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

Saturday 9th November

Bulletin 5

Another Record For The Teams

An amazing turnout of 129 teams started the Open Teams Championship. Yet another record and very nearly a headache for the organisers as the limit had been set at 130!!! After three rounds Team **Janet de Botton** are in the lead with 56.95 VPs. They are ahead of Team **Baldursson** who have 53.99 VPs and in third place Team **Miniter** have a score 52.91 VPs.



Ola Rimstedt and António Campos Palma winners of the Open Pairs

Informed sources have told me that Jórunn Kristinsdóttir is celebrating her 80th birthday today. Congratulations and may she have a splendid day!!

A bracelet of gold-like material with suit symbols on it has been handed in and still not collected. If the owner would like to form a queue at the Welcome desk they may reclaim it.

After today's second session of the Open Teams (about 13:15) a lunch will be served in the Ocean Restaurant. All those who are members of teams are entitled to it. If you would like the lunch but are not a member of a team then you can purchase a ticket from the Welcome Desk. Do not forget to bring your badge for without it you will be denied sustenance.

Cash prizes for the Pairs can be collected from 10:00 onwards as mentioned on Page 2

Results for the first three rounds can be found on the website - They will be published in a later edition.

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





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MAIN BRIDGE PROGRAM

4th-10th November 2024

Congress Room + Selvagens 1-2-3

<u>Saturday</u> 9 th	11:00	Teams Session 2 (2 matches)
	13:15	Lunch Break (light lunch included)
	14:30	Teams Session 3 (4 matches)
<u>Sunday</u> 10 th	14:30	Teams Session 4 (3 matches)
	19:00	Final Results

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

CONTACTS

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VidaMar Resort	(+351) 291 717 600

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

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

ENTRY FEES

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

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

CASH PRIZES

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

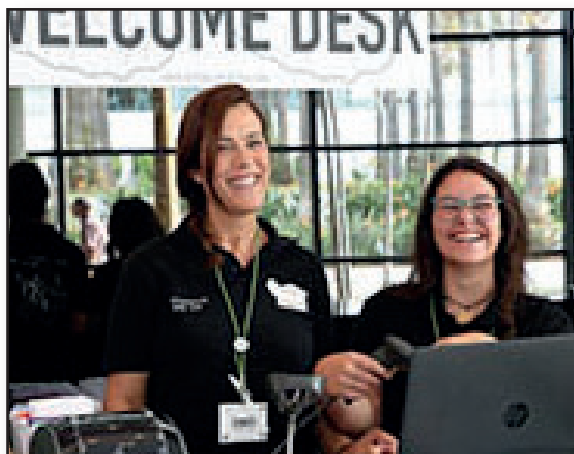
Saturday 9 th November	10:00 – 11:00 13:30 – 14:30
Sunday 10 th November	19:30 – 20:30

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

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



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

Saturday 9 th November	13:30 – 14:30
Sunday 10 th November	13:00 – 14:30

SIDE EVENTS

Post-tournament

Selvagens V

Monday 11th
Cool-down Pairs - €10

20:30

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

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

The Reykjavík Rapyd Bridge Festival

will be held in Harpa Concert hall
on 30th of January through 2nd of February

2025

2025

reykjavikbridgefestival.com



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WhatsApp Group

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

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

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QR Code - WhatsApp Group



QR Code - Buy Polo Shirt



Slams Agogo

Ron Tacchi

As the bulletin editor and also because I am the first in the office in the morning I sometimes invoke my prerogative of choosing which hands to write up and so today I am choosing the slam hands, partly because in the space of six deals there were four potential slams, two of which were of the grand variety.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ Q		♠ J8
♥ KJ105		♥ Q942
♦ 5		♦ KQJ874
♣ AKQ10654		♣ 2
♠ K1062	N W E S	♠ A97543
♥ 763		♥ A8
♦ 9632		♦ A10
♣ J9		♣ 873

After an auction that might start 1♠-2♣-2♠-3♣ it should not be beyond North to discover his partner has the three missing controls and if your methods allow you to ask for a third-round control in hearts then you should arrive in the grand slam. Once there you have to make it. On a non-diamond lead it is trivial as you have sufficient entries to set up the spades to take care of heart losers, however, on the frequent lead of the king of diamonds you need a little care. The way I would approach it would be to take a couple of rounds of trumps, ace of spades, spade ruff, heart to the ace and another spade ruff. The spades did not deliver but now you know West started with four spades and two clubs as opposed to three cards in those suits in the East hand. So relying on your mastery of the theory of vacant spaces you take a ruffing finesse against the queen of hearts and joyfully claim your contract.

Of the 16 pairs that bid the grand slam ten made it. A couple tried 7NT but that was a doomed effort. There was one 'interesting' contract where obviously a wheel fell off the bidding wagon and North finished in Four Hearts, depending on where declarer plays for the trump queen he makes six or twelve tricks and unlike Obi Wan

Kenobi, declarer did not choose wisely, had he done so he would have saved his par!

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ 8763		♠ K9
♥ 9		♥ 87
♦ 1064		♦ AKQ75
♣ KJ976		♣ AQ82
♠ QJ	N W E S	♠ A10542
♥ AQ10632		♥ KJ54
♦ J82		♦ 93
♣ 43		♣ 105

This is one of those slams that are sometimes known as 'Hamman' slams as he defines a good slam as one that makes. This falls into that category as you need the club finesse to succeed along with the double heart finesse and reasonable breaks all round, one of those 10% slams. Five pairs managed the dizzy height of bidding the slam but none made it.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ AK532		♠ 109
♥ A104		♥ Q73
♦ 10843		♦ J96
♣ A		♣ 108763
♠ QJ8764	N W E S	♠ —
♥ —		♥ KJ98652
♦ KQ2		♦ A75
♣ J542		♣ KQ9

A genuinely good grand slam. To fail in either 7♥ or 7NT hearts must break 3-0 and you must guess wrongly. That is about an 89% chance of success. Only ten pairs bid the grand (and one failed – spoiler alert, you might find out who and why in David Burn's article) and there were one or two poor choices of contract. It seems probable that after Pass-1♥-2♠-Pass-Pass South elected to double and then North passed. I might be so



bold as to suggest that Double might not have been the best bid – you are almost sure that North will pass for penalties (remember East's original Pass) and the chances that you have something better far outweigh the possible penalty. North needs to find a bid from his system that is forcing and shows heart support and then South will eventually have the chance to respond to a Blackwood enquiry with 5NT showing two key-cards and a useful void. A response frequently misremembered.

It is self-evident that if East plays a slam in spades it should be successful and 32 pairs achieved this feat but somehow two pairs failed the test of making the contract, 14 pairs made the over-trick when South failed to cash his ace of hearts. Nine pairs wrong-sided the contract and consequently were defeated on a heart lead. There is a more eloquent disquisition on the possible routes to right-siding this contract later in this bulletin than of which I am capable.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ KQ62		♠ 85
♥ 1032		♥ Q9876
♦ 8		♦ Q1053
♣ AK653		♣ 108
		
		♠ AJ104
		♥ K4
		♦ AK94
		♣ Q94
		♠ 973
		♥ AJ5
		♦ J762
		♣ J72

MADEIRA INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE OPEN 2024

OFICIAL WINES

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Open Pairs 3

Ceri Pierce

This hand cropped up for discussion in 'Burn your Card' following the final session of the Open Pairs.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A7		♠ K1032
♥ 102		♥ 975
♦ AJ95		♦ 73
♣ AQ943		♣ J1065
	W N E S	
		♠ QJ94
		♥ QJ84
		♦ K1086
		♣ 2
		♠ 865
		♥ AK63
		♦ Q42
		♣ K87

At one table South opened a mini no trump showing 10-12. West doubled and East was left with a dilemma. The vulnerability is such that 3NT making for 600 would be better than 1NT Doubled going three off for 500. In both cases, East-West make nine tricks, but one brings home the bacon at match point pairs. However, East had another problem – having decided to bid on to game, he did not have the means to do so – any two-level suit would be a weakness bid to play and a three-level bid would be a tad misleading.

How to solve this problem? One suggestion is that you can agree that 2NT in response to the double, certainly at this vulnerability, is a forcing bid – it can't possibly be natural as you could have passed 1NT doubled. Now the partnership can find their four-card major fit if they have one – which would be a much more suitable spot from East's point of view, holding a singleton club.

Another method I have come across with two people that I have played with during the festival, which I have never heard of before, is that if you double 1NT then partner treats it as though you had bid 1NT yourself, so full system on. I will leave it to you to decide which is best.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ J52		♠ 974
♥ 42		♥ J83
♦ Q72		♦ 1085
♣ 108654		♣ KQ73
	W N E S	
♠ AK108		
♥ AQ		
♦ AJ3		
♣ AJ92		
		♠ Q63
		♥ K109765
		♦ K964
		♣ —

West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The lead was the ♣5. Declarer has four clubs, two hearts, a diamond (maybe two) and two or maybe three spades. Winning with the king in dummy, South discarded an encouraging heart. Declarer immediately took a heart finesse which held. Now what to do? In order to keep options open, ace and another spade was played, losing to the queen. A diamond came back (good) to North's queen. Now North cannot continue diamonds without setting up a trick, so continued with a heart to declarer's ace.

The stage was set..... three rounds of spades followed by three rounds of clubs squeezes South who desperately tried to hang on to both her ♥K and ♦Kx, the end position was:

♠ -		♠ -
♥ -		♥ J
♦ 72		♦ 10
♣ 10		♣ K
	W N E S	
♠ -		
♥ -		
♦ AJ		
♣ 2		
		♠ -
		♥ K
		♦ K9
		♣ —



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On the final club South has to discard K♥ or a diamond. She chose the latter so now a diamond to the ace saw the king pop up, making the jack a winner. Declarer could have just taken a diamond finesse but there would be no guarantee and besides it is much more satisfying to see opponent's discomfort as they try fruitlessly to find a discard.

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Special Prizes From IntoBridge

Best Played Hand - anything brilliant that happened at the table

Worst Played Hand - we are not just looking for bad hands, we know you have plenty of them! The hands we are looking for involve some good planning and intentions but due to unfavourable circumstances failed dramatically.

Bidding, declarer play and defence all qualify. Please, nominate yourself, your partner or an opponent by submitting the hand to the Bulletin editor Ron Tacchi, located at the far end of Tower 1 (not too far from the hotel reception of Vidamar)

The prizes include plaquettes and €250 euros for the best played hand and €50 for the worst played hand.

Hands from any of the tournaments in this year's festival are eligible. Don't be shy, submit your exciting hands!

Second Special!!!

Win a signed copy of Zia's new book

Those of you who already have an account on IntoBridge or create one before the end of the festival, will qualify for a lottery to win a copy of Zia's new book "Bridge, A Love Story", signed by the great Zia himself!

To enter the lottery, go to IntoBridge's booth, located just opposite the bar at the main playing area and register. Alternatively, find Stefan from IntoBridge in the playing area.



Heads Or Tails?

David Burn

Many articles have been written on the subject of percentage plays, but this suit combination is for some reason not mentioned very often:

♥ A 10 4
♥ K J 9 8 6 5 2

This may be because there is no 'percentage play' in the suit as such – cashing the ace first and cashing the king first are equally likely to succeed. Nevertheless, there is a right and a wrong way to play the suit on any given deal. For example

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ AK532		
♥ A 104		
♦ 10843		
♣ A		
♠ QJ8764	N W E S	♠ 109
♥ —		♥ Q73
♦ KQ2		♦ J96
♣ J542		♣ 108763
♠ —		
♥ KJ98652		
♦ A75		
♣ KQ9		

West	North	East	South
Burn	Farwig		
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4♠ was Blackwood for hearts, and South treated his seventh trump as the queen when he responded 5♥. The flaw in this procedure became apparent when his seventh trump wasn't the queen and his first move in the heart suit was

to lay down the king. Was this (a) the right but unlucky play; (b) the wrong and duly punished play; (c) a complete guess?

Even if a position seems to be a pure toss-up, there may be some inference from the lack of bidding to guide you in determining which opponent is more likely to have a void. East-West don't have all that many high cards, so the chances are good that East would not open the bidding even with a heart void. There is a much greater chance that West would overcall if he had a void, so you should play him (if anyone) for three.

I don't know how many Wests in the field omitted to overcall at their first turn. I know the number is strictly positive, but I would suspect it to be no higher than the number of matchpoints we received on this board. But his pass was a stroke of genius, since it ensured a plus score for his side – not only did it make our task easier in reaching the grand slam, but it meant that the grand would fail when my poor partner reasoned as above. We didn't get a zero, because one other pair was minus 50 somehow in 6♥ and another might have had some difficulty with Kickback and went down two in 4♠. But if you answered (a) to the question above, full marks to you.

Sometimes, of course, no inference of the nature described above can be drawn – the opponents have so few high cards that neither would bid even if they did have a void. There is still a right and a wrong way to play the suit: West would of course never lead a heart from Qxx on purpose, but with that holding there is a small but finite chance he would lead one by accident. But the chance is zero that he would lead the suit from a void, so all other things being equal you should play the opening leader for the three-card holding.



Wrong Way Up

David Burn

Transfer responses to a (possibly short) 1♣ opening are becoming common at the international level and gaining ground in the tournament game worldwide. They are certainly an advance in bidding theory at least as great as transfer responses to a 1NT opening, which have been around for decades – but as with every other convention, from time to time they can come seriously unstuck.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 85		
♥ Q9876		
♦ Q1053		
♣ 108		
♠ KQ62		♠ AJ104
♥ 1032		♥ K4
♦ 8		♦ AK94
♣ AK653		♣ Q94
		♠ 973
		♥ AJ5
		♦ J762
		♣ J72

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♥*	Pass
2♠			

It doesn't much matter what happens now - the damage has been done, since East-West can no longer reach their best spot of 6♠ by East. Stopping in game is the best they can do, but they will lose to those in game from the East seat, and their only crumb of comfort will be that failing slams will bring them in a handful of matchpoints. Mind you, at some tables natural methods fared no better when East chose to respond 1♦ to the 1♣ opening – in my view an entirely sensible choice, because if slam is in the picture you want to give every suit an equal chance, and responding 1♠ may easily lose a diamond fit. Of course, West

rebid spades, and now the natural bidders were on the same wrong side of the road as the transfer merchants.

I had some sympathy with the East player at our table, who responded 1♠ to 1♣ and had this raised to 3♠ by her partner. The gentleman in question looked about a generation too old to make that kind of overbid, but it would be duplicated by many players in the modern game – because they open every balanced eleven, when they find themselves with a real opening bid and a fit they have to jump-raise in case a game is missed. Our heroine in the East seat knew what to do – she bid an immediate 6NT, in search of the matchpoint bonus.

What should the result be in 6NT? It looks normal to cash one high diamond and nine black tricks before playing a heart to the king, and then it will depend on how many heart winners the defence has left. The answer to that was invariably 'not enough', for at the handful of tables where 6NT was attempted it went down one (apart from against the South who took his ♥A at trick one and nothing else until board 17). But I wondered about one result – an alternative in 6NT is to play a heart to the king as soon as possible. The idea is that the opponents won't believe you're putting everything on the line at trick two or three, so you must have ♥KQ at least to be playing on the suit so early. It has even been known for South to duck from his actual holding, in the hope that instead of taking a successful guess elsewhere East will repeat the heart 'finesse' to his detriment.

Had East tried this? Had South brilliantly seen through the ruse, won ♥A and continued the suit? No, of course not – life never imitates art like that. It wasn't just the transferers who declared from the wrong hand – the contract was 6NT by West and North had led fourth best from his longest suit.



Right Way Up

David Burn

Do you care which compass position you occupy? Some players have superstitions, some good reasons for their preferences (West has least to do when screens are in use, for example). But now that we have all manner of statistics available, perhaps it is worth considering which positions make most tricks. On a small sample (session 3 of the Open Pairs) it turned out that South could make five more tricks than North at double dummy in all making contracts, while East could make seven more tricks than West. Most of these were due to board 16, reported elsewhere in the Bulletin, where East could make 6♠ and 5NT while West could make only 5♠ and 2NT. Add in the fact that East could make 2♥ on a 3-2 fit while West couldn't make any heart contract at all, and you will see that this one deal had a major influence on the stats.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ AQ6	♠ K954	♠ 7
♥ 97	♥ AK1085	♥ QJ43
♦ AQ6	♦ J107	♦ 9854
♣ QJ974	♣ K	♣ 10863
	♠ J10832	
	♥ 62	
	♦ K32	
	♣ A52	

On this deal South can make 4♠ but North can't, the opening lead of a diamond from East proving fatal. West can play three rounds of diamonds letting South win the third, but then rises with ♠A on a trump play from South and leads any non-trump. South can gain an entry to hand by overtaking North's ♣K, but can't both draw West's trumps and set up hearts with an entry to cash them.

A diamond lead from West isn't effective against 4♠ by South, and no West will lead a diamond anyway. It has been known for the lead of the ace of trumps to be effective in this kind of position – when dummy comes down with the king West continues the suit, and declarer must

guess the position. But after West opens a strong no trump, there is a fair chance declarer will get that right. On a club lead, it is very hard to see a winning line for South – dummy's king wins the first trick and declarer must cash two rounds of hearts before running a middle diamond to West's queen. Now the defence of three rounds of diamonds doesn't work – in effect, the club lead has enabled South to unblock North's ♣K before West can remove South's ♦K and the extra fluidity of the entry position is enough. Nor does it help West to duck the first diamond – declarer starts ruffing hearts, and although that gives West two trump tricks he cannot make more than one diamond.

I don't imagine anyone who got a club lead actually played like that, but very well done if you did. My partner was among those who made 4♠, but he got a heart lead, which gave away the position in that suit and the strong no trump opening had given away the rest. Still, if you want to follow the trend as you progress through the Teams, sit your best card players South and East (but don't tell North and West that's what you've done).

The Seven of Diamonds

Ceri Pierce

I have not had any more 7♦ hands reported, but started thinking about where it originated from. A quick google spat out the following information....

In trick-taking card games such as bridge, the beer card is a name informally given to the seven of diamonds (7♦). Players may agree that if a player wins the last trick of a hand with the 7♦, their partner must buy them a beer. This is not considered as part of the rules of these games, but is an optional and informal side-bet between players. This practice likely originates from Danish games Tarok or Skat in the middle of the 20th century. In most decks, the 7♦ is the only diamond number card that lacks rotational symmetry. (Note – the first we heard of this in the Bulletin Room was when it was introduced by the Danish Juniors playing in the European Championships many moons ago, more than we care to mention. It may of course have been going on for much longer in Denmark.)

Requirements

The requirements vary depending on whether the winner of the last trick is the declarer or a defender. In most cases, though, the last trick must be won by 7♦.

For declarer, the requirements are generally that:

- He must make the contract (exceptions may be made for a successful sacrifice)

- Diamonds must not be trumps

- He must take a justifiable line to win as many tricks as possible

For a defender, the requirements are generally that:

- The contract must be defeated

- Diamonds must not be trumps

- The partnership must try to win as many tricks as possible

Additional rules

There are some additional rules that I was unaware of :

The beer card may be won on the first trick; if that does occur, a case of beer is owed to the declarer/defender who won said trick.

If you go off trying to make the 7♦, you are required to give your partner the amount of IMPs it cost you, in beers.

And my earlier suspicions were confirmed:

If the contract is doubled, two beers are earned. If the contract is redoubled, then four beers are earned.





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