



Editors: MARK HORTON, JACQUES DORFMANN, JOS JACOBS,
BARRY RIGAL, P.O. SUNDELIN, JAN VAN CLEEFF, PETER VENTURA.
Layout editor: GEORGE HADJIDAKIS.
Photos: RON TACCHI



Issue No.9

Monday, 23 June 2008

Italy upset England's Party



The nerve center of the Championships

At various moments during yesterday's play England's teams occupied the top spot in all three Championships. Only some heavy scoring by Italy's women prevented them staying there overnight.

Having only just survived the qualifying rounds, **England** made an excellent start to the new campaign and leads the Open Series, ahead of **Sweden, Bulgaria** and **Norway**.

In the Women's event, **Italy** is the new leader, followed by **England, Norway** and **Germany**.

England is also on top in the Seniors, chased by **Belgium, Italy** and **Netherlands**.

Monday 23rd - 10.30

1	Netherlands - France	RAMA
8	Russia - Norway	BBO 1
5	Italy - Turkey	BBO 2
7	Poland - Germany	BBO 3
9	England Portugal	BBO 4
27	Finland - France (W)	BBO 6
31	Germany - Sweden (W)	SWAN

Monday 23rd - 14.15

2	Germany - England	RAMA
1	Norway - France	BBO 1
7	Iceland - Italy	BBO 2
5	Sweden - Poland	BBO 3
33	Israel - Netherlands (W)	BBO 5
14	France - Estonia (S)	BBO 6
18	Sweden - Denmark (S)	SWAN

Monday 23rd - 17.35

6	Bulgaria - Czech Rep.	RAMA
1	France - Russia	BBO 1
4	Italy - Norway	BBO 2
5	Latvia - Germany	BBO 3
18	Denmark - Italy (S)	BBO 5
25	Italy - France (W)	BBO 6
3	Denmark - England	SWAN

WOMEN TEAMS PROGRAM**ROUND 12 10.30**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
21	LEBANON	RUSSIA
22	PORTUGAL	ICELAND
23	HUNGARY	SCOTLAND
24	NETHERLANDS	CZECH REP.
25	ITALY	ISRAEL
26	GREECE	DENMARK
27	FINLAND	FRANCE
28	IRELAND	BYE
29	AUSTRIA	POLAND
30	NORWAY	SPAIN
31	GERMANY	SWEDEN
32	WALES	CROATIA
33	ENGLAND	TURKEY

ROUND 13 14.15

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
21	IRELAND	GERMANY
22	SWEDEN	NORWAY
23	SPAIN	AUSTRIA
24	POLAND	ENGLAND
25	TURKEY	FINLAND
26	FRANCE	GREECE
27	DENMARK	ITALY
28	CROATIA	BYE
29	CZECH REP.	HUNGARY
30	SCOTLAND	PORTUGAL
31	ICELAND	LEBANON
32	RUSSIA	WALES
33	ISRAEL	NETHERLANDS

ROUND 14 17.35

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
21	LEBANON	SCOTLAND
22	PORTUGAL	CZECH REP.
23	HUNGARY	ISRAEL
24	NETHERLANDS	DENMARK
25	ITALY	FRANCE
26	GREECE	TURKEY
27	FINLAND	POLAND
28	WALES	BYE
29	AUSTRIA	SWEDEN
30	NORWAY	IRELAND
31	GERMANY	CROATIA
32	RUSSIA	ICELAND
33	ENGLAND	SPAIN

SENIOR TEAMS PROGRAM**ROUND 6 10.30**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
11	SWEDEN	WALES
12	ITALY	SPAIN
13	NETHERLANDS	SWITZERLAND
14	IRELAND	FRANCE
15	ESTONIA	FINLAND
16	BELGIUM	SCOTLAND
17	ISRAEL	AUSTRIA
18	POLAND	GERMANY
19	DENMARK	NORWAY
20	TURKEY	ENGLAND

ROUND 7 14.15

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
11	WALES	ITALY
12	SPAIN	NETHERLANDS
13	SWITZERLAND	IRELAND
14	FRANCE	ESTONIA
15	FINLAND	BELGIUM
16	SCOTLAND	ISRAEL
17	AUSTRIA	GERMANY
18	SWEDEN	DENMARK
19	NORWAY	TURKEY
20	ENGLAND	POLAND

ROUND 8 17.35

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
11	NETHERLANDS	WALES
12	IRELAND	SPAIN
13	ESTONIA	SWITZERLAND
14	BELGIUM	FRANCE
15	ISRAEL	FINLAND
16	GERMANY	SCOTLAND
17	POLAND	AUSTRIA
18	DENMARK	ITALY
19	TURKEY	SWEDEN
20	ENGLAND	NORWAY

Today's Schedule

- 10.30** Open Teams F.R., Round 3
Women Teams, Round 12 - Senior Teams, Round 6
- 14.15** Open Teams F.R., Round 4
Women Teams, Round 13 - Senior Teams, Round 7
- 17.30** Open Teams F.R., Round 5
Women Teams, Round 14 - Senior Teams, Round 8

WOMEN TEAMS RESULTS**ROUND 9 - subject to official confirmation**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	SWEDEN	IRELAND	34 - 53	11 - 19
22	SPAIN	CROATIA	58 - 28	21 - 9
23	TURKEY	GERMANY	41 - 47	14 - 16
24	FRANCE	NORWAY	27 - 72	6 - 24
25	DENMARK	AUSTRIA	50 - 24	20 - 10
26	ISRAEL	ENGLAND	72 - 31	23 - 7
27	CZECH REP.	FINLAND	34 - 28	16 - 14
28	POLAND	BYE		18 - 0
29	ICELAND	ITALY	26 - 63	7 - 23
30	RUSSIA	NETHERLANDS	58 - 35	20 - 10
31	LEBANON	HUNGARY	34 - 62	9 - 21
32	SCOTLAND	GREECE	54 - 31	20 - 10
33	PORTUGAL	WALES	24 - 49	10 - 20

ROUND 10 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	PORTUGAL	LEBANON	88 - 19	25 - 2
22	HUNGARY	RUSSIA	16 - 61	6 - 24
23	NETHERLANDS	ICELAND	50 - 37	18 - 12
24	ITALY	SCOTLAND	47 - 54	14 - 16
25	GREECE	CZECH REP.	26 - 40	12 - 18
26	FINLAND	ISRAEL	40 - 36	16 - 14
27	ENGLAND	DENMARK	44 - 42	15 - 15
28	SPAIN	BYE		18 - 0
29	NORWAY	TURKEY	59 - 39	19 - 11
30	WALES	IRELAND	60 - 19	23 - 7
31	CROATIA	SWEDEN	31 - 58	9 - 21
32	GERMANY	POLAND	63 - 35	21 - 9
33	AUSTRIA	FRANCE	1 - 55	4 - 25

ROUND 11 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	IRELAND	CROATIA	29 - 40	13 - 17
22	SPAIN	GERMANY	25 - 16	17 - 13
23	POLAND	NORWAY	37 - 54	11 - 19
24	TURKEY	AUSTRIA	41 - 18	20 - 10
25	FRANCE	ENGLAND	40 - 36	16 - 14
26	DENMARK	FINLAND	69 - 52	19 - 11
27	ISRAEL	GREECE	51 - 18	22 - 8
28	SWEDEN	BYE		18 - 0
29	SCOTLAND	NETHERLANDS	30 - 34	14 - 16
30	LEBANON	WALES	16 - 60	6 - 24
31	RUSSIA	PORTUGAL	42 - 14	21 - 9
32	ICELAND	HUNGARY	26 - 59	8 - 22
33	CZECH REP.	ITALY	31 - 52	11 - 19

SENIOR TEAMS RESULTS**ROUND 3 - subject to official confirmation**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
11	WALES	TURKEY	2 - 90	0 - 25
12	SPAIN	ENGLAND	12 - 73	2 - 25
13	SWITZERLAND	NORWAY	29 - 46	11 - 19
14	FRANCE	SWEDEN	45 - 7	24 - 6
15	FINLAND	ITALY	15 - 54	6 - 24
16	SCOTLAND	NETHERLANDS	13 - 20	14 - 16
17	AUSTRIA	IRELAND	25 - 32	14 - 16
18	GERMANY	ESTONIA	61 - 21	24 - 6
19	ISRAEL	BELGIUM	24 - 53	8 - 22
20	DENMARK	POLAND	40 - 39	15 - 15

ROUND 4 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
11	ENGLAND	WALES	61 - 23	24 - 6
12	NORWAY	SPAIN	35 - 32	16 - 14
13	SWEDEN	SWITZERLAND	57 - 2	25 - 3
14	ITALY	FRANCE	37 - 24	18 - 12
15	NETHERLANDS	FINLAND	44 - 16	22 - 8
16	IRELAND	SCOTLAND	30 - 51	10 - 20
17	ESTONIA	AUSTRIA	26 - 53	9 - 21
18	BELGIUM	GERMANY	32 - 17	18 - 12
19	POLAND	ISRAEL	35 - 30	16 - 14
20	DENMARK	TURKEY	32 - 20	18 - 12

ROUND 5 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
11	WALES	NORWAY	41 - 37	16 - 14
12	SPAIN	SWEDEN	18 - 29	13 - 17
13	SWITZERLAND	ITALY	13 - 19	14 - 16
14	FRANCE	NETHERLANDS	18 - 17	15 - 15
15	FINLAND	IRELAND	36 - 20	19 - 11
16	SCOTLAND	ESTONIA	28 - 8	20 - 10
17	AUSTRIA	BELGIUM	40 - 37	16 - 14
18	GERMANY	ISRAEL	42 - 17	21 - 9
19	ENGLAND	DENMARK	41 - 17	21 - 9
20	TURKEY	POLAND	19 - 16	16 - 14

CALLING ALL SENIORS

An Open Forum for all seniors will be held in the downstairs Auditorium at 1 pm on Wednesday, 25th June.

IBPA

An Open Forum for IBPA members will be held in the downstairs Auditorium at 9.15 am on Tuesday 24th June.
Any IBPA member wishing to go on the Press Outing on Thursday, 26th June must register in the Press Room.

OPEN TEAMS PROGRAM**ROUND 3 10.30**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	NETHERLANDS	FRANCE
2	ESTONIA	ICELAND
3	BULGARIA	ISRAEL
4	LATVIA	SWEDEN
5	ITALY	TURKEY
6	DENMARK	CZECH REP.
7	POLAND	GERMANY
8	RUSSIA	NORWAY
9	ENGLAND	PORTUGAL

ROUND 4 14.15

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	NORWAY	FRANCE
2	GERMANY	ENGLAND
3	CZECH REP.	PORTUGAL
4	TURKEY	RUSSIA
5	SWEDEN	POLAND
6	ISRAEL	DENMARK
7	ICELAND	ITALY
8	NETHERLANDS	LATVIA
9	ESTONIA	BULGARIA

ROUND 5 17.35

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	FRANCE	RUSSIA
2	POLAND	PORTUGAL
3	DENMARK	ENGLAND
4	ITALY	NORWAY
5	LATVIA	GERMANY
6	BULGARIA	CZECH REP.
7	ESTONIA	TURKEY
8	NETHERLANDS	SWEDEN
9	ICELAND	ISRAEL

OPEN TEAMS RANKING

after 2 rounds

subject to official confirmation

1	ENGLAND	46.00
2	SWEDEN	45.00
3	BULGARIA	41.00
	NORWAY	41.00
5	RUSSIA	39.00
6	GERMANY	37.00
	POLAND	37.00
8	NETHERLANDS	35.00
9	ICELAND	32.00
	ITALY	32.00
11	ISRAEL	27.00
12	DENMARK	25.00
13	FRANCE	21.00
	LATVIA	21.00
15	CZECH REP.	20.00
16	TURKEY	19.00
17	ESTONIA	7.00
18	PORTUGAL	4.00

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

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	FRANCE	DENMARK	40 - 46	14 - 16
2	ITALY	POLAND	7 - 47	7 - 23
3	LATVIA	RUSSIA	18 - 59	7 - 23
4	BULGARIA	PORTUGAL	79 - 25	25 - 4
5	ESTONIA	ENGLAND	12 - 71	4 - 25
6	NETHERLANDS	NORWAY	25 - 28	14 - 16
7	ICELAND	GERMANY	47 - 44	16 - 14
8	ISRAEL	CZECH REP.	37 - 46	13 - 17
9	SWEDEN	TURKEY	49 - 26	20 - 10

ROUND 2 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	FRANCE	GERMANY	28 - 65	7 - 23
2	NORWAY	CZECH REP.	84 - 24	25 - 3
3	ENGLAND	TURKEY	72 - 42	21 - 9
4	PORTUGAL	SWEDEN	12 - 96	0 - 25
5	RUSSIA	ISRAEL	37 - 31	16 - 14
6	POLAND	ICELAND	36 - 41	14 - 16
7	DENMARK	NETHERLANDS	42 - 69	9 - 21
8	ITALY	ESTONIA	74 - 11	25 - 3
9	LATVIA	BULGARIA	48 - 53	14 - 16

WOMEN TEAMS RANKING

after 11 rounds

*subject to official confirmation***SENIOR TEAMS RANKING**

after 5 rounds

subject to official confirmation

1	ITALY	207.00
2	ENGLAND	202.00
3	NORWAY	199.00
4	GERMANY	196.00
5	SWEDEN	195.00
6	ISRAEL	186.00
7	NETHERLANDS	184.00
8	FRANCE	183.00
9	SPAIN	180.00
10	RUSSIA	178.00
11	DENMARK	173.00
	HUNGARY	173.00
13	POLAND	171.00
14	CZECH REP.	169.50
15	FINLAND	163.00
	SCOTLAND	163.00
17	CROATIA	158.00
18	TURKEY	155.00
19	WALES	154.00
20	ICELAND	149.00
21	PORTUGAL	142.00
22	GREECE	122.00
23	IRELAND	121.50
24	LEBANON	107.00
25	AUSTRIA	100.00

1	ENGLAND	103.00
2	BELGIUM	95.00
3	ITALY	94.00
4	NETHERLANDS	91.00
5	DENMARK	89.00
6	FRANCE	85.00
	GERMANY	85.00
8	NORWAY	81.00
9	AUSTRIA	79.00
10	SCOTLAND	78.00
	SWEDEN	78.00
	TURKEY	78.00
13	POLAND	68.00
14	ISRAEL	66.00
15	IRELAND	57.00
16	FINLAND	56.00
17	SWITZERLAND	55.00
18	ESTONIA	54.00
19	SPAIN	52.00
20	WALES	41.00

INTERNATIONAL MIND SPORTS GAMES BEIJING VISAS

This year, due to the Olympic Games, the procedure to obtain the visas (even « Touristic » visas) are more complicated than for Shanghai last year.

To obtain the visa you will definitely need an invitation letter from the Chinese organisers and some countries even require it in Chinese.

Each NBO has then to fill a form listing all the players and accompanying people and send it to Lilian Sun - sunchengmo82@yahoo.com.cn - before July 31st. She will then send you via mail the invitations to be produced to the local embassies to obtain the visas.

Open Series: The Final Round

by Jos Jacobs

When play started on Saturday morning, everything was quite clear in group B. It was a different story, however, in Group A. England were in 10th position on 286 V.P., 4 behind Finland and 5 behind Turkey. England had to play Switzerland but Finland would face Iceland, which on paper looked a much tougher proposition. Up the table, even Denmark and Czech republic were in a slight danger of losing their qualification spot.

During the first boards of the session, a sensational photo-finish looked in prospect. Lithuania were leading Turkey and Spain were leading Denmark by about 30 IMPs at one point. Iceland had taken a lead over Finland and Switzerland were over 20 down against England. Let's look at a few of the boards:

Board: 2. Dealer East/NS

♠ 8 7 3
♥ K 3 2
♦ A Q 6 5
♣ J 10 3

♠ 10 9 5 2
♥ 8 7 6 4
♦ K J
♣ Q 6 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A J 6 4
♥ A
♦ 10 7 3 2
♣ A K 9 5

♠ K Q
♥ Q J 10 9 5
♦ 9 8 4
♣ 8 7 4



Kauko Koistinen, Finland

In the Finland-Iceland match, 4♠ was reached at both tables but with a different outcome:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Baldursson	Koistinen	Jonsson Th	Nyberg
		1♣	1♥
Dble	2♥	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North led a heart to dummy's ace (South contributing the queen) and a diamond went to the jack and queen. North returned a trump to South's king and a diamond came back to North's ace. When North returned another diamond to dummy's ten, Baldursson decided to first lay down the ♠A. Taking South's overcall into account, he certainly was not surprised at all to see the queen make her appearance. Just made, Iceland +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Juuri-Oja	Jonsson St	Kiema	Einarsson
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

East was declarer here and South led the ♥Q to the ace. A diamond went to the jack and queen and North returned a trump to South's queen. Declarer ruffed the heart return and led another diamond, North winning his ♦A and playing another trump (why not a heart?). South seized the chance to finesse again and thus was one down. Iceland +50 and 10 IMPs.

In the other match, we also saw a Greek gift by the defenders:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gaschen	Hackett	Nikolenkov	Waterlow
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

South led the ♥Q to the ace. A diamond went to the jack and queen and North first cashed his ♦A before exiting with the ♥K, ruffed by declarer. Declarer next cashed his two established diamonds, throwing hearts from dummy when South did not ruff. A club now went to the queen and a spade to the jack and king. At this point, South did not return a club to lock declarer in his hand, but instead led a

heart for a possible ruff and discard. Declarer thus ruffed in dummy and finessed in trumps again...one down, England +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Sasselli</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Abouchanab</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

One overtrick, England +140 and 5 IMPs to level the match.

Then, a game swing in both matches:

Board: 7. Dealer South/All

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Koistinen</i>	<i>Jonsson Th</i>	<i>Nyberg</i>
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	2♠	4♥	All Pass

South led a spade to the ace and declarer crossed in clubs to present the ♥10, covered all round. North returned the ♣Q to declarer's king and declarer next ruffed a club in dummy, North throwing a spade. A diamond went to the ten and king, South returning his last club for dummy to ruff. Declarer then refrained from the second diamond finesse (not that it would have made any difference) only to find out that dummy did not hold enough trumps to ruff all his remaining losers. One down, Finland +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Juuri-Oja</i>	<i>Jonsson St</i>	<i>Kiema</i>	<i>Einarsson</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

West was declarer here and North led a friendly enough ♣Q. A low heart next went to the jack and ace, and a diamond came back, ducked to South's queen. A club then was won by dummy's king but the rest was plain sailing. ♥K, ♠A, ♠ ruff, ♣J, ♣ ruff, ♠ ruff, 13th ♣ for a ♦ discard and ten tricks. Finland +620 and 12 IMPs to lead 20-11.

In the other match, the Swiss comprehensively missed this chance as this was the auction:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gaschen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Nikolenkov</i>	<i>Waterlow</i>
			All Pass

The Hackett twins had no problems in reaching game, using four-card major openings and splinters:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Sasselli</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Abouchanab</i>
			Pass
1♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

North led a diamond so South's queen and a low trump came back. When dummy ducked this and North put up his ace, ten tricks were sure. England +620 and 12 IMPs to lead 30-5, just 1 V.P. behind Finland now.

Next, a non-vulnerable game swing to both Iceland and Switzerland:

Board: 8. Dealer West/None

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Koistinen</i>	<i>Jonsson Th</i>	<i>Nyberg</i>
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Just made. Iceland +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Juuri-Oja</i>	<i>Jonsson St</i>	<i>Kiema</i>	<i>Einarsson</i>
Pass	1♦	Dble	1♥
3♣	All Pass		

Just made. Finland +100 and 7 IMPs to Iceland to trail by 18-20 now.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gaschen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Nikolenkov</i>	<i>Waterlow</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

One overtrick, +430 to Switzerland.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Sasselli</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Abouchanab</i>
Pass	1♦	Dble	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

One overtrick, +150 to England but 7 IMPs to Switzerland to trail by 12-30 now.

All one can say is that, from time to time, it pays to open the bidding.

And more IMPs to Switzerland when Bachar Abouchanab found the killing lead:

Board: 9. Dealer North/EW

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gaschen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Nikolenkov</i>	<i>Waterlow</i>
	3♣	4♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North led a diamond so the clubs went away immediately...Switzerland +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Sasselli</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Abouchanab</i>
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

A trump lead by South left declarer without resources...Switzerland +100 and 13 IMPs to reduce the deficit to just 5 IMPs. England's chances looked slim at this point.

From here on, it was clear that Turkey, Denmark and Czech Republic would qualify easily enough, so I can stick now to reporting on the two already featured matches only.

Switzerland even took over the lead on this board:

Board: 12. Dealer West/NS

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gaschen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Nikolenkov</i>	<i>Waterlow</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♥

On a neutral club lead by West, nine tricks came in. England +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Sasselli</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Abouchanab</i>
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

When West understandably led the ♦Q, declarer thought for some time but then went for his chance. ♦A, diamond finesse, ♦K for a spade discard and the ♥10, covered by king and ace. The ♥9 held but the next heart was won by West who returned a club. Up went the ace, declarer being

content with one overtrick for a fine +650 and 11 IMPs to Switzerland to lead 36-31 at this point. With Finland trailing Iceland by only 20-27, it looked very much as if the overnight first nine would go through.

Board 13 revived some England hopes:

Board: 13. Dealer North/All

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gaschen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Nikolenkov</i>	<i>Waterlow</i>
Dble	Pass 3♦	Pass 3NT	2♦ All Pass

With East declarer, the diamond lead was inevitable. England +200.



Jon Baldursson, Iceland

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Sasselli</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Abouchanab</i>
1♠ 3NT	Pass All Pass	Pass 2♣	Pass Pass

For North, finding the diamond lead would have been worth a brilliancy prize...

When he led a heart, England scored another +600 and 13 IMPs to lead by 8, but still behind Finland.

Please note that neither EW pair reached the pretty cold 4♠.

No swing in the other match; North did not open and both E/W pairs duly reached 4♠.

Then:

Board: 14. Dealer East/None

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Koistinen</i>	<i>Jonsson Th</i>	<i>Nyberg</i>
Dble	2♥	1♠	2♣
Pass	3♠	2♠	3♣
All Pass		Pass	3NT

Down two, it said on BBO; just made, it says on the official website. Something may have happened but this would be a good board for Finland anyway, because:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Juuri-Oja</i>	<i>Jonsson St</i>	<i>Kiema</i>	<i>Einarsson</i>
Dble	2♥	1♠	2♣
Pass	3♣	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass	3♦	Pass

Nothing to the play and a useful swing to Finland to go into the lead: 33-27. Once again, England's chances looked very slim, even more so when they missed their chance on this same board:

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Gaschen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Nikolenkov</i>	<i>Waterlow</i>
		1♠	2♣
Dbl	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

This contract went three off, Switzerland +150.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Sasselli</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Abouchanab</i>
		1♠	2♣
Dbl	2♥	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	3♦	3♥
All Pass			

Once Jason introduced his diamonds, either pointed suit game looked within grasp of E/W but they still sold out to 3♥, which went only two off.

So Switzerland even gained two more IMPs to trail by just 6 IMPs now.

With only flattish boards to come, it looked all over and so it turned out in the England-Switzerland match. A partscore swing to the Swiss on the last board made the final result of that match a winning draw, 46-45, to England.

We would have to wait till the Finland-Iceland match was finished before we would be able to tell who would be the 9th qualifying team. Tension rose when the Finnish reached a not so good slam on board 15:

Board: 15. Dealer South/NS vul.

♠ Q 9 7 5		♠ 8 6 3									
♥ K J 10 8 7		♥ 9 6 4 2									
♦ K J 8		♦ Q 7 2									
♣ 4		♣ 6 5 3									
♠ J 4 2											
♥ 3											
♦ 10 6 4											
♣ A Q 10 9 7 2											
	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ A K 10											
♥ A Q 5											
♦ A 9 5 3											
♣ K J 8											

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Koistinen</i>	<i>Jonsson Th</i>	<i>Nyberg</i>
			2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Dbl	5♦	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Only an unorthodox treatment of the diamond suit would have seen this one home. Iceland +13 IMPs to lead 40-33 as they played in 4♥ at the other table. Still, this was enough for the Finnish to go through.

But three boards later, they overbid to a hopeless affair:

Board: 18. Dealer East/NS vul.

♠ Q 10 9 3		♠ 7 6									
♥ K J 7 6		♥ Q 3									
♦ 8		♦ A K Q 10 4 3 2									
♣ A J 8 6		♣ Q 5									
♠ A K J 8 2											
♥ A 9											
♦ J 9 7											
♣ 10 7 3											
	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
		♠ 5 4									
		♥ 10 8 5 4 2									
		♦ 6 5									
		♣ K 9 4 2									

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Juuri-Oja</i>	<i>Jonsson St</i>	<i>Kiema</i>	<i>Einarsson</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

North led the ♣A and continued the suit but it would not have mattered. West might be kicking himself for a long time...

So Iceland chalked up another 11 IMPs (3NT duly being reached at the other table) to win the match 52-33 or 19-11 V.P.

England thus had finished level with Finland on 301 V.P. so the tie-break came into operation. It said that first of all the result of the head-to-head match should be taken into account. As England had won this match by 17-13 V.P., they earned the right to stay one more week in wonderful Pau...

Seniors Round I

by Jos Jacobs

On Saturday afternoon, we saw both the end of the first stage of the Open event and the start of the Seniors' Championship. With so many old rivals around, who have known each other for years, selecting a good match to report on was far from obvious. Looking back on the session, however, I think France and England provided an entertaining match.

After a quiet start, the second board was a possible game swing when all the spot cards were working:

Board: 2. Dealer East/NS vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Price</i>	North <i>Meyer</i>	East <i>Simpson</i>	South <i>Stretz</i>
		1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Had North been dealer, one would expect something like INT – Stayman - 3 NT but with East disturbing the party, NS soon were in trouble when West, too, thought he had something to say. France +130.

Closed Room

West <i>Piganeau</i>	North <i>Dixon</i>	East <i>Py</i>	South <i>Silverstone</i>
		1♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

By passing, West paved the way for North to show his full values so game was reached easily enough. As West's spades would never enter the scene, there was no defence when East first led two rounds of diamonds rather than leading a heart or shifting to one at trick two. England +600 and 10 IMPs.

Two boards later, the French more than equalized in what looked like a normal 3NT:

Board: 4. Dealer West/All vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Price</i>	North <i>Meyer</i>	East <i>Simpson</i>	South <i>Stretz</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the ♦9 which ran to declarer's king. The ♥J went to West's queen and a spade came back. Meyer now led another heart, dummy's king winning. Next, he led a low club to his queen, noting the fall of the ten in East. A diamond next went to the queen and ace and West exited with a club to dummy's ace. When the spades broke, declarer had 4+1+2+2 tricks, a total of nine. France +600.

Closed Room

West <i>Piganeau</i>	North <i>Dixon</i>	East <i>Py</i>	South <i>Silverstone</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

With South declarer, Piganeau made the deceptive lead of the ♥9, won by East's ace. A diamond came back, dummy's king winning and dummy now ran the ♣Q to West's king.

West returned a club and declarer then drove out the ♦A. West persisted with clubs, so declarer won dummy's jack and next cashed his spade and diamond winners. (As East had thrown spades, the ♠10 had become an entry to the ♦J). His next move was to lead a heart to his ten but when West produced the (blank) queen and the last club, he suddenly found himself one down. France +100 and 12 IMPs.

The next board was a slam hand:

Board: 5. Dealer North/NS vul.

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

Open Room

West Price	North Meyer	East Simpson	South Stretz
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

The cold 6♦ was missed (on a trump lead there is a little work to do) but the French ended up in a decent enough contract: France +650.



Colin Simpson, England

Closed Room

West Piganeau	North Dixon	East Py	South Silverstone
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

When the spades behaved, England wrote a lucky +1430 for a 13-IMP gain.

Thinking about this board, one wonders what happened to all those wonderful diamonds...

England were leading comfortably by 27-12 when there was a major French disaster:

Board: 8. Dealer West/None vul.

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

Open Room

West Price	North Meyer	East Simpson	South Stretz
2♦	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Three aces and a diamond ruff were just a little too much for this contract: England +50.

When Piganeau did (or could) not open the West hand, the French were in trouble when Dixon could:

Closed Room

West Piganeau	North Dixon	East Py	South Silverstone
Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass
4♦	Pass	Pass	Dble

Whatever you do as East is liable to be wrong. Down three, England +500 to lead 38-11.

The difference in approach again favoured the Brits on this one:

Board: 13. Dealer North/All vul.

♠ J 10 6 ♥ 10 9 7 6 4 ♦ J 8 4 3 ♣ 10	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 7 ♥ K Q 8 5 ♦ A ♣ A K Q J 9 7 2	♠ A K 9 2 ♥ A J ♦ 9 7 6 ♣ 8 6 5 4
---	---	--	--

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Price	Meyer	Simpson	Stretz
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
	2♠	5♣	All Pass

When Meyer opened 1♣, Simpson had to wait and see. Once N/S found their spade fit, he decided it was time to enter the auction with a very practical bid. He was well rewarded when a big heart fit and the priceless ♣10 were among dummy's assets. England +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Piganeau	Dixon	Py	Silverstone
1♣	3NT	All Pass	

It cannot be denied that East's club stopper was adequate, even though North's 1♣ was fully conventional. In a sense, East was unlucky in not finding any assets in dummy to support his views about the hand.

South led the ♦K but it did not matter. England another +100 and 12 more IMPs to lead by 50-23 with three to go.

The penultimate board (for the Seniors, that is; they play only 16 of the 20 boards available each round) was very interesting and even provoked a stewards' inquiry all over the Palais Beaumont. 4♠ can be made even on a heart lead, if declarer takes the right view in diamonds for no losers. Many Wests led the ♦10; once declarer covered this with the jack he/she was in a position to successfully finesse the ♦9 later. In view of the bidding at the tables where West had doubled South's 1♦ opening bid, it would have been a good idea to begin tackling the diamonds by leading the jack, and not small, from dummy as West is likely to be short in the suit. When the ♦10 appears, a restricted choice-situation remains.

In fact, only two declarers (one woman and one senior if I counted correctly) made 4♠ on a heart lead. Both of them are of Scandinavian origin. Well done, Ann Karin Fuglestad and Steen Moeller.

Stretz was not tested in his 4♠:

Board: 15. Dealer South/NS vul.

♠ A 10 2 ♥ K J 6 2 ♦ 10 ♣ K 7 6 3 2	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 8 5 ♥ Q 10 5 4 3 ♦ K 9 3 ♣ 9 5 4	♠ K J 4 3 ♥ A 8 ♦ J 8 6 2 ♣ Q J 10
--	---	---	---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Price	Meyer	Simpson	Stretz
			1♦
Dble 3♥ Pass	Redble Dble 4♠	2♥ Pass All Pass	Pass 3♠

West led the ♦10, covered all round. The rest was straightforward with the diamond finesse now marked. France +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Piganeau	Dixon	Py	Silverstone
			1♦
Dble Pass Pass	2NT Pass 3NT	Pass 3♥ All Pass	3♦ Pass

Once the spades got lost, the French were sure to score a sizeable swing. On a heart lead, 3NT stood no chance at all and went down two, France another +200 for 13 IMPs.

The final score: 50-39 or 17-13 V.P. to England.

CADETS TROPHY

This week, the teams event for the Cadets trophy will take place at the Lycée Louis Barthou.

Captains' Meeting: Monday, June 23, at 17.30 hrs, followed by

Opening Ceremony: Monday, June 23, at 18.00 hrs (Lycée Louis Barthou)

Play: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (June 24-26), starting each day at 9.30 hrs.

Closing Ceremony: Thursday, June 26, at 18.00 hrs in the Amphithéâtre Lamartine (Palais Beaumont)

Eight teams will participate: 4 from France, two from Italy, one from both Sweden and Germany. All players are between 15 and 17 years old.

A scenic route to Rome?

by Christer Andersson

Saturday morning was the last day of play for many teams. Their performance earlier in the week had not been strong enough, and it was only to wait for the sad moment to be eliminated. What to do in the last match if not to try to find a gem to bring home as a memory?

It is said that many routes lead to Rome, as on the following deal, but why not take a scenic one thought Patrick Brocken in Belgium's match against Bulgaria.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West <i>Bocken</i>	North <i>Karakolev</i>	East <i>Renard</i>	South <i>Danailov</i>
	3♣	3♦*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Against the spade game Georgi Karakolev led the ♠7, which Bocken won in hand to continue with ace and queen of diamonds, discarding both clubs in dummy and allowing Dyan Danailov to win the trick. He continued the attack on trumps. Bocken won and was in hand for the last time. He discarded a heart on the jack of diamonds and followed up with a fourth diamond, thereby establishing two tricks in the hand he could not reach. When Karakolev discarded, he ruffed in dummy, draw the rest of the trumps and continued with the ace of hearts in this situation, discarding a club from hand:

	♠ None		
	♥ Q 4		
	♦ None		
	♣ A J 10		
♠ None		♠ None	
♥ None		♥ A K 10 8 6	
♦ 8 4		♦ —	
♣ Q 9 7		♣ None	
	♠ None		
	♥ J 9 5 3		
	♦ None		
	♣ K		

Karakolev saw the endplay coming and discarded his queen of hearts. However, that was of no help. Bocken continued with the ten of hearts and Danailov had to win in order not to give the contract away. But Karakolev could not overtake the club king as he then would have to give the last two tricks to declarer. And when he followed with a low club, his partner had to lead hearts into dummy's tenace.

Women's Bridge Club Online

Following the great success of the WBF/BBO Online Bridge Festival held earlier this year, we have decided not only to repeat the Festival in April 2009, but also to create a Women's Online Bridge Club.

The purpose of the Club will be to have a special website where women can discover information about Women's Bridge – both on line and in clubs, tournaments, festivals and Championships.

It is planned to hold a day each week of online tournaments just for women where they can play in a relaxed and social atmosphere, with just that exciting edge of competition! There will be two individual and two pairs events on that day to try and ensure that players from all over the world will have a competition within their time-zone that they can enjoy. It will also mean that pairs who live apart can train online by participating in these events, and in addition perhaps create new partnerships and friendships.

The Club is intended to be informal and relaxed, with information and perhaps discussions that would not be possible on the more constrained websites. As it develops maybe we will have articles from women players about the game, as well as general information about Women's Bridge.

The new website will be at
www.wbfwomensbridgeclub.org
 and it will be "live" very shortly.

If you want information about Women's Bridge, please just email anna@ecats.co.uk giving her your name, your country and saying that you want to be added to the Women's Bridge mailing list.

Speaking about Internet, I am pleased to report the words of Josè Damiani read during the General Assembly:

"This is the case also for the women, thanks to the initiative taken by Anna Maria Torlontano, and the Women's Committee, who I thank and compliment for their first success and for the developments they are suggesting".

Anna Maria Torlontano
Chairman, WBF & EBL Women's Committees

Sitout 7 – Solution

♠ 7 6 5 ♥ Q 5 4 ♦ A 9 6 ♣ A K Q 5	♠ A ♥ A K J 10 9 8 7 6 ♦ 8 7 ♣ 3 2	♠ 4 3 2 ♥ 3 2 ♦ K Q J 10 5 ♣ 9 8 4
	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ K Q J 10 9 8 ♥ — ♦ 4 3 2 ♣ J 10 7 6	

West plays Three Notrumps, doubled by North. Should he have? Is or was there a way to beat it? North began with the heart king, continued with the spade ace, and exited with the diamond eight.

It looks as if you can endplay South by playing the club nine that he must cover, then cash the diamonds and throw South in with a spade with five cards left, but that is a mirage. South takes his spades and exits with the club jack to block the suit. West has no entry to his high club, and North gets a heart trick..

But of course you can take nine tricks with some clever maneuvering: Win North's diamond eight with both king and ace, cash two high clubs, then exit with a small diamond to North. He has only hearts left and must give you a heart trick after first winning the ace. This will produce a squeeze against South in the two-card ending. Alternatively North can exit with a small heart to avoid squeezing South. But when he comes down to three cards South must give up either his club length or come down to a singleton spade allowing West to establish a spade trick.

So North shouldn't have doubled?

Sure he should, if he had been capable of the following obvious... defence:

Lead the spade ace and exit with a diamond.

If you try for the same endplay as before, exiting with a diamond to North after two rounds of clubs and one high diamond, then North plays a small heart(!)

In the four-card ending South has two high spades and J 10 of clubs. Eight tricks and no squeeze.

Sitout exercise 8

Perhaps the last one was too tough. Here is one for beginners – or us seniors:

♠ A K Q J 10 9 8 ♥ K 3 2 ♦ J 3 ♣ K	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 4 3 2 ♥ A J 6 5 4 ♦ K 4 2 ♣ 9 8
---	---	--

Four spades with a trump lead; South follows suit.

Operation successful, patient died

by Jan van Cleeff

It is always fun to see the adventurous doctors at play. I had the privilege of seeing them on Vu Graph in the match Germany vs. Russia (match 11).

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ A ♥ Q 10 6 ♦ K J 9 3 ♣ A K 9 5 2	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K 6 4 3 ♥ K 9 4 ♦ 10 8 7 6 5 2 ♣ —
		♠ Q 10 9 8 7 5 ♥ 3 ♦ Q 4 ♣ Q 8 7 6
		♠ J 2 ♥ A J 8 7 5 2 ♦ A ♣ J 10 4 3

In the closed room Kholomeev, the Russian East, went down two in Three Spades for a quiet minus hundred. The action of course was where the doctors were sitting, East-West in the open room.

West	North	East	South
<i>Wladov</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
			1♥
INT	2♥	?	

Dr. Michael Elinescu always intended arriving in a high spade contract, three or 4♠, hopefully doubled, since his hand didn't look that terrible to him. So for tactical reasons he bid Two Spades, because he was pretty sure he would get a second chance. Right he was. The bidding went on:

West	North	East	South
<i>Dr. Wladov</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Dr. Elinescu</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
			1♥
INT	2♥	2♠	3♣
Dble	3♥	?	

Enough is enough, that is what Dr. Elinescu must have thought, so he now jumped to Four Spades. This was passed to North, who doubled and that was that. So far Dr. Michael's operation was successful. The rest was all statistics: Ace of diamonds, club ruff, diamond ruff, club ruff, ace of hearts and another club ruff. Now North could have tested declarer by playing another diamond for a possible misguess in trumps. Enough is enough Andrei Gromov must have thought, when he played the king of hearts, since the patient was already dead and buried for five hundred.

Championship Diary

We have enjoyed three wonderful Opening Ceremonies, a feature of each of them being a musical introduction of each team.

That inspires us to present some possible tunes for use in future Championships:

	Open	Women
France	Non, je ne regrette rien <i>Edith Piaf</i>	Thank Heaven for Little Girls <i>Maurice Chevalier</i>
Switzerland	The Lone Ranger Overture William Tell	She taught me to Yodel Frank Ifield
Austria	Radetzky March Johan Strauss. Snr	The Sound of Music Julie Andrews
Germany	Erwachen heiterer der Empfindungen bei Ankunft auf dem Lande <i>Beethoven</i>	Falling in Love Again <i>Marlene Dietrich</i>
Netherlands	Les moulins de mon coeur <i>Noel Harrison</i>	Tulips from Amsterdam <i>Max Bygraves</i>
Russia	Midnight in Moscow <i>Kenny Ball</i>	Ochi chornye <i>Yevhen Hrebinka</i>

For the Seniors event one wag suggests that all the countries use the same song, from the musical Grease, the Bee Gees – Stayin’ Alive. Perhaps a better choice would be the Beatles – When I’m Sixty-Four!

If you have any ideas, let us know and we will print the best ones.

BBO provides wonderful coverage of the Championships and it only a matter of time before you will be able to follow the play at every table in every event.

Meanwhile one can enjoy the action, especially when an observer makes a slight faux-pas. English Bridge Union official Mike Amos, observing England’s vital last round match against Switzerland produced this gem: ‘We will love watching the top players next week but its much more fun if England are involved.’ Bit like the football then.

As the Championships reached the halfway point the extensive BBO coverage stood at 138 tables with 134 commentators from 26 nations!

As the temperature soared a weary Patrick Jourdain delivered another article to the Bulletin. ‘It’s far too hot to work,’ he observed.

‘Why not have a nap on the sofa outside the office?’ was our suggestion.

‘I would, but its already occupied,’ he replied.

Our office backs on to a wide expanse of water that is occasionally used by the locals as a pseudo swimming pool. On Saturday a number of young ladies, having divested themselves of their outer garments, were disporting themselves – which may have contributed to the abnormal number of mistakes that our team of proof readers failed to spot.

We understand that a recent excavation in London’s Baker Street has unearthed a despatch box that contained several previously unpublished Sherlock Holmes stories. One of them is entitled ‘The Greek Layout Editor’.

On the way to Saturday night’s dinner I was discussing the question of the musical introduction to each team with Austria’s President, Doris Fischer. When I told her the choice for her Women’s team was The Sound of Music she observed, ‘Right musical, wrong song.’ When I asked which one she considered more appropriate she replied ‘How do you solve a problem like Maria?’

A well-known follower of the horses came down to the bulletin office and remarked that the 14.45 race on Saturday would be ideal for the bulletin staff. When asked why that was he pointed out that it was called the ‘Prix Hardatit’.

France edge out Germany

by Mark Horton

One of the highlights of any tournament is the Women's match between Germany and France, two teams who have dominated the World Championships in recent years.

In Round 8 the BBO audience saw a coruscating encounter between these two giants.

Play started along similar lines, but when West won the king of clubs she played back the two of hearts. Now declarer had no choice but to try and drop the jack of clubs and when it did not appear she finished two down, -200 and 3 IMPs to Germany.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ 6 5 3 2 ♥ A 9 5 4 2 ♦ Q 5 3 ♣ K</p>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N W E S</div> </div>	<p>♠ J 10 ♥ 8 7 3 ♦ A 10 9 4 ♣ J 8 7 2</p>	<p>♠ 9 7 4 ♥ Q J ♦ K 7 6 ♣ 10 9 5 4 3</p> <p>♠ A K Q 8 ♥ K 10 6 ♦ J 8 2 ♣ A Q 6</p>
--	---	--	---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Allouche-Gaviard</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>
		Pass	1♣*
1♦*	Pass	1♥	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Having shown the majors with her intervention, West led the four of hearts for the jack, three and six. Unless you happen to be a Rabbi you will follow the line chosen by declarer, who played a club to the queen and king. Another low heart from West would have ensured the demise of the contract, but she switched to the queen of diamonds, covered by the king and ace. East returned the eight of hearts to dummy's queen, West following with the two.

At this point declarer knew that West has started with five hearts and had to decide why she had switched to the queen of diamonds rather than play a second heart.

One obvious possibility was that West, looking at what appeared to be an entryless dummy had started with ♣KJ alone, so declarer played a club to the ace. When that brought no joy she had to go one down, -100.

On reflection, Daniela though she might have finessed in clubs, as, apart from making the contract, it would have been more annoying for West if it tuned out she had mis-defended.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Alberti</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Schraverus-Meur</i>	<i>Willard</i>
		Pass	1♣
1♥	2♣	2♥	3NT
All Pass			

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ Q 7 5 3 ♥ A Q 4 ♦ K 9 6 ♣ 10 9 2</p>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N W E S</div> </div>	<p>♠ A K 10 ♥ 9 5 ♦ A Q J 4 2 ♣ 8 5 3</p>	<p>♠ J 9 8 4 ♥ J 10 8 7 3 ♦ 8 ♣ A K Q</p> <p>♠ 6 2 ♥ K 6 2 ♦ 10 7 5 3 ♣ J 7 6 4</p>
---	---	---	---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Allouche-Gaviard</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♥	Dble	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		



Anja Alberti, Germany

North led the jack of hearts and declarer took her top tricks, +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Alberti</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Schraverus-Meur</i>	<i>Willard</i>
Pass	1♥	2♦	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

If I have interpreted the convention card correctly it is possible that there was some confusion over the meaning of 2NT, which might have been intended as Good/Bad (a convention which, based on the results it usually achieves, the Bulletin believes should be renamed Bad/Dreadful) and the cold game was missed. Declarer recorded +130 giving France 11 IMPs.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 9 ♥ AKQ2 ♦ AQ1087 ♣ K97	♠ K865 ♥ 6 ♦ K953 ♣ AJ103	♠ J104 ♥ J854 ♦ J4 ♣ Q854									
<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										
♠ AQ732 ♥ 10973 ♦ 62 ♣ 62											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Allouche-Gaviard</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

* Fragment

South led the two of clubs for the seven, ten and queen. Declarer played a heart to the ace, cashed the king, getting the bad news, played a third heart to her jack and a diamond to the queen and king. A spade now would have produced three down, but North could not be sure of the position, and exited with a diamond. Declarer won with the jack and played a club, finishing two down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Alberti</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Schraverus-Meur</i>	<i>Willard</i>
1♦	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dble	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

I think everyone knows my views about the necessity of responding on the East hand. However, things did not turn out badly, as when South protected North had more than enough to justify a jump to a game that West thought was unlikely to make.

West cashed the king of hearts and accurately switched to a trump. Declarer won in hand with the ace and played a diamond. West went up with the ace and decided to force the dummy by playing a second heart. Declarer ruffed in dummy, cashed the king of diamonds, ruffed a diamond and played a club to the nine and queen. She won the spade return in dummy to leave this ending:

♠ — ♥ Q2 ♦ Q ♣ K7	<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		♠ 10 ♥ J ♦ — ♣ 854
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ 8 ♥ — ♦ 9 ♣ A103											
♠ Q7 ♥ 109 ♦ — ♣ 2											

Declarer has scored 5 tricks and needs the rest. The winning line is to cash the ace of clubs, ruff a club, ruff a heart, cash the ten of clubs and take the last trick with the master trump. Even if West has ♣Kxx this is safe for down one. In practice declarer ruffed a diamond and took the club fi-



Mirja Schraverus-Meur, Germany

ness. Now she had to lose a heart at the end for one down, -200 and 9 not unlucky IMPs for Germany.

At the point where West took the ace of diamonds the winning defence is for West to exit with a diamond. Declarer can win in dummy and ruff a diamond, but provided East discards a heart on this trick the defenders should always manage to come to two more tricks.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 8 4 2 ♥ J 6 4 ♦ J 9 3 ♣ 10 9 5 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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	♠ A Q 7 6 3 ♥ A 9 5 3 ♦ 10 8 ♣ Q 8
N					
W E					
S					
♠ K 10 5 ♥ K Q 10 8 7 ♦ A 7 4 ♣ 6 2	♠ J 9 ♥ 2 ♦ K Q 6 5 2 ♣ A K J 7 3				

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Allouche-Gaviard</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>
	Pass	1♠	2NT*
3♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

South cashed the ace and king of clubs and switched to the king of diamonds. Declarer won with dummy's ace and cashed the king of spades seeing South's nine. She natural-



Sylvie Willard, France

ly ran the ten of spades and was one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Alberti</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Schraverus-Meur</i>	<i>Willard</i>
	Pass	1♠	2NT*
3♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

An identical auction appeared likely to lead to an identical result, but when South cashed her clubs, North followed with the nine and ten. That persuaded South to switch to the two of hearts, so declarer could safely ignore the nine of spades and record +450 and collect 11 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 9 2 ♥ J 3 ♦ A Q 10 6 5 ♣ K 10 4 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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	♠ A K 10 7 3 ♥ K 10 9 8 2 ♦ 4 ♣ 7 3
N					
W E					
S					
♠ Q J 8 6 ♥ A 4 ♦ J 8 7 ♣ Q J 9 6	♠ 5 4 ♥ Q 7 6 5 ♦ K 9 3 2 ♣ A 8 5				

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Allouche-Gaviard</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♦	2♥	2♠	3♥
All Pass			

Three Hearts was not in danger. East led a diamond and West won with the queen and switched to a trump. East took the ace and played another diamond. Declarer ruffed and played three rounds of spades, ruffed and overruffed. That was +140.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Alberti</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Schraverus-Meur</i>	<i>Willard</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

North's aggression paid a handsome dividend, as with hearts 2-2 and spades 4-2 ten tricks are easy enough. East started with ace and another heart, which speeded up the play, +420 and 7 IMPs to France.

The match was virtually all-square when France struck a mighty blow:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Allouche-Gaviard</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	5NT*	Pass
6♣	Pass	7♣	All Pass


East did not – as some would – pretend that she held the queen of clubs when responding to 4NT, but once her partner continued to show interest with her bid of Five Spades it was clear to go on to the grand slam, +1440.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Alberti</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Schraverus-Meur</i>	<i>Willard</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Two Spades was multi meaning, but that and the subsequent bidding did not get the job done, +940 giving France 11 IMPs. 4♣ was keycard, 4NT denying the club queen.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Allouche-Gaviard</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>
	1♥	1♠	2♣
2♠	3♣	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

The German pair's canapé style worked well here. Three Diamonds is a very aggressive bid, but it would never have been a possibility had North opened One Diamond and it backfired, as now North/South could hit everything. She led the king of clubs and declarer won and played a diamond for the queen and ace. She ruffed the club return and played a heart to the king. When that held she played a diamond to the king. South ruffed and played a heart and North won with the ace and returned a heart for South to ruff. There were two trump tricks to come, down two, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Alberti</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Schraverus-Meur</i>	<i>Willard</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dble	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

Passing North's reopening double would have been speculative, especially with such excellent clubs, but when South bid Three Clubs, North had an awkward decision. You could argue that with South marked with significant spade length it might be wise to pass, hoping the little trumps can be used to ruff clubs. Three Diamonds had the effect of pushing North/South overboard, as Four Clubs had to fail by a trick, -50 handing Germany 8 IMPs.

Nothing significant happened in the remaining boards and it was France who emerged with some modest bragging rights, 42-35 IMPs translating to 16-14VP.

Lies, damned lies... and statistics!

The knock on Italy over the last ten years has always been that they were better at beating rabbits than top teams. Fair or unfair? You decide, but bear in mind that when you've won seven consecutive European Championships you deserve a little latitude.

However, this is the first time that we have employed a cut-off system; so let's make a prediction based on how well or badly the teams remaining in the event did against the surviving teams.

Given the disparity in the final scores it is arguable that some measure of equalization or factoring within the groups might be appropriate but in fact only Sweden's score was disparately high. So we've left the scores as they are; and two names emerge as ante-post favourites using this calculation:

Sweden, as befits the runaway leader of their group, averaged nearly 19VPs against the qualifying teams. But not far behind were Norway, who were only third in their group. Nobody else in either group averages more than 16.5 VPs against the qualifiers, with Bulgaria and Estonia the least successful performers remaining in the event.

The teams that did surprisingly well relative to their final finishing position are England and Portugal.

DOUX JURANCON

C'est notamment à André Labarrère, longtemps premier magistrat de la ville de Pau, que l'on doit d'y voir un aussi beau Championnat. En avril 2006, il présidait au tirage au sort d'un France-Russie de Coupe Davis et, à l'issue de cette opération, invita l'assistance à déguster le Jurançon, en précisant : «Le sec est à droite et le doux est à gauche». Certains y virent une allusion politique.

AD AUGUSTA PER ANGSTA

Cette citation latine bien connue s'applique tout à fait au chemin suivi par les Françaises pour appeler 7 Trèfles sur la donne 14 du 8ème match.

♠ D 10 7 5 2		
♥ 10 8 4		
♦ D 10 6		
♣ D 5		
♠ A		♠ V 9
♥ A D 7 5 2		♥ R
♦ 8 5 3 2		♦ A R V
♣ R 7 6		♣ A V 10 9 8 4 2
	♠ R 6 4 3	
	♥ V 9 6 3	
	♦ 9 7 4	
	♣ 3	

Les premières enchères

D.Gaviard	C.D'Ovidio
	1 T
1 C	2 K
3 T	4 T

Danièle Gaviard posa alors le Blackwood. Dans un premier temps, Catherine d'Ovidio, faisant fi de son 7ème Trèfle, répondit 5 Cœurs ; lors, sa partenaire, persuadée depuis le départ que le chelem serait grand, imagina de, couragement, déclarer 5 Piques. Suite et fin de l'histoire:

5 SA, puis 6 Trèfles et conclusion de Catherine à 7 Trèfles au nom de son 7ème atout. Seules deux paires de dames appelèrent ce grand chelem. Bravo, les filles.

A EN ETRE MALADES

En ce pays du bien manger, il est permis de se demander s'il vaut mieux avoir une maladie de peau à Foix ou une maladie de foie à Pau.

EUROVISION

Comment ne pas saluer la présence à Pau de Monsieur Bridge, en la personne de Jean-Pierre Dinspel. Représentant nos gentils partenaires de la Société Générale, il feignait de croire qu'il assistait au Concours Eurovision de la chanson, en entendant les commentateurs du rama annoncer : « Spain : one point – England : three points. »

A LA VOLEE

Nous nous sommes permis d'encourager hier, Patrice Piganeau, avant son match du matin, dans l'épreuve des moins jeunes : « Contre la Suède, il te faut monter à la volée. ». Comme nous le félicitons après sa large victoire, Patrice nous répondit avec modestie : « Il convient de dire qu'ils ont mis... quelques balles dans le filet. »

CADETTI

A la veille du tournoi cadets international de demain, (l'aîné des joueurs a 16 ans), le Championnat a reçu la charmante visite de Chantal de Rozières, organisatrice des festivals de Biarritz. C'est l'occasion de rappeler que, voilà 4 ans, elle fut la première à rassembler des représentants de cette catégorie d'âge.

STATISTIQUEMENT EXACT

A l'issue de la première phase de l'Open, nombreuses étaient les statistiques. Le Butler retenait en particulier l'attention de tous. Nous avons également réalisé un sondage très poussé, duquel il ressort que 90% des bridgeurs présents jouent... mieux que leur partenaire.

Une Carte Bancaire sur mesure pour les bridgeurs



La 1ère carte bancaire dédiée au bridge est disponible depuis mai 2008. La Fédération Française de Bridge et Franfinance, filiale du Groupe Société Générale, Partenaire officiel de la F.F.B depuis 2001, se sont associés pour vous proposer une carte bancaire 3 en 1 réservée aux licenciés.

1. Elle possède toutes les fonctionnalités d'une carte bancaire internationale, intégrant la souplesse d'une carte de crédit et les avantages d'une carte de fidélité sans changer de banque.
2. Les achats réglés avec la carte sont au comptant par défaut. Pour plus de souplesse dans le budget, elle propose le choix de régler ses achats « au comptant ou à crédit » directement chez les commerçants et de revenir sur son choix de paiement par téléphone ou Internet.
3. Avantageuse, cette carte est associée à un programme de fidélité

pensé pour les bridgeurs. Une galerie sur Internet propose des réductions dans 30 univers de consommations et met en avant des offres exclusives des partenaires de la carte pour faciliter le quotidien des joueurs.

Avec une cotisation minorée et de nombreux avantages, elle va devenir la 1ère carte bancaire des joueurs de bridge pour les accompagner au quotidien. Plus d'informations sur www.ffbridge.asso.fr.


Open Final Round I: Italy v Poland and Netherlands v Norway

by Peter Ventura & Jos Jacobs

In the first match we sat down to watch four teams that had rather easily made their way through to the final stage in the Open. Poland qualified as the eighth placed team in Group B and expected to have a tough time facing the reigning champions in round one.

The match between the Netherlands and Norway was expected to be tight, and so it proved to be.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Skrzypczak</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
2♦	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			


One club could be based on two cards and one heart showed spades. No higher ambitions here from the Italian pair, wisely enough. East led a diamond and declarer soon hereafter claimed eleven tricks; N/S +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Jagniewski and Kwiecien are playing a non-classic version of the Polish Club. Although, the auction led to their reaching a rather poor slam. On the lead of the diamond ace a heart loser eventually could be ditched from hand on the fifth club, thus twelve tricks and N/S +1430; 13 IMPs to Poland.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Skrzypczak</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
2♣	Dble	Pass	1♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2♦

East led his partner's suit, the singleton nine of clubs, which was a good start for the defence. The diamond queen was onside, but when the heart suit didn't split 3-3 with the king in West's hand, West could establish his club suit before declarer managed to establish the fourth spade. One down and Poland +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♦
All Pass		Pass	3NT


Here East didn't have any clues, so he tried the effect of a diamond lead, which was won by dummy's jack. Declarer played a heart up, and West hopped up with the king. At this point the club suit can no longer be established for the defence, so when they instead cashed their three spade tricks, declarer's fourth spade became the ninth trick. N/S +400 and that was 10 IMPs to Poland.

Halfway through the match Poland had a substantial advantage, leading 25-3.

At this point Norway was leading against the Netherlands, 17-7

Board 15 became disastrous for Italy.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Skrzypczak must have thought Christmas had come early this year. Look at this auction by Bocchi/Duboin, the number one pair in the Round Robin Butler:

Open Room

West <i>Gierulski</i>	North <i>Bocchi</i>	East <i>Skrzypczak</i>	South <i>Duboin</i>
			1♦
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5NT
Pass	7♦	Dble	Pass
Pass	7♠	Dble	All Pass

Normally Five Notrump shows two aces and a void, so it is likely that Bocchi expected South to have the two minor suit aces and a void in hearts here. The dummy must have been extremely disappointing for declarer, not to speak about the bad trump break.

East led the club ace and had to get three spade tricks as well; N/S -1100.

Closed Room

West <i>Versace</i>	North <i>Jagniewski</i>	East <i>Lauria</i>	South <i>Kwiecien</i>
			1♦
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♠	Dble	All Pass

An early double by Lauria slowed down the Polish auction. Five Spades went two off, so Poland +200 gave them 14 powerful IMPs.

This same board produced quite a different swing in the Netherlands-Norway match:

Open Room

West <i>Brogeland</i>	North <i>Drijver</i>	East <i>Lindqvist</i>	South <i>Brink</i>
			1♦
4♥	4♠	Dble	Pass
Pass	5♦	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

This contract was made but one wonders why North did not lead a trump instead of his singleton club. Norway +650.

This looked like a possible huge swing to Norway but when Helgemo-Lund were not sure about the exact number of aces and voids shown by a 5NT response over 4NT, they reached a pretty high contract, duly axed by Huub Bertens:


Closed Room

West <i>Bakkeren</i>	North <i>Helgemo</i>	East <i>Bertens</i>	South <i>Lund</i>
			1♦
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5NT
Pass	7♦	Dble	All Pass

Down two, +500 to the Netherlands but still 4 IMPs to Norway. They all must have been surprised, when comparing the results after the match.

A few boards later, what might have been a winning bid for Norway turned out to produce a big loss:

Board: 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Brogeland</i>	North <i>Drijver</i>	East <i>Lindqvist</i>	South <i>Brink</i>
		Pass	1♣
3♠	Dble	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

At this vulnerability, many of us, holding the East hand, would have saved in 4♣ but Lindqvist quietly passed and thus conceded -620.

Closed Room

West <i>Bakkeren</i>	North <i>Helgemo</i>	East <i>Bertens</i>	South <i>Lund</i>
		Pass	1♣
3♠	Dble	4♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

On a slightly different layout, for example with East holding ♥Kx, 4NT might have saved the board but as the cards lay, passing 4♣ doubled was the only way to restrict the

loss. So bidding on led to -100 rather than +500 to Norway, a loss of 12 IMPs instead of just 3 IMPs.

Back now to our match between Poland and Italy.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gierulski	Bocchi	Skrzypczak	Duboin
4♠	Dble	Pass All Pass	1♣*

Bocchi led the club ace and Duboin followed with the eight, signalling for a heart shift. When Bocchi returned a heart North/South had no problem in cashing their six quick winners, thus three down and Italy +500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Jagniewski	Lauria	Kwiecien
3♠ Pass	Pass 4♥	Pass All Pass	Pass Dble

When the trump split 3-2 and the king was onside, nothing bad could happen. Declarer lost a trick in each suit except from clubs; N/S +620 and that was worth 3 IMPs to Poland.

On the very last board we saw both declarers performing well.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ K 6 2
♥ J 7 3
♦ A Q 10 7 6 5
♣ J

♠ A Q J
♥ 5 4 2
♦ K J
♣ Q 10 7 6 4

♠ 7 5 4
♥ A 9 6
♦ 9 8
♣ A K 9 5 3

♠ 10 9 8 3
♥ K Q 10 8
♦ 4 3 2
♣ 8 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gierulski	Bocchi	Skrzypczak	Duboin
1♣*	1♦	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Jagniewski	Lauria	Kwiecien
1♣	1♦	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In theory a low spade, a heart or even the ace of diamonds would beat the game. However, in practice, North

led a low diamond at both tables. With the diamond lead declarer had his eight trick, but still needed another trick. Both declarer followed the same line, winning the first trick with the diamond jack, and then cashed five clubs. Bocchi, as North, was hoping to win a trick with the spade king, thus he discarded a diamond when declarer cashed the ace of hearts at this position:

♠ A Q J		♠ K 2									
♥ 5 4 2		♥ None									
♦ K		♦ A Q 10 7 6									
♣ None		♣ None									
	<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		♠ 7 5 4
	N										
W		E									
	S										
		♥ A 9 6									
		♦ 9									
		♣ None									
		♠ 9 8 3									
		♥ K Q 10									
		♦ 3									
		♣ None									

Baring the spade king seems to be the best defence. However, when North was down to four diamonds, Gierulski endplayed him by playing a diamond. Bocchi could win four diamond tricks but then had to play a spade into declarer's tenace. Bravo! Poland +600.

In the Closed Room Jagniewski managed to bare the spade king smoothly. However, Versace had noticed South pitching a spade, and in the following position Versace cashed the ace of hearts, and then read the position correctly by playing a spade to the ace, dropping the king.

♠ A Q J		♠ K									
♥ 5 4 2		♥ J									
♦ K		♦ A Q 10 6 5									
♣ None		♣ None									
	<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		♠ 7 5 4
	N										
W		E									
	S										
		♥ A 9 6									
		♦ 9									
		♣ None									
		♠ 10 9 8									
		♥ K Q 10									
		♦ 3									
		♣ None									

Well done by Versace! Italy +630 but only a single IMP to them for the overtrick.

Bakkeren found the same play, making an overtrick and gaining an IMP for the Netherlands.

That left us with the score 47-7 to Poland, 23-7 VP's, and that was definitely not the start the reigning champions hoped for.

Note: at several tables South led ♥K against 3NT, setting it 400, or even 600!

Norway scored three IMPs more than the Netherlands, winning 16 to 14 in VP's. However, there is an appeal pending.

