

COPENHAGEN BRIDGE INVITATIONAL IV



Editors: Mark Horton and Christina Lund Madsen

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Can Lightning Strike Twice?





The Full Danish

By Mark Horton

Mark Horton looks back on the third edition of the Invitational in 2015.

What constitutes the perfect bridge tournament?

There is no consensus, as no two events, regardless of numbers or importance, are exactly the same.

What is vital for one player is often a matter of indifference to another.

I am always surprised that events where play goes on late into the night (and sometimes extends beyond that) are so well supported - wouldn't everyone prefer play to finish at a civilized time so that in the evening you are free to relax and discuss the deals over dinner in the company of friends with good bottle(s) of wine an optional extra.

Copenhagen scores 10/10 on that point.

Players are entitled to expect good playing conditions and perfect performances from all the technical support staff - directors, scoring team, bulletin etc.

There must have been a mistake in the Bulletin at some point so I would normally score that at 9.5/10 but there was something extra special at this event =- the use of the Bridge+Dealer, so I'm going to mark that as:

Copenhagen 11/10.

The venue must be able to cope with the many foibles of the bridge playing community (it also helps if it is well located). Given that it is only a short (albeit windy) walk into the centre of Denmark's capital city: Got to give Copenhagen 10/10 on that one.

Hospitality can be tricky, but here it was impeccable from start to finish.

Copenhagen 10/10.

Accommodation can be a problem, but it's hard to find fault with the Radisson Blue (okay the shower in my room had a mind of its own, but that is more than offset by the fact that for the first time I can remember I was next to the lifts instead of two miles down the corridor).

Copenhagen 10/10.

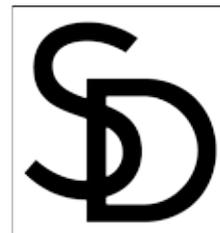
That's a modest 51/50 for Copenhagen.

Because the event only takes place once every two years I have to deduct a point, making the score 50/50.

By tradition the opening event is the Pro/Am where the stars who compete in the Invitational event are up for grabs. The minimum bid was DKK 1500 (€200) and that included some lavish hospitality both before and after the event.

Dennis Bilde attracted the highest bid, DKK 4500, followed by the DKK 4000 paid for Sabine Auken.

His Royal Highness, the Prince Consort of Denmark is a keen player and he was on



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Real smiles, done right

hand to open the event (two years earlier his hectic schedule allowed him to play).

Can you remember what you did when you were eleven years old?

Well, Christian Lahrman played bridge!

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Cullin	Hanlon	Lahrmann	Hansen
—	—	—	2♦*
2♥	5♦	5♥	6♦
Dble	All Pass		

West led the king of hearts and although that didn't score the defenders had three trump tricks to come for +300.

After 20 of the 28 deals Alfredo Versace & Jan Nielsen (well known for his skill as a BBO operator) Michael Barel (who won four years ago) & Lars Øgaard and Per-Ola Cullin & Christian Lahrman vied for the title, being separated by just 6 IMPs.

Four boards later Collin & Lahrman had taken the lead, while Thomas Vang Larsen & Ulla Clausen had joined Versace & Nielsen in second place, with Barel & Øgaard right behind.

When the leaders had a bad penultimate round they dropped to fourth.

When the last board was a possible grand slam it was clear the event would go down to the wire.



Christian Lahrman - winner of the pro/am in 2015 - 11 years old then

Dealer West. NS Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Mathiesen		Zia	
2♣*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♦*	Dble	6♠	All Pass

This was one of the auctions.

When South led the ace of clubs, Zia played a cross ruff, scoring all ten trumps separately for +1010.

He was the only declarer to take all the tricks, but my question is how good a grand slam is 7♠?

Unless the defenders start with a trump (the traditional, but perhaps overrated lead) declarer can cross ruff a la Zia.

Even with a trump lead declarer is well in the game, especially if North has doubled a diamond bid as here (unless Zia has swopped seats!)

When the final scores flashed up onto the giant screens in the playing room the huge burst of cheers made it clear that we had a great story from day one, as Per-Ola Cullin & Christian Larhmann were confirmed as the winners.

The Emperor's New Clothes

One could be forgiven for imagining that the result in the Pro Am was predicated on one of Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales.

The legendary Danish story teller did not always deliver a happy ending, but fre-



quently presented lessons of virtue and resilience in the face of adversity, attributes that are more than useful to a bridge player.

A new day demands a new theme, so in tribute to the great Dane I selected the title of one of his most famous tales, but with a twist.

Andersen wrote about two weavers who promise an Emperor a new suit of clothes that is invisible to those unfit for their positions, stupid, or incompetent. However, when the Emperor parades before his subjects in his new clothes, a child cries out,

"But he isn't wearing anything at all!"

However, the day before travelling to the Danish capital I started reading a new account of the Battle of Waterloo by Bernard Cornwall and that brought to mind The Emperor's New Clothes a 2001 film that stars Ian Holm as both Napoleon and Eugene Lenormand, a Napoleon look-alike, Iben Hjejle as Nicole 'Pumpkin' Truchaut and Tim McInnerny as Dr. Lambert. The plot re-invents the history surrounding Bonaparte's exile to St. Helena following his defeat at Waterloo.

One last thing, Andersen's story has been translated into over a hundred languages - this one has a way to go.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Upmark	Garvey	Nystrom	Carroll
		1♣	Pass
1♥*	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♠*	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

1♥	Transfer to spades
4♦	Splinter
4♥	Cue bid
4NT	RKCB
5♠	2 keys + the ♣Q

That was well bid to the top spot. Notice that it is important to avoid 6♠ (and not everyone managed that).

The Castle

Borgen is a Danish one-hour political drama television series. It tells the story of charismatic politician Birgitte Nyborg who unexpectedly becomes the first female Prime Minister of Denmark. Borgen (the Castle) is the nickname of Christiansborg Palace, which houses all three of Denmark's branches of government: the Parliament, the Prime Minister's Office and the Supreme Court.

It is produced by DR, who are also responsible for another international Danish hit series, The Killing.

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Thirty episodes, divided into three seasons, were produced, the last of them starting in January 2013.

We didn't have 30 episodes, but we did have 19 rounds that that can contain just as much drama as a television series.

This deal was a nasty test for declarer that not everyone managed to pass.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Barel	Tokay	Zack
1♦	Dble	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the two of diamonds and declarer won perforce in dummy, played a spade to the ace and club to the queen. When that held he cleared the clubs and West won the third round and returned a heart for the jack, queen and king. Declarer could cash a couple of diamonds, but the defenders had the rest for +200.

It doesn't feel right to lose contact with dummy - see what happened at another table:

West	North	East	South
Larsen	Konow	Madsen	Askgaard
1♦	Dble	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

After a similar start Askgaard simply jumped to 3NT over 2♠.

He won the diamond lead with the ace and played a spade to the nine and king. He took the diamond return, played a club to the ten, a spade to the ace, cashed the queen of diamonds, played a club to the queen after which dummy's winners meant eleven tricks, +660.

As the cards lie declarer will always make the contract by playing the queen or ten of clubs at trick two - given West's opening bid it is certainly a possible line of play.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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



West Fredin	North Auken	East Fallenius	South Welland
			1♥
Dble	3♥	Dble	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led the ten of hearts and when dummy's king held (North following with the eight) declarer played the jack of diamonds, covered in turn by the queen, king and ace. South switched to the three of spades and declarer went up with dummy's ace, played four rounds of clubs, a diamond to the nine and a diamond to the seven for +400.

I suppose South might have led the ace of hearts - but perhaps that's simply too difficult.

West Zia	North Tokay	East Michielsen	South Versace
			1♥
Dble	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led a heart.

It was the ace.

Versace may have a future in this game, +50.

Board 7. Dealer East All Vul.

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

West Helgemo	North Konow	East Helness	South Askgaard
—	—	—	1♦*
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Dble	4♣	5♣	Pass
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

1♦ Viking Precision

East led the six of hearts and declarer was soon claiming, +1430.

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	Tokay	Cullin	Versace
			Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	5♣	5♠
6♣	Dble	All Pass	

South led the three of hearts and North won with the king and switched to the six of diamonds. South won with the ace and returned the queen, and with a nod to Forquet North overtook it with the king and returned the seven for South to ruff, three down, -800.

(Just in case you have not seen it before, here is the famous precedent:

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

In both rooms the contract was Four Hearts by North, East-West remaining silent throughout the auction. The play to the first three tricks was, again, the same. East led the king of clubs, saw West's two, and switched to the king of spades. West encouraged with the nine of spades and the queen of spades followed. Thereafter, in the closed room, Belladonna was in command, dummy's diamonds taking care of the three losing spades.

With the spades blocked, could the result be any different in the open room? Commentators and audience alike expected a flat board. Forquet took his time before play-



Mustafa Cem Tokay - winner of the CBI 2017

ing to that third trick. Then, making up his mind, he overtook the queen of spades and gave Garozzo a ruff!

Forquet reasoned that, since Garozzo knew the club position after seeing the two, he would have cashed his ace of clubs had there been room for declarer to have another club. So, somehow, the defence had to take three tricks in spades, and it was significant that Garozzo, knowing that Forquet had the ace of spades, led the queen of spades and not a low one. Maybe, of course, he had the jack of spades too. But, maybe he had started with a doubleton. It was a chance and Pietro Forquet was quick to seize it.)

Life is Beautiful

On the last night we were honoured by the presence of the Prince Consort at the Closing Ceremony. Searching for a way to keep that special moment in the memory my thoughts inevitably turned to the movies. There are many titles that include the word Prince - Robin Hood Prince of Thieves, The Prince and the Showgirl, The Prince of Tides, but none of them quite seemed to fit the bill.

Then I remembered the wonderful Italian film of my title in which the main characters are sometimes referred to as Prince Guido and the Principessa.

What better way to recall the conclusion

to this magnificent event than the prize giving ceremony? (Now I come to think of it maybe I should have risked The Prince and the Showgirl?)

Anyway, here is what happened at the start of day 3.

Board 4. Dealer West. NS Vul.

	♠ 8 5 4 3		
	♥ Q 10 6 4		
	♦ 9 3 2		
	♣ 7 5		
♠ A Q 2		♠ J 10 7 6	
♥ 7 2		♥ A 9 8 5 3	
♦ 6 5		♦ Q 4	
♣ Q J 10 8 3 2		♣ 9 4	
	♠ K 9		
	♥ K J		
	♦ A K J 10 8 7		
	♣ A K 6		
West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Barel	Helness	Zack
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3NT*
All Pass			

2♥ 0-3(4)
 3♣ Puppet Stayman
 3NT No major

West led the queen of clubs and declarer won with the ace and played the king of hearts, West playing the two (yes, EW play Smith). When East ducked declarer could play diamonds and had his nine tricks. As we can see the winning defence is for East to take the ace of hearts and switch to spades.

Is that too difficult?



I guess so, as not a single East managed to rise to the occasion.

What's in a Noma?

Rene Redzepi, the head chef at the world's best restaurant, Copenhagen's Noma (book now and you might just get a table during the 2019 Invitational) often draw attention to their new and unique ways of rethinking architecture and gastronomy. Bridge theory is constantly changing, but many principles and techniques have survived the test of time.

One of them was on view in round 15.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bilde	Garvey	Bilde	Carroll
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dble
3♦*	Pass	4♦	Dble
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

East led the king of diamonds and declarer won with dummy's ace and cashed two top spades. When East discarded on the second round he tried the ace of clubs and West ruffed ensuring the contract was one down. The bidding suggests that things may be breaking badly, but there is a way to prevail. Relying on the tried and tested technique of developing the side suit first suppose declarer plays a low club to the queen at trick two? East wins and plays a diamond, but declarer ruffs, and plays ace of hearts and a heart. Now whatever the defenders do declarer will lose only one more trick.

Only two declarers made 4♠, one of them doubled.

This deal illustrates that slam bidding needs to be deadly accurate.

Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
McIntosh	Tokay	Hanlon	Versace
—	—	2♠	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♦*	Pass	6♠	Pass
6NT	All Pass		
4NT	RKCB		
5♣	1 key card		
5♦	RKCB		
6♠	♠Q but no outside kings		

West might have preferred 3♥ to the direct 4NT. Then East could have bid 4♣, showing heart support and a club shortage. A fringe benefit of this approach is that if East does not have the ♦A then the ♦K is protected with West as declarer.

North led the ten of clubs and declarer won with the queen and immediately played the ace of spades and a spade, one down for a loss of 81 IMPs.

The position in the spade suit is analogous to the famous combination that formed the basis of a new analysis by Fred Gitelman in which rather than cashing the ace of spades declarer starts by running the queen. That analysis was about taking the maximum number of tricks in a suit, whereas here declarer was only looking for one extra trick. All one can say is that crossing



John Carroll - runner up in the 2015 CBI

to the jack of hearts and running the queen of spades would have worked.

Although Alfredo Versace and Mustafa Cem Tokay allowed the field to close in as the competition drew to a close they amassed the biggest score of the last round, their 183 IMPs giving them a decisive advantage over second placed John Carrol & Tommy Garvey while the masters from Monaco, Helgemo & Helness had to be content with third place.

England's David Bakhshi & the Netherlands Simon De Wijs were fourth.

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Under Starters Orders

By Mark Horton

The relaxed atmosphere of the opening day of the 2017 Copenhagen Invitational was ideal from your reporter's point of view. Having left my car in a parking space of dubious provenance leaving me to ponder if it will it still be there on Monday and then discovering that my flight had been cancelled it came as a pleasant surprise to find that my journey to the hotel from the airport on the Metro took all of 12 minutes! Enough time to enjoy a glass of wine and a piece of cheese before settling down to watch the bridge.

Pro-am events are fantastic fun for everyone, be they players, spectators or journalists. Join me now for what might be a roller-coaster ride 28 board long.

In the scoring system in use 26/0 would be a complete top for NS, 0/26 the same for EW.

West	North	East	South
Volcker	T Bessis	Krogh	Lund
—	1♦	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

East's intervention made life awkward for South - would you venture a double without a fourth heart?

When West raised the ante, North might have doubled, but here too that missing fourth heart was an issue. When South came to life North decided to take whatever was available.

South cashed two diamonds and switched to a club, North taking two tricks in the suit

The first deal was full of potential:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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



Michael Krogh Andersen - CEO of Investeringssrådgivning, one of the main sponsors of the event.

and exiting with the jack of spades. In the fullness of time declarer lost three heart tricks, -500.

That was worth 20/6 for NS.

In case you are wondering just one pair bid a slam with the NS cards - tough luck for their opponents.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

	♠ A 10 6 3		
	♥ 9 6 4 3		
	♦ Q 8 2		
	♣ 7 2		
♠ 9		♠ Q 8 7	
♥ Q J		♥ K 7 5 2	
♦ 9 7 5 3		♦ 10 6 4	
♣ A K Q 10 8 5		♣ 6 4 3	
	♠ K J 5 4 2		
	♥ A 10 8		
	♦ A K J		
	♣ J 9		
West	North	East	South
Volcker	T Bessis	Krogh	Lund
—	—	Pass	1♠
2♣	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West cashed two top clubs and switched to the jack of hearts. Declarer won, played a spade to the ace, took the spade finesse, drew the outstanding trump, cashed three diamonds ending in dummy and played a heart. East went up with the king, which stopped the endplay, but declarer's ten was the biggest card in town, +620 and 22/4.



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ROYAL DANISH COURT

HOLME GAARD

1825

A great start for Bessis/Lund which left them in second place.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Juhl	de Wijs	Padon	Staugaard
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

What would East lead?

A spade would give declarer 12 tricks (and 19/7) but East started with the two of diamonds and that held declarer to nine tricks when he rejected the spade finesse and saved a few matchpoints.

In the fifth round the featured table was an all Danish affair:

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Krogh	Werdelin	Houmøller	Skov
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

North led (drum roll please)..... the ten of spades. Declarer won in dummy and continued with the king and nine of spades. He was soon claiming, +1440 and 10/16.

You see what an evil game matchpoints is - playing IMPs North might well have led a club (the idea is you play partner for just the ♣Q and another winner - a la Garozzo) which dooms 6NT.

However, most of those points went back on the next deal when EW bid 2♠*-2NT*-3♥*-4♠ with ♠K109742 ♥AJ4 ♦8 ♣542 opposite ♠A63 ♥- ♦AKJ64 ♣AKJ107. Given that 3♥ promised 8-10 West's caution was surprising. Spades were 2-2 and everything else was friendly, so there were 13 tricks - 15/11 for NS.

Stig Werdelin - an iconic picture from the Sunday Times Pairs



The slams kept coming - on 11 EW had ♠A96 ♥AKQ ♦AK6542 ♣3 facing ♠KQ83 ♥6 ♦QJ ♣AQJ986. My table bid 2♣*-2NT*-3♦-6NT. I'm not sure about the meaning of 2NT (maybe it was 3 controls or perhaps a transfer to clubs) - but whatever it meant it didn't get the job done.

In the seventh round one of the world's strongest partnerships appeared at the table - but this time they were in opposition.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Helness	Graversen	Rindahl
—	Pass	1♠	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

West led the jack of spades and East allowed declarer to win with the queen. A diamond to the queen lost to the king and East cashed the ace of spades, switching to the three of hearts when West discarded the five of hearts. Declarer won perforce with the ace and cashed his diamonds, but East made no mistake, keeping ♠K8 ♥Q ♣A10. He won the club exit to the king with the ace and returned a club, forcing declarer to lead into the spade tenace for one down. That was good for EW, 7/19.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Helness	Graversen	Rindahl
—	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Would you be confident of reaching 7♣ with your regular partner?

Not so easy and in a non-regular partnership it is even tougher without some specific agreements. +940 was comfortably below average.

By the way, you make 7NT unless East finds a diamond lead - for example after a club lead declarer cashes all his black winners to squeeze East in the red suits - and two pairs went all in for a shared top.

In Round 8 last year's winners were at the table.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lahrmann	Bertheau	Cullin	Graversen
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠*	Dble	3NT
Dble	All Pass		

West led the six of spades and declarer ducked East's queen, won the next spade, played a club to the king and a club, going up with the ace when East pitched the three of hearts. he turned his attention to diamonds, playing one to the ace and ducking when East put in the jack on the next round. He could win the heart switch and score two diamonds, but the defenders had the rest, +300 and 1/25.

That put the holders into third place - lightning never strikes twice does it?

Next up were the Poker Stars:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hanlon	Caroll	Hansen	Brandgaard
—	Pass	1♣	3♦
3NT	All Pass		

Is bidding 3♦ akin to re-raising after seeing a disappointing flop? North led a diamond and South cashed six tricks in that suit. Even though he then switched to a club, two down was still a complete top.

FOSS

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

<p>♠ J 10 9 6 ♥ K Q 5 4 ♦ 9 6 2 ♣ 10 8</p> <p>♠ A K ♥ A 10 9 8 7 6 ♦ A Q ♣ K 7 4</p> <p>♠ Q 3 2 ♥ J ♦ J 10 8 7 4 3 ♣ Q 6 3</p>	<p>♠ 8 7 5 4 ♥ 3 2 ♦ K 5 ♣ A J 9 5 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
Hanlon	Caroll	Hansen	Brandgaard
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the jack of spades and declarer won with the king and played two rounds of hearts. North went in with the king and returned the six of spades, declarer taking South's queen with the ace. He cashed the king of clubs and played a club to the ace. When her majesty failed to appear he came to hand with a diamond and played a heart. North could win and cash two spades, but declarer had the rest, +400, 7/19.

The slam deals kept on coming:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

<p>♠ 7 6 2 ♥ Q J 6 2 ♦ 3 ♣ Q J 10 8 5</p> <p>♠ A 4 ♥ A 7 ♦ K 7 4 ♣ A K 7 6 4 2</p> <p>♠ Q J 9 8 3 ♥ 10 8 5 ♦ 10 9 8 6 ♣ 3</p>	<p>♠ K 10 5 ♥ K 9 4 3 ♦ A Q J 5 2 ♣ 9</p>
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West	North	East	South
Mathiesen	Fabricus	Grönkvist	Fabricus
1NT	2♣	Dble*	All Pass

It looks as if 2♣ was natural and East's double was for takeout. Declarer scored three trump tricks, -1400 and 6/20. The main question appeared to be whether or not EW could make 6NT (6♦ by East cannot be defeated). On a top club lead declarer wins and plays five rounds of diamonds. That forces North down to just clubs and heart and declarer can always come to 12 tricks by playing a spade to the ace. If North pitches a heart declarer plays three rounds of the suit and North wins but must then play a club. However, an initial heart lead beats 6NT, as it removes a vital entry to the West hand. If declarer cashes the diamonds as before North can safely pitch a club on the ace of spades.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

<p>♠ 3 ♥ Q J 10 8 7 6 5 ♦ 7 3 ♣ 8 7 2</p> <p>♠ K J 10 9 7 6 2 ♥ K 9 2 ♦ 9 ♣ A K</p> <p>♠ 8 4 ♥ 4 3 ♦ K Q J 10 8 4 ♣ Q 9 3</p>	<p>♠ A Q 5 ♥ A ♦ A 6 5 2 ♣ J 10 6 5 4</p>
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West	North	East	South
Jacobsen	Madsen	Brogeland	Christensen
—	—	1NT	Dble*
2♥*	Pass	2♠	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Dble Single suited hand
2♥ Transfer
4NT RKCB
5♦ 0-3 key cards

Commentating on BBO Peter Lund suggested that more than 50% would bid 7♠. Here West could have continued with 5♥ over 5♦ to ask about the ♠Q and after that maybe 7♠ is a reasonable speculation.

In the event only eight pairs recorded +2210.

Going into the last round Bob Drijver & Are Siversten led with 198 just ahead of Per-Ola Cullin & Christian Lahrmann on 195. These two were well ahead of Espen Lindqvist & Per-Ove Grime on 176.

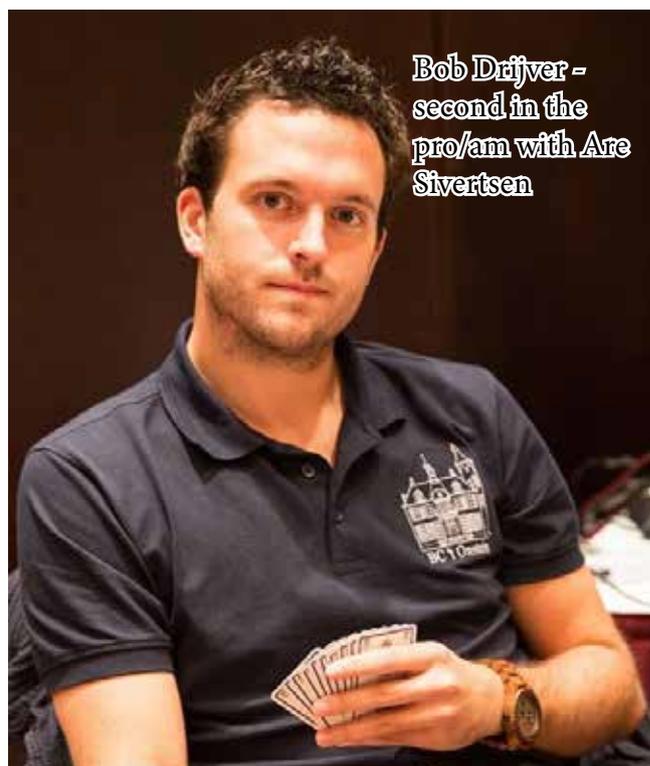
Board 27 saw the leaders increase their advantage by 3 points.

This was the last board:

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

If EW play in spades the defenders can score four tricks - South cashes a diamond



Bob Drijver - second in the pro/am with Are Sivertsen

and switches to a heart. North plays three rounds of the suit, ensuring a trump promotion.

Cullin & Lahrmann were allowed to make 4♠, which gave them 15 points, but the leaders doubled their opponents in 3♠ and when it was allowed to make with an over-trick they scored only 2 points.

You see - lightning can strike twice!

Today's Schedule

Radisson Blu Scandinavia IMP Pairs

Friday 20th of January 2017

10:50-11:00 Welcome

11:00-14:00 Round 1-8 Qual.

14:00-15:15 Lunch

15:15-16:45 Round 9-12

16:45-17:00 Break

17:00-18:30 Round 13-16

Remember to order sandwiches before 12 o'clock for the break!

Today's Schedule - Main event

Friday 20th of January 2017

10:50-11:00 Welcome

11:00-12:00 Round 1

12:10-13:10 Round 2

13:20-14:20 Round 3

14:20-15:00 Lunch break

15:00-16:00 Round 4

16:10-17:10 Round 5

17:20-18:20 Round 6

18:30-19:30 Round 7

	Runde	Total	Plac.
31 Per-Ola Cullin - Christian Lahrmann	23	218	1
20 Bob Drijver - Are Sivertsen	-7	191	2
46 Tom Hanlon - Gustav Hansen	16	164	3
8 Espen Lindqvist - Per-Ove Grime	-16	160	4
25 Peter Fredin - Stig Meno Farholt	2	159	5
34 Simon de Wijs - Anne Mette Staugaard	-9	156	6
21 Signe Buus Thomsen - Karsten Hansen-Nord	-23	136	7
18 Knut Blakset - John McAllister	19	129	8
43 Thomas Bessis - Niels Lund	-3	119	9
49 Boye Brogeland - Henning Jacobsen	30	115	10
44 Peter Bertheau - Peter Graversen	-32	112	11
47 Dror Padon - Jeppe Juhl	38	109	12
10 Mathias Bruun - Skafti Jonsson	37	94	13
29 Geir Helgemo - Hans Chr Graversen	39	81	14
1 Alfredo Versace - Peter Haff	3	74	15
3 Fredrik Nyström - Rikke Capion Justesen	17	66	16
30 Frédéric Volcker - Michael Krogh Andersen	32	65	17
32 Johan Upmark - Stefan Linde	23	59	18
17 Mikael Rimstedt - Christer Enkvist	16	45	19
23 Mustafa Cem Tokay - Ulla Korre Pedersen	9	33	20
33 John Carroll - Charlotte Brandgaard	-9	30	21
5 Tommy Garvey - Daniel Brandgaard	-18	29	22
7 Meike Wortel - Niels Danhøj	-30	27	23
13 Gerda Silke Holm - Eivind Sveinbjörnsson	45	19	24
36 Andrey Gromov - Eric Korre Horten	0	14	25
50 Johan Hammelev - Lars Peter Damgaard	-17	10	26
45 Vince Demuy - Michael Fiorini	3	5	27
2 Cédric Lorenzini - Susanne Buus Thomsen	-39	-4	28
4 Ola Rimstedt - Håkan Wallmark	1	-7	29
52 Birgitte Thunbo Christensen - Finn Thunbo Christensen	-23	-17	30
16 Jean-Christophe Quantin - Jan Nielsen	42	-20	31
9 Lars Blakset - Leif Øgaard	9	-21	32
48 Ida Grönkvist - Lars R. Mathiesen	18	-24	33
27 Ernst Jepsen - Henning Petersen	14	-25	34
37 Lars Lund Madsen - Villy Christensen	-2	-38	35
42 Tor Helness - Nell Rindahl	-1	-42	36
19 David Bakhshi - Lene Fiorini	0	-44	37
41 Sabine Auken - Nils Foss	9	-47	38
15 Zia Mahmood - Elisa de Paola	-16	-52	39
40 Agnes Nørsøller - Erik Wessing	-45	-57	40
39 Lone Kiær - Morten Bilde	7	-63	41
38 Stig Werdelin - Per Skov	-42	-67	42
22 Roy Welland - Mikael Warberg	-3	-74	43
26 Henny Svinth - Niels-Jørgen Svinth	4	-83	44
11 Camilla Bo Krefeld - Michael Krefeld	3	-100	45
14 Anne Lene Boe - Birger Bach-Hansen	-9	-101	46
6 Alon Birman - Thomas Schönfeldt	-38	-102	47
24 Sigurd Lauge Pedersen - Birte Wind Lindegaard	-3	-135	48
51 Bjørg Houmøller - Helle Krogh	-19	-138	49
28 Eva Klitgård - Karen Krebs	43	-163	50
12 Jette Colding-Jørgensen - Hanni Jensen	-4	-173	51
53 Jette Lidegaard - Henrik Lidegaard	-14	-215	52
35 Marianne Fabricius - Torben Fabricius	-37	-278	53
54 Ellen Kristensen - Niels Kristensen	-43	-329	54