

# 23<sup>rd</sup> EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

13<sup>rd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2011 Albena, Bulgaria

## Daily Bulletin



Editor: Brian Senior

Co-editor: Micke Melander, Patrick Jourdain, Ram Soffer

Lay-Out: George Chatzidakis

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# Youngsters Arrive Today



*If you get tired of walking... take the train!*

There is a powerful line-up at the head of the field in the Juniors Championship. Israel leads with 105 VPs from five matches. Next comes Italy on 101, Poland on 100 and France on 98. Of the less regular contenders, Finland are best placed in fifth, with 92 VPs.

Bottom-placed Ireland held Italy to lose by only 14-16 in one of the best performances of the day.

The Girls Championship is one-third of the way through, having completed three matches. Netherlands has 73 out of a possible 75 VPs. The Dutch are being chased by Italy on 65, Poland on 63 and France on 50. The result of the day was, perhaps, Italy's 23-7 victory over well-fancied France.

The Youngsters arrive today, with Registration from 1430, Captains Meeting at 1730, and their Official Welcoming Ceremony at 1900. Good luck to all and may you enjoy Albena as much as those of us who have been here for a few days are already doing.

### Today's BBO Matches

|       |                                 |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| 10.00 | Israel v Greece (Juniors)       |
| 10.00 | Italy v Turkey (Juniors)        |
| 10.00 | Scotland v Hungary (Juniors)    |
| 10.00 | Poland v Germany (Girls)        |
| 13.30 | Netherlands v Bulgaria ( Girls) |
| 13.30 | Poland v Germany ( Girls)       |
| 13.30 | France v Turkey ( Girls)        |
| 13.30 | Hungary v Italy (Girls)         |
| 16.20 | Bulgaria v Poland ( Girls)      |
| 16.20 | Germany v Sweden ( Girls)       |
| 16.20 | Italy v Netherlands ( Girls)    |
| 16.20 | France v Hungary (Girls)        |

## JUNIORS TEAMS



### RESULTS



### TODAY'S PROGRAM

#### ROUND 3

| Match |                    | IMP's    | VP's    |
|-------|--------------------|----------|---------|
| 1     | BULGARIA SCOTLAND  | 31 - 26  | 16 - 14 |
| 2     | GERMANY HUNGARY    | 19 - 49  | 9 - 21  |
| 3     | AUSTRIA DENMARK    | 17 - 124 | 0 - 25  |
| 4     | GREECE SWEDEN      | 40 - 8   | 22 - 8  |
| 5     | TURKEY FINLAND     | 55 - 30  | 20 - 10 |
| 6     | CROATIA FRANCE     | 63 - 35  | 21 - 9  |
| 7     | IRELAND ISRAEL     | 10 - 91  | 0 - 25  |
| 8     | ROMANIA ITALY      | 23 - 78  | 4 - 25  |
| 9     | ENGLAND POLAND     | 64 - 58  | 16 - 14 |
| 10    | NORWAY BELGIUM     | 79 - 20  | 25 - 4  |
| 11    | SERBIA NETHERLANDS | 1 - 81   | -2 - 25 |

#### ROUND 6

|    |             |          |
|----|-------------|----------|
| 1  | SWEDEN      | BULGARIA |
| 2  | FINLAND     | GERMANY  |
| 3  | FRANCE      | AUSTRIA  |
| 4  | ISRAEL      | GREECE   |
| 5  | ITALY       | TURKEY   |
| 6  | POLAND      | CROATIA  |
| 7  | BELGIUM     | IRELAND  |
| 8  | NORWAY      | ROMANIA  |
| 9  | NETHERLANDS | ENGLAND  |
| 10 | SERBIA      | DENMARK  |
| 11 | SCOTLAND    | HUNGARY  |

#### ROUND 4

| Match |                    | IMP's   | VP's    |
|-------|--------------------|---------|---------|
| 1     | HUNGARY BULGARIA   | 45 - 42 | 16 - 14 |
| 2     | DENMARK GERMANY    | 57 - 36 | 19 - 11 |
| 3     | SWEDEN AUSTRIA     | 62 - 13 | 25 - 5  |
| 4     | FINLAND GREECE     | 47 - 24 | 20 - 10 |
| 5     | FRANCE TURKEY      | 62 - 41 | 19 - 11 |
| 6     | ISRAEL CROATIA     | 38 - 37 | 15 - 15 |
| 7     | ITALY IRELAND      | 51 - 47 | 16 - 14 |
| 8     | POLAND ROMANIA     | 61 - 27 | 22 - 8  |
| 9     | BELGIUM ENGLAND    | 23 - 72 | 5 - 25  |
| 10    | NETHERLANDS NORWAY | 28 - 46 | 11 - 19 |
| 11    | SERBIA SCOTLAND    | 25 - 71 | 6 - 24  |

### Team Profiles

We would like to publish in the Bulletin as many Team Profiles as possible. Could we ask please that captains or coaches try to organise this for us. The profiles are not only for the interest of those present in Albena but for readers around the world, particularly journalists, and are important at Youth events because so many of the players are new and little or nothing is known about them.

Profiles may be serious or humorous, but, please, not obscene. If you aim for humour, please at least include some genuine information.

You can bring written profiles to the Bulletin office or send computer versions to my email: [bsenior@hotmail.com](mailto:bsenior@hotmail.com)

#### ROUND 5

| Match |                      | IMP's   | VP's       |
|-------|----------------------|---------|------------|
| 1     | BULGARIA DENMARK     | 45 - 50 | 14 - 16    |
| 2     | GERMANY SWEDEN       | 12 - 33 | 11 - 19    |
| 3     | AUSTRIA FINLAND      | 40 - 59 | 11 - 19    |
| 4     | GREECE FRANCE        | 19 - 57 | 7 - 23     |
| 5     | TURKEY ISRAEL        | 33 - 55 | 10 - 20    |
| 6     | CROATIA ITALY        | 37 - 30 | 16 - 14    |
| 7     | IRELAND POLAND       | 10 - 54 | 6 - 24     |
| 8     | ROMANIA BELGIUM      | 55 - 15 | 23 - 7     |
| 9     | ENGLAND NORWAY       | 30 - 38 | 14 - 16    |
| 10    | HUNGARY SERBIA       | 28 - 61 | 7.5 - 21.5 |
| 11    | SCOTLAND NETHERLANDS | 38 - 19 | 19 - 11    |



### Today's Schedule

- 10.00** Juniors Teams (6th Round)
- 10.00** Girls Teams (4th Round, 1st half)
- 13.30** Girls Teams (4th Round, 2nd half)
- 14.30** Youngsters Registration
- 16.20** Girls Teams (5th Round, 1st half)
- 17.30** Youngsters Captains Meeting
- 19.00** Youngsters Welcome Ceremony

## GIRLS TEAMS



### RESULTS



### TODAY'S PROGRAM

#### ROUND 2

| Match |                        | IMP's    | VP's    |
|-------|------------------------|----------|---------|
| 1     | ITALY BULGARIA         | 105 - 32 | 25 - 4  |
| 2     | HUNGARY GERMANY        | 54 - 93  | 9 - 21  |
| 3     | NETHERLANDS CZECH REP. | 133 - 78 | 24 - 6  |
| 4     | POLAND TURKEY          | 111 - 54 | 24 - 6  |
| 5     | FRANCE SWEDEN          | 58 - 38  | 18 - 12 |

#### ROUND 4

|   |             |                |
|---|-------------|----------------|
| 1 | NETHERLANDS | BULGARIA       |
| 2 | POLAND      | GERMANY        |
| 3 | SWEDEN      | CZECH REPUBLIC |
| 4 | FRANCE      | TURKEY         |
| 5 | HUNGARY     | ITALY          |

#### ROUND 3

| Match |                     | IMP's    |         |
|-------|---------------------|----------|---------|
| 1     | BULGARIA HUNGARY    | 20 - 119 | 1 - 25  |
| 2     | GERMANY NETHERLANDS | 27 - 85  | 6 - 24  |
| 3     | CZECH REP. POLAND   | 28 - 62  | 10 - 20 |
| 4     | TURKEY SWEDEN       | 68 - 43  | 19 - 11 |
| 5     | ITALY FRANCE        | 96 - 45  | 23 - 7  |

#### ROUND 5

|   |                |             |
|---|----------------|-------------|
| 1 | BULGARIA       | POLAND      |
| 2 | GERMANY        | SWEDEN      |
| 3 | CZECH REPUBLIC | TURKEY      |
| 4 | ITALY          | NETHERLANDS |
| 5 | FRANCE         | HUNGARY     |



## 17<sup>th</sup> SWEDISH BRIDGEFESTIVAL ÖREBRO, July 29<sup>th</sup> - August 7<sup>th</sup> 2011

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## JUNIORS TEAMS

### RANKING AFTER ROUND 5

|    |             |      |
|----|-------------|------|
| 1  | ISRAEL      | 105  |
| 2  | ITALY       | 101  |
| 3  | POLAND      | 100  |
| 4  | FRANCE      | 98   |
| 5  | FINLAND     | 92   |
| 6  | SWEDEN      | 88   |
| 7  | DENMARK     | 85   |
| 8  | NETHERLANDS | 84   |
|    | NORWAY      | 84   |
| 10 | GREECE      | 79   |
| 11 | SCOTLAND    | 78   |
| 12 | HUNGARY     | 75.5 |
| 13 | CROATIA     | 74   |
|    | GERMANY     | 74   |
| 15 | BULGARIA    | 71   |
| 16 | ENGLAND     | 68   |
| 17 | TURKEY      | 64   |
| 18 | SERBIA      | 50.5 |
| 19 | ROMANIA     | 46   |
| 20 | AUSTRIA     | 42   |
| 21 | BELGIUM     | 32   |
| 22 | IRELAND     | 29   |

## GIRLS TEAMS

### RANKING AFTER ROUND 3

|    |                |    |
|----|----------------|----|
| 1  | NETHERLANDS    | 73 |
| 2  | ITALY          | 65 |
| 3  | POLAND         | 63 |
| 4  | FRANCE         | 50 |
| 5  | HUNGARY        | 42 |
| 6  | GERMANY        | 40 |
| 7  | CZECH REPUBLIC | 38 |
| 8  | SWEDEN         | 34 |
| 9  | TURKEY         | 28 |
| 10 | BULGARIA       | 7  |

## Today in History - July 16th

**1945:** On this day in 1945, at 5:29:45 a.m., the Manhattan Project comes to an explosive end as the first atom bomb is successfully tested in Alamogordo, New Mexico.

**1918:** In Yekaterinburg, Russia, Czar Nicholas II and his family are executed by the Bolsheviks, bringing an end to the three-century-old Romanov dynasty.

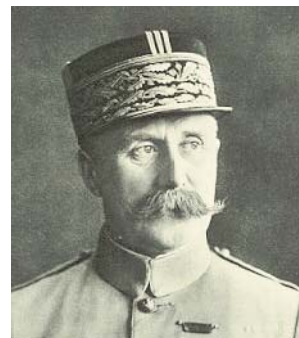
**1935:** The world's first parking meter, known as Park-O-Meter No. 1, is installed on the southeast corner of what was then First Street and Robinson Avenue in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on this day in 1935.

**1969:** At 9:32 a.m. EDT, Apollo 11, the first U.S. lunar landing mission, is launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on a historic journey to the surface of the moon. After traveling 240,000 miles in 76 hours, Apollo 11 entered into a lunar orbit on July 19.

**1990:** More than 1,000 people are killed when a 7.7-magnitude earthquake strikes Luzon Island in the Philippines on this day in 1990. The massive tremor wreaked havoc across a sizeable portion of Luzon, the country's largest island, with Baguio City suffering the most devastating effects.



**1790:** On this day in 1790, the young American Congress declares that a swampy, humid, muddy and mosquito-infested site on the Potomac River between Maryland and Virginia will be the nation's permanent capital. "Washington," in the newly designated federal "District of Columbia," was named after the leader of the American Revolution and the country's first president: George Washington. It was Washington who saw the area's potential economic and accessibility benefits due to the proximity of navigable rivers.



**1940:** On this day in 1940, Marshal Henri-Philippe Petain, World War I hero, becomes prime minister of the Vichy government of France. As Germany began to overrun more French territory, the French Cabinet became desperate for a solution to this crisis. Premier Paul Reynaud continued to hold out hope, refusing to ask for an armistice, especially now that France had received assurance from Britain that the two would fight as one, and that Britain would continue to fight the Germans even if France were completely overtaken. But others in the government were despondent and wanted to sue for peace. Reynaud resigned in protest. His vice premier, Henri Petain, formed a new government and asked the Germans for an armistice, in effect, surrendering.

# GIRLS TEAMS

# ROUND 2 - 1st half



**BULGARIA**

**v**

**ITALY**



by Brian Senior

It is time that we gave some space to the host nation, Bulgaria. This is the first time that Bulgaria has been represented in the Girls series, so this is an inexperienced squad and the team is unlikely to be challenging for a medal at the end of the championship. In Round 2 Bulgaria met Italy and the first half of the match saw the Italians build a big lead.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

|           |       |          |          |
|-----------|-------|----------|----------|
| West      | North | East     | South    |
| Sadonkova | Botta | Tsankova | Costa    |
| –         | –     | Pass     | Pass     |
| 1♦        | Pass  | 1♥       | Pass     |
| 1♠        | Pass  | 2♣       | All Pass |

|        |             |        |        |
|--------|-------------|--------|--------|
| West   | North       | East   | South  |
| Burgio | Radoslavova | Morina | Boneva |
| –      | –           | Pass   | 3♦     |
| Dble   | 4♦          | Dble   | Pass   |
| 4♠     | All Pass    |        |        |

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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



|           |       |          |       |
|-----------|-------|----------|-------|
| West      | North | East     | South |
| Sadonkova | Botta | Tsankova | Costa |
| –         | –     | –        | 2NT   |
| Pass      | 3♣    | Pass     | 3♦    |
| Pass      | 3♥    | Pass     | 3NT   |
| Pass      | 4♦    | Pass     | 4♥    |
| Pass      | 4♠    | Pass     | 5♣    |
| Pass      | 5NT   | Pass     | 6♦    |
| All Pass  |       |          |       |

|        |             |          |        |
|--------|-------------|----------|--------|
| West   | North       | East     | South  |
| Burgio | Radoslavova | Morina   | Boneva |
| –      | –           | –        | 1♣     |
| Pass   | 2♦          | Pass     | 2NT    |
| Pass   | 3♠          | Pass     | 4♦     |
| Pass   | 4♠          | Pass     | 4NT    |
| Pass   | 5♦          | Pass     | 5NT    |
| Pass   | 6♦          | All Pass |        |

Italy led by 2-1 IMPs after five boards then came the first big swing. Four Spades is not all that good – with three red losers declarer needs the spades to come in and there may also be a problem in clubs. However, it has the merit of making.

Left to themselves, Vanda Sadonkova and Antonina Tsankova bid peacefully to 2♣. After a club lead, Sadonkova played safely for nine tricks; +140 to Bulgaria. In the other room, Simona Boneva's normal pre-empt added momentum to the auction and her opponents reached the spade game. Ina Radoslavova led ace and another diamond. Caterina Burgio ruffed and led a low spade to the king and ace. Yes, it would be an old trick for South to play the king from king-ten doubleton, but it is still normal to play as Burgio did, continuing with a spade to the nine. She had ten tricks – four in each black suit, a heart and a diamond ruff – for +620 and 10 IMPs to Italy.

Both N/S pairs must have hoped for a big swing after this deal as both made 6♦ for a flat board at +1370.

Margherita Costa opened 2NT and Giorgia Botta started with a Puppet Stayman auction then went on with a natural diamond slam try. When Costa co-operated, Botta drove to the small slam.

Sadonkova led the nine of spades.

Boneva opened 1♣, Precision, and Radoslavova showed a diamond positive then her second suit. I would have thought that Boneva should have known that there was no heart control between the two hands but she committed her side to slam and, with the result in the other room, that was necessary to have the chance to avoid a large swing out. When Stefania Morina, knowing that the king of hearts must be on her left, led the seven of clubs, the slam had made again.

In other matches, 6♦ was bid twice, defeated once and made once; 6NT was bid twice and made both times, once with an overtrick. The other four tables stopped in 3NT or 4NT.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ♠ 7<br>♥ K Q 10 7 6 3<br>♦ K Q 10 4<br>♣ J 2 | <table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table> | N | E | W | S | ♠ A Q J 8<br>♥ 9<br>♦ 9 7<br>♣ A Q 10 7 6 5 |
| N  | E   |   |   |   |   |   |
| W  | S   |   |   |   |   |   |
| ♠ K 9 4<br>♥ 8 5 2<br>♦ 8 5 3<br>♣ 9 8 4 3   | ♠ 10 6 5 3 2<br>♥ A J 4<br>♦ A J 6 2<br>♣ K   |   |   |   |   |   |

| West             | North        | East            | South        |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>Sadonkova</i> | <i>Botta</i> | <i>Tsankova</i> | <i>Costa</i> |
| –                | –            | 2♣              | Pass         |
| 2♦               | Pass         | 2♠              | Pass         |
| 3♥               | Pass         | 4♣              | Pass         |
| 5♣               | All Pass     |                 |              |

| West          | North              | East          | South         |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Burgio</i> | <i>Radoslavova</i> | <i>Morina</i> | <i>Boneva</i> |
| –             | –                  | 1♣            | 1♠            |
| 2♠            | Pass               | 3♣            | Pass          |
| 3♥            | Pass               | 3NT           | All Pass      |

The Precision 2♣ opening didn't show up very well on this deal. Tsankova's 2♣ was an opening hand with long clubs and a 2♥ response would not have been forcing so Sadonkova started with a 2♦ enquiry. The rest of the auction was natural and left the Bulgarians in the wrong game. Perhaps Tsankova might have considered bidding 3NT over 3♥, but that could have worked badly on a different deal.

Costa cashed the two red aces then switched to the six of spades, ducked to declarer's queen. Tsankova crossed to dummy and took spade discards on the red winners then ran the jack of clubs and was one down; –100.

Morina opened 1♣, natural or balanced, when possibly only a two-card suit. I don't like a method in which it is necessary to start with a 2♠ cuebid to force in hearts – see how it cramped the auction here – but Morina was quite content to bid 3NT at her third turn as the opposition had bid spades so she didn't worry about her weak diamond holding.

Boneva led a spade to the king and ace. Morina led a low club towards the jack in an attempt to keep her communications open and so lost a trick to the bare king. Boneva continued with the spade attack, leading low to the nine and jack. Morina played a diamond and Boneva hopped up with the ace to play a third spade so that was eleven tricks for +660 and 13 IMPs to Italy.

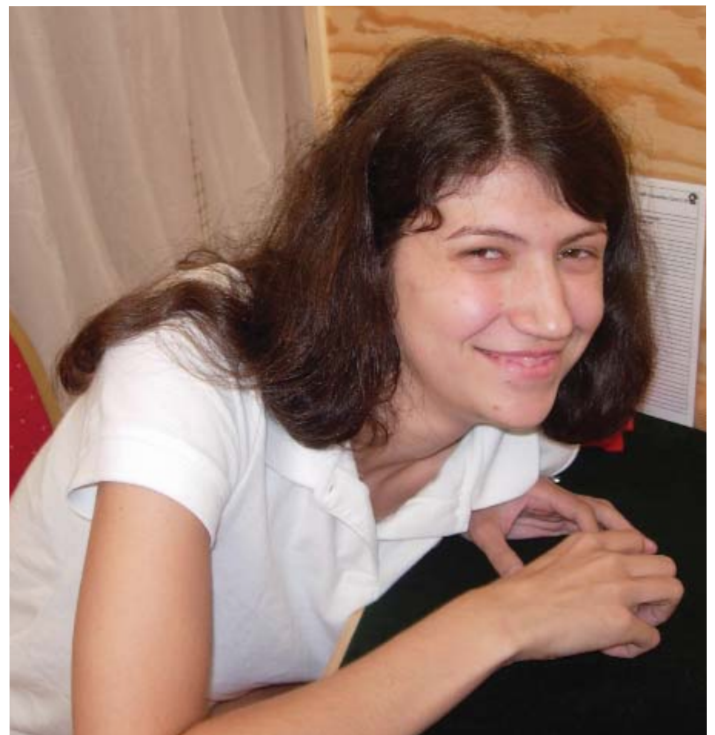
Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ♠ 10 6 3<br>♥ 6 5<br>♦ K 8 5 4<br>♣ A 6 4 3 | <table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table> | N | E | W | S | ♠ K 4 2<br>♥ A Q J 10 7 3<br>♦ A 9<br>♣ Q J |
| N   | E   |   |   |   |   |   |
| W   | S   |   |   |   |   |   |
| ♠ 9 8 7<br>♥ 9 8 2<br>♦ Q 6<br>♣ 10 9 8 7 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |

| West             | North        | East            | South        |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>Sadonkova</i> | <i>Botta</i> | <i>Tsankova</i> | <i>Costa</i> |
| –                | 1♦           | Dble            | Pass         |
| 1♠               | Pass         | 2♥              | All Pass     |

| West          | North              | East          | South         |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Burgio</i> | <i>Radoslavova</i> | <i>Morina</i> | <i>Boneva</i> |
| –             | 1♦                 | Dble          | Pass          |
| 2♣            | 2♦                 | 2♥            | Pass          |
| 3NT           | All Pass           |               |               |

Both Easts considered their hand to be too strong for a heart overcall so doubled then introduced the long suit at their second turn. The Italian auction was straightforward and efficient and saw them reach one of the two available good games. Radoslavova led a low diamond to the queen and king. Burgio led a heart to the ten, the queen of clubs to the ace, and a second heart. When the king made an appearance, she had nine tricks, and came to a spade at the end for +630.



Vanda Sadonkova, Bulgaria

Sadonkova, I think, showed her inexperience, at the other table. Firstly, she responded on a three-card suit to the take-out double when 1NT or 2♣ looks better. Then she failed to appreciate that her partner had shown a strong hand – holding a maximum for a simple response to the double, she certainly owed her partner another bid. Two Hearts made ten tricks for +170 but another 10 IMPs to Italy.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| ♠ 9 7 2<br>♥ 6 2<br>♦ J 10 7 6<br>♣ K 5 4 2 | <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span>N</span> <span>W</span> <span>E</span> <span>S</span> </div> | ♠ 5<br>♥ A J 7<br>♦ A K 9 5<br>♣ A Q J 9 3 |  |
|---|---|--|--|

|                  |              |                 |              |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                  |              |                 |              |
| West             | North        | East            | South        |
| <i>Sadonkova</i> | <i>Botta</i> | <i>Tsankova</i> | <i>Costa</i> |
| –                | –            | 1♣              | Pass         |
| 1♦               | Pass         | 2♣              | Pass         |
| 2♠               | Pass         | 3♦              | Pass         |
| 3♠               | Pass         | 3NT             | All Pass     |

|               |                    |               |               |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
|               |                    |               |               |
| West          | North              | East          | South         |
| <i>Burgio</i> | <i>Radoslavova</i> | <i>Morina</i> | <i>Boneva</i> |
| –             | –                  | 1♣            | Pass          |
| 2♥            | Pass               | 3NT           | Pass          |
| 4♠            | All Pass           |               |               |

Tsankova's 1♣ opening was Precision, 16+, and the 1♦ response a negative, 0-7. After this start, the remainder of the auction was natural and the outcome entirely understandable. However, 3NT proved to be an awkward contract to both play and defend, though it can be made easily enough if declarer plays on spades and uses the red queens as entries to the dummy. Of course, declarer cannot know that she has those two dummy entries.

Costa led the four of hearts. Tsankova put in dummy's nine and led the queen of spades. Costa won the ace and tried the effect of switching to the eight of diamonds. Tsankova played low from dummy and won the ten with her ace. Now she crossed to the queen of diamonds to play the spade jack, pitching the three of clubs from hand. Costa won the king and returned the eight of clubs, ducked to declarer's nine. Tsankova played ace and queen of clubs to the king and back came another club to her jack. Tsankova cashed the diamond king and heart ace and had to decide with which red loser to exit. Had she chosen the nine of diamonds, Botta would have been forced to give dummy the last trick with a spade, but Tsankova actually exited with the jack of hearts and Costa took the last trick with the heart ten (dummy had kept a spade winner); down one for –50.

At the other table, Burgio's 2♥ response was a weakish

hand with five spades and four hearts. When Morina jumped to 3NT, Burgio judged that her spades would be good enough and converted to 4♠. That contract can be defeated by a heart lead, the defence coming to both the heart king and a heart ruff, but declarer had shown a heart side-suit and so the killing lead was not very attractive to Radoslavova. She instead led the jack of diamonds and with North having no entry the heart ruff was no longer a possibility. Burgio lost two trumps and the king of hearts; +420 and 10 IMPs to Italy.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| ♠ K<br>♥ K J 10 9 4<br>♦ 4 2<br>♣ K Q 8 4 2 | <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span>N</span> <span>W</span> <span>E</span> <span>S</span> </div> | ♠ Q 10 8 6 2<br>♥ A 8 5 2<br>♦ A<br>♣ J 9 5 |  |
|---|---|---|--|

|                  |              |                 |              |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                  |              |                 |              |
| West             | North        | East            | South        |
| <i>Sadonkova</i> | <i>Botta</i> | <i>Tsankova</i> | <i>Costa</i> |
| 2♠               | 4♣           | 4♠              | All Pass     |

|               |                    |               |               |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
|               |                    |               |               |
| West          | North              | East          | South         |
| <i>Burgio</i> | <i>Radoslavova</i> | <i>Morina</i> | <i>Boneva</i> |
| Pass          | 1♥                 | 1♠            | 2NT           |
| 4♠            | 5♥                 | Pass          | Pass          |
| 5♠            | All Pass           |               |               |

Italy led by 53-5 going into the last board of the first half but that board brought some blessed relief to our hosts.

Sadonkova opened 2♠, weak with spades and a minor; and Botta overcalled 4♣, hearts and clubs. That looks a bit aggressive to me but clearly Costa did not expect a great hand for the action because, when Tsankova made the obvious bid of 4♠, Costa went quietly despite the heart fit – presumably because she had values in her partner's short suits.

After the lead of the king of clubs, Sadonkova won and played on trumps, losing just two spades and one club for +620.

Burgio did not have a two-suited opening at her disposal in the other room so passed and Radoslavova opened 1♥. Morina overcalled and Boneva showed a constructive heart raise. With her distributional hand, low in defence, Radoslavova went on to 5♥ over Burgio's 4♠. Five Hearts can be two down, but –300 would have been an excellent save, worth 8 IMPs to Bulgaria. It got better when Burgio misjudged and took the push to 5♠. Boneva led the ten of clubs. Morina could win the ace and cross to the ace of diamonds to take a club pitch on the ace of hearts before playing on trumps, but that still left one club loser to go with the two top spades; one down for –100 and 12 IMPs to Bulgaria.

Italy led overnight by 53-17 IMPs. The next morning, Italy continued to dominate. They won the match 105-32 IMPs, 25-4 VPs.

# It's All About The Small Clubs...

by Micke Melander

In Round 3 of the Juniors, several interesting hands appeared. Some of them looked quite easy, but got difficult because of the fact that the defense made some brilliant moves messing with the mind of declarer. Let's start by looking at one hand from the match between Sweden and Greece where Vroustis knew how to give Cecilia Rimstedt major problems on the following hand with his clubs:

Board 3. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>♠ 5<br/>♥ A Q J 6 3<br/>♦ 6<br/>♣ Q J 10 5 3 2</p> | <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                 N<br/>W     E<br/>S             </div> | <p>♠ Q J 10 8 4<br/>♥ K 10 8<br/>♦ A 10 4<br/>♣ 9 7</p> |   |
|   | <p>♠ A K 9 6<br/>♥ 7 5 2<br/>♦ K J 9 8 7 2<br/>♣ –</p>   |   |   |
| <p>West<br/>M. Grönkvist<br/>–<br/>2NT*</p>           | <p>North<br/>Vroustis<br/>–<br/>Pass</p>   | <p>East<br/>C. Rimstedt<br/>–<br/>4♥</p>                | <p>South<br/>Doxiadis<br/>1♦<br/>All Pass</p> |

2NT showed a two-suiter with clubs and hearts.

Doxiadis thought for a long time before leading and was seriously fingering four different cards: a low diamond, a small trump, the ace of spades and a small spade!

In the end he started with a gift, the ace of spades, which went to the five, two and declarer's eight. Doxiadis thought for another while then suddenly played the six of spades, that was the card he was fingering at the previous trick. This put Cecilia Rimstedt under pressure and one might ask oneself if he had led away from an unsupported ace? Another key question is that we probably know that South doesn't have all the diamond honours that are out there. You know as declarer that you are about to lose two club tricks so you can't afford to lose anything more. A reasonable plan should be to set up the club and pull the trumps or setting up the spades when you already got them led. However, first you need to decide, ruff or discard on the spade return? Rimstedt ruffed and played a club from dummy. Now Vroustis made a brilliant play by just following with the four of clubs! That went to the nine and a ruff by South. Doxiadis again attacked with the nine of spades, which declarer now ran to the ten.

Since North didn't cover clubs earlier on, it's not obvious to pull trumps and give away a trick in clubs. Rimstedt found another route and played the queen of spades, covered by the king and ruffed high in dummy, North discarding a diamond. On the queen of clubs from dummy Vroustis

again played low! South ruffed and exited with his last trump and that went to the six, four and declarer's eight.. This was the situation,

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>♠ –<br/>♥ 9<br/>♦ Q 5<br/>♣ A K 8</p>  | <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                 N<br/>W     E<br/>S             </div> | <p>♠ J<br/>♥ K 10<br/>♦ A 10 4<br/>♣ –</p>   |  |
| <p>♠ –<br/>♥ A Q<br/>♦ 6<br/>♣ J 10 5</p> |  | <p>♠ –<br/>♥ –<br/>♦ K J 9 8 7 2<br/>♣ –</p> |  |

Rimstedt was now helpless and had to concede another trick, going one off, pretty sure because of all the small clubs that were played from Vroustis! Well done.

According to Deep Finesse you only have nine tricks as declarer; the spades at tricks one and two gave declarer the chance to make it. However, on a diamond lead you are most probably always down, since you need to be in dummy and lead clubs up to your hand with accurate defense.

In the match between Austria v Denmark the following hand appeared a few boards later on.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>♠ 9 5<br/>♥ 8 5 4 3 2<br/>♦ 9 6 2<br/>♣ 10 6 4</p> | <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                 N<br/>W     E<br/>S             </div> | <p>♠ J 7 6 2<br/>♥ Q 9 7<br/>♦ J 10 5<br/>♣ A 5 2</p> |  |
|   |  | <p>♠ K<br/>♥ A J 10<br/>♦ A K Q 8 7 4<br/>♣ 8 7 3</p> |  |
| <p>West<br/>Jepsen<br/>–<br/>Pass<br/>Pass</p>        | <p>North<br/>Kronschlaeger<br/>–<br/>1♠<br/>6NT</p>  | <p>East<br/>Bilde<br/>–<br/>Pass<br/>All Pass</p>     | <p>South<br/>Kofler<br/>1♣<br/>3NT</p> |

Austrian precision bidding by their four-way club system brought them quite fast to the excellent slam. Jepsen gave them a 'Greek gift' by leading the five of hearts which ran to six, queen and ace.



Declarer now had three tricks in almost all the suits, of course having to give away a trick to the ace of clubs. Kofler played a club to the king, on which Bilde smoothly showed up with the two of clubs! Declarer continued with a spade to the king and a second club to dummy's queen, Bilde again followed low! This gave declarer problem; of course, knowing the full hand it's a claim at this point, but let's say diamonds aren't 3-3. Then you have to rely on clubs being right, spades or diamonds breaking. You have also messed up your communications and lost several options about how to continue.

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

Declarer tried to cash his spades (not working) and forgot to discard his club from hand, which had the consequence that when he got back to his hand he was automatically down – even though diamonds were 3-3. It's pretty sure that if Bilde had won either of the first two rounds of clubs the contract would have been made.

However, the lesson to learn is to look carefully in Albania – if you see any low clubs appearing be suspicious. And don't accept Greek gifts!



Vassilis Vroustis, Greece & Cecilia Rimstedt, Sweden

## Good Claim, Bad Timing

by Jan van Cleeff

In his match against Norway (Juniors Round 2, Poland-Norway) Pavel Jassem experienced some unhappy moments. It had everything to do with Board 12:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Sitting North, Jassem made a courageous bid after:

| West | North<br><i>Jassem</i> | East | South<br><i>Tuczynski</i> |
|------|------------------------|------|---------------------------|
| Pass | Pass                   | 1♠   | Dble                      |
| 3♠   | Pass                   | Pass | Dble                      |
| Pass | ?                      |      |                           |

Jassem jumped to 5♦, which he was allowed to play (undoubled). On a heart lead (or a timely heart switch) the diamond game is doomed. East, however, kicked off with the club ace and when he tabled the second black ace at trick two the contract was cold. At this point declarer has the communications to make eleven tricks even after a heart switch: win the ace, cross to hand with a trump, ruff a spade with the ace of diamonds, draw the outstanding trumps and claim.

Well, declarer claimed indeed but for some reason could not accurately explain his line of play. The TD was called. He had no other option than to disallow the claim and give a result of Five Diamonds doubled down one for –100. At the other table the result was Four Diamonds, making exactly for +130, so Norway gained 6 IMPs on the board.

The moral of the story – if you are going to appeal, be sure that you have it straight in your head before you do so.

# GIRLS TEAMS

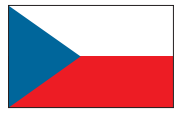
# ROUND 2 - 2nd half



**NETHERLANDS**

**v**

**CZECH REP.**



by Ram Soffer

The Girls matches consist of two halves of 16 boards each. We joined the Round 2 match at the start of the second half. The Netherlands team, who had won their first match 25-3, already had a substantial lead of 69-37 by half-time, and they were certainly hoping to preserve their 100% record by the end of this match.

The atmosphere at the table was relaxed, and most of the deals were very exciting. Already the first board provided an excellent start for the Dutch girls.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

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

|                       |                  |               |                |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| West                  | North            | East          | South          |
| <i>J. Spangenberg</i> | <i>Schulzova</i> | <i>Beuger</i> | <i>Hajkova</i> |
| -                     | Pass             | 1♥            | Pass           |
| 2♦                    | Pass             | 3♣            | Pass           |
| 3NT                   | Pass             | 4♣            | Pass           |
| 4♦                    | Pass             | 4NT           | Pass           |
| 5♠                    | Pass             | 6♣            | All Pass       |

The first four bids were natural. After 3NT from West, Marleen Beuger (East) was faced with the first real decision. 2♦ was game-forcing, and her control-rich 16 points seemed too good to pass, especially with king-doubleton in partner's suit. 4♣ was natural (possibly with clubs longer than hearts), and Jamilla Spangenberg had the perfect hand to co-operate with the slam try – intermediate cards in partner's long suits and aces in her short ones. She cuebid 4♦ and Beuger asked for key cards before bidding the excellent club slam. The 5-2 fit didn't turn out to be a serious obstacle due to the possession of all the intermediate cards. Sona Hajkova (South) led the spade jack. Declarer won, played ♥Q, ♥A and ruffed a heart. North over-ruffed with the ♣K, and then declarer could draw trumps and claim. The Dutch gained 9 IMPs when the Czech E/W stopped at 3NT and won all 13 tricks.

The next two boards were no less exciting, but the IMPs went in the opposite direction.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

|                       |                  |               |                |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| West                  | North            | East          | South          |
| <i>J. Spangenberg</i> | <i>Schulzova</i> | <i>Beuger</i> | <i>Hajkova</i> |
| -                     | -                | Pass          | 1♦             |
| 2♣                    | Pass             | 2♦            | Dble           |
| 2♠                    | Pass             | 4♠            | All Pass       |

Kristyna Schulzova (North) took the vulnerability (red v white) too seriously and passed throughout. 2♦ on the first round seemed a normal option, and she could certainly bid 3♦ after her partner doubled the 2♦ cuebid to show a good suit. Either way, South might have bid 5♦, which doesn't quite make, but is still a useful save against 4♠. The spade game turns out to be cold on any lead: South may get two diamond tricks or a club ruff, but not both. North actually led the ♦8. South won the ♦Q and his two aces, and declarer proceeded carefully to register her 10 tricks.

Minus 420 turned out to be a loss for the Dutch, when at the other table South doubled 4♠, hoping to beat it with a club ruff, but it was to no avail, and her team conceded 5 IMPs.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

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

| West                  | North            | East          | South          |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| <i>J. Spangenberg</i> | <i>Schulzova</i> | <i>Beuger</i> | <i>Hajkova</i> |
| –                     | –                | –             | Pass           |
| 1♠                    | 2♠               | 2NT           | 4♥             |
| 4♠                    | 5♥               | Pass          | Pass           |
| 5♠                    | Pass             | 6♠            | All Pass       |

A misjudgement by the Dutch pair cost their team dearly. North's 2♠ showed hearts and a minor (at least 5-5), and 2NT showed a spade fit, invitational or better. The problem started after North's 5♥. The convention card of the E/W pair doesn't mention any specific forcing pass sequences. East thought her pass was forcing, but West was not sure about that. In any event her hand had little defensive value, which explains the 5♠ bid. East expected a better hand and bid a slam missing two cashing aces. In my opinion it was more practical to bid 5♠ on the previous round. In similar cases missing a slam may not be such a big tragedy, as the opponents may have a cheap sacrifice even at the seven-level.

In order to go only down one Jamilla had to locate the ♣Q, which was not hard in view of the bidding. Nevertheless, it was a 13-IMP loss for the Dutch. At the other table South opened 2♥ showing a weak two-suiter, and the Czechs eventually bid 5♠ over 5♥. Saving at 6♥ was a serious option for Rosaline Barendregt (North). It would have cost only 300, but it was a borderline decision and she refrained from it.

The Dutch soon regained the lost IMPs with interest.

#### Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

|                       |                  | ♠ K 10 7        |                |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
|                       |                  | ♥ A 10 4 3      |                |
|                       |                  | ♦ Q 9 8 7       |                |
|                       |                  | ♣ K 2           |                |
| ♠ Q 5 4               |                  |                 | ♠ A 9 6        |
| ♥ K                   |                  |                 | ♥ 2            |
| ♦ J 10 4 3            |                  |                 | ♦ A K 6 5 2    |
| ♣ A 10 7 5 3          |                  |                 | ♣ Q J 9 4      |
|                       |                  | ♠ J 8 3 2       |                |
|                       |                  | ♥ Q J 9 8 7 6 5 |                |
|                       |                  | ♦ –             |                |
|                       |                  | ♣ 8 6           |                |
| West                  | North            | East            | South          |
| <i>J. Spangenberg</i> | <i>Schulzova</i> | <i>Beuger</i>   | <i>Hajkova</i> |
| Pass                  | 1♦               | Pass            | 2♥             |
| Pass                  | Pass             | Dble            | Pass           |
| 3♣                    | 3♥               | All Pass        |                |

Hajkova (South) underbid her hand, probably due to lack of experience. 7-4 distributions may turn even hands with 4 HCP into monsters. Even after choosing 2♥ at her first turn, she could show something special by bidding 3♥ after East's reopening double. Ten tricks were always there due to the favourable lie in hearts and clubs, and the ♠4 lead provided declarer with an eleventh.

At the other table the Dutch N/S (Barendregt/Nab) bid it the right way: 1♦ – 1♥ – 2♥ – 2♠ (need-help game try) – 4♥. They took the same 11 tricks for a gain of 10 IMPs.

#### Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Both Wests bid to 4♥, and both Norths led the ♠7. Seeing the whole hand, the right defense is obvious, but at the table it was not easy for South to decide if the lead was from a singleton or a doubleton. In the Closed Room Hajkova got it wrong, looking for the setting tricks in diamonds. In the Open room Judith Nab (South) took her ♥A immediately and led the ♠J for a ruff, indicating a diamond return. She managed to give her partner another ruff, and it was +200 against –620 in the other room. Another 13 IMPs for the Netherlands, but on the very next deal they overbid in the Closed Room and the exchange of IMPs continued.

## Best Story Prize

We want to make these bulletins the best they can possibly be. Inevitably, we will miss most of the best stories because there are few of us and many tables to watch, unless you give us a little help. Please, if you have a good story, whether a brilliant play, a complete disaster, or a piece of great humour, come and tell us about it.

The Bulletin Office can be found just to the right of the main entrance where you registered at the start of the championships.

As a small incentive, we offer a prize for what we consider to be the best story from a player, captain or coach. Just to be clear, the prize goes to the reporter, not the person who is the subject of the story.

The prize is a copy of the official 2010 World Championship book about the championships in Philadelphia last year which included the three Youth World Championship events.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

♠ J 9 7 4  
♥ Q J 8 4  
♦ 10 3  
♣ 8 7 6

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

|                       |                  |               |                |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| West                  | North            | East          | South          |
| <i>J. Spangenberg</i> | <i>Schulzova</i> | <i>Beuger</i> | <i>Hajkova</i> |
| –                     | –                | –             | Pass           |
| 1♥                    | Pass             | 3♥            | Pass           |
| 4♥                    | All Pass         |               |                |

As is customary nowadays 3♥ was weak, Bergen-style, but in my opinion the minuses of such a bid outweigh its pluses when vulnerable, particularly when the responder is not afraid of spades. Bidding 1♠ followed by 2♥ looks simple and effective.

Anyway, West had no business bidding 4♥. Her hand was not really worth 18 points with all those unguarded queens and jacks. Justice was served when they finished down two, while at the other table the Czech managed to stop at 2♥ and make it.

A further loss for the Dutch occurred on the following deal:

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ A Q 2  
♥ A 10 9 5 3  
♦ 3 2  
♣ K 7 2

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

♠ 10  
♥ Q J 4  
♦ J 4  
♣ A Q J 10 8 5 3

|                       |                  |               |                |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| West                  | North            | East          | South          |
| <i>J. Spangenberg</i> | <i>Schulzova</i> | <i>Beuger</i> | <i>Hajkova</i> |
| Pass                  | 1♥               | 1♠            | 4♥             |
| All Pass              |                  |               |                |

Here Hajkova found an excellent bid. The direct raise to game created a big problem for West. Of course she would have raised spades to the two- or three-level, but a 4♠ save seemed too committal with her good heart holding. One can argue in favour of the save that West's heart spots are not big enough to beat the game, but it's a close call. East led two top diamonds and switched to a club. The trump fi-

ness would have provided 11 tricks, but with a club ruff being a distinct possibility, Schulzova decided to avoid the finesse. Luckily for her no ruff was available after West won the ♥K, and the contract was made.

At the other table events developed more slowly. The Czech East overcalled 2♥ (Michaels) and West supported her to 3♠. Eventually N/S bid 5♥ (making as the cards lie) but East saved at 5♠, which was doubled and defeated only by one trick, due to imperfect defense; 11 IMPs to the Czech Republic.

Three boards from the end, the Netherlands were losing the set 41-38, and their overall lead was 107-78, but a strong finish helped them to increase it significantly.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

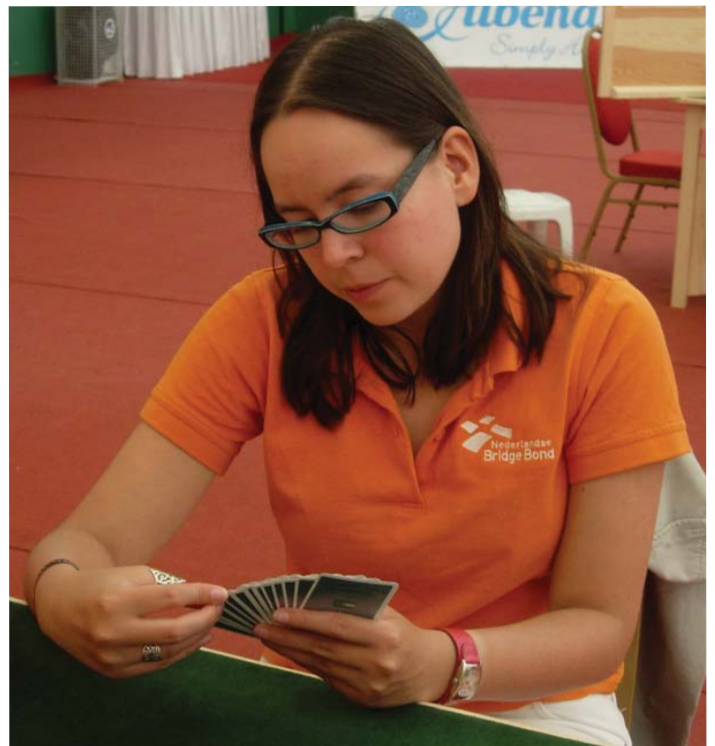
♠ A Q J 6 5  
♥ A K Q 5  
♦ 9 8 3  
♣ A

♠ K 9 8 7 4  
♥ 8 4 3  
♦ K 7 4  
♣ J 3

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

|                       |                  |               |                |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| West                  | North            | East          | South          |
| <i>J. Spangenberg</i> | <i>Schulzova</i> | <i>Beuger</i> | <i>Hajkova</i> |
| –                     | –                | Pass          | Pass           |
| 1♠                    | Pass             | 4♣            | All Pass       |

It was an extremely fortunate decision by Jamilla Spangenberg to pass 4♣ with 20 HCP and a nice hand. One



Jamilla Spangenberg, Netherlands

could not blame her if she cuebid 5♣. After all, 6♠ required from her partner no more than the ♠K and a singleton diamond, and in some cases even a grand was possible. However, as the cards lay even the five-level was too high after North led the ♦Q. The defense took the first three tricks and 4♠ made exactly.

In the Open Room the Czech West opened a strong 1♣, and after a complicated sequence they arrived at 6♠ played by East. This had no chance even with the ♦K protected from the lead, and they went down two; 11 IMPs to the Netherlands.

However, 5♠ by East always makes using an endplay: declarer draws trumps, eliminates clubs and plays the top hearts, conceding the fourth heart to South while discarding a diamond.

Board 32. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| ♠ A 10 3 2<br>♥ K J 9 6<br>♦ Q<br>♣ J 6 3 2 | ♠ J 9 6 4<br>♥ Q 10 5 4 3<br>♦ K 6<br>♣ 5 4 | ♠ K Q 8<br>♥ A 8<br>♦ J 7 5 4<br>♣ K Q 9 7 | ♠ 7 5<br>♥ 7 2<br>♦ A 10 9 8 3 2<br>♣ A 10 8 |
| West  | North                                       | East                                       | South  |
| <i>J. Spangenberg</i>                       | <i>Schulzova</i>                            | <i>Beuger</i>                              | <i>Hajkova</i>                               |
| 1♣  | Pass  | 1♦   | Pass   |
| 1♥  | Pass  | 2♠   | Pass   |
| 3NT   | Pass  | 4♣   | Pass   |
| 5♣  | All Pass                                    |  |  |

The final board saw the last big swing. West opened rather light and East used 2♠ as fourth-suit-forcing. Jamilla's direct game bid of 3NT attempted to show a minimal hand, but her partner expected something better, and after some thought bid 4♣ looking for a slam. West did wisely to refrain from cuebidding, and 5♣ was the final contract in a deal where no game can make against perfect defense.

Schulzova chose to lead her ♠4, thereby eliminating declarer's spade loser but encouraging her to draw trumps quickly in view of the danger of a spade ruff. After a club went to the king and ace, Hajkova provided further help by leading the ♦A next. In my view this is a clear error: North would have led a singleton diamond if he had it, and a diamond void with North was inconsistent with West's bidding.

On the following trick North's ♦K was ruffed. Declarer drew trumps and claimed, as dummy was high except the ♦7 which was to be discarded on the ♠A.

At the other table West passed as dealer, East opened 1NT and the normal 3NT game was reached after a Stayman sequence. South chose the natural ♦10 lead. The defense played four rounds of the suit and beat the contract

by two tricks when South regained the lead with the ♣A.

A nice 13-IMP gain for the Dutch, making the final score 133-78 IMPs or 24-6 VPs. The Netherlands narrowly failed to achieve their target of a perfect score from two rounds, but they still lead the tournament comfortably with 49 VP. Currently their closest rivals are France and Poland with 43, with Italy close behind on 42.

## Double Dummy Defence

by Juho Granstrom (Finland)

This deal came up in the Juniors Round One match between Finland and Ireland.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| ♠ K 6 2<br>♥ Q 10 8 7 5<br>♦ A K<br>♣ K 8 2 | ♠ Q 4<br>♥ A J 9 4 2<br>♦ 6 4 2<br>♣ A J 9 | ♠ 10 9 5<br>♥ 6<br>♦ Q 10 8 7 5<br>♣ Q 10 5 3 | ♠ A J 8 7 3<br>♥ K 3<br>♦ J 9 3<br>♣ 7 6 4 |
| West  | North                                      | East  | South                                      |
| <i>Somerville</i>                           | <i>Granstrom</i>                           | <i>Jones</i>                                  | <i>Fagerlund</i>                           |
| 1NT   | All Pass                                   |   |  |

Wayne Somerville, for Ireland, opened 1NT, 15-17, and was left to play there. Juho Granstrom led the two of hearts, third and fifth, to Vesa Fagerlund's king. Fagerlund switched to a low spade, ducked to the queen, and Granstrom returned a spade to the ace. Now Fagerlund switched back to hearts, returning the three. This had to be from an original two- or four-card holding. When North won the nine he knew the exact heart position and when declarer called for a diamond from dummy the whole hand became an open book. Clearly, declarer had a blocked diamond suit or he would not have discarded a diamond from dummy.

The key to a successful defence would be to isolate dummy. Accordingly, Granstrom switched to the nine of clubs. When declarer played dummy's ten and allowed it to hold, the contract was down. Declarer cashed the top diamonds then tried the king of clubs, ducked. He cashed the king of spades then played the queen of hearts, getting the last trick with the seven of hearts for down one.

To succeed after the club switch, declarer had to overtake with the king and unblock the diamonds then lead towards dummy's club holding to gain an entry to the long diamonds.

# Dutch Girls And Boys Come Fresh Out Of The Starting Blocks

by Kees Tammens

In the first rounds of a championship everybody has to find their rhythm. It seems that the Girls and Juniors of the Netherlands found theirs very quickly.

Round 1 was an interesting clash between the Netherlands and the host country that fields a couple of well known names in Junior bridge. I sat down behind Bob Drijver, a Dutch veteran Junior going into his fourth EC.

The first couple of boards gave Bulgaria a partscore swing and they led 7-1. Then Bob encountered a peculiar problem

sharp 6♥ on Board 18, cutting the difference, but still a small win for the Netherlands.

With the Juniors having the evening off, I took the opportunity to watch the Dutch girls in action against the Czech Republic. Since a year or so Magi Ticha (she won with Richard Ritmeijer, also not long ago a Junior, the bronze medal in the European Mixed Pairs in Poznan) moved to the Netherlands to study and was very much welcomed in the Dutch Girls team. Since sister Katarina plays in the Czech team Magi sat the match out.

It went very well for the Netherlands but on Board 7 I felt sorry for the Czech girl who was on lead.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

|  |   |         |        |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |   |
|--|---|---------|--------|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| ♠ A K 8 5 4 2<br>♥ –<br>♦ 9 8 5 4<br>♣ 9 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 |  | ♠ Q J 7 6<br>♥ J 7 5 3 2<br>♦ 7<br>♣ K 8 5 | ♠ 10<br>♥ 8 6 4<br>♦ A K 10<br>♣ A Q J 10 7 6 |
|  | N   |         |        |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |   |
| W  |   | E       |        |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |   |
|  | S   |         |        |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |   |
| West   | North   | East    | South  |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |   |
| Wackwitz                                     | Skorchev  | Drijver | Spasov |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |   |
| 3♥   | 4♠  | 4♠      | 4NT    |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |   |
| Pass   | 5♦  | Pass    | 5♠     |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |   |
| Pass   | 6♦  | Pass    | 6♥     |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |   |
| All Pass                                     |   |         |        |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |   |

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Bidding 4♠ is the obvious thing to do. East, Bob Drijver, said after the hand was over that he really considered passing 4♥ because a minor-suit fit then can hardly be discovered. His 'fear' became true when South could bid 4NT showing either both minors or a slam try in hearts. When North/South seemed to have found their diamond fit another anxious moment for the Dutch junior. All is well that ends well and 6♥ made East a happy man. The queen of spades was followed by another spade, ruffed in dummy. A heart to the ten and the jack of hearts and a third spade assured down two, winning 2 IMPs when at the other table this reasonable 6♥ only went down one. Somehow, this board changed the match and the Netherlands won by a small margin. Still a comfortable start at this EC.

The match Netherlands v Belgium is called the 'Derby of the low countries'. It went well for the Dutch until Belgium bid and made the famous 6NT requiring a couple of finesses and a misdefense on Board 11 and young Sam Bahbout and Jens van Overmeire of Belgium made the razor



Bob Drijver, Netherlands

|         |             |           |        |
|---------|-------------|-----------|--------|
| West    | North       | East      | South  |
| Hajkova | Spangenberg | Schulzova | Beuger |
| –       | –           | –         | 2NT    |
| Pass    | 3♣          | Pass      | 3♦     |
| Pass    | 3♥          | Pass      | 3NT    |
| Pass    | 4♦          | Pass      | 4♥     |
| Pass    | 4NT         | Pass      | 5♦     |
| Pass    | 6NT         | All Pass  |        |

After this bidding sequence (Puppet Stayman and 4♦ natural slam try) West was on lead against 6NT. What an agonizing moment for Sona Hajkova. Only in your dreams can you find the heart lead; even without the nebulous 4♥ cue-bid it is impossible. Yes Sona, so tough life in bridge can be! 6NT was duly made and the Netherlands moved further forwards on Friday in the second half to win by a big margin.

On Friday morning the Dutch Juniors faced Serbia in Round Three. After kibitzing 14 boards at the table of Bob Drijver and Ernst Wackwitz against Jovana Marinkovic and Filip Jelic (who bid and made two nice slams) the score seemed much in the balance. Kibitzer went for coffee and cigar to the shadows outside and found out the Netherlands were leading by 39-0. How wrong can you be. And the Dutch pair still had a mean surprise for declarer.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

|          |       |      |        |
|----------|-------|------|--------|
| West     | North | East | South  |
| Ernst    | Filip | Bob  | Jovana |
| –        | –     | 2♥   | Pass   |
| Pass     | 3♣    | Pass | 3NT    |
| All Pass |       |      |        |

The lead of the two of spades was won by South with the six. The ten of clubs of course won the next trick. But the next club to the jack was won by East, Bob Drijver, with the queen. Then came the ten of hearts to the king and ace and West returned a small diamond for the king in dummy. Declarer took the club tricks and – sure of making the queen of diamonds as his ninth trick – crossed to the spade ace to play a diamond. But West won the diamond ace, took the king of spades and played that devilish heart for East's queen and one down. A word of warning is in place: 'Bob, be careful with beautiful girls'.

## Pula Bridge Festival 2011

The Pula Bridge Festival 2011 will be held in Pula, Croatia, from September 3-10.

Pula is both a large tournament and a strong one, with players from all over Europe attending. Entry fees are modest, with discount for Youth players, and prize money is good. There is a range of good options for reasonably priced accommodation, and both the food and climate are excellent.

### Schedule

| day              | start | tournament                          |
|------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Saturday 03.09.  | 21:00 | open pairs Butler                   |
| Sunday 04.09.    | 15:00 | mixed teams                         |
|                  | 21:00 | mixed teams                         |
|                  | 15:00 | men's teams                         |
|                  | 21:00 | men's teams                         |
| Monday 05.09.    | 15:00 | mini teams board-a-match            |
|                  | 21:00 | mini teams board-a-match            |
| Tuesday 06.09.   | 20:30 | mixed pairs                         |
|                  | 20:30 | men's pairs                         |
| Wednesday 07.09. | 15:00 | open teams                          |
|                  | 21:00 | open teams                          |
| Thursday 08.09.  | 15:00 | open teams                          |
|                  | 21:00 | open teams                          |
| Friday 09.09.    | 13:00 | individual                          |
|                  | 16:00 | individual                          |
|                  | 20:30 | open pairs                          |
| Saturday 10.09.  | 13:00 | open pairs                          |
|                  | 20:30 | gala dinner & prize giving ceremony |

### Contact:

As you will see if you visit the Croatian Bridge Federation website, there are other contacts in many countries for this tournament, but the best Croatian contact is:

**Tihana Brkljačić**  
**mob: +385 99 666 88 77**  
**e-mail: tihana@pilar.hr**

### SPECIAL OFFER to Junior Teams in Albena

The organisers of the Pula Bridge Festival offer free accommodation to one team from the Junior Championship here in Albena. The offer goes, not to the most successful team, but the unluckiest. How does it work?

Unluckiest is decided by how often the team suffers from the Victory Point scale. A team gets a point towards this every time that one more IMP would have earned them an extra VP, whether by taking them up to the next level or stopping their opponents getting there.

In the event of a tie, this will be split in favour of the team which gets lucky the fewest times – that is, has had the fewest occasions on which scoring one less IMP would have cost a VP.

# Something About Flags

by Christer Andersson, Sweden

Being a journalist is not always easy. Consider the high temperature and humidity during the afternoon, a full stomach needing digestion and, on top of that, some dull boards. No wonder the mind is somewhere else than at the table. I had just noticed the twenty-five flags of participating countries that decorate the wall in the playing arena, and noticed that an exceptionally high percentage of flags contain the colours red and white. Perhaps this is due to copy-and-paste from the first national flag, the Danish 'Danebroggen' that fell from the sky as a white cross from side-to-side over a red background? Or perhaps the different colours have a meaning, something for your editor to consider. I noticed that only four participating countries did not have white in their flags (Belgium, Germany, Rumania and Sweden), and five did not have red (Finland, Ireland, Israel, Scotland and Sweden). Thus, among participants, only Sweden neither have white nor red in their flag, instead having a sunny yellow cross on blue background. It should be recognised, however, that a Southern part of Sweden, once belonging to Denmark, has a local hybrid flag that is red with a yellow cross.

The countries in the match I was supposed to follow, Bulgaria against Hungary, have flags with permutated strips of white, red and green. In the middle of these thoughts, Board 15 (Round 4) was put on the table:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

|  |  |                                   |                                     |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| ♠ J 5<br>♥ A 10 8 4 2<br>♦ 10 8 7 2<br>♣ Q 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 |  | ♠ 10 9 7 2<br>♥ J 5<br>♦ 6 4<br>♣ 10 9 7 6 2 | ♠ A Q 8<br>♥ 7 6 3<br>♦ K Q J<br>♣ A K J 4 |
|  | N  |                                   |                                     |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |
| W  |  | E                                 |                                     |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |
|  | S  |                                   |                                     |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |
| West<br>Lazar<br>—<br>Pass<br>Pass<br>All Pass | North<br>Vasilev<br>—<br>1NT<br>3♥   | East<br>Kiss<br>—<br>Pass<br>Pass | South<br>Siderov<br>1♣<br>2♣<br>6NT |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |

The bidding were according to Precision, North initially describing a balanced hand with 8-13 HCP, and on the Stayman response showing a hand in the stronger end of the range (11-13 HCP) with four cards in spades and diamonds. Hoping for the best, Zhivko Siderov decided that 6NT was a suitable contract for his partner Nikolai Vasilev.

Gabor Kiss led the ten of clubs won by the ace in dummy. The diamonds were cashed, Kiss discarding a club. A heart followed to the king, a spade to the ace and another heart. Kornel Lazar went up with the ace and continued hearts do de-

clarers queen. Kiss discarded another club. Vasilev cashed the ace of diamonds, and East and dummy discarding clubs.

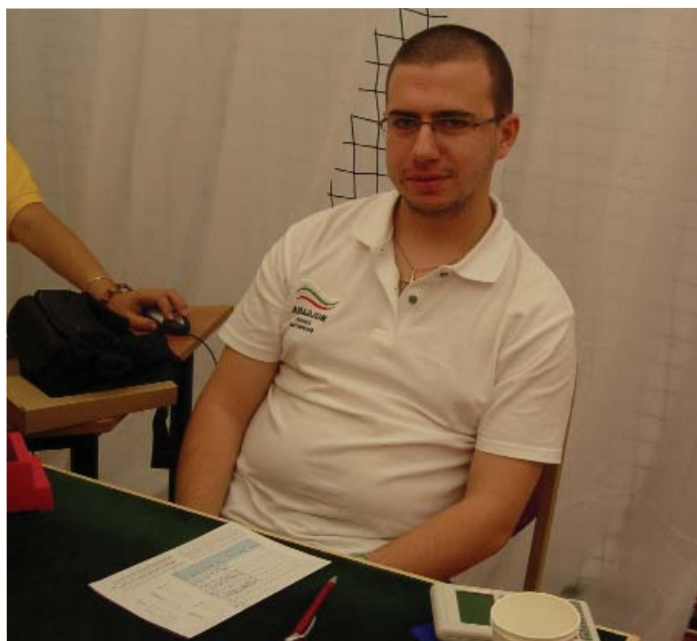
|                              |  |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |                               |                              |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ♠ J<br>♥ 10 8<br>♦ 10<br>♣ — | <table 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 |  | ♠ 10 9 7<br>♥ —<br>♦ —<br>♣ 9 | ♠ K 6 4<br>♥ —<br>♦ —<br>♣ 8 |
|                              | N  |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |                               |                              |
| W                            |  | E |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |                               |                              |
|                              | S  |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |                               |                              |
|                              | ♠ Q 8<br>♥ —<br>♦ —<br>♣ K J   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |                               |                              |

In the above position, the queen and king of spades revealed the expected 4-2 break in spades and confirmed that Kiss and Lazar only had one club each remaining. When the nine of clubs appeared as a consequence of the show-up squeeze manifested by the earlier cashed ace of diamonds, it was easy for Vasilev to go up with the king and bring down the queen. Contract made.

The play would have been a bit more difficult for declarer, had Lazar played low also on the second round of hearts. Vasilev can still count the opponents' hands, but he has to decide whether the queen of clubs is in the hand with the short or the long club suit, and Kiss having led the ten from ♣Q109xx and chosen to discard clubs from this suit.

This was enough to wake up your reporter for the remaining boards of the match.

At the other table Hungary stopped in 4NT, also making 12 tricks but 13 IMPs to Bulgaria. Hungary, however, had the last laugh, sneaking a narrow 45-42 IMP, 16-14 VP win.



Nikolai Vasilev, Bulgaria