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Issue No. 8

Wednesday, 20th June 2012

I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW THE RAIN HAS GONE



The brilliant BBO staff: Vera Brownlow, Liz Scott, Tom McGee Aisling Considine, Eamon Galligan, Triain Chira, Fotis Skoularikis, Sandy Millership, Niamh Gormally, Harold Joel, Laura Woodruff, Steven Peterkin

England consolidated its hold on the top spot in the *Women's Teams*, increasing their lead over **Turkey** and **France**. **Poland** stay fourth by a whisker from the **Netherlands**, while **Sweden** has moved up to sixth.

In *Group A of the Open series*, **Italy** topped the table followed by **Israel**, **Bulgaria**, **Sweden**, **Germany** and **Turkey**. **Ireland**, **Greece** and **Norway** took the other three qualification spots – **Hungary's** last gasp attempt just falling short.

In *Group B* **Monaco** finished miles ahead of **England**, **Russia**, **Poland**, **Netherlands** and **Switzerland**. The remaining places went to **France**, **Romania** and **Iceland**.

In the *Senior Teams*, **Denmark's** lead over **Germany** has been drastically reduced. These two are followed by **Belgium**, **France**, **Sweden** and **Bulgaria**.

PRESS CONFERENCE

On Friday 22nd June, a Press Conference will be given by **Yves Aubry**, President of the *European Bridge League* and **Mary Kelly-Rogers**, President of the *Irish Bridge Union*.

Time & Place : 11:00 a.m. at the Vugraph – Verschoyle room – 1st floor

Journalists and Irish Press are invited to attend the conference and ask their questions about this tournament and other EBL events.

Please register your name with Jan Swaan – Press Room – Convention Centre

10.00

Ireland - Russia	BBO 1*
Italy - Iceland	BBO 2
Netherlands - Sweden	BBO 3
Poland - Turkey	BBO 4
Norway - Monaco	BBO 5

13.30

Italy - Netherlands	BBO 1*
England-Germany	BBO 2
Greece - Romania	BBO 3
Switzerland - Israel	BBO 4
Bulgaria - Poland	BBO 5

16.40 (Seniors)

Denmark - Scotland	BBO 1*
Belgium - Germany	BBO 2
Wales - England	BBO 3
Netherlands - Norway	BBO 4
Sweden - Bulgaria	BBO 5

*BBO 1 = Vugraph

OPEN TEAMS RANKING

Final Rank in Qualification Groups (17 Rounds)

GROUP A

1 ITALY	320
2 ISRAEL	309
3 BULGARIA	305
4 SWEDEN	299
5 GERMANY	292.5
6 TURKEY	283
7 IRELAND	274
8 GREECE	273
9 NORWAY	270.5
10 HUNGARY	268
11 LITHUANIA	247
12 UKRAINE	242
13 LATVIA	239
14 BELGIUM	206
15 PORTUGAL	167
16 SPAIN	166
17 SCOTLAND	165

GROUP B

1 MONACO	340
2 ENGLAND	297
3 RUSSIA	296
4 POLAND	287
5 NETHERLANDS	281
SWITZERLAND	281
7 FRANCE	269
8 ROMANIA	268
9 ICELAND	255
10 ESTONIA	249
11 WALES	242.5
12 DENMARK	241
13 LUXEMBOURG	240
14 AUSTRIA	235
15 FINLAND	216
16 CROATIA	208
17 CYPRUS	136

WOMEN'S TEAMS RANKING

after 15 rounds

1 ENGLAND	286
2 TURKEY	271
3 FRANCE	266
4 POLAND	260.5
5 NETHERLANDS	259
6 SWEDEN	250
7 ISRAEL	245.5
8 SCOTLAND	229
9 AUSTRIA	227
10 GERMANY	225.5

11 ITALY	225
12 BELGIUM	222
13 NORWAY	220
14 BULGARIA	201.5
15 DENMARK	200
16 GREECE	192
17 SPAIN	175
18 ESTONIA	164
19 IRELAND	162

Results are subject to official confirmation

OPEN TEAMS FINALS

PROGRAM

ROUND 1 10.00

1	ITALY	ICELAND
2	ROMANIA	ISRAEL
3	BULGARIA	FRANCE
4	NETHERLANDS	SWEDEN
5	GERMANY	SWITZERLAND
6	POLAND	TURKEY
7	IRELAND	RUSSIA
8	ENGLAND	GREECE
9	NORWAY	MONACO

ROUND 2 13.30

1	SWEDEN	RUSSIA
2	ENGLAND	GERMANY
3	TURKEY	MONACO
4	ICELAND	IRELAND
5	GREECE	ROMANIA
6	FRANCE	NORWAY
7	ITALY	NETHERLANDS
8	SWITZERLAND	ISRAEL
9	BULGARIA	POLAND

RANKING

1	MONACO	156
2	ENGLAND	143
3	ITALY	135
4	GERMANY	134.5
5	RUSSIA	127
6	ISRAEL	122
7	SWEDEN	122
8	BULGARIA	121
9	NETHERLANDS	117
10	NORWAY	115.5
11	POLAND	114
12	SWITZERLAND	114
13	FRANCE	109
14	IRELAND	108
15	GREECE	106
16	TURKEY	106
17	ROMANIA	103
18	ICELAND	87

WOMEN'S RESULTS

ROUND 14

Match		IMPs	VPs
21	GERMANY NETHERLANDS	27 - 66	7 - 23
22	NORWAY BELGIUM	16 - 47	9 - 21
23	BULGARIA SWEDEN	30 - 50	11 - 19
24	GREECE DENMARK	41 - 61	11 - 19
25	AUSTRIA ENGLAND	18 - 54	8 - 22
26	TURKEY POLAND	47 - 67	11 - 19
27	ESTONIA FRANCE	25 - 64	7 - 23
28	ITALY ISRAEL	28 - 30	15 - 15
29	SCOTLAND SPAIN	39 - 38	15 - 15
30	IRELAND BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 15

Match		IMPs	VPs
21	IRELAND BELGIUM	62 - 57	16 - 14
22	GERMANY SWEDEN	52 - 51	15 - 15
23	NORWAY DENMARK	27 - 32	14 - 16
24	BULGARIA ENGLAND	64 - 85	11 - 19
25	GREECE POLAND	32 - 36	14 - 16
26	AUSTRIA FRANCE	52 - 28	20 - 10
27	TURKEY ISRAEL	43 - 22	19 - 11
28	ESTONIA SPAIN	54 - 46	16 - 14
29	ITALY SCOTLAND	58 - 30	21 - 9
30	NETH.S BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

Today Day Off In The Women's Teams

OPEN TEAMS RESULTS

GROUP A

ROUND 16

Match		IMPs	VPs
1	GERMANY SWEDEN	35 - 35	15 - 15
2	IRELAND HUNGARY	70 - 14	25 - 4
3	BELGIUM SCOTLAND	42 - 49	14 - 16
4	SPAIN ITALY	25 - 79	4 - 25
5	LATVIA GREECE	52 - 59	14 - 16
6	LITHUANIA NORWAY	35 - 71	8 - 22
7	TURKEY BULGARIA	35 - 72	7 - 23
8	ISRAEL UKRAINE	74 - 26	25 - 5
9	PORTUGAL BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

GROUP B

ROUND 16

Match		IMPs	VPs
11	RUSSIA ICELAND	46 - 45	15 - 15
12	ENGLAND ESTONIA	38 - 29	17 - 13
13	SWITZERLAND ROMANIA	69 - 20	25 - 5
14	CROATIA NETHERLANDS	8 - 59	2 - 25
15	AUSTRIA WALES	62 - 37	20 - 10
16	LUXEMBOURG MONACO	51 - 34	19 - 11
17	DENMARK POLAND	32 - 69	7 - 23
18	FRANCE CYPRUS	76 - 21	25 - 4
19	FINLAND BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 17

Match		IMPs	VPs
1	PORTUGAL HUNGARY	33 - 46	12 - 18
2	GERMANY SCOTLAND	58 - 21	23 - 7
3	IRELAND ITALY	12 - 53	7 - 23
4	BELGIUM GREECE	46 - 89	6 - 24
5	SPAIN NORWAY	27 - 101	1 - 25
6	LATVIA BULGARIA	31 - 48	11 - 19
7	LITHUANIA UKRAINE	41 - 31	17 - 13
8	TURKEY ISRAEL	33 - 44	13 - 17
9	SWEDEN BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 17

Match		IMPs	VPs
11	FINLAND ESTONIA	36 - 65	9 - 21
12	RUSSIA ROMANIA	57 - 30	21 - 9
13	ENGLAND NETHERLANDS	39 - 23	18 - 12
14	SWITZERLAND WALES	63 - 35	21 - 9
15	CROATIA MONACO	30 - 53	10 - 20
16	AUSTRIA POLAND	30 - 76	6 - 24
17	LUXEMBOURG CYPRUS	45 - 41	16 - 14
18	DENMARK FRANCE	38 - 51	12 - 18
19	ICELAND BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

SENIORS TEAMS RANKING

after 9 rounds

1	DENMARK	172.5
2	GERMANY	172
3	BELGIUM	154
4	FRANCE	152
	SWEDEN	152
6	BULGARIA	149
7	SCOTLAND	148
8	ITALY	146
9	ENGLAND	143
10	ISRAEL	138.5

11	NORWAY	137
12	IRELAND	134
13	POLAND	130
14	NETHERLANDS	126
15	WALES	121
16	FINLAND	111
17	SPAIN	101
18	TURKEY	97
19	ESTONIA	85

SENIORS RESULTS

ROUND 7

Match		IMPs	VPs
31 SWEDEN	WALES	40 - 42	15 - 15
32 IRELAND	POLAND	56 - 16	24 - 6
33 ISRAEL	DENMARK	25 - 59	6.5 - 22.5
34 ESTONIA	BELGIUM	23 - 48	9 - 21
35 ITALY	FRANCE	20 - 45	9 - 21
36 SPAIN	GERMANY	13 - 46	7 - 23
37 TURKEY	SCOTLAND	17 - 50	7 - 23
38 BULGARIA	FINLAND	25 - 26	15 - 15
39 NORWAY	ENGLAND	1 - 25	9 - 21
40 NETH.	BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 8

Match		IMPs	VPs
31 NETH.	POLAND	11 - 36	9 - 21
32 SWEDEN	DENMARK	41 - 28	18 - 12
33 IRELAND	BELGIUM	41 - 45	14 - 16
34 ISRAEL	FRANCE	42 - 19	20 - 10
35 ESTONIA	GERMANY	2 - 61	2 - 25
36 ITALY	SCOTLAND	45 - 13	23 - 7
37 SPAIN	FINLAND	23 - 42	11 - 19
38 TURKEY	ENGLAND	23 - 52	8 - 22
39 BULGARIA	NORWAY	32 - 53	10 - 20
40 WALES	BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 9

Match		IMPs	VPs
31 WALES	DENMARK	33 - 27	16 - 14
32 NETHERLANDS	BELGIUM	32 - 53	10 - 20
33 SWEDEN	FRANCE	34 - 37	14 - 16
34 IRELAND	GERMANY	48 - 40	17 - 13
35 ISRAEL	SCOTLAND	36 - 44	13 - 17
36 ESTONIA	FINLAND	29 - 69	6 - 24
37 ITALY	ENGLAND	45 - 5	24 - 6
38 SPAIN	NORWAY	37 - 36	15 - 15
39 TURKEY	BULGARIA	5 - 36	8 - 22
40 POLAND	BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

SENIORS PROGRAM

ROUND 10 10.00

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

ROUND 11 13.30

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

ROUND 12 16.40

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

Hospitality Corner

URGENT: Leaving the Hotel - let Hotel Reception know as soon as possible as bedrooms are as rare as hen's teeth. Other teams who have qualified for the final stages are anxious to ensure their accommodation is confirmed. PLEASE HELP!!

Return to Dublin Airport from Citywest Hotel: Sadly we are already trying to facilitate returns to the Airport at a reasonable price so please let us know at Hospitality what time you plan to leave Citywest Hotel for Dublin Airport.

Farewell Gift: Wrights at Dublin Airport have a Farewell Departure Gift for all Competitors, Officials and Staff at their shops in Terminal 1 or Terminal 2. All you have to do is fill in the Wrights' Voucher which would have been in your Championship Bag and the gift will be yours in the Wrights shop. You can purchase a side of Salmon at a 20% discount if you wish. The Wrights Shop is well worth a visit selling what is best in Irish food.

The Voyage Jewellery: The CBAI Shop 1st Floor of the Convention Centre is offering 20% off on the Voyage Jewellery 'Life is an ocean, love is a boat'. Check it out – it could be worth your while.

Championship Glasses: Galway Crystal Souvenir Glasses are for sale. A nice memory and a usable gift.

Closing and Medal Ceremony: This is at 5 p.m. on Saturday when Wine and Savouries will be served at the END of the ceremony. We have an exciting few days ahead as the teams compete to be on the podium. May the best Teams win.

Last two days of Open Pairs: 2.30 p.m., 1st Floor. Entry Fee 5 Euros

Seniors Forum

A forum will be held **today, Wednesday 20th June, from 12.30 pm to 1pm**, at the far end of the Players Lobby (1st Floor) for those seniors who wish to convey their comments to the EBL Seniors Committee.

Maurizio di Sacco will be present to answer questions.

Filippo Palma, *Chairman*; **Patrick Jourdain**, *Secretary*

Championship Diary

We are reliably informed that England's Nicola Smith has set a new record for the number of appearances in the European Championships. We hope to have more information on this later in the week.

On Monday evening we spotted a member of the security staff escorting a miscreant from the premises. He was handling the situation very delicately as the villain of the piece was a swan (that's a bird, not the manager of the Press Room). How it found its way into the hotel is another matter.

Following our earlier triumph we spotted a horse running at Royal Ascot named Little Bridge. We are delighted to report it romped home at 12-1. On a slightly less happier note we must record that we forgot to back it! (You will recall the previous winner was Bridge Night. Heather Dhondy said she could discern our strategy - indeed you may have spotted it yourself - we back any horse with Little or Night in its name.)

Tours:

One Tour for today and/or Friday is to Newbridge Silverware and Icon Museum.

www.newbridgesilverware.com

You could consider the "Anyday" and "Anyday upon Request" options and we will help plan your tour at Hospitality 1st Floor.

www.kildarevillage.com, www.walkingtours.ie

Have you gone to Johnny Fox yet? You can enjoy an Irish Hooley here! Johnnie Fox's www.jfp.ie/ Traditional Irish music and "Hooley" dinner and dance show - shuttle bus being made available. www.jfp.ie

An Poitín Still Irish Pub, local with food served and Irish Music.

www.louisfitzgerald.com > Pubs

Race Evening: Leopardstown evening Race Night is on tonight. You can enjoy the Races and enjoy either pub grub or fine dining. A special package has been put together for us to include dinner/supper, entry, tips, prosecco reception and music entertainment) www.leopardstown.com

Please advise Hospitality if interested

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Assael	Fritsche	Köksoy	Rohowsky
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♦
Pass	6NT	Pass	7♦
All Pass			

Germany reached the grand slam after an artificial sequence. North was asking and South was describing his hand. 7♦ is the safest grand slam, but it resulted in a loss of 2 IMPs compared with the major suit slam in the other room.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Smirnov	Kandemir	Piekarek	Kolata
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	6♣	All Pass

West opened a two-suited weak two bid, and after the asking 2NT he bid 3♥, showing maximum with clubs. That was enough for East to decide on a small slam, and it would have worked if West had a stronger spade suit with a little less distribution. Unfortunately for the Germans, this auction put South on lead, and Kolata was quick to grab his ♥A, after which it was all over, as declarer needed to bring hearts in for three tricks to prevent a spade loser and he misguessed (culpably?) how to do so. Plus 100 to Turkey.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Assael	Fritsche	Köksoy	Rohowsky
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Here West rebid 4♣, obviously showing extra shape. East cuebid 4♦, and West didn't like it, bidding 4♠. Despite the fact that East knew he was facing a heart loser, his pass over 4♠ still looks conservative, but it worked. Plus 650, and Turkey jumped to an early lead of 16-0.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Smirnov	Kandemir	Piekarek	Kolata
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	Dbl	3♣	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Piekarek's 3♣ was a fit-showing jump. Kolata jumped to 4♠ without revealing his extreme distribution. East took the save in favourable vulnerability, but South wasn't giving up. His pass of 5♥ was forcing and Kandemir decided to bid on with some nice distribution of his own.

Smirnov decided that two aces, four little trumps and a shortness in his partner's suit justified doubling, but his judgement was wrong. Declarer was safe so long as diamonds were breaking 2-2. He discarded a heart on the ♣A at tricks 1, developed diamonds and drew trumps. +850 to Turkey.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Assael	Fritsche	Köksoy	Rohowsky
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	Dbl	4♥	4♠
5♥	5♠	All Pass	

A simpler auction. Köksoy just pre-empted to 4♥, promising no defensive values at all, and Assael didn't see any reason to double the final contract. +650 and 5 more IMPs to Turkey, extending their lead to 21-0.

Thereafter the boards became more mundane, and there were no more big swings. It was Germany which got the better of the small swings, reducing Turkey's margin of victory.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Smirnov	Kandemir	Piekarek	Kolata
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Rdbl	3♣
3♦	All Pass		



Josef Piekarek, Germany

The Turkish N/S kept silent until late in the auction. E/W stopped in a comfortable partscore and allowed themselves to be pushed to the three-level. Declarer made 10 tricks after a club lead, +130 to Germany.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Assael	Fritsche	Koksoy	Rohowsky
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbl
1♠	3♥	3NT	Pass
Pass	Dbl	4♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

I 00 Years Young

Barry Rigal

Board 7

South Dealer

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

OFFICIAL BIDDING:

South	West	North	East
2♦*	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

* 3 suiter 11-15

PLAY INSTRUCTIONS: 4♠ by West. North leads ♦2, and dummy plays low. As South, plan the defence.

Solution on page 23



Rohowsky created some action by doubling at his second turn. Fritsche put real pressure on East by bidding 3♥.

Koksoy took the bait and bid 3NT – very aggressive, although the game would have made easily after a heart lead. However, Fritsche doubled to ask for a spade lead (dummy's first bid suit) and Koksoy retreated to 4♦. This would have made, but Assael hoped for a better hand and bid the diamond game. This had no chance after a spade lead. +50 and 5 IMPs to Germany.

Nothing big happened in the remaining boards. Turkey won 27-13, or 18-12 VP, and after 12 rounds they were sharing 2nd place in the group with Italy. Both teams scored 220 VPs at that stage, 3 VPs behind the leaders – Bulgaria. However it is not so important who wins the preliminary group. Big wins against the bottom teams are not going to count. Only head-to-head matches among the nine leading teams are carried over to the finals.

OPEN

Round 13

Bulgaria v. Italy & Turkey v. Sweden

by Jos Jacobs

In Group A of the Open Series, two top matches were scheduled for Monday morning: Bulgaria v. Italy, the clash between the current leaders, and Turkey v. Sweden, lying 3rd and 5th respectively.

Right on the opening board, there was a game swing in both matches.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Karakolev</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Against this auction, Lauria made an interesting opening lead: the ♣Q. This had a devastating effect on declarer who decided to play low from dummy. When Lauria continued a low club, dummy played low again so Versace won his ♣K and led a diamond to declarer's jack and East's king. Lauria then simply played on diamonds so the contract had to fail as declarer could never come to nine tricks any more. Italy +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

With South declarer, the defenders were in a much worse position than at the other table. West led a spade to East's queen and East returned the suit. Declarer now crossed to the ♥A himself for the first club finesse, which lost to

West's king when East failed to insert the queen. As the ♦A was the entry for cashing the remaining two top spades and taking the second club finesse, nine tricks and +400 to Italy were the outcome. They had opened their account with 10 IMPs straight away.

In our other featured match, Kolata was declaring 3NT for Turkey:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Kandemir</i>	<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Kolata</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

He also got a spade lead to East's queen but then, a heart came back. Here too, East did not jump up with the ♣Q on the first round of the suit but West, upon winning his ♣K, played ♥K and another to give declarer an easy job. Turkey +400.

Closed Room

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

Zorlu also led a spade to the queen and Tokay also returned a heart. When Zorlu got the next trick with the ♣K, he shifted to the ♦Q. That proved too much for declarer, who lost two more diamonds after giving West his ♥K. Down one, Turkey +50 and 10 IMPs to them as well on the first board of the day.



Süleyman Kolata, Turkey

Differences in judgement and different outcomes of it could be seen on board 5:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ A K 3 2 ♥ K 7 2 ♦ Q 8 7 6 ♣ 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 <hr style="width: 100%;"/> W <hr style="width: 100%;"/> S <hr style="width: 100%;"/> E </div>	<p>♠ J 9 4 ♥ A 10 ♦ A K 10 9 5 ♣ K 8 5</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 5 ♥ 8 5 4 3 ♦ J 3 ♣ Q 10 9 6</p>
		<p>♠ 8 7 6 ♥ Q J 9 6 ♦ 4 2 ♣ A J 4 2</p>	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Mihov	Lauria	Karakolev
	INT	All Pass	

The proper contract. Bulgaria +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Bocchi	Stefanov	Madala
	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Some slight overbidding by Madala but one never knows...

A heart by East went to dummy's queen and a low diamond went to declarer's nine and East's jack. Out came a spade (!) and the defenders quickly set the contract. Well done, Bulgaria +100 and 6 IMPs back to them.

In the other match, we saw some Turkish overbidding:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Upmark	Kandemir	Nyström	Kolata
	INT	Pass	2♣!!
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

When East led the ♥5 and West covered dummy's queen with the king, declarer suddenly had nine tricks with the help of a successful club finesse. Turkey +600.

In the Closed Room, they reached the proper contract:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Fredin	Tokay	Fallenius
	INT	All Pass	

Fredin opened a normal INT and there it rested. Sweden +120 but 10 more IMPs to Turkey.

Chances for both teams again on the next board:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ Q 8 7 5 3 ♥ A 9 3 ♦ A 6 5 ♣ 10 5</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 <hr style="width: 100%;"/> W <hr style="width: 100%;"/> S <hr style="width: 100%;"/> E </div>	<p>♠ K 9 6 4 2 ♥ J 8 2 ♦ Q 8 4 ♣ 9 3</p>	<p>♠ 10 ♥ K 10 5 ♦ K 9 7 3 ♣ A K J 7 6</p>
		<p>♠ A J ♥ Q 7 6 4 ♦ J 10 2 ♣ Q 8 4 2</p>	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Mihov	Lauria	Karakolev
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

With the friendly breaks in both diamonds and spades, 3NT is an easy make. Italy +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Bocchi	Stefanov	Madala
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

This modest contract actually went one off after a few misguesses by declarer. Italy another +100 and 12 IMPs more to them.

In the other match:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Upmark	Kandemir	Nyström	Kolata
1♥	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass	3♦	Pass

1♥ showed spades, after which EW stretched a little to reach a shaky vulnerable game. As we already saw in the other match, the contract could not be defeated: Sweden +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Fredin	Tokay	Fallenius
1♠	Pass	1♣	Pass
		1NT	All Pass

A much more disciplined auction by the Turkish EW leading to a 10-IMP loss...

On the next board, Karakolev unexpectedly changed his mind in mid-auction:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Mihov	Lauria	Karakolev
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Dble
Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Redble	Pass	Pass	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

Karakolev doubled for a heart lead. This leads to one down, as North holds the ♦A as an entry for one more ruff. When Versace redoubled, this apparently was too hot for him to handle, so he retreated to 5♣ which went the normal two down. Italy +500.

This should have been a large gain for Italy as they elected to defend against 4♠ in the Closed Room:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Bocchi	Stefanov	Madala
Dble	1♦	3♦	1♣
3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		Pass

When Bocchi led the ♣J rather than a heart, Italy's prospective gain turned into a 5-IMP loss...

In the other match, there was no swing as both Wests were allowed to play 4♠ and both Norths led a heart. Well done!

Please note that played by East, 4♠ is unbeatable. Balicki-Zmudzinski were among the pairs to achieve this fine result.

A very interesting board was number 9:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Mihov	Lauria	Karakolev
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The Bulgarian auction made South the declarer, and that proved a tremendous advantage once Versace led a low club, which ran to declarer's nine. In with the ♠A, East shift-

ed to a heart but it did no longer matter. Ten tricks, Bulgaria +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Bocchi	Stefanov	Madala
	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

East led a low club, won by dummy's ace. The ♠K went to East's ace and Stefanov now led a heart to the ten, jack and ace. Declarer drew trumps and gave up a heart to East who went in with his queen to play another club. When declarer finessed, he was one down.

The double-dummy line of going up with the ace and then playing for both the hearts 3-3 and the holder of the ♠A being out of clubs is very much inferior but for once, it would have worked...

So Madala duly went one down, Bulgaria +50 and another 10 IMPs to them to reduce their deficit to just 3 IMPs now.

In the other match, both Norths were in 4♠ and they both went one down on a club lead from East.

Italy led by 11 when this board came along:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Mihov	Lauria	Karakolev
		Pass	1♦
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Lauria led the ♠10, covered by queen and king and ducked by declarer. Versace shifted to the ♦10 and Lauria cashed three tricks in the suit – which also proved the end of the defence. Bulgaria +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Bocchi	Stefanov	Madala
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Strangely enough, in the Closed Room neither of the Italians ever bid on this hand. 2♠ went down two for +100 to Italy but 11 IMPs to Bulgaria who had managed to level the match. The final score eventually became 34-33 to Italy, still a 15-15 VP draw.

In the other match, East never touched his partner's bid suit:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Upmark	Kandemir	Nyström	Kolata
		Pass	1♣
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led a top diamond and exited with a club. Declarer won and led another diamond but East jumped up with his king under which West dropped the queen. East's next move was to return a heart which enabled declarer to emerge with even 10 tricks. Turkey +630.

In the Closed Room, South became the declarer, which changed the outcome considerably:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Fredin	Tokay	Fallenius
		Pass	1♣
1♠	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led the ♦Q (!) which East overtook to push the ♠4 through. This went to the jack and ace, upon which declarer went on to cash his four club tricks and lead a heart to the ten and queen...giving the defence its 5th trick. One down, Turkey another +100 and 12 IMPs back to bring the score to 35-34 to Sweden, another draw, which also became the final result of the match.

OPEN
Round 12

Wales v. Netherlands

by Jos Jacobs

In the only round scheduled for Sunday, Wales and Netherlands were among the teams who had to meet. As both teams were very much in contention for a place in the top nine, this looked a good match to have a look at. When the match started, Wales were in 3rd place with 184 and Netherlands were joint 7th with Switzerland on 176. So the Netherlands would be pleased with a good win, as would their national soccer team later in the day...

and played $\diamond A$ and a diamond to the queen and king. West returned a low spade to declarer's blank king and another diamond then went to East's jack. East returned a heart to his partner's queen and when West exited with a low club to the queen and ace, declarer had nine tricks but could not get at them before the defenders had five, as the entries to dummy's remaining top spades were all gone... One down, Wales +100 and 12 IMPs.

Board 1 was an easy push but on the next board, some good guesswork was required.

Two boards later, we saw an interesting slam.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>\spadesuit 10 3 2 \heartsuit K Q 9 \diamond K 9 \clubsuit K 9 7 5 4</p>	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>\spadesuit J 9 7 6 \heartsuit 10 5 4 2 \diamond J 8 3 \clubsuit Q 2</p>	<p>\spadesuit A Q 8 5 4 \heartsuit A J 8 6 \diamond A 4 \clubsuit J 10</p> <p>\spadesuit K \heartsuit 7 3 \diamond Q 10 7 6 5 2 \clubsuit A 8 6 3</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

<p>\spadesuit Q 9 7 6 3 2 \heartsuit 10 \diamond — \clubsuit A J 8 6 5 4</p>	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>\spadesuit 10 8 \heartsuit 9 3 2 \diamond Q 9 7 5 4 3 2 \clubsuit 9</p> <p>\spadesuit A J \heartsuit K J 8 6 4 \diamond A K 8 \clubsuit K Q 3</p> <p>\spadesuit K 5 4 \heartsuit A Q 7 5 \diamond J 10 6 \clubsuit 10 7 2</p>	<p>\spadesuit 10 8 \heartsuit 9 3 2 \diamond Q 9 7 5 4 3 2 \clubsuit 9</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees Jr.	Goodman	Van Prooijen	Pownall
		Pass	Pass
1 \diamond	1 \spadesuit	Pass	1NT
Pass	2 \diamond	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees Jr.	Goodman	Van Prooijen	Pownall
Pass	Pass	1 \clubsuit	Pass
2 \heartsuit	Pass	4 \spadesuit	All Pass

West led a club to the queen and ace but Pownall then had little trouble in guessing the diamonds correctly, in view of West's opening bid. He led a diamond to the ace and a diamond back to his ten and thus had an easy road to nine tricks. Wales +600.

When Verhees showed a weakish hand with spades opposite the Strong Club, Van Prooijen was not interested in going beyond game. Netherlands an easy +680 when South led the $\diamond J$.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jones	Drijver	Jones	Brink
		Pass	2 \diamond
Pass	2 \heartsuit	Pass	2NT
Pass	3 \clubsuit	Pass	3 \diamond
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jones	Drijver	Jones	Brink
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3 \heartsuit	Pass	3NT	Pass
4 \clubsuit	Pass	4NT	Pass
6 \clubsuit	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	6NT	All Pass

In the Closed Room, EW did not bid so Brink was left to his own devices. He won the $\heartsuit K$ lead with dummy's ace

The Welsh had a more enterprising auction when East opened a natural 2NT. Their proposed final contract of 6 \clubsuit was not only a good one but it also could be made against any defence, provided East leads top hearts to scoop North's $\heartsuit 9$.

Brink's double no doubt suggested a heart lead but this would not have been enough, though few declarers actually made 6♣. However, the double also convinced East it might be safer to settle for 6NT...which had no play at all. One down but as nobody had doubled this, the Dutch scored just +100 to collect 13 IMPs.

On the next board, it was slam time again, or at least that's what they were thinking of it in the Closed Room:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees Jr.	Goodman	Van Prooijen	Pownall
	Pass	3♣	3♦
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

In a sense, Van Prooijen was lucky that South did not double, a fate suffered by another East player who tried the effect of this opening bid. Verhees was just able to introduce his suit over 3♦ so EW suddenly had found their real fit. When North did not compete at any time, understandably so as his values were mostly in clubs, the Dutch were allowed to score a quiet enough +420. (And yes, maybe South should double 4♥ to get spades into the picture.)

In the other room, Brink lit the fireworks at his second turn to bid:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jones	Drijver	Jones	Brink
	Pass	Pass	1♦
2♥	Dble	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

When East did not pre-empt in 1st seat (and why should he?), the Dutch had an easy enough run to 4♠, as North could not see any reason not to bid over West's 2♥. When Drijver bid on over East's 5♥ save, Brink thought there

might be a slam in the air. With the diamonds 2-2, making many tricks was not very much of a problem but the two red aces were. When West was polite enough not to double, Wales just scored +100 only to find out that his team lost 8 IMPs on the deal.

Two boards later, a light Dutch overcall cost them heavily, for once:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees Jr.	Goodman	Van Prooijen	Pownall
			1♦
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
2♣	Dble	All Pass	

Goodman clearly had a penalty pass over 1♠ but when he could express an opinion about 2♣ as well the Dutch were stuck. North led the ♦J and switched to a low trump to dummy's jack and South's queen. The ♠J was taken by the ace but when declarer next led a trump, North jumped in with the ace to continue a diamond and take declarer's third trump out. Down four as there were many more spade tricks to come for the defence. Wales +1100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jones	Drijver	Jones	Brink
			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West made the good lead of a low heart but the contract was never in danger. Netherlands +600 but another 11 IMPs to Wales.

Halfway through the match, the Welsh missed a great chance, I think:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees Jr.	Goodman	Van Prooijen	Pownall
2♥	3♦	1♠	2♦
4♥	All Pass	3♥	Pass

On this auction, North had a clear diamond lead so declarer eventually lost control and went two off, Wales +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jones	Drijver	Jones	Brink
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
2♥	2♠	Dble	2♦
Pass	3♦	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

(Mis?)guided by Brink's double, Drijver led the ♠J, giving declarer not only a free finesse but also a sporting chance to make the contract. Throw two diamonds on the top spades and ruff a spade, followed by a diamond ruff and a trump up. With the trumps 3-2 and the ace aside, and the



Sjoert Brink, Netherlands

clubs breaking 2-2 nicely, all will be well.

Declarer did not follow this double-dummy line but rather went for restricting his losses when he threw two clubs on the spades. Next came the ♣A, spade ruff, ♦A, diamond ruff, club ruff, diamond ruff and a spade. This was the position with dummy to lead and declarer to make two more tricks:

♠ — ♥ K 9 7 5 ♦ J ♣ —	♠ K 10 7 ♥ 10 6 ♦ — ♣ —	♠ 9 5 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ J 7 5	♠ — ♥ A Q J ♦ Q 10 ♣ —
--------------------------------	----------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------

Dummy leads a card and South ruffs with a lower honour. Declarer can overruff and play any card but North's ♥10 is bound to score the extra trick needed to beat the contract. If declarer does not overruff, North's ♥10 will also score a trick sooner or later.

So one down and +200 to the Netherlands for a lucky push for them.

A serious blow to Wales' ambitions came on board 16:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees Jr.	Goodman	Van Prooijen	Pownall
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2♠	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

North showed six hearts with his 2♦ bid, the diamond suit itself coming into the picture one round of bidding later. Unsure of the position, South sold out to 3♠ which proved the wrong decision. The contract just made on a heart lead and club shift, Netherlands +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jones	Drijver	Jones	Brink
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	



Mike Pownall, Wales

Once Drijver got the good news about the diamond fit, he knew enough to go to game immediately. The play proved easy with all the missing cards well-placed, so even the possible diamond block could not hurt declarer. Netherlands another +420 and 11 IMPs.

Another example of successful Dutch aggression came two boards later:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees Jr.	Goodman	Van Prooijen	Pownall
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♣	1♥	1♠
		All Pass	

Cautious bidding saw the Welsh end up in a very safe contract. Maybe, North devalued his ♥K in view of East's overcall... One overtrick, Wales +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jones	Drijver	Jones	Brink
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♣
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	2NT
		All Pass	

The Dutch did not show any inhibitions and thus quickly were in game, rightly played by North. Nine tricks on any lead and 10 tricks on the actual heart lead. Netherlands +630 and 11 IMPs more to them.

The last board of the match again was a matter of controlled and well-timed aggression, albeit in another match:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

This is what happened in the Bulgaria-Hungary match:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lakatos	Mihov	Szilágyi	Karakolev
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
3♦	Dble	Redble	3♠
All Pass			

This reasonable contract just went one off, Hungary +100.

The Bulgarians had other ideas about the EW hands, as you can see:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Marashev</i>	<i>Hegedüs</i>	<i>Tsonchev</i>	<i>Szegedi</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Not that 3NT is a particularly good contract but with the ♣Q tripleton with South, making 3NT was a matter of going after your only chance...Bulgaria +600.

In our main match, the Dutch reached a more solid contract:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees Jr.</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Pownall</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Nine tricks, Netherlands +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jones</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Jones</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Redble	1♠
2♦	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

The Welsh also reached a good contract but it proved impossible to handle the 4-1 trump break. One way or another, declarer had to go one down, Netherlands another +100 and 6 IMPs to win the match 53-34 or 19-11 VPs to join Wales in 3rd place.

So with a good win under their belt, the Dutch could relax and sit down to watch their favourite soccer team failing up to its pre-tournament reputation... confident that at least the bridge team was not yet letting its supporters down.



A debutant's first board adventure

by Jon Sveindal, Norway

The other members of the Norwegian Seniors Team have played for Norway before, but for Johnny Holmbakken this is his first international appearance. He rapidly placed himself in the hot seat against Italy in the first match – and on the very first board.

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
	1♣	1♦	Dbl
3♦	All Pass		

Lead: ♣5

Holmbakken won North's jack with the ace, and ran the diamond nine to the ace. North cashed a club trick, and exited with a diamond to the jack. A heart to the nine and jack was followed by the heart ace and another heart, which East ruffed. A club was ruffed in dummy, and a diamond put declarer in hand with the queen. Holmbakken was sure that South held the spade queen, and played accordingly, putting the jack on the table! South covered, and the king won. These cards remained:

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

The last diamond squeezed North in the blacks, and declarer made the contract via two spade tricks when North kept his club. A menace transfer and squeeze – what a debut!

A Walk on the Wild(e) Side

by Mark Horton

Women Round 12 England v Scotland

Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde (16 October 1854 – 30 November 1900) was an Irish writer and poet. After writing in different forms throughout the 1880s, he became one of London's most popular playwrights in the early 1890s. Today he is remembered for his epigrams, plays and the circumstances of his imprisonment, followed by his early death.

Wilde's parents were successful Dublin intellectuals. Their son became fluent in French and German early in life. At university Wilde read Greats; he proved himself to be an outstanding classicist, first at Dublin, then at Oxford. He became known for his involvement in the rising philosophy of aestheticism, led by two of his tutors, Walter Pater and John Ruskin. After university, Wilde moved to London into fashionable cultural and social circles. As a spokesman for aestheticism, he tried his hand at various literary activities: he published a book of poems, lectured in the United States of America and Canada on the new "English Renaissance in Art", and then returned to London where he worked prolifically as a journalist. Known for his biting wit, flamboyant dress, and glittering conversation, Wilde had become one of the most well-known personalities of his day.

At the turn of the 1890s, he refined his ideas about the supremacy of art in a series of dialogues and essays, and incorporated themes of decadence, duplicity, and beauty into his only novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890). The opportunity to construct aesthetic details precisely, and combine them with larger social themes, drew Wilde to write drama. He wrote *Salome* (1891) in French in Paris but it was refused a licence. Unperturbed, Wilde produced four society comedies in the early 1890s, which made him one of the most successful playwrights of late Victorian London.

At the height of his fame and success, while his masterpiece, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895), was still on stage in London, Wilde had the Marquess of Queensberry, the father of Wilde's lover, Lord Alfred Douglas, prosecuted for libel, a charge carrying a penalty of up to two years in prison. The trial unearthed evidence that caused Wilde to drop his charges and led to his own arrest and trial for gross indecency with other men. After two more trials he was convicted and imprisoned for two years' hard labour. In prison he wrote *De Profundis* (written in 1897 & published in 1905), a long letter which discusses his spiritual journey through his trials, forming a dark counterpoint to his earlier philosophy of pleasure. Upon his release he left immediately for France, never to return to Ireland or Britain. There he wrote his last work, *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* (1898), a long poem commemorating the harsh rhythms of prison life. He died destitute in Paris at the age of forty-six. (He remarked on his deathbed, "Either this wallpaper goes or I do.")

The deals in this match were as wild as anything we have seen so far in the Championships - and posed a series of awkward questions.

I can believe anything as long as it is incredible.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Adamson</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Symons</i>
Pass	4♠	Dbf	2♠ All Pass

West led the jack of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace, crossed to the king of spades and played a spade back to the ace. Now came the jack of diamonds and East won with the king, cashed the ace and carefully continued with the two of diamonds. (An illustrious BBO commentator suggested that East could simply cash three red winners and wait for the setting trick. It would be quite a long wait.) Declarer could discard a heart on the ten of diamonds but still had to lose a heart and a club, -100.

Note that if declarer leads a low heart from dummy after drawing trumps, East has a very awkward problem on defence. South could be 6-2-2-3 with the doubleton heart ten, when she must rise with an honour to set the game.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Punch</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>McGowan</i>	<i>Smith</i>
Pass	4♣*	Dbf	2♦*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	4♥*

- 2♦ Multi, 0-8, may be five card suit NV
- 4♣ Which major?
- 4♥ Spades

East cashed the king of diamonds and with not much to go on switched to the three of clubs, which was all the help declarer needed, +420 and 11 IMPs to Engalnd.

I can resist everything except temptation.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ J 10 2 ♥ A 5 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ Q J 9 4 3	♠ 8 3 ♥ 10 8 6 4 ♦ K Q J 10 9 3 ♣ 5 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 5px auto; background-color: green; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div> ♠ A 9 7 5 4 ♥ K 9 ♦ 6 4 2 ♣ K 6 2	♠ K Q 6 ♥ Q J 7 3 2 ♦ 5 ♣ A 10 8 7
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Adamson</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Symons</i>
1♣*	2♦	2♥	3♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

1♣ 2+ clubs

It was not easy for West to pass her partner's double and it appears there was also some confusion about the meaning of Four Clubs. Four Hearts had no realistic chance and on a diamond lead declarer won with dummy's ace and took the club finesse, eventually finishing two down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Punch</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>McGowan</i>	<i>Smith</i>
INT	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	3♦	Dbl	All Pass

I'm afraid the merits of North's delayed entry into the auction are a mystery to me.

East led the king of spades and declarer won with dummy's ace and returned a spade to East's queen. When East switched to the queen of hearts declarer elected to put up dummy's king and when that lost to the ace West returned the suit, East winning with the jack and returning the two, ruffed and overruffed. Now a club to East's ace was followed by another heart allowing West to score a second overruff. That was three down, -800. To lose one overruff may be regarded as a misfortune. To lose both looks like carelessness. Scotland had 14 IMPs.

There are only two tragedies in life: one is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ A ♥ A K 9 8 6 5 3 ♦ Q J 10 9 7 ♣ —	♠ K 8 6 3 ♥ 4 ♦ 2 ♣ Q J 10 7 6 4 3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 5px auto; background-color: green; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div> ♠ Q 10 7 4 ♥ Q J 7 2 ♦ A 5 ♣ A 5 2	♠ J 9 5 2 ♥ 10 ♦ K 8 6 4 3 ♣ K 9 8
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Adamson</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Symons</i>
1♥	3♣	Pass	3NT
5♦	All Pass		

North-South's activity made this a very tough hand for East-West. Perhaps West might bid 4♣ at her second turn and then consider her options should East bid 4♦. That is by no means the only possibility, so expect to see this hand presented to the odd bidding panel or two. Five Diamonds was +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Punch</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>McGowan</i>	<i>Smith</i>
1♥	3♣	Pass	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

After two rounds of bidding I would have been willing to bet that Scotland would finish up in Six Diamonds. I am pretty sure that West intended Five Hearts to be a cue bid on the way to Six Diamonds, but East did not see it that way. North did not lead her singleton (essential to defeat 4♥) but declarer had to lose three tricks, -50 and 10 IMPs to England.



Sam Punch, Scotland

The public is wonderfully tolerant. It forgives everything except genius.

Illusion is the first of all pleasures.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ AK4 ♥ — ♦ J108543 ♣ A873	N W E S	♠ — ♥ KQ86432 ♦ 72 ♣ KQ62	♠ QJ1098632 ♥ A105 ♦ 6 ♣ J ♠ 75 ♥ J97 ♦ AKQ9 ♣ 10954
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Adamson	Senior	Symons
2♦	4♠	Pass	Pass
DbI	Pass	5♥	All Pass

South led the seven of spades so declarer was able to get rid of her losing diamonds, but she still had to lose three trump tricks, South scoring a spade ruff -100.

Had East removed the double to 4NT (suggesting a two-suiter or else delayed diamond support E/W might have got to 5♣; now the lead would have been critical.)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Punch	Brock	McGowan	Smith
Pass	4♠	4♥	Pass
DbI	All Pass	Pass	Pass

Having started with a full blooded preempt East had a much easier decision than her counterpart in the other room.

After leading the king of clubs East switched to hearts and West ruffed for one down, +200 and 7 IMPs to Scotland.



Nevena Senior, England

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ J102 ♥ J5 ♦ — ♣ AQJ98543	N W E S	♠ KQ874 ♥ AKQ93 ♦ Q ♣ 62 ♠ 9 ♥ 10742 ♦ 1086532 ♣ K10 ♠ A653 ♥ 86 ♦ AKJ974 ♣ 7	♠ — ♥ KQ86432 ♦ 72 ♣ KQ62
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Adamson	Senior	Symons
4♣	DbI	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

West cashed the ace of clubs and continued with the queen, forcing declarer to ruff. Declarer crossed to the queen of diamonds, played a spade to hand and cashed some top diamonds. If she keeps the ♦9 intact and then takes two hearts and plays a winning spade East can ruff but is endplayed. No doubt disappointed at the 6-0 break she took a different course and was two down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Punch	Brock	McGowan	Smith
4♣	DbI	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

When West elected not to double Six Spades, East led the king of clubs and when West played the three she switched to a diamond, -100 and 3 IMPs to England.

That must have been disappointing for declarer. Notice that if South is declarer West has to find the underlead in clubs.



Anne Symons, Scotland

Experience is simply the name we give our mistakes.

One should always play fairly when one has the winning cards.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

	♠ J 10 8 7					
	♥ 4					
	♦ 7 5 4					
	♣ K Q 7 6 2					
♠ Q 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; 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	♠ 6 5	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ A J 10 6		♥ 9 7 2				
♦ K Q 10 3		♦ A J 9 8 6 2				
♣ 10 9 5		♣ A 3				
	♠ A K 9 3 2					
	♥ K Q 8 5 3					
	♦ —					
	♣ J 8 4					

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Adamson	Senior	Symons
Pass	2NT*	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♥*

2NTGF 4 hearts
3♥ Non minimum, no shortage

West led the jack of diamonds and declarer won in hand and made the unfortunate play of cashing the ace of hearts. That meant she had four losers, -100. Her line was based on the risks associated with crossing to dummy in spades to play the heart finesse. By taking a 12% line for no loser in hearts as opposed to the 20% line of hearts 2-2 with the king right she was putting most of her eggs in the basket of the club finesse while avoiding spade ruffs.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Punch	Brock	McGowan	Smith
Pass	2NT*	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3NT*

2NTGF with hearts
3NT 5-3-3-2, fair controls

Declarer won the diamond lead, played the nine of spades to the king and ace, lost a couple of club tricks, won the diamond switch, ruffed a club and advanced the queen of hearts, +620 and 12 IMPs.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Adamson	Senior	Symons
Dbl	3♥*	4♦	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	4♠
			All Pass

3♥ Bergen Raise

Declarer ruffed the diamond lead and cashed the top spades. When the queen fell she had an easy route to eleven tricks and +690.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Punch	Brock	McGowan	Smith
Dbl	4♠	5♦	1♠
			All Pass

South cashed her top spades and switched to the king of hearts, so declarer could establish a parking place for her losing club, -100 but 11 IMPs to Scotland.

England had recorded a narrow victory, 49-43 IMPs, 16-14 VP.

Having completed another report I was reminded by my colleagues that I had failed to use one of Wilde's most famous quotes: **Work is the curse of the drinking classes.**

In the Spotlight

Find out a little bit more about your fellow bridge players

Dilek Yavas



How did you take up bridge?

During University Years.

Biggest influence?

Benito Garozzo.

Bridge Club?

Bursa Bridge Club.

First Bridge Book

Standard American Yellow.

Favourite Music?

Elvis Presley & Frank Sinatra.

Favourite drink?

Turkish Coffee.

All time favourite player?

Benito Garozzo.

Favourite TV Show?

House.

Best achievement in Bridge?

Poznan European Open Championships.

Biggest failing at the table?

Vulnerable, after doubling to let the opponents make the contract.

100 Years Young

Solution 7

Here is the full deal.

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

South should realize that his red suit holdings will be threatened soon, possibly as soon as on the third round of trumps, especially if he cashes a club honour, allowing West to ruff away two more clubs (if necessary ruffing high and finessing in trumps). A diamond continuation is mandatory regardless, to knock out an entry, but before, not after, cashing a club. If West has a club loser or two he won't be able to dispose of them. The real menace is his holding four hearts to the queen, which is actually the case.

After continuing with a diamond at trick two to the king and ace declarer will lead a low heart from dummy. You must take your king and still must not cash a club. Return a high heart (or a trump) and declarer will not have the entries to be able to execute the squeeze.

Your cashing a club prematurely would help him to shorten his trumps by two ruffs and ending in dummy with the third round of spades: squeezing you at the same time in the red suits. The point in this defence is perhaps: never make any play without a good reason, or a better purpose than just that of winning a trick quickly.

Most important attribute in a partner?

Politeness & good relation

Your favourite tournament?

European Championships.

Other interests?

Swimming, Fitness, Movies and Books.

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