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WHO LOVES THE SUN

Shadows paid a rare visit to the Championships yesterday and the players responded with some exciting bridge.

England and **France** maintained their positions at the top of the Women's teams. **Turkey** has taken over third from **Poland** and these four are chased by **Scotland** and **Israel**.

In Group A of the Open series, **Bulgaria** is on top with **Italy** and **Turkey** tied for second. **Israel**, **Sweden** and **Germany** are still clear of the pack.

In Group B, **Monaco** increased its lead over **England**, who stay clear of **Netherlands** and **Wales**. **France**, **Russia** and **Switzerland** are tied for fifth.

With only two more days play to go in the Open series, attention will focus on the teams who are on the cusp for qualification. If one makes the dangerous assumption that the top eight teams in each group are able to maintain their positions then in Group A there are five teams who still have a realistic chance of finishing ninth. In Group B no less than 7 teams still have some hopes.

In the Senior Teams, **Denmark** and **England** are tied for the lead, just ahead of **Belgium**. **Israel**, **Scotland** and **Norway** are their closest pursuers.



Eric Laurant, the new member of the EBL Executive Committee and Yves Aubry, President of the European Bridge League

10.00	
Bulgaria - Italy	BBO 1*
Turkey - Sweden	BBO 2
Israel - Hungary	BBO 3
Poland - Netherlands	BBO 4
France - Poland (W)	BBO 5
13.30	
Denmark - Romania	BBO 1*
Israel - Italy	BBO 2
Switzerland - Russia	BBO 3
France - Netherlands	BBO 4
Scotland - England (W)	BBO 5
16.40	
France - Monaco	BBO 1*
Turkey - Greece	BBO 2
Israel - Norway	BBO 3
Denmark - Wales	BBO 4
Scotland - France (W)	BBO 5
*BBO 1 = Vugraph	

OPEN TEAMS PROGRAM

GROUP A

ROUND 13 10.00

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

GROUP B

ROUND 13 10.00

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

ROUND 14 13.30

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

ROUND 14 13.30

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

ROUND 15 16.40

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

ROUND 15 16.40

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

SENIORS PROGRAM

ROUND 4 10.00

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

ROUND 5 13.30

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

ROUND 6 16.40

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

WOMEN'S PROGRAM

ROUND 11 10.00

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

ROUND 12 13.30

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

ROUND 13 16.40

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

OPEN TEAMS RANKING

GROUP A

GROUP B

after 9 rounds

1 BULGARIA	223
2 ITALY	220
TURKEY	220
4 ISRAEL	216
5 SWEDEN	215
6 GERMANY	206.5
7 HUNGARY	194
8 IRELAND	189
9 GREECE	182
10 UKRAINE	176
11 NORWAY	175.5
12 LATVIA	171
LITHUANIA	171
14 BELGIUM	136
15 SPAIN	131
16 SCOTLAND	117
17 PORTUGAL	102

1 MONACO	235
2 ENGLAND	211
3 NETHERLANDS	195
WALES	195
5 FRANCE	194
RUSSIA	194
SWITZERLAND	194
8 POLAND	192
9 ROMANIA	191
10 DENMARK	187
11 ICELAND	182
12 ESTONIA	172
13 AUSTRIA	169
14 FINLAND	162
LUXEMBOURG	162
16 CROATIA	144
17 CYPRUS	93

WOMEN'S TEAMS RANKING

after 7 rounds

1 ENGLAND	198
2 FRANCE	192
3 TURKEY	181
4 POLAND	170.5
5 SCOTLAND	163
6 ISRAEL	160.5
7 SWEDEN	160
8 NETHERLANDS	157
9 BULGARIA	152.5
10 AUSTRIA	152

11 BELGIUM	151
12 GERMANY	149.5
13 NORWAY	143
14 DENMARK	137
15 ITALY	136
16 GREECE	125
17 ESTONIA	122
18 SPAIN	106
19 IRELAND	90

Results are subject to official confirmation

OPEN TEAMS RESULTS

GROUP A

ROUND 10

Match		IMPs	VPs
1	LATVIA BELGIUM	30 - 44	12 - 18
2	LITHUANIA IRELAND	41 - 52	13 - 17
3	TURKEY GERMANY	27 - 13	18 - 12
4	ISRAEL PORTUGAL	69 - 42	21 - 9
5	UKRAINE SWEDEN	42 - 43	15 - 15
6	BULGARIA HUNGARY	39 - 31	16 - 14
7	NORWAY SCOTLAND	66 - 44	20 - 10
8	GREECE ITALY	51 - 32	19 - 11
9	SPAIN BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

GROUP B

ROUND 10

Match		IMPs	VPs
11	AUSTRIA SWITZERLAND	21 - 37	12 - 18
12	LUXEMBOURG ENGLAND	50 - 41	17 - 13
13	DENMARK RUSSIA	35 - 42	14 - 16
14	FRANCE FINLAND	57 - 52	16 - 14
15	CYPRUS ICELAND	19 - 68	5 - 25
16	POLAND ESTONIA	54 - 34	19 - 11
17	MONACO ROMANIA	27 - 18	17 - 13
18	WALES NETHERLANDS	34 - 53	11 - 19
19	CROATIA BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

SENIORS RESULTS

ROUND 8

Match		IMPs	VPs
31	ITALY ISRAEL	33 - 37	14 - 16
32	SPAIN IRELAND	22 - 20	15 - 15
33	TURKEY SWEDEN	35 - 21	18 - 12
34	BULGARIA NETHERLANDS	9 - 30	10 - 20
35	NORWAY WALES	46 - 38	17 - 13
36	ENGLAND POLAND	45 - 29	19 - 11
37	FINLAND DENMARK	14 - 73	2 - 25
38	SCOTLAND BELGIUM	36 - 49	12 - 18
39	GERMANY FRANCE	59 - 15	25 - 5
40	ESTONIA BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

WOMEN'S RESULTS

ROUND 9

Match		IMPs	VPs
21	AUSTRIA BULGARIA	78 - 33	24 - 6
22	TURKEY NORWAY	58 - 29	21 - 9
23	ESTONIA GERMANY	21 - 52	9 - 21
24	ITALY IRELAND	79 - 33	24 - 6
25	SCOTLAND NETHERLANDS	24 - 49	10 - 20
26	SPAIN BELGIUM	28 - 61	8 - 22
27	ISRAEL SWEDEN	61 - 46	17 - 12
28	FRANCE DENMARK	60 - 24	22 - 8
29	POLAND ENGLAND	42 - 68	10 - 20
30	GREECE BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

SENIORS TEAMS RANKING

after 7 rounds

1	DENMARK	60
	ENGLAND	60
3	BELGIUM	59
4	ISRAEL	55
5	SCOTLAND	52
6	NORWAY	51
7	GERMANY	50
	TURKEY	50
9	SWEDEN	48
10	BULGARIA	47

	SPAIN	47
12	ITALY	43
13	ESTONIA	42
14	FRANCE	39
	NETHERLANDS	39
16	WALES	36
17	IRELAND	32
18	POLAND	30
19	FINLAND	21

15th International Madeira Bridge Open

From 5th to 12th
November 2012



Madeira offers a unique opportunity to enjoy a **natural environment** bathed by a **mild climate all year round**, with **extraordinary landscapes such as tropical gardens, a deep blue Ocean**, and the **natural hospitality** of its people which makes Madeira a high-quality destination ideal for **holidays** and **events**. Madeira Bridge Association, the CS Madeira Atlantic Resort & Sea SPA and Top Atlântico Travel Agency is organizing the **15th International Madeira Bridge Open**.

The **CS Madeira Atlantic Resort & Sea SPA** has **300 luxury ocean-view rooms** and offers different **highly-enjoyable leisure** and **sport facilities**, such as several **restaurants** and **bars**, **indoor** and **outdoor swimming pools** and the sensational **CS Atlantic Club Sea SPA**.

For this event the following special bridge package was created which includes:

- 7 nights bed and breakfast, double occupancy in room with ocean view;
- Entry fees for both main events (pairs tournament and teams tournament);
- Transfer airport / hotel / airport;
- Welcome Cocktail;
- Typical dinner;
- Island tour;
- Prize-giving dinner.

For early reservations confirmed and paid before the 31st July 2012:

Price: per person in double room*: Euro 540.00 per package;

Price: per person in single room: Euro 837.00 per package.

For reservations made from 31st July 2012 onwards:

Price: per person in double room*: Euro 600.00 per package;

Price: per person in single room: Euro 930.00 per package.

For more information:

Please contact the Bridge Association of Madeira or the Top Atlântico Travel Agency.

*(minimum occupancy per room is of 2 persons).

In the Spotlight

Find out a little bit more about your fellow bridge players



Heather Dhondy

How did you take up bridge?

At home with the family.

Biggest influence?

David Parry.

Bridge Club?

Young Chelsea.

First Bridge Book

Learn Bridge with the Lederers.

Favourite Music?

Wagner.

Favourite drink?

Champagne.

All time favourite player?

John Armstrong.

Favourite TV Show?

ER.

Best achievement in Bridge?

Gold in the Mind Sports, Beijing 2008.

Least favourite opponent?

Anyone unpleasant.

Biggest failing at the table?

Making mistakes.

Most important attribute in a partner?

Good fun.

Your favourite tournament?

European Championships.

Other interests?

Watching cricket, playing tennis.

Hospitality Corner

Monday 18th

If you have booked for today's tour to Newgrange at 9 a.m. Please arrive at Citywest Hotel in good time. The bus needs to leave sooner than 9 a.m. if possible.

Tuesday 19th

This tour with Pat Liddy will include a visit to Trinity College, the Government Quarter, Oscar Wilde, Ardagh Chalice and lunch in the Dail, our Government Building. This is all close to Grafton Street and you can also take free time to explore. Please book at Hospitality.

Wednesday 20th

Ladies Day off. Options to include Kildare Village Outlet with Champagne Reception, Newbridge Silverware for short visit, Pat Liddy Walking Tour, Dualway Tours, National Gallery and National Concert Hall.

Please Register for any of these at Hospitality.

Green Isle Shuttle Service

Shuttle Bus Service as normal

9.15am from Green Isle to Citywest

Citywest to Green Isle 7.30 p.m.

EBL Congress 2012

The President of the EBL, Yves Aubry, presented a comprehensive report on the activities of the EBL from 2010 to 2012 at yesterday's delegates meeting.

Future Events

One aspect of this year's Congress that will be of particular interest to everyone is the list of potential venues for forthcoming Championships.

2012

The 11th Youth Pairs Championship will take place in Vejle (Denmark).

The 5th Small Federations Games will be in Tallin.

The 11th Champions Cup will be in Eilat.

These three events are all being held immediately before important local Bridge Festivals in which the players can also compete.

2013

The Open Championships will probably be held in San Remo, 14-29 June.

The Youth Team Championships will be in Wroclaw, Poland, 11-20 July.

2014

There is currently no venue, for the European Championships but Albena (Bulgaria) is a candidate and Israel and Germany have indicated an interest.

Hungary has expressed an interest in hosting the Youth Pairs Championship.

2015

Trømsø, North of Norway, is a candidate (the town will host the 2014 Chess Olympiad) for the Open Championships.

Trømsø is also a candidate for the Youth Team Championship.

Election

Eric Laurant (Netherlands) was elected to serve as a member of the EBL Executive Committee for the 2012-2014 term.



100 Years Young

Barry Rigal

Board 5

South Dealer E/W Vul.

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



OFFICIAL BIDDING:

South	West	North	East
1♦	Dbf.	Pass	Pass
Rdbl.	Pass	1♠	Pass
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

PLAY INSTRUCTIONS: 3NT by West. N/S play Acol and weak no-trump.
North to lead ♠4.

Solution on page 24

Championship Diary

Still in search of the perfect meld of bridge players to make funny names:

If Chrstian Venneroed and Catherine D'Ovidio played together would they make a *rude video*?

If Tony Waterlow and Johan Upmark joined forces would they create a high or low *Watermark*?

Cedric Lorenzini could never play with Sven-Ake Bjerregard – they would always be held in *lo-regard*.

Lucifer would admire the combination of Bjorn Fallenius and Zvi Engel to produce a *Fallen Engel*.

Incidentally.....

If Szilagyi does not accept his partner's offer of a glass of milk, would he be Lakatos intolerant?

A bridge to politics



G. Pender, A. O'Keeffe, Mary O'Rourke, V. Hanes, Mary Kelly-Rogers, H. Dowling-Long

To the surprise and delight of the Irish present at the Championships, Mary O'Rourke, a popular figure in Irish Politics, came to see bridge being played at a truly international level. Mary, a former deputy prime minister, who held a number of Ministerial posts, has been active in politics for the past 30 plus years before she "retired" to the Senate.

Mary had played bridge before entering politics, inheriting her mother's love of the game. Her family's interest in the game is documented in Seamus Dowling's book, 'Thank You Partner'. Seamus, one of our Bulletin Co-editors, presented his book followed swiftly by another Co-editor, John Comyn with 'Doubled up Laughing'; Maire O'Keeffe presented 'Bridge made Simple' but David Jackson missed his chance to present 'Better Balanced Bidding' as he was too busy with his Irish Open Team Captaincy.

Mary had come along to be interviewed by Irish Broadcaster John Murray, to talk about the championships and

how it all worked.

The Irish Organising Chairman, Joe Moran, along with Paul Porteous had set up this Media visit when they went on the airwaves recently to promote these championships. So today Mary told Irish listeners her fascination with the Open and Closed Room, BBO, the Vugraph, the screens, the organisation taking place, the romances she was told about, the beautiful young faces from across Europe that she met and saw around the room and by doing so she will indeed have done our game a great favour. Mary will have, among other things, illustrated the international dimension of Bridge, that it is all about skill and not about luck, that our top Irish players enjoy success at this level and who knows after today's broadcast, we will surely be inundated with calls about where to begin to learn the game we all enjoy so well. Thank you, Mary, for dropping in to see us.



A. Jackson, Mary Kelly-Rogers, H. McGann, Mary O'Rourke, T. Hanlon, Paul Porteous

The International Bridge Press Association

The IBPA is a club of the world's bridge journalists and media people. Associate membership is open to all.

The main service to members is a monthly Bulletin edited by John Carruthers of Canada, circulated via the internet. Members also enjoy the facilities of the Press Room at major championships.

The annual subscription is \$42 (US dollars) or €34. New members joining here in Dublin join for 1.5 years to the end of December 2013. Membership forms can be obtained in the Press Room (on the first floor near Hospitality).

Existing members paying late for this year or early for next year can also pay their dues in the Press Room.

The Annual General Meeting of IBPA will be in Lille on Thursday, 16th August, 2012.

Patrick Jourdain, IBPA President

IBPA Journalist Outing to the Guinness Storehouse

in Dublin on Thursday June 21st

The tour to Dublin with professional guide Valerie Mathers will start from the entrance of the City West Hotel at 10:30 a.m. sharp.

The trip includes a free guided visit to the Storehouse and a lunch offered by the IBU.

It will take approximately 40 minutes to get to Dublin. We are due to be back at around 3:30 p.m.

IBPA members in good standing can sign up for the trip in the Press Room on the 1st floor with Jan Swaan.

Registration closes on Wednesday 20th at 12:00 hrs. Please notify Jan of any special dietary requirements.

Trump Reduction

by Brian Senior

Looking at the number of trumps in declarer's hand, you might not imagine that it was possible for East to make 4♥ doubled by way of an endplay to avoid a trump loser, but that is what Spain's Miguel Goncalves achieved on this deal from Round 1 of the Open series. It helped his team to a 20-10 VP win over Ukraine.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Corral	Chumak	Goncalves	Rovyshyn
–	1♦	4♥	Dble
All Pass			

Oleg Rovyshyn led a diamond, which Goncalves ruffed. He played the queen of spades. Rovyshyn won the ace of spades and switched to his trump. It may seem easy to play low from dummy but North will not put up the queen and now you will eventually lose a trump trick as you cannot shorten yourself sufficiently often for an endplay. Goncalves, however, called for dummy's ace, ruffed a diamond, then played king of spades and ruffed a spade followed by a third diamond ruff.

Now came the decision point. Goncalves needed to endplay his opponents twice. If North held the spade nine a spade exit would leave him endplayed to either give a ruff or lead from the king of clubs, and he could later be endplayed again with a club. But if South had the spade nine then a spade exit would only result in one endplay as south could exit with a club.

Goncalves judged that North might have bid 4♠ rather than passed the double with a tenuous trump holding if he held four spades, so judged correctly to play ace and another club. North won and gave a ruff and now a spade exit put South on play to lead into the king-jack of hearts at trick twelve. That meant ten tricks for +590 and 12 IMPs to Spain – Gonzalo Goded played in 3♦ for +130 in the other room.

PLOB* strikes for Poland

by Micke Melander

Many pairs had big difficulties getting the right hand to be declarer on board 3 in round 7 in the Open Series. For Zmudzinski/Balicki it was a walk in the park, bringing home 12 imps to Poland in the match versus France.

Board 3. Dealer South. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Narkiewicz	Bompis	Buras
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Bessis Jr	Balicki	Bessis
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Bompis/Quantin's first three bids were natural, though one diamond guaranteed at least a three card suit. Two diamonds was game forcing and asking for the distribution where three diamonds showed 5-4-x-x.

In the other room Zmudzinski/Balicki used the "natural" Polish Club which has a natural diamond opening. Two spades now specifically showed 5-4-x-x without any real extras or length and no real club stopper*. Three clubs asked for a stopper and three no trump then showed at least half of a stopper; voilà, the contract was secured by the right hand.

It didn't require a rocket scientist to seriously consider leading a club versus the three no trump contract as the bidding had been. Zmudzinski's two spades on their table left room for Balicki to explore and that was enough! Well done.

*PLOB = Petty Little Odious Bid is the American name for the convention. After 4th suit forcing or similar inquiry rebidding the major at the two level is used to show the awkward hand type.

Multon Magic

by Brian Senior

How would you like your chances, as West, of making 6♥ on this deal? North leads the seven of clubs, which you duck to South's queen. South switches to a trump. Play on.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

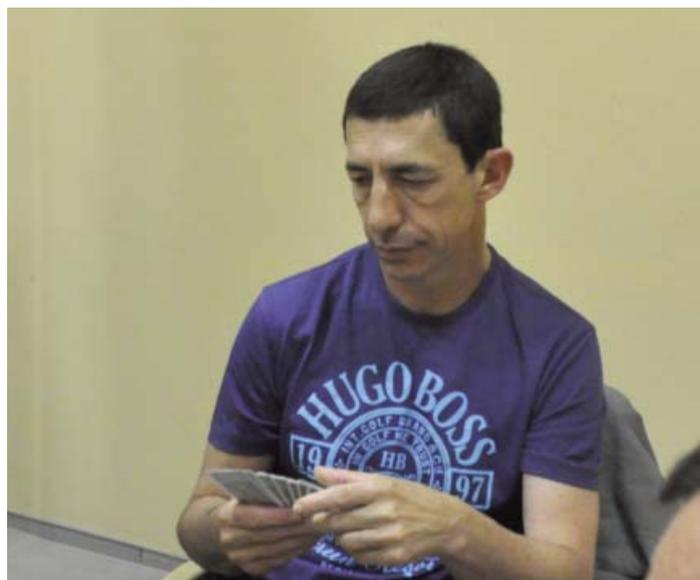
Franck Multon faced the problem in Monaco's Round 8 match against Austria in the Open series. While it takes a bit of seeing, the contract is now unbeatable as there is a squeeze, in which South is put to the sword in three suits and North in two. (Yes, South should perhaps have worked out to shift to a spade to break up the ending; as the cards lie, even a diamond is sufficient to destroy the timing.)

Declarer draws trumps, North pitching spades, then plays a fourth round and South must discard either a spade or a diamond, leaving one of these two endings (this being the one achieved at the table):

Possibility number 1:

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

South has unguarded spades, so declarer cashes the ace of clubs then plays ace and ruffs a spade. The last two hearts now squeeze North. On the last heart, to keep his spade guard, North has to come down to two diamonds. Dummy's ♠10 goes away, and now South is squeezed in the minors. If he keeps the club guard, the eight of diamonds makes the last trick.



Franck Multon, Monaco

This is the alternative position:

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

If South throws a diamond, it obliged North for the time being, to keep all four diamonds. On the nine of hearts, North throws the club and dummy a spade. South can pitch a spade now, but declarer continues with a club to the ace, followed by three rounds of diamonds, ruffing in hand. Now the last heart is cashed and North, who threw a spade on the club ace, must come down to a singleton spade to keep his diamond guard. Away goes dummy's diamond and now South must also throw a spade to keep the king of clubs. So the ten of spades wins trick 13.

Multon thus earned his team a big swing. Yes, if South switches to either a spade or a diamond at trick two one of the above possible endings is eliminated and careful defence defeats the slam, but that does not detract from Franck's play.

(As a footnote, while South was contemplating his discard declarer explained the forthcoming squeeze to him and South responded blankly 'No squeeze!' He knows better now.)

OPEN

Round 9

Hungary v Sweden

On Friday afternoon, Hungary and Sweden were scheduled to meet in the last match of the day. Sweden were leading the field in group A, whereas Hungary were having mixed fortunes so far in their pursuit of qualification. So they certainly could not afford a big loss in this match. However, on the first board, the Swedes dealt them a severe blow:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Homonnay</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Winkler</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
INT	4♣	Pass	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Over the natural 1♦, INT was a 15+ GF relay. After 4♣, Fredin found a practical solution for his nasty problem: his 4♥ bid proved to be a quite playable spot, in spite of the 5-1 trump break. When North cashed two top clubs and exited with his singleton diamond, Fredin could win in hand and now, knowing that South would be out of clubs, was able to draw all the trumps, giving South his trump trick, before taking the remainder of the tricks. Sweden +420.

Even on a neutral shift at trick three, the contract can be made, as was shown at several other tables in play. You win the spade return, cash the ♥K and, noting the fall of the jack, play a trump to your nine...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lakatos</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Szilágyi</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
	1♣	1♦	Dble
1♥	2♣	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

When North opened and rebid his clubs, EW had much more bidding space left for themselves so they were able to locate a playable 4-3 spade fit. As there were no losers in the side suits, apart from the two top clubs, the club continuation at trick three by Sylvan immediately sank the contract. Down two, Sweden another +100 and 11 IMPs.

A few boards later, the Swedes increased their lead in dramatic fashion:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Homonnay</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Winkler</i>
	1♣	1♠	2♥
3♥	Pass	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

With the trumps 3-3, you might as well ruff the opening spade lead, cash the ♥Q, ruff a spade, draw trumps, play a club to the eight, ruff a spade with your last trump and cash the clubs with the help of a second finesse. One overtrick.

However, even more so when you are doubled, this does not look a very appealing line though the double might as well give you some indication about the club break.

At the table, declarer ruffed the opening spade lead, cashed the ♥Q and led a low diamond which was taken by West's jack. Fredin returned the ♣8 and Winkler called for dummy's ace, only to see it ruffed by East... Another diamond and the ♣K, club ruff meant the contract was down two in less than no time... Sweden +300.

We will never know why South did not try to show his club fit at any point in the auction...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lakatos	Sylvan	Szilágyi	Wrang
	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Wrang could show his hearts in transfer fashion and then had all the time in the world to show his club fit. The opponents' silence made it easy for the Swedes to reach their proper spot. Sweden +400 and 12 more IMPs to them to lead 32-5 at this point.

In several other matches, EW did interfere and when NS reached 5♣, some of them even got doubled and made an overtrick...

Then, on board 13, the Hungarians launched a five-board rally in which they wiped off their whole deficit, turning it into a 12-IMP lead. Two partscore swings of 6 and 4 IMPs came on boards 13 and 14 and then we saw the board below:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	Homonnay	Fallenius	Winkler
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1♠ was GF relay and West then described his 4-1-4-4 in three steps: 2♣ showed diamonds, 2♥ showed the 4441 and 3♥ the singleton.

Winkler led the ♥10 which declarer won with his queen.

A diamond then went to the king and ace and Homonnay returned the ♥9 on which Fallenius played the king which Winkler allowed to hold. Declarer now had eight tricks but no chance to find a 9th without letting North in to play his last heart. One off, Hungary +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lakatos	Sylvan	Szilágyi	Wrang
			Pass
1♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In the Closed Room, 3♥ showed doubts in this suit but Szilágyi concluded the auction with a firm enough 3NT. Wrang also led the ♥10 which ran to declarer's queen and here too, a diamond to the king was taken by North with the ace. Sylvan returned the ♥9 which was covered by declarer with the queen and...taken by South with the ace. When Wrang went on to cash his ♥J and exit with a heart, declarer had his nine tricks. Hungary +400 and 10 IMPs back to them to trail by 7.



Gabor Winkler, Hungary

In the Netherlands-Russia match, both Souths, Kholomeev and Brink, made life easy for their respective partners by leading a low heart against East's 3NT...thus not only avoiding a block but also saving a trick in defence.

(At both tables in Germany-Italy South led a club intermediate against 3NT. Both declarers won in hand and led a diamond to the king and ace. A shift to the heart seven saw one declarer cover with the eight, one play the king. Both lines could (or should) have led to success. When the heart king was taken with the ace and a heart returned to the nine all declarer had to do was duck. Then he could win the next and finesse in clubs then lead a diamond up. When the heart eight went to the ten and a low heart came back to the nine, declarer could have won and finessed in clubs, then run the spades. In the three-card ending South would be endplayed with a club to lead hearts for the ninth trick. Neither East found the line.)

On the next board, the Swedes overbid a little to a slightly anti-percentage slam:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Homonnay</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Winkler</i>
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

2♥ showed 10-13 with six hearts. 4♣ showed a singleton spade and 4NT was RKCB. The slam was on a little more than the club finesse only and thus duly (?) went one down, Hungary +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lakatos</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Szilágyi</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

No experiments in the Closed Room. Hungary +650 and 13 more IMPs to take the lead by 6.

On the next board, the Hungarians registered another swing, this time on a partscore:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Homonnay</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Winkler</i>
	1♦	Dble	1♥
1♠	Pass	Pass	2♦
2♠	3♦	All Pass	

On this natural auction, NS easily located their diamond fit. When the defence started off with two top spades, the road to nine tricks was wide open. Hungary +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lakatos</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Szilágyi</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
	1♣	Dble	1♦ (♥)
1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass

As North had to open 1♣ on his balanced hand and South's 1♦ response showed hearts, the diamond fit never came to light so the Swedes sold out to 2♠ which proved no problem in the play either. Hungary another +110 and 6 IMPs to double their lead to 45-33.

(By contrast, Sementa defended to 2♠ on a parallel auction and led the ♠2! When declarer went up with ♠A and led a club to the king he got in with the ♣A and played back a trump. Declarer fell for the bait and tried to drop the ♠K, and now could no longer make the hand.)

Nothing very much more happened on the final boards so this 45-33 also became the final score. Hungary had staged a remarkable recovery to win the match by 17-13 VPs.



Peter Lakatos, Hungary

WOMEN

Round 8

Poland v Netherlands

Ram Soffer

In contrast to the Open series, among the Ladies' teams it's hard to spot a clear favourite. So far it has been a close fight for the medals as well as for the other tickets to the Venice Cup. After 7 rounds the Netherlands were ranked 5th, and Poland – 7th. Obviously this match was important for both teams.

Poland took the lead in Board 1 after an interesting bidding decision by Danuta Kazmucha in the closed Room.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kazmucha	Pasman	Sakowska	Simons
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
3♦	2♥	Pass	Pass
	All Pass		

Years ago 3♦ would have been considered a lunatic bid, too dangerous with a broken suit as well as defensive values in hearts. However, in the Total-Tricks era we are advised not to let our opponents play at the two-level once they have found an eight card fit.

Still, most of the West players in the Ladies as well as the Open preferred to pass out 2♥. Kazmucha had a different view, and she justified it in the play.

North led the ♣K, taken by dummy's ace. A round of trumps was played. North won her ♦A and switched to hearts. The defenders won the ♥AK, and then North cashed her ♣Q and exited with a trump.

Apparently the fate of the contract depended on the spade finesse, but declarer could know that it wouldn't work. North had already shown 13 HCP. Since she didn't open INT, South had to have the ♠Q.

Kazmucha entered dummy with a trump and ruffed the ♣8. The rest of the play was missing in the BBO, but the way to make it is: ruff a heart, lead the ♠J, covered by Queen and King, and play the last trump, squeezing North in the black suits.

3♦ was made exactly, as well as 2♥ by South in the other room – a result predicted by the Law of Total Tricks. Plus 110 from both rooms gave Poland their first 6 IMPs.

The Dutch got something back when a cold 3♦ contract for N/S was passed out in the Open Room. In the next board they took the lead:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kazmucha	Pasman	Sakowska	Simons
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Here South didn't overcall. Normally at teams one tries every borderline game when vulnerable, and Kazmucha had no problems bidding 3NT with her unattractive 9-HCP hand. South led a heart, of course, and the defenders quickly scored six tricks. Plus 200 to the Netherlands.

West	North	East	South
Dekkers	Zmuda	Michielsen	Taczewska
Pass	Pass	INT	2♣
3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass

When South overcalled 2♣ for the majors, prospects for 3NT didn't look too rosy from West's point of view. Her 3♣ bid was a transfer to diamonds. Against 3♦ Taczewska led her club singleton, and later got a ruff after crossing to North's hand with the ♥K, but it was not enough to defeat the contract, Plus 110 and 7 IMPs to the Netherlands.

IMP were hard to come by in the first half of the match. Some potential swing boards became a push as a result of good play from both sides. In particular, both E/W pairs bid a cold grand slam on Board 6.

The Dutch led 10-8 after 10 boards, but the match sprang

to life in the second half, with most of the swings going Poland's way.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kazmucha	Pasman	Sakowska	Simons
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Simons opened a multi 2♦ with 6-4 in the majors. As a result N/S lost their heart fit, and E/W managed to reach their par contract with simple natural bidding. North led her singleton spade and got a ruff, but it was at the expense of her natural trump trick. Plus 400 to Poland.

West	North	East	South
Dekkers	Zmuda	Michielsen	Taczewska
1♣	2♥	Pass	4♥
Dbl	Pass	5♦	All Pass



Danuta Kazmucha, Poland

Taczewska's initial pass proved much more effective. West's 1♣ opening didn't promise great length in the suit, and East didn't find a bid over 2♥! N/S easily pre-empted to the four-level, and eventually E/W landed in the inferior contract of 5♦.

Still, there was only one lead to set it: the far from obvious ♠A. Taczewska duly led that card and immediately gave Zmuda a ruff! This time North's club trick remained intact, and declarer had to go one down. 10 IMPs to Poland, and the lead changed hands for the last time in the match.

In the next board the Dutch N/S went down three vulnerable in 2NT, while their Polish counterparts went down four in 3♠. Nobody cared to double, so it was only a matter of 3 IMPs. The next significant swing arose out of a serious misunderstanding.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kazmucha	Pasman	Sakowska	Simons
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dbl
3♠	Dbl	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

North's double of 3♠ showed a good hand. A 3NT bid with the South cards looks rather obvious, but Anneke Simons thought that her partner was showing four hearts. A strange interpretation, since with four hearts and a good hand North could simply bid 4♥ himself.

Of course, 4♥ was not the greatest contract, but it was still makeable, as declarer has no losers outside trumps. The spade lead was taken with dummy's ace, and a diamond was played to the Q. Now a heart to the queen was good, but Simons finessed to the 9 and 10. From this point on, the defense had three top trump tricks, and a diamond ruff could not have been prevented. In addition, East twice led clubs, and declarer refrained from finessing. The end result was a terrible minus 200, which cost 13 IMPs when compared with the normal plus 660 from the other table.

13 more IMPs followed on the next board.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dekkers</i>	<i>Zmuda</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Taczewska</i>
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

I think most experts would prefer to open INT with the West cards. East forced to game with a fit-showing 2NT and cuebid 4♣. Apparently it showed a moderate hand, unable to make a spade cuebid. West lost interest in slam and didn't bother to cuebid her diamonds. This turned out to be an appropriate decision, since Zmuda found the spade lead and declarer was limited to +650.

West	North	East	South
<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Sakowska</i>	<i>Simons</i>
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Here Sakowska's Stayman response was followed by a diamond splinter. Kazmucha had to decide what to do. Her point count was minimal, and the ♦K was probably a wasted card. On the other hand, her fifth heart was a significant plus. She chose a 4♠ cuebid, which turned out to be a winning bid. 6♣ was some sort of a king-showing response to the keycard ask (in addition to the two aces and the trump Q).

East settled for a small slam, and Pasman's choice of lead meant a 13-IMP swing, one way or the other.

To be fair, her three small spades didn't look too promising after West's 4♠ cuebid. She chose a diamond. Kazmucha drew trumps and played a club to the nine and king. South's spade switch was too late, as declarer parked her loser on dummy's fourth club.

At that stage Poland led 46-14, and a big win looked imminent, boosting their medal hunt. However, the Dutch ladies managed to pull back 6 IMPs on the next deal, when

their opponents misdefended partscores at both tables.

The last big swing was on Board 18.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Sakowska</i>	<i>Simons</i>
2♣	Pass	INT	Pass
4NT	All Pass	2♦	Pass

West had 17 HCP with three additional tens. Her 4NT bid looks extremely conservative. Even so, East could accept the invitation on account of her solid club suit.

4NT was a clear underbid. Sakowska led the ♥J, covered by the Q and K, and then just took her top tricks, settling for +460.

West	North	East	South
<i>Dekkers</i>	<i>Zmuda</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Taczewska</i>
2♣	Pass	INT	Pass
6NT	All Pass	2♦	Pass

Dekkers' 6NT bid looks normal, as well as the final contract, which proved tricky – it offered many losing lines, and in the Open teams, for example, several famous declarers were defeated.



Laura Dekkers, Netherlands

However, Marion Michielsen was not to be denied. After finding out about the bad breaks in the other suits, she tried a heart to the ten, and was fortunate enough to find both heart honours onside. +990 made it 46-31 to Poland.

The match ended quietly, just as it had started. In Board 19 both E/W pairs stopped in game when there were 12 certain tricks, and the 13th depended on a (losing) finesse.

The final board was well bid and played by both teams:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kazmucha	Pasman	Sakowska	Simons
1♠	DbI	2NT	3♦
3♠	All Pass		

2NT showed a four-card spade fit, invitational or better. Kazmucha signed off in 3♠ with her minimum. Simons showed only the higher of her two five-card suits, and then decided it was not worthwhile to contest a partscore at the four-level.

Pasman found the killing lead of the ♦A. She continued the suit and got her ruff. Declarer still had to give a heart and a spade. Plus 100 to the Netherlands.

West	North	East	South
Dekkers	Zmuda	Michielsen	Taczewska
1♠	DbI	2NT	3NT
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Taczewska was more aggressive with the South cards. 3NT couldn't be natural with both opponents promising good hands, therefore it was for the minors, and Kazmucha took preference to 4♣. With all the suits behaving, this contract was unbeatable. Poland scored +130 for the last IMP of the match.

The final score: 47-31 IMPs or 18-12 VPs to Poland.

As a result, Poland improved to 6th place while the Dutch dropped to 7th. Both teams still have a lot to do in order to finish among the medals.

4NT with a void?

by Patrick Jourdain

The England Senior team, with five current or former world senior champions, must be one of the teams rated highly for a medal.

Their first round match was a 20-10 win over Estonia with this grand slam contributing 13 IMPs of the margin:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg		Holland	
1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass
4NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
7♥	All Pass	5♣	Pass

Gunnar Hallberg opened the West hand One Heart and after a spade overcall from North John Holland splintered with Four Diamonds.

Hallberg knew that there was therefore a good chance he could take care of the three diamond losers, but what about the third club? Beginners are taught that asking for keycards when you have a void is unhelpful but when you have all the rest you will at least know about the missing ace. If East denied it West could follow with an asking bid in clubs as the grand-slam try. But when East's response promised the missing ace Hallberg knew the club loser could go away, so he bid the grand.

A trump or spade lead, (or even a club if declarer put in the nine), would have solved any problems in the play but North did best by leading a diamond. This leaves declarer with the decision of whether to ruff the last diamond high or low. In practice either choice leads to success but Hallberg read the diamond pips as indicating the suit was 4-4 and actually ruffed the last diamond with the ten of trumps in case trumps were 3-0. When that passed off peacefully he was home.

At the other table a bidding misunderstanding made West think his partner's shortage was in clubs rather than diamonds so he was unable to visualise taking care of all three diamonds, and they stopped in 6♥. This was worth 13 IMPs to the England Seniors who were off to a sound start

OPEN

Round 11

Norway v. Sweden

by Jos Jacobs

In round 11, Saturday's last match, one of the traditionally great Nordic battles was scheduled: Norway v. Sweden. So far, Norway had not been doing too well with their new-look team but in this match, their approach hit the target more often than not, as we shall see. Take for example this board:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Nybo</i>
		2♠	Pass
2NT	Dble	Pass	3♥
Dble	All Pass		



Boye Brogeland, Norway

As you can see, 3♦ is on ice for N/S, but in 3♥ you might run into trouble on the actual trump break. The defence can lead two rounds of spades, North ruffs, and what now? I don't think there is a way to make 3♥ any more as North's trumps, the entries to North's diamonds, are taken out prematurely. Declarer should lose a spade, two trump tricks and two clubs at least, or alternatively three trump tricks. However, when West led a club to East's ace and a trump came back to dummy's queen, declarer was in command. He simply cashed the top diamonds and, noting the fall of the queen, could afford to cash one more top trump and just play on diamonds. Norway + 730.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Berg</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Svensden</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
		4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Svensden did well to drop the singleton ♠K offside but he still could not avoid down one after his aggressive opening bid. Not that it mattered very much, taking the Open Room score into account. Sweden +100 but 12 IMPs to Norway

Two boards later, the Swedes were, maybe, a shade overoptimistic:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Nybo</i>
1♥	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2♥ showed spades and a minor, 3♣ was pass or correct and 3♠ showed a stopper. What should Fredin do now? The combined EW hands may well hold a diamond stopper after all or something good might happen...

Brogeland duly led his 3rd best diamond so the contract was down three from the top, Norway +300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Berg	Sylvan	Svendsen	Wrang
1♥	2♥	Dble	2NT
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

In the Closed Room, the auction started the same way but here, Sylvan found his nice minor suit worth a jump. Well done for East to pass here. On a trump lead, and also on the ♥Q lead and a trump shift, nine tricks are the maximum; so this jump cost four extra IMPs. Norway another +100 and 9 IMPs to them instead of 5.

The next board featured a nice declarer play problem:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	Brogeland	Fallenius	Nybo
	1♦	1♥	Dble
Redble	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

The Norwegians contented themselves with a partscore which made with an overtrick. Norway +130. Right they were as 3NT is not on with good defence. Beating it is not so easy, however, as it would require a spade lead, rather than a natural heart lead, from East. A heart lead to West's ace would prematurely remove West's entry for his third spade trick.

At the other table, the Swedes did reach 3NT and East led a natural heart.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Berg	Sylvan	Svendsen	Wrang
	1♦	1♥	Dble
Pass	INT	Pass	2♥
Dble	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

After this auction, and at a number of other tables where East also overcalled 1♥, it looked far from obvious to duck the heart lead in dummy. For his overcall, East should hold the ♥A, in which case your best chance to keep West off lead is to go up with dummy's king. You would not want West to get the lead as you are fearing a spade shift with the ♣A still out. As East holds the ♣A and only three diamonds, this line would work nicely as you can safely cash your three top diamonds before conceding to the ♣A. Alternatively, you might catch the blank ♥Q under dummy's king...

So declarer called for dummy's ♥K but when West took his ♥A perforce and shifted to the dreaded spade, two down suddenly became the inevitable outcome. Norway +200 and another 8 IMPs to them. They led 30-0 after just five boards...

On the next board, the quiet Norwegian approach did not work very well:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	Brogeland	Fallenius	Nybo
		1♥	1♠
Dble	2♣(♦)	Pass	2♦
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Fredin would have nothing of penalty passes and the like, so he doubled 1♠ and made a game try at his next turn. South led his diamond but with the suit 6-1 and the spade layout known, declarer had no trouble in coming to nine tricks. Sweden +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Berg	Sylvan	Svendsen	Wrang
		1♥	1♠
All Pass			

Once Svendsen did not believe in his partner's penalty pass, Wrang had to play his ugly contract at 50 points per undertrick. He must have felt quite happy to find out that down five, -250, was likely to gain his side about 8 IMPs.

When the board below arrived, the score stood at 32-13 to Norway.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	Brogeland	Fallenius	Nybo
INT	All Pass		

Vulnerable against not, Brogeland quietly passed Fredin's INT and conceded -120 on the obvious spade lead.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Berg	Sylvan	Svendsen	Wrang
1♦	1♠	Dble	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dbf	All Pass	

At the other table, we saw a much more lively auction. Svendsen might have doubled 4♠ to collect 500 but when he elected to bid one for the road, Sylvan increased the stakes to a possible 550.

On a spade lead, declarer first eliminated both black suits by ruffing the third club before touching trumps. North could win the ♦A and exit with his second trump, however, so Berg had to concentrate on an endplay in hearts now. He led the ♥J from dummy, intending to play low from hand, but when South covered with the queen, he simply

played the king to leave North helpless. Sylvan could either win his ace and return a heart away from his nine or duck the ♥K to lose a trick the pedestrian way. Norway a fine +550 and 10 more IMPs to them.

And then:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	Brogeland	Fallenius	Nybo
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	All Pass		

A quiet auction to a good contract with both East and West holding a little in reserve. Sweden +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Berg	Sylvan	Svendsen	Wrang
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	INT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass



Frode Nybo

Both West and East were stretching a bit in this auction but they timed it to perfection. With both the $\heartsuit K$ and the $\spadesuit Q$ well-placed for him, declarer had little trouble in coming to nine tricks on a heart lead. Dummy's jack won, the $\diamond Q$ was covered by the king and ace and the $\heartsuit J$ ran to North's ace...

Norway +600 and another 10 IMPs to them. The score suddenly stood at 52-13 to Norway.

The score had progressed to 59-23 when the last board arrived:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

<p>\spadesuit 7 6 5 2 \heartsuit 9 8 2 \diamond K Q 3 \clubsuit K Q 6</p>	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>\spadesuit J 4 \heartsuit Q 7 4 \diamond A 9 7 4 \clubsuit J 10 8 3</p>	<p>\spadesuit A Q 8 \heartsuit A K J 6 5 3 \diamond 6 \clubsuit A 7 2</p> <p>\spadesuit K 10 9 3 \heartsuit 10 \diamond J 10 8 5 2 \clubsuit 9 5 4</p>
N						
W E						
S						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Nybo</i>
Pass	2 \clubsuit	Pass	2 \diamond
Pass	2 \heartsuit	Pass	3 \diamond
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Brogeland's 2 \clubsuit opening bid looks a bit shaded to me and his timing certainly was wrong, as partner could not contribute very much. The final contract was pretty hopeless as declarer would need six heart tricks to succeed. Accordingly, Brogeland won the $\clubsuit J$ lead with his ace, crossed to dummy's $\spadesuit K$ and played a heart to his jack. When East won the queen, the contract thus was down three. Sweden +300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Berg</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Svendsen</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
Pass	1 \heartsuit	Pass	Pass
Dble	Redble	Pass	Pass
1 \spadesuit	2 \heartsuit	All Pass	

A much quieter approach by Sylvan led to an excellent result for Sweden. East led a club and Sylvan won the ace and simply led a heart to dummy's ten. East hopped up with the queen but declarer had nine tricks for +140 and 10 IMPs to Sweden.

The final score: 59-33 or 20-10 VPs to Norway.

Taking Advantage

by Patrick Jourdain

The England Ladies were unbeaten after 7 rounds. An important aspect of good scores is taking advantage of any slip by opponents. Fiona Brown timed the play well on this deal from their match with Greece after the opponent missed an unblock:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

<p>\spadesuit J 3 \heartsuit K Q 10 9 8 7 \diamond A 6 2 \clubsuit 10 4</p>	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>\spadesuit A 9 6 \heartsuit A 5 3 \diamond J 9 8 5 \clubsuit K 8 2</p>	<p>\spadesuit K 10 7 4 2 \heartsuit J 4 \diamond 7 \clubsuit Q 9 7 6 5</p> <p>\spadesuit Q 8 5 \heartsuit 6 2 \diamond K Q 10 4 3 \clubsuit A J 3</p>
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Economou</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Kanellopoulou</i>
1 \heartsuit	1 \spadesuit	2 \diamond^*	1 \diamond
3 \heartsuit	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Fiona was declarer in 3NT from the East seat. South led a low spade to her partner's king and a spade came back. Brown put on the ace and South saw no need to ditch her queen. That was sufficient for declarer. A heart to dummy and back to the ace removed South's hearts. Now came a third spade from East.

On play South attempted to exit with the king of diamonds but when this held there was no further escape that did not cost the ninth trick.

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OPEN

Round 10

Poland v England

by Brian Senior

Poland eked out a narrow win over England by 16-14 VPs in Round 10 of the Open series. The match featured two very interesting deals.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Bakhshi	Balicki	Townsend
—	—	2♦	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Cezary Balicki opened with a multi and Tom Townsend overcalled 2♥, raised to game by David Bakhshi. Adam Zmudzinski led the king of spades.

Townsend won the ace and drew trumps in four rounds, throwing a club from dummy as Balicki pitched two spades and a diamond. Now Townsend cashed two diamonds ending in hand and led a club up. Had Zmudzinski played low, putting in the nine would have endplayed Balicki, but Zmudzinski correctly went in with the jack and that was one down for -100. As Poland reached 3NT, making two overtricks, in the other room, that was 13 IMPs to Poland.



Adam Zmudzinski, Poland

Declarer can always succeed if he reads the position correctly. Say that he cashes all his red winners, coming down to ♠J-2 and ♣K-9 in the dummy. East cannot come down to a combination which defeats the contract – if two cards in each black suit, a spade lead makes the ♣K at trick 13, if three spades and one club, ducking a club wins. Note that if West keeps all four diamonds he makes declarer's task rather harder.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Both Easts opened a strong no-trump and declared 6NT on a spade lead. Balicki received the lead of the seven of spades. He won in dummy, cashed the top diamonds and top spades, then tried to split the clubs. Though the missing heart honours were both onside, it was too late to attempt to establish a heart trick as South had a club to cash when in with the heart ace; down one for -50.

For England, David Gold received the lead of the four of spades, low from an even number. He won the ace and played the jack of clubs followed by a second club, seeing North discard a discouraging heart. Obviously, the signal need not be honest, but a heart pitch will not all that often be from the queen here, so Gold's next play was a heart to the ten. When that won, Gold played ace of diamonds and a diamond to the king to see if the jack would put in an appearance. When it did not, he cashed the two club winners, throwing both hearts from dummy. North threw a spade and his last heart and Gold read the ending accurately. He cashed the queen of diamonds, crossed to the king of spades and exited with the diamond ten to North's jack, endplaying him to lead into the queen-ten of spades at the end. Nicely done.

The no trump slam was made seven times in the Open and failed 23 times. In the Women, just two out of 11 declarers succeeded, Pony Nehmert for Germany and the English declarer once again, Nevena Senior.

I'm alright Jack

by Adam Wildavsky

Switzerland played France in Round 2 of the Open series. The French played well - a lucky underbid by us at one table and overbid at the other let us hold the loss to 14-16 VP.

I found this deal instructive - it appeared twice in Friday's Bulletin, but the bidding, play, and defence were all different at my table.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Our auction was:

West	North	East	South
Piedra	Rombaut	Wildavsky	Lorenzini
Pass	3♣*	Pass	2♠*
Dbf	Pass	3NT	All Pass

- 2♠ 5♠+4minor with a poor hand
- 3♣ Pass or correct

South did well to lead the ♠J as a club lead would have given me a ninth trick. North overtook and I could not afford to duck and risk a club back. It seemed I ought to be able to put some pressure on South, though. I won the ♠K, cashed the ♦A, and led a heart, South ducking. I put in the nine, losing to the ten. I considered the jack, but I knew that with two heart honours South would not be able to defend the position. This is not the usual situation where South should go up from ♥K10x or ♥Q10x because I could just duck. A low club came back as expected and I won dummy's ace. The ♦9 and ♦J held the next two tricks, South pitching a club and a spade. On the fourth diamond South threw another spade. It looked as though South was 5-3-1-4 so I cashed the ♠A and put South in with his last spade, setting up my six. Now if South switched to the ♥K I could duck, losing only that trick and the ♣K. Instead he produced a low heart, so I went up in dummy, hoping to throw him in with the ♥K. Alas, it was not to be, but I thought I had given it my best shot.

100 Years Young

Solution 5

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



If you play the small spade from dummy to the opening lead, South may insert his ten-spot (or jack) instead of the king, a little manoeuvre which ensures at least five tricks for the defence. A very simple way to prevent it is to go up with the ace. South may well have an opening bid without the king of spades, but against a North holding of five spades to the king your contract is doomed anyway.



At the other table the contract was 3♣ by South, quietly down two, so we lost 5 IMPs.

In looking at the hand record at dinner I noted that Deep Finesse considered the contract cold from my side. I wondered what I had missed. My partner, Fernando Piedra, spotted the winning line. I needed to play the ♥J instead of the ♥9. Then I'll be able to keep North off lead in the ending.