



52nd EUROPEAN BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPATIJA, CROATIA

JUNE 21st - JULY 1st, 2014

Daily Bulletin

Editor :
Mark Horton
Co-Editor :
Brian Senior
Journalists :
David Bird,
John Carruthers,
Jos Jacobs,
Patrick Jourdain,

Christina Lund Madsen
Iva Mršić,
Ram Soffer,
Ron Tacchi
Roland Wald
Lay-out Editor :
Monika Kummel
Photographer :
Anna Gudge



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JUST SCORING IN THE RAIN



Congratulations to the 10 Senior teams who have qualified for the second Round Robin.

Meanwhile, Sweden top Group A of the Open, England Group B, while the Netherlands lead the Women.

!!!! Most Important Information !!!!

The **EBL Seniors Committee** meeting will be held today at 13.30 in the EBL meeting office on the first floor.

The **Prize Giving** and **Closing Ceremony** for the Seniors Teams will be held on Saturday 28 June at 19.30 at the Congress Hall on the second floor of the Grand Hotel 4 Opatijska Cvijeta, opposite the Camelia Hotel, v.Cara Emina 6 (near the Opatija Harbour)

The **EBL General Assembly** will be held on Sunday 29 June in the Congress Hall on the second floor of the Grand Hotel 4 Opatijska Cvijeta, opposite the Camelia Hotel, v.Cara Emina 6 (near the Opatija Harbour).

Agenda

- 09.30 Extraordinary General Assembly
- 10.00 Ordinary General Assembly



BBO SCHEDULE

10.30

Poland v Norway (S)	BBO 1
Austria v Hungary (S)	BBO 2
Belgium v Sweden (S)	BBO 3
Ireland v England (S)	BBO 4
Denmark v Bulgaria (S)	BBO 5

14.30

Ireland v Hungary (S)	BBO 1
Sweden v Norway (S)	BBO 2
Denmark v Austria (S)	BBO 3
Belgium v Bulgaria(S)	BBO 4
Poland v England (S)	BBO 5

17.20

Denmark v Sweden (S)	BBO 1
England v Hungary (S)	BBO 2
Poland v Belgium (S)	BBO 3
Austria v Bulgaria (S)	BBO 4
Ireland v Norway (S)	BBO 5

*BBO 1 = VuGraph

If you are wondering how we came to select today's headline just go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1ZYhVpdXbQ>

Jamnica



KVARNER
Diversity is beautiful



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OPATIJA

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OPATIJA

OPEN**Open A after RRI I**

TEAM	VP
1 SWEDEN	157.78
2 MONACO	152.18
3 NORWAY	151.35
4 FRANCE	149.01
5 RUSSIA	135.82
6 GERMANY	132.76
7 ESTONIA	121.18
8 ICELAND	119.96
9 AUSTRIA	104.83
10 CROATIA	101.90
11 IRELAND	100.53
12 GREECE	95.62
13 FINLAND	88.70
14 SPAIN	86.38
15 SLOVAKIA	79.27
16 PORTUGAL	74.20
17 SCOTLAND	68.29
18 SLOVENIA	58.24

Open B after RRI I

TEAM	VP
1 ENGLAND	135.64
2 DENMARK	135.44
3 ISRAEL	133.45
4 LATVIA	130.88
5 TURKEY	129.30
6 NETHERLANDS	125.88
7 POLAND	123.17
8 ROMANIA	121.34
9 BULGARIA	121.21
10 HUNGARY	112.37
11 ITALY	107.34
12 BELGIUM	107.09
13 SERBIA	102.43
14 FAROE ISLANDS	94.78
15 SWITZERLAND	94.24
16 WALES	85.67
17 LITHUANIA	69.57
18 BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA	50.20

WOMEN**After Round 11**

TEAM	VP
1 NETHERLANDS	153.61
2 ENGLAND	145.67
3 ITALY	140.37
4 DENMARK	136.70
5 FRANCE	133.87
6 SWEDEN	131.76
7 IRELAND	125.71
8 ROMANIA	124.41
9 SPAIN	124.02
10 ISRAEL	123.32
11 POLAND	114.61
12 GERMANY	113.24
13 NORWAY	106.67
14 RUSSIA	106.15
15 TURKEY	105.80
16 SCOTLAND	99.55
17 GREECE	96.95
18 ESTONIA	96.29
19 CROATIA	86.47
20 BULGARIA	81.75
21 AUSTRIA	79.41
22 SERBIA	74.64
23 LEBANON	51.03

GRATIS CARDS

NBOs with poor economy can have used EBL playing cards for free at the book stall on the 1st floor.

Used cards are also sold at low prices.

SENIORS

After Swiss 12

TEAM	VP
1 NORWAY	154.37
2 POLAND	151.36
3 BELGIUM	146.73
4 IRELAND	142.48
5 HUNGARY	142.29
6 ENGLAND	141.36
7 AUSTRIA	134.33
8 DENMARK	134.30
9 SWEDEN	128.27
10 BULGARIA	126.69
11 FRANCE	124.21
12 TURKEY	121.83
13 ISRAEL	117.70
14 CROATIA	116.57
15 PORTUGAL	113.39
16 NETHERLANDS	110.83
17 ESTONIA	109.62
18 FINLAND	107.78
19 GERMANY	107.10
20 SCOTLAND	106.13
21 SPAIN	102.15
22 ROMANIA	97.67
23 ITALY	97.52
24 SERBIA	95.09
25 WALES	93.42
26 SLOVENIA	89.81

S F1

10.30

1 AUSTRIA	HUNGARY
2 BELGIUM	SWEDEN
3 IRELAND	ENGLAND
4 POLAND	NORWAY
5 DENMARK	BULGARIA

S F2

14.30

1 IRELAND	HUNGARY
2 SWEDEN	NORWAY
3 DENMARK	AUSTRIA
4 BELGIUM	BULGARIA
5 POLAND	ENGLAND

S F3

17.20

1 ENGLAND	HUNGARY
2 POLAND	BELGIUM
3 AUSTRIA	BULGARIA
4 DENMARK	SWEDEN
5 IRELAND	NORWAY

Carry-over

NORWAY	20.25	ENGLAND	9
POLAND	18	AUSTRIA	6.75
BELGIUM	15.75	DENMARK	4.5
IRELAND	13.5	SWEDEN	2.25
HUNGARY	11.25	BULGARIA	0

Swiss

10.30

1 ISRAEL	SERBIA
2 ESTONIA	NETHERLANDS
3 SCOTLAND	TURKEY
4 GERMANY	ITALY
5 PORTUGAL	SPAIN
6 FINLAND	CROATIA
7 WALES	ROMANIA
8 SLOVENIA	FRANCE



IN EMERGENCY

1. Call 112

2. Ask Hospitality to call a doctor

Heart starter is based in the window at the book stall on 1st floor.





The Croatian Corner



“Proplakat će zora”

S obzirom da je u Hrvatskoj nakon kiksa u Brazilu proglašen nogometni dan žalosti, odlučili smo se solidarizirati s kolegama nogometašima pa je i Hrvatski kutak proglasio dan žalosti, odao danom šutnje počast palim žrtvama, a jučerašnji kutak objavljujemo danas.

Jutro nakon gorkog poraza nogometne reprezentacije u ključnoj utakmici svjetskog prvenstva donijelo je sumornu atmosferu u sve tri hrvatske momčadi, a protivnici su nastavili biti nemilosrdni bez pijeteta prema našem gubitku. Stoga ćemo ovaj članak posvetiti jednom zanimljivom teoretskom bordu i obrambenom problemu koji nam je donio.

Obrambena karta kojom ćemo se bavljati je sljedeća:

♠ A J 4 2
♥ Q 6 5 4 3
♦ A 7
♣ 8 3

Partner nam otvori 3 karo, desni protivnik licitira 3NT, mi dodamo još i 4 karo, a lijevi protivnik licitira 4 herc što se propasira. Partner atakira tref četvorku, a na stolu se ukaže:

♠ K Q 5
♥ A J
♦ K 5
♣ K Q 9 7 6 5

Partner očito ima singl tref jer bi inače atakirao karona iz očekivanih QJ i srušio kontrakt u trku. Međutim, aktivna ataka u želji za brzim porezom nas je stavila na muke. Kako sad srušiti kontrakt?

Izvođač uzme tref u ruci dečkom i odigra herc na kojeg partner doda svoju singl devetku. Zatim odigra herc dečka kojeg prebije kraljem i nastavi trećim hercom bacajući pik sa stola.

Kako sad srušiti kontrakt? Pogled na stol je zastrašujuć, 5 visokih trefova i štoperi u preostale dvije boje ne daju nam puno nade, ali jedan detalj nam budi optimizam. Sve šta je na stolu je bitno, bilo kao štihovi ili kao štoperi. Ako se stol bude morao odbacivati, bacati će ili štihove ili štopere, a i jedno i drugo nam se sviđa.

S tom spoznajom u arsenalu, rješenje se nameće samo po sebi, treba odigrati još nekoliko aduta i skvizirati stol. Treći herc ćemo propustiti, izvođač ne smije prestati adutirati jer ćemo mu porezati trefa malim adutom pa nastavlja četvrtom rundom herca i stol je u problemima. Ako baci karo ili pik razbio si je štopera i skupit ćemo mu dva štihova u toj boji. Ako baci tref bacio je štih, ali to mu je jedina

šansa. No, četvrtu rundu aduta uzimamo damom i vraćamo adut, poslije čega je izvođač nemoćan. Još uvijek držimo oba asa pa si ne smije razbijati štopere, a bacanjem trefa baca deseti štih.

Evo i cijelog dijagrama borda:

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

Ovaj simpatični obrambeni skviz iskoristiti ćemo za odmor od naših reprezentativnih rezultata u ovim trenucima nogometne korote, a s obzirom da su u trenutku pisanja ovog članka sve tri hrvatske reprezentacije donijele solidne pobjede, ne sumnjamo da će sutrašnji Hrvatski kutak biti u puno veselijem tonu.





The Croatian Corner



“Neću, neću dijamante”

Nastavljamo u veselijem tonu. Današnja priča dolazi nam iz meča ženske reprezentacije protiv Engleske, vrlo kvalitetne momčadi s opravdanim aspiracijama za naslov europskih prvakinja. S obzirom na povezanost ovih dviju bridž obitelji, valjalo bi primjetiti da za stolom ipak nije bilo rodbinskih veza.

Domaće boje su u otvorenoj sali branile Nikica Šver i Marina Pilipović, a u zatvorenoj Sandra Tomljanović i Renata Muller.

U ovom se prijateljskom meču još jednom pokazalo kako su dijamanti ženini najbolji prijatelji, a svi znaju kako žene uvijek imaju poseban odnos prema svojim prijateljima. Na sljedećem bordu prikazati ćemo kako je jednostavno dijamantima odvući žensku pažnju.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ 9	♠ J8643	♠ Q107
♥ –	♥ QJ9765	♥ K842
♦ AQJ1043	♦ 9	♦ K6
♣ QJ7542	♣ 3	♣ AK86
	♠ AK52	
	♥ A103	
	♦ 8752	
	♣ 109	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sver		Pilipovic	
4NT	Pass	6♣	1♣ All Pass

U otvorenoj sali South je otvorila 1 tref, sistemski pokazujući barem dvije karte tref. Dva trefa zdesna nisu fascinirali Šver koja je hrabro licitirala 4NT pokazujući ojači minorski bikolor, obično 6-6. North je pasirala, što u ovakvim manšama i nema neku alternativu, a Pilipović je skočila u slem vjerojatno razmišljajući “imam As, kralj tref, karo kralja, ako ti to nije dosta krvi ću ti se napiti”. Brza i efikasna licitacija dovela je do optimalnog kontrakta koji je uspjela naći samo petina svih parova u sve tri konkurencije.

Pik as ataka je spriječila prekoštih, a igre praktički nije ni bilo.

6♣ E, =, EW +920

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
	Tomljanovic	Muller	
Pass	1♥	INT	1♦
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass All Pass

U zatvorenoj sali, Muller je otvorila svoju kolekciju dijamanta, sjajan niz od osmice do dvojke, 1 karo i Engleskinje su ostale fascinirane. West je uz informaciju da su četiri dijamanta zdesna zaključila da bi bord mogao biti potencijalni misfit, te je iskusno pasirala da sačeka razvoj događaja. Da citiramo velikog mislioca Vukija, “kad nemaš čutiš, a kad imaš, čekaš”. Tomljanović je svojih tanašnih majorskih 6-5 počela prijavljivati s 1 herc, a kako će razvoj događaja pokazati, i završila. East je licitirala prirodnih INT našto je West pokazala forsing s trefom licitirajući 3 tref, očito i dalje fascinirana dijamantima zdesna. Partnerica je s minimumom licitirala 3NT, a nakon što West, i dalje fascinirana dijamantima zdesna, odbija dalje licitirati, to postaje završni kontrakt.

Nakon pik kralj atake i malog pika u drugom štihi ni u ovoj sali se nije imalo što igrati.

3NT E, +3, EW +490

Hrvatska +10 IMP

Opet se pokazalo da dijamanti mogu lako odvući ženu pažnju nakon čega ona odluta u prilično lošu manšu umjesto u praktički neoboriv slem. Meč je nažalost završio porazom naše ekipe 48-23, ali dobre vijesti iz seniorske konkurencije gdje su naši junaci pobjedničkoj seriji, open ekipa se diže, a ženska će nakon teških početnih mečeva sada uhvatiti zamah, daje nam dovoljno razloga za veselje.



Marina Pilipovic

Open Teams Round 5

By Ram Soffer



France v. Sweden



After four rounds the French team was ranked third in their group, slightly behind Norway and Austria. In round five they were tested against Sweden, the 2012 world champions.

The first deal was rather curious, but it provided no swing. Both Easts reached a 4♠ contract without revealing too much info, and both Souths had to lead from their ♣K 5 or ♦A 10 8 5 3 in order to cash four quick tricks plus a ruff. However, at the table the leaders made the more expert choices of ♠9 8 5 (Nyström) and ♥10 8 6 (Volcker), in both cases allowing the contract to make.

Two boards later there was a more delicate push:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ J 8 7 2 ♥ 7 4 3 ♦ A J ♣ A 9 7 6	♠ 4 ♥ A 8 2 ♦ K 8 3 2 ♣ Q J 10 5 4 <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> N W E S </div> ♠ K 9 5 3 ♥ 9 6 5 ♦ Q 10 9 5 ♣ 3 2	♠ A Q 10 6 ♥ K Q J 10 ♦ 7 6 4 ♣ K 8	
--	--	--	--

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Levy	Cullin	Volcker
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
3♣	Dble	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Levy didn't open, but he doubled West's 3♣ Puppet Stayman for the lead. Volcker led the ♣3, and Cullin was well aware of South's club shortness. He won his ♣K and continued immediately with ♠A and ♠10 from his hand, hoping to prevent a club ruff. However this turned out to be a losing play against the actual layout. Deep Finesse indicates a heart as the winning play at trick three, but that would have looked silly if hearts were 4-2. South ducked the ♠10 and declarer realized that continuing trumps would give him only nine tricks. He ruffed a club with the ♠Q, but South over-ruffed. Later North won the ♥A and gave his partner another overruff in clubs; E/W -100.

West	North	East	South
M. Bessis	Upmark	T. Bessis	Nyström
Pass	1♣	Dble	1♥
INT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The Swedes sitting N/S were more active in the bidding. Upmark opened in the third seat, and Nyström's 1♥ was a transfer to spades, so a 4♠ contract was out of the question, and the French reached 3NT instead.

Upmark led the ♣Q, taken by dummy's ♣K while declarer dropped a deceptive ♣9. Michel Bessis played hearts, and Upmark waited with his ace until the third round, seeing 9-6-5 from his partner, a significant suit-preference signal warning against a club continuation.

Playing a spade would have been pointless, so North's choice was between a club and a diamond. Upmark gave it a long consideration before putting the ♦3 on the table. The Swedes found the killing defence, and Michel had to concede a heart, a spade and three diamond tricks for -100 and a push.

(For the record, Deep Finesse points out many winning options in Four Spades but almost all of them involve not playing two rounds of trumps early, relying on a heart break instead of a trump break. Almost everyone who brought home the spade game benefited from a defensive error.)

On the next board France broke the scoreless tie with two overtrick IMPs, and they added six more when Sweden failed to bid a game which depended on little more than a finesse.



Alain Levy, France



Fredrik Nyström, Sweden
Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ Q J 9 6 5 ♥ A 8 7 ♦ 5 4 2 ♣ 7 2	N W E S	♠ K 10 4 2 ♥ 5 2 ♦ K Q 6 ♣ K 9 6 3	
♠ 8 7 ♥ K 3 ♦ A J 10 7 3 ♣ Q 8 5 4		♠ A 3 ♥ Q J 10 9 6 4 ♦ 9 8 ♣ A J 10	
West <i>Bertheau</i> Pass Pass Pass All Pass	North <i>Levy</i> INT 2♠ 3♥	East <i>Cullin</i> Pass Pass Pass	South <i>Volcker</i> 1♥ 2♥ 2NT 4♥

Levy invited a game in hearts, and with two aces and a good trump sequence Volcker considered his hand good enough despite the minimal point count. Nothing much happened in the play. Bertheau's club lead (the seven, playing third and fifth) was covered by the queen, king and ace, so Volcker merely had to draw trumps, but he would have finessed clubs anyway; N/S +420.

(Had East ducked the club king at trick one, best defence would have been for West to win his heart ace and shift to a diamond, for East to win and play back a spade, giving declarer some losing options.)

West <i>M. Bessis</i> Pass 2♠	North <i>Upmark</i> Pass 3♥	East <i>T. Bessis</i> Pass Dble All Pass	South <i>Nyström</i> 2♥ Pass
---	---	---	--

The Swedish 2♥ opening showed 10-13 HCP with 6+ hearts. North had a very useful 10-count but Upmark didn't consider this hand worthy of an invitation. Thomas Bessis's reopening double gave him a second chance, but Upmark stuck to his principles. His 3♥ call was merely competitive, and Sweden had to settle for a disappointing +170.

There followed some uneventful laydown games, and the match seemed destined to be a low-scoring one, when France extended their lead with a useful partscore swing.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 9 8 6 2 ♥ K 10 9 6 5 ♦ A 6 4 ♣ 10	N W E S	♠ K 7 5 3 ♥ 7 ♦ K 3 2 ♣ K J 8 5 2	
West <i>Bertheau</i>	North <i>Levy</i>	East <i>Cullin</i>	South <i>Volcker</i> INT

All Pass
 Bertheau led an unfortunate ♥6, taken by declarer's ♥8. Volcker switched to diamonds. With no better option in sight, Cullin won the ♦K and continued the suit. Upon winning the ♦A, West had no good defence available. He continued a spade, allowing declarer to score two spades, three hearts, two diamonds and a club; N/S +120.

West <i>M. Bessis</i> Pass 2♦	North <i>Upmark</i> Pass Pass	East <i>T. Bessis</i> Dble 2♠	South <i>Nyström</i> INT Pass All Pass
---	---	---	---

Thomas reopened with a double showing a four-card major plus a 5+ card minor. The French reached an excellent 2♠ contract. Upmark could have done better had he competed to 2NT, but then his partner might not have interpreted this bid as natural. The play was not hard. After a diamond lead declarer played a heart towards the ♥K, ran the ♣10 and continued on crossruff lines, finally emerging with eight tricks; E/W +110 and 6 more IMPs to France.

In the following deal France showed that when one defends well there is no need to save aggressively.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Levy	Cullin	Volcker
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
Pass	INT	2♦	Dble
2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
4♦	Dble	All Pass	

The French play sound opening bids, so Volcker could afford an invitation to game despite Levy being a passed hand. Probably he upgraded his hand due to the fact that after North's INT, his doubleton queen of spades practically serves as a second stopper.

Bertheau believed that his hand would not contribute much to the defence against 3NT, and reckoned that a 4♦ save would not be too expensive. Cullin lost the obvious five tricks for -300.

West	North	East	South
M. Bessis	Upmark	T. Bessis	Nyström
Pass	1♣	1♠	Dble
Pass	INT	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

After Upmark opened the North hand, one could not expect the Swedes to stop short of game. At this table East didn't mention his diamonds, so a save was not really an option.

Declarer has eight easy tricks, but for the ninth he needs a little bit of cooperation from the defence. A spade lead would have been good enough, but Thomas chose the ♦A. Michel signalled standard count with the ♦6, and Thomas switched to the ♥K. Upmark ducked and East continued with the ♥Q, taken by dummy's ♥A.

At this point there was no winning line. If declarer develops a second heart trick, West wins and plays a spade before declarer has time to develop a diamond trick. Upmark tried a diamond, and now East had to win the ♦K and continue the suit. Thomas, who already knew the count, found this defence instantly; France +100 and 9 IMPs.

This increased France's lead to 23-3, and it became a rout when Nyström/Upmark produced two unfortunate results (one hesitates to say errors but...) in the last four boards.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
M. Bessis	Upmark	T. Bessis	Nyström
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

A routine game was reached after a simple Drury sequence. With spades behaving it seemed that nothing could go wrong for declarer. The ♣K lead was ruffed. Declarer played the ♦J taken by West's ♦Q, and Michel continued with another club. This tempted Nyström into a losing crossruff line. He ruffed all three of his diamond losers, using club ruffs as a means of transportation, but on the fourth rounds of clubs Thomas discarded a spade. When declarer finally attacked spades, Michel won his ♠A and continued with the ♣Q on which East discarded his last spade. Thus declarer lost control, making nine trump tricks but no other tricks at all. Sweden was the only team in the Open championship to go minus with the N/S cards.



Frédéric Volcker, France

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

♠ 4 2		
♥ 6		
♦ A K Q 3		
♣ A K 10 8 4 3		



West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Levy	Cullin	Volcker
1♠	Dble	2♠	3♦
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

This was simple and efficient bidding by the French pair. Volcker showed a strong minor-suited hand. Levy saw no slam prospects and signed off immediately in 5♣. By the way, this pair uses a game forcing 2♦ opening and a semi-forcing 2♣ opening which South could have used with a better hand. The play was trivial: West cashed his aces and declarer claimed the rest.

West	North	East	South
M. Bessis	Upmark	T. Bessis	Nyström
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠
Pass	5NT	Dble	Pass
Pass	6♣	Dble	All Pass

Perhaps out of frustration, the Swedish pair was pressing too hard, cuebidding all over the place despite lacking real slam values. When Nyström, having already bypassed 5♣, discovered the bitter truth that two aces were missing, he tried to sign off in 5NT, but Thomas Bessis had had enough of this nonsense and doubled. After long thought Upmark retreated to the hopeless 6♣, avoiding the ignominy of going down three in 5NT doubled.

France won 48-10, moving to the top of their group. As for Sweden, it was a match to forget, but there are still plenty of matches in which to make amends.

You can replay all the deals from this match at:
[BBO France v. Sweden O5](#)

Killing Lead

By Brian Senior

Opening leads are, perhaps, the most difficult part of the game, so I am always impressed by anyone who finds a good one. What do you think of this effort by Apolinary Kowalski for the Polish Senior team in its Round 5 match against England?

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

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



West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Price	Romanski	Simpson
2♦	1♦	Pass	1♠
	4♠	All Pass	

Kowalski showed his two-suiter by cuebidding 2♦ but, with no support for either suit from his partner, wasn't that keen on either as his opening lead. Of course, despite the double fit, Jacek Romanski had simply not been prepared to be bullied into bidding at the five level by David Price's leap to 4♠.

But Kowalski had available to him a very attractive deceptive lead through dummy's side suit. He led the four of diamonds! Quite apart from the fact that it was almost impossible for Colin Simpson to play for the actual diamond position after this lead, even had he done so by finessing he would still have been defeated as Kowalski had established a diamond ruff for his partner while defensive communications were still intact – East can win the queen of spades and put West in with a club to get his ruff for down one. In practice, of course, Simpson rose with dummy's ace at trick one and hoped to bring in the trumps without loss. His best efforts eventually led to down two for -100.

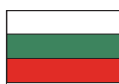
Note that, on the most popular lead of a low heart into the ace-queen, careful play sees declarer home with ten tricks, though the choice of play at trick three (diamond finesse or a spade to the jack), is a tough one. What declarer could not afford would be to cash the top spades at trick three and four.

Open Teams Round 5

By Jos Jacobs



Israel v. Bulgaria



After four rounds, Israel were top of the Group B Open standings and Bulgaria were in second position, just 0.05 VP behind, which would be the equivalent of about a fifth of an IMP. Whenever leaders meet, journalists ought to be present to find out what is going on and to report on the facts. This classic rule made my choice of match for Round 5 an obvious one.

From the two score sheets, one might easily deduce that Bulgaria missed a game on the first board. This, however, was not quite true, as here is that board:

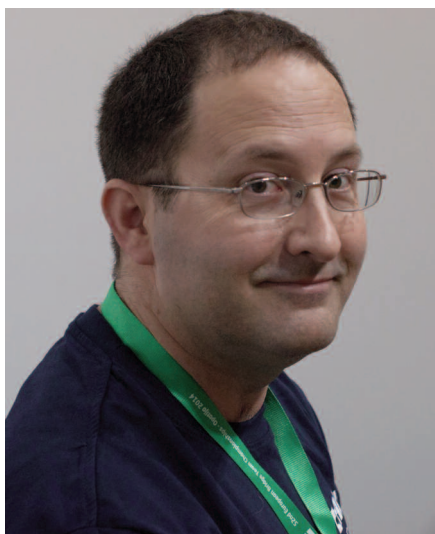
Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	I Herbst	Stefanov	O Herbst
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dble	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	All Pass



Ophir Herbst, Israel

In view of his brother Ilan's double, Ophir might have tried the effect of a minor-suit lead against 3♠. A top club leads to an immediate ruff in the suit, needed to set the contract, and a diamond lead would leave this option open. When Ophir, understandably, led a heart instead, declarer could win, throw a diamond on the ♥K, draw trumps and concede the two top clubs for ten tricks; +170 to Bulgaria. In the replay, the stakes were higher:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fisher	Nanev	Schwartz	Gunev
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dble	4♠	All Pass

The auction started the same way as in the Open Room but here, Schwartz went straight to game, leaving it to Rosen Gunev to find a lead. He put a low trump on the table, no doubt hoping to give nothing away, only to find out that he had in fact given away the contract. Israel a shock +420 and 6 IMPs to open their account.

It should be noted that at both tables, the West players belong to the fashionable school of constructive single raises with three-card trump support

On the next board, Bulgaria hit back strongly:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	I Herbst	Stefanov	O Herbst
		1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	All Pass

When the Herbsts did not enter the auction after East's Strong Club, the Bulgarians were allowed to play 2♦, in which they made the normal nine tricks; Bulgaria +110.

In the Closed Room, there was no Strong Club:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fisher	Nanev	Schwartz	Gunev
Pass	2♥	1♥	Dble
Pass	3♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass		Pass	4♠

After East's natural 1♥, South had an easy enough double so the N/S spade fit was located straight away. The Bulgarians even reached game, each of them stretching a little to get there.

West duly led the ♥9 to the queen and king. Had Schwartz immediately continued the ♦K now we would not have had a story. Even cashing a second top heart and continuing diamonds would have set the contract as declarer does not have the communications for an effective endplay against East. When Schwartz played a third round of hearts instead, hoping no doubt to promote a trump with his partner, declarer seized his chance. He ruffed high, crossed in trumps, ruffed dummy's last heart high and drew West's remaining trumps, squeezing East out of his thirteenth heart in the process. After that, Gunev simply conceded a club to East and claimed his contract; Bulgaria another +620 and 12 IMPs back to them.

So after just two boards, the score stood at 12-6 to Bulgaria and there it rested...

The scorers certainly could enjoy a good rest as they had almost nothing to do during the subsequent nine (!) boards. Bulgaria registered 1 IMP on three out of these nine to lead by 15-6 when Board 28 came up.

Not that those nine boards were all without interest. Take for example Board 23:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

This is one of those boards on which two good fits and sufficient outside controls make a slam a very good proposition, though difficult to handle in the bidding. I checked the results and found out that at exactly a quarter of our 36 tables they reached a slam. Well done Spain, Lithuania, Romania, Netherlands, Croatia, the entire British Isles except England and, last but not least, Fantunes. (My apologies if I missed one...).



Ilan Herbst, Israel

Taking into account that I was watching the two leading teams, I was disappointed in seeing that neither of them came anywhere near the slam. Well, if you open the South hand INT, as Ophir did in the Open Room (but he was not the only South player to do so), North will have no reason to believe in any double fit and just settle for game.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	I Herbst	Stefanov	O Herbst
Dble	4♦	Pass	INT
All Pass			4♥

In the Closed Room, the Bulgarians did not find the proper solution either:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fisher	Nanev	Schwartz	Gunev
2♣	3♥	Pass	1♦
All Pass			4♥

After the invitational 3♥, there was no room left for explorations. No swing.

The more noise E/W produce, the easier it is for N/S to make good progress, as was clearly shown in the England-Netherlands match:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hackett	Van Prooijen	Hackett	Verhees jr
2♣	2♦	3♣	1♦
4♠	5♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♦
All Pass			6♦

1♦ was not necessarily natural and 2♦ showed hearts. Once North could cuebid 5♣, South knew enough, 6♦ offering a choice of slams.

Back to Israel-Bulgaria now:

Board 28 was a case of opening bid plus opening bid equals game.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	I Herbst	Stefanov	O Herbst
Pass	1♣	1♠	Dble
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Dble	Pass
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

After Mihov raised spades, Stefanov could not imagine 3NT was on for the opponents. Little could he know that partner did not have any values at all, except the essential ♥Jxxx. The other side of the coin was that Ilan believed him and ran, thus transforming an impending minus score into +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fisher	Nanev	Schwartz	Gunev
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dble
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

In the other room, Fisher did not consider his hand worth a spade raise (and who would blame him?) so the Bulgarians were left in peace in their hopeless game contract. One off on a low spade lead, another +100 and 6 IMPs to Israel to reduce their deficit to just 3 IMPs.

The next board proved decisive:

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fisher	Nanev	Schwartz	Gunev
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

In the Closed Room, Bulgaria settled for a partscore when South showed a minimum over the 2♣ Drury-style relay. Declarer ruffed the opening club lead and immediately led a low diamond from hand to ensure his contract. Bulgaria; +140.

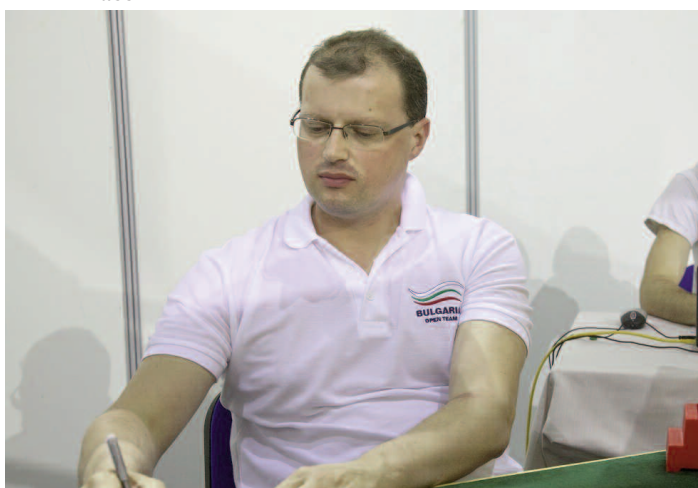
In the Open Room, Ophir was more optimistic about the trick-tacking potential of his hand:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	I Herbst	Stefanov	O Herbst
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Dble	4♥
All Pass			

After Ilan's constructive raise, he went straight to game, maybe upgrading his diamond holding after East's double. He fully justified his optimism in the play. He ruffed the opening top club lead and immediately led a spade to the king. When this held, the rest was very plain sailing indeed. Diamond to the king, diamond ruff, club ruff, diamond ruff, club ruff, diamond ruff, and a spade to the ten and ace. That gave twelve tricks for a fine +680 and 11 IMPs. Israel had taken the lead, 23-15.

On the next board, we saw an interesting difference in approach:



Julian Stefanov, Bulgaria

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ K 8 ♥ A 6 4 3 ♦ A Q 10 9 2 ♣ 9 8	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A 7 2 ♥ J 10 7 ♦ K 8 7 5 3 ♣ J 5
N					
W E					
S					
♠ Q 9 6 5 4 3 ♥ K 5 2 ♦ J ♣ K 6 3		♠ J 10 ♥ Q 9 8 ♦ 6 4 ♣ A Q 10 7 4 2			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	I Herbst	Stefanov	O Herbst
		Pass	3♣

All Pass

In the Open Room, Ophir's pre-empt silenced everyone. West led his singleton ♦J to the queen and king but, rather than giving partner a ruff, East shifted to the ♥J. This was covered all round and dummy continued a trump to the queen which was allowed to hold. The ♣A came next and when West did not ruff declarer's diamond continuation to return a low spade, declarer was home for sure as one spade went on a good diamond, which was ruffed by West after all. Israel; +110.

In the Closed Room, South did not open:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fisher	Nanev	Schwartz	Gunev
		Pass	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Dble	3♠	Dble
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

After two passes, West could launch a Multi, causing trouble for N/S straight away. North could not act over 2♦ and thus had to do something over 2♠. East made a tactical raise and now South too thought he had enough useful values to compete. Nobody could reasonably double the eventual 4-3 fit reached by N/S but two down, undoubled, meant Israel could add another +100 to their +110 for a swing of 5 IMPs to them.

With nothing in the final two boards, the result of this match thus became 28-15 to Israel, a 13.52 – 6.48 VP win to consolidate their position at the top of the Open Group B.

You can replay all the deals from this match at:
[BBO Israel v. Bulgaria 05](#)

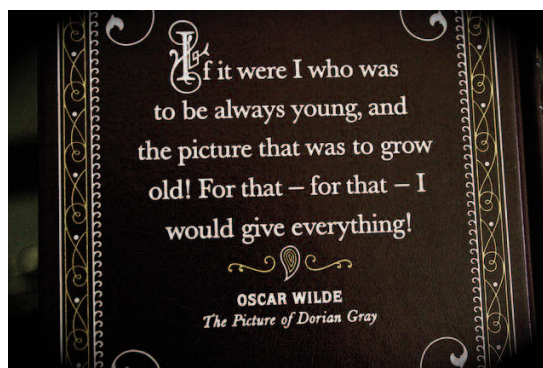
The Picture of Dorian Gray

By Tomislav Šćepanović

You know that feeling when you see the picture of Dorian Gray? Your own Dorian Gray, a guy that always has a perfect hairstyle, matches clothes' colours according to the latest fashion and makes your woman mock you about your looks and body shape? Everyone has his own Dorian Gray and bridge players tend to worship a picture of their opponents in the same fashion. Each action is driven by the perspective that opponents are some sort of super-humans, ready to preempt whenever it is feasible, bidding makeable partscores with high point deficit and doubling all of our too optimistic contracts.

On the other hand, the reality tends to be quite different. So, you pick up:

♠ K x x
♥ K Q 10 9 x
♦ x x x
♣ Q x



Opps are vulnerable, you are not. LHO opens a spade, your partner overcalls 2♦ and RHO, of course, bids 2♠. Well, you'd like to bid your hearts now, but 3♥ seems a bit too high regardless of the diamond fit. You can double, but that doesn't really show your good five-carder in hearts. You have been endplayed by the 2♠ bid. Or at least you thought you were.

As it happens with all Dorian Grays, the actual picture is much less appealing to the opponents than you thought at first. And, of course, much more appealing to you.

Your right hand opponent actually bid 1♠, not 2♠. You can call the director and protect yourself, of course, but on the other hand, is there a better situation to bid your hearts than now?

Well, of course not. You will bid 2♥ and pretend nothing happened. So the bidding on the first round went: 1♠ – 2♦ – 1♠ – 2♥. Now your LHO decides that maybe it is not the right time to bid 1♠ again, so he bids 4♠ and your partner promptly bids 5♥. Bingo!

In the end, LHO doubled 5♥ for a nice +650 when it came home

We have found the hidden picture of Dorian Gray after all.

Tatiana

By Christina Lund Madsen

Interview with Tatiana Ponomareva, Russia Women

“It was 1990. I was 22 and in my last year of university. It was a very strange time in Russia. It was not the USSR, but it was not the new Russia. Nobody knew what to do, so we played bridge.”



The Russians are a bit mysterious and seem to prefer their own company. That makes me curious, so I decide to ask the one who scares me the least for an interview. Tatiana Ponomareva is one head taller than myself (I am about the average size of a female viking), however up close her mild eyes make my fear vanish. I promise her to speak slowly and correct her English. It is much better than she realises with her characteristic Russian accent.

“In 1972 bridge was forbidden by the central committee of the communist party. So if you played bridge, they would bring you to the police. So there was no bridge. When the USSR was broken up, bridge appeared from zero. In the USSR every child can play chess. Nobody can play bridge. Now the situation is similar because the tradition is staying. A lot of children can play chess, want to play chess. Cards have a bad reputation. The people who play cards are criminals.”

What was it like growing up in the USSR?

“When you are a child it is all normal for you. It is very funny. USSR was broken when I was in university. I started in 1985. When I finished in 1990, it was a different country. Not so much the country in itself, but in the minds of the people with whom I studied. Their words and their minds changed. It was very strange. In the first year of university they really believed in the communist ideology. After 5 years – nothing.” She laughs.

“They could think, they could believe in anything. They were happy. In the USSR there was only jobs for the government. All was broken and new was not grown. When you finished now there were no government jobs, it was a strange time, because you didn’t know what to do. When you cannot decide what to do, you have a lot of time and you play bridge.”

Tatiana learned bridge from her husband at the age of 22.

“The first two years when we were very bad players, we played 12 hours a day. We didn’t work, we had a lot of time to play bridge and we liked it. Then Russia needed to make some women’s team for the championships in 1996 in Rhodes. At that time we didn’t have a lot of good women playing in Russia, so we were only five and tried to find a 6th player for every championship. For 5-6 years we changed our partnerships a lot of times. I began to play with Victoria. Every year we decided to play, then to stop, then play again, then stop. The last time we decided that if we were not satisfied after a year, instead of stopping we would try to play one more year. That was 11 years ago.”

In 2004 Tatiana and Victoria Gromova won the World Teams Olympiad with the Russian Women’s team.

How was that for you?

She sighs. “It was very...surprising. We went to Istanbul to ... In the Russian bridge site there was some vote: ‘What do you think about the result of the Women team and open team?’ 90 % thought we wouldn’t qualify from the group. I think we thought the same. At the time it wasn’t the strongest team. I don’t know what happened. Maybe some stars from the sky. We had a very great atmosphere in the team. Nobody tried to... prove that they were the best pair of the team. They tried to play their best. One pair played less than others, and they had no problem with that.”

What is your partnership with Victoria Gromova like?

“Hm. I don’t know what to answer in English. We know each other a lot, good things, bad things. We can cry or... usually we are good friends, but sometimes you can have some trouble in your relationship. But we know it is a good partnership and try to improve it. If we have some problems and we don’t know who is right, we have a referee. It is Andrey (Gromov, Victoria’s husband, ed.). He tries to be honest. It is all about bridge, so he can be honest. We play a very similar system. It is why it is easy for us to play mixed. If we have some questions or bridge problems, we have Andrey.”

Children and Bridge

After finishing her math studies, Tatiana started working for a financial law firm. Both her and her husband worked and played bridge and when Tatiana was 26, they had her first child. Still she went to all international tournaments from 1996 till today besides in 1997, when her son was two months old.

Now her children are 19 and 17 and neither of them play bridge.

“My children don’t play bridge and don’t want to play. I think maybe the reason is because the mother always goes some place to play bridge and they stay at home, so for them bridge is not a good thing. I think it is not bad, because they finish school and they need to go to the university to get some profession. If you want to play bridge, you need a lot of time to spend on bridge. First they get a profession and if they want to, they will play.”

When the children were small her mother helped looking after them while Tatiana was away, and when they were about 8-10 years old, their father could take care of them by himself.

“Maybe it was not good for my children. I don’t know. I think if children see their parents try to do the thing they like, they will also do the things they like. Not only do things because of duty, but freedom to do what you like.”

Bridge in the USSR

When bridge was forbidden in the USSR, people played bridge in their own flats. Sometimes their neighbours reported the illegal activities to the police.

“It was not some great punishment, but they needed to spend time reading newspapers, some moral punishment, not money. In the USSR the police always write to your work and it could be bad, that is why people played secretly.”

When bridge was allowed after the fall of the USSR-regime, there were some articles about bridge in a popular scientific magazine.

“It was a very popular magazine. It appealed to a lot of young people at the time in different universities. Almost all from our open team appeared after. When your friends in university play bridge, you become interested and want to play too. In Russia we have a lot of tournament players, we have very few social players. They are only interested in getting points, getting results. But is it tradition. There is no tradition to play bridge at home with the children and parents.”

I gain a sudden understanding of the Russian bridge mentality. For them it is only about bridge. They do not come to the tournaments to socialize, since for them bridge is not a social activity.

“When you are in the championship, you try to think about this. If you spend your energy trying to speak English, it takes energy from bridge. When you speak with the Russians, most of the time we speak about bridge. Very rarely we speak about something else. Our men speak about football, but only because of the world cup.”

“I usually communicate only with my own people. When I am in America I can understand people when they speak not so fast. When they tell some story slowly I understand everything. But then they start to speak faster and faster, and I understand nothing. I never know the end of

their story.”

When Tatiana started to play in the States, she was shocked and did not understand the American bridge mentality, which was so different from the Russian. All the players were so much older than in Russia since the game was forbidden from 1972 till 1990.

“I was a little bit afraid, I felt myself in the house of... old people.” She is looking for the word retirement home. “I was not comfortable about this. But then I understood. They are very happy people, they play bridge, they converse with each other, they are interested in everything. It is very good. In Russia our old people sit at home and watch TV. Their old people... I think they are happy. Not about bridge, but with the interaction with other people. I think it is very good. If I were an old person, I would want to be in America. To be part of a great community and play bridge.”

Despite being only 45 years old, Tatiana stopped working one year ago. Not because of bridge, but because she has the opportunity not to work. After some tough years with small children and both parents working in the chaotic time after the crash of the USSR, she wants to relax and enjoy life.

How did you feel in the years after the USSR fell?

“Happy at the time, not because it was good in Russia, but when you are young, all of the time is happy. The people were happy about the freedom. During the USSR there was a lot of political conversation, but in the kitchen. You could not speak about this loud, only secretly with your friends. After the USSR you can speak about it anywhere you want. On the street, the people were happy. They received freedom. Some young people didn’t have money, they had problems, but they received freedom. They were more happy with freedom than with money at that time.”

What is your worst memory from the USSR time?

“Usually I never have some worst memory, because if I have some worst moment I try to forget about this, I don’t want to remember the worst, because I want to be happy and forget all the worst in my life.”

Which has been the best moment of your life?

“I read about this question,” she says. (I make a mental note to renew my questions.) She thinks a bit. “I don’t know. I can remember a lot of moments, but it is very difficult to choose one of them.” Suddenly she speaks with conviction. “I think it will be later. It has not happened yet.”

For the video of the interview:



Open Round 6

By Ron Tacchi



Monaco v. Croatia



At the start of Day 3 in Group A of the Open Teams Croatia were lying thirteenth but only 10 VPs off the important ninth place. A giant-killing act against one of the favourites, Monaco, would do a lot of good to their cause. They were represented by Jurica Caric and Dubravko Diklic in the Open Room and Branko Refi and Goran Borekovic in the Closed Room, whilst opposing them in the Open Room were Pierre Zimmermann and Franck Multon and in the Open Room were 'Fantunes' (Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes for the three people who are not cognisant of their 'handle').

Unfortunately there were some gremlins in the system this morning and for the first three boards in the Open Room not all information was available.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 10 ♥ A 10 4 3 ♦ J 9 6 4 ♣ J 10 6 4	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 9 8 6 5 4 ♥ J 8 7 6 ♦ K ♣ A 2	♠ K J 7 3 2 ♥ 2 ♦ A 10 8 5 ♣ K Q 8			
	N														
W		E													
	S														
	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>A</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>K Q 9 5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>Q 7 3 2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>9 7 5 3</td><td></td></tr> </table>		A		♥	K Q 9 5		♦	Q 7 3 2		♣	9 7 5 3			
	A														
♥	K Q 9 5														
♦	Q 7 3 2														
♣	9 7 5 3														

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Caric	Multon	Diklic
	2♣	All Pass	

The play records are somewhere in the ether but North drifted two down to record -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Fantoni	Borekovic	Nunes
	Pass	1♠	Double
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

The Fantunes system does not have a weak-two opening per se, their two-bids show an unbalanced hand with 10-13 points, so North passed. After 1♠ from East South doubled and North proposed a heart game but South decided his motley collection of cards not worth an acceptance. East chose the somewhat eclectic lead of the ♣8 and was probably surprised when it held the trick. He

switched to his singleton trump, which was won by the nine in dummy, West electing to duck. Declarer now cashed dummy's singleton ♠A and continued with a diamond towards his singleton king which was taken by East. He exited with a diamond to the queen in dummy. Declarer now tried the ♥K but the 4-1 trump split now meant that he was two light as West took his ace and continued diamonds. Thus the first board was a push.

In Group A there was only one plus score recorded by North/South and this was in the Slovakia v. Scotland encounter where Scotland had the unfortunate happenstance to be playing Two Spades doubled in both rooms, and failing in both rooms.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A 10 8 5 2 ♥ A Q 10 7 ♦ 7 ♣ Q 7 3	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q J 9 7 ♥ K 3 ♦ Q 8 6 ♣ K 6 5 4	♠ K ♥ J 6 5 4 2 ♦ 10 9 5 3 ♣ A 9 2			
	N														
W		E													
	S														
	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>6 4 3</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>9 8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>A K J 4 2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>J 10 8</td><td></td></tr> </table>		6 4 3		♥	9 8		♦	A K J 4 2		♣	J 10 8			
	6 4 3														
♥	9 8														
♦	A K J 4 2														
♣	J 10 8														

The bidding was identical in both rooms

Both Rooms

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Caric	Multon	Diklic
Refi	Fantoni	Borekovic	Nunes
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

If the defence gives nothing away then whilst it is possible for West to make his contract it will need extremely accurate card-reading. The Croatian declarer received the lead of a small diamond to the king and ♣J came back, taken by dummy's ace, and the heart taken and lost with North getting off lead with another trump. The ♠K was cashed and a diamond ruffed in hand. Declarer now took his ♠A, ruffed a spade and led towards his ♣Q and was one off for -50. If he had ruffed another diamond and another spade he would have arrived at this ending:

♠ –
♥ –
♦ –
♣ K 6 5

♠ 10
♥ –
♦ –
♣ Q 7

N
W E
S

♠ –
♥ J
♦ 10
♣ 9

♠ –
♥ –
♦ A
♣ 10 8

The lead of dummy's ♥J squeezes South in an amusing way, when he, perforce, parts with a club the lead of the nine to the ten queen and king promotes the seven!! Even looking at deal with all four hands showing it was not immediately evident to me that the ♣7 would play such an important role in the hand. What, I hear you ask, would happen if the six and seven of clubs were exchanged, well the contract is still theoretically makeable but is in the realm of a double dummy problem – for a start you must not take the heart finesse and I don't believe you could play like that single dummy.

The play record for the Open Room is not available but Pierre Zimmermann made his contract. I don't know whether it was brilliance or a defensive error, I am going to suggest it was a brilliance, and now Monaco had 10 IMPs.

Board 3 was a push as both teams reached a slam that depended on a 3-2 split in spades, but it was not to be and so the board was a push.

Board 4 is a complete mystery to me. It was played in INT by East in both rooms in the Closed it was two off. In the Open North is about to lead to take four of the last five tricks when East claims a total of seven tricks, but as yet there has not been a score adjustment.



Goran Borekovic, Croatia

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ A 7 3
♥ A K Q 6
♦ K Q J 7
♣ 5 2

♠ K Q 9 2
♥ J 9 3
♦ A 9 8 6 4
♣ 8

N
W E
S

♠ J 4
♥ 10 5 4
♦ 3 2
♣ A K Q 9 7 3

♠ 10 8 6 5
♥ 8 7 2
♦ 10 5
♣ J 10 6 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Caric	Multon	Diklic
	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	3♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
All Pass			

Croatia got too high in search of a slam but managed to put on the brakes to stop in 5NT, which would have been fine if the clubs had split. But this was not a day when things were going Croatia's way and of course the defence got off to a flying start with a spade lead after Zimmermann's double.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Fantoni	Borekovic	Nunes
	1♣*	Pass	1♠*
2♦	2NT	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1♠ 0-11 no four-card major

Here Fantunes stopped peacefully in 3NT and made two overtricks after the diamond lead. Monaco now led 31-0. Board 6 was a routine 3NT push.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A 10 2
♥ Q 8 3 2
♦ A 10 9 6
♣ 8 4

♠ 8 4 3
♥ J 10
♦ K 5
♣ Q 10 7 6 3 2

N
W E
S

♠ J 7 6
♥ A K 9 6
♦ Q J 8 3 2
♣ 5

♠ K Q 9 5
♥ 7 5 4
♦ 7 4
♣ A K J 9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Caric	Multon	Diklic
Pass	1♥	Dble	1♦
3♣	3♦	Pass	2♥
4♣	All Pass		Pass

North/South seemed to go very quietly here, especially when a double fit was known. Zimmermann lost the obvious four red tricks and the ace of spades for -200

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Fantoni	Borekovic	Nunes
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♥

Nunes used his 2♦ bid showing 10-13 and at least five diamonds and when the heart fit was discovered, they bid the easy game for another 10 IMPs to Monaco.

On Board 8 Croatia pushed too hard to 3NT which was always down one, whereas Monaco stopped in INT and gained another 5 IMPs

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ Q 8 7 6 3	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> </table>	N	W	S	E	♠ A 5
N						
W						
S						
E						
♥ J 6 2	♥ K Q 8 5 3					
♦ Q 5 2	♦ K 7 4					
♣ J 2	♣ K 7 6					
	♠ 10 4 2					
	♥ A 9					
	♦ 10 8 6 3					
	♣ 10 9 8 3					

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Caric	Multon	Diklic
	INT	All Pass	



Kiril Marinovski, Croatia

Multon led the ♥5 to the nine, jack and seven. and when Zimmermann switched to a spade declarer guessed correctly putting in the jack and now the contract was secure for +90 to Croatia.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Fantoni	Borekovic	Nunes
Pass	1♣*	1♥	Pass
2♥	Dble	Pass	INT
	All Pass		

After a club lead declarer easily ruffed a club in dummy coming to eight tricks by way of a club, a club ruff, four trumps, the spade ace and a diamond for +110 and the first 5 IMPs to Croatia.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ 6	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> </table>	N	W	S	E	♠ K 7 5 3
N						
W						
S						
E						
♥ K J 9 8 3	♥ Q 10 7					
♦ K J 4	♦ 10 3					
♣ Q 9 5 2	♣ 10 7 6 3					
	♠ 10 9 2					
	♥ 6 5 4 2					
	♦ Q 9 8 2					
	♣ A J					

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Caric	Multon	Diklic
1♥	Dble	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Pierre Zimmermann's light third hand opening paved the way to the best defence, viz. an opening heart lead. Declarer can get home by taking the elegant intra-finesse in the diamond suit - leading small towards the eight and later leading the queen off dummy pinning East's ten. But declarer played small towards the queen and so lost two diamond tricks and lost trump control and so was one off.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Fantoni	Borekovic	Nunes
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
Pass	3♣*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♦

Here declarer had a much easier ride. East elected to lead the ♦10 thus solving all declarer's problems in the diamond suit plus avoiding losing a tempo and with it trump control. Monaco gained another 12 IMPs to now lead 58-5.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ A 8		♠ J 10 7			
♥ Q 9		♥ A 10 8 5 3			
♦ K Q 10 8		♦ 5 3 2			
♣ K 10 6 4 2		♣ Q 5			
♠ K 5 2					
♥ J 7 6 4					
♦ A					
♣ A J 9 8 3					
	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	
N					
W E					
S					
♠ Q 9 6 4 3					
♥ K 2					
♦ J 9 7 6 4					
♣ 7					

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Caric	Multon	Diklic
1♣	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Multon led the ♣5, Zimmermann taking the ace, cashing the diamond ace and leading a heart to his partner's ace and ruffing the diamond return. He exited with a heart to dummy's king and declarer played ace of spades and a small spade to Zimmermann's now bare king. Declarer now had the rest of the tricks and his contract.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Fantoni	Borekovic	Nunes
1♣	1♦	1♥	1♠
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♦
3♥	Pass	Pass	4♦
All Pass			

Declarer could not avoid the loss of three aces and eventually the king of spades for one off and 4 IMPs to Croatia

Board 12 saw Croatia lose 6 IMPs as they pushed to 3NT which required a favourable club position. As mentioned previously, it was just not one of those days.

In the remaining four boards there was a 1 IMP overtrick for Croatia and three flat boards but they finished up losing 10-64: 0.48 IMPs-19.52 VPs to Monaco, who were now top of Group A.

You can replay all the deals from this match at:

[BBO Monaco v. Croatia O6](#)

Gremlins I – Bulletin 0

Yesterday we published a report on the match between Bulgaria and England which included this deal:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A K Q 8		♠ J 6 3			
♥ 10 8		♥ J 9 7			
♦ A Q 8 7 4		♦ K J 10 6			
♣ K 4		♣ J 9 2			
♠ 9 2					
♥ K 6 4 3					
♦ 5 3 2					
♣ 10 8 6 5					
	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	
N					
W E					
S					
♠ 10 7 5 4					
♥ A Q 5 2					
♦ 9					
♣ A Q 7 3					

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Bakhshi	Stefanov	Gold
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	4NT	All Pass	

Having been alerted by its author that information about the auction in the Closed Room was needed we were able to contact the players who provided the explanation:

- 1♣ Natural or any 12-14 bal V/15-17 bal NV
- 1♦ Natural, occasionally three cards
- 2♦ Checkback
- 2♥ Weak notrump with 4 hearts (might be 4-4 in the majors)

David Gold could have bid 2♠ to imply 3415 or 4414 but with such poor spades chose not to.

The contract was made easily enough when East continued the ♥J later in the play but losing only 630 gave Bulgaria 13 IMPs nevertheless.

This was the text that was supposed to appear in the article (it is correct in the internet version) but somehow the original appeared. Our apologies to David Gold & David Bakhshi who (as we suspected) knew exactly what they were doing.

Open Round 6

By Brian Senior



Hungary v. Bulgaria



At the end of Day Two, Bulgaria lay second in Open Group B while Hungary was one place behind in third. Clearly, then, this was a big match for both teams. Hungary picked up the first IMPs, for extra undertricks, on Board 1, but the first big swing came on the next deal and went to Bulgaria.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Karaivanov</i>	<i>Homonnay</i>	<i>Mihailov</i>	<i>Winkler</i>
<i>Lakatos</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Szilagy</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Both Easts liked their fifth trump, king of spades and side ace, enough to jump to game, and both Norths led a low diamond. Gabor Winkler and Vladimir Mihov both won the king and switched to a club honour. Now the two paths diverged.

Mihov led the ten of clubs to the queen, king and ace. Laszlo Szilagy cashed the king of spades, ruffed a diamond and threw a club loser on the ace of spades. Next he ruffed a spade before conceding a club to Mihov's jack. Szilagy ruffed the diamond return, ruffed a club and led a heart to the queen. When Julian Stefanov won the king and returned a heart to the ace, Szilagy was left with a diamond loser and was one down for -50.

Gabor Winkler switched to the jack of clubs and Georgi Mihailov did not cover with dummy's queen. He won the ace and cashed the spade king, ruffed a diamond and cashed the ace of spades, pitching a club from hand. Next came a spade ruff, a diamond ruff, and another spade. When Geza Homonnay followed to the fourth spade, Mihailov made a loser on loser play, discarding his last club rather than risk an over-ruff, and Winkler too threw a club. Homonnay led

the king of clubs, ruffed, and Mihailov took the losing heart finesse. On the club return he ruffed with the jack, crossed to the ace of hearts, and the even trump split meant that he could cash the ten of spades for his tenth trick; +420 and 10 IMPs to Bulgaria.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Karaivanov</i>	<i>Homonnay</i>	<i>Mihailov</i>	<i>Winkler</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Lakatos</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Szilagy</i>	<i>Mihov</i>
	2NT	Pass	6NT
Dble	All Pass		

While both auctions are entirely understandable, the final contract is a poor one in that, even if the clubs come in (or declarer can somehow divine to finesse the nine), it is still defeated by a spade lead.

Mihailov duly led a spade against Homonnay and now there was no way home. When declarer made the normal play of clubs from the top he was three down - he cashed only two clubs, getting the bad news, before switching his attention to diamonds. Kalin Karaivanov grabbed his ace and cashed three spades; -300.

The auction in the other room was short and sweet, and Peter Lakatos doubled. Was that for a spade lead, an extension of a popular agreement when the auction is 1NT - 3NT? Whatever their agreement, and I would have thought that to play in the same way as against the game contract makes sense, the double attracted a heart lead from Szilagy - perhaps they play the other popular method where double asks for the weaker major lead from partner?

The eight of hearts was won by declarer's ace and Stefanov continued with a club to dummy's queen, a diamond to the king and a second club for the ten and king. Lakatos threw a heart on this trick and his last heart when Stefanov continued by cashing the club ace. Seeing that he now had a dummy entry with the ten of hearts, Stefanov cleared the clubs and Lakatos discarded the nine of spades. That was an odd choice, as their agreement is high to discourage or show an odd number. A spade switch at this point would have meant down two, but Szilyagi instead led a diamond and that was down one for -200 and 3 IMPs to Bulgaria, who led by 13-6.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Karaivanov	Homonnay	Mihailov	Winkler
Pass	1♥	Dble	2♥
2NT	3♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Lakatos	Stefanov	Szilyagi	Mihov
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥
2♠	3♥	All Pass	

Seeing prospects of a double fit, which often allows game to be made on lower than normal combined values, Homonnay tried for game with 3♦ and Winkler accepted. Mihailov cashed the king of clubs and switched to the king of spades. Homonnay won the ace and drew trumps ending in dummy. A successful diamond finesse meant eleven tricks for +650.

In a slightly different auction, Stefanov did not try for game – he was facing a Precision 1♦ opening so had less reason to imagine that there was a double fit. His competitive 3♥ ended the auction and the identical defence of a top club followed by a switch to the king of spades meant the same eleven tricks, but this time for only 200, so 10 IMPs to Hungary. They led by 16-13 IMPs, but Bulgaria came back strongly and took over the match with a string of gains.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Karaivanov	Homonnay	Mihailov	Winkler
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Lakatos	Stefanov	Szilyagi	Mihov
1♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Lakatos promised only two clubs and the 2NT response was natural and forcing. Three Clubs checked for a major and the spade game was quickly reached. Mihov led his singleton trump round to the ten and, needing a tenth trick from somewhere, Szilyagi played the nine of hearts from hand. Stefanov won the king and returned the suit and he could ruff the fourth round. Though this was over-ruffed, there was no longer any prospect of a tenth trick and the contract was down one for -50.

The Bulgarians did not find the spade fit, instead reaching 3NT, which appears to have only eight tricks. However, there is an old saying in English, 'where there's eight, there's nine', and Karaivanov duly found a way home. Homonnay led the two of spades so Karaivanov cashed four of those then led the jack of hearts off the dummy, Winkler rising with the ace and returning a club. However, he had thrown



Peter Lakatos, Hungary

two clubs on the run of the spades, so the suit was no longer a threat to the contract. Karaivanov eventually established a heart as his ninth trick, so that was +400 and 10 IMPs to Bulgaria, back in the lead at 23-16.

On Board 9, both Norths declared INT and Stefanov made it while Homonnay was one down for 4 IMPs to Bulgaria, and on the next deal the two Norths were again at the helm, this time in 4♠.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Karaivanov	Homonnay	Mihailov	Winkler
		Pass	Pass
1♥	Dble	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Lakatos	Stefanov	Szilagy	Mihov
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	



Geza Homonnay, Hungary

Karaivanov opened in third seat and Homonnay showed his strong hand by doubling then introducing the spades. That was enough for Winkler, who raised him to game. Meanwhile, Stefanov opened a 16+ club, then showed the spades over the negative response. With a maximum for his 1♦ bid and three-card spade support, Mihov made the strongly invitational raise to 3♠ and Stefanov went on to game.

Mihailov led the queen of hearts to declarer's bare ace. Homonnay crossed to the ace of clubs to run the ten of spades, losing to the king. He was forced by the heart continuation, ruffed the third club and led a trump, getting the bad news. After cashing all the trumps, Homonnay led a diamond and ran it to the jack, but the defence had two more winners to cash for one down; -100.

Not having heard a heart bid from his partner, Szilagy guessed to lead the ten of diamonds. Not only did this not set up the force on declarer, it also helped to pick up the diamonds. Stefanov covered with the queen, winning the king with his ace. He crossed to dummy with the ace of clubs and passed the ten of spades, which was ducked. Now Stefanov took the club ruff before playing a second trump. Szilagy could win the spade and get a diamond ruff, but that was all; +620 and 12 IMPs to Bulgaria, up by 39-16.

Bulgaria picked up more IMPs over the next few boards to stretch the lead to 54-16, then finally came some good news for the Hungarians.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Karaivanov	Homonnay	Mihailov	Winkler
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Dble
2♠	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Lakatos	Stefanov	Szilagy	Mihov
			1♦
Dble	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Mihov's decision to open the South hand while Winkler did not mean that a Bulgarian opened a Precision 1♦ at both tables, just on different hands. Facing an opening bid, Stefanov's jump to 2NT promised both minors and, on hearing his partner bid clubs, he made a slam try. Not surprisingly, Mihov was not interested. At the other table, the 1♦ opening shut Homonnay's minor two-suiter out at his first turn but, when Winkler got involved with a take-out double, Homonnay first cuebid then jumped to 5♣, implying that he also held diamonds.

Playing the same contract from two different hands made all the difference, though Mihov could have guessed better and survived. Playing from the South seat, he received the ace of hearts lead followed by a diamond switch from Lakatos. Mihov went up with the ace and took the club finesse. Lakatos won the king and gave his partner a diamond ruff for one down and -100.

Homonnay was playing it as North in the other room. He received the lead of the singleton diamond to the queen and his ace. He had good reason to get it right from here, cashing the spade ace and crossing to the ace of clubs to discard his heart loser on the spade before playing a second round of trumps. That meant 12 tricks and 12 IMPs to Hungary, who needed them, and they closed to 28-54.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 ♥ K J 9 6 ♦ - ♣ A K J 10 9 6 4 3	<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ J 10 5 2 ♥ A 4 3 ♦ K Q 7 6 ♣ 7 2	♠ A K Q 7 6 4 ♥ 10 5 ♦ A 8 5 3 ♣ Q ♠ 8 3 ♥ Q 8 7 2 ♦ J 10 9 4 2 ♣ 8 5
N							
W							
E							
S							



Vladimir Mihov, Bulgaria

West	North	East	South
Karaivanov	Homonnay	Mihailov	Winkler
5♣	5♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Lakatos	Stefanov	Szilagy	Mihov
5♣	Dble	All Pass	

Both Wests went for the big pre-empt, not worrying about a possible heart fit when there was such a danger that, if one did exist, the opposition would get together in spades. What should North do? I think I prefer Stefanov's double to Homonnay's more committal 5♠ overcall, but neither was a success on this occasion.

Karaivanov doubled when 5♣ came back around, suggesting a good 5♣ opener including some defence, and Mihailov had no problem in knowing what to do. He led a club, Karaivanov winning and leading a second round, ruffed. Homonnay cashed two top spades then switched his attention to diamonds, playing ace and another. He had to lose two tricks in each red suit plus a trump so was four down for -800.

Stefanov's more flexible double worked out even more badly as Mihov did what is normal with a weak balanced hand and passed. Stefanov cashed a top spade and had to defend passively just to hold the contract to eleven tricks. When instead he switched to the ten of hearts, he picked up all four tricks in the suit for declarer, so there were 12 tricks in all for +950 and 4 IMPs to Hungary.

Bulgaria won the match by 54-32 IMPs, or 15.38-4.62 VPs.

You can replay all the deals from this match at:
[BBO Hungary v Bulgaria 06](#)

CROATIAN TRAVEL TIP

THE LUNGOMARE SEAFRONT PROMENADE

Between lush parks and magnificent villas on the one side, and foaming waves on the other, lies the Lungomare, one of the best-known attractions of the Opatija Riviera. This twelve-kilometre-long, hundred-year-old seafront promenade runs along the coast from Volosko past Opatija all the way to Lovran. Shaded by laurel and holm oak, the Lungomare offers the perfect opportunity to become acquainted with the local history or see first-hand some of the cultural monuments, such as the birthplace of the scientist Andrija Mohorovičić in Volosko or the Girl with the Seagull statue, a symbol of Opatija

Suicide is Painful

By Mark Horton

The classic television series MASH featured a theme tune entitled Suicide is Painless. The lyrics include 'The game of life is hard to play, I'm gonna lose it anyway, the losing card I'll someday lay. So this is all I have to say'.

On this deal from Round 7 of the Open Series, England's David Gold produced a spectacular defence that demonstrated in brilliant fashion that suicide can be very painful indeed:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ K Q 5 ♥ A J ♦ K 5 ♣ K Q 9 7 6 5</p>	<p>♠ A J 4 2 ♥ Q 6 5 4 3 ♦ A 7 ♣ 8 3</p>	<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; background-color: #008000; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N <hr style="width: 100%;"/> W <hr style="width: 100%;"/> S <hr style="width: 100%;"/> E </div>	<p>♠ 7 6 ♥ K 10 8 7 2 ♦ 6 2 ♣ A J 10 2</p>
	<p>♠ 10 9 8 3 ♥ 9 ♦ Q J 10 9 8 4 3 ♣ 4</p>		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Robson</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Herbst</i>
3NT	4♦	4♥	3♦
Dble	All Pass		5♦

3NT would have made in comfort, so North did well to bid 4♦. When East bid 4♥ he must have been both delighted and optimistic (although if West goes back to 4NT that too is unbeatable) but South, with his extreme distribution, took the save.

West led the king of clubs (with declarer having no quick entry leading a top spade results in two down) and when it held he switched to the five of diamonds. Declarer won in hand, played the ten of spades to the king and ace, cashed the ace of diamonds and forced out the queen of spades, claiming one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
Dble	Pass	4♥	4♦
			All Pass

Had South led the queen of diamonds 4♥ would have easily been defeated (indeed it should go two down) but not unreasonably South selected the four of clubs, apparently putting declarer in with a shout.

He won with the ace, crossed to the ace of hearts and

seeing South's nine, played the jack, overtaking it with the king. Well done by declarer, and when South discarded the three of diamonds declarer continued with the ten of hearts, South pitching another diamond and dummy the five of clubs. If Gold had taken the queen declarer would have been in clover, but he correctly ducked. When declarer continued with the eight of hearts South played the queen of diamonds. Dummy was now coming under pressure as declarer threw the five of spades. Gold, realizing he could not afford to duck, took this and calmly returned his remaining trump.

Declarer could win, but what could he now spare from dummy?

With a spade or a diamond ruled out it could only be a second club and with that discard declarer's tenth trick had vanished into thin air. Declarer still had some hopes; he ran his three remaining club winners and now needed to establish a diamond trick. If the suit was 7-2 with the ace right, then the defenders could simply duck the first diamond and run the suit when in with the spade ace. If it was 8-1 Gold would have taken a diamond ruff earlier, so declarer played for his only legitimate chance, assuming perfect defence thus far, when he ducked the first diamond, playing North for the bare diamond ace. Alas, that was not the case, and another +100 for England meant 5 IMPs for them.

Declarer had become the victim of a suicide squeeze.

The vast majority of squeezes operate on the principle that declarer's and dummy's hands can, between them, hold more cards with the potential to take extra tricks than a single defender's hand can protect or guard. It is always elegant, (but highly infrequent due to the difficulty of the defenders coordinating their holdings and retaining communications, when both defenders can cooperate to squeeze declarer or dummy in the same fashion. Here, remarkably, declarer was effectively squeezed by just one defender.

The unanimous choice of opening lead against 4♥ was the singleton club. When that happened 4♥ was defeated six times out of seven in the Open series and five times out of seven in the Seniors. It was allowed to make at all five tables where it was attempted in the Women's Series.

Have a look at our post match interviews:



Andrew Robson, England



Alon Birman, Israel

The Numbers Game

Yesterday Simon Cochemé posed the following questions:

- A) Magellan, Tasman and Armstrong
- B) Nobel, Marconi and Baird
- C) Chaucer, Handel and Voltaire
- D) And what do all the above nine names have in common ... something to do with bridge?

Now he reveals all:

The WBF assembled a group of mathematicians to come up with a new Victory Point scale. The result, with two decimal points, has not been well received in some quarters, so the WBF have been thinking of ways to make it more acceptable to players and journalists, and the scores more memorable. They invited some historians, scientists and cultural experts to study the list and come up with some catchy names for some of the scores. So far it has been decided that:

10.00 will be known as an Eriksson, since Leif Eriksson discovered North America in 1000. 13.75 is a Westfriesse, where the sea wall broke and northern Netherland was flooded. 13.97 is a Chaucer, to commemorate the first telling of the Canterbury Tales.

14.60 is a Basle (the University of Basle was founded in 1460).

15.19 is a Magellan (he set off in that year to circumnavigate the globe).

16.09 is a Quebec, the year that the French colony was established there.

16.26 is a Manhattan, celebrating Peter Minuit's purchase of Manhattan for 60 guilders' worth of trinkets.

16.42 is a Tasman, named after the Dutchman's discovery of New Zealand in that year.

17.17 is a Handel, in honour of the first performance of his Water Music.

17.59 is a Voltaire; Candide was published in 1759.

18.66 is a Nobel; that is the year that Alfred Nobel invented dynamite.

18.77 is a Wimbledon, the first year of the tennis championships

19.07 is a Marconi, for the first transatlantic wireless transmission.

19.16 is an Einstein, Relatively speaking.

19.25 is a Baird, after John Logie Baird, inventor of the television.

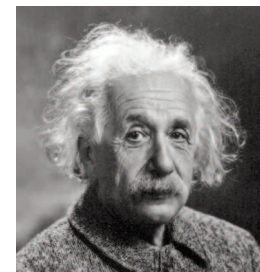
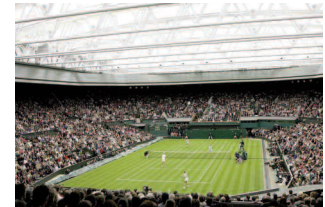
19.43 is a Casablanca, in recognition of the conference.

19.69 is the year of the Armstrong-Aldrin moon landing.

19.93 is a Maastricht, although the Czechs might prefer it to be known as a Havel.

and

20.00 is now known as a Mad Cow.



Other names, such as Majorca (12.29), Otranto (14.80), Cromwell (16.58), Nelson (17.97), Darwin (18.33), YMCA (18.44), Sherlock Holmes (18.87), Cyrano (18.97) and Apple (19.77) are still being considered by the WBF sub-committee. Please let us know if you have any dates that are special to your country and are part of the I6 board VP scale. It is hoped that a complete list of dates and their names will be published on the WBF web-site before the end of the year.

The idea is already proving popular with our VuGraph commentators, who have studied the list and are using the new names to inform their grateful audience. (And if you believe that, one of them has a bridge in Brooklyn he will be prepared to sell you for a very moderate price.)

RESULTS

WOMEN

Women R9

Match		IMPs		VPs	
21	NETHERL. NORWAY	48	27	15.19	4.81
22	LEBANON POLAND	22	80	0.15	19.85
23	ITALY ROMANIA	12	60	1.03	18.97
24	ISRAEL RUSSIA	32	73	1.79	18.21
25	IRELAND SCOTLAND	44	43	10.31	9.69
26	GREECE SERBIA	55	12	18.44	1.56
27	GERMANY SPAIN	33	28	11.48	8.52
28	FRANCE SWEDEN	42	28	13.75	6.25
29	ESTONIA TURKEY	33	34	9.69	10.31
30	ENGLAND AUSTRIA	55	10	18.66	1.34
31	DENMARK BULGARIA	44	22	15.38	4.62
32	CROATIA BYE			12.00	

Women R10

Match		IMPs		VPs	
21	SWEDEN TURKEY	46	6	18.09	1.91
22	SPAIN AUSTRIA	36	12	15.74	4.26
23	SERBIA BULGARIA	23	30	7.97	12.03
24	SCOTLAND CROATIA	34	46	6.72	13.28
25	RUSSIA DENMARK	24	20	11.20	8.80
26	ROMANIA ENGLAND	41	19	15.38	4.62
27	POLAND ESTONIA	12	49	2.28	17.72
28	NORWAY FRANCE	17	80	0.00	20.00
29	NETHERL. GERMANY	37	15	15.38	4.62
30	LEBANON GREECE	30	27	10.91	9.09
31	ITALY IRELAND	22	38	5.82	14.18
32	ISRAEL BYE			12.00	

Women R11

Match		IMPs		VPs	
21	ISRAEL ITALY	32	36	8.80	11.20
22	IRELAND LEBANON	49	12	17.72	2.28
23	GREECE NETHERLANDS	28	43	6.03	13.97
24	GERMANY NORWAY	29	41	6.72	13.28
25	FRANCE POLAND	18	36	5.40	14.60
26	ESTONIA ROMANIA	32	49	5.61	14.39
27	ENGLAND RUSSIA	46	31	13.97	6.03
28	DENMARK SCOTLAND	32	48	5.82	14.18
29	CROATIA SERBIA	38	34	11.20	8.80
30	BULGARIA SPAIN	40	24	14.18	5.82
31	AUSTRIA SWEDEN	18	63	1.34	18.66
32	TURKEY BYE			12.00	

SENIORS

Seniors R10

Match		IMPs		VPs	
1	POLAND IRELAND	28	57	3.42	16.58
2	ENGLAND NORWAY	43	27	14.18	5.82
3	AUSTRIA DENMARK	12	45	2.83	17.17
4	HUNGARY BULGARIA	48	36	13.28	6.72
5	NETHERL. BELGIUM	11	65	0.48	19.52
6	FRANCE ISRAEL	20	43	4.44	15.56
7	SWEDEN ESTONIA	40	31	12.55	7.45
8	CROATIA TURKEY	44	37	12.03	7.97
9	ITALY FINLAND	25	52	3.74	16.26
10	PORTUGAL ROMANIA	38	8	16.73	3.27
11	GERMANY SERBIA	35	35	10.00	10.00
12	SPAIN SLOVENIA	37	52	6.03	13.97
13	SCOTLAND WALES	41	43	9.39	10.61

Seniors R11

Match		IMPs		VPs	
1	POLAND DENMARK	32	34	9.39	10.61
2	ENGLAND BELGIUM	19	36	5.61	14.39
3	IRELAND HUNGARY	19	35	5.82	14.18
4	NORWAY NETHERLANDS	64	13	19.25	0.75
5	AUSTRIA BULGARIA	28	19	12.55	7.45
6	SWEDEN ISRAEL	44	8	17.59	2.41
7	FRANCE FINLAND	55	24	16.88	3.12
8	CROATIA SPAIN	25	18	12.03	7.97
9	ESTONIA GERMANY	14	35	4.81	15.19
10	PORTUGAL SERBIA	33	19	13.75	6.25
11	TURKEY SLOVENIA	47	30	14.39	5.61
12	SCOTLAND ROMANIA	33	26	12.03	7.97
13	ITALY WALES	24	40	5.82	14.18

Seniors R12

Match		IMPs		VPs	
1	POLAND BELGIUM	12	44	2.97	17.03
2	NORWAY DENMARK	66	33	17.17	2.83
3	ENGLAND BULGARIA	42	51	7.45	12.55
4	HUNGARY SWEDEN	52	35	14.39	5.61
5	IRELAND PORTUGAL	46	21	15.92	4.08
6	AUSTRIA FRANCE	41	23	14.60	5.40
7	CROATIA ISRAEL	38	45	7.97	12.03
8	TURKEY GERMANY	58	27	16.88	3.12
9	SCOTLAND FINLAND	21	36	6.03	13.97
10	NETHERL. WALES	40	35	11.48	8.52
11	SPAIN ROMANIA	29	52	4.44	15.56
12	ITALY SERBIA	50	60	7.20	12.80
13	ESTONIA SLOVENIA	39	35	11.20	8.80

RESULTS

OPEN

Open A R9

Match		IMPs		VPs	
1	FRANCE ESTONIA	17	18	9.69	10.31
2	NORWAY IRELAND	39	51	6.72	13.28
3	ICELAND PORTUGAL	36	30	11.76	8.24
4	SWEDEN GREECE	48	12	17.59	2.41
5	RUSSIA AUSTRIA	29	18	11.04	6.96
6	GERMANY FINLAND	32	33	9.69	10.31
7	MONACO SPAIN	58	28	16.73	3.27
8	SCOTLAND CROATIA	22	52	3.27	16.73
9	SLOVAKIA SLOVENIA	39	31	12.29	7.71

Open B R9

Match		IMPs		VPs	
11	FAROE ISL. ITALY	54	33	15.19	4.81
12	SERBIA NETHERLANDS	23	53	3.27	16.73
13	LITHUANIA BULGARIA	39	33	11.76	8.24
14	ROMANIA POLAND	26	15	13.04	6.96
15	BELGIUM ISRAEL	56	26	16.73	3.27
16	WALES ENGLAND	37	23	13.75	6.25
17	HUNGARY TURKEY	32	41	7.45	12.55
18	SWITZERL. DENMARK	28	28	10.00	10.00
19	LATVIA BOSNIA H.	50	19	16.88	3.12

Open A R10

Match		IMPs		VPs	
1	MONACO GERMANY	18	26	7.71	12.29
2	SCOTLAND RUSSIA	17	49	2.97	17.03
3	SLOVAKIA SWEDEN	17	47	3.27	16.73
4	CROATIA ICELAND	23	44	4.81	15.19
5	SPAIN NORWAY	27	17	12.80	7.20
6	FINLAND FRANCE	19	11	12.29	7.71
7	AUSTRIA ESTONIA	20	36	5.82	14.18
8	GREECE IRELAND	36	29	12.03	7.97
9	SLOVENIA PORTUGAL	28	47	5.20	14.80

Open B R10

Match		IMPs		VPs	
11	ITALY NETHERL.	18	21	9.09	10.91
12	FAROE ISL. BULGARIA	12	49	2.28	17.72
13	SERBIA POLAND	55	28	16.26	3.74
14	LITHUANIA ISRAEL	26	43	5.61	14.39
15	ROMANIA ENGLAND	15	67	0.66	19.34
16	BELGIUM TURKEY	29	37	7.71	12.29
17	WALES DENMARK	5	59	0.48	19.52
18	HUNGARY LATVIA	21	39	5.40	14.60
19	BOSNIA H. SWITZERL.	24	36	6.72	13.28

Open A R11

Match		IMPs		VPs	
1	ESTONIA IRELAND	56	21	17.45	2.55
2	FRANCE PORTUGAL	37	21	14.18	5.82
3	NORWAY GREECE	38	15	15.56	4.44
4	ICELAND AUSTRIA	32	45	6.48	13.52
5	SWEDEN FINLAND	44	15	16.58	3.42
6	RUSSIA SPAIN	52	40	13.28	6.72
7	GERMANY CROATIA	52	38	13.75	6.25
8	MONACO SLOVAKIA	60	28	17.03	2.97
9	SCOTLAND SLOVENIA	16	75	0.07	19.93

Open B R11

Match		IMPs		VPs	
11	NETHERL. BULGARIA	56	33	15.56	4.44
12	ITALY POLAND	18	78	0.00	20.00
13	FAROE ISL. ISRAEL	31	37	8.24	11.76
14	SERBIA ENGLAND	6	67	0.00	20.00
15	LITHUANIA TURKEY	46	55	7.45	12.55
16	ROMANIA DENMARK	20	23	9.09	10.91
17	BELGIUM LATVIA	24	40	5.82	14.18
18	WALES SWITZERLAND	5	48	1.56	18.44
19	HUNGARY BOSNIA H.	93	14	20.00	0.00

DEALING MACHINES

The Duplimates used here are sold out, but you can pre-order the new Duplimate machines to be used at the World Championships for EUR 1.999,- plus EUR 40,- for shipping within the EU.

Please see the Jannersten book stall on the 1st floor for more information.



14TH Red Bull WORLD BRIDGE SERIES

14TH Red Bull WORLD BRIDGE SERIES
2014红牛世界桥牌锦标赛

For more information about the 14th World Bridge Series ,please go to
www.worldbridge.org or www.2014wbsc.com

Date:	Oct 10th-25th, 2014	Venues:	Sanya MGM Grand Hotel The Sheraton Sanya Resort
		CHINA SANYA	

Provisional Programme for 2014 World Bridge Series, Sanya

- a) The exact format and timing of the day-to-day schedule will be published nearer the time when numbers are known
b) For all pairs events, players will participate throughout the event
c) It is anticipated that play will start daily at 10.00 am and end at approximately 19.30 / 20.00 hours

Day 1 Friday 10 October	Registration Desk Open Official Meetings Opening Ceremony followed by a buffet	Day 2 Saturday 11 October	Mixed Teams - Qualification Swiss	Day 3 Sunday 12 October	Mixed Teams - Qualification Swiss
Day 4 Monday 13 October	Mixed Teams - Knock-Out Mixed Pairs	Day 5 Tuesday 14 October	Mixed Teams - Knock - Out Mixed Pairs	Day 6 Wednesday 15 October	Mixed Teams - Knock-Out Mixed Pairs <i>Awards Ceremony - Mixed Teams</i>
Day 7 Thursday 16 October	Mixed Pairs	Day 8 Friday 17 October	Mixed Pairs <i>Awards Ceremony Mixed Pairs Mixed Teams & Pairs Closing Cocktail</i>	Day 9 Saturday 18 October	Rosenblum, McConnell, Rand Teams - Qualification Swiss
Day 10 Sunday 19 October	Rosenblum, McConnell, Rand Teams - Qualification Swiss	Day 11 Monday 20 October	Rosenblum, McConnell, Rand Teams - Qualification Repechage - Knock-Out	Day 12 Tuesday 21 October	Rosenblum, McConnell, Rand Teams - Knock-Out Open, Women's & Senior Pairs
Day 13 Wednesday 22 October	Rosenblum, McConnell, Rand Teams - Knock-Out Open, Women's & Senior Pairs	Day 14 Thursday 23 October	Rosenblum, McConnell, Rand Teams - Knock-Out Open, Women's & Senior Pairs <i>Awards Ceremony - Rosenblum, McConnell & Rand Teams</i>	Day 15 Friday 24 October	Open, Women's & Senior Pairs
Day 16 Saturday 25 October	Open, Women's & Senior Pairs <i>Awards Ceremony - Open, Women's & Senior Pairs Closing Ceremony followed by a cocktail</i>				

Sanya Tourism
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In cooperation with: Chinese Contract Bridge Association • Sanya Municipal Government • Beijing Lianzhong Co., Ltd.

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