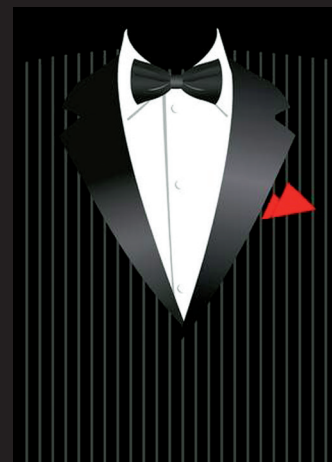


The TampALT Invitational

DECEMBER 14-18 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

No Holiday Yet

We said goodbye to 34 teams yesterday. As predicted Clement won the Swiss and almost knocked out Uli in the process and have an amazing average of 15 Vps pr. match.

Among the other top 8 matches only Vinita missed the cut after a loss to Sweice, who we see in today's semifinal against Clement. The other semifinal is Bernal vs. Red Devils.

In the quarterfinals we said goodbye to Lebowitz, Uli, Coppens and Seligman.

You might be sad that this is the last day of entertainment before Christmas. Yet that is not the case at all. Beginning tomorrow is the Alt Supports CAT-event. All entry fees go directly to the CAT Legal Defense Fund. And the roster is definitely worth inspecting.



All players should enter BBO 10 minutes before the beginning of a match. TD Denis Dobrin will instruct you where to sit. All players must have their name in their BBO-profile. Private isn't allowed for the sake of opponents and kibitzers.

Today's Schedule



Friday December 18



10:00 EST / 16:00 CET – Semifinal (28 boards)



14:30 EST / 20:30 CET – Final (32 boards)



Knock-Outs

QUARTERFINAL



team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 <u>CLEMENT</u>	10.1	<u>26</u>	36.1	<u>21</u>	57.1
 <u>SELIGMAN</u>	0	<u>30</u>	30	<u>12</u>	42



team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 <u>SWEICE</u>	1.1	<u>38</u>	39.1	<u>21</u>	60.1
 <u>LEBOWITZ</u>	0	<u>27</u>	27	<u>10</u>	37

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 <u>COPPENS</u>	3.1	<u>32</u>	35.1	<u>12</u>	47.1
 <u>BERNAL</u>	0	<u>21</u>	21	<u>33</u>	54

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 <u>RED DEVILS</u>	6.1	<u>27</u>	33.1	<u>18</u>	51.1
 <u>ULI</u>	0	<u>21</u>	21	<u>22</u>	43

SEMIFINAL

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 <u>CLEMENT</u>	0.1	<u>0</u>	0.1		0.1
 <u>SWEICE</u>		<u>0</u>	0		0

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 <u>RED DEVILS</u>	0.1	<u>0</u>	0.1		0.1
 <u>BERNAL</u>		<u>0</u>	0		0



Results

NB
NETBRIDGE

Playing the cards online

Swiss Final Ranking

Ranking after round 10		
rk	team	VPs
1	 <u>CLEMENT</u>	150.18
2	 <u>RED DEVILS</u>	131.75
3	 <u>COPPENS</u>	122.96
4	 <u>SWEICE</u>	122.74
5	 <u>LEBOWITZ</u>	120.69
6	 <u>SELIGMAN</u>	118.69
7	 <u>ULI</u>	118.19
8	 <u>BERNAL</u>	117.77
9	 <u>FRANCE SUD</u>	117.30
10	 <u>VINITA</u>	113.89
11	 <u>ORCA</u>	110.92
12	 <u>SKEIDAR</u>	106.97
13	 <u>DONNER</u>	106.90
14	 <u>GILLIS</u>	106.15
15	 <u>VENTIN</u>	105.95
16	 <u>ISRAEL AND FRIENDS</u>	103.40
17	 <u>FREDIN</u>	101.84
18	 <u>HARRIS</u>	101.49
19	 <u>BRIDGESCANER</u>	100.82

20	 <u>BELGIUM 2</u>	99.50
21	 <u>IMP</u>	98.81
22	 <u>EASTWEST</u>	98.72
23	 <u>AGRIPORT</u>	98.59
24	 <u>DE BOTTON</u>	95.59
25	 <u>POTTER</u>	94.28
26	 <u>AMATEURS</u>	92.96
27	 <u>LA SOCIÉTÉ</u>	92.49
28	 <u>RIPPEY</u>	92.29
29	 <u>DE MICHELIS</u>	91.18
30	 <u>BLACK</u>	90.73
31	 <u>THE MUGS</u>	90.48
32	 <u>THE RON & THE KIDS</u>	87.30
33	 <u>NEW ENGLANDERS</u>	87.28
34	 <u>PELKA</u>	81.42
35	 <u>JEDI KNIGHTS</u>	76.00
36	 <u>TRANSNATIONALS</u>	62.53
37	 <u>FLEMISH FURY</u>	58.29
38	 <u>NETBRIDGE</u>	32.96

Clash of the Titans

By Mark Horton



In the final round of the Swiss I resolved to follow a match which included a number of world champions which also had a direct bearing on the qualification process, Vinita vs. Sweice.

On the opening deal EW held ♠A953 ♥QJ72 ♦J5 ♣T82 opposite ♠KQJT2 ♥AK65 ♦AKT9 ♣-. Spades were 3-1, hearts 3-2 and the ♦Q singleton offside, so all the tricks were there. Neither pair got past 6♠.

Nine pairs reached a grand slam - only Bakhshi and Malinowski played in hearts.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fallenius	Gupta	Nilslund	M Bilde
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	1♠	2♣*	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠*	Dble
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

2♣ 5+♥, one-round force

North led the ♠5 and South took the ace and returned the 9. North overtook the with the queen and exited with the ♠10, declarer winning and playing a heart for the ten and queen, the diamond return putting him two down, -200.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hamman	Jónsson	Lall	Jorgensen
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	1♠	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North elected to lead the ♣9 and the jack was covered by the queen and ace. When a diamond to the queen held declarer continued with dummy's ♥2 and South won with the queen and returned the ♣10. Declarer won with dummy's king and cashed four rounds of hearts, pitching a spade and a diamond and exited with the ♣4. South won with the eight and played a diamond and North won with the ace and returned the ten to declarer's king.

That left declarer with two losing spades, -100 but a 3 IMP swing.

Having taken dummy's ♣K declarer should play back the ♣4, setting up a third club trick. Then the defenders cannot prevent nine tricks being scored. However, if South switches to the ace of spades and a spade after taking the ♥Q declarer has only eight tricks.

There is a winning line after the club lead - declarer must rise with dummy's ♣K and play the ♦Q. He can then come to hand with a club and continue diamonds, the combination of the diamonds playing for four tricks (a 28.09% chance) and the ♠A being onside getting declarer up to nine tricks. Not one that would readily spring to mind.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fallenius	Gupta	Nilsland	M Bilde
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

2♦ Transfer

West led a trump and declarer won in dummy and ran the ♦10, West winning with the jack and playing a second trump. That was taken in dummy and when a diamond was covered by the queen and king declarer could play a third round and was sure of nine tricks, +140.



Bob Hamman

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hamman	Jónsson	Lall	Jorgensen
Pass	Pass	1♣	1NT
2♠	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♥	3♠	All Pass

2NT Lebensohl
3♥ Non-forcing

North led a trump for the queen, king and ace and after drawing trumps declarer knocked out the ♣A, +140 and 7 IMPs.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fallenius	Gupta	Nilslund	M Bilde
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♠*	Dble
4♣*	4♠	Dble	All Pass

- 2♣ 18-21 balanced or strong
- 2♦ Waiting
- 2NT 20-21
- 3♣ Muppet Stayman
- 3♦ 1 or 2 four-card majors
- 3♠ 4♥
- 4♣ 4♥

When South doubled, North thought it was reasonable to sacrifice.

East led the ♣J and West took the ace and played two rounds of spades. The best declarer could do was cross-ruff for seven tricks, -500.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hamman	Jónsson	Lall	Jorgensen
—	—	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
All Pass			

North led the ♣3 and declarer won with dummy's eight and played a heart to the ace. A diamond to the king was followed by the ♥9 for the jack and king, North pitching the ♣5. That left declarer with four losers, -100 and a loss of 12 IMPs.



Vinita Gupta

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fallenius	Gupta	Nilslund	M Bilde
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

2NT Game forcing, 4+♠
3♣ Minimum

East led the ♥J and switched to the ♦3. My old mentor Ron McEwan reckoned that in general that was more likely to be from the ace than the queen, but declarer played low and West won with the queen and returned a diamond, East winning and exiting with the ♦10. Declarer won in hand, took two rounds of trumps ending in dummy and played a club to the queen, two down, -100.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hamman	Jónsson	Lall	Jorgensen
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

After the ♥J East switched to the ♠J and declarer took dummy's king, crossed to the ♠A, cashed the ♣A and ran the queen, pitching a diamond. A cross-ruff got declarer up to eight tricks and he then exited with a spade which forced West to lead a diamond, +420 and 11 IMPs.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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



Morten Bilde

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fallenius	Gupta	Nilslund	M Bilde
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♣	Dble*	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Dble 3-card Spade support

West led the ♦K and declarer took the ace, ruffed a diamond, cashed dummy's top clubs, ruffed a club and ruffed a diamond with the ♠10, East overruffing with the ♠A and continuing with the ♥A and a heart. If declarer discards a diamond he can escape for two down, but he ruffed with the ♠5 and West overruffed with the ♠7 and played the ♣Q, East pitching a heart as declarer ruffed. A diamond was ruffed and overruffed and the ♥K ruffed and overruffed and now the ♣J forced declarer's remaining trump, so three down, -500.



Björn Fallenius

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ K J
♥ K Q 3 2
♦ Q 6 3
♣ Q 8 7 5

♠ 8 7 5

♥ —

♦ A K 10 8 5 2

♣ A J 10 3

♠ A Q 9 4 3

♥ A 6 5 4

♦ 9 7

♣ K 6

♠ 10 6 2

♥ J 10 9 8 7

♦ J 4

♣ 9 4 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fallenius	Gupta	Nilslund	M Bilde
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hamman	Jónsson	Lall	Jorgensen
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Dble	Rdbl*	2♠	Dble
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Rdbl 3♠

South led the ♠Q and declarer won with dummy's king and played a club to the ten and a club, North winning with the king and exiting with the ♠10, South overtaking and clearing the spades. Declarer played a diamond and South took the ace at which point declarer claimed 7 tricks - it looks more like 8 and I am pretty sure from the dialogue that Bob Hamman spotted it, but it is recorded as -200 and a 12 IMP loss.

3♠ Minimum type in high-card-points

If you consider the spade suit in isolation, the chance of scoring four tricks is 54.82% so as long as that works out you can hope to set up the diamonds. On this layout declarer had no problems after a club lead saw dummy's ten take the first trick, +1430.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hamman	Jónsson	Lall	Jorgensen
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

After a club lead declarer played safe for 11 tricks, a 13 IMP swing.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

<p>♠ A J 5 4 ♥ 9 7 ♦ A 4 3 ♣ J 5 3 2</p>		
<p>♠ K 10 9 7 6 3 2 ♥ Q 3 ♦ Q 8 ♣ A 4</p>		<p>♠ Q 8 ♥ A 10 8 4 ♦ K 10 9 7 6 ♣ 7 6</p>
<p>♠ — ♥ K J 6 5 2 ♦ J 5 2 ♣ K Q 10 9 8</p>		

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fallenius	Gupta	Nilsland	M Bilde
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	1NT	Dble	2♣
2♠	3♣	3♠	4♣
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

North led the ♥ and South won with the king and switched to the ♣K, declarer taking the ace and playing a spade to the eight. Even so, there was no way to avoid two down, -300.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hamman	Jónsson	Lall	Jorgensen
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	1NT	Pass	2♣
2♠	Dble	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass



Aðalsteinn Jörgensen

Here too North led the ♥9, but at trick two South returned the ♥2 and declarer won with the queen, played a spade to the eight and pitched a club on the ♥A, restricting the defendrs to four tricks, +140 and 10 IMP back.

However, time was running out and although Vinita picked up 5 IMPs on the next deal it was too little, too late and they lost 30-49, 4.94-15.06 VP.

Sweice went on to defeat Lebowitz 60.1-37 in the quarterfinal and are ready for today's semifinal against Clement, who defeated Seligman in their quarterfinal.

Misplay of the Day

by Christina Lund Madsen



Not many players can find ways to make impossible contracts and go down in cold contracts as Peter Fredin.

He confessed this board to me and gracefully allowed me to write about it in the bulletin.

Board 7. S / All

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fredin	Lair	Gottlieb	Seligman
			Pass
2♣	2♠	Dble*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Double was takeout and Fredin's 2NT showed 20-21.

North found the brilliant lead of the ♠K. Fredin won with the ace and ruffed a spade.

What did Fredin do next?

"I decided to finesse my right hand opponent. If I draw trumps and my left has ♦Q I will go down 4 to 5. Only time it is wrong is if it is stiff queen and North also has 7 spades."

Obviously that was the layout, and Lair happily returned a spade for his partner to ruff. -100 instead of +1430.



Peter Fredin - declaring as no man has declared before.

To recycle a famous Fredin quote:
"I am the only one who could go down in that contract."

The best part is that he enjoys telling about his failures as much as his successes. If you haven't already read his book, do it! There is plenty of similar stories.

Four pairs got to the better 6♦-contract:
 Niels van Bijsterveld - Emile Schols
 Oscar Nijssen - Tim van de Pavard
 Norman Selway - Kay Predy
 Piotr Zatorski - Kamil Nowak

One other pair reached 6♥, but after a different auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Grainger	Jorgensen	Wooldridge	Jonsson
			Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

3♣ was modified Puppet, 3♥ showed four hearts and 3♠ was explained as a relay to 3NT, either no 4S or a slam try.

West must have judged his hand with all his points in controls to be good enough for slam.

North led the ♠K too, West won and ruffed a spade in dummy. Since North had not interfered, declarer had no reason to suspect bad breaks, so trying to ruff two spades does look like a reasonable line, but you have entry problems if hearts are 4-2, which is more likely than 3-3 (as we all know).

So Grainger relied on his ability to find the ♦Q. He cashed 4 trumps and played the ♦A from his hand, claiming 12 tricks and the top in a matchpoint event.

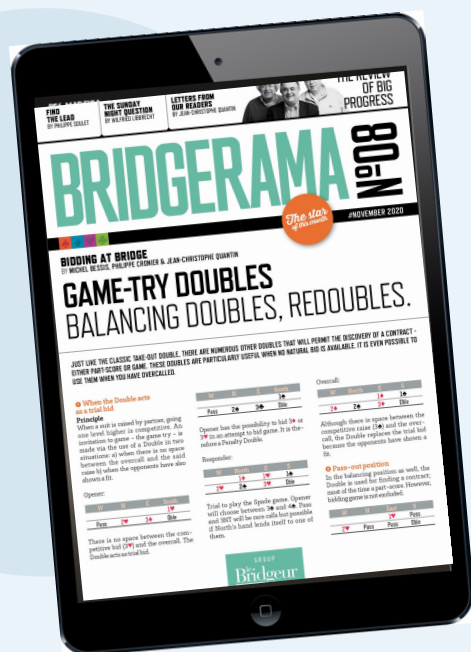
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Quarterfinal Highlights

By Toine van Hoof



Only one table was open for kibitzers yesterday and they played different boards from the three closed matches. As a journalist I was allowed access to follow the encounters in the closed matches.

Great Switch

Red Devils vs. Uli (51.1-43)

Sam Bahbout from Belgium found a great switch in yesterday's quarter final:

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

<p> ♠ A 8 6 2 ♥ J 8 7 ♦ 10 9 6 ♣ 9 6 4 </p>			
<p> ♠ Q 7 ♥ K 10 9 ♦ A K 8 7 4 ♣ A 8 3 </p>			
<p> ♠ 10 9 3 ♥ 4 3 ♦ Q 5 2 ♣ K Q J 7 2 </p>			
<p> ♠ K J 5 4 ♥ A Q 6 5 2 ♦ J 3 ♣ 10 5 </p>			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Primavera	De Donder	Percario	Bahbout
—	—	—	1♥
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led the ♥7. Bahbout won with the ace and now found the switch to the ♠K, saw the 2 from partner and continued with the ♠4 over the queen and ace. NS cashed two more spades for 1 down and 11 IMPs.

Same auction at four other tables. Three South players inserted the ♥Q. The fourth one put up the ♥A but returned a heart. Eleven tricks.

Great Save

Clement vs. Seligman (57.1-42)

Yankos Papakyriakopoulos from Greece found a great save.

(In his report Toine wrote "I am curious how you will get the Greek names in the bidding diagram." See for yourself - if you can./CLM)

Board 16. Dealer North. None Vul.

<p> ♠ A Q 9 8 7 5 4 ♥ Q 6 ♦ J 10 9 ♣ 7 </p>			
<p> ♠ J 6 3 ♥ 9 7 2 ♦ K 8 4 3 2 ♣ 10 2 </p>			
<p> ♠ — ♥ A J 10 8 5 3 ♦ A 7 6 ♣ K Q 6 4 </p>			
<p> ♠ K 10 2 ♥ K 4 ♦ Q 5 ♣ A J 9 8 5 3 </p>			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Papakyriakopoulos	Lair	Delimpaltadakis	Seligman
—	2♠	4♥	4♠
5♥	A. P.		

Seligman led the ♠K, ruffed by declarer.

Delimpaltadakis played the ♣K, won by South, who continued with the ♣J, ruffed by North with the ♥6; declarer still had to lose a heart and a diamond. Down two for minus 100.

At all other tables North opened 3♠. East overcalled with 4♥ and South bid 4♠. This ran around to East, who passed twice (NS +420) and doubled three times (NS +590).

The save (minus 100) gave team Clement 8 IMPs.

Great Support

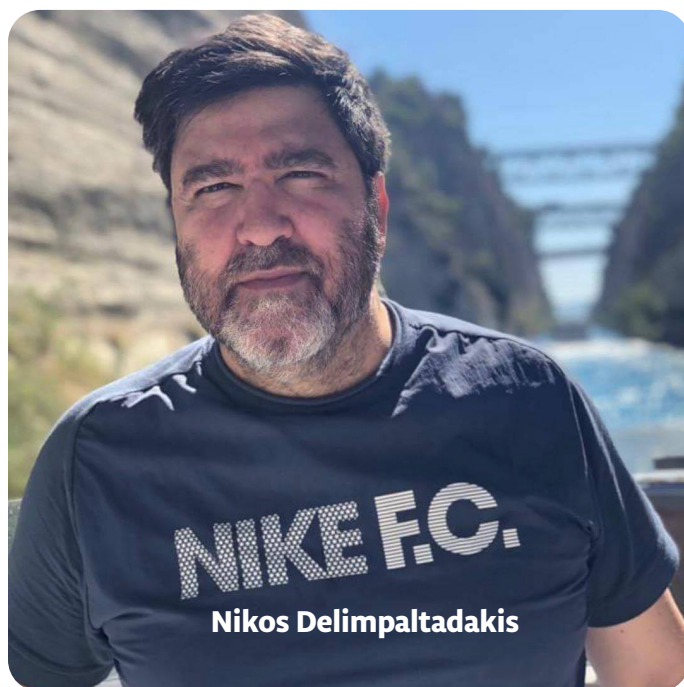
Clement vs. Seligman (57.1-42)

Artur Malinowski from England found some great trump support in yesterday's quarter final:

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Bakhshi	Maamarbachi	Malinowski	Vroustis
—	Pass	3♠	Dble
4♠	All Pass		



Opening 3♠ with zero HCP's would not be everyone's cup of tea. Well, he did have an almost solid seven-card suit and who cares if partner brings ace, king, queen, jack and a small one in trumps. All declarer had to do was guess the clubs and he did not err after South's take-out double.

Steve De Roos from Belgium also opened 3♠. It went double - 4♠ - double - All Pass and he made an overtrick when South tried to cash the ♦K in trick 2 and later on ducked the ♣A: EW 690.

That gave the Red Devils 12 IMPs against Uli as East at the other table misguessed the clubs and went one off in 4♠.

In the last quarterfinal Bernal beat the fighting Dutch team Coppens 54-47.1 and will face the Red Devil's in today's semi-final while Clement are up against the Swedish-Icelandic Vikings.

Bridge Isn't An Easy Game



By Martin Cantor

Iain Macleod wrote a justifiably famous bridge book entitled Bridge Is An Easy Game. He obviously never met this deal.

Board 8. W / None

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

Almost every North opened (or overcalled if West opened) in spades, and a huge majority of Souths (33 of 38) then forced to game. Such is bridge in the modern era.

The great GIB tells us that best defence holds the contract to 9 tricks. But it also tells us that this is only true if East can find a diamond lead - any diamond.

Nobody did. The natural-looking heart was very popular, a few led the singleton trump, and one outlier found an extravagant ♣2.

Let's look at how the play developed where Espen Lindqvist played it card perfectly, albeit extremely (if understandably) slowly.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Huang	Lindqvist	Dwyer	Brogeland
Pass	1♠	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♠

3NT 10-12, some short, 4+♠

Huang won the heart lead with the ♥Q and played the ♣4. Declarer passed the first test by going up with the ace. He ruffed a club, ruffed a heart and played a diamond to the king - East rising with the ace makes no difference.

Another heart ruff brought down the ace, and now it was time for a club honour for the ruffing finesse. East ducked (again rising makes no difference) and a diamond was discarded. Next a spade to the ace and another to the king, the last club was ruffed in dummy and the boss heart established the ♠9 en passant for the tenth trick.

If you want to get a full idea of how sure-footed this play was, then go to alt.bridgeresults.org and click through the play, checking with GIB at each trick how often a different card would have led to potential defeat.

There were three key elements to the play, with timing also playing a part. You need to lead a diamond towards the king, but you must not do it too soon. With the benefit of the heart lead, you need to ruff hearts in hand, setting the king up.

And you need to take the ruffing finesse, not the simple finesse, in clubs. All of which means delaying the drawing of trumps.

I haven't checked the sequence of plays at every successful table, so apologies to all the other declarers who also gave the defence no chance after the opening lead. Well done to all of them. And no criticism of any declarers who didn't successfully tread the tightrope, nor of any defenders who let a declarer recover from a small slip. Bridge really isn't an easy game.



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dealer South vulnerability None

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

10 6♣	7 6♣	5 5♠ 5♣ 4♣	3 7♠ 7♣
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West Tobias	North	East Marina72	South
—	—	—	2♥
Pass	4♥	5♠	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

5♠ = asking for heart control

6♣ = got it

dealer South vulnerability East-West

West	East
♠ J 9 6	♠ Q 10 5 3
♥ K Q J 10	♥ A 6
♦ A 2	♦ K 9
♣ A 6 5 2	♣ Q J 10 4 3

10 4NT 3NT	6 5NT 4♠ 4♥	5 4♣ 3♠ 3♥
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West Tobias	North	East Marina72	South
—	—	—	2♦
X	3♦	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

'In stead of 4♠ East should double and bid 3NT over the expected 3♥.'

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- Two-way Checkback Stayman; 2. Responding with both Majors after 1NT; 3. (Non) Leaping Michaels;
- Gazzilli; 5. Gambling 3NT; 6. Lebensohl after a Weak Two; 7. Rubensohl and Transfer-Lebensohl;
- 1♥/1♠ - 2NT (fit); 9. 4♣: Fit and slamgoing

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