

2016 Budapest, Hungary

53rd European Bridge Team Championships



16th to 25th June 2016

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Lay-out Editor & Photographer : Francesca Canali

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS



OPEN TEAMS: FRANCE

Frederic Volcker, Jerome Rombaut, Thomas Bessis,
Jean-Christophe Quantin, Francois Combescure,
Lionel Sebbane, Cedric Lorenzini



WOMEN TEAMS: ENGLAND

Heather Dhondy, Nevena Senior, Sally Brock, Nicola Smith,
Fiona Brown, Catherine Draper, David Burn (coach),
Derek Patterson (npc)



SENIOR TEAMS: ISRAEL

Noah Tymianker, Meir Berkman, Shalom Zeligman,
Avi Kalish, Adrian Schwartz, Etan Orenstein (npc),
Leonid Podgur

The worldwide audience following the championships were enthralled by the twists and turns that took place in all three contests.

While France had secured the Open title with a round to spare, the other two titles were determined by the very last board, when a failing grand slam gave England the Women's title and Israel victory in the Seniors.





2nd OPEN TEAMS: SWEDEN

Ola Rimstedt, Johan Upmark, Johan Sylvan, Frederic Wrang, Jan Lagerman (npc), Mikael Rimstedt, Fredrik Nystrom



3rd OPEN TEAMS: NETHERLANDS

Anton Maas (npc), Ton Bakkeren (coach), Bauke Muller, Bart Nab, Simon De Wijs, Bob Drijver, Bas Drijver, Sjoert Brink



2nd WOMEN TEAMS: FRANCE

Vanessa Reess, Nathalie Frey, Sylvie Willard, Laurent Thuillez (npc), Benedicte Cronier, Catherine D'Ovidio, Joanna Zochowska



3rd WOMEN TEAMS: POLAND

Katarzyna Dufrat, Justyna Zmuda, Danuta Kazmucha, Anna Sarniak, Grazyna Brewiak, Cathy Baldysz, Mirosław Cichocki (npc)



2nd SENIOR TEAMS: SWEDEN

Mats Axdorph, Bengt-Erik Efraimsson, Sven-Ake Bjerregard, Anders Morath, Carina Wademark (coach), Per Gunnar Eliasson, Johnny Ostberg, Tommy Gullberg (npc)



3rd SENIOR TEAMS: POLAND

Jerzy Russyan, Krzysztof Lasocki, Włodzimierz Wala (npc), Victor Markowicz, Jacek Romanski, Julian Klukowski, Apolinary Kowalski



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PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

by Yves Aubry, EBL President



Mr Gianarrigo Rona, EBL Presidents Emeritus,
Mr Géza Homonnay, President of the Hungarian Bridge Federation,
Dear Bridge Friends,

We are at the end of the 53rd European Bridge Team Championships after 10 days of hard competition in the three categories Open, Women and Seniors.

A great thank you to the Hungarian people who have welcomed us so kindly in Budapest.

If this championship was so successful, it is of course thanks to the Hungarian Bridge Federation and to its President, Géza Homonnay. Thank you Géza for your great job.

Of course, the Organising Committee led by Zsolt Szetei and the Championship Committee led by Jan Kamras and Josef Harsanyi worked hard for you all with the help of all workers and volunteers both from EBL and Hungarian 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 sporting 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.

In addition to the Host Federation's team, this European championship qualifies the first six teams in Open, Women and Seniors Series for the Bermuda Bowl, the Venice Cup and the D'Orsi Trophy, which will be held in Lyon, France, from 12th to 26th August 2017.

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 Zagreb from 10 to 12th November 2016.

The EBL organised these 53rd European Team Championships in Budapest. The venue for the next edition will be Ostend in June 2018.

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

Have a safe return home and enjoy your evening.

I officially declare the 53rd European Team Championships closed.

Yves Aubry
EBL President





The
**1st Yeh
 Online Bridge
 World Cup**

will take place

31 October - 2 November 2016

under the auspices of the World Bridge Federation.

This will be the first live online Bridge Show, featuring the greatest champions and biggest personalities associated with the game and a top class team of commentators who will analyze the deals for the watching online spectators.

Team **EUROPE-LAVAZZA** (based in Turin at the headquarters of Lavazza) will include the women who currently hold the top two positions in the world rankings, Sylvie Willard and Bénédicte Cronier, alongside Giorgio Duboin, Augustin Madala, and another pair to be announced.

Team **USA-BBO** team (based in Seattle) will be Bob Hamman (the all time number 1 in the world rankings) playing with Jill Meyers (number 2 on the all time women's list) Fred Gitelman & Sherri Winestock and Bill Gates and Sharon Osberg.

Team **CCBA** (based in Beijing) will comprise Mr Zeng Peiyan, former vice premier for economy & General secretary of the Asian Economic Forum, Mr Guo Jinlong, former Mayor of Beijing plus Chinese World Champions.

Team **CHEN YEH** (also based in Beijing) will include Mr Yeh who will be joined by World Champions.

At each venue, remotely controlled webcams will monitor each player, streaming live images across the Internet. Every match will be broadcast live using BBO & Ourgame.

The best bridge journalists from around the world will cover the event with voice and written commentaries and there will be instant Daily Bulletins online. Social media will be utilised to the fullest extent with dedicated accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The first match will start at 09.00 (US PDT time) 17.00 (European CEST) on 31 October with Bill Gates playing for the USA against Lavazza; the schedule is as follows:

Daily Time Schedule

- Turin matches:** 10.00, 17.00 or 21.00 (European CEST)
- Seattle matches:** 09.00, 13.00, 19.00 or 22.00 (US PDT time)
- Beijing matches:** 10.00, 13.00, 17/18.00 or 21/22.00 (China time)

Starting Monday 31 October 2016

- China v Chinese Taipei* RR1 15.00 RR2 21/22.00 (Beijing & Taipei time)
- USA v Europe* RR1 09.00 RR2 13.00 (Seattle time)

More information will be available shortly





ADVENTURES WITH OTTLIK

by Mark Horton

SOLUTION TO YESTERDAY'S PROBLEM

♠ J 10 9 7 4
♥ A Q 7 2
♦ K
♣ K 9 3

♠ 8 5 2
♥ 10 9 8 5 3
♦ 9 7
♣ A Q J



West	North	East	South
		1♣*	Pass
1♦*	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1♣ Strong
1♦ Negative

Play Instructions: 3NT by East. South to lead ♦5.
East to take the ♦K and return the ♥K.
North to play to defeat 3NT.

The full deal:

North should beat the contract by taking the king of hearts and returning a low club into dummy's club tenace.

♠ J 10 9 7 4
♥ A Q 7 2
♦ K
♣ K 9 3

♠ 8 5 2
♥ 10 9 8 5 3
♦ 9 7
♣ A Q J



♠ A K Q 6
♥ K J
♦ A J 6 3
♣ 10 8 5

♠ 3
♥ 6 4
♦ Q 10 8 5 4 2
♣ 7 6 4 2

This defence removes declarer's second entry prematurely. The jack of hearts will be ducked, and the suit is as good as dead. A throw-in against North doesn't help.

If North ducks the first two hearts declarer can still succeed (at double dummy) by taking an early club finesse. If North wins it and doesn't cash hearts then South can be stripped of his club exits and endplayed in diamonds. If North ducks the first club he is endplayed in spades to give up two clubs.

THANK YOU!

On behalf of IBPA journalists and many players I would like to thank the Hungarian Bridge Federation and the EBL for the excellent facilities in the Press Room.

Although the room is very spacious, it was sometimes difficult to meet the demand. Apparently occasion creates demand.

We were very happy!

Jan Swaan, Press Room manager

THANK YOU!

My thanks to Philippe Cronier and P.O. Sundelin for their great help on Vugraph.

It was much appreciated.

Barry Rigal





CHAMPIONSHIP DIARY

by **Mark Horton**

We reported a great deal from Round 28, where on Board 28, a number of players found the lead of the ♠3 from ♠Q3 against 4♠, which caused the declarer to go wrong with a trump suit of ♠J654 opposite ♠AK987. When this happened in the match between Switzerland and Belarus it was Switzerland's Fernando Piedra who led the three of spades. At the end of the deal his opponent sitting East Korzun Aleksandr, smiled and gave him a small applause. What a sportsman!

Ray Lee, past President of the Canadian Bridge Federation and the man behind Master Point Press was watching the final round of the US Open golf last Sunday when he was struck by a number of bridge-related thoughts.

If you didn't watch the golf, controversy swirled around the event when the leader (and eventual winner) Dustin Johnson was involved in an incident on the fifth hole which could have led to his being assessed a 1-stroke penalty. The rules committee (or whoever it was that had to make the decision) announced that they would make a ruling only after the round was complete. All the golfers were informed of this, and so for the next three hours or so everyone knew that Johnson's score could potentially increase by one stroke. The expert commentators were apoplectic. Leaving aside the merits of the decision (i.e. whether or not they thought a penalty was appropriate), they rhetorically asked 'In what other sport could there be a ruling after the event is over which changes the result?'

Well, we can think of one!

One aspect of the affair discussed by the commentators was the 'unfairness' of the players not knowing the score, and therefore not being able to adjust their strategy to the requirements of the moment. Again, they asked, 'In what other sport...?', and again we have an answer. Which led Ray to wonder why, given today's technology, we don't allow the players to know the score, at least in team matches? Surely the only reason we don't is that historically it was impractical, but that's no longer the case.

Taking a rare break from his duties, Ron Tacchi went out for lunch at a nearby Chinese Restaurant. When he returned, I asked him if he had had a glass or two of beer with his lunch, to which he replied in the affirmative. 'Large or small' I enquired.

His laughter was all that was required to provide the answer.

One of the journalists submitted an article that contained the following instruction:

'Board 6 - insert Board 8 here'.

Following the decision of the United Kingdom to leave the European Union, I was surprised that no one suggested that English should no longer be the approved language.

The result of the referendum reminded me of a remark made by the British Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey on the eve of Britain's entry into the First World War.

Grey's memoirs *Twenty-Five Years 1892-1916* mention the remark as taking place on 3 August 1914:

A friend came to see me on one of the evenings of the last week — he thinks it was on Monday, August 3rd. We were standing at a window of my room in the Foreign Office. It was getting dusk, and the lamps were being lit in the space below on which we were looking. My friend recalls that I remarked on this with the words:

'The lamps are going out all over Europe, we shall not see them lit again in our life-time'.

As another great tournament closes it is time to thank the journalists who joined together to bring you the best of the action. Jos Jacobs was on the front line and he was ably supported by the troops working overseas - John Carruthers from Canada, David Bird from England, Ram Soffer from Israel and Ron Tacchi from France. (Ron was here in Budapest - apparently he got lost on the French motorway system en route to Belgium.)

Barry Rigal made sure the best deals from the VuGraph did not go unreported and in his brief sojourn, Brian Senior covered the Pairs Championship.

Francesca Canali was our Lay-out Editor & Photographer. She has revolutionised the appearance of the Bulletins to such a degree that, as Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber would have written, 'She makes our words take flight'.

Until the next time.

Mark Horton





ICELAND vs FRANCE

by David Bird

Open Teams, Round 20

I was looking forward to my first look at the front-running France team. North-South faced a bidding test on this early board:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Magnusson	Quantin	Th.Jonsson
—	—	—	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

North's 3♣ was described as Romex Stayman. I suppose I should look that up on the internet... back in a moment. Right, 3NT showed two 4-card majors and that ended the auction. The contract might have survived if East was on lead or if West held the ♣A but it was not to be. One down in just a few seconds and twelve tricks would have been available in a diamond contract.

Perhaps North-South in the Closed Room would be more inspired:

West	North	East	South
Ingimarsson	Rombaut	Eiriksson	Combesure
—	—	—	2♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

No. South's 2♦ was the multi, including 22-23 balanced hands, and 3♥ was to play in partner's suit at that level opposite a weak-two type. 3NT suffered a predictable fate and that was a flat board.

What happened at the other tables? Six pairs out of thirty-six bid and made 6♦. Two played successfully in 5♦. Twelve pairs made 3NT, some because they played it from the North hand, others because West led a passive heart. The South players of England and Greece managed to make 3NT after a club lead. (Well done!)



The emphasis was on defence on this deal:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ 6 5 3		
	♥ J 7 2		
	♦ K 5 4		
	♣ 10 8 7 4		
♠ K Q 4	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;">N W E S</div>	♠ A J 10 9 2	
♥ 10 6 4		♥ Q 8 3	
♦ 10 7 6 2		♦ Q 9	
♣ A Q 9		♣ K 3 2	
	♠ 8 7		
	♥ A K 9 5		
	♦ A J 8 3		
	♣ J 6 5		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Magnusson</i>	<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Th.Jonsson</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Thorlakur Jonsson led the ♥A and his partner signalled with the ♥2. Their commendably informative convention card states that they play attitude signals on an ace lead, except when (as here) dummy contains three low cards. In this situation they switch to count signals. The method is designed to detect a doubleton queen with declarer when the lead is from A-K-x-x-x. Here, though, South had opened 1♣ and would presumably hold fewer than five hearts.

When South continued with the ♥K, North played the ♥7. Another heart was played and a grateful Quantin claimed nine tricks. In the Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Ingimarsson</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Eiriksson</i>	<i>Combescure</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Combescure made the same opening lead of the ♥A, partner playing the ♥2. When he continued with the ♥A, North defended well by dropping the ♥J to give partner a big hint that he did not hold the ♥Q. South now had more of a chance than his counterpart in the Open Room to find a diamond switch. No, he persevered with a third heart and the game was made for a push.

This was a disappointing bidding board for Iceland:

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

	♠ K 8 7		
	♥ A 7 6		
	♦ A J 4		
	♣ K 7 3 2		
♠ 9 5 3 2	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;">N W E S</div>	♠ A Q J 10 6 4	
♥ 10 9 5 4 2		♥ Q J	
♦ 8 3 2		♦ Q 6 5	
♣ 5		♣ 10 4	
	♠ —		
	♥ K 8 3		
	♦ K 10 9 7		
	♣ A Q J 9 8 6		

Open Room

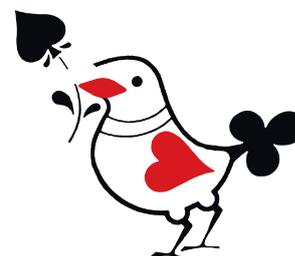
West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Magnusson</i>	<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Th.Jonsson</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠*	2♠	3♣
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

North-South play transfers opposite 1♣. The 1♠ response denied four cards in either major, but their card does not reveal its exact meaning as far as the minors are concerned. Magnusson could expect partner to be short in spades after the opponents' bidding. With the known club fit, 3NT seems a pessimistic assessment. In 6♣ declarer can afford to misguess the diamonds, since that suit will provide a heart discard from the North hand.

I did not expect the French North-South to be merciful. Let's see:

West	North	East	South
<i>Ingimarsson</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Eiriksson</i>	<i>Combescure</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♦	1♠	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

South's 4♠ showed a void spade and 6♣ was easily reached. Combescure ruffed the spade lead, drew trumps and guessed diamonds correctly. That was +940 and a swing of 10 IMPs.



Another bidding board followed swiftly:

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Magnusson	Quantin	Th.Jonsson
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥*	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

North's 1♥ showed 4+ spades and the 2♠ rebid suggested a 12-14 notrump hand with 4-card spade support. What should North say next? He held a 9-loser hand and could expect partner's weak notrump to contain seven losers. I can see that it was tempting to pass and that is what he did. Sadly for him, his partner held a super maximum with great trumps and the game was a good one. Even if the ♣K was offside, South's clubs would provide a heart discard. Ten tricks were duly made. Meanwhile, in the Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Ingimarsson	Rombaut	Eiriksson	Combescure
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The raise to 2♠ all but promises four-card trump support in France. Rombaut made a game-try, suggesting notrumps on his 4-3-3-3 shape, and the par contract was reached for another 10-IMP swing.

And so to the final board of the match:

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

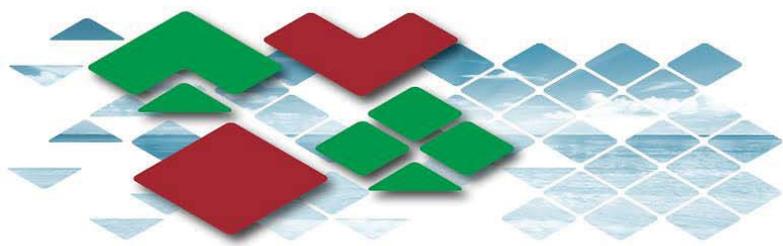
West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Magnusson	Quantin	Th.Jonsson
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Magnusson's 2♥ response was alerted because it was not a transfer! It was a non-forcing mild game-try. Jonsson raised to game and his partner now had to find ten tricks in a contract that was unlikely to be bid at the other table.

Magnusson won the ♦Q with dummy's ace and played a low club to the ace. A spade to the jack lost to the queen and he ruffed the ♦K return. When he led another spade, East rose with the ace and the ♠9 fell from West. Quantin now put declarer to the test with a third round of spades.

If declarer goes with Restricted Choice, playing the ♠6 and hoping that West will ruff from three trumps, he will lose three spade tricks and go one down. Magnusson eventually played the ♠K and was rewarded by the sight of the ♠10 from West. It was then a simple matter to play the ace and king of trumps and claim the contract.

At the other table, France predictably played in just 2♥, scoring +140 for 7 IMPs away. The result was a 34 IMPs to 29 win for France (11.48 VPs to 8.52).



13th European Youth Bridge Pairs Championships
Liepaja, Latvia, 13 to 20 July 2016





WALES vs MONACO

by Ram Soffer

Open Teams, Round 27

The new-look Monaco team has been staging a comeback after a poor start. On Thursday morning they were ranked 4th, almost 28 VP below tournament leader France. Despite the fact that they had to meet top teams such as Germany and Sweden, Monaco finished the day with 4 wins and went up to 2nd place, 0.05 VPs below France.

The swing which started it all was purely a matter of opener's hand evaluation at the second round of bidding.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

	♠ 8 6		
	♥ 4 3 2		
	♦ K 7 6 4		
	♣ K J 10 2		
♠ K 10 9 7 3	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A Q J 4	
♥ A K 6		♥ Q J 9 8 5	
♦ A 9 5		♦ Q J	
♣ A 6		♣ Q 5	
	♠ 5 2		
	♥ 10 7		
	♦ 10 8 3 2		
	♣ 9 8 7 4 3		

Bridge players learn at an early stage to support responder's major to the 2-level with 12-14 HCP and to the 3-level with 15-17, but high level bridge is not

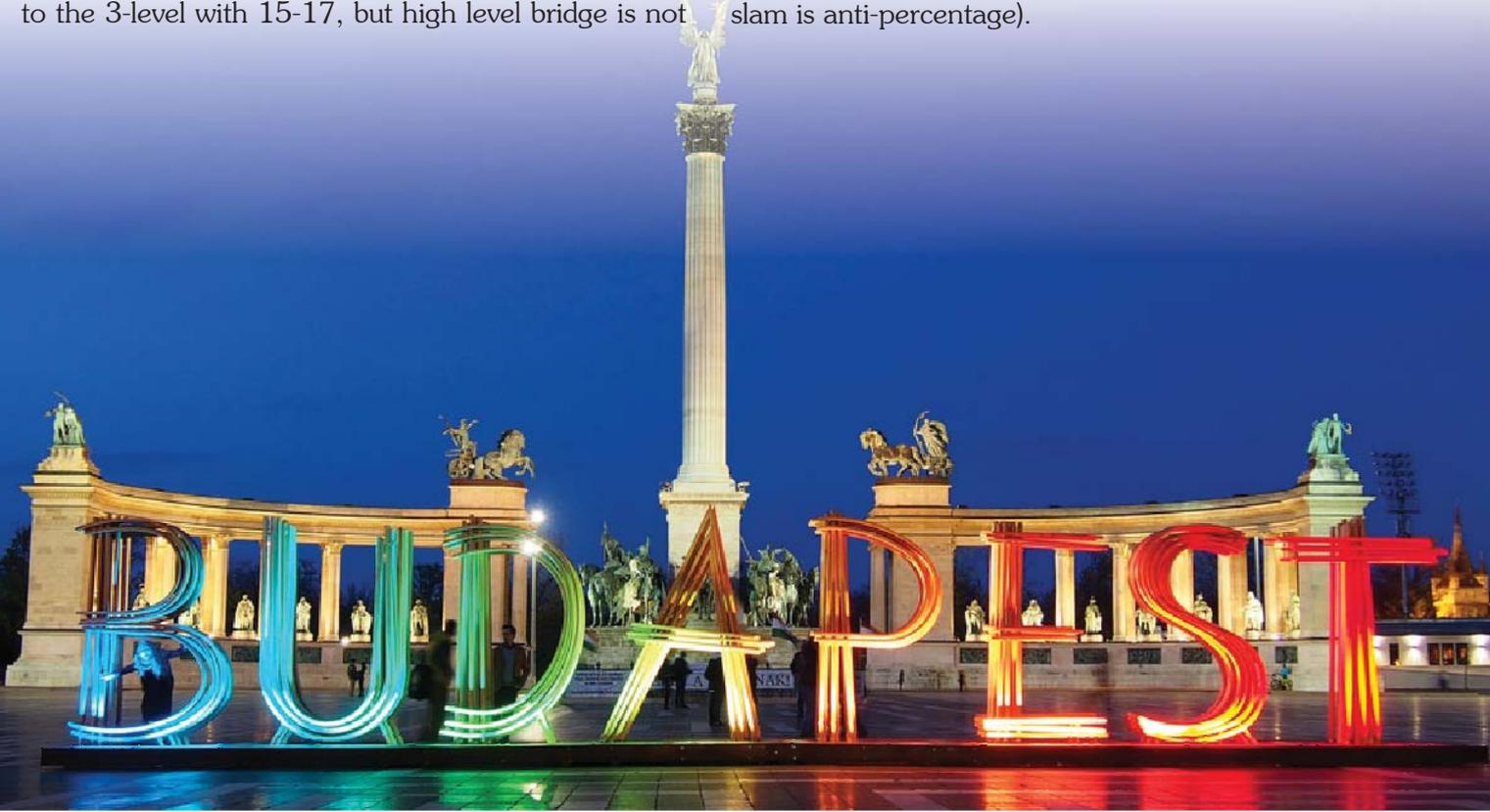
an exercise of counting points!

With four queens and three jacks, several of them unprotected, it goes without saying that East must downgrade. Helness bid 2♠ and later showed a maximum. His partner's 5♥ asked for the trump queen and side kings, and the 6♠ response denied any side kings. Helgemo placed the contract correctly – it is anti-percentage to bid grand slams depending on a 50% finesse, and Lady Luck was kind to him – the finesse didn't work.

West	North	East	South
<i>Jourdain</i>	<i>Martens</i>	<i>Jones</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♠	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

Jourdain also knew his partner had no side king, but East had bid 3♠, so in order to justify that bid he should have a singleton somewhere and HxQJxxx so the grand was very favorite to make.

Many partnerships use a singleton ask after a double raise of responder's major – it would have done no harm to use such a gadget here before asking for keycards. It all depended on a finesse and Monaco gained 14 IMPs. Had the ♦K been onside, it would have been only 10 IMP to Wales (That's why the grand slam is anti-percentage).



Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

They didn't stop there, but went on to extract the full 20 VPs available from this match:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

I suppose the normal bidding when playing four-card majors and weak 1NT is 1NT-3NT by N/S. The final contract of 3NT is laydown and doesn't require much comment. Ratcliff took nine tricks – Wales +400.

After both Easts bid diamonds, should West raise? Helgemo's 4♦ call made the difference by suggesting the possibility of a save, while Jourdain deemed this 3-HCP hand unworthy of supporting partner.

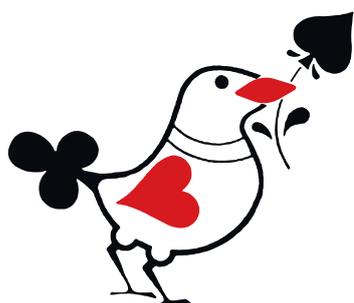
West	North	East	South
Jourdain	Martens	Jones	Zimmermann
			Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Martens duly made an overtrick in 4♠, while Helness was somewhat lucky that the defence didn't play two early rounds of clubs against 5♦ doubled. Helness played a heart to the Q, ducked. Later he cashed ♥A and after North was forced to win the third round of clubs he had to give him a ruff and discard which saved the third undertrick. Minus 300 was worth 8 more IMPs to Monaco, who were on a roll, exploiting every error by their opponents.

An innocuous-looking 1♠ overcall by West proved to be very expensive. Krzysztof Martens looked at the vulnerability and made the interesting decision to pass 1♠. His partner co-operated with a balancing double, and the Welsh pair had no way to recover.

The most lethal lead was ♥K, but Martens chose the sensible ♠Q. Continuing trumps would have cut declarer's losses, but Jourdain played hearts himself. After two rounds of hearts, Zimmermann led ♦J and got his ruff. He continued correctly with ♥A. Martens overruffed ♠9 with ♠10 and continued ♠J, promoting his ♠6 into a trick. Declarer won the ♠K and continued with a club. Martens took ♣A, cashed ♠6 and forced a ruff with the ♦9, squeezing dummy in the process (in hearts and clubs).

Eventually declarer could score only three tricks: ♠AK and a ruff. +1100 gave Monaco an early 26:0 lead.



Tony Ratcliff
WALES

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ 10					
	♥ Q 9 8 3					
	♦ Q J 10					
	♣ K 10 6 5 4					
♠ K J 8 6 4 3 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid white;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A 9 7	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ 6		♥ J 10 7				
♦ 9 8 4		♦ A K 7 2				
♣ 8 2		♣ Q J 9				
	♠ Q 5					
	♥ A K 5 4 2					
	♦ 6 5 3					
	♣ A 7 3					

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Ratcliff</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Pottage</i>
3♠	4♥	4♠	1♥
Pass	5♥	Dble	All Pass

Some pairs play that bidding a vulnerable game creates a forcing pass situation, but this is not logical when the game bid (4♥) was made under pressure. Apparently neither South nor North have anything to say over 4♠. Letting the opponents play 4♠ and leading ♦Q (top of sequence) would have sufficed for a plus score, while in 5♥ doubled East/West had three top tricks and one slow but sure trick in clubs: Wales -500.

West	North	East	South
<i>Jourdain</i>	<i>Martens</i>	<i>Jones</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
Pass	3♥	All Pass	1♥

At the other table the bidding was much simpler:



Julian Pottage
WALES

West didn't think that his 4-HCP hand merited a preempt (or a balancing call) and East had nothing to do at the three-level with his balanced 15-count. Result: Monaco +140 and another 12 IMPs.

Wales emerged on the scoreboard after an unfortunate decision by Zimmermann:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

	♠ 8 4					
	♥ A K J 10 3					
	♦ J					
	♣ Q J 9 8 2					
♠ 7 6 3	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid white;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ J 9 5 2	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ 2		♥ 9 5				
♦ A 10 9 7 6 4		♦ Q 8 2				
♣ K 5 3		♣ 10 7 6 4				
	♠ A K Q 10					
	♥ Q 8 7 6 4					
	♦ K 5 3					
	♣ A					

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Ratcliff</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Pottage</i>
2♦	2♥	3♦	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Not so many European pairs play natural weak twos in diamonds, but in this match it was used at both tables. In this case the mild preempt hardly disturbed the opponents' bidding. After North's overcall South just asked for keycards and bid the slam which made easily thanks to North's stiff diamond: Wales +980.

West	North	East	South
<i>Jourdain</i>	<i>Martens</i>	<i>Jones</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
2♦	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

At this table East didn't bother to support his partner, so the Monaco pair could exchange more information. Martens showed his side suit over 3♦ (others may play 4♣ as a cuebid). Anyway Zimmermann was too concerned about a lead through his ♦K. He bid 6NT in an effort to right-side the contract, but the partnership didn't have sufficient high-card power for this contract and it had to go one down even after a helpful spade lead. Monaco -50 and 14 IMPs to Wales (which turned out to be their total for the whole match).



Thereafter it was "back to normal" and after three successive push boards the match finished just as it started – one-sided with Monaco in total control.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Ratcliff</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Pottage</i>
1♠	Dbl	Pass	2♣
2♠	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

West and North both held powerful hands and despite the favourable vulnerability Helgemo "walked the dog", bidding his way gradually to the three-level (after his partner's initial pass, game chances were slim).

Ratcliff gave up, even though it didn't require much imagination to see eight tricks in NT after a spade lead (while South should stop clubs).

In the play Helgemo ruffed the second diamond, drew trumps and established a trick with dummy's ♥J so he didn't need to guess clubs: Monaco +140.

West	North	East	South
<i>Jourdain</i>	<i>Martens</i>	<i>Jones</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
1♠	Dbl	Pass	2♣
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

Jourdain accelerated matters with a (normal) jump to 3♠ which left Martens too little room to consider anything else but 3NT (in my opinion Ratcliff should have bid 3NT as well over 3♠).

Luck favoured the brave. Martens found the ♦J in dummy, enabling him to take the heart finesse for his 9th trick, and the club distribution was such that even a club lead would have done him no damage. Another +600 for Monaco, contributing 12 more IMPs.



Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Ratcliff</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Pottage</i>
2♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass	3♠	Pass

Some pairs would require more for a positive response to a 2♣ opening, but Helgemo bid 2♠ anyway and then showed an absolute minimum by failing to cuebid over the encouraging 3♠. Helness got the message and they stopped in 4♠ - good for them as 10 tricks were the limit.

West	North	East	South
<i>Jourdain</i>	<i>Martens</i>	<i>Jones</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
3♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
		3NT	All Pass

The Welsh methods left something to be desired. East seems to be too strong for 2NT, and as they played simple Stayman it was not possible to locate the 5-3 spade fit.

Had Zimmermann led the ♦J, dummy would have been unreachable and the contract would have been doomed as long as South can find the heart switch after winning a diamond trick.

However, the ♠8 was led. Had Jones tried the ♠J, he would have made 11 easy tricks. But in a match where everything has gone wrong for your team, further mistakes are likely. For some reason he decided to take his ♠AK and then give up a spade trick. Zimmermann took a long think. He was aided by Martens' ♦8 discard, and eventually found the winning play of ♥A followed by ♥J. Yet another 10 IMPs for Monaco, and the final margin of victory was 72:14.





NETHERLANDS vs MONACO

by David Bird

Open Teams, Round 35

Two teams with high hopes of medals faced each other with three matches to go. We will move straight to the action:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
2♥	Dble	Pass	3♣ *
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The 3♣ response showed diamonds. Drijver won the heart lead and cashed the ace and king of trumps. He played the ♣AK, stripping West of that suit, and exited with a heart. It was what you might call a 'very partial elimination'. Helgemo had no wish to play a diamond when declarer was marked with the ♦K and opted to give a ruff-and-discard. Drijver discarded one of his club losers and ruffed with dummy's last trump. The contract was his.

At the other table Multon made the game by setting up the diamonds with an early losing finesse. He did not then have to lose a club trick.

And so to greater things:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

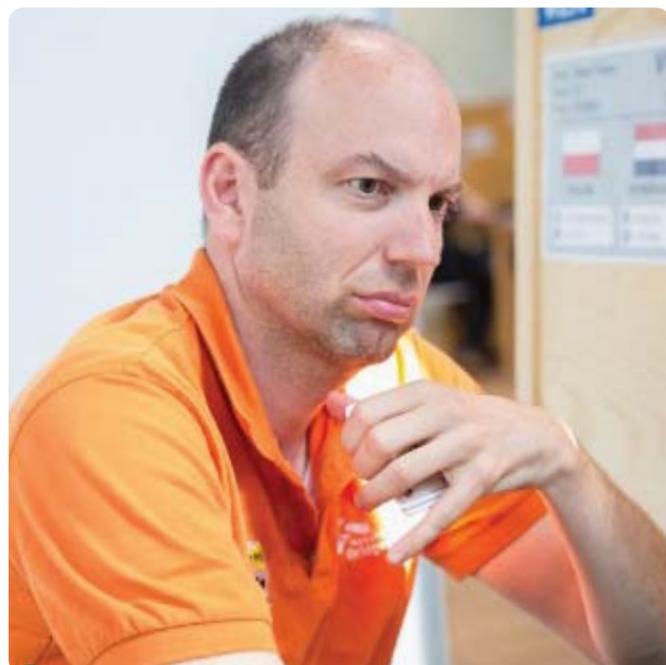
	♠	A K J 9 8 3			
	♥	J 10			
	♦	A K J 10			
	♣	8			
♠	7 6		♠	5 2	
♥	K 9 8 6 5 2		♥	7	
♦	6 2		♦	Q 9 7 5 4 3	
♣	9 6 5		♣	K J 10 4	
	♠	Q 10 4			
	♥	A Q 4 3			
	♦	8			
	♣	A Q 7 3 2			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♦	Dble	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♥
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

Drijver's 3♠ was enough for Brink to prime the RKCB cannon, hearing of three key-cards. His 5NT announced that all six key-cards were present and requested partner to name his lowest side-suit king. The 6♥ continuation was clearly a grand-slam try (it is sometimes used to ask whether partner holds the ♥K). Drijver then leapt to 7♠, demonstrating that he is braver man than I would have been.

A heart lead might have been awkward but Helness



Simon De Wijs

NETHERLANDS

started with a trump. Declarer won, played a club to the ace and ruffed a club. He then cashed the $\diamond A$ and ruffed a diamond. All followed when another club was ruffed. Drijver then ruffed the $\diamond J$ with the $\spadesuit Q$ and ruffed a fourth round of clubs high, clearing a club winner in dummy. He then drew the outstanding trumps, scored the $\diamond K$ and crossed to the $\heartsuit A$ to discard a heart on the $\clubsuit Q$. At 16 tables out of 36 the grand slam was bid; 15 times it was made.

This was the auction in the Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Martens</i>
		Pass	1 \clubsuit
Pass	1 \heartsuit *	Pass	1 \spadesuit
Pass	3 \diamond	Pass	3 \spadesuit
Pass	4 \clubsuit	Pass	4 \diamond
Pass	5 \spadesuit	Pass	6 \spadesuit
All Pass			

They stopped in six and that was 11 IMPs away. At 16 tables out of 36 the grand slam was bid; 15 times it was made.

The deadline is tight and I will describe just one more board:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

	\spadesuit 10		
	\heartsuit J 9 8 5 4 3		
	\diamond K Q 8 6 3		
	\clubsuit 10		
\spadesuit K 8 7 6		W	N
\heartsuit Q		E	S
\diamond J 9 4			
\clubsuit K J 4 3 2			
	\spadesuit A J 9 5 4		\spadesuit Q 3 2
	\heartsuit K 10 6 2		\heartsuit A 7
	\diamond 10 5		\diamond A 7 2
	\clubsuit 7 5		\clubsuit A Q 9 8 6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
			Pass
Pass	3 \heartsuit	3NT	4 \heartsuit
Dble	All Pass		

East's 3NT would have made on a spade lead or any heart lead except the king. All academic, of course, because Brink had a clear raise to 4 \heartsuit , doubled by West. How would this 14-point game fare?

Declarer can set up the diamond suit with little trouble, so all depends on losing just one trump trick. Helness began with ace and another trump, which could easily be right on another day, and declarer soon had +590 on his card. Meanwhile, in the Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Martens</i>
			Pass
2 \heartsuit *	Pass	4 \heartsuit	All Pass

South's 2 \heartsuit showed a weak hand with both majors. Muller won the club lead and returned a spade to declarer's ace. After a diamond to the king and ace, declarer ruffed the $\clubsuit Q$ return and led a heart to the 10. That was the percentage play but unlucky on this occasion. Netherlands gained 11 IMPs and won by 41 IMPs to 7 (17.31 VPs to 2.69).

\spadesuit \heartsuit \diamond \clubsuit



Tor Helness
NORWAY



THE LAST DAY

by Barry Rigal

A view from the viewgraph

This deal from round 35 did not create a swing but I thought it deserved to. I'll give you the problem first as a single dummy one – and rotate it to make South declarer.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Netherlands v. Monaco

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helness	Brink	Helgemo	Drijver
		2♥	Dbl.
Pass	3♣(♦)	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Brink showed diamonds and at least invitational values, so did not need to make a slam try at his second turn. How should you play 4♠ on a low heart lead to the queen.

One possibility is to duck a club early, then play ♠K and ♠A and arrange to ruff a fourth club.

Multon in the same contract took an early diamond finesse. Then he drew trump and fell back on the diamonds breaking 3-3. Not a bad line but hardly a claimer...

This line worked, but here is the full deal.

♠	A 6 2		♠	8 4									
♥	J 10		♥	K Q 6 5 4 3									
♦	A J 8 5 3		♦	Q 9 7									
♣	10 3 2		♣	J 5									
<table style="display: inline-table; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <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	
	N												
W		E											
	S												
♠	Q J 5		♠	K 10 9 7 3									
♥	9 8 2		♥	A 7									
♦	10 6 4		♦	K 2									
♣	Q 9 8 6		♣	A K 7 4									

Drijver took a completely different tack. He won ♥A, ♠K (Helgemo dropping a deceptive eight) led a spade to dummy, and might now have ducked a club as well. Instead he cashed two rounds of clubs, unblocked ♦K and exited with a heart. East was thrown on lead and had a choice of giving a ruff sluff or returning a diamond into the tenace. Had he started life with a 3-6-2-2 pattern he might have been able to cash the long spade and exit in hearts but then declarer can fall back on the diamond finesse – and if he loses to the doubleton ♦Q he can console himself that the line chosen in the other room would have failed too!

Elke Weber told the bulletin that Marilina Vanuzzi for Italy also found a nice line. Vanuzzi won the ♥A and played ♣A, ♣K and a third club. When Weber led the fourth club, Vanuzzi discarded dummy's losing heart to ensure the ruff in dummy. Had the defenders cashed their heart, they would have been unable to lead the fourth club.



It seemed like every time the Monegasques had a chance for gain, the opportunity slipped away from them. Consider this problem Franck Multon faced. (Again rotated 180 degrees)

Here is the full deal:

♠ 7
 ♥ 8 7 5 4
 ♦ 9 5 3
 ♣ K Q 7 4 3

♠ A Q J 10 8 6
 ♥ A J 2
 ♦ A Q 10 2
 ♣ ---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Muller	Martens	De Wijs	Multon
			1♠
Dbl.	Pass	2♦	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

You need more than a little help when partner puts down plenty of nothing. But you receive it when Muller leads the ♦8 to the three, king(?) and your ace. You try the spade ace, then jack. West thinks for an eternity, wins the king, then tries to cash ♣A!

Now you are in business. You ruff, draw the trump, as both opponents follow, suggesting West began with 3-4-2-4 shape.

What now?

Multon played ace and another heart, hoping to be allowed to duck this to East. Muller carefully went up with the queen in case he needed to crocodile the jack in his partner's hand, and played on hearts to leave declarer with a diamond to lose at the end.

Here is the full deal:

♠ 7
 ♥ 8 7 5 4
 ♦ 9 5 3
 ♣ K Q 7 4 3

♠ K 4 3
 ♥ K Q 10 6
 ♦ 8 4
 ♣ A 10 6 2

♠ 9 5 2
 ♥ 9 3
 ♦ K J 7 6
 ♣ J 9 8 5

♠ A Q J 10 8 6
 ♥ A J 2
 ♦ A Q 10 2
 ♣ ---

The winning line in the eight-card ending is to exit with a low heart. The defenders can win in either hand, so let's say East wins the nine and returns a heart. You take this, and play ♦10, which East must duck or the ♦9 is an entry. That is why the ♦K at trick one was such an error. Partner either has ♦8x or ♦Q108 so there is no point in covering.

When East ducks, you play ♥A, ♦A and another diamond, and East must give dummy its club winner, on which your heart goes away.



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HUNGARY vs TURKEY

by John Carruthers

Senior Teams, Round 21

At the start of play, Turkey was in seventh place, threatening the qualifiers. Hungary, former Senior World Champions, had so far been disappointing, floundering near the middle of the standings.

A heart was also led here. Declarer won, took the king and ace of spades, the ace of clubs and ducked a club to West's jack. With East having no entry to take the queen of spades, declarer was able to ruff the losing club in the dummy for a push.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Koltai	Ince	Kovacs	Kökten
2♥	Dble	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

3♦ Shows values

Kovacs led a heart to West's queen and declarer's ace. If declarer ducks a club immediately, he cannot be beaten. However, he played the king of spades and another, ducking East's jack. Now a third trump would have left him a trick short. However, East went back to hearts. West took his king and led a low club, returning the ball to North. Declarer ducked to East's queen of clubs and he led another, ducked to the jack and king. Declarer had two club tricks now, so drew the last trump and claimed ten tricks for plus 620.

West	North	East	South
Aksoy	Gal	Siriklioglu	Szappanos
2♥	Dble	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

3♦ Shows values

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Koltai	Ince	Kovacs	Kökten
—	—	2♦	Dble
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

The four-level bids were control bids in support of spades, and Ince apparently liked the six-club response to Five Notrump enough to bid the grand slam. With trumps 2-2 and the diamond position known, declarer could ruff down the king of clubs to pitch his heart loser and take the ruffing finesse in diamonds for a magnificent plus 1510.

West	North	East	South
Aksoy	Gal	Siriklioglu	Szappanos
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Dble	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The Hungarian pair never really came to grips with



the key feature of the deal, the great spade fit and the controls. Gal made 12 tricks on a diamond lead, plus 490, but 14 IMPs to Turkey. In effect, the grand slam had risked 11 IMPs to gain 3.

On Board 8, both declarers had a chance to win IMPs by guessing how to make a second club trick with jack-ten-to-four opposite ace-third, with the suit being first broached by the hand in front of the jack-ten. A low club went to the jack, queen and ace. Both declarers led to the ten next, losing to the king. The king-queen had been doubleton and both declarers should have known that the defender who shifted to clubs had no entry, so no club honour.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

	♠ 10		
	♥ J 9 8 5 4 3		
	♦ K Q 8 6 3		
	♣ 10		
♠ K 8 7 6 ♥ Q ♦ J 9 4 ♣ K J 4 3 2	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q 3 2 ♥ A 7 ♦ A 7 2 ♣ A Q 9 8 6	
	♠ A J 9 5 4		
	♥ K 10 6 2		
	♦ 10 5		
	♣ 7 5		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Koltai	Ince	Kovacs	Kökten
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♥	3♣	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Aksoy	Gal	Siriklioglu	Szappanos
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	3♥	3NT	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

One supposes that Aksoy had more reason to double than had Koltai. With such club length, Koltai had little defence against hearts. Nevertheless, the success or failure of four hearts doubled boiled down to the trump guess. Both Easts led a spade. Ince played on diamonds, finding them 3-3. When he led a heart at the crucial moment, East followed low and he paused for thought. It appeared that East had 3=2=3=5 distribution, thus West was left with 4=1=3=5. How could West double with such a big club fit without the ace of hearts? On the other hand, how could East

overcall on a five-card suit without the ace of hearts? A true dilemma. Ince eventually ran the jack for minus 100.

Gal had more reason to believe the cards lay as they actually did and went up with the king of hearts, dropping the queen and scoring a great plus 590 for a 12-IMP gain for Hungary.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

	♠ 7 5 2		
	♥ 9 7 4		
	♦ K 10 5		
	♣ J 7 3 2		
♠ A 10 3 ♥ Q 10 5 2 ♦ J 9 8 6 ♣ 8 5	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K ♥ J ♦ A Q 7 4 3 2 ♣ K Q 9 6 4	
	♠ Q J 9 8 6 4		
	♥ A K 8 6 3		
	♦ —		
	♣ A 10		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Koltai	Ince	Kovacs	Kökten
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♦*
Dble	Pass	3♣	3♠
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	All Pass

2♦ Majors

On a high heart lead and spade shift, Kovacs made the technical plays of winning with the ace of spades, dropping his king, and leading the jack of diamonds to pick up the suit. He was able to knock out the ace of clubs, ruffs two clubs in the dummy with the eight and nine of diamonds, then lead the six for a finesse of the seven. That as a well-earned 11 tricks and plus 400. However ...

West	North	East	South
Aksoy	Gal	Siriklioglu	Szappanos
Pass	Pass	1♦	3♣*
Pass	3♥	4♣	4♥
5♦	Pass	Pass	5♥
Dble	All Pass		

3♣ Majors

Five hearts was really indiscreet and undid Kovacs' good work at the other table. Gal did the best he could, struggling to make eight tricks for minus 800 and a loss of 9 IMPs.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Koltai	Ince	Kovacs	Kökten
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Dble	2♥	3♣
Dble	All Pass		

It was apparently too tough for Koltai to lead the ace and another club. On a spade to the queen, Kovacs could have saved him by leading his trump, but he shifted to the queen of diamonds. Kökten won with the king and ruffed a spade. He took the king and ace of hearts and led another spade. Koltai discarded a diamond, so declarer ruffed it in the dummy, cashed the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond.

West had been reduced to his five trumps. When Kökten led another spade, West ruffed low and the king of clubs won in the dummy. Declarer led a diamond. East was able to ruff with the six, but declarer countered that by throwing his last spade away. West was able to underruff with the four of clubs leaving East on lead. However, on a plain card from East, South could ruff with the nine, trump-endplaying West for +670. Terrific declarer play, not so great defence. A heart lead from dummy at the crucial moment would have led to the same result.

West	North	East	South
Aksoy	Gal	Siriklioglu	Szappanos
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Dble	2♥	3♣
All Pass			

On the same auction, Aksoy declined to double and led a spade. East won and shifted to the heart queen. Szappanos timed the play slightly differently, ruffing two diamonds safely in hand before ruffing a spade in the dummy. Thus when he led dummy's fifth diamond, West could overruff and lead the ace and another club for one off; minus 100 and 13 IMPs to Turkey.

Turkey had a well-deserved 43-20 win, moving them into a solid fifth place in the table, 8.5 Victory Points ahead of Italy in sixth and 9.5 in front of England in seventh.

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THE IMPOSSIBLE WE DO AT ONCE MIRACLES TAKE LITTLE LONGER

by Mark Horton

The rationale behind my choice of title rests with the inscription on the memorial to the Seabees (U.S. Naval Construction Battalions), between Memorial Bridge and Arlington Cemetery:

With willing hearts and skillful hands, the difficult we do at once; the impossible takes a bit longer.

In the penultimate round of the Open Championship England and Italy met in a situation where they both need a big win.

The deals were explosive, none more so than this one:

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

In the Closed Room, Forrester & Robson had reached 6♣, but South led a heart, which left declarer without resource, one down, -100.



Lorenzo Lauria
ITALY

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Gold	Lauria	Bakhshi
—	Pass	1♣	1♠
2♠*	3♠	Dble	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Here South led the five of spades and declarer won with dummy's ace, ruffed a spade, played two rounds of clubs ending in dummy and ruffed a spade. Having eliminated that suit he ran the jack of hearts, North winning with the king. This was the position:

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

I was commentating on BBO and many spectators were waxing lyrical about declarer's play. For sure he had given himself the best chance and when North exited with a diamond he could win with the jack, cross to dummy with a heart (Vienna Coup) and cash the remaining trumps, the last of which was more than North could stand.

Beautifully played, but as I had to point out, North could have spoiled the party by exiting with the queen of spades rather than a diamond. The ruff and discard gives declarer one extra trick, but he cannot find another.

This is not easy to see, especially in the heart of battle after nine days play, but North knew South had started with five spades and two clubs and he had shown an odd number of hearts and ergo, three diamonds.

How much this should detract from declarer's wonderful play is difficult to say; what is certain is that it gave Italy 16 IMPs on the way to an emphatic win that kept their hopes alive.



EBL PRESS CONFERENCE

by Hermann De Wael



A press conference was held at the Groupama Arena venue on Saturday morning. Answering the questions were Yves Aubry, EBL President, Geza Homonnay, President of the Hungarian federation, Josef Harsanyi, on-site organizer for the EBL, and Jan Kamras of the Championship's Committee.

Per Jannersten, deputising for IBPA Chairman Patrick Jourdain, hosted the meeting and started by congratulating the Hungarian Federation and the EBL for a magnificently organized championship. Warm hearted applause from the audience showed that these sentiments were shared by all.

Yves Aubry gave an overview of upcoming European Championships. The Open Championships in 2017 will be in Montecatini Terme, while the 2018 Team Championships are to take place in Oostende. Negotiations are underway with Opatija for 2019 and Madeira for 2020.

It was also reiterated that qualifications for the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and d'Orsi Trophy for Lyon 2017 will go to the first six teams in all three categories here, with the seventh team also qualifying if France secure a place in the top six.

First to ask a question was Jan van Cleeff of the Netherlands. He wanted to know if the EBL was under financial duress because of the cost of the cheating investigations. The EBL executive replied that costs would be, as far as possible, be recovered from eventually convicted players (with payment necessary in order to restore the good standing after the expiration of any ban). Furthermore, the EBL does have substantial reserves and there are no immediate concerns.

Jan van Cleeff also wanted to know if a website, which had been broadcasting Butler scores early in

the championships, but which had stopped doing so, had been censured by the EBL. Jan Kamras replied that the EBL had given no order to stop the broadcast, but that the site had probably calculated the scores themselves incorrectly, and stopped. The Butler scores have been shown to the Captains only.

Next up was David Jackson from Ireland, who wanted to know whether tournaments before Opatija would be reviewed and possible equity be restored to those players who might have been damaged through cheating. While the EBL wanted to make certain that players could compete with confidence in coming tournaments, little can be done about the past without conclusive evidence of wrongdoing.

A Hungarian journalist wanted to know if enough had been done to exploit the European Championship with regard to marketing towards the home market. Josef Harsanyi, who has Hungarian roots recalled the European Championships in Wiesbaden in 1985, after which the German Bridge federation doubled in numbers. He hoped the Hungarians would have a similar result and considering interviews that had appeared on Hungarian TV and in major newspapers, was confident that this would be the case.

Ron Tacchi asked why the Internet sometimes went down at important times. It turned out that the bandwidth at the venue was not the issue, but rather room at the servers in Lausanne.

He also pointed out that many convention cards were less than informative. Jan Kamras confirmed that this issue was being addressed.

It was the opinion of those present that these championships were amongst the finest in the history of the EBL.



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Gunther PURKARTHOFFER
Josef SIMON
Christian TERRANEO
Andreas BABSCH pc
Arno LINDERMANN coach

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Aleksandr KORZUN
Igor RADJUKEVICH
Andrej SOTNIKAU
Aleh TSIMAKHOVICH
Alexander ZHUKOV
Sviatlana BADRANKOVA
npc & coach

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Steven DE DONDER
Steve DE ROOS
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Borislav POPOV
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RESULTS OPEN TEAMS

ROUND 35

1	ROMANIA	TURKEY	52	35	14.39	5.61
2	LATVIA	BELARUS	33	44	6.96	13.04
3	FRANCE	AUSTRIA	49	26	15.56	4.44
4	POLAND	IRELAND	49	42	12.03	7.97
5	SWITZERLAND	SWEDEN	40	29	13.04	6.96
6	HUNGARY	FAROE ISLANDS	48	23	15.92	4.08
7	GEORGIA	WALES	35	31	11.20	8.80
8	GERMANY	NORWAY	43	32	13.04	6.96
9	ICELAND	ITALY	6	24	5.40	14.60
10	FINLAND	UKRAINE	19	28	7.45	12.55
11	SERBIA	SPAIN	17	33	5.82	14.18
12	NETHERLANDS	MONACO	41	7	17.31	2.69
13	ESTONIA	BULGARIA	16	21	8.52	11.48
14	CYPRUS	PORTUGAL	17	81	0.00	20.00
15	CZECH REPUBLIC	BELGIUM	16	36	5.00	15.00
16	ENGLAND	DENMARK	37	26	13.04	6.96
17	RUSSIA	ISRAEL	37	47	7.20	12.80
18	CROATIA	SCOTLAND	38	25	13.52	6.48
19	GREECE	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

ROUND 36

1	ROMANIA	SWITZERLAND	31	50	5.20	14.80
2	LATVIA	GEORGIA	74	13	20.00	0.00
3	POLAND	HUNGARY	90	39	19.25	0.75
4	GERMANY	FRANCE	22	89	0.00	20.00
5	ICELAND	TURKEY	78	43	17.45	2.55
6	FINLAND	AUSTRIA	26	48	4.62	15.38
7	SERBIA	BELARUS	70	7	20.00	0.00
8	NETHERLANDS	SWEDEN	24	26	9.39	10.61
9	ESTONIA	IRELAND	22	52	3.27	16.73
10	GREECE	WALES	26	60	2.69	17.31
11	CZECH REPUBLIC	FAROE ISLANDS	73	5	20.00	0.00
12	ENGLAND	ITALY	15	62	1.13	18.87
13	RUSSIA	NORWAY	22	29	6.97	12.03
14	CROATIA	SPAIN	53	43	12.80	7.20
15	CYPRUS	UKRAINE	36	62	3.91	16.09
16	ISRAEL	BULGARIA	54	47	12.03	7.97
17	DENMARK	MONACO	34	32	10.61	9.39
18	PORTUGAL	BELGIUM	30	24	11.76	8.24
19	SCOTLAND	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

ROUND 37

1	ROMANIA	LATVIA	39	22	14.39	5.61
2	GERMANY	ICELAND	22	38	5.82	14.18
3	FINLAND	SERBIA	41	34	12.03	7.97
4	NETHERLANDS	POLAND	46	24	15.38	4.62
5	ESTONIA	SWITZERLAND	46	24	15.38	4.62
6	GREECE	HUNGARY	63	25	17.85	2.15
7	CZECH REPUBLIC	GEORGIA	48	45	10.91	9.09
8	ENGLAND	FRANCE	54	36	14.60	5.40
9	RUSSIA	TURKEY	38	60	4.62	15.38
10	CROATIA	AUSTRIA	49	68	5.20	14.80
11	CYPRUS	BELARUS	65	18	18.87	1.13
12	ISRAEL	SWEDEN	4	49	0.34	18.66
13	DENMARK	IRELAND	47	28	14.80	5.20
14	PORTUGAL	WALES	40	22	14.60	2.40
15	SCOTLAND	FAROE ISLANDS	23	31	7.71	12.29
16	BULGARIA	ITALY	26	42	5.82	14.18
17	MONACO	NORWAY	40	22	14.60	5.40
18	BELGIUM	SPAIN	97	12	20.00	0.00
19	UKRAINE	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

FINAL RANKING

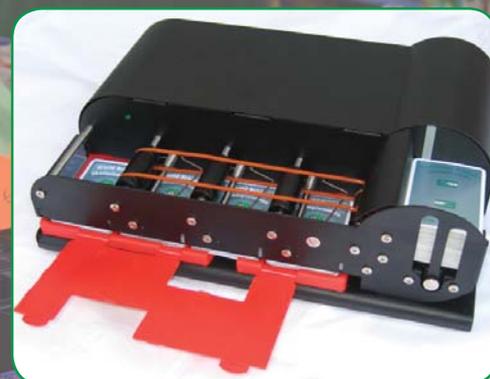
1	FRANCE	489.77
2	SWEDEN	474.92
3	NETHERLANDS	471.07
4	MONACO	464.92
5	GERMANY	446.16
6	ITALY	432.70
7	BULGARIA	432.06
8	POLAND	428.68
9	NORWAY	425.12
10	ENGLAND	424.89
11	HUNGARY	421.14
12	IRELAND	419.83
13	ISRAEL	417.23
14	ICELAND	394.29
15	FINLAND	389.50
16	DENMARK	381.59
17	BELGIUM	381.43
18	SPAIN	378.82
19	SERBIA	377.26
20	AUSTRIA	374.56
21	ESTONIA	368.44
22	TURKEY	359.88
23	CROATIA	359.34
24	GREECE	355.21
25	CZECH REP.	344.65
26	SWITZERLAND	342.90
27	PORTUGAL	339.85
28	ROMANIA	326.75
29	RUSSIA	320.96
30	UKRAINE	320.49
31	BELARUS	304.17
32	LATVIA	295.90
33	WALES	289.70
34	FAROE ISLANDS	279.46
35	SCOTLAND	259.23
36	GEORGIA	240.64
37	CYPRUS	211.99

DUPLIMATE AND CARDS

The Duplimates used for the duplication during the championship are already sold out.

You can either pre-order a new Duplimate for delivery at a special price during the World Championships in Wroclaw, or buy an older model for EUR 1280 here in Budapest. Contact Jannerstens at the bridge stall in the Reception area, or drop a line to per@jannersten.com.

The [new] Budapest cards that you find in the boards will be sold after usage for EUR 136 per 200 decks.





RESULTS WOMEN TEAMS

ROUND 21

21	SERBIA	FRANCE	26	53	3.74	16.26
22	NETHERLANDS	RUSSIA	32	40	7.71	12.29
23	NORWAY	SCOTLAND	59	12	18.87	1.13
24	BULGARIA	SAN MARINO	64	28	17.59	2.41
25	ENGLAND	ESTONIA	70	18	19.34	0.66
26	ISRAEL	POLAND	33	42	7.45	12.55
27	GREECE	DENMARK	40	37	10.91	9.09
28	FINLAND	SPAIN	21	41	5.00	15.00
29	SWEDEN	PORTUGAL	82	35	18.87	1.13
30	GERMANY	ITALY	12	72	0.00	20.00
31	IRELAND	TURKEY	46	37	12.15	6.85
32	HUNGARY	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

ROUND 22

21	FRANCE	ITALY	50	39	13.04	6.96
22	RUSSIA	TURKEY	68	34	17.31	2.69
23	SAN MARINO	PORTUGAL	15	59	1.45	18.55
24	POLAND	SWEDEN	21	41	5.00	15.00
25	DENMARK	GERMANY	24	56	2.97	17.03
26	SPAIN	IRELAND	48	64	5.82	14.18
27	ESTONIA	HUNGARY	23	30	7.97	12.03
28	NETHERLANDS	ENGLAND	16	49	2.83	17.17
29	NORWAY	ISRAEL	33	62	3.42	16.58
30	BULGARIA	GREECE	47	32	13.97	6.03
31	SERBIA	FINLAND	37	49	6.72	13.28
32	SCOTLAND	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

ROUND 23

21	FRANCE	NETHERLANDS	46	43	10.91	9.09
22	RUSSIA	NORWAY	12	27	6.03	13.97
23	SCOTLAND	BULGARIA	24	49	4.08	15.92
24	SAN MARINO	SERBIA	29	81	0.66	19.34
25	ENGLAND	POLAND	42	37	11.48	8.52
26	ISRAEL	DENMARK	18	40	4.62	15.38
27	GREECE	SPAIN	51	34	14.39	5.61
28	FINLAND	ESTONIA	46	28	14.60	5.40
29	SWEDEN	ITALY	29	30	9.69	10.31
30	GERMANY	TURKEY	49	39	12.80	7.20
31	HUNGARY	PORTUGAL	34	47	6.48	13.52
32	IRELAND	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

FINAL RANKING

1	ENGLAND	313.35
2	FRANCE	308.78
3	POLAND	303.09
4	RUSSIA	284.48
5	ISRAEL	278.91
6	NETHERLANDS	275.73
7	SWEDEN	272.17
8	ITALY	267.08
9	DENMARK	258.93
10	NORWAY	257.71
11	GERMANY	248.40
12	TURKEY	240.22
13	FINLAND	221.98
14	HUNGARY	213.82
15	SERBIA	205.21
16	SCOTLAND	204.68
17	BULGARIA	200.85
18	PORTUGAL	189.17
19	SPAIN	188.36
20	GREECE	178.11
21	ESTONIA	175.15
22	IRELAND	149.16
23	SAN MARINO	85.16





RESULTS SENIORS TEAMS

ROUND 21

41	ISRAEL	POLAND	14	65	0.75	19.25
42	TURKEY	HUNGARY	43	20	15.56	4.44
43	PORTUGAL	ENGLAND	47	20	16.26	3.74
44	BULGARIA	ROMANIA	51	27	15.74	4.26
45	SWEDEN	GERMANY	27	16	13.04	6.96
46	SCOTLAND	NETHERLANDS	18	43	4.08	15.92
47	NORWAY	FINLAND	49	39	12.80	7.20
48	SPAIN	FRANCE	39	61	4.62	15.38
49	DENMARK	BELGIUM	24	40	5.82	14.18
50	AUSTRIA	ITALY	18	35	5.61	14.39
51	IRELAND	WALES	11	69	0.15	19.85
52	ESTONIA	SERBIA	73	22	18.25	0.75

ROUND 22

41	POLAND	GERMANY	57	51	11.76	8.24
42	HUNGARY	FRANCE	27	36	7.45	12.55
43	ROMANIA	NETHERLANDS	62	41	15.19	4.81
44	BULGARIA	BELGIUM	17	88	0.00	20.00
45	ISRAEL	ENGLAND	29	22	12.03	7.97
46	TURKEY	WALES	69	12	19.77	0.23
47	ESTONIA	ITALY	23	66	1.56	18.44
48	SWEDEN	AUSTRIA	37	46	7.45	12.55
49	SCOTLAND	DENMARK	43	51	7.71	12.29
50	NORWAY	PORTUGAL	37	38	9.69	10.31
51	SPAIN	IRELAND	23	33	7.20	12.80
52	SERBIA	FINLAND	0	72	0.00	20.00

ROUND 23

41	POLAND	DENMARK	26	56	3.27	16.73
42	HUNGARY	AUSTRIA	59	34	15.92	4.08
43	ROMANIA	PORTUGAL	63	20	18.44	1.56
44	ENGLAND	SWEDEN	31	54	4.44	15.56
45	BELGIUM	SCOTLAND	51	20	16.88	3.12
46	ITALY	NORWAY	48	28	15.00	5.00
47	WALES	SPAIN	50	14	17.59	2.41
48	FRANCE	BULGARIA	87	26	20.00	0.00
49	GERMANY	ISRAEL	32	40	7.71	12.29
50	NETHERLANDS	TURKEY	32	38	8.24	11.76
51	FINLAND	ESTONIA	58	14	18.55	1.45
52	IRELAND	SERBIA	39	17	15.38	4.62

FINAL RANKING

1	ISRAEL	289.67
2	SWEDEN	287.58
3	POLAND	277.32
4	TURKEY	277.21
5	ITALY	270.57
6	FRANCE	264.58
7	AUSTRIA	264.12
8	IRELAND	258.79
9	NETHERLANDS	249.03
10	ENGLAND	248.59
11	DENMARK	246.43
12	GERMANY	242.75
13	NORWAY	237.25
14	BELGIUM	236.44
15	BULGARIA	234.11
16	FINLAND	224.70
17	HUNGARY	223.44
18	ROMANIA	206.42
19	SCOTLAND	178.01
20	PORTUGAL	176.97
21	WALES	176.50
22	SPAIN	172.70
23	ESTONIA	161.36
24	SERBIA	97.46



22nd RED SEA INTERNATIONAL

Bridge FESTIVAL

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NOVEMBER 10-20, 2016



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M.P. Pairs	November 12
National Simultaneous	November 13
IMP Pairs	November 14,15
Open Pairs	November 16,17,18
Teams	November 19

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