



Opatija, 17 July 2010

Bulletin nr 3

# Finals Day



Is it possible – was yesterday even hotter than the day before? Well, today is the final day of competition and I hope that everyone has a little time to relax and enjoy Opatija and its surrounding area before you have to go back home. Certainly, the weather is fantastic for a holiday.

Jan Sikora and Piotr Tuczynski of Poland headed the Junior qualifiers with Dutch pair, Bob Drijver and Tim Verbeek in second. Those two will have a useful carry-over edge over the rest. The five pairs who got back in through semi-final B come, two from France, two from the Netherlands, and one from Poland.

The Youngsters are headed by Michal

Gulczynski and Mateusz Andrzejewski of Poland. They have a useful advantage over the chasing group, which is headed by Sweden's Daniel Gullberg and Johan Karlsson. Here, the lucky five come from five different countries: Poland, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Israel and Hungary.

Czech Republic's Ticha sisters, Katerina and Magdalena, lead the qualifiers in the Girls Championship, but the whole field is tightly bunched. Another pair of sisters, the Spangenberg from Netherlands are second. In this competition, all three pairs to make their way back into the main event through the repechage are from Poland.

## The town of Lovran

Lovran is a town with a long and diverse past, with a hundred-year-long tradition of tourism. It took its name from laurel, *laurus nobilis*, which grows abundantly in the evergreen groves in the town and environs.

Of all the places that have developed on the steep eastern slopes of mount Ucka, Lovran is the oldest, coming into being directly on the coast of Liburnia. Lovran has preserved its historical core and medieval city plan. The old city was girt with defensive walls and bastions, on the foundations and walls of which, during time, houses have been built. The courtyards of the Old Town are a particular charm of Mediterranean cityscapes. Behind the stone portals the façades of the neighbouring houses can be seen, decorated with their steps, porches and vaults. In the centre of the courtyard is the wellhead. A good

climate, luxuriant Mediterranean vegetation and a favorable geographic location contributed to the rapid development of tourism during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Since that time, Lovran, together with Opatija (10-15 minutes away, with a direct bus line 32) has been the most important locality on the famed Riviera. Several villas designed by the celebrated Viennese architect Carl Seidel dating from that period are part of the world architectural heritage.

At the beginning of the 21st century, Lovran can draw on a rich historical heritage, a hundred-year-old tradition of tourism, a well-preserved nature, a developed infrastructure and everything else that permits a new take-off in the tourist industry combined with sustainable development and respect for all ecological standards.



## Correction

The last paragraph of the article entitled 'Just Deserts' in Friday morning's bulletin was, of course, nonsense. Whether or not West played the ten of hearts was irrelevant as he had the eight so that the trump promotion was still available to the defence. I read West's hearts as ♡A103 – so the writing fitted perfectly with the bidding and defence.



## Extra Chance

Did anyone else find the extra chance that was spotted by Carole Puillet of France in the Girls second qualifying session? It came on this deal against the Dutch Spangenberg sisters:

<b>Board 10</b>	♠ Q 8 6
East Deals	♥ Q 5 2
Both Vul	♦ J 8 4
	♣ A 8 6 5
♠ A 3 2	♠ K 10 9 4
♥ 8 6	♥ K 4 3
♦ A K 9 7 5 2	♦ 6 3
♣ Q 4	♣ J 10 7 2
	♠ J 7 5
	♥ A J 10 9 7
	♦ Q 10
	♣ K 9 3

West	North	East	South
Sigrid S.	Chaugny	Jamilla S.	Puillet
—	—	Pass	1♥
2♦	2♥	All Pass	

West kicked off with three rounds of diamonds, ruffed low by East and over-ruffed. Puillet crossed to dummy with the ace of clubs and led the heart queen for the king and ace. She drew a second round of trumps then paused

to take stock. She knew that West had eight red cards. If clubs were three-three, a club could be established by playing king and another. But if the clubs were four-two then East would return the fourth club and declarer would have to open up spades herself, with the honours almost certainly split between the two defenders. That would lead to one down.

There was a small extra chance and Puillet found it. She led the nine of clubs away from the king. Caught with the bare queen of clubs, West had no choice but to win it and was forced to either open up the spades or give a ruff and discard, either of which would give the contract.

Had East been able to win the club from a four-card holding, she would have returned the suit and the contract would have failed, with declarer opening up the spades herself – but then there was no winning line.

If clubs had been three-three, the defence would have won and exited with a club to the king. With no entry to dummy's thirteenth club, declarer would now have to open up the spade suit – no problem, as West would now be marked with a doubleton, leading low to the queen would ensure a spade trick.

Very well done, and it helped the French pair to finish top of the qualifying stage.



**Carole Puillet**

## Endplay

Dutch pair, Jacco Hop and Vincent De Pagter spent much of the qualifying stage right on the edge, unsure whether they would make it to the A semi-final. This board from the second session helped their cause.

**Board 30**

♠ 6 3 2													
East Deals ♥ J 8 4 3													
None Vul ♦ A Q 7 5 2													
♣ K													
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 10px auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ K 5</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">N</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ Q 10 9 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥ Q 9 5</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">W</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥ K 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦ K 6 4 3</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">E</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦ J 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣ 10 9 8 2</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">S</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣ A J 7 5 3</td> </tr> </table>		♠ K 5	N	♠ Q 10 9 7	♥ Q 9 5	W	♥ K 2	♦ K 6 4 3	E	♦ J 9	♣ 10 9 8 2	S	♣ A J 7 5 3
♠ K 5	N	♠ Q 10 9 7											
♥ Q 9 5	W	♥ K 2											
♦ K 6 4 3	E	♦ J 9											
♣ 10 9 8 2	S	♣ A J 7 5 3											
♠ A J 8 4													
♥ A 10 7 6													
♦ 10 8													
♣ Q 6 4													

West	North	East	South
Togias	DePagter	Sofias	Hop
—	—	1♣	Dble
2♣	Dble	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Seeing that the vulnerability was the best one at which to declare in a partscore battle, Jacco Hop made a borderline double of the 1♣ opening from Greek East, Michaelis Sofias. Stratos Togias raised to 2♣ and Vincent De Pagter made a responsive double. Hop suggested a near minimum by passing over the 3♣ reraise and De Pagter competed with 3♦. Clearly, North had to have a major as with only diamonds he would have bid them at his first turn rather than double, so Hop completed the auction with a conversion to 3♥, expecting De Pagter to correct to 3♠ if necessary. Togias led the ten of clubs for the king and ace and Sofias switched to the ten of spades. The play went very smoothly from here. Hop won the ace

of spades, threw a spade on his queen of clubs, then took the diamond finesse and, when that won, continued with two more diamonds, ruffing in hand. A club ruff was followed by a second diamond ruff, East throwing clubs both times, and now Hop exited with a spade to West's bare king.



**Jacco Hop**

This was the end position:

♠ —													
♥ J 8 4													
♦ 7													
♣ —													
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 10px auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ —</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">N</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ Q 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥ Q 9 5</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">W</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥ K 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦ —</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">E</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦ —</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣ 8</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">S</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣ —</td> </tr> </table>		♠ —	N	♠ Q 9	♥ Q 9 5	W	♥ K 2	♦ —	E	♦ —	♣ 8	S	♣ —
♠ —	N	♠ Q 9											
♥ Q 9 5	W	♥ K 2											
♦ —	E	♦ —											
♣ 8	S	♣ —											
♠ J 8													
♥ A 10													
♦ —													
♣ —													

West led the five of hearts to the king and ace and Hop ruffed a spade with the eight then the last diamond with the ten and had three of the last four tricks and ten in all for an excellent +170.

The winning defence to save the overtrick is for West to play the eight of clubs in the endgame and for East to discard. Declarer will make this trick plus the ace of hearts but that is all.

## Belarus!

In case you were wondering why you saw these two wearing strange colours during the tournament:



**Yan and Ilya**

Meet Yan and Ilya Shpuntov, from Belarus. They play a lot in Poland, travelled with the Polish team to Opatija, and were registered through the Polish federation. That is why on Thursday they were listed in the results (and on the front page of the Bulletin – congratulations, guys) as POL. Today, this has been rectified.



## Bad Trump Split? No Problem

**Board 7**  
South Deals  
Both Vul

♠ Q  
♥ 10 6 5 2  
♦ K Q 2  
♣ Q 8 7 3 2

♠ 6 4  
♥ Q 9 4  
♦ A J 9 7 4  
♣ A 6 5

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

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

There was a bad trump split on this deal from the first semi-final session of the Girls Pairs, but Czech Republic's Magdalena Ticha showed that this was no problem to a player of her ability

West	North	East	South
K. Ticha		M. Ticha	
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	All Pass

After three passes, Magdalena opened 1♠ and rebid 2♠ over sister Katerina's 2♦ response.

South led the eight of diamonds. Magdalena ducked the diamond, North winning the queen and switching to a club. Declarer won the ace of clubs and played a spade. When the queen appeared, she knew the position in that suit so, having won the ace, changed tack, conceding a club. South won and returned a club, not that it mattered. Ticha ruffed, led a diamond to the ace, then played out her remaining spades, putting South on lead. After taking her two spade winners, South had to lead from ♥AJ7, and declarer had only one loser in the suit.

A very nice endplay to just make the contract.



**Magdalena Ticha**

## Squeeze Time

The first semi-final session of the Junior Pairs saw the Turkish pairing of Ugurcan Suzer and Arda Can Taskin bid to slam, which Ugurcan brought home nicely with the aid of a squeeze.

**Board 10**

♠ 9 7 4  
 East Deals ♥ A Q 8 6  
 Both Vul ♦ A Q J 10 2  
 ♣ 7

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

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

West	North	East	South
—	Taskin	Pass	1♣
1♥	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Suzer decided that he could best describe his hand by opening 1♣, despite the longer spades. When he bid on to 4♠ over 3NT, he was marked with a very distributional hand and Taskin invited slam, giving Suzer an easy acceptance.

The lead was a trump to the queen and ace. Suzer played ace and ruffed a club, ace and ruffed a diamond, ruffed another club and another diamond back to hand. Then he ran the trumps. Forced to keep the king of diamonds, the last trump reduced West to only two hearts and a successful heart finesse provided three heart tricks for the contract.

Note that this was not just a red-suit squeeze against West. Had East held

three hearts to the ten or nine, it would not have helped the defence in the slightest, as East had to keep the king of clubs so was also reduced to a doubleton heart. If necessary, the double squeeze would also therefore have been successful.



**Ugurcan Suzer**



## The Entire Delegation

What country saw its entire delegation qualify for the A-finals? No, it is not the Czech Republic, because although all four of their Girls' pairs made it through, the three others did not. No, for once I can be proud of my country, as all Belgian pairs made it through to the A semi-finals. Mind you, it was not very hard, since the entire delegation consists of one pair: Wouter Van Den Hove and Jorrit Schäfer.

So I proudly sat down next to them for the first quarter of their Friday.

They started off against Natalia Sakowska and Piotr Butryn of Poland and Wouter took a successful decision on the very first board

**Board 22** ♠ 10 9 8 3 2  
 East Deals ♥ 8 6 4 3  
 E-W Vul ♦ —  
 ♣ A 6 3 2

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

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Jorrit	Sakowska	Wouter	Butryn
—	—	1♣	1♥
1♠	4♥	5♦	Dble
All Pass			

South started with two rounds of clubs and could not go wrong on the ♠J. One down, but still 70% to the Belgians.

In round three, they met the Turkish pair of Ali Ucar and Akim Koclar. Akim showed he had no fear:

**Board 8** ♠ J 8 3  
 West Deals ♥ J 7  
 None Vul ♦ 9 5 2  
 ♣ J 9 7 5 2

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

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Jorrit	Ucar	Wouter	Koclar
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dble
4♥	Pass	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

On any lead but a diamond, the three trumps provide enough entries to establish the clubs, but sadly for Declarer, West had an easy lead, despite holding just 5 HCP. One down and 90% to the Belgians.

Two round later they met some old friends: Christophe Grosset and Cedric Lorenzini.



**Chrisophe and Wouter, friends since forever**

It is a sign of the times when one hears French and Belgian players (admittedly Dutch-speaking ones) speak English to one another.

The defence was not up to standard on this one:

**Board 19** ♠ Q 7 4  
 South Deals ♥ A K Q 7 6  
 E-W Vul ♦ J 7 5 2  
 ♣ 2

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

♠ K 10 6  
 ♥ J 8  
 ♦ K Q 10 6 3  
 ♣ J 5 3

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Jorrit	Grosset	Wouter	Loren'i
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♥	Dble	INT
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Wouter started with the ♠8 and Christophe made the first trick with the queen. He played a diamond to the King and another diamond, which Jorrit took with the ace. He played a club but, when Wouter tried to cash one more club, North had 11 winners and the ♠A had not been made. 17% was all that was left.

At the end of the first session, the Belgian pair were lying five places off qualifying for the A-final. A little more would be needed in the afternoon.

PS: With the Shpuntov brothers now listed as Belarussian, that makes two countries who have qualified their entire delegation. Well done BELs!

## Some Good, Some Bad

By Kees Tammens

A nice thing about Junior events is that long after dinner, and after some football or other physical exercises (the heat does not matter), you hear the most fascinating stories. As Leen Stougie explained: "You have to bid what you can make".

**Board 23** ♠ K 9 8 6 5  
 South Deals ♥ Q 8 7  
 Both Vul ♦ 9 7  
 ♣ Q 7 5

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

♠ 3  
 ♥ A K 10 6 2  
 ♦ A 6 3  
 ♣ K 10 9 2

After 1♥ – 2♥ – 3♥ – 4♥ the Dutch Youngster was in a very tight game. The lead was a club for jack and king and declarer, fearing a club ruff, played ♥A and ♥K, looking a little annoyed when the suit broke 4-1. A diamond was ducked and after the diamond return for the ace he ruffed the last diamond in dummy. Now a great invention from the 13-year old. He played ♠K from dummy and looked happy when he won the trick! The Stougie-gambit was created. All declarer lost after that miracle was ♣A and a trump trick. I already wrote

about the Good, the Bad and the Ugly but maybe this needs adding – The Incredible.

Take your places, get set, ready, go! The second day of the championship had some special factors. Pairs in the A-group were looking for a steady game of about 50% to be sure of qualification for the final. And all the participants in the B-groups realized they had to score very well to occupy any of the few qualification places available to them; in this case scoring in the neighborhood of 60% seemed necessary. Well, you cannot afford to play bridge like a coward and the kibitzer noticed some fierce examples of that strategy.

Look at Board 2 of the first session of the semi-final.

**Board 2** ♠ Q J 9 3 2  
 East Deals ♥ A 2  
 N-S Vul ♦ K J 7  
 ♣ A 4 3

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

♠ A 5 4  
 ♥ 9 6 4  
 ♦ Q 6 5 3  
 ♣ J 7 6

West	North	East	South
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♠	INT	Dble	Pass*
2♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West, Bob Drijver, is not a player who goes under without a fight, but in this case his ship looked to be sinking. Dummy was a miracle, especially when North led ♣A followed by another club. Declarer drew the missing trumps and played a heart to the queen and ace. Eight tricks were assured when North played a spade for South's ace. North/South, somewhat shocked by all these terrible developments even revoked so 280 was the score.

180 or 280 did not really seem to matter but look what happened at some other tables.

West	North	East	South
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♥	2♠
3♥	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

The pairs game tactic in full swing; push vulnerable opponents to the down level and punish them with the kiss of death '–200'.

**Board 15**      ♠ 4 3  
 South Deals    ♥ J 8 6 4  
 N-S Vul        ♦ J 10 8 4  
                  ♣ 8 6 5

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

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

With no opposition bidding, West declared 3NT and North led a heart

for the ten and queen. The safest way to ensure an overtrick looks to be to unblock cxA, cross to dxA and play cxQ. This way you create three club winners, with six tricks in the red suits for the taking. Declarer wanted more overtricks, however, and played a small spade for the queen and ace and South played back a heart for the king. The jack of spades and a spade for the king left South with the master spade. Declarer now cashed dxA, dxK and dxQ to find out that North had the master diamond. An endplay was necessary if declarer wanted a tenth trick. Declarer cashed cxA and had to choose from two options: hxA and a spade to let South play clubs, winning with cxK in the South hand, but losing when North has cxK. Or immediately the last diamond for North, winning when North was left with cxK and hxJ8 and would have to give declarer two tricks with a heart lead. Now you might think that the first line, in which declarer cashes the ace of hearts before trying for the endplay, has the merit that he at least makes his contract when the endplay doesn't work. I couldn't possibly comment.

And the outcome? Well let me just state that the partner of the declarer was not amused by his choice.

I admit that in my contributions for the bulletin my main interest is the way the Dutch juniors play, but I would very much like other countries to tell their stories to the bulletin editors. They will send them in as candidates for one of the special prizes!

The special reporter of the Girls Championship enters the room and tells me in full color about a very well timed psyche.

Dangerous Girls?

**Board 8** ♠ J 8 3  
 West Deals ♥ J 7  
 None Vul ♦ 9 5 2  
 ♣ J 9 7 5 2

♠ 7  
 ♥ 10 9 8 6 2  
 ♦ K Q 4  
 ♣ 10 8 6 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 6  
 ♥ K Q 5 4 3  
 ♦ J 10 8 6 3  
 ♣ K Q

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

West	North	East	South
Sigrid		Jamilla	
Pass	Pass	2♥	Dble
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
3♥	Pass	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

The Dutch twins 'Spangenberg' had a difficult time in the morning session of the Girls championship so Sigrid decided to take control of her own destiny. First a fierce 2♠ and then a tiny 3♥ bid. This way she pre-empted South in 6NT which had no play at all after a red-suit lead. So beware of these innocent looking girls.

Jacco Hop and Vincent de Pagter, somewhat disappointingly, had fallen out of the A-group – in the first version of the results they finished 35th, but finally they dropped to 38th. A good case may be made for posting the frequency sheets after each session so everybody can check their results. So it cannot occur what happened to Wubbo de Boer (together with wife, Agnes Snellers, the captaincy of the Netherlands Youth Team). Wubbo (world champion as a junior in 1987 and in 1993 winner of the Bermuda Bowl) witnessed how Berend van de Bos and Joris van Lankveld were allowed to play in 2♥ and even made an impossible overtrick when 2♠ or 3♠ seemed easy in the other direction, so the captain told his juniors this had

to be a great result. And if not he would eat his hat. Late at night the juniors showed him that they only scored 48% on the board, so he could get a knife and fork. It should be possible to check this and other results. Hop and de Pagter took full advantage when their opponents did not reach the best partscore.

**Board 11** ♠ Q 10 4 3  
 South Deals ♥ 3 2  
 None Vul ♦ A 7  
 ♣ A K 10 9 3

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 6 5 2  
 ♥ A K Q 7  
 ♦ 10 6  
 ♣ Q 7 6 2

♠ J 8  
 ♥ J 9 8 5 4  
 ♦ K Q 9 4  
 ♣ J 4

West	North	East	South
—	De Pagter	—	Hop
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
INT	Pass	2♦	All Pass

INT showed five or more diamonds and four spades, so East decided to play in the 2-5(6) fit. The ♣J was led for the king and a heart for the ace. A diamond for the eight and ace, and North cashed the ♣K and played his last heart for the king. Declarer threw a spade on ♥Q but North ruffed and played very well – a spade for jack and king. A diamond went to the ten and king and a second spade from South to the ace. A third spade for North's queen, and now he locked declarer in dummy to play from ♦J5 into South's ♦K9 for down three and a big pairs result for the Dutch pair, who are trying very hard to make the top five for a rebirth in the final on Saturday. So let's see what will happen on Friday afternoon. I am convinced that the knives will be sharpened again.

## Czech Tops and Bottoms with the Girls

After the qualifying sessions the Czech pairs had placed themselves in second, third, fourth and seventh positions – which meant that all of them were going to play in Semi-final A. That's quite an achievement for a country that doesn't have a history in winning medals at the European level.

In the first round they had to start beating each other up the best they could. Pavla Hoderova as East was dealt the following hand.

♠ 9 ♥ A K J 4 ♦ K 10 7 3 ♣ A K Q 5

And the bidding went:

West	North	East	South
Cerna	Hajkova	Hoderova	Schul'va
—	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	3♠
Pass	Pass	?	

She finally decided to pass! Another take-out double would clearly have been a wise action to make especially since it is pairs after all. The danger must be that you either make a contract in any suit or that 3♠ is going a lot down.

This was the full board:

<b>Board 1</b>	♠ Q 4
North Deals	♥ 9 8 3
None Vul	♦ A Q 8 2
	♣ 9 7 6 2
♠ 10 8 3 2	♠ 9
♥ Q 7 6 5 2	♥ A K J 4
♦ 4	♦ K 10 7 3
♣ J 10 8	♣ A K Q 5
	♠ A K J 7 6 5
	♥ 10
	♦ J 9 6 5
	♣ 4 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

Anna Marie Cerna led the four of diamonds, declarer playing low from dummy, Hoderova won the trick with the king noticing the five from declarer. How to plan the defence? Cashing one trick with the king of clubs and also the king of hearts, getting length information from partner, seems like a good move. When knowing the situation you have to realize that you need to give partner a ruff in diamonds to be able to beat the contract – if you figure everything out correctly.

Hoderova cashed the king of clubs, and saw the three from declarer and the jack from partner. She next tried the king of hearts, seeing the ten arriving from declarer and the two from partner (showing one, three or five cards in the suit).

In a good world we have three more tricks to score, but the jump to 3♠ and the surprise appearance of diamonds in dummy should alarm us that declarer most probably has a two-suiter or a lot of trumps. It should therefore be reasonable to return a low diamond to get a club back for a second ruff, bringing the contract two down.



**Sona Hajkova**

Hoderova believed that partner only had three hearts and tried to cash out. Declarer then ruffed the second heart, pulled trumps and claimed her contract.

140 was all the matchpoints, E/W needed to bid their game in hearts and score 11 tricks to get over average.

Our Czech battle was far from over yet. It didn't take many seconds until the following happened:

**Board 2**      ♠ Q J 9 3 2  
 East Deals    ♥ A 2  
 N-S Vul        ♦ K J 7  
                  ♣ A 4 3

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

♠ A 5 4  
 ♥ 9 6 4  
 ♦ Q 6 5 3  
 ♣ J 7 6

West	North	East	South
Cerna	Hajkova	Hoderova	Schul'va
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♥	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Cerna/Hoderova competed to the limit of what they could make. Cerna brought down the axe, probably having something in mind from the previous board when they had shown a lot of passivity. Cerna led the five of hearts which declarer won with dummy's ace. Declarer then tried to run the queen of spades – when failing declarer was in trouble since the defence continued with two rounds of hearts, the last being ruffed in dummy. She then played the remaining trumps to set up her diamonds and after that it wasn't

much to hope for, declarer could cash her tricks but couldn't make the contract, it simply had to go one off. That was almost 90% of the score in the other direction.



**Kristyna Schulzova**

So would we see another top on the last board of the round?

**Board 3**      ♠ 10 8  
 South Deals    ♥ 10 6 5 3  
 E-W Vul        ♦ A 10 2  
                  ♣ A J 9 2

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

♠ K Q J 7  
 ♥ A K Q  
 ♦ 8 5  
 ♣ Q 8 7 5

West	North	East	South
Cerna	Hajkova	Hoderova	Schul'va
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

After a Stayman sequence, Hajkova and Schulzova ended up in Three No Trump, as did most of the field. Cerna led the six of diamonds and that went to Hoderova's nine, which held the trick. She continued the attack with the queen. For an unknown reason,

Cerna played low and Schulzova took her only chance, making the contract by ducking the queen. With no diamonds left she had to shift to another suit, giving declarer the tempo she needed to make her contract. nine tricks was another top, this time for Hajkova/Schulzova. So the Czech battle in round one ended 2-1 in their favour.

Our French Girl pair, Puillet/Chaugny, who had been at the top of the rankings all the way, had to defend against the same contract. A diamond was led to the nine and the queen was overtaken at trick two by the king, not giving declarer one single chance of making the contract. Declarer again ducked but the French girl easily continued her attack, just waiting with the ace of spades to get in and collecting the needed tricks for the defence to set the contract; solid defence by Puillet/Chaugny.

**Board 5**      ♠ K 8 6 4 3  
 North Deals    ♥ A  
 N-S Vul        ♦ Q 4  
                  ♣ 10 9 8 3 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
Roslon	Hajkova	Morgiel	Schul'va
—	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♥*	Dble	2♠*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

2♠ was alerted and explained as a doubleton.

Roslon led the two of hearts, won by declarer's ace in dummy. Schulzova then immediately started on the

trumps, leading low from the dummy, realising that she might get short of them if the distribution was bad. Morgiel played low and Roslon won the trick with the jack of spades.



**Barbara Roslon**

Roslon correctly continued her attack on hearts forcing declarer to ruff in dummy. Schulzova then played a diamond to the ace and a spade towards dummy's king, losing the trick to Morgiel's ace. The situation was now:

**Board 5**      ♠ 8 6  
 North Deals    ♥ —  
 N-S Vul        ♦ Q  
                  ♣ 10 9 8 3 2

♠ 9	N	♠ Q
♥ K 5	W	♥ Q 10 9
♦ J 10 9 7	E	♦ 5 2
♣ J	S	♣ Q 7

♠ —  
 ♥ J  
 ♦ K 8  
 ♣ A K 6 5 4

If Morgiel had continued the heart attack declarer would have been defeated. Instead she cashed the queen of spades, giving Schulzova the tempo she needed to bring home the remaining tricks; another top for the Czech girls.

## Junior Pairs, First Day, Second Session

*by Phillip Alder*

To start, here are a few problems from the second qualifying session.

1. With both sides vulnerable, you hold:

♠ 6 4 2 ♥ 5 4 3 2 ♦ Q 9 8 5 ♣ 8 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	3♦	Dble
Pass	??		

Would you pass or bid Three Hearts?

2. With both sides vulnerable, you pick up:

♠ A 7 3 ♥ K 6 3 ♦ A 9 3 2 ♣ 10 6 5

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
??			

What would you do, if anything?

3. Still with both sides vulnerable, you have:

♠ 10 8 4 ♥ Q 7 6 ♦ K Q J 7 ♣ Q J 3

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♣	Pass
??			

What would you respond?

If you bid One Diamond, partner rebids One Heart. What now?

4. Neither side is vulnerable and you hold as dealer:

♠ A Q 9 7 3 2 ♥ A 8 7 ♦ 10 5 ♣ 7 2

What would you do?

5. With the opponents vulnerable, as dealer you have:

♠ 10 8 3 ♥ A ♦ A Q ♣ 10 8 7 6 5 3 2

What would you do this time?

6. Dealer North. Both vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♠	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

You, North, lead the club king: seven, six (upside-down signals), two. What would you lead now?

7. At favourable vulnerability, you have:

♠ 7 6 5 ♥ A J 10 9 5 4 ♦ A 7 6 ♣ 6

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1♣
??			

What would you overcall?

8. With both sides vulnerable, partner opens One No Trump, 15-17, in second position. What would you respond with this hand?

♠ 10 8 ♥ 10 ♦ A K 10 9 4 2 ♣ 10 9 6 3

9. You have:

♠ A 7 4 2 ♥ A J 6 5 ♦ 6 ♣ 9 8 6 3

After three passes, your right-hand opponent opens One No Trump, 15-17. It is passed out. What would you lead?

10. Dealer West. N/S vul.

♠ 5 4 3  
♥ K 8 7 5  
♦ A K 7  
♣ 10 7 5

♠ J 9 8  
♥ A 6 2  
♦ Q J 4 3 2  
♣ 6 4

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Your partner leads the heart queen: king, ace, four. What would you do now?

I decided to watch the pair that was leading after the first qualifying session, Massimiliano Di Franco and Matteo Montanari from Italy.

Their second session started as badly as possible against fellow countrymen:

**Board 16** ♠ Q 10 8 7 6  
West Deals ♥ 8  
E-W Vul ♦ 6  
♣ Q 9 7 6 5 3

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

♠ J 5  
♥ J 3 2  
♦ A Q J 5 4  
♣ J 8 2

West	North	East	South
Lanni	Montan'i	Failla	DiFr'co
INT	2♠(i)	3♦	Dble
Rdbl	All Pass		

(i) Spades and a minor

Two Spades would not meet with universal approval. But after that, Three Diamonds by Andrea Failla was a transfer to hearts. Over South's double to show diamonds, Pasquale Lanni redoubled, which indicated a very good hand for hearts. (With five strong diamonds, he would have passed, hoping his partner had the values to reopen with a double. This is the reverse of normal, but it seems correct. If opener redoubles with five good diamonds, he might catch his partner with a very weak hand and go minus. This way, if responder has some cards, he can redouble.) East knew what his partner's call meant, but he decided to gamble on Three Diamonds redoubled.

This worked out serendipitously when the contract proved unbeatable. Declarer won the spade lead with dummy's king and ran the diamond seven. East took the next spade with his ace, crossed to dummy with a heart, discarded his last spade on the club ace, and ran the diamond nine. South played another club, declarer throwing one of his hearts. East played a heart to his hand and drove out the diamond ace. South led a third club to tap declarer and gain a fourth trump trick, but East took two spades, three hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. Plus 840 was a cold top.

On the next board, Di Franco made Three Diamonds exactly. He could have read the end-position better to make four, but that line was not without risk. Plus 110 looked all right but proved to be worth only 26.5 out

of 70 matchpoints because fourteen pairs collected ten tricks.

This was the next deal:

**Board 18**    ♠ 10  
 East Deals    ♥ Q J 7 6 4 2  
 N-S Vul        ♦ Q 10 8  
                  ♣ 6 3 2

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

♠ K 9 8 5 2  
 ♥ 8  
 ♦ A 9 7 5 3  
 ♣ K 9

West	North	East	South
Lanni	Montan'i	Failla	DiFr'co
—	—	1♣	1♠
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the diamond five. Declarer took North's ten with his king and played the club queen, covered by the king and ace. East now had eight tricks: one spade, two hearts, one diamond and four clubs. Where was the ninth coming from?

Surely South has the spade king for his adverse-vulnerability overcall. We can see that if declarer immediately plays a heart to his ten, he is in clover. But Failla decided to try for an endplay or a misdefense. He ran his clubs ending in the dummy, played a spade to his ace and returned a low spade.

Now South erred by playing low, so dummy took the trick with the jack and the contract was home.

You should discuss with your partner North's club carding here. (Is playing in ascending order denying a high spade? Or do you employ the Smith Peter as it was invented, North playing high-low in clubs to say that he is better in diamonds than he might be — here,

showing the queen?) Regardless, South should have realized that if East had the diamond queen, he would have played on that suit to generate his ninth trick. South should have won with his spade king and led a low diamond.

Minus 400 was worth 24.4 matchpoints to North/South; plus 50 would have given them 55.1. (The fractions arise because this section had a half table.)

Two more Italians, Eugenio Mistretta and Gabriele Zanasi, came to the table. On the first board, they missed a lucky three No Trump. Two Diamonds plus one gave North/South 44.3 matchpoints.

On the next deal, Mistretta was caught speeding.

**Board 20**    ♠ 6 4 2  
 West Deals    ♥ 5 4 3 2  
 Both Vul      ♦ Q 9 8 5  
                  ♣ 8 3

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

♠ K Q 8  
 ♥ K J 9 7 6  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ A K Q J

West	North	East	South
Zanasi	Montan'i	Mistretta	DiFr'co
Pass	Pass	3♦	Dble
All Pass			

Montanari made the winning decision when he passed over the double. The defence took one spade, one heart, three diamonds and three clubs for plus 800 and 64.8 out of 70.

Board 21 was an average, Four Spades making.

On the next deal, Montanari made a nice defensive play.

**Board 22**

♠ 7 4  
 East Deals ♥ 7 6 5  
 E-W Vul ♦ Q 3  
 ♣ A K 10 9 6 5

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

♠ A 9 6 2  
 ♥ K 9 4  
 ♦ A 10 6 4  
 ♣ 4 3

West	North	East	South
Togias	Montan'i	Sofios	DiFr'co
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	2♣	2♦	Dble
2♥	All Pass		

South made the textbook lead of a trump, but it wasn't best this time. (A club lead followed by a diamond shift results in two down.) Michalis Sofios from Greece won in the dummy and played a spade to his king. South ducked this trick, took the next spade, and shifted to a club, North winning with his king. What did North lead next?

On this deal, he could have done almost anything, but he actually led the diamond three. Notice that if he had led the queen, after it was covered by the king and ace, South could not have returned a diamond. Here, yes, South could have led a club for another diamond through declarer, but after North's diamond three to the jack and ace, South could play a diamond to establish his ten.

The defenders took one spade, one heart, two diamonds and two clubs for plus 100, but only 27.6 matchpoints.

Next:

**Board 23**

South Deals ♠ J 9 5  
 Both Vul ♥ 10  
 ♦ Q 4  
 ♣ K Q J 9 8 4 3

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

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

West	North	East	South
Togias	Montan'i	Sofios	DiFr'co
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♦	All Pass

First, Stratos Togias guessed well to reopen with a takeout double. (Three clubs would probably have gone one down.) Then Sofios advanced with only three diamonds. (Of course, if he had jumped to four diamonds, his partner would have passed. But some might have been tempted to bid five diamonds.)

Declarer lost two hearts and one diamond. Minus 130 gave North/South only 11.7 matchpoints.



**Matteo Montanari**

On Board 24, Di Franco made only one overtrick in Three No Trump, which was worth only 14.2; plus 460 would have gained 44.8.

Board 25 was average. Then ...

**Board 26** ♠ Q 6 5 3 2  
 East Deals ♥ K 5  
 Both Vul ♦ 6 5  
 ♣ A 10 9 2

♠ 10 8 4	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		N			W			E		S			♠ A J	
	N														
W			E												
	S														
♥ Q 7 6		♥ J 9 8 4													
♦ K Q J 7		♦ A 4													
♣ Q J 3		♣ K 8 6 5 4													

♠ K 9 7  
 ♥ A 10 3 2  
 ♦ 10 9 8 3 2  
 ♣ 7

West	North	East	South
Valo	Montan'i	Poulat	DiFr'co
—	—	1♣	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

I really dislike Yannick Valo's response with no spade stopper. Why not bid One Diamond? Now, it is true, if he had bid One Diamond and Simon Poulat had rebid One Heart, Valo would have had another problem. If, like me, you play that opener's sequence shows at least 4-5 in hearts and clubs (or 4-4-1-4), you will rebid Three Clubs. This would have gone one down. Since it is pairs, you might even gamble with a raise to Two Hearts, but that would have also failed. Two No Trump was worse when North led a low spade through the ace-jack. The defenders took four spades, two hearts and one club for two down and 46 matchpoints. Yes, double-dummy, No Trump is no better by East, but not everyone defends double-dummy.

Board 27 was a 'routine' Four Spades plus one in a nine-card fit when the

king-jack of spades were doubleton under the ace-queen. But plus 450 was worth 49 matchpoints. Perhaps several Souths opened Two Spades, not One Spade, with

♠ A Q 9 7 3 2 ♥ A 8 7 ♦ 10 5 ♣ 7 2.  
 Weak twos with two aces are not a good idea.

The pre-empt-or-not theme continued on the next deal:

**Board 28** ♠ A 9 7  
 West Deals ♥ K 10 9 8 6 5  
 N-S Vul ♦ K 8 6 5  
 ♣ —

♠ 10 8 3	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		N			W			E		S			♠ J 6 5 4	
	N														
W			E												
	S														
♥ A		♥ Q J 7 2													
♦ A Q		♦ 9 7 3													
♣ 10 8 7 6 5 3 2		♣ Q 9													

♠ K Q 2  
 ♥ 4 3  
 ♦ J 10 4 2  
 ♣ A K J 4

West	North	East	South
Delac	Montan'i	Guc	DiFr'co
3♣	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Weak twos with two aces are still not doing well. Di Franco took three spades, one heart, three diamonds and three clubs. Plus 630 was worth 53 matchpoints. Anyone who got to four hearts failed on the bad trump split..

**Board 29** ♠ Q 10 8 4 3  
 North Deals ♥ 10  
 Both Vul ♦ A 8  
 ♣ K Q 10 9 8

♠ A J 7	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		N			W			E		S			♠ K 9	
	N														
W			E												
	S														
♥ Q 8 2		♥ A J 7 5													
♦ 10 4		♦ K J 9 6 5 3													
♣ A J 5 3 2		♣ 7													

♠ 6 5 2  
 ♥ K 9 6 4 3  
 ♦ Q 7 2  
 ♣ 6 4

West	North	East	South
Delac	Montan'i	Guc	DiFr'co
—	1♠	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The next deal was too tough for most pairs.

To defeat Three No Trump after taking the first trick with the club king, North had to shift to his heart. But, when he continued with the club eight, Bojan Delac from Croatia was in control. He won with his jack and ran the diamond ten. In the fullness of time, declarer lost one heart, two diamonds and one club for plus 600. This, though, was worth over average for North/South, giving them 39.5 matchpoints. (This board was played only eight times and three pairs won ten tricks.)

On the last board of the set, Montanari was in Three Hearts. A defensive error coupled with a lucky layout and good guesswork saw him win an overtrick for 57.5 matchpoints.

Bence Bozzai from Hungary came out firing on this deal:

**Board 1**

North Deals	♠ Q 10 7
None Vul	♥ A 10 4 2
	♦ 10 3
	♣ K 6 5 3

  

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

  

	♠ K 9 4 2
	♥ J 7
	♦ A 8 6 2
	♣ 9 7 2

West	North	East	South
Bozzai	Montan'i	Lazar	DiFr'co
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥!	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Even using a Walsh style in which you skip a longer diamond suit to show a major with a weak responding hand, this seems to be taking matters to an extreme.

North fingered the diamond ten as his opening lead but, after learning that his opponents did use Walsh, he changed to the heart four (attitude).

Declarer won in the dummy and attacked diamonds, losing the second round to South. He returned the heart jack, ducked to dummy's queen. Declarer led a club to his ace and cashed the diamond jack, getting the bad news. And now West could not recover. He played a fourth diamond, but South won and accurately shifted to a spade. The defense took two spades, two hearts, two diamonds and one club for one down and exactly average: 35 matchpoints.

Lazar found a winner on the next deal:

**Board 2**

East Deals	♠ A 8
N-S Vul	♥ Q 3
	♦ K Q 9 5 4
	♣ A Q 8 5

  

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

  

	♠ K Q J 9
	♥ K 8 7 2
	♦ 2
	♣ K 7 4 2

West	North	East	South
Bozzai	Montan'i	Lazar	DiFr'co
—	—	Pass	1♣
3♥!	Dble	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

How do you get to Three No Trump after that Three Heart overcall? Yes, it is easy to say that South should have bid Three No Trump, not Three

Spades, but that could have been so silly if partner had four spades and a singleton or void in hearts. Five Clubs had to lose three tricks, and minus 100 was worth only 14.9 matchpoints.

On Board 3, Di Franco played well to win an overtrick in Four Hearts and gain 40.3 matchpoints. But he gave it back on the next deal:

**Board 4**

West Deals     ♠ K 4 2  
 Both Vul     ♥ A K 5  
                   ♦ Q 8 7 6 3  
                   ♣ A 2

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

♠ 10 8  
 ♥ 10  
 ♦ A K 10 9 4 2  
 ♣ 10 9 6 3

West	North	East	South
VBueren	Montan'i	Bovet	DiFr'co
Pass	INT	Pass	3♥ (a)
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(a) Both minors, at most one heart, at least game-forcing values

It was hard for Montanari not to envision Six (or Seven) diamonds over Three Hearts. South should have just responded Three No Trump. Five diamonds made all right, but four No Trump was frigid (unlike the playing room!). North/South scored only 28.8 matchpoints.

East made a bad mistake on the next deal to concede the third overtrick in Three No Trump. This gave the Italians a huge 65.9 matchpoints. But East recouped most of that on the last deal of the set:

**Board 6**

East Deals     ♠ Q 9 5 3  
 E-W Vul     ♥ K 7 4 2  
                   ♦ A 10 8  
                   ♣ A Q

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

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

West	North	East	South
VBueren	Montan'i	Bovet	DiFr'co
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	INT	All Pass	

The textbooks and teachers tell you to lead a major in this situation, but David Bovet from Switzerland selected the club eight, second-highest from a weak suit!

It got better for the defenders when declarer played a spade to dummy's ten at trick two. Now North could do no better than take two spades, one heart, one diamond and two clubs. One down gave North/South a paltry 18.5 matchpoints.

Other advisers say not to lead away from an ace around to a strong notrump. This deal will please them.

Board 7 was a dull three spades with four losers, but North/South gained 47.7 matchpoints.

On Board 8 Montanari held:  
 ♠ K 10 2   ♥ 5 3   ♦ K 10 9 6 4   ♣ K 7 3.

With neither side vulnerable, after two passes, lefty opened One No Trump, 15-17, partner overcalled Two Diamonds, six-plus in either major, and righty responded Two Spades. What would you have done?

This hand looks better suited for defence, but perhaps hoping to nudge the opponents to three spades, or buy a lucky dummy, Montanari advanced with Three Hearts.

This was one too high and Two Spades would also have failed. Minus 50 was worth 22.3 matchpoints, but plus 50 would have provided 34.9. Montanari did better on the last board of the set. At favourable vulnerability he held:

♠ K 6 ♥ 6 4 ♦ K J 4 2 ♣ Q J 8 7 4.

The bidding started:

West	North	East	South
Mroczk'i	Montan'i	Wojcie'k	DiFr'co
—	Pass	INT	2♣(i)
3NT	?		

(i) Both majors

Knowing that the suits were not breaking well, he doubled. This turned plus 100 into plus 200 and was worth 60.4 matchpoints.



**Massimiliano Di Franco**

On the first board of the final round, with both sides vulnerable, the Dutchmen Gerbrand Hop and Aarnout Helmich judged well to let the Italians buy it in Two Hearts. This went one down, giving North/South

only 25.5 matchpoints. The best East-West could do was plus 90 in Two Diamonds.

Board 11 was a flat Three No Trump.

Then came the last deal:

**Board 12** ♠ A 10  
 West Deals ♥ Q J 9 3  
 N-S Vul ♦ 10 8 6 5  
 ♣ J 9 3

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

West	North	East	South
Hop	Montan'i	Helmich	DiFr'co
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North led the heart queen, covered by the king and ace. A heart back now would have given the defenders four tricks, but South shifted to the club six. Declarer immediately dumped his second heart on dummy's second high diamond and made his contract.

Minus 420 gave North/South a lucky 14.9 matchpoints.

The Italians had scored 49.5 percent in the session, but had dropped only to second from first. And it is better to save one's top form for the last day.

Note, though, that if concentration ever wanders, it is often on the first board, when you are not yet fully into the game, and the last board, when you wish to check your scores. Don't let down your guard.

## Results

(all pending official confirmation)

### Youngsters Pairs Semi-Final A

1	<b>GULCZYNSKI-ANDRZEJEWSKI</b>	<b>PL</b>	<b>57,81</b>
2	<b>GULLBERG - KARLSSON</b>	<b>SWE</b>	<b>54,16</b>
3	<b>KANIA - WITKOWSKI</b>	<b>POL</b>	<b>53,95</b>
4	<b>YEKUTIELI - DAR</b>	<b>ISR</b>	<b>53,87</b>
5	<b>MAROSEVIC - RUSCH</b>	<b>GER</b>	<b>53,57</b>
6	<b>ZMUDA - KRYSA</b>	<b>POL</b>	<b>53,21</b>
7	<b>KLUKOWSKI - BIELAWSKI</b>	<b>POL</b>	<b>52,33</b>
8	<b>POLAK - SCHOLS</b>	<b>NED</b>	<b>52,28</b>
9	<b>ROWOLD - HOFFMEISTER</b>	<b>GER</b>	<b>52,21</b>
10	<b>STOUGIE - STOUGIE</b>	<b>NED</b>	<b>51,36</b>
11	<b>NIERZWICKI - KOWALEWSKI</b>	<b>POL</b>	<b>51,04</b>
12	<b>SIDEROV - DRAGANOV</b>	<b>BUL</b>	<b>50,42</b>
13	<b>CALMANOVICI - SAU</b>	<b>ITA</b>	<b>50,08</b>
14	<b>KONKOLY - FISCHER</b>	<b>HUN</b>	<b>49,28</b>
15	<b>ROBERTS - BRASS</b>	<b>ENG</b>	<b>49,24</b>
16	<b>NAB - BANAS</b>	<b>NED</b>	<b>48,82</b>
17	<b>PAUL - FARIA</b>	<b>ENG</b>	<b>48,08</b>
18	<b>VERBEEK - LEUFKENS</b>	<b>NED</b>	<b>47,62</b>
19	<b>HUZEN - VAN BEIJSTERVELDT</b>	<b>NED</b>	<b>44,65</b>
20	<b>JANECZKO - SZCZYPCZYK</b>	<b>POL</b>	<b>43,94</b>

### Youngsters Pairs Semi-Final B

the second score is the carry-over to the FinalA

1	<b>GEMBICKI - RACZ</b>	<b>POL</b>	<b>55,96</b>	
			<b>52,28</b>	
2	<b>CEPONKUS - GRIGORAITIS</b>	<b>LTU</b>	<b>55,38</b>	
			<b>51,82</b>	
3	<b>KRALIK - BOURA</b>	<b>CZE</b>	<b>54,24</b>	
			<b>51,35</b>	
4	<b>GINOSSAR - REITER</b>	<b>ISR</b>	<b>53,76</b>	
			<b>50,89</b>	
5	<b>WAGNER - TUBAK</b>	<b>HUN</b>	<b>52,45</b>	
			<b>50,42</b>	
6	STANGELAND - BAATSTAD	<b>NOR</b>	52,29	
7	SEVEREIJNS - WESTERBEEK	<b>NED</b>	52,13	
8	WIETESKA - LOSIEWICZ	<b>POL</b>	52,08	
9	CHARIGNON - LAFONT	<b>FRA</b>	51,82	
10	JASSEM - SMIESZKOL	<b>POL</b>	51,52	
11	BEN DAVID - GORTENSTEIN	<b>ISR</b>	50,63	
12	RACCA - PRUNA	<b>ITA</b>	50,23	
13	STACHNIK - KITA	<b>POL</b>	49,70	
14	GALLIK - JANAS	<b>CZE</b>	49,24	
15	HORLOCK - MITCHELL	<b>ENG</b>	48,06	
16	ERTEL - LEROY	<b>GER</b>	47,08	
17	JACKSON - DOW	<b>ENG</b>	46,46	
18	DILOVIC - MORETTI	<b>CRO</b>	45,93	
19	HAYWARD - GROOT	<b>ENG</b>	45,74	
20	PETERSEN - HULT	<b>SWE</b>	45,74	
21	SPENCER - LAM	<b>ENG</b>	43,73	
22	SCHALLER - STOECKLI	<b>SUI</b>	43,61	
23	BORGEAUD - STOECKLI	<b>SUI</b>	43,25	
24	MIJIC - SILJEG	<b>CRO</b>	40,94	

### Girls Pairs Semi-Final A

1	<b>TICHA - TICHA</b>	<b>CZE</b>	<b>54,37</b>
2	<b>SPANGENB'G-SPANGENB'G</b>	<b>NED</b>	<b>53,12</b>
3	<b>PUILLET - CHAUGNY</b>	<b>FRA</b>	<b>53,09</b>
4	<b>VLACHOVA - DUDKOVA</b>	<b>CZE</b>	<b>52,66</b>
5	<b>HOLEKSA - WEINHOLD</b>	<b>POL</b>	<b>51,91</b>
6	<b>HEIM - KAEPEL</b>	<b>GER</b>	<b>51,55</b>
7	<b>GORNIAK - KEDZIERSKA</b>	<b>POL</b>	<b>50,12</b>
8	<b>HODEROVA - CERNA</b>	<b>CZE</b>	<b>50,03</b>
9	<b>HAJKOVA - SCHULZOVA</b>	<b>CZE</b>	<b>49,56</b>
10	<b>ROSLON - MORGIEL</b>	<b>POL</b>	<b>46,94</b>

### Girls Pairs Semi-Final B

the second score is the carry-over to the FinalA

1	<b>FERRER-LOPEZ - WES'SKA</b>	<b>POL</b>	<b>60,24</b>	
			<b>52,66</b>	
2	<b>MOSZCZYNSKA - PIESWICZ</b>	<b>POL</b>	<b>56,03</b>	
			<b>52,11</b>	
3	<b>MAKSYMIUK - SZTYBER</b>	<b>POL</b>	<b>54,98</b>	
			<b>51,55</b>	
4	CHAVARRIA - COSTA	<b>ITA</b>	54,67	
5	BARENDREGT - NAB	<b>NED</b>	49,51	
6	LE PENSEC - MOURGUES	<b>FRA</b>	48,74	
7	LANZUISI - BUTTO	<b>ITA</b>	47,91	
8	MORINA - BURGIO	<b>ITA</b>	47,31	
9	ANDERSONE - GARKAJE	<b>LAT</b>	44,20	
10	CEPONKUTE - BANIKONYTE	<b>LTU</b>	41,51	
11	BIRD - O CONNOR	<b>ENG</b>	40,71	
12	BONNEY - BIRCHALL	<b>ENG</b>	40,48	

## Junior Pairs Semi-Final A

1	SIKORA - TUCZYNSKI	POL	62,16
2	VERBEEK - DRIJVER	NED	60,78
3	SPASOV - SKORCHEV	BUL	56,23
4	ILGIN - SAHIN	TUR	55,46
5	POSTIC - SOSTARIC	CRO	54,64
6	ERIKSSON - HEDSTROM	SWE	54,33
7	MISTRETTA - ZANASI	ITA	53,71
8	GOGOMAN - SCHULZ	AUT	53,70
9	DARKADAKIS - ROUSSOS	GRE	52,88
10	KATERBAU - REHDER	GER	52,46
11	MONTANARI - DI FRANCO	ITA	52,22
12	ORTH - GIAMPIETRO	GER	52,17
13	PASKE - ROBERTSON	ENG	51,86
14	BETHERS - LORENCS	LAT	51,82
15	HELMICH - HOP	NED	51,63
16	WASIAK - TACZEWSKA	POL	51,29
17	LORENZINI - GROSSET	FRA	51,24
18	SAKOWSKA - BUTRYN	POL	51,08
19	VROUSTIS - DOXIADIS	GRE	51,04
20	KAZMIERCZAK - JOCHYMSKI	POL	50,61
21	DELLE CAVE - FELLUS	ITA	50,55
22	KRYCH - BETLEY	POL	50,27
23	BETHERS - BALASOVS	LAT	49,56
24	EGGELING - GRUNKE	GER	49,36
25	GALAZKA - KRUSZEWSKI	POL	49,35
26	SOFIOS - TOGIAS	GRE	49,23
27	VALO - POULAT	FRA	48,71
28	DONDIVIC - STANICIC	CRO	48,63
29	SCHAFFER - VAN DEN HOVE	BEL	47,89
30	TSVETANOV - DONEV	BUL	47,23
31	LEBATTEUX - LANDRY	FRA	46,82
32	KOCLAR - UCAR	TUR	46,59
33	SHPUNTOU - SHPUNTOU	POL	45,68
34	DESSAIN - CONSTANTIN	ENG	44,43
35	VON BUEREN - BOVET	SUI	43,34
36	LANNI - FAILLA	ITA	39,73

## Junior Pairs Semi-Final B

the second score is the carry-over to the FinalA

1	VAN LANKVELD - V D BOS	NED	58,85	
			51,84	
2	LHUISSIER - FRANCESCH'TI	FRA	56,96	
			51,69	
3	HUBERSCHWILLER - BARNE	FRA	56,28	
			51,54	
4	HOP - DE PAGTER	NED	56,07	
			51,39	
5	ANDRZEJOWSKI - MERYNDA	POL	55,77	
			51,24	
6	MROCKOWSKI - WOJCIESZEK	POL	54,95	
7	PHILIPSEN - VAN LEEUWEN	NED	53,07	
8	IGLA - MACHNO	POL	52,84	
9	JURISIC - JELIC	SER	51,92	
10	THIZY - COUDERT	FRA	51,76	
11	BAHNIK - BARNET	CZE	51,29	
12	RUSO - GUMZEJ	CRO	51,18	
13	PENDRIGH - BOISNAULT	FRA	51,11	
14	BINA - WADL	AUT	50,69	
15	IVANCIC - KESIC	CRO	50,67	
16	MASTIC - STANKOVIC	CRO	50,65	
17	SUSTER - BARAK	SVK	50,29	
18	SERDAR - OZER	TUR	50,16	
19	BOZZAI - LAZAR	HUN	49,96	
20	MORKEN - BARTNES	NOR	49,47	
21	MARGOT - AMIGUET	SUI	49,21	
22	ANASTASATOS - KOUGIOUMTZI	GRE	48,95	
23	OIKONOMOP'LOS - PAPAYANNIS	GRE	48,47	
24	PETERSEN - BJORKSTRAND	SWE	47,93	
25	BOEKHORST - BERGE	FRA	47,49	
26	BEKERE - ILZINS	LAT	46,50	
27	PURSTL - WEINBERGER	AUT	46,07	
28	SYNNOTT - O CONNOR	IRL	45,77	
29	KAUTNY - HOPFLER	AUT	45,25	
30	ELLERBECK - BRINCK	GER	44,93	
31	GANDOGLIA - BUSOSCHII	ITA	44,66	
32	SCHIASSI - CASIMIRRI	ITA	43,85	
33	SUZER - TASKIN	TUR	43,64	
34	KRUZIC - TOTH	CRO	42,93	
35	BOYD - GORMALLY	IRL	42,81	
36	GUC - DELAC	CRO	39,49	
37	SAFRAN - OLSCHNEGGER	AUT	39,21	

### Playing Areas

The Finals A for the Juniors will be played in the room so far used by the Girls. (level 0)

The Finals A for the Youngsters and the Girls will be played in the room used by the Youngsters (level -1)

The Finals B are played in the room of the Juniors (level 2)

### Today's Schedule

9:30-13:00	Finals first session
13:15	Lunch
14:15-17:45	Finals second session



**The sisters Ticha and Spangenberg,  
first and second of the Girls' Semi-Final A**



**Spare a thought for the girls who  
do the copying – three hours in  
this heat!**



**At least one section showed a  
profit today**