

# 50<sup>th</sup> European Bridge Teams Championship

## DAILY BULLETIN

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Issue No. 1

Thursday, 24 June 2010

# Welkom in Oostende!



EBL President Giannarigo Rona opens the Championships

What a fabulous day we enjoyed as the Championships got under way yesterday.

The players could relax between matches in the glorious sunshine that encompassed the Belgian coastline.

In Group A of the *Open Series* **Iceland** lead the way, followed by **Serbia** and **Wales**. **Ireland** top Group B with **England** and **Poland** in hot pursuit.

In the Women's championship **Germany** is setting a hot pace, ahead of **Italy** and **England**.

### Round 4

Lebanon - Italy	BBO 1
France - Croatia	BBO 2
Hungary - Germany	BBO 3
Netherlands - Denmark	BBO 4
England - Spain	VG - BBO 5

### Round 5

Italy - Lithuania	BBO 1
Iceland - France	BBO 2
Russia - England	BBO 3
Poland - Israel	BBO 4
Germany - Bulgaria	VG - BBO 5

### Round 6

Italy - Scotland	BBO 1
France - Turkey	BBO 2
England - Denmark	BBO 3
Belgium - Germany (Women)	BBO 4
Sweden - Austria	VG - BBO 5

### Playing Times

Don't forget that today (Thursday), tomorrow (Friday) and on Monday play starts at 09.30am.

### Today's Schedule

09.30	Open & Women Teams, Round 4
13.00	Open & Women Teams, Round 5
16.15	Open & Women Teams, Round 6



# OPEN TEAMS PROGRAM

## GROUP A

### ROUND 4 09.30

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

### ROUND 5 13.00

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

### ROUND 6 16.15

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

## GROUP B

### ROUND 4 09.30

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

### ROUND 5 13.00

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

### ROUND 6 16.15

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

## DRESS CODE

The Executive Committee has decided that the regulation at L.2 point of the Conditions of Contest relating to the Dress Code within the Playing Rooms will be strictly enforced with effect from tomorrow Thursday 24th June 2010. The relevant part of the regulation is:

Any player, captain or coach not respecting the dress code into the playing area will receive a warning on the first occasion and a subsequent breach will result in that team being

fined 2 VP, plus a fine of €100. This penalty is mandatory. Failure to pay the fine will result in that person being prohibited from entering the playing area.

The Executive Committee further decided that repeated breaches of this regulation by any player may result in that player being suspended for the duration of the Championship and / or the Team being expelled from the Championship.

# OPEN TEAMS RESULTS

## GROUP A

### ROUND 1 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	SERBIA	LITHUANIA	54 - 25	21 - 9
2	TURKEY	LEBANON	35 - 5	21 - 9
3	ICELAND	ITALY	32 - 39	14 - 16
4	CROATIA	SCOTLAND	22 - 47	10 - 20
5	FINLAND	NORWAY	18 - 25	14 - 16
6	WALES	FRANCE	52 - 56	14 - 16
7	GERMANY	CYPRUS	101 - 18	25 - 0
8	BULGARIA	SWITZERLAND	36 - 16	19 - 11
9	HUNGARY	LATVIA	22 - 57	8 - 22
10	SLOVAKIA	BYE		18 - 0

### ROUND 2 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	LEBANON	SERBIA	25 - 44	11 - 19
2	ITALY	TURKEY	56 - 18	23 - 7
3	SCOTLAND	ICELAND	13 - 55	6 - 24
4	NORWAY	CROATIA	25 - 29	14 - 16
5	SLOVAKIA	FINLAND	51 - 34	19 - 11
6	CYPRUS	WALES	8 - 53	6 - 24
7	SWITZERLAND	GERMANY	43 - 28	18 - 12
8	LATVIA	BULGARIA	32 - 41	13 - 17
9	LITHUANIA	HUNGARY	39 - 36	16 - 14
10	FRANCE	BYE		18 - 0

### ROUND 3 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	SERBIA	ITALY	49 - 23	20 - 10
2	TURKEY	SCOTLAND	44 - 31	18 - 12
3	ICELAND	NORWAY	63 - 20	24 - 6
4	CROATIA	SLOVAKIA	38 - 26	17 - 13
5	FINLAND	FRANCE	31 - 28	16 - 14
6	WALES	SWITZERLAND	51 - 26	20 - 10
7	GERMANY	LATVIA	44 - 50	14 - 16
8	BULGARIA	HUNGARY	44 - 39	16 - 14
9	LEBANON	LITHUANIA	67 - 28	23 - 7
10	CYPRUS	BYE		18 - 0



## Duplimate Discounts

The Duplimate dealing machines used at these championships will be sold at the end of the event with a 20% discount.

## GROUP B

### ROUND 1 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	DENMARK	SAN MARINO	65 - 59	16 - 14
2	RUSSIA	SWEDEN	30 - 22	16 - 14
3	SPAIN	AUSTRIA	22 - 47	10 - 20
4	IRELAND	NETHERLANDS	67 - 21	24 - 6
5	ESTONIA	LUXEMBOURG	72 - 11	25 - 3
6	MONACO	ENGLAND	29 - 77	5 - 25
7	POLAND	UKRAINE	68 - 26	24 - 6
8	ISRAEL	PORTUGAL	34 - 31	16 - 14
9	GREECE	BELGIUM	69 - 54	18 - 12
10	ROMANIA	BYE		18 - 0

### ROUND 2 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	SAN MARINO	ROMANIA	29 - 41	13 - 17
2	SWEDEN	DENMARK	27 - 12	18 - 12
3	AUSTRIA	RUSSIA	40 - 20	19 - 11
4	NETHERLANDS	SPAIN	31 - 51	11 - 19
5	LUXEMBOURG	IRELAND	19 - 68	5 - 25
6	ENGLAND	ESTONIA	60 - 7	25 - 5
7	UKRAINE	MONACO	62 - 20	24 - 6
8	PORTUGAL	POLAND	34 - 44	13 - 17
9	BELGIUM	ISRAEL	17 - 33	12 - 18
10	GREECE	BYE		18 - 0

### ROUND 3 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	ROMANIA	SWEDEN	20 - 53	8 - 22
2	DENMARK	AUSTRIA	78 - 37	23 - 7
3	RUSSIA	NETHERLANDS	14 - 54	2 - 18
4	SPAIN	LUXEMBOURG	14 - 39	10 - 20
5	IRELAND	ENGLAND	51 - 43	16 - 14
6	ESTONIA	UKRAINE	88 - 9	25 - 1
7	MONACO	PORTUGAL	42 - 23	19 - 11
8	POLAND	BELGIUM	39 - 10	21 - 9
9	ISRAEL	GREECE	49 - 26	20 - 10
10	SAN MARINO	BYE		18 - 0

## Senior Teams



The Opening Ceremony for the Senior Teams will be held at the Town Hall on Friday the 25th at 7.00 pm, for their presentation.

All NBOs are also invited to attend the Ceremony and also to the Welcome Reception that will follow.

**WOMEN TEAMS PROGRAM****ROUND 4 09.30**

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

**ROUND 5 13.00**

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

**ROUND 6 16.15**

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

**WOMEN TEAMS RESULTS****ROUND 1 - subject to official confirmation**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	GERMANY	SWEDEN	46 - 18	21 - 9
2	BELARUS	CROATIA	32 - 62	9 - 21
3	CZECH REP.	SPAIN	38 - 33	16 - 14
4	RUSSIA	GREECE	52 - 26	20 - 10
5	ITALY	TURKEY	20 - 7	18 - 12
6	POLAND	BELGIUM	49 - 61	13 - 17
7	FRANCE	AUSTRIA	36 - 46	13 - 17
8	WALES	IRELAND	34 - 29	16 - 14
9	HUNGARY	SCOTLAND	42 - 36	16 - 14
10	NORWAY	ENGLAND	37 - 52	12 - 18
11	FINLAND	BULGARIA	30 - 39	13 - 17
12	ISRAEL	LEBANON	0 - 0	18 - 12
13	PORTUGAL	NETHERLANDS	26 - 61	8 - 22
14	DENMARK	SWITZERLAND	33 - 32	15 - 15

**ROUND 2 - subject to official confirmation**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	CROATIA	GERMANY	18 - 70	5 - 25
2	SPAIN	SWEDEN	27 - 55	9 - 21
3	GREECE	BELARUS	50 - 40	17 - 13
4	TURKEY	CZECH REP.	85 - 22	25 - 3
5	BELGIUM	RUSSIA	44 - 20	20 - 10
6	AUSTRIA	ITALY	12 - 67	4 - 25
7	IRELAND	POLAND	10 - 27	11 - 19
8	SCOTLAND	FRANCE	41 - 55	12 - 18
9	ENGLAND	WALES	53 - 28	20 - 10
10	BULGARIA	HUNGARY	45 - 36	17 - 13
11	LEBANON	NORWAY	33 - 33	15 - 15
12	NETHERLANDS	FINLAND	52 - 39	18 - 12
13	SWITZERLAND	ISRAEL	37 - 35	15 - 15
14	DENMARK	PORTUGAL	46 - 19	21 - 9

**ROUND 3 - subject to official confirmation**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	GERMANY	SPAIN	51 - 23	21 - 9
2	CROATIA	GREECE	44 - 51	14 - 16
3	SWEDEN	TURKEY	61 - 31	21 - 9
4	BELARUS	BELGIUM	45 - 53	14 - 16
5	CZECH REP.	AUSTRIA	46 - 81	8 - 22
6	RUSSIA	IRELAND	49 - 42	16 - 14
7	ITALY	SCOTLAND	35 - 19	18 - 12
8	POLAND	ENGLAND	20 - 31	13 - 17
9	FRANCE	BULGARIA	63 - 31	22 - 8
10	WALES	LEBANON	39 - 58	11 - 19
11	HUNGARY	NETHERLANDS	55 - 52	16 - 14
12	NORWAY	SWITZERLAND	81 - 38	24 - 6
13	FINLAND	DENMARK	50 - 54	14 - 16
14	ISRAEL	PORTUGAL	28 - 39	13 - 17

## OPEN TEAMS RANKING GROUP A

after 3 rounds - subject to official confirmation

1	ICELAND	62
2	SERBIA	61
3	WALES	58
4	BULGARIA	52
5	GERMANY	51
	LATVIA	51
7	SLOVAKIA	50
8	ITALY	49
9	FRANCE	48
10	TURKEY	46
11	CROATIA	43
	LEBANON	43
13	FINLAND	41
14	SWITZERLAND	39
15	SCOTLAND	38
16	NORWAY	36
17	HUNGARY	34
18	LITHUANIA	31
19	CYPRUS	24

## OPEN TEAMS RANKING GROUP B

after 3 rounds - subject to official confirmation

1	IRELAND	65
2	ENGLAND	64
3	POLAND	61
4	ESTONIA	55
5	ISRAEL	54
	SWEDEN	54
7	DENMARK	51
8	AUSTRIA	46
	GREECE	46
10	SAN MARINO	45
11	ROMANIA	43
12	SPAIN	39
13	PORTUGAL	38
14	NETHERLANDS	35
15	BELGIUM	33
16	UKRAINE	32
17	MONACO	30
18	RUSSIA	29
19	LUXEMBOURG	28

## WOMEN TEAMS RANKING

after 3 rounds - subject to official confirmation

1	GERMANY	67	HUNGARY	45
2	ITALY	60	POLAND	45
3	ENGLAND	55	17 GREECE	43
4	NETHERLANDS	54	18 BULGARIA	42
5	BELGIUM	53	19 CROATIA	40
	FRANCE	53	20 FINLAND	39
7	DENMARK	52	IRELAND	39
8	NORWAY	51	22 SCOTLAND	38
	SWEDEN	51	23 WALES	37
10	ISRAEL	46	24 BELARUS	36
	LEBANON	46	SWITZERLAND	36
	RUSSIA	46	26 PORTUGAL	34
	TURKEY	46	27 SPAIN	32
14	AUSTRIA	45	28 CZECH REPUBLIC	27

## OPENING CEREMONY



The Opening Ceremony of the 50th European Bridge Team Championships orchestrated by Master of Ceremonies Paul Meerbergen and Women's Committee Chair Annamaria Torlontano took place on Tuesday evening in the Kursaal.

The sound of Ostend, courtesy of the group Willen Is Kunnen provided an inspiring start to proceedings by playing the European anthem and they were followed on stage by the Deputy Mayor of Ostend, Mrs Hilde Veuleman who delivered the traditional speech of welcome which highlighted the long history of the City of Ostend.

Then Marc De Pauw, in his capacity as President of the Royal Belgian Bridge Federation welcomed everyone before handing over to the President of the EBL, Gianarrigo Rona, who made the following speech:

Mr. Jan Vandecasteele, Mayor of Ostend, Mr. Guido De Bondt, Member of the Executive Board of the IOC, Mrs. Hilde Veulemans, Deputy Mayor of Ostend, Mr. José Damiani, WBF President and EBL President Emeritus, Mr. Marc De Pauw, BBF President, dear colleagues of the Executive Committee, authorities, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends welcome to Ostend to celebrate and enjoy all together the 50th European Bridge Teams Championship.

Let me repeat that the celebration of the anniversary has also to be intended as an expression of gratitude to all the bridge personalities who preceded us, made the history of the European bridge and with their enthusiasm, love and dedication enabled us to do it today. As I have already said, my mind goes to the memory of two extraordinary personalities, both from Belgium, André Lemaitre and Paul Magerman, who illustrated the history of bridge. I am very pleased that the spouse of Paul, Edwige, is here with us with their sons Geert and Bart who, continuing the tradition, is the "deus ex machina" of the organization of this event.

Being proud and honored of the patronage of the IOC and the EOC, with the generous support of the town of

Ostend, which created a specific group of work personally led by the Deputy Mayor, Hilde Veulemans, the fantastic job done by the Royal Belgian Bridge Federation and its President, my great friend and colleague Marc De Pauw; together with the Organising Committee led by Bart Magerman, the Ostend Tourism Office and its manager Peter Craeymeersch, not forgetting the remarkable help received by all our sponsor friends, we tried to do our best to realize another great bridge event.

For the third time Ostend is the venue of the European Teams Championship, having successfully hosted this event in 1965 and 1973, and I am sure that the town will welcome and host all the participants according to its traditional high standards and will achieve another success. The start is very promising with the record in participation, 40 Countries, represented by 89 teams, 38 in the Open, 28 in the Women and 23 in the Senior. Let me underline such an impressive increase in Women and Senior.

Everything is ready and now we leave the stage to you, the players being sure that once again you will compete in friendship, serenity and loyalty, showing once again the true values of bridge.

Good luck.

A display of drum stick skills by more members of Willen is Kunnen was followed by a presentation of the teams competing in the Open & Women's series by Paul and Anna, this time assisted by Mrs Hedwig Magerman – a delightful touch being that each was welcomed in their own language!

The official opening of the championships by Gianarrigo Rona was accompanied by the unfurling of the EBL flag and the playing of the EBL anthem.

Then came a performance by the entire Hornblower ensemble of their Motown show production featuring the music of the Jackson Five, Lionel Ritchie, Stevie Wonder & Marvin Gaye that they hope will enable them to retain their National Championship title later this year.

## Pyrenean Paradise

Mark Horton looks back on the 2008 Championships in Pau

The charming 'ville de Pau' was an excellent choice for the staging of Europe's qualifying contests for the 2009 World Bridge Championships.

The town has a long history. France's most popular sovereign, Henri IV, the king who ended France's 16th-century religious wars and kicked off the Bourbon dynasty was born there as was Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte, who started off as a simple soldier, rose to be a Napoleonic commander and then became king of Sweden.

Conditions (and hospitality) for players, officials and spectators were perfect and the schedule, although demanding, allowed everyone to relax over dinner – always a pleasure in France.

Three Champions would be crowned, but there was the added incentive that the first six teams in each event would earn a trip to South America.

### Open Series

There was a new format, with the teams being divided into two groups. Each played a full Round Robin, with the top nine teams advancing to the final where they would contest a second all play all event.

Italy was attempting to secure an eighth successive win, but there was no place in their team for Fantoni & Nunes – and on the latest WBF list were ranked 1 & 2. That gave the other teams a glimmer of hope.



Valentin Al-Shati Kovachev, Bulgaria

I start by taking a look at the qualifying stage.

### Battling Bulgars

The Bulgarian pair, Valio Kovachev and Vladi Isporski has a growing reputation. (In February this year they reached the semi-final of the prestigious NEC Cup.) They were in excellent form when Bulgaria met Wales.

Dealer North. N/S Game

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

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stoyanov</i>	<i>Tedd</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Salisbury</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

On another day North might have found a dummy that rewarded his decision to pass Three Diamonds. West led his spade and declarer won in dummy, cashed the jack of diamonds and discarded a club on the king of spades. West ruffed, and switched to a heart, so the defenders had three tricks, -130.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rees</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Kurbalija</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3NT*	All Pass	

- 2♣ Game forcing
- 2♦ Clubs or 5332/5440
- 2♥ Relay
- 2NT Short diamonds
- 3♣ Relay
- 3NT 6214

The Bulgarians made no mistake, and if North had been void in diamonds they would have avoided a probably hopeless 3NT. East led the six of diamonds and declarer went up with dummy's queen and cashed a second diamond, quickly recording ten tricks, +630 and 11 IMPs.

**Champagne Moment**

The champagne moment is a term frequently used by the radio commentators on Test Match Special on Radio 4 and refers to a piece of cricketing excellence, be it a fantastic example of individual skill or a significant piece of action that contributed to a special win.

Round 9 delivered a deal that would certainly have been in contention for the bridge equivalent:

Dealer West. N/S Game

♠ — ♥ Q J 10 7 3 2 ♦ Q J 9 3 2 ♣ 10 7	<table style="border: 2px solid green; 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	♠ J 9 6 3 ♥ A 6 ♦ A K 10 7 ♣ A Q 2	♠ A 10 8 ♥ 9 8 5 4 ♦ — ♣ K 9 8 6 5 3
N						
W     E						
S						

In the match between Bulgaria and Ireland both sides reached a slam:

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Danailov</i>	<i>Garvey</i>	<i>Karkolev</i>	<i>Carroll</i>
2♦*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

South led the eight of hearts and declarer won with dummy's king, played the jack of clubs to the ace and discarded a club on the ace of hearts. He then ruffed a club and played the king of spades. When that held he played a spade to the jack and ace. To be certain of defeating the contract South should now play the king of clubs, removing an entry from the dummy, but he returned a spade to dummy's queen, declarer unblocking the nine. When declarer played four of diamonds North followed with the two and declarer put up dummy's ace – and was one down.

(That is how the play is depicted on BBO, North discarding hearts at every opportunity. However, I'm reliably informed that at some point North discarded the nine of diamonds – to show an odd number – so perhaps declarer should have prevailed.)

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
2♦*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	6♠	Dble
Pass	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

South led the three of clubs and declarer put up dummy's jack. When that held he played the king of spades, ducked, a spade to the jack, ducked and a spade. South won (North discarding heart, diamond, heart) and exited with the four of hearts. Declarer won with dummy's king and played a diamond to the .....king, so Bulgaria scored a couple of IMPs.

West, Hugh McGann, said not a word and calmly placed the next board onto the table – and in doing so collected a Perfect Partner award.

Six Spades (sometimes doubled) was attempted at a number of tables, but only one declarer drew the right inference. That happened in the match between Italy and Serbia.

In the Closed Room Serbia stopped safely in Six Spades and scored +450. The stakes were higher at the other table:

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Jovanovic</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Djuricic</i>
2♠	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

North knew his partner could ruff something and so naturally led the queen of hearts. Declarer won in hand with the king and played the queen of spades. South won and played back a heart, so declarer won with dummy's ace, discarding a club from hand, drew trumps and played the four of diamonds. When North contributed the two, declarer put in the seven and claimed +1210.

**Mastering The Fates**

Each player must accept the cards life deals him or her. But once they are in hand, he or she alone must decide how to play the cards in order to win the game. - Voltaire

In European mythology, there are three goddesses dispensing fate. The 'Fates', known as Norns in Norse mythology determine the events of the world through the mystic spinning of threads that represent individual human destinies.

I don't know if Geir Helgemo is aware of this, but in Round 13 of the Open series he avoided what fate had in

store with a play that escaped everyone else's attention.

Dealer East. N/S Game

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

It called to mind the words of Englishman Peter Clarke, who, describing a brilliant victory by World Chess Champion Mikhail Tal over the Dane Bent Larsen wrote: 'That is what happens when a player of the highest quality crosses swords with a genius.'

Several thousand on line spectators and a packed Vu-Graph watched the battle for ninth place unfold as Turkey, Finland & England engaged in a thrilling struggle. During the first half the teams repeatedly swapped places, but then Turkey drew clear, leaving the other two to fight it out. Finland held sway for a long time, but then two adverse slam swings saw them drop out almost at the last, leaving England with the prize by virtue of having defeated Finland in their individual encounter as they went through on a split tie.

These were the teams who survived:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Aa</i>	<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>Molberg</i>	<i>Skrzypczak</i>
		Pass	INT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦*
Dble	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Group A

Netherlands	341
Italy	339
Iceland	323
Latvia	323
Israel	319
Denmark	315
Turkey	314
Czech Rep	310
England	301

Group B

Sweden	376
Russia	343
Norway	335.30
Bulgaria	335
Germany	329
France	319
Poland	314
Portugal	310.50
Estonia	290

East led a diamond and declarer won with dummy's ace and drew trumps ending in dummy. He then ran the queen of hearts to East's king, ruffed the diamond return and cashed the ace of hearts. When East discarded declarer conceded one down, -100. That was a fate suffered by virtually everyone who attempted Six Clubs, although a couple of declarers got home by taking a second finesse in hearts, a line that offers a 71% chance of success.

Ireland caused the wrong sort of surprise by failing to qualify, but Latvia, Turkey, Czech Republic and Estonia demonstrated that the general standard of play is rising.

Doctors in the House

This deal from the Round 4 match between England & Germany should carry a health warning; the Hackett twins faced Doctors Elinescu & Wladow:

Let's have a look at the hand of Justin Hackett, sitting North with E/W vulnerable, in first position he held:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Lund</i>
		Pass	INT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♠*
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

♠ K 2
♥ Q J 9 8 6 5
♦ 9 7 6
♣ 6 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Jason</i>
	3♥	Dble	4♦*
4♠	5♦	5♥	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♥	Pass	7♠	All Pass

Once again a diamond was led and play developed along similar lines, but when West did not cover the queen of hearts, Helgemo realized there was a way to cheat fate. He put up dummy's ace, a play that would only lose to ♥KJxxx or KJxx in West, when it would be miraculous for West to fail to cover.

\*fit-bid, looking for a cheap save

Justin had to find a lead. Mainly due to the Four Diamond bid Justin decided to kick off with a diamond.

Dealer North. E/W Game

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



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

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

You see the bidding unfold like this:  
Open Room

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦*	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	?

2♦ Diamond values

Would it occur to you to take a bid?  
No, I thought not.

However Brogeland entered the fray with Three Hearts and when West doubled that became the final contract.

This was how declarer saw things as West started with the ace and king of clubs, East following with the four and jack.

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



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

That cost a whopping 17 IMPs.

As a BBO commentator remarked, 'It's good to have two doctors at the table, as the twins may well need some medical assistance now...'

As the final unfolded it became clear that Italy would not collect another title and they had to work hard to qualify. When the last round started Germany led with 281, followed by Norway 275, Bulgaria 274 Russia 271, Denmark 263 & Netherlands 256. Italy was next on 254, just one ahead of France on 253.

With Germany facing Italy and Norway playing Denmark, Russia, who were playing the back markers Portugal, and Bulgaria, opposed by Turkey, must have been optimistic.

Germany was crushed 5-25 by Italy and Bulgaria's challenge came to naught when they went down 11-19 to Turkey. Russia could score only 16-14 against Portugal, so Norway had to collect 13 VP to be certain of victory. They achieved that and more when they won 24-6, securing a first ever European crown.

The top of the table looked like this:

Norway	299
Russia	287
Germany	286
Bulgaria	285
Italy	279
Netherlands	273

Denmark's loss to Norway pushed them down to seventh place – and cost them a trip to Brazil.

Norway was missing some of their World Championship winning team and at the start of the event Boye Brogeland gave them a 10% chance of winning!

However, if you have determination matched by ability (and a modest amount of good fortune) then you can never be discounted. Take a look at this:

You have this hand as South at unfavourable vulnerability:



Espen Lindqvist, Norway

Declarer ruffed the second club and played a heart to the ten. When that held he cashed the ace of heart and played the nine of spades, covered by the jack and queen. Now he ran the eight of diamonds and East won with the nine and returned the five of spades. Declarer finessed the ten and West discarded a club.

In the five card ending declarer cashed his remaining trump and East, down to ♠K83 ♦AJ could do no better than pitch a spade. Now declarer could play two rounds of spades, forcing East to give the last trick to dummy's king of diamonds.

This was the full deal:

Dealer West. N/S Game

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

West would have done better to switch to a diamond at trick two. East wins with the jack and goes back to clubs. Even better if for West to lead his singleton spade at trick



Bénédicte Cronier, France

one – that should lead to two down.

As a Norwegian said when shown the hand, 'When you bid like a madman, you had better play like a genius!'

**Women**

In the Women's event France were the defending champions and they made a sound start to the defence of their title, although their first round opponents, Hungary, enjoyed Andy Warhol's 'fifteen minutes of fame' on one of the deals.

**Hungarian Rhapsody**

Dealer South. None Vul.

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

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Zalai</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Hamori</i>
			Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

North cashed the ace of clubs and continued with a club. Declarer won with dummy's king, pitching a diamond, and eventually arrived at twelve tricks by ruffing a diamond, +480.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Csipka</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Mezei</i>	<i>Allouche-Gaviard</i>
			Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

- 3♣ Game Forcing
- 4♣ Cue Bid
- 4♦ Cue Bid
- 4♠ RKCB
- 5♥ 2 key cards + ♥Q

North led the four of spades and declarer put up dummy's ace, came to hand with a trump and led her club. North took the ace and switched to the three of diamonds. Declarer won in hand, played a spade to the king and ruffed a spade. When the queen appeared declarer could draw trumps and claim. +980 gave Hungary 11 IMPs.

**The Big Match**

One of the highlights of any championship is the match between Germany and France, the two teams who have dominated events in recent years. In Round 8 the BBO audience witnessed a coruscating encounter between these two giants.

Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 9 ♥ AKQ2 ♦ AQ1087 ♣ K97		♠ J104 ♥ J854 ♦ J4 ♣ Q854
♠ AQ732 ♥ 10973 ♦ 62 ♣ 62		

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Allouche-Gaviard</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

**3♣ Fragment**

South led the two of clubs (low from a doubleton) for the seven, ten and queen. Declarer played a heart to the ace, cashed the king, getting the bad news, played a third heart to her jack and a diamond to the queen and king. A spade now would have produced three down, but North could not be sure of the position, and exited with a diamond. Declarer won with the jack and played a club, finishing two down, -200.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Alberti</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Schraverus-Meur</i>	<i>Willard</i>
1♦	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dble	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

I think everyone knows my views about the necessity of

responding on the East hand. However, things did not turn out badly, as when South protected North had more than enough to justify a jump to a game that West thought was unlikely to make.

West cashed the king of hearts and accurately switched to a trump. Declarer won in hand with the ace and played a diamond. West went up with the ace and decided to force the dummy by playing a second heart. Declarer ruffed in dummy, cashed the king of diamonds, ruffed a diamond and played a club to the nine and queen. She won the spade return in dummy to leave this ending:

♠ — ♥ Q2 ♦ Q ♣ K7		♠ 8 ♥ — ♦ 9 ♣ A103 ♠ 10 ♥ J ♦ — ♣ 854 ♠ Q7 ♥ 109 ♦ — ♣ 2
----------------------------	---	---

Declarer has scored 5 tricks and needs the rest. The winning line is to cash the ace of clubs, ruff a club, ruff a heart, cash the ten of clubs and take the last trick with the master trump. Even if West has ♣Kxx this is safe for down one.

In practice declarer ruffed a diamond and took the club finesse. Now she had to lose a heart at the end for one down, -200 and 9 not unlucky IMPs for Germany.

At the point where West took the ace of diamonds she must exit with a diamond. Declarer can win in dummy and ruff a diamond, but provided East discards a heart on this trick the defenders should always manage to come to two more tricks.

The match was virtually all-square when France struck a mighty blow:

Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ A ♥ AQ752 ♦ 8532 ♣ K76		♠ Q10752 ♥ 1084 ♦ Q106 ♣ Q5 ♠ J9 ♥ K ♦ AKJ ♣ AJ109842 ♠ K8643 ♥ J963 ♦ 974 ♣ 3
-----------------------------------	---	---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Allouche-Gaviard</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	5NT*	Pass
6♣	Pass	7♣	All Pass

East did not – as some would – pretend that she held the queen of clubs when responding to 4NT, but once her partner continued to show interest with her bid of Five Spades it was clear to go on to the grand slam, +1440.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Alberti</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Schraverus-Meur</i>	<i>Willard</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Two Spades was multi meaning, but that and the subsequent bidding did not get the job done, +940 giving France 11 IMPs.

Nothing significant happened in the remaining boards and it was France who emerged with some modest bragging rights, 42-35 IMPs translating to 16-14VP.

Although there had been a few mistakes, both teams emerged with credit from a testing set of deals.



Colin Simpson, England

France retained their title, well clear of Italy & Spain, who could both be delighted with their medals. Sweden, Germany and Denmark completed the list of nations that represented Europe in the 2009 Venice Cup competition.

Seniors

England made an excellent start, winning their first five matches to go to the top of the leader board. Although they dropped out of the lead they continued to hold on to one of the qualifying positions before dropping to seventh. However, they had appeared on paper to be a relatively easy last day, so their fate was in their own hands.

Slam Double

One of England's best results was against Norway, where they started the match with back to back slam swings:

Dealer North. All Vul.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Farstad</i>	<i>Dixon</i>	<i>Lowe</i>	<i>Silverstone</i>
	3♣	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

The idea that you should not preempt with a four card major on the side has been discarded by many players.

West showed sound judgement when he raised spades rather than speculate on the merits of 3NT which would have failed on a heart lead. South led his club and declarer won in dummy, cashed his three top trumps and then played on diamonds. South could score two trumps and the ace of hearts but declarer had the rest, +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Price</i>	<i>Bolviken</i>	<i>Simpson</i>	<i>Sorvoll</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♦	All Pass

In a natural system East's jump to Four Diamonds implies a 5-2-4-2 distribution, as with a singleton he would tend to splinter. With West obviously denying a heart control North's failure to lead one was very expensive as declarer won the spade lead, drew trumps and discarded a heart on the third round of spades, +920 and 11 IMPs.

England repeated the feat on the very next deal:

Dealer East. N/S Game

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Farstad</i>	<i>Dixon</i>	<i>Lowe</i>	<i>Silverstone</i>
2NT*	4♥	1♠	Dble
5♠	Dble	4♣	5♥
		All Pass	

Doubtless North doubled on the cards he was hoping his partner would have.

South cashed the king of clubs and switched to a spade. Declarer won in hand, drew the last trump and played South for the queen of diamonds, +750.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Price</i>	<i>Bolviken</i>	<i>Simpson</i>	<i>Sorvoll</i>
4♥*	Dble	1♠	Dble
Pass	5♣	4♣	Pass
Pass	6♣	5♠	Pass
6♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
		All Pass	

It's a sign of the times that East opened the bidding at both tables.

It takes a lot of nerve to bid Six Spades having been prepared to stop in game, but West had drawn the right inferences from the auction and he did the same in the play, locating the queen of diamonds for an effortless +1310 and another 11 IMPs.

One of the best hands of the Championship was described by Erdal Sidor, the Editor of the Turkish Bridge Magazine:

### Old Man's Perfect Play

Orhan Ekinci is one of the well known bridge players in Turkey. He has previously represented his country twice in the Open series.

In Round 10 of the Seniors he played this hand against the Netherlands:

Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dble	Redble*	Pass	2♦*
2♠	Pass	4♣	2♥
		All Pass	
2♦	Multi		
Redble	Bid your major		

North led his singleton heart and declarer won in dummy and played a spade to the ace disclosing the 4-0 split. Then he played four rounds of diamonds, discarding his remaining hearts. When North had to win the fourth diamond he was knocked-out.

A diamond would allow a ruff and discard, while either black suit would cost a trick.

This deal provoked a considerable amount of discussion, as many players went down, eschewing the possible loser on loser play and simply playing South for the queen of clubs.

I had various conversations with some of the very best declarer players, notably Sabine Auken, Jean Paul Meyer and Guido Ferraro, although as it happens none of them declared this deal.

Is there any particular reason why South should be 0-6-3-4 as opposed to 0-6-4-3? Well, with eight clubs missing and only seven diamonds there is something of a case, although it's very tiny.

The real question one should ask is can the contract be made if South is the one with the four diamonds?

If that is the case and North still has the ♣AQ then there is nothing to be done as declarer will inevitably lose two

clubs, a heart and a trump.

The interesting case is the one where South has four diamonds and the queen of clubs, as in this layout:

Dealer South. None Vul.					
♠ AKQ62	♠ J953	♠ 10874			
♥ J72	♥ 3	♥ A54			
♦ A9	♦ 762	♦ KQ43			
♣ KJ10	♣ A7532	♣ 84			
	<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	
N					
W      E					
S					
	♠ —				
	♥ KQ10986				
	♦ J1085				
	♣ Q95				

When South produces the jack of diamonds declarer has a choice of plays.

He can discard his last heart, ruff South's heart exit high (an interesting side line is that if West ruffs low, North must find the brilliant defence of refusing to overruff, instead discarding a club. If he overruffs and plays a trump declarer simply plays three rounds of trumps ending in dummy, and the last of these squeezes South. But refusing to overruff upsets this plan. Declarer can continue with three rounds of spades, but North wins and exits with a club and South calmly puts in the nine leaving declarer with two losing clubs) and play a low spade. If North ducks declarer win in dummy and plays a club to the ten.

If North goes in with the jack and exits with a spade then declarer must exercise a little care, playing the eight from dummy, overtaking in hand and then crossing to the ten of spades, which squeezes South in hearts and clubs.

Alternatively declarer may elect, when South produces

## Championship Diary



We return with a bumper edition of the diary featuring all the usual suspects – and a few new ones.

Herman De Wael is a handy man to have a round at any tournament, but especially one based in his home country! Approaching the Kursaal for the first time we observed that Herman appears to have a new side line – a chain of estate agents called Dewaele!

Having been joined for supper by Patrick Jourdain we insisted that he should order a Welsh Pizza – he opted for an Indiana – Indiana Jones, get it?

At the opening ceremony the teams were introduced in their native language. We enjoyed Scotland: 'Good evening Scotland, a warm welcome to you.' (Delivered with a heavy Scottish accent.)

If you happen to be staying in the Royal Astrid, Andromeda, Europe, Mondo or Thermae Palace Hotels then you should be able to pick up a copy of the Bulletin to enjoy with your breakfast.

If you fancy a flutter you can bet on the outcome of the Open Championship at [www.betfair.com](http://www.betfair.com)

Maureen Hiron is here covering the Championships for the Independent. She reported this heart warming story, Scammers, Scammed:

A favourite scam (a new one to me) used to be - putting a false envelope into the cash machine slot, so that when folk tried to extract money, nothing came out. They walked off - then the scammers came along, took out their envelope (or whatever it was they used) after which the machine disgorged the money and off they went with it.

I went to a 'hole-in-the-wall' and withdrew some loot. Obviously I must have epitomised the 'Johnny foreigner holiday-maker, ripe for the plucking type' - dressed as I was in shorts, bright shirt, cap and with my earphones in - because I'd only progressed about 20 metres from the machine when a young man came after me, brandishing a 20 euro note. He said that I hadn't collected all my money (I had) - there was still some left in the machine, and this 20 euro note was one of those I'd left behind - so I took it from him! He wanted me to return to the machine. I decided to play along, curious to see where all this was leading. Returning to the machine, there were not notes sitting there - the money-disgorging slot was closed, but the young man, who looked to be Moroccan, insisted that I put my credit card in again 'to get my account balance - as then the machine would open again and give me the rest of my money.'

While pretending to search for my credit card, I noticed him opening his wallet, after which he was holding another 20 euro note by the slot, and said this had also just come out. I relieved him of this note too! Then, following his instructions, I slid in what he thought to be my credit card, but was in fact my Lufthansa Miles or More card. Naturally, the machine was unimpressed with this, and after seemingly trying hard to enter my PIN (fictitious) and press various buttons, I gave up, thanked him for his help and said that I'd go into the bank tomorrow to sort it out.

I then walked off, 40 euros to the good. He followed me, but I was able to into a nearby shop, where I am friendly with the owners and explained what had happened. And then the guy came into the shop, on the pretext of asking the price of something hanging outside. I decided that walking back home might not be the best idea I'd ever had, so I phoned for a taxi, and when it arrived, told the driver that as soon as I got into the taxi, he was to lock all the doors! He did, and off I sailed.

Result: Scammer -40 euros. Intended scammee - +40 euros.

the diamond to ruff high and then play a low trump (a heart also works). North can win with the jack and exit with a trump, but declarer has more than one way to get home. I like the one where declarer wins in dummy and plays a club to the ten and ace. He wins the trump exit in hand and exits with a heart to endplay South. I leave you to enjoy working out the other possibilities.

So, when South has the queen of clubs you can afford to play for the loser on loser, which gives you a significant extra chance of making the contract when the queen of clubs is wrong.

That prompted some brilliant further analysis from David Burn:

**Odds and Ends**

The Daily Bulletin contained an excellent analysis of this play problem:

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

West plays in Four Spades after South has shown a weak two in hearts. North leads the three of hearts, won by the ace, and South shows out on the first round of spades.

At this point I'll hand the microphone over to David Burn:

One question raised is whether there is any reason to place South with 0634 rather than 0643, the conclusion being that the case for doing so is 'very tiny'. Assuming that nothing is known about the location of specific cards, there are 2,450 ways in which South can hold three diamonds and four clubs, while there are 1,960 ways for him to hold four diamonds and three clubs. This is not a 'tiny' difference at all – South is an 11/9 favourite to hold three diamonds rather than four.

However, if we assume that South would not open with a weak two bid holding KQ10986 in hearts, a side ace, and a void, North is marked with the ace of clubs. In that case six of South's cards are known (his heart suit) and six of North's (four spades, his heart, and ♣A). South is in these circumstances just as likely to hold four diamonds as three, and the case for placing him with three is not 'very tiny' – it is non-existent.

These conclusions are not very interesting, but something still worried me about this diamond combination. Then a memory stirred, and I remembered a BOLS Bridge Tip from long ago. Assuming everyone follows to three rounds of diamonds, which defender is more likely to have the thirteenth card in the suit? The answer is: the defender who has played the deuce, because that is the one card an opponent is compelled to reveal that he holds. I had not seen an application of this Tip in twenty years, so I turned swiftly to the hand records to see whether it would work. Sure enough, North's diamond holding was J762.

When the last round started England were in seventh place, just 1 VP behind France & Poland. France lost heavi-

ly to Turkey, the latter thereby collecting their first ever European Team medal, ahead of Sweden and Belgium. That opened the door for England, who faced Finland. They looked to be on their way when they collected 17 IMPs on the first two deals, but Finland came back well. This was the penultimate deal:

Dealer South. N/S Game

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

In the Open Room South opened Two Spades and rebid Three Clubs over North's 2NT enquiry. North settled for 3NT and made 12 tricks after East led a diamond, +690.

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
<i>Aro</i>	<i>Dixon</i>	<i>Sirkia</i>	<i>Silverstone</i>
			2♠*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥*
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

2♠ 5-11, 5+♠, 5+♣  
 2NT Relay

I have given the auction as it shown on the match record but on the convention card a response of Three Diamonds or Three Hearts is described as a fragment bid, so I have a feeling South actually bid Three Diamonds and then showed his heart control.

There was no way North could discover that his partner's spades would be good enough to deliver twelve easy tricks in 6NT, so he opted to play in clubs.

East found the devastating lead of the seven of diamonds and declarer won in hand and played ace of clubs, club, but East won and played a diamond for his partner to ruff, -100 and a tragic 13 IMP loss.

That saw England lose 13-17, leaving them with 314 VP. When Italy picked up 17 IMPs on the above mentioned deal, defeating Six Clubs in one room while making 6NT in the other they drew level on VP and having won the head-to-head match they picked up the final qualification spot, Poland and the Netherlands securing the other two.

It was a gallant failure, but it meant that no English team would appear in the 2009 World Championships. (Or would it? When the Netherlands withdrew England was invited to take their place – and the rest is history.)

**OPEN TEAMS**

**Round 1**

**Iceland v Italy**

by Jos Jacobs

In the opening round of these Jubilee European Championships Italy, the country to win the Championship on most occasions, had to face a pretty strong opponent: Iceland. So it was an easy choice, yesterday morning, which match to watch. In the Open Room, Lauria-Versace would face Jónsson-Baldursson, which meant we would have four World Champions at work there. In the Closed Room, the new young Italian star Agustin Madala, playing with Bocchi, would meet Magnusson and Haraldsson.

The match started with a spectacular deal on which a big swing could so easily have gone the other way:

Open Room

West <i>Versace</i>	North <i>Baldursson</i>	East <i>Lauria</i>	South <i>Jonsson</i>
	1♣	1♥	1♠
2♦	5♦	Pass	5♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

After the Strong Club, Lauria could launch his four-card major/five-card minor overcall but this did not prevent NS any more to reach their best fit: spades. The small slam is a pretty decent contract but it is impossible to get rid of all your minor suit losers with spades 4-0 and hearts 4-1 as well. A club lead by West would remove a vital entry to dummy prematurely and thus put the contract in jeopardy even on a friendlier lie of the EW majors. Still, with trumps 3-1 and hearts 4-1, you would have to play double dummy to succeed.

Obviously, one down was the outcome, Italy +50.

Closed Room

West <i>Haraldsson</i>	North <i>Bocchi</i>	East <i>Magnusson</i>	South <i>Madala</i>
	1♥	Pass	3♣
4♦	Dble	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

When Madala showed a heart raise after East's pass, spades never came into the picture so the Italians sold out rather early. Two down, 300 more to Italy and a possibly surprising 8 IMPs to open their account.

More IMPs for them on the next board:

Board: 1. Dlr: North/None

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



Norberto Bocchi, Italy

Board: 2. Dlr: East/NS

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Baldursson	Lauria	Jonsson
		1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

With Versace bidding his hand up to the limits of its strength, the Italians soon found themselves in a razor-sharp game contract which...made easily enough with the two black-suit finesses working.

The actual club lead did not do declarer any harm but a heart lead would have been the end of the defence as well as South will then take no further part in the play. Italy +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Haraldsson	Bocchi	Magnusson	Madala
		1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

2♦ was forcing for one round but opposite a minimum, West had no higher aspirations. He duly made his eight tricks on a passive diamond lead but his +120 meant a further 7 IMPs to Italy who led 15-0 after just two boards.

Two boards later, Iceland struck back strongly when they had Lauria in trouble:

Board: 4. Dlr:West/All

♠ K ♥ QJ2 ♦ 42 ♣ AKQJ653	N W   E S	♠ Q96 ♥ A7543 ♦ K10863 ♣ —	♠ A7532 ♥ 1096 ♦ QJ97 ♣ 10
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Baldursson	Lauria	Jonsson
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Maybe Lauria had his suspicions when Jónsson led the

♣10 but he decided to follow a normal line after all. He won the ace and led the ♠K. South won the ace and returned a diamond to North's ace. Back came another diamond, which Lauria won with the king to continue a low heart to the queen and king. Now, North played a club to promote a trump for the defence and thus set the contract. When Lauria ruffed low, South could overruff and return a diamond for another promotion and an eventual down two. Iceland +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Haraldsson	Bocchi	Magnusson	Madala
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

With North on lead after the Strong Club relay auction, the situation was completely different. A top spade went to South's ace. When the ♣10 was played here too, Magnusson won his ace and immediately passed the ♥Q successfully. When a diamond to the king also held, his problems were soon over as the other diamond loser went on the ♠Q. When the ♥A brought down the king, the rest was plain sailing for an overtrick, +650 to Iceland and 13 IMPs back to trail by just 2.

Iceland took the lead on the next board by making extra overtricks, scored a partscore swing by displaying more aggression on board 7 and then outbid their opponents in the Open Room:

Board: 8. Dlr:West/None

♠ 8542 ♥ Q6543 ♦ 965 ♣ A	N W   E S	♠ Q107 ♥ 8 ♦ 432 ♣ KQJ1074	♠ A9 ♥ A1092 ♦ J1087 ♣ 985
-----------------------------------	-----------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Baldursson	Lauria	Jonsson
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dble
Pass	1♥	2♣	Dble
2NT	4♠	All Pass	

This proved a quite acceptable spot as you will lose only the ♥A and two trump tricks on any decent layout. Iceland +420 when the defence did not lead hearts to score their two ruffs and set the contract.

When the Italians reached 3♥ in the Closed Room, this meant another 7 IMPs to Iceland to lead clearly by 28-15 now.

On board 11, it was Lauria's turn to do better than his counterparts:

Board: 11. Dlr: South/None

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Jonsson</i>
3♠	Pass	3NT	3♦ All Pass

No problems for Lauria, not even on the actual heart lead and ♦J switch as South does not have an entry. He ducked the ♦J, won the second round and established the spades. North, on lead with the ♠J, tried a low club but Lauria went up with the king, of course, claiming the honour of an over-trick in the process. Italy +430.



Jon Baldursson, Iceland - Lorenzo Lauria, Italy

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Haraldsson</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Magnusson</i>	<i>Madala</i>
3♠	Pass	4♠	3♦ All Pass

As declarer has to develop club tricks, who can blame him for not going up with the king in the first round of that suit? One down, Italy +50 and 10 IMPs back to trail by just 3.

After that, the boards turned very quiet again. So one sizeable swing might decide the outcome of the match:

Board: 14. Dlr: East/None

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Jonsson</i>
1NT 2NT	Pass All Pass	1♠ 2♥	Pass Pass

A quiet contract and no trouble for Versace on a low club lead when the defenders later switched to diamonds rather than spades. Italy +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Haraldsson</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Magnusson</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1NT 2NT 3NT	Pass Pass All Pass	1♠ 2♥ 3♣	Pass Pass Pass

North led an aggressive ♠Q, won by dummy's king. Next came the ♥K, ducked, and a club finesse, immediately won by North who returned the suit. Dummy won and another heart went to the jack and ace. When Bocchi next returned a spade, Madala could win and push a diamond through, after which 7 tricks were the maximum. Down two, Italy +100 and 6 IMPs to go back into the lead, not to lose it again.

The final score became 39-32 or 16-14 VP to Italy.

**OPEN TEAMS**

**Round 2**

**Norway v Croatia**

by Jos Jacobs

The defending European champions are represented here by a team with little resemblance to the squad that won the title for Norway in Pau 2008. So the organisers quite rightly decided to put them on Vugraph in yesterday afternoon's match v. Croatia – thus giving all of us a chance to have a closer look at Balkan bridge as well.

The opening boards of the match were as quiet as the closing boards of the previous round so we had to wait till board 4 before the match got underway:

Board: 4. Dlr: West/All

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Borevkovic</i>	<i>Ekren</i>	<i>Zoric</i>	<i>Berset</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

In the Open Room, the Croatians reached a solid enough contract which easily made with an overtrick for +140 to them.

In the Closed Room, the Norwegians, as one might have expected, were much more aggressive:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Charlsen</i>	<i>Tesla</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Stanicic</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Not that 4♠ is an impossible contract. If you manage to pick up the trumps without loss, you have a good chance to conjure up ten tricks. When declarer, understandably so, took a losing trump finesse, one down became inevitable. Croatia +100 and 6 IMPs to them.

On the next board, Norway recouped most of this ad-

verse swing by setting INT, a slightly inferior partscore, by one trick by virtue of being able to cash six club tricks and an outside ace whereas there was no defence against 3♦.

Board 7, in the end, only was about an overtrick but both declarers had to hold their nerves:

Board: 7. Dlr: South/All

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Borevkovic</i>	<i>Ekren</i>	<i>Zoric</i>	<i>Berset</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All pass	

In the Open Room, NS quickly reached their fair slam against which Zoric as East found the good lead of a diamond away from his Qxx. Ekren, however, won the ace and when Zoric next covered the ♥Q with his king, it was all over. Norway +1460.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Charlsen</i>	<i>Tesla</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Stanicic</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

In the Closed Room, Charlsen as West had a less difficult diamond lead after the long transfer sequence to the same contract. Here too, declarer won and presented the ♥Q

but this time, Hoftaniska did not cover, presenting declarer with a big problem. Finally, dummy's ace was called for and, when this did not bring down the ♠K, declarer played off the ♣A and three rounds of spades, hoping to be able to discard his last diamond on the 4th round of spades. And so it proved. Croatia a nerve-racking +1430 and just 1 IMP back to Norway.

For the first double-figure swing of the match, we had to wait till board 9:

Board: 9. Dlr: North/EW

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Borevkovic</i>	<i>Ekren</i>	<i>Zoric</i>	<i>Berset</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	Dble	1♠	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the Open Room, Borevkovic overcalled his suit in transfer fashion but when partner did not show any particular enthusiasm, elected to try the effect of the ♦K lead. This hit the jackpot twice as it established the suit and avoided the loss of a defensive spade trick and a tempo. Well done, one down, Croatia +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Charlsen</i>	<i>Tesla</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Stanicic</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

In the Closed Room, Charlsen had no overcalling gadget available and thus simply bid and led his suit. Not good enough this time as declarer now was able to establish his 5th club as East would be out of spades. The successful heart finesse then saw the contract home with an over-trick for 10 IMPs to Croatia.

A few more quiet boards were to follow but on board 14, a Croatian pre-empt sort of backfired:

Board: 14. Dlr: East/None

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Charlsen</i>	<i>Tesla</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Stanicic</i>
	Pass	3♦	
All Pass			

In the Closed Room, South opened a pretty sound 3♦ and was left to play there. West, in spite of his nice 15 count, could not find a sensible action, holding only a doubleton spade. Nicely judged. He contract was just made, Croatia +110.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Borevkovic</i>	<i>Ekren</i>	<i>Zoric</i>	<i>Berset</i>
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Dble	Pass	2♥	3♦
3♥	Dble	All Pass	



Ole Berset, Norway

In the Open Room, South opened 1♦ and rebid his suit, thus inducing West to wake up at his second turn of bidding, only to make partner unhappy.

On an automatic trump lead by South, declarer could not manage more than six tricks for down three, -500 and 9 IMPs to Norway to level the match.

On the next board, both EW pairs found a dubious save, even taking into account that NS have a major suit game available:

Board: 15. Dlr: South/NS

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Borevkovic</i>	<i>Ekren</i>	<i>Zoric</i>	<i>Berset</i>
2NT	3♦	5♦	1♠
All Pass			Dble

### NOTICE TO TEAM CAPTAINS

1. Partnerships who submitted system changes too late for them to be registered by Anna Gudge are not permitted to adopt those changes until they have been authorized over the signature of the System Desk Chairman, Mr. Endicott.

2. Players must note the regulations providing that the final Pass of the auction must be placed on the tray and all four players given the opportunity to review the bidding before any bidding cards are removed from the tray.

3. The regulations state that a player may only receive information as to the meaning of calls and plays from his/her screenmate. If there is a problem call the Director.

4. Captains of teams that include a partnership with two or more Brown Sticker conventions on the card must inform the line-up manager of this before they enter their lineup for the first time.

The same applies if they have a partnership playing a HUM system. Whether the said partnership is due to play or not they are always the visiting team when playing a team not in this category.

In the Open Room, South led a heart and that was down four. Norway +800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Charlsen</i>	<i>Tesla</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Stanicic</i>
2NT	4♠	5♦	1♠
All Pass			Dble

In the Closed Room, South led a spade and that was only down three, Croatia +500. Two hearts quickly went on the top spades. Norway had scored 7 more IMPs to take the lead by 7.

Two easy games and then another big swing:

Board: 18. Dlr: East/NS

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Borevkovic</i>	<i>Ekren</i>	<i>Zoric</i>	<i>Berset</i>
Pass	2♥	INT	Pass
All Pass		Pass	2♠

Once North showed his suit by simply overcalling in spades, NS were bound to reach game which was cold but presented even less problems for declarer when West led a logical diamond. Croatia +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Charlsen</i>	<i>Tesla</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Stanicic</i>
1♠	2♠	1♦	Pass
Pass	3NT	Pass	2NT
		All Pass	

In the Closed Room, 2♥ was a constructive transfer but when South made no further move, there it rested. Norway +200 but a loss of 9 IMPs to see Croatia back into the lead by 2 IMPs with 2 to go.

Two more IMPs on overtricks gave Croatia a small win in the end: 29-25 or 16-14 VP.

## Cards on the Table

by Mark Horton



Agatha Christie was a keen bridge player and bridge frequently makes an appearance in her works. *Cards on the Table* (published in 1936) deals with a group of people invited to a card game at the house of a devilish and flamboyant man named Shaitana who claims to know murderers and is going to reveal one that evening. He is then murdered while the guests play bridge.

The case is solved by Hercule Poirot the world famous Belgian detective.

Along with Miss Marple, Poirot is one of Christie's

most famous and long-lived characters, appearing in 33 novels and 51 short stories that were published between 1920 and 1975.

He has been portrayed on screen many times, most famously by David Suchet (a subscriber to *Bridge Magazine!*) in the long running television series *Poirot*.

It is clear from this story and others that Poirot was a top class player, so let's join him and some of the other characters who inhabited his world.

The location is the Art Deco Midland Hotel, set on the famous Morecambe promenade.

Joining Poirot for a relaxed evening of bridge are:

Arthur Hastings, a former British Army officer, who first met Poirot during his years as a private detective in Europe and almost immediately after they both arrive in England. His life long friend Poirot, regards Hastings as a poor private detective, not particularly intelligent, yet helpful in his way of being fooled by the criminal and for his tendency to unknowingly stumble onto the truth. Much the same can be said of his bridge.

Miss Felicity Lemon, Poirot's secretary, has few human weaknesses. The only two mistakes she is ever recorded making are a typing error and the mis-mailing of an electric bill. She is an expert on nearly everything and plans to create the perfect filing system. She is currently engaged perfecting a new bidding system she calls the Belgian Club.

The foursome is completed by Chief Inspector Japp, who plays the foil to Poirot in many stories, just as Inspector Lestrade did for Sherlock Holmes. Japp is an outgoing, loud and sometimes inconsiderate man by nature and his relationship with the bourgeois Belgian is one of the stranger aspects of Poirot's world.

Having enjoyed a delightful supper prepared by Poirot the

players take their seats at the start of the rubber. Poirot cuts the Inspector while Miss Lemon strikes up a conversation as she deals:

*Miss Lemon:* I've got your Friar's Balsam for you.

*Poirot:* My what?

*Miss Lemon:* Your inhalant, for your cold.

*Poirot:* Poirot does not have colds, Miss Lemon. It is well known that Poirot scorns all but the gravest afflictions.

*Miss Lemon:* But yesterday you were...

*Poirot:* Miss Lemon, yesterday was yesterday. My tisane, if you please.

On his left Miss Lemon opens Two Spades as Poirot finds himself with this hand:

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

He looks somewhat bemused and asks Hastings 'You play this as a strong bid?'

'No Poirot, in the Belgian Club it shows a weak hand with spades and a minor.'

When Poirot overcalls Three Diamonds Hastings bids Three Hearts and the Inspector calls (a subtle turn of phrase for theatrical students) Five Diamonds. However, Hastings has not yet finished and when the bidding gets back to him he goes on to Six Clubs. This seems to give Japp something of a problem but eventually he emerges with Six Diamonds. Hastings closes the bidding with a double giving us this auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Hastings</i>	<i>Japp</i>	<i>Lemon</i>	<i>Poirot</i>
		2♠*	3♦
3♥	5♦	Pass	Pass
6♣	6♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Hastings leads the eight of clubs and as the dummy goes down he observes that Poirot has dropped a piece of paper on the floor. He retrieves it and the following exchange takes place:

*Captain Hastings:* There's something about you here, Japp. 'Chief Inspector Japp to speak in North Country lecture tour'.

*Poirot:* No, no. It was the other side I was interested in. I did not know that...

*Captain Hastings:* (turns clipping over) 'Learn to speak French like a Frenchman?'

Poirot: In Belgium, Hastings, it is considered quite bad form to read another person's newspaper cuttings. (taking the clipping) Thank you.

This is what Poirot sees when dummy is revealed:

♠ A Q 8 7 4 3  
 ♥ 7 6 2  
 ♦ K 8 7 2  
 ♣ —



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

'Thank you Chief Inspector. This problem will require the use of the little grey cells.'

Poirot ruffed in dummy and considered how to find a way of avoiding a spade loser. It was clear that diamonds would have to be 1-1 and declarer would have to rely on some form of elimination. Hastings failure to lead a spade suggested he was void in that suit, so as trumps have to be 1-1 West must be 6-6 or 7-5 in hearts and clubs. The latter is more likely given the auction, so Poirot crossed to his hand with a top heart, ruffed a club and exited with a diamond.

This was the full deal:

Dealer East None Vul

♠ A Q 8 7 4 3  
 ♥ 7 6 2  
 ♦ K 8 7 2  
 ♣ —

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



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

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

When East won with the ace of diamonds and East followed with the four Poirot exclaimed 'Always I am right. It is so invariable it startles me.'

'No one can always be right', said Miss Lemon.

'But I am. I must be right because I am never wrong', replied Poirot.

When Miss Lemon exited with a club Poirot put his cards on the table.

'So, we have played, and Hercule Poirot, he has won.'

## Cultural Program



In case you are wondering why there are three days when the bridge starts one hour early, this is because the Kursaal has a cultural program on these three evenings. Bridge players can benefit from a 50% discount on the tickets to the events. Just show your bridge badge at the ticketing office (near the

entrance to the building).

Tonight the Royal Ballet of Flanders will be "Impressing the Czar". In this magnificent performance choreographer William Forsythe challenges all forms of dance.

Friday evening, 25 June sees the National Orchestra of Belgium and Dutch pianist Hannes Minnaer, recent third laureate at the Queen Elisabeth of Belgium Piano Concours. They will perform the William Tell Overture of Gioachino Rossini and Symphony nr 15 by Dmitri Shostakovich.

Finally, on Monday 28th, the Moscow City Ballet will perform The Sleeping Beauty, a ballet written by Piotr Tchaikovsky in the original 19th century choreography of Marius Petipa.

## Celebration Of the 50th European Bridge Team Championships



The ceremony will be held on Saturday the 25th of June at 17:30 in the Kursaal Auditorium, followed by a reception in the entry hall. All Officials, NBO's and players are kindly invited.

As this is a very special ceremony, with a very rich programme, where all the Championships' winners and officers will be celebrated:

**PLEASE DON'T MISS IT**

## Belgian ladies beter uit de startblokken dan de Belgian open

Het damesteam van België heeft de start duidelijk niet gemist. Ze hielden Polen van zich af met 17-13.

We volgden de prestaties van het open team.

Toen board nr. 8 op tafel kwam hadden de Belgen een voorsprong van 1 IMP.

Board: 1. Dlr: North/None

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

In de open zaal hield Dewasme – Vandervorst in NZ zich tevreden met de manche in harten. Met een ronduit slecht schoppenresidu bij OW werden NZ beperkt tot 10 slagen, 420 voor de Belgen. In de gesloten zaal hadden de Grieken Protonotarios – Karamanlis in NZ duidelijk geen opwarming nodig. Ze legden aan in .. zes schoppen. Ook voor hen zaten de schoppen tegen; het werd één down. De Belgen kregen aldus 10 IMP's in de schoot geworpen.

De Belgen konden deze voorsprong niet lang vast houden; niet langer dan tot board nr. 2.

Board: 2. Dlr: East/NS

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

In de open zaal boden en lukten de Grieken Anastasiadis-Oikonomopoulos, OW, 3ZT. In de gesloten zaal hielden de Belgen Kurgan – Dehaye in OW zich tevreden met een partieelcontract in schoppen. Tot overmaat van ramp ging dit contract één down: 10 IMP's voor de Grieken en de bordjes stonden in evenwicht..

Board: 8. Dlr: West/None

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

In de gesloten zaal opteeden de Grieken in NZ voor vier harten. Dit contract ging één down.

In de open zaal besloten Dewasme – Vandervorst in NZ tot vier schoppen, te leiden in zuid.

Het Griekse OW-paar slaagde er niet in de goede flank te vinden. Het contract gaat met start harten hopeloos down. Immers heeft west twee azen te maken en kan hij zijn partner twee introevers bezorgen.

West startte met ♦J voor de heer in zuid. In slag twee werd klaveren gespeeld naar dummy, waarna schoppen vijf werd voorgezet. Oost legde kleine schoppen in, zuid



Philippos Karamanlis, Greece

speelde de boer en west nam de slag met het aas. West volhardde in ruiten voor het aas van de leider.

In slag vijf speelde de leider klaverendrie voor, ingetroefd in dummy. Hierna werd schoppen gespeeld voor de heer. Toen beide tegenspelers bekenden kon niets meer de winst van het contract in de weg staan.

In slag zeven speelde de leider zijn laatste klaveren voor, ingetroefd in dummy. Hierna volgde harten naar de heer van dummy.

De flank kon nog enkel hartenaas en schoppenvrouw maken; contract gemaakt en een voorsprong van 11 IMP's voor de Belgen.

## Round 1 - Board nr. 9:

♠ 10 6  
♥ K 8 7 5  
♦ Q 10 7 5  
♣ A K 10



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

Indien hartenaas gunstig zit (in west) hebben NZ zes ruiten binnen bereik. Het Griekse NZ-paar besloot tot 3ZT. De Belgen Dewasme – Vandervorst deden wel een slampoging; ook zij haakten af en dienden vier zonder troef



Isabelle Dewasme, Belgium

te spelen. In praktijk zat hartenaas gunstig en lukten de beide leiders in zonder troef elf slagen.

## Board: 10. Dlr: East/All

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

In de open zaal besloten de Grieken in OW tot drie zonder troef, te leiden in west. Noord startte met ruitenboer voor de heer van west. In slag twee speelde de leider schoppendrie terug. Zuid kwam aan slag met het aas en speelde ruiten terug. Het werd twee down. In de gesloten zaal lukte Kurgan twee harten, gemaakt met een overslag, een knock-out.. Dank zij dit spel voerden de Belgen hun voorsprong op tot 19 IMP's, het toppunt van hun roem.

In de daaropvolgende spellen knaagden de Grieken sterk aan deze voorsprong.

Niettemin hadden de Belgen, met nog één spel te gaan, de leiding met 4 IMP's

## Toen kwam board nr. 20

## Board: 20. Dlr: West/All

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

In de open zaal boden de Grieken in OW vier harten, gemaakt met een overslag. In de gesloten zaal boden Kurgan – Dehaeye in OW zes harten. Helaas, het werd één down.

Zodat Griekenland uiteindelijk de wedstrijd won met 54 – 61 IMP's