

# ITALY STAY IN THE DRIVING SEAT

## Open Series

*Italy improved its position with two more good victories. Second placed Norway are now the highest of the Scandinavian countries, while Spain are lying third, just in front of Poland, Denmark, Iceland and Great Britain.*

*These last five mentioned teams are only separated by 2.5 VP!*

*The best performance of the day was by the Netherlands, who scored a perfect 50 VP. They are now in 8th place, only 6 points away from the bronze medal position.*

*Of course, there are still 23 matches to go, plenty of time for everything to change.*

*Lebanon broke some sort of record by winning their last match by the remarkable score of 94-0!*

# SPAIN STILL ON TOP

## Ladies Series

*Yesterday's leaders, Spain were overtaken by France after the first match, but they bounced back into first place when the French ladies had to bow the knee to the Czech Republic. That dropped France to second, just ahead of Hungary, Great Britain and Belgium.*

## TODAY'S PLAYING TIMES

### Open Teams Championship

Round 13	11.15
Round 14	16.15

### Ladies Teams Championship

Round 5	11.15
Round 6	16.15

## Bridgerama Matches



Open - Round 13, 11.15 h  
**Poland v Hungary**

Open - Round 14, 16.15 h  
**Sweden v Spain**

**11th ROUND OPEN RESULTS**

Country		Imp's	Vp's
1 Netherlands	Croatia	93 27	25 3
2 Belarus	Portugal	80 50	21 9
3 Lithuania	Ireland	55 57	15 15
4 Russia	Israel	42 45	15 15
5 Finland	Bulgaria	32 68	8 22
6 Hungary	Czech Rep.	65 34	21 9
7 Romania	Iceland	50 90	7 23
8 Italy	Yugoslavia	47 32	18 12
9 France	San Marino	71 54	18 12
10 Liechtenstein	Switzerland	45 42	15 15
11 Belgium	Ukraine	63 46	18 12
12 Sweden	Turkey	61 39	19 11
13 Greece	Estonia	69 70	15 15
14 Austria	Germany	52 64	13 17
15 Spain	Lebanon	96 53	23 7
16 Slovenia	Great Britain	27 97	3 25
17 Denmark	Norway	28 81	5 25
18 Poland	Bye		18 0

**12th ROUND OPEN RESULTS**

Country		Imp's	Vp's
1 Bulgaria	Norway	51 74	11 19
2 Yugoslavia	Austria	88 66	19 11
3 Spain	Ukraine	64 26	22 8
4 Greece	Iceland	41 49	14 16
5 Switzerland	Belgium	43 84	7 23
6 Portugal	Great Britain	63 69	14 16
7 Czech Rep.	Netherlands	14 80	3 25
8 Sweden	Liechtenstein	78 57	19 11
9 Belarus	Italy	46 72	10 20
10 Ireland	Slovenia	87 59	20 10
11 Turkey	Romania	43 76	9 21
12 Israel	France	38 52	13 17
13 Estonia	Poland	23 83	4 25
14 Lebanon	Lithuania	94 0	25 0
15 San Marino	Germany	80 43	22 8
16 Croatia	Denmark	51 50	15 15
17 Finland	Russia	54 63	14 16
18 Bye	Hungary		0 18

## What the Butler Saw

by Alan Hiron (Great Britain)

The ace bridge reporter of 'Le Liechtenstein Libérateur' – the popular tabloid with a weekly circulation of nearly 500 – writes:

'Many people regard the Butler ranking list as a page of uninteresting statistics (do NPC's *really* use them as a guide to team selection) but the table must conceal many human-interest stories.

For example, one of our pairs (shall we call them 'A' & 'B?') had been very consistent, losing almost exactly 1 IMP per board. Why then, as was revealed last night, did our NPC split them for 12 boards, partnering 'A' with 'C' and 'B' with 'D'? The first of these new pairs registered a slight improvement; the other fared far worse.

Why, then, this disastrous change? Our readers demand to know!

**We must point out that Liechtenstein are without a non-playing Captain!**

**13th ROUND OPEN**

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

**14th ROUND OPEN**

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

## International Bridge Press Association

The meeting of the Executive will take place on Sunday 22nd June.

Please come to the Press Room at 10.00am.

**3rd ROUND LADIES RESULTS**

Country		Imp's	Vp's
21 Czech Rep.	Greece	47 64	12 18
22 Turkey	Israel	26 119	0 25
23 Denmark	Portugal	71 54	18 12
24 Iceland	Switzerland	60 30	21 9
25 Austria	Hungary	38 42	14 16
26 Spain	Croatia	58 50	16 14
27 Finland	Great Britain	51 56	14 16
28 Belgium	Monaco	48 49	15 15
29 Italy	Ireland	66 41	20 10
30 Netherlands	Poland	11 64	5 25
31 France	Sweden	58 15	23 7
32 Germany	Russia	26 66	7 23

**4th ROUND LADIES RESULTS**

Country		Imp's	Vp's
21 France	Czech Rep.	52 69	12 18
22 Monaco	Sweden	31 58	10 20
23 Great Britain	Croatia	41 46	14 16
24 Greece	Belgium	32 104	2 25
25 Netherlands	Germany	53 35	18 12
26 Israel	Russia	40 34	16 14
27 Spain	Switzerland	69 39	21 9
28 Hungary	Finland	68 57	17 13
29 Turkey	Italy	8 86	2 25
30 Ireland	Austria	26 66	7 23
31 Poland	Denmark	46 30	18 12
32 Portugal	Iceland	18 71	5 25

**5th ROUND LADIES**

21 Poland	Czech Rep.
22 Finland	Denmark
23 Switzerland	Russia
24 France	Hungary
25 Ireland	Portugal
26 Sweden	Iceland
27 Israel	Belgium
28 Germany	Spain
29 Monaco	Turkey
30 Italy	Netherlands
31 Austria	Great Britain
32 Croatia	Greece

**6th ROUND LADIES**

21 Czech Rep.	Austria
22 Spain	Great Britain
23 Belgium	Iceland
24 Poland	Germany
25 Italy	Croatia
26 Denmark	Greece
27 Sweden	Hungary
28 Portugal	Israel
29 Finland	Monaco
30 Turkey	Ireland
31 Netherlands	Switzerland
32 Russia	France

**LADIES-LADIES****RANKINGS  
AFTER 4 ROUNDS**

<b>1 Spain</b>	<b>86.00</b>
<b>2 France</b>	<b>79.00</b>
<b>3 Hungary</b>	<b>78.50</b>
<b>4 G.Britain</b>	<b>76.00</b>
<b>5 Belgium</b>	<b>75.00</b>
<b>6 Israel</b>	<b>68.50</b>
<b>7 Austria</b>	<b>68.00</b>
<b>8 Poland</b>	<b>65.00</b>
<b>9 Czech Rep.</b>	<b>64.00</b>
<b>10 Germany</b>	<b>61.00</b>
<b>11 Russia</b>	<b>60.50</b>
<b>12 Denmark</b>	<b>60.50</b>
<b>13 Iceland</b>	<b>59.00</b>
<b>14 Monaco</b>	<b>58.00</b>
<b>15 Italy</b>	<b>57.00</b>
<b>16 Sweden</b>	<b>54.00</b>
<b>17 Netherlnd</b>	<b>54.00</b>
<b>18 Portugal</b>	<b>51.00</b>
<b>19 Finland</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>20 Switzzland</b>	<b>45.00</b>
<b>21 Ireland</b>	<b>44.00</b>
<b>22 Greece</b>	<b>42.50</b>
<b>23 Croatia</b>	<b>39.00</b>
<b>24 Turkey</b>	<b>20.00</b>

**OPEN-OPEN****RANKINGS  
AFTER 12 ROUNDS**

<b>1 Italy</b>	<b>248.00</b>
<b>2 Norway</b>	<b>229.00</b>
<b>3 Spain</b>	<b>218.00</b>
<b>4 Poland</b>	<b>217.00</b>
<b>5 Denmark</b>	<b>216.00</b>
<b>6 Iceland</b>	<b>216.00</b>
<b>7 Great Britain</b>	<b>215.50</b>
<b>8 Netherlnds</b>	<b>212.00</b>
<b>9 France</b>	<b>206.00</b>
<b>10 Sweden</b>	<b>204.50</b>
<b>11 Hungary</b>	<b>204.00</b>
<b>12 Belgium</b>	<b>201.50</b>
<b>13 Greece</b>	<b>191.00</b>
<b>14 Russia</b>	<b>187.50</b>
<b>15 Yugoslavia</b>	<b>184.50</b>
<b>16 Lebanon</b>	<b>178.00</b>
<b>17 Germany</b>	<b>178.00</b>
<b>18 Israel</b>	<b>175.00</b>
<b>19 Bulgaria</b>	<b>173.00</b>
<b>20 Finland</b>	<b>172.00</b>
<b>21 Austria</b>	<b>168.00</b>
<b>22 Romania</b>	<b>166.00</b>
<b>23 Croatia</b>	<b>166.00</b>
<b>24 Ireland</b>	<b>163.50</b>
<b>25 Portugal</b>	<b>162.00</b>
<b>26 Switzerland</b>	<b>162.00</b>
<b>27 Ukraine</b>	<b>158.50</b>
<b>28 Czech Rep.</b>	<b>154.50</b>
<b>29 San Marino</b>	<b>153.50</b>
<b>30 Belarus</b>	<b>145.50</b>
<b>31 Turkey</b>	<b>143.00</b>
<b>32 Estonia</b>	<b>136.00</b>
<b>33 Liechtenstein</b>	<b>125.00</b>
<b>34 Lithuania</b>	<b>123.50</b>
<b>35 Slovenia</b>	<b>116.50</b>

**OPEN TEAMS**

**Round 10** by Brian Senior (Great Britain)

The first half of the Wednesday evening viewgraph match between Belgium and Italy was mostly about as exciting as watching paint dry, with a series of boards on which there was little scope for swings. Two consecutive boards in the middle of the set woke up the spectators (and commentators), however.

clarer in control with just one more trick to lose in each suit; two down for -200 but 14 IMPs to Italy.

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

**Board 6**  
**Dealer East; East-West Game**

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

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

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Versace	Middelme	Lauria	Labaere
	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♦	3♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	4♥	Dble	All Pass

Having got a response from partner, it is understandable that North should get pretty excited about his hand as he needs only one trick and a bit of trump support to make game. But perhaps when 3♣ was doubled he might have passed for now just in case he might be allowed to play there – not that 3♣ doubled would have made, but it would have been a lot cheaper than 4♥ doubled. Lauria led three rounds of clubs for Versace to ruff. Versace switched to two rounds of diamonds, ruffed and over-ruffed, and now a spade to the ace and a third diamond promoted a second trump trick for Lauria; four down for -1100.

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Kaplan	Bocchi	Delforge	Duboin
	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♦	4♣	All Pass	

Bocchi was not content with a mere 3♣ rebid, preferring to jump to 4♣. This was never going to cost as much as 4♥, of course, but a double would have at least reduced the Belgian loss. Delforge passed as East and after a bit of thought from Duboin he also passed. The spotlight was on Kaplan but after a serious study he passed also. Three rounds of clubs left de-

Both Souths played 4♥, Duboin after a 3♣ opening from Delforge, Labaere after a 3NT (pre-empt in a minor) opening from Lauria. As at many other tables, the opening lead was the ♣4 to the king and ace.

After the 3♣ opening, it looks entirely reasonable to try to ruff the ♣9 in dummy at trick two and that is what Duboin did. Now West usually ruffed in and led a spade to East's ace, no doubt having been given a useful signal on the second club. From there the contract is two down. But Kaplan failed to ruff the club, discarding a spade. Now Duboin could ruff in dummy, play ace and ruff a diamond then ace and queen of trumps. He lost just two trumps and a spade; +420.

West also defeats the contract if he pitches a diamond at trick two as declarer has no way back to hand without allowing the defensive cross-ruff to occur.

After a four-level pre-empt, the probabilities are that clubs are 8-1. Now it is not so clear that the above line is correct, though it was the one chosen in the other room for two down

**SAM LECKIE ON BUTLER RANKING**

Discussing the Butler ranking list with Bulletin Editor, Jean Paul Meyer I said to him

*Perhaps would it be better to mention only the pairs over average, I would find it embarrassing to discover my name low down the list*

*I would not, he replied*

*Why not? I asked him*

*Well it would mean I would be good enough to play in it*  
TOUCHE Jean Paul

when Versace defended accurately; -100 and 11 IMPs to Italy. The winning line is to simply play ace and queen of trumps at tricks two and three and hope to get rid of the losing club on either spades or diamonds. On the actual lie, either suit would duly oblige.

There was one more swing board in the set and again the swing went to the host nation.

Board 1  
Dealer North; Love All

<p>♠ A 8 7 6 ♥ K 6 5 ♦ K 5 ♣ 8 6 4 2</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W     E	S	<p>♠ K Q 4 ♥ 8 4 3 ♦ J 7 ♣ A K Q 9 7</p>	<p>♠ 10 2 ♥ Q 7 ♦ A 10 9 8 6 4 3 ♣ J 5</p>
N						
W     E						
S						
	<p>♠ J 9 5 3 ♥ A J 10 9 2 ♦ Q 2 ♣ 10 3</p>					

In the Open Room, the Italians had a free run to 2♥ by North after Bocchi had opened a strong no trump. Delforge led ace and another diamond and Kaplan found the low spade switch which should hold the contract to eight tricks, setting up the spade ruff. But East played ♠2, suggesting an odd number, and when Bocchi took the heart finesse Kaplan switched to a club. Declarer could now draw trumps and all his spades went away on the clubs; +170.

In the Closed Room, Lauria came in with 3♦ over the INT opening. Labaere doubled for takeout and Versace tried 3NT. However, when Labaere doubled again, Versace decided that discretion was the better part of valour and ran to 4♦. Nobody felt like doubling that and after three rounds of clubs, ruffed and over-ruffed, and a spade switch, the contract drifted two off; -100 but 2 IMPs to Italy who led 32-0 at the half.

In the Ladies match between Great Britain and Russia, Sandra Landy bid in typically aggressive fashion to 4♥ as South with East keeping mysteriously silent despite the opportunity to come in over Michele Handley's 1♣ opening. You would think that 4♥ had no real chance of success but the Russian West had had no help in the auction from her partner and with a blind lead eventually selected ace and another spade. It looked to Sandra as though spades were 4-2 and she played for her only chance. She won the second spade in dummy and played three rounds of clubs, hoping to pitch a diamond. East ruffed the third club low and Sandra over-ruffed, cashed ♥A and crossed to dummy in spades to play another winning club on which she threw a diamond. Nicely played and 11 IMPs to Great Britain as the same contract failed by two tricks in the other room after a diamond lead. When Landy led the third club, East should have ruffed with the queen. Then the contract is still defeated.

## FORECASTS

by Tipster

To enjoy a pleasant day you should bet on the first matches as follows:

### LADIES

<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>HUNGARY</b>	<b>1</b>
France seems to be on the right track, But beware, Hungary should not be disregarded		
<b>FINLAND</b>	<b>DENMARK</b>	<b>2</b>
Denmark hope to regain their usual form		
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	<b>RUSSIA</b>	<b>X</b>
Tricky		
<b>IRELAND</b>	<b>PORTUGAL</b>	<b>X</b>
Do not spend too much money on that one		
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>ICELAND</b>	<b>1</b>
With confidence		
<b>ISRAEL</b>	<b>BELGIUM</b>	<b>2</b>
Gambling on form		
<b>GERMANY</b>	<b>SPAIN</b>	<b>2</b>
The Spanish ladies seem to be in splendid form		
<b>MONACO</b>	<b>TURKEY</b>	<b>1</b>
Little Monaco shows evident improvement		
<b>ITALY</b>	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	<b>2</b>
God is Italian but only for the men's benefit this year		
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b>	<b>2</b>
A classic affair		
<b>CROATIA</b>	<b>GREECE</b>	<b>2</b>
Our forecast will sadden many		

### OPEN

Best bets of the day, **LEBANON** v **LIECHTENSTEIN**, **ROMANIA** v **SAN MARINO**, **NETHERLANDS** v **ESTONIA**, **TURKEY** v **SLOVENIA**, **SWEDEN** v **YUGOSLAVIA**, **GREAT BRITAIN** v **BULGARIA**, **ICELAND** v **BELARUS**, **FRANCE** v **CZECH REP**, **ITALY** v **LITHUANIA**.

I also like the look of **DENMARK** against **AUSTRIA**, **POLAND** to win in a close match against **HUNGARY**, **NORWAY** to defeat **FINLAND** and **SPAIN** to finish ahead of **GERMANY**.

Gamble on draws, (16/14 or closer).

**BELGIUM** v **RUSSIA**, **UKRAINE** v **CROATIA**, **SWITZERLAND** v **GREECE**, and **ISRAEL** v **IRELAND**.

ENJOY YOUR DAY. ON FRIDAY WE SHALL SEE HOW WE FARED TOMORROW BEFORE WHAT PROMISES TO BE A BIG WEEKEND.

# THE 3NT DAY

by Dani Vikor (Hungary)

People who know me, know also that I am a lazy player, which means that I'm almost never declarer.

But yesterday I had to play two difficult 3NT contracts, which were interesting enough to talk about.

Round 6; Board 19

Dealer South; East-West Game

	♠ 6										
	♥ 9 5										
	♦ A K 9 8 2										
	♣ Q 7 6 4 2										
♠ K 8 5 4	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A J 7
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 8 6		♥ A K 7 3									
♦ J 10 7		♦ Q 5 4									
♣ J 10 8 3		♣ A K 5									
	♠ Q 10 9 3 2										
	♥ Q J 10 4 2										
	♦ 6 3										
	♣ 9										

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Dble	Pass
1♠	2♣	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The opening lead was the six of diamonds.

I played the jack from dummy, which won the trick. I tried the jack of clubs, small, small, nine. It looked like a singleton, as the opponents were playing inverted count, and the nine might be an important card. However, if North has ten cards in the minors, it is probable that the queen of spades is wrong.

## BUTLER RANKING

Everyday we publish the butler ranking – and the players seem to appreciate this competition inside THE COMPETITION. It will become more important towards the end of the Championships as the first three pairs will be invited to represent Europe in China for the Marlboro Cup.

The final ranking will be established on the basis of the average OF IMPSWON PER BOARD. To be classified a pair must have played at least one third of the boards, that is to say 272 deals.

But if I can rectify the count, South can doubtless be squeezed.

So I played a diamond and North cashed three tricks in the suit. It wouldn't help him to not take his tricks as I could then endplay South.

Even so it was also all over. If North plays the last diamond, I can squeeze South, and if not, South will be endplayed.

Round 7; Board 4

Dealer West; Game All

	♠ 10 7 6 5										
	♥ 8 5										
	♦ 10										
	♣ Q J 9 8 7 4										
♠ A Q 4 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 9 8
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 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										

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led a heart and I was a little surprised as it was likely that my opponents had a good idea of my distribution. Why did he not lead a club?

The answer is easy, he had few clubs, but a good hand. If it is true, he should have the ace of diamonds. The odds appear simple, spades might be 3-3, or I have to score a trick with the king of diamonds. How should I do that?

I have to cut their communications in clubs, then play spades and hope to endplay South.

So I took the queen of hearts, and played a small club from dummy, taken by North's Queen. After some thought North played another heart, so I won, and played another small club, South winning with the king. He played another heart and I was sure, that my plan was going to work!

I cashed my major suit winners, but to my surprise, South was the one who showed out. I seemed to be destroyed, but I played the ace of clubs, and a diamond. When North played the ten I had no choice but to play low, and South was endplayed having been reduced to the AQJ of diamonds by the one suit squeeze.

## It think it should be we ...

Herman De Wael (Belgium)

Board 11

Open Series; Ireland / Sweden

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

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♥	3♣	1♥
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
All Pass			Dble

The double was not intended for any lead, except when holding five diamonds to the king.

That's what North led though, and they took ace, king and jack of diamonds.

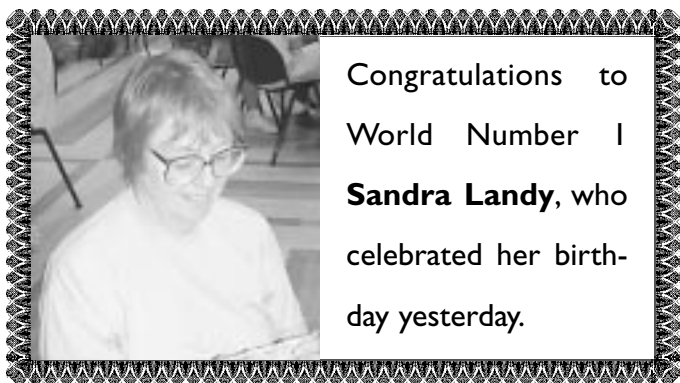
Now there South was, defending three No Trump doubled, with seven tricks to cash. What do you think South led next?

The... spade ten!

Of course you know that partner stops the spades, and you the clubs, and declarer does not make any more than six tricks.

So North asks, 'Why didn't you play the hearts, I have the queen!'

At which point Anderssen interrupts, 'Excuse me, I think it should be we who should be arguing!'



Congratulations to  
World Number 1  
**Sandra Landy**, who  
celebrated her birth-  
day yesterday.

## Dangerous Lead or Lead of the Tournament?

Tjolpe Flodqvist (Sweden)

We were going to make a comment about the fine imposed on the Swedish Open team reported in Appeal No.1. However, this article makes the point in a rather better way!

There have been quite a few situations revolving around leads and leading conventions, not marked properly on the convention cards at the beginning of this tournament. One case from the third round match between Slovenia and Sweden was this:

Dealer North; North-South Game

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

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5NT	pass	6♦	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

Peter Fredin of the Swedish team had to find a lead against the grand slam and nobody would probably have criticised a 'safe' trump. However, Peter is not a friend of such habits and he analysed the bidding before making his choice.

West had bid very strongly, more or less on his own, while East had not shown much enthusiasm in the proceedings. Peter therefore judged it more or less 100% that West had strong hearts and clubs and that East did not have a heart honour. So he decided that it would not harm him to attack with a heart away from his queen, which seemed so well placed for the declarer, with the hope of talking declarer out of his finesse.

Peter chose the nine of hearts and declarer went down after having tried to drop the queen that supposedly was in the North hand. There was much joy among the Swedish supporters and players over this Lead of the Tournament until the Swedish Captain announced that their opponents had filed an appeal against the lead of the nine of hearts, that was not properly marked on the convention card, their stated methods being third and fifth...

(As a matter of fact, one or two people actually believed the Captain!)

# Watch out for the Belgian Ladies

by Herman De Wael

In reply to all of you who haven't asked yet, I am not the captain of the Belgian Ladies' team this year.

That is because this is not a team of tourists, and they are not in line for any wooden spoons. Tipster beware, they are a real contender for a top ten spot, if not for a place in Tunisia.

For starters, four of our players are members of teams playing in the Belgian Open teams first division.

(How many other countries have four Ladies playing in their top division?)

This team was first formed for last years European Union Championships, where they ended third behind very strong Austrian and French teams.

When they announced they would play again this time, all opposition was silenced and they did not have to play any selection. So they entered the Open teams National selection, and reached the final, where they were only narrowly beaten by the Open team that is here. In the final warm-up, the team beat all comers (including the Open team) to win a team tournament with top Belgian participation.

Star player **Valèrie Polet** is a regular in the Belgian Open Teams play-offs, winning the teams title once and the national Open Pairs three times. She was a member of the Belgian Mixed Team that won the European Union title in Athens, where they won seven matches in a row by 25, to claim the title with a match to spare. She lost count of the number of her National Ladies' and Mixed titles.

She and her partner **Isabelle Dewasme** are French nationals, but both have lived in Brussels for many years.

**Caroline Vandebossche** has played in the Belgian Ladies' team before (at Killarney in 1991) and has last year impressed everyone in Belgium by taking a new team into the top division and reaching the play-offs. She is also from Brussels, and perfectly bilingual.

Her partner **Veronique Driessens** is the youngest of the lot. She is married to Frans Jeunen, a member of the Open team here. She is from Antwerp, lives with her husband in Limburg, but plays her bridge in a French speaking team (that also features an Icelander) in Brussels, and also across the border in the Netherlands' team competition, in the third division.

Frans's sister Carine is also here, as a flying reserve. She was a member of the Belgian Ladies' teams of Menton and Villamoura. She is the secretary of the Flemish Bridge League.

Isabelle and Caroline's life partners, **Bernard Dehaye** and **Hervè Huntz** feature as co-captain and co-coach. Isabelle and Bernard are expecting their firstborn next November.

Valèrie and Veronique have already proved their capabilities in the Ladies' Pairs, where they finished thirteenth. Here is Valèrie at work in the first round of the Ladies' Pairs: (This deal was already mentioned by Tony Gordon in an earlier bulletin)

Board 14; Dealer East; None

♠ K 2 ♥ Q J 9 8 7 ♦ 10 8 6 5 3 ♣ 8	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; position: relative;"> <span style="position: absolute; top: 5px; left: 15px;">N</span> <span style="position: absolute; top: 5px; right: 15px;">E</span> <span style="position: absolute; bottom: 5px; left: 15px;">W</span> <span style="position: absolute; bottom: 5px; right: 15px;">S</span> </div>	♠ Q ♥ 6 4 2 ♦ K 7 ♣ A Q 9 6 4 3 2	♠ J 10 9 6 3 ♥ 5 3 ♦ A J 4 ♣ 10 7 5
	♠ A 8 7 5 4 ♥ A K 10 ♦ Q 9 2 ♣ K J		

The bidding :

West	North	East	South
	<b>Veronique</b>		<b>Valèrie</b>
		Pass	1NT
2♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	2NT <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

- <sup>(1)</sup> Hearts
- <sup>(2)</sup> Lebensohl

Lead: Queen of Hearts

Valèrie took the heart ace and played spade ace and ruff, a club to the king and another spade ruff. Club to the jack and now a diamond. When the king was beaten and a heart returned (a diamond would have killed communications), the double squeeze was clear. Another spade ruff and the club ace (heart discard) resulted in the following position:

♠ - ♥ 6 ♦ 7 ♣ Q	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; position: relative;"> <span style="position: absolute; top: 5px; left: 15px;">N</span> <span style="position: absolute; top: 5px; right: 15px;">E</span> <span style="position: absolute; bottom: 5px; left: 15px;">W</span> <span style="position: absolute; bottom: 5px; right: 15px;">S</span> </div>	♠ J ♥ - ♦ J 4 ♣ -	♠ - ♥ J ♦ 10 8 ♣ -
	♠ 8 ♥ - ♦ Q 9 ♣ -		



On the club queen, East must hold the spade and West the heart, so Valérie made her two diamonds.

An additional joke:

While roofreading this article in the press room today, I was approached by the chairman of the Appeal's Committee who needed a computer for some important official docu-

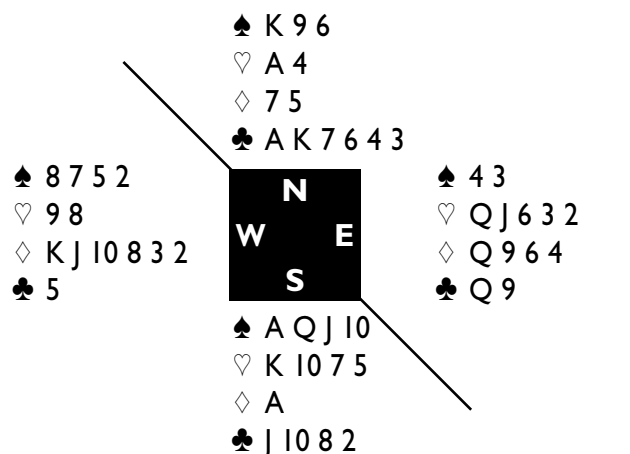
ment (or so at least he told me). After giving up my position, he sat down, only to hear an official announcement proclaim: 'will Steen Moeller please come to the systems desk?'. The whole press room was impressed with my connections at the systems desk. In fact, it was indeed my connections, as it was the Belgian captains introducing some last minute changes!

## Appeal No.3

**Open Teams Round 6**  
*Reported by Daniel Auby (scribe)*  
**About: Misinformation**

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

Board 13  
**Dealer North; Game All**



West	North	East	South
Terraneo	Johansson	Bieder	Arnarsson
	1♣	1♥	Dble
2♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
2♦	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

**The Bidding:** N-S play Standard American with five card majors. South's first double was alerted and explained as negative at both sides of the screen. West's 2♣, the bid in question, was alerted by West to South as a transfer to diamonds. East did not alert this bid to North.

**TD:** N-S called for the T.D. claiming they were damaged.  
**N-S:** North asked East about the 2♣-bid and East explained it as natural. If North had known 2♣ was a transfer he would have bid 3♣ immediately. After North's pass over 2♣ South

believed North was weaker than what was actually the case.  
**E-W:** The 2♣-bid was in fact a transfer to diamonds.

The T.D. changed the score to 7♣ making.

### APPEAL

E-W appealed.

**E-W:** N-S found a fit and had a cuebid-sequence and had a lot of space. N-S did not even try to find a grand slam. NS had no difficulty understanding the meaning of North's 3♣-bid.

**N-S:** When North got the explanation that 2♣ was natural, a double by him would show a strong balanced hand and 3♣ would be a cuebid with a strong hand. From North's point of view he could not show clubs on this round of bidding. From South's point of view seven was never a question after North failed to bid a natural 3♣ over 2♣. When opponents overcall they play that a pass show lesser values than a direct bid so North could not have the hand he actually had. From then on the bidding sequence became a bit shaky. South did not believe the trump suit was firmly established until he bid 6♣. 3♥ showed values in hearts. 3♠, again from South's point of view, denied a diamond stopper and perhaps indicated that North was interested in a spade contract on 4-3. South was afraid of ending up in spades and did not want to risk a 4NT-bid.

### THE COMMITTEE'S REASONS FOR THEIR RULING

East committed an infraction when he a) failed to alert West's bid of 2♣, b) when being asked about the meaning of this bid explained it as natural.

The committee believes in N-S's statement that given a correct explanation North would have bid 3♣ directly over 2♣. Then N-S would have had a fairly easy route to the grand slam. After North was misinformed about the meaning of the 2♣-bid, it was difficult, almost impossible, for him to describe his hand properly to his partner. And North himself was never in a position to take control of the bidding. Consequently N-S has been damaged by the misinformation.

By a small majority the committee judged it to be obvious that N-S were damaged by misinformation and that E-W should not have appealed.

### THE COMMITTEE'S RULING

The T.D.'s ruling is upheld.  
 The deposit is forfeited.

# CASA NOSTRA

Ci sono situazioni in cui aspettare non costa niente. Anzi, si possono acquisire informazioni necessarie, sentire che aria tira e poi decidere.

## Italia/Croazia

Board 17

Dich. Nord; Tutti in prima

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

	N	
O		E
	S	

♠ A D 9 4 2  
♥ 10  
♦ D 8  
♣ D 10 9 8 7

♠ F 10 6  
♥ R 6 3  
♦ A 7 5  
♣ A 6 5 4

♠ —  
♥ D 9 7 5 2  
♦ R F 10 9 6  
♣ R F 2

Guardate come è andata la licitazione al tavolo di **Buratti/Lanzarotti** pensando che se le carte di Est fossero capitate in mano a Bocchi o a Duboin sarebbe immediatamente scattata un'apertura automatica per sistema:

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
<b>Lanzarotti</b>		<b>Buratti</b>	
	Passo	Passo	1♠
Passo	3♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Passo	3♣
Passo	Passo	Contro <sup>(2)</sup>	Passo
4♥	Contro <sup>(3)</sup>	Fine	

- <sup>(1)</sup> corto a fiori ed appoggio a picche
- <sup>(2)</sup> è ora di entrare
- <sup>(3)</sup> e chi sono io, Babbo Natale?

Nord ha attaccato con il 3 di fiori per il Re del morto. Lan-

zarotti ha proseguito cuori per il Re e l'Asso di Nord che ha giocato picche, per il taglio del morto. Ora il dichiarante ha intavolato il Fante di quadri (**rimasto in presa**) ed il 10 di quadri (**Dama, Asso**). 6 di cuori per l'8 di Nord ed il 9 del morto e **6 di quadri per il 7** della mano. Un ulteriore impasse in atout ha archiviato la pratica con 4 Cuori contrate + 1. Pensate a Nord: il compagno ha aperto e gli avversari stanno giocando manche in un colore dove lui ha la quarta di due onori. Ed è pure in possesso di un singolo. Com'era quella storia di Babbo Natale?

Contro il Belgio la corsa azzurra comincia immediatamente:

Board 5

Dich. Nord; N/S in zona

♠ 10  
♥ A R D 7 6 2  
♦ 2  
♣ D F 10 9 7

	N	
O		E
	S	

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

♠ A 7 4 3  
♥ 4 3  
♦ A R D F 6 5  
♣ 6

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

In sala aperta:

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
<b>Kaplan</b>	<b>Bocchi</b>	<b>Delforge</b>	<b>Duboin</b>
	1♥	Passo	1♠
2♦	4♣	Fine	

Est ha iniziato con tre giri d'atout e Bocchi ha pagato due fiori, un quadri, un cuori ed un picche. Due down. Ma, a pensarci bene, è il minimo della pena. Infatti...  
Sala chiusa:

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
<b>Lauria</b>	<b>Van Middellem</b>	<b>Versace</b>	<b>Labaere</b>
	1♥	Passo	1♠
2♦	3♣	Passo	Passo
Contro	4♥	Contro	Fine

E qui la disposizione delle carte fa aumentare il conto: 1100 per l'Italia.

Immediatamente dopo c'è una mano che potrebbe essere pari, **dovrebbe** essere pari, ma una carta in controgiooco sposta una valanga di IMPs:

**9 to 14 August 1997**  
European Universities Bridge Championship  
**Palermo, Sicily**

**19 to 31 August 1997**  
European Universities Sports Championship  
**Palermo, Sicily**

Board 6  
Dich. Est; E/O in zona

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

E' una mano decisamente selvaggia. Si vede (la troverete ancora tra le pagine...).

Nell'open i due giocatori in SUD giocano 4 Cuori dopo l'apertura in barrage di Est. Sull'attacco singolo di fiori i due dichiaranti seguono la stessa linea, il ritorno di 9 nel colore tentando il taglio al morto. Qui le strade della difesa divergono. Un Ovest taglia, l'altro scarta. Il primo segna +50, il secondo -420. Il nostro è il primo...

## Pietro Bernasconi's prescription for insomniacs

Famous Swiss star player Pietro Bernasconi is here as Captain of the Switzerland Ladies team.

For those of you who have difficulties in falling asleep here is a problem that should keep you occupied for some time.

West	East
♠ K 10	♠ A 6 3 2
♥ 9 4 3 2	♥ A K Q
♦ A 9 5	♦ Q 3 2
♣ 9 4 3 2	♣ A K Q

### YOU JUST HAVE TO NAME ALL THE 26 MISSING CARDS SO THAT:

- 6 NT cannot be beaten on any lead played by West.
- 6 NT is beatable if played by East.
- 6 ♣ played by West makes only if West is allowed to lead to his own contract at the first trick.

### THE ANSWER WILL APPEAR IN THE BULLETIN BEFORE THE END OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

## The German Open Team

It is customary for the Captains of the German teams to provide a humorous presentation of their teams. This is the open squad.

### Christian Farwig

This year, Germany fields the youngest team in the history of the Open Championship.

The fiercest players in the team are **Andreas Holowski** (17) and **Tomasz Gotard** (15). We other teammates know very little of them. They came from nowhere, speak sparsely and at night, they disappear in the park.

The pair receiving most attention from our caring non-playing captain is **Wolfgang Rath** (12) and **Michael Tomski** (10 1/2). This is mainly due to the latter of those abled, but yet unsung heroes, nicknamed "Budgie". Most of the time, Budgie hides his face in his feathers because he fears that somebody have tried to hurt his fragile feelings. This sensitivity may be partly caused by his partner, who is as cosy as a log.

The third pair, coming from Hamburg in the high north of Germany, consists of **Christian Farwig** (9) and **Ralph Retzlaff** (6). Ralph is hoping for clonig technology to enable him playing at all four positions. We use to call him "Ralph", which is german for outstanding performer.

Last but not least comes the nonplaying captain, **Michael Elinescu** (87), of transylvanian origin. "Vlad", as his friends call him, was the personal medician of Ceausescu for more than 50 years and had to leave Romania after screwing up some beauty surgery with the wive of the conductor. This deed is said to be of no little importance for the uprising of Romanian people some years ago.

Despite our results not yet revealing it, we aim to qualify for Hammamet, although this means to spend yet another 14 days together. But we hope to impress female Bridgeplayers this way.

## The European Journalist Pairs

A single session Pairs event for members of IBPA will be held on Saturday, 21st June, between 1.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. (Venue to be announced).

There will be a charge of 15,000 lire per pair to play. All players must be members of IBPA. Partners do not need to be of the same nationality.

# In Spectacular Fashion!

by Jos Jacobs (Netherlands)

In Wednesday night's match, two successive boards really produced fireworks at many tables. The ladies match between Spain and the host country was no exception. Here are those boards: numbers 5 and 6.

down three: 800 for Italy and 11 imps.

As it happened, this was the only swing to the hosts in a very one-sided match. On the very next board, the Spaniards returned the compliment with interest:

Board 5  
Dealer North; North-South Game

♠ A 7 4 3 ♥ 4 3 ♦ A K Q J 6 5 ♣ 6	♠ 10 ♥ A K Q 7 6 2 ♦ 2 ♣ Q J 10 9 7 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">N</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">W</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">E</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">S</span> </div>	♠ 9 8 6 2 ♥ J 10 9 8 ♦ 7 ♣ A K 3 2	♠ K Q J 5 ♥ 5 ♦ 10 9 8 4 3 ♣ 8 5 4
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Board 6  
Dealer East; East-West Game

♠ J 8 7 4 3 2 ♥ K 10 9 6 ♦ K 2 ♣ 4	♠ K 10 9 6 ♥ 3 ♦ A Q 10 9 8 6 5 ♣ 3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">N</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">W</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">E</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">S</span> </div>	♠ A ♥ 2 ♦ 7 4 3 ♣ K J 10 8 7 6 5 2	♠ Q 5 ♥ A Q J 8 7 5 4 ♦ J ♣ A Q 9
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## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Urruticoechea</i>	<i>Gianardi</i>	<i>Moratalla</i>	<i>Rovera</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♦	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♦	3♥	All Pass	

East led her diamond. West won the ace and returned her club. East cashed the AK and gave partner a ruff. West then carefully cashed her ♠A first before returning a diamond to promote a further trump trick for her partner. Down three, 300 to Spain.

If you think this was a good result, you could not have been more wrong. Even the datum score in the Butler competition was not reached here. In the Closed Room, Italy did much better:

Believe it or not, the contract in the Open Room was the same as on the previous deal. This was the auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Urruticoechea</i>	<i>Gianardi</i>	<i>Moratalla</i>	<i>Rovera</i>
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	3♣	3♥
All Pass			

On a club lead, declarer somehow managed to go one down, 50 to Italy.

This certainly was not a good result for Italy, as can be deduced from the Butler score once again. In the Closed Room, the Spanish ladies had a simple, but quite dramatic view on the NS hands:

West	North	East	South
<i>Olivieri</i>	<i>Cafranga</i>	<i>Golin</i>	<i>Frances</i>
		5♣	5♥
Dble	6♦	Dble	All Pass

Showing no inhibitions at all, the Spanish ladies bid in their usual uncomplicated style to hit a very big jackpot on this one. The contract was guaranteed by the pre-war Bank of England as soon as the ♦K was doubleton onside. Spain thus chalked up 1090 for their courage (or experience in Rubber Bridge) which gave them a fully deserved 15 IMP swing on their way to an 81-31 or 24-6 victory. When you look at the way they are handling freaks like this one, it's only too likely that they will figure at the top of the standings (or thereabout) for a long time to come here in Montecatini!

West	North	East	South
<i>Olivieri</i>	<i>Cafranga</i>	<i>Golin</i>	<i>Frances</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠
3♦	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

The more sporting overcall by Gabriella Olivieri put the pressure on North. She could not afford to pass, but it was only too evident that going on bidding carried a certain amount of risk. Anyway, all might have gone well had South left her in peace in 4♣, but when she did not, Golin expressed her views on the proceedings by a rather one-sided double. When her partner produced two tricks as well, the contract was

## How do you score 290?

by David Burn (Great Britain)

Many years ago, I played in an unimportant tournament with Richard Granville, who won the Junior European Championship in a team that included Michael Rosenberg, but who sadly no longer plays at the highest level. "Granny", as he was known, had one minor weakness in his game – a penchant for speculative penalty doubles. His usual comment after conceding -670 was: "Well, I knew it wasn't making any overtricks." Occasionally he would be wrong about this, whereupon a Cray I super-computer had to be used to calculate the rough magnitude of the score that we had conceded. The technical term "Granville sacrifice" is still in use in Britain; it had its origins in a post mortem at Cambridge University when Graham Kirby, Granny's partner, apologised for not having saved in Five Diamonds over an enemy Four Spades. "But Five Diamonds costs 1100", we said. "Yes", said Kirby, "but Four Spades cost 1190."

Granny and I were faring reasonably well in our tournament when the opponents had an unconvincing auction that ended in 4NT. Granny, of course, doubled "on the bidding", and the opponents redoubled for similar reasons, but on more solid grounds since we failed to register a single trick. Without hesitation, Granny wrote down -2270 on his scorecard (the bonus for a redoubled contract was only 50 in those days). "You worked that out quickly!" said an opponent. "No, I didn't", said Granny. "I conceded the same score three days ago."

Playing with Richard, one rapidly discovered exactly which scores at bridge were possible and which were not. Even Granny, though, never found a way to concede exactly 290 points, and one would have thought that the score would forever remain out of reach. Now, however, it is entirely possible to register plus or minus 290. You have had enough time to think about it by now – can you see a way?

Well, suppose that you are playing in the European Championships. An opponent makes a two-suited overcall, explained to you as the majors. He actually has the red suits, but your side is no longer able to bid 4♣ because you don't believe that you have the spade suit. You end up in a ridiculous 3NT, two down when the opponents cash the diamonds you did not know they had. You ask for a ruling, and the Director decides that with correct information, your side would easily have reached 4♣. Since the most favourable likely result is 680 in this contract, you are awarded that score. Your opponents appeal.

Now, it happens that 4♣ requires a two-way guess for the ♣Q. If you get it right, you will indeed make a couple of overtricks for 680 – if you get it wrong, though, the opponents will be able to cash out for one down. The fact that an opponent has the red suits turns out to be of no help in guessing the position of the ♣Q, so the Appeals Committee – quite rightly – decides that you would always reach 4♣, that you would make it half the time, and that you would go one down the other half.

They therefore **award you the score of plus 290 – the average of plus 680 and minus 100**. Are they correct to do so? It is my firm opinion that they are not, and I hope to explain why in what follows.

Teams of four matches are scored by International Match Points, not by aggregate scoring. In the case of a split score, I believe that what should happen is this: each of the results awarded by the appeals committee should be converted to IMPs against the result obtained at the other table, and the resulting IMP scores should be averaged according to the probability of each result as determined by the Committee. In the case above, suppose that the result at the other table was 140 in a spade part score. Your team, according to the Appeals Committee, would have gained 11 IMPs half the time for plus 680, and lost 6 IMPs the other half of the time for -100. You should therefore be awarded 2.5 IMPs, rounded up to 3 because you are the non-offending side. Instead, your arbitrary and wholly impossible score of 290 is worth 4 IMPs.

The situation is more dramatic when a very high score enters the equation. Suppose that due to misinformation, you play in a hopeless 7NT instead of 7♥ on a two-way finesse. The Appeals Committee determines that with correct information, you would have reached 7♥. You would have made it half the time and gone down the other half. The result at the other table was 6♥+1. What should your IMP score be?

Since in "normal" circumstances, your side would have gained 13 IMPs half the time and lost 17 IMPs the other half, it is surely equitable that your loss should be 2 IMPs. Indeed, I can think of no argument whatsoever for any other outcome. But, using the method of averaging the split aggregate scores, you are going to be awarded +1060 (the rounded-up average of +2210 and -100), and you are going to lose 9 IMPs on the deal! This simply isn't fair – this simply isn't bridge.

I write this article having just read the report in Thursday's Bulletin of an Appeals Committee decision which involved a misinformation case. The Committee decided that with correct information, East-West would have reached 4♣ (which seems highly probable), but that declarer would have made his contract no more than 20% of the time (which is arguable, but certainly the Committee appeared to have given full consideration to the arguments presented, and to have reached an entirely proper and reasonable verdict). So far, so good. What then happened was that the Committee calculated as follows:

80% of -100 (4♣-1) is -80.

20% of +620 (4♣ made) is +124.

The result should therefore be adjusted to EW +44, rounded in favour of the non-offenders to +50.

Now, this makes no sense. Since EW were going to play the hand, there was simply no way in which they could score +50 on the deal. I do not know the result at the other table, but let us assume that it was 4♣-1. There was, then, a way in which East-West could achieve a flat board (4♣-1), which the Committee decided would happen 80% of the time. There was a way in which they could gain 12 IMPs (4♣ made), which the Committee decided would happen 20% of the time. Their equity in the board was therefore +2.4 IMPs, and that (rounded up to 3 IMPs in their favour as non-offenders) was what they should have been awarded. Instead, their arbitrary and wholly impossible +50 gained them 4 IMPs against their team-mates' +100.

I don't know how many Appeals Committees I have sat on in my time (it's a small number of thousands). I do know that it is a miserable and thankless task – whatever you do, someone is going to be upset about it, and most of the time everyone will curse you. (Once, when North-South had taken advantage of unauthorised information to reach a game which East-West, who had taken leave of their senses, doubled and permitted to make, I awarded both pairs a bottom, receiving four fewer Christmas cards that year as a result.) I hope that the Committee in this case will realise, then, that I write not as one of the thousands of players who invariably grumble about every decision that Committees make. Instead, I write as one of the outcast breed of umpires and referees everywhere, working as we all are to make the administration of the Laws open, honest, and – above all – consistent.

# Butler Ranking List - After 11 Maches

Names		Country	Boards	Pt/B	Names		Country	Boards	Pt/B
1. Balicki C	Zmudzinski A	POLAND	144	0.851	59. Cengiz N	Senguler Z	TURKEY	96	-0.107
2. Lauria L	Versace A	ITALY	180	0.793	60. Valeanu V	Valeanu N	ROMANIA	252	-0.110
3. Bocchi N	Duboin G	ITALY	180	0.762	61. Levin A	Shacham E	ISRAEL	192	-0.122
4. Helgemo G	Helness T	NORWAY	180	0.704	62. Catzeflis C	Piedra F	SWITZERLAND	144	-0.123
5. Baldursson J	Thorbjorn S	ICELAND	216	0.700	63. Levy R	Teylouni F	SWITZERLAND	168	-0.126
6. Goded F	Lanteron L	SPAIN	168	0.695	64. Duong H	Yalcin T	SWITZERLAND	144	-0.139
7. Fredin P	Heriksson M	SWEDEN	180	0.637	65. Kholomeev V	Khiouppenen J	RUSSIA	156	-0.146
8. Zlotov D	Petrounine A	RUSSIA	192	0.611	66. Bieder W	Terraneo C	AUSTRIA	192	-0.157
9. Kotsiopoulos T	Sapounakis A	GREECE	156	0.604	67. Simon J	Wernie A	AUSTRIA	144	-0.157
10. Arnarson G	Jonsson T	ICELAND	180	0.598	68. Kannavos P	Militsopouloj	GREECE	156	-0.161
11. Chemla P	Perron M	FRANCE	180	0.587	69. Delforge C	Kaplan A	BELGIUM	144	-0.169
12. Auken J	Koch-Palmund	DENMARK	156	0.576	70. Labaere A	Van Middeltem G	BELGIUM	192	-0.181
13. Jeunen F	Backles JM	BELGIUM	192	0.505	71. Matei C	Lungu V	ROMANIA	252	-0.182
14. Westerhof J	Jiansen P	NETHERLANDS	192	0.495	72. Andersson L	Gothe H	SWEDEN	180	-0.207
15. Gulyas D	Szalay G	HUNGARY	168	0.482	73. Kowalski A	Romanski J	POLAND	144	-0.207
16. Tredinnick G	Tredinnick S	GREAT BRITAIN	168	0.469	74. Nasr C	Baroudi N	LEBANON	180	-0.224
17. Hackett Ju	Hackett Ja	GREAT BRITAIN	180	0.441	75. Drobulis J	Staknevicus A	LITHUANIA	216	-0.251
18. Jansma J	Van Kleef J	NETHERLANDS	180	0.404	76. Bahnik P	Mráz T	CZECH REP.	168	-0.270
19. Schaeffer L	Andersen M	DENMARK	144	0.393	77. Jorgensen A	Thorvaldsson M	ICELAND	132	-0.312
20. Kwiecen M	Pszczola J	POLAND	192	0.392	78. Filippi F	Bettini R	SAN MARINO	180	-0.340
21. Antunes M	Mascarenhas N	PORTUGAL	168	0.382	79. Pimenta C	Goncalves J	PORTUGAL	192	-0.356
22. Buratti A	Lanzarotti M	ITALY	168	0.368	80. Caric A	Caric J	CROATIA	144	-0.367
23. Calderwood G	Shek D	GREAT BRITAIN	132	0.344	81. Fiorini F	Mazzolani C	SAN MARINO	180	-0.374
24. Knap A	Wasik A	SPAIN	180	0.334	82. Soroldoni M	Croci A	SAN MARINO	168	-0.379
25. Eidi M	Harfouche G	LEBANON	228	0.332	83. Sver N	Marinkovic P	CROATIA	156	-0.381
26. Juuri-Oja J	Kiema O	FINLAND	168	0.316	84. Laanemae T	Karpov M	ESTONIA	240	-0.385
27. Grotheim G	Aa T	NORWAY	144	0.306	85. Hoogenkamp E	Verhees L	NETHERLANDS	156	-0.388
28. Brogeland B	Seelensminde E	NORWAY	156	0.294	86. Cuhadar E	Cengiz N	TURKEY	120	-0.399
29. Blakset L	Christiansen	DENMARK	180	0.285	87. Paliulis Z	Vainikonis V	LITHUANIA	144	-0.401
30. Dogan I	Sevin I	TURKEY	96	0.270	88. Rummel A	Kalma I	ESTONIA	216	-0.425
31. Taschiyan E	Popov I	BULGARIA	180	0.233	89. Barantive N	Ivanov I	BULGARIA	156	-0.428
32. Levy A	Mari C	FRANCE	180	0.226	90. Passarinho J	Oliveira M	PORTUGAL	168	-0.511
33. Hanlon T	McGann H	IRELAND	228	0.192	91. Rojko S	Pavlin M	SLOVENIA	240	-0.568
34. Gotard T	Holowski A	GERMANY	168	0.186	92. Gezginer S	Dogan I	TURKEY	120	-0.569
35. Ga P	Winkler G	HUNGARY	168	0.178	93. Avdeev E	Gladys E	UKRAINE	144	-0.576
36. Parezanin D	Djuricic B	YUGOSLAVIA	192	0.160	94. Tyla A	Vaidotas R	LITHUANIA	168	-0.579
37. Farwig C	Retzlaff R	GERMANY	192	0.157	95. Klemencic G	Ambroz	SLOVENIA	240	-0.698
38. Diklic D	Miladin I	CROATIA	180	0.152	96. Elsinen A	Koistinen K	FINLAND	156	-0.739
39. Trendafilov	Karaivanov K	BULGARIA	192	0.131	97. Medushevuskii	Gradouski O	BELARUS	204	-0.772
40. Fallenius B	Nilslund M	SWEDEN	168	0.121	98. Fahs B	Hamdan F	LEBANON	120	-0.773
41. Zack S	Braunstein A	ISRAEL	132	0.111	99. Arnaboldi S	Turletti G	LICHTENSTEIN	228	-0.826
42. Salomaa M	Viitasalo P	FINLAND	156	0.106	100. Carrol J	Garvey T	IRELAND	132	-1.133
43. Babsch A	Umshaus P	AUSTRIA	192	0.084	<b>PAIRS WHO DID NOT PLAY 1/3 OF HANDS</b>				
44. Fort T	Volehin V	CZECH REP.	168	0.063	1. Oarezanin D	Juhas A	YUGOSLAVIA	36	1.719
45. Mikhaylenko V	Tolstyak K	UKRAINE	192	0.015	2. Teylouni F	Yalcin T	SWITZERLAND	12	0.808
46. Volkov A	Mentsev A	UKRAINE	192	0.013	3. Popescu C	Valeanu V	ROMANIA	12	0.700
47. Gromov A	Choudnev A	RUSSIA	120	0.013	4. Feranchuk I	Medushevuskii	BELARUS	60	0.215
48. Rath W	Tomski M	GERMANY	168	-0.006	5. Djuricic B	Juhas A	YUGOSLAVIA	36	-0.408
49. Cabiati S	Piazza R	LIECHTENSTEIN	216	-0.016	6. Levenko V	Kobin J	ESTONIA	24	-0.575
50. Sotniku A	Basalyga V	BELARUS	264	-0.017	7. Cesana B	Palmieri C	LIECHTENSTEIN	60	-0.630
51. Kalish A	Podgor L	ISRAEL	204	-0.019	8. Arnaboldi S	Cabiati S	LIECHTENSTEIN	12	-0.642
52. Slipcevic N	Radisic G	YUGOSLAVIA	240	-0.024	9. Gezginer S	Senguler Z	TURKEY	72	-0.678
53. Svoboda O	Kurka J	CZECH REP.	192	-0.033	10. Choudnev A	Khiouppenen J	RUSSIA	12	-0.883
54. Mouiel H	Multon F	FRANCE	168	-0.035	11. Catzeflis C	Duong H	SWITZERLAND	12	-1.133
55. Garvey D	O'Brien M	IRELAND	168	-0.064	12. Cuhadar E	Senguler Z	TURKEY	24	-1.367
56. Lambrinos A	Filios A	GREECE	168	-0.076	13. Radisic G	Juhas A	YUGOSLAVIA	24	-1.417
57. Vikor D	Lakatos P	HUNGARY	192	-0.096	14. Piazza R	Turletti G	LIECHTENSTEIN	12	-2.275
58. Torres J	Frances A	SPAIN	180	-0.102	15. Dobroiu C	Popescu C	ROMANIA	12	-2.642