



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

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reen
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Stars in your Eyes



Only another 60,000 boards to go

With all three Team Championships getting under way last night, a galaxy of stars descended on the Palafiori. As the players waited to take their places for the opening round it seemed that everywhere you turned a World, European or National Champion immediately appeared. Over the next few days you can expect the pages of the Bulletin to be full of the exploits of such living legends as **Jeff Meckstroth & Eric Rodwell, Fulvio Fantoni & Claudio Nunes, Sabine Auken & Daniela von Arnim, Nicola Smith, Cezary Balicki, Benito Garozzo and Zia Mahmood.**

It is a particular pleasure to welcome so many of the players who took part in the recent US Team Trials, especially the ones who have qualified for a trip to São Paulo later this year.

Today's - Schedule

- 10.00 Open Teams Qualifying R3
- 11.40 Open Teams Qualifying R4
- 13.20 Open Teams Qualifying R5
- 17.30 Open Teams Swiss A&B R1
- 19.15 Open Teams Swiss A&B R2
- 10.00 Women Teams Qualifying R2
- 12.15 Women Teams Qualifying R3
- 15.35 Women Teams Qualifying R4
- 17.30 Women Teams Qualifying R5
- 10.00 Senior Teams Qualifying R3
- 12.15 Senior Teams Qualifying R4
- 13.55 Senior Teams Qualifying R5
- 15.35 Senior Teams Qualifying R6
- 17.50 Senior Teams Qualifying R7



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Roller coaster

by Brent Manley

The final of a pairs championship can present a tough field, and when you are playing with your spouse, the added pressure can make for a long day. Tor and Gunn Helness rode a matchpoint roller coaster in the first final session of the Mixed Pairs A on Thursday.

The very first board put them in one of the valleys in a typically competitive matchpoint auction.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.


<p>♠ 9 8 2 ♥ 8 5 ♦ A 10 7 2 ♣ K J 9 3</p>		<p>♠ A 10 7 5 3 ♥ K Q 6 4 3 2 ♦ — ♣ Q 7</p>	<p>♠ 6 ♥ A J 10 9 ♦ Q J 9 6 4 ♣ 8 5 4</p> <p>♠ K Q J 4 ♥ 7 ♦ K 8 5 3 ♣ A 10 6 2</p>
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West	North <i>Tor</i>	East	South <i>Gunn</i>
Pass	1♥	Dble	
INT	2♦	2♥	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Gunn started with the ♠K, won by East in hand. At trick two, East played the ♣7 from hand, and when Gunn played low, she went up with the king and discarded her ♣Q on the ♦A. She then played the ♠8 to Gunn's jack. The defense took three trumps and two spades, but that was plus only 100, worth 12 out of 50 matchpoints, compared to 27 for plus 300.

They came out about even for the round, however, when they took advantage of a small slip by declarer.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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


West	North <i>Tor</i>	East	South <i>Gunn</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Tor led a low club, and declarer played low from dummy, taking Gunn's ♣10 with the ace. He played a spade to dummy's king and called for the ♥J, ducked all around. Tor could still make the contract at this point by playing three rounds of diamonds, but he played a spade to Tor's ace. He cashed the top two hearts and played a third round, taken by West in hand. A club went to Tor's king, and he got out with a club. Declarer could do nothing but cash the high diamonds, hoping for a doubleton queen. When no ♦Q appeared, declarer had to concede the last two tricks – the ♦Q and ♠Q – to Gunn. Plus 50 was good for 36.44 matchpoints, or nearly 73%.

Two more boards at slightly below average followed, but then the coaster started climbing. The opponents overbid to 4♠ and were one down: 40 matchpoints to Helness and Helness.

They shared a top on the next deal.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North <i>Tor</i>	East	South <i>Gunn</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT	2♦
Dble	4♦	Dble	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West's double was described as "showing a good hand."

Double dummy, West can make 11 tricks after taking the second round of diamonds (go to dummy with a heart to the jack, play the ♠9, double finessing when North shows out), but only a ridiculous penalty double by South would put declarer onto that line of play.

As it was, Tor led a diamond to Gunn's ace, and she continued the suit. Declarer cashed one high spade, finding out

about the break, then cashed the ♣K and played a heart from hand. Tor followed low smoothly. Declarer, after long thought, put up dummy's king, then tried to cash the ♣A. When Gunn ruffed with the 10, declarer overruffed with the jack but could do no more than play a heart. Tor cashed two hearts and played the ♣J. Declarer ruffed but had to give Gunn a trump trick for one down.

That was worth 49 matchpoints out of 50. The roller coaster was at a peak. It took a brief dip when Gunn and Tor missed a slam that was bid at 11 tables, but then the hero and heroine were soaring again.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North <i>Tor</i>	East	South <i>Gunn</i>
INT	Dble	Pass	Pass
2♣	Dble	2♥	Dble
All Pass			

INT was 11-14, Tor's double showed high-card strength – they play probably the most natural system in the tourna-



Gunn Helness, Norway

ment – and West's 2♣ was the start of a scramble. East, however, interpreted 2♣ as showing the majors, so she had the pleasure of playing the doubled contract in a 4-2 fit.

Gunn started with her singleton spade. Tor cashed two high ones and returned the 7, suit preference for clubs. Gunn played a low club, ducked by declarer to Tor's king. Instead of giving Gunn her second spade ruff, however, he played the ♦J. Gunn won the queen and played a second round.

Now declarer entered her hand with the ♣Q to play a heart to dummy's king. Tor won the ace, gave Gunn her ruff, took a diamond ruff himself and exited with a club. Declarer had to ruff the ♣A because she was all trumps, and still had to surrender another trick as the ♥J and ♥Q crashed. That was plus 800 and 49 matchpoints. At that point, the Helness partnership were in fifth place.

It didn't last, however. Tor, one of the top dummy players in the world, managed only eight tricks on the following deal.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North <i>Tor</i>	East	South <i>Gunn</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	All Pass	

East started with a low spade, and Tor inserted dummy's 9, losing to the 10. On the return of a low diamond, he went up with the ace and played a club to dummy's 10, which held. Now he played the ♥Q from dummy, ducked all around, and Tor grew suspicious that the opponents were ducking tricks left and right. If he took another heart finesse and it lost, he would be cut off from his hand. Accordingly, he played a low club from dummy, losing to East's jack. She cashed the ♦Q and played the ♦10 to her partner's king. West did well at that point to cash the ♠A. If he simply exited with a diamond, the run of the clubs would subject him to a show-up squeeze for nine tricks.

As it was, plus 120 fetched only 12 matchpoints (plus 150 would have been good for 30).

Helness and Helness got a gift of 35 matchpoints on the next deal when declarer held himself to 10 tricks in 3NT

while the field was scoring much better in their nine-card heart fit, but Tor failed to find the double-dummy lead against another 3NT a couple of deals later and suffered another poor result.

On board 15, Gunn's aggressive rebid earned a tie for top.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ K 10 9 6 ♥ A 8 3 2 ♦ 7 3 ♣ A Q 4	<table style="border: 1px solid green; background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ Q 5 ♥ K J 10 5 ♦ K J 6 ♣ 10 9 3 2	
N							
W							
E							
S							
♠ J 7 4 3 2 ♥ Q 9 4 ♦ 2 ♣ J 8 7 6		♠ A 8 ♥ 7 6 ♦ A Q 10 9 8 5 4 ♣ K 5					

West	North <i>Tor</i>	East	South <i>Gunn</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

East started with a low club, taken by Tor in hand with the ace. He could have made all 13 tricks by means of a double finesse in diamonds, but he played a diamond to the queen, cashed the ace and claimed 12 tricks, losing only a diamond trick.



Tor Helness, Norway

Was that the best line of play? In such a good contract, it seems the best play is to win the ♣K in dummy and cash the ♦A, guarding against a singleton king offside, then go to hand with the ♣Q and lead up to the diamonds. Regardless, plus 1440 was worth 49 out of 50 matchpoints.

The two were up to ninth place when they suffered a string of bad scores, one on bidding misunderstanding that led to two down in 2NT when they were cold for 4♥, turning 40 matchpoints into 6.

This deal near the end was a race. Declarer needed nine tricks before the opponents got five. Declarer could have made it, but he wasn't daring enough.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A 4 2 ♥ A K 7 ♦ Q 9 8 7 6 ♣ 10 8	<table style="border: 1px solid green; background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ 6 5 ♥ Q 8 3 2 ♦ 5 4 3 ♣ A Q 9 3	
N							
W							
E							
S							
♠ K 10 ♥ J 6 ♦ A K 10 ♣ K J 7 6 5 2		♠ Q J 9 8 7 3 ♥ 10 9 5 4 ♦ J 2 ♣ 4					

West	North <i>Tor</i>	East	South <i>Gunn</i>
3♣ 3NT	3♠ Dble	Dble All Pass	2♠ Pass

Tor started with the ♦9: 3, jack, king. West could have made his contract by playing North for the top two hearts and leading toward dummy's ♥Q twice. The problem was that if South had one of the top heart honors, it would have been bloody on the spade switch, probably four down. Could it be right to simply take the eight top tricks and quietly go minus 200?

That's one of the elements of pairs competition that makes it so interesting – and so confounding at times. It helps, of course, to know the opponents. On this deal, everyone is vulnerable, so it's reasonable to give South credit for more than just six spades to the queen-jack (it's obvious North has the ♠A).

Unfortunately for West, the contract is a maker, so his line of winning the diamond opening lead, cashing three clubs in dummy and playing a diamond to his 10 did not help the cause (in fairness, the ♦9 was a deceptive lead). Tor won the ♦Q, cleared the suit and simply waited with the setting tricks. Plus 200 was worth 48 matchpoints.

Unfortunately for the Helness duo, there were too many low spots on their roller coaster ride, and they finished only slightly above average for the set.

Mixed Pairs Championships The Final, Second Session

by Jos Jacobs

After the first session of this rather short final (two sessions), Turkey's Emine Kondakci-Şen and Tezcan Şen were leading the field by more than one top. This was including the carryover from the semifinals – the latter counting as one full session. One thus might as well say that the final consisted of three sessions.

These relatively short matches are anybody's game, so it was by no means certain if they would hold on to their lead. This was symbolised very well on the first two boards: their opponents first went two off in an unplayable game but then found a profitable save.

As I watched the Şen couple for the whole of the session, I will most of the time refer to them as "The Sens."

The Sens started the next round well when they found a good save, though South was looking at a 4-3-3-3 hand:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West <i>Niemeijer</i>	North <i>Sen</i>	East <i>Pasman</i>	South <i>Sen</i>
			1♣
1♠	Dble	2NT	3♥
4♠	5♣	Dble	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All pass

Even a spade lead won't hurt declarer too much. He (she) can ruff in dummy and next duck the ♥10, no matter which card East plays. When the defenders began by taking their diamond ruff, the hand was soon over. The Sens -300 but well over average.

Another save did not work out well for their next-round opponents:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West <i>Khazanov</i>	North <i>Sen</i>	East <i>Lebedeva</i>	South <i>Şen</i>
	1♠	2NT	3♠
5♣	5♠	6♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All pass	

With N/S cold for 12 tricks there is nothing wrong with the save, except for the fact that the slam was not bid most of the time, and understandably so. What is more: going on to 6♣ looks a little premature, too. As West did not hold the much-needed singleton diamond, he had to go four



Tezcan Şen, Turkey

down, +800 to the Sens and 90% of the matchpoints.

In the next round, a formidable Russian made his presence felt at the table:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West <i>Dubinin</i>	North <i>Sen</i>	East <i>Ponomareva</i>	South <i>Sen</i>
3♥	Pass	4♥	2♠ All pass

2♠ showed spades and a minor. The defence can take two diamond tricks but understandably on this auction, North led a spade. For declarer, it does not make much sense to duck this as he will then lose three tricks quickly and still have to solve the trump suit problem. If he goes up with the ace immediately and solves the trump suit problem correctly, 12 tricks will be his reward – a good proposition at matchpoints. Dubinin played accordingly: ♠A, ♥A and ♥J run through North. EW +480 for an 80% score.

On the next board, caution was required:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West <i>Dubinin</i>	North <i>Sen</i>	East <i>Ponomareva</i>	South <i>Sen</i>
INT	2♦	Dble	Redble
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All pass

This is what you may get when you decide to open an off-shape INT. Down two, +100 to the Sens and most of the lost matchpoints recouped.

The first board on the next round was a bidding problem as well as a lesson in defence:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West <i>Elsinen</i>	North <i>Sen</i>	East <i>Elsinen</i>	South <i>Sen</i>
3NT	2♠ All pass	Pass	Pass

2♠ again was a mixed two-suiter and this time, it saw West in trouble. 3NT was a practical action, maybe, but not the spot to be in. Sen avoided the club lead which would present declarer with his ninth trick immediately. He emerged with a well-chosen ♥9! Declarer won dummy's ace and immediately tried the effect of a low diamond. Once you realise as South that, in view of the bidding and dummy's cards, North's




Tatiana Ponomareva, Russia

spades must be very bad, it's easy to deduce that his clubs must be of specific interest as he did not lead them – he wants YOU to lead them!. So you have to leave the idea of conserving your A10xx diamond holding but should hop up with the ace and return the ♣10 for down two. Though the defence missed this chance, declarer still could not make more than nine tricks, so with 4♥ pretty cold as the defence cannot both take their diamond ruff and two club tricks, he got just over average for his bold efforts.

At this point, the screens all round the playing area showed that the Sens had lost the overall lead. The format of the final was a perfect Barometer so scores were updated after every two boards.

On board 13, a French declarer definitely had her unlucky day:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
<i>Coriat</i>	<i>Sen</i>	<i>Coriat</i>	<i>Sen</i>
	1♠	2♥	All pass

What can you do as North when 2♥ comes back to you? A quiet pass seems the only logical action. South led the ♠8, which ran to nine, ten and ace. Declarer unblocked the ♣K, South contributing the queen, and crossed to dummy's ♠K to discard a losing diamond on the ♣A. North ruffed this in front of declarer but her diamond had already reached the table before she noticed that – that's the way things go on board 13.

North continued the ♠Q which was ruffed by declarer with the ♥10 and overruffed by South, who tried another club, North throwing a spade and declarer ruffing. A top trump now went to North's ace and now, North could see that the throw-in was imminent (dummy's ♠J was ominously high). He thus went on to play trumps, putting declarer back into her hand to lead diamonds herself. South hopped up with the queen on the first round of the suit and returned another club. When declarer erroneously threw dummy's ♠J North could throw his ♦10 and claim the last two tricks with ♦A and a spade for two down, +200 and a bushel of matchpoints. You win a few, you lose a few...

A young Polish player showed some impressive declarer play, two boards later:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
<i>Butryn</i>	<i>Sen</i>	<i>Sakowska</i>	<i>Sen</i>
1♣	1♠	INT	2♠
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	All pass		

If North leads a spade and South takes the ace to return a heart, we have no story. In real life, North's lead of the ♠10 won the trick and declarer ruffed the next spade. What now? He might want to take two finesses but he's only got one entry. Besides, if he uses this for taking a finesse, he will be down as soon as a finesse loses. So declarer followed an alternative course: he first cashed the ♦AK. This brought down a maybe unexpected queen but also solved the entry problem. Declarer could now safely play trumps from his hand as his 4th diamond would be a parking place for dummy's losing heart later on – assuming trumps are 2-2 as a 3rd round of trumps would be equally fatal.

This fine combination of art and luck brought our Polish youngster all the matchpoints. Nicely done!

In the next round, the Sens suffered another serious setback:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Engel</i>	<i>Sen</i>	<i>Gladiator</i>	<i>Sen</i>
	1♦	Dble	1♥
2♣	2♦	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All pass


At pairs, this is the spot to be as you cannot possibly lose more than five tricks. West's 2♣ response gave E/W much room to explore and they used it up very well. South can cash her two aces but that's it. Declarer made 11 tricks when she threw a spade rather than another red card on the run of the clubs – a costly error as +460 yielded only 56%.

Please note that a spade contract is a hopeless affair: you can't even make 1♠. Club ruff, two hearts taken, club ruff, ♦, club ruff and a top diamond to promote a spade in South. A good contract, too, is 5♣ by East (!) in which the defenders can make the same two red aces...

At the end of this round there were still eight boards to go. This also was the point at which we saw the running scores for the last time – to prevent shooting and all other undesirable activities during the four final rounds. So far, the Sens had scored 54,92 % and were lying in 4th place, they had even managed to drop out of the medals (temporarily).

However, in the next round, the tide turned into their favour. They reached a solid partscore and then saw the opponents misplay a NT contract. This was board 21:


Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠ 4		
	♥ A 8 5		
	♦ A K Q J 8 7 2		
	♣ K J		
♠ 7 3		♠ A Q 6	
♥ K 10 9 2		♥ Q J 7 4	
♦ 5 4 3		♦ 9	
♣ Q 6 5 2		♣ A 10 9 7 4	
	♠ K J 10 9 8 5 2		
	♥ 6 3		
	♦ 10 6		
	♣ 8 3		
West	North	East	South
<i>Kovachev</i>	<i>Sen</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Sen</i>
	3NT	All pass	

This opening bid was explained as "Not Gambling." It would show a running suit and two side stoppers. One has been taught to lead an ace against a gambling 3NT but this rule probably does not apply to the non-gambling variety. A heart lead would have left declarer looking in vain for a 9th trick but the actual lead of the ♣A solved his problems. The Sens +600.

The next board was one of those delicate INT contracts for which pairs events are the proper setting:

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.


	♠ K 9 7 2		
	♥ Q 6 4 2		
	♦ J 10 2		
	♣ A 9		
♠ Q 6 5 3		♠ A J 8	
♥ K 7 3		♥ A 10 8 5	
♦ Q 3		♦ K 8	
♣ K J 7 5		♣ 10 6 4 3	
	♠ 10 4		
	♥ J 9		
	♦ A 9 7 6 5 4		
	♣ Q 8 2		
West	North	East	South
<i>Kovachev</i>	<i>Sen</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Sen</i>
1♥	Pass	1♣	Pass
		INT	All pass

You win the diamond lead with dummy's queen (North contributing the jack) and play a spade to the jack and a club to the jack and ace. So far, so good. The defenders run their diamonds and what do you discard? To keep all your chances intact, try a club and two hearts from hand, as well as two clubs and a spade from dummy. North, however, will be squeezed. He can throw a card from each suit but will then be squeezed effectively on the ♣K. Dummy's ♥7 serves as a third threat.

When declarer, to her own annoyance, missed this play, the contract was one down and the Sens were one step further on their way to an unlikely finish.

There was more good news for them in the penultimate round:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ 8 4		
	♥ K J 9 8		
	♦ Q 9		
	♣ A Q 8 5 2		
♠ 5 3		♠ A K Q 10 9	
♥ A 6 2		♥ 7 3	
♦ K J 6 5 4 2		♦ A 10 8 3	
♣ 9 4		♣ K J	
	♠ J 7 6 2		
	♥ Q 10 5 4		
	♦ 7		
	♣ 10 7 6 3		
West	North	East	South
<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Sen</i>	<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Sen</i>
			Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Dble	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All pass

2♦ was a natural weak two and 3♣ was a forcing relay. 3♥ showed a maximum and a feature in the suit and 3♠ was natural and forcing. In spite of all this, E/W neither reached the slam nor ended up in the pairs' favourite spot of 3NT. Twelve tricks were easily made on the ♣A lead but even on a heart lead, they are there, as are 10 tricks at NT. So +620 did not bring E/W a great deal of matchpoints...

Nor would E/W get very many of them for staying out of game on the next board. Maybe, three aces are worth just one polite raise even opposite a passed hand...

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Sen</i>	<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Sen</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	All pass		

Two good results for the Sens and just one table to play...

When the players sat down to start the last round, the atmosphere was tense. Many fans, supporters and photographers had gathered at the table or shown up there, so it was very clear that things were happening one way or the other. This most definitely applied for the auction on the first board of the round:

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Albamonte</i>	<i>Sen</i>	<i>Sani</i>	<i>Sen</i>
	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	4NT	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	5♠	All pass	

As you can see, East found an original, be it fully legitimate way to show a strong hand with at least 5-6 in the minors. Her initial pass over 2♦ (another Mm twosuiter) was a matter of style, but her pass over North's 5♠ may have been intended as forcing. When West, too, refrained from taking action, Emine Sen just went quietly two down for a score of +100 to E/W and most of the matchpoints to N/S. This would make the final board even more interesting...

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Albamonte</i>	<i>Sen</i>	<i>Sani</i>	<i>Sen</i>
		1♠	2♣
Dble	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All pass		

Here, a well-timed defence was needed against a normal enough contract. North led the ♣J, his partner's suit and when it held, had to find a return. Both a spade and a diamond will do to hold declarer to exactly nine tricks. On a spade switch, declarer of course has to rise with the ace to block the suit and play a diamond up; if not, South will continue clubs and the contract will go down after all.

When Tezcan played a diamond at trick two, Emine took the ace and established her clubs, but declarer had his nine tricks. More important, however, when the smoke cleared, the Turkish (married) couple had their well-deserved major European title. Well done by both of you, congratulations and see you again shortly in Istanbul!

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.

Appeal No. 10 Poland v Italy

Appeals Committee:

David Harris (Chairman, England), Herman De Wael (Scribe, Belgium), Grattan Endicott (England), PO Sundelin (Sweden), Jan van Cleeff (Netherlands)

Mixed Pairs Semi-final B Session 2

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pelizzari	Pszczola	Greppi	Simpson
		1NT	2♠
2NT	Pass	3♣	3♦
4♥	Pass	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Comments: 2♠ Spades and a Minor
2NT Lebensohl

Contract: Five Hearts, played by West

Result: 11 tricks, NS -650

The Facts:

North called the Director at the end of the play. East had explained the 2NT as Lebensohl, denying a spade stopper. West had explained it as showing the stopper.

North had wanted to bid 6♦, but chose not to after the explanation he received. He believed he might have bid 6♦ if he had received the correct explanation.

The Director: Established that the explanation which was given by West was systemically the correct one. The Director polled three players, one of which would have bid 6♦, but all three stated that the explanation made no difference to the choice of call.

Ruling: Result Stands

Relevant Laws: Law 40B4

North/South appealed.

Present: North and South

The Players: North explained that indeed the explanation does not influence the fate of 6♦, of which he was quite certain it would cost no more than 500.

The explanation does influence his view on the fate of 5♥ however. If West has no spade stopper, and therefore possibly three low ones, then there is a chance that his partner can make two spade tricks. One outside trick is then enough to beat the contract, and 6♦ would be a phantom save. If West has a spade stopper, then the contract of 5♥ is more difficult to beat and 6♦ a better prospect.

North never stated he would certainly bid 6♦, but he did stress that the chances of his bidding it were higher.

The Committee:

Agreed that there had been misinformation.

North was deprived of his potential and should be given part of it back.

Not finding any better value, the Committee settled on 50%.

There are probably 9 tricks in diamonds, regardless of the lead.

The Committee's decision:

Director's ruling adjusted: Score adjusted to

Both sides receive: 50% of 6♦*-3 by South (NS -500)
plus 50% of 5♥= by West (NS -650)

Deposit: Returned

UNRESERVED APOLOGY

Thanks to David Stern for his kind interview yesterday. Unfortunately in a 'senior' moment I forget to mention my darling stepdaughter Carlotta. I am hoping after reading this apology she will again start speaking to me
– Gianarrigo Rona

Thanos Kapagiannidis



Thanos Kapagiannidis, Greek champion and former member of the Greek national team, died a few days ago at the age of 45, after a long illness. He represented Greece in many national events. In 1987 he won the first place at the youth pairs championship of the European Union. He was one of the most significant figures in Hellenic Bridge and to honor his memory, Greek players in Sanremo are wearing black arm-bands.

Bridge with Brogelands

by David Stern

One of the great things about the game of bridge is the opportunity it provides to make friends with people around the world you might not otherwise meet and, more important, to meet them and socialise regularly at bridge tournaments.

One such friendship I have made is with Tonje and Boye Brogeland who, apart from being fine bridge players, are outstanding ambassadors for the game of bridge. Young, articulate, respectful of partners and opponents, they really do epitomise all that, in my opinion at least, is good about the game we love – something they have in common with most of the players from Norway that I have met.

So it was that I took a decision to kibitz them during the early rounds of the Mixed Pairs Finals. I was hoping to write about some Brogeland magic but instead I will have to report on some Brogeland misery.

MP Final Session I Board 1 - Dealer North, None Vul

<p>♠ 9 8 2 ♥ 8 5 ♦ A 10 7 2 ♣ K J 9 3</p>	<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;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N W E S</div> </div>	<p>♠ A 10 7 5 3 ♥ K Q 6 4 3 2 ♦ — ♣ Q 7</p>	<p>♠ 6 ♥ A J 10 9 ♦ Q J 9 6 4 ♣ 8 5 4</p>
<p>♠ K Q J 4 ♥ 7 ♦ K 8 5 3 ♣ A 10 6 2</p>			



Boye Brogeland, Norway

West	North	East	South
Boye		Tonje	
	Pass	1♥	Dble
Pass	2♦	2♥	3♦
Dble	All Pass		

Not much to the play as the opponents racked up +570.

N/S % from 26 Scores	1100	1	100.0%
	800	2	94.0%
	670	1	88.0%
	570	1	80.0%

Extremely interesting, to me anyway, is that there were 16 different results out of just 26 times the board was played and to score around 50.0% N/S needed +300.

MP Final Session I Board 3 - Dealer South, E/W Vul

<p>♠ 6 5 2 ♥ K J 8 5 3 ♦ Q 8 ♣ Q 6 2</p>	<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;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N W E S</div> </div>	<p>♠ 9 8 4 ♥ A 10 9 ♦ 10 9 7 4 2 ♣ 10 8</p>	<p>♠ K J 10 3 ♥ 7 6 ♦ J 5 ♣ 9 7 5 4 3</p>
<p>♠ A Q 7 ♥ Q 4 2 ♦ A K 6 3 ♣ A K J</p>			

West	North	East	South
Boye		Tonje	
			2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

I have always found Boye's reasoning for the actions that he takes as impeccable. However, on this hand he led the ♠5 and, on winning the ♣Q, he continued spades and declarer scored 12 tricks after East discarded two diamonds on clubs.

N/S % from 26 Scores	490	2	98.0%
	460	2	90.0%
	450	1	84.0%
	430	1	80.0%
	-50	16	46.0%
	-100	4	6.0%

When I asked him why he didn't lead a heart I got a wry smile in return.

I thought the Brogelands were a little unlucky on this hand.

MP Final Session I Board 4 - Dealer West, All Vul

♠ A 3 2 ♥ A Q 9 2 ♦ 9 6 ♣ A K J 10 ♠ K Q J 9 8 5 ♥ J 10 4 3 ♦ A ♣ 7 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 <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> S <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> E </div>	♠ 10 7 ♥ K 8 7 6 5 ♦ 10 8 4 3 2 ♣ 5 ♠ 6 4 ♥ — ♦ K Q J 7 5 ♣ Q 9 8 6 4 3	
--	--	--	--

West	North	East	South
Boye		Tonje	
1♠	Dble	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

This made the obvious 12 tricks after a well-bid auction by N/S. However the score was very punishing indeed.

N/S % from 26 Scores	1370	8	86.0%
	620	12	46.0%
	170	2	18.0%
	-100	1	12.0%
	-200	3	4.0%

At this stage they are scoring 27.74% and I am hoping for some improvement or my article will be a bust – and so it was.

MP Final Session I Board 5 - Dealer North, N/S Vul

♠ Q 2 ♥ K Q 5 ♦ K 10 7 5 4 3 ♣ K 4 ♠ K 8 7 4 ♥ 10 9 3 2 ♦ Q J 6 ♣ A 5	<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 <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> S <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> E </div>	♠ A J 10 6 3 ♥ 7 4 ♦ 8 ♣ Q 10 7 6 2 ♠ 9 5 ♥ A J 8 6 ♦ A 9 2 ♣ J 9 8 3	
--	--	--	--

West	North	East	South
Boye		Tonje	
	1♦	1♠	Dble
2♦	Pass	2♠	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Another pairs hand where you assume you can make +140 in 3♠ and perhaps even four but scoring +100 from 4♦ down one will be poor and so you must double.

N/S % from 26 Scores	130	2	98.0%
	110	1	92.0%
	100	1	88.0%
	50	1	80.0%
	-100	4	66.0%
	-140	7	44.0%
	-170	1	28.0%
	-200	4	18.0%

As you can see the difference between doubling and not doubling is 48% on this board or 1.84% on your score for the session, making it critical to get these right.

I am not sure what is the best line here, but it seems that 18 of 26 declarers found it.

MP Final Session I Board 7 - Dealer South, All Vul

♠ A 9 6 ♥ A K Q 7 ♦ 8 ♣ A 10 9 5 2 ♠ K 7 ♥ 10 5 2 ♦ 10 5 4 ♣ K 8 7 6 4	<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 <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> S <hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/> E </div>	♠ 10 8 4 2 ♥ J 9 ♦ Q J 9 6 3 2 ♣ J ♠ Q J 5 3 ♥ 8 6 4 3 ♦ A K 7 ♣ Q 3	
---	--	---	--

West	North	East	South
Boye		Tonje	
			1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

A thin but reasonable contract for sure and certainly enhanced with East's low spade lead. The only relevant suit becomes clubs. Against the Brogelands, declarer split dummy's spade honours and won the ♠K with the ace.

Then he immediately played a club up to the jack and queen. On winning the ♣K, Boye gave his partner a club ruff for -1. It seems that many declarers played the ♣Q from the table ruffed one club and conceded one club trick on the hand - if that.

N/S % from 26 Scores	1460	2	98.0%
	1430	9	76.0%
	680	7	44.0%
	650	4	22.0%
	600	1	12.0%
	-100	3	4.0%

After scoring 72% on board eight they had passed average to be 50.9% and in the first column. An unfortunate lead on board 9 scored a paltry 6% and then a real smell test for declarer.

MP Final Session I Board 10 - Dealer East, All Vul

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

West <i>Boye</i>	North	East <i>Tonje</i>	South
		Pass	Pass
INT	2♦	Dble	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass

I am a fan of passing and coming in later to show two-suited hands, but I confess that on this one I would have opened. Anyway that is by the by and E/W certainly reached a contract with play. North led the ♠A and switched to a diamond. Clearly only two options, play for a singleton ♥K or for king doubleton in North's hand. Without seeing any hands I had mentally decided to play for singleton king based on some certainty that North held six diamonds as South might have otherwise supported; with five spades North may have bid again so I am giving him 10 cards in spades and diamonds; and if nothing else persuades me, maybe the two singletons in dummy are a factor, something which Boye assures me means nothing. Anyway, Boye played the ♥Q and went one down.

N/S % from 26 Scores	200	1	100.0%
	100	6	86.0%
	-630	2	70.0%
	-650	6	54.0%
	-660	2	38.0%
	-680	2	24.0%
	-710	1	12.0%
	-720	1	8.0%
	-1430	1	4.0%
	-1460	1	0.0%

So 82% or around 3.15% of your sessional percentage resting on getting that one right.

At this stage I thought I had enough for an article vastly different from the one I had hoped for but certainly an interesting collection of pairs hands and decisions. While they climbed into the top ten at one stage of the session they must have reverted to their initial form finishing 31st after the session. But as they say, tomorrow is another day. The evening session briefly saw them rise to the top of the table, and in the end they finished fifth.

Cash Prizes preliminary standings

These are the points given so far for the Mixed Teams and Mixed Pairs. Added to these will be points for two more competitions. The lowest of the 4 results will be dropped. There are prizes for the first 15 (Open), 10 (Women) and 5 (Senior) players.

The points in the Open (/Women/Senior) category are 40% higher than those in the Mixed, so nothing has been decided yet.

(points in Mixed Teams – Mixed Pairs – Total)

GUNEV R.	BUL	3600	3110	6710
POPOVA D.	BUL	3600	3110	6710
MALINOWSKI A.	NOR	3600	2867	6467
SAELENMINDE E.	NOR	3600	2867	6467
ALLIX J.	FRA	3312	2986	6298
NEVE J.	FRA	3312	2986	6298
MAUBERQUEZ E.	FRA	3312	2154	5466
REESS V.	FRA	3312	2154	5466
BERTENS H.	NED	2373	2536	4909
VAN ZWOL W.	NED	2373	2536	4909
HINDEN F.	ENG	3047	1554	4601
OSBORNE G.	ENG	3047	1554	4601
HAUGE R.	NOR	3600	715	4315
VIST G.	NOR	3600	715	4315
PENFOLD S.	ENG	1564	2642	4206
SENIOR B.	ENG	1564	2642	4206
KOVACHEV AL-SHATI V.	BUL	2579	1168	3747
RIMSTEDT C.	SWE	2579	1168	3747
ALLERTON J.	ENG	3047	560	3607
LESLIE P.	SCO	3047	560	3607
CRONIER B.	FRA	2183	1267	3450
ZIMMERMANN P.	FRA	2183	1267	3450
KONDAKCI SEN E.	TUR		3240	3240
SEN T.	TUR		3240	3240
DE BOTTON J.	ENG	2803	421	3224
MALINOWSKI A.	ENG	2803	421	3224
BROGELAND B.	NOR	412	2752	3164
BROGELAND T.	NOR	412	2752	3164
BEAUMIER A.	FRA	1439	1686	3125
BEAUMIER D.	FRA	1439	1686	3125
SMEDEREVAC J.	AUT	2579	538	3117
WERNLE S.	AUT	2579	538	3117
WILLARD S.	FRA	1120	1985	3105
BABSCH A.	AUT	2579	304	2883
HANSEN R.	AUT	2579	304	2883
SANDQVIST N.	ENG	2803	6	2809
SENIOR N.	ENG	2803	6	2809

Tops & Bottoms

by Mark Horton

I managed to spend some time watching the first session of the final of the Mixed Pairs and as luck would have it I seemed to be in the right place at the right time.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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



West Fredin	North Pszczola	East Zur-Campanile	South Simpson
	I♦	I♠	Dble*
2♦*	Dble	2♣	3♦
3♠	All Pass		

South gave some thought to taking another bid, but if she had tried 4♦ I'm sure Peter Fredin would have pulled the trigger and collected +200 – usually enough for a top.

With an awkward lead South took a look at dummy by cashing the ace of diamonds, North playing the seven (I wonder if North might have played the ten of diamonds, which might be interpreted as a request for a heart switch? Very tough to be sure.) When South switched to the three of clubs declarer put up dummy's ace, and really ought to take the ruffing diamond finesse at once. However, she played a

spade to then ace and a spade to the king and when the suit broke she played the queen of diamonds. North should cover that, holding declarer to nine tricks, but when he played low declarer could discard a heart and then play a club, claiming ten tricks when the king appeared.

Top on a board was 50 – here East/West were the only pair to record +170 which was worth 36 MP.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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



West Fredin	North Pszczola	East Zur-Campanile	South Simpson
		Pass	Pass
I♠	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

3NT might have been a triumph, but not on this layout. South led the jack of diamonds and declarer won in dummy, North following with the two, and cashed the ace of spades. When North showed out, discarding the eight of clubs, declarer knew she was going down. She unblocked the king of clubs and played the ten of hearts. North took the ace and returned the four of diamonds. The defenders cashed their tricks in that suit for one down, the heart finesse giving declarer the rest, -100.

North/South recovered the lost points with interest, collecting 49 MP.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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



Gigi Simpson, USA

West <i>Magnusson</i>	North <i>Quantin</i>	East <i>Romanovska</i>	South <i>Willard</i>
			1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

East led the two of diamonds and declarer won in dummy and drew trumps in three rounds before playing a club to the jack, queen and king. With the king of spades onside declarer had twelve tricks, +680.

There are one or two points of interest.

If the bidding goes 1♦-2♣-2NT-3♥, what would a bid of 4♦ mean? I think it must be a cue bid agreeing hearts. Of course with such poor trumps you can hardly do anything other than raise hearts – and maybe some players might consider bidding 3NT?! If South's major suits had been reversed then 4♦ becomes a real possibility.

11 pairs bid and made the slam and +680 was worth only 22 MP.

On a technical note, taking the club suit in isolation, the best line for 4 tricks is to run the queen – a 36.49% chance.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West <i>Magnusson</i>	North <i>Quantin</i>	East <i>Romanovska</i>	South <i>Willard</i>
1NT	Dble	2♦	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

East's plan was to redouble if 2♦ was doubled, hoping to find a major suit fit, but when West raised she had nowhere to go.

South led her spade and North cashed the king and ace and then played the eight for South to ruff. A heart went to the king and ace and South ruffed another spade. The defenders still had three more tricks to take – a heart, a diamond and a club for four down, +200.

I confess I would have doubled 2♦ with the South hand – but then I have the inestimable advantage of being able to see all four hands.

Although North/South can make 3NT no one bid it – hardly surprising, as the winning line is hard to see with the human eye – on a spade lead declarer must win and play a low club towards the jack. If East goes in with the queen and switches to a diamond declarer must rise with the ace. +200 was worth 40 MP.



Open teams

128 teams are playing in the round robin qualification in groups of 6. They play 5 matches after which the first three in each group go to the Swiss A and the other to Swiss B. The Swiss starts tomorrow at 17.30h. After seven matches the teams ranked 1 to 27 in Swiss A together with the first five in Swiss B start the K.O. phase on Monday. All rounds contain 10 boards. Those not qualified start the Open Pairs (if registered) or are allowed to enter the semi-finals. They need to inform us about their willingness to do so and need permission.

Women's teams

24 teams play a full round robin of 11 rounds in two groups with 14 boards in a round. The time schedule has been handed out. They finish Monday early afternoon. In each group 4 teams qualify for the quarterfinals to be played Tuesday morning. Those not qualified start in the first session women pairs Monday afternoon (if registered) or are allowed to enter the semi-finals. They have to inform us when they want to do so and need permission.

Senior teams

28 teams play a full round robin of 13 rounds in two groups with 10 boards in a round. The time schedule has been handed out. They finish Monday early afternoon. In each group 4 teams qualify for the quarterfinals to be played Tuesday morning. Those not qualified start in the first session senior pairs Monday afternoon (if registered) or are allowed to enter the semi-finals. They have to inform us when they want to do so and need our permission.

Entering the semi-final

To be able to handle the entries in the right way we need to know exactly which pairs are entitled to enter the pairs events in the semi-final. The general rule is that a pair with two grandmasters in it has that right. When a pair is playing in the K.O. it enters the pairs event at the earliest moment, either on the second day of the qualification, in the semi final or in the final. When a player in the K.O. has a different partner from the pairs he may enter the pairs at a later stage if his partner has at least a master title in his zonal or WBF ranking.

In all cases pairs have to submit a written request for which the form is available at the hospitality desk.

The best player in the World

by Jan van Cleeff

Bridge can be very unpredictable sometimes. Take board 16 for instance, from last Sunday's Mixed Teams, round 2. The combined East-West hands count 26 HCP. The spade fit happens to be Q J 5 opposite A K 7 4 and the heart fit is 10 6 3 2 opposite A K 4. Guess what? 4♥ is on and 4♠ is down two.

Keeping that in mind, let's have a look at what happened at the table of Huub Bertens. Playing for team Vriend (against team Hansen), Huub first had to find the right game and then the correct play.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 8 2		♠ A K 7 4									
♥ 5		♥ A K 4									
♦ Q 8 7 5		♦ K J									
♣ K Q 10 9 7 3		♣ A 8 6 4									
♠ Q J 5	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 10 9 6 3
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 10 6 3 2		♥ Q J 9 8 7									
♦ 10 9 6 2		♦ A 4 3									
♣ J 5		♣ 2									

West <i>Bertens</i>	North	East <i>Van Zwol</i>	South
	3♣	Dble	Pass
?			



Huub Bertens, Netherlands

Bertens elected to bid 3♥ though he admitted that perhaps 3♦ would have worked better (in order to reach 3NT). The bidding proceeded:

West <i>Bertens</i>	North	East <i>Van Zwol</i>	South
	3♣	Dble	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Dble
All Pass			

Declarer won the ♠K, cashed the king of trumps, crossed to his hand with a spade and played a diamond to the jack. South took the ace and returned a spade for the ace. The rest of the play was merely technical for Huub Bertens. He cashed the ♦K, played a spade to the jack and ran the ♦9. North did not cover (not that it mattered) and a club disappeared in East. Declarer played a heart to the king and cashed the last spade. In the end Huub Bertens scored the trump ten when he played clubs. An elegant +790 resulting to a juicy 14 IMPs for Vriend when at the other table 3NT had no play.

A couple of days later – June 17th - Huub Bertens played the semi-finals in the Mixed Pairs, again with Wietske van Zwol. Board 21 of the afternoon session was quite something.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 9 3 2		♠ 5									
♥ A J 6 3		♥ K 9 8 7 2									
♦ Q 7		♦ J 4 3									
♣ Q 9 7		♣ A J 8 6									
♠ J 8 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A K Q 7 6
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 10 4		♥ Q 5									
♦ A 10 9 8 6 2		♦ K 5									
♣ 10 4		♣ K 5 3 2									

West <i>Gill</i>	North <i>Bertens</i>	East <i>Davis</i>	South <i>Van Zwol</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣*	2♥	3♥**
Pass	3NT!	All Pass	

* three card Drury
**strong hand

Huub didn't consider his hand worth 2NT (invitational with a four-card spade support). Therefore, he treated it as invitational with three card support. And after the game invitational cue bid, he decided to bid 3NT instead of the more obvious spade game.

Catherine Davis kicked off with a low club. Declarer won the queen and immediately played a low heart from hand. If East would have ducked this card, it was plain sailing for declarer: three top spades, a spade to the ten, a club to the king, the fifth spade and a diamond in the end. Davis however, found the best defence. She rose with the ♥K and switched to a diamond. Declarer inserted the king, won by West, who returned the suit. Like the first deal, the rest was technical for Huub Bertens. He cashed four spades to reach this position:

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

On dummy's last spade, North pitched a club and East pitched the ♣J. At this point declarer could make his contract by cashing the ♥Q, followed by a club. That way East was stepping-stoned in the heart suit. Huub Bertens however, again elected the elegant line. He played a low club right away.

As soon as the game was over, Peter Gill put his head under the screen and apologized to his partner that he had not ducked the first round of diamonds. At the same time Peter saw who played the hand: "Partner, please meet Huub Bertens, the best player in the world. In March he won the Yeh Cup at our Gold Coast Congress."



Wietske Van Zwol, Netherlands

Worthless knowings...

For ages, Master points have been a tool in bridge to see the strength of players and teams. When using the WBF MP ratings, we will find that an impressive number of 159,600 MP:s will be colliding in the open teams.

More than 10% of that alone belongs to the players in the Angelini team!

Teams	# MP
1. Angelini	16 434
2. Lavazza	10 459
3. O'Rourke	8 518
4. Zimmermann	8 351
5. De Botton	5 901
6. Bessis	5 623
7. Irens	5 521
8. Welland	5 264
9. Mahaffey	5 145
10. Bamberger Reiter	4 456

Players	# MP
1. Fantoni	4 210
2. Nunes	4 203
3. Duboin	4 175
4. Lauria	4 007
5. Versace	3 950
6. Meckstroth	3 012
7. Bocchi	2 956
8. Rodwell	2 755
9. Helness	2 663
10. D'Ovidio	2 321

Though all this information is "worthless", knowing it is quite interesting...

Micke Melander

On the wishful thinking theme

What is the worst trump holding you can have and still make your contract. To put you on the right track, let us begin with 1♠. All you need is the ♠2.

The opposing spades split 6-6 and they follow suit seven times in the other suits.

To make eight tricks declarer needs to hold the ♠K, and to get a sidesuit lead. He cashes his seven winners as before, then wins his king en passant as he plays the thirteenth card of a suit from dummy (right-hand opponent has the ♠A of course).

Now over to you:

A. Construct a deal where declarer can make nine tricks in spades without a trump lead. The fewer combined trumps the better. And as low as possible.

B. Find deals where you make 12 tricks in spades, one without a trump lead, and one with any lead. Remember, as few trumps as possible, and with an equal number the smaller the better.

The Winning Edge

by Jan van Cleeff

Turkish' Emi and Tez Şen won the second session of the semi-finals mixed pairs with an impressive 66.8 percent. And the couple qualified as second for the finals. How did they manage to do that? Let's have a look at two deals of the semi-final.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ — ♥ AKQ985 ♦ AQ103 ♣ AJ4	<table border="1" style="width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ AQ98 ♥ 73 ♦ 98654 ♣ 103
N								
W	E							
	S							
	♠ KJ75 ♥ J1062 ♦ KJ ♣ K97							

West	North	East	South
Tez Şen		Emi Şen	
Pass!	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dble	Pass	2♦	2♠
6♦!!	All Pass		

Practical bidding by Tez led to the interesting slam. In fact there is no way 6♦ can be beaten. When South led a spade, Emi emerged with an overtrick. East-West 94 percent.

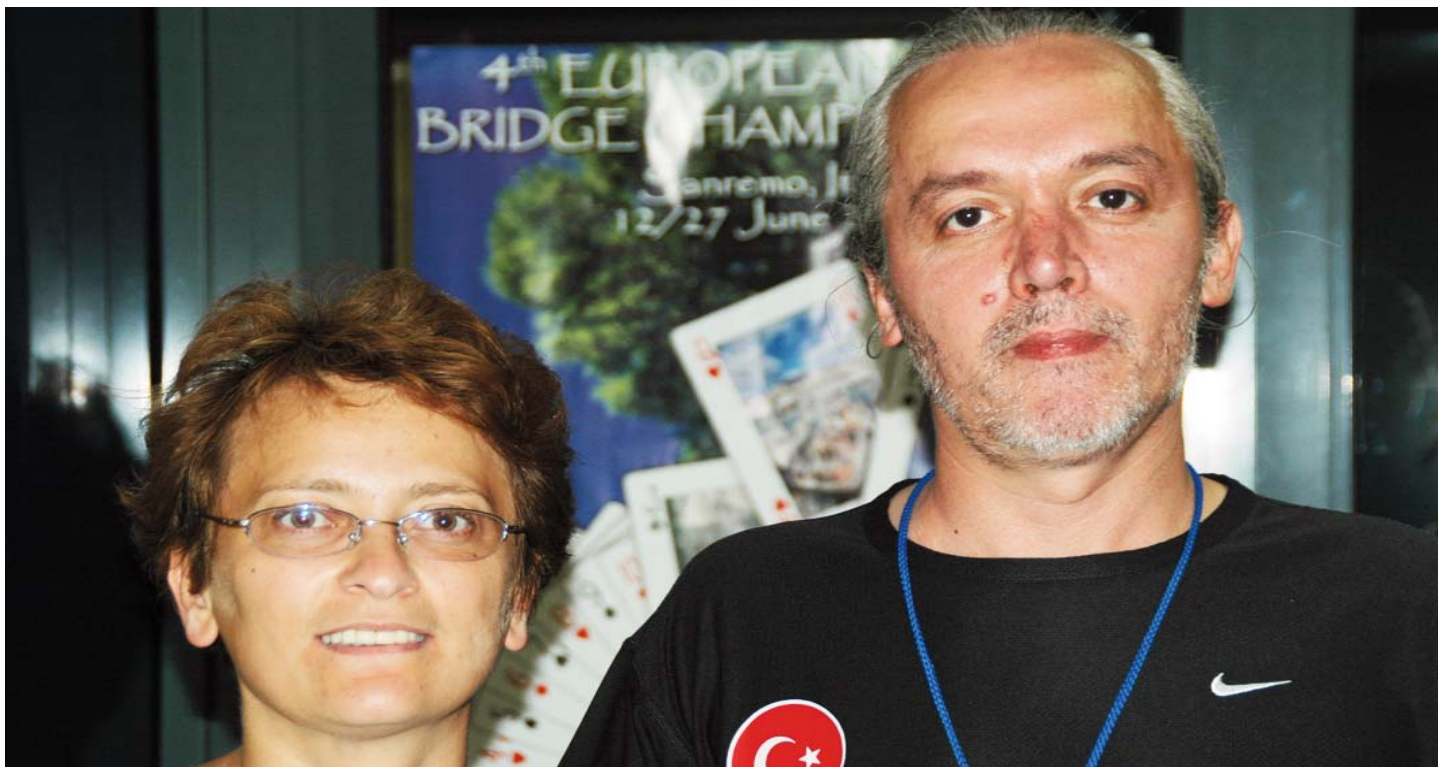
Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 643 ♥ KQ54 ♦ 10963 ♣ K5	<table border="1" style="width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ A82 ♥ 96 ♦ AQJ752 ♣ AJ
N								
W	E							
	S							
♠ J105 ♥ A1083 ♦ — ♣ 1098632		♠ KQ97 ♥ J72 ♦ K84 ♣ Q74						

West	North	East	South
Tez Şen		Emi Şen	
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣	All Pass

* Clubs

Emi Şen won the lead of the ♠K, pitched a heart from dummy on the ♦A and pitched another heart when South did not cover the ♦J. Declarer ruffed a low diamond – duly noting the drop of the King - and played a trump to her Jack. South won and switched to a heart. Emi took the Ace, cashed the ♣A - North following with the King – and advanced the ♦Q. South ruffed of course, and dummy over-ruffed. Still, Emi made ten tricks, giving them a spade and heart in the end. E/W 84 percent.



Emine and Tezcan Şen, Turkey

The making of 3NT - Solution

Your task was to construct a deal where all players make 3NT, and they all have a card of each denomination.

I am told the following solution was presented by a Mr Beasley 1988 in Games and Puzzles Journal:

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

Everyone can make eleven tricks in his best trump suit, but here 3NT is the issue.

Let us see how South succeeds:

West must give help with his lead. Even if he knocks out one of the minor stoppers the suit is blocked.

If he leads a club, dummy discards a spade. South wins and gives up a spade to East. The defence can only take three more tricks.

With a diamond lead South throws a heart and ducks a heart to West. The diamonds remain blocked. Nine tricks.

A heart lead does no good either.

South can duck the king, win the next, lose a spade, or get a minor favour at trick two.

The heart jack lead he runs to his queen, cashes the hearts and exits with ace and another spade to get a minor return to enter either hand and its long major.

I leave it to you to figure out how the other three declarers will manage.

T-Shirts - Souvenirs

T-shirts and Souvenirs are on sale on the third floor near the cafeteria

Demoting the promotion

by Maureen Dennison

One of the delights of pairs is stealing a top on a part score hand. This was a neat example from the final of the Mixed Pairs, where Michelle Brunner earned a 92% score from some thoughtful card play.


Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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


INT was weak and North's double was take out. West led a low heart and Brunner cashed ace and king, discarding a club. Next came a diamond and East rose with the king to lead another heart, ruffed by declarer. A club followed, and West rose with his ace to lead yet another heart. Brunner ruffed, led a club to the king and another diamond off table. East took and led a third diamond to North's queen. This was the ending:

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

Declarer judged that for the re-opening double, East must hold the spade king and if she played ♠A and another, the last diamond from East would promote a trump for the defence. Thus, she carefully played a spade to the 10. East tried the thirteenth diamond but West ♠J9 were no longer a threat.




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June 3rd – 6th 2010

POZNAN INTERNATIONAL FAIR

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MISREADING

An exchange about football took place earlier this week in a high-profile court case in Britain where the High Court Judge, bridge-player Richard Henriques, had the better of the barrister for one of the defendants.

Barrister: Robbie Fowler left Liverpool in 2006.

Henriques: Surely that's wrong. Did not Fowler join Liverpool that year?

Barrister (flustered): Sorry. I now see my note says Fowler "re-signed for" rather than "resigned from". My mistake.

Henriques: No. Liverpool's mistake!

Really, Incroyable?

by Mark Horton

This problem is from the third session of the Mixed Pairs Qualifying.

Dealer West, E/W Vul

♠ J 5
♥ K 10
♦ A J 9 5 4
♣ J 9 6 2

West	North	East	South
Senior	Soulet	Penfold	Soulet
Pass	INT	Pass	Pass
2♦*	2NT	All Pass	

2♦ Spades and another suit (if majors anchor to the shorter suit)

The bidding requires some explanation. North's INT, notionally showed 15-17 points. This was passed around to West who bid 2♦ promising spades and another suit. With something in hand no doubt North decided to chance his arm and his 2NT concluded the auction.

East, England International Sandra Penfold, correctly surmised that North was prepared for a spade lead so eschewed that choice. It was possible that partner had a minor suit, but her shortage in hearts and the fact that with 4♠ and 5♥ her partner would have to bid 2♦ she backed her judgement and tried the effect of tabling the ♥K. This was the full deal:

Dealer West, E/W Vul

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 8 4
♥ 9 5 4
♦ Q 7 6 3 2
♣ 10 8

That brilliant choice left declarer without resource and he finished one down.

If you were on the receiving end of such an outstanding effort would you:

A – Stoically inscribe the result on your scorecard and reflect on the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.

B – Congratulate your screen mate on her choice of lead.

C – Say Really, Incroyable! and call for the Tournament Director.