

19th European Youth Team Bridge Championships

Bulletin I

Monday, 2 August 2004

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An Opening Ceremony to Copy



All of you, at yesterday's Opening Ceremony

There were speeches worthy of imitation at the Opening Ceremony, i.e. blissfully short ones. The Chairman of the Czech Bridge Federation, Marc Verdier, told us to be generous and understanding to the organisation team since the host is a modest Federation. The Czech Bridge Federation has less than 1,700 members. Then Panos Gerontopoulos, Chairman of the EBL Youth committee, welcomed us to the heart of Europe, where the era of junior bridge started in 1968, and declared the 19th European Youth Teams Championships formally open.

This year these Championships reach the same number, 26 teams, in the Juniors as 1996, and tie the School record from 2002 with 15 teams. In total, we almost come up to as many teams as there were in Malmoe earlier this summer for the Open, Women's and Seniors' Championships.

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VUGRAPH MATCHES

Poland v Austria (Girls)10.00Sweden v Turkey (Juniors)14:30France v Denmark (Juniors)19:00

Badges

Would all players, captains and coaches please wear their badges at all times. It is important that people can recognise you and it greatly aids in the smooth running of the tournament if all participants can be readily identified.

JUNIOR TEAMS







ROUND ROBIN SESSION I

	Match		11	MPs	V	/Ps	
Ι	RUSSIA	DENMARK	78	35	23.5	5.5	
2	CROATIA	ENGLAND	34	40	14	16	
3	SLOVAKIA	SPAIN	62	48	18	12	
4	PORTUGAL	NORWAY	40	88	5	25	
5	GERMANY	GREECE	57	43	18	12	
6	SWEDEN	NETHERLANDS	63	42	19		
7	CZECH REP.	ITALY	31	46		17.5	
8	HUNGARY	Romania	25	76	5	25	
9	TURKEY	ISRAEL	30	67	7	23	
10	BELGIUM	FINLAND	60	47	18	12	
	AUSTRIA	LITHUANIA	120	15	25	0	
12	SCOTLAND	POLAND	2	105	0	25	
13	FRANCE	SERBIA & MONT.	71	35	22	8	

RANKING AFTER SESSION I

T	AUSTRIA	25
	NORWAY	25
	POLAND	25
	ROMANIA	25
5		23.5
6	ISRAEL	23.5
7	FRANCE	22
8	SWEDEN	9
9	BELGIUM	8
7	GERMANY	18
	SLOVAKIA	18
12	ITALY	18
12		
	ENGLAND	16
14	CROATIA	4
15	FINLAND	12
-	GREECE	12
10	SPAIN	12
18		
	NETHERLANDS	
20	SERBIA & MONT.	8
21	TURKEY	7
22	DENMARK	5.5
23	HUNGARY	5
	PORTUGAL	5
25		0
	SCOTLAND	0



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 2

 FRANCE SERBIA & MONT. POLAND LITHUANIA FINLAND ISRAEL ROMANIA ITALY NETHERLANDS GREECE NORWAY SPAIN ENGLAND 	RUSSIA SCOTLAND AUSTRIA BELGIUM TURKEY HUNGARY CZECH REP. SWEDEN GERMANY PORTUGAL SLOVAKIA CROATIA DENMARK
ROUND ROBI	N SESSION 3
 RUSSIA NETHERLANDS GREECE NORWAY SPAIN ENGLAND DENMARK CROATIA SLOVAKIA PORTUGAL GERMANY SWEDEN CZECH REP. 	ITALY ROMANIA ISRAEL FINLAND LITHUANIA POLAND SERBIA & MONT. FRANCE SCOTLAND AUSTRIA BELGIUM TURKEY HUNGARY
ROUND ROBI	N SESSION 4
 CZECH REP. HUNGARY TURKEY BELGIUM AUSTRIA SCOTLAND FRANCE SERBIA & MONT. POLAND LITHUANIA FINLAND ISRAEL ROMANIA 	RUSSIA SWEDEN GERMANY PORTUGAL SLOVAKIA CROATIA DENMARK ENGLAND SPAIN NORWAY GREECE NETHERLANDS ITALY

GIRLS TEAMS







21 CZECH REP.

22 POLAND

23 GERMANY

24 SWEDEN

26 HUNGARY

25 NETHERLANDS

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Bye

AUSTRIA

ITALY

ISRAEL

LATVIA

BELGIUM

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 2

ROUND ROBIN SESSION I

Match		١N	1Ps	۷	′Ps
21 BELGIUM	Вуе	0	0	18	0
22 LATVIA	HUNGARY	104	32	25	2
23 ISRAEL	NETHERLANDS	49	51	15	15
24 ITALY	SWEDEN	41	77	8	22
25 AUSTRIA	GERMANY	74	25	25	5
26 CZECH REP.	POLAND	30	66	8	22

RANKING AFTER SESSION I

I AUSTRIA	25
2 LATVIA	25
3 POLAND	22
4 SWEDEN	22
5 BELGIUM	18
6 ISRAEL	15
7 NETHERLANDS	15
8 CZECH REP.	8
9 ITALY	8
10 GERMANY	5
II HUNGARY	2





ROUND ROBIN SESSION 3

21	SWEDEN	Вуе
22	NETHERLANDS	GERMANY
23	HUNGARY	POLAND
24	BELGIUM	CZECH REP
25	LATVIA	AUSTRIA
26	ISRAEL	ITALY





ROUND ROBIN SESSION 4

21	ISRAEL	Вуе
22	ITALY	LATVIA
23	AUSTRIA	BELGIUM
24	CZECH REP.	HUNGARY
25	POLAND	NETHERLANDS
26	GERMANY	SWEDEN

Lost and Found

A camera has been found in the Village Cinemas Please go to the EBL office to collect it.

Panos welcomes you all to Prague



Panos Gerontopoulos, EBL Youth Committee Chairman

I'm very glad to welcome all of you here as junior bridge returns to it's birth place. 36 years after the first event took place in Prague we are back to celebrate the occation. What was then a small tournament, with only ten countries participating, has now grown to a big event with 52 teams from 27 countries competing in three series.

We are very happy that our return to Prague is marked by the inauguration of the Girls Series, the first competition of its kind worldwide.

Finally our gratitude goes to the Czech Bridge Federation, a small but dynamic organisation, which proves to the world that spirit and strength do not neccessarily combine with magnitude and faith. We thank them most sincerely for offering this organisation.

I wish all participants to have a good time in Prague and I hope that everybody will leave satisfied that they have reached their personal goals.

Panos Gerontopoulos Chairman of the EBL Youth Committee

Teams and Players' Photos

Following worldwide demand from CNN, The Associated Press and Reuters, one of the world's leading photographers, Maria Plompi, has been engaged by the Championships to help your immortalisation. Maria will be taking photos of each team and its members, according to a schedule to be published in this bulletin. The photo will be taken a short time before the beginning of each match.

All members of a team must be present.

If the team is not complete they will be called back again.

Maria has a difficult job - with about 400 people present here she has a mammoth task to perform. Please make her job easier by showing up as required. The whole procedure takes only a few minutes for each team; a small price for immortality.

Panos Gerontoupolos

Schedule Monday August 2nd

14.00 Poland, Austria, Italy - all from the Girls Series. We'll meet outside the playing building with the captain (and coach) of the teams present too. Please wear a national sign so I can recognise you (even from a distance...).

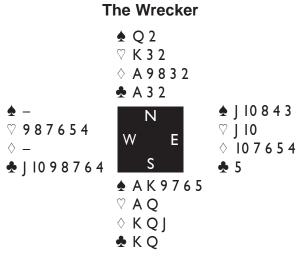
Maria Plompi EBL Photographer

Double Dummy Problem

don't know if this sort of thing is available in your country but, in England, there is a whole range of everyday items created especially for bridge players. For example, you can get suit-symbol shaped sugar lumps, a suit-symbol shaped mould for icecubes, cups, plates, handbags etc, decorated with pictures of playing cards. You name it, it exists.

There is a company which has created a series of teatowels, each of which is designed as a double dummy problem. Each day during these Championships we will be publishing one of these problems, just to warm you up over your breakfast for the more serious bridge to come.

Incidentally, if these goods are your kind of thing, take a look at www.mrbridge.co.uk. $% \left({{{\left[{{{\rm{c}}} \right]}}_{{\rm{c}}}}_{{\rm{c}}}} \right)$



Contract: 7♠ Opening Lead: ♣J

The Solution of the problem is on page 12.

The PABF Youth Teams 2004

Though the Zonal Qualifying competitions are only played in oddnumbered years, the Pacific Asia Bridge Federation hold Championships every year, though the 2004 event was known as the PABF Congress. It was held at the Grand Hotel, Taipei, an excellent venue.

The Youth Teams saw a field of 15 teams, half from the host country and half the remainder from Hong Kong. Both these countries seem to have a large pool of youth players including, in striking contrast to England, a substantial number of female players. This may not be very politically correct of me, but if we could just import a dozen of these small slim young ladies, I would imagine we would suddenly attract a lot of new male youth players to our tournaments (if I were only 20 years younger – all right then 25).

The Youth teams was played as a complete round robin qualifier with the top eight playing a further round robin final. The draw worked out beautifully in the final with first playing second and third playing fourth in the final round with all four covered by 4 VPs. As it turned out, Taipei B demolished Lupus of Hong Kong by 25-5 to win the title, pushing their opponents down to fourth as Taipei A and Draco (Hong Kong) drew the other match.

Draco met Singapore A in an early match. It proved to be quite



Taipei B

low-scoring with only one major swing – not my idea of Youth bridge at all!

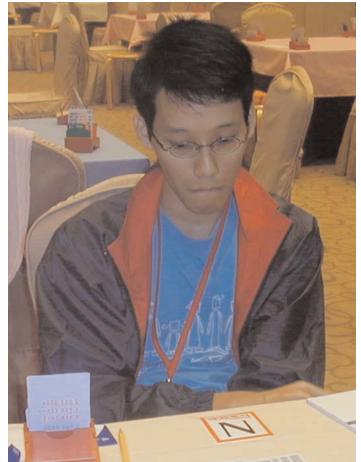
Board	13.All	Vul.	Dealer	North.
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	 ▲ K 9 2 ♡ Q 5 4 ◇ A K Q 5 4 2 ♣ 6 	
▲ 7 ♡ K J 9 8	N W E	▲ J 10 8 ♡ 10 7 2
◇ J 6 ▲ A K J 9 5 2	S	◇ 10 9 7 ♣ Q 10 4 3
	🛦 A Q 6 5 4 3	
	♡ A 6 3	
	♦ 8 3	
	& 87	

West	North	East	South
S Huang	Ιp	Ngin	Chiu
_	$ \diamond $	Pass	♠
INT	2 ◇	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4 ♡
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Wing	Ng	King	M Huang
—	$ \diamond$	Pass	♠
2♣	Dble	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

For Singapore, Kelvin Ng made a support double as North and Meiqi Huang jumped to 4^{\pm} , as who would not? After a club lead and trump switch, Huang had the rest for +680.

Si Jian Huang preferred to overcall INT to show both unbid suits – unless the agreement is that this is specifically four hearts and longer clubs, I can't say that I like the bid, but maybe that was the agreement? Yu Cheung Ip in turn preferred to stress the diamonds before worrying about spade support. That worked out beautifully for him when Wai Lap Chiu could make an invitational jump to $3 \pm$ at his next turn.



Yu Cheung Ip, Hong Kong

Ip had a wonderful hand in support of spades, given his $2\Diamond$ rebid, and he rightly cuebid $4\clubsuit$ on the way to game. The heart cuebid was just what he wanted to hear and his next move was to ask for key cards, bidding the slam when he got the required response.

The lead was the \heartsuit 9 to dummy's queen and Chiu cashed the \bigstar A and \bigstar Q then, fearing a bad diamond split, played off the top diamonds (though it is not quite clear when this will help to make on a four-one diamond break). The even split meant that Chiu had cost himself the overtrick as the fourth diamond was ruffed and over-ruffed. There was a trump entry to dummy so that was +1430 and 13 IMPs to Draco.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.					
West	North	East	South		
S Huang	Ip	Ngin	Chiu		
–	—	–	I ≜		
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass		
2 ♣	Pass	3♣	All Pass		
West	North	East	South		
Wing	Ng	King	M Huang		
-	–	–	I♠		
Pass	Pass	2♣	2◊		
2NT	3 \diamond	Pass	Pass		
4♣	4 \diamond	5♣	All Pass		

How would you balance with the East hand – a heavy overcall or a double with shortage in the other major? Neither is ideal and our two Easts chose different actions.

Ngin's choice of double worked out better this time as it persuaded Chiu to keep quiet and Ngin could make a simple raise of the $2\clubsuit$ response, ending the auction. The singleton spade lead netted the defence its ruffs to hold Huang to nine tricks; +110. Chun Lee King's $2\clubsuit$ overcall saw M. Huang bid the diamonds, when a take-out double looks rather more normal and would have caused considerable excitement in the Northern quarter due to the six-card heart suit. Note that $4\heartsuit$ is only defeated because two rounds of clubs forces South to ruff, thereby creating a second trump winner for West. Anyway, Yim Ka Wing showed the club support and eventually King took the push to $5\clubsuit$ over $4\diamondsuit$.

Here the lead was a diamond as, of course, South was on lead and did not know about the spade singleton. That meant just one down for -50 and 4 IMPs to Singapore A.

Prague, Czech Republic

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

▲ K 9 8 6 4 3 ♡ - ◇ Q 7 5 2 ♣ 9 8 2	N	▲ A ♡ K ◇ 9 ♣ Q	
West	North	East	South
S Huang	lp	Ngin	Chiu
_	_	Pass	🐣
2♠	Pass	4♠	Dble
Pass	5♡	All Pass	
West	North East	South	
Wing	Ng	King	M Huang
—	_	Pass	♣
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♡	3♠	All Pass

After identical starts to the two auctions, the respective Easts took very different approaches. Ngin raised all the way to $4\pm$ and when Chiu doubled for take-out had succeeded in driving her opponents to the five level – of course, Ip fancied his values to give 5% good play.

Well, 5° did indeed have good play – looking just at the North/South cards. Alas, the four-zero trump split meant that it could not be made in practice. Ngin cashed the A then switched to her low club, which did not trouble declarer unduly. According to the hand record, declarer won dummy's 10 then played the $^{\circ}Q$ from hand, the king being beaten by the ace. There were two trump losers; down one for -100.

King did not raise spades at all until after the opposition had found their heart fit. But here, with no momentum in the auction, North/South were unwilling to go the good heart game and sold out to $3 \pm$. With the ace and king of diamonds where they needed to be, that contract duly rolled home for +140 and a gain of 1 IMP for Draco.

The final score was 24-4 to DRACO, converting to 21-9 VPs.

Round 11 of the qualifying stage started with a possible grand slam on Board 1, but few pairs in any of the events managed to get there. One pair who did were the Draco (HK) representatives, Jacky Ip and Abby Chiu.

Boar	d 1. None Vul. De	aler North.
	 ▲ 6 4 3 2 ♡ 4 3 ◊ J 10 8 6 2 ♣ J 2 	
 ▲ A 9 ♡ K Q 9 8 6 2 ◇ A Q ▲ A 10 8 	N W E S ▲ K Q J ♡ J 10 7 ◇ K 9 7 4 ♣ 5 4 3	 ▲ 10 8 7 5 ♡ A 5 ◊ 5 3 ♣ K Q 9 7 6

West	North	East	South
Chiu		Ιp	
_	Pass	Pass	Pass
\square	Pass	l ≜ (i)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3 🙅	Pass
3 🛧	Pass	3♡	Pass
4🙅	Pass	4NT	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

(i) Like a forcing no trump

When Jacky Ip responded $I \triangleq$, effectively a forcing no trump, Abby Chiu decided to conceal the sixth heart to get his all-



SY Wang, Chinese Taipei

round strength across and give the partnership more room to explore the best game. Ip showed his clubs and, having shown a 5-3-3-2 shape, Chiu had something to spare so cuebid, just in case partner might be interested.

When he received a return cuebid of 3^{\heartsuit} , Chiu could see the possibility of seven if Ip had good trumps to go with the invaluable $^{\heartsuit}A$. Four Clubs was key-card for clubs and the response showed

19th EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

two key cards plus the queen of trumps. Knowing that his partner held \heartsuit A and at least \clubsuit KQxxx, Chiu could jump to a grand slam that was somewhat better than merely bringing in the two main suits; nicely done for +1440 and 14 IMPs when only game was reached in the replay.

In a big match from the final, between Taipei A and Taipei B, S Y Wang for Taipei B totally outplayed C W Liu of Taipei A on this deal:

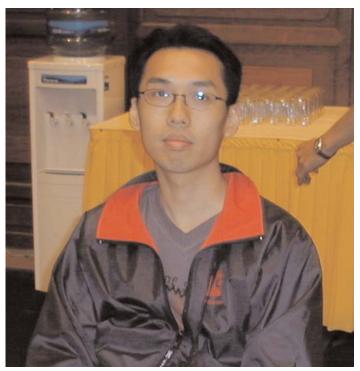
Board 8. None Vul. Dealer West.			
K 5 4 Q 2 Q J 9 7 3 10 9 2	 ▲ Q 10 7 ♡ 7 5 4 ◇ K 5 4 2 ▲ Q 8 6 N W E S ▲ Q 8 3 ♡ A K J 8 ◇ A 8 ◆ A 8 ◆ A 5 4 3 	2	
West YM Chen Pass Pass Pass All Pass	North CW Liu Pass I◊ INT	East YH Wu Pass Pass Pass	South CH Chien I♣ I♡ 3NT
West CY Tzeng Pass Pass Pass	North MC Liu Pass I♠ 3NT	East W Wang Pass Pass All Pass	South SY Wang I♣ INT

 \Diamond



Yee-Mei Chow, Hong Kong

Who would you expect to succeed, Liu, as North, on the lead of the



Kwok Fai Mak, Hong Kong

| to his queen, or Wang, South, on the lead of the $\Diamond Q$?

Liu won the $\clubsuit Q$ and played a spade to the queen and king.Y M Chen switched to the $\diamond 9$, which held, and continued with a low diamond to dummy's ace. Liu cashed the ace of hearts then finessed the $\bigstar 10$ to the jack. On the heart return he put in the jack, losing to the queen, and Chen returned a spade to the ace. Liu cashed out for down two; -100.

SY Wang received the diamond lead, which he ducked, but won the second diamond. He played a club to the queen and king and won the $\heartsuit 10$ switch with the ace to play ace and another club. East returned a low heart so Wang put in the eight, losing to the queen. Tzeng returned the $\diamond 9$ to dummy's king and Wang crossed to the $\heartsuit J$, cashed the long club, and then cashed the $\heartsuit K$. The king of hearts squeezed East in front of dummy's A10 and $\diamond 5$ to provide the ninth trick.

That was very well played for +400 and 11 IMPs to Taipei B. From a much less promising beginning, Wang had managed two tricks more than declarer in the other room.

There were a number of Youth players in the Women's Teams also.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.			
 ▲ A K 10 6 ♡ A 5 ◊ A Q 6 4 ④ Q 8 4 	 ▲ 8 4 3 2 ♡ Q 7 ◇ K 9 7 ◆ K J 10 2 N W E S ▲ Q 7 ♡ K J 8 3 ◇ 10 8 5 ▲ A 7 6 5 	 ▲ J 9 5 ♡ 10 9 6 4 2 ◊ J 3 2 ④ 9 3 	

At both tables West opened $1\diamond$ and was left to play there. For Cygnus (Hong Kong), Charmian Hor-Yung Koo led the queen of hearts and Joice Mandolang Tueje won the ace and ducked a club to Koo's ten. Koo continued with a second heart to the ten and jack and Pui-Yi Chan played back her low heart, on which Tueje pitched a spade.

Koo now played a club to her partner's ace and Chan played the $\heartsuit K$, ruffed with the six and over-ruffed. She was forced to ruff a club in dummy, and now played a diamond to the queen and king. A fourth club was ruffed with dummy's jack while throwing a spade from hand, and there was still the $\Diamond 10$ to lose for down one; -50.

Things went rather better for declarer, Yee-Mei Chow, at the other table, after Suci Amita Dewi had led a spade to the queen and ace.

Chow played a diamond to the jack and a second round to her ace before playing ace and another heart. When a spade came back, Chow won in dummy and led a diamond to the ten, queen and king, and had eight tricks, three diamonds, four spades and the heart; +90 and 4 IMPs to Cygnus.

And finally, Hong Kong Youth player, Kwok Fai Mak won the Open Pairs, partnering his non-playing captain, Dickie Lai.

New York Youth Championships and Camp

By Barry Rigal

Vise Is Nice!

Å

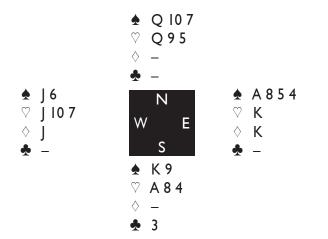
No, this is not the motto of the bridge camp, this is a tribute to the vise squeeze. You do not know what a vise is? Well, read on and find out. The deal comes from the Swiss Teams tournament.

Board 3. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

J 6 J 10 7 6 3 J 8 3 2 8 7	 ▲ Q 10 ◇ Q 9 ◇ A Q ▲ Q 6 N W S ▲ K 9 ◇ A 8 4 ◇ 97 ▲ A J 9 	5 5 4 ► ♥ ♦ ₽	A 8 5 4 2 K K 10 6 4 K 10 5
West	North	East	South
_	_	-	🐣
Pass	♠	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Let's look at the contract of Three No Trump declared by South. On a low diamond lead (a good choice by West) South ducks in dummy, and East puts in the ten and returns a spade, for want of anything better, to the nine and jack. Declarer wins cheaply in dummy, clears the clubs, and East is endplayed on the third round. His best bet is to play back a low spade, but declarer plays a heart to the queen and king and East has to concede the ninth trick one way or another.

Well Bjorn Serling was East and decided from the sight of dummy that this line of defense would be hopeless. So he varied the script by winning the first diamond with the ten, and returning a diamond. Declarer won and led a club to the ace and a club to the queen, a thoughtful play. Serling won the trick (to make sure declarer had an easy re-entry to hand) and cleared the diamonds, leaving himself with the high diamond. Now declarer ran the clubs, producing this ending:



On the last club both East and West pitched spades, while dummy threw a small heart. Declarer now led the \bigstar K, and Serling ducked, luring declarer into his trap. When South led another spade Serling took the ace and cashed the last diamond; in the two-card ending he had the \heartsuit K and the \bigstar 8, West the \heartsuit JIO, declarer the \heartsuit Ax. But what was dummy to discard from the \bigstar Q and the \heartsuit Qx? If he pitched a spade Serling would cash the eight, if he pitched a heart East would lead the \heartsuit K, pinning the queen and letting West win trick I3 with the jack.

This is a true vise squeeze; yes, declarer might have found a way home, but Serling defended very well to present him with the losing option.

New York Flashback

Here's a hand from the World Individual in New York, as one of our campers here in Nyack found a neat defense:

Board 19. Dealer East. East/West Vul.

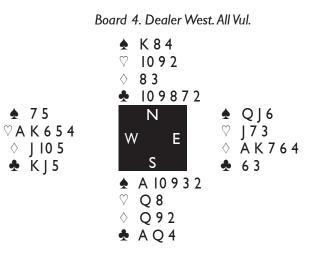
	▲ 10 6 ♡ A J 6 4 ◊ K J 10 ♣ J 7 6 4		hearts and finesse in This is the ending:
 ▲ - ♡ 9 5 3 ◇ A Q 9 7 5 3 ▲ K 9 5 3 	N W E S ▲ A Q 9 ♡ K 8 7 2 ◇ 8 4 ♣ A Q 8 2	 ▲ K J 8 7 5 4 3 2 ♡ Q 10 ◇ 6 2 ◆ 10 	 7 4 ↓ 10 -

West	North	East	South
– Pass	_ 4 ♡	Mansour 3 ≜ All Pass	Dble

George Mansour opened $3 \clubsuit$ at unfavorable vulnerability and North finished up declaring $4 \heartsuit$.

East led a club and dummy rose with the ace. When declarer ordered the $\heartsuit K$ George followed suit with the $\heartsuit Q$ (!). As a consequence declarer let the $\heartsuit 8$ run to Mansour's ten, who now gave his partner a spade ruff. West then cashed the $\diamondsuit A$ to put the contract one down, although as you can see North actually could have brought home an overtrick, if he gets everything right.

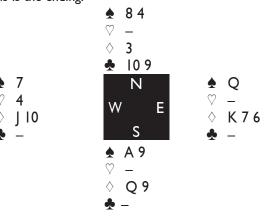
The Monday Afternoon Game



Aldo Gerli showed me a very nice deal where he had missed the winning play.

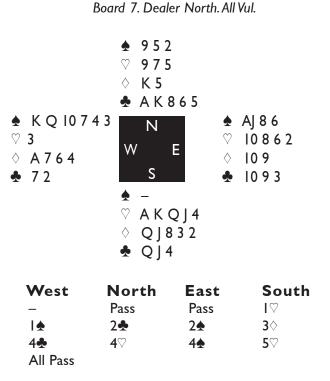


Both players had overstretched to a miserable contract but, when North led the club ten to his partner's ace, South sensibly shifted to a spade – but selected the ± 10 not the $\pm A$. North won the $\pm K$ and shifted to a diamond, allowing declarer a choice of options. Best is to play for the club fines and the heart queen falling. You win the $\heartsuit AK$ to drop the queen, then lead up to the spade queen-jack. When South wins and returns a club you need to finesse because of the awkward entry position. That line works; an equally elegant line though is to cash three rounds of hearts and finesse in clubs without playing a second spade. This is the ending:

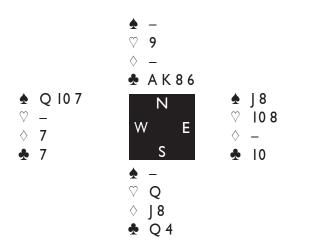


West pitches a diamond from dummy and forces South to let go of the spade nine – a strip-squeeze. Then he can throw South in with a spade to lead a diamond at the end.

The most elegant board of the event (rotated 180 degrees for ease of reading) featured some fine defense by my partner to produce an elegant ending.



My partner, Alessandro Cofini found the best defense when he led a spade. Declarer ruffed and drew two rounds of trumps before trying to sneak a diamond trick through. Again my partner defended very nicely by winning the diamond ace to play a second spade. Declarer ruffed (thus leaving himself with one less trump than me) and unblocked diamonds, crossed to the club queen and cashed the diamond queen to pitch dummy's spade. My best defense might be to discard a club, producing this ending:



South cashes his remaining club winner, then leads a top diamond. East ruffs and must return a spade, letting declarer ruff in dummy pitching his club from hand, and leads out winning clubs. When East ruffs in, South overruffs and cashes his diamond winner.

Finally, Gabby Feiler put forward this deal as his candidate for the

luckiest game ever... we think he has ways to go, particularly since he played the hand so nicely. (Rotated 180 degrees).

Board 21. Dealer South. N/S Vul.			
 ▲ A J 5 4 3 2 ♡ J 5 ◇ A 6 5 3 ◆ K 	 ▲ Q I0 ♡ Q 8 ◇ K Q ▲ A 7 3 W S ▲ K 7 0 ♡ K 10 ◇ 8 7 4 ④ Q J 9 	6 3 9 3 2 E ♡ 6 9 4	9 8 A 7 4 2 J IO 2 IO 8 6 5
West – Pass All Pass	North Pass INT	East I≜ 2♠	South Pass 3NT

Gabby won the spade lead with the ten and realized he had no entry to hand, so that his best chance was a singleton club king. So he put the club ace on the table, and when that card appeared he finessed against the club ten and cashed off all the clubs. West pitched three small diamonds so Gabby led a a diamond, knocking out West's entry, and then for good measure found the jack of hearts, to end up with a highly improbable overtrick!

Team Tactics(?) – The Sunday Afternoon IMP Pairs

There were some very exciting hands among the set the computer selected for the IMP Pairs on Sunday afternoon. Steve de Donder from Belgium reports on a 'solid' slam that rolled home:

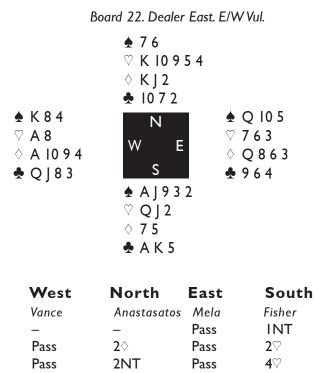
Board 9. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

	 ▲ K 7 3 ♡ 10 9 7 ◇ K 3 2 ▲ J 5 3 2 	
 ▲ J 6 5 4 ♡ Q 5 ◊ Q J 7 6 5 4 ♣ Q 	N E S S ▲ A 9 8 2 S ♡ 8 4 2 O ◇ 10 9 S ▲ 10 9 8 7 S	 ▲ Q 10 ♡ A K J 6 3 ◇ A 8 ▲ A K 6 4

West	North	East	South
Pisano	Feiler	de Donder	Gaffin
Pass	Pass	\bigcirc	Pass
♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4 ♡	Pass	4NT	Pass
5 🙅	Pass	6♡	All Pass

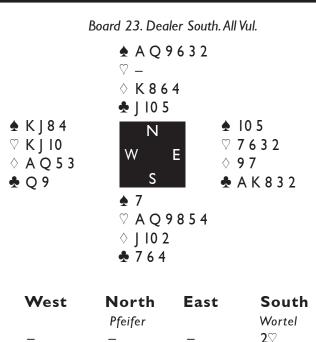
South led the $\Diamond10$ to dummy's queen, which held. Declarer continued with another diamond to the ace, cashed the $\heartsuit A$ and played a heart to the queen. Next he ruffed a diamond with the $\heartsuit K$ and laid down the $\heartsuit J.$ When trumps were 3-3, de Donder had all thirteen tricks and a couple of IMPs in the bag. All that this slam needed was 3-3 hearts, the diamond finesse and 3-2 diamonds, and no black-suit lead (even a club lead sets the slam because of the fact that this removes the late entry to the diamonds.)

Lotan Fisher is not a shy bidder - we all know that. He struck again in the next hand:



Lotan accepted his partner's invitation despite the minimum high cards because of the ruffing value and good trumps. West led the $\clubsuit Q$ to declarer's ace, who ran the \heartsuit J, and played a second heart when it held. In with the ace, Greg Vance found an excellent switch when he laid down the \diamond 9. But Lotan went up with the king, and continued with a spade to the nine and king. (The defense will not prevail even if East finds the inspired play of the spade queen at this trick). West now played a small diamond to his partner's queen, who switched to a club. But Lotan was not to be stopped. He won the \clubsuit K, overtook the \heartsuit Q with the king, played a spade to the jack and cashed two more tricks in spades to claim for just made and a double-digit number of IMPs.

Our next hero is Gerald Pfeifer from England, who ended up in a difficult 3NT contract, with chances for both sides:



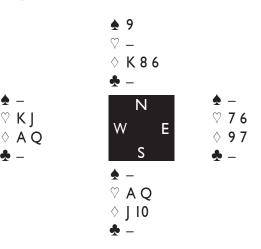
3NT is down on a club lead, because declarer does not have the communications to develop nine tricks without any help from the defenders. Even if he takes the club lead with the queen and plays a low spade, North can take the queen and play another club. Declarer will cash three more clubs and play $\triangleq 10$ to the ace, but North just takes the ace and exits in spades again. After West has cashed the \triangleq K as well he has reached the following four-card ending:

3NT

All Pass

Pass

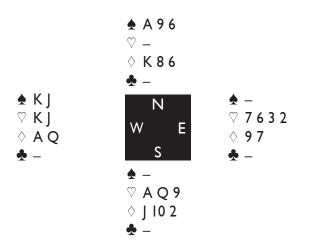
2NT



From here West is bound for defeat. If he exits in hearts South will take two tricks and play a diamond through, if he plays $\Diamond A$ and a diamond, North takes the rest of the tricks.

At the table Gerald received a spade lead to the eight and cashed five rounds of clubs. (the simplest line to make is to rely on 3-3 clubs and play back a spade at once to set up the second spade trick to go with five clubs and two red winners). The critical thing about Gerald's actual line is the discards he has to make from his hand. Had he discarded a spade, a heart and a diamond 3NT would have been a make as he now plays a heart to South's ace, who can do no better than switch to a diamond,. Declarer wins with the ace, cashes the $\heartsuit K$ and either endplays North in spades (if North has kept two spades and two diamonds) to get a diamond in the end; alternatively, he endplays him in diamonds to score the $\Diamond Q$ and a spade, if North has reduced himself to $\bigstar AQ6 \land K$.

Unfortunately our declarer discarded two diamonds and a heart and kept all his spades. Now the defenders have a chance to beat the contract as Pfeifer reached the following position after he ran the $\bigstar 10$ to North's queen:

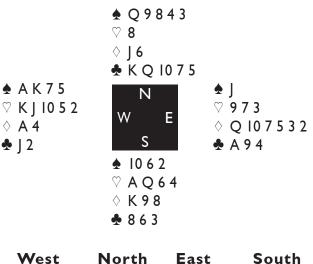


Now North can cash the $\bigstar A$ and exit with another spade to endplay declarer. So far West has only six tricks and won't score more than the $\bigstar K$ and the $\Diamond A$.

But why shouldn't an opponent err as well? When North tried to get off lead with a small spade, West took his 'last train home', won the trick and now endplayed North in spades, who, after cashing another spade, had to lead a diamond back into West's tenace.

Let's finish with another board Steve de Donder brought to the editor's attention, when his partner brought home a redoubled game, much to his delight:

Board 24. Dealer South. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Pisano	Ferrari	de Donder	Schonfeldt
_	_	_	Pass
\square	♠	2♡	Pass
4 ♡	Pass	Pass	Dble
Rdbl	All Pass		

Francesco Ferrari led the $\clubsuit K$ to dummy's ace. Simone Pisano then let the $\heartsuit 9$ run and continued with another heart. South hopped up with the ace to play back a club. North's $\oiint Q$ took the trick and he played a third club. Now declarer played the $\Diamond A$ and

a diamond to the jack, queen and king. Thomas Schonfeldt switched to a spade, but West won, ruffed a spade and played high diamonds through South to justify his redouble.

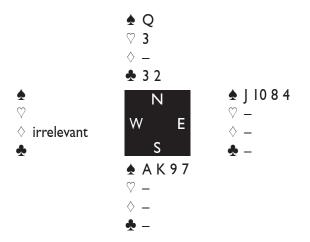
Still, there had been a chance to beat this contract. After South had won the $\Diamond K$ he should have led a heart. West will have to win this trick in his hand, can't get to dummy to enjoy his diamonds and therefore will have to lose two spades in the end.

This second event of the camp was won by Vassilis Vroustis, Greece and Ron Schwartz, Israel (North/South line) who scored +63 IMPs, and Michal Kopecky, Czech Republic and Kare Gjaldbaek, Denmark (East/West line) with a score of +65 IMPs.

We hope that this look back at last month's Junior action was of interest. Now, it is up to all playing here in Prague to play even more brilliantly than the players featured above. If you do, or it is your partner or an opponent who does so, please tell someone from the Daily Bulletin. We are also interested in disasters, but they have to be REAL disasters to be newsworthy.

Double Dummy Solution

Win the ace of clubs and lead the $\bigstar 2$ to the five (it does not benefit East to play a higher spade). Cash the king and queen of diamonds then overtake the $\Diamond J$ and lead the $\Diamond 9$, covered and ruffed. Next cash the ace of hearts then overtake the $\heartsuit Q$ with the king and cash the $\Diamond 8$, discarding the king of clubs. That leaves this ending:



When declarer leads any side-suit card off the dummy, East has no defence.

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?