



EUROPEAN WINTER TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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THE BRONZE IS DEALT

● EUROPEAN WINTER OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

Teams **De Botton** (Thomas Charlsen, Espen Erichsen, Nicolai Heiberg-Evenstad, Geir Helgemo, Thor Erik Hoftaniska, Artur Malinowski) and **Knottenbelt** (Maggie Knottenbelt, Michael Byrne, Oscar Nijssen, Ben Norton, Stefano Tommasini, Tim Van De Pavard) won their Semifinal matches. Today we'll find out who conquers the **Zimmermann Cup**!

After a hard-fought championship, teams **Eler** (Cuneyt Eler, Huseyin Kerem Avcioglu, Ekrem Serdar, Serkan Sofu, Ugurcan Suzer) and **SPS Poland** (Konrad Araszkiwicz, Krzysztof Buras, Grzegorz Glasek, Krzysztof Kotorowicz, Grzegorz Narkiewicz, Wojciech Strzemecki, Jacek Pszczola captain) have claimed the bronze medal.

● EUROPEAN WINTER SWISS CUP

Today the Final starts with 20 teams: 17 qualifiers from Semifinal A, 2 from Semifinal B and one drop-in from the European Winter Open Teams Championship Semifinal (SPS Poland).

● EUROPEAN WINTER MIXED TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

As announced, **all teams from the Qualification stage (minus withdrawals) will be playing the Semifinal today**, with a carryover (please see page 4 for details). The Semifinal will be played today and tomorrow; after that, the top 20 teams will advance to the Final.

● EUROPEAN WINTER OPEN PAIRS

The top 12 pairs from Semifinal A (actually 13, since one pair withdrew), along with 1 from Semifinal B and 1 from the European Winter Open Teams Championship Semifinal, have qualified for Final A. **Please note that today's schedule has changed! [See the schedule.](#)**

● EUROPEAN WINTER MIXED PAIRS

The European Winter Mixed Pairs start today (see page 4).

● EUROPEAN WINTER OPEN BAM

The European Winter Open BAM will be played over 3 sessions.

Winners will receive their medals at the conclusion of play.

As is customary at Transnational Championships, where several competitions run simultaneously, there is no formal award ceremony.



Snow fell overnight in Prague. After all, we don't call them Winter Championships for nothing!

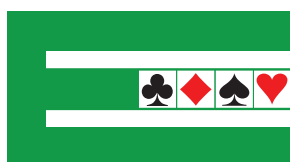


HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

... to **Bodeslaw Radko** (Poland)!

IN THIS BULLETIN YOU'LL FIND

- Important notes
- Bracket
- Masterpoints
- Event Formats
- Eat like Gold!
- Yellow Card
- Highlights from QuarterFinals, Semifinals, Swiss Cup
- One question, 12 champions
- Results & Butler rankings



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THE SCHEDULE HAS CHANGED

Please note that there is a change in the schedule **for today**



ON 19 FEBRUARY, PLAY STARTS AT 9.00

On the last day, we start early!

● EUROPEAN WINTER OPEN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

	Adj	1	2	3	4	TOTAL
ELER	0	1	27	21	3	52
DE BOTTON	0	20	27	33	28	108
SPS POLAND	0	12	28	11	36	87
KNOTTENBELT	0	25	21	52	31	129

DE BOTTON

KNOTTENBELT

SIGNED COPIES OF ZIA MAHMOOD'S "BRIDGE: A LOVE STORY" ARE AVAILABLE AT THE HOSPITALITY DESK.

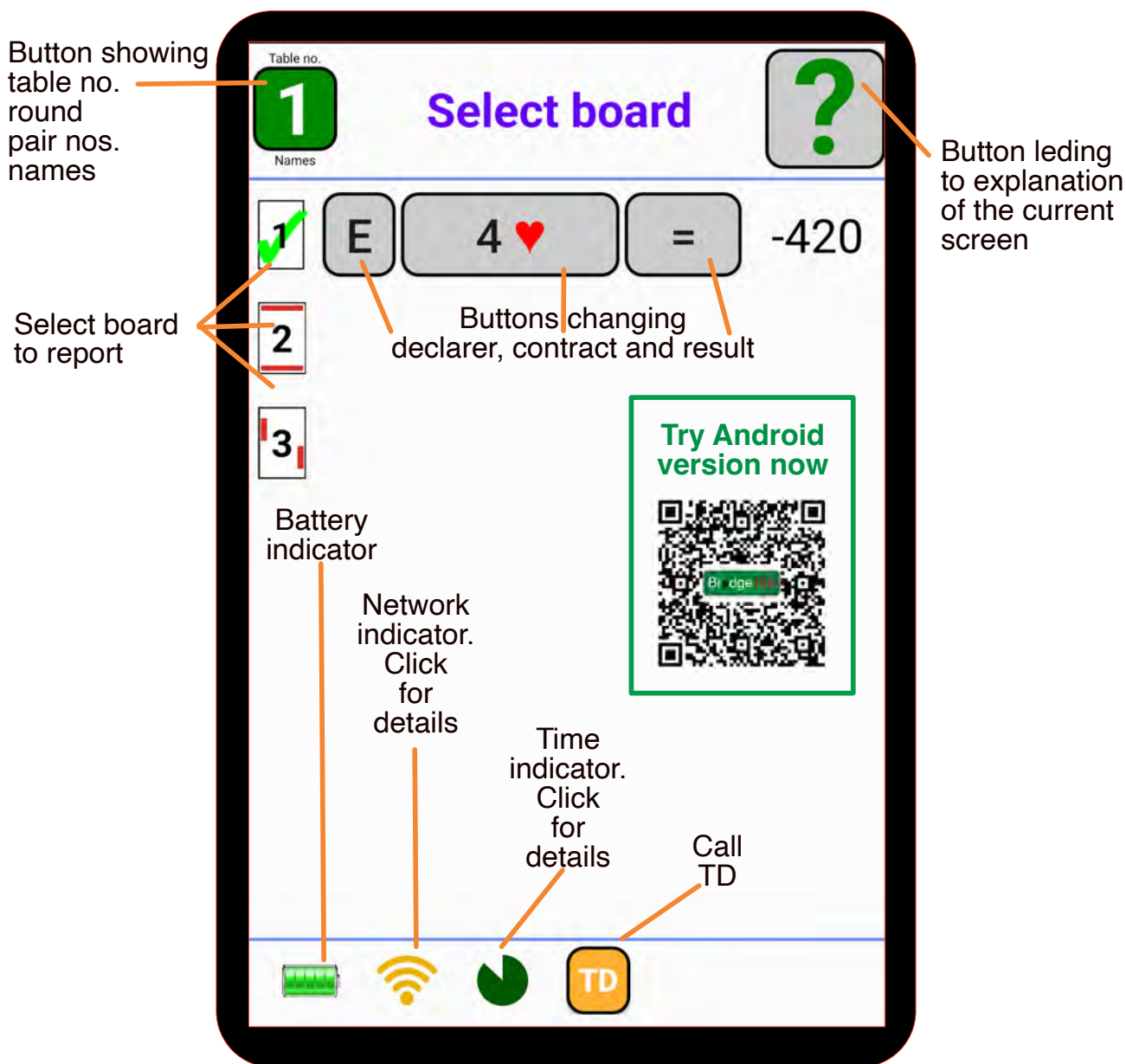
ZIA HAS GENEROUSLY DECIDED TO DONATE 50% OF THE PROCEEDS TO THE EBL YOUTH FUND.

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EUROPEAN WINTER MIXED TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

A survey showed that a significant number of teams would withdraw from the competition if not qualified to Semifinal A. This would have made impossible (due to the very low number of teams) running a Semifinal B.

For this reason, **the format has been revised**: there will be **a single Semifinal (A), open to all teams who played the Qualification stage**.

A **linear carry-over** will be applied according to the Qualification stage ranking: the lowest-ranked participating team will receive 0 VP, the second-last team 0.5 VP, and so on in increments of 0.5 VP.

The **Semifinal** will be played on February 17th and 18th.

After that, **20 teams** will qualify to the Final.

The **final** will be played over 7 rounds of 8 boards each, with Swiss movement. They qualifiers will be receiving a linear carry-over equal to 20 VP to the winner of the semifinal stage and down to 0 to the last.

The non qualifiers will play a BAM competition over two sessions of fifteen or sixteen boards each.

Please take note that as announced, the last day the starting time is 9 am.

EUROPEAN WINTER MIXED PAIRS

(subjected to confirmation once the number of entries is known; details will be added in due time)

After day one (qualification), the pairs will be split in Semifinals A and B.

There will be a linear carry-over score from qualification to Semifinals.

After day two some pairs qualify to Final A, while the rest play Final B.

There will be a linear carry-over score from Semifinals to Final A.

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 to order.



★ MASTERPOINTS - MIXED PAIRS

RANK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
MP	75	68	61	50	46	42	38	35	32	29
RANK	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
MP	27	25	23	21	19	18	17	16	15	14
RANK	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
MP	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
RANK	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
MP	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
RANK	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
MP	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
RANK	51	52								
MP	2	2								



3rd WBF Online WOMEN'S TEAMS

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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:

LA FINESTRA IN CUCINA

Platnéřská 90/13, 110 00 Staré Město

“

La Finestra in Cucina was opened in 2009 by chef Richard Lucque. It is located near the old town square.

Italian fine dining and specialising in dry aged meats and fresh fish and seafood.

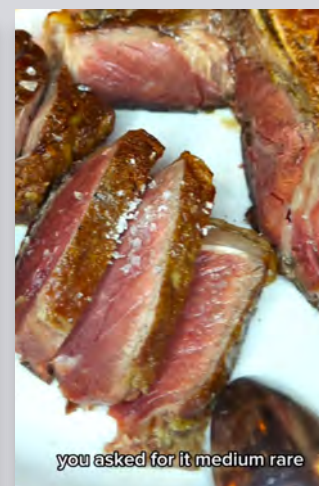
The restaurant is very warm and cosy inside. The food was mostly good- the octopus and calamari starters for example were excellent and I did try a spoonful of carbonara which was great but there were a couple of slight negatives. Some of the steak had this very hard exterior left on it which was basically inedible. Some of the steak was very good.

Personally I did not think the passion fruit in the tuna tartare worked as I could not taste the fish but maybe some would like it.

All in all an enjoyable meal.



then some simple crispy and perfectly cooked calamari



you asked for it medium rare

YELLOW CARD

HOW TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE GAME, AND WHY SPORTSMANSHIP IS NOT OPTIONAL

BY FRANCESCA CANALI



Bridge is a sport built on trust, honesty, and mutual respect. Every player at the table deserves to compete in an environment free from intimidation, dishonesty, and disruptive behaviour.

In EBL and WBF championships, the **Yellow Card** is a formal disciplinary tool used by Tournament Directors to address unsporting behaviour at the table. It serves as both a warning and a sanction, designed to preserve the spirit of fair play and protect all participants.

The system works on a two-step escalation.

- 1 First offence: the player receives a Yellow Card and the behaviour is formally recorded.
- 2 Second offence: the player faces immediate expulsion from the event, and the case is referred to the Disciplinary Commission for further review and potential long-term sanctions.

YELLOW CARDS ISSUED AT THIS CHAMPIONSHIP

During the current event, 5 Yellow Cards have been issued for various reasons, including:

- ♠ A player was penalised for repeatedly berating his partner in a manner that disturbed neighbouring tables.
- ♠ A player offended a Tournament Director.
- ♠ A player was sanctioned for claiming in a condescending manner towards his opponents, telling them “maybe you do not understand a squeeze.” When the opponents pointed out that he was being rude, he responded by calling them “stupid.”
- ♠ A player was penalised for bad behaviour towards opponents, including physically throwing an opponent’s card on the floor

In the past, Yellow Cards have also been issued for bringing alcohol to the venue or coming to the table under the effect of alcohol, visiting the toilet with a phone in one’s pocket, smoking outside during a session, being rude to partner or opponents and other violations. Obviously, also any unwanted physical contact with other players or staff members is clearly not allowed and will automatically lead to a yellow card.

Please, don’t be that person.

What is your hidden talent outside bridge?



GEOFF HAMPSON & DANIEL KORBEL

“ Organizing travels (Geoff)

“ Jazz piano (Daniel)



WANG WEN FEI

“ I am a great reader.
My favourite book is
“Gone with the wind”

NEVENA SENIOR

“ Cooking.
I can cook anything:
Bulgarian, Italian, Thai,
Japanese...



FREDRIK NYSTROM

“ I don't have any special talent.

JOE GRUE

“ I'm very good at
multitasking and
problem solving.



CHRISTINA LUND MADSEN

“ I am a very good kisser.

ZIA MAHMOOD

“ Making speeches.

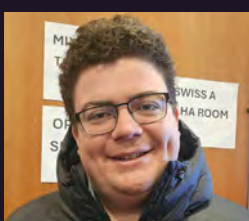


SABINE AUKEN

“ I don't know about the talent, but I really,
really love cooking. Since all our guests
always are very happy to come back, I guess
the cooking is not too bad. But maybe it's
because of Roy's wines and champagnes. Or
maybe it's just a good pairing.

CEDRIC LORENZINI

“ Cooking,
especially
Asian food.

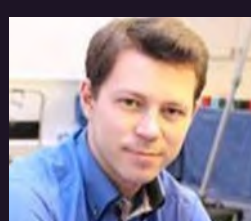


SIMON HULT

“ I am an electrician.

MILAN MACURA

“ Understanding how
things work



EUROPEAN WINTER TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

QUARTER FINALS – SET 4

DAVID BURN

Three matches were close as the last 14 boards of the quarterfinals began. Only De Botton, who had pummelled Hobaa to the tune of 65 IMPs to 9 in the first half of their match, had a comfortable lead and eventually prevailed by 65 IMPs. SPS Poland headed Israel Blue by 5 IMPs, Eler led Dyson by 9, and Knottenbelt were 17 in front of Bianchi. Board 15 appeared on eight tables.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

A weakness of the Multi 2♦ opening, it has often been said, is that in effect it allows the opponents to overcall 2♠ with 2♥. Where the auctions did begin with 2♦ West took advantage of this opportunity, and 4♥ was duly reached and made when on three rounds of spades West ruffed high and finessed against North's ♥J. Where South opened his real suit, paths diverged – in De Botton v Hobaa:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
G Ho	Hoftaniska	W Ho	Charlsen
—	—	—	2♦
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Sze	Evenstad	Chiu
—	—	—	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

Helgemo, thoughtful partner that he is, took only nine tricks so that Heiberg-Evenstad wouldn't feel sad about missing game. Ho took 11 and HOBAA had 7 IMPs.

SPS Poland v Israel Blue

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moskowitz	Araskiewicz	Msika	Kotorowicz
—	—	—	2♦
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass



Daniel MSIKA




Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Sabbah</i>	<i>Strzemecki</i>	<i>Sliwicz</i>
—	—	—	2♠
Double	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Four Hearts made an overtrick, Five Clubs made two undertricks, and Israel Blue took over the lead in the match by 6 IMPs. North-South for Knottenbelt had an unopposed auction to 4♦ down one, but minus 100 brought in 8 IMPs when 4♥ made five at the other table.

On board 16 East-West could make five of either major while North-South had a club fit in which seven tricks were available; the pair who doubled 5♣ won 4 IMPs for De Botton against Hobaa, but the pair who doubled 3♣ left the double in having misunderstood it, and that sent 8 IMPs to Eler against Dyson.

Board 17. Dealer North. Love all.

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

Five pairs played in Five Diamonds after East had bid two or three spades when North opened 1♥. At four tables East led a high spade and continued the suit – with nothing to guide them, the Norths made the normal play in diamonds and were down one. At the fifth East led ♣10 and North, Sze for Hobaa, took the view that East would not be short in both minors. He put up ♣A, he drew trumps, he ran the hearts, and he collected 10 IMPs for a splendid plus 420.

Three pairs did not play in Five Diamonds. One of them played in four, making ten tricks and winning 5 IMPs for Dyson when five went down at the other table.

SPS v Israel Blue

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Moskowitz</i>	<i>Araskiewicz</i>	<i>Msika</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>
—	1♥	2♠	Dble
3♠	Dble	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Sabbah</i>	<i>Strzemecki</i>	<i>Sliwicz</i>
—	1♥	2♠	Dble
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

In four hearts, the need to draw trumps meant that declarer couldn't make the normal play in diamonds even if he wanted to. He scored plus 480 as a result, which was just as well given what his team-mates were doing, and Israel Blue picked up an IMP.

Board 18 mostly saw a "normal but hopeless game" (copyright Bart Bramley), down at five tables out of six. At the sixth a transfer overcall of a 1NT opening saw the game played from the other side, and the defence was considerably more difficult – so much so that the contract made, giving Eler 12 IMPs against Dyson and extending their lead to 27. Two other North-South pairs went plus for not bidding game, sending 6 IMPs to Knottenbelt and 5 to Hobaa, who had by now made a serious dent in De Botton's imposing lead.

Board 19 was remarkable in that the East-West pairs, who had a ten-card diamond fit and more than half the deck in high cards, sold out to 2♥ at five of eight tables. The reason for this was that West, who had


♠ 9 7 ♥ J ♦ A K J 10 7 5 ♣ Q 8 5 4

was unwilling (or systemically unable) to do other than pass over a strong no trump to the right. After Stayman to the left, 2♥ to the right this policy of masterly inactivity was continued by all concerned, but there were no more opportunities and almost everyone was minus 140. One West did bid 3♦ over 1NT, but East tried

3NT with a diamond fit, ♠A and ♥K. That lost 200 for 2 IMPs to Hobaa, while Bianchi scored 7 against Knottenbelt for 170 in 2♥ (game was actually makeable) and 110 in 3♦.

On board 20 the North-South cards were:

♠ Q 4 3
 ♥ K 5 2
 ♦ K 8 7 6 5
 ♣ A Q



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

West had both black-suit kings, so slam was hopeless on a spade lead from East who had been dealt ♠10 9 8 6. Six Norths suffered that fate, while two who played from the South seat received club leads. That was a necessary start for the defence because it knocked out a vital entry without which the diamonds could no longer be established and slam needed the spade finesse as well. That didn't matter to Dyson's declarer who was in four, but it did matter to Eler's who was in six. 13 IMPs went the way of Dyson, De



Ofek SABBAH


Botton and Knottenbelt, while SPS and Israel Blue scored nothing for 650 apiece.

Three more large swings followed:

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 4
 ♥ J 10 5 3 2
 ♦ A 6 3
 ♣ A Q 8 3

♠ A 9 8 7
 ♥ 8 4
 ♦ K J 9 4
 ♣ 6 5 2



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

♠ K Q J 6 5
 ♥ K 9 7 6
 ♦ —
 ♣ J 10 7 4

For the most part North opened 1♥, East bid 2♦, South bid 4♦ and West bid 5♦. North for Dyson passed while his counterpart for Eler doubled, but South bid 5♥ anyway. The Easts led a diamond; the Norths won with the ace discarding a club from the table. Townsend for Dyson played a spade now, West winning with the ace and shifting to a club for an obvious down one.

Avcioglu for Eler led the ten of hearts at trick two, and Dyson in the East seat committed the unforgivable error of winning it with the ace. There was no defence now, and a shift to ♣K merely expedited proceedings. The reader who thinks I am not being entirely serious is quite right – there isn't an East whose brain is not made of silicon capable of playing the queen of hearts on the ten, but the fact remains that playing the ace enables declarer to set up the spades before the defence can come to ♣K, while playing the queen leaves inadequate communication for this purpose. 13 IMPs to Eler, ahead at the half by 37.

De Botton doubled Hobaa in Five Diamonds for 800 while Hobaa bid not five hearts but six – 14 IMPs to De Botton who had ended Hobaa's rally and their hopes. The lead was 7 on the segment and 59 in all. Knottenbelt and Bianchi doubled each other in Five Diamonds, collecting 500 each: Knottenbelt led by 20 on the segment and



37 in all. Israel Blue's West was the only one not to compete to the five level, and that cost his team 13 IMPs for minus 650 and minus 100. SPS Poland had tacked on 1 IMP on the set, running their lead to 6 in total. Anyone's game.

North-South had 17 opposite 7 and a 4-4 heart fit on board 22. No one bid game apart from Bianchi, whose South opened 2♥ – weak with both majors – on a hand that fitted the description perfectly:

♠ J 9 6 4 ♥ K 10 8 2 ♦ K 7 ♣ 6 3 2

North, who held

♠ 3 2 ♥ A Q 6 5 ♦ A J 10 ♣ K Q J 9

politely asked his partner what he had, received a reply he considered adequate, and bid Four Hearts. South for Israel Blue made the same opening bid, but North deemed his hand inadequate for further investigation. Everyone else played in a strong no trump apart from a South who ventured Stayman, breathed a sign of relief when North had four hearts, and put down the dummy.

To what depths have we sunk? How many players in the quarter-final of a world-class tournament heard 1♥ to their right and, at game all, overcalled 1♠ with

♠ A 10 9 7 6 ♥ 7 ♦ 8 7 6 4 3 ♣ 10 6

The answer is three. Their partners, who had only

♠ K 5 3 ♥ A Q 9 6 2 ♦ A K 2 ♣ 7 2

couldn't take a joke and gave them four, which was doubled by opener's partner who had a king to go with his five trumps. Plus 500 against a partscore brought 9 IMPs to Dyson, plus 500 against game going down the other way brought 12 to De Botton, and plus 800 against a partscore brought 12 to Bianchi. Oblivious of the storms raging around them, SPS Poland and Israel Blue made nine and ten tricks respectively in Three Clubs, bringing an IMP to the latter who needed five more boards like that to win the match.

Board 24 brought a moment's respite. Everyone

played in game and everyone made it. Israel Blue picked up another IMP. Four more like that...

Board 25 was of no help to the teams trailing by a lot – everyone played in a partscore with the North-South cards and two 1-IMP swings changed hands. One of those was to SPS Poland, a veritable rot-stopper. Board 26 was in the same vein – seven results were plus 650 to North-South in four spades. The eighth was not, because South for Dyson had

♠ J 9 8 7 5 2 ♥ 4 3 ♦ Q ♣ A Q 10 8

He was one of two players with some standards for vulnerable first seat pre-empts, and he passed as dealer. But when his partner opened 2NT he transferred to spades and invited a slam with 4NT. His partner, who had

♠ A K ♥ K Q ♦ A 8 7 4 3 ♣ K 9 7 3

did not accept the invitation, but 4NT was hopeless on a heart lead and went down two for a 13-IMP loss. Had South been willing or able to show his clubs, that might have led to a slam that could make against any lead but a diamond, since the hypothetical defender on lead had

♠ Q 10 6 ♥ A J 10 5 ♦ J 9 ♣ 6 5 4 2

I guess we will never know what he would have chosen. 13 IMPs to Eler meant the end of the road for Dyson.

Board 27 saw another eight plus scores for North-South for 3NT with overtricks. An extra one of those went to SPS Poland, so that they led by 6 IMPs with a deal to come. Bianchi needed a huge swing against Knottenbelt. Board 28 was...

...a partscore. Nobody could make much of anything; four pairs picked up 120 or 90, four more lost 100 or 50. Bianchi won 5 IMPs – not nearly enough. Israel Blue won 1 IMP – nearly enough (the second half of that match was a football score – Poland 2 Israel 3). Eler, De Botton, Knottenbelt and SPS Poland remained in the fight – the others, one hopes, remained in the bar.


OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

SEMIFINALS, SET 1

BRIAN SENIOR

And then there were four. The semi-finals of the European Winter Teams Championship featured SPS Poland, who faced the English team Knottenbelt, while the other match was between Eler (Türkiye) and De Botton (England and Norway). The matches would be played over 4 x14-board sessions. The action began immediately.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

SPS Poland v Knottenbelt

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Strzemecki</i>	<i>van de Paverd</i>	<i>Buras</i>
—	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	4NT	Dble
5♦	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Byrne</i>	<i>Glasek</i>	<i>Knottenbelt</i>
—	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Dble	5♠
All Pass			

Both Norths opened 3♠. Maggie Knottenbelt responded 4NT, Keycard, then signed off in 5♣ on finding that two were missing. One of those was, of course, the trump king, which was

singleton onside, but there was still no slam as Grzegorz Glasek led his singleton heart and Grzegorz Narkiewicz duly gave him his ruff to hold the contract to 11 tricks and +450.

For SPS Poland, Krzysztof Buras gave a quiet raise to 4♠, but when that came back around Tim van de Paverd bid 4NT, two-suited take-out, and Buras doubled. Oscar Nijssen chose diamonds, of course, and Wojciech Strzemecki doubled that to conclude the auction.

Strzemecki led the ace of spades then switched to his singleton club for the jack and king. Buras in turn switched to the king of hearts, Nijssen winning the ace and playing a club to the queen and ace. Now Buras played the jack of spades, Nijssen ruffing in hand and pitching a club from dummy. He ran the nine of diamonds to the jack, and Buras forced dummy with the queen of hearts. Having taken the heart ruff, Nijssen took the ruffing club finesse, Strzemecki ruffing with the queen and returning the ten of hearts, which Nijssen ruffed in the dummy. He ruffed a club then a heart, the latter being over-ruffed by Buras with the ♦A. A spade return now forced dummy's last trump so that Buras won trick 13 with the ♦5, and when the smoke had cleared Nijssen had just six tricks for down five, -1100, and 12 IMPs to SPS Poland.

There was no such excitement in the other semi-final with both Norths being left to play 4♠, making 11 tricks after a heart lead and ruff, +450 and no swing.

Eler v De Botton

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Avcioglu</i>	<i>Heiberg-Evenstad</i>	<i>Sofu</i>
—	3♠	Pass	4♠*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
4♣	Slam try		

West	North	East	South
<i>Suzer</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Serdar</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
—	3♣	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The boards ran very quietly for a while, with a string of unbeatable games in one direction or the other. It was not until Board 8 that we saw another swing of consequence.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

SPS Poland v Knottenbelt

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Strzemecki</i>	<i>van de Pavverd</i>	<i>Buras</i>
Pass	3♣	Dble	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Byrne</i>	<i>Glasek</i>	<i>Knottenbelt</i>
Pass	3♣	Dble	3♥
4♠	All Pass		

Nijssen declared 4♠ on a diamond lead. He won in hand with the ace and led a spade to the ten, king and ace. Buras cashed the king of clubs, then played queen and a third spade. Nijssen played ace then ruffed a heart, cashed the diamonds ending in dummy, and led the queen of hearts, pitching a club when Buras did not cover. That meant 10 tricks for +420.

In the other room, Knottenbelt had bid her hearts, so it was natural for Michael Byrne to lead the seven of hearts and for Narkiewicz to rise with the ace. Narkiewicz played a low spade from dummy, putting in the six when Knottenbelt played smoothly low. That lost to the ten and back came a heart to the queen, king and ruff.

Narkiewicz played a second spade, losing to the queen, and Knottenbelt returned her low club to the jack and queen. There was just the ace of spades to be lost from here, but that was down one for -50 and 10 IMPs to Knottenbelt, who led 13-12 after eight boards.

Eler v De Botton

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Avcioglu</i>	<i>Heiberg-Evenstad</i>	<i>Sofu</i>
<i>Suzer</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Serdar</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
Pass	3♣	Dble	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

For Eler, Huseyin Avcioglu led the seven of hearts, Geir Helgemo winning the ace and playing the king of spades. This was somewhat more successful than the play chosen by Narkiewicz which we have just seen. Serkan Sofu won the ace and tried to cash the king of hearts. That was ruffed by Helgemo, who played the jack of spades to Sofu's queen. Sofu played the king of clubs, Avcioglu overtaking, at which point Helgemo claimed 10 tricks for +420.

For De Botton, Artur Malinowski also led the seven of hearts. Ugurcan Suzer won the ace and came to hand with the ace of diamonds to lead a




Michael BYRNE



spade to the ten, king and ace. Espen Erichsen played two more rounds of spades, and Suzer won in dummy to ruff the low heart. He played queen and another diamond to dummy then took the ruffing heart finesse, and that was his tenth trick; +420 and no swing.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

SPS Poland v Knottenbelt

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Strzemecki</i>	<i>van de Paverd</i>	<i>Buras</i>
—	1♦	1♠	2♣
Pass	2♦	Dble	Pass
2♥	3♦	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Byrne</i>	<i>Glasek</i>	<i>Knottenbelt</i>
—	1♦	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	2♠	3♦
All Pass			

Buras introduced his club suit while Knottenbelt did not, but it made no difference to the final contract, both Norths coming to rest in 3♦.

Van de Paverd led the four of spades to the jack and ace, and Strzemecki led his club to the queen and ace, led a heart to the ten and queen, and back came a diamond for the jack and ace. Declarer gave up a second heart, won the diamond return with the ten, and played king of spades then ruffed a spade with the queen. A club ruff was followed by a heart exit, and the ♦K9 took the last two tricks, +110.

Glasek also led a spade to the jack and ace. Byrne played the jack of hearts, Glasek winning the queen and playing the queen of spades round to declarer's king. Byrne played a second

heart, which was won cheaply by Narkiewicz, who returned a low heart for dummy to ruff. Ace of clubs and a club ruff was followed by a heart ruff with the queen, then a second club ruff. Byrne cashed the ace of diamonds then exited with his spade loser, and the diamond return enabled him to put in the ten and claim an overtrick; +130 and 1 IMP to Knottenbelt.

Eler v De Botton

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Avcioglu</i>	<i>Heiberg-Evenstad</i>	<i>Sofu</i>
—	1♦	1♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Suzer</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Serdar</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
—	1♦	1♠	2♦
Pass	2♥	2♠	3♣
Pass	3♦	All Pass	


Malinowski's 1♦ opening promised five cards unless 4-4-4-(1), making it attractive for Erichsen to raise in competition, Erichsen came again, introducing his own long suit at his next turn, but clubs did not interest Malinowski, who swiftly corrected to 3♦, where he played.

The lead against 3♦ was once again a spade to the jack and ace. Malinowski played the ten of hearts, Serdar winning with the queen and returning the queen of spades. Malinowski won the ♠K and led his small spade, discarding dummy's remaining heart as Serdar won. A diamond now went to the jack and ace, and Malinowski ruffed a heart, cashed the queen of diamonds, and played ace then ruffed a club. The K10 of diamonds brought his total to nine tricks for +110.

At the other table, Sofu did not compete over 1♠. Neither did Avcioglu, so Serdar bought it in 1♠. Sofu led the two of diamonds, Avcioglu winning the king and continuing with a small diamond. Heiberg-Evenstad ruffed that and led a spade to the jack and king, and back came a club to the king and ace. Sofu led a third diamond to the nine and ten, and declarer ruffed and played a spade, which Avcioglu won to play a fourth diamond. Declarer ruffed, drew the outstanding trump, then tried to split the heart. When they did not oblige, he had eight tricks, four spades, three hearts, and one club, for another +110 and 6 IMPs to De Botton.



Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

SPS Poland v Knottenbelt

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Strzemecki</i>	<i>van de Pavverd</i>	<i>Buras</i>
1NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
2♣	Dble	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Byrne</i>	<i>Glasek</i>	<i>Knottenbelt</i>
2♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Glasek led the jack of clubs against 2♠, Narkiewicz ducking to Byrne's king. Byrne cashed the king of hearts then gave up a club, Narkiewicz winning the ace and returning the nine of spades to the ten, jack and queen. A heart ruff put Byrne in hand to play a club but, when Glasek ruffed in with the ♠7, Byrne discarded a diamond from dummy. He won the return of the king of spades and just had a diamond to lose, so 10 tricks for +170.

Nijssen opened a 10-13 NT, which was doubled on his right. He ran to 2♣ and Strzemecki doubled that then suggested spades over Buras's 2♥ response. That suited Buras fine and 2♠ ended the auction.

Van de Pavverd led the jack of clubs. Strzemecki won the king, cashed the king of hearts, and conceded a club. Nijssen returned the king of diamonds, which declarer won with the ace. Strzemecki ruffed a heart, led a spade to the queen, and ruffed his other small heart. Next he led a spade to the ace and gave up a diamond, losing just the diamond and a spade, so had 10 tricks for +170 and a flat board.

Eler v De Botton

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Avcioglu</i>	<i>Heiberg-Evenstad</i>	<i>Sofu</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Dble
2♥	2♠	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Suzer</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Serdar</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Dble
2♥	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The auctions were identical up to the point where Malinowski, lured into bidding by the vulnerable game bonus, added one for the road while Avcioglu did not.

Against 3♠, Heiberg-Evenstad led the jack of hearts round to Avcioglu's bare king. Avcioglu led a club to the queen and ace, and Helgemo returned the queen of diamonds. Declarer won the ace, cashed the ace of spades, then ruffed a heart to hand to lead a spade towards the queen. Heiberg-Evenstad won the ♠K and exited with the ♠J. Declarer won the queen and played a diamond, losing to the king. He had the rest now, 10 tricks for +170.

The stakes were somewhat higher at our remaining table, where Malinowski was in game, against which Serdar led the jack of clubs, which Suzer ducked to the king. Malinowski cashed the king of hearts then led a club to the queen and ace. Suzer returned the king of diamonds, which Malinowski ducked. He won the diamond continuation, ruffed a heart, and led a spade to the queen, cashed the ace of spades, and played a diamond. Serdar could take his spade trick but that was all; again 10 tricks, but this time for +620 and 10 IMPs to De Botton.





Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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



SPS Poland v Knottenbelt

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Strzemecki</i>	<i>van de Paverd</i>	<i>Buras</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Byrne</i>	<i>Glasek</i>	<i>Knottenbelt</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

A natural auction saw Byrne at the helm in 3NT, against which Glasek led the ten of diamonds to the king and ace. Narkiewicz returned a diamond to the jack and queen, and Glasek continued with a third diamond, possibly as much in hope as expectation. Byrne won the diamond, cashed the rest of the suit, then knocked out the ace of spades and had 10 tricks for +430.

Buras opened 1♠ and rebid 2♣. That, plus Strzemecki's 2♦, looks like a Gazzilli auction, though there is nothing about opener's rebids on their card. As for the 3♠ bid, I leave you to your own conclusions. Whatever it meant, it convinced Strzemecki that 4♠ would be the best game for his side.

Nijssen led the ten of hearts against 4♠, Buras winning in hand with the queen and playing ace of clubs then ruffing a club. He tried a diamond to the king next, but that lost to the ace and a heart came back. Buras won the ace and played the king for a diamond discard. After Nijssen had ruffed, back came a low club. Buras discarded from dummy and Paverd's ruff along with the

♠A meant one down and 10 IMPs to Knottenbelt.

Eler v De Botton

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Avcioglu</i>	<i>Heiberg-Evenstad</i>	<i>Sofu</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Suzer</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Serdar</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Sofu opened 1♠ then rebid 2♣, Gazzilli, so either natural or a strong hand. Two Diamonds showed game values facing the strong variety and 3♣ asked about shape. Nicolai Heiberg-Evenstad led the four of hearts against 3NT, Avcioglu winning dummy's queen and dropping the eight from hand, Helgemo having followed with the ten. Avcioglu led a spade to the jack and ace and back came the three of diamonds. Avcioglu played dummy's even and Helgemo ducked, allowing declarer to win with the eight. Avcioglu played three rounds of spades, setting up the nine as an extra trick. Heiberg-Evenstad won the spade and returned the ten of diamonds to the king and ace, and Helgemo switched to a heart. Avcioglu won that and had nine tricks for +400.

Erichsen opened 1♠ and followed up with a 2♥ transfer. I don't know the exact meaning of his third bid of 2NT, but it presumably was distinct from bidding 2NT immediately over 1NT. Malinowski was able to suggest a heart contract, but Erichsen went back to NT and that was that.

Serdar led the three of diamonds to the seven, five and six. Malinowski led a spade to his jack, which Serdar ducked, followed by a second spade to the king. The queen of spades lost to the ace and back came a club. Malinowski won and played a fourth spade, which Serdar won. He returned the queen of clubs to dummy, and Malinowski cashed the long spade, on which Serdar discarded a heart. That meant that Malinowski had four heart tricks and 10 in all, for +430 and 1 IMP to De Botton. After 14 boards, they led by 20-1 IMPs.

OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

SEMIFINALS – SET 2

MARC SMITH

We are down to just four teams and, after a record-breaking Sunday for British athletes at the Winter Olympics in Italy, I am delighted to see that the UK is represented in both semi-finals here in Prague. After the first of the four 14-board segments, De Botton (England, Norway) leads Eler (Türkiye) 20-1, and Knottenbelt (England, Netherlands) lead SPS Poland 25-12.

As usual, we start with a bidding problem. Sitting South with both sides vulnerable, you hold...

♠ Q 3
♥ K 7 6
♦ K J 6 5
♣ Q 7 5 2

Open Room


West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	Pass	?

What action, if any, do you take?

While you mull that over, take a look at this early deal, which had plenty of potential to cause trouble:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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



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

De Botton v Eler

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Serdar</i>	<i>Heiberg-Evenstad</i>	<i>Suzer</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠
2NT*	3♦	4♥	5♣
All Pass			

For the Turks, Ekrem Serdar opened 1♣ in third seat. East overcalled in hearts and South's 1♠ bid did nothing to encourage any of the other three players. Geir Helgemo showed an invitational four-card heart raise with 2NT and Serdar introduced his second suit. When Nicolai Heiberg-Evenstad jumped to 4♥, Ugurcan Suzer showed excellent understanding of his partner's likely hand by bidding 5♣ on his uninspiring collection. The Scandinavians both decided that they had heard enough too.

Declarer ruffed the opening spade lead, crossed to the ♦A, picked up West's ♣K, and was soon claiming 11 tricks. N/S +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sofu</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Avcioglu</i>	<i>Charlsen</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♥	Dble
2NT*	3♦	3NT	4♣
All Pass			

After a similar start, Husseyin Kerem Avcioglu was so impressed with this spade stopper that he tried to play game in 3NT rather than 4♥. The effect was that Thomas Charlsen was not pushed to the five-level, and Thor Erik Hoftaniska not unreasonably decided that he has already shown his hand. After all, the ♣K was surely offside after East's 3NT bid, wasn't it?

SPS Poland v Knottenbelt

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Araszkiewicz</i>	<i>Norton</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♥	Dble
2NT*	3♦	4♣	5♣
Pass	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	6♣	Dble	All Pass

After an auction similar to that in the Open room of the other match, the English pair duly got to 5♣. However, Krzysztof Kotorowicz was not yet done, and he pressed on to 5♥. If South can find a spade lead against this, the defenders can beat the contract by three for +500. Even if they only make their three winners in the minors they would at least go plus. When Ben Norton ventured a sixth club, Kotorowicz had surely earned a swing for his side. N/S -100.

Open Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Byrne</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Knottenbelt</i>	<i>Glasek</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	4NT	Dble	5♦
Dble	All Pass		

Grzegorz Narkiewicz was alone in choosing 4NT as his third seat opening on the North hand, and it certainly had the effect of speeding up the auction.

The play was over almost as quickly as the bidding. West led a trump, so declarer drew three rounds ending in his hand, then floated the ♣J. Repeating the club finesse then enabled declarer to claim 11 tricks. N/S +550 and 12 IMPs to SPS Poland.

On the next deal, all four South players had to answer the problem posed earlier...

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

De Botton y Eler

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sofu</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Avcioglu</i>	<i>Charlsen</i>
1♠	All Pass		

For the Norwegians, Charlsen chose to defend 1♠. Hoftaniska led the ♥A and a second heart, and declarer duly came to the five tricks to which he was entitled. N/S +200.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Serdar</i>	<i>Heiberg-Evenstad</i>	<i>Suzer</i>
1♠	Pass	Pass	1NT
2♣	2NT	All Pass	

Suzer chose to balance with a protective 1NT on his motley 11-count. West introduced his second suit, and Serdar decided that his hand was worth an invitational no-trump raise.

Helgemo started with a high club, but he presumably got a discouraging signal from his partner, which made the winning defence of continuing clubs difficult to find. The switch to the ♥J allowed declarer to make eight tricks, and the defence then let through an overtrick later in the play. N/S +150 but 2 IMPs to De Botton.

SPS Poland v Knottenbelt

For the Poles, Glasek also chose to defend 1♠. The defenders dropped a trick in the play, but that was still one down. N/S +100.



At the other table in this match, South tried the third option...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Araszkiewicz</i>	<i>Norton</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
2♣	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All pass		

After Stefano Tommasini's double, it is hard to imagine bidding anything other than 4♥ on the North cards. Konrad Araszkiewicz closed the auction with a double.

The ♠10 lead apparently enables the defenders to beat the contract by two, but Kotorowicz was never likely to choose anything other than the singleton in his partner's first suit. West won with the ♠A and delivered his partner's spade ruff. Thereafter, the defenders were unable to make more than the two minor-suit aces. N/S -200 and 7 IMPs for SPS Poland.

For those keeping score at home, defending 1♠ was the clear winning choice on this South hand (although admittedly with a very small sample size).

The next deal proved to be a bidding test for the N/S pairs although, at one table at least, simply being able to locate a red card in the bidding box would have significantly improved the outcome.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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



De Botton v Eler

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sofu</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Avcioglu</i>	<i>Charlsen</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♣*
2♠*	Pass	2NT*	3♠
4♣	All Pass		

Charlsen's 2♣ response was artificial, showing 8+ HCP and at least three spades. Serkan Sofu entered with a 2♠ cue-bid, showing hearts and a minor, and Avcioglu asked for the minor with 2NT. Charlsen was prepared to compete to the three-level but, when Sofu bid his clubs at the four-level, neither of the Scandinavians felt they had enough to take further action.

North led a trump. A diamond to the king lost at trick two, and a spade to North allowed him to lead a second trump. When declarer dropped the ♥K, though, there was no way for the defenders to prevent a heart ruff in dummy. That was ten tricks: N/S -130.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Serdar</i>	<i>Heiberg-Evenstad</i>	<i>Suzer</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2NT*
3♠*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

For the Turks, Suzer began with a 2NT response, showing at least a game invitation and agreeing spades. That forced Helgemo to come in with a three-level cue bid to show his two-suiter. Here, too, North decided that he did not have enough to bid game, so the Turks were left to play 4♥. The good news for the Scandinavians was that at least they were defending a contract they could beat.

The defence began with a spade, a diamond switch to jack and ace, and a second spade. Declarer ruffed and did well to play a low heart from his hand next. With a semblance of control, Helgemo escaped with eight tricks. N/S +100 and 6 IMPs to Eler.

SPS Poland v Knottenbelt

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Araszkiewicz	Norton	Kotorowicz	Tommasini
—	1♠	Pass	2NT*
3♠*	Pass	4♥	4♠
All Pass			

Of the four South players, only Tommasini thought his hand was good enough to bid game facing a 1♠ opening bid. For Kotorowicz, there was no winning lead to be found.

Ben Norton managed to ruff his club losers in dummy, draw trumps, and then put the ♦Q on the table. That was enough to restrict East to one diamond trick. N/S +620.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Byrne	Narkiewicz	Knottenbelt	Glasek
—	1♠	Pass	2NT*
3♠*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

For the Poles, Glasek did the same as the Turks in the first match, and allowed his opponents to play undoubled in 4♥. However, the lack of a double was even more significant here.

After the same first three tricks, Michael Byrne trick a low club to dummy's queen. Yes, he had also found one of the defenders' singleton kings, but not the important one. When he tried to get to dummy with the ♣9, South ruffed. Declarer did eventually get to dummy, but when he then played a heart to the queen and North's lone king. That was four down, but only in 50s. N/S +200 and 9 IMPs to De Botton.

The second stanza was a close affair in both semi-finals. De-Botton and Eler shared a 27-27 tie, which left De Botton with a 19-IMP halftime lead (47-28). In the other match, SPS Poland won the stanza 28-21, so Knottenbelt lead by 6 IMPs (46-40) with two sets left to play. I'm still rooting for two teams with English representation to make the final.






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<p>September 25, 2026 <i>Friday</i> Open Teams (Qualification)</p>	<p>September 26, 2026 <i>Saturday</i> Main Open Pairs (MP)</p>	<p>September 27, 2026 <i>Sunday</i> Open Teams (Final) Open Pairs (IMP)</p>
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OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

SEMIFINALS – SET 3

JOS JACOBS

At halftime, De Botton were 19 IMPs up against Eler and Knottenbelt were leading SPS Poland by 6 IMPs. De Botton were still enjoying their 1st segment lead, tying the second stanza, whereas Knottenbelt's lead had gone back from 13 to 6. So two interesting second halves were in prospect, I thought, a very good reason to keep a close eye on both matches.

This immediately turned out to be an excellent idea (hear, hear...) because this was the opening deal:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

In the Knottenbelt v. SPS Poland semi, there was much action:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Strzemecki</i>	<i>van de Pavard</i>	<i>Buras</i>
—	3♦	Dble	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	Pass
3NT	Dble	All Pass	

When neither West nor East saw any good reason to run, North made the obvious lead of the ♦K. South was eventually caught in a major suit endplay, resulting in dummy getting the last

trick with the ♠Q. That was just one down, SPS Poland +100.

At the other table, the auction was mainly the same, but it went on a bit longer.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Araszkiewicz</i>	<i>Norton</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
—	3♦	Dble	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	Pass
3NT	Dble	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	4♣	Dble
All Pass			

This way, the Poles ended up one level higher and thus went down one more trick. Knottenbelt +300 and 5 IMPs to them.

In the other semi, they were much more quiet.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Charlsen</i>	<i>Serdar</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Suzer</i>
—	3♦	All Pass	

Very quiet indeed at this table. The contract went one down, De Botton +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sofu</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Avcioglu</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
—	3♦	Dble	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

At the other table, E/W took some action, only to find out that they, too, were already a bit high. Down three was the outcome here, for another +150 and 5 IMPs to Eler.



On the next deal, the Dutch E/W thought it was time for a slam.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Playing for the Knottenbelt team, this was their auction:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Strzemecki</i>	<i>V.d. Pavard</i>	<i>Buras</i>
—	—	1♣	1♠
2♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

West showed diamonds with his 2♣ and the rest of the auction speaks for itself. When the ♦K behaved, declarer had little trouble in wrapping up his 12 tricks. That was a further +920 to Knottenbelt. Nijssen – Van de Pavard were the only E/W pair in slam.

At the other table, they bid like this:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Araszkiewicz</i>	<i>Norton</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The Puppet variation now common led the Poles to a straightforward: 3NT+2 for +460 and a loss of 10 IMPs.

On the next board, it was the Polish N/S turn to reach a good game:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Strzemecki</i>	<i>van de Pavard</i>	<i>Buras</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

N/S are playing their own version of the Polish Club. North showed any 18+ hand with 2♦ and South confirmed his heart stopper upon request. West led a heart, of course but as it happened, this ended declarer's problems. Just made, SPS Poland +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Araszkiewicz</i>	<i>Norton</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

In the other room, the Dutch auction very much looked like this Polish one but in reality, it was a mainly natural auction. When South just lacked the values for a more positive action over partner's 2♦, the auction came to rest in 3♣ and the non-vulnerable game was not reached. North made 11 tricks but lost 6 IMPs in the process.

A flat board in between and then there was another interesting slammish hand...



Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

There are 12 tricks available in either minor or in no-trumps, provided that West is the declarer. East cannot stand a heart lead, obviously, when in slam.

This is how the Dutch tackled the E/W problems:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Strzemecki</i>	<i>van de Paverd</i>	<i>Buras</i>
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Two Clubs was a GF relay and 2♥ showed spades. Three Clubs was natural and East's club raise was very well timed. Once West showed enough key cards, (we know that E/W have "unorthodox" agreements over 4NT, as we also saw before), East could raise to slam with confidence. Well done and a fully deserved + 920 to Knottenbelt.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Araszkiewicz</i>	<i>Norton</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♦	All Pass

A more natural, Polish style, auction led to a slam in which the ♥A had to behave. When North led the ♥Q, the defence soon had their

required two tricks for another +50 and 14 IMPs to Knottenbelt.

In the other match, De Botton's Norwegian E/W produced a very fine entirely natural sequence.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Charlsen</i>	<i>Serdar</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Suzer</i>
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Dble	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6NT	All Pass

With West the declarer, E/W can proudly say they reached the superior slam. De Botton +990.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sofu</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Avcioglu</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♦	All Pass



Serkan SOFU



When West made a heart cuebid in this natural auction, East knew what to do. When the cuebid happened to be the king rather than the ace AND when South made his natural heart lead, one down was quickly inevitable. De Botton another +50 and 14 IMPs to them.

A few boards later, the E/W pair from De Botton reached a curious contract in their match v. Eler:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Charlsen</i>	<i>Serdar</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Suzer</i>
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Dble	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Gazzilli's 2♣ does not always solve all problems, apparently. One down, Eler +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sofu</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Avcioglu</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
All Pass			

Without the use of Gazzilli, you might as well end up in 3NT without very much ado. Just made on a spade lead for +400 and 10 IMPs to Eler.

On the next board, we saw a good game, a not so good game and two useful partscores...

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Charlsen</i>	<i>Serdar</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Suzer</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

On this 20/20 hand, not reaching game looks best, on average. So full marks to the Turkish N/S who contented themselves with ♦+140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sofu</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Avcioglu</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	Dble	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	



Artur MALINOWSKI

Here, we saw an interesting difference in approach. Serdar found an opening bid as North, and the pair stayed out of game. Malinowski did not open the bidding and went on to game when he was given the chance to do so. With one down pretty inevitable, Eler added +50 to their +140, good for 5 IMPs.

In the other match, there also was a swing:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Strzemecki</i>	<i>van de Paverd</i>	<i>Buras</i>
—	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Dble	Pass	2♠
3♣	3♦	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

At this table, too, North passed. Here, however, East could launch a strong hand or, in most cases, a weak two in clubs by bidding 2♣. West's 2♥ was natural and non-forcing, as was the rest of the auction. Well done by the Poles for not falling overboard. SPS Poland +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Araszkiewicz</i>	<i>Norton</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

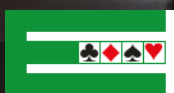
In the replay, the Knottenbelt North opened the bidding on his promising minimum and soon found himself in game. When West led a club and East took the ace, the contract was home quite quickly for +400 to Knottenbelt and another 6 IMPs to them.

The remaining boards were far less exciting than what we had seen so far, so I will end my report here. With 14 more boards to play, the scores stood at:

SPS Poland – Knottenbelt: 51-98

De Botton – Eler: 80-49

Would either trailing team launch a much needed recovery? We shall see...



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I HATE THIS GAME

MARK HORTON

The unpublished sequel to Sabine Auken's wonderful *I Love this Game*, would surely contain at least one chapter about the nightmare of playing matchpointed pairs. This deal from the first session of Semifinal A of the Open Pairs is a classic example:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Zipovski</i>	<i>Carletti</i>	<i>Radisic</i>	<i>Vignaga</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♠*
Dble	4♥	All Pass	

2♣ Stayman
2♦ No major
3♠ 4♠+5♥

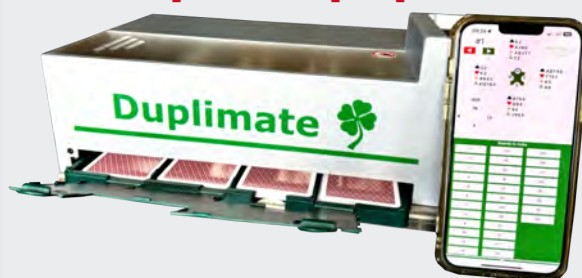
Naturally, East led the ♠2 after which declarer can easily come to 11 tricks by setting up the club suit. For example, after winning with dummy's ♠A declarer plays three rounds of clubs ruffing and West overruffs and switches to a diamond. Declarer wins, cashes the top hearts ending in hand and plays a club, pitching dummy's remaining diamond. Losing 650 gave

EW a mere 0.35% on the deal.

Even without West's double of 3♠ the chances of East leading a diamond (the only way to hold declarer to ten tricks) are small, as these days almost everyone knows about the risks involved in leading away from a king.

When South was declarer in 4♥ a couple of West's found a diamond lead. Now declarer needs to exercise a little care. The well known idea of developing the side suit is the way to go, declarer playing three rounds of clubs before touching trumps, which should lead to ten tricks. However, such is the nature of the pairs game that conceding 420 was worth only 18.40%.

Championship specials



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

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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 to order.

SWISS CUP

SEMIFINALS A & B

RESULTS AFTER ROUND 8

SEMIFINAL A

1	ALTSHULER	121.77
2	FAJERWERKI	120.70
3	BRIDGESCANNER	115.06
4	CRESTA RUN	113.50
5	FORMIDABLES	112.72
6	ISRAEL BLUE	112.08
7	KALISH	107.92
8	MAVERICKS	105.33
9	ZIMMERMANN	103.92
10	NIKOS	99.10
11	OLCZYK	98.79
12	BRENO	98.60
13	BIANCHI	97.49
14	CROATIA	96.27
15	OVERDECK	96.21
16	BARIS	95.85
17	ISTARI	95.05
18	DYSON	93.14
19	ANGELS	92.67
20	LOIBEN	91.67
21	TEAM META	89.64
22	SAYIN ABIM	89.42
23	FRANCE GREEN	89.18
24	JUSTJUMP	88.90
25	VALLON BRIDGE	85.25
26	LATVIA	85.07
27	VIMAPHAN	82.63
28	TO BID OR NOT TO BID	82.55
29	4EKO2FAZOKLUB0	79.33
30	POLAND U21 B	78.13
31	NEW BROOM	77.75
32	CERCOL	77.37
33	LUPO VELOCE	75.94
34	FOURSQUIRE	73.34
35	BEAUTY WITH PRETZELS	70.14
36	SWISS SENIORS	66.64
37	PATRICK SAADA	65.87
38	WARSAW UNIVERSITY	60.97
39	KROWKA	59.10

SEMIFINAL B

1	GILLIS	121.91
2	44FUN	107.28
3	BORTOLETTI	102.53
4	CAFIERO	99.34
5	CZECHIA U23	89.95
6	GDANSK	82.85
7	SLOVAKIA BLUE	78.78
8	POLAND U21 A	73.91
9	BAMBI	59.50
10	MALA ZOVE	54.09
11	CZECHIA U31	45.81

SWISS CUP

BUTLER RANKING SEMIFINAL A

AFTER ROUND 8

GIUBILO Valerio - BIANCHI Sergio	1.57	ITA-ITA	14
MSIKA Daniel - MOSKOVITZ Ido	1.43	ISR-ISR	56
BAREKET Ilan - SAADA Nathalie	1.39	ISR-ISR	56
BLICHARZ Maksymilian - TOKARSKI Wojciech	1.36	POL-POL	14
TOLEDANO Oren - ZAMIR Ami	1.31	ISR-ISR	84
PAWLAK Andrzej - VALCHEV Vasil	1.10	POL-POL	84
BENDRE Kaustubh - KUSHARI Sayantan	0.93	IND-IND	70
GRIGORIU Mihai - CERNAT Ovidiu	0.93	ROM-ROM	14
RYBNIKOV Gennadii - CHUMAK Yuliy	0.86	UKR-UKR	14
OKUNIEWSKI Wojciech - CIESLAK Grzegorz	0.85	POL-POL	84
ENGEL Joseph - COHEN Dani	0.84	ISR-ISR	70
KOWALSKI Dariusz - SIELICKI Tomasz	0.84	POL-POL	56
CHUMAK Yuliy - KUPRIANOV Evgenii	0.81	UKR-CYP	70
FILIPOWICZ Dominik - CIESLAK Jaroslaw	0.81	POL-POL	84
VAINIKONIS Erikas - ARLOVICH Andrei	0.75	LTU-LTU	56
NANDI Kaustabh - ROY Sagnik	0.73	IND-IND	70
GIERULSKI Boguslaw - SKRZYPCZAK Jerzy	0.70	LTU-LTU	112
DELIMPALTADAKIS Nikos - VROUSTIS Vassilis	0.68	GRE-GRE	84
AVIRAM Yoram - ALTSHULER Gilad	0.67	ISR-ISR	112
PACHTMAN Ron - ZATORSKI Piotr	0.63	ISR-POL	112
IONITA Marius - TEODORESCU Corneli	0.58	ROM-ROM	112
ALUF Sedat - UCAR Ali	0.57	TUR-TUR	14
MAHMOOD Zia - RIMSTEDT Ola	0.56	USA-SWE	112
ZORLU Nafiz - UCAR Ali	0.54	TUR-TUR	84
TWARDOWSKI Andrzej - BOGUCKI Darek	0.49	POL-POL	84
NOWOSADZKI Michal - NOWAK Kamil	0.48	SUI-POL	84
VIDOVIC Toni - KATUSIC Filip	0.46	CRO-CRO	56
BRZUSTOWSKI Jerzy - PAWLUK Tomasz	0.46	POL-POL	70
GRUE Joe - RIMSTEDT Mikael	0.45	USA-SWE	112
MANNO Andrea - PALMA Antonio	0.43	ITA-POR	112
KUBAC Nezih - YILMAZ M.Gokhan	0.42	TUR-TUR	112
KANDEMIR Ismail - KAYA Emre	0.37	TUR-TUR	98
GIUBILO Valerio - PORTA Federico	0.32	ITA-ITA	28
HANDLEY-PRITCHARD Ben - TOWNSEND Tom	0.30	ENG-ENG	56
POULSEN Flemming - KOLDING Viktor	0.29	DEN-DEN	112
KALITA Jacek - KLUKOWSKI Michal	0.29	SUI-SUI	84
VERHEES Jr Louk - BAKHSI David	0.29	NED-ENG	84
KALISH Avi - GRINBERG Nir	0.29	ISR-ISR	84
GERLI Aldo Giovanni - OVERDECK John	0.23	ITA-USA	112
TRENKA Peter - KEMENY Gyorgy	0.23	HUN-HUN	112
FRANCHI Arrigo - DI FRANCO Massimiliano	0.18	ITA-ITA	112
UMSHAUS Peter - TERRANEO Christian	0.18	AUT-AUT	112
COLDEA Ionut - GHIGHECI Ovidiu	0.17	ROM-ROM	84
MAGNUSSON Stephan - AMIGUET Jerome	0.15	SUI-SUI	112
DJILOVIC Josko - MIJIC Ante	0.13	CRO-CRO	84
KRASA Mikulas - SLOVAKOVA Pavla	0.12	CZE-CZE	98
CATZEFLIS Christian - GORETTI Massimo	0.10	SUI-SUI	84
ATTANASIO Dario - LANZAROTTI Massimo	0.07	ITA-ITA	112
RUBINS Karlis - OLLA Edgars	0.05	LAT-LAT	112
CHOTTIN Philippe - ROMBAUT Leo	0.04	FRA-FRA	70
McGUIRE Brian - ATISEN Sebastian	0.04	ENG-ENG	112
TER LAARE Marco - ALKEMADE Willem (Wil)	0.00	NED-NED	112



REIM Andrea - PABST Philipp	-0.03	GER-GER	112
RYBNIKOV Gennadii - SAPOSNICOV Oleg	-0.03	UKR-UKR	70
FORYS Wiktoria - MISZCZUK Karolina	-0.04	POL-POL	28
NAWROCKI Piotr - OLCZYK Jerzy	-0.04	POL-POL	28
BALASOVS Jurijs - ILZINS Janis	-0.05	LAT-LAT	112
BURG Thomas - ZELNIK Peter	-0.06	AUT-AUT	112
KAHRAMAN Ahmet - CALISKAN Erdal	-0.08	TUR-TUR	84
YADLIN Doron - ORENSTEIN Eitan	-0.09	ISR-ISR	70
HOPFENHEIT Guido - REIM Sebastian	-0.12	GER-GER	112
BERGER Heinrich - LAUSS Wolfgang	-0.13	AUT-AUT	112
MULTON Franck - ZIMMERMANN Pierre	-0.14	SUI-SUI	56
GUNEV Rosen - BRICIU Marius	-0.15	BUL-ROM	112
FERENCA Matko - LESKOVAR Viktor	-0.18	CRO-CRO	84
SABBAH Ofek - SLIWOWICZ Yonatan	-0.18	ISR-ISR	56
KLIMIUK Milena - JANIK Mateusz	-0.19	POL-POL	70
DEHEEGER Colin - BEDOUEZ Pierre	-0.19	FRA-FRA	84
IZWANTOWSKI Jan - TOKARSKI Wojciech	-0.19	POL-POL	84
VAN DER NEUT Jaap - ZWART Peter	-0.21	NED-NED	112
FORYS Wiktoria - PANCEWICZ Szymon	-0.21	POL-POL	28
GUENDEL Marius - DI BACCO Victoria	-0.22	GER-GER	112
ANKLESARIA Keyzad - MASKARA Subodh	-0.23	IND-IND	70
BIRMAN Alon - PADON Dror	-0.27	ISR-ISR	56
HASHIMOTO George - ANDERSSON Thomas	-0.27	SUI-SUI	70
GHIGHECI Ovidiu - GRIGORIU Mihai	-0.29	ROM-ROM	14
TURANT Maciej - LASOTA Tomasz	-0.33	POL-POL	70
TALYIGAS Peter - VIKOR Attila	-0.33	HUN-HUN	112
MUKHERJEE Sumit - TEWARI Rajeshwar	-0.33	IND-IND	84
VAINIKONIS Vytautas - OLANSKI Wojtek	-0.36	LTU-LTU	56
DYSON Andrew - CROUCH Peter	-0.41	ENG-ENG	56
STOECKLI Francois - STOECKLI Jeremie	-0.42	SUI-SUI	112
FILIPOWICZ Dominik - OLCZYK Jerzy	-0.43	POL-POL	28
NAWROCKI Piotr - WIAKOWSKI Piotr	-0.46	POL-POL	84
VAGI Mate - ZABRADI Benjamin	-0.54	HUN-HUN	112
AROIX Jean-Luc - TIGNEL Jeremie	-0.59	FRA-FRA	70
FILIMON Adrian Gheorghe - IANCU Stefan	-0.59	ROM-ROM	112
ARGAY Zsolt - KEMENY Mark	-0.60	HUN-HUN	112
CALLAGHAN Brian - ORSMOND Graham	-0.60	ENG-ENG	112
PATREUHA Jakub - PATREUHA Patryk	-0.63	POL-POL	70
DROGEMULLER Mette - ROLF-LARSEN Andreas	-0.67	DEN-DEN	112
TRENDAK Lukasz - DARKIEWICZ-MONIUSZKO Grzegorz	-0.70	POL-POL	98
ZIVKOVIC Gojko - DERIVAZ Jean-Pierre	-0.74	SUI-SUI	70
KRASA Ondrej - HUMPAL Michael	-0.83	CZE-CZE	98
ZAPADINSKIY Evgeny - SOLODAR Philip	-0.83	ISR-ISR	70
NUHOGLU Sevil - ERENGIL Yasemin	-0.86	TUR-TUR	14
BAREKET Ilan - LENGY Assaf	-0.93	ISR-ISR	14
TURANT Maciej - PANCEWICZ Szymon	-0.93	POL-POL	14
ANDRUSZKIEWICZ Jakub - PALUSZEK Konrad	-0.98	POL-POL	98
DUBOIN Giorgio - WARD-PLATT Kiki	-0.98	ITA-USA	56
RADKO Boleslaw - KASZOWSKI Dominik	-1.10	POL-POL	70
KLIMIUK Milena - BLICHARZ Maksymilian	-1.14	POL-POL	28
BIANCHI Sergio - PORTA Federico	-1.21	ITA-ITA	14
MISZCZUK Karolina - PANCEWICZ Szymon	-1.29	POL-POL	42
ZACK Yaniv - COHEN Ilan	-1.43	ISR-ISR	56
KANDEMIR Ismail - NUHOGLU Sevil	-1.50	TUR-TUR	14
LENGY Assaf - SAADA Patrick	-1.56	ISR-ISR	70
BLICHARZ Maksymilian - WOJCIECHOWSKI Igor	-2.25	POL-POL	28
KAYA Emre - ERENGIL Yasemin	-3.57	TUR-TUR	14
ALUF Sedat - DEDEHAYIR Ahmet	-3.71	TUR-TUR	14
LASOTA Tomasz - MISZCZUK Karolina	-4.14	POL-POL	14

SWISS CUP

BUTLER RANKING SEMIFINAL B

AFTER ROUND 8

LYSEK Matyas - DANEK Petr	2.39	CZE-CZE	28
WALACH Ivo - LYSEK Matyas	2.29	CZE-CZE	14
KONSTACKA Emma - DANEK Petr	1.62	CZE-CZE	42
CHEN Lin-Huan - HSIEH Ding-Hwa	1.28	USA-USA	111
BROGELAND Boye - BAKKE Christian	1.19	NOR-NOR	98
TOMCANI Jan - VODICKA Martin	1.18	SVK-SVK	28
NYSTROM Fredrik - UPMARK Johan	1.09	SWE-SWE	70
CATA Stefano - PENNESTRI Carmelo	1.05	ITA-ITA	56
KOZYCZKOWSKI Jerzy - COMANESCU Lucian	1.05	POL-GER	56
AUSTBERG Per Erik - RASMUSSEN Arild	0.73	NOR-NOR	70
WALACH Ivo - KARLIK Petr	0.64	CZE-CZE	28
KOWALSKI Apolinary - BORTOLETTI Carlo	0.42	POL-ITA	84
SAELENMINDE Erik - GILLIS Simon	0.41	NOR-ENG	56
CAFIERO Maurizio - ROSSO Roberto	0.36	ITA-ITA	84
KROENING Detlev - KARIMI Omid	0.17	GER-GER	98
CAPPELLINI Paolo - PAONE Alessandro	0.17	ITA-ITA	84
VODICKA Michal - KOROS Boris	0.13	SVK-SVK	70
MICHALSKI Jakub - PROKOPOWICZ Marcel	0.04	POL-POL	56
BAUSBACK Nikolas - KONDOCH Hartmut	-0.03	GER-GER	111
JARZABKOWSKI Andrzej - SUCHODOLSKI Piotr	-0.04	POL-POL	112
WNUK Wojciech - TURANT Krzysztof	-0.07	POL-POL	42
BOCCHI Norberto - GANDOGLIA Alessandro	-0.16	ITA-ITA	70
KLANJSCEK Jasminka - CEKOL Zorana	-0.31	CRO-CRO	98
KVOCEK Juraj - VODICKA Martin	-0.32	SVK-SVK	28
LUCZECZKO Jan - GRABALA Szymon	-0.34	POL-POL	112
MICHALSKI Jakub - ADAMCZAK Jakub	-0.36	POL-POL	14
VACHTARCIK Lukas - FRANZ Vojtech	-0.43	CZE-CZE	14
WNUK Wojciech - ADAMCZAK Jakub	-0.50	POL-POL	28
LYSEK Matyas - KONSTACKA Emma	-0.50	CZE-CZE	28
TOMCANI Jan - KVOCEK Juraj	-0.57	SVK-SVK	42
TURANT Krzysztof - ADAMCZAK Michal	-0.67	POL-POL	42
VODICKA Martin - RUMANCIK Jakub	-0.79	SVK-SVK	56
VACHTARCIKOVA Nikol - DROZD Matej	-0.89	CZE-CZE	84
ADAMCZAK Jakub - ADAMCZAK Michal	-0.93	POL-POL	14
PROBST Sandra - MRKIC Iva	-0.96	CRO-CRO	98
ROMANOWSKI Cenek - FRANZ Vojtech	-1.00	CZE-CZE	55
LINDENTHAL Erika - POLAP Klaus	-1.00	GER-GER	56
WALACH Ivo - DANEK Petr	-1.21	CZE-CZE	14
WALACH Ivo - KUBAT Frantisek	-1.29	CZE-CZE	14
KARLIK Petr - KUBAT Frantisek	-1.30	CZE-CZE	56
KOESTER Peer - HUEBNER Horst	-1.46	GER-GER	98
ROMANOWSKI Cenek - VACHTARCIK Lukas	-1.54	CZE-CZE	28
DROZD Matej - VACHTARCIK Lukas	-2.46	CZE-CZE	13

MIXED TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

QUALIFICATION

RESULTS AFTER ROUND 8

1	LAKO	125.78	25	DAUGAVA	79.25
2	DAISY CHAIN	111.65	26	OFER	77.95
3	FRENCH CONNECTION	104.25	27	AKINOM	76.95
4	CROATIA	99.16	28	TUTTI FRUTTI	75.91
5	BERNAL	96.45	29	TURQUOISE	75.51
6	BANANA	95.77	30	SORRY MISSCLICK	73.99
7	EMI	94.27	31	LUTZ	73.96
8	CARE	93.86	32	2 MANY GINGERS	73.11
9	DRONKA	93.64	33	NAMBAJUAN	71.10
10	ZHANG	91.64	34	GROUP ONE TEAM	70.47
11	COLORADO	91.07	35	TEAM LLAMA	70.38
12	CREAZONE	90.74	36	BLUE NOTE	70.21
13	ALLEZ	90.17	37	GOLD BARS	66.47
14	FRIENDS	89.49	38	VICUNA	66.17
15	BC MUENCHEN	88.99	39	SALLYS ACES	63.81
16	ASHE	88.89	40	NETTLETON	63.58
17	BAHNICI	88.51	41	SV BRIDGE CLUB	62.78
18	ALICE	88.04	42	BEKKER	61.85
19	GOLDBERG	86.20	43	BUNIO	61.50
20	MILANBRIDGE.COM	85.66	44	SPEZIA BRIDGE	59.68
21	GERMANY	85.09	45	REBID	59.30
22	NORDIC FOURS	82.39	46	GAMBA	52.16
23	LUNDBERG	81.31	47	RENATE	35.60
24	WAPO	80.49			

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/>

MIXED TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

BUTLER RANKING

AFTER ROUND 8

ERBIL Erdinc - ALUF Maisy	1.67	TUR-TUR	42
ZOCHOWSKA Joanna - SCHMIDT Pierre	1.64	FRA-FRA	70
WANG Wen Fei - HAMPSON Geoff	1.32	HKG-USA	112
PETELKO Lia - RETTER Koren	1.25	ISR-ISR	112
LORENZINI Cedric - MICHELSEN Marion	1.25	FRA-SWE	84
OZBAY Tolga - ERYANIK Ceyda	1.20	TUR-TUR	56
LUESMANN Claudia - LUESMANN Ingo	1.18	GER-GER	112
SIKORA Jacek - SIKORA Marta	1.10	POL-POL	84
BERTHEAU Peter - MADSEN Christina Lund	1.07	SWE-DEN	112
ZMUDA Justyna - MARCINOWSKI Piotr	1.04	POL-POL	84
KAZMUCHA Danuta - GAWEL Wojciech	1.02	POL-POL	84
ROBERT Quentin - TARTARIN Anne-Laure	1.01	FRA-FRA	84
PILIPOVIC Marina - MARINOVSKI Kiril	0.91	CRO-CRO	70
OZER Ahmet Murat - KANLIKILIC Ferda	0.76	TUR-TUR	84
WNUK Tomasz - KREGLEWSKA-WNUK Anna	0.76	POL-POL	70
CIMA Leonardo - DESSI Barbara	0.75	ITA-ITA	84
HERBST Ophir - ASULIN Adi	0.74	ISR-ISR	112
CECERE Amedeo - MARCELLI Cristina	0.63	ITA-ITA	70
SCHALTZ Martin - DUURSMA Judith	0.60	DEN-NED	98
VALIMARESCU Dan - FILIMON Irina Elena	0.60	ROM-ROM	112
ZORIC Vedran - SVER Nikica	0.57	CRO-CRO	70
BUSSE Piotr - BUSSE Grazyna	0.55	POL-POL	112
BAHNIKOVA Eva - BAHNIK Petr	0.54	CZE-CZE	112
BERNAL Francisco - OZBAY Irem	0.52	COL-TUR	56
AUKEN Sabine - WELLAND Roy	0.47	DEN-DEN	70
WONG Hoi-Kei - LI Suet Yu Zoe	0.46	HKG-HKG	84
WARE Peggy - JONES Spencer	0.46	USA-USA	112
GRZEJDZIAK Igor - GRZEJDZIAK Sabina	0.46	POL-POL	70
GLADIATOR Anne - JANSON Bjorn	0.40	GER-GER	112
DELESTRE Blandine - DELESTRE Daniel	0.37	FRA-FRA	84
KOO Hor Yung Charmian - CHIANG Jeffrey	0.32	HKG-HKG	56
BERTHEAU Kathrine - ABRAGI Andreas	0.30	SWE-SWE	56
BROGELAND Tonje Aasand - BROGELAND Anders	0.29	NOR-NOR	112
WONG Wai Man Flora - CHUI Daniel Siu Wai	0.27	HKG-HKG	84
JAGNIEWSKI Rafal - LUCKA Dominika	0.23	POL-POL	98
NEIMANIS Janis - ANDERSONE Ilze	0.23	LAT-LAT	112
EFRAIMSSON Bengt-Erik - ZACK EFRAIMSSON Anna	0.21	SWE-SWE	112
OZKURT Kenan - OZKOK KOCAMAN Ilkay	0.21	TUR-TUR	70
PIEDRA Fernando - MARTORELL Almudena	0.21	SUI-ESP	56
MENGU Kenan - SEN Nuray	0.20	TUR-TUR	112
VINCENT Christine - ABOU CHANAB Bachar	0.18	SUI-SUI	112
PAOLUZI Simonetta - MONTANARI Matteo	0.17	ITA-ITA	98
DOBROWOLSKI Marcin - MADUZIA Anna	0.16	POL-POL	70
SORESINI Antonella - GUGLIELMI Enrico	0.14	ITA-ITA	70
DELLE CAVE Giuseppe - CARE Livia	0.11	ITA-ITA	56
GOLD David - NETTLETON Diana	0.10	ENG-ENG	112
ROSSARD Martine - ROMANOWSKI Jerzy	0.10	FRA-FRA	84
HERMANN Sophie - CRISAFULLI SADABA Patricio	0.09	AUT-AUT	98
BILDE Dorte Cilleborg - BILDE Morten	0.09	DEN-DEN	98
TYLVAD Daniel - SIGSGAARD Julie Marina	0.09	DEN-DEN	112
SIMIC Olga - SIMIC Mihailo	0.09	SER-SER	112
MARTENSEN-LARSEN Katrine - OLSEN Svein Arild Naas	0.08	DEN-NOR	112
CHODOROWSKA Irena - CHODOROWSKI Jan	0.07	POL-POL	112
SANDQVIST Niklas (Nick) - SHASHOU Nathalie	0.07	ENG-ENG	98
BERTHEAU Kathrine - YETTICK Garth	0.07	SWE-USA	56
OZGUR Hatice - OZBAY Tolga	0.07	TUR-TUR	56



ERDOGDU Helin - TORUN Bulent Ozgur	0.06	TUR-TUR	112
SAFTA Florin - GUJA Alexandra	0.04	ROM-ROM	112
MACURA Milan - MACUROVA Michaela	0.04	CZE-CZE	56
GOLDBERG Lars - GOLDBERG Ulla-Britt	0.03	SWE-SWE	112
SAUTAUX Monika - WOZNIAK Tomasz	0.01	POL-POL	112
POPLILOV Lilo - POPLILOV Matilda	0.00	BUL-ISR	84
ASHE Steven - MARICIC Jovana	-0.02	USA-SER	98
NEHMERT Pony Beate - FROEHNER Christian	-0.05	GER-GER	112
PREDDY Kay - SELWAY Norman	-0.05	ENG-ENG	112
WEISS SELWAY Florian - WEISS SELWAY Louise	-0.05	AUT-AUT	112
BAHNIK Ondrej - KOHUTOVA Lucie	-0.06	CZE-CZE	112
BABSCH Andreas - SCHRECKENBERGER Ulrike	-0.07	AUT-AUT	112
MERCIL Yasemin - ARSLAN Mustafa	-0.08	TUR-TUR	84
LANTARON Luis - MEDIERO Marina	-0.12	ESP-ESP	42
JANSONS Ugis - VEKSA Natalija	-0.16	LAT-LAT	112
JANISZEWSKI Przemyslaw - SUSZANOWICZ Natalia	-0.20	POL-POL	70
HOLOWACZ Krzysztof - CHMIELEWSKA Magdalena	-0.23	POL-POL	112
GOBEKLI Altug - OZAYDIN TANRIOVER Zerrin	-0.26	TUR-TUR	70
CHMURSKI Bartosz - OCYLOK Dominika	-0.29	POL-POL	84
BRKLJACIC Tihana - MESTRIC Mate	-0.29	CRO-CRO	84
SZCZEPANSKI Radoslaw - PIETRZYK Agnieszka	-0.29	POL-POL	112
HOLOWACZ Michal - CHMIELEWSKA Antonina	-0.34	POL-POL	112
GROMANN Ingrid - CAPPELLER Joachim	-0.38	GER-GER	112
LANTARON Luis - SAINZ DE VICUNA Maria	-0.39	ESP-ESP	70
ALPER Toygar - OZAN Eren	-0.39	TUR-TUR	98
SASSELLI Marco - SAESSELLI Irene	-0.39	SUI-SUI	112
LIRAN Inon - BEKKER Jeny	-0.40	ISR-ISR	112
VERSACE Alfredo - ALPERT Claire	-0.42	ITA-USA	84
HARAMATI Ofer - BRAJOVIC Ana Zorana	-0.42	ISR-SER	112
BAREL Michael - KATZ Paz	-0.44	ISR-ISR	70
YADLIN Israel - MORAN OHAYON Orit	-0.46	ISR-ISR	112
ROSTHOEJ Ella - HAMMELEV Nikolaj	-0.52	DEN-DEN	112
MISZEWSKA Ewa - ZAWISLAK Slawek	-0.53	POL-POL	112
PIGULSKI Adam - PUCYK Martyna	-0.53	POL-POL	98
SMITH Abbey - PASKE Thomas	-0.55	ENG-ENG	112
KANDULA Pawel - ZYCHLINSKA Malgorzata	-0.56	POL-POL	98
PIEDRA Fernando - MEDIERO Marina	-0.60	SUI-ESP	42
BREWIAK Grazyna - HUTYRA Maciej	-0.60	POL-POL	70
PISANI Rosanna - MARINO Leonardo	-0.63	ITA-ITA	70
KORBEL Daniel - ZHANG Susan	-0.63	USA-USA	112
FOLTYN Adrian - KLUPS Aleksandra	-0.64	POL-POL	98
OZGUR Hatice - ARSLAN Mustafa	-0.64	TUR-TUR	28
STEPINSKI Jeremi - ZALEWSKA Joanna	-0.66	POL-POL	56
SAPORTA Pierre - SAPORTA-TWORZYDLO Renata	-0.67	FRA-FRA	84
FRANCESCHETTI Pierre - SETTON Hilda	-0.68	FRA-SUI	56
ERBIL Erdinc - KURTOGLU ZABCI Hatice Akten	-0.70	TUR-TUR	56
JANECZEK Marta - BUNIKOWSKI Andrzej	-0.71	POL-POL	112
REES Tim - PUNCH Sam	-0.76	WAL-SCO	70
HEGEDUS Orsolya - WEINBERGER Simon	-0.82	HUN-AUT	98
MROZ Blazej - BANAS Gabriela	-0.83	POL-POL	98
BROCK Sally - GRAY Jonathan	-0.84	ENG-ENG	98
HULT Simon - LUNDBERG Anne-Marie Katarina	-0.94	SWE-SWE	112
SMYKALLA Gisela - SCHNEIDER Michael	-0.99	GER-GER	112
PIEDRA Fernando - SAINZ DE VICUNA Maria	-1.07	SUI-ESP	14
SMEDEREVAC Jovanka - AEDELSBERGER Heimo	-1.20	FRA-DEN	98
SARNIAK Anna - CHALUPEC Igor	-1.27	POL-POL	70
GOTARD Barbara - GOTARD Tomasz	-1.41	GER-GER	56
MARINONI Pier Andrea - ROMANO Elisa	-1.52	ITA-ITA	56
WROBEL Michal - KALISORAS Justyna	-1.63	POL-POL	56
THORPE Stefan - AEDELSBERGER Renate	-1.65	NED-AUT	98

OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

SEMIFINALS

RESULTS AFTER SESSION 3

SEMIFINAL A

1	KRASNOSSELSKI Mikhail	FEOFANOV Maxim	ISR - ISR	66.11
2	SLEMR Jakub	PYSZKO Adam	CZE - CZE	56.48
3	JANIK Stanislaw	SOLECKI Piotr	POL - POL	56.02
4	GROSSACK Zachary	HOTAMISLIGIL Selen	USA - USA	55.98
5	KNOB Markus	WANHA Clemens	AUT - AUT	55.84
6	SOBCZAK Mateusz	BLICHARZ Grzegorz	POL - ENG	54.46
7	RUS Gregor	STEFANEC Kristijan	SLO - CRO	53.44
8	VAN DEN BERGH Nic	VAN DEN BERGH Anke	BEL - BEL	53.30
9	MARTENS Krzysztof	WITEK Marek	POL - POL	52.75
10	GISIN Eitan	ZAIDENBERG GATT Sophie	ISR - ISR	51.74
11	ZIPOVSKI Dimitraki	RADISIC Goran	SER - SER	51.30
12	GRZYBEK Eugeniusz	LESNICZAK Jacek	POL - GER	51.23
13	SOFFER Ram	SHEFFY Ron	ISR - ISR	50.72
14	VOLHEJN Vit	VOLHEJN Petr	CZE - CZE	50.05
15	CARLETTI Alessandro	VIGNAGA Gianluca	ITA - ITA	48.79
16	SCHEBERAN Philip	EDER Felix	AUT - AUT	48.13
17	ZAIDENBERG Nezer Jacob	LAVI Shalom	BUL - ISR	47.36
18	BROUNS Marc	THYS Carine	BEL - BEL	46.40
19	GINOSSAR Itamar	RICH Joseph	ISR - ARG	45.68
20	RUTHSTROM Leif	AHLEN Nils	SWE - SWE	45.16
21	KORKMAZ Can	OZGEZ Cengiz	TUR - TUR	45.13
22	LECANTE Francois	RAIKO RAIKOVSKY Vadim	FRA - FRA	45.10
23	BORA Serdal	MERMER Ilhan	TUR - TUR	44.03
24	GALBAVA Gabriela	GALBAVY Stepan	CZE - CZE	42.99
25	JELENIEWSKI Andrzej	TARNOGRODZKI Leszek	POL - POL	40.90
26	SAVINI Marco	BALANESCU Alexandru-Ervin	ITA - SUI	40.89

SEMIFINAL B

1	DRUCH Jan	DAWIEC Anna	POL - POL	59.87
2	DURSUN Baris	BAYSAL Dursun	TUR - TUR	56.84
3	OZCIKAN Azad	OZCAN Ihsan	TUR - TUR	56.78
4	LEKKI Janusz	RADZIKOWSKI Piotr	POL - POL	56.67
5	PAVLUSHKO Olga	IVANOV Anatoly	ESP - ESP	55.78
6	LANGER Darina	GOKCE Hakan	SUI - SUI	55.31
7	WLODKOWSKI Robert	MALISZEWSKI Przemyslaw	POL - POL	54.37
8	FAILLA Giuseppe	DE MICHELIS Luca	ITA - ITA	54.13
9	BELCAK Peter	HENC Marian	SVK - SVK	53.19
10	KIEPURA Marek	GRUSZECZKA Joanna	POL - POL	52.53
11	GRODZICKI Lukasz	HANDKE Pawel	POL - POL	51.62
12	MYLONAKIS Periklis	SIDIROPOULOS Pavlos	GRE - GRE	50.68
13	SZYMONIK Pawel	CZECH Slawomir	POL - POL	50.37
14	BOHNSACK Sandro	AGA Ezgi Ece	GER - GER	50.14
15	CAUMEL Jean Patrick	TAQUOI Jacques	FRA - FRA	50.01
16	ALTINDAG Anil	GURER Emine Nigar	TUR - TUR	49.92
17	SARTORIO Claudio	MARTINI Giorgio	ITA - ITA	49.71
18	MEYTAL Kfir	MEYOUHAS Yacov	ISR - ISR	48.01
19	SUBASI Kemal	HURI Necla	TUR - TUR	47.57
20	DENIZCI Volkan	CEVIK Zeynep	TUR - TUR	47.22
21	LOHAY Karol	KRATKY Jan	SVK - CZE	46.12
22	GALUBINSKI Krzysztof	BORUTA Barbara	POL - POL	44.86
23	GOLDBERG Jerry	SEAMAN Eleanor	USA - USA	44.72
24	LUKIANIUK Andrzej	RZECHULA Andrzej	POL - POL	43.00
25	CIESLAK Sylwester	LASOTA Pawel	POL - POL	41.63
26	OLMER Adam	BABICKOVA Anna	CZE - CZE	39.14
27	TEGMEN Mehmet Alper	KILICARSLAN Hilmi	TUR - TUR	37.15