

Open Teams Round 14

By Ron Tacchi



Croatia v. France



At the end of Round 13 France was lying second in Group A but 15 VPs behind Sweden. A good result against Croatia was imperative, as the teams of Monaco and Norway were only a couple of VPs behind them, and every VP was now important to ensure the best chance during the second phase of gaining a coveted spot to the Bermuda Bowl. Croatia, whilst lying eleventh, were only 6 VPs off the ninth spot which would get them through to the final play-off and a chance of a place in India next year.

France was represented by Marc Bompis and Jean-Christophe Quantin in the Open Room and father and son Bessis in the Closed Room. Opposing them in the Open Room were Kiril Marinovski and Vedran Zoric, with Goran Borevkovic partnered by Branko Refi in the other.

It was a game of one half. Neither team was firing on all cylinders. You know it was not a classic match when you repeatedly asked the VuGraph operator if that really was the bid or card played.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ J 10 7		
	♥ 8 2		
	♦ K 8 6		
	♣ A J 10 8 3		
♠ A Q 9 6 5 2		♠ 3	
♥ 7		♥ Q J 10 6 5 4	
♦ A 10 3		♦ Q 7 5	
♣ 9 7 5		♣ Q 4 2	
	♠ K 8 4		
	♥ A K 9 3		
	♦ J 9 4 2		
	♣ K 6		



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Marinovski	Bompis	Zoric
2♥*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
	All Pass		

I suspect that the editor has been passing among the players and inciting them to use a Multi Two Diamonds so as to promote his book 'The Mysterious Multi', if so he has been very successful. (The bookstall has sold out – next time they will bring more than one copy. Editor)

Bompis started proceedings with a weak only version of the multi. His partner bid 2♥, pass or correct, and that concluded the auction.

North gave a trick away with the lead of the ♠J and declarer was one light; for -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Bessis T.	Borevkovic	Bessis M.
Pass	Pass	2♥	All Pass

East could only open with a weak 2♥ which was passed out. South led a diamond to North's king and North switched to the jack of clubs. When declarer made the mistake of covering, South won and the defenders cashed two more club tricks. With three trumps to lose declarer was two down; -100, so strike 2 IMPs to the multi.

On Board 18 Croatia halved the difference with an overtrick IMP in 3NT and Board 19 was flat in a no-trump game, though France flirted with danger as they reached 4NT and there were four club tricks that could be cashed at trick one but The Croatian defender led a spade, so all was well.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

	♠ K 6 5 4		
	♥ Q 10 4		
	♦ K 8 7 4		
	♣ J 5		
♠ J 10 2		♠ A 9 8	
♥ 6 5 3		♥ A 9 8 2	
♦ A 2		♦ Q J	
♣ K 10 9 4 2		♣ Q 8 7 3	
	♠ Q 7 3		
	♥ K J 7		
	♦ 10 9 6 5 3		
	♣ A 6		



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Marinovski	Bompis	Zoric
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♣	Pass	Pass	2♦
All Pass			

West's raise of 1♣ to 2♣ was natural, no inverted minors here, and South showed his bravery by intervening, vulnerable, with 2♦ which was unbeatable; so +90 to Croatia.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Bessis T.	Borevkovic	Bessis M.
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♣	All Pass		

In this room pere Bessis was less sanguine on his five-card diamond suit headed by the ten and passed, so +90 again to Croatia and they took the lead 6-2.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠ 8 7		
	♥ 8 6 2		
	♦ 10 9 6 3		
	♣ Q 8 7 2		
♠ A 5	N	♠ K Q 6 4 3 2	
♥ K J 5	W	♥ A Q 9 4 3	
♦ A K J 7 5	E	♦ 8	
♣ A 6 3	S	♣ 4	
	♠ J 10 9		
	♥ 10 7		
	♦ Q 4 2		
	♣ K J 10 9 5		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Marinovski	Bompis	Zoric
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	7♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Bessis T.	Borevkovic	Bessis M.
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Dble	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	7♥	All Pass

A not difficult grand to bid and both teams passed the test. Both declarers showed the correct technique in the play, which was not needed in this layout, in taking two

rounds of trumps before two rounds of spades such that if spades broke 4-1 then if the hand with four spades had the three trumps he would be able to ruff out the spades.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠ K J 7 5		
	♥ 10 9 6 2		
	♦ K Q		
	♣ K Q J		
♠ A Q 6 2	N	♠ 9 8 4 3	
♥ Q 8 7 5	W	♥ A K J	
♦ A 5 3	E	♦ J 8 6	
♣ 7 6	S	♣ 9 8 4	
	♠ 10		
	♥ 4 3		
	♦ 10 9 7 4 2		
	♣ A 10 5 3 2		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Marinovski	Bompis	Zoric
		Pass	Pass
1♦	Dble	Rdbl	2♣
All Pass			

West opened 1♦, which could be three cards if his distribution was exactly 4-4-3-2 and South showed his clubs in response to partner's double. Quantin found the best lead of a trump to hold declarer to his contract since he was now unable to ruff a diamond in dummy.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Bessis T.	Borevkovic	Bessis M.
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Dble	1♠	2♦
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Here the Croatian pair forced the Bessis partnership to the level of three, but alas did not find the trump lead and so declarer was +110 and gained an IMP.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ Q		
	♥ A J 8 6 5 4 3		
	♦ K J 2		
	♣ K 9		
♠ 7 5 4 2	N	♠ A J	
♥ 9	W	♥ K Q 10 7 2	
♦ 10	E	♦ A 9 7 5	
♣ A Q 10 8 6 4 2	S	♣ 5 3	
	♠ K 10 9 8 6 3		
	♥ -		
	♦ Q 8 6 4 3		
	♣ J 7		



Branko Refi, Croatia

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Marinovski	Bompis	Zoric
Pass	2♠*	Dble	2♦*
5♣	Dble	All Pass	Pass

Zoric's 2♦ bid is described as Wagner on the convention card, which shows a weak two in a major and, after North bid a 2♠ pass or correct, West bid what he thought he might make after partner's double and North's double concluded the auction. Unfortunately, the play of the cards was misrecorded but West lost three tricks and was -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Bessis T.	Borevkovic	Bessis M.
Pass	3♥	Dble	2♠
Pass	Pass	4♥	3♠
Pass	Dble	All Pass	Pass

South opened a weak two in spades and North made a try for game in hearts. East expressed his opinion and South retreated to 3♠. For reasons I do not understand East now re-entered the fray with 4♥, which North now quite happily doubled. West having supreme confidence in partner or having no idea what was actually happening passed. I could almost feel the smile on Thomas's face 2000 kilometres away. We will not dwell on private grief but just record that it was -1100 and 14 IMPs to France, who now regained the lead 17-6.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 9 8 7 5		♠ K Q 4 2
♥ A 7 3		♥ K
♦ J 8 7 6		♦ K Q 9 2
♣ A 2		♣ K 10 8 5
♠ J 10 3	N	♠ K Q 4 2
♥ Q J	W	♥ K
♦ A 10 3	E	♦ K Q 9 2
♣ Q J 7 6 3	S	♣ K 10 8 5
♠ A 6		
♥ 10 9 8 6 5 4 2		
♦ 5 4		
♣ 9 4		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Marinovski	Bompis	Zoric
Pass	Pass	1♦	3♥
Dble	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Dble	All Pass

When E/W reached 4♠ North took the save in 5♥ as he 'knew' South had a singleton spade and it was two light doubled. It seems on careful play 4♠ can make, so in theory a good decision.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Bessis T.	Borevkovic	Bessis M.
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♥
Dble	3♥	3♠	All Pass

Here, South's temerity at only valuing his hand to be worth 2♥, meant that East was not forced into making a decision at the game level and so only bid 3♠. West having doubled with only a three-card spade suit was reluctant to continue and so passed. East made ten tricks but still lost 4 IMPs.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ K 10 9 8 6 5		♠ A 4
♥ J 7 4		♥ K 5 3
♦ A J 4		♦ 8 7
♣ 8		♣ A J 6 5 4 3
♠ J 7 3	N	♠ Q 2
♥ 10 8 6 2	W	♥ A Q 9
♦ Q 9 3 2	E	♦ K 10 6 5
♣ 7 2	S	♣ K Q 10 9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Marinovski	Bompis	Zoric
All Pass	2♦*	3♣	Dble



Vedran Zoric, Croatia

Again the 2♦ Wagner was utilised and East's 3♣ bid was promptly doubled by South. East now heard the strains of Siegfried's Funeral march as he was four light for -1100. 1100's like the preceding one (and the Austin variety) should not really happen. East will no doubt argue he was 'unlucky', but if you were to transpose the West and South hands, West would do well to stop in the club game and that would be defeated, so East is looking for an awful lot in his partner's hand for this bid to show a profit. Of course it could be that his bidding box was short of green cards. He could also pass and let his partner bid if he had something worth saying.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Refi</i>	<i>Bessis T.</i>	<i>Borevkovic</i>	<i>Bessis M.</i>
	1♠	3♣	All Pass

At this table Thomas rated his hand to be worth an opening bid. I suspect system-wise South was precluded from a penalty double and so had to wait for partner to re-open. He is still waiting. The downside of the weak opening bid is that you become afraid to follow the system - in France in this auction it is more or less mandatory for North to continue the bidding. The upshot was 12 IMPs back to Croatia.

Board 26 was a flat 3NT.

On Board 27 France lost 5 IMPs when they had a small bidding accident when a 2♣ bid was either natural or checkback and both players did not have the same opinion.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ J 4 ♥ K 9 8 7 4 2 ♦ 6 5 ♣ K 8 4	♠ Q 10 9 8 6 5 2 ♥ 5 ♦ K 8 2 ♣ J 2  ♠ 7 3 ♥ A ♦ A J 9 4 3 ♣ A Q 7 5 3	♠ A K ♥ Q J 10 6 3 ♦ Q 10 7 ♣ 10 9 6
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Marinovski</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Zoric</i>
2♦*	Pass	2♠*	3♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	


This time it was Quantin who used a weak-only multi 2♦ to which partner responded a pass or correct 2♠. South showed his diamonds, no doubt intending to mention his clubs at the next turn but North closed proceedings with a bid of 4♠. There was little to the play and he lost the obvious three tricks for +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Refi</i>	<i>Bessis T.</i>	<i>Borevkovic</i>	<i>Bessis M.</i>
2♥	Pass	4♥	4NT
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

The opening weak two in hearts enabled East to preempt to the maximum, making it nigh impossible for North/South to stop in 4♠. So this time we strike one up to the traditional weak two; Croatia now leading 35-21.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ A 8 5 2 ♥ 10 9 ♦ J 10 8 7 5 ♣ Q 8	♠ 7 ♥ A J 4 ♦ Q 9 4 2 ♣ A 10 5 4 3  ♠ K Q J 9 6 3 ♥ K 5 3 ♦ A 6 3 ♣ 6	♠ 10 4 ♥ Q 8 7 6 2 ♦ K ♣ K J 9 7 2
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Marinovski</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Zoric</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

I cannot be sure of the auction as we had to carry out lost contact procedure during the play of this hand. A club was led and taken by the ace, declarer played a spade to the king which held and then played a small spade, evidently either playing East for doubleton ace or he had a fat finger attack and pulled out the wrong card. The upshot was one down in a cold contract. Fortunately for Croatia in the other room...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Refi</i>	<i>Bessis T.</i>	<i>Borevkovic</i>	<i>Bessis M.</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Declarer arrived at the end position where he had ♦Axx opposite ♦Qxx in dummy and still had a trump in hand and for reasons unbeknownst to all bridgekind he played small towards the queen and lost to a singleton king. There was no possible downside to cashing the ace first and that minute percentage chance saw 12 potential IMPs fly out the window.

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

	♠ 9 4		
	♥ K Q J 6 5 3		
	♦ K 9 7		
	♣ Q 2		
♠ J 8 6 5 2		♠ A 7 3	
♥ 9 7		♥ A 2	
♦ A J 10 8 4		♦ 5 3	
♣ 7		♣ A K 10 6 4 3	
	♠ K Q 10		
	♥ 10 8 4		
	♦ Q 6 2		
	♣ J 9 8 5		



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Quantin	Marinovski	Bompis	Zoric
			Pass
2♣	3♥	4♠	All Pass

Quantin made his contract after a heart lead, discarding his losing heart on the second round of high clubs. He then played a small diamond to the ten and ruffed the heart return, cashed the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond and, when they proved to be 3-3, he cashed the ace of trumps and led another to guarantee his contract when they also broke kindly.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Refi	Bessis T.	Borevkovic	Bessis M.
			Pass
Pass	1♥	INT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Borevkovic started similarly to Quantin but when he reached the point of ruffing the heart return he ducked a spade to South who returned a club and when he ruffed low, North over-ruffed and the contract was now defeated. If you assume you have to find the trumps reasonably split then a better line is to cross to the ace of trumps and take a second finesse in diamonds. You will now need to read the cards to decide if North is 2-6-3-3 or 3-6-2-2. If the former then exiting with a trump sees you home, the latter, you ruff a diamond and lead a trump. As it was France gained 10 IMPs and were now losing 36-32, which was the final score as the last board was a push. This translated to 10.91-9.09 VP to Croatia.

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Marc Bompis, France