

20TH MADEIRA BRIDGE FESTIVAL

2020 Vision



President Miguel Albuquerque and Miguel Teixeira

At the Welcome Cocktail at the Quinta Vigia on Monday evening the guests were treated to an excellent reception and it was revealed that Madeira are negotiating to host the 2020 European Bridge Championships.

The Quinta Vigia is the official residence of the President of the Regional Government. Many interesting and famous people have lived here including the son-in-law of Czar Nicholas the First.

Another Record Tumbles

In the Open Pairs 193 pairs contested the first session, up 17% from last year, at this rate the Hotel Vidamar will be building extensions! Three pairs scored over 70% and are within 0.3% of each other. First are **Hans Van Ommeren and Arjen Salari**, second is **Pär Andersson and Per-Inge Helmertz** with **Gerbrand Hop and Mark Thiele** lying third. With two more twenty-six board sessions to play there are many opportunities to challenge the current leaders.

Important Note: Please bring your Vouchers to all events

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Open Pairs Session 1



Ron Tacchi highlights some of the hands from the Open Pairs

To plagiarise a well-known contributor to Bridge Magazine here are some deals that caught my eye. I was conveniently ensconced between North and East on table E2. North was Inocencio Arajo – President of the Portuguese Bridge Federation – who was being partnered by his wife – Manuela. I shall start my disquisition with Board 6 when the English pairing of David Kendrick and David Cole were at the table.

The three previous deals to this hand had North playing in Four Hearts and failing in every case. Then these cards appeared.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ AK8			
♥ AK9763			
♦ A43			
♣ 3			
♠ J1053	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 76	
♥ 85		♥ J4	
♦ 8		♦ KJ1075	
♣ K109642		♣ AQJ5	
		♠ Q942	
		♥ Q102	
		♦ Q962	
		♣ 87	

West	North	East	South
<i>Kendrick</i>	<i>I. Araujo</i>	<i>Cole</i>	<i>M. Araujo</i>
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♠	4♥	All Pass	

The defence started with the seven of spades to the ten and ace. Declarer drew trumps with the ace and then the queen and led a small spade from dummy and when West played low inserted the eight. Now his club loser went away on the queen of spades and with the diamond king onside declarer made twelve tricks for 87%.

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Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ 106 ♥ 1065 ♦ K984 ♣ K642		♠ J987 ♥ KJ3 ♦ 32 ♣ QJ109	♠ AQ2 ♥ AQ74 ♦ QJ6 ♣ A87
	♠ K543 ♥ 982 ♦ A1075 ♣ 53		
West <i>Melcher</i>	North <i>I. Araujo</i>	East <i>Brawanski</i>	South <i>M. Araujo</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
3♣ Stayman			

When South converted Three Hearts to 3NT your author made a loud aside that this was not Four Hearts!!! East found the best and obvious lead of the queen of clubs, ducked twice by declarer. He then took the losing diamond finesse and West cashed her king of clubs and exited with a spade – a heart might have put declarer to the test earlier. Declarer now cashed the diamonds and East was squeezed in the majors but made life easier for declarer by discarding a spade rather than a heart – the heart discard would allow declarer the opportunity to make a mistake and also win if partner had held the queen of hearts. Succeeding in the contract brought in 73% of the matchpoints.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ AK9 ♥ K10732 ♦ 64 ♣ A106		♠ 10 ♥ AJ5 ♦ AQ1092 ♣ K974	♠ QJ432 ♥ 986 ♦ KJ3 ♣ J8
	♠ 8765 ♥ Q4 ♦ 875 ♣ Q532		
West <i>Burn</i>	North <i>I. Araujo</i>	East <i>Loughridge</i>	South <i>M. Araujo</i>
1♥	1♠	Double	Redble
1NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

North and South certainly bid the full value of their hands. Some might say East was a little timid but I am not sure that they were playing five-card majors and thus may not have been aware of the eight-card fit. The upshot was that they were playing in game when (as the cards actually lie) all thirteen tricks can be made. North led the queen of spades taken by declarer with the ace and he promptly fired back the nine and when it was not covered let it run, discarding a club from dummy. Declarer could now get rid of the other losing club in dummy. However after a successful diamond finesse declarer played the ace of hearts followed by the jack covered by the queen and king. When he ruffed his losing club North discarded his diamond and declarer had the embarrassing task of promoting North's nine of trumps. Had declarer the gift of second sight and ruffed the club before tackling trumps he would have scored 57% rather than 27%.

♠ AK9	♠ QJ432	♠ 10
♥ K10732	♥ 986	♥ AJ5
♦ 64	♦ KJ3	♦ AQ1092
♣ A106	♣ J8	♣ K974
	♠ 8765	
	♥ Q4	
	♦ 875	
	♣ Q532	

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ QJ	
	♥ J654	
	♦ KQJ1094	
	♣ A	
♠ 974		♠ A1082
♥ 832		♥ Q9
♦ 832		♦ A76
♣ K653		♣ Q874
	♠ K653	
	♥ AK107	
	♦ 5	
	♣ J1092	

West	North	East	South
<i>Emanuelsson</i>	<i>I. Araujo</i>	<i>Tjärnemo</i>	<i>M. Araujo</i>
–	1NT*	2♣*	Double
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1NT 12-14

2♣ The precise meaning of the 2♣ bid was not clear from the explanation that I heard but I think it meant one major.

There are those who would say that North's choice of opening bid was off-centre. This was born out in the play. East led the seven of clubs. Declarer, who might be described as being of the Andrew Robson school of declarer play rather Usain Bolt, pondered and played low. The spotlight turned to West who also pondered and also played low and declarer perforce won with his singleton ace. As an aside in situations like this where you want the defender to cover I play the jack at trick one without appearing to stop and think, certainly against less experienced opposition it will nearly always engender a cover. Declarer immediately set about the diamonds with East taking his ace straight away. He continued with clubs and West took his king. At this point he asked dummy what was the strength the opening 1NT and received the answer of 12-14. He then posed a further question "balanced?" to much mirth amongst the participants and your scribe.

The defence can now cash out to hold declarer to nine tricks and an excellent score but when North continued with a diamond, it was declarer's turn to consider his contract. If he had four heart tricks then he would make ten tricks but the majority of the field would make eleven tricks with hearts as trumps and his score would be very poor. Thus he decided to try for a spade trick and so he played the jack of spades from hand. Again the defence could take their tally of four tricks but East ducked the spade and now when the heart queen fell doubleton declarer took the rest of the tricks and 90% of the matchpoints.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ AQ1054	♠ 62	♠ KJ973
♥ A854	♥ J1093	♥ K2
♦ KQ54	♦ 103	♦ J7
♣ —	♣ KQ632	♣ J1094

♠ 8	♠ 8	♠ 8
♥ Q76	♥ Q76	♥ Q76
♦ A9862	♦ A9862	♦ A9862
♣ A875	♣ A875	♣ A875



	West	North	East	South
	<i>Emanuelsson</i>	<i>I. Araujo</i>	<i>Tjärnemo</i>	<i>M. Araujo</i>
	—	—	1♠*	Pass
	1NT*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
	4♠	All Pass		
1♠	8-11 5♠			
1NT	inquiry			
2♠	8-9			

East's opening bid apparently showed 8-11 and a five-card spade suit and the subsequent inquiry narrowed it to 8-9. West has a very good hand even opposite an eight-count but he needs some very precise cards and distribution from East if slam is to be a good proposition, as you can see East has the perfect hand and the slam is absolutely laydown. Could West have bid differently? – I don't know what other arrows he had in his quiver to find out more about East's hand – you will have to ask him yourself.

At the end of the session Manuela and Inocencio finished with 56.02% leaving them well in contention with two sessions to play.

Beware of Banana Skins

Mark Horton



Before the discovery of its comedic potential, the banana skin was considered a real public hazard. In the mid-19th century, a man named Carl B. Frank began importing Panamanian bananas to New York City. The fruit quickly became a popular street food throughout America, but people often tossed their rubbish into the streets and rotting banana peel was a slime-covered booby trap.

According to the book *Banana: The Fate of the Fruit That Changed the World*, the banana peel epidemic in New York was solved around the turn of the century by a public agency headed by a former Civil War colonel. Col. George Waring who organised a fleet of uniformed workers, known as the “White Wings,” who swept the streets in shifts and disposed of the waste in public composting facilities.

Today it’s quite rare to see a discarded banana peel and since the beginning of the 20th century, slipping on a banana peel has been a fixture in physical comedy. The slipping-and-falling gag is widely accepted to have originated on the Vaudeville stage. Vaudeville comedian Cal Stewart often told many banana peel jokes as his copyrighted stage persona “Uncle Josh.” A 1903 recording of the bit “Uncle Josh in a Department Store,” features many references to banana peel-laden sidewalks.

The gag first appeared on the silver screen in the Harold Lloyd silent film *The Flirt*. While sitting in a restaurant, Lloyd’s character diligently peels a banana then tosses the skin on the floor. A snooty waiter walks by with a full tray, slips and falls. Chaos ensues. Buster Keaton heightened the gag in his film *The High Sign* (1921). Walking down the street, Keaton encounters a banana peel on the sidewalk. He proceeds to walk over it, but contrary to the audience expectation, he does so totally unharmed. Keaton puts his hands to his mouth and mocks the peel, only to slip on a second peel he didn’t see.

Though the traditional gag became very commonplace in silent cinema, comedians continued to find ways to improve the wheel, if not reinvent it. In their 1927 picture *The Battle of the Century*, Laurel and Hardy use the banana peel trick as an impetus for a full-scale pie fight.

You can see it at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDgnqfepRfl>

The silent film era may have cemented the comedic potential of an improperly discarded banana peel, but the gag has continued to hold a place in popular culture to this day. Even Woody Allen fell victim to the slippery effects of an oversized peel in his early film *Sleeper*.

Back in 2009, Discovery Channel’s *Mythbusters* decided to test the slipping-on-a-banana-peel theory. In their experiments, a singular banana peel did not yield any slippage. However, when they filled a concrete surface with many different banana skins, Mythbuster Adam slipped a total of 6 times in one minute while trying to traverse the peel-covered surface. While this particular experiment confirmed banana peels are indeed slippery, it did not guarantee that stepping on a banana peel would definitely lead to a fall. Thus the myth was considered disproved.

How Stuff Works proposed that friction determines the actual likelihood of one slipping on a banana. The less friction between a foot and the peel in question, the more likely one is to slip. The author points out that the soles of today’s shoes are designed with risks like these in mind. So the likelihood of you actually slipping on a banana is pretty slim.

However, TV Tropes noted that in 2001 Great Britain reported over 300 banana-related mishaps—the majority due to peel-slipping. In 2011, a woman in California sued a 99 Cent Only store in which she suffered a herniated disk from allegedly slipping on a banana peel left in the middle of an aisle.

So remember, if you ever encounter a freshly shed peel in your path, it's probably harmless. Then again, if you want to avoid becoming a punch line, it's probably best to sidestep it.

The concept of slipping on a banana skin is one that bridge players are all too aware of. It is all too easy to end up looking foolish at this game as you will discover when I show some of the deals from the opening session of the Pairs Championship.

Let's start with a very gentle banana:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ AK 10 ♥ 108 ♦ K643 ♣ AK54		♠ Q9863 ♥ 7543 ♦ A5 ♣ 92	♠ 72 ♥ J ♦ QJ10872 ♣ Q763
♠ J54 ♥ AKQ962 ♦ 9 ♣ J108			

After 1♥-(Dble)-3♥* should West double again?

Not doing so and then failing to give partner a spade ruff result in -140 and 9.1/158.9 for N/S.

If West does double (for me it's clear to do so) what should East do? If East manages to find 5♦ the best N/S can do is save in 5♥, which gives them only 44.5/123.5.

Now for something more substantial banana-wise:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 54 ♥ A872 ♦ Q97 ♣ K876		♠ AQ1072 ♥ KQJ6 ♦ — ♣ 10542	♠ K963 ♥ 4 ♦ A10532 ♣ J93
♠ J8 ♥ 10953 ♦ KJ864 ♣ AQ			

After 1♠-2♦-2♥-4♥ East led the nine of clubs and declarer won with dummy's ace and ran the jack of spades, East winning with the king and returning a club to West's king, the latter exiting with a spade. Declarer won, played the jack of hearts, ruffed a club and played a heart. West took the ace and thought it was a good idea to exit with a heart.

That saw declarer claim the rest for 153.8/14.2.

If West exits with a diamond declarer will be two down, only 34.4/133.6.

The 4-1 trump break is unlucky, but so is the fact that West didn't hold the ♦A, because then, after taking the ace of hearts he would have to lead it to defeat 4♥.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ AQ5	♠ 1082	♠ 943									
♥ A42	♥ Q103	♥ K96									
♦ 10	♦ AQ75	♦ K9643									
♣ 976532	♣ KQ10	♣ AJ									
<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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										
♠ KJ76											
♥ J875											
♦ J82											
♣ 84											

At my table bidding went 1♦-1♥-1NT and East led the six of hearts. West won with the ace and switched to a club for the king and ace and East returned the jack to declarer's queen. East then took declarer's queen of hearts with the king and exited with a heart. After cashing two tricks in the suit declarer played a diamond to the queen and East won with the king and finally got around to playing a spade.

In principle a player is much more likely to hold the ace than the queen in this situation, but here East's reluctance to play a spade at any previous point suggested playing low (and declarer had spotted something else too). West won with the queen and returned a club to the ten as East pitched a diamond. Declarer crossed to the jack of diamonds and West discarded a spade.

At this point it was clear that one of two slightly odd things had happened; either West had not protected with 2♣ on her 3-3-1-6 pattern holding the ♠AQ and ♥A or East had failed to overcall 1NT with a 15 count.

In the latter case declarer can now make the contract by exiting with a spade, forcing East to lead a diamond.

Here the banana skin was disguised - declarer had forgotten that his side was vulnerable! It was clear that E/W could make 3♣ or 2NT, so simply cashing the ace of diamonds for -100 must be good.

Naturally I tried for the endplay, turning 135.6/32.4 into 40.5/127.5

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ A10942	♠ 53	♠ Q76									
♥ J94	♥ 6	♥ AK32									
♦ —	♦ AQ9632	♦ 1087									
♣ KQ762	♣ 10854	♣ AJ3									
<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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										
♠ KJ8											
♥ Q10875											
♦ KJ54											
♣ 9											

Just about everyone reached 4♠ on this deal.

When North leads the six of hearts declarer wins with dummy's ace and has to decide how to tackle the spades. The odds line is to start with the ♠Q which will give you four tricks just over 71% of the time (and all five if North happens to have the singleton jack).

Luckily our declarer was not au fait with this particular banana - sorry combination - and he played a spade to the ace followed by a spade to the queen, turning 107.3/60.7 into 64.8/103.2.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

		♠ 7		
		♥ J10876		
		♦ A986		
		♣ AJ9		
♠ J10984	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A532		
♥ A3		♥ 52		
♦ QJ72		♦ —		
♣ 107		♣ KQ86543		
		♠ KQ6		
		♥ KQ94		
		♦ K10543		
		♣ 2		

This was a case of the double banana.

At our table the auction went (Pass)-1♥-(3♣)-4♥-(Pass)-Pass-(5♣) which North was happy to double. That figured to be an enormous banana, but South led a disastrous king of spades, converting +800 and 164/4 into +500 and 90.1/77.9.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

		♠ QJ985		
		♥ A75		
		♦ Q6		
		♣ Q83		
♠ 107643	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A		
♥ —		♥ J109432		
♦ A10832		♦ J5		
♣ 972		♣ A654		
		♠ K2		
		♥ KQ86		
		♦ K974		
		♣ KJ10		

After 1♠-2♣* (game forcing)-2♠ East thought it was a good idea to come in with 3♥. That was -1100 and a rare 168/0.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ J7	♠ 9865	♠ A1043
♥ J9654	♥ Q82	♥ AK7
♦ 96	♦ Q72	♦ AKJ10
♣ J865	♣ K93	♣ 42

♠ KQ2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <table style="border: none; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ 42
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 103											
♦ 8543											
♣ AQ107											

After 2NT-3♦*-3♥ South had to find a lead.

12 players started with the ♥10 which more or less ensures that declarer will take at least ten tricks. A diamond is no better.

If South leads a spade honour declarer can win and return a spade, but as long as South now finds a club switch (not easy!) declarer will be held to nine tricks.

13 players led the ♠K - but only six were defending a heart contract and four of them still lost -170.

Postscript

No bananas were damaged during the writing of this report, but a number of the more horrendous accidents have been omitted to avoid undue embarrassment.

ROTATION		
1st	2nd	3rd
NS A	NS A	NS A
EW A	EW B	NS C
NS B	<i>G (Howell)</i>	NS B
EW B	EW D	NS D
NS C	EW A	<i>G (Howell)</i>
EW C	NS C	EW A
NS D	EW C	EW C
EW D	NS D	EW F
NS E	NS E	NS E
EW E	EW F	NS F
NS F	EW E	EW D
EW F	NS F	EW E
<i>G (Howell)</i>	NS B	EW B

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