

Bridge

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I'm just back from two thrilling weeks of European Championships in Poznan, in which the French captured the Gold Medal for both Mixed events and the Americans for the Open Teams. It ended with a grueling six days of Open Pairs which turned out to be a young man's fight. After 301 boards the winner was decided on the next and final hand of the tournament and two Polish Juniors beat two Israeli Juniors (well, they looked like Juniors to ancient me) by half an undertrick to become European Champions in their home country.

Today's hand won Best Played Award for the great Giorgio Duboin, playing with his sponsor Mme Lavazza in the Mixed Teams:

Dealer South

Love all

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

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	2♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All pass	

West led the ♦J and East won her Ace and returned a heart. Duboin won in hand, led a trump to dummy's 10, ruffed a diamond, crossed to the ♠A, ruffed the third diamond and overtook his top trump with dummy's Ace to draw the last trump, pitching a heart from hand. Now, on the ♦K he threw another heart from his hand (barring the ♥King) and West had to find a discard from ♠Q86 and ♥QJ. A classic trump squeeze. A heart is impossible as declarer's last trump will be the entry to the 13th heart but on a spade discard, declarer simply cashes the ♠K and ruffs out the Queen, using the ♥K as the entry for the established ♠J.

Genius Giorgio — and well paid. In the other room they were in a normal, if unambitious 3NT leaving Duboin 11 IMP's richer for his team and the winner of Best Played Hand.