www.bridge-madeira.com
Email: bulletin@bridge-madeira.com

Madeira International Bridge Open 2026
2nd - 8th November 2026
VidaMar Resort, Funchal

Sunday 1st November

Bulletin 0.5

A Welcome from Miguel Teixeira



Time has flown, and here we are again, ready to welcome you to the 29th Madeira International Bridge Open. What began in 1998 as a small gathering has grown, year after year, into a festival that brings together players from all over the world. At heart, though, it remains the same: a meeting of people united by their passion for bridge.

None of this would be possible without the enthusiasm, loyalty and support of all of you, and for that we are deeply grateful.

This year we pay tribute to Pedro Cabrita, whom we lost in 2026. He was a great figure of Portuguese bridge and, above all, a dear friend who had long been part of the Madeira Open family. He may not be with us in body, but he will always be with us at the tables, in every hand we play and every story we share.

His loss reminds us that life is short, and none of us knows when it will be time to say goodbye. So play bridge, share moments with the people you love, say what you feel, and leave nothing unlived.

To those joining us for the first time, we hope this is the first of many visits. To those returning, thank you for your trust. We will do our best to live up to it.

I wish you an excellent stay, full of good moments, both at the bridge table and away from it. If you need any help or information, please do not hesitate to contact the Welcome Desk.

All the best

Miguel Teixeira

Sitting Pairs

If you need a sitting table (i.e. not to have to move), please let us know **by 20:30 on Monday 2nd November**.
Even if you have already made this request on the booking form, it is better to tell us again than to find that you are East-West or in a Howell movement.

NS

Closing Dinner - Table Reservations

This year you can **reserve your table for the closing dinner**.
Reservations can be made from 4th to 7th November.
You just need to give the Welcome Desk the names and Bridge-mate numbers of the people who will be sitting with you.
Please note that if your table is not full, we may seat other guests at it to fill the vacant seats.



FIND YOUR WAY AROUND THE VENUE



1 CONGRESS CENTRE

Opposite the entrance to VidaMar.

The Matchpoint Pairs, IMP Pairs, the Charity Tournament and the Warm-Up Pairs are played here, as well as several sections of the main events.

5 DESERTAS SUITE

In VidaMar Tower 1 (turn right at Reception).

Sections of the main events will be played here.

6 OCEAN ROOM

In VidaMar Tower 1, on Level 0, near the pools. Access is from either tower: Tower 1 has two lifts and Tower 2 has one.

Sections of the main events will be played here.

Please start making your way to this playing area early, because the lifts will be busy.

2 WELCOME DESK

In VidaMar Tower 2.

You will need to collect your bar-coded identity badge here. The Welcome Desk is also the best place to ask for other information. You can purchase excursions and the Traditional and Closing Dinners at the Welcome Desk.

Opening hours are published in this bulletin, on-site and on our website.

4 SELVAGENS SUITE

In VidaMar Tower 2.

The and Cool-Down Pairs is played in Selvagens 1 and 2, and sections of the main events in Selvagens 1-2-3.

This is also where Mark Horton gives his 'Replay the Hands' sessions from Tuesday to Friday.

The Vugraph room (Teams only) will be in either the Selvagens Suite or the theatre space in the Congress Centre, depending on the number of teams.

TEAMS REGISTRATION

The list of registered teams is published at https://www.bridge-madeira.com/2026-registered-teams/

If your name does not appear on this list, you will need to do one of the following:

a) If **you know who your team-mates are** you need to register the team by 14:00 on Friday 6th November (otherwise we do not know who is playing in which team).

After this time if it is in the interests of the tournament we will accept registrations until 19:00 from teams of players who have already booked and paid, but assignments will be random. (Between 14:00 and 18:00 you will need to register online.) You can:

- register at the Welcome Desk, or
- fill in the green form at the Welcome Desk and put it in the box, or
- register online at booking.bridge-madeira.com/registrations; you will need the Bridgemate numbers of all the players, and each player must have paid their entry fees (and hotel package if applicable) in full.

b) If **you have already notified us that you need us to find team-mates** for you, you do not need to do anything: we will match you with the pair closest in standard. Note that if you do not want to play in a team of more than 4 persons, you need to tell us.

c) Otherwise, if **you do not have team-mates** and would like us to find them for you, you need to tell us no later than 20:30 on Thursday 5th November. Please complete the green form at the Welcome Desk and put it in the box provided, or fill in the online registration at booking.bridge-madeira.com/registrations, or tell the Welcome Desk as above.

If b) or c) apply – i.e. if you have asked us to find team-mates for you - BUT YOU THEN ARRANGE TEAM-MATES YOURSELVES, you need to tell us so that we don't arrange different team-mates for you. Please notify the Welcome Desk, who will register the team for you; or register online, or fill in the green form with the names and Bridgemate numbers of everyone in the team (as above).

We will notify pairs of the teams we have arranged for them at lunchtime on Friday 6th November.

General Conditions

Anyone who has paid the entry fee for the Open Teams is entitled to play in the event provided they have filled in the green form or registered online or at the Welcome Desk by 14:00 on Friday 6th November.

If, however, you have not notified us by 20:30 on Thursday 5th November that you need team-mates, we will make up teams from the pairs who are in the same position at 14:00 on Friday and you may find yourselves in a team with players of a very different standard.

After 14:00 we may not be able to accommodate you in the event at all.

Entries from teams or players who have not already booked a place in the event may be accepted if there is space, and if the additional team will not result in an odd number of teams.

Timetable in brief:

Thursday 5th November

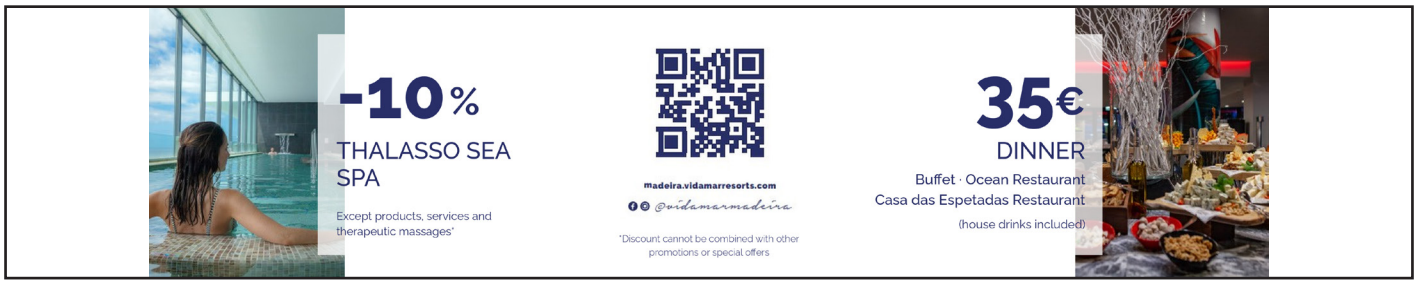
20:30 Deadline for requests for team-mates (we will match you with the pair of the closest level). After this time we will allocate pairs to teams in the order in which we receive the request, without any attempt to match players by level.

Friday 6th November

14:00 Deadline for Teams registration to be guaranteed a place.

19:00 Final deadline for Teams registration.

19:30 Publication of Teams Assignments.



Welcome Desk

Lobby 2

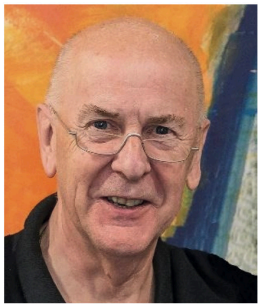


The Welcome Desk in the lobby of VidaMar Tower 2 will be open at the following times:

Thursday 29th Oct.		19:00 – 20:30
Friday 30th Oct.		14:30 – 16:00
Saturday 31st Oct.		14:30 – 16:00
Sunday 1st Nov.		14:30 – 16:00
Monday 2nd Nov.	10:00 – 16:30	19:30 – 20:30
Tuesday 3rd Nov.	10:00 – 13:00	14:30 – 16:00
Wednesday 4th Nov.		14:30 – 16:00
Thursday 5th Nov.		14:30 – 16:00
Friday 6th Nov.		18:00 – 20:00
Saturday 7th Nov.		13:30 – 14:30
Sunday 8th Nov.		13:00 – 15:00

Replay the Hands

Selvagens 1 4



MARK HORTON

Tuesday to Friday at 10:30, Mark Horton will conduct his review of the previous day's hands in Selvagens Room 1 in his popular 'Mark Your Card' session.

Badges

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.

Please note that your Identity Badge will only be issued to you in person. You will need your Bridgemate number.

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.

Contacts

Organisation

Carolina Roovers
(+351) 963 209 065

Miguel Teixeira
(+351) 965 477 574
good2019events.booking@gmail.com

Airport Transfers

Dália Marques
(+351) 936 921 423

Venue

VidaMar Resort

Estrada Monumental 175
(+351) 291 768 447
sales@madeira.vdm.pt

Entry Fees

Pairs or Teams	€185/€145*
Pairs + Teams	€305/€245*
Pairs or Teams + Traditional Dinner	€215/€175*
Pairs or Teams + Closing Dinner	€230/€190*
Pairs + Teams + Traditional Dinner	€330/€270*
Pairs + Teams + Closing Dinner	€340/€280*
Pairs + Teams + Both Dinners	€355/€295*

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

Traditional Dinner	€40
Friday Excursions	€40
Saturday Lunch (non-players)	€20
Closing Dinner	€50

All prices per player.

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

Prizes

Main Events

Tower 2 Reception 3

Cash prizes must be collected from Tower 2 Reception, Level 4 (ground floor), near the Welcome Desk, between the following times:

Saturday 7th Nov.	10:00 – 20:00
Sunday 8th Nov.	10:00 – 18:30

Please remember that to collect your cash prize, a valid ID is required.

Side Events

Welcome Desk 2

Prizes for the pre-tournament side events can be collected from the Welcome Desk. You will need your identity badge.

Prizes for the Cool-Down Pairs will be distributed at the end of the session.

Social Programme



Welcome Cocktail · Monday 2nd November



Closing Dinner and prize-giving · Sunday 8th November

Programme

Pre-tournament

Thursday 29th	Matchpoint Pairs (10€)	20:30
Friday 30th	IMP Pairs 1 (1 session, 10€)	16:00
Saturday 31st	IMP Pairs 2 (1 session, 10€)	16:00
Sunday 1st	Charity Tournament (15€)	16:00
Monday 2nd	Welcome cocktail party	18:00
	Warm-up Pairs (15€)	20:30
	Open Pairs entries close	20:30

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

Main Programme

Tuesday 3rd	**'Replay the Hands' - Discuss yesterday's deals with Mark Horton**	10:30
	Open Pairs Session 1	16:00
Wednesday 4th	'Replay the Hands' - Discuss yesterday's deals with Mark Horton	10:30
	Open Pairs Session 2	16:00
	Traditional Madeiran dinner - coach leaves at	20:15
Thursday 5th	'Replay the Hands' - Discuss yesterday's deals with Mark Horton	10:30
	Open Pairs Session 3	16:00
	Final Results Open Pairs	20:00
Friday 6th	Excursion (optional)	A 09:00 / B 09:15 / C 09:30
	'Replay the Hands' - Discuss yesterday's deals with Mark Horton	10:30
	Teams registration closes (guaranteed entry)	14:00
	Final Teams entries (no guaranteed entry)	19:00
	Publication of Teams assignments	19:30
	Teams Session 1 (3 matches)	20:00
Saturday 7th	**Teams Session 2 (2 matches)**	11:00
	Lunch break (light lunch included for players)	13:15
	Teams Session 3 (4 matches)	14:30
Sunday 8th	**Teams Session 4 (2 matches)**	11:00
	Lunch break	13:15
	Teams Session 5 (1 match)	14:30
	Final Results	16:30
	Closing Dinner	19:00

Please arrive 20 minutes before start of play.
Starting positions will be posted on our website and shared in our WhatsApp group.

Post-tournament

Monday 9th	Cool-down Pairs (10€)	20:30

The Cool-down Pairs will be played in *Selvagens 1 and 2* 4.
The other side events will be played in the *Congress Room* 1.
Main events will be played in the *Congress Room* 1, *Selvagens 1-2-3* 4, *Desertas* 5 *and Ocean Room* 6.

Social Programme

Welcome Cocktails (free) *VidaMar*

Monday 2nd November 18:00

VidaMar foyer

Traditional Madeiran dinner *O Lagar*



Wednesday 4th November 20:45
(departure time 20:15)

Traditional Madeiran dinner, espetada with folk dancing and music at the restaurant *O Lagar*, Camara de Lobos.

Coach leaves from outside VidaMar Tower 2 at 20:15 (journey time to Restaurant O Lagar 15 minutes).
Return to the hotel at 23:30.

Excursions

Friday 6th November 09:00/9:15/9:30

Details of excursions can be found on the following page.

Closing Dinner and prize-giving *VidaMar*

Sunday 8th November 19:00

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

This year, you can reserve your table at the Closing Dinner between 4th and 7th at the Welcome Desk.
You just need to let us know the names or BM numbers of the players who will be sitting with you.
Please note that if your table is not full, we may seat other guests at it to fill the vacant seats.

WhatsApp Group

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



Polo Shirts

You can order tournament Polo Shirts and T-shirts from our website to collect from the Welcome Desk. Simply click or scan the QR Code.



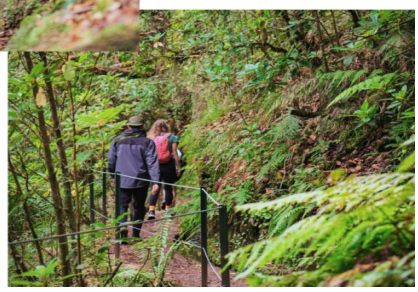
Several colours available

Optional Excursions Friday 6th November

Please be at the departure point 15 minutes in advance

Option A - LEVADA WALK — 09:00 — half day, lunch included





Levada do Rei is an ideal levada walk for everyone, from beginners to families and nature lovers. Starting in São Jorge, in the municipality of Santana, the trail runs for around 10 km (about 3.5 hours) alongside streams and waterfalls, through the lush Laurissilva forest. After the walk, lunch is included.

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

Option B - BUS TOUR — 09:15 — full day, return around 16:00

Discover the island on this full-day guided tour. We start at the church and gardens of Monte, then climb to Pico do Areeiro, one of Madeira's highest peaks. After lunch at a local restaurant, we continue to the lighthouse at Ponta do Pargo, the natural lava pools of Porto Moniz and the dramatic cliffs of Ribeira da Janela.

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





Option C - BOAT TRIP — 09:30 — three hours, limited places





As you search for the ideal spot, the dolphins make their appearance, playful, chatty, and full of energy. This three-hour wildlife experience will stay with you for years to come. If you're lucky, you might also spot whales, turtles and seabirds. On a calm day, you can even take a refreshing swim. If the winds are favourable, we'll turn off the engines and let the breeze carry us.

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

PEDRO CABRITA



Pedro Cabrita died suddenly in July, at the early age of 57.

He was born in Silves in the south of Portugal, and moved to Lisbon to study Maths at the University. He discovered our game during that period and started to work for the Portuguese Bridge Federation (FPB) soon after.

He was the biggest asset of FPB. He worked in administration but made a great contribution as teacher, duplicator, director, caddy, vugraph operator and player.

He was a very skilled player and the first to extend his hand to me when I moved to Lisbon. He taught me much of the basics of the game, for which I am very grateful.

When FPB bought its first dealing machine he was the Federation's only employee, so he sacrificed himself and left competitive bridge to work on duplication. He never complained, was always smiling. His sense of humour was unique; I'll give an example of a joke that he repeated more than 1,000 times:

Every time a session was about to start he would be helping the directors. In order to get the game to start on time he would go into the corridor and start screaming 'Guys, it's time to start collecting your undertricks'. (He would be the only person laughing.)

His other passion was cycling: he knew everything about the sport and the riders, and knowing how much I like a good bet he was always giving me tips. We spent so many hours talking about the classic rides and the tours. We used to bet against each other a lot. The stake was always the same: one beer. I always bet against the field, so as you can imagine he was very successful. And every time he won it was the most lip-smacking beer of the week.

He was my pen-provider at tournaments. After the 100th I lost he came to me and said, 'Enough, now it's one beer per pen'. I replied 'Deal'. At the beginning of every session he was there with my new pen, and at the end of every session I was in the bar paying my debts.

At the Madeira tournament in particular he was an incredible asset. He dealt almost all the boards we played. He helped directors and the bulletin staff with stories (some of them fake, such as the famous hand played by 'Professor Caralhete'*). He often helped out as a substitute in the last session of the Teams tournament. He will be missed, and will be impossible to replace.

He was a wonderful, humble guy and will be missed by the entire bridge population!

António Palma
Tournament Ambassador

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* *Translates, roughly, as 'Professor Pin-Prick'. Ed.*

Your Directors

JOSÉ JÚLIO CURADO
Joint Chief TD



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

MARC van BEIJSTERVELDT
Joint Chief TD



This will be Marc's 10th year directing in Madeira, his favourite bridge festival. He has directed all over the world, and says that although all have their pluses and minuses, Madeira is exceptional. As well as directing in World and European championships, Marc works for the Dutch bridge magazine IMP, having previously worked at the Dutch Bridge Federation from 1991 to 2023 organising national competitions and the Ruitenboertoernooi simultaneous (which once had more than 17,000 pairs participating).

PEDRO ÁLVARES RIBEIRO



Pedro hails from Oporto. He has been directing regularly in National tournaments since 2014. This is his third appearance as a Director at the Madeira International Bridge Open. He also likes to play and was the NPC of Portugal's team at the Chairman's Cup in Helsinki in 2022 and of the Portuguese Open Team at the European Championships in Herning in 2024.

FREDERICO PALMA



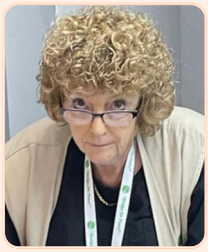
Another former footballer, Frederico is from Lisbon, where he directs at the bridge centre and in major tournaments. A lover of the beach and of music, he is an avid concert-goer when not fully occupied with his two young daughters.

DIARMUID REDDAN



Diarmuid was promoted in 2022 to NBO International Director, and also directed at the Europeans in Dublin in 2012. He has represented the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland in the Camrose Home Internationals, and was NPC of the Ireland Mixed Team in Madeira in 2022 and Herning in 2024; Riga this year will be his NPC hattrick. His other interests are golf and rugby.

JEANNE VAN DEN MEIRACKER



Hailing originally from the Netherlands, Jeanne is a top international tournament director who has recently returned to Europe following over a decade directing in the United States. In a previous existence she was a medical analyst. This is her second appearance at the Madeira International Bridge Open, so our prediction (and hope) that Jeanne would come back has proved correct.

JAKUB (KUBA) KASPRZAK



Now in his third year at our tournament, Kuba is an international director, on the TD panels of both the EBL and WBF. From Gdansk, Poland, he is married with two small children. His son Ignacy (now aged 7) played in the Polish League for the first time when he was 5 years old. Kuba's 6-year-old daughter Diana has already worked as a caddy, and wants to learn to play.

ZENNICA HAMMAR



An experienced National Director in Sweden (she lives all the way up north), Zennica is eager to get training for international tournaments and is very happy to join the team here in Madeira for the second year running. A true people person, she will help with the big Scandinavian crowd.

Your Directors - continued

JACOB DUSCHEK



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

MCKENZIE MYERS



McKenzie 'Z' Myers is Chief Tournament Director of the United States Bridge Federation and Senior Manager of Field Operations for the ACBL, where he oversees some 120 tournament directors across North America. Until now he has only rarely directed on what he calls 'the good side of the Atlantic', and this is his first visit to Madeira. When not directing, Z is an avid hiker and enjoys frequent international travel with his wife Caitlin.

AURÉLIEN LECOQ



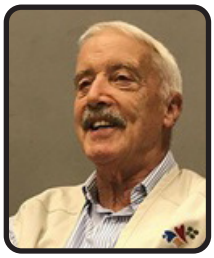
Aurélien joins us as our first ever dedicated scorer. Originally from Granville in Normandy, he works full time for the French Bridge Federation. Aurélien is a National director and also on the EBL register of tournament directors, making his first international appearance at the Winter Transnationals in Prague this year. We hope that he, in common with everyone else who comes to our tournament, will want to come back.

HANS VAN STAVEREN



Hans is a regular feature of our directing team. He is the IT manager for the European Bridge Leauge and World Bridge Federation. In this tournament we use his hand-generator security program.

Ton Kooijman (1941 – 2026)



Ton Kooijman died unexpectedly on 13th August.

Many at the Madeira International Bridge Open will remember him as one of our Tournament Directors, though he has not attended since 2021.

Ton has been a National and International TD, all over the world, since the 1980s. He was a regular not only at almost all WBF and EBL Championships but also at festivals in Madeira, Sweden, Cairo and Pakistan, to name but a few.

He was also a member of the WBF Laws Committee, becoming Chairman after only a few years. In that position he spent, until his untimely death, many hours perfecting the Laws of our sport to their present form.

Ton was an honorary member of the Dutch Bridge Federation, received the Gold Medal from the EBL and was an honorary TD of both WBF and EBL. The WBF and EBL have renamed their regular TD workshops the Ton Kooijman TD Workshop.

All of the TDs working here will remember him as an inspiring Chief, colleague, tutor and above all a very good friend. Our thoughts are with his wife Annelie, his two children and their spouses, and his five grandchildren.

Marc van Beijsterveldt

Have Some Madeira M'Dear

Mark Horton

As the nights draw in, globe trotting bridge players are ready at the drop of a hat to head to warmer climes. Madeira fits the bill perfectly and at the beginning of November they head in droves to the island's capital Funchal to compete in the annual bridge festival.

One of the attractions is that you can rub shoulders with and compete against some of the finest players in the world – this year the luminaries include the legendary Zia Mahmood, making his first visit to the festival.

Every once in a while Zia finds the time to send me a message reporting one of his adventures. This one is from the Jacek Pszczola Swiss Cup Final at the recent world championships in Katowice:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

	♠ J43 ♥ – ♦ QJ103 ♣ J106543	
♠ K952 ♥ Q84 ♦ AK86 ♣ 97	N W E S	♠ AQ108 ♥ 72 ♦ 752 ♣ AK82
	♠ 76 ♥ AKJ109653 ♦ 94 ♣ Q	



Saxena v Ashe

Open Room

West *van de Paverd*	North *Gold*	East *Ashe*	South *Zia*
—	—	1♣	Pass!
1♠	Pass	2♠	Dble!
Rdbl	3♣	Dble	3♦!
Dble	Pass	Pass	3♥
Dble	All Pass		

West led the ♣9 and when East played two rounds of the suit Zia ruffed and tabled the ♥9! West was wide awake and took the ♥Q, ensuring the penalty was -500.

Naturally, Zia admonished his partner for not bidding the 'obvious' 3♥ himself!

As you can envisage, at the vast majority of tables South overcalled 4♥ and sometimes conceded -800.

Closed Room

West *Saxena*	North *Mendes de Leon*	East *Zur-Campanile*	South *Nijssen*
—	—	1♣	4♥
Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass

South led the ♥A but there was no defence and 2 IMPs changed hands.

Regulars are sure to have brought some powerful sunglasses, not least for fear of bumping into Ron Tacchi (his shirts can strike terror into the stoutest of hearts). They will also make a beeline for the celebrated Sabor da India, which is hidden away from the main drag.

In case you are suffering from a lack of entertaining deals here is one from the recent HCL Bridge Championships in New Delhi:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠ AQJ76 ♥ J97 ♦ J1097 ♣ 10	
♠ K2 ♥ AKQ ♦ AQ6 ♣ AK652	N W E S	♠ 10853 ♥ 42 ♦ 85432 ♣ 83
	♠ 94 ♥ 108653 ♦ K ♣ QJ974	

The frequency of holding a hand like East's is why I don't play rubber bridge, but as it turned out East's only honour had a role to play.

Tornatae v EA Bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gupta	*Baroi*	*Manna*	*Keni*
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣*	1♥*	Pass	

I saw this much of the auction before the rest (along with the play record) was consigned to oblivion by a BBO crash. The final contract was 3NT and it finished two down when North led the ♦J.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Desai	*Buras*	*Majumder*	*Bijoor*
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣*	1♥*	Pass	1♠
Dble	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♠Q and declarer won and cashed the top clubs, North discarding the ♥7. Declarer took the ♥AKQ and exited with the ♠2, North winning, cashing the ♠J and switching to the ♦J for the king and ace. Declarer continued with two rounds of diamonds and North had to surrender the game-going trick to dummy's ♠10, +600 and 13 IMPs to EA Bridge.

CHARITY CHALLENGE, SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER

This year all entry fees and your generous extra contributions will be donated to ALVD Madeira, a volunteer association which supports communities in need in the developing world, with projects in Luau and Luanda (Angola) and in São Tomé and Príncipe.



The association works in health, education and child support, sending volunteers to countries where they are needed. In Luanda, for example, they support 200 children and young people at a care home.

In Madeira itself the association runs charity campaigns and encourages the community to get involved in volunteering.

Thank you for playing with us for this worthwhile cause. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sunday 1st November, 16:00 in the Congress Centre

ALVD
Associação de Leigos Voluntários Dehonianos

Par Excellence

Ron Tacchi

After many years of coming to Madeira it is always a great pleasure to meet up with the crowd that makes this wonderful event possible. When the gloom of October slowly starts to descend, one always has that bright vision of Madeira in a matter of a week or two. And so it was that on Wednesday I touched down in Funchal airport. For the first side event of the festival I teamed up with Monika, your layout editor. On reflection I should probably have had an early night after a long voyage the previous day (which included a liquid reunion of the team in a local sports bar in the evening) and coming off a very tiring weekend of some vaguely serious bridge back in France. Monika hails from Austria and I from England but we both live in France and so our two minute system discussion basically said 'SEF' which stands for système enseignement francais or the French five-card major bidding system. I took the North seat and partner occupied South. It is fair to say that the bridge gods did not decide to smile upon us, they are obviously saving themselves for a more important occasion. On at least five boards we exceeded par, sometimes by our own hand, the others by dint of opponents' efforts, but our score was well below average on all of them. The start was good for partnership moral, our first board seemed to be above average (but turned out to be 33%) but the second was much better.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠ K10953 ♥ 107 ♦ A65 ♣ KQ5	
♠ AQJ4 ♥ 62 ♦ QJ83 ♣ J104	N W E S	♠ 862 ♥ 9853 ♦ 1097 ♣ A82
	♠ 7 ♥ AKQJ4 ♦ K42 ♣ 9763	

West	North *Me*	East	South *Monika*
—	—	Pass	1♥
Dble	Redble	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Regular readers of my random jottings will know I am not a fan of West's Double, but it is a pairs event and at times one must take one's chances. The reason I say this was good for the partnership was that partner had enough confidence to pass my penalty double and defend a one-level contract. Whilst our defence was not double dummy accurate we beat the contract by two doubled vulnerable tricks. That was worth over 85% of the matchpoints.

At another table Laura Woodruff gave me details of her experience of this board when winning the Matchpoint Pairs.

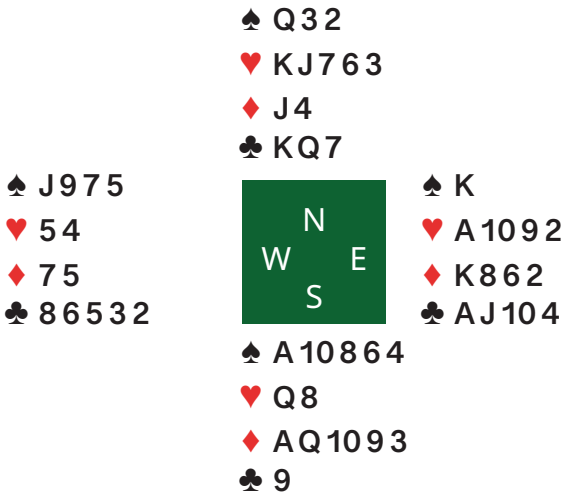
West	North *Laura Woodruff*	East	South *Pedro Macedo*
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
2♦	Dble*	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Dble Penalty for spades

It can be very profitable on occasion to overcall on a four-card suit but there are inherent dangers as this board shows. North led the ten of hearts which South overtook with the jack and played three more rounds of hearts which declarer declined to ruff, North discarding two diamonds and declarer one from each minor. North took the diamond switch and played the king of clubs. Declarer won with dummy's ace and played a small trump. After seeing partner's surprising trump, North took the king when declarer finessed, thought for a moment and realised the importance of her five of spades and so now played the ten of spades. Winning in hand declarer played a diamond which North ruffed with her small trump and now led the nine of trumps. Declarer could take the ace but that was the last trick, the remainder were for the defence, five off and 1400 in the out column.

A mere four boards later we had another good result.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

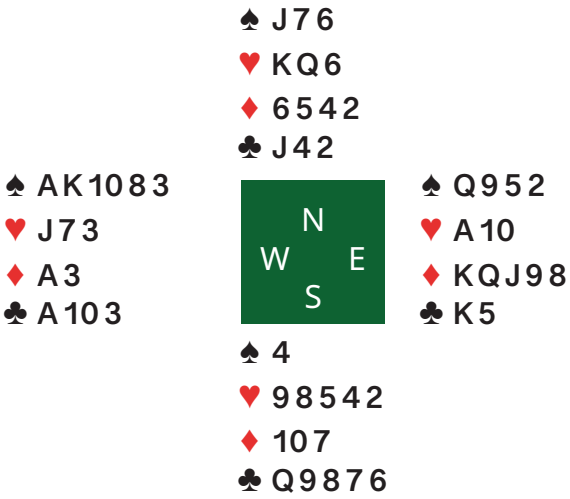


West	North	East	South
	Me		*Monika*
—	—	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

My 2♦ bid was a mistake, I thought I had bid 2♥ but a not too foolish contract was reached. On the lead of the five of diamonds dummy's jack was played and East went into the tank before playing low. A small spade from dummy collected East's singleton king. Prospects did not look good as there appeared to be two aces and two trumps to lose, but the old adage of giving the opposition a chance to make an error and sometimes they will, proved true. Our intrepid declarer bravely continued by attacking the heart suit and East took the ace and continued diamonds. A successful finesse in the suit, followed by unblocking the queen of hearts, allowed a diamond to be led from hand and when West did not ruff, dummy could. The queen of trumps and then a master heart, discarding a club held West to two trump tricks and so declarer came to ten tricks and another 85%.

Now we come to one of those hands where we received a poor result.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.



You might like to bid this with your favourite partner, I suspect you would be upset if you failed to arrive in the grand slam. We were quite pleased when our opponents stayed in Six Spades as they had not only missed the 'big one' but also they were not in no-trumps. You might be surprised to note that half the field played in game and nobody reached the seven-level. So for no fault of our own we had a sub 30% score.

When I first came to Madeira it was to replace David Bird, a person who has written more books than I have taken successful finesses. He is known for several things, one is a Biltcliffe coup, of which I hope to be able to report on at a later date, and secondly never reporting on a 1NT contract. If I tell you that our other three good results were all 1NT and two of them were played by your humble scribe I think it would be disrespectful to write about them.

We could not overcome the boards where par was not sufficient and at the end I was sorely tired and my concentration levels suffered, but it was not too costly. We finished above average. We will both play further sessions and, I am sure, make more mistakes, but score better. I am hopeful that when Ceri and I take on the IMP Pairs I will have more interesting copy to write.

Madeira . Belongs to all

Results Matchpoint Pairs

North/South

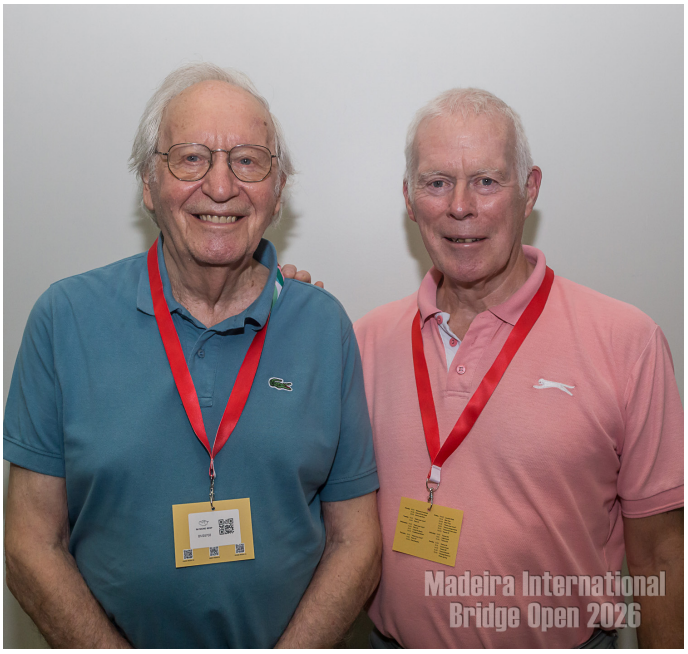
Rank	%	Names
1	60.29	Laura Woodruff - Pedro Macedo
2	58.48	Ralf Speckmann - Yasemin Basegmez
3	57.13	Bogdan Szulejewski - Anna Lasocka
4	55.20	Virginie Bonnet - Gérard Salliere
5	54.86	Nuno D Martins - Fábio Fernandes
6	54.52	Harpa Fold Ingolfsdottir - Maria Bender
7	53.73	Ricardo Fernandes - Frederico Teixeira
8	51.58	Ron Tacchi - Mónika Kümmel
9	50.57	Chantal Barro - Jerome Claessens
10	48.30	Aleksandra Gorska - Krzysztof Jordan
11	48.08	Filomena Morgado - Pedro Morgado
12	47.62	Agnieszka Pietrzyk - Piotr Kardasinski
13	46.83	João Machado - José Macedo
14	45.93	Jacek Radomski - Liliana Suflida
15	43.10	Françoise Ingelbert - Michel Ingelbert
16	42.87	Fátima Menezes - Nuno Menezes
17	40.50	Lisbeth Grove - Majella McDonald
18	40.38	Thorbergur Torfason - Thordur Sigurdsson

East/West

Rank	%	Names
1	60.41	John Hassett - Raymond Semp
2	60.07	Pier Westra - Monique van Maanen
3	57.13	Zarioh Mohamed - Magnus Thorkelsson
4	56.90	Eduardo Fernandes - Dominique Custers
5	55.66	Elzbieta Lis - Joanna Brandt
6	54.52	Saud Alshammari - Mohammad Husain
7	52.71	Eythor Jónsson - Anna Sigridur Karlsdottir
8	50.00	Rui Moniz - Doris Sousa
9	49.77	Sam Ehrlichman - Kari Tetzlaff
10	49.21	Franz Roettger - Kerstin Sosnowski
11	48.98	Pawel Kandula - Malgorzata Zychlinska
12	48.76	Khaled Aljuwaihel - Ahmad Aljasem
13	47.29	Gudmundur Einarsson - Matthias Einarsson
14	47.17	Sigurdur Ingimarsson - Svanhildur Hall
15	44.12	Harry Burmania - Allie Hoenstok
16	40.95	Beatrice Willien - Dominique Tater
17	39.93	Ciprian Pitis - Katarzyna Zabicka-Bajon
18	36.43	Erle Vilborg Adolfsdottir - Elfa Dröfn Ingolfsdottir



N/S Winners in the Matchpoint Pairs -
Laura Woodruff - Pedro Macedo



E/W Winners in the Matchpoint Pairs -
John Hassett - Raymond Semp





Cheer Up

Ron Tacchi

There is an old joke which goes 'Cheer up, things could be worse, so he cheered up and sure enough things got worse'. This aptly describes my foray into the first IMP Pairs after yesterday's debacle in the Matchpoint Pairs. On this occasion when the music stopped, I changed partners and Ceri was the unfortunate one who drew my name out of the Bulletin hat. To give you a flavour of the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune with which we were inflicted, for the first nine boards we did not have need of the 'in' column on our scorecard. In fact if you examine the par scores for all 26 deals only eight feature a plus score for the North/South pairings. Over the first nine boards we beat par six times but lost IMPs on each of them.

However we overcame adversity and finished with a positive IMP score and that was in spite of missing a slam. Our system discussion had not covered the actual situation that happened.

One hand where we gained, was Board 10.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

	♠ KJ1052 ♥ Q107 ♦ 1075 ♣ K4	
♠ Q874 ♥ J32 ♦ KQ9 ♣ Q75	N W E S	♠ A9 ♥ AK8654 ♦ J842 ♣ 3
	♠ 63 ♥ 9 ♦ A63 ♣ AJ109862	

West	North *Me*	East	South *Ceri*
—	—	1♥	3♣
Dble	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

My partner found the excellent lead of the ♠6 ensuring a trick in each suit (yes, it is possible that declarer could avoid a trump loser but he would need a long neck to achieve that) and therefore the contract failed by one trick and we gained 5.92 IMPs.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

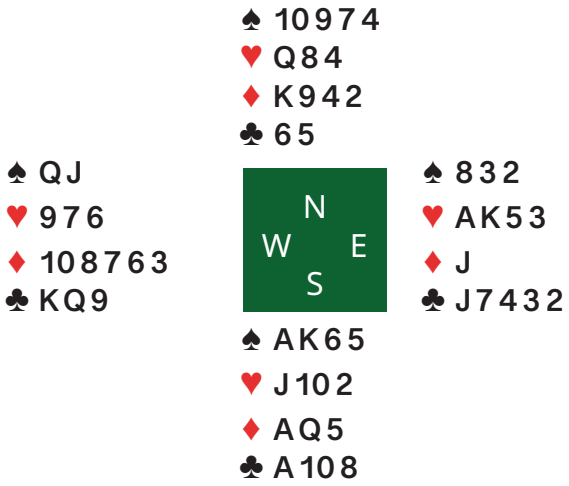
	♠ A1042 ♥ Q1083 ♦ K9 ♣ AJ6	
♠ K3 ♥ J52 ♦ J1086 ♣ K975	N W E S	♠ QJ5 ♥ K964 ♦ Q542 ♣ 82
	♠ 9876 ♥ A7 ♦ A73 ♣ Q1043	

West	North *Me*	East	South *Ceri*
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Partner was a little forward with her Three Clubs bid and with even the whiff of an invitation I was going to game. The contract needed some luck, but we were due some to be fair. The diamond lead was run to the ace in declarer's hand and the six of spades advanced for the sake of amusement. West followed with the three, but alas, East did not follow with the five, and the jack won the trick, so no amusement after all. A diamond back was won in dummy and the Ace of trumps cashed, felling the king leaving the queen outstanding. Now a heart to the ace was followed by the ♣Q which was covered by the king and ace. The jack of clubs was cashed and a third club was played back to dummy's ten, East discarding a diamond. A fourth club was ruffed and over-ruffed. Now all declarer had to lose was a heart trick and the contract was made.

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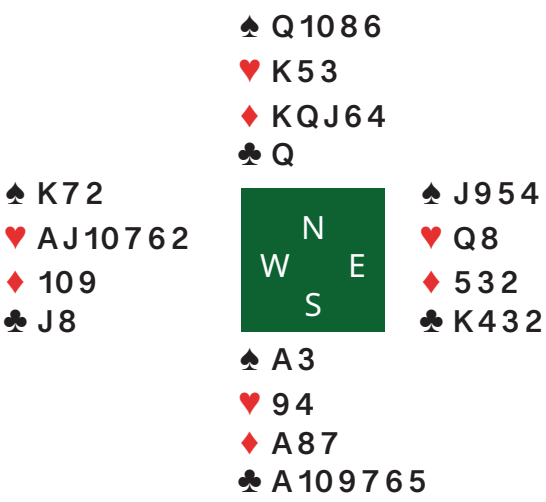
Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
	Me		*Ceri*
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Those bridgeurs of a certain age will remember a book called The Bols Book of Bridge Tips and one of the first is by a certain Mark Horton and is entitled 'Don't be afraid to respond'. Having been an avid reader of the book I naturally bid One Spade over partner's opening bid. Now I had to bring the contract home to prove the validity of the tip. Prospects did not look bright when the ace of hearts was placed on the green baize, possibilities of a ruff looked possible, however at trick two the defender switched to jack of diamonds. No heart ruff, so hurdle one overcome, we just need to play the trumps for no loser. On cashing the ace of trumps the jack appeared, should I consider the theory of restricted choice? No, why? Because I do not have the pips needed, so I am left only with the possibility that the queen and jack are doubleton and for once fortune was on my side, the 6.78% chance rolled home along with the contract and 6.63 IMPs.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
	Me		*Ceri*
—	—	Pass	1♣
2♥	Dble	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Again I needed no second ask to go to game. The queen of hearts held the first trick and a heart was continued which West took and then cleared the suit. Eight tricks are readily apparent but where to find the ninth without letting West gain the lead?The first thing is to cash your diamond tricks and see what happens. Nothing telling from the defence while you discard three clubs from dummy. My cunning plan was now to lead the queen of clubs and if it was covered let the king win, however in an attempt to foil my plan East hesitated before playing small and so I also played small and claimed my nine tricks and 5.75 IMPs.

We finished with a score of exactly 6 IMPs and in the middle of the rankings.



Results IMP Pairs 1

North/South

	IMPs	Names
1	61.38	Gerwin Middelkoop - Allie Hoenstok
2	50.47	Eduardo Fernandes - Pedro Morgado
3	43.33	Virginie Bonnet - Gérard Salliere
4	39.04	Dagbjort Hannesdottir - Soley Jakobsdottir
5	36.50	Aleksandra Gorska - Krzysztof Jordan
6	29.75	Nick Nautilus - Gabriele Scheible
7	27.29	Niranjala Werthmuller - Didier Imbert
8	21.25	João Amaral - Mónika Kümmel
9	17.79	Harpa Fold Ingolfsdottir - Maria Bender
10	14.42	Franz Roettger - Kerstin Sosnowski
11	9.54	Chantal Barro - Jerome Claessens
12	7.50	Jonna Laursen - Fie Fischer
13	6.00	Ron Tacchi - Ceri Pierce
14	2.95	John Arblaster - Mel Barlow
15	-5.96	Gary Sheerer - Douglas Clink
16	-9.75	João Machado - José Macedo
17	-10.08	Dominique Custers - Majella McDonald
18	-18.71	Eythor Jónsson - Anna Sigridur Karlsdottir
19	-20.17	Ralf Speckmann - Yasemin Basegmez
20	-38.71	Mette Sand - Lisbeth Grove
21	-42.57	Ricardo Fernandes - Frederico Teixeira
22	-43.04	Pawel Kandula - Malgorzata Zychlinska
23	-43.79	Elfa Dröfn Ingolfsdottir - Erle Vilborg Adolfsdottir
24	-53.11	Reynir Vikar - Lilja Rós Sveinsdóttir
25	-81.30	Françoise Ingelbert - Michel Ingelbert

East/West

	IMPs	Names
1	49.42	Anna Lasocka - Bogdan Szulejewski
2	37.74	Lech Zwirello - Maria Kroppa
3	34.46	Jeanne McLeod - Wilson McLeod
4	34.13	Jen Middleton - Andi Boughey
5	30.59	Wiveca Jongeneel - Jos Winkelman
6	25.30	Kari Tetzlaff - Sam Ehrlichman
7	16.46	Sigurdur Ingimarsson - Svanhildur Hall
8	15.30	Raymond Semp - John Hassett
9	10.11	Solveig Bystrom - Nils Andersson
10	6.17	Elzbieta Lis - Joanna Brandt
11	4.19	Zarioh Mohamed - Magnus Thorkelsson
12	4.00	Khaled Aljuwaihel - Ahmad Aljasem
13	0.42	Katarzyna Zabicka-Bajon - Ciprian Pitis
14	-2.08	Magnus Spence-Jones - Matt Brown
15	-7.42	Gudmundur Einarsson - Matthias Einarsson
16	-12.13	Susan Mullin - Enda Mullin
17	-15.54	Beatrice Willien - Dominique Tater
18	-16.17	Saud Alshammari - Mohammad Husain
19	-18.95	Rannveig G Lund - Dagbjört Sigurbergsdottir
20	-20.88	Harry Burmania - Pier Westra
21	-27.13	Hans van Ommeren - Pim Vermeulen
22	-30.83	Antti Elsinen - Tiina Elsinen
23	-31.92	Thorbergur Torfason - Thordur Sigurdsson
24	-37.29	Dennis Viner - David Leaver
25	-47.96	Magni Olafsson - Haraldur Bjarnthor Sverrisson



N/S Winners in the IMP Pairs 1 -
Gerwin Middelkoop - Allie Hoenstok



E/W Winners in the IMP Pairs 1 -
Anna Lasocka - Bogdan Szulejewski

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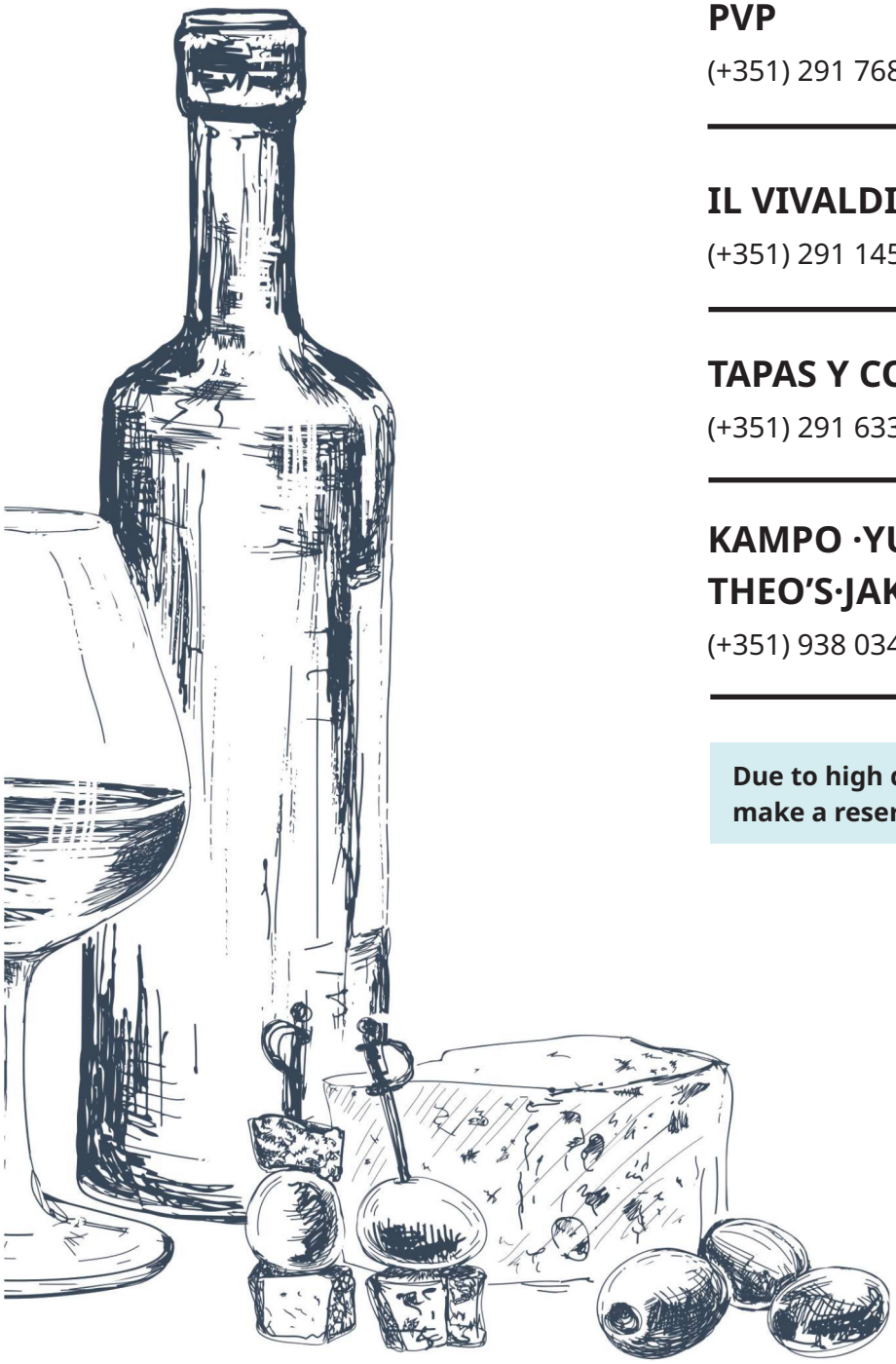
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