



Łódź, Friday 5 September 2008

Bulletin 4



A Runaway Leader



The future of Directing in Europe

Today belonged to Netherlands A who opened up a decisive looking gap over the field, still being led by the Czech Republic.. Austria and four other A-teams are in the peloton, with only France A behind a B-team, Norway's

Program

Saturday :

09:30	Matches 13-15
13:30	Lunch
14:00	City trip or Sports Afternoon
19:30	Dinner
20:00	Pairs Tournament

They did it again

My two main contributors brought me their articles and I started looking if they had chosen the same hands. They had – three times. So I give you two articles at once: - you'll figure out who's who easily.

There will be a tough evening match

by Christer Andersson

It was half an hour to midnight on the first evening of the Championship and. I was sitting in my room in front of the computer, trying to focus my thoughts on bidding and play when I recognised that the hands on the sheet in front of me started to drift together to a blur. I looked around. It was dark outside and everything was quiet. It was time to go to bed.

Three quarters of an hour later I was woken up by extremely happy neighbours. The later it got, the happier they became. I looked at the watch and thought – The next evening will be a tough one not only for me.

I woke up at 8:30 and had time for a cup of tea before I ran to the playing area in time to hear Slawek announce it was time to start playing. I sat down at the closest table where USA B took on Poland A.

In Second Gear

By Kees Tammens

The Dutch A-team had started all right with 20 and 23 and enjoyed the local pizza. Since most of the players had already been busy at international tournaments they knew that 2 matches

do not count. The first day of 5 matches would really make a point.

The third round

If I was not yet awake, one of the first boards helped me:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Asbury	Kotor'z	Engel
			Pass
1♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

A Polish club sequence showed long and strong spades in the West hand and long and strong hearts in the East hand. After cue-bidding of the red suits, East checked for key cards and decided to place the contract in 6♠. North had a very easy lead and the contract was quickly one off. Jacek Kalita was not alone to go down in this slam.

Ten other declarers had the same experience. Chinese Taipei were the only team to make 6♠. How they were able to get East declarer in the contract I don't know, but that is what was

required. All the five teams that bid this hand to 6♥ made the contract. No-one tried 6NT from East. I am convinced the bulletin staff would be in that contract, playing it from the West position.

West	North	East	South
G'boom	Orth	Drijver	Timofeyev
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Of course Bob Drijver in East knew there were 12 top tricks but did partner have ♣Kx or ♣AK(x) without ♦A? The pass over 6♠ was not the winning choice since North had an automatic ♦ lead.

At the other table, Tim Verbeek won a partscore battle with nice bidding and play:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
Rehder	Verbeek	Braun	Moolenaar
1♥	2♣	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

With careful play declarer will win 2♥, so competing was the first good thing. Against 3♣, East led ♦A and continued hearts. West took ♥J and layed ♥Q, declarer discarding a small spade. This loser-on-loser play worked perfectly when he ruffed the ♥K, drew trumps and played a diamond for ♦K in East, who had no more hearts.

Things were even better when at the other table North cashed five club tricks against INT but then did not find the spade switch, so declarer ran home with seven tricks. Germany 17 – Netherlands 13.

The fourth round

Being impressed by the achievements of Chinese Taipei in the previous round, I decided to have a look at their game against Germany A. This would have been a close fight, were it not for the 3NT contracts. These were not kind to the Taiwanese. Let's have a look at one of them, a bidding problem. You have this hand:

♠ A Q 4 2 ♥ K Q 10 6 ♦ K 5 ♣ A K 9

What do you bid in this situation?

West	North	East	South
Lin	Zimm'n	Liu	Gotard
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	Dble	Pass
??			

The double showed the unbid suits and values to bid. Should you support spades or perhaps suggest no trump? As you might expect, Lin tried 3NT, which he was allowed to play. As can be seen from the hand there were only eight tricks, so the choice was not the best. Perhaps they are specialised in slam bidding?

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vuln.

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

USA are in Lodz with two teams and usually they are in contention for the medals. The USA B team took the lead against the Netherlands with some nice bidding on this same board

West	North	East	South
Deles	Drijver	Engel	G'boom
	2♦	Pass	2♥
Dble	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The USA pair did well to avoid the 4-4 fit in hearts (in fact the spade fit plays well for ten tricks). In 3NT Bob Drijver could have made things awkward with a diamond lead but the actual ♥2 gave declarer nine easy tricks. In spite of this loss the Dutch had the advantage on many hands and took a comfortable lead, but things could have changed in board 23, where the Dutch bid to 5♥ but the Americans optimistically went to 6♥.

The fifth round

Three quarter of an hour after lunch is terrible. All blood has gone to the stomach and you only want to go to sleep. I thought I picked a francophone battle, France A – Canada, but it was nothing of that – pure English the whole

match. Is it only within the European Union that the French refuse to use that language?

The Canadians took a lead with 12-6 over the first forty minutes. Then the blood dropped from where it should have been, and they lost forty-one IMPs on the following four boards, and that was enough to lose the match 6-24. But they were also a bit unlucky. Or as the French would express it, they were outplayed. Here Christoph Grosset showed how to handle the cards:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
Poulat	Laboni	Grosset	Zind
	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♠*	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠*	Pass
6♥	All Pass	Pass	Pass

With East as declarer the ace of diamonds has to be with South, and the trump suit has to be played without a loser. Not a problem for Grosset. Gordi Zind led the ♦A and continued with the queen. Grosset won the king, entered hand by overtaking the queen of spades, discarded a diamond on the

other high top spade and finessed the jack of hearts. When Laboni followed with the eight, Grosset played a club to his ace and put the trump queen on the table. That play finessed the king and dropped the ten from North. I definitely recognised the words from Zind, they were not French. The contract was made, and 13 IMPs went to France when Canada stopped in 5♥ in the closed room.

Sixth round

Although small in number, one of the best junior squads in Europe right now is the Czech Republic's. In round six they played Singapore and took all the points they could get. If Singapore had not bid a 6♦ that can be set by precise defence, they would have gone home with a zero. The slam saved them four VPs. On the following hand most teams had an accident but not the Czech Republic.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vulnerable.

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

South had a natural strong no trump opening and West surely values to compete. Those that tried 2♠ on the West hand, like Singapore, got a strength-showing negative double from North and had to manage their play without trumps in dummy. The contract

went three down. 800 to the Czech Republic.

In the open room the Czechs had a gadget. The correct bid with the West hand was a 2♥. transfer to 2♠. As hearts was North's best suit he neither had a hand for a negative double nor a hand to double for the lead. When he passed, Michal Kopecky did the same, knowing from experience what types of hand partner frequently showed up with. Milan Macura, who had planned to show some strength with a follow up bid in diamonds was frustrated initially. But seeing the table he cheered up. North led the ♣10, which South won with the ace to shift to a diamond. Macura won the ace, ruffed a diamond and continued with high clubs, throwing spades from hand. When South refused to ruff and instead discarded alternating spades and diamonds, North was the one to shorten his trumps and returning something for dummy to ruff. In the end Macura could count to seven tricks. When I have to play the West hand in 2♥, it's not in my experience worth 12 IMPs.

Seventh round

The hammer hit several players during the last round yesterday. The bulletin had a look at the match between Great Britain – USA A and witnessed two magnificent Winner on Loser plays in twelve boards. As these are very difficult to describe, and we have been bribed by the Captain of the responsible team, we leave this round without comment, except to say that without these minor disasters, Britain would have won the match. Now they narrowly lost 14-16.



Vu-graph Lead?

By Bert Toar Polii, Indonesia

Normally when playing on Vu-graph players try to make spectacular leads or plays (especially true for juniors).

When Indonesia faced USA A on BBO, Arie Maramis made two such Vu-graph leads.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
Dean	Maramis	Roger	Mambu
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Arie Maramis lead the ♦10. Declarer played the jack and Mario Mambu ducked. Declarer now has 9 tricks if he plays diamonds to be 3-3. But he tried for hearts to be 3-3. He played ♥AK, entered dummy with the ♣K and played a heart. Arie made a wrong discard: ♠10. Mario switched to the ♠Q. Declarer ducked twice, so Arie was in. He switched to diamonds, won in dummy, but South made two more tricks (♥ and ♦). One down, exactly as in the other room.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
Dean	Maramis	Roger	Mambu
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣ (Dr)	Pass
2♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Arie led the ♣6, declarer played the 2 and Mario inserted the Q, not the 9. The contract went two down, for 6 IMPs, when Rury and Fir made 3♠ in the other room.

Live on BBO

There will be one match per round that is going to be transmitted on BBO. On Saturday the chosen matches are:
 Rd 13 (09:30) Czech Rep - Belgium
 Rd 14 (11:20) Norway A - France A

The change was at the request of a team whose player turns 19 tomorrow.



You knew Herman cannot resist

Durham University



Dom, James, ??, Tom, Robin

The University Championship of Great Britain is contested by about 25 teams from a dozen or so universities. Scotland enters a couple of teams. The competition is a knock-out with teams from the same university not allowed to play each other before the semi-finals (when they are required to meet).

The semi-finals and finals are 48-board matches played at the beginning of May in the Portland Club in London. Look at the front page of the Law Book to realize how significant this venue is. It is the only time that the Portland Club sees any conventions, as the tradition is that its members play bridge for high stakes, with no conventions.

The winning finalists are invited to represent Great Britain in either the European or World University Championships. Durham University has a bridge playing tradition and previously

represented GB two years ago in Tianjin.

Two members of that team, Robin Zigmund and Thomas (Tom) Dessain, are back here, in Lodz. They both played slowly in Tianjin and for their poor captain and opponents it feels like they're playing even more slowly now.

Luckily they don't play together. Their respective partners are James Ewington and Dominic (Dom) Maloney. They are the younger members, but they claim they're getting older every board, while waiting for their partners to play.

Durham University is the home of the Bacon Torpedo system, something every junior (by spirit if not age) must really try out once. Just google it up for more details – you'll love it.

Saturday Afternoon

Tomorrow you will have the choice between three programs:

1. Guided tour of the City

The bus will come in front of the Student house at 14:00. The tour will last for 3 hours.

2. Football tournament (soccer for the Americans)

On the training pitch behind the Athletic stadium. Teams of 7 players, 2x15 minutes per match. There will be 7 teams: America, Asia, Poland, Norway, France, Europe (rest of) and a team from FISU and the organisers. The organisers made a draw and guess who received a bye?

This is the schedule:

14:30 Poland – Europe

15:00 America – Norway (*)

15:30 France – Asia

16:30 semi final (matches 1 & 2)

17:00 semi-final (3 & FISU-OC)

17:30 final

(*) that would be a topper in women's soccer! – our girls are invited to join any team they wish!

3. Beach Volleyball tournaments

Starting at 15:00 on the training pitch behind the Athletic Stadium. So far there are some 15 people interested. Rules and Pairs will be settled on place – footballers can join in.

Pairs Tournament

There will be an open pairs tournament tomorrow evening. It will start at 20:00 in the playing area. All combinations are welcome, students, coaches staff, visitors, transnationally or not.

The entry fee is 10PLN per pair, 20% of which will be used for beers for the Director, the rest as prize money for three pairs.

Students will be sad to learn that normal playing times apply – and only 18 boards will be played.

Emergency

This was an emergency Bulletin.

This morning my computer would not start up, and the combined efforts of the Polish staff could not help. (any computer wizzkid out there is welcome to give it a try). Luckily most of my data is on an external hard disk drive, easily coupled to Michal's computer. Thank you for that, Michal (and your dad).

But the troubles don't end there, of course. Can you imagine how difficult it is to be working in Word 2007, when you're used to a much earlier version? And when all the commands are in Polish? (Polish readers, please imagine them being in Dutch)

Qnd then you should reqlywe thqt l q; used to q French Keyboqrd.

So I hope that the content won't suffer – the layout might.