

WALES IN THE EUROPEAN: BUDAPEST – June 2016

last updated : 0800 (local) Sun 26 – after the last day

OPEN...ended ahead of 4 including Scotland; averaged 7.8 VPs; lost to England by only 2imps; 12 wins

SENIORS...ended ahead of 3, averaged 7.7 VPs; only plus score on Butlers was Kurbalijas; 4 wins

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The 53rd European Teams championship – and the 9th for Wales – runs in Budapest, Hungary this year. With some outside help, the WBU has two teams playing. In the Open we have Richard Plackett & Simon Richard, Julian Pottage & Tony Ratcliffe, and Gary Jones with Patrick Jourdain. Some are representing Wales in a European event for the first time, but Patrick has played often enough to balance that. In the seniors we have Paul Denning & Patrick Shields, Diane & Filip Kurbalija, John Salisbury & Mike Tedd. All of these have played for Wales before, but it is the first venture into the Seniors for the first four. Both teams have Alan Stephenson as captain and Krista Stephenson as coach.

The format in the both events is a full round robin of 16 board matches, but there are 37 teams in the open and only 24 in the Seniors. The Open event starts Thursday 16th, and the Seniors three days later on Sunday 19th of June. The Open team has 4 matches most of its ten days, while the Seniors have three matches most of its 7 days.

LATEST MATERIAL FROM THE TOP OF HERE

Day 10 : Open play Georgia, Greece, Portugal : seniors play Ireland, Turkey and Spain

The Open team had a win against Greece on the last day, while the Seniors managed to despatch both Ireland and Spain. France had already won the Open series, but it was very tight in both the other competitions with the England Women's team taking the gold medal on the very last board – the opposition bid a grand slam on a finesse, and the finesse was working, but the trumps broke 4-0 and that was too much. In the Seniors it was Israel who had led almost throughout and held on to the end to win by 2 VPs from Sweden.

In the first match of the days the Kurbalijas judged this well ...

K3	A985	After a 14-16 1N opener from Filip, Diane transferred into hearts and next hand doubled showing diamonds. Filip's pass now denied a diamond stopper, making the good fit more likely and when Diane, enthused, now continued with 2S they were quickly in game making to collect 6imps. It was flat in 2H+3 in our Open team match against Georgia.
AJ3	KT7642	
JT9	6	
KQ842	97	

The very last board of the event was spectacular in many matches

	AK532	West opened 1D usually (some strong 1C openings too) and North overcalled. Against Patrick Jourdain's opening they had a Ghestem overcall showing clubs and spades, which silenced East and allowed South to bid 4S. Patrick continued with 5D and played there. In the other room Tony Ratcliff overcalled 1S and over the negative double Julian raised to 4S. They eventually sacrificed over 6H in 6S and yielded only -500, so gaining 3imps for Wales.	
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	T95		
	KJ842		
--		JT9	In the Seniors, Mike Tedd doubled the 1S overcall and John Salisbury propelled himself quickly to 6H making, while the Spanish opposition bit 7H against the Kurbalijas who defended successfully to collect 17imps on the board as part of a fourth win by 36imps.
AJT52		Q874	
AKJ7642		Q8	
A		QT93	
	Q8764		
	K963		
	3		
	765		

Day 9 : Open play Ireland, Hungary, Germany and Sweden : seniors play Serbia, Portugal and Netherlands

For once we have some good news to report – the Seniors, for the first time, played a team below them in the table (admittedly there was only one candidate) and produced their first win, by 12 imps – and then continued with a second win against a team further up the table, this time Portugal by 16 imps. You might have hoped for better against lowly placed teams but look at these from the bottom placed Serbia ...

<p>98532 72 Q73 KQ2</p>	<p>JT AQT84 K65 765</p> <p>K764 965 J42 AT3</p> <p>AQ KJ3 AT98 J984</p>	<p>Paul Denning played in 4H as South, as did most of the field. He won the spade lead with the ace when RHO played the king, and then drew trumps. He led a small club from North to the C9 and CQ. At this point clearly (to us) a diamond loser is due to go on the fourth club but there is one chance for declarer to go wrong. It was spotted on vugraph but thought too difficult to be found - and the Serbian found it – the DQ switch. Paul needed to judge who had the DJ but he got that right, winning the DK and leading a second club from dummy to the CT and CK, after which he was safe.</p> <p>So the pair at one table was proving testing, but the Serbian declarer at the other table went wrong by ducking a diamond after which the Kurbalijas quickly cashed three clubs.</p>
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And then a little bit later

<p>4 A94 93 AQT9874</p>	<p>7 QJT653 AQT4 K5</p> <p>QJ9832 K87 -- J632</p> <p>AKT65 2 KJ87652 --</p>	<p>This was an exciting board, dealt by North at EW vulnerable. Patrick Shields started the bidding with 1H after which East surprisingly passed and Paul Denning as South bid a game forcing 2D. West came to life with 3C. North declined a 4S splinter (which might leave partner stuck needing a club control) in favour of 3D over which East woke up with 5C. Clearly slam is a strong possibility from the South perspective, so Paul tried 5S showing a control there and strongly suggesting a club void. North declined the grand slam invitation with 6D, but East was there again with 7C, vulnerable against not. While complementary to the Welsh bidding, it wasn't helpful to the Welsh score as the best that could be collected was +500 and Wales lost 9 imps when nobody else got close to sacrificing at that vulnerability.</p>
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The Open team finished their day against recent world champions, but only collected 16 VPs over the day, to drop a few places.

Day 8 : Open play Monaco, Finland, Italy : seniors play Italy, England and Romania

We have to count among today's successes the fact that both teams turned up as requested for their EBL photographs, and that once again no convention cards went missing. And the Open team did win a match (against Finland) – but the Seniors team continued its run of near misses starting with a loss by 1 imp to Italy (lying 6th in the table at the time and now 3rd) in the first match of the day. The Open team collected 18.2 VPs and the Seniors team 22.4 VPs for the day's work.

In the first match both Monaco and Italy gained on this board at the expense of Wales, but the failure was interesting ...

<p>T3 QJ53 T853 T43</p>	<p>AKQ986 T9 J Q986</p> <p>5 A62 KQ9762 A52</p> <p>J742 K874 A4 KJ7</p>	<p>With only NS vulnerable, dealer North opened 1S and East overcalled 2D. To show a good raise in spades, South bid 3D and across the two Welsh matches, three Wests raised to 4D. When one Welsh West was silent, Monaco played in 4S making, but at the other three tables East continued over 4S with 5D and was doubled by South.</p> <p>The spade lead was won by North who led back a club. When declarer ducked, South could not tell if the lead was from a doubleton six or not and reverted to spades. One Welsh defender was back in with the DA next and again went passive; this allowed declarer to set up the long heart for a club discard and the penalty was only +300. The Monaco declarer sneaked the DQ past one of our defenders and then tackled hearts but again the defence failed to play clubs.</p> <p>So we lost out by not bidding 4D and by being too cautious in the defence. One key point is that once the spade layout is known, declarer must have the HA or North would have bid 4H over 4D. Which must place a club honour with North or it would have been a weak two opening bid.</p>
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and in the last match this proved too difficult for our pairs

AK8765 T5 K6 JT4	QJ9 A2 AJ874 AK7	After a start of 1S-2D-2S it is clear the hand will be played in spades; those playing 2D as a game force can continue with 3S, but if you are more in the Acol camp, you need to bid 4C to agree spades and show a club control. Both our pairs stopped in 6S. This was one hand where only 1 table out of 82 (in the Womens) failed to bid a slam, and across the three series the grand slam was bid by 15/36 (Open), 3/22 (Womens) and 4/24 (Seniors). It is a good grand slam, depending on the diamonds for 4 tricks (3-3 break or doubleton queen makes that over 50%) with the club finesse in reserve if that doesn't come to pass.
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Day 7 : Open play France, Turkey, Bulgaria and Spain: seniors play Austria, Germany, Norway and Bulgaria

A long day for both teams today with 64 boards to play. Success for the Seniors team was turning up on time for tall four matches and not losing any convention cards. Failures includes some mis-entering of results, and four losses. But the team did collect 31 VPs from a max of 80, which isn't such a bad average. The Open team also struggled – they only collected 12 VPs and have dropped down from 23rd place to 30th place. This hand was one bright spot – when both teams gained usefully ...

4 T7642 J865 KQ2		In most matches it started, from West, with 1D-P-1S and a spade raise. For Welsh Seniors Patrick Shields was able to bid 1D-P-2S and now a 4H splinter made it easy for East to take control. After all the aces and the top trumps were confirmed, a muddled try for a grand slam ended in 6S, and it was with much relief that they found the diamonds broke badly, limiting them to 12 tricks. Fortunate indeed, as the German opposition had stopped in 4S !
QT98 J AKQ94 763	AKJ63 A9 732 AJ4	In the Open series, it started 1D-P-1S but Rickahrd Plackett was there for Wales bidding hearts, and he and Simon Richards continued bidding hearts (with just two bids) to the 7-level, and they played 7Hx-5 for -1100. Meanwhile Jourdain & Jones had bid up to 6S making +1430, so the Open gained 8imps (while the Seniors had gained 13).
752 KQ853 T T985		In the Open series, there were 7 tables in game, one defending 5Hx, 21 in 6S making and 6 in 7S-1 (Ireland were unlucky, but Scotland gained and moved off the bottom of the table with a 20-0 win in this match). In the Seniors there were 8 tables in game (including England seniors and Ireland seniors), 14 tables in 6S making, and 2 in 7S-1 (sorry, commiserations to Scotland seniors). The ladies had 15/22 tables in 6S making, and 4 in game and 2 in 7S-1 (plus one of 7Hx-5). Scotland ladies took 13imps off England on this hand by stopping in game

The pattern across the board on that hand was

	OPEN	WOMENS	SENIORS	TOTAL
Bid to game	8	4	8	20
Bid to 6S	21	15	14	50
Bid to 7S-1	6	2	2	10
Sacrifice in 7H	1	1	0	2

Another useful gain in the last match was this ...

J6 A6 JT753 9432	Q73 52 AQ842 AK6	Most pairs bid easily up to 4S on this hand, and against Denning & Shields the sequence included a modicum of support for diamonds from West. So Patrick could see short diamonds in his partner's hand and started off with the D7 (highest he could spare as suit preference for hearts) and declarer won this rather greedily and revealingly with the D9. Now came a spade to the queen and ace and a heart back. With discards available in dummy to take care of the third and fourth hearts, declarer just had to guess where the queen was and he guessed wrong, playing the HK to the HA. This was followed by a diamond ruff, and then HQ and a heart ruffed with the SJ for two off.
AT864 KJ98 K9 87	K92 QT743 6 QJT5	It was surprising that the other 23 tables in the Seniors all made at least ten tricks, as did 28/36 tables in the Open.

Day 6 : Open play Czech, Estonia and Austria : seniors play Scotland, Denmark and Sweden

Another disappointing day for both teams, with the Open collecting only 13/60 VPs and the Seniors hardly any better at 14/60. The Seniors started the day against Scotland and were leading by 15 imps at half time but then we missed a slam, lost a penalty, and John Matheson for Scotland played this hand rather well ...

<p>AJT82 KT3 AK9 97</p> <p>9654 AJ65 J QJ43</p> <p>7 Q842 Q732 AK85</p>	<p>KQ3 97 T8654 T62</p>	<p>The contract was 3N by South after North had opened 1S and neither North nor South had bid any other suits naturally. Paul Denning led the C3 to the C9-CT-CK. John started with a heart to the ten which won and the then HK. Paul won the HA and tried the DJ which was won by the ace. John now ran the C7 – hoping to find the JT and not just the T on his right, but Paul won and now played the S6. This went to the ST-SQ-S7 and East now exited with the C2. With only two tricks visible in hearts and clubs, and three in diamonds, declarer needed two spades and he got that by cashing his HQ, his top diamonds, and throwing East in with the fourth diamond to lead into the AJ of spades.</p> <p>Gary Jones for the Open team was also in 3N but played by North, and the play started with a diamond lead and then hearts, but when West got in with the HA he played the S9 through, and Gary could now just play on spades to make his nine tricks. He gained 12 imps for the Open team for that, but the Seniors lost the same when our man didn't get as helpful a defence as Gary did, and missed the endplay.</p>
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Day 5 : Open play Romania, Latvia, Switzerland and Belgium : seniors play Israel, Belgium and Finland

This was a bad day for Wales at the bridge (but an excellent day in the football). The Open team started with a 0-20 loss to Romania and then struggled to collect only 15/60 VPs in the next three matches. Meanwhile the Seniors team did enough to get themselves off bottom place, but they remain the only team (of the 85 present) who have lost all their matches. Their first match of the day was the closest, losing by 3 imps to Israel who are currently leading the Seniors table.

While they have been uninspired, the Seniors have also been a bit unlucky. Their opponents in the last match had a mix up in a relay system to end in the right slam for a flat board, and on another hand their mix up landed them in 6C on a 5-1 fit making, where the majority of the field (including our pair) stopped in game. We expect the luck to balance out eventually.

The teams finished the day watching the football together and will approach tomorrow with renewed vigour!

Day 4 : Open play Israel, Denmark, Cyprus and Croatia : seniors play France, Poland, Estonia, and Hungary

The Open team continue to perform admirably, clocking up one loss by only 4 imps followed by three wins today. On the match they lost this was a big gain

<p>K65 K QJ74 QJ642</p> <p>32 AJT97642 9 93</p> <p>AQJ9874 853 T KT</p>	<p>T Q AK86532 A875</p>	<p>At game all, West dealt and there was a mix of 3H and 4H openers, but by the time the bidding came round to South it was at 4H, so South naturally bid 4S. After this paths diverged. In the Open team match vs Israel, both Easts bid on to 5H and both Norths continued to 5S which was doubled. Wales gained 7 imps for one off against two off in the other room.</p> <p>In the Seniors both Norths preferred to double 5H, and this proved unbeatable when West judged to drop the singleton king –flat in 850 to EW. In the English Ladies' match, after the bidding reached 4S both Easts preferred to defend, so 4Sx became the contract and it made an overtrick in both rooms – flat in 990 to NS. In the English Open team's match, after 4S-P-P East decided to suggest two places to play by bidding 4N – and he played there! Fortunately South declined to lead a spade, and with no outside entry to the dummy Tony Forrester was forced to play the HQ to the HA and, using up about two weeks worth of good luck, he was home in 4N.</p>
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In the second match of the day Patrick Jourdain got to play this hand

<p>J92 54 KQ982 K64</p>	<p>- A76 AJT54 Q8752</p>	<p>QT8643 J92 3 T93</p>	<p>North dealt and opened 1D and, against silent opposition, a fair number of Souths drove to slam. Patrick was one of those and he got a heart lead which he won, and he played on clubs then to set up a discard for his losing diamond, and he got his 12 tricks. That gained 11 imps against the 3N in the other room. In the Seniors match, the Kurbalijas also played in 3N, while Patrick Shields led a top diamond against 6H to beat that for an 11 imps gain in their match against Poland.</p>
	<p>AK75 KQT83 76 AJ</p>		<p>What is curious about the hand is the statistics; in the Open competition, the slam was bid at 24/36 tables, while in the Seniors it was only bid at 9/24 and in the ladies at 11/22. The bidding up in the Open might be justified by the fact that in the Open half the field made game while in the Seniors only 2/9 succeeded and in the Ladies 1/11 succeeded. And success seemed to be entirely about whether or not you led a top diamond.</p>

Day 3 : Open play Norway, Poland and Faroe Islands

Another good day for Wales – with excellent wins against the strong Norwegian and Polish team, and an unfortunate loss to Faroe Islands (14 imps went out on board one, and Wales gained on the remainder but still lost the match). Here is Julian Pottage in excellent form against Poland ...

<p>KT8632 Q97 7 KT4</p>	<p>-- K432 AKJ QJ8762</p>	<p>J95 6 Q95432 A53</p>	<p>The bidding with Poland North-South in the open room started (from South) 1H-2S and then the Poles were left on their own to bid up to 6H. They got the S6 lead but lost to the CA and the HQ.</p>
	<p>AQ74 AJT85 T86 9</p>		<p>With Julian South and Tony Ratcliffe North the bidding started 1H-<1S>-3S with Tony's bid showing good heart support and short spades. East now tried 4S which Julian doubled, but partner removed to 4N and over Julian's 5H response Tony raised to 6H.</p> <p>The defence started with a club to the CJ and CA and Julian set about setting up the clubs, discovering them to be 3-3. The four spade bid by East could only be justified (with so few values around) by having a singleton somewhere, and if that singleton was diamonds then west has too many cards (5 spades and 3 clubs and 6 diamonds?). So Julian deduced that East had a singleton heart and duly finessed for the HQ to make his slam. Across the field only 3 of the 19 pairs who bid the slam were successful. Well done Julian.</p>

Day 2 : Open play Iceland, Belarus, Scotland and Serbia

Wales had an excellent day today – did not lose any of its four matches, picking up 39 imps against Iceland (previous world champions), and then smaller wins against Belarus and Scotland before a draw with Serbia. They have moved up into 13th place out of 37 teams.

This was a hand on which Wales collected a big gain in the first of those four matches, but some might think the route was risky ...

<p>982 AQJ853 T3 J2</p>	<p>KT73 T2 KJ AKT85</p>	<p>AQJ54 74 Q72 643</p>	<p>West opened with hearts of course, and North doubled for takeout and South ended in 3N. Both Wales and Iceland chose to lead a spade against this. When Richard Plackett covered the S9 with the ST, a heart came back and at this point West could see the contract one off by cashing the HA and continuing spades. He did that for one off, but in the other room the Welsh defence managed to make all six heart tricks as well as five spade tricks (looks like declarer was a little careless) and so Wales collected +700, not a score you often see, and that meant 12 imps for the in-column.</p>
	<p>6 K96 A98654 Q97</p>		<p>Turkey played in 3N after the Hungarian West opened 3H and the lead was the HQ, it looked an open book to the Turk sitting South. If the opening was a 7-card suit with AQJ of hearts, then surely SA and DQ were with East. So he proceeded to cash five rounds of clubs and then played DK, DJ to DA and a third diamond to endplay East. The catch was that East had a heart to lead for one down. East was fortunate in being able to tell that covering the DJ was wrong – as leaving the lead in dummy would force declarer to play a major suit.</p> <p>The Faroe Islands, Croatia and Scotland all managed to collect +700, just like Wales.</p>

This hand presented interesting choices against Scotland -

<p>KQ86 KJT 952 KJ6</p> <p>3 A32 AQT6 T9843</p> <p>AJT2 Q8754 J7 A7</p>	<p>9754 96 K843 Q52</p>	<p>After Gary Jones opened a weak NT with the North hand, Patrick Jourdain investigated and Gary played in 4S. On a diamond lead the Scots cashed a second round and then West switched to a small heart. Gary won that, took a diamond ruff and found he had to draw trumps. When he later came to knock out the heart ace, West found that he had mistakenly discarded his fourth diamond, so that there was no longer a fourth trick for the defence.</p> <p>In the other room Scotland played in 4H (as did 2 others of the 36 teams) and Welsh West led the singleton S3. At the table, it went a heart to the king, and a second heart to the ace, and our man tried CT but declarer won and drew the last trump. Clearly a diamond switch would have obtained a spade ruff, but if South had the DK that could give away the contract. The answer is that the short suit lead needs to be recognised by East, who gives a McKenney signal about his entry at trick one. After S9 at trick one might have got the job done if the defenders were both on that wavelength.</p>
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Another big swing hand came in the last match against Serbia ...

<p>KQT7 K84 KJ52 Q6</p> <p>5 6 QT74 KT87532</p> <p>J96432 AQ732 8 9</p>	<p>A8 JT95 A963 AJ4</p>	<p>South dealt this at both vulnerable, and passed letting West start the auction with a 3C pre-empt. North has a decent hand, but opposite a passed partner it is not right to come in, and this allowed East a confident 3N. This was now the time for South to emerge and a 4C bid described the hand well. If North now bid 4S it was hard for East not to double – but the contract could not be defeated.</p> <p>For England, Andy Robson after the start of P-3C-P-3N-4C recognised that he had more shape than usual and bid 4D to waken up partner to this fact, which meant when North bid 4S Tony Forrester knew to bid 5C and that pushed the opposition into 5S which was doubled for down one. Excellent bridge.</p>
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Day 1 : Open play Netherlands, Russia, England and Ukraine

There were three difficult teams here and Wales started very well by holding both Netherlands and England to near draw – losing the first by 2 imps and the second by 1 imp. They lost 5-15 to Russia but came back in the last match to beat Ukraine. This last match was played on BBO and you can see all the details by looking at <once it is ready>.

On board 27 in the fourth match, it looked like Wales were playing an excellent 7S hand in a 6C contract, but then the opponent in pass-out seat continued with 6D, and now Gary Jones could bid 6S and he was raised to 7S by Patrick Jourdain. It sounds good news but, no it wasn't – here's the hand

<p>J854 QJT95 T85 2</p> <p>KQ32 AK432 A7 64</p> <p>-- 97 KQJ6432 J985</p>	<p>AT976 6 9 AKQT73</p>	<p>When Wales were North-South, Julian Pottage opened 4D as South (a common choice) and all West could do was double for takeout. Tony Ratcliffe raised the ante with 5D and the Ukrainians now bid 6S-P-7S-end. This was impossible to make.</p> <p>The auction in the other room started the same, but over 5D Gary bid 6C, which was happily making. North sacrificed over this with 6D and next round he was defending – happily – against 7S. So a flat board with -50 scored in both rooms.</p> <p>In the Scotland-Hungary match it was a near flat board with 6C and 6S being the contracts; and the same happened in England-Iceland, but Ireland gained 14 imps when they stopped in 6S and Italy bid 7S-1.</p>
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The final score left Wales just below average with an average VP score of over 9/20, which is a good start.

LAST TIME – IN DUBLIN

On day 2 the Seniors clocked up their first win – over Serbia by 18 imps and moved 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 !

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 ..

	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.
	6	
	K6	
	AQ98542	
K963		874
KJ8		AQ94
A843		QJ95
T6		KJ
	QT5	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 4 imps.
	T7532	
	T72	
	73	

We started the match against Lithuania on a bright note with this ...

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

The second match on the final day 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. 12 tricks for a flat board when the diamond finesse worked, but on hand where a careless 3N raise would have seen them cash 5 club tricks.
AK	Q872	
AJT97	Q632	
T53	4	

AND BEFOR THAT – IN DUBLIN

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 this –

KQT3	J95	Their sequence started, like many, 1C-1D-2S-3D and now they bid 3H(fourth suit)-3S-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.
AT	KJ	
K4	Q98652	
AQJ64	73	

. The most interesting was this play hand

J875	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.
JT2	K864	Q2	
973	T	A75	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.
632	AQ754	Q542	
		KJT8	
	9643		
	Q93		
	AKJ86		
	9		

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

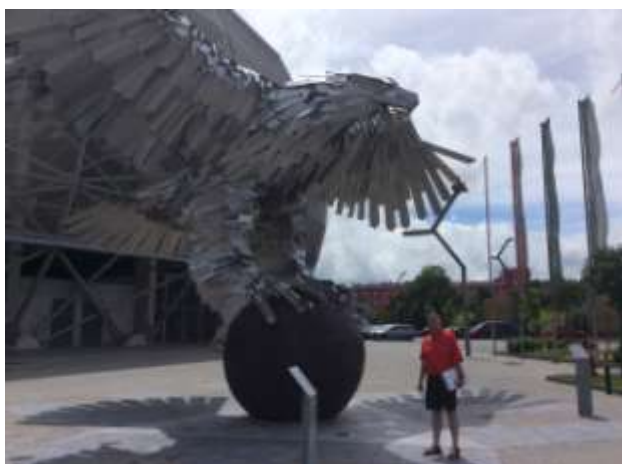
PICTURES FROM BUDAPEST



ARENA – OPENING CEREMONY



OPENING CEREMONY – FOLK DANCERS



CAPTAIN OUTSIDE ARENA



PLAYING AREA



TEAM PRACTICE (INFORMAL)



SCORING UP



SCORING UP



WAITING FOR TEAM MATES



THE WINNERS COLLECTING MEDALS