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Daily Bulletin

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Tri Polar's Transnational Triumph



OLYMPIC ESPORTS WEEK

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

For details see the press release published at pages 3-4.



It was singularly appropriate that a team playing under the transnational flag should win the Women's Teams, **Tri Polar** (Irene Baroni, Kathrine Bertheau, Janice Seamon-Molson, Anam Tebha, Nevena Senior, Nicola Smith) overcoming **Baker** (Lynn Baker, Karen McCallum, Sally Brock, Fiona Brown) after a final that contained some truly dramatic deals.

In the quarterfinals of the Open Teams, it is **Vinci, France Green, Vinciguerra** and **Lankveld** who advance to today's semifinals.

In the Open **BAM Pharmaservice, Zimmermann** and **Hellas Team** are leading a tightly packed field.

In the Open Pairs Semifinal A, **Lars Johansen** and **Steffen Simonsen, Steven De Donder** and **Steve De Roos** and **Hakan Tjarnemo** and **Pierre Carbonnier** are the three leading pairs.

The leaders in semifinal B are **Berk Basaran** and **Yusuf Sohtorik**.

In the Women's Pairs **Cathy & Sophia Baldysz** are followed by **Asli Acar** and **Berrak Erkan** and **Ozlem Kandolu** and **Tuna Elmas**.

Elisabeth & Sofie Sjodal are way ahead in the second semifinal.

Results - OPEN TEAMS - QuarterFinals

| | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----|---|--------------|
| 1 | DAISY CHAIN | 111 | 1 | VINCI |
| | VINCI | 140 | | FRANCE GREEN |
| 2 | PATCHWORK DYNAMITE | 81 | 2 | VINCIGUERRA |
| | FRANCE GREEN | 136 | | LANKVELD |
| 3 | TEAM BLACK | 87 | 3 | VINCIGUERRA |
| | VINCIGUERRA | 141 | | LANKVELD |
| 4 | LANKVELD | 109 | 4 | VINCIGUERRA |
| | ROSENTHAL | 97 | | LANKVELD |

Results - WOMEN TEAMS - FINAL

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----|
| 1 | TRI POLAR | 143 |
| | BAKER | 116 |

Mark Horton



Editor's Log

Stardate 15062023

In Bulletin 13 I penned an article entitled *The Great Bridge Swindle*. One eagle eyed reader did some detective work and concluded that the pair sitting NS must be Emile Huybrecht and Tom Wauters, the current Open Pairs champions of Belgium. He went on to remark (with his tongue firmly in his cheek) that it might not be a good omen as Tom oversees the Federation's finances!

Suppose you open 1NT and after the next two players pass your right-hand opponent tries bidding 1♦? No one on the other side of the screen has noticed the insufficient bid and the tray is pushed though the screen. After two passes your partner now bids 2♥. Is that a transfer to spades (which they didn't bother with on the previous round) or is it more subtle, perhaps promising 4-4 in the majors?



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 "Minibridge" 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/>



For want of an IMP....

The match between Baker and Green was a classic, neither team being able to secure a decisive advantage. They went into the final session with Green leading 88-72. There are no bidding records from the Open Room, but they are not especially germane to my theme which is that both teams had opportunities to score a few extra IMPs.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <i>Brock</i> | <i>Sver</i> | <i>Brown</i> | <i>Smederevac</i> |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass |

In these days of featherweight opening bids, I could not find anyone in either team event who opened the West hand. 8 players in the Open were willing to do something with North's cards, but no one ventured beyond 3♠.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Dhondy</i> | <i>McCallum</i> | <i>Madsen</i> | <i>Baker</i> |
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | 2♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

Karen McCallum is not one to travel thousands of miles and spend the day passing.

On this friendly layout as many as 11 tricks might be taken in spades – here declarer collected 10 along with 5 IMPs.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

I cannot tell you how the bidding went in the Open Room, but EW stopped in 3♠, which made on the nose for +140.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Dhondy</i> | <i>McCallum</i> | <i>Madsen</i> | <i>Baker</i> |
| — | 3♦ | Pass | Pass |
| 4♣* | Pass | 4♠ | All Pass |
| 4♣ | Clubs and a major | | |

On this auction East has a straight choice between bidding 4♥ and 4♠. My instinct was for a down the middle 4♥, but those spades are chunky and as usual Barry thought 4♠ might be best.

Unfortunately, 4♠ has little chance while 4♥ might well come home.

On a diamond lead declarer wins in dummy and is likely to play a heart, collecting North's king. Declarer wins the diamond return and will probably play a second heart (it must be the ♥5). Regardless of which heart declarer plays on South's seven (the eight looks a good choice) the next card must be a club, North taking the king and exiting with a diamond (as good as anything). Declarer ruffs in hand, crosses to dummy with a spade and plays a top heart, ensuring 10 tricks.

Whatever, when 4♠ went one down it was another 5 IMPs for Baker.



Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

NS stopped in 4♥ and declarer took 12 tricks, +680.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|----------|----------|-------|
| Dhondy | McCallum | Madsen | Baker |
| — | — | 1♦ | 2♥ |
| Pass | 4♥ | All Pass | |

I can't find 2♥ on the convention card but it looks like it promised both majors.

North made no move towards slam (a decision endorsed by Barry Rigal). In the Open Teams a 2♦ overcall was almost universally popular with slam being reached at 8 of the 12 tables in play. North responded either 2NT, 3♦ or 4♣.

According to the scorecard, declarer collected all the tricks for +710 and an 1MP.

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

In the Open Room NS stopped in 3♥ and scored +140.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|----------|--------|-------|
| Dhondy | McCallum | Madsen | Baker |
| Pass | Pass | 1NT | 2♦* |
| Pass | 3♥* | Pass | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

2♦ Majors

Responding 3♥ is a matter of style. In the Open 2♣ was the popular overcall with 8 pairs bidding 4♥ and half of them recording 10 tricks.

With an awkward collection to lead from East went with the ♦3 and with the defenders making no mistakes there were only nine tricks, -100 and 6 IMPs.


That left the two teams tied, but Baker had won the match between the two in the Round Robin which meant they advanced to the final.

WORLD TRANSNATIONAL OPEN SWISS AND KNOCKOUT TEAMS
August 28 - September 2






MARRAKECH GRAND PRIX TRANSNATIONAL BOARD-A-MATCH (BAM) TEAMS
August 30 - September 1








Marrakech, Morocco

- PLAY FOR WBF TITLES, MEDALS AND MASTERPOINTS AGAINST PLAYERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD 
- PLAY PRESTIGIOUS CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS AGAINST THE WORLD'S BEST PLAYERS 
- ENJOY WORLD CLASS PLAYING CONDITIONS IN A UNIQUE LOCATION 
- 5 OR 6 DAYS OF PLAY ACROSS BOTH EVENTS FOR ONE ENTRY FEE 
- BOTH EVENTS PART OF THE WORLD BRIDGE TOUR 





Women's Teams Semi-Final (2)

Green vs Baker

With Green leading by 5 IMPs, the second stanza started with both E/W pairs competing to 3♠ over their opponents' making partscore and going quietly two down.

Then an off-centre action by Sver struck gold.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <i>Brock</i> | <i>Sver</i> | <i>Brown</i> | <i>Smederevac</i> |
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | 4♦* |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Dhondy</i> | <i>McCallum</i> | <i>Madsen</i> | <i>Baker</i> |
| Pass | 1♦ | 1♥ | 1♠ |
| 2♥ | Dble | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

Against 4♠ Dhondy led a heart. Declarer won in dummy and led a trump to the king and ace (with the high trumps in the closed hand Brown could hardly duck, in case for example declarer had the singleton spade king not heart king). Brown returned a club and Sver took what looked like the best line for an overtrick by pitching one diamond on this trick and one heart on the ♣K. With spades 3-1, 10 tricks were the limit.

By contrast on a low heart lead to the king Baker

relied on trumps to behave and when she led a spade to the king, ducked, then ruffed a club to lead a spade up, Madsen drew trumps and played a top heart, and that was down one. (After the first trump holds, ruffing two hearts in dummy seems to be 100%, of course.) 10 IMPs to Green leading by 15 now.

Board 17. Dealer North, None Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <i>Brock</i> | <i>Sver</i> | <i>Brown</i> | <i>Smederevac</i> |
| — | 1♠ | 1NT | 2♦ |
| Dble | Pass | 2♥ | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | 4♥ | All Pass |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Dhondy</i> | <i>McCallum</i> | <i>Madsen</i> | <i>Baker</i> |
| — | 1♠ | 1NT | Pass |
| Dble | Pass | 2♥ | 3♦ |
| 3♥ | Pass | 4♥ | All Pass |

Both tables reached 4♥ after relatively revealing auctions, on the lead of the ♠5 – which looked very much like a singleton. Brown won and crossed to the ♦A to lead a heart to her king. When it held she was faced with a series of unattractive alternatives, but eventually led out the ♥K. Sver took it to play ♥J and another heart, won in dummy. Now Declarer led a club to her queen and a second club to the 10. Sver

was forced to win the ace and the hand was over.

In the other room at trick two Madsen led out the ♥K won by North who played back the ♦J. Madsen won in hand, tried the ♥Q, then crossed to dummy in diamonds to lead the ♠9, overtaken by the 10 for ♠K and a ruff. When she led a club from the board McCallum took her ♥J and played the fifth spade to score her small trump for the setting trick.

My instincts would have been to lead the ♠K at trick four. Even if South ruffs in you will rarely be any worse than guessing the ♣J; and you will have a count on the hand when you do. If both follow to the second spade you might now cash ♦A and ruff a spade to dummy. If South ruffs in from an original ♥Jx she is endplayed, if she had ♥Jxx she can exit with a heart to let her partner lead a spade, but now you are again no worse than finding ♣J. The margin was down to five once more.

On the next deal against the auction 1♠-2♠ Baker's lead of a MUD heart from ♥654 was more successful than Smederevac's choice of a diamond from ♦KJ9 and that meant 4 IMPs to Baker, down by a single IMP.

The next deal provided a small dose of humour. Sver and McCallum both opened a strong no-trump. Baker invited game and McCallum accepted; Smederevac passed her 4333 eight count and heard her passed hand LHO double (minor + major), and everybody passed. The hand that had passed throughout cashed her six hearts and her partner's ♠A for down one, while in the other room 3NT went a quiet three down and Green had 2 IMPs.

Two boards later Baker took the lead when a fanciful action by Madsen at favourable vulnerability backfired.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <i>Brock</i> | <i>Sver</i> | <i>Brown</i> | <i>Smederevac</i> |
| — | 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ |
| 3♠ | All Pass | | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Dhondy</i> | <i>McCallum</i> | <i>Madsen</i> | <i>Baker</i> |
| — | 1♣ | 3NT | All Pass |

3NT went two down quietly on a heart lead, 3♠ on ♥A and another saw declarer cross-ruff via the club finesse, losing eventually a club a heart and two spades. After e.g., a trump lead might declarer play ♦A and take the ruffing finesse, pitching a club? Now after a club exit declarer would repeat the process I suppose and should come home.

The lead did not last out the next deal:

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <i>Brock</i> | <i>Sver</i> | <i>Brown</i> | <i>Smederevac</i> |
| — | — | Pass | 1♣* |
| Pass | 1♥* | Pass | 2♦ |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

1♣ strong
1♥ 8-11

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Dhondy</i> | <i>McCallum</i> | <i>Madsen</i> | <i>Baker</i> |
| — | — | Pass | 1♦ |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 2♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

Baker's decision not to open a strong no-trump is fine by me but the rebid seems a little tame? McCallum wrapped up 11 tricks after a club lead. In the other room the strong club and positive response locked N/S into playing game. 4♥ received a spade lead and diamond shift. The defenders took their ruff and declarer had no reason not to take the heart finesse for the contract.



There was more of exactly the same on the very next deal:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|-------|----------|------------|
| Brock | Sver | Brown | Smederevac |
| — | — | — | 1♣* |
| Pass | 1♦* | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

1♣ Strong
1♦ Negative

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|--------------------|--------|-------|
| Dhondy | McCallum | Madsen | Baker |
| — | — | — | 1NT |
| Pass | Pass | 2♥* | 2♠ |
| 3♥ | All Pass | | |
| 2♥ | Hearts and a minor | | |

Brock's spade lead went to the queen and jack. The diamond eight went round to Brock's jack, leaving her to guess whether to play a heart or club next. It seemed like a heart needed less from partner – but the ♥Q was now declarer's ninth trick. When West pitched her spade guard that meant Sver had 11 tricks.

In the other room 3♥ escaped undoubled for down 100 and 11 IMPs to Green, up by 15.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|-------|------------|
| Brock | Sver | Brown | Smederevac |
| Pass | 1NT | 2♦* | 4♥ |
| 4♠ | Pass | Pass | 5♦ |
| All Pass | | | |

2♦ One major

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|----------|--------|-------|
| Dhondy | McCallum | Madsen | Baker |
| Pass | 1♣ | 2♠ | Pass |
| 4♠ | All Pass | | |

Baker led the ♦2 against 4♠. The best declarer could do was put up the ♦J and duck it. Then she could dislodge the ♠A and use a trump entry to dummy to take the heart finesse and pitch a club on the hearts. But that was still down one.

5♦ on a club lead saw declarer able to avoid the need for a finesse there but still had to lose the obvious three red-suit tricks for -50 and a hard-earned 3 IMPs to Baker. The lead stood at 11 for Green. There were only overtricks and undertricks for the rest of the set. Green led by 9 IMPs at the half.

Photo: Irene Baroni, Nicola Smith, Barry Rigal, Nevena Senior





Open Teams Round of 16 (2)

Mavericks v Vinciguerra

I looked for a match between two teams that looked evenly matched and came up with Vinciguerra (France/Monaco) v Mavericks (Norway/India/Ukraine). Both teams had similar records to reach this point: they both made it into the knockout stage with mid-table finishes in the Swiss, Vinciguerra in 17th place and Mavericks in 23rd.. Both survived their Round of 32 encounters thanks to big final sets. The French has led by 1 IMP going into the last stanza of their match against Ekin Maden (Turkey) but won the final set 46-14. Mavericks has started their last 14 boards against Partypack (Sweden) trailing by 18 IMPs, but a 59-26 final set had seen them through with a 15-IMP win. Further confirmation that this match was unlikely to be a blowout for either team was that the score after the first stanza stood at 24-24.

As usual, we start with some problems. Firstly, with both sides vulnerable, you are South holding:

♠ K 9 8
♥ J 8 5
♦ K 9 7 5 4
♣ K 3

Closed Room

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| 2♠ | Dble | 4♠ | ? |

What action, if any, do you take?

Next, with neither side vulnerable you hold as North:

♠ A 6
♥ Q 10
♦ K 10 8 4
♣ A Q 10 9 4

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | 1NT | 2♦* | 2♥ |
| 3♠ | Pass | Pass | 4♦ |
| 4♠ | ? | | |

2♦ Multilandy

What action, if any, do you take?

The second set started slowly, and the match score had advanced (in you can call it that) all the way to 26-26 when we got out first potential swing deal. Both South players were faced with the first of the problems posed above...

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--|----------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---------|
| ♠ — | | ♠ Q 7 6 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ A K 3 | | ♥ Q 10 9 7 4 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ A J 3 | | ♦ 10 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ A Q J 9 8 6 5 | | ♣ 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ A J 10 5 3 2 | <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> | | N | | W | | E | | S | | ♠ K 9 8 |
| | N | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ 6 | | ♥ J 8 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ Q 8 2 | | ♦ K 9 7 5 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ 10 7 4 | | ♣ K 3 | | | | | | | | | |

Closed Room

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Bhattacharjee</i> | <i>Soulet</i> | <i>Maskara</i> | <i>Vinciguerra</i> |
| 2♠ | Dble | 4♠ | Pass |
| Pass | 5♣ | All Pass | |

Two members of Mavericks' Indian contingent quickly got the auction to the four-level, leaving Herve Vinciguerra with the first of today's problems. The Frenchman's choice was to pass, and he then passed again when Philippe Soulet backed in with 5♣. With diamonds breaking 3-2, there was nothing to the play: N/S +620.

Open Room

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Lorenzini</i> | <i>Livgard</i> | <i>T.Bessis</i> | <i>Aa</i> |
| 2♠ | Dble | 4♠ | Dble |
| Pass | 6♣ | All Pass | |

Slam is better than a 3-2 diamond break, as declarer should also make on any 4-1 break except one of the three low singletons in the East hand.

After the same start to the auction, double European champion and Norwegian star Terje Aa made a value-showing responsive double. That was



enough to encourage Allan Livgard to jump to slam in his long suit.

Livgard ruffed the opening spade lead, trundled off a number of rounds of trumps, and eventually cashed the $\diamond A$ and led the $\diamond J$, presumably intending to duck if East covered with the $\diamond Q$. By conceding a diamond, declarer established a parking place for his heart loser. N/S +1370 and 13 IMPs to Mavericks.

On some deals, it is difficult to tell who is saving and who is bidding to make...

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <i>Bhattacharjee</i> | <i>Soulet</i> | <i>Maskara</i> | <i>Vinciguerra</i> |
| Pass | 1NT | 2♠ | 3♦* |
| 4♠ | All Pass | | |

Subodh Maskara came in with a natural 2♠ overcall of North's opening 1NT. South joined in with a 3♦ transfer (although this usually shows at least invitational values). West's jump to 4♠ then ended the brief auction.

The ♣J lead would have given the defenders five tricks, but Herve Vinciguerra opted for the $\diamond 2$. Declarer should have allowed North to win with the $\diamond 10$ to ensure that South could not regain the lead, but Maskara won with the $\diamond A$ and played a trump. Philippe Soulet won with the ♠A and underled his $\diamond K$ to get his partner back on lead. In with the $\diamond Q$, Vinciguerra had a second chance to lead a club through dummy's king. When he instead switched to a heart into declarer's tenace, one of the defenders' club tricks eventually disappeared. N/S +50.

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| <i>Lorenzini</i> | <i>Livgard</i> | <i>T.Bessis</i> | <i>Aa</i> |
| Pass | 1NT | 2♦* | 2♥ |
| 3♠ | Pass | Pass | 4♦ |
| 4♠ | 5♦ | Dble | All Pass |

After the same start, Thomas Bessis had to start with 2♦ to show a one-suited hand with a major. This allowed Terje Aa to get his heart suit into the auction at the two level. Cedric Lorenzini jumped to 3♠, but Bessis turned down the invitation. However, Aa was not prepared to sell out and backed in with 4♦ on his weak 6-5. Now Lorenzini bid a fourth spade, leaving Allan Livgard with the second of today's problems.

Partner showed no interest in game when he bid 2♥. Do you therefore expect to have any chance of making an 11-trick contract. Probably not, but can you be sure of beating 4♠? Livgard decided to take out the insurance by bidding 5♦. There were two hearts and a diamond to lose to top, and declarer held the defence to just those three tricks. N/S -100 and 4 IMPs to Vinciguerra.

Vinciguerra had brought the match score back to 40-41 when the penultimate board of the set arrived at the tables. With both sides likely to make 11 tricks in two different denominations, this deal offered plenty of scope for a big swing.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <i>Bhattacharjee</i> | <i>Soulet</i> | <i>Maskara</i> | <i>Vinciguerra</i> |
| — | — | — | 1♦ |
| Pass | 1♠ | 2♥ | 4NT* |
| 5♣ | Pass* | Pass | 6♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

There are no alerts shown in the VuGraph record, so I cannot tell you whether Philippe Soulet's 1♠ response was conventional, or just an imaginative effort to steal the opponents' major. South's jump immediately to Blackwood suggests that 1♠ was just natural.

Aniruddha Bhattacharjee's 5♣ bid was a lead-directing raise to 5♥. Soulet's pass of 5♣ presumably showed one keycard, in which case there was never

any chance that Vinciguerra would choose to defend. Indeed, 6♠ is an excellent contract, failing only because the unfortunate diamond layout.

Bhattacharjee's intelligent bid got the defence off to the best start, Maskara leading the ♣K and continuing the suit. Declarer ruffed in dummy, cashed the ♠A and crossed to his hand with a second trump to the king. When declarer then led a diamond from his hand, it is hard to criticize Maskara for ruffing to make sure that the slam went down. N/S -50.

Had East discarded on the diamond, West would eventually get in with the ♦Q. Playing a high club to force declarer would then have ensured a late trump trick for East for two down, but an extra 50 rates to be fairly meaningless. (Remember that observation if Mavericks lose by 1 or 2 IMPs.)

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|---------|----------|-------|
| Lorenzini | Liugard | T.Bessis | Aa |
| — | — | — | 1♦ |
| Pass | 2NT* | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♦ | 4♥ | 4NT* |
| 5♥ | Pass* | Pass | 6♦ |
| All Pass | | | |

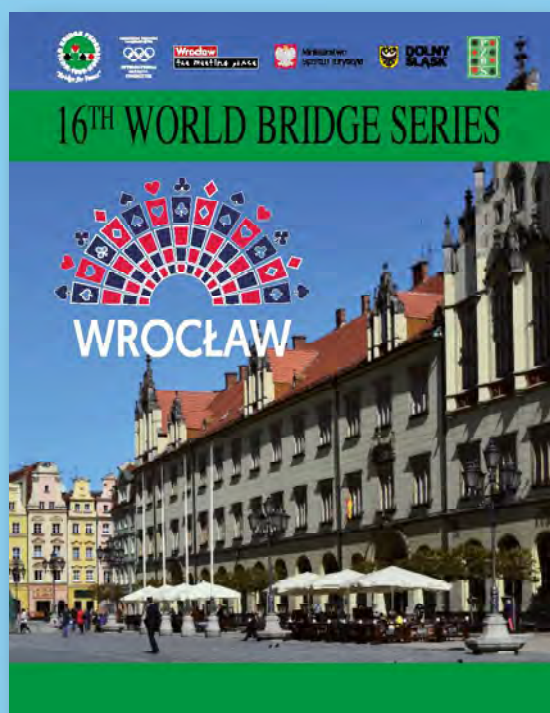
For the Norwegians, Livgard started with 2NT, showing a weak diamond raise. Bessis bided his time to see whether South just retreated to 3♦ or did something stronger. Aa bid out his shape with 3♠ and Livgard showed a minimum, and now Bessis entered the fray with 4♥. Aa was still looking for slam so he rolled out Blackwood and Lorenzini competed at the five-level. Aa had no interest in defending, as slam would have play opposite just about any hand with four-card diamond support.

Lorenzini led a heart to declarer's ace, and Aa cashed a top diamond. When Bessis discarded, Aa conceded one down: N/S -50.

With both teams getting to the good but failing slam, this deal was an honourable push in this match. However, the board did generate a swing in six of the eight matches in the Open. Two E/W pairs were allowed to play in 5♥ making (one doubled), and five N/S pairs bought the hand in game (again, one doubled, in 5♦). Six N/S pairs went down in 6♦ or 6♠ and three E/W pairs played in 6♥x going one down.

A speculative double of a game on the last board of the set meant that Vinciguerra won the second stanza 23-17, so they lead 47-41 at the midway point of the match. Every indicator suggests that this one is likely to go right down to the wire.

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Open Teams Round of 16 (3)

As the field is getting smaller and smaller, which is the case this week, the status of the players still there is getting up. In Wednesday's Round of 16 matches on BBO, I spotted a number of French and Italian national team players and some former or reigning World and European Champions from my home country who had to play each other as well.

So I was happy to sit down behind my screen to have a good look at what would happen at these three matches (with their halftime scores added):

- Mavericks** v **Vinciguerra** 41-48
- France Green** v **Breno** 82-53
- Lankveld** v **Mauritius** 51-58

So two matches quite close at this point and one still with everything to play for. The opening board did not look as if it would trouble the scorers but this was not quite the case as there happened to be one odd table out.



Marc Bompis

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Mavericks v Vinciguerra

In the Open Room, the Indian N/S had had no problem in ending up in 4♠, making it with the obvious overtrick. In the other two matches, they all did the same. However, the ace that was not a real ace wrongfooted Bompis because the auction had gone like this:

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <i>Majumdar</i> | <i>Bompis</i> | <i>Anklesaria</i> | <i>Multon</i> |
| — | 1NT | Pass | 2♥* |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 4♣* |
| Pass | 4♦* | Pass | 4♠ |
| Pass | 4NT* | Pass | 5♥* |
| Pass | 6♠ | All Pass | |

One off, +50 to Mavericks and 11 IMPs to them. I was wondering whether South's 4♣ bid could have shown the ♣A here rather than the pretty obvious splinter...

The next board was a possible slam. At four tables, N/S reached it but at only one table, they were allowed to play and fulfil it as well. The others landed in a game, not always in a minor suit.

In the France Green v. Breno match, the Italians even managed to steal the wrong game.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <i>Franchi</i> | <i>Lhuissier</i> | <i>Lanzarotti</i> | <i>Bernard</i> |
| — | — | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | 1♦ | Pass | 3♦ |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♥* |
| Dble | Pass* | Pass | 5♦ |
| All Pass | | | |

Nothing special in the OR. France Green +620.

In the replay, Alain Levy chose 1♠ as his semi-psychic but quite natural opening bid. North, in some trouble now, overcalled 1NT with a maximum HCP holding but also a minimum heart stopper. South had a simple raise to 3NT and East an equally obvious lead of partner's suit. When his ♠10 blew up the whole of the spade suit, declarer had all the tricks for +720 and even a 3-IMP gain...

In the Dutch match, they explored both the lower and the upper limits of sacrificing.

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Helle</i> | <i>De Boer</i> | <i>Hoogenkamp</i> | <i>Snellers</i> |
| — | — | 3♥ | Pass |
| 4♥ | Dble | All Pass | |

When E/W are pre-empting like this, fully up to the reputation they gained over the years, the pressure is high. Is 5♦ by South now as obvious a bid as it might look at first sight? Lankveld +300 only for the two meagre undertricks they could collect here.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <i>Van Lankveld</i> | <i>Van Prooijen</i> | <i>Van den Bos</i> | <i>B Drijver</i> |
| — | — | 2♥ | Pass |
| 4♥ | Dble | Pass | 5♦ |
| 5♥ | 6♦ | Pass | Pass |
| 6♥ | Dble | All Pass | |

Berend van den Bos opened one level lower which made it easier, probably, for Bob Drijver to assess the situation. In the end, Joris van Lankveld showed the same fine judgement by sacrificing once more. Down four, +800 to Mauritius and 11 IMPs to them.

A quiet board next but then came a play problem.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| ♠ K J 7 6 | ♥ 8 6 2 |
| ♦ 10 8 7 | ♣ Q J 9 |

A simple, straightforward 4♠ by E/W at nearly all tables but only two declarers made their game: Lorenzini for Vinciguerra and Van den Bos for Lankveld. They both won the ♥A and crossed to a diamond honour. Their teams thus gained a game swing of 13 and 12 IMPs respectively. The extra IMP was for Lorenzini's overtrick when the defence persisted with hearts after winning their trump trick.



Franck Multon



A few N/S pairs ran into trouble on yet another wonderful misfit:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|---------|----------|---------------|
| Lorenzini | Maskara | T Bessis | Bhattacharjee |
| — | — | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 3♣* | Pass | 5♣ |
| Pass | 5♦ | Dble | Pass |
| Pass | 5♠ | Dble | All Pass |

North's 3♣ was more an improvisation than a side suit. Down two, Vinciguerra +300.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|--------|------------|--------|
| Majumdar | Bompis | Anklesaria | Multon |
| — | — | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 2NT* | Pass | 3♥* |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

When East led the ♥9 to the ten, queen and ace, declarer had an easy ride, even more so when the ♣A was right for him. Just made, Vinciguerra +400 and 12 more IMPs to them.

Next, we saw another slam, exactly we wanted...

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| Lorenzini | Maskara | T Bessis | Bhattacharjee |
| — | — | — | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 4♠* | Pass |
| 6♣ | All Pass | | |

East's 4♠ showed minors and a spade singleton which made reaching the slam very easy. North led the ♣J, won in dummy to lead a low club. When the king came down, the rest was plain sailing. Vinciguerra +1390.

The Mavericks also got to slam but it cost them much more energy...



Alain Levy

Romain Zaleski

Eric Maubertez

Antonio Sementa

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <i>Majumdar</i> | <i>Bompis</i> | <i>Anklesaria</i> | <i>Multon</i> |
| — | — | — | Pass |
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♦ | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3♠* | Pass |
| 4♣ | Pass | 4♦ | Pass |
| 4♠ | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 5♦ | Pass | 6♣ | All Pass |

Trump lead from North and 12 tricks for +1370 to them and a 1-IMP loss.

From here, we jump directly to board 11.

This board caught my eye because they reached five different final contracts in our three matches. Here are the various auctions.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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



Mavericks v Vinciguerra

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| <i>Lorenzini</i> | <i>Maskara</i> | <i>T Bessis</i> | <i>Bhattacharjee</i> |
| — | — | — | 1♦ |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 1NT |
| All Pass | | | |

One overtrick on the ♣Q lead from West, Maverick +120.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <i>Majumdar</i> | <i>Bompis</i> | <i>Anklesaria</i> | <i>Multon</i> |
| — | — | — | 1♦ |
| 2♣ | Dble | 3♣ | Pass |
| Pass | Dble | Pass | 3NT |
| Pass | 4♥ | All Pass | |

Finally, Bompis could bid his hearts as a suit as well but the various detours had brought him to a dangerous level. One down, Maverick +50 and 5 IMPs to them.

In the France Green v Breno match the Italians West also showed a heart suit:

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <i>Franchi</i> | <i>Lhuissier</i> | <i>Lanzarotti</i> | <i>Bernard</i> |
| — | — | — | 1NT* |
| 3♣* | All Pass | | |

West's 3♣ was the rounded suits so East was happy to pass and West himself was happy with his contract. Breno +110.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <i>Levy</i> | <i>Zaleski</i> | <i>Mauberquez</i> | <i>Semeta</i> |
| — | — | — | 1NT |
| Dble | Rdbl | Pass | Pass |
| 2♣ | 2♥ | All Pass | |

In the replay, Levy also showed his suits but Zaleski was not impressed by the double. Two Hearts just made for another +110 and 6 IMPs to France Green.

In the all-Dutch match, we saw the difference between young and very young:

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Helle</i> | <i>De Boer</i> | <i>Hoogenkamp</i> | <i>Snellers</i> |
| — | — | — | 1♦ |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 2♦* | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 2NT | All Pass | |

Wubbo just found an invitation and Agnes had no trouble in passing it. West led the ♣Q here as well. Lankveld +120.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <i>Van Lankveld</i> | <i>Van Prooijen</i> | <i>Van den Bos</i> | <i>B Drijver</i> |
| — | — | — | 1♦ |
| 2♣ | 2♦ | 4♣ | Pass |
| Pass | Dble | Pass | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

Van Prooijen showed his hearts with 2♦ and he, too, was worth one more invitational action. Or maybe not when the cards did not comply. One down, Lankveld another +50 and 5 more IMPs to them.

On the next board, the Indians adopted an alternative fast arrival:



Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|---------|----------|---------------|
| Lorenzini | Maskara | T Bessis | Bhattacharjee |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

North's 2♥ was explained as weak but this did not at all deter South. With all the red suits behaving well, making ten tricks proved no problem. Mavericks +620.

In the other room, the French bid at exactly half the speed of their counterparts.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|----------|------------|--------|
| Majumdar | Bompis | Anklesaria | Multon |
| Pass | 1♥ | Dble | 2♥ |
| 3♠ | All Pass | | |

Over West's 3♠ everyone nodded in respect – and fully understandably so. Down two, +100 to Vinciguerra but 11 IMPs to Mavericks.

In the France Green v Breno match, they equalled these results. It went like this:

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|-----------|------------|---------|
| Franchi | Lhuissier | Lanzarotti | Bernard |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 2♥ |
| 2♠ | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| 3♠ | All Pass | | |

Down two. France Green +100.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|---------|------------|---------|
| Levy | Zaleski | Mauberquez | Sementa |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

Just made, Breno +620 and 11 IMPs to them, too. In the Low Country match, the Mauritius West

exploited the fact that their partnership is adopting very light opening bids.

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|---------|------------|----------|
| Helle | De Boer | Hoogenkamp | Snellers |
| 1♠ | 2♥ | 4♠ | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

After this example of fast arrival, South could only double. This time, it worked out quite well for both sides: a makeable game and a useful sacrifice. Mauritius +500.

It did not help Mauritius that much because Joris van Lankveld himself also had a light opening bid available (10-12).

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| Van Lankveld | Van Prooijen | Van den Bos | B Drijver |
| 1NT | 2♦ | Dble | 2♥ |
| 2♠ | All Pass | | |

North showed his hearts with 2♦ and East's double was enough to prevent any invitational actions from South. Two Spades went just one down, of course, so Mauritius had gained 10 IMPs.

On board 13, the penultimate one, it all was a matter of killing the entry to South's clubs prematurely. The only way to succeed in this would be a heart lead, however. Still, 3NT was a popular contract because you would not know in advance about the lethal club break.

Let's have a look at the various proceedings.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Mavericks v. Vinciguerra:

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|---------|----------|---------------|
| Lorenzini | Maskara | T Bessis | Bhattacharjee |
| — | 1♠ | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 3♦ | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

Would you as West have found the heart lead after this auction? Lorenzini did not and who can blame him? Nine tricks, Mavericks +600.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|--------|------------|--------|
| Majumdar | Bompis | Anklesaria | Multon |
| — | 1♠ | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2♥* |
| Pass | 3♣ | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

Majumdar hit upon the unbid suit. He led the ♥J which meant down two, Mavericks another +200 and 13 IMPs to them.

The Dutch match:

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|---------|------------|----------|
| Helle | De Boer | Hoogenkamp | Snellers |
| — | 1♠ | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 3♥ |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

East on lead, for a change. His ♦9 was not a defensive success either. Lankveld +600.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| Van Lankveld | Van Prooijen | Van den Bos | B Drijver |
| — | 1♠ | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 3♣ | Pass | 3♦ |
| Pass | 3♥ | Dble | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

East could disturb the N/S relay process just once but that was enough to induce a ♥J lead from West. Down two, Lankveld another +200 and 13 IMPs to them.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

This was the last board of the set, a very good club slam. I am sorry to say that only three out of our 16 E/W pairs bid it: Auken-Welland, Lauria-Versace and Madala-Bilde. Well done, all of you!

The scores in our three matches with 14 more boards to play thus jad become:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Mavericks v Vinciguerra | 84-77 |
| France Green v Breno | 93-96 |
| Lankveld v Mauritius | 95-71 |





Open Teams Round of 16 (4)

After three of the four sessions between Zimmermann and Daisy Chai in the Open Teams Daisy Chain had a slender lead of 3 IMPs This final session would decide who would go forward to the quarterfinals.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Is South being a little over-optimistic in trying for slam? Partner is always likely to push to bid Four Spades if he can. You have a lot of losers to cover. In Five Spades the lead was the queen of hearts taken in hand and with the aid of a finesse the trumps were drawn in four rounds. Declarer maximised his chances by first playing a diamond towards the ♦10 which lost to the jack and after that setback he played for hearts to be 3-3. The opening heart lead was either singleton queen, queen doubleton or ♥QJx (four hearts unlikely as that would give West a singleton diamond, a more likely lead). If West's holding is not three cards in the heart suit declarer can make the contract by stripping East and then throwing him in with a heart to lead away from the king of diamonds.

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| <i>Madala</i> | <i>Kalita</i> | <i>Bilde</i> | <i>Klukowski</i> |
| — | — | — | 1♠ |
| 4♣ | 4♠ | Pass | 5♣* |
| Pass | 5♠ | All Pass | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Brink</i> | <i>Franceschetti</i> | <i>Drijver</i> | <i>Robert</i> |
| — | — | — | 1♠ |
| 4♣ | Pass | Pass | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

At this table North patiently awaited his partner's reopening double to considerable success. North led



Sjoert Brink

Pierre Franceschetti

Bas Drijver

Quentin Robert

the ace of spades and continued with the ♠9, ruffed by declarer. The queen of hearts ran round to South's king and a club was returned for the jack and queen. Another spade forced declarer to ruff. The ♣10 saw North take his ace and play a heart to South's ace and a fourth round of spades was ruffed and overruffed. When declarer misguessed the diamonds he was five down, 10 IMPs to Daisy Chain.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|----------|-------|-----------|
| Madala | Kalita | Bilde | Klukowski |
| — | 3♦ | Pass | 4♦ |
| 4♥ | All Pass | | |

Declarer took the opening diamond lead in dummy and ran the ♣10 to North's king. When another diamond was played it was won in hand and a small heart brought North's king and now declarer was safe for ten tricks. Had North returned a club after winning the king then a third round after taking his ♥K would require declarer to ruff with dummy's ♥10 and then play a heart to the eight to make the contract. A

mildly interesting aside is that my finessing friend tells me you can always make an overtrick, I will leave it to you, dear reader, to marvel as to how it is possible.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|---------------|---------|----------|
| Brink | Franceschetti | Drijver | Robert |
| — | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3♠* | All Pass |

When North failed to produce an opening bid it gave East the chance to open a weak two bid in spades, now the hearts were lost as was the chance of game. Declarer lost two diamonds, a club, a spade and 7 IMPs.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|--------|----------|-----------|
| Madala | Kalita | Bilde | Klukowski |
| — | — | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | 1NT* | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 4♦ | All Pass | |

1NT Forcing one round



The ♣9 lead was allowed to run to East's queen. The heart return went to West's ace and the ♥Q continuation was taken in dummy with the king. Declarer drew trumps and played ace and another club, discarding a diamond and at the same time creating a club winner for a second diamond discard and his contract.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Brink</i> | <i>Franceschetti</i> | <i>Drijver</i> | <i>Robert</i> |
| — | — | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 3NT |
| Dble | All pass | | |

E/W had a good idea by this time that things were not going their way so a swing or two needed to be created which probably explains West's Double. The ♥10 was led to the jack, queen and king and now declarer cashed his top nine tricks and gained 4 IMPs.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| <i>Madala</i> | <i>Kalita</i> | <i>Bilde</i> | <i>Klukowski</i> |
| Pass | Pass | 1NT | 2♣* |
| 2♦ | 2♥ | 3♦ | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

2♣ Majors

When North made a free bid South went for the vulnerable game. A diamond lead taken in dummy and the queen of clubs went to East's ace. Another diamond saw East win and lead a trump which declarer ducked but took the continuation.

After the ace of spades and a spade ruff declarer conceded one down as he had to lose a spade.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Brink</i> | <i>Franceschetti</i> | <i>Drijver</i> | <i>Robert</i> |
| Pass | Pass | 1NT | 2♣* |
| 2♦ | 2♥ | 3♦ | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |
| 2♣ | Majors | | |

Same auction, same first three tricks. At trick four West led a spade to the ♠6, queen and ace. Declarer now played ace and another heart which left East on play. East has to play a diamond to beat the contract, but he knew it was a ruff and discard and he also knew that a ruff and discard is a bad thing. Not this time as you are only doing what declarer would be doing and he has seven cards, a club winner and only five trumps. East chose a club and now declarer could ruff out the club suit for ten tricks. It is more testing for declarer if a spade is returned, if it is the ♠10 then declarer covers, ruffs in dummy, comes back to hand with a club ruff and then takes a ruffing finesse against the ♠9. If East returns a small spade, then declarer inserts the ♠7 ruffs West's ♠10 and then comes back to hand to lead the ♠J, pinning East's ♠10. 12 IMPs to Daisy Chain who ran out winners by 30 IMPs and progressed to play Vince in the quarterfinals.

Photo: Quentin Robert





Women's Teams: Final (2)

Tri Polar v Baker

Only an ardent statistician could tell you how many European and World Championships medals the players in these two teams have between them. Suffice it to say that it is a very large number. A year ago, in the McConnell Cup at the World Championships in Wroclaw, these two teams won silver (Tri Polar) and bronze (Baker) medals. Here in Strasbourg, they battle it out for gold, and we are expecting a great final.

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

♠ A K J 6 5
♥ J 5 4 2
♦ A J
♣ 6 5

Closed Room

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | 3♥ | 3NT | ? |

What action, if any, do you take?

Next, with both sides vulnerable you hold as South:

♠ A 10 6
♥ J 7 6 4 3
♦ K 3
♣ A J 6

Closed Room

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | Pass | 1♠ | |

What action, if any, do you take?

Finally, with just your side vulnerable, you are sitting in the West seat with:

♠ A Q
♥ —
♦ 10 6 5 4 3 2
♣ K Q J 7 3

Closed Room

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| — | 2♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| ? | | | |

The score stood at 36-36 at the end of the first stanza. The large crowd watching live on BBO VuGraph did not have to wait long for the second-half action to start. And, what an enormous bang it was, just in case anyone was dozing off. This was the second board of the set...

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Closed Room

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Smith</i> | <i>McCallum</i> | <i>Senior</i> | <i>Baker</i> |
| Pass | 3♥ | 3NT | 4♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Dble | All Pass |

Karen McCallum opened a second-seat 3♥ at favourable and Nevena Senior overcalled 3NT to leave Lynn Baker with the first of the problems posed above. Yes, 4♥ rates to be relatively cheap, but are the opponents making their game? Baker chose to take the insurance.

It looks like declarer has six losers in 4♥x. Senior opened the ♦K, declarer winning with the ace and returning a diamond to East's queen. It is not obvious that East needs to be careful now. Senior cashed the ♣A and played a second club to her partner's king, but one of the defenders' tricks had now disappeared, as Smith was legitimately endplayed. She tried exiting with a diamond, but that was a ruff-and-discard, and away went the spade loser from declarer's hand. E/W +300.

It was a cheap save against a vulnerable game, but this time it was a phantom. If the defence starts with three rounds of spades against 3NT, declarer can make only a spade, five clubs and two hearts before



having to let South in to cash her winners.

As it happened, the result at this table was almost irrelevant. Which team gained a huge swing on the board came down to a 34-IMP guess...

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|--------|-------|----------|
| Brock | Baroni | Brown | Bertheau |
| Pass | 2♥ | 2NT | Dble |
| Pass | Pass | Rdbl | All Pass |

Irene Baroni decided that the North hand was worth only a weak two, so Fiona Brown got to overcall at the two-level. Taking the diametrically opposite view to her counterpart at the other table, Kathie Bertheau chose to double and defend. Brown's redouble made the stakes even higher.

Three rounds of spades is not good enough against declarer's eight-trick game. Indeed, a winning club guess will give declarer eight tricks on any defence, so Bertheau went for the jugular - she started with a top spade and then switched to a heart at trick two. Brown won in hand with the ace, cashed the ♣A and played a second club towards dummy. Of course, Bertheau followed with the last small club. Declarer eventually guessed to play the jack. Baroni won with the ♣Q and cleared the hearts, and now declarer had only six tricks. E/W -1000 and 16 IMPs to Tri Polar.

Had Brown guessed the clubs, she would have inevitably picked up the diamonds too, and thus finished with at least ten tricks. That would have been E/W +1680 and 16 IMPs in the other column.

(It is best to attack diamonds first - then South will need to cash her second spade to avoid -2080. Editor)

A couple of boards later, both South players had to answer the second of today's problems, and a pattern started to emerge...

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|----------|--------|----------|
| Smith | McCallum | Senior | Baker |
| Pass | Pass | 1♠ | 2♥ |
| 3♥* | 4♦ | 4♠ | Pass |
| Pass | 5♥ | Dble | All Pass |

Lynn Baker overcalled 2♥ on the South hand. When the English pair bid to game, the Americans again took the save against a contract that might or might not be making. There were two trumps and a trick in each black suit to be lost, so the tariff this time was E/W +500.

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|--------|-------|----------|
| Brock | Baroni | Brown | Bertheau |
| Pass | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 2♣* | Pass | 4♠ | All Pass |

Kathrine Bertheau did not come in on the South cards, and the English pair quickly reached game via a Drury sequence. When dummy appeared, Fiona Brown must have been overjoyed to see that her contract was likely to depend on a winning club guess. Where had she seen that before?

Bertheau led a heart. Declarer won, played a spade to the king, and a second spade back to her queen, Bertheau winning and continuing hearts. Declarer pitched a diamond from dummy as she won with the ♥K, drew the last trump, and led a club towards dummy. Brown called for the ♣9 and was, no doubt, relieved to see that North could not find the ♣J. That was E/W +620 and Brown's reward for her correct club guess, just 3 IMPs to Baker. It's a tough game!

It was not long before the next "To Bid or Not to Bid" question appeared, with both West players facing a variation on the last of today's problems.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|----------|--------|-------|
| Smith | McCallum | Senior | Baker |
| — | 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

Lynn Baker made a defensive raise of her partner's opening 3♠, but Nicola Smith was not tempted in on the shapely West hand.

The defence was accurate. Nevena Senior led the ♥K, covered by dummy's ace and ruffed with the ♠Q. Smith cashed the ♠A, then switched to a low club. Senior won with the ♣A and cashed two hearts to put the contract two down. E/W +100.

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|--------|----------|----------|
| Brock | Baroni | Brown | Bertheau |
| — | 2♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| 4NT* | Pass | 5NT* | Pass |
| 6♦ | Dble | 6♥ | Dble |
| 7♣ | Dble | All Pass | |

Irene Baroni opened only 2♠, but Bertheau has spend years watching Jessica Larsson raise to 4♠ on this type of hand, so there was no pussy-footing 3♠ bid from the Swedish star. Sally Brock is no fool, but she rushed in anyway. Thereafter, either of the English players might have limited the damage.

Is 4NT clearly both minors here, or could it be any two suits? It's a question worth checking with your regular partner, perhaps. If 4NT is certainly minors, perhaps Brown might have settled for a quiet 5♣, with her heart values potentially wasted. Brock's 6♦ seems to make it clear that she thought she had shown specifically minors, and that 5NT asked her to choose one. Once the doubling started, they were in trouble wherever they played. 7♣x was probably the cheapest available spot, but that was still two down. E/W -500 and another 12 IMPs to Tri Polar.

There was still just time for one more big swing:

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|----------|----------|-------|
| Smith | McCallum | Senior | Baker |
| Pass | Pass | 1♣ | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♠ | All Pass | |

With three top losers and big holes in both black suits, it is hard to argue much with the judgement of the American pair to stop in 2♠. With finesses against the ♠K, the ♠10 and the ♣K all working for declarer, ten tricks were made. N/S +170.

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|--------|-------|----------|
| Brock | Baroni | Brown | Bertheau |
| Pass | Pass | 1♣ | 1♠ |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

Zia has spoken about playing in 'Heat 1', when whatever you do seems to work, and Bertheau/Baroni had enjoyed exactly that sort of set. After the same start to the auction, Baroni made a pre-emptive raise to 3♠ and Bertheau, with no real justification other than that they were playing in Heat 1, carried on to game.

Brock led a club to ten and jack, and Bertheau advanced the ♦K. Brock won and led a second club, covered by queen, king and ace. When declarer than played the ♣9, Brock felt she had to ruff. Bertheau overruffed in dummy and led the ♠Q. East covered perforce and, because West had already expended one trump, declarer did not even have to guess the spades on the second round. Ten tricks, N/S +620 and another 10 IMPs to Tri Polar.

Tri Polar won the second stanza 50-9, so they lead by 41 IMPs at the midway point. It's not an insurmountable lead, but Baker has a huge mountain to climb against a team who can't seem to do anything wrong.

Championship offer

The NEW dealing machines (only) used during the championships in Strasbourg are sold during the event for delivery at the end for the occasional price of **€2650**. Visit Jannersten's stall or email anna@jannersten.com



Results - Open Pairs - Semifinal A

| | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1 | SIMONSEN Steffen Fredrik | JOHANSEN Lars Arthur | NOR - NOR | 58.15 |
| 2 | DE DONDER Steven | DE ROOS Steve | BEL - BEL | 58.02 |
| 3 | TJARNEMO Hakan | CARBONNIER Pierre | SWE - SWE | 57.77 |
| 4 | BEAUMIER Dominique | CAILLIAU Ivan | FRA - FRA | 57.51 |
| 5 | LOONSTEIN Tomer | BANIRI Ilai Ilan | ISR - ISR | 57.36 |
| 6 | MIHOV Vladimir | STEFANOV Julian | BUL - BUL | 56.78 |
| 7 | SHI Haojun | SHAN Baisong | CHN - CHN | 56.51 |
| 8 | PAULISSEN Gert-Jan | BAHBOUT Sam | NED - BEL | 56.30 |
| 9 | KARLYKOV Petro | CHUMAK Yuliy | UKR - UKR | 55.14 |
| 10 | ROMANOWSKI Jerzy | ROZWADOWSKI Wojciech | FRA - POL | 54.86 |
| 11 | LUTOSTANSKI Piotr | BURAS Krzysztof | POL - POL | 54.85 |
| 12 | DEHAYE Bernard | DEHAYE Clovis | BEL - BEL | 54.48 |
| 13 | BAREKET Ilan | LENGY Assaf | ISR - ISR | 54.32 |
| 14 | JACOB Tom | MACE Brian | NZL - NZL | 54.31 |
| 15 | LIE Terje | FASTING Espen C. | NOR - NOR | 54.07 |
| 16 | BRUNET Frederic | ANCESSY Arnaud | FRA - FRA | 53.75 |
| 17 | NG Chi-Cheung Baron | MAK Kwok-Fai | HKG - HKG | 53.49 |
| 18 | NIJSSSEN Oscar | VAN DE PAVERD Tim | NED - NED | 53.40 |
| 19 | PAGAN Ian | NATT Shahzaad | ENG - ENG | 53.34 |
| 20 | VENTIN Juan Carlos | PALMA Antonio | ESP - POR | 53.20 |
| 21 | SEBBANE Lionel | SEGUINEAU Paul | FRA - FRA | 52.71 |
| 22 | GOLEBIEWSKI Stanislaw | PATREUHA Patryk | POL - POL | 52.16 |
| 23 | ISPORSKI Vladislav Nikolov | KERMEDCHIEV Nicolay | BUL - BUL | 52.08 |
| 24 | ZEITAK Aviv | KHUTORSKY Nir | ISR - ISR | 51.82 |
| 25 | VOZABAL David | SLEMR Jakub | CZE - CZE | 51.44 |
| 26 | KAPLAN Adam | TODD Robert | USA - USA | 51.37 |
| 27 | VAHK Tonno | VAHK Jasper | EST - EST | 51.28 |
| 28 | TEODORESCU Cornel | MORARU Dan | ROM - ROM | 50.72 |
| 29 | HARARI David | DOUSSOT Bernard | FRA - FRA | 50.69 |
| 30 | SIMANAITIENE Sonata | GRIGORAITIS Ramunas | LTU - LTU | 50.62 |
| 31 | MOHOTA Basant | MOHOTA Anurag | IND - IND | 50.12 |
| 32 | BALIAN Jean-Paul | DEHEEGER Colin | FRA - FRA | 49.25 |
| 33 | GULYAS Daniel | HODOSI Peter | HUN - HUN | 49.16 |
| 34 | WILDAVSKY Adam | LIN Amber | USA - USA | 48.95 |
| 35 | LAHRMANN Christian | KOLESNIK Finn | DEN - USA | 48.70 |
| 36 | KVOCEK Juraj | VODICKA Martin | SVK - SVK | 48.57 |
| 37 | TRENKA Peter | KEMENY Gyorgy | HUN - HUN | 48.49 |
| 38 | JANSONS Ugis | IMSA Adrians | LAT - LAT | 48.47 |
| 39 | MATEOS-RUIZ Franck | RINGUET Pascal | FRA - FRA | 48.27 |
| 40 | ERCAN Sehmus | KILICARSLAN Hilmi | TUR - TUR | 47.96 |
| 41 | KERLERO DE ROSBO Marc | DUFFOUR Francois | FRA - FRA | 47.71 |
| 42 | JACOB Nick | McALLISTER John Grayson | NZL - USA | 47.43 |
| 43 | SZABO Csaba | LAKATOS Peter | HUN - HUN | 47.37 |
| 44 | ABRAGI Andreas | HEIBERG-EVENSTAD Nicolai | SWE - NOR | 47.30 |
| 45 | ARGELAZI Eliran | ROSENTHAL Lee | ISR - ISR | 47.09 |
| 46 | BELL Sarah | BELL Mike | ENG - ENG | 46.78 |
| 47 | UZUM Dogan | KIZILOK Omer | TUR - TUR | 45.93 |
| 48 | VOLHEJN Vit | MACURA Milan | CZE - CZE | 45.84 |
| 49 | KEAVENEY Gay | GLYNN Enda | IRL - IRL | 45.77 |
| 50 | HAUSEUX Francois | LEBAS MARC | BEL - BEL | 45.34 |
| 51 | ANDREA Landry | POULAT Simon | FRA - FRA | 44.56 |
| 52 | NAB Bart | KILJAN Veri | NED - NED | 44.22 |
| 53 | DUGUET Michel | BOURVIS Thierry | FRA - FRA | 44.09 |
| 54 | MARILL Philippe | ZANASI Gabriele | FRA - ITA | 44.07 |
| 55 | MALINOWSKI Artur | BAKHSI David | ENG - ENG | 43.55 |
| 56 | TENEV Tenyu | VIDEV Kolyo | BUL - BUL | 42.62 |
| 57 | CHEN Jun | HUO Shiyu | CHN - CHN | 40.99 |
| 58 | ERGIL Esat | ALTINDAG Anil | TUR - TUR | 40.38 |
| 59 | STOKKA Adam | WRANG David | SWE - SWE | 40.36 |
| 60 | DESAGES Olivier | MOURGUES Jennifer | FRA - FRA | 37.98 |

Results - Open Pairs - Semifinal B

| | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1 | BASARAN Berk | SOHTORIK Yusuf | TUR - TUR | 59.87 |
| 2 | CIMA Leonardo | BIANCHI Ettore | ITA - USA | 59.33 |
| 3 | MESBUR Adam | GARVEY Tommy | IRL - IRL | 58.27 |
| 4 | KOWALSKI Dariusz | SIELICKI Tomasz | POL - POL | 58.00 |
| 5 | BAHCECI Hakan | AYDAR Yalcin | TUR - TUR | 56.63 |
| 6 | KOLATA Suleyman | KANDEMIR Ismail | TUR - TUR | 56.62 |
| 7 | BOEYKENS Leo | HUYBRECHT Hans | BEL - BEL | 56.30 |
| 8 | STEPINSKI Jeremi | HUTYRA Maciej | POL - POL | 56.10 |
| 9 | BELLICAUD Luc | GUTH Romaric | FRA - FRA | 55.85 |
| 10 | JOURDAIN Jean-Francois | VAN MIDDELEM Guy | BEL - BEL | 55.50 |
| 11 | PIGOT Peter Jr | O'GORMAN Derek | IRL - IRL | 55.30 |
| 12 | KAYSER Christian | LACOUR Bernard | FRA - FRA | 55.10 |
| 13 | STRZEMECKI Wojciech | DOBRYNSKI Maciej | POL - POL | 54.71 |
| 14 | MOLINA Philippe | GALINSKY Yoram | FRA - FRA | 54.68 |
| 15 | ALUF Sedat | KAYA Erdogan | TUR - TUR | 54.50 |
| 16 | DEWASME Isabelle | VANDERVORST Mike | BEL - BEL | 54.24 |
| 17 | ILZINS Janis | BALODIS Martins | LAT - LAT | 54.04 |
| 18 | DEMUY Vincent | GOLD Marusa | USA - ENG | 53.65 |
| 19 | VON ARNIM Felix | SIEGEL Arne | GER - GER | 53.61 |
| 20 | CLARET Michel | KIEFFER Jean Francois | FRA - FRA | 53.27 |
| 21 | RENSON Denis | DAVID Olivier | FRA - FRA | 53.22 |
| 22 | CAMMARATA Michele | VALSEGA Cristiano | ITA - ITA | 53.20 |
| 23 | GOTARD Barbara | GOTARD Tomasz | GER - GER | 53.10 |
| 24 | BOWLES Andy | MOHANDES Shireen | ENG - ENG | 52.69 |
| 25 | LEGRAS Remi | CHESNY Philippe | FRA - FRA | 52.61 |
| 26 | GUENOUN Raphael | LAUGIER Bernard | MAR - FRA | 52.26 |
| 27 | COUNIL Jean-Louis | BENOIT Alain | FRA - FRA | 52.14 |
| 28 | CARROLL John | MORAN Mark | IRL - IRL | 51.95 |
| 29 | DINC Sedat | OZKURT Kenan | TUR - TUR | 51.82 |
| 30 | SJOQVIST Mans | SAFSTEN Johan | SWE - SWE | 51.68 |
| 31 | KOWALSKI Apolinary | JANKAUSKAS Arunas | POL - LTU | 51.65 |
| 32 | BASKAN Burak | TARHAN Turker | TUR - TUR | 51.55 |
| 33 | WEBER Stefan | BOHNSACK Sandro | GER - GER | 51.43 |
| 34 | PETELKO Lia | RETTOR Koren | ISR - ISR | 51.14 |
| 35 | PIIBELEHT Tiit Hendrik | PIIRISILD Riko | EST - EST | 51.04 |
| 36 | TSEYTLIN Igor | SHUSTERMAN Borys | UKR - UKR | 50.87 |
| 37 | WEISSELBERGER Yves | KHANFIR Samir | FRA - FRA | 50.84 |
| 38 | BALASOVJS Juris | BETHERS Uldis | LAT - LAT | 50.64 |
| 39 | LEVOY Quentin | CLAESSENS Jérôme | FRA - BEL | 50.53 |
| 40 | MICHAUD-LARIVIERE Xavier | DE MENDEZ Thierry | MON - SUI | 50.35 |
| 41 | LIOSSIS Georgios | VOVOS Konstantinos | GRE - GRE | 50.31 |
| 42 | HANSSON Erik | MANN Castor | SWE - SWE | 49.69 |
| 43 | BOGUCKI Darek | KAVALENKA Andrei | POL - LTU | 49.55 |
| 44 | METZDORFF Olivier | DOUGE Eric | FRA - FRA | 49.15 |
| 45 | BROUNS Marc | THYS Carine | BEL - BEL | 48.80 |
| 46 | KOVACHEV Valentin | KRAL Ronald Peter | BUL - USA | 48.47 |
| 47 | BARNE Steve | RAPOPORT Michel | FRA - USA | 48.45 |
| 48 | ZACK Yaniv | COHEN Ilan | ISR - ISR | 48.35 |
| 49 | DINKIN Sam | FREEMAN Jacob | USA - CAN | 48.07 |
| 50 | ADAMIC Tomaz | DRINOVEC DRNOVSEK Barbara | SLO - SLO | 48.07 |
| 51 | MATHIEU Philippe | PETROV Vojislav | GLP - FRA | 48.06 |
| 52 | SABBAH Ofek | SLIWOWICZ Yonatan | ISR - ISR | 47.76 |
| 53 | COVALIU Sergiu | SHEFFY Ron | ISR - ISR | 47.54 |
| 54 | CHIPAIL Gheorghe | CONSTANTINESCU Razvan | ROM - ROM | 47.49 |
| 55 | ASHE Steven | ZORANOVIC Jovana | USA - SER | 47.40 |
| 56 | ASLAN Bulent | UMUR Omer Celal | TUR - TUR | 47.28 |
| 57 | BEKKOUCHE Nadia | DANIELSEN Flemming | DEN - DEN | 47.00 |
| 58 | COYNE Ciaran | WALSH David | IRL - IRL | 46.83 |
| 59 | HUYBRECHT Emile | WAUTERS Tom | BEL - BEL | 46.62 |
| 60 | SUZER Ugurcan | DEMIRSAN Murat | TUR - TUR | 46.52 |
| 61 | LOHAY Karol | HENC Marian | SVK - SVK | 46.38 |
| 62 | ZOBU Ahu | AKHUN Mustafa | TUR - TUR | 46.22 |
| 63 | HACKETT Justin | TAYLOR Martin | ENG - ENG | 46.08 |
| 64 | RENAUD Jacques | TAQUOI Jacques | SUI - FRA | 45.99 |
| 65 | ANDERSEN Michael Krogh | JENSEN Bo | DEN - DEN | 45.98 |
| 66 | LANGER Darina | GWINNER Hans-Herman | SUI - GER | 45.50 |
| 67 | MERCAN Nese | AKSUYEK Ender | TUR - TUR | 44.95 |
| 68 | CAUMEL Jean Patrick | DAVID Jacques | FRA - FRA | 44.84 |
| 69 | BAUSBACK Nikolas | SEITER Ansgar | GER - GER | 44.73 |
| 70 | PRUUL Karl-Markus | MAASIK Martin | LAT - LAT | 43.83 |
| 71 | GONFREVILLE Jacques | COMMEROT Philippe | FRA - FRA | 43.26 |
| 72 | CLEMENTSSON Bonnie | CLEMENTSSON Jan | SWE - SWE | 43.05 |
| 73 | NEHMERT Pony Beate | DING Hong | GER - USA | 42.82 |
| 74 | BELLEFROID Patrick | VITETTA Michele | FRA - FRA | 42.72 |
| 75 | TEGMEN Mehmet Alper | BASBILIR Mustafa | TUR - TUR | 42.41 |
| 76 | LECANTE Francois | RAIKO RAIKOVSKY Vadim | FRA - FRA | 39.09 |
| 77 | ZEEBERG Niels | KOLDING Viktor | DEN - DEN | 36.17 |

Results - Women Pairs - Semifinal A

| | | | | |
|----|------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1 | BALDYSZ Cathy | BALDYSZ Sophia | POL - POL | 61.26 |
| 2 | ACAR Asli | ERKAN Berrak | TUR - TUR | 60.81 |
| 3 | KANDOLU Ozlem | ELMAS Tuna | TUR - TUR | 58.36 |
| 4 | YAVAS Dilek | OZGUR Hatice | TUR - TUR | 56.87 |
| 5 | SMEDEREVAC Jovanka | SVER Nikica | FRA - CRO | 53.86 |
| 6 | LEVI Hila | ASULIN Adi | ISR - ISR | 53.14 |
| 7 | LARSSON Jessica | GROSS Susanna | SWE - ENG | 53.00 |
| 8 | POULAIN Catherine | KLAEYLE Michelle | FRA - FRA | 52.98 |
| 9 | SMYKALLA Gisela | DELLA MONTA Annaig | GER - GER | 52.12 |
| 10 | KAZMUCHA Danuta | JAROSZ Aleksandra | POL - POL | 51.39 |
| 11 | BONES Turid | BREKKE Kaja | NOR - NOR | 49.12 |
| 12 | KENNY Joan | FITZGERALD Jeannie | IRL - IRL | 48.42 |
| 13 | ALBERTI Anja | WODNIANSKY Beatrix | GER - GER | 48.12 |
| 14 | GROMANN Ingrid | WENNING Karin | GER - GER | 47.50 |
| 15 | HUGON Elisabeth | MONOD Emmanuelle | FRA - FRA | 47.30 |
| 16 | GODFREY Lizzie | DAUVERGNE Sophie | FRA - FRA | 47.12 |
| 17 | HELNESS Gunn | LINDSTROEM Mona | NOR - NOR | 46.20 |
| 18 | HACKETT Barbara | NETTLETON Diana | GER - ENG | 45.86 |
| 19 | ONEILL Molly | WEINGOLD Joanne | USA - USA | 44.32 |
| 20 | O'KEEFFE-BROWN Rebecca | PENDER Gilda | IRL - IRL | 41.29 |
| 21 | CLENCH Gilly | GREENWOOD Diane | WAL - IRL | 40.51 |
| 22 | ATES Ebru | OZLU Tijen | TUR - TUR | 40.46 |

Results - Women Pairs - Semifinal B

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1 | SJODAL Elisabeth Grasholt | SJODAL Sofie Grasholt | NOR - NOR | 68.75 |
| 2 | KELLY-ROGERS Mary | FITZPATRICK Anne | IRL - IRL | 57.81 |
| 3 | NUHOGLU Sevil | ERENGIL Yasemin | TUR - TUR | 48.83 |
| 4 | BENZ Janine | JUSTITZ Marijke | SUI - SUI | 48.44 |
| 5 | Waelti Vreni | DUC Laurence | SUI - SUI | 47.66 |
| 6 | PETELKO Adel | ROITMAN Ziv | ISR - ISR | 46.88 |
| 7 | BALABANOVA Kamelia | BILLIET Cecilia | SUI - SUI | 45.31 |
| 8 | SIMON Nicole | LAMENDIN Marie Christine | FRA - FRA | 43.36 |
| 9 | GHOSN Rita | PAULISSEN Severine | LIB - FRA | 42.97 |

WORLD TRANSNATIONAL OPEN SWISS AND KNOCKOUT TEAMS

August 28 - September 2

MARRAKECH GRAND PRIX TRANSNATIONAL BOARD-A-MATCH (BAM) TEAMS

August 30 - September 1



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MASTERPOINTS AGAINST PLAYERS
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CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS AGAINST
THE WORLD'S BEST PLAYERS



ENJOY WORLD CLASS
PLAYING CONDITIONS
IN A UNIQUE LOCATION



5 OR 6 DAYS OF PLAY ACROSS BOTH
EVENTS FOR ONE ENTRY FEE



BOTH EVENTS PART OF THE
WORLD BRIDGE TOUR



Results - BAM

RANKING

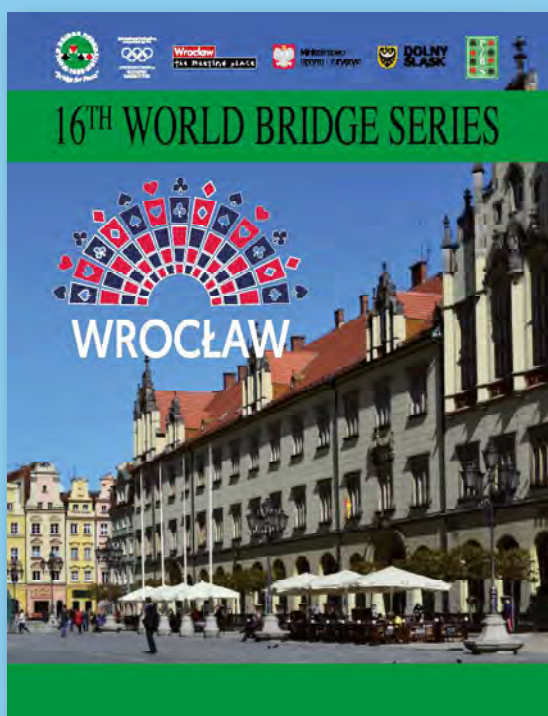
| | | | | | |
|----|---------------|--------|----|--------------|--------|
| 1 | PHARMASERVICE | 156.40 | 13 | FRANCE DAMES | 141.00 |
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| | MOSSOP | 149.40 | 17 | TEXAN ACES | 135.40 |
| | FRANCE PURPLE | 149.40 | 18 | ARAKISELLA | 134.20 |
| 7 | SCORWAY | 147.40 | 19 | MAVERICKS | 133.40 |
| 8 | STREET | 145.40 | 20 | AUSTRIA | 133.00 |
| 9 | ORCA | 145.20 | 21 | BRIDGE24PL B | 130.00 |
| 10 | PEPSI | 144.00 | 22 | EX S | 128.40 |
| 11 | GILLIS | 143.00 | 23 | ZIGGY | 116.00 |
| 12 | LES FRINGANTS | 141.80 | | TEAMNL WOMEN | 116.00 |

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Edited by Mark Horton, the contributors being: David Bird, Barry Rigal, Brian Senior, Ron Tacchi and Maurizio di Sacco.

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Cup

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* subject to numbers



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