



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

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Issue No. 14

Friday, 26 June 2009

Looking for Matchpoint Magic



Your last chance to shop for books, equipment and bridge paraphernalia

The Open, Women's and Senior pairs begin their finals today with the first two of four sessions as the 4th European Open Championships come to a close. The third and fourth final sessions in the three events will take place on Saturday.

In the Open, 54 pairs will do battle for a total of 106 boards. The field will include 46 pairs from the A semi-final, six pairs from the B semi-final and two pairs from the teams final. The Women's will have 32 pairs playing 93 boards, and the Seniors will have 28 pairs playing 81 deals.

In the B final, there will be three sessions – two today and one on Saturday.

Today's - Schedule

- 10.30 O/W/S Pairs Final A&B (1st)
- 15.30 O/W/S Pairs Final A&B (2nd)

Saturday's - Schedule

- 10.30 O/W/S Pairs Final A&B (3rd)
- 15.30 O/W/S Pairs Final A (4th)

All finals A will be played in 4 sessions

All finals B will be played in 3 sessions



Deep Finesse never Lies

by Bill Pencharz

In the Tuesday afternoon Pairs Qualifying session I, I played the following deal in Three Clubs from North.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Never mind that East/West can make Four Hearts. The point is that I didn't make Three Clubs. Deep Finesse says you can. How?

The solution – in two parts – appears on page 15.

Duplimate Discounts

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

Prize Money

A list of the winners will be posted as soon as possible after play is completed on Saturday.

The first three in each category, Open, Women & Senior, will receive their awards at the prize giving ceremony. Everyone else must collect his or her prize from the Registration desk before the prize giving.

EBL President's Press Conference

Today at 11.00am in the Hotel Nationale, Corso Matteotti 3 Sanremo (6th floor).

Agenda

- 1 Results of Sanremo
- 2 EBL's plans for the future
- 3 Questions

National and International Journalists are invited. Please report to the Press Room Manager, Jan Swaan if you plan to attend the Press Conference.

PAIRS PRIZE-GIVING AND CLOSING CEREMONY



The Pairs Prize-Giving and Closing Ceremony will be held on Saturday 27th June at 20.00, on the 3rd floor of Palafiori Palace.

A buffet will follow.

Awards:

1. Medals and titles will be awarded to the 3 pairs best classified in Final A of each category.
2. Plaques will be presented to the first 3 pairs classified in Final B of the three categories.
3. Challenge Trophies will be assigned to the Presidents of the Federations to which the first European Pairs in each category belong. Replicas will be presented to the first, second and third classified pairs. This only applies to those European pairs where both players are from the same country.

The Trophies are:

Paul Magerman Trophy for Senior category
AnnaMaria Torlontano Cup for Women category
Giorgio Belladonna Trophy for Open category.

Open Teams Semifinals

Vito v. Netherlands White - Texan Aces v. Herbst

by Jos Jacobs

These were the four teams to sit down at 15.45 on Tuesday afternoon to play the last 28 boards that were separating them from a place in Wednesday's finals. Bulgaria, Netherlands, India and Israel are the countries where these teams come from, though the Texan Aces are marked as transnational since not all of the players live in India any more. As all the stimulating boards of the set were interesting at both tables, you will once again find below a combined report on both matches.

The fun started on the first board where you had to find a lead as East, typically against a blind auction.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Vito v. NL White:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Aronov</i>
	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All pass	

Only Bauke Muller maybe had something to guide him after this bidding and out came a heart. Declarer thus was down as soon as he took the club finesse. NL White +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Karaivanov</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Rusev</i>	<i>Brink</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All pass			

1♥ showed spades. When East tried the effect of the ♦10 lead, declarer had all the time in the world to cross to dummy and take a club finesse. The textbooks tell you to lead from kings not aces here. Maybe they know something? Eleven tricks, NL White +460 and 11 IMPs to open their account.

Texan Aces v. Herbst:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Tewari</i>	<i>Zack</i>	<i>Prabhakar</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All pass			

Basically the same auction as above but this time, Zack found the heart lead. One down after the club finesse. Herbst +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shah</i>	<i>O.Herbst</i>	<i>Venkatesh</i>	<i>I.Herbst</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All pass			

Here, East led a spade so declarer had no time for experiments in diamonds. He therefore went on to play clubs from the top, scoring 12 tricks for +490 and 11 IMPs.

Another big swing in both matches on board 3 but this time, the teams that lost IMPs could consider themselves very unlucky indeed:



Ophir Herbst, Israel

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Nice natural bidding to a perfectly good contract. One down, Herbst +50.

Closed Room

West <i>Shah</i>	North <i>O.Herbst</i>	East <i>Venkatesh</i>	South <i>I.Herbst</i>
			2♣
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All pass			

Ophir tried to show a little extra by bidding 3♠ but Ilan would have nothing to do with it. This yielded eleven tricks and +460, another 11 IMPs to Herbst.

Spectacular results on board 7:

Vito v. NL White:

Open Room

West <i>De Wijs</i>	North <i>Stefanov</i>	East <i>Muller</i>	South <i>Aronov</i>
			1♣ (str)
2♠	Pass	Pass	3NT
All pass			

Practical bidding after the weak overcall and thus a good slam missed. Eleven tricks, Vito +460.

Closed Room

West <i>Karaivanov</i>	North <i>Drijver</i>	East <i>Rusev</i>	South <i>Brink</i>
			2♣
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♥
All pass			

Brink took his time to describe his hand so the heart fit was easily found. The club control was about the only other feature Brink needed to know about to be able to bid the slam. Vito +50 and 11 IMPs when hearts were 4-0 and there was no miracle in diamonds.

Texan Aces v. Herbst

Open Room

West <i>Barel</i>	North <i>Tewari</i>	East <i>Zack</i>	South <i>Prabhakar</i>
			2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♥
All pass			

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>De Wijs</i>	North <i>Stefanov</i>	East <i>Muller</i>	South <i>Aronov</i>
			INT
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All pass			

The contract is really not that good as the N/S hands lack sufficient communication. Once South opens INT, as all our four South players did, reaching game is almost inevitable. What can you do on a spade lead?

Aronov put up the queen but when East covered, his only entry to hand was gone. He went on to cash five rounds of hearts but when he next played a diamond to the king and ace he was down two. Only two? Yes: East had discarded not only two clubs but also a diamond on the run of the hearts.

Closed Room

West <i>Karaivanov</i>	North <i>Drijver</i>	East <i>Rusev</i>	South <i>Brink</i>
			INT
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All pass			

Drijver showed his minor two-suiter over INT and Brink also, got a spade lead on which he called for dummy's queen. Rather than cashing his hearts next, trying to escape as cheaply as possible he elected to play a diamond to the king first. Had the ace been with West, this might have worked but now, the roof fell in. After cashing their spades, the defenders were able to reach West with the $\diamond Q$ to push a club through. Down five, Vito +500 and 7 IMPs to lead by 5.

Texan Aces v. Herbst

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Tewari</i>	<i>Zack</i>	<i>Prabhakar</i>
Pass	3 \spadesuit *	Pass	INT
All pass			3NT

* Both minors, short \heartsuit

Barel led a heart but when declarer next ducked a club to his $\clubsuit 10$, he shifted to a spade. As it went queen, king, ace we were back on the same track as above. Down two. Herbst +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shah</i>	<i>O.Herbst</i>	<i>Venkatesh</i>	<i>I.Herbst</i>
Pass	3 \spadesuit *	Pass	INT
All pass			3NT

* Both minors, short \heartsuit

Shah also led a spade but here, Ilan tried a low spade from



Kalin Karaivanov, Bulgaria

dummy. He won East's ten with the ace and proceeded to cash his hearts, on which East began to feel the pressure. Dummy discarded three clubs and two diamonds; East discarded two spades and a club. A low spade then went to the nine and king and East was fixed. He tried the $\clubsuit K$ but declarer won, cashed the $\spadesuit Q$ and played a club to ensure his contract.

In a desperate try, East ducked this club so he next was put in with the $\clubsuit Q$ to lead away from his $\diamond A$ for the over-trick. Very well played, Herbst a fully deserved +630 and 13 IMPs. The score in their match stood at 50-2 at this point.

Though there was not very much in the next five boards, the Herbst team still scored another 20 IMPs mainly due to the Texan Aces overbidding to a hopeless slam. So they led 70-2 when, at last, the Texan Aces struck back a little.

In the other match, Vito led NL White 34-24 but their lead was not to last till halftime, as the Dutch, too, dealt a blow or two.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

	\spadesuit A K 10 6 3 2										
	\heartsuit 4 2										
	\diamond Q J 10 6										
	\clubsuit A										
\spadesuit 4	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <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		\spadesuit J 8
	N										
W		E									
	S										
\heartsuit K J 3		\heartsuit Q 8 7 6									
\diamond K 9 3 2		\diamond 8 5 4									
\clubsuit J 9 5 4 2		\clubsuit Q 8 7 3									
	\spadesuit Q 9 7 5										
	\heartsuit A 10 9 5										
	\diamond A 7										
	\clubsuit K 10 6										

Vito v. NL White

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Aronov</i>
	1 \spadesuit	Pass	3 \diamond
Pass	4 \spadesuit	All pass	

3 \diamond showed a good balanced spade raise but Stefanov showed no interest. Vito +680.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Karaivanov</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Rusev</i>	<i>Brink</i>
	1 \spadesuit	Pass	2 \clubsuit
Pass	2 \spadesuit	Pass	2NT
Pass	3 \diamond	Pass	3 \heartsuit
Pass	3 \spadesuit	Pass	4 \clubsuit
Pass	4 \heartsuit	Pass	4NT
Pass	5 \diamond	Pass	6 \spadesuit
All pass			

Relays and cues made it clear that the $\diamond K$ was missing so

the grand was soon out of the question. With the rounded suit losers fully covered, slam should have a play nevertheless – these probably were South’s considerations. Right he was: 12 easy tricks on a diamond lead (won with the ace!) and +1430 or 13 IMPs for NL White. We had a new leader in the match...

Texan Aces v. Herbst:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Tewari</i>	<i>Zack</i>	<i>Prabhakar</i>
	1♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♠	All pass	

This looked smooth and easy going for +1430 to the Texan Aces but the harm was done in the Closed Room:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shah</i>	<i>O.Herbst</i>	<i>Venkatesh</i>	<i>I.Herbst</i>
	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
All pass			

When Ilan did not show his diamond control, the bidding came to an early end. Herbst +680 but the Texan Aces had got 13 IMPs back.

The last board was the apotheosis, one might say, of the many bad trump breaks we saw in this segment. The most sensible thing to do on it was not to bid at all...

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Vito v. NL White:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Aronov</i>
		1♥	2♦
2♠	3♣	All pass	

When West bid his spades first (not that he had very much of a choice), North was quick to introduce his good club suit (rather than support his partner – or was it a fit-bid?) and quick to regret it. Down three...NL White +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Karavanov</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Rusev</i>	<i>Brink</i>
		1♥	2♦
2♠	3♦	All pass	

Drijver did support his partner so the Dutch found a playable fit, they thought. After a comedy of errors, Brink even managed to make his contract for a score of +110 and 6 IMPs instead of the 3 IMPs the Dutch would have got if he had gone down, as he should.

At halftime, the Dutch led 43-34. It was still wide open.

Texan Aces v. Herbst:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Tewari</i>	<i>Zack</i>	<i>Prabhakar</i>
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	All pass		

The Texan Aces did very well to stay away from the auction and collected +50 when 2♥ went one off on the obvious trump lead. South thus could make most of his diamonds.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shah</i>	<i>O.Herbst</i>	<i>Venkatesh</i>	<i>I.Herbst</i>
		1♥	2♦
Dble	2♥	Pass	3♦
4♣	Pass	Pass	4♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All pass

When Shah competed again at the four-level, this had an unexpected effect when apparently he could not be (or was not) doubled for penalties. So it was East who had the last word. Down three on a club lead and a spade shift. Texan Aces +500 and 11 IMPs more to trail 70-26 at half-time. This match looked all over...



Women Quarter Final

Joel v Hansen

by Mark Horton

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hansen</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Smederevac</i>	<i>von Arnim</i>
Pass	1♣*	Pass	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2♠*

1♣ Strong
2♠ 8+, arti

East led the six of hearts and when West played the jack the suit was blocked – a good hand for third and fifth leads!



Geeske Joel, USA

Declarer won with the queen and played a spade to the jack. When that held she ran the jack of clubs to East's jack, won the heart return, cashed her clubs and played a spade, +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Joel</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Vist</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♣*
All Pass			3NT

Here East elected to lead the ten of spades and West won with the ace. Unless the ten denied a higher honour there was no particular reason for West to find the killing heart switch. She played back a spade and declarer won in hand with the queen, cashed the ace of clubs and played another club. East won with the king and switched to a heart, so declarer emerged with an overtrick, +430.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hansen</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Smederevac</i>	<i>von Arnim</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

3NT was destined to fail, as when South gets in with the queen of clubs a spade switch is clearly indicated and would give the defenders another four tricks.

However, North decided to lead the king of spades, and that entangled the spade suit.

There was no longer any effective defence available, +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Joel</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Vist</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦*	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the three of diamonds and declarer won in hand and passed the jack of clubs to South's queen. The spade switch gave the defence the next four tricks, +100 so Hansen had 12 IMPs and the lead.

It is usually a non-productive policy for a team to attempt to play in the same denomination in both directions, a point illustrated in no small measure by the next deal:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hansen</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Smederevac</i>	<i>von Arnim</i>
		2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

No doubt there was some confusion about the meaning of Three Diamonds as West was hoping it was non-forcing. South led the king of clubs and defence took the first seven tricks, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Joel</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Vist</i>
Pass	3♣	2♠	Pass
All Pass		Pass	3NT

This time 3NT was made in comfort. Unfortunately, from declarer's point of view it was the defenders who took nine tricks, five down, -250 and 11 IMPs to Joel.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hansen</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Smederevac</i>	<i>von Arnim</i>
	1♣*	Pass	1♥*
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

1♣ Strong
1♥ 8+, 4+♥

To my untutored eye 3NT looks the obvious move over Three Spades, but the German superstars ended up in their 4-3 fit.

West led a trump, immediately alerting declarer to the 6-0 break. She won in hand with the six and does best to play diamonds at every opportunity, effectively using them to extract West's trumps. However, she played a spade to the ace and a spade. If East plays low on that, West can win and play a second trump, which should end declarer's hopes, but slightly mysteriously East put up the jack. When declarer played low, West could not afford to overtake, so East switched to a club. Declarer put up the ace, ruffed the seven of spades with the ten of hearts and cashed the ten of diamonds, discarding a club. She played the jack of diamonds, but when East followed with the seven she ruffed and played the queen of spades. West ruffed and declarer overruffed. Now she played a winning diamond, discarding a club. West, down to nothing but trumps, had to ruff and lead into the ♥A9, +420.

In the Closed Room North/South sailed into 3NT and took 11 tricks to pick up an IMP.

Hansen led 21-17 at the half and both teams made the expected change, Joel bringing in two more World Champions, while Hansen retaliated with France's Claire Maarek, who learnt to play only around two years ago! No doubt she was looking forward tremendously to playing against such redoubtable opponents. However, it transpired that there was a problem surrounding her registration, although she had played in both matches the previous day. Joel protested and Maarek was not allowed to play, Joel going on to win the second set 52-6 and advance to the semi-final.

No doubt both teams were unsettled by this, and in the semi-final Joel lost heavily to Dutch Blue.

'Those whom the Gods love, they also destroy.'

ALL GRUED UP

by David Stern

At the 2005 World Youth Teams Championships in Sydney I met Joe Grue as a member of the USAI team of Grue, Kranyak, Wooldridge, Hurd, Greenberg and Lall which went on to win the Gold Medal after extra boards.

Since then Joe has made his mark on the American bridge scene as a fine player and good ambassador for the game of bridge. A regular participant in the U.S. Nationals and Cavendish tournaments, he has established an excellent partnership with Curtis Cheek. His participation in the Open Pairs here in Sanremo was the result of his decision to take a holiday in Italy and Spain and play a casual pairs game with Geoff Hampson, a player who has won the Cavendish Pairs, The Cavendish Teams and numerous U.S. Nationals.

I decided to follow Grue/Hampson for the first session of the semi-finals of the Open Pairs and here is a smorgasbord of deals from that session.

Open Pairs Semi-Final Session 1 Board 3 - Dealer South, E/W Vul

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

West <i>Hampson</i>	North	East <i>Grue</i>	South
		1♣	
3♦ Pass	Dble 4♥	Pass All Pass	4♦

In teams bridge this board wouldn't get a second look, but at pairs it's all in the timing. Superficially declarer looks destined to lose a spade and a club unless he can establish the thirteenth spade before the defence can gather their club trick.

Against 4♥, Grue opted for the ♣Q lead after which Geoff put his head under the screen and asked, "Would you like a review of the auction?" aimed at Joe's failure to lead partner's suit. Without this lead the defence had no chance to score anything but -480, at least in theory. Declarer's failure to spot the black-suit squeeze against East meant a score of -450 or 70.8% whereas -480 would have been a poor 32.0%.

Open Pairs Semi-Final Session 1 Board 6 - Dealer East, E/W Vul

<p>♠ A K 10 8 6 3 ♥ 10 5 3 ♦ 5 ♣ 8 6 2</p>	<p>♠ 9 ♥ 8 6 ♦ Q J 8 4 ♣ A K Q J 7 3</p>	<p>♠ Q 7 5 2 ♥ K Q 9 4 ♦ A 6 ♣ 10 9 5</p>	<p>♠ J 4 ♥ A J 7 2 ♦ K 10 9 7 3 2 ♣ 4</p>
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West <i>Hampson</i>	North	East <i>Grue</i>	South
		1♦(2+)	Pass
1♠ Pass 3♠	2♣ 3♣ All Pass	2♠ Pass	Pass Pass

N/S clearly sold out too early on this hand, with 4♣ and 4♦ both making ten tricks, eleven if the defence don't get their heart trick established in time. It is easy to get caught up in your own thinking as North did here. After cashing three clubs and getting the ♦7 and ♦3 from partner, he continued with a fourth club hoping for something good to happen in the trump suit. Unfortunately this is the only defence to allow declarer to make nine tricks when he ruffs with the ♠Q and pitches his second heart loser. This scored 95.3%, while one down would have been a poorish 40.8% with the most 'popular' score being East West +50.

Here is a deal where the defence, Grue/Hampson, believed their own PR to their cost.

Open Pairs Semi-Final Session I Board 9 - Dealer North, E/W Vul

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

West <i>Hampson</i>	North	East <i>Grue</i>	South
	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Dble	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

While the double of 3♣ (puppet stayman) may have been interesting on other occasions, it proved regrettable this time. Hampson, West, dutifully led the 'requested' ♣6 and on winning the ♥K continued with a club allowing declarer to make nine tricks and +400. Left to his own devices, I am confident that Hampson would have led a spade at trick one OR switched to it after winning the ♥K, especially knowing declarer had one four-card major and having gotten East's count in the heart suit. That escapade scored 12.5% whereas the 'normal' one down would have been 78.9%.

Grue/Hampson sold out far too early on this deal perhaps influenced by the two-suited opening heralding bad breaks.

with Grue/Hampson scoring a poor 24.2% with 3♥ likely going one down or even making on less than optimal defence scoring 37.5% and 71.1% respectively
Grue/Hampson were snookered in this auction.

Open Pairs Semi-Final Session I Board 11 - Dealer South, Nil Vul

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

West <i>Hampson</i>	North	East <i>Grue</i>	South
	♠ J 9 4 3		Pass
	♥ 9 5 4 2		2♣
	♦ Q 9		
	♣ 9 8 5		
Pass	INT	Pass	
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

It is always easy after the event to see that a double would have scored upwards of 300 and 100% of the matchpoints, but making 2NT or 3♦ would have substantially better than the 57.0% which Grue/Hampson scored for +100. I am guessing that their methods made bidding over INT impossible, and once the opponents reached 2♥ it was difficult to come back into the auction.

The opponents went looking for trouble on this board and found it.

Open Pairs Semi-Final Session I Board 10 - Dealer East, All Vul

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

West <i>Hampson</i>	North	East <i>Grue</i>	South
		1♣*	INT
Pass	2♦	2♥	2♠
All Pass			

* 16+ Precision

West's pass showed 0-5 points, suggesting a limited future for E/W. Playing 2♠ declarer made eight tricks and +110

Open Pairs Semi-Final Session I Board 13 - Dealer North, All Vul

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

West <i>Hampson</i>	North	East <i>Grue</i>	South
	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Two-suited openings to show a five-card suit and another four card suit have never seemed to me to be a great use for 2♥ and 2♠ openings. I have therefore moved to bidding 2♦ to show a poor weak two-bid while two of a major

shows an 8-11 HCP weak two opening. On this board, East took some small risk with the reopening double, but knowing partner was short in spades it was likely there was a fit in a red suit or a penalty available.

West obliged by passing and led his low club to East's jack, for 1100 and a 100% score on the board. If that board wasn't exciting enough this was the accompanying board.

Open Pairs Semi-Final Session I Board 14 - Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ J 9 4 ♥ 3 ♦ A Q J 10 6 3 ♣ J 6 2	<table style="width: 100%; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <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 7 6 ♥ A 10 7 2 ♦ 9 8 4 ♣ K 10 8	♠ A K 8 5 3 2 ♥ 9 4 ♦ — ♣ A 7 5 4 3
N						
W E						
S						

West <i>Hampson</i>	North	East <i>Grue</i>	South
		Pass	1♠
3♥	4♣	5♥	5♠
All Pass			

Five hearts was headed for -300 and in my opinion a more likely -500 for a score of 43.8% and 3.1% respectively whereas 5♠ went one down for Grue/Hampson to score all the matchpoints.

What's a session of pairs without a psych?

Open Pairs Semi-Final Session I Board 15 - Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 8 7 ♥ 8 5 4 ♦ Q 9 6 4 3 2 ♣ J	<table style="width: 100%; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <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	♠ J 2 ♥ J 10 6 3 2 ♦ A 7 ♣ 9 7 6 2	♠ K 9 3 ♥ A K 9 ♦ 10 8 5 ♣ A 10 8 4
N						
W E						
S						

West <i>Hampson</i>	North	East <i>Grue</i>	South
		Pass	1♠
INT	Dble	2♥	3NT
Pass	4NT	All Pass	

As the bidding tray was passed back to South and West with 4NT, some laughter was heard. Regrettably, it was not amusing for N/S who scored 43.0% for failing to reach 6NT by South, which 35 of 65 pairs achieved.

And what would a session of pairs be without a REALLY bad weak two opening?

Open Pairs Semi-Final Session I Board 16 - Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 3 ♥ Q J 3 ♦ Q 9 6 4 ♣ K 10 9 8 7	<table style="width: 100%; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K 5 4 2 ♥ A 5 4 2 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ 6 4	♠ J 10 9 8 7 6 ♥ 10 9 7 ♦ J 10 2 ♣ J
N						
W E						
S						

West <i>Hampson</i>	North	East <i>Grue</i>	South
	2♦ ¹	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

¹ Multi showing a weak two opening in a major

North's 3♦ bid showed a poor weak two bid – excellent judgement IMHO. This contract drifted three down for 90.6% for Grue/Hampson.

Sometimes your bidding leads the opponents to play in unusual contracts with unintended consequences. So it was on this hand.

Open Pairs Semi-Final Session I Board 22 - Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 7 5 ♥ A 10 3 ♦ 10 9 5 4 ♣ 8 7 6	<table style="width: 100%; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <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 3 ♥ 9 7 6 5 4 2 ♦ — ♣ A K 10 9 2	♠ K J 8 6 ♥ Q J 8 ♦ A K 3 ♣ Q 5 3
N						
W E						
S						


West <i>Hampson</i>	North	East <i>Grue</i>	South
	INT	Pass	Pass
Pass	3NT	2♥	3♦
Pass		All Pass	

While you would argue that 4♣ is the 'normal' contract it requires declarer to divine the spade layout whereas 3NT is laydown with overtrick possibilities. The bonus in pairs is that when you adopt my reasoning above and cash out, you end up with 11 tricks. Interestingly 18 of the 65 tables

recorded +460 and 86.7% for N/S.

I thought Fredin/Fallenius sitting N/S bid this hand well.

Open Pairs Semi-Final Session I Board 26 - Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West <i>Hampson</i>	North	East <i>Grue</i>	South
		Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

North's 4♦ showed spades and diamonds. With the missing ace accounting for much of the missing points, South, (Fallenius) correctly assessed 6NT as being a good pairs contract. This point was clearly not appreciated by all pairs as the frequencies show:

N/S percentage with 64 scores	1440	20	84.9%
	1430	34	42.1%

I can report that Grue/Hampson in this swifty set scored 51.6%, although I would expect the standard deviations of their scores, a measure of the swings of their scores away from average on each board, might prove very interesting.




Geoff Hampson, USA

The Right Ingredients

by Mark Horton

If you want to do well at pairs, there are two essential ingredients – to be skillful and lucky. These two deals illustrate each point perfectly.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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


West	North <i>Senior</i>	East	South <i>Penfold</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
I♥	2♦	Dble	3♦
All Pass			

East led the king of hearts and continued the suit. (As perceptive readers you can probably work the rest out for yourselves, but just in case...)

West won, cashed a third heart and switched to the ten of spades. That ran to dummy's king. Declarer drew trumps, East discarding a club on the second round.

From the cards played so far Nevena Senior thought it likely that East was 5-2-1-5, so she cashed the ace of spades and played a club to the ten. West could win, but was endplayed.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

When this deal came up in the pairs, North generally opened Four Spades and recorded an effortless +510.

Alexander Allfrey achieved one of the luckier results of his career when he overcalled Five Diamonds, South producing a bizarre penalty double that netted only a very lonely looking +500.

Open Pairs semi-final one and two

by Barry Rigal

GeO Tislevoll showed me a couple of hands from the pairs semi-finals where the matchpoint approach might differ from the teams line.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

E/W might prefer to finish in two hearts – perhaps after a weak no-trump or a transfer response to 1♣, from the West seat. GeO declared INT from the East seat after North had doubled 1♣. The defenders accurately led three rounds of spades, declarer winning in dummy and discarding a diamond from hand.

It looks natural to run five rounds of hearts now but dummy comes under pressure prematurely. Declarer instead elected to play minors from the unnatural hand at once – so as to avoid the squeeze. He guessed well when he led a low club and, not being psychic, North ducked.



Geir-olav Tislevoll, Norway

South won his ♣A and cashed his long spade as North and East both threw diamonds, North's card being encouraging. Be honest now, as South might you not 'carelessly' have shifted to the ♦J? That was all the help GeO needed!

With eight tricks in the bag and four tricks lost he won the ♦A and ran the hearts, keeping ♦10 and a club in hand and two clubs in dummy and squeezed North in the minors for 150 and nearly all the matchpoints.

From the second semi-final:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

For pure entertainment value it is hard to beat Peter Fredin. On this deal, he heard Michael Gromoller (North) open a weak no-trump and an enterprising transfer into spades on his left from Andreas Kirmse. Fallenius doubled, showing hearts, Gromoller completed the transfer, and Fredin leapt to 3NT. He received a spade lead and continuation and pitched a diamond from dummy, then passed the ♥Q losing to the ♥K. Fredin took the next spade and ran the hearts, to produce this ending.

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

On the last heart Gromoller retained his ♠6 to bare the ♦K. Had he pitched a spade he would have been endplayed in clubs to lead diamonds. Declarer pitched his club, as did

South, and now cashed the ace and king of clubs. Now Kirmse could not work out whether his partner had the bare $\diamond K$ or $\diamond Q$, so let go his master spade – hoping the $\spadesuit 9$ and $\spadesuit 6$ were the other way round.

Fredin cashed his $\spadesuit 9$ for the ninth winner and a discomfited Kirmse discarded a diamond. At this point declarer had the choice of trying to drop the $\diamond K$ – in which case he would make 630 or 660 – or he could try to pin the $\diamond J$ off-side and make either 600 or 660. Naturally Fredin went for the more spectacular play and lost the last two tricks, and thus got back to the same nine tricks he had started with. Of course, just getting to game was worth a 65% board; but 630 would have been an 85% result, 660 only another 10% or so on top of that.

The next deal was also an interesting matchpoint problem.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

<p>\spadesuit 10 8 3 \heartsuit Q 10 7 3 2 \diamond 8 5 \clubsuit Q 10 7</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; 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 K Q J 4 2 \heartsuit 9 4 \diamond K 4 \clubsuit J 9 8 4</p>	<p>\spadesuit 6 5 \heartsuit J 8 5 \diamond A 10 6 3 \clubsuit K 5 3 2</p>
N						
W E						
S						

Fallenius opened $1\clubsuit$ and rebid $1NT$ over the transfer response showing spades, to show 17-19. Fredin now relayed and drove to $4\spadesuit$ when he found the 5-3 fit; this looks the logical approach, rather than trying for $3NT$, since getting the hand declared by West must already have given E/W the chance of an above-average result.

Fallenius won the heart lead in hand and took two rounds of trumps then played a diamond, the king losing to the ace. Had Kirmse routinely continued with a heart, declarer would have drawn the last trump and have been at liberty to assume that from the cards played thus far North had five hearts and three spades, and that his carding suggested diamonds were 4-2. Hence the diamond finesse was the percentage play. In fact, Kirmse shifted to clubs, and now Fallenius could not afford to take the diamond finesse, so set up diamonds from the top after drawing trumps. +650 was a 58% result for N/S; had declarer guessed diamonds, he would have had an 88% result.

Sometimes the cards appear to be lying in a way designed specifically to torment you. On the next board when Michael Kwiecien put down his dummy as South after transferring into $2\spadesuit$ he said something to the effect that this was about the best hand he had held all afternoon. Things were about to get worse on Michel Bessis' diamond lead.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

<p>\spadesuit A J 5 \heartsuit J 10 9 2 \diamond 9 \clubsuit K 10 9 8 4</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; 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 K 8 4 \heartsuit K Q 8 3 \diamond A J 6 5 \clubsuit Q J</p>	<p>\spadesuit Q 2 \heartsuit A 5 \diamond Q 10 4 3 2 \clubsuit A 7 6 5</p>
N						
W E						
S						

With nowhere obvious to go Jagniewski won in dummy and played a club to Bessis pere. Back came a diamond ruffed, a heart to the king and ace, a diamond ruffed, the club king, and another heart. Stuck in hand, declarer played off the fourth diamond to pitch dummy's heart loser, but West could ruff with $\spadesuit A$ and East still had a trump trick. Down 200 was a 75% result for E/W.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>\spadesuit 10 6 5 \heartsuit 10 8 4 3 2 \diamond A 10 3 \clubsuit J 9</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; 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 K J 4 3 \heartsuit J 9 6 5 \diamond — \clubsuit A K 10 8 5</p>	<p>\spadesuit Q 9 7 2 \heartsuit Q 7 \diamond K 9 8 5 2 \clubsuit 7 3</p>
N						
W E						
S						

Cornell-Bach, who were leading after one session of the semi-final, started the second session with this awkward deal.

They coped well with the problems: $1NT-2\clubsuit-2\diamond-3\clubsuit-3\heartsuit-3\spadesuit-4\clubsuit-6\clubsuit$ -Pass. After the strong no-trump Bach co-operated in moving beyond $3NT$ and Cornell had enough to go to slam once he knew from his partner's failure to bid $3\diamond$ over $3\clubsuit$ that he ought to be facing working values. On any lead but a trump you might try for a cross-ruff.

The actual trump lead took care of the club jack but meant declarer could not try to play on a pure cross-ruff. He cashed two top hearts, dropping the queen, and now rather than get embroiled in a cross-ruff he simply took the spade finesse. This line was predicated on the fact that they were already five minutes behind for the round, and that simply ensuring the contract would be enough to get a good score. And so it proved – 1370 was worth 75%, the overtrick had an extra 20% riding on it.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

I watched Brunner and Holland defend 5♥ on this hand after they had pushed their opponents to the five level (4♠ only goes for 500 but most N/S pairs bid on).

Consider the deal initially as a single dummy problem in 5♥. You ruff the spade lead and appear to be able to afford to cash one top trump, but of course nothing nice or revealing happens. If you take the second top trump and play on clubs you may be embarrassed if your LHO has e.g. a 3-3-3-4 pattern. He might lead out ♥Q to prevent you from ruffing three spades, and you might need to be able to bring in clubs with one ruff. But if you play clubs before trumps you might lose a trick to the doubleton ♥Q on your right – always an embarrassing thing to do!

The answer is simple (though our unnamed declarer failed to follow it through). At trick three lead a club to the king, ruff a spade, cash the second top trump and run the diamonds to ruff the spade. If trumps split 2-2 you have 12 tricks, if not, 11 tricks are safe.

Of course as the cards lie with hearts 2-2 12 tricks are there for the taking; conceding 680 was worth just over average for E/W.



Peter Fredin, Sweden

Pencharz Answers

(see the problem on page 2)

Win the spade lead (or if you duck, the continuation) cross to the king of diamonds and play a club. West must play the nine and you win, cash the ace of diamonds, play a diamond to the ten and a fourth diamond. West must ruff high while North discards a loser. North will regain the lead by ruffing a major after East/West have taken their available major suit winners.

Then a trump to the queen and a trump finesse – West is down to ♣J2 and declarer has ♣A8.

The key to the deal is to appreciate that there are three entries to the South hand – the king and ten of diamonds and the queen of clubs – and to use them in the right order to neutralise West's trump holding.

Or Buy a copy of Deep Finesse!

Championship Diary

BBO is packing them in – over 4000 spectators in one room for Wednesday's Open Teams Final (still well short of the record of 5,689 for a single table).

Towards the end of a long event we discuss many things, not always directly related to bridge.

George Davis was an armed robber who became widely known through a very successful campaign by friends and supporters to free him from prison. On August 19, 1975, while Davis was serving a 20-year prison sentence they dug holes in the pitch and poured oil over one end of the wicket at the Headingley cricket ground preventing further play in the test match between England and Australia.

How then might one sabotage a bridge tournament?

By removing all the tables overnight? Obviously, but difficult to organise.

A simpler solution springs to mind – remove all the Pass cards from the bidding boxes!

The final stages of the Open Teams featured some excruciatingly slow play by Bauke Muller. At one point Jos Jacobs was following the play in his Hotel. When Muller went into one of his interminable trances, Jos decided to walk over to the Bulletin office. By the time he arrived around 10 minutes later not only were they still on the same board, they were still on the same trick!

Tacchi claims that in the time it took to complete Board 11 he read War and Peace.

I decided to interview Bauke over breakfast, but when he took fifteen minutes to decide which type of coffee to order I changed my mind.

Still, he has introduced a new verb into the English language: to Muller – to take a long time to do anything.

Shortly after penning this our resident joke writer delivered a new story:

A player noticed that one of his opponents was considerably overweight. He asked him 'How on earth did you get to be so big?'

'Every time I wait five minutes for you to play a card I eat a biscuit.'

Appeal No. 20 Austria v Israel

Appeals Committee:

Jens Auken (Chairman, Denmark), Grattan Endicott (England), David Harris (England), Jean-Paul Meyer (France), PO Sundelin (Sweden)

Herman De Wael sat in on the meeting to act as Scribe

Open Pairs Semi-final A Session I

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West <i>Pachtman</i>	North <i>Franzel</i>	East <i>Ginossar</i>	South <i>Kriftner</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	3♣	INT	2♠
Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	3♠
		All Pass	

Comments: 1♦ Precision: may be 0♦

Contract: Four Spades, played by North

Result: 9 tricks, N/S -50

The Facts:

South called the director at the end of the play. The INT bid had been explained by East to North as showing the other two suits (♥ and ♣), while West had explained it to South as showing the minors. Because of this, South had been unable to show his hand completely by bidding 3♦, which might have landed them in 3NT.

The Director:

Established that West had been mistaken. Against some types of 1♦ opening, they had agreed to play INT for the minors, but East assured West that this was not one of those openings, despite it being possible on zero diamonds. The director ruled that South had been misinformed. The director consulted three players, and asked

them what they would have bid over a 3♦ bid from South. Two would have bid 4♠, one 3NT. The director then asked the players what they would have bid in South, and there, two would have bid 4♠ and one 3♦. Consequently, the director ruled that North/South would arrive in 3NT one time in three.

Ruling: Score adjusted to:

Both sides receive:

33.3% of 3NT+1 by North (N/S +430)
plus 67.7% of 4♠-1 by North (N/S -50)

Relevant Laws:

Law 40B4

Law 12C1c

East/West appealed.

Present: All players

The Players:

West explained that they had agreed to play INT for the minors against one particular pair, and he had misinterpreted that they would do so against all pairs that use a 1♦ that can be of zero length.

West found it very hard to believe that North would bid 3NT opposite a 6/4 when holding QJ8 and Q53. West thought that North, who had the correct information, could have bid 3NT straight away, but instead North had bid 3♥, hoping that with a club stopper his partner would bid 3NT.

East found that using only three players in a sample should not be enough.

The Committee:

Agreed with the director that South had been misinformed. However, when South gets the correct information, there is no way he's going to want to play in 3NT. South would even takeout 3NT into 4♠, the Committee believed.

However, the committee remembered that earlier in the week, a procedural penalty had been imposed on a misexplanation during the first round of bidding. It was felt that East/West deserved a similar penalty here.

The Committee's decision:

Original table result restored

East/West receive a Procedural Penalty of 10% of a top..

Deposit: Returned

Note:

The score for -50 had been 34.12%. +430 scored 71.62%, so the original adjustment by the director had been to 46.62%. The Appeal Committee returned this to 34.12%.

SEMI-FINAL SET TWO

by Barry Rigal

Netherlands White led Vito by 9 IMPs at the half, and retained that lead for the first six deals of the second half, without an IMP being scored by either side.

Both pairs bid these cards to slam: 6♥ is far better by South than by North since you can get to test diamonds before clubs and have the ♣A protected, but both tables played it from the North seat and found everything as friendly as could be.

♠ K 4
♥ K Q J 10 9 7 3
♦ 3
♣ Q 7 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q
♥ 8 4
♦ A K 7 5 2
♣ A J 10 9

After a quiet part-score deal both N/S pairs bid accurately again to a small slam here. The Bulgarians had a strong club auction, Drijver and Brink a 2/1 sequence when Brink treated his hand as worth a game-force facing an opening (reasonably enough).



Victor Aronov, Bulgaria

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A K 8
♥ A J 10 8 5
♦ 4 2
♣ A Q 8

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 7 3
♥ 6 2
♦ A K J 9 8 7 6 3
♣ 4

Two quiet games and a partscore followed before a swing against the wide-range no-trump.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 8 7 2
♥ J 8 4 2
♦ K 9 6
♣ K 8 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A J 9 4 3
♥ 9 5
♦ 8 5
♣ A 9 7 5

♠ 10 5
♥ A Q 6 3
♦ Q J 4 3 2
♣ J 6

♠ K Q 6
♥ K 10 7
♦ A 10 7
♣ Q 10 3 2

Stefanov/Aronov could rebid a 12-14 no-trump with the East cards, to let E/W out in 2♠. By contrast a 12-15 no-trump from Muller saw De Wijs invite game with the West cards and Muller raised himself to 3NT, down three on a diamond lead. It was 43-41 to Ned White. An overtrick IMP made the lead 3 IMPs for the Dutch. Then:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A 9 8 2
♥ A K 10 4 2
♦ K 9
♣ 10 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 7 6 4 3
♥ J 7 6
♦ Q 7 4 3
♣ Q 9

♠ Q J 10 5
♥ 5
♦ 8 6 5
♣ A J 6 5 3


♠ K
♥ Q 9 8 3
♦ A J 10 2
♣ K 8 7 2

Both tables bid 1♥-1♠-3♠-4♠ and both West selected the ♣Q for their opening salvo – an interesting choice given their knowledge of a bad trump split looming. Stefanov won his ♠K at trick two and returned...a low club. Curtains! Declarer had four side-winners and six trump tricks.

In the other room declarer returned a club at trick two (was there a case for playing three rounds of hearts first?). Now with the chances of a defensive error eliminated, there was no sensible way for the defence to go wrong. Muller returned a club and De Wijs discarded a heart, letting declarer cash ♥A and ruff a heart to take the spade finesse. Muller returned ♦A and another diamond and West had to come to a trump trick at the death. Netherlands led by 15 IMPs now.

The next board emphasizes the power of aces. Despite having in essence nothing more than the four aces and two kings between them E/W have respectable play for a grand slam and can easily survive one bad break in a small slam. Did either of Stefanov/Aronov do anything out of line when they bid 1♥-(1♠)-2♠-4♥-Pass? I do not think so. Which means that the Dutch deserve special credit for stopping to look for slam.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West <i>De Wijs</i>	North <i>Scorchev</i>	East <i>Muller</i>	South <i>Popov</i>
	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♦(♣)	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

* Last Train


De Wijs' 3♠ splinter was certainly not an underbid but you can see where he was coming from – and once Muller heard that, he was locked into at least a small slam. The lead was up to 28 IMPs now.

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


When both E/W pairs handled this awkward deal by getting to 5♦ not the awkward 4♠ - where a 4-1 trump split would have produced significant problems on accurate defence the match was over.

A game swing to Vito on the penultimate deal when Muller took his eye off the ball on defence left the score 69-54 at the death. It would be Ned White against Herbst for the gold medal.

Total cash prizes 25.000 Euros




POZNAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
and
THE POLISH BRIDGE UNION




50th

POZNAN BRIDGE CONGRESS

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE MUNICIPAL OF POZNAN





June 3rd – 6th 2010

POZNAN INTERNATIONAL FAIR

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Extra innings

by Brent Manley

You might think a team named the Texan Aces originates in the USA, but it's not so. The name, of course, is American, but the team members are from India. S. Sunderram, a member of the squad, said the team has been playing under the interesting name for 30 years. It seems their captain, Gopal Venkatesh, vacationed in the Lone Star state long ago and adopted the name for the team on his return.

On Monday, the Texas Aces' match against the Bulgarian squad named Chateau Rossenovo ended in a tie, so a four-board playoff was necessary.

The Bulgarians scored first.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sunderram</i>	<i>Peichev</i>	<i>Sridhar</i>	<i>Barantiev</i>
	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		



Ivan Peichev, Bulgaria

Nikola Barantiev started with the ♣10, taken by Padmanabhan Sridhar with the ace. He rode the ♥10 to South's king and could not avoid losing another three tricks: ♣Q, ♦A and ♠A. That was minus 50.

West	North	East	South
<i>An. Ivanov</i>	<i>Tewari</i>	<i>At. Ivanov</i>	<i>Prabhakar</i>
	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Dble	Pass	2♠
3♥	All Pass		

The auction put North on lead, and Rajeshwar Tewari started with the ♥6. Antoni Ivanov went up with the trump ace, dropping the king, then played the ♠Q. Honey Prabhakar won the ♠A, but declarer had a parking place for dummy's losing club. He guessed right in diamonds to finish at plus 200. Chateau Rossenovo was in the lead 6-0.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sunderram</i>	<i>Peichev</i>	<i>Sridhar</i>	<i>Barantiev</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

The 1♥ opener on 9 high-card points in part of the system played by North/South, so the single raise can be pretty heavy as per this example. South was minimum for his opener so when Sunderram balanced with 3♦, and North passed South felt he was not strong enough to press on.

North started with the ♣K, switching to a spade at trick two. Sunderram pulled trumps, finishing in his hand, and played the ♣10 from hand. When Ivan Peichev took the ♣A, Sunderram had a place to put his losing spade. He gave up two hearts and claimed plus 110.

West <i>Ivanov</i>	North <i>Tewari</i>	East <i>Ivanov</i>	South <i>Prabhakar</i>
		INT	2♣
2♦	3♦	4♦	Pass
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

INT was weak, 2♣ showed the majors. Tewari no doubt reasoned that if his partner could enter the auction at unfavourable vulnerability, he had enough to go to game.

This contract was booked for one down for a push, but after cashing the ♦A, Atanas Ivanov switched to a low club, eliminating declarer's loser in that suit. Tewari still had work to do, but two leads up to dummy's spades produced took tricks and he finished with 10 tricks and plus 620. That was 12 IMPs to the Texan Aces.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West <i>Sunderram</i>	North <i>Peichev</i>	East <i>Sridhar</i>	South <i>Barantiev</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

- 1♣ Strong
- 1♦ 0-7
- 1♥ Relay
- 1♠ Forced
- INT 19-20
- 2♣ Stayman

The auction made North declarer, and Sridhar started with the ♦Q. Peichev won the ♦A and ruffed a diamond. He played a heart to dummy's jack, which held. Now three rounds of clubs put East in, and he exited with the ♥K. Peichev won the ♥A and played a spade to his ace, taking the finesse on the second round of the suit. Sunderram won the ♠Q and gave his partner a heart ruff, but that was it for the defense as Chateau Rossenovo scored plus 420.

West <i>Ivanov</i>	North <i>Tewari</i>	East <i>Ivanov</i>	South <i>Prabhakar</i>
			2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Antoni Ivanov started with the ♥10, taken by Prabhakar in hand with the jack. He cashed the ♦A and ruffed a diamond, then played the ♠A, a club to the ace, ruffed his last diamond and played a spade to his jack and West's queen. He ruffed the ♦K, pulled the last trump, and when he cashed the ♥A and the king fell, his only other loser was a club. Plus 450 meant another IMP for the Indians.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

There was nothing to the play of this deal, but both North/South pairs had to cope with interference. Sunderram started with the normal 2♠ opener, followed by a takeout double and a raise when North bid 3♥. At the other table, Atanas Ivanov started with 1♠ (!), but that, too, was brushed aside with a takeout double and cuebid by South.

With the finesse working in trumps, 11 tricks were easy for plus 650. No swing – the Texan Aces were in.



Antoni Ivanov, Bulgaria

Welland v Il Fante di Fiori

Round of 16 Open Teams

by Mark Horton

The match started quietly, Welland picking up a couple of small swings to lead 8-0 when this deal arrived:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Harari</i>	North <i>Welland</i>	East <i>Vinay</i>	South <i>Zia</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

It was tempting to resort to Blackwood, but the response of Five Spades (two 'aces' and the ♥Q) led to an embarrassing result. South cashed the ace of diamonds and waited for the setting trick, +50.

Closed Room

West <i>Garner</i>	North <i>De Tessieres</i>	East <i>Henner</i>	South <i>Fantun</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

- 4♣ cue bid
- 4♦ cue bid
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♣ 1 key card

The cue bidding approach (which should have been used at the other table) paid dividends. Here the use of Blackwood was much more successful and it enabled East/West to stop in a safe spot. South led the nine of clubs, so declarer was able to dispose of her losing diamond, +480 and 11 IMPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Harari</i>	North <i>Welland</i>	East <i>Vinay</i>	South <i>Zia</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♥	All Pass	2♦*

It was a little surprising that South made no try for game with such a good suit and some distribution.

East led the two of diamonds and West took the ace and switched to the eight of clubs. East won with the queen and returned a club. Declarer won with dummy's jack, drew



David Harari, France

trumps, pitched a spade on the thirteenth club and claimed 11 tricks, +200.

partner a ruff. There were two aces to come, -500 and minus 12 IMPs.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Garner</i>	<i>De Tessieres</i>	<i>Henner</i>	<i>Fantun</i>
Pass	1♣	1♠	Pass
2♠	4♥	All Pass	2♥

West led the three of spades and East took dummy's king with the ace and returned the suit. Declarer ruffed, crossed to dummy with the ace of hearts and played the three of clubs to the ten and king. West exited with the jack of spades and declarer won in dummy, pitching a club, cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club high. After drawing trumps declarer played a diamond, +620 and 9 IMPs back.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harari</i>	<i>Welland</i>	<i>Vinay</i>	<i>Zia</i>
Pass	1♦	Dble	5♦
5♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

South's jump to Five Diamonds put the pressure on and with a difficult choice, West took the push.

Declarer won the diamond lead, performed, crossed to the queen of clubs, ruffed a diamond, played a heart to the jack and a spade. North took the ace and waited for his trump tricks, down one, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Garner</i>	<i>De Tessieres</i>	<i>Henner</i>	<i>Fantun</i>
Pass	1♦	Dble	Rdble
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

South's approach did not work so well here. East cashed the king of clubs, then the ace and gave his

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harari</i>	<i>Welland</i>	<i>Vinay</i>	<i>Zia</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the nine of spades and declarer won in hand with the king and played the two of diamonds. South was awake and put in the ten, so declarer won with dummy's ace and cashed the ace of clubs. His next move was a heart to the king, followed by a losing heart finesse. The contract was hopeless from here, two down, -200.

While it is true that a winning line (the backward heart finesse) is available, there is no obvious reason for declarer to find it.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Garner</i>	<i>De Tessieres</i>	<i>Henner</i>	<i>Fantun</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South elected to lead the queen of clubs and when declarer ducked, South switched to the nine of spades. Declarer won in hand and played a diamond, putting in the nine when South followed with a lazy eight. North won with the jack and played back the eight of clubs, covered by the nine, ten and ace. Declarer crossed to the king of hearts and played the seven of clubs, covered by the jack and king. Declarer cashed the now established six of clubs and then took three rounds of diamonds. North was squeezed in the majors but it is not entirely clear that declarer took advantage by throwing North in with a spade. Still the contract was secure and 12 IMPs changed hands.

At half time, Welland held a potentially match winning lead, 57-13 IMPs.

The Matchpoint Game

by Barry Rigal

Two consecutive deals from the Pairs qualifier were all about overtricks. On the first Guillaumin (playing with Palau) reached 3NT as East after a vulnerable weak-two from South.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

After capturing the heart lead cheaply in hand declarer crossed to the spade ace and successfully led a diamond to the king. It looks natural to go after diamonds now, but even if diamonds are 2-2 you still only have 10 tricks, assuming the club finesse is wrong – and on the auction you can assume that to be the case. Guillaumin realized that, so led a club towards the queen at trick two. If South takes his king, declarer has cut the defenders' communications and can now play on diamonds for ten tricks. When South ducked his king declarer reverted to diamonds, and now had ten tricks in comfort.

The matchpoint difference for the overtrick was huge: 3NT making exactly was almost a dead average for N/S, and -430 was only worth 16% for N/S.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

suitably conversant with a finesse, we would be able to circumvent the 4-1 trump split by ruffing a spade in dummy and leading a diamond to the queen.

Pierre Zimmermann was having none of this; playing the mini no-trump, he opened 1NT as North and was raised to 3NT by Franck Multon, who decided his 4-3-3-3 pattern was more appropriate for no-trump. Of course a top spade lead would have sunk the contract, but Zimmermann was favoured with a diamond lead. How should you play the contract? The answer is that if you rise with the ace you will make your game but lose to everyone in 4♥. If you finesse the queen you will make ten tricks – but since nearly everyone in hearts will make 450 you will still get a poor score (in fact only 12 pairs held themselves to 420). But if you try the diamond ten from dummy you will admittedly get a zero 25% of the time, but a 95% result the rest of the time.

The principle is that at matchpoints when in a good and unusual contract it is worth investing possible overtricks to ensure your good score; when in a bad and unusual contract take any risks you like to get back ahead of the field.

That was what Zimmermann did, and as you can see the cards cooperated.

16th International Bridge Tournament Grand Hotel Park, Gstaad July 3-5 2009



Under the patronage of the Swiss Bridge Federation

Contact:

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4 Chemin du Polny
1066 Epalinges
Switzerland

Tel & Fax: 021 784 40 22

Email: collaros.bridge@bluewin.ch

You and I would have no problem bidding to 4♥ here, and

EUROPEAN TRANSNATIONAL PAIRS

“Paul Magerman Cup”

**Thursday July 1st
Saturday July 3th 2010**

KURSAAL - OSTEND

Entry fee : 250 € / pair
-50 % for pairs under 26 years



Format & Schedule of play:

Thursday July 1st:

- 10:00 - 14:00 Registration of participating pairs
(Preregistration: EBL website)
Qualification round (60 boards)
- 14:15 - 20:00 4 x 10 boards (10' break between sessions)

Friday July 2nd:

- 10:00 - 12:30 2 x 10 boards (10' break)
- 14:30 - 19:00 Final A (28 pairs) 26 boards (30' break)
- 14:30 - 18:00 Final B (other pairs) 20 boards (30' break)

Saturday July 3rd:

- 10:00 - 14:00 Final A (28 pairs) 28 boards (30' break)
- 10:00 - 13:00 Final B (other pairs) 20 boards (30' break)

Prizegiving ceremony:

Saturday July 3rd - 20:30 Auditorium "Kursaal"

Prizes & Awards:

European Master Points will be awarded

Final A

- Winner: Invitation pairs event 5th European Open
Championships (accomodation + entry fees)
Paul Magerman Cup
- Places 2-3: Invitation pairs event 5th European Open
Championships (accomodation + entry fees)
- Places 4-12: prize table

Final B

- Winner: Invitation pairs event 5th European Open
Championships (accomodation + entry fees)
- Places 2-10: prize table

**(non qualifying teams may participate for free in
this transnational event)**

COSE DI CASA NOSTRA

by Franco Broccoli

"Excusatio non petita, accusatio manifesta". Non si sfugge. Chi si scusa, si accusa. Ma il fatto è che la pianificazione ha fallito miseramente. Perché non bisognerebbe mai rimandare al terzo tempo di gioco il momento giusto per raccogliere il materiale atto a documentare un successo (senior, nel caso), in quanto questo famoso terzo tempo potrebbe non verificarsi mai! I seniores bulgari, afflitti da un serio ritardo di imp nei confronti dei vincitori di Miroglio, hanno infaustamente deciso di ritirarsi dopo la seconda sessione, e l'eventuale resoconto sull'ultima frazione è rimasto un desiderio inespresso. Con tante scuse a Giulio "Bon Jovi" Bongiovanni, che ha il solo torto di essere il capitano di una squadra di rullo-compressori capaci di fare abbandonare anzitempo la competizione agli avversari.

Il numero uno della classica mondiale, Fulvio Fantoni, si presta e non disdegna. Non è la prima volta che gioca con juniores talentuosi. In questa maratona a coppie open Fulvio ha di fronte il ventunenne Eugenio Mistretta.

Per mostrarvi che incontrare questa coppia non vuol dire rilassarsi, guardate a titolo esemplificativo il

Board 13. Dich. Nord – Tutti in zona

♠ A 10 6 5 ♥ 6 ♦ A D 2 ♣ A R D 6 5	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N O E S </div>	♠ R 9 8 ♥ 9 8 7 ♦ R F 10 5 4 3 ♣ 8	
♠ F 7 ♥ R F 10 3 ♦ 6 ♣ 10 7 4 3 2			
Ovest	Nord <i>Fantoni</i>	Est	Sud <i>Mistretta</i>
contro	2♥ passo	passo 5♦	4♥ fine

Come dire, tutti in zona, sarebbe un: "Benvenuti, mettetevi comodi...". Sul due debole di Fantoni, Mistretta ha lanciato la sua sassata e, nella fattispecie, E/O hanno perso la strada che li avrebbe portati allo slam a quadri, di facile realizzazione. Attacco Dama di cuori e quadri. Dama di quadri, picche per il Re, cuori taglio di Asso, atout, fine dei lavori.

Capite, era già da un paio di mani che non si smuovevano le acque, che gli avversari indovinavano, che le carte non rispondevano a dovere. E' sembrato giusto e necessario dare una scossa a questo andamento lento.

Anche in controgio i nostri due si possono definire in tutti i modi che non abbiano niente a che fare con il signi-

ficato di "amichevoli".

Board 20 Dich. Ovest – Tutti in zona

♠ A 10 9 6 4 ♥ F 7 5 3 2 ♦ 7 ♣ 9 8	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N O E S </div>	♠ R 8 7 ♥ R D 4 ♦ A 10 9 6 ♣ 10 7 4	♠ F 3 ♥ 9 6 ♦ R 8 5 3 ♣ A R D F 2
♠ D 5 2 ♥ A 10 8 ♦ D F 4 2 ♣ 6 5 3			
Ovest	Nord <i>Fantoni</i>	Est	Sud <i>Mistretta</i>
2♦	passo	2♥	fine

Qualche spiegazione. L'apertura di 2♦ mostra una mano debole con i nobili oppure forte con un minore. 2♥ invece palesa un certo nervosismo di base (è scritto sulla carta delle convenzioni!). Mistretta ha attaccato atout, per evitare eventuali tagli/affrancamento delle picche dalla parte corta. Fantoni, in presa con la Dama di cuori, nella prospettiva di mandare in fuorigioco la lunga d'atout, è tornato 6♦. Il dichiarante è stato basso e Mistretta è entrato con il Fante e ha ribadito nel colore per lo scarto di una picche del morto. Fantoni, in presa con l'Asso, ha giocato fiori per un pezzo di Est. Sulla successiva uscita atout Sud, rimasto in presa con il 10♥, ha rotto a picche. Totale del tutto, 2♥-1. Si potrebbe mantenere il contratto passando il Re di quadri alla seconda carta e giocando sulla 3/3 a cuori, ma questa linea, con altre carte in N/S, potrebbe portare anche al cappotto per la difesa.

Resta giusto lo spazio per dirvi che non sono sempre rose e fiori.

Board 16. Dich. Ovest – E/O in zona

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

Premessa: è un altro momento di stanca e, specialmente giocando a coppie, queste parentesi possono produrre reazioni esplosive. Allacciate le cinture.

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
	<i>Fantoni</i>		<i>Mistretta</i>
1♥	2♠	3SA	4♠
6♣	passo	6SA	fine

Chi chiama 7♥, cade per la malevola distribuzione delle

atout. Si fanno 7♣ ma, dopo il fit nobile, è difficile ripiegare. Si manterrebbe anche il contratto di 7SA, ma solo dopo essersi presi un colpo per la 4/1 a cuori e passando per i due impasse, a picche e quadri. In estrema sintesi, il disturbo aveva colpito gli avversari, che non hanno chiamato il grande a cuori, per dirne una, ma Est è uscito dal tunnel con un jolly niente male. Dopo l'attacco Fante di cuori, il dichiarante si è basato sull'impasse profondo in questo colore per realizzare tutte le prese.

Senior Games 2009
 The Senior Games will be organized in September 2009 in the Dutch province of Zeeland, and an estimated 4.500 athletes 50 years and older from all over Europe are expected to join. Participants will compete during this Multi-sport Event in no less than 22 major sports. This event is the first of its kind in Europe, a unique opportunity for the Netherlands. In the US, such events have been organized for baby boomers for quite some time.

Bridge

Bridge is one of the main sports in the Senior Games 2009 program. Beneath one can find the specific information concerning the bridge competition.

Program *

Date	Time	Venue
September Monday 7 th till Friday 11 th	13.00-17.30 p.m.	Burgh-Haamstede Dorpshuis de Schutse

* The organization has the right to change the program at all time.

Qualifications

Registration is open to members of an international federation. Previous participation in a regional, national or international competition is required.

Format

Tournament for 80 pairs to play into 5 lines per session.

Participant contribution

Registration SG2009 C 100,- per pair
 Additional fee bridge participants C 45,- per pair

Conditions

The tournament shall be played in accordance to the international bridge rules 2007 by the World Bridge Federation.

Information and registration

The organization of the 2009 Senior Games invites you to register through: www.seniorgames2009.com for this unique sport event. On this website you will find all necessary information concerning the Senior Games 2009 and the **bridge** competition.

Register fast, a limited number of places is available!

Achter de Houttuinen 8 4331 NJ Middelburg The Netherlands +31(0)118-641009 info@seniorgames2009.com



OPEN PAIRS - SEMI FINAL A (FINAL RANKING)

1	MARTENS - JASSEM	57,90	71	SEBBANE - VOLCKER	50,15
2	FALLENIUS - FREDIN	57,74	72	THUILLEZ - ROBERT	50,14
3	BESSIS - BESSIS	56,60	73	YADLIN - FRIEDLANDER	50,10
4	WESTRA - RAMONDT	56,28	74	ARONOV - STEFANOV	50,06
5	JANSMA - PAULISSEN	56,16	75	RUBINS - BETHERS	49,75
6	BOCCHI - MADALA	55,94	76	VERSACE - ANGELINI	49,70
7	CORNELL - BACH	55,63	77	SADEK - HUSSEIN	49,69
8	MULTON - ZIMMERMANN	55,07	78	KWIECIEN - JAGNIEWSKI	49,65
9	BOMPIS - QUANTIN	54,84	79	ROMBAUT - TIGNEL	49,63
10	SUWIK - RADZIAK	54,77	80	SOULET - TCHENIO	49,55
11	VOLHEJN - KOPECKY	54,71	81	SCHILHART - BUCHLEV	49,53
12	GUSTAWSSON - SYLVAN	54,46	82	DESMOULINS - COUNIL	49,52
13	BRUNNER - HOLLAND	54,42	83	ARGELAZI - BIRMAN	49,49
14	GROMOELLER - KIRMSE	54,41	84	NOWOSADZKI - WIANKOWSKI	49,21
15	HOILAND - BREKKA	54,20	85	BLAZENCIC - RASE	49,01
16	FITZGIBBON - MESBUR	53,69	86	POTIER - BO	48,99
17	SZTYRAK - JANISZEWSKI	53,54	87	KALISH - PODGUR	48,97
18	VOLDOIRE - SAPORTA	53,27	88	GOLFARELLI - NATALE	48,85
19	EIDI - VROUSTIS	53,22	89	TISLEVOLL - LINDQVIST	48,85
20	NEDKOV - TENEV	53,20	90	KARAIVANOV - RUSEV	48,79
21	BAUSBACK - LOEFGREN	53,13	91	KHVEN - RUDAKOV	48,76
22	RATYNSKI - OHRYSKO	53,01	92	KALITA - RUSSO	48,75
23	GIROLLET - FLEURY	52,92	93	GIUBILO - BONAVOGLIA	48,62
24	FRANZEL - KRIFTNER	52,91	94	LEWACIAK - BELING	48,44
25	ASKGAARD - BJARNARSON	52,91	95	DEBUS - VAN MECHELEN	48,38
26	AUKEN - ARNIM	52,91	96	LOUCHART - CRESTEY	48,35
27	TESLA - STANICIC	52,87	97	VERHEES Jr - PROOIJEN	48,29
28	BAREKET - LENGY	52,77	98	MISZEWSKA - ZAKRZEWSKI	48,29
29	HARDING - HOYLAND	52,72	99	TRENDAFILOV - RADKOV	48,28
30	WLADOW - ELINESCU	52,58	100	GIGLI - GIOVE	48,23
31	HONTI - HARANGOZO	52,37	101	RINGSETH - STOKKVIK	48,21
32	PALAU - GUILLAUMIN	52,36	102	GINOSSAR - PACTMAN	48,09
33	LUNGU - MICESCU	52,34	103	ENGEL - WEBER	48,04
34	GUNEV - POPOVA	52,13	104	KIRCHHOFF - DRENKELFORD	48,01
35	KRZEMINSKI - WALINSKI	52,11	105	GROMOV - DUBININ	47,98
36	TACIUC - MARINA	52,08	106	NILSSON - OLOFSSON	47,94
37	BARANTIEV - PEICHEV	51,93	107	KRAVCHENKO - SHOKHAN	47,77
38	YILMAZ - GUR	51,93	108	TEMBOURET - KILANI	47,71
39	BERTENS - BAKKEREN	51,88	109	ROTARU - STIRBU	47,67
40	MUZZIO - ANGELERI	51,85	110	BAKKEREN - VAN WEL	47,56
41	MOLENAAR - VERBEEK	51,76	111	DOXIADIS - KONTOMITROS	47,54
42	DRIJVER - GROENENBOOM	51,73	112	TOFFIER - SAINTE MARIE	47,50
43	FERGUSON - HOLLMAN	51,70	113	AUKEN - CHRISTIANSEN	47,42
44	FURUNES - HALLBERG	51,66	114	GWINNER - MARGOT	47,31
45	TUSZYNSKI - STARKOWSKI	51,58	115	MORATH - EFRAIMSSON	46,87
46	KANE - SHIELDS	51,53	116	POPOV - SKORCHEV	46,86
47	ROBSON - ALLFREY	51,50	117	FISHER - GERSTNER	46,73
48	LAKATOS - SZALAY	51,42	118	BRUNET - ANCESSY	46,70
49	GUARINO - CARPENTIERI	51,32	119	ZUCCO - TRAPANI	46,67
50	GIERULSKI - SKRZYPCZAK	51,24	120	MCINTOSH - SANDQVIST	46,64
51	SOLNTSEV - VOROBEL	51,15	121	DUGUET - RIEHM	46,53
52	MAURINS - BALASOV	51,14	122	PAZUR - ZAWISLAK	46,40
53	HARARI - TESSIERES	51,02	123	KOPSTAD - HOMME	46,35
54	AASAN - JOHANSEN	50,95	124	IONITA - FLORIN	46,31
55	FILIP - VELECKY	50,94	125	MAAT - MEER	46,22
56	AGGELOPOULOS - OIKONOMOPOULOS	50,89	126	KLIMACKI - KOPRON	46,04
57	GRUE - HAMPSON	50,82	127	ZHURAVEL - KARBANOVICH	46,03
58	SAELENMINDE - AUSTBERG	50,79	128	LEBEL - CHEMLA	45,72
59	HELNESS - HAUGE	50,76	129	DELIMPALTADAKIS - DIONYSOPOULOS	45,11
60	SIMONSEN - SKJETNE	50,75	130	ZANONI - MORELLI	45,09
61	TOP - PETERS	50,75	131	UGGERI - ASTORE	45,02
62	CAITI - PATTACINI	50,70	132	LEVIN - FOHRER	44,88
63	CHMURSKI - PUCZYNSKI	50,64	133	KEAVENEY - THOMAS	44,22
64	SMIRNOV - PIEKAREK	50,56	134	DUDZIK - NOWOWIEJSKI	43,22
65	KROEJGAARD - KROEJGAARD	50,55	135	LOHAY - HENC	43,00
66	JACOB - REID	50,53	136	URBANSKI - WOLINSKI	42,74
67	MAKARUK - NIEDZIELSKI	50,42	137	BURAS - LASZCZAK	42,13
68	HANLON - CARROLL	50,35	138	GAROZZO - MARTINI	38,38
69	CLEEFF - KENDRICK	50,31	139	SMILGAJS - SHUDNEV	35,28
70	CARCASSONNE - LABAERE	50,26			

OPEN PAIRS - SEMI FINAL B (FINAL RANKING)

1	IVANOV - IVANOV	58,39	60	GRZELCZAK - STASIOLEK	50,59
2	PIETRASZEK - UKRAINSKI	57,47	61	CORSICO PICCOLINO - GOBBI	50,54
3	PIEDRA - CAPONI	57,18	62	CIECHOMSKI - CZUBAK	50,43
4	HOMONNAY - WINKLER	56,78	63	ZOZIS - KOUKOUSELIS	50,25
5	SVENDSEN - BERG	56,74	64	BOSS - JOHNSON	50,17
6	FEBER - CERNAT	56,64	65	PETRUNIN - STERKIN	50,04
7	FILIPOWICZ - CIESLAK	56,58	66	WITTEVEEN - WARENDORF	50,02
8	CHARLSEN - HOFTANISKA	56,13	67	GOMEROV - ZAPADINSKIY	50,00
9	LEVI - STAVRINOS	56,07	68	ZAMPERETTI - FIGARELLI	49,99
10	GODED - VINCENT	55,63	69	VANDEREET - DEVIGNE	49,94
11	HEGEDUS - SZEGEDI	55,34	70	UYSAL - SIRIKLIOGLU	49,89
12	LACROIX - PIGNOL	55,32	71	SIRAKOPOULOU - LIOSSIS	49,56
13	GOLEBIEWSKI - SIELICKI	55,25	72	BOGEN - HOLLAND	49,51
14	ZAREMBA - ZAK	55,24	73	TUNSANU - TEODORECI	49,51
15	ASH - McPHEE	55,12	74	VOINESCU - MANDRUTA	49,17
16	GOWER - APTEKER	55,06	75	LHUISSIER - FRANCESCHETTI	49,05
17	ZIVKOVIC - MOSSOP	54,80	76	JELENIEWSKI - WACHNOWSKI	48,72
18	LORENZINI - GROSSET	54,77	77	RINALDI - DE MICHELIS	48,60
19	OURSSEL - DUGUET	54,37	78	CAPPELLER - SCHINZE	48,56
20	ZHUKOV - TIMAKHOVICH	54,35	79	MAI - CHIARO	48,34
21	MALINOWSKI - DE BOTTON	54,17	80	BROGELAND - GILLIS	48,31
22	ANDREEV - ERSHOV	54,05	81	CLAIR - TOTARO	48,14
23	ERBIL - PEYRET	53,96	82	TOMASZEK - MODRZEJEWSKI	48,04
24	GOTARD - LESNICZAK	53,91	83	CIRILLO - BUSSOTTI	47,99
25	KOLATA - KANDEMIR	53,73	84	FRONTAURA - MULLER	47,72
26	LAUER - SPALOVSKY	53,67	85	CHAMBERS - GOBERT	47,71
27	CIVGINER - SEN	53,46	86	FAIGENBAUM - ZALESKI	47,62
28	KASIMIR - JOKISCH	53,41	87	EIJCK - HERMANS	47,56
29	PULKRAB - KRASA	53,30	88	VANDERVORST - FRENCKEN	47,33
30	VAINIKONIS - OLANSKI	53,22	89	LIPNITSKI - RAMANOVICH	47,19
31	LIN - CHIEN	53,11	90	ZARA - ELIAN	47,13
32	MATISONS - ALFEJEVA	53,02	91	ALLIX - LIBBRECHT	47,04
33	AVCIOGLU - OZTURK	52,81	92	KRYSZTOFCZYK - KRYSZTOFIK	46,90
34	SAUVAGE - BOGACKI	52,77	93	ANFINSEN - SOLHEIM	46,87
35	LANZAROTTI - VENTIN	52,52	94	MASCARUCCI - BORLA	46,80
36	FORGE - VENTOS	52,21	95	MARMONTI - MASSA	46,63
37	ZLOBICH - HAPONAVA	52,20	96	PONT - FRUTOS	46,45
38	PENCHARZ - DHONDY	52,19	97	MIRAGLIA - NATTA	46,45
39	LEBATTEUX - COUDERT	52,07	98	MICHELIN - FEIGENBAUM	46,34
40	STAVRACHE - KOVACS (2)	52,02	99	RYAN - BEIJDORFF	46,33
41	KHAZANOV - LEBEDEVA	51,89	100	COLINET - MEYER	46,18
42	ZARKESCH - BOEDDEKER	51,86	101	NEGOESCU - IGNATESCU	46,17
43	DUMBOVICH - GOTTHARD	51,77	102	VALIMARESCU - OJOGA	46,14
44	TATARKIN - SHANURIN	51,71	103	McGUIRE - RAILING	45,98
45	KOVALCHUK - KOLYADENKO	51,66	104	KALIDA - KWIATKOWSKI	45,95
46	NARKIEWICZ - INGIELEWICZ	51,64	105	JASKIEWICZ - TOKARZ	45,72
47	HUGONY - CERRETO	51,57	106	PATTENIER - KAMERBEEK	45,28
48	BEAUMIER - PELISSON	51,55	107	MCLEISH - MCLEISH	44,19
49	MARINI - CATA	51,53	108	DEVINCENZO - MORINO	44,18
50	CSATLOS - HITTMANN	51,49	109	CEREDA - MEARINI	43,75
51	VERBEEK - BRANTSMA	51,13	110	MUNTEANU - MUNTEANU	43,61
52	VAINIKONIS - ARLOVICH	51,07	111	MONTIERI - LATTUNEDDU	43,31
53	POSKA - JANKAUSKAS	50,97	112	PASSI - BELLINI	42,92
54	PAUNCZ - FOSSI	50,96	113	FERANCHUK - GODUN	42,57
55	DOBRIN - CHERNYAK	50,91	114	KITA - GLASEK	42,17
56	HACKETT - ALEXANDER	50,82	115	ULUG - ULUG	41,80
57	BREWIAK - STASIAK	50,81	116	PAPADOPOULOS - THEOTOKIS	40,08
58	FERRAMOSCA - SALVADORI	50,62	117	NINOCCHKA - ANNUSHKA	39,95
59	DOBRZYNSKI - DZIKOWSKI	50,61			

SENIOR PAIRS - SEMI FINAL B (FINAL RANKING)

1	SERGEANT - THABAULT	57,56	8	MIRAN - ISPAHANI	51,90
2	TUWANAKOTTA - BORM	57,17	9	BLAKEY - BLAKEY	50,71
3	MCGOWAN - LIGGAT	55,18	10	HOFFMAN - HARPER	49,62
4	UISK - PETTERSSON	54,05	11	BEGAS - GROSMANN	47,86
5	VIVALDI - SAVELLI	53,67	12	BARZAGHI - LEONARDI	47,26
6	MACKENZIE - QUINN	52,63	13	FERNANDEZ - BONANNO	42,96
7	NELSON - NELSON	52,46	14	DENNISON - LEIGHTON	41,82

SENIOR PAIRS - SEMI FINAL A (FINAL RANKING)

1	POCHRON - LEW	55,06	22	MILNER - GRANOVETTER	50,04
2	MEJANE - PEREZ	54,91	23	CARZANIGA - GIULIANO	50,01
3	HIRST - HASSETT	54,75	24	EICHHOLZER - OBERMAIR	50,00
4	KLUKOWSKI - JEZIORO	54,61	25	MAGLIETTA - FERRARA	49,75
5	LASOCKI - RUSSYAN	54,59	26	BIGAT - YALMAN	49,57
6	BUER - MUNKVOLD	54,21	27	SCHWARTZ - SHEINMAN	49,53
7	PY - PIGANEAU	53,86	28	TROUWBORST - DOREMANS	49,24
8	CEDOLIN - DALLACASAPICCOLA	53,64	29	MATTSSON - KOCH	48,89
9	FORNACIARI - MARIANI	53,63	30	NORDBY - HANSEN	48,52
10	RAMER - MELMAN	53,32	31	LAGOURANIS - PANOPOULOS	48,40
11	GRENTHE - VANHOUTTE	52,85	32	AVON - WAKSMAN	48,23
12	SPENGLER - BOESIGER	52,65	33	KLAPPER - SZMAKFEFER	48,01
13	SZENBERG - MILASZEWSKI	52,28	34	BARONI - RICCIARELLI	47,75
14	MARI - WALTER	51,75	35	SERF - FOUASSIER	47,60
15	KIERZNOWSKI - WALA	51,71	36	BETTINETTI - MARINO	47,58
16	LUND - TOBIASEN	51,65	37	MOUIEL - CLARAC	47,48
17	BAKKE - TROLLVIK	51,27	38	BENNETT - SMITH	47,06
18	LUCKO - ZADROGA	50,86	39	JOURDAIN - TEDD	46,98
19	ADAD - SALLIERE	50,81	40	BONIFACIO - VANNUCCI	45,81
20	LUCENO - SCHWARZ	50,76	41	OTVOSI - BILSKI	43,64
21	STRATER - KRATZ	50,38	42	HACKETT - HARPER	41,60

WOMEN PAIRS - SEMI FINAL A (FINAL RANKING)

1	WORTEL - MICHIELSEN	57,21	27	SZCZEPANSKA - MAJ	50,43
2	NEHMERT - GIAMPIETRO	56,90	28	CANONNE - ROBERT	50,14
3	BAKER - McCALLUM	56,88	29	BROGELAND - HELNESS	49,96
4	PAOLUZI - CAMPAGNANO	56,00	30	YANEVA - PANCHEVA	49,75
5	GROMOVA - PONOMAREVA	54,63	31	HODEROVA - JANKOVA	49,49
6	CRONIER - WILLARD	53,67	32	NEVE - ROSSARD	49,24
7	BROCK - SMITH	53,50	33	CLIFFORD - LOGUE	48,99
8	COLONNA - CIVIDIN DE SARIO	52,79	34	MALINOWSKI - VIST	48,87
9	VRIEND - ARNOLDS	52,61	35	REMEM - BREIVIK	48,81
10	DELESTRE - BOURDIN	52,51	36	BALDI - GARRONE	48,69
11	SPANGENBERG - SPANGENBERG	52,47	37	GIANNINI - DIAMANTI	48,53
12	SMEDEREVAC - HANSEN	52,43	38	NAB - DEKKERS	48,13
13	ZUR-CAMPANILE-ALBU - VARENNE	52,37	39	FENESS - HOMME	48,07
14	PENFOLD - SENIOR	52,21	40	ALONSO - BALDASSARE	48,00
15	ATALAY - ZAIM	52,20	41	PECCOUD - SAPORTA-TWORZYDLO	47,85
16	GLADIATOR - WEBER	52,11	42	KAZMUCHA - JAROSZ	47,40
17	PUILLET - CARBONNEAUX	52,04	43	VERPE - ERIKSEN	47,03
18	SJOBERG - RIMSTEDT	51,72	44	BRIKMANE - VEKSA	46,05
19	PASMAN - SIMONS	51,71	45	LANGER - NIKITINE	45,39
20	SAWICKA - HARASIMOWICZ	51,55	46	SOKOLOW - JOEL	45,33
21	PALANCA RELLA - COSIGNANI FALA	51,34	47	TAMBURELLI - DUBOIN	44,68
22	KHONICHEVA - NIKITINA	51,25	48	CESARI - MASINI	44,59
23	BRKLJACIC - MARTINOVIC	51,24	49	DAN - FARKAS	42,69
24	CHUBAROVA - VOROBAYCHIKOVA	51,21	50	GIANARDI - SCALAMOGNA	42,63
25	LESLIE - SHEASBY	51,04	51	FOCARDI - GAMBERUCCI	42,42
26	BABAC - GUMRUKCUOGLU	51,02	52	ROVERA - MAGLIONE	42,05

WOMEN PAIRS - SEMI FINAL B (FINAL RANKING)

1	BESSIS - HUGON	59,27	17	CECCONI - PARELLI	50,25
2	TAGLIAFERI - AGHEMO	57,91	18	PANELLA - FRANCO	50,08
3	GERSTEL - WAELCHLI	55,10	19	BIANCHERI - BRACCO	49,09
4	MEZEI - CSIBY	54,63	20	CAPPABAVA - DUBOIN	48,78
5	TEKELI - AKIN	53,90	21	NORDBJORK - TORSTENSSON	48,16
6	O'FARRELL - MEEHAN	53,69	22	JOYCE - KENNY	48,05
7	RIGNEY - KULCHYCKY	53,49	23	KOCH - PEDERSEN	48,00
8	ARAMI - SCHWARTZ	52,79	24	KOTRONAROU - POLITOU	46,54
9	ROMANOVSKA - SOBOLEWSKA	52,76	25	NEGRI - BOCCALETTI	46,48
10	GAMIO - SALDZIEVA	52,63	26	NIKA - MOLFETTA	45,83
11	SZIMANSKI - KNOLL	52,38	27	VIOLA - DESTEFANIS	45,65
12	CASSAI - GANDINI	51,63	28	LERCARI - TONON	44,99
13	HOLCZER - LEVANON	51,34	29	EDGAR - IMPICCIATORE	43,90
14	HACKETT - DELLA MONTA	50,33	30	BENN - BEN NISSIM	42,45
15	LEON - CASTELLS-CONRADO	50,32	31	AZARAVA - ANKUDINOVA	35,70
16	MOEN - FOSSAN	50,32			