

ANYTHING BUT MUNDANE

The 37th and last round of the 53rd European Bridge League Championships which concluded last Saturday featured matchups between a number of teams in contention for the 7th spot in the Open which conferred an invitation to next year's Bermuda Bowl. The top ten teams would earn a berth in the European Champions Cup. England, lying 13th after the 36th round was only 8VPs behind the #10 spot. The last board (#16) of the last round would prove pivotal:

53rd European Teams Championships										R37	Open Team																
Board 16. Dealer West. E-W Vulnerable.																											
♠ A K 5 3 2 ♥ - ♦ T 9 5 ♣ K J 8 4 2																											
♠ - ♥ A J T 5 2 ♦ A K J 7 6 4 2 ♣ A																											
<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">N</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">J T 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">E</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Q 8 7 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">S</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Q 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">W</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Q T 9 3</td> </tr> </table>												♠	N	♠	J T 9	♥	E	♥	Q 8 7 4	♦	S	♦	Q 8	♣	W	♣	Q T 9 3
♠	N	♠	J T 9																								
♥	E	♥	Q 8 7 4																								
♦	S	♦	Q 8																								
♣	W	♣	Q T 9 3																								
♠ Q 8 7 6 4 ♥ K 9 6 3 ♦ 3 ♣ 7 6 5																											
#	Home Team	Visiting Team	Room	Cont.	Decl.	Lead	Tricks	NS	EW	Home Res.	Vis Res.																
1	ROMANIA	LATVIA	Open	6x	N	♠J	9		500	7																	
			Closed	7x	N	♥Q	9		800																		
2	GERMANY	ICELAND	Open	6x	N	♥Q	9		500																		
			Closed	7x	N	♥4	10		500																		
3	FINLAND	SERBIA	Open	5x	N	♠J	9		300																		
			Closed	6x	S	♠A	10		300																		
4	NETHERLANDS	POLAND	Open	6x	N	♥4	10		300																		
			Closed	6x	N	♥Q	10		300																		
5	ESTONIA	SWITZERLAND	Open	6x	N	♠J	9		500	5																	
			Closed	5v	E	♠7	12		680																		
6	GREECE	HUNGARY	Open	7v	W	♠A	12	100		12																	
			Closed	6x	N	♠J	9		500																		
7	CZECH REPUBLIC	GEORGIA	Open	6v	W	♠K	12		1430		14																
			Closed	6x	N	♥Q	9		500																		
8	ENGLAND	FRANCE	Open	5x	N	♠J	10		100																		
			Closed	5x	N	♥Q	10		100																		
9	RUSSIA	TURKEY	Open	6v	W	♠A	12		1430		14																
			Closed	6x	N	♥4	9		500																		
10	CROATIA	AUSTRIA	Open	6vx	W	♠K	12		1660		15																
			Closed	7x	S	♠A	10		500																		
11	CYPRUS	BELARUS	Open	5v	W	♠A	12		680		1																
			Closed	5v	W	♠K	11		650																		
12	ISRAEL	SWEDEN	Open	6v	W	♠K	12		1430		15																
			Closed	6x	S	♠K	10		300																		
13	DENMARK	IRELAND	Open	6x	N	♠7	10		300	5																	
			Closed	6x	N	♠J	9		500																		
14	PORTUGAL	WALES	Open	5+	W	♠A	11		600		3																
			Closed	6x	N	♠J	9		500																		
15	SCOTLAND	FAROE ISLANDS	Open	6v	W	♠K	12		1430		6																
			Closed	6vx	E	♠4	12		1660																		
16	BULGARIA	ITALY	Open	6vx	W	♠3	12		1660		16																
			Closed	6x	N	♥2	10		300																		
17	MONACO	NORWAY	Open	7+	E	♥2	11	200		17																	
			Closed	6v	W	♠2	12		1430																		
18	BELGIUM	SPAIN	Open	6x	N	♥Q	10		300	15																	
			Closed	6v	W	♠A	12		1430																		

#3Neth vs #7 Poland

#1France vs. #13 England

#6 Bulgaria vs. #10 Italy

#4 Monaco vs #8 Norway

As you can see from the traveler double digits were scored up on 8 of the 18 matches:

D 16	N MULTON	W	N	E	S
	♠ AK532	2♣	2♠	P	5♠
	♥ 1095	P	6♣	X	P
	♣ KJ842	7♦	P	P	P
W BROGELAND	E LINDQVIST				
♠	♠ J109				
♥ AJ1052	♥ Q874				
♦ AKJ7642	♦ Q8				
♣ A	♣ Q1093				
S MARTENS					
♠ Q8764					
♥ K963					
♦ 3					
♣ 765					
Other table: 6♥W=					
NS: MONACO 23 IMPs					
EW: NORWAY 22 IMPs					
		7♦ W NS: 0 EW: 0			

D 16	N S SIMONSEN	W	N	E	S
	♠ AK532	1♦	1♠	X	4♣
	♥ 1095	5♠	X	XX	P
	♣ KJ842	6♥	P	P	P
W HELGEMO	E HELNESS				
♠	♠ J109				
♥ AJ1052	♥ Q874				
♦ AKJ7642	♦ Q8				
♣ A	♣ Q1093				
S BERG					
♠ Q8764					
♥ K963					
♦ 3					
♣ 765					
Other table: 7♦W-2					
NS: NORWAY 22 IMPs					
EW: MONACO 23 IMPs					
		6♥ W NS: 0 EW: 0			

Had the distribution been favorable for Norway allowing Boye to bring home the diamond grand they would have finished in 6th place with a spot in the Bermuda Bowl

D 16	N STAMATOV	W	N	E	S
	♠ AK532	1♦	1♠	P	4♠
	♥	4NT	P	5♣	P
	♦ 1095	5♥	P	6♣	P
	♣ KJ842	6♦	P	6♥	X
W VERSACE	E LAURIA				
♠	♠ J109				
♥ AJ1052	♥ Q874				
♦ AKJ7642	♦ Q8				
♣ A	♣ Q1093				
S DANAIOV					
♠ Q8764					
♥ K963					
♦ 3					
♣ 765					
Other table: 6♠N-2					
NS: BULGARIA 26 IMPs					
EW: ITALY 26 IMPs					
		6♥x W NS: 0 EW: 0			

D 16	N GANDOGLIA	W	N	E	S
	♠ AK532	1♣	1NT	X	4♦
	♥	5♦	5♠	P	P
	♦ 1095	6♣	P	P	6♠
	♣ KJ842	P	P	X	P
W SKORCHEV	E POPOV				
♠	♠ J109				
♥ AJ1052	♥ Q874				
♦ AKJ7642	♦ Q8				
♣ A	♣ Q1093				
S DONATI					
♠ Q8764					
♥ K963					
♦ 3					
♣ 765					
Other table: 6♥xW=					
NS: ITALY 26 IMPs					
EW: BULGARIA 26 IMPs					
		6♠ N NS: 0 EW: 0			

This slam swing to Italy on the last hand vaulted them fractions of a VP ahead of Bulgaria for the 6th spot.

Because France is the host (Lyon) for the 2017 Bermuda Bowl and receives an automatic berth, the 7th place finisher, Bulgaria, also gets a spot.

D 16	N S DRIJVER	W	N	E	S
	♠ AK532	1♣	1♠	X	4♠
	♥	5♠	6♠	X	P
	♦ 1095	P	?		
	♣ KJ842				
W M KLUKOWSKI	E GAWRYS				
♠	♠ J109				
♥ AJ1052	♥ Q874				
♦ AKJ7642	♦ Q8				
♣ A	♣ Q1093				
S BRINK					
♠ Q8764					
♥ K963					
♦ 3					
♣ 765					
Other table: 6♠N-2					
NS: NETHERI 46 IMPs					
EW: POLAND 25 IMPs					
		6♠ N NS: 0 EW: 0			

D	N NOWOSADZKI	W	N	E	S
	♠ AK532	1♣	X	XX	3♥
	♥	4♦	4♠	P	P
	♦ 1095	4NT	P	5♦	5♠
	♣ KJ842	6♦	P	P	6♠
W DE WIJS	E MULLER				
♠	♠ J109				
♥ AJ1052	♥ Q874				
♦ AKJ7642	♦ Q8				
♣ A	♣ Q1093				
S KALITA					
♠ Q8764					
♥ K963					
♦ 3					
♣ 765					
Other table: 6♠N-2					
NS: POLAND 25 IMPs					
EW: NETHER 46 IMPs					
		6♠ N NS: 0 EW: 0			

Accurate defense can collect +500 vs 6SX. But Poland

needed one of those big double digit gains to cut their loss enough to earn 3+ more VPs to move into 7th place.

Both competitors and vugraph participants could hardly ask for a more exciting finishing board. Visit

<http://www.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/16budapest/microsite/Information.htm> to read the great bulletins and see the final results of the 53rd European Bridge Championships.

Mike Cassel June 27, 2016