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DE BRIDGE

10th EUROPEAN Transnational CHAMPIONSHIPS

3-17 JUNE 2023



Daily Bulletin

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Bienvenue!



Dear Bridge Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Strasbourg, host of one of the largest bridge events in the world, the 10th edition of the European Transnational Bridge Championships. Bridge is an exciting game that requires thought and concentration, and is enjoyed across borders, cultures and generations. Strasbourg, as a cosmopolitan city and European capital, is the ideal place for bridge players to gather.

I am delighted that so many of you have made it to Strasbourg : 15,000 players from all five continents! Bridge will flow out from your card tables and nourish our entire city. Its streets and squares will be full of a particularly playful atmosphere thanks to the exceptional and festive program of these two weeks.

The immersive treasure hunt will allow you to discover the wonders of Strasbourg, to immerse yourself in its cultural wealth, its architectural and natural heritage, and its gastronomy. Strasbourg's deserved worldwide reputation is due to the special place and role it has played and continues to play in history - at the forefront of the great upheavals of the centuries.

Welcome to Strasbourg, city of peace and human rights, ingenious city, pioneer of soft and active mobility, figurehead of the ecological transition.

I wish you all an excellent championship and an unforgettable stay in Strasbourg!

Jeanne BARSEGHIAN

Mayor of Strasbourg



Dear Friends,

On my own behalf and on behalf of my colleagues on the Executive Committee, I take great pleasure in welcoming you to the 10th European Transnational Bridge Championships in Strasbourg. It is a great pleasure to see so many players from across Europe and indeed from around the world to contest the Mixed, Seniors', Women's and Open events.

We owe our sincere gratitude to the Fédération Française de Bridge, its President – Franck Riehm, the Organising Committee led by Jean-François Chevalier and of course, the many French volunteers, for organising this event in such a magnificent new Convention Centre. They have prepared everything for the participants to provide a really successful and enjoyable experience.

Our appreciation also goes to the National, Regional and City Authorities for their great support, in particular to Mme Jeanne Barseghian, Mayor of Strasbourg.

As is always the case, our main concerns are the comfort of the players and the sporting fairness and integrity of the competition. I have no doubt that you, the players, will make us all proud by displaying your great bridge skills as well as impeccable ethics.

Eric Laurant

EBL President



Dear Bridge Friends,

Welcome to Strasbourg, capital of Europe, which has the privilege to welcome you for this 10th European Transnational Championships.

It is also a great opportunity for you to discover this wonderful city in this beautiful region... After Biarritz, Paris,

Deauville, Pau, Menton, Lille, Lyon, Strasbourg is the newest French city to host an international bridge competition.

As an Alsatian, I am especially happy with this choice and I know how much you will benefit from the exceptional environment of the Parc des Expositions, where the championships will be played, through to the city centre and its emblematic cathedral.

This event could not have taken place without the support of the Eurometropole of Strasbourg, which I would like to thank in particular. I would also like to warmly welcome the 52 Entertainment group, who are by our side in this wonderful adventure.

I am grateful to the local, national and European teams who have worked hard to make these championships a great event.

This year, the French Bridge Federation is celebrating its 90th anniversary and your presence here in Strasbourg will be our greatest gift!

So get your cards and have fun!

Franck Riehm

President French Bridge Federation



PRACTICAL INFORMATION



YOUR MOVEMENTS

Here are a few tips to help you get around Strasbourg.



► **By car**

If you have chosen to come to Strasbourg by car, we invite you to park your vehicle in a relay parking lot, and then to travel by streetcar (tickets can be easily bought and recharged at the self-service terminals at the streetcar stations) or on foot.

The closest relay parking to the competition venue, the Parc des Expos, is called the "Rive de l'AAR" parking lot.

The rate is 4.20€ the first day + 10€/additional day.

How does it work?

When you arrive at the P+R entrance terminal, you will be given a unique ticket with the day's date on it automatically.

It allows you to:

- to park on the P+R for the day until 7:00 am the next morning.
Beyond this time, a surcharge of 10€ per additional day will be applied.
- to make a return trip by streetcar and/or bus for the occupants of the vehicle traveling together (up to a maximum of 7 people) during the day indicated on the ticket, up to a maximum of 00:30.





► **By public transport**


The CTS streetcar network operates from Monday to Saturday from 4:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m., and on Sundays and public holidays from 5:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. (except May 1st).

All streetcar fares: www.cts-strasbourg.eu/fr/Titres-de-transport/tarifs/

Schedule of Play

JUNE	FRIDAY 2	10:00 - 20:00	Mixed Teams Registration Senior Teams Registration
JUNE	SATURDAY 3	10:00	Mixed Teams (Swiss Qualification Day 1 of 2) Senior Teams (Qualification Day 1 of 3)
JUNE	SUNDAY 4	10:00 - 20:00 10:00 20.00	Mixed Pairs Registration Mixed BAM Teams Registration Mixed Teams (Swiss Qualification Day 2 of 2) Senior Teams (Qualification Day 2 of 3) Captains' Meeting
JUNE	MONDAY 5	10:00 - 20:00 10.00	Senior Pairs Registration Mixed Teams (Knockout R32) Senior Teams (Qualification Day 3 of 3) Mixed BAM (Qualification Day 1 of 2) Mixed Pairs (Qualification Day 1 of 2)
JUNE	TUESDAY 6	10:00	Mixed Teams (Knockout R16) Senior Teams (Knockout QF) Mixed BAM (Qualification Day 2 of 2) Mixed Pairs (Qualification Day 2 of 2) Senior Pairs Qualification (Day 1 of 2)
JUNE	WEDNESDAY 7	10:00	Mixed Teams (Knockout QF) Senior Teams (Knockout SF) Mixed BAM (Semi-finals A & B) Mixed Pairs (Semi-finals A & B) Senior Pairs Qualification (Day 2 of 2)
JUNE	THURSDAY 8	10:00 19.30	Mixed Teams (Knockout SF) Senior Teams (Knockout Final) Mixed BAM (Semi-finals A & B) Mixed Pairs (Semi-finals A & B) Senior Pairs (Semi-finals A & B)  Prize-Giving Ceremony: Senior Teams
JUNE	FRIDAY 9	10:00 - 20.00 10.00 19.30	Open Teams Registration Women Teams Registration Mixed Teams (Knockout Final) Mixed BAM (Finals A & B) Mixed Pairs (Finals A & B) Senior Pairs (Finals A & B)  Prize-Giving Ceremony: Mixed Teams / Mixed Pairs / Mixed BAM / Senior Pairs

Schedule of Play

JUNE	SATURDAY 10	10:00	<p>Open Teams (Qualification, Day 1 of 2 or 3)</p> <p>Women Teams (Qualification, Day 1 of 3)</p>
JUNE	SUNDAY 11	10:00 20:00	<p>Open Teams (Qualification, Day 2 of 2 or 3)</p> <p>Women Teams (Qualification, Day 2 of 3)</p> <p>Captains' Meeting (if Open Teams Knockout starts from a Round of 64)</p>
JUNE	MONDAY 12	10:00 - 20:00 10:00 20:00	<p>Open BAM / Open Pairs & Women Pairs Registration</p> <p>Open Teams (Qualification Day 3 of 3, or Round of 64)</p> <p>Women Teams (Qualification, Day 3 of 3)</p> <p>Captains' Meeting (if Open Teams Knockout starts from a Round of 32)</p>
JUNE	TUESDAY 13	10:00	<p>Open Teams (Knockout R32)</p> <p>Women Teams (Knockout QF)</p> <p>Open BAM</p> <p>Open Pairs (Qualif. Day 1 of 2) Women Pairs (Qualif. Day 1 of 2)</p>
JUNE	WEDNESDAY 14	10:00	<p>Open Teams (Knockout R16)</p> <p>Women Teams (Knockout SF)</p> <p>Open BAM</p> <p>Open Pairs (Qualif. Day 2 of 2) Women Pairs (Qualif. Day 2 of 2)</p>
JUNE	THURSDAY 15	10:00 19.30	<p>Open Teams (Knockout QF)</p> <p>Women Teams (Knockout Final)</p> <p>Open BAM</p> <p>Open Pairs (Semi-finals A & B) Women Pairs (Semi-finals A & B)</p> <p> Prize-Giving Ceremony: Women Teams</p>
JUNE	FRIDAY 16	10:00	<p>Open Teams (Knockout SF)</p> <p>Open BAM</p> <p>Open Pairs (Semi-finals A & B) Women Pairs (Semi-finals A & B)</p>
JUNE	SATURDAY 17	10:00 19.30	<p>Open Teams (Knockout Final)</p> <p>Open BAM</p> <p>Open Pairs (Finals A & B) Women Pairs (Finals A & B)</p> <p> Prize-Giving & Closing Ceremony: Open Teams, BAM Teams, Open Pairs, Women Pairs</p>

Participating Countries



Australia



Austria



Belgium



Brazil



Bulgaria



Canada



China



China
Hong Kong



Colombia



Croatia



Czech Republic



Denmark



Egypt



England



Estonia



Finland



France



Germany



Greece



Hungary



India



Ireland



Israel



Italy



Korea



Latvia



Lithuania



Luxembourg



Monaco



Morocco



Netherlands



New Zealand



Norway



Poland



Portugal



Romania



Scotland



Serbia



Singapore



Slovakia



Slovenia



Spain



Sweden



Switzerland



Turkey



USA



Ukraine



Wales

Notes for players

These notes are for the convenience of players and captains. They do not substitute for the obligation to know and follow the Conditions, Regulations and Policies of the EBL covering this event.

General

- Smoking is prohibited anywhere in the venue building, including in the toilets.
- Mobile phones and electronic devices capable of communication must be switched off in the playing area and be visible at the table at all times, i.e. they may not be brought to the toilets. Random checks will be made.
- All participants at the Championship venue must visibly wear their official identification badge.
- Players are requested to be seated 5 minutes before the scheduled start of play. Any team or pair that is not seated and ready to play at the start of a period of play will be subject to VP penalties.
- At the table, whether play is actually taking place at the moment or not, players (and NPCs) may converse only in English unless both pairs (and/or captains) agree to use some other common language at their own risk. TD adjudication will be in English only.
- During the period of play players should avoid discussions or arguments with partner or opponents. In case of a dispute a player's proper recourse is to a TD (or to the Captain of the team).

In the teams' knock-out stage bidding tablets will be in use: please take note of the following:

- Calls will be made by selecting the appropriate keys on the tablet.
- Requests for explanations of calls and play, and the responses thereto, shall be made either through tablets or in writing.

During and after play

- The opening lead must be made before the screen aperture is opened and only Declarer or Dummy may open the aperture or call for it to be opened.
- Each card should be played towards partner in a consistent manner and placed on the table in the same position each time. Once played, the player should not vary the orientation of the card.
- Quitted tricks should be placed consistently in a neat row in front of the player, evenly overlapping and at an equal distance from the previous card.
- If a player finds an opponent not following any of these rules, even after a warning, the proper recourse is to call a TD.
- If a pair should claim that the responsibility for the slow play is with their opponents, they will do so by calling a TD. TDs are authorized to remove boards when play has not finished in the allotted time or when slow play may lead to play not being finished in time. Law 86B may apply to cancelled boards.
- If a player on the side of the screen receiving the tray considers there has been a break in tempo and consequently there may be unauthorised information he should call a TD. He may do so at any time before the opening lead is made.
- Declarer enters the score on the tablet and both defenders confirm the score. After confirming the score
 - on the last board played players should leave the playing room as quickly and quietly as possible.
 - Players are strictly forbidden to watch play at any table.
- In respect of scores the protest time for all matches in the Round Robin ends 30 minutes after the end of match 11, and in the Knockout stage 15 minutes after the end of the match.
- The time for a request for a TD ruling, or a review of a ruling already received, ends 30 minutes after the end of the match.

Players' Contacts on-site

CHAMPIONSHIP CHAIRMAN

Eric Laurant

ON-SITE MANAGER

Jean-François Chevalier

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR/SYSTEMS

Maurizio Di Sacco

HEAD TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Antonio Riccardi

REVIEWER

Ton Kooijman

HOSPITALITY/REGISTRATION DESK

Gildana Caputo / Virginia Chediak

SECRETARIAT

Catherine Vitry

SCORING

Fotis Skoularikis

DAILY BULLETIN

Mark Horton

European Masterpoint Awards

EMPs will be awarded according to the scales available at the following link:

<http://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/european-master-points/emp-scales/>

In order to qualify for full EMP awards, a player must have played :

Open/Mixed/Women/Seniors Teams: at least half of the boards played by the team in the Qualifying stage and at least half of the boards played by the team in the whole KO-stage and at least half of the boards played by the team in the last KO-match won.

Instructions for filling in the System card

Dear Participant in the European Transnational Championships 2023,

All players must have a filled out EBL or WBF Systems (Convention) Card available at all events.

Put the player names (and team name if necessary) both on the front and back of the card and also on the Supplementary Sheets.

In filling out the Cards you should follow the instructions in the Guide to Completion of the WBF System Card (<http://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/systems/>), as well as Section 7 of the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

You are expected to inform opponents as fully as possible of your methods. Your own “standard” or “normal” may not be theirs.

In particular pay special attention to the following items. Non-compliance with these may render a card not suitable and liable for a fine, and require a WBF standard Card to be used instead.

You may, if necessary, refer to Supplementary sheets.

- DO NOT USE “weak”, “preemptive”, “destructive” etc.
Instead state (at least approximately) the HCP range for openings, overcalls and responses.
If this depends on position and/or vulnerability, tell how.
- Describe responses to all openings and overcalls (such as new suit, jump new, cue, jump cue.
Just “Relay” or “Enquiry” is not sufficient.
- Be specific about how you use transfers and “switch” agreements with or without competition.
With what does opener accept a transfer after $1\clubsuit - 1\diamondsuit$?
Does a transfer after $1X - (1Y) - D$ promise suit or may it be values with later support?
Which bids **are** transfer? Do they include NT or cue bids?
- After opponents 1NT: Is your defence different against weak NT? Specify what “weak” is to you.
- AVOID USING NAMES.
If you use a name there may be more than one meaning. Explain your meaning. If space is needed refer to a numbered note in the Supplementary sheets.
For example:
Don't use “Smith”, “modified Smith”, reverse “Smith”. Instead use “Smith, LOW enc by both”.
“Gazzilli”; explain your way, also continuation by opener and responder.
Other names needing clarification include Cappelletti, Drury, Ghestem, Hamilton, Kaplan, Kokish, Lebensohl, Muiderberg, Niemeyer, Rosenkranz, Truscott, Turbo, Wilklosz, Woolsey.
- Any item on the Card that is clarified in the supplementary sheets must have a reference to a numbered note.
- The event is a “Category 3”, meaning neither HUM system nor Brown Stickers are allowed.
- Teams wishing to modify their CC should seek approval by the Systems' Coordinator (Maurizio Di Sacco).
Teams having doubts about whether their card is properly filled, or about whether some agreement is legal or not, should do the same.

Lunch Tickets

There will be 3 sales points in the venue and one sales point in Hall 5 (catering area)
Payment by credit card or cash accepted
You can only pay with the tickets at the catering sales.

FFB Strasbourg Link:

<https://www.ffbridge.fr/p/strasbourg-2023>

FFB Welcome Booklet

<https://www.ffbridge.fr/p/livret-d-accueil>



The World Bridge Tour Latest !

After Marit Sveaas International Pairs in Lillehammer and the Budapest Open Teams there has been movement at the top of the rankings. Sementa & Versace and Donati & Percario remain first and second respectively, but the partnership of Espen Erichsen (ENG) & Richard Plackett (WAL) has overtaken Grue & Moss for third place. It is very tight following them and there are plenty of opportunities to score lots of Ranking Points in the upcoming "heavy weight" **events on the Tour**, the European Transnational Open Teams, Pairs and BAM in Strasbourg this month and the NABC Spingold, Wernher Pairs and Roth Swiss Teams in Chicago in July. I can almost guarantee big moves in the rankings - in particular by many North American partnerships that do not yet appear near the top, so stay tuned and participate in as many WBF Tour events as you can. There are now 444 Partnerships **in the ranking** so it is not only for the world's best. You can all compete with your peers for "bragging rights"!

Jan Kamras
WBF President

Istanbul Diary

The 2019 Open Championships were in Istanbul. Here is part of Mark Horton's diary from the event.

15 June

Yesterday's copy of *The Times* carried a portentous crossword clue, Blue Team Player (5,6). Later, it also carried an advertisement for tickets to watch the 2018/19 Premier League winners, Manchester City, describing them as Fourmidables, which is not far removed from the name of the number one Indian bridge team, the Formidables. Suitable omens some might say. (*Not much has changed, Manchester City still win the Premier League. Editor*)

Play gets under way at 10.00 and there is soon a sensational deal:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

	♠ K Q 7										
	♥ A K Q 9 7 4										
	♦ K J										
	♣ J 5										
♠ 10 5 4 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 9 8
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 10 3 2		♥ J									
♦ 4 3		♦ 9 8 7 6 2									
♣ A K 4 2		♣ Q 10 7 6 3									
	♠ A J 6 3										
	♥ 8 6 5										
	♦ A Q 10 5										
	♣ 9 8										

In the Open Room NS bid 1♥-1♠-2♣-2♦*-2♠-2NT-3♥-4♦-4♥ and East leads the ♣3, +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Zmuda</i>	<i>Huang</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

You might argue that a club lead is your best shot, maybe finding partner with the ♣K and a quick trick but East led the ♦8 and declarer collected all the tricks and 13 IMPs.

I spotted this deal, which featured an instructive point that is perhaps not as well-known as it deserves to be:

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

	♠ 8 7 2										
	♥ A 6 4										
	♦ K Q J 4 2										
	♣ 8 4										
♠ K J 10 6 5 3	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 9
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 8 2		♥ Q J 9 7 3									
♦ 8		♦ A 5									
♣ K 7 6 5		♣ Q J 10 9 2									
	♠ A Q 4										
	♥ K 10 5										
	♦ 10 9 7 6 3										
	♣ A 3										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Mauberquez</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Frey</i>
—	—	—	1♦
3♠	Dble	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

When South was able to rebid 3NT North's decision to double was to some extent vindicated. A spade lead would allow declarer to make 3NT, but there is a very good reason why West should avoid it.

It is because East did not redouble, which is a simple way of informing partner that you have a useful card in spades (the ♠A, K or Q). The same principle can be adopted when an opponent bids a suit that partner has overcalled in.

Here West steered clear of a spade, opting for the ♥8, which left declarer with no chance of more than eight tricks.

In Round 3 I didn't have to wait long for a decent deal:

Board 22. Dealer North. NS Vul.

	♠ J 5 3										
	♥ J 4										
	♦ A 9 8										
	♣ K Q 10 8 3										
♠ 8 4 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 9
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 10 2		♥ K 8 7 5									
♦ Q J 10 7 4 2		♦ K 6 3									
♣ A 4		♣ J 9 7 5 2									
	♠ A K Q 10 7 6										
	♥ A Q 9 6 3										
	♦ 5										
	♣ 6										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tuncc</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Hotamislig</i>	<i>Paoluzi</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

2NT	Spade support
4♣	Cue bid
4♦	Cue bid
4♥	Cue bid
5♦	Cue bid

When North could not show a heart control, South signed off - not at all unreasonable, as it appeared that the slam would at best be on a finesse.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Attanasio</i>	<i>Eiriksson</i>	<i>Manara</i>	<i>Smederevac</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

4NT	RKCB
5♣	1 key card

For some reason that has subsequently escaped me, we had spent part of the morning discussing quotations from Shakespeare and one that came up was from the Scottish play - 'Stand not upon the order of your going but go at once'. When her partner jumped to game, Jovi Smederevac asked for key cards before advancing to 6♠. On this layout it was easy to take 12 tricks and collect 11 IMPs.

I must mention this deal:

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tuncc</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Hotamislig</i>	<i>Paoluzi</i>
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

With no way to make use of dummy's clubs, declarer drifted three down, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Attanasio</i>	<i>Eiriksson</i>	<i>Manara</i>	<i>Smederevac</i>
—	1♥	Pass	4♥
5♣	All Pass		

North led the ♥2 and declarer took dummy's ace, South dropping the queen and played a club for the king and ace. North switched to the ♠K - a great play attempting a Merrimac coup - but declarer could duck, win the next spade in hand, and draw trumps, for a 14 IMP pick up.

The last round of the day starts at 18.00 and one match produces an extraordinary result on this deal:

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

In the Open Room Aronov and Zobu played the EW cards in 3♣ which went three down, -150.



This was the dramatic turn of events at the other table:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Marquardt</i>
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♥*	1♠	2♥*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣*
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl*
All Pass			

1♥	Spades
2♥	A lapsus memoriae
2♠	Showing a good hand for spades
5♣	Cue bid
Rdbl	First round control

This unfortunate contract finished six down, -3400 not quite enough for a maximum loss of 24 IMP.

Things did not improve much on the deal that followed:

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Both teams played in 6NT from West. In the Open Room North led the ♥5 and declarer went one down, -100. At the other table North led the ♦5 and declarer found a route to 12 tricks for +1440 and another 17 IMPs.

June 16

Round 6 was not the most exciting set of the tournament, at least not in the match between Mnepo and Good Six. The first six deals were flat (including a 5♦ doubled for -800 and a sound 6♠) and by the time Board 29 from the Open Room appeared on my screen the score was still 0-0, although there were some prospects of a swing on Boards 27 & 28. Trying to enliven proceedings Barry, looking at the line ups of the two teams started trying to work out how to get in the phrase Hands knees and Bompis Daisy.

The scoreboard was eventually activated when a part swing gave Good Six 5 IMPs.

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Matushko</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Gromova</i>
Pass	Pass	2♦*	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
2♦	Multi		

Naturally West led the ♦J and declarer's task was hopeless. She eventually finished three down, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rudakov</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Rudakova</i>	<i>L Madsen</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Dble
2♦	3♠	All Pass	

Birthday girl Christina Lund Madsen judges well not to raise to 4♠ - or does she?

East leads the ♥K and declarer wins with dummy's ace and plays a diamond. When that slips past the ace a spade goes to the four jack and six and when declarer continues with dummy's ♠5 West puts up the ace giving declarer a tenth trick, +170 and 10 IMPs.

While I am typing up this deal, I get an email from David Bird: 'I am currently writing up the boards from ZIMM-BRENO, can you look elsewhere?' I reply immediately: I am currently looking out of the office window at the Bosphorus.

There is an explosive start to Round 7:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Sobolewska</i>	<i>Paoluzi</i>
—	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl*
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	6♣*	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

2♦ Check back
Rdbl First round ♥ control

After South showed first round control in hearts a cue bidding exchange resulted in the laydown grand slam being reached, +1510.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Attanasio</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Manara</i>	<i>Levitina</i>
—	1♦	1♥	1♠
4♥	Pass	Pass	5♥*
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Easy to say from here, but it looks as if South's bidding should have been enough for North to venture 7♠. (Our office is packed with luminaries such as PO Sundelin & Barry Rigal who know a thing or two about bidding.) Down 11 after the opening deal along came:

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Sobolewska</i>	<i>Paoluzi</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	7♠	All Pass	
2♥	Spades		
2NT	Agrees spades		
4NT	RKCB		
5NT	2 key cards and a void		

Simon Fellus (no mean player himself) was able to explain the early part of the auction - mille grazie.

West led the ♦J and declarer won, pitching a club from dummy, crossed to the ♥A and ruffed a club. West overruffed and exited with a trump, the contract going three down, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Attanasio</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Manara</i>	<i>Levitina</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Dble	All Pass

I'm not sure if 2♥ showed spades this time, but in any event spades were quickly agreed.

Imagine the look on South's face had she redoubled 4♣ to show first round control and North had then passed!

East led the ♦9 and declarer won with dummy's ace pitching a spade, crossed to the ♥A and played the ♣6. When that held, he continued with the seven and was soon claiming ten tricks, +710 and 14 IMPs.


There is enough time between rounds 7 & 8 to check out the local shops and we return laden (although

not heavily) with just enough food to sustain Tacchi through the afternoon sessions.

When you reach the last round of a Swiss qualifier the real interest lies around the struggle that goes on around the cut-off point and that was recognised when the BBO matches featured teams who, at this moment in time, might be regarded as being at the business end of the table.

The teams looking for points were not disappointed by the deals.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Janiszewski</i>	<i>De Botton</i>	<i>C Baldysz</i>
—	—	1♦	1♥
4♥*	Pass	5♦	All Pass

4♥ Cue bid

On this layout out it was not difficult to record 12 tricks, +420.

Our considered opinion was that East should bid 4♠ over 4♥, but then it is a question of what you do over partner's 5♣. It looks obvious to continue with 5♦, but if partner's 4♥ guarantees a void then perhaps East is worth 6♦. The doubleton club (vastly superior to holding three of them) may well be all that partner needs.

Well done to the four pairs who reached 6♦.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Golebiowski</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Sikora</i>	<i>Brock</i>
—	—	1♣	1♥
2♣	3♣*	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

What do you understand by South's bid of 4♣? Whatever it meant it saw NS steal the pot and although 4♥ was trivially two down 6 IMPs changed hands.

Having closed the office around 21.30 we were going our separate ways when we heard familiar notes of Chopin from the piano on level C1. There were two performers, Championship Chairman Josef Harsanyi and Tournament Director Denis Dobrin - and trust me they were both fantastic.


June 17

The early risers meet for breakfast at 07.00 - Tacchi persuades us to sit outside, whereupon it immediately starts to rain.

As play is about to begin in the round of 32, I suggest to Herman that he goes to report a match from the BAM. 'What, you want me to watch a whole two boards', he replies. It's a fair point.

The match between Good Six and Russian Bear (Herman suggests that there might be a typing mistake here somewhere) sees the Russians race into a 16-0 lead.

Board 8. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Krasnosselski</i>	<i>Vorobeychi</i>	<i>Dikhnova</i>	<i>Gerasimov</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♥J and declarer won with the queen and played the ♣J with gratifying effect. South ducked the king and ducked the next club, but then declarer changed tack, ducking a spade, South rising with the queen and trying a diamond, +430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lund Madsen</i>	<i>Gulevich</i>	<i>Drijver</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♦*	Dble	1♠	Pass
1NT*	Pass	3NT	All Pass
1♣	Strong		
1♦	0-7		

North led the ♦6 and declarer won with dummy's queen, played a heart to the queen and the ♣J covered by the queen and king. South ducked that and then ducked the next club, but declarer could still only muster eight tricks, -50 and a 10 IMP loss.

I have plenty of things to do other than follow the play, but it is hard to resist having a match running in the background. The problem with doing this is that you usually see something worth writing about. Having fallen into this trap for the umpteenth time, I remark that 'I'm my own worst enemy'. 'Not while I'm alive', retorts Barry.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

In the Open Room EW stopped in 5♦.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lund Madsen</i>	<i>Gulevich</i>	<i>Drijver</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♦*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass
1♣	Strong		
1♦	0-7		
4♥	Cue bid		

North led the ♣2 and declarer won with dummy's ace, crossed to hand with the ♥A, played a diamond

to the queen, cashed dummy's top spades, ruffed a spade and advanced the ♦J for a not unlucky +920 and 11 IMPs.

You must be aware of this principle: Rule number one: The Editor is always right. Rule number two: When the Editor is wrong, please refer to Rule number one. When Francesca admonishes me for misspelling the name of one of the players, I suggest that I have merely copied what appeared on the BBO screen. To prove my point and provisionally demanding a written apology I re-open the relevant file, at which point I refer her to Rule Number 2.

Meanwhile this deal from the second session of the round of 32 raises a few eyebrows:

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cakici</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Ozturk</i>	<i>Bessis</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

That was worth eleven tricks, +230.

Do you think North should raise to 3♠?

In another match North did that, but his partner ignored Meckstroth's Law and passed.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>B Cronier</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Edlund</i>
Pass	2♥*	All Pass	
2♥	11-15		


Only +170 here, so an IMP changed hands.

Would you have bid 2♠ over 2♥? Maybe if it is invitational but not forcing, or would that not matter?

I'm prepared to let you in on a little secret; in the days when I played the game and picked up a modest looking hand I would mentally imagine how I might get

a good result. Suppose you are looking at: ♠AJ972 ♥K105 ♦J765 ♣10 at Love All. I would immediately think how nice it would be if the opponents played in spades.

Board 12. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paoluzi</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Willard</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	2♥	2♠
Dble*	4♠	All Pass	

After making what looks like a support double West was surprisingly unwilling to double 4♠. A slight slip in defence allowed declarer to escape for -100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Manara</i>	<i>Zmuda</i>	<i>Attanasio</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	5♣	Dble	5♠
Dble	All Pass		

Faced with a 3♥ overcall South decide against raising spades and when West raised the ante North was faced with a decision. A double might risk an unwelcome response in diamonds but unwilling to pass North tried 5♣. East did well to double that and when South corrected to 5♠ West's dreams came true. Here the defenders made no mistake, and the contract was four down, -800.

June 20

It was also an important day for the EBL Executive who discussed forthcoming Championships.

Appreciating that it is important to embrace the latest technology we understand that they may be about to announce the introduction of VAR at every

table which should be of enormous benefit to all the Tournament Directors. Paying homage to the Cricket World Cup, matches that are unable to be completed will be decided using the Duckworth-Lewis method. Disputed bidding matters will be resolved using a combination of Hawkeye, Sniko, Ultra Edge & Hot Spot.

In close matches, Formula 1's DRS system will be applied: as soon as a team gets within 2 IMPs all overtricks will count double.

With BBO unavailable, coverage of the Mixed Pairs Final will be intense (how else will the world learn of the many brilliancies and blunders that might occur). Not quite so easy for our off-site reporters - we thought we might send them the hand records and ask them to predict the bidding. I have a vague recollection (these days most recollections are vague) that some years ago I proposed enlivening VuGraph presentations by giving each spectator a handheld gizmo on which they could attempt to predict the next bid - the system would be called Predict-a-Bid. One might even offer a prize for the spectator with the best percentage. It might work best by restricting it to the actions of one player - just imagine the fun you might have using Predict-a-Bid with Christina Lund Madsen.

Swedish legend PO Sundelin is, amongst other things, checking the convention cards of the teams who will contest the European Youth Team Championships in Norway. One pair, having a little room left of their card have included the following under 'Very Important Notes':


Whiteboards are remarkable

Russian Dolls are full of themselves

Moses had the first tablet that could connect to the Cloud

I expect by now you are becoming impatient to see a deal, so turning reluctantly to the bridge here is a deal from the first session of the EBL Cup. As they might have said in Monty Python - 'and now for something completely different':

Dealer South. EW Vul

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Alacakaptan</i>	<i>Yuen</i>	<i>Gungor</i>	<i>Fenton</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	Dble	1♥
Dble*	1♠*	2♦	Pass
3♣*	Dble*	3NT*	Pass
Pass	4♣*	Pass	5♣
5♦	5♥*	Dble	Pass
Pass	6♣	Dble	All Pass
1♣	Cannot be criticised		
Dble	Beyond reproach		
Dble	Penalties		
1♠	Showing spades and real clubs		
3♣	Ambiguous		
Dble	I should be able to defeat this		
3NT	I have a partial stopper in clubs		
4♣	Worried they might have a club stopper and a quick nine tricks in the red suits		
5♥	Cue bid		
6♣	Hoping it's a cheap save		

It might not win the IBPA award for auction of the year, but it is certainly entertaining and +1190 helped Canada's Michael Yuen and Angela Fenton to a 64.99% session and second place at the break.

June 21

When I went down to see how Tacchi was getting on following the third session of the Mixed Pairs Final, it was just as he was preparing to depart, having seen little of interest. Tempting fate, I decided to stay and watch a few deals:

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Papakyriak.</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Sykrakopoulou</i>	<i>Bello</i>
—	—	2♦*	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	6♠
Pass	7NT	All Pass	
2♦	Multi		

Jumping to 6♠ is perhaps a gamble, but one that paid off handsomely, +1520 being worth 47/7.

Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sakr</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Shen</i>
—	1NT	All Pass	

East led the ♥3 and declarer won with the king, played a spade to the king and a club to the ten. When that held she played the ♥J and when East ducked she claimed nine tricks. It was only worth 26/28 as many pairs bid and made 3NT for 41-13. Those who opted for 4♠ were easily defeated by two tricks for 9/45.

Defeating 3NT is trickier - it was managed at only one table by Anna Gulevich and Andrey Gromov. After 1NT-2♣* Andrey doubled and when North passed to show a stopper and South jumped to 3NT Anna led the ♣9 and Andrey ducked it, 21/33. Another declarer in 3NT, faced by a heart lead decided to play safe for eight tricks, assuming that the majority of the field would be going two down in 4♠.

Going into the seventh day of the Mixed events I asked one of the players when he was going home. 'Not soon enough!' was his enigmatic reply.

June 22

Three new medal races start today and BBO was back in action, much to the delight of your team of reporters. They did a brilliant job yesterday, covering one of the most breathtaking finishes you will ever see in a major event. As you will see when you read the reports, it might be the Last Board to end all last boards:



I was in the room, but not at the important tables:

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Voldoire</i>	<i>Ionita</i>	<i>Avon</i>	<i>Stegaroiu</i>
—	1♣*	Dble	3♣
3♠	4♣	Dble	4♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
4♠	Dble	All Pass	
1♣	Polish ♣		

It was difficult to hear the gist of the exchanges regarding the remainder of the auction, but I believe that 3♣ was basically a pre-emptive raise (keep in mind North did not have to have real clubs). When East doubled South, perhaps fearing there had been some misunderstanding, decided to introduce her diamonds, apparently snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. However, when East, now on much firmer ground, doubled, West put his head on the block.

North led the ♦4 and when declarer played dummy's queen South won with the king and returned the five. North ruffed, cashed the ♣A and continued the suit, South winning and playing a third diamond. The result was -800 and 47/7. 4♣ doubled would have been +1110 and 53/1. If West had passed 4♦ doubled North would undoubtedly have gone back to clubs, and -200 would have given EW 10/44.

Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ponamareva</i>	<i>Shan</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Gan</i>
1♦	Dble	1♠	Dble
All Pass			

The Bulletin Room spent some time discussing this simple sequence; the old-fashioned approach (which is still employed by many top players) is to use the double to show four spades, the idea being to expose a possible psyche by East. PO uses it as a two-way bid, depending on how many diamonds West has promised. Whether it was a good idea on this hand is open to question. I would be tempted to bid 2♣, and then bid 2♥ over the likely 2♦ from EW. You might also consider bidding a direct 2♥.

South led the ♥4 and at this point dummy asked your scribe to take over. Pierre's first move was to call for 'un petit cour' but when he realised I was at the helm he switched to English. North won with the king and returned a heart and declarer decided to win in dummy and play a club, thereby restricting himself to seven tricks, +160 and 6/48. Making the overtrick would have been worth an extra 4 points.

Yesterday Herman was co-opted as a Director and was called by a player who complained that his opponent had doubled 1♣ when holding: ♠J983 ♥A984 ♦A10432 ♣-. He had played that hand for the singleton ♣K, and complained the hand was not strong enough for a take-out double. Herman replied that he thought the actual hand was stronger and consulted the Kaplan - Rubens Hand Evaluator. He was right. That hand is apparently worth 12.65, while replacing the ♦2 with the ♣K reduces its value to 12.00.

This deal appeared in the third match of the day:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hop</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>
—	Pass	1♣	1♥
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North's ♥J lead was covered all round and declarer unblocked the ♣K and played a spade for a rapid +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Schollaardt</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Groenenb.</i>
—	Pass	1♣	1♥
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Declarer took ten tricks to lose 11 IMPs.

If you think the hand more or less turns on the club suit then it is worth knowing that the chances of it delivering all 7 tricks is 32.78%.

Here the KR Evaluator rates the West hand as being worth 11.55, but change the ♣K into the ♠9 and it rises to 12.00 while the addition of the ♦9 instead of his majesty makes it 12.15.

So, when trying to assess the worth of the ♣K, as Professor Joad would have said, 'it all depend what you mean by worth'.

June 23

One great advantage of presenting deals in a diary is that there is no need for an introductory title. If one had been required for this deal from the fourth qualifying round, it might have been Grand Designs.

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

♠ K Q 6 3 ♥ 5 ♦ Q 8 3 ♣ K Q J 7 5			
--	--	--	--

With 12 easy tricks 6NT was the popular contract, but almost inevitably some pairs went overboard and bid a grand slam.

In the Open Series 5 pairs attempted 7NT and they all failed - well done to the one West who was on lead and selected the ♦2. Two pairs selected 7♣, once by North and once by South, the latter being doubled.

In the Women's Teams 7♣, 7NT and 7♦(!) all failed, and a second pair attempted 7♣.

The 5 pairs who attempted 7NT/7♣ in the Senior Teams were all defeated.

The two pairs playing 7♣ who escaped a diamond lead found a way to get home.

One way to do it is to play to reach this ending:

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

When South cashes the ♣7 discarding dummy's ♦J What can East do? If he parts with a spade declarer cashes two tricks in the suit pitching a diamond and a heart and East is helpless. It's a perfect repeating squeeze.

Discarding the ♦A is no better.

This deal from the first round of the Senior Teams would have escaped my attention, but for a passing comment by a Captain who shall remain nameless.



Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

In the Closed Room NS had no trouble reaching 7♥ for +1510, but the grand slam proved to be elusive, with only four other pairs hitting the bullseye. One pair somehow stopped in game, but that was not the worst result for NS, because one pair reached the giddy heights of 2♥!

My best guess is that North opened 1♣ and South responded 2♥ intending it to be strong, whereas his partner thought it was weak.

The final deal of the day gave both sides a chance to go wrong:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

<p>♠ Q J ♥ A K 8 2 ♦ K 10 5 2 ♣ J 10 7</p>		<p>♠ 10 8 7 6 5 2 ♥ J ♦ Q 7 ♣ K Q 6 5</p>	<p>♠ A 3 ♥ Q 10 9 7 6 5 4 ♦ — ♣ A 9 3 2</p>
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♠ K 9 4	♥ 3	♦ A J 9 8 6 4 3	♣ 8 4
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Failla</i>	<i>Linqvist</i>	<i>De Micheli</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
—	—	Pass	3♦
4♥	All Pass		

5♦ is only one down at best, but who would do that looking at ♥AK82? In the Open series 8 pairs attempted it and 3 of them were allowed to make it.

Here North led the ♦K and declarer ruffed and

played a heart towards dummy's jack. When it held he came to hand with a club and played the ♥Q, North winning with the king as South pitched the ♦9. When North switched to the ♠Q declarer ducked, ruffed the diamond continuation and played the ♥10. North won and tried another diamond, but declarer ruffed, drew the outstanding trump, and claimed.

Notice that if declarer wins the ♠A he must then cross to dummy and play the ♦Q pitching a spade - a neat example of the scissor's coup.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Di Bello</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Avossa</i>
—	—	Pass	3♦
3♥	3NT	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

North led the ♦K (on a spade lead the simplest line is to duck, but if declarer wins, he must then go to dummy with a club and pitch the ♠3 on a diamond) and declarer ruffed and played a heart to the jack. He then made the mistake of returning to hand with a spade and playing the ♥Q. North won (South pitching the ♣4) and could now have ensured the demise of the contract by playing a spade - South overtakes and plays a third round of the suit, promoting North's ♥8. However, he handed declarer a lifeline by playing a diamond. All declarer had to do was discard his remaining spade, but he ruffed and played the ♥10 and North won and played the ♠J, South overtaking and playing the ♠9 for the trump promotion.

Ron came down for breakfast wearing a shirt that perfectly matched the colour of everything that was on his plate - a precautionary measure that proved to be unnecessary. On Saturday, his wife Jane sent him a communication wishing him a Happy Anniversary - a premature articulation as it is today, Monday, that they are celebrating their 47th year of almost total bliss (you have no idea how much Ron is paying me to write this).

It's a testament to the dedication of the staff that although play is not due to start until midday everyone has reported for duty by 10.00. Play will finish late tonight but should not interfere with our plans to watch the French Grand Prix and the Women's World Cup.

June 24

This deal posed a defensive problem:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Schollaardt</i>	<i>Serdar</i>	<i>Groenenboom</i>	<i>Tatliciglu</i>
—	2♥	Pass	3♥
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

North led the ♦3 and South won and returned the nine for a ruff. However, that was the end of the defence, declarer eventually pitching a heart on one of dummy's diamonds, +620.

To defeat 4♠ South must return a heart at trick two, when declarer will lose a trick in each suit. This happened 12 times in the Open, and twice in both the Womens and Senior events.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Baskan</i>	<i>Wortel</i>	<i>Meh Eksioglu</i>	<i>Hop</i>
—	2♥	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

When East raised spades West offered an alternative contract that protected the ♥Q. That card took the first trick when North led the ♥J and declarer made the natural looking play of a diamond, South taking the jack with the ace and returning the ♥10. Declarer won with dummy's ace and played a spade for the king and ace. Three diamonds were followed by a second spade, but when South discarded the game was up and declarer finished two down.

I was informed by a Senior of my acquaintance that in the first match of the day his partnership had a magnificent bidding sequence in which they were able to confidently bid a grand slam by identifying that they held both second and third round control in diamonds.

Unfortunately, they had failed to appreciate that the all-important first round control in the suit was absent.

June 25

Before today's main course here is selection of amuse-bouches from the Round of 16.

Mossop led Arma 54-15 at the half and most people thought the match was over as a contest.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ja Hackett</i>	<i>Bilgen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Sen</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	1♠	3♦*	Pass
4♥	4♠	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

3♦ Fit jump

Do you start the North hand with a 1♠ or get both suits into the picture immediately? 5♥ doubled was down 'on the go' as North cashed two spades and a club, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Peyret</i>	<i>Paske</i>	<i>Erbil</i>	<i>Jones</i>
—	—	—	3♣
3♥	3♠	4♣*	Pass
4♥	5♣	5♦*	Pass
6♥	7♣	Dble	All Pass

What to do with the North hand when partner preempts in clubs? Lacking any sophisticated methods that might allow you to discover if partner has a diamond control is it not tempting to have a shot at 6♣? North followed the low road and then, perhaps with an eye to the state of the match took out some insurance over 6♥, rather than risk a double that as



it happened would have dented any lingering hopes Arma might be entertaining.

That was two down when West led and continued diamonds, -300 and 11 IMPs.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ja Hackett</i>	<i>Bilgen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Sen</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	6♣*
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

2♦	Transfer
2NT	Fit for hearts
5♦	Exclusion Blackwood
6♣	3 key cards outside diamonds

A painless +2210.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Peyret</i>	<i>Paske</i>	<i>Erbil</i>	<i>Jones</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

2♦	Transfer
3♥	Fit for hearts

North's decision to go down a cue bidding route led to a disappointing +1460 and the loss of 13 IMPs, reducing the margin to just 8 IMPs.

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ja Hackett</i>	<i>Bilgen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Sen</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

I'm not sure how to interpret this sequence - perhaps 5♥ was Last Train. When North confirmed first round heart control maybe South should bid 6♣, but maybe he was worried about a possible diamond loser. +1010 opened the door for Mossop.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Peyret</i>	<i>Paske</i>	<i>Erbil</i>	<i>Jones</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♣*	Pass	6♦*
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

It was the turn of the Englishmen to use Exclusion and the 11 IMPs gained ensured it was Mossop who would advance.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jones</i>	<i>Doxiadis</i>	<i>Paske</i>	<i>Roussos</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	4♥*	Dble	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

4♥ Transfer

A low club lead would have given declarer a nasty guess but West led a restrained (I hesitate to use the word pedestrian) ♠5 and declarer won with the jack, East pitching the ♥K and played a diamond, dummy's ten taking the trick. A diamond to the ace was followed by the queen, covered and ruffed and declarer came to hand with the ♠Q, pitched a heart on the ♦J and played a club. He was spared a guess when West went up with the ace and ten tricks were in the bag, +590.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kontomitros</i>	<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Koukouselis</i>	<i>Mossop</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Rdbl	All Pass	

East led the ♥K and West ruffed dummy's ace. I must be missing something, but it looks obvious to return a low club - you need to get partner in and looking at dummy your best chance must lay in the club suit. When West continued by cashing the ♣A, the defence's only way of defeating the contract went with it. Declarer won the next club with dummy's king and ran the ♦10 - West's king was the last trick for the defence, +880 and 7 IMPs to Mossop when it should have been 14 to Greece.

Leading 60-14 at halftime, the English team appeared to have booked their seats in the semifinals.

June 26

Our plans for a night out were disrupted when the women's final went into overtime, a four-board penalty shoot-out.

The first deal was a dull push.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣*
1♥	Dble*	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1♣ Polish Club

East led the ♥5 and West took the ace and returned the four. Declarer put up the jack and East won with the queen and played the ♥8 for the ten and king. Having pitched two clubs from dummy, declarer played a club for the king and ace and West cashed two hearts and switched to the ♠K. Declarer won with the ace and played three rounds of diamonds, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Baldysz</i>	<i>Zmuda</i>	<i>Baldysz</i>	<i>Dufprat</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣*
1♥	Dble*	2♥*	Dble*
3♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

1♣ Polish Club

If 2♥ was a weak raise then West was really pushing the boat out by re-raising. North led the ♣5 for the jack, queen and ace. Declarer played a spade for the jack and queen and South returned the ♥9, North winning with the king and playing back the ♥3. A



spade to the king and ace saw North exit with a club and declarer ruffed, cashed two spades, played a heart to the queen and a diamond. South won and played the ♣K, the ♥A being declarer's last trick, two down, -300 and 11 IMPs to Apple Pie.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♥	Dble*	4♥
Dble	Pass	5♥*	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♦	All Pass

South led the ♥6, covered by the jack, queen and ace. Declarer crossed to dummy with a diamond and played one back to the jack and queen. I was expecting South to exit with the ♦10, when declarer would have been left to divine the position of the ♠Q - and who do you think declarer would place with spade length after taking three rounds of clubs?

Alas, South exited with the ♠8.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Baldysz</i>	<i>Zmuda</i>	<i>Baldysz</i>	<i>Dufrat</i>
—	—	—	2♦*
3♣	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4♠	5♥*	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

South led the ♥5 and declarer took the queen with the ace and played a spade to the ace followed by the jack, soon claiming for a couple of IMPs.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Sarniak</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

I'm not sure if East was making a slam try (annoyingly I saw Catherine at breakfast and forgot to ask her). On this layout it is possible to take 12 tricks but playing safe declarer settled for 10, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>C Baldysz</i>	<i>Zmuda</i>	<i>Baldysz</i>	<i>Dufrat</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

I refer the reader to the remarks I made earlier.

It was hard for EW to judge the state of the match - their result on Board 2 was poor, but they could hope that it would be more than balanced by that on Board 3.

Had they reached 6♥ and made it then they would have been crowned champions.

In the famous BBC Radio programme 'Test Match Special' the commentators frequently wax lyrical about the gifts they receive from appreciative listeners, which include both food and drink. Our unbounded thanks to Sevinç Atay, who yesterday delivered a delicious cake to the office - the staff devoured it like a horde of locusts.

June 27

The final session of Wednesday's Open Teams Final proved to be somewhat of a damp squib. Mossop went into it leading 90-55 and gave their opponents no opportunities to reduce the gap. With only four deals remaining they led 102-60.

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ja Hackett</i>	<i>Van Den Bos</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>V Lankveld</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dble	Pass	2♣	3♥
All Pass			

West led the ♥10 and declarer won and played a second round, getting the bad news. He turned his attention to spades, but West took the third round and switched the ♣A. Declarer ruffed and played a spade, ruffed by East, who switched to diamonds for one down, -50.

I wonder why South didn't rebid 2♠?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Molenaar</i>	<i>Jones</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Paske</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dble	1♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
4♣	Splinter		

East led the ♥2 and declarer won with dummy's ace pitching a diamond and played two rounds of spades. When East discarded the ♦2 declarer played the ♥K. West could ruff, but there was no way to prevent eleven tricks - West speeded up the play by cashing the ♦A. That gave Mossop 11 IMPs and cemented their victory, 114-66.

In the second half of the match they had restricted their opponents to a mere 16 IMPs, while scoring 81 of their own - a tremendous achievement.

On the first day of the Women and Seniors pairs finals I drop in to watch the former event get under way.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Romaashova</i>	<i>Dorman</i>	<i>Dobrushina</i>	<i>Uygur</i>
1♠	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
2NT	Spade support		

North had an easy lead against 4♠ and the defenders took the first three tricks. When South exited with a heart declarer was spared any guesswork about the location of the red kings and +620 was worth 11/5 for NS.

Suppose West sits for 3NT?

It will require careful defence for NS to collect more than 3 tricks and +630 would be worth 4/12 for EW.

For example, on a diamond lead declarer wins and plays a club, North winning and playing a diamond. Now if declarer guesses to take the ♦A and play a second club there are even 11 tricks. A heart lead sees declarer win with the jack and play a club. Now if North returns the king an inspired declarer takes the king and knocks out the other top club - the hearts are blocked. To avoid this South must lead the ♥8 at trick one!

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Sorensen</i>	<i>Puillet</i>	<i>Braatvedt</i>
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass
2NT	Heart support		
3♣	18-19 balanced		

I think 3♠ would usually ask for controls with a heart fit, but here it probably suggested a fit in clubs. South led the ♣3 and North won and switched to a diamond, the only way to be sure of preventing 12 tricks, but worth only 4/12.

4 pairs tried a slam, those playing in hearts being defeated by the same defence as here. Two pairs reached 6NT by East. At one table a heart was led and declarer won, cashed a second heart, crossed to dummy with a spade and played a club to the nine finishing two down.


In the last case South led the ♣10!

Now declarer can get home by refusing the diamond finesse, pitching two diamonds on dummy's clubs and then running the hearts to squeeze South. Wouldn't that be something!

June 28

Antonio Riccardi dropped by with a story about this deal from the second session of the Open Pairs semifinal. It illustrates that a simple memory lapse can sometimes result in total mayhem:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♦	1♠	Dble*
2♣*	Dble*	3♦*	4♣*
5♦	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	6♦	All Pass	
Dble	Negative		
2♣	Intended as a transfer to diamonds, but interpreted as natural		
Dble	Takeout		
3♦	Intended as forcing with clubs, but interpreted as natural		
4♣	Intended as forcing with clubs, but interpreted as a cue bid for diamonds		


6♦ went 5 down (I have a feeling that this result was adjusted!)

June 29

As the end of another Championship draws close, we wait to see if anyone can mount a challenge to the runaway leaders of the Open Pairs, Thomas Bessis and Frederic Volcker. They will be hoping to emulate the achievement of their compatriots, Cedric Lorenzini and Baptiste Combescure, who dominated the field to win the first edition of the John-Paul Meyer Pairs - how fitting that it should be a French pair.

Here is a great deal from the second session of the Pairs final - maybe the best defence of the event:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Welland	Caspersen	Auken	Graversen
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

North found the spectacular lead of the ♦Q, which was to have unforeseen consequences as the play unfolded. South followed with the two and North continued with the ♦A, ruffed by declarer, who ran the ♠Q and then played a spade to the ace. He ruffed a diamond and exited with a spade, North winning and exiting with the ♦10. Declarer ruffed and paused to reconstruct North's hand. He was marked with ♠K94 and from the lead and play appeared to have ♦AKQJ10. That made it virtually impossible for North to hold the ♥K and so declarer played four round of clubs, throwing South in to lead into dummy's heart tenace. As expected, South held a red king - but when he produced the ♦K the contract was one down. As you might have guessed, this was a complete top.

I have no doubt that the next 15 days will provide us with just as much fun and excitement.



World Bridge Federation
an International Sports Federation (IF) recognized by the International Olympic Committee

PRESS RELEASE



You may have heard that the World Bridge Federation has been invited to the Olympic Esports Week ("OEW") in Singapore, June 19-25, organized by the International Olympic Committee.

The WBF, together with the platform providers BBO and Funbridge, will have a pavilion at the Free-To-Play Zone ("FTPZ") the IOC is providing, June 22-25, for a limited number (10-15) of its recognised "International Federations" during the OEW. It is a great achievement and honour for Bridge to have been selected as one of them, to showcase our progress and activities in the field of electronic sports.

The FTPZ will be a large exposition at the Suntec Convention Centre, and tens of thousands of visitors are expected. It is an important opportunity for all of us, NBOs as well as the WBF, to showcase Bridge as a modern sport - adopting the latest technology, including Artificial Intelligence.

At our pavilion we will live-stream tournaments on both platforms with both local and international competitors, provide "Minibrige" demonstrations, show play on Lovebridge tablets on site and various other promotional activities. Many activities can be followed online on YouTube, and possibly Twitch.

Leading up to the tournaments in Singapore we are arranging qualification events on both BBO and Funbridge and would appreciate it if you would promote these through all your channels of communication including social media, NBO bulletins and website, event flyers and direct mailings. Attached you will find the detailed format of these qualifying events. The overall winner on each platform will be invited (travel and accommodation) to the Transnational week (August 28 - September 2) during the World Championships in Marrakech, and there will be a ranking by country with prizes in the form of the platforms' "currencies".

You may also be aware that Bridge is an official sport in the upcoming Asian Games.

We thank you for your cooperation in this effort, which we believe can bring substantial benefits to the whole bridge community. However, nothing will be gained if we don't actively make use of all these promotional tools at all levels.

Jan Kamras
President, World Bridge Federation

José Damiani
WBF President Emeritus



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Programme for Online Bridge Olympic Esports Week, June 19/25

Qualification phase

19/21, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - Tournaments of 6 boards (100 tournaments available)
(0.50 Babydollars BB\$ on BBO) (25 diamonds on Funbridge) per tournament

Best five tournaments to qualify with a minimum average of 55 %

Thursday off

Final

23/25 Friday, Saturday, Sunday, free of charge, 8 Tournaments of 6 boards (50 tournaments available)

Ranking according to the average of the best five.

Players should register on the sites and may play on either one or both. They should follow the online instructions, stating which Federation they belong to.

Registration implies complete acceptance of the BBO, Funbridge and WBF rules.

More Information

Additional information about this event will be available on the BBO and Funbridge websites:

<https://www.bridgebase.com/>

<https://www.funbridge.com/>