



14th EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Opatija, Croatia • July 11 - 18, 2018

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THURSDAY,
JULY 12, 2018

ISSUE No 2

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SCHEDULE TODAY

Session 1

10:00 - 12:20

LUNCH

12:30 - 14:00

Session 2

14:00 - 16:20

BREAK

16:20 - 16:40

Session 3

16:40 - 19:00

Mixed Pairs Prize Giving
and Opening Ceremony

20:00

Anna Zareba and Arkadiusz Majcher from Poland won yesterday's Mixed Pairs qualification by a considerable margin of just under 4% over their nearest rivals, Sanna Clementsson and Mikael Rimstedt from Sweden. In 3rd place we find another Polish pair: Kacper Kopka and Zofia Bałdysz. So Polish pairs took two of the three top spots and in fact 3 of the 4 top spots, as the the only pair from Finland (Millaeri-Koivu) finished the day as 5th.

More important for the future of European bridge, and therefore good to see, however, is the fact that the 24 young qualifiers are representing 13 nationalities in all. We shall see what the situation is when it really matters, i.e. at the prize-giving, this evening.



MIXED PAIRS PRIZE-GIVING AND OPENING CEREMONY



The Mixed Pairs Prize-giving and Opening Ceremony will be held in the Theater on the first floor of the venue, starting at 20:00 on Thursday July 12th. Cocktails will follow the ceremony.

IMPRESSION FROM A KIBITZER

Jos Jacobs

The first session of any mixed event very much resembles a lottery, certainly for journalists. They say that pairs tournaments, especially mixed events, are sort of a lottery for many players anyway but in my opinion, this is only partly true. When the number of boards is substantial enough, you will always see the better pairs finishing higher up in the final rankings. In a junior event, this should be basically the same but a side issue is that not very much is known in advance about how well the participating partnerships are established. It is a matter of experience that an established partnership has an advantage over most occasional partnerships in a pairs event, because the latter are more liable to misunderstandings and holes in their agreements. The first eight boards of the tournament brought quite a number of good examples of what I wrote above, I feel.

Session 1, board 1

N/None

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

In a Strong Club auction, this might be the bidding:

West	North	East	South
	pass	1♣	2♦
pass	pass	2♥	pass
3♥	pass	3NT	?

What now? Stay in 3NT in which there are nine tricks on any lead by establishing the clubs or convert to 4♥ for a possibly better mp score but also the serious risk of going down, in view of the weak jump overcall that may well indicate bad breaks?

On the actual layout, 4♥ makes because the trumps are 3-2 and there is no possibility for a defensive ruff. However, if you stay in 3NT convincingly enough, you may well avoid a diamond lead. A neutral lead does not help declarer at once as there still is time for a diamond shift for the defence, after winning their first heart.

Only a total diamond abstinence by the defenders will give away the overtrick for a precious +430 to E/W: 96% instead of only 41%.

Session 1, board 2

E/N-S

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

On the next board, I saw a typical pairs' auction.

West	North	East	South
Lember	Grguric	Torv	Stefanec
		1♦	1♠
Dble	2♠	3♦	3♠
Dble	All pass		

On a diamond lead and a heart shift the defenders duly get their ruff for +200, the kiss of death. It changed an average score into an 84% quote.

Can you make game on board 3?





Session I, board 3

S/E-W

♠ A 8 7 4 2 ♥ K Q J 8 ♦ A 6 ♣ 10 5	<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;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">W</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">E</div> </div>	♠ J 10 9 6 5 ♥ A 7 ♦ 8 7 5 4 2 ♣ 8	♠ K ♥ 6 5 3 ♦ Q 9 3 ♣ A Q 9 7 6 2
♠ Q 3 ♥ 10 9 4 2 ♦ K J 10 ♣ Q J 4 3			

In a heart contract, N/S have four losers: two clubs, a spade and the ace of trumps. It does not help you that the ♠K is singleton: the defenders can simply swap their spade trick for a spade ruff at any time. Say they lead three rounds of clubs. Declarer ruffs, eliminates the diamonds with a ruff and plays trumps. Now all East has to do is duck the ace of trumps and play a spade when he gets in with his ♥A at the second round of the suit. Declarer is then locked in the North hand with only spades left so he will be obliged to offer West a spade ruff after all. Making 9 tricks in 3♥ was worth 61%.

“Yes we can:” do not open the bidding with the East cards. Once East opens, E/W are bound for a minus score. In spite of this, -50 was still worth 36%.

Session I, board 4

The next board proved difficult to handle.

W/All

♠ - ♥ A 9 6 3 ♦ J 9 6 3 ♣ J 10 9 6 3	<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;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">W</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">E</div> </div>	♠ A 10 9 8 6 3 ♥ 10 8 5 ♦ 7 4 2 ♣ K	♠ Q J 5 4 ♥ J 7 4 ♦ Q 10 8 ♣ A Q 5
♠ K 7 2 ♥ K Q 2 ♦ A K 5 ♣ 8 7 4 2			

West	North	East	South
<i>Bune Sophie</i>	<i>Grgurić</i>	<i>Bune Sören</i>	<i>Stefanec</i>
1♣	pass	2♠	2NT
pass	3♣	pass	3♦

All pass

This time, N/S were in some trouble as they had no clear agreement as to the meaning of 2NT. North thought it was showing the red suits but this was not the case. When the defence lost a club trick, the contract was made after all. A plus score for N/S looked good enough on this deal and so it proved: =140 was worth 79% and +110 scored 75%.SI bd 5

Can you find a way to stay out of game as E/W?



DANISH WARMUP

Branko Spiljak

Wednesday 11th of July will be remembered by generations as a day when Croatia (or England) secured a berth in the World Cup finals. It's gonna be equally remembered (by the chosen few) as a day when 14th European Youth Pairs Championships started in Opatija.

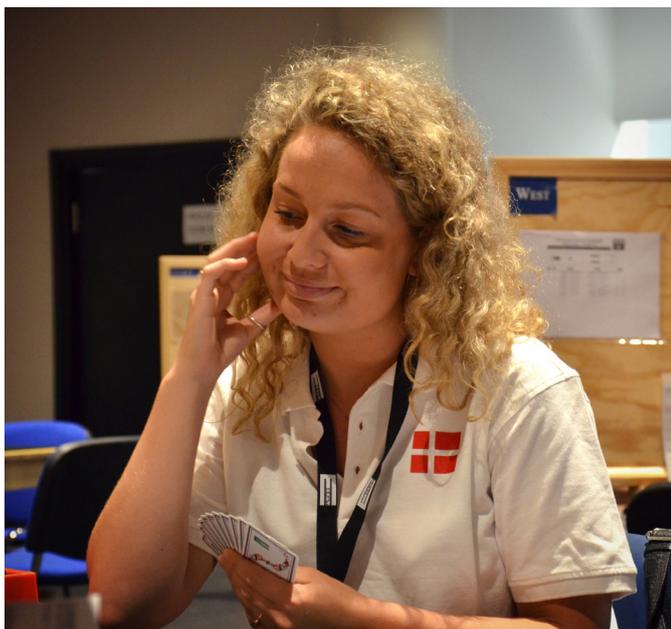
It started as a cloudy morning – perfect for sleeping. Had my double espresso early and set to watch a fine Danish pair, Emil Buus Thomsen – Johanne Kofoed.

Session 1, board 1

N/None

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

Board 1 would be a great success for Puppet Stayman fans but most mortals reached a reasonable 3NT from E. Johanne lead a normal diamond and declarer was limited to 9 tricks (heart contract would yield 10 for juicy top) – 59% for our stars.



Johanne Kofoed - Denmark



Emil Buus Thomsen - Denmark

Next hand is perfect for lesson in strategy.

Session 1, board 2

E/N-S

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

You look at ♠KQ10872 ♥K104 ♦J985 ♣-, vulnerable vs. not and right-hand opponent opens 1♦. Kofoed decided for “normal” 2♠ and it didn't end well. The real question here is should one “preempt” or simply overcall with one spade. Hand is “classic” case of jump overcall but:

- shape indicates potential wild distributions
- diamond holding is good when defending diamond contract but useless otherwise
- heart holding is likely to provide decent defense in heart contract
- spades is highest ranking suit so what's the rush
- you'd like to know if pard has support (so leave him room to show it)
- last thing you'd like is opponents bidding 5♣ over your 4♠
- you're vulnerable!



Session 1, board 2

North	East	South	West
<i>Buus Thomsen</i>	<i>Kopka</i>	<i>Kofoed</i>	<i>Baldysz</i>
	1♦	2♠	Dble
3♠	pass	pass	Dble

All pass

Kopka – Baldysz from Poland were merciless. After cashing two top diamonds East switched to heart and got a ruff, the defence thus taking the first five tricks. Unlucky? Maybe but check points above again. This unfortunate board was worth 16% but it was only bad board our stars are about to have.

Session 1, board 3

Another Polish pair for a second round but this one came bearing gifts.

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

North	East	South	West
<i>Buus Thomsen</i>	<i>Melkonyan</i>	<i>Kofoed</i>	<i>Trendak</i>
		pass	2♣
2♠	pass	pass	Dble
pass	2NT	All pass	

East not passing takeout double is amazing! I mean she has so many good reasons to pass with a smile:

- 2 certain trump tricks
- 5 trumps over declarer
- side ace (they usually score)
- decent lead (singleton in partner suit)
- no game of her own

But she chose to convert a plus score into minus.

North can go only one down in two spades but would need some inspired guesswork. On the other hand, NS are cold for 4NT (check it out yourself). Our heroes did not play their best defence of the session. They took only 7 out of their possible 10 tricks but even 200 was worth 91%. **Lesson learned:** never kill opponents bearing gifts, you want them to come again.

Session 1, board 9

N/E-W

		♠ J 4 2	
		♥ K 6 2	
		♦ K J 6 4	
		♣ J 8 4	
♠ 10 8 3			♠ A 7 6 5
♥ 10 9 7 5			♥ A Q 8 3
♦ 8 3 2			♦ Q 9 7
♣ K 7 3			♣ 6 2
		♠ K Q 9	
		♥ J 4	
		♦ A 10 5	
		♣ A Q 10 9 5	
North	East	South	West
<i>Buus Thomsen</i>	<i>Sobczak</i>	<i>Kofoed</i>	<i>Suchodolska</i>
pass	1♣	INT	All pass

Board 9 was a display of bad defence:

West's lead was ♥9, low from the dummy and East inserted the queen. This is inferior play for a couple of reasons but mainly because you don't know how to proceed. Partner could have 3-4 hearts but also he may have doubleton. Spades may be your source of tricks but so may hearts. When faced with such an awkward choice best policy is to duck and wait for more information. It should be pretty safe here seeing the dummy because losing tempo to clear hearts can't possibly cost anything.

East returned a spade. South entered dummy with the ♦K and played the ♣J (unblocking 9 from hand). West took the king, played back a spade to clear the suit but it was the end of defence. They even let declarer reach dummy with the 3rd spade, enabling him to finesse in diamonds.

MIXED PAIRS, SESSION I

Daniel Gulyás

How can you pick whom to watch at the first session of a junior pairs event? We all know these kids are the future, but usually we have no clue where to look before they start playing.

Well, this time I had an easy choice: Mikael Rimstedt does not need any introduction. A current European Junior Champion from last year, but also a constant player on the Swedish Open Team is one of the biggest stars of this tournament. His partner may not be familiar to everyone, but Sanna Clementsson is no slouch either: she was on the U21 team in Samorin, who happened to win their age group, too – so actually, there are TWO champs sitting opposite each other.

Board 1 was not the the hand to advertise the idea of trying 3NT even if you could have a major fit – Mikael did have a 4333, but 4♥ would have fared better by a lot, MP-wise, but +400 still gave them 41% of the points. The diamond lead made sure there was no time for the heart suit.

Board 2, Ida Oeberg forgot their agreement on defence, and that was costly – but could have been the other way round:

Session I, board 2

E/N-S

♠ 6 4 ♥ A Q 6 5 ♦ 10 7 ♣ A J 10 4 3	♠ A 5 3 ♥ J 9 7 2 ♦ 6 2 ♣ K 9 7 6 <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J 9 ♥ 8 3 ♦ A K Q 4 3 ♣ K 8 5 2	♠ K Q 10 8 7 2 ♥ K 10 4 ♦ J 9 8 5 ♣ -
North <i>Austad</i> pass 3♠ All pass	East <i>Clementssen</i> 1♦ 3♦ pass	South <i>Oeberg</i> 2♠ pass pass	West <i>Rimstedt</i> Dble pass Dble

2♠ was supposed to be spades+clubs, 55+, but Ida forgot. So when 3♦ came back to her partner, he thought it is best to compete with the major suit. Mikael thought he had enough to double that – he did well earlier to pass 3♦ anyway.

The diamond ten lead went to the queen, but Sanna thought the heart return is not needed, she could see partner ruffing the club return after the given information. Declarer could have made now, had she drawn trumps, as she could just concede two hearts and ruff one losing diamond, and discard the other on the good heart; it was all well, as a score correction would have been in order probably. She conceded a diamond, and now Sanna knew what to do, the heart ruff defeated the contract one trick, for the magic +200, and 84% for our heroes. Interestingly, 11 tables were in 3♠ doubled, and 3 of them made it after the diamond lead, probably the same way Oeberg could have.

On board 3, Kielbasa-Ocylok overbid to 4♥, which went down one, the +50 was worth 78%.

On Board 4, Thomasz Kielbasa was the most aggressive, but it paid off:

Session I, board 4

W/All

♠ Q J 5 4 ♥ J 7 4 ♦ Q 10 8 ♣ A Q 5	♠ - ♥ A 9 6 3 ♦ J 9 6 3 ♣ 110963 <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A 10 9 8 6 3 ♥ 10 8 5 ♦ 7 4 2 ♣ K	♠ K 7 2 ♥ K Q 2 ♦ A K 5 ♣ 8 7 4 2
North <i>Kielbasa</i> pass pass Dble	East <i>Clementsson</i> 2♦ 2♠ All pass	South <i>Ocylok</i> pass pass	West <i>Rimstedt</i> pass 2♥ pass

It was a brave move to reopen with that 6 count, and a void, but his partner had enough herself to pass this and beat it one trick. This time the magic 200 went their opponents' way, for a 10% score.



Board 5 looked normal. Spade lead, trumps, and lose 4 red tricks, but the defensive marking got lost, and the diamond ace and king did not make a trick – but declarer's ten did; since most tables were down in 4♥, this 450 gave them 98%.

Board 6 looked like a normal 3♠ partscore deal, but Mikael got a friendly defence that allowed him to make 10 tricks that were there – had they shortened dummy, this would not have happened. +170 when most of the tables score 140 can be very useful at this kind of scoring; almost 77% this time.

On the next hand, those who led their king from KQx were awarded, and two of this suit could have been cashed. Leading this suit into a 2NT opener could be dangerous, tho, and so Felix Eder did not lead it, and it cost him a trick and some matchpoints; 71% was the Swedish award.

The Austrians were held to 9 tricks in a 3NT hand, and that was also above average for Mikael and Sanna, 62% is always welcome. The Finns, Myllaeri and Koivu (one of the many contenders for high positions themselves, actually) managed to bid and make 6♦ when the opponents did not try to cash their spade trick, and it went away.

Board 9 did not go well for the Swedes, though:

N/E-W

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

North	East	South	West
<i>Koivu</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Myllaeri</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>
pass	1♣	1NT	pass
2♣	pass	2♦	pass
2NT	pass	3NT	All pass

This stayman sequence did not promise a 4 card major, so the heart suit certainly comes to mind; Mikael led a diamond, and this was pretty much the end of the hand.

Declarer played a spade, and Sanna did not find the killing return: a heart! This may be hard, but after seeing all the honors already in diamonds and spades from declarer, you may trust partner to have a trick in clubs. If he does, he can shoot a heart through to beat the contract. But this may be too IMP thinking. Clementsson ducked the spade, declarer conceded the club king, and since Rimstedt knew his partner needed to have exactly these heart honours for the return to matter, and then he had already allowed to make an impossible contract by not leading the right suit, he tried spades, and that was that. 430 was a great score for the Finns, 91%.

The next board was yet another '200 out' hand. Most pairs were down this much, some played lower, or allowed the opps to make a partscore, so this was only 30% Sweden's way.

Board 11 was an interesting lead problem:

Session I, board 11

W/N-S

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

North	East	South	West
<i>Okuniewski</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Grodzka</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>
- -	1♣	2♥	
pass	pass	2NT	pass
3NT	All pass		

Rimstedt told me that a spade lead stands out when playing IMPs, and I agree; it would have defeated the contract. In MP scoring, sometimes it is safer to lead your nice long suit, not blowing a trick. The winning lead was found by some, so -430 only netted 37%. Okuniewski did not play the next hand optimally, and was down in a 3♠ that he could have made; the 91% reward was very welcome after so many bad looking results on the previous boards.



The same is true the other way round: when you bid a normal 3NT, but go down 2 as everyone else, your score will yet again be below average; 39%.

At the last table, both of our Swedes thought they needed to do something.

Session 1, board 15

S/N-S

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

North	East	South	West
Maczka	Clementsson	Szymaszczyk	Rimstedt
		pass	INT
pass	2♣	pass	2♥
pass	2♠	pass	4NT
pass	5♣	pass	6♥
All pass			

Sanna liked her somewhat ugly looking 14 count so much, that she showed slam interest in hearts with her 2♥ bid. Mikael did not need more, he had a 5 card side suit, and prime controls, so simply went for the slam, and was rewarded. Most pairs took 12 tricks, but not in slam. The spade lead was impossible to find, and this nice 980 was worth 91%!

On the last hand of the session, Rimstedt was trying to hide his trump queen mainly, so led his aces. This worked wonders, as Clementsson had a king to go with one of them, and there was a trump trick yet to come. About half the field allowed 4♥ (or 3NT) to make, so this was also a very nice 69% to finish a very well played set.

Despite some errors, the result was a reasonable 57.59%, and 11th place. Since the top 24 pairs qualify



24th RED SEA INTERNATIONAL

Bridge

FESTIVAL

EILAT - ISRAEL

NOVEMBER 8-18, 2♥18





Tournament Program

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National Simultaneous	November 11
IMP Pairs	November 12,13
Open Pairs	November 14,15,16
Teams	November 17

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MIXED PAIRS QUALIFICATION

Jos Jacobs

For session 2 of the Mixed qualifications, I decided to have a look at the 3rd-placed Italians. Elsewhere, you will find a story about the Czech leaders at lunchtime. The Polish runners-up at lunchtime, who did well in the second session, will certainly catch the Bulletin spotlights today.

On the first board after lunch, the English declarer did not really keep an eye on the ball (this also was very much the issue for both sides in last night's World Cup semifinal...):

Session 2, board 17

S/N-S

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

West	North	East	South
Percario	Rose	Dal Pozzo	Jones
	1♠	pass	2♥
pass	2♣	pass	3♥
pass	3♣	pass	3NT
All pass			

West led a club, won by East's king when dummy played low. East returned a club to dummy and declarer correctly first took the diamond finesse which lost to West's king. West returned ♠A and another, East winning dummy's jack with her king and exiting in hearts. Rather than establishing the hearts and cashing out for one down, declarer first tried the diamonds and when they did not break, took the ♥A and the ♣A hoping for her last chance: the (unlikely) drop of the ♠10. This way, she went two down which changed 48% into just 21% of the mp.

On the next board, we saw a nice play by Giacomo Percario.

Session 2, board 18

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

West	North	East	South
Percario	Rose	Dal Pozzo	Jones
		1♥	pass
1♠	pass	2♣	pass
2♦	pass	2♥	pass
3NT	All pass		

Two Clubs was Gazzilli and 2♦ thus showed at least 8 hcp.

North led a ominous enough looking low diamond to dummy's ace and declarer immediately led a low club, his jack winning. North was then given his diamond trick.. When North after some thinking returned a low heart, declarer was quick to call for dummy's king. When this held, Percario could play another club. North could win his ace and cash the ♥A but then, any return would give declarer at least a chance of making the rest of the tricks. When he elected the ♠J, probably best from his point of view, the ♠9 grew in stature and the precious overtrick was there. Scoring +400 already would have been worth 65% but the overtrick made it an 87.5 % score.

After a routine 4♥, one down on the layout, board 20 was more interesting.

Session 2, board 20

W/All

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♥	10 9 4
♦	8 7 3
♣	10 8 4

West <i>Percario</i>	North <i>Rose</i>	East <i>Dal Pozzo</i>	South <i>Jones</i>
1♣	INT	pass	pass
Dble	All pass		

An entirely natural auction, poor South having nowhere to go. East could hardly believe that a club lead (her singleton) would be OK so she led a more natural ♦J. Declarer could do little else than establish a 4th trick in diamonds, which gave West the chance to produce some very clear discards: two low hearts and the ♠J in the end when East was given her ♦10. The required club return then made it down two and +500, worth only 44% to the Italians as E/W can make game in hearts and NT. The remarkable thing is that the club play is not necessary at all. Try the effect of four rounds of hearts at this point (at this table West had already discarded two hearts so this defence was no longer possible). Declarer has to find two discards on the hearts: a spade and... the 5th diamond. Now he can be given his club trick for down three after all and a score of over 90%.

On the next board, Imogen La Chapelle found a fine lead.

Session 2, board 21

N/N-S

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠	A 9 7
♥	8 6 5
♦	6 5 4 3 2
♣	9 6

After a straightforward transfer auction over INT, Federica Dalpozzo as West had become declarer in the normal 4♠. North led the ♣4 and declarer now was facing a classic problem.

Ducking the lead and locating the ♥Q later on leads to 11 tricks, because the only losers will be two trump tricks. When declarer decided to go up with her ace at trick one, she could play the ♠A and ruff a diamond, followed by the ♠J covered all round. South duly returned her last club to get the ruff in the suit but then found herself endplayed. She tried a heart, the fastest way to solve declarer's problems. Making ten tricks was worth 43% but the overtrick would have made it 73% to E/W.





Board 23 struck me as a typical example of lack of responsibility.

Session 2, board 23

S/All

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Percario</i>	<i>Hulanicki</i>	<i>Dal Pozzo</i>	<i>Hulanicka</i>
pass	1♣	pass	Pass
Dble			1♠

Assuming that in Polish Club the free rebid of 1NT still shows the weak NT hand, possibly improved a little in view of the passed-hand double, South has good reasons to bid on with her fine five-card suit – but in that case, why not a straightforward raise to 3NT? We rarely see hands on which 2NT is exactly the right contract.. With the cards lying well for N/S, the only problem in 3NT is to find the doubleton ♥J .

East led the ♦2 to the queen and ace and declarer took a successful club finesse. A low heart was led now, West playing low after some considerable thinking. Had declarer put up the king and repeated the club finesse, his eight tricks would have been secure and a ninth still possible but when he inserted the ♥10 instead, East took her ♥J and switched to a spade to put the contract one down as declarer could not get to his heart trick any more. Not that it mattered that much: scoring +120 would have been worth 32% only and going down one scored 11%.

Their session score of just over 55% was good enough to keep the Italian pair in 3rd place and on track for qualification, of course.

Only the carry-over amount would matter...



Giacomo Percario - Italy



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OPEN TEAMS

Saturday, September 8th - 2.00 p.m.
1st prize 2.500 euros

TEAMS SCHEDULE

0.30-1.30 pm: registration and payment entry fees
2.00 pm: qualification - n. 4 rounds of swiss 8 board each
and following division into section of 20-25 teams
7.00 pm: dinner break
8.30 pm: finals - n.3 rounds of swiss 8 boards each
Prize giving to follow
Full carry over - Bridgmates will be used
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ENTRY FEES

140 euros per team (max 6 players)
120 euros: teams without 1st category players
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2008 (56 T.): Tamburi- Andreoli - Basile - Facchini
2009 (56 T.): Treossi - Bianchi - Mieti - Zannoni
2010 (66 T.): Montanelli - Andreoli - Bonvicini - Goffarelli
2011 (70 T.): Franchi - Giubilo - Montanari - Versace
2012 (73 T.): Medugno - Rinaldi - Tanini - Venier
2013 (82 T.): Luppi - Botti - Giachetti - Pattacini
2014 (96 T.): Cambiaghi - Franco - Matteucci - Minaldo
2015 (103 T.): Muller - Bombardieri - Giannessi - Stoppini
2016 (93 T.): Boldrini - De Leo - Pantusa - Percario
2017 (111 T.): Fellus - Giubilo - Donati - Porta



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ore 1.30 pm: 3 rounds 10-12 pre-dealt hands
Mitchell movement
About 7.15 pm prize giving
Bridgmates will be used

ENTRY FEES

40 euros per pair
30 euros students and junior
Participation reserved to member of Figb or foreign bridge federation. Admitted students enrolled at least in their 2nd year

ROLL OF HONOUR

2014 (120 coppie) : Bassi B. - Ulivagnoli G.
2015 (149 coppie) : Buratti M. - Mariani C.
2016 (148 coppie) : Venini L. - Pattacini M.
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2	1200	220	200	160	160	160	1 ladies 160
3	700	200	160	160	160		1 nc 2/3 cat 140
4	500	160	160				1 ASDBBR 160
5	360	160					1 students 100
6	240						1 junior 100
7	200						1 out reg 140
8	180						Last 2 rounds 140
9	160						2 Students (1)
Prizes added with 100 teams							2 Junior (1)
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2	500	2 mixed/lad 250 (*)
3	330	3 mixed/lad 140 (*)
4	220	1 nc 2/3 cat 50
5	160	1 out region 50
6	120	1 out prov 50
7	100	1 ASDBBR 50
8	80	1 students 40
9	70	1 junior 40
10	60	2 students (1)
11-15	50	2 junior (1)
16-19	50	2 nc 2/3 cat (2)
20-23	50	2 ASDBBR (2)
24-27	50	(*) pairs without more convenient placement
Prizes with 130 p		
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