Chief Editor: Mark Horton - Editors: Patrick Jourdain, Stefan Back - Layout Editor: Stelios Hadjidakis

Doublé pour France France at the Double



FINAL			
Team	1-16	17-32	Total
Bessis	85	18	103
Wanner	0	32	32

3rd - 4th Position			
Team	1-16	17-32	Total
Ivancic	63	44	107
Serf	64	21	85

They will be dancing in the streets of Paris tonight when the news of yet another famous French victory arrives. Congratulations to **Paul Chemla**, **Catherine d'Ovidio Saul**, **Michel & Veronique Bessis**. The holders found their best form when it mattered and their victory was already secure at half time when they led by a remarkable 85-0! No doubt they will try for a hat trick in 2000!

Our commiseration's to their opponents, the Netherlands **Martin Wanner**, **Ine Gielkens**, **Han Begas** and **Ellen Bakker**. However, as the official representatives of their Country they can be proud of their performance in reaching the final.

The first half of the final was on VuGraph, and Catherine and Ellen were in opposition. They were both celebrating their birth-days, but the presents were all going one way!

What a moment for **Davor Ruso**, **Seka Ivancic**, **Zoran Vukelic**, **Izvorka Petrovic** and **Bato Protega**. They won the bronze medals, the first for Croatia in International bridge competition. What a tremendous performance for a Country with only 400 players.

Their opponents were still able to smile at the end, evidence once again of the tremendous spirit in which these championships have been played. Hard lines for France's **Jean-Louis Stoppa**, **Marianne Serf**, **Marie Renoux** and **François Stretz**.

When you get home make sure you start making your plans to attend the **Prokom Software 10th European Open Pairs Championship** & **5th European Senior Pairs Championship** which will be staged in **Warsaw, March 15-20 1999.**



Bill Pencharz
President of the EBL

Ladies & Gentlemen,

For all of you - and especially the medallists and other prizewinners - the Prize Giving is your ceremony. Therefore I shall be brief.

But I believe I have time for one short reminiscence. When I was elected president of the European Bridge League I checked the EBL's library and discovered that we did not have a tape of the National Anthems of all our 42 member Countries. Obviously we had the National Hymn of France, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and so on. But not of Latvia and Malta; and some others!

It has been a difficult search at times. For example I had to go to the Consulate in Aberdeen (in Scotland) to obtain a tape of the Faroe Islands National Anthem. But we now have a copy, on CD or tape, of the National Hymn of all NCBOs who are members of the EBL.

Here in Aachen my insistence that we have all the National Anthems has turned out to be wise. For the first time in an International Bridge Championships it will be your pleasure, and their pride, to hear the Anthem of the Croatian Team.

The marvellous performance of the Croatian Team shows once again that Bridge is a truly International sport, where all are included; all can participate.

Bravo to the Croatians!

Bravo to all the medallists!

And also Bravo to all the people who have worked in the 5th European Mixed Championships to make them such a success.

On your behalf I would like to thank the Tournament Directors, Bulletin Staff, Press Room, View- Graph Operators, Tournament Manager and his team of scorers, duplicators, workers and caddies, Hospitality Staff, and everyone else, front stage or back room, who have worked so hard over the last seven days.

And of course, not just for the last week. An event like the 5th European Mixed Championships took months, indeed nearly two years, of planning and organizing. The Championships have been a joint production - a real partnership - by the European Bridge League and the Deutsche Bridge-Verband.

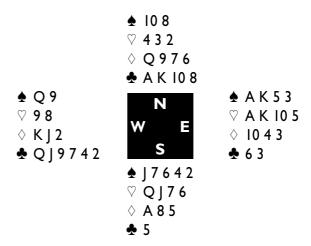
And on behalf of the EBL I would like to present the President of the DBV, Dr Walter Hüger, with the EBL Plackette as a mark of appreciation of how much the German Federation has contributed to our joint venture.

Now its time for medals, prizes and National Anthems. So I hand you back to Anna Maria. Thank you very much.

The "bronze" board

n the play-off for third place the French team Serf lead by just one IMP at half-time 65:64. The second half was an interesting part score battle with France running away in the beginning and Croatia coming back with an incredible finish. Excitement lasted until the very last board:

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Stoppa	Protega	Ms.Serf	Ms. Petrovic
Pass	Pass	I♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Dble	All Pass	

The Croatian North player, Protega, found an excellent double. He knew that East/West only held limited values and he knew he was in full control of West's longest suit, clubs.

Ms. Petrovic did not miss the opportunity to lead her singleton club to dummy's jack and North's ♣K. He then found the perfect switch, a small heart. Declarer won with the ace, played another club and to her disappointment had to give this trick to North's ♣8, who insisted on hearts with South's jack winning the trick. Ms. Petrovic returned a small spade, declarer took the ♠Q, played another spade to her ace and tried the unsuccessful diamond finesse. A third round of hearts came back, South's queen scoring another trick for the defenders, who subsequently collected one more trick to score an excellent three down (Croatia +800).

Now over to the Closed Room.

West	North	East	South
Vukelic	Stretz	Ms.Ivancic	Ms. Renoux
Pass	Pass	l ♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Although this contract went four down (France +400), the missing double meant another 9 IMPs and the bronze medal to the Croatian team, who won the match 108:86.

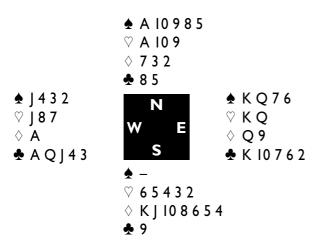
SEMI-FINAL

Second Half

by Brian Senior

Team Bessis led by 8 IMPs at half-time in their semi-final match with Team Serf. For the second half the vugraph show started with Board 31 and there was a major swing to set the ball rolling.

Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.



In the Closed Room, Serf/Stoppa bid to 4♠ on the East/West cards. Paul Chemla doubled that and, thanks to the terrible trump split, the contract had to go one down for +100 to Bessis.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Stretz	Bessis	Renoux
			Pass
♣	I♠	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Ms Renoux passed the complex South hand and Michel Bessis opened I♣. When Stretz made the thin I♠ overcall on the North cards, there was no longer any danger of East/West playing in spades. When Veronique Bessis chose to ignore the club fit another doomed game was also avoided (5♣ goes down on ace of spade lead). But 3NT is also far from secure. Ms Renoux decided not to lead a diamond - the jack would destroy the contract while the spectacular play of the king to pin a stiff queen lets it through. Instead she led her top heart. The

The Organizing Committee would like to express its gratitude to:

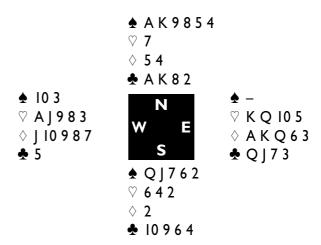
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GAP-Soft GbR Aachen

Their equipment made the production of the this Daily Bulletin possible.

heart position is now clear to North and the indicated play appears to be to rise with the ace and switch to a diamond. But Stretz put in the nine and now Bessis was home. By leading spades through North twice she took two spade tricks and could then establish a second heart, making ten in all for +430 and a great start to the set; I I IMPs to Bessis, ahead by 19. Two boards later Serf struck back when Chemla/Saul played 5 down one, a contract requiring one of two finesses, while Stretz/Renoux did well to play in an unbeatable 3NT.And there was more to come for Serf.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.



West	North	East	South
Stoppa	Chemla	Serf	d'Ovidio-Saul
			Pass
Pass	I♠	Dble	4♠
5♡	5♠	6♡	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

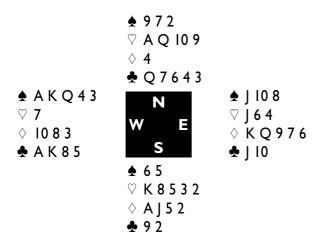
There was nothing to the play, of course, and Stoppa was soon scoring up +1660. Could his team-mates avoid doubling 6% in the other room?

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Stretz	Bessis	Renoux
			Pass
Pass	I♠	Dble	4♠
5♡	5♠	6♡	6♠
Dble	All Pass		

The auction was the same as far as 6%, but Ms Renoux made a big decision for her team when she saved in $6\clubsuit$. The best East/West could do now was to double, but that netted only 300 as declarer was able to endplay East to hold his club losers to one. That meant a massive 16 IMPs to Serf, who were in the lead.

There was a similar swing in the other semi-final when Ivancic of Croatia found the 6Φ save while Wanner of the Netherlands doubled 6%. The swing was only 15 IMPs to the Croatians because their declarer missed the endplay and went down 500.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

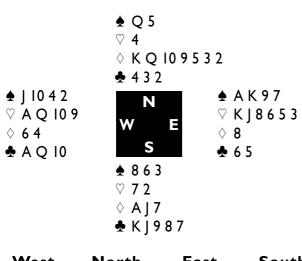


The two auctions were identical: 1 - 2 - 4. Both Norths led the $\lozenge 4$ to the king, ace and eight. We had seen that in the other match Croatia had defeated the game while the Dutch had let it through. Would either of the French Souths find the diamond return. North ruffs and must underlead his $\heartsuit A$ to get a second ruff.

Given the strength of dummy and her own hand, perhaps South should bank everything on the diamond ruff defence but it is far from clear - after all, it only works when partner's limited values include the ace of hearts. Both Souths switched to the nine of clubs and the contract was duly made for a flat board. On vugraph, we saw Michel Bessis carefully win the club and play a heart to cut the defensive communications before taking his first club ruff. We do not have the play record from the Closed Room.

At this point, Croatia had closed from 37 down at the half to only 5 IMPs behind. That was to be as good as it got, however, and the Dutch gradually pulled away again to win by 77-47 IMPs.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.



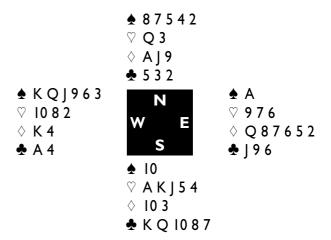
West	North	East	South
Stoppa	Chemla	Serf	d'Ovidio-Saul
	Pass	Ι♡	Pass
3NT	Pass	4 ♦ (?)	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♡	All Pass

We know that 3NT was a balanced game raise in hearts and we guess, but cannot be sure, that 4♦ showed the shortage. When Stoppa was willing to go past game to cuebid 5♣, Ms Serf jumped to the poor slam. Poor perhaps, but cold as the cards lie. After conceding 980 on this one Chemla/Saul must have been getting very concerned - their previous two results had been -1660 and -620, remember.

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Stretz	Bessis	Renoux
	3♦	3♡	3NT (!)
4♡	All Pass		

In the other room Stretz made what looks to me to be a completely normal $3\lozenge$ pre-empt. When East overcalled, Renoux psyched 3NT and West just bid a quiet $4\heartsuit$. That made twelve tricks, of course, but +480 meant 11 IMPs away. Serf led by 13.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Stoppa	Chemla	Serf	d'Ovidio-Saul
		Pass	Ι♡
I♠	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♡	All Pass	

Stoppa under-competed with the West cards, allowing Saul to play a peaceful 2%, making ten tricks; +170.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Stretz	Bessis	Renoux
		Pass	Ι♡
I♠	Pass	Pass	2♣
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

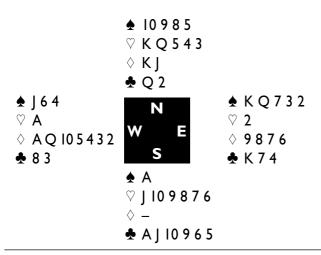
Here Bessis bid a second time with the West cards but Ms Renoux had the bit between her teeth and bid a third time with the South hand. Suddenly, having passed twice, Stretz sprang to life, jumping to 4%. With hearts 3-3 and the club finesse working it seemed that the Serf charge was about to continue.

Bessis led the ulletK to the ace. After some thought Ms Bessis switched to a low diamond for the king and ace. Renoux played a club to the king and ace and back came a diamond. East won the queen and returned another diamond and suddenly the contract could not be made. Declarer had to ruff high but now West threw his remaining club and declarer could no longer take the club finesse to good effect. She was one down for 6 IMPs to Bessis when it could have been 6 IMPs to Serf.

Declarer must take the club finesse on the first round to succeed, and surely she knows that West holds the ace after seeing East's ace of spades.

Serf still led but over the next few boards Bessis gradually crept closer with a series of small swings and finally moved into the lead. That lead stood at just 2 IMPs when the last board hit the table.

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Stoppa	Chemla	Serf	d'Ovidio-Saul
		Pass	ΙŸ
2◊	4♡	5◊	5♡
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
Bessis	Stretz	Bessis	Renoux
		Pass	ΙŸ
2◊	4♡	4♠	5♡
5♠	Dble	All Pass	

What a deal! In the Closed Room, Chemla/Saul stopped in 5%, scoring up twelve tricks when the clubs came in; +480.

A dangerous board and when, in the Open Room, Michel Bessis started thinking over 5%, his supporters in the vugraph room were praying that he would pass. But, though he knew he was only facing a five card spade suit because there had been no weak two opening, he also knew that his partner must have a diamond fit to risk $4\clubsuit$, and in that case the double fit could produce a lot of tricks. When he bid $5\clubsuit$ there were groans and cheers, all depending on the audience's allegiances. Stretz doubled $5\spadesuit$ and Renoux made a disciplined pass.

The lead was a heart to the bare ace. Veronique Bessis led a spade to the queen and ace. It looks to us as though South must give a ruff and discard now and the hand will just become too much for declarer to manage, probably going for 800. Had Renoux found this defence, she would have been looking forward to playing in the final this morning. But unfortunately her actual choice was to play ace and another club. Making the ♣K was all the help declarer needed. She established the diamonds and got out for just two down; -300 but 5 IMPs to Bessis.

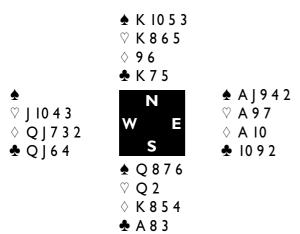
After a breathless finish, Bessis won the match by 8 IMPs and would have the chance to defend the title they won two years ago in Monte Carlo.

Flat Board

by Herman DeWael, Belgium

In the match between Maurin (Fra) and Polet (Bel) in Round 9 this deal featured a one notrump contract at both tables which had been made at almost every other table playing the board.

Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.



East opened I and West, Voldoire, responded INT to end the auction. North led a heart. Declarer put in the nine, South taking the queen; then, on the heart return West played low and the eight forced out the ace. The 10 ran to the king and North switched to a spade. Declarer put in the nine and, rather to his surprise, it held the trick. Declarer now tried ace and ten of diamonds. South ducked and so did West. Then a second club was ducked by South and won by West. West was able to set up his diamonds, but he had no entry to them. South cashed the top club and exited with a low spade to the king and ace to endplay dummy. One off.

The auction and lead at the other table were the same. However, more naturally declarer played low from dummy at trick one and so won the heart nine at trick two. Again South ducked the diamond holding declarer to two tricks in the suit. North, when in with club king, cleared the heart ace, and when South won the third club she exited with a spade to the king and ace. So the defence again came to ♣AK, ⋄K, two hearts and two spades. One off again!

Auf Wiedersehen, Aachen!

The advances in technology that have been made in the last few years have resulted in significant changes in the way the Daily Bulletin is produced.

In the good old days we could be confident that at least one edition would be finished just as the players were appearing for breakfast, and that the last edition would almost always be the one that took the longest to arrive.

Jingers crossed, this edition will be in your hand during the closing ceremony. If it is, spare a thought for the people who helped to make it possible, many of them giving up their chance to play in this event. In no particular order, they are: Stefan Back, our German expert, who now wants to do a bulletin with 14 German pages and 2 'English Homepages'. Patrick Jourdain, our chief proof reader and Limerick compiler. Stelios Hadjidakis, lay-out editor extraordinare.

They did the bulk of the work, but we did receive valuable assistance from a number of people, including Jean-Paul Meyer, who brought us the best French stories, Marc Smith, who produced masses of copy, and Brian Senior, who provided coverage of the semi-finals and final.

Thanassis Matziaris, the web editor, made some invaluable suggestions (he spotted our mistakes!) and the scoring teams from the Netherlands and France set new records in the speed with which they made the results available to the bulletin.

Mark Horton Editor Der Fortschritt, den die moderne Technologie in den letzten Jahren gemacht hat, bringt auch entscheidende Veränderungen in der Produktion des Daily Bulletin mit sich.

In den guten, alten Zeiten konnten wir sicher sein, daß eine Ausgabe gerade fertiggestellt war, wenn die Spieler zum Frühstück erschienen, und daß die letzte Nummer meistens diejenige war, die am längsten dauerte.

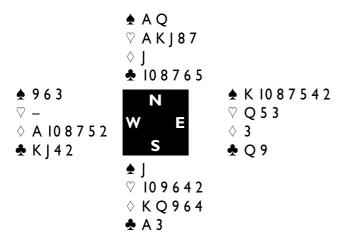
Drücken wir die Daumen, daß Sie diese Ausgabe während der Schlußfeier in Händen halten. Sollte dies der Fall sein, ist es an der Zeit, sich einen Moment derjenigen zu erinnern, die an diesem Bulletin mitgearbeitet haben, und damit auf eine Teilnahme als Spieler verzichteten. Es sind dies in unbestimmter Reihenfolge: Stefan Back, unser deutscher Experte, der beim nächsten Mal ein Bulletin auf Deutsch mit zwei "English Hompages" herausgeben will, Patrick Jourdain, unser Chef-Korrektor und Limerick-Lieferant, und Stelios Hadjidakis, unser exzellenter Layout-Editor.

Sie hatten hier eine Menge Arbeit, aber wir erhielten auch Unterstützung von einigen Freiwilligen, darunter Jean-Paul Meyer, der uns die besten französischen Geschichten lieferte, Marc Smith, der Ummengen an Händen niederschrieb, Brian Senior, der das Halbfinale und Finale dokumentierte, Thanassis Matziaris, unser Internet-Editor, stand uns hilfreich zur Seite (er entdeckte alle unsere Fehler!) und die Scoring Teams aus den Niederlanden und Frankreich, die alle Geschwindigkeitsrekorde brachen und somit die Ergebnisse unserem Bulletin schnell und zuverlässig zur Verfügung stellen konnten.

FINAL

There was an explosive start to the Final between the holders from France and the winners of the Dutch Mixed Teams Championship who, as their prize, became the official Dutch team in Aachen.

Board I. Love All. Dealer North.



West Begas	North Chemla ♡	East Bakker 2♠	South Saul 4♡
4♠	5♡	All Pass	
West Michel	North Wanner	East	South Gielkens
Michei	,,	Veronique	Cicincons
	I 🛇	3♠	4NT
5◊	Dble	Pass	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Ist Russian Bridge Cup

5-11 May 1998, Chelyabinsk

Pairs, Swiss & Patton Teams.

Prize fund US\$20,000

Further information is available from:

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Boards I - 16

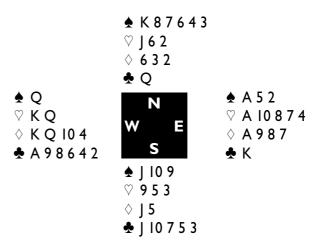
On Vugraph East overcalled only Two Spades and the French were allowed to play in Five Hearts. This is defeated by a minor suit lead, but West had not suggested an alternative and East led a fatal spade. Chemla was able to discard his losing club, and gave up only a trump and $\Diamond A$ for 450 to France.

At the other table Veronique Bessis overcalled Three Spades on the East cards, and that encouraged Michel to go on to the Five level and he took the chance to indicate a lead other than a spade.

"The five level belongs to the opponents" is good advice, but only if you find the right lead! Various leads beat Five Spades doubled but not ace and another club. Declarer won, ruffed a heart and led a trump. So Five Spades doubled made for another 650 to France. A swing of 15 IMPs on the first board.

The next board was also a thriller, though it produced no swing:

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.



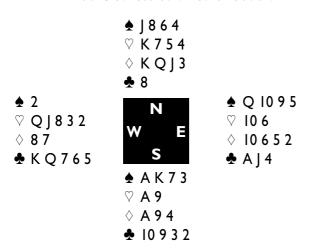
West Begas	North Chemla	East Bakker ♡	South Saul Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4♡	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5NT	Pass	6◊	Pass
7 ♦	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Michel	Wanner	Veronique	Gielkens
		Ι♡	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5NT	Pass	7♦	All Pass

Take the Dutch auction first. After the fourth suit $2 \triangleq$ East's raise implied the singleton club. $4 \heartsuit$ was a cuebid, 4 NT Roman Keycard Blackwood, a response showing three keys, an enquiry about kings and East showed one outside trumps. West now knew that either East held $\triangle AKx$ or AK, making the grand a good proposition.

South led \oint J. Bakker won, led a trump to dummy, returned with a club, ruffed a spade, unblocked the hearts, cashed another top trump and led \oiint A. North ruffed, and was overruffed. A spade ruff was followed by a club ruff and then \heartsuit A felled the suit. Whew!

At the other table after the same first three bids, West was able to make a forcing raise to $3\lozenge$. The lead was the same, but we have no details of the play except that the slam was made for a flat board.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.



North

Begas	Chemla	Bakker	Saul INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
W est Michel	North Wanner	East Veronique	S outh Gielkens
			INT
Dble (1)	Redble	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

East

South

West

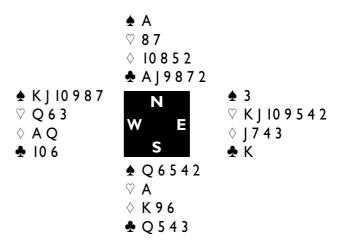
Two Clubs doubled did not prove very profitable for the Dutch North-South pair who collected only 100. This was poor exchange for the easy game made at the other table despite the 4-1 trump break. Saul lost only one club and two trumps. A further 6 IMPs to France.

Board 4 was a normal game which failed at both tables when the trumps were 5-0. Board 5 saw France gain an overtrick IMP and two more came on the next deal:

Boards 6-16

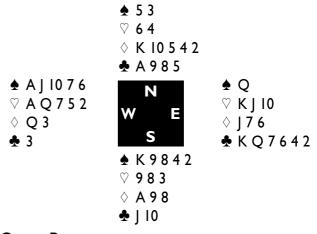
by Brian Senior

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.



Both Easts opened 3♥ and were raised to game. Chemla and Wanner both found a brave 5♣ bid with the North cards and played there, the only difference being that Michel doubled while Begas did not. Both Norths must have been quite impressed with the dummy, I think. They took the normal line in trumps by starting with the queen in case of a 3-0 break onside. Both went one down now, losing a club and two diamonds; -50 for Chemla and -100 for Wanner - 2 IMPs to Bessis.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.



Open Room

West Begas	North Chemla	East Bakker	South Saul Pass
I ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2♡	Pass	3 ♣	All Pass
West Michel	North Wanner	East Veronique	South Gielkens Pass
I ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2♡	Pass	3♢	Pass
3♡	Pass	4♡	All Pass

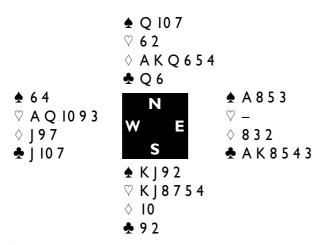
⁽¹⁾ Hearts and a minor

The key decision fell to the respective East players over their partners' $2\heartsuit$ rebid. The hand is slightly short of the values to force to game if you play an aggressive opening style but most of us would shrug our shoulders and bid $3\diamondsuit$ anyway, as did Veronique, who soon became dummy in $4\heartsuit$. Ellen Bakker preferred to repeat her clubs and $3\clubsuit$ ended the auction.

In 34 the lead was a heart. Bakker won and played her spade to the ace then passed the jack of spades, pitching a diamond. Saul promptly switched to ace and another diamond and there were three trump losers to come for two down; -200.

Trump leads might have put 4% under some pressure in the other room but the actual defence was to lead diamonds and declarer could lead towards the clubs and soon had ten tricks; +620 and 13 IMPs to Bessis, ahead by 37.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Begas	Chemla	Bakker	Saul
Pass	I♦	2♣	2♡
3♣	3◊	3♠	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

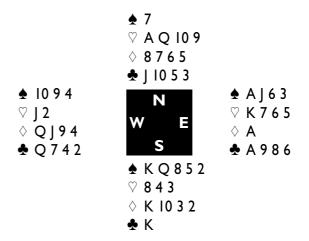
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Michel	Wanner	Veronique	Gielkens
Pass	1♦	2♣	2♡
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♡
Dble	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, Wanner passed the North hand on the second round and Gielkens balanced with $3\heartsuit$. Perhaps a double would have been better but $3\heartsuit$ was not a horrible call, it just suffered a horrible fate - doubled for three down and -500.

In the Open Room, Chemla rebid $3\Diamond$ and that would have kept Saul quiet even had Bakker not competed further with $3\clubsuit$. Begas converted that to $4\clubsuit$, ending the auction. The defence took three diamonds and soon had a spade also for one down; -50 and 11 IMPs to Bessis. The lead was up to 48.

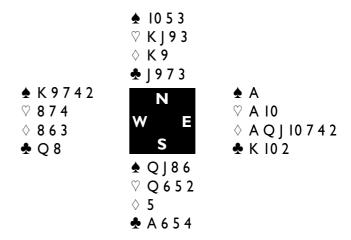
Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.



The two auctions were identical - East opened I♣, South overcalled I♠ and everybody passed. The contract was two down for -100 in the Closed Room but Catherine Saul did rather better on vugraph. The lead was the ♦Q to East's bare ace. Bakker switched to ace and another club and Saul discarded a heart while Begas won the queen. He switched to the ♥2 and Saul won the ace and cashed the two club winners, throwing her remaining heart then a diamond. Now she played a spade to her queen followed by a low spade. Begas won the ♠9 and gave his partner a diamond ruff. Saul ruffed the heart return and played another spade and had the rest; +80 and 5 IMPs to Bessis.

The loser on loser play on the club at trick three was good play but perhaps if West had ducked this, holding declarer to one club winner, that would have been a nice counter and would have led to one down.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

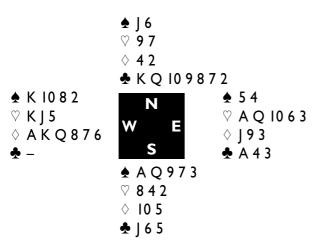


Both Easts played in 3NT. In one room the lead was the ΦQ , in the other the $\nabla 2$ to North's king. How should you play? It looks to us as though on the spade lead a club to the queen gives an extra chance. If the club is onside you get to take the diamond finesse, while if it is not you can fall back on trying to drop the $\Diamond K$. On a heart lead you need to judge whether hearts will be 4-4, when the same logic applies, or 5-3, when the only hope is to play to drop the diamond. Both our de-

clarers cashed the ace of diamonds at trick two and had five losers; one down for a push.

There was a decent slam for East/West on the next board, missed at both tables, though it was reached by Croatia in the third place match. Then Bessis went even further ahead with a quick one-two on the next two deals.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Begas	Chemla	Bakker	Saul
I♦	Pass	Ι♡	Pass
I♠	2♣	Dble	All Pass

Disaster for the Dutch. Whatever the double should have meant, they were clearly not reading from the same page of the system file. Even if double is penalty, it is questionable whether West should pass it. There was no problem in defeating 24 doubled, but one down for +100 was hardly adequate compensation for the cold slam. The French sailed into slam at the other table:

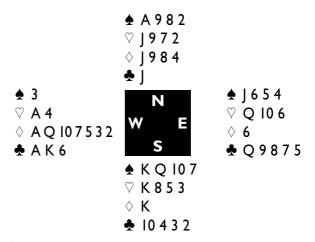


Veronique Bessis

West	North	East	South
Michel	Wanner	Veronique	Gielkens
I♦	Pass	ΙØ	I♠
Dble	Pass	4♡	Pass
6♡	All Pass		

The double of 1♠ was a support double, showing three-card heart support. When Veronique jumped to game, Michel had no trouble in bidding six; +980 and 13 IMPs to Bessis.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Michel	Wanner	Veronique	Gielkens
	Pass	Pass	IŸ
2◊	3♡	Pass	Pass
4 ♦	Dble	All Pass	

When Wanner led the nine of hearts and Michel put in dummy's ten, he had no heart loser. There were just two diamonds and a spade to lose; +710.

In the other room Saul opened I \clubsuit rather than I \heartsuit and Begas punted 3NT. That was not a success. The lead was a low heart to the queen, king and ace. Begas returned a heart towrds the ten and Chemla ducked. The ten scored and Begas led dummy's diamond. When the king appeared he won and cashed a hopeful queen but when South showed out he had nowhere to go for tricks and was two down; -200 and I4 more IMPs to Bessis.

There were a couple of small swings to come for Bessis and at half-time in the final they led by an incredible 85-0!

The third place play-off saw even more swings, but at 64-63 to the French team, it was nicely poised for a fiercely competitive second half.

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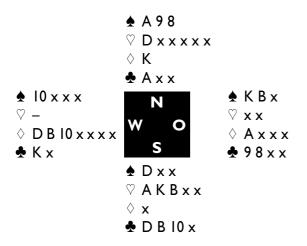
Die Deutsche Homepage



Technischer Wert und künstlerischer Eindruck

ines der wenigen deutschen Teams im Vorderfeld dieser Meisterschaft ist Team Dueball (mit Gerda Heinrichs, Beate Birr und Wolf Stahl). Hier eine Hand, in der über A- und B-Note zu reden sein wird.

Board II. Keiner in Gefahr. Teiler Süd.



Hier die Reizungen im Vergleich:

West	Nord	Ost	Süd
Birr		Stahl	ım
5 ♦ (!)	5♡	alle passen	I♡

West	North	East	South
	Dueball		Heinrichs
			Ι♡
Pass (!)	4♣ ^(l)	Pass	4♡
Pass	4♠	Dbl.	Pass
Pass	5♡	alle passen	

(I) cue bid

Zunächst ein Wort zum künstlerischen Eindruck. Der Temperamentsunterschied der beiden Westspielerinnen scheint eklatant. Aber gibt es nicht auch Gebote zwischen Himmel und Erde? Auch das Kontra von Ost verdient eine Würdigung. Genau im rechten Moment verrät es die Pikstellung und warnt vor Schlemm. Zu einer hohen Wertung kann sich die Jury hier nicht entschließen.

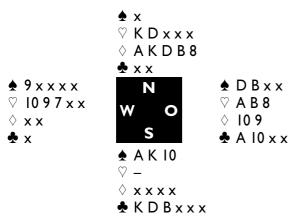
Nun zum technischen Wert. Jürgen Dueball hatte natürlich keine Probleme nur einen Karo- und einen Pikstich (mittels Expaß) zu verlieren. Im anderen Raum stand West bald vor einem Problem. Nach Karo-Angriff und Trumpf zurück, zog der Alleinspieler den letzten Trumpf, machte Treff-Schnitt, sammelte seine Treffstiche ein und schnappte sein viertes Treff am Tisch. Dann ging er mit Trumpf zurück in die Hand und spielte ein kleines Pik. Es ist richtig, mit ♠10 zu steigen, falls Ost ♠ KDx hält, da dieser sonst endgespielt werden kann. Besitzt Ost aber nur ♠KBx muß man klein bleiben, damit Süd überhaupt noch eine Chance hat, einen Fehler zu machen, und nicht auf den simplen Expaß zu spielen.

Technisch richtig ist sicherlich sich gegen die erste Variante zu schützen. Beate Birr stieg also mit ♠10 und der Alleinspieler konnte nichts mehr falsch machen. Schade, hoher technischer Wert, leider ohne zählbaren Erfolg!

Nimm Dir Zeit!

Barbara Stawowy und Dr. Andreas Kirmse berichten von einer eigenartigen Situation, in die sie durch eine vorschnelle Aktion des Gegners gebracht wurden, dessen Geduld und Übersicht ein wenig zu wünschen übrig ließen.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.



Süd war Alleinspieler in 3 SA geworden und Barbara Sta-

wowy spielte ein kleines Pik zum Buben ihres Partners und Alleinspielers As aus. Als dieser mit ♣K fortsetzte, fiel Andreas Kirmse in die für ihn übliche Trance. Er dachte darüber nach, ob er Treff einmal ducken sollte, oder ob es besser sei, zu nehmen und mögliche vier Pikstiche zu kassieren.

Für einige Zeit tat sich deshalb am Tisch wenig. Zu wenig für den Alleinspieler, der quasi claimte, indem er auf vier schwarze Gewinner und fünf Karostiche hinwies. Diese Informationen dankbar registrierend, duckte Ost einmal, nahm den nächsten Treffstich und spielte \lozenge I 0 nach. Verärgert darüber, daß es nun mit den vier schwarzen Stichen nichts war, versetzte der Alleinspieler sich selbst den Dolchstoß, in dem er nun \heartsuit K orderte. Ost nahm, spielte \heartsuit B zurück und die Verteidigung erzielte noch weitere drei Coeurstiche für einen Faller.

Wäre Süd mit einem kleinen Coeur ausgestiegen, hätte er sich noch gerettet, Ost kann nicht mehr als drei Coeurstiche erzielen und sich auch nicht entblockieren, da dann Nord wieder zwei Coeurstiche bekommt. Unglücklicherweise wird die Moral dieser Geschichte nur Andreas Kirmse gefallen: "Es lohnt sich eben doch, sich die Zeit für einen Gegenspielplan zu nehmen. Manchmal bekommt man dabei die besten Ideen!"

Wrong Contract in the Right Hand

Jan van Cleeff, The Netherlands

Suppose you pick up as South:

Q 7 4

♦ A K J 4
♣ 10 7 4

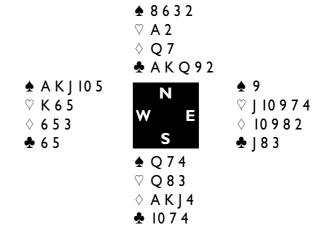
♥ Q83

West is the dealer, nobody vulnerable. Christine van der Ven from the Netherlands encountered an uncharacteristic bidding problem.

West	North	East	South
			Christine
Pass	INT ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3NT
$Dble^{\scriptscriptstyle{(2)}}$	4♣	Pass	?

^{(1) 15-17}

Christine elected to bid $4\Diamond$ that was passed out. This was the complete deal:



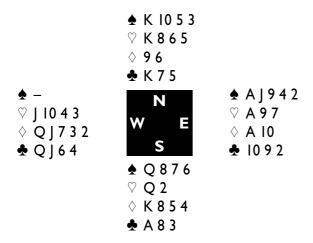
West led two top spades and let her partner ruff a third spade. With the clubs 3-2 the diamond partscore turned out to be a claim. Still, North-South were not happy, since 3NT by South was cold. However, the board turned out to be a I IMP gain, since the North-South pair at the other table played in 3♣ from the North hand. East led her singleton spade, and four rounds of the suit promoted the ♣J, holding declarer to nine tricks. This defence would have defeated a contract of 4♣ so you see it is better to opt for your 4-2 fit.

Un jeu Passionant, Certainement

n the match between Maurin (France) and Polet (Belgium) in Round 9 this deal featured a one notrump contract which had been made at almost every other table playing the board.

We should inform the readers that these players all know one another quite well. Valérie Carcassonne (as she is now called) often plays in France, and Jean-Michel Voldoire plays in the Belgian first division. So when the second and third board both ended in INT, Mrs Maurin commented "un jeu passionant" (what an exciting game). The board did prove exciting though.

Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.



East opened I♠ and West, Voldoire, responded INT to end the auction. North led a heart. Declarer put in the nine, South tak-

ing the queen; then, on the heart return West played low and the eight forced out the ace. The ♣10 ran to the king and North switched to a spade. Declarer put in the nine and, rather to his surprise, it held the trick. Declarer now tried ace and ten of diamonds. South ducked and so did West. Then a second club was ducked by South and won by West. West was able to set up his diamonds, but he had no entry to them. South cashed the top club and exited with a low spade to the king and ace to endplay dummy. One off.

The auction and lead at the other table were the same. However, more naturally declarer played low from dummy at trick one and so won the heart nine at trick two. Again South ducked the diamond holding declarer to two tricks in the suit. North, when in with club king, cleared the heart ace, and when South won the third club she exited with a spade to the king and ace. So the defence again came to ♣AK, ⋄K, two hearts and two spades. One off again!

LAST WORD

The beautiful Aix-la-Chapelles
Has been our home for a wonderful spell
We say "Auf Wiedersehen"
And "Please come again"
Until then we wish you "farewell".

⁽²⁾ Asks for a spade lead

Results after 15 rounds

	TEAM		тот	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	RI0	RII	RI2	RI3	RI4	RI5
ı	MAURIN	FRA	261	24	22	23	25	15	14	10	14	2	17	П	20	25	14
2	BONEV	BUL	260	14	15	25	14	14	20	7	19	25	22	19	17	15	18
3	KOCH-PALMUN	DEN	255	10	19	17	14	12	16	24	15	17	24	20	19	15	16
4	VOLINA	RUS	254	16	9	9	17	16	25	22	25	19	10	17	16	15	16
5	PUCZYNSKI	POL	254	22	9	22	16	18	18	3	12	18	24	П	20	20	25
6	POLET	BEL	253	21	20	25	10	21	13	25	16	12	П	13	8	24	20
7	BARR	ISR	253	16	19	13	7	18	22	21	13	23	21	25	15	12	21
8	VRIEND	NTH	252	18	19	21	20	П	14	12	13	23	13	22	14	18	12
9	BREIVIK	NOR	252	25	8	20	18	17	16	17	15	13	14	19	15	19	14
10	RIBEROL	FRA	249	19	7	24	16	19	19	9	П	24	25	15	14	22	19
П	BEINEIX	FRA	247	16	П	9	16	23	16	23	17	17	19	18	13	15	9
12	AUKEN	GER	247	14	21	10	17	6	5	18	20	25	22	15	13	16	25
13	COURTY	FRA	244	19	16	13	14	19	14	21	10	15	25	20	10	15	19
14	BONORI	ITA	244	13	16	9	14	10	15	23	25	20	14	18	17	16	16
15	ROTH	FRA	241	25	17	17	18	14	24	5	20	15	16	10	10	21	15
16	PAOLUZI	ITA	241	П	15	18	14	24	5	25	П	20	19	8	20	15	П
17	GROMÖLLER	GER	241	15	17	17	12	14	16	14	21	18	18	14	16	22	15
18	ВО	FRA	240	9	20	17	25	16	25	20	9	П	23	10	П	14	10
19	SIWIEC	POL	240	18	23	21	25	19	16	23	15	4	7	19	10	19	14
20	FUCIK	AUS	239	9	25	13	25	16	9	14	8	14	25	17	19	14	19
21	LISE	FRA	237	20	13	21	21	13	9	7	16	12	18	25	16	10	19
22	RETZLAFF	GER	237	16	13	19	12	П	14	13	25	14	2	24	23	19	16
23	KAPLAN	FRA	237	14	19	21	9	17	22	9	19	10	4	20	19	14	24
24	DUEBALL	GER	235	14	13	23	12	17	12	21	19	7	25	10	22	1	14
25	LANGER	SWI	235	7	13	9	19	24	15	15	19	16	14	20	10	16	20
26	THUILLEZ	FRA	235	16	6	20	18	14	13	17	4	20	22	20	17	23	П
27	ZAKRZEWSKI	POL	233	П	16	19	23	14	8	15	21	19	25	19	20	П	4
28	BEAUMIER	FRA	233	17	19	9	19	14	21	16	20	10	6	16	25	П	15
29	ALLOUCHE	FRA	232	14	24	10	18	10	22	14	П	25	4	21	13	19	П
30	HOFLAND	NTH	231	15	9	10	16	25	17	П	17	0	14	25	25	12	23
31	MULLER	FRA	231	19	10	21	8	20	П	15	21	13	13	13	14	18	25
32	POPOVA	BUL	231	5	14	24	17	24	10	22	9	14	6	10	25	17	19
33	LESUR	FRA	230	21	14	21	20	8	14	П	П	7	24	22	24	6	15
34	TELTSCHER	GBR	230	10	14	14	9	19	20	25	14	23	17	16	13	9	16
35	ARAMI	ISR	228	19	22	7	12	12	10	П	14	18	18	15	14	20	П
36	JOEGNE	FRA	228	16	П	20	17	14	12	14	15	17	14	9	21	18	14
37	BRUNEL	FRA	228	8	14	17	П	П	20	25	9	24	П	6	23	15	25
38	CAESAR	GER	227	13	14	17	10	13	15	13	16	20	14	18	20	25	4
39	TICHY	HUN	227	9	18	7	16	17	12	16	15	20	25	21	6	18	17
40	KELINA	RUS	226	21	8	23	15	П	20	23	8	20	П	П	17	8	10
41	MARSAL	GER	225	13	22	17	2	17	13	13	20	23	16	17	П	10	16
42	KOWALSKI	POL	224	12	П	13	16	13	14	25	19	10	21	18	18	16	14
43	SMITH	GBR	223	14	13	18	13	22	17	15	18	10	5	24	5	12	24
	ZORLU	TUR	223	17	10	15	22	20	14	8	12	12	19	4	22	14	16
45	BURATI	ITA	223	16	15	13	18	20	16	19	15	13	9	14	18	11	13
	CAPUCHO	POR	222	9	17	12	12	16	15	12	8	12	25	20	14	18	18
47	SCHROEDER	GER	221	22	21	21	16	9	20	20	6	П	8	22	16	8	11
	ROHOWSKY	GER	221	12	18	8	2	6	12	14	21	15	16	21	18	16	18

49	CHODOROWSKA	POI	221	9	25	7	9	10	20	10	25	12	16	21	12	13	14
	DAVIES	GBR	220	14	23 8	13	21	10	17	17	9	14	18	6	12	16	24
	MAGUIRE	IRE	220	20	10	5	17	19	12	16	4	5	25	21	12	21	18
	ALBERTI	GER	218	12	16	13	16	18	11	19	25	19	4	10	7	12	20
	HOBSON	GBR	217	16	14	5	20	9	19	19	14	20	13	13	, 14	11	6
	DIRKS	NTH	217	17	16	13	5	16	11	11	22	11	4	21	14	18	15
	POKORNA	CZE	217	21	17	10	16	П	13	12	22	22	12	17	10	14	15
	BALDURSSON	ICE	216	11	18	20	16	13	9	16	16	19	16	9	12	20	7
	LEGER	FRA	215	18	21	21	5	21	6	10	19	16	8	8	16	15	12
	CLEARY	IRE	215	14	14	13	16	23	18	0	10	10	23	25	Ш	12	12
	GOTARD	GER	213	17	12	15	4	14	10	16	15	12	22	17	16	16	12
	ZOBU	TUR	213	10	12	10	23	20	15	13	8	16	4	Ш	Ш	20	25
	YALMAN	TUR	212	5	0	5	23	11	16	20	25	25	14	17	9	12	16
	TOMCIKOVA	CZE	212	19	9	7	13	3	12	7	20	10	15	15	21	15	25
	NAHMENS	FRA	211	17	12	17	18	16	8	25	15	2	25	13	16	7	5
	THEODORSSON	ICE	210	9	П	22	7	17	18	14	13	18	19	13	7	23	14
	NILSSON	SWE	209	13	19	11	14	12	18	9	9	Ш	15	25	25	14	10
	BONDA	CRO	208	16	18	15	13	21	10	16	П	7	16	12	8	14	15
67	TAILLEFER	FRA	208	18	9	10	24	7	22	6	8	10	16	3	19	25	15
	LORMANT	FRA	207	П	П	23	15	10	18	19	22	18	16	П	17	0	0
69	TOICCAN	TUR	207	4	21	8	14	20	14	5	4	24	8	19	17	9	18
70	HONKAVUORI	FIN	207	12	16	17	6	13	18	21	10	14	18	3	19	16	16
71	MAITOVA	RUS	206	16	20	9	7	12	18	9	20	16	17	10	16	10	6
72	SUMER	TUR	206	П	16	16	14	П	23	17	22	10	12	9	2	19	14
73	GUARIGLIA	ITA	205	14	21	9	16	9	20	17	15	12	22	5	13	5	3
74	MASSEUS	NTH	203	18	4	18	14	21	8	14	16	15	14	19	13	19	6
75	KLEIN	GER	203	17	16	20	14	7	7	23	П	16	П	15	П	15	16
76	LARSSON	SWE	202	13	16	15	21	16	14	15	18	25	8	12	14	0	0
77	MARAKULIN	RUS	201	П	14	15	П	П	15	3	14	10	16	19	5	21	16
78	LÜSSMAN	GER	200	6	18	13	25	19	21	7	I	7	8	10	14	14	12
79	GERARDS	NTH	199	19	П	П	10	14	13	7	17	18	22	12	4	П	14
80	KRIEGER	GER	199	16	П	17	13	8	10	0	10	19	20	П	21	15	14
81	TJORSWAAG	NOR	194	13	12	9	12	25	10	17	5	6	7	12	22	7	14
82	ZAJKIEWICZ	POL	192	25	17	15	23	2	19	8	13	6	9	15	16	П	5
83	VARGA	HUN	191	4	19	25	17	10	12	20	9	8	12	9	8	15	12
84	WITKOWSKI	POL	191	8	20	0	13	19	16	5	20	20	8	15	П	13	18
85	BETTAG	GER	190	25	15	9	15	6	17	14	10	16	6	П	9	10	16
86	G□NTHER	GER	190	12	10	14	12	16	8	18	14	14	12	9	10	17	5
87	DANIELS	NTH	188	8	13	14	13	3	10	10	15	5	10	25	13	15	18
88	CRONIER	FRA	183	23	19	7	10	18	16	20	10	15	12	15	0	0	0
89	CURETTI	FRA	178	21	П	12	13	20	16	13	16	4	4	9	20	0	0
90	KASS	FRA	171	20	9	16	20	16	13	16	17	5	14	13	0	0	0
91	MAURY	FRA	170	14	14	16	18	19	17	15	15	П	16	8	0	0	0
92	SAPIGA	RUS	166	9	П	6	7	10	14	21	10	25	4	8	9	3	15
93	BEAUFAYS	BEL	143	22	4	6	14	9	8	9	4	П	5	5	17	9	14