















# 10<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN Transnational CHAMPIONSHIPS

3-17 JUNE 2023



# **Daily Bulletin**

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Issue No 13. Thursday 15 June, 2023



### **PRIZE GIVING**

The Prize-Giving Ceremony of the Women Teams will take place outsite the Hall 2 of the Venue today at 20:00.

Cocktails at the end.

# Dramatic finish sets up a Battle Royal

Frederico Palma, Mara Fantoni, Luca Saglia, Franco Crosta, Eduardo Fernandes, Pedro Cabrita, Gianluca Barrese, Monica Gorreri, Lucille Rebmeister, Filippo Fantoni, Jean Pierre Sonrel



Don't forget to Register for the Online Bridge Olympic Esports Week, June 19/25.

For details see the press release published at pages 4-5.







In the Women's Teams **Tri Polar** had a comfortable win over **Galatasaray SK** while **Green** had to engineer a swing on the final deal to apparently overcome **Baker** by a single IMP. However, a scoring error meant the teams were tied and it was **Baker** who advanced by virtue of having won the match between the teams in the Round Robin.

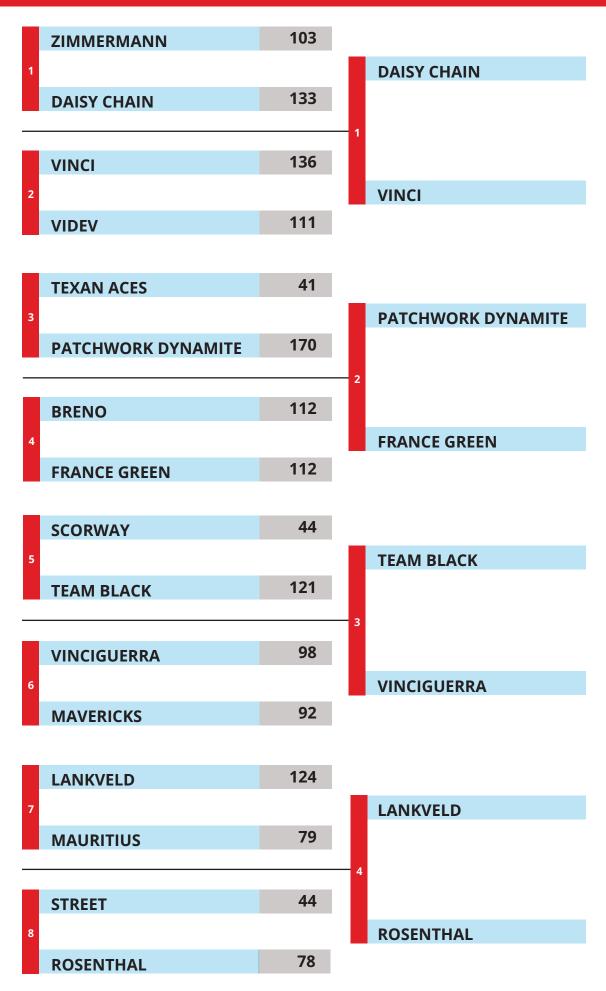
There were several close encounters in the Round of 16 in the Open Teams, only **Patchwork Dynamite** and **Team Black** having an easy passage to the quarterfinals against **Texan Aces** and **Scorway**. The biggest surprise was the elimination of **Zimmermann** by **Daisy Chain**.

In the Open BAM a titanic struggle is going on between **Knottenbelt**, **Pharmaservice** and **Les Fringants**.

In the Open Pairs the leading qualifiers for the semifinals were Gert-Jan Paulissen and Sam Bahbout, Aviv Zeitak and Nir Khutorsky, Haojun Shi and Baisong Shan, Piotr Lutostanski and Krzysztof Buras, Sarah & Mike Bell and Lionel Sebbane and Paul Seguineau.

In the Women's Pairs the leading qualifiers were **Danuta Kazmucha** and **Aleksandra Jarosz**, **Ebru Ates** and **Tijen Ozlu** and **Hila Levi** and **Adi Asulin**.

# **Results - OPEN TEAMS - Round of 32**



# **Results - WOMEN TEAMS - QUARTERFINAL**

TRI POLAR	151	
1	TRI POLAR	
GALATASARAY SK	76	
	1	
BAKER	107	
2	BAKER	
GREEN	107	

## **Women Pairs Format**

The number of qualifiers to Semifinal A in the Women Pairs is 19, plus 3 pairs from the Women's teams

A total number of 14 Pairs qualify to Final A: 2 from Semifinal B and 12 from Semifinal A.

There will be a linear carry-over from semifinals A and B to the Final.

Two tops (24 mp) will be awarded to the winner of the Semifinal A, while the 12th qualifier will be awarded 0 mp. As for qualifiers from Semifinal B, the winner will be awarded the same carry over as the 9th qualifier from Semifinal A, while the second ranked will receive 0 mp.

# **Open Pairs Format**

A total of 52 Pairs qualify to Semifinal A, plus 8 drop ins from the Teams' Round of 16.

A total number of 26 Pairs qualify to Final A: 2 from Semifinal B, a maximum of 6 drop ins from the KO Semifinals, and a minimum of 18 from Semifinal A.

If there will be no drop ins from the teams' KO, then there will be a linear carry-over from semifinals A and B to the Final.

Otherwise there will be no carry-over between any of the stages.





### **World Bridge Federation**

an International Sports Federation (IF) recognized by the International Olympic Committee

### **PRESS RELEASE**



You may have heard that the World Bridge Federation has been invited to the Olympic Esports Week ("OEW") in Singapore, June 19-25, organized by the International Olympic Committee.

The WBF, together with the platform providers BBO and Funbridge, will have a pavilion at the Free-To-Play Zone ("FTPZ") the IOC is providing, June 22-25, for a limited number (10-15) of its recognised "International Federations" during the OEW. It is a great achievement and honour for Bridge to have been selected as one of them, to showcase our progress and activities in the field of electronic sports.

The FTPZ will be a large exposition at the Suntec Convention Centre, and tens of thousands of visitors are expected. It is an important opportunity for all of us, NBOs as well as the WBF, to showcase Bridge as a modern sport - adopting the latest technology, including Artificial Intelligence.

At our pavilion we will live-stream tournaments on both platforms with both local and international competitors, provide "Minibridge" demonstrations, show play on Lovebridge tablets on site and various other promotional activities. Many activities can be followed online on YouTube, and possibly Twitch.

Leading up to the tournaments in Singapore we are arranging qualification events on both BBO and Funbridge and would appreciate it if you would promote these through all your channels of communication including social media, NBO bulletins and website, event flyers and direct mailings. Attached you will find the detailed format of these qualifying events. The overall winner on each platform will be invited (travel and accommodation) to the Transnational week (August 28 - September 2) during the World Championships in Marrakech, and there will be a ranking by country with prizes in the form of the platforms' "currencies".

You may also be aware that Bridge is an official sport in the upcoming Asian Games.

We thank you for your cooperation in this effort, which we believe can bring substantial benefits to the whole bridge community. However, nothing will be gained if we don't actively make use of all these promotional tools at all levels.

Jan Kamras

President, World Bridge Federation

José Damiani WBF President Emeritus



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# Programme for Online Bridge Olympic Esports Week, June 19/25

### **Qualification phase**

19/21, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - Tournaments of 6 boards (100 tournaments available ) (0.50 Babydollars BB\$ on BBO) (25 diamonds on Funbridge) per tournament

Best five tournaments to qualify with a minimum average of 55 %

Thursday off

### **Final**

23/25 Friday, Saturday, Sunday, free of charge, 8 Tournaments of 6 boards (50 tournaments available)

Ranking according to the average of the best five.

Players should register on the sites and may play on either one or both. They should follow the online instructions, stating which Federation they belong to.

Registration implies complete acceptance of the BBO, Funbridge and WBF rules.

### **More Information**

Additional\_information about this event will be available on the BBO and Funbridge websites: <a href="https://www.bridgebase.com/">https://www.bridgebase.com/</a>
https://www.funbridge.com/



# **Editor's Log**



### Stardate 14062023

Anyone wishing to advertise on a commercial basis in the Daily Bulletin should make a note of the current advertising rates:

### European Bridge League Daily Bulletin Advertising Rates

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If delivered with sufficient time, we guarantee to insert your advertisement on at least to occasions.

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markhorton007@hotmail.com or arianna.testa@worldbridgefed.com

Louis Bonin is a member of the Texas Aces team, which in the past has been made up mainly of Indians. This time round there are four young French players as part of the team - but often only three of them have been in Strasbourg. The reason is that the fourth, Louis Bonin, has been taking the written examinations for his Baccalaureate of Philosophy, travelling between Strasbourg and Nantes.

He rushed back from Nantes to play the fourth set of his R32 match yesterday, and helped his team win by 2 IMPs. We congratulate him on that success and also that of obtaining his qualification.



Louis Bonin

# The Great Bridge Swindle



By the pricking of my thumbs, Something wicked this way comes Macbeth, Act 4 Scene 1

On this deal from the first session of the Open Pairs the Artful Dodger appeared, neatly picking the opponent's pockets.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ 3♡ J 10 3 2◇ A K Q 9 4♣ A J 5

**♦** K 10 8 7 6 4 ♥ 8 7 6 5

♦ 3

♣ Q 6

N W E S ♠ A Q 5 2 ♡ Q 4 ◇ 10 8 2

**9** 9 8 4 2

♠ J 9
♡ A K 9
♦ J 7 6 5

♣ K 10 7 3

West	North	East	South
_	$1 \diamondsuit$	Pass	2◊*
Pass	2♡*	Pass	2♠*
Pass All Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
2\$	Inverted		
2♡	Heart stop	per	

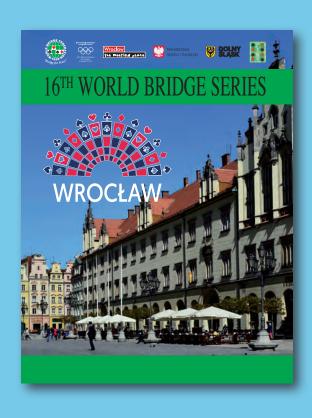
Spade stopper

When East did not lead a spade declarer decided to run for home and when both the rounded suit queens appeared all 13 tricks fell into declarer's lap. +720 was worth 111/9.

All's well that ends well, still the fine's the crown; Whate'er the course, the end is the renown.
All's Well that Ends Well. Act 4 Scene 4

# **NOW AVAILABLE!**

2



The book of the **16<sup>th</sup> World Bridge Series**(Wroclaw, Poland, 2022)

is now on sale at the bookstalls.

Edited by Mark Horton, the contributors being: David Bird, Barry Rigal, Brian Senior, Ron Tacchi and Maurizio di Sacco.



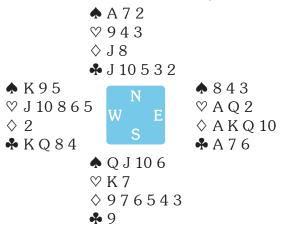
# **Open Teams Swiss Round 8**



Last week, the Big Dealer treated me to more than one very exciting and interesting session to write about. On Sunday afternoon, the Big Dealer was in tremendous form, delivering a session in which all ten boards, or at least nine of them, provided me with all sorts of interesting aspects. I should not forget to realise, however, that it is also up to the players at the table to make the deals more (or less?) interesting than they initially might be.

There were two matches available to have a look at: Scorway, the leaders after Round 7, v a new-look team of Texan Aces and Meli Melo, a French team, v Daisy Chain, a team with French and non-French players in it. As it happened, the other three teams in my report were exactly the nos. 2, 3 and 4 in the overall classification at the time, so the Swiss system was working to perfection here. Enough said; over to board 11, the first of the set.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.



On this one, both tables in the Meli Melo v. Daisy Chain match reached 4% easily enough but with entirely different outcomes.

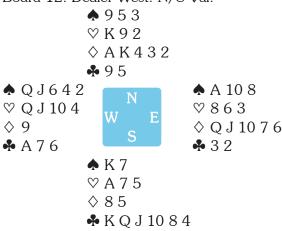
In the Open Room, Dennis Bilde as East was the declarer for the Daisies and he got the lead of the  $\clubsuit 9$ . He won dummy's king, cashed two top diamonds throwing a spade from dummy and, probably believing the fall of the  $\lozenge J$  in North, next played  $\lozenge A$ ,  $\image Q$ . South, on lead with the  $\image K$ , continued the  $\spadesuit Q$  to the king and ace but when North returned his last trump, declarer had the rest for an overtrick and +450.

In the Closed Room, West, Libbrecht, had become the declarer for Meli Melo, and North led an innocent enough ♣2. Like in the other room,  $4 \heartsuit$  had been reached in an uncontested auction. Declarer called for dummy's ♣ A and next played three top diamonds, discarding a club and a spade. He apparently did not believe the  $\diamondsuit J$  and this caused his immediate downfall, because North ruffed and gave partner a club ruff. Two rounds of spades then set the contract for another +50 to Daisy Chain, 11 IMPs.

In the Scorway v. Texan Aces match, they were in 4% and 3NT respectively but with East declarer in both rooms, the  $\clubsuit Q$  lead sealed the fates of these contracts quite easily.

On the next board, the auctions made the difference in both our matches:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



### Meli Melo v Daisy Chain

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Madala	Guth	Bilde	Bellicaud
<b>1</b> ♠	Pass	2 <b>^</b>	3♣
Pass	3♦	Dble	Pass
Pass	<b>4♣</b>	All Pass	

Declarer went one down because on the actual auction, he never believed in the possibility of the  $\triangle$ A being with East after all. Daisy Chain +100.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South	
Libbrecht	Franceschetti	Riehm	Setton	
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣	
1 <b>^</b>	Dble*	2 <b>♠</b>	3♣	
3♠	All Pass			

In the other room, they settled for par. Three Spades went one down for another +50 to Daisy Chain and 4 more IMPs to them.

In the other match, there was more at stake.

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Vallet	Grude	Bedouet	Brekka
2 <b>.</b>	Pass	2♦	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West showed his majors by opening  $2^{\clubsuit}$  and the Norwegians reacted to this with a slight gamble, not unknown in their circles (I think). When East led a natural  $\Diamond Q$ , the game rolled home easily enough. Scorway +630.

Less ambition at the other table:

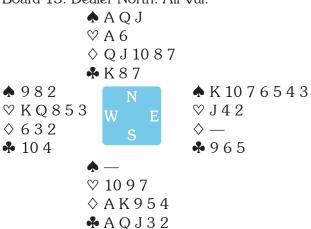
### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shenkin	Venkatesh	Levinson	Padhye
1 <b>^</b>	Pass	2 <b>^</b>	3♣
3♠	All Pass		

Two down, undoubled. Just +100 for the Texan Aces but 11 IMPs to Scorway.

On board 13, there was a slam in the air, even a grand. The grand, however, proved too difficult for exactly 75% of the tables in play. The Meli Melo N/S pair was one of them.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.



They gained heavily on the board, nevertheless, because at the other table, there was a serious accident.

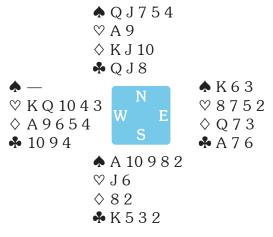
### Closed Room

Closed Hoom				
West	North	East	South	
Libbrecht	Franceschetti	Riehm	Setton	
	1NT	$2 \diamondsuit^*$	Dble	
Rdbl	3NT	Pass	4♣	
All Pass				

East showed one major with  $2\diamondsuit$  and South's  $4\clubsuit$  sounds forcing in my ears but who am I? On a spade lead, South easily made all 13 tricks for a 15-IMP loss for Daisy Chain.

On the next board, they were in 4 making (with or without an overtrick) by N/S in the Scorway v. Texan Aces match but in the other match, there were deviations in both directions:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Guth	Bilde	Bellicaud
_		Pass	Pass
1 %	1 🛧	2 <b>♠</b>	4
5♦	Dble	5♡	Dble
All Pass			



The Daisy Chain went on over 4♠ and reached a good sacrifice. Down only two, +300 for Meli Melo.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Libbrecht	Franceschetti	Riehm	Setton
_	_	Pass	Pass
1 %	1 <b>♠</b>	2 <b>4</b>	<b>3♠</b>
Pass	Pass	4♡	All Pass

In the other room, the Daisies did not even get to  $4 \spadesuit$  but sold out at an early stage, collecting just a meagre +50 and thus handing over 6 more IMPs to Meli Melo.

The next board did not produce any relevant swings in our two matches but as a homage to those who collected five tricks defending a diamond contract, here it is:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

★ K J 9 5 4♡ K 9 5◇ J 10 7♣ Q 5

♠ 6 3 ♥ Q 6 4 ♦ K Q 9 6 4 2 ♣ 10 7



♠ Q 8 7 2 ♡ A J 10 ◊ A

♣ J 9 8 6 4

♠ A 10 ♥ 8 7 3 2 ♦ 8 5 3

♣ A K 3 2





The easiest way to five defensive tricks against an E/W diamond contract is the lead of the  $\PQ$ . Next, N/S should manage to cash their two top spades first before promoting North's  $\diamondsuit J$  with  $\PK$  and a club from South. The four black top tricks can be cashed in any order ending in South. Even crashing the  $\PK$  and  $\PQ$  will do because a low club is as effective as a high one for the trump promotion.

The next board would favour the courageous for both 5% and 5% can be made in E/W on the actual layout. Just duck the diamond lead once...

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ A Q J 9 4 3 ♥ Q 10 2 ♦ 9 2 ♣ 9 6

♠ —
♡ A K 9 4 3
◊ 7 5 4

♦ 754
♣ AK752

N W E S

↑ 10 6 2♡ J 8 6◇ A 10 6

♣ J 10 4 3

♠ K 8 7 5 ♥ 7 5 ♦ K Q J 8 3 ♣ Q 8

In our two matches, no E/W pair had enough courage to have a shot at the five-level and maybe, rightly so (in general). Still, Scorway gained 5 IMPS on the deal when a Texan Ace with a distinct French flavour did not show any courage at all:

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Vallet	Grude	Bedouet	Brekka
1♡	<b>3♠</b>	Pass	4
All Page			

The same two down but worth only +100 to the Texans. Next door, they duly reached  $4 \spadesuit x$ .

On the next board, the heart attack nearly caused a heart attack...

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Guth	Bilde	Bellicaud
_	1NT	Pass	2♣*
2 <b>♠</b>	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

That's what you get from time to time by living dangerously. Down three, Meli Melo +500 with no game on for the opponents.



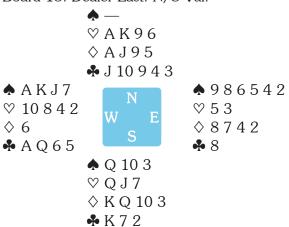
### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Libbrecht	Franceschetti	Riehm	Setton
	1NT	Pass	2♣*
2 <b>♠</b>	3♡	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led his spade to partner's ace and back came a low heart. Declarer inserted the jack and East took the queen, followed by...the  $\heartsuit$ K. Contract made, Daisy Chain +400 and 3 IMPs only for Meli Melo.

In our other match, 3NT was reached at both tables and duly defeated when the defence took their A at first attempt and managed to cash their four heart tricks.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



Apart from the inevitable (and cold) 3NT contract by South somewhere, spades were the favourites on this one at most tables, certainly in our matches. Here are their various spade auctions, leading to various levels of spades as well:

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Guth	Bilde	Bellicaud
_	_	3♠	Pass
<b>4</b>	Dble	All Pass	

Just made, Daisy Chain +790. In defending  $4 \spadesuit$  you should try not to crash your red-suit honours. At many tables, including this one, the defence (North, probably) managed to establish West's  $\heartsuit 10$  as a winner...

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Libbrecht	Franceschetti	Riehm	Setton
	_	Pass	$1 \diamondsuit$
Dble	1♡	1 <b>^</b>	Dble
3♠	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	5 <b>♠</b>	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

For the reasons mentioned above: just one down only, +100 to Daisy Chain and 12 IMPs to them.

### Scorway v Texan Aces

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Vallet	Grude	Bedouet	Brekka
_	_	3♠	Pass
<b>4</b>	Dble	All Pass	

Just made here as well, Texan Aces +590.

### Closed Room

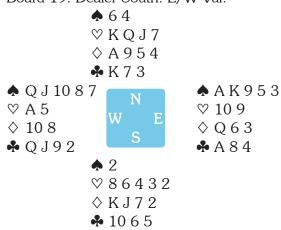
West	North	East	South
Shenkin	Venkatesh	Levinson	Padhye
	_	Pass	$1 \diamondsuit$
Dble	1♡	<b>4</b>	Pass
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦
5 <b>^</b>	6\$	<b>6</b> ♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

On the lead of the  $\Diamond K$  and another diamond, declarer could not avoid down three, even though he saved a trick when the  $\maltese K$  came down in the 3rd round of the suit. This way, a losing heart could go on the  $\maltese$  Q because the defenders had not yet taken their heart tricks. Texan Aces another +500 and 14 IMPs to them.



To sacrifice or to cover, that was the issue on the penultimate deal:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



In the Scorway v. Texan Aces match, both tables were in 4. This contract went down because North covered the •Q or the •J at the correct moment, i.e. in the 2nd round of the suit. No swing there.

In the other match, we once again saw deviations in both directions:

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Guth	Bilde	Bellicaud
_			Pass
<b>1</b> ♠	Dble	2NT*	4♡
Pass	Pass	4	Pass
Pass	5♡	Dble	All Pass

For Meli Melo, North took the sacrifice and paid the penalty for it: down three, +500 to Daisy Chain.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Libbrecht	Franceschetti	Riehm	Setton
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	1 %	<b>1</b> ♠!	2♠*
4 <b>^</b>	All Pass		

At the other table, North did not go after the sacrifice (right) but failed to cover both the \$\Pi Q\$ and the \$\Pi J\$ (wrong). This time, the price to be paid was -650 for an overall loss of 4IMPs to Daisy Chain.

The last board, finally, was a routine game so the final results of our two matches were:

Scorway v Texan Aces
Meli Melo v Daisy Chain
28-28 or 10-10 V.P.
(what else...)

# **Open Teams Round 12**

# Scorway v Zimmermann

Scorway (Scotland/Norway) began this event with seven straight wins and, after two consecutive losses on Day 2, they have won their last two and they top the table with nine wins from their first 11 matches. By contrast, Zimmermann (Switzerland) lost three of their five matches on the first day and were languishing in mid-table. A run of seven consecutive wins coming into this match has seen them rise to second place, less than 1 VP behind the leaders. With two-thirds of last year's Bermuda Bowl winning team augmented by a pair of double Bermuda Bowl winners, they are surely carrying the bookies' money.

Both of these teams are virtually assured a place in the latter stages of this event, but the higher you finish today, the wider your choice of opponent for the opening knockout match.

As usual, we start with some problems. Firstly, with only your side vulnerable, you are North holding:

↑ A 9 3 ♡ A 8 5 2 ◇ Q 9 5 2 ♣ 10 4

West	North	East	South
_	Pass	2◊*	3♣
4◊*	?		

East's  $2\diamondsuit$  opening is a Multi, showing one major.  $4\diamondsuit$  asks opener to bid his major. What action, if any, do you take? If you pass, do you take any action when East's  $4\spadesuit$  comes back to you?

Next, with only your side vulnerable you hold as East:

↑ 10 4 3 ♥ A K 8 5 4 3 2 ♦ K 9 6

West North East South

What do you open?

Next, with neither side vulnerable, you are sitting in the North seat with:

> ↑ J 8 4 ♡ K 7 4 ◊ J 6 ↑ 10 9 8 4 3

West	North	East	South
1 🖍	Pass	3♡*	3♠
<b>4</b>	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	?		

East's  $3\heartsuit$  shows a weakish four-card spade raise and your partner's  $3\spadesuit$  is equivalent to a takeout double after  $1\spadesuit$ -P-3 $\spadesuit$ -? What action, if any, do you take?

Finally, an opening lead problem. With only your opponents vulnerable, you hear the following auction from the West seat:

♠ K 9 6 2 ♡ Q 10 6 5 4 ♦ J 6 2 ♣ 9

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	<b>1</b> ♠	3NT
<b>4</b>	4NT	5♠	6 <b>%</b>
All Pass			

What do you lead?

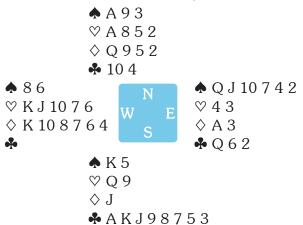
### Championship offer

The NEW dealing machines (only) used during the championships in Strasbourg are sold during the event for delivery at the end for the occasional price of €2650. Visit Jannersten's stall or email anna@jannersten.com



While you consider those, we jump right into the action on the opening deal of the match.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.



### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kvangraven	Nowosadzki	Grude	Zimmermann
	Pass	<b>2</b> ♠	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Despite his extreme shape, Nils Kare Kvangraven had no particular reason to get involved in this auction facing a weak two in spades. Michal Nowosadzki thus got to declare a peaceful 3NT from the North seat. The defence began with the  $\lozenge A$  and a diamond to the king. West's heart switch ran around to dummy's queen and declarer had no problem making the rest. N/S +660

### Open Room

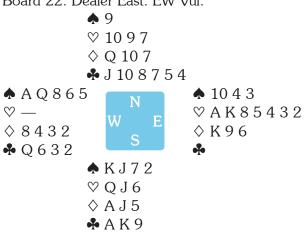
West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Levinson	Kalita	Shenkin
	Pass	$2 \diamondsuit^*$	3♣
$4\diamondsuit^*$	Pass	4	All Pass

Jacek Kalita also opened with a weak two, but via a Multi, and Barnet Shenkin duly overcalled in his strong eight-bagger on the South hand. However, Michal Klukowski was not prepared to make like easy for his opponents, and he jumped to  $4\diamondsuit$ , asking Kalita to bid his major. That left Stephen Levinson with the first of the problems posed above. The main question is the meaning of double – does it show diamonds or just values? It is far from obvious that you want to steer partner into  $5\clubsuit$ , but he will surely take a shot at game in his long suit if you are able to double just to show some values. North might also have doubled  $4\clubsuit$  on the way out, if only to minimize the damage.

Avoiding a club lead would have beaten the contract by three, but that was not so easy to do, and at only 50 a trick is not a big deal. Kalita ruffed the A at trick one, crossed to the  $\Diamond A$ , and took a second club ruff. One trick came back to the defence when South was able to ruff the  $\Diamond K$  with his low trump. The defence still had one club, one heart and two trumps to come. Two down: N/S +100 and 11 IMPs to Zimmermann.

On the very next deal, both East players had to decide what to open on the second of today's problem hands.

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Levinson	Kalita	Shenkin
_		1 %	Dble
1 <b>^</b>	2 <b>♣</b>	2 %	2NT
Pass	3♣	3♠	All Pass

Jacek Kalita opted for a 1% opening. This allowed South the describe his big balanced hand and for North to bail out to the relative safety of  $3\clubsuit$ . Kalita admitted to spade support at his third turn, but Michal Klukowski was never bidding any more.

Stephen Levinson almost found the winning lead: he opened the  $\lozenge7$ , but only the  $\lozenge10$  or  $\lozenge2$  defeat this contract. (I recall an almost identical scenario from the Camrose Trials., playing against Barry Rigal. I also missed the led of the  $\lozenge2/10$ . Editor) Barnet Shenkin won with the  $\lozenge3$  and returned a trump, which ran to dummy's ten. Klukowski accurately continued with two top hearts and a heart ruff. A club was ruffed in dummy, and a winning heart played – Shenkin ruffed, so declarer overruffed and repeated the process. Two hearts and seven trumps add up to nine tricks: E/W+140.

Closed Room					
West	North	East	South		
Kvangraven	Nowosadzki	Grude	Zimmermann		
_	_	4 %	All Pass		

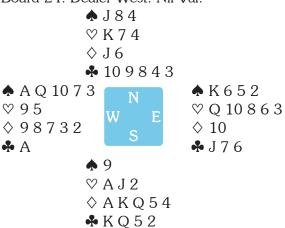
For the Norwegians, Tor Eivind Grude preferred the pragmatic opening of 4%. That silenced Zimmerman, despite his 19 HCP, although doubling would likely have led to a relatively cheap (-500) save in 5%x. The play's the thing, though, and this deal provided the opportunity for excellence from both declarer and defenders.

Grude ruffed the  $\clubsuit$ A lead and started trumps from the top. To beat the contract, South must unblock the  $\heartsuit Q$ -J, allowing his partner to win the third round with the  $\heartsuit 10$  in order to lead diamonds through declarer's king, giving the defenders three diamonds and a heart.

You might think this is an impossible play to find but, with North holding  $\heartsuit 109x$ , perhaps top-class signalling might have prevailed. Suppose South prepares the way by unblocking the  $\heartsuit J$  on the first round. If North then follows with the  $\heartsuit 10$ , does it not tell his partner that he can afford to unblock the queen? That is a play that would surely have been worthy of a nomination for best defence of the year.

Not that declarer was home yet. Grude threw three clubs from dummy as he drew trumps, so South exited with a club for declarer to ruff. Now Grude had to play the spade suit. He started with the  $\clubsuit 10$  from his hand, covered by jack and queen, and was rewarded by the fall of the singleton  $\clubsuit 9$ . Now he exited with a low spade from dummy. Zimmermann won with the  $\spadesuit 7$ , but declarer now had a finesse position against South's  $\spadesuit K$ . Whether Zimmermann cashed the  $\lozenge A$  now or exited with a club, the defence could come to only three tricks. A magnificent E/W +620 and 10 IMPs to Scorway.

Board 24. Dealer West. Nil Vul.



Open Roon	n		
West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Levinson	Kalita	Shenkin
1 <b>♠</b>	Pass	3♡	Dble
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

East showed a weakish four-card spade raise with his 3♥ bid. Exactly how you deal with such artificial bids is a matter for partnership agreement. (Transfer responses to 1♣ openings are the most common analogous situation.) Probably, the most standard approach is to use double to show the suit bid (ie hearts here) and 3♠ as a takeout double of spades. At this table, Barnet Shenkin was able to double to show a takeout of spades. Either method is certainly playable but be sure that you and your regular partner agree. (A general principle can be agreed and can then be applied in similar situations you have not specifically discussed.)

Michal Klukoswki retreated to 3♠ and Shenkin doubled again, showing extra values. Stephen Levinson was not the least bit interested and retreated to his admittedly weak suit at the four-level. 4♣ proved to be one too high: E/W +50.

It is always reassuring for non-expert players to see that experts are equally capable of producing ridiculous results on occasion. So, buckle up, because this one is a real doozie.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kvangraven	Nowosadzki	Grude	Zimmermann
1 <b>^</b>	Pass	3♡	<b>3</b> ♠
<b>4</b> ♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♡	Dble	All Pass

After the same start to the auction, Pierre Zimmermann had to bid 3 as a takeout as a double would have shown hearts. Klukowski upped the ante to the four-level and Zimmerman doubled again to show extras, leaving Michal Nowosadzki with the last of the bidding problems posed at the top of this article.

A good principle when confronted with these high-level doubles is that you bid if you expect to have a chance of making your contract. When you have a bad hand, the principle is that it is easier to take four tricks than eleven applies. (This also means that when you do bid at the five-level, partner will know you have some values, and he may be able to raise to a good slam.)

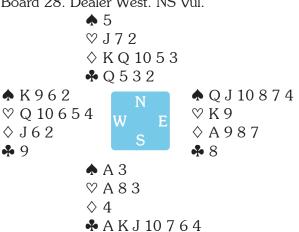
On this hand, you do not expect to make 5, and you even have what may be a useful defensive card in

the  $\heartsuit K$ . I suspect that if this hand was presented to the BBO expert panel, there would be a big majority for passing. And they would have been right at the table, with  $4 \spadesuit x$  likely failing by a trick, and  $5 \clubsuit$  by North going one or two down.

In what I suspect would have been a solo effort on the panel, Nowosadzki did not fancy either of those options, and he chose to move with 4NT, suggesting two places to play. Zimmermann might have bid 54, but he had a distinct preference for diamonds. Presumably expecting a 1-4-5-3 or 1-5-4-3 shape opposite after his partner had not bid 54, Nowosadzki 'corrected' to hearts. Tor Eivind Grude managed to find a double card in his bidding box, and the result was one that meant whatever happened at the other table would be irrelevant. Declarer finished five down in his 3-3 fit: E/W +1100 and 14 IMPs to Scorway.

There was still one huge firework left in The Great Dealer's locker.

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Levinson	Kalita	Shenkin
Pass	Pass	3♠	3NT
All Pass			

Jacek Kalita chose an excellent moment for a relatively heavy pre-empt in third seat at favourable. He caught Barnet Shenkin with a strong minor and a couple of aces. Shenkin could count nine tricks opposite the right bust, something like, ♠xxx ♡xxx ♦J109x ♣xxx, so 3NT seems like the clear choice. Everyone passed and Klukowski led a spade. Dummy was a little better than it needed to be, but Shenkin's arithmetic proved to be accurate: nine tricks meant N/S +600.

### Closed Room

West	Vest North		South
Kvangraven	Nowosadzki	Grude	Zimmermann
Pass	Pass	1 <b>^</b>	3NT
4 <b>^</b>	4NT	5 <b>^</b>	6♣
All Pass			

For the Norwegians, Grude preferred a 1 \( \ldot\) opening. The auction burst into life and Nils Kare Kvangraven soon found himself with the lead problem posed earlier. Could he find the killing heart opening?

No, Kvangraven led a spade. Zimmermann won with the A and immediately led his diamond, putting in the ten from dummy when West followed low. The \$\displaysquare\$10 forced the ace from East, so declarer was able to claim. N/S + 1370 and 13 IMPs to Zimmermann.

This was a match with something interesting on just about every deal. The final score was a 48-24 win for Zimmermann, which left the favourites sitting atop the leaderboard for the first time with just three matches remaining in the qualifying Swiss.



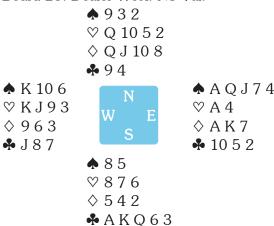


# **Last Board**



In the final session of the teams on Tuesday, the Great Shuffler delivered a deal at the very end that might offer up an opportunity to a team in need of a swing.

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.



### Videv v France

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tignel	Stefanov	Aroix	Mihov
Pass	Pass	1 🛧	Pass
2 <b>♠</b>	Pass	4 <b>^</b>	All Pass

South led the  $\clubsuit$ K, continued with the ace, cashed the queen and switched to the  $\diamondsuit 2$  for the three, jack and king. Declarer won, took two rounds of trumps and then played three rounds of hearts, ruffing high. When the queen refused to appear, he had to concede one down, -50.

### Closed Room

Ciocca Hooi			
West	North	East	South
Isporski	B Cronier	Kermedchiev	P Cronier
Pass	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1NT	Pass	2 <b>^</b>	Pass
3♡*	Pass	3NT	All Pass
<b>1♣</b>	Precision		

When North led the  $\Diamond Q$  declarer won in dummy, cashed the  $\heartsuit A$  and then played a heart to the jack and queen. When North continued with the  $\Diamond J$  declarer cashed his winners for +400 and 10 IMPs.

Texan Aces v Sandfia					
West	North	East	South		
Norton	Venkatesh	Tommasini	Padhye		
Pass	Pass	2◊*	Pass		
2 <b>♠</b>	Pass	2NT	Pass		
3NT	All Pass				

South led the K and that was a fast one down, -50.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Vallet	S Bell	Bedouet	M Bell
Pass	Pass	1 <b>♠</b>	Pass
2 <b>♠</b>	Pass	4	All Pass

South cashed three clubs and North discarded the  $\Diamond Q$ . Declarer won the diamond switch and cashed his spade winners. The last of these forced North to discard a second heart and when the  $\heartsuit 10$  fell under the ace declarer played for the squeeze to have operated and picked up 10 IMPs, enough to win the match by 2 IMPs.

In the Women's quarter final between Mothers and Daughters and Green both teams reached 4♠. In the Open Room Christian Lund Madsen played for the squeeze to have operated to score +420.

In the replay Jovi Smederevac, appreciating that cashing a third club would rectify the count for a possible squeeze, switched to a diamond at trick three (a very good shot but not a fatal wound) and declarer did not find a route to 10 tricks.

At the time, I thought that South needed to switch to a diamond at trick two, but that won't help if declarer sees the squeeze possibility. She can win, draw trumps and exit with a club. If South wins and plays a second diamond declarer wins, cashes two more spades and, assuming North has not unguarded hearts, can then exit with a diamond forcing North to lead into dummy's heart tenace.

That is perhaps the indicated line, as with  $\P$ AKQ63 and  $\heartsuit$ Q South might have risked overcalling  $2\P$  despite the lack of a sixth club.

The only winning defence is for South to switch to a heart at trick two. If that is the  $\heartsuit 7$  and declarer plays dummy's three North must follow with a low card. Declarer wins, draws trumps and exits with a club, but South can win, cash another club, and then play a second heart, breaking up the impending squeeze.

# **The Information Game**



You hold these cards as North at Game All and witness this dramatic auction:

	7	5	4		
$\Diamond$	8	5	4	3	
$\Diamond$	8	6			
•	Α	Q	1	0	8

West	North	East	South
_		1 🛧	Pass
$2\Diamond$	Pass	2 <b>^</b>	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♡	Pass	5♣	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

Suppose before deciding what to lead you ask for an explanation of 5 and are told it's a void?

Suppose you are told its Exclusion Blackwood? (People have been known to psyche Exclusion.)

Suppose the answer is 'shortage'. (You might then ask if it could be Exclusion – let's say the answer is no.)
In which of these cases might you decide to lead the

One final point before you answer – would you ask East what a bid of 4% would show?

Void is a noun, one meaning of which is: lack of cards in a suit. 'Splinter' indicates a singleton or void, but what exactly does 'shortage' mean? Do you think it encompasses a void/singleton or could it

even stretch to doubleton? Would you, as North, ask for a further explanation, and/or consider asking a Director to assist you at this point? On this deal it's important, as this was the layout:

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

$\spadesuit$	754		
$\Diamond$	854	3	
$\Diamond$	86		
*	A Q 1	0	8

♠ A♡ J 7 2◇ A K J 3 2♣ J 6 5 2



♠ K Q 8 6 3 2 ♡ K 10 6 ◇ Q 9 5 4 ♣ —

♠ J 10 9 ♡ A Q 9 ◇ 10 7 ♣ K 9 7 4 3

West	North	East	South
_	_	1 🛧	Pass
$2\Diamond$	Pass	2 <b>^</b>	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♡	Pass	5♣	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

When North decided to lead the A it cost 17 IMPs. (The score was subsequently adjusted.)





# It Was Twenty Years Ago Today ...



On the 15th of June in 2003, the first European Transnational Championships started in Menton, just like Strasbourg a city on France's eastern border. Let's take a look at the history of this set of Championships.

### Fixing a Hole

Before 2003, Europe's set of championships contained three major events: in the odd years we had the Team Championships, which gave access to the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cups later in that same year. These were usually conducted in the month of June and lasted two weeks. In all years there was also a one-week-long tournament in March. In the odd years, this was an open pairs tournament, while in the even years, we had a mixed pairs event. Women's pairs were held together with the women's national teams event in June of the odd years. Senior pairs also found a place in the odd years.

Many of the smaller federations had problems with this set-up. If they managed to qualify for the Bermuda Bowl (and there were at that time six European qualifiers, so even smaller federations managed that some times), they had to prepare travel and funding for another two-week-long event later in the same year. Which is why the federations asked if the EBL might switch the National team event to the even years, allowing the qualified teams more than a year to gather funds for the Bermuda Bowl or Venice Cup. So, after the 45th Championships in Tenerife in 2001, the 46th event was held only 12 months later in Salsomaggiore.

At the same time, a new event was created: The Transnational Europeans. This was to be a completely open event, open to transnational partnerships and even transcontinental ones.

To the four pair events that had previously been on the calender were added team championships,

The first week was reserved for Mixed Pairs and Teams, while Open, Women and Senior pairs and teams found a place in the second week. With the tenth edition this year the Seniors moved to the first week. But the Transnational Europeans have been held every odd year (except 2021) and so we are seeing the tenth edition here in Strasbourg this year.

### Picture yourself in a Boat

These Championships have been held eight times on the shores of different seas around Europe.

Apart from the Mediterrenean (2003, 2007, 2009) the North Sea (2013) and the Sea of Marmara (2019), we went to the Atlantic (2005) and Arctic (2015) Oceans. Only 2011 and 2023 saw us going inland, while Montecatini (2017) is just a stone's throw from the coast.

We visited three continents: The Canary Islands belong to Africa geographically (Tenerife is more southerly than Marrakech) and while Antalya is undoubtedly in Asia, the Istanbul championships were also held on the Asian side of the Bosporus. We even went north of the Polar circle, and had 14 consecutive days of sunlight. I am waiting for the French Federation to use Guadeloupe or Papeete as venues to add two other continents to our list.

### Now you feel Cool

When re-reading the bulletins for the 2003 Event, one topic stands out: the heat. For a number of consecutive events, the EBL had managed to find the hottest spot on Europe's map to host the championships in. And while temperatures of over 30°C are not a problem in Spain or Turkey, the facilities in Menton were more geared up to the upper twenties. A sea breeze usually helps on the Côte d'Azur, so the French city was a bit lacking in air conditioning. So, even though temperatures were higher in Tenerife, Salsomaggiore and Antalya (over 40°C even), nowhere was the heat so impressive as at that first event in Menton (At one point I was passing by as a car spontaneously combusted. Editor) The EBL tried to minimise heat problems by choosing Oostende (the Belgian organisers gave every participant an umbrella – which turned out not to be needed) and Tromsø (where people turned up in their overcoats to play).

### They had to count them all

At the start of this century, we still had Appeals, and I was proud to have scribed all of them. At the end of each tournament, I calculated the BAR (Board-Appeal Ratio), a number which continued to move downwards, proving that the Directors had gotten ever more competent over the years. In order to calculate this ratio, I needed to count all the boards that had been played. That is a good way to compare the size of the nine events so far. This is how they measure up:

Menton 2003	123647
Poznań 2011	109734
Sanremo 2009	102826
Montecatini 2017	98160
Istanbul 2019	92115
Antalya 2007	89882
Oostende 2013	82637
Tromsø 2015	77678
Tenerife 2005	77393

at current, I predict the Strasbourg tournament will not reach 70000 boards.

### Vera, Chas and Dave

Although being called European Championships, there have been participants from each and every one of the eight WBF zones. 36 different countries, in seven zones (Central America still missing) have produced medallists (the 36th, Portugal, just last week). France has produced the most champions (48 as from last week), while the Netherlands had the most medallists (120) until France surpassed them during these championships (126 as of now)

Sylvie Willard was the most successful player at this set of tournaments. She has four gold, three silver and five bronze medals, in Women's and Mixed Teams and Pairs.

Carla Arnolds and Catherine D'Ovidio both have 10 medals, Wietske van Zwol nine. Philippe Cronier is the most successful man with seven medals, with Piotr Tuszynski last week becoming only the second man with five medals.

Also worth mentioning are the pair that finished 235th in the Open Pairs qualification in Menton: Denis Sergent and David Pepper..

### The one thing that money can't buy...

These championships have provided many players with lots of FUN.

### When I'm Sixty-Four

It is not yet known where the next championships in this series are going to be held. But I'll be there.

PS – do you remember what we have called an Antalya hand? One with two voids. I remember seeing one in a club tournament earlier this year!

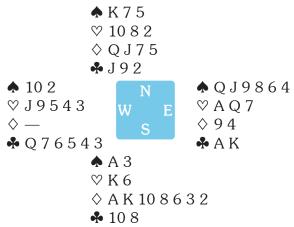


# An Opportunity not to be Missed



At these championships, starting with the knockouts, the bidding boxes have been replaced by computer pads. That means that all bidding sequences are available and we can compare what the players did at 40 tables (32 in the Open and 8 in the Women's series). I decided to analyse the bidding of one board. At random, I picked board 12, as played on Tuesday morning.

Board 12. Dealer West. N-S Vul.



West is first in hand, at favourable vulnerability, with queen-sixth, jack-fifth and a void.

Six west players thought their hand was worth an opening of  $3\clubsuit$ , one even tried  $4\clubsuit$ .

11 players opened it with  $2\heartsuit$ , presumably indicating a secondary, minor, suit.

One player opted for  $3\heartsuit$ , and three for  $2\diamondsuit$ . That left 18, or just under half of the field, that passed.

Let us deal with the passers first. With seven points in a regularly distributed hand, none of the North players felt like opening the bidding. Which brings us to East, third in hand, green against red, with a 16-count with six spades to QJ9. An obvious 1 --opening, except for two pairs where 1 - (one Tarzan, one Polish) gets the nod.

Which brings us to South, who is holding a seven-card

14-pointer. Over 14, this is once worth a 14 overcall. once a  $3\diamondsuit$  one. Over  $1\spadesuit$ , 14 Souths select  $2\diamondsuit$ , two extend themselves to 3\u2212. Which brings us back to West, where only one player makes a move, a double over 1 - 3. That gets a 4 - 4 bid from East, ending the hostilities. Ten North players are now able to raise their partner's diamonds, with only one deciding to pass, and one solitary North becoming declarer after transforming South's 3\$\into 3NT. The North who bid 1 must be playing some convention, and he then passed on his partner's 3\$ bid. Ten Easts are now faced with opponents reaching 30 and all but one repeat their spades: 3. Of the four Easts who are only facing  $2\diamondsuit$ , one bids  $2\spadesuit$ , the others double. Over  $3\spadesuit$ , one South doubles, 1 bids  $4\diamondsuit$  and nine select 3NT. Some East/West Pairs continue to bid, and of the 18 tables where West started by passing, East/West end up declaring at 7 tables, almost always making. North/South also usually make the contract they reach, and the average score is +113.

Now let's look at the West players who opened in clubs. The 4-opener was allowed to play there, and only one out of six Easts bid over 3-. South then tried either 3 or 3NT, but most later on retreated to diamonds. The average score on these seven tables was +50.

At 15 tables West started with hearts (or a Multi  $2\diamondsuit$ , but partner knows the suit). Almost invariably, East now competes until  $4\heartsuit$ , with South sometimes going to the five-level. Both  $4\heartsuit$  and  $5\diamondsuit$  score ten tricks, and the average score is now heavily in favour of East/West, at -139.

Of course this should not be construed to mean that it is OK to open on five-to-the-jack, but when a second suit is available, it may well be worth the risk.

I could give you statistics about the opening leads, but I think the article is long enough as it is.

# **EBL** playing cards

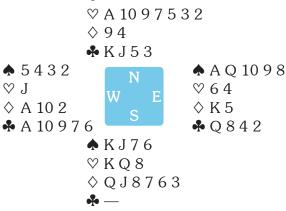
The surplus of new (not used) championship cards are now available at the Jannersten stall for €1 per deck. You can also preorder (moderately) used cards for €0.80 per deck. Pick up of used decks will be during the Junior Championships at Veldhoven. Email anna@jannersten.com for details and a quote.





# Women's Teams Quarterfinals (2)





### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schoonen	Senior	Van den Heuvel	Smith
	_		$1 \diamondsuit$
Pass	1 %	1 <b>^</b>	Dble*
<b>4♠</b>	5♡	All Pass	

### Closed Room

Closed Room				
West	North	East	South	
Tebha	Visser	Seamon-Molson	Christensen	
	_	_	$1\Diamond$	
Pass	2♦*	2 <b>^</b>	4♡	
<b>4</b> ♠	Pass	Pass	Dble	
All Pass				
2\$	Hearts			

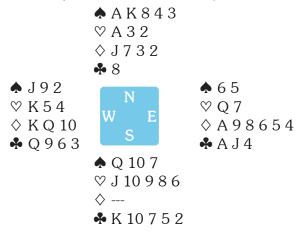
The Dutch timed their auctions perfectly at both tables and Lennie van den Heuvel found the low club lead that left declarer virtually helpless. Running the first trick round to her king did not appeal so she played a cross ruff but had to lose a club and two diamonds at the death. I don't think ruffing a club then a spade would have done her any good. If East wins and plays a second club that would leave her worse placed.

Janice Seamon-Molson was left in 4♠x and when she lost an extra trick to a ruff she ended up down 500 rather than 300 – but that only cost a couple of IMPs as it turned out. 12 IMPs to nlwomen, trailing

28-26.

After a couple of flat games, nlwomen reached a very thin game.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.



### Open Room

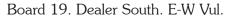
West	North	East	South
Schoonen	Senior	Van den Heuvel	Smith
_	1 <b>^</b>	Pass	2 <b>♠</b>
All Pass			

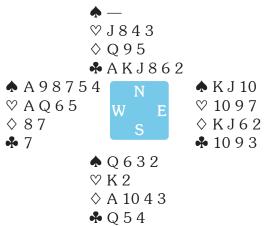
### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tebha	Visser	Seamon-Molson	Christensen
_	1 <b>^</b>	$2\diamondsuit$	2 <b>♠</b>
3♦	3♡	Pass	4♡
Pass	<b>4</b> ♠	All Pass	

In the Open Room Van den Heuvel went very low and led the  $\lozenge A$ . Senior ruffed this and led the  $\heartsuit J$  to her ace then a club up. When East ducked she won the  $\clubsuit K$ , and crossruffed the minors, emerging with two side winners and eight trumps.

Seamon-Molson also led the  $\Diamond A$  but against  $4 \spadesuit$ . When declarer ran the  $\heartsuit J$ , hoping for a doubleton honor (and no cover) to her right, Seamon-Molson won and shifted to trumps, after which nine tricks were the limit and declarer ended with eight. That was 6 IMPs back to Tripolar, leading 36-26.





### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schoonen	Senior	Van den Heuvel	Smith
			Pass
<b>1</b> ♠	2 <b>%</b>	2 <b>♠</b>	<b>3♣</b>
3 <b>^</b>	All Pass		

### Closed Room

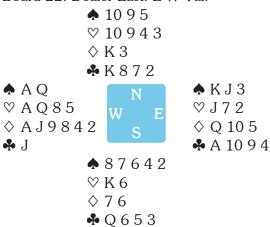
West	North	East	South
Tebha	Visser	Seamon-Molson	Christen-
sen			
_			Pass
1 <b>♠</b>	3♣	3♠	<b>4♣</b>
<b>4♠</b>	5 <b>.</b>	Dble	All Pass

Two very stark contrasts in aggression demonstrated by the N/S pairs here. In the open room both Smith and Senior went quietly, (Senior's decision surprising me though I'm not saying it is wrong). It worked out very well; Senior led the AK and another, declarer ruffing. It feels wrong to lay down the A, both in theory and practice. She now crossed to  $\bigstar K$  and led  $\heartsuit 10$ , covered by the king and ace. At this point it was very hard to get the diamonds right given Smith's simple raise. West led a diamond to the king and ace and a third club came back. Declarer ruffed again then led a diamond and Senior won to lead a fourth diamond, letting Smith pitch her heart. Then she could ruff away the ♥Q and lead the  $\mathbf{AQ}$  to draw trumps. Alas when Senior pitched her diamond nine that meant Smith was endplayed to lead into dummy's diamond tenace. It was still down one, though.

Tebha's 4 call achieved its goal when it tempted Visser into extreme indiscretion (surely a double of 4 by a preempter shows exactly this?). On a trump lead declarer could win in hand and lead a heart to the king and ace. A low spade back saw declarer ruff

again and lead a low heart for East to win and play a second trump. Now a spade ruff, heart ruff and a diamond to the nine and jack for a third trump saw the  $\diamond 6$  win trick 13 for down 300 and 9 IMPs to Tripolar. They led 46-26 and added 5 more IMPs in overtricks and undertricks before something more substantial...

Board 22. Dealer East. E-W Vul.



### Open Room

open neem				
West	North	East	South	
Schoonen	Senior	Van den Heuvel	Smith	
		Pass	Pass	
1♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	
4NT	All Pass			

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tebha	Visser	Seamon-Molson	Christensen
_	_	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♡	Pass	4♡	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

The West hand seems too good to go quietly in 3NT facing what will almost surely be an 11-count (unless it is a terrible 12?). Schoonen tried 4NT which at least got the strength if not direction of the hand across. Van den Heuvel settled for discretion, and cashed out for 460 after the defenders led a spade and shifted to clubs when in with  $\Diamond K$ .

Seamon-Molson wasn't sure if 3♥ weas five, or shortness, or something else, but it seemed safe to raise (partner would know what to do.) Anam Tebha now simplified matters by jumping to slam – which is after all slightly better than the trump finesse. On a low heart lead she had a painless 12 tricks and 12 IMPs.

### Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

**♠** Q 7 ♥QJ8 ♦ AJ10975 ♣ K 10

♠ A K 10 6 2 ♥ K 9 5

♦ 62 ♣ Q 9 4

**♦** 9 5 4 3 ♡ A 7 ♦ K Q 8 ♣ A 7 5 3

	N	
W		Е
	S	

### **♠** J 8 ♥ 106432 ♦ 43

♣ J 8 6 2

### Open Room

 $2\Diamond$ 

North	East	South
Senior	Van den Heuvel	Smith
_		<b>1♣</b>
2◊*	Pass	2 %
2 <b>^</b>	Pass	3♣
3♦	Pass	$4\Diamond$
5♦	All Pass	
	Senior $ \begin{array}{c} -\\ 2 \diamondsuit^*\\ 2 \spadesuit\\ 3 \diamondsuit \end{array} $	

'Hearts' per South, 'diamonds per North

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tebha	Visser	Seamon-Molson	hristensen
			1♣
<b>1</b> ♠	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The Closed Room deserve real credit for reaching 3NT here; you wont always make it, but you want to be there. In the Open room reaching 3NT wasn't helped when N/S seem to have been playing different methods after the overcall. Regardless of who was right and who was wrong it wasn't going to be easy to play no-trump. This just made it impossible.

The set finished at 35-22 to Tripolar, leading 63-36.



ÖREBRO, SWEDEN

# Open Round of 32, segment 3



On Tuesday afternoon, BBO had three matches in the offering, also based on the halftime scores in these matches:

De Botton v Daisy Chain: 65-42 Rosenthal v Meli Melo: 52-63 Vinciguerra v Ekin Maden: 49-55

Because some of the other 13 matches were already beginning to look decided, I was happy with these choices, even more so when notably the De Botton v Daisy Chain match proved to be full of interest. Nevertheless, I will make the by now usual excursions to the two other BBO matches as well.

The opening board looked like a routine 4 to me but about 25% of the field ended up in a partscore. Among them one of the N/S pairs in our main match.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

Board I. De	aler North. Non	ie Vul.
	♠ K 8 4 3 2	
	$\otimes$ —	
	♦ A K 10	
	<b>4</b> 10 9 5 4 2	
♠ Q 7 ♥ J 10 3 2 ♦ 4 3 2 ♣ Q 8 7 6	W E	<ul><li>♠ A 6 5</li><li>♡ A K 9 7 6</li><li>◇ Q 9 8 7</li><li>♣ 3</li></ul>
	<b>♠</b> J 10 9 ♥ Q 8 5 4	
	♦ J 6 5	
	\Lambda A K J	

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Townsend	De Bilde	Bakhshi
	1 <b>^</b>	2♡	3 $%$ *
Pass	<b>4♠</b>	All Pass	

OK. Top heart lead, club to the ace, spade finesse. One overtrick when East ruffed declarer's second low club later on. De Botton +450.

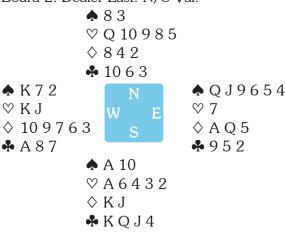
### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Charlsen	Franceschetti	Hoftaniska	Robert
_	1 <b>^</b>	2 %	2NT*
Pass	<b>3♠</b>	All Pass	

Same line of play. Two overtricks. Daisy Chain +200 but 6 IMPs to De Botton.

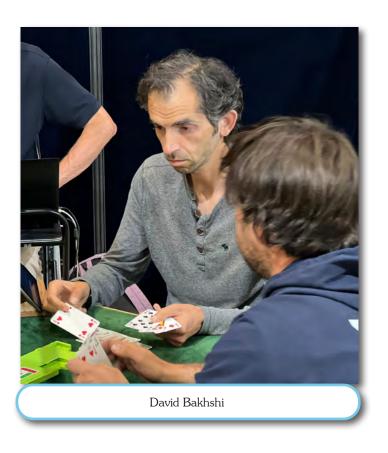
On the next board, there was no game on in either direction but not everybody was aware of it.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Townsend	De Bilde	Bakhshi
_	_	2 <b>^</b>	2NT
<b>3♠</b>	All Pass		





One down, a par result. De Botton +50.

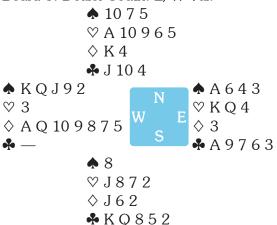
### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Charlsen	Franceschetti	Hoftaniska	Robert
_	_	Pass	1 %
Pass	2♡	2 <b>♠</b>	4 %
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
<b>4♠</b>	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

In the Closed Room, both pairs managed to beat par. In the end, Daisy Chain laughed best. Down two, +300 and 6 IMPs back to Daisy Chain.

More serious stuff on the next deal:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Townsend	De Bilde	Bakhshi
_			Pass
$1 \diamondsuit$	$1 \heartsuit$	Dble*	3♣
4♣*	Pass	4♡*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♡*	Pass	5 <b>^</b>	Pass
6 <b>^</b>	All Pass		

Mainly fitbids and cuebids, one of them void-showing but the final contract was quite correct. Daisy Chain +1430.

### Closed Room

0.0000 1.001			
West	North	East	South
Charlsen	Franceschetti	Hoftaniska	Robert
		_	Pass
$1 \diamondsuit$	1 %	Dble*	3♣
<b>4♣</b>	Pass	4♡	Pass
5 <b>%</b>	Pass	5 <b>^</b>	All Pass

The same start to the auction as next door but when East did not want to go on bidding second-round

controls only, the slam was missed. De Botton just +680 and 13 IMPs to Daisy Chain.

Time for our first excursion, to Vinciguerra v. Ekin Maden.

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
M Yilmaz	Bompis	Altindag	Multon
	_		Pass
$1 \diamondsuit$	1 %	Dble*	3♣
3♡*	4 <b>.</b>	Dble	4♡
5 <b>^</b>	Pass	6 <b>4</b>	7♡
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Much the same idea as in our other match, of course, but Multon wanted to have the last word and he got it, too. Down six, thanks to a club ruff by West, +1400 to Ekin Maden but it might well save an IMP for the French.

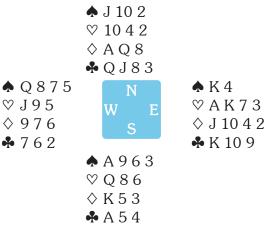
### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Ozcan	T Bessis	Kaya
			Pass
$1 \diamondsuit$	$1 \heartsuit$	Dble*	3♦
4♡*	Pass	<b>4</b>	Pass
5 <b>♣</b> *	Pass	6♣*	Pass
6 <b>4</b>	All Pass		

And so it proved. Vinciguerra +1430 and 1 IMP to them.

Then next board was curious, I thought. I also took the opportunity to make the first excursion to our third match: Rosenthal v Meli Melo.

Board 4. Dealer West. All



In our main match, De Botton v Daisy Chain, East opened 1NT and played there. South led a low spade which ran to North's ten and declarer's king.

Dennis Bilde, for Daisy Chain, continued the  $\Diamond J$ . Townsend, North for De Botton, took his  $\Diamond Q$  and

played a low club. South took the  $\clubsuit 10$  with his ace and returned the suit, declarer winning the 3rd round. Another diamond now went to South's  $\diamondsuit K$  and the spade return was ducked in dummy to North's  $\spadesuit J$ . Declarer thus lost three clubs, three diamonds and two spades for down two, +200 to De Botton.

In the Closed Room, Hoftaniska, as East declarer for De Botton, followed a slightly different line. The first few tricks were the same as above but when he played his second diamond, South let partner's  $\Diamond A$  win the trick. South then threw a spade on the 13th club and when North exited in hearts, declarer could win the ace and exit with a spade. South played low but declarer inserted the  $\clubsuit Q$  and continued the suit to South's ace. In the endplay, South had the  $\Diamond K$  left as a winner but dummy's  $\heartsuit J$  now was declarer's 7th trick for another +90 and 7 IMPs to De Botton .

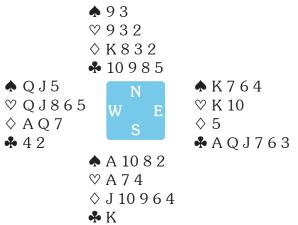
In the Rosenthal v. Meli Melo match, Pierre Schmidt for Meli Melo also was in 1NT as East.

Play went the same as just above at Hoftaniska's table but when North exited with a heart, Schmidt ducked this to South's  $\heartsuit Q$ . When he misguessed on the spade return, he even was down three. Rosenthal +300.

In the replay for this match, Helgemo had to open  $1\diamondsuit$ . It went Pass-Pass and now, Libbrecht, North for Meli Melo, tried 1NT and played there Not surprisingly, he ended up with an overtrick when he put up dummy's  $\heartsuit Q$  on East's lead of a low heart but his +120 still meant a 5-IMP loss to Meli Melo.

Back again to De Botton v Daisy Chain.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Townsend	De Bilde	Bakhshi
_	Pass	1♣	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	$1 \diamondsuit$
Dble	All Pass		

A daring pass by Madala but a vulnerable overtrick

for Bakhshi. De Botton +340.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Charlsen	Franceschetti	Hoftaniska	Robert
	Pass	1 <b>♣</b>	Dble
Rdbl	$1 \diamondsuit$	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Repeated trump leads prevented the overtrick here so Daisy Chain scored only +140 for a 5-IMP loss.

In the Vinciguerra v. Ekin Maden match, they had higher aspirations and got away with it:

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
M Yilmaz	Bompis	Altindag	Multon
_	Pass	1 <b>♣</b>	Dble
Rdbl	$1 \diamondsuit$	1 <b>♠</b>	$2\Diamond$
2♡	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Spade lead to the queen, heart to king and ace and a shift to the  $\lozenge J$  by South, covered with queen and....North's king. Declarer won the 3rd round of diamonds and immediately went for his only chance, a club to the ace. South was marked with the  $\P K$  from his double now. Well done and just made, +400 to Ekin Maden.

No swing, however, because this had been the bidding in the Closed Room.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Ozcan	T Bessis	Kaya
	Pass	1 <b>♣</b>	Dble
Rdbl	$1 \diamondsuit$	Pass	Pass
$1 \heartsuit$	Pass	1 🛧	Pass
2◊*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

When North led a diamond and South did not produce the king, Lorenzini got mainly the same info and simply led a club to the ace next. Q.E.D.

In the Rosenthal v. Meli Melo match, however, we saw a variation.

$O_{i}$	pen	Ro	om

e pen neem				
West	North	East	South	
Garcia	Bakke	Schmidt	Brogeland	
_	Pass	1♣	$1 \diamondsuit$	
Dble*	3♦	3♠	Pass	
3NT	All Pacc			

Brogeland overcalled  $1\diamondsuit$  only so Garcia had no clear clue when the diamond lead ran to his queen. He tried the club finesse first and when this lost, could not avoid down two any more. Rosenthal +100.

In the Closed Room here, Riehm's double over 14 also gave the show away when North led a low diamond.

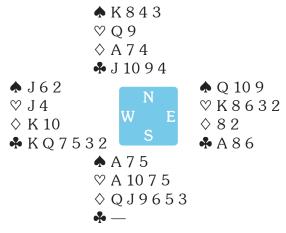
### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Willenken	Libbrecht	Helgemo	Riehm
	Pass	1 <b>♣</b>	Dble
$1 \diamondsuit$	Pass	1 <b>♠</b>	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Willenken even made an overtrick when South did not see any real future in diamonds. Rosenthal +430 and 11 IMPs to them.

Denis Bilde was successful in a unique fashion on board 7:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.



As you can see, N/S can even make a slam in diamonds. Trumps are 2-2 and well placed, and. the  $\heartsuit J$  comes down doubleton so a low heart to North's nine will establish the suit for spade discards. Not that we advocate bidding a slam on this one but on the other hand, Townsend and Bakhski cannot be too proud of what they did either. Here is the auction at their table:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Townsend	De Bilde	Bakhshi
	_	_	$1 \diamondsuit$
Pass	1 <b>♠</b>	Pass	2 <b>♠</b>
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♡
Pass	3NT	Dble	4♦
All Pass			

After this introduction, it's no surprise to hear from

me that 3NT also is pretty cold. One overtrick, De Botton +150.

No nonsense in the Closed Room:

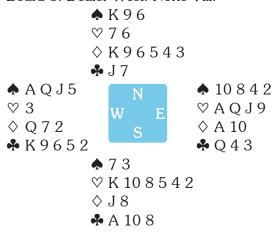
### Closed Room

North	East	South
Franceschetti	Hoftaniska	Robert
_		$1 \diamondsuit$
<b>1</b> ♠	Pass	$2\diamondsuit$
2NT	Pass	<b>3♠</b>
3NT	All Pass	
	Franceschetti — 1	Franceschetti Hoftaniska  — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —

One overtrick here as well: Daisy Chain +630 and 10 IMPs to them.

The next deal also caused problems here and there:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.



At all 6 tables I am covering, West was in  $4\clubsuit$ . North universally led the  $\heartsuit 7$  after he bid diamonds, once at the two-level. Only Multon (for team Vinciguerra) had shown his hearts.

All our declarers put on dummy's ace and led a trump but only Charlsen called specifically for dummy's \$\int 10\$. This way, he created an extra entry to his hand, needed after having to ruff a heart in his hand later on. If the defence wins the \$\int J\$ with the king and returns a heart (North would have to because both minor suits are frozen) declarer would not have an entry back to hand to enjoy the clubs after drawing the last trump.

Two Norths returned the ♣J after winning the ♠K, which gave away the contract. One South tried the effect of the ♦J after winning a first club, which did not help the defence either. This explains why the board was a push at +420 in the Vinciguerra v Ekin Maden match and a push at +50 in the Rosenthal v Meli Melo match.

Charlsen's line prevented a big swing against his team because his neat +420 nearly compensated the -450 from the other table.

Back again to the De Botton v. Daisy Chain match. On the next deal, the N/S hands did not fit very well:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



•	8 4		N	
	A Q 5	w		
♦ ′	762	W		
•	A 10 8 4 3		5	

♠ K Q 9 6♡ 9 6 4 3♦ K 5♣ J 9 6

↑ 10 5 3 2 ♥ K ♦ A J 10 9 8 4 3

• 110 1 • 5

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Townsend	De Bilde	Bakhshi
	1 %	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the Open Room, N/S could not resist the invitation. East led the  $\clubsuit Q$  which looked favourable for declarer but was not. Townsend won the ace and returned the  $\clubsuit J$  but Bilde took his king and could safely return the  $\spadesuit 9$  to kill dummy's only side entry. Down three, Daisy Chain +150.



In the other room, the "modern" gadget of 2♣ easily solved the N/S problems:

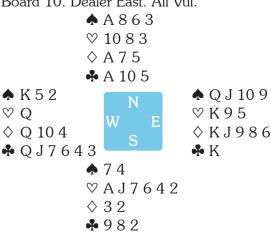
### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Charlsen	Franceschetti	Hoftaniska	Robert
_	$1 \heartsuit$	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	$2\Diamond$
Pass	Pass	2 <b>^</b>	3♦
All Pass			

On a spade lead, declarer just made his contract for another +110 and 6 IMPs to Daisy Chain.

On the next board, we saw a difference in judgement on two almost identical auctions:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Townsend	De Bilde	Bakhshi
		$1 \diamondsuit$	$1 \otimes$
1	2◊*	Pass	2♡
<b>3♣</b>	All Pass		

West showed a 1NT-type response with 1♠ and then showed his real suit when North produced a good heart raise. One overtrick, Daisy Chain +130.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Charlsen	Franceschetti	Hoftaniska	Robert
_	_	$1 \diamondsuit$	1 %
1 <b>♠</b>	$2\Diamond$	Pass	2 %
All Pass			

West here did mainly the same but when he failed to show his real suit later on, N/S were allowed to score another +110 in their contract easily enough for a 6-IMP gain.

Two boards later, you had better stay on firm ground...

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

A J 10♡ K 9 7 4◇ 9 8

♣ K Q 4 3

♠ 6 5 4 3♡ 6 3◇ Q 10 5 4♣ J 9 6

N W E S

♥ A Q 5 ♦ A 7 6 3 2 ♣ A 10 7 2

♠ K

♠ Q 9 8 7 2 ♡ J 10 8 2 ◇ K J ♣ 8 5

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Townsend	De Bilde	Bakhsh
Pass	1♣	$1 \diamondsuit$	1 🛧
3♦	All Pass		

Tom Townsend did so and thus lost only -130 when  $3\Diamond$  made with an overtrick.

Next door, Pierre Franceschetti showed more temperament:

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Charlsen	Franceschetti	Hoftaniska	Robert
Pass	1♣	1♦	$1 \heartsuit^*$
3♦	Dble	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♡	Dble	All Pass

When he not only found a double but also a raise, his partner paid a heavy toll. Down three, De Botton +800 and 12 IMPs back to them.

The scores in our three matches with 14 boards to play thus had become:

De Botton v Daisy Chain: 95-88 Rosenthal v Meli Melo: 86-65 Vinciguerra v Ekin Maden: 63-62



September, 8 – 20, 2023 Hotel Park Plaza Histria Pula, Croatia

# INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE FESTIVAL DILA



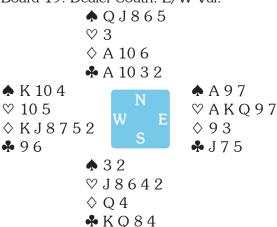
# **Open Teams Round of 32 (4)**



Three quarters of the boards to decide the Round of 32 match between De Botton and Daisy chain saw De Botton with a slender lead of 7 IMPs. The final 14 deals would decide who progressed further in the competition.

After four dull boards it looked as though the set was going to be a boring affair fought out over part-scores and the occasional overtrick. But then...

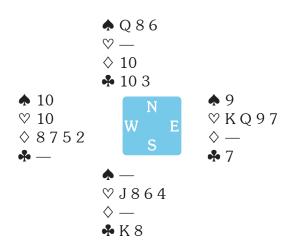
Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Hoftaniska	Bilde	Charlsen
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	1 🛧	2 %	Pass
Pass	Dhle	All Pass	

Passing the protective re-opening double of Two Hearts is a bold decision and will need to be backed up with perfect defence – not always the easiest thing to do. The ♠3 was led to North's jack and declarer's ace. The ♦9 to the jack and ace and the return of a small heart saw declarer win in hand with the ace and play the jack of clubs. South rose with the queen to play another spade. In dummy with the ♠K declarer cashed the king of diamonds before playing a club upon which North played his ace. The defence was correct up to this point though it would have been easier had North allowed the club to run to his partner's king. North now led the master queen of spades – let us look at the end game:



With the defence having taken three tricks, at this point North played the gueen of spades. What must



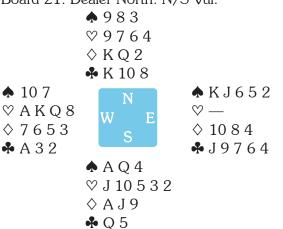
South do? He must ruff his partner's winner! If not then the best North can do is lead a diamond but declarer ruffs high and then ruffs his club in dummy and no matter what South does he only gets one more trump trick. So instead he ruffs and exits with a trump, at first sight this seems suicidal but if declarer wins in dummy with the  $\heartsuit 10$  then he must lead a diamond and after North's  $\diamondsuit 10$  he must lose a trump and a diamond or a club .If he overtakes the  $\heartsuit 10$  then he has a heart loser and a club loser. Unfortunately South discarded on the queen of spades and so the doubled part-sore was made for +670.

### Closed Room

0.00004 1.00111				
West	North	East	South	
Malinowski	Franceschetti	De Botton	Robert	
			Pass	
2◊*	2 <b>^</b>	All Pass		
2\$	Weak two in	$\Diamond$		

The defence started with two rounds of hearts, the second ruffed by declarer. Dummy was entered with a club to lead a small trump to the jack and ace. The  $\lozenge 9$  was covered by the queen and West's king was ducked. The diamond return was taken with the  $\lozenge 10$  and dummy reentered with a club to lead another trump. West rose with the king and gave partner a diamond ruff. East could have defeated the contract by giving her partner a club ruff but led a heart which allowed declarer to claim the rest of the tricks and 13 IMPs for Daisy Chain.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Hoftaniska	Bilde	Charlsen
_	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

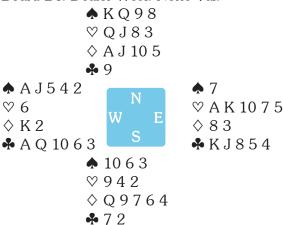
South's opening 1NT was strong but the convention card allows 14. West led the queen of hearts (are they playing third and fifth leads?) and saw partner discard the  $\lozenge 10$  and promptly switched to the  $\lozenge 3$ . Declarer persevered with the hearts while the defence did the same with diamonds and eventually eight tricks were recorded.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Malinowski	Franceschetti	De Botton	Robert
_	Pass	Pass	1 %
Pass	2 %	Dble	All Pass

You cannot blame West for passing out the double and he led the  $\lozenge 6$  won by declarer who played a small heart. West went in with the queen and switched to the  $\spadesuit 10$  on which East played the king and when West regained the lead with a trump and led another spade it meant declarer did not lose a spade trick and so finished with an over trick and 13 IMPs to Daisy Chain.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Hoftaniska	Bilde	Charlsen
1 <b>^</b>	Pass	2 %	Pass
3♣	Pass	<b>4♣</b>	Pass
$4\Diamond$	Pass	<b>4</b> ♠*	Pass
5♡*	Pass	6 <b>.</b>	All Pass

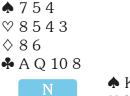
I do not have a convention card for this pairing but on other Mandala cards 4♠ would be Blackwood and the 5♡ response backs up my informed guess, showing two keycards and the queen of trumps. Played from West the contract is a simple crossruff but made even easier with the kind splits of the majors.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Malinowski	Franceschetti	De Botton	Robert
1 <b>^</b>	Pass	2 %	Pass
2 <b>4</b>	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	5 <b>%</b>	All Pass

When West did not feel he could introduce his clubs at his first rebid it made the chances of reaching the low point count slam small. Declarer had no trouble in taking the same twelve tricks as in the Open Room but 11 more IMPs for Daisy Chain.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.



A A ♥ J 7 2 ♦ A K J 3 2 ♣ J 6 5 2

**♠** J 10 9 ♡ A Q 9 ◇ 10 7

♣ K 9 7 4 3

Obviously I was not present at the table but reports state that when North queried East as to the meaning of 5th he replied "Shortage" and when West was asked the same question he replied "Exclusion Blackwood". When North led the ace of clubs, thanks to the perfect distribution of the trumps and spades the contract was a success. There was an adjustment to the score after the match had finished but it did not change the result of the match. No doubt there will be more discussion on this hand.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Malinowski	Franceschetti	De Botton	Robert
		Pass	Pass
$1 \diamondsuit$	Pass	1 🛧	Pass
2 <b>4</b>	Pass	$2 \heartsuit^*$	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Unsurprisingly the auction was not matched in this room and without a heart lead declarer had all the tricks. 17 IMPs to Daisy Chain. Had the contract failed in the Open Room it would have been 13 IMPs the other way, enough to change the result from Daisy Chain winning to Daisy Chain losing.



West	North	East	South				
Madala	Hoftaniska	Bilde	Charlsen				
_	_	1 <b>♠</b>	Pass				
2♦	Pass	<b>2♠</b>	Pass				
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass				
3♡	Pass	5♣*	Pass				
7 ♦	All Pass				Pierre Fran	ceschetti	
Artur Mal					Janet De Bo	atton	

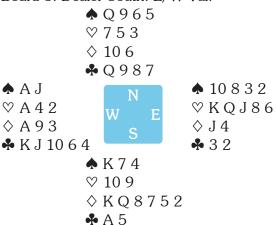
# **Open Teams Round of 16 (1)**

# Zimmermann v Daisy Chain



A star-studded Open Room drew me to this match, What a line-up of champions! We will move immediately to the action.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Drijver	Bilde	Brink
_	_	_	$1 \diamondsuit$
1NT	Pass	2◊*	Pass
2 %	All Pass		

What would be a good collective noun for world champions? I can't think of anything special. Nor was the contract anything special at this table. Agustin Madala lost a spade, a diamond and two clubs, scoring +140.

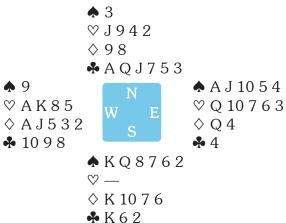
### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Franceschetti	Nowosadzki	Setton
	_		$1 \diamondsuit$
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Pierre Zimmermann liked his hand and leapt to 3NT over the Stayman response. A  $\lozenge 10$  lead would have been covered with the jack, promoting declarer's  $\lozenge 9$  into a second stopper. Pierre Franceschetti preferred to lead the  $\spadesuit 5$ , drawing the king and ace. Zimmermann crossed to the  $\heartsuit K$  and led a club to the king. North then won the  $\spadesuit J$  with the queen and led the  $\clubsuit 8$  to

partner's ace. When the  $\Diamond K$  was returned, declarer won with the ace and claimed nine tricks for a swing of 10 IMPs.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Drijver	Bilde	Brink
$1\Diamond$	1NT*	Dble	Rdble*
Pass	2 <b>♣</b>	Dble	2 <b>^</b>
All Pass			

Drijver's 1NT was the Raptor convention, showing a 6-card minor and a 4-card major. He showed his clubs and Bilde doubled for take-out. Brink knew of the 6-3 club fit now, but decided to mention his spades. Pass, Pass to East. Bilde could not visualize a game in hearts his way, and the decision to collect 100s against 24 seems admirable to me. The contract went four down, a loss of 400.

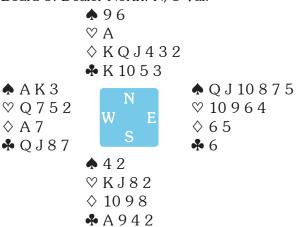
### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Franceschetti	Nowosadzki	Setton
$1 \diamondsuit$	<b>2♣</b>	$2\heartsuit^*$	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

The \$2 was led to the ace, Franceschetti ruffing the club return. A heart to the ace revealed the 4-0 break, and declarer continued with a diamond to the queen and king. A second diamond was won with dummy's

ace, and the key moment had been reached. A ruff of the \$10 was necessary now. Declarer instead played a spade to the ace and led the \$10, covered with the queen. "Ruff with the 5, please," and North overruffed. The \$Q drew spade discards from declarer and South. The game went one down and that was 11 IMPs to Daisy Chain.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Drijver	Bilde	Brink
_	$1 \diamondsuit$	3♠	Pass
4	All Pass		

Bilde won the trump lead with dummy's ace and led the  $\clubsuit$ 7 to South's 9. Winning the trump continuation in hand, declarer played the  $\heartsuit$ 10 to the jack, queen and ace. Declarer eventually lost three hearts, a diamond and a club, going two down. A price has to be paid for stretching the range of a  $3\spadesuit$  overcall to its limits. In commentary, I hazarded a guess that most Easts would overcall  $3\spadesuit$ , nevertheless.

### Closed Room

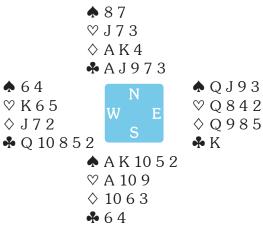
West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Franceschetti	Nowosadzki	Setton
_	$1 \diamondsuit$	3♠	Dble
3NT*	$4\diamondsuit$	Pass	Pass
<b>4♠</b>	All Pass		

Franceschetti won the diamond lead with dummy's ace and drew trumps with the ace and 10. When the  $\heartsuit 4$  was led, Hilda Setton rose with the  $\heartsuit K$ , horrified to see partner's  $\heartsuit A$  appear. After a diamond to the king, play ceased and ten tricks were claimed. North had no good return after winning the diamond ace. Another diamond would give a ruff-and-discard. A low club would allow a subsequent ruffing finesse of his  $\clubsuit$  K. If instead he exited with the  $\clubsuit K$ , South would be squeezed in hearts and clubs. Still, it would have been good to see what North actually chose as his exit. It was an 11-IMP swing to Zimmermann





Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Drijver	Bilde	Brink
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	$2 \diamondsuit^*$	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Brink's  $2\spadesuit$  via Stayman is most often played as a 'mild game try' – a hand somewhat under a  $2\heartsuit$  transfer followed by 2NT. Drijver went to 3NT, and Bilde led the  $\diamondsuit 9$ , which ran to declarer's king. When the  $\spadesuit 7$  was led, East put in the jack, and this was allowed to win. We could now see four spade tricks, giving a total of eight on top. Declarer would need an extra trick from either hearts or clubs.

Bilde continued with the  $\diamondsuit 5$  to partner's 7 and declarer's ace. It works well for declarer to finesse the  $\spadesuit 10$  now, but he earned GIB's displeasure by playing a heart to the 10 instead. West won with the king, after a long pause, and returned the  $\diamondsuit J$ . Correctly, East did not overtake. When the  $\clubsuit 8$  was led through, Drijver rose with the ace and was not displeased to see East's  $\clubsuit K$  appear. A finesse of the  $\heartsuit 10$  won. It was then necessary to cash the  $\heartsuit A$ , to remove West's safe exit card.

The see-saw tilted again when Drijver called for the A. Once again we saw 'Claim of 9 tricks accepted +400', to cries of protest from all watching. May I suggest that the players tell the VG operator the result of each claimed or conceded board, to avoid these mistakes? Or at least allow the operator to request the result?

The score was later corrected to one down.

### Closed Room

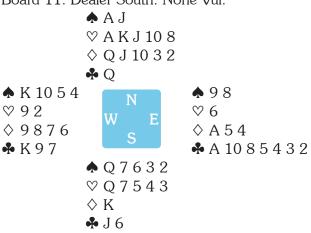
Closed Moon				
West	North	East	South	
Zimmermann	Franceschetti	Nowosadzki	Setton	
Pass	1NT	Pass	2 <b>♣</b>	
Pass	2◊*	Pass	2NT	
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass	
Dhle	All Pass			

Perhaps the auction had been hesitant. That's the only reason I can find for Zimmermann's double, unless East made an unrecorded bid over the weak 1NT.

Nowosadzki led the  $\clubsuit Q$ , perhaps a bit shaken by spade that appeared in the dummy. Franceschetti won with dummy's ace, continuing with a club to the ace. Bingo! This dropped East's king. The  $\clubsuit 8$  to the  $\spadesuit 10$  won the next trick, declarer continuing with king and another spade to set up the thirteenth spade.

East switched to a heart now, West winning with the king. A heart return went to the queen and ace, declarer then playing a club. West rose with the queen and up popped 'Claim of 11 tricks accepted +750.' Wrong again, as at other table. This was later corrected to one overtrick, and Daisy Chain gained 12 IMPs.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Drijver	Bilde	Brink
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	1♡	2♣	4♡
All Pass			

Bilde led the A and another club to partner's king, ruffed by declarer. The ace and king of trumps were followed by a claim for +450. Why did I include this board in my report, you may be wondering.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Franceschetti	Nowosadzki	Setton
		_	Pass
Pass	1♡	3♣	4 %
4 <b>♠</b>	5♡	Pass	Pass
5 <b>^</b>	Dble	6 <b>%</b>	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

It seems that Zimmermann thought 34 had shown the black suits. If we had convention cards, I could tell you who was at fault. Internet convention cards for both

players in other partnerships say that jump overcalls are pre-emptive. It's a surprising misunderstanding at this level of play.

Setton led a trump to the queen and ace. Declarer conceded a heart and North returned the  $\diamondsuit 2$  to partner's king. A spade to the jack was followed by the  $\diamondsuit Q$ , covered with the ace and ruffed. Another spade and a diamond meant 'Seven tricks claimed and +1100.' Oh no, I see the official result has since been changed to only 800 away, PLEASE can we sort out correct results at the table?

May I end by thanking Jos Jacobs for sending me an MS-Word BBO record of all my boards, for each match that I report? It arrives immediately after play has ceased. He has rescued me on countless occasions when the gremlins have stolen such as my carefully saved Board 7 in the Closed Room.





# **Results - Open Pairs**

1	PAULISSEN Gert-Jan	BAHBOUT Sam	NED - BEL	58.77
2	ZEITAK Aviv	KHUTORSKY Nir	ISR - ISR	58.74
3	SHI Haojun	SHAN Baisong	CHN - CHN	58.56
4	LUTOSTANSKI Piotr	BURAS Krzysztof	POL - POL	57.92
5	BELL Sarah	BELL Mike	ENG - ENG	56.76
5				
6	SEBBANE Lionel	SEGUINEAU Paul	FRA - FRA	56.32
7	BAREKET Ilan	LENGY Assaf	ISR - ISR	56.31
8	NG Chi-Cheung Baron	MAK Kwok-Fai	HKG - HKG	55.98
9				
	LAHRMANN Christian	KOLESNIK Finn	DEN - USA	55.62
10	DE DONDER Steven	DE ROOS Steve	BEL - BEL	55.60
11	ERGIL Esat	ALTINDAG Anil	TUR - TUR	55.58
12	NAB Bart	KILJAN Veri	NED - NED	55.51
13	VENTIN Juan Carlos	PALMA Antonio	ESP - POR	55.10
14	VOLHEJN Vit	MACURA Milan	CZE - CZE	55.09
15	DUGUET Michel	BOURVIS Thierry	FRA - FRA	55.04
16	SZABO Csaba	LAKATOS Peter	HUN - HUN	54.97
17	CHEN Jun	HUO Shiyu	CHN - CHN	54.85
18	DEHAYE Bernard	DEHAYE Clovis	BEL - BEL	54.60
19				
	GOLEBIOWSKI Stanislaw	PATREUHA Patryk	POL - POL	54.59
20	KERLERO DE ROSBO Marc	DUFFOUR Francois	FRA - FRA	54.58
21	MOHOTA Basant	MOHOTA Anurag	IND - IND	54.58
22	BALIAN Jean-Paul	DEHEEGER Colin	FRA - FRA	54.56
23	LIE Terje	FASTING Espen C.	NOR - NOR	54.55
	CIMONICENI Chaffan Eradrik			
24	SIMONSEN Steffen Fredrik	JOHANSEN Lars Arthur	NOR - NOR	54.29
25	GULYAS Daniel	HODOSI Peter	HUN - HUN	54.01
26	TJARNEMO Hakan	CARBONNIER Pierre	SWE - SWE	53.67
27	ÚZUM Dogan	KIZILOK Omer	TUR - TUR	53.67
28	KEAVENEY Gay	GLYNN Enda	IRL - IRL	53.32
29	JACOB Nick	McALLISTER John Grayson	NZL - USA	53.22
30	TRENKA Peter	KEMENY Gyorgy	HUN - HUN	53.21
31	MARILL Philippe	ZANASI Gabriele	FRA - ITA	53.09
32	MALINOWSKI Artur	BAKHSHI David	ENG - ENG	52.90
33	MATEOS-RUIZ Franck	RINGUET Pascal	FRA - FRA	52.77
34	ABRAGI Andreas	HEIBERG-EVENSTAD Nicolai	SWE - NOR	52.70
35	STOKKA Adam	WRANG David	SWE - SWE	52.63
36	ANDREA Landry	POULAT Simon	FRA - FRA	52.48
37	NIJSSEN Oscar	VAN DE PAVERD Tim	NED - NED	52.42
38	ARGELAZI Eliran	ROSENTHAL Lee	ISR - ISR	52.38
39	KAPLAN Adam	TODD Robert	USA - USA	52.22
40	VOZABAL David	SLEMR Jakub	CZE - CZE	52.21
41	PAGAN lan	NATT Shahzaad	ENG - ENG	52.17
42	ERCAN Sehmus	KILICARSLAN Hilmi	TUR - TUR	52.05
43	DESAGES Olivier	MOURGUES Jennifer	FRA - FRA	52.00
44	JANSONS Ugis	IMSA Adrians	LAT - LAT	51.98
45	HAUSEUX Francois	LEBAS MARC	BEL - BEL	51.93
46	BEAUMIER Dominique	CAILLIAU Ivan	FRA - FRA	51.85
47	JACOB Tom	MACE Brian	NZL - NZL	51.85
48	BRUNET Frederic	ANCESSY Arnaud	FRA - FRA	51.80
49	HARARI David	DOUSSOT Bernard	FRA - FRA	51.78
50	TEODORESCU Cornel	MORARU Dan	ROM - ROM	51.68
51	VAHK Tonno	VAHK Jasper	EST - EST	51.52
52	SIMANAITIENE Sonata	GRIGORAITIS Ramunas	LTU - LTU	51.47
53	KARLYKOV Petro	CHUMAK Yuliy	UKR - UKR	51.47
54	LOONSTEIN Tomer	BANIRI Ilai Ilan	ISR - ISR	51.44
55	ROMANOWSKI Jerzy	ROZWADOWSKI Wojciech	FRA - POL	51.33
56	KVOCEK Juraj	VODICKA Martin	SVK - SVK	51.31
57	WILDAVSKY Adam	LIN Amber	USA - USA	51.24
58	ILZINS Janis	BALODIS Martins	LAT - LAT	51.18
59	VON ARNIM Felix	SIEGEL Arne	GER - GER	51.14
60	DEWASME Isabelle	VANDERVORST Mike	BEL - BEL	51.11
61				51.03
	MICHAUD-LARIVIERE Xavier	DE MENDEZ Thierry	MON - SUI	
62	RENSON Denis	DAVID Olivier	FRA - FRA	50.96
63	TIJSSEN Luc	VERHAEGEN Marcel	NED - NED	50.92
64	LIOSSIS Georgios	VOVOS Konstantinos	GRE - GRE	50.85
65	KAYSER Christian	LACOUR Bernard	FRA - FRA	50.81
66	MERCAN Nese	AKSUYEK Ender	TUR - TUR	50.74
67	LEGRAS Remi	CHESNY Philippe	FRA - FRA	50.68
68	TOLUN Reha	ONCEL Mehmet Ugur	TUR - TUR	50.67
69	KOWALSKI Dariusz	SIELICKI Tomasz	POL - POL	50.63
70	GOTARD Barbara	GOTARD Tomasz	GER - GER	50.59
71	BASARAN Berk	SOHTORIK Yusuf	TUR - TUR	50.54
72				
12	HANLON Tom	VOLCKER Frederic	IRL - FRA	50.49

# Results - Open Pairs

	<del>-</del>			
73	CLARET Michel	KIEFFER Jean Francois	FRA - FRA	50.43
74		•		50.35
	KOWALSKI Apolinary	JANKAUSKAS Arunas	POL - LTU	
75	ROMANOVSKA Maija	BETHERS Janis	LAT - LAT	50.20
76	COYNE Ciaran	WALSH David	IRL - IRL	50.15
77	ADAMIC Tomaz	DRINOVEC DRNOVSEK Barbara	SLO - SLO	50.00
78	ASHE Steven			
		ZORANOVIC Jovana	USA - SER	49.99
79	STEPINSKI Jeremi	HUTYRA Maciej	POL - POL	49.87
80	LEVOY Quentin	CLAESSENS Jérôme	FRA - BEL	49.68
81	CIMA Leonardo	BIANCHI Ettore	ITA - USA	49.61
82	ZACK Yaniv	COHEN Ilan	ISR - ISR	49.61
83	COUNIL Jean-Louis	BENOIT Alain	FRA - FRA	49.59
84	BELLICAUD Luc	GUTH Romaric	FRA - FRA	49.56
85	WEISSELBERGER Yves	KHANFIR Samir	FRA - FRA	49.51
86				49.50
	ALUF Sedat	KAYA Erdogan	TUR - TUR	
87	PIIBELEHT Tiit Hendrik	PIIRISILD Riko	EST - EST	49.45
88	STRZEMECKI Wojciech	DOBRZYNSKI Maciej	POL - POL	49.32
89	BOWLES Andy	MOHANDES Shireen	ENG - ENG	49.22
90	SCHMIDT Pierre	GARCIA Stephane	FRA - FRA	49.00
91	CHIPAIL Gheorghe	CONSTANTINESCU Razvan	ROM - ROM	48.93
92	MOLINA Philippe	GALINSKY Yoram	FRA - FRA	48.86
93	JOURDAIN Jean-Francois	VAN MIDDELEM Guy	BEL - BEL	48.81
94	SJOQVIST Mans	SAFSTEN Johan	SWE - SWE	48.80
95	DINKIN Sam			
		FREEMAN Jacob	USA - CAN	48.68
96	DINC Sedat	OZKURT Kenan	TUR - TUR	48.66
97	SUZER Ugurcan	DEMIRSAN Murat	TUR - TUR	48.63
98	CARROLL John	MORAN Mark	IRL - IRL	48.62
100	BARNE Steve	RAPOPORT Michel	FRA - USA	48.58
101	BOGUCKI Darek	KAVALENKA Andrei	POL - LTU	48.58
102	LECANTE Francois	RAIKO RAIKOVSKY Vadim	FRA - FRA	48.57
103	ZARKESCH Flora	BOEDDEKER Robert	GER - GER	48.55
104	MESBUR Adam	GARVEY Tommy	IRL - IRL	48.46
105	LOHAY Karol	HENC Marian	SVK - SVK	48.36
106	BASKAN Burak	TARHAN Turker	TUR - TUR	48.32
107	HANSSON Erik	MANN Castor	SWE - SWE	48.29
108	CAUMEL Jean Patrick	DAVID Jacques	FRA - FRA	48.28
109	LOBRY Francis	DELESTRE Daniel	FRA - FRA	48.28
110	WEBER Stefan	BOHNSACK Sandro	GER - GER	48.03
111	KOLATA Suleyman	KANDEMIR Ismail	TUR - TUR	47.95
112	HACKETT Justin	TAYLOR Martin	ENG - ENG	47.95
113	TUNCOK Čenk	OZBAY Tolga	USA - TUR	47.86
114		AKHUN Mustafa	TUR - TUR	47.73
	ZOBU Ahu			
115	DEMUY Vincent	GOLD Marusa	USA - ENG	47.71
116	BALASOVS Jurijs	BETHERS Uldis	LAT - LAT	47.46
117	PETELKO Lia	RETTER Koren	ISR - ISR	47.42
118	BAHCECI Hakan	AYDAR Yalcin	TUR - TUR	47.31
119				47.21
	SABBAH Ofek	SLIWOWICZ Yonatan	ISR - ISR	
120	LANGER Darina	GWINNER Hans-Herman	SUI - GER	47.08
121	ZEEBERG Niels	KOLDING Viktor	DEN - DEN	46.98
122	KOVACHEV Valentin	KRAL Ronald Peter	BUL - USA	46.90
123	DE BOTTON Janet	HOFTANISKA Thor Erik	ENG - ENG	46.44
124	SEN Tezcan	KAYTAZ Bulent		46.36
			TUR - TUR	
125	WINKLER Gabor	DUMBOVICH Miklos	HUN - HUN	46.25
126	BAUSBACK Nikolas	SEITER Ansgar	GER - GER	46.01
127	METZDORFF Olivier	DOUGE Eric	FRA - FRA	46.00
128	COVALIU Sergiu	SHEFFY Ron	ISR - ISR	45.88
129	BOEYKENS Leo	HUYBRECHT Hans	BEL - BEL	45.80
130	CLEMENTSSON Bonnie	CLEMENTSSON Jan	SWE - SWE	45.68
131	ASLAN Bulent	UMUR Omer Celal	TUR - TUR	45.57
132	GUENOUN Raphael	LAUGIER Bernard	MAR - FRA	45.21
133	BEKKOUCHE Nadia	DANIELSEN Flemming	DEN - DEN	45.01
134	HUYBRECHT Emile	WAUTERS Tom	BEL - BEL	44.59
135	CAMMARATA Michele	VALSEGA Cristiano	ITA - ITA	44.55
136	PIGOT Peter Jr	O'GORMAN Derek	IRL - IRL	44.34
137	RENAUD Jacques	TAQUOI Jacques	SUI - FRA	43.99
138	BELLEFROID Patrick	VITETTA Michele	FRA - FRA	43.13
139	NARKIEWICZ Grzegorz	LATOMSKI Jacek	POL - POL	42.96
140	NEHMERT Pony Beate	DING Hong	GER - USA	42.90
141	ANDERSEN Michael Krogh	JENSEN Bo	DEN - DEN	42.62
142	PRUUL Karl-Markus	MAASIK Martin	LAT - LAT	42.49
143	TSEYTLIN Igor	SHUSTERMAN Borys	UKR - UKR	42.20
144	GONFREVILLE Jacques	COMMEROT Philippe	FRA - FRA	41.92
145	BROUNS Marc	THYS Carine	BEL - BEL	38.80

# **Results - Women Pairs**

1	KAZMUCHA Danuta	JAROSZ Aleksandra	POL - POL	60.28
2	ATES Ebru	OZLU Tijen	TUR - TUR	56.94
3	LEVI Hila	ASULIN Adi	ISR - ISR	56.25
4	BONES Turid	BREKKE Kaja	NOR - NOR	55.64
5	SMYKALLA Gisela	DELLA MONTA Annaig	GER - GER	52.88
6	ZOCHOWSKA Joanna	BOURQUARD Annik	FRA - FRA	52.81
7	ONEILL Molly	WEINGOLD Joanne	USA - USA	52.62
8	LESLIE Paula	REMEN Solvi	SCO - NOR	52.24
9	HUGON Elisabeth	MONOD Emmanuelle	FRA - FRA	52.17
10	ALBERTI Anja	WODNIANSKY Beatrix	GER - GER	51.20
11	LARSSON Jessica	GROSS Susanna	SWE - ENG	50.90
12	KANDOLU Ozlem	ELMAS Tuna	TUR - TUR	50.81
13	BALDYSZ Cathy	BALDYSZ Sophia	POL - POL	50.70
14	GROMANN Ingrid	WENNING Karin	GER - GER	50.62
15	O'KEEFFE-BROWN Rebecca	PENDER Gilda	IRL - IRL	50.20
17	HELNESS Gunn	LINDSTROEM Mona	NOR - NOR	49.68
18	HACKETT Barbara	NETTLETON Diana	GER - ENG	49.61
19	KENNY Joan	FITZGERALD Jeannie	IRL - IRL	49.49
20	GODFREY Lizzie	DAUVERGNE Sophie	FRA - FRA	49.40
21	CLENCH Gilly	GREENWOOD Diane	WAL - IRL	48.75
22	BALABANOVA Kamelia	BILLIET Cecilia	SUI - SUI	48.71
23	NUHOGLU Sevil	ERENGIL Yasemin	TUR - TUR	48.63
24	BENZ Janine	JUSTITZ Marijke	SUI - SUI	48.50
25	GHOSN Rita	PAULISSEN Severine	LIB - FRA	48.40
26	RIGNEY Teresa	PART Siobhan	IRL - IRL	46.59
27	SJODAL Elisabeth Grasholt	SJODAL Sofie Grasholt	NOR - NOR	46.14
28	PETELKO Adel	ROITMAN Ziv	ISR - ISR	46.12
29	WAELTI Vreni	DUC Laurence	SUI - SUI	44.91
30	KELLY-ROGERS Mary	FITZPATRICK Anne	IRL - IRL	43.55
31	SIMON Nicole	LAMENDIN Marie Christine	FRA - FRA	42.14

# **Results - BAM**

### **RANKING**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	KNOTTENBELT PHARMASERVICE LES FRINGANTS PEPSI PSG FRANCE PURPLE ORCA GILLIS	110.80 105.80 105.40 101.40 99.40 98.80 98.60 97.40	11 12 13 14 15 16	EX S CROATIA MOSSOP ARAKISELLA BRIDGE24PL B BV WALDSOLMS ZIGGY TEAMNL WOMEN	94.80 94.40 93.80 93.60 92.40 89.40 89.40
8	GILLIS	97.40	18	TEAMNL WOMEN	88.40
	FRANCE DAMES	97.40	19	AUSTRIA	85.40
	HELLAS TEAM	97.40	20	BYE	0.00

# **EBL** playing cards

The surplus of new (not used) championship cards are now available at the Jannersten stall for €1 per deck. You can also preorder (moderately) used cards for €0.80 per deck. Pick up of used decks will be during the Junior Championships at Veldhoven. Email anna@jannersten.com for details and a quote.







# **WORLD BRIDGE TOUR 2023 BK ISTANBUL OPEN PAIRS**

Litanbult



BÜYÜK KULÜP (CERCLE D'ORIENT)

SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 1 STANBUL, TURKEY



### REGISTRATION



worldbridgetour.istanbul

WARM UP WITH A TREE CATERED BOAT TRIP

\*\* Entrance fee will be 160 USD per player till August 29th and 200 USD after this date. All the activities and meals cited in the program are inclusive in the registration fees.