



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE
CZECH BRIDGE FEDERATION



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Bulletin 10

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Poland Almost There



Karlov Bridge, with Chapel Francis of Assisi in the Background

The Polish Juniors suffered a scare yesterday when they lost 6-24 to Israel, to close the top of the rankings right up, but they recovered with a 23-7 win over Croatia in the last match of the day and, with just one round to play are 12 VPs clear of second-placed Israel. The Israelis in turn head Hungary by 15.5 VPs, and the Hungarians have a fight on their hands to stay in the medals, 3 VPs ahead of Norway. France should take the fifth qualifying spot if they don't blow up in the last round. Should they falter, Belgium, Netherlands or England could take advantage.

With two rounds to play Poland lead the Schools by 28.5 VPs. They must face second-placed Israel in the last round, but may be home and dry by then. Netherlands lie third, 2.5 VPs behind Israel, while Norway could get into the medals if either Israel or Netherlands falter.



CLOSING CEREMONY

The Victory Banquet and Prize-Giving Ceremony will be held at 20.30 this evening in the Main Hall of the National House of Smichov. That is the playing area of the Open and Closed Rooms.

The Prize-Giving will take place in what has been the Open Room, where there is a stage. The Banquet will be held in both rooms.

IMPORTANT

Please, if your team has not yet informed Hospitality how many intend to participate, let the Desk know as soon as possible this morning.

JUNIORS TEAMS



RESULTS



ROUND ROBIN SESSION 22

Match		IMPs	VPs
1	FINLAND	RUSSIA	35 38 14 16
2	ISRAEL	LITHUANIA	69 37 22 8
3	ROMANIA	POLAND	32 32 15 15
4	ITALY	SERBIA & MON.	91 12 25 1
5	NETHERLANDS	FRANCE	34 41 14 16
6	GREECE	SCOTLAND	36 64 9 21
7	NORWAY	AUSTRIA	57 36 19 11
8	SPAIN	BELGIUM	37 57 11 19
9	ENGLAND	TURKEY	37 46 13 17
10	DENMARK	HUNGARY	22 59 7 23
11	CROATIA	CZECH REP.	54 34 19 11
12	SLOVAKIA	SWEDEN	32 50 11 19
13	PORTUGAL	GERMANY	55 38 19 11

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 23

1	RUSSIA	PORTUGAL	73 50 20 10
2	GERMANY	SLOVAKIA	74 24 25 5
3	SWEDEN	CROATIA	76 45 21 9
4	CZECH REP.	DENMARK	66 65 15 15
5	HUNGARY	ENGLAND	48 68 11 19
6	TURKEY	SPAIN	88 44 24 6
7	BELGIUM	NORWAY	42 56 12 18
8	AUSTRIA	GREECE	55 55 15 15
9	SCOTLAND	NETHERLANDS	28 59 9 21
10	FRANCE	ITALY	75 44 21 9
11	SERBIA & MONT.	ROMANIA	68 53 18 12
12	POLAND	ISRAEL	20 62 6 24
13	LITHUANIA	FINLAND	53 82 9 21

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 24

1	NETHERLANDS	RUSSIA	21 73 5 25
2	GREECE	ITALY	49 42 16 14
3	NORWAY	ROMANIA	45 35 17 13
4	SPAIN	ISRAEL	19 66 6 24
5	ENGLAND	FINLAND	39 16 20 10
6	DENMARK	LITHUANIA	11 26 25 0
7	CROATIA	POLAND	31 72 7 23
8	SLOVAKIA	SERBIA & MONT.	27 51 10 20
9	PORTUGAL	FRANCE	72 26 24 6
10	GERMANY	SCOTLAND	57 11 24 6
11	SWEDEN	AUSTRIA	80 15 25 3
12	CZECH REP.	BELGIUM	21 86 3 25
13	HUNGARY	TURKEY	29 72 6 24



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 25

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

RANKING AFTER SESSION 24

1	POLAND	471
2	ISRAEL	459.5
3	HUNGARY	444
4	NORWAY	441
5	FRANCE	426
6	BELGIUM	419
7	NETHERLANDS	418
8	ENGLAND	417.5
9	RUSSIA	414.5
10	ITALY	412.5
11	SWEDEN	411
12	TURKEY	374.5
13	GERMANY	373
14	DENMARK	365.5
15	CROATIA	360
16	AUSTRIA	359
17	PORTUGAL	336
18	ROMANIA	319
19	CZECH REP.	313.5
20	FINLAND	306
21	GREECE	278
22	SCOTLAND	269
23	SERBIA & MONT.	243.5
24	SPAIN	239
25	LITHUANIA	162
26	SLOVAKIA	132

SCHOOLS TEAM



RESULTS



ROUND ROBIN SESSION 11

Match		IMPs	VPs
21 NETHERLANDS	Bye	0 0	18 0
22 ITALY	DENMARK	27 42	12 18
23 SWEDEN	ENGLAND	51 35	18 12
24 NORWAY	LATVIA	44 30	18 12
25 AUSTRIA	ISRAEL	25 104	1 25
26 SCOTLAND	GERMANY	8 68	3 25
27 HUNGARY	FRANCE	19 101	0 25
28 CZECH REP.	POLAND	49 43	16 14

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 12

21 ISRAEL	Bye	0 0	18 0
22 LATVIA	GERMANY	67 25	24 6
23 ENGLAND	FRANCE	57 59	15 15
24 DENMARK	POLAND	16 108	0 25
25 NETHERLANDS	CZECH REP.	80 24	25 4
26 ITALY	HUNGARY	94 19	25 1
27 SWEDEN	SCOTLAND	43 60	11 19
28 NORWAY	AUSTRIA	53 25	21 9

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 13

21 NORWAY	Bye	0 0	18 0
22 AUSTRIA	SWEDEN	39 40	15 15
23 SCOTLAND	ITALY	14 87	1 25
24 HUNGARY	NETHERLANDS	18 54	8 22
25 CZECH REP.	DENMARK	38 42	14 16
26 POLAND	ENGLAND	75 47	21 9
27 FRANCE	LATVIA	49 45	16 14
28 GERMANY	ISRAEL	49 39	17 13



VUGRAPH MATCHES

Israel v Norway (Juniors) 10.00
Poland v Israel (Schools) 14.30



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 14

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

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 15

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

RANKING AFTER SESSION 13

1 POLAND	271
2 ISRAEL	242.5
3 NETHERLANDS	240
4 NORWAY	228
5 SWEDEN	214
6 ITALY	211
7 LATVIA	210.5
8 DENMARK	207
9 GERMANY	188
10 ENGLAND	187
11 FRANCE	185
12 CZECH REP.	181
13 AUSTRIA	125
14 SCOTLAND	111
15 HUNGARY	106

Double Dummy Problem

The Andrew Robson Club

The last of our Double Dummy Problems comes from another of England's top players, Andrew Robson. Don't forget, these problems all come from a series of teatowels, produced and on sale in England. For details go to: www.mrbridge.co.uk.

<p>♠ J 10 9 8 7 ♥ – ♦ 7 6 5 4 3 ♣ 8 7 6</p>	<p>♠ A K Q 6 ♥ 5 4 3 2 ♦ 2 ♣ J 10 9 5</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: black; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div> </div> <p>♠ 5 4 3 2 ♥ A Q J 10 9 8 ♦ A K Q ♣ –</p>	<p>♠ – ♥ K 7 6 ♦ J 10 9 8 ♣ A K Q 4 3 2</p>
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Contract: 7♥
Lead: ♣8

The solution of the problem is on page 9.



DEPARTURE DETAILS



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



WARNING

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

The EBU Age/IMP Prize – First Entry

By Kirsten Steen Moller

Schools Round 7

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

<p>♠ K J 10 3 ♥ A J 7 2 ♦ A 10 5 4 3 ♣ 9</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: black; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div> </div>	<p>♠ 9 6 4 ♥ K 9 8 3 ♦ 9 8 6 ♣ K 7 5</p>	<p>♠ A Q 7 5 ♥ 5 4 ♦ K Q J 2 ♣ Q 10 2</p>
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	West	North	East	South
	<i>Bilde</i>		<i>Jepsen</i>	
	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
	3♠	Pass	4♦*	Pass
	4♥*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
	6♣*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

On these hands, seven of 14 tables in the Schools' Series played in 6♠, made five times. Twice South led the seven of diamonds, and two Souths tried the ace of clubs.

The ace of clubs lead helps declarer: ruff, play a diamond to your hand, ruff a club and draw trumps, claiming 12 tricks.

A diamond lead makes the play uncomfortable: win in hand, ruff a club, play a trump to your queen, ruff a club, cash the high trump in dummy and close your eyes, entering your hand with a diamond to draw the last trump and claim 12 tricks.

The German South led the eight of trumps so East, Denmark's Dennis Bilde, had to select a line of play similar to the one you have to follow on a diamond lead: win in hand, ruff a club, back with a diamond, ruff a club and play the spade king. Dennis looked for the tiny extra chance of the ♠9 dropping from the North hand, so he could with the ace and draw the last trump with the seven; actually he also had to close his eyes, playing a diamond, and all was well.

At the other table East was declarer in 7♠, an impossible task, and he failed by two tricks, giving 14-year-old Dennis Bilde a well earned 14 IMPs.

JUNIORS TEAMS

ROUND 17



SWEDEN

VS

NORWAY



Many neighbouring countries make jokes about each other. The Dutch make have their fun at the expense of the Belgians and vice versa. Sweden and Norway is another example. Therefore this Scandinavian derby was of extra importance, not only for the VPs to play for but there was also a lot of prestige involved. The Swedes even tried to impress their opponents by playing contracts on 3-3 fits.

3NT. North led ♠10 to dummy's queen. Ringseth played a spade to jack and queen then won the heart switch in hand. A spade to the ten held the trick and the bad news about the spade suit was revealed. Ringseth continued with a diamond up to the king, which held the trick, then ♦J won by South's ace. A heart came back and declarer won the king then played a club to the king. Ringseth cashed ♦Q and ended North by playing a spade. North could win two spade tricks but then had to play a club into declarer's tenace. Well done!

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ringseth	Cullin	Kippe	Berg
–	–	–	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Malmstrom	E.Eide	Salomonsson	Lindqvist
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	INT	Pass	2♣
Dble	Pass	2♠	All Pass

With 27 HCPs it wouldn't be a problem to reach game, would it? In the Closed Room Per-Erik Malmstrom opened a strong club and Erik Eide overcalled INT, showing a major and a minor. Despite some extra values in both East's and West's hands, the Swedes stopped at the two-level. When the spades were split 4-1 this could have been a lucky board for Sweden since declarer lost two spade tricks and one trick in each minor; +140.

With all respect for Ringseth, Mans Berg could have prevented the endplay. If he refuses to win ♦A and holds it up, North can exit with a diamond to South's three winning tricks. This nicely played no trump game was worth +600 and 10 IMPs to Norway.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ringseth	Cullin	Kippe	Berg
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
INT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Malmstrom	Eide	Salomonsson	Lindqvist
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Dble	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

The Swedes seems to be fond of playing in diamonds with a 3-3 fit since it happened twice(!) in this match. But, of course, it only happened once at each table...

At the other table sat Jorn Ringseth as declarer in

INT is not a contract that gives you a hard time; Ringseth made his contract and scored +90 in the Open Room.

Per-Erik Malmstrom should have passed out INT doubled, which most likely will go at least one off. When he tried 2♦ instead, the 3-3 split was found again... Six tricks were to be had but that meant -200 and 7 IMPs to Norway.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ringseth	Cullin	Kippe	Berg
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Malmstrom	Eide	Salomonsson	Lindqvist
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♠	Pass
Pass	INT	All Pass	

Per-Ola Cullin and Mans Berg are playing natural with four-card openings. When Cullin, for some reason, opened 1♦ instead of 1♣, the auction went out of control. Hakon Kippe intervened by bidding 2♠ and after a Lebensohl sequence the final contract was 3♦. One level higher than their team-mates on Board 4, but still on a 3-3 fit...

Declarer did a good job to avoid losing six tricks but there was still one undertrick; -50.

In the Closed Room Eide/Lindqvist were in a more sensible contract of One No Trump. East led a spade to declarer's ten. The ♣Q was run to the king and declarer won the spade continuation with the ace. Eide established two diamond tricks and now he had his seven tricks; +90 and another 4 IMPs to Norway.

What's your bid sitting East?

♠ K 9 8 6
♥ A
♦ A 8 7 6 2
♣ A 6 2

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
3♥	Pass	?	

It's a matter of what style West follows for his preempt. Pass is the bid if partner holds this hand:

♠ 7 5
♥ K J 9 7 5 4 3
♦ 10 5
♣ 9 6

But in practise West had a solid heart suit and extra values.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ringseth	Cullin	Kippe	Berg
—	—	—	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Malmstrom	Eide	Salomonsson	Lindqvist
—	—	—	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

West's hand is somewhere in between 3♥ and 4♥. This time the Norwegians' had the margins on their side since there are 11 tricks in hearts. Perhaps the Swedes were a bit unlucky here, but I surely have sympathy for Ringseth's 4♥.

Not only the luck was not on Sweden's side, they also performed poorly. The way to a top five place seems to far away after this key match. The Norwegians are still in contention for the medals, after they beat Sweden by 64-29 IMPs, 22-8 VPs.

All about Turkey and Turkish Bridge Players

By Kees Tammens

Following junior bridge matches is always great fun, and sometimes a cause for heartache if you are the coach of one of the pairs. In the 16th round of this Championship a special match took place. Turkey versus the Netherlands; not only important because of the Junior EC but also decisive for who would become the champion of the Admiral Botel, the beautiful boat in the Moldau in which both teams have resided throughout the tournament. The Dutch always play exciting matches against their Turkish opponents. In days long gone the writer of this article fought hard battles with players like Ozdil and Zorlu. We, the Dutch, have good memories of Antalya (2000), where we won the silver medal. Never have we been in a more perfectly organised or better-resorted Championship than that! Being an astute player of games like Yannick and 101, I am a frequent visitor of Turkish coffee houses in Amsterdam, so I have made a lot of Turkish and Armenian friends. During a visit to Istanbul in 2003 I won a game and collected my first millions: 95 to be exact. Unfortunately that is equivalent to only about 20 Euros! And on that same holiday my wife (she won the Venice Cup in 2000) and I were really slaughtered in an IMP game in a very fine Istanbul bridge club. And I look forward to the Olympiad 2004 and Universidade in Istanbul. Anyway, getting to the Turkey v Netherlands match. After eight boards the score was 32-6 in favour of the Turks. Then came a board which I don't know whether to place in the good, the bad or the ugly category.

E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

The Netherlands bid up to 3NT for +430 and the board really did not seem very promising. Doga Seker and Serhat Paksoy (sorry guys, no harm meant, I owe you a drink) thought the time was right to sponsor the Dutch.

West	North	East	South
–	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
All Pass			

You can put many question marks against this bidding sequence which will have driven Aydin Ata, the Turkish coach, probably completely mad. The bidding, I believe, must be considered as an entry for the BAD. The Lightner double asked for a spade lead, ruffed, after which declarer, in desolation, lost a trick to three kings for –1000, 16 IMPs for the Netherlands. The momentum had changed and the Dutch went on to win 21-9 to become the Admiral champions for 2004.

Having lunch in one of the many fine restaurants surrounding the Narodni Dum, all of a sudden the song 'Blinded by the light' by Manfred Mann was played. That reflects the way some boards are being handled by the juniors. In probably one of the biggest swings of this tournament the Netherlands took 17 IMPs from Portugal, who will consider the board as UGLY.

West	North	East	South
–	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Richard Ritmeijer opened an average junior 3♦ after which 3NT was clear-cut for South, Erwin Barendregt. Of course you have six/seven tricks in diamonds plus three in hearts if opponents lead that suit. Who cares nowadays about stoppers in the black suits?

All Vul. Dealer North.

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

The lead was ♣2 and seven down seemed a likely result. East took ♣A and returned ♣4 (blocking the suit), ♣9 and ♣Q from West, who took ♣K and played a club for ♣10 from East. A small spade, ♠2, at this moment should promise ♠K and West could take ♠A, the fifth club, followed by ♠Q overtaken in East for seven down. Alas, East played ♥Q and declarer had nine tricks and +600. But even -700 would have given the Dutch a plus.

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

East, Andor van Munnen and, especially West, Merijn Groenenboom, produced really astonishing bidding. First you give the impression that opponents are going to play the hand. In the dying position, as a magician you take 4♠ out of your high hat, although after the double of 3♣ this became certainly a possibility. It was North who doubled and led the singleton club for eleven tricks and +990 to Netherlands and 17 IMPs.

A nice psychological move can be categorized as **GOOD**

All Vul. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

After the lead of a small club for ♣K in dummy, 2NT seemed in danger of going down. Declarer, Ruben Buijs from the Netherlands wanted to conceal his king of hearts, and playing a heart for the king then a small spade or diamond from South would make things very clear for the defenders. So Ruben came up with a very delicate card. To trick two he played ♦K from dummy and West let this hold the trick, so declarer ran for

home with six tricks in hearts. East/West was Greece and this play could easily be considered the opposite of a Greek gift.



Cecilia Sniffs it Out

Cecilia Rimstedt is the youngest player ever to have won an Open Championship in Sweden – even if you include all the Junior Championships – and in the world, I assume. Where is there someone younger somewhere else? (*Agustin Madala of Argentina? Editor.*)

When Cecilia won the Swedish Mixed Championships 2003, only 14 years old. She had qualified from her district into the 52-pair strong field.

In one of the bulletins last year at the World Youth Teams Championship in Paris, there was a small article about Cecilia. These were the last two sentences: Remember the name Cecilia Rimstedt and beware all juniors. I will not be surprised if she in the near future will be one of the names on the line-ups, defeating you all!

And only one year later she is here with you, a delight to every eye for Schools and Juniors boys. Of course, she was in the Swedish Girls team which finished second, only 6 VPs behind the experienced Austrian team. Now Cecilia is on duty in the Schools team. Here is an example of her skills, as we picked up from Round 18 in Sweden's match against the Czech Republic.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Macura	Ryman	Kopecky	Sjoberg
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♣	2♣	Pass
2♠	Dble	4♠	5♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
S.Rimstedt	Nyms	C.Rimstedt	Stepanova
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♠	2♣
2♠	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Emma Sjoberg showed faith in her partner in the Open Room and bid game in clubs. A diamond lead solved that suit for the declarer who now only lost two major-suit tricks for +400.

Cecilia, sitting East in the Closed Room, passed over North's 3♠ but, when South denied a stopper in spades, she sniffed out that game could be just around the corner – and placed 4♠ on the table. North could not imagine that 4♠ was going to succeed, so he doubled. But the income did not to be forthcoming. South led her singleton heart which went to the king and declarer's ace. Cecilia wanted to see if South was foolish enough to cover a spade and played ♠10, but when no queen appeared she jumped up with dummy's ace. When she now played a spade from dummy the queen dropped. Cecilia finessed once more in hearts and the game was just made. That was +790 and 15 IMPs to Cecilia's Sweden.

You should not be surprised to see Cecilia collect her second medal at Wednesday evening's Victory Banquet.

An UGLY One

By Klaus Harjunen (npc Finland)

Again, a young bold eagle, Toni Backstrom is flying loose. Who could tame him? Toni held:

♠ J 2
♥ 7
♦ A 9
♣ K J 9 8 7 6 4 3

He passed in second seat and LHO opened 1NT. When RHO responded 2♣, Stayman, Toni came in with 3♣, and was doubled for two down and –500. When asked, "Why did you bid?" his answer was that he was sure to make 3♣, just partner did not produce the right cards. This was the full deal:

Round 19. Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
–	–	Pass	Toni
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
Dble	All Pass		3♣

It is hard to win matches with four musketeers when one of them is a renegade. At the other table the Finns bid and made 3♦, but that was 9 IMPs away.

Lost and Found

Did Anybody find a pair of Rayban sunglasses in the playing area. A Swedish player has lost them and would very much appreciate getting them back if they have been found. Thanks.

Double Dummy Solution

Declarer covers with the ♣9 and ruffs East's queen. He cashes the ace of diamonds then ruffs the ♦K, takes a heart finesse, then ruffs the ♦Q and repeats the heart finesse.

The ace of hearts is cashed, throwing a low spade from dummy, and now declarer leads to the ♠Q, leads the ♣J, covered and ruffed, leads to the ♠K for another club, covered and ruffed, and finally crosses to the ace of spades to cash the established club at trick thirteen.

The Russian Junior Team Profile.

I start with the most beautiful (and most successful so far) part of the Russian Team:

Ania Gulevich, 25, is a financial analyst from Moscow. Her approach to the game is mainly scientific (rarely met among juniors). Her partner,

Lena Kychanova, 24, is an ecologist, also from Moscow. She looks extremely quiet, therefore some opponents are surprised upon discovering themselves to be a number of IMPs behind.

Two more scientists in the team:

Dr Dmitri Chelkak, 25, is an assistant professor of mathematics at the St.Petersburg University, and his partner,

Alexander Climashin, 23, also from St.Petersburg, is a postgraduate in economics and the current Renju World Champion.

Finally, the short list of non-scientists:

Denis Dobrin, 21, is a professional piano player and the Chief TD of the famous Moscow "Bermuda Triangle" bridge club. He has the pleasure to partner

Evgeni Rudakov, 25, the only internationally experienced player in the team. He works as a manager, but his true passion is practical linguistics.

Michael Rosenblum, 48, from Moscow, NPC & coach.



What Can I Say?

A player was overheard using an impolite word in his mother tongue to describe his partner. When questioned about this by the Director the answer was a quick:

"My partner doesn't know English and he doesn't know bridge – what am I supposed to say?"



Sorry!



It appears that we owe an apology to the Finland team and its supporters. Yesterday we put the wrong national flag alongside the heading of the report of Finland's match against Netherlands. Also, someone told us that the Finnish player Pia Nurmi is a girl, and in the report we referred to her as 'he'. We are truly sorry if anyone was offended by these mistakes, which were, of course, entirely unintentional. The fact that they occurred and that we picked a match which Finland lost very heavily was not because we are anti-Finnish – Honest!



Teams and Players' Photos

Schedule Wednesday August 11th

13:00 Czech Republic Juniors

Czech Republic Schools

Israel Juniors

Austria Juniors

Romania Juniors

14:00 England Schools

Poland Schools



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

JUNIORS TEAMS

ROUND 20



NETHERLANDS vs

ENGLAND



With only a few matches left England and the Netherlands were two teams in need of VPs for a qualification spot to Australia. Despite that fact there was a friendly atmosphere at both tables.

followed by another club. The declarer played ♠10, won by South's ace. Morris played a diamond to partner's ace and got his club ruff. Well done by the English defender; -50 and that was 4 IMPs to England.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Groenenboom	Byrne	V Munnen	Morris
—	Pass	INT	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Happer	Brink	Green	Buijs
—	Pass	INT	2♥
4♠	5♥	All Pass	

One should expect a better suit than Ruben Buijs had when he overcalled 2♥ in the Closed Room. This time it led to a nice sacrifice that was left undoubled; -100 and a likely swing for the Netherlands. But Alex Morris wanted otherwise. Against 4♠ he led ♣A



Merijn Groenenboom, Netherlands

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Groenenboom	Byrne	V Munnen	Morris
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dble
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Happer	Brink	Green	Buijs
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Byrne and Morris' Lebensohl sequence did not work out well. What is more, one might learn from this embarrassing result that it's better to play on a 5-4 split in one minor than on a 4-2 fit in the other. Three Clubs had to go down, but three undertricks was perhaps one or two too many; -300.

Niek Brink's immediate 3♦ kept his opponents quiet. If he had bid just 2♦, Duncan Happer surely would have reopened with 2♥. North/South would probably buy it in 3♦ anyway but, on a different day, East/West could have bid and made 3♥, so I think to bid 3♦ is wise. West led a heart and declarer had an easy way to ten tricks; +130 and 10 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Groenenboom	Byrne	V Munnen	Morris
—	—	1♥	Pass
INT	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Happer	Brink	Green	Buijs
—	—	1♥	Pass
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

There are ten tricks in a heart contract but, as you can see, there can be some difficulties in reaching game. Andor van Munnen opened 1♥, showing five cards, and after INT (6-11 HCPs), East, playing a natural system, wanted to have a couple of HCPs extra to jump to the three-level. West had done his job on the board, but there was only a trick in each suit except clubs for the defence; +170.

When Ruben Buijs gambled with 2♠, Ben Green was not slow to double for penalties. West led ♥Q to ace and the declarer won the heart continuation. Declarer played a spade to West's queen then came a nice switch to a diamond, which gave East a ruff later on. East/West scored +300 and that was worth 4 IMPs to England.



Duncan Happer, England

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Groenenboom	Byrne	V Munnen	Morris
—	—	—	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Happer	Brink	Green	Buijs
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
INT	All Pass		

Happer and Green were in INT in the Closed Room, a highly sensible contract. North led a spade and the defence got their four tricks in spades. Declarer could, as the cards lay, have made an overtrick, but the contract was just made for +90.

West's hand matched a convention the Dutch in the Open Room are using. And if a convention matches the hand it will surely be used, at least if you are a junior. One of three options for 2♣ is to show a weak diamond opening. 2NT was a strong relay and, since the explanation of 3♦ is "a strong weak opening", van Munnen took a chance on game. A spade lead will defeat the game but South led ♥J to queen in hand. Van Munnen wanted to establish his diamond suit, so next came a diamond to the ten and ace. Michael Byrne had a last chance to defeat the contract, but when he played a heart it was all over. When Byrne later on found a spade switch it was too late; +400 and 7 lucky IMPs to the Netherlands.

This set of board was quiet boring and not that many IMPs were exchanged. The Netherlands managed to win the major swings and also the match by 48 to 25 IMPs and that was 19 important VPs to the Netherlands and 11 VPs to England.

JUNIORS TEAMS

ROUND 21



ITALY

VS

ENGLAND



At the end of Round 20 Italy lay seventh and England joint-ninth, both outside the qualifying places and, in particular for England, this was a must win match – and preferably win big as the gap to fifth was around 30 VP in their case.

not opened 2♥. Stelio crossed to the ♠K next and had to lose two trump tricks plus two diamonds for down one; –50 and 6 IMPs to England.

Board 1. None Vul. Dealer North.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sbarigia	Green	Lo Presti	Happer
–	Pass	2♥	Dble
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Woodcock	F di Bello	Levy	S di Bello
–	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Fabio Lo Presti opened with a weak two bid while Ed Levy did not. Duncan Happer doubled 2♥ and Ben Green responded with a close to top-weight 2♠. Two Spades was an easy contract for Green who, by getting the trumps right, came to two overtricks for +170.

Given a free run, the di Bello brothers bid to the spade game after Stelio had opened a slightly off-centre INT. Andrew Woodcock led the queen of hearts and Stelio won the king and cashed the ace of clubs. On this trick, Levy dropped the queen! There was no way that Stelio was going to get the trumps right now – with a presumed four-one club split, he could never afford a line that involved ducking the second round of trumps in case he also conceded a ruff, plus, East rated to have the spade length – remember that Levy had

Board 4. All Vul. Dealer West.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sbarigia	Green	Lo Presti	Happer
3♠	4♥	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Woodcock	F di Bello	Levy	S di Bello
3♠	4♥	4♠	5♣
All Pass			

After the first three bids in the auctions were identical, Stelio did hugely better than Happer with the South cards. True, Stelio's 5♣ contract was defeated when Woodcock led his singleton diamond and



Stelio di Bello, Italy

received a ruff, but 4♠ doubled was quite cold in the other room. Five Clubs was down one for -100 but Matteo Sbarigia scored +790 in 4♠ doubled so Italy picked up 12 IMPs.

Remarkably, that was to be almost the end of the good news for the World Champions, while England started to pile on the points.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

♠ A 9 2 ♥ J 8 2 ♦ Q 8 5 4 ♣ A K 9	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 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></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N			W	E				S	♠ 10 6 5 ♥ K 7 4 3 ♦ J 10 3 2 ♣ 8 3	♠ J 8 ♥ Q 10 9 5 ♦ A K 7 ♣ Q J 5 2
N												
W	E											
		S										

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sbarigia	Green	Lo Presti	Happer
-	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Woodcock	F di Bello	Levy	S di Bello
-	1♣	Pass	2♣
2♠	Dble	3♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

This one was a triumph for the weak no trump. When Green opened INT, he and Happer had a free run to 3NT and, with no overcall to guide him, Lo Presti led a heart. It didn't matter what Sbarigia did. In practice he won and returned the suit and a discard-



Andrew Woodcock, England

ing error at the end gave Green an eleventh trick for +660, but the contract was always secure after the heart lead.

On a spade lead, the best declarer can do is to play low from dummy, thereby obliging West to play his second honour to the second trick. If declarer wins this trick, the spades are blocked, but he requires a heart trick for his contract once diamonds do not divide evenly, and even if he plays on hearts without establishing a diamond trick for the defence, East can go in, unblock the spade and cross to partner with a second spade.

In the Open Room, Furio opened 1♣ as per his system, and Woodcock could come in over the artificial 2♣ relay response. Now there was no game for North/South, so the di Bellos did the best they could when they took a penalty from 3♠ doubled. They did not, however, make the best of the defence. Despite Furio's lead of the ♠A, Woodcock was allowed to escape for down two and -300, when it looks fairly straightforward to get the contract three off. That meant 8 IMPs to England, who moved into a 15-12 lead in the match.

An exchange of swings had progressed the score to 27-21 in England's favour when this next one came along:

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

♠ A Q 8 7 6 4 ♥ 10 7 6 ♦ J 6 5 ♣ A	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 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></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N			W	E				S	♠ J 5 ♥ 8 4 ♦ A Q 10 9 3 2 ♣ 10 8 3	♠ 10 9 3 2 ♥ J 5 2 ♦ 8 ♣ K 7 5 4 2
N												
W	E											
		S										

♠ K
♥ A K Q 9 3
♦ K 7 4
♣ Q J 9 6

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sbarigia	Green	Lo Presti	Happer
-	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Woodcock	F di Bello	Levy	S di Bello
-	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Six Hearts is not that great a spot. For one thing, a club lead will often cut declarer off from the long spades, though in practice he may be able to make on the actual layout on a non-diamond lead if he reads everything correctly. Still, Green was a little bit cautious to sign off in 4♥ when holding what could have been the key club control. Presumably he simply did not like his all-round hand with a bare ace and no top heart honour. Whatever his reasoning, Green made sure that his side stayed at a safe level for +450.

Stelio's transfer response saw North declarer in the other room. Two Spades was a relay and the 4♠ bid promised a club control, after which Stelio punted the slam. Declarer may or may not have been about to find the path home, but Levy gave him no chance at all by finding the killing lead of ace and another diamond for one down; 50 and 11 IMPs to England. Well done.

Board 10. All Vul. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sbarigia	Green	Lo Presti	Happer
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Woodcock	F di Bello	Levy	S di Bello
—	—	2♥	2♠
Dble	All Pass		

Lo Presti did not have a weapon to open the East cards and a typically light Acol two-over-one response saw Green get to the very comfortable contract of 3♦ on the North cards. There were two tricks to be lost in each major; +110.

Levy could open 2♥ to show a weak hand with hearts and a minor. These bids are very popular in England, as in much of the rest of Europe, and this deal will have done nothing to discourage those who favour them. Stelio overcalled 2♠ and Woodcock did

not worry about his opponents running to a better spot, but doubled hungrily. Though North/South have a nine-card diamond fit, Furio was not quite short enough in spades to run the risk that East's second suit might be diamonds, and Stelio was also concerned to raise the level of the auction by bidding a four-card suit that could easily have been breaking very badly. They both passed and 2♠ doubled it was.

Woodcock led ace and another heart to Levy's king. A good point was made in the vugraph theatre that this sort of opening lead suggests that West is looking for a third round of hearts to, perhaps, promote an extra trump trick, else he might have chosen a safe lead – after all, a 2♥ opening does not guarantee the king, does it? But Levy switched to the ♣Q and that too proved to be a very effective defence. Stelio won and crossed to a diamond to try a spade to the eight. That lost to the jack and Woodcock played a second club. Again Stelio crossed to dummy but, rather than play a second spade, he judged that the suit would surely be splitting five-one and tried the effect of playing a winning heart while throwing a diamond from hand. It did not help him. Woodcock could ruff the heart, cash the ♠A and force declarer with a club. He could then win the next spade and lead his last club and come to the ♠7 at trick 13; down two for –500 and 12 IMPs to England, who now led by 50-21 after ten deals.

On Board 13, England picked up 16 IMPs when Woodcock/Levy bid and made 6♣ for +1370 missing two top hearts, while Sbarigia/Lo Presti played 3NT with ♥108 facing ♥95 and the suit was led for down one and –100. Board 14 was flat, then England sealed a maximum win with these two back-to-back swings.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sbarigia	Green	Lo Presti	Happer
—	—	—	Pass
4♣	4♥	5♣	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Woodcock	F di Bello	Levy	S di Bello
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	2NT	Pass	4♥
4♠	5♥	6♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Sbarigia opened 4♣, not worried by the side-major, and Green had a clear 4♥ overcall. When Lo Presti competed with 5♣. Happer had an equally clear 5♥ bid, which Lo Presto doubled on the strength of his spade holding. He tried to cash two top spades and, when the second one was ruffed, Green had an over-trick for +1050. Woodcock opened with a quiet 1♣ and Furio showed the red suits. When Stelio jumped to 4♥, Woodcock made one of those bids that is described as either brave or foolhardy, according to result. Levy could hardly be blamed for shooting 6♠ over his partner's 4♠ bid, and Furio doubled. Sufficient inspiration would see declarer home in 6♠, but there was no reason to drop the ♣K, except that this happens to work. Though Woodcock was two down for -300, England had another 13 IMPs.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sbarigia	Green	Lo Presti	Happer
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Woodcock	F di Bello	Levy	S di Bello
1♥	Pass	1♠	Dble
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The Italians had a normal auction to 3♥ when Happer did not get involved with the South hand. After a low diamond lead, Sbarigia made ten tricks for +170.

Stelio made a take-out double at the other table, but that had little to do with England reaching the thin game. That was just down to Levy's incurable optimism. Furio led the ♣10, which is the killing lead, if South can find the defence. Woodcock covered with dummy's jack and...

Stelio won the ace, after which there was no defence. When Woodcock gained the lead he could draw trumps and knock out the ♠A and the even heart split meant an easy ten tricks for +620 and 10 IMPs to England. If South covers the ♣J with the queen at trick one, he has the ♣A8 over the nine and makes two tricks when partner gets in with the ♠A – down one. England had benefited from some good fortune but had also played better than the champions, and the final margin of victory was 100-22 IMPs, or 25-1 VPs. That left England seventh and Italy eighth in the rankings, both still alive but both needing some big wins to move into a qualification spot.

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.