

European Bridge League







Issue No. I

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Thursday, 14 November 2013

ON THE ROAD IN OPATIJA



Never before in the history of European international bridge has an opening ceremony been attended by a head of state. Thank you, Mr. President, for doing us this unique favour.

Here is the speech delivered by Mr. Yves Aubry, the EBL President.

Mr Ivo Josipović – President of the Republic of Croatia Mr and Mrs the Representatives of the county Primorsko-Goranska and of the city of Opatija

Mr Jurica CariĆ - President of the Croatian Bridge Federation

Dear Friends.

I am pleased to welcome all of you to Opatija, players, officers, journalists, operators and guests to participate in the European Bridge Champions' Cup.

I am confident that you will enjoy discovering Opatija with its historical places and sea promenade along the Riviera.

We are proud to also welcome Gianarrigo Rona, President of the WBF and EBL President Emeritus.

I would like to congratulate the Croatian Bridge Federation, its President Jurica Carić, and all the organising committee led by Branka and Goran Grgurić for the great job they have accomplished.

We will come back in June for our EBL main event, the European Team Championships.

It gives me great pleasure to officially declare open the I2th European Bridge Champions' Cup.

Enjoy your play and your stay in Opatija.

RESULTS

Group A

	ROUND I		
Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
I HINDEN	storsjobygden bk	27-46	6.19-14.39
2 MONACO FMB	G.S. ALLEGRA	41-62	5.24-14.76
3 BAREKET	KI	20-57	2.81-17.19

	ROUND 2		
Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
I KI	storsjobygden bk	72-17	19.09-0.91
2 BAREKET	G.S. ALLEGRA	37-79	2.21-17.79
3 HINDEN	MONACO FMB	39-68	3.92-16.08

Group B

	ROUND I	
Home Team	Visiting Team IMPs	VPs
I BAMBERGER REITER	BRIDGE CLUB REAL 37-51	6.59-13.41
2 BC'T ONSTEIN	ASD REGGIO EMILIA 42-52	7.47-12.53
3 DR J.TOMLJENOVIC BRIDGE	RUCH SA AZS PWR WROCLAW65-48	14.01-5.99

	ROUND 2		
Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
I RUCH SA AZS PWR WROCLAW	BRIDGE CLUB REAL	48-14	16.8-3.2
2 DR J.TOMLJENOVIC BRIDGE	ASD REGGIO EMILIA	21-42	5.24-14.76
3 BAMBERGER REITER	BC'T ONSTEIN	39-37	10.55-9.45

Group A			
ı	KI	36.28	
2	G.S. ALLEGRA	32.55	
3	MONACO FMB	21.32	
4	STORSJOBYGDEN BK	15.30	
5	HINDEN	10.11	
6	BAREKET	5.02	

	Group B				
Ι	ASD REGGIO EMILIA	27.29			
2	RUCH SA AZS WROCLAW	22.79			
3	DR J.TOMLJENOVIC BRIDGE	19.25			
4	BAMBERGER REITER	17.14			
5	BC'T ONSTEIN	16.92			
6	BRIDGE CLUB REAL	16.61			

QUALIFICATION

Round



MONACO FMB V G.S. ALLEGRA





DR TOMLJENOVIC V RUCH WROCLAW

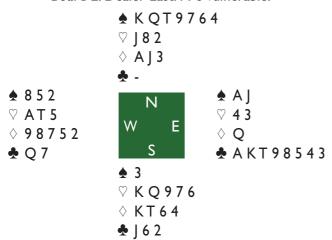


What on paper looked like the biggest match of them allin group A , the confrontation between Monaco and Allegra, happened to be scheduled as the first match of the day. The match started rather quietly but at about halfway, the IMPs suddenly began to fly all over the place. Below, you will find a selection from the many swing hands in this match.

In Group B, as an obvious matter of courtesy to our hosts, we selected their match v. Poland as the match to report on. As a number of hands were interesting in both matches, we will usually publish the two stories about one board next to each other, to avoid duplication of the board in two fully separate stories.

The fun started on board 2 in both matches:

Board 2. Dealer East. N-S Vulnerable.



In the Monaco v. Allegra match, Sementa for the latter team took what looked like a good save to him:

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Fantoni	Sementa	Nunes
		I♣	ΙŸ
Pass	2♣	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Maybe it was, maybe it was not. 4♠ looks cold but 4♡ might go down. Apart from that, it would all depend on what would happen at the other table.

5♣ went the obvious one down, of course.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Bocchi	Helness	Madala
		♣	I
l 🏚	Dbl	3♣	Pass
3NT	Dbl	Pass	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

The Monaco EW pair had quite different ideas about this hand and so had Bocchi. Three No-Trumps was a fine shot by Helgemo as there is no way to defeat it. A side effect of it was that the spades never entered the scene, remarkably enough, as both North and South made no further move when Helgemo saved himself (?) in 4. In a sense, NS were right as 4. is cold for another +130and 6 IMPs to Monaco to open their account.

This is what happened in the Croatia v. Poland match

West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Borevkovic	Gawrys	Kulovic
		l 🍨	♥
I♠	4♠	5♣	Pass
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

In the open room Kulovic entered the auction with his heart suit and Borevkovic simply bid the spade game. Gawrys, of course, had no plans that included his opponents playing a major suit game so he sacrificed in 5♣.Well, he tried to sacrifice since Borevkovic made another move landing in 5♥, waiting with the redouble if he would get doubled, but suddenly nothing happened. The Poles had been generous in the bidding but they took everything that was there for the defence to take.

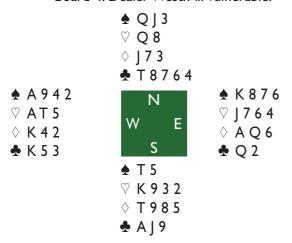
Queen of clubs lead was ruffed in dummy and Kulovic played the king of spades. Gawrys took the ace and returned his diamond queen. Kulovic took the king, ruffed a club, discarded his third club on the spade queen and played a heart. Kwiecien took the ace, gave Gawrys a diamond ruff and the third round of clubs promoted ♥10 for two off and +200 for EW.

West	North	East	South
Tesla	Klukowski	Stanicic	Tuczynski
		2♣	Pass
3♣	3♠	3NT	All Pass

In the Closed Room Tuczynski did not enter the auction on precision 2♣ opening so Klukowski pushed to 3♠ only, allowing the opponents to play a dull 3NT making 10 tricks on a spade lead.

EW +430 and 6 IMPs for Croatia.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vulnerable.



Board 4 brought us the first two-digit swing of the Croatia v. Poland match.

West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Borevkovic	Gawrys	Kulovic
I ♣	Pass	I♥	Pass
INT	Pass	3NT	All pass

Gawrys decided not to look for a spade fit after his partner's rebid so he simply bid a notrump game. Borevkovic simply led his longest suit, the defence simply collected 6 tricks for a simple +200 for NS.

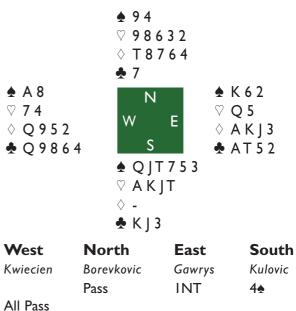
West	North	East	South
Tesla	Klukowski	Stanicic	Tuczynski
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Tesla and Stanicic duly bid their 4-4 spade fit and after a club lead for small jack and king, club back to the queen and ace, Tuczynski returned a heart to reveal the only thing that bothered declarer on the board. EW +620 and 13 IMPs for Croatia.

Another two-digit swing for Croatia came immediately on the next board when Kwiecien and Gawrys misdefended a vulnerable game.



Board 5. Dealer North. N-S Vulnerable.



Kwiecien led a club, Gawrys took the ace and tried to cash the ace of diamonds. That made it a quick route to 10 tricks for Kulovic and a heavy +620 for NS.

West	North	East	South
Tesla	Klukowski	Stanicic	Tuczynski
	Pass	l 🌩	I.
Pass*	Pass	DЫ	I♥
2♦	2♥	Pass*	Pass
2♠	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Stanicic opened a strong club in the Closed Room and Poles pushed to 3♥ allowing opponents to bid a diamond game in the end. Klukowski could have saved some IMPs by doubling but this way it was three down after a heart lead, +150 for NS but 10 IMPs to Croatia.

Monaco v. Allegra

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Fantoni	Sementa	Nunes
	Pass	INT	2♣
Pass	3♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

2♣ showed majors. On repeated diamond leads, dummy soon ran out of trump honours so the defence had to come to a trump trick as well, apart from their three black winners. Allegra +100.

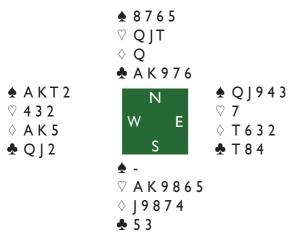
Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Bocchi	Helness	Madala
	Pass	INT	2♣
3NT	4♡	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	DЫ
All Pass			

In the other room, it was Monaco's turn to find a save when South showed his majors. They duly did, only to find out this was not the right moment for them either. Allegra another +100 and 5 IMPs back...

On the next board, we saw a disaster:

Board 6. Dealer East. E-W Vulnerable.



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Fantoni	Sementa	Nunes
		Pass	Pass
INT	DЫ	2♡	2♠
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	4♣	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

North and South were not quite on the same wavelength here. Please note that South never bid hearts. The unhappy contract went down three, +500 to Allegra.



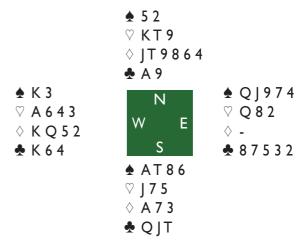
Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Bocchi	Helness	Madala
		Pass	4♡
Dbl	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Dbl	5♦
Pass	5♡	Dbl	All Pass

In the Closed Room, by contrast, Madala bid hearts at his first time to speak, which led to a more understandable auction. With the clubs 3-3 and the hearts 3-1, even a trump lead does not beat 5° , so Allegra chalked up another +650 and 15 juicy IMPs.

On board 7,Allegra registered 7 more IMPs but the Croatian streak was stopped on this board when Klukowski and Tuczynski extracted the maximum from the opponents' partscore contract.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vulnerable.



West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Borevkovic	Gawrys	Kulovic
			l ♣
INT	2♦	2♠	All Pass

When Borevkovic decided not to double so did Kulovic. Gawrys played undoubled on the club queen lead and after he ducked the jack of clubs also he managed to keep the losses to one off and +100 to NS.

West	North	East	South
Tesla	Klukowski	Stanicic	Tuczynski
			♣
INT	DЫ	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	DЫ
All Pass			

Klukowski doubled and Tuczynski followed his example by doubling 2♠ for the final contract. Tesla had no indication on the clubs layout so he played a club to the king at one point of play finishing with two off, +500 for NS and 9 IMPs to Poland.

On the next board, it turned out that the Polish comeback had only just begun. On this board, there are lead problems.

West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Borevkovic	Gawrys	Kulovic
♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

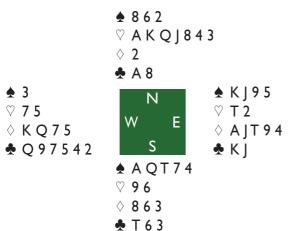
Borevkovic decided to lead a club which was not a very good decision on this layout. Kwiecien quickly took the gift and made his 10 tricks, EW +420.

West	North	East	South
Tesla	Klukowski	Stanicic	Tuczynski
l ♠	Dbl	2♠	4♥
4♠	DЫ	All Pass	

Klukowski entered the auction with a double so his partner bid hearts simplifying the lead problem. Klukowski put a cherry on top with his double for one off, +100 NS and +11 IMPs to Poland.

This was the next board:

Board 9. Dealer North. E-W Vulnerable.



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Fantoni	Sementa	Nunes
	Ι♡	DЫ	Pass
2♣	2♡	Pass	Pass
2NT	3♡	4 ♦	4♡
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Nunes' pass over East's take-out double worked wonderfully well here. Firstly, West thought he could afford another bid (and who would blame him) and secondly, he had an obvious raise when partner showed a fine hand after all. East's final double looked equally obvious, even more so as E/W might as well have sold out to 2%...

With the help of the double spade finesse. Eleven tricks were quite easy. Monaco +690.

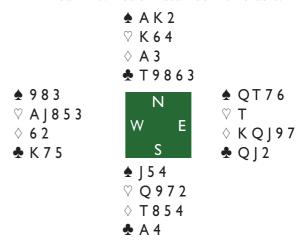
Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Bocchi	Helness	Madala
	I 🛇	DЫ	♠
3♣	3♡	All Pass	

On this auction, Madala was unsure about the exact strength of North's forced 3% rebid, so he carefully passed. The same 11 tricks were made for -200 and 10 IMPs to Monaco.

More IMPs to Monaco on board 10:

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vulnerable.



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Fantoni	Sementa	Nunes
		Pass	Pass
Pass	INT	All Pass	

When North was allowed to open INT (12-14) in 4th position, East had an obvious $\Diamond K$ lead. This gave declarer time to establish his clubs ijn peace. When the defence continued spades, Fantoni emerged with no less than nine tricks: Monaco ± 150 .

Closed Room:

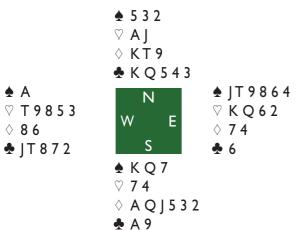
West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Bocchi	Helness	Madala
		I ♦	Pass
I	DЫ	Pass	INT
All Pass			

In the other room, Helness opened a light $I \diamondsuit$ and the same INT was reached by N/S, albeit with South the declarer. This time, west had an obvious low diamond lead to the contract was quickly two off for a useful +200 and 8 IMP to Monaco on an innocent enough partscore hand..

On board 12, the Monegasques again outbid their opponents:



Board 12. Dealer West. N-S Vulnerable.



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Fantoni	Sementa	Nunes
Pass	INT	2♣	2♠
4♡	DЫ	Pass	4♠
Pass	5◊	All Pass	

Well done after the diamond transfer. Monaco +600 as the quite playable slam fails on the bad black-suit breaks.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Bocchi	Helness	Madala
2♡	Pass	4♡	All Pass

As you can see, the auction here was very short but blew away everybody. One down but 11 more IMPs to Monaco who were back in the lead now.

In the Croatia v. Poland match, they almost duplicated the two results in the Monaco v. Allegra match:

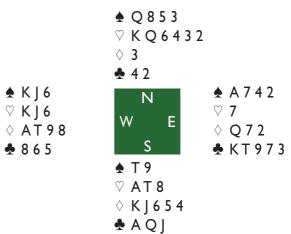
West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Borevkovic	Gawrys	Kulovic
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Kwiecien and Gawrys bid like the Monegasques and, what is more, with the same disastrous effect on their opponents. 4♥ went quietly two off for +100 NS.

West	North	East	South
Tesla	Klukowski	Stanicic	Tuczynski
Pass	♣	2♠	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Tesla didn't open West hand so Klukowski and Tuczynski had a free run to their diamond slam. Unfortunately for them, the clubs nor the spades were behaving so they went one off. +100 for EW and 5 IMPs to Croatia.

Board 15. Dealer South. N-S Vulnerable.



When discussing this board with the Vugraph commentator the question was: Why don't you bid a four-level transfer on this hand, why do it in two steps and waste everyone's time? Well, the Closed Room gave a quick answer. After a simple Jacoby you will be sure what suit you want to play in. After some more complex structures you might end up in a 4-2 fit instead of a 6-3.

West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Borevkovic	Gawrys	Kulovic
			INT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

A club lead and a simple II tricks for +650 to NS.

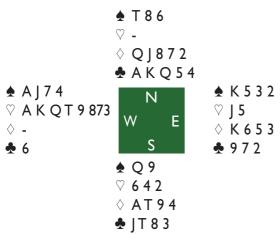
West	North	East	South
Tesla	Klukowski	Stanicic	Tuczynski
		INT	
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Diamond ace lead and a complex 9 tricks for +100 to EW and 13 IMPs to Croatia.



The next board:

Board 16. Dealer South. N-S Vulnerable.



How do you bid an eight carded suit headed by AKQ? A trump?

Not in our match.

No West played his suit. Let's see how.

West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Borevkovic	Gawrys	Kulovic
I♥	DЫ	Pass	2♣
4♥	5♣	DЫ	All pass

Kwiecien decided that opponents should play and passed when Gawrys doubled 5. A spade lead beats it if followed by a diamond ruff, but after the ace of hearts the curtains were soon down. I I tricks for +550 to NS.

West	North	East	South
Tesla	Klukowski	Stanicic	Tuczynski
♣	INT	DЫ	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass



Tesla decided that he should bid his two-suiter. Oddly enough, his partner had a better fit for spades than for hearts so they ended up in 4♠ making twelve tricks, collecting +680 and huge 15 IMPs for Croatia.

On this same board, the Italians got their revenge:

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Fantoni	Sementa	Nunes
I♡	2NT	Pass	4 ♦
5◊	Pass	5NT	pass
6♡	DЫ	All Pass	-

When the spades behaved, declarer was home for +1660 to Allegra. It must have been an unpleasant surprise for Fantoni that his club tricks did not survive...

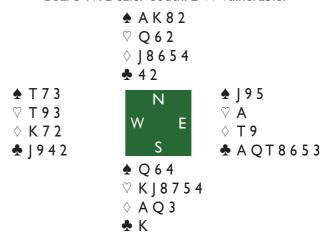
Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Bocchi	Helness	Madala
I 🛇	3♡	Pass	5♦
5♡	Pass	Pass	6◊
Dbl	All Pass		

At the other table, Helgemo must have felt as unhappy as his team-mate in the Open Room when the hand was over...just one down but 17 IMPs back to Allegra.

On the penultimate board, Monaco's E/W pair got too enthusiastic:

Board 19. Dealer South. E-W Vulnerable.



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Fantoni	Sementa	Nunes
			I
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♡
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

Sementa wisely kept quiet with his six-loser hand, vulnerable, when North showed a 2 over 1 response. Monaco +420, the normal result.



Closed Room:

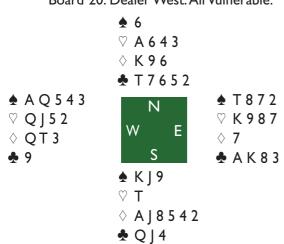
West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Bocchi	Helness	Madala
			IŸ
Pass	3♡	4♣	4♡
5♣	DЫ	All Pass	

If you look at this auction and the hands, wouldn't you think N/S were vulnerable and not E/W?

Down three, a good save in different circumstances. Allegra +800 for another 9 IMPs and a 62-41 win, 14.76 -5.24 under the new VP scale.

On the last board of the match, the Poles finally got some IMPs back::

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vulnerable.



Poland was struggling to reduce the deficit until the last board and they managed to get a game swing on the very last board of the match.

West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Borevkovic	Gawrys	Kulovic
I ♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Borevkovic led a club, Kwiecien took the ace, finessed the spade queen and soon claimed ten tricks for +620 EW.

West	North	East	South
Tesla	Klukowski	Stanicic	Tuczynski
l♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Klukowski led an inspired low heart. Tesla decided it was time for the safety play, so he took the queen, played the ace of trumps and crossed to dummy in clubs to play spade towards the queen. Tuczynski took the king and played a diamond to Klukowski's king so the heart ace and a heart ruff sealed the fate of the contract. One off, +100 for N/S and 12 IMPs to Poland.

After the heavy battle the home team had finished victorious, beating the Polish champions 65-48 (14.01-5.99)

