



52nd EUROPEAN BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPATIJA, CROATIA

JUNE 21st - JULY 1st, 2014

Daily Bulletin

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Friday, 27th June 2014

ALMOST ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT



A view from a Balcony

With the teams in the Open and Women's Championships missing in action, attention was focused on the Seniors, with the top ten teams starting out in a Round Robin that will determine the medal winners and the countries who will represent Europe in next year's d'Orsi Trophy.

After three matches the race to Chennai is led by Poland, Austria and Norway.

!!!! Most Important Information !!!!

The **Prize Giving** and **Closing Ceremony** for the Seniors Teams will be held tomorrow, 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

Monaco v Norway (O)	BBO 1*
Russia v Sweden (O)	BBO 2
Germany v Iceland (O)	BBO 3
Denmark v Latvia (O)	BBO 4
France v England (W)	BBO 5

14.30

The five matches will be announced later

17.20

The five matches will be announced later

*BBO 1 = VuGraph

Jamnica



KVARNER
Diversity is beautiful



REMISENS
HOTELS & VILLAS

170⁰ YEARS OF TOURISM
GODINA TURIZMA
OPATIJA

MILENIJ HOTELI
OPATIJA

OPEN

○ 12 Group A 10.30

1	RUSSIA	SWEDEN
2	GERMANY	ICELAND
3	MONACO	NORWAY
4	SCOTLAND	FRANCE
5	SLOVAKIA	ESTONIA
6	CROATIA	IRELAND
7	SPAIN	PORTUGAL
8	FINLAND	GREECE
9	SLOVENIA	AUSTRIA

○ 12 Group B 10.30

11	DENMARK	LATVIA
12	TURKEY	SWITZERLAND
13	ENGLAND	HUNGARY
14	ISRAEL	WALES
15	POLAND	BELGIUM
16	BULGARIA	ROMANIA
17	NETHERLANDS	LITHUANIA
18	ITALY	SERBIA
19	BOSNIA H.	FAROE ISLANDS

○ 13 Group A 14.30

1	SWEDEN	ICELAND
2	RUSSIA	NORWAY
3	GERMANY	FRANCE
4	MONACO	ESTONIA
5	SCOTLAND	IRELAND
6	SLOVAKIA	PORTUGAL
7	CROATIA	GREECE
8	SPAIN	AUSTRIA
9	FINLAND	SLOVENIA

○ 13 Group B 14.30

11	BULGARIA	POLAND
12	NETHERLANDS	ISRAEL
13	ITALY	ENGLAND
14	FAROE ISLANDS	TURKEY
15	SERBIA	DENMARK
16	LITHUANIA	LATVIA
17	ROMANIA	SWITZERLAND
18	BELGIUM	HUNGARY
19	WALES	BOSNIA H.



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.



○ 14 Group A 17.20

1	GERMANY	RUSSIA
2	MONACO	SWEDEN
3	SCOTLAND	ICELAND
4	SLOVAKIA	NORWAY
5	CROATIA	FRANCE
6	SPAIN	ESTONIA
7	FINLAND	IRELAND
8	AUSTRIA	PORTUGAL
9	SLOVENIA	GREECE

○ 14 Group B 17.20

11	BELGIUM	ROMANIA
12	WALES	LITHUANIA
13	HUNGARY	SERBIA
14	SWITZERLAND	FAROE ISLANDS
15	LATVIA	ITALY
16	DENMARK	NETHERLANDS
17	TURKEY	BULGARIA
18	ENGLAND	POLAND
19	BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA	ISRAEL

General Conditions of Contest

7.1.1 Smoking (including the use of electronic cigarettes)

Smoking in the playing area is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area before completion of play in a session in order to smoke.

Any player smoking in the playing area will cause his team to be fined 2 VP (see Section 22.2.2 for a knockout match) or, in the case of pairs events, will result in his partnership being fined 25% of the match points available on a board during the session, plus a fine of €100. Repeated violation of this regulation may, and constant violation will, result in the player being prohibited from playing. Failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

A player in breach of this regulation has already been fined €100 and his team fined VP.

Ignore at your peril



Eyes on the Prize

Members of the WBF Management Committee met the President of the Indian Federation and signed the contract for the 2015 World Bridge Teams which will be held at the ITC Grand Chola Hotel in Chennai (formerly Madras) India from 26th September - 10th October.

<http://www.itchotels.in/itcgrandcholanew/>



WOMEN

W 12 10.30

21	ROMANIA	RUSSIA
22	POLAND	SCOTLAND
23	NORWAY	SERBIA
24	NETHERLANDS	SPAIN
25	LEBANON	SWEDEN
26	ITALY	TURKEY
27	ISRAEL	AUSTRIA
28	IRELAND	BULGARIA
29	GREECE	CROATIA
30	GERMANY	DENMARK
31	FRANCE	ENGLAND
32	ESTONIA	BYE

W 13 14.30

21	FRANCE	GERMANY
22	ESTONIA	GREECE
23	ENGLAND	IRELAND
24	DENMARK	ISRAEL
25	CROATIA	ITALY
26	BULGARIA	LEBANON
27	AUSTRIA	NETHERLANDS
28	TURKEY	NORWAY
29	SWEDEN	POLAND
30	SPAIN	ROMANIA
31	SERBIA	RUSSIA
32	SCOTLAND	BYE

W 14 17.20

21	ENGLAND	ESTONIA
22	DENMARK	FRANCE
23	CROATIA	GERMANY
24	BULGARIA	GREECE
25	AUSTRIA	IRELAND
26	TURKEY	ISRAEL
27	SWEDEN	ITALY
28	SPAIN	LEBANON
29	SERBIA	NETHERLANDS
30	SCOTLAND	NORWAY
31	RUSSIA	POLAND
32	ROMANIA	BYE

SENIORS

Final After Round 3

TEAM	VP
1 POLAND	49.37
2 AUSTRIA	46.46
3 NORWAY	45.24
4 IRELAND	44.98
5 SWEDEN	44.75
6 ENGLAND	40.35
7 BELGIUM	38.55
8 HUNGARY	35.43
9 BULGARIA	32.05
10 DENMARK	24.07

Final B After Round 3

TEAM	VP
1 GERMANY	51.46
2 ISRAEL	51.16
3 SCOTLAND	48.26
4 CROATIA	45.14
5 NETHERLANDS	43.11
6 FINLAND	40.03
7 ROMANIA	38.28
8 ESTONIA	37.63
9 TURKEY	37.60
10 SPAIN	33.04
11 PORTUGAL	32.68
12 ITALY	26.95
13 SLOVENIA	25.30
14 WALES	23.92
15 SERBIA	22.44

S F4

10.30

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

S F5

14.30

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

S F6

17.20

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

Final B 4 10.30

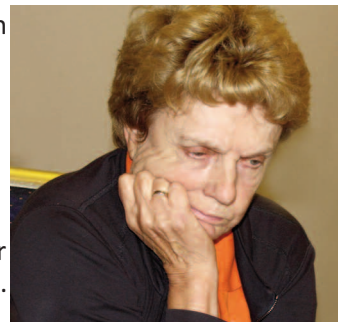
1 GERMANY	ISRAEL
2 SCOTLAND	CROATIA
3 FINLAND	ROMANIA
4 TURKEY	SPAIN
5 ESTONIA	PORTUGAL
6 ITALY	WALES
7 SLOVENIA	SERBIA

On Dangerous Ground

Please be careful when it rains as the streets can become very slippery.

On Wednesday night Netherlands superstar Bep Vriend fell while on the way back to her hotel, breaking a bone.

She is in hospital and will need an operation. We know you will join us in wishing her a speedy recovery.





The Croatian Corner

„Još i danas teku suze
jedne žene“

Kad te srce stisne, bilo emocionalno, bilo medicinski, bilo bridžistički, nije ti lako. Pritisak srca je jedan od najčešćih strahova u životu, a kad ti bridžistički pritisak srca priušti partner možeš samo sjest i plakat.

Naša srčana priča dolazi iz meča ženske reprezentacije protiv Škotske.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tomljanovic		Muller	
	Pass	INT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass

U otvorenoj sali škotski North je pasirala svoju salatu od lista, a Muller je otvorila atipičnih INT. Nakon transfera završni kontrakt je sletio u 2 pik, a nakon atake desetke tref i ponešto pimplanja obrana je na kraju ipak uspjela skupiti svojih 6 štihova i srušiti kontrakt.

2♠ E, =, NS +50

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
	Sver		Pilipovic
	INT	Dble	Pass
Pass	2♣	Dble	All Pass

U zatvorenoj sali situacija je bila puno živahnija. Šver je, kao ljubiteljica salata, svoju salatu od lista otvorila INT pokazujući 11-13 balans. East je kazneno kontrirala što se propasiralo do Šver koja je pobjegla u 2 tref. East je sa svojih AKQx u trefu veselo kontrirala i 2 tref što je postao

završni kontrakt. Atakirala je tref asa, te nastavila s asom pik i malim pikom kojeg je Šver uzela kraljem. Tref sa stola je propušten do kralja tref, povrat herc je Šver uzela u ruci i odigrala treću rundu trefa za damu. East je opet vratila herc kojeg je Šver uzela na stolu i odigrala mali karo u, kako će se kasnije pokazati, ključnom štihu. West je, vjerujući da je se džepari igranjem prema karo dečku, utrčala s damom karo planirajući skupiti damu pik, međutim Šver je uzela karo asom, a East nije vidjela razlog za deblokiranje karona pa je bacila mali karo i ostavila singl dečka. U ovom trenutku bord je gotov. Šver je skinula visoki adut i odigrala mali karo za već spomenutog singl dečka koji je držao.

Stiskavac u hercu može početi. East u ruci ima samo herčeve u ovakvoj završnici:

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

U ovom trenutku igranje herca skvizira West koja mora baciti ili pik damu i izvisočiti dečka, ili karo i izvisočiti četvrti karo na stolu. Kako je East ostala samo s herčevima, skviz je bio neizbježan. U ovom galantnom skvizu North je svoju skviznu kartu od srca delegirala svojoj lijevoj protivnici i džentlmenski prepustila protivnicama da se međusobno srčano stišću za napravljeni kontrakt.

2♣ X, =, NS +180

Hrvatska +4 IMP.

Zarada naše reprezentacije na ovom bordu nije bila značajna u rezultatskom smislu, ali kulturološki doprinos našoj galantnosti je popriličan. Pokazali smo da nam nije potrebno mamiti suze na oči protivnicima vlastitom igrom već da znamo to velikodušno prepustiti protivnicama da odrade sami.

Tomislav Ščepanović

Open Teams - Round 6

By John Carruthers & David Bird



Denmark v England



Following their ignominious early exit from the World Cup due to a lack of finishing ability, England fans are hoping for better results from their bridge team. Before this match, England lay fifth in Group B, ahead of Denmark in ninth. The top nine teams in each group go through to the next stage, so both teams were eager to put up a strong fight.

David Bird reports that Morten Bilde played well on an early deal:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

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



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
M. Bilde	Forrester	D. Bilde	Robson
1♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	INT	Pass
		4♥	All Pass

Jason and Justin Hackett had stopped in 3♥ at the other table and the cards did not seem to lie very helpfully for the heart game. Morten Bilde won the ♠Q lead with dummy's king and played a diamond, Robson rising with the king. The ♣10 switch was covered by the queen, king and ace. Declarer then reached his hand with a diamond ruff to discard a club on the ♠A. Aiming to set up the spades, he continued with another spade and discarded dummy's last club as Forrester won with the ♠9.

When North continued with the ♠J, declarer ruffed with the ♥J. A trump finesse lost to the king, but declarer was able to ruff two diamonds in his hand and discard dummy's last diamond on the established long spade. This excellent piece of work netted 6 IMPs.

A partscore battle went England's way and so Denmark led 6-3 when ...

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

♠ J 7 6 2		
♥ 7 4 3		
♦ 8 7 3		
♣ Q 6 4		



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jason H.	Konow	Justin H.	Askgård
1♣	3♦	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Morten B.	Forrester	Dennis B.	Robson
1♣	4♦	6NT	Pass
			All Pass

We shall refer to the Hackett twins as Jason and Justin, and to père et fils Bilde as Morten and Dennis for the purpose of clarity.

It was simply too difficult to stay out of slam on the East/West cards. Kasper Konow's Three Diamonds gave the Hacketts more room to manoeuvre and they duly arrived in the 6NT contract which looks slightly better than Six Spades. Since the presence of the jack of spades in either the East or West hand wouldn't have made a scrap of difference to the auction, this was slightly unlucky. Only slightly so because there were still only 11 tricks and thus something needed to be made of the hearts and clubs, assuming the king of diamonds was onside or was led.

Dennis went directly to the most likely slam after Forrester's more-aggressive Four Diamond bid. This went three off when Dennis ducked a club to North then, thinking Robson exhausted of diamonds, later ducked a spade to him. That was 5 IMPs to England and the lead in the match 8-6.

Board 4 was flat in INT off one. Forrester was in high spirits, remarking, "Getting closer" when Dennis went down only one trick. Next ...

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jason H.	Konow	Justin H.	Askgaard
	1♣*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- 1♣ 16+ HCP
- 2♣ Natural, positive (8+ HCP)

When clubs failed to break favourably, 3NT was in danger, but the 4-4 spade division saw declarer through. Plus 600 to Denmark.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Morten B.	Forrester	Dennis B.	Robson
	1♣*	Pass	1♠*
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	All Pass	

- 1♣ Natural or 12-14 / 18-19 balanced
- 1♠ No 4+-card major, less than a game force

Forrester/Robson paid a high price for the lack of definition in their auction. Had Forrester bid 2NT (18-19) instead of redoubling, they might have survived, stopping in 3NT, but Robson's Two Spades forced him to bid 3NT to show the 18-19 balanced hand. Had Robson removed 4NT to Five Clubs, that would have been successful on the 3-3 heart break, after three high trumps.

The defence led spades and made the ace of diamonds and three spade tricks for plus 100 and 12 IMPs to Denmark, now leading 18-8.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jason H.	Konow	Justin H.	Askgaard
		Pass	1♣*
Pass	1NT*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

- 1♣ 16+ HCP
- 1NT 8-13 balanced

A heart lead from the queen resulted in plus 490 for Denmark.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Morten B.	Forrester	Dennis B.	Robson
		Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♥*	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

- 1♣ Natural or 12-14 / 18-19 balanced
- 1♥ Spades

Forrester continued in high spirits. He commented after the auction, "With any luck, we'll score minus 100 here!" He was right!

Once again, lack of definition hurt Forrester/Robson. Robson never limited his hand and when Three Hearts came to Forrester, he knew that South could have had a singleton spade, in which case five or even six clubs would be a better contract than 3NT. Could North have bid Three Spades as a last-ditch effort toward 3NT?

On the king-of-spades lead, Robson took his only chance, winning the ace of spades and running the jack of hearts,



Andrew Robson, England

hoping that West would have the queen and would not cover the jack. That was two off and another 11 IMPs to Denmark, leading 29-8. The Danes had just declared normal-looking three notrump contracts on back-to-back boards and had won 23 IMPs on them.

On Board 7, Robson and Askgård held: ♠J76 ♥AK96 ♦QJ832 ♣5. They opened One Diamond and it went Pass-1♥-Double to them. Askgård contented himself with Two Hearts while Robson aggressively bid Three Hearts. Forrester raised to game, making, on ♠A102 ♥Q832 ♦A1096 ♣84. At the other table, Jason pre-balanced with Three Clubs, passed back to Askgård who bid Three Hearts, passed out. Both declarers made 11 tricks, so England gained 10 IMPs to trail 29-18.

Board 8 was a push at plus 140 East/West in a routine Three Spades. This was the next board:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jason H.	Konow	Justin H.	Askgård
INT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Morten B.	Forrester	Dennis B.	Robson
INT	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, Dennis led the three of hearts. Forrester won immediately to run the ten of clubs. Dennis won with his king and returned the heart five to Morten's jack. Knowing he might never be on lead again and wanting to contribute something positive to the defence, Morten shifted to a spade and Forrester ducked, guessing correctly for plus 90 when Dennis led another spade after the run of the hearts. Should Morten have read the three of hearts as suggesting a diamond shift? Perhaps Dennis thought so.

In the Open Room, the Hacketts had a beautiful, and very subtle, cooperative defence to beat the contract. Justin led the four of hearts and Konow ducked it to Jason's jack. Jason continued hearts to dummy's ace. Konow also ran the club ten to the king. Justin took the king of hearts to collect declarer's ten, declarer discarding a diamond from the dummy. Now Justin took the eight of hearts. Not yet knowing whether he preferred a spade or a diamond pitch,

Justin made the excellent discard of the six of spades, keeping his options open about whether to encourage next with the seven, or discourage with the three. When Justin continued with the queen of hearts, suggesting with his heart plays suit-preference for diamonds, Jason was able to complete his discouraging noise in spades with the discard of the spade three. Justin then shifted to a diamond, holding declarer to six tricks. Down one for a hard-earned plus 50 and 4 IMPs to England.



Dennis Bilde, Denmark

The score in the match was now 29-22 to Denmark. On Board 10, both East defenders led their bid-and-raised heart suit to defeat four spades on a forcing defence when trumps went 4-1.

On Board 11, Robson and Askgård held: ♠Q9643 ♥K2 ♦J9764 ♣7 in first seat with neither side vulnerable. Askgård was able to open the bidding with Two Spades (spades and a minor, at least 5/5, with 2-9 HCP). When Konow relayed with 2NT (invitational or better), Askgård showed diamonds and a minimum and they'd arrived. Plus 110. Robson had to pass, allowing Morton to open One Club, Forrester to overcall One Diamond and Dennis to respond One Heart. Robson joined the party, advancing with One Spade, and when the Danes arrived in Four Hearts (they were booked to make it), Robson saved in Five Diamonds for minus 300.

That was 9 IMPs to Denmark and a lead of 38 to 22. Board 12 was a Three Club/3NT choice with ♣108 opposite ♣AQJ754 and needing the king onside and clubs 3-2 (no outside entry) for 3NT. (There were other very low-percentage chances.) Clubs were 4-1 and nothing else was favourable, so 3NT was one down, minus 50, while Three Clubs made an overtrick. Justin had a bad moment when the club finesse won but allowed himself a small smile when the suit failed to break. It was a 5-IMP gain;

Denmark 38 - England 27.

Board 13 was a partscore battle won by Denmark to the tune of 3 IMPs, leading 41-27, while Board 14 was a routine Four Spades down one at both tables. Board 15 sent 10 IMPs Denmark's way when Forrester took a very conservative view in the auction, missing a good vulnerable game which Denmark reached. That made it 51 to 27 for Denmark.

David Bird was commentating on BBO when this deal appeared:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ A ♥ 6 ♦ A K J 8 7 2 ♣ Q 10 7 5 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; 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	♠ 10 6 5 4 3 ♥ Q 7 4 3 2 ♦ 5 ♣ 9 6
N					
W E					
S					
♠ Q J 7 2 ♥ A J 10 ♦ Q 10 6 4 ♣ K 3		♠ K 9 8 ♥ K 9 8 5 ♦ 9 3 ♣ A J 8 4			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Konow</i>	<i>Justin H.</i>	<i>Askgård</i>
Dble	2NT*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

North's 2NT showed both minors and the club fit was found. Had they reached 6♣, the artificial bidding would have placed West on lead. He would have cashed the ♥A at the speed of light (if not more quickly) to defeat the slam. If North had played in 6♣, East would have to guess to lead a heart rather than a spade.

What was going to happen in the Closed Room? Sadly, from the prospective of England supporters and the English BBO commentator, the news was not good:

West	North	East	South
<i>Morten B.</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Dennis B.</i>	<i>Robson</i>
1♦	2♣	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

For many pairs 2♦ would show a sound club raise, but in that case Forrester would not have rebid just 3♣; he would surely carry the bidding to at least 5♣. At the time when he bid 4♣, he doubtless had his sights set on a slam but the wires were crossed and could not be disentangled.

Whether East would have led a heart or a spade against 6♣, we will never know!

It was 10 IMPs to Denmark

There were extraordinary doings by the Danes on the ultimate deal ...

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 ♥ K J 9 6 ♦ - ♣ A K J 10 9 6 4 3	<table style="border: 1px solid green; 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 K Q 7 6 4 ♥ 10 5 ♦ A 8 5 3 ♣ Q
N					
W E					
S					
		♠ J 10 5 2 ♥ A 4 3 ♦ K Q 7 6 ♣ 7 2			
		♠ 8 3 ♥ Q 8 7 2 ♦ J 10 9 4 2 ♣ 8 5			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H.</i>	<i>Konow</i>	<i>Justin H.</i>	<i>Askgård</i>
1♣	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♣	Double	All Pass	

Four Spades looks like the bid of a man desperate to use the facilities. Justin must have considered redouble, if only briefly. Konow led the king of spades and shifted to the ten of hearts. three, queen, king. Jason was soon claiming plus 950.

If you thought the combination of Four Spades and double slightly unusual ...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Morten B.</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Dennis B.</i>	<i>Robson</i>
1♣	1♠	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Forrester made a more normal One Spade overcall and Morten's final bid was more attuned to point-a-board than to IMPs. Perhaps he wanted to be dummy in order to race to a W.C. Or perhaps a couple of those clubs looked like spades. In any case, Forrester took the first four tricks and Dennis the next nine for plus 600 to Denmark.

That resulted in an 8-IMP gain to England, salvaging some pride. The final score was Denmark 51 - England 35.

You can replay all the deals from this match at:

[BBO Denmark v England](#)

Minority Report (W R8)

By Mark Horton



England v Croatia



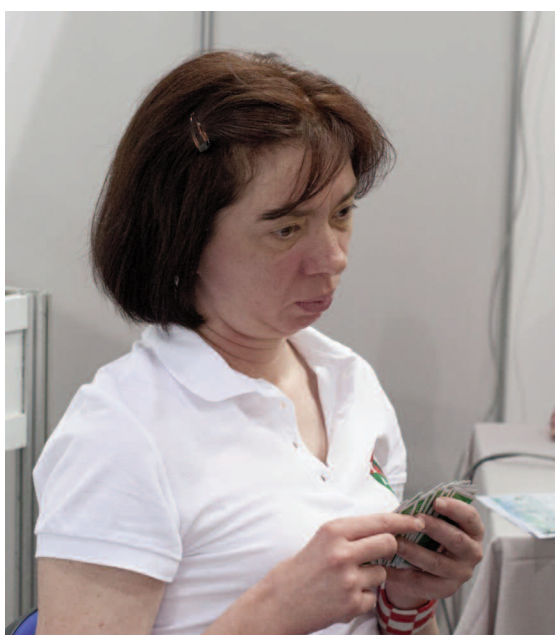
Minority Report is a 2002 American neo-noir science fiction thriller film directed by Steven Spielberg. In April 2054, Captain John Anderton (Tom Cruise) is chief of the highly controversial Washington, D.C., Precrime police force. They use visions of the future generated by three 'precogs', mutated humans with precognitive abilities, to stop murders before they happen; because of this, the city has been murder-free for six years.

Just think how useful precognitive abilities would be at bridge - you could foresee every mistake before you had a chance to make one.

Let's take a look at the R8 Women's match between Croatia and England and see if they could eliminate the errors that sometimes appear almost inevitable.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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



Renata Muller, Croatia



Nikica Sver, Croatia

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sver	Brock	Pilipovic	Smith
	1♣*	2NT*	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

1♣ All weak NTs open 1♣ unless 5M
May be 4-4-4-1, 11-14
2NT Red suits

North led the king of clubs and switched to her trump, but declarer won and claimed, +980. Although it's hard to argue with success, the direct jump to 6♥ strikes me as being unsound, since West might easily have held more than one diamond.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Tomljanovic	Senior	Muller
	1♣*	2NT*	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠*	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

1♣ 10-21 HCP, could be 5♦ and 2♣ if 18-19 balanced hand
2NT Red Suits
4♠ Cue bid

East's approach looks much sounder as if her partner had been able to cue bid in clubs or particularly diamonds she would have felt much happier about bidding the slam. When West inexplicably failed to bid 5♦ West's foresight went unrewarded. +480 but 11 IMPs to Croatia.



Heather Dhondy, England
Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sver	Brock	Pilipovic	Smith
Pass	4♦*	5♣	2♦*
Pass	5♦*	Dble	Pass
6♣	All Pass		5♥

2♦ weak in ♥/♠, 5/6 cards; 4th seat 10-13
 4♦ Bid your suit
 5♦ Please bid your suit

Faced with a decision West followed the principle laid down by Oscar Wilde, 'I can resist everything but temptation'. Alas, there were two hearts to lose on the go, one down; -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Tomljanovic	Senior	Muller
Pass	1♠	3NT	Pass
			All Pass

Although East's direct jump to 3NT turned out badly, it certainly has some practical merit. The only sensible alternative is to double, but even then you might not be out of the woods.

The defenders c/ashed the first five hearts, no swing.

On board 4 EW held ♠AKQ2 ♥J54 ♦A104 ♣A109 opposite ♠J73 ♥AKQ32 ♦Q5 ♣K76. Croatia scored +1430, England +1440; a push.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sver	Brock	Pilipovic	Smith
2♣	Pass	1♦*	Pass
4NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass	5♥	Pass

1♦ 1+♦, 11-15, preparatory, no 5M

When the king of spades misbehaved declarer was one down; -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Tomljanovic	Senior	Muller
2♣*	Pass	1♣*	Pass
3NT	All Pass	2NT*	Pass

1♣ (11)12-14 BAL (may have 5♦)
 2♣ FG with ♣
 2NT 11-14, not four clubs

South led the four of hearts and declarer won with the ace and ran the jack of spades to South's king. As the play

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.

went South ducked the ace of clubs twice and also pitched a diamond on the fourth round of spades, so declarer was able to collect four diamond tricks, +690 and 13 English IMPs.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sver	Brock	Pilipovic	Smith
1♠	1♣	1♦	1♥
Dble	3NT	Pass	Pass
	4♣	All Pass	

3NT was a decent shot, relying on the reasonable assumption that East would be leading a diamond away from the ace. When West doubled declarer took note of the storm warning and ran to a safe harbour. (Even if East had mistakenly led a diamond honour the penalty would have been 800.)

4♣ was unbeatable; +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Tomljanovic	Senior	Muller
Pass	1♣*	2♦	Pass
All Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠

1♣ 10-21 HCP, could be 5♦ and 2♣ if 18-19 balanced hand

I don't know if Nevena Senior's diet includes a lot of red meat, but (as we have seen in similar situations) she is more than willing to disrupt the opponent's auction when she has a distributional hand.

4♠ was doomed from the start.

East led the queen of diamonds and West put up the ace and returned the six. Declarer discarded a heart and East won and switched to the queen of hearts, covered by the king and ace. Declarer ruffed the heart return, cashed the ace and king of spades and then played three rounds of clubs. She could have saved a trick by ruffing with dummy's jack of spades, but when she discarded West ruffed and returned a trump for four down; +400 and 11 IMPs to England.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sver	Brock	Pilipovic	Smith
4NT*	Pass	6♣	All Pass

1♣ All weak NTs open 1♣ unless 5M
May be 4-4-4-1, 11-14

4NT Minors

Just as on the opening deal of the match a direct auction paid dividends.

South cashed the ace of spades and declarer claimed; +920.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Tomljanovic	Senior	Muller
Pass	1♥	INT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

3♣ Natural, slam try

Although East had terrific support for clubs her lack of controls in the other suits left her with little alternative to bidding 3NT (and remember West had passed over 1♦). You might argue that West must have something unusual in order to be able to make a slam try and obviously had she bid 4♦ West would have driven to 6♣. Not easy.

On the other side of the coin East's INT marked her with the ♦K, so West might have taken another bid. Of course there might be a risk that 6♣ could be defeated by South getting in with a spade at trick one and returning a diamond that North could ruff.

All in all a tough deal for the English pair.

South led the king of spades and continued with the two so that was +490 but 10 IMPs to Croatia.

England won 48-23 IMPs, 15.92-4.08 VP to move into third place.

You can replay all the deals from this match at:

[BBO England v Croatia W](#)

Lead Of The Day or Play Of The Day?

By Marek Wójcicki

You are sitting North, love all with this powerhouse:

♠ 9
♥ 10 6 5 4 2
♦ K 5
♣ 10 8 6 5 3

The bidding goes:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	Pass	7♠	All Pass

5♣ one key card
6♥ Queen of spades and heart king

What is your lead?

Balicki decided upon the ♦5. Look at the board from the declarer's point of view:

♠ A J
♥ A Q
♦ A 8 7 4
♣ A K J 4 2

E		
N		S
	W	

♠ K Q 8 6 5 3
♥ K 8 3
♦ Q 10 6
♣ 9

What is your line of play?

It looks as if, with trumps 3-2 you always make the contract with clubs 4-3. You put up the ace, cash two top trumps - North shows out to the second. What now? You cannot ruff clubs twice as you will not be able to cash the heart king... So, you overtake the heart queen with the king, draw the remaining trumps and finesse the club queen...

Look at the complete deal:

♠ 9
♥ 10 6 5 4 2
♦ K 5
♣ 10 8 6 5 3

♠ K Q 8 6 5 3
♥ K 8 3
♦ Q 10 6
♣ 9

N		
W		E
	S	

♠ A J
♥ A Q
♦ A 8 7 4
♣ A K J 4 2

♠ 10 7 4 2
♥ J 9 7
♦ J 9 3 2
♣ Q 7

Oops – two down.

Who was the leader? Of course Cezary Balicki.

In the match between Poland and Turkey, the grand was bid at both tables. At the other table, North made the unorthodox lead of a low heart and the slam was made with comfort.

In the Seniors match between Poland and Sweden, both declarers faced the same problem (Apek Kowalski and Bjoern Wenneberg also led a low diamond). Bjerregard went down, while well known for his intuition and table presence Lasocki made the contract. He took the ace, cashed two trumps and continued with the ace and a small club...

One of my friends from Poland calculated that Lasocki's play of 7♠ after the small diamond lead was 4% better than the line of cashing two spades and overtaking the heart queen.



Krzysztof Lasocki, Poland

Open Teams Round 9

By Ron Tacchi



France vs. Estonia



At the end of the third day we were approaching the halfway point of the first stage of the Open Teams. In their group France were lying second to Norway whilst Estonia were clinging on to the important ninth spot which would just see them through to the final round robin. France were represented in the Open Room by the father and son Bessis pairing with Alain Levy and Frederic Volcker in the Closed Room. Facing them from Estonia were Tiit Laanemae and Maksim Karpov in the Open Room and Olavi Oja and Jaanus Maripuu in the other.

It was a match of missed opportunities; it was as though both teams had not really woken up, perhaps a hint of fatigue is already creeping in

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Laanemae	Bessis T.	Karpov	Bessis M.
	1♣	1♠	Dble
Rdbl	INT	2♠	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Here East/West just got a level higher than in the Closed Room. Declarer won the club lead with the ace and played another round discarding his losing diamond and ruffed the club continuation. He now led the ♥4 from hand and inexplicably played the ♥3 from dummy. There was now no way to make the contract and was one off; -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Maripuu	Volcker	Oja
	1♦	1♠	Dble
INT	Pass	2♠	All Pass

At this table declarer won the club lead with the ace and

came back to hand with a diamond and immediately led a small heart towards the queen which was taken by the king. North now continued with a small heart and declarer played the ace and so was held to his contract, but 4 IMPs to France

Board 18 was a flat 3NT +1.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Laanemae	Bessis T.	Karpov	Bessis M.
Pass	INT	All Pass	Pass

On a club lead Thomas tried to make his contract by playing a small diamond to the king, which held and then a small spade to the king in his hand but West popped up with his ace and cashed out. Thus declarer was two down, but he risked the extra undertrick in return for the chance of making his contract.



Thomas Bessis, France

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Maripuu	Volcker	Oja
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♣*

South had a special club in his bag and was obviously determined to use it. The system notes for an opening 2♣ states 5-10 points 5+4+ Majors (possibly 4-4 Non Vul.) I like gadgets as much as the next person but frequently they get abused and that leads to results like 4♥ three down, he was lucky it wasn't worse than 2 IMPs.

Board 20 was a spade partial and Estonia made an additional trick and so gained an IMP.



Maksim Karpov, Estonia
Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Laanemae	Bessis T.	Karpov	Bessis M.
	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Laanemae's 2♦ was a game force and the club response showed that ace. West then bid out his shape and when Karpov raised hearts I was mentally working out the odds of the slam, in fact they were zero as West could not find it in himself to bid one more.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Maripuu	Volcker	Oja
	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Levy's 2♣ opener was strong but not gameforcing, apparently the 4♦ bid shows precisely 6♠ and 5♥ and when East chose his suit that was the end of the bidding.

Only eight out of the other 34 Open Pairs failed to bid a slam and also 70% of the 26 Senior Pairs bid a slam, though to be fair that included the Polish Seniors who managed to play in 6♣ which was not a success.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Laanemae	Bessis T.	Karpov	Bessis M.
		Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Thomas received the lead of a diamond taken by the ace in West's hand. He continued the suit, and declarer won in hand and played a small spade and when East did not split his honours he successfully tried the eight which held the trick. He now switched to hearts and even though the ace was offside the kind split saw declarer home with three spades, three hearts, two diamonds and a club.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Maripuu	Volcker	Oja
		Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The lead and continuation was the same as the Open Room, but when declarer led a small Spade, he played the king and there was now no way back for declarer. He finished one down and 10 IMPs to France to lead 16-1.

From my limited knowledge of statistics the double finesse is a better option than playing off AK, I have no doubt I will get a torrent of email telling me I am wrong, but I checked my sums and I think I am right.

Board 23 was yet another spade partial and another overtrick IMP to France.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 2 ♥ Q 3 ♦ A ♣ KJ10876432	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; 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		♠ K 9 8 3 ♥ K 8 6 4 2 ♦ 6 5 2 ♣ Q
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ A Q 5 ♥ J 7 5 ♦ K Q 4 3 ♣ A 9 5											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Laanemae	Bessis T.	Karpov	Bessis M.
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

After his father's double Thomas tanked, for so long in fact that the Reverend Wilbert Awdry had time to write another story entitled 'Thomas gets stuck on the bridge'. He emerged from his reveries with a bid of 5NT. There will be others more proficient than I who will discuss the various merits of the bid but the contract failed due to the 4-1 split in spades, however, that cannot be seen as unlucky if West has eight or nine clubs.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Maripuu	Volcker	Oja
5♣	All Pass		



Tiit Laanemae, Estonia

Here South was more timid and West was allowed to play and peacefully go one off. So after all the excitement Estonia gained three IMPs.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Laanemae	Bessis T.	Karpov	Bessis M.
2♠	1♥	2♥	Pass
	All Pass		

It seemed very timid for South not to risk supporting hearts on his hand. True, he knows the hearts are unlikely to split kindly but at least the honours will be relatively well placed. West had no problems bringing the contract home for +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Maripuu	Volcker	Oja
2♠	1♥	2♥*	Pass
All Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥

This time it was North who was aggressive with his 3♦ bid, and could you make a case for bidding 4♥ with the South hand having passed the first time? Declarer quickly wrapped up ten tricks for a gain of 7 IMPs.

Board 26 was an unexciting push in 4♥ +1.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Laanemae</i>	<i>Bessis T.</i>	<i>Karpov</i>	<i>Bessis M.</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥

Call me old-fashioned ('you're old-fashioned') but if you are going to open grotty eleven counts then on this auction partner surely can only bid 3♥ not four. The contract was hopeless and was three down for -150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levy</i>	<i>Maripuu</i>	<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Oja</i>
1♥	Pass	2♣	1♦*
Pass	Dble	All Pass	Pass

South's opening 1♦ was 11-14 balanced or 4-4-41 or a five-card minor. West with his magnificent hand (are you sensing irony?) intervened with 1♥. East tried 2♣ which was passed round to North who produced a red card which South was happy to convert to penalties. The contract was fated to go down but defence and declarer tried unsuccessfully to avert the contract being one off. So 6 IMPs to Estonia and now the contest was stalled at 17 IMPs apiece.

Boards 28 and 29 were pushes.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open and Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Laanemae</i>	<i>Bessis T.</i>	<i>Karpov</i>	<i>Bessis M.</i>
<i>Levy</i>	<i>Maripuu</i>	<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Oja</i>
Dble	All Pass	4♥	4♠

The sequence was the same at both tables. I tried to find how many times the East hand was opened 4♥ but unfortunately the data was not readily available but given that half the contracts were below the level of 4♥ then it was not a unanimous decision, but as usual it acted as a

transfer to 4♠ to which West was happy to give the red card treatment. I was surprised at the Estonian's opening bid and almost flabbergasted when the French East bid likewise. Generally speaking, the French are much more serré about pre-empts, if I were to do that at my club a fleet of ambulances would be required to take away the faint-hearted.

Board 31 was yet another spade partial and this time Estonia gained the overtrick IMP which turned out to be the decisive score.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Laanemae</i>	<i>Bessis T.</i>	<i>Karpov</i>	<i>Bessis M.</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Who is to blame here for not reaching an excellent slam. My money is on the 3♠ bidder. Partner has already forced to game with his 2♣ bid. Why don't we go slowly and discover more about his hand; a simple rebid of 2♦ or 2♠ will allow South to show his spade support and now we can investigate slam possibilities.

69% of the remaining Open teams reached the slam - a good position for them to be in.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levy</i>	<i>Maripuu</i>	<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Oja</i>
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Perhaps tired after sixteen boards and wanting to get things over, but a chance missed of a 11 IMP pick-up. However Estonia won the match by the narrowest of margins 10.31-9.69 VPs

You can replay all the deals from this match at:

[BBO France v Estonia](#)

Thanks to the Turisticka Zajednica Kvarner !

On behalf of the journalists who participated in the Outing to the Isle of Krk on Wednesday June 25th, I would like to thank the Regional Kvarner Board of Tourism and in particular its President Mrs. Irena Persic Zivadinov and Organizer Mrs. Renata Vincek.

We enjoyed the trip very much as we had an excellent, sympathetic guide by name Nikola who told us everything we needed and wanted to know. The visit to Restaurant "Nada" in Vrbnik where we were offered a Croatian lunch and tasted the famous Zlahtina white wine produced by Juranic family, made this trip into a big success. The journalists will surely share this experience with many others!

Jan Swaan, Press Room manager



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.

Championship Diary

Aavo Heinlo, Vice-President of the Estonian Tournament Bridge League, has sent us some information about bridge in the USSR.

As a matter of fact bridge was not forbidden in USSR but just not recognised as a sport, and it flowered underground without any information about it in official media. Clubs and tournaments existed in numerous towns, from Estonia to Georgia and Sakhalin to Lviv, without even considering Moscow or Leningrad or big towns in Central Russia and Siberia. Beginning from 1979 the USSR championships for teams and pairs were played with zonal qualifying tournaments. One can find results (unfortunately in Russian) at:

<http://www.bridgeclub.ru/result/sssrk.htm>

<http://www.bridgeclub.ru/result/sssrp.htm>

In Opatija there are two players – Vassili Levenko and Tiit Laanemae – from the Estonian Open team who have several titles as USSR champions from the eighties.

So, to say that tournament bridge did not exist in the USSR until 1990 is misleading.

Aavo was a member of the USSR Bridge Sports-Technical Committee in the eighties dealing with Master Points or rankings (non-official ones of course).

In 1989 Jose Damiani made a visit to Moscow to discuss things with the Soviet sport authorities and he had the opportunity to meet him. As a result the Soviet Union played in the European Championships for the first time in Turku in 1989.

We are starting to get entries for our Caption Contest. Here are two of the best: How could the manager tell his team it lacked bite?! And was it really right to award a score draw to Liverpool?

Some rough calculations by the *New Statesman* show that Suarez will have played a maximum of 6,160 opponents during his career (11 opponents and the three substitutes per game).

Having bitten three opponents in that time, they surmise that any opponent of Suarez has about a one in 2,000 chance of getting the same treatment.

To put that into context, there is a one in 3.7m chance of being bitten by a shark in the ocean, a one in 10,000 chance of being struck by lightning, a one in 76,000 chance of being killed by a wasp, bee or hornet attack, and a one in 700,000 chance of being hit by an asteroid.

New In Bridge has interviews with the Candidates in the EBL Presidential Elections at:

[EBL elections 2014](#)

Open Round 8

By Ram Soffer



Israel v Hungary



Israel had a perfect start to the championship with five straight victories, including wins against fellow-contenders Italy, Poland and Bulgaria. However, they started the third day with a heavy loss to Latvia, and it was followed by a narrow loss to England.

The afternoon match against Hungary was an opportunity to make up some lost ground and return to the top of Group B. It was full of exciting deals with swing opportunities right from the start.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Szegedi</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Hegedus</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
	1♣	2NT*	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

Hegedus used the unusual 2NT with a big hand, so after his partner's jump to 4♥ he had to invite slam. The Hungarian pair plays kickback RKC, which means that 4♣ would have asked for keycards while the actual 4NT bid was a spade cuebid. Szegedi decided that his diamond singleton did not justify a cuebid at the five-level and signed off in 5♥, making six.

West	North	East	South
<i>I. Herbst</i>	<i>Winkler</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Homonnay</i>
	1♣	2NT*	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠*	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

After the same initial sequence Ophir Herbst was able to cuebid spades in a natural manner, and his brother Ilan had enough room to ask for keycards and bid the slam, trusting his partner to have a club control as well; Israel +980 and 11 IMPs.

Two boards later Israel increased their lead thanks to an inspired pre-emptive bid by Ron Schwartz.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Szegedi</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Hegedus</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
Pass	3♠	3NT	All Pass

Being third seat at favourable vulnerability calls for aggressive action, and Schwartz made the perfect choice, giving the opponents just enough rope to hang themselves. East had an obvious 3NT bid, but he lost the first five tricks after Fisher led a small heart.

West	North	East	South
<i>I. Herbst</i>	<i>Winkler</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Homonnay</i>
Pass	4♦*	Dble	2♦*
4NT*	Pass	5♣	4♥
			All Pass



Lotan Fisher, Israel

Winkler/Homonnay's system allowed them to open in first seat, 2♦ not vulnerable v. vulnerable, showing 5+ cards in either major with 0-8 HCP. 4♦ asked partner to bid his major, but their busy bidding could not prevent Israel from reaching the winning contract of 5♣, which was made with an overtrick after a spade lead. Winkler may have considered saving in 5♥, but his partner could have 0 HCP, so that 5♥ could either prove too expensive or push the E/W to a making slam; Israel +620 and 12 IMPs.

Hungary gained back some ground when Ilan Herbst, holding ♥A J 4 3 opposite ♥10 7 2, went down in a 3NT contract after playing small to the ten, losing to RHO's stiff king.

And there were more IMPs for Hungary to come.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A K J 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 E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 5 3
N					
W E					
S					
♥ 4	♥ Q J 7				
♦ A K 9 6	♦ Q J 10 4 2				
♣ J 9 8 2	♣ A Q 3				
	♠ 9 8 2				
	♥ 10 9 3 2				
	♦ 8 5				
	♣ K 10 7 4				

West	North	East	South
Szegedi	Schwartz	Hegedus	Fisher
			Pass
1♦	1♥	2♥	3♥
Dble	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Fisher's aggressive 3♥ bid might have resulted in a penalty of -800 had East chosen to pass his partner's double, but Hegedus bid 3NT, collecting nine top tricks after a heart lead and continuation.

West	North	East	South
I. Herbst	Winkler	O. Herbst	Homonnay
			Pass
1♣	1♥	2♦	Pass
3♥*	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

At this table E/W were allowed more room to explore slam possibilities. Ophir decided to cuebid 4♣ after Ilan's 3♥ splinter, and his brother immediately blasted into a poor slam which predictably went down one.

In such cases one may ask: who overbid? West's bidding can hardly be faulted, since if we replace East's ♣AQ with ♣AK, 6♦ becomes a very good contract. In my opinion, East might have considered 3NT instead of cuebidding, since he had only nine working points (one may even argue that the ♦J is wasted) with a poor distribution.

Thus the first half of the match was close to a tie, but the second half was all Israel.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Szegedi	Schwartz	Hegedus	Fisher
	1♦	Pass	INT

All Pass

The Schwartz/Fisher system includes an invitational 3♣ response to a 1♦ opening, but Fisher chose an awkward INT. That worked well when West chose to pass and lead a spade. Declarer drove out the ♣A and Hegedus switched to a diamond, but it was too late. Fisher ducked the ♦J in the second round of the suit and claimed the rest; Israel +180.

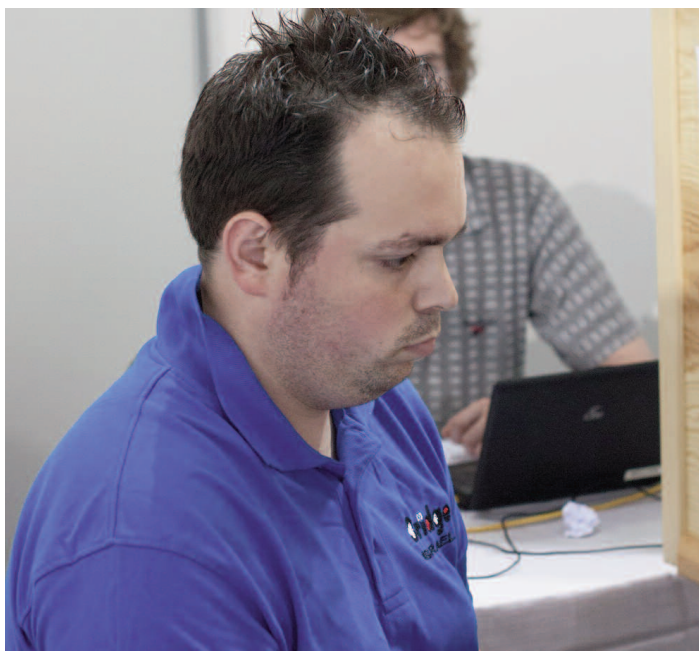
West	North	East	South
I. Herbst	Winkler	O. Herbst	Homonnay
	INT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Winkler decided to open a 15-17 INT and quickly found himself in 3NT which went down two after a diamond lead. This time East still had the ♣A to re-enter his hand after



Balazs Szegedi, Hungary



Ron Schwartz, Israel

the $\diamond J$ was ducked. Should this be classified as hard luck? I don't think so, since the Hungarians wrong-sided the contract, and might have succumbed to a spade lead on a different layout; Hungary -100.

The following deal might have been another big swing to Israel, but excessive optimism by Hungary went unpunished.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

<p>\spadesuit 9 6 5 2 \heartsuit 7 4 2 \diamond J 9 6 2 \clubsuit 6 4</p>	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>\spadesuit 7 4 3 \heartsuit A K J \diamond A K \clubsuit A 9 8 7 5</p>	<p>\spadesuit K Q 10 \heartsuit 10 8 \diamond Q 10 5 3 \clubsuit J 10 3 2</p>
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
Szegedi	Schwartz	Hegedus	Fisher
Pass	1NT	Dble	Pass
2 \diamond	Pass	2NT	All Pass

East's hand is problematic since, if one takes the N/S bidding at face value, West should have next to nothing. Hegedus may not have liked his partner's 2 \diamond , but his 2NT was a dangerous overbid. North had 8 HCP, including all four ten-spots. Some might have doubled, but Ron Schwartz preferred a conservative pass. Fisher's natural choice of lead - fourth best from his longest suit - gave declarer a sixth top trick, but nothing more could be developed with this utterly useless dummy; Hungary -100.

West	North	East	South
I. Herbst	Winkler	O. Herbst	Homonnay
Pass	1NT	Dble	1 \heartsuit
2 \spadesuit	All Pass		Pass

Ophir Herbst knew that his opponents were unlikely to psyche at this vulnerability, and let the bidding rest quietly in 2 \spadesuit . Even this contract proved to be too high. The defense started with three top spades and switched to a diamond. Declarer managed to establish a long club in dummy for his seventh trick, but he still finished one short; Israel -50 and 2 IMPs.

Board 13 was an unlucky one for Szegedi. His unfortunate choice of lead cost his team no less than 21 IMPs.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

<p>\spadesuit 10 9 7 6 4 \heartsuit A 9 7 3 \diamond A 6 \clubsuit 8 6</p>	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>\spadesuit 3 \heartsuit Q J 6 \diamond Q J 10 5 3 2 \clubsuit 5 3 2</p>	<p>\spadesuit A K Q 2 \heartsuit 10 8 \diamond K \clubsuit A Q J 9 7 4</p>
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
Szegedi	Schwartz	Hegedus	Fisher
Pass	1 \clubsuit	Pass	1 \heartsuit
Pass	2 \spadesuit	Pass	2NT
	3NT	All Pass	

N/S bidding was natural. South's 2NT indicated a minimal hand without promising a diamond stopper, and North gambled on 3NT with a half stopper. Admittedly, 5 \clubsuit was a safer spot. Had West chosen to lead the unbid suit, the Hungarians could have collected the first ten tricks for -600, but after the actual spade lead it was Fisher who claimed ten tricks; Israel +630.

West	North	East	South
I. Herbst	Winkler	O. Herbst	Homonnay
1 \spadesuit	1 \clubsuit	Pass	1 \heartsuit
	3NT	All Pass	

Ilan Herbst's rather ugly 1 \spadesuit overcall provoked an immediate 3NT call from North, and Ophir led the obvious $\diamond Q$. Right suit, but "wrong" choice of card, costing the defense three diamond tricks. However his $\heartsuit Q$ switch at trick 4 gave the defense four tricks in that suit. Hungary -300 and 14 IMPs to Israel when they might have lost 7.

The final swing for Israel was similar to the very first one. The Herbsts displayed better judgement and bid a good slam missed at the other table.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Szegedi</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Hegedus</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
4NT*	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Many experts would advise an opening bid with the South cards, but Fisher does not seem to be a fan of light opening bids. The favourable vulnerability tempted Szegedi to preempt in the second seat, but his 4NT opening bid left his partner with no room for investigation; Hungary +420.

West	North	East	South
<i>I. Herbst</i>	<i>Winkler</i>	<i>O. Herbst</i>	<i>Homonnay</i>
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	3♥	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♣	Dble
All Pass			

South's opening bid robbed West of his best suit, but he still had six clubs to show. East had a strong hand, but initially Ophir Herbst had no slam aspirations, signing off in 3NT. Of course, this was not an acceptable spot for his partner. After 4♥ Ophir realized that his partner must be holding a very special hand, since he had cuebid both of the opponent's suits, strongly suggesting a slam despite lacking the ♣AK. He was further rewarded for his good 6♣ bid when South (not unreasonably) doubled. Winkler found the correct lead of a spade to save a doubled overtrick; Israel +1090.

It all ended 66-29 in Israel's favour, and at close of play they were leading Group B for the second day running.

You can replay all the deals in this match at:

[BBO Israel v Hungary](#)

SENIORS

Seniors Final RI-3

Match		IMPs		VPs	
1	AUSTRIA HUNGARY	55	33	15.38	4.62
2	BELGIUM SWEDEN	12	38	3.91	16.09
3	IRELAND ENGLAND	52	22	16.73	3.27
4	POLAND NORWAY	39	16	15.56	4.44
5	DENMARK BULGARIA	21	35	6.25	13.75

Match		IMPs		VPs	
1	IRELAND HUNGARY	26	56	3.27	16.73
2	SWEDEN NORWAY	18	25	7.97	12.03
3	DENMARK AUSTRIA	25	19	11.76	8.24
4	BELGIUM BULGARIA	29	46	5.61	14.39
5	POLAND ENGLAND	20	23	9.09	10.91

Match		IMPs		VPs	
1	ENGLAND HUNGARY	51	18	17.17	2.83
2	POLAND BELGIUM	24	36	6.72	13.28
3	AUSTRIA BULGARIA	46	20	16.09	3.91
4	DENMARK SWEDEN	11	54	1.56	18.44
5	IRELAND NORWAY	38	33	11.48	8.52

Seniors Final B RI-3

Match		IMPs		VPs	
1	ISRAEL SERBIA	50	30	15.00	5.00
2	ESTONIA NETHERLANDS	11	56	1.34	18.66
3	SCOTLAND TURKEY	59	25	17.31	2.69
4	GERMANY ITALY	66	21	18.66	1.34
5	PORTUGAL SPAIN	28	47	5.20	14.80
6	FINLAND CROATIA	55	31	15.74	4.26
7	WALES ROMANIA	21	42	4.81	15.19
8	SLOVENIA BYE			12.00	

Match		IMPs		VPs	
1	NETHERL. ISRAEL	38	47	7.45	12.55
2	GERMANY FINLAND	39	29	12.80	7.20
3	SCOTLAND SPAIN	56	33	15.56	4.44
4	ROMANIA TURKEY	46	46	10.00	10.00
5	CROATIA PORTUGAL	66	27	17.97	2.03
6	SLOVENIA ESTONIA	1	27	3.91	16.09
7	SERBIA WALES	30	53	3.44	15.56
8	ITALY BYE			12.00	

Match		IMPs		VPs	
1	ISRAEL SCOTLAND	20	18	10.61	9.39
2	GERMANY NETHERLANDS	0	0	13.00	7.00
3	CROATIA ROMANIA	38	35	10.91	9.09
4	FINLAND TURKEY	25	28	9.09	10.91
5	ESTONIA SPAIN	29	25	11.20	8.80
6	WALES PORTUGAL	12	47	2.55	14.45
7	ITALY SLOVENIA	35	33	10.61	9.39
8	SERBIA BYE			12.00	