



24th Madeira International Bridge Open

1st-7th November 2021

Monday 1st November

Bulletin 0

A Welcome from Miguel Teixeira

2020 was an unforgettable year for all of us, for all the wrong reasons. Even so, the organisers decided to keep Madeira firmly on the map of live events and run the 2020 tournament – with many restrictions it is true; but it is no less true that those very restrictions allowed those who made it here to enjoy the event in safety.



After the 2020 International had ended I was tempted to give up, because the difficulties were truly immense on all levels. Yet since I consider myself ambitious, resilient and optimistic, I told myself that we could not give up after 23 years of hard work. In 1998, when we embarked on this adventure, there were also tough challenges, but with hard work, dedication and optimism here we still are, thanks in large part to those of you who have supported us by participating in our tournament.

Having said all that, it is with immense pleasure that I look forward to the start of the 2021 edition of the Madeira International Bridge Open, which has been arranged with every care to provide the right conditions for you to enjoy a wonderful experience on our island. The bridge is what we love best, and together we will show that big events can return to the calendar in safety.

Have a great stay, full of pleasurable moments.

Miguel Teixeira

Keeping You Safe

Masks must be worn in all indoor public spaces, including shops, hotel foyers and so on except while eating and drinking. Masks are not required out of doors. Both rules and advice are constantly changing. We will try and keep you up to date but you can visit the Regional Government's Official Page at:

[http://www.visitmadeira.pt/en-gb/useful-info/corona-virus-\(covid-19\)/information-to-visitors-\(covid-19\)](http://www.visitmadeira.pt/en-gb/useful-info/corona-virus-(covid-19)/information-to-visitors-(covid-19)).



The Bridge Madeira website also has Covid information available.

To help protect everyone we ask you to be vigilant in following all the rules that are in force, especially those requiring you to wear masks.

To further protect you in all competitions there will be no sharing of boards. Each table will have its own set; where there is a stationary pair only they should handle the boards.

**The Welcome Cocktail Party will be held at the Hotel VidaMar at
18.00 Monday 1st November**

WARM-UP PAIRS – MONDAY 20.30

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



XXIV Madeira Bridge Festival



MAIN PROGRAMME 2nd – 7th November 2021

Location - Congress Room + Selvagens 1-2-3

TUESDAY 2nd November	15.00	Closing time for Pairs Tournament Entries
	16.00	Open Pairs Tournament (1st Session)
WEDNESDAY 3rd November	16.00	Open Pairs Tournament (2nd Session)
THURSDAY 4th November	16.00	Open Pairs Tournament (3rd Session)
	20.00	Final Results
FRIDAY 5th November	18.00	Deadline for Teams Tournament Entries
	20.00	Team Assignments
	20.30	Open Teams Tournament (1st Session)
SATURDAY 6th November	11.00	Open Teams Tournament (2nd Session)
	13.15	Lunch Break (light lunch included)
	14.30	Open Teams Tournament (3rd Session)
SUNDAY 7th November	14.30	Open Teams Tournament (4th Session)
	19.00	Final Results

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



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.



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

To summarise, 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 Monday 1st November 2021 at <https://www.bridge-madeira.com/hand-generator-security-keys>
2. Check the winning Euromillions numbers for Tuesday 2nd November 2021 (the “future key”).
3. Download the “past key” which will be published after the event (in Bulletin 7 and on the Security Key page)
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 + biggest prize value in Portugal from the lottery results, comma separated (the program will prompt you). Example of format: 10,15,18,32,49+3,9 E 155.676,29
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 31st October, 16.00

This year the Charity Pairs event is in aid of the Associacao de Paralisia Cerebral da Madeira. The Association promotes social inclusion and provides support for people with cerebral palsy and related neurological conditions along with their families.

The festival has donated nearly 2,000 euros over the last two years to local charities and this year we are hoping to raise more as entries will be higher.

You can find out more about this Funchal based charity at their website www.apcmadeira.com.



Charity Pairs Results

Rank	Names
1	Karl Gretar Karlsson - Johann Aevansson
2	Nick Nautilus - Francisco P Coutinho
3	Roennaug Asla - Anne-Lill Hellemann
4	Dennis Ottevanger - Gerrit van Gelderen
5	Jurijs Balasovs - Adrians Imsa
6	Cisca Vorselman - Koen Poppe
7	Ómar Olgeirsson - Gunnlaugur Saevarsson
8	Lasse Utter - Maria Tulonen
9	Rosemary Shaw - Vigfus Palsson
10	Jan Clementsson - Haakan Tjarnemo
11	Sigurdur Jón Björgvinsson - Sveinn Ragnarsson
12	Conny ten Cate - Jan ten Cate
13	Mark Horton - Jovanka Smederevac
14	Agnes Wesseling - Niels van der Gaast
15	Jonina Palsdottir - Sveinn Símonarson
16	Han Begas - Lucia Grosmann
17	David Ludviksson - Emma Axelsdottir
18	Jon Ingthorsson - Kristinn Olafsson
19	Ron Tacchi - Ceri Pierce
20	Matthias Einarsson - Magnus Thorkelsson
21	Peter Dekker - Mike Reuser
22	Bernódus Kristinsson - Ómar Óskarsson

23	Poul Mogensen - Susan Just
24	Adalsteinn Jörgensen - Svala K Palsdottir
25	Rolf Tolle - Svein Markussen
26	Renate Adelsberger - Heimo Adelsberger
27	Sigurdur Gislason - RAGNAR THORVALDSSON
28	Pirjo Juuri-Oja - Erkki Juuri-Oja
29	Birgir Olafsson - Gudni Ingvarsson
30	Anna Nielsen - Aron Thorfinsson
31	Eva Reiner - Pierre Carbonnier
32	Cees Rijnbeek - Volkert Struyken
33	Marco Zomer - Frank van Gool
34	Johanna Gisladdottir - Vigfus Vigfusson
35	Latifa Ouazanni - Didier Imbert
36	Símon Sveinsson - Karl Bjornsson
37	Lisbeth Smed - Ingrid Ledertoug
38	Gisli Thorarinsson - Thordur Sigurdsson
39	Virve Berg - Ullamaija Kiiski
40	Jutta Bartley - Gareth Bartley
41	Outi Forsman - Hilikka Piepponen-Kajaste
42	Hrefna Hardardottir - Haukur Magnusson
43	Bjarni Holm Hauksson - Eirikur Rosberg Areliusson
44	Camilla Flensted-Jensen - Knud Flensted-Jensen

In the contest between countries, unsurprisingly Iceland were victorious and they were followed by The Netherlands who were ahead of The Rest of The World.



XXIV Madeira Bridge Festival



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 28th October	18.00 – 20.30
Friday 29th October	10.30 – 13.00
	14.30 – 16.00
Saturday 30th October	10.30 – 13.00
	14.30 – 16.00
Sunday 31st October	14.30 – 16.00
Monday 1st November	10.30 – 13.00
	14.30 – 17.30
	19.00 – 20.30
Tuesday 2nd November	10.30 – 13.00
	14.00 – 16.00
Wednesday 3rd November	15.00 – 16.00
Thursday 4th November	15.00 – 16.00
Friday 5th November	18.00 – 20.30
Saturday 6th November	Closed
Sunday 7th November	13.0 – 14.30

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.

Every morning at 10.30 Mark Horton will deliver his "Mark Your Card" discussion in Selvagens 1 on the interesting deals of the previous day.





XXIV Madeira Bridge Festival



SOCIAL PROGRAMME

MONDAY 1st November 18.00 — Welcome Cocktail — Hotel Vidamar.

WEDNESDAY 3th 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 5th 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 7th 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	€ 170.00
Teams	€ 160.00
Pairs + Team	€ 270.00
Pairs + Teams + Traditional Dinner	€ 295.00
Pairs + Teams + Closing Dinner	€ 305.00
Pairs + Teams + Traditional + Closing Dinner	€ 315.00
Typical Dinner	€ 25.00
Friday Excursion	€ 25.00
Saturday Lunch (non-players)	€ 25.00
Closing Dinner	€ 40.00

SIDE EVENTS

28th October – 8th November 2021		Congress Room
Thursday 28th Portuguese Simultaneous Pairs (€15*)		20.30
Friday 29th IMP Pairs 1 (€15*)		16.00
Saturday 30th IMP Pairs 2 (€15*)		16.00
Sunday 31st Charity Tournament (€15)		16.00
Monday 1st Warm-up Pairs (€15)		20.30
Monday 8th Cool-down Pairs (€10)		20.30

*€30 for all 3



Optional Excursions Friday 5th November

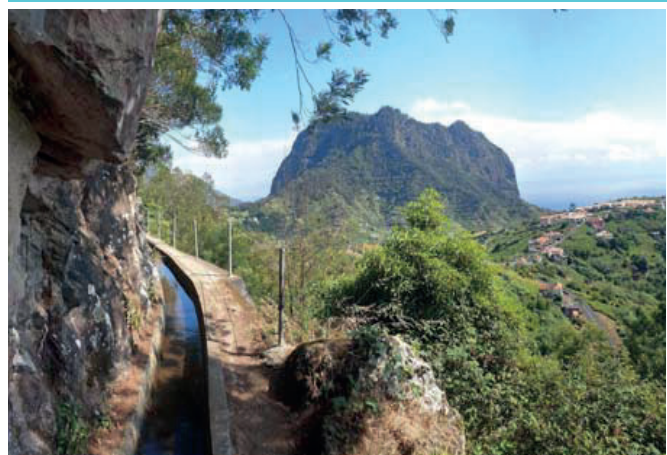
Option A: **The East** (full day, lunch included) coach leaves hotel 09.30



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

Yet again we meet here in somewhat troubled times. The immediate threat from Covid has been greatly reduced by a successful vaccination campaign. I, myself, have already had three anti-Covid jabs and the new flu vaccination so I feel relatively safe, at least if I get the dreaded Covid I am significantly less likely to die than a non-jabbed person, probably about ten times less likely. I had a very sobering moment (did not last too long) when I unpacked my sponge bag and realised how little travel I had undertaken in the previous twelve months as the piece of soap and shampoo I had appropriated on my previous visit to the Hotel VidaMar were still untouched.

I seem to be blighted by the vagaries of international travel when I visit Madeira. This year Transavia actually got me here (last year they cancelled my flights), albeit considerably later than scheduled. The most worrying part of the journey was when after having sat in the plane on the tarmac in Orly for an hour or so, the pilot announced "We have to start up the engines and see if they will run for three minutes". Not a confidence inspiring announcement. However two and a quarter hours after the planned take-off time we left France and arrived in Funchal a mere two hours late.

It is with great pleasure that I thank Miguel for keeping going with the festival, I know things were extremely tough last year with very low numbers as many people were unable to travel. This time it is really pleasing to see that we already have over 150 pairs enrolled for the Open Pairs - not quite 2019 levels but a massive increase over last year.

I hope everyone will realise that the rules and procedures around Covid are for their and everyone else's protection. Please heed the rules and advice you are given. The situation is in a continual state of flux and the rules of today may well be different tomorrow -so read your bulletin avidly every day (hopefully with your breakfast) and keep abreast of developments.

There are some pleasurable constants in life, I have come to love this hotel, this is my eighth visit, when I arrived to check in, I knew the staff behind the counter and more to the point they knew me and genuinely welcomed me. Then when I came down for my breakfast (later than planned - I refer the reader to my earlier remark about sober moments) the omelette lady, who I think has been here for over twenty years was so overcome with delight at seeing me again that she immediately made my omelette the way I like it, in French we would say *baveuse*. We also had our usual omelette conversation "Omelette please" "With?" "Eggs" "Just eggs?" "Yes".

-10%
BARS

Except Sabor a Mar Restaurant

-10%
THALASSO SEA SPA

Except products

25€
BUFFET DINNER

Ocean Restaurant
(drinks included)



VidaMar is pleased to offer participants in the Madeira Open 2021 the discounts as above. Just show your badge.



Premier League

Mark Horton

Many years ago I was a member of a group that discussed the idea of creating a 'Bridge Tour' which would link many of the world's great festivals, and offer substantial prizes to the overall winners. That idea has been embraced by the chess world and the 'Grand Chess Tour' is one of many 'cumulative events' that have been staged in recent years. Were the scheme ever to get off the ground in bridge then we can be sure that the Madeira Festival would be one of the featured events.

If you want to get into gear for the start of this year's contest, try your hand at this declarer play problem from the last round of the second week-end of England's Premier League:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 8
♥ J9632
♦ KQ82
♣ K62

♠ K6
♥ AKQ8
♦ A6
♣ A10874

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♦*	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♥
3♦	Transfer		

West leads the ♥4 and you win in hand as East follows with the ten.

If the ♠A is onside you have an easy route to 12 tricks, but if West holds that card you have to avoid losing a club. If you are influenced by West's passive trump lead you might conclude that West is more likely to hold the ♠A.

Suppose you take a second round of trumps and both opponents follow. Then you can afford to play a club to the king, cash three rounds of diamonds pitching a spade, ruff a diamond and cash the ♣A before exiting with the ♠K. If the defender that wins started with two clubs the enforced ruff and discard will allow you to pitch a losing club from dummy.

Time to reveal the layout:

♠ 8
♥ J9632
♦ KQ82
♣ K62

♠ AJ543
♥ 74
♦ 1097
♣ QJ9

♠ K6
♥ AKQ8
♦ A6
♣ A10874

♠ Q10972
♥ 105
♦ J543
♣ 53

W N E S

Declarer's brilliantly conceived plan failed when West was able to cash the ♣Q.

Did you spot an alternative approach that would have brought home the slam?

After the second round of trumps declarer cashes three diamonds discarding a club from hand, ruffs a fourth diamond high and then plays trumps to reach this position:

♠ 8
♥ 9
♦ —
♣ K62

♠ AJ
♥ —
♦ —
♣ QJ9

♠ K6
♥ —
♦ —
♣ A107

♠ Q109
♥ —
♦ —
♣ 53

W N E S

When the ♥9 is played declarer discards a club, but West has no good move, as throwing the ♠J allows declarer to duck a spade.

At two tables N/S did not advance beyond game, but the other six bid 6♥. When West led the ♠A (that happened twice) declarer was home. West led the ♣Q three times and declarer recorded +980 twice, -50 once.

You might conclude that this is a 'Goldilocks problem'. On the lead of the ♠A it is too easy, on a trump lead too difficult. On the lead of the ♣Q it is just right.



Dutch Treat

Ron Tacchi

Normally for a squeeze to operate you need to rectify the count, however on this hand a squeeze was needed to rectify an error, albeit a tiny one.

Allie Hoenstok came up to me with a story of a hand played by his partner Hans Metselaar. This was from the first IMP Pairs played on Friday afternoon.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ AK764		
♥ KQ54		
♦ 1086		
♣ 2		
♠ J982		♠ Q10
♥ 10876		♥ J9
♦ A		♦ J9432
♣ Q954		♣ A876
		♠ 53
		♥ A32
		♦ KQ75
		♣ KJ103

Hans, playing South, arrived in 3NT after North had shown 5-4 in the majors, and received the lead of a small heart. Declarer won in dummy and played a small diamond towards the king in hand which was perforce taken by the singleton ace. Unsurprisingly West now switched to a club which was taken by East with the ace and a club return saw West's queen take declarer's jack. The

attack continued with a heart won in hand and a diamond played towards dummy's ten of diamonds, exposing the complete distribution of the hand, and giving East the defence's fourth trick. It is highly probable that West started with a 4414 distribution as otherwise he would have had a five-card suit from which to lead. Can you now see South's minor transgression and how he recovered? When East exited with a spade, the diamonds were worth two tricks, he could lead the ♦8 but when East refuses to cover it could hold the trick but as there was no entry to hand it was without value. The good news was that West was squeezed on the cashing of the three minor-suit winners and so dummy's spades were worth three tricks, West had the unenviable choice of unguarding the hearts or the spades, he chose to keep the hearts as it was still theoretically possible that East held a spade stopper. Declarer had just to count the hearts.

How could declarer have simplified his task? Well at trick two the lead of the ♦8 rather than the ♦6 would have made life much easier as if the play had followed the same route then on the third round of diamonds the ♦6 is led from dummy declarer has the ♦K7 in hand and will take two tricks with the aid of a guaranteed finesse, no matter which card East plays. Now there is no need to tax the brain as nine nine tricks are on top.

Time On Your Hands?

If you arrive to take part in one of the competitions and there is no one around it may well be that you have forgotten that the clocks changed early Sunday morning. They went back an hour - so what was four o'clock is now three o'clock which would explain why you are standing there all alone.



IMP Pairs 1 Results

Rank	Names
1	Vigfus Vigfusson - Johanna Gísladóttir
2	Bengt Emanuelsson - Haakan Tjarnemo
3	Lasse Utter - Maria Tulonen
4	Magnus Thorkelsson - Matthias Einarsson
5	Lars Carlsson - Leif-Erik Forsberg
6	Pirjo Juuri-Oja - Erkki Juuri-Oja
7	Birgit Bärlund - Johan Lindstedt
8	Unnar Gudmundsson - Kristin Oskarsdóttir
9	Cisca Vorselman - Koen Poppe
10	João Machado - José Macedo
11	Jurijs Balasovs - Adrians Imsa
12	Peter Dekker - Mike Reuser
13	Thordur Sigurdsson - Gisli Thorarinsson
14	Harry Burmania - John Linse
15	Anna Nielsen - Aron Thorfinsson

16	Adalsteinn Jörgensen - Svala K Palsdóttir
17	Haukur Magnusson - Hrefna Hardardóttir
18	Han Begas - Lucia Grosmann
19	Gareth Bartley - Jutta Bartley
20	Ricardo Fernandes - Frederico Teixeira
21	Rosemarie Roderburg - Sybil Müller-Maubach
22	Ullamaija Kiiski - Virve Berg
23	Jussi Angervo - Seija Lahtinen
24	Allie Hoenstok - Hans Metselaar
25	Renate Adelsberger - Heimo Adelsberger
26	Birgir Olafsson - Ómar Óskarsson
27	David Ludvíksson - Emma Axelsdóttir
28	Jonina Palsdóttir - Sveinn Símonarson
29	Cees Rijnbeek - Volkert Struyken
30	Fátima Menezes - Nuno Menezes
31	Pedro Morgado - Filomena Morgado

IMP Pairs 2 Results

Rank	Names
1	Carlos Luiz - Miguel Teixeira
2	Renate Adelsberger - Heimo Adelsberger
3	Birgit Bärlund - Johan Lindstedt
4	Camilla Flensted-Jensen - Knud Flensted-Jensen
5	Pirjo Juuri-Oja - Erkki Juuri-Oja
6	Lars Carlsson - Leif-Erik Forsberg
7	Jurijs Balasovs - Adrians Imsa
8	Vigfus Vigfusson - Johanna Gísladóttir
9	Pedro Morgado - Eduardo Fernandes
10	Haakan Tjarnemo - Bengt Emanuelsson
11	Alexandre Rodrigues - Luís M Silva
12	Han Begas - Lucia Grosmann
13	Vigfus Pálsson - Birgir Olafsson
14	Bruno Bacanhim - Nuno Pereira
15	Ricardo Fernandes - Frederico Teixeira
16	Eva Reiner - Pierre Carbonnier
17	Lasse Utter - Maria Tulonen
18	Gisli Thorarinsson - Thordur Sigurdsson
19	Bruno Macedo - Pedro Macedo
20	Bernódus Kristinsson - Ómar Óskarsson
21	Cisca Vorselman - Koen Poppe
22	René Stienen - Elly Schippers
23	Adalsteinn Jörgensen - Svala K Palsdóttir
24	Jovanka Smederevac - Ceri Pierce

25	Magnus Thorkelsson - Unnar Gudmundsson
26	João Machado - José Macedo
27	Peter Dekker - Mike Reuser
28	Nick Nautilus - Ovidiu Stanica
29	Sybil Müller-Maubach - Rosemarie Roderburg
30	Haukur Magnusson - Hrefna Hardardóttir
31	Henrique Ribeiro - Pedro Nunes
32	Fábio Fernandes - Nuno D Martins
33	Hans Metselaar - Allie Hoenstok
34	Sveinn R Eiriksson - Eiríkur Rosberg Areliusson
35	Sophie Leroux - Francis Gouffé
36	Cees Rijnbeek - Volkert Struyken
37	Fátima Menezes - Nuno Menezes
38	Harry Burmania - John Linse
39	Filomena Morgado - Luís A Correia
40	Anna Nielsen - Aron Thorfinsson
41	Jussi Angervo - Seija Lahtinen
42	Gareth Bartley - Jutta Bartley
43	Luís M Jardim - Sebastião Gonçalves
44	Leonardo Velosa - Silvio J Costa
45	Poul Mogensen - Susan Just
46	Virve Berg - Ullamaija Kiiski
47	Outi Forsman - Hilka Piepponen-Kajaste
48	Jonina Palsdóttir - Sveinn Símonarson
49	David Ludvíksson - Emma Axelsdóttir



Overruling Belladonna

Mark Horton

This deal from the seventh round of the October ALT Trophy reminded me of a remark by Giorgio Belladonna to the effect that when playing a difficult hand 'You first set up the squeeze, then take the finesse'. If you can find the winning line I expect you to do well in this year's festival!

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 106542		♠ AK
♥ 975		♥ AKJ
♦ 9		♦ AK8754
♣ AQ83		♣ 96



Three pairs arrived in the dubious contract of 6♦ - this was one of the sequences

West	North	East	South
–	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♦	All Pass

North leads the ♥6 and you win with dummy's ace as South follows with the two. Clearly you will need the trumps to break and find South with the ♣K. I would probably start with the top spades and then, with fingers crossed, play three rounds of trumps, discarding a spade and a club from dummy. At the table declarer played trumps immediately, both defenders following all the way, South taking the third round with the ♦Q and switching to the ♣J. When you play dummy's queen North follows with the five. You come to hand with a spade and when you cash a second spade South discards the ♣2. (Now you appreciate why writing is less stressful than playing as adopting my line of play fails when South ruffs the second spade!)

11 tricks are certain, and you have the heart finesse in reserve. Marking time you cash your remaining trumps, South discarding the ♥3, ♣7 and ♥10 while North parts with three spades.

These cards remain:

♠ –		♠ –
♥ 9		♥ KJ
♦ –		♦ –
♣ A8		♣ 6



When you cross to dummy with a club South plays the king and North the four. On the ♥9 North follows with the eight. Assuming you have been counting which card do you play from dummy on this trick?

Time to reveal the layout:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ QJ973		♠ AK
♥ 864		♥ AKJ
♦ J103		♦ AK8754
♣ 54		♣ 96

♠ 106542	
♥ 975	
♦ 9	
♣ AQ83	



♠ 8
♥ Q1032
♦ Q62
♣ KJ1072

If North has the missing club then South has the ♥Q4 left, so you must assume South still has the ♣10. That being the case you know South's distribution must be 1435. Playing with the odds, you go up with the king and land your contract in spectacular, non-Belladonna style.



Back in Madeira – The Sim Pairs

Ceri Pierce

Having arrived in Madeira earlier in the day after an uneventful but very early flight from Bristol, which to my disgust, required my alarm to be set for 4.30 am, I headed towards the Welcome Desk where I submitted my covid vaccination certificate and picked up my I.D. Card.

This was one of the more straightforward covid hoops I had to jump through in order to play in the festival. I had already filled in form after form, taken screenshot after screenshot, uploaded image after image and so on in order to complete the documentation required by the UK and the Madeiran authorities. The process was however, simpler than that in place last month when I visited the Algarve, so I cannot complain too much.

So – off I went in search of my intended victim, Andrei Kavalenka from Belarus, who if you remember, made an epic 40 day trip last year via several countries and 2 ten-day isolation periods in Poland, one each way. This year, God was kind to him, and it took only 2 days to get here (which is normal apparently) from a balmy zero degrees homeland.

I am waffling on somewhat, as annoyingly, I failed to live up to Andrei's success playing with our esteemed (sic) Editor, Ron Tacchi last year, when they won by a country mile. My excuse is that I have played bridge only once since we were here last year as evidenced, unbelievably, at trick 1 on board 1!

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A6	♠ 543	♠ K982
♥ K6	♥ Q9	♥ A8752
♦ AK104	♦ 9732	♦ Q8
♣ KJ975	♣ 8632	♣ Q4
	♠ QJ107	
	♥ J1043	
	♦ J65	
	♣ A10	

I opened a light 1♥ on my fairly filthy 11 count (being a tad overexcited to be back at the bridge table again) and when eventually my partner bid a quantitative 4NT, could only pass.

West	North	East	South
Kavalenka	Dekker	Pierce	Reuser
–	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT*	All Pass		
2♣	Game Force		
2♥	2♠ would have shown reversing values		
3♦	4th Suit Forcing		
4NT	Quantitative		

South led the ♠Q, and I thought through the play, played low from dummy and then made the equivalent of a mis-click and played low from my hand as well. What??? This was not the best line of play and so I managed to cash my top 11 tricks instead of my top 12 tricks, once the ♣A had been knocked out.

However, I have since looked at the scores here. It was not quite the complete bottom that I had expected. One pair only managed to cash their 9 top tricks, although I am not sure how this is possible – any ideas? One pair played in 1NT+6, which is quite an unusual result and again, I am not sure how it is possible, and another played in 5♥-3. So, my thanks to those pairs for providing us with a couple of match-points which we did not deserve.

Let us look at a more successful attempt to shine:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ AQ107	♠ J83	♠ 652
♥ J	♥ AKQ43	♥ 109865
♦ AQ72	♦ K9	♦ 4
♣ 7542	♣ 1086	♣ AKQ3
	♠ K94	
	♥ 72	
	♦ J108653	
	♣ J9	



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West	North	East	South
Kavalenka		Pierce	
1♦	1♥	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

There was not an awful lot that North/South could have done about the bidding on this board. The 1♥ overcall by North looks perfectly reasonable with ♥AKQ and a 13 count, and South had no reason to bid over it. However, my partner was in there with a take-out double, so I crossed my fingers and toes and passed, having no other option attractive enough to make me bid.

This was not pretty for the opponents.

I led the ♣K (asking for count) in preference to my singleton diamond, partner's suit, despite the old adage – always lead your partner's suit, if you want to keep your partner. But, I did not really want to ruff with my long trumps and I wanted a look at the dummy to see how the land lay.

After seeing the ♣Jx in dummy, I switched to the ♥10, overtaken by partner's jack. Declarer played a second club which I won and cleared dummy's trumps. When I got back in, there came a diamond to partner's ace and a small diamond through declarer's king which was ruffed.

Declarer is now done for. He made only the ♥AKQ and a club ruff which must have been a huge disappointment.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ J52	♠ Q8643	♠ AK109
♥ AK10854	♥ J9	♥ 76
♦ —	♦ 1093	♦ AKQ862
♣ AJ93	♣ 1074	♣ 8
	♠ 7	
	♥ Q32	
	♦ J754	
	♣ KQ652	

A straightforward auction to 6♥ by West. Some pairs stopped in 4♥ or 3NT and the winning contract at pairs was 6NT.

West	North	East	South
Kavalenka	Begas	Pierce	Grosmann
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♥			
3♣	Fourth Suit Forcing		

West bid 6♥ over 4♥, often a good move when holding a void as keycard is not always helpful. Also West knows that all East's considerable values are in spades and diamonds once East fails to bid 3NT.

On a spade lead, won in dummy with the ace, Andrei ruffed a small diamond straight away to set up the diamond suit BEFORE drawing the trumps, losing the third round to the ♥Q.

(The diamonds breaking 4-3 has better odds than the spade finesse.)

Opponents returned a club which he won with the ace, but he still had a spade entry back to dummy to enjoy the diamonds. On a club lead it is very slightly more tricky, but it is not rocket science to ruff a club in dummy, or play a spade to the ace and proceed as above.

Those playing in 6NT on a club lead would have a harder time, but the contract can be made if you duck the 1st club to rectify the count for a triple squeeze. South can switch to whatever he likes, probably a spade (declarer needs take the spade finesse anyway). But now South has to play to four rounds of spades and also guard three suits – clubs, hearts and diamonds. Whatever he discards on the fourth spade – whether he bares the ♣K, or throws a diamond or a heart, it gives declarer 12 tricks and a top.

Several pairs did bid to 6NT but the play was routine after a non-club lead, needing only to take the spade finesse and give up one round of diamonds, to provide 4 spades, 5 diamonds, 2 hearts and a club.



Simultaneous Pairs Results

N/S	Names
1	Lasse Utter - Maria Tulonen
2	Cisca Vorselman - Koen Poppe
3	Harry Burmania - John Linse
4	Han Begas - Lucia Grosmann
5	Poul Mogensen - Susan Just
6	Peter Dekker - Mike Reuser
7	Bernódus Kristinsson - Ómar Óskarsson
8	Adrians Imsa - Jurijs Balasovs
9	Lars Carlsson - Leif-Erik Forsberg
10	Renate Adelsberger - Heimo Adelsberger
11	Pirjo Juuri-Oja - Erkki Juuri-Oja
12	Eduardo Fernandes - Pedro Morgado
13	Outi Forsman - Hilikka Piepponen-Kajaste

E/W	Names
1	Allie Hoenstok - Hans Metselaar
2	Svein Markussen - Roennaug Asla
3	José Macedo - João Machado
4	Bengt Emanuelsson - Haakan Tjarnemo
5	Rosemarie Roderburg - Sybil Müller-Maubach
6	Anna Nielsen - Aron Thorfinsson
7	Svala K Palsdottir - Adalsteinn Jörgensen
8	Ceri Pierce - Andrei Kavalenka
9	Ricardo Fernandes - Frederico Teixeira
10	David Ludviksson - Emma Axelsdottir
11	Luis M Jardim - Sebastião Gonçalves
12	Fátima Menezes - Nuno Menezes
13	Pirjo Raty - Jarmo Raty
14	Ullamaija Kiiski - Virve Berg

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Please may we ask you to stack the boards exactly like this – in order and upside down - on the chair provided (not on the floor).

Thank you.





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