

## Daily Bulletin

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Issue No. 11

Late Night Tuesday, 1st July 2014

## A NEAR RUN THING



Israel winners of the Gold Medal in the Open Series

At 16.40 the **Netherlands** gained I IMP on the anti penultimate board of their match to move ahead of England by 0.12VP and two further gains on the remaining deals saw them crowned as the European Women's Team Champions. Congratulations to Carla Arnolds, Marion Michielsen, Jet Pasman, Anneke Simons, Wietske van Zwol, Meike Wortel, Alex van Reenen NPC, Hans Kelder Coach. England Sally Brock, Fiona Brown, Heather Dhondy, Catherine Draper, Nevena Senior, Nicola Smith, Derek Patterson NPC. David Burn Coach took silver and France Debora Campagnano, Bénédicte Cronier, Elisabeth Hugon, Vanessa Reess, Sylvie Willard, Joanna Żochowska, Jérôme Rombaut NPC. These three are joined by Italy, Poland & Denmark in the Venice Cup.

For the first time, Israel, Alon Birman, Lotan Fisher, Ilan Herbst, Ophir Herbst, Dror Padon, Ron Schwartz, Ron Pachtman NPC are the European Bridge Team Champions. In a thrilling conclusion that enthralled the BBO audience Monaco: Fulvio Fantoni, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Franck Multon, Claudio Nunes, Pierre Zimmermann, Jean Charles Allavena NPC, Krzysztof Martens Coach saw the lead they had established disappear and they had to be content with silver. By finishing in third place England: David Bakhshi, Tony Forrester, David Gold, Jason Hackett, Justin Hackett, Andrew Robson, Simon Cope NPC, Ben Green Coach, became only the second country to win a medal in all three events, matching the achievement of France in 1995. Poland, Bulgaria & Germany complete Europe's line-up in the Bermuda Bowl.



Netherlands take the Crown

















## **RESULTS**

## **OPEN**

<b>Open F7 (24)</b>					
Ma	tch	IMP	s VPs		
I IRELAND	POLAND	20 2	2 9.39 10.61		
2 NETHERLAND	S ESTONIA	36 2	9 12.03 7.97		
3 CROATIA	TURKEY	10 4	8 2.15 17.85		
4 DENMARK	MONACO	19 4	6 3.74 16.26		
5 GERMANY	ISRAEL	15 5 <sub>-</sub>	4 2.03 17.97		
6 ENGLAND	NORWAY	32 2	7 11.48 8.52		
7 SWEDEN	ROMANIA	37 I.	5 15.38 4.62		
8 BULGARIA	FRANCE	19 2	9.69 10.31		
9 RUSSIA	ITALY	36 4	8.80 11.20		

	Open F8 (25)					
	Ma	tch	١١	1Ps	٧	'Ps
1	RUSSIA	ISRAEL	20	60	1.91	18.09
2	ENGLAND	SWEDEN	2	45	1.56	18.44
3	FRANCE	DENMARK	30	26	11.20	8.80
4	BULGARIA	CROATIA	64	6	19.85	0.15
5	IRELAND	ROMANIA	18	44	3.91	16.09
6	ITALY	ESTONIA	28	16	13.28	6.72
7	NORWAY	NETHERLANDS	26	29	9.09	10.91
8	POLAND	MONACO	21	19	10.61	9.39
9	GERMANY	TURKEY	30	46	5.82	14.18

	<b>Open F9 (26)</b>					
	Ma	tch	IMPs	VPs		
ı	CROATIA	NETHERLANDS	20 49	3.42 16.58		
2	TURKEY	IRELAND	24 43	5.20 14.80		
3	ESTONIA	POLAND	30 16	13.75 6.25		
4	ISRAEL	NORWAY	12 25	6.48 13.52		
5	MONACO	ENGLAND	27 45	5.40 14.60		
6	DENMARK	GERMANY	47 19	16.42 3.58		
7	RUSSIA	BULGARIA	22 26	8.80 11.20		
8	ITALY	SWEDEN	20 44	4.26 15.74		
9	FRANCE	ROMANIA	56 50	11.76 8.24		

## Final Ranking

I ISRAEL  2 MONACO  2 MONACO  3 ENGLAND  4 POLAND  5 BULGARIA  6 GERMANY  7 SWEDEN  8 DENMARK  9 FRANCE  10 NORWAY  11 NETHERLANDS  12 TURKEY  13 ROMANIA  167.72  14 ITALY  15 IRELAND  154.48  16 ESTONIA  174.69  17 RUSSIA		TEAM	VP
3 ENGLAND 209.65 4 POLAND 200.63 5 BULGARIA 198.85 6 GERMANY 198.22 7 SWEDEN 8 DENMARK 187.46 9 FRANCE 181.31 10 NORWAY 174.69 11 NETHERLANDS 171.53 12 TURKEY 168.75 13 ROMANIA 167.72 14 ITALY 15 IRELAND 154.48 16 ESTONIA 17 RUSSIA	1		
3 ENGLAND 209.65 4 POLAND 200.63 5 BULGARIA 198.85 6 GERMANY 198.22 7 SWEDEN 8 DENMARK 187.46 9 FRANCE 181.31 10 NORWAY 174.69 11 NETHERLANDS 171.53 12 TURKEY 168.75 13 ROMANIA 167.72 14 ITALY 15 IRELAND 154.48 16 ESTONIA 17 RUSSIA	2	MONACO	213.29
4 POLAND       200.63         5 BULGARIA       198.85         6 GERMANY       198.22         7 SWEDEN       189.95         8 DENMARK       187.46         9 FRANCE       181.31         10 NORWAY       174.69         11 NETHERLANDS       171.53         12 TURKEY       168.75         13 ROMANIA       167.72         14 ITALY       159.31         15 IRELAND       154.48         16 ESTONIA       154.06         17 RUSSIA       152.95	3		
6 GERMANY 198.22 7 SWEDEN 189.95 8 DENMARK 187.46 9 FRANCE 181.31 10 NORWAY 174.69 11 NETHERLANDS 171.53 12 TURKEY 168.75 13 ROMANIA 167.72 14 ITALY 15 IRELAND 154.48 16 ESTONIA 17 RUSSIA 189.95	4	-	200.63
7 SWEDEN 189.95 8 DENMARK 187.46 9 FRANCE 181.31 10 NORWAY 174.69 11 NETHERLANDS 171.53 12 TURKEY 168.75 13 ROMANIA 167.72 14 ITALY 159.31 15 IRELAND 154.48 16 ESTONIA 154.06 17 RUSSIA 152.95	5	BULGARIA	198.85
8 DENMARK 187.46 9 FRANCE 181.31 10 NORWAY 174.69 11 NETHERLANDS 171.53 12 TURKEY 168.75 13 ROMANIA 167.72 14 ITALY 159.31 15 IRELAND 154.48 16 ESTONIA 154.06 17 RUSSIA 152.95	6	GERMANY	198.22
9 FRANCE 181.31 10 NORWAY 174.69 11 NETHERLANDS 171.53 12 TURKEY 168.75 13 ROMANIA 167.72 14 ITALY 159.31 15 IRELAND 154.48 16 ESTONIA 154.06 17 RUSSIA 152.95	7	SWEDEN	189.95
10 NORWAY       174.69         11 NETHERLANDS       171.53         12 TURKEY       168.75         13 ROMANIA       167.72         14 ITALY       159.31         15 IRELAND       154.48         16 ESTONIA       154.06         17 RUSSIA       152.95	8	DENMARK	187.46
11 NETHERLANDS       171.53         12 TURKEY       168.75         13 ROMANIA       167.72         14 ITALY       159.31         15 IRELAND       154.48         16 ESTONIA       154.06         17 RUSSIA       152.95	9	FRANCE	181.31
12 TURKEY       168.75         13 ROMANIA       167.72         14 ITALY       159.31         15 IRELAND       154.48         16 ESTONIA       154.06         17 RUSSIA       152.95	10	NORWAY	174.69
13 ROMANIA       167.72         14 ITALY       159.31         15 IRELAND       154.48         16 ESTONIA       154.06         17 RUSSIA       152.95	П	NETHERLANDS	171.53
14 ITALY       159.31         15 IRELAND       154.48         16 ESTONIA       154.06         17 RUSSIA       152.95	12	TURKEY	168.75
15 IRELAND       154.48         16 ESTONIA       154.06         17 RUSSIA       152.95	13	ROMANIA	167.72
16 ESTONIA       154.06         17 RUSSIA       152.95	14	ITALY	159.31
17 RUSSIA 152.95	15	IRELAND	154.48
	16	ESTONIA	154.06
	17	RUSSIA	152.95
18 CROATIA 104.35	18	CROATIA	104.35

Women R22					
Ma	tch	١١	1Ps	٧	'Ps
21 GERMANY	GREECE	89	15	20.00	0.00
22 FRANCE	IRELAND	46	15	16.88	3.12
23 ESTONIA	ISRAEL	22	71	0.93	19.07
24 ENGLAND	ITALY	20	60	1.91	18.09
25 DENMARK	LEBANON	45	П	17.31	2.69
26 CROATIA	NETHERLANDS	42	19	15.56	4.44
27 BULGARIA	NORWAY	40	69	3.42	16.58
28 AUSTRIA	POLAND	4	31	3.74	16.26
29 TURKEY	ROMANIA	49	28	15.19	4.81
30 SWEDEN	RUSSIA	28	50	4.62	15.38
31 SPAIN	SCOTLAND	25	52	3.74	16.26
32 SERBIA	BYE			12.00	

## **RESULTS**

## **WOMEN**

## Women R23

Mat	ch	11	1Ps	٧	'Ps
21 SPAIN	SWEDEN	23	40	5.61	14.39
22 SERBIA	TURKEY	39	18	15.19	4.81
23 SCOTLAND	AUSTRIA	29	57	3.58	16.42
24 RUSSIA	BULGARIA	8	28	5.00	15.00
25 ROMANIA	CROATIA	40	25	13.97	6.03
26 POLAND	DENMARK	15	28	6.48	13.52
27 NORWAY	ENGLAND	- 11	37	3.91	16.09
28 NETHERL.	ESTONIA	30	7	15.56	4.44
29 LEBANON	FRANCE	16	42	3.91	16.09
30 ITALY	GERMANY	20	24	8.80	11.20
31 ISRAEL	GREECE	24	18	11.76	8.24
32 IRELAND	BYE			12.00	

## **Championship Diary**

If you would like to get one of Anna's photographs from the EBL website: https://www.flickr.com/photos/in high resolution just send her an email: anna@ecats.co.uk

The EBL Press Conference had questions about the Butler rankings, sexist captions on EBL videos, and drug-testing. This led one wit in the Press Room to suggest a headline if the more sensational newspapers had a report:

## Sex, Drugs, and the Butler

Reading yesterday's Bulletin I was impressed to discover that it was apparently the Editor's decision with regard to publication of the Butler scores. To paraphrase Lincoln (in the film of the same name):

"I am the Editor of the Daily Bulletin clothed with immense power. You will procure me those Butlers".

I'll remember that for next time. Meanwhile if you are interested in them, the Butlers can be found at:

Butler Scores Opatija 2014

## **Final Ranking**

TEAM       VP         I NETHERLANDS       298.45         2 ENGLAND       296.74         3 FRANCE       294.24         4 ITALY       293.43         5 POLAND       272.20         6 DENMARK       266.18         7 TURKEY       259.54         8 ROMANIA       258.56
2 ENGLAND 296.74  3 FRANCE 294.24  4 ITALY 293.43  5 POLAND 272.20  6 DENMARK 266.18  7 TURKEY 259.54
3 FRANCE 294.24 4 ITALY 293.43 5 POLAND 272.20 6 DENMARK 266.18 7 TURKEY 259.54
4 ITALY 293.43 5 POLAND 272.20 6 DENMARK 266.18 7 TURKEY 259.54
5 POLAND       272.20         6 DENMARK       266.18         7 TURKEY       259.54
6 <b>DENMARK</b> 266.18 7 TURKEY 259.54
7 TURKEY 259.54
8 ROMANIA 258.56
9 SWEDEN 250.41
10 RUSSIA 242.96
II GERMANY 240.99
12 ISRAEL 235.34
13 NORWAY 218.97
14 IRELAND 216.29
15 SPAIN 208.82
16 SCOTLAND 206.42
17 AUSTRIA 200.14
18 BULGARIA 199.05
19 CROATIA 194.60
20 ESTONIA 188.78
21 GREECE 183.71
22 SERBIA 180.09
23 LEBANON 126.74

# ON WITH THE MOTLEY

The Daily Bulletin was staffed by an eclectic group. Uniquely, most of our reporters were based at home - David Bird, John Carruthers, Jos Jacobs, Ram Soffer & Ron Tacchi slaving away over hot keyboards to bring you the best of the action. A special word of thanks to Ron, who made his 'Hands Up' program available, which saved us all a great deal of time.

**Brian Senior**, here in Opatija, produced his usual immaculate reports and also acted as chief proof reader, earning him the title of 'the comma king'.

**Christina Lund Madsen** produced a series of interviews in her inimitable style, and they have attracted some very favourable comments.

**Tomislav Šćepanocić** was responsible for our Croatian pages - as a small tribute we publish our favourite Croatian phrase: *Moja je lebdjelica puna jegulja*.

**Anna Gudge** was our Photographer, aided by **Iva Mrkić.** You can see a selection of their outstanding pictures at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/

**Barry Rigal** kept us updated on key deals from VuGraph and also acted as a part time editor and proof reader, the latter role being shared with **Herman De Waal**.

**Patrick Jourdain** kindly represented us at the Congress & Press Conference.

**Catherine Vitry** made sure that all the official notices were made available with time to spare and

**Fotis Skoularikis** ensured that the all important results were delivered in timely fashion.

**Manolo Eminenti** (a Prince amongst men) saved our bacon on more than one occasion.

Jan Kamras helped the Editor select the VuGraph matches, the pair of us proving the old adage, 'you can please some of the people all of the time etc'.

Mario Chavarria & Simon Fellus produced some terrific video footage that we were able to incorporate into the Bulletins.

**BBO** allowed us to reproduce the deals interactively.

I have saved the best till last. Our tireless Layout Editor **Monika Kümmel** put our feeble efforts together in a way that was pleasing to the eye.

If we offend, it is with our good will.
That you should think, we come not to offend,
But with good will. To show our simple skill,
That is the true beginning of our end.
Consider then we come but in despite.
We do not come as minding to content you,
Our true intent is. All for your delight.

See you all in Tromsø!

Mark Horton



Harlequin in motley attire, year 1761 by Maurice Sand





## **Closing Speech Of Yves Aubry**

Mr ivo Dujmić, Mayor of the City of Opatija,

Mr José Damiani and Gianarrigo Rona, EBL Presidents Emeritus,

Mr Jurica Carić, President of the Croatian Bridge Federation,

Dear Bridge Friends,

We are at the end of the 52nd European Bridge Team Championships after 10 days of hard competition in the two categories, Open and Women.



Yves Aubry, President of the EBL

A great thank you to the Croatian people to have welcomed us so kindly in Opatija.

If this championship was so successful, it is of course thanks to the Croatian Bridge Federation and to its President, Jurica Carić, who was a member of the Croation Open team that reached for the first time the final Round Robin. Thank you Jurica for your great job.

Of course, the Organising Committee and the Championship Committee with Goran and Branka Grgurić, Josef Harsanyi, Jan Kamras, Maurizio Di Sacco and Catherine Vitry worked hard for you all, with the help of all workers and volunteers both from EBL and Croatian staff.

But the success of a championship is determined by the players.

I would like to thank you all for your behaviour, your fair-play, your sport spirit and the atmosphere you have created.

These contributed to the success of the championship, but also to the promotion of our sport inside of Olympic values and for a more peaceful world.

As you already know, this European championship qualifies the first six teams in the Open and Women Series for the Bermuda Bowl and the Venice Cup, which will be held in Chennai, India, from 26th September to 10th October 2015.

All my good wishes to the teams that have qualified.

The first ten NBO's ranked in the Open Series qualified also a team from their country to participate in the Champions' Cup to be held in Milan from 13 to 16th November 2014.

The EBL organised these 52nd European Team Championships in Opatija. The venue over the next edition is not yet known. It will probably be in Budapest (Hungary) in June 2016.

With the new board of the EBL elected last Sunday, some important challenges will be undertaken for the next four years and we are ready to achieve them together with the participation of the NBO's, the players and all actors in bridge.

Thanks to all, players, officers, journalists, operators, volunteers and guests. I know you will have great memories of Opatija.

Have a safe return back home and enjoy your evening.

I officially declare the 52nd European Team Championships closed.

Yves Aubry EBL President

# Roll Of Honour

## **Open Teams**

## Gold: Israel

Alon Birman, Lotan Fisher, Ilan Herbst, Ophir Herbst, Dror Padon, Ron Schwartz, Ron Pachtman NPC



#### Silver: Monaco:

Fulvio Fantoni, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Franck Multon, Claudio Nunes, Pierre Zimmermann, Jean Charles Allavena NPC, Krzysztof Martens Coach.

Bronze: England: David Bakhshi, Tony Forrester, David Gold, Jason Hackett, Justin Hackett, Andrew Robson, Simon Cope NPC, Ben Green Coach.



#### Women's Teams

## Gold: Netherlands:

Carla Arnolds, Marion Michielsen, Jet Pasman, Anneke Simons, Wietske van Zwol, Meike Wortel, Alex van Reenen NPC, Hans Kelder Coach.



## Silver: England:

Sally Brock, Fiona Brown, Heather Dhondy, Catherine Draper, Nevena Senior, Nicola Smith, Derek Patterson NPC, David Burn Coach.

#### Bronze: France:

Debora Campagnano, Bénédicte Cronier, Elisabeth Hugon, Vanessa Reess, Sylvie Willard, Joanna Żochowska, Jérôme Rombaut NPC.



# Roll Of Honour

## **Senior Teams**

## Gold: England:

Paul Hackett, Gunnar Hallberg, John Holland, David Mossop, David Price, Colin Simpson, Simon Cochemé NPC.



## Silver: Sweden:

Sven-Åke Bjerregård, Andreas Könyves, Anders Morath, Börje Rudenståhl, Göran Selldén, Björn Wenneberg, Tommy Gullberg NPC, Carina Westlin Coach.

# Bronze: Poland: Julian Klukowski, Apolinary Kowalski, Krzysztof Lasocki, Viktor Markowicz, Jacek Romański, Jerzy Russyan, Włodek Wala NPC &

Marian Wierszycki Coach.

Israel have only once before won a medal at the European Open Team Championships, a silver in 1975.

The team from Monaco is the same one that won the title two years ago, but some of the members have medals from other championships as well:

Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes won the title in 2004 and 606. Geir Helgemo won one gold (2008) one silver (2001) and 4 bronzes (93, 97, 602 and 606).

Apart from 2008 and an additional bronze (1983), Tor Helness has the same record as Helgemo. It is the first medal for England, although Great Britain has won many (the last one a gold in 1991).

This is the eighth European Championship this century. In that time, France and the Netherlands have each won seven medals in the Women's event, while England is only up to six. The Netherlands had 2 gold and 4 silvers, France 2 golds, 2 silvers and 2 bronzes and England 2 golds, a silver and 2 bronzes.

Jet Pasman, Anneke Simons and Wietske Van Zwol were also on the Dutch team that won gold in 2002.

Nicola Smith won her fifth medal under the English flag, to add to the 7 medals she gained under the British one, This is one medal more than Sylvie Willard (11) and two more than Bénédicte Cronier.

It is the first time England won a medal at the European Senior Championship, and it is a Gold, Sweden won their second medal (again Silver after 2006), while Poland now have seven medals from 11 championships. The Polish senior team is composed of the same six players that won gold in Ostend and silver in Dublin.

## **Open Teams Final Round I**

By Jos Jacobs



## Poland v. France

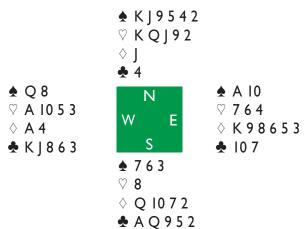


When the finals got underway on Sunday morning, Poland and France were in sixth and seventh position in the new standings. As there are six tickets to Chennai at stake, the outcome of this match might very well be decisive as to either team's chance to make it into the 2015 Bermuda Bowl, so it would be a good idea to have a look at this match, I thought.

This turned out to be not quite so, as at the start of the match there were some BBO connection problems in the Closed Room. For that reason, the Balicki/Zmudzinski auction to reach a good 6♣ on Board 19 for a 13-IMP swing got lost.

On the next board, father and son Bessis, having just missed that slam, again were in trouble:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
M Bessis	Jassem	T Bessis	Mazurkiewicz
INT	2♣*	3NT	Pass
Pass	<b>4</b> $\diamond$ *	4NT	All Pass

Two Clubs showed majors but Thomas was no doubt hoping for a lot of diamond tricks when he raised to game immediately on his seven-count. When Jassem showed a strong hand with longer spades by bidding  $4^{\circ}$ , Thomas persisted with this view — only to find out that he would not have made 3NT either. North led the  $^{\circ}$ K which was allowed to hold, and shifted to the  $^{\bullet}$ K to remove dummy's entry to the diamonds. Dummy won and continued the  $^{\bullet}$ 10 but South jumped in with his ace to clear the spades; down three, Poland +300.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Bompis	Balicki	Quantin
2♣	3◊*	Dble	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

In the Closed Room, West opened a Precision style  $2 \stackrel{\clubsuit}{=}$  and North showed his majors. When Quantin bid  $3 \stackrel{\clubsuit}{=}$  freely, Bompis felt he was more than strong enough to raise to game. In a sense, he was right, as  $4 \stackrel{\clubsuit}{=}$  can be made on a correct spade guess of low to the jack but there is a snag.

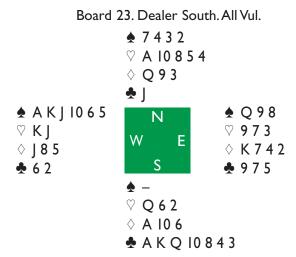
Responding to Balicki's double of  $3\lozenge$ , Zmudzinski led the  $\lozenge A$  and continued the suit. Declarer can now ruff in dummy and cross to his  $\clubsuit A$  to lead a spade up but, on the actual layout, a correct guess would not help him any more as East would take the jack with his ace and play another diamond. West's  $\spadesuit Q$  would then promote East's  $\spadesuit 10$  to the setting trick.

Realising all this, Quantin played accordingly. From the bidding, he knew that West could not have all the missing high cards which meant that he had to investigate first. When he continued with the  $\heartsuit$ K from dummy, West won the ace and returned a club into his ace-queen. As the  $2\clubsuit$  opening showed 11-15 West could no longer hold the  $\clubsuit$ A but, if spades were 2-2, the uppercut would be inevitable. This meant that the only remaining chance was to find East with the blank  $\spadesuit$ A (or the trivial blank  $\spadesuit$ Q10 with West). So Quantin led a low spade to dummy's nine. When Balicki produced the ten, Quantin had to accept one down; Poland +100 and another 9 IMPs to lead 22-0 after just four boards.

A few boards later, the Poles were among the ones who managed not only to bid but also to make a slam:



Marcin Mazurkiewicz, Poland



If you are in 6♣ as South you have a nasty guess ahead of you when East, who no doubt bid some number of spades, leads a diamond. Full marks therefore to Sweden's Peter Bertheau who was the only defender who tried a diamond lead against 6♣ and not the 'obvious' ♠A. His misguessing victim was Bauke Muller of the Netherlands. Maybe Bauke felt a little more comfortable later in the day, after the Dutch football match against Mexico had reached its closing stages...

The Poles had some difficulty in getting the clubs into the picture as a possible trump suit:

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
M Bessis	Jassem	T Bessis	Mazurkiewicz
			♣
I♠	2♡	2♠	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	<b>4</b> ♦
Pass	4♡	Pass	4♠
Pass	5◊	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♡
All Pass			

After the Polish Club, they agreed hearts as trumps very quickly, reaching the distinctly shaky slam in that suit. On a spade lead, dummy has to ruff but declarer also needs a trump in dummy after losing his trump trick. Thus, there is only one solution: play a trump and duck it, hoping for the best. As you can see from the actual layout, West's  $\heartsuit$ KJ bare mean that declarer is safe after executing this manoeuvre.

Not surprisingly, Jassem played like this for a fine +1430 to Poland.

A side advantage of  $6^{\circ}$  over  $6^{\bullet}$  is that West cannot profitably lead a diamond. Declarer will have no option but to let it run to his queen...

In the Closed Room, the French reached a less adventurous contract:

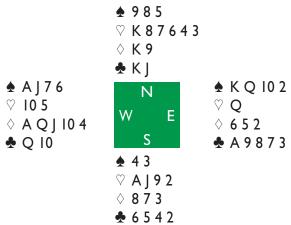
#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Bompis	Balicki	Quantin
			♣
I♠	Dble	2♠	3♠
Pass	4♡	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

This final contract can hardly be criticised, but losing only –620 gave the Poles another 13 IMPs to lead 35-4 at this stage.

Two boards later, taking the sacrifice would save you a few IMPs:

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
M Bessis	Jassem	T Bessis	Mazurkiewicz
	Ι♡	Dble	3♡
4♠	5♡	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		



Jean-Christophe Quantin, France

In the Open Room, Jassem could bid 5% himself after partner's weak raise of his weak opening bid at the one-level; down two, France +300.

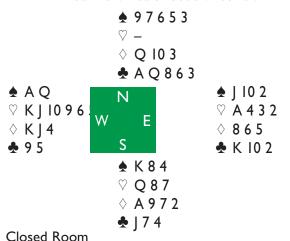
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Bompis	Balicki	Quantin
	2◊	Pass	3♡
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
4♡	Pass	4♠	All Pass

After Bompis' Multi, Quantin must have been afraid of pushing his opponents into a makeable slam by bidding on with his defenceless hand; Poland +650 and yet another 8 IMPs to them.

On the penultimate board, the French drove the final nail into their coffin all by themselves:

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Bompis	Balicki	Quantin
			Pass
I♡	Pass	2♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, against silent opposition the Poles were quickly in 4%, which made easily on the  $\clubsuit 3$  lead from North, covered by jack, king and ace. From here, declarer could cash the  $\spadesuit Q$ , lead the  $\heartsuit J$  to dummy's ace when North showed out, discard a diamond on the  $\spadesuit 10$ , draw trumps, play a club to the king and a diamond back to the king for an interesting overtrick; Poland +450.

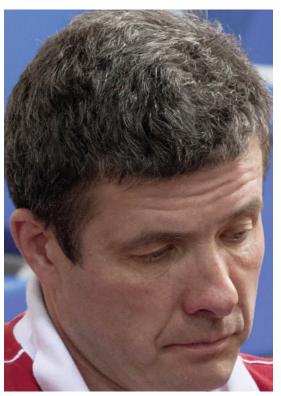
In the Open Room, N/S interfered dramatically with the original Bessis plans about their hands.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
M Bessis	Jassem	T Bessis	Mazurkiewicz
			Pass
Ι♡	l <b>♠</b>	2♡	2♠
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

When Michel rebid 2NT to stress the quality of his spade stopper, Thomas, who was looking at a 4-3-3-3 with rather soft values, thought that 3NT might well be a good alternative to a possibly unmakeable heart game. Well, in fact it was, and had North been kind enough to lead a spade, 3NT would probably have rolled home soon afterwards.

However, Jassem produced his secret weapon, leading a low club. Dummy played low so South won the jack and returned the suit to dummy's ten. With the clubs wide open now, declarer's only chance is to bring in the hearts as well as two quick spade tricks. This means that the  $\clubsuit$ K has to be right. As you are in dummy now, and as there is only one other entry to dummy left, the  $\heartsuit$ A, why not take the spade finesse immediately? If it works, you can concentrate on bringing in the hearts without loss, which can be done because the  $\heartsuit$ A, your only other entry, is still there.



Krzysztof Jassem, Poland

So it was a disappointment to see declarer play a heart to his king next... When North showed out, the contract eventually went down three for -150 and another big swing to Poland: 12 IMPs.

The final score in this, the first match of the day, thus became 60-13 or 18.87–1.13 VP to Poland.

Later in the day, the Poles did not capitalise on this good start, losing to Sweden and Germany, whereas the French recovered well, beating Turkey and England in their remaining matches. At the end of the first day, France had thus climbed to sixth place, enough for Chennai, and Poland had fallen back to eighth position, albeit less than I VP below sixth.

You can replay the deals at:

BBO Poland v. France



# OPATIJA 2014

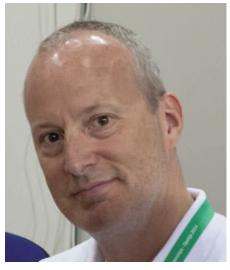
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT OCTOBER 24th - 26th, 2014 BRIDGE SPORTSKI KLUB "OPATIJA"



## An American in Opatija

By Christina Lund Madsen

Interview with Roy Welland Germany Open



Roy Welland started playing bridge so as to be able to work on Wall Street. Today he works as little as possible to be able to play bridge.

I catch Roy in between two matches and, since he just had a big win, he has enough mental capacity to cope with my curious questions.

## Can you tell me about your business career?

"I was on Wall Street for more than 20 years as a trader. I worked for myself and risked my own capital. I actually started out working for somebody else. It was the reason I took up bridge. I was trying to get a job as a trader and I was told that there were these two guys, Mike Becker and Ron Rubin, who hired all the best bridge players to trade options, so I took up bridge hoping to become a good enough bridge player for one of them to hire me. And it worked."

He was playing poker in the evening in a bridge club in New York when Debbie Rosenberg asked him what he knew about bridge.

"I know that if you have 13 points you open in your longest suit," Roy replied.

"Excellent," Debbie said. "Would you mind filling in on a few hands?" And so Roy was hooked. He knew a little about card play from other games such as whist, so despite starting at the age of 24, Roy quickly caught up. However, he was working full-time on Wall Street and did not have much time to dedicate to bridge. Then a friend of his suggested that they find him a good partner and hired a pair for a team at the American nationals.

"I had not played so much bridge for 2-3 years and I hadn't played more than a little this and that. I felt a little awkward, you know, being concerned that I would let my teammates down because I was a bit out of practice." During the following years Roy and his various teammates won all imaginable American titles.

In Opatija he plays his first European Championship with Sabine Auken on the German Open team. Roy being a famous American bridge player, his eligibility to play for Germany has been intensely debated.

## How do you feel personally about all this debate whether or not you were eligible to play for Germany?

"Oh, I didn't mind. I kind of expected it. Maybe I expected a little bit less since there had already been some precedents with other people playing... and, you know. Hm. I want to be careful about how I phrase this... people who are obviously of other nationalities than the country they represent. So I didn't expect too much controversy... and there really wasn't, mostly it was just one person. I cannot change and go to play for Sweden next year, I have committed to be a resident of Germany, to play for Germany, I don't see why that should be a problem."

Even though he says he does not mind much, I sense it has bothered him a little.

## What is it like playing with Sabine?

"Oh, it's the best. We have the most fun system of any bridge players in the world. Every time it is our turn to bid we have a multitude of options. We don't have to bid hearts just because we have a five-card suit. Should I be declarer, should I be dummy, show my four-card suit or ask partner? She is the best partner, she takes more tricks than just about anybody as a declarer, is a great defender,

ferocious competitor – and we have a lot of fun when not playing bridge."

Sabine and Roy are also partners away from the bridge table, so I ask the completely inappropriate question:

#### Doing what?

"Oh, we enjoy having a nice dinner, having some wine and champagne together, we go running in the morning, we both love travelling."

I notice that every time Roy considers his reply, he either says "Oh..." or "you know".

#### How would you describe her as a person?

"Ah... you know. She has tremendous insight into the nature of people. I think she really understands most people really well. She is a lot of fun to be with and a little more outgoing than I typically was, but I enjoy that quality in a person."

## What would Sabine say if she were to describe you in three words as a person?

"I don't know, you had better ask her."

#### I am asking you.

"Eh... that's tough. Lucky? I would hope she would say kind. Innovative?" He utters his words almost as questions and for a moment appears a bit vulnerable.

#### Is that you as a bridge player or a person?

"Kind of overall. I like to think of myself as doing things a little bit differently. Some people think of me as reckless, but sometimes what appears to be reckless is a little better thought out than what most people assume. So I do some things at the bridge table for example that are risky, but they are calculated risks. And that is pretty much what I have done my whole life in one format or another. Calculate risk and, if it seems sensible to me, then take the risk and if not, don't."

Most of the time Roy appears very cheerful. However, don't let his smile fool you; at the bridge table he is a killer. He passes by me as I sit alone in the Closed Room during lunch break writing his interview. It is 25 minutes before game time. The smile is off his face, he gives one syllable answers, he walks quickly back and forth without

any destination. A tiger in a cage. Roy's will to win has made him famous for unimaginable come-backs and now he is in Opatija on the hunt for a European title.

## What is the best part about playing the European Championships?

"One of the nicest things is to get a chance to meet some of the players from countries who don't go to the American nationals or some of the European tournaments I have played in. We just played a match against Slovenia, they played super well, and the general calibre of play is really extraordinary. No team has a bad player on it. In the US there are a lot of teams who often have one weak sponsor or something like that. Here you have to play really well to compete. And that is a pleasure to play."

## Which countries do you regard as your biggest competitors?

"I honestly think it would just be a miracle if we came in the top six. I wouldn't say miracle, we have a pretty good team too, but there are so many teams who have a super legitimate chance of achieving that. I always wanted to play in the Bermuda Bowl and I never have. So it has been a long time goal of mine. Of course I would like to win it, but that is going to be way harder than just getting there. If you look at the two initial groups there are about ten world class teams. There are going to be a lot of disappointed players."

## You have reached so many goals as a bridge player. Which goals do you have outside of bridge?

He repeats my question while thinking. "Well, I have two sons who are 17. They seem to be doing really well and hopefully they will continue. Jees, I don't know, what can I say, world peace or something like that? You know, goals change as life comes along. I achieved some of the goals I had set out to achieve earlier in my life. I am sure I will come up with some new goals outside of bridge, I just don't know what they are yet."

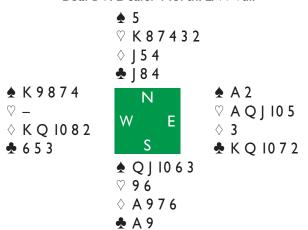
## The Magically Mysterious Multi

By Mark Horton

Ever since we co-authored *The Mysterious Multi*, Jan van Cleeff and I are regularly asked questions about it. Unlike a traditional weak two in a major bid, the opener's suit is undisclosed and this can lead to confusion. However, it would be a big mistake to imagine that it is only the side that is employing the multi that can get into trouble.

Take a look at this deal from Round 10, which is sure to appear in the next edition.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



Open Room

-			
West	North	East	South
Smirnov	Helness	Piekarek	Helgemo
	2◊*	4♣*	Pass
<b>4</b> ♦	Pass	4♡	4♠
Dble	All Pass		
2♦ Multi.	always weak		

2♦ Multi, always weak 4♣ Leaping Michaels

When East bid 4% it seemed clear to South that his partner's suit must be spades.

(How nice it would be to be able to double to say "Pass if hearts is your suit".)

West led the five of clubs and declarer allowed East's ten to hold. He ducked the diamond switch to West's queen, won the club return (eight, queen, ace) and played the queen of spades to East's ace. After cashing the ace of hearts, West ditching the two of diamonds, East continued with the queen and West ruffed and returned the eight of diamonds for East to ruff.

So far the defence had been perfect, but now, instead of continuing with the king of clubs which should lead to six down (West will win the spade continuation and play the king of diamonds) East played the jack of hearts and declarer could pitch the nine of diamonds, saving a trick but still five downfor -1100.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Fritsche	Fantoni	Rohowsky
	2◊*	2♡	Dble*
3◊	Pass	Pass	3♡
All Pass			

 $2 \lozenge - 6M$  5-10 or 8.5 tricks M or 22-23 BAL or 27-28 BAL Dble Pass if your suit is hearts

The normal interpretation of South's  $3\heartsuit$  is 'pass or correct'.

East's subsequent silence is surprising, especially since West's 30 strongly suggested he had no support for hearts.

West led the king of diamonds and when the dummy appeared declarer announced "No double, no trouble".

Right he was, as although the contract was four down, -200 gave Germany 14 IMPs.

As you might expect this deal produced a wonderful array of results, through  $4 \pm x$  by West (-500)  $6 \pm x$  by East (-200)  $4 \pm x$  by South (-1700)  $2 \nabla xx$  by East (+840)  $5 \pm x$  by East (-800)  $3 \nabla x$  by North (-800). Amidst all the chaos, East played in  $2 \pm a$  couple of times.



Roland Rohowsky, Germany

Also watch the interview with Roland Rohowsky:



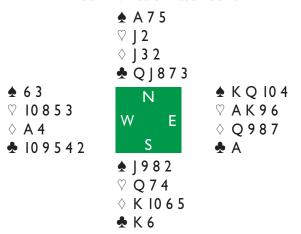
## **Germany Calling?**

By Barry Rigal

Roy Welland is one of a team of transplanted Americans present at this tournament, including your writer.

This deal showed that he is not just here for the beer.

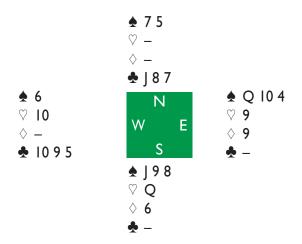
Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Welland		Auken	
		I♦	Pass
IŸ	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3◊*	Pass	4♡	All Pass

2NT Includes strong heart hand 3♦ puppet to 3♥ to sign off

Welland found himself in  $4^{\circ}$  on a top club lead. He won, played the  ${\bf \Phi}K$  to the ace, won the low heart return in dummy and played  ${\bf \Phi}A$  and a diamond to the eight. South won and exited with the  ${\bf \Phi}K$ . Welland ruffed, played the  ${\bf \Phi}Q$  covered all round, then led a trump to dummy.



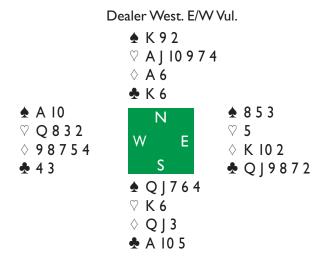
Trusting his opponent's count card in spades he cashed the  $\lozenge 9$  to pitch his spade, ruffed a spade, and ruffed a club to dummy. To prevent that being declarer's tenth trick South had to over-ruff, but then had to lead a spade into dummy's tenace.

## AutVincere Aut Mori (Either to conquer or to die)

By Mark Horton

In their classic book, *The Kings Tales*, Robert & Phillip King include a delightful parody of *Lawrence on Overcalls*. Just in case you haven't read it, it is based on the premise that Mike suggests overcalling on both four- and three-card suits

This was the last Board of F2 in the Open Series.



West	North	East	South
Sementa	Fritsche	Angelini	Rohowsky
Pass	Ι♡	I♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

East's overcall was calculated (if that is the appropriate expression) to rule out a possible spade contract by the opponents, so to that extent one could describe it as being successful (6\( \Delta \) by South is only defeated by a red-suit lead and, in the unlikely event that North was declarer, East has to lead a heart).

The flaw was that left to their own devices N/S were (a) unlikely to bid a slam; (b) had been presented with an attractive alternative. When North doubled, East bravely (there are other words one might use) stood his ground (it was hardly terra firma) rather than retreat to the relative safety of 2. (which might cost 800).

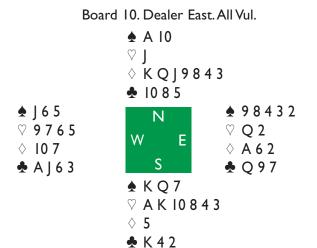
When the smoke had cleared he was -1400.

In the other room N/S collected +450 so East's adventurous bidding cost I4 IMPs.

Homo praesumitur bonus donec probetur malus. One is innocent until proven guilty.

## Cherchez le kudos for cherchez la femme

We carelessly omitted the names of the two defenders who won the diamond ace against 3NT and shifted to the club queen.

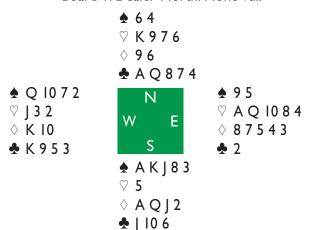


Nevena Senior and Jet Pasman were the two successful defenders.

## Finessing against partner

By Barry Rigal

Board I. Dealer North. None Vul.



In Board I of Round 15, we saw the contract of 3NT played at many tables, with North the declarer. On a heart lead declarer can simply take the club finesse. West ducks the first club and covers the second but there are enough entries to allow the repeated finesse. When we were watching on VuGraph, the defenders led a diamond and declarer rose with the ace (playing for either the spade or heart finesse to work).

After bringing in the clubs, declarer drove out the  $\Diamond Q$  and made the essential safety play (at least in theory) of ducking the  $\Diamond I$ , then covering the next heart to ensure nine tricks.

Only one table – according to our records (in Latvia-Switzerland, and anyone who can construct an auction that achieves this is a better man than any of the journalists present!) reached the silly spot of 3NT by South. On a low heart lead, declarer played low from dummy and East made the essential play of putting in the eight. Now West could regain the lead in either spades or diamonds, and the  $\heartsuit$ J was the coup de grace.

## **Amuse Bouche**

or What would you bid if you knew partner had the ace of spades?

By Mark Horton

On the first board of your match at none vul you pick up  $KQ8 \nabla K9832 \bigcirc QJ9$ 

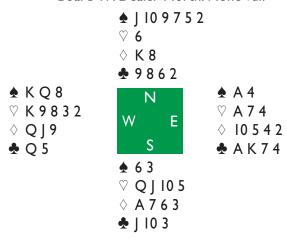
North opens  $2^{\circ}$  (a weak two in spades) and when partner doubles South passes, which is alerted as asking for the ace of spades. You pass and North bids  $2^{\bullet}$  which denies the  $\triangle A$ .

Despite the early hour you are awake enough to realise that if N/S doesn't have it then, as Sherlock Holmes would have remarked, "when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth" and it is partner who possesses it.

Your confident double delivers you +500 to rest along the +50 from 4%-1 recorded at the other table.

It was Germany's Alex Smirnoff who gave Germany an 11 IMP start to their Round 12 match against Iceland on this deal:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.





## **Open Final Round 3**

By Ram Soffer

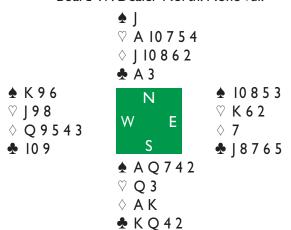


## Germany v Poland



The 18 finalists in the open were determined on Saturday, and the nine rounds of the final started on Sunday, the other results between those teams being carried over from the preliminary groups. After Round 2 of the final, the defending champions Monaco were rather predictably in the lead, but the second-place team was surprising — Germany, with a new line-up which featured American Roy Welland, partnered by foermer Women's world champion Sabine Auken. In the match against the strong Polish team it was their table (the Open Room) which provided most of the action.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.



The problem for N/S was not to get too high. For those who opened a weak two-suited  $2^{\heartsuit}$  with the North cards (in other matches) it was easy to stop at 3NT. In the Closed Room, Nowosadzki opened  $1^{\heartsuit}$  but Poland still managed to stop at 4NT. Gone are the days when a slam would be bid automatically with 20 HCP opposite an opening bid.

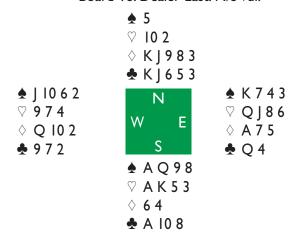
At our table Auken (North) opened I♥ and Welland (South) responded INT, game forcing, which kicked off a long series of relays, with South doing all the asking and not revealing anything about his hand. Eventually, he found out partner's exact distribution as well as the fact that she had no useful cards beside her two aces, but meanwhile the bidding had climbed to 5NT. Welland passed, and thanks to his INT forcing bid he was assigned the role of declarer.

Zmudzinski led the  $\lozenge 3$ , and with open cards it's not so difficult to find the road to success in the tricky 5NT contract – declarer wins in hand and runs the  $\heartsuit Q$  (not enough entries to start hearts from dummy). Let's say East wins the  $\heartsuit K$  and switches to clubs. Declarer wins in hand, finesses the  $\heartsuit I 0$ , runs the suit, discarding one club and two spades, cashes the  $\clubsuit A$ , runs the  $\clubsuit J$  and claims eleven tricks. However, Welland was hoping for four diamond tricks, so

he cashed both high diamonds and after that he had no chance, because West's  $\Diamond Q$  was high, and he couldn't develop eleven tricks without conceding both major-suit kings as well.

A disastrous start for Germany, but they weren't giving up.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Auken	Balicki	Welland
		I ♣	Pass
1♦	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Welland's pass over the Polish-style I was surprising, but at least he knew that I is forcing so that he would have a second chance. When Auken bid a vulnerable INT for the minors, he raised her to the NT game!

In fact, using the information from the bidding, Sabine had an easy road to 12 tricks, playing a small diamond to the



Sabine Auken, Germany

nine and guessing clubs as well. Bridge is a strange game – on the previous board 30 HCP were barely enough for eleven tricks, while here one makes a rather easy twelve with 25 HCP.

In the Closed Room, Poland had a disaster, stopping in  $2\lozenge$ , so Germany regained exactly what they had lost Board 17, and the score stood at 11-11.

Two boards later, another unusual bidding decision by Welland backfired.

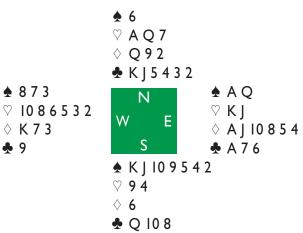
Board 20. Dealer West, All Vul. **★** | 8 3 ♡ J 5 4 3 ♦ | 10942 **♣** A ♠ 962 **★** K 10 N ♡ A 7 ♡ 96 ♦ A Q 8 ♦ K 6 5 3 ♣ K 10 8 7 5 Q 6 4 3 2 **A** A Q 7 5 4 ♡ K Q 1082 ♦ 7 ♣ | 9

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Auken	Balicki	Welland
♣	Pass	INT	Dble
Pass	2♡	All Pass	

At many other tables South used the Michaels cuebid to indicate 5-5 in the majors, and North appreciated his fit and good distribution, bidding the heart game. The layout was very favourable for declarer and the most popular result in the Open final was +650.

However, at our table South's double promised only four cards in hearts, maybe even three cards, so Sabine had no reason to bid beyond the two-level. Her forced  $2^{\circ}$  bid could be made with 0 HCP as well, so Welland declined to bid  $3^{\circ}$  after the Poles cleverly kept quiet. Making  $2^{\circ}+3$  meant a loss of 10 IMPs, and more trouble followed for the German pair.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Auken	Balicki	Welland
Pass	♣	Dble	3♡
Pass	3♠	3NT	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

This board produced a variety of results. The highest score for E/W occurred in the Israel-Sweden match, where Alon Birman (East) made 50 doubled after a helpful lead of a heart, which gave him time to develop the suit and use dummy's hearts as 'trump substitutes' to destroy North's trump holding after cashing the 0K and ruffing a club.

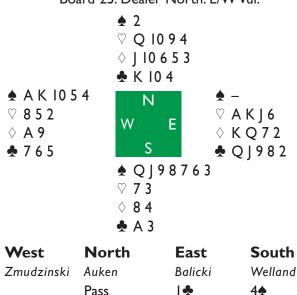
At the other table in that match, North led a spade against a makeable 4% contract, declarer erred by playing the  $\Phi Q$ , and South (Ilan Herbst) failed either to deliver a spade ruff or prepare his own diamond ruff, choosing a club continuation which allowed the contract to make.

At our table, Welland's transfer jump bid of  $3^{\circ}$  shut Zmudzinski out of the bidding, and Balicki guessed to bid an inferior 3NT. In the Closed Room, Fritsche (East) also bid 3NT, and Kalita (South) excelled by passing and finding the only killing lead, a club. Even after guessing diamonds the German declarer had only eight tricks.

But Welland was tempted into a save in 4♠, and the punishment was severe. Balicki led the ◇A, paused for thought and continued with another diamond. Sabine had the idea that he was underleading his ◇K, so she discarded a heart, hoping to steal a trick with her ◇Q. Instead, Zmudzinski's ◇K won and a club followed instantly. Balicki gave him a ruff, and then Zmudzinski showed his class by leading a trump to the ace and getting another ruff before dummy's last club would disappear on the ◇Q; Poland +500 and 11 IMPs which gave them a promising lead of 32-12 at the halfway point.

Fate would have it that right after this disaster Welland was once again dealt a weak hand with seven spades. Timid souls would have thought of bidding less, but Roy once again stuck out his neck at the four-level!

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



4NT

**Pass** 

Dble

6NT

Pass

All Pass

At many other tables, including the Closed Room in our match, South overcalled 3♠ which got doubled for −500, not such a bad score since E/W can make a vulnerable game.

After Welland's audacious 4♠, Zmudzinski had a problem. One Club could have been either a balanced 12-14, a good hand with clubs or a 19+ HCP hand. In the first case, the most frequent one, his partner wouldn't reopen with a double, so Zmudzinski elected to double himself.

But this logic is evidently flawed. When you hold ♠AK1054 and RHO bids 4♠, partner can have at most a singleton spade, so that the balanced option of I♣ is impossible. West should have simply waited for his partner's reopening double, which would have given them an easy +800.

After Balicki responded to the double with a take-out 4NT bid, his partner could still have saved the board by passing (which could even gain 4 IMPs if East played well). Zmudzinski's 6NT bid was not one of his best efforts, but perhaps we should give credit to Welland for unnerving his opponents with his unconventional bidding style.

The hopeless slam went down three, costing the Poles 13 IMPs, and there was another disaster to follow.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul. **A** 86 ♥ A Q J 6 3 ♦ 62 **♣** 7642 **★** A K | 2 ♥ 982 W ♦ A O 8 5 ♦ K | 9 7 4 3 **♣** K 3 ♣ A Q J 10 8 ♠ Q 10 9 5 4 3 ♥ K 10 7 5 ♦ 10 **9** 5

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Auken	Balicki	Welland
		I ♦	♠
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Let's say that the task of bidding this diamond slam should not be very taxing for pairs whose teams have qualified for the European Open Teams final. This is corroborated by the fact that 60 was the final contract at 16 out of 18 tables. Was Balicki still thinking of the previous board when he bid 50? Perhaps he interpreted his partner's 30 bid as nonforcing. The play was a non-issue and 12 more IMPs went Germany's way.

The only other table where the final contract was not 6♦ involved the reigning champions, Monaco. In their case, after West's 2♠ cuebid, Helness immediately asked for keycards and bid the slam. For some reason, Helgemo overruled his partner, bidding 6NT which was doubled by

North (Richard Ritmeijer), asking partner not to lead her suit

But the former Norwegian champion obviously knew what he was doing. Magdalena Ticha (South) led a diamond!!! Helness instantly claimed, scoring +1880, and Monaco moved 11 IMPs closer to another title. Had she led a heart, the resulting –1100 would probably have found its way into the annals of bridge disasters.

Back to our match. Those two successive swings gave Germany a lead of 37-32. The last six boards produced only one remarkable swing, a good save in 50 against a spade game found by Fritsche/Rohowsky. Germany ended up winners by 45-34, remaining in second place for another round.

You can replay the deals from this match at:

BBO Germany v Poland

# **Bridge for Serious Money**

Playing for Serious Money is in vogue in the Dutch bridge scene today. How to go about it? Simply enter the website of Bridge Big (www.bridgebig.com), choose a table (1, 5, 10 or even 25 (!) Euros per IMP) and start playing. And then, it is getting even better. The people of Bridge Big made a deal with Simpel Media, a Dutch company owned by Jurriaan Hillen. Mr. Hillen is a highly successful television producer who recently began focussing on online gaming. For several years he broadcast the 'Poker Champion of The Netherlands' on a commercial network. Hundreds of thousands of people watched the programme, which inspired Mr. Hillen to use the same concept for bridge. For this autumn Simpel Media has scheduled to broadcast Champion of The Netherlands' (www.bkvn.nl). Pairs or individual players can enter this championship and play round robins to qualify for four regional finals. It all ends in one single Television Final with a minimum of 25,000 Euro in prizemoney. Alternately, players could qualify online visiting www.bridgebig.com.

Jan van Cleeff

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## Women Round 20

By Brian Senior



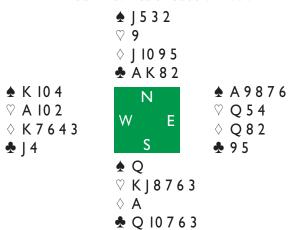
## France v the Netherlands



Going into their Round 20 clash, Netherlands lay second and France fourth, both looking safe for a spot in the 2015 Venice Cup, but would they get medals and, if so, what colour?

The score was only 4-2 IMPs to the Netherlands after six deals, but then came the first major swing.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Willard	Wortel	Cronier	Michielsen
			Ι♡
Pass	I <b>♠</b>	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♡
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Simons	Zochowska	Pasman	Reess
			Ι♡
Pass	I♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

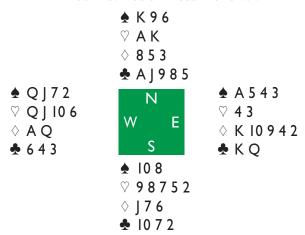
The French pair found the club fit but then went back to hearts. Short of a good heart guess — low to the jack — there are three trumps and a spade to be lost, and I think that leading the nine to the jack is the best play as it picks up queen-doubleton onside. It seems that Vanessa Reess disagreed with me because she won the diamond lead, crossed to dummy with a club and led to the king of hearts. Anneke Simons won the heart ace and returned a spade, so Jet Pasman won and continued the suit. Reess ruffed and tried the jack of hearts now but there was no joy to be had

there. When she was forced to ruff another spade, she chose to settle for down two by playing on clubs and allowing the defensive trumps to be made separately; –200.

Marion Michielsen's  $2\Phi$  rebid was either natural or most 16+ hands,  $2\Diamond$  showing the values for game facing the strong variety. However,  $2\heartsuit$  now showed that  $2\Phi$  was natural, and Meike Wortel corrected to  $3\Phi$ . Michielsen had one more try at getting to hearts but eventually they settled in  $5\Phi$ , just losing a spade and a heart for +600 and 13 big IMPs to Netherlands, leading now by 17-2.

Most of those Dutch IMPs went back on the next deal.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Willard	Wortel	Cronier	Michielsen
I <b>♣</b> Dble	INT All Pass	Dble	2♡
West	North	East	South
Simons	Zochowska	Pasman	Reess
ΙŸ	INT	Dble	Pass
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

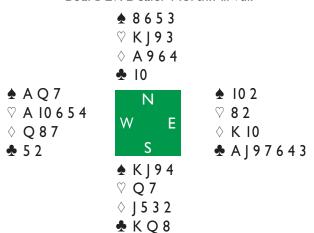
Sylvie Willard opened a 'better minor' I♣ and Wortel overcalled INT, doubled by Benedicte Cronier. When Michielsen ran to her five-card heart suit, Willard made a penalty double to end the auction. Willard led the queen of trumps to dummy's king. Michielsen led a low club off the table and Cronier went in with the king to return a diamond, Willard taking two of those then switching to the queen of spades. That went to the king and ace and Cronier cashed the king of diamonds, Willard pitching a club, then reverted to spades. This established dummy's spade nine, so declarer did not need to worry about the position of the club queen. She had to lose two trump tricks but had the remainder for down three; −500.

Simons could open in her four-card heart suit and, again, North overcalled INT and was doubled by East. When that came back around, Joanna Zochowska ran to 2♣ and was left to play there — something of a let-off as N/S have

nowhere to run and, for most pairs, East's pass would have been forcing (as clearly intended by Pasman). With no entry to dummy, Zochowska couldn't take the double club finesse so got out with one trump loser and was down two for -100 but 9 IMPs to France; 11-17.

An exchange of medium-sized swings had moved the score on to 23-15 in favour of the Netherlands, when the next big swing came along.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Willard	Wortel	Cronier	Michielsen
	Pass	Pass	♣
IŸ	Dble	Pass	I♠
Pass	INT	2♣	2♠
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
Simons	Zochowska	Pasman	Reess
	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

As I have said on many occasions, pre-empting is a personal matter – there may be one style that is best in the long term, but you will rarely convince someone to change their basic approach in this area of the game. Pasman had no problem in opening 3 not the East cards, while for Cronier the clubs were not strong enough to open second-in-hand when vulnerable. Obviously, that led to two completely different types of auction.

After a pass on her right, Michielsen opened a potentially short club as South and, after the overcall, Wortel's double was a transfer to spades. Having no game ambitions when facing a passed hand, Michielsen simply completed the transfer so, with no reason to believe that she was facing four-card support, Wortel corrected to INT. Finally, Cronier came in with 24, so Michielsen competed with 24 and that ended the auction.

Willard led a club against 2♠, Cronier winning and switching to a low trump. Willard played three rounds of those and, with two of dummy's diamonds going away on the clubs, there were eight tricks for +110.

Pasman's pre-empt shut Reess out but when 3 came to Zochowska she felt able to double as, though she held only an eight-count, she had perfect distribution and her partner could not get too excited facing a passed hand. Looking at two trump tricks and a balanced hand, Reess passed it out but then found that there was no way even to put declarer to a guess.

Reess led a diamond to Zochowska's ace and back came a heart to dummy's ace. Pasman crossed to the ace of clubs, cashed the king of diamonds and led a spade to the ace to ensure nine tricks and +670. That gave 13 IMPs to the Netherlands, and a 43-15 IMP win, translating to 16.42-3.58 VPs against one of their biggest rivals for the title. With England and Italy both losing, the Dutch moved back into the lead with three matches to play.

You can replay the deals from this match at:

BBO France v. Netherlands W

## "Even in Monaco they know about Tromsø!"

web address: www.tromso2015.no



## Open Teams - Round 21(F4)

By John Carruthers



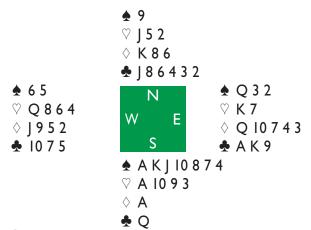
## Germany v England



As the match began, Germany lay second, 8 VP in arrears of Monaco; England were fifth, I3 VP behind Germany and I0 VP clear of seventh place. At that moment, Israel, Norway and France were in the other Bermuda Bowl qualification spots. With six matches to go, only Monaco and Germany were more than a match clear of seventh place and there were seven other teams within a match of sixth, so anything could, and probably would, happen. There were no real surprises but there was one unusual positioning – Italy lay 17th of 18.

Board I was a nice, flat, no-stress Four Hearts with an overtrick. On the next board, however, one East was stressed defending Four Spades ...

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Smirnov	Bakhshi	Piekarek	Gold
		INT	4♠
All Pass			
Closed Ro	oom		

West	North	East	South
Forrester	Fritsche	Robson	Rohowsky
		I ♦	Dble
3♦ All Pass	Pass	Pass	4♠

In response to Josef Piekarek's 14-17 notrump opening, Alexander Smirnov led the suit he had something in, hearts, a very reasonable approach. Unfortunately for him, it picked up the suit for one loser and David Gold lost just three tricks for plus 620.

At the other table, Tony Forrester was led inexorably to the diamond lead, not that it mattered. Here the stress level was a little higher for Andrew Robson, the East defender, and Roland Rohowsky, declarer. Rohowsky won the diamond lead with his ace and forwarded the queen of clubs. Robson won that with his ace and looked around for something good to do. You can see that no matter what he does, declarer has an answer – all he has to do is read the situation accurately. Robson found a decent shot, a low trump, but Rohowsky was up to the task, ducking it to the nine. Then a heart play off the dummy forced Robson to play the king to unblock for a potential ruff, but there was none and Germany had plus 650 to win an IMP.

Board 3 was a routine game in 3NT or Four Hearts, both of which made 10 tricks for a push.

On Board 4, Forrester held, as dealer, with everyone vulnerable: ♠83 ♥J53 ♦K82 ♣AK943. He saw the following auction ...

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Forrester	Fritsche	Robson	Rohowsky
♣*	Double	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

I♣ Natural or II-I4/I8-I9 balanced HCP

What would you lead? Your fourth-best club? Forrester did too. North's clubs were  $\P$ Q10 and South's were  $\P$ J8, so Forrester's four-of-clubs lead gave Rohowsky both the entry to take the diamond finesse, AND his ninth trick. That was extraordinarily unlucky, but Germany was not averse to keeping the 10 IMPs they gained when David Bakhshi and Gold reached, very reasonably, Three Diamonds, making nine tricks for plus 110 and a pretty decent result. Still, it was Germany 11 – England 0.

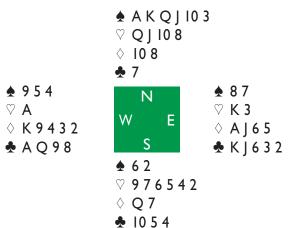


Joerg Fritsche, Germany

A partscore swing went England's way when Rohowsky and Joerg Fritsche did not defend Robson's Two-Heart contract to best advantage, allowing him to make it. That, coupled with the Davids' ability to rebid INT after their multi-purpose One Club opener, then make eight tricks for plus 120, resulted in England getting on the board with 6 IMPs; I I-6 Germany.

Both East/West pairs stumbled here, although it's not clear, with North's pre-emption, how they might have avoided doing so.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Smirnov	Bakhshi	Piekarek	Gold
		♣*	Pass
2◊*	4♠	5♦	All Pass

I♣ II-I3(I4) balanced HCP or II-I8 natural (4+ clubs) or I8+/8+ tricks

20 II+ HCP, 5+ diamonds

#### Closed Room

Wes	st North	East	South		
Forre	ster Fritsche	Robson	Rohowsky		
		♣*	Pass		
2♣*	4♠	5♦	Pass		
6♣	All Pass				
<b>♣</b> 2 <b>♣</b>					

One could say that Smirnov/Piekarek were a little unlucky, reaching Five Diamonds, down one on three rounds of spades, when Five Clubs would have made. 4NT over Four Spades might have worked on this deal, but there are plenty of West hands on which it would not. One could also say that Forrester/Robson were a little lucky, bidding a slam off the first two tricks in the suit that was going to be led and pushing the board against Five Diamonds down one. Luck or not, it was minus 50 to each East/West pair; and still 11-6 Germany.

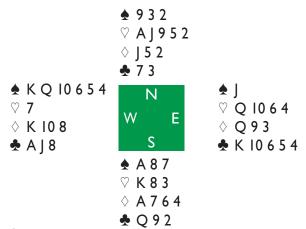
On Board 7, Piekarek/Smirnov dived overboard in Four Hearts, two off for minus 200, on normal breaks, while Forrester/Robson just dipped their toes in and survived in 3% with plus 140 and a 9-IMP return. England took the lead, 15-11.

After 2 IMPs to England on an extra undertrick, Piekarek picked up: ♠J10 ♥Q752 ♦AKQ87 ♣93. His side was vulnerable, and the not-vulnerable Bakhshi opened an II-I4 INT in first seat on his right. He and Gold passed and Smirnov protected with a Multi Two Diamonds (one major). Bakhshi now bid Two Hearts. What would you bid?

Piekarek bid Two Spades, in theory pass-or-correct, but in practice to play (provided Bakhshi had not been fooling around at the prevailing colours). However, should he not have called double, pass-or-correct, at least showing something? Then, when Two Spades came back to him, Three Diamonds would have seduced Smirnov into bidding game. It's a situation probably undiscussed by East/West, and Piekarek may have been afraid that a double of Two Hearts would have been an outright penalty double.

England won 6 more IMPs over the next four boards (10-13) to Germany's sole IMP, to extend the lead to 32-12. Then, a puzzler on Board 14 when Smirnov badly mistimed the play in Four Hearts to go off two while Forrester cantered home easily to win another 11 IMPs; England led 43-12

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.



#### Open Room

We	st North	East	South
Smiri	nov Bakhshi	Piekarek	Gold
			♣*
	Pass	INT	Pass
2♠	All Pass		
♣	Natural or 11-14/18	8-19 balanced	

#### Closed Room

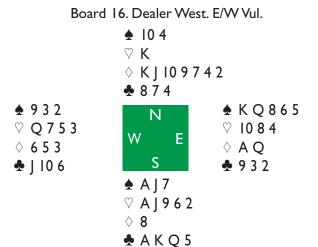
Wes	t North	East	South
Forres	ter Fritsche	Robson	Rohowsky
			♣*
	Pass	INT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
1.0	11 14/17/10 halama	- J LICD4	1

II-14/17/19 balanced HCP; or natural, or II-22 HCP, any 4441

Smirnov was treated to very friendly defence. Bakhshi led a club; Smirnov won and led a spade; Gold won and continued clubs. That was eleven tricks to Smirnov and plus 200

Forrester faced a sterner test when, after the initial club lead, Rohowsky ducked the ace of spades. With no fast reentry to hand to continue trumps, the defence won the heart from dummy and played another club. They were then in position, upon winning the ace of spades, to collect their club ruff. Then, with no entry to the good clubs in dummy, Forrester had to finesse for the jack of diamonds to hold his losses to one off. That was 6 IMPs to Germany; 43-18 England.

There were unusual goings-on on the final board of the match ...



Open Room

Wes	st	North	East	South
Smirn	iov	Bakhshi	Piekarek	Gold
Pass		3♦	Pass	4♣*
Pass		<b>4</b> ♦	Pass	5◊
All Pa	ass			
4♣	Relay			

Bakhshi/Gold's convention card is silent on the responses to the Four-Club relay. Whatever they were, Gold was content to raise Bakhshi to game, which seems fairly normal. Gold had not even considered Three Notrump opposite a Bakhshi favourable-vulnerability pre-empt, albeit one in second chair. Declarer's spade loser went away on the ace of hearts for plus 400. No swing? Not a chance ...

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Forrester	Fritsche	Robson	Rohowsky
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

Fritsche is evidently a devotee of Terence Reese, very appropriate when playing against England. However, in this instance, Reese was incorrect: a singleton king was not as good as three low. I'll wager that Rohowsky will think twice before responding with three of a major to one of Fritsche's pre-empts again.

I say, 'in this instance' because Rohowsky came perilously close (from England's point of view) to making Four Hearts. Forrester led the jack of clubs. Rohowsky won it and led a diamond, hoping to set up a trick there before the king of hearts was dislodged. Robson won the king with his ace and shifted to the eight of hearts (they play suit preference in trumps). Rohowsky won with dummy's king and led a spade. Robson split his honours in case declarer had ace-jack doubleton and Rohowsky won with the ace and took his ace of hearts. To make the contract he'd needed East to hold both spade honours and he would also need for clubs to be 3-3 - the trick-one play of Robson's two indicated that they may well be. The only other thing he needed to make Four Hearts was for hearts to be 4-3 in the opponents' hands, and for the queen and ten to be in different hands. Oh, yes, declarer also had to guess which way around it was.

Robson had played his hearts in the order eight-four; Forrester: three-five. There seemed to be no clues there since Robson had evidently played suit preference for spades and seemed to hold both the king and queen of that suit. He could have started life with  $\heartsuit Q874, \heartsuit 10874, \triangledown Q84$  or as he did,  $\triangledown 1084$ . Rohowsky tried the six from hand, going one down to lose 10 IMPs.

Rohowsky/Fritsche had violated Burn's Law of Total Trumps, to wit., "You should try to hold more of your trump suit than the defenders."

England ran out winners by 53 to 18 and improved their position to third, Germany hanging on to second by a slim margin.

Before I leave you, here's a trivia question ...

Q. Who is the only player to have won a major Open World Team Championship before he won a World Junior Teams Championship?

A. Roland Rohowsky won the 1990 Rosenblum in Geneva and the 1993 World Junior Teams Championship in Århus. You should have guessed that one if you've got good table

presence.

You can replay the deals from this match at:

#### BBO Germany v England



## **Round 4 Open Final**

By Ram Soffer

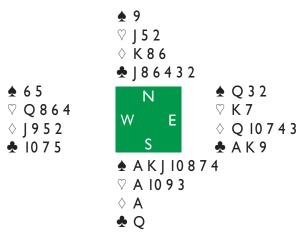


## Monaco v Israel



This was the top match of the round – Monaco, reigning champions and current leaders, against third place Israel. Indeed, both teams justified their high positions with some excellent bridge, and some of the push boards were no less interesting than the big swings.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
I. Herbst	Fantoni	O. Herbst	Nunes
		1♦	Dble
3♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

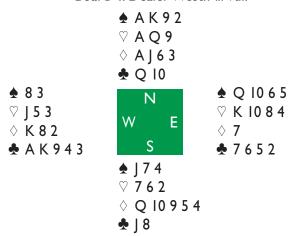
Over-sophistication by Fantoni/Nunes led to their downfall. South doubled on the second round as well, hoping to find a slam somehow, instead of just bidding  $4 \frac{1}{2}$ , while North judged at first that his hand was insufficient to bid  $4 \frac{1}{2}$  and then felt compelled to jump to  $5 \frac{1}{2}$ . West led a diamond and the sight of the useless dummy was sad. Nunes tried to reach the  $\Diamond K$  by a tricky play of leading a small spade from hand, but to no avail. However, llan Herbst took notice, and later when a small heart was led from hand he jumped with the  $\nabla Q$  to set the contract for sure, missing a chance for down two.

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Schwartz	Helness	Fisher
		INT	4♠
All Pass			

Fisher kept it simple by bidding what he thought he could make. To be fair, his situation was different from Nunes's, because after the opponents' strong no-trump one rarely looks for a slam. Helgemo chose to lead his best suit – hearts – and all of declarer's problems were instantly solved. That was an easy +620 and 12 IMPs to Israel.

There followed two pushes, but one of them was definitely worth reporting on. Both West players managed to find an excellent defence that was far from easy to find.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
I. Herbst	Fantoni	O. Herbst	Nunes
♣	Dble	2♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Schwartz	Helness	Fisher
♣	Dble	2♣	Pass
3♣	Dble	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Note that both Easts supported clubs rather than show their majors. The slight difference between the two bidding sequences was that Helgemo pushed his opponents with  $3\clubsuit-a$  good move. Schwartz may have been tempted to go beyond  $3\diamondsuit$ , but there was nothing sensible to do. At the other table Fantoni had the option of stopping in  $2\diamondsuit$ , but he had to give it one more try with 20 HCP.

As for the play, at both tables the A was led. Upon seeing Q-10 in dummy, ordinary bridge players tend to play another high club automatically and then think, but champions like llan Herbst and Geir Helgemo prefer to plan their defence in advance. Both realized the danger of an eventual heart loser being discarded on dummy's spades, and they led a small heart at trick two – the only way to beat the contract.

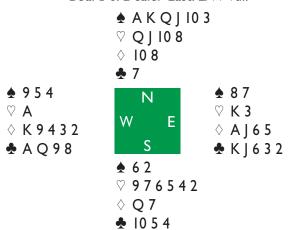
Fantoni played the  $\heartsuit Q$  from dummy. Ophir Herbst won the  $\heartsuit K$  and continued the suit for an easy set.

Fisher gave it the better try, calling for dummy's  $\heartsuit 9$  which lost to the  $\heartsuit 10$ . Helgemo had retained the  $\clubsuit K$  as an entry, and he was able to lead a second heart. Declarer played the ace, trying to endplay East with the  $\heartsuit K$ , but Helness simply exited with a heart. His  $\spadesuit Q$  took the setting trick later.

Well done by both teams.

The following deal demonstrates that trump quality is an important factor in the choice of contract. E/W had a double fit in the minors, but  $5\clubsuit$  was making while  $5\diamondsuit$  wasn't.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
I. Herbst	Fantoni	O. Herbst	Nunes
		I ♣	Pass
l <b>♠</b>	2♠	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	<b>4</b> ♦	Pass
4♡	Pass	5◊	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Schwartz	Helness	Fisher
		I ♣	Pass
2♣	2♠	3♣	Pass
3♡	D	3♠	Pass
<b>3</b> V	Pass	3 <b>元</b>	rass



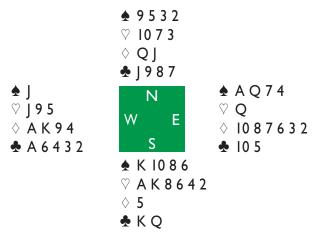
Ilan Herbst, Israel

The decisive factor here was West's first bid! Ilan Herbst's  $1 \triangleq$  showed 4-plus diamonds, so Ophir supported him after North's  $2 \triangleq$ . Ilan tried for 3NT, then cuebid with slam hopes, but finally had to settle for  $5 \diamondsuit$ . Nunes led a spade and Fantoni played three rounds of the suit, promoting his partner  $\lozenge Q$  for down one.

On the other hand, Helgemo's choice of response was an inverted raise to 2. Clubs were agreed, and diamonds were never mentioned on the way to 5. The defense was similar, but there was nothing to promote in clubs. Helgemo drew trumps, dropped the  $\Diamond Q$  (no reason to finesse) and claimed; 12 IMPs to Monaco which tied the score at 14 apiece.

Another five-of-a-minor hand appeared two boards later, and led to another swing in Monaco's favour.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
I. Herbst	Fantoni	O. Herbst	Nunes
♣	Pass	Ι♡	2♡
Pass	Pass	3♦	3♡
<b>4</b> ♦	All Pass		
			C 41
West	North	East	South
<b>West</b> Helgemo	<b>North</b> Schwartz	<b>East</b> Helness	<b>South</b> Fisher
Helgemo	Schwartz	Helness	Fisher

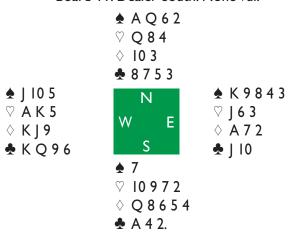
The bidding was essentially the same in both rooms, since Ophir Herbst's 1% showed spades.  $3\diamondsuit$  sounded like a five-plus card suit, possibly longer than spades. Supporting diamonds was obvious, but at which level. Helgemo guessed right, reaching an excellent game, while the Herbst brothers stopped short of it; Israel +150.

South led a heart, and declarer had ten sure tricks, assuming that trumps were 2-1. Since only two spade ruffs were available, declarer was going to develop a long club, but Ron Schwartz solved his problems by playing the  $\heartsuit 10$  under his partner's ace as a discouraging signal. Now Helness could make a loser-on-loser play and develop his eleventh trick in hearts, discarding a club; Monaco +400 and 6 more IMPs.

3NT

On board 9 both teams missed a vulnerable game bid at 13 out of 18 tables in the Open final, and Israel gained one overtrick IMP, but two boards later they had a much more substantial gain and took the lead for good.

Board II. Dealer South. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
I. Herbst	Fantoni	O. Herbst	Nunes
			Pass
INT	Pass	2♡	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<b>West</b> Helgemo	<b>North</b> Schwartz	<b>East</b> Helness	<b>South</b> Fisher
			Fisher
Helgemo	Schwartz	Helness	Fisher Pass

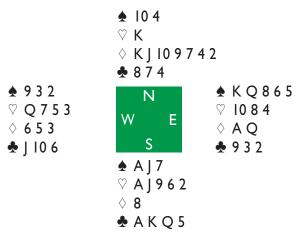
With so much power in the side suits and no ruffing value, Ilan Herbst's decision to prefer the nine-trick game seems to be the more logical one. Fantoni led a club, and Ilan collected eleven effortless tricks after finessing in spades.

In Helgemo's case, eleven tricks in spades were also makeable, but there was a problem. Schwartz led the  $\Diamond 10$ , jumped with the  $\triangle A$  and continued diamonds, giving the impression that he was eager to get a ruff. Helgemo decided to play the  $\triangle K$  next, and when South discarded he probably realized that he was doomed. Schwartz won the  $\triangle Q$ , entered Fisher's hand with the  $\triangle A$  and got his ruff.

Declarer's play was questionable, since with A-x-x North might not have jumped up with his ace, but all credit goes to Ron Schwartz, who created a losing option for the declarer.

There was another 5-IMP swing to Israel when Nunes needlessly doubled a 4% contract and was lucky not to concede an overtrick, and then on the final board there was another choice-of-games problem. Once again Israel chose 3NT, while Monaco preferred a suit contract.





vvest	North	East	South
I. Herbst	Fantoni	O. Herbst	Nunes
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♡
Pass	3NT	Pass	5◊
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
AAG2f	North	East	South
Helgemo	Schwartz	Helness	Fisher

3♦

Pass

All Pass

After North's obvious  $3\lozenge$  opening, the bidding diverged in the Open Final. 3NT was the most popular contract (seven tables, five of them making), then came  $5\diamondsuit$  (four tables, all making) and  $4\heartsuit$  (four tables, three of them going down). Finally, three South players decided to pass  $3\diamondsuit$ ! I guess they are used to their partners opening at the three-level with rubbish

**Pass** 

In my opinion, bidding 3NT with a singleton in partner's suit is an unhealthy habit. On the other hand, some North players went to the other extreme and raised South's 3% to 4%, believing that their partner should have a good sixcard suit. Fantoni did much better. He rebid 3NT, denying heart support but showing tolerance for that suit (else he would have bid 4%). South's hearts weren't good enough to bid 4%, and Nunes closed the auction with 5%.

Ophir Herbst led the  $\Delta$ K. There followed,  $\Delta$ A,  $\nabla$ K,  $\Delta$ A and  $\nabla$ A, disposing of the spade loser. Then it was time to draw trumps. East tried unsuccessfully to organize a club ruff, but Fantoni brought home the contract. Monaco +400.

The 3NT contract at the other table was a more exciting affair. Declarer Lotan Fisher took the  $\clubsuit$ J lead in hand and conceded a diamond to East's  $\lozenge Q$ . Helness returned the  $\clubsuit K$ . Fisher won the  $\spadesuit A$ , unblocked the  $\heartsuit K$  and returned to his hand with a club.

The moment of truth has arrived, as the fate of the contract depended upon a heart guess. After the  $\heartsuit A$ , should declarer play for one of his opponents holding  $\heartsuit Q$ -x-x or try to drop the  $\heartsuit 10$ ? The penalty for misguessing was 10 IMPs, but Lotan got it right and Israel earned a push, deservedly beating the European champions by 31-22.

You can replay the deals from the match at:

BBO Monaco v Israel



# 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Tel Aviv International Bridge Festival February 20-26, 2015





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We have invited top international players from many countries and players from about 15 countries are expected to take part in the Festival, with over 350 pairs in the main events with cash prizes totalling €30,000

We would be delighted to see you among the participants.

We would also be very happy to welcome other bridge players from your country who would like to participate in the Festival, and we would appreciate it if you could be our "ambassadors" and bring this to the attention of other players in your country.

For further information please contact us at <a href="mailto:ibf@bridge.co.il">ibf@bridge.co.il</a>
Further details about the Festival can be found on our web site <a href="www.ibf-festival.org">www.ibf-festival.org</a>

We look forward to seeing you in Tel Aviv

## OPEN ROUND ROBIN GROUP A

																		_	_			
MON	GER	NOR	SWE	FRA	RUS	IRL	EST	CRO	ISL	ESP	AUT	GRE	FIN	POR	SVK	sco	SLO	Bye	Pen	Team	Total	Rank
	7.71	8.24	15.74	13.97	7.97	14.8	9.09	19.52	13.04	16.73	14.18	13.28	18.44	14.8	17.03	9.69	19.85			MON	234.08	1
12.29		9.39	6.25	6.48	19.77	7.2	16.88	13.75	16.26	14.18	8.24	19.77	9.69	19.25	13.97	11.48	18.55			GER	223.40	2
11.76	10.61		13.52	12.55	5.82	6.72	15.56	16.09	12.55	7.2	18.87	15.56	15.56	13.28	9.69	16.58	18.33			NOR	220.25	3
4.26	13.75	6.48		2.15	13.04	9.39	7.97	5.82	15.92	17.72	20	17.59	16.58	18.55	16.73	7.97	18.77			SWE	212.69	4
6.03	13.52	7.45	17.85		15.38	9.39	9.69	9.09	20	14.39	8.24	13.52	7.71	14.18	18.66	8.52	17.59			FRA	211.21	5
12.03	0.23	14.18	6.96	4.62		13.28	10	11.2	1.79	13.28	11.04	19.77	17.31	17.03	7.45	17.03	9.09		2	RUS	186.29	6
5.2	12.8	13.28	10.61	10.61	6.72		2.55	15.56	5.4	3.58	5	7.97	16.09	19.07	18.44	16.88	14.18			IRL	183.94	7
10.91	3.12	4.44	12.03	10.31	10	17.45		1.45	10.91	6.25	14.18	6.72	6.96	8.8	19.93	15.56	20			EST	179.02	8
0.48	6.25	3.91	14.18	10.91	8.8	4.44	18.55		4.81	12.8	15.92	15.19	9.69	17.85	2.03	16.73	11.48			CRO	174.02	9
6.96	3.74	7.45	4.08	0	18.21	14.6	9.09	15.19		6.25	6.48	14.18	5.2	11.76	19.93	15.74	6.03			ISL	164.89	10
3.27	5.82	12.8	2.28	5.61	6.72	16.42	13.75	7.2	13.75		18.09	2.97	13.28	2.03	17.31	5.2	18.09			ESP	164.59	11
5.82	11.76	1.13	0	11.76	6.96	15	5.82	4.08	13.52	1.91		10	18.09	15.92	8.8	13.75	12.03			AUT	156.35	12
6.72	0.23	4.44	2.41	6.48	0.23	12.03	13.28	4.81	5.82	17.03	10		0.15	19.85	10.91	10.61	17.17			GRE	142.17	13
1.56	10.31	4.44	3.42	12.29	2.69	3.91	13.04	10.31	14.8	6.72	1.91	19.85		2.28	16.09	1.34	16.26			FIN	141.22	14
5.2	0.75	6.72	1.45	5.82	2.97	0.93	11.2	2.15	8.24	17.97	4.08	0.15	17.72		10	16.88	14.8			POR	127.03	15
2.97	6.03	10.31	3.27	1.34	12.55	1.56	0.07	17.97	0.07	2.69	11.2	9.09	3.91	10		18.66	12.29			SVK	123.98	16
10.31	8.52	3.42	12.03	11.48	2.97	3.12	4.44	3.27	4.26	14.8	6.25	9.39	18.66	3.12	1.34		0.07			sco	117.45	17
0.15	1.45	1.67	1.23	2.41	10.91	5.82	0	8.52	13.97	1.91	7.97	2.83	3.74	5.2	7.71	19.93				SLO	95.42	18

## OPEN ROUND ROBIN GROUP A

ENG	ISR	DEN	POL	NED	TUR	ROM	BUL	ITA	LAT	SER	HUN	SUI	FRI	BEL	WAL	LTU	BIH	Bye	Pen	Team	Total	Rank
	10.91	5.82	6.96	5	14.6	19.34	9.09	14.39	18.44	20	15.56	12.55	17.59	12.8	6.25	20	9.09			ENG	218.39	1
9.09		13.04	14.18	16.73	11.76	8.24	13.52	14.18	3.58	20	17.72	12.03	11.76	3.27	15	14.39	16.09			ISR	214.58	2
14.18	6.96		1.13	13.04	4.62	10.91	14.39	9.69	13.75	15.74	14.8	10	13.52	16.26	19.52	12.8	13.04			DEN	204.35	3
13.04	5.82	18.87		15.74	8.8	6.96	3.27	20	12.8	3.74	20	15.38	6.96	12.55	4.81	17.72	16.09			POL	202.55	4
15	3.27	6.96	4.26		7.45	12.55	15.56	10.91	2.03	16.73	17.31	15.56	13.75	16.58	13.28	18.66	12.55	Ш		NED	202.41	5
5.4	8.24	15.38	11.2	12.55		16.73	4.44	4.81	12.03	10.61	12.55	17.31	20	12.29	6.96	12.55	15.74			TUR	198.79	6
0.66	11.76	9.09	13.04	7.45	3.27		14.18	9.09	4.08	6.25	10.31	16.09	16.42	14.18	20	17.17	19.85			ROM	192.89	7
10.91	6.48	5.61	16.73	4.44	15.56	5.82		15.19	13.97	3.12	15.38	18.55	17.72	3.27	11.2	8.24	20			BUL	192.19	8
5.61	5.82	10.31	0	9.09	15.19	10.91	4.81		7.71	13.28	0.66	19.85	4.81	19.77	17.31	17.03	18.21			ITA	180.37	9
1.56	16.42	6.25	7.2	17.97	7.97	15.92	6.03	12.29		5.82	14.6	0.84	9.69	14.18	5.4	16.42	16.88			LAT	175.44	10
0	0	4.26	16.26	3.27	9.39	13.75	16.88	6.72	14.18		10.31	14.6	13.75	7.2	9.39	14.39	17.59			SER	171.94	11
4.44	2.28	5.2	0	2.69	7.45	9.69	4.62	19.34	5.4	9.69		6.48	9.09	17.85	11.76	16.26	20			HUN	152.24	12
7.45	7.97	10	4.62	4.44	2.69	3.91	1.45	0.15	19.16	5.4	13.52		19.93	3.42	18.44	13.52	13.28			SUI	149.35	13
2.41	8.24	6.48	13.04	6.25	0	3.58	2.28	15.19	10.31	6.25	10.91	0.07		10.31	16.09	18.33	16.09			FRI	145.83	14
7.2	16.73	3.74	7.45	3.42	7.71	5.82	16.73	0.23	5.82	12.8	2.15	16.58	9.69		9.39	4.08	13.28			BEL	142.82	15
13.75	5	0.48	15.19	6.72	13.04	0	8.8	2.69	14.6	10.61	8.24	1.56	3.91	10.61		10	14.8			WAL	140.00	16
0	5.61	7.2	2.28	1.34	7.45	2.83	11.76	2.97	3.58	5.61	3.74	6.48	1.67	15.92	10		4.44			LTU	92.88	17
10.91	3.91	6.96	3.91	7.45	4.26	0.15	0	1.79	3.12	2.41	0	6.72	3.91	6.72	5.2	15.56				BIH	82.98	18

## **OPEN FINAL**

ISR	MON	ENG	POL	BUL	GER	SWE	DEN	FRA	NOR	NED	TUR	ROM	ITA	IRL	EST	RUS	CRO	СО	Pen	Team	Total	Rank
	12.55	9.09	14.18	13.52	17.97	7.45	13.04	10.31	6.48	16.73	11.76	8.24	14.18	12.03	9.09	18.09	16.09	4		ISR	214.80	1
7.45		5.4	9.39	14.8	7.71	15.74	16.26	13.97	8.24	15.38	9.39	14.18	10	14.8	9.09	7.97	19.52	14		MON	213.29	2
10.91	14.6		6.96	9.09	17.45	1.56	5.82	7.45	11.48	5	14.6	19.34	14.39	8.8	16.09	12.8	17.31	16		ENG	209.65	3
5.82	10.61	13.04		3.27	6.96	6.03	18.87	18.87	18.44	15.74	8.8	6.96	20	10.61	6.25	14.8	15.56			POL	200.63	4
6.48	5.2	10.91	16.73		1.56	11.48	5.61	9.69	17.97	4.44	15.56	5.82	15.19	19.16	20	11.2	19.85	2		BUL	198.85	5
2.03	12.29	2.55	13.04	18.44		6.25	3.58	6.48	9.39	18.44	5.82	10.31	20	7.2	16.88	19.77	13.75	12		GER	198.22	6
12.55	4.26	18.44	13.97	8.52	13.75		10	2.15	6.48	7.97	8.52	15.38	15.74	9.39	7.97	13.04	5.82	16		SWE	189.95	7
6.96	3.74	14.18	1.13	14.39	16.42	10		8.8	16.42	13.04	4.62	10.91	9.69	7.45	4.08	12.29	19.34	14		DEN	187.46	8
9.69	6.03	12.55	1.13	10.31	13.52	17.85	11.2		7.45	13.04	15	11.76	0.23	9.39	9.69	15.38	9.09	8		FRA	181.31	9
13.52	11.76	8.52	1.56	2.03	10.61	13.52	3.58	12.55		9.09	15	2.03	16.73	6.72	15.56	5.82	16.09	10		NOR	174.69	10
3.27	4.62	15	4.26	15.56	1.56	12.03	6.96	6.96	10.91		7.45	12.55	10.91	10.91	12.03	7.97	16.58	12		NED	171.53	11
8.24	10.61	5.4	11.2	4.44	14.18	11.48	15.38	5	5	12.55		16.73	4.81	5.2	4.44	8.24	17.85	8		TUR	168.75	12
11.76	5.82	0.66	13.04	14.18	9.69	4.62	9.09	8.24	17.97	7.45	3.27		9.09	16.09	14.39	6.96	5.4	10		ROM	167.72	13
5.82	10	5.61	0	4.81	0	4.26	10.31	19.77	3.27	9.09	15.19	10.91		14.6	13.28	11.2	15.19	6		ITA	159.31	14
7.97	5.2	11.2	9.39	0.84	12.8	10.61	12.55	10.61	13.28	9.09	14.8	3.91	5.4		2.55	6.72	15.56	2		IRL	154.48	15
10.91	10.91	3.91	13.75	0	3.12	12.03	15.92	10.31	4.44	7.97	15.56	5.61	6.72	17.45		10	1.45	4		EST	154.06	16
1.91	12.03	7.2	5.2	8.8	0.23	6.96	7.71	4.62	14.18	12.03	11.76	13.04	8.8	13.28	10		11.2	4		RUS	152.95	17
3.91	0.48	2.69	4.44	0.15	6.25	14.18	0.66	10.91	3.91	3.42	2.15	14.6	4.81	4.44	18.55	8.8				CRO	104.35	18

## WOMEN FINAL RANKING

NED	FNG	FRΔ	ΙΤΔ	POL	DEN	TUR	ROM	SWE	RUS	GER	ISR	NOR	IRI	ESP	SCO	ALIT	BUI	CRO	EST	GRE	SER	LIB	Pen	Team	Total	
IVED																							- 011			_
	5.82	16.42	9.39	19.43	11.2	7.71	13.52	13.97	3.58	15.38	16.58	15.19	5.4	15.92	15	20	15./4	4.44	15.56	13.97	12.8	19.43		NED	298.45	1
14.18		7.2	1.91	6.25	16.73	14.6	4.62	12.29	13.97	6.25	20	16.09	12.8	14.8	9.39	18.66	17.59	15.92	16.42	7.2	19.43	18.44		ENG	296.74	2
3.58	12.8		12.8	5.4	15.74	19.93	10.91	13.75	15.19	14.8	13.28	20	16.88	6.72	12.8	0.66	13.28	13.75	14.8	13.52	15.56	16.09		FRA	294.24	3
10.61	18.09	7.2		12.03	18.97	16.58	1.03	15	17.45	8.8	11.76	20	5.82	8.52	12.55	8.52	19.77	13.52	14.39	5.82	15	20		ITA	293.43	4
0.57	13.75	14.6	7.97		6.48	11.76	12.8	13.04	9.39	12.55	9.39	14.6	19.69	14.8	7.71	16.26	17.03	14.39	2.28	5.2	16.09	19.85		POL	272.20	5
8.8	3.27	1 26	1 03	13.52														17.77						DEN	266.18	6
12.29	5.4	0.07	3.42	8.24	14.8									1.67	11.76	19.61	15.38	15.38	10.31	20	4.81	19.77			259.54	т
6.48	15.38	9.09	18.97	7.2	6.72	4.81		17.97	7.45	15.38	16.88	13.28	0	19.61	13.52	2.69	9.09	13.97	14.39	13.04	3.91	16.73	-	ROM	258.56	8
6.03	7.71	6.25	5	6.96	4.81	18.09	2.03		4.62	7.97	1.34	6.25	18.97	14.39	15.56	18.66	17.59	16.88	14.6	16.42	13.28	15		SWE	250.41	9
16.42	6.03	4.81	2.55	10.61	11.2	3.91	12.55	15.38		11.76	18.21	2.83	19.43	10	6.48	14.18	5	13.52	2.55	12.29	11.48	19.77		RUS	242.96	10
4.62	13.75	5.2	11.2	7.45	7.71	18.77	4.62	12.03	8.24		15.74	6.72	7.45	11.48	14.6	13.04	12.8	8.8	16.88	20	3.27	4.62		GER	240.99	11
3.42	0	6.72	8.24	10.61	3.12	0.31	3.12	18.66	1.79	4.26		3.42	17.45	12.29	18.33	19.85	12.55	16.42	19.07	11.76	17.17	14.78	4.78	ISR	235.34	12
4.81	3.91	0	0	5.4	9.39	2.28	6.72	13.75	17.17	13.28	16.58		11.48	16.42	8.8	0.07	16.58	17.85	7.45	14.18	6.25	14.6		NOR	218.97	13
14.6	7.2	3.12	14.18	0.31	8.52	7.2	20	1.03	0.57	12.55	2.55	8.52		9.09	10.31	6.03	9.09	6.96	15.56	14.18	15	17.72		IRL	216.29	14
4.08	5.2	13.28	11.48	5.2	13.97	18.33	0.39	5.61	10	8.52	7.71	3.58	10.91		3.74	15.74	5.82	5.4	14.18	19.52	7.2	6.96		ESP	208.82	15
5	10.61	7.2	7.45	12.29	14.18	8.24	6.48	4.44	13.52	5.4	1.67	11.2	9.69	16.26		3.58	5.82	6.72	12.03	13.28	3.27	16.09			206.42	П
0	1.34	19.34	11.48	3.74	1.67	0.39	17.31	1.34	5.82	6.96	0.15	19.93	13.97	4.26	16.42		5.61	16.42	4.44	8.52	19.34	9.69		AUT	200.14	17
4.26						4.62			15					14.18				7.45	14 6	12 29	12 03	14 8		BUL	199.05	18
15.56														14.6					10.31						194.60	Г
4.44						9.69												9.69			17.03				188.78	
П																										
6.03				14.8		0	6.96		7.71			5.82		0.48					16.26		18.44				183.71	
7.2	0.57	4.44	5	3.91	1.56	15.19	16.09	6.72	8.52	16.73	2.83	13.75	5	12.8	16.73	0.66	7.97	8.8	2.97	1.56		9.09		SER	180.09	22
0.57	1.56	3.91	0	0.15	2.69	0.23	3.27	5	0.23	15.38	5.22	5.4	2.28	9.69	3.91	10.31	5.2	11.2	6.72	10.91	10.91		4.78	LIB	126.74	23