

# ITALY STAYS FIRMLY IN COMMAND

*In the Open series, Italy had an excellent day, scoring 69 Victory Points from their three matches, and they increased their advantage at the head of the table. Although we are not yet even a third of the way through the Championships few people would now be prepared to bet against them retaining their title. Denmark held onto second place by scoring 62VP, and Poland and Iceland also scored well by collecting 59VP. Great Britain had a good day, and have climbed to the vital fifth place, half a point in front of Poland. It is worth pointing out that Italy already enjoy a lead of 36VP over the sixth placed team.*

## TODAY'S PLAYING TIMES

### Open Teams Championship

Round 11	11.15
Round 12	16.15

### Ladies Teams Championship

Round 3	11.15
Round 4	16.15

# FLYING START FOR SPAIN

*In the Ladies series, Spain took the lead by scoring 49 Victory points, and they are followed by Great Britain on 46VP, Hungary with 45.5VP, and France on 44VP. The hot favourites, Germany, are a handily placed fifth with 42VP. Monaco achieved the biggest upset of the day by beating the powerful Danish team by a remarkable 24-6VP. A major surprise was the poor form shown by the host country Italy, who could only collect a total of 12VP from their two matches. Perhaps 'Tipster' was right after all!*

## Bridgerama Matches



Open - Round 11, 11.15 h  
Denmark v Norway

Ladies - Round 4, 16.15 h  
Netherlands v Germany

**8th ROUND OPEN RESULTS**

Country		Imp's		Vp's	
1 Sweden	Finland	78	62	18	12
2 Belgium	Estonia	87	34	25	5
3 Austria	Belarus	103	64	22	8
4 Slovenia	San Marino	51	49	15	15
5 Czech Rep.	Israel	48	106	4	25
6 Greece	Ireland	61	70	14	16
7 Liechtenstein	Italy	29	86	5	25
8 Lithuania	Turkey	40	101	4	25
9 Bulgaria	Germany	85	75	17	13
10 France	Great Britain	57	70	13	17
11 Iceland	Yugoslavia	92	46	24	6
12 Spain	Netherlands	54	47	16	14
13 Croatia	Norway	60	93	9	21
14 Poland	Portugal	81	56	20	10
15 Lebanon	Hungary	47	68	11	19
16 Denmark	Ukraine	68	31	22	8
17 Romania	Switzerland	85	45	23	7
18 Russia	Bye			18	0

**9th ROUND OPEN RESULTS**

Country		Imp's		Vp's	
1 Israel	Switzerland	12	76	4	25
2 Turkey	Poland	13	83	3	25
3 Lebanon	Yugoslavia	75	21	25	5
4 Croatia	Italy	25	46	11	19
5 Great Britain	Iceland	46	40	16	14
6 Estonia	Ukraine	43	63	11	19
7 Ireland	Sweden	16	66	6	24
8 Spain	France	20	34	13	17
9 Belgium	Lithuania	60	67	14	16
10 Belarus	Denmark	23	59	8	22
11 Netherlands	Liechtenstein	66	25	23	7
12 San Marino	Bulgaria	71	40	21	9
13 Norway	Russia	49	60	13	17
14 Hungary	Austria	53	72	12	18
15 Germany	Portugal	52	52	15	15
16 Finland	Romania	60	34	20	10
17 Czech Rep.	Slovenia	49	16	21	9
18 Greece	Bye			18	0

**10th ROUND OPEN RESULTS**

Country		Imp's		Vp's	
1 Iceland	Slovenia	78	51	20	10
2 France	Hungary	42	38	16	14
3 Germany	Liechtenstein	52	20	21	9
4 Norway	Sweden	48	25	19	11
5 Denmark	Netherlands	58	39	18	12
6 Poland	Romania	54	58	14	16
7 Ukraine	Israel	52	71	12	18
8 San Marino	Belarus	29	61	9	21
9 Turkey	Spain	31	72	7	23
10 Yugoslavia	Finland	47	20	20	10
11 Bulgaria	Ireland	38	32	16	14
12 Italy	Belgium	72	11	25	4
13 Russia	Greece	14	38	11	19
14 Portugal	Lebanon	62	50	17	13
15 Lithuania	Austria	20	21	15	15
16 Switzerland	Czech Rep.	51	47	16	14
17 Great Britain	Croatia	88	23	25	3
18 Bye	Estonia			0	18

**11th ROUND OPEN**

1 Netherlands	Croatia
2 Belarus	Portugal
3 Lithuania	Ireland
4 Russia	Israel
5 Finland	Bulgaria
6 Hungary	Czech Rep.
7 Romania	Iceland
8 Italy	Yugoslavia
9 France	San Marino
10 Liechtenstein	Switzerland
11 Belgium	Ukraine
12 Sweden	Turkey
13 Greece	Estonia
14 Austria	Germany
15 Spain	Lebanon
16 Slovenia	Great Britain
17 Denmark	Norway
18 Poland	Bye

**12th ROUND OPEN**

1 Bulgaria	Norway
2 Yugoslavia	Austria
3 Spain	Ukraine
4 Greece	Iceland
5 Switzerland	Belgium
6 Portugal	Great Britain
7 Czech Rep.	Netherlands
8 Sweden	Liechtenstein
9 Belarus	Italy
10 Ireland	Slovenia
11 Turkey	Romania
12 Israel	France
13 Estonia	Poland
14 Lebanon	Lithuania
15 San Marino	Germany
16 Croatia	Denmark
17 Finland	Russia
18 Bye	Hungary

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**1st ROUND LADIES RESULTS**

Country		Imp's		Vp's	
1 Czech Rep.	Russia	40	56	12	18
2 Ireland	Finland	72	45	20	10
3 Israel	Hungary	18	49	9	21
4 Croatia	Denmark	28	86	4	25
5 France	Switzerland	95	24	25	3
6 Monaco	Germany	25	55	9	21
7 Turkey	Sweden	51	69	12	18
8 Great Britain	Italy	76	29	24	6
9 Netherlands	Austria	19	56	8	22
10 Poland	Greece	53	39	17	13
11 Iceland	Spain	26	80	5	25
12 Belgium	Portugal	19	35	12	18

**2nd ROUND LADIES RESULTS**

Country		Imp's		Vp's	
1 Iceland	Czech Rep.	37	74	8	22
2 Italy	Spain	31	81	6	24
3 Sweden	Germany	29	62	9	21
4 Russia	Great Britain	24	60	8	22
5 Poland	Belgium	34	79	7	23
6 Finland	Portugal	28	42	13	17
7 Monaco	Denmark	64	17	24	6
8 Switzerland	Turkey	71	22	24	6
9 Ireland	Netherlands	29	69	7	23
10 Austria	France	32	52	11	19
11 Greece	Israel	25	46	11	19
12 Hungary	Croatia	74	19	25	5

**3rd ROUND LADIES**

1 Czech Rep.	Greece
2 Turkey	Israel
3 Denmark	Portugal
4 Iceland	Switzerland
5 Austria	Hungary
6 Spain	Croatia
7 Finland	Great Britain
8 Belgium	Monaco
9 Italy	Ireland
10 Netherlands	Poland
11 France	Sweden
12 Germany	Russia

**LADIES-LADIES****RANKINGS  
AFTER 2 ROUNDS**

1 Spain	49.00
2 Great Britain	46.00
3 Hungary	45.50
4 France	44.00
5 Germany	42.00
6 Belgium	35.00
7 Portugal	34.00
8 Czech Rep.	34.00
9 Monaco	33.00
10 Austria	31.00
11 Denmark	31.00
12 Netherlands	31.00
13 Israel	27.50
14 Ireland	27.00
15 Sweden	27.00
16 Switzerland	27.00
17 Russia	23.50
18 Finland	23.00
19 Poland	22.50
20 Greece	22.50
21 Turkey	18.00
22 Iceland	13.00
23 Italy	12.00
24 Croatia	9.00

**OPEN-OPEN****RANKINGS  
AFTER 10 ROUNDS**

1 Italy	210.00
2 Denmark	196.00
3 Norway	185.00
4 Iceland	177.00
5 Great Britain	174.50
6 Poland	174.00
7 Spain	173.00
8 France	171.00
9 Sweden	166.50
10 Hungary	165.00
11 Netherlnd	162.00
12 Greece	162.00
13 Belgium	160.50
14 Russia	156.50
15 Yugoslavia	153.50
16 Germany	153.00
17 Finland	150.00
18 Croatia	148.00
19 Israel	147.00
20 Lebanon	146.00
21 Austria	146.00
22 Czech Rep	142.50
23 Bulgaria	140.00
24 Switzerland	140.00
25 Portugal	139.00
26 Ukraine	138.50
27 Romania	138.00
28 Ireland	128.50
29 Turkey	124.00
30 San Marino	119.50
31 Estonia	117.00
32 Belarus	114.50
33 Lithuania	106.50
34 Slovenia	103.50
35 Lichtenstein	99.00

**4th ROUND LADIES**

1 France	Czech Rep.
2 Monaco	Sweden
3 Great Britain	Croatia
4 Greece	Belgium
5 Netherlands	Germany
6 Israel	Russia
7 Spain	Switzerland
8 Hungary	Finland
9 Turkey	Italy
10 Ireland	Austria
11 Poland	Denmark
12 Portugal	Iceland

**LADIES PAIRS****Final - Session Two** (by Brian Senior & Tony Gordon)

The Russian pair, Gromova and Volina, started the last session of the final with a slender lead over the holders, Auker and von Arnim of Germany, with Italy's Golin and Olivieri in third place.

The Russians had already lost their lead when they suffered three blows in quick succession:

**Board 5***Dealer North; North-South Game*

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Gromova</i>		<i>Volina</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥
4♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Gromova led the ♣K and needed to switch to hearts to defeat the contract. However, she continued clubs and declarer subsequently got a heart away on a spade to chalk up +510 and gain all the matchpoints.

On the next board Volina was missing the ace and queen of diamonds and ran a diamond switch round to her jack instead of rising with dummy's king. This caused her to go one down in her 2♠ contract to score only 2 MPs. A good round for the opponents, Vellutini and Masotti of Italy.

## Quote of the Day

"It is a pure coincidence that my fall took place right after I heard the San Marino - Great Britain result".

**Albert Benjamin**  
(From his hospital bed)

**Board 7***Dealer South; Game All*

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Gromova</i>		<i>Volina</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	All Pass	INT

With an unattractive hand to lead from, West hit upon the diabolical lead of the ♦J. Volina won this in hand with the ace and attacked hearts. West won the second round and played king and another diamond. To finesse at this point assumes that West has misdefended, but Volina did indeed finesse the ♦8 and eventually went one down for only 4 MPs out of 26.

The intermediate ranking lists were discontinued after 12 boards and at this stage Olivieri/Golin had a good lead of almost two tops over Auker/von Arnim. The next few boards didn't appear to have changed the position very much.

**Board 15***Dealer South; North-South Game*

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

West	North	East	South
Endeova	Olivieri	Batelova	Golin
Dble	2♥	4♠	1♥ All Pass

The leaders suffered a setback when their Czech opponents sailed into 4♠ and proceeded to make it. Golin led a trump against 4♠ and Batelova won the queen with the king and led a heart up. Golin took her ace and switched to a diamond but declarer rose with the ace and played a trump to the nine and jack. Golin played a second diamond to the king and Olivieri switched to a club but it was too late. Batelova rose with the ace, drew the missing trumps and her club loser went away on the diamonds; -420 for the Italians.

To beat the game Golin must duck the heart at trick two. Now she can underlead to Olivieri's jack when she wins her trump trick and a club comes through before the diamonds are established.

Meanwhile, Auken/von Arnim were playing in a safe 4♦ as East-West to chalk up a useful gain on the board.

Board 16  
Dealer West; East-West Game

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

Endeova opened 1♦ and Batelova responded 1NT. Golin thought about doing more but settled for a simple 2♠ overcall and played there. Endeova cashed ♦A and switched to a low club. A smooth club switch is unlikely to be from the ace, so there is a case for running this to the ten. Golin actually played dummy's king and Batelova took the ace. A club back holds declarer to nine tricks but, after some thought, Batelova returned a diamond. Now Golin misplayed by ruffing, when discarding a loser establishes the ♦Q and leads to ten tricks. She was very lucky, because Endeova had everything and seven rounds of spades crushed her into submission. The squeeze brought Golin back up to the same ten tricks she could have had by discarding on the second diamond; +170 and the Italians had got some of their money back.

The Germans were defending 3♠ and the first two tricks were identical. But at trick three Sabine Auken returned a club, holding declarer to nine tricks; -140.

Board 17  
Dealer North; Love All

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

The Italians met the other Czech pair on this round. Svoboda/Pokorna bid 2♦ (multi) - 2NT - 3♦ (minimum with hearts) - 3♥. Olivieri led ♠K, solving one of declarer's worries. Pokorna won the ace and led ♥4 to the ten and king. Golin switched to a club for the king and ace and Olivieri cashed ♠Q and played back a club. Golin played a diamond and Pokorna won and took a second heart finesse; down one.

Meanwhile Auken/von Arnim were playing Polet and Driessens of Belgium in this round. Auken opened 2♥ as East and this was passed round to Polet who doubled for takeout. Driessens bid 3♣ and von Arnim competed to 3♥ to end the auction. Auken went one down, losing two hearts, two clubs and a spade.

Board 18  
Dealer East; North-South Game

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

The Czechs bid this one 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♠ - 3♠. Golin led ♥K and Svoboda ducked. Golin did not fall into the trap of playing a second heart, instead switching to a trump. Declarer won the queen and played ♦J, won by Olivieri's ace. She played back a heart, establishing the second defensive trick in that suit, and Svoboda won and played a diamond to the ten. That was ruffed and Golin cashed the heart. There was still a club to come; -50.

The Germans bid 1♠ - 2NT - 3NT and von Arnim went

one down after a club lead, suggesting a slight advantage to the Italians on the round.

Board 19  
Dealer South; East-West Game

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

A tough round on paper for the Germans, who were up against van der Pas/Vriend of the Netherlands. Marijke van der Pas opened 1♥ as dealer and von Arnim overcalled 1♠. Bep Vriend bid 2♠, at least a limit raise in hearts, and van der Pas signed-off in 3♥. But Vriend went on to game anyway, a dubious decision which was duly punished. Von Arnim led four rounds of spades and, though the fourth one was over-ruffed, there was still a club to come; -50.

Olivieri/Golin played against Rigney and Dowling-Long of Ireland. After a similar start to the auction, Golin did not sign off but bid 4♥. She also lost three spades and a club for one down. A gain for the Germans.

Board 20  
Dealer West; Game All

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

But the Italians fought back on the next board.

North	South
Vriend	v d Pas
1♥	1♠
2NT	3♣
4♦	4♠
Pass	

2NT was game-forcing and 4♦ showed a diamond control in a 4-5-2-2 hand. Auken doubled 4♦ for the lead and von Arnim duly led ♦Q to the king and ace. A club switch puts declarer under pressure as the finesse of ♦9 could mean three losers, but Auken continued with diamonds and now the finesse was safe as the jack would provide a discard for dummy's club loser even if the nine lost. When the nine held, van der Pas played a spade to dummy, ruffed a heart, another spade to dummy and ruffed another heart. When the hearts broke 4-4, that was twelve tricks; -680.

The Italians bid: 1♥ - 1NT (showing spades) - 2♣ (enquiry) - 2♠ - 4♠. You might think a club was the most attractive lead now, but again the ♦Q was chosen and again a diamond was returned at trick two. Declarer duly finessed and made the same twelve tricks for an excellent score.

Board 21  
Dealer North; North-South Game

	♠ 9 4 2		
	♥ 9 7 4		
	♦ K Q 10 2		
	♣ Q 7 2		
♠ A 6		♠ K J 8	
♥ A 3		♥ Q J 6 5 2	
♦ A J 9 6		♦ 7 5 3	
♣ A K 5 4 3		♣ J 9	
	♠ Q 10 7 5 3		
	♥ K 10 8		
	♦ 8 4		
	♣ 10 8 6		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>V Arnim</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Simons</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

1♣ was strong and 1♥ a natural positive. 1NT relayed and 2♥ showed a single-suiter. 2NT was forcing and basically natural and the raise suggested 5-3-3-2. Von Arnim decided that 4♥ would be better, ending the auction. The lead was a favourable spade round to the jack. The two 3-3 breaks in hearts and clubs mean that twelve tricks can now be made - declarer plays ace and another heart, wins the return and plays three rounds of clubs, ruffing. She can now draw the last trump and cross to dummy to cash the clubs.

All that good fortune seemed too much for which to hope and Auken preferred to unblock the ♠A at trick two then play two rounds of hearts. Simons won the ♥K and switched to a diamond and now there were not the entries to establish and cash the clubs. Auken finessed the ♦9, losing to the ten, and back came ♦K. She won and played three rounds of clubs, ruff-

ing, and could now draw trumps for +420. As she needed the clubs and hearts to break once the  $\diamond 10$  was offside, perhaps the alternative line was better after all.

The Italians conceded -430.

## Board 22

Dealer East; East-West Game

	$\spadesuit$ 7 4 3	
	$\heartsuit$ A	
	$\diamond$ A 9 6 5 3	
	$\clubsuit$ 8 4 3 2	
$\spadesuit$ K 8 5	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> <div>N</div> <div>W      E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	$\spadesuit$ A J 6 2
$\heartsuit$ Q 6 4		$\heartsuit$ 10 9 8
$\diamond$ K Q		$\diamond$ J 10 4
$\clubsuit$ A Q 9 7 6		$\clubsuit$ K 10 5
	$\spadesuit$ Q 10 9	
	$\heartsuit$ K J 7 5 3 2	
	$\diamond$ 8 7 2	
	$\clubsuit$ J	

Simons opened a multi  $2\diamond$  and von Arnim overcalled 2NT. Auken raised to game via Stayman and Pasman chose to lead a low diamond. Von Arnim won the queen, cashed  $\clubsuit A$  and, on seeing the fall of the jack, switched her attention to spades, finessing the jack. Simons won the queen and returned a diamond and Pasman won and cleared the suit. Von Arnim cashed out now for ten tricks and a useful +630.

Meanwhile, the Italians were on the receiving end of a gift when their opponents had a mix-up and played in  $4\heartsuit$  on the 3-3 fit. In the circumstances, four down for -400 was as good as could be hoped for, but the complete top was just what the Italians needed.

With only four boards to play it seemed that the Italians must surely still have a comfortable lead and be heading for the gold medal; however, the Germans did considerably better on the next two boards.

## Board 23

Dealer South; Game All

	$\spadesuit$ A J 10 9 4	
	$\heartsuit$ 7 6	
	$\diamond$ 7 6 2	
	$\clubsuit$ A 9 7	
$\spadesuit$ 8	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> <div>N</div> <div>W      E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	$\spadesuit$ K Q 7 3 2
$\heartsuit$ K Q J 5		$\heartsuit$ A 10 9 4 3 2
$\diamond$ Q J 5 3		$\diamond$ -
$\clubsuit$ J 10 6 2		$\clubsuit$ K 4
	$\spadesuit$ 6 5	
	$\heartsuit$ 8	
	$\diamond$ A K 10 9 8 4	
	$\clubsuit$ Q 8 5 3	

West	North	East	South
	Auken		V Arnim
Pass	$3\diamond$	$4\diamond$	$2\diamond$
$4\heartsuit$	All Pass		Pass

Von Arnim opened with a weak  $2\diamond$  and Auken raised the ante, but East had an ideal hand for a cue bid of  $4\diamond$  and West had an easy bid of  $4\heartsuit$ . Auken led the  $\diamond 6$  and declarer ruffed in dummy and crossed to hand with a trump to play her singleton spade. After some thought, Auken withheld her ace and declarer eventually lost two spades and a club. Holding declarer to ten tricks was worth 20 MPs.

The Italians conceded 450 to earn only 8 MPs.

## Board 24

Dealer West; Love All

	$\spadesuit$ A Q 7	
	$\heartsuit$ K J 10 7	
	$\diamond$ A K 9 8 3	
	$\clubsuit$ 4	
$\spadesuit$ K J 10 8 6 4	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> <div>N</div> <div>W      E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	$\spadesuit$ -
$\heartsuit$ A 6 5		$\heartsuit$ Q 9 8 4
$\diamond$ 10		$\diamond$ Q J 7 6 5
$\clubsuit$ J 6 5		$\clubsuit$ K 10 9 3
	$\spadesuit$ 9 5 3 2	
	$\heartsuit$ 3 2	
	$\diamond$ 4 2	
	$\clubsuit$ A Q 8 7 2	

West	North	East	South
	Auken		V Arnim
$2\spadesuit$	2NT	All Pass	

Auken bid 2NT over the weak  $2\spadesuit$  opening and East led the  $\diamond 6$  to the  $\diamond 10$  and ace. With no obvious line of attack, Auken tried the  $\heartsuit J$  at trick two. East decided to duck this and West won with the ace. Her spade switch, won by Auken's queen, presented her partner with an awkward discard. Eventually East selected a diamond, which seems an unwise choice with declarer marked with the rest of the suit, and Auken was quick to take advantage. She ducked a diamond to East and then finessed the  $\clubsuit Q$  when East switched to the  $\clubsuit 10$ . Leaving the  $\clubsuit A$  stranded in dummy, Auken crossed to the  $\spadesuit A$  and cleared the diamonds. East now had the unenviable choice of putting the  $\clubsuit A$  back in play or of leading into declarer's heart tenace. She chose the former course and Auken crossed to hand with the  $\heartsuit K$  and cashed her long diamond for her eighth trick. +120 was worth 18 MPs.

The Italians lost 100 and scored only 2 MPs.

As it turned out, Auken/von Arnim were actually well clear with two boards remaining and could afford to score only 14 MPs in the last round and still retain their title by a top. Olivieri/Golin took the silver medal just ahead of Cohen/Zuccarelli of France who had to settle for bronze.

## CASA NOSTRA

Non perdiamo tempo. Partiamo direttamente con le:

## CURIOSITA'

Perchè, oltre alla tecnica, ci sono dei momenti in cui volano IMPs per motivi, diciamo, accessori.

Ecco le vostre carte in Ovest, terzi di mano in zona contro prima:

♠ F 7 6  
♥ A D 6 4  
♦ R 3  
♣ F 10 8 6

I due avversari prima di voi passano. Siete dei fautori dell'aperturina leggera sempre e comunque? Cattive notizie. In questo caso avete appena scelto il momento sbagliato, il posto sbagliato, il campionato sbagliato. Date uno sguardo al totale:

## Board 6

Dich. Est; E/O in zona

♠ F 7 6	♠ A 5	♠ D 10 8 2
♥ A D 6 4	♥ R 10 9	♥ 7 5
♦ R 3	♦ A F 9 8 6	♦ 10 7 4
♣ F 10 8 6	♣ R D 4	♣ 9 5 3 2

  

♠ R 9 4 3		
♥ F 8 3 2		
♦ D 5 2		
♣ A 7		

Dopo la simpatica apertura di I♦ dell'avversario in Ovest (♣ forte), Versace, che siede in Nord, potrebbe entrare con ISA. Ma guarda il board e vede rosso (per loro). Cosa può succedere, pensa, se aspetto un momento?

E passa. Est sparisce dalla circolazione e Lauria, in Sud, ha la mano che chiede una bella riapertura in contro. Detto e fatto. Ovest passa pensando: "mica mi faranno giocare I♦ contratto". Versace (sta sempre in Nord; di solito non cambia posizione durante un incontro...) passa pensando: "mica giocheranno I♦ contratto? Troppo bello...". Est, che non dà vantaggi a nessuno, passa pensando: "e invece giochiamo proprio I♦ contratto. Ho pure tre carte...". Versace attacca con il Re di fiori e prosegue con la cartina nel colore per l'Asso di Lauria che torna atout.

La faccio breve: il dichiarante realizza una presa ("doveva farla per forza?"), l'Asso di cuori ("s"). 1700 punti per gli azzurri (da togliere ai 400 dei 3SA dell'altra sala).

Ancora per le curiosità guardate cosa succede a distrarsi un attimo:

## Board 20

Dich. Ovest; Tutti in zona

♠ 9 7	♠ F 5 2	♠ A 4
♥ A R 9 6	♥ 5 3	♥ F 10 8 7 4 2
♦ D 7 2	♦ A F 10 5 3	♦ R 8 6
♣ 10 8 6 3	♣ D 7 4	♣ R 9

  

♠ R D 10 8 6 3	
♥ D	
♦ 9 4	
♣ A F 5 2	

Il board l'abbiamo già vinto perchè Buratti e Lanza, in N/S, realizzano 4♠ mentre, nell'altra sala, Bocchi, in Est gioca 4♥. Deve andare down. *Dovrebbe* andare down. Vediamo. Sud attacca con il Re di picche. Bocchi entra con l'Asso, tira un paio di colpi d'atout e, non avendo niente di meglio da fare, rigioca il 9 di picche dal morto (è una delle regole fondamentali: "facciamogiocarelorohaivistomai..."). Nord sta basso, Bocchi mette il 4 e Sud l'8. *Come? L'8!* Ma non è finita. "Accidenti, mi son sbagliato!" dice Sud, nella sua lingua d'origine, ritirando l'8 e giocando il 10. Ora, capisco il fair play, ma il limite non si può oltrepassare di un chilometro. Arriva l'arbitro e sancisce: "l'8 è giocato, il 10 penalizzato e Sud un po' distratto..." (licenza poetica: nella realtà l'arbitro ha detto solo i primi due terzi). Il 9 di picche, perciò è rimasto in presa, ma la ciliegina sulla torta è arrivata quando Bocchi ha giocato fiori per l'Asso. Sud ha preso e, dura lex, ha dovuto, per regolamento, giocare la carta penalizzata. Il 10 di picche in taglio e scarto. 4♥ mi. Troppa grazia.

Dopo le curiosità, ecco

una bella difesa:

## 1996 World Championship Book

The Press Room have received a number of complaints from people who ordered (and paid for!) the book in Rhodes.

Technical difficulties have delayed publication, but it is understood that it will be available before the end of this year.

Board 1  
Dich. Nord; Tutti in Prima

<p>♠ F 8 4 2 ♥ — ♦ R 10 9 7 6 2 ♣ F 7 3</p>			
<p>♠ A D ♥ R F 6 3 ♦ A 8 4 ♣ R 9 8 6</p>	<p>N O E S</p>	<p>♠ 9 3 ♥ A D 5 4 ♦ F 3 ♣ A D 10 5 4</p>	
<p>♠ R 10 7 6 5 ♥ 10 9 8 7 2 ♦ D 5 ♣ 2</p>			
<b>Ovest</b>	<b>Nord</b>	<b>Est</b>	<b>Sud</b>
	<i>Bocchi</i>		<i>Duboin</i>
	Passo	1♣	1♠
Contro	4♠	Contro	Fine
4♠ x -1. E per finire			

*un assaggio*

del match vinto contro la Danimarca (17/13. Di questo incontro ne riparleremo).

Board 7  
Dich. Sud; Tutti in Zona

<p>♠ 10 9 4 ♥ D F 8 5 ♦ A D 5 2 ♣ 9 6</p>			
<p>♠ R D 6 2 ♥ 3 ♦ 10 7 6 4 ♣ 8 4 3 2</p>	<p>N O E S</p>	<p>♠ A 8 5 3 ♥ R 7 ♦ R F 9 8 3 ♣ D F</p>	
<p>♠ F 7 ♥ A 10 9 6 4 2 ♦ — ♣ A R 10 7 5</p>			

(Guardate lo sviluppo della mano in altra parte del bollettino)

Bocchi e Duboin, in N/S, appurano tutto quello che c'è da sapere a basso livello e si fermano a manche in estrema sicurezza. Nell'altra sala i danesi danno una spinta in più (una di troppo) ed arrivano a 5♥.

"Non c'è problema, il Re d'atout è piazzato...". Certamente, ma senza attacco quadri (e Duboin ha attaccato Re di picche) per andare al morto ci vorrebbe la catapulta.... 5♥-1.

## Another way to Squeeze a Lady

by Radoslaw Kielbasinsky (Poland)

This interesting deal came up in the first session of the Ladies Pairs final.

Dealer East; Game All

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Krogulska</i>	<i>Siwiek</i>	<i>Banaszkiewicz</i>	<i>Macieszczak</i>
2♣	2♦	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	2NT
		All Pass	

West's Two Clubs promised at least 5-4 with clubs and a major.

West led the two of spades and declarer took the trick in hand with the ace and started on the diamonds.

East won the third round and switched to the three of clubs (low from a doubleton), West capturing South's jack with the queen. She then played a second spade, taken in dummy by the queen.

Now three more rounds of diamonds turned the heat on West. She could not afford to blank the ace of hearts as declarer would simply duck a heart, so she had to retain ♥A10. Now it was a simple matter to throw West in by returning to hand with the king of spades and exiting with a club +600 was an excellent score.

## Tourist Information

For those of you who love horse racing, (trotting) don't miss the appointment for Thursday evening at 9.00pm at the local racecourse.

For more details see Caroline at hospitality.

# MATCH OF THE DAY

## Denmark v Italy

Our coverage of this important encounter between the teams occupying the first two places was delayed by a small technical problem – no one gave us the hands!

### Board 1 Dealer North; Love All

♠ 10 6	♠ A 5 2	♠ J 7
♥ 10 9	♥ Q 7	♥ A K 8 6 4 3
♦ Q J 7 5 4 3	♦ A K 6	♦ 10 8 2
♣ 10 6 5	♣ K 9 8 7 4	♣ A Q
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">N</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">W</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">E</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ K Q 9 8 4 3	
	♥ J 5 2	
	♦ 9	
	♣ J 3 2	

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Auken	Bocchi	Koch-Palmund	Duboin
	1♣	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Christiansen	Lauria	Blakset
	1♣	1♥	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The Bridgerama commentators were very surprised when Duboin bid only two spades at his second turn. Perhaps the choice depends on how badly you want to be in every non-vulnerable game. With the club ace offside it was right to stop in a part-score and Italy took a five IMP lead.

Both teams missed an opportunity on the next board:

## The Press Conference

There will be a Press Conference on Friday, 27th June in the morning. Venue and time to be announced.

### Board 2 Dealer East; North-South Game

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

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Auken	Bocchi	Koch-Palmund	Duboin
		Pass	1♠
3♣	All Pass		

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Christiansen	Lauria	Blakset
		Pass	1♠
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

In the Open Room South might have re-opened with a double and in the Closed Room North might have produced a red card at his second turn, the possible light opener opposite notwithstanding. It was a dull push.

### Board 4 Dealer West; Game All

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Auken	Bocchi	Koch-Palmund	Duboin
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Christiansen	Lauria	Blakset
1♣	Pass	1♦	2♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

In the Closed Room Lars Blakset picked a very poor moment to get involved in the auction. He lost two spades, four hearts, a diamond and a club. Three down, -800.

In the replay, the auction developed so as to make West declarer and that meant he had to try and make his contract on the awkward club lead.

South overtook the queen of clubs and returned the suit. Declarer won, crossed to the king of spades, hoping for J10 doubleton, and then cashed his hearts. When the spades failed to break his last chance was to find South with all the diamond honours. No luck there so he was one down.

It was suggested that if declarer had ducked the second club and won the third round South would subsequently have been subjected to a one-suit squeeze in diamonds. He can discard the four of diamonds on the third round of clubs, but is stuck when the third spade winner is cashed. True enough, but North can spoil the party by switching to the ten of diamonds at trick three.

The swing of 900 points gave Italy 14 IMPs.

## Board 7

Dealer South; Game All

♠ K Q 6 2	♠ 10 9 4	♠ A 8 5 3
♥ 3	♥ Q J 8 5	♥ K 7
♦ 10 7 6 4	♦ A Q 5 2	♦ K J 9 8 3
♣ 8 4 3 2	♣ 9 6	♣ Q J
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="text-align: center;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">E</div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ J 7	
	♥ A 10 9 6 4 2	
	♦ —	
	♣ A K 10 7 5	

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Auken	Bocchi	Koch-Palmund	Duboin
Pass	2♦	Dble	1♥
3♠	4♥	All Pass	3♣

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Christiansen	Lauria	Blakset
Pass	1♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	1♥ <sup>(2)</sup>
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

<sup>(1)</sup> Relay<sup>(2)</sup> Clubs

After Jens Auken's excellent bid of Three Spades, it came as a surprise when Dennis Koch-Palmund didn't bid Four Spades. It would probably be a cheap save and on the actual hand South might be tempted to go on to Five Hearts.

If that had happened it would have been a flat board, but as it was, the fact that the Danish pair in the other room got to that contract under their own steam cost them another 12 IMPs.

Denmark missed a chance to strike back on this deal:

## Board 9

Dealer North; East-West Game

♠ K Q 7 2	♠ —
♥ 9 7 2	♥ J 8 5 4 3
♦ A K J 8 6	♦ 7 4 3 2
♣ K	♣ A J 7 6
♠ A 8 6 5 3	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N</div> <div style="text-align: center;">W</div> <div style="text-align: center;">E</div> <div style="text-align: center;">S</div> </div>
♥ A K 6	♠ J 10 9 4
♦ —	♥ Q 10
♣ Q 9 5 4 3	♦ Q 10 9 5
	♣ 10 8 2

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Auken	Bocchi	Koch-Palmund	
	1♦	Pass	3♦
Dble	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	5♦	Dble	All Pass

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Christiansen	Lauria	Blakset
	1♦	1♥	Dble
Redble	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

The auction in the Closed Room saw East make an emaci-

ated overcall, 'for the lead partner' and when South made a negative double and West preferred to redouble, rather than raise hearts, North had to decide how many spades to bid.

His choice of Three Spades was enough for West, who decided to take the money. It turned out to be +500.

Jeff Rubens, one of the Editors of the American magazine, 'The Bridge World' has coined the phrase, 'vulnerability syndrome' that he uses to describe actions, which are unsound, but caused by being non-vulnerable against vulnerable opponents.

Was Bocchi victim of the disease?

Well if he was, he got away with it. East led a heart, but West failed to find the killing switch to ace and another spade that would have produced an 800 penalty. Declarer was allowed to escape for the same 500 recorded in the other room.

Italy had taken a firm grip on the match, but in the second half the Danes staged a recovery, and the final margin was only 10 IMPs which translated into a win for the holders by 17-13 VP.

## Appeal No.2

### Open Teams Round 7.

*Reported by Steen Møller.*

**Appeals Committee:** Steen Møller (Chairman), Naki Bruni (Italy), Guido Ferraro (Italy), Tjolpe Flodqvist (Sweden) and Kees Tammens (The Netherlands).

Board 20  
Dealer West; Game All

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ A 9 3 ♥ 8 3 2 ♦ K Q 7 6 ♣ K 6 3</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ K 4 ♥ K Q J 10 7 ♦ A 10 9 2 ♣ Q 8</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ Q J 10 8 6 ♥ A 9 ♦ J ♣ A 10 9 5 4</p> </div> </div>			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ 7 5 2 ♥ 6 5 4 ♦ 8 5 4 3 ♣ J 7 2</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>N</b> <b>W</b> <b>E</b> <b>S</b></p> </div> </div>			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Taschiyan</i>	<i>Sapounakis</i>	<i>Popov</i>	<i>Kotsiopoulos</i>
1♦	1♥	Dble.	Pass
2♣	2♦	3♦	All Pass

Opening lead: king of hearts.

**Facts:** Dealer, West, called the TD when the dummy was exposed. The TD asked him to play the contract and West called again at the end of play saying that he had been misinformed by South who had told him that 2♦ was a cuebid. He therefore took 3♦ as a natural bid and claimed that he would have bid 3♠ had he known that 2♦ was natural and 3♦ thus a cuebid.

The TD found out that the 1♦ opening was Precision and that neither North nor South had alerted the bid of 2♦, but that South probably had said "cuebid" when asked about the

meaning of 2♦.

The TD changed the contract from 3♦ down two to 4♣ down one, +100 to N/S as he thought it likely that West would make only nine tricks. Just before the end of "appeal-time" E/W lodged an appeal, claiming that West would have made 4♣.

**The players:** East explained that there had been serious language difficulties on the West/South side of the screen, but that it had been clear to his partner that South had said "cuebid" when asked about the 2♦ bid. On his own side he had not asked, as he took the bid as natural because of the missing alert, and that meant that his own 3♦ was a cuebid. He claimed that West was considered a strong player in his home country and that he would have made 4♣.

Asked by the committee, North said that he and his partner had no agreement about 2♦ when playing against Precision, but he felt safe to make a natural diamond bid as he had a diamond suit as well as a good hand. Under those circumstances he would not alert 2♦ and East never asked about the meaning. On behalf of his partner he admitted that the word "cuebid" had been said to West.

East said that West was playing in his first European Championship, but that he had won his national championship three times. He claimed that West would have made 4♣ as the bidding had shown that North held almost all the missing high cards, making the line of elimination obvious. He said that at the table his partner had not focussed on the play in 4♣ and had not therefore objected to the ruling of 4♣ down one. He could not explain why the decision to appeal had been postponed to the last moment.

The committee found that there had been an infraction caused by the different explanations, and that the TD had been right to change the contract to 4♣. As, however, the elimination line was very difficult to find (and was in fact overlooked by the Bridgerama commentators) and probably had not been found by E/W until the last moment for an appeal, the committee decided that West would have made 4♣ only 20% of the time, going down one 80% of the time and so corrected the score to the average of the two.

The committee therefore changed the score to -50 N/S. The deposit was returned.

# THE EBL CONGRESS (Part 1)

by Patrick Jourdain (GB)

There are 36 nations represented in Montecatini – the 35 in the Open teams and Monaco. Of these, 30 sent delegates to the first meeting of Congress.

## The President's Report

The President, **Bill Pencharz**, gave his report of the two years since the last Congress in Vilamoura. The former President, **Andr  Boekhorst**, had tragically died just three days after his election. This followed the retirement of **Jos  Damiani**. The former Treasurer, **Karl Rohan**, had also retired, and Mr. Pencharz paid special tribute to these three persons.

The President reported on his travels: to the first World Junior Pairs and Camp in Ghent, to the Bridge Promotion week in Milan, and, in March 1996, to the Philip Morris Mixed Championships in Monaco. Soon after this came the bombshell that Philip Morris was to end its sponsorship after twenty years association with the EBL. He paid tribute to their support. A visit to the European Union championships in Ostend had resolved the problem presented by having their Mixed Pairs so close in time to that of the EBL. "The European Union Bridge League is looking more and more of an anachronism with no proper role to fulfil..... I therefore look forward to the day when the two bodies merge."

In July 1996 the President had visited the European Youth Championships in Cardiff with a record 26 nations in the Junior teams and a record 14 nations in the Schools. He paid tribute to Panos Geron-topoulos for his role in the development of Junior bridge, "the great success story of the last fifteen years."

The President had attended the WBF Meetings in Rhodes as an EBL delegate. The EBL represented more than half the WBF, both in numbers of members and provision of finance, and was under-represented in the management of the WBF.

In March 1997 came the European Open and Senior Pairs in The Hague, held for the first time without the sponsorship of Philip Morris. The prize money had not been reduced and the number of participants was the same as in Rome. The event had therefore made a loss. Nevertheless it had been a success. The Dutch had the biggest membership in Europe. In addition to the European Pairs, they would be hosting the World Pairs Olympiad in Maastricht in three years time.

Yugoslavia had been re-admitted to membership. Generali was to continue its sponsorship of the Europeans, for which there was much reason to thank its President, Antoine Bernheim.

The President expected the next European Pairs to be held in Warsaw. Events already planned were:

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| <b>1997</b> | <b>11-22nd July</b><br>Junior Pairs & Camp, Sportilia, Italy                 |
| <b>1998</b> | <b>28th March - 3rd April</b><br>European Mixed, Aachen, Germany             |
|             | <b>17-27th July</b><br>European Youth, Vienna, Austria                       |
| <b>1999</b> | <b>March</b><br>European Open & Senior Pairs, Warsaw, Poland                 |
|             | <b>3-17th July</b><br>Generali European Teams & Ladies Pairs, Izmir, Turkey. |

The League is in good financial shape, and served by experienced personnel. In the last two years Europeans have won these world titles:

1995 World Junior teams (Great Britain); World Junior Pairs Geir Helgemo & Boje Brogeland of Norway; Venice Cup (Germany); 1996 Olympiad (France); World Mixed Teams Great Britain & Iceland.

We have lost, through planned retirement, Jos  Damiani and Karl Rohan, and through untimely death, Andr  Boekhorst. We have also lost our sponsor, Philip Morris, who brought us 100,000 Swiss Francs per year. That is why we had to cancel the Simultaneous Pairs. Your Executive is working on ideas to make the EBL financially independent of a single sponsor; we are promoting bridge as a mindsport; and we have a target of increasing the number of registered bridge-players in Europe to half-a-million by the end of 1999: "half-a-million by the millenium".

The President concluded with thanks to the various staff of the EBL.

## The Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, **Fejo Durks**, presented the Budget for 1998-1999 which was approved by Congress. He also presented a new tariff of subscription fees for the coming year which was approved. In total this represented a small increase, the first since 1994, but the formula relative to registered membership had also been amended. This resulted in a higher payment for the larger Federations, in particular the Netherlands, and a slight reduction for some countries in the middle bracket. As these were quoted in Swiss Francs some countries would also benefit from the relative weakness of that currency. "We used to have a tradition of keeping our assets in the currency of our President. As the pound sterling has, in the last year, been one of the strongest currencies, I regret not following that policy this year," said Mr. Durks.

## The Protocol & Ladies Committees

The Chairman of both Committees, **Mrs. Anna-Maria Torlontano**, presented her reports, beginning with thanks to those who had assisted her in her work.

## Protocol

A booklet called "Hospitality & Protocol at EBL Official Events" had been prepared. This contained much practical advice about presentation in addition to the regulations set by the EBL. It would be provided to any Federation hosting an EBL event.

## Ladies

The Ladies Pairs championship in Montecatini would, for the first time, have money prizes valued at 12,500 Swiss Francs, thanks to Generali.

The next Ladies Jamboree would be in Budapest in May 1998. This would be organised by the Hungarian Federation and would include a trip on the Orient Express to Vienna with a bridge contest on board on the way back!

During the last year Generali has also helped in contacting 125,000 lady-players in Europe.

A Delegates meeting had been held in Montecatini and Mrs. Torlontano concluded with thanks to the President for attending this meeting and hearing the views of the delegates present.

## The Systems Committee

The Chairman, **Jens Auken**, described recent changes in the Systems Policy, and said he would attempt to see the WBF made no further changes in the near future.

# FORECAST

by Tipster

Everyone must have noticed the blunder I was responsible for in yesterday's Bulletin I inadvertently forgot the host country in the forecast concerning the final ranking of the ladies championship. I apologize to everyone including the players, captain and gamblers. Rush to your bookie and confidently bet on the Italian ladies to finish in the first five or better.

Now, for today I will try to go through the card in the first match of the Open series.

<b>CROATIA</b>	<b>ICELAND</b>	<b>2</b>
Though Croatia are doing extremely well.		
<b>POLAND</b>	<b>YUGOSLAVIA</b>	<b>1</b>
Though Yugoslavia.....		
<b>ROMANIA</b>	<b>AUSTRIA</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>BULGARIA</b>	<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>ITALY</b>	<b>NORWAY</b>	<b>X</b>
Anything can happen; no bet would be safer.		
<b>BELARUS</b>	<b>LITHUANIA</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>GERMANY</b>	<b>SLOVENIA</b>	<b>1</b>
Will Germany be back on form?		
<b>DENMARK</b>	<b>HUNGARY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ESTONIA</b>	<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b>	<b>2</b>
Not at all a sure thing		
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>RUSSIA</b>	<b>LEBANON</b>	<b>X</b>
Lebanon is the draw specialist.		
<b>FINLAND</b>	<b>GREECE</b>	<b>X</b>
A real headache for Tipster.		
<b>BELGIUM</b>	<b>TURKEY</b>	<b>1</b>
Providing Belgium retain their impressive form.		
<b>LIECHSTENTEN</b>	<b>UKRAINE</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CZECH REP</b>	<b>IRELAND</b>	<b>2</b>
Far from a sure bet		
<b>ISRAEL</b>	<b>SPAIN</b>	<b>2</b>
1997 seems to be the year for Spain.		
<b>SAN MARINO</b>	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	<b>2</b>

Remember **X** stands for 16/14 or closer.

# Percentages Peter, not Perception!

by Sam Leckie (Scotland)

It never ceases to amaze me how even the most expert commentator can be 'blinded' by the big screen and suggest an inferior play because they can see the cards are favourably placed.

In an analysis of a hand played a couple of days ago, the panel got it wrong by a mere 11%.

These were the relevant suits:

West	East
♥ A Q x x x x x	♥ x x
♣ A x x x x	♣ J 10 9

West played in Four Hearts and at trick one he was in dummy for the first and last time.

South held ♥Kx and North ♣KQx.

It was suggested that a heart to the queen was by far the best line, losing only one heart and two clubs.

Let us examine the play of the jack of clubs. It wins when South holds K x, Q x or KQx and either North or South hold ♥K x, as ace and another will be played in due course.

The combined odds of all these combinations are 61% against the 50% line suggested.

The relevant calculation is as follows:

	Total
Clubs will divide 3-2	67.8%
South will hold the doubleton	33.9%
The doubleton will be Kx or Qx	
6 times out of nine	22.6
(KQ bare works for both plays)	
South will hold ♣KQx three times	
out of 9	11.3
North or South will hold ♥Kx	
8 times out of 20	27.1
	61.0

Sam's analysis has been confirmed by Goren in a Box

## The IBPA Annual General Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday, 24th June, in the morning. Exact time and venue to be announced. It will be followed by a lunch hosted by the FIGB. All members who wish to attend the lunch must register in advance with Evelyn Senn in the Pressroom.

## To Err is Human

*We can't resist pointing out that the title of this article is part of a quotation by the celebrated actress Mae West: 'To err is human – but it feels divine!'*

*by 'Goren in a Box'*

Board 21 in Round 4 separated the humans from the machines. The nine pairs who reached 6♦ were quite content to be there, until the trumps turned out to misbehave.

♠ A7	♠ 985
♥ 85	♥ AQ43
♦ AKQ8742	♦ 5
♣ K6	♣ AJ742

Almost everywhere the lead was ♠Q to the ace. North showed out on the second trump trick. What is the best line from here?

Eight declarers continued by cashing ♣K and playing a club to the jack, with a quick two down as a result. I gave the hands to GIB (Goren in a Box), the amazing bridge program of the American professor Matt Ginsberg. After discovering the trump break, GIB thought for a minute and played the third high diamond, ♣K and a club to the...ace. A club ruff, heart finesse and another club ruff followed. ♥A was still in dummy as an entry to the fifth club, the parking place for the spade loser.

So GIB does it again, here outplaying eight out of nine expert declarers. We all laughed when the World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov was being terrorized by Deep Blue, but humiliation is on its way for us too...

The only "machine" among the nine declarers was Belarus'

young talent Sotniku, who copied GIB's line of play card for card. A quick analysis shows that Sotniku and GIB are correct. By refusing to finesse ♣Q you give up the chance on ♣Qxx onside with ♥K offside, but in return you not only get the extra chance of ♥K onside and ♣Qxx offside, but also ♥K onside with either ♣Qx or ♣Qxxx offside.

This was the full deal:

*Dealer North; North-South Game*

♠ A7	♠ QJ1062	♠ 985
♥ 85	♥ KJ962	♥ AQ43
♦ AKQ8742	♦ 10	♦ 5
♣ K6	♣ 108	♣ AJ742
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">           N W     E S         </div>	
	♠ K43	
	♥ 107	
	♦ J963	
	♣ Q953	

To be fair, I have to add that there was another declarer who made twelve tricks. Jens Aukén of Denmark played carefully to score 3♦+3 for a well deserved two imp pickup when Finland didn't come to more than ten tricks in 4♦.

Thanks to Onno Eskes (Netherlands) for this fascinating - and disturbing article.

## Diplomacy

*by Sam Leckie (Scotland)*

Tony Priday has captained the British team for the past few years and many people think he is relatively inexperienced as a captain.

I'll let you into a secret.

Thirty-four years ago he captained a G.B. under 35 team in Germany against West Germany.

How do I know?

Well, I was in that team!

This match was to be an annual event, but for some reason I've never discovered, the match was never played again.

Great Britain won, but the incident I remember best happened during the closing banquet.

I was sitting next to Tony, and on his left was the wife of the President of the German Bridge Federation. The conversation went something like this:

'You know Mr. Priday, it's very strange, but all the good players in Germany come from the East.'

'It's the same in London.'

'You mean all the good players come from East-London?'

'No, no, all the good players in London come from East Germany.'

At this point my soup course and I parted company!

## Charity Tournament in Germany

War, economic crisis, or other diseases, can make it impossible for players to participate in great International sport and cultural events. In order to raise some funds to help our Bulgarian colleagues, thanks to the Olympic spirit, the German Bridge Federation held a charity team tournament in Munich on 31st May and 1st June 1997, and the prize money was donated to the Bulgarian Bridge Federation.

The Bulgarian Open Team was able to find the remaining quarter of the money needed to cover the cost of participating in these Championships.

The EBL and WBF will surely pay close attention to the financial problems of numerous NCBOs, just one of which is the payment of appeal deposits.

**Josef Harsanyi**  
*Hungary*

# Butler Ranking List - After 9 Matches

Names		Country	Imp's Boards		Names		Country	Imp's Boards	
1. Balicki C	Zmudzinski A	POLAND	131.3	132	59. Mouiel H	Multon F	FRANCE	2.1-	132
2. Helgemo G	Helness T	NORWAY	121.9	144	60. Sver N	Marinkovic P	CROATIA	2.4-	108
3. Baldursson J	Thorbjorns S	ICELAND	121.4	180	61. Grotheim G	Aa T	NORWAY	2.7-	108
4. Lauria L	Versace A	ITALY	102.5	144	62. Bieder W	Terraneo C	AUSTRIA	4.2-	144
5. Bocchi N	Duboin G	ITALY	101.3	144	63. Catzeflis C	Piedra F	SWITZERLAND	4.5-	132
6. Zlotov D	Petrounine A	RUSSIA	100.1	144	64. Feranchuk I	Medushevuskii	BELARUS	4.9-	48
7. Aukun J	Koch-Palmund	DENMARK	95.2	120	65. Arnaboldi S	Cabiati S	LIECHTENSTEIN	7.9-	12
8. Fredin P	Heriksson M	SWEDEN	88.4	168	66. Farwig C	Retzlaff R	GERMANY	9.6-	144
9. Westerhof J	Jansen P	NETHERLANDS	87.9	144	67. Duong H	Yalcin T	SWITZERLAND	11.1-	108
10. Slipcevic M	Radisic G	YUGOSLAVIA	77.3	120	68. Mikhaylenko V	Tolstyak K	UKRAINE	11.3-	24
11. Eidi M	Harfouche G	LEBANON	75.4	180	69. Cengiz N	Senguler Z	TURKEY	11.6-	72
12. Tredinnick G	Tredinnick S	GREAT BRITAIN	75.2	144	70. Gezginer S	Senguler Z	TURKEY	11.9-	48
13. Goded F	Lanteron L	SPAIN	72.7	144	71. Catzeflis C	Duong H	SWITZERLAND	13.6-	12
14. Kwiecen M	Pszczola J	POLAND	72.5	168	72. Djuricic B	Juhas A	YUGOSLAVIA	14.7-	36
15. Chempla P	Perron M	FRANCE	71.2	144	73. Parezanin D	Djuricic B	YUGOSLAVIA	19.9-	144
16. Schaeffer L	Andersen M	DENMARK	70.8	120	74. Simon J	Wernie A	AUSTRIA	23.1-	120
17. Jeunen F	Backles JM	BELGIUM	70.6	168	75. Andersson L	Gothe H	SWEDEN	23.2-	144
18. Kotsiopoulos T	Sapounakis A	GREECE	66.6	120	76. Vikor D	Lakatos P	HUNGARY	25.3-	168
19. Hackett Ju	Hackett Ja	GREAT BRITAIN	66.1	156	77. Piazza R	Turletti G	LICHTENSTEIN	27.3-	12
20. Blakset L	Christiansen	DENMARK	64.7	144	78. Jorgensen A	Thorvaldsson M	ICELAND	28.3-	108
21. Parezanin D	Juhas A	YUGOSLAVIA	61.9	36	79. Rath W	Tomski M	GERMANY	29.8-	144
22. Buratti A	Lanzarotti M	ITALY	60.8	144	80. Kannavos P	Militsopouloj	GREECE	30.3-	132
23. Antunes M	Mascarenhas N	PORTUGAL	60.7	144	81. Sotniku A	Basalyga V	BELARUS	32.5-	216
24. Gulyas D	Szalay G	HUNGARY	58.2	120	82. Cuhadar E	Senguler Z	TURKEY	32.8-	24
25. Gotard T	Holowski A	GERMANY	51.9	144	83. Radisic G	Juhas A	YUGOSLAVIA	34.0-	24
26. Victor M	Konstantin T	UKRAINE	51.4	132	84. Torres J	Frances A	SPAIN	35.4-	156
27. Jansma J	Van Kleef J	NETHERLANDS	50.9	144	85. Fahs B	Hamdan F	LEBANON	36.1-	108
28. Levy A	Mari C	FRANCE	47.4	156	86. Kowalski A	Romanski J	POLAND	36.3-	132
29. Ga P	Winkler G	HUNGARY	46.3	144	87. Nasr C	Baroudi N	LEBANON	39.8-	144
30. Arnarson G	Jonsson T	ICELAND	45.0	144	88. Alexander V	Alexander N	UKRAINE	41.5-	144
31. Fallenius B	Nilsland M	SWEDEN	38.7	120	89. Cesana B	Palmieri C	LICHTENSTEIN	41.8-	36
32. Diklic D	Miladin I	CROATIA	38.0	156	90. Levy R	Teylouni F	SWITZERLAND	42.0-	120
33. Oja J	Kiema O	FINLAND	36.0	84	91. Filippi F	Bettini R	SAN MARINO	42.4-	144
34. Hanlon T	McGann H	IRELAND	34.8	180	92. Elsinen A	Koistinen K	FINLAND	43.8-	120
35. Knap A	Wasik A	SPAIN	33.8	132	93. Cuhadar E	Cengiz N	TURKEY	44.3-	96
36. Dogan I	Sevin I	TURKEY	25.9	96	94. Slipcevic N	Radisic G	YUGOSLAVIA	45.9-	72
37. Cabiati S	Piazza R	LIECHTENSTEIN	25.3	192	95. Gezginer S	Dogan I	TURKEY	48.8-	96
38. Fort T	Volehjn V	CZECH REP.	24.2	132	96. Matei C	Lungu V	ROMANIA	49.8-	216
39. Brogeland B	Seelensminde E	NORWAY	22.7	132	97. Drobulis J	Staknevicus A	LITHUANIA	50.6-	168
40. Taschiyan E	Popov I	BULGARIA	21.1	156	98. Bahnik P	Mraz T	CZECH REP.	52.9-	144
41. Volkov A	Mentsev A	UKRAINE	20.1	12	99. Soroldoni M	Croci A	SAN MARINO	53.0-	144
42. Juuri-Oja J	Kiema O	FINLAND	19.7	48	100. Levin A	Shacham E	ISRAEL	53.3-	156
43. Trendafilov	Karaivanov K	BULGARIA	19.2	156	101. Fiorini F	Mazzolani C	SAN MARINO	58.5-	144
44. Babsch A	Umshaus P	AUSTRIA	18.5	168	102. Paliulis Z	Vainikonis V	LITHUANIA	59.3-	120
45. Svoboda O	Kurka J	CZECH REP.	17.5	156	103. Passarinho J	Oliveira M	PORTUGAL	66.9-	144
46. Avdeev E	Gladyh E	UKRAINE	14.4	12	104. Pimenta C	Goncalves J	PORTUGAL	67.8-	144
47. Kholomeev V	Khiouppenen J	RUSSIA	11.7	132	105. Calderwood G	Shek D	GREAT BRITAIN	68.3-	84
48. Labaere A	Van Middeltem G	BELGIUM	11.6	144	106. Hoogenkamp E	Verhees L	NETHERLANDS	71.9-	144
49. Salomaa M	Viitasalo P	FINLAND	10.9	132	107. Evgueni A	Evgueni G	UKRAINE	75.6-	108
50. Teylouni F	Yalcin T	SWITZERLAND	9.7	12	108. Barantive N	Ivanov I	BULGARIA	91.3-	120
51. Zack S	Braunstein A	ISRAEL	7.3	120	109. Rummel A	Kalma I	ESTONIA	91.7-	216
52. Delforge C	Kaplan A	BELGIUM	6.2	120	110. Rojko S	Pavlin M	SLOVENIA	97.3-	192
53. Kalish A	Podgor L	ISRAEL	5.5	156	111. Laanemae T	Karpov M	ESTONIA	105.1-	216
54. Caric A	Caric J	CROATIA	1.5	120	112. Klemencic G	Ambroz	SLOVENIA	106.0-	192
55. Lambrinos A	Filios A	GREECE	0.5	132	113. Tyla A	Vaidotas R	LITHUANIA	113.0-	144
56. Garvey D	O'Brien M	IRELAND	0.0	132	114. Carrol J	Garvey T	IRELAND	142.7-	120
57. Gromov A	Choudnev A	RUSSIA	0.4-	108	115. Medushevuskii	Gradouski O	BELARUS	167.9-	168
58. Valeanu V	Valeanu N	ROMANIA	0.5-	216	116. Arnaboldi S	Turletti G	LIECHTENSTEIN	181.5-	180