

WALES IN THE EUROPEAN: OPATIJA – June 2014

final update – 2000 (BST) Mon 30 – so me hands from last three matches

last updated : 0700 (BST) Sun 29 – after 17 matches

OPEN...all 17 matches over : 7 wins, 1 draw, 9 losses

SENIORS...ended 7th of 14 in the B-final

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The 52nd European Teams championship – and the 8th for Wales – runs in Opatija, Croatia this year. The self-funding and self-organising Open team comprises six players in four main pairings – Filip Kurbalija playing with Patrick Shields and with Diane Kurbalija, Richard Plackett playing with Mike Pownall, and Patrick Jourdain playing with Patrick Shields. All the team have played European Teams before except Richard who was born in Wales but played as a junior in the English team in the 1990s.

The team had a few practice games, including a day in Cardiff of 3*16 board matches with screens, to simulate the real event. They have been having regularly doing bidding practice on BBO (thank you, Mr Gitleman) and continue refreshing the system even after arrival in Opatija.

The self-funding and self-organising Seniors team comprises three established partnerships – John Beard & Liam Sheridan, Paul Gagne & Diane Harris, Barry & Beth Wennell. Diane & Paul played in the Seniors in Ostend four years back, at the same time as Beth played in the Welsh Ladies. The Seniors team has Laura Woodruff as coach.

The format in the Open Series is two pools of 18 teams, and Wales play the other 17 teams in their pool. The top 9 teams progress to the last stages. The pools are of equal strength and Wales is seeded 12th in their pool. Without as much experience as the last team had in such events, this team has a target to match its seeding, noting that being only a little better might well qualify them for the final stages.

The format of the Seniors is a (slightly controversial) 12 round Swiss Teams, after which it splits into a final and a consolation final. Making the cut represents a target, but an ambitious one, for the team.

All matches are 16 boards and there are three matches most days.

LATEST MATERIAL FROM THE TOP OF HERE

Day 7 : Open play Turkey, Bulgaria, Italy :seniors play Spain, Scotland

The final day had a hard finish for the Open team against three teams sitting well above them. We started by beating Turkey and then by losing to Bulgaria by only 4imps. Italy turned out their top team against us and we lost that one heavily. All three of those opponents qualified for the last stages. Overall the welsh team averaged 8.2 VPs per match.

The biggest gain on the first of these matches was Acol with 4 card majors showing the 2/1 GF brigade how to bid ...

AKQJT	752	We were able to bid this hand 1S-2H-4C(cue)-4D(cue)-4N(ace ask)-5C(three)-5D(queen ask)-5H(no)-6H-end. And that was an easy 12 tricks (one heart loser). The other table started 1S-2H-4C but now the responder thought his club queen was wasted and he had shown all his values already, so he signed off in 4H making 12 tricks.
J832	AKT76	
Q76	A32	
A	QT	

The second match was against Bulgaria and included this odd occurrence ...

KT4	AQJ3	Filip & Patrick put system to good effect here after the opposition started the bidding with a Precision 1D (0+ diamonds, 11-15 hcp) and the balanced hand bid 1N. Opposite that the other hand bid 3S showing a 3-suiter with short clubs, and next thing Filip had bid 5D, playing in the suit in which the opponents had opened the bidding. !2 tricks for a flat board when the diamond finesse worked, but on hand where a careless 3N raise
AK	Q872	
AJT97	Q632	
T53	4	

would have seen them cash 5 club tricks.

The final match was against a strong Italy team, with the sponsor sitting out, as Italy needed a win to reach the final stages. We had plenty of chances but didn't take them. But here's what we had to contend with ..

Q6		In an unopposed sequence Fil & Patrick bid to 3N and Patrick as North had to play it. The lead was an "attitude" S3 and the S9 won the first trick. It wasn't clear who had the jack as West would not play it in these circumstances, and West had encouraged with the S2. Clearly hearts will come into play but since that might be finessing into the safe hand later, it seemed right to play diamonds first and
QJ95		Versace won the third round.
A532		
KJ5		
8542	KJ73	
K82	743	He didn't return his partner's suit but played a club to the jack and queen.
QJ7	98	Meanwhile Lauria worked out that if his partner knew a spade wasn't needed, that must mean he had four and the queen was doubleton, so he pushed out the SK
T87	AQ92	next. This set up two spades, four clubs and a trick in each red suit for the defence. Since one winner had to be discarded on the fourth diamond, the contract was only 3 down.
AT9		
AT6		
AT64		
643		In the other room they happened to play it the other way up, got a (blind) heart lead and managed to scramble 8 tricks The result was 3 imps in the out column. If the Italians do that to you on every board, you lose the match 19-1!

England won our group – and we had defeated three of the top six. In the other group, Ireland scraped into the last stages, but Scotland were well out of it.

The Seniors had a good day, pulling themselves up to the top half of the B-final, achieving an above average score across the 14 teams in the section. They lost by 5 imps to Scotland in the last match, and Scotland ended 3rd in the group, just missing out on a free entry for the European Open in Tromso next summer.

In the A-final, England came out top and collected the gold medals, while Ireland ended 7th and are reserves for the Seniors World Championship in India next year.

Day 6 : Open play Israel, Bosnia H, Lithuania : Seniors played Italy, Slovenia, Turkey

The Open started the day with a top Israeli team (leaders after day 6) and the match was very tight. There were 8 flat boards, 5 one-imp swings, and an 8,7,6 in the out column, so that we lost 5-15. Early in the match we had ...

KQ2	93	Filip & Patrick bid this 2C-2D-2H-2S-2N (which was all to show a GF balanced hand) followed by 3C-3D-3S-X-3N (which was to confirm no major fit), but now the alert card was worn out, so the finished off with a natural 5C and a raise to 6C. The finesse worked and that was +920, for a flat board. Against the Welsh Seniors Italy had bid the hand up to 6N and even after a spade to the ace and a spade back – they had no way to get to dummy to take the winning finesse – and that cost them dearly.
AK	T875	
AKJT	3	
AQ52	JT8643	

The next match was against a much weaker team and we collected 15 VPs, losing 13 imps on the penultimate board by bidding a slam when LHO held the ace-king of trumps, Not good news. But we had started the match on a bright note with this ...

4	AKQJ52	Patrick Shields found himself in 6D after a natural auction and was surprised to see
KQ2	A3	LHO lead the ace of clubs – declarer's second suit – against this. So he won the heart
AQT98	K64	switch and cashed the DA before running the ten and picking up the jack to four offside.
KQ96	85	A telling lead ! Slam was missed in the other room for a gain of 10 imps.

Final match of the day was also against a team below us and we drew that 54-54 and as the numbers suggest we had lots of chances. On one hand the opposition opened a multi-2D and it went P-2S(pass/correct, with heart support)-3D and the opener holding J4 – K98742 – 65 – K84 decided that we had a spade fit, so he passed pretending he had spades. It went P-P to his partner who competed against with 3S and this was passed out. The result was -300 which matched the result in the other room when our pair sacrificed in 5H. The TD had to come specially to ask whether we had entered the score correctly, as it was the defending side who had the 7-2 spade fit.

In the other section Scotland managed to beat France, one of the strongest teams, despite losing 2600 onboard 2 played in a heart fit that belonged to the opponents at the four level. It came about when 1C-P-1H-2H was intended as Michaels but read as natural. Oops!

The seniors started the day with a good wins over Italy and Slovenia, moving themselves up the table, and finished with a 2 imp loss against Turkey. They have now scores 63 VPs from the six matches since the top of the field broke off.

Day 5 : Open get day off : Seniors play Romania, Serbia, Portugal.

The Seniors event split at this point into two sections with a limited carry forwards, giving the leaders in the section just over half a match advantage over Wales. The first and third matches went the wrong way but the second was a good win. Board 2 in the first match was this

AKT32 KJ653 -- K73 J85 8742 JT8763 --- Q6 AQ ?54 AQJ9865	974 T9 AKQ92 T42	With Wales North-South the bidding started P-1C-3D and now Liam Sheridan bid 4D showing at least 55 in the majors. West kept the barrage going with 6D and all Wales could do was double and collect +800. This was a 11 imp loss when the Romanians bid to 6C against silent opposition. When England seniors sat North South against Ireland on this hand, they bid successfully up to 7C over which the Irish sacrificed in 7D. The auction had started 1C-3D-3S, so now not to be outdone, the English tried 7S. Looks wonderful as the trumps break but it went P-P-X for an unusual lead and the club ruff beat the contract ! The Irish had been allowed to play in 6C, so that was a massive gain.
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Day 4 : Open play England, Denmark, Switzerland : Seniors play Scotland, Italy, Netherlands

We had a welcome win against England in the Open and seen on BBO, but then two unwelcome defeats – the first to a strong Denmark team and the second to a poor Switzerland team. Now lying 16th.

Against England the swingiest board turned out flat in our match –

AKQ875 AK742 4 J	T QT3 J9762 AK54	Richard Plackett opened 1S and over a wide-ranging 1N response could bid 2D as a transfer to hearts and then a forcing 3H. Now with support and one ace it was easy to get to the slam. In the other room Jason Hackett opened 2C and over a waiting 2D bid, he bid 2S. Next came 3D-3H, which left responder with a problem. He feigned heart support with a 4C cue and this time partner was able to take charge with Blackwood and 6H was reached easily. In Scotland's match against Croatia it started with 2C and 2D positive. Then came 2S-2N-3H and responder tried to temporise with 3S; he eventually bid 6N which was not a success with the D-AK on lead ☹️
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The only loss to England over 4 imps was a tight 2S-x which was (perhaps misplayed) and allowed to make. The loss to Wales seemed to work as a wake up call to England who went on to win their next two matches by 52 imps and 61 imps to go from 10th position to the top of the table.

Denmark had been doing well throughout with an average of nearly 12 VPs per match while we were averaging just over 9 VPs. The match went badly, with losses mostly being self inflicted. Our best board was this useful defence from Patrick Jourdain ..

K963	AJ2		The contract was 3D in both rooms. In the Open Room the bidding started with 1D from East who was dealer, pass and then 1S and a 2C overcall. With a minimum balanced hand East passed round to West who competed with only 2D. This allowed North to try again with 3C, and after P-P-X, East converted to 3D and that ended the bidding.
KJ8	6	874	
A843	K6	AQ94	Patrick J, as South, led the C7 to the ace and a club back. Declarer played DJ round to the king and a diamond came back. He drew trumps and cashed his hearts before leading towards the spade king. Patrick was alert enough to go in with the ST to stop partner being end-played, and that meant three tricks for the defence in that suit and the contract was one off. It slipped by in the other room, giving us a gain of 4imps.
T6	AQ98542	QJ95	
	QT5	KJ	
	T7532		
	T72		
	73		

We knew that match would be difficult and we expected an easier match against Switzerland, one of the three teams consistently below us. Little exciting happened and all theimps drifted in the wrong direction. We had chances but regularly chose wrong – for example

92	7		In the Open Room East started with a 2D bid (multi) and his partner bid 2H. Shields overcalled 3D and Filip K ended the auction with 3N. Not knowing which major his partner had, West led a club and that was the ninth trick.
K3	AQ4	AJT864	
J43	AKT9852	JT2	In the other room the bidding had gone 2S-P-P-3D and now South bid 3N. Spotlight on West – to lead or not lead partner's suit? Here a spade lead will get a club switch and the contract goes three off - but not the choice of today; the same club lead got a flat board.
AJ8653	97	7	
		Q42	
	KQ53		
	98765		
	Q6		
	KT		

We were a little unlucky on a later board when a 3C enquiry for 5 card majors over 2N got doubled, and we played 3N with two club stops – ace jack doubleton opposite queen doubleton. But the club lead proved three tricks better than the heart lead in the other room, and another 11imps went out.

Seniors beat Scotland and Italy but lost to Netherlands, and moved off bottom place but the cut has now been made and they (with 15 other teams) have three more days of Swiss Teams – with a small carry forward that gives the leaders an advantage of about 13 VPs. Scotland also failed to make the cut but Ireland (in 4th place) and England (in 6th) made for the final stages – a 9-match round robin in which they play each other in the first match!

Day 3 : Open play Netherlands, Serbia, Poland : Seniors play ???

The Open team started the day against recent World Champions and were actually 34imps down after the first 5 boards. But they recovered at the end of the match and lost by just 12imps. The biggest gain was this last board

9	JT52	Richard P opened 1C and when they overcalled 4S, Mike doubled. This often shows general values rather than trumps, so Richard continued with 6C. After a top spade lead and a second one ruffed, Richard drew just one round of trumps and continued with a heart to the Ace, a finesse of the jack and then HK and a heart ruff. All needed to pick up South's Q872 in that suit, and worth a lot ofimps against the 5C opener in the other room which was passed out.
KJ96	A43	
---	KQ76	
AKJT9643	72	

The next match was Serbia and there were few big swings but a careful accumulation of singleimps provided a win despite the loss of 800 when one pair (and it happened in other matches too) bid a slam with a trump suit of 9654 opposite JT73 (and were vulnerable and doubled).

And the final match was Poland – one of the stronger teams around. We stated this with 21 imps out on boards 2 and 3, but they overbid to a near hopeless grand slam on the next which cost them 17 imps (Wales Seniors got to make that grand on pseudo-squeeze). But we had only 3 imps in the out column in the next 13 boards and picked up enough to win by 21 imps. It was expected to be a tough day but the came out plus on the day and moved up a place.

Day 2 : Open play Romania, Latvia, Belgium : Seniors play Serbia, Sweden, Romania

Bad news for the Open team, but the Seniors are picking up. Romania played well and druppod an off-form Welsh foursome by 64 imps to 1 imp (but not the first 20-0 in the competition). There were lots of 5-level decisions and Wales came out on the wrong side of 5 of them while the opposition only got one wrong. The first problem is whether to takeout partner's takeout double after 2S-P-4S-X holding T9 – T42 – A87 – T8652. If you do then 5C will make 11 tricks, but 4S was unbeatable.

The next problem was what to bid after (effectively) 1C-P-1S-2H, 4H-5H where partner has shows clubs and a raise to spade game with short hearts. You have J984 – Q4 – AT983 – J2. You are- of course vulnerable against not, and double collects +100 while bidding on gets you a serious minus score. Partner had AK53 – 7 – K6 – KQ9873 and the spades broke 4-1 and you have to play carefully in 5S to get out for one off.

So the team dusts itself off, Patrick Shields drops out and Di Kurbalija comes in – and we try again against the team which qualified ahead of Wales on a split tie four years ago in Ostende.

But the Seniors have clocked up their first win – over Serbia by 18 imps and move up to 21st place. It included Barry Wennell making 6S on this hand while his counterpart went off (6s making both tables in Open) . Worth 17 imps !

AKQ8	T743	In the open teams, Richard Plackett led a diamond through the ace at trick one and declarer won that, ruffed two diamonds while drawing trumps, and then gave up a diamond to make six trumps, two diamonds and four other winners. A trump lead in the other room caused no difficulties.
T5	AQ72	
AQ843	9	
K6	AQ72	

On this match England beat Scotland quite heavily, taking over top slot in that event. England Seniors played the hand immediately above in 6S while the Scots stopped in 4N – reasons as yet unfathomed. But that's where Bahkshi & Gold played too – strange !

And the Open team did come back, with a 15-5 win over Latvia and then an 11-9 win over Belgium – two teams who were in the top half of the table.

The biggest of the four double imp swings in the plus column vs Latvia was this ..

AKJ8	97	After a quiet start of 1C-1D(hearts)-1S-3C, Mike jumps to 6C and the LHO led the HA. He ruffed this and then played spades from the top. The ruff in dummy brought down the SQ on his right, and he now cashed the top hearts to throw diamonds before playing CA and another. He could not finesse in case it lost (and a spade ruff followed) so he rose with the king and found the suit was 4-1 onside. He had no choice but to exit with a third club and RHO was out of hearts, so he could in the diamond return and draw trumps and claim. That was +12 imps.
---	KQ432	
AKT6	J54	
KJT54	A62	

Against Belgium it was only a 3-imp gain on the last board which earned Wales the win. There were two slam swings in our favour (one bid by the Patricks, one silly and hopeless slam bid by them) but we lost on two game swings, which left it oh so close. Tomorrow is some tough matches, but later on we have still to play the three teams below us in the ranking. Meanwhile, Lithuania and Portugal and Slovenia are still waiting for their first win.

The last two matches today for the Seniors didn't go well, pulling in only 16 imps over 32 boards and losing over four times that. At the top of the Seniors table Scotland have dropped back to be average, and England are second to Poland, the only team to have defeated them so far.

Day 1 : Open play Faroe Islands, Hungary: Seniors play Turkey, Portugal, Slovenia

Cannot report on any wins yet for Wales. The Open team was unlucky against Faroe Islands, who twice bid “agriculturally” to slams one of which was respectable and one of which was bad. Both made and both were avoided by Kurbalija & Shields. For the respectable slam, you need the trumps 3-2 after you survive the opening lead in a suit where dummy has KJ3 and declarer the 86 doubleton. Against Ireland the man underled the ace and Ireland went off. Against Faroes our man led the ace and now it made. The biggest gain for Wales on the set was this little hand ...

JT4	A87	The contract in each room was 3C, once by each hand after the hand over the JT4 of spades had shown values and spades. The lead of the S9 from South wrapped up that suit and the Faroes man drew trumps in two rounds, eliminated spades and then played a diamond to the king – oops. In the other room on a trump lead, Shields drew two trumps, led the ST and ducked the queen (not knowing where the S9 was), won the spade return and eliminated the suit before played a diamond to the DT, end-playing LHO for nine tricks – and a gain of 5imps.
K753	86	
KT2	87	
AT4	KQ9532	

For the next match, Mike & Richard sat out and two new pairs took to the floor. One of the two Patricks hadn't learned the system properly and they had a mix-up but got lucky

AJ9	K6432	Over a weak NT, first it went 2H as a transfer and then 3H as natural – and that got 3S preference. Cue bids of 4C, 4D and 4H were followed by 4N asking for ace and a 5C response showing 1 or 4. All well so far, but the 5D bid asking about the trump queen got the correct response which was misread, and suddenly Wales were in 7S. Suffice to say that after two finesses and a 3-2 break, the 17% contact came home.
QT8	AJ63	
KJT76	A5	
K9	AQ	

There were a few accidents however – probably about three double figure swings worth, so we still lost the match – but came out with a better score than in the first match. We are currently ahead of the Italian team (I hear) and took about 8 VPs more from Hungary than the Italians got. But a long way to go.

In the Open England have two decent results in the Welsh section, while in the other section Scotland are average and Ireland have the same score as Wales ☺

Meanwhile in the Seniors – Scotland are leading the table from England, and Wales got close to its first win against Portugal, losing by only 5imps.

Day 0 : Arrivals

The Open team all arrived yesterday with an easy trip by plane from Heathrow – all amazingly sitting in the same row on the plane! There's team cohesion for you ! We celebrated the birthday yesterday of the youngest member of the team – Mr Pownall.

The teams are all fully present and were out in Welsh uniform at the opening ceremony, at which the President of the Republic of Croatia was present and welcomed us all.

LAST TIME – IN DUBLIN

The second match was against tough opponents who had just lost their first match. The Icelanders had the better of the luck, including a gain of 13imps when one of our players didn't see his partner's bid, plus this -

AQT64	K87	They bid the hand 1S-P-2N(support)-<3H> which was doubled, presumably to show shortage there. It proceeded <4H>-P-P and now the opening bidder asked for aces with 4N and over confirmation of them all bid 6C as some sort of grand slam try. His partner bid 7S, and this turned out to be one of those few occasions when the diamond suit played for no loser. That cost 14imps – the small slam was bid 16/32 times and the grand slam 5 times.
9	AJ6	
K53	AT862	
AKJ8	QT	

Poland can be a very dangerous team but had only produced one win in the first four matches. Against Poland the Jones were on fine bidding form; look at these –

KQT3	J95	Their sequence started, like many, 1C-1D-2S-3D and now they bid 3H(fourth suit)-3S-
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AT	KJ	4D-4S and there they rested. They were the only table out of 50 in play to reach 4S, the rest being 3N down one apart from Sweden who were allowed to make 3N and the Israeli ladies who tried 5D (also down 1). Dafydd used entries to dummy to take club finesses and he could cope with clubs 4-2 where the 3N declarers could not.
K4	Q98652	
AQJ64	73	

and

A85	6	They bid this 1H-2C-3S(fragment,short diamond)-4C-4D(cue)-X-P-P-XX(complete control)-4N(ace asking)-5H-6C-end. The bidding in the other room started 1H-<1S>-X(showing clubs)-<4S> and that made life rather more difficult. Of the 50 tables, 20 bid the small slam; two tables in the Ladies played in a club part-score, the Iceland Open team played in 2C-X making 12 tricks and losing 9 imps for that, and Lithuania got away with 3N (for a 1 imp loss).
KQJ75	2	
A	98542	
JT92	AKQ743	

. The most interesting was this play hand

	AKT	After North and South had shown their suits, Peter Goodman ended in 3N by North on a diamond lead. He ran this to his DT and now played a heart to the queen and cashed two winning diamonds. After that came a second heart and he ducked the HT. Bessis for France switched to spades and Peter won SA. He played a third round of hearts and East exited with the SQ. Or at least he tried to, but Peter read the shape right and ducked, and now a club into the AQ gave him 9 tricks.
	K864	
	T	
	AQ754	
J875	Q2	
JT2	A75	
973	Q542	
632	KJT8	
	9643	
	Q93	
	AKJ86	
	9	In the other room it started with a diamond to the DT but declarer then tried three rounds of spades. A club came through to the CT, but East had thrown a heart on the third spade and was now end played. Flat board.

We were losing to Finland when this turned up ..

	QJ652	The majority of tables played this hand in 3N but the Jones are playing a weak NT so they opened 1D and it finished with Gary, sitting West, playing in 5D. He got a spade lead and eliminated the black suits before playing a diamond. North won and was luckily (for him) able to exit with a second diamond.
	A976	
	AJ	
	T7	
K3	A	
K83	JT52	
QT832	K9764	
AK8	542	
	T9874	
	Q4	
	5	
	QJ963	Now it was down to Gary to negotiate the heart suit. There isn't a 3-3 heart break which denies the defence two tricks, so he had to play for the suit 4-2, with a doubleton queen onside. He led the HJ, covered all round and North returned the H7. The only choices are South now down to the singleton H9, or North having led away from the nine. The latter is clearly better odds and Gary was rewarded with 11 tricks when he played for that. This 11 imps started a strong Welsh recovery.

The third match of day 4 was England – to whom we had lost heavily and then narrowly in this year's Camrose matches, and then we beat them in the Spring Fours. All went well at the start and at half time we were 14 imps ahead, really because of this hand

	QT92	The bidding in the Closed Room started with 1C from the English North, and then 1S-2H-2S. Patrick Shields produced a pre-emptive 3S as East, and after South bid 4C he found himself in 4S doubled. The opening lead of the HA fetched the queen and eight. South went into the tank and eventually continued with a small heart, ruffed and North exited, as he must, in trumps, Declarer drew trumps and, knowing from the bidding that North had the DK, played DA and another towards his hand. Unaccountably, North ducked that and was end played on the third round of diamonds to lead the CA. This set up the CK to take care of East's losing heart and 4S-X made.
	Q	
	K65	
	AQ972	
K84	AJ7653	
954	JT8	
AJ73	QT42	
KJ8	--	
	--	
	AK7632	
	98	
	T6543	In the Open Room it started 1C-2S-3H-3S, P-P-4C-P and now Gary Jones bid the fifth club and that contract came home easily.

At that point, Wales had lost 12-18 and moved down the table to equal fifth place with the current world champions (Netherlands). When we played them came this monster hand

	T8	West sensibly passed in first seat and East opened 2N. The hand with 6-6 in the blacks now showed spades and then clubs, and finally offered partner the choice at the six level. For the Jones' it went 6C-P-P and South doubled for a heart lead
	932	
	Q975432	
	9	

Q97642	AJ	– after which our man ran to 6N. This had no chance, The other room had a
T	KJ864	bidding mis-understanding to stop in 4S (20 of the 32 tables bid a slam), so Wales
---	AK8	lost 13imps here.
AJ8654	KQ3	
	K54	The Welsh Seniors were in the most interesting 6C, and unlucky to get a heart
	AQ75	lead which was run to the HQ. Our man missed an extra chance here – after
	JT6	winning the club return and forcing out the HA with a ruff – you find that the H9
	T73	drops on the third round and there are 5 discards available – all your spades
		disappear and you don't need the spade finesse after all!

The team was doing well until we met Monaco – who hammered us. Here's what we had to compete against

	J6		
	T98743		
	A5		
	JT7		
KQ9432		A85	For Monaco Claudio Nunes opened the South hand 2C (clubs and a moderate
AQJ5		K62	hand) and it went 2S-3C-4C(good raise) and now he bid an unexpected 5C. We
T		K7643	bid 5S-P-P-X and there it ended. Fantoni led the DA just to check and then gave
K4		96	his partner a heart ruff to beat what looked like a solid contract. In fact a heart at
	T7		trick one will put it two off, or beat 4H.
	--		
	QJ982		In the other room Peter Goodman opened 3C as South, promising both minors.
	AQ8532		The next hand bid 4D showing both majors but longer spades, and that meant the
			contract was 4S by <u>East</u> . With the void on lead, it was just impossible to beat this.

The Seniors played on after the Open team had finished. Here's a magic moment from them ...

	QJT98632		East was dealer at both vul and the field was split, but the majority favoured a 4H
	AT5		opener over a 1H opener. After 4H-P-P North inevitably bid 4S and it went P-P-
	6		X and that was the contract at 46 of the 68 tables. There were 3 tables in the
	J		Ladies where the same contract was not doubled. [Often 1H-P-2D-4S, P-P-X-P
			led to 5H by East, going off]
AK4	--		For Wales in the Open, the HK was led at both tables and ruffed and the contract
--	KQ86432		was one off for a flat board. A top heart was led at 36 tables, but the contract was
JT8543	72		only defeated 26 out of 36 times – the other cases being, like at both tables in the
A873	KQ62		Scotland-Turkey match, where the lead could have been K from AK, and the
			West hand didn't ruff!
	75		But there was only one declarer in 6S-X and this was the doing of Mike Hirst. He
	J97		was sitting West and raised the 4H opener to 5H. North naturally bid 5S and
	AKQ9		South assumed that West was continuing the pre-empt and clearly his partner
	T954		had a void heart, so he bid 6S – and now Mike doubled. This scored a complete,
			unique top across all 68 tables.