

NEC Bridge Festival

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Team e-bridge Defeats Sweden to Win 2001 NEC Cup

Team e-bridge (Sam Lev, John Mohan, Jacek Pszczola, Piotr Gawrys, Pinhas Romik) defeated Sweden (P.O. Sundelin, Johan Sylvan, Bjorn Fallenius, Magnus Lindkvist) 141-129 to win the 2001 NEC Cup. The contest was close from start to finish, and was punctuated with exciting hands, double-digit swings, and last minute heroics. With just two boards to go, the match was in a virtual tie. But e-bridge won the final two deals to walk away with the Gold medal. Below is the match score by quarters and brief biographies of the winning players can be found beginning on page 2.

Team	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter	Final
Sweden	31	33	37	28	129
e-bridge	48	23	37	33	141

England-Senior and Argentina/Australia squared off in a 16-board playoff for third place. England won the close contest 49-25, to take the Bronze medal.



2001 NEC Cup Winners



2001 NEC Cup Runners Up

Strong Showing by Japan in OUCHI Cup Final

The OUCHI Cup final was virtually swept by Japanese teams who finishing first and second in Flight A, second and third in Flight B, and swept Flight C. An English team won Flight B and Chinese Taipei took third place in Flight A. The Flight A winners from Japan were: Yugo Taka, Katsuhiko Ueki, Noboru Shida, Yumiko Eto. The Flight B winners from England were: Jeff Morris, Bill Hirst, Howard Melbourne, Ron Morrish. The Flight C winners were: Reiko Watanabe, Kei Watanabe, Osami Kimura, Kinzaburo Nishino. The top three finishers in each flight are listed on page 5. Congratulations



Flight B OUCHI Cup Winners



Flight A OUCHI Cup Winners



Flight C OUCHI Cup Winners

Meet This Year's NEC Cup Winners

Piotr Gawrys: One of Poland's most successful players of all time. A World Champion and multiple European Champion, he has excelled in teams, pairs and individual events throughout the last two decades. He is also a regular member of Team e-bridge.

Born in 1955 in Warsaw, Poland, Piotr is a bridge professional and former architect. He currently runs a company that imports coffee, espresso and coffee machines.

He was a member of the only Polish team ever to win either of the two major World Championship team events—the 7th World Teams Olympiad, in Seattle in 1984. In 2000 he added a second World Championship title to his list of achievements, winning the World Transnational Mixed Teams in Maastricht, The Netherlands, as a member of Team e-bridge in partnership with Migry Zur-Campanile. Piotr also has two World Championship Silver medals, losing to Iceland in the final of the 1991 Bermuda Bowl in Yokohama and to the USA in the final of the 1994 Rosenblum Cup in Albuquerque. He is a WBF World Grand Master (#17 in the current world rankings).

Piotr was a member of the last Polish team to win the European Teams Championship in Menton in 1993. With Krzysztof Lasocki he also won the 1995 European Pairs Championship in Rome. They did not just win it, they finished first in all three semi-final sessions and then, after an above-average first-final session, won the second. They were so far ahead of the field that they won the event with fifteen boards still remaining in the last session of the final.

Piotr has won most major European events at least once, including the 1994 European Cup and the 1992 Generali Masters Individual. He also won the 1990 Cavendish Invitational Pairs in partnership with Elyakim Shoufel. In 2000 he finished second in the Generali Masters Individual tournament in Athens. He also has countless Polish National titles to his credit.

Sam Lev: Sam Lev is a professional player who lives in the New York area with his wife and two children. He is one of the founders of e-bridge.

Schmuel 'Sam' Lev was born in 1947 and broke onto the international bridge scene as a member of the Israeli Open Team at the European Championships at the age of just 22. He earned a B.Sc. in chemistry from the Haifa Institute of Technology (Technion) but spent most of his early years in Israel running the Tel Aviv Bridge Club, which he managed and co-owned for twenty years. In that time, he represented Israel many times, collecting a silver medal at the 1975 European Teams Championships and twice earning a bronze medal in the Bermuda Bowl (in 1976 and 1985).

In 1989 Sam and his family relocated to the US. He has since won numerous US National titles including the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams twice (in 1989 and 1991) and the Life Masters Pairs, in partnership with John Mohan. He has also represented America in the 1993 Bermuda Bowl (Santiago).

Sam became a European champion at the age of just 26 when he won the very first European Pairs Championship in Germany. He was a member of the Israeli team that finished second to Italy in the 1975 European Championships in Brighton, England. This performance won Sam's team a place in the 1976 Bermuda Bowl in Monte Carlo, where they finished third.

Besides his successes at the world level, Sam has won many major international events including the Pan-American Championships, the Cavendish Invitational tournament, the Deauville International Pairs in France, the Forbo Teams in The Hague, The Netherlands, and events in places as far afield as Monte Carlo, Crans-Sur-Sierre (Switzerland), Paris, Brussels, London, Salsomaggiore (Italy), Biarritz, Poland, San Francisco, and Buenos Aires.

Away from the bridge table, Sam's interests include international politics, chess, a rooting interest in most sports, and Internet Bridge. He is also fluent in six languages.

John Mohan: John is the only player to win two World Championship titles in the year 2000. He has earned 17 North American titles and also has three wins in South America and four in

South Africa to his credit.

Born in 1939, John was a long-time resident of Santa Monica, California, but now resides in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. He is a graduate of the University of Chicago, a professional bridge player and investment consultant. He currently operates a bridge touring organization, Bridge Paradise, and is developing bridgewinner.com, an Internet portal for the world of bridge.

His first success at the international level came in 1978, when he and Roger Bates won the Bronze medal in the World Open Pairs in New Orleans. He became a world champion in the first week of the 2000 World Teams Olympiad in Maastricht, winning the World Senior Teams (representing the USA, with John Sutherlin, Dan Morse, Bobby Wolff, Kit Woolsey, and Steve Robinson). Remarkably, the second week of the tournament was just as successful for John: He added a second World title—the World Transnational Mixed Teams—as a member of Team e-bridge.

John won his first North American title in 1972—the Mixed Pairs—in partnership with Peggy Sutherlin. His 17 NABC victories include five wins in the major teams events: the Spingold in 1976 and the Vanderbilt four times (in 1975, 76, 88 and 92). His recent successes include two victories in tandem with other regular members of Team e-bridge: the 2000 Life Master Pairs, playing with Sam Lev, and the 1999 Blue Ribbon Pairs, in partnership with Jill Meyers, only the second time in history that a Mixed Pair has won this event.

In the late eighties, John moved to South Africa for a few years. He enjoyed considerable bridge success there, winning the National Open Pairs twice (1988 and 89) and the National Open Teams twice (1989 and 90).

Away from the bridge table, John plays tennis and paddle tennis, and manages rotisserie baseball teams.

Jacek Pszczola: Jacek and partner Michal Kwiecien are the reigning World Open Pairs champions and also won Silver medals in the Open Teams at the Maastricht Olympiad.

Jacek Pszczola, born in 1967, is a mining

engineer by profession. He is the youngest member of the Polish team that has figured so prominently in world events in recent years.

Jacek and Michal have been playing together for about eight years, but it is only in the last three years that they have made their mark in the international arena. This is Jacek's first serious partnership and it has improved with age. Their first international appearance for Poland was at the 1997 European Teams in Montecatini, where they won the Silver medals. That qualified them for the Bermuda Bowl in Hammamet where they lost to the eventual winners (France) in the quarter-finals. It was not all disappointment for them in Tunisia, however: They earned Bronze medals in the World Transnational Teams.

In 1998, they made their presence felt by winning the World Open Pairs on the very last round of the marathon contest. They qualified for the 2000 Bermuda Bowl with a respectable showing at the 1999 European Championships, but again lost in the quarter-finals, this time to a strong American team. If the Butler rankings are the definitive comparative yardstick, theirs was the best Polish performance in Bermuda; they finished third overall in the round-robin stage. They just missed out on their second World Championship title at the World Teams Olympiad in Maastricht, where they finished second to Italy.

Jacek is a former Polish Junior champion, and in 1995 he also won the most prestigious Polish national event, Festiwal Solidarnosci, in Slupsk. In a country where most significant bridge activities are organized by membership clubs, he and Michal belong to Unia Winkhaus Leszno. Jacek provides this intriguing story:

"The club for which Michal and I play has advanced to the playoffs of the Polish National Teams Championship for the last four years, and four times we have finished fourth. Last year we again found ourselves in the playoffs, and everybody wondered if history was going to repeat itself yet again. The event was played in a small city southeast of Warsaw, very near to the Vistula River (about 100 meters away), and it was at the time of the worst flooding in Poland in more than 100 years. Players who were sitting out walked outside to watch the level of the river. Everybody was nervous. I was under extra

stress because my wife was expecting our first child, so I played with a cellular phone nearby, all the time ready to rush home if I was needed. But everything had a happy ending this time. The players participating in the playoffs did not have to be rescued from the rising waters, our club won its first Polish Championship, and right after I returned home I witnessed the birth of my first child. Happily, I put the gold medal I had won around the neck of my newborn son..."

In the past few years Jacek has been playing a lot of professional bridge abroad, often with Piotr Gawrys. When not playing bridge, Jacek can often be found on the basketball court, although his son, now one year old, also occupies much of his time these days.

Pinhas Romik: Pinhas has represented both Poland and Israel in international events. He is the Founder, CEO and President of e-bridge.

Pinhas, born in 1947 in Poland, learned to play bridge at the age of nine. A prodigy, he made his debut on the Polish team at the age of just 19.

A multi-talented man, Pinhas has achieved success in fields as diverse as high-tech, management and bridge. He earned a B.Sc. in Physics from Tel Aviv University and from 1974 to 1992 worked at various engineering and management positions for Tadiran Electronics Industries, then the largest Israeli electronic company. His last position at Tadiran was General Manager of the Communications Systems Division, which was engaged in designing and producing military and civilian communications and computer equipment. He has 25 years of experience in electronic technologies, microelectronics, electro-optics, C3I systems, Ballistic Missile defense, military communications systems, consumer radio technologies, manufacturing, logistics & TQM methods for the electronics industry.

In 1992, Pinhas founded RDC Communications, which has become a worldwide leader in wireless data communications, selling its

products in over 20 countries. At RDC, he held various management positions, including President and CEO, Executive Director, and VP Marketing and Sales. He has considerable experience in marketing electronic products and services in the U.S., Europe and the Far East.

Since moving to Israel in 1972, Pinhas has played many times for the Israeli Open Team. Partnering Sam Lev, he was a member of the Israel team that finished behind Italy at the 1975 European Teams Championship in Brighton, England, thus qualifying for the Bermuda Bowl in Monte Carlo the following year. In Monaco, Pinhas's Israeli team finishing third in the round-robin, falling just 5 VPs short of a place in the final. That consistent performance earned the Israelis the Bronze medals, and in the following week they finished eighth in the World Teams Olympiad, held in the same venue.

Pinhas gave up serious bridge for many years, but his passion for the game has not died. His career experience convinced him that an Internet company dedicated to bridge could succeed and he developed a plan for e-bridge, then set out to make it work. The company is still very young but its plans are ambitious and Pinhas has renewed his involvement with the game after all. His first gold medal in a World Championship event came as non-playing captain of Team e-bridge, which carried off the World Transnational Mixed Teams title at the 2000 World Teams Olympiad in Maastricht.

Over the years, Pinhas has won many prestigious bridge tournaments, often partnering the mercurial Lev. He has also held many public positions in the Israeli Bridge Federation, including Sport Captain of the Tel Aviv Branch and member of the National Team Selection Committee.

Pinhas is married and has two sons. He lives in Tel Aviv, although he splits his time these days between Israel and the e-bridge US office in New York City.

Today's Schedule

Today's **Asuka Cup** will be in Rooms 501 & 502 of the Pacifico Conference Center from 10:00-17:00. The NEC Cup Bridge Festival's Closing Ceremony will be held in Rooms 301 & 302 from 18:00-21:00.

Top Finishers in OUCHI Cup

Flt.	Rank	VP	Country	Team Members
	1	181	Japan	Yugo Taka, Katsuhiko Ueki, Noboru Shida, Yumiko Eto
A	2	172	Japan	Kyoko Shimamura, Shoko Fukuda, Makiko Hayashi, Yuko Yamada
	3	163	Ch. Taipei	Wei-Wei Tsao, Chih-Mou Lin, Donny Chen, Michael Ting
	1-2	170	England	Jeff Morris, Bill Hirst, Howard Melbourne, Ron Morrish
B	1-2	170	Japan	Mizuko Tan, Kazuko Banno, Chieko Notomi, Tomoe Nakao
	3	156	Japan	Masayuki Hayasaka, Sei Nagasaka, Hidenori Narita, Yoichi Ito
	1	184	Japan	Reiko Watanabe, Kei Watanabe, Osami Kimura, Kinzaburo Nishino
C	2	163	Japan	Misuzu Ichihashi, Aiko Mizuuchi, Kazuko Senga, Yoshiko Fukuda
	3	160	Japan	Misae Kato, Yasuyo Iida, Kimiko Kamakari, Tomoko Waida



NEC Cup

OUCHI Cup



Special e-bridge subscription offer to NEC Cup participants

e-bridge, the one-stop-shop bridge portal, is offering special promotional gifts for NEC Cup participants who subscribe to e-bridge during the tournament. Yearly subscribers (US \$110) will have these gifts to choose from:

- ♠ CONVENTIONS, the new CD ROM from Mike Lawrence; (retail value \$60\$),
- ♠ Play the Life Master Pairs (Day 1 & 2): 2 CD-ROM set from Larry Cohen; retail value \$60,
- ♠ Larry Cohen's "To Bid or Not to Bid: The Law of Total Tricks," collector edition, leather bound, numbered and autographed by the author, retail value \$40.

These special offers are available in limited quantities. Sign up now while supplies last. You can get e-bridge registration forms from the Tournament Director or from Pinhas Romik.

NEC Cup Semifinals

by Eric Kokish

Sweden, 33-20 over England; e-bridge, 52-18 over Argentina/Australia.

We'll focus on Sweden vs England but will keep in touch with the other match too. In the Open Room Liggins/Fawcett play a strong notrump with five-card majors and a prepared 1♣ opening while Sundelin/Sylvan feature a two-way club (11-13 balanced or any 17+) and a 14-16 notrump. In the Closed Room, Senior/ Erichsen play four-card majors and a strong notrump with a 2♦ opening to introduce weak major two-suiters, natural weak twos. Their opponents, Fallenius-Lindkvist (who had a great run together in the eighties before branching into other partnerships), play a similar type of 1♣ opening (which can include 11-16 hands with short diamonds), a natural but unbalanced 1♦ opening and 14-16 no-trumps.

Second Segment (Boards 17-32):

Bd: 17	North		
Dir: North	♠ ---		
Vul: None	♥ Q10652		
	♦ 9842		
	♣ K864		
West		East	
♠ 1098742		♠ AKQ53	
♥ 83		♥ A4	
♦ Q106		♦ A7	
♣ 73		♣ AQJ10	
	South		
	♠ J6		
	♥ KJ97		
	♦ KJ53		
	♣ 952		

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Liggins	Sundelin	Fawcett
	2♥(1)	Dble	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

(1) Hearts and a minor, weak

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Erichsen	Lindkvist	Senior	Fallenius
	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

To quote e-bridge online Vugraph commentator Barry Rigal, "Liggins at once served notice that his weak-two's are hands of power and quality." Fawcett might have done more, but perhaps these two-suited creatures don't produce as many tricks as we mortals might believe. With the auction staring me in the face I still can't believe that Sylvan bid only 3♠ over Sundelin's second double. Sundelin might have bid the (only) so-so slam over 4♠, however, so perhaps Sylvan's action has more going for it than I think. He used his trump entries to take two club finesses: plus 480.

Senior/Erichsen, who had the auction to themselves, did not have a particularly easy ride. West's hand, with remarkable support, does not lend itself to straightforward description over the 2♠ rebid; a jump to 4♠ shows good trumps and nothing else, but you might bid that way with jack-fourth of trumps and out. This hand is much better.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lambardi	Mohan	Ravenna
	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marston	Pszczola	Del'Monte	Gawrys
	Pass	1♣(1)	Pass
1♦(2)	1♥	Dble	2NT(3)
Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

(1) 15+, F1; (2) Negative

(3) Good four-trump heart raise

Mohan took 13 on a diamond lead, but lost 10 IMPs to A/A when Marston/Del'Monte reached slam. The margin was down to 24 in that match.

Bd: 18	North	
Dlr: East	♠ K954	
Vul: N/S	♥ K10763	
	♦ A94	
	♣ 9	
West		East
♠ A863		♠ QJ102
♥ J54		♥ A9
♦ KQ6		♦ J108
♣ K83		♣ A654
	South	
	♠ 7	
	♥ Q82	
	♦ 7532	
	♣ QJ1072	

All the E/W pairs went two down in 4♠ or 3NT. No swing.

Bd: 19	North	
Dlr: South	♠ AQ107	
Vul: E/W	♥ 9876	
	♦ K53	
	♣ J6	
West		East
♠ J965		♠ K8432
♥ A2		♥ KJ3
♦ 94		♦ AQ8
♣ Q10983		♣ K7
	South	
	♠ ---	
	♥ Q1054	
	♦ J10762	
	♣ A542	

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Liggins	Sundelin	Fawcett
Pass	Pass	1♣(1)	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
(1) 11-13 BAL or any 17+			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Erichsen	Lindkvist	Senior	Fallenius
Pass	1♠	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		Pass

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lambardi	Mohan	Ravenna
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marston	Pszczola	Del'Monte	Gawrys
Pass	1♣(1)	1♠	Pass
3♠*	All Pass		Dble*
(1) Polish Club, F1			

The declarers in 4♠ (Sylvan and Mohan) both went one down, losing three trumps (low to the king) and a club. Del'Monte, who played trumps the same way, made 3♠ (note how little he thought Marston might have for his preemptive raise) and gained 6 IMPs for A/A, 34-52.



"I could have sworn he played that card two tricks ago."

Lindkvist's third seat 1♠ (I'm astounded that this action appealed to no one else) kept his opponents out of spades. Not out of 3NT, however, and that went a cool four down on a diamond lead, Senior losing to the ♣J. He feels that once North was known to have opened a four-card spade suit he would not have a sound opening bid, and that therefore doubleton jack

was far more likely than ace-third. Bridge players who are willing to explain why their apparently normal actions were inferior deserve our respect and Brian gets brownie points in my book for sharing his sadness with us. 400 to Sweden, and 7 IMPs, 40-20.

Bd: 20	North		
Dlr: West	♠	KJ109	
Vul: Both	♥	J86	
	♦	K10	
	♣	A962	
West	East		
♠ 74	♠	86532	
♥ AK1073	♥	4	
♦ 743	♦	J982	
♣ Q74	♣	K53	
	South		
	♠	AQ	
	♥	Q952	
	♦	AQ65	
	♣	J108	

At two of the four tables, this was a straightforward (cold) 3NT for N/S, yielding 10 tricks. This dull board had some unexpected juice in it, however, when two of the West players added an element of danger...

England vs Sweden

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Erichsen	Lindkvist	Senior	Fallenius
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♥*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Dble	Pass	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

In response to the three-way 1♣, Fallenius' 1♥ showed either spades (8+ points) or a balanced 12+. Lindkvist showed 12-13 with a spade fit, and Fallenius' 2♥ confirmed the balanced type, denying spades. Erichsen's innocent-looking double was anything but, as Fallenius could have redoubled, leading to plus 1240 if he could negotiate his overtrick. But no, Bjorn uncharacteristically rejected the opportunity to get rich and settled for 3NT. The low heart lead cut Erichsen off from his heart tricks: plus 660 and Sweden gained an IMP, 41-20.

At the fourth table, however, there was genuine mayhem ...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marston	Pszczola	Del'Monte	Gawrys
2♥	Dble	All Pass	

For Marston, this was almost a strong two-bid. Although Pszczola's takeout double will not be appearing soon in theatres near you Gawrys has asked that it be nominated for best foreign film of the year (horror genre). Gawrys, who knows a gift horse when he sees one, passed for penalty, willing to see the color of Marston's money. The Poles combined brilliantly to nail the intrepid Marston, Pszczola leading king and another diamond. Gawrys cashed a third diamond and played spades, discarding a club on the third. Pszczola rose on the first club and played a fourth spade to allow Gawrys to dispose of his last club. Eventually, Pszczola over-ruffed the ♥10 with the jack, so Marston was held to four trump tricks. Down 1100. 10 IMPs to e-bridge, 62-34.

Bd: 21	North		
Dlr: North	♠	Q9	
Vul: N/S	♥	KJ10864	
	♦	AKJ74	
	♣	---	
West	East		
♠ KJ7	♠	86	
♥ 3	♥	AQ72	
♦ Q653	♦	102	
♣ AKQ43	♣	J10976	
	South		
	♠	A105432	
	♥	95	
	♦	98	
	♣	852	

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Liggins	Sundelin	Fawcett
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Dble	2♦	3♣	Pass
3♠	Dble	Rdbl*	Pass
3NT	Dble	Pass	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Erichsen	Lindkvist	Senior	Fallenius
	1♥	Pass	2♠*
Dble	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

It would have been interesting to see how the defense would have evolved in 3NT doubled, but Sylvan was not willing to pay for the privilege of finding out. As the best defense (♦A, heart switch) is also the normal one, and forces declarer to guess spades to avoid going two down, it looks as if Sylvan did the right thing. Fawcett led the ♦8, low from two, but there was no trump promotion. In the end, Sundelin misguessed spades to go one down: minus 50. Liggins did do a lot of bidding.

Fallenius' weak-jump response created a more difficult scenario for Erichsen/Senior. It looks as if they play a form of lebensohl here, with Senior's 3♣ showing some useful values (else 2NT, as a weak puppet to 3♣). Erichsen bid the stopper he held, then drew the inference that Senior held a heart stopper when he did not retreat to 4♣, and reopened with 3NT to protect his spade holding. Very pretty, in my view. Lindkvist started with the ♦K, then had only to stay off spades. He switched to the ♠Q at trick two, however, which looks unnecessary from a safe vanage point high above the battlefield: plus 400 for Erichsen, 10 IMPs to England, 30-41.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lambardi	Mohan	Ravenna
	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♣	2♦	4♣	Pass
Pass	4♥	Dble	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marston	Pszczola	Del'Monte	Gawrys
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Dble	3♦	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

In 4♥ doubled, Lambardi ruffed the opening lead and played on a crossruff. That left him with two diamonds, six trump tricks, and the ♠A: minus 200.

Del'Monte, in 5♣, won the opening heart lead and tried a spade immediately, putting Gawrys to the test. Gawrys went in with the ace to play a diamond and Del'Monte was one down: minus 50. 6 IMPs to e-bridge, 68-34.

Bd: 22	North
Dlr: East	♠ J84
Vul: E/W	♥ J87543
	♦ 952
	♣ 4
West	East
♠ 953	♠ 62
♥ 9	♥ AQ6
♦ QJ874	♦ AK1063
♣ J1086	♣ A73
	South
	♠ AKQ107
	♥ K102
	♦ ---
	♣ KQ952

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Liggins	Sundelin	Fawcett
		1♣(1)	1♠
Pass	2♠	Dble	4♠
All Pass			
(1) 11-13 BAL or any 17+			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Erichsen	Lindkvist	Senior	Fallenius
		1NT	Dble
2♦	2♥	2NT	4♥
All Pass			

Sundelin showed a strong club at his second turn, then sold out to 4♠, Sylvan taking no part in the proceedings with a promising hand (give Sundelin a singleton spade and the ♣9 and 5♦ would have been excellent). On the essential lead of the ♥9, Fawcett dropped the ten under Sundelin's ace. This had the desired effect, for PO switched to a diamond. Fawcett ruffed and drew two trumps (all he could afford) to pass the ♥8 and Sylvan correctly refused to ruff. Now a club, Sundelin following low. The ♣K won and the ♥K followed, Sylvan again refusing to ruff in order to shut out the heart suit. Fawcett ruffed a club and played a heart,

discarding a club. Sylvan ruffed at last to play a diamond, but when Fawcett ruffed and exited with a low club, the ace fell. Fawcett had the rest for a breathless plus 420.

Senior's seriously strong notrump did not get in his opponents' way; when Lindkvist was willing to introduce his heart suit, Fallenius took a shot at 4♥. Lindkvist ruffed the diamond lead, came to the ♠J, and led a club. Had Senior ducked, Lindkvist would have gotten home on a cross-ruff but Senior rose with the ♣A to play ace and another trump. Lindkvist still had to lose to the master trump but discarded both losing diamonds on the king-queen of clubs for plus 420. No swing, still Sweden by 41-30

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lambardi	Mohan	Ravenna
		1NT	Dble
2♣*	Pass	2♦	2♠
3♦	3♠	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marston	Pszczola	Del'Monte	Gawrys
		1♣(1)	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Dble
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			
(1) 15+			

Lev lead the ♥9 against 4♠ and when Ravenna did not drop the ten under the ace the position was clear to Mohan, who returned the six. Lev ruffed away the ten but then had to decide which minor to lead. Although the auction suggests that Mohan had five diamonds, perhaps Lev's 2♣ showed both minors and this was not so. In any case, Lev tried a diamond and Ravenna ruffed, drew two trumps, unblocked the ♥K, and conceded a club: plus 420.

After Gawrys ostensibly bid game by himself Marston led the ♥9 to the ace. Gawrys dropped the ten but Del'Monte returned the ♥6. Marston ruffed and led a club to get his second ruff. One down: minus 50. 10 well-deserved IMPs to A/A, 44-68.

Board 23 was a pushy but routine 3NT, a lucky lie of the cards providing lots of winners and

producing overtrick IMPs for England and A/A.

Bd: 24	North
Dlr: West	♠ K106542
Vul: None	♥ 7
	♦ J1095
	♣ Q9
West	East
♠ AQ983	♠ J
♥ 102	♥ KJ943
♦ 872	♦ Q
♣ J63	♣ AK10872
	South
	♠ 7
	♥ AQ865
	♦ AK643
	♣ 54

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Liggins	Sundelin	Fawcett
Pass	2♦(1)	4♣(2)	Pass
4♦(3)	Pass	4♥	Dble
5♣	All Pass		

(1) Multi; (2) Clubs and a major

(3) Which major?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Erichsen	Lindkvist	Senior	Fallenius
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	4♦
Dble	All Pass		

Sundelin's mildly aggressive two-suited 4♣ got his side to game. Fawcett was willing to double 4♥, but not 5♣, Sylvan retreating to the proven eight(+) card fit. Perhaps Liggins would have doubled himself with a likely trick. Fawcett, who might have led or switched to a trump, got two hearts and a diamond after leading two rounds of diamonds: minus 50.

Erichsen's random weak 2♥ set off a chain of events that would have been difficult for human analysts to project. Fallenius judged well to run from 3♥ doubled, which might have been a blood bath. Erichsen, with a good defensive hand in context, believed it was his duty to double. He led a trump, and Fallenius won to lead his spade up. When Erichsen won the ace

he could not lead both a club and a trump. He opted for the latter, won in dummy for a heart finesse. When the ♠A and ♠K stood up, Fallenius could cross-ruff for ten tricks and plus 510. 10 IMPs to Sweden, 51-31.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lambardi	Mohan	Ravenna
Pass	2♠	3♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marston	Pszczola	Del'Monte	Gawrys
2♠	Pass	3♣	Dble
Pass	3♦	3♥	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

Both contracts just made: 1 IMP to A/A, 46-68.

Bd: 25	North	
Dlr: North	♠ Q82	
Vul: E/W	♥ KQ10976	
	♦ J1097	
	♣ ---	
West		East
♠ J1053		♠ AK964
♥ A53		♥ J4
♦ A83		♦ 6
♣ A87		♣ KQJ52
	South	
	♠ 7	
	♥ 82	
	♦ KQ542	
	♣ 109643	

- (3) Pass or correct; (4) Not in the system
(5) Ask for ♠Q; (6) Sorry

I like the idea of opening three rather than two at this vulnerability but the North hand is both too strong and too suitable for other strains to suit me. Liggins, closer to an "anything goes" guy at this vulnerability...went. When Sundelin showed spades and another suit, Sylvan bid what he thought he could make. Sylvan won the heart lead and plays trumps from the top, losing a trump and a heart for one down: minus 100.

Lindkvist's cavalier 3♥ suggests that he didn't think much of his 2♦ opening, but perhaps this was his plan all along. Although Senior entered the auction late his side did well to reach the good slam. When Fallenius led a diamond Senior was miles ahead of Sylvan in the play, as only a 5-0 club break would beat him and Lindkvist might have doubled the slam if that were the case. Senior made the natural play of ace-king of trumps and had to lose a trump and, much later, a heart, when Fallenius kept his clubs. That was very unlucky for England as the choice of leads deserved to create a swing.

Senior stated after the fact that he should have passed the ♠J when he won the ♦A because the only danger was losing to the singleton or doubleton ♠Q when the clubs were 5-0 and that with only small trumps North might have doubled but with queen-third he would be reluctant to do so. That's surely an interesting point, but it's not worth forty lashes for failing to find the winning play. The guy is fast becoming my hero. Still 51-31 for Sweden.

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Liggins	Sundelin	Fawcett
	3♥	4♥*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Erichsen	Lindkvist	Senior	Fallenius
	2♦(1)	Pass(2)	2♥(3)
Pass	3♥(4)	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦(5)	Pass
5♠(6)	Pass	6♠	All Pass

(1) Multi; (2) Easier to describe later

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lambardi	Mohan	Ravenna
	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marston	Pszczola	Del'Monte	Gawrys
	2♦(1)	2♠(2)	Pass
3♥(3)	Dble	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥(4)	Pass
5♠(5)	Pass	6♠	All Pass

(1) Multi; (2) 11-15, takeout of hearts
(3) Game force; (4) ♠Q ask; (5) Sorry

Pablo Lambardi — meet Glynn Liggins. Should East go past game opposite a four-level slam try. Mohan's decision is at odds with Senior's RKCB. Perhaps 5♣ is the sort of compromise the hand merits. Plus 650 on a heart lead.

Del'Monte, opposite two cue-bids, drove to slam. He got a heart lead and made the normal play in trumps: minus 100. 13 IMPs to e-bridge, 81-46.

Bd: 26	North		
Dlr: East	♠ K876		
Vul: Both	♥ 7		
	♦ KQJ87		
	♣ A83		
West		East	
♠ AJ		♠ 9543	
♥ KJ10642		♥ A5	
♦ 102		♦ 964	
♣ J52		♣ KQ97	
	South		
	♠ Q102		
	♥ Q983		
	♦ A53		
	♣ 1064		

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Liggins	Sundelin	Fawcett
1♥	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
2♥	All Pass		Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Erichsen	Lindkvist	Senior	Fallenius
2♦(1)	Pass	2♥(2)	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♠
All Pass			
(1) Multi; (2) Pass or correct			

Sylvan's 2♥ was comfortable enough. He did not play for a trump coup after the four-one break was revealed: plus 110. Erichsen's Multi 2♦ (the 2♦ weak majors toy is reversed for more attractive vulnerabilities) creates a position in which Lindkvist must act on the second round to show his takeout double of hearts, and that gets Fallenius to declare 2♠ from the short side. He won the diamond lead in dummy to try a spade

to the ten and lost three trumps and three rounded-suit tricks for minus 100. No swing. Still Sweden, 51-31.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lambardi	Mohan	Ravenna
2♦(1)	2♥(2)	Pass	Pass
All Pass		Pass	3NT

(1) Multi; (2) Takeout of hearts

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marston	Pszczola	Del'Monte	Gawrys
2♦(1)	Pass	2♥(2)	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2NT(3)
Pass	3♣	All Pass	
(1) 6-card weak two; (2) Pass or correct			
(3) Puppet to 3♣			

Although led a diamond, then switched to a low club after winning his ♠J at trick two when Ravenna finessed the ten, there was still time for the defense to get its due. Ravenna took only six tricks for minus 300.

3♣ was not the contract of anyone's pleasant dreams but Pszczola did rather well in it. He ruffed the second heart and led the ♣8 to Del'Monte's queen, A spade witch went to the jack and king and Pszczola cashed the ♣A before losing a spade to the ace. A low heart was ruffed with the ♣9 and Del'Monte cashed the ♠K. Ouch. One down: minus 100. 5 IMPs to e-bridge, 86-46.



"Here he sits in quiet readiness, the fastest ruffer in Japan."

Bd: 27	North	
Dlr: South	♠ A10952	
Vul: None	♥ A83	
	♦ 1082	
	♣ A7	
West		East
♠ 74		♠ K86
♥ K7		♥ QJ1052
♦ KQ9743		♦ 5
♣ KQ3		♣ 8542
	South	
	♠ QJ3	
	♥ 964	
	♦ AJ6	
	♣ J1096	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marston	Pszczola	Del'Monte	Gawrys
			Pass
1♠(1)	Pass	1NT(2)	Pass
2♦(3)	2♠	All Pass	
(1) 6+♦ or 5/4+ minors; (2) F1; (3) 6♦			

Lambardi also led ♣A, club, but he took the first heart and cashed the ♠A, One down: minus 50. The Moscito guys, by dint of their artificial 1♠, were able to get the West hand across before the opponents competed to 2♠ and as a result were able to sell out to 2♠ with a clear conscience, a subtle advantage of the quirky system. 2♠ went one down of natural causes: minus 50. 3 IMPs to AA, 49-86.

England vs Sweden

Open Room/Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Liggins	Sundelin	Fawcett
Erichsen	Lindkvist	Senior	Fallenius
			Pass
1♦	1♠	Dble*	2♠
3♦	All Pass		

It's not clear that a negative double with the East cards is a winning approach in the long term but in the short term everyone would take that action and reach 3♦ either this way or via a good/bad 2NT.

Liggins led ace and another club, took the second heart, and underled the ♠A. Sylvan won the king and discarded his spade loser on a heart. He could not avoid losing two trumps and a club ruff, however: minus 50.

Lindkvist led a trump and Fallenius did well to put in the jack. Lindkvist took the first heart and cashed his aces, but the defenders had two trump tricks: minus 50. No swing.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lambardi	Mohan	Ravenna
			Pass
1♦	1♠	Dble*	2♠
3♦	All Pass		

Bd: 28	North	
Dlr: West	♠ Q8	
Vul: N/S	♥ AJ	
	♦ A10985	
	♣ AK109	
West		East
♠ J1073		♠ K42
♥ 109		♥ KQ87654
♦ KJ7		♦ 2
♣ QJ32		♣ 85
	South	
	♠ A965	
	♥ 32	
	♦ Q643	
	♣ 764	

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Liggins	Sundelin	Fawcett
Pass	1♦	3♥	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Erichsen	Lindkvist	Senior	Fallenius
	1♣(1)	3♥	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
(1) Three-way, F1			

Both Norths coped with East's preempt by reopening hopefully with 3NT. Sundelin found the good lead of the ♥K but Liggins ducked once to cut defensive communications. Ace and

another diamond produced the worst result for Liggins, as did his play of the ♠Q on Sylvan's low spade switch, but Liggins took the ♠K with the ace and knocked out the ♦K, Sylvan cashing his spade winners for one down (Liggins had preserved a diamond entry in dummy to reach the good ♠9. A miraculous one down: minus 100. Senior decided not to lead a heart of any stripe, choosing instead the wretched ♣8. Lindkvist took the jack with the ace and led the ♦5 to the queen and king. He put in the jack on the heart switch and might still have annoyed Lindkvist with a heart continuation, but instead he returned a club, Erichsen putting up the queen. Lindkvist cleared diamonds for plus 600. 12 IMPs to Sweden, 63-31.



"if pretty little bluebirds fly..."

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lambardi	Mohan	Ravenna
Pass	1♦	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marston	Pszczola	Del'Monte	Gawrys
Pass	1♣(1)	3♥	Pass
Pass	3NT		

(1) Polish Club, F1

Mohan's 4♥ precluded the possibility of his side's (mis)defending 3NT and at the same time jockeyed the Argentinians into 5♦. On the lead of the ♥K, Lambardi won and played ♦A, diamond. Lev returned a heart after taking the high trumps and Mohan exited with the ♠K, eliminating Lambardi's loser in that suit. Lev split his honors

on a club play from dummy, so Lambardi had to lose a club trick one way or the other. Two down; minus 200.

Pszczola, in 3NT, got the lead of the ♥K from Del'Monte, which he ducked. Del'Monte elected to switch to a low spade and the ten lost to the queen. Pszczola ran the ♦10 to the jack, won the heart switch, led the ♠8 to the king and ace, and ran the ♦Q. Bravo, Jacek. Plus 600, and 13 IMPs to e-bridge, 99-49.

Bd: 29	North
Dlr: North	♠ Q43
Vul: Both	♥ AKQ1052
	♦ 2
	♣ Q42
West	East
♠ J862	♠ AK107
♥ 6	♥ 97
♦ A985	♦ 7643
♣ 9653	♣ J87
	South
	♠ 95
	♥ J843
	♦ KQJ10
	♣ AK10

You could imagine N/S getting too high on occasion but all four of our pairs stopped safely, three of them (not Fawcett/Liggins) after fining out about the duplication in diamonds. No swing in either match at plus 620.

Bd: 30	North
Dlr: East	♠ 10873
Vul: None	♥ J7
	♦ A94
	♣ AQ73
West	East
♠ 6	♠ AK4
♥ AK8642	♥ 10953
♦ Q3	♦ J1082
♣ J1096	♣ 84
	South
	♠ QJ952
	♥ Q
	♦ K765
	♣ K52

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Liggins	Sundelin	Fawcett
2♥	3♥(1)	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

(1) Spades

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Erichsen	Lindkvist	Senior	Fallenius
1♥	Pass	2♥	2♠
3♥	3♠	All Pass	

Perhaps it's necessary to open the South hand to make a statement about virility, but if that's so I'm all for revealing my feminine side. Say it ain't so Joe. Somewhat randomly, the 1♠ opening pushes the Swedes into 4♥ on momentum and leads to the Brits doubling it. Right in theory as both 4♥ and 4♠ are due to fail, but wrong in practice as Liggins leads a spade (the only other sensible choice would be an equally disastrous trump). Sylvan takes his diamond discard, draws trumps and claims: plus 590.

The tempo of the auction is dramatically different in the Closed Room, where Erichsen/Senior sell out to 3♠, not expecting to make 4♥ and thinking they might beat the opponents' partscore. Although Senior, the single raiser, takes three tricks on defense, that is not enough and Fallenius chalks up plus 140. 12 IMPs to Sweden, ahead suddenly by 45 IMPs, 75-31.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lambardi	Mohan	Ravenna
1♥	Dble	2♥	4♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marston	Pszczola	Del'Monte	Gawrys
1♥	Pass	2NT(1)	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

(1) Invitational heart raise

If you like the action come on over to A/A vs e-bridge. My sympathies are with the Argentinians here, for I like both Lambardi's takeout double and Ravenna's 4♠. Mohan's heavy four-trump

raise to 2♥ is an action you won't see very often any more, but it was all academic once Lambardi had doubled 1♥. 4♠ went one down: minus 50. A good save against the unmakeable 4♥? Is that an oxymoron?

Well, no. Del'Monte's evaluation of the East hand was dramatically different from Mohan's but facing a limited opening bid, he had a few additional arrows in his quiver. Marston took a two-way shot at game, not really expecting to make it very often, but Pszczola led...a spade: plus 420. 9 IMPs to A/A, 58-99.

Bd: 31	North
Dlr: South	♠ 73
Vul: N/S	♥ AQ105
	♦ J4
	♣ AK853
West	East
♠ J1094	♠ Q6
♥ K876	♥ J432
♦ 876	♦ AK53
♣ Q9	♣ J104
	South
	♠ AK852
	♥ 9
	♦ Q1092
	♣ 762

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Liggins	Sundelin	Fawcett
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Erichsen	Lindkvist	Senior	Fallenius
2♦(1)	Pass	2♥	Pass

(1) Weak, both majors

Fawcett, in 2♠, got a heart lead and put in the queen, a free finesse to pitch a club in either case: plus 140.

Give the kid a toy and he'll play with it until it breaks. Erichsen's 2♦ hits a nice fit and you can imagine Senior enjoying some hope of making 2♥ before the dummy appeared.

Fallenius' lead of the ♡9 ran to the jack and when Senior attacked spades rather than clubs, the defenders played on diamonds and 2♡ finished three down: minus 150. No swing.

In the other match, North prefers to show his club length and finishes in 3♣, finishing with 10 tricks. A push at plus 130.

Bd: 32	North	
Dlr: West	♠ KJ4	
Vul: E/W	♡ AJ86	
	◇ QJ3	
	♣ Q85	
West		East
♠ 98652		♠ 1073
♡ Q94		♡ K32
◇ A2		◇ 10975
♣ AJ10		♣ K63
	South	
	♠ AQ	
	♡ 1075	
	◇ K864	
	♣ 9742	

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Liggins	Sundelin	Fawcett
1♣(1)	Dble	Pass	1NT

All Pass

(1) 11-13 BAL or any 17+

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Erichsen	Lindkvist	Senior	Fallenius
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Liggins' double of the two-way club got Fawcett to a touch-and-go 1NT. Sylvan led a spade, then rose with the ◇A to play a second spade while the diamonds were blocked. Fawcett won dummy's king and called for a low heart and Sundelin erred by going in with the king to clear spades. Now Fawcett could overtake the third diamond to pass the ♡10 and so finished with eight winners and a magnificent plus 120.

Senior made the normal but unfortunate lead of the ◇10 against Lindkvist's 1NT at the other table, low, low, queen. The ◇J lost to the ace and now Lindkvist had time to finesse against

the ◇10 and to play West for honor-nine-third of hearts, so he too came to eight tricks to halve the board at plus 120.

This was a strong set by Lindkvist-Fallenius, helping their team to win the stanza, 42-11. With 16 boards to go, Sweden led 75-31, having held their opponents to less than an IMP a board.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lambardi	Mohan	Ravenna
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♡	Pass	2NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marston	Pszczola	Del'Monte	Gawrys
1♡(1)	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

(1) 4+♠, 9-14

Lambardi, in 2NT, got the lead of the ◇10 from Mohan and played card for card as Lindkvist did: plus 120.

If the Poles decided to fight Moscito with insect repellent, Pszczola's disgusting 1NT overcall might be the wrong brand. 3NT was beyond his considerable abilities as declarer, especially on a spade lead, and he finished three down: minus 150. 7 IMPs to A/A, which enabled them to break even on the session at 47-all. After 32 of 48 boards, however, e-bridge led by 34 IMPs, 99-65.



"You bid 3♣ with *what*?!"

The NEC Cup Semifinals

by Eric Kokish

With 16 boards remaining in the semifinals, Sweden's lead over England was 44 IMPs, and the Swedes were playing well enough to hold on to it. There have been some events in recent memory, however, that some of these Swedish players would prefer to forget, having blown some big leads, so the ever-confident Fawcett/ Liggins and their accomplices at the other table (Erichsen/Senior), were not without hope.

In the other match, which was aired on e-bridge's nearly-live Vugraph, the company team held a significant but not secure 34-IMP lead over Argentina/Australia.

Third Segment (Boards 33-48):

Bd: 33	North	
Dlr: North	♠ A3	
Vul: None	♥ KQ1098	
	♦ AQ6	
	♣ AJ8	
West		East
♠ KJ107642		♠ 98
♥ ---		♥ J62
♦ 8432		♦ J10
♣ 64		♣ KQ9752
	South	
	♠ Q5	
	♥ A7543	
	♦ K975	
	♣ 103	

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Senior	Lindkvist	Erichsen
	2NT	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liggins	Sylvan	Fawcett	Sundelin
	2NT	Pass	3♥
3♠	4♣	Dble	4♥
All Pass			

Senior/Erichsen might have reached the reasonable 6♥ had they been on the same page. Senior's 3♠ pre-acceptance showed a control and a better had than a jump to 4♥. Erichsen thought he was making a slam try with 4♦ but Senior treated this as a re-transfer to hearts, or he would have gone along with the slam search.

Sylvan/Sundelin do not play transfers over 2NT because 3♣ starts relay sequences and 3♦ is Stayman (PO assures us that this is best) so he would have been declarer in 6♥, improving his slam chances because of the ♠Q. However, when Sylvan made a try with 4♣, Senior's double precluded that possibility. On a club lead, declarer needs four diamond tricks, which makes the slam a fair but unspectacular undertaking. No swing at plus 480. 75-31, Sweden.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Marston	Mohan	Del 'Monte
	1♣(1)	Pass	1♠(2)
3♠	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

(1) 15+

(2) 4+♠, 9+ HCP

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lambardi	Pszczola	Ravenna	Gawrys
	1♣*	Pass	1♥
3♠	Dble	Pass	4♥

All Pass

(1) Polish club, F1

Over Marston's 15+ 1♣ and Del'Monte's transfer positive, Lev's 3♠ killed the potential Moscito relay sequence, but Marston boldly countered with RKCB, driving to slam. The ♦9 provided the twelfth trick: plus 980.

Pszczola's 1♣ could have been a weak notrump type. When Lambardi bounced to 3♠ over Gawrys' 1♥ positive (4+♥, 8+ HCP), it was up to Pszczola to separate his hand types and his double did that, suggesting some sort of heart fit. With no black-suit controls, Gawrys settled

for 4♥, but had he risked 4♦, Pszczola would have driven to slam. Pszczola thought about bidding again but gave up: plus 480. 11 IMPs to A/A, 76-99. The match was wide open now.

Bd: 34	North	
Dlr: East	♠ Q843	
Vul: N/S	♥ K43	
	♦ 94	
	♣ AKQ8	
West	East	
♠ KJ97	♠ A10652	
♥ Q96	♥ AJ	
♦ A107	♦ KJ85	
♣ 1062	♣ J9	
	South	
	♠ ---	
	♥ 108752	
	♦ Q632	
	♣ 7543	

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Senior	Lindkvist	Erichsen
		1♠	Pass
2♥(1)	Pass	4♠	All Pass

(1) Spade support, 11-13

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liggins	Sylvan	Fawcett	Sundelin
		1♠	Pass
2♥(1)	Pass	2♠	All Pass

(1) Spade support, 9+

What's wrong with this picture? Should Liggins' potentially lower minimum convince Fawcett to sign off at 2♠ with a hand that would accept a limit raise? Not that 4♠ is laydown, but it's the sort of normal game you don't want to miss unless you're trying to create a swing.

South led a heart at both tables. Fawcett started trumps successfully but Sundelin kept his diamonds and took a slow trick there: plus 170.

Lindkvist won the ♥J and led the ♣ J, hoping to get someone to break diamonds or to ruff two losers in hand. Senior won and played a second heart, won the club continuation and forced Lindkvist with the ♥K. Now ♠A, getting

the bad news, and a spade to the nine and queen. A third trump tucked dummy in but Lindkvist ruffed dummy's club to complete his dummy reversal, and led a diamond to the ten. When it held he drew the last trump and claimed. Nicely done: plus 420. 6 IMPs to Sweden, 81-31.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Marston	Mohan	Del 'Monte
		1♠	Pass
3♦(1)	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lambardi	Pszczola	Ravenna	Gawrys
		1♠	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣(1)	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

(1) Not much extra

Both E/W pairs reached 4♠ after West used an artificial limit raise. Del'Monte led the ♥2 (lowest from odd). Mohan, like Lindkvist, played a club, and finished with the same end position to get home on the dummy reversal and diamond guess: plus 420.

Gawrys led the H8 (the Poles lead second and fourth best with attitude connotations), and Ravenna won the jack. A spade to the king solved declarer's problems, and he eventually emerged with ten tricks, losing two clubs and one diamond: plus 420 and no swing; e-bridge leading 99 -76.

Bd: 35	North	
Dlr: South	♠ QJ43	
Vul: E/W	♥ J975	
	♦ 109	
	♣ Q95	
West	East	
♠ 87	♠ K52	
♥ A32	♥ 84	
♦ K8543	♦ AQ76	
♣ 862	♣ J743	
	South	
	♠ A1096	
	♥ KQ106	
	♦ J2	
	♣ AK10	

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Senior	Lindkvist	Erichsen

Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liggins	Sylvan	Fawcett	Sundelin

Pass	1♦(2)	Pass	1NT(3)
Pass	2♣(4)	Pass	2♥

All Pass

(1) 11-13 BAL or any 17+; (2) Negative

(3) 17-19; (4) Stayman

4♥ is a respectable contract but it's not easy to see a practical way to bid it. With trumps three-two and the ♠K onside, both declarers made four: plus 170. No swing.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Marston	Mohan	Del 'Monte

Pass	1♦(2)	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

(1) 15+, F1; (2) <9 HCP, negative

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lambardi	Pszczola	Ravenna	Gawrys

Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
All Pass			



"It's true I'm a great player and system creator, but this public idol worship is getting just too embarrassing."

Marston sensibly passed Del'Monte's 15-18 notrump rebid, burying the four-four major-suit fits. Fortunately for them, the diamonds were five-four: plus 90.

Over Gawrys' 14+-17 HCP notrump, Pszczola chose to move forward, ostensibly committing to 2♥ or 2♠ on a four-three fit if Gawrys replied to 2♣ with 2♦ (then a 2♥ scramble). Plus 170. 2 IMPs to e-bridge, 101-76

Bd: 36	North
Dlr: West	♠ Q863
Vul: Both	♥ J72
	♦ ---
	♣ AJ7652
West	East
♠ AJ952	♠ ---
♥ AK10	♥ Q98643
♦ Q872	♦ AKJ43
♣ Q	♣ 104
	South
	♠ K1074
	♥ 5
	♦ 10965
	♣ K983

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Senior	Lindkvist	Erichsen
1♠	3♣	3♥	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liggins	Sylvan	Fawcett	Sundelin
1♠	Pass	2♦(1)	Pass
4♣(2)	Pass	4♦(3)	Pass
4♠(4)	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦*	Dble	Pass	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

(1) Hearts, at least invitational; (2) Splinter raise

(3) Last Train slam try; (4) Serious move

Would the intrepid Brian have risked life and limb with a hair-raising 3♣ had the match been a trifle closer? The smart money says no, but given the result (which may not be entirely attributable to the space consumed by the

preempt), we may see more of the same from him. Had the Swedes reached 6♥ after the 3♣ bid they would have done so from the “long” side, from which it was in jeopardy; a Lightner double might have attracted the vital diamond lead, but the lead of the ♠K might have done the job too. Pretty exciting stuff, albeit in the hypothetical. Consider, too, that had Senior passed over 1♠ Lindkvist would have responded 2♦ to show hearts, after which the Swedes might have played 6♥ from the short side. Then North would have had to underlead the ♠A to defeat the slam ...unless the final contract were 6♦. What a complex deal! And just to give you a taste of what might have happened in 6♥. Erichsen, who might well have raised the ante at least one level, did lead the ♠K. Senior gave suit preference with the deuce and Erichsen gave him a diamond ruff: plus 650. Now, dear reader, do you think that will be good or bad for England?

Well, let's see... Fawcett/Liggins, playing methods similar to the Swedes' in this situation, came to grips with their potential quite early, but the auction snuck into RKCB mode and now the Brits were headed for 6♥ from the long side, after which Mr Sylvan would have been in a position to introduce Mr Lightner. Whether this would have suggested a diamond lead, however, is something we cannot deduce from the information at our disposal. However, Sylvan's double of 5♦ suggests that he couldn't double 6♥ for a diamond lead. Fawcett's clever pass got his partner to bid 5♥ and thereby declared 6♥ from the more promising side. Sylvan later suggested that he might well have underled the ♠A but at the table he led the beast and went minus 1430. A rather spectacular 13 IMPs to England, 44-81.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Marston	Mohan	Del 'Monte
1♠	3♣	3♥	4♣

4♥ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lambardi	Pszczola	Ravenna	Gawrys
1♠	Pass	1NT(1)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass

4♥ All Pass

(1) Forcing, limited

Having seen some of Marston's obstructive efforts in this tournaments I won't speculate on the state of the match influencing his decision to overcall 3♣. Marston took the level from Mohan, and Del'Monte took the cue-bid from Lev, who might have done better to pass, surely forcing. Nice parlay by the Moscito dudes. Marston followed with the ♣2 under Del'Monte's lead of the ♠K, but Ish continued clubs: plus 680.

Given a free run, los Pablos produced a truly eccentric sequence to alight in 4♥, missing their potential red-suit slam (imagine what Ravenna might have done in this scenario had Lambardi rebid 2♦). With Gawrys on lead, however, it would have been a mistake for the Argentinians to get any higher. He led the ♦5, and when Pszczola ruffed, he underled the ♠A for a second ruff: plus 420. 2 IMPs to e-bridge, 103-76.

Bd: 37	North
Dlr: North	♠ 62
Vul: N/S	♥ KQ9
	♦ J4
	♣ KQJ1096
West	East
♠ 9873	♠ KQJ105
♥ J1052	♥ 7
♦ 765	♦ AKQ93
♣ 75	♣ 42
	South
	♠ A4
	♥ A8643
	♦ 1082
	♣ A83

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Senior	Lindkvist	Erichsen
	1♣	1♠	2♥

Pass	3♥	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♣

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liggins	Sylvan	Fawcett	Sundelin
	2♣	2♠	Dble*
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	5♠	All Pass

Be still, my beating heart. Another high-level adventure to titillate or torment us. Erichsen's pass over 4♦ was a fair statement of doubt about declaring versus defending and when Senior could not double 4♠, Espen made the excellent decision to branch out into clubs. 5♣ was cold but even 4♥ would (probably) have been too high: plus 600.

In the other room, Liggins' excellent 4♠ could not talk Sundelin out of 5♣, facing either six clubs or five clubs and four hearts (on the auction) but it did convince Fawcett that there was enough fit to go on to 5♠. Sundelin considered his pass forcing but Sylvan did not. Two down: minus 100. 11 IMPs to England, 55-81.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Marston	Mohan	Del 'Monte
	2♣*	2♠	3♥
Pass	4♥	Dble	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♣

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lambardi	Pszczola	Ravenna	Gawrys
	2♣*	2♠	Dble*
3♠	Pass	4♠	5♣

All Pass

Although both 2♣ openings here showed at least six clubs, Marston's range was 9-13, Pszczola's 10-14. In the end both Souths committed to 5♣, which was good for them on this layout. No swing at plus 600. e-bridge, 103-76.



What is this man smiling about?
Come to the closing ceremony and find out.

Bd: 38	North
Dlr: East	♠ Q8
Vul: E/W	♥ 10983
	♦ J43
	♣ KQ42
West	East
♠ KJ1092	♠ 75
♥ K54	♥ AQ2
♦ Q62	♦ AK1098
♣ 63	♣ J107
	South
	♠ A643
	♥ J76
	♦ 75
	♣ A985

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Senior	Lindkvist	Erichsen
		1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liggins	Sylvan	Fawcett	Sundelin
		1NT	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

Lindkvist's 1NT was 14-16, Fawcett's 15-17, but both Wests settled for an invitational sequence. Flat at plus 120.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Marston	Mohan	Del 'Monte
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lambardi	Pszczola	Ravenna	Gawrys
		1NT	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Lev/Mohan were never in danger of getting too high as the 1NT rebid showed 12-14 HCP. Lev preferred to play in 2♠ because of his internal spade spots, weak doubleton, and diamond fit

club. Indeed, the spade spots proved useful in negating South's four spades. After Marston led and continued hearts, Lev lost only two trumps and two clubs: plus 140.

Lambardi, behind in the match, saw an opportunity and drove to game opposite Ravenna's 15-17 notrump. Gawrys, warned off a spade lead, tried a club and the defense took the first five tricks: minus 100. 6 IMPs to e-bridge, 109-76.

Bd: 39	North	
Dlr: South	♠ K95	
Vul: Both	♥ A106	
	♦ AKQ63	
	♣ KJ	
West		East
♠ A1084		♠ QJ73
♥ Q753		♥ KJ2
♦ 542		♦ ---
♣ A2		♣ 1098753
	South	
	♠ 62	
	♥ 984	
	♦ J10987	
	♣ Q64	

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Senior	Lindkvist	Erichsen
			Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Rdbl	2♣	2♦
Pass	Pass	3♣	3♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liggins	Sylvan	Fawcett	Sundelin
			Pass
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Senior was in range for a 20-22 2NT opening but tried a different approach and landed in 3♦, where he made four: plus 130.

Sylvan, treated to ♣A, club, cashed out. A heart lead or switch would have held him to 120 legitimately, so perhaps it was just as well that he wasn't in game. No swing.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Marston	Mohan	Del 'Monte
			Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lambardi	Pszczola	Ravenna	Gawrys
			Pass
Pass	1♣(1)	Pass	1♦*
Pass	1NT*	All Pass	

(1) Polish Club, F1

Over Marston's 21-22 2NT, Del'Monte took the aggressive course and drove to game trying to find a five-three spade fit en route. Mohan led the ♠10 to the ace and Lev opted to return a club. Marston needed to find the ♠A onside for his ninth trick: plus 600. Pszczola's 1NT rebid showed 18-20 HCP after Gawrys' negative 1♦ response. It was not just the vagaries of range here that created the swing (although it could have gone either way) but also Marston's sensible decision to upgrade his hand by a point or two. Pszczola took nine tricks on an eventual spade shift by Lambardi: plus 150. 10 IMPs to A/A, 86-109. Just 23 IMPs separated the teams with plenty of time remaining.

Bd: 40	North	
Dlr: West	♠ 2	
Vul: None	♥ AJ10765	
	♦ KJ63	
	♣ 64	
West		East
♠ K94		♠ AQ7653
♥ 4		♥ K932
♦ 1085		♦ Q
♣ AK9852		♣ 103
	South	
	♠ J108	
	♥ Q8	
	♦ A9742	
	♣ QJ7	

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Senior	Lindkvist	Erichsen
2♣	2♥	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liggins	Sylvan	Fawcett	Sundelin
1♣*	1♥	1♠*	Dble*
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Marston	Mohan	Del 'Monte
1♣	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lambardi	Pszczola	Ravenna	Gawrys
Pass	1♥	1♠	Dble*
3♣(1)	Pass	4♠	All Pass

(1) Fit-showing

Everyone bid and made 4♠ E/W: four plus 420s. Halfway through the final set, e-bridge, 109-86, Sweden, 89-55. Both matches were still alive.

Bd: 41	North	
Dlr: North	♠ Q109	
Vul: E/W	♥ A8	
	♦ K53	
	♣ QJ952	
West		East
♠ 73		♠ AJ65
♥ Q9643		♥ J1072
♦ 964		♦ AJ10
♣ K73		♣ 106
	South	
	♠ K842	
	♥ K5	
	♦ Q872	
	♣ A84	

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Senior	Lindkvist	Erichsen
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liggins	Sylvan	Fawcett	Sundelin
	1♣(1)	Dble	Rdbl*
2♥	All Pass		

(1) 11-13 BAL or any 17+

Erichsen went one down in 2NT on a heart lead: minus 50. Sundelin had a lot of high cards but nowhere to play opposite 11-13 balanced. He decided to try for a plus on defense and soon found he couldn't defeat 2♥: plus 110. 2 IMPs to England, 57-89.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Marston	Mohan	Del 'Monte
	1NT*	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lambardi	Pszczola	Ravenna	Gawrys
	1♣*	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Over Marston's 11-14 notrump, Del'Monte settled for a game invitation and the partnership came to rest in 2NT, refusing to push too hard, nonvulnerable. Even 2NT was in jeopardy after Mohan's lead of the ♥7 to the queen and ace. Marston passed the ♣J to Lev, who returned the ♥4 to the eight, jack, and king. On the run of the clubs Mohan released the ♥2, blocking the suit, so Marston could play on spades and soon had nine tricks: plus 150.



"Is it time for dinner yet?"

Against Pszczola's 3NT, Ravenna led the ♥2. When Lambardi won the ♣K to return a heart, Ravenna could see five defensive tricks if he followed with the ♥7, so he did: minus 50. 5 IMPs to A/A, 91-109. The margin was just 17 now.

Bd: 42	North	
Dlr: East	♠ J104	
Vul: Both	♥ Q72	
	♦ K94	
	♣ J1074	
West	East	
♠ K762	♠ 53	
♥ AK10	♥ J963	
♦ A3	♦ J10865	
♣ 9652	♣ AQ	
	South	
	♠ AQ98	
	♥ 854	
	♦ Q72	
	♣ K83	

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Senior	Lindkvist	Erichsen
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liggins	Sylvan	Fawcett	Sundelin
		Pass	1♣(1)
Pass	1♦(2)	Pass	1♠(3)
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

(1) 11-13 BAL or any 17+; (2) Negative
(3) Weak, or not strong enough for game opposite a negative

Fallenius made 2♦ on a spade lead, ducked to his king: plus 90.

Fawcett led the ♦J against Sylvan's 1NT, ducked to the king. When Liggins won the ♠K, he switched to a low club to the jack and ace. The ♦10 was covered, setting up the nine, and Liggins switched smoothly to the ♥10, which held. He cashed the ace-king of hearts and tucked dummy in with a spade, but when the ♣Q fell under the king later he had seven tricks:

plus 90. 5 IMPs to Sweden, 94-57.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Marston	Mohan	Del 'Monte
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lambardi	Pszczola	Ravenna	Gawrys
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Lev upgraded his control-rich hand to open a 15-17 HCP notrump and Mohan tried fir game. On the lead of the ♣4 to the queen and king, 2NT was an awful contract and finished three down: minus 300.

Lambardi was content to bid his suits naturally, and landed Ravenna in 2♥, which handled nicely for plus 110. 9 IMPs from nowhere, bringing A/A to within a nonvulnerable game swing of e-bridge, 100-109.

Bd: 43	North	
Dlr: South	♠ QJ93	
Vul: None	♥ K9865	
	♦ 54	
	♣ 92	
West	East	
♠ A75	♠ 10862	
♥ 42	♥ J1073	
♦ QJ1083	♦ A62	
♣ KJ8	♣ 53	
	South	
	♠ K4	
	♥ AQ	
	♦ K97	
	♣ AQ10764	

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Senior	Lindkvist	Erichsen
			1♣
1♦	1♥	2♦	2NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liggins	Sylvan	Fawcett	Sundelin
			1♣(1)
1♦	Pass	2♦	3♣
Pass	3♥	All Pass	
(1) 11-13 BAL or any 17+			

Erichsen couldn't quite get home in 2NT on the lead of the ♦Q: minus 50. Sylvan, in the odd contract of 3♥, got the lead of the ♦A and a switch to the ♠8. He lost only one trick in each suit: plus 140. 5 IMPs to Sweden, 99-57.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Marston	Mohan	Del 'Monte
			1♣(1)
1♦	Dble*	2♦	3NT
All Pass			
(1) 15+, F1			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lambardi	Pszczola	Ravenna	Gawrys
			1♣(1)
1♦	Dble*	2♦	3NT
All Pass			
(1) Polish Club, F1			

Just how much those two doubles showed is unclear, but neither South was willing to quit short of game after that. Ish took six tricks, Gawrys seven. 2 IMPs to e-bridge, ending A/A's 24-IMP mini-run, 111-100.

Bd: 44	North	
Dlr: West	♠ KQ7	
Vul: N/S	♥ QJ3	
	♦ A752	
	♣ Q63	
West		East
♠ J1065		♠ A9432
♥ A10752		♥ K9
♦ 943		♦ J106
♣ J		♣ 1094
	South	
	♠ 8	
	♥ 864	
	♦ KQ8	
	♣ AK8752	

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Senior	Lindkvist	Erichsen
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♣
3♦(1)	3NT	4♠	4NT
All Pass			

(1) Spade fit, heart length

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liggins	Sylvan	Fawcett	Sundelin
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠(1)
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠(2)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
(1) Clubs; (2) Short spades			

Senior/Erichsen judged well to declare 4NT. The defense started ♥K, ♥A, spade switch: plus 630. After Sylvan's 14-16 notrump. The poor mesh in the majors made it clear that 3NT was the right contract: plus 660 on a low spade lead. 1 IMP to Sweden, 100-57.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Marston	Mohan	Del 'Monte
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lambardi	Pszczola	Ravenna	Gawrys
Pass	1♣(1)	1♠	3♣
4♥(2)	Dble	Pass	Pass
4♠	Dble	All Pass	
(1) Polish club, F1; (2) Spade fit, heart values			

After Marston's 11-14 notrump, a series of relays identified North's 3343 distribution, and RKCB in clubs revealed the two missing keycards. While Del'Monte was looking for the perfect cards to reach 6♣, 4NT had come and gone. After a spade lead to the ace, king and another heart produced a two-trick set: minus 200.

Gawrys' 3♣ was natural and forcing and Lambardi was convinced to commit to 4♠. Pszczola first doubled to showed a weak notrump type, then doubled to deny interest in a

five-level contract. It was difficult to slide into 4NT after these exchanges and the Poles settled for 300 on defense. That was a good result for los Pablos but it combined with the Open Room result to produce 11 IMPs for e-bridge, 122-100.

Would that be the death knell for A/A?

Bd: 45	North	
Dlr: North	♠ QJ643	
Vul: Both	♥ ---	
	♦ 762	
	♣ Q10932	
West		East
♠ K105		♠ 2
♥ A10654		♥ QJ987
♦ K103		♦ J854
♣ A4		♣ 865
	South	
	♠ A987	
	♥ K32	
	♦ AQ9	
	♣ KJ7	

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Senior	Lindkvist	Erichsen
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥(1)	Pass	3♣(2)
Pass	3♥(1)	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

(1) Spades; (2) Four spades, good hand

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liggins	Sylvan	Fawcett	Sundelin
	Pass	Pass	1♣(1)
1♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass

(1) 11-13 BAL or any 17+

This was a spectacular board for England, with Sundelin's two-way club allowing Liggins/Fawcett easy entry into the auction and a fast track to the three-level. Now PO could not separate his hand types safely and Sylvan did not wish to protect opposite the weak type, possibly giving his vulnerable opponents a fielder's choice. Liggins took ten tricks: plus 170.

In the other Room, Erichsen's strong notrump blocked out Fallenius and Senior drove to

game when Erichsen broke the transfer. Fallenius found the thoughtful lead of a diamond but that speeded up the play: plus 620. 13 IMPs to England, 70-100.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Marston	Mohan	Del 'Monte
	2♠*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lambardi	Pszczola	Ravenna	Gawrys
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Dble	3♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	5♥	Dble

All Pass

Marston's weak 2♠ showed specifically a five-card suit, and it was difficult for Lev/Mohan to get into the auction thereafter. Mohan led a heart against 4♠, but a diamond lead would not have set the contract unless the queen were played from dummy. Plus 620.

Los Pablos would have been shut out too but for Ravenna's aggressive double of Pszczola's transfer bid. Now Labardi was able to compete to 5♥, which was doubled and defeated by one trick: minus 200. 9 IMPs to A/A, within 13 IMPs with three deals remaining, at 109-122.

Bd: 46	North	
Dlr: East	♠ 963	
Vul: None	♥ 85432	
	♦ Q43	
	♣ J3	
West		East
♠ A108		♠ K754
♥ AKJ		♥ 97
♦ J982		♦ AK5
♣ AQ7		♣ K985
	South	
	♠ QJ2	
	♥ Q106	
	♦ 1076	
	♣ 10642	

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Senior	Lindkvist	Erichsen
		1♣*	Pass
1♥*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liggins	Sylvan	Fawcett	Sundelin
		1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦(1)	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) Inquiry, game-forcing

Fatigue (among things) prevents me from trying too hard to discover why the Swedes milked this combination all the way to 6NT, but in trying to find a safe lead Erichsen hit upon the ♦6, which gave Lindkvist four diamond tricks and time to build an extra one elsewhere; he played on spades to do so — low to the jack and ace, back to a diamond, then low towards the ♠10. He didn't need the heart finesse: plus 990.

Fawcett also took twelve tricks, finessing in hearts, clearing diamonds, and squeezing South in the black suits: plus 490. 11 IMPs to Sweden, 111-70.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Marston	Mohan	Del 'Monte
		1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lambardi	Pszczola	Ravenna	Gawrys
		1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	7♦	Pass
7NT	All Pass		

Lev fooled around for a while but eventually bid the 6NT he always intended to. Marston led the ♠3 to the jack and ace, and Lev cleared diamonds. A second spade went to dummy's king and Lev came to the ♣A to cash the ♥A and the long diamond. Del'Monte discarded the ♠Q, which seemed like the indicated play. Although it would not have helped him to discard a heart instead as long as Lev's next play was the ♥K, why would Lev play that way? Plus 990.

A/A had already gone down in 7NT on a deal cold for 7♠, and this deal was the same sort of disaster. Ravenna thought that 5NT involved him in a grand slam decision and took the plunge. 7NT was too much, and Lambardi finished two down: minus 100. 14 huge IMPs to e-bridge, ahead 136-109 now with two deals remaining.

Bd: 47	North
Dlr: South	♠ J6
Vul: N/S	♥ J62
	♦ QJ42
	♣ J876
West	East
♠ A753	♠ KQ92
♥ Q8743	♥ 10
♦ A6	♦ K10973
♣ 53	♣ Q92
	South
	♠ 1084
	♥ AK95
	♦ 85
	♣ AK104

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Senior	Lindkvist	Erichsen
			1♣
1♥	2♣	Dble	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liggins	Sylvan	Fawcett	Sundelin
			1NT
2♦*	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Both declarers took nine tricks: plus 140.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Marston	Mohan	Del 'Monte
			1♦(1)

Pass 2♥(2) All Pass
(1) 9-14, 4+♥; (2) 7-10, three-card heart raise
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lambardi	Pszczola	Ravenna	Gawrys
			1NT

All Pass

Here both N/S pairs stole the pot. Gawrys got a heart lead, put up dummy's jack, and finessed for the ♣Q: plus 90. Marston's 2♥ was a decent contract that ran into an indecent break: minus 200. 7 IMPs to e-bridge, 143-109.

Bd: 48	North	
Dlr: West	♠ KJ1086	
Vul: E/W	♥ K943	
	♦ Q10	
	♣ 84	
West		East
♠ AQ74		♠ 532
♥ Q1085		♥ AJ2
♦ 4		♦ 972
♣ K952		♣ QJ63
	South	
	♠ 9	
	♥ 76	
	♦ AKJ8653	
	♣ A107	

England vs Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	Senior	Lindkvist	Erichsen
1♣*	1♠	Dble*	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liggins	Sylvan	Fawcett	Sundelin
1♣	1♠	2♣	2♦
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♦

All Pass

Both 2NT and 3♦ made on the nose. No swing.

England won the lively set, 39-36, but Sweden won the match, 111-70, to reach the final.

A/A vs e-bridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Marston	Mohan	Del 'Monte
1♣	1♠	2♣	3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lambardi	Pszczola	Ravenna	Gawrys
1♣	1♠	Dble*	2♦

All Pass

Del'Monte's sensible bash at 3NT probably deserved a better fate. Lev started a low heart to the king and ace. Three more hearts and the ♠A set the contract: minus 50.

If Gawrys' 2♦ strikes you as cowardly that's because it was. Plus 110 and 4 IMPs to e-bridge, who won the third segment, 48-44 and won the match, 147-109 to earn a place in the final against Sweden.

A team conclave of the gallant A/A team produced the unanimous decision to seek and destroy the 7NT cards in all the bidding boxes in the Pacifico. Nakatani-san was last seen carrying a large lumpy satchel back to his room via the service elevator.



"Is the tournament over yet?"

The NEC Cup Final

by Rich Colker

Team Sweden (P.O. Sundelin, Johan Sylvan, Bjorn Fallenius, Magnus Lindkvist) was hot off a convincing victory over England-Senior in their semi-final match and was playing solid, steady bridge. Team e-bridge (Sam Lev, John Mohan, Jacek Pszczola, Piotr Gawrys, Pinhas Romik) defeated Argentina/Australia in their semi-final match largely on the strength of a big first segment. Their play has been punctuated by periods of brilliance and...well, randomness.

Lindkvist-Fallenius play a version of the Swedish Club with their 1♣ opening either 11-13 balanced, any 17+, or a three-suiter with short diamonds. Their 1♦ opening is natural with 11-16 and unbalanced (possibly with longer clubs). They open 1NT with 14-16 and play five-card majors (11-16). Their 2♣ openings are natural (11-16, 5+ clubs: either four spades or 6+ clubs), 2♦ opening is Multi (a weak two-bid in a major or 25+ balanced), 2♥ shows 11-16 with four hearts and longer clubs, 2♠ and 2NT show 5-10 two suiters with five spades/hearts, respectively, and a five-card minor.

Sundelin-Sylvan also play Swedish Club (P.O., the system's inventor, says his system is *the* Swedish Club; others are only pale imitations). 1♣ is 11-13 balanced or any 17+. 1♦ is natural showing 4+. 1NT is 14-16 and majors are five cards. 2♣ is natural, 11-16, with 5+ clubs (must have a four-card major if only five clubs). 2♦ is Multi: a weak two-bid in a major with a six-card suit or 22-23 balanced. 2♥ is 11-16 with four-four majors and short diamonds. 2♠ is 12-16 with 5+ diamonds and 4+ clubs. 2NT is 20-21 balanced.

Gawrys-Pszczola play the Polish Club. 1♣ is 11-14 balanced or strong, any shape. 1♦ is natural with 4+ diamonds. majors are five cards. 1NT is 15-17. 2♣ is 10-14 with six-clubs and a four-card major. 2♦ is Multi, a weak two-bid in a major. 2♥ shows 5+ hearts and 5+ in another suit; 2♠ shows 5+ spades and 5+ in a minor. 2NT is 6-11, unusual.

Mohan-Lev play 2/1 Game-Force. 15-17 notrumps, five-card majors, better minor. 2♣ is strong and artificial. 2♦ is Multi: a weak two-bid in a major. 2♥ and 2♠ show that suit and a 5+-

card minor. 2NT is 20-21 balanced.

Both teams enter the final in good spirits, the players nervous but confident. If anything the Swedish players appear a bit more relaxed but perhaps that is due more to their individual personalities than to anything bridge-related. Settle back and enjoy, as this year's final should be characterized by aggression and swinging results. We're off.

First Quarter (Boards 1-16):

Bd: 1	North	
Dlr: North	♠ A103	
Vul: None	♥ A9	
	♦ AJ964	
	♣ AK7	
West		East
♠ 986		♠ K4
♥ 8752		♥ KQ1064
♦ Q83		♦ K7
♣ 986		♣ J1052
	South	
	♠ QJ752	
	♥ J3	
	♦ 1052	
	♣ Q43	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
	1♣*	1♥	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
2♥	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
	1♣*	1♥	Pass
Pass	2♦(1)	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

(1) Strong

Lindkvist's 1NT showed 17+-20 and Fallenius' 2♣ was an artificial game force. 3NT seems to have been a bit precipitous in light of the game-forcing nature of 2♣ and prevented N/S from finding the good spade game. 2♦ would have

facilitated the investigation for the right strain although it might also backfire by helping the defense. Mohan led the ♠Q. Lindkvist won and had nothing better to do than continue the suit. The defenders cashed three more hearts leaving Lev on lead. He exited with the ♣9 and Lindkvist rode this around to the queen and tried the spade finesse. Mohan won and cashed his last heart for one down, minus 50. Pszczola in the other room took things more slowly and Gawrys was now able to introduce his spade suit, leading to the better spade contract. With only one spade, heart and diamond to lose this rolled home for plus 420 and 10 IMPs for e-bridge.

Bd: 2	North
Dlr: East	♠ K963
Vul: N/S	♥ K10
	♦ 1073
	♣ Q876
West	East
♠ 10752	♠ AQ84
♥ A76	♥ QJ853
♦ J94	♦ 85
♣ 532	♣ 94
	South
	♠ J
	♥ 942
	♦ AKQ62
	♣ AKJ10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
		Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♥*	Pass	1♠*
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
All Pass			

Lindkvist's 1♥ showed 8+ points with 4+ spades and Fallenius' 1♠ must have been a relay. 1NT was natural and 2♣ was another relay. Against 3NT Mohan led the ♥5 and Lindkvist took his ten tricks for plus 630. It looks like the wheels

came off in the Closed Room when Pszczola passed Gawrys' 2♣ rebid. On a trump lead Gawrys took eleven tricks. Plus 150 was 10 IMPs back to Sweden, tied at 10-10.

Bd: 3	North
Dlr: South	♠ 7
Vul: E/W	♥ K108652
	♦ AQ3
	♣ 1093
West	East
♠ J109	♠ 543
♥ Q	♥ AJ9
♦ 108742	♦ K965
♣ K762	♣ Q84
	South
	♠ AKQ862
	♥ 743
	♦ J
	♣ AJ5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
			1♠
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
			1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Lindkvist's 2♦ response was a transfer to hearts and Fallenius judged well to show support, jumping to invite game, and Lindkvist duly accepted. Lev led a low club to the ace and Fallenius won and played: ♦A, diamond ruff, three top spades pitching clubs, club ruff, diamond ruff, trump. He lost only three trump tricks for plus 420. In the Closed Room Gawrys judged to rebid his own suit and Pszczola raised to game on a singleton. But Pszczola's hearts could make the same contribution to Gawrys' spade contract as Fallenius' spades had to Lindkvist's heart contract in the Open Room and on the club lead Gawrys had to lose a club and three hearts for one down, minus 50. Another 10 IMPs to Sweden, leading now 20-10.

Bd: 4 North
 Dlr: West ♠ KQ92
 Vul: Both ♥ A875
 ♦ QJ753
 ♣ ---

West	East
♠ J1085	♠ A643
♥ 62	♥ Q9
♦ K108	♦ 964
♣ 7432	♣ J965

South
 ♠ 7
 ♥ KJ1043
 ♦ A2
 ♣ AKQ108



"Eat your heart out, Tom Cruise."

Bd: 5 North
 Dlr: North ♠ A7
 Vul: N/S ♥ K1042
 ♦ KJ3
 ♣ 10732

West	East
♠ KJ105	♠ Q84
♥ A873	♥ QJ65
♦ 86	♦ 975
♣ A65	♣ Q84

South
 ♠ 9632
 ♥ 9
 ♦ AQ1042
 ♣ KJ9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	6♥

All Pass

Off an ace and four trumps to the queen does not make for the best slam in the world, but this one has plenty of resources to make it acceptable—from the South side. If the ♠A isn't cashed on the go the clubs may provide enough pitches (when the jack falls) to avoid a loser there. On a spade lead South's diamond goes away and if trumps are two-two even a five-three club split is no problem. All-in-all, a reasonable slam and both sides got there easily—if in Pszczola-Gawrys' case somewhat artificially. The ♠J was led at both tables and when trumps behaved there really wasn't much to the play. A pair of plus 1430s for a push. Still 20-10, Sweden.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
	1♣*	Pass	1♥*
Pass	1NT*	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dble	Rdbl	1♥	Pass
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

In the Open Room 1♣ was Swedish and 1♥ showed 8+ points and 4+ spades. 1NT was 11-13 balanced. Mohan led the ♥5 to Lev's ace and he returned a low heart, ducked to Mohan's six. Mohan shifted to a spade to the king and ace and Lindkvist played a club to the jack and ace. The defense cashed their spades but Lindkvist had seven tricks; plus 90. In the Closed Room After redoubling it seems logical that 1NT would have shown Pszczola's hand. Were the two

extra tens worth the extra level and risk? Sundelin started the ♥Q and Sylvan ducked. Pszczola won the king and set about developing clubs. He led a club to the jack, ducked, a diamond to his hand, and a second club to the nine and ace. The defenders cashed their three hearts but Pszczola had the rest of the tricks. Plus 150 and 2 IMPs for e-bridge, reducing Sweden's lead to 20-12.

kind of convention). Sylvan bid 4♥ and now it was Pszczola's turn to be conservative and pass with ace-third of partner's known six-bagger and king-fourth of the suit he bid for the first time at the four level. Of course Gawrys could have been one-one in the red suits but 5♥ didn't have to get N/S to slam in that case, did it? Another plus 480 for no swing. Still Sweden 20, e-bridge 12.

Bd: 6	North	
Dlr: East	♠ K942	
Vul: E/W	♥ 6	
	♦ 109843	
	♣ A63	
West		East
♠ J3		♠ 105
♥ AKQJ1075		♥ 984
♦ A76		♦ KQJ52
♣ Q		♣ 874
	South	
	♠ AQ876	
	♥ 32	
	♦ ---	
	♣ KJ10952	

Bd: 7	North	
Dlr: South	♠ 752	
Vul: Both	♥ J976	
	♦ 10	
	♣ Q9832	
West		East
♠ A9		♠ Q4
♥ AK8542		♥ Q103
♦ KQ9		♦ J8532
♣ A5		♣ J107
	South	
	♠ KJ10863	
	♥ ---	
	♦ A764	
	♣ K64	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
		Pass	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♥*	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
		Pass	2♣
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Fallenius' pass of the South hand gets this editor's Ronald Reagan Award for conservatism. His at-the-table reward was that he soon had to guess what to do after Lev's 4♣ bid (Namyats, showing a good 4♥ opening) and Mohan's conversion to 4♥. He guessed to bid 4♠—his shorter and poorer suit. Mazeltov. This was good news and bad news. The good news was that 4♠ was cold. The bad news was that slam in either black suit was also cold. Plus 480. Gawrys opened 2♣ showing 6+ clubs and a 4+ card major (as an ex-Blue Clubber, this is my

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
			1♠
Dble	2♥*	Pass	2♠
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
			1♠
Dble	2♠*	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

Lindkvist-Fallenius' convention card says that 2♥ is supposed to be a transfer. I don't know if this shows (or can be) as bad a single raise as Lindkvist has but another editor (who shall remain nameless) thinks it shows a good three-card raise and was a psychic. I think I'll wait for the poll results from Florida. In any event, the "psychic" didn't work and Lev-Mohan got to their game anyhow. Lindkvist led his singleton diamond, Lev dropping the queen under the ace, but Fallenius gave Lindkvist his ruff anyhow as Lev unblocked his ♦K and claimed. Plus 650.

Fallenius could have held 4♥ to ten tricks by ducking the ♦A but that is quite a difficult play to find.

Now watch the real fireworks on this deal. In the Closed Room Gawrys put the pressure on Sylvan by leaping to 4♠ after Pszczola's weak raise. Sylvan chose a second double and now E/W's fate was up to Sundelin: 4♠ was cold so E/W would have to bid on if they were to salvage anything from the deal. 5♦ would have worked well since Sylvan would have converted to 5♥, which can be beaten one trick. (5♦ can be beaten two on a club lead.) But when P.O. passed Sylvan's double the Swedes were in for a major loss. Sylvan led the ♥A and Gawrys ruffed and led a club to dummy's queen, then started a crossruff. Diamond to the ace, diamond ruff, heart ruff, diamond ruff. Now Gawrys needed to play a black card from dummy but he erred and ruffed another heart, then tried to ruff his fourth diamond. Sylvan ruffed with the ♠9 and now the contract was down! Gawrys pitched a heart from dummy and Sylvan accurately cashed the ♠A, then continued with the ♥K. P.O. just needed to pitch to beat the contract but instead he ruffed with the ♠Q!? Disaster. Now Gawrys overruffed and knocked out the ♣A while still retaining a trump for control. If P.O. pitches Gawrys can ruff and draw P.O.'s last trump, but then when he knocks out the ♣A Sylvan has a good heart to cash for down one. Plus 790 and 16 big IMPs for e-bridge, leading now 28-20.

Bd: 8	North
Dlr: West	♠ Q106
Vul: None	♥ A8642
	♦ 82
	♣ J103
West	East
♠ K54	♠ 873
♥ KJ73	♥ Q5
♦ AQ	♦ KJ97543
♣ 9864	♣ Q
	South
	♠ AJ92
	♥ 109
	♦ 106
	♣ AK752

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
1♣*	Pass	2♦*	All Pass

In both rooms 2♦ made four; a spade lead could have held it to nine tricks. No swing, still 28-20.

Bd: 9	North
Dlr: North	♠ AQ10643
Vul: E/W	♥ KQJ85
	♦ 72
	♣ ---
West	East
♠ J75	♠ 2
♥ 7643	♥ A109
♦ QJ	♦ 10943
♣ Q1043	♣ A9865
	South
	♠ K98
	♥ 2
	♦ AK865
	♣ KJ72

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	6♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠

In the Open Room Lindkvist-Fallenius had a relay auction to 6♠ the subtleties of which remain a mystery. Lindkvist won the diamond lead and played a heart to the king and ace. He won the diamond return, ruffed a club, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club, and ruffed another heart.

when that lived he cashed the ♠K and ruffed another club to hand to draw the remaining trump and claim. Plus 980. In the Closed Room Pszczola-Gawrys' auction was shorter—by about one round and level—and simpler, but we still can't tell you what the critical 5♣ bid meant. If it was void-showing then Gawrys' 5♠ signoff is somewhat understandable (but why not 5♦?). If it was Exclusion Blackwood then 5♠ showed two keycards without the ♠Q—enough for slam. Whichever it was, the Poles stopped short and on a similar line of play scored up twelve tricks; plus 480. That was 11 IMPs to Sweden, back in the lead now 31-28.

singleton spade and Fallenius won as he unblocked the ten. He drew trumps in three rounds and finessed the spade, then exited with the ♣J. He finessed the diamond return and another spade finesse provided a pitch for the third diamond; plus 680. In the Closed Room 2♦ was a checkback for Gawrys' major and when Gawrys showed a balanced hand (4=2=2=5) Lindkvist bid 4♥. Lindkvist won Mohan's low spade lead with the ace, then turned his attention to diamonds. He successfully finessed the queen, cashed the ace, and ruffed the third round. Then he drew trumps and played a low club toward the king-jack. When Mohan ducked he rose with the king and lost only a spade. Plus 680 for no swing. Still 31-28, Sweden.

Bd: 10	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 1064		
Vul: Both	♥ AKQ862		
	♦ AQ5		
	♣ 6		
West		East	
♠ 2		♠ QJ753	
♥ J97		♥ 53	
♦ KJ876		♦ 1032	
♣ Q532		♣ A107	
	South		
	♠ AK98		
	♥ 104		
	♦ 94		
	♣ KJ984		

Bd: 11	North		
Dlr: South	♠ 10962		
Vul: None	♥ QJ54		
	♦ Q95		
	♣ 93		
West		East	
♠ AK84		♠ QJ7	
♥ 873		♥ A	
♦ K1043		♦ AJ87	
♣ 62		♣ Q10875	
	South		
	♠ 53		
	♥ K10962		
	♦ 62		
	♣ AKJ4		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
		Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
		Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Both South's opened a natural 2♣. In the Open Room another relay auction led the Swedes to the good 4♥ game. With the ♦K and ♣A both sitting right, twelve tricks were easy. Lev led his

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
			1♥
Pass	3♥*	Dble	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
			1♥
Pass	2♥	Dble	3♥
4♠	All Pass		

A nasty hand for E/W. All dressed up (plenty of high cards), with no place to go (no good place to play). Both auctions were similar and West ended in 4♠ with the ♥Q lead. In the Open Room Lev led a low club and Fallenius rose deceptively with the king, then shifted to a

trump. Lev won in dummy and tried a diamond to the ten. Lindkvist won and returned another heart, ruffed. Lev tried a second club and this rode to Lindkvist's nine. Another heart now tapped dummy, removing its last trump. Now Lev returned to his hand with a diamond and played the top two trumps, but when they failed to split he was down one, minus 50. The play started the same way in the Closed Room but at trick four Sylvan led a second club instead of trying to guess diamonds. Pszczola won the nine and returned a second trump to Sylvan's eight and he now ruffed a heart in dummy, then lost the diamond finesse. Pszczola played a heart to Gawrys who then played a third round of clubs, Sylvan ruffing high as Pszczola pitched a diamond. When the two remaining trumps failed to fall under the ace Sylvan ended three down, minus 150, for 3 IMPs to e-bridge. The match was now tied, 31-31.

bid), perhaps influenced by the vulnerability. Whatever his reason, it was worth IMPs as he got to play there doubled. Lindkvist led the ♠6 to Fallenius' ace and he returned his heart to reduce dummy's ruffing ability. Lindkvist took the queen with the king and tried his ♣Q, king, ace. Fallenius shifted to a spade, ten, queen, and Lindkvist exited with a spade to Lev, who now tried the ♦Q. When Fallenius played a club Lev ruffed high and was able to obtain a diamond ruff in dummy to get out for down three, minus 500. In the Closed Room Sylvan opened the West hand 1♥ (I would have, too) and N/S bid briskly to 3NT. On the ♥7 lead from Sundelin Sylvan rose with the ace and tried the ♠10. Pszczola won the queen, cashed three rounds of diamonds, then played ace and another spade to establish his tenth trick. Plus 630 was 4 more IMPs to e-bridge who regained the lead, 35-31.

Bd: 12	North		
Dlr: West	♠ Q864		
Vul: N/S	♥ KJ4		
	♦ 109654		
	♣ Q		
West		East	
♠ KJ10		♠ 752	
♥ AQ109653		♥ 72	
♦ Q2		♦ 3	
♣ 9		♣ KJ108642	
	South		
	♠ A93		
	♥ 8		
	♦ AKJ87		
	♣ A753		

Bd: 13	North		
Dlr: North	♠ K763		
Vul: Both	♥ ---		
	♦ A10642		
	♣ KQ104		
West		East	
♠ J982		♠ A54	
♥ AQJ1082		♥ 965	
♦ QJ		♦ K853	
♣ A		♣ 653	
	South		
	♠ Q10		
	♥ K743		
	♦ 97		
	♣ J9872		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
4♥*	Pass	Pass	Dble*

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
2♥	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♥	2NT*	3♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
	1♦	Pass	1♥
2♥	All Pass		

Lev's treated the West hand as a weak 4♥ preempt (4♣ would have shown a strong 4♥

Lindkvist's 2NT was takeout—probably a puppet to 3♣—but Mohan's 3♥ kept N/S from finding their club fit (they were cold for ten tricks) and

bought the hand for 3♥. This was good news/bad news since had N/S competed to 4♣ Lev might have gone on to 4♥ and that little number was cold! Lindkvist led the ♣K and took the ♦J with the ace at trick two, continuing clubs. Lev ruffed, cashed the ♦Q, and then led the ♥J to Fallenius' king, establishing another dummy entry in the ♥9. Fallenius tried the ♠Q, ducked all around, and followed with the ♠10, jack, six, five. Now Lev could draw trump and was home free with the diamond pitch available in dummy. Plus 170. In the Closed Room the auction was shorter but just as ineffective for E/W. The defense was effectively the same as in the Open Room and Sylvan emerged with the same ten tricks. Plus 170 for a push. e-bridge 35, Sweden 31.

Bd: 15	North
Dlr: South	♠ K82
Vul: N/S	♥ J2
	♦ J5
	♣ AJ9743
West	East
♠ Q6	♠ A105
♥ AK9763	♥ 84
♦ AK107	♦ Q9
♣ K	♣ Q108652
	South
	♠ J9743
	♥ Q105
	♦ 86432
	♣ ---

Bd: 14	North
Dlr: East	♠ J875
Vul: None	♥ 103
	♦ 9542
	♣ J93
West	East
♠ ---	♠ 10963
♥ AJ8542	♥ KQ76
♦ AQ83	♦ K7
♣ Q75	♣ A86
	South
	♠ AKQ42
	♥ 9
	♦ J106
	♣ K1042

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
			Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
			Pass
1♣*	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

All roads led to 4♥ and all lines led to eleven tricks, plus 650. Still 36-31, e-bridge.

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
		1♣	1♠
2♥	3♠*	4♥	4♠
6♥	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
		1♣*	1♠
2♦*	3♠	4♥	4♠
5♦*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Both E/W pairs bid the good 6♥, but only Lev made an overtrick when Fallenius ducked a low club from dummy at trick four. 1010 versus 980, 1 IMP to e-bridge, now leading 36-31.



"No, not my Blackwood. You can't take away my Blackwood!"

Bd: 16	North	
Dlr: West	♠ 863	
Vul: E/W	♥ 865	
	♦ Q2	
	♣ A9542	
West		East
♠ QJ102		♠ AK
♥ J94		♥ AK103
♦ A9863		♦ KJ4
♣ K		♣ QJ106
	South	
	♠ 9754	
	♥ Q72	
	♦ 1075	
	♣ 873	

In the Open Room Lev-Mohan had a Puppet Stayman auction (3♣ asked for a five-card major; 3♦ denied one but promised at least one four-card major; 3♥ showed four spades but fewer than four hearts) and arrived in the inferior 6♦ (6NT is superior). Lindkvist led the ♣A and exited with a spade. Lev led a diamond to the ace (there must be a better way to play the trump suit) and when the queen showed up next he wrote plus 1370 on his scorecard. In the Closed Room P.O.'s 1NT showed one of several hand types, including support for diamonds or a balanced 16+. Sylvan's 2♣ rebid showed diamonds or a 4-4-4-1 hand and P.O.'s 3♣ set diamonds as trumps. P.O. clearly intended 4NT as ace-asking ("When you set the trump suit and jump to 4NT, it has to be Blackwood") but Sylvan clearly took it as quantitative ("Our team mates agree with my interpretation"). In any case, twelve tricks were easy, especially with the ♥7 lead. Plus 690 and 12 more IMPs to e-bridge, leading 48-31.

The e-bridgers finished strong, winning IMPs on four of the last seven boards and losing IMPs on none of them. Stay tuned for the second quarter, right here on your same bat channel.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lev	Lindkvist	Mohan	Fallenius
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Pszczola	Sundelin	Gawrys
1♦	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♣*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♦	Pass	4NT	All Pass

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