



Bulletin 6

## DAILY BULLETIN

Thursday, 23 March 2000

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# Only three matches to the cut

For teams still in contention, this morning will be crucial with just three matches to play to reach the semi-finals, which will begin at 16.30.

The leaders after nine matches are a Swiss and French combination — **ZIMMERMANN**; their score of 173 gives them an impressive average of over 19VP per match.

Only two points behind, a German team, **MAY-BACH** is second.

Then comes in third place the Portuguese-German association, **CAPUCHO** with 166 points. Next is the English squad, **ROBERTS** with 163, just one point ahead of **SANGLIER**, France.

### VU-GRAPH

Today "Thursday 16.30"  
Semi-Final — 32 Boards — Level I

### ALL PLAYERS

All the players are cordially invited **today, Thursday 23rd March**, to enjoy a complementary buffet including Italian Cheese and Ham and an assortment of different Salamis.

This will be held in front of the bar on the ground floor **immediately after the end of play at around 8.00 pm**.  
Please join us!!!

### PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY

In order that players can attend the Prize Giving Ceremony, the **start** of the teams on Friday the 24th will be, as scheduled, at **10.00 am** (except for the start of the Finalist Teams which will be at **9.30 am**).

Immediately at the end of play at **1.30 pm** the **PASTA PARTY** will be ready in front of the bar.

We will be waiting for **all Players** at the **Prize Giving Ceremony** which will be held in the Auditorium (main playing room — ground floor) at **2.30 pm** precisely.

Thank you for your cooperation!

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XEROX

# MIXED Round Two TEAMS

## Scotland v Rest of World

In Tuesday's second round, at table three an interesting-looking match was scheduled. For the first time ever, a team was playing under the flag of Scotland in a European Championship. They had to face a very transnational team: Portuguese teaming up with Germans, but...

The first board meets very well with the dreaded qualification: 'A typical computer hand.' This at least was the players' comment after the deal was played. Apparently, it does not matter any more if the boards are dealt at the table or not.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Capucho	Steel	Lara	McQuaker
4♥	1♠	2♥	3♣
	4♠	All Pass	



Pony Nehmert, Germany

When Les Steel had to bid again, all his useful bidding space had been consumed already. Maybe, Fiona McQuaker should have made a little noise, holding so many nice controls. As it was, the grand was never in sight; Scotland +510.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Baxter	Yuen	McGowan	Nehmert
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠

When Yuen had to bid first, he consumed nearly all his useful bidding space straight away. As 4♦ showed nine tricks in spades, Pony Nehmert was quick to make a little noise, holding so many nice controls. By bidding 4♥ she asked for an outside control and when this turned out to be in clubs she had no hesitation about the small slam. So here as well, the grand stayed out of sight by a mile, but +1010 was good enough to get 11 IMPs.

Nothing very much happened on the next four boards. The score stood at 14-5 when Board 6 appeared:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Capucho	Steel	Lara	McQuaker
INT	All Pass	Pass	1♦

On a diamond lead, there are nine tricks available in spades, but the suit was never mentioned. Nor were the clubs, but at least they were introduced into the play when North led a club. Declarer took the ♣Q with his ace and led a spade to the queen and ace. South returned the ♦Q won by declarer's king. When the ♠J did not show up on the second round of the suit, declarer was lucky that South had no more clubs left. Three spades, two hearts and one trick in each minor just added up to seven tricks.

Closed Room:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Baxter</i>	<i>Yuen</i>	<i>McGowan</i>	<i>Nehmert</i>
		Pass	1♦
INT	2♣	Pass	2♦
All Pass			

In the Closed Room, things started in a more orthodox fashion, but once again West refrained from introducing his spades. Against 2♦ West led his top hearts and the ♣A before switching to a spade, declarer taking the queen with her ace. This was followed by the ♦AQ, West winning the king and returning a club. The hand was effectively over now, as the ♥Q is a late entry to the good clubs anyway. Declarer actually made an overtrick for another +110 and 5 IMPs to the Transnationals.

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

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

Open Room:

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Capucho</i>	<i>Steel</i>	<i>Lara</i>	<i>McQuaker</i>
		1♣	Dble
Rdble	1♦	2♣	2♥
3♣	3♥	Pass	4♥
5♣	Dble	All Pass	

In view of the opponents' bidding, the West hand got better and better. After a heart lead and a spade switch, declarer played two rounds of trumps and went after the diamonds. When the ♦Q came down in two rounds, declarer had no further problems. In fact, there never would have been any, because the short diamonds and the short trumps were in the same hand; The Transnationals +750.

Open Room:

Closed Room:

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Capucho</i>	<i>Steel</i>	<i>Lara</i>	<i>McQuaker</i>
			INT
All Pass			

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Baxter</i>	<i>Yuen</i>	<i>McGowan</i>	<i>Nehmert</i>
		2♣	2♥
Dble	Pass	3♣	3♥
4♣	All Pass		

These things can happen when you are playing a 12-14 no trump. On the lead of the ♣8 (!) by West the defenders cashed the first five tricks and South had to find discards. She threw two hearts and a diamond, after which East played ♥A and another. West won his ♥K and exited with the ♦Q into the tenace, but after her three diamond tricks declarer had to open up the spades to lose three more tricks for down four, vulnerable; The Transnationals +400.

After the Neapolitan-style 2♣ opening bid, showing either five clubs and another suit or at least six clubs, N/S did well not to bid too much. This made the situation less easy for West, who contented himself with a one-level raise only. Twelve tricks were duly made when North did not play his ace on the first round of the suit. So Scotland scored +170, but lost another 11 IMPs. The final score was 38-5 or 24-6 in VPs.

Closed Room:

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Baxter</i>	<i>Yuen</i>	<i>McGowan</i>	<i>Nehmert</i>
			1♦
Dble	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Well, there looks little reason to blame anyone here on missing the NT game. Clubs have to break 2-2 and the diamonds should be 4-4 or blocked. The final contract therefore looks about par, but as it was, it scored only +150 and the Scots had lost 6 more IMPs to trail by 25-5 now.

One extra undertrick on Board 9 had made it 27-5 when the last board arrived.

## Never Give Up

With 156 pairs qualifying for the final, probably you think that the unluckiest pair in the field was the one which finished 157th? Not so, the Polish pairing, Pasternak/Araszkiwicz, turned up at the start of session one of the final just in case, and found that their trouble was rewarded when one qualified pair withdrew. They took full advantage of their second chance by finishing an excellent 11th overall, well in the prize money.

# MIXED Round Three TEAMS

## A first look at Table One

After their big win in Round 2, the transnational Capucho team had gone up to the top of the table. There, at Table One, they were to meet the Italian favourites: World Mixed Pairs Champions Vivaldi/Rossano together with European Mixed Pairs Champions Mariani/Buratti and Fornaciari/Cittolin to complete the team. This time, Mariani/Buratti were sitting out, so Capucho/Lara would face Rossano/Vivaldi and Yuen/Nehmert would play against Fornaciari/Cittolin.

On the first board, Lara tried the effect of a light opening.

### Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Vivaldi	Capucho	Rossano	Lara
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Dble	2♣
Dble	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Enza Rossano made a 'pairs style' double of INT on her passed hand, but it worked out very well. Antonio Vivaldi composed a double of 2♣ because he could rely on a decent club holding with his partner, but also because he really wanted to have a go at 2♠. At the table, it was all too clear that Rossano was not completely happy with the turn things had taken, but there was nowhere to go.

Vivaldi led a top heart and continued the suit, ruffed by declarer. A club went to the queen and the ♦Q was won by East's ♦A. Rossano continued a heart, ruffed by declarer's ♠5 and over-ruffed by Vivaldi with the seven. Now it was time to lead the ♠A and another. Declarer could ruff her losing diamond in dummy but there was no way to avoid down two; 300 to the Italians and an almost invisible sigh of relief by Rossano.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Yuen	Fornaciari	Nehmert	Cittolin
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	All Pass

No exceptional things here. A quiet start and a quiet contract; just +110 to Capucho for a loss of 5 IMPs.

### Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

The IMPs went back to Capucho's team on the very next board:

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Vivaldi	Capucho	Rossano	Lara
		Pass	1♥
Dble	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The only thing to note here was that Rossano made a further move after her partner's strong bid. Nothing special, one might say, but for less experienced players the East hand can be used as a nice example of how to deal with this type of situation; The Italians +430.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Yuen	Fornaciari	Nehmert	Cittolin
		Pass	INT
Dble	2♣	Dble	2♥
Dble	All Pass		

Here, the weak no trump backfired. Two Clubs showed at least four clubs with either a 4-3-3-3 or another suit. It would have been best had South passed the double of 2♣, but when she did not, West was there with the axe again. Four down for a loss of 800 and 9 IMPs back to the Transnationals.

The score stood unchanged at 9-5 when another 'wash' came along, but an amusing one.

### Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Vivaldi	Capucho	Rossano	Lara
	Pass	1♣	4♠
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

After her strong club, Rossano could not believe her ears. From her point of view, it might be seven! Everybody was polite enough not to double, so two down meant a loss of only 100 for the Italians. As it happened, Vivaldi simply had taken a save against the unbeatable 4♠, but would this be your first thought when you open a strong club and see the developments when the tray comes back?

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Yuen	Fornaciari	Nehmert	Cittolin
	Pass	1♥	4♠
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Here, 4NT was Roman Keycard Blackwood and 5♥ was alerted too. Maybe, it enquired about the trump queen. For Nehmert too, it was far from obvious what was going on, so she also did not bother to double the final contract. No swing, but great fun to watch.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Vivaldi	Capucho	Rossano	Lara
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
Dble	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Once again, Rossano bid her hand up to the maximum, but this time she really held the wrong high cards. What is more, Capucho doubled. Not only had his opponents reached game where his partner could have decided to let them play in 2♥, but holding 7 HCP, and some useful-looking defensive values in clubs, prospects looked good enough. In fact, the contract could easily have gone down two with a little more imagination. On the lead of the ♠K and another, it is probable that declarer holds a third spade. So why not play the ♠3 for partner to ruff in front of dummy and at the same time suggesting a club return?

When South continued the ♣Q instead, the extra chance had gone and Vivaldi escaped for one down; 200 to the Transnationals.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Yuen	Fornaciari	Nehmert	Cittolin
		Pass	1♠
2♥	Dble	3♥	3♠
All Pass			

Well, there seem to be five top losers, unless the defence manage to let a loser win an undeserved trick. That is exactly what happened. The ♥A was led and a trump came next. Declarer won the ♠Q and presented the ♣Q which was allowed to hold. Verba desunt. The Italians recovered 140 of their Open Room deficit for a loss of just 2 IMPs more. The score: 11-5.

After a system mishap which cost the transnationals 7 IMP's the Italians had taken the lead, 12-11, when the next board hit the table:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Vivaldi	Capucho	Rossano	Lara
1♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Twelve tricks were easy when the hearts broke. As far as we know, it has not yet been established who was mostly responsible for the slam being missed. Whoever it was, the simple point that 3♥ possibly uses up too much bidding space was proved at the other table.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Yuen	Fornaciari	Nehmert	Cittolin
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Once you know that 4♦ was Roman Keycard Blackwood in diamonds and that 4♠ thus showed 0 or 3 aces, understanding this bidding sequence is as easy as producing it. As you can see, this effectiveness would have been impossible without the help of the initial Two Heart response.

The slam was not vulnerable, so the exchanges amounted to 10 IMPs only.

As the final two boards produced no swings, the final score was 21-12 to Capucho or 17-13 VPs.

# MIXED Round Five TEAMS

## Capucho (POR/GER) v Bonori (ITA)

At the end of the first day's play, the Italian BONORI team were lying joint first with 81 VPS, while the Portuguese/German team CAPUCHO were joint fourth, just 2 VPs behind. They met in the first match on Wednesday morning. It wasn't the best played match of the Championship, but then 10.00a.m. is very early to be playing bridge, don't you think?

repeated club leads promoting the heart nine into a trick for the defence, to go with three more heart tricks, two clubs and two aces. That was five down for -1100 and 12 IMPs to CAPUCHO.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ K J 5 4 2 ♥ — ♦ Q 10 8 6 4 ♣ 9 5 2	♠ A Q ♥ Q 8 4 2 ♦ 9 5 ♣ K Q J 10 4 N W     E S	♠ 6 ♥ K J 10 7 6 5 3 ♦ K J 2 ♣ 8 7 ♠ 10 9 8 7 3 ♥ A 9 ♦ A 7 3 ♣ A 6 3
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West	North	East	South
Capucho	Gavelli	Lara	Bonori
Pass	1♣	3♥	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Knowing that declarer had the hearts stopped and that her partner must have quite a lot of spades, Maria-Joao Lara led her singleton spade. Gavelli won the queen and led a heart towards the ace, nine. Lara put in the ten, forcing the ace, and Gavelli returned the nine of hearts to her jack. A diamond switch would have saved the overtrick now but that didn't look very attractive and Lara actually switched to a club. Declarer won in hand and knocked out the king of hearts; ten tricks for +430.

West	North	East	South
Mosca	Yuen	Capodanno	Nehmert
Pass	1♦	3♥	3♠
All Pass	3NT	4♥	Dble

The auction followed an identical course as far as Three No Trump, but now Capodanno broke discipline by bidding again after pre-empting. She got what she deserved when Pony Nehmert doubled Four Hearts. The contract was a disaster with

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ A 7 6 ♥ — ♦ K Q 10 4 3 2 ♣ J 9 5 4	♠ K Q 8 4 3 2 ♥ 10 9 ♦ J 6 ♣ Q 6 3 N W     E S	♠ J 9 ♥ A J 8 5 4 ♦ 9 8 ♣ K 10 8 2 ♠ 10 5 ♥ K Q 7 6 3 2 ♦ A 7 5 ♣ A 7
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West	North	East	South
Capucho	Gavelli	Lara	Bonori
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Two Spades was weak, Two No Trump enquired, and Three Diamonds showed a good suit but a minimum hand. Lara led a diamond against Three Spades. Gavelli ducked this and Manuel Capucho won the queen and returned the ♦K to dummy's ace. Gavelli tried ruffing the third diamond back to hand now but was over-ruffed. Lara exited with the ♠J to declarer's king. He led a heart up and Lara won her ace and returned the jack for the king and a ruff. A club switch established a trick in that suit also for the defence and the contract was two down; -200.

West	North	East	South
Mosca	Yuen	Capodanno	Nehmert
2♦	2♠	3♣	3♥
4♣	Pass	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

It was the German pair's turn to get too high at the other table. Carlo Mosca's 2♦ opening showed both minors with 10-15 HCP. Michael Yuen made a light overcall and Capodanno competed with Three Clubs. Nehmert bid her hearts and, when Mosca competed further in clubs, bid her hearts a second time, imagining that her partner would have stronger hand for his Two Spade overcall. When that came round to Capodanno, she was delighted to double, of course.

Mosca led the king of diamonds and, when that was ducked, switched to the jack of clubs, which was covered all round. Nehmert played the ace of diamonds and ruffed her last diamond in the dummy, but Capodanno over-ruffed and played two rounds of clubs, Nehmert ruffing. It seems that she was heading for three down at this point but Capodanno had a penalty card later in the

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Thank you

play which helped her to escape for two down; still not great as -500 gave BONORI 7 IMPs.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ Q ♥ 8 6 4 ♦ 10 9 8 6 4 ♣ 10 8 5 3	N W     E S	♠ A K J 10 7 6 ♥ A K 5 3 2 ♦ — ♣ 6 4
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♠ 8 ♥ J 10 9 7 ♦ A J 7 3 2 ♣ A K 7
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West	North	East	South
Capucho	Gavelli	Lara	Bonori
2♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Lara opened with an artificial strong bid and showed both her suits. Naturally enough, Capucho preferred the hearts. Bonori led three rounds of clubs, forcing Lara to ruff. She unblocked the queen of spades then cashed the top trumps. When the 4-1 split came to light she simply played winning spades until South ruffed in. There were two trumps to lose so that was one down; -100.

West	North	East	South
Mosca	Yuen	Capodanno	Nehmert
Pass	2♣	1♠	Dble
Pass	Dble	4♠	Pass
		All Pass	

Capodanno opened 1♠ and Nehmert doubled. When it came back to Capodanno she did not bother to show her second suit, preferring to put her faith in the strength of her spades. Yuen, who had considerable high-card strength as well as five trumps, doubled, ending the auction. Capodanno was slightly careless in the play and made only seven tricks when eight are possible. That was -800 and 12 IMPs to CAPUCHO, who led by 24-8 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Capucho	Gavelli	Lara	Bonori
Pass	1♠	2♥	3♦
4♥	Pass	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Mosca	Yuen	Capodanno	Nehmert
2♥	3♣	4♥	4♠
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

The match became much tighter as Bonori/Gavelli bid the small slam while Nehmert/Yuen stopped in game on a deal where seven is excellent.

The Italians were clearly not on the same wavelength. Bonori intended her Four No Trump bid as ace-asking while Gavelli did not alert and simply showed his second suit. When Bonori now signed off in Five Spades, Gavelli went on to Six Clubs and Bonori corrected to spades. There was nothing to the play; +1010.

Mosca opened with a weak two bid at the other table and Yuen overcalled. Capodanno must have been pretty impressed with her heart support and raised to game. When Nehmert now introduced her spades, Yuen cuebid Five Hearts, intending this to ask for a diamond control. While she was the first to agree afterwards that this was what Five Hearts should mean, at the table Nehmert was not so confident and signed off in Five Spades. There was nothing more Yuen could do so they had to settle for a disappointing +510 and BONORI picked up 11 IMPs to trail by only 20-24.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Capucho	Gavelli	Lara	Bonori
2♥	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	3♥	Dble
All Pass	3♠	Dble	4♣

No, Lara did not get carried away by her five-card spade suit. The explanation for her penalty double of Three Spades was that she had not noticed the opening One Club bid, so expected that her partner would be stronger and North considerably weaker. That was unfortunate for her as, had she not doubled, she would

shortly have had an opportunity to double Four Spades, which goes down one. Bonori had a fifth spade and might well have judged to play in Three Spades doubled, but she took the cautious view to remove to Four Clubs, ending the auction.

A spade lead would enable the defence to take two ruffs and defeat Four Clubs, but Lara did not believe that her opponents would have an eight-card fit once they had run from Three Spades doubled. She led the king of hearts and Capucho dropped the queen, probably trying to look like a man who wanted a spade ruff. But Lara continued with a second heart to the ace and Capucho switched to a diamond. Gavelli rightly rose with the ace and drew trumps. He then played the king of spades followed by the jack, covered by queen and ace. Now he lazily conceded a diamond so made just ten tricks; +130. If instead he runs his trumps, East is squeezed between her  $\diamond K$  and the spades for the overtrick.

West	North	East	South
Mosca	Yuen	Capodanno	Nehmert
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♥	3♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Yuen did not open the North hand but he showed a constructive spade raise after Nehmert had opened One Spade. Mosca led a diamond and the combination of the losing finesse and 5-0 trump break was too much for Nehmert to overcome. She was one down for -50.

BONORI picked up 5 IMPs and, when they gained another 2 IMPs on the final board, had gained a narrow win by 27-24 IMPs, 16-14 VPs.

## Duck to Win

The Mixed Pairs winners, Monica Buratti and Carlo Mariani of Italy, were outfoxed on this deal from Round Four of the Mixed Teams. The fox was Germany's Tomek Gotard.

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

South opened Four Hearts after three passes, and played there. The opening lead was the eight of diamonds and Gotard played small from the dummy. When East followed with the jack, Gotard ducked smoothly. Can you blame East for returning a diamond at trick two? When she did so, Gotard was home. He won in hand, drew trumps and led to the ace of diamonds. The even diamond split meant that he had a tenth trick to bring home his game.

At the other table the contract was defeated after the same auction.

## A split second

by Jan van Cleeff

Playing the second session of the finals at these Championships you have:

♠ A 7 6 2
♥ K 10 4
♦ K 8 7
♣ 5 4 2

And it goes like this:

LHO	RHO
Pass	1♦
1♥	2NT
3NT	Pass

You lead the ♠2 (attitude) and dummy comes down:

Dummy
♠ J 8 5
♥ J 9 7 6 3
♦ 10 2
♣ K J 7

West

♠ A 7 6 2
♥ K 10 4
♦ K 8 7
♣ 5 4 2

Low from dummy, East the ten and South the queen. Next comes a club to the jack and a heart to the queen. What card do you play and why?

Apolinary Kowalski took with the king and one split second later he realized that he had missed a brilliant coup. Had he inserted the ten instead, then for sure declarer would have crossed to dummy with another club to repeat the heart finesse. With no entries left and the hearts blocked declarer would be doomed. Though he got it wrong at the table, Kowalski, winner of the 1994 World Mixed Pairs Championships, proved to be a good sport to show us the deal:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

## Early in the morning

Here we are in the South of Europe. People who live here are not accustomed very well to bridge sessions taking place in the morning hours. This may well also apply to those Southern Europeans who found themselves back in the basement of the Centro Congressi on Wednesday morning.

As a consequence, this report, based on one of the fifth-round matches, looks very much like a review of mistimed or even completely missed opportunities. So be it: the culprits will remain nameless.

Board 1 was a straight-forward enough 3NT which presented no problems, but Board 2 was the first case of mistiming. What would you open, third in hand, green v. red, holding: ♠AQJ1076 ♥1052 ♦4 ♣QJ6?

One Spade, a weak two or an even higher preempt may all be the right choice. Everything depends on what the last man to speak actually holds. If you guess wrong, you lose some IMPs, if you guess right, you are bound to win a few.

The next board was more interesting. It does not occur very frequently that you have to struggle for INT holding 24 HCP. in the combined hands.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

On a club lead by North, who opened 1♣, and a club continuation by South, it may be best to go after some heart tricks. If you lead the ♥10 at trick three, all will be well very soon, as the queen appears on this or the next round of the suit. Of course,

### FUNNY OR NOT

First session of the Pair event: Mrs East plays the first board against Mr and Mrs North/South who look not so young but not yet very experienced at bridge — they obviously play for the first time with screens. Mrs East puts her bid on the tray and waits... Then, after a while, she gently asks North to push the tray. "WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MADAM, I AM NOT YOUR VALET."

### LOST, STOLEN or STRAYED

A Three-quarter length Shower-proof Light-coloured Jacket went missing on Wednesday afternoon. If anyone finds it, could you please return it to the Press Room. Thank you.

+90 is a very fine score, even more so when your team-mates bring in another 200 for defeating the NT game.

On Board 5, North could not resist opening the bidding in first position holding: ♠AQ542 ♥J987 ♦KJ ♣108. If this is your style, it's O.K., but then partner should stop cuebidding at an early stage instead of launching herself (and you) into a slam off two aces. She actually held: ♠K63 ♥K2 ♦Q10872 ♣AKQ.

Board 6 saw another missed opportunity. Why not bid both your suits and let partner do the work?

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

At one table, the bidding started: East opened One Spade, South doubled, West passed and North jumped to Three Clubs. Now, I would not care if South had doubled or not, but introduce my second suit. Of course, I know that South is likely to hold four hearts, but so what? If there is a fit, there may well be a few tricks more than in the solid-enough spade suit. A difficult choice between the solid suit and the second suit, but the wrong decision was severely punished when the spades broke 5-1. Three Spades is down two whereas Three Hearts makes. In fact, staying out of game in hearts (or spades) is already a very good performance.

Board 8 is described elsewhere in our Bulletins too, but maybe in an incomprehensible language. In the Casa Nostra department, you will find some examples of people staying out of slam, but there also was at least one instance where the scene was set for reaching the grand slam easily. What about this wonderfully well-timed anticipation by North?

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠
3♣	4♥(!)	5♥	??

Well, as 4♥ must show a void now (what else can it be, as 3♥ would be the strong variety), what does South want more than six good spades and the ♦A to go for the maximum? How can partner have less than what he actually held and still be worth a slam try? North will only be happy when you show your faith in his action by bidding the grand slam now, though in that event dummy will be a disappointing sight, as he does not even hold the ♣Q! Still, clubs 4-2 is all you need.

On the last board, West started his doubling actions a little late. He was right, however, but how could partner possibly know?

*Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.*

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

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

2NT was natural and 3♦ was a transfer. If West doubles this, N/S will avoid 3NT and go to 5♣ which makes. So West was right in staying quiet for the moment. One round later, he came out of the bushes to shoot at the final contract, but what does this mean? Does it require a spade lead, forbid a spade lead, suggest a heart lead or anything else? Discuss it with your favourite partner, if you want, but we do not take any responsibility. The only thing we know is the balance of won and lost. A diamond lead brings you two down, a club lead will probably still lead to defeat, but a major-suit lead allows the contract to be made. Would you have found the right solution, so early in the morning?

## Irish Eyes are Smiling

After seven rounds of the Mixed Teams Championship, the Irish team captained by Paul Porteous is very much in contention for a place in the semi-finals. In Round Seven they met the Thuillez team representing France. On a dull set of boards there was only one major swing and it went the way of the Irish.

*Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.*

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

At both tables East opened a strong no trump and was raised to game. What would you lead from the South hand? Pauline Maguire, for PORTEOUS, led her second highest spade and the French declarer, Isabelle Magis, was in trouble. Dummy's eight was covered by the jack and ducked. Gay Keaveney returned a spade to the king and Magis tried a club to her ten. Maguire won the jack and cleared the spades. Now declarer played a club towards the queen and Maguire won the king and played her last spade to Keaveney's queen. Keaveney switched to a low diamond, ducked to the queen, and Maguire exited with a club. Magis won the ♣Q, crossed to the ♦A and cashed the ♣A, squeezing North in the red suits to get out for one down; -100.

Had Keaveney switched to a heart after winning the ♠Q, he could have broken up the squeeze and beaten the contract two. In the other room the lead was a club, which ran round to Mary Trench's ten. She ducked a heart at trick two and North returned a club to the king. Another club was won by dummy's queen and Trench now ran the jack of diamonds to the queen. South returned the queen of hearts and Trench won in dummy and cashed both red aces, hoping for something good to happen. It didn't, but cashing the ace of clubs crushed poor North, who had the winning heart, winning diamond, and ♠QJx. Of course, he threw a spade in the hope that his partner held the ten, but it was not to be. The ♠10 was the ninth trick and that was +60 and 12 IMPs to PORTEOUS.

The Irish won the match by 13-6 IMPs, 17-13 VPs, and were still unbeaten.

## STATISTICS

Out of 101 teams, nine are transnational, some even including players from three different countries.

20 teams play for ITALY, 20 for FRANCE, nine for POLAND, and eight for GERMANY, so over 55% of the field comes from only four countries.

ENGLAND, ISRAEL, and ICELAND line up four teams; CROATIA, NORWAY, NETHERLANDS, IRELAND and DENMARK field three teams each; two teams come from FINLAND, BULGARIA, BELGIUM, RUSSIA, SCOTLAND, a newly admitted country in the EBL, and SWEDEN; AUSTRIA, HUNGARY, SWITZERLAND, TURKEY and PORTUGAL are each represented by a single team.

So 24 nations are represented in the competition.

# CASA NOSTRA



## BONORI-PORTEOUS

All'inizio del sesto turno del campionato, Bonori è la squadra italiana meglio piazzata e, al tavolo tre, incontra gli irlandesi di Porteous. McGuire e Keaveney sono Nord-Sud in aperta contro Mosca e Capodanno, Ferraro e D'Andrea Nord-Sud in chiusa contro Porteous e Trench.

La signora Trench mi dà subito l'impressione di essere dotata di poteri paranormali perché è così gentile da informarmi che il suo cognome e quello di Mr Porteous sono tra i più antichi e tradizionali irlandesi. In tutto il Palazzo non credo che la cosa potesse interessare più di tre o quattro persone, lei ha beccato uno al quale interessava. Mah...vediamo un po'.....

Board 1. Dich. N Vul. Nessuno

♠ A F 8 2						
♥ R F 10 6 4 2						
♦ A 7 5						
♣ —						
♠ R 7	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>O</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	O	E	S	♠ 9 6 5 4 3
N						
O						
E						
S						
♥ A 7	♥ 9					
♦ 6 4	♦ R F					
♣ A R F 10 8 5 3		♣ D 9 6 4 2				
		♠ D 10				
		♥ D 8 5 3				
		♦ D 10 9 8 3 2				
		♣ 7				

CHIUSA

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
	1♥	passo	3♥
4♣	4♥	5♣	passo
passo	5♥	6♣	passo
passo	contro	fine	

Non ci giurerei, ma credo che, dal 4♥ in poi, nessuno al tavolo avesse le idee chiare su chi fosse in attacco e chi in difesa. Comunque Ferraro attacca di asso di quadri, poi gioca il re di cuori e gli italiani incassano ancora due picche. +300 per Bonori. In difesa, e in una buona difesa direi (a 5♥ si pagano solo i due assi mancanti), era quindi l'Irlanda.

I dubbi sulle doti di veggenza della signora Trench continuano ad aumentare.

APERTA

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
	1♥	passo	2♥
3♣	4♥	5♣	5♥
fine			

Luciana Capodanno spera ragionevolmente nella caduta del contratto e non sa quanto potrebbe pagare a 6♣. Risultato: 5♥ fatte e 4 i.m.p. per Porteous.

Nel board 2, con ♠ D ♥ A D 10 9 2 ♦ 8 7 4 3 2 ♣ 6 2, Porteous, dopo aver dichiarato ISA su 1♠ della compagna, decide di passare sul successivo 2♣ della stessa. Mosca, al contrario, dichiara 2♥ e paga solo 50 invece dei 150 della Trench in chiusa, 3 i.m.p. per gli italiani.

A.B.

Board 3. Dich. S Vul. E-O

♠ F 9 5 2						
♥ A D 9						
♦ F 3						
♣ A 10 6 2						
♠ —	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>O</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	O	E	S	♠ A 8 6
N						
O						
E						
S						
♥ 10 8 7 6	♥ R 4 2					
♦ A R D 10 4	♦ 8 7 5 2					
♣ F 9 5 3		♣ R D 7				
		♠ R D 10 7 4 3				
		♥ F 5 3				
		♦ 9 6				
		♣ 8 4				

APERTA

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
			2♠
3♦	4♠	5♦	passo
passo	contro	fine	

La mano sembra infattibile, ma...Nord attacca picche e Mosca scarta una cuori sull'asso del morto. Ora quadri in mano e piccola fiori verso il re che tiene. Ancora quadri e ancora fiori verso la dama. McGuire non ha il fegato di lisciare di nuovo, prende di asso e torna picche. Mosca taglia, gioca cuori al re, sblocca la dama di fiori, taglia un'altra picche, scarta una cuori sul fante di fiori e scrive +750.

Porteous, in chiusa, con le carte di Mosca passa sul 2♠ (3-8 p.o.) della D'Andrea e il 4♠ di Ferraro resta il contratto finale per due prese di caduta.

12 i.m.p. per Bonori.

Nel board 4 gli Est-Ovest giocano un parziale a quadri in aperta e a senza atout in chiusa facendo lo stesso numero di prese. +50 e 2 i.m.p. per Porteous.

Board 5. Dich. N Vul. N-S

♠ 8 3 2						
♥ 10 6 4						
♦ 7 6 5 4						
♣ R 7 4						
♠ D 9 7 6	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>O</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	O	E	S	♠ A F 10 4
N						
O						
E						
S						
♥ A 7 5 3	♥ R 9 8					
♦ R D F 3 2	♦ 9					
♣ —		♣ D F 9 8 2				
		♠ R 5				
		♥ D F 2				
		♦ A 10 8				
		♣ A 10 6 5 3				

APERTA

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
			passo
2♥	passo	1♠	passo
	passo	4♥	fine

Non riesco a spiegarmi la licita di Mosca-Capodanno, ne' sono masochista al punto di andarli a "sfrugulare" chiedendo lumi. Comunque Carlo fa otto prese e paga 100. In chiusa Trench-Porteous, impegnati nel normale contratto di 4♠, scrivono 420 sulla colonna buona. +520 pari a 11 i.m.p. per gli irlandesi.

## Board 6. Dich. E Vul. E-O

♠ A R 6 5 4 ♥ R 7 4 ♦ 9 3 ♣ D F 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">O     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	O     E	S	♠ D 10 7 ♥ F 9 ♦ D F 5 4 ♣ 8 7 5 3	♠ 9 3 2 ♥ D 6 5 ♦ R 8 7 6 ♣ 10 9 2
N						
O     E						
S						

Gli italiani, in aperta, fanno ISA +1 in Est-Ovest.

In chiusa Ferraro interviene di 1♠ su 1♥ di Ovest e si gioca quello che è, a mio giudizio, il board più importante del campionato. Sull'attacco fante di cuori lisciato da Ovest, Guido prende di re, tira asso e re di picche e prosegue con la dama di fiori presa da Ovest che incassa anche il re e rigioca nel colore. Ferraro, in presa, muove quadri per il re del morto e, quando Ovest prende con l'asso, mostra le carte dicendo: "ONE". Sia lui che Porteous scrivono +80 per N-S. Quando già si sta giocando il board successivo, Ferraro riprende l'astuccio e dice: "Sorry, one down". A questo punto Mr Porteous si affanna a trovare una linea di gioco che permetta a Guido di realizzare il contratto, ma, ahimè, senza alcun risultato. Alla fine deve arrendersi alla tenacia di Ferraro e scrivere +50 sulla propria colonna.

Questa è vera sportività. Ferraro e Porteous hanno davvero giocato il board più importante del campionato. Comunque 2 i.m.p. per Bonori.

Due parziali, uno a ♥ e uno a ♠, vengono giocati da E-O nel board 7 con lo stesso risultato: +140.

Ancora parità (3♠ m.i.) nelle due sale al board 8. 3 SA sono imperdibili, il problema è solo quello di avere la certezza che le cuori degli avversari siano divise 4-3.

Ancora un 4♥ al board 9 e poi, con gli italiani che conducono di un punticino, arriva il

## Board 10. Dich. E Vul. Tutti

♠ D 9 8 6 3 ♥ 7 3 ♦ R F 9 7 ♣ 8 5	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">O     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	O     E	S	♠ R 4 ♥ A D ♦ A 8 6 2 ♣ A F 7 6 4	♠ A F ♥ F 9 6 5 4 ♦ D 10 4 3 ♣ R 2
N						
O     E						
S						

## APERTA

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
1♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	passo	1♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	passo
2♣ <sup>(4)</sup>	passo	ISA <sup>(3)</sup>	passo
3♣ <sup>(6)</sup>	passo	2♦ <sup>(5)</sup>	passo
4♥	fine	3SA <sup>(7)</sup>	passo

<sup>(1)</sup> forte

<sup>(2)</sup> neg.

<sup>(3)</sup> bil.18-21

<sup>(4)</sup> int.

<sup>(5)</sup> minimo

<sup>(6)</sup> int.

<sup>(7)</sup> 5♣ per la Capodanno, entrambi i nobili per Mosca

Sono gli incerti del mestiere.

Il pessimo contratto, aggravato dalla cattiva distribuzione degli atout avversari, cade di quattro prese.

Anche in chiusa gli irlandesi non riescono a fermarsi prima di 3SA, ma, cadendo di sole due prese, vincono il board e l'incontro di stretta misura.

## ATTESA

F.B.

La mattinata del secondo giorno di squadre si è aperta con la formazione Bonori (Gavelli, Capodanno/Mosca, d'Andrea/Ferraro) impegnata al tavolo 2 contro i porto-tedeschi (o germano-portoghesi, come preferite) di Capucho (Joao Lara, Yuen/Nehemert).

I nostri si sono schierati facendo sedere i primi quattro. Gli avversari.....pure! Le smazzate sono state piuttosto *pepate*, e il segreto, con le spezie, è l'uso moderato e accurato.

Proprio come con le licite.....

## INSISTO!

## Board 4. Dich. Ovest. Tutti in zona

♠ A 7 6 ♥ — ♦ R D 10 4 3 2 ♣ F 9 5 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">O     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	O     E	S	♠ F 9 ♥ A F 8 5 4 ♦ 9 8 ♣ R 10 8 2	♠ 10 5 ♥ R D 7 6 3 2 ♦ A 7 5 ♣ A 7
N						
O     E						
S						

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Mosca	Yuen	Capodanno	Nehemert
2♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	2♠	3♣	3♥
4♣	passo	passo	4♥ <sup>(2)</sup>
passo	passo	contro <sup>(3)</sup>	fine

<sup>(1)</sup> almeno 5♦ e 4♣, 10/15

<sup>(2)</sup> "Non vorrei ripetermi, perciò....mi ripeto!"

<sup>(3)</sup> "Approvo incondizionatamente la tua illuminata valutazione..."

Mosca ha intavolato il Re di quadri e, rimasto in presa, ha virato al volo a fiori con il Fante, che è stato coperto da tutti. La dichiarante, invece di anticipare normalmente picche, ha scelto una linea *alternativa* (eufemismo) che la stava teletrasportando al massacro. Ma Luciana, forse intenerita dalla venuta di Babbo Natale a marzo, ha fatto una renonce, beccando una penalità di una presa. 4♥x-2. Un cinquecentino su niente. Nell'altra sala i nostri si sono fermati al parziale a picche, penalizzato ma liscio.

### CHI VA PIANO VA SANO E VA LONTANO?

No, piuttosto direi che "chi mena per primo mena due volte". Guardate chi, come e perché nella prossima smazzata.

#### Board 8. Dich. Ovest. Tutti in prima

<p>♠ 8 3 ♥ A D 10 7 6 ♦ F 10 5 ♣ F 6 4</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>O</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		E	O		S	<p>♠ — ♥ R F 9 4 3 2 ♦ R D 9 4 ♣ D 7 3</p>	<p>♠ D F 7 5 4 ♥ — ♦ 6 2 ♣ A R 9 8 5 2</p>
N		E							
O		S							
<p>♠ A R 10 9 6 2 ♥ 8 5 ♦ A 8 7 3 ♣ 10</p>									

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Mosca	Yuen	Capodanno	Nehemert
2♥	3♣	4♥	4♠
passo	5♥	passo	5♠
fine			

A proposito di picchiare immediatamente, Mosca comincia le danze con una sottoaperturina leggermente compressa in lunghezza. "Gettiamo un sassolino - sembra sentirlo dire - hai visto mai che aiuti a fare inceppare qualche meccanismo avversario?".

La sua speranza è andata al di là delle più rosee previsioni. Nord *annerito* dalla sua bicolore è partito in lungo-corto. Luciana ha verificato due volte di non aver messo tre quadri tra le cuori e poi, confermata la sesta nel colore del compagno, lo ha appoggiato a salto, ma senza esagerare (tipo 5♥ o più). "Mai portarli a spinta a dichiarare qualcosa al buio per necessità". E' vero; in alcuni casi, tra cui questo, è meglio farli licitare abbastanza liberamente. Sud ha introdotto la sua sesta, Mosca è passato ("ho già dato") e Nord, dopo essersi lucidato gli occhi, ha comunicato tutta la sua volontà di giocare slam a picche manifestando anche il controllo a cuori. Questa buona informazione ha prodotto nella compagna l'effetto opposto, ovvero un rallentamento vicino all'arresto. No, che avete capito, l'arresto in quanto la licita si è fermata prematuramente a 5♠, non l'arresto inteso come intervento della forza pubblica. Anche se, un paio di carabinieri per *massacro licitativo*...

5♠+ tutte rispetto alle 6♠+1 dell'altra sala.

### TRE PERDENTI E MEZZO

Eccovi le carte, in Est:

♠ A R F 10 7 6  
♥ A R 5 3 2  
♦ —  
♣ 6 4

State proprio al limite per l'apertura di 1♣ (forte), ma decidete di aprire di 1♠ per trattare meglio la vostra bicolore. Una mera questione di anticipo. L'avversaria a sinistra contra (dando un bel colpetto alle vostre cuori), il compagno passa e il nemico a destra licita 2♣. Sta a voi. Luciana Capodanno ha chiuso direttamente a 4♠, scelta senza dubbio ardita, spinta, in linea con il suo carattere. La metà delle volte non succede niente. Stavolta eravamo nell'altra metà. Oltre al contro, è arrivato giù il diluvio:

#### Board 6. Dich. Est. E/O in zona

<p>♠ D ♥ 8 6 4 ♦ 10 9 8 6 4 ♣ 10 8 5 3</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>O</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		E	O		S	<p>♠ A R F 10 7 6 ♥ A R 5 3 2 ♦ — ♣ 6 4</p>	<p>♠ 9 5 4 3 2 ♥ D ♦ R D 5 ♣ D F 9 2</p>
N		E							
O		S							
			<p>♠ 8 ♥ F 10 9 7 ♦ A F 7 3 2 ♣ A R 7</p>						

Si, ci sono distribuzioni più favorevoli in giro. Tutto sta a beccarle al momento giusto. Nell'altra sala hanno giocato la manche a cuori ma senza il contro.

L'incontro è stato vinto di misura dai nostri.

Nel turno immediatamente successivo la squadra *Lavazza* (Duboin, Bocchi/Olivieri, De Falco/De Sario) ha incontrato i francesi di Tissot (Levy/Willard, Mouiel/Cronier).

### CONGELAMENTO

#### Board 2. Dich. Est. N/S in zona

<p>♠ D ♥ A D 10 9 2 ♦ 8 7 4 3 2 ♣ 6 2</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>O</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		E	O		S	<p>♠ A 9 8 7 5 ♥ F 6 ♦ D 10 ♣ R F 10 9</p>	<p>♠ 10 6 ♥ R 8 5 4 ♦ A 6 5 ♣ D 8 7 4</p>
N		E							
O		S							
			<p>♠ R F 4 3 2 ♥ 7 3 ♦ R F 9 ♣ A 5 3</p>						

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Duboin	Mouiel	Lavazza	Cronier
ISA	fine	1♠	passo

Vi sarebbe piaciuto giocare il parziale a cuori, ma siete impegnati nella realizzazione di almeno 7 prese a SA. Tanto per pareggiare, o quasi, il board. Guardate come si è dato da fare Duboin. Nord ha attaccato piccola fiori, per il 9 del morto che è rimasto in presa. La mossa immediatamente successiva di Duboin è stata quella di *ibernazione* delle quadri: Dama di quadri (detta anche *operazione nebbia*: il colore non sarà più mosso fino alla

fine). Sud ha impegnato il Re e ha virato con una cartina di picche, per la Dama del dichiarante che ha proseguito fiori per il 10 del morto e l'Asso di Sud. Ancora picche per l'Asso del morto e Fante di cuori a girare. Nord è entrato con il Re (*ahil!*) e.....ha proseguito nel colore (*ahiahiahil!*).

ISA fatto, danni limitati.

**CENTRA IL CONTRATTO  
(O C'ENTRA IL CONTRATTO?)**

Board 7. Dich. Sud. Tutti in zona

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



**A nice piece of bidding, short is beautiful!**

In the match between two French teams, Chemla and Tissot, Gerard Tissot and Benedicte Cronier had a short and good sequence on Board 8.

Board 8. Dealer West. All Vul.

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



<b>West</b> Quantin Pass 4♥ All Pass	<b>North</b> Tissot 1♣ 5♥	<b>East</b> Favas 1♥ Pass	<b>South</b> B. Cronier 1♠ 7♣
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The shortest way to a lay down grand slam and winning 13 IMPs when Chemla and Catherine d'Ovidio stopped in Six Spades.

Come raggiungere la manche a SA? Come evitare la manche a cuori infattibile?

I nostri, in chiusa, sono riusciti nel secondo compito.

<b>Ovest</b> Duboin passo 2♥	<b>Nord</b> Mouiel passo fine	<b>Est</b> Lavazza 1♥	<b>Sud</b> Cronier 1♦ passo
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Nove prese per N/S, 2♥+ 1.

Gli avversari, nell'altra sala, hanno centrato il primo obiettivo in questo modo:

<b>Ovest</b> Levy passo 1♠ 3SA	<b>Nord</b> De Falco passo passo fine	<b>Est</b> Willard contro ISA	<b>Sud</b> De Sario 1♦ passo passo
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Fit a cuori mai uscito. Un vantaggio, in questo caso.

**CENTRA IL CONTRATTO 2  
(RESTITUZIONE)**

Giusto il tempo di cambiare il board e:

Board 8

Dich. Ovest. Tutti in prima

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

<b>Ovest</b> Duboin 1♣ passo	<b>Nord</b> Mouiel 1♠ 4♣	<b>Est</b> Lavazza passo fine	<b>Sud</b> Cronier 2♠
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Duboin: "Anche stavolta si fanno 3SA...."

<b>Ovest</b> Levy 1♣ passo	<b>Nord</b> De Falco 1♠ 3SA	<b>Est</b> Willard passo fine	<b>Sud</b> De Sario ISA
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Appunto.

Converrà seguire la regola di Hamman\*?

\*("Se una delle scelte è 3SA, non esitare")

## Mixed Teams - Ranking after 9 Rounds

Name	Country	Round 9	Total	Name	Country	Round 9	Total
1 ZIMMERMANN	SWI	17	173	52 MEGLIO	ITA	25	135
2 MAYBACH R.	GER	21	171	53 TAMBURRINI	ITA	13	134
3 CAPUCHO M.	POR/GER	23	166	54 DEMIRBAS	TUR	19	134
4 ROBERTS D.	ENG	13	163	55 MRS ROOS A	SWE	19	133
5 SANGLIER	FRA	18	162	56 VERHEES	NTH	20	133
6 GOTARD T.	GER	12	160	57 JUURI-OJA	FIN/LAT	9	133
7 TISSOT G.	FRA	9	159	58 NAHMIA S A.	FRA	11	132
8 VOLINA	RUS	20	158	59 MRS LISE C	FRA/POL	20	131
9 BARONI F.	ITA	18	154	60 MANARA	ITA	9	130
10 FRENSIS	ITA	19	154	61 MRS SIMON	ENG/ITA	10	130
11 LABAERE A.	BEL	19	153	62 ANDERSEN	NOR	17	130
12 AUKEN J.	DEN	19	152	63 SCHILHART	GER	11	129
13 MS LAVAZZA	ITA	20	151	64 HARDEMAN	BEL/CRO	18	128
14 PORTEOUS P	IRE	10	150	65 ZAKRZEWSKI	POL	11	126.5
15 CHEMLA P.	FRA	17	150	66 PIAZZA R.	ITA	8	126
16 KARLSSON	SWE	20	150	67 INGIMARSSO	ICE	15	126
17 STRETZ F.	FRA	7	150	68 MRS BUDD M	ENG	9	126
18 RATYNSKI	POL	22	150	69 SAGIV J.	ISR	11	126
19 MRS POPOVA	BUL	16	149	70 LIET.	NOR	15	126
20 MS WAKSMAN	FRA	16	149	71 FACCHINI	ITA	22	126
21 FORNACIARI	ITA	12	148	72 CLEARY A.	IRE	13	126
22 VIVES J-L.	FRA	18	148	73 HONKAVUORI	FIN/ISR	15	124
23 MRS BONORI	ITA	14	147	74 FRANCES J.	FRA	15	124
24 MRS BELLO	FRA	14	147	75 BLONDAL K.	ICE	19	124
25 MAURIN D.	FRA	11	147	76 SEMENTA A.	ITA	25	124
26 VAN EIJK	NTH	13	147	77 MRS DAS ML	FRA	16	123
27 ENGEL B.	GER	20	146	78 DUGUET M.	FRA	18	123
28 GEORGIEV	BUL	11	145	79 BURAKOWSKI	POL	18	123
29 MADSEN L.	DEN	21	145	80 MRS HETZ	ISR	12	122
30 SANDSMARK	NOR	16	145	81 BRIDGERAMA	ITA	14	122
31 STEEL L.	SCO	25	144	82 SAMY A.	FRA/ISR	10	122
32 KOWALSKI	POL	11	144	83 LATHAM T.	ENG	10	121
33 REPS K.	GER	14	144	84 MRS SVER N	CRO	1	120
34 KAPLAN L.	FRA	21	143	85 SCHNEIDER	GER	7	120
35 LALANNE B.	FRA	10	142	86 SKOPINSKA	POL	12	119
36 NOWAK J.	POL	12	142	87 MRS HERBST	ISR	12	118
37 PRINCIPE G	ITA	16	142	88 MORAN J.	IRE	24	118
38 THUILLEZ L	FRA	10	141	89 LIGAMBI L.	ITA	4	117
39 MARI C.	FRA	17	141	90 GOLL M.	GER	21	117
40 PETROVIC	CRO	19	140	91 WALCZAK	POL	11	115
41 STEFANIUK	POL	20	139	92 MRS POPP K	AUT	3	113
42 DE SIMONE	ITA	22	139	93 MRS DAN O.	ISR/FRS	20	112
43 PIZZA E.	ITA	14	139	94 ZANISLAK	POL	8	112
44 GABOS G.	HUN	13	138	95 ROUSSETSKY	RUS	18	110
45 FERLAZZO F	ITA	25	138	96 SNORRASON	ICE	9	108
46 BONAVOGLIA	ITA	21	137.5	97 SIGSGAARD	DEN	5	104
47 MS LACROIX	FRA	17	137	98 REST ART	CRO	12	104
48 PATELLI G.	ITA	10	137	99 HJALTASON	ICE	6	102
49 SAVELLI L.	ITA	19	137	100 MRS BIRR B	GER	12	97
50 SISSELAAR	NTH	23	137	101 CLOW B.	SCO	10	88
51 LE PODER J	FRA	8	135				