

Daily Bulletin

21st European Youth Team Championships



Jesolo - Italy
11th-21st July 2007



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Bulletin 3

Saturday, 14 July 2007

NORWAY TOPS JUNIORS



Lido di Jesolo Beach is 15 km long

Poland continues to lead the Girls series but did not have things quite their own way yesterday. They lead on 146.5 VPs from seven matches, with the holders, Netherlands, coming up close behind on 138. On Friday, Netherlands scored 70 VPs out of 75, defeating Italy 22-8, Turkey 25-0, and Denmark 23-7. Sweden and Germany tie for third with 124, and Israel comes next on 120.5. It feels as though we have only just begun, yet there are only four rounds to go in the Girls Championship.

In the Juniors, Norway continues to get big win sin every match, scoring another 71 VPs on the day, with 21-9 against Romania, 25-2 against Greece and 25-5 against Austria. After six matches Norway has dropped only 8 VPs and leads with 142, from Netherlands 116.5, Russia 110.5, Italy 107 and Sweden 106.5. The rest of the field will be hoping that the rest day breaks the Norwegians' rhythm.



TEAM PHOTOGRAPHS

It is the turn of the following teams to have their photographs taken for the EBL database on Sunday 15 July. Would the captains please ensure that **all players** of the team plus the **npc** are present outside the front door of the Palace as follows:

Junior Teams

Austria	13.00
Belgium	13.00
Croatia	13.00
Czech Rep.	13.40
England	13.40
France	13.40
Germany	17.00
Greece	17.00
Scotland	17.00

Maria Ploumbi - EBL Photographer



VUGRAPH MATCHES

Israel - Netherlands (Girls)	10.00
France - Germany (Juniors)	14.00
Norway - England (Juniors)	17.30



JUNIOR TEAMS



RESULTS



SUNDAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND 4

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	TURKEY GREECE	47 - 44	16 - 14
2	CROATIA LATVIA	49 - 34	18 - 12
3	SLOVAKIA SCOTLAND	28 - 85	4 - 25
4	SWEDEN AUSTRIA	69 - 26	24 - 6
5	ROMANIA NORWAY	39 - 68	9 - 21
6	CZECH REPUBLIC FRANCE	54 - 37	19 - 11
7	BELGIUM NETHERLANDS	41 - 53	13 - 17
8	ENGLAND PORTUGAL	49 - 37	17 - 13
9	POLAND ITALY	38 - 52	12 - 18
10	HUNGARY GERMANY	18 - 50	8 - 22
11	DENMARK RUSSIA	38 - 31	16 - 14

ROUND 7

1	GREECE	ROMANIA
2	CZECH REPUBLIC	SWEDEN
3	BELGIUM	SLOVAKIA
4	ENGLAND	CROATIA
5	POLAND	TURKEY
6	HUNGARY	LATVIA
7	DENMARK	SCOTLAND
8	RUSSIA	AUSTRIA
9	GERMANY	NORWAY
10	ITALY	FRANCE
11	PORTUGAL	NETHERLANDS

ROUND 5

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	GREECE ENGLAND	20 - 65	6 - 24
2	POLAND BELGIUM	44 - 47	14 - 16
3	HUNGARY CZECH REPUBLIC	52 - 44	16 - 14
4	DENMARK ROMANIA	20 - 33	12 - 18
5	RUSSIA SWEDEN	63 - 18	24 - 6
6	GERMANY SLOVAKIA	52 - 6	24 - 6
7	ITALY CROATIA	61 - 20	23 - 7
8	PORTUGAL TURKEY	32 - 27	16 - 14
9	NETHERLANDS LATVIA	48 - 24	20 - 10
10	FRANCE SCOTLAND	41 - 29	17 - 13
11	NORWAY AUSTRIA	70 - 21	25 - 5

ROUND 8

1	PORTUGAL	GREECE
2	NETHERLANDS	ITALY
3	FRANCE	GERMANY
4	NORWAY	RUSSIA
5	AUSTRIA	DENMARK
6	SCOTLAND	HUNGARY
7	LATVIA	POLAND
8	TURKEY	ENGLAND
9	CROATIA	BELGIUM
10	SLOVAKIA	CZECH REPUBLIC
11	SWEDEN	ROMANIA

ROUND 6

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	NORWAY GREECE	94 - 27	25 - 2
2	AUSTRIA FRANCE	19 - 66	6 - 24
3	SCOTLAND NETHERLANDS	7 - 71	3 - 25
4	LATVIA PORTUGAL	43 - 33	17 - 13
5	TURKEY ITALY	42 - 30	17 - 13
6	CROATIA GERMANY	37 - 49	13 - 17
7	SLOVAKIA RUSSIA	28 - 70	6 - 24
8	SWEDEN DENMARK	39 - 5	22 - 8
9	ROMANIA HUNGARY	15 - 45	9 - 21
10	CZECH REPUBLIC POLAND	30 - 44	12 - 18
11	BELGIUM ENGLAND	45 - 6	23 - 7

ROUND 9

1	GREECE	GERMANY
2	ITALY	RUSSIA
3	PORTUGAL	DENMARK
4	NETHERLANDS	HUNGARY
5	FRANCE	POLAND
6	NORWAY	ENGLAND
7	AUSTRIA	BELGIUM
8	SCOTLAND	CZECH REPUBLIC
9	LATVIA	ROMANIA
10	TURKEY	SWEDEN
11	CROATIA	SLOVAKIA

GIRLS TEAMS



RESULTS



ROUND 5

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	POLAND SWEDEN	33 - 54	11 - 19
2	DENMARK GERMANY	41 - 59	11 - 19
3	ISRAEL TURKEY	68 - 24	24 - 6
4	NETHERLANDS ITALY	67 - 33	22 - 8
5	NORWAY ENGLAND	32 - 52	11 - 19
6	LATVIA ESTONIA	45 - 33	17 - 13

ROUND 6

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ESTONIA POLAND	19 - 57	7 - 23
2	ENGLAND LATVIA	81 - 13	25 - 2
3	ITALY NORWAY	16 - 31	12 - 18
4	TURKEY NETHERLANDS	8 - 109	0 - 25
5	GERMANY ISRAEL	17 - 76	4 - 25
6	SWEDEN DENMARK	105 - 21	25 - 0

ROUND 7

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	POLAND ISRAEL	34 - 24	17 - 13
2	NETHERLANDS DENMARK	66 - 26	23 - 7
3	NORWAY SWEDEN	31 - 53	10 - 20
4	LATVIA GERMANY	11 - 57	6 - 24
5	ESTONIA TURKEY	45 - 58	12 - 18
6	ENGLAND ITALY	23 - 81	4 - 25

Sunday's Schedule

10.00 Junior Teams, Round 7

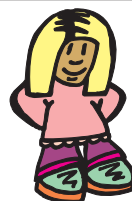
10.00 Girls Teams, Round 8

14.00 Junior Teams, Round 8

14.00 Girls Teams, Round 9

17.30 Junior Teams, Round 9

17.30 Girls Teams, Round 10



SUNDAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND 8

1	ITALY	POLAND
2	TURKEY	ENGLAND
3	GERMANY	ESTONIA
4	SWEDEN	LATVIA
5	DENMARK	NORWAY
6	ISRAEL	NETHERLANDS

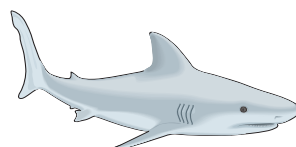
ROUND 9

1	POLAND	NETHERLANDS
2	NORWAY	ISRAEL
3	LATVIA	DENMARK
4	ESTONIA	SWEDEN
5	ENGLAND	GERMANY
6	ITALY	TURKEY

ROUND 10

1	GERMANY	POLAND
2	SWEDEN	TURKEY
3	DENMARK	ITALY
4	ISRAEL	ENGLAND
5	NETHERLANDS	ESTONIA
6	NORWAY	LATVIA

Shark Attack



There was a temporary power cut in one of the vugraph playing rooms on Thursday. Apparently the reason is very simple. In the aquarium next door is a shark. The shark has a sleeping period and when that time comes around the lights are switched off. Unfortunately, our playing room was on the same circuit and so our lights also went out.

JUNIOR TEAMS

RANKING AFTER ROUND 6

1 NORWAY	142
2 NETHERLANDS	116,5
3 RUSSIA	110,5
4 ITALY	107
5 SWEDEN	106,5
6 GERMANY	103
7 FRANCE	102
8 ENGLAND	98
9 LATVIA	97
10 POLAND	94
11 TURKEY	93,5
12 CROATIA	88
13 SCOTLAND	85
14 HUNGARY	80
15 PORTUGAL	79
16 BELGIUM	75
17 DENMARK	73
18 CZECH REPUBLIC	72,5
19 ROMANIA	71
20 SLOVAKIA	63,5
21 GREECE	56
22 AUSTRIA	45

GIRLS TEAMS

RANKING AFTER ROUND 7

1 POLAND	146,5
2 NETHERLANDS	138
3 GERMANY	124
4 SWEDEN	124
5 ISRAEL	120,5
6 ITALY	116
7 ENGLAND	102
8 ESTONIA	98,5
9 NORWAY	84
10 LATVIA	73,5
11 DENMARK	54,5
12 TURKEY	52,5

White House Junior International Tournament 2008

The third White House Junior Internationals for the Carrousel Cup will take place from 9-15 March 2008. The program will be like the two previous years and the venue will be again the 'WITTE HUIS' in Amsterdam.

There will be accommodation for 20-22 teams.
Reception of the team in chess pub 'het hok'.

10/11/12/13 March

Round Robin Team Tournament.

14 March

Semi final and final.

15 March

Closing pairs tournament with a little Pro-Am flavour.

There have been again reserved hotel beds in **Stayokay Vondelpark**.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Kees Tammens, who is always somewhere in or near the playing area of the EC in Jesolo.

**Also at keestammens@email.com
or 0031206247082 (00310622285953)**

Letter to the Editor



Much to my delight, I read the Daily Bulletin. It informs not only about bridge but also about other sports events, which are often difficult to follow when one plays in a bridge tournament.

In edition two, on page nine, I read about the prize money in the US Open Tennis event. To my surprise, the amounts of money are presented as 'xxx Pounds' (\$ yyy). Would it not be more appropriate to present these amounts in \$ (as surely this is what they pay the players in New York) and convert it into Euros? As only three 'countries' (or only one, Great Britain) are using the Pound and eight countries present here use the Euro as their currency, it seems more logical to use that currency. Or is it just a matter of the nationality of the editor?

It is, of course, a matter of the nationality of the website that it is natural for the editor to use to collect his information. However, while the point about the Euro is well made, I think there is strong case for using the Pound rather than the Dollar. As anyone who has studied the currency markets recently will be aware, the Pound is a hard currency, while the same cannot really be said of the Dollar, whose value seems to go down with every passing day.

Belgian Juniors Bid Slams (and sometimes make them)

by Jean-Francois Jourdain (Belgium)

Belgium came to Jesolo with a completely renewed team, which will be soon presented to you. Those who were present in Riccione, two years ago, however, know about our secret weapon, Benoit Guiot, better known as Benguigui. A well known principle in Belgium is "Benguigui's bidding... and everything becomes possible". We will show his skills in a moment, but first let's observe that he is not the only one to bid slams in the team. Look at what Dirk De Hertog and Tine Dobbels produced in the match against Scotland :

Board 15. Dealer South. N-S Vul.

<p>♠ 10 5 ♥ K Q 10 8 4 3 2 ♦ 7 4 3 ♣ 9</p>		<p>♠ A K 9 8 ♥ A 9 7 6 ♦ A 10 ♣ K Q 10</p>		<p>♠ Q 6 4 2 ♥ J ♦ K J 9 8 6 ♣ 7 6 3</p>	
<p>West Wilkinson</p>		<p>North Dobbels</p>		<p>East Sinclair</p>	
<p>3♥</p>		<p>6♣</p>		<p>All Pass</p>	
				<p>South De Hertog</p>	
				<p>2♣</p>	

South's Two Clubs was Precision so, after the 3♥ pre-empt of West, Tine Dobbels did not have too much difficulty in bidding a slam, letting her partner display his technique.

For Scotland, Alex Wilkinson led the ♠10 and declarer soon read all the cards. He put up the ace, drew two rounds of trumps in dummy and did not forget to cash the ♥A, removing East's exit card. Then he played his remaining trumps, pitching all the hearts from dummy, and when the last club came Sinclair had an uncomfortable choice: regardless of which suit he discarded now, declarer should play that suit and throw him in. Well done and 1370 points to Belgium, but alas no swing. In the other room Morrison opened 3♣ (vulnerable pre-empts are not any more what they once were) and the same contract was reached, this time without the information of long hearts in West. Declarer took the ♥K lead and drew trumps. He tried his luck with the double spade finesse and when the jack lost to the queen, the Belgian East was so sure South held seven clubs (despite the evidence to the contrary) that he judged that a diamond trick was necessary to set the contract. So he switched to that suit for a flat board.

Now let's see the Belgian efforts in the Closed room for trying to set a slam record. First a missed attempt:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West's opening bid was a transfer and 3♠ showed a 6-5 forcing to game two-suiter. Jef Vanparijs pinned his hopes on a void with partner, but was faced some moments later with the hard reality of two missing aces. So 11 IMPs went to Scotland who stopped in the other room at 4♥ and were happy that the suit broke 3-3.

This one was no better:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ 3 ♥ Q J 9 4 ♦ 7 5 3 ♣ J 8 6 3 2</p>		<p>♠ A ♥ A 10 8 7 2 ♦ 10 6 2 ♣ A 9 7 5</p>	
<p>♠ Q J 10 9 5 4 2 ♥ - ♦ Q J 8 4 ♣ K Q</p>		<p>♠ K 8 7 6 ♥ K 6 5 3 ♦ A K 9 ♣ 10 4</p>	
<p>West Guiot</p>		<p>North Morgan</p>	
<p>4♠</p>		<p>Pass</p>	
		<p>East Vanparijs</p>	
		<p>6♠</p>	
		<p>South Morrison</p>	
		<p>INT</p>	
		<p>All Pass</p>	

One might think what he wants about the vulnerable 4♠ pre-empt – personally I find a vulnerable 3♠ more than enough with all that rubbish – but anyway, Jef thought his partner promised at least nine tricks and tried once again for the slam bonus. With no diamond control and another key card missing he was happy to escape without a double – which South certainly should have produced had he read this article before the match – but nevertheless scored another 13 IMPS in the wrong column when Sinclair bid in the other room seemed more aware of what a 4♠ should looked like.

But don't think the Belgians were discouraged by all those poor contracts. On Board 20 they reached 6♥ with the following material :

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ A J 9 6 2
♥ A 8 6
♦ A 10 9 6 3
♣ –

♠ Q 5 4 3
♥ Q J
♦ Q 2
♣ Q 10 8 4 2

N
W E
 S

♠ –
♥ K 9 7 4 3 2
♦ J
♣ A K 9 7 5 3

♠ K 10 8 7
♥ 10 5
♦ K 8 7 5 4
♣ J 6

Dirk De Hertog

All you require is that the trumps break 2-2 and the black suits behave a little bit. When that all appeared to be the case, the slam was made in both rooms. Well done boys, but still no positive swing.

So much willingness to enter history was finally rewarded on this board:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ A K 7
♥ Q
♦ A Q J 10 2
♣ A K J 9

♠ Q 8 3
♥ K J 10 8
♦ 4 3
♣ Q 7 6 5

N
W E
 S

♠ J 10 9 6
♥ A 9 7 5 2
♦ 6 5
♣ 8 3

♠ 5 4 2
♥ 6 4 3
♦ K 9 8 7
♣ 10 4 2

West	North	East	South
Guiot	Morgan	Vanparijs	Morrison
		2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Vanparijs' opening promised both majors in a weak hand. Benguigui inquired about the strength and got as answer that his partner held minimal values (this is no understatement indeed), so he decided to leap to 6NT, hoping for a miracle. And right he was.

North was unwilling to give a trick on the opening lead and went for the ♦4. This looked promising enough for South to hop up with the king, giving the unmakeable contract a small chance.

Benguigui proceeded now to develop a spade trick in dummy before his only entry was removed. He played ace, king and another spade. North trusted his 'certain' trick in clubs and missed his last chance to beat the contract by returning a heart. Instead of that, he exited in diamonds. Benguigui cashed out the suit. Five cards before the end, North could still hold ♥K J and ♣Q 7 6 but, when the ♥Q was played and covered to the ace, he was hopelessly squeezed by the thirteenth spade. Benguigui dropped his ♣Q and scored 1440 points and 13 IMPS. That was sufficient to hold the Belgian loss to 11-19 VPS.

6

Round 3

Though one team, the Swedish Juniors, managed to pass the 100 IMP mark against Scotland (25-1 VPs), Round 3 featured one of the quieter sets of deals so far. This borderline slam would have caused a swing in several matches:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Playing in a non-serious partnership – the only kind I can get these days, we might bid it 1♠ – 2♣ – 3♥ (Splinter) – 3NT – Pass. When North judges to bid 3NT it is very unlikely that he has what is required for a club slam.



Ben Green

In Netherlands v England (Juniors), the Dutch pair had an essentially natural two-over-one auction:

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

Well explored, well judged and, more to the point, successful. The English auction was a very different kind of animal, but equally effective:

West	North	East	South
	Green		Happer
			1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Here, 2♣ was an artificial game-force and 2♦ showed either clubs, diamonds or balanced. Two Hearts asked and 4♣ showed 5-1-3-4 with 18+, over which 4♦ was an end-signal and 4♥ basically forced, allowing North to select the final contract.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Two Diamonds was a popular spot played by West. In the vugraph match between Italy and Hungary (Juniors), 2♦ made at both tables for a flat board, despite a heart lead. Yet should it be so difficult to defeat 2♦?

On vugraph, by the time that South had finished cashing the three heart winners the contract was already unbeatable as North had pitched both small clubs. But if South wins ♥Q and continues with ♥K then ♥A, isn't that a clear signal for clubs, given that there were six different orders in which he could have won the three cards? Now North

can ruff the fourth heart and underlead his club ace to get a fourth heart through for a trump promotion and a sixth defensive trick.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North <i>Green</i>	East	South <i>Happer</i>
3♣	3NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

In our featured auction, 4♠ was non-forcing but a mild slam try. The opening lead of the king of diamonds made it relatively straightforward for Duncan Happer. He ducked, won the heart switch and rattled off his winners to squeeze West in the minors; +1430.

On vugraph, North was declarer in the same contract on the lead of the six of clubs but did not find the way home.

An attractive line is to eliminate the hearts, spades and clubs then play ace and another diamond, hoping to end-play West if he holds honour-doubleton diamond. However, when West shows out on the first spade, this lay-out becomes very unlikely. East might have honour-doubleton diamond, but he can unblock – though H-10 doubleton may be a problem for him.

There is still a winning line, of course, because West has both minor-suit guards. He wins the king of clubs, draws trumps, noting that West is unlikely to be short in diamonds, then ducks a diamond and has a positional squeeze. In fact, he does not even need to duck a diamond. Just win the ♣K to keep communications clear, then run the spades and hearts. On the last spade, West has to come down to either a singleton club or doubleton diamond, and the squeeze without the count gives declarer his contract.



A Fairytale

by GeO Tislevoll

The Norwegian team in the Girls series is a little inexperienced, but there is no lack of courage. In Round 2 Katrine Gran and Virginia Chediak made a result no others could match. Try if you can.

You hold:

♠ J 7 3
♥ 5
♦ Q 5 2
♣ A J 8 5 4 2

You pass as South, and West opens Three Hearts. You are vulnerable against not.. North makes a take-out double and, after East passes it is you to call. What would you bid?

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ A K 9 8																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															
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Katrine jumped to Four Spades, not a recommended bid, but it worked well. North, Virginia raised to Six Spades and they played in a spectacular slam on 28 HCP and a 4-3 fit! West led the heart king to the ace. A heart was ruffed, and the trump seven played to the ace. Then another heart ruff was followed by club to the king, after which the ace and king of trumps brought down West's ten. Declarer could now play her spade nine to drive out East's queen. East had no heart to force declarer with, so Katrine was soon in again and able to draw the last trump and claim twelve tricks for a huge +1430!

If South jumps to Five Clubs instead of 4♠, North probably will raise to Six Clubs, which is a nice contract. It will fail on a diamond lead, but let's say West leads the king of hearts. Declarer takes the ace and ruffs a heart at once. Then declarer plays off all the clubs, perhaps after cashing one spade honour in the process, and before the last club is led the position looks like this:

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

On the last club East discards a diamond or a spade, it doesn't really matter. She will be endplayed one way or another, to establish the eleventh trick for declarer in one of the suits, and to give her the twelfth, by having to play from the honour in the other one.

JUNIOR TEAMS

ROUND 4



CROATIA

v

LATVIA



Croatia dominated the early stages of their Junior match with Latvia, picking up points on eight of the first nine boards to lead by 32-0 IMPs. There was one major swing in this series of deals.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lorencs	Ivancic	Bethers	Zepic
2♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
		3NT	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Gracin	Balasovs	Dondivic	Kuldkepp
1♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass	2NT	Pass

Janis Bethers opened an East hand that many of us would have passed and Martins Lorencs immediately forced to game. Vjekoslav Zepic judged to lead his own suit despite having no hope of an outside entry and it worked out very well for him. Bethers won the heart lead and led a low spade to his jack, Matej Ivancic ducking. Bethers led the king of clubs from hand, winning the ♣J return to lead back to the other top heart. Then he cashed the top spades but there was no joy there. He now exited with a spade and just came to his two red winners in hand for down one; -50.

Luka Dondivic did not see an opening bid in the East cards so Tomislav Gracin opened 1♠ in third seat. Jurijs Balasovs showed good discipline by not overcalling 1NT with the North cards, vulnerable and facing a passes partner. He must have been pleased that he had kept quiet when he now heard his opponents bid up to 3NT. Here, however, Meelis Kuldkepp judged to lead a club, hoping to hit his partner's suit as he had little hope of establishing and cashing his own. This worked out badly and gave Balasovs no

winning defence. Balasovs put in the jack over dummy's ten and Dondivic passed the jack of spades. With two heart entries still in dummy, there was no great point to ducking so Balasovs won the spade queen and played ace and another club. That gave declarer nine tricks for +400 and 10 IMPs to Croatia.

The Latvians scored their first IMP on Board 10 and then followed four flat boards, leaving the score at 32-1 after 14 deals. Then came a quick one-two from Latvia, and they were right back in the match.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lorencs	Ivancic	Bethers	Zepic
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Gracin	Balasovs	Dondivic	Kuldkepp
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Both E/W pairs bid efficiently to the small slam for a flat board. The Latvian auction was Polish Club, with the 2♣ rebid confirming the strong version, while the Croatians started with a natural opening and forcing raise.

In the Junior Series, 18 pairs bid and made 6♥, while one bid 6♥ but went down (ouch!). There was one 6NT just made and two 7♥ down. In the Girls, seven bid the small slam, four went down in the grand, and one stopped in game.

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

I find Ivancic's pass of 4♥ absolutely terrifying. OK, the ♠Q may be wastepaper, but I have a good 15-count and partner bid freely at the four level. Surely slam is far more likely than that the five level is not safe. Zepic scored a painless +680.

A portrait of a young man with short brown hair and freckles, looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a red sweater over a white collared shirt. A red lanyard with white text is around his neck; the visible text includes "MANUSCRIPTS" and "3rd EUROPEAN". The background is dark and out of focus.

Martins Lorencs

In the Juniors, there were no less than ten different contracts: seven times 7♦ was bid and made, six times 6♦, once 6♥, once 6NT, one each for the game contracts of 4♥, 5♦ and 5♥. Then there were the four N/S pairs who defended – two against 7♠ doubled, one 4♠ doubled, and one a mere 3♠ doubled. In the Girls, nobody got to seven – two played 5♦, three played 4♥, two played 6♥, and five played 6♦.

♠ J 6 4
 ♥ K J 9 5
 ♦ A J
 ♣ A K 8 5

♠ 9 8 7 3 2
 ♥ 8 4
 ♦ K Q 4 3
 ♣ Q 9

N
 W E
 S

♠ 10
 ♥ 7 6
 ♦ 10 9 7 5 2
 ♣ J 7 6 4 2

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

According to their convention card, the Croatian N/S play 9-12 NT in this position but 1♦ promises four cards. However, it was alerted according to the BBO recorder so your guess is as good as, and quite possibly considerably better than, mine. Anyway, Bethers doubled 1♦ and doubled again when the pre-emptive 3♦ raise came back to him. Lorencs had his high cards in the wrong suits, but a five-card major had to be very good on this auction and he jumped to 4♠.

Balasovs opened a strong club and Dondic presumably thought he was too strong to come in immediately – but then he should surely have come in over the INT rebid (it is normal to play the same defence here as to a strong INT opening bid). When he passed again, his side had been shut

out of the auction on a deal where they were cold for a vulnerable game. Worse still, what I consider to be a deeply obscure low heart lead allowed INT to make for +90 and 12 IMPs to Latvia. Surely, even on Mars, a top spade is normal to take a look then decide what to do next?

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lorencs	Ivancic	Bethers	Zepic
1♠	Pass	2♣	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Gracin	Balasovs	Dondivic	Kuldkepp
2♣	Dble	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Would you open the South hand? Zepic did not and now Lorencs/Bethers had a free run to the comfortable contract of 2♠, which made exactly after the lead of a top club and a switch to the jack of hearts, covered all around; +110.

Kuldkepp did open and now Gracin treated his hand as a weak jump overcall as he was facing a passed hand. Unfortunately, Dondivic did not expect such a good hand for the 2♣ overcall and jumped to 4♠ as an advance save and Kuldkepp could double and collect +300 and 9 IMPs for Latvia.

Going into the final board, Croatia still led by 43-34 IMPs and it seemed that the win was secure when the Latvian E/W pair reached a no-play game.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lorencs	Ivancic	Bethers	Zepic
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
Pass	3♦	Dble	3♥
Dble	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Gracin	Balasovs	Dondivic	Kuldkepp
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♥
Dble	3♥	Dble	Pass
4♦	All Pass		

Four Diamonds made exactly for +130. Meanwhile, apart from the fact that it agreed hearts, I am not sure of the meaning of Ivancic's 3♦ bid. It certainly worked very well, as his opponents missed their ten-card fit in diamonds to play the hopeless spade game. Or was it hopeless?

Ivancic led a heart to dummy's bare ace and Lorencs advanced the queen of diamonds. There was nothing in the auction to warn Zepic of the danger of covering – unless 3♦ showed a shortage. When the king and ace of diamonds fell together with an almighty crash, 4♠ was suddenly unbeatable – if declarer could read the position correctly. Ivancic switched to a spade and Lorencs won the ace then ran the queen of clubs to the king. Back came a second spade. Rising with the ace makes eleven tricks. Ducking makes only nine, as Lorencs was to discover when Zepic won the doubleton queen and gave his partner a diamond ruff; 6 IMPs to Croatia instead of 10 to Latvia and the final match score was 49-34 in favour of Croatia, 18-12 in VPs.



Matej Ivancic

Redentore

Redentore is a popular festival that combines the sacred and profane, as Venice celebrations often do. Redentore is the celebration most loved by Venetians, to remind the end of the plague in 1577, one of the most disastrous plagues in Venice history, still commemorated today with "the famous night of fireworks", on the third Saturday of July. That plague is believed to be brought in the city by flea-infested mice carried back from the Orient by Venetian trading ships.

It is out of doubt that the cats, imported with urgency from Syria ("soriani" cats), contributed in a certain measure to defeat the plague, and became those beloved comrades of the streets and the houses of Venice, they have been until 1990, when the foolishness of the modern humans decided their extermination sterilizing most of the males. But in Venetian tradition there was the decisive factor of salvation, like later and before in the form of the practice of sincere public devotions pursued by almost all of the surviving. These devotions culminated

in the solemn vote, made by the Doge in the name of the city, to build a marvellous temple whenever the Serenissima would escape the annihilation, a real menace expected from those kind of plagues; enough to think that that particular one killed over 50,000 inhabitants, and in that number the famous painter Tiziano Vecellio was included.

After the plague diminished, therefore, the Serenissima maintained the vote of the Venetians, commissioning the architect Andrea Palladio to project and build a majestic church at the Giudecca. The first stone of the great temple was laid under "proto" (supervisor) Antonio da Ponte, while a provisional wooden church was erected in the 3rd Sunday of July. A long floating walkway uniting San Marco Square and the Giudecca island was also built on hundreds of pontoons. Over this walkway, as a sign of humility and gratefulness, the "Doge" Sebastiano Venier walked, leading the Crafts, the Religious Confraternities and the survived people in procession towards the Tabernacle.

The work was carefully completed, and over the four centuries the classic proportions of the Redentore's Church have reminded inhabitants and visitors of the

terrible suffering and danger that occurred to the "Dominant" in 16th Century. Until today, every year for the Festival an army barge bridge is built between the Zattere and the Giudecca.

On the 3rd weekend in July, religious and political authorities, inhabitants and guests walk on this passage-way to reach by foot, from the historical centre of Venice, the temple dedicated to Christ the Redeemer in the island of Giudecca. For the "famous night of fireworks", between the third Saturday of July and the Sunday after, thousands of Venetians and visitors come

to celebrate, in the S. Mark's basin swarming with boats crowded with people who bring typical culinary delights. Beginning on that Saturday morning, people engages with the organisation and preparation for the Redentore Festival. Foods are cooked for up to 20/30 people; candle-balloons, leafy branches and other trinket are hanged on the boats, terraces and rooftop loggias

As soon as they are ready, those on the boats start looking for

the best places in St. Mark's Basin. After supper with relatives and friends under the showy ornamentation, everybody waits for the great firework show (the "foghi") to begin, usually around 23:00.

From eleven to midnight, after the gastronomical moment, the firework show starts on the most beautiful stage ever realized by man. There is no other place in the world, where the light of fireworks may enlight with its colours a mirror of water like that of the St. Mark's Basin, with the reflection of the Ducal Palace, St. George, the Columns of Mark and Todaro.

The extraordinariness of the pyrotechnics is to keep the spectator in doubt where to look at the artifice in the sky or to the unrepeatable images of a fairy town redrawn by sparkles in the water.

Like all the popular festivals, the traditional activities of the Redentore enriched across centuries of side events: traditional became the street market and the charity raffle run in the church's patronage. A very combative regatta in Venetian rowing style is raced on Sunday morning along the Giudecca Canal, for at least one day left resting from the overused wave motion of most engine boats.



Breathtaking Encounters of the Dutch Junior Team

by Kees Tammens

I firmly believe that all captains and coaches hope that their pairs will start the championship in a quiet and solid way. But I also know that juniors will take every opportunity to shock the people that accompany and support them. As coach as well as journalist I hoped to find some time in the beginning of the tournament to notice fine hands. This plan seems to fail because my team needs all my attention. So I call upon the assistance of the participants. Juniors and girls who notice a nicely bid hand, skilful declarer play or killing defence from themselves, their partner, teammate or opponent, are invited to report that hand to the editor of the bulletin. I am sure we (BS&KT) will create some nice awards as brilliancy prizes.

In the match from the second round Denmark gave the Netherlands a hard time, leading with four boards to go. Then the Dutch fought back to lead with one board to play.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	7♥	All Pass

South, Dutch junior Jacco Hop had to lead against this rather optimistic grand slam. The line of play after a trump lead is not obvious but it seems likely declarer will win in dummy, ruff a spade, club, spade, club and spade to make thirteen tricks. Clubs don't break but spades are 4-4. Jacco avoided this by putting a diamond on the table, removing the necessary entry to cash the thirteenth spade. That was 17 IMPs for the Netherlands who bid and made 6♥. This difference of 30 IMPs helped the Dutch to a 23-7 victory.

England gave the Netherlands another big fight and succeeded in a slam where the Dutch declarer went for a different line of play.

After a nice bidding sequence, Hop/de Pagter reached the Moysian fit on this next deal from Round 3.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

After 2NT, West showed the singleton in hearts and East, Vincent de Pagter, knew 3NT was no longer an option. So the choice of 4♠ was logical.

With the bad break in clubs, however, making ten tricks was far from easy. Vincent took ♣J at the first trick with ♣A and played immediately a second club. South ruffed and played ♥K for the ace followed by a third club, again ruffed by South. Now probably the mistake, South cashed ♦A which was the end of the defence (♥Q would lock declarer in dummy). The Netherlands really needed the 12 IMPs from this board



Vincent de Pagter

(3NT went one down at the other table), as even with this swing they still lost the match 10-20 VPs.

In Round 4 was the 'Derby of the lage landen' between Belgium and the Netherlands. The pairs from the south started horribly in the first three rounds but against their neighbours from the north they really put up a fierce struggle. The first half was all Belgium who took the lead by 41-1!

Again a slam hand turned the match around:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ Q 8 ♥ 9 6 ♦ A K 10 7 5 ♣ A K J 9</p>			
♠ K J 9 7 4 2 ♥ 10 5 ♦ J 9 8 ♣ Q 3	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 10 6 5 ♥ Q J 8 ♦ 4 ♣ 10 7 6 5 4 2	
<p>♠ A 3 ♥ A K 7 4 3 2 ♦ Q 6 3 2 ♣ 8</p>			
West	North	East	South
1♠	2♦	3♠	1♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	7♦	All Pass	5NT

After North's cuebid of 5♣ South, Jacco Hop asked with 5NT for two top diamond honours. That made it easy for North who bid the ice-cold grand.

The second ten boards in this battle had an orange colour so the people from the North pulled the match their way, winning by 59-47 IMPs, 17-13 VPs.



Jacco Hop

Sports News

Football

Under 20 World Cup: Round of 16



Austria 2-1 Gambia;
USA 2-1 Uruguay;
Spain 4-2 Brazil (aet);
Japan 2-2 Czech Republic
(Czech Republic won 4-3 on penalties);
Chile 1-0 Portugal;
Zambia 1-2 Nigeria;
Argentina 3-1 Poland;
Mexico 3-0 Congo.

Liverpool have completed the signing of Ajax's Ryan Babel in an £11.5m deal. The 20-year-old Dutch striker has agreed a five-year contract as Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez continues a major overhaul of his squad.

Manchester City have completed the signing of Reggina's Rolando Bianchi. The 24-year-old former Italy Under-21 international striker had a medical at the club's Carrington training ground before completing formalities. Reggina say the fee will be £8.8m, and the Italian becomes Sven-Goran Eriksson's first signing for City.



Tennis

Kim Clijsters married American basketball star Brian Lynch in her hometown of Bree on Friday. The 24-year-old Belgian, who announced on Tuesday that she is pregnant, retired from tennis in May in order to focus on her private life.



Cycling

Tom Boonen sprinted to victory in the sixth stage of the Tour de France after Britain's Bradley Wiggins broke away and led the stage from the second kilometre to be reeled in only seven kilometres from the finish. At one stage, he had a lead of 18 minutes but riding solo in the heat for so long took its toll. It left Boonen to snatch victory from Oscar Freire and Erik Zabel.



Baseball

The 78th All-Star game saw the American League hold off a last innings fightback from the National League to win 5-4. The National League last won this encounter back in 1996.



Golf – Scottish Open after 2 Rounds

–10 G Havret (Fra) , J-M Lara (Spa)
–9 P Mickelson (US)
–8 S Khan, A Romero (Arg), B Weekley (US)
–7 P Edberg (Swe), E Els (SA), S Webster

GIRLS TEAMS

ROUND 4



SWEDEN

v

NETHERLANDS



The gold medallists from Riccione 2005, the Netherlands, met the runners-up, Sweden, in Round 4 of the Girls. Both teams are weakened since the services of the lead pair back then is required elsewhere. The Women Teams winners from Antalya, Meike Wortel/Marion Michielsen, are now a part of the Dutch Junior team here in Lido di Jesolo, and so are the World Pair Champions, the Swedish duo Cecilia Rimstedt/Sara Sivelind.

Cecilia's sister, Sandra, with Emma Sjoberg, were considered for the Juniors as well, but the Swedish captain needed a solid pair beside the less experienced pair of Kristin Nedlich/Freja Andersson so they remained in the Girls team.

In the Dutch squad, three players from 2005 are still in the team. Together with them, the sisters Jamilla and Sigrid Spangenberg have moved from the Schools to the Girls team. The most experienced Dutch pair, Rosaline Barendregt/Astrid Dekker, were in the team which was only one crucial board away from knocking out the winners in the Womens Teams in Antalya some weeks ago. This was the final deal in the quarter-final between the Dutch 'Ladies' and the Dutch 'Women'

they still wanted to have a fair chance to reach a medal spot. The Netherlands gained 3 IMPs on Board 2, but this was the first large swing.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Barendregt	S. Rimstedt	Dekker	Sjoberg
Dble	4♥	All Pass	2♥*

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

4♠ was reached at both tables. If Meike Wortel for the Women's team, who was declarer, were to fail while Dekker for the 'Ladies' could succeed, the match would be turned around. In both rooms the ten of clubs was led. Bep Vriend won the ace against Dekker, and then gave her partner a ruff. Carla Arnolds cashed the diamond ace and then exited with a diamond. Dekker had the intention to create a swing as she played the trumps from the top. This was not their day and, when Wortel made her game, close, but no cigar.

OK, back to these Championships! Sweden have had a slow start and really needed to defeat the Dutch girls if



Rosaline Barendregt

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Andersson	J. Spangenberg	Nedlich	Gelder
Dble	3♥	All Pass	2♥*

At both tables South's 2♥ showed hearts and a minor. Rimstedt took a different view in the Open Room to that of Spangenberg in the Closed Room, as she took a shot on game. A bit surprisingly, neither of the East players took any action after partner's double.

Sjoberg's feared a club ruff, but when Barendregt led the spade ace and continued the suit declarer could draw trumps and claim ten tricks; N/S +590. In the Closed Room the Dutch recorded N/S +170, but that was 9 IMPs to Sweden. That was a good start for the Swedish girls but, furthermore Rimstedt/Sjoberg now had a psychological edge over their opponents.

The score had moved on to 33–13 in Sweden's favour when this came along.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 4 3	♠ A J 10 2	♠ 8 7
♥ A K J 10	♥ 9 4 3	♥ Q 8 5
♦ A 10 9 2	♦ 8 7 6 5 3	♦ K
♣ 10 8 6	♣ 5	♣ A Q J 9 7 3 2
	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ K Q 9 6 5	
	♥ 7 6 2	
	♦ Q J 4	
	♣ K 4	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Barendregt	S. Rimstedt	Dekker	Sjoberg
Pass	Pass	3♣	INT
3NT	All Pass		Pass

South opened a weak No Trump and when East reopened with 3♣ West hoped to find a spade stopper in partner's hand, thus she went for the No Trump game. Four Hearts on the 4-3 fit is cold for E/W while 3NT doesn't have any realistic chances. North found the spade lead and South won the queen and continued in spades. North took the trick with the ten but now switched to a diamond! Declarer's hopes were raised and all she needed was the club king to behave. After the club finesse had failed the defence finally cashed their spade winners for two down and N/S +100. The most irritating thing the opponents can do to you on a bad day might be to err in the defence but steal the cake anyway.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Andersson	J. Spangenberg	Nedlich	Gelder
1♣*	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Pass	3♣	Dble
3♠*	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♣	All Pass

West opened a Polish Club and 2♠ was forcing with clubs. 3♠ asked for a spade stopper and without it E/W ended up in the minor-suit game instead. South ignored her own lead-directing double and advanced a heart as opening lead. Now declarer could pitch a losing spade on the diamond ace; just made and N/S –400. That was another 11 IMPs to Sweden and the Dutch girls were now in big trouble trailing by 31 IMPs as the score was 44-13 IMPs.

A partscore swing and some overtricks helped the Netherlands to come a little closer. With four boards to go the score was 45–23 and a very lucky board for Sweden followed.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 7 3	♠ A 9 8	♠ J 10 5
♥ A K	♥ Q 10 8 3	♥ 7 5 2
♦ A J 10 8 4 2	♦ Q 9 6	♦ K 7 3
♣ 9 6 3	♣ J 7 2	♣ A K Q 5
	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ K Q 6 4 2	
	♥ J 9 6 4	
	♦ 5	
	♣ 10 8 4	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Barendregt	S. Rimstedt	Dekker	Sjoberg
3NT	Pass	INT	Pass
	All Pass		

Once again Barendregt/Dekker were in 3NT with a wide-open spade suit. Sjoberg had no difficulty in leading a spade and this time Rimstedt had learned her lesson, thus she won the ace and played back spades. That was one down and N/S +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Andersson	J. Spangenberg	Nedlich	Gelder
1♦	Pass	Pass !!	Pass
	Pass	2♣	All Pass

Despite the thirteen-count, Kristin Nedlich refused to open the auction. That is not something you see every day, in particular not in a Juniors event. No, Nedlich had not miscounted, she saw some difficulties in rebidding the hand, thus she passed. Instead, Freja Andersson opened 1♦ and, since Nedlich didn't want to take a too pessimistic view, she bid 2♣ rather than INT. When 2♣ was passed out, Nedlich had hit the jackpot, as she eventually found out that neither game was good, even though 5♣ and 5♦ can be made if declarer can work out the diamond position.

South led her singleton diamond, so Nedlich took twelve tricks for N/S –170 and that was another 6 IMPs for Sweden.

The Netherlands gained 1 IMP on Board 18, so Sweden was now in the lead by 51–24 and there were only two boards left for the Netherlands to create some IMPs.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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



Sandra Rimstedt

Open Room

West <i>Barendregt</i>	North <i>S. Rimstedt</i>	East <i>Dekker</i>	South <i>Sjoberg</i>
1♦	1♥	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
			All Pass

Closed Room

West <i>Andersson</i>	North <i>J. Spangenberg</i>	East <i>Nedlich</i>	South <i>Gelder</i>
1♦	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♣	2♥	3♥*	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥*	Pass
5♠*	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, Nedlich cuebid hearts twice and then had a tough moment when her partner came up with Voidwood, i.e. showing void in spades and asking for aces outside the spade suit. Nedlich didn't see any decent way to retreat, so she passed. 4♠ is makable with a fair amount of acrobatics but 5♠ was one level too high. Declarer went down two after the ten of hearts was led; N/S –200.

Now the Dutch pair in the Open Room had their opportunity, since they stopped in time. We saw the same lead, the heart ten. As the cards lie, the key on this board is to avoid winning a trick with the heart king, since you are obliged to draw trumps from hand. Not the easiest thing to spot, but if you win trick one with the heart queen, on the king of spades dummy must discard the heart king, or it has to fall under the ace if North continues in hearts, otherwise declarer will get locked in dummy. Declarer has to cash the spade honour and the next move will not be to draw trumps but to take the diamond finesse. When South follows to three rounds of diamonds declarer can pitch a loser, and then ruff a minor in hand. Now the time has come for drawing trumps. The defence is powerless against this play.

In practice Dekker played low from dummy and won the trick in hand with the ace. At trick two she missed failed unblock the king of hearts under the trump king, giving Rimstedt the chance to be a heroine. Could she avoid playing a high club and instead find the only winning shift – a heart? Yes, she did! Declarer had no sensible card to play from dummy, so she tried to cash the two diamond tops, but North ruffed and then gave South a heart ruff. South had to win another trump trick; N/S –200 and no swing.

When the last board also was flat the Swedish girls ended as winners. The final score was 51-24 IMPs, converted to 21-9 in VPs.





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