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Pereira - Cruzeiro stay on top.

The leaders, Paulo Pereira - Jorge Cruzeiro, had a more than decent 2nd session with 59.8% to keep the lead with a comfortable margin. But some of the other top ranked pairs did even better so it is not over yet. Winners of the 2nd session were Anton Maas - Bep Vriend of The Netherlands to move into 4th place.



Paulo Pereira - Jorge Cruzeiro, on their way to victory ?

Endplay revisited.

Remember a hand from yesterday's bulletin where Connie Goldberg made an overtrick on a squeeze after a defensive 'error'. The idea is that West should take the first heart to avoid the squeeze. Then I said that the club position is not good enough to produce two tricks using elimination techniques. This is not true. You can guess the clubs for 11 tricks anyway. After eliminating the majors you lead a club from dummy. If East plays the ♣J you cover with ♣Q and West is endplayed (as the cards are, it is a guess what to do). If East plays small you take ♣A, you reenter dummy and play another club. Now you can duck the ♣J and East is endplayed (as the cards are). Very often you have enough information from the bidding and the early play to guess a suit in the end. You will be amazed from which unlikely holdings you can actually conjure up a trick.

16	♠	Q42	
W,EW	♥	Q64	
	♦	AJ93	
	♣	953	
	♠	83	♠ J10976
	♥	K1072	♥ A9853
	♦	K7	♦ 2
	♣	K10842	♣ J7
		♠ AK5	
		♥ J	
		♦ Q108654	
		♣ AQ6	

Bidding slams the easy way.

There were a lot of slams yesterday and slambidding tends to be difficult. Jaap Trouwborst - Marijke van der Pas showed that it can be very easy as well. Jaap opened 1♦ as North. Marijke bid 2♥ in South. Just an old-fashioned strong jump-shift. West intervened with 4♠. Now Jaap had no problem anymore. West should have some spade honors for his bid, he had all the minor stuff himself so partner's 2♥ could only be based on a solid heart suit so he bid 7♥ right away. Almost everyone lead the ♠A after which 7♥ is easy. On a diamond lead it is more challenging but declarer should still make the slam.

13	♠	-	
N,All	♥	83	
	♦	AQ10953	
	♣	AKQ106	
	♠	AKQ965	♠ J873
	♥	102	♥ 74
	♦	2	♦ K864
	♣	J753	♣ 842
		♠ 1042	
		♥ AKQJ965	
		♦ J7	
		♣ 9	

Who squeezes who ?

In all text books on squeezes it is always declarer who squeezes the opponents. However there are other possibilities as well.

Paulo Sarmento became declarer at 2♦ as East after North opened 1♣. South duly lead a club for ♣A and a club back for ♣K. Now he guessed well by playing spades to ♠10 and then ♠K and four round of trumps (North pitching a heart and a club). Next came a heart to the ♥J. North took and played back a club which effectively squeezed South in the majors. South was not amused. There were a lot of mistakes in this board. Declarer should not have cashed the ♠K. North should not have thrown a heart. North should have played back the ♥10. But it is always fun to see a suicide squeeze specially when the victim is a well known champion.

26	♠ 84
E,All	♥ A105
	♦ K8
	♣ AQJ632
♠ K103	♠ AJ75
♥ KJ643	♥ 98
♦ J6	♦ AQ1093
♣ 1054	♣ K8
	♠ Q962
	♥ Q72
	♦ 7542
	♣ 97

Another not so common squeeze. East became declarer after a simple sequence, 1♥-1♠-1NT, NS remaining silent. South led a club for ♣7, ♣10 and ♣A. Declarer took a club finesse and then played a diamond to ♦Q and ♦K. Probably South should have played another club to cut the communication but he decided to try ♠J for the Queen, King and Ace. Now declarer took two more clubs, North discarding diamonds, and played a spade. North took ♠J and played a heart for ♥8, a diamond for ♦A, and another heart. South, Jean Harings, did the right thing by taking this with ♥A rather than ♥J and played the ♦J squeezing declarer in the majors.

4	♠ K107
W,All	♥ K1094
	♦ A762
	♣ 104
♠ Q542	♠ A93
♥ 5	♥ Q7632
♦ 10954	♦ Q3
♣ KJ97	♣ A32
	♠ J86
	♥ AJ8
	♦ KJ8
	♣ Q865

We probably could have defeated the contract by two tricks anyway but it is very difficult to defend this type of contract optimally. Besides squeezing declarer is even more fun than to see one defender squeezing another.

Cold for game ?

Board number 19 was quite interesting. In a way EW are cold for 4♠. You ruff the second club, draw trumps, and start on hearts. Eventually NS have to play diamonds and you should not go wrong. If North has the ♦K South would have played diamonds earlier so when North plays diamond at the end you should play him for ♦J.

But few pairs won the bidding as EW, the normal contract was 3♣ by North. Quite a few players went down. The problem in 3♣ is how to tackle the red suits. After a spade lead West was marked with the spade honors and he had passed in second seat so East must have most of the red honors. So I decided to play a diamond to the ♦K (probably not the safest way to play the hand but in pairs you always dream of discarding your hearts on the diamonds when ♥Q is wrong and they forget to attack the suit). When to my surprise West also turned up with the ♦A East was marked with the ♦Q so I had no problem guessing the second round. After that I tried to steal a heart for the overtrick but East took ♥A immediately.

19	♠ 10	
S,EW	♥ J108	
	♦ J54	
	♣ AKQJ84	
♠ AQJ4	♠ 976532	
♥ 543	♥ AQ76	
♦ A108	♦ Q3	
♣ 732	♣ 6	
	♠ K8	
	♥ K92	
	♦ K9762	
	♣ 1095	



Who has won today?

Open Pairs - 2nd session - Results.

RANK	PAIR	1 st	2 nd	2 nd	TOTAL
1	113 Paulo G.Pereira-Jorge Cruzeiro	69.23	1033.7	59.82	64.53
2	355 David Levy-Connie Goldberg	63.04	1151.5	61.51	62.28
3	112 Bep Vriend-Anton Maas	53.71	1161.8	67.23	60.47
4	201 Jean Harings-Jaap vd Neut	58.61	1027.7	59.47	59.04
5	306 Ignaas ter Luiden-Ingrid Jurg	60.96	1061.6	56.71	58.84
6	155 Andersson-Johanneson	55.01	1148.6	61.36	58.18
7	161 Leon-Wasik	52.84	1121.3	59.90	56.37
8	363 M.J.Lara-Nuno Mascarenhas	56.32	1051.9	56.19	56.26
9	301 Hjelm-Berglund	52.35	1123.4	60.01	56.18
10	307 Margareta Thurnberg-M.Altmae	50.87	1146.8	61.26	56.06
11	210 Fabio Carugati-C.Corsico	55.24	981	56.77	56.00
12	162 Nuno Matos-Carlos Luiz	52.86	1101.1	58.82	55.84
13	313 Lasocki-Capucho	57.22	1015.3	54.24	55.73
14	361 de Miguel-Knap	58.11	985.9	52.67	55.39
15	251 Jansen-Agterof	47.90	1174.1	62.72	55.31
16	259 A.Martin-B.Martin	53.70	1057.6	56.50	55.10
17	310 Trouborst-van der Pas	54.25	1044	55.77	55.01
18	314 Snapper-R.Fernandes	53.00	1066.1	56.95	54.97
19	357 Leskela-Virtanen	56.64	996	53.21	54.92
20	156 Seppo Castren-Matti Sihvola	51.59	1085.3	57.98	54.78
21	263 Pesonen-Tuula Keso	51.43	1076	57.48	54.46
22	351 Stanley-Rue	55.71	994.5	53.13	54.42
23	101 Leskela-Makinen	53.43	955.5	55.30	54.37
24	110 Grosmann-de Boer	52.11	956.5	55.35	53.73
25	213 Gerard Limmen-Jan Tulp	54.99	893.5	51.71	53.35
26	205 Rhoda Hadert-Joey Silver	54.08	895.5	51.82	52.95
27	302 Lager-Nordman	57.16	910.9	48.66	52.91
28	212 Carole Sear-David Franklin	52.79	911.5	52.75	52.77
29	255 Koistinen-Koistinen	47.96	1072.7	57.30	52.63
30	202 Donk-vd Hoeven	53.55	890.4	51.53	52.54
31	262 Nuno Paz-F.Ferreira	63.03	781.5	41.75	52.39
32	364 Paulo Sarmiento-Pedro Ribeiro	53.54	957.9	51.17	52.35
33	352 Schutz-Verhoef	54.38	941.8	50.31	52.35
34	214 Hoogland-Beyer	58.48	795.1	46.01	52.25
35	308 Bonne-van Eynde	51.99	980.6	52.38	52.19
36	208 Bill Townsend-Bill Hirst	52.25	890.2	51.52	51.88
37	309 Salokoski-Hertzman	53.41	911.4	48.69	51.05
38	106 J.Machado-Jose Macedo	56.10	793.2	45.90	51.00
39	207 Hink-de Haan	48.33	1004.2	53.64	50.99
40	107 Rodrigo Soares-M.Teixeira	54.48	883.9	47.22	50.85

Open Pairs - 2nd session - Results.

RANK	PAIR	1 st	2 nd	2 nd	TOTAL	
41	305	Gobbi-Ronzuno	55.86	840.8	44.91	50.39
42	356	Wicherley-J.A.Fernandes	54.98	852.8	45.56	50.27
43	151	Carlos Pimenta-Manuel Oliveira	45.56	1026	54.81	50.18
44	258	van der Meulen-Linssen	52.28	896.8	47.91	50.09
45	152	Groenhof-Waque	45.99	1006.3	53.76	49.87
46	353	Steenberg-Jan Kuiper	58.61	760.5	40.63	49.62
47	256	A.M.Soares-J.Gouveia	47.74	961.1	51.34	49.54
48	360	Jose Moraes-J.Paes Carvalho	52.85	847.1	45.25	49.05
49	358	Suppula-Tamminen	48.42	921.5	49.23	48.82
50	204	Frieling-Leeuwen	56.51	706.4	40.88	48.70
51	252	van Dalen-Serkhoven	43.83	999.8	53.41	48.62
52	105	Grobbe-Wentholt	50.04	811.6	46.97	48.50
53	104	E.Ducheyne-R.Ducheyne	45.66	886.8	51.32	48.49
54	160	Filipe Goncalves-Ricardo Luiz	48.07	914.1	48.83	48.45
55	303	Arne Olsen-Per Olsen	54.52	785.7	41.97	48.25
56	354	Fatima Alegre-Cipriano Alegre	50.37	862.2	46.06	48.21
57	163	Wessels-Schipper	44.81	960	51.28	48.05
58	260	Eva Liss Gothe-Hans Gothe	42.43	991.7	52.98	47.70
59	362	Corte-Real-Miguel Ramos	51.77	816.6	43.62	47.70
60	311	Ines Serra Lopes-P.Pimenta	48.66	860.5	45.97	47.31
61	103	Ravenswaaj-Robbe	50.22	741.3	42.90	46.56
62	312	Coggrave-Coggrave	43.94	914.1	48.83	46.38
63	211	John Freitas-H.Ribeiro	46.27	794.4	45.97	46.12
64	359	Havinga-Verowden	46.08	848.9	45.35	45.71
65	111	Carla Soares-F.Costa	44.49	806.3	46.66	45.58
66	203	Versteegh-Houwelingen	45.49	785.8	45.47	45.48
67	253	Sprenkeling-Stoop	48.93	785.6	41.97	45.45
68	157	Buurman-Kort	45.03	833.5	44.52	44.78
69	206	Ilzina Antra-Ilzins Ivar	45.99	735.5	42.56	44.28
70	108	Irene Sousa-Jose P.Sousa	46.10	733.5	42.45	44.27
71	158	Malestein-Schen	48.92	733	39.16	44.04
72	209	Berglund-Birgitta Hjelm	30.77	982.2	56.84	43.81
73	261	Koistinen-Ascencao	38.06	896.4	47.88	42.97
74	114	Magda Raes-Hennie v Beek	40.89	768.9	44.50	42.69
75	159	Helden-Naumann	30.19	982.4	52.48	41.34
76	154	Tulonen-Popponen	34.68	885.6	47.31	40.99
77	304	Birgitta Tornblad-Sten Tornbla	49.04	557.7	29.79	39.42
78	102	Jose Fernandes-Alda Fernandes	32.94	759.5	43.95	38.45
79	109	Acacio Matias-Angela Matias	37.25	649.3	37.58	37.42
80	257	Pedro Nunes-Nuno Mata	36.34	696.7	37.22	36.78
81	254	Bartelomy-Hoes	37.18	652.6	34.86	36.02
82	153	Kukkonen-Tervonen	37.17	625.8	33.43	35.30