



23rd Madeira International Bridge Open

2nd-8th November 2020

Friday 6th November

Bulletin 4

Open Pairs Come to a Climax

In light of the new regulations noted below it is of paramount importance that you wear your masks when required and this includes when you are outside the congress centre. Failure to do so could jeopardise the event.

Guido Hopfenheit and Sebastian Reim (pictured right) won the Open Pairs. More detail can be found on page 5 and the complete results on page 12.



New Safety Regulations

Miguel Albuquerque (Regional President) has introduced new COVID directives starting from midnight Friday 6th November.

- Restaurants will be closed at 23h00. Each table to have a maximum of 5 people unless they are all from the same household. Bars to be closed at midnight and PSP, GNR and ARAE* will reinforce these directives. In restaurants, bars etc., customers will not be allowed to remain inside after closing.
- Nightclubs in Madeira will be closed for 1 month
- Gatherings of more than 5 people on public street are forbidden except if the people are all from the same household
- Ban of consumption of alcoholic beverages in public places†
- Gymnasiums will be required to reduce their capacity to 50% and measure the temperature of all users. All competitions for non-professional sports are suspended for 30 days‡.
- Churches in Madeira are now limited to one third of maximum capacity
- Children older than 6 years are obliged to wear masks.
- Public Transport: Capacity is reduced to 2/3 of maximum capacity.
- Hairdressers and Tattoo Studios: Capacity is reduced to 50% of maximum. Prior appointment is mandatory.
- Casino: Capacity is reduced to 50% of maximum.
- Marine tourism: Boat capacity is reduced to 50% of maximum. Prior appointment is mandatory.
- * Polícia de Segurança Pública, Guarda Nacional Republicana, Autoridade Regional das Atividades Económicas

† This means in the street and in parks and on beaches, rather than in bars

‡ We do not expect this to affect the tournament, except as separately indicated

A link to the full regulations is: www.bridge-madeira.com/covid-19-update/



The schedule for the Open Teams has been changed. It will now consist of eight rounds of twelve boards.

Friday	8.30 p.m.	2 rounds
Saturday	11.00 a.m.	1 round
	2.30 p.m.	3 rounds
Sunday	3.00 p.m.	2 rounds





XXIII Madeira Bridge Festival



MAIN PROGRAMME 4th – 8th November 2020

Location - Congress Room

FRIDAY 6 th November	18:00	Deadline for Teams Tournament Entries
	20:00	Team Assignments
	20.30	Open Teams Tournament (1st Session)
SATURDAY 7 th November	11:00	Open Teams Tournament (2nd Session)
	13:15	Lunch Break (light lunch included)
	14:30	Open Teams Tournament (3rd Session)
SUNDAY 8 th 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.
- 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/>



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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.

Friday 6 th November	18:00 – 21:00
Saturday 7 th November	13:00 – 16:00
Sunday 8 th November	14:30 – 16:00

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 6th November Coach leaves the Hotel VidaMar for your chosen excursion option.
between 9.30 and 10.00 a.m. 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.

In Search of Further News

Ron Tacchi

Yet again I perambulated across the great divide to seek interesting deals. I shall subtitle this dissertation; Leads and Rules.

From the Open Pairs Session 3

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ AKQ5		♠ 6
♥ A6		♥ 732
♦ 964		♦ KQ5
♣ A875		♣ QJ9643
♠ J9843	N W E S	
♥ Q1085		
♦ J8		
♣ K2		
♠ 1072		
♥ KJ94		
♦ A10732		
♣ 10		

North opened a strong 1NT and finally settled in the nine-trick game. As East what do you lead? Many of us were force fed the rule fourth highest of your longest and strongest, whereas others have rules based on sequences. I am sure East would have lead the queen if that nine had been the ten but in this case the siren call of 'fourth highest' came to the defender's rescue. Declarer is without resource on the lead of the ♣6 but you have excellent chances on the lead of the queen.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ Q83		♠ A9652
♥ J75		♥ 10
♦ AKQ96		♦ J83
♣ A5		♣ J942
♠ KJ4	N W E S	
♥ Q62		
♦ 1072		
♣ Q876		
♠ 107		
♥ AK9843		
♦ 54		
♣ K103		

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1♥
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥

All Pass

2♦ game forcing

Here it is West who has the dilemma. Every fibre in her body wanted to lead a spade but years of being castigated for underleading a king or ace took its toll and a club was led and a present of two overtricks was delivered.



From Belarus With Love

Ceri Pierce

I referred in Thursday's bulletin to Andrei Kavalenka's Herculean ten-day journey from Belarus to Madeira. Having discovered why he embarked upon his epic trip (his love of the Madeiran Bridge Festival) I was intrigued as to why it took so long and so pinned him down to find out. Well, if I had thought ten days was a bit of a trek it turns out that was nothing compared to how long it will take him to get back home.

Andrei left his home in Belarus on October 16th. The only way out of the country, due to Covid travel restrictions, was to travel to Poland, which he did, by catching a train from Minsk to Elblag – a mere 12 hour ride. Elblag, according to Tripadvisor, is a charming town, however here he was obliged to quarantine for ten days, during which time he was confined to his hotel room, with food being delivered and no escape for any reason. He emerged like a butterfly at the end of his incarceration to catch a plane to Madeira, eventually arriving on the 26th October, in good time for the bridge congress.

Now – how to get back home? Meticulous planning was required, with hurdles abounding. The final route (subject to flight cancellations, which will of course be bound to happen), will be as follows:

First leg - Madeira to Porto (after a few well-deserved days at rest on the Island). Stop there for a short (enforced but pleasant) holiday until a flight to Milan is available. Milan to Krakow. Krakow to Minsk – followed by another ten days quarantine in Minsk, before emerging once more from his Chrysalis.

Extraordinary dedication. Andrei has been to the Bridge Festival seven times, missing only one year since 2013 and was clearly determined not to miss another.

So, having left home on 16th October, he will finally return on 25th November; 40 days. Beat that! If he had twice as long, he could have gone around the world.



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.





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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

-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 discounts as above. Just show them your badge.

Open Pair Details

Guido Hopfenheit and Sebastian Reim from Germany had a remarkably consistent three sessions, each one over 60% and won by nearly four percent. Mark Thiele and Renée Verdegaaal had an incredible third session rising from 21st place to second

with a third session score 70.38%. In third place came the redoubtable Madeiran/Portuguese pairing of Carlos Luiz and Nuno Paz. The leading Madeiran pair of Bruno Macedo and Luis M Silva should also get a prize for consistency - they were in sixth place in the general classification after each session.



Carlos Luiz and Nuno Paz



Mark Thiele - Renée Verdegaaal



Optional Excursions Friday 6th November

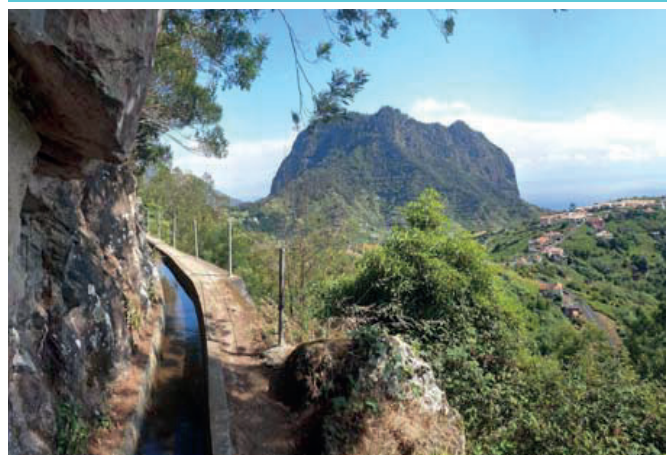
Option A: **The East** (full day, lunch included) coach leaves hotel 09:30



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)





Hans Metselaar on Madeira

Ceri Pierce

Hans Metselaar, a charming and excellent bridge player is from Holland. He was invited to the Madeira Bridge Festival in the second year that it ran and has been coming ever since. As you will know the festival is now in its 23rd year. Quite a record. (If anyone has attended all 23 – do let the bulletin room know - we will compile a Hall of Fame).

Hans thinks it is an incredible congress. It has everything you could ask for and more. He has been to congresses in France, Germany, Italy, and Portugal, but claims that Madeira is the best - the hospitality, the programme of bridge and the welcome are all simply outstanding.

This year's visit, has a slightly different story behind it (like many). Hans's wife Christina was hopeful that they would escape the bleak mid-winter to the lovely climes of Madeira regardless of whether the festival was running or not, and so as a surprise for her Hans duly booked flights and an apartment. There was an even better surprise to come though, when they discovered that the festival was actually going ahead despite Covid-19, with the necessary safety precautions in place. They changed their flight dates and emailed Miguel and Betty the organisers, who insisted that they should also change their accommodation and stay in the VidaMar. Such a welcome warms the cockles of one's heart and this is one of the many things that makes this congress so special.

There were of course, on a more serious note, the safety aspects to consider this year because of the virus - not an insignificant factor. Hans has found this to be impressive. He is actually part of a think-tank in Holland which is addressing how face to face bridge can function, a group that includes several eminent medical professionals. In his club in Holland there are 800 members. Bridge is played every day and every night and they have developed stringent regulations to allow this to happen – they have comprehensive protocols in place for entering the club, using the cloakrooms, the tables and equipment, moving around etc. etc. He reports that the measures taken in Maderia actually exceed these – and not only in the bridge tournament, but also when you enter the country, the shops and the restaurants. The social responsibility that everyone shows in



Madeira is simply incredible. As an example of this, upon returning to a deserted hotel at 01:30 from the Hole in One (an early night) he forgot to wear his mask (due to it being late and other mitigating factors) – within seconds a member of staff appeared as if by magic and very kindly reminded him to put his mask on. Not offensive, just helpful and responsible.

So, Hans has been very impressed and very grateful and very happy to be here. He and Christina have felt very safe and have been very impressed at the safety arrangements. There are a lot of 'verys' in those last sentences, but they are well deserved.

Another reason Hans has come to Madeira is to show support, especially following the cancellation of the European Championships which should have been held here in June this year. He is already planning for next year. All of us who play in the Madeira Festival cannot help but become ambassadors for this event – let us all make sure that, like Hans, we bring plenty of people back with us next year.



Mystic Mark - Edition IV

Mark Horton

Mark Horton cannot provide you with the winning numbers for the next EuroMillions draw, but he is prepared to predict what might happen on some of the deals from the third session of the Pairs Championship.



Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ 42	♠ J 10 6 5	♠ 9
♥ 7 6 3	♥ 4	♥ Q 8 5 2
♦ J 8 6 5 3 2	♦ A 10 4	♦ K Q 7
♣ K 3	♣ A Q J 10 6	♣ 8 7 5 4 2
	♠ A K Q 8 7 3	
	♥ A K J 10 9	
	♦ 9	
	♣ 9	



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

This is by no means the only possible auction! For example South might jump to 4♦ over 2♠ and then bid 4NT over North's 4♥.

There is nothing to the play, declarer drawing trumps and ruffing two hearts in dummy.

More than half the field will reach 7♠.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ 10 7	♠ A Q 9 6 4 2	♠ K 5
♥ A Q 9 8 6	♥ J 3	♥ K 7 5 2
♦ K 4 2	♦ 10 9	♦ A J 5
♣ A 3 2	♣ K J 7	♣ Q 10 9 4
	♠ J 8 3	
	♥ 10 4	
	♦ Q 8 7 6 3	
	♣ 8 6 5	



West	North	East	South
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

This is a straightforward deal, but it might serve to illustrate the difference between Pairs and IMPs. If North leads a diamond there is a way to ensure ten tricks. Declarer wins, draws trump and plays a spade. North wins and returns a diamond and declarer wins and exits with a diamond. Now the defenders have to open up the clubs or offer a ruff and discard.

Playing pairs declarer should be looking for eleven tricks, and after drawing trumps cashing the ♠A followed by a second club brings home the bacon, as a diamond will be discarded on a club.

At least 50% will record eleven tricks.

Bulletins

Bulletins should be available at breakfast and after that you will find them on the Welcome Desk. Earlier bulletins are laid to rest beneath the screen showing the results just around the corner from the Welcome Desk. Further copies will be at your disposal in the Congress Centre before play commences.



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Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ J87642		
♥ 10		
♦ QJ6		
♣ Q109		
♠ A1093		♠ K
♥ AQ842		♥ KJ7
♦ 7		♦ AK109532
♣ J62		♣ A7
		♠ Q5
		♥ 9653
		♦ 84
		♣ K8543



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

This strikes me as a very tough deal. 3♦ is not generally played as forcing, but the alternatives are unattractive. West does not have to rebid 3♥, 3♠ is also possible, showing a stopper for a possible 3NT. Once West shows a five card suit 4♣ is a cue-bid in support of hearts and West has enough to cue-bid in return. Then East can employ RKCB before 'shooting the moon'.

The play is 'simples'!

I expect less than 10% to reach 7♥.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A96		
♥ 85		
♦ 10987		
♣ A932		
♠ KQJ543		♠ 7
♥ QJ96		♥ K1032
♦ 43		♦ AKJ5
♣ J		♣ 10876
		♠ 1082
		♥ A74
		♦ Q62
		♣ KQ54



West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1♣
1♠	1NT	Double	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
?			

Should West go on to 4♥?

At pairs it does not generally pay to bid close games. West's side suit is good, but the lack of aces is a concern. I would bid 4♥ at IMPs - at Pairs I'm not so sure.

On this layout 4♥ should make - if the defenders try a forcing game the ♣108 will come in handy.

Note that 4♠ can be defeated if the defenders organise a heart ruff.

Less than 10% of the field will bid game.

When the results become available tomorrow morning we shall examine the actual results versus Mark's prognostics.

For the duration of the Madeira festival you will be able to play through some of the more interesting hands on the 'bridgebee' app. The link on your PC is:

<https://bridgebee.app/sets/289/madeira-bridge-festival>

This will be available free until the end of the festival.

bridgebee



The Mystic's Marks

Ron Tacchi & Mark Horton

Yesterday Mark Horton gave us his prognostications on boards 9, 13, 14 and 23 of the second session of the Open Pairs. How did he fare?

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ AJ10975		♠ K4
♥ KJ9		♥ 632
♦ AJ85		♦ 943
♣ —		♣ AKJ76
♠ Q83	N W E S	♠ 62
♥ Q104		♥ A875
♦ 106		♦ KQ72
♣ Q10982		♣ 543

Mark suggested that 10% of the field might reach the diamond slam and perhaps one pair could arrive in 6♠.

No pair reached slam and only one N/S pair reached game in diamonds, however eight pairs bid the spade game. There was an instance of an unsuccessful 3NT and twice E/W played in clubs, both times doubled - at the five-level for an outright zero and at the three-level for 75% of the MPs. All this means that over half the field failed to even try to make game. This was not one of Mark's triumphs.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ 96		♠ Q7543
♥ AQ		♥ 9632
♦ AJ97		♦ 8
♣ KQ1098		♣ A52
♠ KJ2	N W E S	♠ A108
♥ J5		♥ K10874
♦ 105432		♦ KQ6
♣ 743		♣ J6

On this board Mark predicted that there will be no slams but several pairs would record twelve tricks.

Everyone reached game and one brave pair tried 6♥ but failed by one trick. Though of the five pairs who played in 4♥, bar one they all made twelve tricks and one of them somewhat surprisingly recorded thirteen tricks. The rest of the field played in 3NT, three of them failing by a trick - an interesting result as there are ten top tricks and two of them recorded 690 when a diamond was the opening lead.

All in all Mark was very close with this one - at least four stars.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ 864		♠ KQ102
♥ QJ5		♥ 107
♦ A986		♦ K107543
♣ KQ7		♣ 2
♠ AJ75	N W E S	♠ 93
♥ AK943		♥ 862
♦ —		♦ QJ2
♣ A643		♣ J10985

On this deal the oracle proclaimed less than ten pairs bidding the spade slam with most of them making it.

One pair did have a successful auction and along with five others made twelve tricks, unfortunately for one of those pairs they were in only 2♠. Everyone else played in 4♠ making plus one most of the time. Three stars.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ Q9842		♠ 10763
♥ 9874		♥ KQ102
♦ 85		♦ 632
♣ J3		♣ K5
♠ A	N W E S	♠ KJ5
♥ A		♥ J653
♦ AKQ974		♦ J10
♣ A10972		♣ Q864



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Mark's suggestion that three pairs would bid the no-trump grand slam was very close as twice it was bid and in line with his prophecy all of them made it, two pairs bid the diamond grand slam. All but three pairs bid a small slam and made it - one pair trying in the club suit. Only one of the diamond slam bidders failed to make thirteen

tricks. The no-trump players were not subject to a club lead and thus did not have the chance to show off their skills in undertaking a criss-cross squeeze as a simple squeeze operated against the South hand.

Pretty close - four stars. So three good calls and one off piste. Three outta four ain't bad.

Final Standings in the Open Pairs after the Third Session

	%	Name
1	62.21	Guido Hopfenheit - Sebastian Reim
2	58.31	Mark Thiele - Renée Verdegaal
3	58.15	Carlos Luiz - Nuno Paz
4	57.1	Fredrik Nystrom - Sanna Clementsson
5	56.48	Paulo Courteilles Sarmiento - João Vide Barbosa
6	56.07	Bruno Macedo - Luís M Silva
7	55.79	Frederik Wrang - David Wrang
8	55.16	Julius Sigurjonsson - Kauko Koistinen
9	54.93	Shahzaad Natt - India Leeming
10	54.4	Tim van den Bos - Berend van den Bos
11	54.24	Bengt Emanuelsson - Haakan Tjærnemo
12	53.78	Robbie de Koster - Eva Poppe
13	53.78	Inês Cunha - Miguel Ramos
14	53.7	Adam Blachnio - Leszek Kawski
15	53.45	João Campos Ferreira - Miguel Lima
16	53.43	Frederic Boldt - Paul Grünke
17	53.22	Andrei Kavalenka - Francisco P Coutinho
18	52.93	Peter Jokisch - Udo Kasimir
19	52.51	Nick Sandqvist - Nathalie Shashou
20	52.45	Nikolas Bausback - Michael Pauly
21	52.19	Sveinn R Eiriksson - Magnus Eidur Magnusson
22	52.01	Jorge Cruzeiro - João Paes de Carvalho
23	51.83	Sally Brock - Barry Myers
24	51.49	Harry Burmania - John Linse
25	51.14	Diego Brenner - Miguel Teixeira

	%	Name
26	50.87	António Campos Palma - Carolina Pimenta
27	50.03	Gerwin Middelkoop - Pim Vermeulen
28	49.8	Han Begas - Lucia Grosmann
29	49.78	Leo Huvers - David Kok
30	49.66	Frederico Teixeira - Ricardo Fernandes
31	49.39	Niels Steenstrup Zeeberg - Christian Lahrmann
32	48.99	Paul van den Bos - Johann Bouman
33	47.93	René Stienen - Elly Schippers
34	47.49	Hans Metselaar - Gerard Limmen
35	47.17	João Fanha - Maria J Calamaro
36	46.79	Pedro Morgado - Eduardo Fernandes
37	46.75	Laura Woodruff - Pedro Nunes
38	45.98	Jutta Bartley - Gareth Bartley
39	45.15	Bruno Neves - Robert Snapper
40	45.07	Marie Eggeling - Ceri Pierce
41	44.18	João Machado - José Macedo
42	44.07	Koen Poppe - Cisca Vorselman
43	43.74	Rita Arraiano - José Nuno Moraes
44	43.74	Renate Adelsberger - Heimo Adelsberger
45	43.66	Bruna Vicente - Miguel Moreno
46	42.09	António Peixoto - Margarida Machado
47	41.77	Miguel Sousa Guedes - Ricardo Teixeira
48	39.8	Arjen Salari - Marie-José de Bruine
49	38.07	João Amaral - Álvaro C Machado
50	37.54	Rosemarie Roderburg - Sybil Müller-Maubach



NEW FOR 2020

VIRTUAL MADEIRA INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE OPEN

Online sessions are available to all on BBO – unless you're in Madeira, of course, in which case we're expecting to see you at the table.



ONLINE OPEN PAIRS (BBO \$8 per session)

Tuesday 3rd, Wednesday 4th, Thursday 5th November at 17:00

Three sessions of Matchpoint Pairs on BBO. Players may enter any or all of the three sessions. The online tournament qualifier will take place over two sessions. The third session will be a final for the top of the field, for those who have played in both of the qualifying sessions, plus an open final.

ONLINE OPEN SWISS TEAMS (BBO \$5 per session)

Friday 6th, Saturday 7th, Sunday 8th November

For each day the start time will be approximately one hour after the live session commences.

You may register as a pair and be assigned team mates by the system, or register as a foursome if you are familiar with how to do this on BBO. Instructions will be available later in the week for how to join as a team, rather than as a pair.

To register for all events on BBO, go to COMPETITIVE – ALL TOURNAMENTS and search for host iBEX_12 (Madeira Festival), then click to invite your partner, who must also be online on BBO.

Registration will be open two hours prior to the start of play each day.



Open Pairs Session 2 – To Lead or Not to Lead

Ceri Pierce

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 6542	♠ 3	♠ AQ9
♥ 1043	♥ QJ86	♥ AK7
♦ AQ76	♦ KJ853	♦ 102
♣ A2	♣ 1094	♣ KQJ75
	♠ KJ1087	
	♥ 952	
	♦ 94	
	♣ 863	

At our table as we settled down for the first board, East opened 2NT and the bidding proceeded in a normal and unexciting way to 3NT. Question – what to you lead from the South hand?

I normally automatically reach for my fourth best from my longest and strongest as instructed over and over by my bridge teacher (many moons ago) usually until he was purple-faced, as most of his students like to lead any Ace or King that they may hold. But, on this board a pause for thought. Leading into the strong hand may not be the best lead, unless you have the perfect partner who happens to hold the ♠A. I wasn't wearing my lucky pants, so opted for the ♥9, a (hopefully) passive lead, deciding to lurk instead with my spade suit to surprise declarer with (hopefully fatally) later in the play.

This turned out to be the winning lead, holding the contract to nine tricks, where those poor souls that led a spade gave away the overtrick(s) – and worth 40 Matchpoints out of 48 for North/South.

There is a theory that says you should always lead a Spade against no-trumps in the absence of anything better to do – a theory I often follow. Apparently, a sad statistician analysed many thousands of hands to prove this – something to do with if the opponents had spades they would have bid them etc. etc. However, not the case on this board.

Another interesting lead problem of a different nature occurred on Board 9 in Session One



that appeared in yesterday's bulletin in so much as that it caused a problem for my long-suffering partner. South led the ♠6 and after North won this with the ace, she had quite a long think before carefully returning another card of the same suit, a defence that bemused our kibitzing editor. I am happy to report that this mini-mystery has now been cleared up to everyone's benefit.

North/South the German/Welsh pair that fortune threw together, had agreed to play 4th and 2nd leads. However, in the UK, it is the norm to play top from a doubleton, whilst in other parts of Europe one still plays 4th and 2nd regardless, and thus would lead small from a doubleton – this is the first time I have ever encountered this in all my 300 years of playing bridge – but actually it is not a bad idea at all and so has been adopted. This explains the mystery of the defence – partner assumed the lead of the ♠6 was a singleton in the absence of a smaller card being led.

You learn something new every day!



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