



EUROPEAN WINTER TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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



KNOTTENBELT CLAIMS THE ZIMMERMANN CUP

EUROPEAN WINTER OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

It took 56 boards to write the final chapter. Team **Knottenbelt** (Maggie Knottenbelt, Michael Byrne, Oscar Nijssen, Ben Norton, Stefano Tommasini, Tim van de Paverd) conquered the Zimmermann Cup, overcoming team **De Botton** (Janet De Botton, Thomas Charlsen, Espen Erichsen, Nicolai Heiberg-Evenstad, Geir Helgemo, Thor Erik Hoftaniska, Artur Malinowski) with a final score of 98–92 IMPs. A thrilling conclusion that crowned the English-Dutch connection as champions!

(In the picture, from left to right: EBL I Vice President and Treasurer Igor Chalupec, Stefano Tommasini, Oscar Nijssen, Ben Norton, Maggie Knottenbelt, Michael Byrne, Tim van de Paverd, EBL President Eric Laurant)

ALTSHULER WINS THE WINTER SWISS CUP



Team **Altshuler** (Ron Pachtman, Piotr Zatorski, Gilad Altshuler, Yoram Aviram), the Israeli-Polish connection, emerged on top of Semifinal A and never looked back, leading Final A from start to finish to earn the Swiss Cup! 2nd was team **Zimmermann** and 3rd team **Formidables**.

SHEFFY-SOFFER: CHECKMATE IN THE WINTER OPEN PAIRS



Israeli pair **Ram Soffer**, Chess International Master, and **Ron Sheffy** scored 56.30% to win the Winter Open Pairs. **Zach Grossack** and **Selen Hotamisligil** (USA) finished second, with **Hüseyin Kerem Avcıoğlu** and **Serkan Sofuoğlu** (Türkiye) in third.

LATVIA GOES BAM!



Team **Latvia** (Edgars Olla, Jurijs Balasovs, Janis Ilzins, Karlis Rubins) topped the Open BAM. The English team **Foursquire** finished second, with the Danish team **To Bid or Not to Bid** in third.



TOP HOTEL Praha
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EUROPEAN WINTER MIXED TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

Today the second half of the Semifinal will be played. After that, the **top 20 teams** will advance to the Final.

EUROPEAN WINTER MIXED PAIRS

The **top 21 pairs**, plus 3 drop-ins, earned a spot in Semifinal A. The remaining pairs will compete in Semifinal B.

EUROPEAN WINTER OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP



2nd place: **Team DE BOTTON**



3rd place: **Team SPS POLAND**



3rd place: **Team ELER**

1st place: **KNOTTENBELT**

(Maggie Knottenbelt, Michael Byrne, Oscar Nijssen, Ben Norton, Stefano Tommasini, Tim van de Paverd)

2nd place: **DE BOTTON**

(Janet De Botton captain, Thomas Charlsen, Espen Erichsen, Nicolai Heiberg-Evenstad, Geir Helgemo, Thor Erik Hoftaniska, Artur Malinowski)

3rd place: **SPS POLAND**

(Konrad Araszkiewicz, Krzysztof Buras, Grzegorz Glasek, Krzysztof Kotorowicz, Grzegorz Narkiewicz, Wojciech Strzemecki, Jacek Pszczola captain)

3rd place: **ELER**

(Cuneyt Eler, Huseyin Kerem Avcioglu, Ekrem Serdar, Serkan Sofu, Ugurcan Suzer)

ABOUT YESTERDAY'S START

Organizing a smooth event requires final registrations, payments, and team/pairs compositions to be confirmed in advance. This time, a much higher-than-usual volume of last-minute changes, including late registrations, cancellations, players moving between events, made it particularly challenging to finalize the draw and seating assignments on schedule. We apologize for the delayed start and kindly ask all participants to complete their registration and payment as early as possible in the future, as this greatly helps the organizing team. Thank you for your understanding.

EUROPEAN WINTER SWISS CUP



2nd place: **Team ZIMMERMANN**



3rd place: **Team FORMIDABLES**



1st place: **ALTSHLULER**
(Ron Pachtman, Piotr Zatorski, Gilad Altshuler, Yoram Aviram)



2nd place: **ZIMMERMANN**
(Jacek Kalita, Michal Klukowski, Franck Multon, Kamil Nowak, Michal Nowosadzki, Pierre Zimmermann)



3rd place: **FORMIDABLES**
(Kaustubh Bendre, Sayantan Kushari, Sumit Mukherjee, Kaustabh Nandi, Sagnik Roy, Rajeshwar Tewari)

EUROPEAN WINTER OPEN PAIRS



2nd place:
Zach Grossack and Selen Hotamisligil



3rd place:
Hüseyin Kerem Avcıoğlu and Serkan Sofu



1st place: **Ram Soffer and Ron Sheffy**



2nd place: **Zach Grossack and Selen Hotamisligil**



3rd place: **Hüseyin Kerem Avcıoğlu and Serkan Sofu**

Final B, 1st: **Alessandro Carletti and Gianluca Vignaga**

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TOMORROW (FEBRUARY 19th), PLAY STARTS AT 9.00

On the last day, we start early!

● EUROPEAN WINTER OPEN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

	Adj	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	
DE BOTTON	0	2	30	34	26	92	
KNOTTENBELT	0	37	18	25	18	98	KNOTTENBELT





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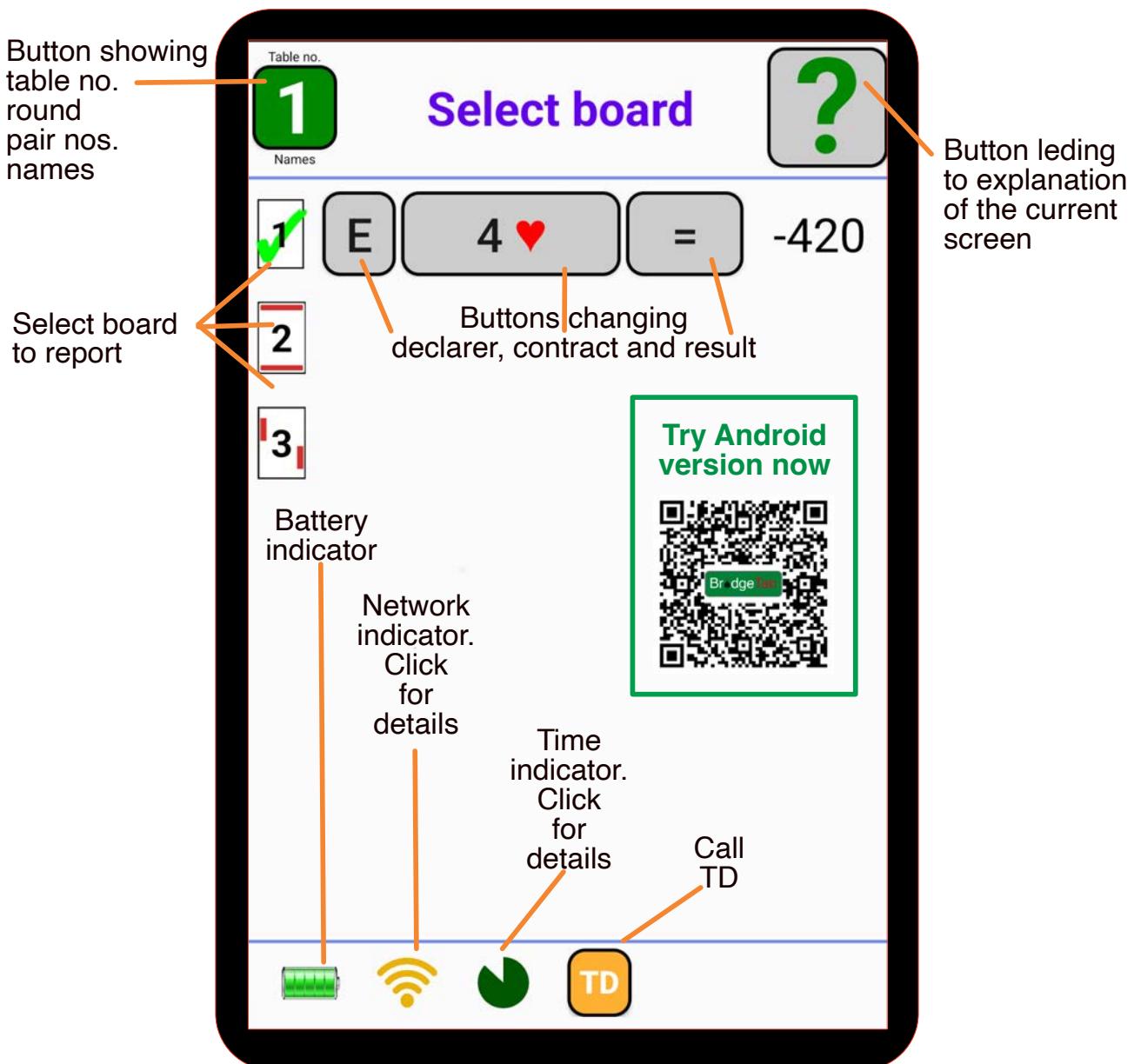
- New luxurious venue
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September 25, 2026
Friday
**Open Teams
(Qualification)**

September 26, 2026
Saturday
**Main Open Pairs
(MP)**

September 27, 2026
Sunday
**Open Teams (Final)
Open Pairs (IMP)**

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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

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

A **total of 24 pairs**, including drop in, play **Semifinal A**, while the rest play Semifinal B.

There will be a **linear carry-over** score from qualification to both Semifinals equal to one top to the leader after the qualification and down to 0 to the last qualifier.

At the end of the qualification the **top 15 pairs from Semifinal A** and the **top 3 pairs from Semifinal B** qualify to **Final A**.

There will be a **linear carry-over score from Semifinal A to Final A** equal to one top to the winner of the qualification and down to 0 to the last qualifier. The three pairs coming from Semifinal B will be receiving, respectively, the same carry-over as the 10th ranked in Semifinal A (the winner), 13th ranked (the second) and 0 mp (the third).

Final B will be played over two sessions.

Here is the time schedule:

Semifinal

10.00 – 12.10	14 boards
12.25 – 14.50	16 boards
15.40 – 18.05	16 boards

Final

09.00 – 11.55	21 boards
12.10 – 14.30	15 boards
15.10 – 17.30	15 boards (Final A only)

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:



VAZI CAFE-RESTAURANT

📍 Malá Štěpánská 542/14, 110 00 Nové Město

This time David visited the Vazi Cafe-Restaurant in Prague to taste their Georgian specialties.



📍 Vazi Cafe-Restaurant

📍 Vazi Cafe-Restaurant

📍 Vazi Cafe-Restaurant

BEHIND A RULING

BECAUSE TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS HAVE A HEART TOO (SORT OF)

BY FRANCESCA CANALI

KUBA: THE HAIR YOU RECOGNISE, THE HEART YOU DON'T EXPECT



Jakub Kasprzak
(known to everyone simply as **Kuba**) is the Assistant Chief Tournament Director here in Prague.

A seasoned professional with years of experience, he carries out his duties with the authority you'd expect.



But if you want to find the quickest way to his heart, just ask him about **Ignacy** and **Diana**.

Ignacy is six. **Diana** is five. They are Kuba's children, and here's the thing: the last time I met Kuba in person, neither of them existed yet. Having worked remotely on EBL bulletins for some years, it was truly moving to see this enormous change in his life and to meet Kuba the dad.

Not just any dad, though. A dad who is **raising a bridge player**. Kuba and Ignacy already sit together at the bridge table. Well, "sit" might not quite be the right word: Ignacy is so small that he sometimes finds it more comfortable to play standing up. It helps, though he still has some way to go before matching the height of the other players in their chairs.

Mum plays bridge too, by the way.



Caddy Diana delivering scoring sheets (and melting hearts along the way)



Ignacy sitting standing at the table

Diana does not play yet, but she has already had her moment of glory. She served as a caddy, and every time she delivered the scoring sheets to the players, she melted hearts across the room.

However, having witnessed her brother's triumph at the table (Ignacy won the award for the youngest player at the event), Diana has now firmly decided: **she wants to play too!**



AURÉLIEN: THE LANDING FROM NORMANDY



Aurélien Lecoq is the newest addition to the EBL directors' pool, and Prague marks his **very first international championship as a tournament director**.

He is 35, originally from Normandy, and he dedicates himself full-time to bridge, working for the French Bridge Federation (FFB) in support of players, districts, clubs, and fellow directors. He is also in charge of FFB's online bridge events.

His path into bridge was not conventional. Unlike many players, Aurélien was not introduced to the game by family. At 22, he simply walked into a bridge club, curious after hearing about it. Two lessons in, he already knew that structured courses were not for him: they were far too slow. So he went to a bookshop and bought every bridge book he could find.

What truly sealed his bond with bridge was a beginner/expert tournament organised by his club. There he met a generous, experienced player who guided him towards the competitive side of bridge. More friendships followed through the French youth national team, and he went on to play at the University Championships in Fuengirola (2017) and Budapest (2019).

He became a teacher and a director, and decided to attend the TDs workshop in Sofia, where he earned first place in the directors' quiz ranking. At the end of 2025, he travelled to Warsaw for the Max Bavin TD Course, achieving a remarkable A+ score!

With such credentials, the call to join the staff was inevitable. And now here he is.

So far (fortunately) he has not issued any yellow cards (*see yesterday's bulletin for context*). His very first ruling was an incorrect claim.

Welcome to the international stage, Aurélien! Something tells us this is just the beginning.

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BRIDGE IS AN EASY GAME

MARK HORTON

One advantage of having been a reporter for more than 40 years is that you become friends with many of the champions. They can all be relied upon to send you a story from time to time. This one comes from world champion Jovi Smederevac, playing in the Mixed Teams. Before we take a look, I noticed that one of the teams in the event is Blue Note. Here's a quiz question: in which Oscar winning movie does a horse called Blue Note get a mention? I'll reveal the answer at the end.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ Q 10 6 4	♠ A 3 2
♥ Q 10 8 5 2	♥ K 6 3
♦ 8	♦ Q 9 6 2
♣ 9 6 2	♣ J 10 3
♠ 9 7	
♥ J	
♦ A K J 10 7 5	
♣ Q 8 5 4	
♠ K J 8 5	1NT 15-17
♥ A 9 7 4	4♦ Majors
♦ 4 3	
♣ A K 7	

This deal appeared in Sunday's final session. Although NS can make game in a major, it is not automatic to reach one – for instance, in the Open Teams quarterfinals, no one played in four of a major.

Sallys Aces v Renate

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Thorpe	Brock	R Adelsberger	Gray
—	—	—	1♣*
3♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣

4♦ Majors

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shashou	Smederevac	Sandqvist	H Adelsberger
—	—	—	1NT*
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

1NT 15-17

4♦ Majors

6 pairs in the Mixed managed to bid four of a major (there were 5 in the Swiss Cup) – but this was the only time both did so in the same match. Naturally both declarer's tackled the heart suit by leading dummy's ♥Q.

Blue Note featured in The Sting.

Championship specials

The new **dealing machines** used to duplicate the boards for the European Winter Trans-national 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.



TIE-BREAKING

MAURIZIO DI SACCO

Though you do not see it often, matches are sometimes affected by rulings, as in all sports (we are actually lucky: there are sports where you can see hundreds of referees' decisions in just one match).

Last year in Prague it was twice the case, with one team being the positive protagonist on both occasions, and eventually going through. The same team experienced the opposite fate this year.

The ruling in itself is not complicated: actually the opposite for TDs of the level we have here, yet comments written in the review form make it clear that there are principles the players keep ignoring (just a mild reprimand meant). Part of the blame is to be assessed to us though: TDs at large too often fail to try to educate the players they're closer to, but it is also a fact that too many would not listen.

The purpose of the articles on the subject – I started the process a few months ago with a famous case from the World Youth Championships – is to offer the players a clearer view of the Laws governing our sport. Meanwhile, I'm also presenting the problems from the point of view of the reviewer (here, myself), someone who has to explore all the technical aspects of rulings, from the angles of procedure, laws, regulations and bridge technique.

Time to present the case, which come from the Round of 16 of the Open Teams Championship.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vulnerable.

♠ J 8 6 4 3
♥ A 7
♦ A K 7 6 2
♣ 10

♠ 9 7 5
♥ J 10 5 4 3 2
♦ 5
♣ K 8 5

♠ A K
♥ K Q 9
♦ Q J 10 4
♣ 9 7 6 2

♠ Q 10 2
♥ 8 6
♦ 9 8 3
♣ A Q J 4 3



The bidding went:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣*	Dble	3NT
All Pass			

3♣ Explained to East as transfer to diamonds, but to West as natural

West thought his partner had the red suits and led a heart: 10 tricks.

West called the TD complaining about the misinformation and alleging that he would have led a club had he been properly informed.

Such cases are very common playing with screens (and not), but the Laws involved and the procedure the TDs follow to deal with them is not so well known.

The first step is to establish whether was North or South who gave wrong information, keeping in mind that "wrong information" does not mean "not corresponding to the cards", but "not corresponding to that pairs' partnership agreement (we have seen cases where neither explanation was correct!).

The Laws involved are 75B, C and partially D (to not confuse you with too many words, I'm offering just the relevant parts):

LAW 75

MISTAKEN EXPLANATION OR MISTAKEN CALL

After a misleading explanation has been given to opponents the responsibilities of the players (and the Director) are as follows:

[...]

B) Mistaken Explanation

When the partnership agreement is different from the explanation given, the explanation is an infraction of Law. When this infraction results in damage to the non-offending side, the Director shall award an adjusted score.

[...]

C) Mistaken Call

When the partnership agreement has been explained correctly, the mistake being the call made and not the explanation, there is no infraction.

[...]

D) Director's Determination

[...]

3. When there is an infraction (as per B1 or D2) and sufficient evidence exists as to the agreed meaning of the call, the Director awards an adjusted score based upon the likely outcome had the opponents received the correct explanation in a timely manner. If the Director determines that the call has no agreed meaning, he awards an adjusted score based upon the likely outcome had the opponents been so informed.

D) Is an addition to the Laws which just reflects the content of Law 12, the Law which contains all the main principle behind adjusted score. Here it is (once more, just the relevant parts): read it carefully:

LAW 12

DIRECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY POWERS

1. [...]

B) Objectives of Score Adjustment

1. The objective of score adjustment is to redress damage to a non-offending side and to take away any advantage gained by an offending side through its infraction. Damage exists when, because of an infraction, an innocent side obtains a table result less favourable than would have been the expectation had the infraction not occurred.

2. The Director may not award an adjusted score on the grounds that the rectification provided in these Laws is either unduly severe or advantageous to either side.

C. Awarding an Adjusted Score

[...]

1. (b) The Director in awarding an assigned adjusted score should seek to recover as nearly

as possible the probable outcome of the board had the infraction not occurred.

1. (c) An assigned adjusted score may be weighted to reflect the probabilities of a number of potential results, but only outcomes that could have been achieved in a legal manner may be included.

[...]

1. (e) If, subsequent to the irregularity, the non-offending side has contributed to its own damage by an extremely serious error (unrelated to the infraction) or by a gambling action, which if unsuccessful it might have hoped to recover through rectification, then:

1. The offending side is awarded the score it would have been allotted as the consequence of rectifying its infraction.
2. The non-offending side does not receive relief for such part of its damage as is self-inflicted.

It is time to put things together and draw a conclusion.

a) The TD found out that the correct explanation is the one given by North, so West was misinformed (75B), which constitutes an infraction, and was entitled to redress.

b) The TD should determine whether the result would have been the same without the infraction (e.g. had West been properly informed). The answer to this question is so obvious here that you do not need a poll: had West known that East's double was showing clubs he would have certainly led the suit, so the outcome would have been 3NT-1.

c) Does not need a poll even the second question: whether there is a connection between the wrong explanation and the heart lead: West read the double as showing the red suits and for that reason he led a heart. However, this point needs some clarification: say that West, instead of a heart, leads a spade. Now the situation changes, because the link between the misinformation and the action taken does not exist. A spade lead cannot be technically

explained.

d) Looking at 12C1e, there's a further argument to be addressed, meaning whether West contributed to his damage through a gambling action, e.g. whether he led a heart knowing that his partner had clubs, but relying on a score adjustment if he was wrong.

Now some remark and some analysis: the appellants wrote in their request for a review that in their view West had made something "stupid and illogical". First of all, those words do not appear in the Laws, but, even more important, what players should keep in mind is that even if this is true (and sometimes it is), it does not matter at all, as far as it related to the infraction. To make it plain: a player is entitled to make even a crazy mistake, but as far as we can say that he/she could not have gone wrong without the infraction he/she is entitled to a redress. Remember? a) "Damage exists when, because of an infraction, an innocent side obtains a table result less favourable than would have been the expectation had the infraction not occurred."

The appellants used then a terminology which does exist in the Laws: "serious error", however the non-offending side may be charged for a serious error only if it is "unrelated to the infraction" (e.g. if someone revokes: the most typical example), but here we have seen that the relation is crystal clear. As for a gambling action, remember: "The objective of score adjustment is to redress damage to a non-offending side and to take away any advantage gained by an offending side through its infraction.", which means that the case might be that the non-offenders do not get a full redress, but the offenders still see their advantage cancelled (in such cases, the outcome is called "split score: the scores received by the two sides are not complementary, e.g. one side loses 13 IMPs but the other wins only 7).

Last thing the appellants named, was the lack of a poll. Once again, we have seen that two possible reason for a poll were just silly, yet, in one case I could not say that the appellants

were not formally wrong: the TDs had failed to poll about whether the heart lead can be deemed "gambling" or not, so I gave the money back, and instructed the TDs to poll that aspect.

Three players were interviewed, and: all led a heart; one strongly considered leading a diamond and another said that leading a diamond is possible. All of them said that partner cannot have clubs (the best holding he can have in clubs is AQJx, which would make it crazy to double a natural bid), so, despite it looks weird that he doubled with the reds (probably 4♥ and 6♦), that was the only sensible conclusion. Furthermore, they stated that the case might be that someone doubles for penalty in such situations, but it is certainly not everybody's choice.

The ruling stood, moved as many as 12 IMPs, and the non-offending side eventually won by 5 IMPs. It is to be noted that had the lead been considered "gambling", the resulting score after the proper calculation (I spare it) would have given 6 IMPs to the offending side: enough to reverse the final outcome.



THREE CONTINENTS, ONE PASSION

BY FRANCESCA CANALI



At the playing tables, you will find **Susan Zhang**. If you sit down to chat with her, you will quickly realise that **her life stretches across three continents**.

Born and raised in Beijing, Susan learned to play bridge during her college years in China. After graduating with a degree in electronic engineering, she moved to the United States in 1986 to pursue her career. She now lives in the San Francisco Bay Area, but her map does not stop there: Susan also has homes in Tuscany, Italy, and in Portugal. Three continents, one constant: bridge.

In 2024 she won the bronze medal at the 16th World Bridge Games playing the Transnational in the USA MIX team.

So why Prague? Why a European championship?

"I come here to improve," Susan says. She is full of praise for the organisation. "Very efficient," she adds, with the appreciation of an engineer who knows what good systems look like. (*We should mention this interview took place before yesterday's scheduling adventures. We kindly ask you to remember the good days!*)

Susan has a clear goal: she wants to win a world title. The next stop on that journey will be the **World Bridge Series** in **Katowice**.

Her regular partner is **Daniel Korbel**, who shared a board from his team-mates **Geoff Hampson** and **Wang Wen Fei**.

Board 2. Dealer East. N-S Vulnerable.

♠ J 10
♥ K 10 8 5
♦ K J 3
♣ Q J 6 2

♠ 3
♥ Q 9 6 3
♦ 8 6 2
♣ A K 10 9 8

♠ K 9 8 7 6 4 2
♥ 4 2
♦ 7
♣ 7 4 3

West	North	East	South
-	<i>Wang</i>	Pass	<i>Hampson</i>
1NT	Dble	Pass	3♦
Pass	6♠	Dble	All pass

"My teammates doubled 1NT for penalties, and when Geoff jumped to 3♦ to show distribution, Wenfei shot out 6♠!"

Describe your ideal bridge partner in 3 words



PIERRE SCHMIDT

“ My.
lovely.
wife.



ADI ASULIN

“ Flexibility, good energy, and consistency.
By flexibility I mean the mindset. By consistency I mean the attitude:
when my partner loses, they must be able to just keep playing as if
starting from zero.



MARION MICHELSSEN

“ Talented.
Nice.
Competitive.



FRANCK MULTON

“ Disciplined in bidding,
able to handle my character,
and good chemistry.



ZIA MAHMOOD

“ Smiles,
plays well,
and is a beautiful female.



JOE GRUE

“ Thoughtfull, logical, and fast.

OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

SYMPHONY IN PRAGUE

MARK HORTON

When my father introduced me to classical music one of the first records he gave me was a recording of two Mozart Symphonies; number 40 in G Minor K.550 and number 38 in D, K.504 (Prague), the latter being first performed in the city from which it derives its name.

As I settled down to watch the remaining session of the Open Teams semifinals I wondered if I might witness another type of masterpiece.

With Eler and SPS Poland needing to turn around deficits of 31 and 47 IMPs respectively perhaps we might see something along the lines of Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks. It was a tall order for both the trailing teams; not only did they have to score the required number of IMPs, but they also had to avoid conceding swings.

Board 44. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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



SPS Poland v Knottenbelt

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tommasini	Araszkiewicz	Norton	Kotorowicz
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
2♠	3♣	3♠	5♣
All Pass			

East led the ♠A and when West followed with the ♠Q he switched to the ♥K, ensuing the demise of the contract, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Buras	van de Paverd	Strzemecki	Nijssen
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2NT 20-22

East led the ♠10 and declarer won with the ♠K and cashed six clubs. When he continued with a diamond to the ace it collected East's ♦K for +520 and 11 IMPs for Knottenbelt.

Eler v de Botton

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Serdar	Heiberg-E	Suzer
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dble*	3♠	4♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

West led the ♠Q and East took dummy's ♠K and returned the ♠10, West winning and switching to the ♥7. When declarer took dummy's ♥A East did not unblock the ♥K but declarer was bound to take the diamond finesse, two down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sofu	Hoftaniska	Avciooglu	Charlsen
2♦*	Dble*	2♥*	Pass
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♣

2♦ 5+♥/♠ weak
2♥ Pass or correct

West led the **♥Q** and declarer took dummy's **♥A** (no unblock from East) drew trumps and took the diamond finesse, one down and 2 IMPs for de Botton.

Board 46. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A K Q J 9	♠ 8 6 3	West	North	East	South
♥ A Q 10 7 6	♥ 8	<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Serdar</i>	<i>Heiberg-E</i>	<i>Suzer</i>
♦ 6 5 3	♦ A 10 9 8	—	—	Pass	Pass
♣ —	♣ A 10 6 4 3	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
♠ 10 7 2	♠ 5 4	Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♥
♥ J 5 4	♥ K 9 3 2	All Pass			
♦ J 4	♦ K Q 7 2	3♥ 55+ Game forcing			
♣ K J 9 7 5	♣ Q 8 2	A regulation +680.			



SPS Poland v Knottenbelt

Open Room

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

1♣ 0+♣, 12-14 balanced, 15+ natural, 18+ any
 4♣ Splinter
 4♦ Control
 4NT RKCB
 5♣ I keycard

West led the ♠2 and declarer win in dummy, drew trumps, ruffed a club, played a diamond to the king, cashed dummy's remaining spades pitching diamonds and ruffed a diamond, +1430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>van de Paverd</i>	<i>Strzemecki</i>	<i>Nijssen</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♠	1NT*	Dble
4♣	4♥	All Pass	

1NT Minors

Declarer ruffed the lead of the ♣A, drew trumps and played a diamond, East taking the ♦A, +680 but 13 IMPs for SPS Poland.

Eler v de Botton

Open Room

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

3♥ 55+ Game forcing

A regulation +680.

It looks like a good hand for Gazzilli, but if you are looking for points you might consider bidding 5♣ over partner's 4♥, hoping partner has the right cards.

There is also the possibility that South might bid 4♦ over 3♥, a bid that was made more than once in the Mixed Teams.

I enjoyed the auctions from this match:

Nettleton v Gamba

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pigulski</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Pucyk</i>	<i>Nettleton</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
3♣	4♣*	5♣	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Anyone for 7♣?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Mroz</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Banas</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	2♦*	3♣	3♦
Pass	4♣*	4♥	All Pass

Two Diamonds looks like it should show the majors, although the card suggest that 2♣ would be the way to do that.

We return to the Open:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sofu	Hoftaniska	Avcioğlu	Charlsen
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Ditto my song, +680.

Board 51. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ J 10

♥ J 7 6 4

♦ K 10 6 5

♣ 9 8 2

♠ K 6 4 3

♥ 5

♦ A 8 7 4

♣ J 7 5 3



♠ Q 9 8 7 5 2

♥ A 3 2

♦ 9

♣ K 10 4

♠ A

♥ K Q 10 9 8

♦ Q J 3 2

♣ A Q 6



Ekrem SERDAR

SPS Poland v Knottenbelt

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tommasini	Araszkiewicz	Norton	Kotorowicz
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♦*	1♠	2♥*
2NT*	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

1♣ 0+♣, 12-14 balanced, 15+ natural, 18+ any

1♦ 0-6 any, 7-11 ♣+♦, game forcing no major or 5♣/♦

2♥ Strong

2NT Spade support

West led the ♠4 and declarer won and played hearts, East taking the second round and exiting with the ♥3. That meant declarer was one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Buras	van de Paverd	Strzemecki	Nijssen
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	3♥*	3♠	4♥
4♠	All Pass		

South led the ♥K, but there were only three losers, +620 and 11 IMPs for SPS Poland.

Eler v de Botton

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Serdar	Heiberg-E	Suzer
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	3♥*	3♠	4♣
4♥*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

4♥ Good raise

Well bid by both sides I thought, +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sofu	Hoftaniska	Avcioğlu	Charlsen
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	3♥	3♠	3NT
4♥*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

That was the fifth flat board of the session in

this match, de Botton having acquired 9 IMPs via overtricks and undertricks.

Board 52. Dealer West. None Vul.

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



SPS Poland v Knottenbelt

Open Room

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

1♣ 0+♣, 12-14 balanced, 15+ natural, 18+ any
2♦ Strong

West found the devastating lead of the ♦2 and East won with the ♦J, continued with the ♦K, the ♠A and diamond for a rapid -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Buras	van de Paverd	Strzemecki	Nijssen
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♠5 and East won and switched to the ♣4, +430 and 10 IMPs to Knottenbelt.

In the other match West led the ♠5 against 3NT, no swing.

In the Mixed Teams only four players found a diamond lead against 3NT. Five managed it in the first semifinal of the Winter Cup, which also contained this curiosity:

Zimmermann v Mavericks

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Toledano	Kalita	Zamir
2♠*	Pass	2NT*	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	All Pass

2♠ (0)3-10, 5+♣ and 5(4)+♣/♦, 1st hand NV/V can be very light

2NT Relay

It was possible that East held a game forcing hand, but it was an unusual accident that resulted in -1600 and the loss of 15 IMPs. (It was a great match, 93 IMPs changing hands!)

Board 54. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

SPS Poland v Knottenbelt

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tommasini	Araszkiewicz	Norton	Kotorowicz
—	—	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	Pass	2NT*

2♦ Weak in a major

2♥ Pass or correct

East led the ♥Q and declarer won in dummy, played on clubs, won the club exit and advanced the ♦Q, taking 11 tricks, +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Buras	van de Paverd	Strzemecki	Nijssen
—	—	3♥	All Pass



South led the ♠A and switched to the ♣10, declarer manging six tricks, -300 and 4 IMPs for Knottenbelt.

Although SPS Poland won the session 36-31, it was in a losing cause.

Eler v de Botton

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Serdar	Heiberg-Evenstad	
—	—	2♥	Pass
2♠*	All Pass		

2♠ Non forcing

North led the ♣K and declarer was able to ruff a club in dummy and score six tricks, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sofu	Hoftaniska	Avciooglu	Charlsen
—	—	2♦*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♦ One major
3♥ Pass or correct

When you have a big lead it is all too easy to play defensively, not taking any risky decisions. Patrick Jourdain thought it was one of the reasons why teams sometimes lost from a healthy position. So, full marks to Thomas Charlsen for bidding 3NT.

West led the ♥5 and declarer won with the ♥A and played the ♣10, West winning and playing the ♥5. Declarer ducked, won the third heart and ran the ♦Q. When it held he cashed the ♣K then played a diamond to the jack. After cashing the ♦A he claimed ten tricks, +630 and 10 IMPs to de Botton.

De Botton had not surrendered a single IMP over the first 13 deals of the session as they advanced to the final.





20th Bridge Festival RIGA INVITES 2026

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

PROGRAM

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

PRIZES

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

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

ENTRY FEES

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

VENUE

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CHESSMATE

BY FRANCESCA CANALI

Ram Soffer, from Israel, is a Chess International World Master. But, he says, he doesn't play as much chess anymore, because "at my age, bridge is better." Why?

"In chess," explains Ram, "you need more energy. Seven hours of chess takes much more out of you than seven hours of bridge, because in chess you have to calculate many moves ahead and many variations. In bridge, there is less to calculate."

An interesting perspective.

Ram, who won the Open Pairs with his partner Ron Sheffy, was also kind enough to share a board with the Daily Bulletin.

"I was sitting North with
 ♠ K 6 5 ♥ A K 2 ♦ A Q 10 4 ♣ A 7 3.

Right-hand-opponent opened 1♣, I doubled, and East bid 1♣, a transfer to no-trumps showing at least 6 HCP. West bid 1NT. I had almost nothing. If I double again, my partner has to bid a major, and that's not going to end well. So I passed, and they played 1NT.

I led the ♥A.

Dummy was:

♠ 10 3 2 ♥ J 7 5 ♦ K 8 ♣ K J 10 9 2

Partner played the 9, upside-down signal, meaning he doesn't want hearts. I looked at the dummy and switched to the ♦A, then continued a diamond. Partner encouraged, and declarer



Ram Soffer and his partner Ron Sheffy

won the ♦K.

Now declarer played two rounds of clubs, trying to set up the suit. I ducked. And ducked again. On the third round I took the ace, cashed the ♦Q, and played a diamond to partner's jack. And my partner found the perfect switch: a spade. My ♠K scored just in time, before declarer could cash his club trick." One down. 87.50%.

Board 18. Dealer East. N-S Vulnerable.

♠ K 6 5
 ♥ A K 2
 ♦ A Q 10 4
 ♣ A 7 3

♠ A Q J
 ♥ Q 10 8 6
 ♦ 7 6 3
 ♣ Q 8 6



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

♠ 9 8 7 4
 ♥ 9 4 3
 ♦ J 9 5 2
 ♣ 5 4

OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

FINAL - SET 1

AND THEN THERE WERE TWO

BRIAN SENIOR

The final of the European Winter Open Teams would feature the Anglo-Dutch team Knottenbelt, and the Anglo-Norwegian team de Botton. The match would be played over 4 x 14-board sessions. The match began with a routine 4♥ for the N/S pairs, flat at +420. We did not, however, have to wait long for our first swing.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ J 4

♥ J 8 7 3

♦ Q 8 6 4 3

♣ K 4

♠ Q 8 3

♥ 10 9 6

♦ 10

♣ Q J 10 9 6 2



♠ A 9 6 5

♥ K 4 2

♦ A K J 2

♣ A 3

♠ K 10 7 2

♥ A Q 5

♦ 9 7 5

♣ 8 7 5

cards, so the contract was down one for -50. For Knottenbelt, Tim van de Paverd had a 1♣ opening and Oscar Nijssen raised to 3♣, pre-emptive, converted to 3NT by van de Paverd. Espen Erichsen led the two of spades to the three, jack and ace. Van de Paverd played ace and another club and Malinowski, in desperation, tried the queen of diamonds. That, of course, worried declarer not in the slightest. He won the ace and cashed the king before leading a spade towards the queen. Erichsen won the king and returned his last diamond, which resurrected declarer's jack for the overtrick; +430 and 10 IMPs to Knottenbelt.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A J 10 2

♥ Q 8

♦ A K 8 6 5 3

♣ J



♠ 6 5
♥ 10 4 2
♦ 7 2
♣ A K 9 7 5 2

♠ Q 9 8

♥ J 9 5 3

♦ 10 9 4

♣ Q 10 4

West	North	East	South	West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Byrne	Heiberg-Evenstad	Knottenbelt	Helgemo	Byrne	Heiberg-Evenstad	Knottenbelt
—	—	1♦	Pass	—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All	1♣	1♦	2♠	Pass
Pass				2NT	3♦	All Pass	
West	North	East	South	West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Malinowski	van de Paverd	Erichsen	Nijssen	Malinowski	van de Paverd	Erichsen
—	—	1♣	Pass	—	—	—	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass	1♣	1♦	3♣	Pass
				Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
				All Pass			

Differing methods saw the same contract reached but from different sides of the table.

For de Botton, Nicolai -Evenstad opened 1♦ then raised Geir Helgemo's 1NT response to game. With diamonds bid against him, Michael Byrne tried a heart lead, Maggie Knottenbelt winning the queen and continuing with two more rounds of the suit. Helgemo played ace and another club, hoping that the king was not in the same hand as the long heart. Alas, Byrne held both

Helgemo promised at least three clubs, Nijssen only two. In their different ways, the two East players showed their weakish but long club raise.

The North players took differing views of their hand. While Byrne was content to repeat his long diamond suit and was left to play in 3♠, Malinowski offered spades as an alternative, the only problem with that being that when Erichsen preferred diamonds he had to go to the four level to do so.

Heiberg-Evenstad led the ace of clubs against 3♦, then switched to the two of hearts. Helgemo won the king and ace then switched back to clubs. Byrne ruffed and cashed the top diamonds, liking what he saw as the queen and jack fell. A third diamond put him in dummy. If the play record is accurate, he next led the queen of spades off the table and, when that was not covered, unblocked the jack from hand before continuing with the eight of spades and running it. That seems an over-complicated way of going about things, as opposed to running the nine on the first round, but it was just as effective and led to 10 tricks for +130.

Van de Paverd also cashed one club then switched to a heart. Nijssen won two of those then switched back to clubs, and Malinowski ruffed and laid down the ace of diamonds. However, when Nijssen followed with the jack, Malinowski convinced himself that he couldn't be lucky enough to find diamonds two-two, so gave up a diamond, thereby ensuring an entry to take the spade finesse. That resulted in down one in a 'cold' contract, so -50 and 5 IMPs to Knottenbelt.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ J 10 9 3 2
♥ K Q J 10
♦ A 10 6
♣ Q

♠ 5
♥ 5 4 3
♦ Q J 8 7 5
♣ A J 9 7



♠ Q 8 6 4
♥ A 9 8 7
♦ K 9 2
♣ 8 3

♠ A K 7
♥ 6 2
♦ 4 3
♣ K 10 6 5 4 2

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Byrne	Heiberg-E	Knottenbelt
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Malinowski	van de Paverd	Erichsen
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

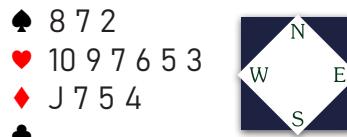
Erichsen made a natural and invitational raise, which Malinowski accepted, while Knottenbelt made a Bergen raise and Byrne signed off at the three level.

Van de Paverd led the six of hearts against 4♠, Malinowski winning the jack and playing a spade. Van de Paverd won that and played his second heart. Malinowski won and played a second spade, which van de Paverd won as Nijssen made a discouraging diamond discard. Van de Paverd followed his partner's signal, playing a club, and Nijssen won the ace and gave him a heart ruff for down two and -200. Well defended.

Heiberg-Evenstad also led a heart, but Byrne gave up a club at trick two, and now there was no entry to the West hand to give the heart ruff. Byrne lost two spades and one trick in each minor, so +140 and 8 IMPs to Knottenbelt.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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



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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Byrne	Heiberg-Evenstad	Knottenbelt
—	1♦	Dble	Rdbl
3♥	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			



West	North	East	South	West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Malinowski	van de Paverd	Erichsen	Helgemo	Byrne	Heiberg-Evenstad	Knottenbelt
—	1♣	Pass	2♣	—	—	—	1NT
3♥	3♠	4♥	Dble	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
All Pass				Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
				All Pass			

Neither West was afraid to pre-empt on six cards headed by the ten-nine. Heiberg-Evenstad then left his opponents to play 3NT, while van de Paverd competed with 4♥, which was promptly doubled by Erichsen.

Having bid 3♥ and not seen either support or a double from partner, Helgemo tried a spade lead. Knottenbelt ran this, losing to the king, and Heiberg-Evenstad switched to the jack of hearts. When the queen won the trick, Knottenbelt had 11 tricks – five clubs, three spades, two diamonds and one heart – for +660. How good a save would 4♥ doubled be? Malinowski led the king of clubs, which Nijssen ruffed. He played a diamond to the nine and king, ruffed the club return, and played a second diamond to Malinowski's ace. A third club ruff was followed by a spade towards the king, Malinowski grabbing his ace and playing a fourth club. These club ruffs were not hurting Nijssen one little bit. He cashed the jack of diamonds then played king and another spade. Malinowski won that and played the ten of diamonds, but Nijssen ruffed with the jack and, after over-ruffing, Erichsen was endplayed to lead away from his remaining heart honour. The contract was down only two for -300 but 8 IMPs to Knottenbelt, who led by 31-0 after five boards. Board 6 saw both Souths go down two in diamond partscores for -100 and a push board. Board 7 was also flat, but both sides had missed a chance for a swing.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A K 10 8 3

♥ 8 7 5

♦ K Q 2

♣ Q 10

♠ 6

♥ 9 6 4

♦ A 10 8 7 5 4

♣ J 3 2



♠ 9 7 4 2

♥ J 10

♦ J 3

♣ K 8 6 5 4

♠ Q J 5

♥ A K Q 3 2

♦ 9 6

♣ A 9 7

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Malinowski	van de Paverd	Erichsen
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Byrne and Knottenbelt had a simple transfer auction, in which Byrne offered a choice of games and Knottenbelt chose spades. The three-two heart split meant 12 easy tricks for +680.

Malinowski used Stayman then rebid 3♥, showing five spades and three hearts, and Erichsen too chose the spade game, with the same outcome, 12 tricks for +680 and no swing. Slam was never in the picture for either pair, but it is certainly one we would want to be in, not that anyone did anything obviously wrong at either table. Maybe those whose methods start with a 1♥ opening rather than 1NT have a better chance of getting there?

The boards turned quiet now, with just an overtrick IMP each changing hands over the next three deals. Board 11, however, offered some scope for a swing.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ Q 7 4 3

♥ K 8 7 3 2

♦ —

♣ Q J 5 2

♠ 10 2

♥ Q 9 5 4

♦ A K Q 6 4

♣ 10 3



♠ A 6 5

♥ —

♦ J 10 9 8 5 3

♣ K 8 7 6

♠ K J 9 8

♥ A J 10 6

♦ 7 2

♣ A 9 4

West

North

East

South

Helgemo

Byrne

Heiberg-Evenstad

Knottenbelt

1♣

1♦

1♥

5♦

All Pass

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Malinowski	van de Paverd	Erichsen
—	—	—	1♣
1♦	1♥	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Facing a 1♦ overcall, both Easts jumped to game in response. Maybe 5♦ was making – it didn't look as though it could be too far away, or maybe if 5♦ was not making an opposing 4♥ might be. There were two big ways to win by jumping straight to 5♦, never mind the fact that the pressure bid could see the opposition misjudge. Helgemo was left to play 5♦, while Nijssen was doubled by Malinowski.

It looks as though there are two clubs and a spade to be lost, but Byrne led the queen of clubs to the king and ace, and now a spade switch was essential... but Knottenbelt returned the nine of clubs to the ten and jack. and declarer's spade loser went away on the clubs; contract just made for +400.

If Helgemo and Heiberg-Evenstad were looking at this as a possible winning board, they were to be sadly disappointed. Malinowski too led the queen of clubs, ducked by Nijssen. But now Malinowski continued with the jack of clubs to the king and ace. Erichsen tried to cash the nine of clubs, not that it mattered by now with the ♣9 ruffing out on the next round anyway. Nijssen ruffed and, once again, the spade loser went away on a club; 11 tricks for +550 and 4 IMPs to Knottenbelt.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ A 10 4 3

♥ A 6 5

♦ 9 6 5

♣ A 10 9

♠ 8 2

♥ 9 8 7 4

♦ Q 7 4 2

♣ K 7 4



♠ K 7 6 5

♥ K Q 10 2

♦ A 10

♣ 8 6 5

♠ Q J 9

♥ J 3

♦ K J 8 3

♣ Q J 3 2

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Byrne	Heiberg-Evenstad	Knottenbelt
—	1♣	Dble	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Malinowski	van de Paverd	Erichsen
—	1♣	Dble	Rdbl
1♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
1♥	Pass	Pass	1NT
	All Pass		

In response to the take-out double, Nijssen first bid diamonds then hearts but, at the prevailing vulnerability, van de Paverd was unwilling to compete to the two level even with a known eight-card fit. Nijssen led the nine of hearts against 1NT, Erichsen ducking to the queen. Van de Paverd continued with the ♥K to pin declarer's jack, then with the ten to dummy's ace. Erichsen led a low spade to his queen followed by a low club to the nine. When that held the trick he tried another low spade, van de Paverd this time taking his king and returning the two of hearts to Nijssen's eight. Nijssen exited with a club round to the jack, and Erichsen overtook the jack of spades to lead a diamond to his king, after which he cashed out for eight tricks and +120.

Helgemo did not bid at his first turn but, when his opponents settled in 1NT, competed to 2♥ and was left to play there. Byrne led the five of diamonds to the ten and king, and Knottenbelt switched to the queen of clubs. That was covered by the king and ace, and Byrne returned the ten then nine of clubs and, finding himself still on play, switched back to diamonds. Helgemo won the diamond and played the king of hearts followed by the queen. That pinned the jack – which heart to play to the second round was not a guess for Helgemo, of course, as it was the ace which was doubleton it would have been won on the first round of the suit. There was just the ace of spades to be lost from here, so Helgemo was down one for -100 but 1 IMP to de Botton.

Knottenbelt picked up an overtrick IMP in a cold 3NT on the last board of the set, and led by 37-2 IMPs at the end of the first quarter. There were three more 14-board sessions still to play.

OPEN PAIRS AND MIXED TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

MATCHED PAIRS

MARK HORTON

The schedule for Tuesday revealed that apart from the final of the Open Teams, there were four other events taking place. Looking for deals from the Open Pairs, I spotted this:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Hotamislilg	Martens	Z Grossack	Witek
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

4NT RKCB

5♥ 2 keycards

West	North	East	South
Rus	Pyszko	Stefanec	Slemr
1♥	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♠*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

3NT	Heart support
4♣	Control
4♦	Control
4♠	Control

The ♠A was led at both tables, +1430 and a shared top in the Open Pairs Final A.

Then there was this from the Mixed Teams semifinal A:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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



Six Clubs is excellent, but it was only reached five times, once by both teams in the same match:

French Connection v Alice

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Özgur	Saporta-T.	Aslan	Saporta
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥*	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♣	All Pass
2♣	Stayman		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wnuk	Arslan	Kreglewsk-Wnuk	Mercil
—	—	1♣*	Pass
2♣*	2♣	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠*	Dble
4♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
5NT*	All Pass	5NT*	Pass
		2+♣, 5+♣ (or 4414) 11+ or 26+ ZAR	
		Natural, game forcing	
		Rdbl	Control
		4♦	Control
		5NT	Pick a slam



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European Online Transnational Mixed Teams Championships
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OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

FINAL - SET 2

DAVID BURN

The first 14 boards of the final had been one-way traffic, and Knottenbelt led at the end of them by an imposing 37 IMPs to 2. The first deal of the second segment saw the traffic slam on the brakes, turn round, and head in the other direction.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tommasini	Hoftaniska	Norton	Charlsen
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♥	2♣	3♦
Dble	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

1♣ showed at least two clubs; 2♣ showed diamonds; 3♦ may have been a mixed raise – a splinter would be somewhat ambitious – and 3♥ asked for a stopper. Tommasini had one of those, but the lack of the ace of diamonds meant that he needed more than one. Hoftaniska led ♥A and continued the suit, Tommasini gave up a diamond and had to wait six more tricks before getting in again. 150 to de Botton.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Byrne	Heiberg-Evenstad	Knottenbelt
1♦	2♥	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Maggie Knottenbelt couldn't support hearts without venturing to the four level, and this she was unwilling to do at the vulnerability. Michael Byrne led ♥10 rather than the ace, and South played ♥6 under dummy's jack. Helgemo ran the queen of diamonds to Byrne's ace, and the defender had to work out his next move. If that ♥6 was a count card declarer's ♥K either was now bare or could not be picked up, but if that ♥6 was suit preference... Byrne shifted to a spade, Helgemo ran his winners and wrote down plus 430 for 11 IMPs to de Botton.

Easy come, as they say, easy go:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tommasini	Hoftaniska	Norton	Charlsen
3♥	3♠	5♥	6♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Byrne	Heiberg-Evenstad Knottenbelt	
2♥	2♠	3♥	4♠
All pass			

The higher-level pre-empt in the Open Room was boldly raised to the five level by Ben Norton, and Thomas Charlsen had a serious problem. As a matter of theory, some pairs play that a pass in this kind of auction is forcing, since the opponents are “clearly sacrificing.” That arrangement works better if the opponents don’t know that you have it, otherwise third hand could simply bid 5♥ on a hand expecting to make it and then redouble, saving himself the worry of whether or not to bid six. I don’t know whether de Botton’s pair actually had any such agreement in place, but Charlsen quite reasonably bid six spades and hoped it would make. It didn’t, and when at the other table Knottenbelt made no move towards slam her team recouped the 11 IMPs lost on the first board of the set. The traffic didn’t seem to know where it was going.

On board 17 East-West had an eight-card spade fit and an eight-card diamond fit. Knottenbelt’s team chose the former while de Botton’s chose the latter; not only did spades score more per trick but Tommasini made a trick more than Evenstad and Knottenbelt added 2 IMPs to their tally. On board 18 de Botton added rather more.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tommasini	Hoftaniska	Norton	Charlsen
—	—	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♥	2♠	2NT
Pass	4♥	All pass	

It’s not easy bidding game when the opponents open a strong no trump – most of the time this doesn’t matter because you can’t make one, but Hoftaniska might have wished he had a two-and-a-half hearts card in his bidding box at his first turn. Charlsen made what one might call a good all-round bid with 2NT – if partner thought that showed heart support he had some, if he thought it showed values and a spade guard he had those also. Hoftaniska explained to Norton that he wasn’t quite sure what his partner intended, then he bid four hearts and made it with little difficulty after the lead of ♠A. 620 to de Botton.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Byrne	Heiberg-Evenstad Knottenbelt	
—	—	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	2♠	3♥
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Byrne treated his hand as a single-suiter, and Knottenbelt didn’t make any move beyond the two level at her first turn. East sportingly gave his opponents another chance, but Knottenbelt must have been quite content to have pushed her opponents to 3♠ against which she had promising defence. When that promise was fulfilled to the tune of down three she had 150, but de Botton had 10 IMPs.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.





Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A Q 10 9 6 2
 ♥ K 7 5
 ♦ 7 5 3
 ♣ 5

 ♠ J 8 7 3
 ♥ J 8 6 4
 ♦ —
 ♣ Q J 9 7 3

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



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

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

 ♠ A 9 7 4 2
 ♥ J 5 4
 ♦ 5
 ♣ K 7 3 2

 ♠ 6 5
 ♥ K Q 6
 ♦ A Q J 7 4 3
 ♣ A 6



♠ K J 10 8
 ♥ A 9 8 2
 ♦ 9 8 6
 ♣ 8 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tommasini	Hoftaniska	Norton	Charlsen
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	2♦	Dble
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

One club was 2+ cards, Dble of 2♦ showed three spades, 3NT was an offer to play there. The upshot of all this was that Tommasini felt his opponents' auction had not been entirely convincing, so he doubled it. There was no defence – Norton led ace and a low diamond, but Hoftaniska could draw trumps and establish ♦Q for a heart discard and 590 to de Botton.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Byrne	Heiberg-Evenstad Knottenbelt	
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

Knottenbelt's 1♦ opening had the effect of keeping East out of the auction, so there was no temptation for West to Dble anything. 420 for Byrne on the same defence as at the other table, but 5 IMPs for de Botton.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tommasini	Hoftaniska	Norton	Charlsen
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♦	3♠	Dble
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Byrne	Heiberg-Evenstad Knottenbelt	
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the Open Room Charlsen opened his suit and his opponents joined in with their suit. South asked for a stopper in spades by doubling 3♠, but Hoftaniska decided that ♠Q3 wasn't up to the task and the partnership rested in four diamonds. The defence began with two spades ending in East, who shifted to a low heart to declarer's king. This pretty much marked West with ♣K, and there was some speculation among the kibitzers as to whether Charlsen might try to drop it, or lead low from his hand in an effort to sneak past it. When he finessed against it instead he was down one, but with 3♠ making the other way this was no great disaster. "Sorry," Charlsen might have said to his partner. "I should have passed the deal out."

At the other table Knottenbelt and Byrne tried harder for 3NT. The defence took the first six and de Botton had another 3 IMPs. After a flat game on 21 the segment had reached half way, and so had de Botton when it came to wiping

out their deficit – 35 behind at the start, they trailed by 18 now.

Board 22 saw declarer with a trump suit of ♠AQ10942 facing ♠753. If he had been in four he would have had to finesse the queen, finding a lucky K6 doubleton onside. In three spades Tommasini made the safety play of cashing the ace, costing himself an overtrick. Helgemo in the same contract did make the overtrick – not because he has forgotten elementary card combinations that he has known from the age of six months, but because his opponent had led a trump to trick one. 1 IMP to de Botton.

Board 23 gave rise to speculation:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tommasini	Hoftaniska	Norton	Charlsen
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	2♣	2♥	3♣
3♠	Pass	4♠	All pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Byrne	Heiberg-Evenstad	Knottenbelt
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

With East the declarer in the Closed Room there was no chance the contract would make – South led a heart and declarer took a club finesse as his only hope. That lost, a heart was cashed, and two down was the outcome. After

a transfer at the other table West declared the game and North led the suit his pair had bid and supported. That cost a trick, and declarer was in with a chance if he could avoid three spade losers. It's not that South should, or would, cover if the queen is led from the table, but you won't know if you don't try – of course, you might have some explaining to do if South's cover is because he has a singleton ace or king. Tommasini had no time for such shenanigans, and Knottenbelt scored 3 IMPs for the extra undertrick.

But then it all went quiet. The last five boards saw three flat games and a flat partscore, Knottenbelt collecting a couple of IMPs for overtricks. On the final deal the Wests had

♠ 8 ♥ Q ♦ K Q J 10 4 3 2 ♣ 7 5 4 3

in first seat at favourable vulnerability. Tommasini opened Four Diamonds and made eight tricks; Helgemo opened Five Diamonds and made nine tricks. North-South could actually make Four Hearts, but it would have been absurd for either of them to bid. De Botton had won the set by 30 IMPs to 18, but at the half way point in the match Knottenbelt had an advantage of 23 IMPs, 55-32.

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SWISS CUP

FINAL A

FINAL RANKING

1	ALTSHULER	111.67	11	ISRAEL BLUE	77.15
2	ZIMMERMANN	105.07	12	OLCZYK	76.21
3	FORMIDABLES	101.24	13	KALISH	76.14
4	BARIS	89.75	14	BRENO	73.74
5	SPS POLAND	87.42	15	ISTARI	72.67
6	GILLIS	84.75	16	FAJERWERKI	70.92
7	BRIDGESCANNER	84.34	17	OVERDECK	67.86
8	CRESTA RUN	83.82	18	NIKOS	64.45
9	MAVERICKS	80.97	19	44FUN	54.79
10	BIANCHI	80.72	20	CROATIA	50.65



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SWISS CUP

BUTLER RANKING FINAL A

AFTER ROUND 7

KALITA Jacek - KLUKOWSKI Michal	1.90	SUI-SUI	40
DJILOVIC Josko - MIJIC Ante	1.25	CRO-CRO	8
MANNO Andrea - PALMA Antonio	1.11	ITA-POR	56
FILIPOWICZ Dominik - CIESLAK Jaroslaw	1.08	POL-POL	40
GIERULSKI Boguslaw - SKRZYPczAK Jerzy	1.05	LTU-LTU	40
BIRMAN Alon - PADON Dror	0.91	ISR-ISR	56
ARASZKIEWICZ Konrad - KOTOROWICZ Krzysztof	0.83	POL-POL	48
BENDRE Kaustubh - KUSHARI Sayantan	0.83	IND-IND	40
PACHTMAN Ron - ZATORSKI Piotr	0.77	ISR-POL	56
KANDEMIR Ismail - KAYA Emre	0.75	TUR-TUR	56
NAWROCKI Piotr - WIANKOWSKI Piotr	0.75	POL-POL	32
MULTON Franck - ZIMMERMANN Pierre	0.75	SUI-SUI	24
NANDI Kaustabh - ROY Sagnik	0.72	IND-IND	32
MIJIC Ante - VIDOVIC Toni	0.63	CRO-CRO	8
BROGELAND Boye - BAKKE Christian	0.55	NOR-NOR	40
DELIMPALTADAKIS Nikos - VROUSTIS Vassilis	0.53	GRE-GRE	40
TOLEDANO Oren - ZAMIR Ami	0.50	ISR-ISR	48
FRANCHI Arrigo - DI FRANCO Massimiliano	0.48	ITA-ITA	56
KAHRAMAN Ahmet - CALISKAN Erdal	0.39	TUR-TUR	56
SLIWOWICZ Yonatan - MOSKOVITZ Ido	0.38	ISR-ISR	8
FILIPOWICZ Dominik - OLCZYK Jerzy	0.31	POL-POL	16
AVIRAM Yoram - ALTSHULER Gilad	0.30	ISR-ISR	56
MUKHERJEE Sumit - TEWARI Rajeshwar	0.28	IND-IND	40
MAHMOOD Zia - RIMSTEDT Ola	0.25	USA-SWE	56
SAELENSMINDE Erik - GILLIS Simon	0.18	NOR-ENG	56
MIJIC Ante - FERENCA Matko	0.13	CRO-CRO	16
TWARDOWSKI Andrzej - KOWALSKI Dariusz	0.13	POL-POL	8
KALISH Avi - GRINBERG Nir	0.10	ISR-ISR	48
MAGNUSSON Stephan - AMIGUET Jerome	0.09	SUI-SUI	56
STOECKLI Francois - STOECKLI Jeremie	0.04	SUI-SUI	56
PATREUHA Jakub - PATREUHA Patryk	0.03	POL-POL	40
SABBAH Ofek - MSIKA Daniel	-0.13	ISR-ISR	8
PATREUHA Patryk - MASKARA Subodh	-0.13	POL-IND	8
SABBAH Ofek - SLIWOWICZ Yonatan	-0.13	ISR-ISR	48
ENGEL Joseph - COHEN Dani	-0.15	ISR-ISR	40
BIANCHI Sergio - PORTA Federico	-0.17	ITA-ITA	24
AUSTBERG Per Erik - RASMUSSEN Arild	-0.19	NOR-NOR	16
VERHEES Jr Louk - BAKHSHI David	-0.19	NED-ENG	32
NOWOSADZKI Michal - NOWAK Kamil	-0.33	SUI-POL	48
MSIKA Daniel - MOSKOVITZ Ido	-0.33	ISR-ISR	48
BAUSBACK Nikolas - KONDOCH Hartmut	-0.38	GER-GER	56
BOGUCKI Darek - PAWLAK Andrzej	-0.38	POL-POL	8
KOWALSKI Dariusz - SIELICKI Tomasz	-0.47	POL-POL	32
GRUE Joe - RIMSTEDT Mikael	-0.48	USA-SWE	56
GIUBILO Valerio - PORTA Federico	-0.50	ITA-ITA	24
CHEN Lin-Huan - HSIEH Ding-Hwa	-0.54	USA-USA	56
ATTANASIO Dario - LANZAROTTI Massimo	-0.59	ITA-ITA	56
PAWLAK Andrzej - VALCHEV Vasil	-0.59	POL-POL	32
VAINIKONIS Vytautas - OLANSKI Wojtek	-0.63	LTU-LTU	32
VAINIKONIS Eriks - ARLOVICH Andrei	-0.63	LTU-LTU	40
BURAS Krzysztof - STRZEMECKI Wojciech	-0.63	POL-POL	40
NARKIEWICZ Grzegorz - GLASEK Grzegorz	-0.83	POL-POL	24
CIESLAK Jaroslaw - WIANKOWSKI Piotr	-1.06	POL-POL	16
GERLI Aldo Giovanni - OVERDECK John	-1.07	ITA-USA	56
FERENCA Matko - LESKOVAR Viktor	-1.08	CRO-CRO	40
GIUBILO Valerio - BIANCHI Sergio	-1.25	ITA-ITA	8
YADLIN Doron - ORENSTEIN Eitan	-1.25	ISR-ISR	24
TWARDOWSKI Andrzej - BOGUCKI Darek	-1.34	POL-POL	32
DUBOIN Giorgio - WARD-PLATT Kiki	-1.40	ITA-USA	40
VIDOVIC Toni - KATUSIC Filip	-1.58	CRO-CRO	40
ANKLESARIA Keyzad - MASKARA Subodh	-2.06	IND-IND	16
NAWROCKI Piotr - OLCZYK Jerzy	-5.00	POL-POL	8

MIXED TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

SEMIFINAL

RESULTS AFTER ROUND 4

1	BERNAL	87.50	24	BANANA	50.33
2	LAKO	76.06	25	COLORADO	50.19
3	EMI	71.50	26	GROUP ONE TEAM	49.32
4	GOLDBERG	67.46	27	GERMANY	49.19
5	DAISY CHAIN	66.95	28	SALLYS ACES	48.18
6	CROATIA	66.18	29	GOLD BARS	46.62
7	ZHANG	64.81	30	ALLEZ	45.93
8	LUNDBERG	62.97	31	FRIENDS	43.93
9	2 MANY GINGERS	59.74	32	TEAM LLAMA	43.77
10	NAMBAJUAN	59.46	33	ELER	42.79
11	ASHE	59.39	34	VICUNA	42.48
12	FRENCH CONNECTION	58.73	35	BLUE NOTE	41.63
13	CARE	58.34	36	NORDIC FOOURS	41.42
14	WAPO	58.13	37	TUTTI FRUTTI	39.51
15	DAUGAVA	58.03	38	LUTZ	39.19
15	DE BOTTON	58.03	39	SV BRIDGE CLUB	37.35
17	DRONKA	57.84	40	TURQUOISE	36.26
18	ALICE	57.56	41	NETTLETON	35.33
19	CREAZONE	54.00	42	BUNIO	34.98
20	BAHNICI	52.46	43	SORRY MISSCLICK	33.49
21	MILANBRIDGE.COM	50.92	44	REBID	32.72
22	BC MUENCHEN	50.89	45	OFER	32.50
23	AKINOM	50.49	46	BEKKER	29.98

BAM

1	LATVIA	43.00	9	VALLON BRIDGE	31.00
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3	TO BID OR NOT TO BID	38.00		BORTOLETTI	30.00
4	FRANCE GREEN	37.00		CAFIERO	30.00
5	POLAND U21 C	36.60		POLAND U21 A	30.00
6	BAMBI	35.00	14	KROWKA	29.00
7	POLAND U21 B	34.00	15	SWISS SENIORS	26.00
8	WARSAW UNIVERSITY	33.00	16	GDANSK	23.00

MIXED TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

BUTLER RANKING

AFTER ROUND 8

BERNAL Francisco - OZBAY Irem	2.14	COL-TUR	28
HEGEDUS Orsolya - WEINBERGER Simon	2.13	HUN-AUT	56
CECERE Amedeo - MARCELLI Cristina	1.96	ITA-ITA	28
KAZMUCHA Danuta - GAWEL Wojciech	1.86	POL-POL	42
TYLVAD Daniel - SIGSGAARD Julie Marina	1.63	DEN-DEN	56
CIMA Leonardo - DESSI Barbara	1.57	ITA-ITA	42
BERTHEAU Kathrine - YETTICK Garth	1.54	SWE-USA	28
SCHALTZ Martin - DUURSMA Judith	1.43	DEN-NED	56
PILIPOVIC Marina - MARINOVSKI Kiril	1.29	CRO-CRO	42
ROBERT Quentin - TARTARIN Anne-Laure	1.10	FRA-FRA	42
VALIMARESCU Dan - FILIMON Irina Elena	1.09	ROM-ROM	56
ASLAN Bulent - OZGUR Hatice	1.07	TUR-TUR	56
GOLDBERG Lars - GOLDBERG Ulla-Britt	1.07	SWE-SWE	56
PETELKO Lia - RETTER Koren	1.00	ISR-ISR	56
WANG Wen Fei - HAMPSON Geoff	0.96	HKG-USA	56
BERTHEAU Peter - MADSEN Christina Lund	0.96	SWE-DEN	56
VERSACE Alfredo - ALPERT Claire	0.95	ITA-USA	42
AUKEN Sabine - WELLAND Roy	0.76	DEN-DEN	42
PIEDRA Fernando - SAINZ DE VICUNA Maria	0.71	SUI-ESP	28
SMITH Abbey - PASKE Thomas	0.64	ENG-ENG	56
BUSSE Piotr - BUSSE Grazyna	0.54	POL-POL	56
BROCK Sally - GRAY Jonathan	0.54	ENG-ENG	56
JANSONS Ugis - VEKSA Natalija	0.50	LAT-LAT	56
ERDOGDU Helin - TORUN Bulent Ozgur	0.48	TUR-TUR	56
ZOCHOWSKA Joanna - SCHMIDT Pierre	0.48	FRA-FRA	42
SZCZEPANSKI Radoslaw - PIETRZYK Agnieszka	0.45	POL-POL	56
STEPINSKI Jeremi - ZALEWSKA Joanna	0.45	POL-POL	56
BAREL Michael - KATZ Paz	0.40	ISR-ISR	42
DELESTRE Blandine - DELESTRE Daniel	0.39	FRA-FRA	56
SAUTAUX Monika - WOZNIAK Tomasz	0.38	POL-POL	56
NEHMERT Pony Beate - FROEHNERR Christian	0.38	GER-GER	56
NEIMANIS Janis - ANDERSONE Ilze	0.34	LAT-LAT	56
JAGNIEWSKI Rafal - LUCKA Dominika	0.32	POL-POL	28
BAHNIKOVA Eva - BAHNIK Petr	0.30	CZE-CZE	56
ERBIL Erdinc - KURTOGLU ZABCI Hatice Akten	0.26	TUR-TUR	42
SERDAR Ekrem - DEMIRBILEK Zeynep Arzum	0.25	TUR-TUR	28
EFRAIMSSON Bengt-Erik - ZACK EFRAIMSSON Anna	0.25	SWE-SWE	56
WEISS SELWAY Florian - WEISS SELWAY Louise	0.23	AUT-AUT	56
GROMANN Ingrid - CAPPELLER Joachim	0.23	GER-GER	56
MISZEWSKA Ewa - ZAWISLAK Slawek	0.23	POL-POL	56
PAOLUZI Simonetta - MONTANARI Matteo	0.20	ITA-ITA	56
MARTENSEN-LARSEN Katrine - OLSEN Svein Arild Naas	0.18	DEN-NOR	56
DOBROWOLSKI Marcin - MADUZIA Anna	0.17	POL-POL	42
JANECZEK Marta - BUNIKOWSKI Andrzej	0.14	POL-POL	56
SIKORA Jacek - SIKORA Marta	0.11	POL-POL	28
WNUK Tomasz - KREGLEWSKA-WNUK Anna	0.10	POL-POL	42
SANDQVIST Niklas (Nick) - SHASHOU Nathalie	0.09	ENG-ENG	56
SARNIAK Anna - CHALUPEC Igor	0.07	POL-POL	42
ZMUDA Justyna - MARCINOWSKI Piotr	0.05	POL-POL	42
FRANCESCHETTI Pierre - SETTON Hilda	0.04	FRA-SUI	28
KOO Hor Yung Charmian - CHIANG Jeffrey	0.02	HKG-HKG	42
REES Tim - PUNCH Sam	0.02	WAL-SCO	42



BREWIAK Grazyna - HUTYRA Maciej	0.00	POL-POL	28
ROSTHOEJ Ella - HAMMELEV Nikolaj	-0.04	DEN-DEN	56
SMYKALLA Gisela - SCHNEIDER Michael	-0.05	GER-GER	56
MACURA Milan - MACUROVA Michaela	-0.07	CZE-CZE	28
HERBST Ophir - ASULIN Adi	-0.13	ISR-ISR	56
LANTARON Luis - SAINZ DE VICUNA Maria	-0.18	ESP-ESP	28
BAHNIK Ondrej - KOHUTOVA Lucie	-0.20	CZE-CZE	56
SIMIC Olga - SIMIC Mihailo	-0.20	SER-SER	56
WROBEL Michal - KALISORAS Justyna	-0.21	POL-POL	28
FOLTYN Adrian - KLUPS Aleksandra	-0.21	POL-POL	42
LORENZINI Cedric - MICHELSEN Marion	-0.24	FRA-SWE	42
JANISZEWSKI Przemyslaw - SUSZANOWICZ Natalia	-0.24	POL-POL	42
LUESSMANN Claudia - LUESSMANN Ingo	-0.25	GER-GER	56
HULT Simon - LUNDBERG Anne-Marie Katarina	-0.25	SWE-SWE	56
ZORIC Vedran - SVER Nikica	-0.29	CRO-CRO	42
PREDDY Kay - SELWAY Norman	-0.32	ENG-ENG	56
GOBEKLI Altug - OZAYDIN TANRIOVER Zerrin	-0.36	TUR-TUR	42
CHMURSKI Bartosz - OCYLOK Dominika	-0.36	POL-POL	28
GRZEJDZIAK Igor - GRZEJDZIAK Sabina	-0.38	POL-POL	42
POPLILOV Lilo - POPLILOV Matilda	-0.39	BUL-ISR	28
PIEDRA Fernando - MEDIERO Marina	-0.39	SUI-ESP	28
VINCENT Christine - ABOU CHANAB Bachar	-0.40	SUI-SUI	42
WONG Hoi-Kei - LI Suet Yu Zoe	-0.40	HKG-HKG	42
GLADIATOR Anne - JANSON Bjorn	-0.46	GER-GER	56
CHODOROWSKA Irena - CHODOROWSKI Jan	-0.48	POL-POL	56
OZER Ahmet Murat - KANLIKILIC Ferda	-0.50	TUR-TUR	28
KORBEL Daniel - ZHANG Susan	-0.55	USA-USA	56
BRKLJACIC Tihana - MESTRIC Mate	-0.57	CRO-CRO	28
OZBAY Tolga - ERYANIK Ceyda	-0.57	TUR-TUR	14
HERMANN Sophie - CRISAFULLI SADABA Patricio	-0.61	AUT-AUT	56
HOLOWACZ Krzysztof - CHMIELEWSKA Magdalena	-0.64	POL-POL	42
ALPER Toygar - OZAN Eren	-0.69	TUR-TUR	42
BILDE Dorte Cilleborg - BILDE Morten	-0.71	DEN-DEN	42
BROGELAND Tonje Aasand - BROGELAND Anders	-0.71	NOR-NOR	56
BASARIR Ipek - ELER Cuneyt	-0.73	TUR-TUR	56
MENGU Kenan - SEN Nuray	-0.73	TUR-TUR	56
ROSSARD Martine - ROMANOWSKI Jerzy	-0.75	FRA-FRA	56
KANDULA Paweł - ZYCHLINSKA Małgorzata	-0.76	POL-POL	42
OZKURT Kenan - OZKOK KOCAMAN Ilkay	-0.81	TUR-TUR	42
MERCIL Yasemin - ARSLAN Mustafa	-0.81	TUR-TUR	42
YADLIN Israel - MORAN OHAYON Orit	-0.86	ISR-ISR	42
BABSCH Andreas - SCHRECKENBERGER Ulrike	-0.96	AUT-AUT	56
WONG Wai Man Flora - CHUI Daniel Siu Wai	-0.96	HKG-HKG	28
HARAMATI Ofer - BRAJOVIC Ana Zorana	-0.98	ISR-SER	56
LIRAN Inon - BEKKER Jeny	-1.00	ISR-ISR	42
DELLE CAVE Giuseppe - CARE Livia	-1.04	ITA-ITA	28
LANTARON Luis - MEDIERO Marina	-1.07	ESP-ESP	28
ASHE Steven - MARCIC Jovana	-1.07	USA-SER	56
GOLD David - NETTLETON Diana	-1.13	ENG-ENG	56
WARE Peggy - JONES Spencer	-1.21	USA-USA	56
SASSELLI Marco - SAESSELI Irene	-1.24	SUI-SUI	42
SUZER Ugurcan - DEMIRBILEK Zeynep Arzum	-1.43	TUR-TUR	28
HOLOWACZ Michal - CHMIELEWSKA Antonina	-1.48	POL-POL	42
BERTHEAU Kathrine - ABRAGI Andreas	-1.50	SWE-SWE	28
SAFTA Florin - GUJA Alexandra	-1.59	ROM-ROM	56
SAPORTA Pierre - SAPORTA-TWORZYDŁO Renata	-1.93	FRA-FRA	28
ERBIL Erdinc - ALUF Maisy	-2.07	TUR-TUR	14
ALPER Toygar - ALUF Maisy	-2.43	TUR-TUR	14

OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

FINALS

FINAL RANKINGS

FINAL A

1	SOFFER Ram	SHEFFY Ron	ISR - ISR	56.30
2	GROSSACK Zachary	HOTAMISLIGIL Selen	USA - USA	53.42
3	AVCIOGLU Huseyin Kerem	SOFU Serkan	TUR - TUR	52.75
4	RUS Gregor	STEFANEC Kristijan	SLO - CRO	52.48
5	GISIN Eitan	ZAIDENBERG GATT Sophie	ISR - ISR	51.98
6	JANIK Stanislaw	SOLECKI Piotr	POL - POL	51.86
7	SOBCZAK Mateusz	BLICHARZ Grzegorz	POL - ENG	51.76
8	SLEMR Jakub	PYSZKO Adam	CZE - CZE	51.56
9	GRZYBEK Eugeniusz	LESNICZAK Jacek	POL - GER	50.97
10	MARTENS Krzysztof	WITEK Marek	POL - POL	50.63
11	KRASNOSELSKI Mikhail	FEOFANOV Maxim	ISR - ISR	49.27
12	VOLHEJN Vit	VOLHEJN Petr	CZE - CZE	44.92
13	KNOB Markus	WANHA Clemens	AUT - AUT	43.55
14	DRUCH Jan	DAWIEC Anna	POL - POL	38.21

FINAL B

1	CARLETTI Alessandro	VIGNAGA Gianluca	ITA - ITA	60.10
2	GRODZICKI Lukasz	HANDKE Pawel	POL - POL	59.26
3	LEKKI Janusz	RADZIKOWSKI Piotr	POL - POL	58.90
4	KOROS Boris	VODICKA Michal	SVK - SVK	54.02
5	CAUMEL Jean Patrick	TAQUOI Jacques	FRA - FRA	53.88
6	TEGMEN Mehmet Alper	KILICARSLAN Hilmi	TUR - TUR	53.64
7	SCHEBERAN Philip	EDER Felix	AUT - AUT	53.58
8	BORA Serdal	MERMER Ilhan	TUR - TUR	53.52
9	BURG Thomas	ZELNIK Peter	AUT - AUT	53.34
10	JELENIEWSKI Andrzej	TARNOGRODZKI Leszek	POL - POL	53.00
11	SAVINI Marco	BALANESCU Alexandru-Ervin	ITA - SUI	52.96
12	SUBASI Kemal	HURI Necla	TUR - TUR	52.90
13	LUKIANIUK Andrzej	RZECHULA Andrzej	POL - POL	52.14
14	KLANJSCEK Jasminka	CEKOL Zorana	CRO - CRO	50.84
15	MEYTAL Kfir	MEYOUHAS Yacov	ISR - ISR	50.62
16	LAUSS Wolfgang	BERGER Heinrich	AUT - AUT	50.49
17	LOHAY Karol	KRATKY Jan	SVK - CZE	48.38
18	GINOSSAR Itamar	RICH Joseph	ISR - ARG	46.95
19	SARTORIO Claudio	MARTINI Giorgio	ITA - ITA	44.19
20	BROUNS Marc	THYS Carine	BEL - BEL	43.74
21	MRKIC Iva	PROBST Sandra	CRO - CRO	43.37
22	MYLONAKIS Periklis	SIDIROPOULOS Pavlos	GRE - GRE	41.64
23	BELCAK Peter	HENC Marian	SVK - SVK	39.84
24	LECANTE Francois	RAIKO RAIKOVSKY Vadim	FRA - FRA	38.11

64 INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE FESTIVAL PULA

years of memories

PROGRAMME

Fri,	Sept 11 th	4 p.m.	Welcome Pairs
Sat,	Sept 12 th	4 p.m.	IMP Pairs
Sun,	Sept 13 th	noon	Mixed & Open Teams
Mon,	Sept 14 th	noon	Mini-Teams BAM
Tue,	Sept 15 th	4 p.m.	Lara Mixed & Open Pairs
Wed,	Sept 16 th	noon	Open Teams
Thu,	Sept 17 th	noon	Open Teams
Fri,	Sept 18 th	11 a.m.	Open Teams - final A
Fri,	Sept 18 th	4 p.m.	Brk Open Pairs
Sat,	Sept 19 th	1 p.m.	Brk Open Pairs
	Sept, 20 th - 21 st	5 p.m.	Daily Additional Pairs

September, 11 - 21, 2026

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