



MONACO - NORALIA

by David Bird

Open Teams Round-of-16

Monaco faced a team containing Norwegian and Australian players (as will be immediately apparent from their team-name). They were unlucky on this board:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sveindal</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Rasmussen</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
			1♦
4♥	4NT*	5♥	6♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

The diamond slam was proof against four trumps with West, since declarer can ruff one loser and ditch the other on the spades. All four trumps with East could not be overcome. A top heart was led and Helgemo went one down. What would happen at the other table?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Multon</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Howard</i>
			1♣
1♥	Dble *	Pass	2♠
3♣	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

North's double showed spades. The spade slam seems to have the same two losers but Multon led the ♥8, hoping that his partner could win and deliver a diamond ruff. (He knew he would perform a starring role in the bulletin

for one reason or another.) Howard was soon writing +980 in his card and that was 14 IMPs to Noralia.

Board 6. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sveindal</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Rasmussen</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
			1♦
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Sveindal won the club lead with dummy's ace and there was discussion among the BBO commentators as to whether it was better to duck a round of trumps or to cash the ace and switch to spades. With spades 3-3, it does not matter what you do. Sveindal chose to lead a low trump from dummy to the 10 and jack. He then won the club return with the king. What next?

Declarer crossed to the ♥A, North showing out, and made the contract when spades were 3-3. Suppose you switch the ♠J and the ♦2, making the spades 4-2. Ducking the first trump would then be necessary, but when you won the club return you would go down if you played the ♥A next. You would have to play the three top spades instead, discarding the club loser. South would ruff and return the ♥K to the ♥A. After the ♦A, a diamond ruff and a spade ruff (setting up a long spade), South would be powerless whether he overruffed with the ♥Q or not.

Board 8. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Dyke	Zimmermann	Howard
1♣ *	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Dble	All Pass

The bidding is puzzling to my eye - South's 1NT, in particular. Anyway, the trap snapped painfully on Dyke. Zimmermann led the ♥10, Multon overtaking with the ♥J to return a trump to the king and ace. The ♥9 to the queen was ruffed by Dyke, who led the ♠Q to West. Another trump went to the jack and queen. Zimmerman was then able to draw two further rounds of trumps. He played ace and another club to dummy's king and the contract was 1100 down.

If South had let 1♠ run to West, E-W might well have matched the 3NT made at the other table. (Helness kept his peace as North over West's 1NT.) It was 12 IMPs away.



 **Kieran Dyke**



Board 9. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sveindal	Helness	Rasmussen	Helgemo
	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

North led the ♣6. What to do? Calling for dummy's ♣Q would cost the contract after a diamond switch. Sveindal cleared the first hurdle, rising with the ♣A. He continued with the ♠A and this proved costly. After the ♥A, ♥K (diamond away) and a heart ruff, he returned to dummy with the ♠K. A diamond to the king lost to the ace and that was one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Dyke	Zimmermann	Howard
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣ *	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Multon also rose with the ♣A but played three rounds of hearts immediately, the ♥Q not appearing. He was able to cross to the ♠K, ruff another heart, and return to dummy with the ♠A. A second diamond was pitched on the thirteenth heart and the game was made for a swing of 12 IMPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sveindal</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Rasmussen</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
		Pass	1♦
Dble	Rdble	2♥	3♦
3♥	All Pass		

Helness surprised us by redoubling instead of bidding his spades. Rasmussen subsequently went 300 down, undoubled, when 4♠ was there on the lie of the cards. It may not be a particularly splendid spade game after West's take-out double, but it was bid and made at the other table for a gain of 8 IMPs.

Those of you with long memories will recall on unlucky slam swing lost by Monaco on Board 13.



They suffered more of the same medicine here:

Board 13. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Multon</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Howard</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♥ *	Pass	2♠ *	Pass
5NT *	Pass	6♦	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Zimmermann stretched to open a 15-17 1NT, Multon showing his hearts and then bidding a pick-a-slam 5NT. Howard made the commendably safe lead of the ♥9 against the eventual 6NT.

Zimmerman won with the queen and led the ♦K to North ♦A. When a diamond was returned, declarer had no reason whatsoever to run this. He rose with the ♦Q and played the ♦J, South showing out. Zimmermann continued with the ace and king of hearts, which would have squeezed North in three suits if he held ♣Q-J-x. As it was, he could afford to discard a club and the slam went one down.

At the other table, the bidding started 1♦ - 1♠ - 1NT (12-14). Sveindal used check-back and heard 3♦, implying that East had 2=3=5=2 shape. It was unlikely that his partner held the necessary collection of honour cards for 6NT - particularly as he had not upgraded his hand, as Zimmermann did. Very reasonably, Sveindal shut up shop in 3NT and made 660 for a 13 IMP gain.

Largely as a result of the two slam swings, Noralia took the first half by 41 IMPs to 27.



 **Jon Sveindal**



MONACO vs NORALIA

by **Ram Soffer**

Open Teams Round of 16, Session 2

The team from Monaco, one of the great favourites in the Open Teams, already threatened to make an early exit when they were ranked 35th after seven rounds of the Swiss qualifier, but they finished with three big wins which took them up to 3rd place.

The next hurdle was Noralia, and as reported in yesterday's bulletin, Monaco were trailing 27:42 at half time.

The set of deals for the second session promised very tense bridge with big swings possible almost everywhere. The most remarkable match was Vitas-Vinciguerra. Vitas who crushed their opponent 85:10 in the first session might have thought that the second session was a mere formality, but it was not to be. In the first 10 boards they were outscored 1:75!! All that remained was a slender lead of 86:85, but somehow Vitas hung on to it and won by 90:86.

The Monaco match was also close right into the final board. First of all Monaco wasted no time in erasing their opponents' lead.

E/W are cold for 3NT and 5♦, but off-shape strong doubles often cause problems. Nunes overcame those problems by cue bidding 2♥. After 3NT he knew partner's type of hand but still hoped for a diamond slam. Eventually he discovered that two keycards were missing and stopped in a safe 5♦. Monaco +400.

West	North	East	South
Sveindal	Helness	Rasmussen	Helgemo
Pass	1♥	Dble	Pass
4♠	All Pass		2♥

Here the auction was short but not sweet. Sveindal assumed his partner had four spades – wrong! Yet 4♠ on a 4-2 fit was not entirely hopeless, as declarer had only three sure losers. Beating the contract required N/S to attack hearts persistently, and Helness duly obliged.

The opening lead of ♥7 was won by dummy's ♥Q. Then Helness ducked both ♠K and ♠J (he could have set it one more by taking the ace the second time), won ♦A and played another heart, ruffed by declarer ♠7. Declarer cashed three minor tricks, but the third round of clubs was ruffed. After one more heart, declarer knew the fight for 10 tricks was lost, and the best he could do was to get a ninth trick by ruffing a heart with the ♠Q. Monaco +50 and 10 IMPs.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Dyke	Fantoni	Howard
Pass	1♥	Dble	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3NT	2♦*
4♦	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		



Claudio Nunes

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Dyke	Fantoni	Howard
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Fantoni opened a weak NT, and South thought he didn't have enough to bid 2♥. It was North who re-opened with 2♠, but his dummy was disappointing and he took only 6 tricks. Monaco +100.

West	North	East	South
Sveindal	Helness	Rasmussen	Helgemo
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♥
Dble	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Dble	All Pass	

Sveindal/Rasmussen continued their bad start by overbidding to 3NT. Helness showed no mercy and doubled, but inaccurate defence let them somewhat off the hook.

Rasmussen won the ♠Q lead with his ace. Then he took the right view in diamonds: ♦K and small to the nine. He tried a spade to nine, which lost to North's 10.

Helness switched to clubs. Helgemo won ♣Q and switched to a small heart. Helness won the ♥Q but seemed to be unaware of the real situation in the suit. His small heart continuation was taken by dummy's ace, and then declarer cashed the rest of his diamond suit.


On the last diamond Helness should have discarded ♥K, leaving his partner's hand high. Instead he discarded a spade and was soon thrown in with the ♥K to give dummy the last trick in spades. Thus declarer escaped for one down, a loss of 7 IMPs instead of 12.

Sveindal/Rasmussen did a little better in the bidding on Board 17, stopping in 3♠ when cold for 11 tricks. Once again they were let off the hook when Fantunes didn't bid the game either.

It was pretty much the same story on board 18 when both Wests failed to find the killing club lead against 3NT – another push.

Then on board 20 both Souths failed to find the winning play in a tricky 3NT. That was the 4th push in succession despite plenty of opportunities for both sides. At this stage Monaco held a small lead of 44:42, but the next few boards were equally full of action.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Dyke	Fantoni	Howard
All Pass	Pass	2♦	Dble

East opened 2♦ according to their system (5+ diamonds, 10-13 HCP). South had yet another big double, and North converted it to a penalty.

Despite North's great trumps, N/S need some very special defence to set the contract by more than 1 trick. At the table South won only his three obvious top tricks, and North's trumps were good enough for three more. +100 to N/S didn't seem to be an adequate score as it was possible to make a vulnerable game.

West	North	East	South
Sveindal	Helness	Rasmussen	Helgemo
Pass	Pass	1♦	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Helgemo's bidding was practical. First he described 5-5 in clubs and hearts, then he showed his spade fragment, of course indicating a strong hand. Eventually he became declarer in 3NT.

Sveindal found the good lead of a spade covered by 10-Q-A. Declarer's problem was of course the lack of any entry to dummy. He had to play a suit from his hand in trick 2, and

his unfortunate choice was the ♠K. When East won his ace and continued spades, declarer was helpless because he couldn't give West the lead. From this point Helgemo did well to go only one down. Another +100 and 5 IMPs to Noralia.

Had South started with clubs, there was no way to beat the contract. If East continues spades upon winning the ♣K, he will eventually be endplayed with the ♥A when all his remaining cards are diamonds.

A better defence is to win ♣K, cash ♥A and exit with a spade. In this case Helgemo would have to read the position and endplay West with a spade after cashing his clubs (West would be forced to discard his diamonds) so that West must play hearts into declarer's ♥KQ10.

Two boards later Monaco's hopes were dealt a decisive blow:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Dyke	Fantoni	Howard
1NT	Dble	2♦*	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

As the cards lie, E/W can easily make 4♥ with only 18 HCP between them. Nunes opened 1NT according to system (11-14 HCP, no 5 card suit) and over the double Fantoni transferred to hearts (or so he thought). At this point one could expect a result of -170 or -620, but evidently there was a big misunderstanding, as Nunes bid 2♠ and had to play that contract.

North started with two rounds of clubs. Nunes took five quick tricks before the defenders drew his trumps and cashed the rest of the clubs for -300.

West	North	East	South
Sveindal	Helness	Rasmussen	Helgemo
1♦	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

At this table the E/W bidding subsided at 1♦ with hearts unmentioned. N/S agreed clubs, and Helness asked for a diamond stopper. 4♣-1 would have been no disgrace for N/S, but Helgemo had the guts to bid 3NT with ♦10xxx.

Sveindal started with three top diamonds and switched to hearts: Minus 400 (which could still be profitable had Fantunes bid 4♥).

That was 12 IMPs for Noralia, and the manner in which those IMPs were lost was quite embarrassing. In the next board Helgemo/Helness gave away 6 more soft IMPs.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Dyke	Fantoni	Howard
Pass	Pass	1♣	2♦
Dble	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Sveindal	Helness	Rasmussen	Helgemo
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	All Pass

There are many possible contracts, but somehow both tables reached 3♥, which is destined to go down due to impending club ruffs. That was exactly what happened when Nunes was the declarer, but the proceedings at the other room defied belief.

Helgemo led his singleton club. Helness won ♣A, cashed ♦K and... switched to spades! Now Declarer had 11 top tricks.

A deficit of 45:65 with four to go was too much for Monaco, although they managed one big swing which preserved the tension until the very last board.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

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



West	North	East	South
Nunes	Dyke	Fantoni	Howard
3♥*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
4♠*	Pass	4♣	Pass
		5♣	All Pass

This time the Fantunes system was effective. 2♠ showed 5+ spades with 10-13 HCP and 3♥ was probably a transfer to clubs. 4♠ was a cuebid, but East wisely declined the slam invitation.

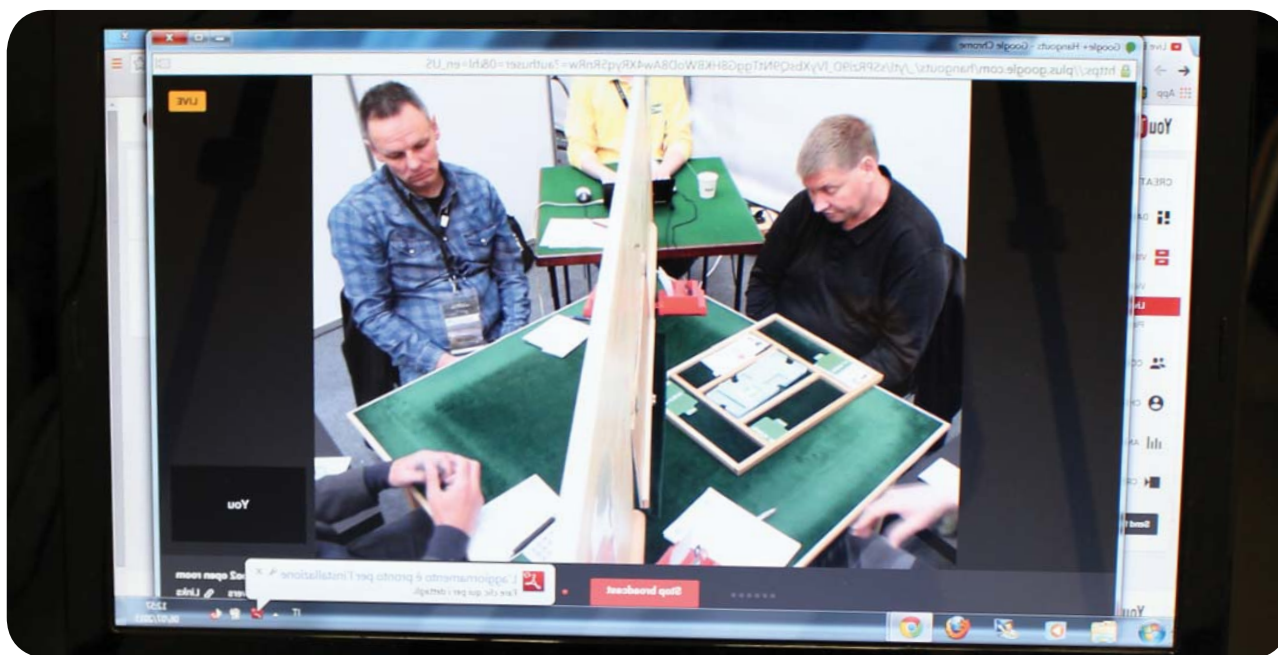
The contract was safe against any lead. Howard's choice of ♦K allowed declarer to ruff one diamond and discard two losing hearts on the ♠KQ. The only trick for the defence was ♦Q. Monaco +620.

West	North	East	South
Sveindal	Helness	Rasmussen	Helgemo
2♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	2♠	Pass
5♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
		5♠	All Pass

The bidding started naturally along 2/1 lines when Rasmussen essayed 3♦. He may have thought this was a cuebid, but his partner promptly raised to 5♦ (I wonder why 4♦ was not enough, considering the game forcing nature of the auction). 5♠ was a rescue operation, but a plus score was not available anymore.

Even on this board Helgemo/Helness didn't defend perfectly. South led ♥K and continued with a small heart. Helness won the ♥A and continued the suit, even though forcing dummy to ruff wasn't necessary in order to promote his ♠J. Instead, a trump switch would have ensured another heart trick for the defence. The actual +100 was good enough for a 12-IMP swing.

When the last three boards didn't produce any fireworks, Monaco's early exit became a fact. Even though Noralia played far from perfect bridge, it was good enough for a 68:58 win.



The match was broadcast live on youtube



OPEN TEAMS QUARTERFINAL, FIRST SEGMENT

by **Jos Jacobs**

In this report, I will eventually concentrate on the closest of the four quarter-finals, the Noralia-Ventin encounter – remarkably enough the only match of the four with not a single Dutchman at the table. However, I will not forget to show some of the highlights of the other three matches:

Orange White v. Vitas, Khiuppenen v. Rosenthal and Slufsa v. Levine.

Below, I will refer to Team Orange White simply as White.

Let's start with a look at White v. Vitas:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 8 7 6 5 2 ♥ 10 9 6 ♦ K 8 ♣ 10 5	♠ 9 4 ♥ A 8 7 4 2 ♦ Q 5 4 2 ♣ 8 7	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A K Q ♥ J ♦ A 7 ♣ K Q J 9 4 3 2
	♠ J 3 ♥ K Q 5 3 ♦ J 10 9 6 3 ♣ A 6		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gierulski	Verbeek	Skrzypczak	Molenaar
Pass	3♦	1♣ 4♣	1♦ All Pass

The multi-purpose Polish Club ran into trouble here as Skrzypczak could not show the exact nature of his strong hand. One also wonders whether West had a weak jump shift available over 1♦.

Just the two aces missing, Vitas +150.



In the other room, the Dutch had an undisturbed auction:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nab	Schwartz	Bob Drijver	Fisher
2♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass	4♦	Pass

North underled his ♥A but when South continued a diamond rather than a heart, declarer had no problem. Of course, South knew that his ♠J would drop but this defence saved declarer many a headache. One overtrick, White +450 and their first 7 IMPs of the match.



Tim Verbeek entering the playing area



Over now to Khiuppenen v. Rosenthal:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bas Drijver</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Dble	Rdbl	1♠	1♣
2♠	3♣	4♥	2♣
4♠	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Four Spades is a playable contract, which might make on an anti-percentage guess in trumps. We won't dwell on the way the percentages might be influenced by the auction. Five Clubs proved to be 'cheap' insurance when West led a spade and dummy's queen won the first trick. Declarer lost two tricks in both red suits, +300 to Khiuppenen.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Khiuppenen</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>
Dble	1♠	Dble	1♣
2♠	3♣	4♠	2♣
			All Pass

For Rosenthal, EW had no trouble in reaching the good game, in spite of Khiuppenen's handful of sand into their machine (was 1♠ a transfer or an act of sabotage?). North led the ♣A and continued a diamond to South's ace. Rosenthal

won the diamond continuation, crossed to the ♥K and next...ran the ♠J. One down, +100 and another 9 IMPs to Khiuppenen.

In our main match, Noralia v. Ventin, you would not get the chance to play a spade contract:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Howard</i>
Dble	Rdbl	1♠	1♣
2♠	3♣	3♥	2♣
All Pass			4♣

Down two, the normal result after a non-spade lead from West: trump lead, diamond finesse, two rounds of hearts and a spade through. Ventin +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sveindal</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>A.Rasmussen</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
Dble	2♣	4♣	1♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	5♣
			All Pass


With his opponents sure to bid a game over East's 4♣ (pick a major), Wrang sacrificed immediately. When West led a spade, he escaped for down two, but +300 to Noralia brought them 5 IMPs.



Frederic Wrang

Board 4 was a cold slam but at some tables, it was missed by some careless bidding:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Howard</i>
1♦	2♥	3NT	All Pass

The disadvantage of the ambiguous 1♦ opening bid. Heart lead but still +660 to Ventin.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sveindal</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>A.Rasmussen</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
1♣	3♥	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Once Rasmussen could show his diamonds at the four-level, bidding the slam was inevitable. Noralia +1370 and another 12 IMPs.

In the Khiuppenen v. Rosenthal match, Muller was given the same chance to introduce his suit:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bas Drijver</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Brink</i>
1♦	3♥	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Some encouraging cuebids, the redouble confirming first-round control, but not enough keycards (just one) for a possible grand. Khiuppenen +1370.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Khiuppenen</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>
1♣	3♥	3NT	All Pass

If you don't show your suit, it is rather difficult to get to slam in it. Rosenthal +660 but 12 IMPs to Khiuppenen who already led 27-0 at this point.

On the next board, a few declarers went down in 4♥ when they played a spade to the king in the end, hoping for a squeeze if the king would score. Vitas did not even get to game but at least, they recorded a plus score on the deal:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

White v. Vitas:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Skrzypczak</i>	<i>Molenaar</i>
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
	All Pass		

2♦ showed good hearts but West, understandably, was not interested. Just made after a late spade misguess, +110 to Vitas.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nab</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Bob Drijver</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
	Pass	4♥	All Pass

In the other room, Bob Drijver opened 4♥, played there and got a cunning ♠3 lead. When he played low, he had made his contract. Needless to say (aposiopesis again!) that in drawing trumps, the proper play is ♥A, ♥Q to pick up a doubleton 10 or jack, rather than low to cater for a doubleton king only. And this time the play is critical.

On board 7, Khiuppenen increased their lead:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ 10 8 3										
	♥ A J 6 4										
	♦ 7 6										
	♣ K 7 3 2										
♠ A J 2	<table border="0" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 9 7
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ 9 7		♥ K Q 10									
♦ J 10 4	♦ A Q 5 3										
♣ Q 9 8 5 4	♣ J 10 6										
	♠ Q 6 5 4										
	♥ 8 5 3 2										
	♦ K 9 8 2										
	♣ A										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Bas Drijver Muller</i>		<i>Brink</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

With a nine-count and a five-card suit, Simon de Wijs did not want to miss a vulnerable game. Even after a heart lead, the defenders cannot establish five tricks (the ♦K being the fifth) before declarer has nine, because the spade finesse will come to declarer's rescue. On the actual spade lead, Muller had no problem at all: spade to the ten and king, club, spade return to dummy's jack and another club. North won and returned his last spade but when Muller, after cashing the clubs and seeing three heart discards from South, led a low heart to the 10 which held, he could play the ♥K from hand to establish the ♥Q as his ninth trick, thus avoiding the losing diamond finesse. Nicely played, Khiuppenen +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Khiuppenen</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	All Pass

2♠ was, among other things, an invitational raise to 2NT which East, holding a minimum 15 count, did not accept. On a heart lead and continuation, declarer made nine tricks but lost 10 IMPs in the process.



Back to our main match: Noralia v. Ventin.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

	♠ 6 5 2										
	♥ Q J 7 6 2										
	♦ 6 4 3										
	♣ Q 4										
♠ A J 8	<table border="0" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 10 9 7
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A 8		♥ 10 5									
♦ Q 10 7 5 2	♦ A J										
♣ A 8 5	♣ K 10 9 6 3										
	♠ Q 4 3										
	♥ K 9 4 3										
	♦ K 9 8										
	♣ J 7 2										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Howard</i>
1NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Three Hearts had shown spades. When North, not holding a very promising hand, decided nevertheless to lead from his longest and strongest, the contract was quickly one down. Noralia +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sveindal</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>A.Rasmussen</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

At the other table, North tried the effect of a spade after a classic Stayman auction.

As it happened, he got the effect declarer desired: two overtricks, +460 and 11 IMPs to Noralia.



Johan Upmark



On the next board, Ventin struck back:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Howard</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♥	2♠	3♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

South clearly intended his 3♠ as purely competitive but this message was lost on North.

Not on West, however: Ventin +300 when declarer lost the obvious five tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sveindal</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>A.Rasmussen</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
	2♠	Pass	3♠
4♥	All Pass		

Ventin timed his strongish weak two well, as did Wrang with his weakish raise.

Sveindal could not possibly pass, dummy brought some useful honour cards but the trump support was not high enough to give the contract any chance so long as the defenders led diamonds through declarer at the critical moment. One down, Ventin +100 and 9 IMPs back.

For once, over now to the 4th quarterfinal match in progress: Slufsa v. Levine.

On the board below, the Norwegian NS produced a remarkable auction to a great result:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees jr</i>	<i>Lund</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Berset</i>
			1♣
1♥	Dble	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Double over 1♥ showed four spades and South's 1♠ promised at least three.

When it became clear that the heart stopper was insufficient, the Norsemen tried a Moysian fit with great success when the trumps behaved.

♥A, ♥Q, heart ruff in hand, spade to king and ace, club to the king and spade to West's queen. East could now overruff the next heart but that was all the defence could get. Slufsa +420.

In the Closed Room, NS settled for the no-play 3NT to lose 10 IMPs on the deal.



Juan Carlos Ventin

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

	♠ 4		
	♥ A Q 8 3		
	♦ Q 9 2		
	♣ A K J 8 3		
♠ A J 10 9 5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 6 3	
♥ 5 4		♥ J 10 7 2	
♦ 10 5 4		♦ 7 6 3	
♣ 10 9 7		♣ Q 6 4 2	
	♠ K Q 8 7 2		
	♥ K 9 6		
	♦ A K J 8		
	♣ 5		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Howard</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

1♥ showed spades. Once South heard about North holding ♦Qxx (the minimum required for a diamond stopper in response to the 4th suit), he jumped straight to what he thought he could make.

He would have succeeded on a more friendly adverse distribution but as it was, on a heart lead he won in dummy and led a spade up to the king and ace. Now he was lacking the entries to ruff two spades and draw trumps as well. The alternative of a successful club finesse would not have worked either. Declarer can succeed by playing for trumps 3-3 but in practice with 11 top winners if you include the spade ruff, the normal play is to win the second heart, ruff a spade, draw trump, then try to ruff out ♣Q and rely on some combination of spade, heart and club pressure in the ending. This works if the player with heart length guards spades, or if you can generate a position at heart-club squeeze. Not today: one off, +100 to Ventin.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sveindal</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>A.Rasmussen</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

At the other table, no experiments but a sound +630, resulting in 12 IMPs to Ventin.

The score in this match now stood at 30-23 to Noralia.



Fredrik Nyström

On board 13, White scored a game swing v. Vitas due to the difference in systemic approach.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

	♠ A Q 8 3		
	♥ J 10 8 5 3		
	♦ K J		
	♣ 9 7		
♠ 10 7 5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K 9	
♥ K 9		♥ A 4	
♦ 8 6 5 4 3		♦ 9 7 2	
♣ K Q 8		♣ J 6 5 4 3 2	
	♠ J 6 4 2		
	♥ Q 7 6 2		
	♦ A Q 10		
	♣ A 10		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Skrzypczak</i>	<i>Molenaar</i>
	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

If you open 1♥, you will almost automatically end up in game, which proves an excellent contract. White +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nab</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Bob Drijver</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
	2♥	All Pass	

If you deduct hcp values for your KJ bare in a side suit, and more generally speaking, if you do not feel an urge to open one of a suit on an 11-count only, you may as well open 2♥, showing both majors and less than an opening bid. You will then hear partner pass and table a disappointing dummy but that's life. Vitas +200 but 9 IMPs more to White who thus led 28-7 at halftime.



OPEN TEAMS QUARTERFINAL, SECOND SEGMENT

by Jos Jacobs

Just as I did in my report about the first half of the Open Teams Quarterfinals, I will concentrate mainly on the Noralia v. Ventin match, but also show a highlight or two from the other matches.

On the first board of the second segment, there was no swing in my “preferred” match (Noralia v. Ventin), as both NS pairs did not manage to reach game, even though, at one table, West did not even open the bidding.

As I did before, I will refer to the Orange team simply as “White.”

In both the White v. Vitas and Rosenthal v. Khiuppenen matches, however, there was a game swing:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

White v. Vitas:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fisher</i>	<i>Bob Drijver</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Nab</i>
1♣	1♠	Dble	Rdbl
2♣	2♠	2NT	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

When Bart Nab had just enough to produce a courtesy raise over Schwartz’ 2NT (mainly based on a club fit), Bob Drijver knew enough. His trust in partner was rewarded when dummy held exactly the three honour cards he most urgently needed. White + 620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Molenaar</i>	<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Skrzypczak</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♣	2♠	3♣	3♠
All Pass			

In the other room, the Poles were left to their own devices when West did not open the bidding. Apparently, these were not sufficient. Vitas +170 but 10 more IMPs to White to lead by 31 now.

In the Rosenthal v. Khiuppenen match, De Wijs’ weak NT made it extremely difficult for NS to cope with these hands.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>D.Bilde</i>
1NT	2♦	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

2♦ showed any six-card major. Though South’s 2♠ response would show some heart values, it never occurred to North that partner might as well hold the missing spade honours. Rosenthal +170.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Khiuppenen</i>	<i>Bas Drijver</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>
1NT	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The Russians showed better judgement against the same 10-12 NT. 2♦ showed a major and 3♦ confirmed the spades. That’s all Kholomeev wanted to know, as he assumed that his partner should have at least a fair hand for his vulnerable overcall. Khiuppenen +620 and 10 IMPs more to them.

After some quiet boards, there was action in three matches on board 20:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Noralia v. Ventin

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	A.Rasmussen	Ventin	Sveindal
1NT	4♣	All Pass	

For Noralia, Rasmussen overcalled 4♣ and played there. Down one, of course, when declarer played his trumps from the top. Ventin +100.

In the Closed Room, East's double gave away the show.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dyke	Nyström	Howard	Upmark
1NT	4♣	Dble	All Pass

When Nyström used his only entry to dummy to lead a trump to his nine, he was home: Ventin +710 and 13 IMPs back to them to take the lead in the match: 36-34.

White v. Vitas:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fisher	Bob Drijver	Schwartz	Nab
1NT	4♣	All Pass	

No double so no inclination to finesse the trumps. Vitas +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Molenaar	Gierulski	Verbeek	Skrzypczak
1NT	2♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	4♥	Dble
All Pass			

2♠ showed the clubs and 3NT was what Skrzypczak thought he would make. When this came round to East, he believed in it...Down three, Vitas +800 and 14 IMPs back to them to reduce the score to 38-22 in favour of White.

In the Rosenthal v. Khiuppenen match, the latter further increased their already big lead:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Willenken	Muller	D.Bilde
1NT	4♣	Pass	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

When Bilde thought he had a raise, De Wijs had an easy enough double that did not, by implication, give away the actual trump position. Thus: down two, Khiuppenen +500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Khiuppenen	Bas Drijver	Kholomeev
1NT	3♣	All Pass	

Khiuppenen's strong 3♣ overcall silenced the table. Just made for another +110 and 12 IMPs to Khiuppenen who now led 59-11.

Two boards later, the Rosenthal v. Khiuppenen match was effectively decided but Rosenthal could claim themselves distinctly unlucky on the deal.



Chris Willenken

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>D.Bilde</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	6NT	All Pass	5♥

6NT makes if the ♣J comes down in time, about a 75% chance; you can augment that by the chance of a miracle in spades, if you wish. Not this time; down three after a heart lead, Khiuppenen +300.

In the Closed Room, the Russians did not get anywhere near a slam:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Khiuppenen</i>	<i>Bas Drijver</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>
1NT	3♣	All Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Right they were (this time): just made for +620 and 14 IMPs to them rather than 12 IMPs the other way. With the score at 71-15, six boards would probably not be enough for Rosenthal to wipe out their deficit.



Over now to the closing stages of the Noralia v. Ventin match:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>A.Rasmussen</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Sveindal</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♠
3♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

For Noralia, NS did not explore any possibilities of a slam and rightly so, on this layout.

Ten tricks were the maximum in spades (though 5♣ also makes): Noralia +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Upmark</i>
Pass	1♦	3♥	4♣
4♥	4♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

The Swedish part of the Ventin team did explore the possibility of a slam but once they passed 5♣, they had arrived in the down zone. Unlucky but another +100 and 12 IMPs to Noralia who were back in the lead by 10 with just five boards left.



Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	A.Rasmussen	Ventin	Sveindal
	Pass	1♣	1♦
1NT	2♣	Dble	2♠
2NT	All Pass		

2♣ showed majors after the 10-12 NT. On the lead of a spade to the jack and king, Wrang had an easy eight tricks when all the dummy's clubs came in. Ventin +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dyke	Nyström	Howard	Upmark
	Pass	1♣	1♦
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♦
Pass	Pass	2♥	All Pass

When it did not occur to Howard to double, when 2♦ came round to him, the Australians ended up in an unfortunate contract once it turned out that trumps were 5-1. The contract went down two for another +200 and 8 IMPs back to Ventin, who now trailed by just 2 IMPs with 3 boards left...



Arild Rasmussen

On the next board, a defensive mistake cost dearly:

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	A.Rasmussen	Ventin	Sveindal
	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	Pass	All Pass	Pass

East led a heart to queen and ace and declarer immediately led a spade up to dummy's king, West ducking smoothly (the normal play). When declarer next ran dummy's ♣10 to East's king, he cleared the hearts, no doubt hoping his ♦K would be an early enough entry.

To his disgust, declarer took the jack and cleared the clubs. West won the ♣J on the 4th round of the suit and pushed a diamond through but it was too late. Declarer went up with his ace and the 5th club was his seventh trick. Noralia +90.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dyke	Nyström	Howard	Upmark
	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Same lead and continuation as in the Open Room but here, East continued a spade after winning his ♣K. The ♥10 held the next trick but the ♦J return sank the contract, as declarer still had to give up another club. Down two, +200 and 7 priceless IMPs to Noralia to lead by nine.

Noralia lost the 7 IMPs just gained on the next board when they in turn misdefended a little: the last board arrived:

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	A Rasmussen	Ventin	Sveindal
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
Dble	2♦	All Pass	1♥

1♦ showed hearts so South's 1♥ was for take-out. Declarer won the heart lead, unblocked the ♠A, crossed to the ♦A and threw two clubs on the top spades before getting off play with a heart. This way, he made an easy nine tricks for +110 to Noralia.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
Dyke	Nyström	Howard	Upmark
Dble	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dble	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

After the ambiguous 1♦, the rest of the auction was basically natural but the final contract was a bit optimistic. West led the ♠J to dummy's blank ace and declarer next ran dummy's ♣9 to West's jack. The ♥K continuation was allowed to hold but declarer won the ♥Q in dummy and cashed his four diamond tricks, finessing the queen through East successfully.

On the third diamond, West threw a club but on the fourth diamond, both defenders threw spades so declarer could cash his three remaining spades for his contract and a surprise +400, good for 7 IMPs back to Ventin.

So just two IMPs separated the two teams when

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dyke	Nyström	Howard	Upmark
1♥	1♠	3♥	All Pass

Full marks to Howard's immediate raise to three. The double raise effectively shut out South and at the same time made it much more difficult for North to find the correct defence. When North led a trump, declarer was home, as a losing spade would always go on the diamonds

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wrang	A.Rasmussen	Ventin	Sveindal
1♥	1♠	2♥	Dble
Pass	3♣	3♥	4♣
All Pass			

As play had finished in the Closed Room well before the Open Room, the audience knew that in the CR, the defence had let through 3♥. It needs a spade lead to beat it. A diamond, or even the two top clubs, are not good enough as the diamond would cost a vital tempo and two rounds of clubs would destroy the defenders' communications to cash the second spade trick later on.

So much depended on what would happen after South bid 4♣. If the defence could shift to a diamond after cashing a top heart, not too difficult at the table, the contract would go one down. However, scoring +100 would cost Ventin another IMP so they would then lose by 3.

Their only chance was to double the final contract and then set it by one trick to reach a tie and the 3rd penalty shoot-out here in Tromsø. When EW did not find the double, and understandably so, as they were not playing matchpoints, they scored +100 but lost the match 51-54.



NORALIA vs SLUFSA

by John Carruthers

Open Teams Semifinals, Session 1

Some tall timber had fallen in flames in the Open Teams Championship: MONACO, CAYNE, MAZURKIEWICZ, MAHAFFEY, GORDON, VENTIN...all gone. The four teams that had survived so far had all played well. In this set we have NORALIA (Jon Sveindal/Arild Rasmussen, Justin Howard/Kieran Dyke) against SLUFSA (Ole Berset/Olav Arve Høyem, Aksel Hornslien/Børre Lund/Jørgen Molberg).

The heart suit and minor-suit games played a big part in the first 14 boards of the semifinal. Spades? Who needs spades?

Board 1 was another of those knotty three-notrump vs. four-of-a-major decisions that have dotted the Championships. Both Easts opted for Stayman and a raise to game over the two-heart response with: ♠J6 ♥8654 ♦KQ9 ♣KQ96. Partner held: ♠AKQ ♥AQ103 ♦7643 ♣J2. Hearts were 3-2 with the doubleton jack in front of the ace-queen-ten-three, so no misguess was possible on normal play.

On Board 2, the East players had a one-notrump-or-raise decision when partner opened with one heart in third seat and RHO passed. They held: ♠Q74 ♥K108 ♦Q62 ♣Q764. Rasmussen for NORALIA raised to two hearts and Høyem for SLUFSA bid one notrump. Two hearts was cold and one notrump was an easy two down when partner held four low spades and a singleton diamond; 5 IMPs to NORALIA.

Another four-of-a-major versus three-notrump decision arose on Board 3. NORALIA bid to three notrump, SLUFSA to four spades. Three no trump was cold, whereas four spades needed a bit of luck. SLUFSA received its bit of luck for a push.

That bit of luck was returned to NORALIA with interest on the next deal, when Rasmussen declared three notrump with a heart holding of queen-third opposite a singleton, and the suit was led. That was the bad news. The good news was that his RHO had overcalled one heart and held both the ace and king of the suit. Oh, declarer also needed clubs to be

1-1 with ace-ten sixth opposite jack-fifth. Plus 630 against -150 gave 10 IMPs to NORALIA.

NORALIA won another 5 IMPs for two hearts doubled, +500, versus three clubs undoubled, -300. A push in two spades down one followed, and then, a dicey one-notrump contract...

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

	♠ J 8 7 4		
	♥ K 9		
	♦ K J 7 4		
	♣ Q 10 6		
♠ 9 6	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ Q 10 3 2	
♥ A Q 5 4		♥ 8 7 3	
♦ A 9 8 2		♦ Q 3	
♣ 7 3 2		♣ A 9 8 5	
	♠ A K 5		
	♥ J 10 6 2		
	♦ 10 6 5		
	♣ K J 4		

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Sveindal</i>	<i>Lund</i>	<i>Rasmussen</i>	<i>Berset</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♣
All Pass			1NT

With no attractive lead in any suit, Sveindal guessed to start with the nine of spades. Berset covered with the jack and Rasmussen ducked with the two, encouraging. When declarer tried the king of hearts from dummy, Sveindal won with his ace and continued spades to declarer's king. A heart to the nine held, as did a club to the king. The jack of hearts knocked out the queen, a club to the queen knocked out the ace and a spade back knocked out that ace. When a diamond to the jack lost to the queen, declarer was held to seven tricks for +90.


West	North	East	South
<i>Hornslien</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Høyem</i>	<i>Howard</i>
Pass	1♥*	Pass	1♠*
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

1♥ Spades
1♠ 11-13 balanced with 2/3 spades

Høyem is a more of a believer in fourth-best against one notrump than is Sveindal, so he duly led a club. Dyke won with dummy's jack and led a diamond to the jack, losing to the queen. East led another low club and declarer won with dummy's king to lead the ten of diamonds to the ace. West had a club left and led it to East's ace. East took the thirteenth club and everyone else threw spades on that so East exited with a passive spade to dummy's king. Declarer led a heart to dummy's nine, holding the trick, but now had no entry to set up and enjoy a second heart trick. He led a spade to the ace, hoping the queen would fall, but when it did not, he had only the king of diamonds left for a sixth trick. When they failed to break, there was no seventh in sight. That was -100 and SLUFSA's first IMPs, 5 of them. It was 20-5 NORALIA halfway through the set.

On Board 8, North/South had an easy defence to beat one notrump and both did. Next...

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sveindal</i>	<i>Lund</i>	<i>Rasmussen</i>	<i>Berset</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	Dble
Pass	2♣	2♥	3♣
	5♣	All Pass	


West	North	East	South
<i>Hornslien</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Høyem</i>	<i>Howard</i>
—	1♦	1♥	Dble*
Pass	2♣	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

That North hand sure looks like a three-club bid over the negative double to me. Both Norths disagreed with that assessment today, but I would not be surprised if, upon reflection, they change their minds. Berset scraped up a raise and Lund

seized his second chance. Both declarers made 12 tricks by finessing the queen of diamond and not finessing the queen of clubs. That sent 6 IMPs SLUFSA's way, now trailing 20-11.



Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sveindal</i>	<i>Lund</i>	<i>Rasmussen</i>	<i>Berset</i>
3♦	All Pass	Pass	Pass


In an attempt to shut out the heretofore unmentioned spades, Sveindal made a questionable three-diamond preempt in third seat. That did not have to work out as badly as it did, but the lapse in discipline cost him dearly this time. He had five losers in three diamonds and so was one off for -100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Hornslien</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Høyem</i>	<i>Howard</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	2♣
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

By contrast, Hornslien made the more-normal one-diamond bid and then leapt to three diamonds at his second turn. His reward was +620 in four hearts. That contract is no bargain, needing both red suits 3-2 and the ace of spades onside or ruffing down (otherwise: two club tricks ending in North, spade through, then a ruff-sluff).

After having been down 20-0 early, SLUFSA now led 23-20.

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West must pull. Does that seem right? On the actual deal, five hearts was cold and five diamonds doubled would have been down two. It was a push at -690.

On Board 12, Berset/Hornslien outbid Sveindal/Rasmussen to another excellent five-of-a-minor game, this time five diamonds, to win 6 IMPs. On 13, Both East/West pairs declared a notrump partscore. Høyem made one and Sveindal made two - but Sveindal had been doubled! Plus 380 against 90 sent 7 IMPs to NORALIA.

Both East/West pairs perpetrated the following auction:

West	North	East	South
Dble	4♥	Dble	1♥ All Pass

On the last deal, the West players held: ♠983 ♥KJ8 ♦QJ9 863 ♣5. Both their partners opened a strong notrump. Berset tried Stayman and passed out the two-diamond response for +90. Sveindal transferred to diamonds with two spades and went one off with five top losers for -50 and a 4-IMP loss.

Do you agree with both doubles? If you do, then

The score at the end of the first 14-board segment was SLUFSA 33 - NORALIA 27.

The Swedish Bridge Festival is simply fantastic, I really hope to come back to this event in the future, where the game is being played at the highest level and with an organisation that is World Class.

Michael Byrne
Captain for England and winner of Chairman's Cup





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BLUND vs NORALIA

by Jos Jacobs

Open Teams Semi-final, segment four

At the start of the final segment, Noralia would need a very good set of boards to have any chance of making it to the final.

Board 15, the opening board of the set, was a routine 4♠ but on the next board, both teams had their chances:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

	♠	K 8 5			
	♥	K 7 6 5 4			
	♦	A 10			
	♣	6 5 3			
♠		7 6 3	N	♠	A
♥		Q	W	♥	AJ109832
♦		9 6 3	E	♦	J 4
♣		K J 10 9 7 4	S	♣	A Q 8
	♠	Q J 10 9 4 2			
	♥	—			
	♦	K Q 8 7 5 2			
	♣	2			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dyke	Hornslie	J.Howard	Hoeyem
Pass	Pass	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass



Aksel Hornslie

To me, West might have considered bidding 5♣ after the double which confirmed the strong variety of the 3rd in hand 4♥ opening bid. Of course partner doesn't always deliver such trump support. If the double was



Olav Arve Hoeyem

Lightner for a club lead... Of course if North now "sacrificed" at 5♠, EW would have the same problem as going on to 6♣ at red v. green is probably asking too much. And the defenders do have two diamonds and a heart ruff.

Nevertheless, Noralia missed a fair chance here and conceded -690 when 4♠ made with a doubled overtrick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Berset	A.Rasmussen	Lund	Sveindal
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	2♥	4♠
All Pass			

In the Closed Room, North's opening bid must have taken Lund by surprise but it also had the effect of silencing him for most of the rest of the auction. In 4♠, Sveindal made the same 11 tricks but Blund had scored 6 more IMPs.

They added a lot more to that on the next board.



So Blund led by 39 with just 11 boards to play. It looked all over and so it turned out.

To end this report, though, here are two consecutive deals on which the North players from each team did very well. Here is the first:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 8			
♥ AK432			
♦ KJ7543			
♣ 6			
♠ 10942		♠ KQ765	
♥ Q9		♥ 8	
♦ A108		♦ 96	
♣ AKQ7		♣ J9432	
	♠ AJ3		
	♥ J10765		
	♦ Q2		
	♣ 1085		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dyke	Hornslien	J.Howard	Hoeyem
	1♥	1♠	2♥
3♥	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Well, West held a lot of defensive strength but mainly in the wrong suit. How was he to know that EW, also had a double fit in the black suits? East had overcalled 1♠ only.

Blund +650 as there was no defence against 5♥.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Berset	A.Rasmussen	Lund	Sveindal
	1♥	2♥	4♥
4♠	5♦	Pass	5♥
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♥
Dble	All Pass		

At the other table, Lund showed his black two-suiter, so West went on to 5♠ on general principles about the double fit. From this point, Noralia could only try to restrict the loss by doubling 5♠ and collecting +300 for a loss of 8 IMPs. Going on to 6♥, one down, made it a 13-IMP loss.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

		♠ KJ98	
		♥ J82	
		♦ AQ105	
		♣ J5	
♠ A43			♠ 1072
♥ A4			♥ KQ73
♦ 743			♦ KJ98
♣ AKQ76			♣ 83
		♠ Q65	
		♥ 10965	
		♦ 62	
		♣ 10942	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dyke	Hornslien	J.Howard	Hoeyem
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Hornslien made the excellent opening lead of the ♠9 which held the trick. Declarer won the third round of the suit and played off three top clubs, seeing the 4-2 break. Double-dummy, he could have made the contract now by twice leading a diamond from his hand but when he conceded a club to South, he could no longer make the contract as North held the ♦A and the 13th spade. Blund +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Berset	A.Rasmussen	Lund	Sveindal
			Pass
1♣	Dble	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

When North led the ♦A and another, declarer was home easily even after he put up dummy's king in trick two. He went on to establish a club for his ninth trick. Blund +600 and 12 IMPs to put the match out of reach for Noralia, since the Blund lead now had gone up to 57.

On the next board, Noralia showed they were going down in a blaze of glory:

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

	♠ K Q		
	♥ Q J 8 5		
	♦ K 9 6		
	♣ 10 6 3 2		
♠ 5 4 3 2	<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J 10 8	
♥ 10 9 7 3		♥ 6	
♦ J 10 7 4		♦ 8 5	
♣ 7		♣ K Q J 9 8 5 4	
	♠ A 9 7 6		
	♥ A K 4 2		
	♦ A Q 3 2		
	♣ A		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dyke	Hornslien	J.Howard	Hoeyem
Pass	1♣	3♣	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Compared to the easy 6♥, 6NT is not a very good contract as it needs the diamonds 3-3 (or J10 bare) with the extra chance of the ♠J10 to three. When the latter requirement materialised, Hornslein had his 12 tricks. Blund +990.

One wonders why NS never got to their heart fit. What would double over 3♣ have shown?

South might even have tried 4♣ to show his 4-4-4-1.

In the Closed Room, North could not conjure up an opening bid from anywhere so NS had to cope with East's 3♣ opening. Of course, North knew he had something in reserve when he bid 4♥ but opposite a less strong partner, 10 or 11 tricks might very well be the maximum number.

However, when South made the strongest possible move next, Rasmussen showed the full extra values of his hand in the only way he could: he bid 5NT. Sveindal quite rightly took this as the old-fashioned Josephine and went straight for the bulls-eye.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Berset	A.Rasmussen	Lund	Sveindal
Pass	Pass	4♣	Dble
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

Had there been no club pre-empt, the grand would have been quite easy to play: ruff two clubs low in South and there you are. On the known actual club layout, declarer had to find a more complicated solution however, consisting of ruffing spades and/or diamonds in North.

Rasmussen started his good work by cashing his ♥QJ, thus saving his low trumps for later ruffs. Seeing the 4-1 break, declarer next cashed his top spades, noting the fall of the ♠8 and ♠10 in East (or maybe not, as we shall see). From here, his prospects were beginning to look bright. If spades were 5-2, diamonds had to be 3-3 as East would surely have opened 4♣ on a seven-card suit. If spades were 4-3 after all, the small extra chance of East holding exactly ♠J10x might now materialise.

Rasmussen chose a line, however, in which it did not really matter. He crossed to dummy's ace and cashed ♠A, which brought down the jack, so his troubles were over but apparently, Rasmussen did not realise this, because of tiredness after a long day's play. He went on to play the high ♠9 but he ruffed it in dummy. Next, he cashed his two remaining top diamonds and ruffed the fourth diamond with dummy's last small trump, West having to follow suit all the time. As dummy's last two cards now were the ♥AK West could only underruff...

Well played indeed for a great +1510 and 11 fully deserved IMPs, however to no avail. Noralia had won the battle but lost the war, the final score in this semi-final being: Blund-Noralia 123-74.



Justin Howard