

Buenos Aires, Friday 25 October 2024.

Issue No. 4

HALFWAY HOUSE

CENTRO DE CONVENCIONES BUENOS AIRES



Three days have been completed and three more remain, time enough for teams outside the qualifying zone to turn things around.

In Open Group A **Sweden** has assumed the lead followed by **USA** and **Netherlands**. In Group B **France** has moved ahead of **Italy** and **Poland**.

In the Mixed **Germany** now lead by more than a match from **Croatia** and **Norway**. The Women's Championship is still topped by **Sweden**, but **Poland** has moved ahead of third placed **China**.

In the Seniors **USA** stay top, while **Sweden** and **France** have swapped places.

SCHEDULE TODAY

Open Teams

10.00 - 12.15: R10 (16 boards)
13.15 - 15.30: R11 (16 boards)
16.00 - 18.15: R12 (16 boards)

Women Teams

10.00 - 11.45: R13 (12 boards)
12.15 - 14.00: R14 (12 boards)
15.00 - 16.45: R15 (12 boards)
17.15 - 19.00: R16 (12 boards)

Senior Teams

10.00 - 11.45: R13 (12 boards)
12.15 - 14.00: R14 (12 boards)
15.00 - 16.45: R15 (12 boards)
17.15 - 19.00: R16 (12 boards)

Mixed Teams

10.00 - 11.25: R16 (10 boards)
11.55 - 13.20: R17 (10 boards)
14.20 - 15.45: R18 (10 boards)
16.15 - 17.40: R19 (10 boards)
18.10 - 19.35: R20 (10 boards)



MATCHES ON BBO

Friday, 25 October 2024



Open Teams

10.00 - 12.15:	New Zealand	-	Argentina
	Turkiye	-	Switzerland
13.15 - 15.30:	Netherlands	-	Israel
	Italy	-	France
16.00 - 18.15:	Romania	-	Ireland
	Finland	-	Poland

Women Teams

10.00 - 11.45:	England	-	Italy
12.15 - 14.00:	Germany	-	Australia
	Norway	-	China
15.00 - 16.45:	Sweden	-	England
17.15 - 19.00:	China	-	Sweden
	France	-	Italy

Senior Teams

10.00 - 11.25:	France	-	Poland
15.00 - 16.45:	France	-	Israel

The VuGraph theatre is located in the Auditorium at the foot of the stairs.

In accordance with the Conditions of Contest the Senior team representing Chile has been expelled from the competition for a mobile phone violation.

EDITOR'S LOG

Star Date 24/10/2024

This morning my inbox contained a message about a TLC Deck of Cards Charity Art Auction at Ewbank's, a leading auction house in the South of England. They are well worth looking at – just go to www.ewbanksauctions.co.uk/TLC-Deck-Of-Cards-Charity-Art-Auction/2024-10-24.

There is a terrific VuGraph presentation by commentators Barry Rigal, David Stern and Ben Green in the auditorium (where the Opening Ceremony took place).

If you are looking for a restaurant recommendation, try Invernadero, Aguero 2502 Buenos Aires. www.invernaderobn.com

It's Tapas with an excellent range of dishes. The two Malbecs by Mendoza are good. It's a short walk from the Dazzler Hotel.

We are about to investigate a new restaurant – watch this space for details.

DRAW TODAY

OPEN - GROUP A

ROUND 10

Home Team		Visiting Team
Netherlands	v	Spain
Israel	v	Pakistan
Germany	v	Ireland
HK, China	v	U.S.A.
New Zealand	v	Argentina
Guadeloupe	v	Chile
Sweden	v	Chinese Taipei
Romania	v	South Africa
England	v	Bye

ROUND 11

Home Team		Visiting Team
Pakistan	v	Argentina
Chinese Taipei	v	New Zealand
Netherlands	v	Israel
South Africa	v	Spain
U.S.A.	v	Chile
England	v	HK, China
Sweden	v	Germany
Romania	v	Guadeloupe
Ireland	v	Bye

ROUND 12

Home Team		Visiting Team
Spain	v	New Zealand
Israel	v	England
Chile	v	HK, China
Romania	v	Ireland
Guadeloupe	v	South Africa
U.S.A.	v	Chinese Taipei
Netherlands	v	Pakistan
Germany	v	Argentina
Sweden	v	Bye

OPEN - GROUP B

ROUND 10

Home Team		Visiting Team
Austria	v	India
Italy	v	Canada
Turkiye	v	Switzerland
Norway	v	Korea
Hungary	v	Brazil
Finland	v	Denmark
France	v	Kuwait
Australia	v	Poland
China	v	Bye

ROUND 11

Home Team		Visiting Team
Italy	v	France
Hungary	v	Austria
Brazil	v	Canada
China	v	Turkiye
Korea	v	Australia
Switzerland	v	India
Norway	v	Finland
Kuwait	v	Poland
Denmark	v	Bye

ROUND 12

Home Team		Visiting Team
Switzerland	v	Korea
Hungary	v	Denmark
Canada	v	Australia
France	v	China
Italy	v	Kuwait
Austria	v	Brazil
Finland	v	Poland
India	v	Turkiye
Norway	v	Bye

WOMEN

ROUND 13

Home Team		Visiting Team
New Zealand	v	Argentina
India	v	Canada
Chile	v	Netherlands
South Africa	v	Turkiye
Australia	v	China
Germany	v	Poland
Spain	v	Ireland
England	v	Italy
Brazil	v	Mexico
Norway	v	Sweden
France	v	U.S.A.
HK, China	v	Japan

ROUND 14

Home Team		Visiting Team
Mexico	v	England
Brazil	v	South Africa
Turkiye	v	Chile
Netherlands	v	Sweden
Germany	v	Australia
Canada	v	Argentina
Italy	v	India
Poland	v	Japan
Ireland	v	U.S.A.
Spain	v	HK, China
Norway	v	China
France	v	New Zealand

ROUND 15

Home Team		Visiting Team
Netherlands	v	China
New Zealand	v	India
Spain	v	U.S.A.
South Africa	v	Australia
Poland	v	HK, China
Japan	v	Brazil
Norway	v	Turkiye
Argentina	v	Ireland
Germany	v	Italy
France	v	Mexico
Sweden	v	England
Chile	v	Canada

ROUND 16

Home Team		Visiting Team
Mexico	v	Turkiye
Australia	v	Spain
Japan	v	Norway
Netherlands	v	South Africa
Argentina	v	Poland
England	v	Chile
Canada	v	U.S.A.
Ireland	v	New Zealand
China	v	Sweden
India	v	Germany
Brazil	v	HK, China
France	v	Italy

SENIORS

ROUND 13

Home Team	Visiting Team
Brazil	v Colombia
Netherlands	v Sweden
Scotland	v New Zealand
Japan	v Turkiye
France	v Poland
Germany	v Argentina
Denmark	v Israel
HK, China	v Canada
England	v U.S.A.
Australia	v India
Morocco	v Switzerland
Italy	v Bye

ROUND 16

Home Team	Visiting Team
Argentina	v Poland
Australia	v Scotland
Japan	v France
Turkiye	v U.S.A.
Canada	v Netherlands
England	v Israel
India	v Sweden
New Zealand	v Germany
Italy	v Morocco
Brazil	v HK, China
Colombia	v Switzerland
Denmark	v Bye

ROUND 14

Home Team	Visiting Team
England	v Germany
Turkiye	v Argentina
Netherlands	v India
France	v Australia
Brazil	v Morocco
Poland	v Canada
Colombia	v Denmark
Scotland	v HK, China
New Zealand	v U.S.A.
Italy	v Sweden
Israel	v Japan
Switzerland	v Bye

ROUND 15

Home Team	Visiting Team
Scotland	v U.S.A.
Sweden	v Denmark
Germany	v Japan
England	v Colombia
Morocco	v Australia
Poland	v HK, China
Netherlands	v Switzerland
France	v Israel
Argentina	v New Zealand
Canada	v Brazil
Italy	v India
Turkiye	v Bye

MIXED

ROUND 16

Home Team	Visiting Team
India	v Norway
Spain	v Germany
Brazil	v China
Canada	v South Africa
Ireland	v England
Chile	v Italy
Denmark	v Morocco
Colombia	v HK, China
Sweden	v Turkiye
Croatia	v New Zealand
Japan	v Australia
Poland	v U.S.A.
Argentina	v Israel
Switzerland	v Hungary
France	v Bye

ROUND 19

Home Team	Visiting Team
Morocco	v England
Colombia	v Norway
France	v Ireland
New Zealand	v Denmark
Spain	v Argentina
Chile	v HK, China
Turkiye	v South Africa
China	v Poland
India	v Japan
Brazil	v Italy
Switzerland	v Canada
Sweden	v Hungary
U.S.A.	v Israel
Australia	v Croatia
Germany	v Bye

ROUND 17

Home Team	Visiting Team
Argentina	v South Africa
Norway	v England
Australia	v Morocco
Chile	v Israel
U.S.A.	v Colombia
Poland	v Sweden
Switzerland	v Germany
Canada	v Hungary
Spain	v France
Ireland	v Croatia
Brazil	v India
Japan	v New Zealand
China	v HK, China
Italy	v Turkiye
Denmark	v Bye

ROUND 20

Home Team	Visiting Team
Brazil	v Norway
India	v Australia
U.S.A.	v Italy
Canada	v Argentina
Hungary	v Ireland
New Zealand	v France
China	v Spain
Colombia	v Poland
HK, China	v Croatia
Denmark	v England
Switzerland	v Chile
Japan	v Sweden
Morocco	v Germany
Turkiye	v Israel
South Africa	v Bye

ROUND 18

Home Team	Visiting Team
India	v Spain
China	v Croatia
Hungary	v Morocco
Chile	v Poland
Ireland	v South Africa
Germany	v New Zealand
Australia	v Switzerland
Argentina	v Norway
England	v France
Canada	v Italy
HK, China	v Sweden
U.S.A.	v Brazil
Turkiye	v Colombia
Japan	v Denmark
Israel	v Bye

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BOARDS


An anthology

Jos Jacobs

After having watched some of the matches on Wednesday afternoon, I was still wondering which match I should report on. My problem was caused by the unhelpfulness of the various sets of boards. None of the sets was good enough, I judged, to be the subject of a full match report. Once I had reached this conclusion, the solution was easy: I should make a review of the afternoon and not so much about just one particular match.

Early in the afternoon, this board struck me because of the creative simplicity of the auction in the Open Room.

Board 22. Dealer East E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Charlsen</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♦	2♠	3♥
4♦*	4♥	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Hoftaniska must have been asking himself what was going on but looking at the E/W hands only, 6♠ is a good contract. Kalita, too, might have been wondering what was going on; he apparently took partner's 3♥-bid as natural and thus found a polite raise. Not much later, he was on lead against the spade slam. Not that it mattered very much, because this contract would always go down, but it was a pleasure to see his heart lead – why lead anything else than partner's suit? Down two when the ♣A proved the entry for the

second heart ruff. Switzerland +200.

In the Closed Room, the auction was much more straightforward – if any auction on this type of hands can be called straightforward at all.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>S Drijver</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	2NT
3♥	5♦	Pass	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			


After this more natural auction (hearts being mentioned by the principal holder of the suit himself), the spotlight turned on Christian Bakke, the Norwegian who was on lead at this table. He adopted some advanced logic to find the right solution. With the minors out of the question by partner's double, hearts were the only remaining suit. Heart ruff, ♣A and another heart ruff meant just one down, +200 for Norway as well and one of the most sophisticated flat boards I ever saw. Very, very well done at both tables.



Thor Erik HOFTANISKA, Norway

Over now to Chinese Taipei. Earlier in the day, they had beaten England all ends up but now, they had to face the much better placed Israeli team. The latter were leading by 20 IMPs when board 10 arrived. This was the auction in the Open Room.

Board 10. Dealer East All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tarnowski	Y Hung	Yekutieli	So
—	—	1♥	3♣
Dble	3NT	4♠	Pass
4NT*	Pass	6♣*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

To me, East's 6♣ sounded like a clear void but apparently, South could not imagine such a serious danger being imminent. His ♣A lead was just what declarer desperately needed...Israel +1430.

At the other table, clubs were never mentioned by N/S.



Bar TARNOVSKI, Israel



Jiun-Ming CHEN, Chinese Taipei

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
J Chen	Toledano	Lin	Zamir
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	6♣*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

- 4♣ Splinter
- 4NT RKCB
- 6♣ 2 keycards and a useful void

Here, West was the declarer so North could not easily go wrong with the lead. One might say he tried his best when he put the ♦3 on the table, away from his king. Declarer's chances improved tremendously when Chen called for dummy's ♦Q and this held the trick. However, declarer was still looking at all sorts of minor suit losers so he took what was probably his best chance: a ruffing finesse against North's presumed ♣A. Even with both majors 3-2, he would have been an entry short, had he adopted a different line. So that was +100 and 17 more IMPs to Israel.

Meanwhile, in the Poland v. Denmark Seniors match, they were playing poker.

Board 11. Dealer South None Vul.

<p>♠ — ♥ Q J 8 7 5 4 2 ♦ Q J 9 4 ♣ K 3</p> <p>♠ A J 10 7 6 3 2 ♥ 6 3 ♦ — ♣ J 5 4</p>		<p>♠ 9 8 5 ♥ A 10 9 ♦ A K 10 7 3 ♣ 10 6</p> <p>♠ K Q 4 ♥ K ♦ 8 6 5 ♣ A Q 9 8 7 2</p>
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Board 14. Dealer East None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Askgaard</i>	<i>Buras</i>	<i>Konow</i>	<i>Nowak</i>
—	—	—	1NT
2♦*	4♦*	4♠	Dble
Pass	5♥	Dble	Pass
Pass	Rdbl	Pass	Pass
5♠	Dble	All Pass	

- 2♦ One major
- 4♦ Hearts

An advanced proof of the correctness of the old saying that it's only the final double that counts.

One down, Poland +100 rather than -600.

In the Closed Room, they showed much, much more discipline.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gawel</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Plejdrup</i>
—	—	—	1♣
3♠	4♥	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

That was another +590 and thus 12 IMPs to Poland. Mind you, had the Danish passed the redouble at the other table, the hand would have been a push...

A few boards later, the issue was: "How strong is a 4NT overcall after a one-level opening bid?"

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Askgaard</i>	<i>Buras</i>	<i>Konow</i>	<i>Nowak</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
4NT*	Pass	5♦	All Pass

In Denmark, it's not so strong; otherwise, East's 5♦ bid is maybe slightly timid. Or maybe not, as was suggested at the other table. When South led the ♠A, declarer had all the tricks. Denmark +440.

In the Closed Room, we saw two Polish tacticians at work.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gawel</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Plejdrup</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
2NT*	3♠	Pass	4♥
4NT*	5♥	6♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Gawel started off with a quiet 2NT overcall only so the Danish could introduce their second suit which made the situation clearer for E/W. Gawel tried once more but now, all of a sudden Jagniewski, too, came to life after his previous pass over 3♠. However, the Danish had the last word after all: heart lead by South and club return by North. One down, Denmark +100 and 11 IMPs to them.

In the Chinese Taipei v. Israel match, they all had higher aspirations.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tarnowski</i>	<i>Y Hung</i>	<i>Yekutieli</i>	<i>So</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
4NT*	Dble	6♦	6♥
7♦	7♥	Dble	All Pass



Well, as we saw before, 6♦ can be defeated so maybe, the Israelis were right to take the sacrifice. Unsure about the situation, the Chinese Taipei N/S also went on, only to find out that after drawing three rounds of trumps, a spade trick had to be lost even though the ♠K was well placed for them. Two down, Israel +300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>J Chen</i>	<i>Toledano</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Zamir</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
2NT*	3♠	4♦	4♥
4♠*	5♥	Pass	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

In the replay, the defence also started off with a top diamond followed by a club but here, declarer drew only two top trumps from dummy before taking a spade finesse. When this held, he could ruff his last diamond in dummy, repeat the spade finesse and ruff out the suit with dummy's last trump. That was 12 tricks and +1210 to Israel, good for 17 more IMPs on their way to a blitz: 72-6.

Over now to the women. I had in mind to report in full about the Sweden-France match, the leaders against a close contender, but the boards were very unfriendly for me, so to speak. On board 1, the Swedes reached 6♣, a not so good slam. We know their auction but we don't know their specific agreements, so we won't dwell on it.



Oren TOLEDANO, Israel

The French, on the other hand, had a straightforward auction.

Board 1. Dealer North None Vul.

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



Hung-Shih LIN, Chinese Taipei


Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Canonne</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Thuillez</i>	<i>K Bertheau</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

What's the problem? France +460 and 11 IMPs from nowhere.

The only other board of interest (IMHO) in the match was board 6.

Board 6. Dealer East E/W Vul.

<p>♠ AK7 ♥ AK43 ♦ 1043 ♣ 872</p>		<p>♠ 9 ♥ J1098 ♦ K97652 ♣ AQ</p>	<p>♠ Q ♥ 7652 ♦ AQ8 ♣ KJ943</p>
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
Canonne	Clementsson	Thuillez	K Bertheau
—	—	Pass	1♣
Dble	4♠	Dble	All Pass

I don't think East's double would suggest two places to play. Not that 5♥ is easy with the trumps 4-1 but 5♦ very much looks like a make. From West's pass, it becomes clear that East's double was not intended as a take-out of some kind. One down, France +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Grönkvist	Puillet	Övelius	Tartarin
—	—	Pass	1♣
Dble	4♠	5♦	All Pass



Carole PUILLET, France

In the Closed Room, Emma Övelius showed the way. She only lost the obvious two diamond tricks. Sweden +600 and 11 IMPs back to them – the only other double-digit swing of the match. Sweden eventually won 17-13 or 11.38 – 8.62 VPs.




A LOVELY FORK PUTS MADALA IN A BIND

Dr. Prakash Paranjape

On this deal from Round six wherein Argentina was playing against Ireland, a lovely fork developed.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Boland</i>	<i>Blanchedi</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	—	—	1NT
2♦*	4♦*	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

he wouldn't be able to play a trump and the declarer would be able to ruff a club in his hand. On the other side of the coin, if he overtook the ♣K with ♣A, he would set up dummy's ♣J.

Seeing the inevitable defeat in backing the ♠K, Madala won the ♣Q and tried a small spade. Declarer played the ♠J and soon claimed his contract. Note that the lead of the ♠K does not defeat the contract because the diamonds break 4-4. Declarer can win, cash the ♦AK, ruff a diamond, come to hand with the ♥A, ruff another diamond and play a club. With the ♠98 he is sure to get another entry to enjoy the fifth diamond.

West	North	East	South
<i>Rizzo</i>	<i>Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Lucena</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>
—	—	—	2♣
3♠	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Dble	All Pass

Fitzgibbon went down two for -300 so Ireland won 7 IMPs on the deal.

- 2♦ Shows a Major suit
- 4♦ Hearts

Contract 4♠x by East, Opening Lead : ♥K

Madala tabled the ♥K.

Hanlon won the ♥A, cashed the top diamonds discarding a heart from dummy, and played a small club. Madala had a difficult problem to solve. He would have liked to get in twice to play trumps removing all three of declarer's trumps, but there was a problem with entries in the club suit.

He could win the ♣Q and play the ♠K. However, declarer could win in dummy with the ♠A and play a small club on which North will play his ♣K, East, the ♣10 and Madala would be caught between a rock and a hard place. If he lets North win

Picture: Agustin Madala and Alejandro Bianchedi



A BRIEF MOMENT IN TIME

Mark Horton

On Wednesday afternoon this deal appeared in Round 7 of the Women's series:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

won and continued with the $\diamond 4$. Declarer won with dummy's $\diamond A$ and cashed two clubs to arrive at this position:

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Smith</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	2 \diamond *
Pass	2 \spadesuit *	All Pass	

- 2 \diamond One Major
- 2 \spadesuit Pass or correct

East led the $\clubsuit A$ and switched to the $\heartsuit 3$ for the jack, queen and king. Declarer tried a heart to the king and West took the $\heartsuit A$ and returned the $\heartsuit 2$, East winning with the $\heartsuit 10$. When she went back to spades (cashing the $\heartsuit Q$ and only then playing a spade gets an extra trick) declarer could win and exit with a heart, emerging with six tricks, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>C Romstedt</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>S Rimstedt</i>
Pass	Pass	1 \clubsuit	2 \spadesuit
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3 \clubsuit	Pass	3 \spadesuit *	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

East did well to bid 3 \spadesuit , no doubt hoping that West's 3 \clubsuit would give her a shot at five club tricks.

North started with two rounds of spades and South won and continued with the $\spadesuit 6$, declarer winning and pitching the $\heartsuit 9$ as North parted with the $\heartsuit 6$.

The $\clubsuit AK$ saw South discard the $\spadesuit 4$ and North

Under pressure, South had pitched a diamond (if she parts with her last spade declarer would have a choice of endplays). Declarer came to hand with the $\heartsuit A$ and played a diamond. When she finessed South could win and cash the $\spadesuit J$ and $\heartsuit K$ for two down.

From declarer's point of view South was known to have started with six spades and one club. Her red suit holdings might (or might not) include none, one or both of the $\heartsuit K$ and $\diamond Q$. Although South was vulnerable and facing a passed partner it was certainly possible that she held only $\spadesuit AJ8764$.

10 pairs reached 3NT, 7 of them recording at least nine tricks.

The au pair thought there was a case for cashing a top club, returning to hand with the $\heartsuit A$ and then finessing in clubs. If you do that you can squeeze South in the red suit, eventually exiting with a heart to force a lead into the diamond tenace for ten tricks. Germany's Susanne Kriftner and India's Bharati Dey were the only ones to record +630.



Seniors Round 9

FRANCE v INDIA

Brian Senior

Second faced fifth when France met India in the first match of day three, both well in the hunt for a place in the knockout stages.

The first board saw both Souths open a strong NT and play there, making exactly for a push at +90.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bapat</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Goenka</i>	<i>Abecassis</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♥	2♦	Dble	4♦
4♥	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Though the two auctions were quite different, the four-four spade fit was lost at both tables.

For India, Badal Das overcalled 1NT with the North cards, and that silenced Philippe Chottin. Dominique Pilon doubled when 1NT came around to him and now Das thought it wise to admit to a long diamond suit. Chottin showed the heart support but, as his combination implied a minimum opener with only three hearts, Pilon was content with a competitive 3♥ over Pranab Bardhan's 3♦ at his next turn. That ended the auction and Das cashed the ace of diamonds then switched to a spade. Pilon won in hand to lead a heart towards the queen, Das winning the king and playing a second spade. Pilon won, drew trumps, and the favourable club position meat 10 tricks for +170.

The action was quite different at the other table, where Marc Bompis, for France, preferred to overcall 2♦ as North. That allowed Ravi Goenka to make a support double of hearts and when Michel Abecassis

West	North	East	South
<i>Pilon</i>	<i>Das</i>	<i>Chottin</i>	<i>Bardhan</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♥	1NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	2♦	2♥	3♦
3♥	All Pass		



Arun BAPAT


Marc BOMPIS

Michel ABECASSIS

Ravi GOENKA

jumped pre-emptively to 4♦, it was natural for Arun Bapat to try 4♥, having been left no space in which to make a game try. Bompis saved in 5♦, and Bapat doubled that on the way out. There were four unavoidable losers after a heart lead to the ace and club switch, so Bompis was down two for -300 and 4 IMPs to India.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Pilon</i>	<i>Das</i>	<i>Chottin</i>	<i>Bardhan</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♠*	2NT*	4♥
Pass	4♠*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Bapat</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Goenka</i>	<i>Abecassis</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Dble	4♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	


Bompis responded 2NT, showing heart support and 14+HCP. Abecassis showed his shortage and, after one try, Bompis settled for game. Bapat led the nine of diamonds, which ran to declarer's queen. Abecassis laid down the ace of hearts, felling the bare king, and had 12 tricks for +680.

Das responded 2♠, a mini- or maxi-splinter or a balanced raise. This made it convenient for Chottin to show his minor two-suiter, and Bardhan jumped to game. Das, I think, asked for key-cards with 4♠ and found one so signed off. However, Bardhan now guessed to go on to slam on the strength of his void. Pilon too led the nine of diamonds, but Chottin won the ace and returned the suit to dummy's king. With a lot of IMPs hanging on his next play, Bardhan led the queen of hearts and, on getting neither a cover

nor a flicker, rose with the ace! The fall of the king was very welcome news indeed and meant +1430 and 13 IMPs to India, instead of the same swing to France had Bardhan finessed.

Board 16 was flat in 3NT just making for E/W, and Board 17 a heart partscore for N/S, France gaining an IMP for +170 against +140. On Board 18 E/W had a strong five-three heart fit and combined 27 HCP. India played in 4♥ and made it for +620, but France played 3NT+2 in the other room to pick up an IMP. The quiet run of deals continued with Board 19, on which both N/Ss bid and made 3NT with a flat 18 facing a flat 8 HCP; flat at +400.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Pilon</i>	<i>Das</i>	<i>Chottin</i>	<i>Bardhan</i>
1♦	Dble	Rdbl	1NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Bapat</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Goenka</i>	<i>Abecassis</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Das doubled the opening bid and Chottin redoubled, transfer to hearts. Bardhan now concluded the auction with 1NT, against which Pilon led a diamond round to the ten and queen. Bardhan led a spade to the queen followed by a club to his jack. A second spade was won by Pilon's ace and Pilon cleared the diamonds. Bardhan cashed out now, eight tricks for +120.

Bompis did not double with the flat 13-count, so Goenka responded 1♥ then chose to play 2♥ rather than leave Bapat to play 1NT. Abecassis led a spade, which was ducked to Bompis's queen, and Bompis switched to a low club. Abecassis won the jack and reverted to spades. The defence came to three clubs, two spades, and one in each red suit, so the contract was down two for -200 and 2 IMPs to France.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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



Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Pilon	Das	Chottin	Bardhan
—	1♦	1♥	1♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Bapat	Bompis	Goenka	Abecassis
—	1♦	1♥	Dble*
4♥	Dble	Pass	4♠
5♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Dble Spades

Both E/W pairs found the save against what would have been a making 4♠. There were five inescapable losers, so 5♥ doubled was down three at both tables for a push at -500; well judged by both pairs.

West	North	East	South
Pilon	Das	Chottin	Bardhan
—	—	1NT	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Bapat	Bompis	Goenka	Abecassis
—	—	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Chottin's 1NT opening scooped the pool, silencing both opponents, though I am surprised that Das did not come in with the North hand. After a spade lead and heart switch, Chottin won the ♥A and cashed his diamonds; just made for +90.

Goenka's 1♦ opening allowed his opponents into the auction and they took full advantage, finding the five-four heart fit and bidding up to game. Goenka cashed the ace of diamonds then switched to the king of clubs. Bompis won that and played the jack



Dominique PILON

Badal Chandra DAS


Pranab Kumar BARDHAN

Philippe CHOTTIN

of hearts round to Bapat's ace. He put in the ten on the club return, drew the remaining trumps, and claimed 11 tricks for +450 and 11 IMPs to France, closing to 13-18.

Board 23 saw N/S hold two five-two major-suit fits. India were down one in 2♥ for -100, while France played it in 2♠ and that too was down one, so no swing..

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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



Pranab Kumar BARDHAN, India

West	North	East	South
Pilon	Das	Chottin	Bardhan
1♥	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Bapat	Bompis	Goenka	Abecassis
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass



Arun BAPAT, India

Goenka responded 1NT then raised to game when Bapat showed a sixth heart. Bompis led the ten of spades to the eight and queen, ducked by Bapat, who played low on the heart switch so lost to the bare king. Bompis went back to spades, Bapat winning and leading the jack of diamonds to the ace, cashing the king of diamonds, then drawing trumps and cashing the nine of diamonds. That left two more losers, however, so the contract was down one for -50.

Chottin responded 2NT, invitational-plus with three or more hearts. Bardhan passed over that but, when Pilon signed off in 3♥ and that came round to him, competed with 4♣. Chottin doubled that to complete the auction. Pilon cashed the ace of spades - two, jack, queen, and continued with a second spade. Bardhan won that with the king and gave up a heart. Pilon won that and gave Chottin a spade ruff, and Chottin played three rounds of diamonds to allow Pilon to over-ruff with the ♣10. Bardhan ruffed the heart return, cashed the trumps, and was left with a heart loser at the end; down four for -800 and 13 IMPs to France.

The two late swings saw France come through to win after trailing all the way to that point. The final score was 26-18 in favour of France, or 12.61-7.39 VPs.


Open Round 7

ARGENTINA v USA

David Bird

Argentina start in 7th place, a qualifying position that they will want to protect. The USA are 4th, so we should be in for a close encounter.

Board 17. Dealer North, Non Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	1♦	Pass	Pass
1♠	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

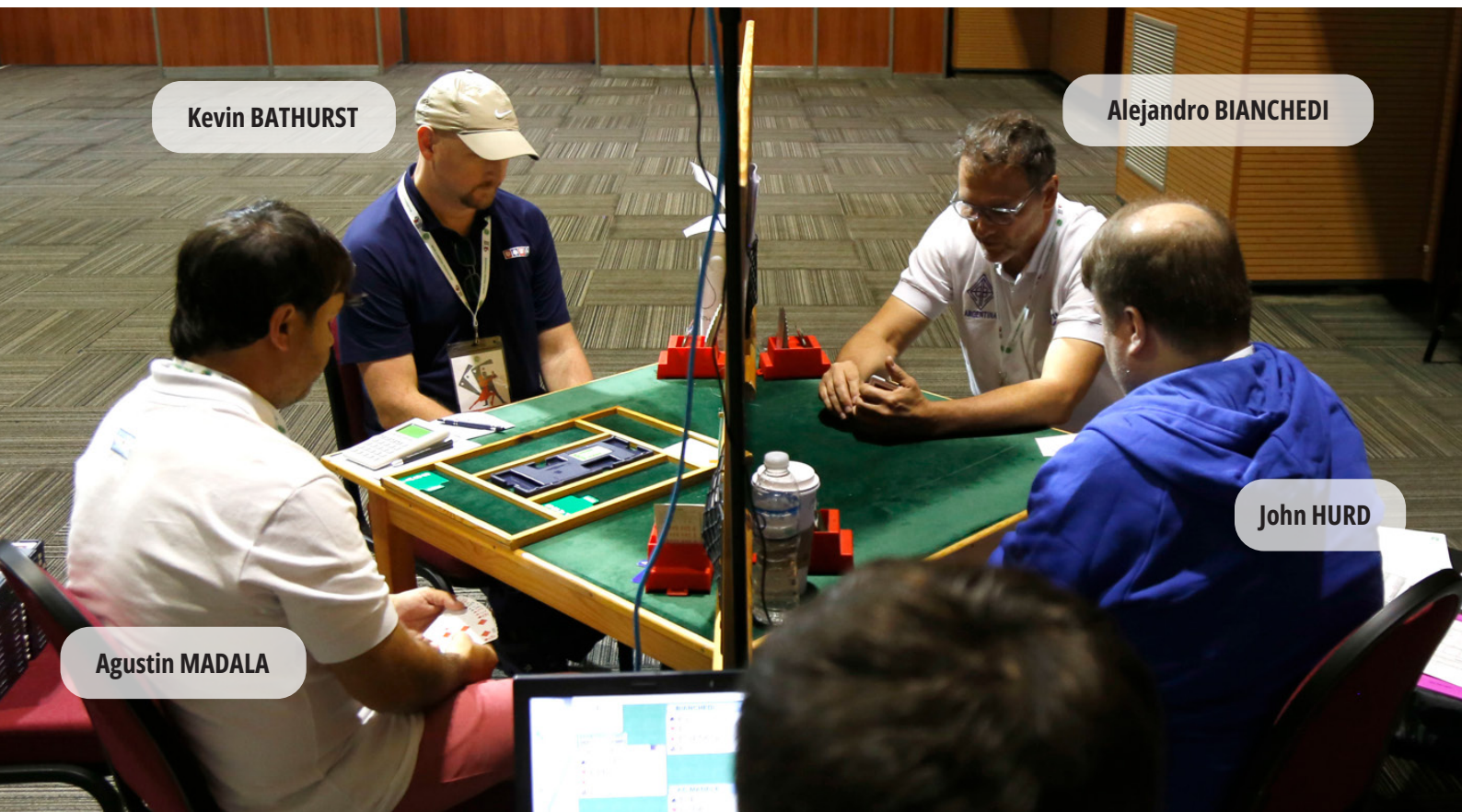
Would the USA play in 3NT at both tables? No, Kevin Bathurst didn't rate that contract. He pulled to 4♥, which John Hurd corrected to 4♠ after some thought. Alejandro Bianchedi led ace and another club, declarer winning with the ♣10. The ♠Q was run successfully, and North's king fell on the next round. Bathurst ruffed the ♦J and drew the last trump.

After cashing the ♣K, he was down to ♠J8 ♥K862 and needed to avoid losing three heart tricks. A low heart would have landed the contract, but North's bidding had been somewhat puzzling. Bathurst's choice of the ♥K meant that three hearts had to be lost, and he was one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rizzo</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Camberos</i>	<i>Moss</i>
—	1♣*	Pass	1♦*
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

Grue's 1♣ showed clubs, or a weak NT, or 17-19 balanced. Moss probably didn't expect 3NT to make, looking at his dismal hand. And right he was! Ace and another spade put it five down for 250 away. Not a score that has graced many world championships, I dare say. It was an acceptable 7 IMPs to decorate Argentina's plus column.




Kevin BATHURST

Alejandro BIANCHEDI

John HURD

Agustin MADALA

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣*	Dble	Rdbl
1♥	Pass	2♣	Dble
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Bianchedi demonstrated that the Argentinians, too, played a flexible 1♣ opening. Hurd and Bathurst survived this minimal pre-emptive barrier to reach game. But was it the right game? The ♣K was led, North switching smartly to the ♦10. When the finesse

lost to the king and a second club was cashed, the eventual loss of a spade trick meant one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rizzo</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Camberos</i>	<i>Moss</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1NT	Dble	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Rizzo and Camberos reached the spade game, despite the USA antics. This suffered the same risk of losing four tricks as in the Open room. Grue led the ♣Q. He now needed to switch to diamonds (or cash the ♣K and then play a diamond). When he chose a low club instead, declarer was off the hook. He was able to draw two rounds of trumps and ditch two of dummy's diamonds on his hearts. So... Argentina picked up another 12 IMPs.

The next five boards may be safely brushed under the carpet. The USA then made their first significant entry into the plus column, when their defence was one-trick tighter.

When you hold ♦AK9842, what is the best auction you can get to see? Both West players on board 25 saw it...



Leonardo RIZZO

Joe GRUE

Brad MOSS

Hector CAMBEROS

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	3♦	Dble	All Pass

Hurd led the ♣Q to dummy's ace, winning a second round with the king, West discarding the ♠5. Bathurst ruffed the next club, switching to the ♥5, won with East's jack. Hurd cashed the ♠A and ♥A, continuing with a heart to declarer's king. Bianchedi was now down to his six trumps.

East won a trump with his bare jack and that was -1100 for five down.



Kevin BATHURST, USA

It seemed to be a horror board for the weak 3♦ opening, but that is considered 'normal' nowadays.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rizzo</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Camberos</i>	<i>Moss</i>
—	3♦	Dble	All Pass

The defenders stayed on track for eight tricks. Camberos was then down to ♠106 ♥AQ3. A spade was needed, even though dummy had ♠Q9 sitting over him. He chose to play hearts instead, giving a trick to declarer's king. That reduced the penalty to 800 and 7 IMPs went to the USA.

Both the North players surprised me on the next deal.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

South's 1NT as advertised was 14+ to 17. As I used to say countless times when doing voice commentary with Roland Wald: the probability of a 15-17 1NT hand having 15 HCP is exactly twice as much as that of 17 HCP. North has a clear-cut pass as I see it. "But there might be a 4-4 heart fit," you will hear. Even then, what would the chance of ten tricks be? Also, on this deal, where did South find that third no-trump?

A low diamond was led to South's 10. Even then, declarer was heading for two down for most of the play, eventually escaping for one down.

Would North follow my learned suggestion at the other table?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rizzo	Grue	Camberos	Moss
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bathurst	Bianchedi	Hurd	Madala
—	—	—	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Well, there you go. Grue didn't pass 1NT either. At least they stopped in 2NT. The same diamond lead was a helpful start and declarer emerged with +120 for a gain of 6 IMPs.

The decision is yours, will you follow the considered advice of some ancient bridge writer, passing on your moderate 8-counts? Or will you seek a more dashing and impressive image, overbidding grossly?

I have one more deal for your entertainment:

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rizzo	Grue	Camberos	Moss
—	—	—	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Dble
5♣	Dble	All Pass	

I like the rise by Camberos, aimed at shutting out South. Moss found a double, even on a passed hand, knowing that there would be a fit somewhere. If West passes, North might well have judged to pass, with three tricks in his own hand. If instead he tried his luck in 4♠, that would not work so well.

The level of bidding and play in this match had been excellent until now, but West's 5♣ was questionable. Both opponents were passed hands, so there was no certainty they could make a game, particularly with West's defensive values. The cost was 500 away and a loss of 12 IMPs.

The play had been of a high standard and the USA took the match by a narrow 29-22. Argentina dropped one position in the table, staying in a qualifying position.



Hector CAMBEROS, Argentina




GRAND DESIGNS

Mark Horton

In Round 12 of the Mixed Teams this blockbuster made an appearance:

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Given a free run one possible auction for NS would be: 1♠-2♦-3♦-4♣*-4NT*-5♥*-5NT*-6♣*-7♦.

12 of the 28 NS pairs bid 7♦, but five of them went down, one after the lead of the ♣6, which looks surprising. Having won with the ♣10 declarer cashed the ♦AK and played a club, claiming her contract. She had omitted to add *drawing trumps*, and the Director reluctantly ruled she was one down.

Assuming East did not bid, declarer has some work to do. Playing to set up the spades looks the normal line, as you only need to develop one extra trick, but the 5-1 split means you will have to 'find the lady' in the club suit.

11 Pairs stopped in 6♦ taking 12 or 13 tricks. Of the remaining five pairs, two were in 5♦, the other

three in a notrump game.

If East gets involved in the auction, declarer is likely to know to take the spade finesse, but the four others to fail in 7♦ all received a spade lead from East, so it is safe to assume they received no help from the auction.

182 IMPs changed hands, the biggest coming in the match between Hungary and China where 7♦ made in one room and went two down in the other, which is a 20 IMP setback.



Almodena MARTORELL, SPAIN

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THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE

Mark Horton

When England faced South Africa in Round 9 of the Open Series this deal was dramatic:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>A Apteker</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Black</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦*	1♥	Pass
3♦*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

- 1♦ 10-22 5+♦ or 4441
(could be 5♦332 minimum with strong diamonds)
- 3♦ Heart raise

South led the ♣2 for the jack, queen and ace and declarer drew trumps ending in hand and played a spade for the king and ace. Back came the ♦J and declarer had to go one down, -100.

Open Room

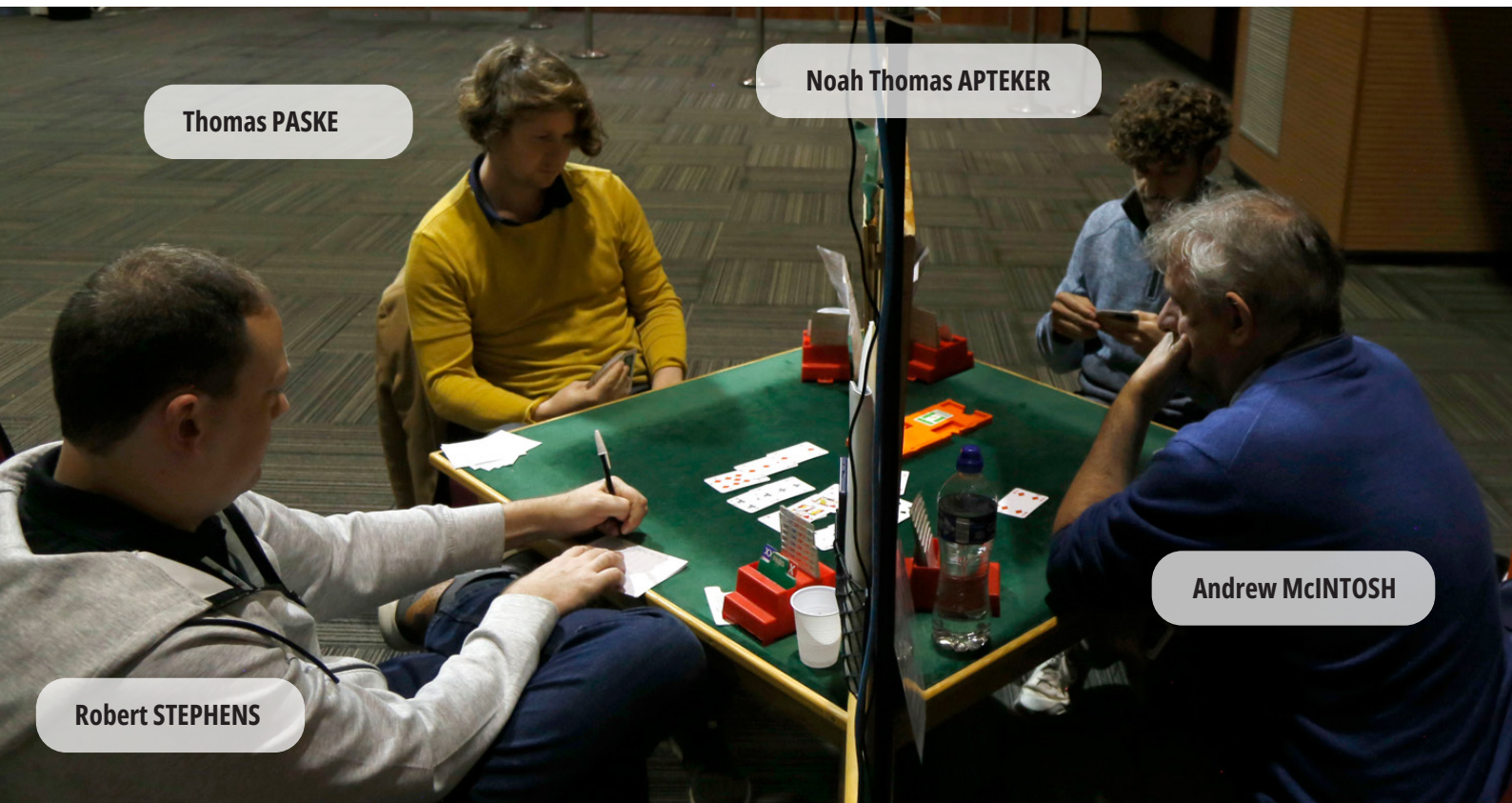
West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>N Apteker</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Stephens</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass
2NT*	Pass	4♥	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

2NT Heart support

South did not fancy bidding over East's overcall, but when East jumped to 4♥ he courageously took a shot at the spade game. He might have been concerned when West doubled, but he must have been delighted when he saw the dummy.

(The au pair thought a redouble by North was in order – 'they never run to 5♥ in this sort of situation'.)

The ♣6 was covered by the king and ace and declarer won the club continuation with dummy's ♣Q and played the ♥J, East winning with the ♥K and returning the ♥4. Declarer ruffed in dummy, ruffed a club and ran the ♠J. Moments later he was claiming, +790 and 12 IMPs.



Thomas PASKE

Noah Thomas APTEKER

Andrew McINTOSH


Robert STEPHENS

FIREWORKS ON FOURTEEN: INSURANCE NECESSARY

Simon Stocken

The biggest swings of the championships so far occurred late in the second day of the Open Series on board 14 with Italy being the greatest beneficiaries at the expense of Hungary.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

A double-slam swing, small and grand, translated into 2840 points and 21 IMPs. Manno and Di Franco bid and made 7♦ doubled on the East-West cards after the ♠A was led, while Percario as South partnering Donati brought home 6♥ doubled after an initial diamond lead.

There were five swings of 17 IMPs – Brazil was alone in playing the hand in a black suit denomination, making 5♠ doubled after the ♦A lead, while their team-mates made thirteen tricks in 6♦ after an initial ♠4 lead.

Diamond contracts were played 23 times out of 32 – four of them declared by West, all in the A section and all held to eleven tricks after the ♥A lead.

There was only one push board across all 16 matches with Ireland and Argentina both bidding 7♥ which was doubled for down one. Chinese Taipei and USA also in the A section ended up down two in the same contract. The Finnish North-South were the only ones in group B to bid 7♥ with the auction below.

Austria vs Finland

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Weiss-Selway	Fagerlund	Weiss-Selway	Salonen
—	—	Pass	1♠
4NT	Pass	5♦	5♥
6♦	6♥	7♦	Pass
Pass	7♥	Dble	All Pass

Their team-mates in the Closed Room, Juuri-Oja and Nyberg were allowed to play 5♦ which made exactly eleven tricks after the Austrian South, Wanha found the optimal ♥5 lead – suit preference ensuring a club return. The husband and wife duo scored +100 against 7♥ doubled – an insurance sacrifice in case South led the wrong major against 7♦ - a wise choice as only one South out of six on lead against 7♦, Pierre Zimmermann, found the killing heart lead after the following auction against the Canadian team.



Switzerland vs Canada

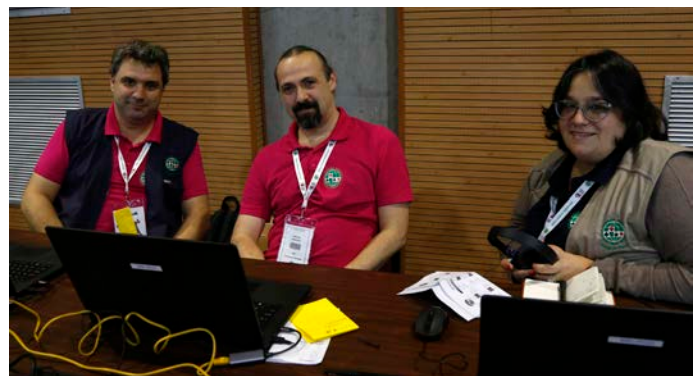
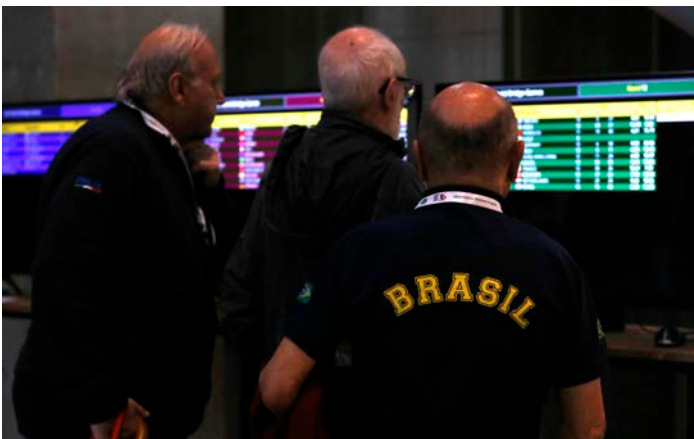
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Caplan	Nowosadzki	Gitelman	Zimmermann
—	—	Pass	1♠
2NT*	3♠	4♦	4♥
4NT*	5♥	Pass	5♠
6♦	Pass	Pass	6♠
7♦	Dble	All Pass	

The defence was over in a matter of seconds, taking the first two tricks as Nowosadzki fired the club back for a ruff and down two. This gave the Swiss team 300 to add to their 940 in the Closed room where Kalita and Klukowski made 13 tricks in 6♦ on the ♠4 lead, contributing 15 IMPs to a resounding win where 124 IMPs changed hands: Switzerland 81 – Canada 43.



Pierre ZIMMERMANN, Switzerland



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RESULTS

OPEN - GROUP A

ROUND 7

1	ARGENTINA	U.S.A.	22	29	7.97	12.03
2	PAKISTAN	SOUTH AFRICA	23	64	1.79	18.21
3	ENGLAND	ROMANIA	32	21	13.04	6.96
4	CHILE	GERMANY	21	40	5.20	14.80
5	ISRAEL	NEW ZEALAND	40	45	8.52	11.48
6	CHINESE TAIPEI	IRELAND	20	46	3.91	16.09
7	SWEDEN	HONG KONG, CHINA	62	16	18.77	1.23
8	NETHERLANDS	GUADELOUPE	50	17	17.17	2.83
9	SPAIN	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

ROUND 8

1	NEW ZEALAND	NETHERLANDS	27	26	10.31	9.69
2	SPAIN	ISRAEL	21	50	3.42	16.58
3	GERMANY	PAKISTAN	55	10	18.66	1.34
4	CHILE	CHINESE TAIPEI	37	23	13.75	6.25
5	GUADELOUPE	ENGLAND	16	46	3.27	16.73
6	IRELAND	SWEDEN	22	27	8.52	11.48
7	ARGENTINA	SOUTH AFRICA	42	26	14.18	5.82
8	ROMANIA	U.S.A.	6	53	1.13	18.87
9	HONG KONG, CHINA	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

ROUND 9

1	SOUTH AFRICA	ENGLAND	30	50	5.00	15.00
2	SWEDEN	ISRAEL	51	16	17.45	2.55
3	CHINESE TAIPEI	ROMANIA	27	47	5.00	15.00
4	IRELAND	GUADELOUPE	33	33	10.00	10.00
5	SPAIN	GERMANY	11	49	2.15	17.85
6	CHILE	NEW ZEALAND	22	40	5.40	14.60
7	HONG KONG, CHINA	ARGENTINA	15	40	4.08	15.92
8	PAKISTAN	U.S.A.	33	50	5.61	14.39
9	NETHERLANDS	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

RANKING AFTER R9

1	SWEDEN	127.48
2	U.S.A.	124.26
3	NETHERLANDS	123.25
4	ISRAEL	118.59
5	ARGENTINA	105.32
6	GERMANY	101.27
7	ROMANIA	99.23
8	IRELAND	97.90
9	NEW ZEALAND	96.78
10	SPAIN	89.98
11	ENGLAND	87.81
12	CHILE	85.19
13	SOUTH AFRICA	84.00
14	CHINESE TAIPEI	72.37
15	HK, CHINA	51.63
16	GUADELOUPE	50.37
17	PAKISTAN	32.57

OPEN - GROUP B

ROUND 7

11	FRANCE	AUSTRALIA	69	33	17.59	2.41
12	POLAND	SWITZERLAND	46	19	16.26	3.74
13	KOREA	DENMARK	41	7	16.31	2.69
14	CHINA	HUNGARY	68	27	18.21	1.79
15	NORWAY	TURKIYE	70	22	18.97	1.03
16	KUWAIT	BRAZIL	54	54	10.00	10.00
17	INDIA	FINLAND	48	19	16.58	3.42
18	ITALY	AUSTRIA	37	31	11.76	8.24
19	CANADA	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

ROUND 8

11	AUSTRALIA	ITALY	26	38	6.72	13.28
12	DENMARK	NORWAY	21	48	3.74	16.26
13	HUNGARY	SWITZERLAND	70	22	18.97	1.03
14	CANADA	FRANCE	35	48	6.48	13.52
15	INDIA	KOREA	23	23	10.00	10.00
16	AUSTRIA	CHINA	24	44	5.00	15.00
17	FINLAND	KUWAIT	91	0	20.00	0.00
18	POLAND	BRAZIL	43	28	13.97	6.03
19	TURKIYE	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

ROUND 9

11	NORWAY	FRANCE	2	9	6.97	12.03
12	KUWAIT	SWITZERLAND	15	94	0.00	20.00
13	BRAZIL	CHINA	20	42	4.62	15.38
14	KOREA	HUNGARY	66	20	18.77	1.23
15	DENMARK	AUSTRIA	38	23	13.97	6.03
16	CANADA	FINLAND	23	15	12.29	7.71
17	TURKIYE	POLAND	18	45	3.74	16.26
18	INDIA	AUSTRALIA	47	36	13.04	6.96
19	ITALY	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

RANKING AFTER R9

1	FRANCE	122.72
2	ITALY	121.45
3	POLAND	116.48
4	CHINA	115.28
5	SWITZERLAND	111.58
6	FINLAND	102.70
7	TURKIYE	94.52
8	KOREA	90.50
9	DENMARK	89.22
10	CANADA	89.14
11	NORWAY	88.46
12	INDIA	86.90
13	BRAZIL	86.81
14	HUNGARY	77.93
15	AUSTRALIA	71.94
16	AUSTRIA	57.00
17	KUWAIT	20.37

WOMEN

ROUND 9

21	ARGENTINA	AUSTRALIA	20	39	4.63	15.37
22	CHILE	NEW ZEALAND	41	33	11.61	7.39
23	INDIA	TURKIYE	0	33	2.14	17.86
24	U.S.A.	MEXICO	28	12	14.70	5.30
25	ITALY	POLAND	7	39	2.29	17.71
26	ENGLAND	NETHERLANDS	33	9	16.37	3.63
27	SOUTH AFRICA	SPAIN	16	42	3.27	16.73
28	CHINA	GERMANY	47	19	17.08	2.92
29	HONG KONG, CHINA	CANADA	2	11	7.10	12.90
30	BRAZIL	SWEDEN	2	34	2.29	17.71
31	FRANCE	JAPAN	36	16	15.58	3.92
32	NORWAY	IRELAND	29	20	12.90	7.10

ROUND 10

21	U.S.A.	ITALY	21	34	6.03	13.97
22	CHINA	IRELAND	46	4	19.02	0.98
23	SOUTH AFRICA	ENGLAND	50	46	11.38	8.62
24	NETHERLANDS	MEXICO	18	15	11.05	8.95
25	TURKIYE	ARGENTINA	55	26	17.24	2.76
26	NORWAY	SPAIN	24	10	14.22	5.78
27	POLAND	FRANCE	27	0	16.91	3.09
28	CANADA	NEW ZEALAND	9	15	7.99	12.01
29	AUSTRALIA	HONG KONG, CHINA	32	22	13.18	6.82
30	CHILE	BRAZIL	28	27	10.36	9.64
31	SWEDEN	GERMANY	19	17	10.71	9.29
32	JAPAN	INDIA	29	25	11.38	8.62

ROUND 11

21	POLAND	CANADA	39	9	17.40	2.60
22	INDIA	SOUTH AFRICA	27	14	13.97	6.03
23	MEXICO	GERMANY	18	10	12.61	7.39
24	JAPAN	CHILE	45	18	16.91	3.09
25	NEW ZEALAND	NETHERLANDS	40	15	16.55	3.45
26	ITALY	CHINA	18	6	13.71	6.29
27	SWEDEN	ARGENTINA	29	5	16.37	3.63
28	IRELAND	BRAZIL	10	16	7.99	12.01
29	U.S.A.	AUSTRALIA	35	0	18.14	1.86
30	NORWAY	HONG KONG, CHINA	34	17	14.93	5.07
31	SPAIN	ENGLAND	8	65	0.00	20.00
32	TURKIYE	FRANCE	31	2	17.24	2.76

ROUND 12

21	POLAND	SWEDEN	19	26	7.69	12.31
22	U.S.A.	CHINA	22	3	15.37	4.63
23	AUSTRALIA	CHILE	36	22	14.22	5.78
24	MEXICO	NORWAY	17	46	2.76	17.24
25	JAPAN	ITALY	20	35	5.54	14.46
26	TURKIYE	NEW ZEALAND	31	12	15.37	4.63
27	CANADA	BRAZIL	17	25	7.39	12.61
28	ARGENTINA	NETHERLANDS	25	32	7.69	12.31
29	IRELAND	HONG KONG, CHINA	9	56	0.46	19.54
30	INDIA	ENGLAND	5	29	3.63	16.37
31	FRANCE	SOUTH AFRICA	46	6	18.78	1.22
32	SPAIN	GERMANY	15	33	4.85	15.15

RANKING AFTER R12

1	SWEDEN	180.00
2	POLAND	172.87
3	CHINA	160.81
4	ITALY	157.59
5	TURKIYE	153.77
6	AUSTRALIA	150.21
7	NORWAY	144.32
8	GERMANY	144.27
9	FRANCE	142.30
10	ENGLAND	141.94
11	U.S.A.	127.07
12	HK, CHINA	119.68
13	NEW ZEALAND	119.53
14	NETHERLANDS	115.72
15	BRAZIL	102.26
16	INDIA	97.85
17	MEXICO	94.67
18	JAPAN	93.92
19	ARGENTINA	89.53
20	CANADA	83.66
21	CHILE	78.50
22	SPAIN	72.74
23	SOUTH AFRICA	69.44
24	IRELAND	62.35

SENIOR

ROUND 9

41	INDIA	FRANCE	18	26	7.39	12.61
42	CHILE	GERMANY	16	33	-2.93	14.93
43	JAPAN	SWITZERLAND	10	22	6.29	13.71
44	ARGENTINA	AUSTRALIA	21	34	5.53	13.97
45	U.S.A.	COLOMBIA	47	18	17.24	2.76
46	NETHERLANDS	NEW ZEALAND	23	26	8.95	11.05
47	ISRAEL	POLAND	5	22	5.07	14.93
48	ENGLAND	CANADA	38	12	16.73	3.27
49	HONG KONG, CHINA	TURKIYE	17	23	7.99	12.01
50	BRAZIL	SWEDEN	18	36	4.85	15.15
51	DENMARK	ITALY	31	20	13.45	6.55
52	MOROCCO	SCOTLAND	27	10	14.93	5.07

ROUND 10

41	INDIA	NEW ZEALAND	48	6	19.02	0.98
42	ITALY	COLOMBIA	33	7	16.73	3.27
43	SWITZERLAND	ARGENTINA	32	12	15.58	4.42
44	SWEDEN	FRANCE	38	17	15.79	4.21
45	CANADA	JAPAN	28	45	5.07	14.93
46	CHILE	BRAZIL	7	63	0.00	20.00
47	AUSTRALIA	HONG KONG, CHINA	36	7	17.24	2.76
48	NETHERLANDS	SCOTLAND	27	39	6.29	13.71
49	MOROCCO	DENMARK	12	66	0.00	20.00
50	U.S.A.	ISRAEL	19	39	4.42	15.58
51	TURKIYE	GERMANY	20	16	11.38	8.62
52	POLAND	ENGLAND	43	17	16.73	3.27

ROUND 11

41	SCOTLAND	DENMARK	14	23	7.10	12.90
42	COLOMBIA	FRANCE	14	32	4.85	15.15
43	SWEDEN	ARGENTINA	12	15	8.95	11.05
44	U.S.A.	AUSTRALIA	24	10	14.22	5.78
45	JAPAN	MOROCCO	17	37	4.42	15.58
46	ISRAEL	INDIA	18	36	4.85	15.15
47	NEW ZEALAND	BRAZIL	6	40	2.00	18.00
48	SWITZERLAND	ENGLAND	15	23	7.39	12.61
49	GERMANY	ITALY	1	35	2.00	18.00
50	CANADA	CHILE	32	23	12.90	7.10
51	NETHERLANDS	HONG KONG, CHINA	39	18	15.79	4.21
52	POLAND	TURKIYE	38	20	15.15	4.85

ROUND 12

41	POLAND	SWEDEN	5	27	4.01	15.99
42	U.S.A.	INDIA	44	21	16.18	3.82
43	ENGLAND	MOROCCO	33	40	7.69	12.31
44	AUSTRALIA	CHILE	0	0	17.82	0.00
45	SWITZERLAND	GERMANY	6	58	0.00	20.00
46	ARGENTINA	ITALY	0	11	6.55	13.45
47	NEW ZEALAND	HONG KONG, CHINA	11	24	6.03	13.97
48	TURKIYE	BRAZIL	32	33	9.64	10.36
49	SCOTLAND	FRANCE	34	26	12.61	7.39
50	JAPAN	DENMARK	17	26	7.10	12.90
51	COLOMBIA	NETHERLANDS	23	24	9.64	10.36
52	CANADA	ISRAEL	15	40	3.45	16.55

RANKING AFTER R12

1	U.S.A.	161.94
2	SWEDEN	157.76
3	FRANCE	145.12
4	INDIA	141.02
5	BRAZIL	137.43
6	POLAND	135.92
7	ISRAEL	135.41
8	SCOTLAND	133.95
9	NETHERLANDS	132.51
10	ITALY	132.48
11	AUSTRALIA	132.13
12	TURKIYE	129.27
13	DENMARK	129.24
14	GERMANY	127.65
15	HK, CHINA	119.66
16	ARGENTINA	112.63
17	MOROCCO	103.31
18	SWITZERLAND	100.63
19	CANADA	99.06
20	NEW ZEALAND	94.65
21	ENGLAND	92.17
22	JAPAN	90.04
23	COLOMBIA	86.34
24	CHILE	24.00

MIXED

ROUND 11

61	HONG KONG, CHINA	CANADA	25	15	13.43	6.57
62	FRANCE	BRAZIL	13	7	12.18	7.82
63	CHINA	JAPAN	21	32	6.28	13.72
64	IRELAND	SWEDEN	3	19	4.95	15.05
65	COLOMBIA	CROATIA	10	14	8.50	11.50
66	INDIA	TURKIYE	32	31	10.39	9.61
67	ENGLAND	SOUTH AFRICA	60	3	20.00	0.00
68	HUNGARY	CHILE	28	7	16.18	3.82
69	AUSTRALIA	U.S.A.	11	32	3.82	16.18
70	GERMANY	ISRAEL	23	7	15.05	4.95
71	SPAIN	MOROCCO	39	3	18.71	1.29
72	DENMARK	ARGENTINA	32	12	15.97	4.03
73	POLAND	NEW ZEALAND	10	30	4.03	15.97
74	ITALY	NORWAY	15	5	13.43	6.57
75	SWITZERLAND	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

ROUND 12

61	POLAND	SWITZERLAND	40	12	17.51	2.49
62	U.S.A.	NEW ZEALAND	43	0	19.55	0.45
63	CROATIA	SOUTH AFRICA	40	7	18.30	1.70
64	SPAIN	AUSTRALIA	3	39	1.29	18.71
65	FRANCE	INDIA	43	0	19.55	0.45
66	TURKIYE	CANADA	38	47	6.86	13.14
67	ARGENTINA	MOROCCO	18	16	10.77	9.23
68	IRELAND	BRAZIL	59	17	19.44	0.56
69	ISRAEL	HONG KONG, CHINA	32	29	11.14	8.86
70	NORWAY	JAPAN	39	11	17.51	2.49
71	DENMARK	COLOMBIA	7	8	9.61	10.39
72	ENGLAND	GERMANY	0	38	1.03	18.97
73	HUNGARY	CHINA	22	28	7.82	12.18
74	ITALY	SWEDEN	29	5	16.78	3.22
75	CHILE	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

ROUND 13

61	SOUTH AFRICA	COLOMBIA	30	23	12.51	7.49
62	GERMANY	CHILE	33	18	14.80	5.20
63	ENGLAND	BRAZIL	21	22	9.61	10.39
64	FRANCE	ISRAEL	26	11	14.80	4.20
65	CROATIA	ARGENTINA	18	11	12.51	7.49
66	NEW ZEALAND	SPAIN	20	20	10.00	10.00
67	HUNGARY	ITALY	17	20	8.86	11.14
68	INDIA	DENMARK	38	0	18.97	1.03
69	HONG KONG, CHINA	AUSTRALIA	9	23	5.46	14.54
70	MOROCCO	SWEDEN	7	34	2.66	17.34
71	JAPAN	U.S.A.	4	15	6.28	13.72
72	CHINA	CANADA	31	3	17.51	2.49
73	NORWAY	POLAND	3	26	3.41	16.59
74	SWITZERLAND	IRELAND	37	35	10.77	9.23
75	TURKIYE	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

ROUND 14

61	COLOMBIA	ITALY	56	0	20.00	0.00
62	SPAIN	SWITZERLAND	19	2	15.29	4.71
63	NEW ZEALAND	AUSTRALIA	10	35	3.03	16.97
64	ARGENTINA	INDIA	6	27	3.82	16.18
65	MOROCCO	CROATIA	18	44	2.84	17.16
66	NORWAY	CANADA	25	6	15.75	4.25
67	U.S.A.	SOUTH AFRICA	51	14	18.84	1.16
68	CHILE	CHINA	4	43	0.90	19.10
69	TURKIYE	HUNGARY	25	12	14.28	5.72
70	HONG KONG, CHINA	JAPAN	27	6	16.18	3.82
71	BRAZIL	ISRAEL	7	8	9.61	10.39
72	DENMARK	IRELAND	17	12	11.85	8.15
73	SWEDEN	GERMANY	21	14	12.51	7.49
74	POLAND	FRANCE	22	14	12.83	7.17
75	ENGLAND	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

ROUND 15

61	U.S.A.	NORWAY	16	10	12.18	7.82
62	AUSTRALIA	ENGLAND	9	11	9.23	10.77
63	ARGENTINA	CHILE	43	5	18.97	-1.97
64	MOROCCO	SOUTH AFRICA	11	6	11.85	8.15
65	ISRAEL	IRELAND	10	2	12.83	7.17
66	COLOMBIA	SPAIN	10	14	8.50	11.50
67	CROATIA	TURKIYE	21	16	11.85	8.15
68	BRAZIL	POLAND	11	18	7.49	12.51
69	CHINA	SWEDEN	1	21	4.03	15.97
70	JAPAN	SWITZERLAND	40	3	18.84	1.16
71	NEW ZEALAND	HUNGARY	25	37	6.00	14.00
72	CANADA	INDIA	4	24	4.03	15.97
73	FRANCE	GERMANY	14	11	11.14	8.86
74	HONG KONG, CHINA	DENMARK	9	28	4.25	15.75
75	ITALY	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

RANKING AFTER R15

1	GERMANY	211.52
2	CROATIA	190.44
3	NORWAY	185.96
4	U.S.A.	185.84
5	POLAND	184.26
6	ITALY	174.62
7	DENMARK	174.10
8	INDIA	173.17
9	FRANCE	172.74
10	HK, CHINA	171.67
11	AUSTRALIA	168.94
12	COLOMBIA	166.68
13	NEW ZEALAND	166.01
14	ENGLAND	160.04
15	ISRAEL	153.69
16	SWEDEN	149.11
17	CHINA	146.49
18	SWITZERLAND	142.67
19	JAPAN	142.01
20	SPAIN	140.92
21	TURKIYE	135.97
22	ARGENTINA	126.56
23	CHILE	125.67
24	HUNGARY	119.66
25	IRELAND	116.78
26	CANADA	115.08
27	BRAZIL	97.24
28	MOROCCO	94.80
29	SOUTH AFRICA	70.86

1st Small Federations Online Open Teams

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WBF Online Women's Teams

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World Bridge Federation

ONLINE WOMEN'S TEAMS 3 to 5 January 2025

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