

Daily Bulletin Editor: Jos Jacobs, Journalist: Marjo Chorus, Daily Bulletin Layout-Editor: George Hatzidakis, Photos: Marc van Beijsterveldt

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The French are leading the final countdown



Everyday life in Yeditepe's catacombs

Yesterday, the qualification sessions came to an end and the Finals got underway. After the first session, a French pair, Lhuissier-Lebatteux, have taken the lead by scoring over 62%. A fine performance by them but there are three more exhausting sessions to come: two today and the grand final tomorrow. Elsewhere in the catacombs, the IMP Pairs also got underway. In that format, Agarwal-Bayakhchev, an Indian-Russian combination, are leading the field, already by a considerable margin but here too, we will be only halfway when the afternoon session starts at 15.00 hrs.

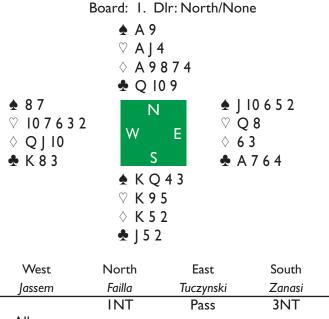


MP Pairs qualification, 3rd session

by Jos Jacobs and Marjo Chorus

For the third and final session of the matchpoint pairs qualifications we once again went down into the playing catacombs to watch those who have been living there for almost a week now.We did not see any alarming signs of players who were needing treatment shortly but it quickly became clear that it had been an exhausting week for many of us and not only at daytime. So this report will have to deal with quite a number of mistakes but a lot of good bridge as well.

Take for example the first board, a typical example of what a pairs' event is all about:



All pass

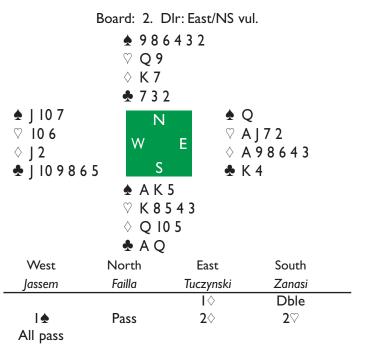
The auction and the contract are trivial but the play at pairs is not. On a club lead by East, there will be four tricks four the defence if they have kept their communications intact when declarer gives up a diamond trick. On a spade lead, there are 11 tricks as long as declarer does not take the heart finesse after he finds out that West has the length in the suit. Going for a throw-in against a defender with a blank top club and \heartsuit Qx left does not work either. Failla got a low spade lead to his nine from Tuczynski. After giving up a diamond, he cashed all his winners and already had the \heartsuit J in his hand, high above the table, after he had played a heart from dummy at trick 11, when he decided to put it back and play the Ace instead. The extra overtrick made his score go up to 64 mp.

Attention all players!

This afternoon, the starting times of both the MP Pairs Final and the IMP Pairs have changed and will start at **15.00 hrs.**

Maurizio Di Sacco, General Tournament Manager

The overnight leaders got their revenge on the next board, also a pairs' game classic:





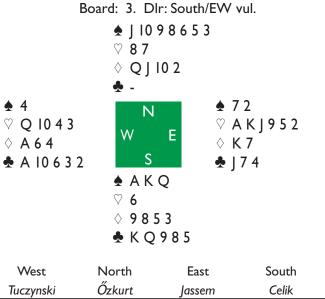
Piotr Tuczynski, Poland

I by West was a classic baby psyche as we have been

seeing them for more than 75 years all over the world. Still, the spade layout can be such that taking the necessary countermeasures is quite awkward. North can hardly double as he is not strong enough but he might have ventured 2° over partner's 2° . Would that have been a natural bid under your current agreements?

Anyway, 2^\heartsuit was just made for 13 mp to NS so the round was halved (nearly!) after all.

The next board was a competitive classic:



_	luczynski	Ozkurt	Jassem	Celik	
				🛧	
	Pass	♠	2♡	Dble	
	40	4♠	Pass	Pass	
	5♡	Dble	All pass		

The save against $4^{\text{(m)}}$ must have been quite popular as +100 was worth only 48 mp for NS. In fact, $4^{\text{(m)}}$ should be defeated easily enough, even on a heart lead, as the $\diamond K$ shift stands out.

Alternatively, the relatively good score for EW may also have been due to the fact that they went down only one, on a top spade lead. If South leads a top club, his partner gets two ruffs with the \clubsuit A as entry for the second; this will mean two down and a much better score.

The classic aspect of the deal is of course that though both 4^{\heartsuit} and 4^{\bigstar} can already be defeated, the five-level still is reached with great ease. This was proved the other way round by Andy Hung:

West	North	East	South	
Schafer	Stephens	Hung	Siderov	
			♣	
Pass	$ \heartsuit $	2♡	2♠	
40	4♠	Pass	Pass	
5♡	5♠	Pass	Pass	
Dble	All Pass			

West led a heart and when Hung won the trick and produced $\Diamond K$ at trick two, 5 doubled was defeated by two tricks for a fine EW score of 67 mp.

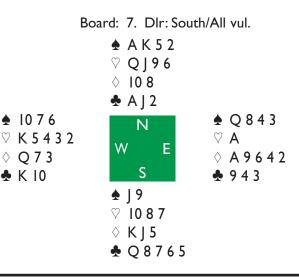
The other board of the round brought the Turks a much better score:

Board: 4. Dlr:West/All vul.				
 ▲ Q 7 4 3 ♡ - ◇ K 9 5 4 3 ▲ K Q 5 4 	 ▲ - ♡ A K ◇ Q 8 ▲ A J 8 W S ▲ J 10 ♡ Q 10 ◇ A 10 ▲ 10 9 	7 33 E A ♡ 5 ◊ J ♣ 7 6 0 8 7 4 3		
West	North	East	South	
Tuczynski	Őzkurt	Jassem	Celik	
Pass	\heartsuit	2♠	4 ♡	
4♠	5♣	Pass	5♢	
Dble	Pass	Pass	Redble	
Pass	60	All pass		

When South found his hand worth a youthful cuebid, in view of his extra trump length and his useful club spots, North had the patience to wait for the Ace-confirming redouble and then bid the slam out of hand.

East led a diamond but it did not matter. Either the diamond loser goes on the clubs or the club loser goes on the $\Diamond Q$. Twelve tricks and a fine 63 mp for NS.

Next, we have a hand where the cards were very nicely placed for NS: $% \left({{\sum {n_{\rm ext} n_{\rm ext} }} \right)$



Rien Devriendt (North) got a diamond lead against his INT contract – very unpleasant if the clubs don't behave as the entry will be gone. Dummy played low and West's Queen won the trick. Diamonds were continued and the Jack in dummy was allowed to win. Club to the Jack, A(thank you) and the rest of the clubs. As both East and West began to discard spades, Devriendt suddenly had four tricks in that well-kept suit too, ten tricks in all for 62 mp.

Yoshiro Kido at another table also led a diamond to partner's Queen but Kaneta continued a heart! Kido, distinctly unhappy as his only side entry had gone, looked as if he was facing something unedible on the plate in front of him but he kept up his concentration and continued another low diamond. Dummy won and now declarer, not trusting the clubs, went on to play hearts, calling for dummy's eight. West did not take his King but luckily for him, declarer was forced to overtake the heart in hand...Kido must have felt a little uncomfortable watching all this. When next declarer played the clubs from his hand, all was well that ended well as West could win his King, cash the $\heartsuit K$ and continue diamonds for one down and 67 mp to a relieved Kido and his partner.

A variety of final contracts figured on board 8:

Board: 8. Dlr: West/None vul.

 ▲ 8 4 ♡ A Q 9 7 4 ◊ 9 4 ♣ K 10 8 7 	 ▲ K Q 7 ◇ 6 5 ◇ J 7 6 2 ▲ J 9 4 3 W B S ▲ J 9 2 ♡ K 8 2 ◇ Q 10 8 ▲ A 5 2 		A 10 6 3 J 10 3 A K 3 Q 6
West	North	East	South
Jassem	Kaplan	Tuczynski	Shunta
\heartsuit	Pass	2 🜩	Pass
2♡	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All dass

When South led a spade rather than a diamond, declarer already was a tempo ahead as $2\clubsuit$ was the Polish Club gf relay and spades had not been bid. Declarer won the Ace immediately and ran the hearts when the finesse worked. A club then went to Queen and Ace and, rather than returning the suit or shifting to diamonds, Shunta persisted with spades, giving the Poles an easy overtrick and 60 mp. Aksueyek and Eren also reached 3NT, played by West however, and Tim Verbeek in North led a low club. Declarer called for dummy's Queen but South won the Ace and continued the suit to North's nine. Verbeek now shifted to diamonds. Declarer won the Ace and ran the hearts, North discarding a diamond and two spades and South a spade as well. Declarer now was thinking about the overtrick so he did not cash his ♣K but immediately played spades himself. Michielsen won the Jack and, after some thought, returned a diamond to hold declarer to nine tricks and thus saving 19 mp! NS 35 and EW 41 mp now.

Andy Hung and Jorrit Schafer indeed reached game in hearts:

West	North	East	South
Schafer	Devriendt	Hung	De Visschere
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
2 ◇	Pass	2♡	Pass
3 🙅	Pass	4 ♡	All Pass

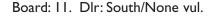
Once Hung decides to open INT, the thin heart game is quickly reached. South leads a spade to the Ace and East plays the $\clubsuit Q$, won by South's Ace. South now is considering his options. A trump to restrict the club ruffs? No, De Visschere decides, "I can overruff the 4th round." So back comes a club. Declarer wins the King and continues a spade to North's King. Now, something

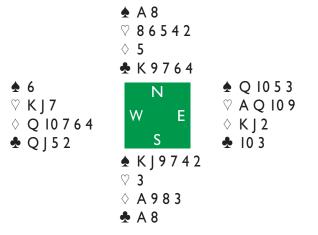


Adam Kaplan, USA

goes wrong: North is expecting a doubleton club with South and thus returns the \clubsuit J...Declarer ruffs, takes the heart finesse and has the balance: +450 to EW and 70 mp – only 6 mp to NS.

Next, we have a very elegantly played hand by probably one of the youngest participants here, Mirza Asfandiyar Hussain from Pakistan:





West	North	East	South	
Jassem	Mansoor	Tuczynski	Hussain	
Pass	INT	Pass	2 ◇	
Pass	2♠	All pass		



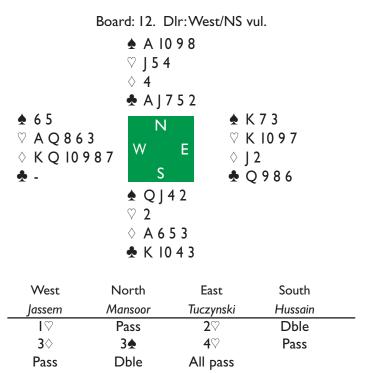
Jorrit Schafer, Belgium

West led the $\clubsuit Q$ and Hussain won the Ace, cashed the $\clubsuit K$ and ruffed a club. $\Diamond A$ and a diamond ruff, club ruff and a diamond ruffed with the Ace. On the 13th club, he discarded a diamond, West ruffing with his only trump. The $\heartsuit K$ followed but East overtook (perforce) and led a trump back. Declarer played the Jack but it did not really matter. A low trump back gave him two more tricks for a fine +170 and 63 mp.

Jorrit Schafer finds an excellent lead after this auction on the same board:

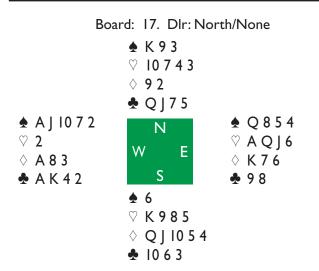
West	North	East	South
Schafer	Zaytoun	Hung	Abıu Taleb
			♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2 ◇
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Schafer puts his singleton trump on the table. Declarer wins the Ace and plays $\Diamond A$, diamond ruff but with the trumps breaking badly, he can no longer make his contract. One down gives EW 64 mp.



On the other board of the round, the Pakistani pair doubles the Poles far too early. Four Spades would have been quite playable; we are wondering if the Poles would have defeated that. Club lead, heart underlead, club and the \clubsuit K as the setting trick...

Against 4° the Pakistanis got their diamond ruff at trick 2 but when next they forgot to cash the A, they never saw it back...+690 was worth 74 mp to the Poles.



The Israeli brothers Dan en Dvir Herfsgang must have liked to return to bed immediately after this board came by:

West	North	East	South
Gogoman	Dvir	Schulz	Dan
	Pass	I 🛇	Pass
I ♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5◇	Pass
5♡*	Pass	6 **	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

* asking trump Q ** yes, and $\Diamond K$ too

The diamond lead was won by dummy's King and Adele Gogoman takes the losing spade finesse. The trump return goes to her seven and now, she cashes her top clubs and ruffs a club. After that, she plays $\heartsuit A$ and $\heartsuit Q$, discarding a diamond when South plays low. She crosses to the $\diamondsuit A$ now and plays her 4th club which can be ruffed in dummy as North, to Adele's relief, has to follow suit. Contract made for a mere 63 mp...

The next two boards are from an all-Polish encounter, early in the morning:

Board: 19. Dlr: South/EW vul.

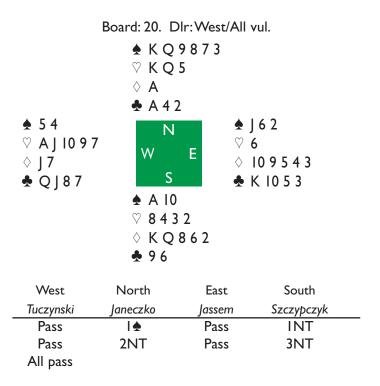
 ▲ A 8 4 ♡ J 5 3 ◇ Q 10 7 ◆ 9 6 5 2 	W F	K Q 9 3 K Q 10 9 2 A 8 3 4

West Tuczynski	North Janeczko	East Iassem	South Szczypczyk
Tuczynski	Juneezko	Jussein	Pass
Pass	♠	2♡	Dble
3♡ All pass	Pass	4 ♡	Dble

The light opening by North backfired when Aga Szczypczyk could not be stopped doubling at all her turns of bidding. The spade lead made it easy for declarer to get the spades in without the help of a ruff and when South went up with the $\Diamond K$ when declarer led low to the $\Diamond Q10$, all problems were over. On a club lead, this would have been a different story as declarer will be fatally shortened in trumps...

Needless to say that losing -790 did not bring NS any matchpoints...

They got a fine revenge in the other board:



Polish Club worked well here as the good spade suit easily came into the picture by the 2NT rebid. A club lead would have restricted declarer to ten tricks but the actual \heartsuit J gave Aga her 11th trick. The score of +660 was worth 65 mp. to NS.

Matthew Meckstroth did not really have "the time of his life" yesterday morning because his partner Kevin Dwyer could not be found when play got underway. Just before the moment the pair would be disqualified, Kevin showed up in the playing area. Three boards could not be played but the pair's position in the table was such that this handicap could easily be overcome. Even more so after a board like this:

Board: 24. DIr: West/None vul.						
	▲ 10 5 3 2					
	$\heartsuit \mathbf{Q}$					
	♦ A 10	76				
	🌩 942					
🛧 A 9 7	N	•	K 8			
♡ J I0 8 4	W	E 🌣	9763			
♦ -			9853			
📥 A K Q J			765			
	\Lambda Q 6 4					
	♡ A K 5					
	◊ K Q J	42				
	♣ 3					
West	North	East	South			
Meckstroth	Woods	Dwyer	Smith			
♣	Pass	$ \diamond$	2 ◇			
3♢	4 ◇	Dble	All pass			

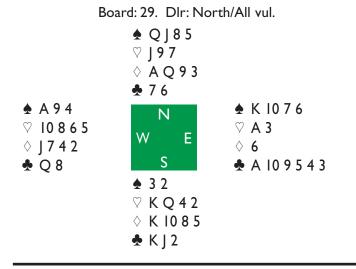
After the Strong Club and the $I \diamond$ negative, Brona Smith says: "Give me a good hand, please," before dummy comes down. Aimée Woods seems to fulfill her wish but when the second round of clubs costs South a trump card, one down can no longer be avoided. NS 17 mp and EW thus 59.

After a quiet start, the auction at the Poles' table really exploded in the next two rounds of bidding:

West	North	East	South
Jassem	Nistor	Tuczynski	Dobrescu
♣	Pass	I \diamond	Dble
2 📥	2 ◇	2♡	3♣
4♣	Pass	4 ♡	Dble
Pass	5◇	All pass	

North would have been well advised to pass Dobrescu's double of 4^{\heartsuit} as declarer will quickly lose control of the hand if North leads, say, the $\heartsuit Q$ to avoid any trouble and shifts to a diamond. Five Diamonds went two off, undoubled, for the same 59 mp to EW.

On board 29, Meckstroth-Dwyer do well again:



IST WORLD YOUTH BRIDGE CONGRESS

West	North	East	South	
Meckstroth	Dı Franco	Dwyer	Manno	
		2♣	Pass	
		232	Fass	

2 was Precision style. Manno's pass looks doubtful; apparently he is hoping for the magic +200 with no game on for his side. The appearance of the AQ in dummy must have been a major setback for him.

As Meckstroth remarked, when putting down dummy's cards: "I don't have the worst of hands..." Right he was: Dwyer finishes up with and overtrick and 73 of the available mp.

West	North	East	South	
Jassem	Urman	Tuczynski	Greenberg	
	Pass	🕭	Pass	
\bigcirc	Pass		Pass	
INT	All pass			

The quite young Israeli pair Urman-Greenberg miss a great chance in defence on the same hand against the overnight leaders. Diamond lead by North to South's King and the \Diamond 5 back on which declarer played the Jack! North won the Queen and, not being able to see if a diamond continuation was correct, shifted to a heart. Declarer immediately put up the Ace and led a club off the board, putting in the eight in his hand which held the trick. Next, declarer led a diamond from hand. North won the nine but South overtook this, cashed the $\heartsuit Q$ and then returned a diamond. North won this and exited with a club to dummy's Ace. Another club went to South's King but with the hearts blocked, declarer was only one down for a reasonable score.

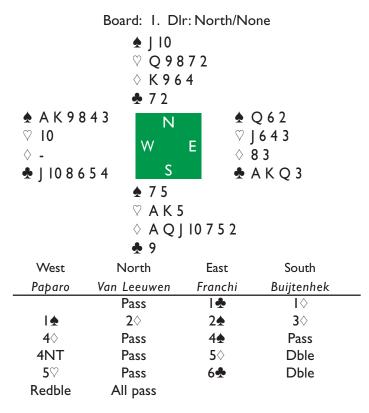


Matthew Meckstroth, USA

The Pairs Final, session I

by Jos Jacobs and Marjo Chorus

Yesterday afternoon the Final of the main pairs' event got underway and we did not have to wait at all before the first fireworks could be seen. They had an Italian flavour:



"In pard we trust," is the motto of the NS pair, which basically is very good to see. However, every rule has its exceptions...EW +1380 and all the matchpoints. Please note the quiet 1st round overcall by South.

West	North	East	South
Gogoman	Wu	Schulz	Hollands
	Pass	♣	$ \diamond$
I ♠	3♢	Pass	4 \diamond
4♠	All pass		

The $1\diamond$ overcall might well have worked out much better, as was shown at another table.West might have made a little more noise here, we think...EW +480 but just 15 matchpoints.

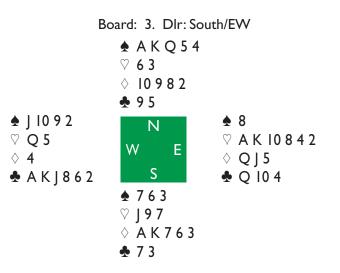
Frank Visser, at yet another table, might have guided his opponents to slam when he took the bull by the horns immediately but he failed:

West	North	East	South	
Siderov	Stuurman	Stephens	Visser	
	Pass	🕭	5◇	
5♠	All pass			

I♣ showed 2+.

As Visser said: "My idea was to bid $5\diamond$ over the EW $4\triangleq$ so I might as well bid it immediately". This caught Siderov in two minds: as $I \triangleq$ might as well have been a doubleton, he could not judge the potential of his hand. When Visser finally let go $5\triangleq$, NS were booked for the same good score as above: 37 mp.

You would rarely let the opponents play a vulnerable game if you have a fit somewhere yourself:





Adele Gogoman, Austria

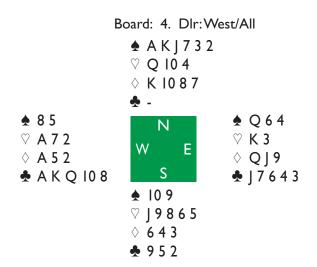
IST WORLD YOUTH BRIDGE CONGRESS

West	North	East	South
Koike	Stuurman	Miura	Visser 2♣
Pass	2♠	3♡	3♠
4 ♡	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All pass		

24 was either strong or a weak two in ndiamonds.

All players judged well on this board. Four Hearts makes easily. Against 4 \clubsuit , East leads the \heartsuit A and then plays his spade. Declarer cashes a second top spade and then plays the topdiamonds. West ruffs the \Diamond K and the defence next cash their remaining tricks so declarer is down three for - 500 and earns a lot of the mp again, 33 in fact.

A vulnerable save v. 3NT does not occur that often:



Why is there no carryover in the Pairs World Championship?



From various side we have picked up complaints about the fact that, like in Beijing, there is no carry-over from the qualifications to the Finals. "You are playing three long sessions, "a player says", and because there is no carryover to be won, you only need to score about average to qualify. After all, 54 of the 94 participating

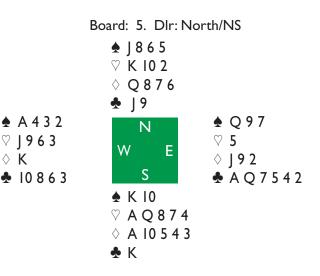
pairs will make it to the finals. This means one and a half day's play without really proper motivation." Another player joins in: "Once you have scored 60% in one of the sessions, which means that you are bound to qualify as long as you don't make too stupid mistakes, the bridge in the qualification gets far less interesting."

It looks as if these players have a strong argument. However, we know people who have been holding the opposite view for many years. It would be good, we think, to hear from them as well.

West	North	East	South
Verbeek	Drıjver	Michielsen	Stuurman
♣	♠	INT	Pass
3NT	4 \0!	Dble	All pass

Well, we, your reporters, feel we really are too old for this... EW give away a trick in defence but that does not make any difference as +1400 was already worth all the matchpoints.

On the next board, we saw the week's most familiar theme again:





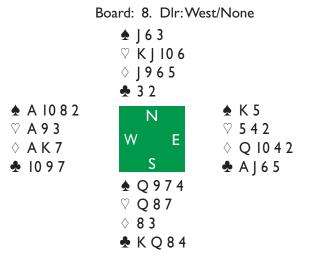
Dennis Stuurman, Netherlands

West	North	East	South
Mansoor	Stuurman	Hussain	Visser
	Pass	Pass	\bigcirc
♠	2♡	2♠	2NT
Pass	4 ♡	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

2NT was a general try and South's pass over 4 was forcing.

North leads a heart to South's Ace and back comes a low diamond away from the Ace. Declarer's King thus scores an unexpected trick (another Ace gone to bed, as they say) and it also offers him the possibility of a little cross-ruff. The end comes with down two, NS +300 and a very good score of 44 mp as 4° will probably go down on this layout.

A slight defensive error gave declarer a chance he fully exploited on this one:



West	North	East	South	
Visser	Drıjver	Stuurman	Molenaar	
♣	Pass	I \diamond	Pass	
\square	Pass		Pass	
INT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The suits bid by EW do not have any relationship to the suits actually present in the bidder's hand. I \clubsuit is 2+, I \diamond is relay, I \heartsuit shows a balanced I5-17 NT and I \bigstar asks for anything interesting. All bids are alerted but Molenaar missed the alert of I \heartsuit as came to light in his defence.

North leads a diamond to the King and the $\clubsuit9$ runs to South's King. A heart shift is mandatory now but here, South returns a spade to the eight, Jack and King. Declarer crossed in diamonds and led the $\clubsuit10$, losing to the Queen this time. South now returns another spade to declarer's ten. In the endgame, declarer finesses the \bigcirc J through North and when South, under some pressure, discards a spade, dummy's fourth spade is promoted to trick 11. EW +460 was worth 52 mp. The TD later changed the score into a weighted score when it turned out that it was all too likely that Molenaar had indeed missed the apparently unclear alert.

The dreaded board 13 struck again in this session too:

Во	ard: 13. DIr:N ▲ A ♡ A Q 10 8 5	
	♦ K	
	🕭 A K J 9 6 4	ŀ
 ▲ J 10 7 4 2 ♡ J 6 ◊ A Q 8 6 5 ♣ 2 	N W E S ▲ K 8 6 5 3 ♡ K 9 ◊ J 4 2 ♣ 10 5 3	 ▲ Q 9 ♡ 7 4 3 2 ◊ 10 9 7 3 ▲ Q 8 7

West	North	East	South	
Fournier	Gundogdu	Lall	Ercan	
	♣	Pass		
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠	
Pass	3♡	Pass	4 ♡	
Pass	4NT	Pass	5 🙅	
Pass	6♡	All pass		

As 1 subscription was 2+, the club fit got under pressure so the best slam denomination was missed. On a diamond lead, declarer of course had to go one down for only 9 mp, not the score you would expect in a Junior event, where (too) high contracts are very common...

A disappointing result thus was obtained by the young Americans who did not bid slam.

West	North	East	South
Dobrescu	Kaplan	Nistor	Shunta
	🐣	Pass	
Dble	Redble	Pass	Pass
♠	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	3 📥	Pass	3NT
All pass			

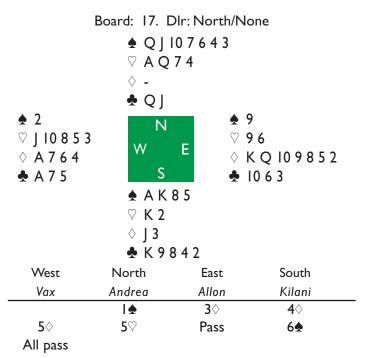
NS play Strong Club, which explains the bidding, at least partially. On the actual diamond layout, NS have a stopper in the suit but this does not yet matter as West leads a spade, East unblocking the Queen under dummy's Ace. Next comes a heart to the...nine, so West wins a surprise Jack and cashes the $\Diamond A$. When he continues the suit, declarer has the entries to test the clubs but when they don't break, he can just take his nine tricks for an exact average score of 26 mp.

Two boards later, Kopecky is one of the declarers to show their skill in $4\clubsuit$:

Board: 15. Dlr: South/NS				
	♠ A J I()		
	♡ J 3 2			
	\lambda 10 8 \]	764		
	📥 K 2			
▲ K Q 8 6 3	N		742	
♡985 ^^	W		AKQ4	
◇ A ♣ Q 8 5 4	S		J 9 5 A 9 7	
	♦ 9 5		A 7 /	
	v 1070	6		
	♦ KQ 3			
	♣ 10 6			
West	North	East	South	
Kopecky	Zmuda	Macura	Krysa	
			Pass	
♠	Pass	2♣*	Pass	
3 🛧	Pass	4♠	All pass	
* gf				

Declarer won the diamond lead and crossed in hearts to lead a trump. North won the Ace and persisted with diamonds, so declarer ruffed and cashed the \bigstar K and another top heart before playing the \bigstar A. On the low club that came next, South went in with his ten but Kopecky ducked, thus bringing down the King from poor Justyna. When the hearts next broke 3-3, the 13th heart took care of the remaining club loser so the game was made for a very healthy +420 to EW and 41 mp.

Another two boards later, it was slam time again, or was it?



Kilani rightly deduced from his partner's bidding and his own spade holding that Andrea would have some useful red suit controls. So he simply bid slam at his next turn. Well done, +980 and 32 mp.

West	North	East	South
Siderov	Hudson	Stephens	Marriott
	\bigcirc	3♢	Dble
4 \diamond	4♠	Pass	Pass
5◇	Pass	Pass	Dble
All pass			

 I^{\heartsuit} was Canapé-style, 10-15 hcp so spades was North's longer suit. Assuming North's pass over 5 \diamond was forcing, then what would have been South's problem? Down three, +500 to NS which was enough to beat all those who missed slam but still scored only 8 mp.

In the closing stages of the session, you can expect players to be tired and thus, you might see more bad decisions than earlier in the day. Take for example board 19:

 ★ K 9 8 5 2 ♡ 2 ◇ A 7 6 4 2 ★ K 6 	Board: 19. E ▲ A 3 ♡ Q 10 0 ◇ 9 8 ▲ A 8 7 W S ▲ Q J 7 ♡ A K ◇ K 5 3 ▲ J 10 4	6 5 4 3 E	
West	North	East	South
Ortega	Damty	Hantos	Erez
			♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♡	Pass	3NT
All pass			

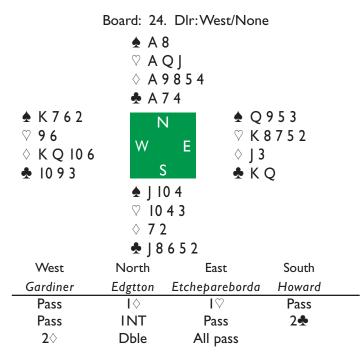
At teams, South would definitely raise to $4\heartsuit$ but pairs is a different game. East led a club to the Jack, King and Ace and declarer unblocked dummy's top hearts, getting the bad news.With the \Diamond A badly placed as well, declarer was only too happy to find out that this suit was blocked for the defence. Spade to the Ace and a spade to the Queen and King, getting more bad news.West returned a club which East ducked, so declarer won the trick and could only exit with a low diamond. East cashed his clubs but when declarer blocked the diamonds by playing the King, dummy got the last two heart tricks for down two.This was worth only 13 mp.

If you play 2 over I game forcing and the INT response not forcing, you will end up in INT on this same deal. On the actual layout, you would have great trouble in finding your tricks:

West	North	East	South
Sıgrıd	Van Leeuwen	Jamılla	Buytenhek
Pass	INT	All Pass	

Once Sigrid Spangenberg decides not to bid $2\Diamond$ (you would not leave the opponents to play INT at matchpoints, would you), NS can no longer end up in $2\heartsuit$ (or even $4\heartsuit$), the best spots to be in.

East leads a club to the Jack, King and Ace, the hearts are unblocked and the ♠A is followed by a spade to the Queen and King. So far the same line as above. Sigrid, however, shifts to a low diamond to the ten and King. Declarer exits in diamonds but Sigrid can overtake the 3rd diamond and cash her tricks in the suit before locking declarer in dummy with a spade. East thus gets two more club tricks and even INT has gone down one. This was worth just 22 mp for EW and 30 to NS as many NS pairs came far too high...



Well, 2⁴ is a fine contract to defend for EW as NS are in the wrong strain. Due to the club distribution, an abundance of tricks is available in NT as well. Another question would be: "What happened to the spades?" It seems from here that 2⁴ makes easily enough.

Two Diamonds was not a success. It went two down for -300 and just 2 mp.

The only NS pair to do better than +300 were Kaplan-Shunta but they had a misunderstanding:

North	East	South	
Kaplan	Verbeek	Shunts	
♣	Dble	$ \diamond$	_
3NT	All Pass		
	Kaplan	Kaplan Verbeek	KaplanVerbeekShuntsI I DbleI I

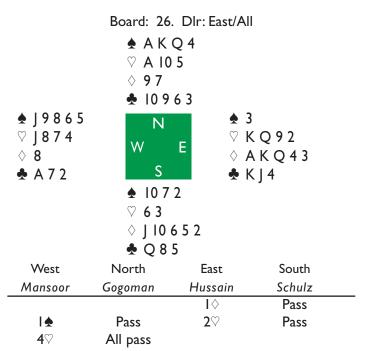
Strong Club, the double showing majors and now, $I \diamondsuit$ is a maximum negative, 5-7 hcp.

This explains North's jump to 3NT.

After East's spade lead, Kaplan looks at dummy's cards with amazement. He had just explained to East that $I \diamond$ showed 5-7 hcp and now, this is all he gets. "Of course, I bid on the 5-7 assumption," he says to Tim. The layout is cruel for EW, however. The spade lead already cost a trick and a tempo, and now declarer can easily establish his clubs and thus the defence can get no more than two spades, a club and the $\heartsuit K$. Nine tricks and all the matchpoints.

"These things happen in a pairs'event, once a session on average", Tim Verbeek says after writing down a complete bottom in his personal scoresheet. He clearly did not like it at all, as the pair were doing quite well at that point.

This was the last board of the session:



If you play to ruff spades in East, you will probably make 4°. About 15 pairs did so, we assume, as they scored 39 mp for their efforts.

On this same board, Michielsen-Verbeek did much better:

EW, playing Precision, reach 4^{\heartsuit} after North, Verbeek, overcalled 1 \bigstar on his strong four-card suit. This leads declarer completely astray in the play, as we shall see. North leads the \bigstar A on which South plays the ten (!) and continues the \bigstar K, ruffed in dummy. Rather than running the \bigstar J, which would have worked as the suit is actually 4-3, declarer proceeds to cash the \Diamond A and ruff a diamond. Only now, trumps are being attacked. North ducks the first round but wins the second round and simply returns a trump. Declarer next finesses the \clubsuit J but when South wins her Queen, she produces a surprising 3rd spade to North's \bigstar Q, so the contract is one down and NS score 39 mp.

MP PAIRS QUALIFICATION (final ranking)

	(iniai ranking)							
Ran			0		ALLON Yonatan	VAX Gal	50.78	
	JASSEM Pawel		62.00	49	OZER Ahmet Can	SERDAR Ekrem	50.48	
2	KOPECKY Michal	MACURA Milan	61.25	50	ERCAN Sehmus	GUNDOGDU Mehmet	50.40	
3	DRIJVER Bob	MOLENAAR Danny	59.43	51	HUSSAIN Mirza Asfandiyar		50.39	
4	CHIU Jason	FAY Kevin	58.99	52	GOGOMAN Adele	SCHULZ Dieter	50.26	
5	MICHIELSEN Marion	VERBEEK Tim	58.91	53	IMAMOGLU Levent	SOFU Serkan	50.00	
6	CEREK Muharrem	KAYA Emre	58.61	54	ANASTASATOS Aris	SOFIOS Michalis	49.95	
7	JOCHYMSKI Tomasz M.	KAZMIERCZAK Wojciech		55	GREENBERG Gal	URMAN Lior	49.53	
8	DAMTY Oshri	EREZ Eyal	57.30	56	KRALIK Frantisek	TICHA Magdalena	49.52	
9	IGLA Bartlomiej	MACHNO Artur Marek	57.05	57	JANECZKO Artur	SZCZYPCZYK Agnieszka	49.48	
10	HUNG Andy Pei-en	SCHAFER Jorrit	56.82	58	HOEPFLER Markus	KAUTNY Paul	49.36	
11	ABIU TALEB Moustafa	ZAYTOUN Mahmoud	56.55	59	DE VISSCHERE Willem	DEVRIENDT Rien	49.10	
12	KOCLAR Akin		56.21	60	AMIGUET Jerome	MARGOT Cedric	49.03	
13	SUZER Ugurcan	TASKIN Arda Can	56.16	61	FAILLA Andrea	ZANASI Gabriele	48.92	
14	FRANCESCHETTI Pierre	GROSSET Christophe	55.93	62	GIANNOULIS Giorgos	OIKONOMOPOULOS I.	48.25	
15	FRANCHI Arrigo	PAPARO Aldo	55.69	63	FLURY Marc	GHIELMETTI Fabio	48.07	
16	ASULIN Adi	LEVY Hila	55.64	64	LAZAR Alon	MEYUCHAS Moshe	48.05	
17	GORSKI Michal	PIOTROWSKI Przemysław		65	LEUFKENS Lotte	VERBEEK Thijs	48.03	
18	SPANGENBERG Jamilla	SPANGENBERG Sigrid	55.53	66	SEKER Olgu	YILDIZ Ceyda	47.72	
19	DWYER Kevin	MECKSTROTH Matthew	55.05	67	AKAN Efraim	GULENC Baturalp	47.54	
20	STUURMAN Dennis	VISSER Frank	54.88	68	DI FRANCO Massimiliano	MANNO Andrea	47.46	
21	KRYSA Adam	ZMUDA Justyna	54.43	69	CELIK Taner	OZKURT Kenan	47.41	
22	HOLEKSA Magdalena	WEINHOLD Izabela	54.32	70	OZGUR Muhammet	OZTURK Erdem	47.37	
23 24	SIDEROV Zhivko	STEPHENS Robert	54.31	71	DARKADAKIS Athanasios	ROUSSOS Petros	46.72	
24 25	DOXIADIS Konstantinos	KONTOMITROS K.	53.97	72	CASIMIRRI Tommaso	SCHIASSI Jacopo	46.64	
25	ETCHEPAREBORDA Juan KAPLAN Adam	GARDINER Luke SHUNTA Cameron	53.97 53.81	73	SARIOZ Pinar	TEKIN Ozge	46.47	
26 27		WITKOWSKI Lukasz	53.60	74	KANETA Kenji	KIDO Yoshiro	46.27	
27	KANIA Michal MOHARAM Hisham	SAWIRES Mina	53.50	75	GRANATH Simon	OLOFSSON Sofia	45.85	
28 29	HUDSON Alex		53.30 53.49	76	LEANEZ Luis	SAR-SHALOM Nathalie	45.7 I	
30	LEBATTEUX Aymeric	MARRIOTT John LHUISSIER Nicolas	53.40	77	BORZI Antonio	MORTAROTTI Andrea	45.66	
31	FOURNIER Jeremy	LALL Justin	53.37	78	DELLE CAVE Giuseppe	FELLUS Robin	45.44	
32	HELMICH Aarnout	HOP Gerbrand	52.70	79	AGARWAL Mohit	BAYAKHCHEV Leonid	45.19	
33	EDGTTON Adam	HOWARD Justin	52.48	80	AKSUEYEK Efe	EREN Baran	45.12	
34	HANTOS Jonathan	ORTEGA Luz	52.12	81	VAN DEN HOVE Wouter	VAN MECHELEN Joram	44.97	
35	BRESCOLL Zachary	LIEN Owen	52.12	82	BILLIET Sven	GEENS Bert	44.30	
36	KOIKE Noriaki	MIURA Hiroaki	52.03	83	HANDA Kouichi	MURAI Kentaro	43.52	
37	HOLLANDS Peter	WU You	51.70	84	OWEN Christopher	SHARP Jonathan	42.80	
38	LANKVELD Joris van	PHILIPSEN Rens	51.55	85	HERSHFANG Dan	HERSHFANG Dvir	42.46	
39	DEKKERS Laura	NAB Judith	51.21	86	FOTOPOULOS Evangelos	TOGIAS Stratos	41.47	
40	DOBRESCU Raluca Elena	NISTOR Radu	51.18	87	ABDELFATTAH Ahmed	DARWISH Ahmed	40.61	
41	SKORCHEV Stefan	YILMAZ Ovunc	51.14	88	CHACON CESPEDES C.	SEGURA UGALDE Es.	40.25	
42	KURT Murat Ugur	USLUPEHLIVAN Sarper	51.13	89	BASARIR Ipek	GORMALLY Hugh	37.42	
43	ANDREA Landry	KILANI Alexandre	51.13	90	MILANO Eryck	OJEDA Carlos	37.33	
44	MISTRETTA Eugenio	MISTRETTA Giuseppe	51.10	91	SMYTH Brona	WOODS Aimee	36.62	
45	NABVincent	WACKWITZ Ernst	51.00	92	KARPOUZELI Chrysoula	KOUGIOUMTZI Athanasia		
46	FISHER Blair	WHIBLEY Michael	50.85	93	CALVO ALPIZAR Juan G.	RAMIREZ ZUNIGA Ivan	32.53	
47	BUIJTENHEK Lennie	LEEUWEN Rik van	50.81	94		O'KANE Eilish	32.17	
.,			20.01				<i>y</i> <u></u> /	

(ranking after 1 session)									
Ran	k Name	es Perce	ntage	28	KAPLAN Adam	SHUNTA Cameron	50.18		
I	LEBATTEUX Aymeric	LHUISSIER Nicolas	62.87	29	ASULIN Adi	LEVY Hila	50.15		
2	KRYSA Adam	ZMUDA Justyna	61.47	30	FRANCHI Arrigo	PAPARO Aldo	50.12		
3	MICHIELSEN Marion	VERBEEK Tim	59.22	31	HOLLANDS Peter	WU You	49.89		
4	STUURMAN Dennis	VISSER Frank	58.20	32	HELMICH Aarnout	HOP Gerbrand	49.61		
5	BRESCOLL Zachary	LIEN Owen	57.09	33	MOHARAM Hisham	SAWIRES Mina	49.29		
6	SUZER Ugurcan	TASKIN Arda Can	56.71	34	DWYER Kevin	MECKSTROTH Matthew	49.15		
7	CHIU Jason	FAY Kevin	55.99	35	HANTOS Jonathan	ORTEGA Luz	48.97		
8	SKORCHEV Stefan	YILMAZ Ovunc	55.62	36	KOIKE Noriaki	MIURA Hiroaki	48.79		
9	MISTRETTA Eugenio	MISTRETTA Giuseppe	55.32	37	DEKKERS Laura	NAB Judith	47.95		
10	EDGTTON Adam	HOWARD Justin	55.08	38	HUSSAIN Mirza Asfandiyar	MANSOOR Arslan	47.46		
11	SPANGENBERG Jamilla	SPANGENBERG Sigrid	54.79	39	FOURNIER Jeremy	LALL Justin	47.15		
12	DAMTY Oshri	EREZ Eyal	54.25	40	DOXIADIS Konstantinos	KONTOMITROS K.	47.05		
13	SIDEROV Zhivko	STEPHENS Robert	53.94	41	FISHER Blair	WHIBLEY Michael	46.85		
14	GORSKI Michal	PIOTROWSKI Przemyslaw		42	HUNG Andy Pei-en	SCHAFER Jorrit	46.59		
15	ETCHEPAREBORDA Juan	GARDINER Luke	53.30	43	HUDSON Alex	MARRIOTT John	45.87		
16	JOCHYMSKI Tomasz M.	KAZMIERCZAK Wojciech		44	KOPECKY Michal	MACURA Milan	45.16		
17	IGLA Bartlomiej	MACHNO Artur Marek	52.95	45	DRIIVER Bob	MOLENAAR Danny	44.77		
18	ERCAN Sehmus	GUNDOGDU Mehmet	52.91	46	CEREK Muharrem	KAYA Emre	44.51		
19	ANDREA Landry	KILANI Alexandre	51.97	47	LANKVELD Joris van	PHILIPSEN Rens	42.92		
20	DOBRESCU Raluca Elena	NISTOR Radu	51.82	48	BUIJTENHEK Lennie	LEEUWEN Rik van	42.87		
21	JASSEM Pawel	TUCZYNSKI Piotr	51.69	49	ANASTASATOS Aris	SOFIOS Michalis	42.34		
22	IMAMOGLU Levent	SOFU Serkan	51.53	50	OZER Ahmet Can	SERDAR Ekrem	41.73		
23		UCAR Ali	51.50		ALLON Yonatan	VAX Gal	41.73		
24	FRANCESCHETTI Pierre	GROSSET Christophe	51.15	51					
25	HOLEKSA Magdalena	WEINHOLD Izabela	51.00	52	KANIA Michal	WITKOWSKI Lukasz	38.72		
26	GOGOMAN Adele	SCHULZ Dieter	50.98	53	ABIU TALEB Moustafa	ZAYTOUN Mahmoud	38.29		
27	KURT Murat Ugur	USLUPEHLIVAN Sarper	50.83	54	NABVincent	WACKWITZ Ernst	35.88		

IMP PAIRS (ranking after 1 session)

Ran	k Name	S	IMPs		CHACON CESPEDES C.	SEGURA UGALDE Esteba	n 0.00
I	AGARWAL Mohit	BAYAKHCHEV Leonid	67.00		CALVO ALPIZAR Juan G.	RAMIREZ ZUNIGA Ivan	0.00
2	HANDA Kouichi	MURAI Kentaro	50.00		JANECZKO Artur	SZCZYPCZYK Agnieszka	0.00
3	KRALIK Frantisek	TICHA Magdalena	40.00	22	DARKADAKIS Athanasios	ROUSSOS Petros	-3.00
4	DI FRANCO Massimiliano	MANNO Andrea	38.00	23	DE VISSCHERE Willem	DEVRIENDT Rien	-5.00
	BORZI Antonio	MORTAROTTI Andrea	38.00	24	SEKER Olgu	YILDIZ Ceyda	-6.00
	AMIGUET Jerome	MARGOT Cedric	38.00	25	SARIOZ Pinar	TEKIN Ozge	-7.00
7	OWEN Christopher	SHARP Jonathan	33.00	26	CELIK Taner	OZKURT Kenan	-11.00
8	FLURY Marc	GHIELMETTI Fabio	29.00	27	KANETA Kenji	KIDO Yoshiro	-15.00
9	OZGUR Muhammet	OZTURK Erdem	26.00	28	HERSHFANG Dan	HERSHFANG Dvir	-22.00
10	DELLE CAVE Giuseppe	FELLUS Robin	22.00	29	MILANO Eryck	OJEDA Carlos	-26.00
	GRANATH Simon	OLOFSSON Sofia	18.00	30	LEUFKENS Lotte	VERBEEK Thijs	-36.00
12	HOEPFLER Markus	KAUTNY Paul	15.00	31	SMYTH Brona	WOODS Aimee	-37.00
13	GREENBERG Gal	URMAN Lior	13.00	32	LEANEZ Luis	SAR-SHALOM Nathalie	-39.00
14	FAILLA Andrea	ZANASI Gabriele	10.00	33	AKAN Efraim	GULENC Baturalp	-46.00
15	AKSUEYEK Efe	EREN Baran	4.00	34	CASIMIRRI Tommaso	SCHIASSI Jacopo	-60.00
16	BILLIET Sven	GEENS Bert	3.00	35	GORMALLY Niamh	O'KANE Eilish	-61.00
1/	ABDELFATTAH Ahmed	DARWISH Ahmed	1.00				
18	BASARIR Ipek	GORMALLY Hugh	0.00	36	VAN DEN HOVE Wouter	VAN MECHELEN Joram	-71.00