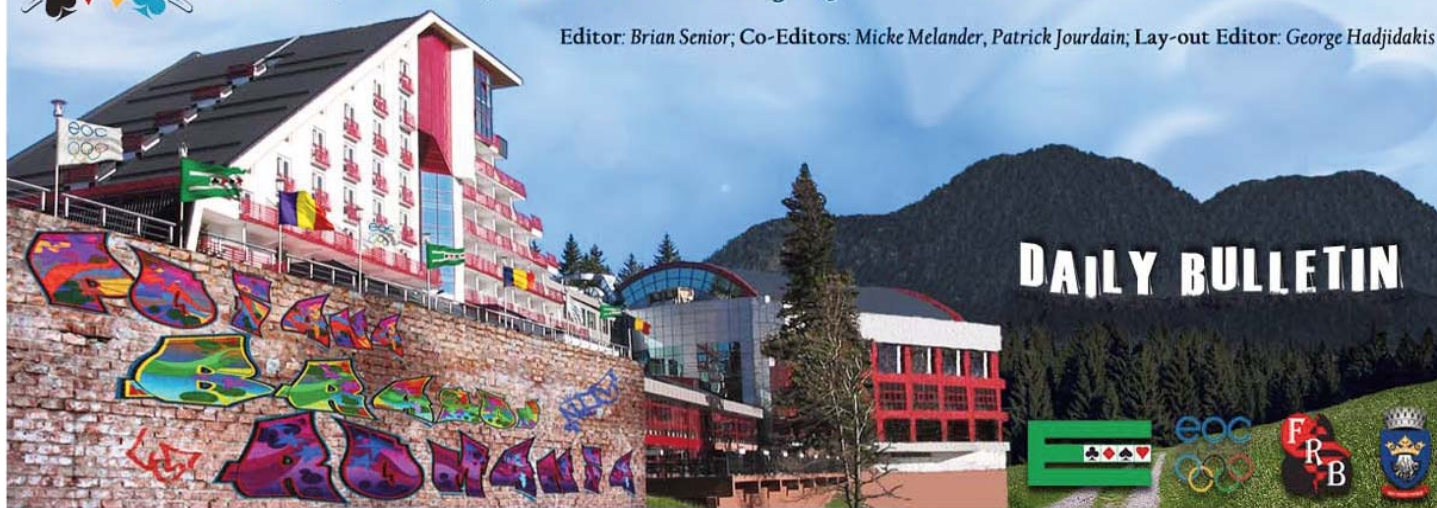


22nd EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS



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



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Wednesday, 15 July 2009

France Extends lead



Now you know where all the deals come from for these championships!

France extended its lead in the U-26 Championships after scoring a solid 58 VPs on the day, and are on 278. Second-placed Norway lost ground when they were well beaten in Round 14 by Austria, 7-23, leaving them on 262. Israel was the big mover on the day with 71 VP and are up to fifth on 240.5. In between come Germany and Italy in third and fourth on 259 and 242 respectively.

It is early days in the U-21 Championship with only four matches played. Poland leads the way with 88 out of a possible 100, followed by Hungary on 82, and Israel 82. There is a gap then to Germany on 69, Norway 65 and Italy 60.

Today's Vugraph Matches (also on BBO)

- 10.00 Sweden v Netherlands (Open U-26)
- 14.00 Poland v Israel (Open U-26)
- 17.30 Norway v Germany (Open U-26)

Additional BBO Matches

- 10.00 Israel v Norway (Open U-26)
- 14.00 Germany v Sweden (Open U-26)
- 17.30 Poland v Netherlands (Open U-26)



UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS



RESULTS



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND 12

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	IRELAND ISRAEL	35 - 94	4 - 25
2	TURKEY AUSTRIA	69 - 37	22 - 8
3	SWEDEN ITALY	44 - 77	8 - 22
4	NORWAY HUNGARY	52 - 8	24 - 6
5	POLAND RUSSIA	36 - 54	11 - 19
6	ENGLAND ROMANIA	28 - 30	15 - 15
7	LATVIA BYE		18 - 0
8	NETHERLANDS FINLAND	48 - 42	16 - 14
9	GERMANY GREECE	49 - 38	17 - 13
10	BULGARIA CZECH REP.	50 - 48	15 - 15
11	DENMARK CROATIA	29 - 32	14 - 16
12	BELGIUM FRANCE	42 - 53	13 - 17

ROUND 15

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

ROUND 13

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ISRAEL TURKEY	53 - 25	21 - 9
2	AUSTRIA SWEDEN	46 - 29	18 - 11
3	ITALY NORWAY	46 - 48	15 - 15
4	HUNGARY POLAND	45 - 63	11 - 19
5	RUSSIA ENGLAND	26 - 22	16 - 14
6	ROMANIA LATVIA	36 - 35	15 - 15
7	IRELAND NETHERLANDS	35 - 51	11 - 18
8	FINLAND GERMANY	31 - 54	10 - 20
9	GREECE BULGARIA	29 - 35	14 - 16
10	CZECH REP. DENMARK	36 - 56	11 - 19
11	CROATIA BELGIUM	39 - 33	16 - 14
12	FRANCE BYE		18 - 0

ROUND 16

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

ROUND 14

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	SWEDEN ISRAEL	17 - 71	4 - 25
2	NORWAY AUSTRIA	21 - 61	7 - 23
3	POLAND ITALY	22 - 23	15 - 15
4	ENGLAND HUNGARY	58 - 54	16 - 14
5	LATVIA RUSSIA	16 - 61	6 - 24
6	ROMANIA BYE	0 - 0	18 - 0
7	NETHERLANDS TURKEY	46 - 26	19 - 11
8	GERMANY IRELAND	65 - 37	21 - 8
9	BULGARIA FINLAND	23 - 45	10 - 20
10	DENMARK GREECE	71 - 36	22 - 8
11	BELGIUM CZECH REP.	52 - 13	23 - 7
12	FRANCE CROATIA	69 - 31	23 - 7

ROUND 17

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

UNDER 21 OPEN TEAMS



RESULTS



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND 2

Match		IMP's	VP's
1 SWEDEN	ENGLAND	50 - 24	20 - 10
2 NORWAY	ROMANIA	65 - 67	15 - 15
3 ISRAEL	FRANCE	39 - 29	17 - 13
4 ITALY	HUNGARY	22 - 45	10 - 20
5 POLAND	GERMANY	87 - 25	25 - 3
6 TURKEY	CZECH REP.	6 - 28	21 - 9
7 DENMARK	NETHERLANDS	26 - 26	15 - 15

ROUND 5

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

ROUND 3

Match		IMP's	VP's
1 SWEDEN	NORWAY	30 - 40	13 - 17
2 ISRAEL	ENGLAND	65 - 8	25 - 4
3 ITALY	ROMANIA	78 - 32	24 - 6
4 POLAND	FRANCE	44 - 40	16 - 14
5 TURKEY	HUNGARY	29 - 42	12 - 18
6 DENMARK	GERMANY	7 - 39	8 - 22
7 NETHERLANDS	CZECH REP.	53 - 33	19 - 11

ROUND 6

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

ROUND 4

Match		IMP's	VP's
1 SWEDEN	POLAND	13 - 46	8 - 22
2 TURKEY	ITALY	30 - 30	15 - 15
3 DENMARK	ISRAEL	16 - 58	6 - 24
4 NETHERLANDS	NORWAY	16 - 37	11 - 19
5 CZECH REP.	ENGLAND	35 - 61	10 - 20
6 GERMANY	ROMANIA	78 - 22	25 - 4
7 HUNGARY	FRANCE	68 - 35	22 - 8

ROUND 7

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

Team Profiles

We would like to publish as many team profiles as possible in the Daily Bulletin. These can be serious or humorous – but please keep the humour within common sense boundaries. The bulletins appear on the internet all over the world and what we may consider funny has been known in the past to offend a small number of people.

As well as helping us all to know each other a little better, these profiles are a valuable source of information for journalists, so it is particularly important that we publish them for any team which ends up in the medals.

Please hand team profiles to any of Brian Senior, Micke Melander, Barry Rigal or Patrick Jourdain or email to: bsenior@hotmail.com



Today's Schedule

10.00	Under 26 Open (15th Round)
14.00	Under 26 Open (16th Round)
17.30	Under 26 Open (17th Round)
10.00	Under 21 Open (5th Round)
14.00	Under 21 Open (6th Round)
17.30	Under 21 Open (7th Round)

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS**RANKING AFTER ROUND 14**

1	FRANCE	278
2	NORWAY	262
3	GERMANY	259
4	ITALY	242
5	ISRAEL	240.5
6	NETHERLANDS	238
7	RUSSIA	234
8	POLAND	229
9	SWEDEN	227
10	LATVIA	213
11	BULGARIA	207
	DENMARK	207
13	AUSTRIA	206
14	TURKEY	198
15	ROMANIA	197
16	HUNGARY	194
17	CZECH REPUBLIC	190
18	ENGLAND	189
19	CROATIA	188
20	BELGIUM	173
21	GREECE	169
22	FINLAND	167
23	IRELAND	108

UNDER 21 OPEN TEAMS**RANKING AFTER ROUND 4**

1	POLAND	88
2	HUNGARY	85
3	ISRAEL	82
4	GERMANY	69
5	NORWAY	65
6	ITALY	60
7	SWEDEN	59
8	FRANCE	58
9	NETHERLANDS	56
10	TURKEY	55
11	ENGLAND	53
12	CZECH REPUBLIC	42
13	DENMARK	31
14	ROMANIA	28

**Meet The Champions!
The Poland Girls Team**

Natalia Sakowska (defending champion): Natalia is currently studying mathematics and computer science and living in Warsaw. She won an U-26 Girls Pairs Championship last year in Wroclaw and the Girls Teams in Jesolo 2007. She and Ewa were our anchor pair, playing all 13 matches, and were very important to our victory.

Izabela Weinhold: Sometimes called Izee, with her lucky pen which was used after our match with the Netherlands, and with which we never scored less than a 20 VP win. She has just passed her maturity exam and during these championships received the information that she had been accepted to do her chosen course of studies.

Ewa Grabowska: Studying bio-technology and bio-informatics, she and Natalia were the first pair to be chosen to represent the Polish Girls team in Poiana Brasov. They finished in an impressive second place in the selection trials which were also played with the Juniors. They were bested only by Artur Wasiak and Joanna Krawczyk.

Magdalena Holeksa: Magda is studying computer control systems and is currently dating Tim Verbeek, who is representing the Netherlands here in Romania. Magda is our source of positive energy, always happy and trying to cheer us up, even when things don't look so good. She is a real party girl, even if she doesn't look like one.

Paulina Jatczak: The youngest of the team, Paulina is still in high school. Her biggest wish is to become a doctor. She had her 18th birthday on the day we won the championship, and she says that this was the best present she could ever get.

Katarzyna Tyszkiewicz: If you have seen someone walking while reading a book, that was Kasia. She is studying computer science and econometrics. She is the talker of the team, probably because her English is the best of all the Polish players. And she is always very enthusiastic about all things. Kasia also likes Dutch guys very much, especially Dennid, with whom she will play in the Sopot tournament. This is also the beautiful place where she and Paulina live.

Leszek Nowak (coach): Leszek is Vice-president of the Polish Bridge Union with responsibility for youth and teaching. He managed to watch all the boards throughout the championship and is still alive!

Mirosław Cichocki (npc): Mirek is also npc of the Polish Women's team. He is a top Polish player and won the Junior Championships back in 1982.

Hunting for medals

Netherlands and Denmark had their own fight in the last round of the Girls Championship, for the bronze medals. It was clear from before the match started that Poland and France were playing for the first two places.

Turkey made 3NT on the first board in a very optimistic contract played in both rooms, while the Dutch went down, so it didn't look too good if you were cheering for the orange team. And for sure it didn't get much better for them on Board two.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ 9 8 6 4 2 ♥ A 9 3 ♦ A 3 ♣ A 8 6</p>	<p>♠ A ♥ K Q J 7 5 ♦ K J 10 9 ♣ Q 7 3</p> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <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> </div> <p>♠ J 5 3 ♥ 10 8 4 2 ♦ 7 5 ♣ K 9 5 4</p>	N	W E	S	<p>♠ K Q 10 7 ♥ 6 ♦ Q 8 6 4 2 ♣ J 10 2</p>	
N						
W E						
S						
West <i>Tekin</i>	North <i>Spangenberg</i>	East <i>Sarioz</i>	South <i>Spangenberg</i>			
1♠ 4♠	2♥ All Pass	Pass 3♥(i)	Pass Pass			

(i) Good raise in spades



Pinar Sarioz, Turkey

Jamilla led the king of hearts and that ran to declarer's ace. Ozge in West now made a very nice play, putting maximum pressure on North by playing a low diamond from her hand. Jamilla went up with the king after a long thought, and then again started thinking. She finally decided to cash the ace of trumps, for some more thinking. Finally she returned the jack of diamonds! Declarer won it with the ace and pulled two rounds of trumps. Declarer then played the queen of diamonds discarding a heart from her hand, diamond ruff, heart ruff. Entering dummy with that last ruff, Ozge now could ask for dummy's last diamond, pitching a club from her hand. Just made – and well deserved.

Jamilla, who had a long thinking process about how to defend, could have defeated the contract by just continuing playing on hearts, forcing dummy to ruff too early to be able to enjoy dummy's established diamond. However, it wasn't easy for Jamilla to see what was happening after the brilliant low diamond from declarer towards dummy's queen at trick two.

At the other table declarer was forced to ruff early and went one off, as at most tables if they were in game.

That meant another 10 IMPs for Turkey, which meant that the Netherlands were down by 20, while in the other match Denmark had managed to start by winning 3 IMPs on the first two boards, putting Denmark ahead in the hunt for the medals.

Board 3 was very important for the Dutch team, since they were able to pick up 11 IMPs from a game swing, while the Danes lost the same swing at the other table, closing the gap.

One of the reasons is that Jamilla Spangenberg made a nice safety play in trumps solving A 9 5 3 to dummy's K 10 6 2 with one loser. First, reading the situation correctly by playing the ace and then, when everybody followed on the next card, simply covering what LHO played, in case the suit was distributed 4-1. When it actually was that bad she got her reward!

On the next board Ozge Tekin was very pessimistic. She held:

♠ K 3
♥ 6 5
♦ Q 8 5 2
♣ J 9 8 7 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Tekin</i>	<i>Spangenberg</i>	<i>Sarioz</i>	<i>Spangenberg</i>
Pass	2♥(i)	Dble	3♥
?	Pass	Dble	Pass

(i) Weak, five hearts plus a minor

She bid 4♣, which ended the auction.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Tekin probably should have competed already at her first chance over South's pre-emptive raise. However, she decided to pass and, when partner made a second take-out double, she picked her weakest possible bid, 4♣. Understandably, Sarioz gave up since partner couldn't have much.

Tekin played better than she bid. She got two rounds of hearts, ruffed the second one, drew trumps in three rounds and played the ace of diamonds! This is the correct safety play for three tricks in the suit. Tekin now played a spade to the king and led the five of diamonds on which North only played the six, Tekin finessed with the seven for 12 tricks!

There was no reward for that line since they were in game at the other table, making the contract; 10 IMPs to Netherlands, who had managed to level the match. Though 41 IMPs were exchanged in the first four boards, the margin was 1 IMP. Denmark in their match managed to score another 2 IMPs. The Dutch team were back in a medal place, a position they kept until Board 9 since the Danish girls lost overtricks here and there.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ Q J 9 8 2 ♥ K 4 3 ♦ 2 ♣ Q J 10 2	♠ K ♥ A J 10 7 6 ♦ K 9 6 ♣ A 9 8 4	♠ 5 4 ♥ 9 8 2 ♦ Q 4 3 ♣ K 7 6 5 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	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ A 10 7 6 3 ♥ Q 5 ♦ A J 10 8 7 5 ♣ -											
West Tekin Pass Pass All Pass	North Spangenberg 1♥ 2♣ 2NT	East Sarioz Pass Pass Pass	South Spangenberg 1♠ 2♦ 3NT									

Here the Spangenbergs managed to lose their best fit via fourth-suit. Why on earth you bid 1♠ and not 2♦ from the beginning is a mystery to me as you know from the start that you aren't looking for a partscore and therefore don't need to stay at a low level. Even if you are a believer in bidding majors first, South should have rebid her diamonds over partner's 2NT to show diamonds and make a mild slam try. Surely North would have raised 3♦ to 4♦ with her values, and they would have been right on track.

Now they stopped in 3NT and got a diamond lead! That was won in declarer's hand with the six. A small heart to the queen followed. East immediately attacked clubs but it was all too late. The queen of diamonds showed up and it was an early claim. At the other table the Turkish girls made and bid 6♦ for 10 IMPs again.

It's remarkable that in the match between Denmark and Estonia, the Estonian girls ended up in 2♥! Their mood couldn't have been too cheerful after that result. Our beloved bridge game isn't fair always, since Estonia actually won 6 IMPs for being in that contract when the Danish girls went one down in 6♦ at the other table.

Netherlands won 10 IMPs on the next board when they missed game in the Open Room. Denmark managed to lose another game swing on Board 13 when Estonia led spades against 3NT, putting the contract down.


Few persons actually believed that anyone except the four top teams would have anything to do with the hunt for medals. But the fact remained that Sweden in fifth place looked like slaughtering Romania, which meant that the Netherlands needed at least 13 VPs to secure a medal and Denmark 14, from the threatening Swedish girls.

It looked more hopeful for the Danish girls a few boards later.



Erika Parn, Estonia

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ K 8 7 5 ♥ A K ♦ K J 10 9 ♣ K 8 4		♠ A Q 9 6 ♥ Q 10 7 ♦ A Q 8 ♣ Q 10 9	
♠ J 10 4 2 ♥ 9 8 6 5 ♦ 7 3 ♣ A J 2	♠ 3 ♥ J 4 3 2 ♦ 6 5 4 2 ♣ 7 6 5 3		
West	North	East	South
Sorensen	Sarv	Mortensen	Oras
Pass	1♣	Dble	Pass
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Mortensens' first double was for majors. When North did not show some extras, South should have passed even if the hand was the right shape for a take-out double. It must be very dangerous since it also must show some values – here she basically had nothing and North with king-fourth in trumps most probably believed she could beat the contract. That wasn't the case; 870 to the Danes who scored 13 IMPs on the hand.

The Danish team lost 6 IMPs on the next hand which was the last swing of their match.

Sweden had already finished with 25-4 against Romania, scoring a total of 219 VPs. Denmark actually lost their match against Estonia by 12-18 and when Denmark finished up with 218 VPs Netherlands suddenly had a new opponent in the race.

Turkey scored 2, 10 and 2 IMPs on board 17 to 19. Then on Board 20 the Dutch pair ended up in 3♣ when they were cold for 3NT. So everything would be decided in the other room where the Spangenberg managed to steal the board, ending up in 2♦!

If the Turks had bid and made 3NT Netherlands would have ended up tied with Denmark in fourth place. Now they can travel home with the bronze medals instead. Tournaments are decided by very small margins sometimes... even though we played for many days!

Past Play Problem No. 6

Here is another play problem for a Youth player of the past:

How should West play 7♣? North leads a trump.

♠ K 6 2 ♥ 6 ♦ Q J 10 ♣ A K Q 9 6 2		♠ A J 8 5 ♥ A J 9 3 2 ♦ – ♣ J 10 5 3	
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Solution on page 20.

The French Open U-26 Team

Thomas Bessis: You may have met him over the last eight years! Remember the smallest player you laughed at....

Now he has learned how to finesse, he has won a European Championship with his father and hopes to win another one with some of his friends!

Frederic Volcker: Some people have surnamed him Rantanplan (like the simple-minded dog in Lucky Luke); but even if he does not look dangerous you should be careful at the table...

He is without doubt the person with the best laugh ever (don't hide yourself, it is just Fred!). According to Jessie, who shared the room with him for the first week, he needs one hour every morning to improve his brushing.

Quentin Robert: If you are a girl, you should have noticed him. Be careful, his girlfriend (Marion from the Girls team) has practiced judo already at her young age.

To be precise about him, do not think he has dreadlocks; it is just that when he is playing bridge, he has the ridiculous tic to curl his hair!

Nicolas Lhuissier: He is the E.T of our team, always singing (or barking after his partner)... As a matter of fact, he is one of our candidates for our 'most grumpy player'! He is very talented and already has won the U-21 World Title in Beijing... Sorry for the ladies, his heart has recently been taken.

Christophe Grosset: He is the most famous player on his isle of La Reunion! If you are skinny, cute, with long legs (he insists on it) and preferably from a Nordic country, CriCri is for you (he doesn't care about your level at bridge, really). You can knock at door 314 when you want after midnight...

Cedric Lorenzini: As he was my partner in U21 (Marion writing), I would not criticise or laugh at someone who played with a woman (a blond one, in addition) and won with her!

As Aurelie (his girlfriend) does not dare to reveal anything about him, we will just say he is also very good at playing tennis and is ok to face you either at the table or on the tennis court. In addition, you may think he is dumb (until his partner makes a mistake) but it is just that he doesn't talk too much.

Herve Mouiel (NPC): He is a very famous and titled French player, called 'Uncle' by generations of bridge players. He is the perfect person to coach the French team and to deal with their characters. He is always making jokes, even if you sometimes don't understand that it is one!

UNDER 21 OPEN TEAMS

ROUND I



GERMANY

v

NETHERLANDS



Welcome to the Under-21 players. For the best part of a week these championships have been very short of the kind of penalties that youthful exuberance sometimes produces. That changed shortly after the Dutch U-21s began their challenge for the championship against Germany.

to the king, ace and ruff. Nab knew he was in trouble and tried a low heart from hand, losing to the ten. Rusch found the good switch to a low spade for the jack and king and Toke Hoffmeister returned a low heart for the jack and queen. Rusch returned a heart for the ace and was given a heart ruff. He now played a low club to the nine and ten and Nab played queen of spades, ducked, then ace and another club. Rusch had two trump tricks to come so that was four down for -100 and 14 IMPs to Germany.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Lankveld</i>	<i>Gruenke</i>	<i>Philipsen</i>	<i>Ellerbeck</i>
–	1♠	Pass	INT
Dble	2♥	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Hoffmeister</i>	<i>Nab</i>	<i>Rusch</i>	<i>Wackwitz</i>
–	1♠	Pass	INT
Dble	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Dble	All Pass

The two auctions were identical up to the point where Germany's Paul Gruenke passed 3♦ while Netherlands' Vincent Nab went on to 3♠ and got doubled by Andrew Rusch, ending the auction. Of course, neither West doubled 3♦ as they did not know that their partner had any values and they didn't want to encourage their opponents to play somewhere else.

Joris Van Lankveld led the king of spades against 3♦ then switched to the seven of hearts. Max Ellerbeck got that right, rising with dummy's king, and continued with the queen of spades, pitching his remaining heart when Rens Philipsen did not cover. Van Lankveld ruffed and led a second low heart. Ellerbeck ruffed and led the queen of diamonds, ducked, then a low diamond to the jack. The defence got a bit sloppy from here and Ellerbeck was allowed to escape for down one; -100. It hardly mattered, given events in the other room.

Rusch led his diamond against 3♠ doubled and that went

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Lankveld</i>	<i>Gruenke</i>	<i>Philipsen</i>	<i>Ellerbeck</i>
–	1♠	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Hoffmeister</i>	<i>Nab</i>	<i>Rusch</i>	<i>Wackwitz</i>
–	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

To overcall 2♥ is very aggressive, particularly at this vulnerability, and Rusch went quietly, leaving his opponents to bid freely up to 3NT. Hoffmeister led the king of diamonds, ducked, and continued with the queen to Ernst Wackwitz's ace. Perhaps the diamond continuation was difficult to avoid – after all, nobody had bid diamonds, though declarer did rate to have some length there – but it gave declarer a chance. Wackwitz was able to play diamonds straight back and establish two more tricks in the suit. Hoffmeister switched to the ten of hearts and Rusch took his ace and returned the suit. That put Wackwitz in hand with four red tricks to cash

and he had his nine winners for an excellent +400.

Of course, the defence could have prevailed even after the diamond continuation. The simplest way is for East to switch to a low club after winning the ace of hearts. Declarer can be shut out of his hand – or, at least, until after he has lost five tricks.

That looked like a very good board for the Dutch North/South pair, however...

The worst time to have a disaster is when teammates have had a very good result on a deal, as you create not just a big swing against your team but obliterate a swing in.

Philipsen made the 2♥ overcall and his side was in trouble when Gruenke reopened with a double and Ellerbeck left it in. Two Hearts doubled would have been very unpleasant for East/West but Van Lankveld 'rescued' his partner – clearly a man who, if finding himself in a hole but holding a shovel, believes in digging his way out (which often just leads to your standing in a deeper hole). If 2♥ doubled would have been unpleasant, 3♦ doubled was downright bloody.

Gruenke led the ace of spades then switched to his singleton heart to dummy's ace. Van Lankveld exited with a spade and Ellerbeck threw a club as Gruenke won the nine. The queen of spades was ruffed and over-ruffed, as was the king of hearts, with the two and five. Ellerbeck ruffed a low spade and played the queen of hearts, ruffed with the ten and over-ruffed with the jack. Gruenke cashed the king of spades and ace of clubs then gave Ellerbeck a club ruff. Now came the last heart and declarer had to decide whether to play for the remaining trumps to be one-one or two-zero. Of course, he has a complete count by now so should have got it right but, with his brain completely frazzled by events so far, had lost the plot and ruffed high, leaving him to lead into Ellerbeck's ace-nine at the end. Van Lankveld had made the ace of hearts and just one trump trick; down seven for –2000



Rens Philipsen, Netherlands

and 17 IMPs to Germany.

The rest of the match featured much tighter bridge with the Netherlands picking up a string of smaller swings to turn what was a 3-45 deficit after Board 9 into a 32-51 loss at the end. On these next two deals Netherlands declared and made partscores at both tables.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Lankveld</i>	<i>Gruenke</i>	<i>Philipsen</i>	<i>Ellerbeck</i>
1♣	1♥	2♣	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Hoffmeister</i>	<i>Nab</i>	<i>Rusch</i>	<i>Wackwitz</i>
1♣	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

The length promised by a 1♣ opening was significant on this one. Philipsen could raise to 2♣ and that shut South out. Gruenke might have repeated his hearts but decided to go quietly. He led ace and another heart against 2♣. Van Lankveld overtook the queen with the king to lead a low club towards dummy. Gruenke went in with the ace to lead a third heart and declarer discarded a diamond from dummy, permitting Ellerbeck to ruff. He played low on the nine of diamonds so switch so Gruenke won the ace and tried a fourth heart. All that achieved was to give the overtrick as Van Lankveld threw a spade from dummy, over-ruffed the ♣J with the queen and drew the last trump. East's other low spade went on the fourth diamond; +110.

Hoffmeister did not promise more than a doubleton club so Rusch could not raise. When he passed, Wackwitz introduced the spades and Nab rebid 2♥, ending the auction. Rusch led the four of clubs to the queen and ace and Nab immediately tried a diamond to the queen and king. Back came a club to the king and a third club to dummy's jack. Away went the jack of spades, and now Nab took his diamond ruff and tried a low spade towards the nine. That got ducked so the nine scored and he continued with ace and another heart; +140 and 6 IMPs to Netherlands.

Incidentally, when playing a two-card 1♣ opening, I like to play that a double of a 1♥ overcall denies four spades, being orientated towards competing in a minor. Whether or not

you think this East hand is worth such a double – being only a six-count including the heart queen-doubleton – is another matter, but I suggest that this is a more valuable treatment than being able to distinguish between four and five spades – particularly if you play the style where 1♣ covers all weak no trump types, even those with a diamond suit and short clubs, as it greatly improves your chances to find a minor-suit fit.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

	♠ –					
	♥ A 10 9					
	♦ A 7 3					
	♣ K 9 8 6 5 4 2					
♠ A J 3 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; 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	♠ Q 9 8 7 5 4	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ 7 4 3		♥ J 6				
♦ K Q 10		♦ J 8 4 2				
♣ A 10 3		♣ Q				
	♠ K 10 6					
	♥ K Q 9 5 2					
	♦ 9 6 5					
	♣ J 7					

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Lankveld</i>	<i>Gruenke</i>	<i>Philipsen</i>	<i>Ellerbeck</i>
			Pass
1♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Hoffmeister</i>	<i>Nab</i>	<i>Rusch</i>	<i>Wackwitz</i>
			Pass
1♣	3♣	All Pass	

Hoffmeister again opened with a potentially short 1♣ and Nab overcalled 3♣, silencing East/West. Nab won the diamond lead, crossed to the queen of hearts and led the ♣7 to his king. He next played three rounds of hearts, throwing a diamond as Hoffmeister ruffed with the ten, and was credited with 11 tricks for +150, when it seems that he actually had to lose three tricks. No matter, the swing would not have been affected by the extra overtrick.

In the other room, 1♣ promised at least three cards and Gruenke could not overcall at his first turn. Philipsen responded 2♦, multi, and Van Lankveld rebid 2♥, pass or correct. Philipsen completed his description by bidding 2♠ and Van Lankveld passed. Gruenke could have bid 3♣ now, but that didn't have to be right and he judged to pass. Ellerbeck led the king of hearts, which Gruenke overtook with the ace, and returned the ♥10 to the jack and queen. Ellerbeck switched to a diamond for the ace and Gruenke switched back to hearts, Philipsen ruffing with the seven. Philipsen now led a spade to the jack so had to concede a trump trick, making nine tricks for +140 and 7 IMPs to Netherlands. He could have picked up the spade without loss by starting with the queen, the safety play to cater to a three-zero split.

Germany won the match by 19-11 VPs.

Tough Problem

by Ben Green

Sadly, I am now too old to play junior bridge, but that has not prevented me from coming to the Junior European Championships in Brasov, Romania. I must admit that coaching the England Under 26 team is a far cry from being a player, but it is nonetheless a rewarding job.

Today's deal sees England's Chris Owen declaring a tricky contract of 3NT from Round 11. The hand can be viewed from two perspectives – as a declarer play and also a defensive problem:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

	♠ A					
	♥ 7 5 3					
	♦ K Q 7 5 4 2					
	♣ A 7 2					
♠ 8 6 4 3 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; 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	♠ J 10 9 5	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ K Q 6		♥ 10 9 2				
♦ J 3		♦ A 9 6				
♣ 10 6 5		♣ K J 9				
	♠ K Q 7					
	♥ A J 8 4					
	♦ 10 8					
	♣ Q 8 4 3					

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Owen received a spade lead to the ace (East dropping the jack to show the ten) and quickly diagnosed that there might be some difficulties in making four diamond tricks. If he had played the king of diamonds (or come to hand in order to lead a diamond) from dummy, then East could duck that and then duck the diamond continuation, thereby cutting declarer off from the dummy. He therefore led a low diamond to the ten at trick two. West won the jack and continued with spades so declarer won in hand, led a diamond to the king, and could not be prevented from making nine tricks (four diamonds, three spades and two aces). Well played, but the defence should still have prevailed.

When defending any contract, one should try to imagine a layout of the cards that allows the defence to beat the contract. Such layouts are not always easy to construct but, if we look at the evidence, then I believe that West should have solved this problem.

West knew that his partner did not hold the king or queen of spades (from the signal at trick one) and he also knew that his partner held at most 9 HCP (South had shown at least 12 by jumping to game). The question is, what cards did partner need to defeat this game. The king of clubs is critical as it would allow declarer to take nine tricks. Partner also needs something in hearts (either the jack or the ten nine), otherwise the defence will only come to two diamond tricks, one club trick and one heart trick.

West should therefore have switched to the king of hearts. Declarer must duck this (otherwise he cannot get back to his spade winners) and then the defence can switch to a club to the king and play another heart back – coming to two diamonds, two hearts and a club. Not an easy defence to find but certainly not impossible.

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS

ROUND 12



ITALY

v

SWEDEN



Two teams very much in the hunt for medals and World Championship qualification met on Tuesday morning as the U-26 teams got back to work after their day off. Early on, it was all Italy.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Manno	Arvidsson	Di Franco	Bech
	2♥	4NT	5♥
6♦	Dble	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
S. Rimstedt	Delle Cave	Sjoberg	Fellus
	Pass	1♦	1♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

The match started with a bang in the Open Room, where Eric Arvidsson could open 2♥ to show a weak hand with at least four-four in the majors. Massimiliano Di Franco showed a minor two-suiter and Simon Bech competed with 5♥. On what was clearly a huge double-fit hand, Andrea Manno tried 6♦, having no idea whether it would make, and Arvidsson doubled, thinking he had more defence than normal for his opening. Alas, while Bech had a club trick, that was it for the defence, and Manno had no trouble in racking up 12 tricks for +1090.

In the other room, Guisepe Delle Cave did not have the weak-majors opening in his kitbag so passed. Emma Sjoberg opened 1♦ but that was in the context of a strong club system and didn't promise any diamonds, so Sandra Rimstedt could not 'support' the diamonds after Robin Fellus' overcall. When Delle Cave now splintered in support of hearts, perhaps Sjoberg might have doubled – she did, after all, have not only a decent diamond suit, but serious distribution and a complete maximum for a non 1♣ opening. When she instead passed and didn't fancy a more committal 4NT

at her next turn, the Italians had managed to declare 4♥ when their opponents were cold for slam the other way.

Rimstedt led a trump. Fellus won, drew a second round and passed the jack of spades. Sjoberg won the ♠Q and cashed her aces; down one for -50 but 14 IMPs to Italy.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Manno	Arvidsson	Di Franco	Bech
	2NT	4♣	4NT
5♦	All Pass		Pass
West	North	East	South
S. Rimstedt	Delle Cave	Sjoberg	Fellus
	Pass	4NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Rimstedt had a bid for the West hand, a 2NT opening to show 13-16 with at least five-five in the minors. I'm not sure whether 4NT was intended as ace-asking or pick-a-suit, but Rimstedt showed her two aces and Sjoberg bid 6♣, where she played on ace and another spade lead. She led a club to the queen and king and back came a heart. Sjoberg drew trumps and, having seen that North was short in clubs, correctly played for him to be longer in diamonds, passing the ♦10. That lost so the contract was two down for -200.

Bech opened a mini-no trump on the South cards and Manno overcalled 2NT, minors. Arvidsson tried to play in a major but Di Franco bid 4NT, asking partner to pick a trump suit, and Manno settled for 5♦. Arvidsson led the king of hearts to declarer's bare ace. Manno immediately led a diamond to the king and a diamond back, drew the third trump and took the club finesse. Bech won the king and cashed the ace of spades; +600 and 13 IMPs to Italy.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Manno	Arvidsson	Di Franco	Bech
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	1♠	Dble	2♥
Pass	2♠	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
S. Rimstedt	Delle Cave	Sjoberg	Fellus
	Pass	INT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Sjoberg opened an off-centre mini and 2♦ was game-forcing Stayman. Fellus led a low diamond and Sjoberg ducked it to the jack. Delle Cave cashed the king of hearts, caught a discouraging two from partner, and switched again to a low club, ducked to the king. Fellus now tried a spade, so the defence had led each of the four suits in turn to the



Giuseppe Delle Cave, Italy

first four tricks. Sjoberg won and played on hearts, taking nine safe tricks without needing any more finesses; +400.

Manno opened 1♣ in third seat, 15-17 balanced, 15+ natural, or any game-force. There is nothing on the Swedish card to suggest that Arvidsson's 1♥ overall was anything other than a rather badly-timed psyche, and that is consistent with Bech's giving preference to 2♥. Arvidsson had to run first to 1♠ then to 2♠, and Bech no doubt shook his head behind the screen as he put dummy down.

Di Franco led the queen of spades and, when it held, switched to his singleton diamond for the queen. Manno switched to the queen of hearts. Arvidsson won the ace and led the nine of diamonds to Manno's ace. Back came a second heart to the king. Now he exited with his third heart and Di Franco won the ten as Manno pitched a club. Di Franco next cashed the ace of clubs before playing the h♥, Arvidsson ruffing while Manno threw his last club. Arvidsson tried to cash a club now but that was ruffed and the defence had the last four tricks on a high crossruff; down five for -1400 and another 14 IMPs to Italy, up by 41-0.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Manno	Arvidsson	Di Franco	Bech
	Pass	2♦	Pass
INT	Pass	4♦	Pass
2♠	Pass		
4♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
S. Rimstedt	Delle Cave	Sjoberg	Fellus
	Pass	2♣	Pass
INT	Pass	4♥	Pass
2♥	Pass		All Pass

Di Franco's 2♦ response was a four-card or longer transfer, while Sjoberg started with simple Stayman. Both Wests were soon declaring the heart game.

Delle Cave led the king of diamonds. Rimstedt won the ace and played the queen of spades. Fellus won the king and switched to a low heart. Rimstedt won the king, ruffed a spade, crossed to a club, ruffed a spade and crossed to another club to ruff the last spade. She would appear to have

a diamond and a heart to lose from here but is credited with 11 tricks for +650.

Arvidsson also led the king of diamonds and Manno too won the ace. However, he now followed a different line by returning a diamond. Bech pitched a club and a second one as Arvidsson continued with the ten of diamonds for Manno to ruff. Declarer was in trouble now. He tried to cash the ace and king of clubs but Bech ruffed and played the king of spades, which Arvidsson overtook to give him a second club ruff. Bech returned a low spade but declarer could crossruff the rest of the tricks; down one for -100 and 13 badly-needed IMPs to for Sweden.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Manno	Arvidsson	Di Franco	Bech
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	Pass	INT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
S. Rimstedt	Delle Cave	Sjoberg	Fellus
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Both Easts reopened with INT on hands some way short of the normal strength for the bid, not wishing to give up on a partscore battle at this vulnerability. Manno gave his partner some leeway as he knew that he could not have 18-19 balanced as that would have been a 2♦ opening – most likely INT was a balanced 15-17, as was indeed the case. Rimstedt, raised to game, but Sjoberg had upgraded her 16 HCP and opened a strong club, allegedly promising 17. Still, 2NT might have been sufficient with the West hand.

Bech led the ace of clubs and switched to a low heart, giving a fourth trick in that suit, and Di Franco had nine tricks for +150. The same defence would be rather more expensive in the other room.

Fellus too began with a top club but his switch was to a low spade. Sjoberg won the jack and played the jack of clubs, ducked. She overtook with dummy's queen to play a diamond to the ten, hoping to develop extra tricks without

allowing North on lead to push a spade through. That lost to the king and Fellus played ace and another spade. That gave the second spade trick but there were still only eight in total – two spades, one club, two diamonds and three hearts. However, Sjoberg won the spade and led a diamond to the queen, Fellus pitching a heart, then a diamond back to her ace, and Fellus pitched a second heart when he still had an idle club card to spare. Sjoberg could lead a heart to the queen and finesse the nine on the way back and had her contract and 10 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Manno	Arvidsson	Di Franco	Bech
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Dble	2♦
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
S. Rimstedt	Delle Cave	Sjoberg	Fellus
Pass	1♥	2♣	Dble
3♣	Dble	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Arvidsson's 2♣ rebid was obviously conventional and his follow-up of 2♠ presumably showed a good hand with three-card spade support. Their card does not deal with this. As an aside, and I don't mean this to be getting at this particular pair, I often have to try to work out what an auction means by looking at a pair's convention card. Some are simply very badly filled in, and I suspect my own would fit into that category were I playing. But where a pair bothers to give some detail they choose strange things to mention and not mention. Arvidsson/Bech, for example, bother to tell us that 1♥ – 1♠ – INT – 2♣/♦ are any invitational and any GF hand respectively, which is a lot more common around the world than the actual auction and opponents expect at least one of the bids to be artificial – yet the actual auction, using a much more unusual method, does not get a mention. Strange.


Anyway, back to the bridge. Manno led a club as request-

ed and Di Franco won the ace and switched to the jack of spades. Bech won dummy's queen, cashed the ace, then cashed the top hearts and crossed to dummy with a diamond to play the queen of hearts, throwing a diamond from hand. Manno ruffed, cashed the black kings and that was that; +140.

In the other room, Sjoberg traded on her passed hand status to overcall 2♣ and Fellus doubled. Rimstedt raised to 3♣ and Delle Cave doubled that to show extras. Fellus responded 3♠ to that and Delle Cave converted to 4♥, where he played.

Sjoberg led her singleton spade round to declarer's queen. Delle Cave cashed the ace and king of hearts, crossed to hand with a diamond and drew two more rounds of trumps, then led a low diamond towards the jack. When the queen appeared, he had ten tricks for +620 and 10 IMPs to Italy.

Board 12. Dealer West. Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Manno	Arvidsson	Di Franco	Bech
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
S. Rimstedt	Delle Cave	Sjoberg	Fellus
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Delle Cave/Fellus had a natural auction to 3♣. At the other table, Bech's 2♣ response is described as either an artificial game-force or invitational with a six-card or longer minor. The rest of the auction is something of a mystery, and it is not clear that they would really have wanted to get to 3NT on this pair of hands. However...


Di Franco led a low club, clearly not fully aware of what dummy was going to look like. That ran round to the queen and Arvidsson could return a club and establish five winners there to go with his other four top tricks and soon was writing +600 on his scorecard; 10 IMPs to Sweden as 3♣ made 10 tricks in the other room.

Italy won the match by 77-44 IMPs, or 22-8 VPs.

Card Reading

Espen Lindqvist showed off his abilities in the area of card-reading during Round 13 of the U-26 Championship.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
Berg	Delle Cave	Lindqvist	Fellus
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Lindqvist got the two of hearts lead and won it in his hand with the queen. The king of diamonds followed, aiming to establish two tricks for declarer and, when it was ducked, Lindqvist continued with the queen of diamonds.

Delle Cave played his ace and continued with a pleasant club for Lindqvist who won in his hand, cashed another round of clubs, and played a spade towards dummy, Delle Cave making the error of following with his low spade.

That left the following position:

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

Lindqvist cashed his last club, North discarding a heart and South a sleepy heart. When everybody followed to the ten of diamonds to the jack, he had full count on South, most probably 2-5-3-3, and when the queen of spades appeared on a spade towards dummy Lindqvist simply ducked it. Delle Cave was nicely endplayed and had to lead into declarer's hearts again!

UNDER 21 OPEN TEAMS

ROUND 2



SWEDEN

v

ENGLAND



Britain has a tradition of producing twins who partner each other at international level at the bridge table (Sharples, Tredinnick, and Hackett are the best recognised). Now Sweden has a pair who may become as well-known. Ola & Mikael Rimstedt are only 13 years old and planning to match their better-known sisters' achievements. In this match they were playing against Tom Paske (who has a brother too old for Schools bridge) & Graeme Robertson at the Open table where your reporter was watching. They play similar systems: five-card majors, strong no trump, prepared club.

In the Closed Room, Daniel Gullberg (no relation to Tommy) & Johan Karlsson of Sweden faced James Thrower & Rob Myers. The Swedish pair play a rare but perfectly workable combination of four-card majors with strong no-trump.

The first board of the day, as for every day at this championship, was a swingy affair:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Robertson	Ola	Paske	Mikael
	Pass	1♦	2♥
3♦	4♥	5♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Closed

West	North	East	South
Gullberg	Thrower	Karlsson	Myers
	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♦	2NT(i)	5♦	All Pass

(i) Good raise in ♥

In the Open Room it looked reasonable for East, following his partner's diamond raise, even though that was pre-emptive, simply to bid six and hope for the best. West did have excellent support for both minors, but could not know how powerful the East hand was. N/S had done well not to push

them into six, for 5♥ doubled is a good save against game but 6♥ costs 500, worthwhile only against the slam. Five Diamonds plus one on a heart lead was 420 to England.

In the Closed Room East made no investigation for a slam so it was a flat board.

On the next deal the twins had a bidding misunderstanding that in theory was fortunate (game can be defeated double dummy) but in practice could be expected to cost points:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Robertson	Ola	Paske	Mikael
		Pass	1♣
1♠	3♦	All Pass!	

Closed

West	North	East	South
Gullberg	Thrower	Karlsson	Myers
		Pass	1♣
1♠	2♦	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

In the Open Room, North explained 3♦ as forcing, whereas his brother passed. Declarer was pleased to make only ten tricks for 130 to Sweden.

With the diamonds 3-0, both 3NT and 5♦ can be beaten but it is not so easy to defeat the no-trump game. The defence leads a spade to the king and, when declarer is forced to hold up, East must switch to a club. (If East continues with a spade to West's queen, then even if West finds the club switch declarer holds up that suit as well. Now the defence make only two spades, one club and a diamond.)

In the Closed Room, England did reach 3NT but West sacrificed for two off, 300 to England and 5 IMPs.

Paske & Robertson did well to reach a thin game on the next deal (they even sniffed for a slam) but declarer gave the defence a chance:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K 9 ♥ A ♦ A J 10 9 8 ♣ J 10 7 5 4	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 7 6 2 ♥ 10 7 5 2 ♦ K 7 4 ♣ A Q 3	♠ A 10 8 3 ♥ 9 6 3 ♦ Q 3 ♣ K 8 6 2
--	--	---	---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Robertson</i>	<i>Ola</i>	<i>Paske</i>	<i>Mikael</i>
1♦	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥(i)	Dble	Pass	Pass
Rdbl(ii)	Pass	5♣(i)	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

- (i) Cuebid
- (ii) First-round control

Closed

West	North	East	South
<i>Gullberg</i>	<i>Thrower</i>	<i>Karlsson</i>	<i>Myers</i>
1♦	1♥	INT	2♥
All Pass			

Ola's overcall of 2♥ in the Open Room could only be justified by the vulnerability. In a way it assisted E/W for, at many tables where North passed, E/W did not reach game. Ola's double of 4♥ must have been to remind himself to lead the suit, for his partner was never going to be on lead. Actually, the auction suggested there might be more future in a spade lead (suppose South's spade is the king rather than the ace, it might be necessary to start the suit at trick one).

Against 5♦, Ola led ♥K as he had instructed. If declarer draws trumps at once relying on South to have the queen, then the game becomes one of two finesses. (Even if South cleverly ducks when a club is led to the queen declarer should try a spade.)

However, after Robertson won the opening lead he led a club to the queen and king before touching trumps. On the auction it looked as if declarer would be 5-5 so South should have spotted the chance of a club ruff. If he cashes the ♠A first to see what is happening North can play the queen to show there is no future in that suit. South knows West has no more hearts, so he will play a club.

But South underled his spade ace, hoping declarer had a guess in the suit. Robertson had no choice but to play the king and, when it held, he now tackled trumps. When the queen appeared he could claim; 600 to England.

At the other table the auction died tamely in 2♥, which made for a further 110 to England and 12 IMPs.

On the next deal Ola made a small technical error in the play that he was lucky did not cost him a game swing:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ J 6 4 2 ♥ A ♦ 5 3 2 ♣ 8 6 5 3 2	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q 9 8 7 5 ♥ 5 4 ♦ A K 7 4 ♣ A 4	♠ A ♥ Q J 10 9 7 6 ♦ 9 6 ♣ Q J 9 7
--	--	--	---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Robertson</i>	<i>Ola</i>	<i>Paske</i>	<i>Mikael</i>
Pass	1♠	2♥	2NT(i)
Pass	3♣(ii)	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

- (i) Spade raise (Jacoby style)
- (ii) Minimum

Against Ola's 4♠, East led ♣Q. Ola won in hand and played a trump. When East rose with the ace declarer played a small card from the table, whereas he should have unblocked the ten.

East switched to ♥Q which went to the king and ace. A second club was won in dummy. Declarer cashed the ♠K.



Mikael Rimstedt, Sweden

Had he earlier disposed of the ten he would have been able to draw trumps and claim. As it was, when he ran the ten the lead was left in dummy. He might have returned with a diamond but actually played a heart. Note how West can discard a diamond but, as he has three, that does no good. The defence made only two hearts and a trump for 620 to Sweden. It was a flat board.

On the next deal, Mikael was rightly punished for an undisciplined pre-empt:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Robertson	Ola	Paske	Mikael
Pass	Pass	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Closed

West	North	East	South
Gullberg	Thrower	Karlsson	Myers
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		



Robert Myers, England

The South hand is not a vulnerable pre-empt except in junior bridge. Paske did well to re-open with a double and, at the vulnerability, West was happy to pass. The defence duly made one spade, two clubs, a heart and two trumps to earn 500, compared with 3NT+1 for 430.

Board 6 was a partscore affair and a flat board.

Board 7 provided an interesting play problem for those in 4♥:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Robertson	Ola	Paske	Mikael
1♣	1♦	1♥	1♠
2♥	Pass	2♠*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed

West	North	East	South
Gullberg	Thrower	Karlsson	Myers
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The traditional way to play a cross-ruff hand is to cash your outside winners before starting on the cross-ruff in case a defender is able to ditch one of his losers in the side-suit. Here it was not so obviously right to do so as cashing the side-suit, clubs, ran two risks: the clubs might be 5-2, and the suit itself contained the entries to facilitate the ruffs.

Paske was in 4♥ as East on the singleton diamond lead. He followed the traditional advice, cashing all three clubs successfully, and then led a spade. The contract was safe and as the defence did not take their chance to play trumps he should have made 11 tricks. Still, it was 620 to England.

At the other table Gullberg was declarer as West and North led ♦K. Declarer won and played a spade. North won and played two high diamonds on which South discarded two clubs.

West ruffed with his small trump but the contract now looks to be in trouble as declarer will not make his club tricks. He tried two rounds of clubs. South ruffed and led a trump. This was won in dummy and declarer ruffed a diamond (South throwing a spade), ruffed a spade and then, in a four-card ending, led the last diamond off the dummy.

At this point South can discard another spade and must come to a trump later to defeat the game. Sad to relate, he unnecessarily ruffed the last diamond. West over-ruffed with his last trump, ruffed a spade, drew the only trump outstanding and at trick thirteen enjoyed a club trick for a flat board.

Boards 8 and 9 were fairly dull affairs, but on Board 10 several declarers failed in 4♠:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Robertson</i>	<i>Ola</i>	<i>Paske</i>	<i>Mikael</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣(i)	Dble	2♦(ii)
Pass	2♠(iii)	Pass	4♠

All Pass

- (i) Two-way, either natural or a balanced 16+
- (ii) Asking
- (iii) Natural but strong.

In the Open Room, West led a club in response to East's double. Paske won the ace and returned the jack, planning to force dummy. Declarer, Mikael, played confidently and well. He unblocked the top hearts, finessed the ♠Q, cashed the ♠A, and played a winning heart ditching his last club. Now he could claim as the losing diamond would go on the next heart. The defence made only one club and two trumps; 620 to Sweden.

In the Closed Room, Rob Myers as South was declarer in the same contract. He also received a club lead to the ace but East returned a low club. The ♣9 fetched the king, so declarer was better-placed. A spade finesse ensured the game for a flat board.

There was interesting play in Russia-Poland on Vugraph. The Polish declarer received a diamond lead and immediately cashed a heart, took a spade finesse, cashed the other top heart then led ♠9 covered by the ten and ace. When West ruffed the third heart he could cash a trump and two clubs, for down one. The Russian declarer got ♣K lead and a second club. She ruffed, crossed to ♥A, ruffed another club, cashed ♠A, and came to the ♥K to lead a trump. When trumps were 4-1 West was down to ♠K 3 and all four diamonds. West shifted to a low diamond, forcing South to guess where the ♦Q was. She got it wrong; down one and

a flat board.

It was half-way and England led 23-6 when your reporter had to leave to start his report.

The England npc may have wished he stayed longer, for things went very much Sweden's way in the second half. This was the most interesting, and the biggest, of the swings:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Robertson</i>	<i>Ola</i>	<i>Paske</i>	<i>Mikael</i>
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	4♣
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed

West	North	East	South
<i>Gullberg</i>	<i>Thrower</i>	<i>Karlsson</i>	<i>Myers</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣	Dble
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, Sweden reached 3NT and, on a club lead to the nine, made 11 tricks for 660.

Tom Paske, as East, faced a much tougher task in 4♠. He also received a club to the nine and led a spade to the king, discovering just how awkward things would be. North took the ace of spades and switched to ♥K. East won and tried ♣Q, covered by South's king and ruffed low in dummy and over-ruffed by North.

If North cashes ♥Q then declarer will have two entries to dummy, one to take the trump finesse and one to get back to draw the last trump. So Ola did very well when he exited with a diamond. This went to the jack and queen. Declarer led a low trump from dummy and finessed the nine. He then cashed the queen and had only to get back to draw North's last trump. So now he tried the ♥10. Again Ola defended well by letting this hold. Declarer cashed his top diamonds but by now was running out of ideas. He tried a third heart. North won and played his fourth heart forcing out dummy's last trump and creating a trump winner for himself to set the game. This was 13 IMPs to Sweden and very well defended by Ola Rimstedt.

The final score was 50-24 to Sweden or 20-10 in VPs.

Meet the Team from Disneyland

Once upon a time, in a kingdom far, far away, a group was formed by 14 so called bridge players and three responsible leaders. There was **Tobias 'Baloo' Törnqvist** the NPC who makes a mighty first impression on small innocent juniors, just like the gray bear. Most of his tips are clearly worth listening to, even though so far it hasn't been necessary to teach any of the juniors fighting techniques. When giving the players a lecture, Baloo is just as frightening as the original. Tobias' partner in crime, the coach for the Swedish U-26 team, **Henrik 'Bagheera' Noberius's** role is to sneak around in the background and point out to Baloo and the players when things could be done differently. Sleek-looking and quick and much like Bagheera, Henrik is not one who always talks, but the things he says are normally witty and smart and always spot on.

Simon 'Pinocchio' Bech (23) always has a truly great story to tell, but are all the funny things he tells about his teammates really true? His friends (and bridge opponents) wish that Simon's nose would grow just as Pinocchio's, as they are starting to doubt whether Simon ever tells the truth. Simon's partner is Eric **'Timon' Arvidsson (25)**, he always knows how the hand should have been played or how things should be done. He likes giving his younger roommate (Mike) a lot of advice and helpful tips concerning bridge and good life in general. Mike though, has made it very clear that he has no resemblance to Timon's smelly friend Pumba.

Mikael 'Simba' Grönkvist (16) is the youngest player on the junior team and one might expect him to be humble and modest and stay in the background. This, however, is not the case with Mike. And everyone that knows him is aware of the fact that he just can't wait to be king! Simba plays with fair **Cecilia 'Cinderella' Rimstedt (20)**. Before this tournament we were confident that Cecilia had already found her Prince Charming, but we might have been mistaken. Because Cecilia keeps dropping her shoes while heading back to the hotel before the clock strikes midnight. A coincidence? We think not.

Much more relaxed in her hunt for the prince of her dreams is Cecilia's sister Sandra **'Sleeping Beauty' Rimstedt (22)**. Instead of dropping her shoes, she just lays back and relaxes and waits for the right one to wake her up, a task that for sure is not as easy as it may sound. Sandra plays bridge with **Emma 'Ariel' Sjöberg (24)** who is very curious and loves new things, whether it is new conventions or fancy technical gadgets. However, she is not really bright enough to figure out how they really work! Emma is usually prepared to do whatever it takes to achieve her goals, but we seriously doubt whether she'd be able to stay silent to be part of your world.

Playing for the Girls team, debutee **Ulrika 'Princess Jasmine' Lindström (25)** is clever and headstrong and has a fierce temperament and we think that Ulrika always gets what she wants, without needing a frightening tiger by her side. When she started to play bridge it opened up a whole new world to her. Her partner **Ida 'Pocahontas' Grönkvist (14)** not only sings to the wind and all her friends, in fact you may also hear her pretty voice when she's defending a particularly tricky partscore. As declarer this very pretty princess may try some hidden trails to success, so beware!

Emma 'Winnie the Pooh' Paulsson (22) has a very sweet heart and also a heart for sweets. As a new member on the team Emma is always smiling and caring for her friends. She is slightly whimsical (much like the rest of us) and when she's declaring you might see her with her hand at her forehead exclaiming 'think,

think, think!' Emma's partner **Moa 'Tinkerbell' Petersen (17)** has all the good qualities of the fairy Tingeling. She is a sparkling, smiling blonde and not half as innocent and tiny as she looks. There's something magical about her since, although her teammates don't fly, they always smile and laugh when she's around.

You might have heard of Chip 'n' Dale? The two chipmunks who always scheme and cause trouble. Well they are playing on the Swedish Schools team. **Mikael 'Chip' Rimstedt (14)** is the clever, cool-headed one who keeps them both out of trouble while **Ola 'Dale' Rimstedt** takes risks and causes mischief. Together, this is the perfect bridge-match, a mix of shrewd schemes and risky bidding. With Chip 'n' Dale on the team, we know we'll never have a dull hour.

Johan 'Doc' Karlsson (19) is such a rare thing as a smart Swedish bridge player. If you're trying to find him (back in Sweden), you'd probably have to be running away from your cunning stepmother and get lost, since the town he lives in is as small as the dwarfs' cottage! Johan plays with **Daniel 'Mowgli' Gullberg (19)**, who is a curious and innocent looking new player and an unwritten card for all opponents. We hope that he will make as many friends and be as successful here in Brasov, as Mowgli was in the jungle.

Taking care of the Schools team, **Tom 'Ferdinand' Gärd**s does things his own way. When the young eager boys are running around making pranks, Tom always keeps his calm. But when something happens he certainly has energy and resources to show up. Tom likes pretty flowers and the silence under his cork-tree.

Today in History - July 15th



1606: Rembrandt born.

The great Dutch master Rembrandt van Rijn is born in Leiden on July 15, 1606, the son of a miller. His humble origins may help account for the uncommon depth of compassion given to all the subjects of his art. His more than 600 paintings, many of them portraits or self-portraits, are characterized by rich brushwork and colour and a dramatic interplay of shadow and light. Rembrandt prospered when he moved to Amsterdam but fell out of favour in his later years. However, economic and personal miseries never affected his mastery in many mediums. In addition to his many paintings, he produced 300 masterfully executed etchings and nearly 2,000 drawings.

1881: American outlaw 'Billy The Kid' - William Bonney - is shot dead by Sheriff Pat Garrett in New Mexico.



1815: French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte surrenders to Captain Maitland aboard the English ship Bellerophon, at Rochefort before being sent into exile on the island of St Helena.

Past Play Problem No. 6 Solution

How should West play 7♣? North leads a trump.

♠ K 6 2 ♥ 6 ♦ Q J 10 ♣ A K Q 9 6 2	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div> </div>	♠ A J 8 5 ♥ A J 9 3 2 ♦ – ♣ J 10 5 3
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Franck Multon of France was still a junior when he played this grand slam at the 1988 World Team Olympiad. (He made a grand slam on the next board too, which you can see tomorrow.)

Multon won the trump lead in hand, ruffed a diamond, cashed ♥A, ruffed a heart low, ruffed another diamond, ruffed a heart high, ruffed the last diamond, and a fourth heart, the suit dividing 4-3. He then drew the last trump and claimed. Ruffing out the hearts was necessary as the spade finesse was losing. If the hearts are 5-2 you must rely on a squeeze or the spade finesse. Where North has the five hearts there may be a show-up squeeze.

South held:

♠ Q 4 3
♥ K 10 7 4
♦ A 9 7 6 5
♣ 8

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.

Sport News

Cycling



Mark Cavendish produced another superb sprint finish to hold off Norway's Thor Hushovd and clinch his third stage win of this year's Tour de France. The Manxman attacked in the last 200m, and was accelerating away from Hushovd, his main rival for the green jersey, when he

crossed the line in Issoudun.

Italy's Rinaldo Nocentini keeps the yellow jersey, with a six-second lead.

But Britain's Bradley Wiggins was caught up in a crash near the finish and drops out of the top five overall. Seven-time champion Lance Armstrong and 2007 winner Alberto Contador both finished safely near the front of the peloton. But, like Wiggins, their Astana team-mate Levi Leipheimer was affected by a split in the main group and lost 15 seconds on the other contenders in the General Classification.

Football



Manchester City have completed the signing of ex-Manchester United striker Carlos Tevez for a fee believed to be £25.5m and on a five-year deal. The Argentine, 25, left Old Trafford last month after rejecting their offer of

turning his loan spell with them into a permanent switch.

What a Dummy

There was a curious happening when Netherlands met Czech Republic during the Girls Championship. The Spangenberg sisters, Sigrid and Jamilla, for Netherlands, were playing against Katerina Ticha and Anna Marie Cerna, for the Czech Republic.

On one deal, Sigrid became dummy and duly put her hand down, but Anna Marie also started to put her hand on the table as though she were the dummy. As Jamilla (declarer) could not see what was happening, Sigrid called the director. He told her that dummy could not call the director but, as he was walking away, asked what happened. When told about the situation he came back, saying that this was the one time dummy could call for help.

Only Anna Marie's clubs had been exposed and the ruling was that they were all major penalty cards, to be played at the first legal opportunity but, of course, with lead penalties against Katerina. The director explained, for example, that if someone led the ace of hearts and Anna Marie did not have any hearts, declarer could ask her to throw any club away, even the ace. Understandably, the atmosphere at the table was a little tense at this point.

Anyway, the director made everything clear and Katerina promptly led the ace of hearts, which brought laughter from everyone and suddenly the atmosphere was friendly and relaxed once more.

Monday 13th July 2009

(Glad it is not Friday)

*The roof has been repaired
 The Dutch girls at breakfast are nervous
 As are the Danes at the next table
 Cold contracts are going down
 The Polish team recovers
 Netherlands makes mistakes
 But so does Denmark
 Scores more and more important
 Elegance of play ignored
 Outburst of joy
 As well for Polish and Netherlands
 French girls gracious losers
 Freddy sings about Champions
 We all know the Polish anthem.*

*Taxi to Brasov hard to find
 In centre all sorts of familiar faces
 Girls in cosmetics store
 Nice prices, lots of offers
 Brasov on the mountain
 Reflections of Hollywood
 Time to go back
 Prepare for Round 12
 System Cards, Conventions
 Nothing like a bridge tournament
 Expectations, actions, wishes
 Players, coaches, captains
 They all go to sleep
 Wake up and fight
 In our so precious game.*

Calcio