



# 1<sup>ST</sup> EUROPEAN WINTER TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Alpe d'Huez, France • 15 - 21 April, 2024

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## Let the Games Begin!



We are all set for the 1st European Winter Transnational Championships here in Alpes d'Huez which has attracted players from far and wide. You will be rubbing shoulders with champions from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand, China, India, Korea and the United States of America, as well as the pride of Europe.

The French journalist Jean-Paul Vespini's *The Tour* is won on the Alpe describes the role of the Alpe in *The Tour de France*. Given that this event is part of the WBF's World Bridge Tour it will be interesting to see where the winners finish at the end of this year's tour, given that the rider who wins the Alpes d'Huez stage invariably wins the *Tour de France*.

**Today (Monday 15th) Registration is open from 9.00 am to 9.55 am.**

**BBO matches today: BBO1:**

**Zimmerman vs Vicuna**

**BBO2: Bici vs Young Oldies**



LESETINCELLES  
COLLECTION

# Welcome Message from the EBL President



Dear Friends,  
on behalf of the EBL, I am pleased to embark on a new Bridge adventure with you - the 1<sup>st</sup> European Winter Transnational Championships. This first edition is being held in the beautiful Alps where you can enjoy Bridge and Skiing.  
The European Bridge League would like to sincerely thank Pierre Zimmermann for his continuous contribution in organising this Winter Bridge event and also Les Etincelles Hotel group for their support with accommodation.  
This year, you will compete to win the Winter Transnational Championship and the BAM “Les Etincelles Trophy” in a fair play atmosphere up to the usual ethical standards of EBL.  
I wish you a successful championship and hope you will enjoy your stay in Alpe d’Huez.

*Eric Laurant  
EBL President*

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# Welcome Message from Pierre Zimmermann



My friends, welcome to L’Alpe d’Huez in Isère, in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, a mountain pasture in the central French Western Alps.  
Alpe d’Huez is known internationally as an iconic cycling venue, as it is used regularly in the Tour de France cycle race, including twice on the same day in 2013.  
The site of the Alpe has been permanently occupied since the Middle Ages. East of L’Alpe veti, a medieval agglomeration had grown from the end of the 11th to the 14th century under the name of Brandes. It was composed of a castle, a parish church with a cemetery, a village with about 80 homes, surface and underground mine workings, as well as several industrial districts. Its occupants operated a silver mine on behalf of the Dauphin. It is currently the only medieval urban plan known and preserved in its entirety, making it a unique site in Europe and classified as historical monuments. The massif was also the subject of mining operations, including copper, from the Bronze Age.

Now that you are here for high-altitude Bridge, perhaps you will consider returning to L’Alpe d’Huez at some time in the future to experience the wonderful skiing and of course, the history of the area.  
I would like to thank our sponsor Les Etincelles Hotel Group for their generosity.  
I hope you will spend a wonderful week in L’Alpe d’Huez.

*Pierre Zimmermann*

# Participating Countries



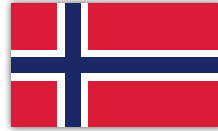
**Australia**



**France**



**Israel**



**Norway**



**Sweden**



**China**



**Germany**



**Italy**



**Poland**



**Switzerland**



**Croatia**



**Greece**



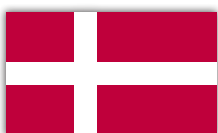
**Korea**



**Portugal**



**Turkiye**



**Denmark**



**Guadeloupe**



**Lithuania**



**Scotland**



**U.S.A.**



**England**



**Hong Kong China**



**Netherlands**



**Singapore**



**Wales**



**Finland**



**India**



**New Zealand**



**Spain**

# Players' contacts on site



**Championship Chairman**

**Eric Laurant**



**Operations Director**

**Maurizio Di Sacco**



**Head Tournament Director**

**Dimitris Ballas**



**Hospitality desk**

**Catherine Vitry**



**Scoring**

**Fotis Skoularikis**



**Daily Bulletin**

**Mark Horton**

# Master Point Awards

EMPs will be awarded according to the following scale:

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>100</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>

To qualify for EMP awards a player must have played at least half of the boards in the Round-Robin stage and at least half of the boards in each of KO-match won by their team.

# Schedule

## EWTC Schedule

The competition will commence on Monday, April 15th, at 10:00 AM. Over the initial three days, participants will engage in 12 rounds of the **Swiss system**, each round consisting of 12 boards.

The daily schedule is as follows:

<b>Match 1:</b>	10:00 AM - 11:45 AM
<b>Match 2:</b>	12:00 PM - 1:45 PM
<i>Lunch Break</i>	
<b>Match 3:</b>	2:45 PM - 4:30 PM
<b>Match 4:</b>	4:45 PM - 6:30 PM

The top 16 teams will progress to the playoffs.

All playoff matches will comprise 56 boards, divided into four segments of 14 boards each.

The daily schedule for the **Playoffs** (excluding the final day) is:

<b>Segment 1:</b>	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
<b>Segment 2:</b>	12:15 PM - 2:15 PM
<i>Lunch Break</i>	
<b>Segment 3:</b>	3:15 PM - 5:15 PM
<b>Segment 4:</b>	5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

The **final day** (Sunday, April 21st) will have a modified schedule to accommodate the prize-giving ceremony at 6:15 PM:

<b>Segment 1:</b>	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
<b>Segment 2:</b>	11:15 AM - 1:15 PM
<i>Lunch Break</i>	
<b>Segment 3:</b>	1:45 PM - 3:45 PM
<b>Segment 4:</b>	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
<b>Prize Giving:</b>	<b>6:15 PM</b>

## Les Etincelles BAM Trophy

The competition will begin on Thursday, April 18th, at 10:00 AM.

The specific format will be determined based on the number of entries and announced prior to the event.

Reminder: Teams not participating in the EWTC are eligible to enter the BAM Trophy.

**The final day of the BAM Trophy (Sunday, April 21st) is set to conclude at 4:15 PM, followed by the prize-giving ceremony at 4:30 PM.**

# Notes for Players

These notes are for the convenience of players and captains. They do not substitute for the obligation to know and follow the Conditions, Regulations and Policies of the EBL covering this event.

## GENERAL

- Smoking is prohibited anywhere at the venue, including toilets and premises. It is also prohibited near the entrances (exits). Specific signs designate the smoking areas.
- Mobile phones and electronic devices capable of communication must be switched off in the playing area and be visible at the table at all times, i.e. they may not be brought to the toilets. Random checks will be made.
- All participants must visibly wear their official identification badge when at the venue.
- Players are requested to be seated 5 minutes before the scheduled start of play. Any team or pair that is not seated and ready to play at the start of a period of play will be subject to VP penalties.
- At the table, whether play is actually taking place at the moment or not, players (and NPCs) may converse only in English unless both pairs (and/or captains) agree to use some other common language at their own risk. TD adjudication will be in English only.
- During the period of play players should avoid discussions or arguments with partner or opponents. In case of a dispute a player's proper recourse is to a TD (or to the Captain of the team).
- Line-up procedure: during the swiss the team playing North-South in the Open Room gets seating rights. In the KO the scoring system will assign seating rights randomly: see the CoCo for further details.

## BIDDING, ALERTS and EXPLANATIONS

- Calls will be made by selecting the appropriate keys on the tablet.
- Requests for explanations of calls and play, and the responses thereto, shall be made either through tablets or in writing.

## DURING AND AFTER PLAY

- The opening lead must be made before the screen aperture is opened and only Declarer or Dummy may open the aperture or call for it to be opened.
- Each card should be played towards partner in a consistent manner and placed on the table in the same position each time. Once played, the player should not vary the orientation of the card.
- Quitted tricks should be placed consistently in a neat row in front of the player, evenly overlapping and at an equal distance from the previous card.
- If a player finds an opponent not following any of these rules, even after a warning, the proper recourse is to call a TD.
- If a pair should claim that the responsibility for the slow play is with their opponents, they will do so by calling a TD. TDs are authorized to remove boards when play has not finished in the allotted time or when slow play may lead to play not being finished in time. Law 86B will apply to cancelled boards.
- If a player on the side of the screen receiving the tray considers there has been a break in tempo and consequently there may be unauthorised information he should call a TD. He may do so at any time during the auction, or after play is concluded (NOT during play).
- Declarer enters the score on the tablet and both defenders confirm the score. After confirming the score
  - ◇ On the last board played players should leave the playing room as quickly and quietly as possible
  - ◇ Players are strictly forbidden to watch play at any table.
- In respect of scores the protest time for all matches in the Round Robin ends 30 minutes after the end of the penultimate match, and in the Knockout stage 15 minutes after the end of the match.
- The time for a request for a TD ruling, or a review of a ruling already received, ends 30 minutes after the end of the match.

# Instructions for Filling in the System Card

Dear Participant,

All players must have a filled out EBL or WBF Systems (Convention) Card available at all events.

Put the player names (and team name if necessary) both on the front and back of the card and also on the Supplementary Sheets.

In filling out the Cards you should follow the instructions in the Guide to Completion of the WBF System Card (<http://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/systems/>), as well as Section 7 of the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

You are expected to inform opponents as fully as possible of your methods. Your own “standard” or “normal” may not be theirs.

**In particular pay special attention to the following items. Non-compliance with these may render a card not suitable and liable for a fine, and require a WBF standard Card to be used instead.**

You may, if necessary, refer to Supplementary sheets.

- DO NOT USE “weak”, “preemptive”, “destructive” etc.  
Instead state (at least approximately) the HCP range for openings, overcalls and responses. If this depends on position and/or vulnerability, tell how.
- Describe responses to all openings and overcalls (such as new suit, jump new, cue, jump cue. Just “Relay” or “Enquiry” is not sufficient.
- Be specific about how you use transfers and “switch” agreements with or without competition.  
With what does opener accept a transfer after 1♣ - 1♦?  
Does a transfer after 1X – (1Y) - D promise suit or may it be values with later support?  
Which bids are transfer? Do they include NT or cue bids?
- After opponents 1NT: Is your defence different against weak NT? Specify what “weak” is to you.
- AVOID USING NAMES.  
If you use a name there may be more than one meaning. Explain your meaning. If space is needed refer to a numbered note in the Supplementary sheets.  
For example:  
Don’t use “Smith”, “modified Smith”, reverse “Smith”. Instead use “Smith, LOW enc by both”.  
“Gazzilli”; explain your way, also continuation by opener and responder.  
Other names needing clarification include Cappelletti, Drury, Ghestem, Hamilton, Kaplan, Kokish, Lebensohl, Muiderberg, Niemeyer, Rosenkranz, Truscott, Turbo, Wilklosz, Woolsey.
- Any item on the Card that is clarified in the supplementary sheets must have a reference to a numbered note.

# Alpine Adventures

**Mark Horton**

The last edition of The Winter Games (forerunner of these 1st European Winter Transnational Championships) took place in Tignes last year. Here are some of the deals that were mentioned in dispatches:

## Misclaim this Hand with Geir

Martin Cantor reported this deal from Round 3:

I've sometimes made false claims and will no doubt sometimes do so again in the future. I don't recall ever having one accepted, but I suppose I wouldn't have noticed. I certainly don't expect to see a world champion make a false claim, and for the other world class stars at the table to accept it. Watch in amazement.

Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ K J 9 7 5 4 ♥ 7 6 ♦ 9 ♣ K Q J 2	N W E S	♠ — ♥ K J 10 9 8 2 ♦ J 8 4 3 ♣ 10 7 4	♠ A 10 8 6 3 ♥ A Q 5 3 ♦ Q 2 ♣ 9 5
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West	North	East	South
Zia	King	Helgemo	Bell
1♠	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	3♥	Dble
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

This is not an easy deal. From Zia's choice of opening bid - 1♠ or 2♠ - through the rest of the auction. And so to the final contract. An opening club lead puts the defence in control, but Helgemo quite reasonably led the ♥J, which gives declarer a chance. King correctly, and unsurprisingly, finessed, and after thought did the next right thing by leading a club, declarer ducking West's jack. Zia returned a diamond. King was still on the right track when he won this with dummy's queen, played a club to the ace and ruffed

a club. Still right, he ruffed a small heart and cashed the ♦A, he and Zia discarding spades, to leave this position with declarer in North on lead.

♠ Q 2 ♥ — ♦ K 10 6 ♣ 8	N W E S	♠ — ♥ K 10 9 8 ♦ J 8 ♣ —	♠ A 10 8 6 ♥ A 5 ♦ — ♣ —
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At this point Helgemo claimed down 1, King accepted, entered the score into the Bridgmate and everyone moved on to the next deal. Except for us commentators, and the kibitzers, who had access to GIB's superhuman powers, telling us the contract could be made. It took us, with that information and sight of all the cards, some time to work out how, so no wonder that even these great players couldn't do so at the table.

This is the winning line. Cash the other top trump, and exit a small one to East's jack, discarding spades. He has only hearts left, so you win the ace and throw a spade from hand, to leave this

♠ Q ♥ — ♦ 10 ♣ 8	N W E S	♠ — ♥ K 10 9 ♦ — ♣ —	♠ K J ♥ — ♦ — ♣ K
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And now the ♥5 squeezes West in the black suits. 3NT in the other room proved less challenging, if not altogether straightforward, so that was 12 IMPs to Wigoder. I have



no doubt that the players will all be aware by now that the contract was makeable at that point, and equally no doubt will all be mortified, none more so than Geir. Pace Iain Macleod, bridge isn't always an easy game.

### Promotion Denied

This deal from the Round 8 match between Les Allumettes and AZS Wratlavia, reported by Cedric Margot, is of a type that does not usually attract attention. However, it contained a point that is easy to miss.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>J Patreuha</i>	<i>Margot</i>	<i>Patreuha</i>	<i>Sasselli</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	2♣
2♥	All Pass		

North led the ♦10 and declarer played low from dummy, won with the ace and cashed the ♥A disclosing the 5-0 split. His next move was to play a low heart towards dummy's ten, but North went in with the jack and now the defenders could cash their minor suit winners and organise a trump promotion for North, the ♥8 being promoted to glory.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F Stoeckli</i>	<i>Marcinowski</i>	<i>J Stoeckli</i>	<i>Golebiowski</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Dble	Pass	1♠	2♣
2♥	All Pass		

Here too North led the ♦10 and the first two tricks were identical. Seeing South discard on the first round of hearts declarer had the wit to play three rounds of spades, securing a trick for the ♥7. Then he could safely play a low heart towards the ten, as there was no longer a trump promotion.

### Another Last Board

Ron Tacchi was the off-site reporter.

A well-known bridge writer has written books with the title 'Last Board'. On the final deal of the last segment of the Swiss qualifying stage the following occurred. I expect it to be in his next to me.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Before I continue this disquisition, you are invited to try and decide what was the final contract with these distributional hands. The names have been withheld to protect the guilty.

Open Room

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

2♣ Majors

East's opening 1NT was a little off-centre but he knew he needed a swing. Two Clubs showed the majors, and on that point we cannot disagree. Two Spades was alerted (no explanation given) but of its exact meaning I am unsure. I suspect that East was hoping for some action from South and that later there would be muddied waters and his chicanery would be rewarded. Unfortunately, the plan came to nought when South also passed. This is the most extreme case of breaking Burns Law I personally have witnessed. It is also the first time I have seen declarer at trick four claim 'Down Six'. It could have been a good save against Four Spades (unusual hand said Oscar 'to sacrifice against Four Spades by playing in Two Spades'). Alas it was not to be. E/W made Five Diamonds at the other table – It could have been defeated on an early club lead or switch.

The good news is that the Burns Law contravention did not affect the outcome.

## Thank you Eddie!

Luis Lantaron found his way to the office to report a deal from the final stages of the BAM qualification. Before I show it to you I'll remind you of one of the most famous deals in the history of bridge, from the Bermuda Bowl Final in 1975. That was the one where Belladonna and Garozzo bid 7♣ with a trump suit of ♣AQ opposite ♣J98632 and Eddie Kantar had the misfortune to hold ♣K10 in front of the ♣AQ. The key point of the story is that when declarer played a club towards the AQ Eddie, in a state of shock, omitted to play the king, which might have defeated the slam. If you don't know the deal then take a look at The True Story of the King of Clubs by Eddie Kantar at: <http://www.clairebridge.com/>

Time to focus on our related deal:

Board 1. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

In the Closed Room EW had stopped in 4♥, scoring +620.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>D Moraru</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Teodorescu</i>	<i>Lantaron</i>
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	All Pass

South led the ♣Q and declarer won with the ace, played a spade to the ace and the ♥2. If North follows with the ten, declarer will win with the jack, cash the ♥A and have a simple route to 12 tricks.

However, Piotr Tuszynski (I had the pleasure of partnering him at a book launch in Warsaw for The Bridge Magicians) was not about to go quietly into the night. He played the ♥K and declarer won with the ace and played a second heart. Do you blame him

for putting in dummy's nine? North won with the ten and carefully returned a club for South to ruff. Now a diamond switch completed a tremendous defence.

Eddie would be proud!

## A small Gift

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♠	Pass	2♠
?			

When a colleague presented the West hand to me as a problem, I voted for an overcall in diamonds. When pressed for a number I tried the tactic famously adopted by the medical student when asked to identify a part of the human skeleton answered. 'It's a bone.' When the examiner asked for amplification, he replied 'I only want a pass, not a distinction.' Having opted for 5♦ I was then told what had happened at the table: West had overcalled 4♦ and when North passed East, thinking 4♦ was Leaping Michaels had bid 4♥. West passed and when North doubled he saw fit to pass once more, losing 1700. Naturally I am sworn to secrecy as to the identity of the players, but this was an occasion when the phrase Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes did not apply!

### Championship special

The new **dealing machines** used to duplicate the boards during these championships are sold for **€2650**. The offer is on so long as supply lasts, but no longer than April 21. Shipping from Sweden (afterwards) will be charged at cost. Email [anna@jannersten.com](mailto:anna@jannersten.com) to order.



## Little Fish can be Sweet

It is well known that David Bird is not a fan of 1NT contracts while commentating on BBO.

Perhaps I can get him to change his mind by showing you this deal from the third session of the quarterfinals:

Board 1. Dealer East. None Vul.

	♠ 6 5 4					
	♥ 5 4 3 2					
	♦ Q 2					
	♣ J 10 9 5					
♠ K 9 7 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W   E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W   E	S	♠ A 8	
N						
W   E						
S						
♥ Q 7		♥ A J 9 8 6				
♦ K J 8 5 4		♦ 10 7 6				
♣ Q 2		♣ 7 6 3				
	♠ Q J 10 3					
	♥ K 10					
	♦ A 9 3					
	♣ A K 8 4					

In the Closed Room Zia had opened 1NT and when East overcalled 2♥ he had doubled, Helgemo bidding 3♣ and managing to take nine tricks (probably the defenders started with three rounds of spades after which declarer is on easy street).

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Wigoder</i>	<i>Bessis</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

West led the ♦5 and when dummy's queen held declarer ran the ♣J, West winning with the queen and playing another diamond. Declarer won and cashed his clubs. What should West discard on the fourth round?

Declarer has shown up with the ♣AK and the ♦A, so cannot have the ♥AK. If West pitches a spade and a heart East can take the ♠A when dummy plays a low spade and return a diamond.

This will be the position when West cashes the last diamond:

	♠ 6 5					
	♥ 5 4					
	♦ —					
	♣ —					
♠ K 9	<table style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W   E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W   E	S	♠ 8	
N						
W   E						
S						
♥ Q		♥ A J 9				
♦ 8		♦ —				
♣ —		♣ —				
	♠ Q J					
	♥ K 10					
	♦ —					
	♣ —					

As you can see, declarer is squeezed in the majors for two down.

The last two teams standing were Orca and Multon, the latter edging the first session of the final 38-36. After that Orca always had the better of things and they went into last session leading 98-59.

Needing points Multon made an ideal start by bidding 4♥ with ♠63 ♥Q984 ♦KJ985 ♣A7 facing ♠A10854 ♥AK103 ♦1062 ♣Q. South led a trump and declarer could take three rounds and then play on diamonds for +420 and 7 IMPs when +140 was recorded in the Closed Room.

On the next deal NS in the Closed Room bid a thin game with ♠- ♥Q10973 ♦A97543 ♣A5 facing ♠K10876 ♥KJ ♦Q ♣KJ1076. After the sequence 1♥-1♠-2♦-3NT only an unlikely diamond lead from ♦106 would have put the defenders one step ahead. That recovered another 6 IMPs.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

	♠ A Q 5					
	♥ A 8 6 3					
	♦ A 6 5 3 2					
	♣ 2					
♠ K 8	<table style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W   E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W   E	S	♠ 10 7 4 2	
N						
W   E						
S						
♥ 2		♥ Q J 10 4				
♦ K Q 8		♦ J 10 9 7				
♣ A J 10 7 6 5 3		♣ 8				
	♠ J 9 6 3					
	♥ K 9 7 5					
	♦ 4					
	♣ K Q 9 4					

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Percario</i>	<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Donati</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	Dble	Pass	2♣
3♣	Dble	All Pass	

North led the ♣2 and declarer took South's queen with the ace and played back the jack, South winning as North pitched the ♦3. South switched to the ♠6 (why not a diamond?) and North took two tricks in the suit and then played the ♥6. South won and played a diamond, but a trick had got away and that was only two down, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Crouch</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Berg</i>	<i>Vroustis</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
3♣	Dble	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Terence Reese wrote that a preempt that was always weak was a blunt sword (he was referring to rubber bridge). Here West's 3♣ may have pushed NS to a contract they might not have reached under their own steam, although it was already clear they were pushing hard on every deal.

West led the ♦K and declarer won in dummy and played a club for the king and ace. He ruffed the diamond return, played a spade to the queen, took two top trumps ending in dummy, ruffed a diamond, went to dummy with a spade, played a spade to the

nine, cashed the ♠J and claimed, +620 and 8 IMPs. The lead was down to 18 IMPs.

On Board 21 EW had  
 ♠AQJ95 ♥K5 ♦AJ5 ♣K105 opposite  
 ♠1063 ♥AQ984 ♦92 ♣A92.

In the Closed Room East passed as dealer and the contract was 4♠. East opened in the other room and West showed considerable restraint by settling for the same contract. You may have guessed that the cards were disposed in such a way that 12 tricks were cast iron.

Perhaps inevitably, on the deal that followed EW bid a slam missing two aces (and a bit more) and Orca recouped 11 IMPs. The only crumb of comfort for Multon was that it took their opponent's total to 111 IMPs – for the superstitious a dangerous number.

An IMP turned 111 into 112 and when Orca immediately picked up 6 IMPs for making a doubled 5♦ with an overtrick the excitement was over.

The final score was 119-86.

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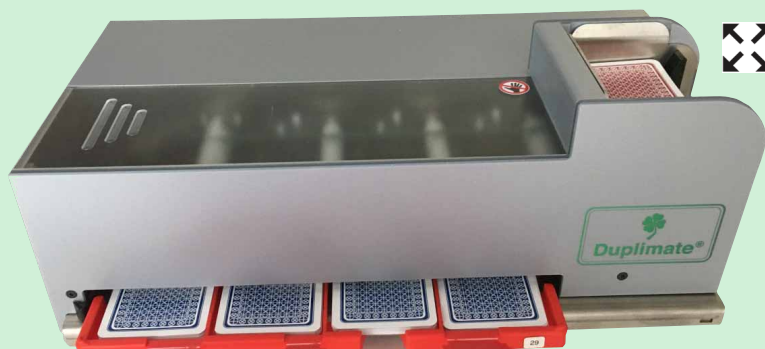
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7 – 9 June, 2024



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## 29<sup>th</sup> European Youth Team Championships

Wroclaw, Poland, 7 - 12 July 2024

## 8<sup>th</sup> World Youth Transnational Championships

Wroclaw, Poland, 13 - 18 July 2024



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