



1st European Online Transnational Mixed Teams Championship

14 – 17 May 2026 • Online on RealBridge

BULLETIN
N° 2

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Editors: Amy Casanova ♠ Francesca Canali

Mind the Cut

After six rounds, **Edmonds** lead on 91.64 VPs. More than ten points behind, **Sushi Belt** sit on 81.37 VPs and **Mixed Belgium** on 80.60 VPs.

But the real verdict of the day will be **the cut line**. The top eight teams at the end of today's five remaining qualification rounds will earn their seats in Group A, the group that will decide the title of the first-ever European Online Transnational Mixed Teams Championship.

Below that line, the field will be divided as follows: teams placed 9–16 will join Group B, 17–24 will join Group C, and 25–32 will join Group D. All these groups will play a round robin. The remaining eighteen teams will play in Group E, in Swiss format.

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RANKING AFTER ROUND 6

1	EDMONDS	91.64	26	MORGENSTERN	60.65
2	SUSHI BELT	81.37	27	PONTE PARA O FUTURO	60.53
3	MIXED BELGIUM	80.60	28	FAROE ISLANDS	59.29
4	MIXED SIGNALS	80.47	29	RONNIE BARR	58.65
5	ISTANBUL	76.57	30	SHOURIE	56.92
6	SWEDEN	75.44	31	MIXTERY	56.59
7	MAK MAN	73.64	32	LATVIA	55.99
8	UKRAINE	73.56	33	TURQUOISE	54.86
9	AROMEX	73.53	34	GLADIATORS II	54.76
10	ROIKO	72.68	35	RATRUT	53.14
11	ARYA	71.32	36	TURKISH POWER	50.98
12	NETTLETON	70.80	37	BID72	50.57
13	LONDON CALLING	70.52	38	BJING	50.12
14	SHARK LLAMA	69.69	39	CEYCEY	48.36
15	ESTONIA	68.72	40	MUTE	48.33
16	FORCING PROBABLY	67.15	41	SV BRIDGE CLUB	48.30
17	OGRE	65.12	42	KNIGHTCLUBBERS	47.94
18	MPO	64.70	43	PITAGORAS	47.05
19	MSV	64.60	44	PARTIAL MAGIC	44.37
20	INCREDIBELLES N BROS	64.58	45	HEP MAVI	43.03
21	EWSKA	63.14	46	CLAIRIS	42.64
22	HEXAGON	61.06	47	CAJICA	42.11
23	THE GREAT 8	61.02	48	THE TRIPLE THREAT	42.06
24	GAUSS	61.00	49	ISRAEL DIAMONDS	37.01
25	BINGHAM	60.71	50	FRIENDS	14.12



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Dear Participants and Friends,

This first Transnational Online Mixed Teams Championship represents much more than just another online competition.

When women and men compete together as equal partners at the table, bridge gains a special dimension.

The mixed category brings together different perspectives, experiences, styles of thinking, different approaches to the game and a unique atmosphere at the table.

The continued growth of the mixed category around the world also creates important opportunities for women players.

Competing alongside strong partners, teammates and opponents from both genders helps build confidence, visibility and long-term development at the highest level.

I am proud to see so many players - including some of today's biggest names and world-class competitors - coming together from different countries to celebrate our game in this special event.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who contributed to the organization of this championship.

Both the EBL and RealBridge teams worked together to ensure that everything runs smoothly despite the various technical and logistical challenges involved in an online transnational competition.

May this championship bring great Bridge, new friendships and lasting partnerships both at and away from the table.

Dryah Meir

Chair, EBL Women's Committee



Evaluate this Hand with Me

BY MARK HORTON

In the second round of the European Online Transnational Mixed Teams Championship I pick up these cards:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ A 7
♥ 8
♦ A 7 3
♣ Q 10 8 6 5 4 2


When my partner opens with a strong 1NT I have to determine what my hand is worth. A seven card suit and controls in the other three is a potentially powerful combination (12.5 on the Kaplan-Rubens hand evaluator) so a slam is not out of the question. My first move will be to transfer to clubs, especially as partner's response will tell me if she has a club fit. I am about to bid 2♠ when I notice that West has doubled, which is explained as promising the majors. Luckily, we have a way to cope with intervention, as we are playing Rubensohl, which allows me to bid 2NT, a transfer to Clubs that promises at least invitational values. I won't know much about partner's club support, but over 3♣ I will be able to continue with a bid in a major suit, indicating that I have the values for game. However, that possibility goes out of the window when East bids 3♠. When my partner passes so does East. I would like to bid 4♣, but will partner take it as forcing? I could try 4♥, but perhaps that suggests a better club suit. I settle for 5♣ which ends the auction, leaving us with this sequence:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1NT
Dble*	2NT*	3♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

East leads the ♠Q and I win with the ♠A and play a low club. When East discards the ♦6 I win with dummy's ♣A and play another club, West winning and switching to the ♦K. I win, draw the outstanding trump and claim, +420.

This was the full deal:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Post mortem

Given that you are likely to lose a club trick, the location of the ♦K determines the fate of 6♣. One can argue that the intervention makes it more likely that West will hold the ♦K, but as is often the case, a contested auction complicated matters. With a maximum, a fit for clubs and stoppers in both majors my partner might have bid 3NT over 3♠, but I might have risked 6♣ on the basis that partner was likely to have some useful minor suit cards.

In the other room South started with a Polish 1♣ and when West overcalled 1♥ my hand made a two-way transfer to clubs with 2♠ (6+♣, weak or strong) and then raised 2NT to 3NT so we lost a couple of IMPs.

Would anyone reach 6♣ given a free run?

This is what happened when teams from Egypt and Israel were in opposition:

Ratrut v Ronnie Barr

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Retter</i>	<i>Dagher</i>	<i>Petelko</i>	<i>Ghosn</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♠*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	6♣	All Pass	
2♠ Clubs			
2NT Fit			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Botrous</i>	<i>N Tal</i>	<i>El Selehdar</i>	<i>Zack</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♠*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3NT
	All Pass		

- 2♠ Clubs
- 2NT Fit and maximum
- 3♥ Short hearts

Starting with a transfer to clubs is not the only

way to approach the North hand as witness this encounter between teams from England and Spain:

Sushi Belt v Gauss

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sabate</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>De Lorenzo</i>	<i>Shashou</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

2♣ Non promissory Stayman

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Knottenbelt</i>	<i>Fractman</i>	<i>Handley-P.</i>	<i>Fernandez</i>
—	—	—	1NT
2♣*	3♣	3♠	3NT
All Pass			

2♣ Majors

Nine pairs bid 6♣ and MSV (an alliance involving Portugal, Spain and Sweden) collected a couple of IMPs against Türkiye's Ceycey by playing in 6NT.

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Upsetting the Odds

BY MARK HORTON

On this deal from Round 2, 9 pairs reached a somewhat ambitious 6♣.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

When the contract was played by South and West led a heart (as did Arni Dam and Uday Maitra) declarer had no real chance.

When North was declarer, or the lead was a trump, declarer was at least not down immediately.


With only 10 top tricks, the other will have to come from the major suits. If you luck is in you will score three tricks in hearts 8.72% of the time by starting with a low heart from the ♥1032 hoping to find West with the ♥KQ. If West plays an honour you win and subsequently play a second low heart towards the ♥J65.

You might try starting hearts by playing the ♥10, hoping that West will not cover with ♥K/Qxx, but you would be lucky to get away with it.

Four spade tricks would be enough, but that is only a 5.16% chance.

Suppose you decide to play on spades rather than hearts?

When a spade to the jack holds you draw trumps, unblock the ♠K, come to hand with a diamond, pitch a heart on the ♠A, and ruff a spade. This will be the position...

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

Forced to hold on to three hearts, East has had to come down to a doubleton diamond. Declarer plays two rounds of diamonds, ruffing and exits with a low heart to endplay East.

If the spade finesse loses, you are not quite down, but will need to find the ♠10 falling and West to be 2-3-6-2 with both heart honours (you can squeeze West in the red suits).

On the one occasion where 6♣ was made (declarer did attack hearts early but eventually took four spade tricks) the contract in the other room was a modest 2♣ (easy enough if you forget you are playing inverted raises!).

Provided North is declarer you can make 6NT. Of the two players who declared that contract, one had no chance when West led the ♥9 but the other got a spade lead from East. He took West's ♠Q, crossed to dummy with the ♣Q and advanced the ♥10, East winning with the ♥K and exiting with the ♦5. Declarer won in dummy, unblocked the spades, cashed the ♣K, went to dummy with the ♠10 and played a heart to the jack, which meant one down.

We can see that cashing the ♠A would have reaped a huge reward, but suppose East had started with ♠10743. If declarer cashes four club tricks East will be forced to come down to ♠107♥Q8. When declarer crosses to the ♦K East has to pitch a heart. After cashing the ♠A declarer is left with a guess in the heart suit.

They're Both Here

BY FRANCESCA CANALI



Justyna Żmuda and Michał Klukowski

When you sit down at a bridge table with your spouse, two things can happen: you either find **perfect harmony**, or you unlock a brand-new level of **marital patience**.

Michał Klukowski and **Justyna Żmuda**, two of the strongest players on the international circuit, seem to have found that harmony.

Married, parents of a little girl, they normally play on separate teams, but in this championship they play together.

Taken individually they are already among the most fearsome opponents you can face at a table; we can only imagine how their opponents feel when both of them pop up in the little webcam windows on RealBridge.

Their team, Edmonds, is currently leading the ranking.

In between rounds, we try to see if we can get past that deep, impenetrable Polish gaze. Obviously not.

We start with the riskiest question: is there a habit your partner has at the table that secretly drives you crazy? Both go full diplomacy. Michał doesn't even point at his wife, choosing instead a general remark: "Not at all. Maybe when they bid No Trump more often than they should... does it count?"

Justyna: "There's no such thing."

So we try the opposite question: what is one bridge quality you truly admire in your partner?

Michał, half-serious: "That they are capable of playing with me, obviously! It is way more difficult than it may seem."

Justyna takes a warmer route: "That he always tries to care about partner in every moment of the board. If it is only possible, he plays in a way which reduces a chance of making a mistake by me. I appreciate that a lot."

A question just for Justyna: do you ever discuss hands played with other partners and secretly expect Michał to say "you were right"?

She says: "Very often, obviously. But I know he is honest with his opinion. I do not have problem accepting criticism."

And one just for Michał: do you ever get a little jealous when Justyna plays exceptionally well with another partner in the Mixed?

"I used to have some of these issues in the past. Nowadays I feel only proudness."

When we ask what advice they would give to a young couple who want to play bridge together without destroying their relationship, they are perfectly aligned. Justyna goes practical: "Postpone longer analyses until the end of the day, when emotions subside a bit. Talk about expectations, and what bothers us. And above all, enjoy the time together."

Michał goes philosophical: "Bridge partnerships develop, alike relationships. Each pair has to find their way, but for sure it is good not to overreact about bridge, particularly at the table. Everybody does things in a good faith."

We close with our favourite question, for Justyna: has your daughter already realized that her parents are bridge celebrities? "I do not think she has ever analyzed it. She always wishes us all the best when we are leaving, expecting us to come back home with a trophy for her."

Apparently, in this family, the pressure starts early.

Mixed Signals vs Sweden

BY AMY CASANOVA

After three rounds, the top two teams in the standings faced one another for Round 4.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Bertheau</i>	<i>Janson</i>	<i>M. Bertheau</i>	<i>Gladiator</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	Dbl
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Good decisions all around in the bidding, South patiently waiting to describe her hand and West judging to save against 4♥ – which should easily take 10 tricks, but not 11 (double-dummy).

North led his singleton club to the jack and queen, declarer contributing the 2. South next played the ♦K to the 4 and partner's 7. Anything but a club now will lead to down one or two, but South cashed the ♣A and led another for partner to ruff. Declarer ruffed with the ♠Q, drew trumps and claimed.

With no more tricks coming in diamonds, North's card should be suit-preference. A heart shift is safe and removes a dummy entry. South's club spots sitting over East are good enough to

realize there is not enough time to set up the suit for discards.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Schwalback</i>	<i>Asplund Sivelind</i>	<i>Guendel</i>	<i>Asplund</i>
—	Pass	1♣*	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

East's 1♣ was 2+ and South decided to overcall 1NT. After North transferred to hearts, he super-super accepted. West led the ♠K and continued the suit to East's ace, declarer ruffing. He next led the ♥J to the ace, East switching to the stiff diamond, won in dummy. The ♥K drew the remaining trumps and a successful club finesse found a parking place for dummy's losing diamond – making five for 13 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 3. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Bertheau</i>	<i>Janson</i>	<i>M. Bertheau</i>	<i>Gladiator</i>
—	—	—	1♦
1♠	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

The ♠K lead was won with the ace. Declarer finessed in spades then cashed the ♦A, fetching a suspicious-looking jack from West. The only way to succeed now is to abandon trumps and crossruff. Declarer drew another round of trumps – finessing the 8 – but was a trick short.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Schwalback	Asplund Sivelind	Guendel	Asplund
—	—	—	1♣
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

North got her hoped-for reopening double and converted to penalty. She led her ♥6 which, with perfect defense, could result in down three. South won with the ace and led his stiff trump, still OK, but now North must play the ♦A and another, tapping West. Instead, she cashed the ♠A, South playing the ♥7, and led the ♦7. South ducked, probably wanting to make sure there was no dummy entry to the hearts, so West

won with the singleton jack, pulled trumps and escaped for down one. Still, 6 IMPs for Sweden. They had a chance to add to their lead here:

Board 5. Dealer North. N-S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
K. Bertheau	Janson	M. Bertheau	Gladiator
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	2♦	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Schwalback	Asplund Sivelind	Guendel	Asplund
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	2♦	2♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

I was surprised no one made a move toward slam with the West hand: push board. At other tables, North opened some level of diamonds, making things easier.

West	North	East	South
Tuczynski	Bigdeli	Gorska	Piper
Knottenbelt	Reess	Handley-P.	Librecht
—	3♦	Pass	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

West had an easy cuebid after a 3♦ opening bid.

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8 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

<h4 style="color: red; margin: 0;">TEAMS</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Open Teams ■ Women's Teams ■ Senior Teams ■ Mixed Teams 	<h4 style="color: green; margin: 0;">PAIRS</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Open Pairs ■ Women's Pairs ■ Senior Pairs ■ Mixed Pairs
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West <i>Moran</i>	North <i>Fractman</i>	East <i>McIntosh</i>	South <i>Fernandez</i>	Open Room West <i>K. Bertheau</i>	North <i>Janson</i>	East <i>M. Bertheau</i>	South <i>Gladiator</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1NT	—	—	—	1♣
2♦*	Pass	3♦*	Pass	—	—	—	2NT
4♣*	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥*
4NT*	Pass	5♣	Dbl	Pass	3♣*	Pass	4♦*
5♦*	Pass	6♠	All Pass	Pass	3♠*	Pass	
				Pass	6♥	All Pass	

This constructive-looking auction by N-S did not stop Sara Moran and Andrew McIntosh of LONDON CALLING. 2♦ showed the majors, and East's 3♦ flagged spades and was a game try. West showed a control in clubs and bid key card after East's 4♥ control. Even though 5♣ was doubled, West could be sure East held a minor-suit ace plus the ♥K, so the excellent slam was bid and made.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

- 3♣ Asking
- 3♥ Three ♥, <five ♣
- 3♠ RKCB for ♥
- 4♦ Positive, zero or three

Closed Room

West <i>Schwalback</i>	North <i>Asplund Sivelind</i>	East <i>Guendel</i>	South <i>Asplund</i>
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

- 1♣ 2+
- 3♣ Asking

In the Open Room, where the slam was bid, declarer won the ♦10 opening lead, drew trumps and led a club to the 10 – down one. At the other table, they stopped in game making six when declarer led a club to the ace then a club to her hand, West hopping up with the king. That was another 13 IMPs to Sweden, who won the match 33–13.



EUROPEAN NATIONAL PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS

♠ WOMEN'S ♥ SENIORS ♦ MIXED ♣





ZONE 1



COMPETE FOR THE TITLE OF EUROPEAN CHAMPION



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27 - 30 JUNE | RIGA, LATVIA

INFORMATION →

EDMONDS surges, SUSHI BELT rallies into contention

BY AMY CASANOVA

After Round 5, EDMONDS topped the leaderboard with 76.35, having blitzed GLADIATORS II in Round 4 and defeating SWEDEN (now in second with 69.72) 14-4 in Round 5. AROMEX sat in third with 68.82 and SUSHI BELT fourth with 67.09. SUSHI BELT also had a fourth-round blitz, then a solid round vs. ROIKO, moving them up from 20th place.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pelossof</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Friedlander</i>	<i>Shashou</i>
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♠	2♥	Dbt*
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

2+
Three-card support

The ♥Q was taken with dummy's ace. Declarer took a diamond finesse into East's stiff king, and now 2♠ could be defeated. East exited with the ♥6 to West's king; she returned the ♣4 to the ace. When East played the ♥J, declarer ruffed and led a spade, East ducking. Declarer finessed the jack, losing to the queen. West can still set this by playing a counter-intuitive-looking ♣Q, getting a club ruff when partner gets in with the

trump ace, but not being able to see through the cards, she returned a diamond. East ruffed the ♦A with the ♠A but that was their last trick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Knottenbelt</i>	<i>Rizzo</i>	<i>Handley-P.</i>	<i>Rojko</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	2♥	Dbt*
Pass	2♠	3♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dbt
All Pass			

East did not go quietly over 2♠, instead bidding his five-card club suit. West made a rather optimistic jump to the heart game. Leading any black card lets this make while any red card leads to defeat. South led the ♠2, 590 for SUSHI BELT and 12 IMPs.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pelossof</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Friedlander</i>	<i>Shashou</i>
—	Pass	3♦	Dbt
4♦	Pass	Pass	Dbt
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dbt
All Pass			


East's nasty preempt and West's tepid raise over South's double worked out well here, a lesson in walking the dog from team ROIKO.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Knottenbelt</i>	<i>Rizzo</i>	<i>Handley-P.</i>	<i>Rojko</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
All Pass			

South might have been disappointed that 1♣ was passed out until she saw the score: win 12 IMPs. 5♦ doubled and making was not an uncommon score, but there were only two 5♣ doubled making. West must lead the ♠A and another for a ruff to set it.

Board 19. Dealer South. E-W Vul.


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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pelossof</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Friedlander</i>	<i>Shashou</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

An odd short-suit lead – the ♣6 – was won in hand with the 7. Declarer led a heart to the ace and a diamond towards his hand, North

taking the queen to continue hearts. South won with the king and exited with the ♥4 to the 8. Declarer next played the ♣Q to North's ace, who exited with the ♣J to the king, South playing the ♠5. We've reached this position:

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

If declarer plays his ♥J, North is squeezed in three suits. Declarer instead played his ♦J, overtaking with the ace and cashing the king. He's still OK if he ducks a spade to South but he went up with the ace, cashed the ♥J and conceded down one.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Knottenbelt</i>	<i>Rizzo</i>	<i>Handley-P.</i>	<i>Rojko</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Played from the other side, North led a fourth-best club ducked to hand and a diamond was led to the jack. The suit was continued until North took the queen; he exited with a heart to the 9, king and ace and declarer had an easy path to 10 tricks and 12 IMPs.


3NT by East with a club lead was down several times.

EDMONDS keeps rolling

BY AMY CASANOVA

The superstar squad EDMONDS (Katarzyna Dufurat, Jodi Edmonds, Joel Wooldridge, Piotr Zatorski, Justyna Zmuda, Michal Klukowski) maintained their commanding spot on the leaderboard, defeating AROMEX (Aria Mayorga, Camila Nunez, Pierre Pejacsevich, Carlos Pellegrini, Silvina Rocca, Gerardo Siano, Nadia Valeanu, Mary Ann White, Gerardo Siano) 24-7 in Round 6.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mayorga</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Pejacsevich</i>	<i>Edmonds</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>	<i>Zmuda</i>	<i>Rocca</i>
1♣*	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♦	Dbl	Pass	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

West started out with a Polish club, clarifying

18+ HCP with three hearts at his second turn. East's 2♥ showed 11+ HCP. 3♣ was natural, and 3♠ showed no shortness "in principle." 3NT asked again about shortness. East cuebid her club control and even though 5♦ was doubled for the lead, the heart slam was reached. It's still not a laydown, Zmuda won the ♦A and led the ♥10 to her ace. She next played the ♥2 to the queen, South showing out, and picked up the trumps. She next ran clubs, pitching spades from hand and led dummy's ♦5, North being marked with the ♦K. Making six was good for 11 IMPs.

Board 26. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mayorga</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Pejacsevich</i>	<i>Edmonds</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♥	All Pass

1NT was forcing; East rebid the nice five-card suit. South led the ♦7 to the queen, king and ace; North shifting to a low trump. East put in the 10, losing to the jack. South continued with the ♦2 to the 10, and North played another heart. Declarer won with the ace and played a spade to the jack. Best now is to ruff a diamond with the 9 and pull the last trump, but not knowing

that they split 3-3, declarer led a reasonable spade to the king and ace. South exited with the ♣2 and when declarer didn't guess correctly to put up the jack, he was down two.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>	<i>Zmuda</i>	<i>Rocca</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

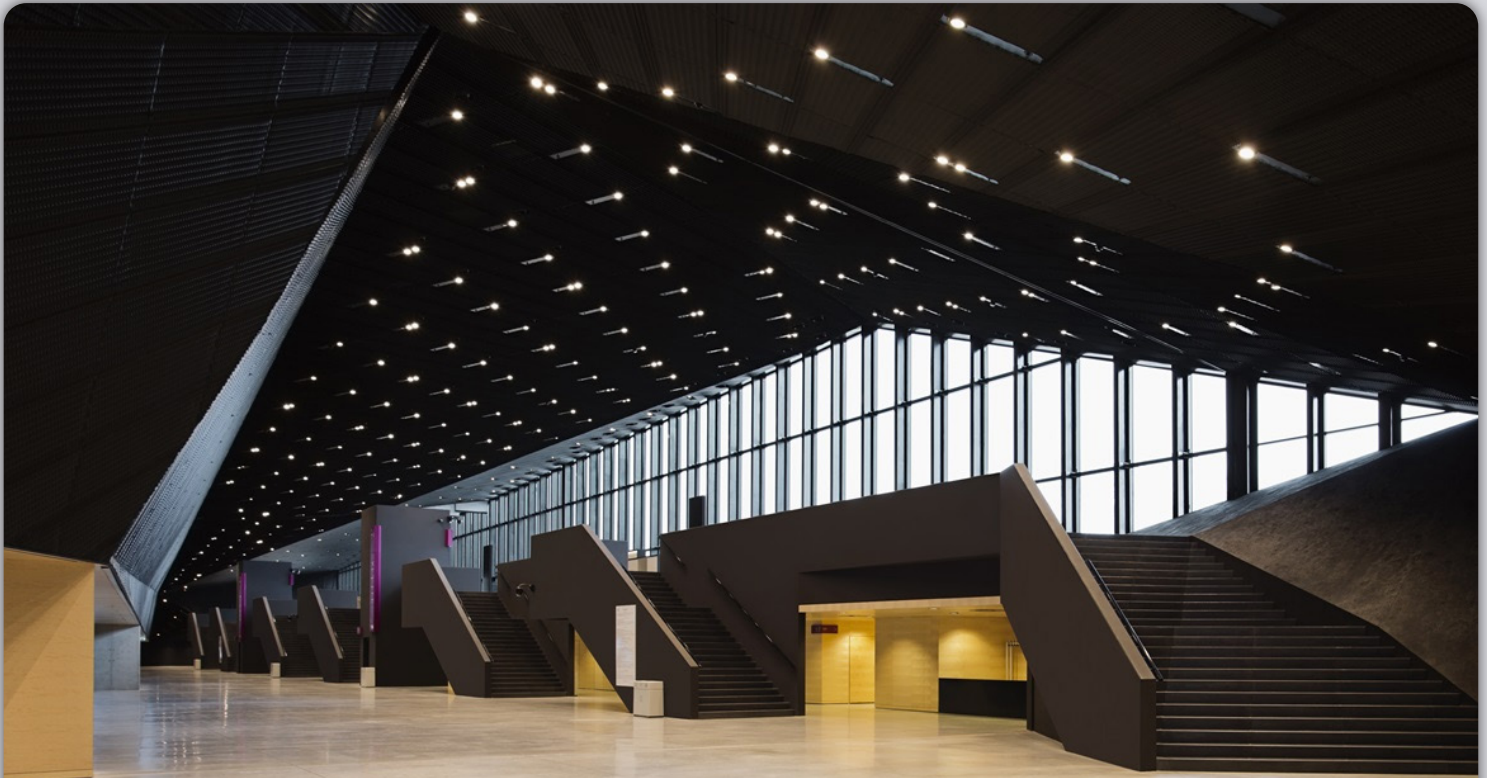
This is almost certainly a takeout double but North sat it out, holding what looks like three

trump winners and another ace. He led the ♠7 to the king and ace, and South switched to the ♣2. Klukowski ducked this and North took the ace to return another club, but that was the end of the defense. Plus 180 and plus 200 from the other table was good for 9 IMPs.

EDMONDS has a 10 VP lead over SUSHI BELT, currently in second place.

Two more rounds are added to tomorrow's schedule to determine the top 8 teams who will play in Group A. The other teams will be divided into the remaining groups to play the final day in a round robin.

Stay tuned!



World Bridge Series

KATOWICE, POLAND

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BUTLER RANKING

			Average	Boards
1	MIXED SIGNALS	Joerg FRITSCHE & Susanne KRIFTNER	2.91	40
2	CEYCEY	Ceyda ERYANIK & Volkan DENIZCI	2.37	10
3	ESTONIA	Margaret BRAUN & Aleksis ZALITIS	2.21	30
4	EDMONDS	Justyna ZMUDA & Michal KLUKOWSKI	1.79	30
5	TURQUOISE	Mert BILGEN & Eren OZAN	1.69	20
6	SWEDEN	Krister AHLESVED & Catharina AHLESVED	1.42	30
7	MIXED BELGIUM	Valerie CARCASSONNE-LABAERE & Alain LABAERE	1.4	40
8	EDMONDS	Piotr ZATORSKI & Katarzyna DUFRAT	1.37	30
9	MSV	Almudena MARTORELL & Antonio PALMA	1.37	30
10	NETTLETON	Graham OSBORNE & Frances HINDEN	1.34	60
11	PARTIAL MAGIC	Ronit OFIR & Albert SPYER	1.28	10
12	AROMEX	Pierre PEJACSEVICH & Maria MAYORGA	1.27	40
13	OGRE	Ilze ANDERSONE & Janis NEIMANIS	1.21	30
14	MSV	Almudena MARTORELL & Arturo WASIK	1.16	30
15	ROIKO	Joseph FRANK & Silvana ROJKO	1.12	20
16	MIXED BELGIUM	Huub BERTENS & Tine DOBBELS	1.06	30
17	ISTANBUL	Dilek YAVAS & Yusuf KAHYAAGLU	1.05	40
18	EWSKA	Aleksandra GORSKA & Piotr TUCZYNSKI	0.98	50
19	MAK MAN	Abdelrahim MEHILBA & Marie HINDIE	0.93	60
20	ISTANBUL	Ebru ATEŞ & Ugurcan SUZER	0.92	40
21	SHARK LLAMA	Andreas BABSCH & Ulrike SCHRECKENBERGER	0.9	50
22	EDMONDS	Joel WOOLDRIDGE & Jodi EDMONDS	0.88	60
23	LONDON CALLING	John ATTHEY & Sally ANOYRKATIS	0.88	50
24	SUSHI BELT	Niklas (Nick) SANDQVIST & Nathalie SHASHOU	0.86	60
25	BINGHAM	Paul FEGARTY & Catherine CURTIS	0.8	60
26	KNIGHTCLUBBERS	Martin PURDY & Adrienne PURDY	0.75	30
27	OGRE	Gundega LOJANE & Eriks VILUNAS	0.74	60
28	SHARK LLAMA	Florian WEISS SELWAY & Louise WEISS SELWAY	0.74	30
29	RONNIE BARR	Lia PETELKO & Koren RETTER	0.7	50
30	SUSHI BELT	Ben HANDLEY-PRITCHARD & Maggie KNOTTENBELT	0.68	60
31	UKRAINE	Olena HOLUB & Sergey NISHY	0.65	60
32	FAROE ISLANDS	Birita CLEMENTSEN & Arni DAM	0.58	40
33	MIXTERY	Stephen PETERKIN & Sam PUNCH	0.57	40
34	FORCING PROBABLY	Michael SCHNEIDER & Gisela SMYKALLA	0.57	30
35	SWEDEN	Sara ASPLUND SIVELIND & Karl ASPLUND	0.56	20
36	GLADIATORS II	DEVI MUTHU BHATNAGAR & Rajesh Kumar JAIN	0.5	50
37	MORGENSTERN	Olga PAVLUSHKO & Anatoly IVANOV	0.48	60
38	HEXAGON	Abhijit Pal PAL & Kamna SHARMA	0.47	20
39	TURQUOISE	Erdinc ERBIL & Hatice Akten KURTOGLU ZABCI	0.46	30
40	LONDON CALLING	Andrew McINTOSH & Sara MORAN	0.44	40
41	ROIKO	Ehud FRIEDLANDER & Sylvia PELOSSOF	0.39	20
42	MAK MAN	Niaz HUSAIN & Azra RAJA	0.38	20
43	MUTE	Timur EDIS & Elvan EDIS	0.37	60
44	FORCING PROBABLY	Ezgi Ece AGA & Sandro BOHNSACK	0.36	20
45	MPO	Stefana MIHUL & Rosen GUNEV	0.35	60
46	PONTE PARA O FU..	Jose MORAES & Rita ARRAIANO	0.35	60
47	SWEDEN	Svein Gunnar KARLBERG & Gunn Tove VIST	0.35	40
48	INCREDIBLES N..	Jane MOSS & Robert Leonhard WINKLER	0.34	60
49	ARYA	Ozge UZUN & Ilker CUBUKCU	0.32	60
50	ESTONIA	Kaspar ALLAS & Stella Brita ALLAS	0.31	50
51	THE TRIPLE THREAT	Ingrid GROMANN & Roland WATZDORF	0.29	30
52	LATVIA	Maija ROMANOVSKA & Janis BETHERS	0.29	30
53	RONNIE BARR	Yaniv ZACK & Ronnie BENIN-BARR	0.28	20
54	GAUSS	Gabriel FRACTMAN & Margarita FERNANDEZ	0.26	60
55	ARYA	Nuri CENGIZ & Pinar TEKIR DOGAN	0.22	60
56	BID72	Faramarz BIGDELI & Ying PIPER	0.22	40
57	FORCING PROBABLY	Ingo LUESSMANN & Claudia LUESSMANN	0.18	40
58	LATVIA	Ivars RUBENIS & Jelena ALFEJEVA	0.17	30
59	MIXED SIGNALS	Marius GUENDEL & Kathrin SCHWALBACH	0.17	50
60	SHOURIE	Zlati GEORGIEV & Desislava MALAKOVA	0.15	30
61	CEYCEY	Ceyda ERYANIK & Mustafa ARSLAN	0.15	10
62	HEXAGON	Koushik MUKHERJEE & Meenal THAKUR	0.15	40
63	PITAGORAS	Waltraud GRUNING & Gonzalo GODED	0.13	50
64	MAK MAN	Mahyra HUSAIN & Khaled Hassan ABDELATEIF	0.13	40
65	SWEDEN	Markus BERTHEAU & Kathrine BERTHEAU	0.13	30
66	UKRAINE	Aleksei ZHUKOVSKII & Victoria ZHUKOVSKA	0.12	60
67	ROIKO	Yoko SOBEL & Ron NELKEN	0.12	50
68	BJING	Jan KOT & Nina ZWIERCAN	0.11	30
69	THE GREAT 8	Nathalie SAADA & Ilan BAREKET	0.1	40
70	THE GREAT 8	Patrick SAADA & Adi ASULIN	0.09	40
71	GAUSS	Paula DE LORENZO & Jordi SABATE	0.08	30
72	AROMEX	Gerardo SIANO & Mary Ann WHITE	0.08	40
73	CEYCEY	Hatice OZGUR & Mustafa ARSLAN	0.08	20
74	TURQUOISE	Maisy BAROKAS & Mert BILGEN	0.07	30
75	RATRUT	Hani DAGHER & Rita GHOSN	0.07	60
76	CEYCEY	Hatice OZGUR & Mehmet Remzi SAKIRLER	0.02	40
77	THE GREAT 8	Assaf LENGY & Dana TAL	0.02	20

1st European Online Transnational Mixed Teams Championship

			Average	Boards
78	CLAIRIS	Hugo PIERSON & Wilhelmine SCHLUMBERGER	0.02	40
79	BJING	Kamil URBANSKI & Anna KOSIOREK	0.01	40
80	FORCING PROBABLY	Michael GROMOELLER & Juanita OCHOA	0.01	30
81	HEXAGON	Ramani MENON & Jenish SHAH	0	30
82	INCREDIBLES N..	Tomasz TWAROG & Pamela Mary DRAVITZKI	-0.02	60
83	SHOURIE	Ahu ZOBU & Victor ARONOV	-0.06	60
84	FRIENDS	Ofer RAZ & Sara KATZ	-0.09	30
85	BID72	Marina WITVLIET & Jan VAN CLEEFF	-0.11	40
86	MIXTERY	Matilda POPLILOV & Lilo POPLILOV	-0.12	40
87	SHARK LLAMA	Norman SELWAY & Kay PREDDY	-0.12	30
88	ROIKO	Leonardo RIZZO & Silvana ROJKO	-0.12	30
89	ISRAEL DIAMONDS	Rami YADADOV & Sara BRAUDO	-0.15	30
90	EWSKA	Marek SZYMANOWSKI & Ewa SOBOLEWSKA	-0.16	60
91	TURKISH POWER	Ebru BALCI & Sinan TATLICIOGLU	-0.18	60
92	RONNIE BARR	Noga TAL & Yaniv ZACK	-0.21	20
93	SHOURIE	Jenny WOLPERT & Rajath SHOURIE	-0.21	30
94	MPO	Monica ONEA & Mihai GRIGORIU	-0.23	60
95	MIXTERY	Arie PERLMUTTER & Michal NOSACKI	-0.23	40
96	PARTIAL MAGIC	Avi SHEFI & Miriam NIEMANN	-0.24	20
97	SV BRIDGE CLUB	Igor CHALUPEC & Anna SARNIAK	-0.25	60
98	PONTE PARA O FU..	Jose MORAES & Alexandra ROSADO	-0.25	60
99	PITAGORAS	Nuria ROMAGUERA & Andrzej KNAP	-0.26	30
100	KNIGHTCLUBBERS	Anthony MOLONEY & Marie JAMES	-0.27	30
101	TURKISH POWER	Tuna ELMAS & Fikret AYDOGDU	-0.29	30
102	HEP MAVI	Jale OZEN & Huseyin CANPOLAT	-0.3	60
103	ISTANBUL	Asli ACAR & Orhan TOPAL	-0.33	40
104	MIXED BELGIUM	Philippe CAPUTO & Isabelle DEWASME	-0.34	50
105	TURKISH POWER	Tuna ELMAS & Berk BASARAN	-0.38	30
106	PARTIAL MAGIC	Joseph LEVY & Ronit OFIR	-0.42	20
107	RATRUT	Farida Choukri BOTROUS & Ahmed Nayer ELSELEHDAR	-0.44	60
108	ESTONIA	Eleliis ORMA & Rao ZVOROVSKI	-0.46	40
109	GAUSS	Juan PONT & Bertha MARTINEZ	-0.46	30
110	KNIGHTCLUBBERS	Pam HARRINGTON & Eamon MARTIN	-0.46	30
111	AROMEX	Carlos PELLEGRINI & Silvina ROCCA	-0.47	40
112	FAROE ISLANDS	Marnier JOENSEN & Maria Vitalis HANSEN	-0.48	40
113	MORGENSTERN	Konstantyn TRIFONOV & Marina REITMANN	-0.49	60
114	LATVIA	Edite KLIDZEJA & Martins LORENCS	-0.49	60
115	PARTIAL MAGIC	Alexander TOVBIS & Larisa ANTONOV	-0.52	30
116	HEXAGON	Subhrajit MUKHOPADHYAY & Ratna TADEPALLI	-0.53	30
117	FAROE ISLANDS	Marjun RESTORFF & Arnbjorn SIVERTSEN	-0.54	40
118	THE GREAT 8	Ophir HERBST & Adi ASULIN	-0.57	20
119	MSV	Maria SAINZ DE VICUNA & Antonio PALMA	-0.58	30
120	BJING	Szymon LUBINA & Andzelika PETRUCZENKO	-0.6	50
121	SV BRIDGE CLUB	Dominika OCYLOK & Bartosz CHMURSKI (Captain)	-0.63	60
122	CAJICA	Fernando VILLALBA & Veronica HARTMANN	-0.67	60
123	BID72	Elizabeth (Liz) MCGOWAN & Ian JONES	-0.68	40
124	CEYCEY	Ceyda ERYANIK & Omer EKINCI	-0.69	20
125	ISRAEL DIAMONDS	Noam DIMANT & Tamar HAKIMI	-0.69	60
126	NETTLETON	Diana NETTLETON & Thomas PASKE	-0.77	60
127	HEP MAVI	Kaan Doruk CETIN & Nuket AVSAR KOSEOGLU	-0.78	60
128	LONDON CALLING	Neil ROSEN & Anne ROSEN	-0.78	30
129	FRIENDS	Elymelech HUBER & Anit AVRON	-0.81	30
130	BINGHAM	Elisabeth BINGHAM & Richard FEDRICK	-0.85	60
131	CLAIRIS	Constance BELLOY & Stephane MESSIKA	-0.85	40
132	THE TRIPLE THREAT	Annaig DELLA MONTA & Bjoern KAPPLINGHAUS	-0.95	40
133	MIXED SIGNALS	Bjorn JANSON & Anne GLADIATOR	-0.96	30
134	THE TRIPLE THREAT	Barbara HACKETT & Martin TAYLOR	-1.01	50
135	GLADIATORS II	Tarun SINGHAL & Alka JAIN	-1.04	40
136	PITAGORAS	Mercedes TORRE MILANOS & Pedro GONCALVES	-1.05	40
137	MUTE	Manju LAW & Uday MAITRA	-1.05	60
138	RONNIE BARR	Orit MORAN OHAYON & Israel YADLIN	-1.06	30
139	KNIGHTCLUBBERS	Rosaleen GLASHEEN & Neil BREHENY	-1.09	30
140	CAJICA	Carlos VASQUEZ & Maria Luisa BUSE	-1.11	60
141	GLADIATORS II	S M MOIN & Ekta CHADHA	-1.11	30
142	CLAIRIS	Stephane GARCIA & Saveria GARCIA	-1.16	20
143	FRIENDS	Amit WINKLER & Amit GOREN BEN-SHALOM	-1.38	30
144	MSV	Maria SAINZ DE VICUNA & Luis LANTARON	-1.4	30
145	PARTIAL MAGIC	Albert SPYER & Sara BLOCH	-1.5	40
146	TURQUOISE	Memet Ali AKYOL & Eren OZAN	-1.55	40
147	SHARK LLAMA	Patricio CRISAFULLI SADABA & Sophie HERMANN	-1.72	10
148	EWSKA	Malgorzata SAWICKA & Boguslaw GIERULSKI	-1.79	10
149	CEYCEY	Necla ERKEL & Volkan DENIZCI	-1.91	10
150	CLAIRIS	Vanessa REESS & Arthur LIBBRECHT	-1.92	20
151	FRIENDS	Dror SHIFTAN & Sara KATZ	-2	30
152	OGRE	Toms STRAUME & Jolanta Gundega STRAUME	-2.14	30
153	ISRAEL DIAMONDS	Arye KRAVITZ & Sara BRAUDO	-2.15	10
154	CEYCEY	Omer EKINCI & Yasemin MERCIL	-2.35	10
155	ISRAEL DIAMONDS	Michael JARUS & Gili BEN-NAHUM	-2.61	20