



Editor: Brian Senior

Lay-out Editor: Fotis Skoularikis

Issue No. 2

Friday, 13 November 2015

NOW IT GETS SERIOUS!



Our impressive looking venue - the Horwood House Hotel

The qualifying round robin was completed on Friday evening and we are now at the serious end of the tournament, where one loss is the end, with each of the three groups of four teams (1-4, 5-8 and 9-12) playing 32-board semi-finals and finals on Saturday to decide the 2015 champions and the rest of the overall rankings.

Going into the final round of qualifying it was possible for any of the top seven teams to finish in the top four if

results went their way, though only the top four held their fates entirely in their own hands. In the end, it was the same top four at the end of the round as at its beginning. The top group semi-finals would consist of EBU (England), Onstein BC't (Netherlands), Angelini (Italy), and Allegra (Italy). There have only been four different winners in the previous 13 Champions Cups, and three of them – Onstein, Angelini and Allegra – have made it to this year's semi-finals.

RESULTS

ROUND 7

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	ENG-EBU TEAM	NOR-HEIMDAL BK	17 - 24	7.49 - 10.51
2	ENG-ALLFREY	BUL-RADKOV	16 - 4	14 - 6
3	FRA-SOULET	ITA-G.S.ALLEGRA	8 - 12	8.5 - 11.5
4	ITA-ANGELINI BRIDGE S.R.L.	ROM-TOP BRIDGE BUCH.	25 - 13	14 - 6
5	DEN-PHARMASERVICE	TUR-CAYYOLU BRIDGE CLUB	22 - 21	10.39 - 9.61
6	NED-BC'T ONSTEIN	SWE-UPPSALABRIDGEN	24 - 13	13.72 - 6.28

ROUND 8

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	DEN-PHARMASERVICE	NOR-HEIMDAL BK	5 - 33	2.49 - 17.51
2	NED-BC'T ONSTEIN	ITA-ANGELINI BRIDGE S.R.L.	5 - 37	1.85 - 18.15
3	SWE-UPPSALABRIDGEN SKALMAN	FRA-SOULET	67 - 10	20 - 0
4	TUR-CAYYOLU BRIDGE CLUB	ENG-ALLFREY	27 - 31	8.5 - 11.5
5	ROM-TOP BRIDGE BUCHAREST	ENG-EBU TEAM	13 - 10	11.14 - 8.86
6	ITA-G.S.ALLEGRA	BUL-RADKOV	46 - 10	18.71 - 1.29

ROUND 9

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	NOR-HEIMDAL BK	BUL-RADKOV	25 - 12	14.28 - 5.72
2	ENG-EBU TEAM	ITA-G.S.ALLEGRA	27 - 21	12.18 - 7.82
3	ENG-ALLFREY	ROM-TOP BRIDGE BUCH.	10 - 17	7.49 - 12.51
4	FRA-SOULET	TUR-CAYYOLU BRIDGE CLUB	14 - 29	5.2 - 14.8
5	ITA-ANGELINI BRIDGE S.R.L.	SWE-UPPSALABRIDGEN	23 - 16	12.51 - 7.49
6	DEN-PHARMASERVICE	NED-BC'T ONSTEIN	21 - 27	7.82 - 12.18

ROUND 10

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	ROM-TOP BRIDGE BUCHAREST	NOR-HEIMDAL BK	19 - 19	10 - 10
2	ITA-G.S.ALLEGRA	TUR-CAYYOLU BRIDGE CLUB	33 - 14	15.75 - 4.25
3	BUL-RADKOV	SWE-UPPSALABRIDGEN	9 - 22	5.72 - 14.28
4	ENG-EBU TEAM	NED-BC'T ONSTEIN	2 - 27	3.03 - 16.97
5	ENG-ALLFREY	DEN-PHARMASERVICE	24 - 0	16.78 - 3.22
6	FRA-SOULET	ITA-ANGELINI BRIDGE S.R.L.	19 - 9	13.43 - 6.57

ROUND 11

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1 NOR-HEIMDAL BK	NED-BC'T ONSTEIN	18 - 9	13.14 - 6.86
2 SWE-UPPSALABRIDGEN SKALMAN	DEN-PHARMASERVICE	9 - 4	11.85 - 8.15
3 TUR-CAYYOLU BRIDGE CLUB	ITA-ANGELINI BRIDGE S.R.L.	11 - 2	13.14 - 6.86
4 ROM-TOP BRIDGE BUCHAREST	FRA-SOULET	20 - 7	14.28 - 5.72
5 ITA-G.S.ALLEGRA	ENG-ALLFREY	17 - 12	11.85 - 8.15
6 BUL-RADKOV	ENG-EBU TEAM	11 - 19	7.17 - 12.83

RANKING

1	ENG-EBU TEAM	127.58
2	NED-BC'T ONSTEIN	125.89
3	ITA-ANGELINI BRIDGE S.R.L.	125.01
4	ITA-G.S.ALLEGRA	124.94
5	NOR-HEIMDAL BK	115.86
6	ENG-ALLFREY	115.52
7	SWE-UPPSALABRIDGEN	112.35
8	TUR-CAYYOLU BRIDGE CLUB	102.43
9	FRA-SOULET	101.38
10	ROM-TOP BRIDGE BUCH.	97.59
11	DEN-PHARMASERVICE	88.84
12	BUL-RADKOV	79.61

SEMIFINAL**ENG-EBU TEAM**

NED-BC'T ONSTEIN

ITA-ANGELINI BRIDGE S.R.L.

ITA-G.S.ALLEGRA

NOR-HEIMDAL BK

TUR-CAYYOLU BRIDGE CLUB

ENG-ALLFREY

SWE-UPPSALABRIDGEN

FRA-SOULET

BUL-RADKOV

ROM-TOP BRIDGE BUCH.

DEN-PHARMASERVICE

Capital Cup Pairs – Beijing

A number of European Women's teams, along with China, Indonesia and USA, are taking part in an invitational event in Beijing this week. After 48 boards out of 69 in the pairs competition the English pairing of Fiona Brown and Catherine Draper lead the field on 58.2%. Second are Laura Dekkers and Doris van Delft of the Netherlands lie second on 55.5%, and Jet Pasman/Anneke Simons lie seventh on 51.3% in the 24-pair event. The other English, Dutch and Italian pairs are currently below halfway in the rankings, while the French squad came only for the teams event. The competition concludes on Saturday.

QUALIFICATION

Round 5



EBU (England) v Uppsalabridgen Skalman (Sweden)



At the end of Round Four, the Dutch Onstein team still headed the rankings but the multi-national EBU team was close behind, while Sweden's Uppsalabridgen Skalman were also well in contention, lying in fourth position.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Petersson	Hanlon	Ahlesved
–	–	–	2♦
3♣	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Warne	Saelensminde	Bergdahl	Gillis
–	–	–	1♦
2♣	Dble	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

For EBU, Simon Gillis opened 1♦ as South then made an invitational jump rebid and Erik Saelensminde converted to 3NT, against which Uppsalasbridgen's Tommy Bergdahl led his bare king in partner's suit. It was both good news and very revealing to Saelensminde when he ducked and found that Bergdahl had to find a switch at trick two. Bergdahl selected a low heart and Saelensminde, who could not afford to lose to the king if Warne also held the guarded king of diamonds, rose with the ace and cashed the ace of diamonds. The fall of the king meant that Saelensminde also had time to lead towards the queen of hearts at the end for his eleventh trick; +460.

Krister Ahlesved opened an intermediate 2♦ and made a game try when Jonas Petersson was able to support the diamonds. Petersson accepted and jumped to 5♦, where there was a bit more work to do than in 3NT.

Zia Mahmood led the jack of spades and if anyone else had made that lead declarer would have thought it likely that he could play the suit without loss by winning and later

finessing against the queen – when Zia leads a jack, who knows which defender holds the queen? Ahlesbed won the ace and played ace and another heart to Zia's king. Back came the two of clubs, suit preference for hearts. Ahlesved won the ace and played the queen of hearts for a club discard. Zia ruffed with the bare king and returned a club. Ahlesved ruffed, drew trumps and led a spade to the nine. When that held the trick he had 11 tricks and his contract for +400 but 2 IMPs to EBU.

Perhaps declarer should have cashed the ace of diamonds before playing ace and another heart as, had Zia held king-doubleton diamond, he would have been able to ruff the heart low and return a club and now declarer would have to judge whether to take the trump finesse or play for the drop?

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Petersson	Hanlon	Ahlesved
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Warne	Saelensminde	Bergdahl	Gillis
1♦	2NT	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Zia opened an off-shape INT and Petersson did not come in with the North hand so Tom Hanlon could transfer to hearts and Zia now upgraded because of the four-card support and ruffing value so jumped to 3♥. Hanlon raised to game and that was that.

Petersson led the ace of diamonds, collecting a suit-preference ten from Ahlesved, so duly switched to the nine of spades to the two, five and ace. Things did not look very promising from declarer's perspective with the king of spades surely sitting over the queen. Zia, however, led the nine of diamonds from his hand and, when Petersson did not cover, threw a spade from dummy. You may say, 'Ah, but he could always have drawn trumps then taken the double ruffing finesse in diamonds to set up a trick in the suit, but Zia had falsecarded with the eight at trick one so no longer had the necessary diamond spots for a legitimate play. With one spade loser gone from the dummy, Zia gave up a spade, ruffed the spade return and drew two rounds of trumps before giving up a club and had ten tricks for +420.

Niklas Warne opened 1♦ and, that not guaranteeing diamonds, Saelensminde could overcall 2NT to show a minor two-suiter. Gillis gave club preference and was left to declare 3♣ on the lead of the king of clubs.

Gillis won the ace of clubs and led a heart to the jack and queen, hoping that the defence would misread the position. Warne returned the eight of diamonds and Gillis rose with the king then led a club to his eight, confirming the four-one split. He continued with a third club to Bergdahl's queen and Bergdahl returned a heart. Warne won the ace of hearts, cashed the ace of spades, and continued with a low diamond. Gillis ran that to his ten but Bergdahl was ruffing and his heart return put declarer in dummy to lose a diamond trick; down two for -200 but 6 IMPs to EBU.

Board 13. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Petersson	Hanlon	Ahlesved
–	1♥	1♠	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Warne	Saelensminde	Bergdahl	Gillis
–	1♥	1♠	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Both South players bid 2NT over the overcall to show their good game raise and when North showed some interest were soon using RKCB and bidding the small slam.

Bergdahl led the eight of clubs round to Saelensminde's jack and, after drawing trumps, that meant that the king of clubs was available for a diamond discard; 12 tricks for +1430.

Hanlon led his singleton trump. Petersson won and played ace then ruffed a spade, crossed to dummy with a trump and ruffed the last spade. Next he tried a diamond to the queen and lost to the king, won the diamond return with the ace, cashed the trumps and played ace of clubs followed by a club to the jack at the end. That lost so the contract was down one for -100 and 17 IMPs to EBU.

There was a winning line of playing ace and another diamond then ducking in dummy when East followed with the ten and jack, as that would leave East endplayed, but why should anyone play that way rather than the actual line of playing for one of two finesses?

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

		♠ 5 4	
		♥ 3	
		♦ A 6 2	
		♣ Q 10 8 5 4 3 2	
♠ K J 10			♠ A Q 7 6 2
♥ K J 9 6 5 2			♥ 10 8
♦ 5			♦ 10 8 7 4
♣ A K 6			♣ 9 7
		♠ 9 8 3	
		♥ A Q 7 4	
		♦ K Q J 9 3	
		♣ J	
West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Petersson	Hanlon	Ahlesved
–	–	–	1♦
1♥	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Warne	Saelensminde	Bergdahl	Gillis
–	–	–	1♦
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Dble	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Whether this was a triumph for aggressive constructive bidding by the Swedish E/W pair, or for weak jump shifts in competition by their N/S pair, you can decide for yourself. Or maybe it was just good fortune that the E/W hands fit together so well?

Zia overcalled 1♥ and the weak jump shift came back to him. He could have passed, but that would be un-Zia-like, or could have made a take-out double. The latter would have got to 4♠, and that should be defeated as declarer cannot afford to draw trumps until after establishing the hearts so can run into both a heart and a club ruff. Or he can do what he did and repeat the heart suit, but Hanlon could not know that he had just what was required for a heart game.

Petersson led the five of spades. Zia won dummy's ace to lead the eight of hearts and, when Ahlesved played low, run it. He continued with the ten of hearts. Ahlesved took his ace and returned the jack of clubs, but Zia could win and play king of hearts and another and just lose the queen of hearts and a diamond; +170.

There was no weak jump shift in the other room and Warne/Bergdahl had a virtually unmolested constructive auction, Warne jumping to 4♥ when Bergdahl admitted to some tolerance for the suit.

Saelensminde led the two of clubs, trying to show a diamond entry, and Warne won the ace and innocently tried to cash the king. Gillis ruffed and played the queen of diamonds and Saelensminde did not read that card so allowed it to hold the trick, when overtaking and leading another club would have beaten the contract courtesy of an over-



ruff of dummy. Gillis continued with a second diamond, ruffed by Warne, who led the ten of spades to the ace followed by the eight of hearts. Rising with the ace defeats the contract now as declarer cannot both pick up hearts and cash the spades for a club discard, but Gillis played low and Warne ran it. A second heart picked up the trumps for only one loser and now the club could be thrown on a spade at the end; ten tricks for +420 and 6 IMPs to Uppsalabridgen.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Petersson	Hanlon	Ahlesved
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Warne	Saelensminde	Bergdahl	Gillis
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
7NT	All Pass		

Hanlon opened 1♣ then invented a reverse because he felt that he was too good to do anything else. When Zia made a forcing raise to 3♦, Hanlon showed what he was about with a jump to 5♣ and Zia made a slightly lazy raise to 6♣. Cannot West bid 5♠ as a grand slam try – it can hardly be natural when he has only bid spades once previously in the auction?

Bergdahl's 1♣ was clubs or balanced and the 1♥ response showed spades. Bergdahl too set up a force then showed the clubs but from that point on the auction is a mystery. What we know is that Warne had found out what he needed to jump to the excellent 7NT. Excellent, perhaps, but doomed to failure for anyone lacking second sight. With clubs three-nil offside, 6♣ was still cold but 7NT had to fail by a trick. It was +920 to EBU but –50 to Uppsalabridgen and a very fortunate 14 IMPs to EBU. They won the match by 40-9 IMPs, converting to 18-2 VPs, and took over from Onstein at the head of the rankings.

QUALIFICATION

Round 5



Onstein BC't (Netherlands) v Radkov (Bulgaria)



Going into the final match of day one, the Dutch Onstein BC't team had just been knocked off the top spot and lay third, while Bulgaria's Radkov were up to fifth, one place out of the top section for the knock-out stages. There was still half the round robin to go, but this was an important match for both teams.

Onstein picked up a couple of single-IMP swings early on but the first significant swing went to the Bulgarians.

diamonds. But now Tenev could cash the ace of hearts and lead a diamond to the jack and ace and Verhees had to lead a diamond back to him at trick 12. Tenev put in the eight and had his game. Very nicely played for +420.

Berend van den Bos opened 1♠ and Joris van Lankveld made a simple raise. When Vladislav Isporski doubled for take-out, van den Bos could jump to the spade game but Rumens Trendafilov bid 5♣ over that, expecting it to either make or be a cheap save against 4♠. He was right, in a sense, in that 5♣ doubled was very cheap, though leading either red king would have beaten 4♠.

Van den Bos cashed a top spade then switched to a low diamond and Trendafilov won the king, ruffed a spade and played the nine of clubs, which was ducked by van Lankveld. Next Trendafilov led a low heart towards his king and van den Bos grabbed the ace and played a diamond. There was just the ace of trumps to be lost for down one; -100 but 8 IMPs to Radkov.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Isporski</i>	<i>v d Bos</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>	<i>v Lankveld</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Dble	4♠	5♣	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Tenev</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Tiholov</i>
Pass	1♣	2♣	Dble
4♣	4♠	All Pass	

For Radkov, Tenyu Tenev upgraded the North hand to a strong (16+) club opening and, after Ricco van Prooijen's overcall, Todor Tiholov showed a semi-positive by doubling. When Louk Verhees made a pre-emptive club raise, Tenev followed through by introducing his powerful spade suit and, with both East and West having already done their bidding, 4♠ ended the auction.

Van Prooijen led the partnership suit, selecting the queen, so Tenev could win the ace and ditch one of his heart losers. He drew trumps in three rounds, Verhees pitching one club and one heart, then led the remaining low heart from hand. Van Prooijen won the king and forced him with a club so Tenev ruffed and led the ten of diamonds. Again van Prooijen won his king and played a club. Tenev ruffed and, reading the position perfectly, cashed his last trump and forced Verhees to throw a heart to keep ace to three

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Isporski</i>	<i>v d Bos</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>	<i>v Lankveld</i>
-	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Tenev</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Tiholov</i>
-	1♦	Pass	1♥
Dble	Pass	2♣	Dble
3♣	All Pass		

Van den Bos's 10-12 INT won this board for his side when it allowed van Lankveld to use Stayman then pass the response and that was sufficient to shut out the Bulgarian E/W.

Trendafilov led the jack of clubs. Isporski won the ace and switched to ace and another heart to the king and now Trendafilov would have done best to just play a third heart

to ruff out one of dummy's winners. In practice, however, he went for the quick kill by switching to the king of diamonds, which would have been correct had Isporski held the diamond instead of the spade ace. Van den Bos won the diamond and led a spade to the king and ace. He rose with the queen on the diamond return, drew trumps and cashed the heart winners, coming to nine tricks for +140.

Tenev's light Precision 1♦ opening saw Tiholov respond 1♥ and Verhees double for take-out. Tenev passed to deny three hearts but Tiholov doubled van Prooijen's 2♣ response. Looking at five clubs, Verhees raised to 3♣ without waiting to see what Tenev was about to bid and that bought the contract.

Tiholov led the queen of clubs. Van Prooijen won the ace and played a second club and Tenev ducked in case his partner had led from queen-jack doubleton. Van Prooijen won the jack of clubs and crossed to dummy with a heart to lead a diamond up. Tenev won the ace and cashed the king of clubs then played back a diamond and declarer was left with a spade plus one more loser at the end so just made his contract for +110 and 6 IMPs to Onstein.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Isporski</i>	<i>v d Bos</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>	<i>v Lankveld</i>
–	–	–	1♣
1♥	Dble	INT	2♠
Pass	4♠	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Tenev</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Tiholov</i>
–	–	–	1♦
1♥	Dble	2♣	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Both Souths reached 4♠ after West had overcalled 1♥. Van Prooijen was willing to trust that his opponents knew what they were doing and let 4♠ go unmolested, while Trendafilov doubled – he did, after all, hold 11 HCP and four trumps, so defeating the contract looked a good bet and it surely wasn't going to be making overtricks.

Verhees led the ten of hearts against Tiholov, who put in the queen then led a club to his ace, ruffed a club and played ace of hearts then ruffed dummy's last heart. He

could take two more club ruffs and two trump tricks so had ten in all for +420.

Isporski led the queen of diamonds against 4♠ doubled. Van Lankveld won the ace and returned the nine to Trendafilov's king. He rose with the ace on the low club return and led a heart to the queen, cashed the ace, then led a third diamond. Isporski won the jack as Trendafilov threw his remaining heart, then played the king of hearts. Trendafilov discarded the queen of clubs as declarer ruffed, and now van Lankveld ruffed a club low, Trendafilov continuing with his deception by following with the king of clubs. Declarer led a low diamond and Trendafilov ruffed low, over-ruffed with the ten. Now Trendafilov's attempt to look like a man with all five trumps paid off, up to a point, as van Lankveld ruffed a club with the jack when the seven would have been good enough. He then cashed the ace of spades before leading a diamond to make the queen of trumps en passant for his tenth trick; +590 and 5 IMPs to Onstein.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Isporski</i>	<i>v d Bos</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>	<i>v Lankveld</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dble	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Tenev</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Tiholov</i>
1♦	1♥	Dble	Pass
1♠	Pass	Pass	INT
All Pass			

Verhees's 1♦ did not promise diamonds and could even have concealed a five-card spade suit. Tenev wanted to bid something and chose the four-card overcall as being the least bad option and now van Prooijen's double promised four spades, hence the 1♠ response from Verhees. Tiholov finally competed with INT and was left to play there as the Dutch pair didn't know that they had such a good diamond fit.

Verhees led the five of diamonds to the jack, queen and king and Tiholov immediately ran the queen of clubs, losing to the king. The defence cashed out its four diamonds and two top spades for one down and –100.

At the other table, van den Bos did not overcall so Trendafilov bid his spades and Isporski raised him. Now van den Bos doubled for take-out and van Lankveld was happy to have a five-card suit to bid. Three Clubs would have been a comfortable make so Trendafilov's decision to compete to 3♠, while a dubious action, would cost nothing unless he was down more than two.

Van Lankveld led the queen of clubs. Van den Bos won the ace and switched to king, ace and a third heart for his partner to ruff. Trendafilov won the club return and played king of spades then a spade to the ace followed by ace and another diamond and had to lose one diamond and one spade; down two for -100 and 5 IMPs to Onstein.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Isporski</i>	<i>v d Bos</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>	<i>v Lankveld</i>
-	-	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Tenev</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Tiholov</i>
-	-	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♣	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

The Dutch E/W pair handled this well, van Prooijen opening a loose 1♦ then introducing his clubs, while Verhees simply bid and rebid his longer suit and was left to play peacefully in 2♥.

Tenev led the queen of clubs to the king, ace and ruff. Verhees led a low spade towards the bare jack so Tenev went in with the queen and returned the eight of hearts. Verhees won dummy's ace and crossed to hand with the ace of diamonds to lead the king of spades and Tenev defended accurately by not covering as he could see that this would establish two winners for declarer when his partner's ten fell. Verhees therefore pitched a diamond from dummy and continued with another spade. Tenev again played low so Tiholov ruffed but the defence had only one spade and one more heart to come as Tiholov returned the heart queen after taking his ruff, so Verhees had nine tricks for +140.

The less said about the Bulgarian auction the better. One

Diamond was Precision and it appears that Isporski gambled on seeing a 1NT rebid so bid his spades first, planning to follow through with 2♥ to offer a choice of partscores. That did not work out very well when Trendafilov's rebid was in clubs – but why the jump when looking at a near minimum opening? Unable to show his hearts at all now, Isporski tried 3NT, though he can hardly have been very optimistic of success on the known misfit and with sub-minimum combined high-card values for game.

The good news was that nobody could double. However, van den Bos led the four of spades to dummy's jack, and Isporski played ace and another heart to the ten, jack and king. Van den Bos returned a low diamond to the jack and ace and Isporski cleared the hearts and prayed for an entry to his hand to appear by some miracle. But van Lankveld won the heart and returned a low club to the jack and king. Isporski played king and another diamond and had now established a suit in each hand but was going to take a while to gain the lead to cash one of them. Van Lankveld played another low club to his partner's queen and now van den Bos seems to have assumed that his partner did not hold a spade as he cashed the ace before returning a club. Van Lankveld won the ace but had to give the last two tricks to dummy. That was only two down, which could have been worse, but -100 meant another 6 IMPs to Onstein. The Dutch squad closed out the match with a 25-9 IMP victory, converting to 15.05-4.95 VPs, and lay second at the end of the first day of qualification.



QUALIFICATION

Round 7



Heimdall BK (Norway) v EBU (England)



Overnight leaders, EBU met Norway's Heimdall BK in Round 7, the first match of the new day. This was the big board from the match:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

<p>♠ J 8 6 2 ♥ 2 ♦ 10 4 3 2 ♣ J 8 5 4</p>	<table border="1" style="background-color: #336633; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ A K ♥ A J 5 ♦ K Q J 8 7 6 ♣ A Q</p>	<p>♠ 9 7 5 ♥ K 9 8 7 4 3 ♦ A 5 ♣ 7 6</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
Lund	Saelensminde	Hoftaniska	Gillis
–	–	–	2♦
Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass
3♠	Pass	6♦	All Pass

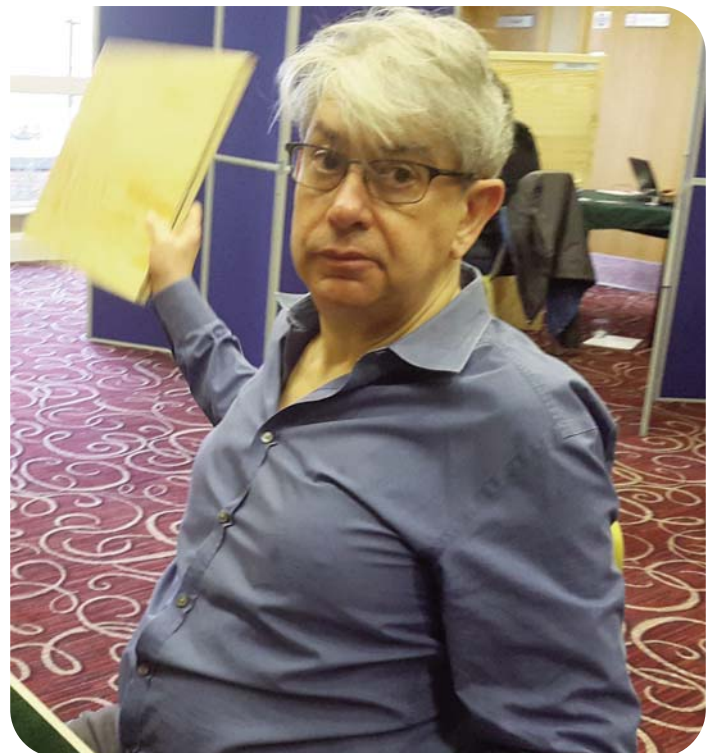
West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Berg	Lindqvist	Johansen
–	–	–	2♦
Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both Souths opened with a multi 2♦ and both Norths jumped to 3♥, pass or correct, to pre-empt their opponents' auction. Now both Easts felt that they were far too strong for a simple 3NT overcall so both doubled and West responded 3♠. Now came a rather dramatic difference in hand evaluation. Espen Lindqvist, for EBU, settled for 3NT, trusting his partner to understand that his double then 3NT combination showed a better hand than an immedi-

ate 3NT, while Tor-Erik Hoftaniska, for Heimdall, leaped majestically to 6♦, relying on his opponents to have a nine-card heart fit for their vulnerable bidding, when he might need only a club finesse for his contract if he could ruff hearts in the dummy.

Arthur Johansen led the seven of hearts against 3NT. When Erik Berg turned up with the queen, Lindqvist had a horrible guess – who had the ace of diamonds? On the actual lie of the cards, winning the first heart and playing on diamonds makes the contract, but if the ace is with North it is necessary to duck twice to cut defensive communications. Lindqvist ducked the heart and was down two when it was Johansen who held the critical card; –200.

It appears that 6♦ is indeed on the club finesse, but Hoftaniska made his slam in a different fashion. Gillis led the five of spades to the ten and ace. Hoftaniska played the king of diamonds so Gillis won and exited safely with his remaining trump, but the damage had already been done. Hoftaniska cashed the king of spades, played ace of hearts then ruffed a heart, and continued with the jack of spades to pin South's nine. Though Saelensminde did not cover the spade, Hoftaniska was sufficiently confident of the position that he discarded the queen of clubs on the spade jack and had no need to worry about the club position. That was +1370 and 17 IMPs to Heimdall BK, who won the match 24-17 IMPs, 10.51-7.49 VPs (after a late arrival penalty).



QUALIFICATION

Round 8



Angelini (Italy) v Onstein BC't (Netherlands)



With four rounds of qualifying to go Onstein lay second and Angelini third. There was still plenty of work to do to ensure a top four spot but both could be happy enough with how things had gone so far.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Ritmeijer	Lauria	Ticha
-	-	-	1♥
1♠	2♥	3♠	4♥
All Pass			



West	North	East	South
Verhees	Sementa	v Prooijen	Tokay
-	-	-	1♥
1♠	2♥	3♠	4♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Both Souths declared 4♥ after a 1♠ overcall from West and pre-emptive raise from East.

Alfredo Versace led a trump, Magdalena Ticha winning dummy's jack to lead a diamond to the queen and ace. back came a second heart to the nine, ten and ace, and she conceded a second diamond. Lorenzo Lauria won the diamond and played back a third heart so there was no ruff in the dummy. Ticha won the third heart in dummy and led the king of spades, pitching her diamond loser. That lost to the ace and there was the club ace to come for down one and -50.

Verhees too led a trump but, when Tokay won and ducked a diamond, switched to ace and another club. There was no club ruff to be had and the tempo gave Tokay time to give up a second diamond and subsequently to ruff his last diamond; ten tricks for +420 and 10 IMPs to Angelini.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Ritmeijer	Lauria	Ticha
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Sementa	v Prooijen	Tokay
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♠
3♠	Dble	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

Ticha splintered then signed-off in 4♥ as she had no diamond control to show. Ritmeijer asked for key cards and, on finding all were present, asked about kings. The king of clubs was just what the doctor ordered and he bid the excellent grand slam, only to find that there was an unavoidable trump loser – unlucky.

There was more bidding in the other room, where van Prooijen made a wafer-thin overcall – well, the spades do make a good poker hand, I suppose – and Tokay just showed a general good heart raise. When Sementa could double the pre-emptive spade raise, Tokay showed his club control and Sementa took over, asking for key cards then, already knowing about the club king, bidding the grand slam. Flat at down one for –100.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Ritmeijer	Lauria	Ticha
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♦	1♠	3♦	Pass
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Sementa	v Prooijen	Tokay
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Ticha, playing weak no trump, opened 1♣ as South and that made it easy for Versace to come in with a 1♦ overcall. When Lauria could make a pre-emptive diamond raise, Ticha could do nothing but hope for a reopening double from partner. Alas, Ritmeijer did not have the hand for that and instead competed with 4♣. Ticha might have guessed to go on, but feared that too much of her hand was in diamonds, where partner was marked with a void. As it happened, the ace and king of diamonds were full value as they provided discards for the two heart losers and the perfect fit meant that 12 tricks were easy for +170.

Tokay opened a strong no trump and 2♣ was an inquiry, to which the 2♦ response showed either four spades or no major. Two Hearts inquired again and 2NT showed a minimum with no major. Sementa raised to 3NT, hoping his

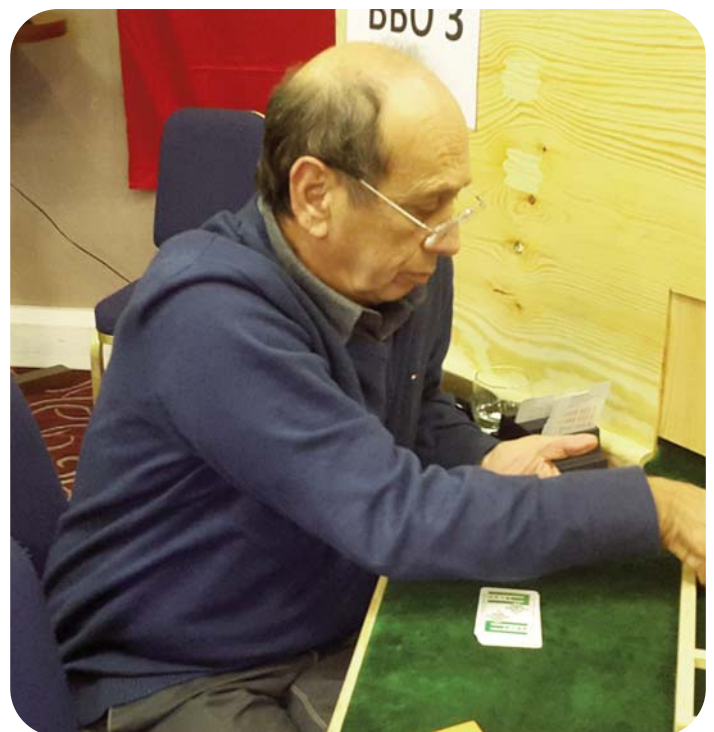
partner would be able to run the clubs, and so it proved. Verhees led the queen of diamonds, which Tokay won with the ace. He rattled off the clubs and van Prooijen threw all his diamonds and, in the endgame, Verhees gave a third diamond trick by leading into declarer's king-nine tenace; 11 tricks for +460 and 7 IMPs to Angelini.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Ritmeijer	Lauria	Ticha
–	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♦	Pass	2♥	2♠
Dble	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Dble
6♦	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Sementa	v Prooijen	Tokay
–	Pass	Pass	1♠
5♦	All Pass		



Facing a passed hand, Verhees overcalled 5♦ to shut his opponents out of the auction. He didn't have to be as strong as this, of course, so van Prooijen did not seriously consider a raise. With the spade king onside, there was just the ace of hearts to be lost; +420.

Versace started with a simple overcall and that allowed Lauria to introduce his hearts then to show a good hand in context of his initial pass by cuebidding 3♠. Versace took control, asking for key cards, and bid the small slam. There was again just the heart to be lost so that was worth +920 and 11 IMPs to Angelini.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ K 9 8 7 ♥ K 7 ♦ Q 10 8 6 3 ♣ K 2	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A Q J 2 ♥ 8 4 2 ♦ A 4 ♣ 8 7 5 4	♠ 10 6 4 ♥ A 10 9 6 ♦ K 9 7 ♣ A Q 10 ♠ 5 3 ♥ Q J 5 3 ♦ J 5 2 ♣ J 9 6 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
Versace	Ritmeijer	Lauria	Ticha
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Sementa	v Prooijen	Tokay
–	–	INT	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Lauria opened 1♣ and rebid 1♠ so the spade fit was found. He held a complete minimum opener, however, so declined Versace's game invitation. Ticha led the queen of hearts, which Lauria ducked. She continued with a second heart when what was required was a club shift, so Ritmeijer won his ace and continued with a third heart, ruffed in the dummy. Lauria led a diamond to his ace and a second diamond back to the ten and king and Ritmeijer was powerless. He returned a diamond to the jack and queen so Lauria drew trumps ending in the dummy and cashed the diamonds, conceding a club at the end for +140.

Van Prooijen opened a 10-12 no trump and was doubled by Sementa in pass-out seat. Tokay led the three of hearts to the king and ace and Sementa returned the heart ten then nine. Tokay won the third heart and cashed the fourth round then had to find a switch. Perhaps imagining that his partner's heart plays had included a suit preference signal, he switched to a spade when a club would have netted four more tricks for down two. The five of spades was won by the jack and van Prooijen cashed out the spades, Sementa discarding the ten of clubs. Next van Prooijen played ace of

diamonds and a diamond to the ten and king. Sementa exited with a diamond and had two clubs to come at the end for down one and –100; 6 IMPs to Angelini, whose lead was up to 37-0.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ Q J 5 4 ♥ A 10 7 6 5 ♦ 10 ♣ Q J 2	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 6 2 ♥ K Q J ♦ A 8 5 4 ♣ 10 9 7 4	♠ A K 9 8 3 ♥ 8 4 3 ♦ Q 9 2 ♣ K 5 ♠ 10 7 ♥ 9 2 ♦ K J 7 6 3 ♣ A 8 6 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
Versace	Ritmeijer	Lauria	Ticha
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Sementa	v Prooijen	Tokay
1♥	1♠	2♥	All Pass

Holding only 10 HCP, Versace passed as dealer and the Dutch N/S had a simple auction to INT, against which Versace led the five of hearts. Lauria won the jack, continued with the queen, then the king. Versace overtook and cashed out the hearts but with declarer having double stoppers in both black suits and the ten of diamonds coming down there was no way to take more than one more trick; +90.

Verhees made an aggressive opening on the West cards and van Prooijen could raise in competition. Sementa led the three of hearts against 2♥ so Verhees won and cashed a second heart before leading a club to the jack and king. He won the trump return and knocked out the club ace and had eight tricks for +110 and 5 IMPs to Onstein, their only points of the match.

Angelini won the match by 37-5 IMPs, 18.15-8.85 VPs, and had almost caught the leaders, EBU. Onstein, despite this setback, still lay in third place, but their hold on a top four spot was considerably less secure than previously.



QUALIFICATION

Round 9



EBU (England) v Allegra (Italy)



EBU held a narrow lead over Angelini as they sat down for their Round 9 match-up with defending champions, Allegra. The Italians, meanwhile, were in fourth place, still very much in need of points to cement their place in the semi-finals.

of the table, but with a diamond in the bag Zia could turn his attention to clubs and had nine tricks for +400 and 10 IMPs to EBU.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
–	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Dble
Rdbl	2♥	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Zia Mahmood opened 1NT and Tom Hanlon asked for a five-card major. When Zia showed the wrong one, Hanlon signed off in 3NT. Espen Lindqvist led the three of hearts to the five, jack and ace. Agustin Madala played the king of clubs and Lindqvist won to play a second heart through. Boye Brogeland won the heart queen then returned a suit-preference four to the king to establish the suit. Madala cashed the ace of spades then led a diamond up but Brogeland went in with the ace to cash two heart winners for down one and –50.

In the other room, Norberto Bocchi opened the East hand and Madala responded 1♥, transfer to spades, redoubled to show extras at his next turn then closed proceedings with a jump to 3NT. Dennis Bilde also led a heart, selecting the nine. This went to the jack and ace and Zia played a diamond at trick two, putting up the king. Giorgio Duboin ducked as he could do nothing useful from his side

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
–	–	Pass	2♠
3♥	Dble	All Pass	



West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Bilde	Hanlon	Duboin
–	–	Pass	1♠
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Duboin opened the South hand at the one level, seeing it as too good for a standard weak two bid, and repeated his suit when Zia's overcall came back to him, much to the disappointment of partner, Bilde, who made a try for game but then respected Duboin's sign-off in 3♠.

Zia led the queen of clubs, which did Duboin no harm at all. He won the ace and led a spade to the jack, dropping Zia's bare ten. Duboin continued with the ace of spades, throwing a diamond from dummy, but then switched his attention to hearts. Zia rose with the ace on the heart lead and returned a low diamond. Hanlon won the ace and returned a low diamond to the nine and king. A third diamond was won by the queen and Duboin played a club to dummy, cashed the king of hearts and ruffed a heart. He could exit with a low spade now and had the last two tricks and nine in all for +140.

Brogeland opened a constructive weak two bid and Madala overcalled at the three level. Knowing that opener would have something for his good weak two bid, Lindqvist could double with considerable confidence.

Lindqvist cashed the top clubs before playing his singleton spade. Brogeland won the jack and continued with the ace, ruffed and over-ruffed. Madala ruffed the club return in dummy just in case Brogeland might be able to ruff with the singleton three and played a diamond to the king then back to the jack. That lost to the queen and there were still two more trump losers to come for down three; –800 and an-



other 12 IMPs to EBU, up by 22-0 after only two deals.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Madala	Lindqvist	Bocchi	Brogeland
Mahmood	Bilde	Hanlon	Duboin
–	1♦	1♠	Dble
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Both Norths opened 1♦ and took one look at the vulnerability and saved in 5♥ over 4♠ at their next turn. After all, how bad could it be at this vulnerability?

Hanlon led the jack of spades against Bilde, who played low from dummy and ruffed in hand. He played the queen of diamonds round to Zia's ace and back came a low spade as Zia thought to retain his winners for later while forcing declarer to ruff fresh air. Bilde did very well here, discarding a club so winning the trick with dummy's nine, and now led a club to the king and ace. Hanlon returned a heart to the seven, eight and ten, and Bilde played a low diamond, Hanlon winning the nine. This time he returned a spade so Bilde could ruff cheaply and now ruffed a diamond with the ace. Zia under-ruffed this trick as otherwise he would be endplayed in the endgame if he had more trumps than dummy. Now, however, Bilde could make only the king of hearts and club queen but was out for three down and –500, a small gain if 4♠ was making at the other table.

As we see, the other table was not playing 4♠ – it too was in 5♥ doubled. Lindqvist too ruffed the spade lead and led the queen of diamonds out of his hand. Madala won the ace and, rather than play spades, led the nine of clubs through. That went to the king and ace and Bocchi returned the seven of spades to the nine, king and ruff. Lindqvist played the eight of diamonds, Bocchi winning the ten and leading his trump round to declarer's ten. Lindqvist played another low diamond, discarding a spade from dummy as Bocchi won the nine and Madala discarded a club. Now came the king of diamonds and both dummy and Madala threw low clubs. Now Bocchi led a club, Madala ruffing and returning a heart, and he still had to come to the queen of hearts one way or another; down five for –1100 and 12 IMPs to Allegra, closing to 12-23.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

♠ 10 8 6 5 3 2
♥ 10 9
♦ 8 6
♣ A 10 9

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
–	–	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♥	Dble	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

If you play constructive weak two bids, you can also open bad weak twos with a trash multi, as Brogeland did here. Lindqvist responded 2♠ pass or correct and showing heart support, and when that came round to Madala he doubled for take-out, left in by Bocchi.

Bocchi led the queen of clubs and, when that was ducked, continued with the two of clubs. Lindqvist won the ace and ruffed the last club with his nine then exited with the ten of diamonds. Madala won and played back the jack of hearts, crashing his partner's queen as Lindqvist won the ace. He exited again with a diamond. Madala won and cashed the king of hearts, on which Bocchi discarded his last club. A heart through enabled Bocchi to ruff, exit with a diamond, and make all of his trump honours for down two and –500.



Playing a sounder weak two style, there was no way that Duboin was going to open the South hand in the other room. He passed and Zia was able to open 1♦. When Hanlon then doubled the overcall to show four spades, Duboin stayed out of the auction and watched his opponents bid smoothly up to 5♦. When there was no immediate club ruff and trumps were evenly divided, there was no problem in coming to 11 tricks for +600 and 3 IMPs to Allegra, ahead by 26-12.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

♠ 9 7 2
♥ A 9 2
♦ K 7
♣ 9 8 7 4 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
INT	All Pass		

Both Wests opened INT and both Norths stayed silent. Hanlon left his partner to play INT, while Bocchi used Stayman then passed the response.

Bilde led the queen of diamonds against INT. When it held he continued with the three of diamonds, suit preference for a club back, which Duboin duly led. Zia rose with the ace of clubs and cashed the ace and king of spades in hope of a doubleton queen. No such good fortune came his way, however, and he led a third spade to Bilde's queen. Bilde had four diamonds to cash plus the king of clubs, and could then lead to Duboin's ace of hearts for three down and –150.

Bocchi's weak Stayman response worked very well when it hit a five-card major in Madala's hand. Lindqvist kicked off with the queen of hearts, which did no harm to declarer. Madala won the king of hearts and returned the jack. Brogeland won the ace of hearts and led king and another diamond. Lindqvist won and played a third diamond and Brogeland could over-ruff the dummy then play a club through. Lindqvist won the club king but now there was a spade discard on the third club and Madala had the rest; eight tricks for +110 and 6 IMPs to Allegra.

The Italians had won the match by 27-21 IMPs, converting to 12.18-7.82 VPs. With Angelini winning their match by 7 IMPs to gain a fraction of a VP on the leaders, the EBU now led by just 0.14 VP.

The Operation Was Successful But The Patient Died

by Maurizio di Sacco

In a recent Italian Championship I had the chance to play a very nice hand: a rather classic, though still spectacular, ruffing squeeze. Put yourself in the South seat and play 6♠ after a trump lead:

♠ K Q J 10 9
♥ 4
♦ A J 10
♣ 8 5 4 3

♠ A 8
♥ A Q 10 4
♦ K Q 7
♣ A J 7 2

The contract is not one of the best but, if you have to play a slam, spades is after all the best denomination, since it offers the highest chance of making. Furthermore, in the auction it is impossible to appreciate the lack of soft values in clubs, or the duplication in diamonds and hearts (give South the ♣Q instead of the ♥Q and the contract is excellent). But it is not the time to complain about your poor luck. So far, the only thing you can do is to cash three trumps, carefully throwing a club from hand, both defenders following, and continue with a club to the jack. After all ♣KQ onside and the suit splitting 3-2 is worth a valuable 17% of the odds, and even with the suit splitting 4-1 or 5-0 you can try the heart finesse, or play for a squeeze. No luck there, since the jack is (obviously) won by the king. West leads a diamond. Now what?

The only chance remaining is represented by a heart-club squeeze, but if at first glance it seems that you need to find the RHO with both ♥KJ and the club guard (or six-plus cards with the ♥K), in reality there is a better line that increases significantly your chances to land your contract: a squeeze that acts against either defender.

You win the diamond lead and play two more rounds ending in dummy, then the penultimate trump pitching a club. Here is the end-position:

♠ 9
♥ 4
♦ —
♣ 8 5 4

♠ —
♥ A Q 10 4
♦ —
♣ A

Your goal is to find the opponents with either:

♠ —	♠ —
♥ x x	♥ K J x x
♦ x x x	♦ —
♣ x	♣ H x

or:

♠ —	♠ —
♥ J x	♥ K x x x
♦ —	♦ —
♣ x	♣ H x

or even:

♠ —	♠ —
♥ J x x x	♥ K x x
♦ —	♦ x x
♣ H x	♣ x

In all of the three possible positions, West in the first two, and East in the third, has still to make a discard, but is inexorably squeezed: ditching a club would see you cashing the ♣A, making good the two small in dummy, still reachable with a heart ruff, whereas a heart would result in that suit being made good after finessing the queen and ruffing one. The ♥A would be the decisive transportation.

All classic and really beautiful but, as often happens, even though the operation had been very successful the poor patient died, because the ♥K was wrongly placed, and when I ended up -2 the reward for my efforts was a loss of 3 IMPs, since in the other room my counterpart had gone down one in 6NT.

Now the final question: if you had been East, owning any of the hands described above, would you have been able to find the heart switch which cuts the necessary transportation for the squeeze (in the third case even a club switch works)?

