



11th European Youth Bridge Pairs Championships  
Vejle, Denmark - 1-6 July 2012

Editor: Patrick Jourdain • Co-editors: Jos Jacobs, Micke Melander • Lay Out Editor: Fotis Skoularikis

Issue No. 4

Thursday, 5 July 2012

# HALF-WAY TO THE CUT



The youngest table in zonal bridge history

The entries in the Juniors, Girls and Youngsters of 50, 29, and 42 will be cut to 20, 12, and 16 at the end of today. The remainder compete in one field for the President's Cup.

Playing in the Youngsters is Christian Lahrmann aged 9 years and 3 months, in partnership with Soren Bune aged 11 years and 2 months. Even if you add their ages together they almost qualify for the event. And they met the next youngest pair, also from Denmark, of Kira Graversen, 12, & Malene Christensen, 14, to make the youngest table in Zonal history.

NOTE THE START TIME OF 9.30 a.m. in Juniors and Youngsters.

## Programme

THURSDAY July 5th

### Junior-Youngsters-Girls Pairs Barometer

Juniors/Youngsters	Girls
9.30-11.00.....1-10	10.00-11.20 .....1-9
11.15-12.45.....11-20	11.35-12.55 .....10-18
13.00.....Lunch	13.00 .....Lunch
13.30-15.30.....1-14 (1-12)	14.00-15.45 .....1-12
15.45-17.45.....15-28 (-)	16.00-17.20 .....13-21



# RESULTS

## JUNIORS

### QUALIFIER - SESSION 4

1	DI FRANCO Massimiliano - ZANASI Gabriele	60.19	27	BOVET David - MARGOT Cedric	49.29
2	WACKWITZ Ernst - WESTERBEEK Chris	58.75	28	FITSKI Wouter - SCHOONEN Ludo	49.27
3	GULLBERG Daniel - KARLSSON Johan	58.09	29	SHPUNTOU Ilya - SHPUNTOU Yan	48.95
4	GANDOGLIA Alessandro - DELLE CAVE G.	57.16	30	WADL Raffael Daniel - WEINBERGER Simon	48.93
5	JASSEM Pawel - TUCZYNSKI Piotr	57.15	31	KILANI Alexandre - LEBATTEUX Aymeric	48.40
6	GEORGESCU Horia - NISTOR Radu	57.09	32	VLAANDEREN Floris - VLAANDEREN Frits	48.29
7	BILDE Dennis - JEPSEN Emil	57.08	33	JOCHYMSKI Tomasz Maciej - KANIA Michal	48.20
8	LIETAERT Pieter - VAN DEN HOVE Wouter	55.58	34	BUUSTHOMSEN Signe - JEPSEN Rasmus Rask	47.93
9	BETHERS Peteris - ILZINS Janis	54.73	35	IGLA Bartlomiej - WOJCIESZEK Jakub	47.88
10	HEGGE Kristoffer - STANGELAND Kristian	54.72	36	EIDE Harald - ELLINGSEN Kristian	47.65
11	BOS Berend van den - LANKVELD Joris van	54.46	37	ERCAN Sehmus - SUZER Ugurcan	47.46
12	GRUENKE Paul - RUSCH Michael	54.34	38	MORTENSEN Maria Dam - ROHRBERG Matias	46.88
13	BIELAWSKI Maciej - NIAJKO Slawomir	53.78	39	LONSKI Adam - MADEJ Kamil	46.71
14	BOYD Richard - O'CONNOR Kelan	53.65	40	BROERSEN Vincent - PHILIPSEN Rens	46.53
15	HELMICH Aarnout - HOP Gerbrand	53.37	41	FISCHER Brigitta - WAGNER Zsolt	46.23
16	KARBANOVICH Stanislav - SIAREBRANY M.	52.82	42	BOURA Patrik - KRALIK Frantisek	46.10
17	BJORKSTRAND Robin - FRYKLUND Erik	52.32	43	BASA Marusa - RUS Gregor	45.53
18	KOFLER Thomas - KRONSCHLAEGER Florian	51.78	44	HALAT Tomasz - KAZMIERCZAK Remigiusz	45.32
19	KLUKOWSKI Michal - ZATORSKI Piotr	51.29	45	BEKERE Liga - GARKAJE Ginta	42.73
20	LIEPINS Karlis - RATNIEKS Janis	51.21	46	THORSEN Matilde - THORSEN Rasmus	42.34
21	HUBERSCHWILLER Matthias - TARTARIN A.	51.10	47	VERBEEK Rik - VERBEEK Thijs	41.11
22	BRAUN Raffael - WEYAND Sebastian	50.31	48	AYDOGDU Erkmén - KAPUSUZ Yusuf Berkay	40.06
23	EGE Niclas Raulund - TOFTE Lars	50.04	49	JANSEN Sander - RAMER Milan	37.17
24	FRANCESCHETTI Pierre - LHUISSIER N.	49.98	50	ELLISON Ruaridh - McLEOD Alisdair	36.38
25	JONES Edward - PAUL James	49.89			
26	ELLERBECK Max - ZIMMERMANN Felix	49.80			

### Healthy Party First!

The Danish Junior Committee and Anne Marie Øland invite all players, team managers and team coaches to a VIP event in the Center Court at 20.30 TODAY, Thursday.

Anne Marie Øland, food and fitness coach for the Danish Junior team, will be present and demonstrate how players, with correct diet and physical training, can be fit for the longer bridge sessions.

Please join us in a mouthful of healthy food and beverage to find out how to improve your chances on the final day.

Editor's note: The UNHEALTHY PARTY will be held after play tomorrow, Friday. You have time to recover before the next bridge event.

### Reminder

On Friday the 6th of July, after the closing ceremony, the Danish Junior Committee would like to invite all of you to an afterparty in the bar downstairs.

The party will start after the closing ceremony and will finish at 2 in the night.

You will be able to buy alcoholic drinks and of course softdrinks like coca cola.

Please let Mr. Morten Bilde or Mr. Kristoffer Rasmussen know if you would like to participate in the party.

You will find Morten or Kristoffer in the area around the information in the hall.

Best regards

*Morten and Kristoffer*  
The Danish Junior Committee.

# RESULTS

## YOUNGSTERS

### QUALIFIER - SESSION 4

1	GULCZYNSKI Michal - KOWALEWSKI Roman	58.15
2	CHARIGNON Fabrice - DU CORAIL Edouard	57.42
3	BEN DAVID Yuval - HERSHFANG Dan	56.67
4	OVERBEEKE Tom van - WESTERBEEK Ricardo	55.77
5	DONATI Giovanni - PERCARIO Giacomo	55.47
6	EKENBERG Simon - HULT Simon	54.66
7	BUUS THOMSEN Emil - SKOVLY Frederik	54.62
8	JEDRZEJEWSKI Grzegorz - POLOWCZYK P.	54.53
9	LOSIEWICZ Igor - TERSZAK Andrzej	54.50
10	PEDZINSKI Jan - ZELAZNY Aleksander	54.49
11	KAZMIERCZAK Wojciech - WITKOWSKI L.	54.37
12	COMBESURE Baptiste - LALOUBEYRE C.	54.32
13	POLAK Tobias - SCHOLS Michel	53.95
14	RIMSTEDT Mikael - RIMSTEDT Ola	53.60
15	BERNARD Julien - CAILLIAU Ivan	53.37
16	OIKONOMOPOULOS Ioannis - VOVOS K.	53.34
17	GUNDESEN M. - STEINMULLER J.	53.24
18	BILDE Majka Cilleborg - JEPSEN Peter	53.03
19	BILDE Soren Cilleborg - PLEJDRUP Andreas	52.73
20	STOUGIE Leen - STOUGIE Marc	52.18
21	DLUGOSZ Olga - GRABIEC Maciej	52.05
22	GRONKVIST Ida - GRONKVIST Mikael	51.40
23	ILLINGWORTH Frederick - ROBERTS Alex	51.31
24	BEUGIN Francois - DEHEEGER Colin	51.27
25	ENGELN Bas van - GOTINK Kevin	50.54
26	KOLEK Lukas - VOJTIK Jakub	50.50
27	JAKABSIC Jakub - KVOCEK Juraj	49.94
28	GINOSSAR Itamar - REITER Adam	49.53
29	ERASTOVA Anastasia - ZVEZDIN Zigfrid	49.12
30	COPPENS Pim - DONKERSLOOT Bob	48.56
31	SEVEREIJNS Luc - TIJSSEN Luc	47.24
32	BAHBOUT Sam - VAN OVERMEIRE Jens	45.32
33	NIJSSEN Oscar - SMID Tom	44.09
34	BRODERSEN Jon - NIELSEN Tobias Hinz	43.45
35	BIJSTERVELDT Niels van - KILJAN Veri	43.31
36	BUNE Soren - LAHRMANN Christian	43.15
37	DJILOVIC Josko - MIJIC Ante	42.83
38	LABRIZ Daniel - SAFSTEN Johan	41.95
39	ALTER Florian - LEROY Christian	40.99
40	CASPERSEN Soeren Veel - ROSAGER Oliver	39.40
41	TAYLER Angus - WOLSTENHOLME Arthur	37.33
42	CHRISTENSEN M - GRAVERSEN K.	35.93

## GIRLS

### QUALIFIER - SESSION 4

1	SPANGENBERG Sigrid - TICHA Magdalena	63.50
2	CHAVARRIA Margherita - LANZUISI Flavia	60.68
3	KAZMUCHA Danuta - SAKOWSKA Natalia	59.83
4	BUTTO Federica - COSTA Margherita	57.45
5	MORGIEL Anna - ROSLON Barbara	56.84
6	BRINCK Katharina - EGGELING Marie	56.57
7	NAB Judith - SPANGENBERG Jamilla	56.15
8	BUDZYNSKA Magda - SROKA Joanna	56.09
9	HOLEKSA Magdalena - WESOLOWSKA K.	55.90
10	BIRD Sinead - O'CONNOR Sarah	54.97
11	DUFROT Katarzyna - KEDZIERSKA Urszula	54.96
12	DELFT Doris van - RUITER Emma de	53.77
13	LELEU Anais - SEGUIN Pauline	53.16
14	TACZEWSKA Joanna - ZMUDA Justyna	53.08
15	JAROSZ Aleksandra - WEINHOLD Izabela	50.17
16	PETERSEN Irma - RODIN Erika	49.12
17	LE PENSEC Alice - PUILLET Carole	48.80
18	CHOJNICKA Agata - CHUDY Agnieszka	45.98
19	PETERSEN Moa - WAHLESTEDT Catrin	44.87
20	KAYA Deniz - USKUP Burcu	44.71
21	DUFRENE Beryl - THUILLEZ Mathilde	43.93
22	BYRA Aleksandra - BYRA Joanna	43.83
23	BANAS Natalia - WACKWITZ Janneke	43.27
24	BOTTA Giorgia - SALVATO Michela	43.16
25	GANZEVLES Barbara - LEJEUNE Mette	41.71
26	BUNE Sophie - JANTZEN Britt	41.71
27	PALCZYNSKA Liliana - SKUBICH Karolina	39.49
28	CHARKOW Alischa - CHARKOW Tamara	39.34
29	JUSTESEN R. - KOCH-PALMUND Sofie	38.22

## Mobiles

Players are reminded that mobile phones and electronic devices may not be brought into the playing area and toilets. Any player bringing a mobile phone and/or an electronic device into the playing area or toilets will be fined 100% of the match points available on a board during the session. This penalty is mandatory. TD will conduct random searches for such devices.

## The Start of the Junior Pairs

All fifty Junior pairs took their seats on time. They faced two days of qualifying Barometer with the top 20 carrying forward a score to the all-play-all final day.

A list of potential medal winners had to include the French pair Nicolas L’Huissier & Pierre Franceschetti so the Bulletin sat at their table for the first two rounds.

This pair, now both aged 24, won the gold medal in the 2008 World Youngster Pairs in Beijing. They have already joined a squad of six pairs training for the French Open team. L’Huissier is also a talented musician and writes for the theatre. Franceschetti, from Corsica, is developing a career as a bridge professional. Their system is rare for France. At favourable vulnerability (“green”) they play a mini-notrump i.e. 10-12 for those who have not heard of such a thing. At white (Love all) their notrump is 12-14, and when vulnerable they revert to tradition and play 15-17. Of course, with such a variation, and the wallets in use here in Vejle, it is important you are not colour-blind! (The wallets only show vulnerability as red for the direction name.) Their majors are 5-card with forcing INT response.

Their opponents on the first round were Harald Eide, 20, and Kristian Ellingsen, 22, of Norway. They play a fairly standard 5-card major, strong notrump style.

Board 1. Dealer N. None Vul.

♠ 4 ♥ K J 5 ♦ K Q 9 8 3 ♣ Q 10 6 5	<table style="margin: auto;"> <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		♠ A J 10 9 6 ♥ 9 ♦ A 7 6 5 ♣ A 7 3	♠ K Q 7 5 ♥ A 4 3 2 ♦ J 10 ♣ J 9 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ 8 3 2 ♥ Q 10 8 7 6 ♦ 4 2 ♣ K 8 4											

West	North	East	South
Ellingsen	L’Huissier	Eide	Franceschetti
	1♠	Pass	INT
Db1	2♦	2♥	Pass
Pass	Db1	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

L’Huissier opened 1♠ as North and partner gave a courtesy response of a forcing notrump. This certainly made it difficult for E-W to reach their best denomination of notrumps where, despite only 22 points, they will collect nine tricks.

Two Hearts by East-West can go down due to the bad trump break but when L’Huissier re-opened with a double it was natural for Franceschetti to remove to the known 8-card spade fit.

East, Eide, led a club. L’Huissier won in dummy and played a diamond. When the queen appeared he took the ace and played a second round. West overtook his partner’s ten with the king to play a trump. The finesse lost to the queen and Eide wisely played a second trump.

Now L’Huissier could only ruff one diamond and still had to lose another trump to go one down. -50 was worth 22 of 48 matchpoints. The results ranged from 2♠x making for N/S to 3NTx making for E/W. If you were the E/W pair who reached 3NT let us know.

At the end of the round the French pair discussed whether rising with the ace of trumps after West won the second diamond would achieve anything but came to the conclusion that East’s trumps are just too good.

The next board was a bidding exam for East-West:

Board 2. Dealer E. N-S Vul.

♠ K 6 ♥ A J 7 ♦ 9 2 ♣ A Q 10 7 5 4	<table style="margin: auto;"> <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		♠ A 7 2 ♥ 6 3 ♦ J 4 ♣ K J 9 8 6 2	♠ Q J 10 5 ♥ K Q 10 5 4 2 ♦ A 10 3 ♣ -
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ 9 8 4 3 ♥ 9 8 ♦ K Q 8 7 6 5 ♣ 3											

West	North	East	South
Ellingsen	L’Huissier	Eide	Franceschetti
2♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass	4♣	Pass

3♥ was alerted as forcing, and stronger than a jump to four. I don’t particularly like East’s move of 4♣ rather than, say, 4♦ but they stopped at a safe level.

Of course, 12 tricks are easy without a diamond lead, but South was dealt both top honours and duly led ♦K. Declarer won at once, played a trump to the jack, ruffed a club high, crossed to a second trump and when that took care of the rest, laid down the ace of clubs. When that produced a discard from South declarer was reduced to playing on spades. North won the first spade and cashed a diamond, holding declarer to 11 tricks. -450 was worth 29/48 for N-S. Two pairs bid and made slam, four bid it and went down.

On the second round the French pair switched to East-West against a pair from Turkey. Erkmen Aydogdu, 20, and Yusuf Berkay Kapusuz, 22, (he prefers to be known by his second given name) play what they call Modified Polish Club. This is 5-card majors and strong notrump with a

three-way One Club that can be natural, balanced, or very strong, any shape.

The third board was another possible slam, makeable as the cards lie, even on a club lead, provided you can guess which finesse to take....

Board 3. Dealer S. E-W Vul.

♠ K 8 ♥ Q 9 8 6 4 ♦ 8 ♣ J 9 7 5 3	♠ J 3 ♥ A K J 3 ♦ 9 7 6 3 2 ♣ 8 4 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 10px auto; background-color: #336633; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span>N</span> <span>W</span> <span>E</span> <span>S</span> </div> ♠ A Q 9 6 2 ♥ 5 ♦ A K Q 4 ♣ A 10 2	♠ 10 7 5 4 ♥ 10 7 2 ♦ J 10 5 ♣ K Q 6	
--------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Aydogdu</i>	<i>L'Huissier</i>	<i>Kapusuz</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	5♣	Dbl	4NT
Pass	6♦	All Pass	5NT

The Turkish pair had a perfectly sensible auction. The snag was that the response to 4NT of 5♣ showing one keycard for diamonds gave East, L'Huissier, the chance to double for the lead. 5NT confirmed the presence of all the keycards for diamonds and had North's king been in spades rather than hearts he would have bid the grand. As it was he signed off in Six Diamonds.

West might have to guess whether to lead a heart or a club, but thanks to the double he duly led a club to the queen and ace. Kapusuz won at once and laid down two top diamonds. On the second round West threw a heart.

What should declarer make of this? With the good heart holding in dummy one could reasonably assume West held five hearts. You might think that made the heart finesse a better chance than the spade finesse, but there was an element of bluff and double bluff here. West had an easy club pitch. Would he be more likely to throw a heart from five small or five with the queen?

After some thought Kapusuz decided to rely on the spade finesse. He crossed to the ace of hearts and at once led the jack of spades. When that lost to the king the defence cashed their club trick and the slam was down.

We can see that if declarer relies instead on the heart finesse the slam is home. Declarer can draw the third trump, take the heart finesse, ditch both losing clubs from hand, and run the jack of spades. That loses but your last trump in hand takes care of one of dummy losers and the third

spade takes care of the other.

On such close decisions do many matchpoints hang. -50 was worth only 2 matchpoints for N-S, whereas +920 earned other N-S pairs 40/48 match points. Seven pairs bid and made the slam.

Our last board watching the French pair was of much less interest:

Board 4. Dealer W. All Vul.

♠ Q 6 ♥ A 9 7 6 4 ♦ J 10 ♣ 8 5 4 2	♠ J 10 8 5 ♥ Q J 2 ♦ K 9 7 ♣ A Q J <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 10px auto; background-color: #336633; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span>N</span> <span>W</span> <span>E</span> <span>S</span> </div> ♠ 9 7 3 2 ♥ 10 8 ♦ 8 5 2 ♣ 10 7 6 3	♠ A K 4 ♥ K 5 3 ♦ A Q 6 4 3 ♣ K 9	
---------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Aydogdu</i>	<i>L'Huissier</i>	<i>Kapusuz</i>
Pass	1♣	Dbl	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Aydogdu opened their three-way One Club (this time a weak notrump) and L'Huissier doubled. A small system digression here: at one time it was popular to play complex defences to Strong Club (such as Truscott or CRASH) based on the idea that you should always be in the auction to destroy their investigations. Nowadays the top players have much more natural defences against Strong Club, with perhaps just INT and double as special agreements. That keeps the system memory less burdensome when you also come up against the two-way and three-way One Club.

Over Franceschetti's jump to Three Hearts L'Huissier considered stronger actions, but then wisely settled for a simple raise to Four. North led a spade. Declarer won in hand and at once took the diamond finesse, repeating it once it held. He then cashed two rounds of trumps ending in dummy and continued diamonds, ditching clubs from hand. North ruffed the fourth diamond and cashed his ace of clubs to hold declarer to 11 tricks.

A point of interest was that when the third diamond held, declarer might have taken a club discard on the spade before playing the fourth diamond. But from the auction Franceschetti could be sure the ace of clubs was onside.

-650 for N-S was, of course, the most popular result, but was worth 31/48 for N-S as eight pairs did better with the E/W cards.

## Junior Pairs Qualification, Session I

Reporting about the first session of any pairs' event is sort of a random activity as you won't have too many clues beforehand about which pairs to watch. You might avoid watching the "usual suspects" as if things go according to plan, they will appear in or around the top of the standings anyway, as the event goes on.

So here are a few boards that drew my interest before we could enjoy the lunch.

On board 6, there was a slam in the air but only few pairs came that far: The auction below occurred at the table where I was watching.

Board 6. Dealer E. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Eide</i>	<i>Björkstrand</i>	<i>Ellingsen</i>	<i>Fryklund</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Dble	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♥	3♠	4♥
4♣	Dble	All Pass	

In view of the vulnerability, North's second double looks a good idea with this amount of top tricks. Still, beating 4♣ by two tricks needs excellent defence and the Swedes indeed rose to the occasion. North led the ♣A on which South played the nine and now, North continued the ♦A and another. His ♥A then was the entry to give his partner the much-needed diamond ruff. Still, +500 netted only 22 mp to NS (26 mp to EW) as there were four instances of NS being doubled in 5♣ scoring +750 (which of the EW players holds the defensive tricks to beat this contract?) as well as five pairs who duly reached the slam for a well-deserved +920. Two pairs were presented with a double after reaching the club slam, so they took 47 mp each. Nobody was in 6♥ - a better-scoring contract that was reached by one pair in the Youngsters championships.

On the next board, we saw a good auction by a Turkish pair to the correct final contract.

Board 7. Dealer S. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fryklund</i>	<i>Aydogdu</i>	<i>Björkstrand</i>	<i>Kapusuz</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Dble	4♦
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Slam is too high but it is a much better proposition than 3NT. In either contract, you will have to bring in the clubs without loser but 1370 is worth much more than 660. As the ♣K was offside anyway, it did not matter which way declarer would tackle the clubs...

At three tables, declarers in 3NT managed to avoid a spade lead and thus made 10 tricks but 5♣ was still worth 38-10 mp.

On the next board, the Turkish pair again showed considerable accuracy:

Board 8. Dealer W. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fryklund</i>	<i>Aydogdu</i>	<i>Björkstrand</i>	<i>Kapusuz</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Dble	3♦
All Pass			

On any reasonable diamond break, 3NT in NS is cold. How to bid it, is another problem...if the auction starts with 1♦ by South in 4th position and 1♥ by North, would you ever think of rebidding 3NT as South? Making 10 tricks was worth 36 mp.

On the next board, EW might punish NS for their quite normal (certainly at pairs) but slightly light-hearted overcall by bidding and also making an impossible heart game.

Board 9. Dealer N. E-W Vul.

♠ 9 ♥ A K 9 7 6 3 ♦ J 7 ♣ 10 9 4 3	<table style="margin: auto;"> <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		♠ K 6 5 ♥ J 4 ♦ A 9 8 6 ♣ A Q 7 2	♠ A J 10 8 4 ♥ 10 8 2 ♦ K 5 ♣ J 8 6 ♠ Q 7 3 2 ♥ Q 5 ♦ Q 10 4 3 2 ♣ K 5
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
<i>Aydogdu</i>	<i>Lietaert</i>	<i>Kapusuz</i>	<i>Van den Hove</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♠
Dble	Pass	3♣	All Pass

As you can see, EW's diamond loser goes on the ♠K if the defence leads spades. When West did not repeat his suit, EW had to be content with 3♣ which made for a score of exactly average: 24 mp.

The courageous ones to reach 4♥ and make it too would get 41 mp for their efforts.

The next board was a slam but the typical matchpoint problem was to find the correct denomination:

Board 10. Dealer E. All Vul.

♠ Q 7 6 5 3 ♥ 7 2 ♦ K 9 8 7 ♣ 4 2	<table style="margin: auto;"> <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		♠ J 4 2 ♥ K 9 4 3 ♦ 5 4 2 ♣ 8 7 5	♠ 10 8 ♥ J 5 ♦ A Q J 10 3 ♣ Q J 9 3 ♠ A K 9 ♥ A Q 10 8 6 ♦ 6 ♣ A K 10 6
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
<i>Aydogdu</i>	<i>Lietaert</i>	<i>Kapusuz</i>	<i>Van den Hove</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	4NT
All Pass		Pass	6NT

The NS bidding I saw was not too scientific but the Belgians had little trouble in avoiding their known club fit. On the lead of the ♦9, declarer had some anxious moments but he decided to put up the ace and take the heart finesse. With two heart tricks in the bag, he could then simply revert to diamonds for his contract and no less than 41 mp. Only six pairs were in 6NT but they were all beaten by the one pair to bid and make 7♣ with the help of a successful finesse and a friendly trump break. Congratulations to them: it's a Junior event after all.

During the second part of the morning session, I saw a board where declarer was wide overboard but found a fine play to reduce his losses. It was an interesting table as the only Junior pair from the Czech Republic was playing the only Junior pair from Slovenia:

Board 13. Dealer N. All Vul.

♠ A 8 7 ♥ 10 6 4 3 ♦ 5 2 ♣ 10 6 4 3	<table style="margin: auto;"> <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		♠ 9 6 5 ♥ J ♦ A K Q J 7 3 ♣ J 8 5	♠ J 10 4 3 ♥ A 9 8 2 ♦ 10 8 6 ♣ Q 7 ♠ K Q 2 ♥ K Q 7 5 ♦ 9 4 ♣ A K 9 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
<i>Karbanovich</i>	<i>Boura</i>	<i>Siarebrany</i>	<i>Kralik</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dble
Pass	1♥	3♦	Dble
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

South's second double does not really appeal to me. A raise to 3♥ would have worked much better and would do justice to the South hand as well. North, on the other hand, might have tried 4♦ as "pick a major."

Against 5♥, East led two top diamonds and continued the suit but declarer ruffed with dummy's king, cashed the ♥Q noting the fall of the jack and played a low trump successfully to his nine. After that, he only lost to the ♠A as West was still out of diamonds after getting his spade trick.

Two down would have been a round zero so going only one down saved the Czechs 12 mp.

The Slovenians earned themselves another good score with this daring auction:

Board 14. Dealer E. None Vul.

♠ A K Q 10 8 ♥ J 10 2 ♦ K 6 3 ♣ 7 5	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #336633; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W      E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W      E	S	♠ 9 2 ♥ Q 8 3 ♦ A Q J 7 ♣ A K Q 4	♠ J 6 3 ♥ 9 7 6 5 4 ♦ 10 4 2 ♣ 6 3
N						
W      E						
S						

West	North	East	South
Karbanovich	Boura	Siarebrany	Kralik
1♠	Pass	1♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass	3♦	Pass

After a natural auction, EW ended up just a little too high when Karbanovich over-evaluated his spades just a shade in his raise to 6NT. South, with nothing to guide him, led a club, giving declarer something to play for. Siarebrany won the ace and first cashed two top diamonds from his hand, maybe hoping for a bad break and thus an indication about how to tackle the spades. As nothing special had happened, he then continued by playing spades from the top. When they broke 3-3, he had 12 tricks but his early diamond play had made it impossible to squeeze North out of his clubs and the ♥AK. Had he cashed all his diamonds before turning his attention to spades, North would have had to find a discard from ♥A and ♣J10x in the four-card ending. 6NT

undoubled was also reached by two other pairs.

The two pairs (un)lucky enough to be doubled in their 6NT chalked up their “well-deserved overtrick” when South failed to find the essential lead, after which declarer simply went for his luck in spades only to find out that North had become the victim of this fully automatic, easy squeeze in the rounded suits.

Just before lunch, there was a board on which both major suit games looked perfectly playable at first sight but would not be made on most occasions because of a ruff in the non-trump suit. Thus, it did not matter too much if EW would manage to locate their spade fit or not. Or maybe it did, after all:

Board 19. Dealer S. E-W Vul.

♠ 9 5 ♥ 5 ♦ J 8 5 ♣ Q J 10 9 6 4 3	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #336633; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W      E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W      E	S	♠ K 8 6 2 ♥ K Q 10 4 3 ♦ Q 10 7 ♣ K	♠ Q J 4 3 ♥ J 6 2 ♦ A K 9 6 ♣ 5 2
N						
W      E						
S						

The strange thing is that in spades, West might lose three aces and two heart ruffs whereas in hearts, nine tricks are secure on a double-dummy line. Ruff the second club, cash a top trump from the West hand (South has an automatic duck with his four trumps, of course) and play on spades. The defence will come to three aces and a spade ruff. As this is a pairs event, you probably would not play like this but simply continue trumps, only to find out that you are in great danger now of going down a lot. If, on the auction, you have the guts to assume South has only three clubs, you will still make 3♥ as South will be out of clubs after scoring a trick with the 13th trump.

♣A, club ruff, ♥K, heart to the jack and a spade up. South takes his ace at the second round, cashes the ♥A and plays a club. As this is his last club, you can safely ruff this and thus will be home at the risk of going down two or three if South has another club left...

At the table where I was watching, 1♣ was known to be at least two but there were no guts and thus no glory. One down was worth 11 mp only. For the sake of completeness, this was the auction I saw:

West	North	East	South
Wagner	Boyd	Fischer	O'Connor
1♥	3♣	3♥	All Pass



Erkmen Aydogdu, Turkey

## Dutch Diaries (4)

by Kees Tammens

Six of the seven Dutch mixed pairs started the second day of the first European Junior Mixed Pairs championships in the first twenty. So a strong finish could have resulted in a place on the podium. However in the morning the pairs were really not at their best and in the afternoon session more went wrong than right. A twelfth place for Jamilla Spangenberg and Chris Westerbeek, Jamilla having the small pleasure of beating twin sister Sigrid (with Ernst Wackwitz) by one place, was not really what the Dutch were hoping for, or expecting.

A big hand however for all those Polish pairs finishing in the top-10 and of course to the champions Bartłomiej and Justyna, and Joanna (is her daughter or son to be now the youngest European medal winner?) and the fearless Danes Signe and Dennis. On this deal from Session 7 of the Mixed, Justyna made life easy for Bartłomiej but actually had to do all the work herself.

Board 7. Dealer S. All Vul.

<p>♠ K J ♥ A 10 9 6 ♦ K Q J 5 ♣ J 8 3</p>	<table style="margin: auto;"> <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		<p>♠ Q 9 7 5 4 ♥ 4 3 ♦ A 9 7 ♣ K Q 2</p>	<p>♠ A 6 2 ♥ K Q 8 7 5 2 ♦ - ♣ A 10 9 5</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											



Aarnout Helmich, Poland

West	North	East	South
Westerbeek	Igła	J. Spangenberg	Zmuda
INT	Pass	2♥	Dble
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

North did not mind his partner's double of 4♠, undoubtedly asking for a special lead, and still led his singleton ♥J. Declarer took ♥A and played ♠J, ducked. ♠K was for ♠A in South who played a small heart for North to ruff. And finally the diamond came for a ruff, down one and all the matchpoints.

Scoring poorly but still a lot of fun was this deal from the final session:

Board 30. Dealer E. None Vul.

<p>♠ J 10 8 3 ♥ A 5 ♦ 10 9 8 ♣ A K 9 5</p>	<table style="margin: auto;"> <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		<p>♠ 6 2 ♥ K 10 7 6 2 ♦ K 6 5 3 ♣ 6 4</p>	<p>♠ A 9 7 5 ♥ Q 9 8 ♦ Q 4 2 ♣ 7 3 2</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
Zatorski	Helmich	Taczewska	De Ruiter
Pass	INT	Pass	1♣
		All Pass	

East led a small heart for ♥A and West returned a heart for East's ♥K. East, with no further entry, decided to switch to a small spade. Declarer, Aarnout Helmich, took ♠K and played ♣Q for West's ♣K. West returned the ♠J for dummy's ♠Q. The ♣J was taken by West's ace and a low spade came back, declarer putting up ♠A. Now a small diamond went to the jack in dummy, which held the trick. Now declarer crossed to ♥Q. This squeezed West in three suits!

Seeing West dispose of ♦9 Helmich continued ♦Q, all playing small. With ♦A and ♣10 available as two more winners Helmich had his contract, but just to show off that he knew the ending he played his losing ♠9 and spectacularly discarded his ♦A from dummy! West took the trick with ♠10 and had to play into the ♣108 tenace! If you score not so many matchpoints, also playing a hand like this can create great fun.

## Girls Pairs *Weinhold for a quadruple?*

In 2009 Isabella Weinhold, Poland, won her first International tournament in Brasov, Romania, when she became a Champion in the Girls Teams series. The following year she won the European Girls Pairs in Opatija, Croatia. The triple was captured in 2011 when she repeated her victory by winning the Girls Teams in Albena, Bulgaria. The question is, will it be a quadruple now in 2012?

We followed the Polish Girl pair in the first two rounds. On the first hand they missed game and ended up in a partscore, certainly not the start they wanted to have in the Championship getting only 6 MPs out of 26 possible. Then came board two:

You hold:

♠A K 9   ♥9 2   ♦A K J 8 6 5 4   ♣9

Partner opens with 1♥, you bid 2♦ and get 2♥ back from partner. A handy forcing 3♦ gets 3NT from partner. Now, would you select Pass, 4♦ or 4NT?

Board 2. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Weinhold	Eggeling	Jarosz	Brinck
		1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass!

Weinhold surprisingly passed. Brinck kicked off with seven of clubs. That went to the nine, queen and declarer's ace. As South has the heart ace you can make 11 tricks eas-

### REFRESHMENTS

If you are in need of soft drinks, ice cream, sweets etc. this week there is a service shop where you can buy at favourable prices. The "shop" is situated down the long hall adjoining the playing area. It is open during play times, both just before and after, and during breaks.

ily by playing on hearts, but that would be far too risky. So, seven rounds of diamonds and one round of spades followed, leaving the following position:

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

Note that had South kept two spades and only one club it would now be safe for West to set up a heart. In the ending shown Jarosz trusted her instincts, cashing the second spade, ditching a high heart from hand, and exiting with a heart. This threw Brinck in on the ace of hearts who now had to give declarer a second trick in clubs. Well played, but unfortunately the Polish girls had missed a cold slam in diamonds (you can also make 12 tricks in hearts) and only got 11 MPs.



Isabella Weinhold, Poland

Board 3. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ — ♥ 8 5 4 3 ♦ AKQJ85 ♣ KQ5	♠ J 10 8 7 3 ♥ K Q ♦ 3 ♣ A J 9 8 6	♠ 6 2 ♥ 7 6 ♦ 10 9 6 4 2 ♣ 10 7 4 2	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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> ♠ AKQ954 ♥ AJ1092 ♦ 7 ♣ 3		N		W		E		S	
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
Weinhold	Eggeling	Jarosz	Brinck
			1♠
Dbl	4♣*	Pass	4NT*
Dbl	Pass*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Things didn't get better when Eggeling-Brinck without problems bid their slam. 4♣ was a fitjump showing clubs and spades. Brinck now realized that it was just a question of aces, and used 4NT. Weinhold tried to rock the boat by disturbing the auction but N-S knew what they were doing. DOPI was used with pass showing one keycard. Brinck then jumped to slam.

Weinhold cashed the ace of diamonds and shifted to a heart in trick two. Declarer simply played two rounds of trumps and could claim the contract. Only three tables



Katharina Brinck, Germany

missed the slam so the disaster wasn't that big for the Polish Champions. Three boards played, all scoring below average, certainly not the kind of start you want in a tournament if you are aiming for the gold.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ AKJ9753 ♥ 8 6 ♦ K ♣ Q74	♠ Q 8 2 ♥ AKQJ3 ♦ 9 7 4 ♣ K 3	♠ 10 4 ♥ 7 ♦ QJ1062 ♣ J10985	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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> ♠ 6 ♥ 10 9 5 4 2 ♦ A 8 5 3 ♣ A 6 2		N		W		E		S	
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
Uskup	Weinhold	Kaya	Jarosz
1♠	2♥	Pass	3♠*
Dbl	Pass	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Weinhold was very close to getting a top on this hand. 3♠ was a splinter but when neither had any higher ambitions they came to stop in 4♥. Kaya led the ten of spades, won by Uskup with the king. The three of spades came back, Weinhold went up with the queen and discarded a diamond from dummy. Two rounds of trumps followed and declarer then smoothly eliminated both the black suits. Weinhold "knew" that West had seven spades, two hearts and three or four clubs. With the elimination done and when East only followed low when diamonds was played towards dummy declarer could have taken her chance to let West in, "if" she had a diamond and a higher one... That would have endplayed West for a ruff-and-discard for an overtrick. But Weinhold played a diamond to the ace and had to give up two diamond tricks to East in the end. When many tables missed game, +620 gave 21 MP:s and the first good score for the Polish girls.

Uskup actually only had one chance escaping being endplayed and that was to return the king of diamonds in the second trick, when that didn't happen and partner couldn't make a "crocodile coup" over her king, it should have been eleven tricks to declarer.

More problems came for Weinhold on board 5. She had:

♠Q 9 8 2   ♥10 8 7   ♦K 7 2   ♣10 4 2

Board 5. Dealer North. N-S Vul.

West	North	East	South
Uskup	Weinhold	Kaya	Jarosz
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

INT was forcing and 2♠ promised 4-5 in the majors with extra values, 2NT asked for more information and 3♦ promised something in diamonds as well. What do you lead when opponents bid like that?

♠ 10 7 3 ♥ 3 ♦ Q 10 6 ♣ K Q 8 7 6 3	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <span>N</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <span>W</span> <span>E</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <span>S</span> </div> </div>	♠ Q 9 8 2 ♥ 10 8 7 ♦ K 7 2 ♣ 10 4 2	♠ A K 6 4 ♥ A Q J 5 2 ♦ A 5 3 ♣ 9
	♠ J 5 ♥ K 9 6 4 ♦ J 9 8 4 ♣ A J 5		

West	North	East	South
<i>Uskup</i>	<i>Weinhold</i>	<i>Kaya</i>	<i>Jarosz</i>
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Weinhold didn't have an easy task of having to lead on that hand. When she finally placed the four of clubs on the



Burcu Uskup, Turkey

table the Polish girls were close to scoring another disaster. Jarosz could have saved the board for them by playing the jack, but when she went up with the ace and continued with the jack it was game over. Declarer now even had time to finesse in hearts for ten tricks. The first zero was noted...

It would be interesting to run that hand in a deal-generator to analyze how often it will be right to start with a club versus that particular bidding. The daily bulletin staff are in doubt...

Board 6. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

♠ Q 8 5 2 ♥ A 5 3 ♦ 10 4 3 ♣ Q 8 4	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <span>N</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <span>W</span> <span>E</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <span>S</span> </div> </div>	♠ A 7 4 ♥ K J 9 6 4 ♦ K ♣ K 10 9 7	♠ J 10 9 6 ♥ 10 7 2 ♦ Q J 9 7 5 ♣ 2
		♠ K 3 ♥ Q 8 ♦ A 8 6 2 ♣ A J 6 5 3	

West	North	East	South
<i>Uskup</i>	<i>Weinhold</i>	<i>Kaya</i>	<i>Jarosz</i>
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

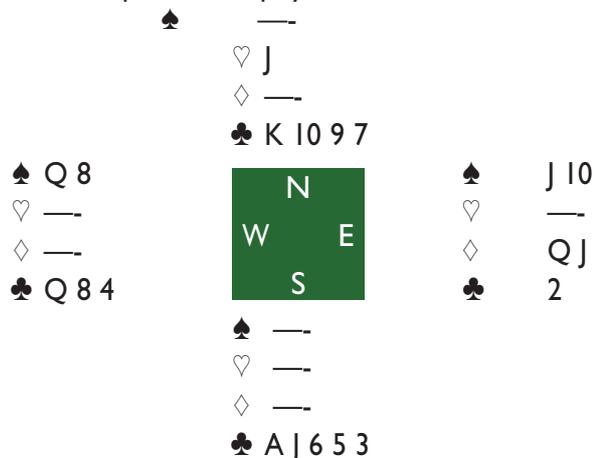
It's impressive to see players just shake their shoulders, make a note in the scorecard, and then pick up the next hand and continue like nothing happened when having such a disaster. This is exactly what happened here. Jarosz came to be declarer in 4♥, maybe she should have taken a shot at 4♣ to search for a slam when partner bid 3♣. But when the smoke had cleared they actually had a very good result without being in slam, since she managed to make twelve tricks.

Uskup led the three of diamonds won by declarer in dummy with the king. A heart to the queen followed, smoothly ducked by Uskup in tempo, declarer continued with trump to dummy's king where Uskup again followed

### PRESIDENT'S CUP

If you don't qualify for the Final and want to play in the President's Cup, you should register your pair at the Registration Desk, in the entrance of the hotel, at the latest before 8.00 pm, and preferably before the last session today.

low. Jarosz read the situation correctly and played a third round. She was relieved when both players followed. West exited with a low spade that ran to declarer's king who now cashed the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond, cashed the ace of spades and played a club to the ace leaving:



Jarosz played a club to the ace carefully noticing the two and four appear to the right and left. She next played the three of clubs from hand and went into the tank when West followed with the eight. After a long thought she carefully covered with the nine and when East discarded she could claim twelve tricks. 24 MPs to the Polish girls who managed to score 56.41% over the first nine boards. They say it's a long way to Tipperary, but it ain't over until that lady in Copenhagen sings...

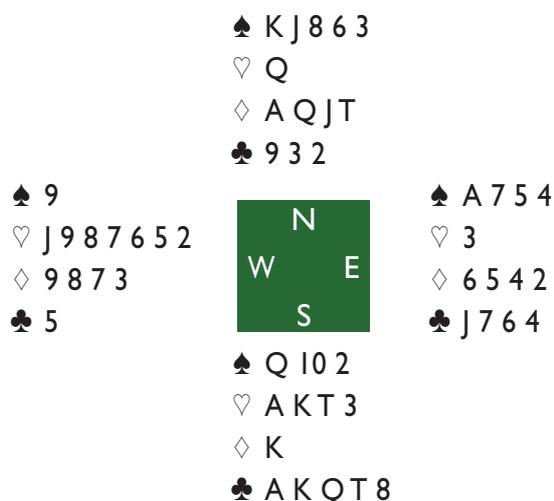


Deniz Kaya, Turkey

### An eternal shame

Yes, it happened again as it has happened to far too many of us: ending up in a grand slam missing the ace of trumps. This time, a Dutch pair suffered this fate but on their way to their ignominy, they were helped very much by their opponents. Judge for yourself:

Board 21 Dealer N. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Kazmierczak	Severeijns	Roslon	Van Delft
	1♠	Pass	2♣
3♥	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Dble	5♥	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	7NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Even in Junior circles, 3♥ might not be everybody's choice but five off would have been a good save against the small slam anyway. Please note that playing in the 4-4 fit would be a worse idea for EW.

However, NS were not in the least impressed and continued their slam explorations. When South launched RKC, West introduced another gadget: the double of 4NT just to check if the opponents know their agreements. This double was very popular in the Netherlands a few years ago, when Jan Jansma, a well-known Dutch international player, introduced it. According to him, quite a lot of opponents ran into trouble after he doubled their 4NT.

Mainly the same thing happened here. North tried to show just two key-cards but his partner was thinking of three and thus confidently bid the grand. After East's very impolite double (one should not double the opponents' grand when one is looking at the ace of trumps) South ran to 7NT only to find out that, even on a diamond lead, the ♠A was the one and only inescapable loser. So NS had to leave this table sadder and wiser...

## USA Trials for the World Games – I

### by Maurizio DI SACCO

A very important way to learn, is to watch the champions in action. Here is one of the top event of the year.

Eighteen teams – a rather lesser number than in the last editions – came to Shambaugh, near Chicago, to play for the right to represent the United States in the World Games to be held in Lille (FRA), from 9th to 23rd of August.

The top three seeded, NICKELL, DIAMOND and FLEISHER in that order, were directly placed into the KO bracket, the first two starting from the Quarter Finals, and the third from the Round of 16. The remaining ones played a Round Robin: fifteen rounds of seven boards each, to qualify eleven teams. This was a rather unsatisfactory mechanism, because the short length of the whole phase, as well as the single matches. Not by chance, the teams seeded 1 and 4 of the Round Robin, thus 4 and 7 of the whole competition, were knocked out! GORDON even finished last, though being the team that knocked out the team ANGELINI in Veldhoven (Fantoni, Meckstroth, Nunes, Rodwell), and not by chance, fielding two past winners of the Bermuda Bowl (Alan Sontag and Ron Rubin).

Starting from the Round of 16, played as a KO over 120 boards, things became serious: with the only exception of WOLFSON, seeded 5, ousted by number 12 MILNER, all the favourites got to the Quarter Finals, with no less than five matches ending before the last session, when the losing teams conceded. Furthermore, MILNER contained two silver medallists of the last Bermuda Bowl (Justin Lall and Kevin Bathurst), not exactly weak players.

The Quarter Finals brought into the competition the two top seeded, and with them Bob Hamman, staging his last play wearing the NICKELL shirt. The number one seeded started – quite usually – poorly, down 153 to 95 at the half-way mark. However, once more as usual, it organized a tremendous comeback, ending comfortably winners 248 to 213.

In the meantime, DIAMOND trashed JACOBS, and MILNER kept running out MAHAFFEY (8). The big surprise came from LEE, a four players squad, including a sponsor, capable of sending home FLEISHER.

### RUBBISH! RUBBISH! RUBBISH!

It is not the job of Vingsted staff to pick up litter outside (or inside) the building. So please pick up discarded cans, bottles, sweet wrappers, scorecards etc. and place them in a litter basket either outside or inside the building. Also, please return undamaged Bulletins and opponents' system cards to the table in the foyer for others to have.

The semifinals presented no thrill whatsoever: DIAMOND was 170 IMP ahead with two sessions to go, and LEE called it a day. NICKELL was +101 three sessions to go: MILNER, sportingly, played on, recovering a few points, but ending with a loss: 289 to 243. The two top teams came to face each other once more, as very often in the recent past, and not only in American Trials, or ACBL Nationals (the two teams disputed the Rosenblum Final in Philadelphia 2010, DIAMOND winning; incidentally, the Rosenblum is the only title still missing to the belt of Bob Hamman and the Meckwell).

First blood was drawn by NICKELL (it is worth pointing out that Meckstroth and Rodwell were sitting out, an event I have no memory of: perhaps even they are ageing!) in board 4, but it was more a DIAMOND's suicide. North held:

♠8 3 ♥A K Q 10 7 ♦A Q 2 ♣A 7 3

and as Zia opened normally with 1♥, ending in the unbeatable 4♥, Gitelman picked 2NT, a dreadful choice to me, considering the clear suit-play orientation of the hand (but I may be missing some system's implication that made it mandatory; if so, I don't like the system!). The very bad news came when Moss, holding

♠J 6 ♥5 4 2 ♦K 10 5 3 ♣K J 10 6

decided not to investigate about five hearts in his partner's hand, bidding 3NT, and justice was done once Nickell was on lead with ♠A K Q 10 9. 13 IMP away. Further 11 IMP went with the wind in an even weirder way, once more thanks to Gitelman. 1♣ on your left, 1♥ from RHO, INT from LHO and 2♦ from RHO: would you, or wouldn't you, "double" holding

♠A 6 ♥Q 3 2 ♦K 10 8 5 4 ♣10 9 7?

Fred Gitelman answered "yes", regretting it 1160 points later, equivalent to 2♦xx +1 (3NT+2 in the other room, 660)!

After the very poor start, DIAMOND went back on the right track, thanks to two slams, one quite lucky – a "grand" on a finesse, which had the merit to succeed – and an excellent one that is worth telling. Here are the cards of Nick Nickell and Eric Greco:

♠A 6 3 2 ♥A J 2 ♦A 8 4 ♣K 10 9.

They opened INT, and replied 2♠ to partner's Stayman enquiry, then had to decide what to do over 3♦, which showed 5+♦ and 4♥ (in the USA Stayman always guarantees a four card major) and some slam interest.

Nickell, discouraged by the flat distribution, pulled the handbrake when he bid 3NT, which became the final contract, while Greco opted for 3♥, making it easy to reach the laydown 6♦. Including minor swings, DIAMOND ended the first 15 boards ahead 37 to 28.

(To be continued)