Issue No. 3 Editors: Barry Rigal & Peter Gill – Layout Editor: Akis Kanaris Sunday, 2 July 2006

DOWN TO THE WIRE





With one session of the Junior Championships to go it could hardly be closer, as the three pairs who have dominated the event for most of the second day are bunched at the top of the table. Krzysztof Kotorowicz (pictured left) and Jacek Kalita (on the right) of Poland alternated in the lead with Cecilia Rimstedt and Sara Sivelind (picture to the right) of Sweden as the third session wore down. The Poles finished in front, thanks to a good last deal. But Joe Grue and John Kranyak of the USA can surely not be counted out, less than a board behind the leaders. It will be all to play for tomorrow, with a world championship gold medal at stake.

The three leading pairs' scores are all remarkably impressive, since each of them have averaged over 60%. But since the pairs in fourth and fifth places (Barbosa/Palma of Portugal and Eide/Livgard of Norway) are averaging over 59% themselves, they too can not be ruled out of the mix.

In the Schools Championships the event is also as close as can be. Right at the very end Andrzej Bernatowicz and Jan Betley overtook Bartlomiej Igla and Artur Machno, both partnerships being from Poland. With third and fourth places (Franceschetti/Landry of France and Dessain/Mela of England) less than a top behind them both, a close finish can be expected here too. Again, the leading pairs are putting together an impressive run of form, with the top three partnerships all averaging more than 59%.

A PRIZE WORTH PLAYING FOR

David Birman has very generously offered a splendid prize to the winners of the Junior Pairs. This is a free accommodation at the Red Sea Festival at Eilat in Israel, from 5-12 November this year.

The tournament consists of three major events, an IMP pairs, Open Pairs and Teams, with prize money in excess of \$15,000.

World Pairs Programme

Sunday July 2

08:45 - 10:00 Breakfast 11:00 - 12:30 Lunch

13:00 Pairs Championship Session 4 20:00 Victory Dinner and

Prize-giving Ceremony

Monday July 3

8:45 - 10:00 Breakfast

Depart from Piestany or stay for World Junior Bridge Camp

Session I - Boards 9 to 16

by Peter Gill

JUNIOR PAIRS

With Bridgemate instant scoring machines in use, progress scores on the big screens in the playing area allowed everyone to see the scores updated every four boards.

On Board 9, the early leaders Thomas Bessis and Julien Gaviard from France moved to the table of two pleasant Danish girls.

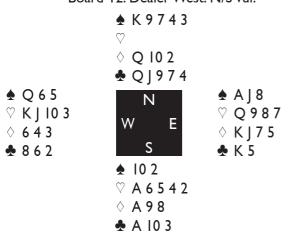
North opened INT, South Staymanned then bid 2^{\heartsuit} over 2^{\diamondsuit} . North confidently bid 3NT.

Thomas Bessis wisely enquired about the auction. When North explained about 2%: 'I don't know what that means', it became clear that the Danish girls were inexperienced at bridge. Bessis - Gaviard then followed the best technique to run rings around a weaker pair, taking no risks in the card play and allowing the opponents' inexperience to cost vital tricks.

This produced two near tops for the Frenchmen, all done with Gallic charm. A sound sensible approach to extract the maximum from the less experienced players is a vital ingredient of success at Pairs.

On Board 12, opposed by their compatriots Adrien Vinay and Paul Seguineau, the task was tougher.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Gaviard		T Bessis	
Pass	2♠	Dble	Pass
3♡	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

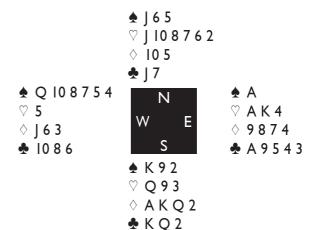
North's 2\(\Delta\) opening bid struck gold when Bessis decided to make a take-out double with an imperfect hand type, but Pairs is usually a bidder's game.

Gaviard ducked the lead of the queen of clubs, in an attempt to keep the dangerous opponent (who might switch to trumps) out of the lead. A second club went to the king and ace, followed by the expected trump switch. Gaviard won ♥ I and played a diamond to the jack. South won and played ace and another heart. Gaviard tried ♠Q, covered by the king and ace, and was doomed to go two down. Minus 300 was only 17 out of 140 for the early leaders.

We return to the Poles for Board 16, because Kalita and Kotorowicz were opposed by Marion Michielsen and Vincent de Pagter. Marion has had a huge impact in the last year, after a

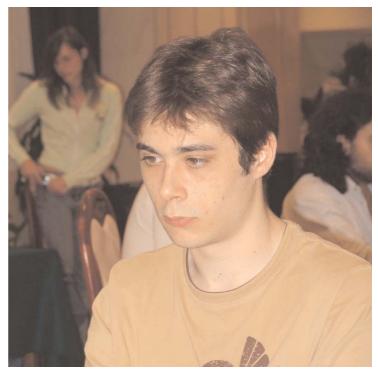
good performance in the Tenerife Mixed Teams and winning the girls event in Riccione. She made the Finals of the Dutch Open Teams and played on the Dutch Women's team, while Vincent came 5th in Tata.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Kotorowicz	de Pagter	Kalita	Michielsen
Pass	Pass	I ♣	Dble
Pass	3♡	Pass	4 ♡
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Is it possible to pass 3° with 19 points? Should North, who was a passed hand, have a little bit more for the 3° bid (indeed is this what a 3° bid should show)? These are difficult questions to answer, but Kalita's double ensured that the Poles scored most of the matchpoints.



Thomas Bessis, France

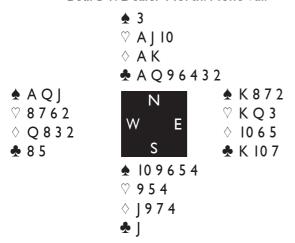
JUNIOR PAIRS

Session 2 - The First Six Boards

by Patrick Jourdain

This time I followed Julien Gavard and Thomas Bessis of France, lying second at the time. They certainly clocked up enough on the boards I saw to take themselves into the top spot, at least temporarily:

Board I. Dealer North. None Vul.

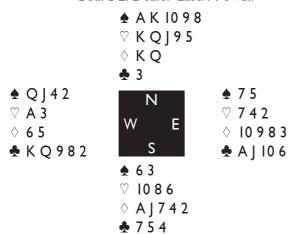


West	North	East	South
Martinovic	Bessis	Stanicic	Gaviard
	2♣	Pass	2◊
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Their first opponents were Ognjen Stanicic & Slavica Martinovic from Croatia. An artificial strong Two Clubs was followed by a natural, 9-trick type Three Clubs to end the auction. Stanicic made the natural lead of a top heart and that gave declarer his tenth trick. This was 64% for the French as the result was quite popular.

The next board proved more interesting:

Board 2. Dealer East. N-S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Martinovic	Bessis	Stanicic	Gaviard
		Pass	Pass
♣	2♦ (i)	Pass	2♡
Pass	2NT (ii)	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

- (i) The majors
- (ii) See Text

Bessis called Two Diamonds to show both majors and then thought for some time before continuing with Two Notrumps over partner's Two Hearts. Not many partnerships have discussed the continuations in this sort of sequence but the logical scheme is to bid the fragment when you are 5-5-3-0, to bid the six-card major when you are 6-5-1-1 and to reserve 2NT for the 5-5-2-1 shapes.

This treatment allowed Gaviard to know his ace of diamonds was working and, with a ruffing value as well, he could easily jump to game.

Martinovic found the best lead of the ace of trumps. This went: jack, two, six. One would have thought the sight of dummy would call for a club switch, and if you are looking for other clues, declarer's unblock reveals he has the ten, and partner's first trump here should perhaps be McKenney. Had the defence taken their ace of clubs and played a second trump declarer would have two options for taking the remaining tricks:

Ruff a spade, return to dummy with a diamond, run the rest of the trumps, and finally overtake the second diamond. This works whenever the spades are 3-3, the diamonds are 3-3 or one defender guards both and is squeezed.

Unblock the diamonds, draw the last trump with the ten, and run diamonds throwing the losing spades.

Line (b) only fails when the diamonds are 5-I and the defender with the singleton has the last trump. Line (a) fails with the actual lie of the cards when neither suit breaks and the guards are in different hands. We prefer (b), uninfluenced by what works! So we assume Gaviard would have made II tricks.

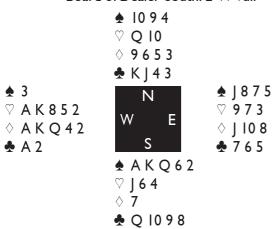


Slavica Martinovic, Croatia

However, at trick two West decided to play a second trump giving Gaviard further choices, including trying for 12 tricks. Eventually he settled for unblocking diamonds, drawing the last trump and running diamonds. The losing club went away, but there was a losing spade instead, and West split her honours when South led it from hand at the end 68% for N/S.

The next pair to arrive was Peter Marjai & Gabor Minarik of Hungary. The deal proved to be a bidding problem:

Board 3. Dealer South. E-W Vul.



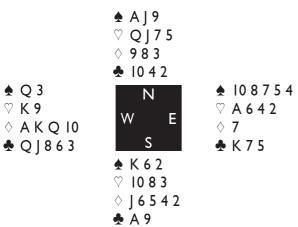
West	North	East	South
Marjai	Bessis	Minarik	Gaviard
			I♠
2 ♠ (i)	Pass	3♣ (ii)	Pass
5≎(iìí)	All Pass	,	

- (i) Michael's Cuebid showing hearts and a minor
- (ii) This was for the minor, though East would do better to bid $\mathbf{3} \heartsuit$
- (iii) West assumed his partner had at most two hearts

The final contract of Five Diamonds had no chance. Bessis led a trump, and declarer had to concede one off in due course. Here East must take the blame. With three cards in each side suit he should prefer the major. West would have raised to 4° and that would make in comfort. When East showed preference for West's minor West was entitled to assume East had a doubleton heart and therefore, playing in diamonds, he would be able to ruff out the hearts opposite very little. That error gave the French 86%.

Board 4 was a dull affair with 11 easy tricks in either major and two aces missing but next to arrive was a Danish pair who suffered two disasters:

Board 5. Dealer North. N-S Vul.

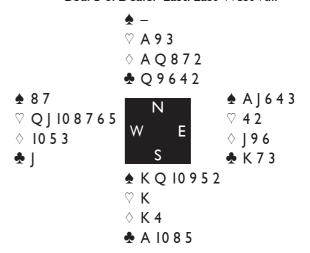


West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	Pass
♣	Pass	♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♡	Pass
3◊?	Pass	3♠??	All Pass!

The auction started normally enough but later both players seemed to have an aversion to bidding notrumps. East tried a fourth-suit Two Hearts rather than showing the club support (he might have been intending to show a weak support hand) and then West instead of bidding a natural 2NT repeated the diamonds.

As they have an easy nine tricks in 3NT, it was unlikely that 3\(\Delta\) would score much, so the fact that declarer, no doubt worrying about the bidding, absent-mindedly forgot to cash his diamond winners and went two off, made little difference. Gaviard-Bessis scored 99%.

Board 6. Dealer East. East-West Vul.



West	North	East	South
		Pass	♠
3♡	Dble (i)	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble?	Pass
Pass	4NT (ii)	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dble??	All Pass

- (I) Take-out
- (ii) For the minors

Gaviard opened One Spade, West made a weak jump overcall, Bessis a take-out double and then Gaviard jumped to Four Spades. Deep Finesse refuses to say how many tricks declarer can make when there are less than seven trumps, but I suspect the game would have made.

East doubled with more confidence than was justified by his cards, but when Bessis decided to run he might have got back to reasonable matchpoint by passing for it's possible North/South would have scored 420 for 54+1 and shared with some 44 just made.

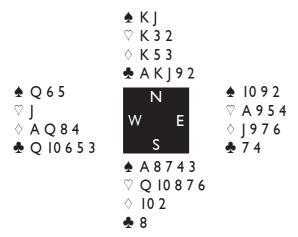
However, it was a matter of honour for East to double the escape. Gaviard won the heart lead in hand, crossed to dummy with a diamond to the queen, and tried the queen of clubs. When that pinned the jack, and the rest of the hand behaved as well, he had all 13 tricks for +750 and an 82% score.

Session Two

(Tricks to Burn)

Whoever it was who said that declarer play was easier than defence clearly had not focused on this pair of back-to-back deals from the second session of the Junior Pairs.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Kranyak	Davis	Grue	Boyd
	♣	Pass	♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♡
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

John Kranyak led ace and another diamond against Richard Boyd's 4% contract. Boyd started well by winning the second diamond and immediately playing three rounds of spades, ruffing low, before anyone could get a chance to discard a spade. Once that stood up he only had to hold his trump losers to two to make the hand, but it looked to him as if he was in a normal contract and so should go for the maximum. His actual choice of leading low to the %10 was both unlucky and incredibly expensive. Kranyak won his bare %1 and pumped declarer with a third diamond, then a fourth diamond from Grue when in with the %4 led to one down.



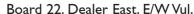
Joe Grue, USA

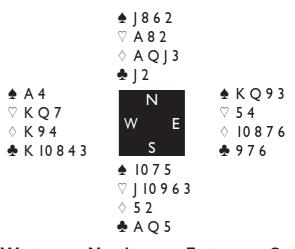


Richard Boyd, Ireland

If Boyd had considered that he had already done well in both the bidding and play thus far he might have reconsidered his approach, though it is easier to see this when in possession of sight of the full 52 cards. But perhaps it would not have been absurd to ruff a diamond back to hand at trick six, then play ace and king of clubs and ruff a club. At this point in the deal when a club is led from dummy and East is about to show out, declarer has ten tricks by force, by ruffing a club in hand and a spade high in dummy. Making ten tricks would have scored N/S 89/140, but down one was only worth 26

The next board was the reverse side of the coin.



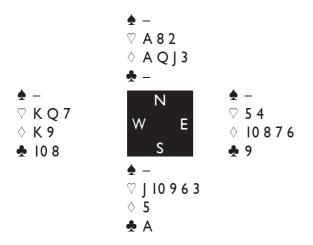


West	North	East	South
Kranyak	Davis	Grue	Boyd
		Pass	Pass
INT	All Pass		

Kranyak's strong INT opening bought the pot (as it would have done at most tables I suspect) and now the question was whether the defence or declarer could take their tricks. It started well for Kranyak when Davis eschewed the diamond lead, but his fourth highest spade lead (they do not play sec-

ond highest from four small) went to the ten and ace.... Should Boyd have worked out to put in the seven? I think so. Kranyak asked long and hard about the lead but was unwilling to put every one of his eggs in one basket by taking a spade finesse at trick two and potentially waving goodbye to the dummy. Instead he led a low club from hand − might the ♣10 have worked better? Davis bravely ducked, and allowed Boyd to win and shift to the ♡J. Now that N/S had the hearts going they were in position to cash out, and so Kranyak had to decide whether to take the spade finesse (for down four if he was wrong, or to back his initial judgment and play spades from the top, hoping for something good. He followed the latter route, without success, and got a 20% board when escaping for down one would have given him a 60% result.

Note that if declarer cashes four spades at once, via the finesse, pitching a club and a diamond from hand, the defence have to be just a little careful to beat him at all. After leading a club to the king and a club back to South's queen, in this ending, with declarer having five tricks in the bag, and thus needing two more for his contract:



South does not cash his club of course, but plays the \heartsuit J, covered all round. When North returns the \heartsuit 8 South can overtake, and now if West ducks, South cashes the \clubsuit A to let North pitch his diamond loser, and a diamond through beats the hand. If West takes the second heart the defence have enough communications left to run the red suits for down one again.

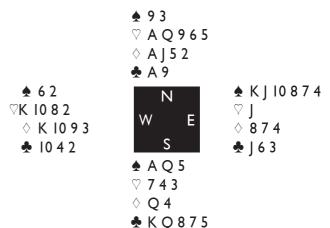


John Kranyak, USA

Deep Finesse in Action

by Barry Rigal

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
	Rodwell		Edgtton
		2♠	Pass
Pass	3♡	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Adam Edgtton found himself in the room contract of 3NT, on the predictable spade lead. Given that East had opened vulnerable he surely had six or seven spades, but did he have a king on the side?

Adam decided to assume he had a little extra shape, and that it was right to attack hearts first. His decision to win the first spade and run the $\heartsuit 7$ was certainly right in practice, whatever the theoretical merits of the approach (do not ask me what is right!).

When the \heartsuit 6 lost to the \heartsuit J and a spade came back Adam led a heart to the \heartsuit 8 and \heartsuit 9, ran the clubs pitching diamonds from dummy, and repeated the heart finesse for a grand +690.

Note that if declarer does start by leading a heart to the $\heartsuit Q$ he can still recover in a number of ways, including a red-suit squeeze on West, but that does not detract from the elegance of the line chosen. +690 was worth 120/140 for N/S.



Adam Edgtton, Australia

SCHOOLS PAIRS

Final Session 2

by Peter Gill

This new World Bridge championship attracted an excellent entry of 68 pairs from 20 countries from USA, Australia, New Zealand and Europe. The event is for all bridge players born on or after I January 1986. One hundred and two players are born in the 1980s and 34 are born in the 1990s, the youngest player being 11 year old Anna Christa Ege from Denmark.

The early leaders after one of the four sessions were Joanna Krawczyk and Artur Wasiak from Poland on 66.88%. They topped the datums when their team from Poland won the 2005 European Schools Teams Championship in Riccione, Italy. Poland thus qualified for the 1st World Schools Teams Championship in Bangkok in August, which has a field of 16 teams from all over the world. Will they be World Champions by the time they go to Bangkok?

Poland's success at youth bridge happens because Poland has a successful youth bridge organisation, assisted by the sponsorship of Prokom Software.

For the first two boards, Joanna Krawczyk and Artur Wasiak played Bronagh Considine and her 15 year old partner David Synnott from Ireland.

Board I. Dealer North. Nil Vul.

```
♠ 3
               ♡ A J 10
               \Diamond A K
               ♣ A Q 9 6 4 3 2
♠ AQJ
                              ★ K872
♡ 8762

∇ K O 3

♦ Q832
                              ♦ 1065
                    S
% 8 5
                              ♣ K 10 7
                ♠ 109654
               ♥ 954
               ♦ | 9 7 4
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David Synnott, Ireland

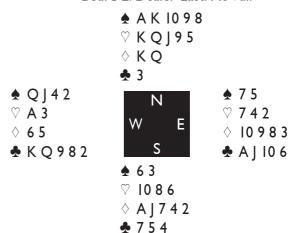


Joanna Krawczyk, Poland

West	North	East	South
Wasiak	Synnott	Krawczyk	Considine
	I ♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	3♣	Dble	All Pass

Synnott's immediate 3♣ bid put maximum pressure on the Poles who elected to play for penalties, affected by the scoring being pairs, but maybe also, with some uncertainty, perhaps, over the meaning of the double of 3♣. After a top heart lead, Synnott led a small club towards dummy's jack, to make 10 tricks. Minus 570 scored the Poles only 2 matchpoints out of 66.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.



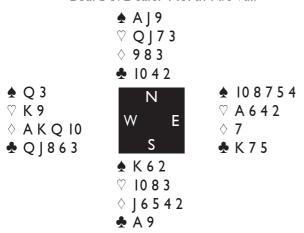
West	North	East	South
Wasiak	Synnott	Krawczyk	Considine
		Pass	Pass
2♣	2♡	3♣	3♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

2♣ was Polish Club, 6+ clubs and II-I4 points. Synnott said later that he should have overcalled 2♠ followed by 4♥. Double and 3♣ are other possibilities. Considine did well to make what is sometimes called a courtesy raise.

Synnott, who had taken his tricks very rapidly on the previous hand, gave the contract of 4% some thought before win-

ning the $\lozenge 10$ lead and sensibly playing $\heartsuit K$ from hand. Wasiak won the ace, and switched to a club which Krawczyk overtook to switch back to diamonds in case her partner had a singleton. Synnott won the second diamond, cashed $\triangledown Q$, happily observing the 3-2 break and claimed 11 tricks for 54 of the 66 matchpoints. It seems that Ireland has a promising 15 year old player in young David Synnott.

Board 5. Dealer North N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Wasiak	Petrasek	Krawczyk	Frank
	Pass	Pass	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	All Pass

I like Matej Petrasek's choice of the lead of A and a second club. Krawczyk did not pitch her third club on a diamond, which might have given her some hope of avoiding the club ruff, instead leading spades and suffering the ruff. I 10 was worth only 4 out of 66 for the Poles.

A conversion by Wasiak from 24 to 2NT would have been a success on the actual hand, but probably a failure if partner was weaker. Also, his choice of a INT opening bid, which many experts would agree with, may have not been a popular bid in the Schools field. Bad luck.

Bottoms for mysterious reasons seem to come in patches, and right now there was no stopping the run of poor scores.



Great Danes?

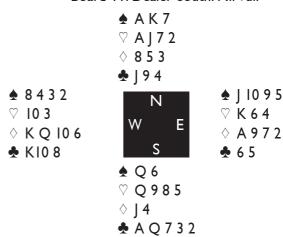
Peteris Betheris and Adrians Imsa from Latvia, who are in the Latvia team which is one of the 16 squads who have qualified for the 1st World School Teams Championship in Bangkok in August, were a tough pair to have to play when luck has abandoned you.

West	North	East	South
Wasiak	Betheris	Krawczyk	Imsa
3♠	4♣	4♠	5♡
Pass	Pass	5♠	Dble
All Pass			

♣ [

The overnight leaders had dropped to 10th place, so I felt it was time to leave their table. The new leaders, Leonardo Fruscoloni and Gaincarlo Trimarchi were about to play the youngest pair in the field, I I year old Anna Christa Ege and 12 year old Amalie Koch-Palmund from Denmark, whose feet barely reached to the floor from their chairs.

Board II. Dealer South. Nil Vul.





Anna Christa Ege, Denmark

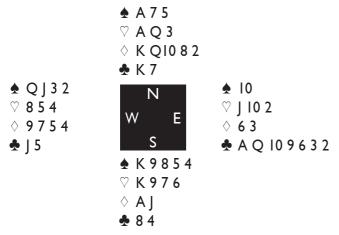
West	North	East	South
TrimarcIh	Koch-Palmund	Fruscoloni	Ege
			♣
Pass	I	Pass	2♡
Pass	3♡	All Pass	

Perhaps in Denmark if you are 11 years old and have 11 points you should open the bidding. I am not sure whether Amalie Koch-Palmund took into account the lack of tricks in her dreadful flat hand or her partner's aggressive approach to bidding, but her decision to downgrade her 13 count and make only a game try of 3 % was a smart decision.

East led $\lozenge 7$ to the jack and queen. Believing that declarer had ducked $\lozenge A$, West switched to a spade to the queen. $\triangledown Q$ was finessed to the king, $\lozenge A$ cashed and a spade played to the king. Koch-Palmund drew trumps and finessed $\clubsuit Q$, making nine tricks for a 67% score.

The Italians were still leading and faced the Americans Owen Lien and Kevin Dwyer, who were at that time in second place.

Board 9 Dealer North. E/W Vul.

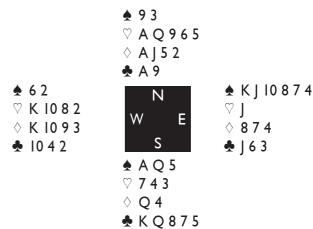


West	North	East	South
Fruscoloni	Lien	Trimarchi	Dwyer
	♣	Dble	♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Lien's I♣ was strong, Double showed clubs and I♠ showed a balanced 8-13 points I think.

Lien's practical jump to 3NT right-sided the hand. When Trimarchi led ♣10, the best lead at Teams but not necessarily at Pairs, Lien had 12 easy tricks for an 83% score.

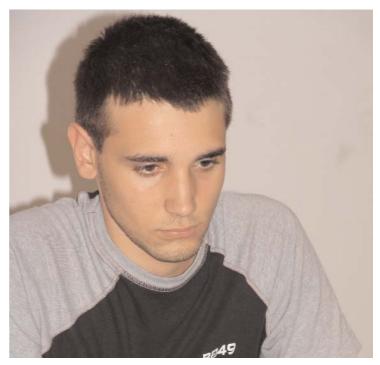
Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Fruscoloni	Lien	Trimarchi	Dwyer
		2♡	Pass
2♠ All Pass	3♡	Pass	3NT

 2° showed spades, weak or strong. Dwyer opted for 3NT, then had the tough decision of whether to win the first spade or not. Eventually he ducked the Δ K, clearly the right play at Teams but not necessarily at Pairs. Dwyer then won the spade return and finessed $^{\circ}$ Q and cashed five clubs. West let go of a diamond and a heart, and East retained all his diamonds. Dwyer played safely for 11 tricks, by cashing Δ A then setting up a long heart trick, having discarded all the diamonds from dummy. This was worth 62% for the Americans.

By the end of the session, all the leading pairs we have looked at had dropped out of the top five places. Another Polish pair had taken the lead, with the Latvians Betheris and Imsa in 2nd place. Given my success in watching the leaders, I shall be hiring myself out (at very reasonable rates) to put a hex on any pair that the chasing pack would like, to take them out of contention in this event!



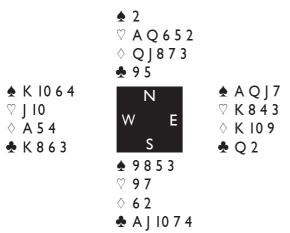
Giancarlo Trimarchi, Italy

Polished Polish Play

by Peter Gill

Here we see the Polish stars Bartlomiej Igla and Artur Machno in action in the Schools Pairs:

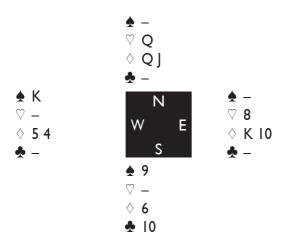
Board 28. Dealer West, N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Igla		Machno	
♣	ΙŸ	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Double showed at least four spades, and 2♠ suggested 12-14 and four spades. \$\,\text{\cdot} 9\$ was led to the queen and ace, and the \P was returned to Igla's king. Declarer played \mathbb{V} , North winning the ace then returning a low heart. Because people with the AQ in these sorts of positions tend to rise with the ace and people with the ace but no queen tend to duck jacks, Igla guessed correctly to run this to his jack.

A club ruff, ♠A and ♠Q, ♡K ruffed and overruffed, followed by another club ruff then a diamond to the ace left declarer in his hand to draw the last trump at Trick 11. As he drew the trump, North was squeezed in the red suits in the following ending:



This excellent example of precise timing by declarer for +450 was worth 58 out of 66.

Sports News

WORLD CUP FOOTBALL Quarter Finals



Germany defeated Argentina 4-2 on penalties after the score ended I-I.

Italy defeated Ukraine 3-0, Toni scoring two goals.

Portugal defeated England 3-1 on penalties after the score ended 0-0.

Wayne Rooney was sent off in the 62nd minute. Brazil play France as we go to print.

WIMBLEDON TENNIS 3rd round

Russia's Dmitry Tursunov defeated 5th seed Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia. Max Mirnyi defeated 8th seed James

Rafael Nadal defeated Andre Agassi.

David Nalbandian, Martina Hingis and Svetlana Kuznetsova lost.



MOTOR SPORT



Michael Schumacher in a Ferrari I-2 won the third practice session in Indianapolis.

TOUR DE FRANCE

Norway's Thor Hushovd won the Tour de France prologue in Strasbourg.

CRICKET



Sri Lanka defeated England 5-0 in the one day series, scoring 324-2 to England's 321-7 in the last match.

NBA

Cleveland Cavaliers have offered Lebron James a 5-year \$80m extension.

MLB

The Marlins snapped the Red Sox 12 game win streak.

OTHER NEWS

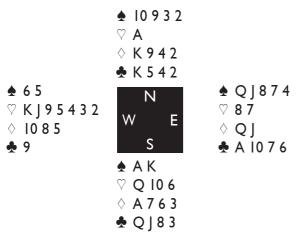
A car bomb killed over 60 people at a Baghdad market.

Verona Revista

by Barry Rigal

While we are admiring the performances of the juniors and schools players, it is worth remembering that last month several experts did better (or worse) in Verona. Consider the following deal from the Rosenblum round of 64.

Board 37. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	INT
2 ◊(i)	Dble	2♡	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(i) One major

Everybody knows that a true expert would rather play for a squeeze than take a finesse; but it is a less well-known fact that the REAL expert would always lead some suit other than his own – fourth highest from your longest and strongest is so vieux jeu.

That might explain why at both tables in the match between Hecht-Johansen and Grenthe West elected to lead a spade rather than a heart against 3NT.

Where HC Nielsen was on lead the spade lead went round to declarer's king as his partner encouraged. Now a club to the king scored the trick and declarer played three rounds of diamonds, letting Nielsen back on lead. When East, Lars Blakset, discarded a heart, Nielsen played back a second spade,



Lars Blakset, Denmark

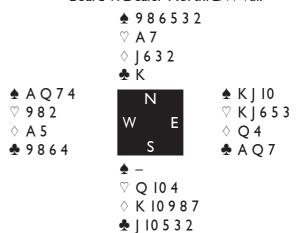
and declarer had only eight tricks when much to his surprise the club ace turned up in Blakset's hand.

What would have happened had the \triangle A not been ducked? Well in the other room they discovered that. After East won his \triangle A and shifted to a heart, declarer played three rounds of diamonds, keeping East off play, and had his contract comfortably enough.

Of course the palookas would examine the deal and point out that a boring heart lead takes the game down three.... But where would be the fun in that? For the record, 3NT made about one time in three that it was attempted.

Of course sometimes there was rather more to praise... In the third set of the round of 32 in the Rosenblum, there was a wild set between Allfrey and Morath (there were five doubled contracts in the first nine deals with penalties of 800, 500, and 300, together with a +750). Deal number 9 produced the most interesting play. You may care to consider it as a declarer play problem, putting yourself as East and covering up the North and South cards

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.



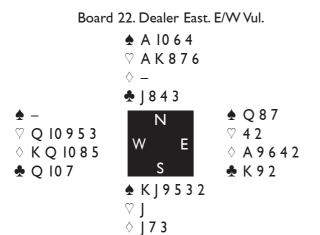
West	North	East	South
	Pass	INT	2NT
Dble	4 ♦	4♡	Pass
Pass	Dhle	All Pass	

Upmark as North doubled David Bakhshi's 4% contract, and Tornqvist led the $\clubsuit 10$ a card that appeared to have ominous suit preference overtones, by suggesting short spades, perhaps. Bakhshi won in hand and took a little time to digest the implications of the auction. Eventually he found the masterplay of the %J from hand - a play that is almost necessary (if not sufficient) to make the contract. South won his %Q, gave his partner the club ruff, and got a spade ruff coming back. But now the fourth spade took care of the diamond loser and Bakhshi had 790.

There were actually two possible defences even after Bakhshi's fine play; the difficult one is for North not to give his partner the spade ruff but to play a diamond – South still has a trump trick to come and the defence established the diamond trick in time. The easy defence is for South to duck the ∇ I – second hand plays low after all! North wins his ∇ A, gives

a spade ruff, gets a club ruff, and the second spade ruff spells one down! Indeed North could even overtake the $^{\circ}Q$ to produce this defence.

On our final deal, from the fourth qualifying session of the Open Pairs, when Paul Hackett invited game, England's Tony Waterlow accepted the invitation – in partnership style he could have held a flat II-count with only four spades - after which Hackett drove to the small slam. There was still plenty of work to do in the play, however.



West	North	East	South
	Hackett		Waterlow
		Pass	I♠
2 ♠ (i)	3♡(ii)	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦	Dble	Pass
Pass	Rdbl	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

♣ A 6 5

- (i) Hearts and a minor
- (ii) Constructive spade raise

West led the king of diamonds, ruffed in dummy, and Waterlow played ace and king of hearts, throwing a club from hand, then ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond, came back to the ace of clubs, and ruffed the last diamond. He continued by ruffing a heart, crossing to the ace of spades, and ruffing the last heart. Having reduced his trump holding to king-jack doubleton, Waterlow exited with the club loser and the defence had to lead into the trump tenace at trick twelve to assure the slam, and a lot of matchpoints for Hackett and Waterlow.

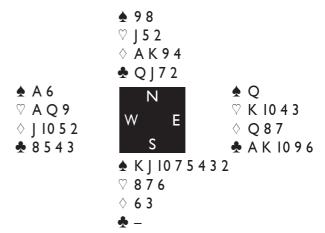


Tony Waterlow, England

The Courage of Your Convictions

In the Schools Pairs, Joseph Mela drew the correct inference from the auction to bring in his doubled game here.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
			3♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3NIT	Dhla	All Pass	

When Tom Dessain reopened with a double in the balancing seat, Mela went for the big payoff by trying for 3NT, and of course, being a junior, sat it out when doubled. On the lead of the \$9 covered by the \$Q and \$K\$ he ducked, then won the next spade. Since the lead could have been from \$98x it was not safe to give up a diamond. Instead he decided that he needed to play on clubs. The percentage play, keeping South off play, would be to lead to the ace. But Joseph knew that North's double was not based just on the \$AK; he had to have what looked like a club trick as well, since he had nothing much in either major. Accordingly he led a club to the \$9\$ at once, and when it held he had 950 and a clear top.

Travelling Here

Road speeds on the autobahn in this part of the world can be quite high. With reports of a bus coming here at 170 km/hr and a car driving here at 180 km/hr, it"s not surprising that everyone arrived on time.

The longest journey here is believed to be by Australian teenagers Adam and Nabil Edgtton who left their home 37 hours before arriving in Piestany, although the plane/bus/train trip once they left Sydney airport was a mere 34 hours.

JUNIOR PAIRS

After 3 Sessions

Rank		Names	Countries	Total
1	Jacek KALITA	Krzysztof KOTOROWICZ	POL - POL	61.15
2	Cecilia RIMSTEDT	Sara SIVELIND	SWE - SWE	60.70
3	loe GRUE	John KRANYAK	USA - USA	60.34
4	Joao BARBOSA	Antonio PALMA	POR - POR	59.34
5	Petter EIDE	Allan LIVGARD	NOR - NOR	59.06
6	Michal GORSKI	Jakub KASPERZAK	POL - POL	58.93
7	Arrigo FRANCHI	Matteo MONTANARI	ITA - ITA	58.69
8	Janko KATERBAU	Martin REHDER	GER - GER	58.47
9	Joshua DONN	Jason FELDMAN	USA - USA	58. 44
10	Steve DE ROOS	Eldad GINOSSAR	BEL - ISR	58.31
11	Bob DRIJVER	Bas TAMMENS	NED - NED	58.22
12	Vincent De PAGTER	Marion MICHIELSEN	NED - NED	57.86
13	Merijn GROENENBOOM	Danny MOLENAAR	NED - NED	57.64
14	Jacco HOP	TimVERBEEK	NED - NED	57.14
15	Johan FASTENAKELS	Rutger VAN MECHELEN	BEL - BEL	57.08
16	Matej IVANCIC	Vjekosav ZEPIC	CRO - CRO	57.04
17	Michal NOWOSADZKI	Jan SIKORA	POL - POL	56.73
18	Andrea BOLDRINI	Matteo SBARIGIA	ITA - ITA	56.51
19	Michal KOPECKY	Milan MACURA	CZE - CZE	56.48
20	Yotam BAR-YOSSEF	Yuval YENER	ISR - ISR	56.47
21	Sverre Johan AAL	Espen LINDQVIST	NOR - NOR	56.27
22	Francesco FERRARI	Alberto SANGIORGIO	ITA - ITA	56.23
23	PIOTROWSKI P	Piotr WIANKOWSKI	POL - POL	56.15
24	Filip BIENKOWSKI	Jan GORCZYCA	POL - POL	56.11
25	Artur GULA	Mikolaj TACZEWSKI	POL - POL	56.04
26	Thomas BESSIS	Julien GAVIARD	FRA - FRA	55.96
27	Daniel LAVEE	Dror PADON	CAN - ISR	55.95
28	Oliver BURGESS	HANDLEY-PRITCHARD B	ENG - ENG	55.8 4
29	Eliran ARGELAZI	Alon BIRMAN	ISR - ISR	55.67
30	Eric ARVIDSSON	Karl ASPLUND	SWE - SWE	55.33
31	Piotr OWCZAREK	Dieter SCHULZ	AUT - AUT	55.29
32	Radoslaw KOZLOWSKI	Bartosz MER	POL - POL	55.19
33	Daniel GOTTANKA	Maria WUERMSEER	GER - GER	55.13
34	Andres HONYEK	Csaba SZABO	HUN - HUN	55.08
35	KARLOWICZW	Jan MAZURKIEWICZ	POL - POL	55.06
36	Paul SEGUINEAU	Adrien VINAY	FRA - FRA	55.00
37	Miltos KARAMANLIS	Vassilis VROUSTIS	GRE - GRE	54.59
38	Marcin MALESA		POL - POL	54.42
39	Adam EDGTTON	Filip NIZIOL Nicholas RODWELL	AUS - AUS	54.39
40	Paul GOSNEY	Michael WHIBLEY	AUS - NZL	54.34
40 41	Dennis KRAEMER	Alexander SMIRNOV	GER - GER	54.03
42	Dennis STUURMAN	Ralf WALGEMOET	NED - NED	53.88
43	Giuseppe DELLE CAVE	Robin FELLUS	ITA - ITA	53.00
44	Ben GREEN	Duncan HAPPER	ENG - ENG	52.83
45	Sandra RIMSTEDT	Emma SJOBERG	SWE - SWE	52.79
46 47	Quentin LEVOY	Yannick VALO	FRA - FRA	52.78
47 40	Peter MARJAI	Gabor MINARIK	HUN - HUN	52.75 52.65
48 49	Nicolas CHAUVELOT	Thibault MALARME	FRA - FRA	52.65
49 50	Antonio BORZI	Giuseppe MISTRETTA	ITA - ITA	52.52 52.49
50	Mans BERG	Patrik JOHANSSON	SWE - SWE	52. 4 8
51	Nuno DAMASO	Pedro PRATAS	POR - POR	52.20
52	Jared FOURNIER	Jeremy FOURNIER	USA - USA	52.09

53	Jefri ISLAM	Philipp STIGLEITNER	AUT - AUT	52.00
54	David ANCELIN	Marion CANONNE	FRA - FRA	51.99
55	Przemyslaw MIKA	Jakub NARUSZEWICZ	POL - POL	51.94
56	Denis DOBRIN	Anton OSIPOV	RUS - RUS	51.93
57	Olivier BESSIS	Romain TEMBOURET	FRA - FRA	51.80
58	Gabor MARJAI	Gabriella NYARADI	HUN - HUN	51.70
59	Lubomir IGNATOV	Stefan SKORCHEV	BUL - BUL	51.69
60	Michael BYRNE	Alex MORRIS	ENG - ENG	51.67
61	Chun King LEE	Tin Yau Felix WONG	HKG - HKG	51.26
62	Mads KROGSGAARD	Joachim LARSEN	DEN - DEN	51.25
63	Lorenzo CAMERINI	Aldo PAPARO	ITA - ITA	51.16
64	Andrew SINCLAIR	Alexander WILKINSON	SCO - SCO	51.12
65	Ewa GRABOWSKA	Piotr NAWROCKI	POL - POL	50.80
66	Victor CHUBUKOV	Jennifer LIN	USA - USA	50.60
67	Simon COPE	Stuart HARING	ENG - ENG	50.60
68	Simon HOULBERG	NIELSEN L	DEN - DEN	50.53
69	Jenny EWALD	Alexandra SCHWERDT	GER - GER	50.51
70	Philippe MOLINA	Frederic VOLCKER	FRA - FRA	50.45
70 71	Pavla HODEROVA	Jana JANKOVA	CZE - CZE	50.36
72	Eric MAYEFSKY	Dan RECHT	USA - USA	50.28
73	Rosalien BARENDREGT	Astrid DEKKER	NED - NED	50.19
73 74	David BANH	Ari GREENBERG	USA - USA	50.17
7 4 75			SCO - SCO	49.96
	Gyles ELLISON	Myles ELLISON		
76 77	Tine DOBBELS	Dirk de HERTOG	BEL - BEL	49.95
77 70	Benoit GUIOT	EIS TOUTENEL	BEL - BEL	49.76
78 70	Simon BECH	Bjorn SORLING	SWE - SWE	49.66
79	Adolfo Andres MADALA	Shivam SHAH	ARG - ENG	49.59
80	Janis BETHERS	Martins LORENCS	LAT - LAT	49.54
81	Sicco VERVVER	Marten WORTEL	NED - NED	49.45
82	Mihaela BALINT	Catalin-Lucian LAZAR	ROM - ROM	49.28
83	DEWILJES J	Thomas GOTARD	GER - GER	49.22
84	Jane LIIVAK	TriinuVIILUP	EST - EST	49.19
85	Eyal BEN-ZVI	Dan ISRAELI	ISR - ISR	49.08
86	Luka DONDIVIC	Tomislav GRACIN	CRO - CRO	48.95
87	Marta MAJ	Kamila SZCZEPANSKA	POL - POL	48.94
88	Adele GOGOMAN	Anna GOGOMAN	AUT - AUT	48.85
89	Richard BOYD	Emmet DAVIS	IRL - IRL	48.65
90	Mikolaj ALBRYCHT	Marcin MLODZKI	POL - POL	48.63
91	Simone PISANO	Omero SIMONE	ITA - ITA	48.46
92	Martina MANDIC	Lara RUSO	CRO - CRO	48.44
93	Matias ROHRBERG	Anne-Mette SCHALTZ	DEN - DEN	48.37
94	Susan STOCKDALE	Meike WORTEL	ENG - NED	47.78
95	Robyn DOWER	Mark REEVE	ENG - ENG	47.71
96	Indrek KUUSK	Pihel SARV	EST - EST	47.69
97	Ari ARASON	Ottar Ingi ODDSSON	ISL - ISL	47.66
98	Jamie MARTIN	Ronan McMAUGH	IRL - IRL	47.52
99	Philip ANDREWS	Michael GRAHAM	ENG - ENG	47.29
100	Balazs KARANCSI	Alexandra VEGH	HUN - HUN	47.23
101	DOXIADIS K	KONTOMITROS K	GRE - GRE	47.14
102	Francesca CANALI	Camilla PAOLINI	ITA - ITA	47.02
103	Owen FEEHAN	Brian SHARKEY	IRL - IRL	47.01
104	Kristian SENTIC	Gordan VALJAK	CRO - CRO	46.75
105	Rawad HADAD	Staffan HED	SWE - SWE	46.61
106	Ramon GOMEZ HIERRO	Joan PRIU TOUS	ESP - ESP	46.39
107	Andres KUUSK	Tuul SARV	EST - EST	46.24
108	Mario BAKARCIC	Zorana ZORIC	CRO - CRO	46.02
109	Angela COLLURA	George TRIGEORGIS	USA - USA	45.85
110	Romain BRISSON	RICHARD C	FRA - FRA	45.78
111	Robert BRADY	Eric SIEG	USA - USA	45.70
			25, (25, (15.70

112	Radu NISTOR	Cosmin MINDRUTA	ROM - ROM	45.49
113	Ilze ANDERSONE	Dace CIMOKA	LAT - LAT	45.37
114	Simon GRANATH	Sofia OLOFSSON	SWE - SWE	45.18
115	Gabor PAPP	Tamas SZABO (2)	HUN - HUN	44.94
116	Slavica MARTINOVIC	Ognjen STANIČIĆ	CRO - CRO	44.89
117	Giorgia BOTTA	Elena RUSCALLA	ITA - ITA	44.80
118	Erki METSANURK	Kalvi NOU	EST - EST	44.79
119	Tomasz LASOTA	Maciej STASINSKI	POL - POL	44.64
120	Niclas Raulund EGE	Troels KRISTENSEN	DEN - DEN	44.43
121	Robert LUKOTKA	Stanislav MIKLIK	SVK - SVK	44.22
122	Bence BOZZAI	Levente KADERJAK	HUN - HUN	44.02
123	Lars JANSSON	Magnus MELIN	SWE - SWE	43.89
124	Argenta PRICE	Randall RUBINSTEIN	USA - USA	43.52
125	Sidsel GOLTERMANN	Anne Juhl SORENSEN	DEN - DEN	43.49
126	Krisztina ORMAY	Orsolya RETTEGHY	HUN - HUN	43.37
127	BJORNSDOTTIR I	Grimur KRISTINSSON	ISL - ISL	43.29
128	MOLLER PEDERSEN L	Lars Moller SORENSEN	DEN - DEN	43.25
129	Radka MALA	Lucie VONDRACKOVA	CZE - CZE	43.24
130	Gudjon HAUKSSON	Johann SIGURDARSON	ISL - ISL	42.23
131	Moa PETERSEN	Sofia RYMAN	SWE - SWE	42.19
132	Tadeusz CZEKALSKI	Iwo ZABLOCKI	POL - POL	41.98
133	Mirto ATHANASATOU	Christina SIKIOTI	GRE - GRE	40.45
134	Martin HRINAK	Andrej LOBOTKA	SVK - SVK	40.37
135	SORENSEN M	Thomas TROMHOLT	DEN - DEN	40.36
136	James CORRY	lan W B JONES	IRL - IRL	39.78
137	DAVIDSDOTTIR E	Hrefna JONSDOTTIR	ISL - ISL	38.74
138	Lukas SIDOR	Lubos KIANICA	SVK - SVK	36.87
139	KJAER C	Eva Lynge KJELDSEN	DEN - DEN	35.56
140	Christian BRUNO	Rasmus Lybech JENSEN	DEN - DEN	34.24
141	Olafur HANNESSON	KRISTBERGSSON E	ISL - ISL	33.64
142	Kimberly FORD	Aurelio MAUGERI	USA - ITA	27.01

SCHOOLS PAIRS

After 3 Sessions

Rank		Names	Countries	Total
1	Andrzej BERNATOWICZ	Jan BETLEY	POL - POL	59.97
2	Bartlomiej IGLA	Artur MACHNO	POL - POL	59.79
3	Pierre FRANCESCHETTI	Andrea LANDRY	FRA - FRA	59.14
4	Tom DESSAIN	Joseph MELA	ENG - ENG	58.52
5	Piotr JASSEM	Michal STEFANOW	POL - POL	58.30
6	Peteris BETHERS	Adrians IMSA	LAT - LAT	58.09
7	Dennis BILDE	Lars TOFTE	DEN - DEN	57.95
8	Kevin DWYER	Owen LIEN	USA - USA	57.39
9	Pawel JASSEM	Pawel MALECKI	POL - POL	57.09
10	Joanna KRAWCZYK	Artur WASIAK	POL - POL	57.07
11	Piotr BUTRYN	Maciej SIKORA	POL - POL	57.00
12	Karol GALAZKA	Piotr KRUSZEWSKI	POL - POL	55.51
13	Jurijs BALASOVS	Lauris LAUKS	LAT - LAT	55.36
14	Aris ANASTASATOS	Michalis SOFIOS	GRE - GRE	55.14
15	Daniel SMAZA	Ilia SZPUNTOW	POL - BLR	55.13
16	Damian BARCEWICZ	Marek JAROSZ	POL - POL	54.45
17	Simon POULAT	Vincent VIDALAT	FRA - FRA	54.28

18	Alexandre KILANI	Quentin ROBERT	FRA - FRA	54.25
19	RikVERBEEK	Ernst WACKWITZ JR	NED - NED	54.20
20	Mateusz MAGDON	Piotr TUCZYNSKI	POL - POL	54.10
21	Natalia SAKOWSKA	Maria ZADROZNA	POL - POL	54.08
22	Aarnout HELMICH	Gerbrand HOP	NED - NED	53.98
23	Gabor KISS	Robert TORMA	HUN - HUN	53.34
24	Emil JEPSEN	Maria Dam MORTENSEN	DEN - DEN	53.33
25	Vaclav FRANK	Matej PETRASEK	CZE - CZE	53.31
26	Jamilla SPANGENBERG	Signid SPANGENBERG	NED - NED	52.96
27	Edward JONES	David ROGERS	ENG - ENG	52.40
28	Aymeric LEBATTEUX	Nicolas LHUISSIER	FRA - FRA	52.30
29	Wojciech KAZMIERCZAK	Arkadiusz MAJCHER	POL - POL	52.08
30	Michal KANIA	Konrad STAWSKI	POL - POL	51.49
31	Kamila WESOLOWSKA	Justyna ZMUDA	POL - POL	51.47
32	Leonardo FRUSCOLONI	Giancarlo TRIMARCHI	ITA - ITA	51.45
33	Tamas HOFFMANN	Peter SINKOVICZ	HUN - HUN	51.44
34	Vincent BROERSEN	Rens PHILIPSEN	NED - NED	51.41
35	Fredrik SIMONSEN	Erlend SKJETNE	NOR - NOR	50.94
36	Harald EIDE	Mats EIDE	NOR - NOR	50.91
37	Dominik GOERTZEN	Felix ZIMMERMANN	GER - GER	50.87
38	Marie EGGELING	Cristina GIAMPIETRO	GER - GER	50.28
39	Ewa MAKSYMIUK	Monika MAKSYMIUK	POL - POL	49.99
40	Malwina DABROWSKA	Maciej DABROWSKI	POL - POL	49.15
41	Ciprian NITA	, Diana VASILE	ROM - ROM	48.64
42	Jessie CARBONNEAUX	Carole PUILLET	FRA - FRA	48.46
43	Arthur COHEN	Oscar COHEN	FRA - FRA	48.35
44	Aliaksei BYTSKEVICH	KARBANOVICH S	BLR - BLR	47.87
45	Wojciech RACZ	Aleksander KRYCH	POL - POL	47.30
46	Aleksandra GORSKA	Danuta KAZMUCHA	POL - POL	47.23
47	Pawel KALETA	Kacper WILCZAK	POL - POL	47.06
48	Nabil EDGTTON	Luke GARDINER	AUS - NZL	46.83
49	Elzbieta DLUTOWSKA	TYSZKIEWICZ K	POL - POL	46.66
50	Aleksy GEMBICKI	PIELASZKIEWICZ M	POL - POL	46.42
51	Anne HEIM	Anna-Marie ROWOLD	GER - GER	45.75
52	Pasquale LANNI	Erica TURIN	ITA - ITA	45.68
53	Tomothee BOEKHORST	Antoine PAMELARD	FRA - FRA	45.39
54	Andrew DUBAY	Matthew STAHLMAN	USA - USA	45.32
55	Katrina LOMAS	Wayne SOMERVILLE	IRL - IRL	44.95
56	Anna Christa EGE	Amalie KOCH-PALMUND	DEN - DEN	44.73
57	Zuzana GOGOVA	Tomas KIJAC	SVK - SVK	44.06
58	Tomasz GOGACZ	Jacub PIOTROWSKI	POL - POL	44.06
59	Ruth CONNOLLY	Kerri NASH	IRL - IRL	43.48
60	Filip DOMAGALSKI	Michal MORYSON	POL - POL	43.17
61	BEIJSTERVELDT B	Vincent NAB	NED - NED	42.92
62	Signe BUUS THOMSEN	Julie HALD NIELSEN	DEN - DEN	42.84
63	Bronagh CONSIDINE	David SYNNOTT	IRL - IRL	42.77
64	Michal SHIKRA	Michal TOTH	SVK - SVK	39.44
65	Adam FINNSON	Gabriel GISLASON	ISL - ISL	39.31
66	Matt CORY	Andrew LUKE	USA - USA	34.96
67	Kornel LAZAR	Akos UHRIN	HUN - HUN	34.69
68	Demie CHENG	Charles TAM	USA - USA	28.69