

20th European Youth Team Championships

Riccione, Italy • 13-23 July 2005



Daily Bulletin



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Bulletin 2

Friday, 15 July 2005

England Leads The Way



With three big wins under their belts, England lead the Junior Series on 72 VPs. They have an 11 VP lead over France on 61, then come Netherlands 60, Italy 57.5, Belgium 55 and Norway 54. The win of the day was the 25-3 Italian demolition of Sweden, while the day's giant-killers were Czech Republic, who beat mighty Poland 18-12 in the morning match. Scotland were close to being the second giant-killers but eventually only managed a 15-15 draw with Netherlands.

In the Girls Championship, Austria lead on 58 VPs, only 1 VP ahead of Russia, who they beat 19-11 in the morning match. The Russians recovered from that setback by destroying host nation, Italy 25-1 in the afternoon. Poland are third on 54 VPs, while Netherlands, who lost their first match on Wednesday 4-25 against Austria, have pulled themselves back into contention by taking 49 VPs out of a possible 50 yesterday - the best of any team in either event.

Team Captains

The Daily Bulletin would like to request of all team captains:

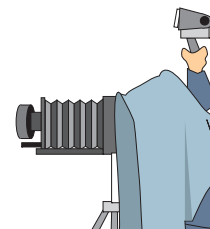
Please, as always at a Youth Championship with all the new players, we are very keen to publish as many team profiles as possible in the Bulletin to introduce your players to not only everyone here in Riccione, but also the many people around the world who read these Bulletins on the internet. So could you produce something for us or, better still, as we know how busy a captain must be, ask the team coach to write it for you. We prefer it written on a computer but handwritten is OK if necessary.

Teams and Players' Photos Schedule — Friday July 15th

GIRLS

- 13.40 Austria
- 13.45 Denmark
- 13.50 England

- 17.10 Germany
- 17.15 Ireland
- 17.20 Sweden



All the above teams (including the captain and the coach) are kindly requested to be present at the specific time outside of the building.

Please make sure that you wear your badge and national uniform.

Maria Plubi
EBL Photographer

TODAY'S VUGRAPH



- | | | |
|-------|------------------|---------|
| 10.00 | Italy v Poland | Girls |
| 1400 | Poland v France | Juniors |
| 17.30 | Belgium v Greece | Juniors |

CONTENTS

- | | |
|--|---|
| JUNIOR & GIRLS TEAMS PROGRAM & RESULTS | 2 |
| GO GIRLS | 3 |
| ROUND 1 — BELGIUM v NORWAY | 4 |
| AUSTRIA v RUSSIA — GIRLS ROUND 2 | 7 |

JUNIOR TEAMS RESULTS**ROUND 2**

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1 LATVIA	NETHERLANDS	34 - 58	10 - 20
2 DENMARK	ITALY	50 - 36	18 - 12
3 CROATIA	SWEDEN	49 - 46	16 - 14
4 ISRAEL	BELGIUM	23 - 67	6 - 24
5 NORWAY	ROMANIA	67 - 42	20 - 10
6 SPAIN	FRANCE	36 - 54	11 - 19
7 CZECH REP.	POLAND	47 - 32	18 - 12
8 HUNGARY	PORTUGAL	58 - 42	17.5 - 11.5
9 LITHUANIA	ENGLAND	18 - 50	8 - 22
10 SCOTLAND	GREECE	21 - 51	9 - 21
11 TURKEY	AUSTRIA	25 - 50	10 - 20

ROUND 3

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1 NETHERLANDS	SCOTLAND	37 - 39	15 - 15
2 TURKEY	LITHUANIA	41 - 22	19 - 11
3 AUSTRIA	HUNGARY	35 - 57	10 - 20
4 GREECE	CZECH REP.	11 - 59	5 - 25
5 ENGLAND	SPAIN	69 - 9	25 - 3
6 PORTUGAL	NORWAY	17 - 32	12 - 18
7 POLAND	ISRAEL	64 - 32	22 - 8
8 FRANCE	CROATIA	32 - 23	17 - 13
9 ROMANIA	DENMARK	47 - 28	18 - 11
10 BELGIUM	LATVIA	34 - 25	17 - 13
11 SWEDEN	ITALY	7 - 68	3 - 25

GIRLS TEAMS PROGRAM**ROUND 4 10.00**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	GERMANY	AUSTRIA
2	POLAND	ITALY
3	RUSSIA	NETHERLANDS
4	DENMARK	IRELAND
5	ENGLAND	SWEDEN

ROUND 5 14.00

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	AUSTRIA	DENMARK
2	ENGLAND	RUSSIA
3	SWEDEN	POLAND
4	IRELAND	GERMANY
5	NETHERLANDS	ITALY

ROUND 6 17.30

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	ENGLAND	AUSTRIA
2	SWEDEN	DENMARK
3	IRELAND	RUSSIA
4	NETHERLANDS	POLAND
5	ITALY	GERMANY

JUNIOR TEAMS PROGRAM**ROUND 4 10.00**

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	SWEDEN	NETHERLANDS
2	ITALY	BELGIUM
3	LATVIA	ROMANIA
4	DENMARK	FRANCE
5	CROATIA	POLAND
6	ISRAEL	PORTUGAL
7	NORWAY	ENGLAND
8	SPAIN	GREECE
9	CZECH REPUBLIC	AUSTRIA
10	HUNGARY	TURKEY
11	LITHUANIA	SCOTLAND

ROUND 5 14.00

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	NETHERLANDS	SPAIN
2	CZECH REPUBLIC	NORWAY
3	HUNGARY	ISRAEL
4	LITHUANIA	CROATIA
5	SCOTLAND	DENMARK
6	TURKEY	LATVIA
7	AUSTRIA	ITALY
8	GREECE	SWEDEN
9	ENGLAND	BELGIUM
10	PORTUGAL	ROMANIA
11	POLAND	FRANCE

ROUND 6 17.30

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	POLAND	NETHERLANDS
2	FRANCE	PORTUGAL
3	ROMANIA	ENGLAND
4	BELGIUM	GREECE
5	SWEDEN	AUSTRIA
6	ITALY	TURKEY
7	LATVIA	SCOTLAND
8	DENMARK	LITHUANIA
9	CROATIA	HUNGARY
10	ISRAEL	CZECH REPUBLIC
11	NORWAY	SPAIN

GIRLS TEAMS**RANKING AFTER SESSION 3**

1	AUSTRIA	58
2	RUSSIA	57
3	POLAND	54
4	NETHERLANDS	53
5	SWEDEN	47
6	ITALY	46
7	ENGLAND	40
-	GERMANY	40
9	DENMARK	29
10	IRELAND	19

GIRLS TEAMS RESULTS

ROUND 2

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1 RUSSIA	AUSTRIA	40 - 58	11 - 19
2 DENMARK	POLAND	40 - 35	16 - 14
3 ENGLAND	GERMANY	14 - 47	8 - 22
4 SWEDEN	ITALY	32 - 60	9 - 21
5 IRELAND	NETHERLANDS	34 - 77	6 - 24

ROUND 3

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
1 AUSTRIA	SWEDEN	51 - 51	14 - 15
2 IRELAND	ENGLAND	34 - 74	7 - 23
3 NETHERLANDS	DENMARK	63 - 9	25 - 4
4 ITALY	RUSSIA	8 - 82	1 - 25
5 GERMANY	POLAND	28 - 46	11 - 19

JUNIOR TEAMS

RANKING AFTER SESSION 3

1 ENGLAND	72
2 FRANCE	61
3 NETHERLANDS	60
4 ITALY	57.5
5 BELGIUM	55
6 NORWAY	54
7 HUNGARY	51.5
8 POLAND	50
9 ROMANIA	49
10 GREECE	48
11 PORTUGAL	43.5
12 CZECH REPUBLIC	43
13 DENMARK	42
- SWEDEN	42
15 LATVIA	40
16 CROATIA	37.5
17 TURKEY	37
18 AUSTRIA	33
19 LITHUANIA	29
20 SCOTLAND	27
21 SPAIN	23
22 ISRAEL	18

Go Girls!

By Patrick Jourdain (Wales)

In Prague the Austrian girls swept to the gold medal losing only one match to the Dutch, so they must have been pleased to score a maximum 25-4 win when they met in the first round here in Riccione. Anna Gogoman's declarer play on this deal, reported by Jeroen Bruggeman of the Netherlands (who I believe has reasons to support both teams), illustrated the Austrian skills:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Assmann	Barendregt	Gogoman	Dekker
			INT(i)
Dble	Pass(ii)	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	2♣	Dble	2♥
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(i) 12-14

(ii) Forcing

South opened a weak no trump and, following a light penalty double by Ursula Assmann, had to make a compulsory redouble, North running, of course. In Two Spades they can come to six tricks, so, at the vulnerability, the Austrians judged correctly to bid their own game of Three No Trump by East.

South led a high heart, North giving a reverse signal with the nine, and continued with a low one. Gogoman put up the queen and North rather strangely unblocked the jack, a move that saved declarer a spade guess later. Gogoman cashed ace and queen of diamonds, overtook the jack to create an extra entry to her own hand, led a low club to the ten, returned with the fourth diamond, and led a club to the jack. Gogoman then cashed the ace of clubs and exited with a heart. South had to win, cashed the last heart on which declarer ditched her last club, and was then end-played into leading a spade, to give declarer the ninth trick. Note that if North had retained her entry then she could have used it to play a low spade, leaving declarer to guess whether South held 12 or 14 points.

At the other table South's opening One Heart was passed out and went one light for 11 IMPs to Austria.

Round 1: Belgium v Norway

Norway - neither fish, flesh nor fowl?

In this first round we all want to see some guidelines how strong each country is this year. I was quite curious of how strong the Norwegian team present here is. Somehow Norway always seems to come up with new unknown faces but they nonetheless every now and then aspire to a medal. Sven Olai Hoyland, npc of the Norwegian team, tells us that they have come here with a fair chance to finish in a top-three position. So, I sat down to watch Norway meet a Belgium team, which is expected to finish somewhere in the middle.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room:

West <i>Livgard</i>	North <i>De Donder</i>	East <i>P. Eide</i>	South <i>De Roos</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	INT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room:

West <i>Hubert</i>	North <i>Ringseth</i>	East <i>Guiot</i>	South <i>Berg</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	INT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Norway gained 4 IMPs on the first board. Here, on the second, Belgium fought back. Erik Berg cannot be blamed too much not to have any higher views from South's position. He simply transferred to 2♥. A club lead was won in hand followed by a trump to the queen which West overtook with the ace. More trumps from the defence would have been best but after a spade switch to the queen Joern Arild Ringseth collected ten tricks.

At the other table Steve de Roos hoped to find some spade honours in his partner's hand and made an invite to game. Declarer was not put on the test, so the game was made and that was worth 10 IMPs for Belgium.

In the vugraph Barry Rigal and Patrick Jourdain tried to get things right on this deal. Where would the two commentators be without the helpful software, DeepFinesse? The commentators blithely remark '4♥ looks cold, especially after West's 1♣ or INT opening'. The audience riposte: 'Are you sure?'. On further review the commentators spot the challenging defence three times hearts, then the 'killing' club-shift to break up the squeeze on West. One more check: what does DeepFinesse say? '4♥ is cold!'. Fortified by this they checked again. Aha! Or should we say eureka? Finesse the queen of clubs, play the ace of diamonds, king of diamonds, ruff a diamond and run all but one of the trumps. We reach this ending:

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

On the penultimate trump North pitches a diamond — but what about West? A spade lets declarer finesse the queen of spades, cash the ace of spades and his hand is high. A club-pitch lets declarer finesse spades, ruff a club and dummy is high. A criss-cross-ruffing-squeeze?

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Livgard</i>	<i>De Donder</i>	<i>P. Eide</i>	<i>De Roos</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1♥

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Hubert</i>	<i>Ringseth</i>	<i>Guiot</i>	<i>Berg</i>
Pass	1♠*	Pass	1♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	INT

The auction told Petter Eide to lead a spade but his combination wasn't the most delightful. However, he placed the jack of spades on the table. That proved to be a good lead for the Norwegians. Understandably, Steven de Donder found it likely for West to hold the ace of spades as it seemed if the lead was from J-10. De Donder now, with two 'safe' spade tricks, could see nine tricks around the corner. He won with the queen, crossed in diamonds then played a club to the queen. Since diamonds was split badly in Tenerife, declarer hoped for the diamonds split better here rather than the club suit. De Donder therefore cashed the ace of diamonds and played another diamond. East won the trick and played a heart to West's king. The defence can now cash five tricks, but as West was 'sure' of the fact that North was marked with the ace of spades he exited with a club. As the club suit evidently still wasn't interesting to try, and declarer was running out of entries to dummy, he now wanted to establish his spade trick and played a spade to the king — and the curtain fell... When the smoke had cleared East-West had scored seven tricks and 300.

In the Closed Room 1♠ showed 4+ in diamonds and the same contract was reached. West led ♥7 and even though declarer won the first trick with the eight he forgot to establish a spade trick before testing the diamond suit. Now he had created five tricks for the defence, thus he went one down; however 5 IMPs to Norway thanks to the vicious lead by Petter Eide in the Open Room.



Peter Eide, Norway

Belgium was in the lead by 29-15 after 12 boards. Norway struck back here:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Livgard</i>	<i>De Donder</i>	<i>P. Eide</i>	<i>De Roos</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Dble	2♠	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Hubert</i>	<i>Ringseth</i>	<i>Guiot</i>	<i>Berg</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♦*	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Both Norths opened 1♦, best minor. When Alexandre Hubert could reopen 3♣ vulnerable Benoit Guiot took a chance on game. East's hand looks powerful indeed but it didn't fit very well with West's and 5♣ was doomed to go down. On a trump lead declarer is down two, but as the king of spades was chosen two spades could be ruffed in dummy; still one down, Norway +100.

Somehow juniors improve their bridge by bidding (too) high and sometimes their mission succeeds. INT or a partscore in either minor are likely to be made on East/West's cards. However, the Norwegians had higher expectations in the Open Room and reached game in no trump. Allan Livgard declared and he let the lead, the king of spades, hold the first trick. South signalled encouraging in spades, so next came another spade to Livgard's jack. He continued by crossing to the ace of clubs, cashed the other minor ace and then simply played another club. South could win the trick, but with all the suits guarded Livgard was able to make his game for +600 and a powerful 12 Norwegian IMPs.

The Norwegians were now back on the track and while they were at it another 5 IMPs came on the next deal, when the Belgians in the Closed Room went down in 2♠ while their teammates were practising in 6♣ (!) down two at the other table. The match was now a close affair: 32-29 in favour for Norway. When Eide/Livgard missed game on Board 15 while Hubert/Guiot did not Belgium again was in the lead, now by 4 IMPs.

On the following deal 7♥ and 7NT are cold. Would any of the N/S pairs reach the grand? The answer is: Yes, both did — but in remarkably different fashion.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Livgard</i>	<i>De Donder</i>	<i>P. Eide</i>	<i>De Roos</i>
	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	6NT	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Hubert</i>	<i>Ringseth</i>	<i>Guiot</i>	<i>Berg</i>
	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

De Donder and De Roos performed a typical junior auction, but they might point out for us not to argue with success, since the play was straightforward.

The Norwegians in the Closed Room cleared things out more efficiently as North was able to show a cue in spades (presumably the king) and later on the king of clubs. Erik Berg was thrilled about his strong hand and didn't want to miss a chance to have story to tell his forthcoming grandchildren, when he bid the grand holding a hand with 27 HCPs. 'This is the most powerful hand I ever had', Berg told us. Although, no swing.

A partscore for Norway in the end gave us the final score 39-36 to the Norwegians, 16-14 converted into VPs.

My question concerning the power of the Norwegian team remain unanswered. The future will tell.



Did Anybody...?

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Perhaps the most interesting deal of Wednesday's first round was the one above. Imagine that South declares 4♥ after West has opened 1♣. West cashes three top hearts and has to switch at trick four. There is a black-suit squeeze against West to make the contract but, at first sight it might appear that a club switch at the fourth trick might break up the squeeze. Of course, were that actually the case, we would not be publishing this article, would we?

Declarer must finesse in clubs and now plays three rounds of diamonds, ruffing. After all, the queen may ruff out. Then comes the key play, to cash one more trump, throwing the diamond from dummy, which is down to ♠AQ and ♣AQ8. West is squeezed by the lead of this penultimate trump. If he comes down to a doubleton spade, declarer can finesse the ♠Q, cash the ace to drop the king, and ruff a club back to hand to cash the jack and ten of spades. If instead West keeps three spades, he must come down to only a doubleton club. Now a spade to the queen followed by ace of clubs and ruff a club establishes the ♣Q as the tenth trick with the ♠A as the entry to cash it.

So our question is, did anybody play it this way?



Steven De Donder, Belgium

Austria v Russia - Girls Round 2

Champions Austria had started the championship with a bang, defeating Netherlands, one of the other well-fancied teams, 25-4 in the first round. Russia had begun with a solid 21-9 victory against Denmark and could show themselves to be genuine contenders if they could hold the Austrians in their Round 2 clash.

Russia struck first with a big swing on the first deal.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West <i>Ad Gogoman</i>	North <i>Nekrasova</i>	East <i>Grumm</i>	South <i>Kornilova</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West <i>Kychanova</i>	North <i>An Gogoman</i>	East <i>Mochalova</i>	South <i>Assman</i>
	1♦	2♣	2♥
5♣	5♥	All Pass	

On vugraph, Iris Grumm did not get involved with the East cards, a decision with which I heartily agree, whatever the result. Natalia Kornilova went through fourth suit to show a hand too good for a direct raise to 4♠ and, though her hand had definite potential, Ksenia Nekrasova judged to settle for game, partly no doubt due to the weakness of her trump holding. Grumm led a trump and Nekrasova won in dummy, cashed a second trump then finessed the queen of diamonds. That lost and Grumm returned her remaining trump. Nekrasova won in dummy and played a diamond to the ace then the ♦10, covered and ruffed. A successful heart finesse meant eleven tricks for +450.

Julia Mochalova overcalled 2♣ in the Closed Room, and this worked beautifully for her side. Ursula Assman bid 2♥ because to start with a negative double risked losing the fifth heart, and Elena Kychanova was able to bounce all the way to 5♣, putting big pressure on Anna Gogoman. Well, whatever pressure North may have been under, I don't think that 5♥ was the correct solution to her problem. This ugly contract drifted three off for -150 and 12 IMPs to Russia — the perfect start to what rated to be a tough match.

The score had moved on to 17-6 in favour of Russia when the next major swing came along.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West <i>Ad Gogoman</i>	North <i>Nekrasova</i>	East <i>Grumm</i>	South <i>Kornilova</i>
		Pass	2♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

West <i>Kychanova</i>	North <i>An Gogoman</i>	East <i>Mochalova</i>	South <i>Assman</i>
		Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The Austrian North/South pair had the auction that many of us would have duplicated, having no good way to explore a club slam without overstating North's club holding. With the ♠K on-side there were twelve tricks to be had in 3NT; +490.

The Russian auction began badly when Nekrasova pre-empted in her partner's major, assuming that the multi would be based on a weak hand in a major and forcing Kornilova to rebid 3NT to show her actual 22-24 balanced type. Many pairs would have been unable to show clubs at all from this point, using 4♣ as a major-suit enquiry or perhaps Baron, but Nekrasova could bid 4♣ as a natural slam try and, after an exchange of cuebids, raised to the cold club slam; +920 and a deserved 10 IMPs to Russia.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

♠ 5 ♥ 7 6 3 ♦ 8 7 3 2 ♣ A K Q 7 2	
--	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Ad Gogoman</i>	<i>Nekrasova</i>	<i>Grumm</i>	<i>Kornilova</i>
			Pass
2♦	2♥	Dble	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Kychanova</i>	<i>An Gogoman</i>	<i>Mochalova</i>	<i>Assman</i>
			Pass
3♠	All Pass		

What would be your poison with the West hand, vulnerable in second seat? Kychanova's full-blooded 3♠ opening ended the auction, clearly being consistent with partnership style as many Easts would have raised to game, I think. Double dummy, North might manage a diamond ruff to defeat 3♠, but in real life that is pretty tough to achieve and indeed Kychanova soon brought home nine tricks for +140.

Adele Gogoman preferred a multi 2♦ opening, as would I, and Nekrasova made a truly nauseating overcall. Grumm's first double was pass or correct but, when Kornilova raised to 3♥, her second double was for blood, as she could have simply bid 3♠ to play in her partner's suit. Gogoman thought about her seventh spade, facing a partner who had been willing to compete 1 that suit, but made the winning decision when she passed the double. Grumm led the ♠10 to the jack and king and Nekrasova played two more spades, intending to ruff the third round in dummy had not Grumm ruffed in with the ten. Gogoman followed with the nine on the second round suit preference for diamonds, making it easy for Grumm to switch to ace and another of that suit; down two for -500 and 8 IMPs to Austria.

Neither E/W pair had the methods to get to the excellent 6♥/NT by West on Board 8 so it was flat at +480. Then a more interesting push:



Adele Gogoman, Austria

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ad Gogoman</i>	<i>Nekrasova</i>	<i>Grumm</i>	<i>Kornilova</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♠	3♥	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Kychanova</i>	<i>An Gogoman</i>	<i>Mochalova</i>	<i>Assman</i>
		1♠	Pass
3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Gogoman made a quiet single raise — in her partnership's Blue Club style, Grumm could have had a good hand with four spades and longer hearts, among other possibilities, and that left room for Nekrasova to make a comfortable 3♥ overcall. Grumm made her favourite game try — bid game then try to make it — and Kornilova had an automatic 5♥ bid with such huge support for partner. Grumm doubled and too the obvious +500 after a spade lead.

Kychanova, facing a known five-card suit, made a pre-emptive raise to 3♠, which would have shut many Norths out of the auction. Not Gogoman, who made the brave (or wild — this is entirely decided by the result, of course) decision to overcall 4♥ on her aceless hand and moderate suit. That was the winning decision, because Mochalova was surely going to bid 4♠ anyway and this allowed Assman to save in 5♥ doubled for a flat board.

Halfway through the match it was 27-8 in favour of Russia.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ad Gogoman</i>	<i>Nekrasova</i>	<i>Grumm</i>	<i>Kornilova</i>
Pass	1♠	Dble	2♠
Dble	Pass	4♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Kychanova</i>	<i>An Gogoman</i>	<i>Mochalova</i>	<i>Assman</i>
Pass	1♠	Dble	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Both east players began with a double. Kornilova's normal raise to 2♠ caught a thin responsive double from Adele Gogoman and Grumm had an easy 4♥ bid, ending the auction. She had ten tricks for a quick and painless +420.

At the other table, Assman made a brave (or wild — but this time I think we all know which it was, irrespective of the outcome) pre-emptive raise to 3♠ and, when Anna Gogoman went on to 4♠, Mocholova was fixed and chose to stay so. Four Spades was down one; -50 but 9 IMPs to Austria.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ K 8			
♥ Q J			
♦ Q 3			
♣ J 10 7 6 5 4 3			
♠ A J 2		♠ 10 6 3	
♥ K 10 4		♥ 7 5 3	
♦ 6 4		♦ A J 9 8 7 2	
♣ A K Q 9 8		♣ 2	
		♠ Q 9 7 5 4	
		♥ A 9 8 6 2	
		♦ K 10 5	
		♣ —	
West	North	East	South
<i>Ad Gogoman</i>	<i>Nekrasova</i>	<i>Grumm</i>	<i>Kornilova</i>
1♣	2♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♥
		5♦	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Kychanova</i>	<i>An Gogoman</i>	<i>Mochalova</i>	<i>Assman</i>
1♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
INT	2♣	1♦	1♠
3NT	All Pass	3♦	Pass

Russia had a huge result in the Closed Room when Kychanova, with a little help from her friends, managed to bring home 3NT. Gogoman cleared the first hurdle when she led the ♣J rather than a small one. Kychanova won and played a diamond, ducking when the queen appeared. Now Gogoman switched to the king of spades and, when that was ducked, a second spade to the jack. Declarer ducked a club to the ten and all that was required was passive defence from here. No, Gogoman switched to the ♥Q and Assman overtook to play a third spade to the ace. When Ky-

chanova now cashed the clubs, Assman was squeezed in the red suits and declarer read the ending correctly to drop the ♥J for her contract — a tremendous +400.

In the other room, the Russian N/S had a misunderstanding in defending against the Austrian strong club opening. Nekrasova overcalled 2♣ which, by my reading of their card, was natural. Kornilova, however, jumped to 4♥, clearly expecting some kind of two-suiter. When that reached Grumm she was not sure who could make what and tried 5♦, where she drifted two off for -100 and 11 IMPs to Russia.

That was not the end of the story, of course, because the director was called. You might argue that the jump to 4♥, by a passed hand, was a very strange action, and that both East and West might have smelled a rat. Clearly East was not damaged as she had the correct explanation from her screenmate, but the director was prepared to believe that West might have suffered damage and the ruling was that she would sometimes have doubled 4♥ so the +11 IMPs became just 5 IMPs to Russia.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K Q 8 6 5			
♥ 10 7 4			
♦ 6 4			
♣ A 7 3			
♠ J 4 2		♠ A 10 9 7	
♥ 6 5 3		♥ A Q 9	
♦ Q 8 7 5		♦ A K 9 2	
♣ 9 8 4		♣ J 5	
		♠ 3	
		♥ K J 8 2	
		♦ J 10 3	
		♣ K Q 10 6 2	
West	North	East	South
<i>Ad Gogoman</i>	<i>Nekrasova</i>	<i>Grumm</i>	<i>Kornilova</i>
Pass	1♠	Dble	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Dble	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Kychanova</i>	<i>An Gogoman</i>	<i>Mochalova</i>	<i>Assman</i>
Pass	1♠	INT	1♦
All Pass			2♣

Assman opened a Precision-style 1♦ and was then prepared to see it through and show her long clubs at her second turn even though she had the option of passing. Two Clubs looks comfortable enough due to the friendly lie of the hearts, but there is only one entry to dummy to lead up to the heart holding and declarer lost her way, losing three diamonds, two hearts and a spade after repeated trump leads — establishing a spade trick early for a diamond discard appears to leave declarer in control; -50.

The fate of 2♣ did not matter so much because of events at the vugraph table. Nekrasova opened light in third seat — fair enough — and Grumm doubled. Now, I would have thought that redouble was the mainstream action on the South cards. Kornilova's preference of 2♣ might have been OK, but it was read as Drury, despite the double. Who was right, I cannot say, but the outcome

was the rather unattractive contract of 3♠ doubled by North (not so unattractive if you were Iris Grumm, of course). Grumm led three rounds of diamonds for declarer to ruff. Nekrasova did well from here, leading the ♥10 to the ace - Grumm could have covered with the queen instead but declarer just crosses to the ♣A to lead a second heart up. Grumm switched to her low club which ran to the ace and now Nekrasova led to the ♠J, cashed the ♥K, and led two rounds of clubs. Grumm could ruff but there were just two more trumps to come for the defence; down two for -300 and 6 IMPs to Austria.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ad Gogoman</i>	<i>Nekrasova</i>	<i>Grumm</i>	<i>Kornilova</i>
3♥ Pass	Dble 4♠	Pass All Pass	3♠

West	North	East	South
<i>Kychanova</i>	<i>An Gogoman</i>	<i>Mochalova</i>	<i>Assman</i>
3♥	Dble	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Both Wests felt that their all-round playing potential justified a 3♥ opening despite the moderate suit and North had an automatic double. Now the Austrian N/S walked on water. The combination of responding 3NT with 5 HCP and a flat hand and then passing with 20 HCP and some distributional strength cannot have been duplicated very often but it worked like a charm, there being precisely nine sure tricks for declarer; +600.

Kornilove did not find the 3NT response, preferring to try her three-card spade suit, and Nekrasova had an obvious raise. That suited Grumm very nicely indeed and, imagining that her opponents might have a better spot in one of the minors, she passed with an air of great contentment. Nekrasova won the heart lead and crossed to the queen of clubs to pitch a diamond on the ♥K. Next she led a spade and was unimpressed with the news when West showed out. She won the ace and played two top clubs, Grumm ruffing and returning the ♠Q. Nekrasova could win and make the ♠10 en passant but that was that; down three for -300 and 14 IMPs to Austria.

What would I have done with the South hand? I am betting that the long-term winner is to pass the double and hope 3♥ goes off, but it is a bit scary in the short term, I confess.

After a rough start, Austria had come through to win by 58-40 IMPs; 18-12 VPs.

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