



Rotterdam, Thursday 25 August

Bulletin no 2

# National Champions decided?

During the first seven rounds of the championships, all teams from the same country played their direct matches. Krakow can claim the title of Polish champions, having scored 111VP in the six encounters, one more than Lodz. Spare a thought for the team from Taragona, who have met nothing but Polish teams so far. Or maybe you envy them, having no more Poles to look out for.

Nijmegen and Tilburg have both gained 68VP in their four all-Dutch matches, and since they tied their encounter 15-15 I leave it to them to decide who the champion of the Netherlands is.

Antwerpen 1 won against 2, Roma beat Milano and Dublin beat Galway. But when Paris ENS beat Polytechnix, they handed their friends a blow that they won't forget lightly, as it is the loser of that encounter who went on to lead the rankings later on, and by a huge margin at that!



**Even the Appeals are dealt with in a friendly atmosphere!**

Please players try and think of your reputations. Several times already people have remarked that the playing area resembles a pig stie after play. If you drop things on the floor, pick them up. And if you could put the played boards, in order, on the table after you've ended your match, the staff (and their backs) will be immensely grateful.

## Results

This is where you would normally look for the results from the various matches, but we have decided not to publish those. With that many matches, we would run out of paper quickly.

And after all, the people at the venue can look at the results as they are being posted, while the people reading the bulletin on the Internet can find them on a nearby page. We will publish one ranking a day though:

Ranking after round 8			
1	PARIS POLYTEC	FRA	162
2	TRONDHEIM	NOR	149
3	KRAKOW	POL	148
4	LODZ	POL	137
5	PARIS ENS	FRA	136
6	PRAHA	CZE	136
7	WIEN	AUT	133
8	DELFT	NED	133
9	WARSZAWA 1	POL	131
10	GDANSK	POL	131
11	NIJMEGEN	NED	128
12	MAASTRICHT	NED	127
13	TILBURG	NED	126
14	LONDON	ENG	124
15	ROTTERDAM	NED	123
16	bye		120
17	DUBLIN	IRL	119
18	OLSZTYN	POL	117
19	ANTWERPEN 2	BEL	117
20	HAIFA	ISR	113
21	ANTWERPEN 1	BEL	112
22	MILANO	ITA	109
23	WARSZAWA 2	POL	108
24	RIGA	LAT	105
25	ANKARA	TUR	105
26	GALWAY	IRL	98
27	WROCLAW	POL	93
28	BEOGRAD	SCG	83
29	TARRAGONA	ESP	82
30	ROMA	ITA	76

Follow the championships on-line at:

**[www.unibridge.org](http://www.unibridge.org)**

## Championship Diary

Among those who were here in 2001 as well are Tommy and B.J., captains of the Irish teams. Remembering their result from four years ago, they joked "this time we made absolutely certain of finishing one-but-last - we brought two teams!"

Herman's girlfriend has bought a 2000 pieces puzzle. "only gone for a week and already you replace me - am I such an enigma?"-"no, afternoon entertainment"

## Opening Ceremony

*Paul Magerman*

Almost all players were present at the opening ceremony, which started with the Dutch national anthem, during which the home team from the Erasmus University took the last seats.

Mr Van Rooien, member of the board of directors of the Erasmus University, welcomed players and officials and presented Rotterdam, sports capital of Europe 2005.

Then Marc De Pauw, treasurer of the EBL, emphasised the importance of the University Bridge Championships, founded by Paul Magerman in Antwerpen in 1993, and for which his son Geert has now become the driving force.

Paul Magerman then gave the players a bit of advice: to not forget that this is mainly a University Sports Championship, with Bridge as its subject. He then thanked the organisation of European Capitals of Sport, the Nederlandse Bridge Bond (75 years old this year), and the incomparable hospitality of the Erasmus University.

Finally, both organisers, the European University Sports Association (EUSA), and the European Bridge League (EBL) were thanked for their support.

## Who will play with Zia and Sabine?

Don't forget to tell us about the good hands - you may help someone to a valuable prize: a tournament with Zia Mahmood or Sabine Auken.

B.J. tells us about a first nominee for a prize:

Rd 2 - Bd 11 D South None Vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Tessieres</i>	<i>Barton</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>McNaugh</i>
			INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♣
All Pass			

On the lead of the spade king, East won per force, cashed the heart ace and king, crossed to the ♣A, ruffed a heart low, played ♣J, diamond to the king, and ran all his clubs. South had to guard his ♠K to guard the diamonds, but declarer was not duly pressed to finesse the ♦10 to make his grand slam.

In order to present a hand, special forms are on hand on which to write your story in a few words.



**Thomas Bessis is already thinking of Zia**

## 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.

♠♥♦♣



**Geert prepares his workshop (Steven quipped "get his picture while he's working for once")**

## Match of the day

### ROUND 2

The Bulletin staff chose to watch the match between Milano and the National University of Ireland (Galway). Unfortunately for a bridge journalist, the deals were not very swingy this round, and should produce many draws.

This is what happened. On the first board, East-West had game in either hearts or 3NT, but had to handle an opponent opening bid to reach it. That was managed by both teams but Italy won 2 IMPs reaching the slightly better heart contract.

The second board was a good 3NT or a nearly 50% game in clubs. Italy stopped in the club game but Ireland tried the club slam. With clubs breaking 3-0 and no entrance to the table available, both contracts were without chance. Italy won 9 IMPs by doubling the slam, taking a 11-0 lead.

The third board was an easy 3NT bid by both teams. At other matches higher levels were reached - see elsewhere in this Bulletin. The fourth board was a part-score in clubs competently bid and played by both teams. Still 11-0 to Milano.

The fifth board was a reasonable spade slam on only 26 HCP. Both teams stayed out of it and made twelve tricks in the game contract. No change in the total score. Ireland had a chance to recover on the penultimate board but lost it:

Board 14 - D East None Vulnerable.

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

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West	North	East	South
O'Muir*	Sangi- orgio	Ming Chan	Ferrari
		Pass	2♦*
Dbl	3♣	3♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

South opening bid showed a weak unspecified six-card major and East's response to the Roman Key Card Blackwood 0 or 3 aces of 5, assuming hearts as trumps. Had Cian O'Muircheartaigh changed foot when he got the response to the RKC, showing no key cards, and passed the diamond contract instead of bidding the less secure heart contract, Galway had won 11 IMPs - 3NT went three down in the other room. Going one down in 5♥ resulted in a smaller gain of only 3 IMP.

The last board of the match was an easy 3NT contract bid and made with two overtricks by both teams. Thereby Milano got a narrow win, 11-3, but it could as well have been a draw.

## Who's Here?

Let's take a look at who's here and who among them have played before in University Championships (European or World). We'll tackle the teams per country, alphabetically:

**Austria** have one team here, representing the University of Vienna. Austria have only once before sent a team to a University Championships, in Maastricht in 2000, and they won that. None of their players have participated in a University tournament before, but Anna and Adele Gogoman were European Girls champions in Prague in 2003.

**Belgium** have competed at all previous championships, and they are here with two teams, both representing the University of Antwerp. The first team is full of experience. Alon Amsel and Steven De Donder were already at Maastricht 2000 (where Steven won the prize for best-played hand), and Alon is currently competing at his sixth Universiad. They won silver at Istanbul 2004, and together with current teammate Johan Fastenaekels, bronze at Wrocław 2003.

The **Czech Republic** is represented by the University of Prague; three of their players were also in Wrocław, on 3 different teams!

The University of London are the representatives for **England**. Alex Hydes also competed in 2000 and 2001.

France has sent two teams from different institutions in Paris. On the team for Polytechnix is Thomas Bessis. Thomas won a bronze medal in 1999 in Weimar, and is one of only three

remaining players from that year, but he hadn't competed again until last year in Istanbul. On the ENS team we find Nicolas LeProvost and Alexandre Hobeika, who were on the French team here in 2001. Their npc Christophe Oursel was a player in 1993 in Antwerp.

**Ireland** have sent two teams, representing Dublin and Galway. On the Dublin team four players return from 2001: Andrew Barton, Sunil Bavalia, Sarah Gilmartin and Fionnuala McInerney. At that time the girls stated they wanted 5 and 9 children respectively, and we wonder if those wishes have been downsized in the meantime. Also present here is Thomas McCormack, who got promoted from player to coach, and B.J. O'Brien, then and now the npc.

The Haifa team is, after 1993 only the second one that **Israel** have sent.

Two teams are here from **Italy**. The Milano team contains some well known names. Furio di Bello has never played in a University Championships before (his brother Stelio did in 2000) but he is the proud owner of a European pairs Silver medal from Tenerife earlier this year. Stefano Uccello was already on the Italian team in 1999, but, having missed two, is only on his fifth outing. Together with Francesco Ferrari and Alberto Sangiorgio the team contains 3 of the Gold medallists from Wrocław.

**Latvia**, represented by Riga, has competed twice before, but none of their present players have.

The **Netherlands** have five teams. On the Maastricht team we find

Andor van Munnen, who won the Gold medal here in 2001. Tilburg does even better by sending not only Jeroen Bruggeman, gold in 2001, but also Niek Brink, who won gold in Weimar in 1999.

**Norway** have not sent teams since 2001, and the team from Trondheim contains nothing but new faces.

**Poland** have sent seven teams, and many of their players were also in Wrocław in 2003. They too have brought some players that were already here: Krzysztof Kotorowicz is playing his fifth championship in a row, with a silver in 2003. His brother Jakub missed out last year, but he too has a silver from 2003. They are playing for Warsaw I. Playing for Krakow this year, but also on the silver medal team from Warsaw in 2003, and on the Polish team from 2001, is Przemek Janiszewski.

**Serbia & Montenegro** are on their third visit to University Championships, and one player remains from their last team in 2002: Nikola Maksimovic.

**Spain** sent teams in 1993 and 1994, but not since. The university of Taragona are here for them.

**Turkey** is represented by the University of Ankara. Serhat Paksoy and Omer Eskizara played in 2002 and 2004 as well. Together with their 2004 team-mate Ozan Ucan, I would like to credit them with a "European" bronze medal for having finished fourth (with the USA taking the "world" bronze) last year.



**the most recent  
"bronze" medallists**

In all, we have:

- 3 dinosaurs: Niek, Thomas and Stefano, survivors from Weimar 1999
- 3 cave-men: Alon, Steven, Alex, who were at Maastricht 2000
- and 14 people who must have stretched their University careers over the limit in order to take a second helping of Rotterdam (Alon, Steven, Alex, Nicolas, Alexandre, Andrew, Sunil, Sarah, Fionnuala, Andor, Jeroen, Krzysztof, Jakub, and Przemek)

There are

- 6 former winners (Stefano, Francesco, Alberto, Niek, Jeroen, Andor)
- 5 silvers (Krzysztof, Jakub, Przemek)
- 7 bronzes (Johan, Thomas, Serhat, Omer, Ozan)
- including 2 double medallists (SB) (Alon, Steven)

Krzysztof, Steven and Stefano join a select band of players who have played in five University Championships. Alon has now left that band and joins Julius Linde and Riccardo Intonti on six, with Sebastian Reim still the indisputable champion with seven appearances in eight years.

# Just kibitzing

Kees Tammens

A confession. Before a tournament starts there always is a captains meeting. The tournament director tells the rules and everybody agrees. This time the writer of this article had to take action. Being the NCP of no less than five Dutch teams he feared that lining up for every of the 29 rounds would mean he almost could put a bed near the line-up desk. So a little but strong suggestion to the tournament directors was needed: "Please skip the whole line-up". Everybody agreed and so the 5-team captain has free the rest of the week and can restrict himself to the much more amusing role of kibitzer.

## The random ♠

In years long ago the Dutch Spade was very popular. In this system an opening bid of 1♠ was done with every hand with 0-10 points. It caused a lot of action.

Rd 1 Bd 3. D South E/W Vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♣	All Pass

In the match between Riga and Rotterdam, the Latvians quickly

reached a slam with could not be beaten.

Against the doubleton-1♣ opening many pairs use preemptive tactics.

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♣	1♠	Dble	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	All Pass

The 1♠-overcall was explained as red or black suits or whatsoever, just 'random' would be more accurate. The 2♠-bid by east was dangerous. What would he bid with a five card spade suit and about 10-11 HCP? 2♠ I presume. So east should make some more noise: for instance 3♠ or 6♣!

## Safety play by the organizers

Originally the matches would consist of eight boards. Due to the large number of teams and the time schedule the matches were shortened to seven boards. So board 16 of round two was skipped. That was a nice gesture to the players because without any doubt there would have happened a lot of accidents.

Rd2 Bd 16. D West. E/W Vulnerable.

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

Just look at the hands. North-South can make a lot of tricks in ♦ or ♠. And



East-West can make thirteen tricks in NT and ♥. Oh no, the hearts are not breaking! So the only grand slam that makes is 7♣.

**Entry for best defence**

Rd 2 Bd 10. D East. All Vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
1♥	Dble	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	All pass	

After a Polish Club auction South became declarer in 5♣. West found the interesting lead of a small spade.

Declarer put up ♠J and ruffed East's ♠Q. After ♣A the trump position was clear and declarer went on with ♦K ducked by West, who of course hoped East would have the doubleton diamond. ♦Q was for ♦A in West who was endplayed. West however found a nice solution: ♠A. Declarer countered by throwing a heart from south. Again west had to play and found the killing defence in ♥K. Declarer could not avoid the trump loser. A nice entry for the best defended hand? West immediately responded that 5♣ was always a make. Declarer just ruffs ♠A, cashes ♥A and plays ♣K and a third club to endplay east. So west also deserves credit for playing the hand well as declarer.



**Kees proof-reads his own article**



**Handball, Bridge, Sports all**