

DAILY BULLETIN



CO-ORDINATOR: JEAN-PAUL MEYER; EDITOR: MARK HORTON
 CO-EDITORS: JOS JACOBS, MIKE MELANDER, JAN SERRAS, PETER VENTURA
 LAY-OUT EDITOR: GEORGE HADZIDAKIS
 PHOTOGRAPHER: RON TACCHI
 PRINTING: HANS SECELLE



Issue No. 5

Monday, 28 June 2010

The Clock is Ticking



Yves Aubry, President elect of the EBL

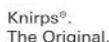
For the second day running there was little change at the top. In Group A of the *Open Series* its still **Iceland** ahead of **Italy** and **France**. In Group B **Sweden** lead **Poland** as **Israel** take over third place. In the *Women's Series* **Netherlands** move further ahead of **Belgium** and **Germany**. In the *Seniors* **Italy** is followed by **Germany** and **France**.

Following yesterday's WBF announcement to create a **Players Commission** the following players have put themselves forward as candidates: Giorgio Duboin, Krystof Martens and Sylvie Willard.

09.30	
Italy - Bulgaria	BBO 1
France - Norway (Seniors)	BBO 2
Estonia - Denmark	BBO 3
Ireland - Russia	BBO 4
Sweden - Israel	VG - BBO 5
13.00	
Poland - Sweden	BBO 1
Switzerland - France	BBO 2
Israel - Austria	BBO 3
France - Belgium (Women)	BBO 4
Germany - Italy	VG - BBO 5
16.15	
Italy - Wales	BBO 1
France - Latvia	BBO 2
Germany - Israel (Seniors)	BBO 3
Austria - Poland	BBO 4
Norway - Bulgaria	VG - BBO 5

Today's Schedule

- 09.30** Open Teams, Round 14
Women Teams, Round 13
Seniors Teams, Round 6
- 13.00** Open Teams, Round 15
Women Teams, Round 14
Seniors Teams, Round 7
- 16.15** Open Teams, Round 16
Women Teams, Round 15
Seniors Teams, Round 8



OPEN TEAMS PROGRAM

GROUP A

ROUND 14 09.30

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	WALES	SERBIA
2	FINLAND	ICELAND
3	LITHUANIA	CROATIA
4	LEBANON	GERMANY
5	ITALY	BULGARIA
6	SCOTLAND	HUNGARY
7	NORWAY	LATVIA
8	SLOVAKIA	SWITZERLAND
9	FRANCE	CYPRUS
10	BYE	TURKEY

ROUND 15 13.00

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	TURKEY	FINLAND
2	ICELAND	CROATIA
3	WALES	LEBANON
4	GERMANY	ITALY
5	BULGARIA	SCOTLAND
6	HUNGARY	NORWAY
7	LATVIA	SLOVAKIA
8	SWITZERLAND	FRANCE
9	CYPRUS	LITHUANIA
10	SERBIA	BYE

ROUND 16 16.15

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	FINLAND	SERBIA
2	CROATIA	TURKEY
3	LITHUANIA	ICELAND
4	ITALY	WALES
5	SCOTLAND	GERMANY
6	NORWAY	BULGARIA
7	SLOVAKIA	HUNGARY
8	FRANCE	LATVIA
9	CYPRUS	SWITZERLAND
10	LEBANON	BYE

GROUP B

ROUND 14 09.30

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
11	MONACO	ROMANIA
12	ESTONIA	DENMARK
13	IRELAND	RUSSIA
14	SAN MARINO	POLAND
15	SWEDEN	ISRAEL
16	AUSTRIA	GREECE
17	NETHERLANDS	BELGIUM
18	LUXEMBOURG	PORTUGAL
19	ENGLAND	UKRAINE
20	BYE	SPAIN

ROUND 15 13.00

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
11	ROMANIA	ESTONIA
12	DENMARK	IRELAND
13	RUSSIA	SPAIN
14	MONACO	SAN MARINO
15	POLAND	SWEDEN
16	ISRAEL	AUSTRIA
17	GREECE	NETHERLANDS
18	BELGIUM	LUXEMBOURG
19	PORTUGAL	ENGLAND
20	UKRAINE	BYE

ROUND 16 16.15

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
11	IRELAND	ROMANIA
12	SPAIN	DENMARK
13	SAN MARINO	ESTONIA
14	SWEDEN	MONACO
15	AUSTRIA	POLAND
16	NETHERLANDS	ISRAEL
17	LUXEMBOURG	GREECE
18	ENGLAND	BELGIUM
19	UKRAINE	PORTUGAL
20	BYE	RUSSIA



Duplimate Discounts

The Duplimate dealing machines used at these championships will be sold at the end of the event with a 20% discount. Go to the mezzanine level close by the Lavazza coffee bar.

Butler Scores

Butler scores will be posted on the championship website, updated per day. To get on the list a pair must have played at least one third of the boards.

Ton Kooijman

OPEN TEAMS RESULTS

GROUP A

ROUND 11 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	SERBIA	HUNGARY	30 - 80	5 - 25
2	TURKEY	BULGARIA	42 - 43	15 - 15
3	ICELAND	GERMANY	78 - 32	24 - 6
4	CROATIA	WALES	53 - 51	15 - 15
5	LATVIA	LEBANON	69 - 52	19 - 11
6	SWITZERLAND	ITALY	53 - 84	9 - 21
7	CYPRUS	SCOTLAND	41 - 64	10 - 20
8	FRANCE	NORWAY	58 - 28	21 - 9
9	SLOVAKIA	LITHUANIA	30 - 75	6 - 24
10	FINLAND	BYE		18 - 0

ROUND 12 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	BULGARIA	SERBIA	69 - 24	24 - 6
2	GERMANY	TURKEY	22 - 21	15 - 15
3	WALES	ICELAND	44 - 34	17 - 13
4	LITHUANIA	FINLAND	59 - 47	17 - 13
5	LEBANON	HUNGARY	36 - 79	6 - 24
6	ITALY	LATVIA	60 - 27	22 - 8
7	SCOTLAND	SWITZERLAND	9 - 65	4 - 25
8	NORWAY	CYPRUS	64 - 30	22 - 8
9	SLOVAKIA	FRANCE	36 - 62	10 - 20
10	CROATIA	BYE		18 - 0

ROUND 13 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	SERBIA	GERMANY	20 - 62	6 - 24
2	TURKEY	WALES	42 - 4	23 - 7
3	CROATIA	FINLAND	69 - 21	25 - 5
4	BULGARIA	LEBANON	61 - 1	25 - 3
5	HUNGARY	ITALY	43 - 17	20 - 10
6	LATVIA	SCOTLAND	46 - 44	15 - 15
7	SWITZERLAND	NORWAY	44 - 32	17 - 13
8	CYPRUS	SLOVAKIA	50 - 12	23 - 7
9	FRANCE	LITHUANIA	103 - 22	25 - 0
10	ICELAND	BYE		18 - 0

GROUP B

ROUND 11 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	ROMANIA	GREECE	67 - 33	22 - 8
2	DENMARK	ISRAEL	31 - 62	9 - 21
3	RUSSIA	POLAND	50 - 51	15 - 15
4	SPAIN	MONACO	54 - 55	15 - 15
5	IRELAND	ESTONIA	27 - 64	7 - 23
6	BELGIUM	SAN MARINO	66 - 21	24 - 6
7	PORTUGAL	SWEDEN	42 - 37	16 - 14
8	UKRAINE	AUSTRIA	56 - 46	17 - 13
9	ENGLAND	NETHERLANDS	15 - 53	7 - 23
10	LUXEMBOURG	BYE		18 - 0

ROUND 12 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	ISRAEL	ROMANIA	49 - 25	20 - 10
2	POLAND	DENMARK	86 - 23	25 - 3
3	MONACO	RUSSIA	18 - 36	11 - 19
4	ESTONIA	SPAIN	59 - 41	19 - 11
5	SAN MARINO	GREECE	37 - 53	12 - 18
6	SWEDEN	BELGIUM	40 - 37	16 - 14
7	AUSTRIA	PORTUGAL	36 - 35	15 - 15
8	NETHERLANDS	UKRAINE	54 - 39	18 - 12
9	LUXEMBOURG	ENGLAND	43 - 40	16 - 14
10	IRELAND	BYE		18 - 0

ROUND 13 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	ROMANIA	POLAND	30 - 46	12 - 18
2	DENMARK	MONACO	31 - 45	12 - 18
3	RUSSIA	ESTONIA	41 - 25	18 - 12
4	SPAIN	IRELAND	16 - 57	7 - 23
5	ISRAEL	SAN MARINO	75 - 29	24 - 6
6	GREECE	SWEDEN	30 - 67	7 - 23
7	BELGIUM	AUSTRIA	26 - 24	15 - 15
8	PORTUGAL	NETHERLANDS	15 - 64	5 - 25
9	UKRAINE	LUXEMBOURG	34 - 46	13 - 17
10	ENGLAND	BYE		18 - 0

THANK YOU , THANK YOU!

From the bottom of my heart I like to thank Gianarrigo Rona for the invitation to be present at the 50th anniversary of the European Bridge League. It was great to see all my friends again. Since I stopped working in the pressroom (with pain in my heart) it was always in my thoughts at the Championships. To see the wonderful presentation by Panos Gerontopoulos about the history of the EBL and to see so many friends you have known, was really moving. Thank you again to have made this possible for me to be here. I wish you all the best in the future. Lots of love to everybody!

Elly Ducheyne

WOMEN TEAMS PROGRAM**ROUND 13 09.30**

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

ROUND 14 13.00

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

ROUND 15 16.15

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

WOMEN TEAMS RESULTS**ROUND 11 - subject to official confirmation**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	GERMANY	BULGARIA	58 - 23	22 - 8
2	ENGLAND	LEBANON	59 - 1	25 - 4
3	SCOTLAND	NETHERLANDS	24 - 58	8 - 22
4	IRELAND	SWITZERLAND	22 - 54	8 - 22
5	AUSTRIA	DENMARK	48 - 37	17 - 13
6	BELGIUM	PORTUGAL	52 - 23	21 - 9
7	TURKEY	ISRAEL	35 - 41	14 - 16
8	GREECE	FINLAND	21 - 46	10 - 20
9	SPAIN	NORWAY	20 - 71	5 - 25
10	CROATIA	HUNGARY	39 - 36	16 - 14
11	SWEDEN	WALES	43 - 42	15 - 15
12	BELARUS	FRANCE	39 - 61	10 - 20
13	CZECH REPUBLIC	POLAND	39 - 44	14 - 16
14	RUSSIA	ITALY	57 - 61	14 - 16

ROUND 12 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	LEBANON	GERMANY	17 - 25	14 - 16
2	NETHERLANDS	BULGARIA	88 - 0	25 - 0
3	SWITZERLAND	ENGLAND	37 - 50	12 - 18
4	DENMARK	SCOTLAND	27 - 49	10 - 20
5	PORTUGAL	IRELAND	47 - 60	12 - 18
6	ISRAEL	AUSTRIA	28 - 45	11 - 19
7	FINLAND	BELGIUM	24 - 53	9 - 21
8	NORWAY	TURKEY	38 - 27	17 - 13
9	HUNGARY	GREECE	34 - 65	9 - 21
10	WALES	SPAIN	12 - 28	12 - 18
11	FRANCE	CROATIA	42 - 25	19 - 11
12	POLAND	SWEDEN	38 - 29	17 - 13
13	ITALY	BELARUS	38 - 18	19 - 11
14	RUSSIA	CZECH REP.	66 - 9	25 - 4

**Calling All Journalists;
Press Trip**

Members of the International Bridge Press Association are invited on a Press Trip on Wednesday, 30th June. Numbers are restricted. You must register in the Press Room on the 3rd Floor of the Kursaal near the VuGraph Theatre.

The coach will leave the Kursaal at 10.30 and return at 15.30. The trip will include lunch and a boat trip. Dress casual.

IBPA is a club of the world's leading bridge journalists. The principal service to members is a monthly Bulletin sent e-mail edited by John Carruthers of Canada containing material for members' columns. Membership also includes use of the Press Room at major championships. There is an Annual Award scheme for members made at the World Championships when the AGM is held.

SENIORS TEAMS PROGRAM**ROUND 6 09.30**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
41	AUSTRIA	SPAIN
42	ISRAEL	IRELAND
43	DENMARK	BELGIUM
44	SWEDEN	ENGLAND
45	FRANCE	NORWAY
46	NETHERLANDS	POLAND
47	ITALY	BULGARIA
48	HUNGARY	SCOTLAND
49	SWITZERLAND	WALES
50	GERMANY	CZECH REPUBLIC
51	ESTONIA	FINLAND
52	TURKEY	BYE

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

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	SPAIN	ESTONIA	17 - 48	8 - 22
2	IRELAND	FINLAND	110 - 13	25 - 0
3	BELGIUM	AUSTRIA	25 - 25	15 - 15
4	ENGLAND	ISRAEL	35 - 24	17 - 13
5	NORWAY	TURKEY	13 - 38	8.5 - 20.5
6	POLAND	DENMARK	54 - 41	18 - 12
7	BULGARIA	SWEDEN	42 - 36	16 - 14
8	SCOTLAND	FRANCE	12 - 44	7 - 23
9	WALES	NETHERLANDS	31 - 51	10 - 20
10	HUNGARY	ITALY	15 - 45	8 - 22
11	GERMANY	SWITZERLAND	51 - 34	19 - 11
12	CZECH REP.	BYE		18 - 0

ROUND 7 13.00

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
41	SPAIN	ISRAEL
42	IRELAND	TURKEY
43	BELGIUM	SWEDEN
44	ENGLAND	FRANCE
45	NORWAY	NETHERLANDS
46	POLAND	ITALY
47	BULGARIA	HUNGARY
48	SCOTLAND	WALES
49	AUSTRIA	GERMANY
50	CZECH REPUBLIC	ESTONIA
51	FINLAND	SWITZERLAND
52	BYE	DENMARK

ROUND 4 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	FINLAND	SPAIN	32 - 38	14 - 16
2	CZECH REP.	IRELAND	16 - 45	8 - 22
3	ISRAEL	BELGIUM	49 - 28	20 - 10
4	TURKEY	ENGLAND	10 - 27	11 - 19
5	DENMARK	NORWAY	56 - 16	24 - 6
6	SWEDEN	POLAND	26 - 64	6 - 24
7	FRANCE	BULGARIA	27 - 10	19 - 11
8	NETHERLANDS	SCOTLAND	29 - 17	18 - 12
9	ITALY	WALES	57 - 18	24 - 6
10	SWITZERLAND	HUNGARY	14 - 76	2 - 24
11	GERMANY	ESTONIA	31 - 31	15 - 15
12	AUSTRIA	BYE		18 - 0

ROUND 8 16.15

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
41	TURKEY	SPAIN
42	DENMARK	IRELAND
43	FRANCE	BELGIUM
44	NETHERLANDS	ENGLAND
45	ITALY	NORWAY
46	HUNGARY	POLAND
47	WALES	BULGARIA
48	SWITZERLAND	SCOTLAND
49	GERMANY	ISRAEL
50	ESTONIA	AUSTRIA
51	FINLAND	CZECH REPUBLIC
52	SWEDEN	BYE

ROUND 5 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	SPAIN	CZECH REP.	20 - 12	17 - 13
2	IRELAND	AUSTRIA	23 - 32	13 - 17
3	BELGIUM	TURKEY	30 - 11	19 - 11
4	ENGLAND	DENMARK	26 - 36	13 - 17
5	NORWAY	SWEDEN	17 - 20	14 - 16
6	POLAND	FRANCE	18 - 26	13 - 17
7	BULGARIA	NETHERLANDS	39 - 11	22 - 8
8	SCOTLAND	ITALY	0 - 53	3 - 25
9	WALES	HUNGARY	10 - 34	9 - 21
10	FINLAND	GERMANY	1 - 29	8 - 22
11	ESTONIA	SWITZERLAND	16 - 34	11 - 19
12	ISRAEL	BYE		18 - 0

OPEN TEAMS RANKING GROUP A

after 13 rounds - *subject to official confirmation*

1	ICELAND	255
2	ITALY	248
3	FRANCE	239
4	BULGARIA	234.5
5	TURKEY	220
6	CROATIA	216
7	GERMANY	213.5
8	SWITZERLAND	207
9	WALES	206
10	NORWAY	205
11	LATVIA	199
12	HUNGARY	194
13	FINLAND	181
14	SERBIA	170
15	SCOTLAND	169
16	SLOVAKIA	168
17	LEBANON	142
18	LITHUANIA	134
19	CYPRUS	103

OPEN TEAMS RANKING GROUP B

after 13 rounds - *subject to official confirmation*

1	SWEDEN	254
2	POLAND	247
3	ISRAEL	234
4	ESTONIA	233
5	NETHERLANDS	227
6	RUSSIA	207
7	ENGLAND	205
8	AUSTRIA	204
9	IRELAND	202
10	BELGIUM	190
11	LUXEMBOURG	185
12	PORTUGAL	184
13	DENMARK	182
14	MONACO	179
15	SPAIN	178
16	GREECE	164
17	ROMANIA	160
18	UKRAINE	151
19	SAN MARINO	141

WOMEN TEAMS RANKING

after 12 rounds - *subject to official confirmation*

1	NETHERLANDS	237	15	PORTUGAL	176
2	BELGIUM	217	16	IRELAND	175
	GERMANY	217	17	BULGARIA	168
4	RUSSIA	215	18	GREECE	167
5	FRANCE	213	19	FINLAND	165
6	ENGLAND	212		SCOTLAND	165
7	POLAND	208	21	HUNGARY	163
8	ITALY	196		SWITZERLAND	163
	SWEDEN	196	23	CROATIA	162
10	ISRAEL	190	24	LEBANON	145
11	NORWAY	188	25	BELARUS	136
12	TURKEY	185		SPAIN	136
13	DENMARK	183	27	CZECH REPUBLIC	131
14	AUSTRIA	178	28	WALES	129

Worth another Look

by Barry Rigal

The match between Russia and Netherlands from round three was covered in some detail in the bulletin but one of the hands is worthy of further discussion.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

<p>♠ A 5 ♥ J 10 9 6 ♦ 10 3 2 ♣ A 8 7 5</p>	<p>♠ K 10 8 7 4 2 ♥ A 8 7 5 ♦ J 6 ♣ 6</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p style="margin: 0;">N W E S</p> </div> <p>♠ 9 3 ♥ K Q 4 2 ♦ A K 8 ♣ K J 4 2</p>	<p>♠ Q J 6 ♥ 3 ♦ Q 9 7 5 4 ♣ Q 10 9 3</p>	
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How would you fancy your chances in 4♠? Simon de Wijs led the heart jack which declarer won with the king in hand to play a trump. Simon rose with the ace and continued with his lowest heart for Bauke Muller to ruff. After some consideration, Bauke did indeed return a club for down one; well done.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khven</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Rudakov</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

In the other room, the Dutch avoided this trap and duly reached 4♥. A diamond went to the jack, queen and ace and a spade was led, the king winning (the first essential element of the defence). The next spade went to the ace and at this point, at the table West cashed the ♣A before continuing a diamond. This gave declarer an easy ride.

Best defence would have been to continue with the diamond ten. South wins, cashes the heart king and queen and crosses to the heart ace to ruff a spade, and again West must be careful. He must discard, or declarer can cross to dummy to run the spades. Declarer ruffs a diamond before leading a winning spade for West to ruff, and in the three-card ending West is down to ace-third of clubs. The final trap is that West must underlead his club ace, letting South score his club king but giving the last two tricks to the defence.

Declarer can prevail if he ignores the trump suit, ruffing a diamond and ruffing a spade. It does not help West to overruff, so he discards a club. Now declarer goes to the ace of hearts and plays a club to the jack and ace. He wins the heart return and cashes the king of clubs and ruffs a club with the master trump still to come. It is the old story, declarer establishes the side suit first. Best defence of all is to lead the jack of hearts at trick one and then switch to a diamond when winning the second round of spades, which makes life too difficult for declarer.

SENIORS TEAMS RANKING

after 5 rounds - subject to official confirmation

1	ITALY	111
2	GERMANY	96
3	FRANCE	94
4	POLAND	91
5	IRELAND	90
6	AUSTRIA	89
7	BELGIUM	86
8	DENMARK	85
	ISRAEL	85
10	HUNGARY	81
11	SWEDEN	77
12	BULGARIA	74.5
13	NETHERLANDS	74
14	ENGLAND	71
	ESTONIA	71
16	TURKEY	69.5
17	SPAIN	68
18	CZECH REPUBLIC	66
19	SWITZERLAND	56
20	FINLAND	51
21	WALES	47
22	NORWAY	46.5
23	SCOTLAND	46



Open Series Round 11 Review

by Jos Jacobs

With three matches involving the top spots of the respective groups going on simultaneously, I decided to try and have a look at all three of them, hoping to find the deals worth reporting about from all these three matches: Iceland v. Germany, Russia v. Poland and England v. Netherlands.

As I expected, interesting things were happening mostly on the same deals in each match, so below you will find the proceedings in more than one match on each of the boards presented.

The fun started on the second board of the morning:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Smirnov</i>	<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Jónsson</i>
		1♦	Pass
2♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

This auction, even if you take 2♦ as inverted, sounds a little too optimistic. With nothing to guide him, Piekarek went two down. Iceland +100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Magnusson</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Haraldsson</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
		1♦	2♦
3♦	3♥	4♥	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Once Elinescu overcalled to show his twosuit, the play in 5♦ was easy enough. Eliminate the majors and play a club from hand, inserting dummy's nine to endplay North. This was Haraldsson's line so Iceland scored another +400 here

to register their first 10 IMPs of the match.

In the England v. Netherlands match, Paulissen found the same endplay though he had nothing from the auction to guide him:

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Justin H.</i>	<i>Paulissen</i>	<i>Jason H.</i>
		1♦	Pass
INT	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Nicely done, Netherlands +400.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Brink</i>
		1♦	Pass
INT	Pass	3♥	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

When the aggressive Sjoert Brink did not overcall as South, the English declarer did not really have any reason to go for the endplay against North. One down thus became his fate for +50 to The Netherlands and 10 IMPs to open their account as well.



Thorlakur Jonsson, Iceland

Finally, in the Russia v. Poland match, we saw mainly the same as in the Iceland-Germany match, except that both declarers were in 5♦:

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
		1♦	2♦
3♦	4♣	4♠	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

South overcalled so the endplay on North was easy for Narkiewicz. Poland +400.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Khiuppenen</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>
		1♦	Pass
INT	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Nothing here to guide Kholomeev, Poland another +50 and 10 IMPs to them too.

A few boards later, it was bingo again in two of our matches:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Smirnov</i>	<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Jónsson</i>
		1♦	1♠
2♥	Dble	4♥	4♠
5♦	Dble	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

For once, Baldursson could not stop doubling. His final double was quite understandable too but when the two red jacks appeared in dummy, that was the end of his hopes. Just made, Germany +850.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Magnusson</i>	<i>Wlawow</i>	<i>Haraldsson</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
		1♦	2♠
Dble	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

The Germans did not even save in 4♠ (mind you: 5♠ would have been a good save too) but sold out to 4♥ instead for an uneventful -650 and a 5-IMP gain.

In the Russia-Poland match, the Russians did find the save and were allowed to play there:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
		1♦	1♠
2♥	3♣	4♥	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Just one down, Poland a meagre +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khiuppenen</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>
		1♦	1♠
2♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

2♦ was a transfer. When North passed it rather than show his suit, the Polish chances of finding the save were gone. The contract of 4♥ made with an overtrick for +650 and 11 IMPs to Russia.

Strange things happened on board 10:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Smirnov</i>	<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Jónsson</i>
		1♦	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
3♦	4♥	All Pass	

Not at this table in the Iceland-Germany match, however. Iceland a quiet +650.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Magnusson</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Haraldsson</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
		1♦	2♣
4♦	4♥	5♦	Pass
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

In the other room, the Iceland E/W did indeed find the save and when Wladow took the push, he found himself faced with a nasty control problem. How would you play on the lead of the ♠K?

Double-dummy, the solution is easy: duck and hope. In doing so, you might even end up with an overtrick.

When Wladow won dummy's ace, he was in trouble. He pulled the trumps and took a club finesse of the queen before conceding a spade to East who (gratefully?) cashed two top diamonds. Iceland another +100 and 13 IMPs.

In the Russia-Poland match, Gromov had to cope with the same problem:

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
		1♦	1♠
4♦	4♥	5♦	5♥
All Pass			



Vadim Kholomeev, Russia

Gromov received the much more friendly lead of a top diamond. Playing in 5♥, you can ruff, draw trumps and hope for the best in the black suits. As it happens, you will lose one spade and one diamond. To me, it looked as if Gromov had a blind spot here as his next move was a low club to his eight and East's jack. When East returned the suit, Gromov was quickly one down. Poland +100.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Khiuppenen</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>
		INT	2♠
2NT	4♥	All Pass	

Once Kholomeev opened INT, the Russian chances of finding their save were practically gone. They thus had to sell out to 4♥ which proved an easy make. Twelve tricks by ruffing the diamond lead and drawing trumps, as I suggested above. Poland +680 and 13 IMPs.

The board to be presented next should be a strong candidate for the title: "The Terror Of Ostend."

This board caused havoc all over the place, the scores ranging from +2,200 to -1,700 for NS.

Our three featured matches were no exceptions:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Smirnov</i>	<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Jónsson</i>
			1♣
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♦	Dble	All Pass	

After the Strong Club, West had an easy overcall but maybe a slightly doubtful slam raise.

On friendly defence (no trump lead but rather the ♠A), Smirnov managed to collect eight tricks for a mere +800 to Iceland.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Magnusson</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Haraldsson</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
5♥	Pass	6♦	1♣ Dble
All Pass			

In the Closed Room, Iceland also declared 6♦ as East after using their special convention but here, Elinescu correctly led a trump. North could now lead a major through dummy every time he got the lead so the contract eventually had to go down six. Germany +1400 for a 12-IMP gain, reducing the Iceland lead to 44-26 now.

In the England v. Netherlands match, Jansma and Paulissen avoided being hurt badly:

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Justin H.</i>	<i>Paulissen</i>	<i>Jason H.</i>
2NT 4♣	Pass Dble	Pass All Pass	1♠ 3♥

Paulissen made the sensible move of passing 2NT. The message was well received by Jansma who now knew that bidding 4♣ at his next turn would be more than enough. Not that he escaped the axe but down two looked like a good result for the Netherlands.

And so it proved, as this is what happened at the other table:

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Brink</i>
2NT 4♣	Pass Dble	3♥ 4♥	Pass Dble
All Pass			

Once Gold decided to introduce his suit, he was doomed. He might (or even should) have passed 4♣ which would have made the board a push but when he went on to 4♥, his side had lost another bushel of IMPs. Down five for -1100 and 13 IMPs more to the Dutchies. They led 48-6 now.

In the Russia-Poland match, we also saw a big swing, of course:

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
5♣	Pass	Pass	1♣ Dble
All pass			

Buras made the very practical bid of what he thought he could make. Not a bad idea at all, holding a solid enough trump suit. Any diamond values in dummy will also help you with clubs as trumps.

On this particular day, his sound enough approach cost only 500...

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Khiuppenen</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>
4NT 6♦	Dble Dble	5♦ All Pass	1♠ 5♥

...which was still much less than what Khiuppenen had to suffer after raising partner's diamond preference to slam. Down five on a trump lead, Poland +1100 and 12 IMPs to them to lead 44-18.

On the last two boards, we saw drama all over the place again:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

N	E
W	S

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
Pass 4♣ Pass	Pass 5♣ Dble	2♠ 5♠ All Pass	2♣ 3♥ Pass

Well, Gromov might as well have doubled 4♠ for a quite satisfactory score but when East went on, probably expecting to make his contract or possibly go down just one, he suddenly got 300 points more: 800 to Russia.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Khiuppenen</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>
All Pass			2♣

Now look at the contrast with the happenings (?) in the Closed Room. 2♣ just made, Poland +90 but 12 Imps to Russia to trail by 14 now.

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Smirnov</i>	<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Jónsson</i>
			2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♠	4♣
Dble	All Pass		

Apparently, Smirnov got distracted for a moment while defending this hand as E/W managed to make only one defensive trump trick. This enabled Jónsson to make his contract for an unexpected +510 to Iceland.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Magnusson</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Haraldsson</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
			2♣
Pass	Pass	2♠	Dble
Redble	3♣	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

As the E/W hands do not fit very well, this contract went two down. As the Germans had not doubled this, their +200 was not enough to compensate for the disaster in the Open Room. Iceland thus got 7 more IMPs to lead 60-32.



Alexander Smirnov, Germany

Many IMPs changed hands on the last board as well:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ A 10 7 5 3											
♥ —											
♦ 8											
♣ Q J 9 8 7 3 2											
♠ K J 8	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ —
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ A J		♥ Q 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3									
♦ A Q 10 3 2		♦ K 9									
♣ A 5 4		♣ K 10									
		♠ Q 9 6 4 2									
		♥ K 2									
		♦ J 7 6 5 4									
		♣ 6									

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
2NT	3♣	5♥	All Pass

Maybe the quietest auction of them all. Twelve tricks, Poland +680.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Khiuppenen</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>
2NT	4♣	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, Khiuppenen did what Buras should have done too, in my opinion. He simply raised 5♥ to slam, only to see his partner making the contract with ease. Russia +1430 for a 13-IMP gain to draw the math at 51-50 to Poland but 15-15 in V.P.

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Smirnov</i>	<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Jonsson</i>
1♣	1♠	4♥	4♠
Dble	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Once East removed the double, the question for West was how strong East would be. Had he taken East as for example ♥KQxxxxx and a king, raising to slam looks an interesting proposition, in view of East's obvious spade shortness. Anyway: one overtrick, Germany +680.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Magnusson</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Haraldsson</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
1NT	4♣	4♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	6♠	7♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

In a sense, the doctors did well to save as high up as 6♣ but when Haraldsson's next move then turned out to be a grand, they gave up on saving. A few moments later, they found out they had lost 2470 in doing so...

The final swing to Iceland thus was 18 IMPs and would still have been 14 IMPs had Smirnov bid the small slam in the other room. Iceland had scored a big win: 78-32 would convert to 24-6 V.P.

Finally, in the England v. Netherlands match, we saw an unusual swing:

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Justin H.</i>	<i>Paulissen</i>	<i>Jason H.</i>
1♣	1♠	4♣	4♠
5♥	5♠	6♥	All Pass

4♣ showed hearts, so once Jansma could bid 5♥ over 4♣, going to slam was automatic. When the twins did not save any further, the Netherlands had scored +1430.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Brink</i>
1♦	3♦	3♥	4♠
Dble	Pass	5♥	Dble
All Pass			

Though one wonders if it was meant that way, one cannot help feeling that Sjoert Brink put the (in)famous stripe-tail ace double into operation on this final board of the match. Declarer now easily made two overtricks by taking the trump finesse but even the unusual score of +1250 was not enough to prevent a further loss of 5 IMPs for England. The final score in that match: 53-15 or 23-7 V.P. to The Netherlands.



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OPEN TEAMS

Round 7

The Dragon and The Eagle Wales v Germany

by Chris Dixon

There were rather more slam hands for Germany and Wales during their round 7 encounter than were dealt at other tables. Or so it seemed. I was watching Andreas Kirmse and Michael Gromoeller for Germany (the eagles) take on Peter Goodman and Adrian Thomas (the dragons). The first 4 hands were quiet enough but the excitement started on board 5:

On the next board, in the closed room the auction was short and simple. The Eastern dragon opened a natural 2♣ and the eagle's overcall of 5♦ was doubled and defeated by 2 tricks. In the open room this was the bidding:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

East	South	West	North
<i>Gromueller</i>	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>	<i>Goodman</i>
1♣	3♣	Dble	3♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	5♥
5♠	6♦	Dble	All Pass

- 3♣: Asking partner to call 3NT with a club guard
- 3♠: Who wants an 8 card suit as trumps?
- 4♠: Who wants a 12 card fit as trumps?

Kirmse felt himself on safe ground with his opening lead – The ♥A – knowing partner to be short. The ♣2 was discarded and a 2nd heart seemed automatic. But this eagle dithered. He fingered the ♣K (my heart stopped) and eventually decided on the spade 3 (3rd and 5th leads). East took the queen and the ten dropped. Seeing the ♠2 in dummy Gromueller could read the lead as from 3 or 5 and 5 seemed more likely so he tried a club and that was it. A 100 penalty in compensation for the cold 6♣. Of course, the eagles were almost on their way to 6♠ and we'll never know if the dragon would have found the low diamond

North	East	South	West
<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Gromueller</i>	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>
1♦	Dble	3♦	4♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

On a good day, West's holdings in the black suits might have been the other way around and 12 tricks would have been possibly available. Today was not a good day for the eagle and this contract failed by 2 tricks – 11 IMPs to the dragons.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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



Peter Goodman, Wales

lead.

Board 8 at most tables was a simple part score deal but not for our eagles. This was the bidding:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West <i>Kirmse</i>	North <i>Goodman</i>	East <i>Gromueller</i>	South <i>Thomas</i>
INT	Pass	2♠	Dble
Pass	3♠	4♦	Pass
4♠	Dble	5♦	Pass
6♦	Dble	All Pass	

INT: 11-13

2♠: Invitational, or single suited with a minor

4♠: In case partner is interested in a slam

5♦: No, I am not

6♦: Maybe you are wrong, partner

Dble: No, he was right



Andreas Kirmse, Germany

This was only a 5 IMP loss since a contract of 5♦ was reached and defeated in the closed room.

We'll switch to the closed room for the next deal to give you a little lead problem. You (East) hold:

♠ 10 9 8 2
 ♥ 7 5 4 2
 ♦ 10 8 5 4
 ♣ 7

North opens in 2nd seat with 2♦ and the bidding goes like this:

North	South
2♦	2♠
2NT	3♦
3♥	4♣
4NT	6♥
7♥	

- 2♦ Various
- 2♠ Relay, 9+ HCP
- 2NT Bal, 20-22
- 3♦ Transfer
- 4♣ RKC for hearts
- 4NT 2 keycards + Q
- 6♥ That's enough
- 7♥ No it isn't

Just 7VPs hinge on your decision. I suppose that on this undisciplined auction there is a good chance that a vital keycard is missing so you probably should select between a spade and a diamond. This was the full deal:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Diamond:-15 IMPs

Spade: + 15 IMPs

What an easy game this is!

In the open room, after a weak 2♠ opening, the eagles saved against 6♥ in 6♠ losing 1100.

There was more excitement to come.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

In the closed room, the dragons opened a strong NT and after a routine Stayman sequence played 4♥ making five. This was the bidding in the open room:

West <i>Kirmse</i>	North <i>Goodman</i>	East <i>Gromoeller</i>	South <i>Thomas</i>
1♥	1♠	3♠	4♦
4♥	4♠	5♥	Pass
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

- 1♥: Playing 11-13 NT and 4 card majors
- 3♠: Splinter
- 4♦: Fit non-jump
- 4♥: I don't like the look of things
- 4♠: I do!
- 5♥: So do I!
- Pass (West): I still don't like the look of things
- 5♠: I'll give you another chance
- Pass (East): I'll see if partner wants another chance
- 6♥: Yes, I do

Goodman cleverly avoided the singleton club lead preferring to cash a high spade before switching to a low diamond. Two rounds of trumps revealed the 3-2 break and the eagle was now in dummy. The moment of truth. The dragons had bid up to the five level vulnerable against not with meagre values – surely North must have good shape – should the ♣J be played and run next? I think so but it is so much easier seeing all the cards. Kirmse drew trumps and played clubs from the top for 2 down.

There was one more swansong – for the eagles to seal their victory over the dragons.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

In the open room, Gromoeller opened 1♦(natural) and the bidding went rapidly:

East <i>Gromoeller</i>	South <i>Thomas</i>	West <i>Kirmse</i>	North <i>Goodman</i>
1♦	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	5♥	All Pass

No more pushy slams, said Gromoeller to himself even though he must have been quite tempted. Anyway, after a spade lead Kirmse did not double finesse in diamonds so just made a safe 11 tricks for +450 to the eagles.

In the closed room, the bidding was even shorter. The opening bid was 1♣(strong) by the dragon and after the eagle's 4♠ overcall everyone passed. Yes – really. That was another 420 to the eagles and a double game swing of 14 IMP producing a final score in favour of the eagles of 19-11 VPs.

Carry Over

The carry over going into the final RR is the full result in VP's (IMPs) won against the other teams qualifying. Penalties received during the matches are considered to be part of the VP result and are also carried forward.

Penalties received in matches with opponents not playing in the final RR will be cancelled.

Ton Kooijman

Gronaldo strikes again

by Jean-Francois Jourdain

One of the rookies in the Belgian team (there are not less than 4 of them playing here in Ostend), surely the heaviest one, is Mike Vandervorst. He is best known in Brussels, his native town, as a very talented card player. He described once himself as the Ronaldo of bridge, which got him the nickname Gronaldo because of his heavy weight. He displayed some technical skills during the first victory of Belgium, on round 6 against Ireland. This is what happened:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
O'Brien	Dewasme	Pigot	Vandervorst
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Mike alerted his bid of 1♠, telling he could have longer diamonds (Walsh). For some reason the Irish West did not really understand the explanation and thought he held a longer suit in his hand anyway.

O'Brien started with ♣K which was quickly ducked around. Now he decided to shift to a small diamond, maybe hoping to find a ruff by his partner! This was the slight help Mike needed to ensure his contract. He let it run to his jack and played the ace of spades, getting the bad news. But no matter for him, he unblocked the ace of clubs, played a diamond to the queen, then ace of diamonds to pitch his remaining club, ruffed the last club in hand and exited in spades. East could cash his both trump winners but was endplayed after that, either running in the heart fork or conceding a ruff and discard.

Un bel exemple de fair-play

Dans le match Belgique-Monaco, remporté par les Monegasques sur le score de 19-11, a permis a ces derniers de faire preuve d'un beau fair-play, une qualité qui devient rare de nos jours.

En salle fermée, le déclarant Monegasque avait tablé pour une chute à 5 Carreaux, mais les deux joueurs de l'autre côté de l'écran étaient persuadés, a tort, qu'il avait tablé pour juste fait. C'est ainsi que le score de 600 fut dument entré dans le Bridgemate. L'erreur ne fut découverte que

pendant le debriefing du côté Belge. A ce stade, la paire Monegasque avait quitté le Casino pour aller se reposer pendant le deuxième match du jour. Il fallut donc attendre le 3e match pour que l'arbitre aille trouver le déclarant et lui demande combien de plis il avait effectivement réalisé. Il aurait été facile à ce dernier d'affirmer qu'il avait bel et bien gagné, et personne n'aurait jamais pu prouver le contraire. Mais il admit bien volontiers qu'il avait chuté et c'est ainsi que les Belges récupérèrent deux VP dont ils ont le plus grand besoin. Merci encore!

Championship Diary

In the US Open Trials, Nickell lost to Fleisher in the semi final, 231-244, while Diamond defeated Weinstein 305-216. So, Diamond or Fleisher will become USA 1 for the 2011 Bermuda Bowl.

What's plastic, a metre long, brightly coloured and sounds like an elephant? It's the vuvuzela, the noise-making trumpet of South African football fans, and it's come to symbolise the sport in the country. We spotted a bridge player with one here in Ostend the other night and this led to an interesting discussion as to which would be more distracting to players involved in BBO matches: the constant blowing of the horns during play, or the live commentary from the one day cricket matches between England and Australia?

In the major sporting contest of yesterday England secured a series victory by winning the third one day cricket international thereby beating Australia 3-0. (It's not a football score – England would never score that many.)

Just in case you missed it here is the moment the referee earned his fee in the game between England and Germany:



We apologise in advance for the following:

Chatting during a dull moment on VuGraph Barry Rigal asked PO Sundelin if Greenland took part in the Nordic Championships. 'No', replied PO, 'but if they did they would win easily.' 'Why?' 'Because all their contracts would be ice cold.'

A Day in the Life

by Mark Horton



Every European Championship represents a tough test for the players who give their all in the pursuit not only of a medal but also one of the coveted places in the following years World Championships. However, it also represents a challenge for every member of staff as they wrestle with the various problems that confront them as the Championships unwind.

I am not in a position to tell you how the other departments function, but I can tell you that every one of them will encounter problems along the way and it is a testament to their skill and experience that they always manage to find a solution.

The Bulletin runs on tried and tested lines but there is always room for improvement and complacency is our greatest enemy.

Join me now for a typical day in the life of the Bulletin.

I get up early and am usually in the office no later than 08.30. (Unless, as happened in Malmö, where our hotel was so far away from the venue that it seemed to be located in another country.)

First thing is to make a coffee (god bless Madam Lavazza!) and then check the email for feedback on the Bulletins (Richard Fleet take a bow) article submissions etc. I usually have more than one article on the go so the next thing is to tidy up any loose ends. That might mean finding a pair to get an explanation of some obscure (at least to my eyes) bidding sequence.

The first time I do that today the player concerned not only provides me with the relevant information but also gives me a good deal from an earlier round. In former times we used to get many contributions from players and journalists, but they seem to be thin on the ground nowadays.

By 10.30 (game time) the rest of the staff have arrived (with the exception of our layout editor, who is nursing a bad leg). We rapidly agree who will cover what and fire up BBO. The advent of this software has changed the nature of bridge reporting. Before it you had to sit at the table trying hard not to miss a card (not easy when screens are in operation) and find a colleague to do the same at the other table. I do worry that the smaller countries get virtually no exposure in the Bulletin, but our resources do not run to covering matches at the table. By the same token, if Manchester United is playing Liverpool then reporting on Oxford Utd v Bury instead might raise a few eyebrows.

I only have time to keep an eye on the match I have se-

lected (I generally go for the women or seniors to ensure they get some coverage). If time permits I'll write it up later in the day.

So far Germany have been involved in every one of the women's matches to appear on BBO and although they are always worth watching it does not lead to balanced reporting.

By its very nature bridge is a game of mistakes so it is inevitable that every match report will occasionally show the players in a less than favourable light. Most players understand this and realise that the public is just as interested in blunders as brilliancies. They realize that everyone here plays to a much higher level than they can ever hope to attain and they enjoy the odd slip on a banana skin. (I recall one event where at breakfast each morning Patrick Jourdain asked Alain Levy for a good hand – 'I don't have one.' After a week Patrick asked 'Well, do you have any bad ones?' 'Ah, said Alain now I can show you hundreds!') I am ever mindful of Bob Hamman's famous remark – 'The best play badly and the rest are awful.'

Barry Rigal delivers a subtle article – I wonder how many people will work out what is going on?

There is always a steady procession of officials and visitors, some with questions, some with complaints, others with notices that must appear in the Bulletin. (It never ceases to amaze me that these are frequently delivered at the eleventh hour in non electronic form, much to the delight of the Editor, who must type them up, and the Layout Editor who, having carefully set all the pages must now start afresh trying to find spaces for them.) Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

After almost 20 years of Editing Bulletins to come up with an original byline is ever more challenging – Tacchi is frequently inspirational – his 'Neck and Neck at the Mec' is an all time classic. My favourite is one we used in Warsaw when there was a rest day, so next morning the headline was 'Suddenly nothing Happened'.

Our printer Hans Secelle is working miracles to keep the supply of bulletins flowing, overcoming the inevitable breakdown of the machines, the lack of toner cartridges and the necessity of traveling around Ostend at dead of night to deliver to numerous hotels.

Having started working at 08.15 we finally get to eat at 21.00 before retiring for the night.

When we get back to the office morning we enter our own version of 'Groundhog Day' – and we won't escape until Saturday evening. Meanwhile if you happen to mention 'There's a mistake in the Bulletin' you will be greeted with the response 'Oh, really.'

European Bridge League General Assembly

Gianarrigo Rona, President, European Bridge League opened the assembly with the following address:

Mr President of the WBF & President Emeritus of the EBL,
 José Damiani;
 President Emeritus of the WBF & Honour Member of the EBL,
 Jaime Ortiz-Patiño;
 Honour President of the EBL, Bill Pencharz;
 Dear Colleagues of the Executive of the WBF & EBL;
 Delegates;
 Dear friends;
 Good morning, welcome and thank you all for being present at this European Bridge League General Assembly.

All our meetings are deeply important in content and values. The General Assembly, which closes a legislature and with the election of new members, opens the following one, is, without any doubt, thoroughly meaningful.

On this occasion, as a matter of fact, we take stock of the situation, through a critical analysis, based on the starting legislature's drawn up programme. We point out the gained results, the achieved goals and the work which has been carried out.

Moreover we define our ambitions for the next four-year period and we appoint those who, leading the league, will be in charge of putting them into a concrete form.

As you all know, after 11 long years, I'm here today as a President for the last time, an honour you kindly gave me three times.

Today, I'm here to bring to your attention the conclusions of the Executive Committee that I had the pleasure to lead. I'm here to show you all the final results of our work, which are strictly connected and descendant from the initial programme and with, when needed throughout the mandate, the appropriate corrections.

A realistic schedule has always been the guideline for our work, I mean a pragmatic plan and with a long-lasting view and never unrealistic; nevertheless this schedule is always strictly slave to the resources which have been assigned to it. Results are indeed always strictly connected to the full knowledge of the topic, but also to the forecasting, to the scheduling, to the application and to the method used. All these elements are a guarantee for not only the achievement but especially for a long lasting success; they are never connected to improvisation and causality, that even if may lead, by fortune or by chance, to an occasional achievement this would be illusory and in any case would not last very long.

Before speaking about our work, it seems to me right and proper to aim an affectionate and grateful thought to all those friends, that with love, enthusiasm and dedication worked with us to help Bridge and that are not with us anymore. Many, in any part of the world left us and all of them were amazingly important for our world. I'm sure that their memory and their teachings will remain in the minds of the people who met and appreciated them; they will always represent a inspiration and a boost for us. For those who were on the

stage for their role and charge but also for those who have worked behind the scenes but with the same importance I would like to thank, Nissan Rand, John Armstrong, Rina Jabes, Hervé Mouiel. To them all and to all those Friends that are not with us anymore we say:

" thank You for all that You have made for us. You'll always be in our hearts but most of all thank You for everything you were able to teach us and that will always be a part of our knowledge."

And now let's talk about work and let me draw a picture of those eleven years.

Since 1999 the League has invested all its intellectual and material resources to get a structure, to find its own dimension, its own balance and a strong base for the foundations of its achievement and development.

Even if we were aware of the possible consequences, we really wanted this transformation that leads us to a modification of our Statute and of our institutions. And since the beginning, it has been a successful transformation thanks to the enthusiasm at all levels from the bottom to the top.

This enthusiasm allowed us in to grow stronger a very short time, to have a qualified organization, to reach a high standard for our playing methodology, to give a worthy dimension to our League. But this is also due to the event that represents one of the most fundamental moments of Bridge's history: the recognizing of Bridge as a sport from the IOC.

After several years of vain attempts thanks to the organization and to the related image, we achieved this goal which has a vital importance not only for the development but also for the survival of our discipline.

I want to aim a grateful thought to our beloved Marc Holder who was the fifth column of the task force, created and led with mastery by José Damiani, towards whom we'll always be grateful for the goal achieved with a huge success.

On my side, what can I say if not that I'm proud of having added a little stone to this big mosaic, being the first federation to be recognized by the Italian Olympic committee in 1993, of which I've the honour to be member since more than 10 years.

The deep meaning of this event transcended its aesthetic aspect and also the material side of the advantages that have been gained, and converged all into dignity and into the role achieved.

The dimension gained leads us to a recognized space, our space, both in the sport world (which is probably the most important) but also in the social world: today, in many European countries Bridge is taught in schools and not only as a sport or a game, but, following what the school teachers say, also as an extraordinary topic, very useful for cultural knowledge of kids in what is considerate the most sensitive period of their life.

As a matter of facts, today Bridge in no longer seen as a gam-

bling sport or as a posh Taboo; finally bridge is seen as a hobby, as a sport, as culture. The achievement of the goal we gave us. Since 1999 all the resources, apart from the ones used for the institutional activity, were used to achieve and organize the necessary devices to start, improve and bring to a conclusion all the initiatives and the projects that may justify this new role. But also to develop and enlarge our activity both in a quantity and quality way to consolidate step by step the achieved positions inside and outside the league, in management, administration, sport and technical sector.

And we can't underestimate that this steps have been made in a very critical socio-economic period. Since 9-11-2001 we have witnessed an escalation of dramatic moments that have affected the cultural, the social and economic balances all over the world. The dramatic effects of these events still affect us and produce a sense of insecurity that leads to the need for ongoing sacrifices. All this reflects its bad light on our world and our activities.

Vast and ambitious projects, planned on short and long term, according to the involvement and the available resources which are unfortunately always scarce. Those resources are mainly coming from inside the league, the big sponsors of the past disappeared indeed, but also new small and big sponsors are becoming fewer. This is the problem that affects sport in general.

Those projects needed and Will need sacrifice, support and encouragement from all the members; they will have to be enthusiastic and proud of their membership and aware of the importance of being a fundamental part of them.

Having in mind these considerations, we can now examine the results of the last two years.

Membership & Registered Members

Nowadays EBL counts 48 affiliated members; following the affiliation of Montenegro and with the ongoing suspension of Armenia, which hasn't fulfilled its obligations in accordance with the Statutes, The number of members registered in the different Federations on the 31st December 2009 is 381.479 with a decrease of about 2000 units compared to 2008 data.

Seminars and courses

I know that it could be boring to repeat the same consider-

ations several times, but sometimes it is useful to do it. And it's also helpful to underline, once again, the importance of having periodic contacts and close relationships with our members, and of organizing meetings, congresses, seminars and courses.

Following the policy introduced in 2000 for the last two years, we organised the EBL Officers Seminar in 2009 and the TDs Seminar & Course in 2010. In January 2009 in Rome at the Giulio Onesti's Olympic Centre, the Seminar was attended by 90 officers, representing 32 affiliated NBOs. Many of you had the possibility to take part to that successful event; and I cannot forget to mention the "Lectio Magistralis" of Ivana Vaccari, one of the most important Italian sport Journalists from "Bridge and Television".

In January 2010 more than 100 TDS attended the TDS Seminar & Course: a unique success.

Championships

In June 2008 the 49th European Teams Championships were held in Pau and they were a great success both in organisation



and in participation, as I have already reported two years ago while the works were still in progress, but today I can assert that the event has been a financial achievement too, as you could see in the 2008 balance-sheet. After Pau, we can proudly see that all our events regis-

tered big success, thanks to the excellent job of the hosting Federations and the Organising Committees and thanks to the enthusiasm, ability, proficiency and commitment of our really extraordinary staff, which every time not only meets but exceeds our best expectations. Concerning the participation, the affiliated Federations and you, that are their Officers, are of course the most significant part of this success and deserve all our thanks and congratulations. In July 2008 the Youth Pairs Championship, played for the first time in all the three categories by pairs officially representing their countries has been held in Wroclaw, Poland, attended by 168 pairs. In November at the White House in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, took place the 7th edition of the Champions Cup. In June 2009 the 4th Open Bridge Championship has been held in Sanremo, Italy, attended by 783 pairs and 270 teams playing in the various series and categories. I would like to remark the great meaning for the League of this kind of events; always appreciated by the players, they are very important for the development of bridge and for its image, but also for economic details. In July the Youth Teams Championship has been held in

Brasov, Romania, attended by 51 teams, representing 24 countries. With 14 teams participating in the Girls Championship, we achieved a record. This event has started only in 2004 in Prague with 9 teams and it is now at its 4th edition, so we have to be satisfied to see the achievement of our purposes about this initiative. But at the same time, if we consider just the numbers, we have to remark that the youth bridge hasn't registered a big increase, and that's why it needs to be improved because it is the sole guarantee of the future of bridge, but we will later examine this topic point. In September in Vilnius, Lithuania has been held, with the attendance of 11 countries, the 2nd edition of the Small States Trophy. This event has been launched, as you know, in 2007 thanks to the enthusiasm of Jean-Charles Allavena and as I have already said two years ago (but *repetita juvant*) it opened a new very important way not only in bridge competition, but also in bridge development, because it gave a tremendous support in the promotion of the discipline, helping small Federations to increase their numbers and to grow. In November, in Paris, the 8th Champions Cup has been wonderfully organised and hosted by the French Federation at "La maison du Bridge", with the unforgettable closing ceremony at the Invalides. Today we are here in Ostend for the 50th European Bridge Teams Championship and till now we can happily remark the record achieved in participation:

40 countries, represented by 89 teams, 38 in Open (record shared with Salsomaggiore 2002 and Pau 2008), 28 in Women and 23 in Senior (both absolute record). And we cannot under-evaluate that just before the start of the competition unfortunately two teams in the Open and 1 both in Women and Senior had to withdraw. From a first analysis of the participation, with the record attendance in all three categories, it looks it will be a big success which could exceed our expectations. I want to particularly thank the City of Ostend and its Deputy Mayor Hilde Veulemans, the Royal Belgian Bridge Federation, led by my dear friend and colleague Marc De Pauw, as well as the Organizing Committee, led by Bart Magerman, who worked in a wonderful way, investing not only financial resources but also enthusiasm, proficiency and dedication. And I am particularly proud that this result coincides with the Championship Jubilee, offering us the opportunity to celebrate our history in the best possible way.

We will close the year 2010 with the Youth Pairs Championship in Opatija, Croatia, next July, from 14th to 17th, and with the Champions Cup in Izmir, Turkey, from 11th to 14th November. Thanks to the Croatian and Turkish Federation who have worked and are working in an excellent way, I am sure that we will achieve a remarkable success in both the events. As to future events, I am very pleased to affirm that by the end of the legislature we have been able to plan and arrange the calendar for the next two years. In 2011 we will have the 5th Open Championship in Poznan, Poland, from 17th to 30th June and the Youth Teams Championship in Albena, Bulgaria from 13th to 23rd July. In 2012 we will have the 51st Teams Championship in Porto Carras, Thessaloniki, Greece in the second half of June. Later this morning the Organisers will illustrate you the last two events, while the Poznan Championship will be officially presented during the Press Conference on Friday 2nd July.

Financial

You have already seen, through the documents in your

hands, the results of the last two years and later our treasurer will show you all the details of the financial situation of the League. I just would like to say that our purpose, approved by the General Assembly at the beginning of this legislature, was to achieve a patrimony of 500.000 Euros, to be increased up to 750.000 in the next legislature, estimating that the fortune of the League has to be equal at three times what needed to cover the annual amount of the fixed expenses. The League is not, in fact, a Company which has to obtain profit, but it has the duty to have a stock to face some potential negative occasions, as unfortunately happened also in a recent past, so that it can fulfil its institutional obligations in any case, without suffering. Today we are close to 700.000 Euros. This is a remarkable success, obtained thanks to a severe policy of control of the expenditures, as well as not sacrificing the pursuing of our programs, whose all of us have to be proud.

Future

Looking at the future, different problems have to be considered, and the new Executive Committee must analyze them in detail in order to have a complete realistic vision. First of all, the problem of the huge economic crisis which is affecting Europe and, secondly, the changes in our society and lifestyles, directly influencing and interfering with our organization and the whole bridge playing world. These are not philosophical speculations, but just real observations about the situation we are facing. The economic crisis directly affects our activity because bridge is not a primary activity, the satisfaction of the essential needs for living, but it's a secondary activity that improves quality of life, satisfies leisure tendencies, so it is immediately put in that area where budget and expenses are cut and reduced in times of financial difficulties. We are all witnessing life style changes and we can directly live them. They firstly depend on the extraordinary technology evolution of the last fifty years, secondly on the enormous changes caused by 11th September 2001 and finally these changes are also due to the catastrophic natural disasters caused by tsunamis, earthquakes and hurricanes around the world. All these events have deeply transformed and upset our way of being, living, thinking, behaving, travelling, competing, growing interests, building and maintaining personal and social relationships. How can we cope with this? Only if we constantly offer our members a better quality of goods and services and overall if we are strongly persuaded of the educational and social values of sport in general and bridge in particular. We can do so only if we all consider bridge not as the 'mean' to satisfy our goals or our egoism, but as the 'aim', the objective which can be and must be reached, thanks to our will and our confidence in it. When the motto 'Bridge for Peace' was created, it was not just a label, giving a charming influence on mass imagination and bringing some increase of numbers and income. On the contrary it was created to represent the inner values of our discipline, trying to fight against discrimination barriers between peoples and to build a real bridge of friendship, brotherhood and solidarity, build on a common and universal language. We are living in a very difficult period, but we have to go on working and being optimistic towards the future of the League. We have been able to create in these ten years a great team managing the League, thanks to your support, suggestions, stimulations. A team where friendship, solidarity and common intents are

the primary elements. A team where the guide- principle has always been and is "to serve". A team which will maintain its basis in the next legislature, reinforced by new energies which will bring new strength, new enthusiasm, new ideas. I am proud to leave to them a great League.

In conclusion, I want to express my gratitude to two great personalities, which we have the privilege to have here with us today, Jaime Ortiz-Patino and José Damiani. I consider both of them as my teachers and my mentors and I hope to be considered a good pupil by them also. If I have been able to do anything of profitable for bridge it is due to what I learn by them.

I want to express my gratitude to my predecessor Bill Pencharz who convinced and stimulated me to present my candidature to the presidency of the League: I will never forget that day of July 1998, in Wien, in occasion of the youth Championship, when he informed me about his decision to leave the chair and to propose me as his successor, leaving me, arrived in the board just three years before, completely astonished

I want to express my gratitude to all the colleagues of the board who accompanied me in this unforgettable adventure, who helped me to grow and enriched my knowledge, my experience, my life, who reinforced in myself the sense of friendship, solidarity, community, loyalty. All great friends to me. Yves Aubry, my first vice president and first counsellor to whom I am very happy to leave the chair, putting in your hands an harmonious orchestra, being confident that he will conduct it at the best; Radek Kielbasinski, with whom I walked since 1995, since my first steps in the League, being elected together in Vilamoura, always ready to give his support with generosity to me and to the League; Marc De Pauw, my more strict co-operator and confident, a great friend with whom I shared gladness and pain in total agreement; Panos Gerontopoulos, the first whom I meet in my first contact with the international bridge, since 1982, always close and loyal to me in any circumstance; Jean-Claude Beineix, a brother, who introduced me to the most incredible secrets of the bridge organisation and who always prevented or remedied my mistakes; Jens Auken, the magister, a great champion, a great administrator, a great man, who gives an indispensable contribute to the League; Sevinç Atay, more than a great friend, generous and always available to solve the problems with her kindness and serenity, which mark her great personality; David Harris, our counsel, my point of reference, the secure harbour where we dock our ship when the storm is coming; Micke Melander, the younger, a friend without frontiers with an impressive knowledge and competence in bridge organisation and administration; Guido Resta: we grow together in the Italian federation, a pillar in the more than 25 years of my presidency of FIGB transferred to the League in the expiring legislature; Pim Vaders, a capable administrator who brought to the League his experience of bridge administrator successfully dedicated in various activity, but especially to the development of bridge in the small federations; Armand Trippaers, a real Dutch people, as he is proud to define himself, he entered the board at the beginning of this legislature and immediately integrated himself in its body, with friendship and loyalty,

bringing his great experience of administrator of the second largest Federation. I want to add to the member of the board to other great friends. Anna Maria Torlontano, for more than 20 years member of the board, vice president for one legislature, nominated Honour Vice president by the Assembly for the great service done to the League and still incomparable chairman of the Women Committee and of the Protocol Committee. What can I say about her that you already do not know? Simply thank you Anna Maria for your friendship and loyalty and for what of great you did, are doing and I am sure you will continue to do for bridge. Ton Kooijman, for more than 20 years Operation Director of the league and General Manager of our championships. Also for Ton it is not easy to find appropriate words to say what he represented and represent in the world of bridge and for what he did and is still doing. Also for him I want simply to say, thank you Ton.

I want to express my gratitude to all the members of the various committees and the staff operators of the various championships who teach me the meaning of enthusiasm, devotion, sacrifice and proficiency. A very special thank to Federica for her assistance since the beginning of my presidency and a more than very special thank to Marina, who as you know is my preferred victim, for the extraordinary job done and for the courage in bearing myself and my not very easy character.

I want to express my gratitude to all of you for what you did and are doing for the development and the success of bridge everywhere in Europe for the support that you gave and are giving to the League, for the great honour and privilege that you reserved to me electing and confirming me at the guide of the League.

Finally I want to express my gratitude and my love to my family, my wife Cippi and my step-daughter Carlotta for all the sacrifices they did to consent to me to dedicate my time to this marvellous passion for bridge.

Dear friends, in all these years I always tried to do my best to be up to the great responsibility which you gave to me and I hope to have been able to satisfy your expectations.

Thank you and ad mayora.

After **Yves Aubry** had been unanimously elected to serve as President of the EBL the following were elected to the **EBL Executive Committee**:

Jean Charles Allavena
Sevinc Atay
Jens Auken
Marc De Pauw
Panos Gerontopoulos
David Harris
Josef Harsanyi
Jan Kamras
Radoslaw Kielbasinski
Filippo Palma
Armand Trippaers
Pim Vaders

Happy Anniversary



On Saturday evening the European Bridge League formally celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the European Bridge Teams Championship in the Kursaal theatre.

After an introduction by *Master of Ceremonies Paul Meerbergen* *Women's Committee Chair Annamaria Torlontano* got proceedings under way to the strains of the first movement of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto Number 1.

Then the curtains drew back to reveal the following distinguished officials:

Panos Gerontopoulos *Hon. Secretary EBL*, **Yves Aubry** *Vice President EBL*, **Ernesto D'Orsi** *former President WBF*, **Jaime Ortiz-Patiño** *President Emeritus WBF*, **Mrs Hilde Veuleman** *Deputy Mayor of Ostend*, **Gianarrigo Rona**, *President, European Bridge League*, **José Damiani**, *President, World Bridge Federation*, **Bill Pencharz** *EBL Honour President*, **Marc De Pauw** *Treasurer EBL*, **Radek Kielbasinski** *Vice President EBL*.

Then **Panos Gerontopoulos** presented a magnificent

audiovisual history of the EBL that was interspersed with the presentation of commemorative medals to some of the great champions and officials that have graced these contests.

There was tremendous applause for the legendary figures Giorgio Belladonna and Rixi Marcus the two greatest winners in the history of the championships.

When the presentation came to an end Sabine Auken made a charming speech on behalf of the players.

She was followed on stage by the famous singer **Jean Lemaire** who gave a bravura performance of songs from her repertoire in eight languages.

She debuted musically in the late 1970s with her musical group, 'Jo Lemaire + Flouze'. The group saw true success with the release of their album *Pigmy World* in 1981. That album, containing the moody synthpop hit *Je suis venue te dire que je m'en vais*, propelled the singer into stardom all over Europe and Canada.



Guglielmo Siniscalco, Gold Medal Winner in Oslo 1958, receiving his medal from José Damiani



Three granddaughters of Paul Magerman and Gianarrigo Rona's daughter carry the EBL flag

Belgian Seniors have had good start

Colette Grosfils & Jan Serras

Avant de commencer cet article, je voudrais présenter toutes mes excuses à l'arbitre Bertrand Gignoux. Avant hier, lorsque j'ai rapporté l'incident de l'enchère insuffisante (page 22 du bulletin N°3), je me suis mal exprimée. Il est évident que c'est notre compatriote Nicole Maréchal qui a demandé à l'arbitre de prendre l'enchère de 5♦ dans la boîte de l'adversaire et qu'elle a évidemment remercié l'arbitre qui venait de lui donner toutes les explications avant de lui tendre l'enchère.

Revenons maintenant au brillant parcours de nos Dames. Elles viennent de remporter à nouveau un joli succès en battant les Suisses : 20-10. Elles occupent maintenant la 4ème place du classement. On commence à croire à la qualification.

Une très jolie défense de Yaël Topiol et Greet De Grave vient à nouveau illustrer la bonne forme de nos représentantes.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>De Grave</i>		<i>Topiol</i>	
1♠	3♥	3♠	All Pass

Yaël Topiol entame du ♥10 coupé du ♠7 de sa partenaire. Greet De Grave revient du ♣4 pour la Dame du mort. La déclarante joue atout pour l'As d'Ouest et Est hésite un petit moment avant de déposer sa Dame d'atout. En procédant de la sorte, elle renseigne sa partenaire sur la présence de l'As de ♦ et dénie un singleton à ♣. Le ♦3 est joué pour l'As d'Est. Yaël présente alors le ♥9 coupé par le Valet de ♠ de sa partenaire qui revient de son Roi de Carreau et enfin un 3ème ♦ est coupé du ♠9. Jolie défense !

Le contrat chute de deux levées : + 100 pour la Belgique. En salle fermée, Letizia Angelini et Angela Couteaux réussissent leur contrat à 3♠ pour +140 et trois nouveaux IMPs engrangés par les Belges.

Notre équipe open a enfin trouvé la bonne carburation.

Après avoir battu, au 10ème tour, la Roumanie 20-10, elle vient au 11ème tour de battre San Marino 24-6.

Nous retiendrons de ce match la donne 20 où Jean-Marie Backès a pris de gros risques et a été récompensé de sa décision.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Backès</i>		<i>Demarcin</i>
1♣	1♠	2♥*	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♥	Pass
6NT	7♠	All Pass	

* 2♥ montre des ♥ et un jeu positif.

Entame du ♥5 coupé du mort. Le déclarant joue la Dame de ♣ pour le Roi d'Est qui revient du ♥10 coupé en Nord. Le ♣8 est avancé et est coupé du ♠2. Jean-Marie Backès présente la Dame d'atout pour le Roi d'Ouest et l'As de la table. Le Valet de ♣ est alors joué et coupé du ♠4. Nord rejoue ensuite ♦4 pour l'As d'Ouest. Retour du ♦2 pour le Roi d'Est sur lequel le ♣2 est défaussé du mort. Le ♥9 est coupé du ♠9 et surcoupé par le Valet d'Ouest. La Dame de ♦ est coupée au mort. Finalement, le contrat chute de cinq levées pour -1100. Le suspense reste entier. On attend le résultat de la salle fermée avec impatience. Le voici et il est favorable.

West	North	East	South
<i>Vandervorst</i>		<i>Dewasme</i>	
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥*	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

* 3♥ signifie deux cartes dans la couleur

* 4 NT montre une ouverture de 19 points

Mike Vandervorst réussit le contrat et la donne rapporte + 370 à notre équipe pour un gain de 9 IMPs.

Bonne défense de Jean-Marie Backès !

Na de eerste twee ronden hadden de Belgische Seniors na een 19-11 overwinning tegen Finland en een 23-7 zege tegen Tsjechië meteen de leiding veroverd.

In de derde ronde dienden ze Oostenrijk partij te geven.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

In de open zaal werd als volgt geboden:

West	North	East	South
<i>H. Obermair</i>	<i>F. Bigdeli</i>	<i>J. Eichholzer</i>	<i>H. Janssens</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣	2♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West respecteerde de door zijn partner geboden kleur en startte klaveren. In dummy werd kleine klaveren gelegd, oost speelde de vrouw bij en de leider nam met het aas. In slag 2 incasseerde zuid, Hubert Janssens, ruitenaas. Toen op ruitenaas iedereen bekende was winst voor het rapen. Het volstond in de klaverenkleur een tweede slag te ontwikkelen, hetgeen de leider meteen, in slag 3, deed, 400 voor NZ, met dank aan de tegenpartij.

In de gesloten zaal boden de Belgen in OW drie harten, dit contract ging, gelukkig niet gedoubleerd, drie down, 150 voor NZ. België won aan deze gift 6 IMP's. De Belgen hadden alvast geen reden tot klagen.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

In de open zaal, met de Belgen in NZ verliep de bieding als volgt:

West	North	East	South
<i>H. Obermair</i>	<i>F. Bigdeli</i>	<i>J. Eichholzer</i>	<i>H. Janssens</i>
3♥	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	3♠
	3NT	All Pass	

Oost kwam zijn single harten uit genomen door west met de heer. West vervolgde met klaverenheer.

Bigdeli schatte de situatie goed in.

Kon west, die gelet op zijn sprongvolg bod in harten en de uitkomst gemarkeerd is met een zeskaart in harten van AHB9, daarnaast nog klaverenheer en vrouw en ruitenaas hebben? Nee toch, want dan zou hij in slag twee harten terugspelen. Voor de leider was het duidelijk: ruitenaas zat in oost.

De leider zette het spel consequent verder.

Hij nam de slag met klaverenaas, incasseerde schoppen heer en vrouw en legde hierna ruitendrie op tafel. Oost speelde de 4 bij, in dummy werd de heer gelegd en die maakte te slag.

Toen al de resterende schoppen van dummy in slagen waren omgezet, werd vanuit dummy zuid een kleine klav-



Faramarz Bigdeli, Belgium

eren gespeeld naar de (inmiddels onbeschermd) tien van de leider. West bekende niet. De slag was voor de dame in oost, maar deze speler was hoe dan ook gedwongen NZ hetzij een slag in klaveren, hetzij een slag in ruiten te bezorgen. In praktijk speelde oost in slag 11 klaveren. Contract gemaakt, 400 voor NZ.

In de open zaal werd het contract vier schoppen, te leiden in zuid. Na start hartenheer mocht de leider het vergeten: één down, 50 voor OW.

België won aan deze gift 10 IMPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

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



Hubert Janssens, Belgium

De bieding In de open zaal:

West	North	East	South
H. Obermair	F. Bigdeli	J. Eichholzer	H. Janssens
Pass	2♥	1♣	2♣
All Pass		Pass	2♠

Twee klaveren betekende een tweekleurenspeel in gelijke kleuren, dus ofwel klaveren en schoppen, ofwel ruiten en harten.

Hoewel het contract werd gemaakt met twee overslagen, 170 voor NZ, was er geen reden tot juichen.

Immers, in de gesloten zaal boden Bamberger – Grümmer (NZ) wel de manche, vier harten te leiden in noord. Gezien zowel schoppenheer, schoppenvrouw als klaverenheer gunstig zaten, maakte de leider twaalf slagen, goed voor 680. De Oostenrijkers wonnen aan deze gift 510 punten waarvoor ze 11 IMPs oogstten.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

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

Met dergelijk extreme verdelingen was er in geen van beide kampen een “fit” van meer dan zeven kaarten aanwezig.

In de beide zalen werd het contract 5 ruiten gedoubleerd, In de open zaal ging dit contract twee down: 300 voor België. In de gesloten zaal werd het drie down, 500 voor Oostenrijk, die hiervoor 5 IMPs mochten opstrijken.

De wedstrijd eindigde op 15-15 (in IMP's 25 – 15).

