

# Open Round I

By Ron Tacchi



## France v. Iceland



In the opening round of the Open Teams in Group A, France faced Iceland. In the open room the father and son pairing of Thomas and Michel Bessis were pitted against Sigurbjorn Haraldsson and Jon Baldursson, whilst in the closed room Magnus Magnusson and Throstur Ingimarsson competed against Frederic Volcker and Alain Levy. This match was interesting to me for two reasons: firstly I play most of my bridge in France and so I am cognisant of the standard bidding system employed in France which forms the basis of both French pairs' system card. Secondly I have been having discussions about the relative merits of a strong no-trump five-card major system. So the results on these deals could prove ammunition for either of the parties involved in the discussions.

The very first board produced a swing.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

N	E
W	S

♠ A K J 8
♥ A Q 7 4 2
♦ K J 3
♣ 4



Michel Bessis, France

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Bessis T.</i>	<i>Haraldsson</i>	<i>Bessis M.</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

South made no forward move to slam, perhaps realising that his red honours were not going to be full value opposite his partner's hand being black-suited. East cashed the diamond ace and declarer peacefully made eleven tricks to record +450.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levy</i>	<i>Magnusson</i>	<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Ingimarsson</i>
	1♣*	Pass	1♦*
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣, balanced hand outside NT range or clubs  
1♦ transfer to hearts

Here South was more forceful and pressed on to the slam. Which way would the swing go? East led the ♥3. Declarer went into the tank and eventually played low, West took his king and returned a diamond for an immediate one-trick defeat -50 and 10 IMPs to France

In the Open series the hand was played in the slam twenty one times and was made fifteen losing only six times. Of course some declarers had an easier ride, especially those declaring from the South hand. Personally if any of my students had led a small heart I would have been up with the ace in a flash and put my faith in establishing the clubs and correctly guessing the diamonds without realising that the deal is an awful lot more complicated than that. If you take the time to investigate the various possible ways of playing the hand against all reasonable distributions by using Deep Finesse you will find that it is important that either the ♣109 or the ♥K is doubleton.

Should the finesse succeed, then you need very little else for the slam to come home. It is easy sitting here viewing all four hands to be dismissive of a play, but it was self-evident that the declarer gave a great deal of thought as to the correct plan to make his contract.

Board 2 was a flat game and Board 3 was an overtrick IMP in a part-score to the French, then came:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ A 10 9 6 4 2 ♥ 3 ♦ Q 10 6 3 ♣ 9 5	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W     E	S	♠ Q 8 5 3 ♥ A K J 9 ♦ K 5 4 ♣ Q J
N					
W     E					
S					
♠ J 7 ♥ 10 8 6 5 4 2 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ A 4		♠ K ♥ Q 7 ♦ J 9 2 ♣ K 10 8 7 6 3 2			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Bessis T.</i>	<i>Haraldsson</i>	<i>Bessis M.</i>
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Dble	All Pass

My mother instilled in me as a young child that ‘if you could not say something nice then say nothing’, thus I shall not comment on North’s bid. When the dust settled, and there was a lot of dust, it was 1100 to Iceland.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levy</i>	<i>Magnusson</i>	<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Ingimarsson</i>
Pass	2♥*	2NT	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass
2♥	Weak 2♠ or GF in hearts		
3♦	Transfer		



**Jon Baldursson, Iceland**

South led his singleton ♠K and East recorded an easy eleven tricks for 10 IMPs to Iceland.

Board 5 was amusing that in both rooms the opponents doubled a game bid and misdefended to give declarer an overtrick.

Board 6 was a flat 4♠+2. For the French camp, dummy discovered a 4-4 spade fit with 14 points opposite an opening strong NT but made no effort, whilst the Icelanders had a more informative auction but still subsided at the four-level. The slam was not a particularly good one (though excellent according to Hamman), needing a 3-3 club break with some other chances.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ J 10 4 ♥ K 7 5 3 ♦ K 10 2 ♣ A 10 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W     E	S	♠ K Q 5 3 2 ♥ A J 10 ♦ A Q 6 ♣ J 7
N					
W     E					
S					
♠ 9 6 ♥ Q 9 4 2 ♦ J 9 5 4 3 ♣ 8 6		♠ A 8 7 ♥ 8 6 ♦ 8 7 ♣ K Q 9 5 3 2			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Bessis T.</i>	<i>Haraldsson</i>	<i>Bessis M.</i>
Pass	1♣	Dble	Pass
All Pass			3NT

After North had opened his balanced 11-count South ignored East’s double and bludgeoned his way into 3NT, taking a rosy view of his club fit.

West led the ♦4 (attitude) to East’s queen. Now unless East can find a heart switch then South will make his contract. Unfortunately for Iceland East switched to a spade and the hand was over. Sometimes it seems that to do the right thing is just too hard.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Levy</i>	<i>Magnusson</i>	<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Ingimarsson</i>
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
			All Pass

When North could not summon up a bid on his motley collection East opened a strong NT and bought the contract. South started with a small club and the contract peacefully drifted two off for 9 IMPs to France, who were now leading 23-10.

Board 8 gave an overtrick IMP to Iceland. Then came a torrent of IMPs to France, 52 unanswered IMPs in five boards.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Baldursson	Bessis T.	Haraldsson	Bessis M.
	3♥	3♠	5♥
6♠	All Pass		

Someone said North had pre-empted on a pile of rubbish, I would postulate that it does not even mount to a small pile, but the effect was devastating. South's 'advance sacrifice' gave West the belief that he was being talked out of a slam and so he promptly bid it. Unfortunately the defence cashed the first three tricks, +200 to France.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Magnusson	Volcker	Ingimarsson
	Pass	1♠	Dble
Rdbl*	3♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
Rdbl	11+ points		



Sigurbjorn Haraldsson, Iceland

Without the barrage E/W had no problem in remaining at the four-level and the contract was made easily enough for 13 IMPs to France.

This was followed by a confidence sapping bombshell.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Baldursson	Bessis T.	Haraldsson	Bessis M.
		Pass	Pass
1♣*	1♠	Pass	3♠
4♣	4♦	4♥	4♠
5♣	Dble	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

West showed that his opening bid was really based on a club suit by continuing to the five-level, doubled by North. That player would have had to have found a diamond lead to beat the contract but in this case 'father knows best' and removed to 5♠. East led the ♣8, won by West with the jack and switched to ♥7, East contributing the 3. Declarer now played a low diamond towards the queen which was taken by West, who attempted to cash the ♥K – much to his chagrin as North now wrapped up the contract. West knew he had to cash out but it seems that East/West either had a signalling error or there was genuine confusion as the BBO commentators conjectured that East would have to lead the 8 from both 98 and 986.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Magnusson	Volcker	Ingimarsson
		Pass	Pass
2♣*	2♠	Pass	4♠
5♣	All Pass		
2♣	Semi GF or GF in hearts		

North had to lead a diamond but naturally enough cashed his ♥A and played a small spade to put his partner in to give him a heart ruff. This was an excellent strategy but no one had told West that this was the plot as he cruelly ruffed the spade and claimed plus one and a huge 15 IMPs to France, who now led 41-11.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Baldursson	Bessis T.	Haraldsson	Bessis M.
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Dble	Rdbl	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

South had obviously read the Bols Tip about responding (I expect the editor will put a comment in here) and West joined the fun with a light double. North showed his strength with a Redouble and East showed his values with jump to 2♠, eventually South bid 3♣ in response to his partner's double and West thought he had done enough with his original double and so East/West sold out.

After a trump lead declarer was not too thoroughly tested. At trick two he lead an unblocking nine of diamonds and finessed, pinning the ten. He then drew trumps and cashed four more diamond tricks making the contract +1.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Magnusson	Volcker	Ingimarsson
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♠*
2♣*	Dble*	3♠	All Pass

- 1♠ Transfer to NT
- 2♣ Majors
- Dble Clubs

This time East/West competed to the three-level and made their contract in some ease for another seven IMPs.

**GRATIS CARDS**

NBOs with poor economy can have used EBL playing cards for free at the book stall on the 1st floor.

Used cards are also sold at low prices.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Baldursson	Bessis T.	Haraldsson	Bessis M.
Pass	1♥	1♠	2NT*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

2NT four-card raise 10-11 points

East cashed the ace and king of diamonds before switching to a spade but declarer drove out the trump ace and finessed against the ♣Q for his contract.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Magnusson	Volcker	Ingimarsson
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♠*
Dble	5♣	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

It was not made clear as the exact meaning of South's first bid though without intervention it is game-forcing with a four-card fit. Whatever it was or supposed to be North got over excited and they ended a level too high. East/West cashed the first three tricks to record another 12 IMPs.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room



West	North	East	South
Baldursson	Bessis T.	Haraldsson	Bessis M.
Pass	Pass	2♣*	Pass
3♣	2♥	Dble	Redbl
2♣	All Pass		

2♣ Precision: 6♣ or 5♣ and 4M

A part-score battle and obviously with the way the wind was blowing it would be icy for Iceland. It is noteworthy to look at North's hand and compare it with the heart preempt earlier and then this time not even a weak two squeak, presumably because it was too strong. When East's precision-style 2♣ bid was overcalled by a passed hand he re-entered the fray showing his other black suit with a double. South showed confidence and general strength with a redouble and West retreated to the club suit. The defence started with two rounds of hearts, the second being ruffed by declarer, who tried to encourage an error from the defence by repeatedly leading diamonds but they played with straight and true bat and came to their five tricks for one off and +100.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Levy	Magnusson	Volcker	Ingimarsson
All Pass	2♦*	Dble	4♥
2♦	Weak two in hearts or GF		

North plucked the weak two arrow from his quiver but to no avail. Maybe he was hoping that East/West would overextend themselves in 4♠ or that there might be a play for game South bid the heart game. Yet again the defence took the contract off with the first tricks, in this case four of them. Five Imps to France and a lead of 71-11.

The final three boards were flat, so that became the final score. This translated into 20 VPs to France and thus after the first round of the Open Series Group A they were leaders.

You can replay all the deals from this match at:  
[BBO OI France Iceland](#)

## Budapest 2016

Yesterday representatives from Hungary made a presentation to the EBL Executive regarding their candidacy for the 2016 European Team Championships.

There are two possible venues and later this year a delegation from the EBL will carry out a formal inspection.

If all goes according to plan it is anticipated that a contract will be signed during the 2014 Champions Cup later this year.

## Championship Diary

Here are the links to the matches that appeared in yesterday's Bulletin:

[France v Croatia](#)  
[Germany v Belgium](#)  
[Denmark v Ireland](#)  
[Italy v Netherlands](#)  
[Denmark v Poland](#)

The official website: [www.eurobridge.org](http://www.eurobridge.org) contains a wealth of information, including Results, running scores and the Bulletins, Videos from the Championships, Photographs from the Championships, the EBL Facebook page, the Schedule of play, Systems for all teams, the draw for all teams

## Civic Reception

Yesterday **Ivo Dujmić** Mayor of the City of Opatija hosted a civic reception for the EBL Executive. In his speech of welcome the Mayor revealed how hard everyone had worked in the months leading up to the Championships and thanked the EBL for having chosen Opatija.

This year Opatija celebrates its 170th year of tourism and the town is enjoying a record number of visitors.

Stressing how important the Championships are for the town the Mayor thanked **Goran Grguric** for his outstanding efforts in organising this event.

Replying on behalf of the EBL The President, **Yves Aubry** thanked the Mayor for his welcome and his involvement in bridge related matters over the preceding ten years. He said that Goran Grguric had already organised several events before but this year this is something extra special, a major championship with 85 teams. He referred to the honour bestowed on the Championships by the presence of the President of the Republic of Croatia, **Ivo Josipović** at the Opening Ceremony and observed how happy the players were to be in Opatija.

Thanking the Mayor and the President for their kind words, Goran Grguric noted that in November, Opatija will host the 7th FISU World University Bridge Championships and in July 2016 the 3rd European Universities Games will be staged in Zagreb and Rijeka, observing that it was great honour for Bridge to be recognised by EUSA.