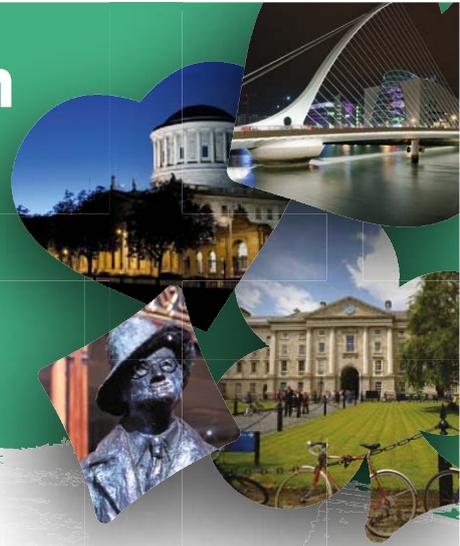




Editor:	Mark Horton.
Co-editors	Jos Jacobs; Patrick Jourdain; Micke Melander; Brian Senior; Ram Soffer; P.O. Sundelin.
Layout editor	Monika Kummel.
Photographer	Ron Tacchi.



THE GATHERING STORM



The fabulous ladies from the hospitality desk: Back Row – Imelda Cullinan, Elva Gannon, Ann Taaffe, Fionuala Gill Katherine Lennon, Frances Kelly, Anne Doyle, Ann Burns, Mary Rice, Maire O’Keeffe, Mairead Basquille, Anne Hassan. Front Row – Miriam McConville, Margaret Kelly, Mary Kelly-Rogers, Heidi Lillis.

In the Women’s series the first three match day saw **Sweden** move ahead of **England**, (now the only undefeated team) **Turkey**, **France**, **Netherlands** and **Scotland**. However, the field is tightly bunched and there is plenty of time for things to change.

The Open teams are past the half way mark and in Group A **Italy** and **Israel** are still undefeated, but they are only second and third as **Sweden** has moved to the top of the table. these three teams are chased by **Bulgaria**, **Germany**, and **Turkey**.

In Group B **Monaco** has a commanding lead over **England**, **France**, **Russia**, **Netherlands** and **Wales**.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Sunday 17th June - 10:00 AM - Silken Thomas Suite



To all NBOs delegates or attendees who have not yet pre-registered with the EBL Secretariat, please come for registration to the EBL Secretariat: Convention Centre, 1st Floor, Avoca Suite

10.00	
Italy - Sweden	BBO 1*
Bulgaria - Ireland	BBO 2
Monaco - Russia	BBO 3
Poland - Neth. (W)	BBO 4
Denmark - Poland (S)	BBO 5
13.30	
France - England	BBO 1*
Norway - Sweden	BBO 2
Monaco - Iceland	BBO 3
Poland - Sweden (W)	BBO 4
England - Neth. (S)	BBO 5
*BBO 1 = Vugraph	

OPEN TEAMS PROGRAM

GROUP A

ROUND 10 10.00

1	TURKEY	LATVIA
2	ISRAEL	SPAIN
3	UKRAINE	BELGIUM
4	BULGARIA	IRELAND
5	NORWAY	GERMANY
6	GREECE	PORTUGAL
7	ITALY	SWEDEN
8	SCOTLAND	HUNGARY
9	LITHUANIA	BYE

ROUND 11 13.30

1	LITHUANIA	SPAIN
2	TURKEY	BELGIUM
3	ISRAEL	IRELAND
4	UKRAINE	GERMANY
5	BULGARIA	PORTUGAL
6	NORWAY	SWEDEN
7	GREECE	HUNGARY
8	ITALY	SCOTLAND
9	LATVIA	BYE

GROUP B

ROUND 10 10.00

11	DENMARK	AUSTRIA
12	FRANCE	CROATIA
13	CYPRUS	SWITZERLAND
14	POLAND	ENGLAND
15	MONACO	RUSSIA
16	WALES	FINLAND
17	NETHERLANDS	ICELAND
18	ROMANIA	ESTONIA
19	LUXEMBOURG	BYE

ROUND 11 13.30

11	LUXEMBOURG	CROATIA
12	DENMARK	SWITZERLAND
13	FRANCE	ENGLAND
14	CYPRUS	RUSSIA
15	POLAND	FINLAND
16	MONACO	ICELAND
17	WALES	ESTONIA
18	NETHERLANDS	ROMANIA
19	AUSTRIA	BYE

SENIORS TEAMS PROGRAM

ROUND 1 10.00

31	BULGARIA	SPAIN
32	NORWAY	ITALY
33	ENGLAND	ESTONIA
34	FINLAND	ISRAEL
35	SCOTLAND	IRELAND
36	GERMANY	SWEDEN
37	FRANCE	NETHERLANDS
38	BELGIUM	WALES
39	DENMARK	POLAND
40	TURKEY	BYE

ROUND 2 13.30

31	SPAIN	ESTONIA
32	TURKEY	ISRAEL
33	BULGARIA	IRELAND
34	NORWAY	SWEDEN
35	ENGLAND	NETHERLANDS
36	FINLAND	WALES
37	SCOTLAND	POLAND
38	GERMANY	DENMARK
39	FRANCE	BELGIUM
40	ITALY	BYE

OPEN TEAMS RESULTS

GROUP A

ROUND 7

Match		IMPs	VPs
1	BULGARIA ISRAEL	30 - 40	13 - 17
2	NORWAY TURKEY	42 - 44	15 - 15
3	GREECE LITHUANIA	30 - 45	12 - 18
4	ITALY LATVIA	40 - 14	20 - 10
5	SCOTLAND SPAIN	15 - 77	3 - 25
6	HUNGARY BELGIUM	39 - 27	17 - 13
7	SWEDEN IRELAND	48 - 28	19 - 11
8	PORTUGAL GERMANY	33 - 67	8 - 22
9	UKRAINE BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 8

Match		IMPs	VPs
1	UKRAINE TURKEY	29 - 37	14 - 16
2	BULGARIA LITHUANIA	75 - 49	20 - 10
3	NORWAY LATVIA	42 - 42	15 - 15
4	GREECE SPAIN	85 - 55	21 - 9
5	ITALY BELGIUM	63 - 20	24 - 6
6	SCOTLAND IRELAND	35 - 58	10 - 20
7	HUNGARY GERMANY	66 - 72	14 - 16
8	SWEDEN PORTUGAL	118 - 20	25 - 0
9	ISRAEL BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 9

Match		IMPs	VPs
1	ISRAEL LITHUANIA	45 - 22	20 - 10
2	UKRAINE LATVIA	36 - 41	14 - 16
3	BULGARIA SPAIN	118 - 28	25 - 0
4	NORWAY BELGIUM	27 - 20	16 - 14
5	GREECE IRELAND	38 - 39	15 - 15
6	ITALY GERMANY	26 - 15	17 - 13
7	SCOTLAND PORTUGAL	45 - 41	16 - 14
8	HUNGARY SWEDEN	45 - 33	17 - 13
9	TURKEY BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

GROUP B

ROUND 7

Match		IMPs	VPs
11	POLAND FRANCE	74 - 26	25 - 5
12	MONACO DENMARK	66 - 15	25 - 5
13	WALES LUXEMBOURG	57 - 30	21 - 9
14	NETH. AUSTRIA	10 - 31	11 - 19
15	ROMANIA CROATIA	79 - 36	24 - 6
16	ESTONIA SWITZERLAND	56 - 54	15 - 15
17	ICELAND ENGLAND	38 - 67	9 - 21
18	FINLAND RUSSIA	39 - 67	9 - 21
19	CYPRUS BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 8

Match		IMPs	VPs
11	CYPRUS DENMARK	50 - 46	16 - 14
12	POLAND LUXEMBOURG	44 - 40	16 - 14
13	MONACO AUSTRIA	80 - 15	25 - 3
14	WALES CROATIA	48 - 53	14 - 16
15	NETH. SWITZERLAND	44 - 48	14 - 16
16	ROMANIA ENGLAND	19 - 56	7 - 23
17	ESTONIA RUSSIA	53 - 50	16 - 14
18	ICELAND FINLAND	51 - 81	9 - 21
19	FRANCE BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 9

Match		IMPs	VPs
11	FRANCE LUXEMBOURG	37 - 23	18 - 12
12	CYPRUS AUSTRIA	38 - 61	10 - 20
13	POLAND CROATIA	22 - 55	8 - 22
14	MONACO SWITZERLAND	28 - 24	16 - 14
15	WALES ENGLAND	26 - 41	12 - 18
16	NETHERLANDSRUSSIA	44 - 19	20 - 10
17	ROMANIA FINLAND	56 - 41	18 - 12
18	ESTONIA ICELAND	32 - 45	12 - 18
19	DENMARK BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

Results are subject to official confirmation

OPEN TEAMS RANKING

GROUP A

GROUP B

after 9 rounds

1 SWEDEN	173
2 ISRAEL	172
3 ITALY	171
4 BULGARIA	161
5 GERMANY	158
6 TURKEY	153
7 HUNGARY	148
8 IRELAND	138
9 LATVIA	135
10 UKRAINE	132
11 NORWAY	130
12 GREECE	122
13 LITHUANIA	115
14 SPAIN	103
15 SCOTLAND	98
16 BELGIUM	97
17 PORTUGAL	82

1 MONACO	179
2 ENGLAND	160
3 FRANCE	152
4 RUSSIA	148
5 NETHERLANDS	147
WALES	147
7 ICELAND	144
8 ROMANIA	143
9 DENMARK	139
ESTONIA	139
11 POLAND	132
12 AUSTRIA	131
SWITZERLAND	131
14 FINLAND	129
15 LUXEMBOURG	112
16 CROATIA	101
17 CYPRUS	71

WOMEN'S TEAMS RANKING

after 7 rounds

1 SWEDEN	133
2 ENGLAND	132
3 TURKEY	128
4 FRANCE	127
5 NETHERLANDS	123
6 SCOTLAND	120
7 POLAND	118.5
8 BELGIUM	115
9 BULGARIA	113.5
10 ISRAEL	106.5

11 DENMARK	101
12 NORWAY	97
13 AUSTRIA	96
14 GERMANY	92.5
15 ESTONIA	91
16 ITALY	79
17 GREECE	77
18 SPAIN	74
19 IRELAND	62

Results are subject to official confirmation

WOMEN'S TEAMS PROGRAM

ROUND 8 10.00

21	ESTONIA	AUSTRIA
22	ITALY	GREECE
23	SCOTLAND	BULGARIA
24	SPAIN	NORWAY
25	ISRAEL	GERMANY
26	FRANCE	IRELAND
27	POLAND	NETHERLANDS
28	ENGLAND	BELGIUM
29	DENMARK	SWEDEN
30	TURKEY	BYE

ROUND 9 13.30

21	TURKEY	GREECE
22	ESTONIA	BULGARIA
23	ITALY	NORWAY
24	SCOTLAND	GERMANY
25	SPAIN	IRELAND
26	ISRAEL	NETHERLANDS
27	FRANCE	BELGIUM
28	POLAND	SWEDEN
29	ENGLAND	DENMARK
30	AUSTRIA	BYE

WOMEN'S TEAMS RESULTS

ROUND 5

Match		IMPs	VPs
21	SPAIN ITALY	29 - 68	7 - 23
22	ISRAEL ESTONIA	52 - 15	23 - 7
23	FRANCE TURKEY	19 - 87	2 - 25
24	POLAND AUSTRIA	14 - 40	10 - 20
25	ENGLAND GREECE	58 - 26	22 - 8
26	DENMARK BULGARIA	27 - 75	5 - 25
27	SWEDEN NORWAY	45 - 49	14 - 16
28	BELGIUM GERMANY	50 - 32	19 - 11
29	NETH. IRELAND	93 - 5	25 - 0
30	SCOTLAND BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 6

Match		IMPs	VPs
21	SCOTLAND ESTONIA	56 - 54	15 - 15
22	SPAIN TURKEY	75 - 60	18 - 12
23	ISRAEL AUSTRIA	67 - 33	22 - 8
24	FRANCE GREECE	47 - 34	18 - 12
25	POLAND BULGARIA	62 - 54	16 - 14
26	ENGLAND NORWAY	38 - 38	15 - 15
27	DENMARK GERMANY	51 - 31	19 - 11
28	SWEDEN IRELAND	85 - 14	25 - 2
29	BELGIUM NETHERLANDS	72 - 59	18 - 12
30	ITALY BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 7

Match		IMPs	VPs
21	ITALY TURKEY	12 - 59	6 - 24
22	SCOTLAND AUSTRIA	65 - 44	19 - 11
23	SPAIN GREECE	26 - 38	13 - 17
24	ISRAEL BULGARIA	83 - 18	24.5 - 2.5
25	FRANCE NORWAY	80 - 24	25 - 4
26	POLAND GERMANY	21 - 44	9.5 - 19.5
27	ENGLAND IRELAND	25 - 27	15 - 15
28	DENMARK NETHERLANDS	44 - 14	21 - 9
29	SWEDEN BELGIUM	49 - 21	21 - 9
30	ESTONIA BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

Free Shuttle Bus Service

Green Isle Hotel ↔ Citywest Hotel (Main Door)

Green Isle ⇨ Citywest Mo-Sa 9.15 a.m.
Citywest ⇨ Green Isle Mo-Sa 7.30 p.m.

Sunday shuttle time arrangements to follow

Results are subject to official confirmation

In the Spotlight

Find out a little bit more about your fellow bridge players



Mike Ash

How did you take up bridge?

Learnt at school but became hooked at university.

Biggest influence?

Roy Higson & Raymond Brock were helpful and Bernard Goldenfield put in a lot of time helping us.

Bridge Club?

I have been a member of no less than 13 clubs in my time but now play at Melville in Edinburgh.

First Bridge Book

Card Play Technique by Mollo & Gardener. And I still go back to it!

(A new MPP edition of this classic will be published next summer. Editor)

Favourite Music?

Tom Waits - Swordfish Trombone, but also Dylan.

Favourite drink?

Coffee - I am an addict.

All time favourite player?

Benito Garozzo - I grew up reading about the Blue Team and it was a big thrill playing him.

Favourite TV Show?

Big Bang Theory - what else?

Best achievement in Bridge?

Winning the 2 stars and 4 stars events in Britain

(as it was then). Since moving to Scotland, proud of winning trials for European twice with different partners.

Least favourite opponent?

Never had a good board against Balicki & Zmudzinski - but probably not alone in this.

Biggest failing at the table?

'Falling asleep' so failing to see a critical play.

Most important attribute in a partner?

Being able to put up with me - but Bob Ferrari coped for 35 years so it can't be as hard as many tell me it is!

Your favourite tournament?

Spring Fours in England - intense, tough, well run. But best I have done in the event was losing in the final (at Harrogate) to the Editor's team.

Other interests?

Perhaps sadly, politics and public affairs (I was a full time politician before I came to Scotland). Also play chess and golf - both badly. As I am now President of the SBU I am hoping to spend a lot of time visiting clubs and local congresses.

MISSING – URGENT !!

A yellow ball has not been sighted since the Championships began. It goes by the name of 'the sun'. A finder's fee can be negotiated.

A dangerous lunatic is missing from a local asylum. He has been spotted on the loose in Citywest. He is NOT to be approached or encouraged in any way – the organisers cannot be held responsible for the consequences. Under NO circumstances is he to be fed. He is described as extra large, extra loud, wearing a canary yellow t-shirt, answering to the name of BJ O'Brien. If you happen across him, you are at risk of enjoying yourself – which in these times of European austerity, is simply not on.

The Dragon Roars

Patrick Jourdain (Wales)

Rested by sitting out Round 4 Team Wales followed with a draw against Poland and a win over France.

In the match against Poland, Gary & Dafydd Jones (a father and son combination) were the only pair in either the Open or the Women to reach the right spot on this deal:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West

Gary

1♦

3♦

3♠

4♠

East

Dafydd

1♣

2♠

3♥

4♦

Pass

The universally popular contract was 3NT, sunk by a heart lead. When the defence were in with the ace of spades a heart continuation set up the suit and declarer had no ninth trick before the defence enjoyed their hearts.

There might be a case for declarer winning the first heart with the ace and trying to sneak through a low diamond to the queen. If that wins the extra entry allows declarer to take two club finesses and set up the spades.

All that was academic when the Joneses reached 4♠. That proved a simple contract with 11 tricks when the club finesse worked. That was worth 10 IMPs and the draw.

(Incidentally, at another table Frederik Wrang declared 3NT as West on a heart lead. Spurning the percentage play (we call that 'à la Fredin') he won the heart ace and led a low diamond from the board! when South ducked Wrang had stolen a tempo and could finesse in clubs to set up his extra tricks in peace and quiet.

Better was to come for in the next match Wales beat France 60-12 or 25-5 in VPs. Asked for a hand the nonplaying captain, (another Jones! Alan this time) came up with a well-playing 3NT merely to earn a flat board.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West

Michel B.

Pass

Pass

Pass

North

Goodman

1♣

1♥

3NT

East

Thomas B.

Pass

Pass

All Pass

South

Pownall

Pass

1♦

1♠

This time it was France fielding the father-son pairing with Michel & Thomas Bessis.

At the other table East had led a club, helping declarer to his ninth trick. The diamonds produced three tricks, and the hearts two.

Thomas Bessis did better by leading a passive diamond round to declarer's ten. A heart to the queen and two top diamonds, pitching clubs, were followed by a heart ducked to West's ten. West now switched to a low spade. Goodman won this and cleared the hearts. The younger cashed his winning diamond (on which declare threw another club) and then tried to exit with the queen of spades. But Goodman had read the shape correctly and let this hold leaving Bessis endplayed into making the club lead that gave the ninth trick.

Had West switched to a club when he was in declarer can duck it to East's ten. East must cash both his red winners and then exit with the spade queen. That would give the defence the correct timing.

Duplimate Discounts

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

A Rarity

By Brian Senior

Round 4, Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fucik</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Purkarthofer</i>	<i>Townsend</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

England's David Bakhshi opened INT and played in 2♥ after a transfer response from Tom Townsend.

Austria's Gunther Purkarthofer led the eight of spades and Bakhshi won the ace then led to the king and continued with the queen, ruffed and over-ruffed. Bakhshi led a diamond and won the ace when Jan Fucik put in the king. A fourth spade was ruffed, East pitching a diamond, and declarer continued with a second diamond. Purkarthofer overtook his partner's jack to play another diamond, ruffed by declarer's eight. Now Bakhshi played the king of hearts to the ace and Purkarthofer switched to the three of clubs. Bakhshi went up with the king, losing to the ace, and Fucik returned the jack. This was the position:

♠ — ♥ J 5 ♦ — ♣ J 10		♠ — ♥ — ♦ 9 8 ♣ Q 9	♠ 2 ♥ Q ♦ — ♣ 6 4
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To defeat the contract, East had to overtake and allow West to win the third club then lead his low heart to the bare queen. When East failed to do so, he had to win the third club himself and lead a diamond at trick twelve. When dummy ruffed with the nine, West had lost his trump trick whether he overruffed or not. Granted, the defence could have done better, but Bakhshi had pulled off that rarity, a Smother Play, to make his contract.

100 Years Young

Barry Rigal

Board 3

South Dealer E-W Vul.

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

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	Pass	DbI.
2♦	Pass	2♥	3NT
Pass	Pass	4♥	4♠
All Pass			

Against 4♠ by East. South leads ♦K; North contributes the ♦Q so South underleads in diamonds to North's jack. Back comes the ♥J; plan the play.

Solution on page 22

Hospitality Corner

Saturday, June 16th

Bloomsday: today Saturday, bus departs 9.20 from Citywest Hotel and all it costs is a few euro. There will be coffee in the Teachers' Club in Parnell Square, Hugh Lane Gallery and Garden of Remembrance. Then Free Time.

If you miss the bus join the group by travelling on the Luas and joining the group by telephoning 00353 863841017

Sunday, June 17th

Russborough House and the Alfred Beit Paintings, Lunch by the lake in Avon Ri, coach leaving the Citywest Hotel at 11.am.

Please register your interest at the Hospitality Desk and also ask for other options.

Monday, June 18th

We visit Newgrange which was constructed over 5,000 years ago (about 3,200 B.C.), making it older than Stonehenge in England and the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt. Newgrange was built during the Neolithic or New Stone Age.

Please book at Hospitality ASAP.

Battle Of The Bids

by Maureen Dennison, supplemented by Barry Rigal

In the match between the English and Turkish ladies, England won 18-12 VP. A combination of better declarer play by Susan Stockdale and careful defence by Heather Dhondy on board 12 earned the team 10 IMPs.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Both teams played in 4♥ by West on the ♣K lead. Nevena Senior switched to her singleton spade. Declarer, thinking she needed to be in dummy to start on trumps, flew up with the king, smothering one of her honours, and led a heart. Dhondy rose with the ace and gave her partner her spade ruff. She still controlled the fifth spade, so the defence came to their diamond trick to put the contract down one. Stockdale, on the other hand, ran the spade to her hand and entered dummy with a club ruff to start on trumps. Whilst Belis Atalay for Turkey, also found the correct trump play, there were enough spade tricks to take care of the losing diamonds. (Notice that when South rises with the ♥A to give her partner the spade ruff, North can return a club, but declarer can ruff with the ♥J and South cannot over-ruff.)

Three interesting swings were earned in the bidding. Look at this:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Senior opened the North hand 1♦ and heard her partner respond 1♥. She temporised with 2NT – 18 to 19 points. Dhondy bid 3NT and Senior converted to 4♥ leaving any further move to partner who knew they were in the right contract and passed. In the replay, after a similar start, South over-valued her diamond fit and bid on and the Turkish ladies reached 6♥-1 to lose 10 IMPs. (In the Vugraph match the audience witnessed two Souths play 4♥ on a club lead. One wise South rose with the ♣A to play hearts; well done, and 10 tricks. One foolish South finessed. East won and thoughtfully shifted to diamonds, preparing the way for a cross-ruff. Declarer won and led a trump up...and West ducked.)

Though the swing on my next deal was a mere 3 IMPs, this was of interest:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

After a third in hand INT opening by West, Senior was able to bid a conventional 2♣ which, besides showing the usual two suited take-out, also covered 4441 hands. South bid 2♥ and made nine tricks whilst in the Closed Room INT drifted down one for –50. Again the Vugraph saw more action, this time in the women's match between France and Italy. Here D'Ovidio overcalled INT with a Landy 2♣. Trading on her passed hand status Neve as South jumped pre-emptively to 3♥ and D'Ovidio could not take a joke, raising to 4♥. This contract looks extremely awkward – but West was not well placed at trick one. She settled for the ♣A – no harm done, except that E/W were playing odd-even carding, with odd cards encouraging. East dropped the ♣8; now should that be discouraging or suit preference? West read it as requesting a spade shift, and suited the thought to the deed. Now Neve won in hand and played a diamond up. With trumps and diamonds breaking so favourably, nothing could stop her bringing home ten tricks.

Ozlem Oymen and Dilek Yavas salvaged 10 fine IMPs on the following deal, which featured an unusual — to say the least — convention .

Battle Of The Bids (continued)

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West opened 1♥ and Oymen bid 2♠ showing at least 5-5 in the minors. Yavas jumped to 5♣ and, when she saw dummy, was disappointed to have missed the slam. In the replay East –West played in a quiet 3♣ for 170.

(Just for the record a standard French sequence (1♥ - 1NT - 2♣ - 3NT - 4♦ - 4♠ - 5♣ - 6♣) would get the job done nicely. 3NT shows short hearts and a very strong club raise, and once West shows the diamond control East is not going to stop short of slam. A direct 3♠ splinter over 2♣ would work equally well by East.)

**A very happy Birthday to
the onsite organizer
Paul Porteous!!!!**

**Championship Diary**

We are told that BBO have asked England to rest John Holland in their Senior match against the Netherlands this afternoon. They feel it will confuse the spectators to have the Netherlands sitting East-West and Holland sitting South.

The staff at Citywest are joining into the spirit of the Championships. At breakfast yesterday (following Ireland's elimination from Euro 2012) one of them pointed out that an alternative headline for yesterday's Bulletin might have been, 'The Rain in Spain'.

Andy Hung contacted us by email:

'Speaking from the perspective of an outside spectator: Fantastic job on the bulletins - they are always of a high quality standard and a joy to read.

If you don't mind me saying so - though you might already know and it's too troubling to change - the bulletin's odd numbered pages, the headers say "12-23 July 2012" when instead it should be June? *How did we miss that one? It will be corrected interfractically.*

As for a portmanteau, I don't really have one for the current participants there but I would just like to share a semi-portmanteau that I used to have - A couple of years ago I played with someone who had a surname of *Rodwell*, and because my surname is *Hung*, it was just a matter of seconds before someone pointed out the perfect portmanteau for us :)

Anyway, keep up the awesome work!

Heather Dhondy reminded me that she had given some thought to portmanteaus in the April issue of *English Bridge*.

Reading the recent news coverage of Monaco's latest stars *Helgerness* (Helness-Helgemo) got me thinking about how the headline-grabbers would choose to refer to our own (England's) women's partnerships. Starting with Susan Stockdale-Fiona Brown.

Brockdale? Too confusing since some would think that Sally Brock was part of the partnership. *Stockdown*? Possibly. *Browndale*? Ah yes, that's the one.

For my own partnership with Nevena Senior, I think we should be *Dhonor*, since, at the risk of conjuring up unwanted images of Osmonds, it has to be better than the *Sedy* alternative.

Finally Nicola Smith and Sally Brock. *Broth* or *Smock*? Hard to choose, really. (*How about Colas? Editor*)

B l o o m s d a y

Don't miss all the fun of one of the most exciting days of the year in Dublin. However, we suggest you pass on the traditional Bloomsday breakfast - as witness this extract from the book *Ulysses*:

Mr Leopold Bloom ate with relish the inner organs of beasts and fowls. He liked thick giblet soup, nutty gizzards, a stuffed roast heart, liverslices fried with crustcrumbs, fried hencods' roes. Most of all he liked grilled mutton kidneys which gave to his palate a fine tang of faintly scented urine. Kidneys were in his mind as he moved about the kitchen softly, righting her breakfast things on the humpy tray.

Bloomsday is a commemoration and celebration of the life of Irish writer James Joyce during which the events of his novel *Ulysses* (which is set on 16 June 1904) are relived. (One of the best ways to discover this masterpiece is to read the graphic version - go to: <http://www.ulyssesseen.com>.) It is observed annually on 16 June in Dublin and elsewhere. Joyce chose the date as it was that of his first outing with his wife-to-be, Nora Barnacle; they walked to the Dublin suburb of Ringsend. The name derives from Leopold Bloom, the protagonist of *Ulysses*.

The English portmanteau word *Bloomsday* is usually used in Irish as well, though some purist publications, including the Irish Wikipedia, call it Lá Bloom.

Bloomsday (a term Joyce himself did not employ) was invented in 1954, on the 50th anniversary of the events in the novel, when John Ryan (artist, critic, publican and founder of *Envoy* magazine) and the novelist Flann O'Brien organised what was to be a daylong pilgrimage along the *Ulysses* route. They were joined by Patrick Kavanagh, Anthony Cronin, Tom Joyce (a dentist who, as Joyce's cousin, represented the family interest) and AJ Leventhal (Registrar of Trinity College, Dublin). Ryan had engaged two horse drawn cabs, of the old-fashioned kind, which in *Ulysses* Mr. Bloom and his friends drive to poor Paddy Dignam's funeral. The party were assigned roles from the novel. They planned to travel round the city through the day, visiting in turn the scenes of the novel, ending at night in what had once been the brothel quarter of the city, the area which Joyce had called Nighttown. The pilgrimage was abandoned halfway through, when the weary Lestrygonians succumbed to inebriation and rancour at the Bailey pub in the city centre, which Ryan then owned, and at which, in 1967, he installed the door to No. 7 Eccles Street (Leopold Bloom's front door), having rescued it from demolition. Celebrations will take place in numerous cities all over the world:

Dublin

The day involves a range of cultural activities including *Ulysses* readings and dramatisations, pub crawls and other events, much of it hosted by the James

Joyce Centre in North Great George's Street. Enthusiasts often dress in Edwardian costume to celebrate Bloomsday, and retrace Bloom's route around Dublin via landmarks such as Davy Byrne's pub. Hard-core devotees have even been known to hold marathon readings of the entire novel, some lasting up to 36 hours. A five-month-long festival (Re-Joyce Dublin 2004) took place in Dublin between 1 April and 31 August 2004. On the Sunday in 2004 before the 100th "anniversary" of the fictional events described in the book, 10,000 people in Dublin were treated to a free, open-air, full Irish breakfast on O'Connell Street consisting of sausages, rashers, toast, beans, and black and white puddings. "Every year hundreds of Dubliners dress as characters from the book ... as if to assert their willingness to become one with the text. It is quite impossible to imagine any other masterpiece of modernism having quite such an effect on the life of a city."

On Bloomsday 1982, the centenary year of Joyce's birth, Irish state broadcaster, RTÉ, transmitted a continuous 30-hour dramatic performance of the entire text of *Ulysses* on radio.

Hungary

Bloomsday has also been celebrated since 1994 in the Hungarian town of Szombathely, the fictional birthplace of Leopold Bloom's father, Virág Rudolf, an emigrant Hungarian Jew. The event is usually centered on the Iseum, the remnants of an Isis temple from Roman times, and the Blum-mansion, commemorated to Joyce since 1997, at 40-41 Fő street, which used to be the property of an actual Jewish family called Blum. Hungarian author László Najmányi in his 2007 novel, *The Mystery of the Blum-mansion* and the Blum family.

United States

The Rosenbach Museum & Library in Philadelphia is the home of the handwritten manuscript of *Ulysses* and celebrates Bloomsday with a street festival including readings, Irish music, and traditional Irish cuisine provided by local Irish-themed pubs.

New York City has several events on Bloomsday including formal readings at Symphony Space and informal readings and music at the downtown *Ulysses'* Folk House pub.

The Syracuse James Joyce Club holds an annual Bloomsday celebration at Johnston's BallyBay Pub in Syracuse, New York, at which large portions of the book are either read aloud, or presented as dramatizations by costumed performers. The club awards scholarships and other prizes to students who have written essays on Joyce or fiction pertaining to his work. The city is home to Syracuse University, whose press has published or reprinted several volumes of Joyce studies.

Italy

There have been many Bloomsday events in Trieste, where

Expert Play?

By John Comyn

Bloomsday (continued)

the first part of *Ulysses* was written. The Joyce Museum Trieste, opened on 16 June 2004, collects works by and about James Joyce, including secondary sources, with a special emphasis on his period in Trieste.

Since 2005 Bloomsday has been celebrated every year in Genoa, with a reading of *Ulysses* in Italian by volunteers (students, actors, teachers, scholars), starting at 0900 and finishing in the early hours of 17 June; the readings take place in 18 different places in the old town centre, one for each chapter of the novel, and these places are selected for their resemblance to the original settings. Thus for example chapter 1 is read in a medieval tower, chapter 2 in a classroom of the Faculty of Languages, chapter 3 in a bookshop on the waterfront, chapter 9 in the University Library, and chapter 12 (“Cyclops”) in an old pub. The Genoa Bloomsday is organized by the Faculty of Languages and the International Genoa Poetry Festival.

Australia

In Sydney, Australia, Bloomsday is hosted by the John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies UNSW in association with the National Irish Association Sydney and the Consulate General of Ireland, Sydney.

In Mel Brooks’ 1968 film *The Producers*, Gene Wilder’s character is called Leo Bloom, an homage to Joyce’s character. In the musical 2005 version, in the evening scene at the Bethesda Fountain in Central Park, Leo asks, “When will it be Bloom’s day?”. However, in the earlier scene in which Bloom first meets Max Bialystock, the office wall calendar shows that the current day is 16 June, indicating that it is, in fact, Bloomsday.



Tom Hanlon had Sweden on the ropes if he had made a contract that at first glance seemed unbeatable.

The bidding, perhaps, put him off, but there was a strong rumour going around the players’ room at the end of the match that he pulled the wrong card after he led a trump from dummy.

“No I did not”, Tom told me when he arrived with the team after a pretty good match, which Ireland looked like saving until the final two hands.

Anyway, back to the hand that meant a 25 IMP swing; a vital statistic in the context of Ireland against one of the leaders

The bidding was competitive to say the least.

Round 7. Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>McGann</i>		<i>Hanlon</i>	
–	Pass	1♦	Dble
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	5♦	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	All Pass

The trump position is what is so important. When Tom led a small diamond, North played the queen. This led to the story of a wrong card because the diamond was ducked. Why, is the big question.

“I played South for the stiff ace on the bidding. Why else would he double”, said the unfortunate declarer. Well, to be honest, I can’t really see why that makes too much sense, but if that is the expert play, who am I to argue. I am a simple soul and dare I suggest I would just rattle off the eleven fairly obvious tricks.

And just when it looked as if Ireland would scramble a draw, two bad boards at the very end meant 11-19.

Even worse news from the Ladies. Against the very powerful Dutch team, Ireland crashed to a 25-0 defeat. It was truly horrendous.

OPEN**Round 4****Netherlands v Monaco**

by Jos Jacobs

On Thursday morning, the big match of the round was no doubt the one between the reigning World Champions from Netherlands and the newly-formed national team of Monaco, which includes Fantoni-Nunes and Helgemo-Helness. These two pairs would face Muller-De Wijs and Drijver-Brink respectively so a very tight match was in prospect.

After a warming-up 3NT on the first board for a push, the second board was more interesting, though only a partscore was at stake:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Redble	1♠
2♦	2♠	All Pass	

Helgemo opened a natural 1♦ and passed Helness' 1♥ response, thus offering the Dutch the chance to enter the auction. When nobody competed over 2♠, the Dutch had bought the contract which duly made with an overtrick. Netherlands +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
3♦	All Pass	Pass	Pass

De Wijs' tactical approach of a strongish pre-empt in 3rd position paid off rich dividends when it silenced everybody. Netherlands +110 and 6 precious IMPs to open their account in a match in which every IMP would be hard-fought.

As was confirmed two boards later:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Maybe Helgemo's INT was a bit shaded but Helness' raise to game certainly was not. The contract itself was OK, depending only, after a spade lead, on the clubs no worse than 3-1 with the king onside. Not today, so Helgemo had to concede one down when Drijver led a natural low spade. Netherlands +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
INT	All Pass		

De Wijs-Muller open INT with a good 12 to 15 hcp so Muller had an easy enough pass. When Fantoni elected to lead the ♣9, overtricks were looming but they did not materialise when De Wijs took a late diamond finesse rather than cashing out his winners. Netherlands only +90 but another 5 precious IMPs to them to lead 13-0.

On the next 11 boards, only 3 IMPs were scored: one single by the Netherlands and two singles by the Monegasques to bring the score to 14-2 to the Dutch.

One board in this series was a grand slam, nicely but quite differently reached at both tables. As a tribute to the pairs involved, here are their auctions.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ A K Q 9 4 3 ♥ 7 6 ♦ A K Q 4 ♣ A	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 10 7 ♥ 10 9 5 4 2 ♦ J 9 ♣ Q 10 7 4	♠ J 5 ♥ A 8 3 ♦ 8 6 ♣ K J 9 8 6 3
		♠ 8 6 2 ♥ K Q J ♦ 10 7 5 3 2 ♣ 5 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	Dble
Pass	Pass	Redble	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

The Helgemo-Helness auction was almost completely natural. 3♣ showed a good suit and a fair hand, 4♥ was a cuebid for spades and the redouble confirmed first-round control. 5♦ showed an ace and 6♣ confirmed the ♣K. That was all Helgemo needed to know.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
1♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

At the other table, we saw Tarzan in action. 1♣ was Strong Club and 2♣ showed clubs in an unbalanced GF hand. Then came a series of relays in which East described his hand as six clubs (2♠), short in spades (3♣) and exactly 2326 (3♠). 4♣ then asked for controls and 4♥ showed 3, i.e. one ace and one king. With 4♠, West enquired further, understandably so as he could foresee a play problem on a heart lead. Though 5♣ did not bring to light any extra value, De Wijs already knew enough to bid the grand with confidence. Right he was, so a flat board but well bid by either side.

With the score still at 14-2 after 15 boards, one might say that the IMPs were really extremely precious. On the board below, Monaco got back five of them on a Dutch misdefence at one table:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ J 10 9 3 ♥ J 5 4 ♦ K J ♣ A J 10 7	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K Q 6 4 2 ♥ K Q 8 ♦ A 2 ♣ 6 4 2	♠ 8 7 ♥ A 3 ♦ Q 10 9 8 7 6 ♣ Q 9 3
		♠ A 5 ♥ 10 9 7 6 2 ♦ 5 4 3 ♣ K 8 5	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
All Pass			

When West led the ♠J, the contract immediately was in danger as the entry to South's hearts threatens to disappear. Dummy won the king and led a top heart, taken immediately by East with his ace. When East returned the ♦10, declarer decided to duck West's jack. Not that it mattered very much as there will not be a road to come to seven tricks anyway, as the ♦A is needed as the re-entry to dummy's second top spade. One down, Monaco +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	2♦
Dble	2♥	3♦	Pass
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

De Wijs' aggressive take-out double over 2♦ put maximum pressure on NS who ended up in 3♥, defending against 3♦ making. Three Hearts should have gone down on the actual ♦10 lead but it did not. Declarer, Fantoni, ducked the opening lead but had to win the next diamond with his ace and continued a top heart. When Muller smoothly ducked this, it suddenly was all over as a club could be discarded now on a top spade, East having to ruff with his ace...

Monaco another +140, and 5 IMPs back to trail 14-7.

More IMPs to them on the next board:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
	Pass	Pass	INT
2♠	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

In 3rd position, Brink, who was looking at not much more than a bunch of diamonds, must have thought that EW had a game on and opened INT. His timing was not quite in order but nobody doubled the final contract so little harm was done. Down two, Monaco +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
	Pass	Pass	2♦
2♠	All Pass		



Bauke Muller, Netherlands

Nunes, at the other table, could open a shaded but natural 2♦, showing 10-13. West's 2♠ silenced everyone but the opening bid caused declarer to misguess the positions in the black suits and go down even two where he certainly could have made the contract double-dummy. Monaco thus registered another +100 and 5 more precious IMPs to trail by just 14-12 now.

Three more IMPs went Monaco's way on undertricks on the next board so we had a new leader in the match when the last board hit the table:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	INT	3♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Though declarer only lost the obvious top tricks, this still meant he had to go one down for +100 to Monaco.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	1♣	3♦	All Pass

After the multiway one-round forcing 1♣, nobody had anything more to say over Muller's pre-empt. Nunes led the ♣7 which Fantoni took with his ace. He went on to first cash the ♥A before returning a club to Muller's king. Declarer's last club now went on a top spade and a diamond from dummy was won by North's ace. Next came the ♣Q...ruffed by Muller; after some thinking, with the ♦9 and thus overruffed by Nunes with the ♦10 for one down. Had Muller ruffed with an honour and continued a low diamond, he would have been home...

Anyway, another +100 to Monaco for another 5 precious IMPs. The final score: 20-14 or 16-14 V.P. to Monaco. The IMPs really had been very precious in this match...

OPEN	<h1 style="margin: 0;">Iceland v France</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">by Brian Senior</p>
Round 4	

The meeting of two teams who expected to make the second stage of the tournament started well for Iceland. On Board 1, Throstur Ingimarsson and Magnus Magnusson bid to an unbeatable (as the cards lie) 3NT while Jerome Rombaut and Cedric Lorenzini were one down in a 5♣ which had three top losers but only if the defence took two of them immediately, as they did. After five deals, Iceland led by 19-3 IMPs. Then the tide turned.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Einarsson</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Jorgensen</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♣	Dble	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	2♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Ingimarsson</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Magnusson</i>
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♣	Dble	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Both Norths doubled the Stayman response. Marc Bompis showed his four-card major and, facing a strong no trump opening, Jean-Christophe Quantin simply raised to game. In the other room, Adalsteinn Jorgensen passed, requiring a club stopper to make an immediate descriptive bid. Bjarni Einarsson redoubled to ask again but, facing a 14-16 no trump and knowing that the club king was poorly placed, passed the 2♠ response.

While Einarsson's decision was perfectly reasonable, the E/W hands fit well together and there were ten tricks at both tables; +170 for Jorgensen but +620 for Bompis and 10 IMPs to France, who closed to 13-19.

France had the lead a few minutes later when, on Board 7, Ingimarsson/Magnusson reached a hopeless slam while Lorenzini brought home a tricky 3NT (we don't have the play details), to give France a 14 IMP pick-up.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Einarsson</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Jorgensen</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Ingimarsson</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Magnusson</i>
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♣	Pass	7♠	All Pass

Both E/W pairs did very well to bid to the excellent grand slam which was missed at many tables. Einarsson's 2♦ was either a weak two in a major or game-forcing with a major, and 2♥ was pass or correct. Now 3♦ showed the game force with long spades plus a diamond suit and, after Jorgensen had shown spade preference, Einarsson drove to slam, discovering along the way that his partner held one key card and the king of clubs.

Quantin opened with a strong artificial 2♣ and Bompis made a control-showing response. After Bompis had shown his clubs then admitted to spade tolerance, an exchange of cuebids left him in a position to jump to seven – Quantin had to have the top spades and his 6♣ bid confirmed that the club king would be a trick.

Two quite different bidding methods had managed to get East to be declarer. Magnusson led the king of hearts against Bompis, who won, unblocked the ace of clubs and

played three rounds of diamonds, ruffed with the ten and over-ruffed. The heart loser went away on the king of clubs and Bompis had 13 tricks for +1510.

Lorenzini led a trump. Jorgensen won in dummy, cashed the ace of clubs and one top diamond, then crossed to the ace of hearts to take his heart pitch on the club king. Now he took his diamond ruff and was home when trumps were 3-2 for a flat board.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Einarsson</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Jorgensen</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
–	1♦	1♠	Dble
Rdbl	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Ingimarsson</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Magnusson</i>
–	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Jorgensen overcalled where Bompis did not and perhaps we should not be surprised that the East hand did not match a Frenchman's idea of what a vulnerable overcall looks like. The overcall, combined with Lorenzini's negative double, added momentum to the N/S auction so that Rombaut was unwilling to stop short of game. In the uncontested auction, Ingimarsson could jump to show a strong but not necessarily game-forcing hand and now Magnusson requested that he bid 3♣ then, when he did so, passed.

Against 3♣, Bompis cashed the king of clubs then switched to a diamond. There were ten tricks now for +130.

Jorgensen led a spade against 3NT and Einarsson won and returned the suit to the jack and queen. Jorgensen continued with a third spade while dummy pitched a diamond and a club and Einarsson a club. Rombaut won the spade and ran the diamonds. This was the ending:

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

Rombaut cashed the nine of spades, pitching club from dummy, and Einarsson threw a heart. Now came a club to the bare king and Jorgensen cashed the spade winner. Dummy threw another club and, when Jorgensen now played the two of hearts, Rombaut called for the queen and had his ninth trick for a well-played +400 and 7 IMPs to France; 34-19.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Einarsson</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Jorgensen</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦
1♥	Pass	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Ingimarsson</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Magnusson</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦
1♥	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Rombaut chose to play for a penalty by passing the vulnerable overcall but Lorenzini did not find a reopening double, simply repeating his diamonds – normal enough. Now Rombaut jumped to 3NT and played there. Knowing declarer's handtype, Jorgensen looked elsewhere than

hearts for his opening lead and tried the jack of clubs, won by Rombaut's king. Rombaut ran the jack of diamonds to the bare king and Einarsson returned the queen of spades. Rombaut had the rest now for +690.

Ingimarsson preferred not to try for a one-level penalty so just jumped to 3NT over 1♥. Though his partner was marked with heart values, Magnusson felt that his distribution justified another bid and the small slam was reached. Of course, the overcall did not guarantee possession of the king of diamonds so, when Quantin kicked off with ace and another club, Magnusson won in dummy, threw his remaining clubs on the top hearts, then took the percentage play of running the jack of diamonds; down one for -100 and 13 IMPs to France, whose lead was up to 47-19.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Einarsson	Rombaut	Jorgensen	Lorenzini
-	-	-	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Ingimarsson	Bompis	Magnusson
-	-	-	1♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Facing a possible three-card club suit, Rombaut was content to bid and rebid his seven-card suit at a low level and, after a diamond lead, made ten tricks for +170. Magnusson's 1♣ was either natural or any balanced hand outside the no trump range and Ingimarsson seems to have taken a bit of a flyer, perhaps in hope of changing the momentum of the match. His 4♣ response was a transfer to hearts and Magnusson duly obliged. The spade lead into South's tenace gave an overtrick, but that was just a bonus. Plus 450 meant 7 IMPs to Iceland, closing a little to 26-47.

The rest of the match was very quiet and the score moved on only to 53-31 in favour of the French. That gave France a 20-10 VP win and left them at the head of the Group B rankings.

Neat Endplay

By Brian Senior

The Swedish Open team won its Round 6 match against Spain by 24-6 VPs, but on our featured deal it was Spain who gained an 11 IMP swing.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Goded	Fredin	Vincent	Fallenius
-	-	1♣	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♠	Dble
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

In the other room Sweden stopped in game but Gonzalo Goded and Herve Vincent, for Spain, bid to the small slam when Goded was willing to co-operate with Vincent's slam try with a 4♦ cuebid and now Vincent jumped to 5♥ to ask for good trumps, which of course Goded could supply.

Peter Fredin led the five of spades, third and fifth, and Goded ruffed in dummy. There was a possible line involving trying to ruff all four spades in dummy, but that needed a lot of good fortune so Goded discounted it. Instead, he played ace, king and a third club, ruffing with the four, then ruffed a spade. Fredin tried to hide the spade layout by following with the seven, but the auction plus the fall of the jack strongly suggested the actual 6-3 split.

Goded crossed back to hand with the king of diamonds and took a third spade ruff then played ace, king and jack of hearts, pitching two diamonds from the dummy. Fallenius won the heart queen but was down to only diamonds so had to put dummy in to cash the club winners; +980 and 11 IMPs to Spain.

The beauty of Goded's line was that it did not depend on the position of the queen of trumps, merely that South hold any three trumps or queen-doubleton, and only three spades. Neatly done.

OPEN

Round 4

Sweden v Israel

by Ram Soffer

Although the favourite team in Group A is Italy, the reigning champions, Israel and Sweden had the best start, and they occupied the two top spots at the end of Day 1. The two leaders clashed in Round 4.

In the Open Room The best-known Swedish pair Fredin-Fallenius (N/S) faced the successful Israeli Junior pair Padon-A. Birman, while in the Closed Room the Herbst brothers played against the new Swedish combination Nystrom-Upmark.

Board 1 was an interesting push.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>I. Herbst</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Israel did temporarily reach the winning contract of 3NT, but understandably South had higher aspirations. They stopped in 5♣, which goes down two if the defenders adopt a passive approach, since declarer has no entry to his hearts. Nystrom led a spade, but after winning the ♣K he switched to a diamond and Upmark quickly cashed his tricks, helping declarer escape for down one.

At the other table, after a similar bidding sequence, Padon led a diamond, and it seemed that Birman hit on the right defense when he won with the ace and switched to a club. Nevertheless, West continued diamonds upon winning his ♣K so the result was also down one.

Sweden took the lead on Board 3.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>I. Herbst</i>
1♥	2♦	2♥	3♦
All Pass			

A standard competitive sequence. E/W can make 2♥, so N/S outbid them to the 3-level, but declarer had to lose 5 tricks. +50 to Sweden.

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>A. Birman</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>
Pass	INT	All Pass	1♣



Peter Fredin, Sweden

Fredin-Fallenius open 1♣ with any balanced 12-14 hand, so their diamond fit was not found. On the other hand, Padon didn't like a vulnerable overcall with such a poor suit, so his partner was left with a difficult lead problem against INT. He rejected clubs, since N/S were likely to be short in the majors.

In my opinion the stronger major is the percentage choice in similar cases, but Alon Birman preferred a passive spade, which allowed Fallenius to score an easy +90, rather than a heart, after which declarer would be limited to five tricks. 4-0 to Sweden.

A much more exciting deal followed.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>I. Herbst</i>
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

It seems that 3NT would be easily set, but North has a big problem after his spade lead is taken with dummy's Q. For all he knows, declarer's king may be defended, so it might be very wrong to cash the ♠A upon winning the ♣K. Indeed, despite his partner's attempts to signal, Ophir Herbst switched to a heart. That left Nystrom with 8 top tricks and a diamond guess. Declarer knew that South was longer in diamonds, and that North failed to overcall with his long spades. He played South for the ♦Q, which resulted in an unfortunate minus 200.

The bidding in the Open Room was more dramatic:

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>A. Birman</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>
INT	2♦	Dbl	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Fredin overcalled aggressively with 2♦ (multi) and Fallenius responded 3♥ (Pass or correct). The Swedes got to their par contract of 3♠, but South had to raise to game, since North was expected to have a better hand.

However the real hero of the board was Alon Birman

who had the nous to pass 3♠ and not double the Swedes into game. He did double 4♠, and declarer lost the four obvious tricks. +200 at both tables gave Israel a 9:4 lead.

On boards 5-7 Sweden gained 2 IMPs due to overtricks, and then both E/W pairs did very well, bidding to a grand slam.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>I. Herbst</i>
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♦	Pass	7♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>A. Birman</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

There were a few subtle differences in the bidding after both pairs opened with a strong 2♣. The Swedes preferred a waiting 2♦ response which gave them more bidding space. The Israelis used a positive 3♣ response, after which 4♥ was a cuebid in support of spades. South's double was helpful, giving East the chance to clarify his heart holding. Rdbl showed a first control.

Both teams were using identical responses to 4NT (which are nowadays quite standard): 5♣ showing 1 or 4 keycards and 6♣ showing the ♣K. Here Nystrom neatly bid 6♦, asking for 3rd control in the suit, while Padon immediately bid the grand slam.

Both declarers won the trump lead in hand, played ♦AK,

ruffed their losing diamond and claimed.

The next board featured a tricky 3NT contract.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nystrom	O. Herbst	Upmark	I. Herbst
	1♦	1♠	DbI
Rdbl	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

South doubled with his distributional 5 HCP, then raised 2NT to game, hoping that clubs would run.

West	North	East	South
Padon	Fredin	A. Birman	Fallenius
	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Apparently 2♣ was non-forcing, but North jumped to game anyway.

At both rooms East led a spade to West's ace, and won the return with the ♠Q. The best defence would have been to cash the ♣K and then continue spades, after which declarer is helpless. However it is inconceivable to play like this unless you see all four hands.

Upmark made a questionable switch to hearts. Ophir Herbst guessed right to play the ♥Q, which gave him the ninth trick on the spot.

Alon Birman continued spades. Declarer cashed his spades and diamonds. East had to come down to ♠6 ♥K 2 ♣K. Now declarer played a club and East was endplayed.

However it was not all over yet. Alon did well not to cash his last spade (which would have squeezed his partner). He played a small heart and it became the same guess as in the other table. Fredin didn't get it right, playing the ♥10 and going down.

That gave Israel a useful lead of 19-6, which was extended by 7 IMPs when Sweden failed to bid a non-vulnerable game on Board 11.

Israel cemented their lead in the following deal.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

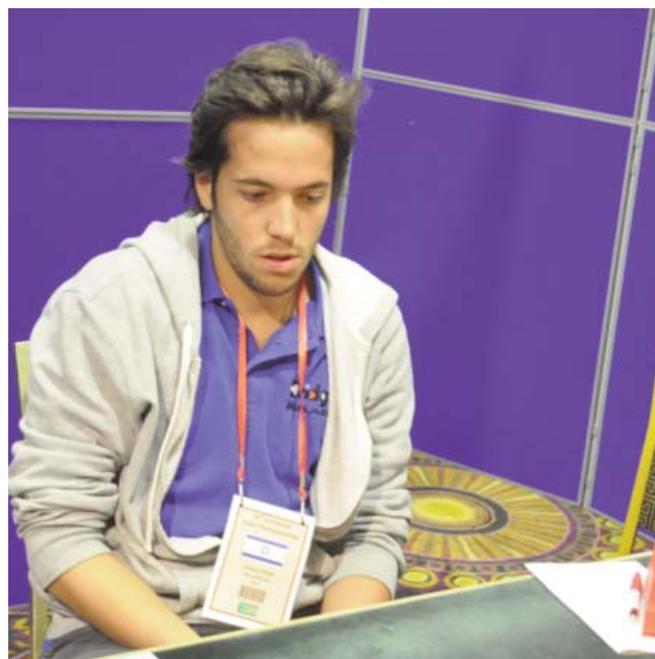
♠ 8 3 ♥ K J 6 5 ♦ A 10 ♣ A Q 9 5 2	N W E S	♠ Q 9 7 4 2 ♥ A 8 7 4 ♦ K 5 ♣ J 8	♠ J 10 ♥ Q 10 3 ♦ Q 9 7 4 2 ♣ 6 4 3
♠ A K 6 5 ♥ 9 2 ♦ J 8 6 3 ♣ K 10 7.			

West	North	East	South
Padon	Fredin	A. Birman	Fallenius
		Pass	1♣
INT	DbI	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	Pass	DbI
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West's INT overall seems a bit risky, but it has the merit of making it difficult for N/S to bid spades. Fredin doubled, and Padon retreated to 2♣. At this point the Swedes should have competed in spades (making 3), but they made the poor decision to double 2♣.

Fredin led an uninspired ♦K, giving away a trick and allowing declarer to make 2♣ doubled with an overtrick. Plus 280 for Israel, to which were added 100 from the Closed Room, where West played INT undoubled, and had no chance against a spade lead.

At this point Israel led 35-7. Sweden got something back in Board 16, where their more aggressive approach in bidding helped them make a partscore at both tables.



Alon Birman, Israel

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nystrom	O. Herbst	Upmark	I. Herbst
1♣	1♠	2♦	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Padon	Fredin	A. Birman	Fallenius
Pass	INT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Admittedly, after Padon's standard initial pass (in his system) one cannot expect East to intervene against INT at unfavourable vulnerability.

However, it seems that North missed a chance at the other table, as he could have doubled when 2♦ was passed around to him.

Both contracts made with an overtrick, and Sweden gained 7 IMPs. However they didn't manage to score any more in the remaining boards, while Israel added 6 IMPs to win comfortably by 41-15, or 20-10 V.P. At the moment they are the team to beat in Group A.



Ilan Herbst, Israel

100 Years Young

Solution 3

If you manage to strip South of his diamonds – using your two trump entries – you can squeeze North in clubs and hearts by running your trumps. The whole distribution is obvious: North cannot blank his ten of hearts against the doubleton nine in dummy lest South gets caught in a “stepping-stone” sort of endplay, nor can he give up his club trick.

East uses his two trump entries to dummy, the spade jack and six(!) to ruff diamonds, then runs the rest of his trumps. This is the four-card ending:

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

East leads ♠8 and pitches the ♣2 from dummy. The defenders can take only one more trick. Terence Reese identified this position as the Vice Squeeze.

The full deal:

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

Rain Stops Play

France secured their first group win at Euro 2012 at the expense of co-hosts Ukraine during a rain-interrupted spectacle in Donetsk. The teams were forced off with just four minutes played because of the stormy conditions, returning almost an hour after the scheduled start.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Johansson	Adut	Andersson	Atalay
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			1♦

In Winning Notrump Leads David Bird & Taf Anthias attempt to discover which opening lead is best from a given West hand against a particular auction. They use computer software to generate 5,000 deals that match the North-South bidding. (The West hand remains the same and the other three hands are chosen randomly.) The software then plays these deals automatically, seeing which of the 13 possible opening leads works best at both IMPs and match-point pairs. By analysing the results, the authors pass on to the reader the secrets of finding the best lead against notrump contracts on a wide range of different auctions.

It would be interesting to see what the solution to this problem might be - at the table West led the ten of spades.

Declarer won with the queen and played a heart. West took the ace and played another spade, so declarer was already assured of nine tricks, +600 and 12 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yavas	Larsson	Oymen	Bertheau
2♣*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

North led the seven of spades and declarer won in hand and, not bothering to unblock the ace of clubs, played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing in dummy to record +1010. Without investigating this too closely if someone had been able to ruff the second diamond and play a trump declarer would be in trouble (but if the ace of clubs is out of the way declarer still has chances - I found one variation where

the contract is made via a non simultaneous double squeeze, South having to come down to a singleton heart to guard diamonds and then North being squeezed in heart and clubs by the queen of diamonds.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Johansson	Adut	Andersson	Atalay
1♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

1♣ 17+
2♦ 8+, 5+ clubs

In this analogous sequence East did not cue bid in hearts and Turkey banked another 11 IMPs.

At point a board Sweden would have edged the match 7-6, but those three double digit swings gave Turkey a 45-30 IMP, 18-12 VP win.

Here is the answer to your impossible mission:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Johansson	Adut	Andersson	Atalay
		INT	Pass
2♣*	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Rdbl*	Pass	2♥*	All Pass

2♣ Stayman
Rdbl Do you have a major?
2♥ Yes, spades
Oops!

