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SINGING IN THE RAIN

A few drops of rain could not dampen the spirits of everyone as the first day's action unfolded. The *Women* played two matches which see **Belgium** leading the way followed by **Poland, England** and **Sweden**.

In the *Open* series three rounds have been completed and in Group A Israel lead from Sweden, Hungary and Italy. In Group B **France** top the table, ahead of **Denmark, Luxembourg** and **Monaco**.

Still, as the biblical saying goes, 'the race does not always go to the swiftest' and there is more than enough time for things to change.

Meanwhile the Seniors are starting to arrive in readiness for the start of their event on Saturday.



The championship souvenirs are located on the first floor

ROUND 4

Netherlands - Monaco	BBO 1*
Italy - Norway	BBO 2
Sweden - Israel	BBO 3
Iceland - France	BBO 4
Sweden - Turkey (W)	BBO 5

ROUND 5

France - Italy (W)	BBO 1*
Hungary - Turkey	BBO 2
Germany - Spain	BBO 3
Estonia - Denmark	BBO 4
Neth. - Norway (W)	BBO 5

ROUND 6

Russia - England	BBO 1*
Italy - Turkey	BBO 2
Portugal - Belgium	BBO 3
Germany - Ireland	BBO 4
Netherlands - Denmark	BBO 5

*BBO 1 = Vugraph

OPEN TEAMS PROGRAM

GROUP A

ROUND 4 10.00

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

ROUND 5 13.30

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

ROUND 6 16.40

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

GROUP B

ROUND 4 10.00

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

ROUND 5 13.30

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

ROUND 6 16.40

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

Open Pairs

Daily a 14:30 1st floor at the end of the cafeteria
 Entry fee 10 Euros
 24 - 28 boards
 No preregistration
 Crystal glass prizes for the winners

Duplimate Discounts

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

OPEN TEAMS RESULTS

GROUP A

ROUND 1

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	SWEDEN SCOTLAND	72 - 22	25 - 5
2	PORTUGAL ITALY	9 - 87	1 - 25
3	GERMANY GREECE	64 - 23	23 - 7
4	IRELAND NORWAY	34 - 30	16 - 14
5	BELGIUM BULGARIA	23 - 61	7 - 23
6	SPAIN UKRAINE	65 - 39	20 - 10
7	LATVIA ISRAEL	38 - 61	10 - 20
8	LITHUANIA TURKEY	22 - 47	10 - 20
9	HUNGARY BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 2

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	HUNGARY ITALY	52 - 54	15 - 15
2	SWEDEN GREECE	109 - 21	25 - 0
3	PORTUGAL NORWAY	31 - 69	7 - 23
4	GERMANY BULGARIA	59 - 35	20 - 10
5	IRELAND UKRAINE	80 - 46	22 - 4
6	BELGIUM ISRAEL	29 - 68	7 - 23
7	SPAIN TURKEY	34 - 44	13 - 17
8	LATVIA LITHUANIA	84 - 14	25 - 2
9	SCOTLAND BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 3

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	SCOTLAND GREECE	32 - 58	10 - 20
2	HUNGARY NORWAY	75 - 25	25 - 5
3	SWEDEN BULGARIA	46 - 55	13 - 17
4	PORTUGAL UKRAINE	15 - 79	3 - 25
5	GERMANY ISRAEL	33 - 65	8 - 22
6	IRELAND TURKEY	44 - 50	14 - 16
7	BELGIUM LITHUANIA	57 - 72	12 - 18
8	SPAIN LATVIA	28 - 52	10 - 20
9	ITALY BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

GROUP B

ROUND 1

Match		IMP's	VP's
11	ICELAND ROMANIA	20 - 48	9 - 21
12	FINLAND NETHERLANDS	32 - 58	10 - 20
13	RUSSIA WALES	45 - 19	20 - 10
14	ENGLAND MONACO	20 - 37	11 - 19
15	SWI. POLAND	26 - 67	7 - 23
16	CROATIA CYPRUS	43 - 19	20 - 10
17	AUSTRIA FRANCE	32 - 71	7 - 23
18	LUX. DENMARK	39 - 46	14 - 16
19	ESTONIA BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 2

Match		IMP's	VP's
11	ESTONIA NETHERLANDS	65 - 48	19 - 11
12	ICELAND WALES	69 - 30	23 - 7
13	FINLAND MONACO	44 - 38	16 - 14
14	RUSSIA POLAND	81 - 24	25 - 4
15	ENGLAND CYPRUS	78 - 0	25 - 1
16	SWI. FRANCE	46 - 49	14 - 16
17	CROATIA DENMARK	14 - 70	4 - 25
18	AUSTRIA LUXEMBOURG	32 - 56	10 - 20
19	ROMANIA BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 3

Match		IMP's	VP's
11	ROMANIA WALES	25 - 80	4 - 25
12	ESTONIA MONACO	25 - 54	9 - 21
13	ICELAND POLAND	46 - 35	17 - 13
14	FINLAND CYPRUS	59 - 4	25 - 4
15	RUSSIA FRANCE	39 - 93	4 - 25
16	ENGLAND DENMARK	12 - 40	9 - 21
17	SWI. LUXEMBOURG	41 - 64	10 - 20
18	CROATIA AUSTRIA	30 - 66	8 - 22
19	NETH. BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

OPEN TEAMS RANKING

GROUP A

GROUP B

after 3 rounds

1 ISRAEL	65
2 SWEDEN	63
3 HUNGARY	58
ITALY	58
5 LATVIA	55
6 TURKEY	53
7 IRELAND	52
8 GERMANY	51
9 BULGARIA	50
10 SPAIN	43
11 NORWAY	42
12 UKRAINE	39
13 SCOTLAND	33
14 LITHUANIA	30
15 GREECE	27
16 BELGIUM	26
17 PORTUGAL	11

1 FRANCE	64
2 DENMARK	62
3 LUXEMBOURG	54
MONACO	54
5 FINLAND	51
6 ICELAND	49
NETHERLANDS	49
RUSSIA	49
9 ESTONIA	46
10 ENGLAND	45
11 ROMANIA	43
12 WALES	42
13 POLAND	40
14 AUSTRIA	39
15 CROATIA	32
16 SWITZERLAND	31
17 CYPRUS	15

WOMEN'S TEAMS RANKING

after 2 rounds

1 BELGIUM	46
2 POLAND	43
3 ENGLAND	40
4 SWEDEN	39
5 TURKEY	37
6 BULGARIA	35
7 NETHERLANDS	33
8 FRANCE	32
GREECE	32
SCOTLAND	32

11 ESTONIA	29
12 NORWAY	28
13 GERMANY	26
14 AUSTRIA	23
DENMARK	23
IRELAND	23
17 ITALY	22
18 ISRAEL	14
19 SPAIN	13

WOMEN'S TEAMS PROGRAM

ROUND 3 10.00

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

ROUND 4 13.30

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

WOMEN'S TEAMS RESULTS

ROUND 1

Match		IMP's	VP's
21	ENGLAND FRANCE	33 - 25	16 - 14
22	DENMARK ISRAEL	32 - 25	16 - 14
23	SWEDEN SPAIN	57 - 17	23 - 7
24	BELGIUM SCOTLAND	46 - 18	21 - 9
25	NETH. ITALY	47 - 14	22 - 8
26	IRELAND ESTONIA	21 - 71	5 - 25
27	GERMANY TURKEY	17 - 33	12 - 18
28	NORWAY AUSTRIA	54 - 36	19 - 11
29	BULGARIA GREECE	45 - 50	14 - 16
30	POLAND BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 2

Match		IMP's	VP's
21	POLAND ISRAEL	96 - 13	25 - 0
22	ENGLAND SPAIN	75 - 31	24 - 6
23	DENMARK SCOTLAND	28 - 66	7 - 23
24	SWEDEN ITALY	34 - 27	16 - 14
25	BELGIUM ESTONIA	91 - 33	25 - 4
26	NETH. TURKEY	45 - 62	11 - 19
27	IRELAND AUSTRIA	63 - 50	18 - 12
28	GERMANY GREECE	50 - 58	14 - 16
29	NORWAY BULGARIA	41 - 72	9 - 21
30	FRANCE BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0



President's Opening Adress

Mrs Caitriona Jones – Mayor, South Dublin County
 Mr Michael Ring – Minister of State for Tourism and Sport
 Mrs Mary Kelly-Rogers – President of the Irish Bridge Union
 Mr Joe Moran – Chairman of the Organizing Committee

Dear Bridge Friends,

I am pleased to welcome all of you to Dublin, players, officers, journalists, operators, volunteers and guests to participate in the 51st European Bridge Team Championships.

34 countries are participating in this championship organized for the 4th time in Ireland after Dun Laoghaire in 1952, Dublin in 1967 and Killarney in 1991.

I want to thank the Irish authorities for their great support in the organization of this championship in Dublin and in particular Mrs Caitriona Jones – Mayor of South Dublin County and Mr Michael Ring – Minister of State for Tourism and Sport whose presence honours us.

I would like to congratulate the Irish Bridge Union, its President Mary Kelly-Rogers, Joe Moran, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Paul Porteous, the On-Site Organizer, Sandie Millership and all Irish people for the great job they have accomplished in organizing this event in such a short period.

I would like to thank especially all the Irish volunteers who will give their time during these two weeks.

You have all worked with such commitment, passion, professionalism and enthusiasm to make it a success.

Hosting this championship would not have been possible without the generous support of the Irish sponsors, in particular Fáilte Ireland, the special contribution of all Irish Bridge Members, the full cooperation of the Citywest Resort and I express my thanks and my appreciation to all of them.

We are in Dublin and I am confident that you will all appreciate the Irish traditions and culture and the warm welcome of the Dubliners.

I wish you all a successful championship.

Enjoy your play and your stay in Dublin.

I declare the 51st European Bridge Team Championships officially open.

Yves Aubry
 EBL President

Championship Diary

Maureen Hiron, Bridge Correspondent of The Independent & The Irish Independent dropped by the office and invited us to try and guess her new job. Having eliminated the obvious (as Sherlock Holmes would have remarked) we eventually worked out it must be that she is the new manager of the vocal group Boney M (Rivers of Babylon, Rasputin, Brown Girl in the Ring, Ma Baker). You read it here first.

You may encounter the Editor whistling some refrain you recognise:

*Just a song at twilight, when the lights are low,
 And the flick'ring shadows softly come and go,
 Tho' the heart be weary, sad the day and long,
 Still to us at twilight comes Love's old song,
 comes Love's old sweet song.*

Do you know why that is significant here in Dublin? Watch out for the answer later this week.

Your badge has a bar code that enables you to collect a copy of the deals at the end of each session. We over-

heard someone saying that his bar code was 2 pints of Guinness.

We are sure many of you will be trying out the impressive looking golf course that is adjacent to the playing rooms. Tacchi mentioned that his definition of the fairway is something you cross to reach your ball.

We are aiming to open a new concession on the first floor - our umbrellas will feature the EBL logo and all proceeds will go the distressed Bulletin Editors fund, of which Tacchi is President, Treasurer, Secretary and sole member.



These fantastic Galway Crystal mementoes are the prizes for winning the afternoon duplicates (they are also on sale at the shop on the first floor for a modest 15 euro).

Hospitality Corner

Watch out for the Open Top Red bus which will bring you from the door of the Hotel at 9.20 a.m each morning. You can then join tours, or walks or take time out away from the championships. Ask about Pat Liddy Walking Tours, Newbridge Silverware and Kildare Outlet Village.

Thursday 14th

For the Irish Spanish match (that's football) you have choices for watching the game on Big Screen.

Lakes Suite Citywest Convention Centre 1st Floor Dining Area - A barbeque for 13 euro starting at 7p.m.

BBQ Menus

Grilled Marinated Jumbo Sausages
Grilled Irish Mint Marinated Lamb Chump
Angus Beef Burger
Spanish Style Bbq Chicken Pieces
Bbq Marinated Pork Ribs ,

Grilled Sweetcorn , Baked Potato, Chive Cream

~~~~~  
Grilled Spanish Egg Plant Salad  
With Orange And Avocado  
Ensalada Mixta

Chorizo Tomato And Red Onion Salad  
Selection Of Breads Dips And Dressings

~~~~~  
Exotic Fruit Salad
Spanish Hazelnut Custard Bake
Irish Apple Tart

Hot BBQ and Salads € 13.00
Dessert € 3.00

Vouchers can be prepaid at any of the food Outlets in the Lakes Suite

Alternatively if you are a racing fan you can enjoy an evening race night at Leopardstown, no more than 20 mins away. First race 4p.m. and you can still watch the match on big screens with either a beer and light refreshments or have dinner in the dining room. Please advise Hospitality if you are interested - Option of bus or taxi. www.leopardstown.com

Friday 15th

Champagne reception in Kildare Outlet Village offering a special welcome for our guests and an opportunity for some retail therapy with free transfers and VIP Savings. We will also bring you to Tully, the National Stud close by. Queen Elizabeth visited Tully on her first and also historic visit to Ireland last year. Bus leaves outside the Citywest Hotel at 9.30 a.m. Please drop in to Hospitality and say if you are interested.

In the Spotlight

Find out a little bit more about your fellow bridge player



Brian Senior

How did you take up bridge?

Taught by my grandmother in my teens along with many other card games

Bridge Club?

Young Chelsea, London

Favourite Music?

Rock/Blues

Favourite drink?

Real Ale (British Brown Ale)

All time favourite player?

Belladonna

Favourite TV Show?

The Big Bang Theory

Biggest failing at the table?

Showing lack of tolerance for partner's errors

Most important attribute in a partner?

Sense of humour

Your favourite tournament?

NEC, Yokohama

Other interests?

Sports in general - particularly cricket history, Science fiction/fantasy, travel and foreign foods.

It Only Takes A Second

by Mark Horton

Waiting for the plane to Dublin at Bristol airport I read Maureen Hiron's (her late husband Alan 'Did someone say redders' was one of My Great Predecessors as Editor of Bridge Magazine) always excellent column in The Independent (she also writes in the Irish Independent). This was her featured deal:

Dealer South
N/S Vul

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

West	North	East	South
			2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the queen of hearts and declarer won and tried the queen of clubs. West made the mistake of winning that and declarer was able to duck a round of clubs and come to nine tricks.

Maureen pointed out that West should duck the queen of clubs as declarer will duck the next round of clubs, hoping to find East with a doubleton ace. Spot on as usual, but if West gives even a moment's thought before ducking declarer might find a way home by next playing a club to the king. When that holds declarer must resist the temptation to take a diamond finesse and duck a spade. Declarer ducks a heart, wins the next one, cashes two spades and exits with a heart to endplay West.

100 Years Young

Barry Rigal

Géza Ottlik was born a century ago this year on May 9, 1912 in Budapest, where he died on October 9, 1990. He was a Hungarian writer, translator, mathematician, and bridge theorist.

He attended military school at Kőszeg and Budapest, and studied mathematics and physics at Budapest University. After a brief career on Hungarian radio, he was a secretary of the Hungarian PEN Club from 1945 to 1957. As he was unable to publish his works for political reasons, he earned his living translating, mainly from English (Charles Dickens, George Bernard Shaw, John Osborne, Evelyn Waugh); and German (Thomas Mann, G. Keller, Stefan Zweig).

He was a passionate bridge player and advanced theoretician, and his 1979 book *Adventures in Card Play* written with Hugh Kelsey introduced and developed many new concepts (such as Backwash squeeze and Entry-shifting squeeze). A survey of bridge experts in 2007, listed the book third on a list of their all-time favourites, nearly thirty years after its first publication.

In 1977 the first Junior European championships were held in Budapest. Ottlik composed deals for the camp that proved the model for many of the deals in *Adventures*. Here are some of those problems.

Board 1
North Dealer

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

West	North	East	South
			1♣ (strong)
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

PLAY INSTRUCTIONS: 4♥ by South. West to lead ♠5. (A standard auction of 1♥-2♥-4♥ would achieve the target equally well)

Solution on page 16

OPEN	<h1 style="margin: 0;">Monaco v England</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">by Mark Horton</p>
Round 1	

Two teams with high hopes of earning a trip to Bali next year met in the first round of Open B.

England suffered a setback before a card was played when Andrew Robson and Alexander Allfrey withdrew at the last moment. England has summoned its reserve pair, Tom Townsend and David Bakhshi.

This was one of the matches featured on BBO and as regular followers of that Internet phenomenon will be aware, England's Peter Crouch is a regular commentator. His BBO 'handle' is pitiful, which is presumably derived from the allusion to the 'pitiful crutch' (fourth suit forcing) that was much derided by Terence Reese. Personally I think it is in homage to the footballer Peter Crouch (scorer of the goal of the English season against Manchester City) - 'he's big, he's red, his feet stick out of bed, Peter Crouch, Peter Crouch' who, on having a poor game has sometimes been described as 'the Pitiful Crouch'.

Enough of this, after all, who could possibly be interested in football in the middle of a bridge championship?

Like many of the pairs in this event Peter and his partner, former Junior World Champion Derek Patterson, make a lot of use of transfers and it would be interesting to see how their methods would compare with those of the world's number one ranked pair at the other table.

North led the ten of hearts and South won with the king and switched to the four of diamonds. North took the ace and returned the suit, South winning and playing a third diamond. Declarer won in dummy, played a club to the ace, a heart to the jack and the queen of spades. When North covered he had an overtrick, +630.

To defeat 3NT North must lead a spade - by no means obvious, but there was some small clue from the bidding.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♠	Dbl	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

South's 1♠ meant that 3NT would probably have had no realistic chance at this table and stopping in 3♥ was the best E/W could do. They lost a heart, two diamonds and a club, +140 but 10 IMPs to Monaco.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Patterson</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Crouch</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
INT*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

INT 5-11 less than 4 spades, 3 hearts possible

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Patterson</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Crouch</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♦*	Pass	1♥*
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

1♥ Possibly three hearts but partner assumes four

West's delayed entry into the auction offered N/S what appeared to be an attractive option to bidding game - but appearances can be deceptive.

North led the two of clubs and declarer put up dummy's ace, ruffed a heart and played the jack of clubs, covered by the queen and king. Declarer ruffed another heart, North unblocking the ace, cashed the ten of clubs and the ace of diamonds, North unblocking the king and advanced the queen of spades.

If North allows South to win this the contract must go two down, but he put up the king and played a diamond. South took the queen and returned the suit for North to ruff. South could ruff North's club exit with the ace, but declarer could ruff the heart exit with the seven of spades and escape for one down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Forrester	Fantoni	Gold	Nunes
3♠	Pass	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

South struck gold (no pun intended) with his protective move. One point in favour of bidding 3NT is that with ♠A2 holding up once may be enough to take West out of the game on many occasions.

West led the jack of clubs, but the defenders could only muster four tricks, +600 and 9 IMPs to Monaco.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Patterson	Helness	Crouch
1♦*	Pass	1♥*	
Pass	INT	All Pass	

East led the queen of clubs and when that held he continued with the ten. Declarer took the king, cashed the ace

of hearts and played a heart to the jack. When that held he cashed the king and eight of hearts and advanced the ten of diamonds, ducking when West played the king. The spade switch went to dummy's ace and declarer cashed the long heart and took the diamond finesse for nine tricks, +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Forrester	Fantoni	Gold	Nunes
INT*	Pass	2♥*	
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥*
All Pass			

INT (11) 12-14 any balanced, any 5332, 5422 (not both majors) and any 4441

2♥ Transfer
3♥ 4♠+5♥

West led the king of diamonds and declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed the ace of hearts and played a heart to the jack. When that held he tried a club to the king. East took the ace and returned the queen, declarer ruffing with the seven of hearts.

At this point there are eight tricks once West's queen of diamonds has been dislodged and it is possible to endplay West into surrendering a ninth trick in spades. However, according to the play record declarer did not manage to find a winning line and finished one down, -50 and 5 IMPs for England.



Fulvio Fantoni, Monaco

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Patterson</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Crouch</i>
	1♦*	1♥	2♣*
2♥	3♠	5♥	All Pass

2♦ Michaels style, spades and a minor

The East hand might be a good problem for a bidding panel. (And dare one say it but West's 2♥ might not be the universal choice although my own view is that it is a

South cashed the ace of spades and switched to a diamond. Declarer ruffed, ruffed a spade, cashed the ace of hearts, ruffed a diamond and played the king of hearts - the absence of the queen meant he was one down, -50.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Patterson</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Crouch</i>
Pass	1♦*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

2♠ 9-11, 5+♠, 4+♥

N/S had a gadget which worked to perfection, declarer losing only a trump and two clubs, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

The price of gold is always rising and falling - and it is much the same with the number of cards required for a preempt. When South was unwilling to commit his side to game by bidding 4♣ (how easy it is to be a paper tiger) England had a game swing that was worth 10 IMPs.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
	INT	Dbl*	2♣*
Pass	3♦*	4♥	All Pass

Dbl 4/4+ majors

I'm not certain of the precise meaning of 2♣, but at the very least it must have promised diamonds given North's jump to 3♦.

To be sure of defeating 4♥ South has to lead his trump - hardly attractive - and on a diamond lead declarer ruffed and led the queen of spades. South won and found the best switch to a trump.



Tony Forrester, England

Now the winning line is for declarer to win with dummy's ace, ruff a diamond, cash the king of spades, ruff a spade, ruff a diamond, then play ace of clubs and a club. With North forced to win and return a club declarer ruffs and exits with a spade, scoring the last two tricks with the ♠KJ.

However, this is far from clear (and if South's bid simply showed diamonds) a very hard line to follow - in practice declarer went one down, -50 and a flat board.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Patterson</i>	<i>Crouch</i>	<i>Helness</i>
2♠	Pass	1♠	2♥
Pass	2NT*	3♠	Dbl
			All Pass

The defenders had no trouble taking the first seven tricks (club lead and continuation, heart switch etc) but would +150 be enough compensation for the tricks that were available to N/S in diamonds.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	2♠*	Dbl	3♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♣*	Pass	
All Pass			

2♠ 6 spades, 8-11

Declarer ruffed the second spade, crossed to a club and played a diamond to the queen. Ace of hearts and a ruffing heart finesse led to a rapid claim of 12 tricks and 10 IMPs.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Patterson</i>	<i>Crouch</i>	<i>Helness</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT	All Pass

South led the ten of spades and declarer won with the jack and played the king of hearts. South took the ace and tried a second spade (would you have found the essential diamond switch?). Declarer won in hand and played a heart to the eight and nine (should he have realised the need to play on clubs at this point?) North switched to the king of diamonds and declarer won and played a heart to the queen on which North fatally parted with a diamond. Now declarer could simply play a club and when North ducked that he emerged with an overtrick, +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	2♦*	Dbl	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

10-13 5+ diamonds

North led the king of diamonds and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a top club to North's ace. North cashed the queen of diamonds and played a third round which South ruffed with the jack of hearts, down one, +100 and 6 IMPs to Monaco.

Monaco had won a generally well played match 37-20 IMPs, 19-11 VP.

WOMEN

Round 1

England v France

by Brian Senior

England must have been happy to come away with a draw in Monday evening's Euro 2012 match against France and I imagine that both of these old rivals would have settled for a similar outcome in their first-round match here in Dublin.

The first five deals were all flat. The first swing was only a small one but it featured some nice defence.

Board 6. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Willard	Brock	Cronier	Smith
Senior	Reess	Dhondy	Gaviard
—	—	1♥	All Pass

Both Souths led the king of diamonds and both declarers won and led a club up. North won the club and returned a diamond, in each case completing a count signal. Both Nicola Smith and Danièle Gaviard now cashed the ace of clubs before playing the third diamond, appreciating that they wanted to avoid being put on lead at a time of declarer's choosing. Now came the parting of the ways.

Heather Dhondy ruffed the diamond and led ace then queen of spades to Vanessa Reess's king. She ruffed the diamond return and was over-ruffed and now Gaviard exited with the ten of spades. Dhondy won the jack and played the king of hearts to the ace. Gaviard got off play with the ten of clubs to dummy's jack and the last spade went away. There was a heart to lose for one down; -100.

After ruffing the third diamond, Bénédicte Cronier led the king of hearts, hoping to force her opponents to open up spades for her. Smith won her ace and found the perfect defence, returning her low heart to the jack and queen. Cronier put her back in with a heart but now Smith took both hearts and exited with the ten of spades. That ensured that Brock would not put up her king so Cronier won the queen but could then only cash the ace and concede the last two tricks to Brock's spade king and diamond ten for down two; -200 and 3 IMPs to England.



In the BBO cubicle in the closed room

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Willard	Brock	Cronier	Smith
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Senior	Reess	Dhondy	Gaviard
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Identical and normal contracts were reached and the opening leads were also identical, both Nevena Senior and Sylvie Willard selecting the passive five of clubs. Dhondy and Cronier each won the club ace and switched to the seven of diamonds. Now the contract is made by winning the diamond ace, cashing the club queen and heart ace, and playing ace then ruff a spade followed by winning clubs for

diamond discards. But both Gaviard and Smith put in the diamond queen, losing to the king. Senior returned the eight of diamonds to declarer's ten and Gaviard cashed the heart ace - down one for -50. Willard switched to the eight of hearts and now there was only one trump loser; ten tricks for +420 and 10 IMPs to England, leading by 13-1.

France recouped half the loss on the next deal.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Willard	Brock	Cronier	Smith
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Senior	Reess	Dhondy	Gaviard
—	1♣	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	INT	All Pass

Reess opened 1♣, three-plus cards, and Gaviard responded 1♥, natural. When Senior overcalled, Reess had nothing to say and Dhondy responded INT, where she was left to stew. Gaviard led a heart and the defence began with five rounds of those followed by a diamond to the king, ducked by Reess. Dhondy took the club finesse then played the queen of spades. Gaviard won and played a diamond and, after taking two diamond winners, Reess was down to only clubs. Dhondy finessed on the enforced club return but, also being down to only clubs, had to concede the last trick to the club king for down three; -300.

Brock too opened 1♣ but this promised only two and could have been almost any weak no trump type. The 1♦ response showed hearts and 1♥ a weak no trump with two or three hearts. Knowing that there could be no game, Smith passed that and now E/W again bid to INT. However, Brock was tempted by her undisclosed club length and competed with 2♣, corrected to 2♥ by Smith. Cronier led the queen of spades to dummy's ace. Brock ducked a club, won the diamond return and played back a diamond to the ten and king. Willard played a club, ruffed, and now Brock led a diamond to the jack and ruffed another club. When Willard could not over-ruff, Brock had eight tricks for +110 but 5 IMPs to France; 6-13.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Willard	Brock	Cronier	Smith
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Dble	2♣	Pass	2♠
3♣	3♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Senior	Reess	Dhondy	Gaviard
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Dble	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	



Vanessa Reess, France

The N/S hands fit together very well, making game in either major well worth bidding, though with 11 facing 11 it

is by no means automatic to do so. Gaviard opened 1♠ in fourth seat and Reess used Drury, Dhondy doubling to show clubs. Gaviard's pass was non-committal but denied an absolute minimum, with which she would have signed off in 2♠. When Senior competed with 3♣ and that came around, Gaviard introduced her second suit and Reess raised to game. Senior led king and another club and, after winning the second round, Dhondy switched to a diamond. Gaviard won the ace and ran the queen of hearts. Though that lost, the favourable spade position meant ten tricks for +620. Well done to Gaviard for getting to game.

In the other room, Cronier opened with a lead-directing club bid in third seat and Smith overcalled. Brock made a constructive-raise cuebid then competed with 3♠ but Smith did not fancy game facing a passed hand so played in 3♠, where she too lost three tricks for +170 but 10 IMPs to France, leveling the match at 16-16.

Back came a heart. Cronier ruffed and played off the king and queen of diamonds, intending to ruff the fourth round with the carefully preserved queen had the ten not appeared. When it did, she simply conceded a trick to the ace of spades; down one for -200.

Gaviard doubled the 3♠ overcall and Reess responded 3NT. When that came around, Senior doubled and now Reess redoubled to express doubt. With a bare minimum for her previous action, Gaviard corrected to 4♣ and that ended the auction. Dhondy led the queen of diamonds. Reess won the ace and cashed the king of spades then played ace and another club to the jack, queen and king. Senior cashed the jack of diamonds then exited with the nine of clubs to declarer's ten. Reess led the jack of hearts and, when Dhondy showed out, rose with the ace and took a heart pitch on the ace of spades. She was two down for -200 and 9 IMPs to England, ahead by 25-16.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Willard	Brock	Cronier	Smith
-	1♣	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Senior	Reess	Dhondy	Gaviard
-	1♣	3♠	Dble
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

England regained the lead immediately when France got to the four level and went down at both tables. Both Norths opened 1♣, three-plus cards for Reess, two-plus for Brock, and East pre-empted. Smith went quietly with the South cards and Willard made a questionable raise to game. Looking at two aces, Smith now doubled, ending the auction. She led a club, ducked to the ace, and Brock returned the suit to the jack, queen and king. Cronier tried the king of hearts and, when Brock played low in tempo, ruffed and led a diamond to the jack and ace. She ruffed the club return and led a low spade, ducking to the bare king.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Willard	Brock	Cronier	Smith
-	-	2♠	3♥
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Senior	Reess	Dhondy	Gaviard
-	-	3♠	Dble
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Cronier opened with a weak 2♠ and, when Smith overcalled, Willard competed with 3♠. Holding substantial extra values, Smith doubled when that got back to her and, with heart shortage and no guarantee of game, Brock passed it out. Smith led the queen of clubs. Brock overtook and switched to the heart. Smith took the ace and returned the queen, Brock ruffing the king, and now a diamond switch collected two defensive tricks there plus the heart jack and a second club for down three; -500.

Dhondy felt that she was too good for a non-vulnerable weak two bid in her style so opened a level higher. Gaviard doubled and converted the 4♦ response to 4♥. When Reess introduced her second suit, Gaviard gave preference to diamonds, ending the auction. Dhondy cashed the ace of spades then switched to a heart. Reess won the ace and made the standard safety play, cashing the trump ace, so made exactly for +600 and 3 IMPs to France; 25-28.

ace and prayed the suit was six-one. She led a heart to the queen then ducked a heart – no good news there, and no good news in diamonds either as Smith produced a second card to lead through the jack. Brock cashed all the diamonds and the ace of clubs before leading a spade through and there were still the spade king and heart ace to lose for down four; -400 and 5 IMPs to England, 33-25.

The last board was a flat game so the final result was 33-25 IMPs to England, 16-14 VPs.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Willard	Brock	Cronier	Smith
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	2♣	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Senior	Reess	Dhondy	Gaviard
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Dble	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Dhondy/Senior had an essentially free run to the heart game, Reess making a lead-directing double along the way. She found herself on lead, however, so kicked off with the king of diamonds to dummy's ace. Senior led the king of clubs off the dummy and Reess won her ace and switched to a spade. Senior took the ace and cashed two clubs for diamond pitches then played a heart to the queen then ducked a heart to the jack. There was a second heart and the spade king to lose for down two and -200.

That didn't look to be a great result for England but the French E/W pair did even worse. Brock opened 2♣ in third seat, either strong and artificial or, as here, a weak two in diamonds. Two Diamonds was take-out of diamonds and Cronier followed up with a natural 2NT, too strong for an immediate 2NT overcall, so Willard raised her to game. The diamond lead put the defence in control. Cronier won her

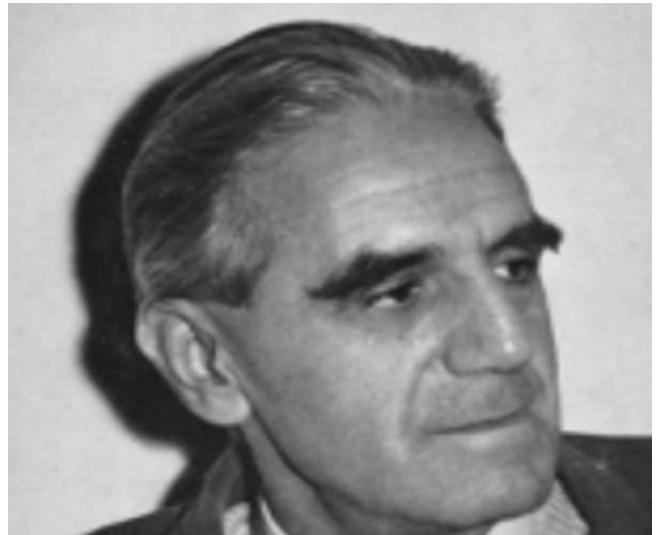
100 Years Young

Solution I

The full deal:

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

You should try to avoid guessing the trump honors. If the king of clubs is onside you won't need to open up the trump suit at all. Return a spade at once and use dummy's entries to ruff spades in your hand, a diamond in dummy, then concede the club loser. In the three-card ending you are down to trumps in both hand and the opponents must find the trump jack for you.



Géza Ottlik