





1st EUROPEAN WINTER GAMES

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Daily Bulletin

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SCHEDULE

12.00 - 13.30: Q. Match 1/15
13.45 - 15.15: Q. Match 2/15
16.00 - 17.30: Q. Match 3/15
17.45 - 19.15: Q. Match 4/15
19.30 - 21.00: Q. Match 5/15

BBO will broadcast from 8 tables in every round

A NEW EVENT IS BORN



The Presidents Speak



“ Format is attractive with long sessions, the location is prestigious. ”

Yves Aubry, EBL President



“ Play, enjoy and may the best team win. ”

Jean-Charles Allavena, FMB President

The full text appears on page 2

Welcome to Monaco for the 1st EBL Winter Games

This new competition has been created and added to the EBL calendar to allow all players coming from around the world to participate during the even-numbered years in a team competition different from the one organised in the odd-numbered years at the EBL Open European Championships.

The format is attractive with long sessions, the location is prestigious in the Principality of Monaco and the EBL will award medals and Master Points.

The creation of this competition comes from the initiative of Pierre Zimmermann who is the main sponsor. I would like to warmly thank him. Of course, the trophy which will be awarded to the winners will be the Zimmermann Trophy.

Also all my thanks go to the President of the Monegasque Bridge Federation, Jean-Charles Allavena. After the Cavendish, this is the second event organised in Monaco for the World's top players. Thanks to his know-how this championship could be organised at short notice.



Pierre Zimmermann

The EBL, the Monegasque Federation and Pierre Zimmermann have decided on a long term plan of organising this competition every two years. The next edition will be held in Monaco in 2018.

Enjoy your stay and your play in Monaco.



Yves Aubry, EBL President

Winter is Here

With these first European Winter Games, Monaco continues its tradition of creating and hosting important international events. Clearly we are indebted to Pierre Zimmermann, who had the idea of creating a really strong event for teams in Europe, with long matches and reliable results.

Pierre contributed financially so that it would be possible.

Everyone will understand that with only 50 teams paying € 1250 each, having a prize fund of € 150,000 and having to pay organisational costs requires a lot of financial support, and the bridge community owes a debt of thanks to Pierre Zimmermann, who not only has dreams, but knows how to realise them.

I also want to warmly thank the Director of Tourism, Guillaume Rose, who understood the interest of such an event for Monaco, and has given us invaluable support for this first edition.

Frankly speaking, we hoped to have a bigger field, but everyone knows the reasons why that is not the case.

The advantage is that we are able to offer exceptional playing conditions in the magnificent rooms in the Fairmont. The quantity of players could be higher, but the quality is exceptional and that is a major point. The Winter Games are born in Monaco, they will grow in Monaco and I am sure will go somewhere else in Europe to offer other venues to bridge players.

I hope you will appreciate this first edition - the organisational team, headed by Patrick Chalard and Gianluca Barrese have tried to think of everything so that you just have to think about playing bridge.

So, enough talk, play, enjoy and may the best team win.



Jean-Charles Allavena, FMB President



Winter Games Format

The registered teams will play 15x10 board matches over the first three days using the Swiss system, at the end of which the top 16 will advance to the knock out rounds, where each match will consist of 60 boards played in three sets of 20.

Teams that fail to qualify for the knock outs can compete in the BAM, as can those who are defeated in the Rounds of 16 and 8.

Extract from the General Conditions of contest

7.1 Smoking and Alcohol

7.1.1 Smoking (including the use of electronic cigarettes)

Smoking in the playing area is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area before completion of play in a session in order to smoke.

Violations will be subject to a standard penalty.



7.1.2 Alcohol

The consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area before completion of play in a session in order to consume alcohol.

Violations will be subject to a standard penalty.



7.2 Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

Mobile phones and electronic devices capable of communication must be switched off in the be visible at the table at all times.

Any player, captain or coach bringing a mobile phone and or electronic device that is not swi playing area will cause his team to be subject to a standard penalty.



31.1 Review Procedure

Pursuant to Laws 81B2(k) and 93C3(b), appeals will be heard by a “Reviewer” appointed by the Championship Committee.

When the tournament director notifies players of a decision, they will be told of their right to seek a review and of the possible grounds for seeking such a review. Unless specified otherwise in the SCoC the time limit for seeking a review is in accordance with Law 92B.

The tournament director will fill in the relevant form and the player will state his reasons for asking for a review and hand the form to the TD who will arrange for the review. A deposit of Euro 100 must accompany the form. The Reviewer will check that the TD has gathered the necessary evidence of what occurred when the infraction arose. The Reviewer will then need to be satisfied that the correct law was applied and that other TDs were consulted where appropriate. In matters involving the judgement that was exercised by a player following unauthorised information, incorrect explanation or failure to alert, the Reviewer will clarify that suitable players have been asked appropriate questions to enable a judgmental view to be obtained. Finally the Reviewer will check that the ruling that was issued based upon all the information available to the TDs was within the bounds of reasonableness. The fact that the Reviewer might have determined a slightly different ruling would not be good reason for the ruling to be varied. In the event that the process had not been followed properly in some material way, the Reviewer will ask the Head TD to correct the failings and issue a new ruling.

The Euro 100 deposit will be forfeited and the penalties described in Sections 21.2 and 21.3 of the GCoC will be deducted from the score of the appealing side if in the opinion of the reviewer there is insufficient basis for requesting the review.



THE UNBEATABLE DOUBLE

by **Mark Horton**

In the Pantheon of bridge tournaments, Monaco holds a unique record - it hosted both the Bermuda Bowl and the World Team Olympiad in the same year. The two Championships were played back to back over three weeks in May 1976.

In the Bermuda Bowl, Italy, represented by Giorgio Belladonna, Pietro Forquet, Arturo Franco, Benito Garozzo, Vito Pittalà and Antonio Vivaldi surrendered their title to the USA (Billy Eisenberg, Fred Hamilton, Erik Paulsen, Hugh Ross, Ira Rubin and Paul Soloway).


The Olympiad that followed was played as a complete round robin, which meant the teams had to play no less than 45 matches.

As the event unfolded the lead changed hands several times, with Great Britain, Sweden and Poland all wearing the yellow jersey.

However, by the time the players took their seats for the last match Italy had moved 11 VP clear of Brazil and only mid table Greece stood between them and the retention of the title they had held since 1964.

This was the final dramatic deal:

Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Belladonna</i>	<i>Coccolis</i>	<i>Vivaldi</i>	<i>Koutsoukos</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The Moysian fit presented no problems and declarer took eleven tricks, +650.

Brazil had already secured a maximum 20 VP against Canada, so Italy, who had not been at their best in the match needed to duplicate or better that result to secure the title.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Karlaftis</i>	<i>Garozzo</i>	<i>Yalirakis</i>	<i>Franco</i>
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♠*
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

- 1♣ Strong
- 1♠ 3 controls

As the auction unfolded the VuGraph commentators considered how declarer might tackle 6♦.

The winning line, which requires both red suits to behave, is a dummy reversal, declarer ruffing one club and two hearts in hand.

West led the jack of clubs and when declarer played low from dummy East put up the king and returned the ten. Declarer took dummy's ace, played three rounds of diamonds ending in hand, followed by three rounds of hearts, hoping for a 3-3 spade break or a squeeze.

Alas, he was one down and 13 IMPs to Greece.

The armchair analysts spent a long time trying to decide upon the best line, eventually concluding that there is little to choose between them.





In percentage terms once declarer has played two rounds of trumps it is best to play three rounds of spades, hoping to be able to ruff the last one if the suit is not 3-3. If trumps are 4-1 then declarer reverts to Franco's line.

This 59% shot would have failed - and it was Brazil who was crowned as Olympic Champion.

If that is not dramatic enough for you fast-forward to the 2003 Bermuda Bowl, which was also hosted by the Principality. (This extract from the forthcoming *Last Board* is reproduced by permission of Master Point Press.)

2003 Stewards Enquiry

Monaco played host to the 2003 World Bridge Championships and the final of the Bermuda Bowl between the USA and Italy proved to be one of the most dramatic on record.

The Americans (Nick Nickell, Dick Freeman, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Bob Hamman & Paul Soloway, NPC Sydney Lazard, Coach Eric Kokish) had started the last set of the final against Italy (Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Lorenzo Lauria, Alfredo Versace, Fulvio Fantoni & Claudio Nunes, NPC Maria Teresa Lavazza, Coach Massimo Ortensi) with a lead of 28imps; when the final deal arrived, they trailed by 11imps.

In the words of Adam Wildavsky 'It proved to be the most-discussed deal of the match, the tournament, the year, the century, and the millennium'.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
pass	1♦	2♦*	pass
2♥	3♦	pass	pass
3♥	pass	4♥	all pass
2♦	majors		

East was lucky that his undisciplined bidding did not attract a red card, but with no certain trick you can readily understand South's decision.

North led the queen of diamonds, removing the entry to the king of clubs.

Having won with the ace, declarer played a heart to the king, cashed the ace of clubs and exited with the three of spades, South winning with the queen and returning a diamond.

North won with the king and played the nine of hearts. Declarer won with the queen and when South pitched the three of clubs he attempted to cash the ace of spades.

North ruffed, cashed the ace of hearts and exited with a diamond. That left South with three winning spades, four down, -400.

With that result in the bag the USA needed a plus score from the other table - +100 would put the match into overtime.

A packed auditorium watched the drama unfold and they could see all the table action via a live video feed. In addition, 6,729 spectators were watching via BBO (and thousands more were unable to watch because of server limitations).

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Versace</i>
pass	1♦	2♦*	dbl*
2♥	3♦	pass	pass
3♥	5♦	dbl	all pass
2♦	majors		
dbl	values		

If the bidding had stopped at 3♦ East would have needed to lead a trump immediately (or after cashing the ace of clubs) but, as in the other room, West had enough to compete.

North's subsequent jump to 5♦ mirrored East's action in the other room but this time a double hit the table.

East led the ace of clubs and West followed with the seven, hoping his partner would interpret it as a neutral card and avoid what might be a costly switch to either major.

At this point two rounds of trumps would be enough to ensure at least +300 and an American victory, and while East was thinking dummy got up from the table and left the room, leaving declarer to play both his own cards and dummy's, a scenario that never pleases anyone.



Eventually East switched to the queen of hearts and declarer won with the ace, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club with the eight of diamonds and ruffed a heart, unable to conceal his disappointment when the ten did not appear from West.

Two down now appeared to be a certainty and Italy's supporters had been reduced to a near catatonic state of disbelief.

Declarer played dummy's king of spades and East took the ace.

Everyone was expecting East to cash the ten of hearts but there was a fly in the ointment.

West had followed to the hearts with the two (attitude) four and five, which, according to the partnership's remainder count agreements showed an original holding of four cards.

If that was right it couldn't hurt to play a spade as West might be ruffing it (otherwise declarer would be 1-3-8-1) but as Eric observed, would declarer have bid this way with a 2-3-7-1 shape. In addition, would West have bid this way and played the ♣7 with 1-4-2-6?

It didn't add up, but East was tired and possibly distracted by declarer having to reach across the table to play dummy's cards.

Eventually East continued with the four of spades.

That brought a cheer from the Italian supporters - declarer was going to escape for one down and there would be eight extra boards.

However, declarer, either because he was expecting East to cash the ten of hearts or because he didn't see

what East had played, reached out and detached the seven of spades from dummy.

Everyone could see that happen on the video screen and the card caller, Babette Piganeau, named it audibly for everyone to hear.

It was only when West followed suit that declarer saw what had happened, and he tried to replace the seven with the king, but this was clearly a situation where the Tournament Director was required.

Having established the facts, Jeanne v. de Meiracker ruled that the seven of spades was a played card. It was a clear decision on a point of law and with the ten of hearts still certain to score a trick the contract was two down and the 12 imp swing left the USA ahead by just 1 imp.

Wait.

Italy appealed.

The Committee had been standing by and its deliberations did not last long. The table result would stand.

Perhaps the best way to sum up the drama is to quote Jean-Paul Meyer, writing in *Le Bridgeur*: *'I have been a witness over too many years to the most important international and European matches, but I will never forget the three hours of the final session in Monte Carlo.'*

I cannot promise you that we will go down to the wire in these first Winter Games, but for sure there is bound to be a lot of drama along the way.





THE DRAMA OF BOARD 18

by **Jean-Paul Meyer**

The French premier league is a long event. Initially 12 teams play a full round robin over 3 week-ends to qualify the top 4 for a 64 board semi-final and a 96 board final.

The last two contestants standing were:
Zimmermann, Multon, Helgemo, Helness and Martens
and
Riehm, Alain Levy, Volcker, Sebbane, Duguet and Lorenzini.

Zimmermann started as favourite, although Cedric Lorenzini seems to win every event he plays this year, with any partner!

Hoping for suspense, the spectators were rather disappointed when Riehm's team was ahead by 65 IMPs with 32 boards to play.

But, then, Zimmermann recovered 29 IMPS, still trailing by 36 going in the final 16 board segment.

Drama hit rapidly with board 18:

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Lorenzini	Martens	Sebbane
—	—	3♦	3♠
5♦	6♥	All Pass	

The lead was the ♣2, holding declarer to 12 tricks.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Volcker	Helness	Levy	Helgemo
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	?		

What would you bid now?

This is how the auction continued:

	6♦*	Pass	7♦
Dble	7♥	All Pass	

Tor Helness alerted his 6♦ to East, explaining it showed a void.

On the other side of the screen South said 'it is not forcing' and raised!

Your lead.

Though he knew North was void in diamonds, East decided to lead the suit* and when the jack of diamonds forced the ace declarer claimed - his losing club could be discarded on the king of diamonds.

The TD was called and West said had he been alerted that 6♦ showed a void, of course he would not have doubled and East stated he would not then lead a diamond.

According to the new procedure the TD made a poll among top players:

70% said they would, without the double, lead a club. So, the results was changed to 7♥ made 3 times out of 10, and defeated 7 times.

On a ♥ lead it seems mathematicians make 7♥ playing for the drop of the ♠Q rather than taking the finesse.

Before the ruling was known, it appeared that Zimmermann had completely recovered, winning the last set 58-15 and the match by 6 IMPs despite losing 15 in the last 2 boards. The ruling changed around 21 IMPS and gave victory to Riehm & Co.

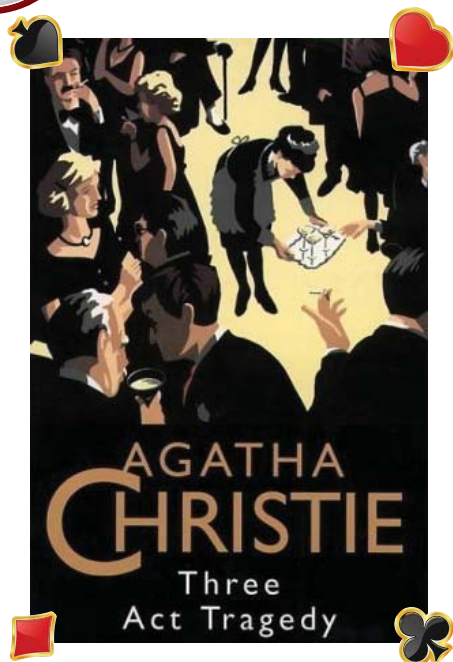
It is a big understatement to say that the team from Monaco was not very happy!

*Alain Levy stated: My partner doubles 7♦, knowing North is void. It means he does not want any other lead!



THREE ACT TRAGEDY

by Mark Horton




Three Act Tragedy is a work of detective fiction by Agatha Christie which centres around (as you may have guessed) three murders.

A dinner party is thrown by theatre actor Sir Charles Cartwright at his home in Cornwall. He mixes cocktails, which are passed to guests by a serving girl with a tray. After sipping one of the cocktails, the Reverend Babbington collapses and dies. Cartwright is convinced it was murder. Investigation of the glass shows no poison, and the death is ruled natural causes at the inquest. Cartwright is so upset that he informs Hercule Poirot he intends to retire to Monte Carlo.

Allowing a contract that could have been defeated to make is always a tragedy - here are three recent examples that caught my eye.

This is from Germany's Bundesliga.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Reichelt</i>	<i>Rehder</i>	<i>Dr. Georgi</i>
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

- 2♥ 19-20
- 2♠ Transfer to 2NT
- 3♣ Puppet Stayman
- 3♠ 5♠

North led the six of spades and declarer won with the queen and played the queen of diamonds, South winning with the king. Now what?

When South returned a spade declarer could win and play on diamonds, eventually creating an entry to dummy in hearts by playing one to the jack.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Smykalla</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Schneider</i>	<i>Gawel</i>
2♦*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

- 2♦ Multi
- 2♠ Pass or correct
- 2NT 20-22
- 3♣ Puppet Stayman
- 3♠ 5♠

North led the seven of diamonds and South won with the king and returned the six of hearts, leaving declarer without resource.


He took North's queen with the king and played a diamond to the queen and ace (declarer had not dropped the jack on the first round, so North did not have to duck). South won the heart switch and exited with a spade. Declarer won, cashed his remaining spades, the jack of diamonds and the ace of clubs, but that was only eight tricks.

You can replay the deal at:

http://www.bridgebase.com/tools/handviewer.html?bbo=y&linurl=http://www.bridgebase.com/tools/vugraph_linfetch.php?id=42809

This is from the Reykjavik Bridge Festival Swiss Teams:

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

In the other room NS had attempted 4♠ and had been allowed to escape with nine tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bowdery</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- 2♣ Precision
- 2♦ Relay
- 3♣ No major

East led the two of diamonds and West won with the king and continued with the queen, East following with the four. Declarer pitched the three of spades on the ace of diamonds and East, perhaps sensing no danger, unblocked the ten. West cashed the six of diamonds, declarer pitching the nine of spades, and exited with the eight of hearts.

Spurning the finesse, declarer went up with the ace of hearts and played seven rounds of clubs. On the last of these (and the reader may be ahead of me here) East was down to the ♠A and the ♥K.

West had carefully pitched both his spades, but nevertheless East fell from grace by discarding the king of hearts and declarer was home.


You can replay this deal at:

http://www.bridgebase.com/tools/handviewer.html?bbo=y&linurl=http://www.bridgebase.com/tools/vugraph_linfetch.php?id=43007



My last offering comes from the final of the 2015 Reisinger and features Monaco's leading bridge detective, Geir Helgemo.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

At many tables North was declarer in 3NT.

East generally led a top diamond and then switched to a heart, declarer winning in hand and playing a club to the king. Where West made the natural looking play of winning with the ace and returning a diamond, declarer could win and play two rounds of clubs. With the queen of spades as an entry to dummy, all West could score was a heart.

This is what happened when Monaco faced Becker:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Kamil</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Coren</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

In the other room, Sementa had opened 1NT and played there, securing eight tricks.

East led the king of diamonds and when West followed with the six he switched to the four of hearts for the five, nine and jack.

Declarer played the four of clubs for the ten and king, but West calmly ducked and when declarer continued with dummy's three of clubs he followed with the five. Declarer put up the king and played the queen of hearts, following it with three rounds of spades and a heart, but he only had eight tricks.

It would not have helped declarer to put in the seven on the second round of clubs. West wins the next club and plays a diamond when the best declarer can do is win, play three rounds of spades ending in dummy and exit with a club, hoping to endplay West.

Not for the first time our detective had found the solution that had eluded everyone else.

You can replay this deal at:

http://www.bridgebase.com/tools/handviewer.html?bbo=y&linurl=http://www.bridgebase.com/tools/vugraph_linfetch.php?id=42352



WHO DOES WHAT?



CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

Jean-Charles Allavena, Jan Kamras



CHAMPIONSHIP MANAGERS

Patrick Chalard, Gianluca Barrese



CHIEF TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Antonio Riccardi



CO-CHIEF TD

Matt Smith



REVIEWER

Jan Kamras



DAILY BULLETIN

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Photographer: Francesca Canali



SCORING SYSTEM

Fotis Skoularikis



BBO BROADCAST

Traian Chira



DUPLICATION

Monica Gorreri



BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING



**BIG BROTHER IS
WATCHING YOU**

As you are probably aware Traian Chira has flown all the way from Australia to supervise the BBO coverage. 8 matches will be online every round, but don't worry if yours is not featured - video cameras are at every table.