23rd Madeira International Bridge Open
2nd-8th November 2020
Sun/Mon 1st/2nd November
Bulletin 0

A Welcome from Miguel Teixeira

As you all know this has been a very challenging year for everyone due to the Covid 19 virus. It was a very difficult decision to go ahead with this year's tournament, but we have decided to press ahead as Madeira is one of the safest places in Europe at the moment.

It is with happiness that I remember our previous twenty-two tournaments but with sadness that for this year a lot of people who wanted to come were unfortunately unable to do so.

We are thinking about those of you that can´t be here in person, and we are trying to make it possible for you to join in with us (There is an outline of the plan inside this bulletin).

I hope you and your family are all well, for those of you that have been able to join us thank you, thank you, thank you, and I wish you a great stay, for those that unfortunately cannot be present we will see you next year, put these dates in your diary: 28th October – 8th November.

Miguel Teixeira

We are heartbroken that we cannot avail ourselves of President Albuquerque's annual hospitality at the beautiful Quinta Vigia. The restrictions imposed by the virus make it difficult to hold the cocktail in a safe fashion.

Keeping You Safe

We are instigating protocols to ensure your safety whilst playing bridge. There are the six main areas.

1.There will be NO board sharing. Each table will have a complete set of boards for the whole session.

2 Competitors will be issued with a Bidding Box, It will be labelled with the player's BridgeMate number and they will only use that box for the whole tournament.

3. The table and its equipment will be completely cleaned every 8 - 10 deals. This includes the table itself, the screen, the Bridgemate and the chairs.

4. Every table will have a transparent perspex screen separating each player from the others.

5. Every table is at least two metres from any other table.

6. Every 8 - 10 boards competitors will be asked to leave the room and take fresh air for a minimum of five minutes.

Badges

The many of you who have played in earlier Madeira International Bridge Festivals may recall an envelope full of vouchers enabling you to partake of the bridge and various social activities, but as per last year we can misquote the famous line from *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, 'Vouchers, we don't need no stinkin' vouchers'. The reason being that when you arrive you will be issued with a badge and this will serve to identify you for all your needs. This means you must remember to have your badge with you at all times, otherwise you may find you are invited to go back to your room to find the "stinkin' badge.

Warm-Up Pairs – Monday 20.30

To enter the Warm-Up Pairs, register in the Congress Centre from 20.00 onwards.

MAIN PROGRAMME 5th – 10th NOV 2019

Location - Congress Room + Selvagens 1-2-3

TUESDAY 3rd November	15:30	Closing time for Pairs Tournament Entries
	16:00	Open Pairs Tournament (1st Session)
WEDNESDAY 4th November	16:00	Open Pairs Tournament (2nd Session)
THURSDAY 5th November	16:00	Open Pairs Tournament (3rd Session)
	20:00	Final Results
FRIDAY 6th November	18:00	Deadline for Teams Tournament Entries
	20:00	Team Assignments
	20.30	Open Teams Tournament (1st Session)
SATURDAY 7th November	11:00	Open Teams Tournament (2nd Session)
	13:15	Lunch Break (light lunch included)
	14:30	Open Teams Tournament (3rd Session)
SUNDAY 8th November	14:30	Open Teams Tournament (4th Session)
	19:00	Final Results

NOTE: Please arrive 30 minutes before the start to guarantee your place

EST. 2017
TAPAS Y COPAS
BEST TAPAS IN TOWN
FUNCHAL

The TAPAS Y COPAS restaurant (on the opposite side of the road to the hotel) is giving a 10% discount to all participants in the Madeira bridge Festival, To claim this just show your badge before you order.

And as a second generous guesture they are offering the winners of the Open Pairs a €50 voucher.

EST. 2017
TAPAS Y COPAS
BEST TAPAS IN TOWN
FUNCHAL

José Curado explains how to verify the deals using Hans van Staveren's procedure.

In short, if someone wants to check that there is no hanky-panky going on with the procedure they should:

1. Download the "present key" before 19:30 on Friday evening 30th October 2020
2. Check the winning Euromillions numbers for Friday 30th October 2020 (the "future key").
3. Download the "past key" which will be published after the event (in Bulletin 7 and here)
4. Run the program (download from http://www.xs4all.nl/~sater/SquareDeal.zip) using the 3-part key according to the instructions: the "present" and "past" files and the 5 numbers and 2 stars from the lottery results, comma separated (the program will prompt you).
5. Compare the hands generated this way with the hands actually played.

This is fully explained on the website at:
https://www.bridge-madeira.com/hand-generator-security-keys/

INTER-NATIONS CHALLENGE (CHARITY EVENT)

Sunday 1st November, 2.30pm

Last year for the first time we held an event on the first Sunday, all proceeds being donated to charity. With your support we raised €1500 for the Centro de Saúde de São João de Deus, a local mental health charity.

The winners of the inaugural Inter-Nations Challenge were the Netherlands contingent, helped to an easy victory by fine performances from their star strikers and attacking midfielders, Hans Kreuning & Rob van den Bergh (1st) and Hans van Staveren & Mike Reuser (2nd).

This year we know we can't expect such a large field, but we hope you will support this worthwhile charity again, and have fun in the process. We start at 14.30 on Sunday 1st November (a good day for saints) in the Conference Centre.

To help us gauge how many sets of boards we will need, it would help us if you could write your names on the list at the Welcome Desk before 11.30 on Sunday morning. We won't turn you away if you haven't managed to wield a biro and scribble on the list, but if we know how many to expect it will help avoid delays in starting.

(Many thanks to Sveinni for the suggestion and organisation)

NOT ENOUGH ♦♦♦ AND ♥♥♥ IN YOUR LIFE?

Get more sparkle at The Ritz Café Dinner and Show

Special rate for our friends at the Madeira International Bridge Open
Saturday 31st October & Saturday 7th November at 7.30pm

3 Course Dinner (including wine) €40* (€45 usual price)
The incomparable Sian Lesley's Show and Dancing afterwards

Ring (+351) 291281405 or email reservations@theritzmadeira.com
– quote "Bridge + your badge number

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

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

Thursday 29th October	18:00 – 21:00
Friday 30th October	10:30 – 13:00
	14:30 – 18:00
Saturday 31st October	10:30 – 1300
	14:30 – 18:00
Sunday 1st November	13:30 – 17:00
Monday 2nd November	10:30 – 13:00
	14:30 – 20:30
Tuesday 3rd November	10:30 – 13:00
	14:30 – 16:00
Wednesday 4th November	15:00 – 16:00
Thursday 5th November	15:00 – 16:00
Friday 6th November	18:00 – 21:00
Saturday 7th November	13:00 – 16:00
Sunday 8th November	14:30 – 16:00

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.

Can You Help?

The archive of the Madeira Bridge Association was destroyed in 2007 in a fire at the historic Club Sports da Madeira. As a result, we no longer have results and bulletins from the Madeira International from 1998 to 2004 (and access to the 2005 bulletins only courtesy of bridgedailybulletins.nl).

If any collector happens to have any of this material, and is willing either to copy it or to lend it to us, we should be eternally grateful. Or if anyone has saved .pdf versions on a computer, please email them to us at open@bridge-madeira.com.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 4th November 20:45 - Traditional Dinner.
Traditional Madeiran dinner of espetada with folk dancing and music
COACH LEAVES THE HOTEL VIDAMAR, OUTSIDE THE LOBBY TOWER 2, AT 20:15 (it takes 15 minutes). Return to the hotel at 23:30.

FRIDAY 6th November Coach leaves the Hotel for your chosen excursion option.
Details of excursions can be found later in this bulletin.
Further information is available at the Welcome Desk.

SUNDAY 8th November 20:30 Closing Dinner and trophy presentation in the Ocean Room – VidaMar Resort Madeira, 2nd floor.

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

ENTRY FEES

Pairs	€ 140.00
Teams	€ 155.00
Pairs + Team	€ 260.00
Pairs + Teams + Traditional Dinner	€ 275.00
Pairs + Teams + Closing Dinner	€ 285.00
Pairs + Teams + Traditional + Closing Dinner	€ 295.00
Typical Dinner	€ 25.00
Friday Excursion	€ 25.00
Saturday Lunch (non-players)	€.20.00
Closing Dinner	€.40.00

SIDE EVENTS

29th October – 9th November 2019	Congress Room
Thursday 29th Portuguese Simultaneous Pairs (€15*)	20:30
Friday 30th IMP Pairs 1 (€15*)	16:00
Saturday 31st IMP Pairs 2 (€15*)	16:00
Sunday 1st Charity Tournament (€15)	14.30
Monday 2nd Warm-up Pairs (€15)	20:30
Monday 9th Cool-down Pairs (€10)	20:30

***€30 for all 3**

Optional Excursions Friday 6th November

Option A: **The East** (full day, lunch included)
coach leaves hotel 09:30

The coach leaves the hotel at 9:30 for the drive up to Pico do Areeiro, Madeira's third-highest peak (1818m), from which you may enjoy the breathtaking views. From the mountain head down to Ribeiro Frio to admire the famous laurisilva forest (UNESCO World Heritage site), with an optional short levada walk to the Balcões viewpoint (level, easy, ≈ 30 minutes).

The next stop is Santana, with its traditional thatched houses and its vineyards. After lunch at the Quinta do Furão, drive to Ponta de São Lourenço, the far eastern headland, which boasts a wonderful combination of volcanic rocks, blue sea and nature. You will have time to take photographs before heading back to the hotel.

Option B: **Levada Walk** (½ day, lunch included)
coach leaves hotel 09:45

The coach leaves the hotel at 9:45 for a relaxing, easy 7km half-day walk along one of Madeira's famed levadas.

The walk starts at Referta, on the north-eastern side of the island, and leads walkers on an exploration of some of the native fauna and flora of Madeira and its abundant and varied fruit trees. In the first part of the walk, you will be able to admire the imposing volcanic outcrop of Penha de Águia and enjoy the agricultural terraces cultivated by local residents.

Lunch at the Quinta do Furão before returning to the hotel.

Please bring good walking shoes or boots, a warm coat (in case of low temperatures in the mountains) and a bottle of water. Grade: easy; Distance: 7 km; Duration: approximately 2¾ hours.

Option C: **Catamaran** (limited availability)
coach leaves hotel 10:00

A relaxing trip along the south coast of Madeira, with a good chance of spotting whales and dolphins in all their magnificence and in their natural habitat. (3 hours)

Ron Tacchi Reflects On This Year's Festival

There is no doubt that these are difficult times, not only do we all have serious concerns about the risks of catching the Covid 19 virus but the very fabric of our 'well-being or happiness is impinged upon by the various strictures which are imposed upon us at the moment. Back in April I remember saying to Mrs T. that if I did not get to Madeira then she could anticipate a very morose spouse for at least the rest of the year. This is my seventh visit to Madeira and it is now part of my life. January - birth-day, March -Easter and grandchildren vist, April - visit brother-in-law in the Algarve, June - European Bridge Championships, it goes on like this until November when the diary says Madeira Festival. June time everything looked rosy but come September there was a definite downward spiral culminating in the past week to certain countries having total lockdown. I was fortunate enough to leave France one day before the new rules would have prevented me from getting to the airport.

I played in the Portuguese simultaneous pairs on Thursday evening and was pleasantly amazed at the lengths the organisers have gone to ensure the safety of all the competitors. The list of the actions being taken are listed on page 1. At the table, which was a good three metres from the next one, when we had finished Board eight and had put our cards back into the slot we were instructed to leave the room whilst assistants armed with moist wipes cleaned down the table, screen, chairs and Bridgemate.

I would personally like to thank the organisers for making this festival possible and also thank everyone who is attending and also making the event possible.

On the front page Miguel hinted at ways that people who have not managed to get to Madeira can take part. The idea is that there will be an online tournaments for the Open Pairs and Teams using the same deals running about one hour behind the actual tournament in Madeira. This is still in the planning stage but hope springs eternal. Watch the Bulletin, the website (www.bridge-madeira.com) and the Facebook page for more information as it becomes available.

There are the usual side events. It is hoped that they will all take place - they are, of course, dependent on sufficient numbers taking part. There will be constant updates in these bulletins as well as the online channels.

I must confess that taking my breakfast on the terrace being pleasantly warmed by the sun that life seemed a whole lot less worse. Tonight I will be off for my ritual curry, and life, though briefly, will be as close to normal as it can be during the present brouhaha.

I definitely feel safer in Madeira than at home.

-20%
DISCOUNT
MAMMA MIA RESTAURANT
MENU & DRINKS LIST

OCEAN BUFFET
€23.00
DRINKS INCLUDED

The VidaMar Hotel is pleased to offer participants of the Madeira Open 2020 the discounts as above. Just show them your badge.

The Magic of Madeira

Mark Horton

The Editor and Ron Tacchi made their annual pilgrimage to the Atlantic island for the 22nd Festival.

This year the organisers made some adjustments to the playing schedule, which reduced the number of late night sessions – much appreciated by everyone, especially those who like to discuss the deals over dinner and particularly by the Bulletin team (this year splendidly reinforced by Ceri Pierce) as it meant the Bulletins could be completed in time for delivery to the breakfast tables of the Vidamar.

We had resolved not to compete in the warm up pairs this year, but were delighted to support a new event, the Charity Pairs, which raised more than €1000 for the Centro de Saúde de São João de Deus. By means of a small number of judiciously self inflicted wounds we restricted ourselves to fifth place, well behind the winners, Hans Kreuning and Rob van den Bergh.

Sad Singleton

The inspiration for the title of a bridge-related story can come in many ways. A few days before I travelled to Madeira a programme on the BBC's Radio 4 mentioned the use of the term sad singleton. Sue Townsend coined it in her novel, The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13¾. It's certainly a title worth using – but needs the right deal.

Later on, I toyed with the idea of entitling a piece The Case of the Sad Singleton, which might be a tough one for Perry Mason to solve.

Travelling to Madeira, I read in the Daily Telegraph the obituary of Frank Giles, a former Editor of The Sunday Times. It mentioned that during the war, he served as aide de camp to the Governor of Bermuda and discovered a card index, which listed all the significant people in the colony and included their strengths and weaknesses. The four mentioned were, 'good bridge player' 'drinks too much', 'too free with the ladies' and what was described as the most damning of all, 'GPO' which contrary to my expectation did not stand for 'General Post Office', but 'Garden Party Only'. That's a story that might come in handy the next time the Bermuda Bowl is staged on the Atlantic island, which is due to happen in 2025, on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

On the lookout for a suitable deal to fit my by-line, let's pay a visit to the aforementioned Charity Pairs:

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠ AQ109853 ♥ 762 ♦ J ♣ 52	
♠ K ♥ AK98 ♦ A10752 ♣ 974	N W E S	♠ J62 ♥ J3 ♦ 843 ♣ KJ863
	♠ 74 ♥ Q1054 ♦ KQ96 ♣ AQ10	

West	North	East	South
–	–	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	2♣(!)	2NT
3♣	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

East led the ♣3 and declarer put in dummy's queen. In due course, he lost a spade, two hearts and a diamond. If he makes the unlikely play of the ♣10 at trick one he can then play two rounds of spades, take the club finesse, pitch the ♦J on the ♣A and play the ♦K. West must cover, but declarer ruffs and plays a heart to the ten to endplay West.

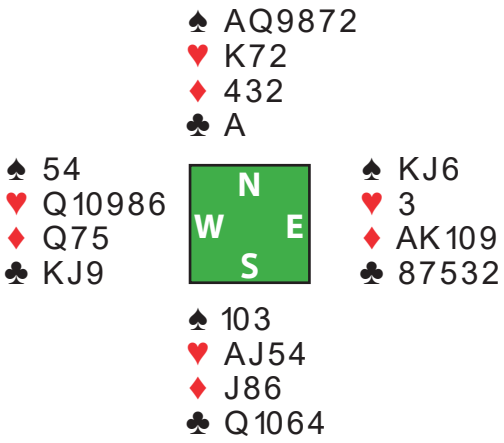
West's ♠K has all the appearance of a sad singleton, but it had a role to play, albeit a passive one. If West had overcalled 1♥ (Mike Lawrence fans would approve – and at pairs you should try to get involved if you can) then East would lead the ♥J, ruff the third round of the suit and play a diamond, West winning with the ace and playing a fourth heart. Thanks to the presence of West's ♠K East's ♠J is promoted to give the defenders a fifth trick.

Not such a sad singleton after all.

Defensive Tests

One of the many great things about the Madeira Festival is the fact that people are happy to tell you about the deals, regardless of the result. These two from the warm-up event were defensive tests that were difficult to pass – indeed one of them proved to be nigh on impossible.

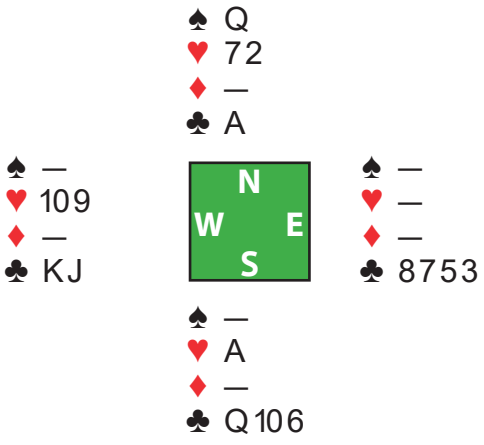
Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Ruth	*German*	*Kiste*	*Winkel*
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

East led a top diamond and continued with two more rounds of the suit, West winning and switching to a spade. When declarer played low East won with the jack and returned the ♥3. Declarer put in the jack and took West's queen with the king. Sensing that the ♠K was off-side declarer cashed the ♠A and exited with a spade. Now East had an easy-looking exit with the last diamond, but watch what happened:

Declarer ruffed and played off his trumps. When the last one hit the table this was the position:



East and dummy threw clubs, but West was the victim of a criss-cross squeeze. Whichever suit he unguarded would allow declarer to cash the relevant ace and then return to his other ace to cash a winner. East could have broken up the position by switching to a club at the end.

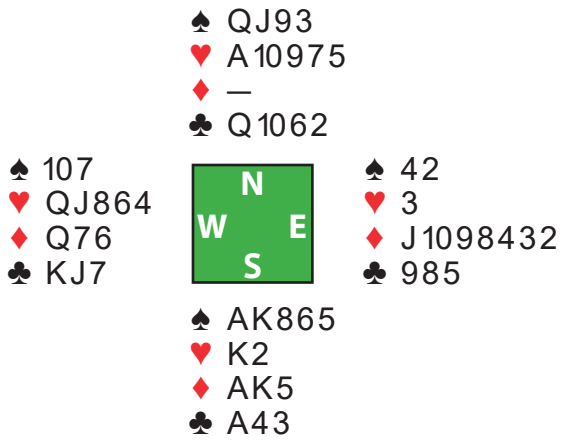
14 pairs recorded +110 – did they all make 2♠ this way?

Predict a Board

I think it was at the world Championships in Maastricht in 2000 that I came up with the concept of introducing a predict-a-bid feature into the VuGraph theatre. The idea was that every spectator would be given an electronic gadget on which they could try to predict a player's bid on each deal. There would be daily cash prizes for those with the highest scores.

Looking at the deals for the opening session of the pairs, here are my suggestions as to what might have happened on three of them:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.



Given a free run, N/S should be able to find a route to 6♠. If South opens 2NT and the spade fit is located then the problem might be to stop in time. However, suppose East attempts to throw a spanner into the works (those who suffer from adverse vulnerability syndrome should look away now) by opening 3♦ (I'm assuming North won't open the bidding, but that might not always be the case). Were South to then bid a heavy 3NT North will want to have some methods (using 4♣ as Stayman along with transfers is not a bad idea) but even with no agreements North can bid 4♦ and then go on over South's 4♠.

If South doubles 3♦ North can bid 4♦ (but only if West does not raise).

Although an opening 3♦ will complicate matters I expected more than half the field to reach 6♠. A few might attempt 6NT and at least one pair would go overboard in 7♠.

More than 50% of the 94 tables reached 6♠ with 13 pairs resting in 7♠.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

	♠ A1064 ♥ AJ62 ♦ 832 ♣ K8	
♠ 32 ♥ 95 ♦ KJ95 ♣ AQ1096	N W E S	♠ KQJ985 ♥ 1074 ♦ 64 ♣ 75
	♠ 7 ♥ KQ83 ♦ AQ107 ♣ J432	

If North opens 1♣/1♦ East has an easy 2♠ overcall (or 1♠ if you are of a nervous disposition). After that N/S should be able to find a route to 4♥. Maybe South will double and then go on to 4♥ when North bids the suit.

If East leads the ♠K (what could be more natural) declarer wins, ruffs a spade and plays a club. Say West wins and returns a trump. Declarer wins in dummy, plays a club to the king, ruffs a spade high, draws trumps and plays a diamond to the ten. West wins, but will be left with ♦K9 ♣Q10 and have no way to prevent ten tricks being scored.

However, West might try (I could say should try) bidding 2♣ over South's double. Now East can lead a club and West wins and returns the suit, removing a vital entry to the North hand.

I expected the field to reach 4♥, with more than half of those who did making it when a spade is led.

74 pairs arrived in 4♥ – but only four declarers recorded ten tricks.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

	♠ Q932 ♥ 42 ♦ J7543 ♣ 65	
♠ AJ8 ♥ Q1097 ♦ AK ♣ J1072	N W E S	♠ K74 ♥ 5 ♦ Q1096 ♣ AKQ43
	♠ 1065 ♥ AKJ863 ♦ 82 ♣ 98	

E/W can make 6♣, but how many will bid it in these days where a 1♣ opening can be based on almost any number of clubs?

If South overcalls 2♥ (echoing the theme of the previous deal) what should West do? If you double and partner bids 3♣ are you going to go past 3NT? If partner rebids 3♦ does that promise real clubs (and you still have to decide if you should be looking for a slam)?

I went for less than half the field reaching 6♣.

That was a sound suggestion – only the Simons, Hult and Ekenberg, found a route to 6♣.

The Waiting Game

If you are familiar with the works of Shakespeare, you may recall a line from the Scottish play (it's considered bad luck to say Macbeth, and the way the lifts were working I was not going to tempt fate) where Lady Macbeth says 'Stand not upon the order of your going, but go at once'. Which basically means that you don't need to wait for someone to give you an order before you do something.

English star Justin Hackett, in Madeira with his wife Barbara (adding two more names to the list of World Champions who have attended the Madeira Festival) gave me this amuse-bouche from the first weekend of England's Premier League. (That's the bridge version, not followed by quite so many spectators as the one where 22 grown men kick something resembling an inflated pig's bladder around.)

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

	♠ J6 ♥ K7432 ♦ 973 ♣ Q109	
♠ 109 ♥ 105 ♦ 108542 ♣ 8765	N W E S	♠ 53 ♥ A986 ♦ AKQJ ♣ KJ2
	♠ AKQ8742 ♥ QJ ♦ 6 ♣ A43	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jason H	*King*	*Justin*	*McIntosh*
Pass	Pass	2♦*	All Pass
2♦	18-19 balanced		

You or I might overcall 4♠, but Andrew (Tosh) McIntosh thought there was every chance that E/W might end up in no-trumps, in which case

he might have an unpleasant surprise for declarer and decided to play a waiting game. Tosh hails from North of the border and is no doubt familiar with the Scottish play, but as another famous Scotsman once wrote, 'the best laid schemes often go awry' when West saw no point in doing anything other than passing!

2♦ made on the nose for +90.

In the Open Room Ed Jones and Tom Paske reached the excellent 4♠, which made in comfort for an 11 IMP pick up to Mossop, sealing an excellent win, 68-24 IMPs, 18.55-1.45 VP.

As a consolation, Tosh can now add his name to the list of players who have passed holding a massive spade suit, two of the most famous being John Collings and Brian Senior, who both passed holding a solid ten-card suit, only to discover when the other three players passed that their partner's had seen fit to pass holding just the three missing aces.

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

Defend this Hand with Me

Over the years, I have developed a penchant for writing in the manner of Terence Reese. One of his specialities was to use an 'over my shoulder' style for the presentation of declarer play problems. If he had extended this to defensive play, this deal from the first round of the Open Pairs where one of the defenders found a brilliant way to deflect declarer, would surely have been included:

The Illusionist

Playing in one of the best Festivals in the world on the sun-drenched island of Madeira I pickup this modest collection during the first session of the Open Pairs:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ K6432
♥ J104
♦ 5
♣ KQ92

An uncomplicated auction sees me on lead against 4♥:

West	North	East	South
Fischer	*Di Sacco*	*Saurer*	*Castellani*
–	–	–	3♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Hoping for a ruff I lead the ♦5 and dummy is revealed:

♠ K6432
♥ J104
♦ 5
♣ KQ92

♠ AQ97
♥ AQ98
♦ A32
♣ 75

Declarer wins with dummy's ace and plays the ♠7. When my partner follows with the ♠8 she plays the ♠J. Declarer would only play like this with a doubleton jack and looking at my spot cards in the suit it is clear that winning with the king will leave declarer with three tricks in spades, so hoping to create an illusion I follow in tempo with the ♠4. Declarer crosses to hand with the ♥A and continues with the ♠A followed by the seven. My partner, who has contributed the ♠10 and ♥5 now matches that with the ♥7. Declarer overruffs with the ♥K and goes through the motions, but cannot arrive at more than nine tricks.

This was the full deal:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ K6432
♥ J104
♦ 5
♣ KQ92

♠ J5
♥ K632
♦ 987
♣ A843

♠ AQ97
♥ AQ98
♦ A32
♣ 75

♠ 108
♥ 75
♦ KQJ1064
♣ J106

Post Mortem

If North takes the ♠K then declarer will have an easy route to ten tricks, as in due course the spade suit will take care of the losing diamonds.

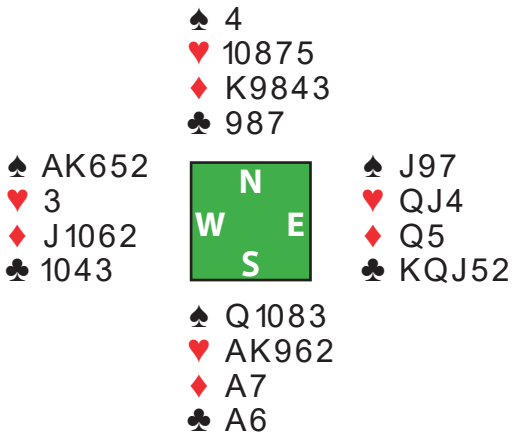
There were ways in which declarer might have prevailed; one is to draw trumps after the second round of spades. Declarer then plays a third spade expecting the king to appear from South but when South discards, she can pitch a diamond when the defenders take only three tricks.

This brilliant defence netted E/W 175/11

Meet Mr Madeira

If you check the results of the previous 22 Festivals in the Hall of Fame section of the brilliant web site https://www.bridge-madeira.com/hall-of-fame-pdf/ you will notice that several names appear more than once. One of them belongs to the legendary Carlos Luiz. Here is an example of why he does so well from the first session of the Open Pairs:

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
	Leitão		*Luiz*
–	Pass	1NT*	Double
Redouble	Pass	2♣	2♥
2♠	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

1NT 12-15

West started with a top spade and then switched to the ♦J. Declarer won in hand, ruffed a spade with the ♥7 and played the ♥5. When East followed with the four, declarer played the ♥6! He then advanced the ♠Q, forcing West to cover and pinning East's jack. That was eleven tricks and 171.00/15.00.

How did declarer find his remarkable play in the trump suit?

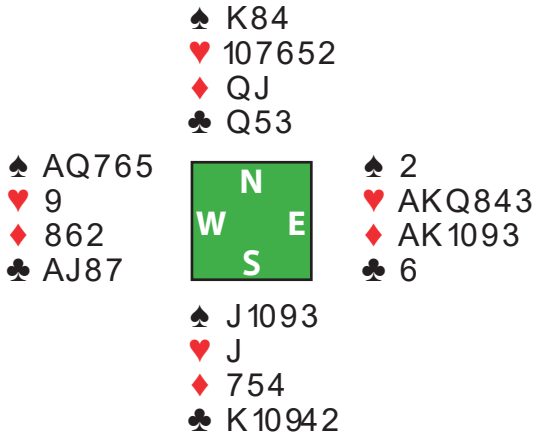
With West marked with the ♠AK and ♦J East needs all the missing points to get up to 12.

The Slamometer

With a General Election rapidly approaching in the UK I remembered the swingometer – it seemed only natural to devise a bridge equivalent.

The last session of the Pairs Championship was one to set the pulse racing, with many deals in the slam zone. I picked four of them:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



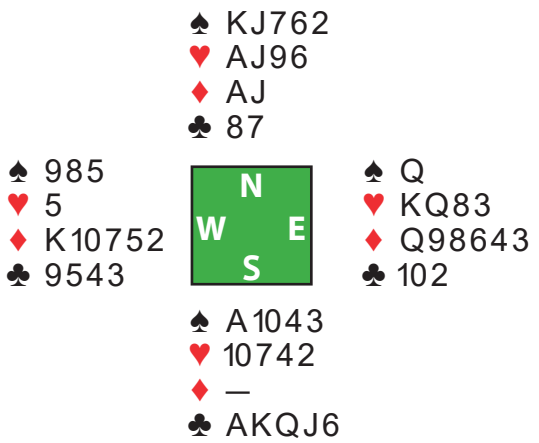
West	North	East	South
–	–	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

That might not be the best sequence, but it is where you would like to play.

Say South leads a spade. You take the ace and now have an opportunity to do something clever by playing a heart to the ace and a heart (it is often a sound strategy to develop the side suit first). When South shows out but cannot ruff high in front of dummy, you have a blueprint for all thirteen tricks.

I predicted this would happen maybe 3 times. 15 of the 25 pairs in 6♦ took all the tricks.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
–	1♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♠/7♠

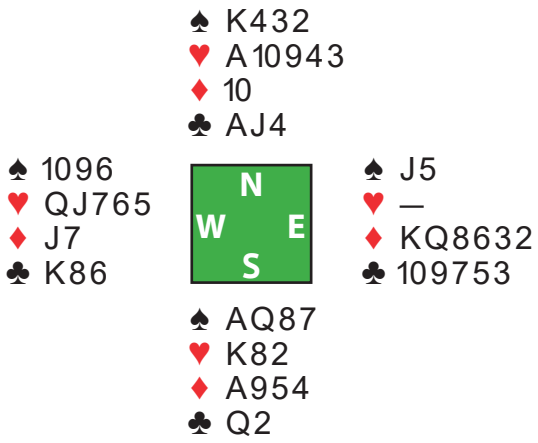
By no means the only way to go – responding 2NT will get the popular vote.

Those looking for tops might risk bidding 7♠, even though they know the spade queen is missing.

I went for 4 pairs in 7♠, the rest in 6♠.

30 pairs stopped short of slam. But three got to 7♠, worth 184.00/2.00.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



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

2NT	Minors
3♦	Spades
3♠	4+♠
4♦	Cue-bid
4♥	Cue-bid
5♣	Cue-bid

If East leads a high diamond declarer must win in dummy and cash the ♠AQ. When East follows he is known to have at best one heart, so declarer continues with the ♥K. When East discards it is necessary to change tack and play the ♣Q. Three rounds of the suit see dummy ruff, and the ♥2 comes next. West has to play an honour and declarer wins and plays a heart to the eight.

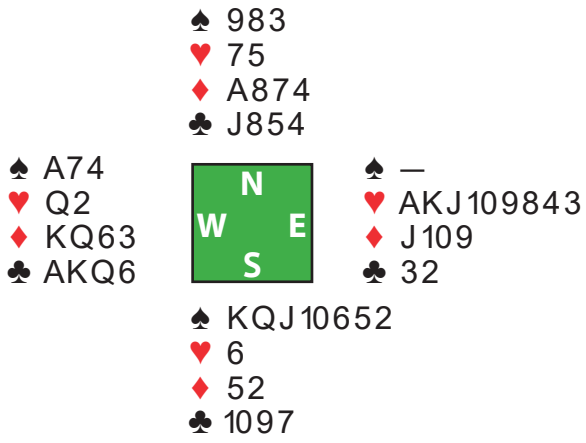
Suppose South is in 6♠ doubled and West leads a heart, East ruffing and returning the ♠J. Declarer must win in hand, cash the ♦A, ruff a diamond, play a heart to the king and play another diamond. It won't help West to ruff, so he discards a club and declarer ruffs, cashes the ♠K and the ♥A, ruffs a heart and plays the ♠Q. West has already been squeezed into coming down to two clubs and one heart and now East, looking at ♦K ♣1097 has no good move – a classic non-simultaneous double squeeze.

Anyone who managed that was instructed to report to me in the Bulletin Room!

I was not expecting a rush.

9 pairs bid a slam (one going one down in 7♠) but only two emerged with 12 tricks – one in 6♠, the other in 6♥.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
–	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

I predicted everyone would bid 6♥.

If South leads the ♠K declarer wins with dummy's ace pitching a diamond and plays eight rounds of hearts, squeezing North in the minors for all the tricks.

I thought that might happen at least 50% of the time.

I also guessed that at least one pair would bid and make 7♥!

Slam was missed 23 times. No-one bid 7♥, but two pairs attempted 7NT once by West, once by East – both doubled. Where East was declarer South led the ♠K – but declarer still went one down!

86 squads lined up for the Open Teams. When my old friend Viorel Micescu and his partner Mihnea Nedelcu mentioned they were looking for team-mates I suggested it might be possible for us to play; meanwhile the partnership desk had discovered that Alan & Jette Bailey were in the same boat and thus an Anglo-Romanian alliance was formed.

The Rule of Thirty

Bridge is full of 'rules', some of them more useful than others. Maybe it's time to introduce a new one.

Look at this deal from Round 6 of the team championship:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

	♠ 104 ♥ KQ72 ♦ Q8 ♣ 98643	
♠ K8632 ♥ 1098654 ♦ AK ♣ —	N W E S	♠ AJ95 ♥ A ♦ J10743 ♣ Q52
	♠ Q7 ♥ J3 ♦ 9652 ♣ AKJ107	

EW can make a Grand Slam in spades but your objective is to reach 6♠.

Suppose the auction starts like this:

West	North	East	South
–	–	1♦	2♣
Double	3♣	Pass	Pass
?			

Now West has alternatives, including Double, 4♣ and 4♥. East is going to bid 4♠ over any of these and at a lot of tables that ended the auction.

However, the club void means that you are playing with a thirty-point pack and West should keep on going. Once you start to think about it, assuming nothing wasted in clubs, it is hard to construct a hand for East that will not offer a play for 6♠. Here East has the totally useless ♣Q but you can still take all the tricks.

So next time you encounter this type of situation – bid up!

Triskaidekaphobia

This was from Round 5:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

	♠ 10943 ♥ KJ1087 ♦ 10 ♣ Q105	
♠ AK8652 ♥ A953 ♦ 5 ♣ 97	N W E S	♠ Q ♥ Q ♦ AKQJ9864 ♣ AK2
	♠ J7 ♥ 642 ♦ 732 ♣ J8643	

E/W can take all the tricks in diamonds or no-trumps and many pairs managed to hit the top spot. One East decided to open 5♦ – that didn't quite cut the mustard. At another table North opened 2♥, promising a weak hand with both majors and East doubled, waiting to see what partner would do. It proved to be a very long wait.

Meanwhile, our team was making steady progress; winning our first eight matches saw us reach the top table. In the glare of the BBO audience we were easily dispatched by our Russian opponents, Evgeny Rudakov, Elena Rudakova, Sergey Orlov and Tatiana Dikhnova who went on to win the tournament with ease. Luckily the record of this match appears to have vanished from the BBO archive! We had to be content with fourth place (for those of a mercenary nature €1200 was our reward). During our unbeaten run this deal was not without interest:

Board 19. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ A1043 ♥ Q532 ♦ AK6 ♣ 102	
♠ Q975 ♥ 10874 ♦ 42 ♣ J93	N W E S	♠ KJ8 ♥ 96 ♦ 105 ♣ AK8754
	♠ 62 ♥ AKJ ♦ QJ9873 ♣ Q6	

West	North	East	South
Tolle	*Tacchi*	*Helleman*	*Horton*
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♥	2♣	2♦
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

With trumps 2-2 5♦ was easy enough.

At the other table N/S preferred 4♥. Our teammates though they should have beaten this, but on closer inspection you soon realise it is untouchable. Suppose the defenders start with three rounds of clubs? One winning line is to ruff with the ♥J, unblock the ♥AK, cross to hand with a diamond and cash the ♥Q. When East discards it is safe to exit with a trump and claim the rest.

At the Gala Dinner which (almost) brings the event to a close everyone resolved to return in 2020, and many thought they might come to watch the European Championships in June.

Simultaneous Success

Ron Tacchi

Having arrived in Madeira and getting my negative Covid test I arranged to play with Andrei Kavalenka from Belarus in the Portuguese National Simultaneous Pairs. His epic journey here made mine look like a walk in the park. He took nearly ten days to get here as he had to quarantine for nine days en route, but arrive he did and we were paired together for the first event of the festival. We were not overly blessed with time to prepare an intricate system but after a couple of minutes we agreed upon five-card majors, 2 over 1 and a forcing 1NT.

The deals turned out to be distributional – in the 24 boards we played there were three eight-card suits, four seven-carders and fourteen six-timers. There were also some unusual scores posted, among them I noticed a 1560 and a 1390.

In our brief system discussion we agreed one or two minor amusing variations, one being that a 2♣ opening was a strong hand or a weak two in diamonds- in theory guaranteeing two top honours. Early at the first table my partner, of course, opened 2♣. I was looking at ♠QJ10 ♥K102 ♦AJ6 ♣A1043. Of course being a keen student of Mr Hamman and an eternal optimist I placed the 3NT card on the table. It was not a success partner's diamond were not as solid as I had hoped and they split 4-0 offside, every other suit was unkind and so I failed by three tricks giving us a big round zero.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

	♠ A109 ♥ AK4 ♦ AK2 ♣ AJ94	
♠ 8732 ♥ 108762 ♦ Q84 ♣ 6	N W E S	♠ J ♥ 95 ♦ J7653 ♣ Q10872
	♠ KQ654 ♥ QJ3 ♦ 109 ♣ K53	

On the very next board I opened 2♣, but this time it was of the strong variety.

West	North	East	South
	Tacchi		*Kavalenka*
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

My 2NT showed 23+ balanced. When I accepted the transfer I was then confronted by the sight of a 5NT bid opposite. I took this as a three-way bid, it was something I did not understand, it was for me to choose between 6♠ and 6NT or thirdly it was some kind of grand slam try. Being minimum for my bid I settled for the second option and after reflection chose the suit contract. After the lead of a club and then seeing the jack of trumps fall under the ace a claim for thirteen tricks followed soon after. This was worth 83% of the matchpoints. One North made an overtrick after a spade lead, which implies a bit of a whoopsie from the defence.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

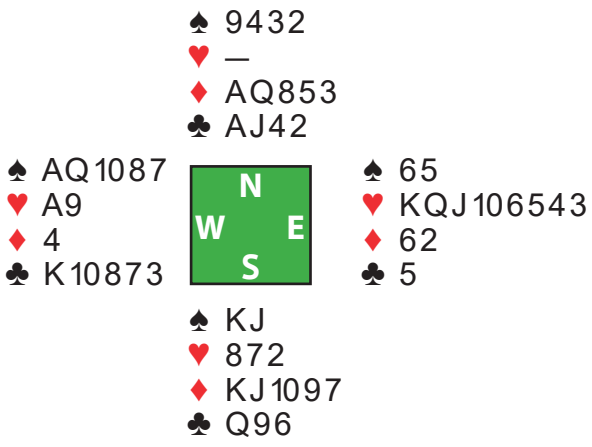
	♠ K963 ♥ – ♦ AJ82 ♣ AKQ103	
♠ J ♥ AKQ109762 ♦ K10 ♣ 96	N W E S	♠ A87542 ♥ J8543 ♦ – ♣ 82
	♠ Q10 ♥ – ♦ Q976543 ♣ J754	

West	North	East	South
Tacchi		*Kavalenka*	
–	–	Pass	1♦
3NT	4♣	4♦	5♣
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
6♥	Double	All Pass	

Some 'interesting' bidding all round. I would not like to see how South would bid if he held a seven count when vulnerable. I cannot really excuse my 3NT bid but my reasoning was along the lines of if you pre-empt with 4♥ the opponents will just bid 4♠. Also if I get a diamond lead I might well

steal nine tricks and if I am doubled I can safely retreat in 4♥. However the bidding did not follow the path I expected. My next decision was how to decode partner's bid of 4♦ – the good news was that he had not bid 4♠. Further good news was that South with his power-house found another bid and so I could postpone the need for clarification. Poor old North must have been wondering what was going on – he has a 17 count, his partner has freely opened in second position vulnerable and found a second bid and all the time the opposition are bidding like crazy so with his four loser hand he bid the slam. I was fairly confident that in our brief system discussion I had not insisted that a new suit at the six-level was forcing, so I now introduced my suit. I lost the obvious two club tricks and then wondered what would have happened had I left them in 6♣. Partner's only defence to beat the contract is to lead the ♠A and continue to give me a ruff, he was too kind to say that was his plan of action.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Tacchi		*Kavalenka*	
1♠	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

2♥ game force
5♣ 1 or 4 keycards

After the auction we both agreed it would have been better if East had started with a forcing 1NT and over the response bid an immediate 4♥. Obviously I had hoped that the East hand may have contained a control or two more. South put partner to the test with the lead of the ♠J but my Belarussian compatriot was up to the challenge and inserted the queen to bring home the contract and two thirds of the matchpoints.

At the halfway stage we had a score of just over 54% but the final three tables gave us 58%, 71% and 83% to give us a final score of 62.50% and the first place. It was a very pleasant evening and to say our success was in part due to the fact that the bar was not open may well contain an element of truth.

The final results table is as follows

Position	Percentage	Name
1	62,50	Ron Tacchi - Andrei Kavalenka
2	56,25	João Machado - José Macedo
3	54,86	Bengt Emanuelsson - Haakan Tjarnemo
4	54,17	René Stienen - Elly Schippers
5	47,92	Rosemarie Roderburg - Sybil Müller-Maubach
6	43,75	Eduardo Fernandes - Pedro Morgado
7	40,97	Han Begas - Lucia Grosmann
8	39,58	Harry Burmania - John Linse

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