



Rotterdam, Wednesday 24 August

Bulletin no 1

Welkom in Rotterdam

In name of the EBL, Paul Magerman welcomes you to the ninth European University Championships, held in the city of Rotterdam.

Difficult enough as it is for an editor from Antwerpen to admit, Rotterdam is the biggest harbour in the world and (surely not for that reason?) the first city to play host to a University Championships for a second time.

Indeed we have been here before, in these same rooms at the Erasmus University, in 2001.

The fine reception we got then is only one of the reasons for returning to Rotterdam. The Dutch Bridge Federation NBB celebrates its 75th anniversary this year and Rotterdam is the European Sports Capital for 2005.

When we were here in 2001, the University Championships were still exclusively a national affair, with the host nation as victors. This time, as it

was two years ago in Wrocław, every university is allowed to send as many teams as they wish, and we see here, among others, five Dutch and seven Polish teams.



**Serbian & Montenegro
are the first to register!**

Mobile Phones are not permitted in the playing area. Neither are Alcohol and Smoking. You are not permitted to leave the playing area during the match in order to phone, smoke or drink. All these offences will cost you a number of VP.

Who will play with Zia and Sabine?

Players, if you see your partner, or even better, your opponent, do something really extraordinary, do tell us about it. Not only are we very happy to put the contenders in the bulletin, but there are special prizes for the best played hands of these championships. On Sunday, a jury under the presidency of Paul Magerman shall decide who among you will be the recipients of these awards. There will be a separate prize for a hand played by a male and by a female.

The prizes: nothing more or less than a date with Zia Mahmood or Sabine Auken. I see what you're thinking, and you're wrong. The winning man will be allowed to play a tournament with Zia, the woman with Sabine.

In order to present a hand, special forms will be on hand on which to write your story in a few words. Please always include the bidding and any clues that these have given declarer. Of course defensive plays are also very welcome.

Team Presentations

Those of you who have retained copies of bulletins from previous championships know helpful the team presentations are in remembering the good times you've had here. This time, we have only a few days (only four bulletins after this one) to present a large number of teams (29 from 15 countries) so I must ask you to make haste and write a small presentation.

Friday's outing and tournament

You need to register in advance for the outing on Friday afternoon and for the open tournament on Friday evening. You can do this by simply telling Femmy.



Femmy is the one on the left

Lunch and Dinner

Both are served in the main area. Don't forget your tickets, or you will go hungry!

Championship Diary

The Czech team have prepared well for tonight's first set of matches: they played three hours of tennis this afternoon!

Kees Tammens (journalist, npc and everything) and his son Bas (player) were on the same train coming here, but they only met in the building here!

This place is for you guys - anything out of the ordinary, tell it to your editor.

Herman will accept your contributions in any of the ten languages he understands, and is fluent in translating it into an eleventh: broken english.

Follow the championships on-line at:
www.unibridge.org

European Youth Championships in Riccione 2005

Christer Andersson

A month ago the 20th European Youth Championships was contested in Riccione, a beautiful seaside resort on the Northern Adriatic coast of Italy. Three titles were on stakes – the girls teams, the junior teams and the schools teams.

Girls teams

First to finalise their series were the girls. This was their second championship. The first one took place last year in Prague, the Czech Republic. Ten teams participated and two of the medal winners, Austria and the Netherlands, met already in the first round of the championship. Austria was title-holders since last year. At that time they only lost one match, the one against Netherlands. They got their revenge this year by winning the premier match by 25-4. The following board was noticed by Patrick Jourdain, who was in Riccione as Chair of the Appeals Committee. As youth players have a high standard of ethics and still have a fresh brain, his job was not too demanding, so he spent a substantial time as commentator in the view graph. The board contributed to the Austrian victory:

Dealer South. N/S Vulnerable.

<p>♠ Q 9 8 2 ♥ J 9 2 ♦ 10 9 4 ♣ 8 6 3</p> <p>♠ 7 6 4 ♥ Q 5 3 ♦ A Q J 6 ♣ A J 10</p>	<p>♠ K J ♥ 10 7 6 ♦ K 8 5 3 ♣ Q 7 5 2</p> <p>♠ A 10 5 3 ♥ A K 8 4 ♦ 7 2 ♣ K 9 4</p>
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West	North	East	South
Assmann	Baren- Dregt	Gogoman	Dekker
			INT*
Dble	Pass*	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	2♥	Dble	2♠
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The 1 NT opening was weak and North's pass to the light penalty double forcing. The intention was apparently to find a better fit. There is a better contract in 2♠ that can come to six tricks. Understandably, being vulnerable against not, the Austrians judged to bid their own game.

South led a high heart, North signalling with the nine. On the continuation with a low heart, Gogoman put up the queen and North tried to be smart by unblocking the jack. This she would regret. Gogoman cashed ace and queen of diamonds, overtook the jack to create an extra entry to her own hand, lead a low club to the ten, returned to hand with the fourth diamond, and led a club to the jack. Gogoman then cashed the ace of clubs and exited with a heart. As North had discarded her jack, South had to win, cashed the last heart on which declarer ditched her last club, and was then end-played into leading a spade, to give declarer her ninth trick. Had North retained her entry (♥J), she could have won the third heart to play spades throw declarer. This would leave declarer to guess whether South held 12 or 14 hp. Austria won 11 IMPs on the board, as South was left to play in her opening bid 1♥ in the closed room, and went one light.

Austria was also successful on their first board in the match against Sweden:

Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Bidding in the open room was quick and pre-emptive:

West	North	East	South
Sjöberg	Grumm	S.Rimsdt	Ad.Gog'n
	4♥	All Pass	

After a trump led Iris Grumm collected nine tricks for -50. This time Grumm had the bad luck to find too good cards in dummy, since one trick is missing in a minor-suit game by E/W. However,

West	North	East	South
Assman	Sivelind	An.Gog'n	C.Rimstdt
	3♥	4♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

In the closed room the Austrian girls had the chance to reach the successful game in no trumps, but Anna Gogoman chose to call 4♦ on the East cards and was raised to a diamond game by her partner. This contract was likely to go at least one down.

The Swedish defence started accurately by leading the king of spades. The strong spade suit on the table, however, made South change her mind. She shifted to her heart singleton. Declarer won the heart shift

with the ace in dummy, cashed two diamonds to reveal the trump position, and reverted back to spades. South won the ace and had the chance to neutralise dummy with a spade continuation. Instead South continued with a trump. This defence allowed declarer to cash all trumps and reach dummy in spades. This is the ending when West cashes his last spade:

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

On the queen of spades North has to throw in the towel. If she discards her heart, dummy's well-preserved heart will win the next trick and a finesse in clubs will finish the job. A club pitch is not better since the club finesse will give declarer the last trick on the five of clubs; +400 and 8 IMPS to Austria. A shocking start for Sweden who recovered to level the match 15-15, However, Austria got a penalty of one VP as one of their player arrived to late for the play.

The final results in the girls competition was:

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|-----|
| 1) | Netherlands | 177 |
| 2) | Sweden | 165 |
| 3) | Austria | 164 |
| 4) | Poland | 157 |
| 5) | Russia | 153 |
| 6) | Germany | 134 |
| 7) | Denmark | 123 |
| 8) | England | 116 |
| 9) | Italy | 93 |
| 10) | Ireland | 44 |

Junior teams

Twenty-two teams played off for the junior title and the possibility to qualify for the World Junior Championship in 2006. It is not yet known where this competition will take place, but negotiations are ongoing with Asian countries well known for their tourism. The top five in the junior series would qualify for this adventure. The English team was one of the teams with hopes and fair chances to cash out tickets for the World Championship. On the following board vividly discussed in the view graph the English team practised a new way of using 'The Law'. As you surely know the law states that "the total number of tricks for both sides on a deal is approximately equal to the total number of trumps for both sides". On this board the English team contracted for nineteen tricks in hearts, an exercise that expectedly was a bit too optimistic:

Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>P. Eide</i>	<i>Burgess</i>	<i>Livgard</i>	<i>Woodcock</i>
Pass	1 ♠	3 ♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

It is not often you get the chance to convert a take-out double to a penalty double with a seven-card trump suit, but this was the case for Andrew Woodcock on this board. He led his

singleton ace of spades, on which his partner contributed a suit preference jack. Woodcock, therefore, switched to a diamond, which went to partners king. North cashed the king of spades, South throwing his last diamond, and followed with a diamond, ruffed by South. The defence now played three rounds of clubs, the third being won in dummy, leaving East and South with nothing but trumps.

A spade was ruffed with the eight and over-ruffed by South, who excited with the seven to the nine. Declarer now erred by cashing the two top trumps, leaving South with queen-six over the jack-five. Allan Livgard could have saved a trick by exciting with a low trump a round earlier. The penalty for five off was 1100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Happer</i>	<i>E. Eide</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4 ♥
All Pass			

At the other table Norway optimistically tried 4♥ on the North-South cards. The fact that East, very friendly, did not double had no influence on the result of the board. England gained 15 IMP and won the match 20-10.



Christer hopes the bridge in Rotterdam will be as exciting as in Riccione

In the eighth round I was watching the match between Greece and the Netherlands in the open room. The Greek declarer did not handle these cards accurately:

Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Tammens</i>	<i>K'manlis</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Doxiadis</i>
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Bob Drijver led the ♠10, West contributed the queen and declarer won with the king. Miltos Karamanlis now continued with ace and another diamond. That allowed West to win the king and play spades through declarer's spades. The defence had seven tricks and sat the contract three tricks. If the diamond honours had been reversed, East should have discarded his king on the ace and allowed West to win on the queen.

However, declarer should not have allowed this defence, as shown by Steven De Donder, Belgium, in their match against the Czech Republic. De Donder was also declarer as North in 3NT and got a spade lead to the queen and king. De Donder recognised the possibility of the unblock in diamonds and continued with a small heart at trick two. When East had the ace and played low, De Donder reached the table and was able to play a diamond to the jack and

queen. The non-dangerous defender was on lead and spades could not be attacked without giving a trick to declarer. When East tried ace and another spade, De Donder got two overtricks. 12 IMPs to Belgium.

Note that it does not help East to win the ace of hearts. A spade continuation would establish a spade for declarer, a diamond continuation would establish the diamonds for declarer and a club would establish an entrance to the table for the diamond finesse.

The last board from the junior championship illustrates that the own imagination may be an opponent:

Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>P'dakis</i>	<i>Minarik</i>	<i>Ana'atos</i>	<i>Marjai</i>
			1♣
1♦	Pass	2♣	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Peter Marjai led the ♣A and continued with a small club when Gabor Minarik contributed with the queen. Declarer, Aris Anastasatos, ruffed and played a heart against the king. Marjai took his trump ace and led a third club efficiently eliminating the suit for declarer. Aris ruffed,

played a trump to the king and a spade back to hand. Preparing not to be end-played, Peter discarded the spade queen under the ace. Declarer drew the last trump and played a low spade. Focusing on the wrong danger and not seeing the need to open the crocodile gap wide, Peter contributed a unnecessary low spade that end-played partner! Gabor Minarik soon appeared under the screen – thank you partner.

Results in the Junior Championship:

1)	Poland	421
2)	Italy	396.5
3)	France	379
4)	Norway	377
5)	Hungary	375.5
6)	Israel	371
7)	England	352
8)	Denmark	335.5
9)	Netherlands	329.5
10)	Belgium	328.5
11)	Sweden	324
12)	Turkey	318
13)	Portugal	302.5
14)	Greece	273
15)	Lettland	270
16)	Austria	266
17)	Romania	260
18)	Spain	247
19)	Czech Republic	238
20)	Lithuania	220
21)	Scotland	218
22)	Croatia	213.5

Schools teams

Two teams never turned up in Riccione, which meant that the school series were made up of fourteen teams. Juniors are known to bid optimistically. That school team players bid no less optimistic is illustrated by this board from the match between Norway and Germany in the second round of the championship:

Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠	K J		
♥	10 8 6 5 4		
♦	6 5		
♣	A 10 9 7		
♠	7 5 4	♠	AQ109 3 2
♥	A K J 7 2	♥	3
♦	–	♦	K Q J 10 4
♣	Q J 6 4 2	♣	K
	♠ 8 6		
	♥ Q 9		
	♦ A 9 8 7 3 2		
	♣ 8 5 3		

West	North	East	South
<i>Joh'ns'n</i>	<i>Kat'bau</i>	<i>Bogen</i>	<i>Rehder</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠	Pass
7♠	Dble	All Pass	

The Norwegian Haakon Bogen opened 1♠, then showed his second-best suit. 4♣ from Lars Arthur Johansen was either natural or a cuebid, Johansen then wanted more than a mere game bonus so he asked for aces. Five Diamonds showed one or four aces out of five. One must take an optimistic view in this world, Johansen thought, and asked for the queen of trumps as he realized (hoped) that all the aces were under control. Bogen was happy to show the trump queen by bidding the small slam. Well, since East is holding at least five to the ace, king and queen in trumps and the two minor-suit aces, the grand must have a decent play reflected Johansen. Janko Katerbau knew there was something fishy in this auction, so he doubled by instinct, or it might have been the fact that he held the trump king and another ace besides.

This made Martin Rehder wonder what was going on. He didn't complain, however, as his partner had

doubled the grand while he was holding an ace.

The spot-light now fell on Rehder who had to lead. He chose the ace of diamonds. He might have thought it didn't matter, as his partner must have a secure trick somewhere to dare to double. Declarer, Haakon Bogen, was quite happy to have avoided the club lead. He ruffed the diamond ace and finessed the queen of trumps. When it held he crossed to dummy in hearts, ditching his singleton club on the second top heart. A spade to the ace followed and declarer claimed 13 tricks. 7♠ doubled made missing three aces – that was +1770 and 16 powerful IMPs to Norway. The comparison score was +450 from the other table.

Here is another lucky board for the optimists. It comes from the match between the title holder Poland and the host Italy:

Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>D'e Cave</i>	<i>Wasiak</i>	<i>Fellus</i>	<i>Krawczyk</i>
1♠	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♥	Dble	4♦	Dble
4♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	All Pass		

The forcing 3♥ reopening of Giuseppe Delle Cave forced his partner Robin

Fellus to make a move. His choice was to bid diamonds, but Delle Cave corrected to 4♠. When North doubled Delle Cave proved he were no mice with a redouble.

From the start, defence had four tricks – one heart and three clubs. North led the ace of hearts and tried to get a second trick with the king but declarer ruffed. Delle Cave's real hope was to find clubs 3-3, so instead of running the trumps right away he played the eight of clubs. North won the trick but for some reason South found it appropriate to play the queen. This discard created a finessing position in clubs. There is still time for the defence to defeat the contract, however, but a diamond switch was required to break the communication for declarer. If declarer wins the ace, the club finesse won't succeed as North can ruff. In real life North tried to shorten declarer's trumps. Thus he exited with a heart. Delle Cave could ruff, draw trumps, cross to dummy's ace of diamonds, and run the nine of clubs. South had to win another trick, but a happy declarer counted to ten tricks for the unusual score of +1030.

A head appeared in the window of the screen – thank you partner.

Results schools teams:

1)	Poland	248
2)	Israel	238
3)	Norway	233
4)	Latvia	227
	Sweden	227
6)	Italy	208
7)	Denmark	206
8)	Germany	202
9)	France	192
10)	Netherlands	187
11)	England	173
12)	Hungary	137
13)	Turkey	124
14)	Austria	102

