

China rockets ahead in Women's France, Israel tops in Open

Open Olympiad

Defending champion France continued to steamroller the field in Group A, taking a 17-VP lead over runnerup Poland after 20 rounds. Yesterday they had three strong victories and one small loss – 14-16 to Germany. Poland had a big day, winning all four matches good for 74 VPs out of a possible 100.

Indonesia, winning two matches late in the day after losing two earlier, were third, followed by surprising Spain, which won three out of four. Denmark had a huge day – 93 out of a possible 100 – to move into contention, only 2 VPs behind the magic fourth position.

In Group B, Israel did not have a stellar day, but their blitz, two small wins and tiny loss were enough to keep them atop the standings. Italy had the same kind of day and wound up just 2.5 VPs behind. Chinese Taipei won two and lost two, but they are in third place, mostly because no other top team had a very good day. Iceland, in fourth place, did a little better than the others with 78 of a possible 100 VPs. Great Britain had a strong day – 92 of a possible 100 – to shoot into fifth place.

Two of the pre-tournament favorites are not among the leaders, and one – the United States – appear to have little chance of overtaking the leaders. Norway are still in good position in sixth place, only half a match out of fourth. But the Americans are standing 12th, almost two full matches behind fourth place. If the Americans fail to qualify, we believe it will be the first time the U.S. have failed to reach the knockout phase.

Women's Olympiad

China scored 66 out of a possible 75 VPs to rocket into first place in Group A after 13 rounds. One of the matches was against South Africa, and China's 18-12 victory prevented the South Africans from taking over the lead. South Africa is tied for second with Germany, winner of the Venice Cup in China last year. Germany racked up three more victories – they have lost only once, and that was a 16-14 affair. China actually have lost two matches and tied one, but seven of their victories have been in the 20+ VP range.

Sweden had a rough day, losing to the Netherlands and Great Britain, and fell into a tie for fourth with Great Britain. The Netherlands are still very much in the chase, four points back.

In Group B, Israel had a relatively poor day, losing to Poland and just barely topping Chinese Taipei, but that was good enough to hold onto first place by 3 VP over the United States. The Americans had a super day, scoring 70 of a possible 75 VPs, to pull 9 points clear of third-place Austria. Canada won all three matches yesterday to take fourth place. France and Poland are close behind.

General observations

Palestine came close to winning its first match – they tied Japan in Round 18. That was their second tie, but the Palestinians are not satisfied with ties – they want a victory.

It seems strange that last year's Bermuda Bowl finalists are both having such a difficult time in the round-robin. As mentioned above, the United States are 12th in their group, and Canada are 11th in theirs.

Czech Republic accomplished an unusual feat yesterday. They bid a grand slam off the ace of trumps – and gained 3 IMPs on the deal!

RANKING

OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

A		B	
1	FRANCE 410	1	ISRAEL 398
2	POLAND 393	2	ITALY 396
3	INDONESIA 378	3	CHINESE TAIPEI 383
4	SPAIN 375	4	ICELAND 381
5	DENMARK 373	5	GREAT BRITAIN 369
6	PAKISTAN 365	6	NORWAY 368
7	JAPAN 359	7	RUSSIA 367
8	SOUTH AFRICA 358	8	AUSTRALIA 358
9	NEW ZEALAND 358	9	NETHERLANDS 345
10	SWEDEN 332	10	INDIA 343
11	CANADA 330	11	BRAZIL 341
12	ARGENTINA 319	12	USA 335
13	AUSTRIA 318	13	YUGOSLAVIA 327
14	CROATIA 316	14	TURKEY 325
15	IRELAND 315	15	FINLAND 319
16	BELGIUM 312	16	PORTUGAL 313
17	CHILE 311	17	HUNGARY 303
18	CHINA 298	18	HONGKONG 295
19	CZECH REPUBLIC 295	19	GREECE 295
20	MOROCCO 290	20	SLOVENIA 294
21	LITHUANIA 289	21	ESTONIA 291
22	ROMANIA 287	22	MONACO 285
23	UKRAINE 280	23	SWITZERLAND 284
24	SAN MARINO 272	24	LATVIA 281
25	GERMANY 267	25	GUADELOUPE 273
26	LEBANON 266	26	EGYPT 265
27	BANGLADESH 264	27	VENEZUELA 261
28	PHILIPPINES 261	28	MAURITIUS 226
29	SINGAPORE 249	29	THAILAND 223
30	LUXEMBOURG 248	30	MEXICO 219
31	COLOMBIA 228	31	JORDAN 218
32	LIECHTENSTEIN 222	32	FRENCH POLYNES 213
33	MALAYSIA 202	33	TUNISIA 213
34	BERMUDA 176	34	BULGARIA 213
35	PALESTINE 92	35	CYPRUS 174
		36	KENYA 161

Results

Round 17				Round 18				Round 19				Round 20			
POLAND	CZECH REPUBLIC	18-12	48/35	NEW ZEALAND	POLAND	11-19	18/37	POLAND	BELGIUM	25-3	55/1	BELGIUM	SOUTH AFRICA	12-18	34/49
NEW ZEALAND	PHILIPPINES	5-25	23/67	PAKISTAN	SOUTH AFRICA	23-7	45/12	SINGAPORE	NEW ZEALAND	4-25	15/65	PAKISTAN	COLOMBIA	19-11	51/32
CROATIA	GERMANY	22-8	64/33	DENMARK	CHINA	22-8	52/23	CZECH REPUBLIC	CROATIA	10-20	14/34	DENMARK	LEBANON	24-6	54/16
MALAYSIA	CHILE	0-25	2/79	SWEDEN	COLOMBIA	25-3	57/0	CHILE	PHILIPPINES	17-13	24/16	SWEDEN	INDONESIA	13-17	32/40
FRANCE	PALESTINE	25-4	59/12	BERMUDA	LEBANON	17-13	20/10	GERMANY	FRANCE	16-14	45/41	IRELAND	BERMUDA	21-9	42/17
ROMANIA	UKRAINE	21-9	61/36	INDONESIA	ARGENTINA	14-12	38/23	MALAYSIA	UKRAINE	16-14	35/30	ARGENTINA	LITHUANIA	16-14	43/39
LIECHTENSTEIN	CANADA	12-18	23/37	LUXEMBOURG	IRELAND	7-23	6/41	PALESTINE	LIECHTENSTEIN	5-25	28/74	LUXEMBOURG	MOROCCO	0-25	10/90
SAN MARINO	JAPAN	13-17	39/48	BANGLADESH	LITHUANIA	15-15	26/26	JAPAN	ROMANIA	15-15	47/48	BANGLADESH	AUSTRIA	12-18	38/53
BANGLADESH	SPAIN	11-19	15/32	MOROCCO	SAN MARINO	13-17	24/32	SPAIN	CANADA	12-18	36/51	SAN MARINO	SPAIN	15-15	26/24
LUXEMBOURG	AUSTRIA	2-25	15/78	CANADA	AUSTRIA	10-20	8/29	AUSTRIA	SAN MARINO	16-14	33/26	CANADA	JAPAN	16-14	28/21
MOROCCO	ARGENTINA	13-17	15/25	SPAIN	ROMANIA	24-6	51/14	MOROCCO	BANGLADESH	16-14	53/48	ROMANIA	LIECHTENSTEIN	17-13	40/30
LITHUANIA	BERMUDA	25-5	70/28	PALESTINE	JAPAN	15-15	30/28	LITHUANIA	LUXEMBOURG	10-20	30/53	UKRAINE	PALESTINE	24-6	72/32
IRELAND	SWEDEN	15-15	44/44	LIECHTENSTEIN	MALAYSIA	21-9	40/15	ARGENTINA	IRELAND	19-11	43/25	FRANCE	MALAYSIA	23-7	64/28
DENMARK	INDONESIA	22-8	56/25	UKRAINE	GERMANY	22-8	42/12	INDONESIA	BERMUDA	25-0	95/5	GERMANY	CHILE	11-19	30/49
LEBANON	PAKISTAN	8-22	30/60	PHILIPPINES	FRANCE	3-25	11/65	LEBANON	SWEDEN	4-25	13/62	PHILIPPINES	CROATIA	10-20	22/42
SINGAPORE	BELGIUM	14-16	43/49	CZECH REPUBLIC	CHILE	12-18	26/39	COLOMBIA	DENMARK	2-25	15/74	NEW ZEALAND	CZECH REPUBLIC	4-25	16/67
CHINA	SOUTH AFRICA	15-15	31/33	CROATIA	SINGAPORE	14-16	29/33	CHINA	PAKISTAN	17-13	48/38	POLAND	SINGAPORE	22-8	56/26
COLOMBIA	Bye	18		BELGIUM	Bye	18		SOUTH AFRICA	Bye	18		CHINA	Bye	18	
TUNISIA	ICELAND	5-25	24/66	CHINESE TAIPEI	FINLAND	14-16	26/29	FINLAND	EGYPT	11-19	37/56	TUNISIA	GUADELOUPE	6-24	12/49
FINLAND	HUNGARY	10-20	27/48	MONACO	GREAT BRITAIN	11-19	9/28	MAURITIUS	CHINESE TAIPEI	8-22	11/42	EGYPT	GREAT BRITAIN	4-25	9/56
CHINESE TAIPEI	INDIA	23-7	45/13	AUSTRALIA	GUADELOUPE	24-6	48/8	HUNGARY	GREECE	9-21	29/54	MONACO	ICELAND	11-19	18/35
GREECE	KENYA	25-1	77/7	VENEZUELA	ICELAND	9-21	9/36	ISRAEL	INDIA	17-13	43/33	AUSTRALIA	PORTUGAL	20-10	54/32
NORWAY	ISRAEL	16-14	41/38	THAILAND	PORTUGAL	12-18	10/24	KENYA	NETHERLANDS	6-24	27/65	VENEZUELA	ITALY	11-19	21/38
NETHERLANDS	SWITZERLAND	14-16	21/28	ITALY	BRAZIL	19-11	30/13	NORWAY	BULGARIA	25-4	59/8	HONG KONG	THAILAND	23-7	50/15
FRENCH POLYNES.	BULGARIA	13-17	36/47	RUSSIA	HONG KONG	16-14	20/17	SWITZERLAND	MEXICO	22-8	44/13	BRAZIL	CYPRUS	16-14	39/35
MEXICO	SLOVENIA	9-21	22/46	ESTONIA	CYPRUS	24-6	61/21	LATVIA	FRENCH POLYNES.	13-17	26/36	RUSSIA	USA	14-16	33/40
TURKEY	LATVIA	11-19	19/36	USA	TURKEY	21-9	44/17	YUGOSLAVIA	SLOVENIA	22-8	61/31	ESTONIA	JORDAN	21-9	60/33
ESTONIA	YUGOSLAVIA	17-13	35/24	SLOVENIA	JORDAN	25-4	50/1	JORDAN	TURKEY	22-8	62/31	TURKEY	YUGOSLAVIA	18-12	50/37
RUSSIA	JORDAN	23-7	58/26	YUGOSLAVIA	FRENCH POLYNES.	17-13	49/41	USA	ESTONIA	23-7	57/23	SLOVENIA	LATVIA	14-16	43/50
USA	BRAZIL	8-22	11/40	SWITZERLAND	LATVIA	12-18	21/34	CYPRUS	RUSSIA	14-16	45/50	FRENCH POLYNES.	MEXICO	17-13	47/39
CYPRUS	THAILAND	9-21	21/47	MEXICO	NORWAY	14-16	30/34	BRAZIL	HONG KONG	18-12	45/31	BULGARIA	SWITZERLAND	13-17	38/46
HONG KONG	VENEZUELA	20-10	45/24	BULGARIA	KENYA	21-9	36/11	ITALY	THAILAND	19-11	53/34	NETHERLANDS	NORWAY	13-17	24/35
AUSTRALIA	ITALY	16-14	28/23	INDIA	NETHERLANDS	12-18	22/35	PORTUGAL	VENEZUELA	24-6	55/18	KENYA	ISRAEL	1-25	6/72
PORTUGAL	MONACO	21-9	38/13	HUNGARY	ISRAEL	11-19	20/39	ICELAND	AUSTRALIA	13-17	18/28	INDIA	GREECE	19-11	29/12
MAURITIUS	EGYPT	18-12	40/28	GREECE	MAURITIUS	13-17	27/36	GUADELOUPE	MONACO	17-13	33/23	CHINESE TAIPEI	HUNGARY	13-17	38/46
GUADELOUPE	GREAT BRITAIN	8-22	41/69	EGYPT	TUNISIA	17-13	38/28	GREAT BRITAIN	TUNISIA	23-7	52/16	FINLAND	MAURITIUS	25-3	66/9

Results

Round 11				Round 12				Round 13				LADIES	
PHILIPPINES	SOUTH AFRICA	5-25	18/67	MOROCCO	CHINA	6-24	30/76	PHILIPPINES	HONG KONG	4-25	9/68	A	B
GERMANY	RUSSIA	23-7	62/24	SPAIN	GREECE	11-19	21/40	SOUTH AFRICA	CHINA	12-18	34/48	1 CHINA	247
NEW ZEALAND	NETHERLANDS	16-14	36/30	MONACO	HUNGARY	13-17	34/46	MEXICO	RUSSIA	17-13	69/57	2 GERMANY	243
GREECE	MEXICO	10-20	36/60	HONG KONG	DENMARK	18-12	44/31	MOROCCO	INDONESIA	11-19	25/42	3 SOUTH AFRICA	243
BRAZIL	PAKISTAN	21-9	51/24	SWEDEN	NETHERLANDS	4-25	8/65	SAN MARINO	HUNGARY	21-9	73/43	4 GREAT BRITAIN	234
HUNGARY	SPAIN	10-20	46/70	RUSSIA	PHILIPPINES	19-11	50/30	GREECE	VENEZUELA	14-16	35/42	5 SWEDEN	234
GREAT BRITAIN	SAN MARINO	22-8	50/18	PAKISTAN	GREAT BRITAIN	4-25	16/70	NETHERLANDS	PAKISTAN	25-4	76/19	6 NETHERLANDS	230
DENMARK	MOROCCO	17-13	38/27	INDONESIA	SOUTH AFRICA	14-16	26/31	GERMANY	NEW ZEALAND	18-12	39/25	7 BRAZIL	224
SWEDEN	VENEZUELA	25-4	77/23	SAN MARINO	BRAZIL	6-24	32/79	GREAT BRITAIN	SWEDEN	20-10	60/37	8 MEXICO	220
MONACO	INDONESIA	23-7	62/24	MEXICO	GERMANY	12-18	32/48	DENMARK	SPAIN	15-15	36/34	9 DENMARK	215
CHINA	HONG KONG	24-6	61/19	VENEZUELA	NEW ZEALAND	6-24	25/72	BRAZIL	MONACO	19-11	41/20	10 SPAIN	212
CHINESE TAIPEI	CANADA	5-25	15/67	COLOMBIA	FINLAND	23-7	64/25	CHINESE TAIPEI	ISRAEL	14-16	37/43	11 NEW ZEALAND	201
USA	INDIA	20-10	62/36	FRANCE	BELGIUM	10-20	34/60	CANADA	ARGENTINA	17-13	43/32	12 HUNGARY	196
ITALY	AUSTRIA	7-23	16/56	ISRAEL	POLAND	13-17	32/41	JAMAICA	INDIA	13-17	45/55	13 GREECE	182
FINLAND	JAMAICA	19-10	52/31	MALAYSIA	AUSTRIA	10-20	14/38	JORDAN	BELGIUM	22-8	66/30	14 RUSSIA	179
TURKEY	JAPAN	16-14	30/27	INDIA	CHINESE TAIPEI	16-14	66/63	FINLAND	THAILAND	16-14	48/43	15 SAN MARINO	177
BELGIUM	COLOMBIA	22-8	67/31	JAPAN	AUSTRALIA	23-7	67/28	AUSTRIA	JAPAN	14-16	44/52	16 MONACO	172
AUSTRALIA	JORDAN	19-11	50/29	CROATIA	CANADA	9-21	29/56	USA	ITALY	25-4	69/15	17 MOROCCO	170
MALAYSIA	THAILAND	10-20	32/55	JORDAN	TURKEY	7-23	26/65	AUSTRALIA	MALAYSIA	14-16	32/38	18 INDONESIA	166
FRANCE	CROATIA	19-11	66/49	JAMAICA	USA	5-25	27/79	POLAND	COLOMBIA	19-11	65/48	19 HONG KONG	143
ARGENTINA	ISRAEL	3-25	22/84	THAILAND	ITALY	6-24	15/58	TURKEY	FRANCE	5-25	29/79	20 PHILIPPINES	124
POLAND	Bye	18		ARGENTINA	Bye	18		CROATIA	Bye	18		21 VENEZUELA	122
												22 PAKISTAN	113

O P E N**Round - 21 11.00**

SWEDEN	1	BANGLADESH	1
BERMUDA	2	LUXEMBOURG	2
BELGIUM	3	ARGENTINA	3
SAN MARINO	4	DENMARK	4
CANADA	5	PAKISTAN	5
SOUTH AFRICA	6	PALESTINE	6
CHINA	7	MALAYSIA	7
COLOMBIA	8	GERMANY	8
LEBANON	9	PHILIPPINES	9
INDONESIA	10	CZECH REPUBLIC	10
SINGAPORE	11	IRELAND	11
LITHUANIA	12	POLAND	12
MOROCCO	13	NEW ZEALAND	13
CROATIA	14	AUSTRIA	14
CHILE	15	SPAIN	15
JAPAN	16	FRANCE	16
LIECHTENSTEIN	17	UKRAINE	17
ROMANIA	18	Bye	

VENEZUELA	19	ESTONIA	19
THAILAND	20	RUSSIA	20
EGYPT	21	BRAZIL	21
TURKEY	22	AUSTRALIA	22
SLOVENIA	23	MONACO	23
TUNISIA	24	FRENCH POLYNES.	24
GREAT BRITAIN	25	SWITZERLAND	25
GUADELOUPE	26	NORWAY	26
ICELAND	27	KENYA	27
PORTUGAL	28	INDIA	28
ITALY	29	HUNGARY	29
MAURITIUS	30	HONG KONG	30
CYPRUS	31	FINLAND	31
USA	32	CHINESE TAIPEI	32
GREECE	33	JORDAN	33
ISRAEL	34	YUGOSLAVIA	34
LATVIA	35	NETHERLANDS	35
MEXICO	36	BULGARIA	36

Round - 23 17.00

ARGENTINA	1	COLOMBIA	1
SWEDEN	2	SOUTH AFRICA	2
BERMUDA	3	CHINA	3
BELGIUM	4	PAKISTAN	4
LUXEMBOURG	5	LEBANON	5
BANGLADESH	6	INDONESIA	6
SAN MARINO	7	IRELAND	7
LITHUANIA	8	CANADA	8
MOROCCO	9	ROMANIA	9
AUSTRIA	10	PALESTINE	10
MALAYSIA	11	SPAIN	11
JAPAN	12	GERMANY	12
PHILIPPINES	13	LIECHTENSTEIN	13
CZECH REPUBLIC	14	UKRAINE	14
SINGAPORE	15	FRANCE	15
POLAND	16	CHILE	16
NEW ZEALAND	17	CROATIA	17
DENMARK	18	Bye	

BRAZIL	19	ICELAND	19
TUNISIA	20	AUSTRALIA	20
VENEZUELA	21	GREAT BRITAIN	21
THAILAND	22	GUADELOUPE	22
EGYPT	23	MONACO	23
RUSSIA	24	PORTUGAL	24
ESTONIA	25	ITALY	25
TURKEY	26	HONG KONG	26
CYPRUS	27	SLOVENIA	27
USA	28	FRENCH POLYNES.	28
JORDAN	29	SWITZERLAND	29
NORWAY	30	YUGOSLAVIA	30
LATVIA	31	KENYA	31
INDIA	32	MEXICO	32
HUNGARY	33	BULGARIA	33
MAURITIUS	34	NETHERLANDS	34
FINLAND	35	ISRAEL	35
CHINESE TAIPEI	36	GREECE	36

Round - 22 14.00

LEBANON	1	CHINA	1
SOUTH AFRICA	2	INDONESIA	2
COLOMBIA	3	BELGIUM	3
PAKISTAN	4	LITHUANIA	4
DENMARK	5	MOROCCO	5
AUSTRIA	6	SWEDEN	6
SPAIN	7	BERMUDA	7
JAPAN	8	ARGENTINA	8
LUXEMBOURG	9	LIECHTENSTEIN	9
UKRAINE	10	BANGLADESH	10
FRANCE	11	SAN MARINO	11
CHILE	12	CANADA	12
ROMANIA	13	CROATIA	13
PALESTINE	14	NEW ZEALAND	14
MALAYSIA	15	POLAND	15
GERMANY	16	SINGAPORE	16
CZECH REPUBLIC	17	PHILIPPINES	17
IRELAND	18	Bye	

HONG KONG	19	TUNISIA	19
PORTUGAL	20	GUADELOUPE	20
GREAT BRITAIN	21	ITALY	21
ICELAND	22	EGYPT	22
MONACO	23	CYPRUS	23
AUSTRALIA	24	USA	24
JORDAN	25	VENEZUELA	25
YUGOSLAVIA	26	THAILAND	26
LATVIA	27	BRAZIL	27
RUSSIA	28	MEXICO	28
BULGARIA	29	ESTONIA	29
NETHERLANDS	30	TURKEY	30
ISRAEL	31	SLOVENIA	31
FRENCH POLYNES.	32	GREECE	32
SWITZERLAND	33	CHINESE TAIPEI	33
NORWAY	34	FINLAND	34
KENYA	35	MAURITIUS	35
HUNGARY	36	INDIA	36

Round - 24 21.30

LITHUANIA	1	SWEDEN	1
COLOMBIA	2	SOUTH AFRICA	2
INDONESIA	3	PAKISTAN	3
IRELAND	4	DENMARK	4
CHINA	5	BELGIUM	5
BERMUDA	6	MOROCCO	6
ARGENTINA	7	AUSTRIA	7
SPAIN	8	LUXEMBOURG	8
BANGLADESH	9	JAPAN	9
LIECHTENSTEIN	10	SAN MARINO	10
CANADA	11	UKRAINE	11
ROMANIA	12	FRANCE	12
PALESTINE	13	CHILE	13
CROATIA	14	MALAYSIA	14
NEW ZEALAND	15	GERMANY	15
PHILIPPINES	16	POLAND	16
SINGAPORE	17	CZECH REPUBLIC	17
LEBANON	18	Bye	

CYPRUS	19	VENEZUELA	19
ICELAND	20	GREAT BRITAIN	20
PORTUGAL	21	TUNISIA	21
ITALY	22	MONACO	22
HONG KONG	23	AUSTRALIA	23
GUADELOUPE	24	EGYPT	24
THAILAND	25	USA	25
BRAZIL	26	JORDAN	26
YUGOSLAVIA	27	RUSSIA	27
ESTONIA	28	LATVIA	28
MEXICO	29	TURKEY	29
SLOVENIA	30	BULGARIA	30
FRENCH POLYNES.	31	NETHERLANDS	31
SWITZERLAND	32	ISRAEL	32
GREECE	33	NORWAY	33
CHINESE TAIPEI	34	KENYA	34
INDIA	35	FINLAND	35
MAURITIUS	36	HUNGARY	36

LADIES**Round - 14 11.30**

DENMARK	51	GREECE	51
VENEZUELA	52	MOROCCO	52
CHINA	53	NEW ZEALAND	53
SOUTH AFRICA	54	GERMANY	54
GREAT BRITAIN	55	RUSSIA	55
HONG KONG	56	BRAZIL	56
HUNGARY	57	NETHERLANDS	57
SPAIN	58	MONACO	58
PAKISTAN	59	SAN MARINO	59
INDONESIA	60	PHILIPPINES	60
SWEDEN	61	MEXICO	61

POLAND	62	FINLAND	62
ARGENTINA	63	ITALY	63
CANADA	64	USA	64
AUSTRALIA	65	INDIA	65
ISRAEL	66	TURKEY	66
BELGIUM	67	AUSTRIA	67
COLOMBIA	68	FRANCE	68
JAPAN	69	JORDAN	69
CROATIA	70	CHINESE TAIPEI	70
MALAYSIA	71	JAMAICA	71
THAILAND	72	Bye	

Round - 15 15.30

NEW ZEALAND	51	SPAIN	51
BRAZIL	52	SOUTH AFRICA	52
INDONESIA	53	HONG KONG	53
MONACO	54	CHINA	54
PAKISTAN	55	GREECE	55
MOROCCO	56	SWEDEN	56
RUSSIA	57	HUNGARY	57
PHILIPPINES	58	MEXICO	58
NETHERLANDS	59	GREAT BRITAIN	59
GERMANY	60	VENEZUELA	60
SAN MARINO	61	DENMARK	61

ITALY	62	COLOMBIA	62
TURKEY	63	CANADA	63
CROATIA	64	ISRAEL	64
FRANCE	65	ARGENTINA	65
JAPAN	66	FINLAND	66
INDIA	67	BELGIUM	67
CHINESE TAIPEI	68	JAMAICA	68
AUSTRIA	69	AUSTRALIA	69
USA	70	THAILAND	70
JORDAN	71	POLAND	71
MALAYSIA	72	Bye	

Round - 16 20.30

NETHERLANDS	51	HONG KONG	51
SWEDEN	52	NEW ZEALAND	52
GERMANY	53	MOROCCO	53
MONACO	54	PHILIPPINES	54
CHINA	55	MEXICO	55
SOUTH AFRICA	56	SAN MARINO	56
GREECE	57	RUSSIA	57
VENEZUELA	58	DENMARK	58
HUNGARY	59	PAKISTAN	59
SPAIN	60	BRAZIL	60
GREAT BRITAIN	61	INDONESIA	61

AUSTRIA	62	ISRAEL	62
MALAYSIA	63	ITALY	63
FRANCE	64	CHINESE TAIPEI	64
ARGENTINA	65	JAMAICA	65
CANADA	66	JORDAN	66
FINLAND	67	INDIA	67
THAILAND	68	POLAND	68
BELGIUM	69	JAPAN	69
COLOMBIA	70	TURKEY	70
AUSTRALIA	71	CROATIA	71
USA	72	Bye	

Belgian blitz

By Jan van Cleeff

Olivier Nève of Belgium displayed his skill on two 3NT contracts in his 16th-round match against Philipines in the Open series. His efforts had much to do with Belgium's 25-5 blitz victory.

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.

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

West	North	East	South
	Renard		Nève
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	INT

West found the best lead – a small heart. East cashed his top hearts and continued the suit. South took the queen and noted that West followed with a suit preference 9. This card gave declarer a strong indication that West had the ♦K. Nève therefore rejected the "normal" plan of playing the ♦A and a diamond. Instead he led a club to the king, finessed the ♣J and cashed the ♠A. West discarded a spade and a diamond, but he couldn't avoid being endplayed by being thrown in with a spade to lead away from his ♦K. That was a 10-IMP gain for Belgium because the Philippine declarer put his money on the diamonds.

Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
	Renard		Nève
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

⁽¹⁾ For tactical reasons – not a Strong Club.

At both tables West led a small diamond. East took the ace and continued a diamond to the king. In the Closed Room declarer went on with the ♥Q, taken by West. Later, when declarer failed to find the ♣Q, he went one off.

In the Open Room Olivier Nève tried a sneaky ♠J, which slipped through. He continued with a small heart since he noticed a slight hesitation by West on the previous trick. This maneuver guaranteed declarer three heart tricks and his contract – another 12 IMPs to Belgium.

Bidding in the modern style

By Michael Rosenblum

The Round 13 match between Russia and Italy in the Open Series might well have been on vugraph had it not been for the WBF Congress which occupied the theatre. It is a pity because it meant that we missed the chance to watch the following board.

Board 9. East/West Game. Dealer North.

<p>♠ K ♥ K Q 10 ♦ Q J ♣ A K Q J 9 7 3</p>	<p>♠ A J 8 4 3 2 ♥ 4 3 ♦ 5 3 ♣ 6 5 2</p>	<p>♠ 10 9 7 6 5 ♥ A 8 ♦ A K 8 7 6 4 ♣ –</p>	<p>♠ Q ♥ J 9 7 6 5 2 ♦ 10 9 2 ♣ 10 8 4</p>
---	--	---	--

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Gromov	Bocchi	Choudnev
4♣	2♦	Pass	3♥
4♥	All Pass	4♦	Pass

2♦ was a multi and 3♥ an imaginative effort – what you might call a 'brave extra modern bid'. 4♣ and 4♦ were natural and 4♥ was obviously intended as forcing but taken as natural. East's final pass was because he preferred hearts to clubs. His partner didn't, and Duboin did well to escape for one down.

In the other room it went 2♠, weak, and after two passes Tim Zlotov made another imaginative 'modern' bid of 3NT. Alexandre Petrounine raised straight to 6NT and it was not easy for North to find the old-fashioned lead of the ♠A, so that was +1470.

Of course, from time to time Russian players bid in a more scientific manner. Take this deal from the Round 16 match against Bulgaria.

Board 25. East/West Game. Dealer North.

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

Andrej Gromov passed as dealer and used Drury in response to Andrej Choudnev's 1♥ opening. Choudnev bid 2♥, showing a minimum, but when Gromov raised that to 3♥ he tried 3NT. Gromov was going to pass this beautiful contract with his 6-4 major suit fit and only 21 HCP but suddenly West doubled. Now Gromov became afraid of his minors and converted to 4♥, again doubled by West.

After a diamond lead, Choudnev won, drew two rounds of trumps and played a diamond back. The defense decided it was time to take their club tricks, playing three rounds, and that was just what Choudnev needed. He ruffed the third club and ran his trumps and West was squeezed in the black suits so the game was made.



TODAY'S VUGRAPH MATCHES

14.00 hrs

Chile v Spain

14.00 hrs

Great Britain v Italy

17.00 hrs

Brazil v Iceland

21.30 hrs

Greece v Norway



All matches in the Open series

Mexican Hat Dance

By Nissan Rand

Mexico v Israel. Round 11. Open Series.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

<p>♠ K ♥ A K J 6 2 ♦ 7 ♣ K 10 9 7 5 2</p>	<p>♠ A Q J 9 8 4 ♥ 10 3 ♦ Q 4 2 ♣ A 6</p>	<p>♠ 7 ♥ Q 9 7 4 ♦ J 5 3 ♣ Q J 8 4 3</p>	<p>♠ 10 6 5 3 2 ♥ 8 5 ♦ A K 10 9 8 6 ♣ –</p>
---	---	--	--

The bidding was hotly contested in both rooms. North/South showed their strength in spades and diamonds while East/West showed theirs in hearts and clubs.

In the Closed Room, Barel/Perlmutter, the Israeli North/South, managed to buy the final contract in 5♣ by North. East led the ♥4 and Mexico took the first two tricks but declarer had the rest; +450 to Israel.

In the Open Room, the Herbst brothers would not agree to let their opponents play 5♣ and bid on to 6♣, which would be only two down for –300 if doubled. But North/South continued to 6♦, East bid 6♥ and South 6♣. When the merry-go-round continued to the seven level, North finally bought the contract in 7♣, undoubled!

East would have preferred to bid 8♣ rather than have to find an opening lead. He finally chose to lead a club, allowing declarer to make his grand slam.

Israel v Norway

Open Series (Round 17)

This was a set of boards that spawned slam swings. The first occurred on Board 3.

Board 3. East/West Game. Dealer South.

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

West	North	East	South
I.Herbst	Helness	O.Herbst	Helgemo
1♠	Pass	2♣	Dble
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Helness considered for a long time before doubling. His ♠A didn't score, of course, but Ofir Herbst had two other aces to worry about. After ruffing the opening spade lead, he took his best shot – he led the ♦Q. Helgemo thought for a few moments and then took his ace. Herbst still had to lose the ace of trumps for down one. At the other table Norway stopped in 3NT, just making, for a 13-IMP gain.

Israel got all but 1 IMP back on the very next deal.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
I.Herbst	Helness	O.Herbst	Helgemo
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Two key bids enabled the Herbst brothers to get to slam. First Ilan raised to 4♦ instead of bidding 3NT. Then Ofir indicated slam interest with his 5♣ bid. Ilan upped the value of his ♣K as a result and jumped to the slam. The opening club lead actually gave declarer a losing option. He could have arranged to pitch a heart on the third club and then take a ruffing finesse against the ♥K. But he wasn't even tempted. After winning the ♣J, he crossed to the ♠K and finessed in hearts. He led a spade to dummy and led another heart – and up popped the king. The slam was home when trumps split 3-2. Since Norway stopped in 3NT at the other table, that was 12 IMPs to Israel.

The action during this part of the match was non-stop. Look at the bizarre happenings on the very next deal.



Geir Helgemo, Norway

Board 5. North/South Game. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♠	Dble !!	4♥
4NT	Dble	Pass	Pass
5♣	Dble	All Pass	

At the other table there was a straightforward auction to 4♠, making five for Israel. But here Ofir got somewhat frisky with his double that forced his side to the four level. Helgemo's 4♥ bid took the Israelis off the hook for the moment, but who can blame Ilan for continuing on to 4NT, a bid that asked his partner to bid a minor? He knew the fit had to be good. But Helness doubled, and Ofir let Ilan decide which minor to play in. He chose clubs, and Helness doubled this as well.

The opening lead of the ♥J went to the ace, and Ilan led a spade to Helgemo's queen. Helgemo underled his heart honors, forcing declarer to ruff, and Ilan ducked a diamond to the 8. He ruffed the spade return and led the ♣Q. It was a bit of a shock to see South show out, and Helness won the king. He got out with a trump to the 10, and Ilan lost control of the hand completely when he led the ♦K. Helgemo took the ace and led a high heart. This forced declarer to ruff, but Helness overruffed. He got out with his trump and still had the ♦Q with which to regain the lead and take the rest of the tricks. Down six! That's 1400 – worth 13 IMPs to Norway.

Strangely enough the next deal was a push in this match – but major swings were taking place all over the Rhodes Palace.

Three boards later Israel got to a game with only 20 HCP for a 6-IMP swing that tied the match.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Brogela	Perlmutter	Saelensminde	Barel
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dble
2♦	Dble	3♦	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

East/West did the best they could to muddy the picture, but North/South found their heart fit, and Barel liked his hand enough to bid game when partner was able to bid at the three level. With trumps breaking and the ♠K onside, Perlmutter had no trouble taking 10 tricks, losing just two spades and a diamond.

At the other table Helness opened 2♦ as North, showing a weak hand with the majors. They stopped in two, then went on to three when Ofir Herbst balanced with 3♦. The score at this point was 26-26.

Although Board 9 was a push, it definitely had points of interest.

Board 9. East/West Game. Dealer North.

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

Against 4♠ the killing lead is a club, setting up the king to go with the three defensive red winners. Brogela actually did lead the ♣3, but Saelensminde failed to take his ♦A after winning the ♣K. Instead he led a trump. Declarer won this, drew trumps and then pitched his losing diamond on a good club. At the other table the defense never had a chance after West led a diamond. Ofir Herbst switched to clubs, hoping his partner had at least the jack – but no such luck.

This same board was the beginning of the end for the United States in their match against Brazil. Marcelo Branco led a club as West, and Mauricio Figueiredo cashed his top diamond after winning the ♣K. That guaranteed the defeat of the contract for a 10-IMP gain for Brazil inasmuch as the American failed to find the killing club lead.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

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

There were all kinds of results on this one. The most amazing was the 5-IMP gain registered by the Czech Republic against Poland. Would you ever expect to GAIN 5 IMPs when you bid a grand slam off the ace of trumps? Never, you say? Well, it happened! Sure, the Czech Republic went down a trick. But Poland failed by three tricks at 6NT, and 200 points equals 5 IMPs, does it not?

This also was the deal that sealed the fate of the Americans against Brazil. The United States got to the spade slam and went down when declarer failed to guess the spades correctly and lost two trump tricks. But Brazil was in 6NT. The declarer found the key play of the ♠K and a small spade after cashing the ♥Q. That set up an entry to the hearts via the ♠Q – making six.

In the match we were watching, Norway got all the way to 6♣ and failed when declarer misguessed the spades. At the other table Israel stopped dead in 5♥, just making. But that was good for a 13-IMP pickup, putting Israel ahead by 13.

But Norway scored the last swing.

Board 16. East/West Game. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
I. Herbst	Helness	O. Herbst	Helgemo
1♣	2♦	3♦	3♥
4♣	4NT	Pass	5♦
Dble	Pass	5♠	All Pass

5♦ no doubt would have been set, and in the opinion of the vugraph commentators Ofir should have let the opponents try to make it. In 5♠ declarer had to lose three aces for down one. Norway bought the hand for game in the other room for a 12-IMP gain and a 16-14 victory.



Smoking regulations

Only the players are permitted to smoke in the playing rooms.

Players may ask their opponent(s) to refrain from smoking. Whenever possible smokers should refrain from smoking when so asked.

Kojak

Spain v Sweden

Open Series (Round 16)

By Barry Rigal

Two excellently played notrump games highlighted this match, which was won by Sweden.

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South

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

Luis Lanteron declared 3NT from the South hand. The defense led three rounds of hearts. Declarer won and played a spade to dummy, finessed in clubs, unblocked the ♠A and cashed the ♣A and ♣K. West was strip-squeezed – he could part with one diamond and one spade, but he got endplayed with the fourth spade to lead a diamond into the tenace at trick 12.

Claudio Capone played 3NT, and East shifted to a diamond – 6, 7, 8, ace – after taking one high heart. The club finesse held, and Claudio played the ♥Q, sure that East would win and press on in diamonds. The ♦10 was covered by the queen and king, and West went back to hearts.

When the jack won in dummy, Claudio called for the ♣K and played a club to his ace. West was squeezed out of either his winning heart, one of his four spades or the ♦J. When he pitched his diamond, hoping East would have the 9, declarer actually had an overtrick!

With two boards to go in the match the score was virtually level, but Sweden picked up two game swings. The first came when they played a 5-3 fit instead of a 4-4. When the side suits did not split, the 4-4 fit would have been fatally gored.

Board 32. East/West Game. Dealer West.

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

This was the last hand. In the Open Room an ambitious 4♣ went one down. In the Closed Room this was the auction:

1♥ – 1♠ (relay)
 INT (balanced minimum) – 2♦
 2NT (maximum) – 3NT

Federico Goded led a fatal ♠J. Magnus Lindqvist took all the spades with the aid of a finesse, then led the ♥J from dummy. When South played low he went up with the ace and finessed diamonds twice for his contract.

A Routine Game

By Mark Horton

When you consider the result at your table to be routine you are always pleasantly surprised to pick up points.

When Germany were scoring at the end of their Round 11 encounter with Russia, Sabine Auken announced her result on Board 4, "Plus 650".

"Plus 620," replied Anne Gladiator.

Assuming her teammates had entered their result on the wrong side of the card, Sabine enquired further, "Surely you mean minus 620?"

"No, we made four hearts."

This was the deal in question:

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Panina	Auken	Karetnikova	von Arnim
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♣	3♥	4♠
All Pass			

The Polish Club auction gave Daniela von Arnim an easy route into the action.

West led the ♥K and Dani won and tested the spades. When East showed out on the second round she turned her attention to clubs. The position in that suit meant she emerged with an overtrick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gladiator	Maitova	Schreckenberger	Ponomareva
INT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

A triumph for the weak notrump!

The swing to Germany was 15 IMPs.

It was pretty tough for South to bid 4♣, but as somebody once said, "No pain, no gain". You don't win at this level without taking risks.



Photograph courtesy of Kodak's new digital camera

Ulrike Schreckenberger, Germany

Great Britain v Denmark

Ladies Series (Round 8)

By Tony Gordon

Both teams needed to score well in this match, Denmark to maintain their high position, and Great Britain to continue their climb up the table. In the event, poor defence by the Danish pair in the Open Room swung the match in Great Britain's favour. Here are the more interesting hands.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.

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

Both teams reached 6♦ by South. On a red suit lead declarer's best chance seems to be to draw trumps and then lead the ♣Q. If West fails to cover, declarer should apply Zia's Bols tip and rise with the ace on the assumption that West does not hold the king. After a club discard on the third heart, a spade to the jack, on the basis that the opening lead suggests that West holds the ♠A, will then bring home the contract. Unfortunately, the ♠A was led at both tables so neither declarer was tested.

In another match, West apparently hesitated before playing low on the ♣Q, but a potentially explosive situation was diffused when declarer nonetheless rose with the ♠A and then correctly guessed spades.

Board 28. North/South Vul. Dealer West.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Farholt	Smith	Bondo	Davies
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
3♦	3♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

In the Open Room, Ette Bondo led the ♦2 against Nicola Smith's contract of 4♠. Smith played a heart at trick two and Bondo rose with her ace and played a second diamond. Smith ruffed, ruffed a heart in dummy and crossed to hand with a top trump. When the ♠J did not appear, she then ruffed another heart. This was the ending:

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

Smith now played the ♣Q from dummy, intending to play the ♠A even if West did not cover; however, she quickly changed her mind when Farholt ruffed! Farholt now gave Bondo a heart ruff, but Bondo surprisingly exited with a club to let the apparently beaten contract make after all.

Clearly if Smith had ruffed a diamond and drawn trumps instead, she would have emerged with an over-trick, and analysis suggests that this is the superior line, especially if one concludes that West's failure to open with a diamond pre-empt marks her with a secondary heart suit.

Events in the other room resulted in an appeal.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Kalkerup	McGowan	Skaanning-Norris
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
2♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
3♦	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Heather Dhondy had alerted her 2♠ bid and explained to Lotte Skaanning-Norris that it showed hearts and a minor. Liz McGowan had not alerted the 2♠ bid and when Bettina Kalkerup enquired she said that there was no specific agreement but it may be showing the minors. 3NT went one down and North/South called the director and claimed they had been damaged. Their contention was that if they had been given the correct information they would have played in 4S instead of 3NT.

However, the director thought that South could have bid 4♠ in any case and he let the result stand. North/South then appealed.

Full details of the appeal will be found in the report on Appeal Case 16 in a later Daily News, but my understanding is that although the committee agreed that North/South had been damaged, it decided that North would only make 4♠ 75% of the time. Consequently the North/South score was changed from -100 to +470 and Great Britain's gain was reduced from 12 IMPs to 4 IMPs.

Board 33. Love All. Dealer North.

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

North/South played in INT in both rooms. In the Closed Room, Kalkerup was declarer as North and had no real chance after a club lead.

In the Open Room, Pat Davies was declarer as South and had every chance after a spade lead. Davies won the ♠Q and then successfully finessed the ♠8 as Bondo discarded a club. A low heart was now won by Bondo's ♥Q and she switched inevitably to a diamond. Davies ducked the first diamond but covered the second. Farholt won her ♦A and switched to a heart, but this enabled Davies to enter her hand with the ♥J and take the spade finesse for her contract. But suppose Farholt had switched to a club instead – would Davies have found the winning play of rising with the ♣A and playing another club to endplay East? I think the correct play can be deduced. If East holds 5 diamonds and the ♠K, declarer cannot succeed and if East holds 5 diamonds but no ♠K, then West would have played a heart instead of a club.

So declarer must assume that East has only 4 diamonds. In this case, if West held the ♠K, she would surely play her third diamond so that clubs can be played by her partner. Ergo, East must hold the ♠K and declarer should not finesse.

Board 35. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

After the auction begins 1♠ – Pass – Pass – Dble – Pass, what should West bid? Applying the principle of 'subtracting a king' when responding to a protective double makes the hand worth only a simple response, but both Dhondy and Farholt viewed to bid 3♥. Both McGowan and Bondo now decided to raise to 4♥ and this ugly contract was deservedly defeated. It is easy to say that East should bid 3♠ and then pass a response of 3NT, but if West held 5 hearts and a single spade stop, would 3NT necessarily be the correct contract?

The final score, taking the result of the appeal into consideration, was a 40-17 IMPs, 20-10 VPs, win for Great Britain.



Pat Davies, Great Britain



The choice of a new generation

By Toine van Hoof

Ophir and Herbst are the exponents of a new generation of bridge players who are making their mark in this Olympiad. Ophir had an uncommon decision to take on Board 32 of Round 6 in the Open. As North he held:

♠ Q 10 9 7 5 4
♥ 9 3 2
♦ Q 5
♣ Q J

♠ J 2
♥ A 8 6 5
♦ 10 8 6 3
♣ 9 6 5

♠ Q 10 9 7 5 4
♥ 9 3 2
♦ Q 5
♣ Q J

N
W E
S

♠ A K 8 6 3
♥ Q J 7
♦ 9 4
♣ 10 8 7

♠ -
♥ K 10 4
♦ A K J 7 2
♣ A K 4 3 2

The bidding went:

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♦ ⁽²⁾
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣ ⁽³⁾
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

⁽¹⁾ Multi-colored

⁽²⁾ Natural and forcing

⁽³⁾ Natural, though Alerted by South

West sleepily led the ♥A and opened the screen. He immediately covered the card when South made clear that it was East's turn to lead. The tournament director (TD) decided that, though both East and North stated they hadn't seen which card was led, they might have seen it so the ♥A was a lead out of turn (LOOT). He asked Ophir to choose, either:

- Accept the lead, and
 - let South play the hand, or
 - let North play the hand
- Forbid a heart lead by East
- Require a heart lead by East
- Let East lead whatever he wanted and make ♥A a major penalty card (MPC)

What would you have done in Ophir's place?

After considerable thought, Ophir chose to accept the lead and let his partner play the hand. That turned out to be a right decision as this was the layout:

The lead established the ♥K as declarer's eleventh trick; 400 to North-South. Option 4 would have given the same result as declarer can demand West to play the ♥A on the fourth club. A choice of option 2 or 3 could have led to one down as East-West can force declarer in spades and establish a trump trick.

Israel lost 1 IMP on the board as North-South at the other table made ten tricks in 3NT.

The case of the misinformed looter

The hand might have presented an interesting case (IC) for the TD. At the South-West side of the screen the 4♣ bid had been Alerted. This led West to believe that South was cuebidding so he stayed out of slam because NS lacked a heart control. That's why he selected the LOOT of the ♥A. So actually, West was misinformed. Had he known that South merely showed a two-suiter, he might have led another suit. Of course, North again would have been given the opportunity to forbid or require a lead or whatever, but in all options East-West would have been able to defeat the contract. The question is: could West have argued that he was misinformed and be allowed to make another (better) lead out of turn?

Unfortunately, this question is academic (AQ) since East-West didn't make any fuss about the hand. However, I would certainly be interested in hearing the experts' opinion (EO) on this case.

There's More Than One Way To Eight Tricks

By Herman De Wael

The European Union Championships in Ostend last April saw the first appearance of the new look Austrian Women's Team. The defending Olympiad champions, taking part for the first time in the European Union, appeared with the well-known names in new partnerships. They proved too strong for the field and were champions with one match to go. The field was strong though, with powerful French and Belgian teams in second and third places. Italy did not send their strongest team to Ostend, but when Austria and Italy met here on Thursday, it was the top match of that round.

Here's Doris Fischer at work.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

♠ K 9 6 4
♥ K 9 2
♦ 10 9 6
♣ A K 6

♠ Q 10 8 5 2
♥ A J 10 4
♦ Q
♣ J 4 2

N
W E
S

♠ A 7 3
♥ 7 3
♦ A 4 3
♣ Q 10 9 8 7

♠ J
♥ Q 8 6 5
♦ K J 8 7 5 2
♣ 5 3

West	North	East	South
Bamberger	Olivieri	Fischer	Golin
1♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
		2♣	All Pass

The spade lead produced the most expensive trick in the book. When Doris returned a low spade, this produced one of the cheapest tricks, South taking a ruff. The third trick contained four honors again, with the ♦K being led. Doris allowed South to ruff another spade. She took the heart return on the table and led spades once again. By now, she knew she would only lose the top trumps: spade ruff with the nine, diamond ruff, and the ♠10 gave a heart discard.

The result was a 23-7 victory for Austria.



invites you to participate in

the 2nd IBPA JOURNALIST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The tournament will be a one-session pairs event.
The players in a pair need not come from the same nation,
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Saturday, the 26th October 1996

at 12.30

Place: will be published later.

Entrance fee: US\$10 or 2500 DR per player.

Prizes: The three best pairs will receive big cups with an inscription, and the winners will keep "the Salsomaggiore Cup" for four years. The prizes have been sponsored by the town of Salsomaggiore and the Italian Bridge Federation, FIGB.

If you want to participate, please write your names on the flip-over in the Press Room by Saturday, 26th October at 10 a.m.

Evcharisto Para Poly Caddies

By Jan Boets

A special thanks is needed towards our caddies. All thirty of them have to juggle school work and sometimes night jobs with their jobs here. With never-ending enthusiasm and boundless energy they fulfil their function admirably.

But players, please don't forget that they are NOT bridge players. So help them a little. If you like your boards to arrive in order, put them in order before you send them away. If you want to get all your boards to your partners, put your boards in ONE place, always the same place, and in order.

And don't forget also that the intervals between play that you find so terribly short are even shorter for them. There is a lot of work in cleaning the rooms and preparing them for the next session. Putting the boards in order after you've finished with them takes you one minute, but saves them thirty.

Denmark v Indonesia

Open Series (Round 17)

Two real contenders met in the first match on Thursday morning. Denmark, the team who needed the win a little more, started better.

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

For Indonesia, Denny Sacul opened a quiet 1♠ and Lars Blakset doubled the INT response for takeout. Sacul rebid 2♣ and competed with 3♠ over Soren Christensen's 3♥. The favourable lie meant Sacul made eleven tricks; +200.

In the other room, Dennis Koch-Palmund made the opening bid 1 would have chosen – a scientific 4♣. He played there for +450 and a useful 6 IMP start to Denmark.

Board 3. East/West Game. Dealer South.

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

Is that West hand an opening bid in second seat? The answer makes a big difference to the auction on this board. For Eddy Manoppo the answer was no, and Koch-Palmund got to open 1♠ as North. Henky Lasut, East, overcalled 2♣ and it went: Dble – 3♣ – Pass – Pass

– 3♦ from Jens Auken, South. Lasut competed with 4♣ and made 11 tricks quite easily; +150.

For Blakset the answer was yes. That kept Sacul quiet and Christensen responded with a game-forcing 2♣. Franky Karwur took the opportunity to bid 2♦ for the lead and Blakset passed. Now Christensen bid 3NT, when 2NT would have been forcing. This suggested a strong desire to play there and duly ended the auction. Had Sacul been able to double for a spade lead, or had Karwur been sufficiently inspired to find one on his own, 3NT would have been defeated. As it was, Karwur tried a heart and Christensen knocked out the club and soon had nine tricks; +600 and 10 IMPs to Denmark.

Maybe double normally asks for partner's suit, but where declarer has shown such a positive desire to play in no trump there is perhaps a case for its asking for dummy's suit. Then, would the Danes have stayed in 3NT?

Board 5. North/South Game. Dealer North.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
INT	Pass	Pass	Dble
2♣	2♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

Blakset's overall of the strong club was random, "could be anything" – though I always have my doubts about such explanations as there must be many hand types which would make some other call. Sacul doubled to show values. It soon became clear that North/South had spades and Karwur first splintered then made a general try with 4NT. Sacul wasn't having anything to do with a slam and subsided in 5♣. After a club lead declarer drew trumps and made 12 tricks; +680.

The auction was short and sweet in the other room. Auken opened 1♥, Koch-Palmund responded 1♠ and Lasut made a takeout double. Auken just bid 6♣. The contract is reasonable enough but Lasut led an unerring ace and another heart and that was one down; –100 and 13 IMPs to Indonesia.

Board 6. East/West Game. Dealer East.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Manoppo	Koch-P	Lasut	Auken
		Pass	1♠
Dble	Pass	2♦	2♠
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Blakset	Sacul	Christensen	Karwur
		Pass	1♠
Dble	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

The key was East's response to the takeout double. Where Lasut bid only 2♦, slam was never really in the picture. When Christensen jumped to 3♦ then admitted to heart support, Blakset cuebid then jumped to slam. Both tables made twelve tricks for a 12 IMP swing to Denmark.

As an aside, had Karwur found a 3♠ rebid on the South hand over Christensen's 3♦, Blakset would presumably have bid 4♥ but now Christensen would not be likely to bid on. 3♠ is relatively safe within a strong club base as partner cannot expect much more in the way of high cards. At the very least, life would have been made tougher for the Danes.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

North played 3NT at both tables but the auction and opening lead varied. Given a free run, Koch-Palmund/Auken got there via a INT opening and Stayman sequence. Lasut led his fourth best diamond and declarer took twelve tricks; +690.

In the other room, Blakset had opened the West hand with a 2♥ bid showing at least 4-4 in the majors and a weak hand. Sacul overcalled 2NT and was raised to game but now Christensen found the killing heart lead for one down; –100 and 13 IMPs courtesy of the Dane's favourite gadget.

Board 9. East/West Game. Dealer North.

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

Koch-Palmund opened 1♥, Lasut overcalled 2♦ and Auken jumped to 3♠, raised to 4♠. Eddy Manoppo



Jens Auken, Denmark

Olympic Bridge Festival

JUDY TUCKER AND JACK GREENBERG WIN THE MIXED PAIRS

In the 2-session event of Mixed Pairs 51 pairs participated from 17 countries. The New Yorkers Judy Tucker and Jack Greenberg did well in both sessions, and finished first after a tough competition. Behind them only 0.34%, a Dutch pair Agnes Wesseling and Niels Van der Gaast took second place.

AGNES WESSELING AND NIELS VAN DER GASST BRUGGEMANN TAKE THE LEAD AFTER THE MORNING SESSION OF THE MIXED PAIRS EVENT

The Dutch pair, Agnes Wesseling and Niels van der Gaast win the first session of Mixed Pairs with 65.38%. Three other pairs surpass 60%.

The results of the first session are :

1. Wesseling A.	(NTH)	Van der Gaast N.	(NTH)	65.55%
2. Xagorari H.	(GRE)	Manailoglou L.	(GRE)	64.13%
3. Tucker J.	(USA)	Greenberg J.	(USA)	63.90%
4. Honkavuori T.	(FIN)	Honkavuori R.	(FIN)	60.91%
5. Moustaka E.	(GRE)	Kannavos P.	(GRE)	59.12%
6. Snellers A.	(NTH)	Nobel K.	(NTH)	57.89%
7. Kulmala S.	(FIN)	Nieminen M.	(FIN)	57.72%
8. Alberti A.	(GER)	Bausback N.	(GER)	57.60%

STAVROULA KIRITSI AND DIMITRIS VARELAS WIN THE SECOND SESSION OF MIXED PAIRS

In the second session of the event, a couple from Athens, Stavroula Kiritsi and Dimitris Varelas finished first with 61.62% ahead of Tucker and Greenberg.

The results of the second session are :

1. Kiritsi S.	(GRE)	Varelas D.	(GRE)	61.62%
2. Tucker J.	(USA)	Greenberg J.	(USA)	60.04%
3. Enander U.	(SWE)	Enander A.	(SWE)	59.71%
4. Vivi	(FIN)	Maj	(GRE)	59.50%
5. Snepvangers I.	(NTH)	Mommers M.	(NTH)	58.57%
6. Kulmala S.	(NTH)	Nieminen M.	(FIN)	58.06%
7. Wesseling A.	(NTH)	Van der Gaast N.	(NTH)	57.87%
8. Alberti A.	(GER)	Bausback N.	(GER)	57.84%

After their steady performance the pair from USA won the event.

The Final Standings of the Mixed Pairs event are :

1. Tucker J.	(USA)	Greenberg J.	(USA)	62.05%
2. Wesseling A.	(NTH)	Van der Gaast N.	(NTH)	61.71%
3. Kiritsi S.	(GRE)	Varelas D.	(GRE)	58.92%
4. Honkavuori T.	(FIN)	Honkavuori R.	(FIN)	58.29%
5. Xagorari H.	(GRE)	Manailoglou L.	(GRE)	58.27%
6. Kulmala S.	(NTH)	Nieminen M.	(FIN)	57.88%

A criss-cross for an overtrick

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West

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

In this board of the 1st session of the Open Pairs some N/S pairs reached the excellent game in spades. If declarer is South a probable lead is the singleton diamond. After covering East's card South must guess the trump position. Then, after two rounds of trumps he leads a small club towards dummy's king which looses to the ace. If West fails to cover his partner's ♠10 possible return, in order to switch in hearts, declarer can grab eleven tricks by winning the diamond continuation or ruffing the club continuation in dummy and reaching the following ending after cashing out all his trumps :

Dummy	Declarer
♠ -	♠ -
♥ A	♥ Q 2
♦ Q 9	♦ A
♣ -	♣ -

Now if East keeps ♥K and ♦K declarer scores his ♥Q and if East keeps ♥K and ♦K10 declarer scores his ♦Q. It is obvious the defenders can easily break declarer's communications for the criss-cross squeeze early in the play. In the real play five N/S pairs made eleven tricks in spades but their line of play was not recorded...

Did you spot the mistake?

By Sam Leckie

In the "How do you play it" hand which appeared a few days ago (Daily News issue: 3) I deliberately gave the right play but the wrong percentages, to see if anyone would spot it.

I congratulate all of you who did!
Remember the ending position:

Declarer	Dummy
♠ A 8	♠ K J 10
♥ 3	♥ -
♦ -	♦ 4
♣ Q	♣ -

The total chances of course should have been:
Original diamond finesse 50% + either defender with ♠K and ♠Q 25% + North last diamond and ♠Q 6.25% = 81.25%

Register for today's event

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Total PRIZES: \$ 7500 and silver cups

Open Pairs

1st session (evening at 21.00)

Total PRIZES: \$ 13600 and silver cups

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