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Issue No. 9

Thursday, 21st June 2012

THE SUN HAS GOT HIS HAT ON



Meet our fabulous caddies! Back row: Maria Whelan, Neil Burke, Paul Porteous, Michael O'Malley, Cormac Lalor, Ailbhe Mealy, Carmel Connolly, Michael McAuliffe. Sitting: Mary Rice, Esther Stewart, Valerie Mathers, Elaine O'Kelly. Left insert: Emer Kee. Right insert: Freda Fitzgerald

In the *Open Series*, **Monaco** maintained its lead over **England**, the latter losing a big match to **Germany**, who moved ahead of **Italy**. **Israel** and **Russia** swapped places, but they are hotly pursued by **Bulgaria**, **Poland**, **Sweden** and the **Netherlands**, the latter scoring an important win over Italy in the last match of the day.

In the *Senior Teams*, **France** had an excellent day to jump into the lead. **Germany** also went past the overnight leaders, **Denmark** who drop to third. **Scotland** moved into fourth, just ahead of **Belgium** and **Sweden**.

The Women resume play today – with just four matches to go can anyone catch **England**?

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 - France		BBO 1*
Bulgaria - England		BBO 2
Monaco - Sweden		BBO 3
Poland - Italy		BBO 4
Israel - Russia		BBO 5
13.30		
Italy - Monaco		BBO 1*
England - Norway		BBO 2
France - Sweden		BBO 3
Germany - Netherlands		BBO 4
Denmark - Bulgaria (S)		BBO 5
16.40		
Russia - Germany		BBO 1*
France - Italy		BBO 2
Sweden - Poland		BBO 3
Neth. - England (W)		BBO 4
Germany - France (W)		BBO 5
*BBO 1 = Vugraph		

OPEN TEAMS FINALS

PROGRAM

ROUND F3 (20) 10.00

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

ROUND F4 (21) 13.30

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

ROUND F5 (22) 16.40

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

RANKING

after Round 2 of the Final

1 MONACO	189
2 ENGLAND	176
3 GERMANY	173.5
4 ITALY	169
5 ISRAEL	166
6 RUSSIA	156
7 BULGARIA	154.3
8 POLAND	153.7
9 SWEDEN	153
10 NETHERLANDS	151
11 IRELAND	146
12 FRANCE	143
13 NORWAY	139.5
14 ROMANIA	129
SWITZERLAND	129
GREECE	129
17 TURKEY	121
18 ICELAND	101

URGENT: Leaving the Hotel

Please 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!!**

WOMEN TEAMS

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.

PROGRAM

ROUND 16 13.30

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

ROUND 17 16.40

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

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

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.

SENIORS TEAMS

PROGRAM

ROUND 13 10.00

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

ROUND 14 13.30

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

ROUND 15 16.40

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

RANKING

after 12 rounds

1	FRANCE	218
2	GERMANY	207
3	DENMARK	205.5
4	SCOTLAND	203
5	BELGIUM	201
6	SWEDEN	199
7	POLAND	196
8	ITALY	192.5
9	ENGLAND	190
10	ISRAEL	189.5
11	BULGARIA	188
12	IRELAND	184
13	NETHERLANDS	182
14	NORWAY	181
15	TURKEY	146
16	WALES	145
17	SPAIN	136.5
18	ESTONIA	133
19	FINLAND	123



RESULTS

SENIORS

ROUND 10

Match		IMPs	VPs
31 POLAND	BELGIUM	50 - 36	18 - 12
32 WALES	FRANCE	11 - 44	7 - 23
33 NETH.	GERMANY	20 - 21	15 - 15
34 SWEDEN	SCOTLAND	25 - 27	15 - 15
35 IRELAND	FINLAND	61 - 12	25 - 1
36 ISRAEL	ENGLAND	38 - 21	19 - 11
37 ESTONIA	NORWAY	42 - 35	16 - 14
38 ITALY	BULGARIA	31 - 33	15 - 15
39 SPAIN	TURKEY	13 - 37	9 - 21
40 DENMARK	BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 11

Match		IMPs	VPs
31 DENMARK	FRANCE	13 - 75	2 - 25
32 POLAND	GERMANY	58 - 26	23 - 7
33 WALES	SCOTLAND	27 - 60	7 - 23
34 NETHERLANDS	FINLAND	54 - 29	21 - 9
35 SWEDEN	ENGLAND	41 - 45	14 - 16
36 IRELAND	NORWAY	61 - 81	10 - 20
37 ISRAEL	BULGARIA	46 - 30	19 - 11
38 ESTONIA	TURKEY	57 - 55	14 - 14
39 ITALY	SPAIN	44 - 21	19.5 - 9.5
40 BELGIUM	BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 12

Match		IMPs	VPs
31 BELGIUM	GERMANY	28 - 18	17 - 13
32 DENMARK	SCOTLAND	21 - 32	13 - 17
33 POLAND	FINLAND	92 - 30	25 - 2
34 WALES	ENGLAND	13 - 34	10 - 20
35 NETHERLANDS	NORWAY	39 - 16	20 - 10
36 SWEDEN	BULGARIA	39 - 27	18 - 12
37 IRELAND	TURKEY	15 - 13	15 - 15
38 ISRAEL	SPAIN	11 - 19	13 - 17
39 ESTONIA	ITALY	38 - 23	18 - 12
40 FRANCE	BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

OPEN FINAL

ROUND F1 (18)

Match		IMPs	VPs
1 ITALY	ICELAND	64 - 29	22 - 8
2 ROMANIA	ISRAEL	26 - 56	9 - 21
3 BULGARIA	FRANCE	37 - 16	19 - 11
4 NETH.	SWEDEN	47 - 40	16 - 14
5 GERMANY	SWITZERLAND	63 - 27	22 - 8
6 POLAND	TURKEY	64 - 11	25 - 5
7 IRELAND	RUSSIA	32 - 35	14 - 16
8 ENGLAND	GREECE	55 - 30	20 - 10
9 NORWAY	MONACO	35 - 23	17 - 13

ROUND F2 (19)

Match		IMPs	VPs
1 SWEDEN	RUSSIA	46 - 34	17 - 13
2 ENGLAND	GERMANY	17 - 29	13 - 17
3 TURKEY	MONACO	47 - 69	10 - 20
4 ICELAND	IRELAND	35 - 80	6 - 24
5 GREECE	ROMANIA	44 - 56	13 - 17
6 FRANCE	NORWAY	70 - 32	23 - 7
7 ITALY	NETHERLANDS	23 - 39	12 - 18
8 SWI.	ISRAEL	44 - 85	7 - 23
9 BULGARIA	POLAND	50 - 48	14.3 - 14.7



Senior Masterpiece

by Micke Melander

On Tuesday evening, a real masterpiece arrived when Sweden and France battled out a hard fought contest in the seniors, the match finally ending 16-14 in French favor. Undoubtedly this hand will probably be one of the finest plays of the championships.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Piganeau	Morath	Leenhardt	Bjerregård
	1♦*	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Dbl	Pass
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣!
Pass	4♥*	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Morath/Bjerregård play Precision with five card majors and a 14-16NT. Therefore 1♦ was either a weak no-trump in the range of 11-13 HCPs or natural. A series of natural bids followed, but South was not sure at all that partner actually had a stopper in hearts on this sequence.

“Pass now for heaven’s sake”, was the comment from the Swedish NPC Tommy Gullberg when they were in 3NT, since he believed that there would have been nine easy tricks upon a spade lead. Having a quick look at the hands Gullberg really couldn’t work out how they were going to make 5♣. 3NT was a far easier contract provided declarer ducked precisely one heart and played East for queen-third in diamonds, if a heart was going to be led. 4♥ was a cue-bid from North and 5♣ ended the auction; Bjerregård certainly had no desire to aim for anything higher.

Bjerregård got a spade lead, which went to dummy’s king and East’s ace. Leenhardt then gave declarer a chance when he returned the two of diamonds. He could have played any other suit and the defense would still have been in control. Bjerregård went up with the ace of diamonds, cashed the king and ruffed a low diamond in dummy. Declarer continued with a trump to the king and another diamond ruff in

Hospitality Corner

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 (or that you can pick up at the hospitality desk) 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 (one for 10 Euros, two for 25). A nice memory and a usable gift.

Last two days of Open Pairs:

2.30 p.m., 1st Floor. Entry Fee 5 Euros

dummy, but this time ruffing with the queen without risking being overruffed, East discarding a spade. Two rounds of trumps followed, leaving the following position:

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

On the last round of trumps declarer discarded a low heart from dummy and poor Leenhardt also had to discard a heart, since declarer would have set up a spade trick if he had thrown a spade. Bjerregård then played a heart to dummy’s ace and a low spade from dummy. East had no escape. He tried playing low, but when declarer had the eight he could claim his contract.

This was 10 IMPs to Sweden when the French pair at the other table went down in 3NT.

Championship Diary

When a member of staff appeared to be slightly the worse for wear Tacchi enquired if they might have over imbibed the previous night.

'Did you drink Guinness?' he enquired?

'Yes'

'Any wine?'

'No, I never mix beer and wine.'

'All it takes is an extra glass.'

Enda Murphy has given us a host of what are colloquially described as Irish Jokes. This is one of our favourites:

An Irishman was taking his driving test. The instructor asked him "what happens if there's a single yellow line on the kerb?" "That's easy – you can't park there at all", replied the Irishman proudly. "But what if it's a double yellow line?" "Ah that's even easier – you can't park there at all at all!!"

Good news for all our French readers - *Le Bridgeur* has agreed a deal with Master Point Press that will see *The Rodwell Files* appear in French. It is possible the French edition will be ready by Christmas.

100 Years Young

Barry Rigal

Board 8

West Dealer None vul.

♠ 3
♥ A 9 6 2
♦ Q 9 5 3
♣ 8 5 4 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q 9 8 4
♥ J 3
♦ K J 10 8 7 6
♣ —

West	North	East	South
INT*	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣**	3♦
4♣	4♦	5♣	5♦
All Pass			

* 12-14

** To play

PLAY INSTRUCTIONS: 5♦ by South. West to lead ♦A and a second diamond.

Solution on page 24

Tours:

You can still consider going to Newbridge Silverware and Icon Museum and it only takes a couple of hours.

www.newbridgesilverware.com

According to the feedback we have received the Women had a great day yesterday at the Kildare Village Outlet, the Japanese Gardens and the National Stud. You can still consider this by asking at Hospitality..

www.kildarevillage.com

The Pat Liddy Walking Tour has received good feedback as well so let Hospitality know if you are interested.

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 Thursday June 21st: 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

Solid Polish Performance

by Micke Melander

Open series – Round 13

The reigning World Champions, Netherlands, were in trouble in Group B a couple of rounds before the finish of the qualification phase. With Monaco and England ahead in the standings there were a group of eight or nine more teams having a close race for the last seven places to make it through to the last part of the Championship; there was only a few victory points difference between them.

On Monday morning, with five matches to go of the first Round Robin, Netherlands and Poland played each other and even though the Dutch team made very few mistakes they were completely outplayed by the Polish team.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Verhees Jr.	Narkiewicz	van Prooijen	Buras
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	de Wijs	Balicki	Muller
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both tables got to 3NT, but de Wijs in the closed room was declarer from the “right hand” where the contract actually always can make regardless how the defense play. De Wijs got a heart led which went to the ace. A club to dummy’s jack and West’s queen followed. Zmudzinski now returned the two of diamonds, low from declarer and eight from Balicki who immediately played the king of diamonds,

dummy parting with a heart and both other players ducking. Balicki went into the tank and after a long thought continued with the queen of spades which effectively removed one of the entries between the hands for declarer. It really didn’t matter that it set up a trick in dummy, since if he used it he had to overtake the jack of spades with the king. De Wijs had so far lost three tricks. He now played the ace of diamonds in an attempt to see if the queen would fall, when it didn’t he finessed in clubs and could cash his eight tricks but had to lose two more since he had cashed the ace of diamonds. One down.

At the other table Buras was declaring in South; he also got a small heart in the lead (the nine of diamonds would have been killing, but certainly not easy to find when you know that diamonds are behind you). Buras continued with a club to dummy’s jack and West’s queen. Verhees now returned a small spade which ran to East’s queen. Van Prooijen then played the ten of hearts, not being able to see how the suit was distributed and that was all declarer needed. Verhees won with the king of hearts and realized that he had to attack diamonds and returned the two. But Buras jumped up with his ace and could claim the remaining tricks when the queen of clubs was with East and he took a second finesse in the suit. Ten IMPs to Poland on the first board, even though they had the declaration from the “wrong hand”; but who can blame Verhees for not kicking off with the nine of diamonds (except against a Scot, when it would be de rigueur)?

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open room & Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Verhees Jr.	Narkiewicz	van Prooijen	Buras
Zmudzinski	de Wijs	Balicki	Muller
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

In the open room van Prooijen managed to get ten tricks after a friendly defense and a heart lead. van Prooijen ran the heart to his ten when North only covered with the eight. He next played a spade from hand, on which Buras jumped up with the ace and Narkiewicz wasted his six of spades to give count. Buras now continued with the jack of spades at the next trick which went to the queen and king, ruffed by declarer. The defense had now managed to set up both majors without too much cost for declarer. Van Prooijen cashed the ace and king of hearts ending in dummy, and called for the eight of spades covered by North with the nine, van Prooijen ruffed with the nine of trumps and was overruffed by South with the ten. Buras now helped declarer with his third suit by returning a low club. Two rounds of trumps followed and Narkiewicz could ruff whenever he wanted since both dummy and declarer's hands were good.

In the closed room Balicki also got the six of hearts as the opening lead, which went to the three, jack and king. The ten of spades followed whereupon Muller jumped up with the ace to return the four of hearts at the next trick. Balicki who now was afraid that South had led from only two cards didn't want to finesse and jumped up with the ace. He ruffed a spade, cashed his two high clubs and set up the hand for a cross-ruff, but when both black suits broke badly he got overruffed and actually had to go down in his contract in the end. This was one of the few part scores that went in the Dutch direction. 6 IMPs to Netherlands for the effort.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees Jr.</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Buras</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	1NT
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Muller</i>
3♦*	Pass	4♠	2NT All Pass

Narkiewicz in the open room had listened carefully to the bidding and led a heart. Bingo! When Buras could ruff the trick, he cashed the ace of clubs and returned a diamond to partner's ace to get a second ruff to put the contract one down.

In the closed room, Muller opened with 2NT showing both minors. 3♦ from Zmudzinski now showed the majors and Balicki jumped to game in spades getting the declaration from the other (safer) hand. It didn't matter that Muller found to lead a diamond to his partner's ace and he got a heart ruff in return, since there wasn't any second entry to North. 12 IMPs to Poland for that game swing.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees Jr.</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Buras</i>
Pass	2NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♣
All Pass			4NT

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Muller</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the Open room Narkiewicz got the five of hearts led which went to the three, jack and ace. When he continued with a spade to dummy's king he removed his chances of bringing home twelve tricks. Eleven tricks was captured enough to make the contract.

Muller in the closed room made a very nice play though he was "only" in 3NT. Zmudzinski led the two of spades which went to the five, ten and Muller's ten. The two of diamonds followed to dummy's jack, which won the trick. A club to the ten followed and the queen of diamonds cleared the suit while dummy discarded a heart. When Zmudzinski didn't find a club return to break up the much later squeeze against Balicki and instead continued with a heart, Muller mercilessly went up with the ace of hearts,

cashed two rounds of spades, discarding a heart from hand on the last spade, and then played a club to the king leaving the following situation:

<p>♠ J ♥ J 8 6 ♦ — ♣ —</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 5 ♦ — ♣ Q 9</p>
N					
W E					
S					
	<p>♠ — ♥ Q ♦ 9 7 ♣ 3</p>				

Balicki had nothing to do except to surrender when Muller cashed his two diamonds. Very well played, and unfortunately for Muller they weren't in 6NT...

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

On board sixteen, both tables ended up in 4♣; the lead didn't matter when you had to find the queen of clubs to be able to score twelve tricks. The real question is; how to solve the suit combination in trumps with only one loser?

Apparently not many players had thought about this before or seen the problem since they almost automatically led a spade to the king. There is a line that gives you an almost 85% chance to succeed if you run the seven or the eight of spades. If the nine pops up you cover, and finesse the other way round in a backward finesse. If the jack or queen arrives you win the trick and still finesse the other way round. Almost none (only three tables) found the correct suit play, and in our game they both played a small trump to the king!

When the smoke had cleared, Poland won the match with 23-7 (50-13) by solid Polish play on both tables!



Goldilocks and the Three Bears

When the three bears returned from round nine of the European Seniors qualifying Goldilocks asked them how they had each done for their respective teams. (She was surprised that Baby Bear was old enough to qualify, but apparently counting in bear years is rather more complex than she had realized).

One deal had taken her fancy on Moo-Graph so she asked Papa Bear what had happened to him. This was the deal in question:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

'I can't see what can possibly have interested you here' he said. 'I opened 1♥ but my opponents reached 3NT on a heart lead. They ducked and won the next, tested spades and took a diamond finesse for ten tricks.'

'What happened to you?' Goldilocks asked Mama Bear. 'My partner, North, did not open the bidding, so he led a low heart, and declarer ducked my ten. I returned the heart eight to the ace, and declarer now took his best line by passing the club jack. My partner won the queen and cleared hearts but declarer knew enough to test spades and had ten tricks when they behaved. Had spades not split he would have played a club, relying on the hearts to be 5-3 so that the defenders would have had only four tricks so long as I had the ♣A.'

Goldilocks raised a question: 'Do you think declarer might have gone down by repeating the club finesse before testing spades if North had won the club ace instead of the queen?' Mama Bear thought about it for a while. 'Well there is no excuse for not testing spades before repeating the club finesse, but you never know....'

Finally, Goldilocks got around to asking Baby Bear what had occurred at his table. 'I was lucky enough to be playing with an expert' he said. 'I led an (attitude) low heart to my partner's ten. South returned the heart TWO (there is no need to tell the truth here, as partner is marked with precisely QJxxx in hearts and so won't care). Declarer took the club finesse to the queen, won the heart return, and now could not afford to play spades, since if hearts were 4-4 and spades did not break he would have set up an extra, fifth, winner for the defence. So he played a second club and I cashed out for down one.*'

OPEN

Round 17

Belgium v. Greece

by Jos Jacobs

Before the last round of the qualification stage started, Ireland was in a relatively safe 7th spot with 267 VP after beating Hungary 25-4 and thus sending them down to 8th on 250VP. The latter found themselves back just 1 VP ahead of Greece (249) and 4.5 VP ahead of Norway (245.5).

Both Hungary and Norway had to make an excursion to the Iberian peninsula for their final matches: the former had to face Portugal and the latter would meet Spain. Greece would also face a not-too-well-placed team, namely Belgium. As a consequence, all three teams were in with a sporting chance to qualify. For Hungary, a 21-9 victory would be enough as they would then stay ahead of Norway. Greece needed 22-8 to keep ahead of Norway who, themselves, needed all the VP's they could possibly get and would then have to hope for the best.

As it happened, Norway was quickly on their way to a big win, the final result of their match becoming 101-27 or 25-1 VPs. Hungary, on the other hand, was soon in trouble against Portugal and were trailed 0-30 at the halfway stage. They staged a fine late recovery, winning by 46-33 IMPs or 18-12 VP in the end. Would that be enough? It all depended on the Belgium-Greece result as Norway had easily caught them up.

Here are a few boards of that Belgium-Greece match.

Belgium had already taken a 5-2 lead when the 3rd board of the match arrived.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Karamanlis	Van Mechelen	Protonotarios	Debus
Pass	INT	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥	All Pass	2♥

If it's your bad day, even the decent raise to 3♥ may turn out to be completely wrong. Imagine South has something

like ♠KJxxx and the ♦Q instead of his ♠A10xxx. Non vulnerable, game would then certainly not be a good proposition...As it was, Debus easily made ten tricks, Belgium +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
De Roos	Doxiadis	Vermeiren	Kannavos
Pass	INT	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥

Doxiadis certainly chose the right moment for his bold raise to game. When West led the ♣Q, Kannavos quickly had his ten tricks. Greece +420 and 6 IMPs to take the lead.

Greece had earned three more partscore swings to extend their lead to 21-6 when this board arrived:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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



Manolis Protonotarios, Greece

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Karamanlis	Van Mechelen	Protonotarios	Debus
1♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West's light opening bid struck gold when East could make an immediate forcing raise. Ten easy tricks and +420 to Greece.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
De Roos	Doxiadis	Vermeiren	Kannavos
INT	All Pass		

When West chose to open a 9-12 NT, East was not tempted. On a heart lead and club shift, declarer even made ten tricks but his +180 still meant a further 6-IMP loss to Belgium.

Both teams missed the interesting slam on board 9, duly bid by Goded-Vincent in their match against Norway:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nybo	Vincent	Brogeland	Goded
	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Brogeland made the good lead of the ♥8 but Vincent made the play look quite easy. He won the ace, unblocked the ♣A, cashed the ♠K and played the ♣K, throwing a heart. Two more rounds of trumps came next and, when East happened to hold the highest trump still out, declarer crossed to dummy with a diamond honour and ran the

♣J, throwing his last heart when West did not cover. Spain +980 and some consolation for them in their heavy defeat at the hands of Norway.

On the next board, there was another slam in the cards:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Karamanlis	Van Mechelen	Protonotarios	Debus
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♣	Pass	7♣
Pass	7NT	All Pass	

On a basically natural 2/1 GF auction, the Belgian NS had little trouble in reaching the top spot. It only needed the spades to behave, a more than 70% chance and thus clearly good enough. Belgium +2220.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
De Roos	Doxiadis	Vermeiren	Kannavos
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

The Greek NS also use a natural 2/1 GF approach but apparently, the info about South's extra values never reached North. Greece +1460 but 13 IMPs back to Belgium who trailed 19-27 at the halfway stage.

At this point, Greece started a rally which brought them 6 and 8 IMPs on the two subsequent boards, 11 and 12. There was even more in store for them on the next two boards:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Karamanlis	Van Mechelen	Protonotarios	Debus
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

The proper contract reached in relay fashion, against which West led a spade. Dummy's king won, East playing the six. A heart came next to declarer's jack and West's king. When West continued the ♦A and another, East could ruff and cash his ♣A as the setting trick. Greece +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
De Roos	Doxiadis	Vermeiren	Kannavos
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			



Eric Debus, Belgium

An equally simple auction, and a spade lead by West, here too. Dummy won, East contributing the ♠3, and a trump went to the jack and king. When West persisted with spades, the contract came home easily. Greece +620 and 12 IMPs to them.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Karamanlis	Van Mechelen	Protonotarios	Debus
2♦	4♦	Pass	Pass
Pass	6♥	Pass	5♥
		All Pass	

Well bid, to a certain extent, by the Belgians. North could show his major two-suiter at an appropriate level and felt free to raise to slam when South announced a promising hand. Karamanlis unerringly put his fingers on the club lead. When the ♥K proved to be with the weak two-bidder, the slam sailed. Greece +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
De Roos	Doxiadis	Vermeiren	Kannavos
2NT	Pass	INT	Pass
Pass	4♦	3♦	Pass
All Pass		Pass	4♥

Another 9-12 NT by the Belgians here. North took a round to bid after the diamond transfer but showed his two-suiter later. As South made no big forward move, the Greeks stopped in game and, not being clairvoyant, rightly so, on the actual layout. Greece +450 and another 11 IMPs to them. They suddenly led by 45, more than enough to qualify.



Panagiotis Kannavos, Greece

On the next board, Belgium struck back:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Karamanlis</i>	<i>Van Mechelen</i>	<i>Protonotarios</i>	<i>Debus</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	3♠
All Pass			4NT

Debus did his best to show his very good hand but Van Mechelen was not impressed. Belgium a sensible +660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Roos</i>	<i>Doxiadis</i>	<i>Vermeiren</i>	<i>Kannavos</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	4♦

When Kannavos rebid 3♣, it was highly unlikely NS would manage to stay out of slam. So it proved, down four when declarer played a spade to the queen and king after running the diamond lead to his king. Belgium another +400 and 14 IMPs back to them to still trail by 33, a safe margin as far as Greece's qualification hopes were concerned.

Then, Belgium missed a great chance:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Karamanlis</i>	<i>Van Mechelen</i>	<i>Protonotarios</i>	<i>Debus</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Dble	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
2♥	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
Dble	All Pass		

North's 1♥ showed spades and East's double thus showed hearts. When West balanced, North got two chances to show a goodish hand after all and the Belgians duly reached their game, doubled (on the auction?) by West.



Philippos Karamanlis, Greece

The play was interesting. West led a heart to declarer's ace and a club was ruffed. On a spade from dummy, East went in with the king but South won the ace, cashed the ♣A and led a spade to West's queen. A heart came back, ruffed by South who crossed to the ♦A, getting the bad news, and tried to cash the ♠J. East ruffed and declarer overruffed but when declarer's next move was to ruff a club with dummy's six, East could overruff with the seven and return his last trump, leaving declarer with two more club losers. Down two, Greece +300.

Had declarer not cashed the ♣A but proceeded to ruff another club with dummy's ♦6, ruff a heart and lead a spade to West's queen, the outcome might have been different. Declarer can ruff any return from West and proceed with a cross-ruff, ruffing two clubs high in dummy and two spades in his hand. This way, he makes nine trump tricks and two major-suit aces and does not need the ♣A. Could he have known, for example from the way the spade tricks went?

The Belgian auction failed to match the Open Room result because West rebid 3NT rather than introduce his clubs, apparently inducing East to believe EW held a good diamond fit. The diamond slam might have been made, had the $\diamond 8$ come down in time but on the actual layout, declarer simply had too much work to do to be able to succeed. One down, Greece +100 and 16 IMPs for them to go through to the second stage of the Championships, winning by 89-46 or 24-6 VPs.

The last board of the match was a push but not without theoretical interest:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Karamanlis	Van Mechelen	Protonotarios	Debus
1♠	Pass	3♠	Dble
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

This seems the normal auction to me, after East's pre-emptive raise. Belgium a normal +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
De Roos	Doxiadis	Vermeiren	Kannavos
1♠	Pass	3♠	3NT
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Kannavos' 3NT was misinterpreted by his partner, it looks to me. This led to a remarkable final contract which would need a heart lead to defeat it, as East gets a ruff even if declarer guesses right at trick one.

When West led a more normal spade, declarer won his ace and played $\clubsuit A$ and another. West rose with the king and tried a low heart but declarer was not to be fooled. He went up with dummy's king which held, drew the last trumps and lost just one heart trick at the end. Well played to give Greece a distinctly fortunate +620 for a push.

Action Double

by Herman De Wael

Eric Debus of Belgium was proud of his action double on this board from round 14:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Debus	Fritsche	Van Mechelen	Rohowsky
3♠	Dble	5♣	6♦
Dble	6♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

3♣ showed a pre-empt in clubs, always an eight-card suit. This allowed Rutger Van Mechelen to indicate something extra with a "jump" to the five-level. Since most pairs have abandoned the 4♣ opening to a Namyats heart pre-empt, the Belgians were a little in front on this bidding.

Eric's double in the next round indicated that he would be willing to defend to the seven-level, but when Rutger failed to co-operate, he had to switch tactics.

The club support made the lead of the $\clubsuit 3$ less of a gamble, and Rutger had no trouble finding the diamond return for one off.

Incidentally, in the field, nine declarers did make 6♠, while only two other players in South suffered the $\clubsuit 3$ lead and went down. Four more declarers played 6♠ from North (some of them doubled), but they all went down after the lead of a diamond. Only five pairs went all the way to seven clubs, for scores between -500 and -1100.

Eric earned his ticket to Dublin in a remarkable way. On the very last board of the semi-final of the Belgian trials, he had reached 6♦. One opponent held five diamonds, and doubled. Eric felt he had some extras and redoubled. The contract was made and Eric's team won the match by a single IMP.



OPEN

Round 16

Ireland v Hungary

by Mark Horton

In Round 16 Ireland, eighth on 242 VPs met Hungary, seventh on 246. Our hosts were due to face Italy in the last round, so they were desperate to score well and give themselves some breathing space.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Homonnay</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Winkler</i>	<i>McGann</i>
	INT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	All Pass

In theory South was promising a weak 5/4 in the majors. When East reopened West was unwilling to defend, but 3♣ ran into a 5-1 trump break.

Declarer won the heart lead with dummy's ace and played the jack of clubs, covered by the king and ace. A spade to the nine lost to the ace and declarer won the club return with the ten as South discarded a heart. A diamond to the queen was followed by a heart ruff. Now declarer tried to cash the top diamonds and when North could ruff the second one he returned a trump and the contract was two down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Hegedus</i>	<i>Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Szegedi</i>
	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Not many pairs play use a natural 2♥ in this situation, but the Hungarians prefer two way Stayman. This time West was willing to defend and he led the six of spades which looked to be a good start for declarer, who ran it to his jack. Declarer cashed dummy's spades and played the seven

of diamonds, West winning with the eight, cashing the queen of diamonds and the ace of hearts and then exiting with a low heart. Declarer won win in hand with the ten and played a club to the king, but East won with the ace and forced dummy with a diamond. Declarer could ruff a club but still had to lose two more tricks, one down, -100 and 5 IMPs to Ireland.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Homonnay</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Winkler</i>	<i>McGann</i>
			Pass
1♣	3♥	Dbl*	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

There is no card in the bidding box that says 'content' but you can bet that South would have been happy to use it on this occasion.

North cashed the ace of hearts and continued with the two of hearts, South winning with the king and switching to the seven of clubs. Declarer finessed and North won with the king and switched to the seven of diamonds. Declarer won with dummy's ace and played the four of spades, South going in with the queen and returning the five of diamonds. Declarer won with the king and played the six of spades. South won with the ten and played a diamond. Declarer did not ruff in dummy, but ruffed the heart switch in hand, pitching a club from dummy and played a club. South ruffed and exited with a diamond, scoring another trump at the end for four down, -400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Hegedus</i>	<i>Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Szegedi</i>
			2♠
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

3♥ was non forcing and could be invitational or weak.

East led the four of clubs and West won and switched to the eight of diamonds. The defenders played three rounds of the suit, East ruffing and cashing the ace of spades for one down, +50 and 10 Irish IMPs.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Homonnay</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Winkler</i>	<i>McGann</i>
Pass	1♣*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- 1♣ 11-13 balanced or any 17+
- 2♥ 5+/4+ minors 13+HCP (GF) or 19+ balanced with 4/4 in minors
- 2NT No 4+ minor, 11-13

Put off by the auction East led the three of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ten and played a low diamond. West went in with the queen and returned the two of hearts. East could take two tricks in the suit but declarer claimed the rest, +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Hegedus</i>	<i>Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Szegedi</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♦ Game forcing Stayman

Here East led the six of clubs and declarer put up dummy's ace, blocking the suit. He played a spade to the ace and ran the jack of diamonds, losing to West's queen. West unblocked the king of clubs and switched to the seven of hearts - two down, -200 and 13 IMPs for Ireland.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Homonnay</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Winkler</i>	<i>McGann</i>
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♥*
Pass	1♠	2♣	2♦
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

1♥ 8+ may have minor suit canapé

West led the five of clubs and declarer won in dummy and played a heart. East took the ace and went back to clubs. Declarer won in dummy, played three rounds of trumps ending in hand and a heart to dummy's ten and East's jack. he ruffed the club return and played a heart, so he could win the heart return and establish a spade for his ninth trick, +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Hegedus</i>	<i>Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Szegedi</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♣ Stayman (no 4 card major necessary)

East led the queen of clubs and declarer won with the ace and played a spade. East went in with the ace and played another club, but declarer had nine top tricks, +600 and 10 IMPs to Hungary.

That was the only ray of sunshine for the Magyars as Ireland controlled the match from start to finish, winning 70-14 IMPs, 25-4 VPs.

It is worth noting that Hanlon and McGann recorded plus scores on the first 17 boards, equalling the record set by Germany's Gromoeller & Reholer in their match against Spain from Round 5. The spell was broken when their opponents bid and made a slam on Board 18.

The Birds And The Bees

by Ib Lundby

I remember when I had to explain my kids about the birds and the bees ... a very difficult task and not exactly a success for me, but to my relief my daughter stopped me with the comment that she knew all about it. Sic!



Why these sensible memories?

Well, before Dublin I recommended my bridge students to follow the transmission at BBO. "You can learn a lot from the experts!", I told them. But after the first week I have my doubt.

Let me show you a couple of examples. First of all Italian Lauria's lead against 3NT – probably already described in the Daily Bulletin:

♠ Q 9 7 ♥ 10 8 4 2 ♦ K 10 8 ♣ Q 5 3

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

1♦ Strong club, 16+HCP

1♥ 5+♥, 8+HCP

Dear Lorenzo, how do I explain to my students your lead of the ♣Q? At the BBO they noticed how successful this lead was. One off in a laydown contract!

This was the full deal in question:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Another hand, and I do not hope that my students witnessed what happened:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rotary	Schaltz	Ghigheci	Blakset
INT	All Pass		

This bidding is acceptable though some of my better students would have doubled on the South hand – and enjoyed the four vulnerable undertricks. But in the closed room:

West	North	East	South
Hagen	Marina	Konow	Coldea
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass!?	Pass

"How can East use Stayman on that hand?", my students ask. "For sure East-West deserved to go four down as well!"

I fear the next lesson with my students. I wish the subject was birds and bees ...



Lorenzo Lauria, Italy

OPEN	<h1 style="margin: 0;">Israel v Italy</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">by Ram Soffer</p>
Round 14	

This was an important match in Group A. In view of the excellent results of Monaco in the other group, Italy needed a big win to keep their chances of retaining the European title. However, the young Israeli team, including the two pairs who won the Transnational teams in Veldhoven, had aspirations of its own. The Israelis had the right to be confident after winning 12 out of their first 13 matches. Could they challenge the Italian supremacy?

After a few quiet boards, the first meaningful swing occurred on Board 6.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Padon</i>
3♣	Pass	Pass	1♠
		4♥	All Pass

3♣ showed the higher-ranking two suits, and Sementa optimistically bid the heart game. Padon found the strong lead of a club. The defence played three rounds of the suit, West ruffing. Declarer had a lot of work to do. He led a diamond toward his hand, and North missed an opportunity to shine, going up with his ♦J and returning his ♣Q for South to ruff with a trump promotion. After this very difficult play was missed, declarer managed to ruff out the diamonds and lost only the ♣A for down one. +100 to Israel.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>I. Herbst</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Madala</i>
2♠	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♥	3♥	Dbf
All Pass		Pass	4♠

The Israeli E/W pair bid more quietly to the three-level, and Madala doubled 3♥ for takeout. It was hard for North

to choose a suit. Bocchi decided to let his partner do the choice at game level. The final contract was an overbid, but not without chances.

From a double-dummy point of view, the winning lead was the ♠A, avoiding any possible endplay, but Ilan Herbst chose the natural ♥K. Madala won and had to consider the bidding. West had advertised a 5-5 shape. His second suit was likely to be diamonds. How to prevent three trump losers plus the ♦K? In the actual lie of cards, all he had to do was play two rounds of clubs and run the ♠8 to West's ace. The ensuing endplay would deprive West of his diamond trick.

However, West could also have ♠Ax (or Kx) ♣x. Madala's line – a club to dummy followed by running the ♠8 tried to cater for this possibility. In this case West would indeed be endplayed after winning his ♠A, although East could do better by rising with the ♠K and leading a diamond. In the actual layout West returned his second club after winning the ♠A, and declarer didn't have a winning line any more. Plus 50 and 4 IMPs to Israel, who led 5-2 at this stage.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Padon</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	1♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>I. Herbst</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	All Pass	2♣

This was a victory for the Italian system (strong 2♣ bid instead of 2NT) against the natural system employed by the Israelis. Even 2♥ proved too high for Madala. Declarer

had six top tricks in the side suit, but he could manage only one trump trick. Had he known the distribution, he could have engineered an eighth trick by ducking a diamond early and then ruffing the fourth round of the suit. Actually Madala went down one, but it was still two tricks better than Birman's 3NT-3, and Italy gained 5 IMPs.

Next it was a big swing for Israel as a result of pre-empting "one more".

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Padon</i>
1♥	4♣	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

North had to decide what to do with his 7-4 hand. Bidding clubs risks missing a spade fit, but it seems that passing is not an option for players in this level. Alon Birman applied maximum pressure by bidding 4♣, and Duboin, deprived of bidding space, had to decide between 4♥ and 4♦. The latter ran the risk of playing in 5♦ when 4♥ is safer. So Duboin bid 4♥, a contract that may go down while 6♦ was cold.

Understandably, Padon doubled. This could have disastrous consequences if either E/W had corrected their error or North had failed to lead a diamond.

Luckily, none of the above happened. Birman led his singleton diamond and got the ruff. Afterwards Duboin could not enter his dummy and had to concede two trump tricks to South.



Alon Birman, Israel

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>I. Herbst</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1♥	3♣	Pass	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Bocchi's 3♣ pre-empt gave West more room, and Ilan Herbst cuebid 4♣ before showing his diamonds. Bidding 6♦ with the East cards was an option, as West had shown a very powerful hand, but there was no guarantee of 12 tricks. Ophir Herbst chose a safer pass, which turned out to be very profitable: plus 420 and 11 IMPs to Israel.

Two boards later Italy gained a similar swing.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Padon</i>
Pass	4♠	4♥	Pass
Dbl	All Pass	Pass	Pass

Sementa's 4♥ opening described his hand in one bid. Thereafter it was almost automatic: North had to bid his 8-card spades. West doubled and of course ruffed his partner's ♥K lead to ensure one down. Plus 200 to Italy.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>I. Herbst</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Madala</i>
2♦	4♠	1♥	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass
		5♥	All Pass

At the other table Ophir Herbst's 1♥ opening proved fatal. West's double of 4♠ was penalty-oriented, but not a command to pass. Since 1♥ had not conveyed full information about his hand, East felt compelled to bid 5♥ – and it was a disaster, even though the Italians didn't double.

South's obvious diamond lead and continuation enabled North to discard a club, and after a club ruff it was three down. Plus 300 and 11 IMPs to Italy.

The Italians took the lead 20-16, and from then on it was almost one-way traffic.



Giorgio Duboin, Italy

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Birman	Sementa	Padon
5♣	Dbl	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Combatting a 5♣ opening bid is not one of the easiest things in bridge. You reach a 6♦ contract, which looks OK when the dummy goes down, only to discover an atrocious trump split of 6-0!

The defence led two rounds of clubs. Padon ruffed and played a trump to the queen, getting the bad news. Then he played ♥AK, dropping West's ♥J.

At this point he could have played on spades, letting East ruff. The resulting endplay allows declarer to escape for down one. Instead, Padon continued hearts. +200 to Italy.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
I. Herbst	Bocchi	O. Herbst	Madala
5♣	Dbl	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Despite the big discrepancy between his two suits. Madala bid a more sophisticated 5NT, indicating two places to play. They eventually landed in 6♠, played by South.

Ilan Herbst had a big decision in opening lead. Should he lead the ♣A and hope to find a second defensive trick somewhere, or should he underlead, banking on partner having the ♣K and giving him a diamond ruff?! The opponent's bid didn't sound too convincing, so Ilan went for a conservative ♣A. Unfortunately, it allowed the slam to make, costing Israel 17 IMPs.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Birman	Sementa	Padon
3♦	1♦	1♠	Pass
	Pass	4♣	All Pass

South had a very weak 6-5 hand. According to Padon it was unworthy of any move. The Italians used a "mixed" 4-card raise (3♦) and Sementa correctly assessed the potential of his cards. 4♣ was unbeatable despite the 4-0 trump break. +620 to Italy. (On a club lead declarer might mis-guess the position, by the way.)

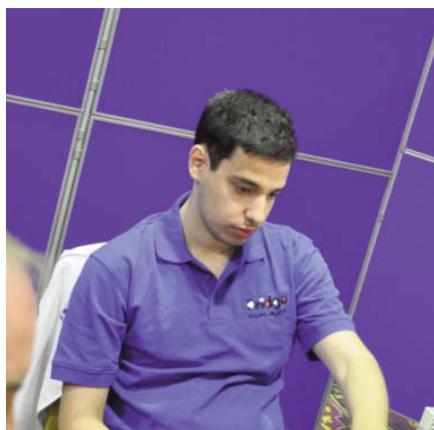
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
I. Herbst	Bocchi	O. Herbst	Madala
3♠	1♦	1♠	3♥
	All Pass		



Norberto Bocchi, Italy

Madala threw in a pre-emptive bid of 3♥ with the South cards. Now West bid 3♠ under pressure, and East couldn't see good prospects for a game. +170 to Israel. Italy gained a further 10 IMPs and led 49-16 at this point.



Dror Padon, Israel

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Padon</i>
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

2NT was game-forcing with a 4+ card fit. 3♣ showed a minimum. West led the ♦J. Declarer gave up a spade and two clubs, and then finessed successfully in trumps to make his contract. An apparently uneventful +620 to Israel.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>I. Herbst</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	INT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥

Madala preferred to open INT, and reached the same contract with the same lead. He decided to guard against a spade ruff, and led the ♥A followed by a small ♥, thus hand-

ing the defenders their fourth trick on a silver platter. +100 and 12 IMPs to Israel.

However, in the next three boards Italy gained 19 IMPs to make it a resounding victory. The last big swing of the match occurred in the following deal:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Padon</i>
2♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
		3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>I. Herbst</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Madala</i>
2♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♥	All Pass	2♠	Pass

Both East considered their hand too weak for a 3♦ rebid, preferring a waiting 2♠. Now Duboin bid 3♥ (obviously forcing in their system), while Ilan Herbst jumped directly to game with his strong six-card suit.

The Italian 3NT contract was cold (or at least makeable when South was almost endplayed at trick one), while the Israeli 4♥ had to go down due to yet another unfortunate trump break.

Summing it up, while the Italians had their own share of mishaps in the card play, but they got the crucial bidding decisions right in a set of deals which often troubled the declarers with bad breaks. The end result was a 23-7 victory, putting them at the top of Group A. Despite the huge successes of Monaco, Italy has not relinquished its title yet!



Confessions of a Vugraph Operator

by Laura Woodruff

For reasons best not dwelt upon, I find myself here in Ireland not as a player but as a dogsbody (not that anyone has treated me as one, but it's best to know one's place). I had been hoping to enjoy a bit of a holiday on my days off, perhaps sitting in the sun with a book, or doing a spot of Irish sightseeing (I'm told this often takes place at night), but the relentless rain has forced me to spend much of my free time in shopping malls instead.

From my perch on the BBO operator's high chair, whose back-rest is irritatingly at exactly the right height to catch the top of my belt when I try to lean forward, I have watched some very good and some not-so-good bridge. As with cricket scoring (with a name like Laura one is obviously destined to be a scorer) where the need to watch every ball makes the whole match much more interesting, having to watch every card played has kept boredom to a minimum. The only point at which I had to entertain myself by chatting to BBO kibitzers was during Tuesday's Round 17 match between Spain and Norway, when a lot of "tanking" went on. I rather unwisely entered into an argument about a) whether not-so-good teams should be playing in the event at all (presumably some would favour a mini-tournament between Italy and Monaco); and b) whether the present EBL Eligibility Code is fit for purpose. This generated a further argument about c) whether BBO operators should be allowed to express opinions at all (since most of us have had to fork out money for the privilege of working 9 hours a day, on the whole I think we should be allowed to say more or less what we please, as long as it's not libellous and doesn't frighten the horses).

It was an important match for Norway, who were playing for the last qualifying place in Group A; less so for the Spanish whose qualification hopes had died some time before. A lot of BBO chat was generated by Board 6, where Boye Brogeland (a Norwegian playing for Norway) found a way to make an impossible 4♠ contract. "It will take a miracle for this to make", remarked one of the kibitzers, cleverly noting the four top losers.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ K 6 5 3 ♥ J 2 ♦ A K 8 ♣ Q 10 7 5	♠ 10 2 ♥ A K 10 7 ♦ 10 7 4 2 ♣ K J 9	<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto; background-color: #008000; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div> ♠ A Q J 7 4 ♥ Q 6 3 ♦ Q 9 5 ♣ 6 4	♠ 9 8 ♥ 9 8 5 4 ♦ J 6 3 ♣ A 8 3 2
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100 Years Young

Solution 8

♠ K 10 7 5 ♥ K 10 5 ♦ A 4 ♣ A J 9 2	♠ 3 ♥ A 9 6 2 ♦ Q 9 5 3 ♣ 8 5 4 3	<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto; background-color: #008000; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div> ♠ J 6 2 ♥ Q 8 7 4 ♦ 2 ♣ K Q 10 7 6	♠ A Q 9 8 4 ♥ J 3 ♦ K J 10 8 7 6 ♣ —
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The auction reveals four spades with West, probably to the king. Therefore your best chance is to play East for the jack or ten (or both) and set up your spades with a single ruff while discarding three hearts from the table: starting, of course, with a deep finesse and continuing with a ruffing finesse against the king.

So win the second diamond in dummy and lead a spade to the nine and king. Ruff the club ace, then play the spade ace pitching a heart and lead out the spade queen to pin the jack. Then you can discard both dummy's remaining hearts on your good spades and ruff a heart on the board.



Once Brogeland had opened his flat 11-count there was little chance of staying out of 4♠, which is doomed. Even if the defence don't find their AK AK at tricks 1-4, they can't really avoid taking them later.

South got Spain off to a good start with ♥5, North taking the king and ace and switching to a trump at trick 3. There is a useful lesson here for those who simply look at dummy and claim one down. Brogeland calmly won the ♠Q, drew a second round of trumps with the jack and cashed the ♥Q discarding a diamond from dummy. The ace and king of diamonds followed, then a seemingly unnecessary third round of trumps taken with the ace in hand. Now declarer played the queen of diamonds and a club to the ten and jack. North, presumably believing himself endplayed, exited with his fourth diamond for a ruff and discard and 12 IMPs to Norway.

During the next 14 boards I was asked quite often whether the score was correct, could I check, shurely shome mishtake, as they say in Private Eye*. I did check, at the end of the match, and there was no mistake. You have to feel some sympathy for North: it is true that he might have counted the hand better, but Brogeland is a recent World Champion so it wasn't unreasonable to assume he'd done something clever (which, of course, he had, just not THAT particular clever thing). It just goes to show, it's never over till the fat lady sings, or until Geoff Hurst scores a hat-trick.