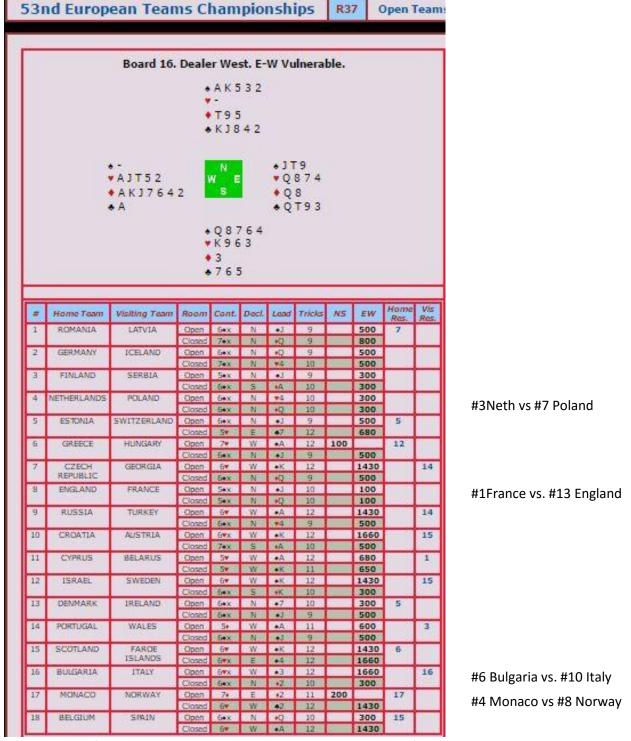
## ANYTHING BUT MUNDANE

The 37<sup>th</sup> and last round of the 53<sup>rd</sup> European Bridge League Championships which concluded last Saturday featured matchups between a number of teams in contention for the 7<sup>th</sup> spot in the Open which conferred an invitation to next year's Bermuda Bowl. The top ten teams would earn a berth in the European Champions Cup. England, lying 13<sup>th</sup> after the 36<sup>th</sup> round was only 8VPs behind the #10 spot. The last board (#16) of the last round would prove pivotal:



As you can see from the traveler double digits were scored up on 8 of the 18 matches:



Had the distribution been favorable for Norway allowing Boye to bring home the diamond grand they would have finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place with a spot in the Bermuda Bowl

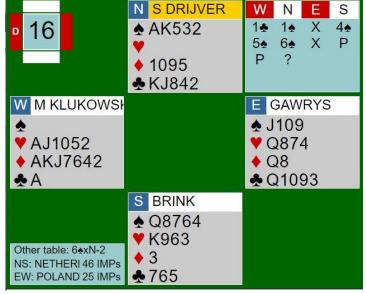




This slam swing to Italy on the last hand vaulted them fractions of a VP ahead of Bulgaria for the 6<sup>th</sup> spot.



Because France is the host (Lyon) for the 2017 Bermuda Bowl and receives an automatice berth, the 7<sup>th</sup> place finisher, Bulgaria, also gets a spot.



Accurate defense can collect +500 vs 6SX. But Poland



needed one of those big double digit gains to cut their loss enough to earn 3+ more VPs to move into 7<sup>th</sup> place.

Both competitors and vugraph participants could hardly ask for a more exciting finishing board. Visit <a href="http://www.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/16budapest/microsite/Information.htm">http://www.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/16budapest/microsite/Information.htm</a> to read the great bulletins and see the final results of the 53<sup>rd</sup> European Bridge Championships.

Mike Cassel June 27, 2016