



18th European Youth Team Championships

Riviera Centre, Torquay, England • 7-17 July 2002



DAILY BULLETIN



Bulletin 5

Friday, 12 July 2002

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SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP GETS UNDER WAY



Panos Gerontopoulos officially opened the European Schools Team Championship yesterday evening in a short informal ceremony at the Riviera Centre. Panos stressed that the Schools Championship would be played, from a technical point of view, under exactly the same conditions as the European Open or any other Team Championship.

Present was Giannarigo Rona, the President of the European Bridge League. We should all be grateful to Giannarigo for bringing some Italian sunshine with him to Torquay.

All the teams were presented, with the Scots getting the loudest applause for the traditional kilts worn by the men in the team.

We have seen how many Junior players go on to represent their countries at Open or Ladies level, likewise, many of those taking part here in the Schools tournament will play in future Junior events. And from there, who knows which will go on to become Open or Ladies European or even World Champions? Good luck to all.

Italy went top of the Junior Championship with a 21-9 victory over Greece. France drop to second after drawing 13.5-13.5 with Estonia on vugraph (1.5 VPs each in slow play fines). Croatia and Poland both had wins to go joint third. Bottom team, Scotland boosted their confidence with a convincing 24-6 win against Germany.



VUGRAPH MATCHES

Poland-Sweden	<i>Juniors</i>	10.00
Italy-Israel	<i>Juniors</i>	14.30
Germany-France	<i>Schools</i>	19.30

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 12th July

10.00	Juniors, Round 11 - Schools, Round 2
14.30	Juniors, Round 12 - Schools, Round 3
19.30	Schools, Round 4

SCHOOLS PASSPORT CHECK



All Schools captains must see either Andrea Pagani or Stefan Back of the EBL Youth Committee, as soon as possible, at the EBL Office for a Passport Check.

JUNIOR TEAMS



RESULTS



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 10

Match		IMP's		VP's	
1	BELGIUM ISRAEL	25	79	4	25
2	CZECH REP. FINLAND	59	27	22	8
3	SWEDEN NETHERLANDS	83	38	24	6
4	POLAND ENGLAND	63	59	16	14
5	SPAIN AUSTRIA	15	74	4	25
6	ESTONIA FRANCE	38	39	15	15
7	SCOTLAND GERMANY	70	26	24	6
8	ITALY GREECE	61	30	21	9
9	DENMARK HUNGARY	55	25	21	9
10	RUSSIA CROATIA	47	67	11	19
11	NORWAY bye	0	0	18	0
12	bye TURKEY	0	0	0	18

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 11

1	CROATIA	FRANCE
2	HUNGARY	GERMANY
3	bye	ESTONIA
4	POLAND	SWEDEN
5	SPAIN	CZECH REP.
6	TURKEY	BELGIUM
7	AUSTRIA	NORWAY
8	ENGLAND	RUSSIA
9	NETHERLANDS	DENMARK
10	FINLAND	ITALY
11	ISRAEL	SCOTLAND
12	GREECE	bye

RANKING AFTER SESSION 10

1	ITALY	202
2	FRANCE	195.5
3	CROATIA	175
3	POLAND	175
5	NORWAY	173.5
6	DENMARK	172
7	RUSSIA	171.5
8	ISRAEL	169.5
9	CZECH REP.	167
10	ESTONIA	159.5
11	ENGLAND	158
12	SWEDEN	153.5
13	NETHERLANDS	148
14	HUNGARY	140.5
15	AUSTRIA	140
16	FINLAND	131
16	GERMANY	131
18	BELGIUM	130.5
19	TURKEY	127
20	GREECE	104
21	SPAIN	100
22	SCOTLAND	96

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 12

1	BELGIUM	AUSTRIA
2	CZECH REP.	TURKEY
3	SWEDEN	SPAIN
4	GERMANY	GREECE
5	FRANCE	HUNGARY
6	ESTONIA	CROATIA
7	SCOTLAND	bye
8	ITALY	ISRAEL
9	DENMARK	FINLAND
10	RUSSIA	NETHERLANDS
11	NORWAY	ENGLAND
12	bye	POLAND

IBPA Lunch



The IBPA Lunch was distinguished by the quality (if not quantity) of journalists, and by the excellence of the food and drink - including an excellent English wine, previously a combination of words that was supposed to be a classic example of an oxymoron (a contradiction). The journalists would like to thank Tom Bradley for organising the meal, and to offer condolences to Patrick Jourdain for having missed a free meal for the first time in his life.

SCHOOLS TEAMS



RESULTS



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 1

Match		IMP's		VP's	
13 ITALY	SCOTLAND	105	6	25	0
14 AUSTRIA	ISRAEL	27	83	4	25
15 NETHERLANDS	FRANCE	44	28	18	12
16 SWEDEN	ENGLAND	45	57	13	17
17 GERMANY	POLAND	59	71	13	17
18 CZECH REP.	IRELAND	54	18	22	8
19 WALES	NORWAY	30	91	3	25
20 bye	DENMARK	0	0	0	18

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 2

13 DENMARK	WALES
14 NORWAY	CZECH REP.
15 IRELAND	GERMANY
16 POLAND	SWEDEN
17 ENGLAND	NETHERLANDS
18 FRANCE	AUSTRIA
19 ISRAEL	ITALY
20 SCOTLAND	bye

RANKING AFTER SESSION 1

1 NORWAY	25
1 ITALY	25
1 ISRAEL	25
4 CZECH REP.	22
5 NETHERLANDS	18
5 DENMARK	18
7 POLAND	17
7 ENGLAND	17
9 SWEDEN	13
9 GERMANY	13
11 FRANCE	12
12 IRELAND	8
13 AUSTRIA	4
14 WALES	3
15 SCOTLAND	0



ROUND ROBIN SESSION 3

13 SCOTLAND	AUSTRIA
14 NORWAY	DENMARK
15 IRELAND	WALES
16 POLAND	CZECH REP.
17 ENGLAND	GERMANY
18 FRANCE	SWEDEN
19 ISRAEL	NETHERLANDS
20 ITALY	bye



ROUND ROBIN SESSION 4

13 DENMARK	IRELAND
14 AUSTRIA	ITALY
15 NETHERLANDS	SCOTLAND
16 SWEDEN	ISRAEL
17 GERMANY	FRANCE
18 CZECH REP.	ENGLAND
19 WALES	POLAND
20 bye	NORWAY

Team Profiles



We have so far received very few Team Profiles. We would like to publish profiles of as many teams as possible so please get something organised for us. This is an opportunity for a captain or coach to say what he REALLY thinks of his team, so come on, this is your big chance! The more humorous the better, but nothing that will see either the Daily Bulletin or the writer in a court case. OK?

JUNIOR TEAMS

SESSION 8



ENGLAND

v

SCOTLAND



In 'local derbies' the smaller neighbour, such as New Zealand against Australia, Canada against USA or Belgium versus Netherlands, often lifts its performance because the players concentrate intently throughout. Would this be the case here?

On Board 1, you hold ♠754 ♥Q10865 ♦K42 ♣A5. LHO opens INT, passed out. Partner leads a spade and dummy is ♠9 ♥974 ♦Q65 ♣QJ9874. Declarer overtakes dummy's ♠9 with ♠10 and leads ♣3 to ♣2, ♣J and your ace. What do you lead now?

It didn't matter much at the table, because Richard Probst somehow made 3NT for England at the other table from the West seat, but the best switch is ♥10. The technical term for this play is a 'surrounding play' because ♥108 surrounds dummy's ♥9. Declarer's hand is ♠AKJ10 ♥AJ2 ♦A1073 ♣63. In practice he may insert ♥J on ♥10 and go down in INT, although there are several ways to make INT such as rising with ♥A and continuing clubs, or ducking two rounds of hearts. At the table, the switch was ♥6, Harold Bergson played low and scored 120, only to lose 7 IMPs.

After five boards, the more experienced England team were completely outplaying Scotland and led 27-0. Scotland the Brave never throw in the towel, and their plucky comeback began when Andrew Sinclair played this hand stylishly:

Board 6. Dealer East. East/West.

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

West	North	East	South
Probst	Sinclair	Handley-Pritchard	Gaffin
		Pass	Pass
1♦	2♠	All Pass	

Ben Handley-Pritchard led ♦7 to the ace, and ♥2 was returned to the jack and queen. East played ♣4 to the king, followed by a spade to the queen. Although England like variety, they don't always try all four suits to start their defence.

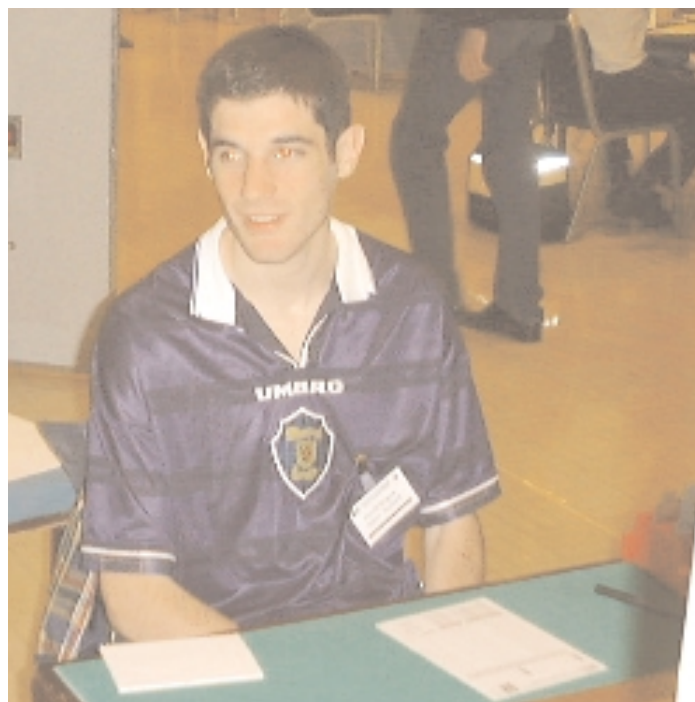
Do you see how the hand should be played? Andrew Sinclair did. He carefully cashed ♦K, crossed to dummy's ♣A and ruffed a diamond. Now ♣Q was cashed and Andrew exited with ♥4. There was nothing the defence could do. If they play another

heart, then declarer ruffs and exits with his small trump to end-play West. In practice, Probst put another trump through, to prevent partner being endplayed had he held a bare jack of spades, and declarer finessed for plus 110. At the other table, David Gold went down one in 2♠, four hard-earned IMPs to Scotland, trailing 4-27 now.

In Kelsey and Ottlik's legendary book 'Adventures in Card Play' (the book that many people regard as the most advanced card play book ever), the technical term for this type of play is 'elopement'. Declarer 'elopes' with his small trumps by ruffing before the defenders crunch them with their bigger trumps.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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



Harold Bergson

West	North	East	South
<i>Probst</i>	<i>Sinclair</i>	<i>Handley-Pritchard</i>	<i>Gaffin</i>
			Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

INT was strong (like a 2♣ opening), East's first call was 'waiting', his second call an enquiry, and his third club call was natural. Andrew Sinclair found the sensible passive lead of ♦7, so the contract was doomed, North cashing ♥A after the spade finesse lost. If North leads ♥A, the contract can be made on a double squeeze, which operates as the cards lie as a single squeeze on North.

Scotland made 3NT at the other table, and were back in the match, trailing 14-30.

On vugraph, after Germany had failed in 6NT, Israel's Eldad Ginnossar and Ophir Reshef showed which slam, if any, one should bid:

West	North	East	South
<i>Reshef</i>	<i>Schueller</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Sauter</i>
		Pass	
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass

The lead was ♥A, 920 to Israel. After a diamond lead, declarer can make by taking a heart ruff in hand, but he may have to guess trumps if South ruffs in with ♣9.

Of the 20 tables, the only other pair to achieve the par of 920 were Norway's Ellestad/Joerstad (or Jorstad?, pardon any missing accents and umlauts), who received a spade lead from North, after West had responded 3♣ to the strong 2♣ with typical Norwegian gusto.

Board 15. Dealer South. North/South Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Probst</i>	<i>Sinclair</i>	<i>Handley-Pritchard</i>	<i>Gaffin</i>
Dble	1♠	2♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The ♠2 lead would not have been everyone's first choice. Ben Handley-Pritchard won the ten, cashed ♥A, ♥K, ♦A and ruffed a diamond to draw the last trump. He cashed another trump, then played ♣Q, pinning the jack for plus 420. Next time, South should lead the suit his partner has bid.

At the other table, 3♥ made three. ♠Q was led to the king and ace, followed by ♣J switch to the queen, king and ace. Declarer cashed the two top hearts, and exited with a spade to South who gave his partner a heart ruff, but the diamond loser now went on ♣10. When he won ♠J, South should have played a top diamond. This alters the timing, so that the defence can gather five tricks. For the second time in the match, the English North/South had missed the defence against a part score, but had their team-mates bring back a making game in the same denomination.

Defending 3♥ on vugraph, the Israeli declarer tried ♦10 at the same stage where our guy tried a low spade. Barry Rigal on vugraph pointed out that the best play is any club off dummy, so that there is no longer any communication to the North hand. Now, if South plays a top diamond, declarer ducks and can pitch his third spade on ♦10.

Board 16. Dealer West. East/West Vul.

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

♠ A 10

♥ Q J 6 4

♦ Q 5 2

♣ A 7 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Probst</i>	<i>Sinclair</i>	<i>Handley-Pritchard</i>	<i>Gaffin</i>
1♣	Dble	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Probst's artificial 1♣ included weak no-trump hand-types, which is what he thought he had. Ronald Gaffin made a good practical decision to bid 3NT as it turned out, and he had no difficulty in making his contract. At the other table, West passed, and North opened 1♥, leading inevitably to 4♥. David Gold made 4♥, a contract which failed at eight out of fourteen tables in other matches. On vugraph for example, Ophir Reshef led ♥2, and when declarer led both clubs and diamonds from North towards South's honours, two more rounds of trumps left declarer with no chance; 11 IMPs to Israel who won the match 17-13.

Scotland trailed now by 15 to 50 IMPs. Maintaining their concentration, they gained 3 IMPs on Board 17 with a good 4♠ save for 300 against 420 in 4♥. There were only 22 minutes left for the last three boards, on the first of which Scotland doubled an ambitious England contract in the Closed Room for 500 and 12 IMPs. They collected 4 more IMPs on Board 19 by defeating English part scores in both rooms, but were still going to lose 11-19 in VPs until:



Richard Probst

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ J 6 4		
♥ A J 8 6 3		
♦ K Q 10 4 2		
♣ —		
♠ 7 5		♠ K 10 9 3 2
♥ K 10 2		♥ 7 4
♦ 7 5		♦ J 8 3
♣ Q 9 8 6 3 2		♣ J 7 4
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ A Q 8	
	♥ Q 9 5	
	♦ A 9 6	
	♣ A K 10 5	

West	North	East	South
Probst	Sinclair	Handley-Pritchard	Gaffin
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

At the other table, South took a more delicate approach, leading to a 5♥ contract. Declarer took the spade lead with the ace and pitched two spades for plus 1430, worth 13 IMPs to Scotland. Even in these days of light opening bids, it does seem right to insist upon slam with those South cards, as all 19 HCP are working points, with no useless jacks or the like.

Well, it wasn't a win, but I expect that the Scottish players were over the moon.

They had held the mighty England team by losing only 14-16, and looked forward to their next match with renewed confidence that they might win a match.

Sport News



Football

Uefa's executive committee has decided to scrap the second round of the Champions League from the 2003-2004 season onwards. There will still be 32 clubs involved at the start of the competition once the qualifying rounds have been completed. The changes mean the following format will be introduced the season after next: Eight groups of four will compete in phase one of the new-look competition. There will then be a two-leg knockout system for the last 16, the quarter-finals and the semi-finals. To reach the final, a team will play 12 games instead of 16.



Cycling

Jaan Kirsipuu beat off four fellow breakaway riders and the chasing peloton to win stage five of the Tour de France. The Estonian rider stormed into a five-man break after an hour-and-a-half, joined by Stefano Casagrande, Michael Sandstod, Ludo Dierckxsens and Christophe Edaleine. Sandstod, the Danish national champion, broke early in a bid for the line but did not have the strength to keep off Kirsipuu, on paper the best sprinter of the quintet. The stage result did not affect the overall standings, ONCE rider Igor Gonzalez de Galdeano holding on to the yellow jersey ahead of team-mate Joseba Beloki. Lance Armstrong remains third overall.



Golf

England's Justin Rose shot a six-under par 65 to take a one-shot lead at the end of the first round of the Scottish Open at Loch Lomond. Miles Tunnicliff was in second place, with four players a shot further back.

Noga Tal



The Editor's Choice

JUNIOR TEAMS

SESSION 7



CZECH REP.

v

BELGIUM



The Wednesday morning vugraph match between Belgium and the Czech Republic featured a few interesting play hands. However, the first hand worthy of note was all about the bidding:

Board 5. Dealer North. North/South Vul.

♠ 6	♠ A 9	♠ K 7 4 3
♥ J 10 3 2	♥ A K 5	♥ Q 9 7
♦ K 10 9 5 4 2	♦ Q J 7	♦ 8 6 3
♣ 9 8	♣ A J 6 4 2	♣ 10 7 5
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div>N</div> <div>W</div> <div>S</div> <div>E</div> </div> </div>	
	♠ Q J 10 8 5 2	
	♥ 8 6 4	
	♦ A	
	♣ K Q 3	

The Belgian North/South pair, P v Parijs and v d Velde, had the rather agricultural auction: 1♣ - 1♠ - 3NT - Pass. For Czech Republic, Vozabal and Pulkrab seemed to be doing rather better when they began: 1♣ - 1♠ - 2NT - 3♣(relay) - 3♦ - 3♠. However, Vozabal continued with 4NT, Pulkrab's 5♦ response being doubled by West, and now he went on with 5NT! Surely that guarantees possession of all the key cards, and in that case Pulkrab was entirely within his rights to bid the grand slam, expecting that his club honours would be like gold dust. He duly did so and, of course, 7♣ had to fail, giving Belgium 13 undeserved IMPs for playing 3NT. Had the Czechs stopped in 6♠, it would have been 13 the other way.



Tom Cornelis

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ J 10 8 5	♠ A K 9 7	♠ 6 3 2
♥ A	♥ 9 8 6 5 3	♥ J 4
♦ K Q 9 7 5 4	♦ J 10	♦ 2
♣ 8 4	♣ 9 5	♣ A K Q J 6 3 2
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div>N</div> <div>W</div> <div>S</div> <div>E</div> </div> </div>	
	♠ Q 4	
	♥ K Q 10 7 2	
	♦ A 8 6 3	
	♣ 10 7	

For the Czechs, Jelinek opened the West hand with 2NT, showing four spades and a longer minor, weak, and Martynek raised to 3NT, ending the auction. After a heart lead, declarer cashed out for one down.

The Belgian West, Peeters, opened 1♦ and Tom Cornelis responded 2NT. An odd bid, you may say, and I would have to agree with you because, by my reading of their convention card, 2NT is either weak with six or more clubs or game-forcing with at least five diamonds and four clubs. Anyway, Peeters raised to 3NT, which does not help us at all in our understanding of the partnership's dark and mysterious methods. Anyway, Pulkrab led the king of hearts to dummy's bare ace and Cornelis tried the effect of playing the king of diamonds at trick two. He must have been quite impressed when that held the trick, and wasted no time in claiming his nine tricks and letting the defence know that South had erred.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ 3	♠ Q 7 6 2	♠ K 9 5 4
♥ 10 9 6	♥ 8 2	♥ K J 5 3
♦ A 10 8 7 2	♦ 5 3	♦ Q J 9 4
♣ A J 10 8	♣ K Q 9 6 5	♣ 3
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div>N</div> <div>W</div> <div>S</div> <div>E</div> </div> </div>	
	♠ A J 10 8	
	♥ A Q 7 4	
	♠ K 6	
	♣ 7 4 2	

Vozabal played 2♠ from the North seat after his partner had opened 1♣ and West had passed slowly over 2♠, perhaps suggesting spade shortage. A spade lead was won by dummy's ten

and Vozabal led a club to West's ace. The club return saw the king ruffed and back came the $\diamond Q$, ducked. A second diamond went to the king and ace and West continued with the $\clubsuit J$. Declarer has to duck this, we think, and he duly did so. Cornelis correctly pitched a heart and now came the $\clubsuit 10$ to the queen and ruff with the $\spadesuit 9$. That assured one down, while had East discarded a second heart declarer could have made his contract if he read the ending correctly.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

\spadesuit Q J 8		\spadesuit A 10 6 5 4
\heartsuit A 6		\heartsuit K 8
\diamond 10 3		\diamond Q 8 7 4 2
\clubsuit A Q 9 5 3 2		\clubsuit 6
\spadesuit 9 3	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	\spadesuit K 7 2
\heartsuit 9 7 4 2		\heartsuit Q J 10 5 3
\diamond A 6 5		\diamond K J 9
\clubsuit J 10 8 7		\clubsuit K 4

The Belgian North seriously misplayed 3NT after a diamond lead to the ace and a diamond back. If he plays ace and another heart he has nine easy tricks, but he played the $\clubsuit K$ first and only then switched his attention to hearts. When East won the $\heartsuit K$ he cleared the diamonds and the four-one club break meant one down.

In the other room, the opening lead against 3NT by South was the $\spadesuit 9$, ducked. Pulkrab played ace and another heart and now came the diamond switch but he was safe.

Board 18. Dealer East. North/South Vul.

\spadesuit K 10 8		\spadesuit A 9 6
\heartsuit K 7 5 3		\heartsuit A Q J 8 6
\diamond Q 10 6		\diamond A K 7 4
\clubsuit A 9 6		\clubsuit 4
\spadesuit J 7 4	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	\spadesuit Q 5 3 2
\heartsuit 10 4		\heartsuit 9 2
\diamond J 9		\diamond 8 5 3 2
\clubsuit K J 10 7 5 3		\clubsuit Q 8 2

Cornelis opened $1\heartsuit$ and jumped to $3\diamond$ over Peeters' INT response. Peeters gave preference to $3\heartsuit$ and Cornelis ended the auction by bidding 3NT. Vozabal took a long time to lead, eventually selecting the $\spadesuit K$, ducked. Now a spade was continued to the queen and a third spade cleared the suit. Peeters guessed to lead a club to the ten and, again, a slow ace. Vozabal exited with a low heart to the six, nine and ten. Declarer played the $\clubsuit K$ now and was soon down for a flat board. However, suppose that he instead plays on hearts, coming down to this ending:

\spadesuit —		\spadesuit —
\heartsuit K		\heartsuit J 8
\diamond Q 10 6		\diamond A K 7 4
\clubsuit 9 6		\clubsuit —
\spadesuit —	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	\spadesuit Q
\heartsuit —		\heartsuit —
\diamond J 9		\diamond 8 5 3
\clubsuit K J 7 5		\clubsuit Q 8

When declarer now plays the heart to North's king, only a switch to the $\diamond Q$ will beat the hand, as it leaves the diamonds blocked. A low diamond can be run to the jack and declarer has tricks to burn.

The match result was a 50-43 IMP, 16-14 VP win for Belgium.

Where is the Nine of Clubs?

Round 5 Czech Republic v England
Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

\spadesuit 9 8 6		\spadesuit A Q 7
\heartsuit A 7 6 5 3		\heartsuit Q 10 4 2
\diamond 7 6		\diamond 3 2
\clubsuit Q 9 7		\clubsuit A 6 5 4
\spadesuit K J 10 4	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	\spadesuit 5 3 2
\heartsuit J 8		\heartsuit K 9
\diamond A J 8 5 4		\diamond K Q 10 9
\clubsuit J 3		\clubsuit K 10 8 2

West	North	East	South
Burgess	Pulkrab	Birdsall	Vozabal
	Pass	INT	Pass
2 \clubsuit	Pass	2 \heartsuit	Pass
2 \spadesuit	Pass	2NT	All Pass

After a weak no trump opening and an invitational sequence, the English pair reached 2NT and the king of diamonds was the obvious choice of lead for David Vozabal. When it held the trick, David faced an interesting problem. With 11 HCP and such a bad diamond situation, passive defence was unlikely to be successful, so a club switch seemed to be necessary, hoping to find partner with the $\clubsuit Q$ plus a major-suit ace. But where was the $\clubsuit 9$? If declarer held that card, he might win North's queen of clubs and knock out his $\spadesuit A$, should that be his entry, before playing on hearts. It seems that South requires his partner to hold either the $\clubsuit 9$ or the right major-suit ace, but...

All the problems were solved when David put the $\clubsuit K$ on the table! After this nice switch it became irrelevant who had the $\clubsuit 9$ and which ace partner held. The contract was defeated by a trick as partner would always be able to play the third round of clubs through declarer's nine should that prove to be necessary.

JUNIOR TEAMS

SESSION 8



GREECE

V

SCOTLAND



Having held England to a close match in the previous round, last-placed Scotland fielded the same four players to try to defeat Greece, and perhaps overtake them in the rankings.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
McCrossan	Labrou	Bergson	Mylona
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		



Thanasis Labrou

Harold Bergson for Scotland won the heart lead with the queen and safety-played the clubs by finessing the nine, the expert play just in case North had five clubs. His virtue was not rewarded on this occasion, and he had to settle for 600 and a 1 IMP loss.

On vugraph, the Croatian South opened 2♠, Pass by East, 3♠ from North to exert maximum pressure. All normal enough, as an aggressive style seems to be necessary to perform well in this event, but when West converted East's take-out double to penalties. Croatia were in big trouble. Martin Schaltz led ♠K and switched to a club. He over-ruffed ♠5 with ♠8 on the third round of clubs, and played ace and another trump. Declarer went after diamonds, but Schaltz won the second round and was in control, his heart switch holding declarer to five tricks and 1100, worth 10 IMPs to Denmark.

If West discards a diamond instead of over-ruffing the spade, declarer appears to make the same number of tricks.

On Board 9, 3NT was played at three other tables, two of which made it on misdefence.

Would the Greek defence meet the challenge?

Board 9. Dealer North. East/West Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
McCrossan	Labrou	Bergson	Mylona
	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Ioanna Mylona led ♠7 to the jack and queen (first hurdle over; it is very wrong to play the ace here). Declarer obviously had to duck ♠Q. Rather than set up a spade winner for declarer or open up the minor suits, Thanasis Labrou decided to switch to a heart, which went to Ioanna's ten and dummy's queen. It is not so easy for Ioanna, who does not know on this defence that declarer does not have ♠A10x and is thus unaware that the defence has five winners, to know what the hand is. She ducked ♦Q on general principles, to damage declarer's communications on other layouts.

Next came ♣Q, which she won with the king, and exited a club. Declarer won in dummy, and finessed the diamond again to Ioanna's king. There was no hurry to cash out, as it was perfectly safe to exit safely with a club, and make the last two tricks. That was the slow careful way to guarantee five tricks for the defence, a small gain of 4 IMPs when 3♠ was passed out at the other table and failed by a trick.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ K 9 4 3		
♥ A Q 6		
♦ K 5 3		
♣ A K 10		
♠ 10 6 2		♠ A Q J 5
♥ 8 7 2		♥ 10
♦ J 9 7		♦ A 10 6 4
♣ Q J 9 2		♣ 8 7 6 4
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
		♠ 8 7
		♥ K J 9 5 4 3
		♦ Q 8 2
		♣ 5 3

West	North	East	South
McCossan	Labrou	Bergson	Mylona
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♥

2♦ was a Multi Two, 2NT and 3♦ enquired, and 3♥ showed hearts and a minimum.

North could have selected 3NT as the final contract, or jumped to 4♥ over 3♣, but he chivalrously bid in such a way that his partner became declarer. This was a big winner when ♣Q was the opening lead, and Ioanna wrapped up her contract in double quick time, drawing trumps and repeating the club finesse. At the other table, 4♥ failed on a trump lead, the Scottish declarer preferring to play for a doubleton diamond honour rather than the double club finesse, although he could have combined his options better; 10 IMPs to Greece.

3NT would have made, and would be the choice of many expert players in the North seat, given the lack of ruffing potential in the North hand.

Board 15 was a lead problem:

West	North	East	South
McCossan	Labrou	Bergson	Mylona
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Your lead from: ♠943, ♥654, ♦K954, ♣754? 3♦ was a transfer, 3♠ showed four hearts and spade values, 3NT showed slam interest, waiting, without ♣A, 4♣ was a cue, 4NT asked and 5♠ showed three aces. Ioanna found a passive trump lead, unsuccessfully as partner had ♦A, both opponents had doubleton diamonds and declarer can claim 980 on any non-diamond lead. 11 IMPs to Scotland, letting them back into the match. If one were leading up into the 2NT opener as declarer, then leading from a king into a potential AQ would be less attractive, but on the actual hand, leading through strength, most of the leading players would probably have found the diamond lead.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ K 9		
♥ A Q 10 9 7 3		
♦ J 9 8 7		
♣ Q		
♠ Q J 10 7 5 2		♠ A 8 6
♥ 6 5 4		♥ J 2
♦ K 3		♦ Q 10 2
♣ 6 5		♣ K 10 9 8 7
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
		♠ 4 3
		♥ K 8
		♦ A 6 5 4
		♣ A J 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
McCossan	Labrou	Bergson	Mylona
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

3♥ was a good bid, leading to a good contract. What would you do on ♣10 lead? Should one finesse? Thanassis Labrou knew the answer. The non-spade lead makes it highly likely that the opening leader has the ace of spades, so he finessed to the ♣Q. ♥A, a heart to the king, ♠A for a spade discard and a club ruff allowed declarer to draw the last trump. Thanassis then played the diamonds safely to guarantee two tricks, running ♦9, with the intention of ♦8 next. This only fails if West has ♦KQ10x, which is impossible as then East's opening lead would have been a diamond. A quarter of the field went down in 4♥, including the other table where a heart was led, so Greece picked up 12 IMPs, to win the match 22-8.

My impression of the match between the two bottom-placed teams is that, although the bidding and card play was of quite a good standard, the players did not pre-empt on rubbish and put the pressure on by bouncing the auction, especially at favourable vulnerability, in the way that the top players here do. For example, on Board 20 in the West seat as dealer, almost all the top players did open 2♠ or something similar, to put the pressure on.



Ioanna Mylona

More Coaching Headaches

In the Wednesday Bulletin a concerned and disappointed coach wept a little about the troublesome start of the Netherlands. But maybe the players would cheer him up in the important matches against Norway and France. Little did the guy know what the juniors had in store.

Over the years, the instructions given by Frans Borm, trainer of the Dutch U-20 team, to his young players are well known: "Don't double partscores, draw all the trumps if possible and do not claim doubled game-contracts". The juniors of course are much wiser players and have long outgrown this not so stupid advice for the hard real life. And they assure you daily that the danger of doubled partscores making has long been gone. With, of course, a smart remark: "You are too old and let pass all those 300 and 500 snacks".

In Round 6, against Norway, the axe was yielded against too ambitious opponents.

Board 9. Dealer North. East/West Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
2♣	1♣	1♠	Pass
Dble	Pass	2♥	3♦
	All Pass		

What is the meaning of the double of 3♦? West was honest: "I am trying to make a game try". The reply: "Are you not afraid that partner will take this as a penalty double?" A second honest answer: "If partner believes I double for penalty, then I own ♦KJ52 and everything will be all right".

Not all went right in the defence. West lead was a small heart for the ♥J from South. Declarer crossed to ♦A, played a heart to the ace then ♦Q for ♦K. After this start East/West did not succeed in executing the club ruff so the Norwegians scored +470, leaving me behind with the wise words of the U-20 coach spinning through my head. It was not all bad news about this double. The good news about the board was that in the other room the Dutch North/South pair managed to make only three tricks against 4♠, so beating 3♦ by one trick would only have saved 3 IMPs!

Against France the Dutch team started poorly with a club lead against a 6♥ contract after which ♣K as the setting trick disappeared and poor defence against an impossible 3NT let the contract through, going three down at the other table. The Dutch pairs showed good fighting spirit and came back little by little so that with two boards to play the deficit was down to 7 IMPs. Two rather dull 4♠ contracts, I thought, and we had to be satisfied with a small loss.

It was not to be. On Board 19 the Dutch pair missed a simple 4♠ and on the next board, again the dreadful Board 20, they were storming forward in a fearless attempt to get back all these lost IMPs.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

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

Even the most pessimistic bidder would make some sort of slam try as East, with the powerful hand, including a fit in both 'suits' of West, and carry on when the singleton club becomes clear. With ♠KQ and ♦Q, twelve tricks seemed sure, and with one of these cards missing the slam merely was on a finesse. What does an old-fashioned coach understand about bidding? The French North doubled and a severely disturbed declarer lost a trick too many for three down, the 11 and 16 IMP losses on the last two boards resulting in a severe defeat (8-22) against the now superior leading young French team.

In a situation like this you long for home, want to order a train or, even better, an airplane ticket. Duty calls, however, and it is the task of the coach to instruct the players about the system of the next opponents, the surprisingly well playing Estonians.



Junior Soccer Tournament

Yesterday morning's football, organised by the Hungarian Junior team, attracted sufficient interest to allow three teams to be formed. Rest of the World proved to be the weakest of the three teams, losing 4-1 to Poland and drawing 1-1 with Hungary/Croatia. The overall winner was Hungary/Croatia, who defeated Poland by 3-2.

When the match has finished, Niels de Groot (indeed, the red one) storms outside loudly yelling: "I protect (bidding in fourth position when you also can pass out the hand) one time against a partscore and one second later they are in game, easily making. At first glance they seemed lucky I refrained from doubling".

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

The 3 IMPs lost on the hand (4♠ doubled down two at the outer table), however, was one of the few losing boards and the Netherlands won by a big margin (24-6), keeping the coach in Torquay and hoping (but will that be sufficient?) for better times.

SUNDAY OUTING



A two-hour boat trip has been arranged for Sunday 14th July at 1700 hours from Torquay harbour, returning at 1900.

Please be there by 1650 ready to board. The Brixham Belle has a bar for all drinks.

The harbour can be reached from the sea front by taking Bus No. 12 (about 10 minutes) to the strand, using the bridge to reach the harbour (80p single, £1-15 return). Also, outside the Grand Hotel is a road train (half-hourly) which stops outside Debenhams, access from the quay. Return buses, No. 12 and 12A, stop opposite Debenhams. It is easy to find! Tom Bradley and Margaret Curtis will be there to meet you.

Would captains please indicate how many are likely to come at the Hospitality Desk. The weather forecast is good, according to the captain - blue skies and sunshine.

A barbecue follows at 2000 on the terrace.

Bad Break - What Bad Break?



A five-zero trump split will often spell doom for declarer's hopes but Italy's Stefano Uccello managed to overcome just such a nasty surprise to land his contract in the Round 8 match between Italy and Austria.

Board 16. Dealer West. East/West Vul.

<p> ♠ Q 6 4 ♥ A K 9 8 ♦ K 9 8 3 ♣ Q 2 </p>			
<p> ♠ K J 9 ♥ 10 7 5 3 2 ♦ A 4 ♣ K 10 8 </p>	<p> N W E S </p>	<p> ♠ 8 7 5 3 2 ♥ — ♦ J 10 7 6 ♣ 9 5 4 3 </p>	
<p> ♠ A 10 ♥ Q J 6 4 ♦ Q 5 2 ♣ A J 7 6 </p>			
West	North	East	South
Gogoman	Uccello	Gogoman	Guariglia
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

For Austria, Adele Gogoman led a low spade, run to West's king. Anna Gogoman returned a low trump and Uccello got a shock when his eight scored with East showing out. Uccello ran the ♣Q to West's king and back came a second trump, won by the nine. Uccello led a diamond to the queen and ace and back came a third trump. He won, cashed the ♠A, and crossed to the ♦K to cash the ♠Q, pitching dummy's losing diamond. The ace and jack of clubs were cashed and Uccello had a high crossruff for the last two tricks. No problem!

TEAM PHOTOGRAPHS



Today is the turn of the following teams to have their photographs taken for the EBL database. Would the captains please ensure that **all players** of the team plus the **npc** are present at the LineUp desk as follows:

Junior Teams

Greece	14.00	Norway	18.00
Hungary	14.10	Poland	19.00
Israel	14.20	Russia	19.10
Italy	17.40	Scotland	19.20
Netherlands	17.50		

Marco Marin

EBL Photographer

The 2001 World Junior Teams Final

Set - Five

After 64 boards USA1 held a still comfortable 174-93 lead. However, when, after a few deals of the fifth set, Israel had scored 36 unanswered IMPs, the match had come back to life.

Board 65. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ –	♠ A J 10 6 5 2	♠ 8 4
♥ K 9 8 4 3	♥ Q J	♥ 10 5
♦ 8 6 2	♦ 7 5 3	♦ A K Q J 10
♣ K Q 9 7 2	♣ 8 4	♣ J 10 6 3
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> N W S E </div> </div>	
	♠ K Q 9 7 3	
	♥ A 7 6 2	
	♦ 9 4	
	♣ A 5	

West	North	East	South
Mignocchi	Warszawski	Grue	Liran
All Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠

A promising start for the Israeli North/South pair, who scored game when the defenders did not manage to switch to clubs after cashing two rounds of diamonds; Israel +420.

At the other table, West took the winning view on his cards by showing a two-suiter:



The Israeli Team



West	North	East	South
Schneider	Hurd	Roll	Wooldridge
4NT	2♠	Pass	4♠
	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Declarer claimed after only a few tricks; Israel +400 and 13 IMPs on their way back into the match.

Israel picked up another IMP on the next deal, and there was more good news on Board 67:

Board 67. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A K 6 5 4 2	♠ 10 7 3	♠ 9 8
♥ 8 6 2	♥ 10 9 7 5 3	♥ K 4
♦ 9 7 2	♦ K 10 6 5	♦ A J 4 3
♣ 2	♣ 7	♣ K J 9 6 3
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> N W S E </div> </div>	
	♠ Q J	
	♥ A Q J	
	♦ Q 8	
	♣ A Q 10 8 5 4	

West	North	East	South
Mignocchi	Warszawski	Grue	Liran
1♠	Pass	INT	1♣
All Pass			2♣

Two Clubs drifted one off but there was more action at the other table:

West	North	East	South
Schneider	Hurd	Roll	Wooldridge
2♠	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	3♣
			All Pass

The weak jump overcall pushed Wooldridge to a level at which Roll could feel confident enough to double, ending the auction.

Schneider led out the two top spades then switched to a heart for the king and ace. Wooldridge cashed the jack of hearts then continued with the queen, which was ruffed. Roll switched to the nine of clubs and Wooldridge put in the queen. Now he tried the queen of diamonds and, when that held, continued with a second diamond for the ten and jack. Wooldridge ruffed the ace of diamonds return and played ace then eight of clubs, losing two trump tricks for down two and 300 to Israel; 6 more IMPs as the recovery gathered pace. Board 68 was flat and then Board 69 was put on the table:

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

W

N

E

S

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

Full credit to Warszawski for his opening bid which helped Liran to go on after the normal 4♠ overcall. Mignocchi was right to double, but when East unluckily selected the ace of clubs as his opening lead Warszawski was able to collect a huge +850.

In the Open Room, Hurd only opened 1♥ on the North cards. Wooldridge couldn't bid 5♥ on this auction and neither could Hurd. Roll rapidly scored eleven tricks; Israel +450 and the double game swing netted the Israelis 16 huge IMPs to reduce the deficit to 45 IMPs, 129-174.

The Israeli charge was temporarily halted on the next deal when their East/West pair played an inferior partscore, costing them 8 IMPs.

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

W

N

E

S

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Schneider</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Roll</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
		2NT	All Pass

After identical starts to the two auctions, Schneider repeated his spades and heard Roll bid 2NT, while Mignocchi preferred a Lebensohl 2NT which Grue dutifully converted to 3♣. Two No Trump and 3♣ both ended their respective auctions.

The defence to 3♣ was not exactly sharp but as only overtricks were at stake it didn't really matter. Liran led the queen of spades to Grue's bare ace. Declarer played the jack of clubs and, when that held the trick, continued with the two. Liran took his ace and played a second spade to the jack. Grue played the jack of hearts, which was ducked, then a second heart to the ace, and soon had eleven tricks for +150.

Wooldridge also led the queen of spades against Roll's 2NT. Roll won and played the queen of clubs, ducked, then the two of clubs to dummy's ten. Now he led the jack of spades to Hurd's king, throwing a diamond from hand. The spades were established now but with the ace of hearts sitting over the jack there was no entry to them. Hurd switched to a diamond and the contract went two down for -200 and 8 IMPs to USAI; the lead was back up to 182-129.

Board 71. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

The American relief did not last for long as Israel quickly got back into their groove.

West	North	East	South
<i>Mignocchi</i>	<i>Warszawski</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Liran</i>
2♠	4♥	4♠	5♥
All Pass			

Liran's 5♥ went one down when the defence cashed their three obvious tricks for USAI +50.

West	North	East	South
<i>Schneider</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Roll</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>
2♠	4♥	4♣	1♥
Pass	5♥	5♠	5♦
			All Pass

As Wooldridge had made the lead-directing bid, Hurd duly started with a diamond to the queen. Wooldridge now underled his ace of diamonds and Hurd was on lead again with the king.

The question now was, should he try to cash another diamond trick (and even score the ♠Q via a fourth round of diamonds) or should he shift to a club for a ruff. After giving it considerable thought Hurd led a club, which was all declarer needed to score up his 5♠; Israel +650 and 11 IMPs to cut down their opponents' lead to just 42 at this stage, 140-182.

Israel continued to chip away at the American lead over the next few deals with this next deal contributing another 6 IMPs to the cause.

Board 73. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mignocchi	Warszawski	Grue	Liran
1♠	Pass	Pass	1♣
	2♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Schneider	Hurd	Roll	Wooldridge
1♠	Pass	Pass	1♣
	2♣	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Where Liran was quite content to accept that there might be further competition from East/West, Wooldridge decided that, at the prevailing vulnerability, he could afford to reraise the clubs to make it more difficult for Schneider to make a second bid. How wise that idea was in theory is a matter of opinion, but in practice it proved to be a costly one.

Against 3♣, Schneider led the jack of hearts. Wooldridge started poorly when he played low from dummy and was forced to win the king in hand. He crossed to the ace of diamonds to play a club to the nine, jack and ace, and back came a diamond to the queen and king. When Wooldridge now cashed the king of clubs, he was in deep trouble.

Declarer tried a heart now but Roll could win the ace and draw the remaining trumps, leaving Wooldridge without a single ruff in either hand. Roll next played the ten of diamonds and Schneider, who had pitched spades on the clubs, unnecessarily overtook with the jack to switch to a spade honour. What that meant was that he had to present dummy with the last trick by leading the ♦6 to the nine. However, that was still three down for 150 to Israel.

Liran also received the lead of the jack of hearts but he covered, forcing Grue to take the ace. Grue switched to the ten of clubs to the jack and ace and Mignocchi switched to the king of spades. Liran won and cashed the king of clubs, but his play at trick one meant that he was able to take both a heart ruff in dummy, bringing down the ten and establishing his nine as a winner in the process, and also a diamond ruff in hand, bringing the

total to eight; +90 and 6 IMPs to Israel.

The Americans led by 183-148 going into the last board of the session.

Board 80. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Schneider	Hurd	Roll	Wooldridge
Pass	1♠	2♦	2♥
Pass	2♠	3♦	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Mignocchi	Warszawski	Grue	Liran
Pass	2♠	3♦	All Pass

The North hand is a bit heavy for a weak two opener, particularly at this vulnerability, however, Warszawski was no doubt still looking for opportunities to create swings. If that was his intention, then he succeeded, but not in the way that he had hoped.

Where Hurd's 1♠ opening and spade rebid was sufficient to convince Wooldridge to raise to game, the weak two bid did not encourage Liran to get involved at all. Well, had the queen of spades been in the East hand, game might have been going down and Israel might have continued to move closer. As it was, USA1 made 4♠ for +420 and failed by a trick in 3♦ for -100, and had gained 8 IMPs.

Still, Israel had won the penultimate set by 55-17 and was very much alive with the score standing at 191-148 in favour of the Americans.



The USA Team



The All-Time Bridge Greats

4. Howard Schenken

Howard Schenken (1905-1979) of New York was a real estate investor, a bridge author and a long-time bridge columnist. As in any sport, it is almost impossible to compare the best from different eras - even if they overlap, the two will not be at their peak at the same time - but Schenken would earn many votes for the position of 'best player of all time'.

As early as 1927-29, Howard's Raymond Club team was having major success in tournament play. Ever on the look-out for rising stars who might strengthen his team, Ely Culbertson invited Schenken to play as a substitute during the much publicised 'Battle of the Century' against Sydney Lenz. But a year later Schenken had moved to the P. Hal Sims team to join his favorite partner, David Burnstine.

The Four Horsemen, as the team was known, was the most successful around the tournament scene for the next couple of years but then Schenken and Burnstine broke away to form the Four Aces with Oswald Jacoby and Michael Gottlieb.

The Four Aces were the most successful team yet seen at Contract and had a string of successes. They published a book of their methods, *The Four Aces System of Contract Bridge* and tried to inveigle Culbertson into another of his much publicised challenge matches. But Culbertson could see that he was very likely to lose such a match and with his commercial empire well established had everything to lose and nothing to gain, so he ducked out of the confrontation.

Instead, Schenken and Gottlieb went to England where they played a strange challenge match where hands were bid and the opening lead made but no more. An expert panel would then judge the relative merits of the contracts reached at each table. The English captain, Whitelaw, was trying to promote a new system called the Pachabo Club and he wanted the match to be purely a bidding duel in case too clever declarer or defensive play might obscure the triumph of his methods.

The result over 300 deals was a thumping 13,000 aggregate point win for the Americans and their Four Aces bidding system, much to the chagrin of Mr. Whitelaw.

Returning to New York, the Aces took on a French quartet who called themselves the champions of Europe. The match was held in a hotel near Madison Square Garden, and in the Garden men dressed as playing cards were used to show the progress of play in an attempt to arouse the public interest. The venture was a failure but the result of the match was yet another triumph for the Four Aces.

The Bermuda Bowl was first held in 1950 and the winners were the USA. Howard Schenken was on the winning team and also took part in the successful defense of the trophy in 1951 and 1953. He dropped out of the team for a while but then played in four World Championships in the early sixties - but that was during the reign of the Italian Blue Team, of whom we will hear much more later.

In North American domestic competition, Schenken set records which still stand today. He won the Life Masters Pairs five times, and the Spingold and Vanderbilt ten times each. All three are records which still stand today. He had several other wins and no fewer than nineteen second places in nationally ranked events.

Howard was an ACBL (American Contract Bridge League) board member for many years. In 1943 he took over the Four

Aces syndicated bridge column and in 1957 merged it with the column of Richard Frey. The two co-authored what became the longest continuously published national bridge column until 1970 when Schenken became sole author once more.

Schenken only produced a few books but his writings included some important ideas. He is credited with the discovery and introduction to the tournament world of several play techniques and examples of deceptive play which are now considered standard.

In the field of bidding theory, Schenken is credited with the idea of the forcing two-over-one response, the prepared opening bid, and the weak two bid - though as that last was also a part of Harold S. Vanderbilt's Vanderbilt Club System, it is unclear to whom the credit truly belongs. Schenken also developed his own strong club methods and played the Schenken Club at World Championship level with Peter Leventritt.

This is one of my favourite hands of all time. It comes from rubber bridge and Schenken, South, was vulnerable and with a 60 partscore.

<p>♠ J 10 6 5 3 ♥ 8 2 ♦ 5 3 2 ♣ 10 7 4</p>		<p>♠ A 9 8 2 ♥ K J 9 7 ♦ J 6 ♣ K J 3</p>	
<p>♠ — ♥ Q 6 5 4 ♦ K 10 9 8 7 ♣ Q 9 8 6</p>		<p>♠ K Q 7 4 ♥ A 10 3 ♦ A Q 4 ♣ A 5 2</p>	
<p>West Pass 2♦ All Pass</p>		<p>North Pass Pass</p>	
		<p>East 1♠ Pass</p>	
		<p>South 1NT 2NT</p>	

West led a diamond to the jack and queen and Howard could see seven tricks: three spades, two diamonds and two aces. But where could he find an eighth as surely East would duck three rounds of spades, cutting him off from dummy's fifth spade?

Schenken's vision was superb. At trick two he returned his ♦4. West, looking at two potential entries, won and returned the suit, and East had to find a discard. Wouldn't you discard a discouraging spade, not wishing to weaken either of your king-jack holdings? That is what top expert Sam Fry pitched and now he could no longer duck three rounds of spades. When he had to win the third round Schenken had an entry to take two more spades and eight tricks in all.

There was no clever technique involved in Schenken's play, just the ability to look at things from his opponents' point of view and see a way in which they might be induced to make an error. It is easy to say that the low diamond return at trick two was a strange play and should have aroused somebody's suspicions, but for a defender to get inside declarer's head to see that declarer was actually inside the defender's head would have been quite exceptional.



Belgian Team Profile (Juniors)

Hello, the Belgian team is back and is pleased to be presented to you.

We start with **Tom Cornelis (25)**, the best known Belgian player, living in Ghent, fluently speaking five languages and with a degree in informatics. He is really an old timer, since he has attended three European Championships, and as many University events, without speaking about bridge camps in Nymburk and Stargard. Since his last appearance he has let his hair and beard grow significantly, in order to make opponents afraid of him. This tactical hint sadly enough did not succeed too well up to now, but he also tries to make the life of his opponents difficult by inventing a new system every year. His victim this time is:

Kevin Peeters (23) (say Pay-thurs), who lives in the southern part of the country (he is the only one in the team) and went to a French speaking university to get a Masters in management, but speaks Dutch at home. Due to his extensive use of gel, nobody knows if he has a hair problem. This is his first international appearance, but he is not at all impressed by this, as he tried to get the award for the best played hand when playing in a 4-2 mini-Moysian fit on vugraph.

As always in the Belgian team, we seem obliged to bring three brothers together. After the Louveaux and the De Roos we have now the **Vanparijs** family. The oldest, **Wim** (Hans-Willem on his passport, but I agree Wim is better as a first name) will turn **25** this summer. He was considered as a very promising player, already playing in Cardiff 1996, but three years ago he suddenly stopped playing bridge and started to make children. The result was a heavy hair loss and two charming daughters, Floor (2.5) and Nico (1). He works in a bank in Leuven under the orders of the Belgian NJO Eric Debus, but this is NOT the reason why he was selected to come here. His two younger brothers **Pieter (20)** and **Jef (19)** are really too young to suffer hair problems. A couple of years ago they tried to play together but they stopped before as there was a danger of a murder being committed. Nevertheless, they were first in Nymburk 1999 after the first eight deals, causing a wave of shock in the room. They learned bridge six years ago and look quite like each other, but the beautiful girls in the neighbourhood can easily recognize them. Pieter is studying in Leuven for industrial engineering, and Jef is about to start to do so in September. Jef got here a new nickname, T-Rex, since he is eating twice as much as his fellows, without getting fat. Pieter arrived in Torquay with some delay, due to the fact that he forgot his passport and could not embark in Brussels on the Eurostar. Ten days before, he was planning holidays elsewhere but due to the very late withdrawal of Tom Venesoen, he was solicited to replace opposite:

Henri Van de Velde (24). There is a lot to be written about Henri. Nobody knew him when he suddenly popped up in the trials for Torquay during the Easter holidays, getting a third place and qualifying. He had never played any competition before and must join the federation afterwards in order to be allowed to play! After that, his hair became more and more grey and he is asking himself if he will return to soccer, where he is an official referee, or try to gain money by finishing his law degree in Louvain-la-Neuve. Henri speaks four languages fluently and will soon be engaged to a French girl who lives in Spain, Sandrine. This, of course, will make his hair more and more grey. By the way, he is doing very well at this tournament, getting at this moment the best Butler-score of the team.

NPC Jean-Francois Jourdain (40), nicknamed Pitch, learned in his youth how not to play bridge at Budapest (1986) and Valkenburg (1987) when representing Belgium. Now he tries to teach that to the team, who have no difficulty to understand his message and put it into practice. He started to work with the youth three years ago and immediately suffered a severe hair loss. He tried to recover, but his hair is falling again since the opening game against Norway which turned out to be a disaster after a promising start (see Daily Bulletin 2 if you are not afraid to have nightmares). In his everyday life he is a journalist, working for the Brussels daily newspaper, La Libre Belgique, and is a member of the IBPA. Before he started playing bridge 17 years ago, he played chess in the Belgian 1st league, and is still remembering with regret about those years. He is consoling himself by buying a drink for the team every time they win, which threatens to send him to the public charity institution.



England Team Profile (Juniors)

I have the pleasure of introducing you to an extremely weird group of young men who have the most unusual eating habits I've ever seen. We are all single but I'm sure I can do enough in this profile to put all the female readers off us for life.

Richard Probst (23): A typical English eccentric who works as a trader in the city of London. Our champion of strange eating, his specialties include whole eggs with the shell on and pints of lager with the contents of an ashtray mixed in.

Alex 'Shambles' Hydes (20): Trades in the same office as Richard. Those of you who had the pleasure of dining with him last night will have marvelled at the way he demolished two main courses and five desserts and was ready for more. His diet consists of meat, more meat, and a little carbohydrate. Salad is only allowed in the presence of a kebab. Organising himself is not his strong point.

David Gold (22): Runs the St. Johns Wood Bridge Club in north London. Take one look at how well built he is and you can imagine his appetite. After a visit to the curry house, a further trip out to the kebab shop was necessary.

Oliver Burgess (18): The youngest member of the team, who has just finished school. Usually has cola sweets for his appetiser, wine gums for the main course and sometimes meat for dessert.

Ben Handley-Pritchard (20): Will soon start work with Richard and Alex. A Surprisingly normal eater, but doesn't like to be disturbed before midday.

Gareth Birdsall (25): Seemingly a perpetual student at Cambridge, a normal guy and a normal eater, therefore I'm at a loss to understand why he's on this team.

Jason Hackett (31): Bridge professional and ex-junior, used to eat as much as them but cannot compete now. My job as captain includes driving to kebab shops and Indian restaurants after play finishes, taking them back to my room at the Toorak to discuss anything but bridge and getting the drinks in. Of course, since they have to play the next day, these parties involve me drinking most of their share for them.

JUNIOR TEAMS

BUTLER AFTER SESSION 9

1	FRA	O. Bessis - de Tessieres	80	1.86
2	ITA	Mazzadi - Io Presti	140	1.24
3	RUS	Rudakov - Zaitsev	120	1.15
4	POL	Araskiewicz - Wittenbeck	100	1.05
5	NOR	Harr - Sundklakk	140	0.96
6	ENG	Gold - Hydes	140	0.94
7	FRA	T. Bessis - Gaviard	100	0.91
8	NOR	Hakkebo - Harr	20	0.90
9	RUS	Andreev - Romanovitch	100	0.82
10	ITA	Guariglia - Uccello	60	0.77
11	CRO	Brguljan - Zoric	140	0.76
12	EST	Matisons - Rubins	180	0.71
13	DEN	Gjaldbaek - Henriksen	100	0.70
14	CZE	Pulkrab - Vozabal	140	0.61
15	ISR	Hoffman - Lellouche	140	0.49
16	AUS	Grumm - Kummel	120	0.48
17	HUN	Mraz - Szegedi	80	0.44
18	NED	Bruggeman - De Groot	140	0.41
19	DEN	Marquardsen - Schalz	120	0.36
20	NOR	Ellestad - Joerstad	140	0.35
21	FRA	Grenthe - Grenthe	100	0.35
22	CRO	Kulovic - Scepanovic	80	0.30
23	POL	Kotorowicz - Kotorowicz	160	0.24
24	ISR	Ginossar - Reshef	140	0.24
25	TUR	Basaran - Ucan	20	0.20
26	GER	Sauter - Schueller	100	0.18
27	HUN	Hegedus - Marjai	120	0.14
28	SWE	Cullin - Upmark	140	0.14
29	NED	Drijver - Schollaardt	140	0.06
30	POL	Baranowski - Skalski	100	-0.01
31	BEL	J. Van Parijs - W. Van Parijs	100	-0.01
32	TUR	Sakrak - Suicmez	180	-0.06
33	CZE	Jellinek - Martinek	120	-0.07
34	ITA	di Bello - di Bello	120	-0.08
35	BEL	P. Van Parijs - Vandeveld	100	-0.13
36	ISR	Tal - Tal	80	-0.14
37	CZE	Macura - Vrkoc	60	-0.15
38	FIN	Airaksinen - Heikkinen	180	-0.15
39	CRO	Kazalicki - Praljak	60	-0.18
40	ENG	Birdsall - Burgess	140	-0.23
41	EST	Naber - Tihane	180	-0.24
42	GER	Ewald - Stoszek	80	-0.28
43	SWE	Eriksson - Sivelind	120	-0.28
44	HUN	Minarik - Suranyi	80	-0.31
45	BEL	Cornelis - Peeters	120	-0.34
46	FIN	Ahonen - Nurmi	180	-0.42
47	SCO	Bergson - McCrossan	140	-0.44
48	NOR	Hakkebo - Joerstad	20	-0.45
49	NED	Brink - Kuivenhoven	80	-0.46
50	ESP	Goded Merino - Masia	120	-0.48
51	RUS	Krasnosselski - Malinovski	100	-0.49
52	ENG	Handley-Prichard - Probst	80	-0.51
53	GRE	Labrou - Mylona	120	-0.52
54	DEN	Houmoller - Houmoller	100	-0.52
55	NOR	Hakkebo - Kvangraven	40	-0.53
56	AUS	Gogoman - Gogoman	120	-0.53
57	AUS	Steiner - Winkler	120	-0.78
58	ESP	Mansilla - Perez Calisteo	140	-0.79
59	GER	Bokholt - Kornek	100	-0.82
60	GRE	Dialynas - Dialynas	100	-0.89
61	GRE	Karapangiotis - Katsaris	100	-0.94
62	SCO	Gaffin - Sinclair	120	-0.97
63	ESP	Goded Merino - Perez Calisteo	20	-1.15
64	TUR	Basaran - Kesikbas	160	-1.18
65	ESP	Malagrida - Masia	40	-1.23
66	SWE	Larsson - Linerudt	60	-1.32
67	SCO	Bateman - Coyle	100	-2.13

Almost a
Sure Thing

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Birdsall</i>		<i>Burgess</i>
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Dble	3♥	All Pass	

In the Round 9 match between England and Sweden, the Swedish West found a bit of a frisky double of the 3♦ transfer. Gareth Birdsall completed the transfer anyway and had to play 3♥ on the lead of the ♦2 to the ten and ace. You might think that declarer had three obvious losers in clubs and hearts and that the fate of his contract would rest on his ability to divine the spade position and so play the suit for one loser. You know nothing! See how the play went.

Birdsall played the ♥K at trick two and the Swedish West won and returned the ♦J. Birdsall, perhaps imagining a six-one rather than four-three split to explain the double, ducked to preserve his king from being ruffed! West continued with another diamond and the nine scored, dummy pitching a club. Birdsall drew trumps ending in hand and threw the other club on his ♦K. Now he played the ♣Q and East covered.

There is a sure way home from here - pitch a spade and let the ♣A hold the trick. If East returns a spade it is obvious that you have a second spade trick and nine in all, while discarding on a club return establishes the jack and dummy's last spade goes on that card.

Birdsall fell from grace slightly when he ruffed the club and ran the ♠7. As the cards lay, that play was good enough, as East is again endplayed. However, give East ♠K2 and West ♠J1085 and the ♠7 will be covered by the eight and, if declarer puts in the queen, a spade return leaves him with two more spade losers, so the ending is not quite a sure thing for declarer (on the actual lie, if the ♠7 is covered by the eight, East returns the jack but dummy's ♠96 are then equals against West's ten).