

QUALIFIER FOR WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS & EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP

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THE SANDS OF TIME

The last day is always a testing one for those teams are involved in the fight for qualification. There is sure to be an exciting conclusion to the race to Salsomaggiore.

Switzerland is now more than a match clear in the Open series, but **Denmark** has climbed into second place after winning all five matches. **Israel** is third and then come **Italy**, **Netherlands**, **Norway**, **France** and **Sweden**. **England** has fallen to ninth, just ahead of **Hungary**.

Sweden continue to lead the way in the Women's event, but **Poland** has moved into second place followed by **France**. **Turkey** recovered from a poor start to the day to jump to fourth, and then come **Russia**, **Hungary** and a resurgent **England**, who enjoyed their best day so far. The top ten is completed by **Germany**, the **Netherlands** and **Portugal**.

It was all change in the Seniors, **Netherlands** taking the lead ahead of **Denmark** and **France**. Then come **Bulgaria**, **Norway**, **England**, **Sweden** and **Germany**, with **Poland** and **Belgium** close behind.

In the Mixed teams, **France** remain more than a match clear of **Belgium**, followed by **Romania** and **Germany**. **Denmark** won all their matches to jump to fifth, ahead of **Israel**, **Portugal** and **Croatia**, with **Poland** and **Latvia** next.



ENGLAND vs FRANCE

SENIOR, Round 12

John Carruthers

The 10-Board War

England and France is always a delicious meal, whether it's football, rugby or bridge. These 10-board matches, though, are more along the lines of a little snack. This match features the team at the top of the table (France) and the team lying fourth (England) at the time.

It seems that Marill had an easy four-diamond bid over four clubs since Pilon had to be short in one pointed suit or the other. With both rounded suits breaking three-two, declarer had no difficulty taking all the tricks; plus 510 to France.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>John Hassett</i>	<i>Marc Bompis</i>	<i>John Holland</i>	<i>Philippe Soulet</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	7♥	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Philippe Marill</i>	<i>David Mossop</i>	<i>Dominique Pilon</i>	<i>Gunnar Hallberg</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

- 4♣ Game-force with 6 clubs and 4 hearts
- 4NT Roman Key-Card Blackwood
- 5♠ 2 key cards and the queen of hearts

Seven hearts is not exactly a great contract. It basically needs hearts and clubs to be three-two so that declarer can discard his diamonds on dummy's clubs, the ruff dummy's second diamond. A priori, those odds are about 45%, though higher when neither opponent bids. That was plus 1510 to England and a big 14-IMP head start.

There was a middle ground: a small slam in hearts will nearly always make when either rounded-suit is three-two, provide the other is no worse than four-one; that's approaching 90%.

- 4♣ Game-force with 6 clubs and 4 hearts





Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ A K 9 7 4 ♥ A J 9 8 4 ♦ A 6 ♣ 6 ♠ 2 ♥ K Q 5 ♦ K Q 10 7 5 2 ♣ J 10 2	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J 8 5 3 ♥ 7 ♦ 9 ♣ A K Q 9 5 4 3 ♠ Q 10 6 ♥ 10 6 3 2 ♦ J 8 4 3 ♣ 8 7	
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Open Room

	North	East	South
West	North	East	South
Philippe	David	Dominique	Gunnar
Marill	Mossop	Pilon	Hallberg
—	1♠	2♣*	2♠
Dble	4♠	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

2♣ Pilon/Marill play Ghestem, wherein
 3♣ would have shown hearts and diamonds

Hallberg led the six of spades. Mossop won and shifted to a trump. Pilon won that and led a diamond. Mossop took the red aces for one off, minus 200.

Four spades doubled would have been an interesting contract. In all likelihood, declarer would have lost at least a trick in each suit and possibly a couple more on the tap. Still, who could fault Pilon for bidding on? He needed a red ace instead of one of those king-queens.

Closed Room

	North	East	South
West	North	East	South
John	Marc	John	Philippe
Hassett	Bompis	Holland	Soulet
—	1♠	3♣	Pass
3♠	4♥	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Holland had no trouble bidding three clubs, not playing the French methods. With decent holdings in the majors, Soulet took a long time to pass five clubs doubled. It was the right decision today, since both contracts were one off, five hearts perhaps two off. Nevertheless, it was a noble push.

Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ J 5 4 2 ♥ A 10 ♦ Q 10 ♣ 10 7 6 4 3 ♠ 6 ♥ K J 9 6 4 3 2 ♦ J 5 ♣ J 5 2	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A K 8 ♥ Q 7 5 ♦ A 8 7 4 3 2 ♣ A ♠ Q 10 9 7 3 ♥ 8 ♦ K 9 6 ♣ K Q 9 8	
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Open Room

	North	East	South
West	North	East	South
Philippe	David	Dominique	Gunnar
Marill	Mossop	Pilon	Hallberg
—	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♦*	3♠	4♥	All Pass

2♦ Hearts

Once again, the French were very conservative, to their detriment. South's spade lead went to the ace, declarer led a heart to the ace and North led a club to the ace. With no sense of style, declarer eschewed the symmetry of cashing the diamond ace at trick four. Instead, cashed the spade king to discard a diamond from dummy, then cashed the diamond ace and ruffed one. A heart to the queen and another diamond ruff meant that the diamonds were set up with the third trump as an entry; plus 680.

Closed Room

	North	East	South
West	North	East	South
John	Marc	John	Philippe
Hassett	Bompis	Holland	Soulet
—	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♥	3♠	4♠	Double
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Holland appreciated his hand a little more than did Pilon. OK, a lot more. Bompis led a club, knowing that East/West were well-prepared for a spade lead. Hassett won with the ace, cashed the top spades and ruffed a spade, ruffed a club, took the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond (dummy's other diamond had gone of the spade)ruffed a club and led the queen of hearts. With just trumps left in his hand, he was soon scoring up plus 1430, another big slam swing to England. That, less the 680 at the other table, meant 13 IMPs to England, runaway winners by 33-8 IMPs, 16.97-3.03 in VPs.

France still topped the table, but their lead over second place was slimmer; England moved up to third.

**ROUND 16**

OPEN, Round 16

Jos Jacobs

With no confrontations between any two of the top eight teams scheduled for yesterday's opening round, I decided to make this report a round-up of highlights from everywhere. Please, don't be angry with me, dear reader, when your favourite highlight is missing...

Heart pre-empts at various levels led to all sorts of results on board 3:

Board 3. Dealer. South. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ K 9 7 5 3 ♥ K J 5 ♦ 10 9 7 ♣ 6 5</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ A 10 2 ♥ 9 ♦ A K Q J 8 5 4 ♣ Q 2</p>	<p>♠ 6 ♥ A Q 6 4 3 2 ♦ 3 2 ♣ J 9 8 3</p>
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Norway v. Hungary, Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Aa</i>	<i>Hegedüs</i>	<i>Livgård</i>	<i>Szegedi</i>
—	—	—	3♥
Pass	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Livgård was not the only one to follow the practical 4th hand rule against a three-level pre-empt: bid: 3NT, showing 12-18 hcp. with or without a heart stopper.

Down two on a heart lead, Hungary +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dumbovich</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Winkler</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	—	—	3♥
Pass	4♥	5♦	All Pass

When Helness found a raise, Winkler had no option but to show his suit. Hungary +640 and 13 IMPs when Helgemo led his singleton spade.

In the Bulgaria v. Israel match (Closed Room),

Vladimir Marashev found even more inspiration. The auction started the same way as above but Marashev was not content with 5♦ only and boldly raised his partner to six!. His team still lost an IMP because this had been the auction in the Open Room:

Bulgaria v. Israel, Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Vanchev</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Zahariev</i>
—	—	—	3♦*
Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♦	All Pass

3♦ Hearts

...and Zahariev, unlike Ilan Herbst, did not lead his ♥A.

The Swedes also had some difficulties with this hand:

Portugal v. Sweden, Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Barbosa.</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Sarmento</i>
—	—	—	2♥
Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

A normal enough bid by West but it stranded on the rocks of distribution. One down, Portugal +100. The same fate stuck the Danish and Scottish EW players...

At the other table, Portugal did much better:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lucas</i>	<i>O. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Pimenta</i>	<i>M. Rimstedt</i>
—	—	—	2♥
Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♦	All Pass

West's bid at the other table was maybe ambiguous as far as strength was concerned but Lucas' 4♥ certainly was not. East thus had an easy conversion. Portugal another +1370 and 16 IMPs to them.



Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Lack of discipline led to quite a number of 3NT contracts in E/W. West showed a weak hand alright but East simply did not listen. Not that it was that expensive, because 3♦ also fails on any reasonable defence. At a few tables, the defenders scored six tricks in a diamond contract: lead ♠Q and after the first four black suit tricks, North continues a club, wins the ♦A at first attempt and tries the effect of his last club. South ruffs with the ♦8 and North's ♦10 suddenly is worth a trick.

Only those who could (and did!) open a weak two with the West hand stayed out of trouble. East had an obvious pass and no declarer in 2♦ went off...

On the next board, Sweden's Peter Fredin found an imaginative sacrifice:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Portugal v. Sweden, Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Barbosa.</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Sarmento</i>
—	2♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	4♣	Dble
All Pass			

Down two, Portugal +300.

Needless to say that at the other table, South's eventual 3NT silenced everyone...Mikael Rimstedt

made an overtrick in his 3NT so Sweden scored +630 and 8 IMPs.

On the penultimate board, we saw a few accidents.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Portugal v. Sweden, Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lucas</i>	<i>O. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Pimenta</i>	<i>M. Rimstedt</i>
—	1NT	2♠*	3♦*
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

East showed spades and a minor with 2♠ and 3♦ by South was a transfer.

South led a heart to declarer's king and a club came next. South rose with his ace and continued the suit., dummy winning. A diamond then went to declarer's king, South contributing the queen, and the second round of diamonds went to North's ace. When declarer shed a diamond on North's club return, South ruffed. After this, declarer still had the two top trumps to lose for down two. Sweden +500.

In the Poland v. Netherlands match, the Poles were in 3♠ only. The defence was the same but, playing in three, declarer ruffed the third club with his ♠9, only to see it being overruffed by South's ♠10. So the Dutch managed to even defeat 3♠ for +100. This was worth 5 IMPs to them because the Polish N/S pair had tried 3NT in spite of their 6-3 heart fit and had gone down two for another +100 to the Dutch.

At the other table of the Portugal v. Sweden match, the Swedish E/W also were in 3♠. They went down in less sophisticated fashion: North simply led three rounds of trumps to prevent any diamond ruffs in dummy. One down here as well but still 9 IMPs to Sweden.

At many tables, they were in 4♥ as N/S. In the England v. Russia match, this was even made at one table when declarer led the ♥Q from hand to the first round of trumps. Guess what happened next...

On the next board, the final board of the match, this same Russian pair got their revenge.



Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ K 9 5 2		♠ 10
♥ —		♥ K 9 7 6 3
♦ Q 9 5 3		♦ J 10 6 4 2
♣ K 10 5 3 2		♣ A 7
♠ Q J 4	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid white;"> N W E S </div>	
♥ A J 2		
♦ A K 8		
♣ Q J 9 6		
♠ A 8 7 6 3		
♥ Q 10 8 5 4		
♦ 5		
♣ 8 4		

With 1NT showing minors against the Strong Club, the spade fit never came to light. The final contract was not a success; four down on a possibly helpful spade lead. In with a diamond, West returned a low trump on which declarer played his king...Russia +1100.

At the other table, the English E/W languished in the normal contract of 4♥ that could not stand the 5-0 trump break. Another +100 gave the Russians 15 IMPs. They thus snatched victory from the jaws of defeat: 24-18 or 12.18 – 7.82 V.P to them.

England v. Russia, Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Byrne</i>	<i>Gulevich</i>	<i>Dyke</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	1NT*	Dble	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

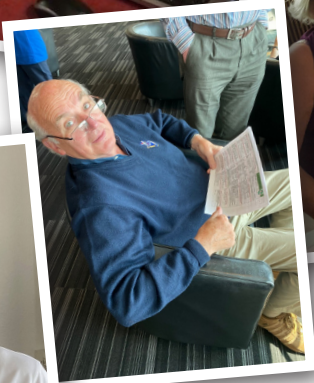
PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE!

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Winning Double

Mark Horton

Writing up Round 18 of the Open I mentioned a deal where declarer had a choice of possible 5-3 fits in a grand slam, the choice being between

♥ 8 7 5
opposite
♥ A K Q J 4

and
♣ A Q 9 7 5
facing
♣ K 6 3.

On that occasion both suits broke reasonably enough, but on this deal from Round 8 in the Women's series it was vital to play in the stronger suit:

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Johansson</i>	<i>Vist</i>	<i>Hallqvist</i>	<i>Heskje</i>
2♦*	4♣*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5NT*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

2♦ Weak major or strong ♦
4♦ Ask for major
4NT RKCB
5NT 1 or 3 key cards + void

The slam was doomed by the spade break, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fuglestad</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Harding</i>	<i>Gronkvist</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♣*
All Pass			

- 2♣ Game forcing relay (normally no void) or game forcing ♣
- 3♦ 16+ (or good honours) 5+♣
- 4♦ Void ♥
- 4♥ Key card with ♠ as trumps
- 4NT Odd number of keycards, denies ♠Q
- 5♣ Asking for ♣K
- 5♥ ♣K but not ♦K
- 6♣ 'I hope suggestion to play, otherwise asking for ♦♦/♦Q'

Knowing the ♠Q was missing, South gave North a chance to play in what might be a stronger suit. Having avoided the doomed slam in spades, declarer now had to find a route to 12 tricks.

West led the ♦3 for the jack and ace and declarer drew trumps, West pitching the ♥4. When West followed to the ♠A with the nine declarer cashed a club pitching a heart, came to hand with a diamond and played a spade, putting up the king when West discarded the ♥3. Declarer cashed the last trump pitching her remaining spade and West parted with the ♥8. This was the position:

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

Declarer played a diamond to her queen and exited with the four, forcing West to lead into the ♥AQ for a majestic +1370 and 16 IMPs.

Terrific bidding and flawless play! That's what I call a winning double.



FRANCE vs NETHERLANDS

OPEN, Round 17

Ron Tacchi

Another chance to watch a top of the table clash, this time it is France, lying third, against the Netherlands who are currently second. As yet I do not know the line-ups but there is a Dutch pairing who have, on a rare occasion or two, taken a little longer to decide upon their plays, so I have taken appropriate precautions and stocked up with considerable provisions – and of course not being subject to the same strictures as the players I may well have some refreshing liquids to hand.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	De Wijs	Rombaut	Muller
—	—	—	1♦*
Dble	1♥*	Pass	1♠*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1♦ 2+♦, 11-15
 1♥ 4+♠
 1♠ 3♠

In this room the contract was played by North and now East was not hard pressed to select a heart as the lead. West took his ace and cleared the suit. Declarer now needs to run eight more tricks without surrendering the lead. I did not understand declarer's line – he cashed the ace and king of diamonds and then led the ♣J which was covered by the king. Declarer was now simply down two. I think this line only works if the diamonds provide five tricks and the king of clubs is on side or East holds precisely ♣109. If declarer can take five club tricks then he is home and there are two distributions where this can occur: king doubleton in the West hand or ♣109 in the East hand, the former is four times more likely than the latter – roughly a one in eight chance. Not the best of odds but this was the one hand in eight where it came to pass. First blood to France: 11 IMPs.

Board 11. Dealer South. Non Vul.

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



Open Room


West	North	East	South
Verhees	Volcker	Van Prooijen	Bessis
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West could not find anything to say over One Diamond and when he elected to lead his fourth-best spade the ♠9 from dummy forced the queen taken by the ace. Declarer continued with a small spade towards dummy and West ducked. Declarer now tackled the clubs by cashing the ace and leading towards the jack – guaranteeing four tricks whenever the suit is split 3-2 or there is a singleton king or a singleton 9 or 10 in the East hand. This gave him eight top tricks and another could be developed from one of the majors bringing the game home.





Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Bessis</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1♥*	Pass	2♥	Dble
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

1♦ 2+♦

1♥ Natural, rarely 3♥

North soon found the best lead of his singleton diamond and declarer took South's ♦9 with his king and exited with a club to South, who made a good play when he exited with a trump, the ♥10 beating North's ♥8. A spade from dummy and declarer did not make the best guess when he tried the king which lost to the ace. A slightly deceptive ♥9 from North saw declarer misguess again when he rose with the ace. South won with the ♠Q after dummy played the jack. After South exited with a high club declarer could not recover – he had to lose a trump and a diamond, so one off.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Muller</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dble
4♥	All Pass		

Rombaut made a light opening in the third position and his partner made a pre-emptive raise. After the ♣A won the first trick declarer made a good decision when he ran the spade switch round to his jack. He continued the suit – finessing against queen – taken by North's ace. Now the switch was to the ♦2 and dummy rose with the ace. A trump to dummy's king was followed by a successful trump finesse against

the queen. A club ruffed in dummy and the trump finesse repeated gave rise to the situation where South had to shed his final club and come down to 2-2 in the pointed suits. All declarer had to do now was cash the diamond king and exit with a diamond forcing South to lead spades into dummy's tenace and giving him ten tricks and as many IMPs – well played by East.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Bessis</i>
—	1♥	Dble	2♥*
3♥*	4♥	Pass	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

The ♥A and a heart continuation saw declarer ruff at trick two and when he played the king of clubs, the trump distribution was an open book and he could cross to dummy to pick up the trumps, only losing to the ace and that was eleven tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	1♥	Pass	2♥
2NT*	4♥	All Pass	

East cashed two top spades and continued with a third round. Declarer now seized his chance eagerly. He ruffed with the jack, took a single round of trumps and played a spade from hand and when West could not overruff he had an unlikely ten tricks. Had the defence started by taking their diamond tricks and then leading trumps at every opportunity the contract would have failed by two tricks. More than just a scratch – it was a double game swing – 15 IMPs to The Netherlands.



Board 14. Dealer East. Non Vul.

	♠ J 6 5		
	♥ K J 6 5		
	♦ J 2		
	♣ 9 8 7 4		
♠ 8 7 2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W S E</div>	♠ Q 10 9 4 3	
♥ 4		♥ Q 10 8 7 2	
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 3		♦ Q 4	
♣ J 10		♣ Q	
	♠ A K		
	♥ A 9 3		
	♦ A K		
	♣ A K 6 5 3 2		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Bessis</i>
—	—	Pass	2♣*
3♦	Dble*	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦*
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♦
Pass	7♣	Pass	7♦
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

2♣ GF
4♥ Cue

Wheels, maybe even axles, fell off this bidding wagon. What exactly happened I am not sure but I get the impression that South did not take the 4♥ bid to be a cue-bid in support of clubs. There was a lot of discussion amongst the kibitzers that the grand slam in either clubs or no-trumps would fail after a heart lead from West. They cited entry problems but the squeeze operates as the final three cards in dummy are ♠J6 ♥K whilst in hand ♠K ♥93 – what does poor East keep. I am not good with the nomenclature of squeezes but I believe that is a criss-cross squeeze, no doubt if I am wrong then the editor will make an appropriate comment. *(The only other pair to bid a grand slam were in 7NT on a diamond lead. Declarer cashed all his minor suit winners, but did not guess the ending, discarding the [J and relying on the heart finesse. Editor)*

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣*
3♦	Pass	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♣ 15+

We can all agree South's hand is 15+. A very fortunate sudden and abrupt end to the auction saved France some IMPs but it was still 12 out.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

	♠ 10 9 7 3		
	♥ 4		
	♦ K Q 9		
	♣ K 10 4 3 2		
♠ A J 8 6 5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W S E</div>	♠ Q 4	
♥ 8 7 5 3		♥ A K Q J 10	
♦ 6 3		♦ J 10 8 5 2	
♠ A 9		♣ Q	
	♠ K 2		
	♥ 9 6 2		
	♦ A 7 4		
	♣ J 8 7 6 5		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Bessis</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

2NT Limit(+) raise

The opening club lead was taken in dummy and trumps drawn in three rounds. Declarer now led the ♠Q which was covered by the king and he took dummy's ace. He tried a small diamond from dummy but North won and continued clubs. Now declarer was basically dependent on spades breaking 3-3, which unfortunately for him they did not and so the contract failed. Can you see how, after three rounds of trumps, declarer could have made his contract? When the ♠K is played duck, now if either of the pointed suits break 3-3 he is home and if they tap him with another club he still has an entry to dummy with the spade ace to set up the suit while there is still a trump in dummy.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The club lead was taken in dummy and two rounds of trumps drawn. The queen of spades was covered and the ace won in dummy. Now declarer turned his attention to the diamonds and low one from dummy saw North rise with the queen. A club followed, ruffed in hand. Dummy was entered with the jack of spades



and another diamond led from dummy, this brought the welcome site of the $\diamond 9$. When South exited with his last trump declarer could guarantee the contract by leading the $\diamond 10$ and letting it run. Nicely played by East and ten IMPs to France.

dummy produced the queen from North declarer was home. 13 IMPs to France.

Whilst the following board produced an overtrick IMP it was a well bid slam by both rooms – the auctions are given below.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Bessis</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2♥	Dble	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♥	3♠
All Pass			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Bessis</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♠*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

I had a small frisson when South bid 3♠, just a whiff of a potential Biltcliffe coup but it was not to be. When West led the ♥8 declarer played low from dummy and East won with the ace. Declarer restricted his losses to one in each suit by playing winning diamonds through East to prevent him establishing a second trump trick.

- 1NT GF relay
- 2♥ Exactly 4♥
- 2♠ Relay
- 2NT Short ♦
- 3♣ Relay
- 3♠ 6403
- 4♣ Relay
- 4♠ 4 Italian controls

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♦*
1♥	Dble*	Rdble*	2♠
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
1♣	15+		
1♦	0-8		
Dble	TO, usually 15-17		
Rdble	Points		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Muller</i>
1♠	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass

The lead of the ♠K was won in dummy and declarer then took the right view in trumps, cashing the ace and playing small to the ♥10 forcing North's ace. The spade continuation was ruffed and the outstanding trump drawn and then when a small club towards

In a ding-dong match where nearly 80 IMPs changed hands, there was only one flat board, and that was a case of doubled contracts. France had come out ahead 49-29 or 15.97-4.03 VPs.



MIXED EMOTIONS

MIXED, Round 9

Mark Horton

A quick inspection of Thursday's Mixed matches revealed two noteworthy deals.

This appeared in Round 9:

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

When France and Latvia were in opposition we saw contrasting auctions:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sebbane</i>	<i>Rubins</i>	<i>Reess</i>	<i>Alfejeva</i>
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♦
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

3♥ 'Short heart with diamond support'

Alas, the NS sequence reminded me of many of my long-forgotten school reports, 'could do better'. West led the ♠J and declarer won in dummy and cashed the ♦A, +440.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Neimanis</i>	<i>Schmidt</i>	<i>Romanovska</i>	<i>Zochowska</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♥*
Pass	7♦	All Pass	

- 4♦ Forcing
- 4♥ Cue
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♥ 2 key cards

I suspect some partnerships might use 4♦ as Keycard in this situation, but this was an excellent auction, +1440 and 14 IMPs.

Sweden and Spain produced a dramatic pair of results:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Goncalves</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>	<i>Corral</i>	<i>Ovelius</i>
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♠*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♠*
Pass	7♦	All Pass	

- 1♣ 11-13, 17-19 balanced/natural
- 1♠ Transfer to 1NT
- 3♦ 17-19, 5♣+4♦
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♠ 2 key cards +♦Q

East led the ♥7 and declarer won with dummy's ace and had to determine how best to tackle the trump suit. Could one of the defenders be void? When declarer continued with the ♦K West's ♥3 was a bitter pill to swallow, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jarlvik</i>	<i>Bonny Miranda</i>	<i>Tredafilova</i>	<i>Chamorro E</i>
Pass	1♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

- 1♣ 18+ any distribution
- 2♦ 8-11

West led the ♥2 and declarer took East's king with the ace and played a diamond to the ace, +940 and 14 IMPs.

In the match between Russia and Denmark both sides bid 7♦ and West led the ♠J. For Russia Alexej Gerasimov won in dummy and cashed the ♦A, +1140. Denmark's Marlene Henneberg won and played a diamond to the king which meant 16 IMPs went away. Bridge can be cruel at times.



Let's move to Round 12:

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

	♠ —		
	♥ K 10 9 7 5		
	♦ A 3		
	♣ 10 9 8 7 3 2		
♠ A K 10 9 8 7 6 5	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: orange; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ Q J 4 2	
♥ 6 3		♥ A Q J 8	
♦ Q J 5		♦ K 2	
♣ —		♣ Q 5 4	
	♠ 3		
	♥ 4 2		
	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 4		
	♣ A K J 6		

We start with the match between Poland and Latvia:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Neimanis</i>	<i>I Grzejdziaik</i>	<i>Romanovska</i>	<i>S Grzejdziaik</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	2♠*	4♠	4NT*
5♠	All Pass		

- 2♠ Michaels
- 4NT Asking about minor

North led the ♣9 and declarer ruffed, cashed the ♠AK and played a heart to the queen, +480.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nowak</i>	<i>Rubins</i>	<i>Sobolewska</i>	<i>Alfejeva</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	2♠*	3♥*	4♣
5♣*	Pass	5♦*	6♣
Pass	Pass	6♠	All Pass

- 2♠ Hearts and Clubs
- 3♥ Game forcing with fit
- 5♣ Cue
- 5♦ Cue

The play was similar to that in the other room, +980 and 11 IMPs.

This was Turkey v Sweden:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bergdahl</i>	<i>Kizilok</i>	<i>Ovelius</i>	<i>Kutuk</i>
—	—	—	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

That was +480.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sanus</i>	<i>Jarlvik</i>	<i>Aluf</i>	<i>Trendafilova</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

- 2NT Fit, game forcing, balanced
- 3♣ Short
- 3♦ 'Sort of relay'
- 4♥ Cue
- 5♣ Void

North led the ♥9, a good try but declarer was forced to finesse, +980 and 11 IMPs.

Next up are Belgium and Russia:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dubinin</i>	<i>Dewasme</i>	<i>Rudakova</i>	<i>Dehaye</i>
—	—	—	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

The regulation +480.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Labaere</i>	<i>Vorobeychikova</i>	<i>C-Labaere</i>	<i>Gerasimov</i>
—	—	—	Pass
4♠	4NT*	Dble	5♣*
Pass	Pass	5♠	6♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

- 4NT Two suits
- 5♣ Pass or correct

West led the ♠A and declarer ruffed in dummy, played a club to the five, ace and two and drew trumps via the finesse. A diamond exit saw East win, cash the ♥A and exit with a spade. Although that gave declarer a ruff and discard two more tricks had to be lost, -500 which cost an IMP.

Having taken a second round of trumps, declarer should exit with a diamond. East wins but has no good move. Exiting with a spade allows declarer to pitch a heart, ruff in dummy, draw the last trump and ruff a diamond for 11 tricks, so the best East can do is play the ♣Q when declarer wins, ruffs a diamond and exits with a heart for ten tricks.



Finally we have Portugal and Norway:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Neimanis</i>	<i>I Grzejdziaik</i>	<i>Romanovska</i>	<i>S Grzejdziaik</i>
<i>Lybaek</i>	<i>Barbosa</i>	<i>Ellingsen</i>	<i>Pessoa</i>
—	—	—	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

A standard +480? Not quite! North led the ♡10 and declarer took dummy's ace, +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rosado</i>	<i>F Helness</i>	<i>Pereira</i>	<i>G Helness</i>
—	—	—	Pass
4♠	4NT*	5♠	6♦
Pass	6♡*	Dble	7♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

4NT 2 places to play
6♡ ♡+♣

Declarer ruffed the spade lead in dummy, played a club to the ace and continued with two rounds of diamonds. When East cashed the ♡A declarer emerged with 11 tricks, -300 and 4 IMPs.



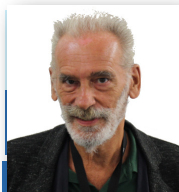
Fredrik Helness
NORWAY

PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE!

Pictures from the venues are available!

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SWITZERLAND vs NORWAY

OPEN, Round 20

SWEDEN vs GERMANY

Jos Jacobs

In what happened to be only the penultimate round of an extra-long Thursday, I found quite a lot of matches between serious contenders for the top spots. Spain-England, Switzerland-Norway, Denmark-Netherlands. The boards, however, rather misbehaved in a way, most of the time not offering anyone a chance to shine or, for that matter, to produce a good story. The best example of this board attitude was the Denmark-Netherlands match which ended in a remarkable score of 7-7. No boards from that match will go into this report, for sheer lack of general interest, in my opinion. In the Switzerland-Norway match the players did much better in this respect so here is a board from that match to start with. There will even be more later on.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

	♠ —		
	♥ K Q J 7 6 3		
	♦ Q J 7 3 2		
	♣ K 2		
♠ A K J 9 8 4 ♥ 10 9 ♦ 8 4 ♣ J 9 7	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q 6 5 ♥ 8 4 ♦ K 10 9 6 ♣ Q 6 4 3	
	♠ 10 7 3 2		
	♥ A 5 2		
	♦ A 5		
	♣ A 10 8 5		

Switzerland - Norway, Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aa	Klukowski	Livgård	Gawryś
—	4♥	All Pass	

In a now common approach, two-suiters can be opened with a high pre-empt. What could South do, not knowing anything about the spade situation? At this level, no help from the opponents' bidding could be expected any more. Switzerland +680.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Bakke	S. Drijver	Grude
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♠	2NT*	3♠	4♠
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

In the replay, Bakke decided to open at the one-level. The advantage of this approach became clear when the opponents started bidding spades, in spite of South being the first to mention the suit. North's 2NT showed a good hand (3♥ would be just competitive) and South's 4♠ returned the compliment. When North then showed his second suit, South had no further problems. Norway +1430 and 13 IMPs to them.

On the next deal, the Norwegians stole a game.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

	♠ 9 8 6 4		
	♥ J 4 2		
	♦ 10 9 7 6 3		
	♣ 7		
♠ 10 2 ♥ A 10 9 5 ♦ A K Q 5 ♣ J 5 4	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q J 5 ♥ 8 3 ♦ J 8 4 ♣ K Q 10 9 3	
	♠ A K 7 3		
	♥ K Q 7 6		
	♦ 2		
	♣ A 8 6 2		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aa	Klukowski	Livgård	Gawryś
—	—	Pass	1♣
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Against the Polish Club, a stopper in that suit is not essential when overcalling 1 NT. Neither is the classic



15-17 count, apparently. When North failed to lead a heart but tried the more normal-looking $\diamond 9$ instead, declarer had time to establish his clubs for his contract. Norway +400.

At the other table, it took a long auction to see E/W ending up in 1NT. Here it is:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>S. Drijver</i>	<i>Grude</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	1NT	All Pass

When South led a low spade, Bas Drijver also came to nine tricks. Switzerland +150 but 6 more IMPs to Norway.

In the Sweden-Germany match, Peter Fredin was a little too optimistic:

Sweden - Germany, Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reps</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Fritsche</i>	<i>Fredin</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♦	Pass	1NT	Dble
All Pass			

On the lead of the ♠A followed by a diamond, declarer made two easy overtricks. Germany +380, nearly full compensation for the missed stolen game.

In fact, only one player found the killing heart lead v. 3NT. Derrick Peden, North for Scotland in their match v. Portugal, led a low heart from his ♥Jxx because his partner had opened 1♥. They were not (yet?) playing five-card majors...

Back to Sweden-Germany now, where the German N/S added insult to injury by winning the partscore battle.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Kasimir</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Jokisch</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♦	Pass	2♦	Dble
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

The proper contract for N/S was worth another +140, 10 IMPs to Germany.

In the Spain v. England match, this CR auction was exactly copied in their Closed Room, so Bell and Norton as N/S scored +110 against Sabate and Gonzalo Goded. In the Open Room in that match, we saw an auction that made it even more difficult for N/S to find the right lead:

West	North	East	South
<i>Dyke</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Byrne</i>	<i>Fractman</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

When South led three rounds of spades, the game was effectively stolen by E/W at this table as well. England another +400 to add to their +110: 11 IMPs – which also happened to be the eventual margin of their victory.

This was the next board in the Sweden v. Germany match:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Sweden v. Germany, Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reps</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Fritsche</i>	<i>Fredin</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Dble	Rdbl	2♥	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Well bid for a fine +750. The E/W intervention just gave South the room to show some extras by rebidding 3♦. East's final double was just unlucky, in a sense. As we have seen often enough, distribution is more important than point count values.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Kasimir</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Jokisch</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

When E/W kept silent in the replay, N/S were left to their own devices. North's 2♦ showed either a one-suited hand or 9-11 hcp. with two or three spades and South thus could do little else than rebid



his suit and await possible developments that this time did not occur. One overtrick, Germany +140 but 12 IMPs back to Sweden.

And the next board in that match:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Sweden - Germany, Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reps</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Fritsche</i>	<i>Fredin</i>
Pass	2♠*	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	3♦	Dble
	All Pass		

North's 2♠ showed an intermediate opening bid: 10-13 hcp. and a six-card suit. Klaus Reps then clearly chose the wrong moment to balance, as he, too, discovered 1100 points later...

(If East takes a view and passes the double a heart lead gives the defenders a chance, as long as West does not cover dummy's ten. If declarer plays dummy's ♥6 West must play the jack to deny declarer a second entry in the suit. Editor)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Kasimir</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Jokisch</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

In the other room, Kasimir decided to open at the one-level and thus quietly went one down in his 2♠ for another +50 and 15 IMPs to Sweden. It had been an exciting trilogy of boards in this match.

Back to Switzerland v. Norway now. Norway had extended their lead to 31-4 before this last board came up.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

In the Open Room, like on so many previous boards this round, nothing special happened.

Switzerland - Norway, Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Aa</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Liugård</i>	<i>Gawryś</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

2NT Game forcing, 4+♥

Just made, +620 to Switzerland.

In the Closed Room, Bas Drijver was among the happy few that found the faintest of take-out doubles.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>S. Drijver</i>	<i>Grude</i>
Pass	1♥	Dble	2NT*
Dble	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

East's double launched Brink into a fine sacrifice, vulnerable. This sort of sacrifices always are hair-raising in my opinion, even more so if the opponents are not vulnerable. On this board, both sides were vulnerable but the sacrifice met with the first requirement for this sort of actions: not more than one down. So the Norwegians only had the choice left between losing 9 IMPs or 12, one might say. They went for the latter when it turned out that 5♥ had no play.

Their match thus ended 31-16 to Norway, still a 14.80 – 5.20 win in V.P.



RUSSIA vs SWEDEN

OPEN, Round 21

Mark Horton

Последняя доска

If your command of the Russian language is shaky, please be patient, all will be revealed in due course.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ J 10 6 3		♠ K 5 2									
♥ 10 8 3		♥ A K J 6 4 2									
♦ J 5 4		♦ —									
♣ J 10 5		♣ A 9 8 2									
♠ A Q 9 7 4											
♥ Q 9											
♦ A 10 7 6											
♣ K Q											
	<table border="1" 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		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ 8											
♥ 7 5											
♦ K Q 9 8 3 2											
♣ 7 6 4 3											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Gulevich</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♠*	Pass
7♦*	Pass	7♥*	All Pass

- 2♥ Fourth suit forcing (that's not a typo for 2♦!)
- 4♦ 'Undiscussed'
- 4NT RKCB ♠
- 5♦ 0-3 key cards on ♠
- 5NT Ask kings
- 6♠ ♥K
- 7♦ Choose grand

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Khyuppenen</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦	Pass
7♥	All Pass		

- 2♣ 'Game forcing, club can be short'
- 2♠ 4+♣
- 2NT Relay
- 3♣ 6-4 or 5-5
- 3♦ Relay
- 3♥ 6-4
- 3♠ Ask strength
- 4♣ Maximum
- 4♦ Agree hearts for trump
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♦ 0/3 key cards

Two sound auctions to a good contract – although 7NT is better as you survive the possible 5-0 trump break.

7 pairs reached 7♥, while 5 preferred 7NT. 9 were in the inferior – and this time it mattered, 7♠.





Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ K ♥ K Q 10 7 5 2 ♦ J 8 3 ♣ A 6 5	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J 5 2 ♥ J 8 ♦ A Q 6 5 ♣ K 10 8 2	♠ 10 7 4 ♥ A 9 4 ♦ 9 7 4 2 ♣ 7 4 3
---	---	---	---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Gulevich</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2♠*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3NT*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

- 2♠ 8-12, 6♠
- 2NT Relay
- 3NT Maximum, no shortage, want to play notrump

North led the ♥K and South overtook with the ace and returned the nine, North winning with the queen and switching to the ♦J. Declarer won with dummy's queen and played a spade to the queen, North winning and cashing the ♣A, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Khyuppenen</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	2♥	3♥*	Dble
Pass*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

- 3♥ Invitational+ with 3♠
- Pass Better than direct 3♠

North led the ♥7 and South took the ace and returned the nine, North winning with the queen, cashing the ♣A exiting with the ♥K. Declarer ruffed in dummy and ran the ♠J, no swing.

Four declarers made 4♠ by felling the singleton king after North had bid hearts – the Rabbi would have approved.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ Q J 9 8 5 3 ♥ K Q 7 6 ♦ Q ♣ 8 4	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 6 ♥ 9 5 3 ♦ A J 10 9 6 ♣ A 6 5 2	♠ A 10 4 2 ♥ J 10 4 ♦ 8 5 ♣ Q 10 9 7
--	---	---	---

This was the final deal of the match. Thus far Sweden had given up only 3 IMPs. However, that was three more than their opponents, so not for the first time the 'last board' might have a role to play. Perhaps now you can translate my title.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Gulevich</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT*	2♣*	Pass	2♠*
Dble*	3♠	4NT*	Dble
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

- 1NT 9-14
- 2♣ Both majors
- 2♠ 4♠
- Dble Takeout
- 4NT Minors

North led the ♥K and declarer ducked as South followed with the jack. He took the next round with the ace, played a diamond to the ace, drew the outstanding trump and played a spade, South taking the ace and playing a heart, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Khyuppenen</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT*	2♦*	2NT*	3♥*
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl*	All Pass

- 1NT 12-14
- 2♦ One major
- 2NT Invitational in ♣ or weak in a minor
- 3♥ Pass or correct
- Rdbl 'No agreement'

North led the ♠J and South won with the ace and returned the two, declarer winning and playing the ♦2. He cashed the diamonds, South discarding three hearts and North two hearts, a club and a spade. A heart to the ace was followed by a club to the ace and a club to the jack, +1000, 15 IMPs and a last gasp 14-6 VP win for Sweden.



ENGLAND vs SWITZERLAND

WOMEN, Round 10

Mark Horton

Moving Day

Students of golf will be aware that the penultimate round takes place on what has become known as 'moving day', signifying that those who were hoping to do well, but have not yet threatened the leaders must make a good score in order to be in a position to make a challenge on the final day. It was time for those teams still entertaining hopes of competing in a World Championship to step up to the plate.

In the Women's teams, England were struggling to find their form. They still had a lot of tough looking matches to come, so a good result in their opening match of the day against Switzerland was the first step on what might be a rocky road.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheng</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Gerstel</i>	<i>Brown</i>
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1♣ 2+♣

East led the ♥K and declarer won and played two rounds of clubs. East won and continued hearts, -50. Declarer was hoping the hearts would be blocked; the alternative is to take the diamond finesse, hoping to find East with a singleton or doubleton diamond.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fawcett</i>	<i>Duc</i>	<i>Draper</i>	<i>Meyerson</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the ♠8 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played two rounds of clubs. East won and continued spades and declarer won and played a diamond to the jack, +490 and 11 IMPs.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheng</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Gerstel</i>	<i>Brown</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

2♦ Hearts
 4♥ Balanced slam try

North's trump support was modest, but her controls were excellent. From the comfort of my office I would make a try via 4♠, which would probably see a slam being reached.

East led the ♠4 and declarer took West's queen with the ace and must have been relieved when East discarded the ♣8 on the ♥6, +650.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fawcett</i>	<i>Duc</i>	<i>Draper</i>	<i>Meyerson</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♠*
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

2♥ Natural, 16+
 3NT Serious
 4NT RKCB
 5♠ 2 key cards + ♥Q

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheng</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Gerstel</i>	<i>Brown</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

East led the ♥2, a good start, and declarer won the second round of the suit in dummy, ruffed a heart, cashed dummy's ♠QA and played a club, taking West's queen with the ace and playing the ♦J. When East failed to cover declarer ran it and had secured a tenth trick, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fawcett</i>	<i>Duc</i>	<i>Draper</i>	<i>Meyerson</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♦*
1♥	1♠*	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
1♦	3+♦		
1♠	5♠		

After two rounds of hearts declarer played a club for the king and ace, cashed the ♣K and exited with a club, West winning with the nine and exiting with a spade. Declarer won with dummy's ten, ruffed a heart and played the ♦9. East covered with the ten, ensuring one down and 12 welcome IMPs.

The excellent slam was doomed by the 5-0 break, -100 and a not unlucky 13 IMPs for England.

8 pairs bid 6♥ – one East had the temerity to double, risking a removal to 6NT. Given the 5-0 split in hearts that is the best slam:

West	North	East	South
<i>Ege</i>	<i>Hernandez</i>	<i>Farholt</i>	<i>Mestres</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

East led the ♦3 and that solved declarer's problem, +1440 and 13 IMPs for Spain, Norway having stopped in 5♥.

West	North	East	South
<i>Adamson</i>	<i>Ingolfdottir</i>	<i>Milne</i>	<i>Bender</i>
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣

East led the ♣4 and declarer won with dummy's ten and returned the ♣J, East winning and making life easy by switching to diamonds +1440.

If East exits with a club, West discards a diamond and declarer can get home by playing to squeeze West in the red suits. 17 IMPs for Iceland as Scotland had bid 6♥.



Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheng</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Gerstel</i>	<i>Brown</i>
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- 1♣ 2+♣
- 2♦ Forcing to game relay

East led the ♦2 and declarer soon claimed 11 tricks, +660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fawcett</i>	<i>Duc</i>	<i>Draper</i>	<i>Meyerson</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Playing in clubs meant the loss of an IMP.

It does not look easy to find a route to 6♣. Perhaps North could bid 3♥ over 3♣, then continue with 4♣ over South's 3NT.

Two pairs were up to the task:

West	North	East	South
<i>Christensen</i>	<i>Vist</i>	<i>Visser</i>	<i>Heskje</i>
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♥*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

- 1♣ 2+♣
- 1♥ 4+♠
- 2♣ Maximum 2♠, natural
- 2♦ Artificial, game forcing
- 4♦ Cue
- 4♠ Cue

That gave Norway 12 IMPs against the Netherlands.

West	North	East	South
<i>De Lorenzo</i>	<i>Thomsen</i>	<i>Fernandez</i>	<i>Bilde</i>
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

- 1♣ 2+♣
- 2♦ 'Game forcing, says nothing about diamonds'
- 4♦ Cue
- 4♠ Cue

13 IMPs for Denmark against Spain.

England won the match 31-16, 14.80-5.20 VP which moved them up to tenth. It was a step in the right direction, but there was still a lot of work to be done. It reminded me of many football matches I have watched where a great team fails to play at their best, but somehow finds a way to win, often described by the commentators as the mark of champions.





ENGLAND vs POLAND

OPEN, Round 19

Ron Tacchi

After 18 rounds of the Open, England were reasonably comfortably placed in fourth position. The Poles, uncharacteristically were languishing in fifteenth, though less than six VPs separated them from eleventh place, so a strong finish to the longest day would see them back in contention.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

<p>♠ Q 4 ♥ 7 6 5 4 ♦ J 9 7 ♣ K 6 5 3</p>	<p>♠ 10 9 8 ♥ 10 9 2 ♦ Q 4 2 ♣ Q 10 9 7</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="margin: 0;">N W E S</p> </div>	<p>♠ J 7 6 5 3 ♥ A 8 ♦ A 10 6 5 ♣ J 8</p>
<p>♠ A K 2 ♥ K Q J 3 ♦ K 8 3 ♣ A 4 2</p>			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Marcinowski</i>	<i>Bell</i>	<i>Sobczak</i>	<i>Norton</i>
—	Pass	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2NT 20-21

After North's thin raise to game West led a heart to East's ace, declarer unblocking a high honour. To succeed in his contract declarer basically needs three club tricks. Having a lack of entries to dummy he needs to tackle the suit from hand. His two main strategies are small to the ten or small to the queen. The former should always succeed if the jack is well-placed or king doubleton onside, the latter requires the king to be onside and some other considerations – though it could also work if West has ♣Jx. So it appears that finessing against the jack is about 50% and playing towards the queen a bit less. There are some interesting decisions to be made depending on the defenders' cards. What do you do if West immediately plays the ♣K? You will need to decide what do about the jack. And the situation here is slightly clouded by your lack of entries to the hand opposite. The first question you need to ask yourself is from what holdings would West play the king. This

also may depend on who is sitting on your left, there are certain players who might be capable of playing a deceptive card. My immediate reaction, and I do not claim to be 100% accurate, is that West would not play the king from ♣Kxx or ♣Kxxx and if he has played it from ♣Kx there is not much you can do as not only would you have to back yourself to have made the right decision but also that the ♦A was on your left. So if I was declarer and the king appeared on the first round I would place the jack with the king, which means if you knew the inner workings of my mind then with ♣Kxx you should rise with the king!!!

Declarer took the best shot when he inserted the ten but unfortunately for him he was now one light.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Golebiowski</i>	<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Patreuha</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♦*	1♠	1NT*
All Pass			

1♣ Polish
1♦ 0-6
1NT 18-20

North knowing the absolute maximum between then was 24 points elected not to hazard the game. Six IMPs for Poland.




Patryk Patreuha

POLAND



Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Marcinowski</i>	<i>Bell</i>	<i>Sobczak</i>	<i>Norton</i>
1♣*	1NT	Dble	Rdble
Pass	2♣*	Dble	2♦*
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

- 1♣ Polish
- Rdble ♣ or two-suiter not♣
- 2♣ Relay
- 2♦ ♦ and M

Three Spades rates to have only four top losers but when South led his singleton club declarer won in dummy with the ace and led a trump. North smartly rose with the ace, gave his partner a club ruff by leading the jack which South interpreted as a request for a heart, though it would not have mattered which red suit South chose. Another ruff, the ♥K cashed and a diamond to partner's ace saw six quick tricks taken in succession to defeat the contract by two vulnerable tricks.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Golebiowski</i>	<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Patreuha</i>
1♣*	Dble	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦	3♠	4♦
All Pass			

- 1♣ 2+♣
- 2NT Two-suiter

South snatched defeat from the jaws of victory with his 4♦ bid, his bold 2NT has coerced the opposition to the three-level. Was 4♦ a bridge (bid) too far? I cannot answer that question but the contract had four losers and so seven IMPs to England.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Marcinowski</i>	<i>Bell</i>	<i>Sobczak</i>	<i>Norton</i>
—	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

The convention card states that a pre-empt may contain six cards. I hope someone can explain to me the reasoning behind 4♠ on the South hand. If partner truly has nothing then there is a chance the opposition can make 3NT or perhaps 4♥. If you were to pass and the auction continued Double-Pass-4♥ would you be rushing to bid 4♠? If the auction actually continued with a Pass would you be regretting not bidding 4♠? All questions for greater bridge minds than mine. Declarer escaped for one down when perhaps the defence could have taken an extra trick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Golebiowski</i>	<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Patreuha</i>
—	2♦*	Pass	2♠
2NT	All Pass		

Al though the 2♦ was not alerted I am confident that it was a multi, a belief that is confirmed from the convention card. As always when a multi 2♦ bid occurs I reach for my editor's trusty tome 'The Mysterious Multi'. Fourth hand defence is an area perhaps not discussed by partnerships as it should be and I can find no reference to a defence against the multi in the convention card. Most fourth hand defences seem to treat 2NT as 16-18(19) balanced and that is what West holds, West can be almost sure that North's suit is spades and thus maybe a Double might be safer bet but for E/W it is just one of those deals where there is nothing for them – the limit is seven or eight tricks. When hearts did not provide five tricks the contract finished three light. Nine IMPs to Poland.

At the end of the match Poland had won 21-10 or 13.72-6.28 VPs. Poland rose two places in the ranking whilst England fell by the same margin.



SWEDEN vs NETHERLANDS

OPEN, Round 23

Ron Tacchi

The Netherlands were lying nicely in third position whereas Sweden were just outside those coveted places for a trip to the Bermuda Bowl. As the two thirds marker was passed it is now imperative to start to make one's move up the ladder towards the top spot.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nab</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
—	Pass	1♣*	2♣
Dble*	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣
Dble T/O

Did North have another club in his bag to describe his hand – he looks quite solid for what appears to be a defensive raise. West was in imminent danger of causing a Biltcliffe Coup. He could have passed the hand out in 3♣ but when he elected to push on South bid one more and it was now up to North to show West the error of his ways but alas for us cravers of coups it was not to be. With the ace of diamonds inside there was little difficulty in claiming eleven tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rimstedt O</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Rimstedt M</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	Pass	1♣*	2♣
Dble	Rdbl	2♠	3♣
3♠	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

North's Redouble and subsequent support for clubs persuaded South to attempt the minor-suit game and he was right so to do. Ten IMPs to The Netherlands

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nab</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Dble	2♥*	Pass	2♠
Dble	3♠	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

2♥ Good ♠ raise

South's light opening made it difficult for West who eventually had to make a difficult choice - frequently hands such as this may not be as good as you think they are but he struck gold when he found partner with four trumps and a useful ♣Q. North got off to a disastrous start when he led the ♠K, there was no way back but just to make it easier for declarer the suit was continued before a club switch. Declarer won in dummy and led a trump and when South split his



honours declarer claimed.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rimstedt O</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Rimstedt M</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♥*	2♠
2NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

At this table North chose a small spade to his partner's ace and a club was returned. The contract should now fail as North has an entry to give his partner a club ruff. However when the ♥6 was led from dummy South failed to split his honours and West would have made his unmakeable contract had he inserted the jack, but as he was aware of the possibility of a club ruff he rose with the trump ace hoping for 2-2 trump split. Now he had a further three losers. 13 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nab</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
2♦*	Dble*	Rdbl*	Pass
2♥	2NT*	3♥	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♦ Multi
Rdbl Bid your suit

My 'Mysterious Multi' tells me that the standard defence of Double shows three possible hand types, one being a balanced 19+ - very convenient for North who showed this variant with the 2NT bid. Partner gave him one for the road and so the game contract was reached. Unsurprisingly East started with a heart won in hand. The ♠Q was taken by the ace and a heart continued which declarer took with the ace. It was plain sailing for declarer now as there was no entry to the West hand for the long hearts. He played two rounds of spades overtaking with the king to take the club finesse which was ducked and then repeated. When East took his ♣K he cashed the ♦A and the ♠9 but the rest of the tricks were for declarer.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rimstedt O</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Rimstedt M</i>	<i>Muller</i>
2♥	Dble	3♦*	Pass
3♥	Dble	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

3♦ Good 3♥

West led his singleton club which declarer took with dummy's ace. A high trump was taken by East who cashed the ♣K and played another for West to ruff. A diamond came back and when East played a fourth round of clubs declarer ruffed with the king, fearing a ruff from West but alas now a trump trick had been established for East and so the contract failed by one trick. 12 IMPs to Sweden.

At the end of the match Sweden had lost to the Netherlands 30-21 or 13.14-6.86 in VPs. This consolidated the Netherlands position adjacent to the top of table but did not ease Sweden's plight.

Picture: the playing area in the Netherlands





LISTEN TO ZIA

Mark Horton

Preemptive bids can be revealing, usually offering declarer a clue as to how to tackle a suit. To relieve the tension of the last day, here is a simple play problem. Welcome to this deal from Round 24 of the Open:

Board 24. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ 2
♥ A Q 6 2
♦ K 6 2
♣ 10 9 8 4 3



♠ 5
♥ J 9
♦ A J 10 8 7 5
♣ A K J 7

This was a typical auction:

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	4♠	5♦
5♠	6♦	All Pass	

West leads the ♠Q and East wins with the king and switches to the ♣2 for your ace.

You have to assume the clubs are coming in, and the fact that West did not lead a club suggest that the suit is 2-2 or 3-1. At the prevailing vulnerability East is likely to have started with eight spades. Over to you.

While you are pondering, I have a recollection that Zia Mahmood pointed out that it can be a good idea

to preempt with side honours, especially queens, as if you end up defending declarer might be inclined to play your partner for any that are important.

6♦ was reached 7 times. Croatia's Luca Zunic played a diamond to the ace at trick three, while Poland's Patryk Patreuha played the ♦J at trick three and overtook it with dummy's ace (perhaps recalling another Zia classic, 'if they don't cover they don't have it.').

Austria's Florian Weiss played the ♦A at trick three and then ran the jack, as did England's Ben Norton, the Netherlands Bauke Muller (the ♦10 to be precise), Portugal's Carlos Pimenta and the Ukraine's Volodymyr Dragan.

It's time to reveal the full deal:

Board 24. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ 2
♥ A Q 6 2
♦ K 6 2
♣ 10 9 8 4 3



♠ Q J 6
♥ K 10 7 5 4 3
♦ 9 3
♣ Q 6

♠ AK1098743
♥ 8
♦ Q 4
♣ 5 2

♠ 5
♥ J 9
♦ A J 10 8 7 5
♣ A K J 7

If you know your Zia, you win 11 IMPs (unless you were representing Austria or the Netherlands, who were in opposition).



Playing room in Turkey

**RESULTS - OPEN TEAMS****ROUND 22**

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	IMPs 1	IMPs 2	VPs 1	VPs 2
1	GERMANY	Bye	0	0	12	0.00
2	ISRAEL	NORWAY	19	24	8.15	11.85
3	SWEDEN	ITALY	0	0	0.00	12.00*
4	ENGLAND	SWITZERLAND	0	38	1.03	18.97
5	AUSTRIA	FRANCE	20	32	6.00	14.00
6	SPAIN	POLAND	4	40	1.29	18.71
7	NETHERLANDS	BELGIUM	16	7	13.14	6.86
8	GREECE	IRELAND	20	27	7.49	12.51
9	DENMARK	RUSSIA	50	20	17.84	2.16
10	TURKEY	ICELAND	49	29	15.97	4.03
11	CROATIA	HUNGARY	41	26	14.80	5.20
12	ESTONIA	ROMANIA	50	0	20.00	0.00
13	BULGARIA	LATVIA	22	9	14.28	5.72
14	PORTUGAL	SLOVENIA	38	27	13.72	6.28
15	WALES	UKRAINE	12	14	9.23	10.77
16	LITHUANIA	SCOTLAND	16	46	2.16	17.84

ROUND 23

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	IMPs 1	IMPs 2	VPs 1	VPs 2
1	ITALY	Bye	0	0	12*	0.00
2	NORWAY	ENGLAND	30	20	13.43	6.57
3	GERMANY	FRANCE	33	22	13.72	6.28
4	POLAND	ISRAEL	13	29	4.95	15.05
5	SWEDEN	NETHERLANDS	21	30	6.86	13.14
6	SWITZERLAND	IRELAND	14	14	10.00	10.00
7	RUSSIA	AUSTRIA	46	6	19.22	0.78
8	SPAIN	ICELAND	35	20	14.80	5.20
9	BELGIUM	HUNGARY	10	20	6.57	13.43
10	GREECE	ESTONIA	46	11	18.58	1.42
11	DENMARK	BULGARIA	35	13	16.39	3.61
12	PORTUGAL	TURKEY	15	33	4.48	15.52
13	UKRAINE	CROATIA	45	20	16.97	3.03
14	LITHUANIA	ROMANIA	27	32	8.15	11.85
15	LATVIA	SCOTLAND	13	32	4.25	15.75
16	WALES	SLOVENIA	60	4	20.00	0.00

ROUND 24

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	IMPs 1	IMPs 2	VPs 1	VPs 2
1	NORWAY	Bye	0	0	12	0.00
2	GERMANY	ITALY	0	0	0.00	12.00*
3	ISRAEL	ENGLAND	22	8	14.54	5.46
4	FRANCE	SWEDEN	12	31	4.25	15.75
5	SWITZERLAND	POLAND	17	13	11.50	8.50
6	AUSTRIA	NETHERLANDS	18	8	13.43	6.57
7	IRELAND	SPAIN	9	19	6.57	13.43
8	BELGIUM	RUSSIA	0	28	2.49	17.51
9	GREECE	ICELAND	22	15	12.51	7.49
10	DENMARK	HUNGARY	28	16	14.00	6.00
11	TURKEY	ESTONIA	25	12	14.28	5.72
12	BULGARIA	CROATIA	13	18	8.15	11.85
13	PORTUGAL	ROMANIA	33	19	14.54	5.46
14	UKRAINE	LATVIA	13	36	3.41	16.59
15	SLOVENIA	LITHUANIA	30	14	15.05	4.95
16	SCOTLAND	WALES	17	5	14.00	6.00

**ROUND 25**

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	IMPs 1	IMPs 2	VPs 1	VPs 2
1	UKRAINE	Bye	0	0	12	0.00
2	PORTUGAL	LITHUANIA	20	28	7.17	12.83
3	BULGARIA	SCOTLAND	19	11	12.83	7.17
4	WALES	ESTONIA	24	8	15.05	4.95
5	HUNGARY	SLOVENIA	16	12	11.50	8.50
6	ICELAND	LATVIA	25	14	13.72	6.28
7	ROMANIA	RUSSIA	24	10	14.54	5.46
8	IRELAND	CROATIA	28	14	14.54	5.46
9	NETHERLANDS	TURKEY	9	16	7.49	12.51
10	POLAND	DENMARK	16	24	7.17	12.83
11	FRANCE	GREECE	30	8	16.39	3.61
12	BELGIUM	ENGLAND	21	29	7.17	12.83
13	SPAIN	ITALY	0	0	0.00	12.00*
14	AUSTRIA	NORWAY	15	21	7.82	12.18
15	GERMANY	SWITZERLAND	29	14	14.80	5.20
16	SWEDEN	ISRAEL	2	16	5.46	14.54

ROUND 26

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	IMPs 1	IMPs 2	VPs 1	VPs 2
1	ROMANIA	Bye	0	0	12	0.00
2	LATVIA	CROATIA	26	25	10.39	9.61
3	SLOVENIA	TURKEY	8	17	6.86	13.14
4	DENMARK	WALES	21	1	15.97	4.03
5	SCOTLAND	GREECE	9	14	8.15	11.85
6	LITHUANIA	BELGIUM	16	45	2.32	17.68
7	SPAIN	UKRAINE	7	18	6.28	13.72
8	PORTUGAL	AUSTRIA	7	18	6.28	13.72
9	BULGARIA	SWITZERLAND	1	14	5.72	14.28
10	ESTONIA	SWEDEN	0	31	2.00	18.00
11	HUNGARY	ISRAEL	8	28	4.03	15.97
12	GERMANY	ICELAND	7	21	5.46	14.54
13	NORWAY	RUSSIA	33	15	15.52	4.48
14	ITALY	IRELAND	0	0	12.00*	0.00
15	NETHERLANDS	ENGLAND	10	3	12.51	7.49
16	FRANCE	POLAND	17	10	12.51	7.49

RANKING AFTER ROUND 26

1		SWITZERLAND	336.86
2		DENMARK	312.89
3		ISRAEL	312.02
4		ITALY	312.00*
5		NETHERLANDS	311.70
6		NORWAY	303.54
7		FRANCE	287.36
8		SWEDEN	286.55
9		ENGLAND	282.02
10		HUNGARY	275.29
11		BULGARIA	273.75
12		POLAND	268.23
13		UKRAINE	267.67
14		SPAIN	263.21
15		TURKEY	255.97
16		RUSSIA	254.73
17		GERMANY	248.75
18		ICELAND	245.56
19		GREECE	245.05
20		BELGIUM	244.33
21		IRELAND	241.90
22		PORTUGAL	240.26
23		CROATIA	228.09
24		WALES	216.11
25		SCOTLAND	214.05
26		LITHUANIA	211.30
27		LATVIA	209.62
28		ROMANIA	206.02
29		AUSTRIA	200.35
30		SLOVENIA	187.77
31		ESTONIA	161.95

*Provisional score subject to the provisions of clause 18 Appendix 1 of the General Conditions of Contest.

European Small Federations Games – LIVE

The EBL is delighted to confirm that the Small Federation Games will take place in Vilnius, Lithuania from 28 to 30 September 2021.

This will be the first EBL face to face event since the start of the pandemic.

The details of the venue will be published on the event microsite which will open for registration early in September.

**RESULTS - WOMEN TEAMS****ROUND 10**

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	IMPs 1	IMPs 2	VPs 1	VPs 2
21	HUNGARY	GERMANY	11	19	7.17	12.83
22	SCOTLAND	ICELAND	24	19	11.85	8.15
23	IRELAND	RUSSIA	17	16	10.39	9.61
24	BELGIUM	TURKEY	35	0	18.58	1.42
25	ENGLAND	SWITZERLAND	31	16	14.80	5.20
26	SWEDEN	ISRAEL	23	8	14.80	5.20
27	NETHERLANDS	NORWAY	5	41	1.29	18.71
28	DENMARK	SPAIN	35	20	14.80	5.20
29	ESTONIA	POLAND	4	36	1.85	18.15
30	FRANCE	PORTUGAL	35	2	18.30	1.70

ROUND 11

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	IMPs 1	IMPs 2	VPs 1	VPs 2
21	HUNGARY	SWEDEN	12	24	6.00	14.00
22	NETHERLANDS	ENGLAND	1	27	2.84	17.16
23	TURKEY	DENMARK	39	15	16.78	3.22
24	RUSSIA	POLAND	0	34	1.56	18.44
25	FRANCE	SCOTLAND	26	12	14.54	5.46
26	PORTUGAL	GERMANY	24	45	3.82	16.18
27	ESTONIA	ICELAND	29	34	8.15	11.85
28	SPAIN	IRELAND	25	16	13.14	6.86
29	BELGIUM	NORWAY	37	14	16.59	3.41
30	ISRAEL	SWITZERLAND	25	24	10.39	9.61

ROUND 12

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	IMPs 1	IMPs 2	VPs 1	VPs 2
21	HUNGARY	POLAND	14	15	9.61	10.39
22	FRANCE	DENMARK	6	8	9.23	10.77
23	NETHERLANDS	PORTUGAL	15	29	5.46	14.54
24	SWEDEN	ESTONIA	15	15	10.00	10.00
25	SPAIN	ENGLAND	10	19	6.86	13.14
26	NORWAY	TURKEY	3	52	0.00	20.00
27	ISRAEL	RUSSIA	29	6	16.59	3.41
28	SWITZERLAND	SCOTLAND	12	23	6.28	13.72
29	GERMANY	BELGIUM	7	26	4.25	15.75
30	IRELAND	ICELAND	10	24	5.46	14.54

ROUND 13

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	IMPs 1	IMPs 2	VPs 1	VPs 2
21	HUNGARY	NETHERLANDS	23	12	13.72	6.28
22	DENMARK	SWEDEN	21	17	11.50	8.50
23	ENGLAND	POLAND	16	23	7.49	12.51
24	TURKEY	FRANCE	39	23	15.05	4.95
25	PORTUGAL	RUSSIA	7	29	3.61	16.39
26	ESTONIA	SCOTLAND	31	36	8.15	11.85
27	SPAIN	GERMANY	10	20	6.57	13.43
28	NORWAY	ICELAND	37	15	16.39	3.61
29	IRELAND	ISRAEL	19	32	5.72	14.28
30	SWITZERLAND	BELGIUM	39	7	18.15	1.85

ROUND 14

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	IMPs 1	IMPs 2	VPs 1	VPs 2
21	HUNGARY	DENMARK	10	15	8.15	11.85
22	POLAND	NETHERLANDS	13	15	9.23	10.77
23	SWEDEN	FRANCE	22	32	6.57	13.43
24	ENGLAND	PORTUGAL	34	26	12.83	7.17
25	ESTONIA	TURKEY	16	44	2.49	17.51
26	SPAIN	RUSSIA	10	38	2.49	17.51
27	NORWAY	SCOTLAND	30	36	7.82	12.18
28	ISRAEL	GERMANY	6	29	3.41	16.59
29	ICELAND	SWITZERLAND	33	41	7.17	12.83
30	BELGIUM	IRELAND	20	10	13.43	6.57

RANKING AFTER ROUND 14

1		SWEDEN	191.59
2		POLAND	177.12
3		FRANCE	173.89
4		TURKEY	163.15
5		RUSSIA	155.28
6		HUNGARY	151.02
7		ENGLAND	144.52
8		GERMANY	143.24
9		NETHERLANDS	142.50
10		PORTUGAL	137.09
11		BELGIUM	134.29
12		NORWAY	133.77
13		SCOTLAND	128.77
14		ISRAEL	126.85
15		DENMARK	125.73
16		ESTONIA	124.49
17		SPAIN	119.72
18		SWITZERLAND	112.70
19		IRELAND	111.89
20		ICELAND	100.99

**RESULTS - SENIOR TEAMS****ROUND 16**

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	IMPs 1	IMPs 2	VPs 1	VPs 2
41	PORTUGAL	FRANCE	27	12	14.80	5.20
42	NORWAY	IRELAND	0	11	6.28	13.72
43	ENGLAND	DENMARK	5	22	4.71	15.29
44	ROMANIA	ISRAEL	25	16	13.14	6.86
45	HUNGARY	POLAND	30	12	15.52	4.48
46	SWEDEN	NETHERLANDS	10	42	1.85	18.15
47	GERMANY	SCOTLAND	8	28	4.03	15.97
48	TURKEY	SWITZERLAND	32	17	14.80	5.20
49	LATVIA	BELGIUM	3	16	5.72	14.28
50	GREECE	BULGARIA	23	20	11.14	8.86
51	ESTONIA	ICELAND	17	53	1.29	18.71
52	SPAIN	RUSSIA	18	29	6.28	13.72

ROUND 17

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	IMPs 1	IMPs 2	VPs 1	VPs 2
41	PORTUGAL	DENMARK	25	13	14.00	6.00
42	IRELAND	ISRAEL	33	18	14.80	5.20
43	FRANCE	POLAND	20	29	6.86	13.14
44	NORWAY	SWEDEN	19	7	14.00	6.00
45	ENGLAND	SCOTLAND	8	27	4.25	15.75
46	TURKEY	ROMANIA	16	14	10.77	9.23
47	HUNGARY	BELGIUM	23	26	8.86	11.14
48	BULGARIA	NETHERLANDS	26	8	15.52	4.48
49	GERMANY	ESTONIA	13	10	11.14	8.86
50	SWITZERLAND	SPAIN	17	25	7.17	12.83
51	RUSSIA	LATVIA	14	25	6.28	13.72
52	ICELAND	GREECE	15	6	13.14	6.86

ROUND 18

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	IMPs 1	IMPs 2	VPs 1	VPs 2
41	PORTUGAL	IRELAND	26	17	13.14	6.86
42	FRANCE	DENMARK	30	18	14.00	6.00
43	NORWAY	ISRAEL	42	8	18.44	1.56
44	ENGLAND	POLAND	3	31	2.49	17.51
45	ROMANIA	SWEDEN	5	17	6.00	14.00
46	SCOTLAND	HUNGARY	11	12	9.61	10.39
47	NETHERLANDS	TURKEY	37	15	16.39	3.61
48	BELGIUM	GERMANY	13	33	4.03	15.97
49	SWITZERLAND	BULGARIA	13	34	3.82	16.18
50	LATVIA	ESTONIA	29	20	13.14	6.86
51	SPAIN	GREECE	24	12	14.00	6.00
52	RUSSIA	ICELAND	23	15	12.83	7.17

ROUND 19

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	IMPs 1	IMPs 2	VPs 1	VPs 2
41	PORTUGAL	SPAIN	31	15	15.05	4.95
42	ESTONIA	RUSSIA	32	7	16.97	3.03
43	BULGARIA	ICELAND	24	21	11.14	8.86
44	BELGIUM	GREECE	27	21	12.18	7.82
45	TURKEY	LATVIA	17	10	12.51	7.49
46	SWITZERLAND	SCOTLAND	1	36	1.42	18.58
47	SWEDEN	GERMANY	4	29	3.03	16.97
48	NETHERLANDS	POLAND	11	18	7.49	12.51
49	ISRAEL	HUNGARY	22	17	11.85	8.15
50	DENMARK	ROMANIA	31	1	17.84	2.16
51	ENGLAND	IRELAND	2	11	6.86	13.14
52	NORWAY	FRANCE	26	26	10.00	10.00

RANKING AFTER ROUND 19

1		NETHERLANDS	244.74
2		DENMARK	238.74
3		FRANCE	235.74
4		BULGARIA	219.30
5		NORWAY	217.51
6		ENGLAND	211.36
7		SWEDEN	209.48
8		GERMANY	208.46
9		POLAND	208.41
10		BELGIUM	206.14
11		PORTUGAL	205.66
12		ICELAND	195.26
13		TURKEY	193.44
14		SCOTLAND	188.47
15		IRELAND	178.66
16		ROMANIA	177.04
17		HUNGARY	176.21
18		GREECE	172.54
19		ESTONIA	160.15
20		ISRAEL	159.96
21		RUSSIA	143.89
22		LATVIA	141.20
23		SPAIN	135.71
24		SWITZERLAND	122.78

**RESULTS - MIXED TEAMS****ROUND 14**

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	IMPs 1	IMPs 2	VPs 1	VPs 2
61	RUSSIA	Bye	0	0	12	0.00
62	ISRAEL	ENGLAND	15	20	8.15	11.85
63	ROMANIA	SWEDEN	30	7	16.59	3.41
64	LATVIA	WALES	19	18	10.39	9.61
65	NETHERLANDS	GERMANY	27	24	11.14	8.86
66	NORWAY	FRANCE	2	15	5.72	14.28
67	CROATIA	POLAND	37	11	17.16	2.84
68	PORTUGAL	SWITZERLAND	10	2	12.83	7.17
69	DENMARK	IRELAND	40	14	17.16	2.84
70	SCOTLAND	BELGIUM	8	40	1.85	18.15
71	SPAIN	TURKEY	31	22	13.14	6.86

ROUND 15

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	IMPs 1	IMPs 2	VPs 1	VPs 2
61	ROMANIA	Bye	0	0	12	0.00
62	ENGLAND	LATVIA	23	48	3.03	16.97
63	GERMANY	RUSSIA	21	27	7.82	12.18
64	FRANCE	ISRAEL	42	10	18.15	1.85
65	SWEDEN	POLAND	21	38	4.71	15.29
66	WALES	SWITZERLAND	38	25	14.28	5.72
67	NETHERLANDS	DENMARK	25	44	4.25	15.75
68	NORWAY	BELGIUM	17	56	0.90	19.10
69	SPAIN	CROATIA	16	22	7.82	12.18
70	PORTUGAL	TURKEY	47	7	19.22	0.78
71	SCOTLAND	IRELAND	22	33	6.28	13.72

ROUND 16

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	IMPs 1	IMPs 2	VPs 1	VPs 2
61	ENGLAND	Bye	0	0	12	0.00
62	RUSSIA	ROMANIA	28	35	7.49	12.51
63	LATVIA	ISRAEL	24	24	10.00	10.00
64	GERMANY	SWEDEN	37	18	15.75	4.25
65	WALES	FRANCE	13	68	0.00	20.00
66	NETHERLANDS	POLAND	16	27	6.28	13.72
67	NORWAY	SWITZERLAND	22	20	10.77	9.23
68	CROATIA	DENMARK	38	47	6.86	13.14
69	BELGIUM	PORTUGAL	34	4	17.84	2.16
70	IRELAND	SPAIN	42	2	19.22	0.78
71	TURKEY	SCOTLAND	23	15	12.83	7.17

ROUND 17

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	IMPs 1	IMPs 2	VPs 1	VPs 2
61	SPAIN	Bye	0	0	12	0.00
62	BELGIUM	TURKEY	12	15	8.86	11.14
63	SCOTLAND	DENMARK	15	26	6.28	13.72
64	IRELAND	SWITZERLAND	26	13	14.28	5.72
65	POLAND	PORTUGAL	8	34	2.84	17.16
66	FRANCE	CROATIA	15	4	13.72	6.28
67	GERMANY	NORWAY	35	0	18.58	1.42
68	LATVIA	NETHERLANDS	20	6	14.54	5.46
69	WALES	ROMANIA	8	23	5.20	14.80
70	ENGLAND	SWEDEN	6	26	4.03	15.97
71	ISRAEL	RUSSIA	20	5	14.80	5.20

RANKING AFTER ROUND 17

1		FRANCE	244.84
2		BELGIUM	222.17
3		ROMANIA	206.89
4		GERMANY	203.23
5		DENMARK	195.07
6		ISRAEL	192.40
7		PORTUGAL	188.41
8		CROATIA	187.34
9		POLAND	179.17
10		LATVIA	177.58
11		NETHERLANDS	175.68
12		TURKEY	170.01
13		RUSSIA	164.19
14		WALES	152.66
15		SWEDEN	147.13
16		SWITZERLAND	144.35
17		SCOTLAND	143.20
18		IRELAND	140.50
19		ENGLAND	137.66
20		NORWAY	127.94
21		SPAIN	103.87