

Bulletin 7

DAILY BULLETIN

Friday, 24 March 2000

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Denmark and Germany easy Winners in Semi-Finals

There was really no suspense in the semi-finals of the European Mixed Teams.

AUKEN, Denmark, was 36 IMPs up at half-time against **TISSOT**, France. They increased their lead to win by 53 IMPs, though giving back 21 IMPs on the last two boards. Meanwhile, **MAYBACH**, Germany, led at half-time by 23 against **VOLINA**, Russia

The second half went one way only, the German team finishing 51 points of their opponents.

So the final will oppose DENMARK to GERMANY. Russia and France will play 16 boards for the bronze medal.

AUKEN - TISSOT	100 - 47
MAYBACH - VOLINA	101 - 50

VU-GRAPH

Today "Friday 9.30"
Final — 32 Boards — Level I

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 Nine TEAMS

The two faces of table One

On Wednesday night, the table one match was effectively decided in the Open Room, where most of the interesting positions and situations arose. The Swiss-French team, Zimmermann, consisting of players who mostly come from the Geneva area, was playing the English team Roberts. Halfway through the match, the Alpine team was leading 26-0 mainly due to the three swing boards below.

Right on the first board, Elisabeth Delor took the save before anyone got the chance to suggest her to do so.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
King	Saporta	Burn	Delor
	Pass	Pass	4♠

All Pass

There was no way to make ten tricks, so the French at this table had to accept one down; +50 to the English.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Roberts	Moretti	Curran
	Pass	Pass	3♠
Dble	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Maybe, defending 4♥ with three good spades in support and four not too high hearts as the only asset is not the best idea on this hand. In real life, it proved the same when there were no problems in 4♥. So the Swiss scored +420 and the first 9 IMPs had gone to the Alpine team.

FUNNY OR NOT

Last session: South is the dummy and she asks to leave the table. Ten minutes later she has not come back. Her partner is anxious so someone is sent to the ladies toilets to look for her and hears furious knocking behind the door. The player cannot get out. A young chap is then sent through a small window to release the bridge player who will have missed only one board.

So beware when you lock the bathroom door!

Board 3. South Dealer. E/W Vul.

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

On this board, a failure to double for a lead cost a slam swing.

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
King	Saporta	Burn	Delor
			2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass (?)	6♣
All Pass			

Holding ♦KQ and an outside ace, you definitely want a diamond lead. So why not double, even more so because the opponents are already committed to slam? When the match was over, Su Burn was quick to admit her lack of alertness on this one, but when Phil King led a low heart, the slam rolled home easily. The French had +920 more in the right column.

As the Closed Room stayed out of trouble and scored a simple 490 in 3NT, the swing was 10 IMPs more to the Alpine Team, who now led 21-0.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 10 9 5 ♥ A 10 9 6 2 ♦ 10 9 ♣ A Q !0	♠ Q 4 2 ♥ Q 7 ♦ K Q 8 5 3 2 ♣ K 5 ♠ J 6 ♥ K 8 4 ♦ A J 7 6 ♣ 9 8 7 6	♠ A K 8 7 3 ♥ J 5 3 ♦ 4 ♣ J 4 3 2
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Open Room:

West	North	East	South
King	Saporta	Burn	Delor
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dble
2♦	Dble	2♣	3♦
All Pass			

When a typical partscore battle hand comes along immediately after a bad result for your side, to what extent does it influence your concentration and your ability to make decisions on the next board? This auction looks very much like a reaction to what had happened just before, with both East and West holding something in reserve. Game in a major is not far away on the E/W hands, yet they sell out to 3♦ which made when the ♣K proved right for declarer, The French +110.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Roberts	Moretti	Curran
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♠
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

With each responder making an invitational raise, this auction looks more logical than how they bid in the Open Room. Please note the effect of South's negative double in the Open Room. Maybe, that's the reason why West underestimated the value of his heart suit. In the Closed Room, they did not have that sort of inhibitions, so par was reached and the Swiss scored another +100 for a 5 IMP gain. The score: 26-0.

What was happening? Was the Alpine team on its way to blitzing the English? Not quite. Board 5 was a routine game for no swing and then:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
King	Saporta	Burn	Delor
4♥	All Pass	1♥	Pass

With open cards, you can always make ten tricks because the ♣A is right for you. Against astute defence, however, you may run

into trouble. South leads the ♦Q and you win the ace. North wins the first trump trick and leads a low club which South ducks smoothly when you play the king from hand. Now you draw the last trump, cash your spades and ruff a spade to call for dummy's ♣10. Which card would you play from hand when North plays low without a flicker?

When Pierre Saporta played his ♣A, Su Burn's problems were over and a fine 620 went on to their score-sheet.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Roberts	Moretti	Curran
2♦	Pass	INT	Pass
		2♥	All Pass

Apparently, E/W had no way to show a maximum fit in responding to a transfer, so the final contract was a very modest partscore. Nine tricks were made (not that it mattered) for 140 and the first 10 IMPs to the English.

It is interesting to see the difference in approach. The 15-17 NT led to a good game being missed, whereas the Acoll 1♥ opening bid made it impossible to avoid getting to game.

After two flat boards, the English got a terrific chance to get right back into contention, but showed too much respect for their opponents:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
King	Saporta	Burn	Delor
2♥	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♣	All Pass	3♦

This time, the French approach of opening a camouflage minor should have come back as a boomerang to them. Best for South is to leave 2♥ in peace, but with 19 HCP, that's far from obvious. North was right in not passing 2NT, as this contract is still going down at the moment you are reading this. In this sequence, 3♣ does not look very forcing, so South might have passed to escape trouble. When she did not, it was difficult for North to understand that a camouflage suit had been opened (in France, certainly the 1♣ opening bid has been suspect for ages), so he corrected once more. At that moment, Su should have had

the last word, but she showed too much respect at the wrong moment. Four down undoubled meant only a loss of 200 for the Alpine team.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Roberts	Moretti	Curran
2♥	All Pass		1♦

Well, sorry to say, there is nothing more to the bidding in the Closed Room. Ten tricks were made to compensate for the loss at the other table. The difference just amounted to 1 English IMP, but it could so easily have been 12! Anyway: one board to go and the score at 26-11.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
King	Saporta	Burn	Delor
Dble	Rdble	Pass	1♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	Pass

Had South held one more small heart, all would have been well, but for once North's straight-forward way of dealing with this hand failed. On a heart lead, the defenders had no trouble in cashing their four heart tricks and the ♠A when in with the ♦A. The English thus scored a rather normal-looking 200.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Zimmermann	Roberts	Moretti	Curran
2NT	Pass	1♦	Dble
		3♦	All Pass

Holding very good diamond support, North decided to give preference to this most important feature of his invitational hand. When South duly signed off, North bravely resisted the temptation to take his fate into his own hands and was rewarded when game was no way on. Plus 110 brought a 7 IMP swing to the English to make the final score 26-18 or 17-13 in VPs for the Alpine team.

What Odds on the Grand?

What odds do you need to bid a grand slam? How about this combination from Round 8 of the Mixed Teams; is it good enough?

♠ A Q J x	♠ K x x
♥ —	♥ A x x x
♦ K Q x x	♦ A 10 x x
♣ K 10 9 x x	♣ A x



The top Polish pairing of Ewa Harasimowicz and Marcin Lesniewski are playing on WBF President, Jose Damiani's squad here in Bellaria. They bid the above cards as follows:

West	East
Harasimowicz	Lesniewski
1♣	1♥
1♠	2♣
3♣	3♦
4♦	4NT
5NT	7♦
Pass	

One Club was Polish, maybe natural, maybe a weak no trump, maybe strong and artificial. The One Heart response was a natural positive, at least four hearts and 8+HCP, and One Spade was natural. Two Clubs was an asking bid and Three Clubs said that Harasimowicz had a good hand with clubs and spades but less than three hearts (a bad hand with clubs and spades would bid Two Spades). Lesniewski used fourth-suit-forcing and the Four Diamond response showed the exact 4-0-4-5 distribution. Now he used their version of RKCB and the response showed two key cards out of five, plus the queen of trumps and one side king.

Lesniewski could see that his partner held the ace of spades, the king and queen of diamonds, and the club king, so he jumped to Seven Diamonds. He actually bought the worst dummy he could have found, in that the queen and jack of spades were much less useful than the equivalent club honours would have been, and even the addition of cards such as the ♦9 or ♣J would have made a significant difference to the odds of success.

The opening lead was a diamond to the jack and ace. Lesniewski ruffed a heart and cashed the king of diamonds to test the trump split. When they proved to be 3-2, he could cross to hand with a spade to ruff a second heart then come back again with the ♣A to draw the last trump and make his slam.

Seven is good but not all that special as it needs trumps to split 3-2 or the jack to be bare most of the time. So the question is, should you be in it?

I guess that if you could be certain that a small slam would be reached at the other table the answer is yes. However, in real life the contract at the other table was Three No Trump, making 11 tricks, so bidding to Six Diamonds was already worth a large swing and a 4-1 trump split could have been very expensive indeed.

MIXED Round Eleven TEAMS

Chemla (FRA) v Labaere (BEL)

Two rounds to go and Chemla of France and Labaere of Belgium met on table four, both looking for a good win to move into the top four and both knowing that a loss would end their hopes of making the semi-finals. The match started very quietly and after five boards Labaere led by 3-2 IMPs. Then the fun started.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Quantin	V Middellem	Favas	V D Bossche
3♦	3♠	Pass	2♠
5♦	All Pass	4♥	Pass

Caroline Van Den Bossche opened with a weak two bid and Jean-Christophe Quantin overcalled Three Diamonds. When Guy

Van Middellem raised to Three Spades, it looked quite normal for Anne-Fred Favas to try Four Hearts, bolstered by her diamond fit. With a singleton heart, Quantin knew to correct to Five Diamonds, ending the auction. After a spade lead to the ace and a club switch, the contract just depended on avoiding a diamond loser. Quantin ruffed a spade and played the top diamonds, going one down when North turned up with a trump trick; -100.

West	North	East	South
Labaree	Chemla	Carcassonne	D'Ovidio
3♦	3♠	Pass	2♠
		Dble	All Pass

After the same start to the auction, Valerie Carcassonne did very well to make a competitive double rather than bid 4♥♦. With a singleton heart and wasted spade values, Alan Labaere had an easy pass of the double. The defence had to come to three club tricks and one trick in each other suit for two down; -300 and 9 IMPs to LABAERE, ahead by 12-2.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Quantin	V Middellem	Favas	V D Bossche
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
All Pass			2♣

West	North	East	South
Labaree	Chemla	Carcassonne	D'Ovidio
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	2♣
All Pass			5♣

It seems right to me that North should raise the Two Club rebid to Three Clubs, given that he has two aces along with his four-card support. Paul Chemla, then, deserved the swing earned by his raise. Both declarers made twelve tricks but that was +620 to Catherine D'Ovidio and only +170 to Van Den Bossche. CHEMLA gained 10 IMPs to tie the match at 12-12 IMPs.

Board 8 was a flat partscore but there was nothing flat about the last two boards of the set.

How they Qualified

Before the last match of the qualifying stage, the German team, Maybach was leading with 207, a seven point advantage over the French team, Sanglier. The leaders registered a big win 20/10 and were sure to qualify in first place. Sanglier, with a total of 211, had to wait anxiously

The French-Swiss team, Zimmerman, a long time leader, was third with 200 points coming into the last round where they met Danish, Auken, on 196. The Danes slaughtered their opponents 23/7 so Auken, with 219, was a sure qualifier and Zimmerman, 207, lost most of their illusions.

The third decisive confrontation was Capucho - 193 - versus Tissot - 191. The French took full advantage, 22/8, and out went the Portuguese-German combination while there was a qualifying place for Tissot with 213.

Who would take the fourth place? After agonizing minutes for Sanglier, it was Russia - Volina, coming from back in 11th place with 25-5 against Frensis to bring their total to 213 who took the last semi-final berth.

So it was teams from GERMANY, DENMARK, RUSSIA and FRANCE who made the semi-finals.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Quantin	V Middlelem	Favas	V D Bossche
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Van Den Bossche chose not to make any kind of a heart raise at her first turn, and when Quantin overcalled Five Clubs she felt that a Five Heart bid would be too committal and so preferred to double. That ended the auction, of course, and was, at least in theory, the winning action on the board. However, Van Middlelem led the ace of spades and Quantin ruffed. He led a low diamond to the eight and king and Van Den Bossche cashed the ace of diamonds before switching to the queen of hearts. Quantin could take two ruffs in dummy and when the ♦Q appeared had 11 tricks for a huge +750.

Of course, if South does not cash the ♦A, the contract has to fail. Best is simply to switch to a trump, but anything else apart from a spade play is good enough.

West	North	East	South
Labaere	Chemla	Carcassonne	D'Ovidio
3NT	Pass	4♠	Dble
5♣	Pass	Pass	5♥
Dble	All Pass		

Catherine D'Ovidio also chose not to make an immediate heart raise and Labaere tried a Three No Trump overcall rather than the more pre-emptive Five Club call chosen by Quantin. Carcassonne

THANKS

You have got the daily bulletin punctually every morning, usually with some 16 pages or more. I am sure you will be more than happy that I thank in your name the hard working co-editors BRIAN SENIOR, JOS JACOBS, MARK HORTON, though he left us for the Cap Gemini, FRANCO BROCCOLI and ALBERTO BENETTI, responsible for Casa Nostra

The layout editor, STELIOS HATZIDAKIS was most efficient and so were NIKI DI FABIO and FRANCO CROSTA, responsible for coordination and printing
GRAZIE et ARRIVIDERCI to all of them!

Jean-Paul Meyer

converted to Four Spades and D'Ovidio doubled. However, when Labaere in turn converted to the relative safety of his long suit, and Chemla did not double, D'Ovidio decided to try Five Hearts.

Labaere may have intended his double of Five Hearts as indicating a desire to ruff something — and that would clearly be spades after his run-out of that suit. If so, the message was not clear to East who led a club. There was no second chance for the defence who could take only one club and one trump; +650 and 16 IMPs to CHEMLA, moving into a 28-12 lead.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Quantin	V Middlelem	Favas	V D Bossche
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Van Den Bossche's club holding was not an attractive one from which to lead but the auction suggested that she should lead from the stronger of her minor-suit holdings and she finally did so. Alas, Van Middlelem did not read the eight as a small card and, after winning the ♣A, switched to a diamond. Favas won the ace of diamonds and cashed the queen, throwing dummy's remaining club loser away. She was on the road to making her contract now, needing only to cross to dummy to play a heart up. Alas, she actually led a low heart from hand instead. Van Den Bossche played low so her partner's bare jack won the trick. He played a club for dummy to ruff and now Favas played a second trump. Van den Bossche was able to cash her other top trump, drawing the last trump in the dummy, and the defence could cash a club and a diamond for three down; -300.

West	North	East	South
Labaere	Chemla	Carcassonne	D'Ovidio
1♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	INT	Pass
		4♥	All Pass

The different response meant that the contract was played from the other side. Chemla had an even less attractive club holding and led the ♦J instead. Labaere won in hand and played ace of spades then ruffed spade. He cashed the two top diamonds to get rid of his clubs, then played the queen of hearts, pinning the bare jack. He made ten tricks for +620 and 14 IMPs to LABAERE.

The match ended in a 28-26 IMP, 16-14 VP win to CHEMLA. It was a win, but other results meant that they were now further behind the top four than before and would need a big win in the final round if they were to qualify.



CASA NOSTRA

A.B.

LAVAZZA - MADSEN

La squadra Lavazza, nel penultimo turno delle qualificazioni, gioca al tavolo 7 contro i danesi di Madsen. Entrambe le squadre necessitano di una sostanziosa vittoria per avere serie possibilità di accedere alle semifinali.

Gli italiani schierano De Falco - Cividin N/S in aperta e Duboin - Lavazza E/O in chiusa. I danesi M. Madsen e M. Rahelt E/O in aperta e L. Madsen - N. Bekkouche N/S in chiusa.

Il board 1 vede la linea nord-sud realizzare 4 cuori sia in chiusa che in aperta. Nel board 2 il primo swing è a favore dei danesi.

Board 2. Dich. E Vul. N/S

♠ A D 7 5

♥ —

♦ D 8 6 5 4 3

♣ 7 3 2

♠ 8 6 3 2

♥ 8 5 3 2

♦ 9 7

♣ R 9 6

	N	
O		E
	S	

♠ F

♥ A 10 9 4

♦ A F 10

♣ A D F 8 4

♠ R 10 9 4

♥ R D F 7 6

♦ R 2

♣ 10 5

APERTA

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

Est attacca fiori. Ovest entra di asso e gioca il fante di picche per il 4 della dichiarante e la dama del morto. Sulla piccola quadri del morto ovest commette l'errore di entrare di asso e rigioca dama e fante di fiori. La Cividin taglia ma non può sbloccare il re di quadri e battere gli atouts, pena l'affrancamento dell'8 di ovest. Soltanto un lungimirante scarto del 9 di picche alla seconda presa, un successivo taglio di 10 della terza fiori e, infine, l'impasse all'8 di picche di est, avrebbe permesso alla triestina di realizzare il contratto. Un down.

In chiusa i danesi chiamano e mantengono il contratto di 2 quadri. Madsen è a +4. La parità viene però ristabilita nel board 3.

Board 3. Dich. S Vul. E/O

♠ R D 8 7

♥ 9 6 5 4

♦ R 4 3

♣ F 5

♠ 9 6 5 3 2

♥ F 2

♦ D 7 5

♣ A R 7

	N	
O		E
	S	

♠ A 4

♥ R 10 8 7 3

♦ A F 10 2

♣ 9 6

♠ F 10

♥ A D

♦ 9 8 6

♣ D 10 8 4 3 2

APERTA

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
			1♦ ⁽¹⁾
passo	ISA ⁽²⁾	passo	2♣
passo	passo	2♥	fine

⁽¹⁾ prep.⁽²⁾ Neg.

CHIUSA

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
			passo
passo	1♠	2♥	3♣
contro	fine		

I danesi fanno 9 prese in aperta ma in chiusa pagano 300 cadendo di due in 3 fiori contrate (2 fiori, 3 quadri e l'asso di picche).

Board 4. Dich. O Vul. Tutti

♠ A D 6 5 2

♥ R

♦ 9 7 2

♣ 7 6 3 2

♠ F 9 8 4

♥ A 10 8 7

♦ R F 8 6

♣ A

	N	
O		E
	S	

♠ R 10

♥ F 5 2

♦ A 3

♣ F 10 9 8 5 4

♠ 7 3

♥ D 9 6 4 3

♦ D 10 5 4

♣ R D

APERTA

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
1♦	1♠	2♣	passo
2♦	fine		

Su attacco di re di cuori, M. Madsen riesce a mettere insieme solo 6 prese e gli italiani segnano 200.

CHIUSA

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
1♣ ⁽¹⁾	1♠	contro	passo
2♥	fine		


⁽¹⁾ prep.

Sul fiori preparatorio di Duboin, Madsen entra con 1 picche. La Lavazza, al contrario della Rahelt, propone un contro. Duboin dichiara 2 cuori che resta il contratto finale. Preso l'attacco a fiori gioca picche al re, taglia una fiori, tira asso e re di quadri, taglia una quadri al morto, un'altra fiori in mano (surtagliando la piccola cuori di sud) e presenta l'ultima quadri tagliata dal re di ovest

che incassa l'asso di picche e rigioca nel colore. La difesa incassa ancora una cuori. 10 prese per Giorgio e +370 per la Lavazza che si porta a +9.

2 cuori giocati e fatti con surlevée nel board 5 mantengono inalterato il risultato.

Board 6. Dich. E Vul. E/O

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

APERTA

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
passo contro	3SA fine	2♥ passo	2♠ 4♠

La Cividin interviene a picche sulla sottoapertura di est e De Falco, fidando sull'attacco favorevole e non conoscendo la reale forza della mano della compagna dichiara 3SA. Sud corregge ovviamente a 4 picche che ovest contra. La Cividin realizza le prese di sua competenza e paga 500.


CHIUSA

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
2♥ 3♦	passo fine	2♦ ⁽¹⁾ passo	passo 2♠

⁽¹⁾ multi

Duboin indovina la riapertura permettendo alla propria linea di limitare i danni. Ma 9 M.P. per i danesi riportano l'incontro in parità.

Board 7. Dich. S Vul. Tutti

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

APERTA

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
contro passo	1SA 3♣	2♠ fine	1♦ 2SA

Il Contro di ovest ed il successivo 2 picche di est disturbano la licita dei due alfieri della Lavazza che non riescono a trovare la via della manche. (Chiamare slam sarebbe davvero da marziani)


CHIUSA

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

Giorgio, giustamente, non valuta le proprie carte meritevoli di un contro in zona. I danesi riescono così, pianin pianino, a chiamare manche. 12 prese nei due tavoli e Madsen a +11.

5 quadri per N/S nelle due sale alla mano 8, poi arriva il board 9 che potrebbe dare una svolta all'incontro.

Board 9. Dich. N Vul. E/O

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

CHIUSA

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
5♣ contro	1♥ 5♥ fine	1♠ passo	3♣ ⁽¹⁾ passo

⁽¹⁾ splinter

La Lavazza non trova l'attacco picche e L. Madsen porta a casa il contratto. Nel dopopartita la signora in questione riconosce, molto sportivamente, che un attacco nel nobile nero sarebbe stato l'unico giustificato dalla licita.

APERTA

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
5♣	2♦ ⁽¹⁾ 5♥	passo fine	4♥

⁽¹⁾ multi

Qui non c'è attacco che batta e anche la Cividin mantiene il suo impegno. +200 per i danesi che si portano a +16.

Board 10. Dich. E Vul. Tutti

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

APERTA E CHIUSA

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

Nessuna delle due signore in sud riesce a trovare l'attacco (asso e re di cuori) che batterebbe il contratto. Infatti, sulla chiamata a fiori del compagno, si incasserebbero le prime 4 prese. L'attacco è a picche in aperta e a quadri in chiusa. La Rahelt non riesce a sfruttare l'insperato vantaggio (asso di picche, re di quadri, picche taglio, asso e dama di quadri per lo scarto di due fiori). La Lavazza, invertendo solo l'ordine di gioco delle prime due carte, si. +750 e 12 M.P. per gli italiani che, comunque, perdono per 16 a 14 con un risultato che non permette a nessuno dei due teams di portarsi in zona "finali".

SCONTRO IN FAMIGLIA

FB.

In uno degli ultimi turni a disposizione prima dell'entrata in semifinale, due delle nostre migliori formazioni, *Bonori* e *Fornaciari*, hanno incrociato le carte una contro l'altra in alta classifica per guadagnare uno dei quattro posti previsti per la fase successiva. I punti a disposizione sono tutti fondamentali e purtroppo il guadagno di una corrisponde alla fine delle speranze dell'altra. D'altronde non c'è via d'uscita in quanto anche un pareggio, o simili, scontenterebbe tutti. Nella vita reale lo scontro è finito 17/13 per Bonori, punteggio che ha tenuto le nostre formazioni lontano dal poker di posti utili.

Vediamoci un botta e risposta da questo incontro.

PINACOTECA

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

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

Ci sarebbe la manche a quadri per N/S, ma apre Est e Ovest ha, in prima contro zona, l'appoggio sesto nel colore del compagno. La licita può ingarbugliarsi velocemente. Vediamo cosa è successo:

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Mosca	Mariani	Capodanno	Buratti
		1♠	contro
passo	3♦	passo	3♥
passo	5♦	fine	

Nulla da segnalare in sala aperta, a parte il silenzio di Mosca che:

- non vuole spingere gli avversari a slam,
- è sempre in tempo per difendere se gli avversari dimostrano risorse limitate alla manche.

Il gioco non ha presentato aspetti interessanti. Nell'altra sala:

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Vivaldi	Gavelli	Rossano	Bonori
		1♠	2♥
3♠	passo	4♠	fine

La maggiore allegria licitativa di E/O ha stoppato la coppia proprietaria del contratto in attacco. A dimostrazione che, forse, il silenzio non è sempre d'oro.

OCCHIO ALLA PRIMA (PRESA)

Nella mano che segue, per diversi motivi, molti dichiaranti hanno avuto problemi con la manche a SA.

Board 4. Dich. Ovest. Tutti in zona

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

Monica Buratti, in Sud, sull'attacco 10 di cuori di Mosca ha deciso di passare il Fante e questa scelta si è rivelata una corsia preferenziale per il down. Luciana Capodanno è entrata con la Dama e ha virato a fiori, per la piccola di Sud e il Fante di Mosca. Ora il 9 di picche ha girato indisturbato fino al Fante della dichiarante. Un down, prima di metterci le mani.

Nell'altra sala questo problema non si è presentato:

Ovest	Nord	Est	Sud
Vivaldi	Gavelli	Rossano	Bonori
	1♠	passo	ISA
fine			

Sull'attacco fiori di Ovest, la dichiarante ha realizzato 10 prese.

How to qualify for the play-offs

Thursday morning's match at table three might be an interesting one. Whichever team could register a big win would obtain a good chance of making it to the play-offs. Furthermore, it was an all-French contest: Tissot v. Sanglier. In the Open Room, Lévy/Willard for the Tissot team were to face Stoppa/Avon and in the Closed Room it would be Sussel/Gaviard for the Sanglier team v. Mouiel/Cronier. All pairs are playing a very natural system, the 'Standard Français.'

The first board was flat, both pairs scoring 140 in 3♥. On the second board, both North players boldly bid their diamond suit at the five-level, vulnerable against not. As Alain Lévy was doubled, his team scored the first four IMPs when the final contract proved unbeatable. This was the hand.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Would you dare to bid 5♦ after 1♠ - 2♥ - 4♠?
On the next board, something more serious happened.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Stoppa	Lévy	Avon	Willard
			1♥
2♦	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Though Sylvie Willard was totally justified in making one more move, this contract already was far too high. As the cards lay, two down was the normal result; Sanglier +100.



Alain Lévy, France

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Mouiel	Sussel	Cronier	Gaviard
			1♥
2♦	2♥	Pass	3♦
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Here, Mouiel for once believed his opponents at the wrong moment. With no game on for N/S, three down was not quite what Tissot could afford; Sanglier +500 more and 12 IMPs to go up 12-4.

Tissot struck back on Board 4, when the defence was not quite up to the normal standards of the E/W pair involved. It became established from the comments after the play of the hand, that the main reason for the defensive error was the very early hour at which they start proceedings here in Italy.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

♠ J 8 5
 ♥ 9
 ♦ A 10 9 8 3
 ♣ A Q 4 2

The normal contract on this board is 3NT. A little high, maybe, but such is life. In the Open Room, Alain Lévy won the

heart lead with the jack and advanced the $\diamond J$. When this was covered with the king and ace, he still was far from home. Stoppa won the third round of diamonds, on which Danièle Avon threw the queen of hearts. In the meantime, Lévy had discarded a club. Jean-Louis Stoppa duly continued with the $\spadesuit 9$ to Avon's queen, but the contract can no longer be defeated now if declarer plays well. In the end, Lévy made an overtrick when Avon returned a low spade; Tissot +630.

As the same contract was defeated by one trick in the Closed Room, 12 IMPs went back to Tissot to make the score 16-12 to them.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Stoppa	Lévy	Avon	Willard
Pass	1 \heartsuit	2 \clubsuit	Dble
Pass	3 \diamond	Pass	3 \spadesuit
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Prospects did not look too bright for this contract, but things began to clear up a little when Avon made the unlucky lead of the $\clubsuit Q$. If declarer wins this and plays on spades, he might even end up with nine tricks on double-dummy play. Not being that clairvoyant, Lévy went after his best chance of finding a reasonable heart break. He cashed the $\heartsuit AK$ but to no avail, as it turned out. Then, he switched his attention to the diamond suit. $\diamond A$ and a diamond to the jack gave the lead to East, who continued a spade which ran to West's king. Stoppa then did not even bother to cash his hearts but simply continued spades when the queen appeared from declarer. In the end, the contract went down three for +150 to Sanglier.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Mouiel	Sussel	Cronier	Gaviard
Pass	1 \heartsuit	2 \clubsuit	Pass
Pass	2 \diamond	Pass	2 \heartsuit
All Pass			

Holding two aces, Gaviard's simple preference for hearts was not very audacious, but it worked very well here. Sussel just managed to gather eight tricks for another +110 and 6 IMPs to Sanglier. They were back into the lead by 18-17 now.

The match result was decided on the penultimate board when a not too good non-vulnerable game rolled home because all the finesses were working.



Hervé Mouïel, France

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Stoppa	Lévy	Avon	Willard
1 \spadesuit	INT	Pass	1 \heartsuit
Pass	2 \heartsuit	All Pass	2 \clubsuit

With every card right, eleven tricks came home on the lead of the $\diamond J$; Tissot +200.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Mouiel	Sussel	Cronier	Gaviard
1 \spadesuit	Dble	Pass	2 \clubsuit
Pass	2 \heartsuit	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

This time, Gaviard showed that she knows very well what she is doing. We saw her staying within her shell on Board 6, but this time she jumped out of it and made a game-try on a hand on which many of us (men?) would have passed. Once again, she was right; Sanglier +430 and 6 more IMPs to win 24-17 or 17-13 VPs.

MIXED Semi-finals (first set) TEAMS

Maybach (GER) v Volina (RUS)

Having led at the end of the qualifying stage, the German MAYBACH team had the right to choose their semi-final opposition from the other three qualified teams. They selected the Russian VOLINA team. Let me start by giving you an opening lead problem.

identical but the contract made. It is difficult to ask the players for a lot of information in the middle of an important match so we are guessing as to what happened, but the most likely explanation is that South switched to a heart rather than a spade when in with the ace of trumps. This would leave declarer with sufficient dummy entries to establish and cash the clubs for a spade pitch. Anyway, that was +400 to VOLINA and 10 IMPs.

North	South
1♣	2♥
2♠	3♥
3♠	3NT
7♠	Pass

One Club was Polish and Two Hearts a natural game force. North has shown a one-suited hand with spades. What would your choice be holding:

♠ 3 2
♥ A 10 5
♦ 8 5 3 2
♣ K 6 3 2

We will come to that shortly, but a lot of IMPs swing on the decision you make.

The boards were lively, especially in the first half of the set, and there were plenty of swings, beginning on Board 1.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Oelker	Gromov	Gladiator	Gromova
	3♠	Pass	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Andrey Gromov started the match off with a Three Spade pre-empt, not being concerned about his four-card heart suit. When that came round to Clemens Oelker he overcalled Four Diamonds and Anne Gladiator cuebid on the way to game. Gromov led his club and Oelker rose with dummy's ace and played a trump. Victoria Gromova won her ace and switched to a spade for the jack and ace. Declarer drew the remaining trump and gave up a club. Now Gromova switched to a heart for the ace. Declarer ruffed his heart loser and played the queen of clubs to the king, discarding his spade and going one down for -50.

In the other room, the contract and opening lead were both

Board 2. Dealer East. NIS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Oelker	Gromov	Gladiator	Gromova
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3NT

Oh for a good old-fashioned strong jump shift. If North could bid 2♠ then 3♠, he might get some co-operation out of South, otherwise this hand is very tough. Indeed, Four Spades was also the contract at the other table. Both declarers made twelve tricks for a push.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Oelker	Gromov	Gladiator	Gromova
Pass	1♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

Well, did you decide on the answer to the lead problem? If you led a spade, as did Anne Gladiator, I expect you will think that she was unlucky. Personally, I have seen this sort of thing happen too often and don't believe in leading a 'safe' trump against a grand slam. But then, of course, it is easy to say so afterwards, isn't it?

The trump lead gave the contract; +2210 and 13 IMPs to VOLI-NA as the Germans stopped in Six Spades at the other table.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ K Q 6 5 ♥ A 7 6 5 ♦ A 8 6 4 3 ♣ —	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A 10 8 ♥ 8 ♦ K Q 10 9 7 ♣ J 10 9 6
N					
W E					
S					
♠ 7 4 3 2 ♥ J 4 3 2 ♦ 5 2 ♣ Q 5 4	♠ J 9 ♥ K Q 10 9 ♦ J ♣ A K 8 7 3 2				

West	North	East	South
Oelker	Gromov	Gladiator	Gromova
Pass	2♦	Dble	3♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Two Clubs was natural and limited by the failure to open with a strong club. Two Diamonds enquired and Three Hearts showed a maximum with six clubs and four hearts. Gromov cuebid then went on with RKCB when Gromova signed off in Four Hearts. The Five Spade response showed two key cards out of five plus the queen of trumps.

Oelker led a diamond in response to his partner's double of Two Diamonds. Gromova won the ace and played a spade towards her jack. Gladiator took her ace and played a diamond through, forcing Gromova to ruff. Declarer played ace of clubs and ruffed one then a spade to the jack and ruffed another club. She tried to split the hearts now and when they failed to oblige had to go one down; -100.

In the other room, the Maybach/Schreckenberger stopped in Five Hearts for +650 and 13 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ K Q 10 9 7 2 ♥ 10 5 4 3 ♦ Q ♣ Q 5	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 8 6 4 ♥ J 9 7 ♦ J 10 7 3 ♣ J 9 2
N					
W E					
S					
♠ J 3 ♥ Q 8 6 2 ♦ K 9 2 ♣ A K 10 6	♠ A 5 ♥ A K ♦ A 8 6 5 4 ♣ 8 7 4 3				

West	North	East	South
Oelker	Gromov	Gladiator	Gromova
1NT	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

One No Trump was weak and Two Clubs showed a one-suiter. The lead was the jack of diamonds. Gromov won dummy's ace and cashed the top hearts. He ruffed a diamond then ruffed a heart low. Another diamond ruff was followed by a heart ruff with the ace. The fall of the jack of spades meant that he had 11 tricks; +450.

The contract was only Three Spades at the other table for +200 so that was 6 IMPs to VOLINA.

Midway through the set, the Russians were in the lead, but that was to be the last swing their way while MAYBACH gained on a number of deals.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ 10 8 7 4 ♥ 9 7 4 2 ♦ J ♣ K 10 9 4	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 9 2 ♥ A J 3 ♦ 10 9 7 6 2 ♣ Q J 8
N					
W E					
S					
♠ J ♥ Q 10 ♦ A K Q 5 4 3 ♣ A 6 5 3	♠ A K Q 6 5 3 ♥ K 8 6 5 ♦ 8 ♣ 7 2				

West	North	East	South
Oelker	Gromov	Gladiator	Gromova
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♠

Two Diamonds was game-forcing, giving Gromova room to bid out her 6-4 shape in comfort. Gromov now judged to play Four Spades as he had no semblance of a second club stopper and thought that communications could be a problem. Oelker led his singleton diamond and Gromova won in dummy as Gladiator dropped the ten, confirming that the jack was a short-suit lead. Declarer erred badly when she cashed the jack of spades then tried to get back to hand by ruffing a diamond low. She was over-ruffed and Oelker switched to a club to dummy's ace. Gromova threw her club loser on a top diamond but Oelker ruffed again and switched to a heart to the queen and ace. Back came another diamond and declarer threw a heart, allowing Oelker a third ruff. She still had to lose the third round of hearts to the nine so was two down for -200.

Declarer does better to overtake the ♠J at trick and play four rounds of the suit, making five spades, three diamonds, the ♣A and a heart, for ten in all. To throw a club on a top diamond at trick two is not so successful. The diamond is ruffed, but she can now ruff a club back to hand to draw trumps. However, the hearts lie badly for this line and declarer will lose three heart tricks plus the ruff for down one.

The result from the other table was Three No Trump plus one after a club lead; +630 and 13 IMPs to MAYBACH.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ K 9 5 ♥ 6 ♦ 9 6 4 2 ♣ J 10 9 3 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A Q J 7 6 ♥ J 10 7 ♦ K J 10 8 ♣ K	♠ 10 4 3 ♥ K Q 9 8 ♦ A 7 5 ♣ Q 6 5
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
<i>Oelker</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Gladiator</i>	<i>Gromova</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
Rdbl	2♣	Pass	Dble
Dble	All Pass		Pass

In the other room, the contract was 4♥ down one by East/West, losing three trump tricks and the ♦A; -50. Here Gromova doubled 1♠ to show her maximum pass despite not having the normal distribution for a take-out double and there was no escape for her side.

Gladiator led the ♣K against 2♣ doubled and switched to the ♦10, which held the trick. She played a second diamond to the ace and Gromov played a third round. Gladiator won and played her fourth diamond, ruffed with the queen. Gromov came to three more trump tricks for three down; -500 and 11 IMPs to MAYBACH.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ Q 10 9 8 5 2 ♥ 9 ♦ 9 6 5 ♣ J 8 4	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 7 4 ♥ J 10 6 3 2 ♦ K J 3 2 ♣ 10 6	♠ J 6 3 ♥ Q 8 5 ♦ Q 4 ♣ A K Q 9 7
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
<i>Oelker</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Gladiator</i>	<i>Gromova</i>
			1♣
Dble	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

1♣ was Polish, either natural, a weak no trump, or strong. Gromova led out three rounds of clubs and Gladiator ruffed. She cashed the top hearts and spades then exited with a trump. The distribution should have been clear to Gromova, who does best to give a ruff and discard, but in practice she switched to the ♦Q, solving declarer's problem for her; +420. The Russians did not reach game at the other table, scoring +200 but losing 6 IMPs. At half time in the semi-final, MAYBACH led VOLINA by 52-29 IMPs.

Double Trouble

When Madsen (Denmark) met Sandmark (Norway) in Round 10 of the Mixed Teams, Morten Lund Madsen thought that he was dreaming as the auction progressed on one board. This was the board:

♠ K 10 4 ♥ Q J 4 3 2 ♦ 10 6 4 3 ♣ 6	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ J 8 3 2 ♥ 7 ♦ Q 9 ♣ A Q 10 9 7 3	♠ Q ♥ A K 10 8 5 ♦ K J 8 7 5 ♣ K 5
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
<i>Oelker</i>	<i>Madsen</i>	<i>Gladiator</i>	<i>Rahelt</i>
2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
All Pass		Pass	Dble

West's Two Heart opening was weak with five hearts plus a four-card or longer minor. Lund Madsen was slightly surprised by the opening bid but he passed to see what would happen. When East asked for his partner's minor and West admitted to holding diamonds, Lund Madsen was even more surprised. Still, he had to pass again as a double would have been for take-out. Imagine his pleasure when he saw that Maria Rahelt had made a balancing double! Three Diamonds doubled made just three tricks for +1700 to the Danes, helping them to a 25-4 VP win and catapulting them into contention for a semi-final spot with two rounds to go to the cut.

Meanwhile, Paul Chemla's French team were lying 15th at the start of the day and in need of a big win to get in touch with the leaders. Chemla also enjoyed the above board, though not achieving quite the same score as Lund Madsen.

West	North	East	South
<i>Oelker</i>	<i>Chemla</i>	<i>Gladiator</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♦	2♣	Dble
Pass	4♥	Pass	2♥
		All Pass	

The opening lead was a low spade to dummy's ace. Chemla played ace, king and a third diamond, East pitching a club. He ruffed the diamond and led the ♥9, covered by the jack and king. When the ♥7 fell, Chemla decided that the suit was probably breaking 5-1, especially given that East seemed to be long in both black suits from the bidding and his opening lead. He continued by cashing the jack of diamonds, then exited with the king of clubs. East won the ♣A but then made the fatal error of failing to cash the ♣Q. Instead, he led a spade for Chemla to ruff. Chemla again exited with a club and East was obliged to lead a black card for him to ruff again. Finally, Chemla played his last diamond and West had to ruff and lead into the ♥A10 at trick twelve to give the tenth trick. Strangely, this fine effort was not matched at the other table. The Chemla team gained a 25-3 VP win and were right in the thick of the qualification battle.

Mixed Teams - Ranking after 14 Rounds

Name	Country	Round 14	Total	Name	Country	Round 14	Total
5 Mrs POPOVA	BUL	15	244	54 NAHMIAS A.	FRA	13	208
6 SANGLIER	FRA	17	242	55 LIET.	NOR	19	208
7 VIVES J-L.	FRA	15	242	56 ZAKRZEWSKI	POL	15	207.5
8 ZIMMERMANN	SVI	19	237	57 MANARA	ITA	15	207
9 GEORGIEV	BUL	25	236	58 ANDERSEN	NOR	19	207
10 MADSEN L.	DEN	18	236	59 LIGAMBI L.	ITA	9	205
11 STRETZ F.	FRA	11	235	60 JUURI-OJA	FIN/LAT	18	204.5
12 ROBERTS D.	ENG	13	233	61 PETROVIC	CRO	16	204
13 CHEMLA P.	FRA	16	232	62 GOTARD T.	GER	14	203
14 MARI C.	FRA	14	232	63 THUILLEZ L	FRA	13	203
15 CAPUCHO M.	POR/GER	19	230	64 FRANCES J.	FRA	20	203
16 LALANNE B.	FRA	17	229	65 SAVELLI L.	ITA	4	202
17 Ms LAVAZZA	ITA	16	229	66 Mrs HERBST	ISR	18	202
18 BARONI F.	ITA	14	227	67 BONAVOGLIA	ITA	11	200.5
19 SISSELAAR	NTH	18	227	68 BLONDAL K.	ICE	12	200
20 STEFANIUK	POL	12	226	69 PATELLI G.	ITA	11	199
21 KOWALSKI	POL	19	226	70 BURAKOWSKI	POL	18	199
22 KAPLAN L.	FRA	13	226	71 Mrs DAS ML	FRA	21	198
23 Mrs BONORI	ITA	16	225	72 Ms LACROIX	FRA	12	196
24 RATYNSKI	POL	14	224	73 PIAZZA R.	ITA	6	196
25 REPS K.	GER	11	224	74 GOLL M.	GER	17	196
26 PRINCIPE G	ITA	20	223	75 VERHEES	NTH	12	194
27 FERLAZZO F	ITA	25	223	76 SAGIV J.	ISR	10	194
28 Mrs BELLO	FRA	12	222	77 HONKAVUORI	FIN/ISR	13	193
29 GABOS G.	HUN	16	221	78 SNORRASON	ICE	20	193
30 WALCZAK	POL	17	220	79 CLEARY A.	IRE	16	192
31 ZANISLAK	POL	16	220	80 REST ART	CRO	14	191
32 Ms WAKSMAN	FRA	21	219.5	81 INGIMARSSO	ICE	17	190
33 LABAERE A.	BEL	14	219	82 MORAN J.	IRE	18	189
34 FORNACIARI	ITA	14	218	83 SAMY A.	FRA/ISR	16	189
35 LE PODER J	FRA	21	218	84 HARDEMAN	BEL/CRO	13	188
36 Mrs SIMON	ENG/ITA	19	218	85 LATHAM T.	ENG	17	188
37 DEMIRBAS	TUR	15	217	86 Mrs BUDD M	ENG	9	186
38 Mrs ROOS A	SWE	11	217	87 SEMENTA A.	ITA	14	186
39 MEGLIO	ITA	16	217	88 Mrs HETZ	ISR	25	185
40 NOWAK J.	POL	15	216	89 Mrs BIRR B	GER	13	184
41 STEEL L.	SCO	13	216	90 ROUSSETSKY	RUS	12	184
42 FRENSIS	ITA	5	215	91 Mrs POPP K	AUT	17	183
43 DE SIMONE	ITA	16	215	92 TAMBURRINI	ITA	16	182
44 PORTEOUS P	IRE	14	214	93 SKOPINSKA	POL	10	181
45 MAURIN D.	FRA	14	214	94 BRIDGERAMA	ITA	14	181
46 SCHILHART	GER	17	214	95 DUGUET M.	FRa	1	171
47 SCHNEIDER	GER	24	214	96 HJALTASON	ICE	20	169
48 KARLSSON	SWE	10	213	97 SIGSGAARD	DEN	10	167
49 ENGEL B.	GER	16	210	98 Mrs LISE C	FRA/POL	1	164
50 SANDSMARK	NOR	11	210	99 FACCHINI	ITA	1	164
51 Mrs SVER N	CRO	9	208	100 Mrs DAN O.	ISR/FRA	2	158
52 VAN EIJCK	NTH	17	208	101 CLOW B.	SCO	13	154
53 PIZZA E.	ITA	14	208				