



# EUROPEAN WINTER TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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## ! BADGE COLLECTION | PAYMENT

Reception desk will be open today starting from 9.00 a.m.

## ! EUROPEAN WINTER OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

### Seating rights

The Home Team has seating rights in stanzas 1 and 3

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For the 1st stanza, the team without seating rights must submit its line-up no later than 9.00 a.m.

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## FRIDAY THE 13<sup>TH</sup>: ONLY THE BRAVE

The qualification phase saw a thrilling battle. But that's all in the past now. The Knockouts reset the playing field, and only one thing matters: survival. **Superstitious or not, today is the day:** the **Knockout** rounds are here. And the **Swiss Cup** begins!



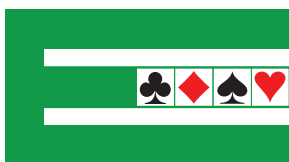
THE CAPTAINS' MEETING

SIGNED COPIES OF ZIA MAHMOOD'S "BRIDGE: A LOVE STORY" ARE AVAILABLE AT THE HOSPITALITY DESK. ZIA HAS GENEROUSLY DECIDED TO DONATE 50% OF THE PROCEEDS TO THE EBL YOUTH FUND. DON'T MISS OUT!



### IN THIS BULLETIN YOU'LL FIND

- Important notes
- Bracket
- Interview with Igor Chalupec
- Highlights from Rounds 8, 9, 10, 11
- One question, 6 champions
- Results & Butler



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## **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!**

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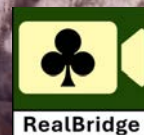
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# EUROPEAN WINTER OPEN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

ZIMMERMANN

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DYSON

FORMIDABLES

GILLIS

ELER

ASHE

CERCOL

HOBAA

JUST JUMP

OVERDECK

PROMAX

BRIDGESCANNER

OLCZYK

DE BOTTON

SLOVAKIA BLUE

MAVERICKS

LUCY IN THE SKY

SV BRIDGE CLUB

KNOTTENBELT

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SAYIN ABIM

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LOIBEN

DAISY CHAIN

ISRAEL BLUE

ALTSHULER

BRIDGE FOR BUSINESS

SPS POLAND

ROYAL



### **SWISS CUP FORMAT**

Preamble: the following regulation is missing details related to the number of entries, hence is to be published after the start

The event is divided in three phases: qualification, semifinals, final.

#### **a) Qualification**

It will be played over 8 rounds of 14 boards each, with Swiss movement, on February 13th and 14th. After day one, the starting teams will be joined by the drop-in teams coming from the Open Teams Championship. Those teams are a maximum of sixteen (the losers of the round of 32) and will be receiving a carry-over. They will not be paired against each other in the fifth round of the Swiss. At the end, the teams will be split in semifinal A and semifinal B. The qualifiers will be receiving a linear carry-over score equal to 20 VP to the best ranked, and down to 0 to the last.

#### **b) Semifinals**

It will be played over 8 rounds of 14 boards each, with Swiss movement, on February 15th and 16th. The qualifiers to semifinal A coming from the qualification stage will be joined by drop-in teams coming from the Open Teams Championship. Those teams are a maximum of eight (the losers of the round of 16) and will be receiving a carry-over. They will not be paired against each other in the first round of the Swiss.

After day one, the teams in semifinal A will be joined by the drop-in teams coming from the Open Teams Championship. Those teams are a maximum of four (the losers of the round of quarter-finals) and will be receiving a carry-over. They will not be paired amongst themselves in the fifth round of the Swiss.

The teams playing semifinal B will be receiving a linear carry-over score equal to 5 VP to the best ranked, and down to 0 to the last.

At the end, some teams qualify to Final A: some from semifinal A, 1 from semifinal B, and a maximum of 2 from the Open Teams Championship.

The qualifiers will be receiving a linear carry-over score equal to 20 VP to the best ranked, and down to 0 to the last.

The drop-in teams receive a carry-over. The team coming from semifinal B receives a carry-over equal to 0.

#### **c) Final**

It will be played over 4 rounds of 14 boards each, with Swiss movement, on February 17th. The drop-in teams will not be paired against each other in the first round of the Swiss.

### **MASTER POINT REQUIREMENTS IN SWISS TEAMS CUP**

Master Points will be awarded in accordance with the EBL Master Points scheme, provided that a player has played at least 3 out of 8 matches in the in the qualification and the semifinal stage, and at least 2 matches out of 4 in the final stage. The relevant EMP scales are available on the EBL website.

# INTERVIEW WITH IGOR CHALUPEC

## A Treasurer's Capital Gains: Financial and Human

BY FRANCESCA CANALI

The world of bridge is small, and that's why magic happens.

Sometimes you need advice, only to find out that your clubmate is the country's top expert in that field. Or you need a treasurer for an organisation and an ex Deputy Minister of Finance who led the national oil giant and one of the country's largest banks puts himself forward for the EBL Executive Committee: Igor Chalupec.

A degree in Economics from the Warsaw School of Economics and a degree in Law from the University of Warsaw, Vice President of the Board at Bank Pekao SA, CEO of PKN ORLEN, founder of ICENTIS Capital. But the first capital Igor truly excels at generating returns from is human capital. Those who work with him soon discover that one of his greatest talents is bringing out the best in people, and then making it even better.

We sit down with Igor to find out how he is helping transform the EBL.

### THURSDAY NIGHT FEVER

**How did you first come to bridge?**

During my student years at the Warsaw School of Economics. A group of friends, slightly older than me, used to meet every Thursday evening at someone's home. It was a mix of competitive bridge and very good company. The combination of intellectual challenge and social life is what drew me in.

**And have you played continuously since then?**

Not at all. I started my professional career at 24, and it was very intensive from the beginning. There was simply







no room for Thursday evenings. Bridge became something I did occasionally, if at all. It was a twenty-year interruption.

### What brought you back?

When I founded my own advisory firm in 2008, the shift to independent entrepreneurship gave me more flexibility. A friend introduced me to a gifted young Polish bridge player, but the real re-entry took place in 2013, when I started playing regularly with Bartosz Chmurski, who is still my partner today. We played together in almost all European and World transnational events starting from Bali in 2013. Together with Bartek, we developed our bidding system based on the Polish Club. It started as about 30 handwritten pages and has since grown to over a hundred.

In 2021 I started playing mixed events with my second partner Anna Sarniak. She's a great coach and I have learned a lot from her. She's tireless in correcting my multiple mistakes.

Today, apart from international events, we play regularly in the Polish Premier League and we have been playing occasionally at NABCs since 2023. And I combine my play with bridge administration in the PBU, EBL and WBF.

### You really live bridge from many different perspectives.

I do. I am a NBO and international bridge administrator, a sponsor, and a player. I think that combination is actually quite rare, and it gives me an understanding of the game that goes beyond any single role. When you sit at the table and compete, you see things differently from when you manage a budget or develop a strategy for a federation. Having all these perspectives at once is something I value enormously.



## **BUILD THE TEAM: IN BUSINESS LIKE IN BRIDGE**

**You have had an extraordinary career in business and government. The government appointed you CEO of PKN ORLEN, Poland's largest oil and gas company, to lead an emergency recovery. How have you applied that experience to bridge management?**

The interesting thing is that the principles are exactly the same, even though the scale is completely different. The EBL, compared to any large corporation, is a small one. But its scope of responsibility is enormous: it governs a mind sport across an entire continent, serving 41 National Bridge Organisations and about 289,000 players. And as a pillar of the World Bridge Federation, the EBL's influence extends well beyond Europe. There is a real social responsibility in organising top quality tournaments and promoting bridge as an inclusive, intellectual activity that brings people together across borders and generations.

The fundamental principle of good management is building the team. During my career, which by the way comprises both successes and failures, my first move was exactly that: build the team. This comes before big strategies, restructuring plans, cost-cutting programmes, anything else. Because it is the team that makes everything possible, even rising from the ashes. I think the same logic may be applied to bridge.

**I guess that in bridge as in management, you have to make tough, clear-cut decisions. That is perhaps the most difficult part for many.**

It is. But it is essential. Not deciding is already a form of decision, and often the worst one. You have to face difficult choices with courage.

**Let's start from the beginning. How did you enter bridge administration?**

In 2012, I joined the Polish Bridge Union Board. I became Vice President and Treasurer, and now I am in my fourth consecutive term.

**Igor's assertiveness was tested early on. In 2015, when the past leaders of the PBU decided to take no action on a famous cheating case, he resigned from the Management Board, stating publicly that the federation's response was "inadequate to circumstances." Asked to comment, Igor keeps it short:**

Fair play and integrity are not negotiable. Without them, bridge is not a sport.

**His stance was clearly appreciated by the Polish bridge community. Igor has since been re-elected three more times, most recently in 2025.**



## FROM WARSAW TO THE EUROPEAN STAGE

### How did you step into European bridge administration?

Poland has maintained continuous representation on the EBL Executive Committee. For me the turning point was June 2018, at the EBL elections in Ostend. That's where I met the late Jan Kamras, who was running for EBL President, and Eric Laurant. We shared a vision for institutional renewal. I was then elected as a member of the Executive Committee, Eric was appointed Treasurer. In 2022, he became the President and I took over the Treasurer's position from him. Last year I was appointed Vice-President.

### And now you also serve at the WBF level.

Since 2023 I have been a member of the WBF Executive Council, and I now serve as a special advisor on corporate governance to WBF President Franck Riehm.

### With the EBL elections approaching, what does your political future in bridge look like?

Eric Laurant will run again as EBL President, and I will stand for the Executive Committee as well. I would be very happy to continue working with Eric. The team is good, there is genuine trust between us. I am very glad to feel a similar team spirit with Franck.

## A CRITICAL MOMENT

### At the EBL Seminar for NBO Officers in Utrecht, you delivered a presentation titled "EBL and Your Money." What is the current state of European bridge?

Bridge is not dying, but it is at a critical moment. What I tried to show in Utrecht, with concrete data, is that the top seven federations have lost 28% of their members since 2014. Their share of total EBL membership fell from 82% to 77%. The long-term trend is negative for small federations as well, as they have seen an 8% decrease since





2014; the EBL has a responsibility to help the small federations grow. At the same time, medium-sized federations have grown by 4%, and their share of EBL membership has risen from 15% to 21%. This is why I drew a parallel with the German concept of the Mittelstand, where medium-sized enterprises rather than industrial giants drive long-term economic growth. In bridge, it is the same: the medium-sized federations are the ones contributing members at the fastest rate. What we want is to stop the leakage of members in large NBOs, help medium-sized NBOs become large, and help small federations grow to medium size.

#### **Do you see reasons for optimism?**

Yes. Poland is the proof. Our federation, the PBU, is still medium-sized, but is one of the fastest-growing in Europe, recording a 31% increase of membership from 2021 to 2025 (from 5198 to 6790 members). Our membership is among the youngest, and the gender split is approaching fifty-fifty. Youth programmes are thriving. These are not accidents. They are the result of deliberate policy choices, sustained investment in young players, and a willingness to innovate. What Poland has done, other federations can do too.

#### **Has the EBL itself applied some of these principles?**

Absolutely. The EBL invests in youth bridge and women's bridge. We have added the Women's series to the European Champions' Cup and launched Women's online competitions. We help Small Federations as much as we can, invest in communication, which is essential for the image of our sport and for reaching new audiences. And we have introduced a specific campaign to involve non-professional players through significantly reduced entry fees dedicated to local and non-titled players. The idea is simple: if we want the sport to grow, we need to lower the barriers for the people who are the foundation of every National Bridge Organisation. The professionals and the champions are the visible face of bridge, but it is the club players and the newcomers who determine its future.

We also do not forget about online bridge. We are not offended by online play, quite opposite we want to get out as much as possible from it. We introduced online events (Senior and Women team Championships, and now the Mixed team Championship as well) that give players more opportunities to play and train throughout the year.

#### **The EBL calendar has expanded significantly. How are events performing?**

Very well. Poznań 2025 was one of the strongest European Transnationals in EBL history: 256 teams and 238 pairs. The feedback from players was so positive that we are now considering hosting the next two or three Summer Transnationals there as well. The National Teams Championships have also shown a solid recovery since Madeira in 2022, with participation remaining stable despite increased entry fees. But I must be honest: rising travel costs are making it harder and harder for smaller federations to send their teams, which is also

something the EBL must address.

And talking about the Winter Transnational Championships, this week in Prague we are running a ten-day programme, compared to seven days last year. We added more events, including Mixed Team Championships, Open and Mixed Pairs. Starting from 2027, the Winter Transnationals will expand to fifteen days. We also signed a five-year agreement with our Czech partners for five editions in Prague. The Champions Cup has also developed enormously, growing into the Champions and Women Cups with 24 teams.

### How healthy is the EBL financially?

Dues from NBOs are covering our perpetual costs. The only source of real profit for the EBL is championships. Surplus from events goes to fund investments in technology, risk provisions, development projects and NBO support.

### What are the future plans of the EBL?

We discuss a lot with Eric on the future of the EBL. There is a lot to do, also in close cooperation with the WBF. But I think Eric will tell you more about it in his interview.





## European Spring Online Transnational Senior Team Championship



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# EUROPEAN WINTER TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

## QUALIFICATION, ROUND 8

AMY CASANOVA

### THE ANCHOR LEG

Bridge tournaments: They're a marathon, not a sprint. And team events are like a relay – so for the last session of the day, you want your strongest, freshest, pairs; those who possess the ability to manage pressure while maintaining a lead or trying to advance in the rankings. Let's see how they did.

### HOW HIGH WILL YOU GO?

Board 15. Dealer South. N-S Vul.

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

A 1♦ opening bid by West followed by a 2♦ Michaels cuebid, showing both majors, by North was a pretty universal start. From there, paths diverged.

#### Zimmermann v Bridge Trainer

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Nowak</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦*	2♦*	2♥*	4♥
4♠*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Israel's Bridge Trainer ended the first day at the top of the leaderboard. They dropped a few places and were second going into their last match against Zimmermann (Poland/Switzerland).

East has two cue bids available. Bareket bid 2♥. West showed a spade control over South's 4♥ bid and, after East showed a control with 5♣, West bid the diamond slam.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>N Tal</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>D Tal</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	2♦*	2♠*	4♥
4♠*	Pass	5♣*	Dble
5♦	5♥	Dble	All
Pass			

The auction at the other table was similar, but here East cuebid 2♠. South's double of 5♣ might have cast doubt on West's prospects for slam; he signed off in game. North pushed on to 5♥, doubled and down one, for a profitable sacrifice, Bridge Trainer picking up 12 IMPs.

#### Hobaa v Sayin Abim

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zorlu</i>	<i>Sze</i>	<i>Ucar</i>	<i>Chiu</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦*	2♦*	2♠*	4♥
4♠*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	6♦	All
Pass			



## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G Ho</i>	<i>Yilmaz</i>	<i>W L Ho</i>	<i>Kubac</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦*	2♦*	2♥*	4♥
5♥*	Pass	5♠*	Dble
Rdbl	6♥	7♦	7♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All
Pass			

Gordon Ho's of China's Hobaa was one of the few to use exclusion keycard. East's 4♠ response – one or four – was doubled by South and Ho redoubled to show first-round control. The rare, unfavorable seven-level sacrifice was worth 3 IMPs for Sayin Abim, although they could have picked up 14 IMPs had they let 7♦ go, as a spade loser is inevitable.

## Bridge For Business v Gillis

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rasmussen</i>	<i>Zawislak</i>	<i>Austberg</i>	<i>Golebiowski</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	2♦*	3♦	3♥
4♥*	Dble	5♣	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Poland's Bridge For Business had a brisk, efficient, business-like auction to the top spot after conservative raises by East and South.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Janiszewski</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Ciechomski</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	2♦*	Dble	4♥
4♠	5♥	6♦	6♥
7♦	All Pass		

The double by East in this situation is often penalty of one of the overcaller's suits. Not sure how this pair plays it. The aforementioned 14 IMPs went to Gillis, representing England and Norway.

## DOUBLE DOWN

Board 18. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

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



Where I live (in the U.S.), the multi-2♦, showing a weak two-bid in a major, is barely legal; it's only allowed in specific events at certain tournaments. We're catching on, but it takes a while. Still, I think 3♦ would be the choice of many as 2♦ is not a very effective pre-empt. The majority of Easts opened 3♦ as I suspect for them, 2♦ is simply not available.

## Czechia U23 v Banana

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chiang</i>	<i>Konstacka</i>	<i>Koo</i>	<i>Danek</i>
—	—	3♦	Dble*
3♥	Dble	4♥	Pass
5♦	5♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Several Wests bid 3♠ (on the way to an eventual 5♦) after South doubled 3♦. Jeffrey Chiang of China's Banana psyched 3♥, exposed it by correcting 4♥ to 5♦, and got North-South thrown off track.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Karlik</i>	<i>Wong</i>	<i>Walach</i>	<i>Chui</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
2♥*	4♦*	Dble*	4♥
5♦	5♥	Pass	Pass
6♦	Dble	All Pass	

2♥ Spades  
4♦ Hearts



Walach was one of the few to pass instead of bidding 3♦. After South's strong notrump, West bid 2♥, showing spades. North transferred to hearts with 4♦, doubled by East as a lead-director. West is looking at two likely defensive tricks, but the "save" at these colors was too tempting.

### Knottenbelt v Holahota

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Grossack</i>	<i>Byrne</i>	<i>Hotamisliligil</i>	<i>Knottenbelt</i>
—	—	2♦	3♣
3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

After a weak two-bid followed by a simple overcall, West got his suit in, as did North. West competed at these colours to 5♦ (maybe even thinking it would make!), North made a well-judged pass. Knottenbelt doubled and led the ♠A for down one

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tommasini</i>	<i>Erbil</i>	<i>Norton</i>	<i>Peyret</i>
—	—	3♦	Dble
5♦	5♥	Pass	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	6♥
Dble	All Pass		



Ilan BAREKET

After looking at all these auctions, I think I like 3♦–Dble–5♦ the best. You're pretty much always going there anyway, take away the room and let them guess. That worked out OK here – for Knottenbelt, who won 14 IMPs.

Literally no one made anything on this deal:

### DO YOU OR DON'T YOU?

Board 22. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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

This is a great deal where I wish we had the play record at all the tables. If South makes an Unusual 2NT overcall, showing the minors (some did, some didn't), when the ♠4 hits the table against your 4♥ and you see dummy's hand, you are pretty sure that's a singleton. The contract is still makable, if you take the ♠A and lead the ♦4. When North hops up with the ace for a spade return, you must ruff with the ♥9. And then there's still some work to be done.

### Zimmermann v Bridge Trainer

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Nowak</i>
—	—	1♥	2NT
3♣*	3♠	4♣*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

The play was as described above to the first two tricks, but when North led the ♠Q, declarer threw the ♣Q, South ruffing with the ♥2. A diamond exit will set the contract. East can win cheaply but still has a trump loser and no way to pitch a club loser.

South instead exited with his last trump, covered with the 10 and queen. A diamond was ruffed to



dummy, the ♠K cashed, pitching a club, and now Bareket finessed the ♥9 and made his game.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>N Tal</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>D Tal</i>
—	—	1♥	2NT
3♦*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

In the replay, 3♦ showed spades; North stayed quiet. The lead was the same, however Kalita pitched the ♦2 on the ♠A. He next played the ♦4 to North's ace, but when the ♠10 was led, Kalita finessed, losing to the king. He won the club return in hand to draw two rounds of trump, then took a ruffing finesse in diamonds and claimed for a push board.

A tough deal to play, only about 25% of those in 4♥ made it.

It's clear Bridge Trainer has been hitting the gym. They topped the leaderboard for the second day.



*Jacek KALITA*



TD Fearghal O'BOYLE

# Who is the partner you enjoyed playing with the most and why?



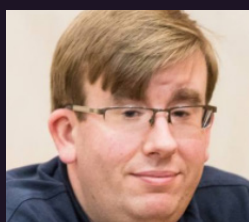
**ZACHARY GROSSACK**

“ My mom. When she's in the zone, she plays like me.



**SABINE AUKEN**

“ Roy has widened not only my bridge horizon. We think very much alike about many things, but not everything. This is perfect, it makes for many lively, interesting and enthusiastic discussions.



**JOE GRUE**

“ This week Reese Milner is my favorite partner. But Brad Moss is my favorite partner!



**JUSTYNA ZMUDA**

“ My husband! Just because I love winning, and with him is the easiest. There are some other advantages (very few!), but this one is the most important



**ZIA MAHMOOD**

“ Masood Salim. We were partners when I started.



**BOYE BROGELAND**

“ I would like to mention all my four long-term partners; Øyvind Saur (in the juniors), Erik Sælensminde, Espen Lindqvist and Christian Bakke. They are all terrific players and have a very good temperament at and off the table. So many good memories from all those partnerships! And probably I should add my wife Tonje to avoid getting kicked out of my hotel room in Prague – we've managed more than 25 years together as bridge and life partners.



# EUROPEAN WINTER TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

## QUALIFICATION, ROUND 9

# SAYIN ABIM v ZIMMERMANN

DAVID BURN

**Sayin Abim**, which Google Translate tells me means “dear brother” in Turkish, led the qualification stage at the end of play on Wednesday with **Zimmermann** about 8 VPs back in third place. When they met on Thursday morning, the match started with just what you want first thing after breakfast – a game that was bid and made pretty much everywhere for no swing. The second board woke everyone up:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 9 5 3 2	♠ A Q 8 7 6	♠ K
♥ K 10 9 5	♥ Q	♥ AJ8763
♦ 10 3	♦ Q J 9 4	♦ 82
♣ K 4 3	♣ Q 10 7	♣ J962

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Yilmaz	Zimmermann	Kubac
—	—	2♦*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Nowosadzki	Ucar	Nowak
—	—	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

In the Open Room Pierre Zimmermann's 2♦ opening showed a weak two in a major.

Some defences to this allow South to double with a decent weak no trump (or some strong hands) but Kubac didn't have this tool in his kitbag. Multon's 4♦ asked East to bid his major, and when Zimmermann's 4♥ travelled round to North, Yilmaz rightly suspected that he was being stolen from. Because West had shown length in both majors Yilmaz didn't want to put all his eggs in one basket with 4♠, so he doubled and everyone passed.

In the Closed Room East followed the trend of which we have seen plenty of examples in the tournament so far by opening 3♥, raised to four by West and passed with varying degrees of contentment by everybody. Both defences took the five tricks that were their allotment, and Sayin Abim broke on top by 5 IMPs.

There were larger swings elsewhere on this deal. In the other clash at the top of the table between Bridge Trainer and Eler, East for Eler opened 2♥ and South doubled.


West bid 5♥ and North 5♠, where she played on the lead of ♥A followed by a club shift.

She went up with dummy's ♣A and took the spade finesse for a rapid down one and 12 IMPs to ELER, who had doubled 5♥ at the other table and collected 500. Only about half the North-Souths were allowed to play in 4♠, while a couple of East-West pairs bought the contract

in 3♥. In the match between Deep Finesse and GIB, East-West (as you would expect) correctly sacrificed in 6♥ against the cold 6♦ the other way.

Another sub-standard (well, sub-1950s standard) pre-empt featured on the next deal:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Yilmaz	Zimmermann	Kubac
—	—	—	3♣
Dble	3NT	Dble	Pass
Pass	4♣	Pass	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Nowosadzki	Ucar	Nowak
—	—	—	3♣
Dble	4♣	All Pass	

After the same start at both tables North for Sayin Abim tried 3NT over West's double as a kind of semi-bluff – maybe it would make, maybe it would go down a few undoubled against something the other way, maybe it would put the opponents off course. It actually did the last of these – East doubled with his scattered values and when North ran to 4♣ Multon for Zimmermann put his faith in his long major rather than doubling again. The play was an unhappy affair unless you were Turkish, and the upshot was down three. At the other table Nowosadzki contented himself with raising the pre-empt a level, which silenced everybody and

although Nowak picked up the trumps, he had four losers and Sayin Abim had 8 IMPs to lead by 13.

A couple of North-Souths did rather better – when South opened 3♣ and West overcalled 3♠ instead of doubling, North tried 3NT in earnest and made it when East, reasonably enough, led the king of his partner's suit. 3NT was the contract at another table after the same start of 3♣ by South and 3♠ by West – but it was played by East after North passed up the opportunity to bid it himself. He was thus able to double it instead, and he collected 1700 for his trouble.

The Souths were on lead on board 4 with:

♠ K 5 3 ♥ 5 ♦ 10 7 6 ♣ A Q 10 7 6 5

after 1♦ to their left, 1♥ to their right, 3♥ to their left, 4♥ to their right (one of them had stuck in a 2♣ overcall, the other had not). Both led a spade, and that was enough to beat the contract (♣A followed by a spade shift would also have sufficed). No swing here, but at several tables the game was made after a different auction and a different lead, causing a small outbreak of double-digit swings.

Another almost flat game caused mild amusement when a combination not found in Roudinesco's lexicon proved to be the trump suit. How do you play ♠10 9 8 7 4 facing ♠J 6 3?

Best is to lead towards the jack in dummy, persuading LHO to go in with the queen from ♠A Q 2. Best is then to lead towards the jack again, persuading... but let other pens dwell on guilt and misery. The swing was only 1 IMP, after all.

A much-despised (at least, by my fellow reporters) contract of 1NT swung another IMP for an overtrick. The tedium seemed set to continue on the next deal, but a North player with ♠J 9 6 4 ♥Q J ♦Q 10 9 8 ♣Q 5 3 persuaded himself to go in search of a vulnerable game facing his partner's 14-16 1NT opening. His search was successful in that he reached a vulnerable game, but the outcome was disappointing in that it went down two for 7 IMPs to Zimmermann,

their first significant gain of the match. Many others in the field were similarly tempted, most of them facing 15-17 to be sure.

A hat-trick of boredom was avoided when on board 8 South for Zimmermann was permitted by his methods to reopen when a strong no trump came round to his

♠Q 9 6 4   ♥A Q 4   ♦J 6   ♣K 10 9 7

This got his side to a 4-4 spade fit that failed by a trick, but with 1NT makeable the other way no great harm seemed to have been done. However, the defenders were able to give declarer a problem in the play of that contract, and when he failed to solve it he went down one for 3 IMPs to Sayin Abim, ahead by 11 now.

The North-South hands on board 9 were:

♠ K 9 6  
♥ A Q J  
♦ Q 7  
♣ A K 7 5 3



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

and the auctions at both tables started with 2NT by North, 4♣ by South which was a slam try in hearts. Various levels of artifice were deployed thereafter, and the grand slam was reached at both tables for no swing. The field mostly handled this well, although one pair appear to have played in Blackwood and another in Kickback. The advantages of the former over the latter have at times been hotly disputed by theologians, but the advantage in this case was that one of them made and the other one didn't.

East-West on the next deal had a 3=3=3=4 eight count facing a 3=3=4=3 ten count.

There was no defence to 3NT, and both declarers ended up with ten tricks. Nobody bid game in the tournament unless you count 2♥ doubled as game (it lost 800 for the hapless declarer).

Board 11. Dealer South. Love all.

♠ 10 8 6  
♥ 10 9  
♦ A 10 5 4  
♣ A 10 8 2

♠ K 7 5 3  
♥ A K Q 6 2  
♦ Q 8 6  
♣ K



♠ A Q 2  
♥ 7 5  
♦ J 7 2  
♣ Q 9 7 6 5

♠ J 9 4  
♥ J 8 4 3  
♦ K 9 3  
♣ J 4 3

This was a messy 3NT for the East declarers. West had bid hearts and no one had bid spades, so at both tables South led his shorter major (instead of his weaker minor, which would have broken the contract). The declarers won and started on hearts, discarding clubs from hand. In a sense there are always nine tricks (four in each major and a club) but if South wins the fourth heart and plays another spade, communications have become decidedly awkward. In practice both Norths discarded spades on the hearts, so that when they won ♣A they had to give declarer a ninth trick – but had they been able to play another spade, dummy's major-suit winners would have guard-squeezed declarer in the minors. Declarer can get around this, but it's not easy – though only a dozen or so failed

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to make their contracts because the defence is also difficult.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Yilmaz	Zimmermann	Kubac
1♣	Dble	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	3♦
3♥	Pass	4♣	4♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Nowosadzki	Ucar	Nowak
1♣	Dble	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

This was a question of method – for Sayin Abim South chose to show his major in response to the double of 1♣, jumping with his moderate values. That didn't get the job done, and although East-West sportingly reopened to give their opponents another shot, game was out of reach.

At the other table North-South have been dealing with nebulous 1♣ openings all their lives – the 1♠ advance over the double showed values and the rest of the auction was as if they had opened a Polish 1♣ themselves. 10 IMPs to Zimmermann, tying the match at 18 IMPs apiece. Less than half the field bid this game, and there was the customary four-figure penalty at one table.

A slam followed, with 18 hcp facing 14 and some shape. 6♣ was the chosen contract at both tables, with a trump suit of ♣A J 6 facing ♣K 7 4 3 2 one of the problems. That suit played for one loser and the rest of the lie was favourable enough, but 6NT was a rather better contract. Another slam did not follow, to the chagrin of the Turkish pair who had bid one – without, it must be said, a great deal in the way of justification.

That was a pity, for the match had been well played until then and a draw would have been a fitting result – as it was, Zimmermann prevailed by 29 IMPs to 11 and drew a good deal closer to their rivals at the head of the table.



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# EUROPEAN WINTER TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

## QUALIFICATION, ROUND 10

# LOIBEN v SAYIN ABIM

MARJO CHORUS

It looked like the first boards were rather dull but already board 15, the opening board of the set, proved too much of a challenge for a lot of N/S-pairs:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

In the match Loiben-Sayin Abim, both North-players declared 4♠ on the lead of ♣Q. Umshaus (Loiben) took the Ace, played a spade to the Ace and next ran ♠10. Was he going to play small if West played small? He didn't get the opportunity because West put in ♠Q. A third spade and then ♦2 to the Jack. There was nothing West could do. He took the Ace, played a heart to ♥Q and ♥K but North could reach South in Diamonds and threw a heart on ♣K, West ruffing.

Same result at the other table, so no score.

Nothing interesting, you say. Well, 21 North-players went down one in 4♠ and a whole bundle, in 3NT, could not make that either.

Exception: Helgemo (South) in the match De Botton (5<sup>th</sup>) – Bridge Trainer (1<sup>st</sup>). He was in 3NT and got a Diamond lead, used the restricted choice in Spades and later on put East in to bring him trick 9. While Bridge Trainer went one off in 4♠ that meant 12 IMPs to De Botton and for them there was a lot more to come.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hopfenheit</i>	<i>Yilmaz</i>	<i>Reim</i>	<i>Kubac</i>
—	—	—	2♠*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

2♠ 5-9 hcp 5+♠+5+m

The play in 4♠ was interesting. West got off with a heart and East returned a diamond to ♦K and ♦A. If you give your partner a diamond ruff, it is all over for the defence. Hopfenheit did the best he could do by returning a heart, but South read the layout very well. He ruffed, played ♠A,

West	North	East	South
<i>Dedehayir</i>	<i>Umshaus</i>	<i>Aluf</i>	<i>Terraneo</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	3♦	3♥	4♠
5♥	All Pass		

♠ 10 8  
♥ A 10 3 2  
♦ 10 9 8 4  
♣ 9 5 3

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

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

♠ Q 5 2  
♥ Q 6 4  
♦ A 7 6 5  
♣ Q J 4


West	North	East	South
<i>Hopfenheit</i>	<i>Yilmaz</i>	<i>Reim</i>	<i>Kubac</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠*	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

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

♠ K 8  
 ♥ 7 4  
 ♦ K 5 3  
 ♣ J 9 8 7 5 3

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

♠ A J 10 5  
 ♥ A J  
 ♦ A 7 4  
 ♣ A Q 4 2





players declared 4♠. Against N. Tal, Hoftaniska lead a diamond and again, North tried to get rid of a diamond on the clubs. Hoftaniska could ruff and cash a diamond. A spade and a heart trick then were yet to come. One down.

In the other room Baraket choose to lead his Club and Heiberg-Evenstad was warned. He duly made ten tricks. De Botton +12 IMP, leading 34-0.

A chance for a big win to Sayin Abim when Terraneo-Umshaus went overboard when they bid 6♠ on this deal:

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hopfenheit	Yilmaz	Reim	Kubac
—	—	2♦*	Dble
Rdbl**	Pass	2♥	2NT
Pass	3♥	Dble	4♠
All Pass			

2♦ Multi  
Rdbl Bid your suit

The lead was ♥5 to the 9 and Ace. Kubak put down ♠A and ♠KQ, East suggesting values in Clubs with ♥3 and ♥4 and ♣5. Then a Club to ♣J and ♣A. Back came a diamond to the queen and a diamond, killing communications. South overtook. Now a club to the King and two more spades. BBO said East threw two hearts now, so a heart to the bare king would give South two more diamond tricks but I can't image East played that way. So one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dedehayir	Umshaus	Aluf	Terraneo
—	—	3♥	Dble
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

No chance and two down so 3 IMPs to Sayin Abim.

In the match De Botton-Bridge Trainer, the Israelis went one off in 4♠ but Helgemo, yes he again, settled for 3NT in South and duly made it. Again 12 IMPs to De Botton, who after 13 boards were leading 82-0!

The last deal of the set was tricky:

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hopfenheit	Yilmaz	Reim	Kubac
1♦	1♠	Dble	2♦*
Pass	3♥	All Pass	
2♦	Hearts		

Just made when Reim, after a diamond lead, was allowed to make ♦J but didn't play ♠A and another-spade to get a ruff. Sayin Abim +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dedehayir	Umshaus	Aluf	Terraneo
1♦	1♠	2♣	2♥
3♣	3♥	Dble	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All
Pass			



Dedehavir and Aluf did well to reach 5♣ and made this. Sayin Abim +400 and 11 IMPs, thus ending the set 27-27 IMP.

Meanwhile the Israelis gained 11 IMPs by leading a heart against 3NT by E/W and making 3NT in the other room on a spade lead. The final result of the set thus became: De Botton-Bridge Trainer 82-11.



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## ELEVENTH HOUR

MARK HORTON

By the time you reach the penultimate round of a qualifying event some of the teams will, to coin a phrase, be 'home and hosed' virtually certain to advance to the knockout phase. However, for many squads the issue will be in doubt and nerves and temperament can be important as the players approach the finishing line.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

**De Botton v Zimmermann**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Charlsen</i>
—	Pass	1♣*	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♥	All
Pass			

1♣ 0+♣, 11-14 balanced or 4441♦,  
15+, 5(4)+♣, 18+ any

South's decision to overcall 3♦ saw the spade suit vanish.

Declarer took the opening lead of the ♦Q with dummy's ♦K and played a heart to the king followed by the ♥2. When South won with the ♥10, declarer claimed, +140.

It was one of those occasions where the adv

ice of the late Barry Crane would have paid a dividend as starting with the top spades will restrict declarer to at most eight tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Nowasadzki</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Nowak</i>
—	1♠	2♠*	4♣*
Pass	4♣	Dble	Pass
5♣	5♠	All Pass	

2♠ Hearts and a minor  
4♣ Splinter

North's powerful major suit holdings were enough for him to open the bidding. When East doubled to show his extra values West bid what was effectively a 'Pass or correct 5♣'. I doubt East gave much thought to bidding 6♣, but if you can't defeat 5♠ it's a good save.

Naturally, East led the ♣K and when West followed with the ♣7 he took his best shot by switching to the ♥4. It was a forlorn hope, declarer winning and playing a diamond, soon recording +450 giving Zimmermann 11 IMPs.

Only the Rueful Rabbit would defeat 5♠, accidentally leading a low club, West winning and switching to a heart.

**Beauty with Pretzels v Lupo Veloce**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Burg</i>	<i>Humpal</i>	<i>Zelnik</i>	<i>O Krasa</i>
—	1♠	2♠*	3♥*
4NT*	Pass	5♣	5♦
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

2♠ Hearts and a minor  
3♥ Spade support  
4NT Bid your minor



South's 5♦ was designed to help partner should EW bid on over 5♠. It would usually indicate possession of the ♦A or ♦K, but you can't have it all ways.

East led the ♣K, +450.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Slovakova</i>	<i>Lauss</i>	<i>M Krasa</i>	<i>Berger</i>
—	1♠	3♣*	3♦
5♣	Dble	Pass	5♠
Pass	Pass	6♣	Dble
All Pass			

3♣ Clubs and hearts

That cost -100 but was worth 8 IMPs.  
It was the only time EW took the save.

#### Bortoletti v Poland U21B

##### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wojciechowski</i>	<i>Bortoletti</i>	<i>Blicharz</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>
—	2♦*	2♥	Dble*
All Pass			

2♦ Weak in a major



Michal KLUKOWSKI

North took a view, but his holding in hearts was not enough to trouble declarer, who took nine tricks after the lead of the ♦Q, +570.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Izwantowski</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Tokarski</i>
—	1♠	2♠*	4♦*
5♣	Pass	Pass	5♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All
Pass			

2♠ Hearts and a minor

4♦ Fit jump

East led the ♣K and that was ♣650 and a 15 IMP swing.

#### Secrets of Secrets v Vallon Bridge

##### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zwart</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>van der Neut</i>	<i>Zia</i>
—	2♠*	4♣*	4♥*
5♣	5♥	Pass	5♠
6♣	Pass	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

2♠ Constructive weak two

4♣ Clubs and hearts

East led the ♣A and declarer was one down, -50.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Auken</i>	<i>ter Laare</i>	<i>Welland</i>	<i>Alkemade</i>
—	2♠*	Dble	2♠*
Pass	3♠	Dble	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All
Pass			

2♣ 6-10, 5+4+ majors or  
22-23/26-27 balanced

That was a routine +400 and 8 IMPs for Secret of Secrets.



Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

**De Botton v Zimmermann**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Charlsen</i>
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣, 11-22

East led the ♠J and declarer won with the ♠Q and played on diamonds, East taking the second round and switching to the ♥3. Declarer won, cashed his winners and scored a club at the end for +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Nowasadzki</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Nowak</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♣ Double checkback

East led the ♠J and declarer won with the ♠Q, played a diamond to the ten and a heart to the jack. East won and switched to the ♣5 and although dummy's ♣K scored declarer was forced to rely on a favourable situation in hearts. It was a case of heartache not heart break and he was two down, losing 13 IMPs.

Virtually everyone led the ♠J against 3NT, which failed on 21 occasions.

**Nikos v Orenda**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakan</i>	<i>Delimplatadakis</i>	<i>Aslan</i>	<i>Vroustis</i>
Pass	1♣*	Dble	Rdbl
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣, 2 cards only with 4432

For once, breaching Burn's Law delivered a cracking result, declarer collecting nine tricks for +1030.

As one of my legal friends would say, *res ipsa loquitur*.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Bilgen</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Umur</i>
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♦*
Pass	1NT*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

After the lead of the ♠J declarer found his way to nine tricks, but that meant 10 IMPs for Nikos.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

**De Botton v Zimmermann**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Charlsen</i>
—	1♥	Pass	2♣*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

2♣ 3+♥, 8+

After the bids at the three level, NS exchanged control showing efforts followed by RKCB. That left East to find a lead. He went with the ♣A and when West could not ruff the next club that was +980.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Nowasadzki</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Nowak</i>
—	1♥	Pass	2♠*
2♦	3♣	3♦	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

East led the ♦J and declarer claimed, +480 but an 11 IMP loss.

#### Foursquire v Czechia U23

##### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Danek</i>	<i>Atisen</i>	<i>Konstacka</i>	<i>McGuire</i>
—	1♥	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

2NT Heart support

The system card tells us nothing about the meaning of bids after 2NT, but we can guess that 3♦ was a shortage and that it was followed by a series of control showing bids and RKCB. Looking at the ♠A, Emma Konstacka could see one trick. Perhaps recalling the advice of Garozzo she looked for another and made the devastating lead of a small spade, sealing declarer's fate, -50. 28 pairs bid 6♥ – Emma was the only one to lead a spade – bravo!

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Walach</i>	<i>Orsmond</i>	<i>Lysek</i>
—	2♦*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

2♦	6+♥, 6-11, 7-8 LT or 5+♥ and 5♣/♦ 9-14(16) 6LT or <4LT
3♣	Game forcing+, ♥fit, asking
4NT	RKCB
5♣	1 keycard

East led the ♦J, +980 and 14 IMPs for Czechia U23.



# PLAY WITH A LEGEND.

## MAPLE LEAF CELEBRITY CLASSIC

FEBRUARY 23, 2026

BID FOR A SEAT. UPGRADE YOUR GAME.

# RESULTS

## RANKING AFTER ROUND 12

1	ZIMMERMANN	157.27
2	SPS POLAND	156.43
3	MAVERICKS	149.95
4	DE BOTTON	149.41
5	HOBAA	148.84
6	SECRETS OF SECRETS	148.43
7	BRIDGE TRAINER	147.55
8	ASHE	146.09
9	SAYIN ABIM	145.36
10	KNOTTENBELT	145.04
11	DAISY CHAIN	143.71
12	SV BRIDGE CLUB	143.53
13	OLCZYK	138.66
14	ELER	137.76
15	ISRAEL BLUE	137.67
16	OVERDECK	136.16
17	ALTSHULER	134.90
18	CERCOL	133.16
19	SLOVAKIA BLUE	132.56
20	BIANCHI	132.13
21	FORMIDABLES	131.76
22	LOIBEN	131.26
23	GILLIS	130.34
23	BRIDGE FOR BUSINESS	130.34
25	LUCY IN THE SKY	130.22
26	BEAUTY WITH PRETZELS	130.01
27	DYSON	129.28
28	MILANBRIDGE.COM	127.63
29	JUSTJUMP	126.10
30	BRIDGESCANER	126.01
30	ROYAL	126.01
32	PROMAX	125.79
33	ISTARI	125.18
34	ANTE	124.88
35	BRENO	124.53
36	CROATIA	123.26
37	ANGELS	121.67
38	CZECHIA U23	121.38
39	ZIP	120.95
40	LATVIA	120.49

41	LYSY SOLEK	118.87
42	4EKO2FAZOKLUB0	118.60
43	KROWKA	117.81
44	ZHANG	117.70
45	44FUN	117.49
46	TRADYCJA	117.09
47	LUPO VELOCE	116.93
48	ORENDA	116.68
49	TEAM META	116.25
50	VALLON BRIDGE	114.52
51	KARTALITE	114.15
52	VIMAPHAN	111.91
53	BORTOLETTI	111.63
54	POLAND U21 A	110.82
55	VICUNA	110.80
56	LAHRMANN	110.43
57	FRANCE GREEN	109.73
58	KALISH	108.86
59	NEW BROOM	108.11
60	NEXT GEN BRIDGE	106.77
61	WARSAW UNIVERSITY	106.48
62	BANANA	106.34
63	NIKOS	105.67
64	HOLAHOTA	103.82
65	NP MANU	103.51
66	BARIS	101.62
67	ESKOM	99.47
68	CZECHIA U31	99.39
69	TO BID OR NOT TO BID	97.52
70	GDANSK	95.28
71	MAYDAY	93.25
72	MACCABI YAFO	92.65
73	TAQUOI	92.55
74	SLOVAKIA WHITE	90.98
75	FOURSQUIRE	90.90
76	ASCHAFFENBURG	88.25
77	BAMBI	84.98
78	POLAND U21 B	84.80
79	SWISS SENIORS	58.70



# RESULTS

## BUTLER AFTER ROUND 12

ZAWISLAK Slawek - CIECHOMSKI Jacek	1.86	POL-POL	14
WALACH Ivo - LYSEK Matyas	1.64	CZE-CZE	14
KANDEMIR Ismail - NUHOGLU Sevil	1.54	TUR-TUR	28
GERLI Aldo Giovanni - FRUSCOLONI Leonardo	1.18	ITA-ITA	84
LAHRMANN Christian - TYLVAD Daniel	1.14	DEN-DEN	28
ZAIDENBERG GATT Sophie - LAVI Shalom	1.11	ISR-ISR	28
CHARLSEN Thomas - HOFTANISKA Thor Erik	1.08	NOR-NOR	112
SCHEBERAN Philip - EDER Felix	1.04	AUT-AUT	28
TOMMASINI Stefano - NORTON Ben	0.98	ENG-ENG	126
NAWROCKI Piotr - WIAKOWSKI Piotr	0.94	POL-POL	140
KORKMAZ Can - OZCAN Ihsan	0.93	TUR-TUR	14
AVCIOGLU Huseyin Kerem - SERDAR Ekrem	0.92	TUR-TUR	13
TOLEDANO Oren - ZAMIR Ami	0.89	ISR-ISR	140
NOWOSADZKI Michal - NOWAK Kamil	0.86	SUI-POL	140
LYSEK Matyas - DANEK Petr	0.86	CZE-CZE	28
ZAWISLAK Slawek - JANISZEWSKI Przemyslaw	0.83	POL-POL	70
BESSIS Thomas - LORENZINI Cedric	0.82	FRA-FRA	140
NYSTROM Fredrik - UPMARK Johan	0.80	SWE-SWE	140
BROGELAND Boye - BAKKE Christian	0.80	NOR-NOR	140
HO Wai Lam - HO Gordon	0.77	HKG-HKG	168
ZORLU Nafiz - UCAR Ali	0.76	TUR-TUR	126
REIM Andrea - DI BACCO Victoria	0.75	GER-GER	56
ARASZKIEWICZ Konrad - KOTOROWICZ Krzysztof	0.75	POL-POL	126
GRIGORIU Mihai - CERNAT Ovidiu	0.74	ROM-ROM	98
NAWROCKI Piotr - OLCZYK Jerzy	0.71	POL-POL	28
AROIX Jean-Luc - TIGNEL Jeremie	0.69	FRA-FRA	112
KUBAC Nezih - YILMAZ M.Gokhan	0.67	TUR-TUR	140
COLDEA Ionut - GHIGHECI Ovidiu	0.67	ROM-ROM	112
GIERULSKI Boguslaw - SKRZYPCZAK Jerzy	0.67	LTU-LTU	154
MAHMOOD Zia - GOLD David	0.67	USA-ENG	126
MARCINOWSKI Piotr - BAK Wojciech	0.64	POL-POL	140
KALITA Jacek - KLUKOWSKI Michal	0.63	SUI-SUI	112
ZAPADINSKIY Evgeny - SOLODAR Philip	0.62	ISR-ISR	111
TYLVAD Daniel - HAMMELEV Nikolaj	0.62	DEN-DEN	112
SARNIAK Anna - CHMURSKI Bartosz	0.60	POL-POL	98
HANDLEY-PRITCHARD Ben - TOWNSEND Tom	0.60	ENG-ENG	168
PABST Philipp - GUENDEL Marius	0.59	GER-GER	56
BAREKET Ilan - LENGY Assaf	0.58	ISR-ISR	168
VOZABAL David - MACURA Milan	0.57	CZE-CZE	42
WANG Wen Fei - HAMPSON Geoff	0.56	HKG-USA	168
GINOSSAR Eldad - ZACK Yaniv	0.56	USA-ISR	126
BILDE Dorte Cilleborg - BILDE Morten	0.55	DEN-DEN	168
VAINIKONIS Erikas - ARLOVICH Andrei	0.55	LTU-LTU	98
NARKIEWICZ Grzegorz - GLASEK Grzegorz	0.55	POL-POL	84
SCHALTZ Martin - ASHE Steven	0.54	DEN-USA	168
SUZER Ugurcan - SERDAR Ekrem	0.48	TUR-TUR	140
BURAS Krzysztof - STRZEMECKI Wojciech	0.47	POL-POL	126
BRZUSTOWSKI Jerzy - PAWLUK Tomasz	0.46	POL-POL	112
HELGEMO Geir - HEIBERG-EVENSTAD Nicolai	0.46	NOR-NOR	112
UMSHAUS Peter - TERRANEO Christian	0.45	AUT-AUT	168
PATREUHA Jakub - PATREUHA Patryk	0.45	POL-POL	140
VIDOVIC Toni - KATUSIC Filip	0.45	CRO-CRO	140
BIRMAN Alon - PADON Dror	0.44	ISR-ISR	126

DURSUN Baris - OZGEZ Cengiz	0.43	TUR-TUR	28
MUKHERJEE Sumit - TEWARI Rajeshwar	0.42	IND-IND	112
DEHEGER Colin - BEDOUET Pierre	0.41	FRA-FRA	112
TWARDOWSKI Andrzej - BOGUCKI Darek	0.41	POL-POL	112
KRASA Mikulas - SLOVAKOVA Pavla	0.40	CZE-CZE	168
TURANT Maciej - PANCEWICZ Szymon	0.39	POL-POL	28
SLEMR Jakub - PYSZKO Adam	0.39	CZE-CZE	168
ANDRUSZKIEWICZ Jakub - PALUSZEK Konrad	0.39	POL-POL	168
VOLHEJN Vit - VOLHEJN Petr	0.38	CZE-CZE	168
WNUK Wojciech - ADAMCZAK Jakub	0.38	POL-POL	140
GRZEJDZIAK Igor - GRZEJDZIAK Sabina	0.37	POL-POL	168
ROMANOWSKI Cenek - DROZD Matej	0.36	CZE-CZE	154
ROBERT Quentin - COMBESURE Baptiste	0.36	FRA-FRA	126
MULTON Franck - ZIMMERMANN Pierre	0.36	SUI-SUI	84
SOFU Serkan - SERDAR Ekrem	0.36	TUR-TUR	14
AVCIOGLU Huseyin Kerem - SOFU Serkan	0.34	TUR-TUR	140
SABBAH Ofek - SLIWOWICZ Yonatan	0.32	ISR-ISR	168
KARLIK Petr - KUBAT Frantisek	0.31	CZE-CZE	83
VODICKA Martin - RUMANCIK Jakub	0.30	SVK-SVK	168
NIJSSSEN Oscar - VAN DE PAVERD Tim	0.30	NED-NED	84
TURANT Maciej - LASOTA Tomasz	0.29	POL-POL	84
PACHTMAN Ron - ZATORSKI Piotr	0.28	ISR-POL	112
CHUMAK Yuliy - KUPRIIANOV Evgenii	0.26	UKR-CYP	111
FILIPOWICZ Dominik - CIESLAK Jaroslaw	0.26	POL-POL	112
DURSUN Baris - OZCAN Ihsan	0.25	TUR-TUR	28
LAHRMANN Christian - HAMMELEV Nikolaj	0.25	DEN-DEN	28
VERHEES Jr Louk - BAKHSHI David	0.24	NED-ENG	126
BENDRE Kaustubh - KUSHARI Sayantan	0.23	IND-IND	98
BETHERS Janis - LORENCS Martins	0.23	LAT-LAT	112
DELIMPALTADAKIS Nikos - VROUSTIS Vassilis	0.23	GRE-GRE	126
DJILOVIC Josko - MIJIC Ante	0.23	CRO-CRO	70
ENGEL Joseph - COHEN Dani	0.22	ISR-ISR	140
BAKAN Ozgur - ASLAN Bulent	0.22	TUR-TUR	168
GRUE Joe - MILNER Reese	0.21	USA-USA	84
ZORIC Vedran - MARINOVSKI Kiril	0.21	CRO-CRO	168
RIMSTEDT Mikael - RIMSTEDT Ola	0.21	SWE-SWE	168
TAL Dana - TAL Noga	0.21	ISR-ISR	168
KNOB Markus - WANHA Clemens	0.21	AUT-AUT	140
MALINOWSKI Artur - ERICHSEN Espen	0.21	ENG-NOR	112
TER LAARE Marco - ALKEMADE Willem (Wil)	0.19	NED-NED	168
KORKMAZ Can - OZGEZ Cengiz	0.18	TUR-TUR	126
KOO Hor Yung Charmian - LI Suet Yu Zoe	0.18	HKG-HKG	84
AUSTBERG Per Erik - RASMUSSEN Arild	0.17	NOR-NOR	98
MSIKA Daniel - MOSKOVITZ Ido	0.17	ISR-ISR	168
WLODKOWSKI Robert - MALISZEWSKI Przemyslaw	0.14	POL-POL	168
FRANCHI Arrigo - DI FRANCO Massimiliano	0.14	ITA-ITA	168
MARTYNEK Jan - KOHUTOVA Lucie	0.14	CZE-CZE	168
SZE Shun Sum Alan - CHIU Wai-Lap Abby	0.13	HKG-HKG	168
CIECHOMSKI Jacek - JANISZEWSKI Przemyslaw	0.13	POL-POL	84
GANTAR Metod - DRNOVSEK Tina	0.13	SLO-SLO	168
TOMCANI Jan - KVOCEK Juraj	0.13	SVK-SVK	168
BALASOVs Jurijs - ILZINS Janis	0.12	LAT-LAT	168
TALYIGAS Peter - VIKOR Attila	0.12	HUN-HUN	168
WALACH Ivo - KUBAT Frantisek	0.12	CZE-CZE	42
MAGNUSSON Stephan - AMIGUET Jerome	0.11	SUI-SUI	168
AUKEN Sabine - WELLAND Roy	0.09	DEN-DEN	126
GIUBILO Valerio - BIANCHI Sergio	0.08	ITA-ITA	84
LUCZECZKO Jan - GRABALA Szymon	0.08	POL-POL	112
BERGER Heinrich - LAUSS Wolfgang	0.08	AUT-AUT	167
CHEN Lin-Huan - HSIEH Ding-Hwa	0.08	USA-USA	168
VAZIC Stojan - SEIZOVIC Marko	0.07	SER-SER	168
IONITA Marius - TEODORESCU Cornel	0.07	ROM-ROM	168

RUS Gregor - STEFANEC Kristijan	0.05	SLO-CRO	168
RADKO Boleslaw - KASZOWSKI Dominik	0.05	POL-POL	98
AMBROZ Bojan - SIPUS Marko	0.05	SLO-CRO	168
GROSSACK Zachary - KOLESNIK Finn	0.04	USA-USA	70
KRASA Ondrej - HUMPAL Michael	0.04	CZE-CZE	168
NANDI Kaustabh - ROY Sagnik	0.03	IND-IND	112
SZYMONIK Pawel - CZECH Slawomir	0.02	POL-POL	112
BORA Serdal - MERMER Ilhan	0.01	TUR-TUR	154
BILGEN Mert - UMUR Omer Celal	0.00	TUR-TUR	168
OKUNIEWSKI Wojciech - KASZOWSKI Dominik	0.00	POL-POL	14
STOECKLI Francois - STOECKLI Jeremie	-0.01	SUI-SUI	168
ARGAY Zsolt - KEMENY Mark	-0.01	HUN-HUN	168
RUBINS Karlis - OLLA Edgars	-0.01	LAT-LAT	168
PIEDRA Fernando - SAINZ DE VICUNA Maria	-0.04	SUI-ESP	28
ATTANASIO Dario - LANZAROTTI Massimo	-0.04	ITA-ITA	168
SARNIAK Anna - CHALUPEC Igor	-0.05	POL-POL	42
PIEDRA Fernando - MEDIERO Marina	-0.05	SUI-ESP	84
JANIK Stanislaw - SOLECKI Piotr	-0.05	POL-POL	168
MANNO Andrea - PALMA Antonio	-0.07	ITA-POR	168
TRENKA Peter - KEMENY Gyorgy	-0.08	HUN-HUN	168
FILIMON Adrian Gheorghe - IANCU Stefan	-0.09	ROM-ROM	168
HOPFENHEIT Guido - REIM Sebastian	-0.10	GER-GER	168
LECANTE Francois - RAIKO RAIKOVSKY Vadim	-0.11	FRA-FRA	154
BAUSBACK Nikolas - KONDOCH Hartmut	-0.11	GER-GER	167
KOESTER Peer - HUEBNER Horst	-0.12	GER-GER	154
MACURA Milan - SEKER Basar Doga	-0.12	CZE-CZE	84
ERBIL Erdinc - PEYRET Hakan	-0.13	TUR-TUR	167
AVIRAM Yoram - ALTSHULER Gilad	-0.13	ISR-ISR	98
SUSZANOWICZ Natalia - LUCKA Dominika	-0.14	POL-POL	154
KONSTACKA Emma - DANEK Petr	-0.15	CZE-CZE	112
GERLI Aldo Giovanni - OVERDECK John	-0.15	ITA-USA	84
ZIPOVSKI Dimitraki - RADISIC Goran	-0.15	SER-SER	168
McGUIRE Brian - ATISEN Sebastian	-0.15	ENG-ENG	168
MICHALSKI Jakub - PROKOPOWICZ Marcel	-0.17	POL-POL	98
GOLEBIEWSKI Stanislaw - BLACH Michal	-0.17	POL-POL	98
PIEDRA Fernando - MINGOT Lola	-0.19	SUI-ESP	42
BYRNE Michael - KNOTTENBELT Maggie	-0.19	ENG-ENG	126
DYSON Andrew - CROUCH Peter	-0.19	ENG-ENG	168
LANTARON Luis - SAINZ DE VICUNA Maria	-0.23	ESP-ESP	84
FORYS Wiktoria - MISZCZUK Karolina	-0.23	POL-POL	56
MEYTAL Kfir - MEYOUHAS Yacov	-0.23	ISR-ISR	98
DROGEMULLER Mette - ROLF-LARSEN Andreas	-0.24	DEN-DEN	168
GOLEBIEWSKI Stanislaw - ZAWISLAK Slawek	-0.26	POL-POL	70
KANDEMIR Ismail - KAYA Emre	-0.29	TUR-TUR	140
PAWLAK Andrzej - VALCHEV Vasil	-0.29	POL-POL	112
MISZCZUK Karolina - PANCEWICZ Szymon	-0.29	POL-POL	14
WONG Wai Man Flora - CHUI Daniel Siu Wai	-0.30	HKG-HKG	126
BELCAK Peter - HENC Marian	-0.31	SVK-SVK	154
LANTARON Luis - MINGOT Lola	-0.33	ESP-ESP	70
CIMA Leonardo - PORTA Federico	-0.33	ITA-ITA	126
BURG Thomas - ZELNIK Peter	-0.33	AUT-AUT	168
GUNEV Rosen - BRICIU Marius	-0.36	BUL-ROM	126
OKUNIEWSKI Wojciech - CIESLAK Grzegorz	-0.36	POL-POL	112
DURSUN Baris - BAYSAL Dursun	-0.36	TUR-TUR	84
SIGSGAARD Julie Marina - ROSTHOEJ Ella	-0.38	DEN-DEN	154
GISIN Eitan - ZAIDENBERG GATT Sophie	-0.39	ISR-ISR	56
CHMURSKI Bartosz - CHALUPEC Igor	-0.39	POL-POL	28
VAN DER NEUT Jaap - ZWART Peter	-0.40	NED-NED	168
BAYSAL Dursun - OZCAN Ihsan	-0.41	TUR-TUR	56
IZWANTOWSKI Jan - TOKARSKI Wojciech	-0.42	POL-POL	98
YADLIN Doron - ORENSTEIN Eitan	-0.42	ISR-ISR	98



POULSEN Flemming - KOLDING Viktor	-0.44	DEN-DEN	168
KOWALSKI Dariusz - SIELICKI Tomasz	-0.45	POL-POL	112
KOO Hor Yung Charmian - CHIANG Jeffrey	-0.45	HKG-HKG	42
RYBNIKOV Gennadii - SAPOSNICOV Oleg	-0.46	UKR-UKR	112
TURANT Krzysztof - ADAMCZAK Michal	-0.51	POL-POL	98
FRANCESCHETTI Pierre - SETTON Hilda	-0.51	FRA-SUI	70
BLICHARZ Maksymilian - WOJCIECHOWSKI Igor	-0.52	POL-POL	98
KAHRAMAN Ahmet - CALISKAN Erdal	-0.52	TUR-TUR	168
BOCCHI Norberto - GANDOGLIA Alessandro	-0.52	ITA-ITA	126
VOZABAL David - SEKER Basar Doga	-0.52	CZE-CZE	42
TURANT Maciej - MISZCZUK Karolina	-0.57	POL-POL	14
CAUMEL Jean Patrick - TAQUOI Jacques	-0.58	FRA-FRA	154
VAGI Mate - ZABRADI Benjamin	-0.59	HUN-HUN	168
FORYS Wiktoria - PANCEWICZ Szymon	-0.61	POL-POL	84
KORBEL Daniel - ZHANG Susan	-0.61	USA-USA	168
VAN DEN BERGH Nic - VAN DEN BERGH Anke	-0.64	BEL-BEL	168
ABRAGI Andreas - TYLVAD Daniel	-0.64	SWE-DEN	14
KLIMIUK Milena - JANIK Mateusz	-0.65	POL-POL	112
TRENDAK Lukasz - DARKIEWICZ-MONIUSZKO Grzegorz	-0.66	POL-POL	168
LINDENTHAL Erika - POLAP Klaus	-0.66	GER-GER	154
FERENCA Matko - LESKOVAR Viktor	-0.67	CRO-CRO	126
SUZER Ugurcan - ELER Cuneyt	-0.67	TUR-TUR	27
ZAIDENBERG Nezer Jacob - LAVI Shalom	-0.68	BUL-ISR	112
LOHAY Karol - KRATKY Jan	-0.68	SVK-CZE	154
REIM Andrea - GUENDEL Marius	-0.70	GER-GER	112
PABST Philipp - DI BACCO Victoria	-0.70	GER-GER	112
ALUF Sedat - DEDEHAYIR Ahmet	-0.70	TUR-TUR	70
JARZABKOWSKI Andrzej - SUCHODOLSKI Piotr	-0.71	POL-POL	112
WALACH Ivo - KARLIK Petr	-0.71	CZE-CZE	28
LAHRMANN Christian - ABRAGI Andreas	-0.71	DEN-SWE	56
CALLAGHAN Brian - ORSMOND Graham	-0.73	ENG-ENG	168
SAELENMINDE Erik - GILLIS Simon	-0.74	NOR-ENG	98
ZIVKOVIC Gojko - DERIVAZ Jean-Pierre	-0.75	SUI-SUI	112
CHIANG Jeffrey - CHUI Daniel Siu Wai	-0.75	HKG-HKG	28
KOZYCKOWSKI Jerzy - COMANESCU Lucian	-0.76	POL-GER	154
KALISH Avi - GRINBERG Nir	-0.78	ISR-ISR	98
ABRAGI Andreas - VERHAEGEN Marcel	-0.81	SWE-NED	70
GROSSACK Zachary - HOTAMISLIGIL Selen	-0.84	USA-USA	97
LI Suet Yu Zoe - CHIANG Jeffrey	-0.86	HKG-HKG	42
ANKLESARIA Keyzad - MASKARA Subodh	-0.88	IND-IND	56
VAINIKONIS Vytautas - OLANSKI Wojtek	-0.93	LTU-LTU	84
WONG Wai Man Flora - CHIANG Jeffrey	-0.93	HKG-HKG	14
ZAIDENBERG Nezer Jacob - ZAIDENBERG GATT Sophie	-1.00	BUL-ISR	14
MUKHERJEE Sumit - KUSHARI Sayantan	-1.00	IND-IND	14
KRASNOSSELSKI Mikhail - FEOFANOV Maxim	-1.00	ISR-ISR	84
CATZEFLIS Christian - GORETTI Massimo	-1.08	SUI-SUI	98
OZKURT Kenan - KORKMAZ Adem	-1.11	TUR-TUR	154
KOWALSKI Apolinary - BORTOLETTI Carlo	-1.16	POL-ITA	70
FILIPOWICZ Dominik - OLCZYK Jerzy	-1.16	POL-POL	56
VACHTARCIK Lukas - FRANZ Wojtech	-1.17	CZE-CZE	154
HERMANN Sophie - CRISAFULLI SADABA Patricio	-1.21	AUT-AUT	140
HASHIMOTO George - ANDERSSON Thomas	-1.29	SUI-SUI	98
KROENING Detlev - KARIMI Omid	-1.48	GER-GER	154
LASOTA Tomasz - MISZCZUK Karolina	-1.50	POL-POL	28
CHOTTIN Philippe - ROMBAUT Leo	-1.51	FRA-FRA	112
ZAIDENBERG GATT Sophie - MEYTAL Kfir	-1.54	ISR-ISR	28
DUBOIN Giorgio - WARD-PLATT Kiki	-1.62	ITA-USA	84
LYSEK Matyas - KONSTACKA Emma	-1.63	CZE-CZE	27
LAHRMANN Christian - VERHAEGEN Marcel	-2.32	DEN-NED	28



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**TOTAL PRIZES 50.000 EURO**



**CONTRA CUP**

**Tournament Director:** Răzvan Spiridonescu

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**May 20, 2026 - May 24, 2026**  
**First Place = 12.000 euro**

# Organizers:



**CARO CUP**

**May 23, 2026 - May 24, 2026**  
**First Place = 2.500 euro**

[www.cupacontra.ro](http://www.cupacontra.ro)





**Teams May 20, 2026 - May 24, 2026**

Entry fees: 800 euro/team (includes cocktail dinner May 20, 2026)

Participation fee: 400 euros/team - for U25

**DISCOUNT 200 euros** if paid by 29.12.2025

**DISCOUNT 100 euros** if paid by 31.03.2026



**PAIRS may 23,2026 - may, 24, 2026**

Entry fees: 100 euro/player

## PRIZES

**1ST PLACE - 12 000 EURO + cups**

**2ND PLACE - 7 000 EURO + cups**

**3RD PLACE - 4 000 EURO + cups**

**4TH PLACE - 3 000 EURO + medals**

**5TH PLACE \ 8TH - 1 200 EURO**

**9TH PLACE \ 16TH - 800 EURO**

## PRIZES

**1st PLACE Division A - 2 500 EUR**

**75% of the pairs in League A, 20% of the pairs in League B, C, etc will be awarded prizes.**

## SCHEDULE

**May 23, 2026 - 5 sessions of 10 boards**

**May 24, 2026 - 1 session of 30 boards**

## SCHEDULE

20.05.2026 - 19.30	2 matches of 10 boards
21.05.2026 - 10.00	5 matches of 10 boards
22.05.2026 - 10.00	3 matches of 10 boards
22.05.2026 - 16.00	round of 16 - 2 matches of 10 boards
23.05.2026 - 10.00	QF 2 matches of 10 boards
- 16.00	SF 3 matches of 10 boards
24.05.2026 -	Grand Final, 3 matches of 10 boards
	Small Final, 2 matches of 10 boards

Prizes are guaranteed with a minimum participation of 60 teams.

**[www.cupacontra.ro](http://www.cupacontra.ro)**

## Accommodation / night

Euros	CARO Hotel ★★★★★
40	place in double room ECONOMIC
50	place in double room PREMIUM
70	single room ECONOMIC
90	single room PREMIUM

Breakfast is not included! The breakfast fee is approximately 12 euros and is optional.

the prizes are taxed according to the laws in force in Romania

**[www.hotelcaro.ro](http://www.hotelcaro.ro)**