

2nd EUROPEAN OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

18 JUNE - 2 JULY 2005

DAILY BULLETIN



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TENERIFE AMABLE

Everything is in place for what will surely be a tremendous European Open Championship, which was officially opened yesterday evening by the President of the European Bridge League, **Gianarrigo Rona**.

The ceremony featured a display of the flags of the competing nations followed by speeches of welcome from **Miguel Delgado**, Councillor of Culture of the Tenerife Cabil-

do, **Josè Alberto Gonzales Reveron**, Mayor of Arona, **Raimundo Dominguez**, Director General of the Tourist Promotion of the Canary Islands and **Rafael Estartus**, Delegate of the Residence of Mare Nostrum. The ceremony was followed by a lavish alfresco buffet that gave everyone the chance to renew old friendships.

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Schedule of Play

Round 1	10.30 - 12.00
Round 2	12.20 - 13.50
Round 3	14.40 - 16.10
Round 4	16.30 - 18.00
Round 5	18.20 - 19.50
Side game	21.15

REGISTRATION OF MIXED TEAMS EVENT

(Today) 09.00 - 10.00

WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr Raimundo Dominguez, Director General de Gobierno de Canaria, Mr. Miguel Delgado, Cosejero del Cabildo Insular, Mr. José Alberto Gonzales Reveron, Mayor of Arona, Mr. Rafael Estartus, Delegado de la Presidencia de Mare Nostrum, Authorities, thank you for your attendance to our Ceremony.

Dear colleagues, officers, journalists, players and friends,

Welcome to Arona to participate and enjoy together the 2nd European Open Bridge Championship, just 4 years after the organisation of the 45th European Teams Championship. With players representing some 50 countries, this will be a truly special event with thousands of bridge players involved. I am sure that this will be a great event thanks to the Organising Committee who have worked with such commitment, passion, professionalism and enthusiasm towards its success. To its members go our most sincere thanks. We are also very grateful to the local Authorities for their significant and essential contribution.

I am sure that the beautiful island of Tener-

ife, one of the 7 happy Canary Islands, will live up to its reputation for offering a great welcome and I take the opportunity to thank Mr Adan Martin, Presidente del Gobierno de Canaria, Ricardo Melchior, Presidente del Cabildo de Tenerife, the Mayor of Arona, Mr José Alberto Gonzales Reveron, Mr Antonio Mestre, Presidente of Mare Nostrum, the Spanish Bridge Federation led by Eduardo Molero, the Asociacion Canaria de Bridge, led by Manolo Negrin, my great friend, Aureliano Yanes, on site organiser, and all our Sponsor-friends who have allowed us to organise this Championship.

Together with my colleagues from the European Bridge League I am confident in being able to count on both the dedication and professionalism of our staff, and on the cooperation of all of you. I often repeat that bridge is more than fair-play, because it is a way of thinking and not just a way of being, and I am sure that this great event will increase my conviction.

This biennial appointment, started two years ago in Menton, represents one of the most important meetings in European and World Bridge and I strongly believe that it renews

the great tradition of friendship, solidarity, aggregation, without discrimination and barriers, exalting the true values of sport in general, and Bridge in particular.

I strongly believe that we will be able to achieve, once again, these results because I know you, the players, the true protagonists of our events and because I know your spirit, behaviour and attitude in participating and competing our championship. For all these reasons and not only for coming I thank you and I am pleased to express to you our gratitude. If bridge today is part of the Olympic Family, if bridge today is one of the most important sports in the world, this is really due to you - and you fully deserve this!

I hope you enjoy your stay in this wonderful land, in this wonderful venue.

Now the curtain is raised and I am very proud to declare the 2nd European Open Bridge Championship officially open.

All the best to you, and "un abbraccio".

Gianarrigo Rona

OPENING CEREMONY



INSTRUCTIONS

Bridgemate

www.bridgematescoring.com



General

Press OK to start Bridgemate. There is no Off button - it turns itself off. Press OK to continue. Press Cancel to go back. North enters the results, East verifies and confirms.

Start

Press OK. The screen shows the group and table number. Press OK again.

Enter member number

Now N: is shown in the top left corner. This is where you enter North's member number. Enter the member number and press OK. Do the same for South, East and West. Depending on the event entering member numbers may be disabled.

Round and board numbers

The next screen shows what round and what boards are to be played as well as pair num-

bers. Press OK to continue.

Enter result

Board number

First enter board number. Press OK. Enter board number before you start playing the board.

Contract and declarer

After bidding has finished, enter contract and possibly double/redouble and select declarer by pressing N/S or E/W. One press gives N and E respectively. Two presses give S and W. Finish with OK.

Lead

Enter lead card. Start with the suit symbol. Finish with OK.

Result

Then enter the result. When just made, press =. When made with overtricks, press + and number of overtricks. When defeated, press - and number of downtricks. Finish with OK.

Verification

Hand over the Bridgemate to East for verification of the entered result. East must press OK to confirm, or Cancel to reject. After confirmation, the preliminary percentage of your result is shown.

Enter passed hand

In the middle of the keyboard there is a button with a K and a green PASS. Use that button for passed hands.

Hint

Do not wait with the entries until the game is over. It's much faster if you enter contract when the bidding is over and enter the lead whenever possible. When play is over you just have to enter the result and move on to the next board.

The US Women's Championships

The United States Women's Bridge Championship was played in the Golden Nugget in downtown Las Vegas. Two spots in the Estoril Venice Cup were up for grabs, but only ten teams entered, so there were some direct byes to the semifinal stage.

That was where the Cinderella team of the event, Cindy Bernstein Patricia Griffin Georgiana Gates and Sally Wheeler defeated one of the favourites and the number one seeds, JoAnn Sprung, Kathy Sulgrove, Peggy Sutherland, Karen Allison, Renee Mancuso and Pam Wittes by 159-135 IMPs over 64 boards.

In the other semifinal Hansa Narasimhan, Irina Levitina, Jill Levin, Sue Picus, JoAnna Stansby, and Debbie Rosenberg, who along with the Sprung squad have been a major force in domestic US bridge over the last eighteen months, defeated another heavyweight outfit, Mildred Breed, Shawn Quinn, Cheri Bjerkan and Stasha Cohen, 164-136 IMPs.

In many sports the top two teams would be the ones to get a chance to compete for a World title, but that was not the case here. In the final (called playoff 1) both teams won

three of the six sessions but the favourites came out on top, Narasimhan winning 263-229 IMPs to become USA1.

Meanwhile in the match between the two losers, Quinn started well and with two sessions remaining enjoyed a lead of 32 IMPs. Now (if you will forgive the pun) their opponents Sprung into action and took charge in the last two sets to emerge as winners by 199-190 IMPs and so become USA2.

On current form these are the two best teams in the USA and they will both be strong contenders in Estoril - but remember they cannot meet in the final.



Championship Diary

Despite a three-hour delay at Gatwick airport we arrived in good spirits, doubtless because we were able to enjoy the delights of the first class lounge at the airport (and hence some excellent 1999 Bordeaux - a little young for my taste but you know the principle - any port in a storm).

Max Bavin was on the same flight and after interminable circuits of the carousel had been completed only two suitcases - and two passengers remained. Prompted by your Editor, Max took one of the cases off the belt - 'This might be mine.' - 'Does yours have a padlock?' - 'No.' - 'Then this isn't it.' 'Is it the other one?' - 'No, but it looks like mine.' - 'Take it off and check it.' - (Removes case and inspects) 'No, its not mine.' (Returns case to conveyor belt.) At this point an official arrived and offered assistance. On being appraised of the situation he advised that the first case was one that had gone missing the day before. He asked Max if his could be the second case - 'No, I've checked it.' Showing commendable acumen the official took the case off the belt and inspected the airlines luggage label - 'Mr Bavin? he enquired.

(Reminds me of the time the World Juniors were in Hamilton, Ontario. One of our Greek friends made the long flight involving several changes. He had breakfast in Athens, lunch in Paris, dinner in Toronto and luggage in Tokyo!)

Following yesterday's opening ceremony our resident vexillologist told us only two flags were upside down, and our Polish guests had to do with the Monegasque version of their flag.

It took less than a day but someone - and heaven help them if we discover who - has temporarily disabled our Lavazza coffee machine. Chief suspects are Barry Rigal and Maureen Hiron.

Side Games

If you would like to take part in the side games (they start at 21.15 from today) there is no need to pre-register, simply make your way to the Minerva room (opposite the Information Centre at the Cleopatra hotel) and take a seat. There are eleven events in total and in principle each will comprise 24 boards. The entry fee is Euro 25 per pair and there will be prizes and EBL Masterpoints for each session. There will be an overall prize based on an individual players best five results.

There will be no side game on 20,24 June and 1 & 2 July.

On Trial For Estoril

Barry Rigal reports on the US trials, with some additional contributions from Tim Bourke and the Editor.

The format of the US trials varies on how many teams are going to the World Championships. This year being a Bermuda Bowl qualifying event, there would normally be two spots available from the Trials. But since Nickell had already qualified for the Bermuda Bowl from last year's Istanbul trials, there was a more traditional format this year, with winner take all. The Schwartz team had a bye to the quarter-finals, the Welland team to the round of eight, everybody else would play the round robin to reach the round of 16.

This was a deal with a cautionary message. Many of us believe we understand the game instinctively, and if we have to work things out, that we can do so from a set of first principles. However occasionally a deal comes along that confounds those principles. Let's see how good you are at working out the rules - I freely confess I had to struggle with this hand even after seeing all 52 cards.

Dealer South None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠ [^]	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

[^]Values in spades

Getting to 6♦ as opposed to 6NT is not so easy if South has to take the final decision. On the auction shown, Fallenius did well to decide to declare six diamonds and received a trump lead. He won the jack, unblocked clubs, crossed to the diamond king and ruffed a club, then drew trumps as East and South both threw hearts, then finessed in hearts, and won the deceptive return of the spade jack in dummy. He next crossed to the heart ace, cashed the club king, pitching a spade from dummy and finding the bad news, then went to dummy by ruffing a club, and played the last trump in this ending:

	♠ 6	
	♥ 7	
	♦ 9	
	♣ --	
♠ Q 8		♠ 9 7
♥ J		♥ ---
♦ -		♦ ---
♣ ---		♣ Q
	♠ A 10	
	♥ ---	
	♦ ---	
	♣ 8	

The last trump forced a spade out of East, and now declarer discarded his club and caught West in a spade/heart squeeze. Do you see what the defence did wrong? Hard though it is to predict,

East's discard of a heart at trick four was fatal (yes declarer can make even after a spade discard by an endplay on West - but I'm willing to bet he won't). If East pitches a spade, declarer will probably follow the same sequence of plays; in the two-card ending East can retain the heart nine and club queen, leaving West to hold onto the spades; down one. Should East have been able to predict this? Well, perhaps East was following the wrong mantra - of trying to give up on the suit he thought his RHO would hold in a single squeeze and letting partner guard the hearts. It is tough to see that your heart guard will be significant in a double-squeeze ending. I have to say I'm not sure there aren't equally many positions where a spade discard might give something useful away. In the other room Zia as East was on lead to 6♦, and in response to a lead-directing double, led a MUD ♥8. Now he had to remember to retain the ♥9 rather than helpfully give partner the count in that suit (and expose him to the same squeeze) - which he did. That allowed him to successfully defend against the double squeeze and set the slam.

The semi-finals started off in very different modes. Robinson took an early lead against Welland, and ran it up to 60IMPs at the halfway stage of the match. Meanwhile Schwartz-Ekeblad featured a great deal of very good and very tight bridge. The match finished with a combined total score of just over 3IMPs a board - incredibly low for an event of this sort. However, even in the semi-finals of the trials you can gain IMPs just so long as you do the basics correctly, that is to say if you can make the contracts you are supposed to make and defeat those you are supposed to beat. Tim Bourke, following the play from Australia on bridgebase spotted this deal, a possible contender for hand of the year:

Dealer South None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Boyd	Welland	Robinson	Fallenius
3NT	4♠	5♠	3♠
6♣	Pass	6♦	All Pass

South led the eight of clubs and declarer won in dummy, cashed the king of diamonds and played a diamond to the ten followed by the ace of diamonds for a swift one down, -50.

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg	Bramley	Zia	Feldman
3NT	4♠	5NT	3♠
6♣	Pass	6♦	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Rosenberg won the opening lead of the queen of spades with the ace and ran his clubs. North had no answer and when he discarded a couple of diamonds the suit ran. That was 14 IMPs for Welland.

West	North	East	South
Moss	Cohen	Gitelman	Berkowitz
3NT	4♠	5NT	3♠
6♣	Pass	6♦	Pass
			All Pass

Gitelman won the club lead in dummy and cashed the king of diamonds. Then he ran the nine of diamonds and when that held he cashed the ace of spades, discarding his own black ace! Now he simply played clubs. North could ruff the third round, but declarer overruffed, drew the last trump and claimed on a 3-3 heart break or the ace of hearts being with South, +920.

West	North	East	South
Krekorian	Greco	Casen	Hampson
3NT	4♠	5♠	3♠
6♣	All Pass		Pass

A nice way to flatten the board. Discounting the effort at the first table, who gets the prize - Rosenberg or Gitelman - or Krekorian-Casen for their auction?

With two sets to go in the final the Welland lead looked almost comfortable - then the roof fell in. Ekeblad outscored their opponents in those 30 deals by nearly 100 IMPs, and waltzed away with the match. Of course in any situation of that sort there will always be boards where the IMPs could have gone either way; to my mind the pivotal deal was this one, early in the penultimate set.

Given a free run in both rooms, the E/W pairs had to get to their highest scoring contract. For Welland, Zia and Rosenberg started 1♥-1♠-2♦-3♣-3♦ and a tortuous auction died in 5♥. Rosenberg must have feared the worst when dummy appeared but the 5-1 trump split came to his rescue and he took only 11 tricks. Was that a lucky break? No; this was how Gitelman and Moss coped with their problems.

Dealer North - Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Moss	Welland	Gitelman	Fallenius
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
		6NT	All Pass

A very fine appreciation of their cards by both players to reach the slam with 12 top tricks. Fallenius did his best by leading a spade (which would have been the killer if West had had the spade queen instead of the king, and East had had the diamond nine) but it was not good enough. In the final set each pair for Welland attempted a vulnerable slam that was somewhat worse than a finesse, each of which went down. Those two boards were roughly the margin of victory. Especial commiserations to Welland and Fallenius who have lost the finals of the US Trials for three consecutive years.