

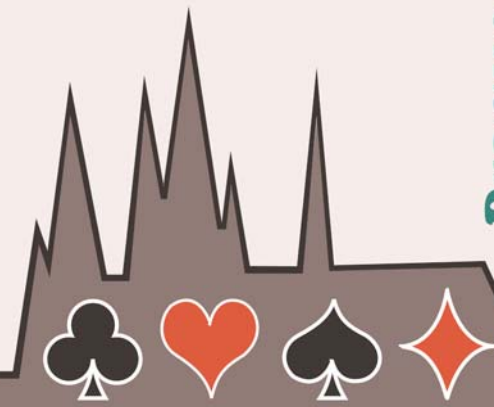


EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE
CZECH BRIDGE FEDERATION



DAILY BULLETIN

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19th European Youth Team Bridge Championships

Bulletin 9

Tuesday, 10 August 2004

Editor: Brian Senior - Co-editor: Peter Ventura - Layout Editor: Katialena Maneta - Photographer: Maria Ploumpi

POLISH DOUBLE ON THE CARDS



The Prague Castle

Was yesterday the day when the Polish Juniors won the European title? There are still four rounds to be played, but they stretched their lead over second-placed Hungary from 3 VPs to 23, and look unstoppable, having come back from 10-20 VPs down in Round 21 to defeat Germany by 18-12. Hungary's margin over the rest of the field has been halved. They are now 15 VPs ahead of Israel, then come Norway, France, Netherlands, England, Italy and Belgium. The qualifiers will surely come from this group.

Poland lead the Schools Championship by 25 VPs from Israel, then come Netherlands, 11 VPS further back, followed by the three Scandinavian countries, Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

CLOSING CEREMONY



Please inform the Hospitality Desk how many members of your teams will participate at the Closing Ceremony and Victory Banquet.

Thank you.

DEPARTURE DETAILS



Please let the Hospitality Desk know your Departure Details so that we can plan your transfers to the airport.

JUNIOR TEAMS



RESULTS



ROUND ROBIN SESSION 19

Match		IMPs	VPs
1	RUSSIA SWEDEN	56 39	19 11
2	CZECH REP. GERMANY	16 73	3.5 25
3	HUNGARY PORTUGAL	63 64	15 15
4	TURKEY SLOVAKIA	108 28	25 0
5	BELGIUM CROATIA	76 51	20 10
6	AUSTRIA DENMARK	49 66	11 19
7	SCOTLAND ENGLAND	33 39	14 16
8	FRANCE SPAIN	111 16	25 0
9	SERBIA & MONT. NORWAY	19 75	4 25
10	POLAND GREECE	92 30	25 3
11	LITHUANIA NETHERLANDS	29 113	0 25
12	FINLAND ITALY	48 66	11 19
13	ISRAEL ROMANIA	78 46	22 6

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 20

1	NORWAY RUSSIA	41 28	18 12
2	SPAIN GREECE	79 51	21 9
3	ENGLAND NETHERLANDS	28 48	11 19
4	DENMARK ITALY	11 68	4 25
5	CROATIA ROMANIA	79 4	25 1
6	SLOVAKIA ISRAEL	36 86	5 25
7	PORTUGAL FINLAND	83 20	25 3
8	GERMANY LITHUANIA	29 10	19 11
9	SWEDEN POLAND	32 58	10 20
10	CZECH REP. SERBIA & MONT.	51 59	14 16
11	HUNGARY FRANCE	39 54	12 18
12	TURKEY SCOTLAND	60 53	16 14
13	BELGIUM AUSTRIA	67 34	22 8

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 21

1	RUSSIA BELGIUM	28 37	13 17
2	AUSTRIA TURKEY	92 12	25 0
3	SCOTLAND HUNGARY	42 49	14 16
4	FRANCE CZECH REP.	38 43	14 16
5	SERBIA & MONT. SWEDEN	34 74	7 23
6	POLAND GERMANY	64 51	18 12
7	LITHUANIA PORTUGAL	30 68	7 23
8	FINLAND SLOVAKIA	98 27	25 2
9	ISRAEL CROATIA	44 60	12 18
10	ROMANIA DENMARK	61 60	15 15
11	ITALY ENGLAND	22 100	1 25
12	NETHERLANDS SPAIN	40 72	8 22
13	GREECE NORWAY	54 51	16 14



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 22

1	FINLAND RUSSIA
2	ISRAEL LITHUANIA
3	ROMANIA POLAND
4	ITALY SERBIA & MONT.
5	NETHERLANDS FRANCE
6	GREECE SCOTLAND
7	NORWAY AUSTRIA
8	SPAIN BELGIUM
9	ENGLAND TURKEY
10	DENMARK HUNGARY
11	CROATIA CZECH REP.
12	SLOVAKIA SWEDEN
13	PORTUGAL GERMANY

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 23

1	RUSSIA PORTUGAL
2	GERMANY SLOVAKIA
3	SWEDEN CROATIA
4	CZECH REP. DENMARK
5	HUNGARY ENGLAND
6	TURKEY SPAIN
7	BELGIUM NORWAY
8	AUSTRIA GREECE
9	SCOTLAND NETHERLANDS
10	FRANCE ITALY
11	SERBIA & MONT. ROMANIA
12	POLAND ISRAEL
13	LITHUANIA FINLAND

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 24

1	NETHERLANDS RUSSIA
2	GREECE ITALY
3	NORWAY ROMANIA
4	SPAIN ISRAEL
5	ENGLAND FINLAND
6	DENMARK LITHUANIA
7	CROATIA POLAND
8	SLOVAKIA SERBIA & MONT.
9	PORTUGAL FRANCE
10	GERMANY SCOTLAND
11	SWEDEN AUSTRIA
12	CZECH REP. BELGIUM
13	HUNGARY TURKEY

SCHOOLS TEAMS



RESULTS



ROUND ROBIN SESSION 8

Match		IMPs	VPs
21 AUSTRIA	Bye	0 0	18 0
22 SCOTLAND	NORWAY	11 81	2 25
23 HUNGARY	SWEDEN	46 89	6 24
24 CZECH REP.	ITALY	62 24	23 7
25 POLAND	NETHERLANDS	54 26	21 9
26 FRANCE	DENMARK	37 92	4 25
27 GERMANY	ENGLAND	62 23	23 7
28 ISRAEL	LATVIA	67 52	17.5 11.5

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 9

21 HUNGARY	Bye	0 0	18 0
22 CZECH REP.	SCOTLAND	74 22	25 5
23 POLAND	AUSTRIA	64 16	25 5
24 FRANCE	NORWAY	35 44	13 17
25 GERMANY	SWEDEN	33 81	5 25
26 ISRAEL	ITALY	31 48	11 19
27 LATVIA	NETHERLANDS	43 58	12 18
28 ENGLAND	DENMARK	46 43	16 14

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 10

21 POLAND	Bye	0 0	18 0
22 FRANCE	CZECH REP.	75 33	24 4
23 GERMANY	HUNGARY	60 37	20 10
24 ISRAEL	SCOTLAND	94 23	25 2
25 LATVIA	AUSTRIA	56 53	16 14
26 ENGLAND	NORWAY	62 16	24 6
27 DENMARK	SWEDEN	51 42	17 13
28 NETHERLANDS	ITALY	85 34	25 5



VUGRAPH MATCHES

Netherlands v France (Juniors) 10.00
Hungary v England (Juniors) 14.30
To Be Decided 19.00



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 11

21 NETHERLANDS	Bye
22 ITALY	DENMARK
23 SWEDEN	ENGLAND
24 NORWAY	LATVIA
25 AUSTRIA	ISRAEL
26 SCOTLAND	GERMANY
27 HUNGARY	FRANCE
28 CZECH REP.	POLAND

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 12

21 ISRAEL	Bye
22 LATVIA	GERMANY
23 ENGLAND	FRANCE
24 DENMARK	POLAND
25 NETHERLANDS	CZECH REP.
26 ITALY	HUNGARY
27 SWEDEN	SCOTLAND
28 NORWAY	AUSTRIA

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 13

21 NORWAY	Bye
22 AUSTRIA	SWEDEN
23 SCOTLAND	ITALY
24 HUNGARY	NETHERLANDS
25 CZECH REP.	DENMARK
26 POLAND	ENGLAND
27 FRANCE	LATVIA
28 GERMANY	ISRAEL



WARNING

There are a lot of pickpockets in the city centre, so please be careful.

SCHOOLS TEAMS

ROUND 5



ITALY

VS

ENGLAND



Italy and England lay fourth and sixth respectively after four rounds of the Schools series, well in contention for the medals. As it turned out, this closely fought match made little difference to either team's standing in the Championship.

2♥ and Andrea Manno raised to game. Being shut out of the auction did not pain Atthey unduly and he doubled the final contract. Laura MacDougall led a spade and declarer ducked to the king. Atthey played diamonds and two of those stood up, plus two aces for down two and a further 300 to England; +12 IMPs.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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



♠ 8 7 5 4
♥ 8 2
♦ 9 6 4
♣ 10 8 7 4

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Andrews	Di Franco	Graham	Delle Cave
—	—	2♥	Pass
3♥	Dble	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Manno	Atthey	Mistretta	MacDougall
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♣	2♥	Pass
4♥	Dble	All Pass	

For England, Michael Graham could open 2♥, hearts and a minor, and Philip Andrews raised pre-emptively to 3♥. Massimili Di Franco doubled then raised Guiseppe Delle Cave's 3♠ response to game. Delle Cave won the club lead and played a low spade away from the king, losing to the nine. Graham switched to the ♥K and declarer won the ace then played diamonds from the top. The lack of an entry to hand was his problem, of course. By permitting East to get a diamond ruff, Delle Cave went three down for—300, but the contract was always completely hopeless.

East passed at the other table and Jon Atthey was left to open the North hand in fourth seat with his side's strong bid of 2♣. Eugenio Mistretta overcalled

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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



♠ K 9 8 4 3
♥ A J 9 8
♦ 9 4
♣ 9 5

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Andrews	Di Franco	Graham	Delle Cave
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Manno	Atthey	Mistretta	MacDougall
—	—	—	2♦
Dble	2♥	Dble	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both East/West pairs bid to the no trump game, though the Italians had a harder task after MacDougall's 2♦ opening, weak with at least four-four in the majors. However, the contract was played from different sides of the table.

Against Andrews the lead was the jack of spades, covered all round. He played the ♣K to Di Franco's ace and a second spade ensured the contract's defeat. Andrews was two down for—200.

At the other table East was declarer and MacDougall's lead of a low spade went to the jack and queen, presenting Mistretta with both a third spade

trick and a third stopper in the suit. He finessed the $\diamond 10$ at trick two and that lost to the jack. Back came the $\heartsuit 6$ heart for the king and ace and a second heart round to the ten gave declarer his ninth trick; +600 and 13 IMPs to Italy.

England led by 28-25 after 11 boards, then came the next big swing:

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

<p>\spadesuit A 3 \heartsuit A 8 3 \diamond 9 8 7 \clubsuit Q 10 8 7 3</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		<p>\spadesuit K Q 9 6 5 2 \heartsuit K 10 \diamond K Q 5 \clubsuit A J</p>	<p>\spadesuit 8 \heartsuit Q 6 5 \diamond 10 6 4 2 \clubsuit 9 6 5 4 2</p>
N												
W	E											
	S											

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Andrews	Di Franco	Graham	Delle Cave
2 \clubsuit	Pass	2NT	Pass
3 \spadesuit	Pass	4NT	Pass
5 \clubsuit	Pass	5 \spadesuit	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Manno	Atthey	Mistretta	MacDougall
Pass	Pass	1 \spadesuit	Pass
2NT	Pass	3 \clubsuit	Pass
3 \spadesuit	Pass	4 \clubsuit	Pass
4 \diamond	Pass	4NT	Pass
5 \diamond	Pass	5 \spadesuit	All Pass

Andrews opened 2 \clubsuit , weak with at least four spades, and Graham enquired, discovered a maximum then asked for key cards. Not liking the reply, Graham signed off in 5 \spadesuit . Graham won the diamond lead in hand and played a spade to the ten and ace. When Di Franco now switched to a low heart, he went up with the king, and that was eleven tricks for +450.

Mistretta/Manno also reached the five level under their own steam. MacDougall led a club and declarer won the king then crossed to the $\diamond K$ and threw the $\diamond A$ on the $\clubsuit A$, ruffed the last diamond and played a heart up. When Atthey played low without a flicker, Mistretta put in the ten and was one down; —50 and 11 IMPs to England.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

<p>\spadesuit Q J 7 \heartsuit A Q 9 8 2 \diamond 6 5 \clubsuit A 6 4</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		<p>\spadesuit 10 9 2 \heartsuit K J 10 6 3 \diamond 9 7 4 \clubsuit K 8</p>	<p>\spadesuit A K 8 5 4 \heartsuit — \diamond J 10 8 \clubsuit J 10 5 3 2</p>
N												
W	E											
	S											

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Andrews	Di Franco	Graham	Delle Cave
—	—	—	1 \diamond
1 \heartsuit	Pass	1 \spadesuit	2 \diamond
Pass	Pass	2 \spadesuit	Pass
Pass	3 \diamond	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Manno	Atthey	Mistretta	MacDougall
—	—	—	Pass
1 \heartsuit	Pass	1 \spadesuit	Pass
1NT	Pass	3 \clubsuit	Pass
4 \spadesuit	All Pass		

The English East/West pair seriously undercompeted on this deal and left their opponents to play 3 \diamond Andrews led three rounds of spades and Delle Cave ruffed the third round and played a low club. Andrews took his ace and switched to ace and another heart for Graham to ruff; down one for —100.

MacDougall did not open the South hand and the Italians had a free run to 4 \spadesuit . MacDougall led three rounds of diamonds, Mistretta ruffing the third round in dummy. He drew three rounds of trumps then



Eugenio Mistretta, Italy

played the ♣J, which was ducked by both defenders! Declarer just gave up a club now and had ten tricks for +420 and 8 IMPs to Italy.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

♠ K 10 8 4 ♥ 2 ♦ A Q J 9 ♣ 8 7 6 3	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ A J 7 5 2 ♥ A K 5 ♦ K 7 4 ♣ A Q	♠ 9 6 ♥ Q J 10 6 4 3 ♦ 8 5 3 ♣ 10 2
N												
W	E											
	S											

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Andrews	Di Franco	Graham	Delle Cave
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Manno	Atthey	Mistretta	MacDougall
—	—	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Both East/West pairs bid smoothly and confidently to the top spot of 6♠, Italy after a 2NT opening and Stayman enquiry, England after a forcing club and 2NT rebid. Flat at +1010 when both declarers got the trumps right.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

♠ 8 ♥ A K Q 10 ♦ 5 4 ♣ A Q 9 6 4 3	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ 9 6 5 ♥ J 4 2 ♦ K 9 3 2 ♣ K 8 2	♠ Q 10 7 4 ♥ 8 7 3 ♦ A J 10 ♣ 10 7 5
N												
W	E											
	S											

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Andrews	Di Franco	Graham	Delle Cave
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♠	Pass	3♠
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Manno	Atthey	Mistretta	MacDougall
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♠
Dble	Pass	3♣	All Pass

MacDougall's quiet 2♠ raise allowed her opponents to play at a comfortable level. There were three loser in 3♣, +130.

Delle Cave's pre-emptive jump to 3♠ made it more difficult for the English East/West pair, who bid to game — but then would you not be happy to bid game on the position of a missing ace, particularly when the hand you require to hold that ace has overcalled? Five Clubs had to go one down for —100 and a further 6 IMPs to Italy.

The final score in the match was 40-39 to Italy, 15-15 VPs.

But what about that last board—anyone for 4♥? The heart game is quite cold once trumps divide evenly, irrespective of the position of the ♦A. That may make it less good than 5♣, but it is still a plausible contract. And, sure enough, 4♥ was played at just one table in the two Championships.

Netherlands v Turkey

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Eskizara	V Munnen	Dalkilic	Groenenboom
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♠
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass

When Turkey's Omer Eskizara rebid 3♥ with the West cards, Basar Dalkilic asked for a spade stop then tried 4♥ on his three-card support, which Eskizara was delighted to pass. No problem, +620.

It is one of those coincidences that we always notice, as opposed to all the coincidences that don't happen, which we take for granted, but the other table at which East/West reached the heart game was in the same match!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Barendregt	Seker	Ritmeijer	Paksoy
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

When Netherlands' Erwin Barendregt also reversed into 3♥, Basar Doga Seker competed with 3♠ on the North cards and Richard Ritmeijer simply bid 4♥. But now Serhat Ozer Paksoy found the 4♠ save for Turkey. With the diamond onside, Seker had to lose only three hearts and a club; down one for —100 but 11 IMPs to Turkey. Netherlands had the last laugh, however, as, despite this board they ran out winners by 21-9 VPs.

All That Glitters is not Gold

By Chris Dixon

Large penalties are often a feature of the junior game but sometimes a player expecting to reap a sizeable penalty can be brought down to earth with a nasty bump. Consider this hand from the Round 15 Scandinavian clash between Norway and Denmark in the Junior Series.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ringseth	Houmoller	Kippe	Jensen
—	INT	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
5♦	Dble	All Pass	



Hakon Kippe, Norway

Jonas Houmoller for Denmark must have been hoping for a telephone number penalty here but, when his partner led the ♥J, he was disappointed not to see the ♣K in dummy. Still, the position of the ♦10 at least assured that the contract would be defeated. Or so he thought!

Hakon Kippe led a club at trick two, taken by North who continued with the ♠K. Declarer cashed the ♣K, ruffed a spade then a club. Now a diamond to the nine and king was followed by two winning hearts and a second spade ruff. In the three-card ending, declarer just had to throw North in with a trump to be able to claim the last two tricks and +550.

In the Open Room the contract was INT making eight tricks, giving Norway 10 IMPs.



Sejr Andreas Jensen, Denmark

Books For Sale!



Brian Senior has a limited number of copies of the book of the **2003 World Youth Team Championships** in Paris.

They are available in the Bulletin Office, price **400 CzkKr** (or an equivalent amount in Euros, British Pounds or US Dollars).

The 128 A4 pages include coverage of every board from the semi-finals and final, as well as the pick of the action from the round robin stage.

The Bearded One

What do junior international bridge players do when not playing bridge? Well, I suppose some of them might attend art galleries, sing in madrigal choirs or be members of a corps de ballet. Maybe some are lay preachers, children's nurses or landscape gardeners. But for many the answer is that they play cards. Spreading like wildfire is the popular international game of Barbu.

Barbu (the bearded one) is the king of hearts and is the name of a card game for four players playing as individuals. The game is loosely based on the Polish variation of the game 'Hearts' known as Kierki. In Barbu, there are seven different games most of which are variants of misere. Each player must, during the course of a complete game, deal seven times and must select the game type best suited to his or her hand. Each game type may only be selected once by each player. These are the hand types:

No Tricks	Each trick costs 2 points	-26
No Hearts	Each heart taken costs 2 points except the ace which costs 6	-30
No Queens	Each queen taken costs 6 points	-24
No Last Two	Last trick costs 20, penultimate trick costs 10	-30
No King of Hearts	The Barbu. Player taking the trick including this card loses 20	-20
Trumps	Positive hand with dealer choice of trumps. Each trick wins 5	+65
Domino	Dealer choice of starting card, First out scores 45, second 20, third 5 and last loses 5	+65

There are some special rules of play. In the two heart games (No Hearts and No King of Hearts), hearts may not be led to any trick unless the leader holds only hearts. Hearts may, however, be discarded. In Trumps, you are obliged to ruff if unable to follow suit (unless to do so would necessitate under-ruffing) and you must play higher in trumps if possible. In all games (including domino) the dealer is first to play. All negative hands are played with no trumps.

What makes the game unique is the feature of doubles. Each player except the dealer has the right to double all players or specific players. If doubled, players including the dealer may redouble, although there is only one round of doubling. The effect of a double is to increase the score between the doubled players by the difference between the points scored. On the two positive games, players may only double the dealer and, during the course of dealer's seven choices, each of the other three players must double the dealer at least twice.

A complete game is 28 deals and generally takes between one hour and one and a half hours. Keeping track of the score is complicated and a computer scoring program is recommended. However, there is a growing community of international Barbu players playing on line. If you would like to have a go, visit www.barbu.co.uk where you will see further details and instructions. You will have to download a small executable but there is no cost either for the software or for playing. Occasionally, duplicated tournaments are organised (generally in England) but there are many English, Italian and American players on line in addition to players from many other countries.

If you would like any further information, please contact Chris Dixon (England Juniors NPC), Gerben Dirksen (Germany Juniors) or Fabio Lo Presti (Italy Juniors) all of whom are regular players.

Double Dummy Solution

Declarer plays low from dummy and wins the king. He plays a heart to the ace then ruffs a heart, runs the ♣J, then plays a club to the ace and ruffs another heart. A diamond to the queen allows declarer to ruff the last heart, and now he plays a diamond to the ace and ruffs a diamond. Finally, he cashes the ♣K and ruffs a club with the jack, leaving the ace of trumps to win the final trick.

an implausible ♠10 opening lead. Declarer can eliminate everything and play ace and another spade for an endplay to hold his spade losers to one. But that option is not available in 5♥ as declarer does not have sufficient trumps for the endplay. The defence led ace and another diamond and Nurmi eventually went one down for —100.

The lack of a diamond raise meant that there was less pressure in the Open Room auction. Brink doubled 3♦ for take-out then jumped to 5♣, Buijs having already had an opportunity to get the heart support off his chest so that there was no temptation to go on. Now Kanervo took the last guess, generally a losing approach if at all avoidable. He was right, in the sense that 5♣ was making and 5♦ doubled a cheap save, but I don't like the way he bid the hand. There were four obvious losers in the side suits but that was all; —300 for 9 IMPs to Netherlands, who now led by 39-10.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

♠ Q 10 6 2 ♥ 3 ♦ J 8 7 3 2 ♣ 7 6 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 5 ♥ 9 8 6 4 2 ♦ K 10 9 4 ♣ Q J	♠ K 8 3 ♥ A K Q J 5 ♦ Q 6 ♣ 9 8 5
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ A 9 7 4 ♥ 10 7 ♦ A 5 ♣ A K 10 4 3												

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Groenenboom	Nurmi	V Munnen	Backstrom
Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kanervo	Brink	Kinnunen	Buijs
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dble
2♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Van Munnen opened a strong no trump and was left to play there—all very peaceful. Backstrom cashed five club tricks and declarer kept the right cards to come to the last five tricks for down two; —200.

Kinnunen opened in his strong five-card heart suit. I don't know why Kanervo felt obliged to show his diamonds with that weak hand, but perhaps he was

making up for his failure to bid at the first opportunity on the previous deal. When 2♦ came round to him, Buijs doubled again and Brink was happy to defend. Kinnunen converted to 2♥ and Brink doubled that on his five low trumps. Buijs cashed three rounds of clubs, Brink pitching a spade on the third round. Now ace and another spade gave him a ruff.

The contract was booked for three down now, either by playing three rounds of diamonds to promote a trump trick for the defence, or by crossing to the ♦A and giving North a second spade ruff. According to the hand record, the defence actually led to the ♦A and played another spade, but the outcome was only down two for 500. Something odd must have happened. Anyway, Netherlands had another 7 IMPs and led by 46-10.

Board 17. None Vul. Dealer North.

♠ Q J 8 6 3 2 ♥ A ♦ A K 4 ♣ K 5 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ — ♥ 4 3 ♦ Q J 6 5 2 ♣ A Q 10 7 6 2	♠ A 7 5 ♥ K Q 10 7 6 ♦ 10 8 ♣ J 9 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ K 10 9 4 ♥ J 9 8 5 2 ♦ 9 7 3 ♣ 8												

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Groenenboom	Nurmi	V Munnen	Backstrom
—	Pass	Pass	2♦
2♠	3♥	4NT	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kanervo	Brink	Kinnunen	Buijs
—	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Backstrom's 2♦ opening showed both majors, weak. When Groenenboom overcalled 2♠ and Nurmi competed with 3♥, it was quite impressive that the Dutch pair were on the same wavelength regarding the meaning of Van Munnen's jump to 4NT — I can imagine plenty of players who would just assume it was asking for key cards. Groenenboom liked his controls so much that he jumped to the club slam. Able to ruff the second heart in hand, Groenenboom had 13 easy tricks for +940.

Kinnunen opened 2NT to show a weak hand with both minors. Kanervo's 4♠ response seems misdirected in the sense that there was no reason to believe that the hand had to be played with spades as trumps. Did the methods not include a forcing 3♠ bid or equivalent, so that West could get a feel for his partner's liking (or lack of same) for spades? There were four trump losers and, in my view, justice was done when 4♠ therefore had to fail by a trick; —50 and 14 IMPs to Netherlands, increasing their lead to 60-10.

It is not difficult to create a structure where West can show his spades then, when East says he doesn't like them, make a forcing bid in a minor. Then even slam might be reached, just as it should be if West sets a minor as trumps from the start and forgets about spades.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Groenenboom	Nurmi	V Munnen	Backstrom
—	—	2♠	Pass
2NT	3♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kanervo	Brink	Kinnunen	Buijs
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♥	All Pass	

The Open Room auction was quite simple, with Kanervo opening a canape 1♦ and everyone passing over Brink's 1♥ overcall. Kinnunen led a spade to the queen and ace and Brink returned the ♠J for Kanervo's king. He won the ♣Q switch and tried to cash a second club but Kanervo could ruff and switch to diamonds. Brink came to three trumps and two black aces for down two; —200.

Van Munnen's two-suited weak 2♠ opening made for a very different auction in the Closed Room.

Groenenboom's 2NT response was an enquiry and now Nurmi overcalled in his long but weak heart suit. Groenenboom knew what to do to 3♥. Nurmi won the spade lead and led a low heart, Van Munnen winning his bare nine. That did not look to be a particularly auspicious start for declarer but it didn't actually matter all that much — at the other table West had made all five of his hearts by taking two club ruffs. Nurmi also made five tricks, but that meant that he was four down doubled for —1100, and that gave Netherlands another 14 IMPs and a 74-10 lead. This was getting very ugly for Finland.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Groenenboom	Nurmi	V Munnen	Backstrom
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kanervo	Brink	Kinnunen	Buijs
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Long suit first or second suit first, the two Wests were in similar positions over 2NT. Groenenboom chose to go on to the vulnerable game while Kanervo, looking at nothing much more than he had already promised, judged to pass.

Van Munnen's initial 1♥ response convinced Backstrom to look elsewhere for his opening lead and he chose a low spade, for his partner's king. Nurmi switched to a club, ducked to the bare king, and Backstrom went back to spades, Nurmi taking the ace and, in turn, switching back to clubs. Van Munnen had nine tricks now without having to worry about the

diamond position; +600.

Hearts had not been bid at the other table so it was natural for Buijs to lead that suit. Dummy's jack was headed by the king and a the suit was cleared. Kinnunen tried to split the diamonds without success then tried the club finesse. When that lost he had only one more trick to come; down three for —300 and 14 IMPs to Netherlands, 88-10.

Board 20. All Vul. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Groenenboom	Nurmi	V Munnen	Backstrom
Pass	1♥	Dble	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	3♥
All Pass			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kanervo	Brink	Kinnunen	Buijs
Pass	1♣	INT	Dble
All Pass			

Nurmi could open a four-card major so did so. Over Van Munnen's double, Backstrom felt that he was somewhere between a constructive raise to 2♥ and to 3♥, so solved his problem with a quiet single raise but then bid a third heart at his next turn. Van Munnen cashed a top spade then switched to a trump, won declarer's spade play and led a second trump. He just had to be patient and wait for declarer to open up the minor suits and, in the fullness of time, came to three more tricks there for down one; —100.

Brink opened 1♣ as he was playing five-card majors, and Kinnunen made what he no doubt thought was a top-weight INT overcall, making Buijs's double slightly surprising to East. Buijs led a diamond to the king and ace and declarer would have been best advised to return the suit to establish a sixth winner for himself — who knows, maybe even the spades would divide evenly and he would have seven tricks? Instead, Kin-

nunen tried a low club to the nine and queen. The defence cleared the diamonds and Kinnunen won dummy's ten and took the club finesse. perhaps this was slightly naive play on declarer's part, because when the club finesse is working it is easy enough for the defenders to prevent his getting to dummy in diamonds to take it. Anyway, when the club lost, Buijs cashed the thirteenth diamond and switched to hearts and Kinnunen was two down for —500 and 12 IMPs to Netherlands.

Having scored 81 unanswered IMPs over the last seven deals, Netherlands must have been sorry the match had to stop. They won by 100-10 IMPs, 25-0 VPs, and moved into the top five.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Kees Tammens Reports

The GOOD

D.Bilde of Denmark proved that also in the Schools series you can expect some fine bridge. He was cool at the first trick and found a neat play to land his vulnerable 4♠ contract.

E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2♠
Dble	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

South put the ♣K on the table. Instead of taking this trick right away with the ace, the Danish declarer took stock. In the vugraph everybody realized that taking the trick would lead to the contract going down because North will get a club ruff. So declarer ducked this trick, the first right move. South switched to ♦Q for ♦A. Now the second necessary play was to prevent South from getting a ruff. Heart ace and a heart for ♥K from North, who played back a club. Declarer took ♣A, drew the last

trump and claimed, telling his opponents that the club loser went away on the fourth diamond.

Catherine Gerrard, npc of Scotland, was very happy with the performance of her team against Russia. She gave two very nice hands.

All Vul. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
	David		Hugh
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dble
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♣
3♥	4♣	4♥	Dble
All Pass			

It is certainly not easy to let opponents play 4♥ when you have a 6-5 fit. Why would you save when you can defeat the opponents' game. In the match between Russia and Scotland, David McCrossan and Hugh Bergson put up a nice defence to defeat 4♥. South led ♦A and then underled his AK of clubs. North won the trick and played a diamond, ruffed in South, together with ♠A good for down one.

Generously Catherine praised one of the Russian girls for her play in a difficult Five Diamond contract.

N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

East, Lena Kychanova declared Five Diamonds, doubled by North. The lead was the heart jack for the bare ace. From dummy came ♦10, covered with the jack and king. Next came ♠A and a spade ruff. A club from West

for North's ace, and a second club for East's king. A second spade ruff was followed by a club, ruffed in hand and the ♥K and ♥Q to dispose of two clubs from West. In the three-card ending, declarer ruffed a spade with ♦5, over-ruffed by North with ♦9, but the last two tricks were for ♦A4 in West.

The UGLY

E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

West	North	East	South
	Tim		Danny
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Tim Verbeek told the story about the way his partner Danny Molenaar handled an 'Exclusion Blackwood' sequence.

After the Two Club response, Danny refused to support straight away to Three Clubs because that would show extra values. So the Dutch Schools' player invented Two Diamonds. But when partner raised to game in diamonds he became afraid of his three-card diamond suit. So he took 5♦ to be the so dreadful Exclusion asking and bid slam in clubs. Down two, but a push; at the other table five clubs went down one, and doubled!

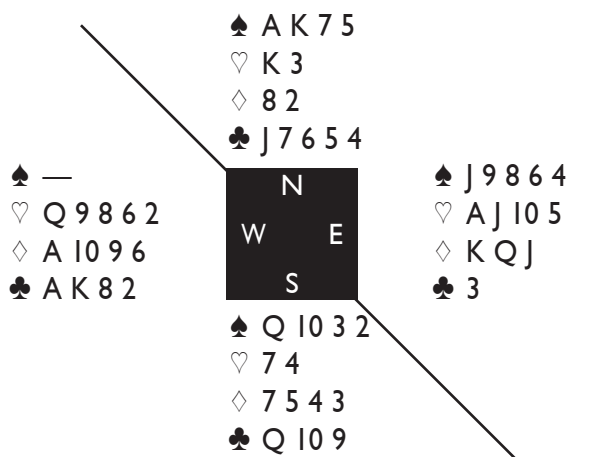


APPEAL NUMBER 3

Appeals Committee:

Steen Møller (Chairman, Denmark), Chris Dixon (England), Nissan Rand (Israel)
Herman De Wael sat in on the meeting to act as scribe
Junior Teams Round 14

Board 17. None Vul. Dealer North.



Comments:

Polish Club — 2♣ as Precision

Contract: Five Hearts, played by West

Result: 13 tricks, NS—510

The Facts:

South had explained his bid of 3♣ as 'to play'. North had alerted it and explained it was a 'better raise than if going through 2NT'. West explained that he had intended his bid of 5♥ as a slam try, asking for good trumps. East thought that, since 3♣ was constructive, 5♥ was a pre-empt against 5♣.

The Director:

Ruled there had been no Misinformation

Ruling:

Result Stands

Relevant Laws:

Law 40C (not applicable)

East/West appealed.

Present: All players and both Captains

The Players:

East stated that, since 3♣ was explained to him as constructive, he thought his partner was pre-empting. West explained that he too had played Precision, but his partner had not. West knew that 3♣ was weaker,

but he demanded that his partner also be told this.

South explained that they did have the agreement that after 2♣ — Pass, 3♣ is stronger than 2NT. But South thought it would be pre-emptive after the Double. North thought the sequences should retain their meaning.

The Committee:

Found that East should have realised that 5♥ cannot be pre-emptive. The misinformation, if any, did not cause the damage that East/West inflicted upon themselves. North/South should, however, be warned for not having full agreements in such a simple auction.

The Committee's decision:

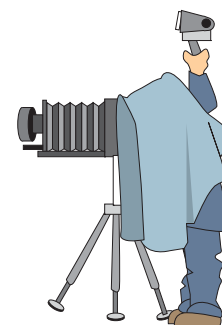
Director's ruling upheld.

Deposit: Returned

Teams and Players' Photos

Schedule Tuesday August 10th

- | | |
|-------|---------------------|
| 09:30 | Romania Juniors |
| | Sweden Juniors |
| | Sweden Schools |
| | England Juniors |
| | England Schools |
| 13:00 | Austria Juniors |
| | Austria Schools |
| | Italy Schools |
| | Lithuania Juniors |
| 14:00 | Hungary Juniors |
| | Belgium Juniors |
| | Hungary Schools |
| | Norway Schools |
| 18:40 | Netherlands Schools |
| | Poland Juniors |
| | Portugal Juniors |



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 Ploumpi
EBL Photographer

England U20s Profiles

The England U20s are well known as a team of would-be intellectuals but, as well as studying at three of the most prestigious Universities in England (The two oldest plus the most isolated), they are all studying the works of J.K. Rowling and Terry Pratchett, which they foolishly regard as their text books on Magic. They are all attempting to apply the Dark Arts to Bridge in order to obtain their doctorates from the Unseen University. Hence, you must not worry if strange conventions appear on any of the English Team's Convention Cards, which they immediately cross out, muttering something about their coach, or if they appear wearing badges with the wrong names on, or strange misspellings of their names. This is just due to the phenomenon of Magical leakage, as described in great detail by Terry Pratchett.

Already **Michael Graham** and **Phillip Andrews** have made all sensible conventions vanish from their system card. They can open all possible hand shapes but only when they have 0-10 points or more than 23. They can play under many names too, Phillip and Graham, Michael and Andrew, Michael and Graham etc, but by their works shall they know them, watch out for their trademark score of 670, especially non-vulnerable.

Laura MacDougall is studying how to play worse and worse trump suits for no losers. When presented with AQ765 opposite 1043, she thought this was far too easy so commenced with a ruff in the short suit. For more details see this week's edition of the Grimsby Advertiser, for which the whole team are roving reporters. Her present partner, **Jon Atthey** is studying how to make partners disappear. He has turned up every year with a different partner, quali-

fies to represent England with them, and then plays with them once or twice and then, yes, they just disappear. So say goodbye to Laura while you can.

Do not panic when **John De Souza** studies your convention card intently, for he appeared (very briefly) on a long running game show involving anagrams, and is still looking for his second nine-letter word, which by his rules must contain five vowels and four consonants. If he can't find such a word on your convention card he will make up a plausible sounding one. His partner, **Paul Wilson** is now a master of subtly sowing discord. If, say, the rest of the team want pizza, he wants a sandwich. But, somehow, it seems that it is always everyone else who is out of step! He even makes the rest of the squad feel guilty for supporting proper premier league sides, while he supports what is now called a championship side. (Who, after one match this season, are still not only pointless but have actually lost to the rather obscure team that Brian Senior supports).

The NPC, **Mel Starkings** will explain to anyone who will listen exactly how to execute the elusive Tombstone Squeeze but, as it involves sacrificing two stones, it is clearly not a bridge term. However, Mel feels that most Mind Sports are homeomorphic, so just nod politely as your eyes glaze over. The team manager, **Meg Starkings** was described as the team totty when she represented England Officials earlier this year. In common with the rest of the squad these two seem to wish that they all existed in a parallel universe. Could this be anything to do with England's recent form at Soccer?? Or Athletics?? Or even Cricket??

World Bridge University Championships 2004 in Istanbul (31st October to 6th November 2004)

Dear Bridge Friends,

From 30th October to 6th November 2004, the second World Bridge University Championships will be organized by FISU (International University Sport Federation) in Istanbul in Turkey. Your Bridge Federation will already have received an official invitation. Participation only costs around \$45 per person per day.

Up to now, about 15 countries have officially registered for these FISU-Championships. The list is available at www.unibridge.org (news), a new platform where you can find any information about University Bridge in the World. We hope of course that many more countries will participate. It is not too late!!



The Aya Sofia Church



The Aya Sofia Church from a Different Angle

If you are interested in participation: please contact your National Bridge Federation or Geert Magerman at geert.magerman@pandora.be.

For all details about the Championships in Istanbul: www.unibridge.org.

Geert Magerman
FISU Chairman Technical Committee Bridge

The University Bridge Network Around the World

Bridge is played at different Universities around the World. To know this University Bridge Network, the WBF launched in May 2004 a request for information to all National Bridge Federations. About 19 countries answered this request up to now.

From now on, the (partial) results of the request can be consulted at: www.unibridge.org, a new platform where you can find any information about University Bridge in the World.

We actually count about 51 University Bridge Clubs in 19 countries, but this count is of course not complete!

I invite you to have a look at the website www.unibridge.org to see if the information about your country is complete and/or if your country has replied to this request.

I invite you also to send all your remarks or additional information to: geert.magerman@pandora.be
Thank you in advance for your collaboration!

Geert Magerman

Astonishing Final Contract

When Serbia & Montenegro in the Juniors surprisingly defeated the Netherlands in Round 10, this board was one of many in their favour.

Board 14. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Buijs	Deljanin	Brink	Maksimovic
—	—	Pass	1♠
Dble	Pass	2♣	Dble
3♣	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
M. Jurisic	V Munnin	Popovic	Groenenboom
—	—	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Merijn Groenenboom opened 2NT (19.5-21 HCPs) with his strong balanced hand in the Closed Room and I think the Puppet sequence then followed would be copied by many pairs. East/West had four quick winners and Groenenboom was down one for—50.

Nikola Maksimovic did not want to open 2NT, showing 21-22 HCPs, with five spades and uncertain values, so he simply began the auction with One natural five-card Spade. East/West could interfere and find their club fit and Maksimovic could have doubled 3♣, but he believed it would be better to play in game. At this stage in the auction he showed his balanced hand with 3NT and Milan Deljanin was cool enough to pass, despite knowing that they were sitting on a 5-4 fit in spades. The Dutch pair Ruben Buijs and Niek Brink were astonished when it turned out to be a great decision since 3NT was cold. That was +400 and 10 impressive IMPs for Serbia & Montenegro.

THE OUTING

Yet another beautiful summer's day helped to make Sunday's outing a great success, being the perfect conditions for a gentle cruise down the Vltava River. Our spies tell us that the first barrel of beer was free, though they were disappointed to have to pay later in the afternoon. No doubt the combination of hot sunshine and ice-cold beer helped to set a mood where the Danish team, for one, was dancing on the roof of the boat, accompanying the local musicians, a saxophonist and accordionist, who were entertaining everyone onboard.

Later in the day there was a visit to Prague Castle, where there was plenty of interest to be seen. After that, back in time for dinner and, though this will no doubt be vigorously denied if a team's captain or coach is within earshot, a less official visit to some of the many fine bars in this wonderful city of Prague. After all, with beer at these prices, how can anyone afford NOT to drink?

