

CLOSE RUN THINGS



BAM Winners - Ramon GOMEZ, Federico GODED,
Jordi SABATE, Pedro GONCALVES, Gabriel FRACTMAN

Congratulations to the winners of the **BAM, Gauss** (**Gabriel Fractman, Federico Goded, Gonzalo Goded, Ramon Gomez, Pedro Goncalves** and **Jordi Sabate**) who beat Tu Mam on a split tie, with Hollands finishing third.

All four Championships offered up some thrilling matches – great for the spectators, but hard on the nerves. The Great Shuffler delivered a thrilling final set of deals that afforded many opportunities for swings. In the Open series it was difficult to know where to look. In Poland v Ireland, Poland won by 3 IMPs, in Israel v Norway, the lead changed hands several times before Israel finished 5 IMPs ahead. In Sweden v Korea, the

latter broke a tie on the last board to win by 5 IMPs. In USA v Denmark, USA won by 10 IMPs.

In the Women's England remarkably managed to overturn a 50 IMP deficit against New Zealand, while Poland lost to Hong Kong China by a single IMP. Meanwhile Türkiye beat Germany by 7 IMPs.

In the Mixed there were no close finishes.

In the Seniors Canada prevailed over Poland by 8 IMPs.

PABLO LAMBARDI TRANSNATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

Please check page 3 for the format and schedule.

WORLD NATIONAL PAIRS

Please check page 3 for the provisional format and schedule.

SCHEDULE TODAY

Open Teams Round of 8
Women Teams Round of 8
Senior Teams Round of 8
Mixed Teams Round of 8

10.00 - 12.15: Stanza 1/6 (16 boards)
13.15 - 15.30: Stanza 2/6 (16 boards)
16.00 - 18.15: Stanza 3/6 (16 boards)

Pablo Lambardi Transnational Open Teams

10.00 - 11.45: (12 boards)
12.05 - 13.50: (12 boards)
14.50 - 16.35: (12 boards)
16.55 - 18.40: (12 boards)

Happy Birthday to **Yang CAI** (China)



National Pairs

Starting at 10.00. Three Sessions.
Check details on the microsite



BAM, 2nd place:
Team Tu Mam (Hennie FICK, Carol STANTON, Diana ROSSLEE, Craig GOWER)



BAM, 3rd place:
Team Hollands (Peter GILL, Leon MEIER, Peter HOLLANDS, Charlie LU)

WORLD

ONLINE

CHAMPIONSHIP



1ST EDITION 2025



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2

PABLO LAMBARDI TRANSNATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

Format

Stage one:

the teams will play eight rounds of Swiss over two days. All teams go through to stage two.

Stage two:

the teams will play eight rounds of a new Swiss (e.g. there might be rematches) in two days. The teams which played in stage one will be awarded a linear carry-over according to the ranking, the leading team receiving 30 VP while the last will be receiving 0 VP. They will be joined by teams knocked out from the Quarter Finals. The drop-in teams will receive a score equal to the carry-over of the fifteenth team. The drop-in teams will not be paired in the first round. At the end the top twelve teams qualify to Final A, the next twelve to Final B and the rest will play Final C (however, would the number of teams allow for it, a Final D might be added).

Final stage:

The top qualified team in each Final will receive a carry-forward score of 11 VP, the second 10 and so forth. Finals A and B will be played as a Round Robin, eleven matches of 8 boards each, while Final C will be played as a Swiss (however, would a Final D exist, C will be played as a Round Robin, and D as a Swiss).

Time Schedule

Day 1 to 4 – Swiss

10.00 – 11.45 12 boards
12.05 – 13.50 12 boards
14.50 – 16.35 12 boards
16.55 – 18.40 12 boards

Day 5 and 6 – Round Robin

10.00 – 11.10
11.30 – 12.40
13.40 – 14.50
15.10 – 16.20
16.40 – 17.50
18.10 – 19.20 (not on day 6)

WORLD NATIONAL PAIRS

As for the first stage of the World National Pairs, due to the low number of entries Seniors Pairs will be aggregated to the Open Pairs, and Women Pairs to the Mixed Pairs.

If the number of drop-in pairs from the KO allows for a total of at least sixteen pairs, they will play separate semi-finals and finals.

If not, they will eventually be ranked internally to the championship they attended, and will receive the corresponding award.












Open and Mixed Pairs

Provisional Format and Time Schedule (to be confirmed when the number of entries is known)


- There will be three stages: Qualification, Semi-Finals A and B, and Finals A and B, each one over two days.
- The starting time will always be at 10 am, and three sessions a day will be played, the second starting approximately at 13.30 and the third approximately at 16.20, to end around 19.00/19.30.
- There will be a carry-over from one stage to another.
- Pairs belonging to teams knocked out from the main events are allowed to drop in in Semi-Final A.
- As the registration is still in progress we cannot add anything more than that.

OPEN TEAMS

ROUND OF 16

		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOT
1	 CHINA	38	29	39	42	148
	 ROMANIA	39	31	31	13	114
2	 POLAND	33	19	16	15	83
	 IRELAND	20	22	13	25	80
3	 SWITZERLAND	22	59	40	44	165
	 NETHERLANDS	23	16	13	23	75
4	 USA	53	34	25	20	132
	 DENMARK	17	61	23	21	122
5	 ITALY	50	36	63	–	149
	 GERMANY	28	13	0	–	41
6	 ISRAEL	50	20	29	29	128
	 NORWAY	53	23	26	51	123
7	 ARGENTINA	46	23	21	31	121
	 FRANCE	14	20	14	22	70
8	 SWEDEN	47	31	31	12	121
	 KOREA	31	35	33	27	126

1	 CHINA
	 POLAND


2	 SWITZERLAND
	 USA



3	 ITALY
	 ISRAEL

4	 ARGENTINA
	 KOREA

WOMEN TEAMS

ROUND OF 16

		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOT
1	 POLAND	42	5	50	19	116
	 HONG KONG, CHINA	27	62	10	18	117
2	 FRANCE	50	16	27	39	132
	 USA	52	50	29	18	149
3	 NORWAY	33	9	50	28	120
	 BRAZIL	9	39	23	8	79
4	 SWEDEN	51	44	54	–	149
	 NETHERLANDS	24	13	19	–	56
5	 ITALY	31	36	44	9	120
	 JAPAN	29	35	24	18	106
6	 TÜRKIYE	37	27	32	9	105
	 GERMANY	32	27	31	8	98
7	 CHINA	89	42	56	22	209
	 AUSTRALIA	21	35	27	16	99
8	 ENGLAND	38	17	5	69	129
	 NEW ZEALAND	34	51	25	13	123



1	 HONG KONG, CHINA
	 USA

2	 NORWAY
	 SWEDEN

3	 ITALY
	 TÜRKIYE

4	 CHINA
	 ENGLAND

SENIOR TEAMS

		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOT
1	 USA	34	47	41	18	140
	 HONG KONG, CHINA	15	27	7	21	70
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOT
2	 TÜRKIYE	61	34	60	27	182
	 ITALY	5	17	42	43	112
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOT
3	 ISRAEL	23	48	27	22	120
	 AUSTRALIA	48	33	23	1	105
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOT
4	 FRANCE	48	86	21	–	155
	 ARGENTINA	26	25	22	–	73
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOT
5	 INDIA	35	46	35	18	134
	 SCOTLAND	13	17	20	38	88
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOT
6	 POLAND	26	21	21	18	86
	 CANADA	43	28	18	5	97
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOT
7	 GERMANY	18	30	49	25	122
	 DENMARK	29	9	24	16	78
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOT
8	 SWEDEN	30	45	38	–	113
	 MOROCCO	14	12	29	–	55

















1	 USA
	 TÜRKIYE

2	 ISRAEL
	 FRANCE

3	 INDIA
	 CANADA

4	 GERMANY
	 SWEDEN

MIXED TEAMS

		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOT
1	 POLAND	49	37	54	–	140
	 NEW ZEALAND	1	27	18	–	46
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOT
2	 DENMARK	41	23	6	40	110
	 NORWAY	49	29	51	17	145
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOT
3	 HONG KONG, CHINA	31	32	2	19	84
	 ISRAEL	33	24	39	19	115
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOT
4	 ITALY	17	30	16	42	105
	 CROATIA	26	12	18	15	71
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOT
5	 GERMANY	42	53	42	–	137
	 COLOMBIA	18	6	19	–	43
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOT
6	 ENGLAND	29	41	1	16	87
	 FRANCE	34	33	23	22	112
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOT
7	 SWEDEN	34	9	3	37	83
	 CHINA	37	30	33	3	103
		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOT
8	 USA	71	67	27	51	216
	 INDIA	45	21	27	13	106

1	 POLAND
	 NORWAY

2	 ISRAEL
	 ITALY

3	 GERMANY
	 FRANCE

4	 CHINA
	 USA



MATCHES ON VUGRAPH

Tuesday, 29 October 2024



10.00:	Italy	-	Israel	Open Teams	BB01
	Korea	-	Argentina	Open Teams	BB02
	Sweden	-	Norway	Women Teams	BB03
	Germany	-	France	Mixed Teams	LoveBridge
13.15	USA	-	Switzerland	Open Teams	BB01
	China	-	Poland	Open Teams	BB02
	Italy	-	Israel	Mixed Teams	BB03
	England	-	China	Women Teams	LoveBridge
16.00	To be announced				

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

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

Lovebridge Vugraph: <https://vugraph.lovebridge.com/>



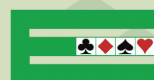
11TH
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June 21 - July 5 2025

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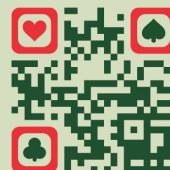


June 21 - June 27

Mixed Teams and Pairs
Senior Teams and Pairs

June 28 - July 5

Open Teams and Pairs
Women Teams and Pairs



More info
& Hotel
Reservation

www.euro25.eu

EDITOR'S LOG

Star Date 28/10/2024

Munir Ataullah a member of the legendary Pakistan team that won a silver medal in the Bermuda Bowl in 1981, a brilliant theoretician and unashamed lover equally of bridge and the good life sadly passed way in Lahore ,Pakistan yesterday.

He studied at Government College, Lahore and Balliol College Oxford and attended St Mary's Rawalpindi. He was a member of the 'Malangs' a private dining club founded by a few Pakistani Oxbridge undergraduates in the early 1960's. He was unanimously elected Chairman for Life (and after death) of the Honourable Society of Fritterers.

A prolific political, scientific and philosophical commentator you will find 60 of his best columns

(the Golden Collection) at www.munirattaullah.com/the-golden-collection.html

Among his many achievements Munir was an exceptional coach, most recently joining forces with Canada's John Carruthers to train the Pakistan team in the build up to the 2007 Bermuda Bowl in Shanghai.

*"Naught's had, all's spent,
Where our desire is got without content.
'Tis safer to be that which we destroy
Than by destruction dwell in doubtful joy."*

Macbeth 3.2.6



Derek Patterson



John Carruthers

You can leave your hats on

SO NEAR AND YET...

Mark Horton

In terms of the race to secure a place in the knockout phase, the final session of the Mixed Teams offered the most potential. It looked like Columbia, Israel (these two meeting each other) Australia and Japan would be the countries involved in the shoot-out, but one of the pre-tournament favourites, France found themselves fighting for their lives.

Three deals were significant:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Israel and Columbia bid 6♥, while Japan picked up 11 IMPs for doing so. France lost the same number for stopping in game.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Australia went overboard, bidding 6NT. Everyone else stopped in 3NT, but the French declarer went down when West led a spade to lose 11 IMPs.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

By the time the final deal settled on the tables France was collecting only 1.70 VP, so missing 6♠ would have left them in a perilous position. They passed the test to advance. Israel and Columbia both bid 6♠ but Japan missed it (not that it would have been enough). When Sweden stopped in 4♠ the spotlight was on Australia – bidding the slam would take them past Israel and provide me with another Last Board story.

If you want to know what happened, go back to my title...



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Open Round 17



ARGENTINA v ROMANIA



SWITZERLAND v DENMARK



GERMANY v ENGLAND



Jos Jacobs

For once, the draw for the final round of the Open Teams qualifications had produced matches that were all too likely to help mostly the higher-ranked teams. In the two groups, the teams ranked 9th and 10th both had to face opponents who were comfortably placed among the top eight. This specifically applied to group B where Brazil and Finland, the numbers 9 and 10, had to face China and Italy, the two leading teams. This was good news for the No. 8 team, Denmark, who themselves would have to face Switzerland and were in danger of losing their qualification berth in case of a heavy defeat.

In the other group, the situation was less dramatic. Chile, the no. 9 at 8 VP distance of the 8th placed Romania, would face Israel, the no. 3, whereas Romania itself would play the hosts, 4th ranked Argentina. I chose the latter match as the main ingredient for my report but, of course, I would not forget to have a glance or two at the other BBO matches: Switzerland – Denmark and Germany – England.

After their heavy defeat against The Netherlands, England needed something like a blitz against Germany. The opening board was a simple 3NT for a general flat board but this one came next.

Board 18. Dealer East N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schwerdt	D Gold	Linde	Black
—	—	1♥	2♦
2♥	2♠	3♦*	Dble
3♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
5♣	Pass	Pass	5♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Here, the German E/W did well to take the sacrifice so the English were already set for a sub-optimum

Christian SCHWERDT

David GOLD

Andrew BLACK

Julius LINDE



result for their side. Things got worse for them when South bid one more. David Gold correctly tackled the trumps by first running the ♠9 from hand but after that, he still had to concede one down with his three inescapable losers. The lead had been ♥A and another. Germany +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Fritsche</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Reps</i>
—	—	1♥	2♦
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

In the Closed Room, clubs were never mentioned so McIntosh hardly had an alternative available over South's 4♠. After two rounds of hearts, the ♥A and a low heart to the queen and king, Jörg Fritsche also ran the ♠J from hand. When this held the trick, trumps were continued and when East, after winning his trump trick, tried another heart, declarer even made an overtrick. Germany another +990 and 15 IMPs to them, to effectively end all English hopes of a favourable blitz.

(We should point out that after cashing the ♥A East could have played two rounds of clubs. Declarer can win and play the ♠J, but East ducks that and the next spade and declarer must go one down. Editor)

In our other two matches, they too had their problems...

Here is Argentina v Romania:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Calipetre</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Teodorescu</i>	<i>Ag Madala</i>
—	—	1♥	2♦
Pass	3♦	Dble	Rdbl
4♥	All Pass		

No black suits in sight in this auction, so the Romanians were allowed to play 4♥ in peace. South led a top diamond and continued a trump to the king and ace. When declarer next led a trump to dummy's nine which held the trick, he was home but he apparently did not realise. What would have been wrong now with running the ♣J and continue a club to the queen? South can ruff but there will be ample time to win the next trick, cash the ♣A and use the ♥Q as an entry for dummy's clubs.

When declarer played a club to his queen, followed by the ♣A, South could ruff, but declarer still had to lose the ♣K. One down, Argentina +50.

In the Closed Room, the Romanians equalled the result of the Germans next door.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rizzo</i>	<i>Bacalu</i>	<i>Lucena</i>	<i>Coldea</i>
—	—	1♥	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Dble	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Here too: ♥A and another, ♠9 covered, East was given his trump trick and...another heart. Romania +990 and 14 IMPs to them. A giant step towards staying within the top eight.

Finally, Switzerland v Denmark:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Askgaard</i>	<i>S Drijver</i>	<i>Konow</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	1♥	2♦
2♥	2♠	3♣	4♠
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Well done by the Danish. They also had managed to put the declaration in the East hand with interesting effects. South led the ♦K followed by the ♠A. Suddenly, declarer's heart losers were gone but when South continued another diamond, East had to ruff so North got his trump trick after all. One down, Switzerland +100.

This might have been a good board for Denmark when they were allowed to try 4♠ but in the Closed Room, the Swiss had not provided Bilde with any extra info.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Plejdrup</i>
—	—	1♥	2♦
3♥	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

East led his diamond. North won the ♦Q and... led a trump to dummy's ♠8 rather than running the jack from hand. Now he was stranded in dummy. He played ♠A next, no doubt hoping for the expected 3-2 break (there had not been a double, of course) but when this did not materialize, he lost a few clubs and thus went down three. Switzerland another +300 and 9 IMPs to them rather than 13 IMPs or so to Denmark. They could not really afford (m)any more swings like this...

So much for the other two matches. From here, I

will stick to Argentina v Romania with just one or two exceptions. This was their next board:

Board 19. Dealer South E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Calipetre	Bianchedi	Teodorescu	Ag Madala
—	—	—	4♠
All Pass			

Wrong timing for this pre-empt. Down two. Romania +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rizzo	Bacalu	Lucena	Coldea
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

More standard bidding from the Romanians. Well rewarded when dummy offered not too much help. Just made, Romania +110 but 5 IMPs back to them.

Next came a more spectacular hand...

Board 20. Dealer West All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Calipetre	Bianchedi	Teodorescu	Ag Madala
2♥	4♣	6♥	6♠
Dble	All Pass		

North's 4♣ showed a black two-suiter and when East made an advanced sacrifice, South accepted the challenge. It will remain a secret where West found his double, taking his lack of defensive tricks into consideration. Just made, Argentina +1660.



Thomas PASKE

Joerg FRITSCH

Klaus REPS

Andrew McINTOSH


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rizzo	Bacalu	Lucena	Coldea
1♥	2♥	5♥	5♠
All Pass			

In the other room, Lucena sacrificed a level lower and therefore, Coldea, when he accepted the challenge, also was one level lower. Nobody had anything more to say and that was +680 to Romania but 14 IMPs more to Argentina.

The next board was a problematic case of declarer play.

Board 21. Dealer North N/S Vul.

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


One simple way or another, all our six Easts had become declarers in 3NT against a low club lead from South. The popular line now was to win the jack and play a diamond to dummy's jack for down one or two. On the actual layout, there seems to be no legitimate way to take both finesses through North and enjoy the necessary four spade tricks. So, the common line would be to play a diamond to dummy's jack and go down quickly.

There were just two exceptions in Group A, and three in Group B. One of them was the Hong Kong China declarer who played 3NT as West and got a spade lead to solve his problems. The other one was Carlos Lucena for Argentina, who tried an interesting line. at trick 2 he presented the ♥Q. Would you as North have won the ace and returned a club? Would you have imagined that declarer offered you the defeat of the contract voluntarily at trick 2? When the ♥Q was allowed to hold, a diamond went to the king and the ♠J was successfully run. Next came the ♦J. Whether North covered this or not, nine tricks were in the bag. Argentina an exciting +400, good for another 11 IMPs to them when the contract went down the more normal two at the other table. Argentina were in the lead by 5 now, so danger began to lure for Romania.

(At double dummy, declarer must play dummy's ♣K at trick one, run the ♠J and then play a diamond to the ten. Editor)

The next board looked like a routine game for E/W:

Board 22. Dealer East E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Calipetre	Bianchedi	Teodorescu	Ag Madala
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	Dble*	Rdbl
2♠	Pass	3♥	Dble
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

And so it proved in the Open Room. Just made, Romania +620.

This is what happened (or not...) in the Closed Room.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rizzo	Bacalu	Lucena	Coldea
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
All Pass			

Yes, it is a routine game but only if you bid. One Heart went down three in absolute silence. That was +150 to Argentina but 10 IMPs back to Romania.

This board also went wrong for the Danish E/W pair. This is one of the exceptions I announced earlier.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Askgaard	S Drijver	Konow	Brink
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Dble
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

After South's take-out double, West apparently did

no longer believe in his own spades...

The contract went down two, Denmark +100.

In the other room, the Swiss had no problems whatsoever.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Bilde	Kalita	Plejdstrup
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

After a heart lead from North to the queen, king and ace, declarer already had his nine tricks once he played a low heart to dummy's ♥10. A slight misdefence then produced an irrelevant overtrick. Switzerland +630 and 11 IMPs to them.

The next board was an example of the classic loser-on-loser principle.

Board 23. Dealer South All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Calipetre	Bianchedi	Teodorescu	Ag Madala
—	—	—	1♠
3♥	All Pass		

How can you go down in 3♥ as West against the friendly defence of ♠A and another? You win and duck a diamond, preparing for a diamond ruff in dummy. South wins and tries the ♠J. You ruff with the ♥7, North overruffs with the ♥8 and exits in trumps. Dummy's king wins, you ruff your diamond loser and suddenly, you are in dummy. You try the ♣K but South wins and another spade from him now promotes North's ♥J. One down, Argentina +100.

The same contract was reached, after a few deviations, at the other table.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rizzo	Bacalu	Lucena	Coldea
—	—	—	1♠
2♥	Dble*	Pass	2♠
3♥	All Pass		

The defence was as friendly as in the Open Room but here, declarer simply discarded his losing club when South continued the ♠J. With the communication to his hand restored, making nine tricks after ruffing a diamond in dummy was no longer a problem for Rizzo. Argentina another +140 and 6 IMPs to them.

Over again now to Switzerland v Denmark, my second exception.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Askgaard	S Drijver	Konow	Brink
—	—	—	1♠
2♥	Dble*	Rdbl	2♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

When West led his club, one of declarer's problems was solved. Brink himself solved the next problem by leading the ♠J and, when it held, continuing a low spade. That was +790 for Switzerland.

In the other room, the Swiss found out too late that the E/W hands were sort of a misfit.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Bilde	Kalita	Plejdstrup
—	—	—	1♠
2♥	Dble*	Pass	2♠
3♥	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

North led a trump and declarer had nowhere to go. Down three, +800 to Denmark and... surprisingly... no swing!

A few boards later, both E/W pairs were trying for a slam.

Board 26. Dealer East All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Calipetre	Bianchedi	Teodorescu	Ag Madala
—	—	1♠	2♣
Dble	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

South led the ♣A and, in spite of East's opening bid, continued his singleton to set the contract on the spade ruff. Argentina +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rizzo	Bacalu	Lucena	Coldea
—	—	1♠	3♣
Dble	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♥	All Pass		



Michael ASKGAARD

Bas DRIJVER

Sjoert BRINK

Kasper KONOW

The same slam try but then...a comedy of errors.

South led a diamond. On dummy's ace a club loser disappeared. Declarer next cashed the ♥A and continued a spade. Rather than hopping up with his ace to give partner his ruff, North played low. Declarer's ♠K won the trick and only now came another trump, to dummy's ♥K. Another spade then brought the ♠A from North and declarer thus had no further problems. Argentina +650 and 13 IMPs to them to regain the lead by 11.

On the next board, E/W again were looking at ten hearts between them.

Board 27. Dealer South None Vul.

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



David Cristian CALIPETRE, Romania

This time, 5♥ was not bid as a slam try but in competition only. With the two major suit finesses right, 11 tricks were easy enough. Romania a maybe unexpected but nevertheless useful +450.

In the other room, E/W stayed more quiet.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Calipetre	Bianchedi	Teodorescu	Ag Madala
—	—	—	1♦
1♥	2♥*	4♥	5♦
5♥	All Pass		

2♥ showed minors

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rizzo	Bacalu	Lucena	Coldea
—	—	—	1♦
1♥	2♦	4♥	Pass
Pass	5♦	All Pass	



No 5♥, not even a double but still down three. That was just +150 to Argentina but 7 IMPs back to Romania.

On the next board, the Romanians handed back the IMPs just gained.

Board 29. Dealer North All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Calipetre	Bianchedi	Teodorescu	Ag Madala
—	1♦	1♠	Dble*
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Yes, East had an obvious lead and the spades even were 3-3 but West's ♦Qxx was a more dubious asset. After a successful diamond finesse, declarer had an overtrick. Argentina +380.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rizzo	Bacalu	Lucena	Coldea
—	1♦	1♠	Dble
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

No actions by West and the same eight tricks. Romania +120 but 6 IMPs back to Argentina.

The very next board again was of theoretical interest.

Board 30. Dealer East None Vul.

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

West is in 3NT and North leads a spade. Sooner or later, dummy wins the ♠K and what now?

At far too many tables, East's ♦10 came next and South failed to cover, thus giving declarer an easy ride by way of a later diamond finesse through South. Romania's Coldea (South) was one of the very few who covered with the ♦J and this way he soon gained 10 IMPs for his side when his remaining ♦87 entered the scene.

David Cristian CALIPETRE

Alejandro BIANCHEDI

Agustin MADALA

Cornel TEODORESCU

This interesting set of boards was not yet over as this one came next.

Board 31. Dealer South N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Calipetre</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Teodorescu</i>	<i>Ag Madala</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Dble	All Pass		

A fully understandable auction but the automatic trump lead was not good enough this time. Declarer won dummy's ♠A and next got rid of all sorts of losers to emerge with a vulnerable overtrick: Argentina +360.

In the other room, it was West who opened 1♦.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rizzo</i>	<i>Bacalu</i>	<i>Lucena</i>	<i>Coldea</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	All Pass

Entirely in line with his partner's opening bid, it was East who first introduced spades. The E/W auction thus ended quite according to the textbooks. Not that this was a good spot but who cares? Down three undoubled because North could not double and South would not.. Romania +150 but 5 IMPs to Argentina who thus won the match 58-50 or 12.29 – 7.71 VPs. Taking the other match results into account, this was more than enough for Romania to stay in 8th position and thus qualify.

With the main story finished, there now is room for an appendix rather than a further excursion. Here is that same board 31 from the Switzerland v Denmark match...

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Askgaard</i>	<i>S Drijver</i>	<i>Konow</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

A normal enough auction and a quick down two when East hit upon the ♣A lead. Denmark +200.

Please note that North was not interested in partner's Smolen 3♥.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Plejdstrup</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Dble	Pass	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, North showed a slight preference after partner's Smolen 3♥ (5-4 majors) and paid the price when the layout was more than awful for N/S. Down four +1100 to Switzerland, good for 14 IMPs to them. The Swiss had won the match 35-18 or 14.39 – 5.61 VPs but even this meagre result was more than enough to keep the Danish inside the top eight. Their nearest rivals, Brazil and Finland, had mustered just under 3 VPs between them...



Jacek KALITA, Switzerland

THE MAGICIAN'S MIND

Mark Horton

It is generally perceived that younger players are more aggressive and imaginative than their older counterparts. With that in mind read on.

You pick up this modest collection as North:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ A 10 6
♥ 8 5 4 3
♦ 8 2
♣ Q J 9 3

West passes and when you duplicate his action East opens 1♥ and your partner passes. West raises to 3♥, but when East has nothing to add your partner emerges from the undergrowth with a bid of 4NT. When you bid 5♣, partner jumps to 6♦.

Two questions:

What do you do now?

Who is your partner

Is it time for a 'master bid' in the style of Jack Marx? You are certain that partner has the minors, and a longer and probably solid diamond suit. A heart void is a racing certainty. You can cover partner's losers in the club suit and the ♠A will take care of the likely singleton in partner's hand. Are you going to bid 7♦?

Time to reveal all:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ A 10 6
♥ 8 5 4 3
♦ 8 2
♣ Q J 9 3

♠ Q 8 5 4 2
♥ K 10 7 6
♦ 9
♣ 10 7 6



♠ K 9 7 3
♥ A Q J 9 2
♦ Q 3
♣ 5 4

♠ J
♥ —
♦ A K J 10 7 6 4 3
♣ A K 8 2

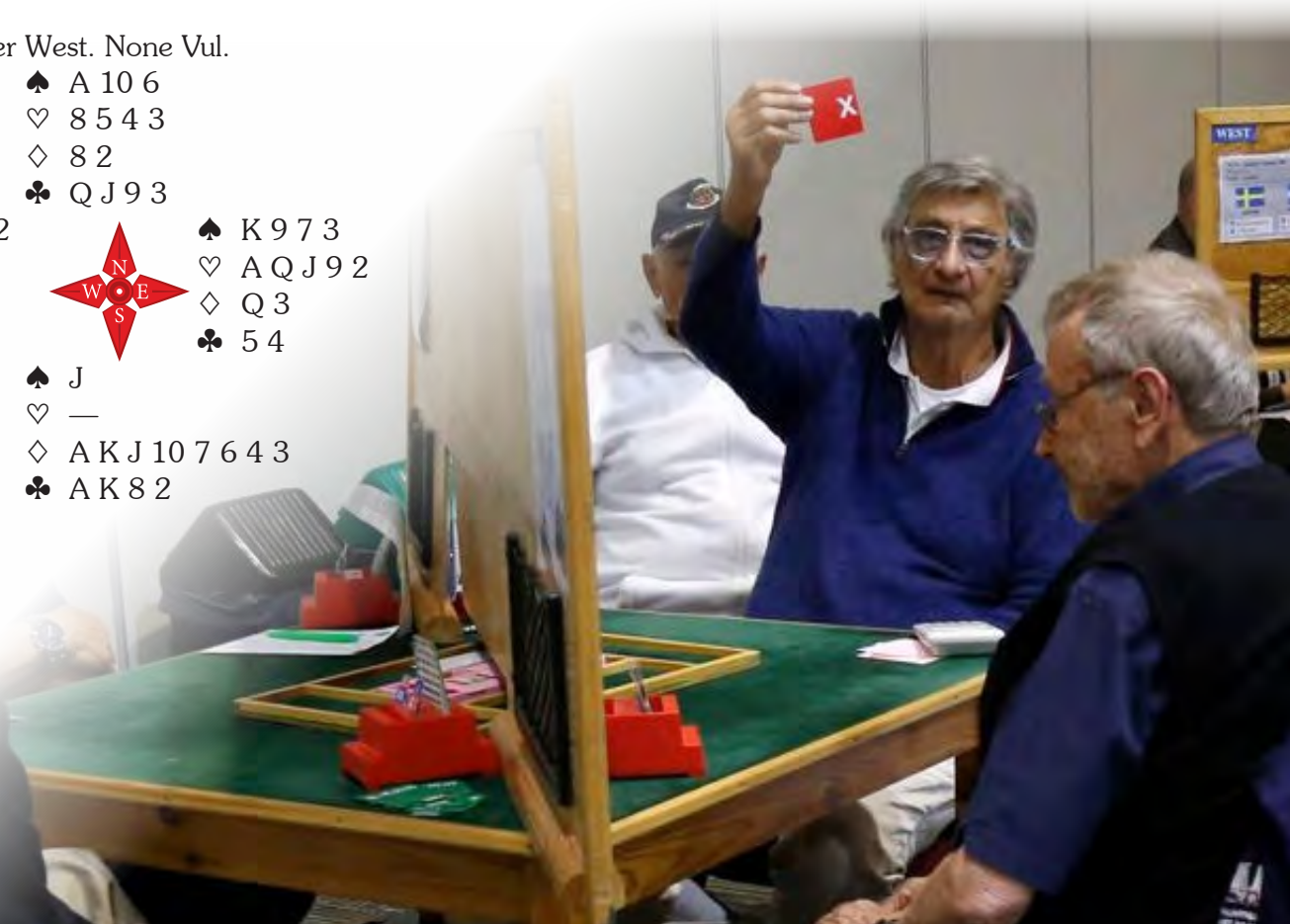
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fornasari	Rosenberg	Angeleri	Zia
—	—	1♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

If Michael Rosenberg had raised to 7♦ (He felt it was the right thing to do, but he knew his team was well ahead in the match) Zia would have had a candidate for best bid hand of the year (at least!).

In the other room EW had been allowed to play in 5♥ so USA gained 13 IMPs.

Barnet Shenkin mentioned that Zia had told him the story of this deal as they were leaving the playing room. Several years ago, Zia once said to him that he had to have more fun playing the game. If you can do something unexpected that other players do not think about and that either leads to the best result or at least equals the best result obtained by the mundane action the game will be more enjoyable. This hand fits into this pattern for Zia who keeps producing imaginative bids and plays for us to enjoy.




LONDON BUSES

Mark Horton

I don't know what it's like in the rest of the world, but in London it often seems to be the case that you are waiting for a bus for ages and then suddenly two arrive at the same time. In bridge, it is often the case that a slam deal is immediately followed by another. Without further ado we are off to the first round of the Women's match between France and the USA:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Meyers</i>		<i>Leleu</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>
<i>Kurek Beaulieu</i>			
—	Pass	2♣	4♠
Pass	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♠*	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

- 2♣ Strong, artificial, forcing to 2NT/3♥/3♠
- 4NT Two suits
- 5♦ Red suits
- 5♠ Control

Over interference, the system card says, 'double= values through the 3-level, then 2nd negative' but that probably does not extend to the four-level.

It might be that 5NT suggested some scattered values, but denied anything potentially useful (such as the ♣K).


There was nothing to the play, +1430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Puillet</i>	<i>Schireson</i>	<i>Tartarin</i>	<i>Baker</i>
—	Pass	1♦	3♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West led the ♦J and continued the suit, declarer ruffing, cashing the ♠K and then running the ♣9. There was no way to avoid three down, -500, but a 14 IMP swing to USA.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Leleu</i>	<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Kurek Beaulieu</i>
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

When West decided against bidding 4♣ over 3♠ East could hardly advance.

Declarer took the heart lead, cashed the ♠A, pitched a club on a heart, unblocked the ♣AK, came to hand with the ♠Q, ruffed a club and played a diamond to the eight, for 12 tricks, +680.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Puillet</i>	<i>Schireson</i>	<i>Tartarin</i>	<i>Baker</i>
—	—	1♦	1♥
3♥*	4♥	5♥*	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

South led the ♥5 and declarer won, cashed the ♦A and the ♠A and then pitched a club on the ♥K before claiming, +1430 and 13 IMPs.

As we have two match reports on these deals I'll leave a detailed analysis of the best line in 6♠ to Messrs. Bird & Senior, mentioning only that with trumps 2-2 playing for some sort of elimination is attractive.

Mixed Round of 16 - 1



CROATIA v ITALY



Brian Senior

And so to the Round of 16 where, in the Mixed Championship, we see the fourth-placed qualifiers, Italy, up against Croatia, who had qualified in tenth place. The matches in the Round of 16 would be played over 4 x 15-board segments, making for a long tough day compared to the qualifying stage and to the later days in the knockouts.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Diklik	Gandoglia	Pilipovic	Baroni
—	—	—	1♦
1♥	Pass	1NT	Dble
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Cima	Sver	Dessi	Zoric
—	—	—	1♦
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	3♣	All Pass	

By different routes, the two Norths became declarer in 3♣, on the lead of the seven of hearts to the queen and king and a club switch to the bare ace.

For Italy, Alessandro Gandoglia cashed the top spades, ruffed a spade to get to hand, and cashed the king and queen of clubs. When the trumps divided evenly, he had nine tricks for +110.

For Croatia, Nikica Sver ducked a diamond at trick three. That was won on her left and Barbara Dessi returned a heart. Leonardo Cima won two of those then played a fourth heart, and this promoted a club trick for Dessi. That was the setting trick, so Sver

was down one for -50 and 4 IMPs to Italy.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Diklik	Gandoglia	Pilipovic	Baroni
1♦	Pass	2♣	2♦*
Pass	3♥	3♠	4♥
4NT	Pass	5♦	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Cima	Sver	Dessi	Zoric
1♦	Pass	2NT*	3♣
Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

Irene Baroni, for Italy, cuebid 2♦ to show her major two-suiter, and Gandoglia jumped to 3♥ in response. Baroni went on to game on the strength of her sixth heart, and Diklik competed with 4NT, asking Pilipovic to pick a minor, which she duly did. Gandoglia cashed the ace of hearts and there were two clubs to come so 5♦ was down one for -100, a good save with 4♥ about to make had E/W allowed it to be played.

Dessi's 2NT response showed clubs, possibly pre-emptive, possibly invitational plus, with her subsequent double showing the stronger hand type. Cima's decision to play in clubs appeared to have put the Italians in a contract that was in some jeopardy. Sver led the six of spades round to the jack and queen. Cima led the ten of clubs and ran it to the bare ace, won the spade return in dummy and crossed to hand with a diamond to lead a club to the six and seven. Seeing the four-one split, Cima simply played winning diamonds. The fourth round

saw Sver given the option to ruff but thereby lose her second club trick, or discard and see the heart loser go away. Either way, there would be 10 tricks for declarer and the contract was just made for +130 and 6 IMPs to Italy.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Diklik	Gandoglia	Pilipovic	Baroni
—	—	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Cima	Sver	Dessi	Zoric
—	—	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦*	Pass
4♥	Dble	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Both Wests opened 2NT then broke the transfer by jumping to 4♥. Dubravko Diklik was left to play there, but Sver made a take-out double and Vedran Zoric duly bid 4♠, where he played.

Gandoglia led the ace of clubs against 4♥, Baroni following with the jack. Gandoglia continued with king and a third club to declarer's queen. Diklik cashed the top hearts so had a heart to lose, plus the ♠A and ♦K, and was down two for -200.

Cima cashed the ace of hearts against 4♠, then switched to ace then queen of diamonds. That set up a second diamond winner for the defence, and this proved to be the setting trick; down one for -50 and another 6 IMPs to Italy, who led by 17-0.

Would you open third in hand at Game All holding:

♠ 8 5 2
♥ J 8
♦ 10 5
♣ A K 9 5 4 3

On Board 7, Gandoglia passed but overcalled 2♣ at his next turn. However, his opponents could have an invitational auction, stopping in 3♠ which made exactly for +140. Sver opened 3♣ and saw her opponents bid under pressure to a very poor game which had to fail by a trick for -100 and 6 IMPs to Croatia.



Dubravko DIKLIC

Alessandro GANDOGLIA

Irene BARONI

Marina PILIPOVIC

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Diklik	Gandoglia	Pilipovic	Baroni
—	Pass	2♣	4♠
Dble	Pass	6♦	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Cima	Sver	Dessi	Zoric
—	Pass	2♣	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♦	All Pass

E/W have a cold slam in hearts, and maybe in diamonds depending on the lead, but could they get there?

It was very tough for the Italians, as Dessi opened a strong and artificial 2♣ and Zoric overcalled 4♠. Cima's pass showed a bit of something, but Dessi felt unable to do more than bid her long suit; +620 when a top spade lead meant that she had time to play a club towards the queen at trick two and take a ruff for the overtrick.

Marina Pilipovic also opened 2♣ and Baroni also pre-empted to 4♠. Diklik showed some values by doubling, and Pilipovic jumped to 6♦, against which Baroni too led a top spade. Pilipovic ruffed and led a club to the queen and king. Gandoglia returned a club, Pilipovic winning the ace and ruffing her remaining club low. Pilipovic cashed the jack of diamonds, came to hand with a spade ruff, and drew trumps; 12 tricks for +1370 and 13 IMPs to Croatia, who had their first lead in the match at 19-17.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Diklik	Gandoglia	Pilipovic	Baroni
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♥	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Leonardo CIMA

Nikica SVER

Barbara DESSI

Vedran ZORIC

West	North	East	South
Cima	Sver	Dessi	Zoric
—	—	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Dessi's 2♦ opening was 18-19 balanced, 2♥ showed spades, and 2♠ just completed the transfer. That's as far as I can go, beyond the fact that 2NT was forcing. Zoric led the two of clubs. Dessi won dummy's ace and led a spade to the ace and continued with the ♠Q, overtaking when Zoric followed with the jack. Next came the king of clubs, the top hearts for a club discard, and a club ruff. Finally, Dessi led a diamond to the ace, intending to play for a doubleton honour and endplay in either hand, but the fall of the king meant that a twelfth trick could be established by force; +1430.

Pilipovic opened 1♦ then showed around 18-19 balanced. Diklik used Checkback and found a spade fit, and the small slam was soon reached once more. Gandoglia led a spade, Diklik winning in hand and leading a diamond to the ace, planning to discard a diamond on the second heart then ruff out the suit. The fall of the king resulted in a swift transfer to Plan B, drawing the second round of trumps then giving up a diamond; 12 tricks for +1430 and no swing.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Diklik	Gandoglia	Pilipovic	Baroni
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	2NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Cima	Sver	Dessi	Zoric
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1NT	2♣*	Dble
Pass	Pass	2♠	Dble
All Pass			

Both Wests opened 1♣ and both Norths overcalled 1NT.

Pilipovic now passed as East and Baroni used Stayman, eventually leaving Gandoglia to declare 2NT on a club lead to the jack and ace. Gandoglia cashed the king, queen and ace of diamonds then led a heart up and, when Diklik played low, thought a bit then put up the king. He continued with the jack of hearts to Diklik's ace, and Diklik cashed the king and queen of clubs, establishing a ninth trick for Gandoglia for +150.

In the other room, Dessi competed with a Landy-style 2♣ on the East hand. However, Zoric doubled that and made a penalty double of 2♠ at his next turn, ending the auction. Zoric led his singleton club to the king and ace, and Sver switched to ace and another trump. Zoric won the king and switched in turn to a low diamond. Sver won the ♦Q, cashed the king, then gave Zoric his club ruff. Zoric played a heart next, which was ducked to the king, and Sver returned a heart to the ace. Dessi was in dummy for the last time so took a heart pitch on a club, but that allowed Zoric to ruff and the contract was two down for -300 and 4 IMPs to Croatia.



Irene BARONI, Italy

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ A 7 6 3
♥ Q J 10 9 2
♦ A 10 5
♣ 6

♠ 2
♥ K 7 3
♦ 8 4 2
♣ J 9 8 7 4 3



♠ Q 9 8 5
♥ 5
♦ K Q 6
♣ K Q 10 5 2

♠ K J 10 4
♥ A 8 6 4
♦ J 9 7 3
♣ A

West	North	East	South
Diklik	Gandoglia	Pilipovic	Baroni
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Cima	Sver	Dessi	Zoric
Pass	1♥	Dble	Rdbl
2♣	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Both N/Ss were talked out of their spade fit by East's bidding, and that was a good thing, as 4♠ is always beaten. However, 3NT was no gimme either.

It was comfortable enough for Zoric, who was playing it from the South seat and against whom Cima led the nine of clubs, Dessi winning the ace and switching to a diamond. Zoric won the king and played a heart, Cima rising with the king to lead a second diamond to the jack and queen. Zoric cashed the king and queen of clubs, discarding spades, then played a second heart. Dessi could win and clear the diamonds, but Zoric had nine tricks for +600.

Gandoglia played it from the other side of the table and Pilipovic found the more challenging diamond lead. Gandoglia won the king and played a heart to the queen and ace, won the diamond return with the ten, and played the jack of hearts. Diklik won that and cleared the diamonds, and Gandoglia seemed to be a trick short. However, he cashed the hearts and Pilipovic was caught. A club exit put her in to cash the thirteenth diamond, but then she had to open up the spades, and Gandoglia had a second spade winner and a club trick to bring his total to nine; +600 and a push board.

At the end of the first quarter, it was Croatia 26 Italy 17.



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Open Round of 16 - 1

SWITZERLAND v NETHERLANDS

David Bird

Well, the 16-board round-robin matches were great, stuffed with exciting contracts and big swings. The ensuing knockout matches will be a more serious affair, 60 boards long. In the Open Room of this encounter, we will be watching two brothers. Unusually, they are playing for different teams.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Van Prooijen	Bas Drijver	Bob Drijver	Brink
1♦*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♣*	3♥
All Pass			

Bob Drijver's 2♦ covers various hand types, and Sjoert Brink didn't like to enter the bidding at this stage. Ricco van Prooijen's 2♥ rebid meant that he didn't want to go higher, facing a weak heart type. East's 3♣ was then natural and invitational. Brink had been biting his tongue for too long. Vulnerable, he ventured 3♥. What should be North's reaction?

I can see that he didn't value his clubs too highly, under East's holding. Still, on the reasonable assumption that his vulnerable partner is not a madman, I would have thought he owed him raise to 4♥. What do you think? He decided to pass and East/West had no more to say. West led the ♦K and switched to a trump. Declarer drew a second round of trumps and ruefully claimed ten tricks, for +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Van den Bos	Nowosadzki	Van Lankveld
3♦	Pass	4♦	4♥
All Pass			

You might have thought this pre-emption would make life more difficult. Joris van Langveld believed their bidding, though, and stepped in with 4♥. That was +620 and an early 10 IMPs for the Netherlands.

(note by Herman: that 3♦ was the only one out of 64 tables – 1 player passed, 62 opened 1♦)



Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Van Prooijen	Bas Drijver	Bob Drijver	Brink
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣*	1♠	Dble*	3♠
Dble	Rdble	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

The opening 1♣ was Tarzan Precision (which has twice as many exponents as similar systems with less dashing names). Bas Drijver expected his four honours to score and he doubled the heart game. He won the spade lead and returned a spade. Two rounds of trumps revealed the bad news in that suit, and Bob Drijver called for dummy's ♦Q. North won and cashed the king and ace of clubs. 'Claim of 9 tricks accepted -200' appeared on the screen, to wails of protest from the onlookers. It was indeed 500 for two down, a fine reward for North's double.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Van den Bos	Nowosadzki	Van Lankveld
—	—	Pass	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

North led the ♠4, and it seemed that a 400 chunk might be taken out of the Open Room penalty. Pierre Zimmermann won and cleared the hearts. When North ditched a club, only 300 could be extracted, so that was 5 IMPs to Switzerland.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Van Prooijen	Bas Drijver	Bob Drijver	Brink
—	Pass	1♣*	4♠
Pass*	Pass	Dble	All Pass

The defenders took two hearts, Bob Drijver then playing the ♦K. The ♦Q forced declarer to ruff and



Michal NOWOSADZKI

Joris VAN LANKVELD

Berend VAN DEN BOS

Pierre ZIMMERMANN

a forcing defence was then heading for four down. Sjoert Brink ruffed and did not like the look of the first round of trumps. He ran the ♣J, which was not covered, forcing East's ace.

Declarer ruffed the ♦A with the 8, overruffed with the 9. Van Prooijen then persevered with another heart, leaving him and South with three trumps each. The eventual penalty was a full 800, and we started looking to see what slams East/West could make. It seemed that 6♦ was there, with the probably unbiddable 7♥ only makeable on a spade lead. What would happen at the other table?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Van den Bos	Nowosadzki	Van Lankveld
—	Pass	2♣*	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Nowosadzki didn't like to double, at the score. He played in 5♦, and ruffed the ♠K lead. A club to the queen lost to North's king, declarer winning the trump switch with dummy's ♦J. At this point he claimed just 11 tricks, and it was 5 IMPs to the Netherlands

Here comes perhaps the best board of the set. See what you make of it.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Van Prooijen	Bas Drijver	Bob Drijver	Brink
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♥*	Pass	1♠*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	4♠*	Pass
5♦*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♠	All Pass

and would like an explanation of every bid with a star? Well, it so happens that system maestro, Al Hollander, was commentating. So... 1♣ was strong, 1♥ was game-forcing with at least four spades (I'm not joking), 1♠ was a relay and 2♠ showed a one-suiter with heart shortage. In response to the next relay, 3♥ showed 6-1-3-3 shape. (Pause for breath.) 4♠ was a mild slam try, since an artificial 4♦ would be used to shut up shop in game. The remaining bids were Roman Keycard, ending in 6♠.

The only remaining question is...could the slam be made? How should declarer play the diamond suit? Bob Drijver won the ♣4 lead with the ace and drew trumps with the queen and ace. A low diamond was won by South's king. After a club to the king, Van Prooijen led the ♦7 and put up the ace. South showed out and he was one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Van den Bos	Nowosadzki	Van Lankveld
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♥*	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Zimmermann reached 6♠ with a more straightforward auction. 3♥ would be natural and forcing, so 4♥ indicated shortage. He won the heart lead in dummy and drew trumps with the queen and king. A finesse of the ♦J lost, and he won the club return. A diamond to the ace failed to locate a 3-2 break. That would have allowed him to ditch a



Michal NOWOSADZKI, Switzerland

You are an admirer of Tarzan Club relay sequences

diamond on the ♥K and return to dummy with the ♠A. He had followed the best line, according to the assembled commentators, and was just unlucky. It was an exciting push board.

This was the last action of note:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Van Prooijen	Bas Drijver	Bob Drijver	Brink
—	—	—	Pass
2♣	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			



Ricco VAN PROOIJEN, Netherlands



Bas DRIJVER (Switzerland) and Bob DRIJVER (Netherlands)

Bas Drijver ducked the first round of clubs and won the second. After three rounds of diamonds, he played a heart to the king and cleared a second club trick. That nifty piece of play brought the trick total to nine, enhanced to ten when declarer's last diamond caught East in a major-suit squeeze. +430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Van den Bos	Nowosadzki	Van Lankveld
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1NT	2♣*	All Pass

Nowosadzki's 2♣ was Stayman, passed out. No double, no trouble! Three down undoubled cost only 150, and Switzerland gained 7 IMPs. The set ended with Netherlands leading by 23-14.


May I end by commending Bridge Base Online, for their splendid platform. Their screen is beautiful on the eye, and their facilities for saving boards are rated top-class. Even by that oft-disgruntled bridge writer in Chandlers Ford. The VG operators here have been very competent, too.

WAITING FOR GODOT

Mark Horton

In the third session of the Open series, I appeared to have selected a dud, as after 5 deals Norway had scored two singles against Israel. However, as opposed to what transpires in Samuel Beckett's famous play, exciting deals were destined to arrive.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Toledano	Bakke	Zamir
—	—	Pass	1♦*
Pass	1NT	2♣*	Dble
Rdbl	3♦	All Pass	

West led the ♦6 and East won with the ♦A and switched to the ♣6, declarer winning with the ♣A and drawing trumps. West pitched the ♠8 and then played the ♠Q when declarer continued with the ♠7, allowing a quick claim for +110.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
I Herbst	Erichsen	O Herbst	Andresen
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3♣ Puppet Stayman
3♦ No major

When West led the ♣3 declarer won with the ♣7 and played on diamonds, easily arriving at nine tricks, +400 and 7 IMPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Toledano	Bakke	Zamir
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	2♣
Dble	2♦	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass


North led the ♦8 and declarer won with the ♦K, unblocked the ♠A and played the ♥K. When it held he continued with the ♥J and South won with the ♥Q and found the only way to defeat the contract by switching to the ♣K, a brilliant Merrimac Coup. Declarer won with the ♣A, played a club to the queen and the ♠Q. North won and returned the ♦5 and having won with dummy's ♦A declarer played a heart. North won as South discarded the ♦Q(!) and North exited with a diamond. Declarer could win with dummy's ♦J and cash the ♠J, but North took the setting tricks with the ♠10 and the ♦9, -100.

One way to make 3NT is to hold on to the ♠A, playing a low heart at trick two. South wins and probably switches to a spade. Declarer wins and must now play the ♥K, North winning and returning a diamond. Declarer takes dummy's ace and can play the ♠Q. North wins, but has no good move, as a diamond will see South win and be forced to lead a club.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>I Herbst</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>O Herbst</i>	<i>Andresen</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		


North led the ♦2 for the jack, queen and king and declarer played the ♣3, South taking dummy's ♣Q with the ♣K (North discarding the ♠6) and returning the ♣10 for the ♣A and a ruff. North cashed the ♥A and exited with a heart, declarer winning with the ♥K, cashing the ♠A, ruffing a club, ruffing a spade which left this ending:

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

When declarer cashed the ♥9 North could spare a diamond, but when a spade went from dummy a diamond discard from South would see declarer cash the ♣J, squeezing North. When South parted with the ♣7 declarer could cash the ♣J5 for 10 tricks and 12 IMPs.

That's one of the more amazing deals I have seen, a brilliant defence in one room and a superb piece of declarer play in the other.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Toledano</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Zamir</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led the ♠4 and having won with dummy's ♠8 declarer continued with a spade to the king. When it held he played the ♦Q and East won and exited with the ♦4. Declarer played dummy's ♦A, cashed the ♦J and then played the ♣2 to the ace and cashed the ♣KQ. Dummy was down to ♥K1063 ♦93 and when declarer discarded the ♥6 rather than a diamond East could duck the ♥Q leaving declarer with only eight tricks, as West could win the club exit, cash the ♠A and play a heart for East to win and cash the 10, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>I Herbst</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>O Herbst</i>	<i>Andresen</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the ♥4 and having won with the ♥Q declarer played a diamond to the queen and the ♠K, West winning and switching to the ♣4. When declarer allowed that to run to dummy's ♣10 he could continue with a spade to the ten. When that held he cashed the ♠Q and could have made 12 tricks by cashing his clubs, squeezing East in the red suits. His actual play of a spade meant he took only ten tricks, still worth 10 IMPs.

On the final deal of the set West held

♠ 10 4 2 ♥ A Q 2 ♦ Q 2 ♣ K J 10 8 6

and in the Closed Room South's opening bid of 2♥ on ♠ A 9 ♥ K 10 8 7 6 3 ♦ K 10 6 3 ♣ 9

(8-11, constructive weak two) was passed out, declarer easily scoring 10 tricks, when dummy was ♠ K Q 6 3 ♥ J ♦ A 7 4 ♣ A 5 4 3 2.

When In the other room West's 2♣ overcall of South's 1♥ ran into a reopening double and that cost -500 and 8 IMPs.

Israel took the session 29-26, but trailed 99-102.

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