



BULLETIN

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July 10, 2014

The 52nd European Team Championships Opatija, Croatia, June 21 - July 1, 2014



Open Team Champions: Israel - (l. to r.) Ilan Herbst, Alon Birman, Ron Schwartz, Ophir Herbst, Dror Padon, Lotan Fisher, Ron Pachtman, NPC



**Women's Team Champions:
Netherlands** -

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



Senior Team Champions: England - (l. to r.) John Holland, Gunnar Hallberg, David Mossop, David Burn, Coach, Paul Hackett, Colin Simpson, David Price, Simon Cochemé, NPC

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Roll Of Honour

Open Teams

Gold: Israel - Alon Birman, Lotan Fisher, Ilan Herbst, Ophir Herbst, Dror Padon, Ron Schwartz, Ron Pachtman NPC

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

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

Women's Teams

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

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

Bronze: France - Debora Campagnano, Bénédicte Cronier, Elisabeth Hugon, Vanessa Reess, Sylvie Willard, Joanna Zochowska, Jérôme Rombaut NPC.

Senior Teams

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

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

Bronze: Poland - Julian Klukowski, Apolinary Kowalski, Krzysztof Lasocki, Viktor Markowicz, Jacek Romanski, Jerzy Russyan, Wlodek Wala NPC, Marian Wierszycki Coach.

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THE OPEN TEAMS

Ron Tacchi, Vaupillon, France
Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK
David Bird, Eastleigh, Hants., UK
Ram Soffer, Tel-Aviv, Israel
Jos Jacobs, Maarn, Netherlands
Mark Horton, Sutton Benger, Wilts., UK
John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON
Barry Rigal, New York, NY

Players and officials were universally complimentary in their praise of Croatia, Opatija, and the local organisation of the championships. Having previously hosted Junior and University events, the European Champions Cup and now the major European event, perhaps we can gaze into the crystal ball and foresee a World Championship in Croatia's future.

The Open Teams comprised 36 entries divided into two seeded, nominally-equal, groups for round-robin play. After their 17-round, 16-board, matches, the top nine teams in each group would enter Phase II, in which they'd play the nine qualified teams they had not already met. Carryover would consist of two factors: (i.) full carry-forward from the matches played against the other qualifiers from one's own group, and (ii.) ranking against the non-qualifiers - 16 VP for first place, 14 VP for second, and so on, down to 0 VP for ninth. The second factor was dependent only on those matches played against the non-qualifying teams in one's own group. The top six teams after Phase II would qualify to represent Europe in next year's Bermuda Bowl in Chennai, India.

The Open and Women's Teams started a match later than the Seniors. Thus, although the matches were all 16 boards in length and the same boards were played in all matches, Round 1 of the Open and Women's equated to Round 2 in the Seniors. As the same number of matches was not played in each event, that relationship was not consistent throughout.

Underlead by Brian Senior

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ Q 10 4 3

♥ J

♦ 8 6

♣ A K J 8 3 2

♠ 9 7 2

♥ K 10

♦ Q 10 9 7 5 2

♣ 10 9

♠ 6 5

♥ 9 8 6 5 3

♦ A 4

♣ Q 7 6 5

♠ A K J 8

♥ A Q 7 4 2

♦ K J 3

♣ 4

West	North	East	South
Carroll	Matushko	Garvey	Orlov
—	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

We have all seen underleads of aces against small slams and, very rarely, against grand slams, and possibly have all made such a lead ourselves. A perfect opportunity to underlead an ace came up on the first board the Round 1 match between Russia and Ireland.

For Russia, Georgi Matushko's two-club opening was Precision-style and Sergei Orlov's two-diamond response an inquiry. Two notrump was another asking bid but four hearts confirmed the spade fit. Orlov continued with RKCB and bid the thin slam.

Well, my introduction has already told you what Tommy Garvey chose as his opening lead - the four of diamonds - the auction had made it clear that dummy must hold a diamond control so he just had to hope that there was a king-jack guess! Matushko was suspicious, of course, but had no good reason to get the guess right. He called for dummy's jack and that meant that the slam was down immediately. He lost a third trick in the wash for down two and minus 100.

As the Irish North/South were in game at the other table, that was a 22-IMP swing, Ireland gaining 11 instead of losing 11 had the slam been made. Russia went on to win the match by 44-32 IMPs, 13.28-6.72 VPs, so this was very important to the Irish, who would have suffered a very serious beating had this board gone against them.

Open Round 1 France v. Iceland by Ron Tacchi

In the opening round of the Open Teams in Group A, France faced Iceland. In the open room, the father-and-son pairing of Thomas and Michel Bessis were pitted against Sigurbjörn Haraldsson and Jon Baldursson, whilst in the closed room, Magnus Magnusson and Throstur Ingimarsson competed against Frédéric Volcker and Alain Levy.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ J 10 4

♥ K 7 5 3

♦ K 10 2

♣ A 10 4

♠ 9 6

♥ Q 9 4 2

♦ J 9 5 4 3

♣ 8 6

♠ K Q 5 3 2

♥ A J 10

♦ A Q 6

♣ J 7

♠ A 8 7

♥ 8 6

♦ 8 7

♣ K Q 9 5 3 2

West	North	East	South
Baldursson	Bessis T.	Haraldsson	Bessis M.
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	Double	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This match was interesting to me for I play most of my bridge in France and so I am cognizant of the standard bidding system employed in France which forms the basis of both French pairs' system card.

South bludgeoned his way into three notrump, taking a rosy view of his club fit. West led the four of diamonds (attitude), ducked to East's queen. East needed to switch to a heart to beat the contract but, unfortunately for Iceland, he switched to the spade queen. Michel won and led a diamond to the ten and ace. Haraldsson cashed the king of spades and declarer had his ninth trick. Sometimes it seems that to do the right thing is just too difficult.

West	North	East	South
Levy	Magnusson	Volcker	Ingimarsson
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

When North could not summon up a bid on his motley collection, East opened a strong notrump and bought the contract. South started with a low club and the contract peacefully drifted two off for 9 IMPs to France.

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Baldursson	Bessis T.	Haraldsson	Bessis M.
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣ ¹	1♣	Pass	3♠
4♣	4♦	4♥	4♠
5♣	Double	Pass	5♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
I. Strong Club			

North would have had to have found a diamond lead to beat five clubs but, in this case, 'father knows best' and Michel removed to five spades. East led the eight of clubs, won by West with the jack to switch to the seven of hearts, East contributing the three. Declarer now played a low diamond towards the queen which

was taken by West, who attempted to cash the king of hearts - much to his chagrin as North now wrapped up the contract.

West knew he had to cash out, but there was some doubt in Baldursson's mind about East's club holding: Haraldsson would have led the eight from both nine-eight doubleton and from nine-eight-six.

West	North	East	South
Levy	Magnusson	Volcker	Ingimarsson
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♣ ¹	2♠	Pass	4♠
5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
I. Semi-GF or GF in hearts			

North had to lead a diamond but, naturally enough, cashed his ace of hearts and played a low spade to put his partner in to give him a heart ruff. This was an excellent strategy, but no one had told West that this was the plot as he cruelly ruffed the spade and claimed plus one and a huge 15 IMPs to France.

To Whom Does The Five Level Belong? Open Round 3 France v. Monaco by Ron Tacchi

France stormed out of the starting gate with a whitewash of Iceland and then scored over 75% of the available VPs against Slovenia to leave them leading Group A at the end of Day 1. Monaco, meanwhile, had two comfortable wins against Greece and Finland, which put them in fourth place. This meeting between two teams who would hope to be going to India could be crucial at the end of the competition. Both teams were eager to do well and consolidate their position.

The French sent out the Bessis father-and-son partnership with Jean-Christophe Quantin and Marc Bompis to bat for them, whilst the Monégasque contingent comprised the former Norwegians, Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness, with 'Fantunes' in the other room. The match promised to be an interesting affair, so I sat back with my copy of *Fantunes Revealed* and awaited the excitement.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Bessis T.	Helness	Bessis M.
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♦	4♣	4NT	5♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Helgemo led the king of clubs, won in hand, and trumps were drawn in two rounds ending in dummy. Now came the critical point. The nine of diamonds hit the baize and Helness showed his class by ducking in tempo. Now Bessis senior had a decision to make. He rose with the king, but this meant he must now be one off. Had he run the nine he would have made his contract - he comes to hand by ruffing a heart and then establishing a diamond with a double loser-on-loser play in that suit, thus coming to eleven tricks. Had the nine lost to the queen, then he would almost certainly have been two off, but possibly Helness' forward move might be an indication of the diamond position and, according to my limited knowledge of game theory, gambling plus 850 against minus 500 is better odds than a guaranteed minus 200.

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Fantoni	Bompis	Nunes
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♦	4♣	5♦	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Again the five level was reached and the first three tricks were identical, but this time when the nine of diamonds was played from dummy Bompis hopped up with the ace, giving the contract to Nunes. The good news was that France had not doubled the contract but it was still 13 IMPs to Monaco.

Open Round 4 Russia v. Monaco by David Bird

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Gromov	Fantoni	Dubinin
Pass	Pass	1♣	2♦!
3♣	3♥	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

I. Both majors

Fantoni/Nunes have always proved a big draw on BBO and so it was in Round 4, when upwards of 2400

kibitzers watched the Open Room of the Russia-Monaco match on a Monday afternoon.

Dubinin led the five of hearts. North won with the ace and returned a heart to the jack and queen. (At double-dummy a diamond switch defeats the contract.) When South cleared the heart suit, declarer had eight tricks and no time to seek a ninth trick from the spades. His options were to finesse the queen of diamonds or to strip the South hand, aiming to force him to lead away from the king of diamonds. When six rounds of clubs were played, declarer reduced himself to the king-nine of spades and the ace-queen of diamonds. Dubinin, meanwhile gave himself a chance by retaining the ace of spades, two hearts and the singleton king of diamonds. A spade exit would have been no good now, since South would have had too many tricks to cash.

Fantoni had to guess which defender had started with the king of diamonds. After a couple of minutes' thought, conveying the difficulty of the guess, he chose to go with the odds, finessing the diamond queen and going two down. At the other table, four spades went one down and only 2 IMPs changed hands.

Open Round 5 France v. Sweden by Ram Soffer

After four rounds, the French team was ranked third in their group, slightly behind Norway and Austria. In Round 5, they were tested against Sweden, the 2012 world champions.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Levy	Cullin	Volcker
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
3♣	Double	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Levy didn't open, but he doubled West's three-club Puppet-Stayman bid for the lead. Volcker led the three of clubs, and Cullin was well aware of South's club shortness. He won with his king of clubs and continued immediately with ace and ten of spades from his hand, hoping to prevent a club ruff. However this turned

out to be a losing play against the actual layout. Deep Finesse indicates a heart as the winning play at trick three, but that would have looked silly if hearts had been 4-2. South ducked the ten of spades and declarer realized that continuing trumps would give him only nine tricks. He ruffed a club with the queen of spades, but South over-ruffed. Later, North won the ace of hearts and gave his partner another overruff in clubs; East/West minus 100.

West	North	East	South
M. Bessis	Upmark	T. Bessis	Nyström
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	Double	1♥ ¹
INT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

The Swedes sitting North/South were more active in the bidding. Upmark opened in the third seat, and Nyström's one-heart bid was a transfer to spades, so a four-spade contract was out of the question, and the French reached three notrump instead.

Upmark led the queen of clubs, taken by dummy's king, while declarer dropped a deceptive nine. Michel Bessis played on hearts, and Upmark waited with his ace until the third round, seeing nine-six-five from his partner, which he accurately saw as a significant suit-preference signal warning against a club continuation. Playing a spade would have been pointless, so North's choice was between a club and a diamond. Upmark gave it a long consideration before putting the three of diamonds on the table. Thus, the Swedes found the killing defence, and Michel had to concede a heart, a spade and three diamond tricks for minus 100 and a push.

(For the record, Deep Finesse points out many winning options in four spades, but almost all of them involve not playing two rounds of trumps early, relying on a heart break instead of a trump break. Almost everyone who brought home the spade game benefited from a defensive error.)

Open Round 6 Hungary v. Bulgaria by Brian Senior

At the end of Day 2, Bulgaria lay second in Open Group B while Hungary was one place behind in third. Clearly, then, this was a big match for both teams. The first big swing went to Bulgaria.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Karaivanov	Homonnay	Mihailov	Winkler
Lakatos	Stefanov	Szilagyi	Mihov
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
	Pass		

Both Easts liked their fifth trump, king of spades and side ace, enough to jump to game, and both Norths led a low diamond. Gabor Winkler and Vladimir Mihov both won with the king and switched to a club honour. Now the two paths diverged.

Mihov led the ten of clubs to the queen, king and ace. Laszlo Szilagyi cashed the king of spades, ruffed a diamond and threw a club loser on the ace of spades. Next he ruffed a spade before conceding a club to Mihov's jack. Szilagyi ruffed the diamond return, ruffed a club and led a heart to the queen. When Julian Stefanov won the king and returned a heart to the ace, Szilagyi was left with a diamond loser and was one down for minus 50.

Gabor Winkler switched to the jack of clubs and Georgi Mihailov did not cover with dummy's queen. He won with the ace and cashed the spade king, ruffed a diamond and cashed the ace of spades, pitching a club from hand. Next came a spade ruff, a diamond ruff, and another spade. When Geza Homonnay followed to the fourth spade, Mihailov made a loser on loser play, discarding his last club rather than risking an over-ruff, and Winkler too threw a club. Homonnay led the king of clubs, ruffed, and Mihailov took the losing heart finesse. On the club return he ruffed with the jack, crossed to the ace of hearts, and the even trump split meant that he could cash the ten of spades for his tenth trick; plus 420 and 10 IMPs to Bulgaria.

Open Round 6 Denmark v. England by John Carruthers

Following their country's ignominious early exit from the World Cup due to a lack of finishing ability, England fans are hoping for better results from their bridge team. Before this match, England lay fifth in Group B, ahead of Denmark in ninth.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Morten B.	Forrester	Dennis B.	Robson
Jason H.	Konow	Justin H.	Askgård
—	INT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the Closed Room, Dennis led the three of hearts. Forrester won immediately to run the ten of clubs. Dennis won with his king and returned the heart five to Morten's jack. Knowing he might never be on lead again and wanting to contribute something positive to the defence, Morten shifted to a spade and Forrester ducked, guessing correctly for plus 90 when Dennis led another spade after the run of the hearts. Should Morten have read the five of hearts as suggesting a diamond shift? Perhaps Dennis thought so.

In the Open Room, the Hacketts produced a beautiful, and very subtle, cooperative defence to beat the contract. Justin led the five of hearts and Konow ducked it to Jason's jack. Jason continued with hearts to dummy's ace. Konow also ran the club ten to the king. Justin took the king of hearts to collect declarer's ten, declarer discarding a diamond from the dummy. Now Justin cashed the eight of hearts. Not yet knowing whether he preferred a spade or a diamond pitch, Jason made the excellent discard of the six of spades, keeping his options open about whether to encourage next with the seven, or discourage with the three. When Justin continued with the queen of hearts, suggesting with his heart plays suit-preference for diamonds, Jason was able to complete his discouraging noise in spades with the discard of the spade three. Justin then shifted to a diamond, holding declarer to six tricks. Down one for a hard-earned plus 50 and 4 IMPs to England.

Suicide is Painful by Mark Horton

The classic television series MASH featured a theme tune entitled Suicide is Painless. On this deal from Round 7 of the Open Series, England's David Gold produced a spectacular defence that demonstrated in brilliant fashion that suicide can be very painful indeed:

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ A J 4 2
 ♥ Q 6 5 4 3
 ♦ A 7
 ♣ 8 3

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

West	North	East	South
Robson	O.Herbst	Forrester	I.Herbst
—	—	—	3♦
3NT	4♦	4♥	5♦
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Three notrump would have made in comfort, so North did well to bid four diamonds. When East bid four hearts, Ophir must have been both delighted and optimistic (although if West goes back to four notrump, that too, is unbeatable) but South, with his extreme distribution, took the save.

West led the king of clubs (with declarer having no quick entry, leading a top spade results in two down) and when it held he switched to the five of diamonds. Declarer won in hand, played the ten of spades to the king and ace, cashed the ace of diamonds and forced out the queen of spades, claiming one down, minus 100.

West	North	East	South
Padon	Gold	Birman	Bakhshi
—	—	—	4♦
Double	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Had South led the queen of diamonds, four hearts would have easily been defeated (indeed it should go two down) but not unreasonably South selected the four of clubs, apparently putting declarer in with a shout. He won with the ace, crossed to the ace of hearts and seeing South's nine, played the jack, overtaking it with the king. Well done by declarer, and when South discarded the three of diamonds declarer continued with the ten of hearts, South pitching another diamond and dummy the five of clubs. If Gold had taken the queen, declarer would have been in clover, but he correctly ducked. When declarer continued with the eight of hearts South played the queen of diamonds. Dummy was now coming under pressure as declarer threw the five of spades. Gold, realizing he could no longer afford to duck, took this and calmly returned his remaining trump. Declarer could win, but what could he now spare from dummy?

With a spade or a diamond ruled out it could only be a second club and with that discard declarer's tenth trick had vanished into thin air. Declarer still had some hopes; he ran his three remaining club winners and now needed to establish a diamond trick. If the suit was 7-2 with the ace right, then the defenders could simply duck the first diamond and run the suit when in with the spade ace. If it was 8-1 Gold would have taken a diamond ruff earlier, so declarer played for his only legitimate chance, assuming perfect defence thus far, when he ducked the first diamond, playing North for the bare diamond ace. Alas, that was not the case, and another plus 100 for England meant 5 IMPs for them.

Declarer had become the victim of a suicide squeeze. The vast majority of squeezes operate on the principle that declarer's and dummy's hands can, between them, hold more cards with the potential to take extra tricks than a single defender's hand can protect or guard. It is always elegant (but highly infrequent due to the difficulty of the defenders coordinating their holdings and retaining communications) when both defenders can cooperate to squeeze declarer or dummy in the same fashion. Here, remarkably, declarer was effectively squeezed by just one defender.

Note that, had the Herbsts allowed Robson to declare three notrump, that would have swung 12 IMPs and 4.2 VP, and England would have finished first in the event and Israel third, reversing their actual podium finishes!

Open Round 9 Romania v. Poland by David Bird

The last board offered a great slam that was not always reached in other matches:

Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ A K 8 7 6 5 2

♥ 8 3

♦ A K 9

♣ 5

♠ Q 10

♥ 7

♦ 10 8 4 3

♣ A 10 8 6 3 2

♠ J 4 3

♥ A K J 9

♦ J 7 6 2

♣ K 7

♠ 9

♥ Q 10 6 5 4 2

♦ Q 5

♣ Q J 9 4

West	North	East	South
Jassem	Rotaru	Mazurkiewicz	Ghigheci
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2NT ²	Pass	3♠ ³
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Double	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Relay

2. Unspecified

3. Three-card spade support, GF

There are many chances for a twelfth trick - it's a matter of taking them in the right order. You can lead towards the king of clubs and, if that chance fails, you try to drop the queen of diamonds in two rounds. No luck there and you can eventually finesse the jack of hearts.

In practice, the queen of clubs was led to the king and ace. Rotaru won the diamond return, drew trumps and added an extra half-ounce of chance by cashing the ace of hearts before returning to hand with a

second top diamond. Down came the queen of diamonds and that was that.

West	North	East	South
Coldea	Balicki	Marina	Zmudzinski
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The response showed a three-card spade fit and it did not take much longer for the bidding rocket to reach the desired destination. Romania won by 26-15 IMPs, converting to 13.04-6.96 VP.

Between Scylla and Charybdis by Mark Horton

Being between Scylla and Charybdis is an idiom deriving from Greek mythology, meaning 'having to choose between two evils'. Scylla and Charybdis were mythical sea monsters noted by Homer; later Greek tradition sited them on opposite sides of the Strait of Messina between Sicily and the Italian mainland. Scylla was rationalized as a rock shoal (described as a six-headed sea monster) on the Italian side of the strait and Charybdis was a whirlpool off the coast of Sicily. They were regarded as a sea hazard located close enough to each other that they posed an inescapable threat to passing sailors. On this deal from the match between Belgium and Turkey in Round 10, East was caught between a rock and a hard place:

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ A 10 5

♥ A 5

♦ A K 10 8 6

♣ A 6 5

♠ 8 6

♥ Q 2

♦ Q J 5 3 2

♣ 9 7 4 2

♠ Q J 4 3 2

♥ K 10 9 7 6 4 3

♦ —

♣ Q

♠ K 9 7

♥ J 8

♦ 9 7 4

♣ K J 10 8 3

West **North** **East** **South**

Kolata	Dewasme	Kandemir	Dehaye
--------	---------	----------	--------

— — 2♦¹ Pass

2♥ Double 3♥ 4♣

Pass 6♣ Double Pass

Pass Pass

I. Majors, 5+-5+, 6-10 HCP

It was not difficult for West to diagnose that East wanted a diamond ruff, so he led the two. The situation was also clear to declarer, who covered with the six. East ruffed with the queen of clubs and considered his options. If he returned a low heart, West would have to cover whichever card declarer played. After winning with dummy's ace, declarer would draw

trumps and play the nine of diamonds. West would have to duck that and then cover the next diamond. After cashing a diamond and discarding a spade, declarer would lead the losing ten of diamonds in this position:

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

East is squeezed by the loser that declarer is about to ruff.

If East instead returns the king of hearts declarer takes dummy's ace, draws trumps and runs the nine of diamonds. He cashes two spades ending in hand to reach this ending:

♠ 10	♠ Q
♥ —	♥ 10 9 7
♦ A K 10	♦ —
♣ —	♣ —
♠ —	♠ 9
♥ Q	♥ J
♦ Q J 5	♦ 7
♣ —	♣ 8

When declarer plays the last trump, it is West's turn to be squeezed.

Faced with two impossible alternatives should East choose to fall on his sword or stab his partner in the back? Before I reveal the answer, observe that if East returns the ten of hearts at trick two it is essential for declarer to cover to make the eight becomes a menace against East. As you might have guessed, East exited with the king of hearts.

(The contract in the other room was three notrump, plus 430, so East/West lost 12 sailors.)

Open Round 12 Monaco v. Norway by David Bird

Over 3000 BBO kibitzers watched the Open Table of this match, where Fantoni/Nunes faced Charlsen/Hoftaniska. The line-up was no less mouth-watering in the Closed Room, with Helgemo/Helness facing Brogeland/Lindqvist.

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Lindkvist	Helness	Brogeland
1♣	Double	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Double	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

Helness led the three of clubs and Helgemo took two winners in the suit. The ace and another spade went to declarer's king and he ruffed the ten of spades with the ten of hearts. Three rounds of trumps left him in hand and he cashed the queen of spades. He now needed to avoid a diamond loser. As if by magic, Lindkvist led the jack of diamonds and ran the card! Plus 620 and 12 IMPs were his.

His logic may have been that if West held the queen of diamonds as part of a 3=2=2=6 hand containing the black honours already shown, he would have opened one notrump. Brilliant!

Open Round 14 Sweden v. Monaco by Ram Soffer

Round 14 of Open Group A featured a big clash between the reigning champions Monaco and the group leaders Sweden, 2012 World Champions. It was an entertaining match with several large swings. The very first deal was full of exciting, albeit not too accurate, bridge.

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Sylvan	Helness	Wrang
—	Pass	2♦	Double
Redouble	3♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Helness led his spade singleton. Helgemo took the ace-queen of spades and gave his partner a ruff. Next came the queen of hearts. Had declarer guessed to drop the queen of clubs, he would have escaped for down one. But the queen was definitely more likely to be with West. After the club finesse failed, Helness gave Helgemo a heart ruff. At this stage, declarer was already down one, and he lost three diamonds as well to go minus 200.

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Fantoni	Upmark	Nunes
—	Pass	2♦	Double
Redouble	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After a similar start to the auction, the Monaco pair instead elected to try to penalise their opponents in two spades. The heart deuce was led and the best defence would have been a second high heart. Declarer ruffs, but there is no quick entry to dummy's hearts and the defence will come later to three club tricks and one spade trick or two tricks in each black suit. Nunes, however, switched to a diamond at trick two. Fantoni won with the king and continued hearts. The ace of hearts was ruffed by declarer and Nyström entered dummy with the queen of diamonds to finesse in spades. Nunes' opportunity to shine by unblocking the king went unacted upon.

Then followed the ace of diamonds, a spade to South's king and the thirteenth diamond, ruffed. When declarer played a low club from both hands, the defenders had no answer. South won with the king of clubs on the next round and had to give dummy a trick with the ten of hearts. Excellent play by Nyström, exploiting small defensive inaccuracies by one of the best pairs in the world; Sweden plus 470 and 7 IMPs.

Excellent Logic by Brian Senior

Board 22. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Fantoni	Upmark	Nunes
1♣!	INT	Pass	Pass
Pass	1. 2+ clubs		

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

Upmark started with the ace of hearts, asking for attitude, and Nyström played an encouraging card. Upmark continued with the king then jack of hearts, a low diamond going from the dummy. Upmark could now work out that spades should be 4-1-4-4 around the table, and that hearts were 3-2-4-4. Looking at dummy's club holding, it seemed that there was no two-card club holding with which declarer, holding two four-card majors, would have overcalled one notrump rather than make a take-out double. So, declarer could have at most a doubleton diamond.

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

In the other room, West opened one heart and South declared three clubs, making exactly, to give a 5-IMP swing to Sweden.

Germany Calling? by Barry Rigel

Roy Welland is one of a group of transplanted Americans present at this tournament, including your writer. (*Huh? I thought Barry was a Limey, transplanted to America. - Ed.*) This deal from Germany's Round 15 clash with Greece showed that he is not just here for the beer.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Welland	Delimpal-tadakis	Auken	Papakyriakopoulos
—	—	1♦	Pass
I♥	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Includes strong heart hand
2. Puppet to three hearts to sign off

Welland found himself in four hearts on a top club lead. He won, played the king of spades to the ace, won the low heart return in dummy and played the ace and another diamond to the eight. South won and exited with the king of clubs. Welland ruffed, played the queen of diamonds, covered and ruffed, dropping the jack, then led a trump to dummy, in this position:

♠ 7 5

♥ —

♦ —

♣ J 8 7

♠ 6

♥ 10

♦ —

♣ 10 9 5

♠ Q 10 4

♥ 9

♦ 9

♣ —

♠ J 9 8

♥ Q

♦ 6

♣ —

Trusting his opponent's count card in spades he cashed the nine of diamonds to pitch his spade, ruffed a spade, and ruffed a club back to dummy. To prevent that being declarer's tenth trick South had to overruff, but then had to lead a spade into dummy's queen-ten tenace.

Open Final Round 1 Poland v. France by Jos Jacobs

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

On this board, father and son Besis were in trouble:

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ K J 9 5 4 2

♥ K Q J 9 2

♦ J

♣ 4

♠ Q 8

♥ A 10 5 3

♦ A 4

♣ K J 8 6 3

♠ A 10

♥ 7 6 4

♦ K 9 8 6 5 3

♣ 10 7

♠ 7 6 3

♥ 8

♦ Q 10 7 2

♣ A Q 9 5 2

West	North	East	South
M.Bessis	Jassem	T.Bessis	Mazurkiewicz
INT	2♣ ¹	3NT	Pass
Pass	4♦ ²	4NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Majors			
2. Bid a major - I have better or longer spades			

North led the king of hearts which was allowed to hold, and shifted to the king of spades to remove dummy's entry to the diamonds. Michel won in dummy and led the ten of clubs, but South jumped in with his ace to clear the spades; down three, Poland plus 300.

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Bompis	Balicki	Quantin
2♣	3♦	Double	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the Closed Room, West opened a Precision style two clubs and North showed his majors with three diamonds. When Quantin freely bid three spades, Bompis felt he was more than strong enough to raise to game. In a sense, he was right, as four spades can be made on a correct spade guess of low to the jack, but there is a snag.

Responding to Balicki's double of three diamonds, Zmudzinski led the ace and continued the suit. Declarer could now ruff in dummy and cross to his ace of clubs to lead a spade up but, on the actual layout, a correct guess would not help him any more as East would take the jack with his ace and play another diamond. West's queen of spades would then promote East's ten into the setting trick.

Realising all this, Quantin played accordingly. From the bidding, he knew that West could not have all the missing high cards, so he set about to investigate first. When he continued with the king of hearts from dummy, West won with the ace and returned a club into his ace-queen. As the two-club opening had showed 11-15, West could no longer hold the ace of spades but, if spades were 2-2, the uppercut would be inevitable.

This meant that the only remaining chance was to find East with the blank ace (or the trivial doubleton queen-ten with West). So Quantin led a low spade to dummy's nine. When Balicki produced the ten, Quantin had to accept one down; Poland plus 100 and 9 IMPs.

Open Final Round 3 Germany v. Poland by Ram Soffer

Germany has a new line-up featuring American Roy Welland, partnered by former women's world champion Sabine Auken. In the match against the strong Polish team it was their table (the Open Room) that provided most of the action.

Continued on page 14 ...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

Members may use these deals as they wish, without attributing the author or IBPA.

717. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ J 10 5
♥ K 4
♦ A K 6 4 3
♣ J 9 4

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

♠ A K Q
♥ A 6
♦ 10 7 2
♣ Q 10 7 6 3

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the jack of hearts against three notrump. Declarer counted seven tricks on top and turned his attention to the matter of finding tricks eight and nine. Clearly, the answer was not in playing on clubs as then, on most layouts, the defenders would have little trouble in taking at least three hearts as well as the ace and king of clubs. So, declarer focussed on making four diamond tricks. As this would have been routine if the diamonds were 3-2, he looked to see if he could overcome some of the 4-1 breaks. Upon reflection, he saw that the only such divisions that he could make four tricks against were those where East began with a singleton eight or nine.

As the king of hearts was the only side entry to dummy, declarer took the first trick with the ace of hearts and led the ten of diamonds. When West covered this with the jack declarer took it with dummy's king of diamonds and then played the three of diamonds to his seven. West had no answer: if he took the trick, declarer would be able to finesse the six on the next round of the suit while, if he ducked, declarer would continue with ace and another diamond to set up a long diamond, with that carefully preserved king of hearts as the entry to cash it.

Of course, if West had not covered the ten of diamonds, declarer would have played low from the dummy and won the trick. Then, the ace, king and another diamond would have set up a long diamond, again with the king of hearts as the entry to cash it.

718. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ A Q 6
♥ 7 6 5 3
♦ A Q 9
♣ 8 3 2

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

♠ K J 10
♥ A 9 4 2
♦ 7 5 2
♣ A K Q

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

As North held a 3=4=3=3 shape with twelve points and a poor major suit, he bid a direct three notrump rather than use Stayman as he expected there to be a good play for that contract. West led the queen of hearts and, when East produced the king, declarer ducked, since no shift from East would be threatening. East switched to the jack of clubs, taken by declarer with the king. The suspected 4-1 heart division was confirmed when declarer cashed the ace of hearts and East discarded a diamond.

Declarer had eight tricks. Obviously, he could play on diamonds (finessing the nine first and then the queen, a 63% chance). As there was no particular hurry to start on diamonds, declarer delayed matters by cashing the ace and queen of each black suit. This brought no special information as both opponents followed suit. So, declarer cashed the kings of clubs and spades, finding both suits to be 4-3 – leaving East as having started with at most eight cards in the black suits. (If East had started with nine or ten cards in the black suits, declarer planned to finesse the queen of diamonds for his ninth trick.)

As East had at most two black-suit winners outside diamonds, declarer played a diamond toward the dummy with the intention of covering West's card. When that card was the three of diamonds, declarer played dummy's nine and East's took the trick with his ten. After cashing his two black-suit winners, East had to lead a diamond into dummy's ace-queen, surrendering the ninth trick to declarer.

Of course, if West had played the jack of diamonds on the first round of the suit, declarer would have covered it with the queen and it would have been taken by East with the king. After East had cashed his black-suit-winners, dummy would have taken the last two tricks with the ace and nine of diamonds.

Once both defenders had followed to two rounds of each black suit, declarer's subsequent overall plan would have succeeded in making a ninth trick close to nine times out of ten.

719. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	I ♥
1♠	2♥	2♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

When this deal came up in a teams match, both tables reached four hearts by South on identical auctions. Both Wests led the king of spades and, after their partners indicated an even number of spades, they each shifted to the ten of diamonds.

The declarer at the first table was more of a card pusher than a card player and tried the jack of diamonds at trick two, which would not have been a fatal move for an expert on this particular layout.* Declarer took the queen of diamonds with the ace, then drew two rounds of trumps, ending in the dummy. Next, he led a club to his queen and West's king. (This declarer loved finesses.) As there was no way to avoid a further loser in each minor, declarer finished down one.

The declarer at the second table was in a different class: he hated finesses. This declarer played the two of diamonds from dummy and, after East followed with a low card, he played the three of diamonds from hand. West continued with a diamond but to no avail. Declarer took this with his ace, drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and dummy's queen. His next move was to ruff dummy's eight of spades. All of the preparation had been completed, and declarer crossed to dummy with the king of diamonds to lead the queen of spades and discard the four of clubs from hand on it. West took his ace of spades but found himself endplayed, forced either to lead a club or concede a ruff-and-discard: either way declarer had ten tricks.

* When East covers the jack of diamonds with the queen, declarer's objective is to keep East off play. Accordingly, he wins the queen of diamonds with the

ace, draws trumps and leads the six of diamonds. If West plays the four, declarer wins with the king and plays a third diamond, forcing West to win the trick and endplay himself. If West plays the nine or ten on the six, declarer lets him hold it. West can exit with a diamond, but this just delays the inevitable. Declarer wins with the king of diamonds, ruffs dummy's low spade, crosses back to dummy with a heart and throws a losing club on the queen of spades. West is endplayed just like the second declarer's defenders.

720. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	I ♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The bidding was a little on the agricultural side but the final contract was a good one. West led the queen of hearts, taken by declarer with his ace. There were ten tricks on top and the main hope for extra tricks was in the diamond suit. If diamonds were 3-2, or trumps were 2-2 and diamonds no worse than 4-1, declarer saw that he would have twelve easy tricks.

Declarer's first move was to cash the ace and king of trumps, finding West had started with three trumps. Now all that remained was to establish the diamonds. As West held the missing trump, declarer began by cashing the ace of diamonds and leading a low diamond toward the king.

Although West had only one diamond, he was caught out by this! Eventually, he decided to ruff and play a second heart to dummy's now-bare king. Declarer cashed the king of diamonds, ruffed a club to hand and then ruffed the fourth round of diamonds with dummy's jack of trumps. The latter was his eleventh trick and the established diamond in hand was his twelfth.

If West had chosen to discard on the second diamond then dummy's king of diamonds should have won the trick. After that, declarer would have played a third round of diamonds to East. The best East could have done would have been to play a heart, after which a club ruff, a diamond ruff and a second club ruffed high would see declarer back in hand. Then, after drawing the last trump, declarer would have claimed as his hand would have contained only winners.

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Auken	Balicki	Welland
Pass	1♣	Double	3♥
Pass	3♠	3NT	4♦
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

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

At the other table in that match, declarer made four hearts.

At our Poland/Germany table, Welland's transfer jump bid of three hearts shut Zmudzinski out of the bidding, and Balicki guessed to bid an inferior three notrump. However, Welland was tempted into a save in four spades, and the punishment was severe. Balicki led the ace of diamonds, paused for thought and continued with another diamond. Auken had the idea that he was underleading his king, so she discarded a heart, hoping to steal a trick with her queen. Instead, Zmudzinski's king of diamonds won and a club followed. Balicki gave him a ruff, and then Zmudzinski showed his class by leading a trump to the ace and getting another ruff before dummy's last club could disappear on the queen of diamonds; Poland plus 500.

In the Closed Room, Fritsche (East) also bid three notrump, and Kalita (South) excelled by passing and finding the only killing lead, a club. Even after guessing diamonds, declarer had only eight tricks. That was 11 IMPs to Poland.

Open Final Round 4 Monaco v Israel by Ram Soffer

Both teams justified their high positions (Monaco leading, Israel third) with some excellent bridge, and some of the pushed boards were no less interesting than the big swings.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
I.Herbst	Fantoni	O.Herbst	Nunes
1♣	Double	2♣	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Schwartz	Helness	Fisher
1♣	Double	2♣	Pass
3♣	Double	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

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

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

Fantoni played the queen of hearts from dummy. Ophir Herbst won with the king and continued the suit for an easy set, the defence making a spade trick, two heart tricks and two club tricks. Fisher gave it a better try, playing dummy's nine of hearts at trick two, which lost to the ten. Helgemo had retained the king of clubs as an entry, and he was able to lead a second heart through the ace-queen. Declarer played the ace, then the queen, trying to endplay East., but Helness could exit with a trump and wait for his spade trick, their fifth.

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
I.Herbst	Fantoni	O.Herbst	Nunes
1♣	Pass	1♥	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♦	3♥
4♦	Pass	Pass	Pass
West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Schwartz	Helness	Fisher
1♣	Pass	1♠	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♦	3♥
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

The bidding was essentially the same in both rooms, since Ophir Herbst's one-heart bid showed spades. Three diamonds looked like a five-plus card suit, possibly longer than spades. Supporting diamonds seemed obvious, but at what level? Helgemo guessed right, reaching an excellent game, while the Herbst brothers stopped short of it; Israel plus 150.

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

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
I.Herbst	Fantoni	O.Herbst	Nunes
—	—	—	Pass
INT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Schwartz	Helness	Fisher
—	—	—	Pass
INT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

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

In Helgemo's case, eleven tricks in spades were also makeable, but there was a problem. Schwartz led the ten of diamonds, jumped up with the ace of spades and continued diamonds, giving the impression that he was eager to get a ruff. Helgemo decided to play the king of spades next, and when South discarded he probably realized that he was doomed. Schwartz won the queen of spades, entered Fisher's hand with the ace of clubs and got his ruff. Declarer's play was questionable, since with ace-third of spades, North might not have jumped up with his ace, but all credit goes to Ron Schwartz, who created a losing option for the declarer.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
I.Herbst	Fantoni	O.Herbst	Nunes
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Schwartz	Helness	Fisher
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

After North's obvious three-diamond opening, the bidding diverged in the Open Final. Three notrump was the most popular contract (seven tables, five of them making), then came five diamonds (four tables, all making) and four hearts (four tables, three of them going down). Finally, three South players decided to

pass three diamonds! I guess they are used to their partners opening at the three level with rubbish.

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

Ophir Herbst led the king of spades. There followed, ace of spades, king of hearts, ace of clubs and ace of hearts, disposing of the spade loser. Then it was time to draw trumps. East tried unsuccessfully to organize a club ruff, but it could not be done. Monaco plus 400.

The three notrump contract at the other table was a more exciting affair. Declarer Lotan Fisher took the jack of clubs lead in hand and conceded a diamond to East's queen. Helness returned the king of spades. Fisher won with the ace, unblocked the king of hearts and returned to his hand with a club. The moment of truth had arrived, as the fate of the contract depended upon a heart guess. After the ace of hearts, should declarer play for one of his opponents to have held queen-third or ten-third initially? The penalty for misguessing was 10 IMPs, but Lotan got it right and Israel earned a push, beating the reigning European champions by 31-22.

The standings of the top 18 ...

RANK	TEAM	VP
1	Israel	214.80
2	Monaco	213.29
3	England	209.65
4	Poland	200.63
5	Bulgaria	198.85
6	Germany	198.22
7	Sweden	189.95
8	Denmark	187.46
9	France	181.31
10	Norway	174.69
11	Netherlands	171.53
12	Turkey	168.75
13	Romania	167.72
14	Italy	159.31
15	Ireland	154.48
16	Estonia	154.06
17	Russia	152.95
18	Croatia	104.35

THE WOMEN'S TEAMS

Mark Horton, Sutton Benger, Wilts., UK
John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON
Barry Rigal, New York, NY

Twenty-three teams entered the Women's Team Championship. They would play a complete round robin of 16-board matches, with the top six teams qualifying for the Venice Cup in 2015, to be held in Chennai, India.

Because the Women's (and the Open) Teams started a match later than did the Senior Teams and had a day off, the round numbers do not correspond with one another, although all three series played the same boards when they were competing at the same time. Additionally, the women played two matches to the Open and Senior Series' three matches on two separate days.

Devil's Advocate - Women's Round 2 Sweden v. England by Mark Horton

In common parlance, a devil's advocate is someone who, given a certain argument, takes a position he does not necessarily agree with (or simply an alternative position from the accepted norm), for the sake of debate or to explore the thought further. That seems to me to bear a significant resemblance to the role frequently employed by bridge players and reporters as they attempt to resolve matters that arise during the course of a match. Let's see if we can discover the truth from the match between England and Sweden, both former winners of the title.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rimstedt	Senior	Sjöberg	Dhondy
—	—	—	Pass
INT ¹	3♥	Double	Pass
Pass			
I. 14-16			

Nevena Senior is not noted for holding back in the bidding and she was true to herself on this deal with her '6-5 come alive' overcall. East led the five of clubs and declarer ruffed West's ace, played a spade to the

king and a diamond. West went in with the ace and returned a spade. East took the ace and returned the nine, covered by dummy's ten, ruffed by West's ten and overruffed by the jack.

Declarer cashed the king of diamonds, ruffed a diamond and then pitched a diamond on the queen of spades as West ruffed with the queen of hearts. North ruffed the club exit, ruffed a diamond and ruffed a club with the five of hearts. East overruffed and cashed the ace of hearts, one down; minus 200.

West	North	East	South
Smith	Grönkvist	Brock	Ahlesved
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	2♥	Double	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Redouble	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

England's coach, David Burn, following the match on BBO, pointed out that East's redouble usually promised a stopper and suggested that the contract might best be played the other way round.

North led the four of hearts and South won with the king and returned the seven to declarer's queen. A club to dummy's king saw North pitch the five of hearts, a considerable blow from declarer's point of view. She continued with a diamond to the queen and North won with the king and exited with a heart to dummy's ace, South pitching the two of spades and declarer the four of clubs. Declarer cashed the jack of diamonds and when South discarded the ten of spades she cashed the ace of spades and continued with the jack. South won with the queen and exited with the seven of clubs but declarer could run that to dummy's ten and cash two clubs and a diamond. When North pitched a diamond declarer scored ten tricks for a well-played plus 630 and 10 IMPs for England.

Cherchez la Femme (ou Trouvez le Valet) by Barry Rigal

My favorite defensive/declarer play problem presented itself in Round 10 of the Open and Women's qualifying. It was especially pleasant to discover that (inter alios) two women had proved themselves far more adept on defence than their male counterparts on whom we were focussing on Vugraph. Let's say you find yourself as declarer in three notrump from the North seat.

♠ A 10
♥ J
♦ K Q J 9 8 4 3
♣ 10 8 5

♠ K Q 7
♥ A K 10 8 4 3
♦ 5
♣ K 4 2

After an auction where your side has bid only the red suits, you receive the lead of the spade eight (second and fourth) you put up the queen and play on diamonds. West wins and shifts smoothly to the club queen. Should you cover or duck? Faites vos jeux mesdames et messieurs.

The Irish declarer ducked, and a club was continued. The Austrian declarer covered with the king, and this lost to the ace. Back came a low club and declarer was faced with her second guess. She put in the eight, and this was the full layout:

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Some commentators believed that after the shift to the club queen declarer should cover (this loses by force only when East has eschewed a lead from the queen-jack-nine). When a club comes back declarer should perhaps employ a form of restricted choice - though it may be applicable only against top-class defenders. Playing the eight wins against an original holding of queen-jack-seven, but loses to honour-nine-seven - whether that honour is the jack or queen. So the ten is the winning play both in theory and practice.

Nevena Senior of England and Jet Pasman of The Netherlands were the adept defenders.

Les Ennemis Héritaires - Women's Round 12 France v. England by John Carruthers

Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

France and England have been friends and enemies not merely for decades or centuries, but for millennia. It seems that every European war has them fighting

each other or united against a common foe. Indeed, they might well have become one nation on a number of occasions. However, although their bridge rivalry is not so storied, it is equally fierce. Their matches are always a pleasure to watch, especially in the Women's Teams, with so many recent former World Champions on both rosters. No one would be surprised to see either team hoist the Venice Cup next year in India.

West	North	East	South
Draper	Zochowska	Brown	Reess
Willard	Brock	Cronier	Smith
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
INT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Joanna Zochowska led the six of hearts against three notrump, second-best from poor suits. Draper ducked in dummy, Rees put in the eight and declarer won with her queen. Draper played four rounds of spades, winning the fourth in dummy as South discarded two clubs and a diamond, all nominally discouraging but essentially meaningless in this situation. Draper led a club to her queen and ran the ten of diamonds to Reess' jack. Rees got out with the ace and jack of clubs to declarer's king, North discarding the three of hearts.

Here was the end position:

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

The moment of truth had arrived. If North had the king of diamonds, a simple finesse would see declarer home. However, if that card lay with South, some throw-in was necessary. Draper stewed for a bit, then took the diamond finesse for plus 600.

At the other table, with not much desire for a shift, Brock tried the four of hearts in order to keep her options open on the second round of the suit. If it appeared that she wanted a heart continuation she could always follow up the line, and down the line if not. The sequence of plays and discarding was almost exactly as it had been in the other room and Willard arrived at the same four-card end position as had Draper, the only difference being that North had the three of hearts instead of the four.

At this table, North could have had either or both of the ace and jack of hearts since South had merely peeped one club in third chair. South might have started

with, for example, ♠7 ♥J83 ♦KJ72 ♣AJ854. If that were the case, in the four card end-position, declarer could avoid the heart guess by playing the ace and another diamond, making a heart trick in the end regardless of the position of the heart honours. So that's what she did, losing the diamond queen to Brock's king and the last two tricks to Smith's ace-jack of hearts. Well done to Brock for leading the four of hearts instead of the more-revealing six. Now that was subtle! Sympathies to Willard.

The last board of this match was a bidding test.

Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Draper	Zochowska	Brown	Reess
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT ¹
Pass	5♣ ²	Pass	7♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. RKCB			
2. 0 or 3 key cards			

West	North	East	South
Willard	Brock	Cronier	Smith
Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass	1♦ ²
Pass	INT ³	Pass	2♦ ⁴
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT ⁵
Pass	5♣ ⁶	Pass	7♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 2+ clubs: (i.) 12-14/18-19 balanced HCP (ii.) natural, less than a game force (iii.) precisely 4=4=4=1 with 11-15 HCP
2. Hearts
3. FIR (usually 18-19 balanced HCP)
4. GF relay
5. RKCB
6. 0 or 3 key cards

Both pairs passed the test with flying colours. True, seven notrump has 13 top tricks, but it was safety first - a diamond ruff in the dummy might have been necessary for the thirteenth trick.

The match was very well played and the three double-digit swings could easily have all gone the other way

for an England win by 10 IMPs instead of the actual French win by 10, 33-23. The match result dropped England to third place and France to sixth, both still inside the cut line for Chennai.

The final rankings:

RANK	TEAM	VP
1	Netherlands	298.45
2	England	296.74
3	France	294.24
4	Italy	293.43
5	Poland	272.20
6	Denmark	266.18
7	Turkey	259.54
8	Romania	258.56
9	Sweden	250.41
10	Russia	242.96
11	Germany	240.99
12	Israel	235.34

The other 11 teams were, at the least, almost a further match behind.

THE SENIOR TEAMS

**John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON
Marek Wójcicki, Przemysł, Poland
Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK**

A record 26 teams entered the European Senior Team Championship. They would play a four-day, 12-round Swiss qualifying event of 16-board matches. After that, the top 10 teams would play Phase II, a round robin, with carryover based on their finishing position in the Swiss, 2.25 VP per place higher than tenth. That is, the tenth-place team would receive 0 VP carryover, the ninth place team 2.25 VP, and so on, up to first place, with 20.25 VP carryover.

Seniors Round I Poland v. Norway by John Carruthers

Poland is a factor in every championship in which it plays, from Schools, though Open and up to Seniors and everything in between. Here, their usual and now-familiar Senior team met the not-as-familiar Norwegians.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
R.Mæsel	Kowalski	H.Mæsel	Romanski
Lasocki	Anderssen	Russyan	Marstrander
—	INT	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Transfer to hearts

Straight away, Apolinary Kowalski and Rune Anderssen demonstrated impeccable technique ...

Helge Mæsel led the ten of clubs to Roald Mæsel's king. West shifted to the five of spades and Kowalski did well to insert the nine, forcing the king. East played another club to West's ace and West played the jack of spades to declarer's ace. Declarer drew trumps and took the high diamonds, then finished hearts. He'd have made four hearts any time spades had been 3-3 or West, with spade length, had also held both the queen and jack of diamonds or any five diamonds. Plus 420 for Poland.

The play started similarly in the Closed Room, with the nine of clubs to the king and a shift to the five of spades. Jerzy Russyan continued with spades after winning the nine of spades with his king, however, and Krzysztof Lasocki's ten was won by Rune Anderssen's ace. Anderssen drew trumps and tested the spades. When they proved to be 3-3, he had a discard for one of his losers. Had spades been 4-2, Anderssen would have taken the remaining hearts and tried to squeeze West among spades, diamonds and the known club ace - as at the other table, East could not have had four spades. It was plus 420 and a pushed board.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
R.Mæsel	Kowalski	H.Mæsel	Romanski
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	2♥ ²
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 5+♣, natural
2. 5+♥, natural but non-forcing

The Poles stole the pot with their natural, limited two-club opening. The defence took their four winners to

hold Kowalski to nine tricks, plus 110 North/South, but were rather dismayed to discover that they could have made four spades with no diamond ruff available to the defence against that contract. Perhaps West might have considered balancing when three clubs came back to him, but that action was certainly not without danger.

However, at the other table ...

West	North	East	South
Lasocki	Anderssen	Russyan	Marstrander
Pass	3NT ¹	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Running suit, no outside A or K

Did I say the Poles stole the pot? I take it back. Against Anderssen's Gambling Three Notrump, Russyan made the classical lead of the ace of spades, saw the king in dummy and shifted to the ace and another heart to Lasocki's king. Declarer had the rest for a magnificent plus 630. Whatever the positional deficiencies of the Gambling Three Notrump, there can be no doubting its effectiveness as a preemptive tool.

Norway was on the board with an 11-IMP gain, the first swing of the match. One imagines the comparison thusly:

"Sorry - we let them play three clubs when we were cold for four spades. Minus 110."

"Win 11."

Had East chosen the ace of hearts as his 'classical' lead, the sight of dummy and a discouraging noise from West would have allowed the killing diamond switch. The records showed only one player had led the ace of hearts against three notrump. That was Mihaly Kovacs of Hungary, partnering Miklos Dumbovich. A diamond switch led to one off and 12 IMPs to Hungary against Romania.

Lead Of The Day or Play Of The Day? by Marek Wójcicki

You are sitting North, at love all, with this powerhouse:

♠ 9
♥ 10 6 5 4 2
♦ K 5
♣ 10 8 6 5 3

You see the following bidding:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣ ¹	Pass	5♦ ²	Pass
6♥ ³	Pass	7♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. One key card
2. Queen of trumps ask
3. Queen of spades and heart king

What is your lead?

Look at the board from the declarer's (West's) point of view:

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

What is your line of play?

It looks as if, with trumps 3-2, you always make the contract with clubs 4-3. You put up the ace, cash two top trumps - North shows out to the second. What now? You cannot ruff clubs twice as you will not be able to get back to hand to cash the heart king ... so, you overtake the heart queen with the king, run all the remaining trumps and finesse the club queen ...

Here is the complete deal:

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Oops - three down.

In the Round 8 Seniors match between Poland and Sweden, both declarers faced the same problem (extraordinarily, both Apek Kowalski and Björn Wennerberg led a low diamond). Sven-Åke Bjerregård went down, while Krzysztof Lasocki, well-known for his intuition and table presence, made the contract. He took the ace of diamonds, cashed two trumps, and continued with the ace and a low club ...

Seniors Final Round 1 Poland v. Norway by Brian Senior

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
R.Mæsel	Kowalski	H.Mæsel	Romanski
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	2♦	3♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
Pass	7♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
Lasocki	Anderssen	Russyan	Marstrander
—	—	Pass	1♣
3♦	3♠	5♦	6♣
Pass	7♣	7♦	Pass
Pass	7♥	Pass	7♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Norway and Poland were the top two teams in the qualifying Swiss, so when they were drawn to meet in the first round of the Senior final, this was the natural choice to watch. Board 1 was a peaceful game but the second deal was anything but peaceful.

Jacek Romanski's one-club opening was Polish - a weak no trump, 15+ natural, or any 18+. When Roald Mæsel passed as West, Apolinary Kowalski could make a natural and positive response of one spade and now Helge Mæsel overcalled in her chunky five-card diamond suit. Three clubs showed the natural version of the one-club opening and Roald's tactical pass, trying not to tip off his opponents to the East/West diamond fit, left room for Apolinary Kowalski to use Exclusion Key Card Blackwood, the six-club response showing two key cards, not including the diamond ace, plus the club queen. When Kowalski raised to seven, West did not take the favourable vulnerability sacrifice, sticking to his original plan. There was nothing to the play of seven clubs and Romanski soon chalked up plus 2140.

Things were rather different in the other room. Peter Marstrander's one-club opening was either natural or a (semi-)balanced 11-14. Krzysztof Lasocki made the very aggressive pre-empt of three diamonds and forced Rune Anderssen to start describing his hand at the three level. When Jerzy Russyan took away another chunk of bidding room from his opponents, Marstrander judged to bid six clubs and Anderssen had plenty to raise to seven. Now the fun really started. Russyan trusted his opponents to know what they were doing, so saved in seven diamonds, which would have cost only 1100, and Marstrander made a forcing pass. Anderssen was happy to bid on rather than accept what would surely be an inadequate penalty, so introduced his second suit, and Marstrander gave preference to spades. Lasocki doubled that, Lightner, and it was not difficult for Russyan to work out that his partner was looking for a club ruff. The club lead duly meant a quick one off for minus 200 and a huge 20 IMPs to Poland.

The English Seniors suffered a similar fate against Ireland. Gunnar Hallberg and John Holland bid accurately to seven clubs whereupon Nick Fitzgibbon sacrificed in seven diamonds. The same seven-heart bid was converted to seven spades and beaten on a club ruff after the Lightner Double. Ireland rested in six clubs at the other table to win 17 IMPs.

Seniors Final Round I Poland v. Norway by John Carruthers

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
R Mæsel	Kowalski	H Mæsel	Romanski
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	3♦	Double	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Kowalski's third-chair three diamonds was rather on the conservative side since a couple of aces opposite could have put him on a trump finesse for game. Nevertheless, he jockeyed the Mæsels into the vastly-inferior four-spade game. Kowalski led the ace of diamonds, collecting the six, three and two. He shifted to the king of clubs, receiving the nine from Romanski. Since they play upside-down count and attitude, Romanski intended his nine to reveal an odd number. Since the number of clubs South held was irrelevant to North, Kowalski believed partner had given him attitude, discouraging. Since South could have had a singleton diamond, Kowalski continued with the diamond four. Declarer was able to manage the 4-1 trump split easily enough and scored plus 620.

Had Romanski played the three of clubs at trick two, Kowalski would have undoubtedly continued the suit. Declarer would have had to ruff in dummy. If declarer then plays the ace of spades, he must discontinue the suit and eliminate South's red cards, discarding a heart from hand on the king of diamonds, then lead winning hearts through South. South must ruff in to stop all the clubs being discarded, so declarer overruffs in hand and ruffs a club in dummy, then repeats the process to neutralize South's trumps.

Should declarer play the queen of spades at trick four instead of the ace, South ducks it and ducks again if the jack is continued. Then declarer eliminates South's red suits and rams hearts through him to restrict his trump losers to one. Would Mæsel have found the winning play?

The bidding at the other table was even more extraordinary:

West	North	East	South
Lasocki	Anderssen	Russyan	Marstrander
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	3♦	Double	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Russyan was having none of the raise to four spades. They play that after a pass by partner, a takeout double promises at least two of the other suits, so four hearts could not have been a one-suited hand. Could Lasocki have bid a pass-or-correct four spades without heart support, just in case he was facing the actual hand? In practice, four hearts was easy and the board was flat.

Anyone for a three-heart overcall?

The final standings:

RANK	TEAM	VP	CARRYOVER
1	England	132.41	9.00
2	Sweden	119.80	2.25
3	Poland	114.75	18.00
4	Austria	104.40	6.75
5	Norway	101.51	20.25
6	Bulgaria	95.86	0.00
7	Ireland	94.65	13.50
8	Belgium	87.60	15.75
9	Hungary	79.34	11.25
10	Denmark	70.93	4.50



www.ibpa.com

IBPA President's Report from Croatia

We welcomed two new members at the European Championships in Opatija: Miroslaw Cichocki of Poland as a Full member, and Anne Gladiator of Germany as an Associate Member. Marek Malysa of Poland rejoined as a Full Member. At least ten late-payers for 2014 took the chance to settle their outstanding subs.

The Press Room, managed efficiently as usual by Jan Swaan, was busy. Twenty members went on a thoroughly-enjoyable Press Trip (see photo on our Facebook page). Unfortunately your President could not attend as he was playing in the Open Teams Championship.

A similar number of members attended the Press Conference. The first question was about the Butler rankings, followed by questions about sexist captions to the EBL videos and the absence of drug-testing at the championships. A wit in the Press room suggested a headline for any of the racier newspapers reporting the Conference: "Sex, Drugs and the Butler".

Six members of your Executive were in Croatia and five attended an Executive Meeting, including the President, one Vice-President, Chairman and Secretary.

The venue was delightful, and is expected to feature again in the bridge calendar.

Patrick Jourdain, IBPA President



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Whenever your contact details change, please amend them as appropriate in the database found at: www.jannersten.org or inform the Membership Secretary, Jeremy Dhondy: jdhondy@gmail.com

NEWS & VIEWS



Jon Sveindal and Anna Maria Torlontano

We all wish long-time bridge columnist, international player and IBPA member Jon Sveindal a speedy recovery from current health issues and IBPA member and WBF Women's Chairman Anna Maria Torlontano the same from a fall in which she broke a couple of ribs. Best wishes to you both - our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Budapest 2016

During the European Championships, representatives from Hungary made a presentation to the EBL Executive regarding their candidacy for the 2016 European Team Championships. There are two possible venues and later this year a delegation from the EBL will carry out a formal inspection. If all goes according to plan, it is anticipated that a contract will be signed during the 2014 Champions Cup later this year.

HUM



Herman DeWael was in Opatija as a tourist. He noticed in his travel guide travel guide that there is a town called Hum not far from the venue (apparently, at just 12 inhabitants, the smallest town in the world). Sad at the prospect of witnessing a European Championship without any Highly Unusual Methods, he decided to drive there. It turned out to be more of an odyssey than a pilgrimage, as his GPS had him turn off twice onto dead-end roads. Just when he had decided to give up, a new sign turned up. Two hours after the initial start of his search, he made it to Hum. It was 20 houses in size, so perhaps more than 12 inhabitants.

In Opatija, We Were Wondering ...

Bill Pencharz: "Everyone asks me where Marianna is."
Anna Gudge: "Everyone asks me where Mark is."
Brian Senior: "Nobody talks to me."



Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence. Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Buffett Cup Demise?

Dear All,

It is with great regret that I have to announce that the Buffett Cup is unlikely to take place in 2014. Here is the history ...

In June last year, Monaco offered to stage the event. They only made two conditions. First, we find a suitable date and second, that the USA would field a strong team. I contacted George Jacobs and he informed me that the USBF had taken over from Bob Hamman and in a follow-up email in October that Jill Levin and Warren Spector had been appointed co-chairs.

After several emails, we were able to satisfy Monaco's first request and found a suitable date in November of this year. It took a few months for the USA to name their team but Monaco and I were more than satisfied with the team they proposed and, as promised, Monaco started to go ahead with the preparations.

On April 12, I received an email from Jill Levin stating that some members of the USBF did not approve the team proposed and had decided that they would not provide the airfares for their players. This of course left a hole in the budget at a relatively late date.

I approached a company to not only make up the difference but who were interested in filming the event for television. Sadly, the company came back to me today to say that at this moment they are not prepared to finance it.

Let me say that Monaco, under their president Jean-Charles Allavena and with Pierre Zimmerman, have supported me all the way, as have Jill Levin and Warren Spector and it is a great pity that all the work they have put in has not come to fruition. I am extremely grateful to them.

I would also like to thank all the players who had accepted to play. Both teams had great stars and it saddens me that the bridge playing world will be unable to watch on BBO what looked as if it was going to be a great show.

I would also like to thank Jonathan Davis, who ran the website on my behalf. It was me who asked him to put the last notice on the site as I had great hopes at the time that I might be able to save the day.

Paul Hackett, Manchester, UK

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2014			
Jul 12-19	12 th European Youth Pairs & Camp	Burghausen, Germany	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 12-24	2014 ANC	Sydney, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jul 17-27	Summer NABC	Las Vegas, NV	www.acbl.org
Jul 25-Aug 3	20 th Swedish Bridgefestival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se/festival
Jul 26-31	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se/festival
Jul 30-Aug 3	Hong Kong Inter-City	Hong Kong, China	www.hkcba.org
Aug 1-9	Norwegian Bridge Festival	Fredrikstad, Norway	www.bridge.no
Aug 8-17	Summer Meeting	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 13-17	Coffs Gold Coast Congress	Coffs Harbour, Qld., Australia	www.coffsbridge.com.au
Aug 13-17	Riga Invites to Jurmala	Jurmala, Latvia	www.rigainvites.lv
Aug 13-23	15 th World Youth Championships	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 16-24	64 th International Bridge Festival	La Baule, France	www.bridge-club-labaule.fr
Aug 18/20	WBF Simultaneous Pairs	Online	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 22-24	Festival de la Côte Basque	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Aug 23-31	Festival du Soleil la Grande Motte	La Grande Motte, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Aug 24-31	Greek Islands Bridge Festival	Rhodes, Greece	www.bridgefestival.gr
Aug 27-31	Territory Gold Bridge Festival	Darwin, NT, Australia	www.ntba.com.au/tgbf14.html
Aug 29-31	11 th Kepri Governor's Cup	Batam, Riau Islands, Indonesia	www.kepricup.com
Sep 1-5	Cavendish Invitational Teams & Pairs	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.cavendishmonaco.com
Sep 5-7	International Teams Tournament	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.federation-bridge.mc
Sep 5-7	Isle of Man Congress	Douglas, Isle of Man	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 6-17	53 rd International Bridge Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.pulabridgefestival.com
Sep 8-13	4 th Commonwealth Bridge Championship	Glasgow, Scotland	www.commonwealthbridge-scotland.com
Sep 12-21	Confiance Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 19-21	Grand Prix de Madrid	Madrid, Spain	www.grandprixdemadrid.com
Sep 19-28	XII International Festival	Havana/Varadero, Cuba	www.festivalbridgecuba.com
Sep 27-Oct 4	31 st NZ National Congress	Hamilton, New Zealand	www.nzcb.co.nz
Sep 30-Oct 3	7 th Small Federations Championship	Jurmala, Latvia	www.eurobridge.org
Oct 10-25			
15th World Bridge Series			
Oct 24-26	12 th Sergije Poklepovic Memorial	Opatija, Croatia	www.crobridge.com
Nov 1-7	FISU World University Championships	Opatija, Croatia	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 6-8	Marbella International	Marbella, Spain	www.marbellabridge.com
Nov 10-16	Women's Bridge Festival	Online	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 13-16	13 th European Champions Cup	Milan, Italy	www.eurobridge.org
Nov 13-23	20 th Red Sea Festival	Eilat, Israel	www.bridgeredsea.com
Nov 17-20	Buffett Cup V	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.buffetcup.com
Nov 26-30	36 th ASEAN Club Championships	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	www.mcba.org.my
Nov 27-Dec 7	Fall NABC	Providence, RI	www.acbl.org
2015			
Jan 13-25	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 15-18	Copenhagen Bridge Invitational	Copenhagen, Denmark	www.bridge.dk
Jan 16-18	RadissonBlu IMP Pairs	Copenhagen, Denmark	www.bridge.dk
Jan 24-30	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Feb 20-26	49 th International Bridge Festival	Tel-Aviv, Israel	www.ibf-festival.org
Feb 21-28	Gold Coast Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	www.qldbridge.com
Mar 12-22	ACBL Spring NABC	New Orleans, LA	www.acbl.org
Mar 31-Apr 1	120 th Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Apr 1-7	APBF Youth Teams Championships	Bangkok, Thailand	www.thailandbridgeleague.com
May 15-23	28 th CACBF Zonal Championships	Christ Church, Barbados, W.I.	www.cacbf.com
May 21-31	50 th Asia Pacific BF Championships	Bangkok, Thailand	www.thailandbridgeleague.com
Jun 27-Jul 11	7 th Open European Championships	Tromsø, Norway	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 17-25	European Youth Team Championships	Tromsø, Norway	www.eurobridge.org
Aug 6-16	ACBL Summer NABC	Chicago, IL	www.acbl.org
Sep 26-Oct 10 World Team Championships			
Nov 26-Dec 5	ACBL Fall NABC	Chennai, India	www.bfi.net.in
		Denver, CO	www.acbl.org