



CO-ORDINATOR: JEAN-PAUL MEYER; EDITOR: MARK HORTON
 CO-EDITORS: JOS JACOBS, MIKE MELANDER, JAN SERRAS, PETER VENTURA
 LAY-OUT EDITOR: GEORGE HADZIDAKIS
 PHOTOGRAPHER: RON TACCHI
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Issue No. 11

Saturday evening, 3 July 2010

XXceptional Italy

Polish Pride



Forza Italia



Magnetic Poles

Italy, **Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Lorenzo Lauria, Agustin Madala, Antonio Sementa, Alfredo Versace, Maria Teresa Lavazza npc, Massimo Ortensi Coach**, has added to its laurels by winning a twentieth European Bridge Teams Championship Open title.

The runners up are Poland's **Cezary Balicki, Krzysztof Buras, Jacek Kalita, Krzysztof Kotorowicz, Grzegorz Narkiewicz, Adam Zmudzinski, Piotr Walczak npc, Marek Wojcicki Coach**. Third place goes to Israel, represented by **Michael Barel, Eldad Ginossar, Ilan Herbst, Ophir Herbst, Ron Pachtman, Yaniv Zack, Joseph Engel npc**.

Iceland, Sweden, Netherlands and Bulgaria join them in the hunt for the Bermuda Bowl.

Poland's third Senior European Bridge Team Championship was secured by **Julian Klukowski, Apolinary Kowalski, Krzysztof Lasocki, Victor Markowicz, Jacek Romanski, Jerzy Russyan, Wlodzimierz Wala Npc**.

Second place went to Denmark, **Thomas Berg, Geert Jorgensen, Peter Lund, Peter Magnussen, Steen Møller, Peter Schaltz, Flemming Danielsen npc**.

Italy, **Franco Baroni, Franco Caviezel, Franco Cedolin, Enrico Longinotti, Giovanni Maci, Carlo Mariani, Giancarlo Bernasconi npc, Carlo Mosca Coach**, finished third.

France, Germany and Bulgaria join them in the Senior's Bowl.



OPEN TEAMS RESULTS

ROUND 9 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	LATVIA	NETHERLANDS	45 - 56	13 - 17
2	ENGLAND	NORWAY	42 - 43	15 - 15
3	GERMANY	POLAND	52 - 34	19 - 11
4	SWEDEN	FRANCE	49 - 28	19 - 11
5	ITALY	ISRAEL	15 - 39	10 - 20
6	RUSSIA	ICELAND	25 - 43	11 - 19
7	SWITZERLAND	DENMARK	42 - 59	11 - 19
8	PORTUGAL	BULGARIA	1 - 63	3 - 25
9	TURKEY	ESTONIA	52 - 23	21 - 9

OPEN TEAMS RANKING

1	ITALY	314
2	POLAND	308
3	ISRAEL	304.5
4	ICELAND	289
5	SWEDEN	274
6	NETHERLANDS	271
7	BULGARIA	265
8	RUSSIA	263
9	GERMANY	253.5
10	TURKEY	251
11	FRANCE	248.5
12	ENGLAND	247
13	DENMARK	232
14	NORWAY	229
15	ESTONIA	204
	SWITZERLAND	204
17	LATVIA	201
18	PORTUGAL	192

Statistics from the Appeals Committee

by Herman De Wael

Only 9 cases were brought before the Appeals Committee in Oostende. That is five less than two years ago in Pau. This brings the Board Appeal Ratio down to 0.19 appeals per 1,000 boards.

The Women had 3 cases and the Seniors only one (BAR: 0.20 and 0.12). There were 5 appeals in the Open series, 2 during the qualifying stage (0.15) and 3 in the Final stages (0.93).

Once again, the quality of the directing was impeccable. Only in 1 case did the Committee alter the Director's ruling, and even this one was a very close decision. The deposit was never kept.

The Appeals Committee heard all cases from within a group of 11 members. In the European Teams Championships, Committees of more than 5 people can be used, bringing the average to 5.6 members per Committee. All Committees were convened composed of 5 members or more.

All the Appeals have been written up and will be published on the Web (<http://www.eurobridge.org> - follow links to departments - appeals)

Board-Appeal Ratio's (BARs)

In order to compare the rates of appeals, the EBL Appeal Committee have developed the notion of a Board-Appeal Ratio. In essence, this is the number of appeals that are heard in relation to the number of boards played. It is expressed as the number of appeals per 1,000 boards played. The BARs are continuously going down, a fact we ascribe to ever better directing.

BARs throughout the years:

Team championships:

Malta 1999	0.70
Tenerife 2001	0.81
Salsomaggiore 2002	0.56
Malmö 2004	0.33
Warszawa 2006	0.36
Pau 2008	0.36
Oostende 2010	0.19

Open championships:

Menton 2003	0.32
Tenerife 2005	0.26
Antalya 2007	0.22
Sanremo 2009	0.28

Total number of boards:

46,752 boards have been played during these championships (Pau 38,880).

SENIORS TEAMS RESULTS**ROUND 21 - subject to official confirmation**

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	SPAIN	BELGIUM	38 - 30	17 - 13
2	ENGLAND	GERMANY	49 - 37	18 - 12
3	NORWAY	ESTONIA	26 - 21	16 - 14
4	POLAND	FINLAND	53 - 27	21 - 9
5	BULGARIA	CZECH REP.	21 - 24	13.5 - 15.5
6	SCOTLAND	AUSTRIA	61 - 15	25 - 5
7	WALES	ISRAEL	13 - 59	5 - 25
8	HUNGARY	TURKEY	52 - 23	22 - 8
9	ITALY	DENMARK	17 - 38	10 - 20
10	NETHERLANDS	SWEDEN	31 - 20	17 - 13
11	FRANCE	SWITZERLAND	46 - 30	19 - 11
12	IRELAND	BYE		18 - 0

ROUND 22 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	SWITZERLAND	IRELAND	20 - 76	3 - 25
2	GERMANY	BELGIUM	34 - 29	16 - 14
3	ESTONIA	ENGLAND	49 - 43	16 - 14
4	FINLAND	NORWAY	13 - 51	6 - 24
5	CZECH REP.	POLAND	12 - 58	5 - 25
6	AUSTRIA	BULGARIA	24 - 58	7 - 23
7	ISRAEL	SCOTLAND	12 - 42	8 - 22
8	TURKEY	WALES	41 - 29	18 - 12
9	DENMARK	HUNGARY	46 - 27	19 - 11
10	SWEDEN	ITALY	42 - 23	19 - 11
11	FRANCE	NETHERLANDS	54 - 3	25 - 4
12	SPAIN	BYE		18 - 0

ROUND 23 - subject to official confirmation

	Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1	SPAIN	IRELAND	19 - 38	11 - 19
2	BELGIUM	ESTONIA	40 - 52	12 - 18
3	ENGLAND	FINLAND	41 - 17	21 - 9
4	NORWAY	CZECH REP.	71 - 21	25 - 4
5	POLAND	AUSTRIA	36 - 27	17 - 13
6	BULGARIA	ISRAEL	12 - 38	9 - 21
7	SCOTLAND	TURKEY	47 - 3	25 - 5
8	WALES	DENMARK	17 - 64	4 - 25
9	HUNGARY	SWEDEN	37 - 26	17 - 13
10	ITALY	FRANCE	23 - 26	14 - 16
11	NETHERLANDS	SWITZERLAND	51 - 13	24 - 6
12	GERMANY	BYE		18 - 0

SENIORS TEAMS RANKING

1	POLAND	422
2	DENMARK	416
3	ITALY	411
4	FRANCE	407
5	GERMANY	391
6	BULGARIA	385
7	ISRAEL	382
8	HUNGARY	380
9	IRELAND	378
10	AUSTRIA	374
11	SCOTLAND	365
12	NETHERLANDS	360
13	SWEDEN	359
14	ENGLAND	352
15	BELGIUM	340
16	TURKEY	329.5
17	NORWAY	318.5
18	SPAIN	292
19	ESTONIA	280
20	CZECH REPUBLIC	269.5
21	FINLAND	254
22	WALES	245
23	SWITZERLAND	237

FAREWELL FROM THE PRESIDENT OF EBL

Dear Friends,

We are once again at the end of a marvelous bridge event, enriched this year by the celebration of the 50th Anniversary. With emotion we looked back on our history, through the impressive presentation provided by Panos Gerontopoulos and we honored more than one hundred champions and officers.

It is time to draw the first balance of this event and I do hope that everyone has enjoyed participating. The marvelous town of Ostend welcomed and hosted us in a superb way. On our side, we tried to do our best to manage and run the championship, and this time we have been also able to obtain a direct line with the Supernatural to intervene on the natural elements and provide such a wonderful weather.

I want to thank Ostend and its Authorities, led by the Deputy Mayor Hilde Veulemans, for their friendship and warmth towards us and for all efforts done to satisfy all our different needs. I want to thank the Royal Belgian Bridge Federation and its President, my great friend and colleague Marc De Pauw, for the huge work done before and during the Championship and having provided our staff of many and very efficient collaborators. I want, once again, to thank the Organizing Committee and its leader Bart Magerman for the great support they gave us, which cannot be overlooked. Together with Bart I am very pleased to thank the entire Magerman family, Hedwig, Geert, An, Annemie and the boys, Sara, Caroline, Olivier and Julie: in an ideal relay they received the baton from the late and unforgettable Paul and continue a fantastic tradition. I cannot forget all our sponsor-friends, which allowed us to realize this event.

Two great people will end their careers here in Ostend and both decided to offer to us their best performance: two real giants of our organization, two great friends of us, Jean-Claude Beineix, the Chairman of the Championship and Ton Kooijman the Operations Director. Thank you dear friends, the EBL will miss you.

I want now to thank all the members of our great staff who enabled us to carry out this championship by offering their enthusiasm, their dedication and their professionalism. I would like to name them all, one by one, but for all of them I will call their representatives, inviting them all to stand,

when I call them to receive our much deserved applause. The Championship Committee with the co-chairman Armand Trippaers and the Technical Director Maurizio Di Sacco; the Appeals Committee led by Jens Auken; the Systems Manager Grattan Endicott; the Tournament Directors led by Antonio Riccardi and Max Bavin; the Hospitality and Registration Team led by Silvia Valentini, with Carlotta, Grazia, Lilian and Peter; the EBL Secretariat with Marina, Federica and Gildana; the Treasury with Dirk De Clercq; the Main Office guided by Babbut Fulvio Colizzi with Bimbo Luc, grandfather Gianni, uncle Alex, child Gianluca; the key-boards team led by Guy Lambeaux; the Communications Master Panos Gerontopoulos; the IBPA President Patrick Jourdain; the Press Room Manager Jan Swaan; the Rama Commentators guided by Barry Rigal; the Daily Bulletin coordinated by Jean-Paul Meyer and Mark Horton; the Duplication Team led by Monica Gorreri, the 'one million boards girl'; the technological team led by Professor Gianni Baldi and his assistant Chicco; the IT System Manager Duccio Geronimi and his assistants Manolo and Nicoletta; the Protocol & Ceremony Committee, led by our marvellous Annamaria Torlontano, with Sevinc Atay and Paul Meerbergen; finally the extraordinary Lavazza Boys, with a special thanks to Maria Teresa Lavazza and the Lavazza Company for their generosity in providing us I do not know how many tons of coffee.



Dear friends we enjoyed all together another great bridge event. Once again I want to express to you, all of you, my gratitude because you with your behaviour and fair-play, creating a marvellous atmosphere of friendship and serenity, made this event great and contributed to show and develop the true imagine of what bridge is.

As you know I am at the end of my eleven years' marvelous adventure through European bridge and for the last time I have the honour and privilege to speak to you from this podium and to close the Championship. I am proud of it and above all I am proud of you, who helped us to create a great League, which I am sure will continue to increase its successes, with new energies, enthusiasm and ideas.

Thank you for your friendship, for your patience, for your attention. I hope that you will continue to support me in my new task. I need you.

Un abbraccio to you all.

WOMEN TEAMS

Round 25

Netherlands v England

by Jos Jacobs

At the start of the last day of the Women's event, 8 V.P. separated the overnight leaders, Netherlands, from their morning opponents England. The latter were lying 3rd at the time because France was still in between the two, a mere 3 V.P. behind the Dutch. It was clear, therefore, that the outcome of this match would have some impact on the distribution of the medals at the end of the day's play.

On the very first board, the Bridge Gods apparently were checking if everyone was well awake as we were in the slam zone straight away:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Stockdale</i>	North <i>Pasman</i>	East <i>Brown</i>	South <i>Simons</i>
	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♦	Pass	7♦
All Pass			

Anneke Simons took a bit of a gamble here, it seems. She knew from the 6♦ response that partner would hold the trump queen but not the ♣K. Still, had North held three spades or more, the grand would have made easily enough with the trumps 3-2 as a spade ruff would then have provided the 13th trick. In real life, the contract had to go one down for +50 to England. It must have been just the start they had been dreaming of.

Closed Room

West <i>Van Zwol</i>	North <i>Senior</i>	East <i>Verbeek</i>	South <i>Dhondy</i>
	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Even more so when their team-mates did not produce anything beyond the ordinary and settled for the small slam. England another +920 and 14 IMPs.

They lost most of their early lead already on the next board:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West <i>Stockdale</i>	North <i>Pasman</i>	East <i>Brown</i>	South <i>Simons</i>
		1♦	Dbl
3♦	Pass	Pass	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Following their disastrously unlucky start of the match, the Dutch NS did extremely well on this one by taking the save, red v. green, against 4♠. It got even better for them when Brown decided to take the cheap insurance. One down and +100 to the Dutch – a much better score than losing 200 in 5♥.

Closed Room

West <i>Van Zwol</i>	North <i>Senior</i>	East <i>Verbeek</i>	South <i>Dhondy</i>
		INT	4♥
4♠	All Pass		

It remained to be seen, however, if the Dutch EW would be able to capitalise on the good score brought in by their team-mates. When Dhondy jumped to 4♥ rather than doubling first, she suddenly had a problem when 4♠ came back to her. I wonder what the effect of a double at this point would have been...

Anyway: when she decided to pass, it was +420 more to the Netherlands and 11 IMPs back. It certainly had been a brisk start of the match.

Another big swing came on the next board when Fiona Brown made good use of the information available from the auction and opening lead:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Simons</i>
3♣	Pass	4♥	2♠ All Pass

2♠ would show exactly five spades and a minor second suit of undefined length.

When South led the ♠J, Brown could play the hand almost double dummy and that's exactly what she did. She called for dummy's ace and turned her attention to trumps. North won the second round and, seeing the endplay coming, first cashed the ♠K before exiting in trumps. Declarer then took the diamond finesse to get rid of the losing club. Very well played for a fully deserved +650 to England.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Van Zwol</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
1♣ 4♥	Pass All Pass	3♥	Pass Pass

No opposing bidding in the Closed Room so Martine Verbeek had to find a line all by herself. Her task did not become any easier when South led her singleton club. When she decided to duck this, she was two down very quickly when the ruff came, followed by the ♠J to the Queen and King. England +200 and 13 IMPs to them to lead 27-11 after just 3 boards.

From that point onwards, nothing very spectacular would happen on most of the boards, so I may as well show you

all the remaining boards on which there were relevant swings. This was the first of this series:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Simons</i>
Pass	INT	All Pass	

On the ♣J lead, Pasman for The Netherlands won her Queen and simply played ♦A and another. East, on lead with the ♦10, switched to the ♠Q. This opened the way for the defenders to cash lots of tricks in both majors but it also presented declarer with an overtrick. Netherlands +120.

My end in Ostend

Ostend 2010 marks an end to my job as general manager of the European Bridge Championships. Starting in Killarney 1991 twenty years have flown in which I have worked with a group of people as dedicated as I, working for successes and implementing substantial improvements in all departments through these years.

The staff in these championships is quite stable, I know many members for a long time already. This assures great expertise and high quality.

Formally not being a staff member, Jean-Claude Beineix in fact belonged to our group, always looking for improvements, never accepting situations he did not like. We worked twenty years together and I owe him deep respect.

I am grateful for the support and trust the respective presidents of the league gave me, especially Gianarrigo Rona who covered more than half of this era.

Let me also express my appreciation for the captains and players with which I almost without exception had a nice relation. They even accepted a mistake with courtesy.

It has been a great time in which I could fulfil my goals related to a great hobby: BRIDGE, thanks to all people present and surrounding me in these championships.

I hope to see you again.

Ton Kooijman

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Van Zwol</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
Pass	INT	All Pass	

thus 5 IMPs to The Netherlands. The difference now was just 6 IMPs.

Four boards later, we had an exciting push board:

Verbeek too led the ♣J to declarer's Queen but Nevena Senior's next moves were the ♦A and a club to dummy to take the losing diamond finesse. With dummy dead, East simply exited with her 3rd diamond, leaving declarer no chance to get to her 7th trick. That meant another +100 to the Dutch and 6 IMPs back to trail by 10.

On the next five boards, the score rose from 27-17 to 29-18 so we won't bother you with any of the five. Board 10, however, was a matter of patience:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Simons</i>
		Pass	1♥
2♣	2♥	Dble	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Probably, East expected a better overcall here, vulnerable v. not and opposite a passed hand. This should be the explanation for her shot at the vulnerable game. On the marked heart lead, there were only eight tricks, of course. Netherlands +100.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Van Zwol</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
		Pass	1♥
2♣	2♥	Dble	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, the Dutch were patient enough to wait for their next chance to score a game and thus stayed in a solid partscore. 3♣ just made was worth +110 and

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Simons</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	2NT
4♦	5♦	6♠	All Pass

For the BBO kibitzers, it very much looked like an undo situation when South bid 2NT. As the Closed Room had already completed the board, they knew that there, it had



Jet Pasman, Netherlands

been West who had bid 2NT over 2♣. But no: the auction was given correctly as it indeed was North who bid 5♦.

When Jet Pasman was on lead a short moment later, she realised that there probably was no future in diamonds, West having announced shortness in the suit. So she correctly chose the ♥Q as her opening lead. Simons won the ace and gave her partner a club ruff for one down.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Van Zwol</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

No adverse bidding in the other room, so West could freely bid 2NT at her second turn...

Here too, North led the ♥Q and got her club ruff so the board was a good push after all.

The next board was by no means a push:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Simons</i>
			1♥
2♦	2♠	5♦	5♠
All Pass			

When Pasman could make a free bid over 2♦, Simons had little trouble in bidding on at the five-level. Well judged: Netherlands +650 when the spades broke nicely. Absolute par would have been to double 5♦ and collect 500.

The swing occurred when the English in the Closed Room did not produce enough noise:

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Van Zwol</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
			1♥
2♦	Dble	5♦	All Pass

When Senior, in accordance with the pair's methods, could only double 2♦, NS were never in a position to reach 5♠. This, however does not fully explain why 5♦ could escape undoubled.

Down three of course but England a mere +150 for an 11-IMP gain to the Netherlands who had taken the lead, 34-30.

There was little in the closing boards of the set but one of them was quite exciting:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Simons</i>
			1♥
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	4NT	5♠	All Pass

Well, 5♣, down one, would have been OK against 4♠ making but +100 to the Netherlands of course was even better.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Zwol</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
			1♥
Pass	INT	Dble	2♣
4♠	5♣	6♠	All Pass

In the other room, West did not overcall at her first attempt but once she mentioned spades, she found herself in slam only seconds later. Nobody was unfriendly enough to double so losing just 200 cost the Dutch 3 IMPs. The match was back to almost level again and it ended in fact in an exact tie: 34-34 which converted to 15-15 VP. The gap between the two teams still was 8 VP.

Appeal No. 9

Netherlands v France

Appeals Committee:

Jens Auken (Chairman, Denmark), Herman De Wael (Scribe, Belgium), Chris Dixon (England), Grattan Endicott (England), PO Sundelin (Sweden)

Open Teams Final Round 27

Board 6. Dealer East. East/West Vul.

<p>♠ K J 4 ♥ A 8 7 3 ♦ A K Q ♣ K 7 2</p>	<p>♠ A 8 3 ♥ Q J 9 6 5 2 ♦ 6 4 ♣ J 9</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 80px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="margin: 0;">N</p> <p style="margin: 0;">W E</p> <p style="margin: 0;">S</p> </div>	<p>♠ Q 10 9 ♥ 4 ♦ 10 9 7 5 3 ♣ A 10 8 5</p>	<p>♠ 7 6 5 2 ♥ K 10 ♦ J 8 2 ♣ Q 6 4 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Eisenberg</i>	<i>Paulissen</i>	<i>Vinciguerra</i>	<i>Jansma</i>
		Pass	Pass
2NT	3♥	Dble	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Contract: Three No-Trumps, played by West

Lead: ♥2

Result: 8 tricks, NS +100

The Facts:

South's final pass came after an agreed hesitation.

West called the Director at the end of the hand, claiming that North's lead of a small heart had been influenced by South's break in tempo. On the lead of the ♥Q, he makes his contract.

The Director:

Established that there had been a break in tempo. The players disagreed about the timing, but the BBO operator confirmed that there had been some pause to think. The Director asked both players separately what a double would ask for, and they both replied that it would ask for a spade lead. The Director asked a number of players for their lead and all of them went for the lead of a small heart. Most players agreed however that the hesitation suggested the lead of a small heart.

So, while the Director did establish that there was Unauthorized Information that suggested the lead of a small heart, he found that leading the Queen was not a Logical Alternative.

Ruling:

Result Stands

Relevant Laws:

Law 16A

East/West appealed.

Present:

All players except East and both Captains

The Players:

West told the Committee the hesitation was about a good minute in length. North and South disputed this, calling it 15 to 20 seconds. But South admitted that for a third pass after 3NT, even 10 seconds would be a break in tempo. North/South accepted that there had been Unauthorized Information.

West thought the ruling should be pretty simple. When there is no reason to expect South to have something in hearts, the lead of the small heart may very often give away the contract, while the ♥Q would rarely do so. Moreover, if dummy has the singleton or doubleton ten, the queen may defeat the contract while the 2 allows it to make.

North told the Committee that he always takes the technical play, which in this case is the small one. When asked if the hesitation helped him, he answered that he did not know what South was thinking about. Furthermore, the hesitation was not that long.

South put forward the argument that his pause was about bidding 4♥, which would suggest that he had 3 small hearts, in which case the ♥Q would be suggested.

The Committee:

Agreed that there had been a break in tempo. South cannot have been thinking about doubling for spades, so the heart suit is put into focus. It is more likely that he has an honour rather than three small ones.

The Committee found that leading the ♥Q was a Logical Alternative.

The Committee's decision:

Director's ruling adjusted:

Score adjusted to 3NT by West, making 9 tricks, NS -600


Deposit: Returned

Meet my Maker, the Mad Multi

by Mark Horton

If Jan van Cleeff and I were planning a second edition of The Mysterious Multi then many of the deals from this tournament would find their way into the book. They would confirm that not only can the Multi cause enormous problems for even well prepared opponents but also result in some serious self harm, as on this deal from the match between England and Germany in Round 14 of the Open:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ J 9 ♥ K 9 3 2 ♦ K J 7 4 ♣ 10 9 3		♠ K Q 2 ♥ J 10 7 6 5 ♦ 9 ♣ K 6 4 2	♠ A 10 7 6 5 4 ♥ Q 8 ♦ 10 6 3 2 ♣ 8
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West	North	East	South
<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Elinescu</i>
2♥	Pass Dble	2♦ All Pass	Dble

That breach of the ‘Law of Total Trumps’ cost 1100 points.

It is possible to ascribe various meanings to West’s bid of 2♥, the two most common being that it is ‘pass or correct’ or natural.

If any reader is willing to give me a large number of Euros I will enquire of the English pair as to exactly who forgot what, but suffice it to say that it added another instalment to the chapter of this colourful convention.

Thank You

On behalf of all the journalists present at the **50th European Bridge Championships** I would like to thank the EBL for the fantastic Press Room.


Jan Swaan - Press Room Chief

Just for Laughs

by Mark Horton

Attempting to qualify for a World Championship is a serious matter, but it can have its lighter side. Germany’s Sabine Auken tried the poker players’ equivalent of a bluff on this deal from the match against Russia.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Von Arnim</i>		<i>Auken</i>	
2♠*	Pass	4♥*	1♥
5♣	6♥	6♠	5♥
All Pass			Dble

When Danielle made a weak jump overcall Sabine, confident that her side had a comfortable lead but ever hungry for IMPs wondered if there might be a slam. Could partner have two aces for her weak jump overcall? Perhaps, but using Blackwood is not a great idea as the lead will be coming through your king of hearts.

I suggested a jump to 4♣, a splinter, hoping partner might be able to bid 4♥. Seems reasonable, but in this particular case it would be a fit jump. Okay, let’s bid 4♦ and see if partner has a heart control. However, Sabine saw a way in which she might be able to give herself a 50-50 chance of making a slam even if partner held only one ace.

She jumped to 4♥, ostensibly a splinter in hearts. From her point of view the auction then developed in an ideal way.

When South doubled 6♠ do you blame North for leading a diamond?

Slings & Arrows

Slings and Arrows is a Canadian TV series, set at the fictional New Burbage Festival; Each season's production problems mirrors the play the company is performing. The title is taken from the famous soliloquy in Hamlet:

'To be, or not to be: that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And by opposing end them?'

Life in the Bulletin Room is not dissimilar – this year we tried hard to avoid *The Comedy of Errors*, treating any minor lapse as *Much Ado About Nothing*. By the time the Championships reached *Twelfth Night* we all decided *All's Well That Ends Well*.

Dramatis Personæ:

The Constable of France leads the French forces in Henry V.

Jean-Paul Meyer is our Co-ordinator *Extraordinaire*, wearing each of his hats (Appeals, VuGraph, Bulletin) with apparent ease.

Oberon is king of the fairies in A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Jos Jacobs was our most prolific reporter, producing a stream of entertaining match reports.

Benvolio is a friend and kinsman of Romeo in Romeo and Juliet.

Micke Melander, freed from the cares of office was a great addition to the team as he has a good eye for an interesting deal.

Artemidorus prepares a scroll warning Julius Caesar of danger.

Jan Serras was our Belgian reporter ably supported by **Madame Colette Grosfils** (affectionately known as *Madame Bigboy*) and we are sure you found them entertaining.

Ajax the (sometimes foolish) champion of the Greeks in Troilus and Cressida.

Our layout Editor, **George Hatzidakis**, who denies that he is personally responsible for the Greek debt crisis, did a great job.

Sir John Falstaff

Ron Tacchi was, as ever, a giant amongst men. His forthcoming book *The Great Ostend Tobacco Hunt* is sure to be a best seller.

A scribe to the court, and although a minor role they usually have dramatic impact - in the trial scene of *Henry VIII*.

By tradition, **Herman De Wael** joins us, writing up appeals and supplying essential information.

Cleomines is a courtier to Leontes, who, with Dion delivers the daily oracle from Delphos in The Winter's Tale.

Hans Secelle was responsible for printing and delivering the Bulletins – he was the real star of this particular show.

They are the noblest Romans of them All

Romeo Always in and out of love.

Mark Horton

Trump That or Did I see an Elephant Fly?

by Rex Anderson

This deal has been one of the most discussed of the Championships and has already appeared in the Bulletin more than once.

However, this story may deliver a smile as you journey home from Ostend.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Here is how East saw the bidding:

West	North	East	South
<i>Anderson</i>	<i>Lund</i>	<i>Barry</i>	<i>Moeller</i>
Pass	1♥	3♣*	3♥
4♠	5NT	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	6♠	Dble
All Pass			

3♣ Ghestem, spades and diamonds

Unfortunately the other three players had seen North open an Acol 2♥ and the 3♣ overcall was natural.

North led the ace of diamonds and declarer ruffed four diamonds in dummy and three hearts in hand, South taking the last six tricks with his trumps.

Every trick was taken by a trump!

Yes, I did see an Elephant fly!

Daily Bulletin Prize

The winner of the International Bridge Press Association prize of free membership of IBPA to the end of 2011 (normal cost to new members \$63) for the best contribution to the Daily Bulletin here by a named contributor who is not a member of the Bulletin staff goes to **Sviatlana Badrankova** of Belarus for her article *Win the Board, Not Match* on page 7 of Bulletin 9.

Barry Rigal, IBPA Awards Chairman

The decisive board

by Jos Jacobs

In today's last round of the Open, Italy had to play Israel and Poland would play Germany. As there were only 7 V.P. between Italy and Poland, it still was anybody's game. On board 10, we saw a slam swing in both these two matches that might so easily have gone the other way...

Board: 10. Dir: East/All

<p>♠ J 4 3 ♥ 9 8 6 3 ♦ Q 10 8 6 2 ♣ 10</p>	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <table style="border: none; text-align: center; width: 100%;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table> </div>	N	W E	S	<p>♠ K 8 5 ♥ Q ♦ A 7 5 4 3 ♣ J 8 6 2</p>	<p>♠ A Q 10 9 7 2 ♥ K J 2 ♦ 9 ♣ A 7 3</p>
N						
W E						
S						

In the Germany v. Poland match, this was the German auction:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Kirmse</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

As you can see, this is a touch-and-go contract. If you pick up the trumps without loss (not too difficult on the actual layout), you still don't have 12 tricks even if the clubs behave well. Either a spade finesse or a diamond guess or ruff are required.

Narkiewicz made life a lot easier for Gromöller when he led the ♦A and a diamond. Gromöller won the King and next led a low heart from hand to bring down the ♥Q. He then went on to draw the remaining trumps before testing the clubs by leading the ♣KQ from hand. This way, we could revert to his last small chance: a favourable spade position. As the latter was the case when the spades proved 3-3, the ♣A was still there as an entry to enjoy the spades. Germany +1430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Smirnov</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

Just made as declarer simply gave up a club trick after the helpful ♦A lead. Poland +650 but 13 IMPs to Germany who thus took the lead halfway that match.

Over now to the Italy-Israel match:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Pachtman</i>	<i>Madala</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

At this table too, East led the ♦A so 11 tricks were easy enough. Italy +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Herbst O</i>	<i>Laurial</i>	<i>Herbst I</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

In the Closed Room, Ilan Herbst jumped straight to slam. If he was trying to play for a swing, he certainly chose the right moment for it. As we have seen already, the slam can be made. However, when Lauria led a low club, Ilan's job had become much more difficult. Not being able now to read West's ♣10 as a singleton, Herbst won in hand and led a low trump. When this brought down the Queen, he decided to try and ruff a diamond first. So he called for dummy's diamond, putting on the jack from his hand after some consideration. Not that it mattered very much any more: Lauria could always win his ace and give Versace a club ruff to defeat the contract.

The pity for the Israelis was that only the unattractive line of going after the spades would now have brought home the slam, so by going down they lost 13 IMPs rather than picking up the same amount.

Mind you: if they had made this slam, they would have beaten Italy 25-5 which would have been enough to pass them by 0.5 V.P. in the final rankings.

And had Gromöller not made his slam, Poland would have got the same 26-IMP swing that would certainly have been enough for them to pass everyone in the rankings and thus win the European Championship, a few V.P. ahead of Israel and Italy...as the slam is on, We will never know if he was playing for a swing or not.

Magerman Cup - Final A (final ranking)

1	GOTARD - GOTARD	GER - GER	56.80	15	LANKVELD - BOS	NED - NED	50.56
2	GRANSTROM - PATANA	FIN - FIN	56.27	16	MATTSSON - KOCH	GER - GER	50.48
3	SPANGENBERG - SPANGENBERG	NED - NED	54.92	17	OIKONOMOPOULOS - ANASTASIADIS	GRE - GRE	49.14
4	RITMEIJER - BRANTSMA	NED - NED	53.51	18	BIANCHI - CATELLANI	ITA - MON	48.58
5	WINKEL - VAN HOOIJDONK	NED - NED	52.82	19	BARENDREGT - NAB	NED - NED	48.38
6	KOISTINEN - ELSINEN	FIN - FIN	52.54	20	CINAR - MIZRAHI	TUR - TUR	48.05
7	LOUCHART - CRESTEY	FRA - FRA	52.45	21	TAMMINEN - LESKELA	FIN - FIN	48.00
8	SCHOLLAARDT - WORTEL	NED - NED	52.40	22	RYBNIKOV - KYCHANOV	UKR - UKR	47.84
9	VERSLUIS - DAEMEN	NED - NED	52.30	23	MAGERMAN - VAN DE PEPPEL	BEL - NET	47.66
10	DE SMET - VAN DE VEN	BEL - BEL	51.70	24	JOURDAIN - DUNCAN	WAL - SCO	46.70
11	COLDEA - ROTARU	ROM - ROM	51.69	25	ASH - GOODMAN	SCO - SCO	46.43
12	SOMERS - VERMEIREN	BEL - BEL	50.97	26	CHEBELEU - OJOGA	ROM - ROM	42.97
13	IONITA - FLORIN	ROM - ROM	50.88	27	MAASAKKERS - CAMBRE	NED - BEL	42.81
14	VERBEEK - DRIJVER	NED - NED	50.76	28	PISAK - OZUMERZIFON	TUR - TUR	42.56

Magerman Cup - Final B (final ranking)

1	STUURMAN - WACKWITZ	NED - NED	61.81	29	KRUIS - VAN DE LINDE	NED - NET	50.24
2	MAYENCE - DELFORGE	BEL - BEL	60.44	30	RUBENIS - GERMANIS	LAT - LAT	50.18
3	MESBUR - CARROLL	IRL - IRL	59.64	31	WAELE - TALOVA	NED - NED	49.59
4	LORENZINI - GROSSET	FRA - FRA	58.73	32	SCHAFFER - VAN DEN HOVE	BEL - BEL	49.48
5	HELMICH - HOP	NED - NED	58.27	33	PROIA - PALMARI	ITA - ITA	49.44
6	GAAST - MALYSA	NED - POL	57.76	34	SAUVAGE - BOGACKI	FRA - FRA	49.28
7	VALK - DEN HARTOG	NED - NED	56.72	35	JAGROOP - MEER	NED - NED	48.47
8	MARINI - CATA	ITA - ITA	55.72	36	DEBUS - VAN MECHELEN	BEL - BEL	48.26
9	AUDENAERT - HENDRICKX	BEL - BEL	55.63	37	VANTILBORGH - VANTILBORGH	BEL - BEL	47.75
10	VANPARIJS - DOBBELS	BEL - BEL	55.39	38	HEINRICHS - WENNING	GER - GER	47.64
11	SEN - KELES	TUR - TUR	55.36	39	MYERS - TODD	USA - USA	47.52
12	BURMANIA - FLISIJN	NED - NED	55.36	40	GESTE - OZOLS	LAT - LAT	47.24
13	BOON - CHIF	BEL - BEL	54.75	41	BLOCK - PEETERS	BEL - BEL	46.62
14	NIMHAUSER - HIRTZ	FRA - FRA	54.27	42	DARDENNE - POLETTI	BEL - BEL	46.20
15	KLEIN - TER ELST	NED - NED	53.62	43	CALAS - GELIBTER	BEL - BEL	46.11
16	DANYLYUK - DANYLYUK	UKR - UKR	53.44	44	CORNELIS - NIERINCK	BEL - BEL	45.86
17	TUSZYNSKI - INGIELEWICZ	POL - POL	53.42	45	MEIJS - SPEISER	NED - NED	45.55
18	DE SCHEPPER - TOUTENEL ELS	BEL - BEL	52.92	46	VANDYCK - VAN MOL	BEL - BEL	45.44
19	GUR - SUT	TUR - TUR	52.62	47	DONKERSLOOT - DONKERSLOOT	NED - NET	45.22
20	GOTTSCHEINER - FINAUT	BEL - BEL	52.60	48	MEGLIO - PISCITELLI	ITA - ITA	45.04
21	MCGOWAN - LIGGAT	SCO - SCO	52.28	49	LAFOURCADE - HENRI	BEL - BEL	44.94
22	JAUNIAUX - BUSQUIN	BEL - BEL	52.21	50	MARCHESANO - ROMAN?	ITA - ITA	44.25
23	FRIKKEE - ROERMUND	NED - NED	51.99	51	KUZSELKA - BARTLEY	GER - GER	43.98
24	HUYBRECHT - HERMANS	BEL - BEL	51.78	52	DE BLOCK - GOLDSZTAJN	BEL - BEL	42.08
25	SHUKHMEYSTER - KARLIKOV	UKR - UKR	51.53	53	AKIN - SALDZIEVA	TUR - NED	41.22
26	HOMME - GEIR	NOR - NOR	51.27	54	EGINTON - TELTSCHER	ENG - ENG	41.21
27	HAY - FRAZER	SCO - SCO	50.74	55	VAN PRAET - BLOMME	BEL - BEL	38.97
28	LAUER - SPALOVSKY	CZE - CZE	50.36	56	DOWNES - GORMALLY	IRL - IRL	36.08

Join us in Philadelphia

Pennsylvania, USA

1st to 16th October
2010



2010 World Bridge Series Championship



Make your plans now to join bridge players from about 100 nations at the 2010 World Bridge Series in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA from **October 1st to 16th, 2010**. The World Bridge Federation (WBF - www.worldbridge.org) and United States Bridge Federation (USBF - www.usbf.org) are pleased to announce that the world bridge championship will return to the United States for the first time in 16 years.

Thousands of the world's best bridge players will compete for eleven world titles. In addition, to attract players of varied skill levels, Regional Championships will be staged throughout the tournament, awarding both WBF and ACBL master points. Furthermore, an exciting Junior program for players under 21 and under 26 years old will further encourage widespread participation in the world's greatest card game.



A variety of Championships will be open to all bridge enthusiasts, with Transnational entries permitted in all events - except junior - (see schedule and entry fees). Pre-registration is highly encouraged (www.worldbridge.org/registration), with **significant discounts provided for players staying at a designated host hotels** (see Host Hotels). For Championship events, game times will be 10:30 am and 3:30 pm, allowing for a leisurely dinner and other entertainment at night. Various regional events will be offered at the same game times. Elegant Opening and Closing ceremonies will also be open to all (with no additional fee for Championship event entrants), as well as a live vu-graph show.

Don't miss the bridge tournament of 2010, in America's birthplace of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness".

Philadelphia will be great! Make your plans now.

