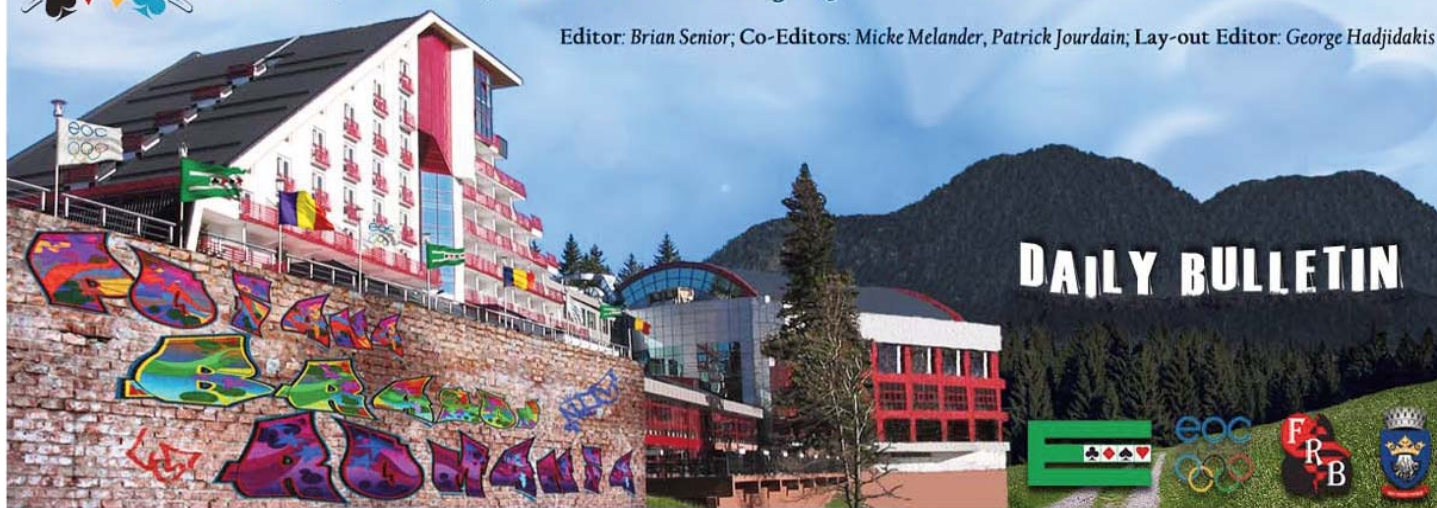


22nd EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS



Poiana, Brasov, Romania 8-18 July 2009

Editor: Brian Senior; Co-Editors: Micke Melander, Patrick Jourdain; Lay-out Editor: George Hadjidakis



Issue No. 3

Saturday, 11 July 2009

Danish Dynamite



Bran Castle, Transylvania (Dracula's castle)

Yesterday, I pointed out that Denmark was doing very badly in both championships and assured you that this would change. Well, the Open team is still below average, but the Girls had a perfect day, scoring 75 out of 75 to move up to joint third.

Netherlands leads the Girls Championship from France, Denmark, Germany and Poland. As we reach the mid-point in this championship, the favourites are massing at the head of the table.

Norway continues to lead the Open Championship, from France, Germany, Sweden, Latvia and Russia. Norway, however, had a poor day, losing their local derby against Sweden by 10-20 VPs – and the Swedish Girls completed the double, defeating the Norwegian Girls by 22-8 VPs.

Today's Vugraph Matches (also on BBO)

- 10.00 Germany v Denmark (Girls)
- 14.00 Latvia v Turkey (Open)
- 17.30 Netherlands v France (Open)

Additional BBO Matches

- 10.00 Hungary v France (Girls)
- 14.00 Poland v Norway (Open)
- 17.30 Sweden v Latvia (Open)



UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS



RESULTS



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND 4

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	BULGARIA ISRAEL	58 - 26	22 - 8
2	DENMARK AUSTRIA	77 - 7	25 - 2
3	BELGIUM ITALY	16 - 57	7 - 23
4	FRANCE HUNGARY	54 - 39	18 - 12
5	CROATIA RUSSIA	30 - 55	9 - 19
6	CZECH REP. ROMANIA	33 - 28	16 - 14
7	GREECE LATVIA	46 - 75	9 - 21
8	FINLAND ENGLAND	36 - 43	14 - 16
9	IRELAND POLAND	25 - 44	11 - 19
10	TURKEY NORWAY	21 - 38	11 - 19
11	SWEDEN BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0
12	NETHERLANDS GERMANY	56 - 27	21 - 9

ROUND 7

1	ISRAEL	FRANCE
2	AUSTRIA	CROATIA
3	ITALY	CZECH REP.
4	HUNGARY	GREECE
5	RUSSIA	FINLAND
6	ROMANIA	IRELAND
7	LATVIA	TURKEY
8	ENGLAND	SWEDEN
9	POLAND	NORWAY
10	BELGIUM	NETHERLANDS
11	DENMARK	GERMANY
12	BULGARIA	BYE

ROUND 5

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ISRAEL DENMARK	59 - 41	19 - 11
2	AUSTRIA BELGIUM	55 - 15	23 - 7
3	ITALY FRANCE	22 - 60	7 - 23
4	HUNGARY CROATIA	34 - 29	16 - 14
5	RUSSIA CZECH REP.	41 - 31	17 - 13
6	ROMANIA GREECE	74 - 51	20 - 10
7	LATVIA FINLAND	61 - 54	16 - 14
8	ENGLAND IRELAND	65 - 35	21 - 9
9	POLAND TURKEY	40 - 31	17 - 13
10	NORWAY SWEDEN	31 - 57	10 - 20
11	BULGARIA NETHERLANDS	52 - 45	16 - 14
12	GERMANY BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0

ROUND 8

1	CROATIA	ISRAEL
2	CZECH REP.	AUSTRIA
3	GREECE	ITALY
4	FINLAND	HUNGARY
5	IRELAND	RUSSIA
6	TURKEY	ROMANIA
7	SWEDEN	LATVIA
8	NORWAY	ENGLAND
9	POLAND	BYE
10	NETHERLANDS	FRANCE
11	GERMANY	BELGIUM
12	BULGARIA	DENMARK

ROUND 6

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	BELGIUM ISRAEL	27 - 61	8 - 22
2	FRANCE AUSTRIA	98 - 18	25 - 0
3	CROATIA ITALY	56 - 15	23 - 7
4	CZECH REP. HUNGARY	50 - 74	10 - 20
5	GREECE RUSSIA	52 - 56	14 - 16
6	FINLAND ROMANIA	28 - 61	8 - 22
7	IRELAND LATVIA	21 - 96	1 - 25
8	TURKEY ENGLAND	54 - 22	22 - 8
9	SWEDEN POLAND	58 - 35	20 - 10
10	NORWAY BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0
11	NETHERLANDS DENMARK	19 - 40	11 - 18.5
12	GERMANY BULGARIA	37 - 43	14 - 16

Past Play Problem No. 2

Here is another play problem from an earlier European Youth Championship:

How should West play 5♦? North leads the ♠Q, which goes to the king and ace. Next comes a second spade from South.

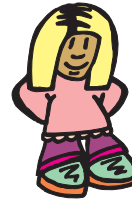
♠ 8	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K 10 6
♥ Q 10 7 2		♥ A 8
♦ Q J 7 5 4		♦ A K 10 9 8
♣ K 9 3		♣ A 10 8

Solution on page 18.

UNDER 26 GIRLS TEAMS



RESULTS



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND 4

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ESTONIA TURKEY	38 - 36	15 - 15
2	POLAND ITALY	61 - 62	15 - 15
3	DENMARK ROMANIA	79 - 9	25 - 2
4	FRANCE GERMANY	67 - 36	21 - 9
5	NETHERLANDS HUNGARY	30 - 21	17 - 13
6	NORWAY ENGLAND	30 - 54	10 - 20
7	SWEDEN CZECH REP.	50 - 48	15 - 14

ROUND 7

1	ITALY	TURKEY
2	ROMANIA	POLAND
3	GERMANY	DENMARK
4	HUNGARY	FRANCE
5	ENGLAND	NETHERLANDS
6	CZECH REP.	NORWAY
7	SWEDEN	ESTONIA

ROUND 5

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ESTONIA POLAND	8 - 52	6 - 24
2	DENMARK TURKEY	70 - 15	25 - 4
3	FRANCE ITALY	27 - 15	17 - 13
4	NETHERLANDS ROMANIA	103 - 20	25 - 0
5	NORWAY GERMANY	26 - 53	9 - 21
6	SWEDEN HUNGARY	44 - 54	13 - 17
7	CZECH REP. ENGLAND	51 - 50	15 - 15

ROUND 8

1	ESTONIA	ROMANIA
2	ITALY	GERMANY
3	TURKEY	HUNGARY
4	POLAND	ENGLAND
5	DENMARK	CZECH REP.
6	FRANCE	SWEDEN
7	NETHERLANDS	NORWAY

ROUND 6

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ESTONIA ITALY	55 - 37	19 - 11
2	TURKEY ROMANIA	44 - 53	13 - 16
3	POLAND GERMANY	40 - 19	19 - 11
4	DENMARK HUNGARY	63 - 13	25 - 5
5	FRANCE ENGLAND	37 - 55	11 - 19
6	NETHERLANDS CZECH REP.	43 - 10	22 - 8
7	NORWAY SWEDEN	17 - 52	8 - 22

ROUND 9

1	HUNGARY	GERMANY
2	ENGLAND	ROMANIA
3	CZECH REP.	ITALY
4	SWEDEN	TURKEY
5	NORWAY	POLAND
6	NETHERLANDS	DENMARK
7	FRANCE	ESTONIA

World Championships 2010

The top four teams in the European U-26 and U-21 Championships here in Poiana Brasov will qualify for the 2010 World Championships, for the Jaime Ortiz-Patino Trophy and Jose Damiani Cup respectively.

The dates and venue for the World Championships have not yet been finalised, but may be held alongside the Open/Women/Seniors/Mixed Championships in Philadelphia in the first half of October 2010.



Today's Schedule

10.00	Under 26 Girls (7th Round)
14.00	Under 26 Girls (8th Round)
17.30	Under 26 Girls (9th Round)
14.00	Under 26 Open (7th Round)
17.30	Under 26 Open (8th Round)

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS

RANKING AFTER ROUND 6

1 NORWAY	119
2 FRANCE	116
3 GERMANY	109
4 SWEDEN	108
5 LATVIA	105
RUSSIA	105
7 ROMANIA	102
8 NETHERLANDS	96
9 CROATIA	95
10 BULGARIA	94
11 TURKEY	91
12 POLAND	89
13 HUNGARY	87
14 CZECH REPUBLIC	85
ENGLAND	85
ISRAEL	85
17 ITALY	84
18 DENMARK	78.5
19 GREECE	78
20 BELGIUM	72
21 FINLAND	69
22 AUSTRIA	60
23 IRELAND	46

UNDER 26 GIRLS TEAMS

RANKING AFTER ROUND 6

1 NETHERLANDS	110
2 FRANCE	105
3 DENMARK	101
GERMANY	101
5 POLAND	99
6 SWEDEN	97
7 HUNGARY	93
8 ENGLAND	92
9 ITALY	84
10 CZECH REPUBLIC	83
NORWAY	83
12 ESTONIA	80
13 TURKEY	72
14 ROMANIA	43

Meet the Team – English Girls

Elizabeth Roberts: Liz studied mathematics at Cambridge University and is a keen rower. In her spare time, Liz is an extra on the television show, Coronation Street.

Jennie Marvin: Jen is studying English Literature at Birmingham City University and is a little envious of Liz's acting career. It has been noticed that the less she thinks the better she plays bridge!

Amy Stout: Amy is studying history at Leeds University. She has a part-time job as an elf, so you will never see her around Christmas time!

Emily Middleton: Emily studied computer science at Oxford University and is now a professional computer geek. In her spare time she prides herself on being able to identify over 100 varieties of tea.

Alice Kaye: Alice is studying engineering at Oxford University. Although currently attached, her heart secretly belongs to Brian Senior (chief editor, Mr. Grumpy) (*I feel terrible about breaking the heart of such a wonderful young woman, but I have to be honest and confess to Alice that my heart belongs to another beautiful blond in one of the other teams here in Poiana Brasov – Ed.*)

Sarah O'Connor: Sarah studies natural science at Cambridge University. This is her first international bridge event. If anyone sees her suitcase, please bring it to reception (thank you, Heathrow terminal 5).

Fiona Brown (mascot): Fee was forced to play in the Open team (to bring up the standard of bridge and the general level of attractiveness!).

Susan Stockdale (coach): Coach, physicist and squeeze play extraordinaire, Susan is now too old to play for the team (it's a relief as she wouldn't have been selected anyway).

Heather Dhondy (captain): World ladies gold medalist (we taught her everything she knows). In her spare time, Heather enjoys memorizing barcodes and making fruit sculptures.

Today in History - July 11th



1975: China's Terracotta Army uncovered near the ancient capital of Xian. More than 8,000 life sized warriors were buried around 206BC to guard the tomb of the first Chinese Emperor.

1995: The Bosnian Serb army forces Dutch peacekeepers to withdraw from the United Nations safe area of Srebrenica. The Serb army subsequently commits one of Europe's worst genocides in Srebrenica, killing in excess of 7000 Muslims.

1656: Ann Austin and Mary Fisher, two Englishwomen, become the first Quakers to immigrate to the American colonies, arriving in a ship at Boston in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The Good Samaritan from Norway!



The Daily Bulletin meets Lars Eide, NPC for the Norwegian teams in Brasov, for a talk about the Norwegian successes during the last 10 years. I met him in front of the plasma screens displaying their U-26 team score of a massive 72 VPs out of 75 on the first day.

What's happening Lars, was my first question.

- *I'm starting to get a bit tired of watching Sweden he said. I raised my eyebrows, wondering what that was about, enquiring why. He quickly explained that Sweden always seemed to play the team Norway is going to play the round before and that he was spying on one of the next opponent's pairs.*

Lars was a bridge player as junior and won gold in 1980 (Kfar Hamaccabiah) for Norway. He then got four sons, now aged 27, 26, 19 and 17. Almost all juniors have played against someone from the clan of Eide the last 10 years if they met Norway. They have collected medals here and there, not only in the European tournaments. If we look only at Beijing and the Mind Sports Olympiad, Lars won gold as NPC for the U-28 team, together with one of the sons, Erik. Petter captured the bronze medal in the U-26 teams and only poor Harald had to leave China without a medal, coming fifth in the U-21. That's quite a record to beat!

Lars says that one of the reasons for the Norwegian story surely is that they play a lot of bridge in very strong competition. He believes that this is the best way to quickly becoming a better player. Another part is to have fun and enjoy what you are doing.

- *I have organized the Norwegian summer junior camps for the last 12 years. It's extremely good fun but I recognize that I'm becoming older and older. Sleeping in a big hall on only a madras isn't as easy as it was. Though all Norwegian juniors more or less have 'grown up' with me watching and taking care of them in the summer camps.*

On the question if they have prepared in any special way, Lars criticized his own federation.

- *I don't understand their priorities sometimes. They can 'throw away' thousands of Euros for the other teams. But for the juniors it's very little. Just look at our Girls team. They got support for uniforms, plus captain, coach and the entry fees, all other costs they had to pay themselves. They did a fantastic job managing to raise the money in different ways.*

- *Part of the problems isn't in Norway he says, it's the International bodies that place the tournaments in very expensive locations. Take Sao Paolo for instance, that is almost creating a small war in Norway where the clubs want to lower the money for the international representation.*

I tried to get back on track with my question about preparations; Lars smiled and quickly continued.

- *No, we never meet ahead of a major championship. We don't seem to have either time or money for it. Though we try to be as active as possible, taking part in the toughest possible tournaments to practice. We had two of our pairs in the Netherlands playing in the White House, we played the Nordic Junior Team Championships in Iceland, and had some pairs who also tried their luck in Sanremo in the Open Championship. Add Internet practice and all the major national tournaments on top of this.*

- *Now we are here and I think we will win medals in the U-26. Though I have seen Norwegian teams having disasters after great days before and I have to speak to them so they are aware of this...*

- *As soon as I go back to Norway I have to go and prepare for this year's summer camp so the Norwegian success can continue. It's very nice that young players have full focus on school and bridge. This may be a very risky combination though I'm impressed that most of them manage to combine the two things.*

Why do you do all this?

- *It's simple, I enjoy helping other people. To see them enjoy themselves and the happiness they receive is the most pleasure I can get.*

Obviously there are good Samaritans out there! The world of bridge needs more like Lars who sacrifice themselves in this way! Can we order one per NBO please?

Good luck Lars – we salute your work!



Daily Dutch I

by Kees Tammens

It really is some environment here in the mountains of Rumania. Do you know Dracula operated here? So all you young maidens, beware! With all the juniors and girls arriving in the beautiful hotel Piatra Mare Brasov Poiana we can really expect an exciting championship. In this daily report the exploits of the teams of the Netherlands will be the main issue. But I think (and fear) that on many occasions an opponent will play the leading part.

Don't think we (the Dutch) took any chances in our attempt to defend the European title the Netherlands won in 2007(Jesolo). With Enri Leufkens (Bermuda Bowl winner in 1993) as non-playing captain and Anton Maas (silver and bronze in the World Pairs of 1981 and 1994) as coach, no junior could ask for better know-how at their side.

As we all know by heart, bridge is sometimes a cruel game. How about this hand from the practice match against the Danish juniors, one day before the start of the tournament?

Dealer West. None Vul.

West	North	East	South
2♠	Dble	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	?

And now as South?

♠ 7
♥ K Q 3
♦ A Q 9 8 7 6 5
♣ 10 2

South went on to 5♦, showing a great hand with diamonds, after which North passed.

♠ A 10 6 4
♥ A J 10 4 2
♦ 10
♣ A K 2

was not the dummy South wanted to see and a mere 400 was the result.

The costs? Minus 11 IMPs because the Danish North/South pair bid and made 6♥ for 980; not an obvious line of play after a weak two by West and a spade lead. Hearts were four-one and ♦K doubleton offside,

The Dutch pair at the third table went all the way to 7♥ and duly went down after finessing for the ♦K.

So after this bad rehearsal the Dutch juniors went on to their first match, against Austria.

Round I

As defending champions the Netherlands earned the right to play Austria on vugraph.

Board I. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ 8		
	♥ A K Q 8 7 6 4		
	♦ J 6 4		
	♣ K 8		
♠ A K J 4 3		♠ 10 7 6	
♥ 10 5		♥ J 2	
♦ 5 3		♦ Q 7	
♣ 9 7 4 3		♣ A Q J 6 5 2	
	♠ Q 9 5 2		
	♥ 9 3		
	♦ A K 10 9 8 2		
	♣ 10		
West	North	East	South
Islam	de Pagter	Gogoman	Hop
	1♥	2♣	Dble
2♠	4♥	4♠	Dble
5♣	Dble	All Pass	



Jefri Islam, Austria

WHITE HOUSE JUNIOR INTERNATIONALS

Newsflash: White House Juniors 2010 will start on Sunday 21 March and the finals will be on Friday 26 March 2010. The intention is to increase the attraction of the event by the participation of teams from outside of Europe (USA, China and Thailand already showed their interest in participating). Check with Kees Tammens (keestammens@email.com), and walking around in Piatra Mare.

No big deal you will think. Four tricks to North/South, +300 but a nice save by East/West against 4♥.

But South elected as the lead the ♣10. All of a sudden declarer could make eleven tricks. She, however, played a spade to the ace and finished – after finesse for ♠Q – with ten tricks and –100 but still a 7 IMP gain against the 400 (5♦) bid and made at the other table.

The only big swing in the match, came very early in the match:

In the second match the Netherlands crossed swords with Israel, a fierce contender. In March the Israeli Juniors won the Carrousel Cup (White House Juniors) and usually this means that the winning team will also be good at the next international junior event.

The Dutch were rather lucky to make Six Hearts:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 4 2 ♥ 10 6 4 ♦ Q 6 4 ♣ K 10 6 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ J 9 8 6 3 ♥ A K Q 7 2 ♦ K 8 2 ♣ –	
N						
W E						
S						
♠ A 5 ♥ 9 8 5 ♦ A J 7 5 ♣ A J 9 7		♠ K Q 7 ♥ J 3 ♦ 10 9 3 ♣ Q 8 5 4 3				

West	North	East	South
<i>Hop</i>		<i>de Pagter</i>	
		1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	3♥(i)	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

(i) 5-5 invitational

After some mathematics this slam has about a 21.37 % chance of making, or in real life 100% because everything was friendly.

Board 13 was once again the number for bad luck. That is to say for the Dutch because they went down in 6♠ with the Israeli declarer making thirteen tricks for 1460. The match stayed closed and when a king-jack decision went in favour of the Netherlands it ended in the second plus-draw (16-14) of the day.

In the third match the Dutch juniors played their most convincing game and finished with 18 VPs. (I have to admit it was a bye).

The Only Lead

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ 6 4 ♥ A 4 3 ♦ J 9 4 3 2 ♣ 7 5 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A 7 5 2 ♥ Q J 10 9 5 2 ♦ K Q 8 ♣ –	♠ K Q J 10 9 8 ♥ 8 ♦ 10 5 ♣ A K 8 3
N						
W E						
S						
		♠ 3 ♥ K 7 6 ♦ A 7 6 ♣ Q J 10 9 6 4				

West	North	East	South
<i>Parn</i>		<i>Sarv</i>	
–	–	1♠	2♣
Pass	4♥	4♠	5♥
Dble	All Pass		

The Estonian Girls team started the Championships off with a 14-16 loss to Netherlands – not bad against much more experienced opposition. This board helped to keep the match close as Estonia's Tuul Saav first pushed the Dutch North/South to the five level then found the only lead to defeat 5♥.

Saav judged that her partner, Erika Parn, must have something useful to explain her double and, in that case, there should be no rush to attempt to cash black tricks. Accordingly, Tuul led her singleton trump. Parn won the heart ace and returned a second heart and declarer could take only one spade ruff in dummy so was a trick short of her contract; –100. Well done.



Tuul Sarv, Estonia

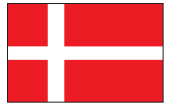
UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS **ROUND 3**



ITALY

v

DENMARK



We always expect both Italy and Denmark to do well at Youth Championships. While Italy ended the first day just above average, the Danes ended it in last place, this third-round match having a lot to do with that position.

When Denmark scored 6 IMPs on each of the first two deals to lead by 12-0, there was no sign of what was to come. The Italian charge began on Board 3.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>	<i>Manno</i>
Pass	INT	2♥	Pass
All Pass			Dble

West	North	East	South
<i>Montanari</i>	<i>Pedersen</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Sorensen</i>
Pass	2♦	2♥	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

I am not sure why anyone needs to open INT with that South distribution, whatever range is in use, but Lars Moller Sorensen did so, showing 11-14. Lea Troels Moller Pedersen's 2♦ response asked about major-suit doubletons if my reading of their card is correct. As for the 3♠ bid, your guess is as good as mine. Matteo Montanari led his heart against 3NT and Arrigo Franchi won the queen and switched to a club for the ten. Sorensen tried a heart but Franchi won the king and switched to ace and another diamond in response to Montanari's discard of the encouraging nine. Sorensen cashed the clubs then played on spades. Though the jack lost to the queen, Montanari had a spade for his last card so the contract was just one down for -50.

The Italians were also playing a weak no trump but Andrea Manno did not open the South hand. However, INT was the choice of North, Massimiliano Di Franco. Emil

Jepsen overcalled 2♥ and Manno had a perfect take-out double. Di Franco had an equally perfect pass.

Two Hearts doubled looks as though it might be quite expensive but the play went well for Jepsen. Manno led a spade and Di Franco won the ace and returned the seven. Manno assume dthat his partner had a doubleton so won the king and continued with a third round to the eight. Jepsen threw a club away and another when his continuation of the ♠Q was ruffed high by Di Franco, who now cashed a club trick before switching to the ten of hearts. Jepsen won, cashed two more top hearts, and played ace and another diamond. He had to lose the ♦K and ♥9 for down one; -200 and 6 IMPs to Italy.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>	<i>Manno</i>
1♣	1♥	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Montanari</i>	<i>Pedersen</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Sorensen</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Would you overcall with that North hand? The high-card strength is more than adequate, but the suit quality is awful. In the event, Di Franco was willing to overcall, Pedersen was not. Naturally, it was Pedersen who ended up declaring a heart contract

Once Jepsen had bid 2♦ over the intervention, it was inevitable that his side would get to their 25-point game. You might make 2NT, but only if you had second sight. Bilde won the heart lead and played a diamond to the eight and jack. Back came a heart. He won and led a spade to the king then played the king of diamonds, throwing the heart king from

hand. The defence could no longer play on hearts without putting declarer in dummy to cash the diamonds, so Di Franco won the ace of diamonds and played ace and another spade. Bilde won and cashed the ace of clubs and Di Franco did not unblock. The contract was one down for -100.

Pedersen did not overcall but then heard the opposition stop in 2♦. Time to balance! The good news was that there was no double. The bad news was that 2♥ went four down for -400 and 11 IMPs to Italy.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Bilde	Di Franco	Jepsen	Manno
Pass	Pass	Pass	3♦
3♠	All Pass	Dble	Pass
West	North	East	South
Montanari	Pedersen	Franchi	Sorensen
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♦
4♥	Dble	All Pass	Pass

Sorensen opened the South hand with 4♦ and Pedersen judged to double Montanari in 4♥. Manno had no system to get in the way of his also opening 4♦ but preferred to open a level lower. Bilde responded 3♠ to the balancing double and played there.

Di Franco led the jack of diamonds against 3♠. Bilde won the ace and led a spade to his queen then ran the nine of clubs. When that held he ruffed his diamond loser and led the jack of spades to the king and ace then the ♣J, ducking North's queen. Di Franco switched to the king of hearts. Bilde won, drew the last trump and knocked out the queen of hearts; 11 tricks for +200.

Pedersen made the same lead against 4♥ doubled. Montanari won the ace, took a spade finesse, and, confident that the heart honours had to be with North, continued with the neat play of the nine of hearts from hand. That held the trick and he now played the ♣6 to the ten, a spade to the king and ace, and a club for the queen and ace. A club came back to the jack and king and Pedersen exited with the ♦10, ruffed in dummy. With a spade going on the fourth club, Montanari could now endplay North to lose only one trump trick; +690 and 10 IMPs to Italy.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Bilde	Di Franco	Jepsen	Manno
Pass	1♦	Dble	Pass
1♥	2♦	4♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Montanari	Pedersen	Franchi	Sorensen
Pass	1♦	1♥	Dble
3♥	Dble	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Dble	5♣
Pass	5♦	Dble	All Pass

Jepsen doubled the 1♦ opening and Manno saw no reason to get involved. That meant that Di Franco had no reason to expect much help from his partner so he contented himself with rebidding 2♦ then defended 4♥. He led the king of spades, which Bilde ducked. Bilde won the spade continuation, ruffed a spade and led the eight of diamonds, pitching dummy's last spade when Di Franco did not cover. Bilde next played a club to the king, ducked, and continued with the ten to Manno's jack. He ruffed the low club return high, crossed to the ace of hearts and ruffed the last club, also high. Down to nothing but diamonds, Bilde had to lead one and Manno got a trump trick to hold the contract to ten; +420.



Dennis Bilde, Denmark

Franchi preferred to overcall 1♥ and now Sorensen was happy to double to show four spades and some values. That led to a totally different auction, in which Pedersen was unwilling to let the opposition play 4♥. She tried 4♠ and was doubled. Now Sorensen ran to 5♣ and she corrected to 5♦, also doubled. Imagine the warm feeling that must have given Montanari, looking at a rather good poker hand in diamonds – and his partner doubled in front of him!

There was little to the play in 5♦ doubled. Pedersen had to lose three trump tricks and one in each side suit so was down four for -800 and 9 IMPs to Italy. Denmark trailed by 12-38 at the half and it didn't get any better. A bidding misunderstanding cost 12 IMPs on Board 11, then:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ Q 6 3 2											
♥ Q											
♦ J 7 6											
♣ A J 8 3 2											
♠ A 10	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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 9 8 7
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ K J 10 8 6 5	♥ 4										
♦ K 5 2	♦ A 4 3										
♣ 10 7	♣ K Q 9 6 5										
♠ J 5 4											
♥ A 9 7 3 2											
♦ Q 10 9 8											
♣ 4											
West	North	East	South								
<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>	<i>Manno</i>								
	Pass	1♣	1♥								
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass								
2NT	All Pass										
West	North	East	South								
<i>Montanari</i>	<i>Pedersen</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Sorensen</i>								
	Pass	1♣	1♥								
Pass	INT	Pass	Pass								
Dble	All Pass										

Partner overcalls 1♥ and you hold the North hand; what would you respond? Di Franco's choice of 1♠ kept his side out of trouble when Manno could pass and Bilde jumped to 2NT rather than double.

Jepsen had a misfitting minimum so passed 2NT but Bilde made a huge number of tricks. The opening lead of the queen of hearts did not do declarer any harm. Bilde won the king and led the ten of clubs, running it when Di Franco played low. He continued with a second club to the nine followed by the king of clubs to the ace. Back came the ♣J to dummy's queen. Meanwhile, Manno had been having to make discards and he chose to throw hearts. Bilde crossed to the king of diamonds and knocked out the ace of hearts, claiming eleven tricks for +210.

Pedersen did not like to bid such a weak spade suit so responded INT to the overcall. Montanari had an easy double of that and nobody had anywhere to go. Franchi led his heart to the king and Montanari returned the jack to dummy's ace. Pedersen played don diamonds and, of course, knew not to unguard the hearts. Still, she could manage only four tricks so was three down for -800 and 11 IMPs to Italy.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ J											
♥ 10 7											
♦ J 9 8 4 3											
♣ A J 7 5 4											
♠ A K Q 7	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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		♠ 8 6 3
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ 9 8 5 3	♥ J 6 4 2										
♦ 7 5	♦ Q 10										
♣ 8 6 3	♣ Q 10 9 2										
♠ 10 9 5 4 2											
♥ A K Q											
♦ A K 6 2											
♣ K											
West	North	East	South								
<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>	<i>Manno</i>								
Pass	INT	Pass	1♠								
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♣								
All Pass			3♦								
West	North	East	South								
<i>Montanari</i>	<i>Pedersen</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Sorensen</i>								
	Pass	Pass	1♠								
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT								
All Pass											

Finally, a small ray of sunshine for Denmark. The Italian North/South pair seem to have had a Gazilli mix-up – 2♣ was either natural or any strong hand, and clearly North was making some kind of minor-suit raise and there was a disagreement as to the strength shown by South's 3♦ bid. Six Diamonds is a playable contract and after a trump lead Manno made all 13 tricks for +190.

Sorensen preferred the crude (or practical according to your view) rebid of 3NT. Franchi led the ten of clubs and declarer is credited with nine tricks for +600 when there are clearly ten on top. Anyway, 9 IMPs to Denmark.

Italy won the match by 68-24 IMPs, 24-6 VPs.



Andrea Manno, Italy

Meet the Belgians



Traditionally, Belgium is one of the first countries appearing at these championships, at least by alphabetical order. It's not so surprising, therefore, that it has traditionally been among the first to present its team to the readers of the Daily Bulletin.

We start the review with our star player, **Rutger Van Mechelen** (25). He works for a well-known Belgian bank that has encountered difficulties in recent months (I may not say which one). He has now three years of experience in the Belgian Honour Division and his 'palmares' are increasing quickly. So, two months ago he captured the Belgian Pairs with his favourite partner, Eric Debus. Rutger is a globe-trotter, you could have encountered him as well in Beijing last summer as in Sanremo some weeks ago. He is playing for the best club of university town Leuven, Begijn-tje. Before he was a member of the team, the club never succeeded, despite many attempts, to stay at the upper Belgian level. Since he plays in it, however, they never dropped! So he is considered as the boy who brings always luck. His aim here in Brasov is to win as many impossible 3NTs as possible and to teach his partner all the tricks of the game before he leaves the junior world. He is partnering his younger brother, **Joram Van Mechelen** (19), who studies history of art at Leuven. You have certainly met him already, he is the boy with the splendid dreadlocks. Joram likes watching all kinds of sports (preferably cycling) on TV and plays tennis and football himself. Since his arrival he has been searching desperately for a bike to rent, because he wants to test the road between Brasov and Poiana Brasov and verify if it's harder than the Mont Ventoux. Hopefully, there will not be a Memorial Van Mechelen here, like there is a Memorial Simpson in Southern France. Joram plays bridge also in Leuven, in the popular club Pieterman. Next year he will try his luck in the fourth team of this club instead of the eighth, but he certainly deserves to play higher than the Belgian fifth division. His favourite quote is 'We gonna crush the Netherlands'.

Our second pair is **Tine Dobbels** and **Willem De Visschere**. Both are 25 and already played in Jesolo 2007, just like Rutger, but not together. Tine is the most ancient member of the Belgian team, since she played in the Girls section in Prague, 2004. She is a civil engineer and also plays for Pieterman, but in the first team. She missed promotion to the Honour Division on the last day of the competition, playing with her life partner Dirk De Hertog. Willem works in the small Flander's village Ardoorie, which has produced the long-time soccer international Marc Degryse and also the Belgian singer Lauralynn, as a dentist. So if you have some teeth disease, feel free to consult him, he will explain you the dentist's coup. He plays for Ghent's club Union Sandeman, also in the first division. He is also an excellent golf competitor, but unfortunately this does not earn points in these championships.

Our third pair involves two rookies, who won their first two matches against Russia and Hungary – what a start! – so I'm proud to present them to you. **Bert Geens** (23) is from Antwerp, where he studies physics. He has played bridge for only 2.5 years, having discovered it at the university. He will move next year to the best Antwerp club, Squeeze, to play in the third national division. He likes to play tennis and with his 190 cm he is just 1 cm ahead of Willem to be the tallest player of the team. Just the contrary of his partner, **Jorrit Schafer** (19), who is about 170 cm and 55 kg. When you see them walking from afar, you could think they are father and son. Jorrit is a globe-trotter, born in Brussels, living eight years in Belgium, eight in Swaziland, and studying biochemistry and management in London for the last two years. He discovered the game only 1.5 year ago but seems very talented. Like Joram, he could be there for the next three junior championships! He has never played in the Belgian competition (nor in the English one) and therefore had to join the Federation to be allowed to represent our country. He likes table tennis and squash. His favourite quote is 'I will crush the Englishmen'.

Npc Alon Amsel (29) still is one of the youngest captains in the field (I think only Ben Green of England is younger, but he is officially coach). Alon, who also works in a bank, has played (additionally to many tournaments on the University circuit) one European Junior Championship for Belgium, not surprisingly the one where Belgium got its best result, an eighth place in Prague five years ago. Since then he has been twice Belgian Team champion with record club BCOB, in the two last seasons. He also played the 1/8th final in Beijing, losing to Germany. Alon speaks five languages fluently and his favourite quote is 'I like to play in 1 NT doubled', although he assures us it's only a joke.

And I'm here once again, **Jean-Francois Jourdain** (47) from Brussels. I started to work with the Belgian youth 10 years ago now and I still did not suffer a heart attack – I wonder why. This is my seventh European Junior championship, one as player (Budapest 1986, when most of the players were not born yet), four as captain and two as coach. In my everyday life I'm a journalist for the daily paper *La Libre Belgique*, and a member of the IBPA. I play the game myself occasionally, for the second team of the Belgian champion club BCOB in Honour Division, and I won the Belgian Pairs in 2005. But this is certainly not the reason for my presence here. However, since I buy a drink for all players when one of them scores +1100, +470 (or more), or when they win 18 against any opponent, and they receive champagne in case of a 25 or a win against a top team, I'm still welcome in the group, so feel free to hold my popularity at a high level by giving my players some presents. Thanks in advance!

Footnote: J-F's room-mate, the npc, tells us that he is so keen on the game that in his sleep the first morning he cried out (translating from French) 'You are squeezed!' But we cannot be sure it was of bridge he was dreaming.

Polish Slam Bidding Technique

Natalia Sakowska is the only remaining girl from the Polish Girls team that won the previous Championship in Jesolo 2007. She now plays with Ewa Grabowska and they really seem to have found out how to bid their slams.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ J 10 7 ♥ 10 ♦ 9 8 ♣ K Q 8 7 4 3 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		♠ A K 9 8 2 ♥ J 5 3 ♦ Q 5 4 ♣ 9 6	♠ 6 5 4 3 ♥ A 9 8 7 2 ♦ K J 3 ♣ A
	N											
W		E										
	S											
West	North <i>Ewa</i>	East	South <i>Natalia</i>									
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dble									
2♣	3♥	Pass	3♠(i)									
4♣(ii)	4♥(iii)	4♣	5♠(iv)									
Pass	6♥	All Pass										

- (i) Slam try in hearts
- (ii) Lead directing
- (iii) Minimum hand
- (iv) Do you have a spade void partner? If you don't – we give up in six



Ewa Agnieszka Grabowska, Poland

A pre-empt by West maybe would have kept the Polish pair out of their slam. The competitive bidding wasn't enough, that's for sure.

Four Clubs made life simpler for Natalia, who could see that partner probably had most of her valuable cards in the red suits. The question was if she also had a void in spades or not.

Again the 4♣ bid helped declarer find out who was more likely to have the queen of diamonds, making the play easier.

At the other table the score was +170 in 3♥ with an overtrick, so the Poles gained 13 IMPs.

The Polish pair was the only pair bidding the slam in the Girls series. Bulgaria tried to copy them in the U-26 but failed to make the contract.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ A K Q 7 ♥ 9 8 5 3 ♦ 7 5 ♣ 8 6 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		♠ J ♥ 10 7 ♦ J 9 8 4 3 ♣ A J 7 5 4	♠ 8 6 3 ♥ J 6 4 2 ♦ Q 10 ♣ Q 10 9 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											
West	North <i>Natalia</i>	East	South <i>Ewa</i>									
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♣									
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT									
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦									
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦									
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT									
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♦									
All Pass												

One Polish club opened the auction, 2♦ limited the responding hand to 10 HCPs. 2NT showed a strong hand forcing to game and 3♦ set diamonds as trump. Three Hearts was a little bit like the last train with nowhere to go without passing 3NT. Four Diamonds drove on towards higher contracts searching for slam and when partner showed up with a cuebid in spades it was all a question of aces. Finding one ace with partner, Ewa settled in 6♦.

The Polish pair was again completely alone in the whole event to find the slam. They were all smiles when the queen of diamonds dropped.

UNDER 26 GIRLS TEAMS

ROUND 4



GERMANY

v

FRANCE



The pick of the Girls' matches in Round 4 was the one with the leader at the time, Germany, meeting France, tied for third place.

Your reporter watched in the Open Room where Katharina Kaepfel & Marie Eggeling faced Jessie Carbonneaux & Carole Puillet of France. Both play strong no-trump with five-card majors. The German pair has a Multi with two of a major two-suited, and two-over-one only forcing for one round. The French play two-over-one game forcing.

The first board gave declarer a problem in her slam:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kaepfel</i>	<i>Carbonneaux</i>	<i>Eggeling</i>	<i>Puillet</i>
	1♦	1♥	2♥*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♠*
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

2♥ was a game force, 3♦ promised at least four, 3♥ might have been asking for a heart stop or a cuebid if interested in a slam, 4♣ was a cuebid. South was not sure what 5♣ meant – one possibility was asking for aces.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thizy</i>	<i>Heim</i>	<i>Chaugny</i>	<i>Rowold</i>
	1♦	1♥	2♦*
Pass	2♠	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

2♦ was inverted, forcing for one round. Germany was in a safe 5♦. East led her spade, declarer drew trumps and claimed 12 tricks, discarding the losing club on the fourth spade.

France reached 6♦ by North and East again led her spade. Declarer won in dummy and cashed one high trump. Now

she faced this decision: if the spade was a singleton and West had a heart entry (and took it) then it would be necessary to play for trumps 2-2 and draw a second round. On the other hand, if the trumps were 3-1 and East was not getting a ruff then it would be right to play a heart next.

Declarer chose to play a heart from dummy at trick three, but it was not too difficult for West to rise with the ace and lead a second spade; one down and 10 IMPs to Germany instead of 11 to France.

The second deal was a competitive one:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kaepfel</i>	<i>Carbonneaux</i>	<i>Eggeling</i>	<i>Puillet</i>
1♠	2♦*	1♦	1♥
4♣	Pass	2♠	4♥
All Pass		Pass	Dble

1♠ promised five, 2♦ showed 10+ with 3-card support.

West	North	East	South
<i>Thizy</i>	<i>Heim</i>	<i>Chaugny</i>	<i>Rowold</i>
	1♦	1♥	1♥
1♠	3♣*	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♣	Dble	All Pass	

3♣ was a fit-jump. The final contract could be described as the par at both tables. Four Hearts loses only three aces so the spade sacrifice is profitable and it was not so easy for N/S to double this in the Open Room.

North led ♣K against 4♠ doubled. Declarer won and drew trumps in two rounds.

The contract looks like an obvious one off with a club, two diamonds, and a heart to lose. It was indeed one off at both tables for a flat board, but the cruelty of the investigative journalist requires me to report that when, in the Open Room, declarer led a low diamond off the dummy South played small. West took out the ♦10, then put it back

and replaced it with a small one. When South's seven took the trick the contract was still one down.

Should South have played low? To rise may cost a trick when partner has singleton ten or ace but one would have thought this was less likely than the actual layout.

Board 3 was a 50-50 game reached by Germany but not by France. This was 5 IMPs to France when the key finesse failed

Board 4 was a lead problem for West.

You hold:

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

As dealer you pass and last in hand opens 1♥. LHO raises to 2♥ (8-10), RHO makes a long-suit game try of 2♠ (normally four, but not always) and LHO accepts, bidding 4♥. What do you lead?

At the other table Germany had stopped in 2♥ so when West in the Open Room led a trump rather than the successful shot – a club (a spade to partner's ace and a club switch also works) the swing was 10 IMPs to France.

Board 5 was 2 IMPs to France and Board 6 was a major swing on a matter of technique:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

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



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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kaeppel	Carbonneaux	Eggeling	Puillet
Pass	1♠	2♦	3♥*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

3♥ showed at least invitational values with five hearts and four spades.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Thizy	Heim	Chaigny	Rowold
Pass	1♠	2♦	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	3♠
4♣	All Pass		

In the Closed Room the French pair was allowed to play in 4♣ for 130 to France. In the Open Room the French South made the more aggressive response of 3♥ to her partner's 1♠, and so they reached 4♠.

East led ♣K and South apologised for her lack of values as she tabled dummy. This may have caused declarer to take her eye off the ball. She won the first club and led a trump. West won and switched to her singleton diamond. Declarer won this, drew trumps and led the ♥10. West won, and put East in with a club to cash the winning diamond for one off.

This was 2 IMPs to France but it could have been much more. It looks strange but the instinctively-correct technique of ducking the first club (or even winning the first club and playing a second one at once) brings home the game, as East has no entry to enjoy the defensive diamond winner. Declarer eventually throws three diamonds away on dummy's hearts.

The club duck was found by Volcker for France in the U-26 Open in the same 4♠, but he had the help of a weak 2♦ opening from East (Volcker re-opened with 2♠ as North and when Bessis raised to 3♠ he went on to game). When East leads the club king it is likely West has both missing aces. In the match reported here declarer had the same inference about the high cards (from East's original pass) and should have catered for the quite-probable 6-1 diamond break.

Board 7 was 3 IMPs to France when Germany went an extra one down in a poor game bid at most tables. On Board 8 at Love All each side can make three of their major suit. France was allowed +140 in 3♠, at the other table France 'sacrificed' in 4♥ for -50 to gain 3 IMPs. Board 9 was a flat 3NT+1 around the room. Board 10 was 3 IMPs to Germany, their first gain since the initial board.

The half-time score was 25-13 to France. In the second half the gap widened to 67-36 or 21-9 VPs to France. This put France into the lead in the championship.



Anne Heim, Germany

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS **ROUND 4**



NETHERLANDS v

GERMANY



Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

	♠ Q J 8 ♥ 9 7 4 ♦ A K J 8 2 ♣ A 8		
West	North	East	South
<i>Wermseer</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Molenaar</i>
3♥	1♣(i)	1♥	2♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>De Hop</i>	<i>Katerbau</i>	<i>Pagter</i>	<i>Rehder</i>
4♥	1♦	2NT	3♣(i)
Dble	Pass	Pass	5♦
All Pass	Pass	5♥	Dble

(i) Diamonds

Both Dutch pairs did well in the auction and, while De Hop's action double only converted -420 into -300, not a major triumph, I thought Verbeek showed very good appreciation of his cards. Having suggested 12-14 balanced by his first two calls, when Molenaar stretched to make a slam try and clearly did not have a heart control, it was up to Verbeek to drive to slam.

6♦ on the lead of ♥A was trivial to play. Many tables opened the North cards 1♦ and got an unusual 2NT overcall. On a spade lead declarer had to commit himself at once; was East 2-1 or 1-2 in the pointed suits. Most declarers got it wrong and ran into a spade ruff when they gave up a heart before drawing trumps. It is easy to argue the point with the sight of all four hands, but surely the spade lead argues strongly for the latter not the former.

Netherlands early lead was doubled in slightly fortuitous fashion (one might argue) when a Precision 1♦ opening with:

♠ A 7 4 3
♥ 8
♦ K 9 8
♣ K J 9 7 4

led to West leading a diamond against 4♥. In the other room, Pagter's 1♣ opening with the same cards attracted the club lead that doomed 4♥ when the diamond finesse lost.

We have already seen many times this tournament (and it is only day two!) that juniors are no respecters of vulnerability, and do not believe that overcalls need deliver either a good suit nor a good hand – whether facing a passed partner or not. The first example of this had gained Netherlands an IMP when Verbeek overcalled 2♣ over 1♦ with:

♠ 4 3 2
♥ 10
♦ A K 10 8
♣ K 9 7 6 3

fortunately it was partner who had ♣ A Q J 10 5 not LHO!

But the next venture into the unknown saw Pagter try a 3♦ pre-empt – at unfavourable vulnerability, with:

♠ 10
♥ 6 3
♦ K J 8 7 6 5
♣ K Q J 2



Tim Verbeek, Netherlands

(perhaps he had the ♣Q in the diamonds) and that led to -300 in 3NT to give Germany their first major swing of the set.

There was nothing fortuitous about the next pick-up by Germany (except in the paronomastic sense that it was a 4♠/2♠ decision).

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ J 10 3 2		
	♥ A 4		
	♦ J 10 5		
	♣ A 10 5 3		
		N W E S	
♠ K 9 8 7 6		♠ A Q 5	
♥ Q 3		♥ J 10 7 5	
♦ A 8 4		♦ K Q 9 6	
♣ K 7 4		♣ 9 2	
	♠ 4		
	♥ K 9 8 6 2		
	♦ 7 3 2		
	♣ Q J 8 6		
West	North	East	South
Wermseer	Verbeek	Zimmermann	Molenaar

1♠	Pass	2♥(i)	Pass
2♠	All Pass		Pass

(i) Spades

West	North	East	South
De Hop	Katerbau	Pagter	Rehder
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

The entire field opened the West hand and everyone of them (I think) drove the East hand to game. But Zimmermann was facing what could easily have been a balanced 10-count (we'd seen Weermseer open one already this match) so he showed a constructive spade raise and guessed to pass when West also took a fractionally conservative decision to bid only 2♠. In context, the West hand might have had extras!

Both players took eight tricks in spades, the limit of the hand as the cards lie (mind you, I think Denmark were unlucky to play 3NT from the West seat down only one. That is the best game of course.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wermseer	Verbeek	Zimmermann	Molenaar
Dble	2NT(i)	3♦	3♥
Pass	4♠	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
De Hop	Katerbau	Pagter	Rehder
Dble	2NT(i)	3♦	1♠
Pass	3♠	All Pass	Pass

(i) Limit spade raise

The Germans did too much bidding at both tables – though Katerbau's breach of the Law of Total Tricks is more forgivable than Zimmermann's. Against 3♠, the defence led hearts and took the first trump to get the heart ruff for a diamond through. After taking the diamonds a club generated the club ruff for -200.

That was still going to gain IMPs had Zimmermann not sacrificed in 5♦. On a spade lead it looks best to win and cross to the club ace to play a heart from dummy. If you do this you will make your game unless North can duck the ♥A; could you?

Zimmermann won the spade and led a heart from hand. Molenaar won ♥K and, instead of playing a trump, he led a low spade for his partner to find the necessary trump shift. Declarer finessed but still had to lose a heart at the end for down one and 9 IMPs to Netherlands.



Danny Molenaar, Netherlands

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ –		♠ 9 7 5 4 2			
♥ A K 8 6		♥ J 4 3			
♦ 10 7 5		♦ A 6 3			
♣ A J 10 9 8 4		♣ Q 6			
	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	
N					
W E					
S					
		♠ K Q 10			
		♥ Q 10 7 5 2			
		♦ J 4			
		♣ 7 5 3			

West	North	East	South
Wermseer	Verbeek	Zimmermann	Molenaar
		Pass	Pass
2♣	2♠	3♣	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
De Hop	Katerbau	Pagter	Rehder
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

3♠ made 140 on routine defence. Four Spades, not a bad spot in abstract, needed some help, and got it when Wermseer took the club lead and tried to cash two hearts. In fact, even the first heart was a mistake – it cut the defenders' communications for the critical club plays that are necessary to prevent declarer from using diamonds as substitute trumps. What happened after two rounds of hearts was that North got to cash two diamonds, pitch one on the ♥Q and ruff one in dummy. That added up to ten tricks and a 7 IMP gain instead of a 5 IMP loss.

The Dutch benefited from an unnecessary double when they looked all set to lose 11 IMPs on our next exhibit:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 2		♠ A 5			
♥ 7 5 4 2		♥ A Q 9			
♦ 9 6		♦ J 10 8 5 3			
♣ K Q J 7 6 5		♣ 10 9 4			
	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	
N					
W E					
S					
		♠ J 10 4 3			
		♥ 8			
		♦ Q 7 4 2			
		♣ A 8 3 2			

West	North	East	South
Wermseer	Verbeek	Zimmermann	Molenaar
	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
De Hop	Katerbau	Pagter	Rehder
	1♠	Pass	3♦(i)
Pass	5♣(ii)	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

- (i) 6-9, four spades
- (ii) Exclusion Blackwood

Katerbau's Exclusion Blackwood got the job done, Verbeek's 3♣ try might also have got the job done if he had followed up with 5♣ (was he worried he was going to play there?), but Blackwood was about to get him to 6♠ – until Wermseer doubled and let Molenaar redouble to show the ace! No swing – but six out of seven Girls matches saw a swing where one table bid slam and six out of ten Open matches saw one table in slam. Pride of place goes to the Turkish pair who were going to stop in 5♠ until doubled there –and they redoubled against Norway for the nice number of +1000.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 9 7 4 2		♠ 10 8			
♥ A 7		♥ Q J 10			
♦ A K J 9 8 6 2		♦ 7 4			
♣ –		♣ A K J 10 9 4			
	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	
N					
W E					
S					
		♠ A K Q 3			
		♥ 9 6			
		♦ 10 5 3			
		♣ Q 8 7 5			

Both tables reached 5♦ here, not 3NT – not that 3NT will make on best defence, but it has chances. It was impossible for the Dutch to get to no-trump where N/S had bid and raised spades, and hard for the Germans where South had made a lead-directing double of spades.

Both Norths led a low spade against 5♦. Rehder won and shifted to the devastating trump. Now declarer should have taken only eight tricks, though he was allowed to make ten. Molenaar cashed two spades (he could not read the count card from his partner which could have been from five) and shifted to hearts. Declarer won the ♥A, ruffed a spade, and pitched her two losers on the clubs, then played diamonds from the top and had 400.

QUICK QUIZ

This is a true story: Patrick Jourdain was playing in a 24-hour marathon in the Netherlands. It was the early hours of the morning. The last three cards in dummy in a no trump contract were the ace, king, queen of clubs. Declarer led a club and when the next defender (Patrick) played small went into long thought.

The question is: what was the nationality of declarer? For solution see page 18.



Sport News



Football

Real Madrid's new signing Karim Benzema has revealed he rejected advances from Manchester United, Inter Milan and Barcelona to move to the Bernabeu. Benzema, 21, was paraded after moving from Lyon on a six-year deal for a fee that could eventually rise to £35m.



Swimming

Olympic superstar Michael Phelps has broken the 100m butterfly world record. The 24-year-old American, who has won 14 Olympic gold medals, lowered countryman Ian Crocker's four-year-old mark of 50.40 seconds, clocking 50.22. The win at the US trials in Indianapolis secures Phelps a place in the 100m butterfly at the World Championships in Rome later this month.



Cycling

Italy's Rinaldo Nocentini grabbed the yellow jersey on the first mountain stage of the 2009 Tour de France. But Spaniard Alberto Contador looks poised to take the race lead in the next few days after a late break. Brice Feillu of France won the stage, a 224km trek from Barcelona to Andorra Arcalis, while former leader Fabian Cancellara dropped from contention. Lance Armstrong finished 22 seconds behind Contador.



Golf – US Women's Open Round One

Na Yeon Choi shot a three-under 68 to take a one-shot lead after the first round of the women's US Open. The South Korean began well, carding four birdies from her first five holes on the 6,740-yard long Saucon Valley Old Course in Pennsylvania. World number one Lorena Ochoa, 2007 champion Cristie Kerr and qualifier Jean Reynolds all share second spot.

Leading scores: -3 C Na Yeon (Kor); -2 C Kerr, L Ochoa (Mex), J Reynolds; -1 H Young Park; Level E Hee Ji, Y Kim (Kor), Candie Kung (Tpe), Kristy McPherson, A Nordqvist (Swe), A Thompson

Bus Trip Around Brasov



The Romanian Bridge Federation is pleased to organise a 'bus trip around the Brasov area' on Monday 13th July. This is the programme:

Departure: 10.00 in front of the Piatra Mare Hotel

Route: Rasnov Medieval Castle – Bran (Dracula) Castle – Brasov Old Town

Return: 18.00 to Piatra Mare Hotel

Fee: Euros 20 per person

Registration: Up to 17.30 on Sunday 12th July at the Hospitality Desk

A packed lunch will be available for all participants.

Past Play Problem No. 2 Solution

How should West play 5♦? North leads the ♠Q, which goes to the king and ace. Next comes a second spade from South.

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

Stuart Tredinnick of Great Britain played this at the 1988 Junior Europeans in Plovdiv. He ruffed the spade, played a trump to dummy, ruffed the last spade, drew trumps, and then played ace and another heart. South played low smoothly with the king, and Stuart finessed. But North's jack was his last heart and the club return gave West his contract.

The following year the Tredinnick brothers were on the British team that won the World Junior title in Nottingham.

These problems are taken from a new book published this month by Masterpoint Press with selections from Bridge Magazine's Problem Corner by Patrick Jourdain.

Solution to Quick Quiz



Declarer was French. The cards were Dutch. The Dutch queen is marked V for Vrou but declarer thought it was V for Valet. So he thought he had ace, king, jack of clubs instead of ace, king, queen.