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> ...

Welcome to the Renault Bridge Tour 2005 final.

We are delighted to have you all here in our Renault square com., for a friendly afternoon of bridge closing the European tournaments.

We, in REAGROUP, are very happy to have given you another opportunity to visit Paris and we hope that you will enjoy both your visit and the competition.

See you next year in our showrooms throughout Europe.

André Bodis

Chief Executive Officer REAGROUP

W e would like, first of all, to congratulate all or you for your qualification for this marvelous final of the 2nd Renault Bridge Tour.

On your behalf, and on ours, we thank the President, André Bodis, and his staff in the REAGROUP for their hospitality in this magical site.

Here, not only will you be able to admire the old and new Renault cars – including the latest Formula 1 World Champion – but also, without doubt, enjoy the company of your fellow bridge players from Europe.

Hopefully after a good tournament, have a nice cocktail dinner and a safe trip home.

José Damiani
President of the WBF

Gianarrigo Rona
President of the EBL

Maurice Panis

President of the FFB





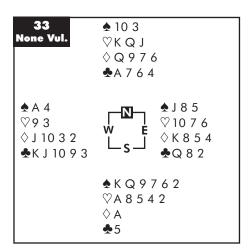
RENAULT square com. Boulogne Billancourt, France

Saturday 3rd December 2005

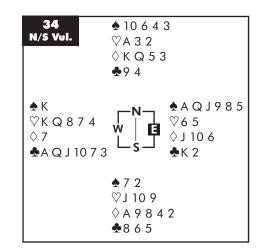
EUROPEAN FINAL

The original French commentary (by **Paul Chemla**) has been translated into English, without taking account of the difference between standard French and English bidding methods. Standard French uses a Strong NT (usually 15-17) and 5-card Majors and, of course, weak twos in the majors. We hope you enjoy comparing your experiences with those predicted by the commentator and – who knows? – you may be persuaded to try out the French style!

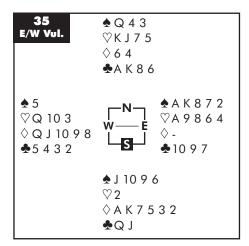




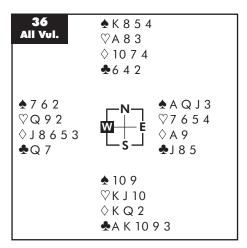
HAND 33: These days the whole world opens North's 12-point hand. But that's not necessarily the reason North-South can reach their major-suit slam, which is unbeatable as the cards lie. However, in a Spade contract, when South plays a trump from dummy to his King and West ducks smoothly, who knows what might happen!



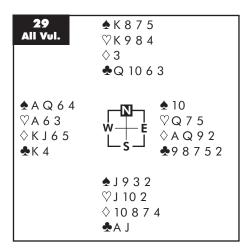
HAND 34: After East's 1S opening, his side will play in game. But the rather more experienced campaigners will opt for 4S, as opposed to the slightly risky 5C. It's now up to North-South to hold declarer to 10 tricks, by forcing him to ruff a Diamond with the King of Spades!



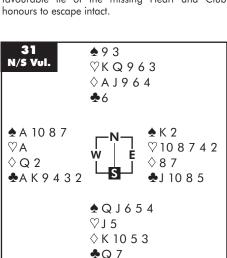
HAND 35: After South's 1D opening and North's 1H response, East comes in with1S. South will certainly repeat his Diamonds. Even if West, intoxicated by his trump holding, doubles 2D (which, by the way, goes down only one trick), East will perhaps risk 2H, a contract which makes easily on the lead of Ace of Diamonds.



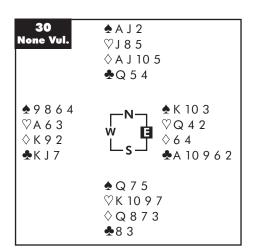
HAND 36: If South decides to pass East's 1C opening, it could prove to be an excellent decision, particularly if that becomes the final contract. For East will no doubt go down four tricks, vulnerable, after a trump lead. If South intervenes with 1NT he has little chance, even on a Diamond lead, of coming to nine tricks, not being favourite to locate the Queen of Hearts.



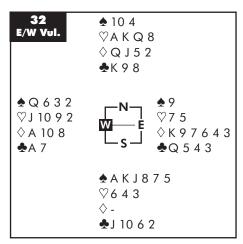
HAND 29: In fourth position, West opens a sturdy 1NT. Even in a pairs tournament, many Easts will open their mouths, leading to a very poor 3NT. The lead of a small Heart leaves declarer with scarcely any chance, despite North having to find discards on the run of the Diamond suit. But even on a small Spade lead, declarer will need to rely on the favourable lie of the missing Heart and Club honours to escape intact.



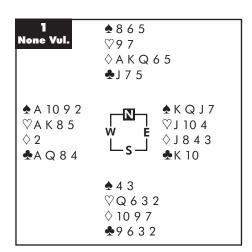
HAND 31: The East hand is very poor in high-card points, but offers West the ideal cards to make game in Clubs. Those who judge to bid it will have done very well and will deserve their fine score. That's the reason why those others who defend 3D and manage to beat it by taking their Heart ruff, will have saved something from the wreckage.



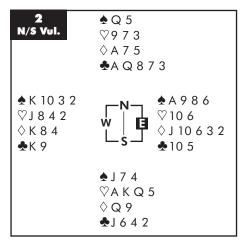
HAND 30: If West opens 1C in third position, East might respond 1NT, a contract which gains considerably from a Heart lead. On the other hand, if it's North who opens in fourth, he'll declare the same contract. Inconvenienced by the discards he has to find in both his hand and the dummy when East runs his 5 Club winners, he'll surely have to settle for 1 down, unless the defence slips up.



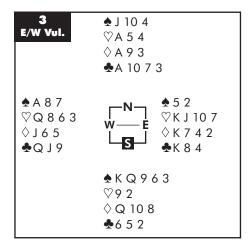
HAND 32: Those who can't bring themselves to open 1NT, even non-vulnerable, with their scarty 15-count, risk missing the excellent Spade game, which makes despite the unfavourable position of both black Queens. But one imagines that North-South will achieve a score only a mite above average by making 420.



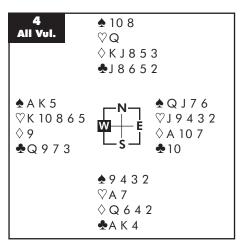
HAND 1 : West opens 1C in the pass-out seat, North overcalls 1D and East, who bids 1S, will soon appreciate that his partner has a strong fitting hand with Diamond shortage. As he himself has only good cards, he will sometimes be tempted by the prospect of a slam which is no worse than many, and which here brings in an excellent 980.



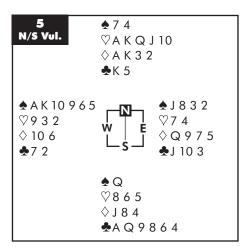
HAND 2: If North observes the technical niceties he will respond 1D to the 1C opening, followed by a fourth-suit-forcing 1S after South's 1H rebid. This will ensure that 3NT is played from the right side. A Spade lead and continuation will allow declarer to garner 10 tricks unless, of course, East finds the Diamond switch when in with Ace of Spades.



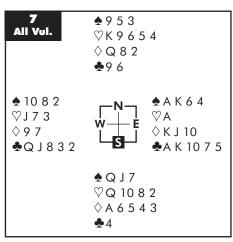
HAND 3: North opens 1C in third seat and rebids 1NT over South's 1S response. There are eight top tricks in a 2S partscore but against 1NT on a Diamond lead, which appears to yield the same number of tricks, West can embarrass declarer mightily by refusing to furnish his Jack. Even if declarer, declining the poisoned chalice, decides to take his Ace at trick 1, he may then have a major problem reaching dummy ultimately.



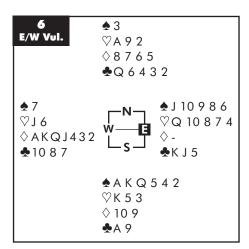
HAND 4: East raises his partner's 1H opening to 4H (or a 4C Splinter if his systemic arrangements allow such in this point range), but either way the final contract will be 4H. Those who decide, after advancing the Jack of trumps from dummy, to break all the technical rules and put the King on it when South plays low, will achieve a top score of 650, and a sly nod of approval from partner!



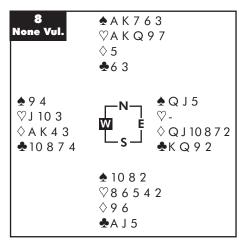
HAND 5: Here's an excellent slam for North-South, which needs only a favourable Club break. Naturally, East-West will do everything they can to inconvenience their opponents in Spades, with results varying from the sublime, if they succeed in getting themselves doubled in 4S (where they lose only 500) to the frankly horrible if they're obliged to save in 6S for 1100.



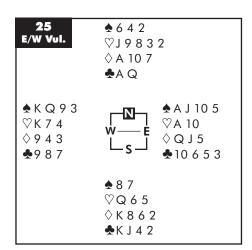
HAND 7 : In fourth seat, East has the problem of what to open. If he opts for 1C he risks playing there, despite slam being makeable thanks to the winning Diamond finesse. If he opts for an indeterminate strong two with 2C (or 2D), followed by a 2NT rebid, only a Heart lead will beat 3NT and avoid the very poor score of minus 630.



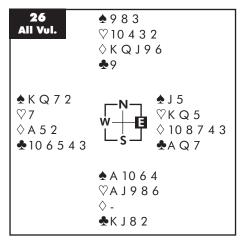
HAND 6: North-South will need to exercise caution on this dangerous deal. Even if South, having opened 15, re-opens with a double after West's 3D overcall, it will be difficult for North to pass for penalties – the only decision resulting in a plus score, thanks to an unexpected trump promotion. In a 3S contract, South can get out for one down, if West plays three rounds of Diamonds, by end-playing East to lead away from his Clubs.



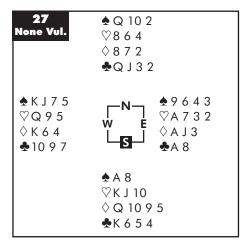
HAND 8 : To hold North to 10 tricks in his Heart game, it's imperative that East-West find the Club switch after cashing Ace of Diamonds. But they can do better by sacrificing in 5D, where they are only 2 down, always supposing that North-South don't make the error of bidding on to 5H!



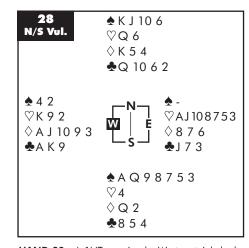
HAND 25 : Green against red, there are certain of us who as North will be sufficiently imbued with a spirit of adventure to open a dubious 1H, allowing our side to contest East-West's 2S partscore by pushing on to 3H – which turns out to be cold. 3S is 1 down, even if North-South fail to find the killing defence of three rounds of Clubs for a Diamond discard, followed by a ruff in that suit.



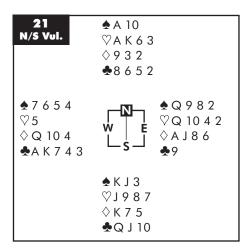
HAND 26: East's 1D opening won't stop South locating his partscore in 2H. The lead of a small Club will assist declarer greatly in his task. However, it will prove much harder if West leads the King of Spades instead, always providing that East neglects to show his doubleton!



HAND 27: Non-vulnerable, North might well risk 1NT in response to his partner's 1D opening. If, as seems likely, East-West leave him to play there, he'll make at least 5 tricks on a Spade or Heart lead. However, even losing 100 points will be no bad business, given that East-West have eight or nine tricks in a Spade partscore.



HAND 28: A 1NT opening by West certainly looks normal. East would need a vivid imagination to conceive of a slam from that point, good though it is. He is more likely to bid an immediate 4H to stop North-South finding a 4S contract – a scenario not far off the mark here.



HAND 21: There will be plenty who pass this hand out. Essentially, North has to avoid any opening which will get his side to at least the three level. If South opens 1C, with the intention of passing any response by North, East-West can squeeze something out of the auction, as they are a mere one down in 2S, against North-South's unbeatable 2H contract.

★832

♥Q74

 \Diamond 9 5 3

♣Q 10 8 2

♠ A K 10 5

♥J52

♦ Q 2

lead, by locating the Queen of Diamonds.

♣KJ64

23

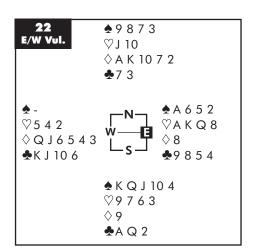
All Vul.

♠ 9 7 4

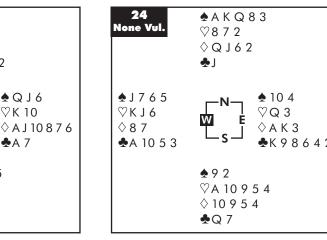
♦ K 4

♣953

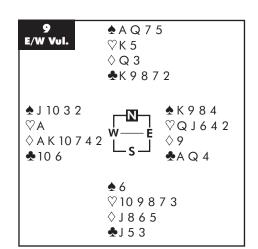
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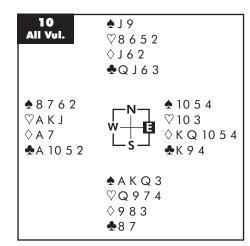
HAND 22: South intervenes with 1S over East's opening 1C and, even if East-West get as far as 3C, nothing will stop North bidding 3S if he hasn't already done so. The lead of Jack of Clubs will then prove ruinous, the more so if South, having ruffed his losing Club, is careful to lead a Heart from dummy.



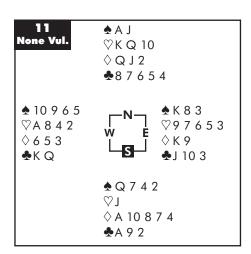
HAND 23: With his two miserable Queens, North **HAND 24**: East is no doubt tempted to intervene is obliged to pass his partner's 1C opening. The ball with 2C over North's 1S opening. This is an excellent is then in East-West's court. They can manage a notion because, even after an adverse trump promotion, there are nine tricks in a contract of 3C. partscore in Hearts or Diamonds, for sure, but it's in No-Trumps that they can secure their best score: nine But it would be even better to take a top in the contract of 3NT, with only 21 HCPs in the combined tricks are available, even if South gets off to a Club hands. This is cast-iron whenever North-South's clubs break favourably.



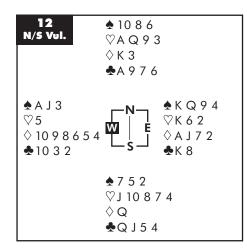
HAND 9: Many East-Wests will reach game here, despite North's opening bid. But the trap to avoid, after East's 1H overcall, is to play 3NT rather than 4S which, despite the bad trump break, is the only making game.



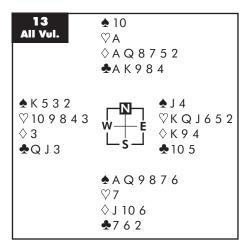
HAND 10: After opening 1NT in third seat, West will regularly be declarer in 3NT. As East won't have used Stayman, a Heart lead is preferable to a Club: the latter will allow declarer to score 11 tricks - even 12 if North chooses an honour, A score of minus 630 should be good for North-South.



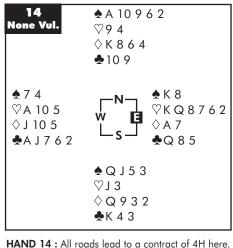
HAND 11: Even if South, quite normally, declines to open first in hand, a popular contract will still be 3NT by North. After a Heart lead by East, North will enjoy a tenth trick, courtesy of the Queen of Spades.



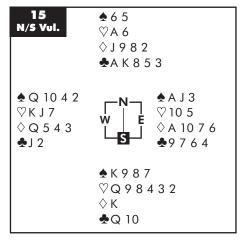
HAND 12: East makes a take-out double of North's 1C opening. South then shows his Hearts and West his Diamonds. Against a partscore in that suit, the Ace of Hearts needs to be cashed quickly to prevent declarer making 11 tricks. It will be even more important not to push on to 3H, which is down 2 vulnerable. Note that with the 3-3 trump break, game in Spades would be unbeatable.



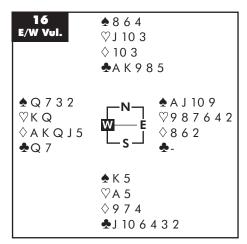
HAND 13: East-West, who have an eleven-card fit in Hearts, could put the skids under North-South by bouncing quickly to 5H, a contract where they stand to lose 800 but also to push their opponents into a fairly poor slam, 6D being undermined by the unfavourable position of the King of trumps. (However, double-dummy, this analysis is open to question.)



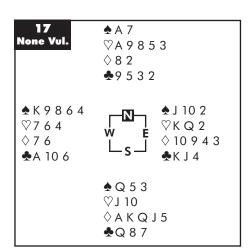
HAND 14: All roads lead to a contract of 4H here. On the Queen of Spades lead, North takes his Ace to attack Diamonds, which holds declarer to 10 tricks whenever he fails to guess the Club position and so make 12 against any defence. However, we all know that North, when he holds 109X in Clubs, has a duty to put in a high card when a low Club is played to the Jack...



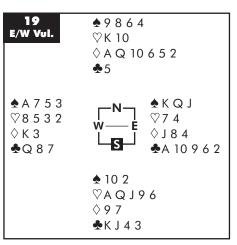
HAND 15: After North's 1C opening in third seat, South should find himself declaring a partscore in Hearts, where at least eight tricks are available. He may even manage, on a Spade lead for example, to ruff a Spade loser in dummy and notch up 140, for an excellent score.



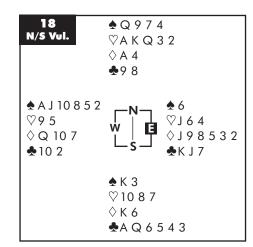
HAND 16: It won't be a problem for East-West to reach game in Spades, whilst some pairs will even be tempted by the awful slam. But if North-South, green against red, find their excellent Club sacrifice, where they lose only four tricks, they will inflict severe damage on their opponents. However, it's difficult to see how they're going to get into the bidding.



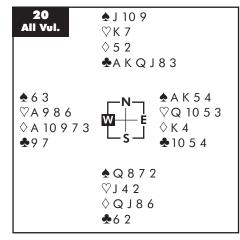
HAND 17: South won't hesitate to open 1NT, which is the best spot because, on a Spade lead, he has a quick eight tricks. But North is bound to introduce his Hearts, either via a transfer followed by 2NT, which would become the final contract for the same result, or via Stayman, followed by 2H after 2D: this would have no chance of making after the lead of Jack of Spades.



HAND 19: With all his points in his two suits, South correctly opens 1H. North responds 1S and after the 2C rebid, gives preference to 2H. On the best lead, which is a trump, South wins in dummy and advances a small Club. If East goes in with the Ace to play a second trump, he can't prevent South from scoring 140. If he opts intelligently for a small Club, South must do equally well by rising with the King for the same 140. The Jack means 8 tricks only, as he'll have to duck a diamond after a further trump return.



HAND 18: A 2S overcall by West after South's 1C opening will propel North into either a routine 4H (where he can manage only 650 if East-West take their Spade ruff) or better, 3NT. If South is declarer on the lead of Jack of Spades, or even if it's North and West with-holds his Ace of Spades on East's singleton lead and a low card from dummy, North-South are in a position to rack up a fine score with 690.



HAND 20: On the strength of his six presumably solid Clubs, North can open a frisky 1NT, against which the best defence, which consists of setting up the Hearts, won't be able to prevent him scoring 90 points. On the other hand, East can certainly double a 1C opening and thus locate an excellent partscore in 2H: North will have to let this go, otherwise he'll be down at least two tricks, vulnerable, in 3C.