



Łódź, Saturday 6 September 2008

Bulletin 5



A Two horse Race?



France beat Norway at Poker

While the Netherlands A continued to stay far ahead of the field, a solitary rider, in the form of Poland A and are trying to stage a comeback. Norway A and the Czech Republic continue to lead the peleton.

Program

Sunday :

09:30	Matches 15-16
13:30	Lunch
14:15	Match 17
15:00	Academic Session
17:55	Match 18
19:30	Dinner

Apologies

To Kees Tammens, whose article was cut short yesterday because of time and space problems. Let's start with his contribution today:

Up to Third Gear

By Kees Tammens

Those who thought second gear was the maximum throttle for the Dutch team were deluding themselves. On Friday, the Netherlands switched to gear three and scored the enormous 24, 25, 23, 16, 20, for an amazing 108 on the day and a big lead over the rest of the field. With a tough program to go nothing is decided but as Hans Kreijns used to say "what's in the bag, nobody can take away".

The Indonesian South, Mario Mambu was looking for blood on board 22:

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
G'boom	Maramis	Drijver	Mambu
		1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	??		

Luckily for the Netherlands North fled to 3♣ (down one) while 2NT was two down (undoubled) at the other table.

Although most of the match went to the Dutch, Indonesia won 11 IMPs on the 1st board when Franciska Ariyami found the only way to make 6♥:

Board 24. Dealer West.. None Vuln.

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

West	North	East	South
Franciska	Meike	Rury	Marion
2♥ (10-14)	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦ (0 aces)	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Meike led the ♠8 to the king and Franciska played ♥3 to the King. ♥10, jack and ace and the ♥8 was high enough to draw the last trump.



Now I have a valid reason to show the four girls

The team from Great Britain is rather inexperienced but as their coach, John Probst, told me his players perform up to their standard; Probst was very proud of his bridging students. English bridgeplayers are keen on their 12-14 NT:

Board 13. Dealer North All Vulnerable.

<p>♠ 10 8 6 ♥ 6 5 3 ♦ 8 7 3 2 ♣ 8 7 4</p> <p>♠ J 9 7 ♥ K Q ♦ A 9 5 4 ♣ K Q J 10</p> <p>♠ A K 3 ♥ J 10 7 4 ♦ K 6 ♣ A 9 6 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 5 4 2 ♥ A 9 8 2 ♦ Q J 10 ♣ 5 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
Drijver	Maloney	G'boom	Dessain
	Pass	Pass	INT (15!)
Dble	All Pass		

There was no escape possible and declarer was kept to four tricks and -13 IMPs when the English East/West at the other table could not double the "strong" INT opening, nor reach 3NT themselves.

In round 11 the Dutch faced the Czechs on BBO. Macura and Kopecky climbed to 6♣:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vuln.

<p>♠ A Q J ♥ 8 4 ♦ A Q 7 2 ♣ A K 8 7</p> <p>♠ K 9 8 6 3 ♥ Q 9 6 ♦ K 9 5 ♣ 6 5</p>	<p>♠ 7 5 4 2 ♥ 10 7 5 2 ♦ J 8 ♣ Q 10 2</p> <p>♠ 10 ♥ A K J 3 ♦ 10 6 4 3 ♣ J 9 4 3</p>
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East led the ♠4 (3rd-5th) and West put up the ♠K. That was that and 14 IMPs to the Czechs, when 6♣ failed at the other table.

Did anyone spot the double-dummy winning declarer play after a heart lead?

The match stayed close until the end when the Czech North/South bid up to an optimistic 4♥

Board 10. Dealer East.. All Vulnerable.

<p>♠ A 8 4 ♥ K Q 10 8 4 ♦ 8 5 3 ♣ 10 3</p> <p>♠ 9 3 ♥ J 7 2 ♦ Q J 10 6 2 ♣ J 8 5</p>	<p>♠ J 7 6 2 ♥ A 5 ♦ 7 ♣ A K Q 7 6 2</p> <p>♠ K Q 10 5 ♥ 9 6 3 ♦ A K 9 4 ♣ 9 4</p>
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West	North	East	South
Merijn	Milan	Bob	Michal
		1♣	Dble
Pass	2♦(5+♥)	3♣	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West led the ♣5 to the queen and East, Bob Drijver, played back the singleton ♦7. Heart to king and ace and East underled ♣AKQ to Merijn who returned the diamond for down one, which then became down two when declarer misplayed in trumps.

A Little of Everything

by Christer Andersson

A long distance runner needs to find the rhythm and suitable pace to be successful. It is similar for bridge team Championships like this. You have to quickly find the pace and relaxing environment that keeps your sole (and soul), partnership and team spirit happy. Building up frustration on poor bidding decisions and illogical play will not carry a team forward.

We in the bridge press, however, have a different task. It is our pleasure to extract those odd decisions and plays, not to offend anybody but to illustrate a point. Lets see if we can steer up some feelings?

The eighth round

We looked at Norway A – China. The Norwegians had started the Championship well, as expected, as they are defending bronze medal winners from last years' European University Bridge Championship. China had started slower than expected.

China managed board 17 (see further) but lost the match 5-25.

The ninth round

I decided to have a look at the vu-graph for the following two matches. Generally, that is not my cup of tea. It increases the risk of making you frustrated four times, seeing all the

hands. I am surely becoming old-fashioned, but shouldn't you have a balanced hand to open 1NT? On the first board North in the match Great Britain – Poland A had the following hand in first seat and opened it 1NT:

♠ K ♥ 7 4 2 ♦ 7 5 4 ♣ A K Q J 6 3

South bid Stayman, got a response of 2♦ and settled for 2♥. This intelligent contract on xxx opposite AQxx, instead of two makable clubs on AKQJ63 against 109 drifted four off. Horror I think, one of the interesting aspects of the weak no trumps according to others.

In this match the polish pair Jacek Kalita – Krzysztof Kotorowicz showed they had discussed and agreed more odd bidding situations and polished declarer play:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vuln.

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

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Maloney	Kotor'z	Dessain
Pass	Pass	1♣	3♥
Pass	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	All Pass		

Thomas Dessain pre-empted strongly on the Polish Club opening (not the

same person who opened 1 NT). When the pre-empt was passed back to East, he showed a strong hand with good diamonds by introducing the suit at the four level. Is everyone clear on the meaning of the bids from here? The Polish pair had studied this type of bidding sequence and agreed that the bids 4♠ and 4NT should be reversed. 4NT was natural, whereas 4♠ was an ace-asking bid.

Domenic Maloney led a heart to the ace in dummy. Do you see the winning continuation? Krzysztof Kotorowicz did. He continued with the ten of diamonds, a Morton fork play. If Maloney takes the king, Kotorowicz can enter his hand to cash the heart winners. If he ducks the diamond, Kotorowicz will end-play North at least one time by continuing ace and a small diamond. In both cases he makes his contract. Excellent. Poland went on to win the match 21-9.

The tenth round

This was an interesting board that tested both teams in the view-graph match between Norway B and Chinese Taipei:

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vuln.

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

West	North	East	South
Bartnes	Wang	Morken	Lin
	1♦	3♠	4♥
All Pass			

Even Morken led the ♠7 and partner won the ace and continued the nine for Lin Chih-Hung to ruff. Now what?

How to handle the isolated heart suit is standard play. But how shall it be handled in the context of the whole hand? Yes, it has to be handled in such a way that if you lose a trick to the defenders, they can not establish a club trick before the trumps can be drawn. The bidding makes it clear that if anyone is long in trumps, it is West. The safety play in trumps is therefore to continue the jack of hearts. West covers with the queen, declarer goes up with the ace and harvests the nine from East. With the losers in trumps reduced to one, declarer's problems are over. Declarer might have found this play also if East calmly passes in the bidding, but in that situation it is a little more difficult.

At both tables the declarers in the third trick happily continued with a trump to the ace and now had to lose two trump tricks. There was no longer any possibility to discard the losing club on the diamonds. West could ruff and establish a setting club trick.

In fact, Shawn Quinn thought this play so beautiful she offered to nominate the unknown declarer who performed it for a Paul Magerman Award. It turned out only one declarer (a Belgian – note from the editor) managed to make 4♥ from the South hand, but this was without a club continuation from West when he was in with trumps.

Chinese Taipei won the match 21-9, large due to a swing on a 50% slam hand. It has to be played from the right side of the table. The Taiwanese got it right, but when the Norwegians doubled 6♥, they thought they had it wrong and 'escaped' to 6NT, doubled, which should not make with ♦AQ behind ♦Kx. However the bidding made it very difficult to find the lead and the contract was made.

The eleventh round

The strong 1♣ opening is here to stay. It increases the bidding efficiency, is neutral on declarer play, but what about its influence on defence? Let's ask the Austrians who had to defend 5♠ against Indonesia after their own 1♣ opening on board 8:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vuln.

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

West	North	East	South
Eglseer	Maramis	Kautny	Mambu
1♣	3♠	Pass	4NT
Dble*	Pass	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

What do you lead from the East hand?

You know that partner is strong and has very little in spades. I have great sympathy with Paul Kautny who

reasoned partner needs the least in hearts to win or establish tricks, so he led that suit. That's what declarer needed. He could win the lead in hand, play a trump to dummy and establish hearts by ruffing in hand. Two overtricks.

The contract was the same in the closed room but here a diamond was led and West had no problem to identify which high cards to play. One down and 11 IMPs to Indonesia, who won the match 24-6.

The twelfth round

The last board of the last match was a real finale, a grand slam. I saw it bid by Felix Zimmermann and Thomas Gothard for Germany A against USA A:

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vuln.

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

West	North	East	South
Roger	Zim'nn	Dean	Gothard
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

After Zimmermann having splintered, Gothard asked for aces and kings with the spade bids and was informed about

0 or 3 aces and the king of spades. That was enough information for Gothard to bid the grand slam

The play was not the difficult part. Thomas Gothard won the trump opening lead with the nine in hand, ruffed a diamond, entered hand in trumps and ruffed the another diamond. He came back to hand with a spade, draw the trumps and did not even have to establish the spades. Bidding and making the grand slam was worth 11 IMPs but was not enough to win the match, which went to USA A with 18-12.

In all, six out of the 20 pairs managed to bid the grand, with only two staying out of slam altogether. Everyone made 13 tricks though.

Board 17

by Christer Andersson
and Kees Tammens

They did it again, and this time both tables even had the same bidding sequence!

There were several hands in match 11 where declarer had all but one trick to make his contract. He had to steal the ninth trick before the opponents were alert to the case. This was one of those

West	North	East	South
Adhani	Wortel	Ariyami	Mich'sen
Zhang	Skjetne	Liu	Bogen
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vuln.

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

Meike Wortel in North led the ♦2 for the ace and the five (high-low from even number) came back for the ten and jack. North's ♦7 was ducked by Marion Michielsen, so declarer made the king after all. When he next tried to sneak through a heart trick, Meike hopped up with the ace and played the ♦6 so south could score two diamond tricks for one down. In the closed room North was not so quick with his ♥A and the Dutch were able to bring in 3NT with the help of the spade finesse.

Hakon Bogen led the ♦6, won by Erland Skjetne with the ace. Juan Zhang won the return of the four with the king and advanced the two of hearts. Not sensing that they had established the diamond suit Bogen played low. This was the chance Zhang needed. He won the queen, entered hand with the club king, finessed the queen of spades and cashed the rest of his winners for nine tricks.

Was it likely that South holds a singleton ♥K or ♥J 10? I guess you have recognised that there are safer contracts.

Germany



**Thomas Gotard (A), Kai Timofejev (B), Paul Orth (B), Martin Rehder (B),
Cristina Giampetro (A), Felix Zimmermann (A), Maria Wurmseer (A),
Raffael Braun (B), Hartmut Kondoch (coach)**

Live on BBO

There will be one match per round that is going to be transmitted on BBO.
On Sunday the chosen matches are:
Rd 15 (09:30) USA A – Norway A
Rd 16 (11:20) Netherlands A – PolandA
Rd 17 (14:15) Poland A – Norway A
Rd 18 (17:55) to be decided

Ranking after 6 rounds:

1	Netherlands A	281
2	Poland A	263
3	Norway A	249
4	Czech Republic	247
5	Austria	237
6	USA A	234
7	Norway B	232
8	Germany A	229
9	Great Britain	223
10	Indonesia	209
11	Germany B	208
12	Poland B	206
13	Chinese Taipei	203
14	Belgium	195
15	Netherlands B	193
16	France A	192
17	China	189
18	USA B	173
19	France B	157
	Singapore	157
21	Canada	153

Dinosaurs revisited

In 1999 we created the term Dinosaur for a player who played championships 6 years apart. Since then, we created the terms superdinosaurs and Hyperdinosaurs. In 2005 we added the term cavemen for those who had careers of 5 years.

This is the full list:

Hyperdinosaurs: (eight years)

Riccardo Intonti	1993-2001
Thomas Bessis	1999-2007

Superdinosaurs (seven years)

Sebastian Reim	1993-2000
Jérôme Rombaut (*)	1993-2000
Daniel De Roos	1997-2004
Krzysztof Kotorowicz	2001-2008

Dinosaurs (six years)

Simon de Wijs	1993-1999
Julien Geitner (*)	1994-2000
Stefano Uccello	1999-2005
Niek Brink	1999-2005
Krzysztof Buras	2001-2007
Przemysław Janiszewski (*)	2001-2007
Greg Moss	2001-2007
Alexandre Hobeika (*)	2001-2007

Cavemen (five years)

20 players, including:

Wojciech Gawęł	2003-2008
Jacek Kalita	2003-2008
Michał Nowosadski	2003-2008
Piotr Nawrocki	2003-2008
Milan Macura	2003-2008

By number of participations:

Sebastian Reim	7	1993-2000
Krzysztof Kotorowicz	7	2001-2008
Krzysztof Buras	6	2001-2007
Alon Amsel	6	2000-2005
Julius Linde	6	1997-2002
Riccardo Intonti	6	1993-2001
Anders Hagen	5	1997-2002
Tom Cornelis	5	1998-2002
Stefano Uccello	5	1999-2005
Steven De Donder	5	2000-2005
Przemysław Janiszewski	5	2001-2007

Including organisers and captains, the following persons have attended six championships or more:

	As player:	tot:
Geert Magerman	2	14
Paul Magerman		9
Herman De Wael		9
Sebastian Reim	7	7
Krzysztof Kotorowicz	7	7
Kees Tammens		7
Stanisław Gołebiowski		7
Julius Linde	6	6
Riccardo Intonti	6	6
Alon Amsel	6	6
Krzysztof Buras	6	6
Paul Meerbergen		6
Lode Lambeets		6

Geert Magerman missed only one tournament, the one that was held in his home-town, Antwerpen, in 1993.

That makes Kees Tammens and your editor the only two who were present at Antwerpen 1993, and also here 15 years on.



Herman is still wearing the official tie of the first University Championships in Antwerpen 1993

Happy Birthday Joram



Joram, 19 today

Joram Van Mechelen turns 19 today. As a birthday present, he was allowed to play on BBO against the Czech team. He was also allowed choice of opponents and I even think the girls dressed specifically for him!

Joram, who plays with his older brother Rutger, is on his third nickname already. "Chicken" and "the Hairdresser" don't seem to stick around, but plays like this one have made him be known as "the Mad Magician" (board also appears in Christer's article)

West	North	East	South
Joram	Zind	Rutger	laboni
1♣	1♥(♠s)	3♣	4♣
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vuln.

♠ J 10 8 7 6 4 2

♥ K

♦ 10 8 6 3

♣ K

♠ 9

♥ J 10

♦ A K Q 2

♣ A J 9 6 4 2

♠ 5 3

♥ Q 6 2

♦ J 9 5

♣ 10 8 7 5 3

♠ A K Q

♥ A 9 8 7 5 4 3

♦ 7 4

♣ Q

The Canadians started with two rounds of spades, and Joram realized there were two more losers in hearts. There could be only one solution. He crossed to dummy in diamonds and played a low heart. South "rose" to the challenge, rose with the ace and plummeted to defeat. Just made.