

Daily Bulletin

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Issue No. 9 Monday, 30th June 2014

# **ONCE UPON A TIME IN OPATIJA**



The IBPA out in force in Opatija

In the Open series **Monaco** is conducting a spirited defence of the title they won in Dublin and they are pursued by **Germany, Israel, Norway, England** & **France**. **Denmark, Poland** & **Bulgaria** are breathing down their necks in the race for Chennai.

**England** has a handy lead going into the penultimate day of the Women's Championship. **Italy** lead the pack, followed by **Netherlands**, **France**, **Sweden** & **Romania**.

### **Shuttle Buses**

Everyone who did not pay for arrival shuttles should come to Branka to the Hospitality to settle it.

All persons leaving on shuttles organized by the Croatian Federation should come and check it with Branka Grgurić.



The Open and Women Prize-Giving and Closing Ceremony will be held tomorrow 1st July at 21.00 on the first floor of the Grand Hotel 4 Opatijska Cvijeta, opposite the Camelia Hotel,

v.Cara Emina 6 (near the Opatija Harbour).



### **EBL President's Press Conference**

A European Bridge League Press Conference will be held today Monday, June 30th at 11 a.m. in the Vugraph room on the second floor (through Fitness Center) of the Sports Hall. For more information, see page 2.

### **BBO SCHEDULE**

10.30

Israel v Monaco (O) BBO I\* England v Germany (O) BBO 2 Norway v Denmark (O) BBO 3 Sweden v Bulgaria (O) BBO 4 Poland v Croatia (O) BBO 5

14.30

The five matches will be announced later

17.20

The five matches will be announced later

\*BBO I = VuGraph

















# **OPEN**

	O Final 4 (21)	10.30
ı	ESTONIA	TURKEY
2	POLAND	CROATIA
3	IRELAND	NETHERLANDS
4	ENGLAND	GERMANY
5	NORWAY	DENMARK
6	ISRAEL	MONACO
7	FRANCE	ITALY
8	ROMANIA	RUSSIA
9	SWEDEN	BULGARIA

	O Final 5 (22)	14.30
I	SWEDEN	DENMARK
2	ISRAEL	FRANCE
3	RUSSIA	ENGLAND
4	ITALY	IRELAND
5	ESTONIA	BULGARIA
6	ROMANIA	CROATIA
7	MONACO	TURKEY
8	NETHERLANDS	GERMANY
9	NORWAY	POLAND

	• • •	
I	MONACO	ITALY
2	BULGARIA	GERMANY
3	NORWAY	ROMANIA
4	TURKEY	SWEDEN
5	FRANCE	NETHERLANDS
6	POLAND	RUSSIA
7	IRELAND	DENMARK
8	ISRAEL	ESTONIA
9	CROATIA	ENGLAND

O Final 6 (23)

**EBL Press Conference** (continued from page 1) EBL President Yves Aubry and CBF President Jurica Caric will be present, accompanied by EBL Treasurer David Harris.

Any question about this Championship and EBL plans can be asked and will be answered.

All journalists present in Opatija and Croatian Press are invited to attend.

Jan Swaan, Press Room manager

# Open after F3 (20)

TEAM	VP
I MONACO	155.40
2 GERMANY	147.36
3 ISRAEL	140.31
4 NORWAY	136.39
5 ENGLAND	134.45
6 FRANCE	125.08
7 DENMARK	124.63
8 POLAND	124.36
9 BULGARIA	123.76
10 SWEDEN	113.35
II NETHERLANDS	112.58
12 ROMANIA	108.44
13 RUSSIA	108.00
14 TURKEY	104.99
15 IRELAND	100.65
16 ESTONIA	99.15
17 ITALY	86.20
18 CROATIA	76.90



# For Dutch Readers Only

Bridge Magazine IMP doet uitgebreid verslag van het EK hier in Opatija. Check <a href="www.imp-bridge.nl">www.imp-bridge.nl</a> (ook voor abonnementen) en dadelijk ook de EK Special, verschijning 1 september. Verslaggevers: Simon de Wijs en Jan van Cleeff. Foto's en video's: Elisabeth van <a href="Ettinger">Ettinger</a>.

IMP, al 25 jaar topbridge.

# **WOMEN**

	W 19	10.30
21	ESTONIA	FRANCE
22	ENGLAND	GERMANY
23	DENMARK	GREECE
24	CROATIA	IRELAND
25	BULGARIA	ISRAEL
26	AUSTRIA	ITALY
27	TURKEY	LEBANON
28	SWEDEN	NETHERLANDS
29	SPAIN	NORWAY
30	SERBIA	POLAND
31	SCOTLAND	ROMANIA
32	RUSSIA	BYE

	W 20	14.30
21	IRELAND	ISRAEL
22	GREECE	ITALY
23	GERMANY	LEBANON
24	FRANCE	NETHERLANDS
25	ESTONIA	NORWAY
26	ENGLAND	POLAND
27	DENMARK	ROMANIA
28	CROATIA	RUSSIA
29	BULGARIA	SCOTLAND
30	AUSTRIA	SERBIA
31	TURKEY	SPAIN
32	SWEDEN	BYE

	W 21	17.20
21	AUSTRIA	BULGARIA
22	TURKEY	CROATIA
23	SWEDEN	DENMARK
24	SPAIN	ENGLAND
25	SERBIA	ESTONIA
26	SCOTLAND	FRANCE
27	RUSSIA	GERMANY
28	ROMANIA	GREECE
29	POLAND	IRELAND
30	NORWAY	ISRAEL
31	NETHERLANDS	ITALY
32	LEBANON	BYE

# After Round 18

TEAM	VP
I ENGLAND	251.44
2 ITALY	241.59
3 NETHERLANDS	238.67
4 FRANCE	230.09
5 SWEDEN	208.56
6 ROMANIA	206.50
7 TURKEY	202.72
8 POLAND	199.93
9 DENMARK	193.84
10 IRELAND	191.35
I I RUSSIA	185.30
12 GERMANY	183.18
13 SPAIN	172.36
14 ISRAEL	169.31
15 SCOTLAND	167.08
16 NORWAY	158.03
17 CROATIA	148.87
18 ESTONIA	148.63
19 GREECE	147.37
20 SERBIA	145.36
21 BULGARIA	144.61
22 AUSTRIA	143.55
23 LEBANON	94.31



# **IN EMERGENCY**



I. Call 112

2. Ask Hospitality to call a doctor Heart starter is based in the window at the book stall on 1st floor.

### The EBL EGM and General Meeting

The EGM opened at 9.30 am with 38 of the 46 NBOs present. The EGM approved three changes to the Constitution. These are described in detail in the minutes on the EBL website but in summary were:

The primary EBL office must be in Lausanne rather than with the President.

NBO delegates may be 'members' rather than 'officers' Official communications can be by e-mail if the e-mail's receipt is confirmed.

consider new events.

Modi Kenigsberg said the Executive had no members under 30 and only one woman. Action should be taken before the 2016 election to correct this.

The erratum 'new IMP scale' was to be amended to 'new VP scale'

The President's report was then approved.



The President of the EBL and the new Executive Committee

Standing at the back are: Jafet Olafsson, Josef Harsanyi, Jan Kamras, Paul Porteous, Eric Laurant

On the front row are: Eitan Levy, Yves Aubry, Sevinç Atay, Marc De Pauw, Radoslaw Kielbasinski, David Harris, Filippo

Palma, Jurica Carić

The General Meeting opened at 10.30 am with an extra four countries and 114 of the potential 119 votes present or awarded by proxy.

President Yves Aubry welcomed the WBF President Gianarrigo Rona, President Emeritus Jose Damiani and delegates to the Meeting. An Assembly Committee of three persons was appointed for scrutinising the elections. These were Mike Ash of Scotland, Modi Kenigsberg of Israel, and Milan Macura of the Czech Republic, with Stefan Magnusson of Switzerland as Secretary.

The President read his report, which can be found on the website. Before it was approved Pierre Zimmerman of Monaco queried the stated objective of the Executive 'to stabilise the calendar'. In a two-year period the EBL had one Open Transnational event to the ACBL's six. If the EBL made a profit from its Transnational it could increase its profit by holding more. Aubry replied that the intention to stabilise dates applied to the existing events to avoid clashes with major international events, such as those of the WBF or ACBL. It did not mean the EBL would not

Treasurer David Harris presented the Accounts published on the website. Pierre Zimmerman of Monaco queried the mention of two EBL Offices. Harris explained that the physical office was in Lausanne, where the website was run by Fotis Skoularikis and was the address for the Registered Office. The other office was not physical but wherever the President and Secretary existed. Zimmerman also queried the 2015 budget, showing a predicted surplus of 150.000, Euros for Tromsø. Entries were likely to be lower in such a venue. Harris explained that the agreement reached with the Norwegian Bridge Federation allowed him to have a high confidence in the budgeted surplus. The accounts were approved.

The Treasurer then proposed indexation of annual dues was continued with the cap of 500 Euros for NBOs with less than 500 members. This was approved.

Russell Frame of Scotland said the matter of membership reported by each Federation required urgent action. Harris replied this was a matter of considerable concern to the Executive but enforcing a particular method of counting

had gainers and losers and was therefore controversial. He agreed it should be a matter of import for the new Executive.

For the elections, Marc De Pauw took the chair. Jan Kamras explained the procedure. Ballot papers were handed out under scrutiny of the Assembly Committee. The Committee reported for the postion of President that there had been 65 votes for Yves Aubry and 49 for Panos Gerontopoulos. Aubry was declared elected, the two candidates shook hands and Aubry took his seat again.

The election for 12 vacancies on the Executive Board with 15 candidates was held. The Assembly Committee reported these votes:

Atay Sevinc	64	elected
•	• .	0.0000
Bogacki Patrick	37	not elected
Carić Jurica	53	elected
De Pauw Marc	73	elected
Gerontopoulos Panos	41	not elected
Harris David	49	elected
Harsanyi Josef	70	elected
Kamras Jan	80	elected
Kielbasinski Radoslaw	68	elected
Laurant Eric	63	elected
Levy Eitan	80	elected
Olafsson Jafet	59	elected
Palma Filippo	59	elected
Porteous Paul	54	elected
Vaders Pim	27	not elected

Four new members: Jurica Carić of Croatia, Eitan Levy of Israel, Jafet Olafsson of Iceland and Paul Porteous of Ireland joined the Executive.

Any Other Business: The Swiss delegate spoke against the acceptance of Roy Welland, previously of the USA, for the German team in Opatija. Marc De Pauw explained the new eligibility had to be aligned with the WBF. They relaxed the residence delay on the condition that a change was allowed only once in ten years. Players were still not permitted to play in consecutive like events for different countries.

### The AGM closed at 1pm

After the AGM the new Executive held its first meeting to appoint:

President: Yves Aubry;

Ist Vice-President: Marc De Pauw 2nd Vice-President: Radek Kielbasinski

Treasurer: Josef Harsanyi Secretary: David Harris

Presidential Committee: Sevinc Atay, Filippo Palma WBF delegates: Yves Aubry, Sevinc Atay, Marc De Pauw,

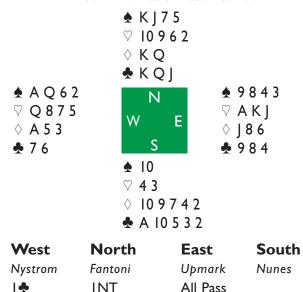
Radek Kielbasinski, David Harris.

### **Excellent Logic**

By Brian Senior

Sometimes, the small fish can be the sweetest. We tend to concentrate on the big swing hands – slams are always a safe bet, for example – but this deal from Round 14 of the Open series showed Johan Upmark, for Sweden, show excellent logic to defeat a lowly INT contract during his team's match against Monaco.

Board 22. Dealer East, N/S Vul.



Fredrik Nystrom's I♣ opening was loose, promising only two cards, and Fulvio Fantoni's INT overcall ended the

Upmark started with the ace of hearts, asking for attitude, and Nystrom played an encouraging card. Upmark continued with the king then jack of hearts, a low diamond going from the dummy. Upmark could now work out that spades should be 4-I-4-4 around the table, and that hearts were 3-2-4-4. Looking at dummy's club holding, it seemed that there was no two-card club holding with which declarer, holding two four-card majors, would have overcalled INT rather than made a take-out double. So declarer could have at most a doubleton diamond.

Upmark switched to a low diamond. Nystrom could win the ace, cash the heart queen and revert to diamonds. Fantoni had one diamond and five clubs, but the defence had got its seventh trick established before declarer had managed that feat, and INT was down one for -100.

In the other room, West opened  $I \heartsuit$  and South declared  $3\clubsuit$ , making exactly to give a 5-IMP swing to Sweden.



### The Croatian Corner



# "Ako me ostaviš"

Posljednji meč kvalifikacijskog dijela turnira hrvatska je Open reprezentacija dočekala na devetom mjestu, posljednjem koje vodi u nastavak natjecanja. Međutim, prednost pred Islandom je bila samo I VP i u ovom se meču donosila odluka o tome idemo li, putem koji su nam utabali naši nogometaši, kući nakon grupne faze, ili idemo u finale i borbu za 6. mjesto koje vodi na svjetsko prvenstvo. Kako to obično biva u hrvatskom bridžu, protivnik je bila vrlo jaka reprezentacija Švedske koja je već osigurala plasman, ali je svejedno bila u lovu na veliku pobjedu koja bi joj povećala prednost u finalu.

E, nećeš razbojniče!

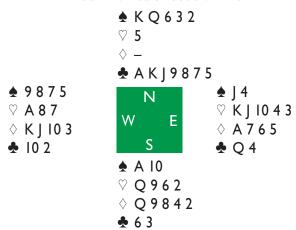
Closed Room

Uraganski početak Šveđana donio im je 23:0 na prva tri borda, ali od tog trenutka dalje za stolom su se uglavnom čule samo hrvatske lake note, dok švedski heavy metal skoro pa da nije pustio ni glasa.

U sljedeća tri borda naši su junaci izjednačili, a pri rezultatu 25:24 za Švedsku pojavio se sedmi bord kojim

smo preuzeli vodstvo koje, vrijeme će pokazati, do kraja meča nismo ispustili.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
	Marinovski		Zoric
			Pass
Pass	2.4	All Page	

U zatvorenoj sali Marinovskog su svi ostavili na cjedilu nakon što je otvorio precision 2 tref. Northova karta je ofenzivno izrazito jaka, no nedostatak defanzive vrlo je dobar argument protiv jakog otvora I tref. Marinovski je otvorio jedini alternativni otvor u svom sistemu, 2 tref, planirajući rebidirati 4 pik sljedeći put kad dođe na red čime bi idealno opisao svoju kartu. Kad bi sljedećeg puta bilo, dakako. Ostavljen u 2 tref, Marinovski je mirno skupio

12 štihova nakon što je West u nekom trenutku ležerne igre odbacio pik.

2♣ N, +4, NS +170

### Open Room

<b>West</b> Refi	North	<b>East</b> Borevkovic	South
		1.00	Pass
Pass	♣	I 🛇	I♠
2♡	3♡	DЫ	3NT
Pass	<b>4</b> ♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Švedski North je igrajući prirodni sistem otvorio I tref, a Borevković overkolirao I herc. South je licitirao I pik čime je negirao pikove i pokazao nešto snage, a Refi je pokazao partneru fit s 2 herc. North je sa svojim ofenzivnim "monstrumom" licitirao 3 herc što je Borevković kontrirao pokazujući dobru boju, a South priznao herc štopera s 3NT. North, naravno, nikad nije planirao igrati 3NT pa je nastavio s 4 karo, a

nakon što mu je partner pokazao pik kjubid jednostavno skočio u mali slem.

Ukoliko protivnici ne licitiraju, kontrakt bi se morao napraviti jer je najveća šansa igrati as, kralj tref na 2-2 trefove ili singl damu, a, nakon što trefovi padnu 2-2, pik impas na desetku je veća šansa od 3-3 pikova. Kako karta stoji, igra na najveću šansu donosi uspjeh, no nakon Eastove intervencije vjerojatnost se malo mijenja. Borevkovic je atakirao herc dečka koji je propušten i nakon toga pokušao skupiti karo asa. North je porezao karo, lupio tref asa i pao u trans. East je praktički "viđen" s 5-4 u crvenim bojama, što mu ostavlja mjesta samo za 4 crne karte. Ukoliko je Eastova distribucija 5422, potrebno je tući adute "u glavu" i nadati se duplom pik dečku na Eastu. Međutim, 5431 karta je statistički češća i North je zaključio da mu je najveća šansa igrati da East ima 3 pika i singl tref. Pik do asa u četvrtom štihu učinio je ovaj kontrakt nenapravljivim, a nakon tref impasa do dame West je pažljivo čuvao svoju devetku pik za još jedan pad.

6♣ N, -2, EW +200

Hrvatska +9 IMP

Meč je završio pobjedom Hrvatske 50-34. Kako je Island izgubio od Španjolske, plasman u finale Europskog prvenstva, neostvareni san naše open reprezentacije, je konačno osiguran što je donijelo ogromno veselje među navijačima koji su, okupljeni u Hrvatskom kutku, zdušno i glasno navijali za povijesni prolaz.

A Marinovski je samo lagano pjevušio "Ako me ostaviš... neću past..."

Tomislav Šćepanović

### **Open Teams Round 14**

By Ron Tacchi



### Croatia v. France

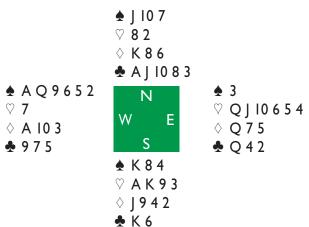


At the end of Round 13 France was lying second in Group A but 15 VPs behind Sweden. A good result against Croatia was imperative, as the teams of Monaco and Norway were only a couple of VPs behind them, and every VP was now important to ensure the best chance during the second phase of gaining a coveted spot to the Bermuda Bowl. Croatia, whilst lying eleventh, were only 6 VPs off the ninth spot which would get them through to the final playoff and a chance of a place in India next year.

France was represented by Marc Bompis and Jean-Christophe Quantin in the Open Room and father and son Bessis in the Closed Room. Opposing them in the Open Room were Kiril Marinovski and Vedran Zoric, with Goran Borevkovic partnered by Branko Refi in the other.

It was a game of one half. Neither team was firing on all cylinders. You know it was not a classic match when you repeatedly asked the VuGraph operator if that really was the bid or card played.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Marinovski	Bompis	Zoric
	Pass	2◊*	Pass
2♡*	All Pass		

I suspect that the editor has been passing among the players and inciting them to use a Multi Two Diamonds so as to promote his book 'The Mysterious Multi', if so he has been very successful. (The bookstall has sold out – next time they will bring more than one copy. Editor)

Bompis started proceedings with a weak only version of the multi. His partner bid 2%, pass or correct, and that concluded the auction.

North gave a trick away with the lead of the ♠J and declarer was one light; for –50.

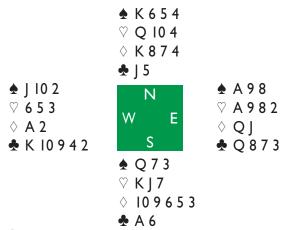
### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Bessis T.	Borevkovic	Bessis M.
	Pass	2♡	All Pass

East could only open with a weak 2% which was passed out. South led a diamond to North's king and North switched to the jack of clubs. When declarer made the mistake of covering, South won and the defenders cashed two more club tricks. With three trumps to lose declarer was two down; -100, so strike 2 IMPs to the multi.

On Board 18 Croatia halved the difference with an overtrick IMP in 3NT and Board 19 was flat in a no-trump game, though France flirted with danger as they reached 4NT and there were four club tricks that could be cashed at trick one but The Croatian defender led a spade, so all was well

Board 20. Dealer West, All Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Marinovski	Bompis	Zoric
Pass	Pass	♣	Pass
2♣	Pass	Pass	2◊
All Pass			

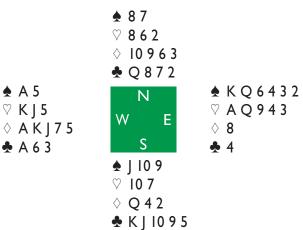
West's raise of  $l \clubsuit$  to  $2 \clubsuit$  was natural, no inverted minors here, and South showed his bravery by intervening, vulnerable, with  $2 \diamondsuit$  which was unbeatable; so +90 to Croatia.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Bessis T.	Borevkovic	Bessis M.
Pass	Pass	♣	Pass
2♣	All Pass		

In this room pere Bessis was less sanguine on his five-card diamond suit headed by the ten and passed, so +90 again to Croatia and they took the lead 6-2.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Marinovski	Bompis	Zoric
	Pass	I♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♡	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	7♡	All Pass

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Bessis T.	Borevkovic	Bessis M.
	Pass	I♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♡	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♣	Dble	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	7♡	All Pass

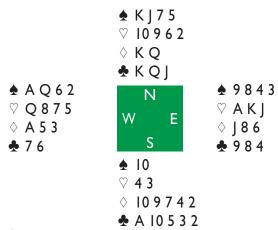
A not difficult grand to bid and both teams passed the test. Both declarers showed the correct technique in the play, which was not needed in this layout, in taking two



Branko Refi, Croatia

rounds of trumps before two rounds of spades such that if spades broke 4-1 then if the hand with four spades had the three trumps he would be able to ruff out the spades.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Marinovski	Bompis	Zoric
		Pass	Pass
I ♦ All Pass	Dble	Rdbl	2♣

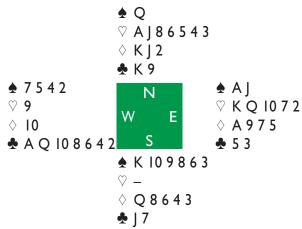
West opened I\(\triangle\), which could be three cards if his distribution was exactly 4-4-3-2 and South showed his clubs in response to partner's double. Quantin found the best lead of a trump to hold declarer to his contract since he was now unable to ruff a diamond in dummy.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Bessis T.	Borevkovic	Bessis M.
		Pass	Pass
♣	Dble	I <b>♠</b>	2♦
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Here the Croatian pair forced the Bessis partnership to the level of three, but alas did not find the trump lead and so declarer was +110 and gained an IMP.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Marinovski	Bompis	Zoric
			2◊*
Pass	2♠*	Dble	Pass
5♣	Dble	All Pass	

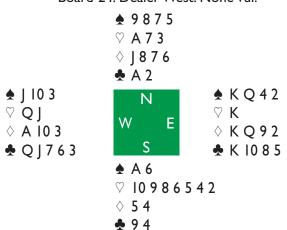
Zoric's 2♦ bid is described as Wagner on the convention card, which shows a weak two in a major and, after North bid a 2♠ pass or correct, West bid what he thought he might make after partner's double and North's double concluded the auction. Unfortunately, the play of the cards was misrecorded but West lost three tricks and was -200.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Bessis T.	Borevkovic	Bessis M.
			2♠
Pass	3♡	Dble	3♠
Pass	Pass	4♡	Pass
Pass	Dhle	All Pass	

South opened a weak two in spades and North made a try for game in hearts. East expressed his opinion and South retreated to  $3 \clubsuit$ . For reasons I do not understand East now re-entered the fray with  $4 \heartsuit$ , which North now quite happily doubled. West having supreme confidence in partner or having no idea what was actually happening passed. I could almost feel the smile on Thomas's face 2000 kilometres away. We will not dwell on private grief but just record that it was -1100 and 14 IMPs to France, who now regained the lead 17-6.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Marinovski	Bompis	Zoric
Pass	Pass	I ♦	3♡
Dble	4♡	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♡	Dble	All Pass

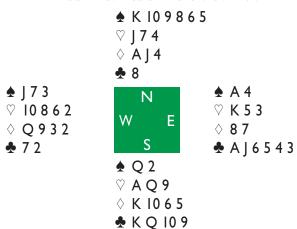
When E/W reached  $4 \triangleq$  North took the save in  $5 \circ$  as he 'knew' South had a singleton spade and it was two light doubled. It seems on careful play  $4 \triangleq$  can make, so in theory a good decision.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Bessis T.	Borevkovic	Bessis M.
Pass	Pass	I ♦	2♡
Dble	3♡	3♠	All Pass

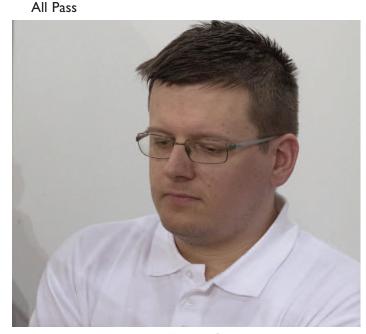
Here, South's temerity at only valuing his hand to be worth  $2^{\circ}$ , meant that East was not forced into making a decision at the game level and so only bid  $3^{\bullet}$ . West having doubled with only a three-card spade suit was reluctant to continue and so passed. East made ten tricks but still lost 4 IMPs.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Marinovski	Bompis	Zoric
	2◊*	3♣	Dble
AILD			



Vedran Zoric, Croatia

Again the 2♦ Wagner was utilised and East's 3♣ bid was promptly doubled by South. East now heard the strains of Siegfried's Funeral march as he was four light for -1100. 1100's like the preceding one (and the Austin variety) should not really happen. East will no doubt argue he was 'unlucky', but if you were to transpose the West and South hands, West would do well to stop in the club game and that would be defeated, so East is looking for an awful lot in his partner's hand for this bid to show a profit. Of course it could be that his bidding box was short of green cards. He could also pass and let his partner bid if he had something worth saying.

### Closed Room

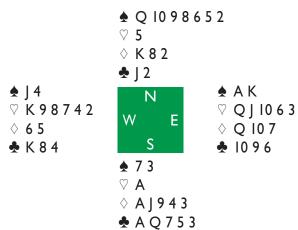
West	North	East	South
Refi	Bessis T.	Borevkovic	Bessis M.
	♠	3♣	All Pass

At this table Thomas rated his hand to be worth an opening bid. I suspect system-wise South was precluded from a penaly double and so had to wait for partner to reopen He is still waiting. The downside of the weak opening bid is that you become afraid to follow the system — in France in this auction it is more or less mandatory for North to continue the bidding. The upshot was 12 IMPs back to Croatia.

Board 26 was a flat 3NT.

On Board 27 France lost 5 IMPs when they had a small bidding accident when a 24 bid was either natural or checkback and both players did not have the same opinion.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Marinovski	Bompis	Zoric
2◊*	Pass	2♠*	3♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

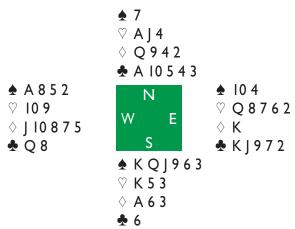
This time it was Quantin who used a weak-only multi  $2\diamondsuit$  to which partner responded a pass or correct  $2\clubsuit$ . South showed his diamonds, no doubt intending to mention his clubs at the next turn but North closed proceedings with a bid of  $4\clubsuit$ . There was little to the play and he lost the obvious three tricks for +620.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Bessis T.	Borevkovic	Bessis M.
2♡	Pass	4♡	4NT
Pass	5◊	All Pass	

The opening weak two in hearts enabled East to preempt to the maximum, making it nigh impossible for North/South to stop in 4\(\Delta\). So this time we strike one up to the traditional weak two; Croatia now leading 35-21.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Marinovski	Bompis	Zoric
	I ♦	$I \heartsuit$	
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♡
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

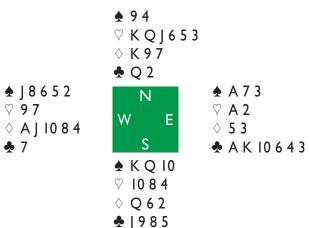
I cannot be sure of the auction as we had to carry out lost contact procedure during the play of this hand. A club was led and taken by the ace, declarer played a spade to the king which held and then played a small spade, evidently either playing East for doubleton ace or he had a fat finger attack and pulled out the wrong card. The upshot was one down in a cold contract. Fortunately for Croatia in the other room...

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Bessis T.	Borevkovic	Bessis M.
	♣	Pass	♠
Pass	INT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Declarer arrived at the end position where he had  $\Diamond Axx$  opposite  $\Diamond Qxx$  in dummy and still had a trump in hand and for reasons unbeknownst to all bridgekind he played small towards the queen and lost to a singleton king. There was no possible downside to cashing the ace first and that minute percentage chance saw 12 potential IMPs fly out the window.





Open Room

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Marinovski	Bompis	Zoric
			Pass
2♠	3♡	4♠	All Pass

Quantin made his contract after a heart lead, discarding his losing heart on the second round of high clubs. He then played a small diamond to the ten and ruffed the heart return, cashed the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond and, when they proved to be 3-3, he cashed the ace of trumps and led another to guarantee his contract when they also broke kindly.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Bessis T.	Borevkovic	Bessis M.
			Pass
Pass	I	INT	Pass
2♡	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass



Marc Bompis, France

Borevkovic started similarly to Quantin but when he reached the point of ruffing the heart return he ducked a spade to South who returned a club and when he ruffed low, North over-ruffed and the contract was now defeated. If you assume you have to find the trumps reasonably split then a better line is to cross to the ace of trumps and take a second finesse in diamonds. You will now need to read the cards to decide if North is 2-6-3-3 or 3-6-2-2 If the former then exiting with a trump sees you home, the latter, you ruff a diamond and lead a trump. As it was France gained IO IMPs and were now losing 36-32, which was the final score as the last board was a push. This translated to 10.91-9.09 VP to Croatia.

You can replay all the deals from this match at:

BBO Croatia v. France

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Bep is cheered by EBL flowers

# Sexy Play

By Brian Senior

"Tihana played a really sexy hand" called out Sandra Kulovic-Probst, as I approached her. Tihana is Tihana Brkljacic and is Sandra's partner on the Croatian Women's team here in Opatija.

"So tell me about it" I replied, refraining from making any comment on the lines that any hand Tihana played would be bound to be sexy, just in case my wife got to hear about it

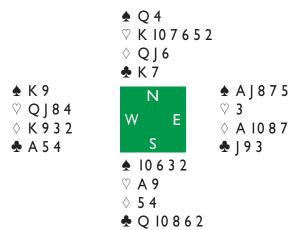


Tihana Brkljacic, Croatia

And, sure enough, it was a very nice hand indeed, featuring a squeeze and endplay which operated despite both stoppers sitting over declarer's two menaces.

Of course, as so often, the contract would never have been reached had the two partners been fluent in the same language, but we all have our bidding misunderstandings every now and then. And there were a number of opportunities for the defence to have done better, but defensive errors are also a fact of life in bridge and the trick is to take advantage of them.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Brkljacic		Probst	
I♦	2♡	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The problem in the auction came about because Sandra thought her combination of  $2 \oint$  followed by  $3 \diamondsuit$  was nonforcing, while Tihana thought it was game-forcing.

North kicked off with the queen of spades so Tihana won her king and ran the nine to South's ten. A club switch would have put paid to declarer's chances but, of course, North had overcalled  $2^{\circ}$ , so South switched to ace and another to the queen and king. Again, had North ducked the second heart she would have been in control of the situation. Having won the heart king, North realized that she could not afford to continue the suit and, on the assumption that declarer held the king of diamonds for her opening bid, counting points marked South with the club queen. North duly switched to the king of clubs.

Tihana won the ace of clubs and crossed to the diamond ace to cash her three spade winners, discarding a diamond and two clubs from hand. Forced to come down to four cards, North was squeezed out of her remaining club, so could no longer get to her partner's club winners. Now, Tihana could lead a diamond to her king and exit with her last diamond to endplay North to lead into the jack-eight of hearts to give the contract for +400. Sexily played indeed!



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# **Open Teams Round 14**

By Ram Soffer

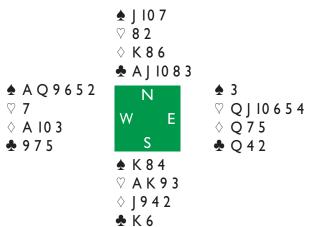


### Sweden v Monaco



Round 14 of the Open Group A featured a big clash between the reigning champions Monaco and the group leaders Sweden. It was an entertaining match with several large swings. The very first deal was full of exciting albeit not too accurate bridge.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Sylvan	Helness	Wrang
	Pass	2♦	Dble
Rdbl	3♣	All Pass	

Sweden reached a normal-looking  $3\clubsuit$  contract after East's multi  $2\lozenge$  opening. Helness led his spade singleton. Helgemo took the  $\spadesuit AQ$  and gave his partner a ruff. Next came the  $\heartsuit Q$ . Had declarer guessed to drop the  $\spadesuit Q$  he would have escaped for down one. But the queen was definitely more likely to be with West.

After the club finesse failed, Helness gave Helgemo a heart ruff. At this stage declarer was already down three, and he misguessed diamonds as well to go -200.

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Fantoni	Upmark	Nunes
	Pass	2◊	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	2♡	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

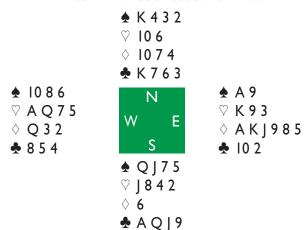
After a similar start Fantoni was in no hurry to bid his a clubs, and the Monaco pair elected to penalise their opponents in  $2 \spadesuit$ .

The  $\heartsuit 2$  was led and the best defense would have been a second high heart. Declarer ruffs, but there is no quick entry to dummy's hearts and the defense will come later via a trump promotion.

Nunes, however, switched to a diamond at trick 2. Fantoni won the  $\Diamond K$  and continued hearts. The ace of hearts (another error) was ruffed. Nyström entered dummy with the  $\Diamond Q$  and played the  $\triangle AQ$ . Nunes's opportunity to shine by unblocking the  $\triangle K$  went unnoticed. There followed the  $\Diamond A$ , a spade to South's king and the thirteenth diamond was ruffed. When declarer played a small club from both hands, the defenders had no answer. South won the  $\triangle K$  on the next round and had to give dummy a trick with the  $\bigcirc 10$ . Excellent play by Nyström, exploiting small defensive inaccuracies by one of the best pairs in the world; Sweden +470 and 7 IMPs.

However, this early lead was short-lived.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Sylvan	Helness	Wrang
			Pass
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

This was a mundane auction and ten top tricks for E/W after South failed to lead a club. Monaco +630, but one may ask: what is such a flat board doing in the Daily Bulletin?



Frederic Wrang, Sweden

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Fantoni	Upmark	Nunes
			Pass
Pass	Pass	INT	2♣
Dble	2♠	All Pass	

Here is the answer: It was a swing to the tune of 12 IMPs in Monaco's favour. Nunes overcalled for the majors (at least 5-4 according to the system, but they seem to be more liberal at favourable vulnerability), Nyström made a card-showing double and for some reason Upmark didn't bid his diamonds. Perhaps he thought his pass was forcing, but his partner was not on the same wavelength.

Obviously, letting N/S play 2♠ led to a very poor result. Upmark led the ◇A and switched to a club. Fantoni drew trumps immediately to guarantee the contract against a 3-2 trump break.

Two medium-sized swings gave back the lead to Sweden, but then came two costly defensive plays in a row.

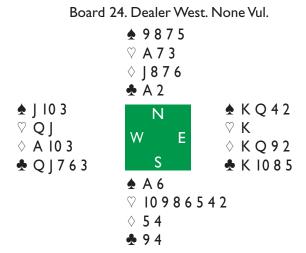
Board 23. Dealer South, All Vul. ♡ A J 8 6 5 4 3  $\Diamond$  K J 2 ♣ K 9 **↑** 7542 ♠ A J N ♡ 9 ♥ K Q 10 7 2 ♦ 10 ♦ A 9 7 5 ♣ A Q 10 8 6 4 2 **5** 3 **★** K 10 9 8 6 3 ♦ Q8643 **♣** | 7 West North East South Helgemo Sylvan Helness Wrang 3♠

All Pass

Helgemo/Helness did well not to enter the bidding, and then they found what looked like an obvious defence to beat 3\(\Delta\): diamond lead, diamond ruff, spade ace, another diamond ruff and club ace: Sweden -100.

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Fantoni	Upmark	Nunes
			Pass
3♣	3♡	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

The same contract was reached after a more revealing auction, and Nyström led his ♦10. It's almost an axiom that when a preemptor fails to lead his suit his lead is a singleton, but Upmark imagined a heart void in his partner's hand. It was not to be, and then after winning the ♠A (with the contract already secure) he once again failed to deliver a diamond ruff, allowing an overtrick to be made; Monaco +170 and 7 IMPs, taking the lead in the match for good.



West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Sylvan	Helness	Wrang
♣	Pass	I <b>♠</b>	Pass
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Two Diamonds was an artificial game force. Helness was reluctant to bid 3NT with his stiff  $\heartsuit K$ , as thought he could feel the danger. Eventually it was Helgemo who could find no better bid than 3NT with his minimal hand, and it was up to North to find the killing heart lead. Sylvan's choice of a diamond may have been logical, but it led to a disaster – not only losing a vital tempo but giving away a fourth diamond trick. And Helgemo even managed to steal an overtrick when a club was ducked and he switched to a spade – ducked as well; Monaco +430.

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Fantoni	Upmark	Nunes
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass



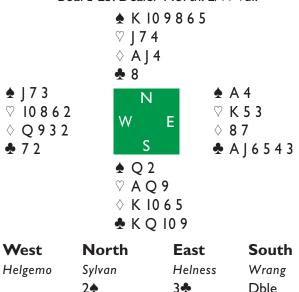
Johan Upmark, Sweden

### 3NT All Pass

INT openings with stiff kings happen from time to time even in world-class circles. Some conservative players abhor this kind of bridge, and I am sure that the table result would fill their hearts with joy. Nunes led the  $\heartsuit$ 10. Fantoni won the  $\heartsuit$ A and continued the suit, and the defence collected eight easy tricks; Sweden –200.

On the very next deal, the pendulum swung back in Sweden's favour. The systemic agreements of Fantoni/Nunes cost their team no less than 12 IMPs.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



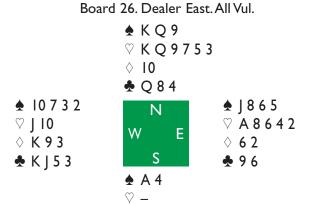
All Pass

East can hardly pass this hand after a weak 2♠ opening, so this disaster can be classified under 'one of those hands'. Indeed, four-digit penalties abounded in the Open Group A. The BBO records don't give the play after the ♠Q lead. It seems that the Swedish defence was imperfect, the final score being N/S +1100 when +1400 was possible according to Deep Finesse.

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Fantoni	Upmark	Nunes
	2♠	3♣	3NT
All Pass			

Let there be no misunderstanding, Claudio Nunes is well-aware of the fact that doubling vulnerable opponents at the three-level is more profitable than bidding a non-vulnerable game, but what to do when a double would be negative according to your system, and a pass would be non-forcing?! Monaco +460.

One of the hallmarks of a great team is the ability to rebound quickly after a setback. Monaco did just that on Board 26.



West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Sylvan	Helness	Wrang
			I♦
Pass	I♡	Pass	INT
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♡	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

♦ AQJ8754

♣ A 10 7 2

One Diamond promised an unbalanced hand, and INT was a transfer to clubs. North showed a game-forcing hand with six hearts, then settled for 3NT. Wrang made a last attempt of 4NT with his powerful hand, but Sylvan declined to take further action. Sweden +630.

Unfortunately the BBO records don't give the details of the bidding by Fantoni/Nunes at the other table, but the Monaco pair took a more optimistic view of their cards and blasted to  $6\lozenge-$  not the most elegant of slams, but after Nyström's unfortunate  $\heartsuit$ J lead declarer had time to ruff out the  $\heartsuit$ A, draw trumps and find a parking place for his three club losers thanks to the fall of the  $\heartsuit$ 10; Monaco +1370.

Once again luck favoured the brave. In fact, the only lead not to give away the slam was a spade. That's because it doesn't create any dummy entry for declarer. Of course, a single entry in spades is insufficient for declarer, who needs a ruffing finesse in hearts and then an entry to cash heart winners.

The rest of the match was quieter. There was one more big swing for Monaco, and the final score was 55-31 in their favour, giving them 15.74 important VP, which will be carried over to the final stage.

You can replay all the deals from this match at:

BBO Sweden v Monaco

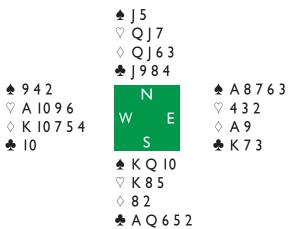
# The Three Level Belongs To ...?

By Murat Molva - Turkey

A fairly accurate answer to the above question would be: "... to the players who can play the spots off the cards".

The following hand came up in Round-11 match between Turkey and Lithuania. My partner, Enver Köksoy (East) opened One Spade. When N/S competed up to Three Clubs, I took the push to the three level and Köksoy was at the wheel in Three Spades. The challenge was to get rid of one of the five apparent losers.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

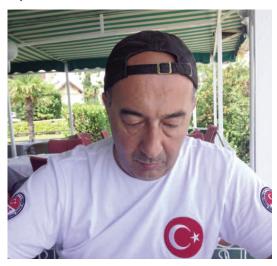


South led the  $\lozenge 2$  (playing 2th/4th leads). Köksoy played small from dummy and took the jack with his ace. He immediately returned a diamond to the king, noting the  $\lozenge 8$  on the way.

The diamond 10-7 being equals now, Köksoy played the diamond seven from dummy. When North did not cover, he discarded a heart from hand and South ruffed. (South does best to discard a heart. If declarer plays another diamond and ruffs South pitches the king of hearts! Editor)

South shifted to a heart, but Köksoy took his ace and played the fourth diamond, discarding his second heart loser, letting North win with the diamond queen.

Köksoy ruffed the heart continuation in hand, and played



Enver Köksoy, Turkey

two rounds of trumps, claiming his contract when the remaining trumps split evenly. He was able to discard one of his club losers on the long diamond and ruff the other in dummy. If North had shifted to clubs to prevent establishment of the diamonds, Köksoy would have simply ruffed two clubs in dummy to arrive at nine tricks.

At the other table, Yalcin Atabey of Turkey had landed in a poor 3NT from the South seat that suddenly became interesting at the second trick.

West led a diamond, declarer inserting an honour from dummy, as East took his ace to .... shift to a low spade. This is where any self-respecting bridge journalist is obliged to mention that there would have been no story had East continued diamonds.



Yalcin Atabey, Turkey

Atabey was still not out of the woods yet, but he managed the hand very well. He let the spade shift run to dummy's jack and played the club eight to win a finesse with the queen in his hand (noting West's ten). Declarer played a heart to dummy's jack (West had to duck), and played four more rounds of clubs. When West pitched one of his small spades to the third round of clubs, Atabey simply played a spade himself, when he still had a club entry to his hand to establish a second spade trick while cutting the communication between the defenders. Now he was in a position to force his ninth trick in hearts or diamonds; 600+140 translates to 12 IMPs for Turkey.

The interesting point of the hand is that 3NT is cold after the unfortunate spade switch. Suppose that the declarer runs five straight club tricks after winning the spade jack. What could West keep as his last five cards?

If West keeps two spades and two hearts (together with his diamond king), declarer can exit with a heart to force his eighth trick and wait for a spade or a diamond trick for his ninth. If West elects to keep a spade and three hearts instead, declarer can lead a diamond to establish two more tricks.

### **Open Teams Round 15**

By Ron Tacchi

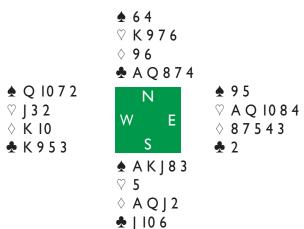


# Norway v France



In Group A, with only three matches remaining in the initial Round Robin, France were third, one place ahead of Norway, so this was an important match for both teams. In the Open Room Norway were represented by Thor Erik Hoftaniska and Thomas Charlsen, with Boye Brogeland and Espen Lindqvist in the Closed Room. Facing them from France were the Bessis father and son combination in the Open Room, with Alain Levy partnering Frederic Volcker in the other.

Board I. Dealer North. None Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis M.	Hoftaniska	Bessis T.	Charlsen
	Pass	Pass	♠
Pass	INT	2♡	Pass
3♡	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

I know they say it is a bidder's game nowadays but there is bidding and there is bidding, South was unlimited and North, according to his system card, could have as much as 12 points. When the dust had settled that was -300.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Levy	Lindqvist	Volcker
	Pass	Pass	I ♠
Pass	INT	2♡	Dble
Pass	3◊	All Pass	

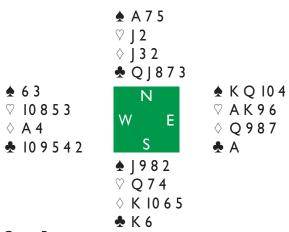
Yet again East thought his six-count worthy of a bid. This is not what I learnt at my mother's knee (she was very tall and I was short as an infant) and I suspect many ordinary players like myself are wondering whether we have been wrong all these years, or do the experts know something



Thor Erik Hoftaniska, Norway

we don't? However, the contract was reasonable and the outcome was expected to be contract made or even plus one but, inexplicably, well at least to me, declarer led the \$\\ \delta\$ from table, which held the trick, and then led small to the ace: from plus one to minus one in one trick. I would have counted nine tricks after the finesse succeeded and, even if East had been clever in holding up his king, I would still have expected to make my contract most of the time. But all of this equalled one off and 8 IMPs to Norway.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis M.	Hoftaniska	Bessis T.	Charlsen
		I ♦	Pass
Ι♡	Pass	<b>4</b> ♦	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Deep Finesse says you can make the contract but it is hardly a single dummy line. However the contract swung to

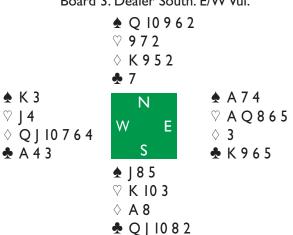
and fro, firstly it was possible then it was due to be one off and then the defence found a way for it to be makeable and then declarer successively found a way to go one off and then go two off; a veritable comedy of errors.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Levy	Lindqvist	Volcker
		I ♦	Pass
Ι♡	Pass	<b>4</b> $\diamond$ *	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Boye Brogeland made a better attempt but could not find the double dummy line and was only one off and so his team gained a further 2 IMPs.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



### Open Room

•			
West	North	East	South
Bessis M.	Hoftaniska	Bessis T.	Charlsen
			INT
Pass	2♡*	Dble	2♠
3♦	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		



Espen Lindqvist, Norway

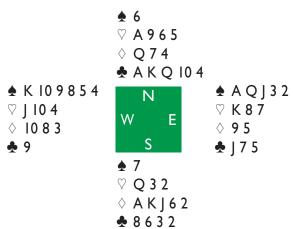
Yet again E/W got too high when they tried a game with no real fit and consequently drifted two off vulnerable for -200.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Levy	Lindqvist	Volcker
			I ♦
1♦	♡*	Dble	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

A much more disciplined auction from Norway and a gain of 7 IMPs, giving them a 17-0 lead.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis M.	Hoftaniska	Bessis T.	Charlsen
Pass	I ◊*	I <b>♠</b>	2◊*
4♠	5♦	Pass	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

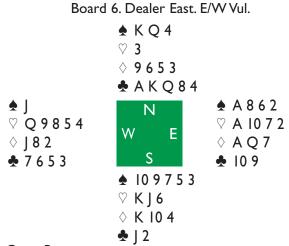
Team Bessis tried a vulnerable sacrifice but it proved to be too much as they had two diamonds, two hearts and a club loser, taking them three off for -800.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Levy	Lindqvist	Volcker
2◊*	Pass	3♡*	Pass
3♠	Dble	Pass	4♠
Pass	5◊	All Pass	

A good auction by N/S against the multi  $2\Diamond$  opening saw them to their best game and this time E/W were wise enough not to save, so another 5 IMPs to Norway.

Board 5 saw France go two off in a INT contract whereas in the other room Norway held their loss to just one off and so two more IMPs to Norway, who had scored 17 with no reply from France.



Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis M.	Hoftaniska	Bessis T.	Charlsen
		INT	Pass
2◊	Dble	3♡	3♠
Pass	4♠	Dble	All Pass

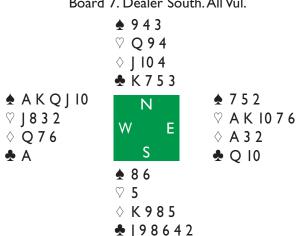
Here, some very aggressive play by Thomas Bessis paid off. He had already upgraded his hand to a 15-17 no-trump and then doubled the final contract when his partner had promised nothing. As expected, pere Bessis started with a heart, taken by fils Bessis with the ace. He now had to switch to a diamond to beat the contract - not the hardest switch to find, but Thomas tanked a long while before playing ace and another diamond to take the contract one off.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Levy	Lindqvist	Volcker
		INT	Pass
2◊*	Pass	2♡	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♡	3♠
All Pass			

A more restrained auction saw South in a part-score and he had no problem making his contract. At last some relief for the French with 7 IMPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis M.	Hoftaniska	Bessis T.	Charlsen
			Pass
I♠	Pass	2♡	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♡	All Pass

More woe for France here as East made absolutely no effort over his partner's splinter. Both players were timid here. Usually the French style with splinters is that they are very distributional rather than strong, but it does not look as though it could cost to make a 40 cue-bid with the East hand.

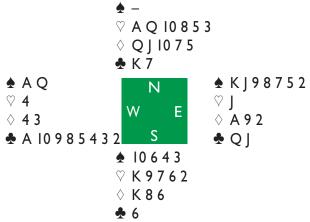
### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Levy	Lindqvist	Volcker
			Pass
I♠	Pass	2♡	Pass
3♡	Pass	4♡	Pass
4♠	Pass	5◊	Pass
6♠			

A perfectly reasonable auction to the slam which made easily and gave Norway another 13 IMPs and the lead 24-7.

Board 8 was a push in a heart game.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis M.	Hoftaniska	Bessis T.	Charlsen
	I	3♠	<b>4</b> ♡
4♠	5♦	pass	5◊
Pass	6♡	All Pass	

It never rains but it pours, or at least that is what it is doing outside my office window. After N/S seemed to have a small misunderstanding in the bidding, they reached a slam holding only one of the four aces. However... East cashed the  $\Diamond A$  and went into the tank for an age, evidently he had to switch to a club but, after what seemed an eternity, he produced a small spade and declarer promptly brought home his slam. I, along with a host of other

commentators and kibitzers, was amazed at this choice. North must be void in spades as partner, vulnerable, would not have raised a pre-emptive bid with a singleton. That leaves the choice between diamonds and clubs, and if partner has a singleton diamond then almost certainly he has nine clubs and even the most timid Frenchman might utter a squeak with that. If declarer has ace-king of clubs he is always home, so I calculate it can never cost to lead a club, but then I am sitting here and unlikely to be selected to play for France.

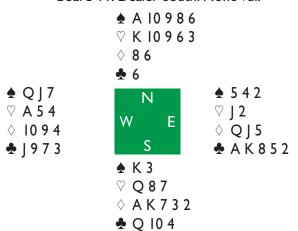
### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Levy	Lindqvist	Volcker
	10	I <b>♠</b>	4♡
5◊	5♡	Dble	All Pass

Alain Levy must have been very pleased with his result – the absolute maximum, and then to find his team lost 8 IMPs must have been a blow.

Board 10 was two overtrick IMPs to France when the Norwegian declarer played to guarantee his contract whilst in the other room declarer did not have this luxury and had to play for spades to break 2-2, which they obligingly did, and so he made two overtricks.

Board II. Dealer South. None Vul.





Boye Brogeland, Norway

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis M.	Hoftaniska	Bessis T.	Charlsen
			I♦
Pass	l 🏚	Pass	INT
Pass	2♡	All Pass	

N/S stopped peacefully in  $2^{\circ}$  and made plus two when everything was nicely placed.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Levy	Lindqvist	Volcker
			INT
Pass	4◊*	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

40 5-5 majors

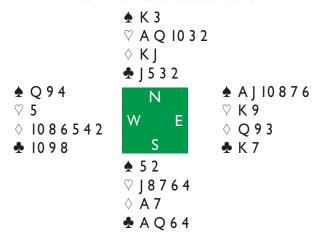
Volcker upgraded his hand to a strong no-trump and Levy had a system bid to show his hand, and so France reached game which duly rolled home, giving France a much needed 6 IMPs.

Board 12 saw a slight defensive error allow France to make a partial in hearts and they defeated a INT contract in the other room to net another 4 IMPs.

Board 13 was a spade-game push.

Board 14 saw Norway gain an overtrick IMP in a part-

### Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis M.	Hoftaniska	Bessis T.	Charlsen
			IŸ
Pass	2◊*	2♠	Pass
3♠	4♡	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

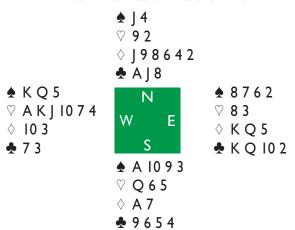
The French pair decided to sacrifice against the 4% contract and were set two tricks, losing 300.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Levy	Lindqvist	Volcker
			Pass
Pass	I 🛇	I♠	2♠
3♠	4♡	All Pass	

Levy brought his contract home easily after East decided to lead the  $\triangle A$ , which netted another 8 IMPs to France on their comeback roll, winning 20 IMPs and only conceding one in the last six boards.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis M.	Hoftaniska	Bessis T.	Charlsen
I	Pass	I♠	Pass
2♡	Pass	3NT	All Pass

East gambled a bit here as his partner had not promised more than an opening bid He was hampered as in his system 2NT would be forcing. He knew they were probably behind and so punted a game. When playing for victory points and you know you are behind then losing

another 10 IMPs doesn't damage your cause as much as winning 10 IMPs so the gamble is not as risky as it seems. A spade was led to the king and dummy played a small club upon which North leapt up with his ace and played a diamond through to the king and ace. South now cashed the spade ace and excited with a diamond to the ten, jack and queen. East now sucked in his cheeks and took the heart finesse and, when the jack held, he played a club back to hand and when the  $\lozenge$ J fell he had no need to risk all by repeating the heart finesse as he now had nine tricks.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Levy	Lindqvist	Volcker
10	Pass	I <b>♠</b>	Pass
2♡	All Pass		

E/W stayed calmly in a part-score but lost 10 IMPs on the board. Norway had won the match 46-37 which translated into 12.55-7.45 VPs. Norway had now overtaken France but Germany had leapfrogged them both, so Norway stayed where they were in the table but France had slipped two places.

Having finished this article I am now off to celebrate the feu de St Jean on our local village green, which is a bit like Guy Fawkes night in England. We have a bonfire but no Guy Fawkes and no fireworks but we do have drink and food and drink. I know which I prefer.

You can replay the deals from this match at:

BBO Norway vs. France

# "See you in Tromsø next year!"

The Championships website is now operational.

When we last visited it there were only 363 days, 04 hours, 40 minutes, 06 seconds to go to the start of the event.

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### **Open Teams Round 15**

By David Bird



### Sweden v Ireland



No excuse for any space-consuming waffle. Let's get straight to the first interesting deal, one that did not create a flat board at any of the 34 tables in the Open event!

Board I. Dealer North. None Vul.

	<b>♠</b> 64 ♡ K 9 7 6 ◊ 9 6 <b>♣</b> A Q 8 7 4	
♠ Q 10 7 2 ♡ J 3 2 ◇ K 10 ♣ K 9 5 3	N W E S	<ul><li>♠ 9 5</li><li>♡ A Q I0 8 4</li><li>◇ 8 7 5 4 3</li><li>♠ 2</li></ul>
Os an Basin	♠ A K J 8 3 ♡ 5 ◇ A Q J 2 ♣ J 10 6	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
McGann	Cullin	Hanlon	Bertheau
	Pass	2♡	2♠
3♡	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

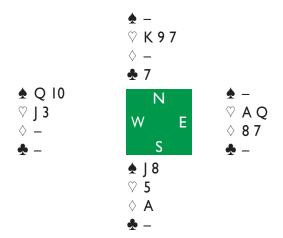
It was a tricky bidding decision for North on the second round. Some might favour 3♠ or 4♣. 3NT was a very strong contender and could not have been defeated, but Cullin opted to pass out the double.

Bertheau began with two top spades and his 🛃 switch



Tom Hanlon, Ireland

was covered by the king and ace. Declarer ruffed the next club and played a diamond to the king, followed by the  $\lozenge 10$  to South's jack. When another club was led, declarer ruffed with the  $\lozenge 8$ . He then led a diamond, ruffed with the  $\lozenge 2$  and over-ruffed with the  $\lozenge 6$ . The  $\lozenge Q$  forced declarer to ruff with the  $\lozenge 10$  and the critical end position had been reached:



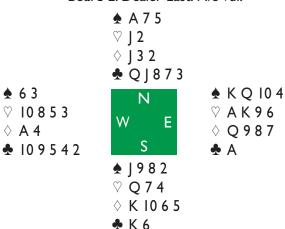
The winning play to hold the loss to 200 was to ruff a diamond with the  $\heartsuit 3$ , which would set up the last diamond and endplay North at the same time! No, declarer ruffed with the  $\heartsuit J$  instead, allowing North to over-ruff with the king and force him to ruff the club return (since South still held the  $\heartsuit 5$ ). That was 500 away.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Garvey	Wrang	Carroll
	Pass	Pass	I♠
Pass	INT	2♡	Dble
Pass	3♣	Pass	

North must have been tempted to bid 3NT when partner showed extra values. It was 9 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



### Open Room

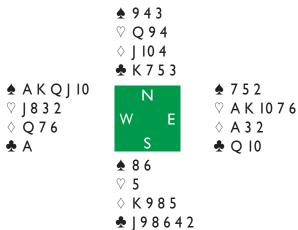
West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Garvey	Wrang	Carroll
		♣*	Pass
◊*	Pass	I 🌣	Pass
2♡	Pass	4♡	All Pass

North won the  $\clubsuit 8$  lead with the  $\clubsuit A$  and returned the  $\heartsuit 2$  to declarer's ace. Declarer might have tried ace and another diamond now but preferred to play two top spades for a diamond discard. A diamond to the ace was followed by a club to the ace, a diamond ruff in dummy and a club ruff. At this stage declarer was down to  $\spadesuit 10$   $\heartsuit K9$   $\diamondsuit Q9$ . The only winning line now was to play the king of trumps and then exit with his last trump. South would win with the  $\triangledown Q$  and cash the  $\spadesuit J$ , after which he would have to give declarer a diamond trick. Not surprisingly, declarer decided to ruff another diamond and was then one down on the lie of the cards.

West (Sylvan) played 4% at the other table, going one down on the  $\clubsuit$  lead.

Both sides reached a no-play 6♣ on Board 4 for one down. This was the next big deal:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.



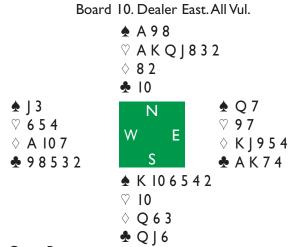
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Garvey	Wrang	Carroll
			Pass
I♠	Pass	2♡	Pass
3♡	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	<b>4</b> ♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5◊	Pass
7♡	All Pass		

At the other table Ireland had stopped in 6% and recorded +1430. Here Sweden were more ambitious. Carroll led the  $\clubsuit6$  to dummy's ace. The  $\heartsuit$ J was led from dummy, North following with the  $\heartsuit4$ , and Wrang rose with the ace. He returned to dummy by ruffing the  $\clubsuit Q$ , led the  $\heartsuit3$  and... finessed the 10!

You want to know how he read the trump suit so well? Join the club. There was no inference from the lack of a trump lead, since South would be even less inclined to lead

a trump from  $\heartsuit$ Q5 than he would with a singleton. Anyway, it was 13 big IMPs to Sweden and an annoying board for Ireland. I'm sure they would have preferred it if trumps had broken 2-2.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
McGann	Cullin	Hanlon	Bertheau
		INT	Pass
Pass	Dble	Rdble	Pass
2♣	3♡	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Hanlon's off-shape INT showed 14-16. The defenders could have taken all 13 tricks against INT (or INT doubled, or INT redoubled). When McGann declined to write an enormous number into his minus column, Cullin jumped to 3♥ and this set a problem for Bertheau. Should he raise the hearts or perhaps bid 3♠? He opted for 3NT, which was not the right spot.

McGann led the  $\lozenge 7$  to Hanlon's king. He cashed the  $\clubsuit K$ , receiving the  $\clubsuit 2$  from partner, and switched back to diamonds. The defenders scored five diamonds and two clubs for +300. At the other table East opened  $I \lozenge$ , South overcalled one spade and +620 was recorded in  $4 \spadesuit$  for a swing of  $I \bowtie IMPs$ .

Ireland recovered from a sizeable early deficit to lose the match by only 36-34, 10.61-9.39 in VP.

You can replay all the deals from this match at:

BBO Sweden v Ireland

# **RESULTS**

# **OPEN**

### **Open FI (18)** Match **IMPs VPs** I GERMANY **ROMANIA** 53 52 10.31 9.69 2 ITALY **NORWAY** 26 56 3.27 16.73 3 MONACO 42 23 14.80 5.20 **BULGARIA** 4 POLAND **FRANCE** 60 13 18.87 1.13 5 RUSSIA **TURKEY** 50 44 11.76 8.24 6 NETHERL. **SWEDEN** 43 36 12.03 7.97 7 ESTONIA **ENGLAND** 28 54 3.91 16.09 8 DENMARK **CROATIA** 60 8 19.34 0.66 44 51 9 IRELAND ISRAEL 7.97 12.03

Open F2 (19)					
	Ma	tch	IMPs	VPs	
ı	NORWAY	BULGARIA	6 45	2.03 17.97	
2	ROMANIA	MONACO	20 36	5.82 14.18	
3	GERMANY	ITALY	78	20.00 0.00	
4	NETHERL.	RUSSIA	12 19	7.97 12.03	
5	SWEDEN	POLAND	28 13	13.97 6.03	
6	TURKEY	FRANCE	18 38	5.00 15.00	
7	CROATIA	ISRAEL	25 51	3.91 16.09	
8	ENGLAND	IRELAND	21 25	8.80 11.20	
9	ESTONIA	DENMARK	57 32	15.92 4.08	

	Open F2 (20)					
	Ma	tch	II	1Ps	٧	'Ps
ı	FRANCE	ENGLAND	22	13	12.55	7.45
2	DENMARK	RUSSIA	27	19	12.29	7.71
3	SWEDEN	ISRAEL	23	14	12.55	7.45
4	ROMANIA	ESTONIA	32	15	14.39	5.61
5	CROATIA	ITALY	15	36	4.81	15.19
6	BULGARIA	IRELAND	51	13	17.85	2.15
7	GERMANY	POLAND	45	34	13.04	6.96
8	TURKEY	NORWAY	8	28	5.00	15.00
9	MONACO	NETHERL.	28	6	15.38	4.62

# **WOMEN**

Women R17					
Mat	tch	IM	1Ps	٧	'Ps
21 SERBIA	SPAIN	43	33	12.80	7.20
22 SCOTLAND	SWEDEN	25	48	4.44	15.56
23 RUSSIA	TURKEY	25	51	3.91	16.09
24 ROMANIA	AUSTRIA	21	55	2.69	17.31
25 POLAND	BULGARIA	57	25	17.03	2.97
26 NORWAY	CROATIA	69	31	17.85	2.15
27 NETHERL.	DENMARK	26	22	11.20	8.80
28 LEBANON	ENGLAND	15	58	1.56	18.44
29 ITALY	ESTONIA	42	25	14.39	5.61
30 ISRAEL	FRANCE	22	34	6.72	13.28
31 IRELAND	GERMANY	42	33	12.55	7.45
32 GREECE	BYE			12.00	

Women R18					
Ma	tch	IMPs	VPs		
21 GREECE	IRELAND	38 54	5.82 14.18		
22 GERMANY	ISRAEL	40 16	15.74 4.26		
23 FRANCE	ITALY	45 35	12.80 7.20		
24 ESTONIA	LEBANON	34 22	13.28 6.72		
25 ENGLAND	NETHERLANDS	36 20	14.18 5.82		
26 DENMARK	NORWAY	32 30	10.61 9.39		
27 CROATIA	POLAND	23 40	5.61 14.39		
28 BULGARIA	ROMANIA	14 11	10.91 9.09		
29 AUSTRIA	RUSSIA	15 31	5.82 14.18		
30 TURKEY	SCOTLAND	25 19	11.76 8.24		
31 SWEDEN	SERBIA	43 31	13.28 6.72		
32 SPAIN	BYE		12.00		

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