



# EUROPEAN WINTER TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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

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## THE PLOT THICKENS



There were some dramatic finishes in the Round of 16 of the **European Winter Open Teams Championship**. Team **Dyson** won over the (twice) defending champions, Team Zimmermann, by just 5 IMPs. Team **Eler** defeated Ashe by only 2 IMPs. The other matches were decided by bigger margins, and the remaining qualifiers to the Quarter finals are: **Hobaa**, **De Botton**, **Knottenbelt**, **Bianchi**, **Israel Blue** and **SPS Poland**.

In the **Swiss Cup**, **28 teams** qualified to Semifinal A; due to drop-outs (teams moving to other events), the last qualifier is the team ranked #35. Those 28 semi-finalists will be joined by 7 teams who were knocked out in the Round of 16. Top qualifiers were **BARIS** (121.37 VPs), **ISTARI** (104.62 VPs) and **FRANCE GREEN** (104.33 VPs).

Today the **European Winter Mixed Teams Championship** and the **European Winter Open Pairs** kick off.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

...to **Eitan Orenstein** (Israel),  
**Joseph Rich** (Argentina),  
**Piotr Solecki** (Poland) and to  
our IT Manager **Fotis Skoularikis**!

### IN THIS BULLETIN YOU'LL FIND

- Important notes
- Bracket
- Masterpoints
- Swiss Cup, Mixed Teams Championship Format
- Eat like Gold!
- One question, 6 champions
- Interview with Samantha Punch
- Highlights from Round of 32, Round of 16, Swiss Cup
- Results & Butler rankings

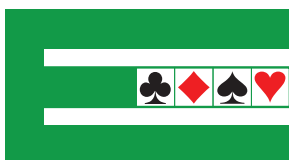


### ASK THE PRESIDENT

Coming soon: an **exclusive interactive interview** with EBL President Eric Laurant!

**We want YOU to be part of it!**

Send your questions for the President to [info@eurobridge.org](mailto:info@eurobridge.org)



# USEFUL LINKS



EVENT'S WEBSITE



WHATSAPP CHANNEL



SCHEDULE



SYSTEM CARDS



PARTNERSHIP DESK



RESULTS



BROADCAST



CONTACT US

## ! DROP-IN CONDITIONS

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

## ! THE SCHEDULE HAS CHANGED

Please note that there is a change in the schedule for 17 February

## ! ON 19 FEBRUARY, PLAY STARTS AT 9.00

On the last day, we start early!

## ! LATE ALERT

In case of a late alert of a call (e.g. you fail to timely alert your partner's call), players are required to make sure that their screenmate has seen that alert. Not doing so will result in the pair to be charged with misinformation.

Dimitris Ballas  
Head Tournament Director





# World Bridge Series

## 2026





## KATOWICE

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## POLAND

## 20 AUGUST - 3 SEPTEMBER 2026

### 8 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

TEAMS	PAIRS
<span style="color: #e91e63;">■</span> Open Teams	<span style="color: #e91e63;">■</span> Open Pairs
<span style="color: #e91e63;">■</span> Women's Teams	<span style="color: #e91e63;">■</span> Women's Pairs
<span style="color: #e91e63;">■</span> Senior Teams	<span style="color: #e91e63;">■</span> Senior Pairs
<span style="color: #e91e63;">■</span> Mixed Teams	<span style="color: #e91e63;">■</span> Mixed Pairs

ALL INFORMATION AT:  
[CHAMPIONSHIPS.WORLDBRIDGE.ORG/2026WBS](https://championships.worldbridge.org/2026WBS)




Silesian  
Voivodeship



KATOWICE  
for a change



Metropolis  
GZM

OPEN TO PLAYERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

● **EUROPEAN WINTER OPEN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS**

	Adj	1	2	3	4	TOTAL
ZIMMERMANN	0	26	16	58	11	111
DYSON	0	22	45	13	36	116
ASHE	0	10	30	22	42	104
ELER	1	35	9	39	22	106
HOBAA	2.4	55	15	21	60	153.4
OVERDECK	0	4	41	22	9	76
DE BOTTON	1	27	35	46	19	128
BRIDGESCANNER	0	8	1	30	46	85
MAVERICKS	0	20	30	42	7	99
KNOTTENBELT	0	32	10	25	54	121
SECRETS OF SECRETS	0	21	10	16	30	77
BIANCHI	0	35	28	27	28	118
BRIDGE TRAINER	0	9	2	25	0	36
ISRAEL BLUE	2	59	34	30	0	125
SPS POLAND	0	31	27	20	40	118
ALTSHULER	0	7	31	5	32	75

DYSON

**ELER**

HOBAA

DE BOTTON

## KNOTTENBELT

BIANCHI

## ISRAEL BLUE

**SPS POLAND**

## ! EUROPEAN WINTER OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

## Seating rights

The Home Team has seating rights in stanzas 1 and 3

The Visiting Team has seating rights in stanzas 2 and 4



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

**For the 2nd / 3rd / 4th stanzas**, the team **without seating rights** must submit its line-up no later than 10 minutes after the official ending time of the previous stanza.

**For the 1st stanza**, the team **with seating rights** must submit its line-up no later than 9.05 a.m.

**For the 2nd / 3rd / 4th stanzas**, the team **with seating rights** must submit its line-up no later than 15 minutes after the official ending time of the previous stanza.

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

**You should have received the password by email. If not, contact [info@eurobridge.org](mailto:info@eurobridge.org)**

3rd European Winter Teams Championships

LineUp

TEAM NAME							
Round	Table	Opponent	Position	SR	Lineup?	Opponent Lineup?	Notes
1	O6 - C6	TEAM NAME 2	Home		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2	VG2	TEAM NAME 2	Home		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VG
3	O6 - C6	TEAM NAME 2	Home		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4	O6 - C6	TEAM NAME 2	Home		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

In the SR (Seating Rights) column you can see the segment seating rights:

-  the lineup is blind
-  you have to line-up first (you DONT have seating rights)
-  you can wait for the opponent to lineup (you have seating rights)



## ★ MASTERPOINTS - EUROPEAN OPEN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

RANK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
MP	150	120	80	60	30	30	30	30	15	15
RANK	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
MP	15	15	15	15	15	15	5	5	5	5
RANK	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
MP	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
RANK	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
MP	5	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

## ★ MASTERPOINTS - SWISS CUP

RANK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
MP	70	60	51	43	35	29	23	18	14	11
RANK	11	12	13	14	15	16				
MP	8	6	4	3	2	1				

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## **SWISS CUP FORMAT**

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 16 (the losers of the round of 32) and will be receiving a carry-over equal to the team placed 21st. 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 (36) and semifinal B (the rest). Since the maximum number of drop-in is equal to 8 (the losers of the round of 16), the minimum number of qualifiers from the qualification stage is equal to 28. 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 will be receiving a carry-over equal to the team placed 11th.

### **b) Semifinals**

It will be played over 8 rounds of 14 boards each, with Swiss movement, on February 15th and 16th. The drop-in teams 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 4 (the losers of the quarter-finals) and will be receiving a carry-over equal to the team placed 15th. They will not be paired against each other 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, 20 teams qualify to Final A: a minimum of 16 from semifinal A, 2 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 equal to the team ranked 3rd. The winner of semifinal B receives a carry-over equal to the team ranked 12th, while the team classified 2nd in semifinal B receives a carry-over equal to 0.

The teams not qualified to final A will be playing Final B (either Swiss or BAM: TBD).

### **c) Final**

It will be played over 7 rounds of 8 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.

In each case, the opponents of the drop-in teams will be drawn randomly.

**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!**



## **MIXED TEAMS FORMAT**

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 15th and 16th. After day one, the starting teams might be joined by drop-in teams coming from the Open Teams Championship. Those teams, if any, will receive a carry-over and 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. There will be a carry-over to the Semifinals.

### b) **Semifinals**

It will be played over 8 rounds of 14 boards each, with Swiss movement, on February 17th and 18th. The starting teams might be joined by drop-in teams coming from the Open Teams Championship. Those teams, if any, will receive a carry-over and will not be paired against each other in the first round of the Swiss.

At the end, some teams qualify to Final A.

### c) **Final**

It will be played over 7 rounds of 8 boards each, either as a Round Robin or with Swiss movement, on February 19th.

There will be a carry-over from the Semifinals.

### **Final B**

It will be played as a BAM scoring event, over two sessions of 16 boards each.

In case, the drop-in teams will be sorted randomly.

## **OPEN PAIRS**

At the time the bulletin is issued we are not able yet to specify the format. What can be said, is **there will be a qualification followed by a Final**, and that the qualification stage might be split into **semifinals A** and **B** after day 1. Further details will be published as soon as the number of entries and possible drop in will be known.

## **Championship specials**

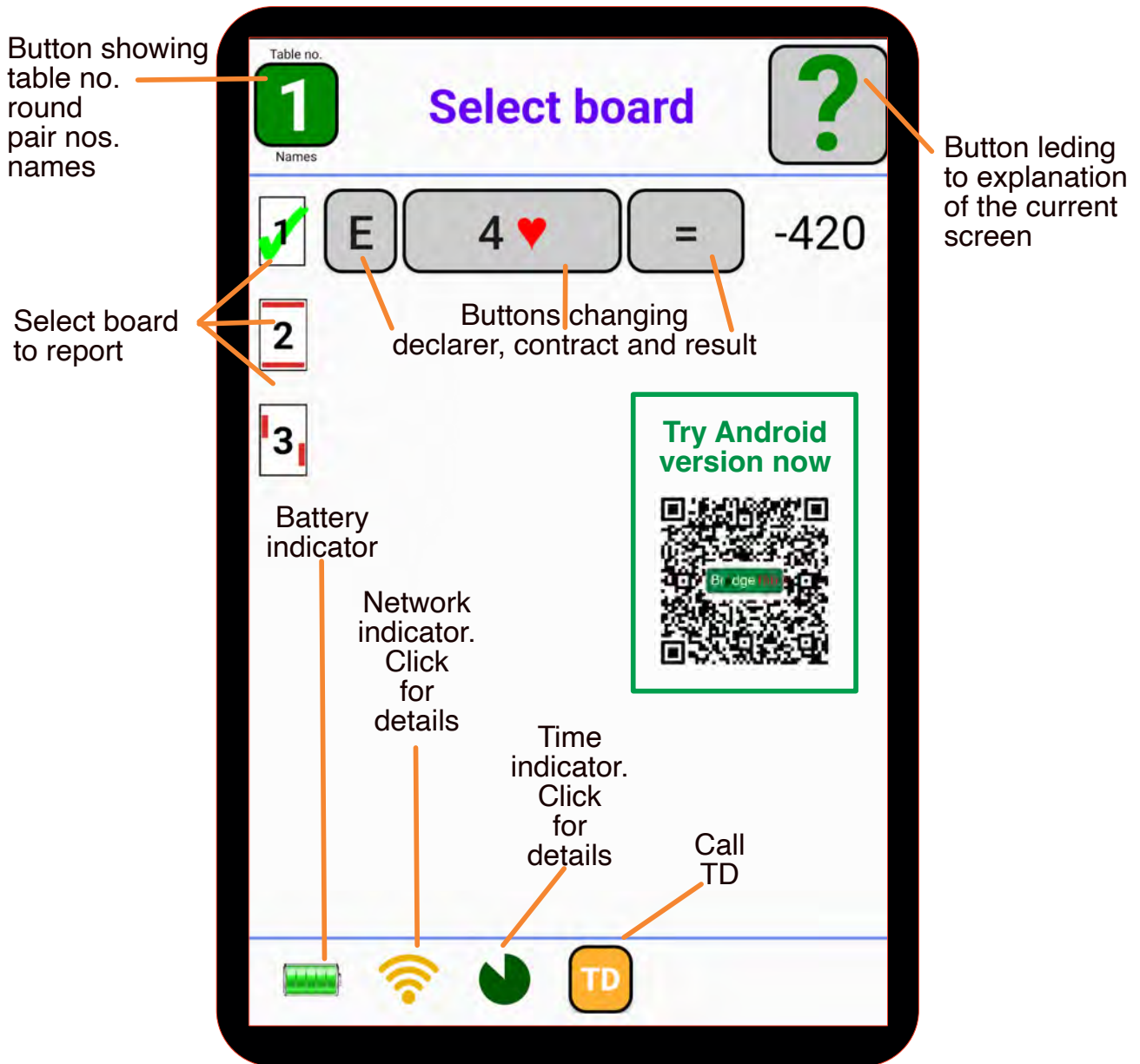
The new **dealing machines** used to duplicate the boards for the European Winter Transnational Championships are sold for **€2650**. The **cards** played at last year's world championship are sold for **€80/100 decks**.

These offers are on so long as supply lasts, but no longer than February 19. Shipping from Sweden. (Machine can be picked up at the end.) Email [anna@jannersten.com](mailto:anna@jannersten.com) to order.



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# EAT LIKE GOLD



@eatlikegold

David Gold is our guide to Prague's restaurant scene. His food blog [@eatlikegold](#) on Instagram is full of great recommendations. Here are two of his reviews so far:



## COTTOCRUDO

● At Top Hotel

“

CottoCrudo is a swanky modern Italian restaurant at the four seasons hotel in Prague. The interiors are stunning and perfect for a romantic dinner. The food lives up to appearances too. Everything was great but I particularly loved the beef carpaccio made extra delicious by an oyster mayonnaise and the Wagyu bolognese was excellent too. I did actually try a bit of steak from someone else's plate - not shown in the video and that too was excellent.

You can't order badly here though. What a treat.

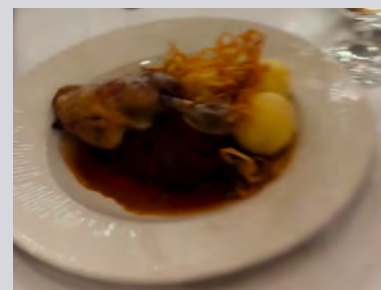
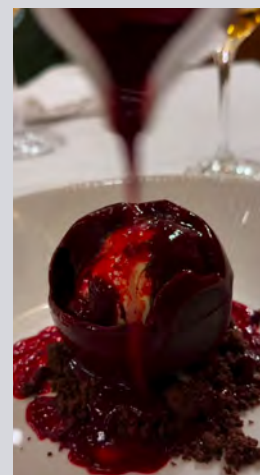
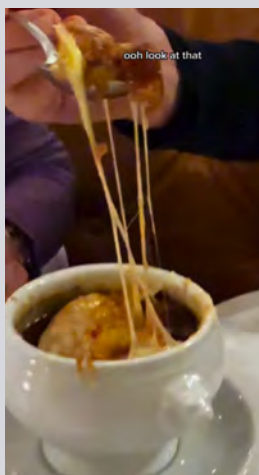


## CAFE IMPERIAL

● Na Poříčí 1072/15, 110 00 Petřská čtvrť

“

One of the most beautiful looking restaurants I have been too and the food is pretty good also. Service a little slow so not a place to come if you are in a hurry but otherwise definitely worth a try.



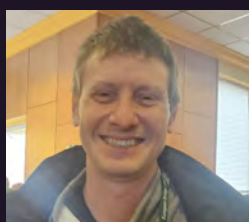


# What is a book, film, or series that everyone should read or watch, and why?



MARTINE ROSSARD

“Zia’s book “Bridge, a Love Story”. It’s really interesting for bridge players. I’ve bought it 3 times: I lost the first copy, so I bought a second one, and then I bought it again as a present. I even got my copy signed!



ELDAD GINOSSAR

“Seinfeld. Old but gold!



GORDON HO & WAI LAM HO

“The Prestige, by Christopher Nolan. It is about strategy and magic: very interesting! (Gordon)

The Queen’s Gambit because it is about chess – a mind sport like bridge! (Wai Lam)



BOYE BROGELAND

“The Diving Bell and the Butterfly». Not a very well known movie (from 2007), but a very touching piece about Jean-Dominique Bauby, the former editor-in-chief for French Elle, who suffered a massive stroke at age 43 which gave him a «locked-in syndrome». After this he was only able to communicate with his left eyelid. Later I learned that he and the French bridge player Michel Abécassis were good friends.



NAFIZ ZORLU

“Zia’s “Bridge, a Love Story”: you can learn what NOT to do!



ZACH GROSSACK

“2 answers – and comedies, because that’s my jam. Hacks, because it’s fantastic in its intentionality of comedic writing, and Arrested Development, because it introduced me to the world of what creative/surreal comedy that has morphed my sense of humor today!

# A CONVERSATION WITH PROFESSOR SAMANTHA PUNCH

## THE BRIDGE WORLD UNDER THE SOCIOLOGIST'S LENS

BY FRANCESCA CANALI

She sits among you at every major tournament. She plays, she competes, she travels from city to city like everyone else. But while you obsess over squeezes and endplays, she is quietly observing something else entirely: you. How you interact, how you fight, how you build partnerships and break them, how you forgive (or don't).

Professor Samantha Punch is a sociologist at the University of Stirling, a Scottish international player, and the mind behind BAMSA (Bridge: A MindSport for All). She has written two books on the human side of elite bridge and published dozens of academic papers dissecting our community with the precision of a scientist and the empathy of someone who truly belongs to it.

We asked her to tell us what she has observed, openly and honestly. What she told us is fascinating, sometimes uncomfortable, and deeply recognizable.



### Tell us a bit about yourself.

I'm 55, originally from England but I've been living in Scotland for a long time. I live with my life partner Stephen Peterkin, who is also my bridge partner, so our world is very much bridge!

### How did you learn to play?

After finishing my PhD, I was looking for something to fill the gap. I just showed up at a bridge club, almost on a whim. They told me I had to take lessons first, and **I didn't quite understand why**. I thought they could just explain the basics and I'd be fine! But they were already on lesson 11, so someone brought me the notes for lessons 1 through 10. I read them and joined the group halfway through. And that was it.

### What is your proudest bridge achievement?

Probably getting to the **semi-final of the World Bridge Games in 2016**, in Wrocław.

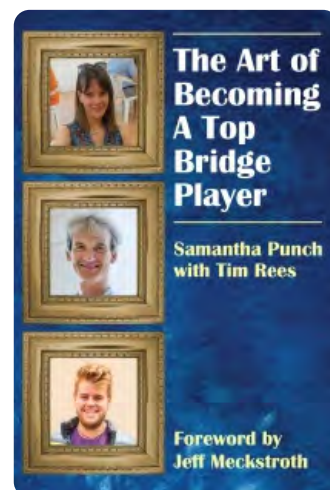
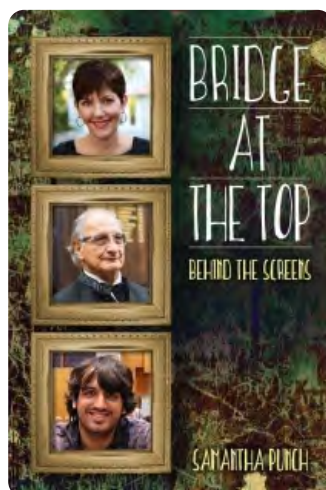
But it was also incredibly frustrating. We were beating France in the semi-final after the first half of the 96-board match, but we lost in the last quarter. Then we played China for the bronze medal and lost that too, after being ahead in the first set. So we came away with nothing. **It was my best moment and my worst moment at the same time.**

### Perfect material for a sociologist, right?

Absolutely. **A double-edged sword**, as always in bridge. It was really painful to come away empty-handed after nearly two weeks of competition. I think our team just got a bit too tired.

### You're a Professor of Sociology, but your academic path is quite unusual.

Yes, I always say I'm a professor of sociology with no formal sociological qualifications! My first degree was in **Latin American Studies**, with Spanish, Portuguese, and a dissertation on children in Bolivia. Then I did a PhD in **Geography and Development Studies**, looking at rural childhoods in South America. My first job was in **Social Work** at Stirling, studying teenagers in Scotland. The common thread was always childhood, and really, the work was sociological in nature, even though I was trained in other disciplines. When I realized that, I started publishing in sociology journals, teaching sociology, and one great way to learn a new discipline is to teach it. I was always one step ahead of the students!



### Can we consider the bridge community a small society?

Absolutely. **It's a microcosm of society.** It incorporates much of what we see in broader society. But a couple of things make it unique. First, because it's a **partnership game**, we're always working with someone while playing against others. **It's a very relational society:** cooperation and harmony on one side, conflict and tension on the other.

Second, particularly at the top level, you're dealing with **very intelligent people**. You don't have to be especially clever to enjoy bridge socially or at club level, but at the very top, there's a lot of smart individuals. And that can mean we're quite a **critical** community. We tend to take things apart and question them, rather than seeing the good in them. There's a sharpness to our community that has a downside: we can be overly critical, even negative. But the other side of that coin is that we can also be a warm and supportive community that looks after each other.

### At the top level, people travel from one tournament to the next, always meeting the same faces around the world. It's not a regular job where you go home and separate work from personal life. How does this shape relationships?

I think there's a big distinction between **professional** and **amateur** players. I'm an amateur. I can be extremely competitive at the table, but away from it, I don't have to worry about competition. I can have friendships, community, networks.

For professional players, it's harder. They're competing not only at the table but also away from it, for **sponsors**. And the sponsor pool is shrinking: there are fewer very wealthy sponsors coming through, while the number of professionals keeps growing. That creates real **tension**, because this is their livelihood, this is how they pay the bills.

From the interviews I've done, I've heard about some of the less pleasant maneuvering that can happen. If you're playing on an amateur team, you can freely admit to mistakes. But on a professional team, if your contract isn't secure for the following year, you might be tempted to highlight your teammates' mistakes more than your own. It creates an **ambiguous kind of community**: on one hand, you're socializing and having fun with friends; on the other, you're competing for a smaller and smaller job market.

### How does this constant duality of friendship and competition shape a person's personality over time?

I think people learn to navigate it in their own way. Those at the very top, who are more secure, can afford to just be themselves. But for those in the tier just below, it's a difficult tightrope to walk. There's a lot of **uncertainty**: contracts are precarious, sometimes only for a year, and I've heard of them being broken along the way.

### Is it possible to have real friends in the bridge world?

That's an interesting question. Even as an amateur, all my holidays go to bridge. The last non-bridge holiday I had was about 20 years ago! Most of my weekends are bridge too. Over time, my friends outside bridge got tired of me never being available. They'd invite me to their 40th birthday or their wedding, and it would clash with a tournament I'd committed to months in advance. Gradually, those friendships faded.

And now that I also research bridge, there are no boundaries left between work and play. I'm always observing, always making connections, even when I'm playing.

So over the years, I've lost many of my non-bridge friends, and I've become more dependent on the bridge community. I genuinely believed those were real friendships. But I know of situations where someone very active in the bridge community went through a difficult time, and the support from bridge friends was much less than expected. Old non-bridge friends would probably have rallied around more. Many bridge friends were just... **absent**.

I think as bridge players, we can be a bit selfish inside our bridge bubble. When we see people, we're great with them. But when we don't, it's out of sight, out of mind. We assume people have other networks, but for those who've given up their other networks for bridge, it can become very isolating.

That said, I'm sure this isn't the same for everyone. But it does raise the question: are bridge friends truly real friends, or just bridge friends?

### Could there be a link between the personality it takes to become a top player and the ability to form deep personal connections?

I think so. In one of our studies, we looked at different types of players: **competitors**, **socializers**, **self-improvers**, and **mind-gamers**. There's a real distinction, especially between competitors and socializers.

To reach the elite level, you have to commit intensely, to the exclusion of many other things in your life. That focus on the game can come at the expense of relationships. And there may be another element: some highly intelligent bridge players might have **slightly less emotional intelligence**. If you're exceptionally good at cards, you might be less skilled at managing difficult emotions and relationships. So when something difficult happens, you avoid it because you don't know how to respond.

But I wouldn't say friendship is impossible. In my academic career, there's plenty of competition too, yet you still make good friends among competitors. I think the key difference is that in a regular job, there are structures to protect people: workplace policies, employment regulations, clear pathways. In bridge, everything is much more informal. Contracts aren't as robust. And that informality is what makes the trust issue more insecure.



### What are your views on the women's category in a mind sport?

My views have evolved. I started out strongly believing we should get rid of it. I still think it's problematic in some ways, but I now feel it exists for a reason. **Gender inequalities persist.** Women still carry the bulk of childcare responsibilities, and at key points in a bridge career, they simply can't invest the same time as men. There will always be some structural inequalities.

Attitudes are getting better. People are making fewer assumptions than they used to, and I think it has improved compared to 20 years ago. But until we reach genuine equity in training opportunities, playing opportunities, and access to the best partners and teammates, the women's category serves as a necessary safeguard.

The **mixed** category is becoming more important, and I've heard young women themselves starting to say they don't see the need for a separate women's category. When that generation feels they're competing on truly equal terms, perhaps we can gradually phase it out. But it could take a very long time, and the childcare issue might mean we never fully get there.

### And the seniors' category?

I think it makes sense. Although you can play bridge throughout your whole life, most people do start to slow down. Thought processes change; it gets harder to remember a complex system. And as people live longer, the category is getting broader. Someone actually raised at the EBL seminar the idea of a **"super senior" category**, separating players aged 60+ from those aged 75+. There is a real difference between playing bridge at 60 and at 75, and if we have more and more people in their 80s wanting to compete, it might be worth considering.

### Tell us about BAMSA. How did it all start?

It started in 2013. As a sociologist who also plays international bridge, I simply wanted to interview my heroes, pick the brains of the world's best players, and understand what goes on behind the scenes. The life of a professional bridge player is quite unique, and I was genuinely curious.

My plan was modest: do a couple of interviews at each tournament I attended, and after a few years, I'd have

enough material for a book when I retired. But I was enjoying it so much that I thought, why sit on all this? At the same time, I'd been researching the sociology of childhood for over 20 years and was running out of fresh ideas. This could revitalize my research by connecting it to something I loved.

And there was a legitimate academic case for it. **Bridge connects to community, well-being, mental health, brain fitness:** these are major societal issues. It's not just a bit of fun. From the research, very clear themes emerged around power inequalities, the professional life, and especially **gender inequalities**. I realized the bridge world had no gender policies whatsoever, while every other sector of society did. As a sociologist, maybe I could encourage some of those policies to be developed.

### How was it funded?

I started very small. A friend gave me literally 300 euros to get my first interviews transcribed. Then EBED (English Bridge Education & Development) gave me a small grant for a survey on bridge and well-being. We got over 7,000 responses from that, which produced a solid paper. Each success built credibility for the next step.

The EBL and WBF were supportive early on with small grants that we could do a lot with. Then came our first big funding: the WBF contributed about 27,000 €. That was a game-changer.

As people saw we could deliver, that we published results and created accessible resources like videos, podcasts, and

summaries, the crowdfunding became easier. Then Mike Levine from the US offered a matching grant: 100,000 dollars, on the condition that I raised another 100,000 first. That took a lot of work, but it was easier because of the track record we'd built. Norway has also been very supportive from the start.

For our current study on bridge in schools, we chose England, Scotland, the USA, and Norway precisely because those are the countries that really understood what we were doing and saw the value in evidence-based research for lobbying governments and getting bridge into schools.

We now have a new PhD on bridge funded by the Scottish Government, the University of Stirling and the WBF.

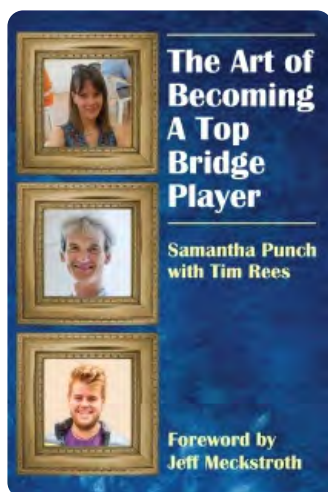




### Is bridge too complex for modern society?

It's another double-edged sword. On one hand, yes, we need to make entry points simple, fun, and engaging. But on the other, we shouldn't dumb it down too much, because its complexity is what people love. From our interviews with young players, some say they don't have time to invest in learning the whole thing. But others say they love that you can't master it quickly, that it's challenging, that it makes you think. And because it's scaffolded in stages, you can enjoy it at each level.

I think the solution is to keep the traditional competitive format but introduce additional, more accessible formats alongside it. Like chess did with blitz and rapid. We need faster games, shorter formats, more flexibility. The **"drop-in" idea** is interesting: instead of committing to a three-hour club session, you play in one-hour segments and can come and go. Some people stay the whole session, others just play for an hour.



**The Art of Becoming a Top Bridge Player**

**based on 60 interviews with great players**



## INTERNATIONAL YOUTH BRIDGE SURVEY

BAMSA is running a survey to find out what children and young people think about bridge.

Whether you play all the time, or you just tried bridge once – your opinion matters. What do you enjoy? What puts you off? What would make bridge better for people your age?

Take part today to influence what happens next with youth bridge and enter our prize draw for 2 x 50\$ Amazon vouchers!

### Why take part?

We're gathering perspectives from young players of all ages (8-31 years), countries and skill levels, and the findings will go directly to the people planning youth bridge programmes. Your answers will help shape how bridge is taught and played in schools, clubs, and online. The survey takes only 10-15 minutes to complete and it's anonymous.

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/stirling/youth-bridge>

Youth voices in bridge: International survey of young people who play bridge.

<https://bridgemindsport.org/school-and-youth-bridge/>

**Bridge Battle** is a good example of making the first encounter exciting and engaging. It's got characters, fun terminology, tangible outcomes. And Norway's cute animations are wonderful for that very first step. But we need to think carefully about how to transition people from those fun introductions to actual bridge.

We also need practical solutions at the club level. I heard about an idea from Florida where beginners play alongside the regular session, supervised by a different club member each week. The beginners get **three "chips"** that they can use to ask questions. It makes them think about when to use their questions rather than becoming dependent on constant help. And we desperately need something like **"The Queen's Gambit"** for bridge: a mainstream cultural moment that shows the diversity and excitement of the game. We have the stories for it. We have the scandals, the drama, the human interest.

# OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

## ROUND OF 16, STANZA 1

BRIAN SENIOR

For the first quarter of the Round of 16 we feature the match between Hobaa and Overdeck. Hobaa got slightly lucky on the first deal when their N/S pair bid to the inferior game, but the cards lay such that there was no problem in bringing it home.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Overdeck</i>	<i>Sze</i>	<i>Gerli</i>	<i>Chiu</i>
—	1♠	Dble	Rdbl
2♥	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>G Ho</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>W Ho</i>	<i>Manno</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

For Overdeck, Antonio Palma and Andrea Manno bid quickly to 4♠, Palma's 2♦ rebid showing a spade singe-suiter. Palma won the diamond lead and led a spade to his ace, picking up the singleton queen. He drew the outstanding trumps then played the queen of clubs, Wai Lam Ho winning the ace and leading a heart to the queen and ace. Palma cashed the diamonds for

a heart discard, ruffed a heart to hand, and with the ♠J in the slot had the rest; 12 tricks for +480. At the other table Aldo Gerli, for Overdeck, found a wafer-thin take-out double on the East cards. The extent to which this distracted his opponents is unclear, but they landed in the substantially inferior game of 3NT, which on a heart lead would have required that spades come in without loss. As it was, the lead was the nine of diamonds, and Alan Sze made the same 12 tricks as in the other room for +490 and no swing.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Overdeck</i>	<i>Sze</i>	<i>Gerli</i>	<i>Chiu</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♦	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>G Ho</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>W Ho</i>	<i>Manno</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♦	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

A natural auction saw Gerli at the helm in 4♠, against which Abby Chiu led a diamond. Gerli

won the ace of diamonds and led dummy's heart up, Sze taking the ace and returning his remaining heart to the eight, nine and ruff. Gerli led a club to the king, cashed the ace of spades, then played the queen of diamonds – king, ruff. The ten of hearts was ruffed with the jack and over-ruffed, and now ace and another club promoted the ten of spades as the setting trick; down one for -100.

Wai-Lam Ho's 1♥ response over the 1♦ overcall was a transfer to spades, 1♠ showed two or three spades, and 4♥ showed the major two-suiter, offering Gordon Ho a choice of games. He of course chose 4♠, so the same contract as at the other table but, because of the transfer response, played from the other side of the table. Palma led ace and another heart, Ho winning the king and playing a spade to the jack and king. Back came the five of spades to dummy's nine. Ho played the king of clubs and, when that was ducked, switched his attention to diamonds, leading to the ace then continuing with the jack to the king and ruff. Ho ruffed a heart, took a club pitch on the queen of diamonds, and ruffed a club to hand. He could cash the ♠Q followed by the ♥Q, and that was 10 tricks for +620 and 12 IMPs to Hobaa.

Seven pairs bid and made ♠ while eight went down, as did the only one in 3♠.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Overdeck</i>	<i>Sze</i>	<i>Gerli</i>	<i>Chiu</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>G Ho</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>W Ho</i>	<i>Manno</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Chiu opened 2♣, strong and artificial, and Sze's response showed a bad hand, 0-4 HCP. Two No Trump was non-forcing, but Sze had enough to go on to game, which he did via Stayman. On finding the four-four fit, he raised to 4♥.

John Overdeck led the three of diamonds against 4♥, Chiu winning the ace and playing three rounds of hearts. Overdeck won the queen and exited with his fourth heart to dummy's jack, while Gerli pitched two spades and one diamond. Chiu won the heart and ran the eight of clubs to Overdeck's queen, and Overdeck got out with a diamond. Chiu won in hand and cashed the ace of clubs then the diamonds. Gerli threw a club, so Chiu had a third club trick and 10 in all, +620. Manno's 2♣ was either 18-19 balanced or game-forcing; 2♦ was waiting, and 2NT therefore a balanced game-force. Puppet Stayman found the heart fit and, once again, South declared the heart game.

Ho too led a diamond, Manno winning and



Antonio PALMA



playing three rounds of hearts. Back came the fourth heart. East had discarded spade, diamond, diamond. Now Manno ran the eight of clubs, losing to the queen, and back came a diamond. On this trick East pitched a club, so Manno had three heart tricks, four diamonds and three clubs, ten in all for +620 and no swing. Against the same line of play, neither East felt able to keep the club guard. Perhaps the West players could have helped more via the order in which they played their hearts, showing that they had the spades well covered?

Thirteen pairs played in 4♥ and only one went down.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Overdeck</i>	<i>Sze</i>	<i>Gerli</i>	<i>Chiu</i>
—	Pass	1♠	2♦
Dble	3♦	4♥	5♦
Dble	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>G Ho</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>W Ho</i>	<i>Manno</i>
—	Pass	2♣	2♦
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Gerli opened the East hand at the one level then bid the heart game in response to Overdeck's negative double. Having bid so much already, he was unwilling to defend 5♦ doubled, though that was, of course, beatable, easily enough. He went on to 5♥ but that was doubled to conclude the auction.

Against 5♥ doubled, Chiu cashed the ace of diamonds and continued with the king, which

Gerli ruffed. He cashed the ace of spades, led a heart to the jack, and ruffed a spade with the queen. A heart to the eight was followed by the queen of spades and, when that was not covered, Gerli ran it, pitching dummy's third diamond. Sze ruffed and returned the king of hearts. Gerli won that and gave up a spade, after which he had the rest for down one and -100.

Wai-Lam Ho could open 2♣ to show a weak hand with both majors, at least five-four, and when Gordon Ho could show genuine heart support Wai-Lam's extra distribution convinced him to raise to game.

Palma led a diamond, Manno winning and switching to a club. Declarer won the ace, cashed the ace of spades, and led a heart to the jack, discovering the bad split. However, this declarer had not been forced at trick two so was in control of the play. Ho ruffed a spade with the queen then ran the ♥7 and continued with a further heart finesse. After cashing the ace of hearts, Ho could give up a spade and claim the rest; 11 tricks for +450 and 11 IMPs to Hobaa.

Eleven pairs bid and made 4♥, while three went down. There was also one N/S who conceded -500 in 5♦ doubled.



Shun Sum Alan SZE and Aldo GERLI



Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Overdeck</i>	<i>Sze</i>	<i>Gerli</i>	<i>Chiu</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>G Ho</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>W Ho</i>	<i>Manno</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The Hos bid comfortably to game, 2NT being a four-card game+ raise, 3♣ a minimum, and 3NT a diamond shortage. That didn't excite Wai Lam, so he signed off in game, where he made 12 tricks after a trump lead, +680.

The Overdeck/Gerli convention card is inadequate, so we are guessing to some degree what their auction meant. However, with a different partner in the team, Gerli plays that a 2NT response to 1♥ would only show an 8-11 four-card raise, while a 2♣ response is a GF relay, which presumably includes game+ raises of one of a major. Three Spades was clearly a slam try, and that was sufficient to tempt Overdeck into asking about keycards, despite the 4♥ sign-off. The two key-card response was not however sufficient to tempt Overdeck to go on to slam.

Stopping in 5♥ was right at double dummy, because a club lead establishes a second trick for the defence, but wrong in practice as the actual lead was a diamond, so 12 tricks were

made for +680 and a flat board.

One pair bid slam, and made it after a spade lead.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Overdeck</i>	<i>Sze</i>	<i>Gerli</i>	<i>Chiu</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass



Wai-Lap Abby CHIU and John OVERDECK



West	North	East	South
<i>G Ho</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>W Ho</i>	<i>Manno</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	1♠	Dble	2♥
3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Overdeck did not open the West hand. Gerli's 2♣ opening was 18-19 balanced (the very strong opening would have been 2♦), and 3♠ showed four hearts and a game-force. Gerli admitted to also holding four hearts and Overdeck went on with a spade cuebid and, when he showed two keycards, Gerli went on to slam.

Chiu led a club, Gerli winning on table to lead a heart to the king and ace. A continuation of the club attack saw Sze ruff and return a spade. Gerli went to dummy to take a heart finesse, and losing to the jack meant down two for -200. Gordon Ho did open the West hand, and he followed up by bidding 3♥ freely in response to the negative double. That saw Wai Lam Ho launch into Keycard then bid the small slam on finding Gordon with two.

Palma led his singleton club round to declarer's ace and, as at our first table, declarer led a heart to the king and ace, conceded a club ruff, then finessed into the now bare jack to go down two for a flat board.



Andrea MANNO

Only two pairs stopped safely in game, the other 14 were all down in slam. Coincidentally, the successful pairs were in the same match.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Overdeck</i>	<i>Sze</i>	<i>Gerli</i>	<i>Chiu</i>
—	1NT	2♣	2NT
3♥	Pass	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>G Ho</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>W Ho</i>	<i>Manno</i>
—	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Sze opened a 14-17 NT and Gerli overcalled 2♣ to show at least five-four in the majors. The Sze/Chiu convention card says that they play Modified Lebensohl. Whatever the modification is (transfers?), Chiu had more than sufficient to bid 3NT at his next turn and that concluded the bidding.

Playing Gerli to be the shorter in clubs, Sze got that suit wrong, but still had 11 tricks for an easy +460.

Palma's 1NT was 15-17 and Wai Lam Ho did not come into the auction. Two Clubs asked, 2♦ denied a major, and 2♠ asked again, this time about range. That is as far as the card goes, but it looks as though 3♣ showed top end of the range with diamonds, and 3♦ admitted to diamond support. From there, your guess may

well be considerably better than mine.

The bottom line is that Palma/Manno reached an excellent slam that was not even investigated at the other table. Declarer can cope with diamonds four-one, as long as he picks up the clubs without loss, but five-nil was just too much.

Palma was down one after the queen of spades lead for -50 and 11 IMPs to Hobaa – unlucky. He won the spade lead and led a diamond to the ace then the seven of diamonds to the ten and queen. King of clubs and a second club to the nine was followed by the ace of clubs. That was ruffed and there was still a trump trick to be lost.

The top N/S score was +110 from 2♠ doubled. Six Clubs was bid and made three times, while 6♦ went down four times. The rest made 11 or 12 tricks in 3NT.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Overdeck	Sze	Gerli	Chiu
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
G Ho	Palma	W Ho	Manno
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Dble	2NT	3♥
4♠	5♥	All Pass	

Gerli opened as dealer while Ho did not. Gerli's 1♣ opening saw Overdeck respond 1♠ and Sze overcall 2♥. Gerli supported spades, and Chiu supported hearts and, when Overdeck now jumped to the spade game, everybody had done

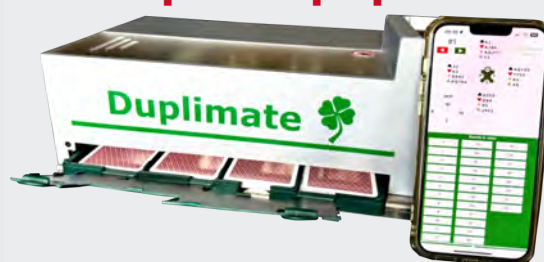
their bidding, so he was left in peace to play there. There was nothing to the play. Sze led the king of clubs, but none of declarer's red-suit losers were going anywhere, and in the fullness of time he lost two hearts and two diamonds so was down one for -100.

Where Wai-Lam passed as dealer, Gordon opened 1♠ in third seat. Palma doubled and Wai-Lam showed a constructive four-card raise to at least 3♠. When Manno now showed his hearts and Gordon jumped to 4♠, Palma convinced himself that he had enough extra playing strength to be worth another bid. He competed with 5♥ and the best we can say for this hopeless contract is that at least it didn't get doubled.

Gordon led the ace of spades against 5♥, switching to his singleton club on sight of dummy. Wai-Lam ducked the king, so Manno played on hearts, cashing the ace then leading low to the jack and losing to the queen. He ruffed the spade return in dummy and cashed the king and ace of diamonds before leading a club to the ten and jack. Wai-Lam cashed the ♠A and ♦J and that was down three for -300 and 9 IMPs to Hobaa.

One North made 3♠ and one West made 4♠. Twelve pairs were down in 4♠, sometimes doubled, and one South lost -500 in 5♣ doubled.

## Championship specials



The new **dealing machines** used to duplicate the boards during the European Winter Transnational Championships are sold for **€2650**.

**Cards** played at the 2025 World Championships are sold for **€80/100 decks**.

These offers are on so long as supply lasts, but no longer than February 19. Shipping from Sweden. Machines can alternatively be picked up at the end of the venue.

Email [anna@jannersten.com](mailto:anna@jannersten.com) to order.



Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Overdeck</i>	<i>Sze</i>	<i>Gerli</i>	<i>Chiu</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>G Ho</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>W Ho</i>	<i>Manno</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The two auctions were identical up to 2NT. Now Gerli just jumped to 4♠ and played there, while Wai-Lam bid only 3♠ then allowed his partner to declare 3NT.

More often than not, it wouldn't have mattered which game was chosen, but there was a nasty surprise waiting for Gerli, in the shape of a five-one trump break.

Chiu led the six of clubs to the king and ace and Sze switched to the eight of hearts. Chiu won the ace, perforce, and switched back to clubs. Gerli played ace, king, then ten of spades. Chiu won the queen and still had the ♠9 to come for down one and -50.

Palme led the eight of hearts against 3NT, Manno winning the ace and switching to the six of diamonds. Gordon won the ace and played ♦Q, a club to the jack, and a third club to the king and ace. He had 10 tricks for +430 and 10 IMPs to Hobaa.

Three pairs made 3NT while one went down. Nine pairs went down in 4♠, there was one East in 6♥ down two, and two Souths lost -800 in 3♦ doubled.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Overdeck</i>	<i>Sze</i>	<i>Gerli</i>	<i>Chiu</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>G Ho</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>W Ho</i>	<i>Manno</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Overdeck opened 1♦ and rebid 3♦, which saw Gerlie ask for keycards then bid 6NT to protect his heart holding. After a spade lead Gerlie could win and knock out the ace of clubs for 12 tricks, +990.

Gordon Ho also opened 1♦ but rebid 1NT. Wai-Lam Ho asked a series of questions, at the end of which he bid the small slam in diamonds. The ace of clubs lead merely served to speed up the play, 12 tricks for +920 but 2 IMPs to Overdeck. The Hos had to play it in diamonds, because a heart lead beats 6NT if it is played by West. Either slam is fine with East at the helm.

Three pairs missed slam, with all the rest opting for 6♦.





Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

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



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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Overdeck</i>	<i>Sze</i>	<i>Gerli</i>	<i>Chiu</i>
—	1♦	1NT	Pass
2♥	3♦	4♠	Pass
Pass	4NT	Dble	5♣
Pass	5♦	Dble	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>G Ho</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>W Ho</i>	<i>Manno</i>
—	1♦	1NT	Pass
2♥	2NT	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Palmer opened 1♦ and Wai-Lam overcalled 1NT. Gordon transferred to spades, but Palma made an artificial 2NT rebid which would seem to have shown hearts, as otherwise Manno's 4♥ bid doesn't make much sense. Wai-Lam doubled 4♥ and that ended the auction. Gordon led the three of spades, Manno rising with the ace and playing ace then queen of diamonds, ruffing out the king. Manno led a low heart to the king and

ace and back came the king of spades, followed by the ace of clubs. No doubt it was something of a blow to Wai-Lam when that got ruffed. Manno could have made the rest by drawing trumps and cashing out the diamonds, but what if hearts were four-one? He instead cashed the jack of diamonds and continued with another diamond, allowing Gordon to ruff. However, he could win the club return and now draw trumps and cash out for 10 tricks and +790.

Sze also opened 1♦ and Gerli also overcalled 1NT. Overdeck transferred to spades and Sze just repeated the diamonds. However, when Gerli's 4♠ came back to him, now he bid 4NT to suggest long diamonds but also a second suit. Chiu responded 5♣, pass or correct, then bid 5♥ over Sze's 5♦. By now Gerli was doubling everything and the music finally stopped in 5♥ doubled, against which Overdeck led the ten of hearts. Gerli won the ace and switched to the king of spades, but Chiu won that, played ace then queen of diamonds to king and ruff, and could draw trumps and cash out for 11 tricks and +850, worth 2 IMPs to Hobaa.

Five Hearts doubled made twice, and 4♥ doubled once. Four Hearts undoubled made six times but was down two after a spade lead on one occasion. There were three successful diamond partscores by N/S, two E/Ws were down in 4♠, and one West was down one in 3♠.

The set score was 55-4 in favour of Hobaa. There were three more 14-board sessions to play, so Overdeck didn't need to panic just yet, but they already had quite a bit of work to do, needing to gain better than an IMP a board over those three sessions, so would want to start session two on the front foot.



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"The Green Citadel" by Hundertwasser  
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## 6♦ ALWAYS MAKES PART 2

Board 19. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chumak</i>	<i>W. Ho</i>	<i>Rybnikov</i>	<i>G. Ho</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	Pass	1♠*	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Dble
6♦	All Pass		

- 1♣ 12-14 balanced or 17+ any or  
4414/4405 11-16
- 1♠ Natural, 8+HCP

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chiu</i>	<i>Solodar</i>	<i>Sze</i>	<i>Zapadinskiy</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All
Pass			

West opened with a strong 2♣ and rebid 2NT. East transferred to spades and offered 3NT and there they rested, for 12 much-needed IMPs back to JustJump.

With three boards left to play, the score was 84-106 in Hobaa's favor.

## 7♦ ALWAYS MAKES

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chumak</i>	<i>W. Ho</i>	<i>Rybnikov</i>	<i>G. Ho</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♥*
Pass	7♦	All Pass	

A fairly natural auction here, with North splintering in support of diamonds at their second turn. Not sure who initiated the slam sequence; their card says, "Turbo keycard," which is unfamiliar to me. (*Turbo is not especially well known in North America. It is a way of showing keycards after locating a fit at a low level and starting to make control showing bids. The first to bid 4NT shows 0, 2 or 4 keycards. Bypassing 4NT shows an odd number of keycards, 1, 3 or 5. Coordinator*). Nonetheless, an excellent grand slam: no guesses, no finesses.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chiu</i>	<i>Solodar</i>	<i>Sze</i>	<i>Zapadinskiy</i>
Pass	1♠*	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	7♦
All Pass			



Another Polish club beginning, and, according to David Burn, who was helpfully commenting, 1♥ was majors first, 1♠ could be “lots of things,” 2♣ was artificial, 2♠ a good hand with spades, and South’s 3♦ showed four or more of that suit. From there, a keycard auction to the grand slam – no swing in this match. A mostly flat board at the other tables with a couple of pairs stopping in 6♦ and one mishap in 7♣.

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chumak</i>	<i>W Ho</i>	<i>Rybnikov</i>	<i>G Ho</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2NT showed 15–16 HCP with six hearts and two spades. West had nothing to lose by raising to game. Declarer won the ♣5 lead with the 10 in hand and went to work on the heart suit, running the jack to North’s king. He returned a club, declarer taking the ace and leading a low heart to the queen (a welcome sight) and ace. A spade was led and the ace ducked. Declarer won with the king, ran his hearts and the ♦A for nine tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chiu</i>	<i>Solodar</i>	<i>Sze</i>	<i>Zapadinskiy</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

2♣ was Gazzilli, 2♥ showed less than 8HCP. Sze passed, making four for 10 IMPs to Justjump, now down by 12.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chumak</i>	<i>W Ho</i>	<i>Rybnikov</i>	<i>G Ho</i>
—	—	—	1NT*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1NT 11–13  
2♦ Hearts

South opened 1NT, 11–13 nonvulnerable, and North transferred to hearts. Chumak ventured 3♣ and Rybnikov, with his heart stopper consisting of Jxx, bid a bold 3NT. South led ... the ♦K, and East had his nine winners.



Gordon HO






## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chiu</i>	<i>Solodar</i>	<i>Sze</i>	<i>Zapadinskiy</i>
—	—	—	1♦
2♣	2♥	Dble	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

With the ♠Q offside, 4♠ was down one for another 10 IMPs to Justjump, who had closed the gap to 2 IMPs with one board to go. But wait, there's more

Board 28. Dealer West. N-S Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chumak</i>	<i>W Ho</i>	<i>Rybnikov</i>	<i>G Ho</i>
2♦*	2NT	3♥*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

2♦ was a Multi, 2NT was for the minors. 3♥ pass-or-correct (I think) and when West bid spades, East raised to game. For some reason, the BBO archive for this table is missing, but it was down one as it should be.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chiu</i>	<i>Solodar</i>	<i>Sze</i>	<i>Zapadinskiy</i>
2♠	3♣	4♠	All Pass

North led the ♣Q to the 6, 7 and 4, then gambled with a switch to the ♥K ("A confident display by North," said Burn, "who doesn't expect West to have a side ♥AQ for a weak two in spades."), won by declarer with the ace. He now drew trumps (South pitching the ♣2 on the second round) ending in hand to advance the ♦10, covered with the jack, queen and king. South exited with the ♣3, won by North. When North played the ♥J, South forgot to overtake, turning a matching-tying extra undertrick into a push.

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# OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

## ROUND OF 16 – STANZA 2

### A REVIEW

JOS JACOBS

The early afternoon round on Saturday turned out to be full of interesting deals, both in the bidding and in the play/defence. The set got underway with a really remarkable swing board, I thought. I cannot remember having seen a grand slam swing at almost every table still in play during the later stages of a top-class knock-out event. Still, this is what happened on the opening board: at seven out of our eight tables the grand was missed by one of the N/S pairs. In only one match it was a disappointing push for +1460 to N/S.

Here is what happened on this opening board in the Secrets Of Secrets v. Bianchi match. The most secret of the secret weapons no doubt is the conversation Zia is able to launch with his



Sergio Bianchi

partner David Gold and his Italian friends (or opponents, if you insist). More about that later on. Zia/Gold are playing with Auken-Welland as team-mates. The Bianchi team consists of four equally stylish Italians: V. Giubilo-Bianchi and Porta-Cima.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Giubilo	Gold	Bianchi	Zia
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♥	Dble	4♣
Dble	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

The 3♥ transfer and the 4♣ advanced cuebid speak for themselves. At many tables the auction got underway like that. The problem arose when South had to take over the initiative too early. Zia was in good company, however, as we shall see below. Secrets of Secrets +1460.

In the Closed Room, they showed one of the ways to the grand.



## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milner</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Cima</i>
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♥	Dble	4♣
Dble	Rdbl	6♣	Pass
Pass	6♦	7♣	7♠
All Pass			

At the other table, Porta immediately seized his extra chance to exchange information. Joe Grue tried his best to muddy the waters a bit more but in retrospective it can be said that his 6♣ bid was more helpful to his opponents: North's 6♦ bid would now definitely show serious extra values. South knew enough and was rewarded with +2210 and 13 IMPs.

In the Zimmermann v Dyson match, N/S had similar problems.

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Crouch</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Dyson</i>	<i>Zimmerm.</i>
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♥	Dble	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

When Crouch did not double the 4♣ cuebid, Multon had less room to properly describe his hand.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Handley-P.</i>
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♥	Dble	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

At the other table, North made a cuebid in a suit without the ace, so South had every reason to go all out, he thought. He was right and thus gained 13 IMPs for his team as well.

Here are a few more sequences, both successful and unsuccessful.

## Ashe v Eler

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sofu</i>	<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Avcioglu</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♥	Dble	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

North's 5♥ was asking for the ♠Q and 6♦ confirmed this queen and showed the ♦K at the same time. Mission accomplished.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ashe</i>	<i>Serdar</i>	<i>M Schaltz</i>	<i>Suzer</i>
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♥	Dble	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

South's 4♠ showed extra values but also ate up some useful bidding space...

In the Hobaa v. Overdeck match, both Souths bid 4♠ over East's double of 3♥ so they ended up in 6♠ as well for no swing.

An interesting variation occurred in the Mavericks v. Knottenbelt match. The Knottenbelt N/S pair were among the ones NOT to open 2NT and the grand was missed. The Maverick pair had little trouble and produced quite a different sort of sequence.

West	North	East	South
<i>Knottenbelt</i>	<i>Toledano</i>	<i>Byrne</i>	<i>Zamir</i>
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♥	Dble	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

North showing the void at the six-level was convincing enough for South.







enable West to lock the lead in the North hand.

A few boards later, I spotted an exquisite miniature:

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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



No, not in the Open Room. There, the bidding had been:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Giubilo</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Bianchi</i>	<i>Zia</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

This contract presented no problems. Ten tricks, Bianchi +130.

For the beauty of our game we have to move over to the other table:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milner</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Cima</i>
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Over South's 1♦ transfer, the 1NT rebid showed 14-16 but denied three or more hearts.

East found the fine lead of a low heart to West's ♥10 and declarer's ace. A spade went to dummy's ♠10 and the ♦J was run to East's king. East returned spade. The contract was made for 90 and 6 IMPs to Bianchi.

At the halfway point, in only two of our eight matches the margin was less than 10 IMPs, but we have seen often before that everything can still happen in the tense and/or nervous second halves.



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“The Green Citadel” by Hundertwasser in Magdeburg (pixabay | Kriemer)

Foto Hintergrund: iStock / Vector

# OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

## ROUND OF 16 – STANZA 3 & SWISS CUP

### DON'T QUOTE ME

MARK HORTON

I usually take a walk after lunch, contemplating how I might introduce the next article. Reading Saturday's copy of The Times (I get it for Andrew Robson's column) I spotted a headline, "*The Winter of their content*" which reminded me of the opening line of Shakespeare's Richard III, "*Now is the winter of our discontent*". Playing a bridge tournament in February I guess either could apply to how the players feel.

My thoughts turned to other famous opening and closing lines that might in some way be linked to the Winter Transnational.

Given that Saturday was Valentine's Day, I wondered about "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." However, that might be useful when the Mixed Teams gets under way.

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." A bridge player can certainly relate to that.

"Call me Ishmael. "A poignant reminder of an absent star.

"After all, tomorrow is another day." That's good to remember if you happen to be eliminated.

I'm sure you can think of many more, but it seems to me that the closing line of Some like it Hot is the one that we should all take to heart: "Well, nobody's perfect."

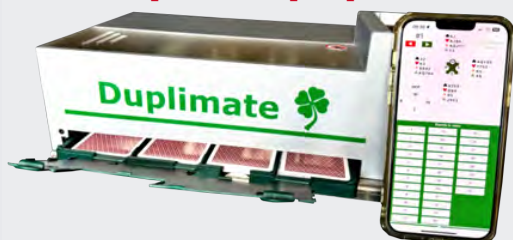
After that divertissement its time to see how things developed in the third session of the round of 16 in the Open Teams and the seventh session of the Swiss Cup.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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



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#### Mavericks v Knottenbelt

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Toledano	van de Pavverd	Zamir
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	3♣*	4♣*	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

3♣ Both minors

4♣ Control, possible fit

East led the ♣2 and declarer won with dummy's



♣J and continued with the ♣6 for the queen and ace, East switching to the ♥2. The defenders took two tricks in that suit and East exited with a spade, declarer ruffing, cashing the ♣K, running the ♦J and then playing the ♦7 to secure ten tricks, one down, -100.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Norton</i>	<i>J Patreuha</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Dble	4♣	4♠	5♦
Pass*	Pass	Dble	All Pass

When West did not open North put the ball into play. South's whimsical 3NT was brushed aside by West's double and North introduced his second suit. South kept going over 4♠ (he probably considered bidding 4NT, letting North choose). West's forcing pass saw East elect to take the money.

Declarer ruffed the spade lead and played the ♦Q for the king and ace and continued with the ♣J. When it held he played another club and East took the ♣A as West pitched the ♥6. The ♣9 saw West ruff and exit with the ♦10 and declarer could not avoid two down, -300 and 5 IMPs to Mavericks.

Let's pay a visit to the Swiss Cup:

#### Beauty with Pretzels v Team Meta

##### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ionita</i>	<i>Humpal</i>	<i>Teodorescu</i>	<i>Krasa</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2NT*	Dble	5♣
5♦*	Pass	5♠	Dble
Pass	6♣	Dble	All
Pass			

2NT 10-13, 5+♣ and 5+♦

Using 2NT to show a minor suited hand is described in The Mysterious Multi. This is an interesting variation, well suited to the Precision methods being employed by NS.

That was two down, -300.

Would 5♠x have made?

Possibly.

If South leads a club declarer wins and will probably play the ♠K. When South follows with a low card declarer must unblock the ♠10/J from dummy. When North discards declarer continues with the ♠9. If that holds declarer must play a heart to the jack, cash the ♥A and play a third heart. South ruffs, but declarer is sure to score 11 tricks.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Slovakova</i>	<i>Iancu</i>	<i>Krasa</i>	<i>Filimon</i>
—	—	—	1NT*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass

1NT 10-13  
3♣ Puppet

The system card suggest that with both minors North bids 3♠. Odd.

South led the ♣J and the contact finished one down, so 9 IMPs for Team Meta.

I imagine declarer cashed the ♠K (without unblocking) and saw North discard. If declarer now plays a second spade he cannot make 4♠.



Jakub PATREHUA

He must play on hearts, taking three rounds of the suit as outlined above.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

### Mavericks v Knottenbelt

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Toledano</i>	<i>van de Paverd</i>	<i>Zamir</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♣*	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

1NT 14+17  
2♣ Stayman

East led the ♠5 and West took the top clubs and the ♦A before exiting with a club. Declarer won in dummy, cashed the ♠A, went to dummy with the ♥K, played the ♠J and claimed when her majesty appeared, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Norton</i>	<i>J Patreuha</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♣*
1♦	1♥*	2♦	2♠
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣, 12-14 balanced (can have 5♦)  
18-19 balanced (not usually 5♦) or natural  
1♥ Spades

With the ♦K appearing to be worthless, South did not venture beyond 2♠. It meant the loss of 10 IMPs and Mavericks led 76-54.  
One small point; when South bids 2♠ North can

be sure partner will have four-card support. Does that make his hand worth a raise? Those who raise included Ola Rimstedt (4♠) and Ekrem Serdar (4♠). Several players opened 1NT. When North transferred to spades Erikas Vainikonis broke the transfer with 3♠, while Ido Moskovitz did it with 2NT.

12 pairs bid the spade game, four of them picking up 39 Imps between them.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

### Zimmermann v Dyson

Open Room

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

2♦ Checkback  
4NT RKCB  
5♣ 1 keycard

East led the ♣8 and declarer was soon claiming, +980.





## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nowak</i>	<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Handley-P.</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4NT*	5♥*	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

2♦ Checkback

4♥ Control

4NT RKCB

5♥ 2 keycards

West led the ♣A and declarer could not avoid a trump loser, finishing two down, -100 for 14 IMPs to Zimmermann.

The same number of IMPs changed hands in de Botton v Bridgescanner, the former's 6NT comparing with the doomed 6♦ and in Bridge Trainer v Israel Blue, the latter making 6♠ after the lead of the ♣A, the former going down following West's lead of the ♦4.



Tom TOWNSEND

## Meanwhile in the Swiss Cup

## 4EK02FAZOKLUB0 v Loiben

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hopfenheit</i>	<i>Radko</i>	<i>Reim</i>	<i>Cieslak</i>
—	—	—	1♦*
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

1♦ 4+♦, 11-14 with very good 4♦ or 11-18 4♦441 or 11-17 (18) 5+♦

East led the ♥8 and declarer came to 12 tricks, +990.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brzustowski</i>	<i>Umshaus</i>	<i>Pawluk</i>	<i>Terraneo</i>
—	—	—	1♦*
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Dble	6♠	All Pass	

2♦ Checkback

4♥ Control

4NT RKCB

5♣ One keycard

East led the ♦J, +980 to flatten the board. There were 14 slam swings.



Michal NOWOSADZKI

# SWISS CUP

## RESULTS

### AFTER ROUND 8

1	BARIS	121.37	31	4EKO2FAZOKLUBO	82.42
2	ISTARI	104.62	32	KROWKA	81.77
3	FRANCE GREEN	104.33	33	TEAM META	79.04
4	FORMIDABLES	104.27	34	DAISY CHAIN	78.02
5	ZIP	103.52	35	SAYIN ABIM	77.96
6	NIKOS	103.10	36	CERCOL	77.00
7	NEW BROOM	101.00	37	SV BRIDGE CLUB	76.80
8	ANGELS	98.03	38	44FUN	76.07
9	TO BID OR NOT TO BID	95.50	39	NP MANU	74.55
10	MILANBRIDGE.COM	95.37	40	GDANSK	73.85
11	OLCZYK	94.82	41	POLAND U21 A	73.60
12	KALISH	93.98	42	SLOVAKIA BLUE	72.14
13	BRENO	93.06	43	LYSY SOLEK	72.05
14	ESKOM	92.46	44	GILLIS	70.94
15	CROATIA	91.79	45	PROMAX	70.51
16	FAJERWERKI	91.61	46	MACCABI JAFFA	70.19
17	GOLD BARS	91.42	47	BORTOLETTI	69.69
18	LOIBEN	90.80	48	ASCHAFFENBURG	66.94
19	LATVIA	90.35	49	VICUNA	66.31
20	VIMAPHAN	89.07	50	CZECHIA U23	64.44
21	ZHANG	88.30	51	CAFIERO	63.96
22	POLAND U21 B	87.15	52	BAMBI	63.84
23	VALLON BRIDGE	86.30	53	KARTALITE	63.64
24	BRIDGE FOR BUSINESS	85.39	54	NEXT GEN BRIDGE	61.46
25	JUSTJUMP	85.23	55	MALA ZOVE	59.62
26	FOURSQUIRE	84.34	56	BANANA	59.46
27	SWISS SENIORS	83.94	57	PLEASE HELP	53.94
28	WARSAW UNIVERSITY	83.38	58	CZECHIA U31	47.68
29	LUPO VELOCE	83.30	59	TAQUOI	47.12
30	BEAUTY WITH PRETZELS	82.61	60	MCDONALD	45.58



# SWISS CUP

## BUTLER RANKING

### AFTER ROUND 8

VOZABAL David - MACURA Milan	2.79	CZE-CZE	14
SARNIAK Anna - CHMURSKI Bartosz	2.50	POL-POL	14
NANDI Kaustabh - ROY Sagnik	2.21	IND-IND	28
CALISKAN Erdal - ERENGIL Yasemin	2.07	TUR-TUR	14
TURANT Maciej - PANCEWICZ Szymon	1.79	POL-POL	28
KANDEMIR Ismail - NUHOGLU Sevil	1.78	TUR-TUR	41
GRZEJDZIAK Igor - GRZEJDZIAK Sabina	1.61	POL-POL	56
FERENCA Matko - LESKOVAR Viktor	1.56	CRO-CRO	70
KANDEMIR Ismail - KAYA Emre	1.54	TUR-TUR	70
TURANT Maciej - MISZCZUK Karolina	1.54	POL-POL	13
VOZABAL David - SEKER Basar Doga	1.54	CZE-CZE	28
RYBNIKOV Gennadii - CHUMAK Yuliy	1.50	UKR-UKR	14
NAWROCKI Piotr - OLCZYK Jerzy	1.36	POL-POL	14
IZWANTOWSKI Jan - TOKARSKI Wojciech	1.31	POL-POL	70
JANISZEWSKI Przemyslaw - BLACH Michal	1.29	POL-POL	14
ZAWISLAK Slawek - CIECHOMSKI Jacek	1.29	POL-POL	28
KNOB Markus - WANHA Clemens	1.26	AUT-AUT	84
FRANCHI Arrigo - DI FRANCO Massimiliano	1.19	ITA-ITA	112
WONG Wai Man Flora - CHUI Daniel Siu Wai	1.12	HKG-HKG	42
CHUMAK Yuliy - KUPRIANOV Evgenii	1.12	UKR-CYP	42
SUSZANOWICZ Natalia - LUCKA Dominika	1.07	POL-POL	112
POPLILOV Lilo - POPLILOV Matilda	1.07	BUL-ISR	70
PABST Philipp - GUENDEL Marius	1.02	GER-GER	56
MAGNUSSON Stephan - AMIGUET Jerome	0.96	SUI-SUI	111
WANG Wen Fei - HAMPSON Geoff	0.93	HKG-USA	28
LANTARON Luis - MEDIERO Marina	0.93	ESP-ESP	14
KASZOWSKI Dominik - CIESLAK Grzegorz	0.93	POL-POL	14
BESSIS Thomas - LORENZINI Cedric	0.89	FRA-FRA	28
HAMPSON Geoff - KOLESNIK Finn	0.89	USA-USA	28
TRENKA Peter - KEMENY Gyorgy	0.88	HUN-HUN	112
ZIPOVSKI Dimitraki - RADISIC Goran	0.87	SER-SER	112
AROIX Jean-Luc - TIGNEL Jeremie	0.83	FRA-FRA	84
BURG Thomas - ZELNIK Peter	0.83	AUT-AUT	70
TWARDOWSKI Andrzej - BOGUCKI Darek	0.83	POL-POL	69
GRIGORIU Mihai - CERNAT Ovidiu	0.82	ROM-ROM	28
BENDRE Kaustubh - KUSHARI Sayantan	0.81	IND-IND	42
LYSEK Matyas - KONSTACKA Emma	0.81	CZE-CZE	42
DROGEMULLER Mette - ROLF-LARSEN Andreas	0.79	DEN-DEN	112
LUCZECZKO Jan - GRABALA Szymon	0.78	POL-POL	111
HASHIMOTO George - ANDERSSON Thomas	0.74	SUI-SUI	70
KLIMIUK Milena - JANIK Mateusz	0.71	POL-POL	70
FILIPOWICZ Dominik - OLCZYK Jerzy	0.71	POL-POL	14
RADKO Boleslaw - KASZOWSKI Dominik	0.69	POL-POL	42
TER LAARE Marco - ALKEMADE Willem (Wil)	0.66	NED-NED	98
REIM Andrea - PABST Philipp	0.66	GER-GER	56

ROBERT Quentin - COMBESURE Baptiste	0.62	FRA-FRA	42
ANDRUSZKIEWICZ Jakub - PALUSZEK Konrad	0.62	POL-POL	112
GISIN Eitan - ZAIDENBERG GATT Sophie	0.61	ISR-ISR	70
KOWALSKI Dariusz - SIELICKI Tomasz	0.61	POL-POL	84
FORYS Wiktoria - PANCEWICZ Szymon	0.60	POL-POL	55
KOO Hor Yung Charmian - CHIANG Jeffrey	0.57	HKG-HKG	14
DUBOIN Giorgio - WARD-PLATT Kiki	0.55	ITA-USA	56
MUKHERJEE Sumit - TEWARI Rajeshwar	0.55	IND-IND	42
JANIK Stanislaw - SOLECKI Piotr	0.51	POL-POL	112
ZORIC Vedran - MARINOVSKI Kiril	0.50	CRO-CRO	112
WANG Wen Fei - KOLESNIK Finn	0.50	HKG-USA	56
VAGI Mate - ZABRADI Benjamin	0.48	HUN-HUN	112
DELIMPALTADAKIS Nikos - VROUSTIS Vassilis	0.46	GRE-GRE	84
BOCCHI Norberto - GANDOGLIA Alessandro	0.46	ITA-ITA	56
CHOTTIN Philippe - ROMBAUT Leo	0.45	FRA-FRA	56
DEHEEGER Colin - BEDOUET Pierre	0.44	FRA-FRA	84
BALASOVS Juris - ILZINS Janis	0.44	LAT-LAT	112
CAPPELLINI Paolo - PAONE Alessandro	0.43	ITA-ITA	83
HOPFENHEIT Guido - REIM Sebastian	0.43	GER-GER	56
PIEDRA Fernando - SAINZ DE VICUNA Maria	0.43	SUI-ESP	14
REES Tim - PUNCH Sam	0.42	WAL-SCO	84
KALISH Avi - GRINBERG Nir	0.41	ISR-ISR	70
FILIPOWICZ Dominik - CIESLAK Jaroslaw	0.40	POL-POL	42
YADLIN Doron - ORENSTEIN Eitan	0.40	ISR-ISR	70
TALYIGAS Peter - VIKOR Attila	0.33	HUN-HUN	112
RUS Gregor - CHEDIAK Mateo	0.32	SLO-NOR	28
KONSTACKA Emma - DANEK Petr	0.32	CZE-CZE	28
BROGELAND Boye - BAKKE Christian	0.32	NOR-NOR	28
VERHEES Jr Louk - BAKHSHI David	0.30	NED-ENG	84
KAHRAMAN Ahmet - CALISKAN Erdal	0.27	TUR-TUR	70
GUENDEL Marius - DI BACCO Victoria	0.27	GER-GER	56
NAWROCKI Piotr - WIANKOWSKI Piotr	0.26	POL-POL	42
PIEDRA Fernando - MARTORELL Almudena	0.24	SUI-ESP	70
POULSEN Flemming - KOLDING Viktor	0.24	DEN-DEN	112
BERGER Heinrich - ZELNIK Peter	0.21	AUT-AUT	42
KOO Hor Yung Charmian - WONG Wai Man Flora	0.21	HKG-HKG	14
MISZCZUK Karolina - PANCEWICZ Szymon	0.21	POL-POL	14
MACURA Milan - BILDE Morten	0.21	CZE-DEN	14
ZIVKOVIC Gojko - DERIVAZ Jean-Pierre	0.20	SUI-SUI	84
KORKMAZ Can - OZGEZ Cengiz	0.20	TUR-TUR	70
WNUK Wojciech - ADAMCZAK Jakub	0.20	POL-POL	70
STEFANEC Kristijan - SEIZOVIC Marko	0.20	CRO-SER	56
OKUNIEWSKI Wojciech - CIESLAK Grzegorz	0.17	POL-POL	42
CIESLAK Sylwester - LASOTA Pawel	0.14	POL-POL	70
RUBINS Karlis - OLLA Edgars	0.13	LAT-LAT	112
ENGEL Joseph - COHEN Dani	0.12	ISR-ISR	84
STOECKLI Francois - STOECKLI Jeremie	0.12	SUI-SUI	111
KRASA Ondrej - HUMPAL Michael	0.11	CZE-CZE	56
McGUIRE Brian - ATISEN Sebastian	0.10	ENG-ENG	112
CHEN Lin-Huan - HSIEH Ding-Hwa	0.09	USA-USA	112
KOESTER Peer - HUEBNER Horst	0.07	GER-GER	112
KOZYCZKOWSKI Jerzy - COMANESCU Lucian	0.04	POL-GER	112

UMSHAUS Peter - TERRANEO Christian	0.04	AUT-AUT	56
KLANSCEK Jasminka - CEKOL Zorana	0.01	CRO-CRO	110
CALLAGHAN Brian - ORSMOND Graham	0.01	ENG-ENG	112
BERGER Heinrich - LAUSS Wolfgang	0.00	AUT-AUT	70
KRASA Mikulas - SLOVAKOVA Pavla	0.00	CZE-CZE	56
COLDEA Ionut - GHIGHECI Ovidiu	0.00	ROM-ROM	42
ARGAY Zsolt - KEMENY Mark	-0.01	HUN-HUN	112
BILDE Dorte Cilleborg - BILDE Morten	-0.05	DEN-DEN	42
BETHERS Janis - LORENCS Martins	-0.05	LAT-LAT	42
KARLIK Petr - KUBAT Frantisek	-0.07	CZE-CZE	28
CHMURSKI Bartosz - CHALUPEC Igor	-0.07	POL-POL	14
DURSUN Baris - OZGEZ Cengiz	-0.07	TUR-TUR	14
MICHALSKI Jakub - PROKOPOWICZ Marcel	-0.07	POL-POL	84
KAYA Emre - ERENGIL Yasemin	-0.07	TUR-TUR	27
O'FARRELL Daniel - SMOZYNSKI Szczepan	-0.11	IRL-ENG	56
ATTANASIO Dario - LANZAROTTI Massimo	-0.14	ITA-ITA	112
TOMCANI Jan - KVOCEK Juraj	-0.14	SVK-SVK	28
KORBEL Daniel - ZHANG Susan	-0.15	USA-USA	84
BRZUSTOWSKI Jerzy - PAWLUK Tomasz	-0.16	POL-POL	70
DURSUN Baris - BAYSAL Dursun	-0.16	TUR-TUR	56
GOLEBIOWSKI Stanislaw - BLACH Michal	-0.18	POL-POL	28
OKUNIEWSKI Wojciech - KASZOWSKI Dominik	-0.18	POL-POL	28
BAUSBACK Nikolas - KONDOCH Hartmut	-0.19	GER-GER	112
VIDOVIC Toni - KATUSIC Filip	-0.19	CRO-CRO	84
LANTARON Luis - SAINZ DE VICUNA Maria	-0.20	ESP-ESP	70
KUBAC Nezih - YILMAZ M.Gokhan	-0.21	TUR-TUR	28
VAN DEN BERGH Nic - VAN DEN BERGH Anke	-0.23	BEL-BEL	112
NYSTROM Fredrik - UPMARK Johan	-0.24	SWE-SWE	84
VODICKA Michal - KOROS Boris	-0.26	SVK-SVK	42
ZAPADINSKIY Evgeny - SOLODAR Philip	-0.26	ISR-ISR	42
FILIMON Adrian Gheorghe - IANCU Stefan	-0.29	ROM-ROM	112
WANG Wen Fei - ZHANG Susan	-0.32	HKG-USA	28
ALUF Sedat - DEDEHAYIR Ahmet	-0.32	TUR-TUR	56
VAN DER NEUT Jaap - ZWART Peter	-0.33	NED-NED	98
IONITA Marius - TEODORESCU Cornel	-0.35	ROM-ROM	112
BRZUSTOWSKI Jerzy - CIESLAK Grzegorz	-0.36	POL-POL	14
LASOTA Tomasz - MISZCZUK Karolina	-0.36	POL-POL	14
LYSEK Matyas - DANEK Petr	-0.38	CZE-CZE	42
OZGEZ Cengiz - OZCAN Ihsan	-0.43	TUR-TUR	14
CATA Stefano - PENNESTRI Carmelo	-0.45	ITA-ITA	83
AUSTBERG Per Erik - RASMUSSEN Arild	-0.45	NOR-NOR	42
RADKO Boleslaw - CIESLAK Grzegorz	-0.50	POL-POL	14
PAWLAK Andrzej - VALCHEV Vasil	-0.52	POL-POL	69
ZORLU Nafiz - UCAR Ali	-0.54	TUR-TUR	28
KOO Hor Yung Charmian - LI Suet Yu Zoe	-0.54	HKG-HKG	56
FORYS Wiktoria - MISZCZUK Karolina	-0.55	POL-POL	42
KRASNOSELSKI Mikhail - FEOFANOV Maxim	-0.57	ISR-ISR	42
SEIZOVIC Marko - CHEDIAK Mateo	-0.57	SER-NOR	28
MEYTAL Kfir - MEYOUHAS Yacov	-0.57	ISR-ISR	84
HERMANN Sophie - CRISAFULLI SADABA Patricio	-0.59	AUT-AUT	56
BAREL Michael - KATZ Paz	-0.60	ISR-ISR	70
ROMANOWSKI Cenek - DROZD Matej	-0.61	CZE-CZE	112



MARCINOWSKI Piotr - BAK Wojciech	-0.61	POL-POL	28
TURANT Krzysztof - ADAMCZAK Michal	-0.63	POL-POL	70
CATZEFLIS Christian - GORETTI Massimo	-0.64	SUI-SUI	70
LINDENTHAL Erika - POLAP Klaus	-0.64	GER-GER	112
SIGSGAARD Julie Marina - ROSTHOEJ Ella	-0.64	DEN-DEN	112
LANTARON Luis - MINGOT Lola	-0.64	ESP-ESP	28
CIESLAK Sylwester - SZYMONIK Pawel	-0.64	POL-POL	28
VODICKA Martin - RUMANCIK Jakub	-0.64	SVK-SVK	42
MACURA Milan - SEKER Basar Doga	-0.64	CZE-CZE	14
JARZABKOWSKI Andrzej - SUCHODOLSKI Piotr	-0.65	POL-POL	111
CIECHOMSKI Jacek - JANISZEWSKI Przemyslaw	-0.68	POL-POL	28
PROBST Sandra - MRKIC Iva	-0.68	CRO-CRO	110
BURGESS Oliver - LAWSON Judith	-0.73	ENG-ENG	56
VOLHEJN Vit - VOLHEJN Petr	-0.75	CZE-CZE	112
WALACH Ivo - KUBAT Frantisek	-0.79	CZE-CZE	42
BAYSAL Dursun - OZCAN Ihsan	-0.79	TUR-TUR	28
TRENDAK Lukasz - DARKIEWICZ-MONIUSZKO Grzegorz	-0.79	POL-POL	112
ZAIDENBERG Nezer Jacob - LAVI Shalom	-0.80	BUL-ISR	70
LECANTE Francois - RAIKO RAIKOVSKY Vadim	-0.85	FRA-FRA	98
KOWALSKI Apolinary - BORTOLETTI Carlo	-0.87	POL-ITA	84
DJILOVIC Josko - MIJIC Ante	-0.87	CRO-CRO	70
KROENING Detlev - KARIMI Omid	-0.88	GER-GER	112
TURANT Maciej - LASOTA Tomasz	-0.91	POL-POL	56
WLODKOWSKI Robert - MALISZEWSKI Przemyslaw	-0.94	POL-POL	112
SCHEBERAN Philip - EDER Felix	-0.99	AUT-AUT	84
ZAWISLAK Slawek - BLACH Michal	-1.00	POL-POL	14
SZYMONIK Pawel - CZECH Slawomir	-1.03	POL-POL	70
REIM Andrea - DI BACCO Victoria	-1.04	GER-GER	56
KORKMAZ Can - OZCAN Ihsan	-1.14	TUR-TUR	14
CAUMEL Jean Patrick - TAQUOI Jacques	-1.28	FRA-FRA	98
CHIANG Jeffrey - CHUI Daniel Siu Wai	-1.34	HKG-HKG	56
LI Suet Yu Zoe - CHIANG Jeffrey	-1.36	HKG-HKG	28
BURG Thomas - LAUSS Wolfgang	-1.38	AUT-AUT	42
VACHTARCIK Lukas - FRANZ Vojtech	-1.38	CZE-CZE	112
BLICHARZ Maksymilian - WOJCIECHOWSKI Igor	-1.48	POL-POL	56
RUS Gregor - MCDONALD Majella	-1.51	SLO-IRL	70
GUNEV Rosen - BRICIU Marius	-1.60	BUL-ROM	42
STEFANEC Kristijan - MCDONALD Majella	-1.62	CRO-IRL	42
WALACH Ivo - KARLIK Petr	-1.64	CZE-CZE	42
PIEDRA Fernando - MEDIERO Marina	-1.64	SUI-ESP	14
FRANCESCHETTI Pierre - SETTON Hilda	-1.69	FRA-SUI	42
WONG Wai Man Flora - CHIANG Jeffrey	-1.71	HKG-HKG	14
CAFIERO Maurizio - ROSSO Roberto	-1.79	ITA-ITA	56
LASOTA Pawel - CZECH Slawomir	-1.82	POL-POL	28
SAELENMINDE Erik - GILLIS Simon	-1.83	NOR-ENG	42
DURSUN Baris - OZCAN Ihsan	-2.00	TUR-TUR	28
PIEDRA Fernando - MINGOT Lola	-2.14	SUI-ESP	14
RYBNIKOV Gennadii - SAPOSNICOV Oleg	-3.14	UKR-UKR	14
SARNIAK Anna - CHALUPEC Igor	-3.21	POL-POL	28





REGIONE AUTONOMA  
DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA  
DELLA SARDEGNA



# INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE FESTIVAL of SARDINIA



Foto Stefano Marrocu

## CAGLIARI 11 - 14 June 2026

### 5th PAOLO MAURI Memorial 11 June

#### NATIONAL PAIRS TOURNAMENT MP

##### THURSDAY 11 JUNE

h. 15.00 Tournament Start,  
2 rounds of 18 pre-duplicated boards  
h. 20.30 Prize Giving Ceremony

**PRIZE POOL** (65% of the Entry Fees)  
1st Pair 700€ (Guaranteed with 80 Pairs)  
10 Ranking Prizes + 5 Special Prizes

**ENTRY FEES**  
25€ per Player  
15€ per Student



### 3rd SARDINIA CUP 12-13-14 June



#### INTERNATIONAL TEAMS TOURNAMENT

##### FRIDAY 12 JUNE

h. 14.30 - 1st match, 5 rounds of Swiss Qualification 8 pre-duplicated boards.

At the end, top 8 teams qualify for the KO phase; remaining teams will participate to the 4th Trophy Città di Cagliari

##### SATURDAY 13 JUNE

h. 14.30 - KO quarter finals, 2 rounds of 12 boards, screens and pre-duplicated boards

Remaining teams will participate to the 4th Trophy Città di Cagliari starting from 4th round.

h. 17.30 - KO semi-finals, 2 rounds of 12 boards, screens and pre-duplicated boards

##### SUNDAY 14 JUNE

h. 11.00 Finals (1st/2nd and 3rd/4th) 1st round of 12 boards, screens and pre-duplicated boards

h. 12.45 Brunch Break

h. 13.45 Finals (1st/2nd and 3rd/4th) 2nd and 3rd round of 12 boards, screens and pre-duplicated boards

h. 17.00 Prize Giving Ceremony. Final Buffet offered

**PRIZE POOL** (Guaranteed with 40 Teams)

1st Team 1500€  
2nd Team 1000€  
3rd Team 700€  
4th Team 500€

##### ENTRY FEES

320€ per Team (max 6 players)  
Including right to participate to 4th Trophy Città di Cagliari

### 4th Trophy CITTÀ di CAGLIARI 13 -14 June

#### NATIONAL TEAMS TOURNAMENT

##### SATURDAY 13 JUNE

h. 14.30 Swiss Qualification 6 rounds/6 boards

##### SUNDAY 14 JUNE

h. 11.00 Swiss Qualification 2 rounds/6 boards

h. 12.45 Brunch Break

h. 13.45 Round Robin Finals Groups with 4 Teams

h. 17.00 Prize Giving Ceremony. Final Buffet

**PRIZE POOL** (Guaranteed with 40 Teams)

Group A	Group B	Other Groups
1° Team 1000€	1° 280€	1° 200€
2° Team 600€	2° 240€	1° Student T. 100€
3° Team 400€	3° 220€	
4° Team 300€	4° 200€	

##### ENTRY FEES

200€ per Team (max 6 players)  
100€ per Team Students

## COMPETITION VENUE



**Manifattura Tabacchi** Viale Regina Margherita 33, Cagliari

## INFO



[info@festival-bridge-sardegna.it](mailto:info@festival-bridge-sardegna.it)

[www.festival-bridge-sardegna.it](http://www.festival-bridge-sardegna.it)

Festival del Bridge Sardegna

+39 329.3171920 +39 333.2555483

FIGB Rules apply

TOURISTS INFORMATION

<https://cagliariturismo.comune.cagliari.it/>

# EVER DREAM OF PLAYING WITH A BRIDGE LEGEND? ✨

## HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!

### PLAY WITH THE WORLD'S TOP BRIDGE STARS

An unforgettable bridge experience  
all while supporting a great cause!



### SCAN TO JOIN THE AUCTION ✨



#### Browse

Explore and  
find your  
favourites



#### Bid

Place your  
bids online



#### Win

Outbid your friends  
and play bridge  
with a legend



#### Support Bridge

Your participation  
directly supports  
CBF programs and  
events

**Auction closes February 16, 2026 – 6:00 PM EST!**

**VISIT [www.cbf.ca/celebrity-classic-2026](http://www.cbf.ca/celebrity-classic-2026)**



## CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

Official fundraiser of the Canadian Bridge Federation