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WELCOME TO MADEIRA 2006

9th International Bridge Festival

Madeira

Funchal, November 6-12, 2006

6th November 2006

Welcome!

The Crowne Plaza Resort Hotel - The place to be from the 6th to the 12th November - It's the 9th International Bridge Festival!



Again we meet in this wonderful place for a whole week of sightseeing, swimming, golf and, of course, bridge.

We are very glad you are here and we hope you enjoy your stay in Madeira.

Feel free to join us at the cocktail party at 6:30 pm.

To get you in the bridge mood, there is a practice session at 9:30 pm.

ENTRY FEE		
MONDAY WARM-UP	PAIRS	TEAMS
10 € / Player	75 €/ Player	250 €/Team (up to 6 players)

Your week at Madeira

We have prepared for you an enjoyable week.

Let there be no surprises (other than the hands you are dealt), so, here's the programme:

Meet everybody at the welcome cocktail on **Monday** at 18h30.

Monday evening, the Simultaneous Pairs is hosted by Tournament Directors **Rui Marques** and **José Júlio Curado** and intends to be a warm up. This competition is played in various clubs in Portugal, Holland and Pakistan. You will be able to check your classification both locally and worldwide.

Tuesday, the real competition begins at 16h00 with our pairs' tournament. Be sure to arrive at least 15 minutes early so you can apply to the TD's, even if you have already pre-booked.

Wednesday, the session starts at 16h00. You have plenty of time for golf, a tour around the island or a "levada" walk. If you are in a more lazy mood, you can always spend the morning at the pool and go for a long lunch. In the evening you will be able to enjoy some of our traditional food, see and hear traditional folk songs and music from Madeira and even, if you are in the mood, learn to dance with the folk dancers.

Thursday. Again the play is only on the afternoon, so you can try another of our suggestions for Wednesday, or even do the same thing again if you prefer.

On **Friday** we will only play in the evening, so, you have the whole day for yourself. We have arranged a tour for you.

Saturday has another golf morning. Don't forget to ask your Hotel desk to make prior arrangements. There are two sessions of the teams' tournament: The first at 15h30 and the second at 21h30. Be sure to organize your dinner: You won't have time to go looking for a different restaurant and be at the evening session on time.

Sunday is for the last session of the teams' tournament and for the closing dinner. Bridge is at 15h00. After you know how well you did in the tournament, it's time for the closing dinner and prize giving.

Bidding Style

By Rodrigo Martins Soares

This is a bidding exercise.

Before you read on, make sure your partner hasn't read this article yet. If he has, talk to him before reading on. He will give your hand to bid. If, on the other hand, he hasn't read this yet, see your hand below and decide what's your opening bid (and how you intend to bid on) before moving to your partner's hand.

Here you are, you are sitting East, with no-one vulnerable and you hold:

♠ K Q J 10 x x x x x

♥

♦ K x x

♣ x

You are the dealer - what's your bid ? (Please plan how you will bid on also).

.....

Now go to your partner and show him his hand (don't look at it - no cheating !)

You opened the bidding with ??? and he has :

♠

♥ A Q x x x

♦ A J x x

♣ A x x x

.....

Well?

Have you managed to bid the lay-down small slam in spades? (and did you avoid bidding 7♠ without the trump ace?)

This hand was played on a regional tournament and amazingly enough none of the 7 pairs holding these hands managed to get to the optimum place. 5 pairs played game in spades, 1 got to 6NTx(?) and the other one to 7NTxx(!?)(redoubled - ouch!)

It doesn't seem so hard a bidding problem, but both you and your partner must be on the same wavelength. If it is your philosophy to open these hands with 4♠, then you either have to always bid 6♠ with West's cards or expect to miss some lay-down slams. On the other hand, if you always bid 6♠ with West's hand, East always has to have this kind of hand (you can't open 4♠ with, say 8 spades headed by A Q 10 or K J 10, or even 7 spades with A K Q and a side King) or you should expect to go down on few slams.

If you open with light pre-empts (as I do) you cannot raise 4♠ to 6♠ with West's cards, so you mustn't open 4♠. You either open 1♠ intending to rebid 4♠ on the next round or you open with your *Game forcing* opening bid. You only have 4 or 4½ losers, so a *G. F.* bid may seem to be the best (especially if you learn what aces your partner has very quickly). But now you have another problem - up to what level will you pull out your partner's penalty double when your opponents come in on the bidding? Up to the 4 Spades level there is no doubt, but what if they bid to the 5 level? What about the 6 level?... Or the 7? Both passing and bidding on will work out sometimes, but partner will not expect you to have this shape (and no aces!) so you never know!

If you play "Namyatz" opening bids you may open 4♦ to show a good 4♠ opening bid. Still, there is no clear-cut action by West over 4♦. A simple 4♠ - 6♠ does the work in this case, but you may miss 7♠ or go down in 6 on some other days.

Whatever opening bid you chose, it will be right some times and wrong on other days, but what's most important is that your partner should know what to

expect. If you and your partner have the same understanding of what each of the possible bidding sequences mean, you might not get the best result each time but you are surely winners on the long run (at least when those sequences come out). Be sure to discuss what do the different possible bidding sequences mean - it might be useful for this week.

You might be wondering how that pair got to 7NT. Well, it was quite easy - having not read this article (it wasn't written yet) they failed to discuss how to treat 9 card one-suiters. The one with East's cards decided to open the bidding with 2♣: artificial, strong, 23+ HCP or equivalent, asking for aces. With West's cards his partner was not sure how to show 3(!) aces. He did know, however, that their opponents had at most a Queen between them ($23+15=38$), so he promptly bid 7NT and confidently redoubled. The thought that his partner could have opened 2♣ with no aces whatsoever never crossed his mind, and if he did not have 23 points he should have enough tricks to make up for it. With not enough entries to establish East's spades they went for a big number, so be sure to have this discussion with your regular partner.

As for me, my personal favourite is a smooth "Pass" with East's cards on first seat - after all I do have the "Boss-suit". I'm not sure how the bidding would evolve from there but I'm quite sure it would be fun!

THE ORGANIZERS



Miguel Teixeira

...is an Economist and works in one of Portugal's major Banks (owned by one of Spain's major bank's). He is also Club Sports Madeira Bridge section manager and the President of ABM (Madeira Bridge Association).



Rodrigo Martins Soares

...is a Mechanical Engineer, dplm., and is the manager of a shipyard on the east side of the island. He is also Vice President of ABM.



Nuno Sardinha da Mata
... is a Lawyer and has his own practice in Funchal.
He is also Chairman of ABM.

The Editors



Carla Martins Soares
She has a college degree in Pharmacy
and works in the Central Hospital.

Pedro Nunes
...is a Communications Engineer dplm.,
and works in a private phone operator.
He is also Vice Chairman of ABM.



Our Tournaments Directors

Rui Marques



José Júlio Curado



Programme 2006

Monday (07/11/2005)	18:30 Welcome Cocktail 21:30 Warm-up Pairs
Tuesday (08/11/2005)	15:00 Pairs Tournament Entries – Confirmations 15:45 Closing time for Pairs Tournament Entries 16:00 Open Pairs Tournament – 1^o Session
Wednesday (09/11/2005)	09:00 Free day for golf or other activities (*) 16:00 Open Pairs Tournament – 2^o Session 21:00 Typical Dinner & Folklore
Thursday (10/11/2005)	09:00 Free day for golf or other activities (*) 16:00 Open Pairs Tournament – 3^o Session 20:00 Final Results
Friday (11/11/2005)	09:30 Tour around Funchal city 21:00 Closing time for Teams Tournament Entries 21:30 Swiss Open Teams Tournament – 1^o Session
Saturday (12/11/2005)	09:00 Free day for golf or other activities (*) 15:30 Swiss Open Teams Tournament – 2^o Session 21:30 Swiss Open Teams Tournament – 3^o Session
Sunday (13/11/2005)	15:00 Swiss Open Teams Tournament – 4^o Session 20:00 Final Results 20:30 Closing Dinner and Prize Giving

() Golf may be arranged at the front desk of your hotel*

If you have a well-played hand or a fun story at the table, don't be shy!

Share it with us...

Contact any of the boletin staff or TD