE

Sit-out exercise 2



What is the minimum number of points needed to make 3NT, whoever is on lead?

Answer tomorrow.

OPEN TEAMS RESULTS

GROUP A

ROUND 4 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	CZECH REP.	TURKEY	38 - 48	13 - 17
2	ICELAND	LITHUANIA	71 - 28	24 - 6
3	SCOTLAND	GREECE	45 - 43	15 - 15
4	DENMARK	SERBIA	48 - 47	15 - 15
5	SPAIN	CROATIA	36 - 46	13 - 17
6	SWITZERLAND	FINLAND	23 - 102	1 - 25
7	MONACO	ISRAEL	28 - 61	8 - 22
8	ENGLAND	LATVIA	42 - 45	14 - 16
9	LUXEMBOURG	NETHERLANDS	5 - 82	1 - 25
	ITALY	BYE		18 - 0

ROUND 5 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	TURKEY	ICELAND	42 - 61	11 - 19
2	LITHUANIA	SCOTLAND	69 - 40	21 - 9
3	GREECE	DENMARK	30 - 50	11 - 19
4	SERBIA	CROATIA	40 - 62	10 - 20
5	SPAIN	SWITZERLAND	57 - 20	23 - 7
6	FINLAND	MONACO	47 - 31	18 - 11
7	ISRAEL	ENGLAND	31 - 53	10 - 20
8	LATVIA	ITALY	38 - 47	13 - 17
9	CZECH REP.	LUXEMBOURG	58 - 24	22 - 8
	NETHERLANDS	BYE		18 - 0

ROUND 6 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	SCOTLAND	TURKEY	18 - 54	8 - 22
2	DENMARK	LITHUANIA	64 - 35	21 - 9
3	GREECE	CROATIA	56 - 51	16 - 14
4	SWITZERLAND	SERBIA	20 - 37	11 - 19
5	MONACO	SPAIN	61 - 47	18 - 12
6	ENGLAND	FINLAND	41 - 32	17 - 13
7	ITALY	ISRAEL	38 - 36	15 - 15
8	LUXEMBOURG	ICELAND	40 - 26	18 - 12
9	NETHERLANDS	CZECH REP.	44 - 34	17 - 13
	LATVIA	BYE		18 - 0

TO THE TEAMS

We have noticed that some players are not complying with the Dress Code, as published in the Rules & Regulations.

Please make sure that, from tomorrow morning onwards, everyone wears his uniform while playing.

Championships Committee

GROUP B

ROUND 4 - subject to official confirmation

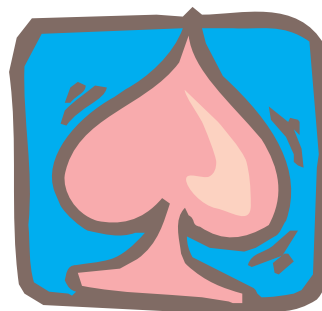
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
11	ROMANIA	FRANCE	29 - 43	12 - 18
12	GERMANY	SAN MARINO	54 - 28	20 - 10
13	AUSTRIA	BELGIUM	35 - 38	14 - 16
14	RUSSIA	ESTONIA	51 - 29	20 - 10
15	WALES	HUNGARY	62 - 38	20 - 10
16	PORTUGAL	IRELAND	36 - 47	13 - 17
17	BELARUS	BULGARIA	33 - 14	19 - 11
18	NORWAY	MALTA	109 - 13	25 - 0
19	SLOVAKIA	POLAND	30 - 29	15 - 15
	SWEDEN	BYE		18 - 0

ROUND 5 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
11	FRANCE	GERMANY	30 - 91	3 - 25
12	SAN MARINO	BELGIUM	27 - 56	9 - 21
13	AUSTRIA	RUSSIA	35 - 50	12 - 18
14	ESTONIA	WALES	68 - 47	19 - 11
15	HUNGARY	PORTUGAL	37 - 58	11 - 19
16	IRELAND	BELARUS	57 - 56	15 - 15
17	BULGARIA	NORWAY	51 - 59	14 - 16
18	MALTA	SWEDEN	27 - 94	2 - 25
19	ROMANIA	SLOVAKIA	47 - 57	13 - 17
	POLAND	BYE		18 - 0

ROUND 6 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
11	FRANCE	BELGIUM	57 - 21	22 - 8
12	RUSSIA	SAN MARINO	55 - 32	20 - 10
13	WALES	AUSTRIA	36 - 57	11 - 19
14	PORTUGAL	ESTONIA	44 - 29	18 - 12
15	BELARUS	HUNGARY	51 - 27	20 - 10
16	NORWAY	IRELAND	52 - 42	16.3 - 12.7
17	SWEDEN	BULGARIA	62 - 36	20 - 10
18	SLOVAKIA	GERMANY	26 - 41	12 - 18
19	ROMANIA	POLAND	25 - 100	1 - 25
	MALTA	BYE		18 - 0



OPEN TEAMS RANKING GROUP A

after 6 rounds

subject to official confirmation

1	ITALY	115.00
2	FINLAND	112.00
3	NETHERLANDS	111.00
4	CZECH REP.	108.00
5	ISRAEL	105.00
6	ICELAND	104.00
7	DENMARK	92.00
8	GREECE	91.00
9	SPAIN	89.00
	TURKEY	89.00
11	ENGLAND	86.00
12	CROATIA	84.00
13	MONACO	83.00
14	LATVIA	81.00
15	SCOTLAND	80.00
16	LITHUANIA	76.00
	SERBIA	76.00
18	LUXEMBOURG	70.00
19	SWITZERLAND	63.00

OPEN TEAMS RANKING GROUP B

after 6 rounds

subject to official confirmation

1	GERMANY	123.00
2	SWEDEN	117.00
3	RUSSIA	115.00
4	POLAND	108.00
5	BELARUS	103.00
6	NORWAY	101.30
7	PORTUGAL	95.00
8	BULGARIA	94.00
9	FRANCE	91.00
10	IRELAND	90.70
11	ESTONIA	87.00
12	BELGIUM	83.00
13	SLOVAKIA	80.00
14	SAN MARINO	79.00
15	HUNGARY	76.00
16	ROMANIA	75.00
	WALES	75.00
18	AUSTRIA	70.00
19	MALTA	43.00

IBPA Anniversary Dinner 1958-2008

The International Bridge Press Association is a club of the world's leading bridge journalists and media people. It was founded 50 years ago at the European Bridge Championships in Oslo. There will be a dinner to celebrate this at the Palais at 8.45 pm next Sunday, 22nd June.

IBPA provides a monthly Bulletin edited by John Caruthers of Canada and members have use of the Press Room at European and World Championships. Other services are listed in the Press Room.

The annual subscription for a member to whom Bulletins are sent via the internet is 33 euros. Those who receive a printed Bulletin pay 65 euros. New members

must join for 1.5 years through to December 2009.

The Press Room is located on the Basement Floor with the other offices.

Paid-up members who wish to attend Sunday's Dinner must register for it in the Press Room by Thursday midday.

If you were a member in 2007 who has not yet paid for 2008, or are a prospective new member, please seek out the Press Room and consult the Press Room Manager, Jan Swaan, or an officer of IBPA. These are: Patrick Jourdain, President; Mario Dix, Membership Secretary; Maureen Dennison, Secretary.

Bulgaria extinguish the Welsh Dragon's Fire

by Mark Horton

There are many reasons why a match might be chosen for coverage by our team of reporters. In the case of this one there was more than one. Firstly the Bulgarians in the Closed Room are regular members of the Rabbi Leonard Helman's team, which also includes your Editor. Secondly the Welsh pair they were facing was fresh from a deserved triumph in England's toughest team tournament, the Spring Fours.

For the uncommitted spectators it proved to be a goal fest.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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



Mike Tedd, Wales

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stoyanov</i>	<i>Tedd</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Salisbury</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♦	3♥	Dble	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The Bulgarians brushed aside North/South's activity and on the lead of the four of hearts declarer claimed nine tricks, +400.

Should North have found a club lead?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rees</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Kurbalija</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♦	3♥	Dble*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	All Pass

When West bid Three Spades East, having already guaranteed four spades, made a further effort by supporting diamonds. Facing a passed partner West was happy to call it a day, and with a little help from the defence he made his contract, +130 - and lost 7 IMPs.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stoyanov</i>	<i>Tedd</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Salisbury</i>
		1♠	Pass
INT*	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

West used a forcing no trump response and then showed his spade support. Do you blame South for failing to protect?

Declarer won the diamond lead and played a heart to the seven and king. He ruffed the diamond return, played a club

Open Room

West Stoyanov	North Tedd	East Hristov	South Salisbury
	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

On another day North might have found a dummy that rewarded his decision to pass Three Diamonds. West led his spade and declarer won in dummy, cashed the jack of diamonds and discarded a club on the king of spades. West ruffed, and switched to a heart, so the defenders had three tricks, -130.

Closed Room

West Rees	North Isporski	East Kurbalija	South Kovachev
	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3NT*	All Pass	

- 2♣ Game forcing
- 2♦ Clubs or 5332/5440
- 2♥ Relay
- 2NT Short diamonds
- 3♣ Relay
- 3NT 6214

The Bulgarians made no mistake, and if North had been void in diamonds they would have avoided a probably hopeless 3NT. East led the six of diamonds and declarer went up with dummy's queen and cashed a second diamond, quickly recording ten tricks, +630 and 11 IMPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West Stoyanov	North Tedd	East Hristov	South Salisbury
			1♥
Dble	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	4NT*	Dble	Pass
Pass	5♣	Dble	All Pass

How dangerous do you think North's entry into the auction was? According to the BBO record declarer took six tricks, -1400.

Closed Room

West Rees	North Isporski	East Kurbalija	South Kovachev
			1♥
INT	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	2NT*	4♠	All Pass

North led the ten of clubs and declarer won in hand with the king and played trumps, North discarding two clubs and a diamond, South winning the third round and switching to a diamond. On the diamond return declarer should go up with the ace, cash the ace of hearts and ruff a heart. Then he plays the last two trumps forcing North down to ♦KJ ♣Q9 and has a choice of endplays.

When declarer put in the queen North won with the king and could have defeated the contract by switching to a club. On the actual diamond return South ruffed and played a heart, but declarer won with the ace, ruffed a heart, cashed the king of spades and claimed ten tricks, +620 but a loss of 13 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West Stoyanov	North Tedd	East Hristov	South Salisbury
			1♦
All Pass	1♠	Dble*	2♦*

No doubt unsettled by the previous board North/South had a systemic mix up that saw them play in a 4-2 fit, which drifted four down, -200.

Closed Room

West Rees	North Isporski	East Kurbalija	South Kovachev
			1♥
1♣	1♠	Dble	2♣*
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Two Spades should fail by one trick, but there was a degree of ping-pong before that particular result was achieved.

On the club lead (one down) declarer played three rounds of the suit, ruffing in dummy and advanced the ten of spades. West did not cover (making), so East won with the ace and switched to the jack of diamonds. Declarer naturally finessed the queen (one down) and West won with the king and returned a diamond (making). Declarer won with dummy's ace and played a heart (one down). West won with the king and played another heart and now West had to score a trump trick for one down, -50, worth 4 IMPs to Bulgaria.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ A K 8 5 ♥ — ♦ A K J 5 ♣ J 10 8 7 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="background-color: #008000;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">W</td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000;"></td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ 10 7 6 2 ♥ Q 6 4 ♦ Q 7 6 3 ♣ K 9	♠ Q 3 ♥ A K 10 9 8 5 3 2 ♦ — ♣ A 6 4
N									
W	E								
	S								



Valentin Al-Shati Kovachev, Bulgaria

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stoyanov</i>	<i>Tedd</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Salisbury</i>
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♣*
Pass		All Pass	

With first round control in three suits do you think Four Clubs is a little heavy?

Declarer was +680.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rees</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Kurbalija</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
Pass	6♥	Pass	4♣*
Pass		All Pass	

European Open Pairs Champion, Victor Aronov (another of the Rabbi's men) commented 'South's bid shows 9 tricks, and 9+4 = 12.' Sure enough, North raised to six in a flash, and that gave Bulgaria another 13 IMPs.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ J 10 2 ♥ K ♦ 9 7 6 3 ♣ K Q 10 5 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="background-color: #008000;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">W</td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000;"></td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ A 8 7 ♥ A 8 7 5 2 ♦ Q 5 4 2 ♣ 7	♠ K Q 9 ♥ Q 9 6 ♦ A K 8 ♣ A J 6 2
N									
W	E								
	S								

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stoyanov</i>	<i>Tedd</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Salisbury</i>
1♣*	2♣	Dble*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

South led the eight of clubs and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a heart for the king and ace. Declarer played a low heart and won with the queen when South put in the ten. The ace of diamonds was followed by a heart and South won and played a club. Declarer ruffed, drew the last trump and played three rounds of spades ending in dummy. The last one squeezed North in the minors for a twelfth trick, +480.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rees	Isporski	Kurbalija	Kovachev
1♣*	Pass	1♦*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

3NT does not look too testing, but North led the jack of spades and declarer elected to win in dummy and played a heart to the queen and king. (For those who are interested in such matters, taking the heart suit in isolation, cashing the ace – unblocking the nine - offers a 43.5% chance of scoring four tricks, whilst running the eight is 100% for three tricks.) North exited with the ten of spades and declarer won and ran the nine of hearts, North discarding a club. South won and switched to the eight of clubs. When declarer put in the jack North, won and played a third spade and declarer could arrive at no more than eight tricks, -50 and 11 IMPs to Bulgaria.

One way for declarer to get home is to duck the eight of clubs and the next one. Then in due course North will be squeezed in the minors.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Stoyanov	Tedd	Hristov	Salisbury
Pass	1♠	Dble	2NT*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

East led the king of clubs and declarer won with dummy's ace and cashed the ace and king of spades for a quick one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rees	Isporski	Kurbalija	Kovachev
Pass	1♠	Dble	2NT*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Here declarer took the club lead in dummy, and mindful of the bidding he ran the ten of spades for a quick +420 and IMPs.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Stoyanov	Tedd	Hristov	Salisbury
1♥	Dble	3♥*	Pass
4♥	5♣	All Pass	

Was there any case for South to make one of S.J. Simon's 'master bids' and raise to Six Clubs? I confess it would not have occurred to me.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rees	Isporski	Kurbalija	Kovachev
1♥	2♥*	4♥	4♠
5♥	6♠	All Pass	

Contrast the auction at this table, where South got into the action, making it easy for North to bid the slam that completed the rout.

Solution to Sit-out exercise I

The maximum number of high card points for one side without making 3NT is 39 – says Michelle Brunner of England, and we agree.

Here is her example:

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

Did you do better?

OPEN TEAMS

Round 3


France v Poland

by Jos Jacobs

On Sunday evening, a number of interesting matches were scheduled. France, the host country, would play Poland and, in the same group, the big Nordic derby between Norway and Sweden was also on. On the latter match, a separate report will appear, so I can restrict myself to the former match, maybe with a glance or two at Turkey v. Netherlands and Italy v. England.

After a quiet start, the scoreboard began ticking on board 3:

Board: 3. Dealer South/EW vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lévy	Zawislak	Mouiel	Pazur
2♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, Lévy and Mouiel clearly were not on the same wavelength. In view of the lack of keycards, West expected a much more solid-looking suit than East actually held. Down three.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gierulski	Bompis	Skrzypczak	Quantin
1♣	1♥	Dble	Pass
3NT	All Pass		Pass

This would not have been a major disaster if 3NT would have been beaten in the Open Room. A heart lead does the trick, as was proved by Bas Drijver in the Netherlands v. Turkey match. His Turkish counterpart at the other table found the same lead as Marc Bompis did for France: the ♦Q. Declarer was now able to win the ♦K and concede a club to North, thus ensuring nine tricks for another +600

and 14 IMPs to Poland.

In the Italy v. England match, Bocchi-Duboin showed the way to the proper contract. Here is their auction:


West	North	East	South
Duboin	Hackett	Bocchi	Waterlow
1♣	1♥	2♥	Pass
Dble	Pass	4♠	3♥
5♣	All Pass		Pass

Needless to say they won 12 IMPs on the board, as England ended up in 3NT which duly failed on Lauria's heart lead.

Back now to France v. Poland

On board 6, both teams missed a good vulnerable game for no swing and then came:

Board: 8. Dealer West/None vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gierulski	Bompis	Skrzypczak	Quantin
Pass	2♦	Dble	3♥
Dble	3♠	3NT	All Pass

In the Open Room, Quantin took his chance to show the double fit when Skrzypczak doubled. When Gierulski doubled 3♥, Bompis had to run to his suit but in doing so, he told his partner what to lead. On the now marked spade lead, 3NT had no chance and went one down. France +50.

All this may look pretty straightforward to you but at the other table, they showed that this was not completely obvious:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lévy	Zawislak	Mouiel	Pazur
Pass	2♦	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

When Mouiel overcalled 2NT instead of doubling 2♦, the complexion of the auction changed dramatically. Pazur elected to pass and then had to find his partner's suit. When he led the ♥K, declarer could win in dummy and return the suit. North went in with his ♥Q to switch to spades but it was too late, declarer just having time to set up the diamonds for his 9th trick. France +400 and 10 IMPs back to trail by 10-16 now.

Poland struck back immediately:

Board: 9. Dealer North/EW vul.

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



Marc Bompis, France

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gierulski	Bompis	Skrzypczak	Quantin
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In the Open Room, the Poles were given a free run to a thin game. North led a heart, declarer winning the 3rd round and proceeding to cash his clubs. North had to find discards if he wanted to keep all his hearts, but two small spades and the ♦Q revealed the truth. Gierulski cashed the ♠A and, noting the fall of the Queen, next played off the ♠K rather than trying to come to a diamond trick by playing low to his King. Well done, Poland +600.

In the Closed Room, EW never entered the auction once North launched his major two-suiter:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lévy	Zawislak	Mouiel	Pazur
	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

This contract quietly went down three for +150 to France but 10 IMPs to Poland. 26-10 to them at this point.

A French accident in the Closed Room on the ever-ominous board 13 brought the Poles another swing.

Board: 13. Dealer North/All vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lévy	Zawislak	Mouiel	Pazur
	1♥*	Pass	1♠*
Dble	INT	Dble	Pass
Pass	Redble	Pass	2♦
Dble	All Pass		

1♥ Clubs
1♠ Negative

As it happened, EW held more than enough hcp between them but not enough diamonds to beat the contract. One overtrick, Poland +380.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Skrzypczak</i>	<i>Quantin</i>
	1♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Had Gierulski passed 3♠, Poland would have registered another +140 for an 11-IMP gain. As 3NT had no play after the diamond lead from North, France scored +100 to restrict the loss to 7 IMPs.

A double-figure swing was at stake two boards later:

Board: 15. Dealer South/NS vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Skrzypczak</i>	<i>Quantin</i>
	Pass	2♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
4NT	Pass		Pass
7♥	All Pass		

Three keycards and the ♦K clearly was enough for Gierulski to go for the grand. You certainly need very bad breaks to go down in this grand. Poland +1510.

When the French did not bid this, Poland scored another 11 IMPs to lead 46-10.

This board caused swings in many matches, the grand being bid 14 times out of 36. Only in the Spain v. Denmark and Germany v. Austria matches all pairs involved managed to bid the grand for a push.

In the Italy v. England match, this board contributed to the big Italian win as Bocchi-Duboin again outbid their opponents at the other table:

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

The Italian system made life easy for them here. The 2♠ rebid showed hearts, and 3♦ confirmed 5-5. No more was needed after this fluent start.

The penultimate board was very quiet in the France-Poland match.

Board: 19. Dealer South/EW vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Skrzypczak</i>	<i>Quantin</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dble
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

With the ♠K likely to be wrong, you need hearts 3-3 to make game. France thus scored an entirely reasonable +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lévy</i>	<i>Zawislak</i>	<i>Mouiel</i>	<i>Pazur</i>
			Pass
Pass	1NT	Dbl	2♦
Pass	2♥	2♠	All pass

Once North opened 1NT, diamonds never entered the scene any more. 2♠ quietly went one down for +100 to Poland. France +2 IMPs.

The final score in this match: 47-17 or 20-9 (!) to Poland

More interesting things happened in two of the other matches.

Italy v. England:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Waterlow</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Bocchi led the ♠K and continued the suit when in with the ♦A...England +400.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Justin H.</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Jason H.</i>	<i>Versace</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	Dble

Jason Hackett found a much better lead: the ♣A. When Justin played a spade after finishing his club suit, Lauria had to concede down four, another +200 and 12 imps back to England.

The final score here thus became 72-35 or 23-7 V.P. to Italy.

The Netherlands, recovering well from a shaky start, did even better on this board:

Turkey v. Netherlands

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Koksoy</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Kahraman</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♥
Pass	3NT	Dble	4♦
All Pass			

Sjoert Brink trusted his opponent, so the Dutch got +150, the same sensible result as Bompis-Quantin, the French NS pair.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Tez</i>	<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Senguler</i>
Pass	3NT	Dble	2♥
			All Pass

Huib Bertens also doubled 3NT but after a rather different auction, so nobody had much reason to run (well, maybe North had...)

Bertens, like Bocchi, led the ♠K but when in at trick 2 with the ♦A, he carefully tried the effect of the ♣A first...

Down three, another +500 and 12 IMPs to the Netherlands, who also won their match by 23-7 V.P. but by only 57-16 IMPs.

How to follow the championships

Whether you are present in Pau or not, it should be very easy to have any championship information you wish, within seconds of it happening, using your computer and a network connection.

- If you are at the championship venue in Pau, you may use any computer to hook up on the local Intranet network, and enjoy the very high speed of this facility. Hooked up computers exist already in the Internet Café (first floor), as well as in the Press Room (basement). All administration computers can use this network, and players/visitors, etc. will be hooked up at no charge if there are positions available. If you are not already connected, please ask to see the network administrator Duccio Geronimi.

Once you are hooked up on the local 'Intranet' network, please open your browser, and type:

mainserver:5678/index2.html

the familiar headlines screen of the EBL website appears.

- If you are watching the championship from home and you have an Internet connection, just open your browser and type: **www.eurobridge.org/index2.html**. This will bring you too to the headlines screen of the EBL website.

From now on, the procedure is the same for those in and those away from Pau.

On the headlines page of the EBL website, you will see the banner of the 49th European Team Championships. Click on it to get to the championship sub-site: <http://mainserver:5678/competitions/08Pau/Pau.htm> or <http://www.eurobridge.org/competitions/08Pau/Pau.htm>

You have now various options, but the main ones would probably be 'Results' and 'Bulletins'.

- Under 'Bulletins' you can get the present and past numbers of the Daily Bulletin.

- Hitting 'Results', you get the complete playing schedule of the championships. Choose any stage for information regarding this stage and accumulative results up to this stage. There is also a 'Running Scores' service which you can chose by clicking on the phrase 'For Running Scores click here' at the top of the schedule.

There is a lot more information available to you, and the stage card guides you to it; you click:

- For the team record, click on the team name
- For the match scorecard, click on the table number
- For bidding and play data of a match, click on the IMP result
- For the hand records of this round click as indicated.

Also, don't forget the 'Cross Table' option, which gives you an overview of the situation up to that moment, both in standard sequence and according to ranking.

One last word concerns lineup. Captains have been provided with a password that allows them to submit their lineups through computers at the lineup desk. Any other computer hooked up the venue network may be used for that purpose.

Panos Gerontopoulos
Communication Director

OPEN TEAMS

Round 3

Sweden v Norway

by Peter Ventura

Swedes in general consider Norway to be their little brother. However, at the game of bridge Norway as freshly crowned World Champions is number one at the moment. Even though Norway does not have the same team here in Pau as the squad who won in Shanghai, both teams are strong medal candidates and are certainly expected to collect a ticket to the Bermuda Bowl. We could expect a tight and a well-played match.

Bridge is a bidder's game, and many swings in this match were the fruits of correct bidding judgements (or a bit of luck). For Norway it was full speed ahead immediately as they bid to a small slam with only 27 HCP's.

the quality of the heart suit and Helgemo accepted to reach the slam level.

On a diamond lead Lund's Six Spades was easily made. With hearts 3-2 and the king inside the slam was made; N/S +980 and that was 11 IMPs to Norway.

On a club lead you have to be more careful. The correct line is to take the heart finesse at trick two, play a trump and overtake the king with the ace, and then draw trumps. If West holds four hearts the slam can be beaten should West find the odd lead of the queen of clubs. A small club won't do the job, since West eventually will be squeezed on an avalanche of spades.

That was a good start for Norway, but Sweden won 5 IMPs on board 2 and they struck back even more here.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

A club was led to the jack, king and Bertheau won the ace, and then played a spade to the king and a diamond from dummy. That was 11 tricks and N/S +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cullin</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Lund</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Two Spades was game forcing with a good spade suit, and this was followed by some cue bids. Five Hearts checked

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
			Pass
1♣*	1♥	Dble	2♥
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cullin</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Lund</i>
			Pass
1♣*	1♥	Dble*	2♥
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Brogeland's One Club showed 2+ and he then took a shot at Three No Trumps. He needed the clubs to behave or the heart jack in dummy to have a chance, after the heart lead. As the cards lie he was doomed to go down; one down and E/W 100.

Cullin opened a strong club and the double denied a singleton. With that information Cullin preferred to play his own black suit, since he knew partner would show up with at least two small clubs. That was a winning move, as he had only two losers in Five Clubs. Sweden +600 and that was 12 IMPs to them.

More IMPs for Sweden came along here.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ A K Q J 5 ♥ 10 2 ♦ A 10 4 ♣ K Q J	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 4 2 ♥ J 5 3 ♦ K Q J 5 2 ♣ 9 8 4	♠ 8 7 3 ♥ A 9 8 ♦ 7 6 3 ♣ 10 5 3 2
--	--	--	---

Open Room

West <i>Brogeland</i>	North <i>Nystrom</i>	East <i>Lindqvist</i>	South <i>Bertheau</i>
2NT	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West <i>Cullin</i>	North <i>Helgemo</i>	East <i>Upmark</i>	South <i>Lund</i>
1♣*	1♥	Pass	2♥
Dble	Pass	3♥	Dble
4♠	All Pass		

Once again the Swedish East/West pair outbid the Norwegian ditto. In Three No Trumps the defence cashed the first six tricks, so that was two off for -200.

The young Swedish fellow, Per-Ola Cullin, knew the heart suit was going to be a danger at no-trump, so it was another good decision by him to play in Four Spades on the 5-2 fit. There was not much to the play, so +620 and that was another big swing of 13 IMPs for the Swedes.

Would you open this hand in second seat, red against green?

♠ 10 9 2
♥ K 6 5 3 2
♦ A K 8 2
♣ 5

Peter Bertheau took a more aggressive approach to this hand than Boerre Lund. Bertheau opened One Heart while Lund passed. Bertheau's action was worth 6 IMPs to Sweden, when the whole deal was:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ A 5 ♥ Q J 9 ♦ J 6 4 ♣ Q J 10 4 2	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 8 6 3 ♥ A ♦ 10 9 7 5 ♣ K 9 7 6 3	♠ 10 9 2 ♥ K 6 5 3 2 ♦ A K 8 2 ♣ 5
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Open Room

West <i>Brogeland</i>	North <i>Nystrom</i>	East <i>Lindqvist</i>	South <i>Bertheau</i>
Pass	2♦*	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥

Two Diamonds showed a good raise in hearts.

Closed Room

West <i>Cullin</i>	North <i>Helgemo</i>	East <i>Upmark</i>	South <i>Lund</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♠*	All Pass	2♣*



Per-Ola Cullin, Sweden

Here Two Clubs was Drury.

The defence had three major suit tricks to take in both contracts, so that was another 6 IMPs to Sweden who now was in lead by 36 to 14.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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



Open Room

West <i>Brogeland</i>	North <i>Nystrom</i>	East <i>Lindqvist</i>	South <i>Bertheau</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West <i>Cullin</i>	North <i>Helgemo</i>	East <i>Upmark</i>	South <i>Lund</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The heart suit was attacked at both tables. In the Open Room Nystrom led a heart to partner's king, which held the trick. The heart ten went to the jack and queen and a third heart was won by declarer's ace. On five rounds of clubs North discarded two spades, so Brogeland had an easy task to play the spade suit from the top; E/W 600.

Boerre Lund nicely led the king of hearts. That might have been from a king-queen sequence, so Upmark hopped up with the ace, and then played a spade to the ten at trick two. Lund followed his plan and played the ten of hearts. Well done



by Lund and that was a worthy 13 IMPs to the little brother. Then came another slam swing for Norway where yet again the final contract hinged on a finesse.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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



Open Room

West <i>Brogeland</i>	North <i>Nystrom</i>	East <i>Lindqvist</i>	South <i>Bertheau</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Two Diamonds was game forcing and perhaps Brogeland should have jumped to Five Diamonds over Three Diamonds, but we don't argue with the success here... With the heart king inside Norway scored 11 IMPs, since the other table produced the following bidding:

Closed Room

West <i>Cullin</i>	North <i>Helgemo</i>	East <i>Upmark</i>	South <i>Lund</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♥	2♣	Dble	3♣
Dble	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cullin</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Lund</i>
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Upmark's Two Clubs was game forcing relay and Three Spades showed a club shortage and 8-10 zz-points (3 for A, 2 for K and 1 for Q). A cross-ruff led to 13 tricks, which was the case at both tables, but no swing.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♣*	1♦*	Pass*
1♠	INT	2♣	3NT
4♣	Pass	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cullin</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Lund</i>
			2♦*
Pass	2♥	2♠	Pass
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Nystrom opened a strong club and Berthau's pass over Lindqvist's One Diamond, which showed spades, denied

the values to reach game. However, when North freely bid One No Trump Bertheau gave game a shot anyway. Brogeland's Four Clubs saved the day for the Swedes, as they now could settle for the only game that makes. In Five Diamonds North can protect the spades and make the game when the heart suit split nicely.

When the Norwegians stopped in Two No Trumps and went two down in the Closed Room that was 11 IMPs to Sweden.

Sweden didn't allow their beloved baby brother to take any of the glory as they won the match by 76-53 IMPs, 20-10 converted to VPs.

Championship Diary

Bridge is a demanding sport, especially at this level. I was recently asked about the secret of successful captaincy. Recalling the Salsomaggiore Olympiad where Great Britain's Women took the silver medals I suggested it was simply a matter of strategy and tactics. When asked for a further explanation I suggested the following:

Strategy is buying a bottle of fine wine when you take a lady out for dinner.

Tactics is getting her to drink it.

Yesterday's Bridge Partner

Morten Henningsen, of the Danish Bridge Federation is offering a set of four Bridge Partner bidding boxes every day for the best piece of partnership behaviour reported to the Daily Bulletin.

Any good partnership behaviour qualifies – it doesn't have to be for something that happens at the table!

It always seems incredible just how much major sport tends to go on at the same time as the European Bridge Championships. Apart from the daily dose of football, aficionados have already been able to enjoy the US Open Golf Championships and next weekend we have the French FI Grand Prix to look forward to, not to mention the start of Wimbledon.



You can be 'driven' around Pau in one of these cyclo-taxis and only have to pay one Euro for the privilege plus an additional Euro for each kilometre.

Italy Launches Defence

by Patrick Jourdain (Wales)

There is a view that the new format will make it tougher for Italy to win in Pau. Putting this case the hopeful say Italy's record against the weaker teams is more dominant than that of their rivals for the gold. Furthermore, the serious event is only one week, making the outcome less certain. And the fans of Nunes & Fantoni say their absence will be a factor.

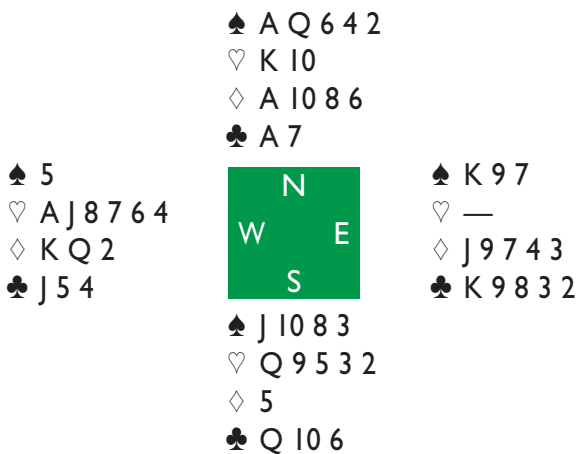
Well, we will see. But the first swing in the opening match between the holders and Switzerland went the traditional way. With some problems in the records your reporter checked the story with the players:

tain a heart ruff, or, when trumps were drawn declarer could not cope with all his losing diamonds and the defence had a trick in each suit. Declarer actually went two off.

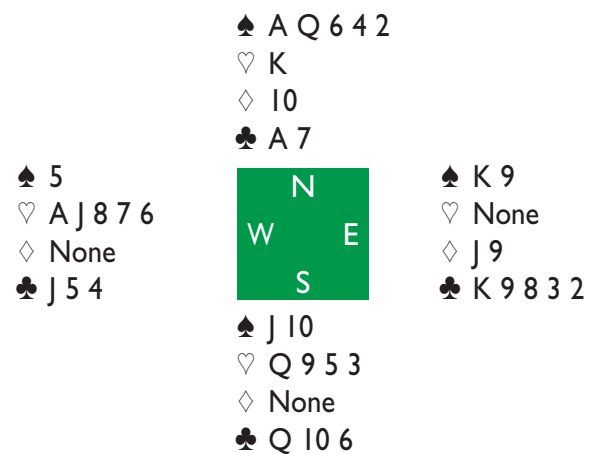
In the Open Room Versace was declarer from the South seat, but here East had bid One Notrump over the takeout double, warning South that the king of trumps was likely to be offside.

West led the king of diamonds. Declarer won, ruffed a diamond, and made the more effective play of a heart. West played low and Versace put in the ten. East ruffed and played a third diamond, ruffed by South.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.



This was the position with South on lead:



Thanks to the revealing INT bid by East and the fact that West had shown up with all the red honours, Versace placed both black kings with East. He played a club to the ace and another club. East won and led a fourth diamond. Versace ruffed this and West fatally discarded a heart, allowing declarer to cash the club queen and ditch dummy's losing heart. Italy had gained 13 IMPs.

But when East led the fourth diamond West should have discarded the club jack. Then West is able to ruff South's club queen with his small trump and the contract goes one off.

It is worth going back to the diagrammed position. If declarer plays a second heart then there is no defence. If West plays low East is ruffing with his trump trick. If West takes his ace of hearts and plays a club, declarer wins, lays down the trump ace, ruffs his last diamond, and ditches the losing club on the heart queen. And if West plays a third heart South discards the club loser, allowing East to ruff with his trump trick.

Declarer, by playing on clubs, actually gave the defence a chance they should not have had. But he still survived.

The subsequent exchanges in the match went marginally to Switzerland, leaving Italy the winner by 52-43 or 17-13 in victory points. The title holder was off to a winning start.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Semeta</i>	<i>Magnusson</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Yalcin</i>
			Pass
1♥	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Abouchanab</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Sasselli</i>	<i>Versace</i>
			Pass
1♥	Dbl	INT	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

In the Closed Room Stefan Magnusson of Switzerland was declarer as North in Four Spades. A diamond was led to the queen and ace. Magnusson ruffed a diamond and ran the jack of trumps. Angelini, East, won, and underled his king of clubs.

At this table East had not bid and had already shown up with the king of trumps. So Magnusson misguessed, putting in the ten, covered by the jack and ace.

The game could no longer be made. Either East would ob-

Round Four Austria-Belgium



After the delights of watching the Polish Brown sticker pair in the Closed Room we were treated to the only other Brown Sticker pair in the event, from Belgium.

Their method seemed to work pretty well (apart from the hand where they doubled their opponents in

Four Spades while their team-mates were letting through a slam off two aces and a ruff). The most interesting deals were the following pair of defences:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

The Norths at both tables heard the South hand open 1♦ in the context of a Precision-style strong club. The Wests overcalled 1♥, and both Norths bid 2♥, invitational or better in spades. Both Souths bid 2NT, minimum balanced and no more than two spades, so North could bid 3♦ and hear South give preference to 2♠. For Belgium Amsel bid 3NT and declarer wrapped up nine tricks on a heart lead. For Austria Doris Fischer jumped to 5♦ and Bocken kept things interesting with a heart lead. Sauer won cheaply and played the spade king and another spade. Bocken now had to defend accurately; he discarded on this trick; Sauer took the ace and ruffed a low spade in hand with the ♦9. Bocken overruffed, and cashed the ♣A before returning a trump, to avoid any possibility of squeezes or throw-ins. Down one, and 12 IMPs for Belgium.

On the next deal Belgium had played 2♥ for 110 in the Closed Room. So when they bought the hand in 2♠ at the other table they appeared to be a no-lose position.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Bernd Sauer led a low heart to Fischer's king, and now the commentators speculated on whether she might underlead the ♦AK. In fact she played diamonds from the top; Claude Renard won his ♦Q and finessed in spades. Fischer won and shifted to the ♣10, and when declarer ducked, Sauer took his ♣K and had reached this ending:

<p>♠ A 2 ♥ A 10 ♦ None ♣ Q 6 4</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 E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>♠ 6 5 4 ♥ 9 5 3 ♦ None ♣ 2</p>
N					
W E					
S					
	<p>♠ 10 ♥ Q 7 6 ♦ J ♣ J 7</p>	<p>♠ J 9 7 ♥ J ♦ None ♣ A 9 8</p>			

The defenders had five tricks in the bag, and now came the 13th diamond. Declarer ruffed low in dummy, and Fischer pitched her last club. With the lead locked in dummy declarer had to concede a club ruff for down one. As it turned out declarer's only play for the contract in this ending would have been to ruff high and to play to drop the bare ♠10; now THAT would have been a fine counter!



BON CHOIX, MESSIEURS

Il n'est pas aisé de choisir chaque jour les rencontres qui auront, le lendemain, les honneurs du rama, non plus que celles diffusées sur BBO ou SWAN. Si, pour les deux premiers jours, cette sélection avait été faite au préalable, c'est désormais tous les soirs, au début du dernier match, qu'une commission de sages se réunit pour le programme du jour suivant en sélectionnant à tour de rôle les équipes vedettes, certes, mais aussi, équitablement, celles que l'on a de bonnes chances de... ne pas retrouver en deuxième semaine.

La tâche de nos sages se compliquera à partir de jeudi, lorsqu'il s'agira de réserver à l'épreuve des reines, si ce n'est « l'épreuve reine », la place qu'elle mérite en attendant d'y ajouter un zeste de seniors.

HOMMAGE A TRISTAN

Notre grand humoriste, Tristan Bernard, adorait notre sport au point de lui avoir consacré une piécette intitulée tout simplement « La partie de bridge ».

Il entendit un jour un joueur se plaindre : « Pourquoi n'avez-vous pas demandé sans atout ? » Lors, Tristan de s'écrier « Ciel, un alexandrin ». Et de déposer un baiser sur le front du poète.

ARBITRAGE AU SOMMET

Nous rendrons hommage, le moment venu, à nos «pointures» de l'arbitrage. Laissons déjà Bertrand Gignoux se réjouir d'officier dans cette ambiance avec ses amis dirigeants, collègues, voire même joueurs, en se concentrant sur l'arbitrage pur, ce, sans le souci de tâches annexes. Une tâche gratifiante et d'autant plus intéressante que rares sont les interventions.

AU SECOURS, ALBERT

Pour sa première apparition dans une épreuve de ce niveau, Thierry Vincentelli, associé à Stéphane Garcia, a défendu les couleurs de son altesse, le prince Albert de Monaco. Peut-être un peu ému, il s'est fait « pincer » en possession, dans la salle, d'un téléphone mobile. L'appareil était certes éteint, mais cela a valu à nos amis une pénalité de 2 points de victoire, agrémentée normalement d'une amende de 100 euros. Aux dernières nouvelles, un virement correspondant serait attendu en provenance de... la Société des Bains de Mer de Monaco.

EN VISITE

L'auditorium était plus que garni hier soir et parmi les visiteurs : Patrick et Hervé de Stampa qui ont représenté en leur temps la fine fleur du sport palois. L'un et l'autre, impressionnés par notre organisation, ont promis de se remettre au bridge. Pour ceux qui s'intéressent à

l'histoire du Moyen-âge, précisons que Patrick, désormais président de la Chambre de Commerce de Pau, fut en 1963 vice-champion de France de tennis juniors battu par l'écrivain désormais connu, Denis Grozdanovitch.

AU ZOO

Certains joueurs ont profité de quelques loisirs pour visiter le zoo d'Asson. Ils y ont rencontré des écureuils qui avaient la queue en panache. L'un de nos amis, l'ayant remarqué, aurait déclaré: « Comme Henri IV »; Nous sommes au pays du Vert Galant, mais... quand même!!!

DIAGNOSTIC



Ils sont 10 cadets, recrutés pour les besoins du championnat. Pour le moment, ils officient à 4 par jour (6 à compter de jeudi). Parmi eux (et elles, car, comme chacun sait, l'homme est un terme générique qui embrasse aussi... la femme) Thomas Pourtau, âgé de 20 ans et étudiant en

3ème année de médecine à Bordeaux.

Thomas, qui possède plusieurs cordes à son arc – manière de parler puisque son instrument à la fanfare des étudiants est la trompette - joue au bridge à Oloron depuis l'âge de 11 ans.

Attentif aux souhaits des joueurs, il profite du tournoi pour observer. Il s'est essentiellement proposé pour vivre de l'intérieur le très haut niveau. Nous l'avons rencontré au rama pendant sa période de repos, regardant pratiquer le bridge à un niveau qu'il qualifie plaisamment d'inhabituel.

Thomas a admis qu'à la vue du mort, l'attitude à adopter s'apparentait au diagnostic médical, ce qui explique le nombre important de médecins parmi les champions. Alors, bon tournoi, Thomas, et bonne carrière bridgesque.

ARRIBA

L'équipe espagnole, composée exclusivement de joueurs madrilènes vainqueurs de la « Selección » a, comme beaucoup, pour principal objectif de figurer « dans les 9 ». Enrique Basabe a déjà prévu de n'être que peu au-dessus du cut, voire juste un peu au-dessous.