



27th Madeira International Bridge Open
4th-10th November 2024

Monday 4th November

Bulletin 0

A Welcome from Miguel Teixeira

The journey continues as we begin our 27th tournament.

None of this would be possible without your help: your appreciation of the event we put together every year for your participation. None of it would be possible without the support of a team which I must thank in advance: the Directors, the journalists and the entire staff.

From the many, many players who return year after year we derive an extraordinary feeling of warmth and strength, which spur us to make the tournament better and better. Your satisfaction is our priority. The proof is that this year even more people are coming to the tournament; giving us, as your hosts, a bigger challenge than ever.

I am confident that everything is in place to welcome you, and to repay the goodwill and energy you contribute with a wonderful few days on the island. All the best.

Miguel Teixeira



N.B. The first session of the pairs on Tuesday 5th November will start at 17:00.

This differs from the normal time of 16:00 on Wednesday and Thursday.

All the results and the ongoing program of play are available on the website: www.bridge-madeira.com. You can use the QR code from your phone or tablet.



The Welcome Cocktail Party will be held in the Hotel VidaMar at 18:00 Monday 4th November

WARM-UP PAIRS – MONDAY 20:30

To enter the Warm-Up Pairs, please arrive in the Congress Centre from 20:00 onwards.



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MAIN BRIDGE PROGRAM

4th-10th November 2024

Congress Room + Selvagens 1-2-3

<u>Monday</u> 4 th	20:30	Pairs entries close <i>(we will accept entries after this time at our discretion if the movement allows)</i>
	20:30	Warm-up Pairs
<u>Tuesday</u> 5 th	17:00	Open Pairs Session 1
<u>Wednesday</u> 6 th	16:00	Open Pairs Session 2
<u>Thursday</u> 7 th	16:00	Open Pairs Session 3
	20:00	Final Results
<u>Friday</u> 8 th	18:00	Team Assignments
	19:30	Teams entries close
	20:30	Teams Session 1 <i>(3 matches)</i>
<u>Saturday</u> 9 th	11:00	Teams Session 2 <i>(2 matches)</i>
	13:15	Lunch Break <i>(light lunch included)</i>
	14:30	Teams Session 3 <i>(4 matches)</i>
<u>Sunday</u> 10 th	14:30	Teams Session 4 <i>(3 matches)</i>
	19:00	Final Results

Please arrive 30 minutes before start of play.
Starting positions will be sent by email.

ENTRY FEES

Pairs	€170/€130*
Teams	€170/€130*
Pairs + Team	€285/€225*
Pairs or Teams + Traditional Dinner	€200/€160*
Pairs + Teams + Traditional Dinner	€310/€250*
Pairs + Teams + Closing Dinner	€320/€260*
Pairs + Teams + Traditional + Closing Dinner	€330/€270*
Traditional Dinner	€35
Friday Excursion	€35
Saturday Lunch (non-players)	€20
Closing Dinner	€50

* *Special prices for Juniors (23 or under).
Please bring your ID badge.*

CASH PRIZES

Cash prizes must be collected between these times, from room Desertas II on Level 4 (ground floor), Tower 1 near the hotel Reception desk.

Please bring a form of identification.

Friday 8 th November	8:00 – 20:30
Saturday 9 th November	10:00 – 11:00
	13:30 – 14:30
Sunday 10 th November	19:30 – 20:30

Cash prizes must be collected between these times. Please bring your identity badge and a form of identification.

Any of the Social Programme events may be purchased at the Welcome Desk.



INTER-NATIONS CHALLENGE (CHARITY EVENT) Sunday 3rd November, 16:00

This year's charity event is being held to raise funds for Um Dia pela Vida (*One Day for Life*). On Sunday afternoon at four o'clock please come along and enjoy a good-natured session of bridge and raise money for this worthy cause. Thanking you all in advance.

Organization:

- LIGA PORTUGUESA CONTRA O CANCRO - Núcleo Regional da Madeira
- MUNICIPIO DA PONTA DO SOL

Support:

- Takeda
- LIGA PORTUGUESA CONTRA O CANCRO
- UM DIA POR VIDA
- MUNICIPIO DA PONTA DO SOL

SUN FOR LIFE!
2024

Um Dia pela Vida (*One Day for Life*) is an initiative of the Portuguese League Against Cancer as part of Relay for Life, an international programme under the umbrella of the American Cancer Society. Around the world, more than 30 countries are already part of this programme.

In Ponta do Sol, on the coast 20km west of Funchal, the *One Day for Life* project will run from October 2024 to March 2025.

The main objectives of the project are to inform, educate and support communities in raising awareness of and funds for prevention programmes and other activities developed by the Portuguese League Against Cancer. *One Day for Life* represents the hope that those who have been taken away by cancer will not be forgotten, that those who are overcoming it will be supported, and that one day cancer will be beaten.

With this in mind, the Madeira Regional Centre of the Portuguese League Against Cancer and the local committee of the *One Day for Life* project would like to thank you for taking part in and supporting the *One Day for Life* project.

Thanks, too, to José Júlio Curado for making this event possible by liaising between the Portuguese League Against Cancer and the Madeira Bridge Association.





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The Welcome Desk in the lobby of VidaMar Tower 2 will be open at the following times

Thursday 31 st October	19:00 – 20:30
Friday 1 st November	14:30 – 16:00
Saturday 2 nd November	14:30 – 16:00
Sunday 3 rd November	14:30 – 16:00
Monday 4 th November	10:00 – 16:30 19:30 – 20:30
Tuesday 5 th November	10:00 – 13:00 15:30 – 17:00
Wednesday 6 th November	14:30 – 16:00
Thursday 7 th November	14:30 – 16:00
Friday 8 th November	18:00 – 20:30
Saturday 9 th November	13:30 – 14:30
Sunday 10 th November	13:00 – 14:30

If you need help or information outside these times, please ask at the hotel's Reception Desk or speak to one of the Directors.

Contacts

Miguel Teixeira	(+351) 965 477 574 good2019events.booking@gmail.com
Carlos Luiz	(+351) 914 440 580 cluiz57@gmail.com
VidaMar Resort	(+351) 291 717 600

COLLECTION OF BADGES/ENTRIES

If you have booked in advance, you can collect your Identity Badge from the Welcome Desk.

You must bring your Identity Badge to all events, including social events.

You will need to keep a note of your confirmation number (the number is in the format 123-4567). If you cannot print the confirmation email, please take a photograph of it on your mobile phone and bring the phone with you to the Welcome Desk.

If you want to enter on the day, you will need to pay at the Welcome Desk, where you will be issued with an Identity Badge.

We can issue Identity Badges only to the person named on the badge.



You must show your badge at all events (bridge and social)



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SIDE EVENTS

Pre-tournament

Payment at table. Please arrive at least 15 minutes in advance to guarantee a place.

	<i>Congress Room</i>
Friday 1 st IMP Pairs 1 - 1 session - €10	16:00
Saturday 2 nd IMP Pairs 2 - 1 session - €10	16:00
Sunday 3 rd Charity Tournament - €15	16:00
Monday 4 th Warm-up Pairs - €15	20:30

Post-tournament

	<i>Selagens V</i>
Monday 11 th Cool-down Pairs - €10	20:30

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

Monday 4th November 18:00
Welcome Cocktail *VidaMar.*

Wednesday 6th November 20:45
Traditional Madeiran dinner of *espetada* with folk dancing and music.

Restaurant *O Lagar*, Camara de Lobos
Coach leaves from outside Vidamar at 20:15 (journey time 15 minutes). Return to the hotel at 23.30.

Friday 8th November
Excursions: Details of excursions can be found on the following page.

Sunday 10th November 20:30
Closing Dinner and trophy presentation
Ocean Room, Level 2, VidaMar

WhatsApp Group

We now have a WhatsApp group for news, information and results from the Madeira International Bridge Open.

Simply click on the WhatsApp icon in the website footer, or use this link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/JQwZeWY3fmQ5k66ANaoabN>

Tuesday to Friday at 10:30 David Burn will deliver his 'Burn Your Card' discussion in Selvagens 1 on the interesting deals of the previous day.



Optional Excursions Friday 8th November

Option A: Over The Waves

coach leaves hotel 09:30



As you navigate in search of the perfect spot the dolphins reveal themselves, playful, talkative and full of life. This three-hour wildlife spectacle will live long in memory. You might even strike lucky and see whales, turtles and seabirds. In good weather you can take an invigorating dip in the warm waters off Cabo Girão. If the breezes are in our favour we switch off the engines and set sail, allowing the wind to guide us. This day out deserves to be experienced at least once in a lifetime.

What to bring: sunscreen, beach towel, swimming costume, warm jacket.

Option B: Levada Dos Cedros

(Half-day lunch included) coach leaves hotel 9:00

The Levada dos Cedros is an enchanting 7.2-kilometre trail of medium difficulty, which can be walked in about three hours. The magical route begins at Fanal. Enjoy the serenity of the Rest and Quiet Reserve in the Madeira Natural Park,



where a century-old forest of til (*Ocotea foetens*) trees awaits you with its timeless beauty. Built in the 17th century, the Levada dos Cedros one of the oldest on the island. Along the way you can explore the Laurissilva, an indigenous forest with trees 30 to 40 metres high. The trail passes along the slopes of Ribeira da Janela before ending at Curral Falso. This is the ideal moment to connect with the island's natural landscape, offering a deep connection between humans and nature.

What to bring: sunscreen, trainers or suitable walking shoes, warm jacket.

Option C: Mythical Landscapes

(Half-day lunch included) coach leaves hotel 9:15



Embark on a poetic journey, where nature designs every stop. Descend to Fanal via the mystical Paul da Serra, where serene cattle graze in a beautiful landscape surrounded by every shade of green. As you descend from Fanal, the Ribeira da Janela cave reveals its mysteries to the curious. As you continue your journey, the natural pools of Porto Moniz invite you to take an invigorating dip. Walk along the promenade to a cosy restaurant, where the view is as pleasing as the meal. End this enchanted trip with a traditional poncha in Serra de Água toasting good company and the beauty you've experienced.

What to bring: sunscreen, trainers or suitable walking shoes, warm jacket, beach towel, swimming costume.



Ron Tacchi Reflects On This Year's Festival

Autumn has arrived in the region of 'La Belle France' where I rest my weary head but it also means that in a matter of a few days I am off again to sunny Madeira. We have had weather of biblical proportions - the last 48 hours have seen non-stop rain. The current price of marine ply has risen 1000% and animals are seen congregating in pairs at suitable locations. There are no longer fields around our house but only lakes.

This is my eleventh time visiting the island and it is always a joy to return to my 'Madeiran Family', where I shall probably consume my own weight in pastéis de nata and my own volume in ponchas.

October has barely commenced and already there is a record entry for the pairs - if the festival keeps growing at this rate we will have to build a bigger island. It is a tribute to Miguel and Carlos that the tournament never ceases to grow.

As in recent years my trusty team and I will endeavour to have the bulletins ready for you to peruse whilst partaking of your breakfast. You will be able to pick up a copy of the bulletin in the Ocean Restaurant of the VidaMar Hotel. They will also be available at the Welcome Desk and additionally beneath the screen showing the scores where there will be copies of previous bulletins. Should the earlier version you require be absent then please inform the Welcome Desk who in turn will ask us to print extra copies. You will also be able to find them in the Conference Centre about twenty minutes before play starts.

One of the positives of creating these bulletins every year is that by the time the next festival comes around there is a good chance that I will have played one hand that was interesting and worthy of note. Somewhat surprisingly such a hand occurred a couple of weeks ago. This gives me my annual chance of blowing my own trumpet. This deal demonstrates that while many contracts should fail they often succeed as a result of a defensive error. I think that one of the skills of declarer play is to firstly give the opposition every chance to go wrong and secondly be ready to take advantage of any slip.

Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ AK73
♥ 8
♦ 974
♣ AK832

♠ Q5
♥ AKJ932
♦ QJ8
♣ 76

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	Me
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

My first question is, which card in the North hand will play a pivotal role in this contract's success?

The opening lead was a third and fifth two of diamonds which went to the ace, a diamond came back to the king and the suit was cleared with East discarding a heart (error-ish number one). Obviously this meant I could not afford to lose a trick to West.

When I led a club from hand with the idea of trying to duck it into the East hand I was surprised to see the eight of spades (THE error) from West. What did this mean? We now know West has eight major-suit cards and certainly not originally four spades thus it is extremely likely she started with three or five.

If five then a second club honour will cause West distress as a major suit discard will create tricks in the suit discarded - West has three hearts and so did East who has already discarded one so if West comes down to two hearts the suit is worth six tricks - if a spade is thrown then the fourth spade will be good so a diamond must be thrown. Now West can be thrown in with the fourth round of spades to lead into the heart tenace.

If three spades then it would seem that East would come under pressure in the black suits but unfortunately he is discarding after dummy. So are we without resource? It was the eight of spades that West discarded. What if this was her



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smallest spade? Can you see the end position?

By taking a heart trick we can discover the distribution. If West has five spades then East will follow to the heart, if West started with three spades then East will discard on the heart, which is what happened in reality.

Now we cash the second heart honour, take two rounds of spades ending in dummy watching the ♠10 and ♠J fall from West. Then we exit in clubs and East takes two club tricks before leading away from his ♠96 in to dummy's ♠K7. Yes the ♠7 was the important card in the North hand.

Could West have defeated the contract - Yes, she has to discard a heart at trick two when the club is led. Declarer can make the contract if a diamond is discarded but needs to take the correct view in the major-suit distribution but may play West for 4-4 and attempt a spade throw-in and so fail. Though at the table when West follows with ♠J108 declarer might well read this as a trebleton and take the right view by exiting with a heart to the jack, especially as it includes the chance of the queen of hearts being inside.

The full deal was as follows:

Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ AK73		♦ 9642
♥ 8		♥ 6
♦ 974		♦ A6
♣ AK832		♣ QJ10954
♠ J108		
♥ Q10754		
♦ K10532		
♣ -		
♠ Q5		
♥ AKJ932		
♦ QJ8		
♣ 76		

As you can see if West never discards a spade or a diamond then declarer has no chance of making his contract.

We, here in the Bulletin Room, cannot be everywhere all of the time, so if you have an interesting or amusing story, please, please come and see us. We can and will help, and you will get your name in print.



-10%

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*Discount cannot be combined with other promotions or specials offers



30€

BUFFET DINNER

Ocean Restaurant

(drinks included - restricted)



Happy Birthday Eduardo

Ron Tacchi

Eduardo Fernandes, a tireless worker behind the scenes in this festival, had an early birthday present in October when he and his partner, Pedro Morgado along with teammates João Machado and José Macedo won the Portuguese National Teams Category Two Championship. Well done to them, will they have a similar success at the festival?

Here are some hands that helped them on their way:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

<p>♠ 10864 ♥ 105 ♦ 9765 ♣ J98</p>	<p>♠ Q ♥ 642 ♦ AQJ432 ♣ 1075</p>	<p>♠ KJ93 ♥ QJ93 ♦ 108 ♣ Q62</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S
N						
W E						
S						
	<p>♠ A752 ♥ AK87 ♦ K ♣ AK43</p>					

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Branquinho</i>	<i>Machado</i>	<i>Ferreira</i>	<i>Macedo</i>
-	-	-	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The 2♦ bid followed by 2NT showed a balanced hand 20-22.

West led a small diamond and declarer had no choice but to win in dummy and take two more rounds of the suit before ducking a club. When the club suit broke 3-3 declarer was rewarded with nine tricks and his game.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fernades</i>	<i>P. Coelho</i>	<i>Morgado</i>	<i>B. Coelho</i>
-	-	-	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

At this table declarer was not prepared to consider his hand balanced and so started with 1♣ and finally arrived in a Moysian fit contract of Four Hearts.

On the lead of the ♣8 declarer won in hand and took the two top trumps. Then playing for a 3-3 break in the trump suit tried a third round. East won and immediately played the king of spades and now declarer was doomed to failure by two tricks. Having cashed two trumps the only winning line is to now play a small club towards dummy - I suspect this is not that obvious. Rather than attempting to draw trumps a better line might have been to unblock the king of diamonds and the play ace and another spade ruffing in dummy and continuing with winning diamonds and overruffing if East ruffs. As the cards lie this will lead to an overtrick and succeeds against nearly all reasonable distributions.

By the time the last board arrived our heroes needed a positive result to win the event.

Board 50, Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ A52 ♥ J64 ♦ 986 ♣ J852</p>	<p>♠ QJ73 ♥ 83 ♦ J53 ♣ K1094</p>	<p>♠ 1064 ♥ AK975 ♦ 742 ♣ Q7</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S
N						
W E						
S						
	<p>♠ K98 ♥ Q102 ♦ AKQ10 ♣ A63</p>					

In the Open Room Machado and Macedo stopped in 1NT and with a little help from the defence made three overtricks. In the Closed Room after a 1♠ response to South's opening 1♦ Morgado made the daring but match-winning call of Two Hearts (I must confess that at my advanced age I am not sure there is enough testosterone in my body to make that call). Now against the final contract of 3NT by South Fernades led a heart and the defence came to four heart tricks, the ace of spades and the championship. They were the only pair to hold declarer to eight tricks!



Missing In Action

Mark Horton

To be on hand to prepare this year's bulletins, Ron Tacchi declined the opportunity to attend the World Bridge Games in Buenos Aires. When he requested a resume of last year's best deals it reminded me of how much I will miss attending the best festival in the world.

Charity Begins at Home

The Charity Pairs produced a couple of instructive deals:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ 4 ♥ Q76543 ♦ Q8 ♣ 9764	<table border="1" style="width: 40px; height: 40px; 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		♠ AQ10952 ♥ 10 ♦ A ♣ AQJ82	♠ J73 ♥ A2 ♦ K106542 ♣ 105
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		♠ K86 ♥ KJ98 ♦ J973 ♣ K3										

West	North	East	South
-	-	3♦	Pass
5♦	Double	Pass	6♥
Pass	6♠	Double	All Pass

When North doubled 5♦ it was tempting to pass, as it was clear that the penalty would be substantial. However, the question was would it compensate for a possibly missed slam? Given that North had forced us to the five-level, I judged it best to commit to slam. Wrong in the sense that passing and leading a diamond (which was my intention had I elected to defend) delivers a massive penalty.

+1210 was 60-0, but +1400 would have been a simpler way to make a living.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ AKJ96 ♥ - ♦ KQJ9 ♣ A872	<table border="1" style="width: 40px; height: 40px; 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		♠ Q542 ♥ K1098 ♦ 843 ♣ Q10	♠ 73 ♥ AQJ7652 ♦ 75 ♣ 65
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		♠ 108 ♥ 43 ♦ A1062 ♣ KJ943										

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

I'll leave you to choose how best to describe West's rebid. However, it did put the spotlight on North.

Clearly you are not going to lead a heart, and a spade is sure to give a tempo (although it's good enough here). Given a choice between the minors it must be best to start with the ♣Q. Playing with a partner you can trust a discouraging ♣3 is a possibility, but a safer option is to overtake with the ♣K. If declarer ducks, the obvious spade switch will ensure two down. The best declarer can do is take the ♣A and play a high diamond, but South wins, cashes the ♣J and then plays a spade, ensuring one down.

+200 gets you 49-11, +100 36-24. However, leading a diamond makes 4♠ unbeatable and leaves you with only 11-49. Only one defender led the ♣Q.



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Hamlet's Rule

*The play's the thing
Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the king.*

There were three deals in the first session of the Pairs Championship that were a test for declarer.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ QJ632 ♥ — ♦ AQJ7 ♣ Q1095	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A75 ♥ AQ9753 ♦ K6 ♣ K8	♠ 4 ♥ J42 ♦ 1098432 ♣ 763
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Once North has opened the bidding, it is not unreasonable to bid 6♥, but it only happened 10 times, three pairs going one down.

Here are a couple of possible auctions depending on East's initial action:

West	North	East	South
–	1♠	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♦*	Double	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
–	1♠	2♥	Pass
4♦*	Double	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass

If South leads a spade declarer puts in dummy's ♠10, wins in hand with the ♠A, draws trumps in three rounds ending in dummy and plays a diamond. North takes the ace and exits with a diamond and declarer wins, plays a spade to dummy's king, comes to hand with the ♣K and cashes the remaining trumps, squeezing North in the black suits.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 10652 ♥ 9763 ♦ 6 ♣ 9652	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A84 ♥ 102 ♦ 75 ♣ AJ10743	♠ J973 ♥ AQ54 ♦ KJ ♣ KQ8
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♠ KQ ♥ KJ8 ♦ AQ1098432 ♣ —

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

I'm not proposing that is the optimum sequence, but it was the one selected at the table I was following.

East led the ♠3 and declarer had to decide how to play.

One option is to go 'all in', overtaking dummy's spade with the ace, cashing the ♣A and then playing a diamond to the queen, which will be 11 tricks if the diamonds behave.

Another possibility is to win in dummy and play a low heart at trick two! If West has the ♥Q it will be virtually impossible to play it and when East wins with the ♥A, declarer will have a shot at 12 tricks.

The third option is to win the lead in dummy, cash the ♦A and if necessary give up a diamond. That will assure you of at least nine tricks. Starting with a low heart from dummy is perhaps the most appealing line.

East's lead is awkward, but is also significant, as it strongly suggests that he has dangerous holdings in the other suits. On that basis I think at this form of scoring you should go for the maximum, not least because you may be behind the field based on the opening lead.

37 pairs bid 3NT, 20 of them receiving a heart lead. A club was led 4 times, the rest leading a spade. +490 was worth 202-42, +460 175-79 and +430 151-93. Those who only scored +400 got 77-167.



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Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ Q 10 3 ♥ J 8 7 5 ♦ 10 9 8 6 3 ♣ 7	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 9 ♥ A 9 4 3 ♦ Q 5 4 ♣ A K J 5 2	♠ J 8 6 5 2 ♥ K 6 ♦ K J ♣ Q 10 9 3
		♠ A K 7 4 ♥ Q 10 2 ♦ A 7 2 ♣ 8 6 4	

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

At the table I was watching, West led the ♦9.

How should declarer play?

Declarer ducked East's ♦J, won the spade switch and played a club to the jack, a perfectly reasonable line, but one that did not lead to nine tricks.

One option, having ducked the diamond jack, is to win the spade switch, play a club to the ace and a low heart from dummy. Only the very best can play low in tempo when they have a double-ton king in this situation, so East is likely to take the ♥K (as a small aside, declarer can unblock the ♥10) and play another spade. Declarer wins, pitching a club from dummy and plays a club. When West discards, declarer wins in dummy, plays a heart to the queen and a heart to dummy's eight. When he cashes the ♥A, East is forced down to one spade and now declarer plays a diamond, collecting East's king.

However, I think it's perhaps better to win the first trick with the ♦A. Then you play a club to the jack and queen, win the spade return, play a club to the ace and a low heart, unblocking the ten when East puts up the king. You win the spade return, cash the hearts (finessing against West) and find that the fourth heart squeezes East who must come down to ♠J ♦K ♣109. You exit with a low diamond and when the king appears you are home.

104 pairs bid 3NT, the fifteen who made it scored between 244 and 227, depending on the number of tricks they recorded.

A Touch of Class

On the Wednesday evening, I was at the right table to witness a couple of gems.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ Q 10 6 ♥ J 10 3 ♦ A K 6 4 3 ♣ 7 6	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 4 3 2 ♥ 5 4 2 ♦ 10 9 7 ♣ J 8 5 3	♠ A J 9 5 ♥ A K Q 8 ♦ Q J 2 ♣ 10 2
		♠ K 8 7 ♥ 9 7 6 ♦ 8 5 ♣ A K Q 9 4	

West	North	East	South
<i>Schippers</i>	<i>Hausler</i>	<i>Stienen</i>	<i>von Arnim</i>
1NT*	Pass	3NT	All Pass
1NT	10-12		

Eschewing the time-honoured idea of leading your longest suit against 3NT North, mindful that East had not looked for a major suit fit, decided to lead a major. Despite his significantly stronger holding in hearts (a subtle attempt to inject a note of levity) he went with the ♠4.

It is hard to blame declarer for playing low from dummy, but South won, and five rounds of clubs meant two down and 240/4 for N/S.

If declarer had put up dummy's ♠A almost all those points would have gone in the opposite direction.

When Elly Schippers showed me the deal we concluded that given North has not led a club it is reasonable to place the club strength with South, who would be on lead when West is declarer, which is surely going to be the case virtually all the time.

As a club lead is almost certain to defeat 3NT cashing out as opposed to risking the spade finesse might be the way to go.

When I asked au pair was happy to lead the ♣3.



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Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ AJ 10 ♥ 7 ♦ AKQJ53 ♣ J87	<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		♠ 82 ♥ AKQ ♦ 98762 ♣ 1063	♠ 964 ♥ 109653 ♦ 4 ♣ K954
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		♠ KQ753 ♥ J842 ♦ 10 ♣ AQ2										

You would be happy to reach 6♠ or 6♦, but a little care is needed in the former. Say West leads a heart and East plays two rounds, forcing dummy to ruff. Now the winning line is to unblock the ♠AJ, come to hand with the ♣A and cash your remaining trumps. If diamonds are not 5-1 you are home, but even though they are badly distributed the last trump squeezes East.

+980 collected, 231/13, +920 218/26 but even +480 was 153/91.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ Q2 ♥ AQ53 ♦ AKJ8 ♣ A85	<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		♠ K109 ♥ 9742 ♦ Q9642 ♣ K	♠ AJ865 ♥ J10 ♦ 1073 ♣ 763
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		♠ 743 ♥ K86 ♦ 5 ♣ QJ10942										

The popular contract was 3NT by North.

At the table I was watching, East led the ♦2 for the five and ten. How should declarer play?

One option is to go to dummy with the ♥K and run the ♣Q, but that needs the king to be onside and not guarded more than once.

You could cash the ♣A, hoping for a Rabbinical king to appear.

Or you could simply play a low club, hoping the defenders don't switch to spades.

Jovi Smederevac went for the latter, but to encourage East, she won the first diamond with the king! East took the ♣K but looked no further than the diamond suit and declarer emerged with 12 tricks.

+490 was worth 191/53.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ 86 ♥ AQ63 ♦ KJ8752 ♣ 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		♠ J5 ♥ J85 ♦ — ♣ KJ987653	♠ 1072 ♥ K94 ♦ AQ10 ♣ AQ104
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		♠ AKQ943 ♥ 1072 ♦ 9643 ♣ —										

West	North	East	South
—	1NT	3♣	4♠

All Pass

West led the ♣2 and declarer put in dummy's ten, ruffing East's jack and cashed the ♠A collecting the eight and jack. He continued with a diamond to the ten, the good news being that the finesse was right, the bad that East scored a trick with the ♠5.

If East had followed with the ♠5, declarer would have cashed a second trump and then played a diamond to the ten. A heart goes on the ♣A and declarer effects a dummy reversal, scoring 12 tricks.

The genius holding the East cards was Agustin Madala.

Holding declarer to 11 tricks was worth 65/179, while losing 480 would have meant 172/72.

Bidding Matters (Mostly)

The final session of the Pairs saw many deals decided by what happened in the bidding phase.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ QJ86 ♥ 10974 ♦ 743 ♣ 106	<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		♠ 9 ♥ KJ52 ♦ 95 ♣ KJ9872	♠ 1072 ♥ Q863 ♦ AQJ86 ♣ 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		♠ AK543 ♥ A ♦ K102 ♣ AQ54										

This is an unlucky deal for N/S in so far as 6♠ is doomed by the 4-1 break (although two pairs



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scored a miraculous +980!). -50 was worth 78/166.

A few pairs were in 6♦. When East leads the ♠9 the winning line for declarer to win in dummy, come to hand with a diamond and take the club finesse. That is followed by the ♣A and another club. Declarer ruffs and must now play a spade. East can ruff, but declarer will take the rest, being able to cash a second spade and the ♥A and have a high crossruff for the last four tricks.

Four pairs bid 6♦ - two of them making it, one when East led the ♣2 (perhaps having opened 3♣?). Now declarer needs to put in dummy's ♣Q.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ J7 ♥ A98542 ♦ QJ ♣ AK5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ KQ9 ♥ K76 ♦ AK94 ♣ Q106	♠ 1062 ♥ 103 ♦ 853 ♣ 97432
		♠ A8543 ♥ QJ ♦ 10762 ♣ J8	

West	North	East	South
-	1NT	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	?		

A simple question – do you bid 3NT or 4♠?

With no doubleton 3NT looks automatic, but only ten(!) pairs did that, scoring 235/9 or 215/29 depending on the number of tricks they took.

4♠ was worth 164/80.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ — ♥ 542 ♦ 94 ♣ AKQJ8753	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 97542 ♥ A10 ♦ Q83 ♣ 1096	♠ KQJ103 ♥ QJ83 ♦ J52 ♣ 2
		♠ A86 ♥ K976 ♦ AK1076 ♣ 4	

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	Pass	1♦
-?			

How many clubs should West bid?

I would be tempted to try 4♣. Were the bidding to continue Pass-Pass-Dble North is going to bid 4♠ which is not a bad outcome for E/W.

Those who tried 5♣ were usually doubled and scored only 13 points.

Board 22. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ KQ1083 ♥ 108 ♦ AQ64 ♣ K8	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J9752 ♥ A76 ♦ 2 ♣ AQ64	♠ 64 ♥ 93 ♦ K109753 ♣ 753
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How easy is it to bid 6♠ with the E/W cards?

15 pairs managed it.

After 1♠-Pass-2NT* if North bids 3♥ although East has a modest hand with poor trumps every side suit is controlled, so jumping to 4♠ is not the answer. Passing allows West to cue-bid 4♣ and if East then bids 4♦ West can continue with a 'Last Train' 4♥. Then East can ask for key cards and 6♠ should be reached.

Maximum Pressure

While I was looking at the deals from the second session of the teams I tuned in to the International Championship Snooker Final between Tom Ford and Zhang Anda. With the score at 1-1 in the best of 19 frame final, the Chinese player produced a flawless display of potting in compiling a maximum 147 break, to the delight of the home crowd.

That leads us neatly to the deal of the tournament, which occurred in the final match of the day:



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Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ AJ ♥ AK106 ♦ K4 ♣ KQ876	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; 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	♠ 765 ♥ QJ8754 ♦ J32 ♣ 4	♠ KQ1043 ♥ 32 ♦ A765 ♣ A2
N						
W E						
S						
	♠ 982 ♥ 9 ♦ Q1098 ♣ J10953					

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♠	Pass
2♣	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	6♠	Pass
7NT	All Pass		

North's whimsical overcall suggested bad breaks might be possible, so not wanting to risk a possible ruff at trick one West decides to play in no-trumps.

When North leads the ♥Q, declarer wins with the king, unblocks the ♠AJ and then cashes the ♥A and the ♣K before crossing to dummy with a club. When North discards on this trick, declarer can lay his cards on the table!

As dummy's remaining spades are cashed, South, compelled to keep two clubs, is forced to come down to the ♦Q10 and ♣J10.

On the last spade declarer discards the ♣8, comes to hand with the ♦K and cashes the ♣Q. North, down to ♥J ♦J32 is forced to part with a diamond and so declarer's 13th trick materialises in the guise of the ♦7 (*I hope declarer remembered to demand a beer from partner when winning the last trick with the seven of diamonds - ed.*).

A text-book non-simultaneous double squeeze.

These things look easy on paper, but in real life things are not so simple. If declarer does not cash the ♣K it is possible to misguess the ending, playing for the clubs to be 3-3.

Many who attempted 7NT failed to record a maximum!

Don't ask me how I misplayed the hand.

We are searching for players who have attended the Madeira Festival at least 25 times. If you are one of these special people please let the organising team know. You can leave your details at the Welcome Desk or contact a member of the Bulletin staff in the Executive Meeting Room (at the other end of the fourth floor from the playing area).



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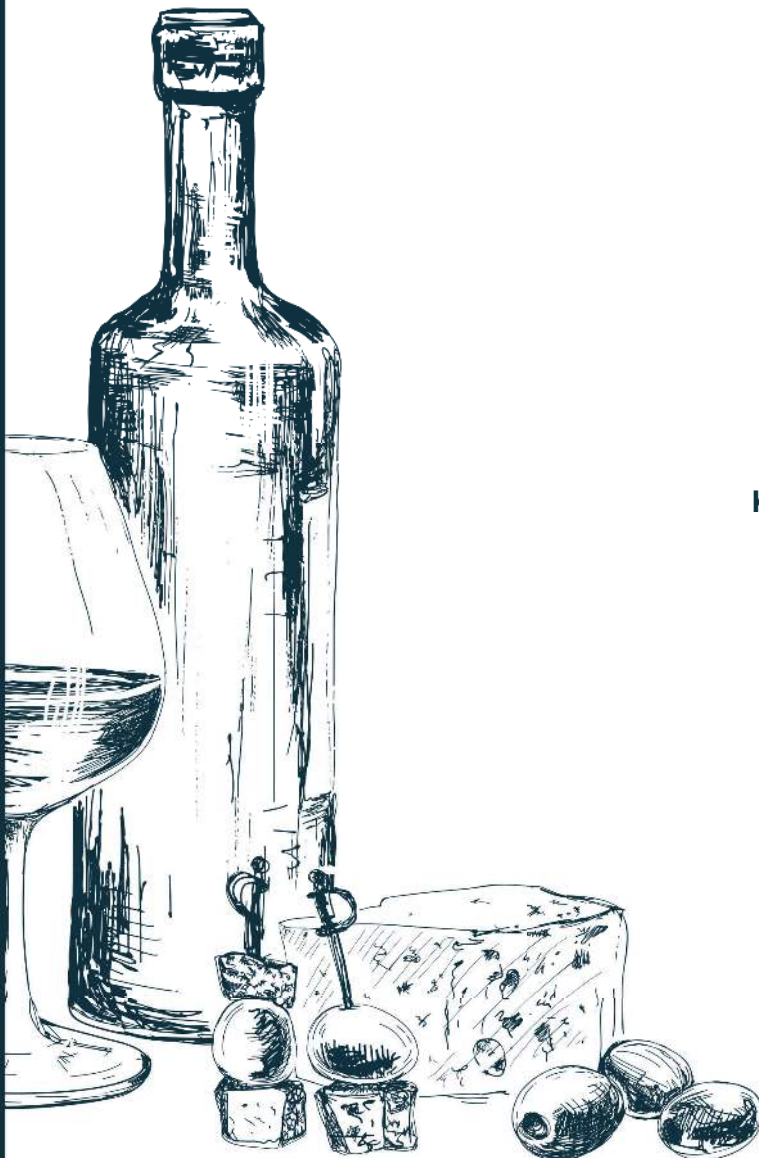
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Buffet of the day at 30€

10% on SPA (except product



Due to high demand, we recommend that you make a reservation as soon as possible.





Your Directors



José Júlio Curado – Chief Tournament Director: In October 1996 José decided he wanted to know the Laws of Bridge. Two years later he was invited to direct the first edition of this tournament with Rui Marques. He liked it so much that he kept coming back and in 2005 he moved to Madeira. By the end of this 12-day week, you will understand why. Have Fun!

Marc van Beijsterveldt: 64 years old and this year directing in his 8th festival. Ever since his first time in Madeira it has been his favourite bridge festival. He has directed all over the world and they all have their pluses and minuses, but Madeira is exceptional. He has directed since 1994 in World and European championships and festivals all around Europe.



Jakub (Kuba) Kasprzak: A new addition to the team, Kuba is an international director, on the TD panels of both the EBL and WBF. From Gdansk, Poland, he is married with two small children.

Jacob Duschek: is a Danish tournament director living in Copenhagen. He was awarded the EBL Tournament Director title in 2013 and has been directing regularly at EBL Championships since then. He is the author of the textbook 'A Guide to the Bridge Laws'. His best results as a player are a bronze medal in 2011 and a silver medal in 2012 at the Danish teams championship.



Sarah Amos: began her TD career in Wales where she is a National Director and still runs many events. She subsequently joined the EBU TD panel over 20 years ago which has allowed her to work all over the UK, running all types of bridge events from club games to home internationals. She loves the variety that directing brings, along with the chance to meet a huge range of different personalities and levels of bridge player.

Diarmuid Reddan: Diarmuid Reddan is an Irish Tournament Director recently promoted to NBO International Director and also directed at the Europeans in Dublin in 2012. Diarmuid has also represented The CBAI playing in the Camrose in 2013 and has been NPC to various Irish teams with his most recent one being the Irish Mixed Team in Madeira in June 2022.



Frederico Palma: has been involved with contract Bridge since 2006 when, influenced by his father, he started to learn the game. He started directing in Lisbon in Centro de Bridge de Lisboa. It hasn't been an easy task, but he would like to continue developing his directing skills, and that's why he is joining the directing team in Madeira again this year.



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MADEIRA TOURISM: The Tourism Board for the Madeira Archipelago. Visit the website for information about events, activities, transport and accommodation in Madeira and Porto Santo.



APM – MADEIRA PROMOTION BUREAU: Non-profit association of the Regional Tourism Board and the Funchal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, for the development of a common strategy for promotion of Madeira.

DRD – REGIONAL DIRECTORATE OF SPORT: Regional government arm responsible for summer camps, internet cafés, youth associations, volunteering and other youth programmes.



MC COMPUTERS: Acknowledged regional IT leader, developing and managing projects for the biggest public and private clients.

NOS MADEIRA: Portuguese media and communications company with a regional base in Madeira leader in cable television distribution and the home-video distributor for Walt Disney Pictures, Warner Bros. DreamWorks and Paramount Pictures releases in Portugal.



ECM – MADEIRA BREWERY: Established in 1872 and the largest producer and distributor of beverages in the region, ECM manufactures and distributes its own brands of beers, soft drinks and water.

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