



2nd Online Women's Teams

Online on RealBridge • 3 - 5 January, 2025

Bulletin 4. 6 January, 2025

Editor: Mark Horton ♠ Layout Editor: Francesca Canali

VIVE LA FRANCE!



The winners: team Paris et Bordeaux. From left to right: Catherine DUMESNIL, Daniele AVON, Donatella HALFON, Geraldine POUSSOU, Margaux KUREK BEAULIEU, Severine PAULISSEN

We set out to make this 2nd running of this event 'Bigger and Better'. We know it was bigger and we hope it was better. The Bulletins added that extra dimension with excellent analyses by WBF Chief Editor Mark Horton aided by Francesca Canali who always does a great job on layout.

For sure Realbridge is to be commended for managing the complexities of scheduling 74 teams from 41 countries, 453 players from 8 WBF Zones and you will agree that it was their concise planning and operational skills that made it work.

On behalf of the WBF Women's Committee it is thank you to the Bulletin team Mark and Francesca, to Bridge Winners for helping us guide players to follow our event, to all who helped with the promotion and mega thanks to the hard working WBF team of Anna Newton, Dirk de Clercq, Fotis Skoularikis, Fearghal O'Boyle, Marc van Beijsterveldt and his team of TDs and of course the hard working RealBridge team of Shireen Mohanades and Andy Bowles.

Congratulations to the Winners:

1. PARIS ET BORDEAUX

Catherine DUMESNIL, Daniele AVON, Donatella HALFON, Geraldine POUSSOU, Margaux KUREK BEAULIEU, Severine PAULISSEN, Gert-Jan PAULISSEN (npc), David HARARI (coach)

2. ISTANBUL

Asli ACAR, Berrak ERKAN, Dilek YAVAS, Ebru ATES (captain), Irem OZBAY

3. ALPERT

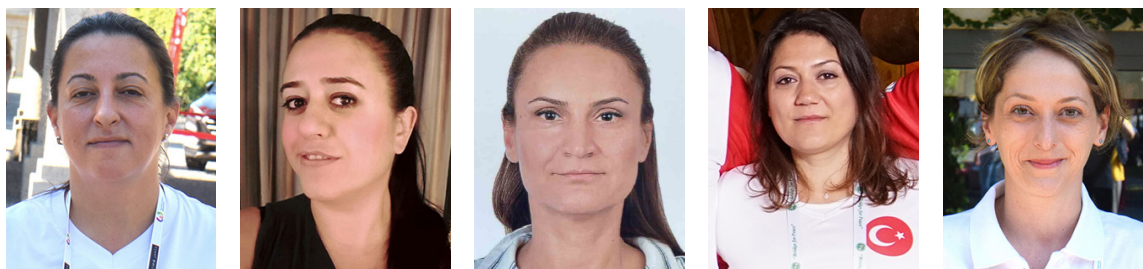
Claire ALPERT, Danuta KAZMUCHA, Irene BARONI, Justyna ZMUDA, Katarzyna DUFRAFAT (captain)

Thank you for playing.

Have a great Bridge year in 2025. It started here!

Mary Kelly Rogers
Event Coordinator





2nd place: ISTANBUL
 From left to right: Asli ACAR, Berrak ERKAN, Dilek YAVAS, Ebru ATES (captain), Irem OZBAY



3rd place: ALPERT
 From left to right: Claire ALPERT, Danuta KAZMUCHA, Irene BARONI, Justyna ZMUDA, Katarzyna DUFRAT (captain)

FINAL RANKING

1	PARIS ET BORDEAUX	193.63	26	SWISS LADIES	146.70	51	CRO CATS	116.50
2	ISTANBUL	186.62	27	KIWIS	146.38	52	ERYRI	115.99
3	ALPERT	185.23	28	ISRALADIES	143.03	53	AUSTRALIAN JILLAROOS	114.03
4	CC UNITED	185.22	29	SIX DIAMONDS	141.54	54	THISTLES	109.65
5	BELGIAN WOMEN TEAM	184.31	30	CASTELLS	136.99	55	SUNSHINE SISTERS	106.27
6	VALKYRIE	183.05	31	GLADIES RELOADED	135.88	56	AUSTRIA	102.94
7	VIKING GIRLS	182.12	32	TEUTO LADIES	135.85	57	TURKISH GIRLS	101.58
8	KOOKABURRAS	176.73	33	SHAMROCKS 2025	135.79	58	CRO 1	100.95
9	NORDEN	170.60	34	FAROE ISLAND	135.77	59	BERMUDA LADIES	100.15
10	ASJA	166.08	35	DOWN SOUTH	134.76	60	RYKOV DENMARK	99.57
11	TRIERS	164.11	36	FINLAND	134.27	61	FAROESE	98.87
12	GREEK GIRLS	158.42	37	SERBIA 1	133.12	62	VITA	97.73
13	POLISH LADIES	158.34	38	INDIA QUEENS	132.74	63	SILVER DARLINGS	95.92
14	MISO COD	158.11	39	PARKER	132.21	64	GAELS	94.42
15	CYMRU	155.39	40	MINERVA	130.65	65	HEARTBREAKERS 2025	94.07
16	SUNRISE	154.26	41	MAAK	129.58	66	RHODES TEAM	88.57
17	ATHENS TEAM	152.92	42	LEADING LADIES	129.17	67	BHARAT	87.55
18	TURQUOISE	152.72	43	KAMANADO	128.13	68	WILDCARDS	75.07
19	SARLAFIBERS	151.63	44	ICEQUEENS	126.26	69	SULA	73.45
20	PIRAIJA	151.41	45	I AM AM	124.08	70	JAPAN GIRLS	71.82
21	BLACK DIAMONDS	150.11	46	AVOCADO	123.51	71	EMERALD ACES	69.34
22	BRIDGE BABES	149.52	47	SERBIA 2	121.87	72	THE INCREDIBLES	66.68
23	MEXICO LINDO	147.95	48	PORTUGAL1	119.32	73	HIBERNIANS	66.62
24	DURU	147.27	49	SLAM FEMMES	116.91	74	SMASHING DESIS	66.37
25	CALEDONIA	147.11	50	LIETUVA GREEN	116.52			



The Dawn's early Light

Mark Horton

Despite the early hour (make that very early) there is always a moment of frisson when I start looking at the play records from the unreported evening sessions. What hidden gems will be revealed?


Meanwhile, Alpert has the best average, 14.92 VP, ahead of Asja, with 14.18 VP and Athens Team on 14.10 VP.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Boughey</i>	<i>Woodruff</i>	<i>Richardson</i>	<i>Cunningham</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3NT	All Pass
3♦	Fourth suit forcing		

The lead of the ♦10 was covered in turn by the jack, queen and ace and when the ♦8 took the next trick declarer was home, +600 and a 14 IMP swing.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Kiwis v Cymru

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pierce</i>	<i>Livingston</i>	<i>Deschapper</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North found the nasty lead of the ♣4 and when declarer eschewed the psychological try of playing dummy's ♣J hoping for a cover, she had to win with the ♣A as South followed with the ♣5. A diamond to the ace and a diamond to the jack saw North win and switch to the ♥2 for the jack and queen and South returned the ♠2, the trick being competed by the ♠3 and ♠4 as dummy shed the ♥3. Back came the ♠10 and when South played the ♠Q declarer could manage no more than six tricks, -300.

Black Diamonds v Serbia 1

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mitic</i>	<i>Alabaster</i>	<i>Djordjevic</i>	<i>Lennon</i>
—	—	—	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West led the ♣K and continued with the ♣5, East winning and switching to the ♦10. West won with the ♦A and returned the ♥10 to dummy's ♥A. When declarer continued with the ♠2 she was one down, -100.

Declarer knew West had the ♦A and the ♣KQ, but even if she held the ♠K a bid over 3♠ was unlikely. No one found the winning line of running dummy's ♠Q.




Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Smith	Sabljic	Hajmasi	Arsenijevic
—	—	—	4♠
4NT	Dble	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

South led the ♠A and when North followed with the ♠Q she switched to the ♥2, North taking two tricks and exiting with the ♠2. With two trump tricks to come that was three down, -800 and a 14 IMP loss.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Bermuda Ladies v Miso Cod

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Baille	Shi	Shanahan
—	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Why North preferred 1NT to 2♥ is a mystery.

2♣ 5♠, forcing

With nothing at stake declarer won West's lead of the ♣Q, ruffed a club, unblocked the ♠AQ, came to hand with a heart and cashed the ♠K, finishing with eleven tricks, +450.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
Gosling	Meyers	Barker	Sanborn
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♠*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

4♣ Splinter
 4NT RKCB
 5♠ 2 keycards + ♠Q

West led the ♠4 and declarer demonstrated that a winning view in diamonds was not required. She won with dummy's ♠A, played a club to the ace, ruffed a club, played a heart to the ten, ruffed a club, came to hand with the ♥Q, cashed the ♠K and played two rounds of hearts pitching a diamond, +980 and 11 IMPs.

You might like to look out Board 22. At one table declarer managed to lose a trump trick with a combined holding of ♦AKQJ74 opposite ♦965 – and that was after a trump lead.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Leading Ladies v Kookaburras

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Covarrubias	Tutty	Riedel	Neumann
—	—	—	1♦
Dble	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

South led the ♣Q to dummy's ♣A and declarer cashed the ♠KQ and the ♦A, ruffed a diamond, ruffed the ♣10, ruffed a diamond and played a heart, putting up dummy's ♥K when South withheld the ♥A, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rankin	Di Lorenzo	Humphries	Pramotton
—	—	—	1♦
Dble	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		
4NT	RKCB		
5♣	1 keycard		

I wonder what a bidding panel would respond to partner's double?

South led the ♦Q and having taken dummy's ♦A declarer ruffed a diamond and played the ♥6, South taking the ♥A and exiting with the ♦K. Declarer ruffed, played a club to the ace, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club, cashed the ♥K and claimed, +1430 and 13 IMPs.

Early one Morning

Mark Horton

It was still dark when I started on the eighth session. When the light started to appear a light sprinkling of snow was visible and a chill was in the air. However, the deals were hot stuff.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Australian Jillaroos v Leading Ladies

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Covarrubias</i>	<i>Bashar</i>	<i>Riedel</i>	<i>Moses</i>
—	—	1♦	2♠
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♣*	Pass
6♦	Pass	7♥	All Pass
4NT	RKCB		
5♦	1 keycard		
5NT	Kings?		
6♣	♣K		

When West bid 6♦, East, appreciating the importance of the ♥Q and her concentration of honours went to the grand slam. Technically 7NT is the best contract for EW, as this will survive a bad break in hearts, as will 7♦.

There was nothing to the play, +2210. No one else reached a grand slam.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurwitz</i>	<i>Udomsrirung.</i>	<i>Ginsberg</i>	<i>Johnstone</i>
—	—	1♦	3♠
4♦	All Pass		

Least said, soonest mended. It meant the loss of 19 IMPs.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

CC United v Miso Cod

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sanborn</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass
3♦	Transfer		

North led the ♣9 and declarer won with the ♣A, played a diamond to the queen and the ♦10 for the jack and ace. After cashing the ♦K the ♥6 saw North take the ace and play another club. Now declarer could take her diamonds, cross to the ♠A and cash the ♣Q executing a show up squeeze against South, +490.




Closed Room

West	North	East	South
He	Shi	Li	Zhang
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

North led the ♣8 and declarer won, cashed her diamond winners and a second club, crossed to the ♠A, took the ♣Q and played a spade to the jack for a fortuitous +990 and 11 IMPs.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Miso Cod v Sunshine Sisters

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Freeland	Shi	Sakr	Zhang
—	—	—	1♣
1♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	All Pass

North led the ♣Q (as it happens that helped declarer a little) but having won with the ♣K she decided to cash the ♦A and then played a spade to the queen. South won and played two rounds of clubs, North ruffing and switching to the ♥2. South won with the ♥J and played a club, North ruffing as declarer pitched the ♥9. Declarer took the spade return with the ♠K and exited with a spade, North ruffing and exiting with a heart. She still hand the ♦KJ so that was two down, -1000.

It could have been worse – if South had returned a spade at trick four -1600 is on the horizon.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	ONeill	Meyers	Weingold
—	—	—	1♣*
1♦	Dble*	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
1♣	16+		
Dble	Values		

I'm not convinced that the West hand is one on which you should overcall a strong club, but when North doubled to show some cards all danger had passed.

West led the ♥6 and declarer won with the ♥J and played the ♣2, West taking the ♣K and exiting with a heart. Declarer won with the ♥A, played a club to the queen, a spade to the ace, cashed the ♣A and ruffed a club. She exited from dummy with the ♦J and West won with the queen. When she continued with the ♦A declarer scored the ♥5, escaping for two down, -200 and a 15 IMP loss.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Miso Cod v Sunshine Sisters

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Freeland	Shi	Sakr	Zhang
1♦	2♠	3♣	3♠
Dble	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

South led the ♠7, North winning and switching to the ♥10. Declarer won, ruffed a spade and played two rounds of clubs, +420.

If East rebids 4♥, West might get excited, but it would be essential to play a slam in a minor suit.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	ONeill	Meyers	Weingold
1♦	1♠	Dble*	3♦*
4♥	4♠	Dble	All Pass
3♦	Mixed raise		

East led the ♦9 and all declarer could take was six trumps, four down, -800 and a 9 IMP loss.

Morning Papers

Mark Horton

I started my coverage of the penultimate session at 10.30 GMT. At that stage the leading averages remained the same.

Let's start with a question.

Looking at ♠K64 ♥KJ102 ♠AK832 ♣4 you open 1♦ and partner responds 1♥. Do you rebid 2♥, 3♥ or 4♥?

To my way of thinking this is a classic Goldilocks situation. 2♥ is too little, 4♥ is too much and 3♥ is just right.

There was one vote for 1♥ and one for 4♥, the rest opting for 3♥. One player opted for a Splinter of 4♣. If you think the East hand is strong enough to insist on game it is not a bad description.

Board 33. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Athens Team v Paris et Bordeaux

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Halfon</i>	<i>Zerva</i>	<i>Avon</i>	<i>Kotronarou</i>
—	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Appreciating that NS were worried about hearts East led the ♥A, West contributing the ♥5 (count, high encouraging) and declarer the ♥Q. At this point a diamond switch is essential, West winning, cashing the ♥K and then playing a diamond or simply returning a diamond immediately, but it is not easy to find, and East went with the ♠4, declarer winning with the ♠Q. Declarer cashed the ♣A, ruffed a club and played the ♦10, but West took the ♦K and calmly returned the ♦3. Declarer won in dummy and played another diamond pitching the ♥J, but East ruffed and exited with a heart, declarer going two down, -100.

If declarer plays the ♥Q at trick three she is still in the game, but has work to do if, after drawing trumps (being careful to retain dummy's ♥98) West ducks the diamond finesse. Declarer will then need the ruffing heart finesse to get home.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Vrochidou</i>	<i>Poussou</i>	<i>Politou</i>	<i>Paulissen</i>
—	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♥3 and the defenders played four rounds of the suit, declarer winning with the ♥9, crossing to dummy with a spade and running the ♦8. When West took the ♦K, declarer had the rest, +400 and 11 IMPs.



Board 36. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Athens Team v Paris et Bordeaux

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Halfon</i>	<i>Zerva</i>	<i>Avon</i>	<i>Kotronarou</i>
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

North led the ♣5 and declarer won in dummy and played a heart for the queen and ace. She had to lose a second heart and the ♠A but that was +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Vrochidou</i>	<i>Poussou</i>	<i>Politou</i>	<i>Paulissen</i>
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Dble
3♥	All Pass		
2♣	23+ or 10 tricks		
2♦	or semiforcing major		
	Waiting		

That meant the loss of 10 IMPs.

Board 37. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Athens Team v Paris et Bordeaux

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Halfon</i>	<i>Zerva</i>	<i>Avon</i>	<i>Kotronarou</i>
—	1♣	1♠	Dble*
Pass	2♣	2♦	3♣
All Pass			

East led the ♥10 and declarer took dummy's ♥A, cashed the ♣AQ and played the ♦K. East won and returned the ♦J and declarer won in dummy, discarding a spade rather than the ♥J. That cost an overtrick, +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Vrochidou</i>	<i>Poussou</i>	<i>Politou</i>	<i>Paulissen</i>
—	1♣*	1♠	Dble
Pass	2♣	2♦	2♠*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♣	2+♣
2♠	Looking for a stopper
3♦	Looking for a stopper

West led the ♠Q, continued with the ♠J and then switched to the ♠4 for the king and ace. If East returns a diamond at this point declarer is doomed, but she switched to the ♥10 for the two, king and ace and declarer had nine winners, +600 and 10 IMPs.

A big win, 59-6 IMPs, 20-0 VP took Paris et Bordeaux, having played a match more than Alpert into the lead with an average of 15.07.

Board 49. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Valkyrie v Sarlafibers

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jhaveri	Senior	Karmarkar	Smith
—	Pass	1NT*	2♦*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

1NT	11-13, may be unbalanced
2♦	One major
2♥	Pass or correct

West led the ♦4 and declarer took dummy's ace, cashed the ♠KQ, drew the last trump and played a diamond to the jack, +110.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
Nettleton	Khandelwal	Brock	Jhunjhun.
—	Pass	1♣*	1♠
Dble*	2♥*	Dble	2♠
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

1♣ 2+♣, natural, weak notrump without 4♦ or 18-19 without 5♦
2♥ Good spade raise

The perfect fit guaranteed ten tricks when the trumps behaved (and an overtrick was possible when South started with two rounds of spades). That was worth 11 IMPs.

Many pairs bid 4♠, some escaping the double that collected -300.

Board 50. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Valkyrie v Sarlafibers

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jhaveri	Senior	Karmarkar	Smith
—	—	4♦	4♥
5♦	5♥	All Pass	

West led the ♦K and switched to the ♠5. Declarer ran it to her ♠Q and cashed two top hearts before playing a club. West took the ♣A and exited with a spade. There was no way for declarer to avoid the loss of another trick, -100.

Having cashed the ♥A, declarer can ruff a diamond, draw trumps, take a spade finesse, pitch a diamond on the ♠A, ruff a spade and then take the winning view in clubs.

Were West to be inspired and start with two rounds of clubs, declarer cannot avoid the loss of two more tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nettleton	Khandelwal	Brock	Jhunjhun.
—	Pass	4♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West led the ♦K and switched to the ♠9. Declarer took dummy's ♠A, came to hand with a heart, ruffed a diamond and exited with a spade, West winning and returning the ♠5 (the ♣9 forces declarer to a guess). Now declarer could cash two tricks in the suit and draw trumps, +620 and 13 IMPs.



Sunday Night Fever

Mark Horton

As the final session of this extraordinary event got under way, it was beginning to look like the title would rest between Paris et Bordeaux and Alpert. The way the French team was performing meant the cosmopolitan Alpert squad would need big wins in their remaining matches.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Paulissen</i>	<i>Chatzisavva</i>	<i>Poussou</i>	<i>Starvi</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

2♣ Stayman

North led the ♣2 and South took the ♣A, cashed the ♥A and switched to the ♠8. When dummy's ♠J held declarer drew trumps, unblocked the ♥Q and claimed, +450 and 11 IMPs.

That helped the leaders to a 39-0 win, the 19.62 VP improving their average.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Paris et Bordeaux v Rhodes Team


Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sokol</i>	<i>Avon</i>	<i>Lentza</i>	<i>Dumesnil</i>
—	—	—	1♣
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2♣ Stayman

North led the ♠6 for the queen and king and declarer drew trumps and saw a way to dispose of her losing club by playing three rounds of diamonds. She then played a heart, but South took the ♥A and played two rounds of clubs. Declarer could ruff, but the hearts were blocked and she was one down, -50.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Alpert v Maak

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Millership</i>	<i>Dufrat</i>	<i>Hassan</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>
—	—	1NT	2♦*
Dble	Rdbl*	2♥	2♠
4♥	All Pass		

2♦ One major
Rdbl Bid your suit



South led the ♠Q and declarer won, cashed the ♠A and then played the ♣4, South taking the ♣A and continuing with the ♠J, ruffed by dummy's ♥2 and overruffed by North, who switched to the ♦3. South withheld the ♦A, dummy winning with the ♦Q and declarer drew trumps and played clubs, losing a diamond at the end, +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Alpert	Kelly-Rogers	Baroni	Murphy
—	—	1NT	2♦*
Dble	2♥*	Dble	2♠
Dble	All Pass		
2♦	One major		
2♥	Pass or correct		

West led the ♠9 and East won with the ♠K, cashed the ♥K and continued with the ♥6, declarer ruffing and playing a spade for the eight and ace. At this point switching to a low club or a low diamond keeps two down in the picture, but it was tempting to play a heart and declarer ruffed, cashed the ♠Q pitching dummy's last heart. Now a low card in either minor is declarer's best move, for example on a low diamond East wins with the king and plays a heart, but declarer ruffs, plays two rounds of diamonds, wins A high club exit with the ♣A and plays back a club, scoring dummy's ♣J for one down. Were West to find the brilliant try of exiting with the ♣6 I would get quite a story, one way or another.

However, declarer cashed the ♦A and exited with a diamond, East winning with the ♦K. Now a club ensures two down, whereas the choice of a diamond let declarer off the hook. West won and exited with the ♣K, one down, -200 and a 6 IMP loss.

It was also an important deal in the match between Austria and Paris et Bordeaux:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kerbl	Paulissen	Ferlic	Poussou
—	—	1NT	2♦*
Dble	2♥*	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
2♦	One major		
2♥	Pass or correct		

South led the ♠Q and continued with the ♠10, declarer taking the ♠K and playing the ♣4. South hopped up with the ♣A and cleared the spades, but

declarer won, cashed the ♥K, went to dummy with the ♥A and soon had nine tricks, +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dumesnil	Weiss-Selway	Avon	Hermann
—	—	1NT	2♦*
Dble	2♥*	Dble	2♠
4♥	All Pass		
2♦	One major		
2♥	Pass or correct		

North led the ♠8 and declarer won in dummy, cashed the ♥K and continued with a heart to the ace, South discarding the ♠10. A heart to the nine was followed by the ♣4 to the king and a spade to the king. Now declarer needs to play a club. If South ducks, declarer wins in dummy and exits with a club to endplay South. If South rises with the ♣A and plays a spade, North can overruff dummy, but declarer will only lose one more trick to the ♦A.

When declarer preferred to try ruffing a spade in dummy, North overruffed and switched to the ♦J and declarer had to go one down, -50 and a 10 IMP loss.

That took the match score to 22-0.



Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Austria v Paris et Bordeaux

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kerbl</i>	<i>Paulissen</i>	<i>Ferlic</i>	<i>Poussou</i>
—	—	2♥*	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

2♥ Hearts and another suit

East led the ♥2 and declarer won with the ♥Q, cashed the ♦A, ruffed a heart with the ♦J, played a diamond to the six, drew trumps, went to dummy with a club and pitched three losers on the top spades, +940.

Would the impetuous leap to 6♦ prove to be expensive?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dumesnil</i>	<i>Weiss-Selway</i>	<i>Avon</i>	<i>Hermann</i>
—	—	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♠ 10-13

Not very proved to be the answer!

East led the ♥3 and 10 Imps changed hands.

On the next deal Austria missed a thin game to lose another 10 IMPs.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Austria v Paris et Bordeaux

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kerbl</i>	<i>Paulissen</i>	<i>Ferlic</i>	<i>Poussou</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

4NT RKCB
5♥ 2 keycards

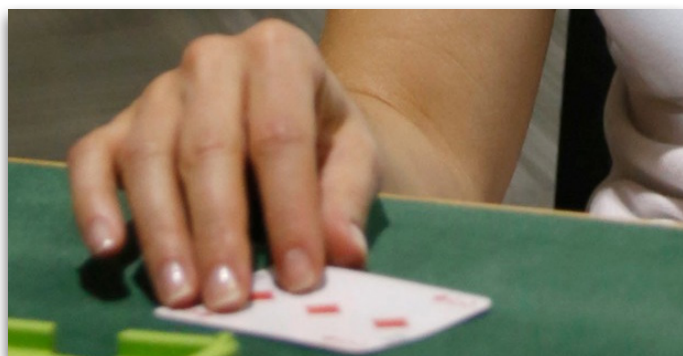
South led the ♣6 for the ten, four and ace and declarer played a diamond to the ace and a heart for the queen and ace, South returning the ♦2. Declarer took dummy's ♦K, pitched a heart on the ♣K, ruffed a club and ruffed a heart. Now one winning line is to crossruff diamonds and hearts. When declarer ruffed a club instead, North pitched the ♥10 and declarer had to go one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dumesnil</i>	<i>Weiss-Selway</i>	<i>Avon</i>	<i>Hermann</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Declarer took eleven tricks, +450 and 11 IMPs that gave the leaders a 31-25 win. Meanwhile, Alpert had lost 7-8 to Maak.

Paris et Bordeaux won their final match against Wildcards 11-1 to finish with an average of 14.98. Alpert had completed 10 matches at an average of 14.71. They needed big wins from their last three matchesto overtake the leaders. If Valkyrie could score almost three maximums in their remaining matches they still had a theoretical chance.



Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Alpert v Cro 1

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Probst</i>	<i>Baroni</i>	<i>Gumhalter Malic Alpert</i>	
—	—	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♣5 and declarer took the second round and cashed all her major suit winners – one short of the required number, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Stilinovic</i>	<i>Dufrat</i>	<i>Hoic</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

3♣ Short, may have four-card major

Declarer won the club lead, ruffed a club, drew trumps and played a diamond to the jack for +680 and 13 IMPs.

Alpert won 29-1 for 18.04 VP enough to increase their average to 15.10 and put them in the lead.

Board 33. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Alpert v Wildcards

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O'Keeffe</i>	<i>Baroni</i>	<i>Stacey</i>	<i>Alpert</i>
—	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
3♣	Muppet Stayman		
3NT	5♥		
4♦	Transfer		

East led the ♦6 and declarer won with the ♦K, played a heart to the ten and the ♣4, West taking the ♣A and exiting with the ♣3. East won and exited with the ♥8 which allowed declarer to draw trumps ending in dummy and pitch a losing spade on the ♣J for +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Cox</i>	<i>Dufrat</i>	<i>Biggin</i>
—	1♥	1♠	3♥*
4♦	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		
3♥	Weak		

East led her diamond and declarer won with the ♦A, took two rounds of trumps ending in hand and played the ♣Q. West won and switched to spades, East taking the second round and cashing the ♣K for one down, -100 and 11 IMPs.

Four boards later both teams reached 4♠ with
 ♠ K Q J 7 4 3 ♥ Q 5 ♠ Q 9 8 ♣ Q 2
 opposite

♠ A 9 8 ♥ 9 7 6 4 2 ♣ A 6 5.

North, on lead with

♠ 6 5 2 ♥ J 3 ♦ 6 5 3 2 ♣ K J 10 3

saw fit to lead the ♣J in both rooms, but only Alpert emerged with 10 tricks and 10 IMPs.

When Wildcards let a game through on Board 38 another 12 IMPs left Alpert home and hosed. They had won 45-8, to add 19.37 VP to their total.

Alpert's last match was against the Viking Girls. It was packed with demanding deals. Both teams bid two making slams, but missed a third that would have made. When Alpert missed a good game and another that was difficult to defeat they lost 5-23 and dropped to third.