

Issue No. 14 Saturday, 28 June 2008

Rahat Lokum matches French Joy









Danièle Allouche-Gaviard, Veronique Bessis, Bénédicte Cronier, Catherine D'Ovidio, Joanna Neve, Sylvie Willard, Julien Gaviard npc retained France's crown in the European Women's Team Championship. Italy took silver and Spain bronze. A thrilling struggle saw Sweden, Germany & Denmark capture the remaining places in the Venice Cup. Turkey, Emin Basaran, Orhan Ekinci, Faik Falay & Ibrahim Yucekok & Ergun Korkut pc captured the Seniors title ahead of Sweden (silver) and Belgium (bronze). Poland, Netherlands and Italy took the other Senior Bowl places. A thrilling finish to the Open Championship is guaranteed as Germany attempt to hold off Norway, Bulgaria & Russia.















WOMEN TEAMS RESULTS

	ROUND 23 - subject to official confirmation			
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
21	ENGLAND	FINLAND	52 - 54	15 - 15
22	AUSTRIA	GREECE	44 - 51	14 - 16
23	NORWAY	ITALY	22 - 34	13 - 17
24	GERMANY	NETHERLANDS	40 - 66	10 - 20
25	CROATIA	PORTUGAL	73 - 35	23 - 7
26	IRELAND	LEBANON	54 - 11	24 - 6
27	SWEDEN	RUSSIA	32 - 27	16 - 14
28	HUNGARY	BYE		18 - 0
29	DENMARK	WALES	86 - 7	25 - I
30	TURKEY	CZECH REP.	15 - 40	10 - 20
31	FRANCE	ISRAEL	66 - 10	25 - 4
32	POLAND	SCOTLAND	48 - 41	16 - 14
33	SPAIN	ICELAND	61 - 23	23 - 7

	ROUND 24 - subject to official confirmation				
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMP s	VPs	
21	DENMARK	FRANCE	29 - 51	10 - 20	
22	ISRAEL	TURKEY	11 - 50	7 - 23	
23	CZECH REP.	POLAND	23 - 62	7 - 23	
24	SCOTLAND	SPAIN	41 - 49	14 - 16	
25	SWEDEN	ICELAND	38 - 46	14 - 16	
26	RUSSIA	IRELAND	61 - 11	25 - 5	
27	LEBANON	CROATIA	16 - 97	0 - 25	
28	PORTUGAL	BYE		18 - 0	
29	NETHERLANDS	NORWAY	50 - 29	19 - 11	
30	WALES	FINLAND	15 - 79	3 - 25	
31	GREECE	ENGLAND	52 - 76	10 - 20	
32	ITALY	AUSTRIA	62 - 31	21 - 9	
33	HUNGARY	GERMANY	69 - 17	25 - 5	

	ROUND 25 - subject to official confirmation			
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VP s
21	FINLAND	GREECE	51 - 43	16 - 14
22	ENGLAND	ITALY	36 - 71	8 - 22
23	AUSTRIA	NETHERLANDS	32 - 49	11 - 19
24	NORWAY	HUNGARY	65 - 37	21 - 9
25	GERMANY	PORTUGAL	47 - 34	18 - 12
26	CROATIA	RUSSIA	74 - 47	21 - 9
27	IRELAND	ICELAND	36 - 72	8 - 22
28	LEBANON	BYE		18 - 0
29	SPAIN	CZECH REP.	54 - 26	21 - 9
30	POLAND	ISRAEL	40 - 24	18 - 12
31	FRANCE	WALES	75 - 27	25 - 5
32	TURKEY	DENMARK	62 - 59	16 - 14
33	SWEDEN	SCOTLAND	57 - 21	22 - 8

SENIOR TEAMS RESULTS

	ROUND 17 - subject to official confirmation				
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs	
11	WALES	FRANCE	10 - 57	4 - 25	
12	SPAIN	SWITZERLAND	40 - 42	15 - 15	
13	FINLAND	DENMARK	26 - 52	9 - 21	
14	SCOTLAND	TURKEY	19 - 34	12 - 18	
15	AUSTRIA	ENGLAND	25 - 41	11 - 19	
16	GERMANY	NORWAY	37 - 44	14 - 16	
17	ISRAEL	SWEDEN	13 - 41	8 - 22	
18	BELGIUM	ITALY	27 - 18	17 - 13	
19	ESTONIA	NETHERLANDS	25 - 47	10 - 20	
20	IRELAND	POLAND	19 - 53	7 - 23	

	ROUND 18 - subject to official confirmation			
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VP s
ı	SWITZERLAND	WALES	45 - 18	21 - 9
2	POLAND	SPAIN	52 - 6	25 - 5
3	DENMARK	FRANCE	32 - 34	15 - 15
4	TURKEY	FINLAND	47 - 12	23 - 7
5	ENGLAND	SCOTLAND	36 - 36	15 - 15
6	NORWAY	AUSTRIA	47 - 23	21 - 9
7	SWEDEN	GERMANY	30 - 30	15 - 15
8	ITALY	ISRAEL	28 - 39	13 - 17
9	NETHERLANDS	BELGIUM	42 - 24	19 - 10
10	IRELAND	ESTONIA	24 - 36	12 - 18

	ROUND 19 - subject to official confirmation			
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMP s	VP s
11	WALES	SPAIN	51 - 33	19 - 11
12	SWITZERLAND	DENMARK	37 - 45	13 - 17
13	FRANCE	TURKEY	18 - 40	10 - 20
14	FINLAND	ENGLAND	44 - 34	17 - 13
15	SCOTLAND	NORWAY	22 - 56	7 - 23
16	AUSTRIA	SWEDEN	24 - 50	9 - 21
17	GERMANY	ITALY	22 - 53	8 - 22
18	ISRAEL	NETHERLANDS	38 - 22	19 - 11
19	BELGIUM	IRELAND	15 - 32	11 - 19
20	ESTONIA	POLAND	13 - 46	7 - 23

Today's Schedule

10.30 Open Teams F.R., Round 17

19.00 Prize-giving & Closing Ceremony

20.30 Victory Banquet

WOMEN TEAMS RANKING FINAL

subject to official confirmation

I	FRANCE	466.00
2	ITALY	450.00
3	SPAIN	442.00
4	SWEDEN	435.00
5	GERMANY	426.00
6	DENMARK	425.00
7	POLAND	423.00
8	NETHERLANDS	416.00
	ENGLAND	416.00
10	NORWAY	415.00
П	CROATIA	412.00
12	TURKEY	408.00
13	RUSSIA	397.00
14	FINLAND	386.00
15	CZECH REP.	360.50
16	HUNGARY	358.00
17	ISRAEL	352.00
18	ICELAND	347.00
19	SCOTLAND	331.00
20	PORTUGAL	308.00
21	IRELAND	305.50
22	GREECE	300.00
23	WALES	283.00
24	AUSTRIA	271.00
25	LEBANON	235.00

SENIOR TEAMS RANKING FINAL

subject to official confirmation

-1	TURKEY	348.00
2	SWEDEN	333.00
3	BELGIUM	327.00
4	POLAND	325.00
5	NETHERLANDS	322.00
6	ITALY	314.00
	ENGLAND	314.00
8	DENMARK	313.00
9	FRANCE	312.00
10	ISRAEL	295.00
П	SCOTLAND	294.00
12	AUSTRIA	278.00
13	NORWAY	273.00
14	GERMANY	263.00
15	IRELAND	248.00
16	ESTONIA	237.00
17	FINLAND	229.00
18	SPAIN	223.00
19	SWITZERLAND	206.00
20	WALES	200.00

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 Sunsunchengmo82@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 TEAMS PROGRAM

ROUND 17 10.30 Table Home Team **Visiting Team FRANCE ICELAND** 2 **ISRAEL NETHERLANDS** 3 **SWEDEN ESTONIA TURKEY BULGARIA** 5 CZECH REP. **LATVIA** 6 **GERMANY ITALY** 7 NORWAY **DENMARK** 8 **ENGLAND POLAND PORTUGAL RUSSIA**

Inspiration or perspiration?



Genius is next to lunacy, and Alain Levy is the first to acknowledge that his partner Herve Mouiel is far more often a genius than a lunatic. But when it comes to the deal described on pages 8-9 of bulletin 12 his perception was that Herve was simply playing down the middle, and not going for broke.

In his commentary on the Russia-Germany match Jos Jacobs mentioned that Dr. Wladow was inspired enough to bid 4Φ over $4\heartsuit$ as East, and earned his side a fine result. Herve Mouiel also bid 4Φ ; equally inspired? No, when he mundanely passed over North's $4\heartsuit$, Alain Levy had found the relatively normal re-opening double that allowed Mouiel to bid 4Φ . Alas, if we are seeking inspiration from Mouiel we shall have to look further afield!

OPEN TEAMS RESULTS

	ROUND 14 - subject to official confirmation			
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
- 1	FRANCE	POLAND	41 - 31	17 - 13
2	RUSSIA	DENMARK	9 - 41	8 - 22
3	PORTUGAL	ITALY	18 - 30	13 - 17
4	ENGLAND	LATVIA	19 - 56	7 - 23
5	NORWAY	BULGARIA	38 - 67	9 - 21
6	GERMANY	ESTONIA	32 - 41	13 - 17
7	CZECH REP.	NETHERLANDS	33 - 32	15 - 15
8	TURKEY	ICELAND	9 - 65	4 - 25
9	ISRAEL	SWEDEN	35 - 45	13 - 17

	ROUND 15 - subject to official confirmation			
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
- 1	FRANCE	LATVIA	52 - 34	19 - 11
2	BULGARIA	ITALY	73 - 32	23 - 7
3	ESTONIA	DENMARK	22 - 41	11 - 19
4	NETHERLANDS	POLAND	54 - 14	23 - 6
5	ICELAND	RUSSIA	34 - 58	10 - 20
6	ISRAEL	PORTUGAL	32 - 36	14 - 16
7	SWEDEN	ENGLAND	29 - 38	13 - 17
8	TURKEY	NORWAY	38 - 39	15 - 15
9	CZECH REP.	GERMANY	19 - 53	8 - 22

	ROUND 16 - subject to official confirmation				
	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs	
ı	ITALY	FRANCE	44 - 63	11 - 19	
2	DENMARK	LATVIA	66 - 9	25 - 4	
3	BULGARIA	POLAND	74 - 50	20 - 10	
4	RUSSIA	ESTONIA	39 - 23	18 - 12	
5	PORTUGAL	NETHERLANDS	47 - 60	12 - 18	
6	ENGLAND	ICELAND	71 - 29	24 - 6	
7	NORWAY	ISRAEL	53 - 73	11 - 19	
8	GERMANY	SWEDEN	75 - 23	25 - 5	
9	TURKEY	CZECH REP.	71 - 27	24 - 6	

OPEN TEAMS RANKING after 16 rounds

subject to official confirmation

	CERMANIV	201.00
- 1	GERMANY	281.00
2	NORWAY	275.00
3	BULGARIA	274.00
4	RUSSIA	271.00
5	DENMARK	263.00
6	NETHERLANDS	256.00
7	ITALY	254.00
8	FRANCE	253.00
9	ICELAND	245.00

10 SWEDEN	244.00
II TURKEY	232.00
12 ENGLAND	225.00
13 POLAND	217.00
14 LATVIA	213.00
15 CZECH REP.	212.00
16 ISRAEL	208.00
17 ESTONIA	188.00
PORTUGAL	188.00

OPEN TEAMS

Round 13

Italy v Netherlands Germany v Norway

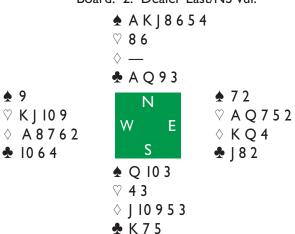
by Jos Jacobs

In the last round on Thursday evening the big match between the two leading teams was on: Germany v. Norway. Whoever would win this match might well be crowned the new European Champion today. In another match in this round, Italy would have to fight for their last chance to retain the title by registering a big win over the Netherlands, like they did last week.

This scenario, however, was not quite what actually happened in these two matches. The Germany v. Norway match produced very little excitement, though one could not help feeling that some of the players were a bit tired. Still, after a series of good boards near the end of the match, Norway emerged victorious, winning the match 45-16 or 21-9 V.P.They thus had done their job.

In the Italy v. Netherlands match, things went very much the Netherlands' way. Take board 2, for example:

Board: 2. Dealer East/NS vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Bocchi	Drijver	Duboin
		I♡	Pass
3NT	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♡	Dble	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

This was very much a par result as 6% will go off a lot if the defenders find their diamond ruffs – an easy thing to do with South on lead. Italy +650.

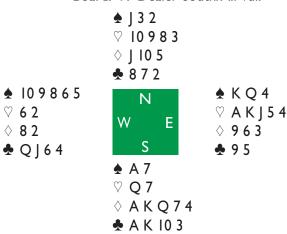
Closed Room

Closed 1100	111			
West	North	East	South	
Versace	Bertens	Lauria	Bakkeren	
		I♡	Pass	
3♦	4♠	Pass	Pass	
5♡	Dble	Pass	5♠	
Pass	Pass	6♡	Pass	
Pass	6♠	Dble	All Pass	

 $3\Diamond$ showed a fit and a singleton in a hand with at least invitational values. Bertens' double of $5\heartsuit$ showed a hand on which he wanted to bid a second time. South's pass over $6\heartsuit$ and North's subsequent $6\clubsuit$ bid convinced the Italians that at least one of their opponents had a void in hearts, so Lauria led a trump...Netherlands +1660 as one heart loser went on the 13th club.

A few boards later, Italy got a big swing in their favour when they managed to declare 3NT from the right seat.

Board: 7. Dealer South/All vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South	
Brink	Bocchi	Drijver	Duboin	
			2◊	
Pass	2♡	Dble	Pass	
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	
All Pass				

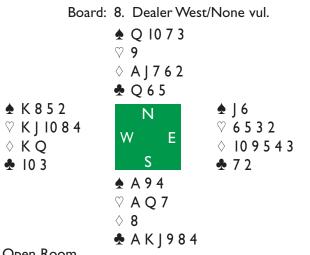
With East on lead and West never able to get in, declarer has all the time in the world to establish a heart trick. Drijver speeded up the play by leading two rounds of hearts before shifting to the ♠K. Italy +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bertens	Lauria	Bakkeren
			2♦
Pass	2♡	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Versace could lead the ♠10, leaving declarer no chance. Italy +100 and 12 IMPs.

On the next board, however, the Dutch hit back, due to a remarkable action by Bertens:



Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Brink	Bocchi	Drijver	Duboin	
I♡	Pass	3♡	3NT	
All Pass				

Eleven tricks, Italy +460.

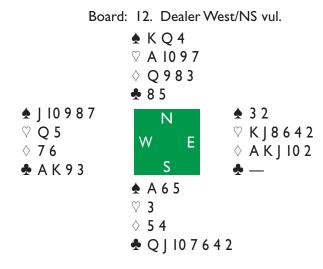
Closed Room		_		
West	North	East	South	
Versace	Bertens	Lauria	Bakkeren	
10	Dble	2♡	6♣	
All Pass				

It will remain a secret where Bertens found his double but he timed it to perfection. Even a trump lead does not beat the slam. Netherlands +920 and 10 IMPs.

Board 12 again was an instance of a swing created by declaring the contract from one side or the other:



Lorenzo Lauria, Italy



Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Brink	Bocchi	Drijver	Duboin	
INT	Pass	2◊	Pass	
2♡	Pass	3♡	Pass	
3♠	Pass	4♡	All Pass	

After the mini-NT, North might have led a top spade but when he emerged with a club, declarer soon had 10 tricks when his losing spades went on the ♣AK. Netherlands +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South	
Versace	Bertens	Lauria	Bakkeren	
Pass	Pass	10	Pass	
I♠	Pass	3♦	Pass	
3NT	Pass	4♡	All Pass	

After a more natural auction South knew that declarer was 6-5 in the reds, so he tried the effect of leading the ♠A. This led to an equally quick one down, Netherlands +50 and 10 IMPs.

With the score at 44-18 to the Netherlands, this was board 16:

Board: 16. Dealer West/EW vul. **★** 8 7 ♡ | 8 7 3 2 ♣ K 10 8 5 4 3 **♠** A 6 **★** | 10 9 5 4 ♡ A K O ♥ 64 ♦ 1095 ♦ J 8 7 6 4 ♣ Q 7 2 ♣ | 9 6 **★** K Q 3 2 ♥ 1095 ♦ AKQ32 **♣** A

Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Brink	Bocchi	Drijver	Duboin	
INT	Pass	2♡	Pass	
2♠	All Pass			

After another strong-NT and a transfer to spades, Duboin quietly awaited developments and collected +200 when North led a heart.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bertens	Lauria	Bakkeren
INT	Dble	2♡	Dble
Pass	3♡	Pass	4♡
Dble	All Pass		

Bertens' double showed a major-minor twosuiter and Lauria's $2\heartsuit$ was a transfer. Versace basically denied three spades by passing South's double but then had an easy double of $4\heartsuit$. This contract duly went two down, Italy another +300 and 11 IMPs when Lauria led the \clubsuit J.

At this point, I make room for Peter Ventura to report about what he saw in the match between Sweden and Russia:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Khiouppenen	Nystrom	Kholomeev
INT	2♡	Pass	4♡
Dble	Pass	Pass	Redble
All Pass			

Khiouppenen's intervention showed 5-4 in hearts and a minor. South had a nice hand and it was reasonable for him to believe 4% would be cold when North voluntarily overcalled a strong no-trump opening, thus he redoubled. But how wrong he would be! Bertheau did not fear the redouble, holding the three trump tops and the ace second in spades.

However, on a minor suit lead the contract can be made. In practice Nystrom led a trump, so Bertheau won the three first tricks, and then switched to a club. From here on declarer had to lose a spade and a club trick facing two down. Sweden +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South	
Matushko	Nilsson	Khokhlov	Wrang	
INT	Pass	2♡	Pass	
2♠	All Pass			

At the other table, it was a good decision by the Swedes not to act. In 2♠ declarer emerged with seven tricks. N/S +100 and that was 12 IMPs to Sweden.

Back now to Netherlands v. Italy:

The penultimate board almost told the story of this match on its own:



Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Brink	Bocchi	Drijver	Duboin	
			Pass	
I♠	2♠	Pass	3♣	
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	
Dble	Pass	Pass	4♣	
Pass	5♣	Dble	All Pass	

Total misfits are too hot to handle. Netherlands +800 when this contract went down four.

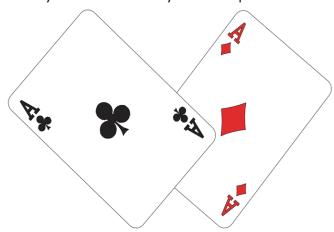
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bertens	Lauria	Bakkeren
			2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♡	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

This was not the right moment for South to open his major-minor two-suiter either.

Down three, so +500 to Italy but 7 IMPs to the Netherlands.

The Netherlands thus achieved a 61-30 win, 21-9 in V.P. It remained to be seen if this win would do them any good, with only four matches left. On the other hand, Italy's heavy defeat had also reduced their chances of title prolongation to almost zero, as Norway recorded a 21-9 V.P. win over Germany to lead the table by 14 at this point.



OPEN TEAMS

Round 15

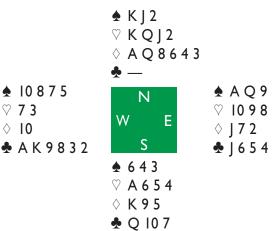
Russia v Denmark

by Jos Jacobs

Friday morning's set of boards proved rather quiet. This did not prevent Iceland from scoring an important 25 V.P. Nor did it stop Latvia from scoring a fine 23 V.P.

In the direct matches between the higher-placed teams in the standings, the highest score achieved by any team was 22. Denmark reached this number of V.P. by virtue of their 41-9 win over Russia. As you can deduce from these low IMP scores, not very much was happening. Here are just two boards:

Board: 7. Dealer South/All vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hansen	Gromov	Bilde	Dubinin
			Pass
Pass	♣	Pass	INT(I)
2♣	2♦	3♣	3♦
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

The Strong Club did not reveal the 4-4 heart fit this time but 6%, too, would have been a marginal affair. Had South's %A been the \clubsuit A, we might have had a different story, however...

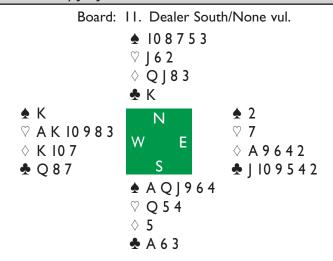
Down two, Denmark +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Khokhlov	Askgaard	Matushko	Bjarnarson
			Pass
Pass	♣	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

Four-four fit duly located and 11 tricks made. Denmark +650 and 13 IMPs.

On the board below, we saw a classic example of falsecarding by declarer:



Both South players opened I♠ and played in game after West overcalled in hearts.

West leads the $\heartsuit K(A)$ and as South you contribute the queen, the classic false card. More often than not, West will fall into the trap and continue, say, a club. In this match, it happened at both tables. The swing thus did not come from the heart ruff being found at only one table, but from declarer's decision about the trumps. Dubinin finessed the king for one down and Bjarnarson went up with the ace to land his contract and thus score 10IMPs more for Denmark.

Once East introduces his minors, for example by bidding no-trump at any appropriate level, EW fill find a very profitable save. 5 will not go more than two off and maybe only one if NS don't take their diamond ruff.



Morten Bilde, Denmark

You raise, I go all in or Bertens the poker player

by Jan van Cleeff

The Netherlands were fighting for their last chance to qualify for next year's Bermuda Bowl in Sao Paulo when they met Italy in round 13 of the open series. In the match two hands proved to be decisive. It was all about leading.

A. Sitting East Lorenzo Lauria looked at:



E/NS

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bertens	Lauria	Bakkeren
		10	Pass
3◊*	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♡	Dble**	Pass	5♠
Pass	Pass	6♡	Pass
Pass	6♠!	Dble	All Pass

^{*4♥,} gf, shortness somewhere

Lauria at one point was to defend Four Spades. All of a sudden he had to find a lead against the spade slam. (Incidentally, before Bertens, a poker player, bid Six Spades he said to his screenmate 'you raise, I go all in!') Guess what Lauria led?

B. A couple of boards later Ton Bakkeren saw this hand:

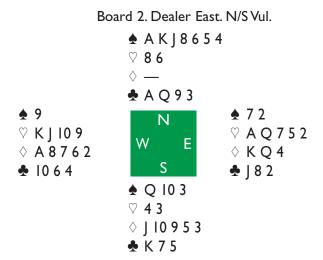
W/NS

West	North	East	South	
Versace	Bertens	Lauria	Bakkeren	
Pass	Pass	I♡	Pass	
I♠	Pass	3◊*	Pass	
3NT	Pass	4♡	All Pass	

*5/5, good suits



A.

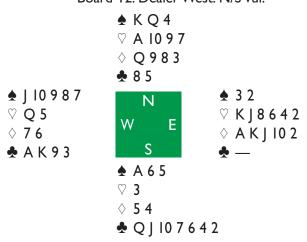


'All or nothing', that was how Huub Bertens was instructed. His team captain told him he didn't care about finishing in 7th or 17th place.' Just shoot as much as you can in order to reach the all important 6th place.'

So Bertens gave Six Spades a shot and Lauria had to find a lead. After a small pause the maestro kicked off with a trump. The Netherlands duly collected 14 IMPs on the board since Bocchi-Duboin scored +650 in the other room.

В.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



Looking at the South hand it seemed pretty standard to lead the queen of clubs, the unbid suit. This is exactly what happened in the closed room. There, Sjoert Brink made his Four Hearts, since he got rid of his two spade losers right-away

However, Ton Bakkeren in the open room cleverly deduced from the auction – West bid 3NT - that in fact a spade lead was imperative. He correctly tabled the ace of spades and another spade: ten IMPs to The Netherlands, which won the match 21 to 9.

^{**}like to bid on

EBL Senior Forum 1300 hrs, 25th June, 2008 in Pau

Present: Chair: Guido Resta (Ita); Honorary Chair: Nissan Rand (Isr); Secretary: Patrick Jourdain (Wal); committee members: Maurizio di Sacco (Ita); Goran Mattsson (Ger) + some 25 members.

The Chairman welcomed members.

I. Pau

24 countries had indicated intentions to enter senior teams for Pau but the actual entry of 20 was still a record. He invited comment on the conditions in Pau. There was general satisfaction with the senior event being eight days, playing a full round robin, playing the same boards as the Open and Women, starting each match at the same times, and playing three matches per day.

Peter Czerniewski (n.p.c. England Seniors) expressed a wish that where the Open and/or Women played more than 48 boards per day, so should the Seniors. The Secretary said EBL and WBF policy was that seniors play at most 48 boards per day, and di Sacco said that the WBF had reduced the number of boards per day to 48 for all round robin qualifying events including Open and Women. On a straw poll of members present on the matter raised by Mr. Czerniewski there was a clear majority in favour of restricting the number of boards for Seniors to a maximum of 48 per day even if the Open or Women were playing more.

Francis Wolff of France indicated his preference for a round robin followed by K.O.

Mike Close (npc Wales Seniors) raised the matter of recording bidding and play. The regulations did not appear to require it so his team made no arrangements. The team was faced with the option of finding volunteers, getting the players to do the recording or of paying 20 euros per match for the work. The WBU Senior team had only its entry fee paid by its NBO and was not confident of recovering the 20 euros. He asked whether the EBL could consider including at least part of the cost within the entry fee even if that discouraged entries. On a show of hands it transpired that:

- (a) All players were willing to enter contract and result on the bridgemates;
- (b) Roughly a third present were paying for recorders, the others had found volunteers, or were getting players to enter the bidding but little of the play;
- (c) The room was unanimous that declarer or defenders could not be expected to enter any play details other than the opening lead (Mr Jourdain suggested that the EBL look at the possibility of asking dummy to do this where the table had no recorder);
- (d) More than half were prepared to enter bidding as players if it reduced their costs by 20 euro per match.

Di Sacco said the justification for requiring bidding and play details came from three sources: spectators on the internet; captains wanting to know what their players had done at a table where they were not seated; and the press wanting to report bridge stories including the Seniors. Mr Jourdain, as IBPA President, reported that IBPA had made no official request for recording of Senior matches, and though individual journalists might find this useful, the Press should not be used collectively as an excuse for requiring recording in Senior events.

2. Riccione, July 2008

Mr. Resta reported that the FIGB had held a successful Seniors Congress in Riccione a year ago with 600 players, all over the age of 58, competing in a great variety of events. This year the EBL would give the event support with EBL Masterpoints. The EBL would be pleased if other countries followed the same idea. If enough did so, the EBL would consider a Grand Prix Seniors title for players attending several such events. Mr. Mattsson reported that Germany and Netherlands were considering a joint venture. Mr Gagne, who praised the previous year's event, reported that the time spent playing in Pau and Beijing would prevent a visit to Riccione this year.

3. Beijing, October 2008

Di Sacco reported that the format for the Seniors in Beijing would be identical to that of the Open and Women, all playing the same 48 boards per day in 3 sets of 16 in a round robin of two pools starting on 4th October and finishing on 10th October with a day off on 9th October. Eight teams from each pool would qualify for knockouts beginning on 11th October. The Seniors would play in the same venue as the other events but would not count in the medal table of the World Mindsports Games as the WBF was seeking approval of the IOC for 2012 and the IOC would not accept any senior event.

4. San Remo, June 2008

Mr Rona joined the meeting with some details about San Remo. Compared with Antalya, entry fees would not be increased. The format would be similar but was not yet fixed. The following amendments were being considered for seniors:

Teams of seniors could enter the Open Teams and if eliminated at an early stage would be able to compete in the Senior Teams; discounts similar to Tenerife for entry to multiple events were under consideration; there would be time off in the schedules of both the Senior Teams and Senior Pairs.

Favourable hotel rates had been negotiated with prices as low as 40 euro for a 2-star single room. The San Remo Tourist Board was arranging for these to be available for booking via the internet.

There would be air conditioning in the playing area.

The meeting closed at 1400 for players to be ready for the next match.

G. Resta, Chairman; P. Jourdain, Secretary.

3rd international BRIDGE FESTIVAL «GREEK ISLANDS»

RHODES 2008 August 31st - September 7th



The Hellenic Bridge Federation, the international bridge champion Fulvio Fantoni and our sponsor Hasib Sabbagh have the pleasure to organize the "Greek Islands" Bridge Festival and would like to invite you to explore a new experience. This Festival is, again, combining your holidays to your love for bridge and will take place in the beautiful island of Rhodes and more specifically in the Ixya area from Sunday 31st August to Sunday 7th September 2008. The luxurious Hilton Resort 5* and the Rodian Amathus 5* have been selected to host this year's event. The festival activities (tournament, lessons, and friendly games) will take place in the ballroom of the Hilton Resort, while the Rodian Amathus is located at a walking distance from the Hilton (200 meters). Both hotels offer the choice of Bed and Breakfast (B+B) or Half-Board (HB) accommodation.

Prices:

50.000 Euros for all events (open pairs, mixed pairs, teams)

More information:

www.hellasbridge.org www.fantonivacations.it

For registration arrangements please contact:

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Modern Bridge Theory

by Mark Horton

In so far as they are both considered to be amongst the most demanding of the Mind Sports, Chess & Bridge have common ground. Many of you will be aware that in order to rise to the top in Chess one must have a sound grasp of Opening Theory and the top players all make extensive use of computers, both to store vast databases and to search for important theoretical novelties.

Whilst it would be possible to produce a database that might provide some assistance to bridge players ('Bocchi opened a weak Two Hearts 235 times in the last four Championships and the average strength of his suit was J98642' – for example) what is perhaps more potentially useful is to be the first to realise that a way of treating a particular type of hand may have significant advantages. If you come to his conclusion ahead of the rest of the bridge world you may score a huge number of points before the rest catch up.

Take a look at this North hand:

Dealer: East, Vul: All

♠ J

♡ A K J 7 6 5

♦ A Q J

♣ K 10 2

The World Champion I was discussing this with was faced (as is so often the case when you have a good hand) by some significant preemption:

Open Room

West North East South 2♠ Pass

Having spent several years bidding Five Hearts our Champion had come to the conclusion that it is better to double on this type of hand. While we were discussing the potential outcome the phone rang and it was one Zia Mahmood on the line! When given the North hand as a problem he said 'Well, I used to bid Five Hearts, but now I have concluded that it's better to double.' Great minds think alike!'

This was the full deal:

Dealer: East, Vul: All

♠ J ♡ A K J 7 6 5 ◊ A Q J

♠ Q 10 5 4 2

♥ 1032 ♦ K842

★ K 10 2NWES

♠ A 9 8 7 6 3

♥ Q♦ 5 3

9863

♠ K ♥ 984

♦ 10 9 7 6

♣ A Q 7 5 4

Mind you, we are still discussing South's best move!

EBL Press Conference II a.m. Friday 27th June, 2008 in Pau

Top table: Gianarrigo Rona, EBL President; Yves Aubry, FFB President; Panos Gerontopoulos, EBL/IBPA Liaison; Patrick Jourdain, IBPA President.

+ 25 members of the Press

Mr. Rona welcomed the Press and made an opening statement. The number of member countries of the EBL had risen to 48. Economic reasons prevented Armenia attending. Entries in Pau with 38 countries in the Open, 25 in the Womens, and 20 in the Seniors compared with previous records of 38 in the Open, 23 in the Womens and 16 in the Seniors.

The new format had been a success but details for the 2010 Teams Championship were still under consideration. It was expected that the Women and Senior events would start at the same time as the Open and after these two events were completed there would be an optional Pairs event for all those elim-

inated from the Open Qualifier, the Women and the Seniors.

Technology in Pau had improved again with the Viewgraph presentation, the playing conditions were excellent and he believed this was one of the best Europeans ever.

Speaking of future events he noted this

year the Youth Pairs would be in July in Wroclaw, Poland; The University Championship would also be in Poland in September and The European Cup would be in Amsterdam in November. Next year in June the EBL Open would be in San Remo, Italy and the Youth Team Championships would probably be in Romania in July, though another Federation had also applied. The 2010 European Cup would be in Paris in November. In 2010 the next EBL Teams would be in Ostend, Belgium in June and it would be the 50th championship. Aarhus, Denmark had applied for 2012.

Regarding the WBF event in Beijing this October he read a message from Jose Damiani, WBF President, and said the deadline for notifying names to our Chinese hosts would be 31st July. Invitations from the host would be needed for each person to obtain a visa within their own country.

The meeting was then thrown open for questions.

Nissan Rand (Isr) asked why so few Womens and Senior matches had been shown on Viewgraph. Mr. Rona replied that matches were also shown on BBO and Swan, and the Viewgraph match was selected as being the most popular for those present. Mr Jean-Paul Meyer (France) said Mr. Rand could check the spectator figures on BBO for the various matches and would see how many spectators there were for Women and Senior matches compared with the Open.

Mr. Meyer then asked Mr. Rona and Mr. Aubry about the cost of the championships and whether there were plans to reduce it. Mr. Rona replied that the overall budget was close to a million euros. The EBL could not afford to make a loss without increasing its annual subscription and therefore budgeted to

make a small profit. This would amount to about 60,000 euro for Pau. The balance had to met through sponsors, entry fees, recording fees, free services, and the host, the FFB who supplied the venue, accommodation for staff, and much of the hospitality. Mr. Aubry said that the FFB expected a deficit of about 100,000 euro on the championship. This was in the context of an annual budget of 7 million euro for the FFB. The EBL did not wish to compromise on standards.

On behalf of Mr. van Cleeff (Net) who could not be present, Mr. Jourdain enquired how many boards a member of a team winning a medal had to play to earn a medal. The regulations did not appear to mention it. Mr. Rona replied that in common with many sports any team member of a team that won a medal would receive a medal even if that member had not played at all. To earn EBL masterpoints, however, a player must play either

at least a third of the boards in the qualifier to earn points for the qualifier, or a third of the overall boards to earn points for the overall.

Mr Dix (Malta) enquired about reducing the length of the championship by one or two days so players could travel at weekends.

This was clearly possible under the new format. Mr. Rona replied that only the Open was a problem and the format for 2010 was not yet finalised. The EBL was reluctant to reduce the numbers qualifying for the second week below 18 and had to cater for a potential entry of more than 38 countries. Mr. Kamras (Sweden) raised the matter of a carry-over and the possibility of playing a further 20 boards against the teams qualifying from the other pool, with extra boards against all the qualifiers depending on the time available. Mr. Rona replied that the EBL was also discussing the matter of carry-over from the qualifier

Mr Jourdain enquired about the number of laptops provided in the Press Room as four had not proved sufficient despite members' bringing their own, and also about security, given laptops had been stolen from the EBL Office. Mr. Rona replied that it was not difficult for the host to supply more than four but it had been reported that previously eight had been too many given the increasing tendency of members to bring their own. The WBF laptop chains were now available at the venue and could be used in the Press Room. Mr Swaan, Press Room Manager, reported that chains were not wholly effective due to problem of the table layout.

The IBPA President closed the Meeting with thanks both to the EBL and FFB for their arrangements and hospitality for the Press, in particular yesterday's Press Trip provided by the Pau Tourist Board. Mr Aubry presented Mr Jourdain with the FFB medal in thanks for his contribution to the championships and invited all members present for a drink outside.



to the second week.

To bid or not to bid

by Peter Ventura

You are sitting North, both sides nonvulnerable. Would you take any action with the following hand, when your LHO pre-empts Three Diamonds followed by two passes?

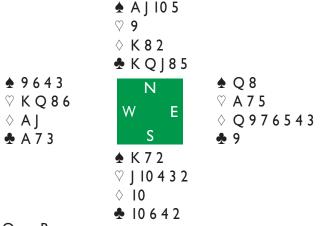
The Norwegian junior of Espen Lindqvist was facing this bidding decision in Norway's match against Bulgaria in Round 14 in the Open. Would you – or should you – act?

One alternative is of course to pass. Tastes differ, so Lindqvist took a shot at Three No Trumps, which is a reasonable try. However, now it went pass, pass, double and it was Lindqvist's turn again. He now had to decide whether to stay in the no-trump game or escape to Four Clubs.

What would you have done?

Lindqvist bravely chose to pass. This was the whole layout:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South	
Stoyanov	Lindqvist	Hristov	Brogeland	
		3♦	Pass	
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass	
Dble	All Pass			

Hristov led a diamond to the ace and played the queen on partner's jack, when declarer ducked on the second round. Another diamond took out declarer's king, and now, with almost no tricks, Lindqvist was in deep trouble. Double-dummy you can escape for -800, but Lindqvist played West to have the spade queen, so he crossed to dummy in spades, and then took the spade finesse. When the smoke had cleared Lindqvist had not been allowed to take any more tricks, thus he was down seven for -1700.

Closed Roc	om		
West	North	East	South
Aa	Isporski	Molberg	Kovachev A-S
		Pass	Pass
I♡	INT	2♡	Pass
Pass	Dble	3♦	All Pass

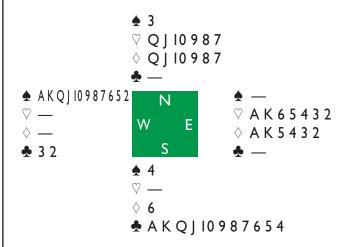
At the other table Molberg emerged with eleven tricks in Three Diamonds: Norway +150.

This board must have been costly in the Butler ranking for the leaders Lindqvist/Brogeland. Moreover, this single board turned out to be a 1550 points difference, and that was a huge 17 IMPs gain for Bulgaria, which contributed a great deal to the Bulgarian 21-9 victory.

Sitout I2 - Solution

There is only one lead that defeats Six Spades by West. The others result in precisely twelve tricks. South has the diamond six.

What are the North-South hands?



North can't have more than one club or else there would be more than one card to beat the slam.

If that club is not the ace he must also be void in trumps, or again there would be more than one card beating the slam. That would leave 6-6 in the red suits, and a heart ruff on the lead also would set the slam. If he has the club ace and no spades an initial ruff followed by an unblock of the club ace on trumps is also fatal, and if North has one or two spades some red leads will give an overtrick, not allowed in the conditions.

So North must be void in clubs. Thus South has eleven clubs, the diamond six and one spade which must be the four. Otherwise North's trump lead is allowed to hold, a red lead ruffed directly or at trick two is followed by a small spade to North's four.

With the above layout a spade lead beats Six Spades, all other leads result in twelve tricks.

OPEN TEAMS

Bulgaria v Italy

Netherlands v Poland

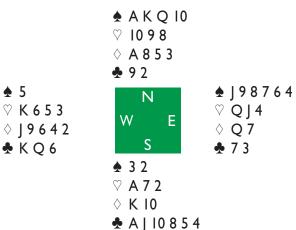
Round 15

The matches on Friday afternoon produced some results that had a lot of impact on the standings. Germany scored 34 IMPs on the last 5 boards against Czech Republic to emerge winners by 22-8 V.P. and go to 2nd place, just 8 V.P. behind Norway. Russia beat Iceland 20-10 to maintain their challenging position and also putting Iceland back to joint 6th with Sweden. Denmark scored another good win, 19-11 over Estonia, to stay in the hunt but the two shock results of the round undoubtedly were the 23-7 wins by Bulgaria v. Italy and by Netherlands v. Poland. Bulgaria went into the last round of the day in 3rd place, 2 V.P. behind Germany. The Netherlands started the last round as 9th but they were suddenly within striking distance of the qualifying spots, as in fact, were France after their 19-11 win.

Here are a few of the highlights of the last two matches mentioned above.

On board 8, the defence should prevail when North plays 3NT but only on a heart lead from East. If he leads a spade instead, declarer can succeed with some good card-reading.

Board: 8. Dealer West/None



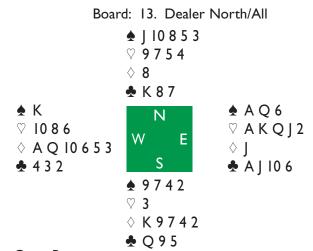
For Bulgaria, Karakolev won the spade lead with his \$10 and led the \$9 which lost to the queen. West returned a heart, which declarer ducked to East's jack however Karakolev won the \$\times Q\$ with his ace and next cashed his three top spades. West discarded a diamond, his last small club(!) and another diamond but Karakolev made no mistake. He cashed his two top diamonds and led a club to the ace, felling West's king and making no less than 11 tricks in the process for a wonderful +460. The endplay would have failed if Sementa had played back his low heart at trick four. When Hristov led the \$\times Q\$ in the replay, this endgame was

When Hristov led the $\heartsuit Q$ in the replay, this endgame was ruled out so Bocchi had to concede one down for another +50 to Bulgaria and 11 IMPs.

Netherlands v. Poland:

Bertens also got a spade lead in his 3NT and, playing along the same lines as Karakolev, he had to go for the heart endplay on West when no club was discarded. Netherlands +430. In the other room, Drijver, who had overcalled 2 - 100, led the $^{\circ}Q$ to set the contract. This meant another +50 and 10 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Back now to Bulgaria v. Italy.



Open Room

West	North	East	South	
Versace	Karakolev	Sementa	Danailov	
	Pass	ΙŸ	Pass	
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass	
4♡	Pass	4NT	Pass	
5◊	Pass	5NT	Pass	
6♡	All Pass			

7th WHITE HOUSE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP

Amsterdam 6th – 9th November 2008

The 7th edition of the EBL Champions Cup will be held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, from 6th to 9th November 2008 at the White House Bridge Club.

Following the results of the European Open Team Championship held in Warsaw, and in accordance with the Rules and Regulations, the National Team Champions (the teams which won their main national Open Team Championship in 2007) of the first ten ranked NBOs in the 49th European Bridge Teams Championship held in Pau, plus the defending Champion "Tennis Club Parioli Angelini", and the Host Team will be invited to participate.

Detailed information will be sent to all the interested NBOs immediately after the end of the Championships.

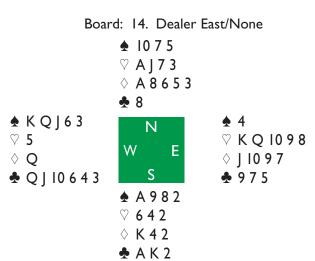
Smooth and easy for this relatively unfamiliar partnership. Italy +1460.

Closed I	Room
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West	North	East	South	
Stoyanov	Bocchi	Hristov	Duboin	
	Pass	♣	Pass	
2♦	Pass	2♡	Pass	
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass	
4♡	All Pass			

The conventional Bulgarian approach did not produce optimum results here. Bulgaria +710 but 13 IMPs back to Italy to regain the lead: 31-26.

On the next board, Versace ran into a terribly unlucky misfit:



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Karakolev	Sementa	Danailov
		Pass	INT
2♠	3♣	Pass	3NT
4♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

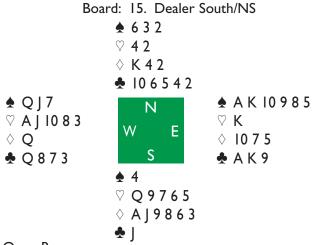
From Versace's point of view it looked fully justified to take action again over 3NT which sounded very much like it was making. The bill read +500 to Bulgaria (down three) when North led a trump after winning the $\Diamond A$.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South	
Stoyanov	Bocchi	Hristov	Duboin	
		Pass	♣	
I♠	Dble	Pass	INT	
All Pass				

Just made. Italy +90 but 9 IMPs to Bulgaria.

Then, Italy missed a slam:



Open Room

West	North	East	South	
Versace	Karakolev	Sementa	Danailov	
			2♡	
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	
Pass	2NT	Dble	3♦	
Dble	All Pass			

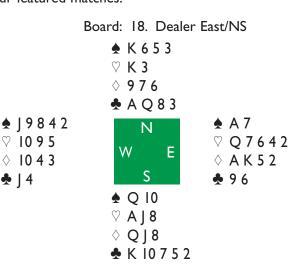
On repeated trump leads, this might have gone down thre. However, Danailov won the $\Diamond Q$ with his $\Diamond A$ and and-vanced the $\bigtriangledown Q$! When Versace covered the $\bigtriangledown K$ put in an unwelcome apperance. Now, when the defence slipped, in the endgame declarer escaped for down one, Italy +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South	
Stoyanov	Bocchi	Hristov	Duboin	
			Pass	
I 🛇	Pass	I♠	2♦	
Dble	Pass	3♦	Pass	
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass	
4 ♦	Pass	4NT	Pass	
5◊	Dble	6♠	All Pass	

When Duboin did not open the South hand, the Bulgarians got an almost free run to a very good and elegant slam. Bulgaria +980 and 13 more IMPs for them to suddenly lead 48-31.

Shortly before the end, we saw more big swings in both our featured matches:



Open Roon	n			
West	North	East	South	
Versace	Karakolev	Sementa	Danailov	
		ΙØ	Pass	
		• •	. 455	
Pass	Dble	Pass	2NT	

With the help of a more or less marked heart finesse, in view of East's opening bid, NS are cold for nine tricks. Bulgaria +600.

Closed Roo	m			
West	North	East	South	
Stoyanov	Bocchi	Hristov	Duboin	
		ΙŸ	Pass	
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass	
2♡	All Pass			

When Stoyanov scraped up a response, the N/S machinery came to a complete standstill. Down two, Italy +100 but 11 IMPs to Bulgaria. In the other match, Netherlands v. Poland:

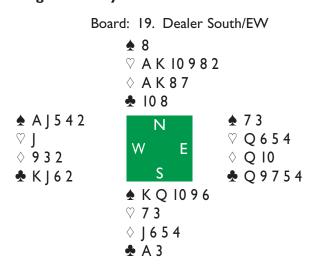
Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Pazur	Bertens	Zawislak	Bakkeren	
		♣	Pass	
I ♦	Pass	I♡	Pass	
Pass	Dble	Pass	2NT	
Pass	3NT	All Pass		

The Dutch N/S dealt much better with the E/W actions than the Italians in their match. Netherlands +600.

Closed Roo	m			
West	North	East	South	
Brink	Gierulski	Drijver	Skrzypczak	
		I♡	Pass	
2♡	Pass	Pass	3♣	
All Pass				

Brink, also, made a very light reply to his partner's opening bid. This did not shut out NS completely but scoring +150 still cost the Poles 10 IMPs. And then:

Bulgaria v. Italy:



Open Roon	n			
West	North	East	South	
Versace	Karakolev	Sementa	Danailov	
			l 🏚	
Pass	2♡	Pass	3◊	
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4♡	
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣	
Pass	6◊	All Pass		

When West led a trump rather than a club, the contract needed no more than the $\Diamond Q$ being doubleton and a useful heart break. Bulgaria +920.

Closed Roor	n		
West	North	East	South
Stoyanov	Bocchi	Hristov	Duboin
			Pass
Pass	I♡	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♡
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

Bocchi-Duboin cannot be blamed at all for reaching the proper contract but they had to accept a further 11-IMP loss. The final score: 73-32 or 23-7 to Bulgaria.

Netherlands v. Poland:

Open Room	l			
West	North	East	South	
Pazur	Bertens	Zawislak	Bakkeren	
			Pass	
Pass	4♡	Pass	Pass	
Dble	All Pass			

Bertens' tactical approach in 3rd position worked out very well when West took action on a passed hand. Just made, Netherlands +590.

The Poles reached the same slam as the Bulgarians:

Closed	Room

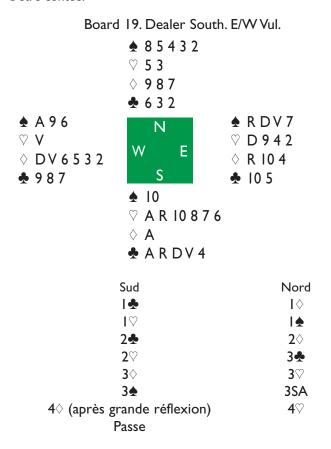
West	North	East	South
Brink	Gierulski	Drijver	Skrzypczak
			I♠
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5◊
Pass	6◊	All Pass	

It now was upon Sjoert Brink to come to the rescue of his team. Loud virtual cheers were heard in some parts of the world when he produced the \$\displaystyle{\pha}6\$. One down as there is no quick entry back to dummy to exploit the established hearts in time.

Down two, Netherlands another +100 and 12 IMPs to win 54-14 or 23-7 V.P. They were right back in the hunt.

PARI GAGNE

La séquence produite sur la donne 19 de la douzième séance par la paire suédoise formée de P.O. Cullin et J. Upmark vaut d'être contée.



Le tout agrémenté d'alertes, pour la découverte du meilleur contrat final, non appelé dans l'autre salle. Mais l'histoire ne s'arrête pas là. La séquence terminée, le joueur Sud a aussitôt lancé, par dessus l'écran, un billet de 10 euros à son partenaire qui avait réussi le pari de produire 7 enchères avec... 0 point.

INTELLIGENCE

Le premier championnat international cadets, disputé au lycée proche Louis Barthou, a vu la victoire des jeunes Français devant Suédois et Allemands. Ce résultat nous a valu les honneurs de la presse locale. Le journaliste, pas plus familiarisé que cela avec notre jeu, a fait déclarer à l'un de nos joueurs que le bridge se jouait à 4 par équipes de 2 (comprenne qui pourra) tandis que Fabrice Charignon, l'un des lauréats, affirmait qu'il n'est pas nécessaire d'être très intelligent pour bien jouer. Le responsable de ces lignes respire.

PRECISION UTILE

Pour les amateurs de littérature bridgesque, nous signalons la présence du célèbre auteur Norbert Lébely. Il est accompagné par sa charmante épouse dont le prénom est Patricia, et non pas Berthe comme certains l'ont pensé.

AUTRE PRECISION

Contrairement à ce que ses talents d'écrivain de bridge pourraient laisser croire, Vincent Labbé, présent à Pau, n'est aucunement l'arrière petit-fils de Louise, la grande poétesse de la Renaissance.

TOQUE MANETTES

« Toque manettes » était le surnom d'André Labarrère qui fut

pendant quelques lustres le maire de Pau ; allusion était ainsi faite à son souci de serrer la main de chacun, même hors période électorale. Il est temps de rendre hommage aujourd'hui à cet homme à qui nous devons le présent Championnat d'Europe à la sauce béarnaise.

Il reçut un jour de 2005 la visite de Jean-Marie Cabarrot, alors président du comité de l'Adour qu'il avait coutume d'accueillir par la phrase « Je n'ai pas d'argent ». Le mot EUROPE alors prononcé par Jean-Marie, l'ancien partenaire du capitaine Gérard Tissot au Maroc, fit tilt et notre dossier fut vite adopté.

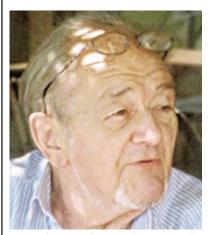
INDULGENCE

Remarqué un joueur est-européen coupable d'une mauvaise surenchère à 4 Cœurs contre un Trois Piques qui chutait. Lors son partenaire, plein d'indulgence : « Nous n'avons quand même pas fait 2 000 kms pour laisser jouer 3 Piques. »

PAS CAPOTS A PAU

Un match à 6 points (comme disent les footeux) a opposé Gallois et Suisses pour éviter la cuiller de bois (comme disent les rugbymen) dans l'épreuve seniors. Une saine réaction de leur part a permis à nos amis helvétiques d'éviter que l'on prenne l'Helvétie pour des lanternes (rouges).

Un gentleman belge, mais aussi français...



Loulou Saint-Georges adorait le bridge. Surtout quand il était synonyme de fête, avec tous les amis que son aimable nature lui avait procurés.

Très vite, Loulou eut un problème. Comment faire pour jouer régulièrement avec ses amis français quand on est belge, sans renier son pays d'origine ? Une seule solution :

créer les conditions du rapprochement des deux communautés. Sans abandonner le bridge de compétition belge – il fut membre de l'équipe senior belge à Turku et capitaine de l'équipe belge féminine à plusieurs reprises – Loulou décida de s'investir dans l'administration du bridge du Nord de la France. Créateur, en 1984, de la rencontre Club de Lille – Amis de Belgique, il fut aussi, avec son ami Patrick Grenthe, l'organisateur du Marathon de Lille. Par la suite, il occupa de nombreuses fonctions au Comité des Flandres, dont il était membre, avec sa femme Gaby Mortelmans, depuis 1980 : délégué frontalier d'abord, puis directeur des compétitions senior, et enfin directeur de la commission régionale d'éthique et de discipline.

Ces dernières années, la réduction de ses activités professionnelles lui avait permis de voyager. Des Bermudes à Ostende, de Marbella à Saint Petersbourg, Loulou promenait à petit pas un regard clair et bienveillant sur le monde alentour, l'éternel panama vissé sur la tête, le petit cigare au bec. C'est l'image que nous garderons de lui, qui nous a quitté mardi dernier, quarante-huit heures avant le début du championnat.





Office de Tourisme et des Congrès

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François Colin et la banque de donnes de l'Université du bridge

Universitaire, philosophe, animateur, François Colin est « entré en bridge » il y a une vingtaine d'années à la suite de sa rencontre avec Jean-René Vernes, théoricien mondialement connu et découvreur de la « loi des levées totales ». Dépositaire de la banque de données initiale de JRV, François Colin en poursuit depuis l'enrichissement continu.

À cette fin, il suit donc les principaux championnats (Bermuda Bowl, Championnats d'Europe, Sélections nationale...), rassemble l'ensemble des donnes qui y ont été jouées, et intègre ces informations à ce qui est, de l'avis unanime, la plus complète et la plus fiable des bases de données dans ce domaine.

En contact direct avec les plus grands joueurs français et internationaux (américains, italiens....), avec les capitaines d'équipes engagées dans les épreuves internationales, avec les responsables d'entraînement et de développement, François Colin possède l'expérience, les compétences et les outils pour aider toute paire ou toute équipe désireuse de progresser dans le contexte difficile et exigeant du bridge de compétition d'aujourd'hui.

La base de données, qui contient aujourd'hui plus de 15000 donnes, a ainsi permis de créer des dossiers d'entraînement immédiatement disponibles (défense contre SA faible, mains de chelem, réveils....) Mais c'est aussi un outil grâce auquel on peut mener à bien, sur la base de sources statistiques fiables et complètes, d'utiles recherches spécifiques adaptées aux conditions que toute équipe peut rencontrer dans telle ou telle compétition...

Voici l'ensemble des matériels disponibles aujourd'hui:

Pour tout renseignement ou commande: fcolin@ffbridge.net

Livrets découverte du bridge en compétition internationale

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Commentaires de grands champions.

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2. Les dossiers d'entraînement des équipes de France

Pour s'entraîner à l'enchère avec son partenaire de compétition. Ces dossiers sont destinés aux joueurs de niveau première série. Mais certains peuvent être utilisés de façon très profitable par des enseignants dans des cours plus ouverts. Format 21 x 29,7

Chaque dossier est constitué de 3 cahiers reliés : un par joueur pour faire les enchères, le troisième contient le compte rendu des donnes telles qu'elles ont été jouées au niveau international à 2, 3 ou 4 tables.

3. Les donnes jouées par les champions

Format 21 x 29,7 Par page : une donne jouée à 2, 3 ou 4 tables

Les dossiers « systèmes » et les dossiers d'étude

La base de données contient plus de 15 000 donnes, elle permet donc d'extraire, pour la plupart des problèmes courants, un échantillon statistique signifiant.

Seuls sont « commercialisés » ici les dossiers réalisés à la demande des joueurs des équipes de France 2008

Devis gratuits pour demande de recherche, d'extraction et d'impression de donnes sur les bases suivantes :

- création de dossier 30 €
- chaque critère de sélection 10 €
- extraction et édition 0,30 € par donne
- tris, tableaux et relevés statistiques en fonction du nombre de lignes, de colonnes et de résultats.

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WOMEN TEAMS

After Round 25

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Team	FRANCE	ITALY	SPAIN	SWEDEN	GERMANY	DENMARK	POLAND	NETHERLANDS	ENGLAND	NORWAY	CROATIA	TURKEY	RUSSIA	FINLAND	CZECH REP.	HUNGARY	ISRAEL	ICELAND	SCOTLAND	PORTUGAL	IRELAND	GREECE	WALES	AUSTRIA	LEBANON
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GRE	23	24	20	25	16	25	13	ω	20	25	11	16	24	16	18	19	22	13	70	23	15		0	14	17
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Team	FRANCE	ITALY	SPAIN	SWEDEN	GERMANY	DENMARK	POLAND	NETHERLANDS	ENGLAND	NORWAY	CROATIA	TURKEY	RUSSIA	FINLAND	CZECH REP.	HUNGARY	ISRAEL	ICELAND	SCOTLAND	PORTUGAL	IRELAND	GREECE	WALES	AUSTRIA	LEBANON

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SENIOR TEAMS

BUTLER OPEN TEAMS - after 16 Rounds

LINDQVIST Espen	BROGELAND Boye	0.76	280	Norway	GIERULSKI Boguslaw	SKRZYPCZAK Jerzy	0.01	220	Poland
ARMSTRONG John	HOLLAND John	0.57	240	England	LEVY Alain	MOUIEL Herve	-0.01	240	France
KHOKHLOV Jouri	MATUSHKO Georgi	0.55	220	Russia	AA Terje	MOLBERG Jorgen	-0.02	180	Norway
BRINK Sjoert	DRIJVER Bas	0.48	280	Netherlands	PAZUR Boguslaw	ZAWISLAK Slawek	-0.06	240	Poland
KARAKOLEV Georgi	DANAILOV Dyan	0.44	200	Bulgaria	KHOLOMEEV Vadim	KHIOUPPENEN J.	-0.10	200	Russia
GROMOELLER M.	KIRMSE Andreas	0.42	160	Germany	NEIMANIS Janis	RUBINS Karlis	-0.10	220	Latvia
WLADOW Entscho	ELINESCU Michael	0.41	240	Germany	BARBOSA Juliano	PINTO Rui	-0.15	200	Portugal
ISPORSKI Vladis	KOVACHEV	0.39	220	Bulgaria	MULTON Franck	ZIMMERMANN P.	-0.16	100	France
NYSTROM Fredrik	BERTHEAU Peter	0.39	220	Sweden	BETHERS Janis	LORENCS Martins	-0.17	200	Latvia
GROMOV Andrei	DUBININ Alexander	0.36	220	Russia	VOLHEJN Vit	KOPECKY Michal	-0.22	240	Czech Rep.
BOMPIS Marc	QUANTIN J.	0.32	300	France	NILSSON UIF	WRANG Frederic	-0.27	220	Sweden
KURKA Josef	MRAZ Tomas	0.30	220	Czech Rep.	PESSOA Sofia	CASTANHEIRA I.	-0.27	220	Portugal
SMIRNOV Alexander	PIEKAREK Josef	0.29	240	Germany	LUKS Leo	NABER Lauri	-0.30	220	Estonia
ASKGAARD Michael	BJARNARSON G.	0.28	220	Denmark	RUBENIS Ivars	JANSONS Ugis	-0.33	220	Latvia
KROEJGAARD Niels	CASPERSEN Henrik	0.26	200	Denmark	EINARSSON B.	IONSSON Steinar	-0.33	180	Iceland
VERSACE Alfredo	LAURIA Lorenzo	0.25	220	Italy	SENGULER Zafer	SEN Tezcan	-0.34	199	Turkey
BALDURSSON Jon	JONSSON Thorlakur		260	Iceland	LAANEMAE Tiit	KARPOV Maksim	-0.35	219	Estonia
BILDE Morten	HANSEN Jorgen	0.19	220	Denmark	HACKETT Jason	HACKETT Justin	-0.43	220	England
HELGEMO Geir	LUND Boerre	0.13	180	Norway	KWIECIEN Michal	JAGNIEWSKI Rafal	-0.43	180	Poland
HRISTOV Hristo	STOYANOV A.	0.11	219	Bulgaria	WESTRA Berry	RAMONDT Vincent	-0.49	140	Netherlands
BERTENS Huub	BAKKEREN Ton	0.09	220	Netherlands	ROLL Yossi	BAREKET IIan	-0.58	219	
JORGENSEN A.	ARMANNSSON S.	0.09	200	Iceland	==				Israel
GINOSSAR Eldad	PACHTMAN Ron	0.08	280	Israel	LIMOR Doron	MINTZ Yaacov	-0.60	140	Israel
KOKSOY Enver	KAHRAMAN Ahmet		200	Turkey	VOZABAL David	SLEMR Jakub	-0.76	180	Czech Rep.
ATABEY Yalcin	ASSAEL Salvador	0.05	240	Turkey	LEVENKO Vassili	SESTER Sven	-0.77	200	Estonia
CULLIN Per-Ola	UPMARK Johan	0.03	200	Sweden	HACKETT Paul D	WATERLOW Tony	-0.81	180	England
BOCCHI Norberto	DUBOIN Giorgio	0.02	320	Italy	SANTOS Jorge	CRUZEIRO Jorge	-0.96	220	Portugal

BUTLER SENIOR TEAMS - FINAL

FRANCO Arturo	CAMBIAGHI R.	0.83	208	Italy	LUND Peter	MOLLER Steen	0.09	207	Denmark
DAHL Flemming	NORRIS Georg	0.73	190	Denmark	PY Jean Marie	PIGANEAU Patrice	0.07	208	France
MATHESON John	COYLE Willie	0.71	224	Scotland	LIGGAT David	BENNETT Roy	0.05	208	Scotland
KIERZNOWSKI R.	KOWALCZYK I.	0.69	208	Poland	BARONI Franco	RICCIARELLI Marco	0.05	176	Italy
FALAY Faik	BASARAN Emin	0.68	304	Turkey	KOWALSKI Apolinary	ROMANSKI Jacek	0.04	224	Poland
GOTHE Hans	GOTHE Eva-Liss	0.64	176	Sweden	MEYER Jean-Paul	STRETZ Francois	-0.02	208	France
ROMIK Pinhas	ZELIGMAN Shalom	0.62	240	Israel	FORNACIARI Ezio	MARIANI Carlo	-0.16	224	Italy
KOWALCZYK Stefan	SUCHARKIEWICZ J.	0.58	176	Poland	SPENGLER Walter	BOESIGER H.	-0.21	256	Switzerland
KORKUT Ergun	EKINCI Orhan	0.57	304	Turkey	LINNAMAGI Jaan	SIMM Jaak	-0.25	304	Estonia
JANSSENS Onno	BOEGEM Willem	0.55	288	Netherlands	MORAN Joe	COMYN John	-0.26	192	Ireland
GRENTHE Patrick	VANHOUTTE P.	0.55	192	France	EICHHOLZER Jorg	OBERMAIR Hubert	-0.27	192	Austria
MILAVEC Alexander	KUBAK Fritz	0.54	224	Austria	MATTSSON Goran	HUMBURG Hans	-0.30	208	Germany
JANSSENS Hubert	BIGDELI Faramarz	0.54	224	Belgium	ARO Kalervo	SIRKIA Mauri	-0.34	304	Finland
HARPER Ross	THOMPSON A.	0.45	128	England	SCHNEIDER Werner	UHLMANN HD.	-0.40	208	Germany
KAPLAN Alain	BOLLACK Bogdan	0.44	208	Belgium	BOLVIKEN Erik	SORVOLL Jostein	-0.47	174	Norway
HALLEN Hans-Olof	DAHLBERG Borje	0.42	176	Sweden	PEDAK Kalle	LEIS Paul	-0.59	304	Estonia
FLODQVIST S.O.	MORATH Anders	0.27	256	Sweden	NIEMI Seppo	KANERVA Markku	-0.59	304	Finland
STRATER Bernhard	KRATZ Ulrich	0.22	192	Germany	LEVIT Yeshayahu	KAMINSKI Amos	-0.60	176	Israel
BERG Thomas	JORGENSEN Geert	0.21	208	Denmark	FELDERER Christian	BAMBERGER J.	-0.66	192	Austria
DIXON Christopher	SILVERSTONE Victor	0.18	239	England	SMITH Harry	MARSHALL Finlay	-0.68	176	Scotland
LESSELLS Gordon	HOULIHAN Des	0.17	208	Ireland	DOWLING Seamus	GODDEN John	-0.74	208	Ireland
JOHNSON David	STAS Jacques	0.15	176	Belgium	HARRIS Diana	SCREEN Alan	-0.76	160	Wales
SIMPSON Colin	PRICE David	0.15	240	England	SHERIDAN Liam	GAGNE Paul	-0.76	224	Wales
LOWE Per	FARSTAD Arve	0.14	207	Norway	GEISMANN Roger	TERRAPON F.	-0.80	192	Switzerland
SCHWARTZ Adrian	SHEINMAN Rami	0.13	192	Israel	HAND Peter	HAND Jean Lilian	-0.85	208	Wales
SVEINDAL Jon	RYNNING Erik	0.12	208	Norway	ESTERUELAS Juan	GRACIÁ Aurelio	-0.99	207	Spain
TROUWBORST Jaap	DOREMANS Nico	0.09	304	Netherlands	FREI Joseph	MONTEL Pierre	-1.19	144	Switzerland

BUTLER WOMEN TEAMS - FINAL

SJOBERG Emma RIMSTEDT Sandra 0.58 340 Sweden JOYCE Emer KENNY Joan -0.06 320	Turkey Wales therlands Ireland
KLEMMENSEN C. KIRSTAN Marlene 0.61 280 Denmark WORTEL Meike MICHIELSEN Marion -0.05 259 No. SJOBERG Emma RIMSTEDT Sandra 0.58 340 Sweden JOYCE Emer KENNY Joan -0.06 320 C GROMOVA Victoria PONOMAREVA Tatiana 0.57 340 Russia ERDEOVA Jana TOMCIKOVA Zdena -0.08 320 C NEVE Joanna BESSIS Veronique 0.55 280 France KHONICHEVA Elena NIKITINA Alexandra -0.08 300 C VRIEND Bep ARNOLDS Carla 0.51 320 Netherlands LAMBRINOU Sophie TSIRIKOU Eleni -0.12 360 -0.12 360 -0.12 360 -0.12 360 -0.12 360 -0.12 360 -0.12 360 -0.12 360 -0.12 360 -0.12 360 -0.12 360 -0.12 360 -0.12 360 -0.12 360 -0.12 360 -0.12 360 -0.12 360	therlands
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D'OVIDIO Catherine ALLOUCHE - GAVIARD 0.55 360 France MULLER Renata PETROVIC Izvorka -0.10 220 VRIEND Bep ARNOLDS Carla 0.51 320 Netherlands LAMBRINOU Sophie TSIRIKOU Eleni -0.12 360 ARRIGONI Gianna OLIVIERI Gabriella 0.50 319 Italy TESHOME Sarah JAGGER Catherine -0.14 280 BRKLJACIC Tihana MARTINOVIC Slavica 0.50 280 Croatia NYARADI Gabriella NYARADI Ibolya -0.15 320 DRAPER Catherine ROSEN Anne 0.49 318 England LEVY Hila ASULIN Adi -0.16 317 PAOLUZI Simonetta SACCAVINI Ilaria 0.45 320 Italy MIDSKOG Catharina BERTHEAU Kathrine -0.18 280 SARNIAK Anna BREWIAK Grazyna 0.43 440 Poland TADEU Ana LIMA Paula -0.21 320 ANDERSSON Pia RIMSTEDT Cecilia 0.42 340 Sweden NURMI Pia AHONEN Hulda -0.21 479 BACKSTROM Sue TUOMI Raija 0.39 479 Finland MARTIN Anne ADAMSON Sheila -0.22 300 HARDING Marianne FUGLESTAD Ann Karin 0.38 320 Norway HAMORI Zsuzsa ZALAI Agnes -0.26 320	zech Rep.
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HARDING Marianne FUGLESTAD Ann Karin 0.38 320 Norway HAMORI Zsuzsa ZALAI Agnes -0.26 320	Scotland
	Hungary
´ SIGURJONSDOTTIR NIELSEN Ragnheidur -0.28 360	Iceland
MANARA Gabriella FERLAZZO Caterina 0.37 320 Italy CHUBAROVA S. VOROBEICHIKOVA O0.28 320	Russia
CRONIER Benedicte WILLARD Sylvie 0.36 320 France LAZAR Naomi ARAMI Ruth -0.32 300	Israel
NEHMERT Pony Beate GROMANN Ingrid 0.36 260 Germany JAKOBSDOTTIR E. KRISTJONSDOTTIR V0.35 220	Iceland
BEKKOUCHE Nadia BINDERKRANTZ T. 0.29 360 Denmark VELAITOU Polina MITSI Georgia -0.36 360	Greece
PILIPOVIC Marina SVER Nikica 0.29 460 Croatia FERREIRA Isabel ROSADO Alexandra -0.38 319	Portugal
PASMAN Jet SIMONS Anneke 0.28 378 Netherlands THOMASBERGER H. STIGLEITNER Helga -0.42 340	Austria
HODEROVA Pavla JANKOVA Jana 0.28 320 Czech Rep.	Wales
MEZEI Katalin CSIPKA Szilvia 0.27 320 Hungary	
DHONDY Heather SENIOR Nevena 0.20 358 England OLIVEIRA Anabella KAY Teresa -0.47 320	Portugal
FARHOLT Stense RAHELT Maria Marit 0.17 300 Denmark CARROLL Helen KULCHYCKY Jill -0.48 319	Ireland
KATER EWA ROZTRA EWA 0.17 220 POland	zech Rep.
BABOT Mari Carmen PANADERO Maria 0.15 320 Spain ALEXANDER Michele BENSON Joyce -0.58 280	Scotland
BROGELAND T. SVENDSEN Tone 0.15 240 Norway LINDENLAUF Diana MULIAR Andrea -0.63 320	Austria
THORESEN Siv VIST Gunn Tove 0.14 400 Norway ABOUSLEIMAN Leila KOTEIT Eva -0.65 200	Lebanon
PASTERNAK M. HARASIMOWICZ Ewa 0.12 300 Poland WUFKA Michaela SCHOBER Maria -0.65 299	Austria
BORDALLO CORTINA MATUT M. 0.11 280 Spain CLEARY Ena FITZGERALD Jeannie -0.69 320	Ireland
TOKCAN Merih MERZE Sukriye 0.10 300 Turkey ABOUSLEIMAN Leila CHAMMAA Iman -0.77 160	Lebanon
IVARSDOTTIR Anna OSKARSDOTTIR G. 0.06 380 Iceland NAMOUR Marella RAMADAN Youmna -0.85 316	Lebanon
LEVIT-PORAT Ruth PORAT Liri -0.01 340 Israel VENETAKI Athina GEORGIOU Anna -0.93 240	
ALBERTI Anja SCHRAVERUS-MEUER -0.03 240 Germany PATRICK Daphne GARDNER Betty -1.14 240	Greece
McGOWAN Elizabeth McQUAKER Fiona -0.03 380 Scotland CHAMMAA Iman RAGI Daad -1.38 160	Greece Wales







