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Saturday, 23rd June 2012

THE GOLDEN GIRLS

England, represented by *Sally Brock, Nicola Smith, Heather Dhondy, Nevena Senior, Fiona Brown & Susan Stockdale* (Jeremy Dhondy npc, David Burn coach) captured their second European Women's Team title following their victory in Tenerife in 2001. It was Nicola Smith's seventh title, moving her into third place on the all time list (a position she shares with France's Sylvie Willard). Sally Brock and Heather Dhondy were winning their fourth title, while their teammates enjoyed the taste of victory for the first time. (It will surely not be the last.)

France gave up the title they had held since 2006, but *Vanessa Reess, Bénédicte Cronier, Catherine D'Ovidio, Daniele Gaviard, Joanna Neve & Sylvie Willard* (Romain Tembouret npc) made the new champions fight all the way.

Turkey, in the guise of *Acar Asli, Vera Adut, Belis Atalay, Berrak Erkan, Ozlem Oymen & Dilek Yavas* (Yalcin Atabey npc) built on their success in Poznan by finishing third.

These three will be joined by the **Netherlands, Poland** and **Israel** as they seek to ensure the Venice Cup stays in Europe.

In the Open series, **Monaco** is well ahead of **Italy** and the **Netherlands**, who are tied for second. They are followed by **England, Germany** and **Poland**.

In the Senior Teams **France** is back on top, clear of **Scotland, Poland, Belgium, Denmark** and **Germany**.



The Golden Girls: Heather Dhondy, Nicola Smith, Nevena Senior, Sally Brock, Fiona Brown & Susan Stockdale

10.00

Russia - Italy	BBO 1*
Israel - England	BBO 2
Monaco - Bulgaria	BBO 3
Sweden - Iceland	BBO 4
Belgium - Denmark (S)	BBO 5

*BBO 1 = Vugraph

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 day ahead as the teams compete to be on the podium. May the best Teams win.

OPEN TEAMS FINALS

PROGRAM

ROUND F9 (26) 10.00

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

RANKING

after Round 8 of the Final

1	MONACO	288
2	ITALY	268
	NETHERLANDS	268
4	ENGLAND	262
5	GERMANY	252.5
6	POLAND	251.7
7	ISRAEL	245
8	SWEDEN	244
9	RUSSIA	242
10	FRANCE	241
11	BULGARIA	240.3
12	IRELAND	236
13	NORWAY	220.5
14	ICELAND	218
15	GREECE	213
16	SWITZERLAND	206
17	TURKEY	200
18	ROMANIA	185

RESULTS

ROUND F6 (23)

	Match	IMPs	VPs
1	ISRAEL MONACO	43 - 44	15 - 15
2	ICELAND BULGARIA	78 - 1	25 - 1
3	SWEDEN ROMANIA	26 - 26	15 - 15
4	FRANCE GERMANY	34 - 27	16 - 14
5	TURKEY NETHERLANDS	35 - 72	7 - 23
6	SWI. IRELAND	22 - 81	4 - 25
7	GREECE POLAND	43 - 74	9 - 21
8	RUSSIA NORWAY	41 - 44	14 - 16
9	ITALY ENGLAND	21 - 39	11 - 19

ROUND F7 (24)

	Match	IMPs	VPs
1	GERMANY POLAND	77 - 42	22 - 8
2	RUSSIA TURKEY	69 - 45	20 - 10
3	IRELAND ENGLAND	35 - 40	14 - 16
4	MONACO GREECE	34 - 49	12 - 18
5	NORWAY ICELAND	20 - 32	13 - 17
6	ROMANIA ITALY	15 - 89	1 - 25
7	ISRAEL FRANCE	43 - 40	16 - 14
8	NETH. BULGARIA	20 - 41	11 - 19
9	SWEDEN SWITZERLAND	48 - 32	18 - 12

ROUND F8 (25)

	Match	IMPs	VPs
1	GREECE FRANCE	27 - 40	12 - 18
2	NETHERLANDS NORWAY	74 - 6	25 - 2
3	ITALY SWITZERLAND	57 - 55	15 - 15
4	POLAND ISRAEL	50 - 9	23 - 7
5	BULGARIA RUSSIA	65 - 61	16 - 14
6	ENGLAND SWEDEN	40 - 57	11 - 19
7	GERMANY MONACO	40 - 38	15 - 15
8	ICELAND TURKEY	50 - 34	18 - 12
9	IRELAND ROMANIA	62 - 15	24 - 6

WOMEN TEAMS

CROSSTABLE BY RANK

Team	ENG	FRA	TUR	NED	POL	ISR	SWE	AUT	ITA	NOR	SCO	BEL	DEN	GER	GRE	BUL	EST	ESP	IRL	Bye	Pen	Team	Total	Rank
England		16	18	8	20	13	14	22	22	15	16	23	23	25	22	19	18	24	15	18		England	351	1
France	14		2	13	14	6	20	10	25	25	21	23	22	18	18	25	23	25	20	18		France	342	2
Turkey	12	25		19	11	19	18	14	24	21	5	21	24	18	14	24	19.5	12	15	18	0.5	Turkey	333.5	3
Netherlands	22	17	11		12	2	10	12	22	19	20	12	9	23	25	24	25	25	25	18		Neth.	333	4
Poland	10	16	19	18		25	24	10	21	14	19	19	6	9.5	16	16	21	18	24	18	0.5	Poland	323.5	5
Israel	17	24	11	25	0		17	22	15	17	5	11	14	12	24	24.5	23	18	20	18	1.5	Israel	317.5	6
Sweden	16	10	12	20	6	12		20	16	14	11	21	9	15	22	19	25	23	25	18		Sweden	314	7
Austria	8	20	16	18	20	8	10		23	11	11	20	14	19	15	24	14	24	12	18		Austria	305	8
Italy	8	2	6	8	9	15	14	6		17	21	22	22	24	16	24	19	23	24	18	1	Italy	298	9
Norway	15	4	9	11	16	13	16	19	13		24	9	14	23	17	9	15	24	19	18		Norway	288	10
Scotland	14	9	25	10	11	25	19	19	9	6		9	23	12	8	21	15	15	18	18		Scotland	286	11
Belgium	7	7	9	18	11	19	9	10	8	21	21		15	19	19	13	25	22	14	18		Belgium	285	12
Denmark	7	8	6	21	24	16	21	16	8	16	7	15		19	19	5	17	14	25	18		Denmark	282	13
Germany	4	12	12	7	19.5	18	15	11	6	7	18	11	11		14	25	21	16	18	18	0.5	Germany	263.5	14
Greece	8	12	16	0	14	6	8	15	14	13	22	11	11	16		16	15	17	18	18		Greece	250	15
Bulgaria	11	0	6	6	14	2.5	11	6	6	21	9	17	25	3	14		24	25	20	18	0.5	Bulgaria	238.5	16
Estonia	12	7	9.5	4	9	7	3	16	11	15	15	4	13	9	15	6		16	25	18	0.5	Estonia	214.5	17
Spain	6	5	18	0	12	12	7	5	7	6	15	8	16	14	13	5	14		18	18	1	Spain	199	18
Ireland	15	10	15	0	6	10	2	18	6	11	12	16	0	12	12	10	5	12		18		Ireland	190	19

RESULTS

ROUND 18

Match	IMPs	VPs
21 DENMARK POLAND	58 - 12	24 - 6
22 SWEDEN FRANCE	25 - 47	10 - 20
23 BELGIUM ISRAEL	48 - 30	19 - 11
24 NETH. SPAIN	113 - 19	25 - 0
25 IRELAND SCOTLAND	32 - 47	12 - 18
26 GERMANY ITALY	36 - 78	6 - 24
27 NORWAY ESTONIA	32 - 33	15 - 15
28 BULGARIA TURKEY	19 - 62	6 - 24
29 GREECE AUSTRIA	63 - 65	15 - 15
30 ENGLAND BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 19

Match	IMPs	VPs
21 SWEDEN ENGLAND	29 - 25	16 - 14
22 BELGIUM POLAND	31 - 51	11 - 19
23 NETH. FRANCE	26 - 15	17 - 13
24 IRELAND ISRAEL	22 - 48	10 - 20
25 GERMANY SPAIN	44 - 38	16 - 14
26 NORWAY SCOTLAND	50 - 6	24 - 6
27 BULGARIA ITALY	7 - 54	6 - 24
28 GREECE ESTONIA	37 - 36	15 - 15
29 AUSTRIA TURKEY	55 - 48	16 - 14
30 DENMARK BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

SENIORS

PROGRAM

ROUND 19 10.00

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

RANKING

after 18 rounds

1	FRANCE	330
2	SCOTLAND	318
3	POLAND	305
4	BELGIUM	303
5	DENMARK	301.5
6	GERMANY	295
7	ISRAEL	294.5
8	ENGLAND	287
9	ITALY	286.5
10	NETHERLANDS	286
11	SWEDEN	274
12	BULGARIA	270
13	TURKEY	266
14	NORWAY	263
15	IRELAND	256
16	SPAIN	214.5
17	ESTONIA	208
18	WALES	204
19	FINLAND	179

RESULTS

ROUND 16

Match		IMPs	VPs
31	FINLAND NORWAY	36 - 56	10 - 20
32	SCOTLAND BULGARIA	46 - 22	21 - 9
33	GERMANY TURKEY	25 - 63	6 - 24
34	FRANCE SPAIN	48 - 7	24 - 6
35	BELGIUM ITALY	34 - 7	21 - 9
36	DENMARK ESTONIA	53 - 26	21 - 9
37	POLAND ISRAEL	24 - 42	11 - 19
38	WALES IRELAND	32 - 42	13 - 17
39	NETH. SWEDEN	48 - 26	20 - 10
40	ENGLAND BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 17

Match		IMPs	VPs
31	ENGLAND BULGARIA	52 - 30	20 - 10
32	FINLAND TURKEY	13 - 54	6 - 24
33	SCOTLAND SPAIN	80 - 11	25 - 1
34	GERMANY ITALY	17 - 42	9 - 21
35	FRANCE ESTONIA	48 - 33	18 - 12
36	BELGIUM ISRAEL	34 - 24	17 - 13
37	DENMARK IRELAND	36 - 26	17 - 13
38	POLAND SWEDEN	34 - 21	18 - 12
39	WALES NETHERLANDS	10 - 43	7 - 23
40	NORWAY BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 18

Match		IMPs	VPs
31	NORWAY TURKEY	21 - 45	9 - 21
32	ENGLAND SPAIN	52 - 37	18 - 12
33	FINLAND ITALY	35 - 84	4 - 25
34	SCOTLAND ESTONIA	41 - 23	19 - 11
35	GERMANY ISRAEL	35 - 43	13 - 17
36	FRANCE IRELAND	53 - 27	21 - 9
37	BELGIUM SWEDEN	50 - 55	14 - 16
38	DENMARK NETHERLANDS	31 - 23	17 - 13
39	POLAND WALES	59 - 10	25 - 4
40	BULGARIA BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

Press Conference

Yesterday's Press Conference hosted by *EBL President Yves Aubry* and *IBU President Mary Kelly-Rogers* afforded members of the press the opportunity to ask many searching questions.

Maureen Dennison asked about the timing of matches, particularly at the weekend, and also the fact that the Championships finish on Saturday rather than Friday.

The President said that the Championship Committee may have been mistaken with regard to Sunday, but this issue would be discussed by the appropriate Committee. He also said that the format of the Championships in 2013 and 2014 might be changed. In response to a question from Per Jannersten the President confirmed that the dates for San Remo are confirmed as 14-29 June 2013.

Patrick Jourdain, Daily Telegraph, London, asked about Drug testing.

The President confirmed that the WBF has overall control of the decision to request tests. In the future it is possible that testing will also be made 'out of competition'.

Eric Laurant, the Netherlands, asked about the dress code.

David Harris, EBL Treasurer, agreed there might be some confusion as to exactly what was required, although most countries comply with the regulations. The issue will be addressed in the future.

Simon Cochemé, England, whilst congratulating our Irish hosts on their superb organisation, observed that a clash of colours could be avoided if teams also had an away strip.

He also asked about the eligibility of the players representing Monaco for these Championships.

The President confirmed that following the adoption of the WBF eligibility rules by the EBL, Monaco's fulfilled all the necessary requirements.

B.J. O'Brien was one of several of the press corps to comment on the Vugraph presentation of only three rounds over the weekend.

The President referred to his earlier reply, and Eric Laurant advised that in Lille it was probable that all matches would be broadcast live using the technology that had been tested in Veldhoven.

Marek Wojcicki, Poland, asked if it was possible to make it easier for the smaller federations to compete in the Championships. His suggestion was that the entry fee might be split in some way, with an additional amount being paid by teams that qualify for the final.

The President revealed that he had spoken to the Presidents of the smaller federations with a view to helping them where possible, but money was not the only issue, particularly when they wanted to send a team to Lille. The EBL Treasurer pointed out that finances play an important part in decisions of this kind, and the EBL had to ensure that there was no loss of revenue.

Seamus Dowling, the Irish Times, observed that it was difficult for spectators to gain access to watch the matches.

The President said this issue would be addressed.



Being Peter Fredin

by Micke Melander

In the movie “Being John Malkovich” with John Cusack, Cameron Diaz and Catherine Keener, the audience get to know what it feels like to enter a hidden door and be able to find a portal that is a gate into the mind of another person, in that case John Malkovich. On one of the evenings in Dublin we found one of those portals to enter the mind of Peter Fredin.

Here follow two examples from Peter Fredin’s head. The first is actually from Round One in these European Championships in Dublin. Fredin was declarer and made a contract which no-else managed to handle upon the same lead.

This was the first hand:

♠ J 10 7 3
 ♥ K 7
 ♦ Q J 8
 ♣ K 10 9 8

N		
W		E
S		

♠ A K 9 8
 ♥ A Q 8
 ♦ 10 7 6
 ♣ Q 8 7

♥ J

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

A Stayman sequence after a strong INT took you to game in 4♠. Opponents were playing Precision and led the jack of hearts.

On a good day it seems that you can get away with three losers, two tricks in diamonds and one in clubs. The main problems to solve are:

- A) How to handle the trump suit (playing to drop the queen of spades or finessing for it)?
- B) How to find the jack of clubs?

Now we are “Being Fredin” and watching him doing things from his mind, we win the opening lead with the ace of hearts and continue with the king of spades, carefully noting the six from West and the five from East.

Our trump suit was ♠J1073 opposite ♠AK98.

“The one not having the queen will very often try to play a random card from his stack and certainly not the lowest, says Fredin”. But when missing ♠Q6542, West will most probably NOT play the six from ♠Q6x. Therefore he most probably has ♠Q6 or just the bare 6. Since the odds are clearly better for a 3-2 split than 4-1, I simply played ace and king of trumps, dropping queen-six offside, he contin-

ues explaining.

Part one of our problem solved, or Mission Accomplished.

We now pull a third round of trumps, noticing West discarding the three of diamonds. But to be able to solve the problem about who has the jack of clubs we need to try to get some more information before doing an advanced guess. Therefore we play a heart to dummy’s king, all follow. We then call for the queen of diamonds on which East jumps up with the ace and West follows with the five. East continues with a small diamond to West’s king, West exits with the “safe” ten of hearts, we discard a club from dummy and East follows suit.

The time has come again to stop and seriously consider what has happened so far. West has most probably shown ♠Q6, ♥J1096, ♦K53, ♣xxxx. Let’s get back to the very beginning of the hand; West opened the bidding, playing precision, with pass. He will more or less always open the bidding with 11+ HCPs and we know that he already has shown 6 HCP.

We simply exit with the queen of clubs from our hand, being Fredin. If East has the ace he is endplayed, having to give a ruff or discard or returning a club into the tenace. If West has the ace he can’t have the jack, unless he has passed an opening hand in first position (at least an opening according to their convention card). At the table West won the trick with the ace and returned a low club. - I simply went up with the king and dropped the jack from East. Mission two accomplished and we have now got a hint of what it is to be Peter Fredin. The full hand was*:

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

It’s remarkable how much information and conclusions Fredin made from the fact that West played the six of spades at trick two, showed a heart sequence, discarded a diamond, plus had shown some HCPs. This is how it feels to be in the head of Peter Fredin, a player who most often find the correct plays but also might go down in the most lay-down of contracts because his style involves playing with a combination of excellent card technique, card reading and most importantly instincts — mixing everything in

to a nice cocktail.

Let's also defend as Being Peter Fredin in our second and last example. Opponents have bid their way to 6NT having shown a combined strength of 32-35 HCPs. You know that you undoubtedly have one of the world's finest players declaring against you, Lorenzo Lauria. Your partner leads off with the seven of spades and you see the following*:

♠ A K Q 10	
♥ K 10 4	
♦ A 10 7 5	
♣ J 6	
<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 80px; height: 60px; border: 1px solid black;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J 9 8 6 3
	♥ 9 7 5
	♦ J 9 4 2
	♣ 9

Declarer wins the first trick with the ace, and continues with the jack of clubs and a club. So what to discard and why when you are Peter Fredin?

- We simply have to do what we can to fool declarer, says Fredin. Most players in the East seat randomly discard a spade. Having a declarer like Lauria against you, he immediately draws the conclusion that probably at least one of the majors are breaking badly and there is no way for him to make an extra trick from spades. We also know that hearts is probably the difficult suit for declarer to handle. Therefore we simply discard a heart. That probably will confuse declarer in what might look like a game of "rock, paper, scissors".

When he learns that clubs were 5-1, Lauria will probably draw the conclusion that West has the length in spades and East has the length in hearts, provided we discard a heart! Lauria clearly drew exactly that conclusion, since he actually never touched his heart suit until it was too late and had to go down. The full hand was*:

♠ A K Q 10		
♥ K 10 4		
♦ A 10 7 5		
♣ J 6		
♠ 7 4	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 80px; height: 60px; border: 1px solid black;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J 9 8 6 3
♥ A Q 3 2		♥ 9 7 5
♦ 8 6		♦ J 9 4 2
♣ 10 8 7 4 2		♣ 9
♠ 7 4		
♥ A Q 3 2		
♦ 8 6		
♣ 10 8 7 4 2		

This is how it is to be in the mind of Peter Fredin! Sometimes magic pays off. But pay attention — it doesn't always work out as he expects and sometimes opponents can use his own traps against him to produce very entertaining results!

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 for 10 Euros. A nice memory and a usable gift.

Attention, the shop closes at 1p.m.!!

Airport Transfer from Citywest Hotel:

Based on the schedule of departures Hospitality has received to date these are the coach departure times from Citywest Hotel on Sunday June 24th, 2012

- 1) Depart Hotel at 0430 hrs
- 2) Depart Hotel at 0800 hrs
- 3) Depart Hotel at 0900 hrs
- 4) Depart Hotel at 0930 hrs
- 5) Depart Hotel at 1100 hrs
- 6) Depart Hotel at 1200 hrs
- 7) Depart Hotel at 1330 hrs
- 8) Depart Hotel at 1500 hrs
- 9) Depart hotel at 1600 hrs

Please advise **urgently** the following information at the Hospitality Desk.

Name:

Departure Time:

No of people:

Destination:

Hotel?: Citywest/Green Isle/Louis Fitzgerald etc.,

An Exciting Board

by Ram Soffer

The following deal appeared in Round 3 of the Open Finals. It had everything that the bridge spectator or journalist could ask for. Both sides have chances of making a game, and no matter who declares, both declarer and defence have opportunities to excel.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ K 7 3 2 ♥ Q 5 3 2 ♦ 10 4 2 ♣ Q J	♠ 10 8 6 ♥ 8 7 4 ♦ A 8 3 ♣ A K 9 6	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A Q J 9 5 4 ♥ K 10 6 ♦ Q J 6 5 ♣ —
	♠ — ♥ A J 9 ♦ K 9 7 ♣ 10 8 7 5 4 3 2		

The dealer, North, has 11 HCP with 4333 distribution. On the other hand, he holds five controls. Does this merit an opening bid? Let's see first what happened at some tables where North decided to pass.

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♣	All Pass

Dubinin led the ♣8, and Nystrom – a less revealing ♣2. North topped the ♣J with the ♣K, ruffed. Let's follow Helness's play. He drew three rounds of trump ending in dummy and ruffed the ♣Q, North playing the ♣A. Next came four rounds of diamonds, and a heart was discarded from the dummy. At this point the hand was an open book for the declarer. North had passed as dealer, yet he had shown the ♣AK and the ♦A. So instead of the plausible finesse against the ♥J, Helness led the ♥K from his hand and South was helpless. Covering the king would leave him endplayed.

In the Israel-Russia match the same four-card ending was reached and Alon Birman likewise led the ♥K. Well done!

Can the defenders do something against this endplay? One idea is to play the ♣A at trick 1, and then conceal the ♣K when the ♣Q is led from dummy. That would disrupt declarer's card reading.

However, a more practical solution was shown by Ophir Herbst (North) who was defending against 5♠ doubled. The first round of diamonds was won by his partner's ♦K. Upon winning the ♦A in the second round, he led the ♥8

and the endplay disappeared. Later South scored two heart tricks for +500.

At most tables N/S didn't let East play in 4♠. 5♣ was the most popular contract, although in the Poland-Italy match both teams overbid to 6♣, going down. To illustrate the possibilities in a club contract, let's follow the events in the match between France and Ireland.

West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>McGann</i>
	1♣	1♠	INT
2♠	3♣	3♦	5♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
	1♣	1♠	3♠
Dble	Pass	4♠	5♣
All Pass			

McGann's INT bid must have been a transfer. In my opinion, Lorenzini's 3♠ bid was much more descriptive.

Anyway, 5♣ was reached in both tables. Bompis led the ♠A, ruffed. Declarer played a trump to hand and led a heart straight away. The French East was not ready for this move. He played an indifferent ♥6, and once the ♥9 was won by West's ♥Q, declarer was home. Rising with the ♥K is a well-known defensive move in such a position. It would have provided the Irish declarer with an awkward guess.

At the other table, the French declarer set about eliminating spades and diamonds, and didn't touch hearts. At the third round of diamonds East and West could choose who wins the trick. Adam Mesbur (East) did his best by winning this trick and leading the ♥K at this position:

♠ K ♥ Q 5 3 2 ♦ — ♣ —	♠ — ♥ 8 7 4 ♦ — ♣ 9 6	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q ♥ K 10 6 ♦ 6 ♣ —
			♠ — ♥ A J 9 ♦ — ♣ 8 5

Rombaut still got it right. He took the king with the ace, returned to his hand in clubs and led another heart, inserting the nine.

continues on page 9

Low Level Loss

by Maureen Dennison

Women's Series, Round 12:

When the opponents in the other room overbid to 3NT, failing a trick, it is doubly satisfying to find a brilliant defence to take 800 from 1♠ doubled against their other pair. It included that rare bird, a squeeze on dummy.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

This was the bidding in the open room in the match between Israel & France.

West	North	East	South
Gaviard	N Tal	Reess	D Tal
1♥	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	Dble
1♠	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
		All Pass	

North led ♠5 to ♠J, ducked, and South continued the trump attack. Declarer won with ♠A and Noga Tal unblocked the ♠K. Daniele Gaviard played ♦K, ducked, and ♦Q taken by the ace and Dana Tal led another, ruffed by North. Next came ♥2 to the king and ace and South drew dummy's last trump with her master ♠Q. Dana now cashed ♣A and led another. Declarer ruffed with her last trump, and was allowed to win the next trick with the ♥10 but North took the heart continuation. Meanwhile dummy was squeezed between her winning diamond and her club guard and that meant three down and 13 IMPs.

An Exciting Board (continued)

As an afterthought, one should note that in the final position the ♥K lead, which was sufficient to bring home the spade contract, was not good enough to defeat the club contract, since declarer still had an extra trump to manoeuvre with.

100 Years Young

Barry Rigal

Board 10

East Dealer North-South Vul.

♠ J 10 9 7 4
 ♥ A Q 7 2
 ♦ K
 ♣ K 9 3



♠ A K Q 6
 ♥ K J
 ♦ A J 6 3
 ♣ 10 8 5

OFFICIAL BIDDING:

West	North	East	South
		1♣*	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
1♣ strong			

PLAY INSTRUCTIONS: 3NT by East. South to lead ♦5. East to take the ♦K with ♦A and return the ♥K.

Solution on page 22



The hard-working local tournament management team. Back Row: Fionuala Gill, Eamon Galligan, Valerie Mathers. Front Row: Joe Moran, Mary Kelly-Rogers, Paul Porteous, Sandie Millership.

OPEN	<h1 style="margin: 0;">Italy v. Netherlands</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">by Jos Jacobs</p>
FR2 (19)	

The top-of-the-bill match in Round 2 of the finals was undoubtedly the encounter between Italy and Netherlands. Many of us will remember the spectacular show to which we were treated in their well-fought Bermuda Bowl semi-final match in Veldhoven, last October, so the many kibitzers world-wide must have been hoping for yet another good show. They had to be patient, however, as there was little in the first six boards, Italy taking a 3-0 lead on them. On board 7, we saw a clear difference in style between the two teams, which immediately led to a big swing:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees Jr.	Bocchi	Van Prooijen	Madala
Pass	1♠	All Pass	Pass

From a theoretical viewpoint, opening 1♠ in 3rd position on the North hand is quite OK. You won't score many points by doing so, however, if the layout is friendly but partner cannot invent a response. This was Bocchi's actual fate. Club to the ace, heart back to declarer's ace, spades from the top and the ♥J quickly meant 10 tricks. Italy +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Drijver	Sementa	Brink
Pass	4♠	All Pass	Pass

Drijver took the bull by the horns when he opened 4♠ on the hand. When East led the ♥7, the contract was in great danger after dummy's nine held the trick, a genuine Greek gift as this provided dummy with an entry to take a losing trump finesse. East returned the ♥2 for his partner to ruff but West apparently read this as a suggestion/request to

return a low club for another heart ruff. When West did in fact return a low club, Drijver won a surprise stiff ♣K and proceeded to rattle off all his trumps, squeezing East in three suits as he was forced to part with all his clubs in order to hold on to his ♥K10 and the ♦A. At trick 11, he then was thrown in with his ♦A to lead away from his ♥K and present declarer with his contract. A spectacular performance indeed!

Netherland thus wrote +620 and opened their account with 10 juicy IMPs.

On the next board, the same Italian EW pair went a little overboard:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees Jr.	Bocchi	Van Prooijen	Madala
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The Dutch Canapé style worked well for them, as it enabled them to find out that in spite of the many hcp in the combined hands, there were no good fits at all. They thus settled in 3NT, a sound contract in which they made 11 tricks, Netherlands +460.



Agustin Madala, Italy

For the slam to make, you will have to rely on the spades being 3-3, not a very good proposition (about 36%).

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Drijver	Sementa	Brink
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Duboin-Sementa duly found out about West's spade filler, so had East's spades been headed by AQJ, their final contract would have been excellent. As it was, the contract had no play, not even on a low heart lead which potentially gives declarer an extra trick in the suit but also disrupts his communications if he wants to enjoy it... (but see Mark Horton's article on England-Germany). One down, Netherlands +50 and another 11 IMPs.



Ricco Van Prooijen, Netherlands

A few boards later, the Dutch suddenly jumped out of the bushes:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees Jr.	Bocchi	Van Prooijen	Madala
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♠
Dble	4♠	All Pass	

the Italians were soon in game for a seemingly routine +620.

In the Closed Room, Brink, at his first turn, awaited developments:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Drijver	Sementa	Brink
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	3♠
4♦	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Sementa, too, opened 1NT and Brink passed first since his methods did not deal well with that shape. When Duboin produced a heart transfer and Sementa super-accepted, Brink could see the singleton heart in his partner's hand and thus could produce a spade overcall in relative safety. Duboin then retransferred to hearts but could not do anything but double 4♠ when that came round to him, not knowing, of course, that partner held a slightly off-shape 1NT opening bid. Declarer could not lose more than the three obvious tricks: Netherlands +790, their tactical victory being worth 5 IMPs more.

By then, the match score stood at 31-3 to the Netherlands, so it was time for the late rally we have seen from the Italians so often when they looked like being in trouble.

After a partscore success for Italy on board 15, this was the next board:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees Jr.	Bocchi	Van Prooijen	Madala
1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

With the diamond fit lost, EW were not in a good posi-

When Madala overcalled 2♠ after East's 1NT opening bid,

tion to judge what to do over 4♠. Down two, Netherlands +300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Drijver	Sementa	Brink
1♦	3♠	Dble	4♠
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	All Pass

After a natural 1♦ opening, Duboin had the 4NT rebid at his disposal to show his red two-suiter, thus enabling Sementa to land in a very good spot. On a good diamond guess, slam is on but bidding it would certainly be an overstatement. Anyway, Italy +650 and 8 more IMPs back to them to reduce their deficit to 16.

On the next board, the Italians went on to steal a partscore:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees Jr.	Bocchi	Van Prooijen	Madala
Pass	1♠	Dble	2♥
	2♠	All Pass	

2♥ was a transfer raise in spades, of course. When Verhees, not aware of his partner's five-card suit in hearts, sold out to 2♠, the Dutch had actually missed a game...

When Van Prooijen misguessed on defence at trick two, shifting to a heart rather than a club after cashing a top diamond, declarer's ♥Q scored as his 8th trick. Italy +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Drijver	Sementa	Brink
Pass	1♠	Dble	2♥
Dble	2♠	Pass	Pass
	3♠	All Pass	

After the same initial auction, Duboin was not afraid to have the last word on it, which would have led to a perfectly playable heart contract for them. So in a sense, North was right to pre-empt with 3♠ but on perfect defence, he had to go two down for another +100 and 5 IMPs to Italy.

These Italian IMPs went overboard again when the last board of the match proved to be like this:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees Jr.	Bocchi	Van Prooijen	Madala
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Hands like these favour the Strong Club bidders as they can show some very strong hands at a low level. Holding not too many useful cards, East was happy to pass 2♠ and see his partner make the required number of tricks on a trump lead. Netherlands +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Drijver	Sementa	Brink
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Once Sementa responded INT to partner's opening bid, the Italians were in game. No play on the same trump lead as in the other room, not even when North ducked the ♥10 at trick 3 after two rounds of trumps. One off but another +100 and 5 IMPs to Netherlands who thus won the match 39-23 or 18-12 VPs.



Last Board

by Mark Horton

When the last board settles on the table it is all too easy to succumb to temptation to get the deal over and done with, so that you can rush out and compare scores with your teammates. Having spent more than 20 years covering Championships all over the world, I could (and might) write a book about the number of matches that have been decided by the final deal.

(As an aside, one of the best stories ever written on this theme is Ron Klinger's *Last Board*, which originally appeared in *Bridge Magazine* - you can also find it in *Grand Slam: Thirteen Great Bridge Stories*, which is easy to obtain on the Internet.)

This was the last board of England v the Netherlands in Thursday's final match - no one was rushing, but it played a significant part in the outcome:

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Dekkers</i>
1♣*	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♦*	Dble	4♥	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♠*	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

1♣ 1+ clubs

North's double of 4♦ was enough to persuade West to protect her diamond holding.

Had North led a club even 3NT would have been too high, but on the two of hearts lead declarer was still in the game. However, with the diamond finesse known to be wrong declarer had to rely on a defensive error. None was forthcoming and the contract was one down, -100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zwol</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
1♦	Pass	2♥*	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	6♥	All Pass
2♥	Strong		
4♣/4♦	Cue Bids		
4NT	Key Cards		
5♥	2, no heart queen		

South led the five of spades and declarer spent a long time over this trick. No one likes to risk it all at trick one and eventually declarer put up the ace and played a heart to the king, South discarding the four of spades. Declarer continued with the queen of hearts and North took this one as South parted with the four of spades.

North exited with the queen of clubs and declarer won with the ace and started playing trumps. South had to hold on to two spades, and also had to keep diamonds to prevent declarer ruffing out her partner's king.

This was the four-card ending:

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

Declarer crossed to the ace of spades and when she continued with the six of spades North was in trouble. Forced to retain the nine of clubs she parted with the seven of diamonds. Declarer ruffed and played her diamond. South did her best by playing the jack, but declarer made no mistake, going up with dummy's ace to land her slam in spectacular style, +1430 and 17 IMPs.

OPEN	<h1 style="margin: 0;">Bulgaria v. England</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">by Jos Jacobs</p>
FR3 (20)	

At the start of the day, England were still in 2nd place, well behind Monaco but 20 VPs ahead of Russia, by then the lowest-ranked team within the qualification zone for a Bali berth. Bulgaria was one of the teams trying to make it into that zone (and to Bali, of course), starting in 7th position on Thursday, less than 2 VP behind Russia. On the first board of the match, you already had to be fully awake:



Julian Stefanov, Bulgaria

With the score at 12-6, board 7 was another possible slam swing.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Mihov	Bakhshi	Karakolev
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Mihov	Bakhshi	Karakolev
			1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

When Bakhshi did not overcall the Strong Club, the Bulgarians had a free, natural road to the best contract and they duly reached it, too. Bulgaria a fine +920 to start with.

Again, a very natural and smooth Bulgarian Strong Club auction to the proper contract. After some cuebidding, South showed 4 keycards but then, upon request, had to deny the trump queen. Bulgaria +1460.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Gold	Stefanov	Forrester
	1♣	1♦	1♥
4♦	5♣	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Gold	Stefanov	Forrester
			1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Stefanov really launched his partner by overcalling an innocent enough 1♦. After the 4♦ pre-empt, it is not easy to see how NS can reach their slam in any sophisticated way. England +420 but first blood to Bulgaria: 11 IMPs.

Though 2NT showed a good four-card spade raise, the English managed to stay out of the slam.

England +710 but another 13 IMPs to Bulgaria to lead by 25-6.

Two boards later, the English started a rally:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Mihov	Bakhshi	Karakolev
	Pass	1♠	3♣
3♠	5♣	5♠	All Pass

When Karakolev overcalled in his weak suit, the Bulgarians were soon in game. The English did very well to take the save, vulnerable against not and when nobody doubled, going one down cost them only 100. Please note that Mihov did not think his three honour tricks constituted an opening bid.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Gold	Stefanov	Forrester
	1♣	1♠	5♣
All Pass			

When David Gold did open 1♣, Forrester could raise to game immediately and thus present Aronov with a nasty problem, taking the vulnerability into account. When nobody had anything more to say, England had scored 400 and 7 IMPs.



David Gold, England

Note the play in the heart suit. Declarer can strip the hand out on a spade lead and exit in diamonds. When east wins the third diamond and plays the heart king declarer should get it right....but will he? If declarer leads a heart himself (as Tom Hanlon did at trick three) it is not so easy for East to fly up with the king.



Vladimir Mihov, Bulgaria

To save or not to save, that was again the question two boards later:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Mihov	Bakhshi	Karakolev
1♥	2♣	2♥	4♣
4♥	All Pass		

North, being not vulnerable, he did not have the additional info that he would have liked about spade shortage or diamond length in his partner's hand. He thus sold out to 4♥. England +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Gold	Stefanov	Forrester
			Pass
1♣	2♣	2♠	4♣
4♠	5♣	Dble	All Pass

Against the Strong Club, 2♣ showed either clubs or diamonds so Forrester's raise implied a diamond fit. This was all Gold needed to know to be able to make the right de-

cision. One down, Bulgaria +100 but 8 more IMPs back to England to level the match at 25-25.

On the next board, England took the lead:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Mihov	Bakhshi	Karakolev
2♦	Dble	3♥	All Pass

Once Townsend opened a very weak Multi, any chance of NS stealing a game was gone. When both South and North subsided, the contract went down two tricks undoubled. Bulgaria +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Gold	Stefanov	Forrester
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

When West passed as dealer (and who would blame him?), poor East had to find a heart lead against this pretty unrevealing auction. When East led a natural enough ♠K instead, declarer quickly claimed his top tricks for +600 and 11 IMPs more to England.

Two boards later, the English were well overboard:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Mihov	Bakhshi	Karakolev
2♦	Dble	1♦	1♠
Pass	4♠	3NT	Pass
		All Pass	

As the defenders did not have the communication for a club ruff, they could never beat this contract. Bulgaria +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Gold	Stefanov	Forrester
Pass	4♥	1♣	Dble
Pass	5♥	5♦	Pass
6♦	Dble	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass	Pass	6♥

Against East's slightly shaded Strong Club, Forrester's double showed majors. From East's 5♦ rebid onwards, the auction apparently ran completely out of control. No doubt the meaning of North's double was the subject of a free and frank exchange of views after the round was over. Down two, Bulgaria another +300 and 12 IMPs back to them to regain the lead by a single IMP.

Then, a nice lead by Townsend gave declarer a chance to mistime the play of a 3NT contract:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Mihov	Bakhshi	Karakolev
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Townsend led the ♠J which declarer ducked in dummy. Bakhshi took his king and shifted to the ♦Q. When declarer-

er ducked this, Bakhshi could clear the suit and the ♥A with West proved the entry to Townsend's winning diamond, the setting trick. Well defended indeed! England +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Gold	Stefanov	Forrester
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♦2 to his partner's ace and back came the ♦J. When Forrester took this immediately, the diamonds were blocked so with the hearts breaking 3-3, Forrester had an easy overtrick. England +430 and 10 IMPs back to them to lead 46-37.

On the last board, the Bulgarians earned themselves a winning draw by making a weak overcall at one table, not duplicated at the other one:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Mihov	Bakhshi	Karakolev
1♥	3♦	4♥	5♦
Dble	All Pass		

Karakolev had an easy save, even vulnerable. When East did not lead a club through at any time, declarer had a routine endplay on West, thus escaping for only down one. England +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Gold	Stefanov	Forrester
1♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

No bidding action from Gold so no action from Forrester either. Bulgaria +620 and 10 IMPs to win the match 48-46, still 15-15 VPs. Both teams had consolidated their scores but no more than that.

Championship Diary

In any major championship it is inevitable that some mistakes will be made, both at and away from the table. In the Bulletin Room we have a unique way of dealing with these: we declare: 'It's all Mario's fault'. The origin of this saying is available on request.

Talking of mistakes, yesterday morning's Bulletins contained a howler on the front page with regard to the BBO matches (although the Internet version is now correct). As it only takes a single keystroke for such a disaster to occur we have presented our layout Editor with the 'Flying Fickle Finger of Fate Award'.

Nikolas Bausback's Picasa Web Gallery (www.bausback.org) contains two folders of photographs relating to the Championships, one featuring the players, the other images of Dublin and Ireland. He has kindly given permission for them to be downloaded free of charge. Enjoy!

Jill Arthur (whose late husband Jimmie captained England's women to many a triumph) is here in Dublin. She keeps us well supplied with her legendary tablet and shortbread (over the last two years Jill has raised over £2000 for charity by selling these delectable items!)



Jill Arthur

OPEN	<h1 style="margin: 0;">France v Ireland</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">by Brian Senior</p>
FR3 (20)	

Lying tenth and eleventh with seven rounds to go, 10 and 13 VPs respectively out of the Bermuda Bowl qualification places, the match between France and Ireland was important for both teams. There was no need yet for big wins, though they would be helpful, but neither could afford to lose ground through a substantial defeat.

The teams exchanged slam swings on the first two deals of the match.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>McGann</i>
	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	



Adam Mesbur, Ireland

Jerome Rombaut opened 1♣ and rebid 3♣ and now Cedric Lorenzini's 4♣, setting the trump suit, was the key to the French pair reaching slam. With hearts sitting so well there was nothing to the play; +920.

Tom Hanlon opened 2♣, natural, 10-16 HCP, and 2♥ was natural and forcing for one round. Two No Trump showed a maximum and now Hugh McGann believes he should have bid 3♣. His table choice of 3♦ asked about stoppers and Hanlon said he had both a diamond and a spade stopper so McGann left him to play 3NT. After a diamond lead there were ten tricks for +430 but 10 IMPs to France.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
	1♣	Pass	2♣
1♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♥	All Pass
5♥	Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>McGann</i>
	2♣	Pass	1♣
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Ireland struck back immediately as the French missed a good slam on Board 2. Marc Bompis reversed then cuebid twice but, when Jean-Christophe Quantin could only make a non-committal 3NT over the first cuebid, Bompis settled for game.

Adam Mesbur opened a strong club and the auction therefore saw Nick Fitzgibbon start to show his suits first and so it was Mesbur who supported Fitzgibbon's hearts.

After an exchange of cuebids, Fitzgibbon signed off in game as he had weak hearts and no diamond control, but Mesbur could cover both those problems and went on, eventually bidding the slam himself after his partner had asked for key cards.

Both declarers lost a diamond; +480 to France but +980 to Ireland and 11 IMPs. On any lead but the \heartsuit A, Fitzgibbon might still be planning the play...

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

<p>\spadesuit A K 8 \heartsuit J 10 9 8 \diamondsuit 8 3 \clubsuit 8 7 6 2</p>	<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	<p>\spadesuit Q 7 4 \heartsuit A K 5 \diamondsuit K J 9 4 2 \clubsuit Q 4</p>	<p>\spadesuit 10 9 3 \heartsuit Q \diamondsuit Q 10 7 6 5 \clubsuit K J 10 9</p>
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
<i>Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
Pass	1 \clubsuit	INT	2 \clubsuit
Dble	2 \diamondsuit	Pass	2 \heartsuit
Dble	2 \spadesuit	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>McGann</i>
Pass	1 \diamondsuit	INT	2 \diamondsuit
3NT	All Pass		

The action continued as both Norths chose to open light in third seat because of the favourable vulnerability. Both Easts overcalled INT and both Souths competed, Lorenzini showing the majors, McGann spades and another. Fitzgibbon doubled to show values and followed up with two more doubles, Rombaut eventually subsiding in 2 \spadesuit doubled. Mesbur kicked off with a trump so Fitzgibbon played three rounds of those and now the defence could cash four heart tricks. By this time the club position was marked simply by counting points so Rombaut had the rest but that was still two down for -300.

In the other room, Quantin simply jumped to 3NT over McGann's 2 \diamondsuit . Bompis won the heart lead and crossed to dummy with a spade to try the old trick of playing on his weak suit, leading a club to the queen and ace. However, this did not work out so well on this occasion as Hanlon put in the \clubsuit 10 and McGann returned the suit. Hanlon cashed three more clubs before exiting with a spade. A diamond misguess led to two down for -200 and 11 IMPs to Ireland, ahead by 22-10.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

<p>\spadesuit J 8 3 \heartsuit A 4 3 \diamondsuit Q 8 6 \clubsuit Q J 9 4</p>	<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	<p>\spadesuit A 7 6 5 4 \heartsuit K J \diamondsuit — \clubsuit A K 10 8 7 2</p>	<p>\spadesuit Q 10 9 \heartsuit 9 5 \diamondsuit K J 10 9 5 4 3 \clubsuit 6</p>
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
<i>Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
Pass	Dble	3 \diamondsuit	Pass
Pass	5 \clubsuit	All Pass	4 \heartsuit

West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>McGann</i>
3 \diamondsuit	Dble	3 \clubsuit	Pass
Pass	6 \clubsuit	All Pass	4 \heartsuit

The auctions were effectively identical up to North's final bid. Where Mesbur opened with a natural pre-empt, Bompis used a transfer to launch the same hand and Quantin simply completed the transfer. Both Norths doubled 3 \diamondsuit and saw partner jump to 4 \heartsuit . While Rombaut was now content to continue with 5 \clubsuit , Hanlon instead jumped to the club slam.

Hanlon won the diamond lead and led a club to his ten then cashed the ace and king. He continued by playing on hearts and was one down, his spades all going away on the heart winners; -50.

That gave an opportunity to France as Rombaut was a level lower. He received a heart lead to the ace, dropping the king, and a heart return, which he won in dummy. Rombaut led a club and Fitzgibbon played low. It was now possible to make the contract by putting in the ten but Rombaut cashed the ace and king and was one down for -50 and no swing.



Nicholas Fitzgibbon, Ireland

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
1♥	2♣	2♥	3♣
4♥	Pass	Pass	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>McGann</i>
1♥	2♣	2♥	4♣
4♥	All Pass		

What is the best tactical approach to the South hand when partner overcalls 2♣? McGann made a pre-emptive jump raise then passed out 4♥ as he had already suggested his general hand-type to partner. This was not a success as 4♥ made 11 tricks after the ace of clubs lead and a trump switch – Quantin won the heart and gave up a diamond but, when a second heart was played, decided that it was time to test the spades; +450.

Lorenzini made a simple club raise but then took the unilateral save in 5♣ when 4♥ came around. The double fit meant that this was very much the winning decision and a successful diamond play at the end meant just one down for –100 but 8 IMPs to France; 26-26.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>McGann</i>
2♦	Dble	3♥	Dble
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Quantin chose a great time to make the sort of weak two opening that I love. Hanlon doubled the multi opening and 3♥ was pass or correct. When McGann made a value-showing double, Hanlon hedged with 3♠ to keep 3NT in the picture and McGann duly took a shot at everyone's favourite game. Quantin's heart lead meant a swift one down for –100.

At the other table, there was no opening from West and N/S had a very simple and unrevealing auction to 3NT. Mesbur, of course, led the king of spades, and Rombaut grabbed his ace and ran for home; +600 and 12 IMPs to France, who led by those 12 IMPs, 38-26.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
Dble	2♦	2♥	3♠
	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>McGann</i>
2♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass	2♥	Pass

Time was when French players required much sounder hands than much of the rest of the world for a weak two opening. Not any more, it seems, as Rombaut followed up Quantin's earlier enterprise by opening a Multi on the North hand while Hanlon passed it. Both Wests, however, declared the same contract of 4♥, though on different leads.

Lorenzini led a trump. Mesbur won with dummy's five and

tried a spade to the jack and queen. Back came a second trump. Mesbur won and drew trumps then led the queen of diamonds, ducking Lorenzini's king. Lorenzini cashed the ace of spades then switched to a club but Mesbur won in hand and ruffed out the diamonds for ten tricks; +420.

McGann led a club. Bompis won with dummy's king and cashed the ace of hearts then led a diamond, ducking to McGann's jack when Hanlon followed low unconcernedly. McGann continued with the jack of clubs to declarer's ace and Bompis now led a diamond to the ace and a third diamond.

At this point he can still succeed by ruffing high, ruffing his club loser, cashing the heart jack and pitching a spade on a winning diamond. Though South can ruff, that is with his trump trick and, as he holds the ace of spades, there is no entry to the North hand to promote the ten of hearts into the setting trick.

Bompis preferred to ruff with the nine and was over-ruffed. He ruffed the club return, cashed the heart jack and tried to guess the spades; one down for -50 and 10 IMPs to Ireland, 38-41.



Jean-Christophe Quantin, France

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Fitzgibbon	Rombaut	Mesbur	Lorenzini
1♥	3♦	4♥	5♦
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Hanlon	Bompis	McGann
1♥	3♦	4♥	5♦
Dble	All Pass		

Taking their chances

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

From the Seniors, Israel and Italy, Frydrich and Engel defended 3NT on the unopposed auction 1♦-1♠-2♦-3♣-3NT.

Frydrich led the heart two, and declarer was forced to put up the ace to preserve the entry to hand. The ♦J followed and declarer set up diamonds, West throwing an encouraging spade followed by a club and a second spade. Engel now played the ♥8 and declarer gave the defenders a chance by ducking. That was enough for the defence: Engel shifted to a spade to the ace and back came a club.

Declarer ran it to his hand, but Engel won the king and exited with a club. Declarer could do no better than win in hand and concede a heart at trick 13.

Both Wests opened their borderline hand with 1♥ and North made a pre-emptive jump overcall. When East bid the heart game, South accurately bid 5♦ - 4♥ is making - and now Quantin doubled while Fitzgibbon did not.

Mesbur cashed the ace of hearts then switched to the queen of spades for the king and ace. Rombaut could take a club pitch on the heart king and make an elimination play before taking a club finesse, leaving Fitzgibbon endplayed; one down for -100.

Bompis started with the queen of spades to the king and ace. Hanlon ruffed the spade continuation, played a round of trumps, then a low heart to the queen and ace. Bompis pushed a club through so Quantin won the queen and had a safe exit card in hearts and had to come to a second club trick; down two for -500 and 9 IMPs to France.

The final score was 56-38 IMPs in favour of France, 19-11 VPs. Other results meant that France were still 12 VPs behind sixth, while Ireland's deficit was 17.

A Friendly lead?!

By Ram Soffer

Some of the most pleasing moments in bridge occur when your LHO unknowingly leads into your strong 6-card suit, well concealed in the bidding. Let's look at what happened in the Seniors Round 9 match between Israel and Scotland.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dan. Birman</i>	<i>Diamond</i>	<i>Dav. Birman</i>	<i>Silverstone</i>
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

David Birman felt that the situation (favourable vulnerability, 3rd seat) called for a special move, and opened an off-beat INT. His partner transferred to hearts and bid 3NT, ending the auction.

After a normal bidding sequence, such as Pass-1♣-1♥-1♠-2NT-3NT or 1♥-2♣-2♥-2♠-2NT-3NT, West would have become the declarer, and North would have led the obvious ♦K.

Even on the actual sequence, a diamond was the most plausible lead, but Victor Silverstone may have inferred from Derek Diamond's failure to double 2♦ that his diamonds were not so good.

So he led the ♣8, straight into David Birman's well concealed long suit.

Shockingly enough, he had found the strongest opening lead – the only one to give declarer a losing option.

Why is it so? After the diamond lead, declarer would hold up twice, and after winning the third round his only hope would be to find the ♥A onside. That's how the play developed at most tables. Declarer cashed the clubs, led a heart from dummy and soon claimed nine tricks.

100 Years Young

Solution 10

North should beat the contract by taking the king of hearts and returning a low club into dummy's club tenace.

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

This defence removes declarer's second entry prematurely. The jack of hearts will be ducked, and the suit is as good as dead. A throw-in against North doesn't help.

If North ducks the first two hearts declarer can still succeed (at double dummy) by taking an early club finesse. If North wins it and doesn't cash hearts then South can be stripped of his club exits and endplayed in diamonds. If North ducks the first club he is endplayed in spades to give up two clubs.



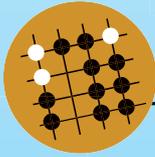
However, the club lead applied no pressure on declarer, so now David Birman had two options: hearts or spades. Which suit looks more attractive to you?

Of course, if the heart play failed, the suit would be wide open for the defenders. So David chose to continue spades. His chances of developing a second trick there were slightly higher than 50%. At trick 2 it was spade to the ace, and then another spade to the queen and king.

Now Silverstone could crown his successful defence with a timely switch to diamonds. Unfortunately, he was not aware of what was going on, and continued his club "attack". Declarer still had time (and side entry) for the heart play, and it all ended in a push.

WOMEN TEAMS BUTLER

	Players	Butler	Country	Boards
1	BROWN Fiona - STOCKDALE Susan	0.97	England	180
2	D'OVIDIO Catherine - NEVE Joanna	0.79	France	200
3	KAZMUCHA Danuta - SAKOWSKA Natalia	0.70	Poland	220
4	OYMEN Ozlem - YAVAS Dilek	0.68	Turkey	280
5	TAL Dana - TAL Noga	0.63	Israel	280
6	DEKKERS Laura - MICHIENSEN Marion	0.63	Netherlands	280
7	PASMAN Jet - SIMONS Anneke	0.62	Netherlands	260
8	ACAR Asli - ERKAN Berrak	0.51	Turkey	220
9	CRONIER Benedicte - WILLARD Sylvie	0.51	France	300
10	PAOLUZI Simonetta - SACCAVINI Ilaria	0.46	Italy	260
11	RIMSTEDT Sandra - SJOBERG Emma	0.39	Sweden	300
12	DHONDY Heather - SENIOR Nevena	0.39	England	280
13	BREWIAK Grazyna - DUFRAT Katarzyna	0.37	Poland	240
14	BERTHEAU Kathrine - LARSSON Jessica	0.34	Sweden	240
15	CARCASSONNE-LABAERE Valerie - DEWASME Isabelle	0.33	Belgium	280
16	BROCK Sally - SMITH Nicola	0.32	England	260
17	BEKKOUCHE Nadia - SCHALTZ Dorthe	0.29	Denmark	320
18	McGOWAN Elizabeth (Liz) - PUNCH Sam	0.24	Scotland	280
19	KRIFTNER Susanne - SMEDEREVAC Jovanka	0.23	Austria	360
20	HOULBERG Anne-Sofie - MADSEN Christina Lund	0.21	Denmark	220
21	ARNOLDS Carla - ZWOL Wietske van	0.19	Netherlands	180
22	FISCHER Doris - WEIGKRICHT Terry	0.19	Austria	280
23	McQUAKER Fiona - WISEMAN Yvonne	0.16	Scotland	240
24	BOHNSACK Susanne - KHANUKOVA Yevgeniya	0.14	Germany	160
25	GAVIARD Daniele - REESS Vanessa	0.14	France	220
26	FUGLESTAD Ann Karin - HARDING Marianne	0.12	Norway	300
27	TACZEWSKA Joanna - ZMUDA Justyna	0.12	Poland	260
28	ANDERSSON Pia - JOHANSSON Marie	0.03	Sweden	180
29	LEVIT-PORAT Ruth - POPLILOV Matilda	0.02	Israel	260
30	NOSATZKI Michal - SAADA Nathalie	0.01	Israel	180
31	DE GRAVE Greet - TOPIOL Yael	-0.01	Belgium	140
32	FERLAZZO Caterina - MANARA Gabriella	-0.10	Italy	220
33	BROGELAND Tonje Aasand - SVENDSEN Tone Torkelsen	-0.12	Norway	220
34	HOLMOY Stine - VIST Gunn Tove	-0.13	Norway	200
35	ECONOMOU Liana - KANELLOPOULOU Despina	-0.15	Greece	280
36	GOLIN Cristina - OLIVIERI Gabriella	-0.22	Italy	240
37	ALBERTI Anja - GLADIATOR Anne	-0.25	Germany	280
38	ADUT Vera - ATALAY Belis	-0.25	Turkey	220
39	KYRIAKIDOU Antonia (Nitsa) - LAMBRINOU Sophie	-0.27	Greece	260
40	GIAMPIETRO Cristina - NEHMERT Pony Beate	-0.28	Germany	280
41	ANGEBRANDT Dietlind - PICHLER Eva	-0.29	Austria	80
42	CRIADO DEL RAY Isabel - MURUAGA Angeles	-0.30	Spain	260
43	GEORGIEVA Draga - PETROVA Valentina	-0.32	Bulgaria	240
44	STOYANOVA Dilyanka - VETRUSHKOVA-KOSTOVA Velina	-0.36	Bulgaria	240
45	DOBBELS Tine - TOUTENEL Els	-0.36	Belgium	300
46	ADAMSON Sheila - SYMONS Anne	-0.43	Scotland	200
47	ANGELOVA Maria - VIDENOVA Karka	-0.43	Bulgaria	240
48	SARV Pihel - SEPP Tuul	-0.45	Estonia	240
49	ORAS Maarja - TAUBE Aire	-0.48	Estonia	260
50	HAND Valerie - O'KEEFFE Aileen	-0.56	Ireland	260
51	MAMIDAKI Lina - VELONI Anastasia	-0.62	Greece	180
52	GARCIA CAMBON Manola - TAPIAS Paz	-0.79	Spain	220
53	JOYCE Emer - KENNY Joan	-0.80	Ireland	240



THE 2ND WORLD MIND SPORTS GAMES

LILLE FRANCE

AT LILLE GRAND PALAIS
BRIDGE, CHESS, DRAUGHTS, GO, XIANG QI

9-23
AUGUST
2012

