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FEDERATION FRANÇAISE DE BRIDGE

10th EUROPEAN Transnational CHAMPIONSHIPS

3-17 JUNE 2023



Daily Bulletin

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Issue No 9. Sunday 11 June, 2023

The Legend and the Legacy Live On



Eric Kokish
1947-2023

Bridge colossus Eric Kokish has passed.

An appreciation can be found on page 2.

An obituary will follow.

After Friday's excitement it was back to the business of qualifying as the Open and Women's Teams got under way.

In the Open, **Scorway** won all their matches to finish the day on top of the table. They are followed by **Team Funbridge**, **Patchwork Dynamite**, **Slovakia**, **Coyne & Dinkin**.

The Women's Round Robin sees **Mothers N Daughters** leading the way, followed by **Teamnl Women**, (the top two having a 5-0 record) **France Dames**, **Staywomen**, **Tri Polar & Cairde**.

BAM and Pairs events

It is of the utmost importance for you to register for BAM/Pairs events as soon as possible.

Not doing so timely, may jeopardise your right to drop into it once knocked out from your main event.

Don't forget to Register for the **Online Bridge Olympic Esports Week, June 19/25.**

For details see the press release published at pages 30-31.



Editor's Log



Photo: Peg Kaplan

Stardate 10062023

I was wondering what to write about when I received the terrible news that Eric Kokish had died after a long illness. He was a giant figure in the world of bridge, and it was pleasure to have been his friend, colleague and sometime collaborator on various projects for more than forty years. He was an outstanding player, having won four world championship medals, and as recently as 2017 he was a member of the winning Yeh Bros Cup team. A wonderful writer, a brilliant analyst, and perhaps the greatest coach the game has ever seen. It was only a few days ago that his Podcast on the Sorry, Partner site, Eric Kokish, Kickass Coach was posted – here is a link:

Episodes (sorrypartner.com)

<https://sorrypartner.com/episodes>

You should start listening at 00:15:36

It offers a wonderful insight into the world of coaching and will be of tremendous value to everyone who listens to it.

If you have something you would like us to publish, drop by the Bulletin office.

Ton Kooijman said, 'Without Eric Kokish the Dutch Open team would not have become World Champions in Chili in 1993.'

I was commentating with Eric and Billy Eisenberg at the World Championships in Tunisia in 1997. When a list of the leading teams in the Bermuda Bowl appeared on the screen Eric asked 'Does anyone know why Australia is doing so well?' 'It might be because they are the only team not coached by Eric Kokish, was my enigmatic retort – even Eric burst out laughing.

He is of the ages now.



The Theory of Everything

For some time, I have been writing Misplay, Misbid and Misdefend articles for Bridgerama+ US under the banner Bridge Three Ways, showing how mistakes in Bidding, Play and Defence can be avoided.

On Friday afternoon I had to visit the playing area to check something in one of the BBO rooms. On the way back I decided to watch three deals from the final session of the Senior Pairs. This one had many points of interest:

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

<p>♠ Q ♥ K 10 9 5 4 3 ♦ A J 10 4 ♣ A 3</p>	<p>♠ J 7 ♥ A Q 8 7 6 ♦ K 8 7 2 ♣ 8 6</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N E S W </div>	<p>♠ K 9 4 3 2 ♥ — ♦ Q 9 6 5 3 ♣ 9 4 2</p>
<p>♠ A 10 8 6 5 ♥ J 2 ♦ — ♣ K Q J 10 7 5</p>			

West	North	East	South
—	1♥	1♠	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

2♣ Non-forcing

It is a matter of style as to whether one overcalls with East's hand – and if you do overcall should you opt for 1♠/2♠ or show a two-suiter via a Michaels cue bid? If I was going to bid I would be inclined towards the latter, as it generally suggests a weak hand (despite the distributional information it offers up).

West considered bidding over South's 2♣, (a

double would show diamonds and spade tolerance) but I think rightly decided to bid his time. When East went on to the heart game West, with the likelihood of scoring three trump tricks, decided to chance his arm with a double.

East led the ♦5 and declarer took West's king with the ace, discarding a spade from dummy. He then ran the ♦J, East following with the three, ruffed a diamond and played the ♥J. West took that with the ace and switched to the ♠7 for the queen, king and ace and declarer ruffed a spade and played the ♥K followed by the ♥10. West won and exited with a club, but declarer could win, cash the ♥10 and then play three rounds of clubs for +790.

Having taken the ♥A West might have returned a diamond, but it would not help – East wins and will probably try exiting with a club, but declarer wins and plays two more rounds of clubs, overruffing West's ♥6, playing a spade to the ace and another club when West can score only one more trick.

However, West missed an opportunity.

Once declarer had cashed the ♥K and played the ♥10 to the queen, exiting with a diamond gives the defenders four tricks.

Cashing the ♥K was fine, but after that declarer should play three rounds of clubs. If West ruffs, an overruff is followed by a diamond exit and declarer must score the ♥10 at the end.

Another winning line for declarer is, having taken the ruffing finesse in diamonds, to play to ruff two diamonds in dummy. Then the defenders have no chance of more than three tricks.

Finally, perhaps declarer should ruff a diamond at trick two, cash the ♠A, ruff a spade, ruff a diamond and then play three rounds of clubs. That guards against the possibility that West started with both the ♦KQ (even then if declarer were to lose a trick to West's hypothetical ♦Q it is possible to make 10 tricks – I'll leave you to work out how).

Please Overbid!

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Mixed Teams Semi-Finals (2)

Turnips v Edmonds

Welcome to the clash of two heavyweight giants: it is Turnips (France/Switzerland) against Edmonds (USA/Poland/Switzerland) for a place in the final of the Mixed Teams.

As usual, we start with some problems for you. Firstly, with neither side vulnerable, you are North holding:

♠ K 2
♥ A J 2
♦ Q 7 6 3
♣ 10 8 5 4

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	2♠	3♦
3♥	3NT	4♦*	Pass
4♥	?		

What action, if any, do you take?

Next, with both sides vulnerable, you are sitting in the South seat with...

♠ K 2
♥ K Q 8 7 5
♦ Q 8 6
♣ K 10 8

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♦	Dble	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	?

What action, if any, do you take?

The French were the first out of the blocks and they led 44-12 at the end of the first set. Someone famous once observed that even the longest of walks starts with a single step, and the comeback started with a pitter-patter.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ K 2
♥ A J 2
♦ Q 7 6 3
♣ 10 8 5 4

West	North	East	South
♠ 7 6 3	♠ J 10 8 5 4		
♥ K Q 10 8 7 5	♥ 6 4 3		
♦ K 10 5	♦ —		
♣ J	♣ A K 7 6 3		

♠ A Q 9
♥ 9
♦ A J 9 8 4 2
♣ Q 9 2

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Setton	Wooldridge	Franceschetti	Edmonds
—	Pass	2♠	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Pierre Franceschetti's 2♠ opening showed spades and a minor. Jodi Edmonds came in with a 3♦ overcall and Joel Wooldridge closed the auction with 3NT. All very straightforward.

Franceschetti led a low club and declarer understandably misguessed, playing low from dummy and losing to the singleton jack. Hilda Setton switched to the ♥K, which was allowed to win, and Wooldridge won the heart continuation with the jack. It was now just a matter of knocking out the ♦K and, with no entry to East high clubs, declarer had the rest. N/S +430.



Joel Wooldridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Zmuda</i>	<i>Tartarin</i>
—	Pass	2♠	3♦
3♥	3NT	4♦*	Pass
4♥	Dble	All Pass	


After the same start, Michal Klukowski was not willing to give up so easily. He knew his side had an eight-card spade fit, so it was relatively safe for him to join in with 3♥ on the West cards. Cedric Lorenzini also bid 3NT on the North hand, but Justyna Zmuda had the perfect hand. Indeed, she advanced to 4♥ via a diamond cuebid. That left Lorenzini with the first of the problems above, and he judged well to take the money rather than try for a game bonus in his partner's suit, despite four-card support. 5♦ has four losers (two clubs, a club ruff and the ♦K) and will probably get doubled.

Lorenzini led a club and Klukowski played low from dummy after considerable thought. Tartarin won with the ♣Q and cashed the ♠A. Continuing with the ♠Q made declarer's life simpler, but made no real difference. Indeed, just about all lines of play and defence lead to two down: N/S +300 and 4 IMPs to Edmonds.

If that was a pitter-patter, a violent thunderstorm was about to arrive. One of the pleasures of this job is getting to watch true Masters in action. Michal Klukowski is widely considered the best player in the world at the moment. On this deal, his wife demonstrates that she is equally capable of world-class play. First, let's see how mere mortals handled the deal at the other table...

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Setton</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Edmonds</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

South led a heart and declarer duly lost a trick in

each black suit. E/W +450, a result that would surely have been duplicated many times if the deal was played in a large field.

Open Room

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


The auction began with three natural bids and then some kind of Polish fourth-suit forcing. Zmuda bid out her shape and Klukowski showed his spade fit. When Klukowski made a slam try, Zmuda was galvanized into Blackwood and moments later was installing herself in slam.

Here, too, South led a heart. Zmuda won with the ♥K, played a spade to the jack, and ruffed a heart. A diamond to the king returned the lead to dummy, and declarer took a second heart ruff. Now came the ♠A, revealing the 4-1 trump split. The ♦A was cashed, pitching a club from dummy, and a diamond ruffed with dummy's penultimate trump, denuding South of diamonds in the process. The ♠K was cashed and now declarer simply began playing winning hearts. South could ruff with his trump winner whenever he like and, when he did so, he was endplayed to lead away from the ♣K. Bravo! E/W +980 and another 11 IMPs to Edmonds.

A couple of boards later, the comeback came to a grinding halt...

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Zmuda</i>	<i>Tartarin</i>
Pass	3♦	Dble	4♦
4♠	All Pass		

Some high-level bidding situations are simply too difficult to get right. Had I presented the West hand as a bidding problem over South's raise to 4♦, I suspect most players would bid 4♠. Those who passed would surely bid 4♠ when their partner doubled for a second time. The winning action is to pass twice (or double 4♦ yourself), as you have two hearts, a club and a spade to lose in 4♠, whilst declarer in 4♦x will make only eight tricks.

Michal Klukowski confirmed that he is human by bidding 4♠ along with everyone else, and even he can only sometimes make bricks out of nothing but dry straw. E/W -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Setton	Wooldridge	Franceschetti	Edmonds
Pass	4♦	Dble	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Some high-level competitive bidding decisions are harder than others. I have lost track of the number of times in Bulletins, BBO commentary and my BBO columns, that I have warned readers of the perils of sacrificing on balanced hands. Inevitably, the penalty is always larger than you expect it to be. That alone should be enough to warn South off venturing to the five-level on this balanced, ace-less collection. The fact that your hand is also packed with defensive values suggests that, if you simply cannot bring yourself to pass, you should be doubling 4♠. As it happens, partner does not contribute a single defensive trick and yet 4♠ still goes down. Even worse, in 5♦x partner has to lose four aces and a second club trick too. E/W a massive +800 and 14 huge IMPs to Turnips, squaring the score in the set at 15-15 and restoring the 32-IMP advantage with which they had finished the opening stanza.

There were plenty more chances in this exciting set of boards, and Klukowski-Zmuda were relentless. Lorenzini-Tartarin overbid to a club slam that was a bit worse than a finesse. Klukowski inevitably found the best lead, so that was one down when the finesse failed. In the other room, declarer mistimed the play to go one down in 5♣ for a flat board. Klukowski-Zmuda nailed Tartarin in 3♦ on a partscore deal for +300 for a small gain. Zmuda managed to make a 3NT that should go down and was duly defeated at the other table. Then, towards the end of the set, came this...

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Setton	Wooldridge	Franceschetti	Edmonds
—	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Joel Wooldridge judged well, first by not opening his balanced 11-count (a rarity itself in today's game), and then by settling for a quiet raise to game facing 20-21 balanced. Declarer made ten tricks: N/S +430.

The French were more ambitious in the replay...

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Lorenzini	Zmuda	Tartarin
—	1♣	1♥	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Once Lorenzini had opened the North hand, it was just about inevitable that Tartarin would drive to slam. Zmuda understandably did not want to lead away from any of her kings, so she opened a spade, which gave declarer nothing. Lorenzini won in dummy and immediately played the ♣A and a second club to the queen. Zmuda won with the ♣K and exited safely with a second spade. With eight tricks outside the diamond suit, declarer needed that suit to produce four tricks. In the end, it all came down to possession of the ♦7 and, with Klukowski holding that card, declarer could come to only 11 tricks. N/S +50 and 10 IMPs to Edmonds.

Edmonds won the second stanza 42-23, reducing the deficit to only 9 IMPs (65-54) at the midway point of the match. Buckle up for 28 more exciting boards in this one.



Mixed Teams Final (2)

Turnips v Otra Vez

Welcome to a vision of tomorrow. In the final of the Mixed Teams is a team featuring a pair with a combined age little more than half that of our esteemed Editor, and a third member who was a junior not so long ago. Against them, are the hometown favourites, some of whom are also still little more than spring chickens. Both won their semi-finals perhaps against the bookies' expectations, but those watching the final live on BBO VuGraph pack the rafters with great expectation, having already read so many good things about both of these teams throughout the week in these pages.

As usual, we start with some problems. Firstly, with only your side vulnerable, you are South holding:

♠ K 10 7 6
♥ A 8 6 4 2
♦ K Q
♣ A 9

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	?

Do you pass or make a game try?

Suppose you ignore your spades and make a natural game try with 2NT. What action, if any, do you then take when partner accepts your game try with a raise to 3NT?

Next, with only your opponents vulnerable, you are sitting in the West seat with:

♠ K Q J 10 2
♥ Q 4 3
♦ A 3
♣ J 9 7

West	North	East	South
—	4♣	Pass	Pass
?			

What action, if any, do you take?

The first stanza did not disappoint my fellow scribe, who can be very grumpy if his early morning attendance is not rewarded by at least a couple of firecracker deals. After 14 boards, Otra Vez led by 5 IMPs, 36-31. The

nip-and-tuck continued in the second stanza, with the action beginning on the very first deal.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nilsson</i>	<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Setton</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	2♣	2♥	3♣
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The French defensive bidding seemed to dampen their opponents' enthusiasm. After Antonio Palma had raised hearts in competition, Andrea Nilsson made one slam try via a 3♠ cue-bid, but gave up when her partner decline to show a minor-suit control.

Slam in either major essentially depends on being able to play spades for no loser. About a 50% proposition, declarer had no winning play on this layout. Nilsson lost a trick in each black suit in her heart game: E/W +450.

The French had the auction to themselves in the replay...

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Tartarin</i>	<i>Bjoerk H.</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

No matter what version of game-tries you play, it is important for opener to be able to show a hand with four spades after hearts have been raised, enabling you to find a 4-4 fit rather than a 5-3. Here, Cedric Lorenzini hit gold with his 2♠ try, and Anne-Laure Tartarin showed her enthusiasm with a splinter bid. Blackwood confirmed that there was one keycard missing. Lorenzini could, presumably, have asked about the ♠Q, but he decided to take his chances without inquiring. Today proved to be not the day for that gamble.

There was little to the play: E/W -50 and 11 IMPs to Orta Vez to start the second set.

A couple of deals later, both South players had to answer the first of the problems posed earlier...

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

	♠ 5 3 2		
	♥ K 9 5		
	♦ A 10 5		
	♣ 10 8 4 3		
♠ A 9 4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q J 8	
♥ Q 10 7		♥ J 3	
♦ 9 8 7 3 2		♦ J 6 4	
♣ Q 2		♣ K J 7 6 5	
	♠ K 10 7 6		
	♥ A 8 6 4 2		
	♦ K Q		
	♣ A 9		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Hult	Tartarin	Bjoerk H.
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Semi-balanced 15-17 hands often prove difficult. Is this moderate/poor 16-count worth a game try after partner raises 1♥ to 2♥? Personally, I think probably not, although both South players in this match disagreed and moved forward with 2NT. Both North players also like their 10-loser hand (for some unknown reason) and raised to 3NT. For the Swedes, Mayala Bjoerk Heed converted to the known eight-card major-suit fit. Even with trumps 3-2, 4♥ has no real chance with the spade ace offside: declarer cannot avoid losing a club, a heart and two spades. In fact, Bjoerk Heed finished two down: N/S -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nilsson	Franceschetti	Palma	Setton
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Not content with collecting 7 IMPs for making +110/140 in 2♥, Hilda Setton followed the same route initially, but she then passed Pierre Franceschetti's 3NT.

Andrea Nilsson led the ♦3, giving nothing away. Setton won and immediately ducked a heart, East winning with the jack. Declarer now has eight tricks (three diamonds, four hearts and a club). Switching to a low club would give declarer no chance and a diamond continuation is also okay. When Antonio Palma switched to the ♠Q, declarer could have ensured the contract by ducking. Instead, she covered with the ♠K. Nilsson won with the ♠A and had one difficult chance left to defeat the contract – she must switch to the ♣Q, setting up two winners for her partner while he still has the ♠J as an entry. When, instead, Nilsson returned a spade, declarer's ♠10 became her ninth trick. N/S +600 and 13 IMPs to Turnips. Match score now 47-46 to Orta Vez.

Nip and tuck, nip and tuck, in and out, up and down, ying and yang. On the next deal, both West players were faced with the second of today's problems. The optimism of youth threatened to earn a swing for the Swedes, but then the inexperience of youth reversed that swing. First, the table at which events were relatively normal...

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

	♠ 7		
	♥ 5		
	♦ J 7 5		
	♣ A Q 10 8 6 5 3 2		
♠ K Q J 10 2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A 6 3	
♥ Q 4 3		♥ K J 10 9 7	
♦ A 3		♦ 10 9 8 4	
♣ J 9 7		♣ K	
	♠ 9 8 5 4		
	♥ A 8 6 2		
	♦ K Q 6 2		
	♣ 4		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Hult	Tartarin	Bjoerk
Heed			
—	4♣	All Pass	



Simon Hult opened 4♣ first seat at red, and everyone passed. Tartarin led the ♥J, declarer winning with the ace and playing dummy's trump. With two side-suit losers, declarer just needs to avoid two trump losers. West follows with the ♣7. What now?

If trumps are 2-2, any play restricts the defenders to at most one trump trick. If the ♣7 is singleton, there is no winning line. What if East began with a singleton? It would appear to me that it is a complete guess: playing the ten wins unless East began with the singleton jack, playing the queen wins unless East started with a singleton king, and playing the ace works unless East started with the singleton nine. Hult played the ♣Q and East won with the singleton king. The defenders thus made a fourth trick with the ♣J to put the contract one down. Unlucky. N/S -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nilsson</i>	<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Setton</i>
—	4♣	Pass	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Whilst the elderly gents amongst us see only a decent weak no-trump, the optimism of youth saw a strong spade suit with an outside ace, so Andrea Nilsson brazenly backed in with 4♠. The first good news was that no one doubled!

Pierre Franceschetti led his heart, South winning with the ace. No one was fooled by declarer following with the queen, and Hilda Setton duly delivered her partner's ruff at trick two. How would you now defend with the North hand?

Playing a diamond exposes a loser in that suit. Declarer can win, draw trumps, and cash dummy's heart winners, but she will then be left with two losers at the end. She needs a club ruff in dummy to bring her trick tally to ten. Temptation is a devilish thing, and Franceschetti could not resist the urge to cash his ♣A before playing a diamond, thus opening the way for declarer to score a club ruff.

Nilsson won with the ♦A and, counting her tricks, ruffed a club in dummy. Unfortunately, in the excitement of the moment, or perhaps just due to carelessness born of inexperience, she forgot to ruff with the ace of trumps. Ruffing with the ♠3 allowed South to overruff with the ♠4 and cash a diamond winner for one down. Oh, what could have been! N/S +100 and 4 IMPs to Turnips. Match score 53-50 to Otrz Vez.

There was more toing and froing at the first table on our last deal today – you know the sort of deal, declarer has enough tricks but gives one away, then the defense gives one back, etc. Let's see what happened:

Board 27. Dealer South. Nil Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nilsson</i>	<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Setton</i>
1♥	2♣	Dble*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

These deals with plenty of high card points but no fit generally end in 3NT, but both tables in this match opted for the 5-2 heart fit. There appeared, though, to be a loser in each suit.

Franceschetti led the ♣K, declarer winning and playing three top trumps. Next came the ♦J, covered by the queen and taken with the ace in dummy. Of course, declarer can make the contract by playing South for a spade combination including the ♠J9 and taking two finesses, but that seems a bit double dummy. Instead, she exited with a diamond. South won and could have ensured the contract went down by cashing her trump winner. When she instead exited with a club, declarer was again in with a chance. Winning with the ♣Q, North cannot afford to play a diamond or a spade, so has to continue with a third club, allowing declarer to score one of her trumps. Can you see the winning line of play from here?

Declarer did not spot it at the table and played a low spade to dummy's ten. South won with the ♠J and her trump winner was the fourth defensive trick. E/W -50.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Tartarin</i>	<i>Bjoerk H.</i>
1♥	2♣	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

The French reached the same contract and Simon Hult also led the ♣K. It looks like Lorenzini

immediately spotted that the contract could be made on an elopement play, and he gave the defenders no chance to break up the position. Lorenzini also started by winning with the ♣A, cashing the ♥K, and playing a heart to the ace. Without cashing a third high trump, he then advanced the ♦7, which was allowed to run to the eight. South has little choice but to play a club now and, similarly, on winning with the ♣Q, North has no choice but a third round of clubs (South discarding her remaining diamond). Lorenzini ruffed, cashed the ♥Q, then played a diamond to the ace and a third round of diamonds. What could Bjoerk Heed do?

If South ruffs with her master trump, declarer discards his spade loser and claims the rest of the tricks. If South does not ruff, declarer scores his last trump en passant and then cashes three top spade winners. South just scores her trump at trick 13. Either way, declarer cannot be stopped from making ten tricks. E/W +420 and 10 IMPs to Turnips. Match score 66-65 to Turnips.

(Note that in the five-card end position reached at the other table, declarer could have crossed to the ♠A and led a third round of diamonds to achieve the same effect.)

Turnips won the second stanza 36-29, so they lead by 2 IMPs, 67-65, at the midway point of this final. Will there ever be more than a single-digit margin between these two teams? The massive crowd watching live on BBO VuGraph will be glued to their seats to find out.



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Pairs Semifinals

On the first deal from the Mixed Semi-final A I witnessed May Sakr had a fascinating problem:

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

At favourable vulnerability she heard 1♦ to her left, 1♥ from partner, 3♦ to her right. She passed and saw Jacek Pszczola reopen with a double. Choose your poison.

Sakr settled for 4♣ and when dummy came down she was probably happy that she had not done more in clubs.

Board 5. Dealer North. N-S Vul.

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

Andrew Rosenthal led a top diamond and shifted to spades, Sakr won in dummy and led the ♥J. Migry Zur-Campanile won her ♥Q and shifted to trumps. Sakr took it and ruffed her diamond then simply gave up a club for +130.

Had Sakr decided to go high rather than low she might have cuebid 4♦ over the double, correcting 4♥ to 4♠ to suggest four spades and long clubs? 4♠ would surely have come home after two rounds of diamonds (as many as 11 tricks are possible)? And so it proved at many other tables with N/S getting an 89% result here.

On the next deal Sakr scored a goal when she heard her partner open 2♣ and rebid 3♥ to show a nine playing-trick hand in hearts. With:

- ♠ Q 9 5
- ♥ 9
- ♦ Q 10 8 6 5 4 3 2
- ♣ 6

She guessed to jump to 5♦ and was raised to slam. Pszczola produced a 'not-unsuitable' 1-7-3-2 with the red ace-kings and the club ace! 13 tricks were laydown except on a spade lead, and with hearts 3-2 any sensible line would bring home the slam. That was a 75% result for E/W – I had expected more.

After a few deals I switched to watching Richard Chamberlain and Pat Shields in the Senior A semi-finals.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Olafsson	Shields	Thompson	Chamberlain
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	2♥	2♠
All Pass			

With nobody vulnerable, both South and West had to decide whether to support their partner on a doubleton. Chamberlain did, Olafsson – who arguably had slightly more reason to act – did not do so. 2♠ looks a testing spot. Thompson started well enough with a club lead to the king, very smoothly ducked by West. Trying to manoeuvre a diamond ruff, Shields led a heart to the ten and ace, then a diamond up. It would have been best for East to duck this. Then he can take the next diamond and fire a club through (crucially, without cashing his heart winner) which leaves declarer somewhat tangled up. Thompson took his ♦A and cashed a heart then led his other top heart, ruffed by North with the six – and yes, maybe a diamond discard would have been better?

It didn't matter today; Shields overruffed, crossed to the ♦K, led a heart on which Olafsson pitched his ♦Q letting Shields ruff low in hand and ruff a diamond with ♠Q. That was declarer's sixth trick, and by now

Shields could count his LHO for 2-5-4-2 with ♠Kx so could score two more trump tricks in hand for a 68% result instead of a 25% result had 2♠ gone down.

Two deals later an intriguing (if potentially unethical) conundrum arose.

You are in 5♥ and can afford a trump loser with:

♥ K 8 6 5



♥ A J 7 3

The opponents cash an ace and shift to a suit that you could win in either hand. At the table declarer did something spectacularly unsuccessful. He won in dummy but then led a low heart from his own hand! to dummy's king, thereby losing two trump tricks when East turned up with a singleton ♥10.

It occurred to me that a truly artful dodger might win in hand and lead a low trump from dummy. East would surely tell you to lead from hand, given his holding. Now you lay down the ace and take the safety play! (In passing, if he doesn't correct you should you play for the finesse or not? Only the Hideous Hog would know.) (Has anyone ever tried playing the ♥10 from ♥10942 in this position? Editors)

Pat Shields found himself in a truly hairy spot one deal later but had the chance to emerge from the septic tank smelling of roses.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

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

1♦ Hearts

The defenders can set 2♠x via diamond ruffs, but the absence of a support double for Shields at his second turn got the partnership to a very ugly spot.

South's lead of ♠7 (Polish-style) saw Shields cover in dummy and duck in hand. After much thought North shifted to a low heart, ducked to the ♥Q and South played back a heart rather than press on with spades. That was all the help Shields should have needed. At the table he won, cashed two clubs, and played a third trump to force North to lead diamonds or spades for him; but that was only for eight tricks.

Imagine that Shields had won the ♥A to lead a diamond towards the king. It is not entirely clear that one would take the ace (necessary, for a spade return – which is, again, far from obvious).

Let's say South does win the ♦A to play a third trump. North takes his ♥K and plays a club – as good as anything. Declarer wins in dummy, unblocks diamonds, then comes to hand in clubs to ruff a diamond and runs the clubs to squeeze North in spades and diamonds.

The position is equally elegant if South ducks the diamond ace. Now declarer cashes three clubs to reach this position.

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

If North has discarded as is in the diagram, declarer must not play the fourth club! If he does, he squeezes his own hand. Instead, he plays a diamond and South wins to play a trump, or else declarer can set up a cross ruff. North wins but must return a diamond, ruffed in dummy, and North is again squeezed on the club jack. One more wrinkle: say North does ruff the third club and returns a diamond to let his partner play a trump. Now declarer wins the trump in his hand with the nine and can ruff a diamond to set up the squeeze again.

Somewhat remarkably, this turned a complete top into a shared bottom. The board was generally passed out – so whatever you think of North's hara-kiri overcall he could point to the results.

Chamberlain responded with some nice card-reading of his own as declarer.

Board 16. Dealer West. E-W Vul.

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

Chamberlain opened and closed the auction with a call of 1NT. N/S can only make seven tricks in spades but might do better or might not be doubled there.

The top club lead saw Chamberlain win and be faced with a dilemma. Was it right to make the club play early while you still have entries to dummy. You might in the process give up on the doubleton ♦A to your left, but how likely is that?

Chamberlain did extremely well to my mind (and that of the other editor) to play diamonds as opposed to trying to set up the club winner. A diamond to the ♦K and a diamond ducked - la finesse obligatoire - saw the

♦A put in an appearance. When a spade came back, Chamberlain ducked – yes maybe the ♠Q is right, but you hate to put all your eggs in one basket. He ran the diamonds, then exited with a club to produce this rather piquant ending.

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

Chamberlain led his club; North won and cashed his spade then exited in hearts to the king and ace. Chamberlain won and returned a low heart to the ten and jack, and could score both of his ♥A7 over the ♥86 at trick 12.

+150 was a little above average; +180 would have been 75% or so, +120 a 45% result.



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Mixed Pairs Final - Session 2

I haven't been bringing the pairs I follow much luck so far – maybe it is the albatross around my neck that is the problem? When I sat down to watch Barbara Travis and Peter Reynolds for eight deals I was hoping for some interesting bridge. I got it – but I was also hoping that they might have better luck than they did.

Whoever first said “Vulnerability is for children” had a point – but on the first deal of the set it turned out to be more than critical.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sakr</i>	<i>Travis</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Reynolds</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Against 1NT Reynolds led a low diamond and Travis discouraged with the seven. Pszczola passed the ♣10; Reynolds ducked then won the next and continued a passive club. Travis won to shift to a low spade and the defenders cashed out. Nicely done in a sense since if the defenders didn't cash out surely Pszczola would have come to at least +120?

That said, how many matchpoints would you expect N/S got for -90? 3/24 seems remarkably low; but that is because the majority of the field reached 1NT by North after that player bid 1NT over 1♠. Six of the 13 tables played 1NT by N/S and all achieved a better result than -90. But had the vulnerability been different with N/S vulnerable, -90 would have been well over average.

For Round Two Travis/Reynolds switched compass direction and took on Tebha/Garner.

Board 19. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Reynolds</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Travis</i>	<i>Tebha</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Travis' low diamond lead went to the ten and queen. Garner could have achieved eight tricks by force by ducking a club since the ♥J was onside. In fact, he sensibly led a spade to the jack and went after hearts: 10, J Q K. Back came a spade: Garner again read the position well when he cashed off spades, requiring Travis to find two discards. I believe she might have given Garner a problem by coming down to two cards in each red suit and three clubs. However, she pitched a club and a heart. Declarer led a heart to the seven and eight. Travis got out with a club, and declarer cashed two clubs pitching a heart and led a diamond, taking trick 13 with a diamond winner. That was 23/24 for N/S but +90 would only have been worth 9.

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Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Tuncok	Travis	Hotamisligil	Reynolds
—	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♦ any minimum, balanced

Hotamisligil to my mind did spectacularly well to lead a fourth highest club rather than a spade. Then when Travis ducked in dummy Tuncok did his part, inserting the seven to force the ace. Travis took the diamond finesse, led a spade to the jack and ace, then when a club came back quite reasonably put in the ten for Tuncok's jack. He exited with a heart after which declarer could take seven tricks in the red suits but had to lose two tricks at the end whatever she did now. +600 was just 3/24 but +630 would have been 18.

On the next round Travis/Reynolds took on the eventual winners, and once again the chance for a good result slipped away at the last minute.



Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Reynolds	M. Rosenberg	Travis	D. Rosenberg
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Rosenberg's ♦9 lead went to the ♦10 and ♦A. given that the lead looks like a doubleton a reasonable line looks to me to cross to dummy with a club and lead a top heart, covered and ruffed. Now ♦K, pitching a club, club to the ace, ♥Q and a heart ruff. When declarer ruffs a diamond low in dummy North can discard his ♥J but declarer can ruff a heart with ♠10 and all Rosenberg can do is stop the crossruff by overruffing and leading ♠A and another, but declarer's clubs will represent the 10th trick and a solidly above average result.

Reynolds started by ruffing a diamond low at trick two, then led ♥K, covered and ruffed. Reynolds finessed in clubs, cashed a second club, and played ♥Q discarding a diamond. This was the ending:

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

With six tricks in, Reynolds took a spade finesse, running the ♠9. Disaster. The defenders won and took a club ruff, led a diamond ruffed with ♠8 and now ♠A left declarer with a club loser -- for down two and all the MP to his opponents.

After eight deals I slunk away from the table with my tail between my legs, having dealt my selected pair a 25% game! It got better when I left -- the last eight deals they put up nearly 70% -- so I guess they should have thanked me for leaving.



Even a Blind Pig can find an Acorn

David Kendrick and Malcolm Pryor did not trouble the scorers on many occasions in the senior semifinals. But on the deal that follows Dave Kendrick struck an incisive blow for his side. Curiously, bidding a slam off two top winners had got him to the par spot.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kendrick</i>		<i>Pryor</i>	
1♦	2♦*	3♦	3♥
4♣	4♥	5♣	5♥
6♦	All Pass		

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As you can see, 6♥ only goes down because of the 3-0 trump break. When North led the ♥A Kendrick had his first reprieve. He ruffed, led the ♦J to the ♦Q, took the ruffing finesse in hearts, and when the heart was covered crossed back to dummy to take his discard. Now, knowing that his LHO had no more than two clubs, he tried the ♣J to tempt a cover from South – and to make the contract legitimately if North had a bare ♣10. When the ♣J brought forth both of their majesties, Kendrick could inscribe a neat +1370 in his scorecard, and every single one of the matchpoints.

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Mixed Teams Final (4)

At the halfway stage of the Mixed Team Final between Otra Vez and Turnips it was Turnips who had led by a solitary IMP. The third session saw them increase their lead to 13 IMPs. A useful lead but not a huge cushion and certainly no cause for complacency.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ K 5 4 3 ♥ 2 ♦ K 3 ♣ A J 9 6 5 3</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ A Q 10 8 7 5 4 ♦ 6 2 ♣ 10 8 4</p> <p>♠ J 8 6 2 ♥ K ♦ Q J 10 9 7 5 ♣ K 2</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ A Q 10 9 ♥ J 9 6 3 ♦ A 8 4 ♣ Q 7</p>
---	---	---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Tartarin</i>	<i>Nilsson</i>
—	—	—	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

A genuine pre-empt from the old school such as I was brought up on (and which are still encouraged in France) was raised to game by Tartarin. When North led the ace of clubs, declarer just had three losers – two clubs and a diamond. To beat the contract North had to underlead his ♣A so as to be able to give his partner an overruff in the suit, but to do so would have required the gift of second sight.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bjoerk Heed</i>	<i>Robert</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Halfon</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	Dble	1♦
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
3♥	3♠	All Pass	

Did West really pass? And then did she not bid 4♥ after partner's double? South bought the contract in Three Spades and had to lose three trump tricks and two aces – a good save against the 4♥ game. 8 IMPs to Turnips – cushion nicely plumped.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ A K 9 8 ♥ 4 2 ♦ K 5 ♣ A Q 9 7 2</p> <p>♠ 10 3 ♥ 9 6 3 ♦ Q 10 ♣ K J 10 6 5 3</p> <p>♠ 7 5 2 ♥ A K J 8 7 5 ♦ J 6 3 ♣ 4</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ Q J 6 4 ♥ Q 10 ♦ A 9 8 7 4 2 ♣ 8</p>
---	---	---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Tartarin</i>	<i>Nilsson</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	Dble*
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦*
Dble*	2♥	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
4♣	Splinter		

South's 2♦ was a transfer to hearts and I believe West's double showed a diamond honour. East chose to lead a small diamond which declarer gratefully ran round to his king. Declarer cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed one in dummy, exposing the club situation. A small diamond from dummy brought the queen from West who exited with a heart. When declarer tried to ruff a diamond, West got in first as his ♥6 was bigger than the one in declarer's hand. He then exited with his last trump. Declarer still had a spade to lose but had made ten tricks and his contract.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Bjoerk Heed</i>	<i>Robert</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Halfon</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	2♦*
Pass	2♠	All Pass	
2♦	Transfer to hearts		

It seems to me if the partnership followed their system then it is in need of some minor modification as a combined 25 count and an eight-card fit would warrant an attempt at game in my book. But since

declarer only took nine tricks, perhaps it was wiser not to bid the game – even though the lead of a small club would seem to present declarer with ten simple tricks. (For reasons unexplained, declarer decided to cash a club at trick two on which East placed a trump). That momentary loss of concentration meant the loss on the board was 7 IMPs to *Otra Vez*, which would have been only six had ten tricks been made. Cushion now reduced to 14 IMPs.

Over the next nine boards part-score and overtrick battles saw *Turnips* gain three more IMPs.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Tartarin</i>	<i>Nilsson</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	2♣	3♣*	4♣
4♥	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	Rdbl	All Pass	

How refreshing to see a blue card used in anger, a rarity in modern bridge where doubles and redoubles have countless meanings, nearly always not penalty-orientated. When I was learning the game, I was encouraged not to lead an unsupported ace, even if partner had bid the suit. Maybe that advice would be of use to East, as she placed the ace of hearts on the table. Declarer won the heart continuation and played a small spade towards dummy. West took his jack and played the ace of spades – the only card in his hand to take the contract down at this point. Declarer ruffed in dummy and came to hand with a diamond ruff to try and ruff another spade, but West was able to overruff the ♣10 with his jack to defeat the contract. If West had tried any other card, it would have allowed declarer to establish the diamonds by playing West for the ace and East the tripleton queen. The spade continuation uses an entry to dummy prematurely. Of course, all this angst could have been avoided if East had led a black card, which would have resulted in a painless two down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bjoerk Heed</i>	<i>Robert</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Halfon</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	2♥*	4♥	5♣
All Pass			
2♥	♦ and a minor		

Played from the South hand after the obvious ♥Q lead declarer was always two off. 5 IMPs to *Turnips*, which could have been 13, but a lead of 22 IMPs. We





have all lost more than 22 IMPs on the last two boards before now – so no raising of champagne glasses yet.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Palma	Tartarin	Nilsson
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	7♦	All Pass	

A succinct and accurate auction to an excellent contract. Declarer was not taxed in the play and was soon claiming his contract.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bjoerk Heed	Robert	Hult	Halfon
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	6♦*
Pass	6♥*	Pass	6♠
Pass	7♠	All Pass	
2♦	Game forcing		

Perhaps a case of too much science. South is known to have a club void and has not shown more than five spades and so must have at least four diamonds (otherwise would have five hearts) and so a diamond contract would be more proof against bad breaks. A non-3-2 spade split will occur one in three times, so playing in spades you are gambling two IMPs against 16, not the world's best odds. The king of hearts was led, and declarer took the ace, ruffed a heart and cashed the ace and queen of trumps, then disconsolately conceded one off. 16 IMPs to Otra Vez, now only 6 IMPs behind. Would the Great Shuffler give us a last board with chances of swings -a resounding no was the answer. Board 28 was 1NT by East down one (which could possibly have been minus two) and so the final deal was a push, leaving Turnips the Champions.

The Reykjavik Bridge Festival

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Open Teams

Vinci v Mikadinho

The excellent Mixed Championship drifts off into the past, and we welcome the Open event. A skyful of stars are on BBO, but I could not turn down the chance to watch Lauria and Versace. ('I have come to watch the Dutch team', kibitzer Sonya admonished me.)

The first board had me staring out of the window. 1NT-1 against 2♠-1. I could not type those words without yawning.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Lauria	Van de Paverd	Versace
Pass	3♣*	Pass	1♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♥

Can we believe our eyes? What superb bidding! 4♠ on a 5-5 fit goes down on a red-suit lead and (how did they manage it?) the Italians end in 3NT by North. I feel ashamed now for complaining about Board 1.

Tim van de Paverd led the ♦2 to the jack and king. Lauria ran five rounds of spades, East retaining the ♥ KJ and four diamond winners, while baring the ♣K. The ♦9 went to East's 10, and the defenders scored the ace and queen of diamonds. When Tijssen switched to the ♣3, Lauria rose with the ace, dropping East's king, and collected a memorable +600.

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Tijssen	Donati	Verhaegen
—	—	1♥	1♠
Pass	2NT	3♦	4♠
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Not expecting 4♠ to go down, Giorgio Duboin sacrificed in 5♦. Giovanni Donati ruffed the ♠K lead and led the ♥3. Marcel Verhaegen rose with the ♥ A, a play that might have been necessary against ♥ QJ1093. North won the club switch with the ace and returned the ♣J.

On lead with the ♣K, Donati could have been heading for one down. When he cashed the ♦A, this became two down. North won the second trump and forced declarer with a spade. 'Claim of 10 tricks accepted -100' appeared on the screen. We had seen this sort of thing happen more than once during the Mixed Event. A claim or concession is made, but the nature of it is unclear to the VG operator. Eventually, it was corrected to -300. That was 7 IMPs to Vinci, thanks to the 'miracle in the Open Room'.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Lauria	Van de Paverd	Versace
—	—	—	2♥
Pass	4♥	Dble	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

The spade game was comfortable. Declarer won the heart lead, drew trumps and played a diamond. The ace went up, and +680 was scored.

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Tijssen	Donati	Verhaegen
—	—	—	1♥*
Pass	4♥	Dble	Pass
4♠	5♥	Dble	All Pass



I went the extra mile, searching the internet for a convention card that might define the 1♥ opening. No luck. I'm sure you can guess its meaning just as well as I can!

Be that as it may, Luc Tijssen was able to judge that 5♥ was a good investment, while Duboin thought he could not justify bidding five-over-five. Ace and another club was led, and all routes led to three down and minus 500. It was 5 IMPs to Mikadinho.

The next deal offered a small slam, if they could find the 5-3 diamond fit.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Van de Paverd</i>	<i>Versace</i>
2♠	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♣*	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Nijssen's 3♥ rebid must have shown five diamonds. If the two Dutch pairs play the same system, the earlier 1♥ on a weak-two type implies that 2♥ and 2♠ show opening-bid values. With his wealth of keycards, it was easy for East to bid the small slam.

Lauria led the ♥3, Nijssen winning with dummy's ace. When he played ace and another spade, Versace was ready with his smooth low card (of course, he was.). The 10 lost to the jack, and now we began to wonder if an initial trump lead might have been successful. Lauria could then have played a second trump at this stage.

Would such a defence beat the slam? Declarer would need to play the ♣A and ruff a club before taking his single spade ruff. When the spades did not break 3-3, he would ruff another club in his hand, removing South's guard in the suit. The time would then come to draw South's last trump, at the same time squeezing North in hearts and clubs.

Did I use Deep Finesse to discover this line? Or did I work it out in my head, and merely use Deep Finesse for confirmation? I really can't remember.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Tijssen</i>	<i>Donati</i>	<i>Verhaegen</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT*	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♦	All Pass

3NT was conventional and may well have shown 5-2-5-1 shape. Donati knew that the ♠K was missing and settled for 6♦. Duboin won the heart lead in dummy, cashed the ♣A and led a testing black two from a different suit. Verhaegen went in with the king and twelve tricks were claimed. It was a push board.

One slam deal deserves another, some say.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tijssen</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Van de Paverd</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			



I was recounting my fond memories of the Blue Team's wonderful slam bidding, when they were cut short. Versace had decided to cut this auction short. Surprising all comers, I did have a copy of the Lauria-Versace convention card on my screen. 2♥ was game-forcing. 1♠ – 1NT – 2NT would have shown a strong hand with six spades and a four-card minor. Nothing was mentioned about the 2NT and 3♥ bids here.

Perhaps 6♦ is not so wonderful. You need a bit more than a 3-2 trump break. In 3NT, Versace received a diamond lead to the ace and a ♣8 return. He eventually lost a diamond and a heart, collecting +460,

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Tijssen	Donati	Verhaegen
—	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Well, I did spot one diamond bid in that auction. Verhaegen received a spade lead and set up the diamond suit. He ended with +430 for a 1-IMP loss. Let's see what happened at the other tables. 31 pairs bid and made 3NT (or 4NT). 24 pairs made 6♦, with



Giovanni Donati

4 going down. One unfortunate pair could not find a winning line in 7♦ doubled.

Makadinho won the match we have just seen by 14 IMPs to 8.

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Mixed Teams Final, Segment 3

The first half of the 56-board Mixed Teams Final had been very tight. Each team had won a segment by a narrow margin and the halftime score thus stood at 67-66, Turnips thus leading the Otra Vez by the odd IMP. If the 3rd segment would be close again, all looked set for another interesting set and...so it proved.

An overtrick in a routine game on the opening board meant the equaliser for Otra Vez but on the next deal more IMPs were at stake.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 7 6 5 ♥ 4 3 ♦ A Q 9 ♣ A K 4 2	<div style="border: 1px solid blue; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N E S W </div>	♠ J 8 3 ♥ A J 9 2 ♦ J 8 5 ♣ J 10 8	♠ 9 4 ♥ 10 8 7 5 ♦ K 10 7 6 ♣ Q 6 3 ♠ A K Q 2 ♥ K Q 6 ♦ 4 3 2 ♣ 9 7 5
---	--	---	--

In the Open Room, South (Palma) opened 1NT (12-14) and played there. West led a spade. Declarer could not do very much about this board so he won the trick and led the ♥K. East won and returned another spade to declarer's king. Palma now played for the hearts to be 3-3 (♥Q and another) but when this was not the case, he had to accept down two. Turnips +200.

A slightly different auction in the other room made a big difference.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Björk Heed</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Tartarin</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Tartarin being French, could not open a weak 1NT and thus, North became the declarer in 1NT. East led a low heart to dummy's queen and Lorenzini's next move was a bold low club from dummy to his queen. When this held the trick, he played another heart and when East took his ace and shifted to a diamond for

partner's ace. Lorenzini had his 7 tricks for +90 and a very useful 7 IMPs. The French were in the lead again.

Two deals later, sort of a routine game in a minor came along.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ A 3 2 ♥ Q 10 7 6 ♦ J 5 ♣ Q J 10 2	<div style="border: 1px solid blue; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N E S W </div>	♠ 10 7 5 4 ♥ K 9 2 ♦ 10 3 ♣ K 9 4 3	♠ K Q J 8 6 ♥ A J 5 ♦ A Q 9 8 ♣ 7 ♠ 9 ♥ 8 4 3 ♦ K 7 6 4 2 ♣ A 8 6 5
--	--	--	--

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Robert</i>	<i>Nilsson</i>	<i>Halfon</i>	<i>Palma</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

After the Gazzilli-type auction, West had an automatic lead of the ♣Q (wouldn't we all do so?) which allowed declarer to draw trumps and throw losing hearts on dummy's spades. Otra Vez +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Björk Heed</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Tartarin</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	5♦

A more natural auction had made North the declarer so East had a difficult choice of lead. He eventually decided to lead the ♥2, hitting the jackpot. West took her ♠A at first (and only) attempt and returned a heart for a fine down one. Otra Vez +100, 12 IMPs to them and they were back in the lead.

More IMPs changed hands on the next deal.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

This was the auction in the Closed Room:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Björk Heed</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Tartarin</i>
—	1♣	1♠	Pass
3♠	Dble	4♠	5♥
All Pass			

Once the rounded suits behaved, making 11 tricks was easy enough. Turnips +650.

In the Open Room, the auction went about the same lines but at the decisive moment, South did not venture 5♥ but elected to defend 4♠. This contract duly went down two but the score of +100 meant that Turnips had won 11 IMPs on the board, enough to regain the lead by 6 IMPs now.

Two boards later, a slam was in the air.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

If you look at the N/S hands only, there seem to be various ways to get to 12 tricks. The Otra Vez N/S rightly decided they would explore a possible slam on another occasion and stopped in game.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Robert</i>	<i>Nilsson</i>	<i>Halfon</i>	<i>Palma</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Eleven tricks, Otra Vez +650.

The French did not stop at game level.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Björk Heed</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Tartarin</i>
—	—		1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♠*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

North's 4♠ might have caused a rethink by South but when she went on nevertheless, the slam was reached quickly. When West led her diamond, declarer's communication was gone so she had to try to ruff hearts in dummy. When East could overruff quite early, the contract had to go down two. Otra Vez another +200 and 13 IMPs to them to...yet again regaining the lead.

The next deal was a matter of undertricks:


Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

At both tables, North opened 4♠ and was doubled by East. The defence started by cashing the ♥A and continuing ♦A and another. After that, tackling the trumps was declarer's only problem. When the Swedish declarer crossed to dummy's ♣A to run the ♠9, playing West for ♠KQ, she was down two for +300 to Turnips. At the other table, Lorenzini laid down the ♠A first and thus went only 1 down to gain his team 5 IMPs to reduce the deficit to just 2 IMPs.

On the next deal, we saw another case of a possible 4♠ opening bid.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Robert	Nilsson	Halfon	Palma
—	2♦*	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Nilsson did not consider 4♠ but launched a Multi instead. As a consequence, Palma played in 2♠ only and made 10 tricks by eventually ruffing out East's ♣Q. Otra Vez +170.

At the other table, Lorenzini maybe remembered his relative success with opening 4♠ on the previous board so he gave it another try.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Björk Heed	Lorenzini	Hult	Tartarin
—	4♠	All Pass	

The defence was friendly enough. ♣A, ♦8 to partner's ace and a diamond back for a free heart discard. No need for a ruffing club finesse any more. Turnips +420 and back into the lead by 4 IMPs.

On the next two deals, Otra Vez halved their deficit, and this was Board 12:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Robert	Nilsson	Halfon	Palma
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♣
Dble*	Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

In the Open Room the Otra Vez pair produced a quiet auction to a sensible partscore. On a non-diamond lead, two overtricks resulted when declarer eventually located the ♣J successfully as well. Otra Vez +150.

In the Closed Room, Lorenzini upgraded his heart holding.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Björk Heed	Lorenzini	Hult	Tartarin
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East found the best lead of a diamond, but Lorenzini ducked this twice. Seeing no future in that suit, Hult tried a heart at trick 3. After taking the ♣J finesse through East, the danger hand, Lorenzini just lost two more aces and thus made his contract for +600 and 10 IMPs to Turnips who led by 12 now.

This was the next deal, the penultimate of the set. On this, only a club lead would beat 3NT but bidding game might be asking far too much with 13 opposite 7 HCP. Let's see:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Robert	Nilsson	Halfon	Palma
—	2♠	Pass	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

West made a gallant effort after the weak two but East understandably rested her case. Nine tricks on a spade lead, Turnips +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Björk Heed	Lorenzini	Hult	Tartarin
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♠	Dble*	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♦	All Pass

No weak two here so a quieter auction developed, leading to an equally quiet partscore. Just made, Otra Vez +110, 1 IMP to Turnips to win the set 41-29 and thus go into the final 14 boards with a 13 IMP lead (108-95).

Results - Open Teams

Round 1

1	ZIMMERMANN	RIGAINVITES LV	12	4	12.83	7.17
2	VINCI	MIKADINHO	8	14	7.82	12.18
3	MAURITIUS	DELIMPALTADAKIS	50	4	19.86	0.14
4	VINCIGUERRA	EX S	11	43	1.85	18.15
5	ROSENTHAL	EKIN MADEN	15	30	5.20	14.80
6	PATCHWORK DYNAMITE	BV WALDSOLMS	37	0	18.84	1.16
7	MOSSOP	MELI MELO	18	16	10.77	9.23
8	FRANCE PURPLE	ZIGGY	31	11	15.97	4.03
9	LANKVELD	MM BRIDGE ACADEMY	19	6	14.28	5.72
10	TEAMNL	ZAZA BOYS	17	19	9.23	10.77
11	BRENO	BRIDGESCANNER 4	76	2	20.00	0.00
12	AJ DIAMENT	BICI	18	11	12.51	7.49
13	GLOSENDAS	AMOUR DU BRIDGE	13	13	10.00	10.00
14	TEAM BLACK	DINKIN	35	39	8.50	11.50
15	MAVERICKS	ECF HOLDING	23	26	8.86	11.14
16	PALMA	VALIO	11	5	12.18	7.82
17	MORAN	CUMBRE VIEJA	7	23	4.95	15.05
18	DE BOTTON	DUGUET	31	23	12.83	7.17
19	DAISY CHAIN	MOSKOVITS WARRIORS	32	34	9.23	10.77
20	STREET	MAJOR BOGAZICI	30	15	14.80	5.20
21	FRANCE GREEN	HARARI	13	36	3.41	16.59
22	DE MICHELIS	LEVANT	4	35	2.00	18.00
23	PARTYPACK	ROTH	26	12	14.54	5.46
24	KNOTTENBELT	SLOVAKIA	10	31	3.82	16.18
25	ORCA	BUDAPEST QUARTETT	9	26	4.71	15.29
26	GILLIS	TEAM FUNBRIDGE	17	34	4.71	15.29
27	VIDEV	LATVIA U31	29	13	15.05	4.95
28	DUMBOVICH	64FUN	55	3	20.00	0.00
29	CHOKOLATA	CROATIA	32	20	14.00	6.00
30	GROUP ONE TEAM	BASF	19	5	14.54	5.46
31	KAPLAN	BALIAN	43	2	19.33	0.67
32	BRIDGE24PL B	BUYUK KULUP ISTANBUL	12	29	4.71	15.29
33	SANDFIA	1 OVER 2	29	23	12.18	7.82
34	TIANYU	COYNE	17	36	4.25	15.75
35	SCORWAY	ISTANBUL	25	10	14.80	5.20
36	BBC 1	MKMP	39	16	16.59	3.41
37	PHARMASERVICE	ARAKISELLA	14	16	9.23	8.77
38	KROGH	FODD	28	14	14.54	5.46
39	VERTYS	TRANSREGIONAL	28	13	14.80	5.20
40	MIXED TEAM	AUSTRIA	23	28	8.15	11.85
41	PSG	MALEV	36	16	15.97	4.03
42	TEXAN ACES	DAVID	21	19	10.77	9.23
43	PAULISSEN	LES 4 COMPAGNONS	47	28	15.75	2.25
44	HELLAS TEAM	REVANCHE	20	44	3.22	16.78
45	BC HAPOEL	LES FRINGANTS	9	19	6.57	13.43
46	MCALLISTER	TRESET	15	21	7.82	12.18
47	GERMANY OPEN	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

Round 2

1	BRENO	DUMBOVICH	7	36	2.32	17.68
2	MAURITIUS	KAPLAN	29	16	14.28	5.72
3	PATCHWORK DYNAMITE	EX S	22	9	14.28	5.72
4	LEVANT	REVANCHE	45	12	18.30	1.70
5	HARARI	BBC 1	25	17	12.83	7.17
6	SLOVAKIA	FRANCE PURPLE	13	14	9.61	10.39
7	PSG	COYNE	3	33	2.16	17.84
8	PAULISSEN	BUDAPEST QUARTETT	20	14	12.18	7.82
9	BUYUK KULUP ISTANBUL	TEAM FUNBRIDGE	0	39	0.90	19.10
10	CUMBRE VIEJA	VIDEV	17	33	4.95	15.05
11	SCORWAY	VERTYS	41	30	13.72	6.28
12	EKIN MADEN	STREET	14	13	10.39	9.61
13	GROUP ONE TEAM	PARTYPACK	30	7	16.59	3.41
14	KROGH	LANKVELD	0	74	0.00	20.00
15	CHOKOLATA	LES FRINGANTS	24	18	12.18	7.82
16	ZIMMERMANN	DE BOTTON	22	31	6.86	13.14
17	AJ DIAMENT	PALMA	0	8	7.17	12.83
18	MIKADINHO	TRESET	8	24	4.95	15.05
19	ECF HOLDING	SANDFIA	26	19	12.51	7.49
20	GERMANY OPEN	AUSTRIA	26	22	11.50	8.50
21	DINKIN	MOSSOP	33	21	14.00	6.00
22	ZAZA BOYS	TEXAN ACES	8	46	1.03	18.97
23	MOSKOVITS WARRIORS	GLOSENDAS	56	11	19.76	0.24
24	AMOUR DU BRIDGE	DAISY CHAIN	7	24	4.71	15.29
25	DAVID	TEAMNL	55	4	20.00	0.00
26	MELI MELO	PHARMASERVICE	33	5	17.51	2.49
27	ARAKISELLA	TEAM BLACK	4	15	6.28	13.72
28	MIXED TEAM	1 OVER 2	23	16	12.51	7.49
29	MAVERICKS	MCALLISTER	23	37	5.46	14.54
30	VINCI	VALIO	34	5	17.68	2.32
31	BICI	DUGUET	17	10	12.51	7.49
32	RIGAINVITES LV	BC HAPOEL	14	27	5.72	14.28
33	CROATIA	MM BRIDGE ACADEMY	23	16	12.51	7.49
34	FODD	ROTH	23	2	16.18	3.82
35	BASF	ROSENTHAL	25	18	12.51	7.49
36	MAJOR BOGAZICI	TRANSREGIONAL	44	15	17.68	2.32
37	ISTANBUL	LATVIA U31	12	39	2.66	17.34
38	MORAN	GILLIS	12	13	9.61	10.39
39	BRIDGE24PL B	ORCA	35	18	15.29	4.71
40	TIANYU	MALEV	20	27	7.49	12.51
41	ZIGGY	KNOTTENBELT	35	0	18.58	1.42
42	MKMP	FRANCE GREEN	20	15	11.85	8.15
43	HELLAS TEAM	LES 4 COMPAGNONS	17	31	5.46	14.54
44	DE MICHELIS	VINCIGUERRA	19	6	14.28	5.72
45	BV WALDSOLMS	BALIAN	1	16	5.20	14.80
46	DELIMPALTADAKIS	64FUN	3	25	3.61	16.39
47	BRIDGESCANNER 4	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

Results - Open Teams

Round 3

1	DUMBOVICH	LEVANT	17	25	7.17	12.83
2	TEAM FUNBRIDGE	LANKVELD	41	11	17.84	2.16
3	MAURITIUS	COYNE	14	26	6.00	14.00
4	PATCHWORK DYNAMITE	GROUP ONE TEAM	25	5	15.97	4.03
5	MOSKOVITS WARRIORS	VIDEV	21	15	12.18	7.82
6	TEXAN ACES	HARARI	1	27	2.84	17.16
7	DAVID	SCORWAY	18	43	3.03	16.97
8	PAULISSEN	TRESET	24	11	14.18	5.62
9	MELI MELO	FRANCE PURPLE	38	21	15.29	4.71
10	CHOKOLATA	DE BOTTON	19	16	11.14	8.86
11	SLOVAKIA	DINKIN	23	21	10.77	9.23
12	VINCI	EKIN MADEN	0	29	2.32	17.68
13	KAPLAN	PALMA	24	13	13.72	6.28
14	DAISY CHAIN	STREET	20	43	3.41	16.59
15	EX S	BBC 1	9	8	10.39	9.61
16	ECF HOLDING	GERMANY OPEN	3	34	2.00	18.00
17	BUDAPEST QUARTETT	MAJOR BOGAZICI	35	27	12.83	7.17
18	ZIGGY	MCALLISTER	0	39	0.90	19.10
19	BRENO	LATVIA U31	33	9	16.78	3.22
20	TEAM BLACK	FODD	48	21	17.34	2.66
21	LES FRINGANTS	VERTYS	25	10	14.80	5.20
22	BC HAPOEL	MIXED TEAM	34	33	10.39	9.61
23	AUSTRIA	CUMBRE VIEJA	27	22	11.85	8.15
24	BICI	BRIDGE24PL B	12	24	6.00	14.00
25	ZIMMERMANN	AJ DIAMENT	12	14	9.23	10.77
26	SANDFIA	CROATIA	27	28	9.61	10.39
27	REVANCHE	PSG	25	32	7.49	12.51
28	BASF	PARTYPACK	18	33	5.20	14.80
29	MIKADINHO	LES 4 COMPAGNONS	35	20	14.80	5.20
30	MOSSOP	MALEV	34	43	6.86	13.14
31	64FUN	DE MICHELIS	7	32	3.03	16.97
32	BUYUK KULUP ISTANBUL	BALIAN	17	47	1.86	17.54
33	1 OVER 2	MKMP	25	13	14.00	6.00
34	GILLIS	ARAKISELLA	5	26	3.82	16.18
35	AMOUR DU BRIDGE	DUGUET	21	5	15.05	4.95
36	MORAN	KROGH	30	8	16.39	3.61
37	MAVERICKS	MM BRIDGE ACADEMY	27	34	7.49	12.51
38	RIGAINVITES LV	ROSENTHAL	12	39	2.66	17.34
39	BRIDGESCANNER 4	ZAZA BOYS	11	50	0.90	19.10
40	TIANYU	PHARMASERVICE	11	10	10.39	9.61
41	FRANCE GREEN	GLOSENDAS	22	17	11.85	8.15
42	VALIO	ORCA	7	24	4.71	15.29
43	ROTH	TEAMNL	10	23	5.72	14.28
44	HELLAS TEAM	ISTANBUL	23	16	12.51	7.49
45	VINCIGUERRA	TRANSREGIONAL	26	15	13.72	6.28
46	BV WALDSOLMS	KNOTTENBELT	10	5	11.85	8.15
47	DELIMPALTADAKIS	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

Round 4

1	TEAM FUNBRIDGE	LEVANT	34	12	16.39	3.61
2	PATCHWORK DYNAMITE	COYNE	30	27	11.14	8.86
3	HARARI	SCORWAY	7	37	2.16	17.84
4	DUMBOVICH	EKIN MADEN	12	25	5.72	14.28
5	MOSKOVITS WARRIORS	PAULISSEN	32	26	12.18	7.82
6	MELI MELO	GERMANY OPEN	13	24	6.28	13.72
7	MCALLISTER	STREET	28	29	9.61	10.39
8	MAURITIUS	TEAM BLACK	17	26	6.86	13.14
9	BRENO	KAPLAN	45	10	18.58	1.42
10	VIDEV	CHOKOLATA	40	31	13.14	6.86
11	SLOVAKIA	LANKVELD	44	10	18.44	1.56
12	LES FRINGANTS	BUDAPEST QUARTETT	38	21	15.29	4.71
13	GROUP ONE TEAM	DE BOTTON	24	31	7.49	12.51
14	DINKIN	EX S	40	14	16.96	2.64
15	BRIDGE24PL B	BBC 1	26	23	11.14	8.86
16	BALIAN	DE MICHELIS	28	26	10.77	9.23
17	TRESET	PARTYPACK	20	45	3.03	16.97
18	TEXAN ACES	AUSTRIA	41	4	18.84	1.16
19	DAVID	MIKADINHO	11	42	2.00	18.00
20	PALMA	BC HAPOEL	5	22	4.71	15.29
21	ARAKISELLA	FRANCE PURPLE	10	41	2.00	18.00
22	MORAN	ZAZA BOYS	69	12	20.00	0.00
23	PSG	AJ DIAMENT	32	47	5.20	14.80
24	MIXED TEAM	MAJOR BOGAZICI	44	16	17.51	2.49
25	ROSENTHAL	AMOUR DU BRIDGE	64	7	20.00	0.00
26	MALEV	1 OVER 2	25	14	13.72	6.28
27	SANDFIA	ZIMMERMANN	49	32	15.29	4.71
28	CROATIA	CUMBRE VIEJA	50	29	16.18	3.82
29	DAISY CHAIN	VINCI	26	9	15.29	4.71
30	VERTYS	TEAMNL	21	33	6.00	14.00
31	BICI	REVANCHE	43	37	12.18	7.82
32	MM BRIDGE ACADEMY	ECF HOLDING	29	22	12.51	7.49
33	LATVIA U31	ORCA	26	31	8.15	11.85
34	FODD	MOSSOP	35	29	12.18	7.82
35	ZIGGY	FRANCE GREEN	12	47	1.42	18.58
36	BASF	TIANYU	5	55	0.00	20.00
37	LES 4 COMPAGNONS	MAVERICKS	30	42	5.80	13.80
38	PHARMASERVICE	VINCIGUERRA	21	8	14.28	5.72
39	MKMP	HELLAS TEAM	43	24	15.75	4.25
40	DUGUET	64FUN	10	55	0.24	19.76
41	GILLIS	GLOSENDAS	26	35	6.86	13.14
42	BUYUK KULUP ISTANBUL	BV WALDSOLMS	39	42	8.86	11.14
43	KROGH	DELIMPALTADAKIS	1	71	0.00	20.00
44	RIGAINVITES LV	ISTANBUL	43	21	16.39	3.61
45	VALIO	TRANSREGIONAL	17	23	7.82	12.18
46	KNOTTENBELT	BRIDGESCANNER 4	45	9	18.71	1.29
47	ROTH	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

Results - Open Teams

Round 5

1	TEAM FUNBRIDGE	SCORWAY	13	29	4.95	15.05
2	PATCHWORK DYNAMITE	BRENO	32	23	13.14	6.86
3	EKIN MADEN	COYNE	15	27	6.00	14.00
4	GERMANY OPEN	SLOVAKIA	8	27	4.25	15.75
5	MOSKOVITS WARRIORS	LEVANT	1	15	5.46	14.54
6	TEAM BLACK	TEXAN ACES	17	34	4.71	15.29
7	DINKIN	STREET	28	8	15.97	4.03
8	LES FRINGANTS	MCALLISTER	16	12	11.50	8.50
9	VIDEV	MORAN	24	18	12.18	7.82
10	DUMBOVICH	ROSENTHAL	14	22	7.17	12.83
11	PAULISSEN	MIKADINHO	30	21	13.14	6.86
12	PARTYPACK	FRANCE PURPLE	18	0	15.52	4.48
13	HARARI	MELI MELO	18	28	6.57	13.43
14	MIXED TEAM	DE BOTTON	11	16	8.15	11.85
15	MAURITIUS	BC HAPOEL	14	28	5.46	14.54
16	AJ DIAMENT	BRIDGE24PL B	19	24	8.15	11.85
17	CROATIA	BALIAN	14	15	9.61	10.39
18	SANDFIA	CHOKOLATA	36	10	17.16	2.84
19	MALEV	DAISY CHAIN	20	42	3.61	16.39
20	GROUP ONE TEAM	DE MICHELIS	38	25	14.28	5.72
21	BBC 1	TIANYU	23	41	4.48	15.52
22	FRANCE GREEN	BUDAPEST QUARTETT	30	28	10.77	9.23
23	KAPLAN	64FUN	34	26	12.83	7.17
24	MM BRIDGE ACADEMY	BICI	7	15	7.17	12.83
25	LANKVELD	TEAMNL	16	36	4.03	15.97
26	MKMP	EX S	46	13	18.30	1.70
27	ORCA	FODD	17	31	5.46	14.54
28	PALMA	TRESET	39	18	16.18	3.82
29	PSG	DELIMPALTADAKIS	11	7	11.50	8.50
30	PHARMASERVICE	MAVERICKS	11	18	7.49	12.51
31	DAVID	1 OVER 2	9	5	11.50	8.50
32	REVANCHE	LATVIA U31	44	13	18.00	2.00
33	ZIMMERMANN	AUSTRIA	32	0	18.15	1.85
34	ARAKISELLA	ECF HOLDING	27	24	11.14	8.86
35	MAJOR BOGAZICI	VINCI	11	34	3.41	16.59
36	VERTYS	KNOTTENBELT	17	22	8.15	11.85
37	CUMBRE VIEJA	RIGAINVITES LV	15	10	11.85	8.15
38	GLOSENDAS	MOSSOP	13	16	8.86	11.14
39	ZAZA BOYS	AMOUR DU BRIDGE	9	21	6.00	14.00

RANKING AFTER ROUND 5

1	SCORWAY	78.38	33	HARARI	55.31	65	AMOUR DU BRIDGE	43.76
2	TEAM FUNBRIDGE	73.57	33	MKMP	55.31	66	PHARMASERVICE	43.10
3	PATCHWORK DYNAMITE	73.37	35	CROATIA	54.69	67	MOSSOP	42.59
4	SLOVAKIA	70.75	36	BALIAN	54.17	68	ZIGGY	42.44
5	COYNE	70.45	37	FRANCE PURPLE	53.55	69	BUYUK KULUP ISTANBUL	42.20
6	DINKIN	67.66	38	TEAMNL	53.48	70	VINCIGUERRA	42.06
7	LEVANT	67.28	39	AJ DIAMENT	53.40	71	LANKVELD	42.03
8	TEXAN ACES	66.71	40	KAPLAN	53.02	72	ORCA	42.02
9	PARTYPACK	65.49	41	FRANCE GREEN	52.76	73	ECF HOLDING	42.00
10	BRENO	64.54	42	MAURITIUS	52.46	74	VALIO	40.51
11	VIDEV	63.24	43	PALMA	52.18	75	VERTYS	40.43
12	EKIN MADEN	63.15	44	REVANCHE	51.79	76	GLOSENDAS	40.39
13	PAULISSEN	63.07	45	ZIMMERMANN	51.78	77	RIGAINVITES LV	40.09
14	ROSENTHAL	62.86	46	FODD	51.02	78	TRESET	39.70
15	LES FRINGANTS	62.84	47	BICI	51.01	79	EX S	38.60
16	MELI MELO	61.74	48	BUDAPEST QUARTETT	49.88	80	HELLAS TEAM	37.29
17	SANDFIA	61.73	49	VINCI	49.12	81	ZAZA BOYS	36.90
18	BC HAPOEL	61.07	50	DE MICHELIS	48.20	82	MAJOR BOGAZICI	35.95
19	MOSKOVITS WARRIORS	60.35	51	MAVERICKS	48.12	83	LATVIA U31	35.66
20	DAISY CHAIN	59.61	52	PSG	47.34	84	AUSTRIA	35.21
21	MCALLISTER	59.57	53	CHOKOLATA	47.02	85	GILLIS	33.93
22	GERMANY OPEN	59.47	54	MALEV	47.01	86	ISTANBUL	32.39
23	DE BOTTON	59.19	55	BBC 1	46.71	87	LES 4 COMPAGNONS	32.04
24	MORAN	58.77	56	64FUN	46.35	88	ROTH	31.95
25	DUMBOVICH	57.74	57	MM BRIDGE ACADEMY	45.40	89	TRANSREGIONAL	30.69
26	TIANYU	57.65	58	BV WALDSOLMS	45.10	90	KROGH	30.15
27	MIKADINHO	57.50	59	DAVID	45.05	91	BASF	25.41
28	TEAM BLACK	57.41	60	ARAKISELLA	44.37	92	DUGUET	22.01
29	BRIDGE24PL B	56.99	61	DELIMPALTADAKIS	44.25	93	BRIDGESCANNER 4	20.76
30	GROUP ONE TEAM	56.93	62	1 OVER 2	44.09			
31	MIXED TEAM	55.93	63	KNOTTENBELT	43.95			
32	STREET	55.42	64	CUMBRE VIEJA	43.82			

Results - Women Teams

Round 1

81	GALATASARAY SK	GERMANY	26	19	12.51	7.49
82	SWISS WOMEN	TRI POLAR	7	13	7.82	12.18
83	MOTHERS N DAUGHTERS	BAKER	26	6	15.97	4.03
84	AINM	GREEN	12	15	8.86	11.14
85	STEPHY HELLES LADIES	TEAMNL WOMEN	25	41	4.75	14.85
86	EQUIPO VICUNA	FRANCE DAMES	2	61	0.00	20.00
87	CONTRACT KILLERS	STAYWOMEN	19	32	5.72	14.28
88	CAIRDE	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

Round 2

81	STAYWOMEN	EQUIPO VICUNA	33	26	12.51	7.49
82	TRI POLAR	GREEN	7	35	2.49	17.51
83	CAIRDE	STEPHY HELLES LADIES	34	29	11.85	8.15
84	SWISS WOMEN	FRANCE DAMES	12	27	5.20	14.80
85	CONTRACT KILLERS	MOTHERS N DAUGHTERS	21	43	3.61	16.39
86	AINM	GALATASARAY SK	16	27	6.28	13.72
87	GERMANY	TEAMNL WOMEN	6	13	7.49	12.51
88	BAKER	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

Round 3

81	EQUIPO VICUNA	TEAMNL WOMEN	26	28	9.23	10.77
82	BAKER	STEPHY HELLES LADIES	13	40	2.66	17.34
83	TRI POLAR	FRANCE DAMES	32	1	18.00	2.00
84	CAIRDE	CONTRACT KILLERS	30	15	14.80	5.20
85	GALATASARAY SK	SWISS WOMEN	40	26	14.54	5.46
86	MOTHERS N DAUGHTERS	GERMANY	36	14	16.39	3.61
87	STAYWOMEN	AINM	16	11	11.85	8.15
88	GREEN	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

Round 4

81	TEAMNL WOMEN	AINM	22	6	15.05	4.95
82	GREEN	FRANCE DAMES	18	55	1.16	18.84
83	BAKER	CONTRACT KILLERS	45	44	10.39	9.61
84	TRI POLAR	GALATASARAY SK	44	24	15.97	4.03
85	GERMANY	CAIRDE	34	10	16.78	3.22
86	SWISS WOMEN	STAYWOMEN	2	59	0.00	20.00
87	EQUIPO VICUNA	MOTHERS N DAUGHTERS	18	28	6.57	13.43
88	STEPHY HELLES LADIES	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

Round 5

81	AINM	MOTHERS N DAUGHTERS	13	30	4.71	15.29
82	STEPHY HELLES LADIES	CONTRACT KILLERS	19	13	12.18	7.82
83	GREEN	GALATASARAY SK	11	16	8.15	11.85
84	BAKER	GERMANY	45	23	16.39	3.61
85	STAYWOMEN	TRI POLAR	8	13	8.15	11.85
86	CAIRDE	EQUIPO VICUNA	32	13	15.75	4.25
87	TEAMNL WOMEN	SWISS WOMEN	54	9	19.76	0.24
88	FRANCE DAMES	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

RANKING AFTER ROUND 5

1	MOTHERS N DAUGHTERS	77.47
2	TEAMNL WOMEN	72.94
3	FRANCE DAMES	67.64
4	STAYWOMEN	66.79
5	TRI POLAR	60.49
6	CAIRDE	57.62
7	GALATASARAY SK	56.65
8	STEPHY HELLES LADIES	54.42
9	GREEN	49.96
10	BAKER	45.47
11	GERMANY	38.98
12	AINM	32.95
13	CONTRACT KILLERS	31.96
14	EQUIPO VICUNA	27.54
15	SWISS WOMEN	18.72





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/>

28th RED SEA INTERNATIONAL Bridge FESTIVAL IN HONOR OF DAVID BIRMAN

NOVEMBER 9-19, 2♥23 EILAT - ISRAEL



Tournament Program

Mixed Pairs	November 9,10
M.P. Pairs	November 11
National Simultaneous	November 12
IMP Pairs	November 13,14
Open Pairs	November 15,16,17
Teams	November 18

Special Prestigious Invitational Event

Participants from All Over the World
Including European and World Champions

Entrance Fee: €22 per session

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Red Sea Bridge Festival

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