



EUROPEAN WINTER TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

— PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC · 10 - 19 FEBRUARY, 2026 —

Daily Bulletin N. 2

Wednesday, 11 February 2026

Eric Laurant Editor • Mark Horton Coordinator • Francesca Canali Head of Communication, Graphic Designer, Photographer • Arianna Testa Photographer
David Bird, David Burn, Amy Casanova, Marjo Chorus, Mark Horton, Jos Jacobs, Brian Senior, Marc Smith Journalists • Herman De wael Proofreader



A Midwinter Night's Dream

Ready, steady, go.

Seventy-nine teams are chasing A Midwinter Night's Dream: lifting the Zimmermann Cup.
After four rounds already in the books, eight more rounds of qualification remain. When the dust settles, only the top 32 will make it through to the **knockout stage**.

At this point, the leaderboard is topped by **Bridge Trainer** (65.57), followed by **Loiben** (61.60) and **Formidables** (60.00).

IN THIS BULLETIN YOU'LL FIND

- Notes & Masterpoint requirements
- One question, 6 champions
- Milan Macura: the man who counts (but only up to 13)
- Highlights from Rounds 1, 2, 3
- Results & Butler





USEFUL LINKS



EVENT'S WEBSITE



WHATSAPP CHANNEL



SCHEDULE



SYSTEM CARDS



PARTNERSHIP DESK



RESULTS



BROADCAST



CONTACT US

⚠️ VERY IMPORTANT: REGISTER NOW TO YOUR PLAN B!

To be eligible to drop in, teams or pairs **MUST register before the start of the event** they intend to drop into.

⚠️ DROP-IN CONDITIONS

If you missed them, please review the Drop-in Conditions carefully!
They were published in the first Daily Bulletin.

[BULLETIN 1](#)

⚠️ REMEMBER TO UPLOAD YOUR SYSTEM CARDS!

If you haven't done so yet, please upload your system card as soon as possible!

[UPLOAD](#)

⚠️ MASTER POINT REQUIREMENTS IN THE OPEN TEAMS

EBL Medals and Master Points will be awarded in accordance with the EBL Master Points scheme, provided that a player has played at least 5 out of 12 matches in the Swiss stage and at least 2 segments out of 4 in the last KO match won by their team (would the opponents withdraw before the end, for this purpose the segments will be considered as played). The relevant EMP scales are available on the EBL website.



3rd WBF Online WOMEN'S TEAMS

Online on RealBridge, 27 - 29 March, 2026



TRANSNATIONAL EVENT

OPEN TO PLAYERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD



UP TO 8 PLAYERS PER TEAM



FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE

TEAMS CHOOSE WHEN THEY CAN PLAY



NO TRAVEL OR ACCOMMODATION COSTS

PLAY ONLINE FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME



LOW ENTRY FEES



INFO & REGISTRATION: WWW.WORLDBRIDGE.ORG

! CAPTAINS MEETING

A captains' meeting to determine the draw will be held at 20.10 before the entrance of the Open Room. Here are the relevant parts of the Conditions of Contest:

32 teams qualify to the KO stage.

All matches will be played as a knockout match of 56 boards (played as four 14-board stanzas) with IMP scoring.

Round of 32 match opponents are determined as follows:

- ♠ 1st from the Swiss qualification chooses from the bottom 16 qualifiers. The two teams receive seeding number 1 and 32 respectively; then
- ♠ 2nd chooses from the remaining bottom 16 qualifiers.
The two teams receive seeding number 2 and 31 respectively; then
- ♠ 3rd chooses from the remaining bottom 16 qualifiers.
The two teams receive seeding number 3 and 30 respectively; then
- ♠ 4th chooses from the remaining bottom 16 qualifiers.
The two teams receive seeding number 4 and 29 respectively.
- ♠ 5th chooses from the remaining bottom 16 qualifiers.
The two teams receive seeding number 5 and 28 respectively; then
- ♠ 6th chooses from the remaining bottom 16 qualifiers.
The two teams receive seeding number 6 and 27 respectively; then
- ♠ 7th chooses from the remaining bottom 16 qualifiers.
The two teams receive seeding number 7 and 26 respectively; then
- ♠ 8th chooses from the remaining bottom 16 qualifiers.
The two teams receive seeding number 8 and 25 respectively.
- ♠ The remaining seeds nos. 9-24 are assigned in ascending order according to the original seeding made before the start (e.g. 9 vs 24, 10 vs 23 and so forth).

There will be no play-off for Bronze: both losers of the semifinals will be awarded the bronze medal and corresponding EBL masterpoints.

8. Carry Over

There will be no carry over to any knockout phase.

Seating rights**2.2. KO Stage**

The seating rights for each stanza will be automatically assigned by the scoring system, using a random draw. The following restrictions will apply:

- a) Each team will have seating rights in two stanzas.
- b) The four stanzas are divided in portions of two each: 1-2, 3-4; when a team is assigned seating rights in one stanza of the portion, the other automatically gets the other.
- c) If a team gets seating rights in stanza four, the other will get seating rights in stanza one.
- d) If a team gets seating rights in stanza one, the other will get seating rights in stanza four.

Tie-breaking

If there is a tie at the end of any knockout stage including the finals and play-off no extra session of boards will be played and the higher-ranked team at the end of the qualification will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists the team that won the qualification match – if any – will be declared the winner. If the direct match in the qualification were a draw or if there were no direct match in the qualification, then the team with the best Swiss point ratio will be declared the winner.

The line-up might be made from remote at this link: <http://lineup.eurobridge.org:8222>



If you could change one rule in bridge, what would it be?



ZACHARY GROSSACK

“ I would definitely let teams have as many people as they would like. Also I would be much more lax about convention cards. Such a hassle!



SABINE AUKEN

“ Trick 1. Can we PLEASE have a sensical rule that prevents people from being/ helps people not to be unethical at trick1! Equally important, let's make it universal, so that it is the same at all top-level tournaments with international participation.



JOE GRUE

“ Punish players that intentionally think and signal while defending during the hand. I would say more the 50% of the top pairs are guilty of this



JUSTYNA ZMUDA

“ Being allowed to sacrifice on the eighth level (being, as a consequence, down one from the start)



ZIA MAHMOOD

“ It would have penalties decided on equity, not law.



BOYE BROGELAND

“ We should have a universal trick one rule! I think a 10–15 seconds mandatory break before the first card is played/called for would help a lot.

INTERVIEW WITH MILAN MACURA

The Man Who Counts

...but only up to 13.

by Francesca Canali

When you are an **engineer** and dedicate your entire professional life to bridge, it's not that you chose bridge... **it's bridge that chose you**. And Milan Macura was the right choice: the kind of person who can truly make an impact on the future of the game.

A kind of modern-day Comenius (the Czech pedagogue who revolutionised education by insisting that practice must always come before theory), Milan has developed an **innovative vision of bridge teaching**, one that throws out the old manual and starts from what actually works.

But teaching is only one of the many chairs he sits on at once: **former President** and now **General Manager** of the Czech Bridge Federation, **professional player, coach**, and (for the second year, with at least four more to come) the **local organiser** of the **European Winter Transnational Championships**. We sat down with him at Prague's Top Hotel.



Tell us about your journey in bridge.

My grandfather taught me when I was 10. We played together for about five years, and then I started competing in the junior team. By the time I was 17, I was playing in youth championships all over the world. I was also playing handball competitively at the time, and the turning point came when I chose bridge over handball. It's been bridge ever since: as a player, as an administrator, and now as a coach and as a teacher.

You've been President of the Czech Bridge Federation for 10 years.

What changed?

One of my goals when I stepped down was to hand the presidency to someone younger. I found that person, and after four years away, I came back as General Manager. During those four years, I immersed myself in studying bridge, searching for new ways to teach and think about the game. That's when I developed the teaching methods I'm working on now.

Your teaching method is quite unconventional. Can you explain it?

In a very simple way: I focus on teaching how to take tricks. I use logic and strategies that come directly from how bridge is actually scored: cash winners,

establishing long suits, taking a finesse... Once students clearly understand what it takes to win tricks and can estimate how many tricks they actually have, we move to the bidding, which of course is strictly related since you have to bid based on the tricks you think you can make.

So, I disagree with the approach of most teachers worldwide, who start by teaching how to count high card points on a scale from 0 to 40. Bidding and card play are based on tricks, not points! It's common experience and everybody knows that having 25 high card points does not guarantee that you can make 10 tricks, and especially that very often you can make 10 tricks with far less than that. High card points are an artificial scale in bridge, based on math and statistics, which needs to be constantly recalculated according to variables like the player's experience. Then players try to change their systems to make the high card method work better, but that's too complicated. The solution is to entirely forget about high card points and think in tricks, on a scale of 0 to 13, from the very first lesson. Actually, top players already think exactly like that.

In fact, there is a correlation between high card points and tricks, but people just don't see it. If you split how many tricks are won by honours and how many are won by small cards (trumps, length tricks...) you'll find that on average ten tricks are won by honours and three by small cards. If you identify that you can make more than three tricks on small cards, for example by having a seven-card suit, you already know that only nine will be won by honours. And from there, a whole world of inferences opens up.

Is this approach only for newplayers?

It's for everyone, from absolute beginners to world-class players. It's never too late to start thinking the right way. I originally wanted to focus mainly on youth, but I already had some senior players following me, and when they saw my approach they loved it. Now they use it enthusiastically.

How many students do you have?

It's hard to say exactly. I run a YouTube channel where a couple of hundred people watch each video, and more than 1,500 play my tournaments regularly. We haven't started marketing the website yet. I wanted to research and develop my methodology as thoroughly as possible first. But this year things are changing. I've spent several years fine-tuning everything, and now I'm putting it all together in videos, texts, and complete courses.

What does the bridge landscape look like in the Czech Republic?

We're very small: around 300 registered players, with one bridge club in central Prague that fits about 30 tables. National events see 40 to 50 pairs. But our average registered player is 52 years old, which I've heard is about 20 years younger than in the bigger bridge countries. Our community is enthusiastic and committed.

Where do the young players come from?

There's a bridge club in Havířov, in the northeast, connected to several schools. Most of our young players come from that region. They've even produced European and World youth champions. But as they grow up and go to university, most of them move to Prague and stay here.

Is bridge recognised as a sport in the Czech Republic?

We're part of the National Sports Agency, though not the Czech Olympic Committee. We receive government funding: I managed to get us into the system in 2017. It started small, but now it covers at least the organisational costs of the federation. There are over a hundred recognised sports in the programme; chess has been there for a long time, and we followed.

How did the European Winter Transnational Championships end up in Prague?

It was Eric Laurant who contacted me in October 2023, saying "We're searching for a venue, how about Prague?" It was supposed to happen in February 2024, so the timeline was incredibly tight. I searched for options, found a great partner in a chess events company with experience in organising, and within two

*"I know how experts think,
and it's not in high card
points.*

*Although they count them,
they don't make decisions
based on them.*

*The solution is to forget
about high card points
entirely and think in tricks,
from the very first lesson."*

weeks we had everything prepared. By November it was confirmed.

And now you're here for a multi-year commitment.

We had some ups and downs the first year, but in general people were happy, especially considering the price-to-quality ratio and the appeal of Prague as a winter destination. We had great participation, so the EBL and I decided to continue here for another five years.

What's your role as local organiser?

The technical bridge organisation (formats, regulations...) that's all handled by the EBL; they know exactly what to do. My job is connecting the EBL with the hotel, figuring out which resources we can use locally, managing all room bookings, and solving problems as they arise. And let me take this opportunity to say: it is important to book Hotel rooms through the official form, which also offer more flexibility for changes. And, **if you need any changes to your booking or have special requests about your room, please reach out to me directly!** This way we skip several steps in between and it's faster for everyone.



EBL President Eric Laurant, Milan Macura, and EBL Vice-President and Treasurer Igor Chalupec. Milan was awarded the EBL plaque for his role as local organiser of the 2025 EBL Winter Transnational Championships.

How do you see the future of bridge?

I know I might be a unicorn in this, but I see bridge as an e-sport that can spread all over the world with the younger generation. Bridge will be streamed. We'll have complete programmes online where people can follow every single player, not just the top ones, but their friends, their countrymen. They can cheer for them. I believe this can be done through modern technology, and that's where bridge has been failing compared to other sports: we're changing too slowly.

Which sport inspires you the most?

Chess: since it's a mind sport like ours, it's the best inspiration we can get. Smart people told me 15 years ago: if you want to improve bridge, look at chess. They have more players, more money, more experience. And during COVID, they completely reinvented themselves: faster games, more online play, streaming, new formats. Golf as well: I started playing golf 4 years ago, when I was developing new teaching methods in bridge. I noticed a big correlation between these two sports. Starting from scratch, I had to learn all the golf basics, which align very well with bridge. I learnt to play golf on YouTube: if people can learn golf that way, then they can definitely learn bridge through videos as well!



You've also been involved in AI and bridge robots.

Yes. I was collaborating with Professor Heimo Adelsberger from the University of Vienna, who created a programming language based on logic. He challenged me to rethink how inputs are fed into the software so robots can think better. That actually started the whole process of creating a different way to think about bridge. I believe today's robots can't be truly good if they start with fundamentally flawed data... and that's what's happening when they're trained on high card points instead of tricks.

Bridge is 100% your life?

Everything I do is connected, just like in the bridge game itself, where bidding, card play, and defence are all connected. Whenever I work on my website, I'm playing bridge, recording, finding interesting deals. Whenever I play, I'm testing my methods. Every single day I play 20 to 50 deals, record videos, talk to juniors, send organisational emails. Every piece feeds into the same thing: doing bridge, even though I'm sitting on many chairs at once.

Which is your favourite chair?

Teaching, the second one is playing. I hope to be back into the playing environment soon.

And your family shares this passion?

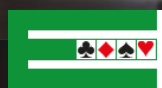
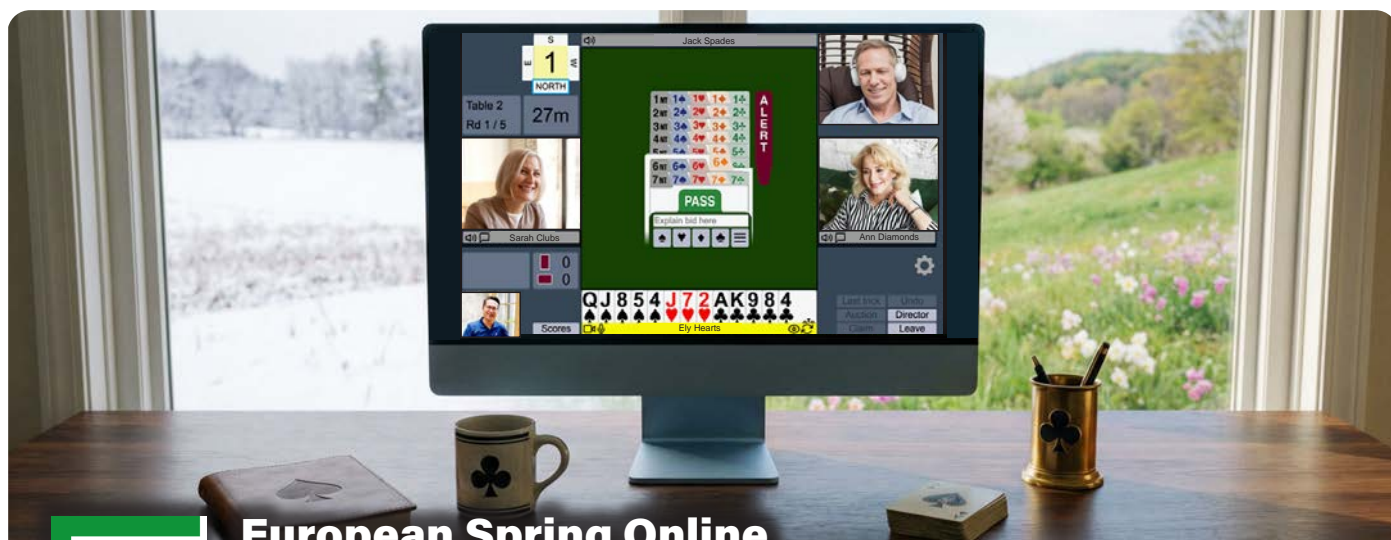
My wife and I work together on everything: her skills complement mine perfectly. Together we make a complete team. And our six-year-old daughter Amanda is already playing card games. She's into golf and handball too, so we'll see what wins, but she's showing the right instincts for trick-taking games. I'm sure that starting with simpler card games is the key to developing a good bridge player by age 10 or 12. For some time bridge skipped a generation, since while I was learning bridge from my grandfather my mother didn't play or want to learn but now that she has more time she plays social bridge.



Michaela, Amanda & Milan



Milan's website: milanbridge.com



European Spring Online Transnational Senior Team Championship



16 - 19 March and 23 - 26 March, 2026
Online on RealBridge

www.eurobridge.org

- ♠ Everybody can play - Team up across the world!
- ♠ Win EBL Medals, Master Points and entry fees to the European Winter Transnational Championships!
- ♠ Need a partner or team mates? Check the Partnership Desk!

SAVE THE DATE

European Online Transnational Mixed Teams Championships

14 - 17 May, 2026 – online on RealBridge

ZIMMERMANN vs CROATIA

DAVID BIRD

Prague is an ancient and beautiful city, deservedly attracting vast hordes of tourists.

An alarming number of decades ago, my wife and I greatly enjoyed a visit there. A particular memory was that of the large beer halls. There was no question of "What shall I get you?" because there was only one drink on offer – overflowing glasses of an excellent local beer. Strong-armed waitresses criss-crossed the drinking area, carrying heavily loaded trays. Orders were placed merely by waving 1, 2, 3 or more fingers in the air.

The experts we will watch today will surely delay any visits to these establishments until after the close of play. On table 1, Zimmermann will face Croatia. Let the entertainment begin!

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Katusic	Multon	Vidivic	Zimmerm.
—	—	4♣	Pass
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Perhaps the biggest recent advance in bidding tactics is the willingness to pre-empt more often, on substandard hands. "To open a

three-bid, you need a respectable seven-card suit" bridge classes were told. Nowadays, it is commonplace to open on six-card suits. Indeed, Toni Vidivic, with one eye on the favourable vulnerability, rated 3♣ inadequate on his chunky holding.

Franck Multon bid 4♥ in the protective seat, and Pierre Zimmermann correctly gave no thought of advancing further. Only one out of 78 N/S pairs reached 6♥. At that table, West raised 3♣ to 4♣ and North bid 4♥. South was no doubt emboldened to bid 5♥ by the hope of a club shortage opposite. North then raised to 6♥, going two down.

On to the play. Declarer won the ♠K lead, cashed the ♥A and led the ♦K to the ace. A club to East's eight was followed by another club, ruffed with dummy's 10, West overruffing. The potential spade loser was subsequently discarded on a diamond winner and 4♥ was made.



Filip KATUSIC

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Novak</i>	<i>Ferenc</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Leskovar</i>
—	—	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Here declarer finessed in trumps, which was with the odds after East's pre-empt. (Even a 2-card discrepancy in clubs would swing the odds against playing to drop the ♥Q.) Eleven tricks were made for a 1 IMP gain.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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



Kamil NOWAK

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katusic</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Vidivic</i>	<i>Zimmerm.</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	2♣*	2♦
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Multon showed both majors over the 1NT opening. When his partner could not bid over South's 2♦, he still announced a strong hand by cue-bidding 3♦. With West's values all in diamonds, he judged well to stop in 3♠.

Even this contract was too high, as the cards lay. Multon must have been disappointed when his diamond lead ran into declarer's AQ. Declarer played ace and another heart to North's king. He cashed one top trump and switched to a club, won in the dummy. Declarer ruffed a heart and was overruffed with the 9. King and another trump then meant one down for 100 away.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Novak</i>	<i>Ferenc</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Leskovar</i>
—	—	—	3♦
Pass	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Viktor Leskovar demonstrated another 'modern pre-empt' and Nowosadzki was happy to show his major two-suiter with 4♦. When 4♠ went two




Michał NOWOSADZKI



down this was a 2-IMP swing to Croatia. North may have regretted his failure to double, since collecting +500 would have been worth 9 IMPs. The next deal produced the highlight of the match:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katusic</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Vidivic</i>	<i>Zimmerm.</i>
—	1♦	1♠	Dble
2♠	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Multon's free 3♣ rebid was justified, but he was presented with a problem when South's 3♠ asked him to bid again. He tried 4♣, rating his 4-card suit as better than, say, K-x-x-x-x. Zimmermann raised to 5♣ and they had reached a 4-3 fit.

East cashed the king and ace of spades, switching to a heart won in the dummy. Multon played the ace and king of diamonds, ruffing a third round low with West overruffing. That was one down.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Novak</i>	<i>Ferenc</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Leskovar</i>
—	1NT	Pass	3NT
	All Pass		

At the other table, it seemed that Matko Ferenc might have conjured a big swing by opening a bent 1NT. There were eight tricks on top, and a likely diamond lead would give him an early ninth trick.

Michal Nowosadzki found the brilliant opening lead of the ♠A! West's ♠2 encouraged a second spade to the queen, and West switched to the ♥10. Declarer won in dummy, continuing with the ♦A and a diamond to the jack. This lost to the queen and East cleared the heart suit. When the diamonds failed to split 3-3, 3NT was one down. The heroic defence had saved 12 IMPs. A brilliant effort!

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katusic</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Vidivic</i>	<i>Zimmerm.</i>
1NT*	Dble	2♥*	Pass
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All
Pass			

West's 1NT was 11-13 at this vulnerability. (In third seat, at favourable vulnerability, their convention card proudly announces an 8-15 range!). East's 2♥ was natural, and Zimmermann did well later to bid 4♠ on his hand. This was doubled, but the defenders could take no more than two trump tricks and the ♣K. It was N/S +590.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Novak</i>	<i>Ferenc</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Leskovar</i>
1♥	2♥*	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Nowosadzki had the advantage of knowing partner held five hearts. He sacrificed in 5] over the spade game, and the resultant penalty of just 300 meant a gain of 7 IMPs for Zimmermann.



Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katusic</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Vidivic</i>	<i>Zimmerm.</i>
—	3♣	4♠	5♣
6♠	Pass	Pass	7♣
Dble*	All Pass		

Yes, yes, the North hand is an 'obvious 3♣ opening.' We all know that by now. E/W ended in 6♠ at 18 tables, going one down every time. Only three Souths ventured a phantom sacrifice in 7♣. This cost each of them 1100 after a ♥3 lead and a heart ruff.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Novak</i>	<i>Ferenc</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Leskovar</i>
—	3♣	4♠	5♣
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♣
Dble	All Pass		

The lower contract of 5♠ was a make, so Ferenc's -800 in the 6♣ sacrifice would have cost only 4 IMPs against 650. As it was, Croatia picked up 7 IMPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katusic</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Vidivic</i>	<i>Zimmerm.</i>
—	—	4NT*	5♣*
Dble	Pass	Pass	5♠
Dble	All Pass		

East's 4NT showed a strong minor two-suiter and 5♣ no doubt passed some message about South's type of major two-suiter. To extract a maximum 800 from 5♠ doubled, West had to lead either a trump or the ♣Q. When he duly found the ♠4 lead, Zimmermann won, crossed to the ♦A and discarded the ♠9 on the ♦K. The 5-0 heart break still meant that he was 800 down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Novak</i>	<i>Ferenc</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Leskovar</i>
—	—	1♦	2♦*
Dble	2♠	4NT*	Pass
5♦	Dble	All Pass	

The doubled diamond game could not be beaten. Nowosadzki ruffed the ♠K lead, crossed to the ♥A and discarded a club on the ♥K. When he persevered with the ♥Q, Ferenc ruffed with the ♦K and declarer ditched another club. A club to the ace was followed by the ♦Q, and declarer soon had his +750. It was just a 2-IMP swing. So, a low-scoring set of boards ended with the score: Croatia 14 Zimmermann 14.

May I end by saying that the Lovebridge platform is a delight to use, both for kibitzers and antiquated bridge writers. In the distant past, I was a system software tester for IBM. As well as searching for bugs in the company's latest software, we had to assess its usability. I could not fault Lovebridge in this respect, and fully recommend it.

EUROPEAN WINTER TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
QUALIFICATION, ROUND 2

MARC SMITH

We start with a bidding problem. Sitting East, with only your side vulnerable, you hold:

♠ K Q 10 4
♥ A Q 6
♦ A Q 9 4 2
♣ 5

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2♦*
Pass	3♥*	Dble	Pass
4♥	Pass	?	

South's 2♦ opening is a Multi, showing a weak two in either major. North's 3♥ is pass-or-correct. What action do you take?

This early deal caught my eye. Could N/S both bid to and make 4♠? The answer in the featured VuGraph match was no...

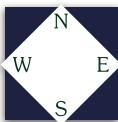
Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ K 9 5 2
 ♥ Q 9 4
 ♦ —
 ♣ K Q 9 6 5 3

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

♠ Q 7
 ♥ K J 10 8 2
 ♦ 8 5 4
 ♣ A 7 4

♠ A J 6 3
 ♥ A 6 5
 ♦ Q 10 9 3 2
 ♣ 2



Bridge Trainer v Cercol

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Coldea</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Ghigheci</i>	<i>Lengy</i>
2♣*	3♣	All Pass	

For the Romanians, Ionut Coldea opened a Dutch-style 2♣, either artificial/strong or a weak two in diamonds. Israel's Ilan Bereket overcalled with a natural 3♣ and Ovidiu Ghigheci dodged a very large bullet by not competing to 3♦ on the East hand. The defenders made two hearts and two trumps: N/S +110.

West did not open in the replay...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>D Tal</i>	<i>Cernat</i>	<i>N Tal</i>	<i>Grigoriu</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	Dble
Rdbl	1♠	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Ovidiu Cernat bid only 1♠ in response to his partner's negative double which, for many pairs, might suggest only three-card spade support. However, Mihai Grigoriu clearly expected a 4-4 fit as he first cue-bid and then corrected clubs back to spades at the three-level. Despite his partner's strong invitation, Cernat did not think he had enough to bid game.

DDS tells us that only the ♦8 lead holds a spade contract to nine tricks. Like many declarers, Cernat received a low diamond lead but still could not find a tenth winner. N/S +140 and 1 IMP to Cernat.

Banana v Daisy Chain

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Combescur</i>	<i>Wong</i>	<i>Robert</i>	<i>Chiang</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	Dble*
Rdbl	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			



Wai Man Flora Wong from Honk Kong did jump to 2♠ at her second turn, and Jeffrey Chiang was sufficiently encouraged to bid game.

What did West's redouble mean? I seem to recall that the late George Rosencranz leant his name to a conventional use for redouble in this type of auction, where it showed a holding such as Ax or Kx in the overcaller's suit. Perhaps Quentin Robert was expecting something like that, as he led the ♥J against 4♠, giving declarer a much more comfortable ride. That was N/S +420.

In the replay, the French also got to game. In fact they got to two different games, but neither was 4♠!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Koo</i>	<i>Setton</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Dble	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	5♣	Dble	All
Pass			

The trouble began when Hilda Setton chose to start with 2♦ rather than a negative double. She could perhaps have rescued the situation by continuing with 3♠ over 2NT, although 4♠ from the South seat on a heart lead is no picnic. Might West perhaps start with a high diamond, though? When Setton instead raised to 3NT, Suet Yu Zoe Li doubled, presumably hoping for a diamond lead.

Pierre Franceschetti understandably did not much fancy that, and removed himself to 4♣. Quite right he was, however... When the tug-of-war between the French partners ended, Franceschetti found himself in 5♣ doubled. That he managed to escape for one down in this contract, suggests that the damage could have been significantly limited had South passed 4♣. N/S -100 meant it was 11 IMPs to Banana.

Strange things occur at the bridge table, so one never can tell what might happen at the other table. However, there was one table at which E/W could have little hope that their teammates

would rescue them on this deal...

Baris v Lysy Solek

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Maliszewski</i>	<i>Kandemir</i>	<i>Wlodkowski</i>	<i>Kaya</i>
Pass	3♦	Dble	All
Pass			

Did Przemyslaw Maliszewski perhaps misread the vulnerability? At favourable, maybe his three-level pre-empt would have had some company, but not at these colours. Turkey's Ismail Kandemir dredged up a takeout double, so Emre Kaya was left with a bidding decision that will not be the most difficult he will face during these championships.

Declarer managed to scramble five tricks, but that was still N/S +1100. The Poles bid to 3♣ at the other table: N/S +130 and 14 IMPs to Baris.

Do you want to bid a grand slam on a finesse? The answer would usually be 'No', so it is perhaps surprising that this deal created a double-digit swing in so many matches...

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Bridge Trainer v Cercol

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>D Tal</i>	<i>Cernat</i>	<i>N Tal</i>	<i>Grigoriu</i>
-	-	-	2♥
4♣*	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

South opened with a natural weak two in hearts, and Dana Tal's jump to 4♣ was Leaping Michaels, showing a good hand with at least 5-5 in the black suits. Noga Tal showed her slam interest with a 4♥ cue bid. Exactly what 5♦ meant you can guess as well as I can, but the Israeli ladies seem to have been on the same wavelength, and stopped safely in 6♠. E/W +1430.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Coldea</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Ghigheci</i>	<i>Lengy</i>
—	—	—	2♦*
2♠	3♥	4♥*	Pass
5♦	Pass	7♠	All Pass

South opened a Multi here, and Ionut Coldea settled for a quiet 2♠ overcall. North competed in hearts and East agreed spades with a cue bid. Did Coldea now unleash his Inner-Zia, with one of the Pakistani maestros patented fake cue-bids? Whatever 5♦ meant, it was apparently enough to persuade Ovidiu Ghigheci that he had enough for a grand slam. Unless there is something in the auction that we don't know about, can you really blame him?

Unfortunately for the Romanians, with West declaring there was not even the chance of South finding an ill-advised lead against the grand slam. With the ♦K offside, this was a swift one down: E/W -100 and 17 IMPs to Bridge Trainer.

Surprisingly, perhaps, 17 of the 78 E/W pairs went down in 7♠. Another three achieved a similar result playing in 6NT. That's more than a quarter of the field. In one match, East found a truly unique way to lose IMPs when faced with the bidding problem posed at the top of this article...

Slovakia White v Gdansk

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2♦*
Pass	3♥*	Dble	Pass
4♥	All Pass		


In the early days of the Multi (the 1980s, probably) accidents were not uncommon, but

in the intervening years the bridge community has worked out how to defend against such bids. Or have they? East here clearly missed the inference that South showed a weak two in hearts when he passed the double. Declarer did well to make as many as seven tricks in his 3-1 fit, but that was still E/W -300.

Having stopped rather embarrassingly in 4♠, the Polish E/W pair at the other table would have been mightily relieved to gain 14 IMPs after missing one of the easiest slams we are likely to see during these championships. You really never can tell!

Talking about easy slams (is there really such a thing?), let's go back to the VuGraph match between the two teams who scored 20-0 wins in their opening matches...

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Bridge Trainer v Cercol Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>D Tal</i>	<i>Cernat</i>	<i>N Tal</i>	<i>Grigoriu</i>
—	—	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The Romanian South opened a weak 2♠, although perhaps non-vulnerable, even in second seat, some would consider it a bit good. North inquired with 2NT and, presumably, 3NT showed some sort of maximum (perhaps a maximum without an outside feature and thus, by default, good trumps). Given that description, North's retreat to 4♠ does look rather feeble, and so it proved to be. There were 13 easy tricks: N/S +510.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Coldea</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Ghigheci</i>	<i>Lengy</i>
—	—	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

For the Israelis, Assaf Lengy also treated the South hand as a weak two, opening in with a Multi. North inquired and learned enough to launch Blackwood. Finding out that his partner held both high trumps, he was prepared to bid the grand on the basis that either his partner will have the ♠J or the trumps will split 3-2. N/S +1510 and 14 IMPs to Bridge Trainer, who won the match 47-21. That translated to 16.39 VP, which was enough to keep the Israelis at the top of the table.

Remarkably, perhaps, 27 out of 78 N/S pairs managed to bid these cards all the way to 4♠,

with another four stopping in 3NT. Others also found other ways to avoid the top spot. Let's see if things are any easier when South does not open with a weak two...

De Botton v Vallon Bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zwart</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>van der Neut</i>	<i>Charlsen</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Thor Erik Hoftaniska opened 1♦ and rebid an off shape 2NT. Thomas Charlsen showed his extra spade length, but Hoftaniska presumably did not expect a suit as good as AKxxxx. They found their way to 6♦, which was N/S +940, but that was still an 11-IMP loss when the Dutch bid to 7♠ at the other table.



by **bridgeCARE**

bridgeCARE team is organizing an exciting event, for golf lovers of the bridge world, to be staged during championships.

We created a tour for these golf events named PuttIt Tour. The concept is to have a putting contest where each hole will be a Par2.

Each event will be 4 rounds/ 3 holes Par24, stroke play. The entry fee will be 20 euros and half of the total of the entry fees will be awarded to the winner.

The starting time of each event will be around 1 hour after the finish of play (around 21.00)

Please contact Traian Chira (bridge@chirasoft.com) or Milan Macura() to register for the first inaugural event to be staged on Thursday 12/02.

We hope the event will have some traction and we hope to develop a tour with ranking points and finals during the final championship of the year.

EUROPEAN WINTER TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SLAMTASTIC

MARK HORTON

In the qualifying rounds of the Open Teams each deal is played 78 times. By examining the results we may be able to draw a conclusion as to the best action on a particular deal, be it in bidding, play or defence. (Perhaps Master Point Press will commission David Bird to write a book, 78 ways to reach 1NT.)

By the time I could start to follow the play in the third round, the players had already encountered two deals with slam potential:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Bridge Trainer v Dyson

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Handley-Pritchard</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Lengy</i>
—	2♥*	Dble	Pass
3NT	Pass	6NT	All
Pass			

2♥ 4+♥ and 4+♠, 4-10

North's opening salvo was easily repulsed, declarer losing only a diamond, +990.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>D Tal</i>	<i>Crouch</i>	<i>N Tal</i>	<i>Dyson</i>
—	Pass	2NT	Pass
	6NT	All Pass	

A slam was reached at almost every table, with seven pairs playing in diamonds.

Poland U21A v Loiben

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hopfenheit</i>	<i>Turant</i>	<i>Reim</i>	<i>Adamczak</i>
—	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	6NT	All
Pass			

1♣ 16+, any distribution
1NT 11+

The system card offers no clue as the meaning of 2♣ (perhaps range finding) and the subsequent bids, but they got the job done, +990.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Michalski</i>	<i>Umshaus</i>	<i>Propopowicz</i>	<i>Terraneo</i>
—	Pass	1♣*	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♣	All
Pass			

1♣ 12-14 balanced or (17)18-20 balanced or 11+ unbalanced with clubs
2♣ 5+♣, game forcing

Perhaps 2♣ had an alternative meaning (2♦ would have been 4+♦ game forcing). It meant



the loss of 14 IMPs.

At many tables East opened 2NT and West raised to 6NT. That was what happened in the Open Room in the match between SV Bridge Club and Croatia.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>I Grzejdzia</i>	<i>Ferenca</i>	<i>S Grzejdzia</i>	<i>Leskovar</i>
—	2♥*	Dble	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	All Pass

2♥ Both majors, 0-11, NV (4)5+4+

That meant 11 IMPs changed hands.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Bridge Trainer v Dyson

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Handley-Pritchard</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Lengy</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣*
1♥	Dble*	2NT*	Pass
3♥	Dble*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣, 11-21 (1♣ with any 3-3)
 2NT Heart support
 4♥ Control
 4NT RKCB
 5♣ 1 keycard
 5♦ ♠Q?

Don't you just love West's overcall!

He led the ♥8 to dummy's ♥A and declarer came to hand with the ♣A and ran the ♥J pitching dummy's ♦2. East won and returned a club and declarer won with the ♣Q and advanced the ♠Q (the technically correct way to tackle the suit, giving a 2.8% chance of avoiding a loser.

There was no joy today and the contract was two down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>D Tal</i>	<i>Crouch</i>	<i>N Tal</i>	<i>Dyson</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♥*	Pass	1♠*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5♥*	Dble	6♠
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣, natural or balanced, 5♦332 15-17
 opens 1♣ if weak NT position
 1♥ 4+♠
 1♠ Balanced, 2/3♠
 4♣ Control
 4NT RKCB
 5♦ 1 keycard
 5♥ ♠Q?

Here too West led the ♥8 to dummy's ♥A and declarer's next move was the ♠2 for the ♠5 and ♠9. When it held he continued with a diamond to the ace and the ♠4, East taking the ♠K and exiting with the ♠6. Declarer won, ruffed the ♥J and drew the outstanding trump, discarding the ♥Q. A club to the queen was followed by the ♦J, but when the finesse lost declarer was three down to lose 3 IMPs.





Bridgescanner v Vallon Bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zwart	Arlovich	van der Neut	Vainikonis
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♠*	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

1♣ 2+♣, semi natural

1♠ 7+, 4+♠

2♦ Checkback

4♣ Control

4♦ Control

It look like East led a club.

I wish I could tell you how he did it, but declarer arrived at 12 tricks for a stupendous +1430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gierulski	ter Laare	Skrzypczak	Alkemade
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♥	Dble	3♥	3NT*
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

In theory you can make 6♣, but in practice declarer managed only 11 tricks to lose 17 IMPs.

Formidables v Breno

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Franchi	Kushari	Di Franco	Bendre
—	—	Pass	1♦*
Pass	1♠*	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

1♦ 3+♦, (10)11-21, 4432 or 4+♦

1♠ 0+, 4+♠

2♦ Checkback

4♣ Control

When South could only bid 4♠ North decided to call it a day.

East led the ♦Q and declarer took 11 tricks, +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nandi	Lanzarotti	Roy	Attanasio
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT*	Dble	Pass*	Pass
2♥	2♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
5♥	Pass*	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

1NT (14)15-17, singleton or 6♣/♦/♥/♠ possible

At least West had a singleton.

This little adventure resulted in -1400 and Breno pocketed 13 IMPs.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Banana v Mavericks

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zamir	Chiang	Toledano	Chui
—	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

2♣ Balanced or 5+♣, game forcing

It looks like West led a diamond and declarer took all the tricks, +1390.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Koo</i>	<i>Maskara</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

2♣ 2+♣, game forcing

4♦ Control

The system card says that 4♠ is RKCB when any suit is agreed, but were clubs agreed?

Whatever, the slam was reached and West led the ♦10. However, declarer emerged with only 11 tricks and Banana had 16 IMPs.

Bridgescanner v Vallon Bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zwart</i>	<i>Arlovich</i>	<i>van der Neut</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

West led the ♦3 and declarer took 12 tricks, +690.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>ter Laare</i>	<i>Skrzypczak</i>	<i>Alkemade</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	7♣
All Pass			

West led the ♦J and it is clear that having won declarer ran the ♣Q collecting East's ♣J and took all the tricks for +2140 and 16 IMPs.

SPS Poland v Ante

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rus</i>	<i>Strzemecki</i>	<i>Stefanec</i>	<i>Buras</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

2♣ 2+♣, game forcing

West led the ♦J and declarer took 12 tricks, +1370.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Vazic</i>	<i>Araszkiewicz</i>	<i>Seizovic</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♣
Pass	7♣	All Pass	

2♦ 5+♥, game forcing

West led the ♦10 and declarer found the winning line for +2140 and 13 IMPs.

Three slam deals in the space of six deals is testing, but the Great Shuffler was by no means exhausted:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

With some good guesswork in the spade suit you have all the tricks.

Clearly East showed a spade control in support of clubs and West checked on keycards before advancing to the slam that delivered 13 IMPs.

The key to bidding the slam is for East to show a spade control:

Tradycja v de Botton

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Twardowski</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Bogucki</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♠*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

- 4♦ Control
- 4♠ Control
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♦ I keycard

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pawlek</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Valchev</i>	<i>Charlsen</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦*	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣*	Pass	3♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

1♦ Polish Club, 12-22, 4+♦

That meant 13 IMPs for de Botton.

Incredibly there was another slam on Board 12, NS having ♠J1043 ♥QJ942 ♦AQ2 ♣J opposite ♠AQ96 ♥— ♦K9864 ♣AKQ5 but only half the field bid it.



20th Bridge Festival RIGA INVITES 2026

It is a great pleasure to welcome all players to the 20th "Bridge Festival" Riga Invites 2026



PROGRAM

12.08.2026	18:00	OlyBet Sports Bar Invitational pairs tournament
13.08.2026	11:00	Open Teams tournament (1-3 rounds)
13.08.2026	17:00	Open Teams tournament (4-6 rounds)
14.08.2026	11:00	Open Teams tournament (7-9 rounds)
14.08.2026	17:00	Open Teams tournament (10-12 rounds)
14.08.2026	17:00	Get-Together & Banquet for all participants (pairs and teams) - OlyBet Sports Bar, Radisson.
15.08.2026	10:00	Open Teams tournament (semi-final)
15.08.2026	11:00	Open Pairs tournament, Qualification session 1
15.08.2026	12:30	Open Teams tournament (final)
15.08.2026	17:00	Open Pairs tournament, Qualification session 2
16.08.2026	10:00	Open Pairs tournament, Final A
16.08.2026	11:00	Open Pairs tournament, Final B

PRIZES

First 3 places in the Invitational tournament receive cups and souvenirs. First 3 places in the Teams tournament receive cups and cash prizes. In the Pairs tournament first 6 places in Final A and first 3 places in Final B receive cash prizes. Special prizes for best Latvian pair; best woman pair; best mixt pair and best junior pair.

Prize fund - 10000 EUR
Team tournament - 5000 EUR
Pair A tournament - 4000 EUR
Pair B tournament - 1000 EUR

ENTRY FEES

300 EUR	per Team for Teams tournament
200 EUR	per Pair for Pairs tournament

VENUE

Radisson Blu SAS Daugava, Riga, Latvia

Special prices with code BRIDGE
Room for two 105 EUR
Room for one 95 EUR
For the room reservation reservation.riga@radisson.com




www.rigainvites.lv

12. - 16. August, 2026




RESULTS

RANKING AFTER ROUND 4

1	BRIDGE TRAINER	65.57	41	POLAND U21 A	40.21
2	LOIBEN	61.60	42	PROMAX	38.97
3	FORMIDABLES	60.00	43	4EKO2FAZOKLUBO	38.70
4	HOBAA	58.45	44	TRADYCJA	38.30
5	SAYIN ABIM	58.04	44	KROWKA	38.30
6	JUSTJUMP	57.87	46	CZECHIA U23	38.04
7	DAISY CHAIN	57.27	47	LAHRMANN	37.94
8	SV BRIDGE CLUB	57.01	48	BIANCHI	37.51
9	SPS POLAND	54.90	49	BEAUTY WITH PRETZELS	37.14
10	GILLIS	54.19	50	BRENO	36.77
11	OVERDECK	53.43	51	MAYDAY	36.29
12	ZIMMERMANN	52.30	52	CERCOL	36.27
13	DE BOTTON	51.59	53	VIMAPHAN	36.10
14	LATVIA	51.32	54	BORTOLETTI	35.39
15	ASHE	50.10	55	LUCY IN THE SKY	34.11
16	SECRETS OF SECRETS	49.92	56	ANGELS	33.56
17	BANANA	48.95	57	CROATIA	33.40
18	DYSON	48.16	58	FOURSQUIRE	32.93
19	ELER	47.46	59	ORENDA	31.51
20	OLCZYK	46.21	60	BARIS	30.75
21	ROYAL	46.09	61	ESKOM	30.53
22	ZIP	45.36	62	SLOVAKIA WHITE	30.50
23	TO BID OR NOT TO BID	44.80	63	KNOTTENBELT	30.21
23	ALTSHULER	44.80	64	LYSY SOLEK	30.10
25	ANTE	44.60	65	POLAND U21 B	29.62
25	MILANBRIDGE.COM	44.60	66	ISTARI	29.33
27	FRANCE GREEN	44.55	67	44FUN	29.31
28	VALLON BRIDGE	44.49	68	KALISH	29.07
29	BRIDGE FOR BUSINESS	44.44	69	WARSAW UNIVERSITY	28.35
30	MAVERICKS	44.41	70	KARTALITE	27.98
31	ISRAEL BLUE	43.89	71	TAQUOI	26.31
32	SLOVAKIA BLUE	43.39	72	GDANSK	24.63
33	ZHANG	43.06	73	SWISS SENIORS	24.03
34	NIKOS	42.93	74	MACCABI YAFO	21.10
35	BRIDGESCANER	42.57	75	CZECHIA U31	21.02
36	HOLAHOTA	42.40	76	NP MANU	20.25
37	LUPO VELOCE	41.93	77	BAMBI	17.33
38	NEW BROOM	41.66	78	VICUNA	17.18
39	NEXT GEN BRIDGE	40.37	79	ASCHAFFENBURG	16.55
40	TEAM META	40.24			

RESULTS

BUTLER AFTER ROUND 4

VAINIKONIS Erikas - ARLOVICH Andrei	3.21	LTU-LTU	28
GRUE Joe - MILNER Reese	2.29	USA-USA	28
ZAPADINSKIY Evgeny - SOLODAR Philip	2.12	ISR-ISR	41
HO Wai Lam - HO Gordon	1.88	HKG-HKG	56
KOO Hor Yung Charmian - LI Suet Yu Zoe	1.64	HKG-HKG	28
BESSIS Thomas - LORENZINI Cedric	1.55	FRA-FRA	42
HANDLEY-PRITCHARD Ben - TOWNSEND Tom	1.48	ENG-ENG	56
ZORLU Nafiz - UCAR Ali	1.45	TUR-TUR	42
LI Suet Yu Zoe - CHIANG Jeffrey	1.43	HKG-HKG	14
NOWOSADZKI Michal - NOWAK Kamil	1.40	SUI-POL	42
TAL Dana - TAL Noga	1.36	ISR-ISR	56
DURSUN Baris - OZCAN Ihsan	1.36	TUR-TUR	14
UMSHAUS Peter - TERRANEO Christian	1.30	AUT-AUT	56
VOLHEJN Vit - VOLHEJN Petr	1.27	CZE-CZE	56
SZYMONIK Pawel - CZECH Slawomir	1.25	POL-POL	28
BAREKET Ilan - LENGY Assaf	1.23	ISR-ISR	56
GRIGORIU Mihai - CERNAT Ovidiu	1.21	ROM-ROM	28
ALUF Sedat - DEDEHAYIR Ahmet	1.21	TUR-TUR	14
BRZUSTOWSKI Jerzy - PAWLUK Tomasz	1.19	POL-POL	42
NARKIEWICZ Grzegorz - GLASEK Grzegorz	1.18	POL-POL	28
BENDRE Kaustubh - KUSHARI Sayantan	1.14	IND-IND	42
MUKHERJEE Sumit - TEWARI Rajeshwar	1.14	IND-IND	42
AUSTBERG Per Erik - RASMUSSEN Arild	1.12	NOR-NOR	42
GANTAR Metod - DRNOVSEK Tina	1.11	SLO-SLO	56
BILDE Dorte Cilleborg - BILDE Morten	1.07	DEN-DEN	56
NAWROCKI Piotr - WIANKOWSKI Piotr	1.05	POL-POL	42
SARNIAK Anna - CHMURSKI Bartosz	1.02	POL-POL	56
WNUK Wojciech - ADAMCZAK Jakub	1.00	POL-POL	42
DROGEMULLER Mette - ROLF-LARSEN Andreas	0.98	DEN-DEN	56
TER LAARE Marco - ALKEMADE Willem (Wil)	0.93	NED-NED	56
AVCIOGLU Huseyin Kerem - SERDAR Ekrem	0.92	TUR-TUR	13
AVCIOGLU Huseyin Kerem - SOFU Serkan	0.89	TUR-TUR	28
RUBINS Karlis - OLLA Edgars	0.88	LAT-LAT	56
BROGELAND Boye - BAKKE Christian	0.86	NOR-NOR	42
ARASZKIEWICZ Konrad - KOTOROWICZ Krzysztof	0.86	POL-POL	42
LYSEK Matyas - DANEK Petr	0.86	CZE-CZE	28
NAWROCKI Piotr - OLCZYK Jerzy	0.86	POL-POL	14
ERBIL Erdinc - PEYRET Hakan	0.84	TUR-TUR	55
AROIX Jean-Luc - TIGNEL Jeremie	0.83	FRA-FRA	42
GINOSSAR Eldad - ZACK Yaniv	0.81	USA-ISR	42
KALITA Jacek - KLUKOWSKI Michal	0.79	SUI-SUI	28
RIMSTEDT Mikael - RIMSTEDT Ola	0.79	SWE-SWE	56
CHARLSEN Thomas - HOFTANISKA Thor Erik	0.76	NOR-NOR	42
ZAWISLAK Slawek - JANISZEWSKI Przemyslaw	0.75	POL-POL	28
DELIMPALTADAKIS Nikos - VROUSTIS Vassilis	0.71	GRE-GRE	42
MALINOWSKI Artur - ERICHSEN Espen	0.67	ENG-NOR	42
MARCINOWSKI Piotr - BAK Wojciech	0.64	POL-POL	42

FRANCESCHETTI Pierre - SETTON Hilda	0.64	FRA-SUI	28
LAHRMANN Christian - TYLVAD Daniel	0.64	DEN-DEN	14
VOZABAL David - SEKER Basar Doga	0.61	CZE-CZE	28
GERLI Aldo Giovanni - FRUSCOLONI Leonardo	0.61	ITA-ITA	56
HOPFENHEIT Guido - REIM Sebastian	0.59	GER-GER	56
TOMCANI Jan - KVOCEK Juraj	0.57	SVK-SVK	56
MULTON Franck - ZIMMERMANN Pierre	0.57	SUI-SUI	42
TYLVAD Daniel - HAMMELEV Nikolaaj	0.57	DEN-DEN	42
GRZEJDZIAK Igor - GRZEJDZIAK Sabina	0.55	POL-POL	56
MEYTAL Kfir - MEYOUHAS Yacov	0.55	ISR-ISR	42
GOLEBIEWSKI Stanislaw - BLACH Michal	0.52	POL-POL	42
FILIPOWICZ Dominik - CIESLAK Jaroslaw	0.50	POL-POL	28
NANDI Kaustabh - ROY Sagnik	0.46	IND-IND	28
KUBAC Nezih - YILMAZ M.Gokhan	0.46	TUR-TUR	56
PATREUHA Jakub - PATREUHA Patryk	0.45	POL-POL	42
NYSTROM Fredrik - UPMARK Johan	0.45	SWE-SWE	56
CHUMAK Yuliy - KUPRIANOV Evgenii	0.44	UKR-CYP	41
BURG Thomas - ZELNIK Peter	0.43	AUT-AUT	56
ZORIC Vedran - MARINOVSKI Kiril	0.43	CRO-CRO	56
ANDRUSZKIEWICZ Jakub - PALUSZEK Konrad	0.39	POL-POL	56
MARTYNEK Jan - KOHUTOVA Lucie	0.36	CZE-CZE	56
CHIANG Jeffrey - CHUI Daniel Siu Wai	0.36	HKG-HKG	14
SOFU Serkan - SERDAR Ekrem	0.36	TUR-TUR	14
SUZER Ugurcan - SERDAR Ekrem	0.32	TUR-TUR	28
FILIMON Adrian Gheorghe - IANCU Stefan	0.32	ROM-ROM	56
MANNO Andrea - PALMA Antonio	0.30	ITA-POR	56
PACHTMAN Ron - ZATORSKI Piotr	0.29	ISR-POL	42
SABBAH Ofek - SLIWOWICZ Yonatan	0.29	ISR-ISR	56
BURAS Krzysztof - STRZEMECKI Wojciech	0.26	POL-POL	42
PAWLAK Andrzej - VALCHEV Vasil	0.25	POL-POL	28
WONG Wai Man Flora - CHUI Daniel Siu Wai	0.25	HKG-HKG	28
HELGEMO Geir - HEIBERG-EVENSTAD Nicolai	0.25	NOR-NOR	28
ROBERT Quentin - COMBESURE Baptiste	0.21	FRA-FRA	42
TWARDOWSKI Andrzej - BOGUCKI Darek	0.21	POL-POL	42
GIUBILO Valerio - BIANCHI Sergio	0.21	ITA-ITA	28
KARLIK Petr - KUBAT Frantisek	0.20	CZE-CZE	55
TALYIGAS Peter - VIKOR Attila	0.20	HUN-HUN	56
BORA Serdal - MERMER Ilhan	0.19	TUR-TUR	42
BILGEN Mert - UMUR Omer Celal	0.18	TUR-TUR	56
SCHALTZ Martin - ASHE Steven	0.14	DEN-USA	56
VIDOVIC Toni - KATUSIC Filip	0.13	CRO-CRO	56
BALASOVŠ Jurijs - ILZINS Janis	0.11	LAT-LAT	56
IZWANTOWSKI Jan - TOKARSKI Wojciech	0.11	POL-POL	28
VAINIKONIS Vytautas - OLANSKI Wojtek	0.11	LTU-LTU	28
VAZIC Stojan - SEIZOVIC Marko	0.09	SER-SER	56
KANDEMIR Ismail - NUHOGLU Sevil	0.07	TUR-TUR	14
RUS Gregor - STEFANEC Kristijan	0.07	SLO-CRO	56
WANG Wen Fei - HAMPSON Geoff	0.07	HKG-USA	56
MSIKA Daniel - MOSKOVITZ Ido	0.07	ISR-ISR	56
ZIPOVSKI Dimitraki - RADISIC Goran	0.07	SER-SER	56
FRANCHI Arrigo - DI FRANCO Massimiliano	0.05	ITA-ITA	56
TOLEDANO Oren - ZAMIR Ami	0.05	ISR-ISR	42
KANDEMIR Ismail - KAYA Emre	0.05	TUR-TUR	42
DEHEEGER Colin - BEDOUE Pierre	0.02	FRA-FRA	42
KRASA Mikulas - SLOVAKOVA Pavla	0.02	CZE-CZE	56
KORBEL Daniel - ZHANG Susan	0.00	USA-USA	56



KALISH Avi - GRINBERG Nir	0.00	ISR-ISR	28
TURANT Maciej - LASOTA Tomasz	0.00	POL-POL	28
CALLAGHAN Brian - ORSMOND Graham	-0.02	ENG-ENG	56
TOMMASINI Stefano - NORTON Ben	-0.02	ENG-ENG	42
CHOTTIN Philippe - ROMBAUT Leo	-0.04	FRA-FRA	28
KNOB Markus - WANHA Clemens	-0.04	AUT-AUT	56
NIJSSSEN Oscar - VAN DE PAVERD Tim	-0.07	NED-NED	28
DURSUN Baris - OZGEZ Cengiz	-0.07	TUR-TUR	14
COLDEA Ionut - GHIGHECI Ovidiu	-0.12	ROM-ROM	42
IONITA Marius - TEODORESCU Cornel	-0.13	ROM-ROM	56
MAGNUSSON Stephan - AMIGUET Jerome	-0.14	SUI-SUI	56
SZE Shun Sum Alan - CHIU Wai-Lap Abby	-0.14	HKG-HKG	56
ENGEL Joseph - COHEN Dani	-0.14	ISR-ISR	42
TURANT Krzysztof - ADAMCZAK Michal	-0.14	POL-POL	42
BIRMAN Alon - PADON Dror	-0.14	ISR-ISR	42
LAHRMANN Christian - ABRAGI Andreas	-0.14	DEN-SWE	14
BAYSAL Dursun - OZCAN Ihsan	-0.14	TUR-TUR	14
GOLEBIEWSKI Stanislaw - ZAWISLAK Slawek	-0.14	POL-POL	14
VODICKA Martin - RUMANCIK Jakub	-0.18	SVK-SVK	56
SIGSGAARD Julie Marina - ROSTHOEJ Ella	-0.18	DEN-DEN	56
GUNEV Rosen - BRICIU Marius	-0.19	BUL-ROM	42
MAHMOOD Zia - GOLD David	-0.19	USA-ENG	42
WLODKOWSKI Robert - MALISZEWSKI Przemyslaw	-0.20	POL-POL	56
BERGER Heinrich - LAUSS Wolfgang	-0.20	AUT-AUT	55
ARGAY Zsolt - KEMENY Mark	-0.21	HUN-HUN	56
RYBNIKOV Gennadii - SAPOSNIKOV Oleg	-0.21	UKR-UKR	28
BLICHARZ Maksymilian - WOJCIECHOWSKI Igor	-0.21	POL-POL	42
LECANTE Francois - RAIKO RAIKOVSKY Vadim	-0.23	FRA-FRA	56
REIM Andrea - GUENDEL Marius	-0.23	GER-GER	56
BAKAN Ozgur - ASLAN Bulent	-0.23	TUR-TUR	56
LUCZECZKO Jan - GRABALA Szymon	-0.26	POL-POL	42
KRASNOSSELSKI Mikhail - FEOFANOV Maxim	-0.26	ISR-ISR	42
KRASA Ondrej - HUMPAL Michael	-0.27	CZE-CZE	56
OKUNIEWSKI Wojciech - CIESLAK Grzegorz	-0.29	POL-POL	42
MISZCZUK Karolina - PANCEWICZ Szymon	-0.29	POL-POL	14
CIECHOMSKI Jacek - JANISZEWSKI Przemyslaw	-0.29	POL-POL	28
PABST Philipp - DI BACCO Victoria	-0.29	GER-GER	56
VAGI Mate - ZABRADI Benjamin	-0.29	HUN-HUN	56
SUSZANOWICZ Natalia - LUCKA Dominika	-0.34	POL-POL	56
POULSEN Flemming - KOLDING Viktor	-0.36	DEN-DEN	56
MCGUIRE Brian - ATISEN Sebastian	-0.36	ENG-ENG	56
SLEMR Jakub - PYSZKO Adam	-0.36	CZE-CZE	56
DUBOIN Giorgio - WARD-PLATT Kiki	-0.36	ITA-USA	28
VERHEES Jr Louk - BAKHSHI David	-0.36	NED-ENG	42
AUKEN Sabine - WELLAND Roy	-0.36	DEN-DEN	42
ZIVKOVIC Gojko - DERIVAZ Jean-Pierre	-0.40	SUI-SUI	42
TRENKA Peter - KEMENY Gyorgy	-0.41	HUN-HUN	56
LOHAY Karol - KRATKY Jan	-0.43	SVK-CZE	56
ATTANASIO Dario - LANZAROTTI Massimo	-0.45	ITA-ITA	56
ROMANOWSKI Cenek - DROZD Matej	-0.50	CZE-CZE	42
BAUSBACK Nikolas - KONDOCH Hartmut	-0.51	GER-GER	55
AMBROZ Bojan - SIPUS Marko	-0.52	SLO-CRO	56
JANIK Stanislaw - SOLECKI Piotr	-0.54	POL-POL	56
CHEN Lin-Huan - HSIEH Ding-Hwa	-0.54	USA-USA	56

DURSUN Baris - BAYSAL Dursun	-0.54	TUR-TUR	28
TURANT Maciej - MISZCZUK Karolina	-0.57	POL-POL	14
KONSTACKA Emma - DANEK Petr	-0.57	CZE-CZE	14
VAN DER NEUT Jaap - ZWART Peter	-0.57	NED-NED	56
CIMA Leonardo - PORTA Federico	-0.57	ITA-ITA	42
ANKLESARIA Keyzad - MASKARA Subodh	-0.57	IND-IND	28
DYSON Andrew - CROUCH Peter	-0.59	ENG-ENG	56
GROSSACK Zachary - KOLESNIK Finn	-0.61	USA-USA	28
KLIMIUK Milena - JANIK Mateusz	-0.62	POL-POL	42
BELCAK Peter - HENC Marian	-0.64	SVK-SVK	56
CATZEFLIS Christian - GORETTI Massimo	-0.64	SUI-SUI	28
SUZER Ugurcan - ELER Cuneyt	-0.67	TUR-TUR	27
MICHALSKI Jakub - PROKOPOWICZ Marcel	-0.71	POL-POL	28
AVIRAM Yoram - ALTSHULER Gilad	-0.71	ISR-ISR	28
KOESTER Peer - HUEBNER Horst	-0.71	GER-GER	56
SAELENSMINDE Erik - GILLIS Simon	-0.75	NOR-ENG	28
STOECKLI Francois - STOECKLI Jeremie	-0.82	SUI-SUI	56
TREDAK Lukasz - DARKIEWICZ-MONIUSZKO Grzegorz	-0.86	POL-POL	56
KAHRAMAN Ahmet - CALISKAN Erdal	-0.86	TUR-TUR	56
BOCCHI Norberto - GANDOGLIA Alessandro	-0.91	ITA-ITA	56
KOWALSKI Dariusz - SIELICKI Tomasz	-0.93	POL-POL	42
ABRAGI Andreas - VERHAEGEN Marcel	-0.93	SWE-NED	28
RADKO Boleslaw - KASZOWSKI Dominik	-0.93	POL-POL	28
WONG Wai Man Flora - CHIANG Jeffrey	-0.93	HKG-HKG	14
CAUMEL Jean Patrick - TAQUOI Jacques	-0.98	FRA-FRA	56
FERENCA Matko - LESKOVAR Viktor	-1.00	CRO-CRO	56
VAN DEN BERGH Nic - VAN DEN BERGH Anke	-1.00	BEL-BEL	56
ZAIDENBERG Nezer Jacob - ZAIDENBERG GATT Sophie	-1.00	BUL-ISR	14
LINDENTHAL Erika - POLAP Klaus	-1.07	GER-GER	56
GROSSACK Zachary - HOTAMISLIGIL Selen	-1.11	USA-USA	27
KOO Hor Yung Charmian - CHIANG Jeffrey	-1.14	HKG-HKG	14
KROENING Detlev - KARIMI Omid	-1.14	GER-GER	56
GIERULSKI Boguslaw - SKRZYPCZAK Jerzy	-1.14	LTU-LTU	56
KORKMAZ Can - OZGEZ Cengiz	-1.14	TUR-TUR	42
HASHIMOTO George - ANDERSSON Thomas	-1.14	SUI-SUI	42
BYRNE Michael - KNOTTENBELT Maggie	-1.21	ENG-ENG	42
YADLIN Doron - ORENSTEIN Eitan	-1.26	ISR-ISR	42
PIEDRA Fernando - MEDIERO Marina	-1.29	SUI-ESP	28
FILIPOWICZ Dominik - OLCZYK Jerzy	-1.36	POL-POL	28
OZKURT Kenan - KORKMAZ Adem	-1.38	TUR-TUR	42
BETHERS Janis - LORENCIS Martins	-1.43	LAT-LAT	28
VOZABAL David - MACURA Milan	-1.43	CZE-CZE	14
LAHRMANN Christian - VERHAEGEN Marcel	-1.71	DEN-NED	14
ZAIDENBERG GATT Sophie - MEYTAL Kfir	-1.79	ISR-ISR	14
PIEDRA Fernando - MINGOT Lola	-1.86	SUI-ESP	14
MACURA Milan - SEKER Basar Doga	-1.86	CZE-CZE	14
LANTARON Luis - SAINZ DE VICUNA Maria	-1.86	ESP-ESP	28
JARZABKOWSKI Andrzej - SUCHODOLSKI Piotr	-1.88	POL-POL	42
FORYS Wiktoria - PANCEWICZ Szymon	-2.00	POL-POL	28
KOZYCKOWSKI Jerzy - COMANESCU Lucian	-2.07	POL-GER	56
HERMANN Sophie - CRISAFULLI SADABA Patricio	-2.20	AUT-AUT	56
ZAIDENBERG Nezer Jacob - LAVI Shalom	-2.31	BUL-ISR	42
VACHTARCIK Lukas - FRANZ Vojtech	-2.45	CZE-CZE	42
LANTARON Luis - MINGOT Lola	-2.71	ESP-ESP	14
LYSEK Matyas - KONSTACKA Emma	-3.77	CZE-CZE	13