



4th EUROPEAN OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS Sanremo, Italy, June 2009

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Anglo/Scottish Hopes in Ashes



Souvenir, t-shirts (and smiles) are available on the third floor

When the semi finals of the European Mixed Teams Championship started the only thing that was certain was that a Malinowski would appear in the final – Mr and Mrs were on opposing sides in one match.

Today's final will be between **Hauge**, who defeated **De Botton** 89-61 IMPs and **Neve**, who ended the challenge of **Badger**, outscoring them 61-57 IMPs. The defeated semi finalists were all from the United Kingdom – seven coming from England and one from Scotland.

In the Mixed Pairs four out of the five leading qualifiers are married couples, with pride of place going to Russia's **Andrey Gromov** and **Victoria Gromova**.



A warm welcome to the president of the WBF José Damiani, who arrived in Sanremo yesterday and who will be competing in the Seniors Teams Championship.



Gestetner

TIPOGRAFIA **pime** EDITRICE Srl



MIXED TEAMS

ROUND OF 8

		1st	2nd	total
1	HANSEN	24	22	46
	NEVE	32	41	73
2	BADGER	19	26	45
	ZIMMERMANN	4	15	19
3	HAUGE	48	66	114
	BRIDGE AKARANA	18	13	31
4	VRIEND	24	26	50
	DE BOTTON	37	17	54

ROUND OF 4

		1st	2nd	total
1	NEVE	37	24	61
	BADGER	17	40	57
2	HAUGE	24	65	89
	DE BOTTON	24	37	61

ANALYSE THIS, PART 3

by David Stern

You know the hand. Partner makes a 20-22 HCP balanced 2NT opening and you are looking at this miserable collection:

♠ 9 7 6 5 2 ♥ 8 3 ♦ 9 6 5 ♣ 6 4 2

What should you do? This question was asked of me some time ago and I analysed it in detail by running 5,000 hands through a random hand generator and Deep Finesse. Of course, I mentioned this in the Bulletin Office and it sparked some discussion. I was sure that I would be able to find my original work as I have every data file going back to 1988 on my computer but of course I couldn't find it so I ran the analysis again. My computer slaved away for many many hours as I increased the data set to 10,000 hands.

The constraints for opener's hand were 20-21 with any 4-4-3-2, 4-3-3-3 or 5-3-3-2 or any 22 without a five-card suit.

Tricks	No Trumps	Spades
0-6	76% (7600)	14% (1389)
7	24% (1654)	86% (3253)
8	7% (665)	54% (3545)
9	1% (76)	18% (1543)
10	0% (5)	3% (260)
11	0% (9)	0% (9)
12	0% (1)	0% (1)
13	0% (0)	0% (0)
Total Tricks Available	58,350	75,837
Average Tricks per Hand	5.84	7.58
Average Number of Undertricks	2NT - 2.16	3♠ - 1.42

Percentages are Cumulative

Clearly transferring is a long term winner. There are of course occasions where partner will super-accept but even then you can make 4♠ or more 2.7% of the time, adding a nice bonus when you do get to game.

The obvious caveats apply:

- Deep Finesse's analysis is double dummy so finding every honour card and picking all singleton honours offside;
- Deep Finesse always finds the optimal lead against every contract no matter how obscure it may be;

It would be interesting to have people's views on whether leads against no-trumps tend to be more accurate than against suits, which would again skew the results. More analyses coming in the next few days. If you have any suggestions for analysis, please leave a note in the Daily Bulletin Office.

Mixed Teams Round of 32 Erichsen v Lavazza

by Jos Jacobs

At the halfway stage of this 28-board match, Lavazza were leading Erichsen 24-19. It therefore very much looked everybody's match but...three boards later it suddenly looked all over. What had happened?

Well, nothing happened on the first board but the next two boards did trouble the scorers a lot. Here is the first of them:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Cuzzi</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dble
3♠	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
All pass			

South definitely has a powerful hand but the trouble was that North might have been forced to bid 4♥ under pressure. Three obvious losers...Lavazza +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helness</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Auken</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♥
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♥
All pass			

Auken was in a position to describe her hand suit by suit, (2♥ being a transfer to clubs) not having to double at her first turn. Over her natural 4♥, nobody was tempted to save or bid on. Lavazza +420 and 10 IMPs.

And the next board:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Cuzzi</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♥	Pass	6♠
Pass	7NT	All pass	

A basically natural auction by N/S on their way to a slam in spades, which would have been on had the ♥QJ been the ♠K or had the ♠K behaved. Lavazza +50.



Monica Cuzzi, Italy

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helness	Bocchi	Helness	Auken
	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♥**
Pass	3NT	Pass	5NT
Pass	6NT	All pass	

A straightforward Puppet auction led to the top spot when Sabine made good use of the 5NT bid, guaranteeing six and looking for the grand. With his bare minimum, Bocchi had an easy sign-off. Lavazza another +990 and 14 IMPs more. They suddenly led by 29!

Two boards later, Erichsen had a chance to score heavily:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Brogeland	Cuzzi	Brogeland
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All pass

If South can read partner's ♦3 (count) as a five-card suit, she has a chance to find the lethal club shift after leading a top diamond. When she continued the suit, the hand was over. Lavazza +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helness	Bocchi	Helness	Auken
			Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT	3♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	6♦	Dble	All pass

2NT showed hearts, so it was easier for South to overcall now. However, it also led to Bocchi taking a phantom save twice. Perfectly reasonable bidding but not best on this lay-

out, although if Bocchi had bid 5♣ instead of 5♦ he might have resisted the temptation to save. Two down, Erichsen +300 but still a loss of 8 IMPs instead of a gain of 9...this may thus well have been the really decisive deal of the match.

With four boards to go, Lavazza led Erichsen 62-26, so the Norwegians would need a miracle to reach the last 16. They came near to it when something went wrong for the Italians on this board:

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Brogeland	Cuzzi	Brogeland
	1♣	2♦	2NT
Dble	Pass	Pass	3♣
Dble	3♦	Pass	Pass
4♠	All pass		

2♦ showed majors, so Sementa became declarer, in 4♠. As we can see, 4♥ would have been a lot easier but with the trump 3-2 and the hearts breaking, 4♠ should not be very much of a problem either.

However, North found a good defence (no surprise...). Boye led the ♦A and continued the suit, forcing dummy to ruff. Next came a spade to the queen and king and now, Boye persisted with diamonds. He knew for sure that this could not cost! Declarer ruffed this in hand with his last low trump and, instead of first cashing ♠A, he played two rounds of hearts. South won and played another diamond, which Sementa had to ruff in dummy. With the trump ace not out of the way, he now could not draw trumps and get back to dummy to enjoy the hearts. One off, Erichsen +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helness	Bocchi	Helness	Auken
	1♦	2♦	3♦
4♠	All pass		

Here too, East showed majors with 2♦. Bocchi also led the ♦A but when he played a club at trick 2, declarer had all the time in the world to draw trumps and establish the

hearts in any order he liked. Erichsen +620 and 12 IMPs back to trail by 24 with 3 to go.

But then:

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Semeta</i>	North <i>Brogeland</i>	East <i>Cuzzi</i>	South <i>Brogeland</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Dble	Pass	Pass
Redble	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♦	All pass		

Plain sailing once West could bid 3♦ as a forcing raise. Lavazza an effortless +1390.



Norberto Bocchi, Italy

Closed Room

West <i>Helness</i>	North <i>Bocchi</i>	East <i>Helness</i>	South <i>Auken</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All pass		

When East did not show her 5-5 over the 4th suit bid by West, diamonds were lost forever. Ten tricks were made but 13 IMPs were lost. Lavazza by 37 with 2 to go.

On the next board, Erichsen showed they wanted to go down in glory:

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Semeta</i>	North <i>Brogeland</i>	East <i>Cuzzi</i>	South <i>Brogeland</i>
			Pass
2♥	2♠	4♥	All pass

One wonders if 3♣ over 2♠ would have been forcing after the weak two by West. In fact, 4♥ is not really a bad contract but you have to be very careful. North led the ♠A, ruffed. Next, declarer cashed two top clubs. At this point, he can make ten tricks easily enough, double dummy, but he proceeded to cash the ♠K, throwing his last club, and then play another club which North could ruff with his only trump – the only distribution he could not afford...

One off, Erichsen +50.

Closed Room

West <i>Helness</i>	North <i>Bocchi</i>	East <i>Helness</i>	South <i>Auken</i>
			Pass
3♥	3♠	Dble	All pass

Tor Helness found a well-timed 3♥-preempt at the other table so his partner was ready with the axe when Bocchi interfered...

Down three, Erichsen +500 and 11 IMPs to them. They

had registered two big swings but it really was too late now...

Even if it had not been too late for Erichsen, Lavazza would surely have won the match anyway as they produced yet another big swing on the final board:

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Cuzzi</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All pass

On a club lead, you would cash out your nine top tricks and thus end up with eleven...

On the actual heart lead from South, 12 tricks were easy enough: Lavazza +490.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helness</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Auken</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♦	All pass

Slam is very high but if you need a swing, you want to be in it. Double dummy, it's laydown, so why bother? The only problem is that the normal way to tackle the spades is to play North for the queen; in that case, it's easy enough to cater for Qxxx. This seems a better chance than boldly going for as first-round spade finesse through South – the required line in this case.

So when North(!) found the club lead, we can have sympathy for declarer's line of playing North for the ♠Q but we also have to report that the IMPs on the deal went to Lavazza. Down two, +100 to them to polish off the match with another double-figure swing. The final result: 86-49 to Lavazza.

Points table for Mixed Teams

These are the points that will be given to the players of the teams finishing in the given places in the Mixed Teams. These points will be accumulated and the top 15 Open, 10 Women and 5 Senior players will be awarded cash prizes (see regulation 37.3.1)

Knock-outs							
1	3600	9	1848	17	948	25	487
2	3312	10	1700	18	872	26	448
3	3047	11	1564	19	803	27	412
4	2803	12	1439	20	738	28	379
5	2579	13	1324	21	679	29	349
6	2373	14	1218	22	625	30	321
7	2183	15	1120	23	575	31	295
8	2008	16	1031	24	529	32	271
Swiss A				Swiss B			
28	250	39	100	6	250	25	51
29	230	40	92	7	230	26	47
30	211	41	84	8	211	27	43
31	194	42	78	9	194	28	40
32	179	43	72	10	179	29	37
33	165	44	66	11	165	30	34
34	151	45	61	12	151	31	31
35	139	46	56	13	139	32	29
36	128	47	51	14	128	33	26
37	118	48	47	15	118	34	24
38	108			16	108	35	22
				17	100	36	20
				18	92	37	19
				19	84	38	17
				20	78	39	16
				21	72	40	15
				22	66	41	13
				23	61	42	12
				24	56	43	11

Duplimate Discounts

The Duplimate dealing machines used at these championships will be sold at the end of the event with a 20% discount. Visit the Jannersten Bookshop on the first floor.

Today's - Schedule

- 10.30 Mixed Teams Final (1st)**
- 10.30 Mixed Pairs Semi-Final A&B (1st)**
- 14.45 Mixed Teams Final (2nd & 3rd)**
- 15.30 Mixed Pairs Semi-Final A&B (2nd & 3rd)**


Round of 32 - Second half

by Barry Rigal

The margin in the match between McGann and Zaleski was only 4 IMPs at the half. Accordingly, I came along to watch Hugh McGann/ Fiona Brown against Veronique Bessis/Romain Zaleski.


The first two deals did the French squad's hopes no harm at all.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

This was a very bad moment for both North and South to be maximum for their bidding, in the context of a weak no-trump base. Brown opened 1♦ and passed the INT bid on her left, when the auction came back to her. They notched up a disappointing +50. In the other room Sven-Olai Hoeyland as West could double a strong no-trump for penalties, but unluckily for him, since it was North who the missing seven HCP not East. One redouble and a rescue later, Sylvie Willard and Albert Faigenbaum were collecting 500. Zaleski led by 14 now.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Cui Culpa in the Irish auction? Brown heard McGann open 1♦, with a 1♠ call on her right. She doubled (some would bid 2♣ but not I). 2♠ - only - on her left, 3♣ from partner and 3♠ on her right. It did sound like partner had


for example 2-3-5-3 pattern or so, so her double of 3♠ seems reasonable - it might get you to 3NT or 3♠x, after all. McGann removed to 4♣, Brown bid game, and Bessis doubled for +300. Nobody did anything absurd, but that was 12 IMPs to Zaleski when they reached 4♥ in the other room on a very different auction. Willard also overcalled 2♣ but Faigenbaum did not raise to 3♣ and Willard could balance with 3♥.

Both tables successfully negotiated a slightly tricky deal to 6NT on a hand where a grand slam was no better than a finesse, and then the French added to their lead by bidding these cards to an unappealing 3NT from the West seat while the Norwegians played 3♦.

<p>♠ K 4 2 ♥ A 10 4 ♦ J 10 9 7 ♣ J 8 2</p>		<p>♠ 9 ♥ Q J 7 2 ♦ A K 8 3 ♣ A K 6 3</p>
--	---	--

Zaleski ducked the lead of ♠Q, won the next spade, cashed a top diamond and two clubs to observe the queen falling, and now crossed to hand with the ♣J to take the diamond finesse. Maybe it might have been marginally better to cash the second top diamond and if nothing nice happened it would be right to take the heart finesse? With all the key honours onside, declarer could not go down. Zaleski led by 33.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

The auction at both tables saw South pass initially. Where McGann was North he heard Brown show diamonds, so he bounced to 5♦ and then had to take a decision over 5♥. Since he had heard West open 1♣ he liked his chances on defence well enough to let 5♥ play. He could signal for a club at trick one and get the club ruff for his partner, for down two, and 11 IMPs. This was because the French took the save when Willard as South heard Faigenbaum overcall 1♥ with 3♣ to show the minors. She saved in 6♦ at once and lost 300 there.

The next two boards restored the status quo for Zaleski though.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Both tables overcalled 2♥ as East and played in that unappetizing spot. On a spade lead, how do you plan the play?

Bessis did not judge it quite right. She forgot to unblock ♠J at trick one, and immediately played three rounds of hearts, South winning ♥Q. Had declarer unblocked the spades, she would have been able to set up ♦Q for a discard of her fourth round club loser, but as it was the defenders could arrange to play the second spade early and cut declarer off from dummy.

Remarkably, this was worth 5 IMPs when Glaerum went three down in the same contract on a line for which, as Dr. Watson would say, the world is not yet ready.

Another part-score swing to Zaleski left him apparently comfortably placed with a lead of 33 IMPs and seven deals only to play. But the wind was about to change.



Fiona Brown, England

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Against Brown's weak no-trump Zaleski passed and led three rounds of clubs when Bessis encouraged on the top club lead. That produced -180, whereas in the other room the defenders got the spades going in time to defeat the no-trump contract.

On the next deal, both Easts attempted to insert their partner into the mire, and both succeeded.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

When East hears a sound weak-two on his left, passed back to her, what should she do? Both players doubled, and (surprise!) heard their partner bid 2♠. Thinking better of their decision, they passed, and left their partner to have fun. Zaleski won the heart lead and did not cash his diamonds, whereupon North's diamonds all went away on winning hearts, and West managed to collect three tricks, for 5 more IMPs to McGann when Hoeyland got out for 'just' 300.

The margin was down 23 IMPs, and there was more good news for McGann on the next deal.

Mixed Pairs

Today 130 pairs in the semi final A fight for 41 or 42 places in the final A. The final in the KO delivers 5 pairs and 6 pairs come from the semi final B. The final A is played with 52 pairs. The remaining pairs play a one-session event tomorrow afternoon. Starting time for the final B is 15.30. For sure 106 pairs from the qualification are qualified for the semi final A.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

McGann as North heard hearts bid and supported against him, while Brown had overcalled 2♦ and then balanced into 3♦. He tried 3NT after considerable thought, and found it a very poor but laydown contract when the red honours were where he needed them to be. That brought him an impressive 460, worth 9 IMPs when Glaerum escaped for -50 in 3♥. And there was still more to come.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Bessis as East passed reluctantly over a weak no-trump. Zaleski could double this, and when McGann as North ran to 2♦ there was surely a case for jumping to 4♦ -- 'Please pick a major partner!' She tried 2♥ instead, and then when Brown competed to 3♦ she competed with 3♠. Whether

Zaleski should have corrected to 4♥, he did not, but passed instead. That was another 10 IMPs to McGann, down only 4 IMPs now!

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Bessis/Zaleski had a nice auction here: 1♠-2♣-2♦-3♦-3♠-4♥(Dble)-Rdbl-4NT-5♦-5♥-6♦.

Bessis set diamonds as trumps, used keycard for diamonds then asked for the trump queen and settled for the small slam. On a heart lead she took her discard on the clubs and ruffed two spades in dummy. When the spades behaved she drew trumps and claimed 1390.

In the other room Hoeyland relayed over 1♠, and when he found a minimum hand without six spades opposite he jumped to 3NT. The defenders cleared hearts and he could not tell who had the long hearts, so finessed diamonds into what he thought was the safe hand, South; oops! Down one and 16 IMPs to Zaleski, now leading by 20. No real swing on the last two hands, so Zaleski held on to win by 19.



Romain Zaleski, France



Mixed Teams and Pairs Prize-Giving

Medals will be presented to the Mixed Teams and Pairs on Thursday 18th immediately after the end of the last round, on the terrace of the "Palafiori" (3rd floor, near the Cafeteria)

Victory denied

by Brent Manley

This report must begin with a clarification of the account of the Buaigh match against the Lavazza team on Saturday. It was written that Lucy Phelan conceded one down in a 5♣ contract that was actually making because her left-hand opponent had nothing left but hearts, a circumstance that would have resulted in Phelan's taking 11 tricks. In fact, LHO was not all hearts, and her possession of a diamond meant doom for the contract.

The Buaigh team lost to Lavazza but finished fourth in the B Swiss, good enough to make the knockouts. Their opponents in the round of 32 were Hansen, the team that finished atop the A standings.

Buaigh ("victory" in Gaelic) stumbled out of the block, but gave Hansen all they could handle in the first half of the match. Board 2 was a loss for the Irish team.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



Lucy Phelan, Ireland

West	North	East	South
<i>J. Phelan</i>	<i>Wernle</i>	<i>L. Phelan</i>	<i>Smederevac</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	INT

John Phelan led a low diamond. Wary of a heart switch should the club finesse lose and wanting to be in her hand anyway, Jovi Smederevac deceptively overtook the ♦10 with the king. A club went to the queen and king, and a diamond was returned to declarer's ace. Now a club to the ace dropped the jack and Smederevac was home with nine tricks for plus 600.

West	North	East	South
<i>Kovachev</i>	<i>DeRaeymaeker</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Onishuk</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	INT
All Pass		Pass	3NT

Valentin Kovachev started with the ♠J. Anna Onishuk won the king in hand and played a club to dummy's queen. Now a low heart went to the king. Kovachev cashed the ♥A, but continued with the ♠9 when Cecilia Rimstedt played the 10. Declarer played a diamond to her ace and then the ♣9, letting it run. Rimstedt took the jack and cashed the ♥Q for one off and 12 IMPs to Hansen.

Buaigh got 10 back on the next deal.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>J. Phelan</i>	<i>Wernle</i>	<i>L. Phelan</i>	<i>Smederevac</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	INT
Pass	3♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	4♥

West started with the ♣8, declarer pitching two low diamonds on the top two clubs. Now the ♥K went to Lucy Phelan's ace for the return of a diamond to West's ace. One more round of diamonds left declarer in the dummy. When she cashed the top two spades, the bad split left her one trick short.


At the other table, North (Karel DeRaeymaeker) was declarer.

West	North	East	South
Kovachev	DeRaeymaeker	Rimstedt	Onishuk
			INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Rimstedt started with the ♣J, and declarer discarded two diamonds from hand. Dummy's ♥K was taken by Rimstedt with the ace. She continued with the ♣10 to dummy's queen, ruffed by Kovachev with the jack and overruffed with the king. Declarer cashed the ♥Q and ruffed a heart in dummy, ruffed a club low and played the ♦Q, ducked. Now declarer cashed the ♠A, leaving one trump in dummy, and ruffed a heart with dummy's last trump. He was up to nine tricks with the lead in dummy. On the play of a low club, he could not be prevented from taking his 10th trick, as he held ♠10 6 against East's ♠Q 9. Plus 420 was good for 10 IMPs to Buaigh.

Buaigh picked up another 6 IMPs on the next deal.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
J. Phelan	Wernle	L. Phelan	Smederevac
Pass	1♠*	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

*North/South play canapé, in which the short suit is bid first.


Lucy Phelan started with a low diamond, and when Sascha Wernle played the 9, John Phelan covered with the 10, Wernle winning the jack. He played the ♠A and a spade to East's jack. A diamond return established East's king, which

she cashed when she got in with the ♠K. East still had two heart tricks coming for plus 100.

West	North	East	South
Kovachev	DeRaeymaeker	Rimstedt	Onishuk
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Rimstedt also started with a low diamond, but DeRaeymaeker played low, taking the 7 with the jack. Declarer went after hearts right away, cashing the ace and then playing low. Rimstedt could not continue with diamonds, so she exited with a low spade to the jack and ace. In again with the third round of hearts, she cashed the ♠K and played a spade to her partner's queen. Having seen so many high cards from the East hand, declarer had no doubt about where the ♣A was, so when West played a low club from his ace, DeRaeymaeker simply pitched a diamond and claimed plus 140. That was 6 IMPs to Buaigh, now leading 16-12. They tacked on another IMP from a partscore deal to lead 17-12 when this deal came along.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
J. Phelan	Wernle	L. Phelan	Smederevac
		1♥	1♠
INT	2♥	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

As the cards lie, 4♥ is not a happy spot. Indeed, at all but one table, 4♥ went down, so 4♠ was a phantom. West led a heart to East, who switched to the singleton club, getting a ruff with her singleton trump. West had two trump tricks to come, so 4♠ doubled was minus 300.

Unluckily for the Buaigh team, the one time 4♥ made was against them.

Rimstedt opened the bidding 4♥, which was passed out. Onishuk started with the ♣10, taken in dummy. Rimstedt drew trumps and played a spade up. Onishuk took the ♠A and continued with a club, ruffed by Rimstedt, who then played two more trumps. Onishuk discarded a spade and then her third club, a fatal error. When Rimstedt played a low diamond from

hand, Onishuk had the choice of playing the jack and blocking the suit, whereupon she would have had to lead into dummy's spade tenace, or going up with the $\diamond A$, followed by the jack, which is what she did. Rimstedt ended up with two diamond tricks and plus 620 for an 8-IMP gain.

The rest of the first half was relatively quiet, and Hansen started the second half ahead by 27-24.

Buaigh started well in the second half.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

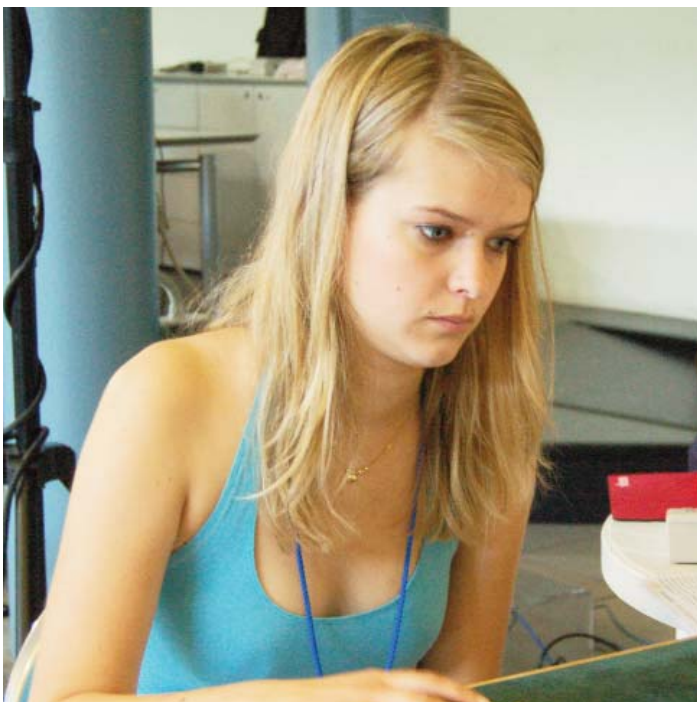
<p>\spadesuit Q 8 5 \heartsuit Q 7 \diamond 9 5 3 \clubsuit K 9 6 5 3</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr>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

Smederevac opened INT with the South hand and played it there, taking nine tricks for plus 150.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Kovachev</i>	<i>DeRaeymaeker</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Onishuk</i>
			INT
Dble	All Pass		

Against the doubled contract, Kovachev started with a low heart to the 10 and king. Onishuk played a heart right back, and Kovachev took two winners in that suit before



Cecilia Rimstedt, Sweden

cashing the top two diamonds and playing a third round to South's queen.

Onishuk played the $\clubsuit Q$ from hand and claimed when Kovachev won the ace. That was plus 380 and 6 IMPs to Buaigh, who had regained the lead.

They lost the lead for good two boards later.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

<p>\spadesuit Q J 5 \heartsuit A K Q J \diamond Q J 2 \clubsuit A 7 4</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>\spadesuit 9 7 2 \heartsuit 9 8 7 2 \diamond 9 8 6 \clubsuit J 10 8</p>	<p>\spadesuit K 10 6 \heartsuit 10 6 5 \diamond 10 7 5 \clubsuit 9 6 5 2</p>
N						
W E						
S						

Wernle and Smederevac had a complicated auction to 6NT, making on the nose when the spade finesse was off.

West	North	East	South
<i>Kovachev</i>	<i>DeRaeymaeker</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Onishuk</i>
	2NT	Pass	3 \clubsuit
Pass	3 \diamond	Pass	3 \heartsuit
Pass	3NT	Pass	4 \clubsuit
Pass	4 \heartsuit	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

It all hinged on the spade finesse, which meant minus 50 and 14 IMPs to Hansen.

Buaigh came back to within 1 IMP on the next deal.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>J. Phelan</i>	<i>Wernle</i>	<i>L. Phelan</i>	<i>Smederevac</i>
		1 \diamond	Pass
2 \diamond	2 \spadesuit	3 \clubsuit	3 \spadesuit
3NT	All Pass		

Wernle led the ♠Q, ducked by Phelan. A second spade went to South's 10 and Phelan's king. Phelan played the ♦J to dummy's ace and played the ♥Q, letting it run. Now a heart to the 10 and the ♥A revealed the 4-2 split. Declarer then played a club to the ace and cashed the king. When the ♣Q appeared from North, Phelan had his nine tricks for plus 400.

West	North	East	South
Kovachev	DeRaeymaeker	Rimstedt	Onishuk
		1♣	Pass
1♦	1♠	Dble	2♠
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

DeRaeymaeker also led the ♠Q, taken by Kovachev with the king. He played the ♦J to the ace and passed the ♥Q through South. A heart to the 10 also held, and now Kovachev exited with a low spade from hand. South won the ♠7 and played another to North, who cashed only one more fifth spade, exiting instead with a low diamond to dummy's now-blank king. Declarer played a heart to the ace and a club to the ace, then put South in with the ♥J, but on the return of a low club, he misguessed, playing the jack. South's ♣9 was the fifth trick for the defense.

Except for a slam near the end when the outcome was not really in doubt, that 10-IMP gain was about the end of the good news for Buaigh.

This deal was very costly.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
J. Phelan	Wernle	L. Phelan	Smederevac
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Smederevac started with the ♦9, taken by North with the ace. He switched to the ♣K, taken by Lucy Phelan with the ace. She played the ♠J, ducked by North, then the ♦J, won by South. She played a club to North's queen for a switch to the ♥J. Phelan won the ♥A and played a spade from hand, on which the record shows that South played the ♦8 from a holding of 10-8-6. Now Phelan could make the con-

tract. After cashing the spades, she could play a club to hand, cash the ♥K and exit with a club, putting South on lead with the ♦10 6 to play into dummy's ♦Q 7. Instead, she cashed the ♦Q and played a club to hand, she had only eight tricks and finished one down.

Things went very badly at the other table for Buaigh.

West	North	East	South
Kovachev	DeRaeymaeker	Rimstedt	Onishuk
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♦
Dble	All Pass		

Kovachev led his singleton heart, and Rimstedt cashed the ace and king before giving her partner a ruff. Now a club to the ace was followed by a spade to the king and a club to dummy's queen. Declarer ruffed a spade and played a club, overruffing with dummy's ace when East, who had discarded a club on his partner's ♥A, ruffed with the ♦7. Declarer ruffed another spade and played her last club. West ruffed with the ♦Q and played a spade. Down to all trumps, South had to ruff and concede a trick to East's doubleton ♦J for four down and minus 1100 - 15 IMPs to Hansen, who won the set 46-29 and the match 73-53.

NEWBIE HAZING

by David Stern



It is normal when a new member joins a platoon in the army that the existing members mercilessly tease them...and so it is in the bustling Daily Bulletin Office. Brian Senior came into the office smiling and looking very contented. I was told that this was a very unusual sight especially given Brian's nickname Mr Grumpy. So I decided to obtain pictorial evidence of Brian's unusual demeanour. I should however point out that the reason for his coming to the office was to collect 277 Euros I was to give him on behalf of a mutual friend, so I do not expect a repeat any time soon.

Appeal No. 5

Slovenia v Switzerland

Appeals Committee:

Jean-Paul Meyer (Chairman, France), Herman De Wael (Scribe, Belgium), Grattan Endicott (England), David Harris (England), PO Sundelin (Sweden)

East/West appealed

Present: All players**The Players:**

West confirmed that he had told the Director it was 20 seconds, but he really did not know how long it took. His partner had estimated it as 1 to 2 minutes.

West told the Committee he felt South really ought not to have bid. At the time, he thought the Double showed a strong option, which is why he did not call the Director at that time.

North explained he also thought the double showed a strong hand, which is why he had bid 6♠, expecting to make it.

South gave some more details about her system. The strong options of the Multi included a 20-22 balanced hand. She had not alerted the double, and explained it as "I think he will fail." Asked why she believed this, she explained "partner must have something."

When asked if he could explain the point distribution if his partner held 20 points, North explained that West might have 10 diamonds to the AK.

The Committee:

Did not believe the delay had been as short as 20 seconds. North really has something to think about.

The Committee wishes to remind the players of regulation 13.4.f., but nevertheless accepted West's reason for not calling the Director during the auction. You do not expect a Multi-opener to speak again at the 6-level, unless they have the strong option of their opening.

The Committee considered that South had received Unauthorized Information, and had chosen an alternative which was suggested by it, over another Logical Alternative (Pass). This is a breach of Law 16C, and the score should be adjusted.

The Committee's decision:

Score adjusted to 6♦ by West, making 12 tricks, NS -920

Deposit: Returned

Mixed Pairs Qualifying Session I

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ — ♥ — ♦ AKQ1098765 ♣ A1092	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 8542 ♥ KJ106 ♦ 32 ♣ K65
	♠ AKJ1076 ♥ Q87 ♦ 4 ♣ QJ8	
	♠ Q93 ♥ A95432 ♦ J ♣ 743	

West	North	East	South
<i>Piedra</i>	<i>Jesenicnik</i>	<i>Saesselli</i>	<i>Orac</i>
6♦	Pass	Pass	2♦
Pass	6♠	All Pass	Dble

Comments: 2♦ Multi**Contract:** Six Spades, played by North**Result:** 8 tricks, NS -200**The Facts:**

West called the Director at the end of the play, stating that the tray had arrived back with the two passes.

The Director:

Asked West to estimate the duration and was told it was 20 seconds. The Director asked North if he had thought and he admitted he had. He estimated his pass to have taken him 10 to 15 seconds.

The Director applied Regulation 13.4.g which states that a delay of 20 seconds is not regarded as significant.

Ruling: Result Stands**Relevant Laws:**

Law 16A
Regulation 13.4.g

Note

The Appeals Committee wishes to remind the Players of Regulation 13.4, paragraphs e, f and g:

If a player on the side of the screen receiving the tray considers there has been a break in tempo, he should call the Director before the opening lead is made and the screen opened. The screenmate of the hesitator shall not draw attention to the break in tempo. A delay in passing the tray of up to 20 seconds is not regarded as significant.

Win this hand with Wietske

(How to outsmart DeepFinesse)

by Jan van Cleeff

Wietske van Zwol, a former Venice Cup winner playing for Team Vriend, showed great skills on this hand:

Mixed teams, Vriend vs Gladiator, Round 3

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bertens		Van Zwol	
		2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♠	All pass		

The opening bid showed a weak two (five or six card). West inquired with 2NT; 3♦ showed a black 5-5. Huub Bertens, afraid of a singleton diamond (or a low doubleton), decided that the spade game was the place to be. The bidding made sense, but the final contract was not sound. Moreover, according to Deep Finesse, the double dummy analyser which – rightfully – gets so much attention in the bulletins here, 4♠ cannot be made.

Really? Wietske won the heart lead, advanced the ♠10, covered by king and ace, cashed the queen of trumps and played the ♦10. South took the ace and switched to the ♣2. Declarer took the ace and pitched her remaining diamond on a heart honour. Next came the ♦Q, covered by the king, ruffed by East. At this point Wietske van Zwol cashed the ♠J, played a club and ducked in dummy. When the king dropped, declarer had ten tricks.

Careful play by Wietske, since there was always a danger of running out of trumps. Still, according to Deep Finesse, 4♠ is down. I am sure that by now you have seen how. The killing lead is a LOW diamond for the king and a diamond return. Then a club switch destroys all hopes for declarer.

The deal was a push. At the other table, 3NT was made with an overtrick.

DEEP FINESSE THE NEXT INSTALMENT

by David Stern

Having been a consultant for more than 30 years I fully understand the need to take ownership of one's work and accept responsibility when things go amiss. So I was most pleased to receive this reply from Bill Bailey, the author of Deep Finesse, who he did exactly that.

Dear David

I hope you are well. I don't mind admitting to being shocked that after nearly a decade since the last legitimate Deep Finesse bug was reported, that another one cropped up.

This one turned out to be fairly simple to track down. As you might imagine, there are numerous algorithms in Deep Finesse that speed up deal analysis. One thing I do is a "scan ahead" at new positions to see if there are enough cashable tricks to claim (not unlike a human would do).

Besides summing cashable winners in each suit, DF tracks if a suit needs entries to be able to fully cash it, and whether another suit is able to supply that entry. In this case, the trump suit is:

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

As you can see, four tricks are cashable. However, DF incorrectly concludes that this suit can be used to provide an entry into dummy to allow cashing of other winners from dummy.

Interestingly, this is true in the sense that the Ace will certainly provide a dummy entry at some point, but note that West can control when that occurs. By covering with the ♠Q early, he can force the dummy entry to occur before trumps are fully drawn. This will prevent cashing the side winners from dummy, lest they be ruffed.

So I just needed to tweak the algorithm a little to be more conservative in predicting dummy entries provided via the trump suit. I have a fix in place in my development environment, and DF now gets the deal correct.

I will put together a new DF release with this fix and upload to the website where, once completed, you should be able to download and install over any registered copies without needing the need for any new unlock-codes. But it takes some time to make all that happen so it may be a week or so.

Regards - Bill

Barry Rigal will still endure one sleepless week but should be OK thereafter.

Brilliance at Bridge

by Mark Horton

A brilliance at bridge does not need to be based on perfection. The actual bid, play or defence that is involved should include a moment when something astonishing, beautiful and inspiring occurs at the table.

It might be an imaginative opening lead, (say the ♠A from ♠AQ6) an out of the blue sacrifice of a high card (such as a Deschappelles or Merrimac Coup) or an unusual manoeuvre (perhaps an Intra Finesse).

Here is a deal from the 2008 World Bridge Games where a defender combined two of the above in a single play:

Dealer North, None Vul

♠ 7 4 ♥ Q 9 ♦ K Q J 7 3 ♣ K 9 7 3	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> W E <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> S </div>	♠ A K Q 10 9 3 ♥ A 7 2 ♦ 2 ♣ J 5 4	♠ 5 2 ♥ K J 8 6 3 ♦ A 8 5 ♣ 10 8 2
♠ J 8 6 ♥ 10 5 4 ♦ 10 9 6 4 ♣ A Q 6			

West <i>Versace</i>	North <i>Helness</i>	East <i>Lauria</i>	South <i>Helgemo</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Dealer North, All Vul

♠ K 7 5 3 ♥ K 8 ♦ K J 9 7 4 ♣ 3 2	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> W E <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> S </div>	♠ Q J 6 2 ♥ A 9 7 4 ♦ Q 8 6 3 ♣ Q	♠ A 9 8 ♥ J 10 6 5 2 ♦ A 10 2 ♣ K 8
♠ 10 4 ♥ Q 3 ♦ 5 ♣ A J 10 9 7 6 5 4			

West <i>Helness</i>	North <i>Rodwell</i>	East <i>Helgemo</i>	South <i>Meckstroth</i>
	1♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	



Geir Helgemo, Norway

When South elected to lead the queen of clubs he dealt the contract a mortal blow. This was a remarkable example of a brilliant lead that was also a Merrimac Coup, destroying a vital entry to dummy's diamonds.

It does not in any way detract from South's brilliance that North subsequently misdefended, allowing declarer to score a couple of diamond tricks.

Brilliant declarer play frequently relies on a defensive mistake. The following deal appeared on the front cover of the May ACBL Bulletin

The deal took place during the Bermuda Bowl in Hammamet, Tunisia, in 1997. Meckstroth's play at trick one earned him the International Bridge Press Association Hand of the Year Award for 1998. The deal is rotated to make Meckstroth South. Did you find the key play at trick one after West started with a low diamond?

It is clear that 3NT is a much easier contract, which no doubt was obvious to Meckstroth at trick one. That fact, of course, was irrelevant — his job was to take 11 tricks in clubs.

One reason that Meckstroth won the top declarer play award is that he made his trick-one play in tempo. Smooth as silk, he called for the ♦10!

Helgemo won the queen and could have scuttled the contract by switching to a spade or a heart, but it looked as though Helness had hit declarer's soft spot. Back came a diamond — and the contract could no longer be defeated.

Meckstroth discarded the ♥3 from hand, won the ♦A and

led a low heart from dummy. Helgemo played low (it would not have helped for him to play the ace). Helness took the ♠Q with the king and fired back a spade, but Meckstroth went up with the ace and played the ♠J from dummy. Helgemo covered with the ace, ruffed by Meckstroth. Now the ♣A and a club to the king took care of the Norwegians' trumps. The ♠10 went on the ♠10 for 11 tricks and plus 600.

Brent Manley received so many comments that he penned the following Editorial in the July issue of the Bulletin:

Imagination

I have received more than a few messages from readers about the May cover — the one featuring the 5♣ contract played by Jeff Meckstroth in the Bermuda Bowl a few years ago. Most have complained that Meckstroth's play of the ♠10 should not have won an award hand because his opponent — another world-class player — blew the defense.

Just about anyone, they say, would have defeated the contract by just cashing a couple of hearts — end of story.

Maybe at the local dupe, but not in the Bermuda Bowl.

In my capacity as a hired hand for the World Bridge Federation (working on the Daily Bulletin), I have observed play at world championships for more than a decade. On most occasions, I have had the advantage of seeing all the cards while play was in progress.

I have sat and listened to VuGraph commentators describe, double-dummy, the winning line of play in a difficult contract — and then see the player make the contract on the same line in real time.

An example that comes to mind immediately is a deal played by Howard Weinstein in the Bermuda Bowl in Shanghai. Everyone could see that he needed a backward finesse in a suit to make his contract, and it was impressive to watch as he arrived at just that line of play.

Michael Rosenberg has wowed me more than once as I watched him go into a long study and emerge with a line of play — the correct one — that would elude many players even looking at all four hands.

It's a different world at that level.

At world championships, the vast majority are truly exceptional players who know the odds and the correct card combinations. In a strictly technical sense, they're similar. The really elite players have that something extra — imagination, daring, table feel. They aren't afraid to look silly, which sometimes happens.

Few players are as creative as Zia Mahmood, who has been messing with the heads of opponents for about three decades now. Once he has pulled one of his tricks on you, his true cards begin to look suspicious. It's what makes him such a formidable opponent.

As for the case in point — the famous 5♣ — Meckstroth was asked about the play of the ♠10, and he said he just wanted to "make it easier" for his right-hand opponent to continue the suit.

The play of the ♠10, of course, was curious, given the fact that Meckstroth didn't win the trick. No doubt the player

who won the trick was suspicious, but it might have seemed that Meckstroth was somehow trying to get him to switch, and if that was the case, a diamond continuation was called for.

A world championship is a pressure cooker, and the opponents are so good you can't relax for a second. If you do, your next activity could be watching that coveted title flying out the window.

I'll leave you with a deal that is not flawed in any way, certainly one of the best of all time:

Dealer West, None Vul

♠ 8 4 ♥ K Q J 8 4 ♦ 5 ♣ K 10 7 5 3	♠ 9 7 3 ♥ 9 7 6 2 ♦ K 10 8 6 ♣ 9 2	<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q J 10 5 ♥ A 10 5 3 ♦ 3 ♣ Q J 6 4
---	---	---	--

West	North <i>Kaplan</i>	East	South <i>Helgemo</i>
2♥	Pass	4♥	6♦
All Pass			

The bidding was aggressive but that is Helgemo's style. West led the king of hearts and declarer had to try and find a winning line. Can you?

Nothing coming to mind? Can't say I blame you, as the solution is so sweet it is almost as good as a fine wine. Clearly if spades are 3-3 you can throw a losing club on the thirteenth spade.

For a number of reasons Helgemo divined how to get his discard even when spades were 2-4. It involved taking 3 finesses in the spade suit.

Helgemo played a spade to the seven (first finesse) and East won with the queen and put declarer to test by returning the ♠5. What influenced Geir at this point was that West had immediately played low when the spade was played towards the ♠973 in dummy. With either the ♠J or ♠10 West might have risen or at least considered it. He backed his judgement and ran the spade to the ♠9 and made the contract pitching the losing club on the last high spade. Had East switched to a club, Geir would have won, crossed to dummy and played the ♠9 pinning the ♠8 and then gone back and finessed the last spade honour.

I wonder if anyone in San Remo will produce a play to match one of these brilliancies?

Mixed Teams Round of 16 Lavazza v Hansen, Second Half


by Jos Jacobs

After 14 boards, Hansen were leading Lavazza 28-23 but this slender lead was not to survive the first board, on which Bocchi and Auken easily reached a slam not bid at the other table. Hansen came back with two minor swings on boards 17 and 18 to lead 39-36 when the real fireworks started.

confirm hearts, so 3♠ was a cuebid – at least, that’s what Sementa apparently thought of it.

So the Italians suffered the ignominy of going down three in the wrong denomination. Hansen another +300 and 14 IMPs to lead by 17.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wernle	Bocchi	Smederevac	Auken
Pass	Pass	Dble	1♦
Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	All pass		

Jovanka Smederevac had all the time in the world to find out all she wanted to know about partner’s hand. 2♦ showed a strong hand and the spade fit was quickly reached. When Wernle could not bid 4♦ over 4♣, slam was out of the question. Hansen +650.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Kovachev	Cuzzi	Rimstedt
			1♦
1♥	Pass	2♦	Dble
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	All pass		

In the other room, Sementa frivolously overcalled 1♥, which gave his partner an unexpected problem.

When she did not show either of her suits after the 2♥ rebid by Sementa, the alternative fits got lost. 3♦ should

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wernle	Bocchi	Smederevac	Auken
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	All pass		

When Wernle failed to show his diamond support by bidding 4♦ over 4♣, Smederevac could not make a further move. Hansen +680.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Kovachev	Cuzzi	Rimstedt
			1♦
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♥	All pass		

The 2 over 1 GF approach worked well here for the Italians. 2NT showed a promising hand and 4♦ by Sementa implied a spade control as Cuzzi had skipped that suit. Once Sementa was prepared to risk playing at the five-level, slam was reached easily enough after all. It would have been even easier for E/W had Cuzzi launched RKC over 4♦. Any-

way: Lavazza +1430 and 13 IMPs back to trail by 4.

A nice Italian overtrick on the next board, but then:

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Wernle</i>	North <i>Bocchi</i>	East <i>Smederevac</i>	South <i>Auken</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♣
Pass	3NT	All pass	2NT

West led a spade, giving nothing away. Assuming the diamonds come in, where is trick 9 coming from? Either rounded king may produce it but the heart suit offers an interesting alternative. You might as well advance dummy's ♥9 and await developments. If East covers, you haven't lost anything and if she does not, you can postpone your final decision. Sabine went for this line, losing the first heart to West's queen. When she next led the suit and put in the 10 from hand, she suddenly had gone down in a contract many lesser players would have made "easily"... Hansen +50.

It is difficult to assess the correct percentage play here. A heart to the king is 50% but this alternative line certainly comes close to it and has the clear advantage of leaving more options open. An even more attractive line might be to win ♠A and run five diamonds, pitching ♠Q from hand and hoping to guess the ending.

Closed Room

West <i>Sementa</i>	North <i>Kovachev</i>	East <i>Cuzzi</i>	South <i>Rimstedt</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♣
Pass	3NT	All pass	INT

1♠ showed diamonds. Cecilia Rimstedt would have faced the same problem as Sabine Auken, had Sementa led a spade. When he produced the ♥Q instead as his opening lead, the hand was quickly over. Hansen +400 and 10 IMPs to them. They led by 13 again.

But not for long, once again, as Sementa made up for his unlucky lead by a brilliant display on the next board:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Wernle</i>	North <i>Bocchi</i>	East <i>Smederevac</i>	South <i>Auken</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All pass		

In spite of all the negatives after the Strong Club, 3NT was quickly reached and Bocchi led the ♦J. Declarer won perforce and led a low club, Bocchi inserting the ten which won the trick. Next came the ♠9 – a very good card indeed...

Auken played the 10 and declarer had to win his king. What next? Playing on clubs now is no good as this leads to the loss of five black tricks. However, declarer did not see anything more sensible so he more or less conceded one down when he played on clubs from the top. Lavazza +100.

He might have made the contract, however, had he returned a spade. South has to win and cannot cash two



Jovanka Smederevac, Austria

more spades as dummy's 5th spade will then become the 9th trick. So South should cash just one more spade (North being forced to throw a heart) and exit in diamonds. Now, if declarer reads the hand perfectly, he is home. A low heart to the nine sees him home immediately, so North splits, declarer wins the queen, returns to hand with a heart (preferably the nine) and plays three rounds of clubs, unblocking the ♡9 if it happens to be still there. North will have to lead into the heart tenace.

Of course, this is a double dummy line so we cannot blame declarer at all for not finding it at the table.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Kovachev	Cuzzi	Rimstedt
			Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All pass		

Conventional relays and negatives at the two-level led to the same contract as in the Open Room but here, North led the ♠9 to the ten and king. Declarer thus got a first piece of interesting extra info and went on to play ♣K and another. South overtook partner's ten to lead a low diamond through, North playing the nine – a second piece of interesting extra info for declarer, who next returned his spade.

Here too, South could not cash all her spade tricks so after winning the jack and the ace (declarer throwing a club), she exited with her last club, making it as difficult as possible for declarer to find out the exact distribution.

Sementa, however, had seen enough, it looked. He won



Valentin Kovachev Al-Shati, Bulgaria

the ace, played off the ♡A, noting the eight in South, and continued a low heart. For his plan to succeed, hearts had to be 5-1 for if they are not, North has room for a third diamond apart from his four clubs and two spades. In that case, putting North on play with the last club to lead away from his hearts would not work as he would have a diamond left to probably reach his partner.

At the table, Kovachev split his heart honours but it did not matter any more. Dummy won, the second diamond was cashed and the last club was led to North, dummy discarding the blocking ♡9. Very well played for an absolutely magnificent +600 to Lavazza, 12 IMPs back to trail by just 1 now.

On the next board, the fireworks continued:

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 8 5		♠ 6 3									
♡ K Q 7		♡ 10 9 6 3 2									
♦ 7 6 5 4 3		♦ 10									
♣ 9 5 2		♣ A J 10 8 3									
	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ A 10 9 7 4										
	♡ 8 5 4										
	♦ K J 8										
	♣ K 6										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wernle	Bocchi	Smederevac	Auken
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♠	All pass	

This is a decent contract as slam will inevitably fail on a heart lead. Lavazza +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Kovachev	Cuzzi	Rimstedt
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♠	All pass	

Maybe, East should have found the killing heart lead from the bidding but when she led the ♣A, the play was over very quickly. Hansen +980 and 11 IMPs to them; they were leading by 12 now with 4 boards to go.

On a neutral lead (i.e. not a heart and not the ♣A), this

hand is a perfect example of Morton's Fork. Declarer wins the lead, draws trumps and leads a low club from North up to South's Kx. What can East do? If she hops up with the ace, there are two discards for the losing hearts. If she ducks, the king wins and the club loser goes on the 4th diamond. After that, declarer simply gives up one heart and is home too. A pity declarer was not tested this way at the table... (Of course if East led a singleton diamond, declarer should misplace ♣A!)

More fireworks on the next board...

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Wernle</i>	North <i>Bocchi</i>	East <i>Smederevac</i>	South <i>Auken</i>
	1♠	Pass	3♣
3♥	4♥	Dble	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All pass	

The invitational natural jump worked well here for N/S, their main problem no doubt being that Bocchi could not believe his partner's bidding...Lavazza an easy +920.

Closed Room

West <i>Sementa</i>	North <i>Kovachev</i>	East <i>Cuzzi</i>	South <i>Rimstedt</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♥	3♣	3♥	5♣
All pass			

Once Rimstedt could not respond 2♣ over 1♠, the timing of the N/S bidding had gone wrong. North duly rebid his clubs but South could no longer make clear that she really held clubs only...

Hansen +420 but 11 IMPs back to Lavazza. Three to go, 1 IMP between the teams.

Boards 26 and 27 were as flat as can be so it all depended on the last board. Would Hansen bring their advantage home?

This was the last board, and an interesting one it was:

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Wernle</i>	North <i>Bocchi</i>	East <i>Smederevac</i>	South <i>Auken</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All pass		

Bocchi led the ♥3, low from three, so Auken had an interesting problem. If declarer holds ♥QJ10, then she should clearly duck to keep communications intact. However, if he does not, winning the ace and returning the suit might not be best as partner is likely to hold an unpleasant surprise for declarer in diamonds, in which case it might be useful to remove dummy's entry as early as possible. After long consideration, she elected to win the ace and go all out for the diamonds not breaking well and returned the ♠K! Dummy's entry was gone now but declarer now could advance the ♣J, covered and won by the king. Bocchi went up immediately with the ♦A when Wernle next played the ♦10, to return a spade to partner's hypothetical queen. When this did not work well – South playing the 10 and West winning the queen, declarer could easily establish dummy's ♠9 for an overtrick. Hansen +430. It looked as if they had survived...

Closed Room

West <i>Sementa</i>	North <i>Kovachev</i>	East <i>Cuzzi</i>	South <i>Rimstedt</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♥
Pass	2♥	Dble	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass

Here too, North led a heart but this time, South won her ace and returned the suit. North immediately went up with his ace when declarer next advanced the ♦10 but...he returned a club to the jack, queen and king. All declarer had to do now, was to duck a diamond for his overtrick. Lavazza +430 and no swing. Hansen had won by the odd IMP.

What happens if South ducks the first heart? Declarer can take a club finesse and present the ♣10, but now, North can cover with the queen. If declarer continues a low spade, South wins the king and plays another heart to defeat the contract. If he plays a club instead, declarer is in severe communication trouble as North will duck the next diamond as well. He can still make his contract by reading the hand correctly but the overtrick looks out of the question. Though this is not a pairs event, overtricks do count!

Make life easier for partner - Bowled for 16

by David Stern

Our scratch team of Brian Callaghan, Christine Duckworth, Gillian Fawcett, David Beauchamp and myself were travelling along nicely making the A-Swiss and then the round of 32. However from now on we were to lose the service of David Beauchamp given his prior commitment to the Mixed Pairs.

This hand features one of my favourite themes, 'making life easier for partner. It arose in our 28-board match against Serf, whom we had beaten 16-14 in the A-Swiss the day before.

Day Three Round 32 Board 7 - Dealer South, All Vul

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

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Partner, Gillian Fawcett, led the normal but unfortunate ♠7 which ran around to declarer's ten and declarer continued with the ♦J. Our agreement was to play upside-down count in almost every situation with some suit preference including on declarer's suits in NT. Following our agreements partner played the ♦3 with my queen winning the trick.

If declarer holds both minor-suit aces, the contract was cold from this point. I therefore had to divine which ace partner actually held. On the one hand East had bid 1♥ but had also bid 1NT suggesting a club stopper. I stared long and hard at partner's ♦3 wondering if this could be the key suggesting a club as it was the lowest diamond of whatever her holding was. Hmm.....I thought - I decided to believe declarer's 1NT bid and switch to the ♥K, which I thought "could" be better than ♥J any time declarer does not have a five-card suit, as it avoids the possibility of partner ducking the jack with her actual holding hoping for a second heart through. (10s and 9s showing zero or two higher honours work well here too - Editor).

Anyway all finished well as we took four hearts and the ♦Q for down one and 12 IMPs with 3NT making at the other table on the same lead.

I have found high-level judgement the greatest flaw in my game. I invariably get these situations wrong because quite frankly I always take the push – good to put in a public forum and now change strategy perhaps.

Day Three Round 32 Board 6 - Dealer East, E/W Vul

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

There is not much to report about what happened at our table in particular. The interest for me lay in reviewing the scores from the 32 tables in play. Here is a summary of the meaningful results:

4♠ undoubled	2	Average -150
4♠ doubled	9	Average -250
4♥ undoubled	17	Average +150

A total of 93 IMPs or almost 6 per table were traded on this judgement hand. Are there any rules or guidelines that one should employ in these situations? Do we believe that the opponents have got it right far too often? I don't know and will probably continue to struggle in this part of the game.

Genius Required:

Day Three Round 32 Board 3 - Dealer South, E/W Vul

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

After a sensible auction, we reached 4♠ although I note two pairs reached and made 3NT. The opening lead was the ♣J which I won with the queen pitching a diamond and continued with the ♥K. East upon winning the ace shifted to the ♦9, won by West who switched to a low spade.

Even without Deep Finesse, I can see that the ♠10 will see me make the hand but what is the right play here? Having 'burnt' the ♥K at trick two might have cost me the opportunity of winning the spade and crossing to dummy to later try a spade to the ten. Anyway, I would be pleased to receive any submissions on this one.

Regrettably, we exited the Mixed Teams during the round of 16 or as has been noted 8th, leaving me lots of time to do some more writing – sorry about that.

MIXED PAIRS - QUALIFYING

(standings after 4 sessions - provisional)

Rank	Names	Percentage					
1	GROMOV Andrey	GROMOVA Victoria	58.76	67	SOULET Patricia	SOULET Philippe	52.87
2	DEHAYE Bernard	DEWASME Isabelle	57.59	68	BIRIN Sergei	ZENKEVICH Svetlana	52.84
3	D'OIDIO Catherine	GRENTHE Jerome	57.14	69	BIANCHERI Eralda	SIMEOLI Carlo	52.83
4	DUBININ Alexander	PONOMAREVA Tatiana	56.96	70	HALLBERG Gunnar	HARPER Ursula	52.83
5	MARINA Bogdan	STEGAROIU Marina	56.93	71	HARPER Ross	SMITH Nicola	52.73
6	GIERULSKI Boguslaw	SAWICKA Malgorzata	56.89	72	ELNINEN Antti	ELNINEN Tiina	52.68
7	DAUVERGNE Sophie	ROMBAUT Jerome	56.77	73	PENFOLD Sandra	SENIOR Brian	52.67
8	CARNESECCHI Lorenzo	GASPARINI Elisabetta	56.55	74	GROMOELLER Michael	SCHRECKENBERGER U.	52.63
9	BEAUCHAMP David	BOARDMAN Kathrin	56.48	75	CORIAT Martine	CORIAT Alain	52.61
10	AASAN Baard Olav	REMEN Solvi	56.43	76	ARTMER Ilse-Betina	SIMON Josef	52.50
11	MIHAI Geta	MIHAI Radu	56.33	77	PACE Luisa	TARANTINO Marco	52.48
12	GALAKTIONOVA Olga	STOLBOVSKIJ -	56.26	78	NELSON Alan	NELSON Kath	52.44
13	CHIEN Steven	LIN Phoebe	55.82	79	FOSSI Niccolo	TEMPESTINI Marc	52.37
14	BAREL Michael	TAL Dana	55.65	80	BARONI Franco	FRATI Angiolisa	52.35
15	BUTRYN Piotr	SAKOWSKA Natalia	55.64	81	GWINNER Hans-Herman	LANGER Darina	52.25
16	CALANDRA Emanuela	FERRARO Guido	55.58	82	BLAKEY Irving	BLAKEY Joy	52.24
17	HARDING Marianne	HOILAND Tom	55.54	83	BUDD Maria	HARRIS Malcolm	52.23
18	MISZEWSKA Ewa	ZAKRZEWSKI Stanislaw	55.53	84	ANGELERI Ricardo	ALONSO Ana Maria De	52.22
19	MAGNUSSON Thomas	ROMANOVSKA Maija	55.48	85	EFRAIMSSON Bengt-Erik	SVEDLUND Helena	52.21
20	ONISHUK Anna	DE RAEYMAEKER Karel	55.28	86	ALUF Tuna	KOKTEN Namik	52.16
21	FREY Fabien	GERST Ariette	55.22	87	MUCHA Rita	PANA Alexandru	52.15
22	MACI Giovanni	PASQUARE Rita	55.17	88	KONDAKCI SEN Emine	SEN Tezcan	52.09
23	MARINO Leonardo	PISANI Rosanna	55.09	89	KHAZANOV Igor	LEBEDEVA Maria	52.07
24	DRIJVER Bob	HAYMAN PIAFSKY Jessica	54.92	90	FAYAD Mireille	HARFOUCHE Gabriel	51.99
25	FOUASSIER Jean-Claude	SERF Marianne	54.89	91	ALBAMONTE Giovanni	SANI Federica	51.99
26	NATHAN Cathy	NATHAN Marc	54.88	92	GRENZ Caren	ROHLK Kai	51.96
27	CAPUCHO M.	OREY CAPUCHO M.	54.82	93	SIRIKLIOGLU Mehmet	TUNALI Mine Nurdan	51.95
28	EIJCK Inez van	EIJCK Willem van	54.58	94	DUGUET Marlene	DUGUET Michel	51.91
29	WEBER Elke	WEBER Fried	54.55	95	PHELAN John	PHELAN Lucy	51.90
30	RINGSETH Jorn Arild	THORSEN Siv	54.40	96	TESSARO Tina	WILLS Fred	51.82
31	BEAUMIER Annie	BEAUMIER Dominique	54.39	97	ANIDJAR Nina	BRENNER Diego	51.81
32	DAVIES Catherine	GILL Peter	54.36	98	ERICHSEN Espen	ERICHSEN Helen	51.79
33	STRAUME Ildze	TIHANE Aivar	54.33	99	NIEMEIJER Christoffer	PASMAN Jet	51.77
34	CARAFI Francesca	MONTANARI Matteo	54.30	100	COLOMBARO Anne-Marie	DANIC Jean-Yves	51.74
35	BIRMAN Daniela	BIRMAN David	54.28	101	LESKELA Vesa	VIRTANEN Kirsi	51.70
36	CALDARELLI Verino	CASTIGNANI Claudia	54.19	102	PIGANEAU Elizabeth	PIGANEAU Patrice	51.69
37	KARAKOLEV Georgi	MITOVSKA Miriana	54.16	103	GAVELLI Gabriele	BONORI Marisa	51.58
38	HOMME Egil	HOMME Marianne	54.15	104	MANDELLI Massimo	MARIANI Angelica	51.58
39	ROTH Marion	STRETZ Francois	54.15	105	BREKKA Geir	FUGLESTAD Ann Karin	51.55
40	STANICIC Ognjen	ZJACA Dina	54.13	106	FREY Nathalie	PRIMAVERA Federico	51.49
41	RUBINS Karlis	VOROBAYCHIKOVA Olga	54.08	107	BOHNSACK Henning	BOHNSACK Susanne	51.48
42	BARENDREGT Rosaline	GOTARD Thomas	54.06	108	GOLD David	SEALE Catherine	51.44
43	SCHIPPERS Ely	STIENEN Rene	53.94	109	MOFAHKAMI Shalh	ODELLO Giorgio	51.40
44	ANFINSEN Ivar M.	SOLHEIM Eli	53.93	110	DE RUSSE Aude	MORIN Luc	51.40
45	CANONNE Marion	SUSSEL Patrick	53.90	111	KURKA Josef	POKORNA Jana	51.37
46	ERDEOVA Jana	MASEK Jiri	53.84	112	KANDEMIR Ismail	NUHOGLU Sevil	51.32
47	KHONICHEVA Elena	KHVEN Max	53.84	113	LIGGAT David	McGOWAN Elizabeth	51.32
48	DHONDY Jeremy	DHONDY Heather	53.83	114	BARONI Irene	FORNACIARI Ezio	51.32
49	KRAVCHENKO Igor	SHOKHAN Elena	53.79	115	BABAC Mine	UYSAAL Aydin	51.21
50	BRKLJACIC Tihana	IVANCIC Matej	53.77	116	JELENIJEWSKA Malgorzata	LUTOSTANSKI Piotr	51.21
51	ARONOV Victor	ZOBU Ahu	53.76	117	CIMA Leonardo	GEMIGNANI Manuela	51.18
52	ENGEL Berthold	GLADIATOR Anne	53.73	118	WARENDORF Ernst	WITTEVEEN Els	51.17
53	BERG Sabine	GRENTHE Guillaume	53.64	119	AGHEMO Monica	CORTI Leonardo	51.05
54	FIASCHI Andrea	ROMANO Annalisa	53.56	120	CRESTEY Gilles	CYPRES Suzanne	51.03
55	SOBOLEWSKA Ewa	VAINIKONIS Vytautas	53.56	121	KAREKE Agneta	KAREKE Torbjorn	51.01
56	CALLAGHAN Brian	DUCKWORTH Christine	53.50	122	FARSTAD Susann	STOKKVIK Dag-Jorgen	50.99
57	BAHNIK Petr	BAHNIKOVA Eva	53.47	123	BROWN Fiona	McGANN Hugh	50.99
58	BLAAGESTAD Lise	SAETERDAL Atle	53.41	124	MITCHELL Louise	REDDAN Diarmuid	50.97
59	VANHOUTTE Francoise	VANHOUTTE Philippe	53.32	125	STUYCK Dominique	VAN MIDDELEM Guy	50.86
60	CAPORALI Christiane	MULTON Franck	53.29	126	ROMANOWSKI Jerzy	ROSSARD Martine	50.85
61	ERBIL Erdinc	NIKITINA Alexandra	53.15	127	FAEHR Birgit	STAHL Wolf	50.84
62	BRUNNER Michelle	HOLLAND John	53.12	128	BESSIS Thomas	ROBERT Lea	50.82
63	LONGINOTTI Enrico	MAI Marita	53.09	129	BRANDOLINI Marinella	RIVANO Fulvio	50.80
64	COMELLA Amedeo	UGLIETTI Alessandra	53.07	130	FORGE David	VENTOS Veronique	50.78
65	PAPYRAKI Maria	PROKOPIOY Ioannis	53.00	131	BREWIAK Grazyna	JAGNIEWSKI Rafal	50.77
66	CAMPAGNANO Debora	MORITSCH Massimo	52.94	132	TITOW Joanne	TITOW Kenneth	50.76
				133	ARLOVICH Andrei	BADRANKOVA Sviatlana	50.74

134	FERRAMOSCA Francesco	LANZOTTI Lodovica	50.67	205	HANNAH Maureen	LEDGER Jimmy	47.67
135	JANSMA Jan	SCALAMOGNA Paola	50.63	206	ALP Zeynep	GUR Okay	47.64
136	GRAMBERG Angela	SCHILHART Norbert	50.60	207	CESARI Barbara	NATALE Francesco	47.64
137	BARBAN Carlo	MARCELLO Giovanna	50.55	208	YOUNG Bill	YOUNG Lindsay	47.60
138	ROTOMSKYTE Juste	VAINIKONIS Erikas	50.53	209	ATALIK Leyla	ATALIK Selcuk	47.57
139	SIROLA Annamaria	SIROLA Luciano	50.50	210	GOTARD Barbara	GOTARD Tomasz	47.53
140	SCHNEIDER Michael	SMYKALLA Gisela	50.49	211	GOODMAN Peter	MACHALE Aoife	47.49
141	DAVIES Sandy	GISBORNE Tom	50.46	212	BALDI Elma	BALDI Matteo	47.45
142	MARIANI Carlo	BURATTI Monica	50.44	213	AMBROZ Bojan	AMBROZ Milojka	47.45
143	ENGBRETSSEN Geir	SALDZIEVA Aida	50.41	214	EMODY Gila	SCHWARTZ Ron	47.38
144	CHODOROWSKA Irena	CHODOROWSKI Jan	50.36	215	SVOBODA Otakar	SVOBODOVA Pavla	47.33
145	PEDERZOLI Giuliana	MINALDO Claudio	50.35	216	JONES Colleen	JONES SYDNEY Peter	47.32
146	PARNIS-ENGLAND M.	DIX Mario	50.30	217	CAPORALETTI Candeloro	MARINELLI Rita	47.28
147	KAHYAOGLOU Yusuf	YAVAS Dilek	50.26	218	DENNISON Maureen	MOSSOP David	47.27
148	GODFREY E	PAGAN Ian	50.23	219	JANKOVA Jana	VOLHEJN Vit	47.21
149	BIANCHI Valeria	CATELLANI Marco	50.11	220	DE GOETZEN Maria	PORCINO Demetrio	47.21
150	BASARAN Berk	KANSAK Fugen	50.09	221	JOST Nicole	JOST Patrick	47.21
151	KUZNIATSOVA Larysa	TIMAKHOVICH Aleh	50.09	222	SALVADORI Paolo	TONINI Francesca	47.17
152	AVON Danielle	VOLDOIRE Jean-Michel	50.03	223	FINN Mary	O'LUBAIGH Sean	47.15
153	PSZCZOLA Jacek	SIMPSON Gigi	49.86	224	LEGGIO Donatella	SORO Fabio	47.14
154	PETERKIN Stephen	PUNCH Sam	49.84	225	CARFAGNA Eleonora	FRANCHI Arrigo	47.13
155	HAPONAVA Ulyana	ZLOBICH Sergej	49.82	226	KARLSSON-UISK Ylva	UISK Ahto	47.04
156	BESSIS Veronique	ZALESKI Romain	49.81	227	GAMIO Claudia Valerie	REYGADAS Miguel	47.03
157	FENESS Jorunn	KOPSTAD Kjell Otto	49.80	228	BELIANKINA Zoya	SHPAK Pavel	46.95
158	LILLIS Heidi	McGLOUGHLIN Michael	49.69	229	SOLOMON Louise	SOLOMON Warner	46.93
159	ASTORE Giancarlo	COLOMBO BRUGNONI G.	49.68	230	JESENICNIK Aleksandra	ORAC Tolja	46.92
160	DAVIES Pat	DAVIS Gwynn	49.55	231	FORNI Costanza	POLLEDRO Roberto	46.79
161	GAVIARD Julien	ALLOUCHE - GAVIARD D.	49.52	232	NGUYEN Anh	VAN HOOIJDONK Marcel	46.69
162	CASSAI Giovanna	ROSTI Roberto	49.46	233	BOEDDEKER Robert	ZARKESCH Flora	46.69
163	KUNST Corina	VIOREL Anghel	49.40	234	SEN Melih Osman	SUT Inci	46.61
164	BARR Ronnie	HERBST Ilan	49.40	235	FABRIZI Fabrizio	RAFFAELLI Alda	46.56
165	RUNACHER Jean-Michel	LUSTIN Christine	49.38	236	DALPOZZO Andrea	MALAGUTI Francesca	46.48
166	HODEROVA Pavla	KOPECKY Michal	49.36	237	ALLGOWER Mats	OLSSON Ella	46.34
167	BEGAS Han	GROSMANN Lucia	49.32	238	PATTINSON Bob	PATTINSON Maureen	46.32
168	NILSSON Hakan	OPPENSTAM Agneta	49.27	239	NETSMAN Eva	NETSMAN Per	46.30
169	AUBONNET Brigitte	CARDE Christophe	49.25	240	KOTRONAROU Anastasia	SIDIROPOULOS Stefanos	46.23
170	ALBERTI Anja	BAUSBACK Nikolas	49.17	241	FEDERICO Rita	MINA Aldo	45.91
171	PISAK Mehves	GATTENIO Sam	49.15	242	TOKAROVA Ljubov	ZLACKY Alojz	45.85
172	SKELTON Joyce	THEELKE Mike	49.13	243	MAYER Faith	TISLEVOLL Geir-Olav	45.84
173	PAYEN Bernard	DUTILLOY Nicole	49.01	244	McLEISH David Whalley	McLEISH Paula	45.79
174	NORDBY Harald	VIGMOSTAD Ellen	49.01	245	MUNTEANU Alex	MUNTEANU Aurelia	45.76
175	PIDAL Agata	PASSARINHO Joao	49.01	246	DANYLYUK Tetyana	DANYLYUK Volodymyr	45.75
176	KOZYRA Ewa	OHRYSKO Lech	48.94	247	SIMILLE Mya	FUZEAU Alain	45.57
177	LIOSIS Georgios	NIKA Vassiliki	48.88	248	KUTNER Roger	NIKITINE Ruth	45.40
178	ANDREASSON Pernilla	HOLMGREN Kjell	48.86	249	DITETOVA Eva	FORT Tomas	45.06
179	DE BRONAC Christian	DE BRONAC Priscilla	48.85	250	BETTARELLI Letizia	COSIMI Luciano	45.04
180	CEDOLIN Franco	JACONA Ida	48.83	251	MARINONI Pier Andrea	ROMANO Elisa	44.91
181	CLAIR Paolo	PAGNINI-ARSLAN Carla	48.80	252	PAPAIANOY Myrsini	DELIMPALTADAKIS Nikos	44.77
182	PIEDRA Fernando	SAESSELI Irene	48.73	253	TERNBLAD Birgitta	TERNBLAD Sten	44.71
183	MEGLIO Ferdinan	PISCITELLI Francesca	48.70	254	FEIGENBAUM Ellis	MICHELIN Marjorie	44.53
184	GLAERUM Lisbeth	HOYLAND Sven Olai	48.66	255	PIATERRA Matteo	SALA Cristina	44.46
185	BUSI Elda	RICCI Sergio	48.63	256	HAVERKATE Jan	PELLE Ziena	44.36
186	PALMA Filippo	PRADOS Ana	48.60	257	CONDOLEO Renata	OCCELLI Vittorio	44.29
187	CAMINATI Walther	TRALLO Fiammetta	48.59	258	CALZOLARI Cinzia	RONCONI Claudio	44.28
188	HOEGER Walter	MALCHUS Petra Von	48.55	259	FREAN Sabrina	VERBEEK Tim	44.11
189	GENTILI Carlo Maria	GENTILI Luigina	48.54	260	CASTRO RUZ DE LOMELI	FRONTAURA Frankie	43.58
190	ABLEY Julie	IRWIN Richard	48.40	261	KENT Ali	KENT Yasemin	43.47
191	VISENTIN Remo	REPETTO Barbara	48.34	262	BARLA Simonetta	RUFFINO Michele	43.45
192	MILMAN Victor	STELMASHENKO Nadia	48.34	263	LANE Sue	TAPSTER Paul	42.99
193	COYLE Willie	TELTSCHER Kitty	48.31	264	VESTH-HANSEN Kirsten	VESTH-HANSEN Ole	42.85
194	CLIFFORD Baxter	CLIFFORD Carol Ann	48.24	265	SEQUI Elios	LEONARDI Luisa	42.28
195	BANKOGLU Ergun	BANKOGLU Lelia	48.21	266	KEMPLE Brid	WALSH Terry	41.90
196	ANGEBRANDT Dietlind	UTNER Bernard	48.17	267	PROIA Marco Luigi	CERRI Cinzia	41.76
197	CARPENTIERI Carlo	DIAMANTI Enrica	48.09	268	BARLA Angela	NATTA Giampiero	40.95
198	MACKENZIE Greer	MACKENZIE Moyna	47.93	269	RONIN Michal	RONINOVA Renata	40.94
199	YILMAZ M.Gokhan	GULTEKINGIL Fusun	47.89	270	BRINK Klaas	BRINK-BAKENS Veri	40.83
200	BEVILACQUA Sergio	VIOLA Giuliana	47.85	271	PALMIERI (2) Maurizio	SCIUBBA Elisabetta	40.59
201	CAMP Owen	SHAMI Anisia	47.81	272	GREPPI Raffaella	PELIZZARI Gabriele	40.35
202	GUERMANI Federico	NURISIO Deborah	47.78	273	LONGO Antonio	COSTAGLIOLA Anna	39.36
203	JAKOBY Rein	JONSSON Gudrun	47.75	274	ANGELINI Marisa	CAPITANI Primo	38.77
204	MORAWSKI Dariusz	SALONEN Irmeli	47.68	275	AZERRAF Hortensia	BENYES Eli	38.06