

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

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

## Daily Bulletin



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# Underway!



Hall Albena - The Playing Area

It is far too early to think about qualification for next year's world championships, let alone medals and championship wins, but most of the heavyweight teams made ominously good starts yesterday. In the Girls, France and the Netherlands took maximum 25s in Round One, while Poland scored 19 against the dangerous Swedish team. Czech Republic's 22-8 win over Hungary saw them in third place after one round. Turkey and Bulgaria should not be too downhearted at being beaten up by Netherlands and France – those two will have more big wins before the championship is over.

The top three in the Juniors were all expected to do very well – France, Italy and Israel will surely still be in contention when we reach the sharp end of the tournament. Our lay-out editor assures me that Greece has a shot at a medal and the Greek team started well with solid wins over Hungary and Denmark. Finland, Germany and Poland also had good first days.

Today's BBO Matches	
10.00	Germany v Hungary (Juniors)
10.00	Croatia v France (Juniors)
10.00	Norway v Belgium (Juniors)
10.00	France v Sweden (Girls)
14.00	Finland v Greece (Juniors)
14.00	Italy v Ireland (Juniors)
14.00	Netherlands v Norway (Juniors)
14.00	Czech Republic v Poland (Girls)
17.30	Germany v Sweden (Juniors)
17.30	Greece v France (Juniors)
17.30	Hungary v Serbia (Juniors)
17.30	to be decided (Girls)

# JUNIORS TEAMS



## RESULTS



## TODAY'S PROGRAM

### ROUND 1

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	BULGARIA NETHERLANDS	22 - 40	11 - 19
2	GERMANY SERBIA	49 - 25	20 - 10
3	AUSTRIA SCOTLAND	53 - 48	16 - 14
4	GREECE HUNGARY	55 - 40	18 - 12
5	TURKEY DENMARK	46 - 55	13 - 17
6	CROATIA SWEDEN	36 - 41	14 - 16
7	IRELAND FINLAND	23 - 50	9 - 21
8	ROMANIA FRANCE	24 - 60	8 - 22
9	ENGLAND ISRAEL	20 - 43	10 - 20
10	NORWAY ITALY	18 - 46	9 - 21
11	BELGIUM POLAND	10 - 68	4 - 25

### ROUND 3

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

### ROUND 2

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	SERBIA BULGARIA	50 - 51	15 - 15
2	SCOTLAND GERMANY	29 - 67	7 - 23
3	HUNGARY AUSTRIA	78 - 54	20 - 10
4	DENMARK GREECE	21 - 56	8 - 22
5	SWEDEN TURKEY	53 - 27	20 - 10
6	FINLAND CROATIA	71 - 35	22 - 8
7	FRANCE IRELAND	124 - 5	25 - 0
8	ISRAEL ROMANIA	80 - 20	25 - 3
9	ITALY ENGLAND	69 - 9	25 - 3
10	POLAND NORWAY	46 - 44	15 - 15
11	NETHERLANDS BELGIUM	47 - 33	18 - 12

### ROUND 4

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



## Today's Schedule

- 10.00 Juniors Teams (3rd Round)**
- 10.00 Girls Teams (2nd Round, 2nd half)**
- 14.00 Juniors Teams (4th Round)**
- 14.00 Girls Teams (3rd Round, 1st half)**
- 17.30 Juniors Teams (5th Round)**
- 17.30 Girls Teams (3rd Round, 2nd half)**

### ROUND 5

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

## GIRLS TEAMS



### RESULTS



### TODAY'S PROGRAM

#### ROUND 1

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	BULGARIA FRANCE	38 - 121	2 - 25
2	GERMANY ITALY	70 - 84	13 - 17
3	CZECH REP. HUNGARY	84 - 43	22 - 8
4	TURKEY NETHERLANDS	36 - 115	3 - 25
5	SWEDEN POLAND	73 - 101	11 - 19

#### ROUND 2 - 2nd half

1	ITALY	BULGARIA
2	HUNGARY	GERMANY
3	NETHERLANDS	CZECH REP.
4	POLAND	TURKEY
5	FRANCE	SWEDEN

#### ROUND 2 - 1st half

Match		IMP's
1	ITALY BULGARIA	53 - 17
2	HUNGARY GERMANY	24 - 43
3	NETHERLANDS CZECH REP.	69 - 37
4	POLAND TURKEY	46 - 22
5	FRANCE SWEDEN	32 - 26

#### ROUND 3

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

## A Travelers' report – Game On!

by Micke Melander

Woken up 05.15, Wednesday morning, by an evil mobile device and knew that it would be a terrible day coming ahead.

Four flights with three different airlines to catch and crossing the fingers that the luggage would follow as well. Landed in Sofia (Capital of Bulgaria) at their new international airport and knew that I would have to wait there until 19.45 for the last flight to Varna.

Question is, what do you do in an airport for more than four hours without the Internet and being alone? If we had been two, three, four or more we could easily have entertained ourselves playing some card games or whatever. But no, I was alone...

BBO – You think? Fat chance, No internet, at least not that I'm willing to pay for and then risk to face three "Turkish World Champions". I was at home killing some time during a rainy afternoon last weekend when I had the opportunity to play with three of them... I had 4-5-2-2 and 13 HCP. Decided to open One Heart and the World Champion opposite me responded INT. No where to go, I opted for a pass, which in fact all did. To my surprise he held 6-2-3-2 and 9 HCP. We were cold for Four Spades, I would have been happy if we could have played in Two or Three Spades instead of going one off in INT. So I'm certainly not also going to pay for my Internet to be treated like that. – As only an advanced player I wouldn't dream of giving my World Champion partner a clue what to bid on such a difficult problem.

So what about shopping in the airport to kill some time – nope – it only had a flower shop (my wife at home and Brian – our Editor – would probably rather have a beer), a news-stand (with Bulgarian papers and books) a supermarket (with heavily overpriced soft drinks and junk food). Then it was two bars, one in each corner of the hall – probably for symmetrical reasons. It was very interesting when I realized that both the bars sold exactly the same stuff. I bought a coffee, a small bottle of merlot and a Ciabatta with mozzarella & tomato. All this for the neat sum of 18 leva, like being at home in other words...

To see and experience all this, including a toilet, took ½ an hour, how to kill the other time? Well I started to walk some, it's tiring to sit a whole day, and was kidnapped by taxi drivers who wanted to drive me around. Then I realized, they probably have a purpose in creating this kind of airport! Amazing! (or the taxi drivers have learned the situation for travelers and know how to make money).

Question is, as you read in the headlines, are there any more boring airports out there in the world than the brand new international one in Sofia? This one for sure will go into my 'Top 5' of bad ones. Even the military airport in Rome, Italy, or the little tiny one in Wroclaw, Poland, is better. At least you are able to eat something there that is.

## JUNIORS TEAMS

### RANKING AFTER ROUND 2

1	FRANCE	47
2	ITALY	46
3	ISRAEL	45
4	FINLAND	43
	GERMANY	43
6	GREECE	40
	POLAND	40
8	NETHERLANDS	37
9	SWEDEN	36
10	HUNGARY	32
11	AUSTRIA	26
	BULGARIA	26
13	DENMARK	25
	SERBIA	25
15	NORWAY	24
16	TURKEY	23
17	CROATIA	22
18	SCOTLAND	21
19	BELGIUM	16
20	ENGLAND	13
21	ROMANIA	11
22	IRELAND	9

## GIRLS TEAMS

### RANKING AFTER ROUND 1

1	FRANCE	25
	NETHERLANDS	25
3	CZECH REPUBLIC	22
4	POLAND	19
5	ITALY	17
6	GERMANY	13
7	SWEDEN	11
8	HUNGARY	8
9	TURKEY	3
10	BULGARIA	2

## Today in History - July 15th

**1903:** On this day in 1903, the newly formed Ford Motor Company takes its first order from Chicago dentist Ernst Pfenning: an \$850 two-cylinder Model A automobile with a tonneau (or backseat). The car, produced at Ford's plant on Mack Street (now Mack Avenue) in Detroit, was delivered to Dr. Pfenning just over a week later.

**1918:** On this day in 1918, near the Marne River in the Champagne region of France, the Germans begin what would be their final offensive push of World War I. Dubbed the Second Battle of the Marne, the conflict ended several days later in a major victory for the Allies.

**1997:** Spree killer Andrew Cunanan murders world-renowned Italian fashion designer Gianni Versace on the steps outside his Miami mansion. Versace was shot twice in the head, and Cunanan fled.

**1606:** The great Dutch master Rembrandt van Rijn is born in Leiden on July 15, 1606, the son of a miller. His humble origins may help account for the uncommon depth of compassion given to the human subjects of his art. His more than 600 paintings, many of them portraits or self-portraits, are characterized by rich brushwork and color, and a dramatic interplay of shadow and light.



**1965:** The unmanned spacecraft Mariner 4 passes over Mars at an altitude of 6,000 feet and sends back to Earth

the first close-up images of the red planet.

Launched in November 1964, Mariner 4 carried a television camera and six other science instruments to study Mars and interplanetary space within the solar system. Reaching Mars on July 14, 1965, the spacecraft began sending back television images of the planet just after midnight on July 15. The pictures--nearly 22 in all--revealed a vast, barren wasteland of craters and rust-colored sand, dismissing 19th-century suspicions that an advanced civilization might exist on the planet. The canals that American astronomer Percival Lowell spied with his telescope in 1890 proved to be an optical illusion, but ancient natural waterways of some kind did seem to be evident in some regions of the planet.



**1988:** On this day in 1988, Die Hard, an action film starring Bruce Willis as wisecracking New York City cop John McClane, opens in theaters across the United States. A huge box-office hit, the film established Willis as a movie star and spawned three sequels. Die Hard also became Hollywood shorthand for describing the plot of other action films, as in "Speed is Die Hard on a bus."

## Youth Has Its Day

The USA is the current holder of two of the WBF's Open World team titles – the Bermuda Bowl, won by the Nickell team in Sao Paulo in 2009, and the Rosenblum, won by Team Diamond in Philadelphia in 2010. For the Bermuda Bowl in the Netherlands later this year, USA has the right to enter two teams. Rather than have one trial from which two teams are decided, they have one trial each year, each of which qualifies one team to represent USA at the World Championships. In 2010, a team headed by Marty Fleisher won the trials, so going into the 2011 trials we knew that one of the two reigning World Champion teams would not be in Netherlands. And the shock result of the 2011 trials means that neither the Nickell nor the Diamond team will play in this year's Bermuda Bowl.

The winners of the 2011 trial were Joe Grue/Justin Lall, John Hurd/Joel Wooldridge, Kevin Bathurst/Daniel Zagorin. None is older than his early thirties. Zagorin is the odd man out, being the only one not to have represented USA at World Youth Teams level. Kevin Bathurst represented USA in three Youth Championships from 1999 to 2003, winning a bronze medal in Paris in 2003. John Hurd represented his country four times from 1999 to 2005. He won bronze in Paris in 2003, but gold in Mangaratiba in 2001 and in Sydney in 2005. Joel Wooldridge played in no fewer than six championships from 1995 to 2005. He won bronze in Paris in 2003, silver in Florida in 1999, and gold in Mangaratiba in 2001 and Sydney in 2005. Joe Grue played in four championships from 2001 to 2006. He won bronze in Paris in 2003, and was a member of all three successful USA teams, winning the gold in Mangaratiba in 2001, Sydney in 2005, and Bangkok in 2006. Justin Lall played in the two gold medal teams in Sydney in 2005 and Bangkok 2006. Only 24, he still qualifies as a youth player. Various team members have represented USA in other world youth events.

Fifteen teams took part in the trials. The format was straight knock-out, each match comprising 120 boards played over two days, making for a total of 60 boards a day for eight days – a tough schedule but rightly so, as the Bermuda Bowl itself is also a test of stamina as well as technique and judgement. The field was seeded with Team Diamond having a bye to the quarter-finals. Bathurst was originally seeded in the bracket 9-12.

In the Round of 16, Bathurst led throughout against Mahaffey, eventually winning by a slightly deceptive 291-256 after Mahaffey gained in each of the last three 15-board sets.

In the quarter-final, Bathurst faced the second-seeded Nickell team, reigning Bermuda Bowl champions. Down 57-79 after 30 boards, Bathurst moved into a 184-139 lead after 75. Nickell came back in the sixth set to close to 198-174, but Bathurst pulled away again in the penultimate set and won by 282-237.


The semi-final against Wolfson saw Bathurst trail by 26-42 after the first 15 boards but take the lead in the second set

and never again lose it. They pulled away to win by 262-180, Wolfson conceding with a set to play.

Diamond had justified their seeding by getting through to the final with relatively few alarms. They won the first set by 43-36 but Bathurst won each of the next six sets to lead by 256-175 with one set to go. Diamond played on and won the set by 82-32 but Bathurst had won by 288-257 and will be USA2 in the Netherlands in late October. Spare a little sympathy for the Diamond team – they were also the losing finalists in the 2010 trials.

Over the course of the trials, the young challengers earned their points in all areas of the game. This is just a sample of their gains from the final.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ 6 ♥ A K 6 2 ♦ K 10 9 5 4 2 ♣ K J</p>		<p>♠ K 10 8 4 ♥ J 9 8 ♦ J 8 7 3 ♣ 3 2</p>	<p>♠ A J 3 2 ♥ Q 7 4 3 ♦ – ♣ A Q 8 6 4</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Zagorin</i>
–	–	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Platnick</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Diamond</i>
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Diamond led by 43-36 at the end of the first set and the second set began with six flat boards. Board 22 saw Bathurst take a lead which they were never to relinquish.

Eric Greco's 2♦ opening was the old Precision style, 10-15 three-suited with short diamonds. Two No Trump asked and 3NT showed the shape. Now 4♣ was an end-signal,

demanding 4♦ so that Geoff Hampson's next bid would be a sign-off. Hampson won the trump lead with the queen and led a second heart to the ace. He ruffed a diamond, played a club to hand and ruffed a second diamond then another club to hand to draw the last trump. The ace of spades provided an entry to dummy to cash the long clubs; twelve tricks for +680.

John Hurd opened with a three-plus card 1♣ and his third bid completed the picture of a three-suited near minimum hand. Having limited himself, he was delighted to co-operate in a slam hunt and, though Joel Wooldridge signed-off in 4♥ after making just one cuebid, Hurd went on with a grand slam try. Again, the lead was a trump, John Diamond knowing of the diamond shortage in declarer's hand and hoping to cut down his ruffs. Hurd won the ace and ruffed a diamond, played a club to the jack and ruffed a second diamond, then cashed the queen of hearts and crossed to the king of clubs to draw the last trump. He too had the spade entry to the long clubs; +1430 and 13 IMPs to Bathurst.

This line would not be available on a spade lead as there would be no late entry to the long clubs. Declarer does not have the entries to hand to ruff spades instead of diamonds. If he therefore plays to ruff diamonds in hand, he will be dependent on an even club split and, when that does not materialise, will go down. there is a winning line, to ruff two diamonds then give up a diamond, dropping the ace by leading low from dummy. Though the queen does appear when declarer takes the second ruff, that could be from several different diamond holdings, and he would be pretty pleased with himself if he read the position correctly and made his contract.

If that first swing was decided by the bidding and opening lead, these next two were all about the play and later defence. Bathurst came out on top on both deals.

Board 49. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Grue	Greco	Lall
—	1♥	1♠	Dble
2♠	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Moss	Hurd	Gitelman
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dble	3♠	4NT
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Joe Grue opened the North hand, after which there was never any doubt that game would be reached. By contrast, Brad Moss preferred to pass then come in with a double at his next turn. Fred Gitelman had been obliged to pass over the 1♠ opening on his right but he too now caught up, bidding 4NT to ask for Moss's minor. Both Easts led the king of spades then switched to their singleton diamond.

Moss won the ace of diamonds, cashed the ace of hearts and led a diamond to his king. Had that stood up, he would have been in good shape, but Hurd ruffed and returned his remaining trump. Moss won the ace and ruffed a heart low then cross-ruffed in the majors. However, the five-two heart split meant that he was left with a heart losers at the end so was one down for -50.

Grue won the diamond switch in hand with the king and immediately returned the suit. Greco too ruffed and played back his remaining trump but here there was a crucial difference as there was still a winning diamond in the dummy. Grue could play the same cross-ruff as Moss but his fifth heart went away on the ace of diamonds; +400 and a well-deserved 10 IMPs to Bathurst.

Board 50. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Grue	Greco	Lall
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Moss	Hurd	Gitelman
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	INT	Dble
4♣	4♥	All Pass	

Lall opened with a strong club (16+) and Grue made a natural positive, after which the remainder of the N/S auction was natural and the obvious game was reached. In the other room, 1♦ was natural in the context of a strong no trump, five-card major base. When Moss responded 1♥, Hurd showed his genuine black two-suiter by overcalling INT, artificial, of course, by a passed hand. That enabled Wooldridge to pre-empt with 4♣, but Moss had an easy 4♥ over that. Both Easts led the singleton diamond.

Grue won the diamond and led the queen of clubs, won by Greco's ace. Greco returned a spade for the king and ace and Hampson switched to a trump. Grue won in hand and, in a repeat of the technique shown on the previous board, led his remaining diamond towards the dummy. Greco ruffed and returned a spade to dummy's queen. Grue ruffed a diamond to hand so that he could ruff a club in dummy, threw his last club on the king of diamonds and had eleven tricks; +620.

Moss also won the diamond lead and played a club. Here, Wooldridge played the king and, when it held the trick, returned a trump. Moss won in hand to play a spade to the king, hoping to find the ace onside. However, Wooldridge won the ace and returned a second trump so there were no club ruffs to be had. Moss ran all but one trump then a diamond to the king and ruffed a diamond. Hurd's last three cards were two spades and the ace of clubs. Though Moss's exit with a low club dropped the ace, he had no way back to the established jack. Hurd won and played a spade and had the last trick with the spade jack; down one for -100 and 12 IMPs to Bathurst.

This is the first of two deals from the fifth set where a Diamond player failed to make what looks to me to be a completely automatic bid, and on both occasions was severely punished.

Both Easts opened INT and at the first table Daniel Zagorin overcalled 3♣. That shut John Diamond out of the auction. Zagorin got the diamonds wrong, taking a first-round finesse of the jack, so lost two diamonds as well as a spade and the ace of clubs. However, that was still +110 and events at the other table showed that the number of tricks made in 3♣ was irrelevant.

I don't know why Hampson did not bid immediately over the INT opening. By passing, he allowed Wooldridge the opportunity to transfer to hearts and Hurd to break the transfer to show a good hand with four-card heart support. When Hampson now came into the auction, it was too late. Wooldridge passed, forcing as the transfer break had already committed his side to at least 3♥, then raised to game when Hurd effectively completed the transfer.

Hampson led the queen of clubs to declarer's ace. Hurd cashed the ace of hearts then ruffed a club and played a spade up, Greco taking the ace and returning a trump. This ran to the ten and now Hurd played a diamond to the ten and king. Hampson returned a diamond to Greco's ace and he played a third trump. Hurd tried to ruff out the queen-jack of spades and, when that did not materialise, ruffed a low diamond, the jack coming down. The nine of diamonds was now the tenth trick; +420 and 11 IMPs to Bathurst.

Hurd was a little fortunate. Had the diamonds been a little differently laid out, one diamond ruff would not have been sufficient. Perhaps he should have played a diamond at trick two rather than touching trumps.

Board 62. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Diamond	Bathurst	Platnick	Zagorin
—	—	INT	3♣
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Greco	Hurd	Hampson
—	—	INT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		



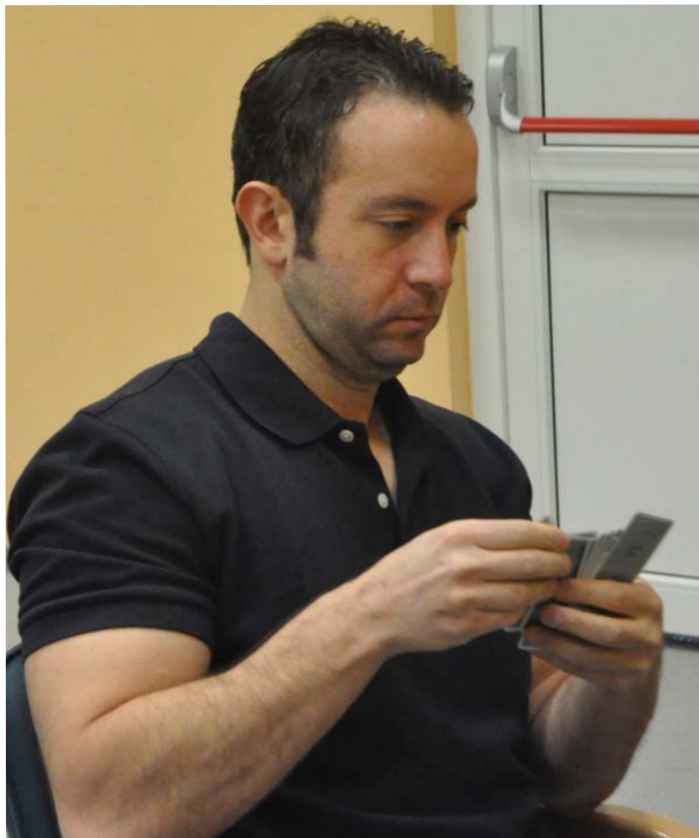
Geoff Hampson, USA

Board 73. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Diamond	Bathurst	Platnick	Zagorin
–	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Greco	Hurd	Hampson
–	Pass	Pass	3♠
Dble	4♠	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Zagorin opened 1♠ in third seat and Diamond passed! Surely, even if you play equal level conversion as showing extras, it is normal to double with the West cards, plan-



Eric Greco, USA

ning to convert a club response to diamonds? When Bathurst used Drury and passed the minimum-showing 2♠ rebid, diamond passed again. Platnick may have been short in spades in pass-out seat, but he could hardly imagine that his partner had such a strong hand and that he had to balance. Zagorin lost two diamonds, a club and a spade; +140.

In the other room, Hampson tried a pre-emptive opening but failed to silence Wooldridge. Greco raised to 4♠ and Hurd bid 4NT, two places to play, then converted 5♦ to 5♥, ending the auction. There was nothing to the play, Hurd just losing the two aces; +650 and 13 IMPs to Bathurst.

Board 82. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Grue	Greco	Lall	Hampson
–	–	INT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Diamond	Bathurst	Platnick	Zagorin
–	–	INT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Grue/Lall had an interesting piece of system for this one. Two Diamonds was a transfer and 2♠ a relay, demanding 2NT. Now the raise to 3NT showed a balanced hand that was happy to see partner choose to play 3NT when holding three hearts. An Immediate 3NT over 2♥ would have shown a hand more suited to suit play. Looking at soft values in the minors and a source of tricks in spades, Lall chose the no trump game.

Hampson led the seven of diamonds, ducked to the king, and Greco returned the suit to Lall's queen. Lall knocked out the ace of hearts and had ten painless tricks for +430.

Platnick/Diamond had the auction that any of us could have duplicated to the heart game. Again the lead was a diamond, the eight – third and low. Brian Platnick ducked



this to the king and back came the five, Zagorin following with the two. Platnick led the three of hearts to the king then the two back to the queen and ace. Zagorin led a diamond and Bathurst could ruff dummy's ace with the ten. He exited with a club and Platnick won, ran the trumps and tried to split the spades. When they proved to be four-two, he was one down for -50 and 10 IMPs to Bathurst.

This was a pretty poor effort from declarer. Firstly, playing the jack of hearts on the second round instead of low to the queen would have left him in a position to over-ruff the diamond and claim ten tricks. Secondly, if only he had led a middle heart to the queen on the second round – he could now have afforded the diamond ruff as he would have been able to ruff a spade then lead the two of hearts to his six to cash the fifth spade. For a strong player to mess up this hand so badly illustrates what tiredness and pressure can do to almost anyone.

Board 96. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Grue</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Greco</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

On my final offering, Hurd/Wooldridge comprehensively outbid Hampson/Greco.

Greco opened 1♣, strong, and rebid 3♣, natural and game-forcing, over the negative 1♦ response. Now 3♦ was potentially merely a waiting bid with nothing to show. When Hampson next showed some club support, Greco assumed that he would also have some slam interest and jumped to the club slam in hope of giving Grue a blind lead.

Six Clubs is not a terrible contract, requiring little more than a three-two trump split. But trumps were four-one and there was no way home after Grue's lead of the queen of hearts. Greco won the heart and played the queen of clubs to keep control. Lall took the king and forced dummy to ruff a heart and when he could ruff the second diamond there was also a heart to cash for down two; -100.

Wooldridge opened 2♣, standard, and rebid 2♥, Kokish, either hearts or GF balanced. Hurd duly relayed and found that his partner had the strong balanced type. He asked for a major then, on getting a negative response, introduced his long diamonds. Wooldridge was happy to co-operate as he had so much playing potential and Hurd redoubled the hearts to show a control. When Wooldridge could cuebid a second time, Hurd showed his spade control and Wooldridge settled for the small slam, knowing that the king of clubs must be missing.

Hurd won the heart lead, cashed the top diamonds and ruffed a heart back to hand. He drew the missing trumps and took the club finesse, came back to hand with a spade and repeated the finesse. Ruffing out the clubs produced all 13 tricks for +940 and 14 IMPs to Bathurst.

The Bathurst team will be thrilled at their success, but they know that they have completed only the first half of the job. The real goal is, of course, the Bermuda Bowl.

## BBO Notification

A number of captains have queried the fact that the TV screens do not inform them whether or not their match will be shown on BBO.

However, just to clarify the situation with notification of BBO matches, when you have logged on to your team's area to post your line-up, it is clearly shown there if your team will be on BBO or not.

## Lunch Arrangements

As some teams have found that the lunch break is not sufficiently long to allow them to get to their hotels and back before the afternoon match, the EBL has made an arrangement with the Hotel Dobrudja to allow them to eat here.

Any team wishing to have lunch at the Hotel Dobrudja instead of their own hotel should come to the Hospitality/Registration Desk to make arrangements to do so.

# Peek-A-Boo in the Girls

by Micke Melander

France defeated host country Bulgaria in the opening match of the Girl's series in the European Youth Bridge Team Championships. A neat 22-8 win put them in the lead of the series (together with The Netherlands, who also got 22 in their opening game against Turkey). Those who remember know that the French girls have silver medals to defend from Romania in the previous championship.

It looked a little bit funny when the girls in the Open Room seemed to play peek-a-boo with each other after the hands, evaluating what happened. All four of them more or less crashed down when the last card was played, trying to get eye contact with their partner and started talking.

On Board 11 the French girls got punished, having to good developed system tricks in their bag.

amongst trick in the end for one down.

While having their peek-a-boo chat they were probably sure that anything could happen on that board, since game was on in both directions. N/S made 4♠ and 5♣ while E/W was cold for 4♥. How right they were since 9,13,11, 12 and 11 IMPs were swung on the deal in the five different matches that were played.

At the other table the French girls were left to play in 4♥, making their contract. That was nine IMPs to France.

In Sweden v Poland, Wahlestedt from Sweden also had the South hand, when the bidding went.

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1♠
2♥	Pass	4♥	?

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

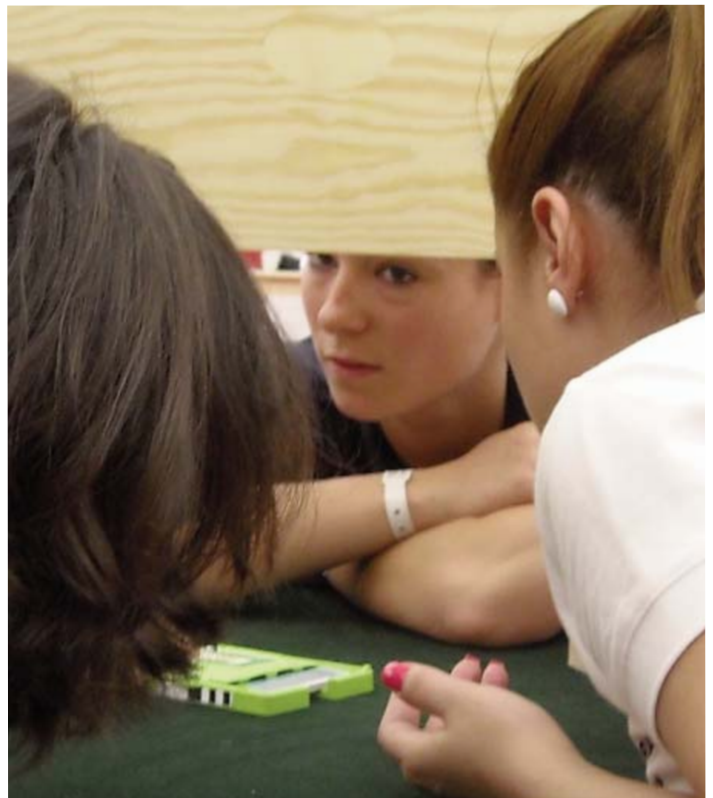
	♠ J 8 5		
	♥ 6 3		
	♦ 10 9 8		
	♣ J 8 5 3 2		
♠ 6		♠ K 7 4	
♥ A Q J 10 8 7 5		♥ K 4 2	
♦ K J 5		♦ Q 7 6 4 3 2	
♣ Q 10		♣ K	
	♠ A Q 10 9 3 2		
	♥ 9		
	♦ A		
	♣ A 9 7 6 4		

Now what? Here she wasn't given the room to be able to show her clubs as they were in the other match – when things were at a lower level. She finally passed, a bid that she later on might sleep badly over. You most probably have to act with that kind of hand, even though you know that you might risk paying out 1100 on some occasions. That was 11 IMPs to the Polish girls when they were pushed to 5♥ at the other table, and doubled!

The bidding went:

West	North	East	South
<i>Carbonneaux</i>	<i>Desislava</i>	<i>Favard</i>	<i>Angelova</i>
–	–	–	1♠
2♥	Pass	2♠	3♣
4♥	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

2♠ was a good raise in hearts, and that made life easy for Angelova as South who overcalled with her second suit, 3♣. Desislava, North, raised an eyebrow when the tray got back; suddenly she had a huge fit for partner and tried to make a save in 5♣ (she probably didn't believe for a second that the contract actually was making) bringing the game up to the five-level. Carbonneaux wisely bid 5♥ which all passed. The play went quickly: the eight of spades was led, won by South's queen, who cashed the ace of clubs before trying the ace of spades. Carbonneaux had to concede a di-



Jessie Carbonneaux, France

## Let's get this party started

by Micke Melander

In the second round of the Juniors the following interesting hand appeared.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gullberg	Ercan	Karlsson	Celik
–	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Karlsson started with the three of diamonds (1st-3rd-5th) which went to the two, nine and ten. Ercan now knew that if spades behaved he had five spades and two clubs and, with a diamond trick already in the bag, he only needed one more. Question was where to get that ninth trick? A heart to the king is one way, a club to the jack another, or an endplay or combination play?

He played a spade towards dummy and Karlsson tried to fool declarer by jumping up with the king. Declarer won and cleared the suit, since he needed them right to have any chance of making his contract. With hearts still untouched Ercan cashed the ace of clubs, crossed to his hand with a low spade and took the finesse in clubs.

When that failed the party started for the defence: queen of hearts, king and ace; queen of diamonds, which declarer again tried to cover – king and ace. The Swedes continued to cash out their red winners getting the contract three down.

So all in all, Ercan's eight tricks went to six and he was finally three down. However, I tend to like the thinking that, if partner has the 5-1-4-3 that the bidding looks like, you might try your game in 3NT instead of the stereotype 4♠, since you need one trick fewer...

West	North	East	South
Koclar	S. Rimstedt	Ucar	Fryklund
–	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

INT had many systemic meanings, one of them was a very weak raise in spades, like this time. Two Clubs promised a hand with 13-16 and a six-card spade suit or any 16+ hand.

Here Koclar, as West, led the obvious queen of hearts. Double dummy, you would overtake it when declarer plays low and return a diamond to bring the contract down. Ucar didn't find that defense, he encouraged with the three, and West went back to thinking...

Koclar finally decided to play a low club. That was the entry declarer needed to dummy. He cleared trumps, cashed his clubs and, when the queen fell, he could discard a diamond from dummy, scoring eleven tricks.

It would have been a little bit more interesting to see what would have happened if Koclar had followed the signal from partner at trick one and continued with a heart. West covers whatever comes and now declarer has to play the jack of clubs to create his entry to dummy. But that's also very double dummy. A more reasonable line would probably be to clear trumps and try to enter dummy to finesse in clubs and maybe also later on lead a diamond towards the king, depending on what happened at that point.

It was 12 MPs to Sweden in a match they finally won by 53-27 IMPs or 20-10 in VPs.

## Inside the Mind of Eric Fryklund



What have I done...



What to do to survive...



I think I have a solution...

# JUNIORS TEAMS

# ROUND 1



**ITALY**

**v**

**NORWAY**



by Ram Soffer

Two of the favourites in the Juniors event met each other in the first round. Norway, the bronze medallist from 2009, played Italy, whose team included Agustin Madala, who has already been a member of the Italy Open team, the 2010 European Open champions. As a teenager, Madala had represented Argentina in the Bermuda Bowl. Here in Albena he was making his first appearance for the Italian Juniors, making them one of the top contenders in this event.

A good defensive play by Madala in the Closed Room helped Italy open the scoring:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 10 9											
♥ A 10 6											
♦ A 8 7 4											
♣ J 9 8 2											
♠ J 8 6		♠ K Q 5									
♥ 9 8		♥ K Q 7 5 4 3 2									
♦ K J 9 2		♦ Q									
♣ K 10 6 5		♣ 7 3									
	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
		♠ A 7 4 3 2									
		♥ J									
		♦ 10 6 5 3									
		♣ A Q 4									



Agustin Madala, Italy

West	North	East	South
<i>Ellingsen</i>	<i>Delle Cave</i>	<i>Eide</i>	<i>Madala</i>
–	Pass	1♥	1♠
Dble	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	3♥	All Pass

In the Open Room the Italian E/W were allowed to buy the contract at 2♥ and declarer lost only the four obvious tricks for –140.

Giuseppe Della Cave (North) made a reopening double, pushing Harald Eide (East) to 3♥. Madala led the ♦5. Della Cave won the trick and switched to the ♠10. North's reopening double strongly indicated that he had a spade doubleton. Therefore Madala ducked this trick. Unfortunately for declarer, he had no entry to dummy's winning diamonds. North won the next trick with the ♥A and led another spade. South took his two black aces and gave North a spade ruff; +50 and 5-0 to Italy.

The Italians increased their lead three boards later:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

		♠ 9 4									
		♥ J 8 3									
		♦ A K Q 5 4									
		♣ 10 6 2									
♠ 5 2		♠ K Q J 10									
♥ K Q 9 2		♥ A 10									
♦ 10 9 8		♦ J 7 6 3									
♣ A J 9 5		♣ Q 7 4									
	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
		♠ A 8 7 6 3									
		♥ 7 6 5 4									
		♦ 2									
		♣ K 8 3									


West	North	East	South
<i>Rubino</i>	<i>Simonsen</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Skjetne</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dble
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Ellingsen</i>	<i>Delle Cave</i>	<i>Eide</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Dble	2♣	Pass	2♦
3♣	All Pass		

Simonsen's light opening bid shut out E/W and he had to play it in a 5-1 fit at the two level, going three down for –300. At the other table North passed and East (maybe for systemic reasons) opened his shorter minor. The Italians reached 2♦ as well after North's 2♣ transfer, but Ellingsen (West) was hoping for a club fit, and the final contract was 3♣.

Madala led his singleton, and Della Cave won three top diamonds. The ♠A was next, and when South covered the ♣Q a trump trick had to be lost; +100 and 9 more IMPs to Italy. Actually, E/W were cold for 3NT with 23 HCP, so perhaps 2♦ down three was not that bad after all.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rubino	Simonsen	Di Franco	Skjetne
—	—	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	


West	North	East	South
Ellingsen	Delle Cave	Eide	Madala
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

A 5-card weak two opening bid by Skjetne resulted in a borderline game which was not bid by Italy. The natural ♣K lead proved inadequate despite East having the ♣J. Declarer won the second round, played a trump to the ten and queen, dropped East's ♠K next and gave up a club, establishing dummy's fourth club for a later heart discard.

A heart lead would have beaten the game, since North would be forced to ruff a heart before clubs were established, and then the loss of two trump tricks would be unavoidable.

At the other table Italy played a quiet 2♠, making three and losing 7 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
Rubino	Simonsen	Di Franco	Skjetne
2♠	3♥	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Ellingsen	Delle Cave	Eide	Madala
2♠	3♥	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

The bidding looks similar at both tables but, while Skjetne's 4NT was Roman Keycard, Madala's 4NT meant 'pick a minor', and 4NT followed by 5♥ was just a slam invitation. North judged to accept with his distributional hand, and indeed 6♥ required little more than a 3-2 trump split. However, both declarers were powerless after West showed out on the first round. They had to concede a diamond ruff as well and it was a push at 6♥ down two at both tables. At this stage Italy led 15-7.

After another push at 4♥-1, the following deal appeared:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ellingsen	Delle Cave	Eide	Madala
—	—	1♦	1♠
2♦	4♥	All Pass	

In my opinion, West misjudged to let North play 4♥, as it was clear that E/W didn't have many losers in diamonds. Indeed, E/W were cold for 5♦ which was bid and made at many tables. After selling out to 4♥, they should have at least defeated the contract by finding the spade switch at trick two, but Eide led the ♦A followed by the ♥A and another heart. Delle Cave won in hand and immediately played ♣A and another club. At this point he still had two entries to dummy, enabling him to establish the suit for two discards.

4♥ made in the Closed Room looked a very promising score to Italy, but in the Open Room the Italian E/W did even worse than their Norwegian counterparts, doubling 4♥ and letting it make, so it was Norway who gained 5 IMPs. Another 5 IMPs on Board 11 gave them the lead for the first and last time in the match; 17-15.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ K 7 6 5  
♥ K 4 3  
♦ K T 2  
♣ Q 7 4

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



♠ A J 9 4  
♥ Q J 8 2  
♦ A 4  
♣ J 3 2

♠ 10 8  
♥ A 7 6  
♦ Q 9 5  
♣ A K 10 9 5

West	North	East	South
Rubino	Simonsen	Di Franco	Skjetne
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
INT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Ellingsen	Delle Cave	Eide	Madala
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

In expert circles it has become customary to respond to 1♣ with almost anything at favourable vulnerability, and this deal shows why. Of course South must pass after 1♣, and then West's 1♦ response shuts N/S out for the remainder of the bidding. However, in the Closed Room West passed and North found a balancing call with his poor 11 points. South raised to game and 3NT proved to be unbeatable. Eide led the ♠4 to the queen and king. Delle Cave had eight tricks (clubs will always produce five tricks in view of East's opening) and he immediately developed his ninth in diamonds. This was +600 to Italy, while in the Open Room Norway managed only +100. The lead swung back; 26-17 to Italy.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ Q J 7 5  
♥ Q 8 5 4  
♦ 10 5 3  
♣ 5 4

♠ 9 6  
♥ K J 10 9 7 2  
♦ K 7 2  
♣ J 7



♠ A K  
♥ A 6 3  
♦ A Q 9 4  
♣ Q 8 6 2

♠ 10 8 4 3 2  
♥ –  
♦ J 8 6  
♣ A K 10 9 3

West	North	East	South
Rubino	Simonsen	Di Franco	Skjetne
–	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Ellingsen	Delle Cave	Eide	Madala
–	Pass	1♣	1♠
Dble	3♠	3NT	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Rubino/Di Franco used their 2♦ opening to show a balanced 18-19 HCP, followed by 2♠ (forcing 2NT) and 3♦ (a transfer to hearts) to reach the normal contract of 4♥ without intervention, making 10 tricks.

At the other table, East's 1♣ opening allowed Madala to overcall 1♠, and some more aggressive bidding from N/S led to a save in 4♠ before West even mentioned his hearts. E/W could have defeated this by three tricks by starting, for example, with four rounds of diamonds, but the ♣J lead helped declarer escape for down two, and Italy gained a further 3 IMPs.

The last significant swing came after Norway gained one overtrick on Board 14.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ A Q 7 6  
♥ A 10 6 5  
♦ –  
♣ A K Q J 5

♠ K 4 3 2  
♥ 9 3  
♦ K 7 4 3  
♣ 4 3 2



♠ 10  
♥ Q J 8 7  
♦ J 9 5  
♣ 10 9 8 7 6

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

West	North	East	South
Rubino	Simonsen	Di Franco	Skjetne
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Ellingsen	Delle Cave	Eide	Madala
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♠
All Pass			


Discovering the 4-4 spade fit was a common problem to many N/S pairs, including the Norwegians. The traditional school of thought maintains that after 1♦ – 2♣, a 'reverse' of 2♠ must show extra strength and advises to bid 2♦ with the actual South hand, as the spade fit can be found later. However, here North had a 4-4-0-5 distribution, and he

could show only one major at a time! Consequently, the 2♣ bid became some kind of fourth-suit-forcing, and neither North nor South ever became aware of their fit. North invited a slam by 4NT (playing sound opening bids one does not invite with 20 HCP, but the Norwegian standards seem to be fairly light – see Board 4 above), and South declined. Indeed, only 11 tricks were available in NT.

In the Closed Room the proceedings were much simpler: 2♣ was an artificial game-force, and 2♠ duly showed his four-card major. Delle Cave attempted a grand slam, and Madala wisely declined, having no trump honours. However, after the helpful lead of the ♦4 he managed all 13 tricks: a spade to the queen dropped the ten from East, a small club was ruffed and the spade finesse was repeated.

That was 13 more IMPs to Italy, and now they had a sizeable lead of 42-18, to which 4 unanswered IMPs were added in the last five boards, the most interesting of which was the following:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Rubino</i>	<i>Simonsen</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Skjetne</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Ellingsen</i>	<i>Delle Cave</i>	<i>Eide</i>	<i>Madala</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	All Pass		

The Italian 2♦ opening was once again used to good effect and the transfer response 2NT led to a sign-off in 3♣. Rubino made it exactly when trumps split 3-3 and the spade finesse was onside.

At the other table Ellingsen had to play an ugly 1♦ contract with a 3-3 fit, but the defense was not the most testing. Delle Cave led a heart and Madala switched to a trump. Eventually, West developed his long spades to make eight tricks, restricting his team's loss to a single IMP.


The final score was 21-9 VPs (46-18 IMPs) to Italy. A nice start for Madala, but it's too early to tell if he can add a Junior title to his Open title of 2010.

## Bad News, Great Escape

by Jan van Cleeff

Trumps 4-1 and a side-suit which doesn't provide you the tricks you hoped for 6Dx on board 20 in the semi-finals, session 10 of the open pairs looked pretty desperate. By the way derives from the Poznan 2011 Open EC.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
–	<i>Stuurman</i>	Pass	<i>Wackwitz</i>
Pass	2♣(i)	Dble	2NT(ii)
Dble	3♥(iii)	Pass	3♠(iv)
Pass	5♥(vi)	Pass	4NT(v)
			6♦

All Pass

- (i) Strong any hand or a weak two in diamonds
- (ii) FI
- (iii) Good weak two in diamonds, heart shortage
- (iv) 'Waiting', likely interest in diamonds
- (v) RKCB
- (vi) Two key cards, no trump queen

West led the ♥10 to declarer's queen. Declarer, young Ernst Wackwitz from the Netherlands, entered dummy with the ace of clubs, finessed the jack of diamonds, cashed the trump ace (bad news), crossed to dummy with a heart ruff, cashed the trump king as well and played another trump to East's queen. When East returned a spade, declarer won the ace, cashed the club king (more bad news) and cashed the ace of hearts. This was the three-card ending:

♠ K ♥ – ♦ – ♣ J 7		♠ – ♥ K J ♦ – ♣ –	♠ Q ♥ – ♦ 9 ♣ 9
♠ – ♥ 9 ♦ – ♣ Q 10			

At this point, Wackwitz ruffed the nine of hearts in dummy and caught West in a black suit squeeze. These great twelve tricks resulted in a score of 96% for the Dutch juniors.

# Different Counts

by Brian Senior

Italy defeated Germany by 84-70 IMPs, 17-13 VPs, in the first round of the Girls Championship. Half of the winning margin came on this late deal.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

<p>♠ A J 10 9 ♥ Q 10 5 ♦ A 7 5 ♣ 10 9 3</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ 8 7 4 3 2 ♥ J 6 3 ♦ Q 10 8 3 2 ♣ –</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										
<p>♠ K 6 5 ♥ 8 4 2 ♦ J ♣ K 7 6 5 4 2</p>											

West	North	East	South
Brinck	Morina	Eggeling	Burgio
–	–	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Chavarria	Kaepfel	Lanzuisi	Giampietro
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♣
2♠	3♣	All Pass	

After two passes, Katharina Brinck, for Germany, passed the West hand. Stefani Morina opened the North hand with 1♣ and raised the INT response to game. Not wishing to lead from any of her stronger but broken holdings, possibly giving a trick in the process, Brinck led the passive nine of clubs. Caterina Burgio ran six club tricks then led a low spade towards the queen. When Brinck ducked, Burgio won the queen and cashed the top hearts before playing a diamond away from the king. Brinck, who had been squeezed on the run of the clubs, had bared the ace of diamonds. She won and had the heart queen to cash, but had to concede the last trick to declarer's king of spades for the overtrick; +430.

In the other room, Margherita Chavarria opened in third seat and that gave North, Katharina Kaepfel, an awkward problem. With no ideal positive action available, she chose to pass. When Chavarria passed Flavia Lanzuisi's 1♠ response, Kaepfel reopened with a double but, from Cristina Giampietro's point of view, her partner did not need to be anywhere near as strong as this. She responded in her long club suit but saw no reason to go on when Kaepfel competed with 3♣ over Chavarria's 2♠. There were eleven painless tricks in 3♣ for +150, but that was not enough; 7 IMPs to Italy.

The rules of bidding are always a little different in third seat and we all sometimes open hands we would have passed in any other position and pass hands we would have opened in a different seat. Perhaps Brinck simply saw an 11-point hand and, with no possibility of game once her partner had passed as dealer, saw no reason to risk an opening bid. I would disagree with her decision and evaluation for a number of reasons.

Firstly, neither side vulnerable is the best time to declare the hand your way if the deal is a competitive partscore. Both sides are going down in fifties so in the long run the side that declares tends to make a profit.

Secondly, while it doesn't always work out that way on any given hand, of course, it tends to be easier to get to your best spot if your side opens the bidding than if you have to start after an opponent has opened. If East is very weak, then the hand belongs to N/S and they are more likely to reach their best contract if left to themselves. Non-vulnerable, West is unlikely to come to much harm from opening at the one level.

My third point would be that the West hand is not really worth just 11 points. Take away the ♠10-9, ♥10 and ♣10-9, and this would be a miserable 11-count – and actually not even worth 11. But those intermediate cards improve the hand a great deal and I would judge the hand to be a sound opening.

If you hold a balanced hand and could, in some way, know for sure that your partner was also balanced, then a 5-4-3-2-1 count (Ace=5, King=4, Ten=1), would be a far more accurate measure of the value of your hand than the traditional 4-3-2-1 count. This has been shown in a study in which all the possible combinations of high cards were put together to see the average trick-taking potential of different holdings and therefore the different honour cards. The reason why most of us stick to the 4-3-2-1 count is partly through familiarity, but also because the more distributional the two hands are the more aces and, to a lesser extent, kings, become undervalued, where they are overvalued in balanced hands. While tens and jacks are often useful even on distributional hands, they are also often of no value at all.

If we look at this West hand, the 4-3-2-1 count values it at 11 HCP, the 5-4-3-2-1 count comes in at 18, which is the equivalent of 12 in the normal count (the 5-4-3-2-1 count gives a total of 60 HCP rather than 40 in the pack, so just multiply by two-thirds). But I would upgrade the hand a little more because of the two black nines, both backing up a ten. Despite the sterile 4-3-3-3 shape, this hand is a lot closer to a 13-count than 11.

## Appeals

The normal expectation is that all appeals will be held after the end of the day's play. If this is ever not the case, the tournament director will tell those involved what is the actual timing.