

23rd EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

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Daily Bulletin



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No Change at the Top



EBL President, Yves Aubry and French Federation Vice-president, Pierre Saguet, go for a drive.

In the Juniors, Italy managed a narrow 16-14 win over Israel in the battle of the top two, but that still left Israel 14 VPs clear at the top. With three rounds to go, Israel leads with 357 VPs, ahead of Italy 343 and Denmark, a team on an excellent run of form, 336. There is a bit of a gap after that to Bulgaria 310 and France 309. Teams down to tenth-placed Croatia on 296 are still involved in the chase for world championship qualification.

Poland's lead at the top of the Youngsters rankings is up to nearly 20 VPs with four rounds to play. Poland has 260.5 VPs, ahead of Israel 242, Sweden 237, Netherlands 233.5, France 229 and England 226. Biggest winners on the day were Israel, who moved up from sixth to second, swapping places with England.

Today's BBO Matches

10.00	Bulgaria v Greece (Juniors)
10.00	Poland v Israel (Juniors)
10.00	Italy v Netherlands (Juniors)
10.00	France v Netherlands (Youngsters)
14.00	Israel v Belgium (Juniors)
14.00	Italy v Poland (Juniors)
14.00	Israel v Italy (Juniors)
14.00	Netherlands v Israel (Youngsters)
17.30	England v Czech Rep. (Youngsters)
17.30	Hungary v Italy (Youngsters)
17.30	Israel v Poland (Youngsters)
17.30	Germany v Netherlands (Youngsters)

JUNIORS TEAMS



RESULTS



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND 17

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	BULGARIA CROATIA	63 - 20	24 - 6
2	GERMANY TURKEY	24 - 82	4 - 25
3	AUSTRIA GREECE	38 - 39	15 - 15
4	IRELAND SERBIA	67 - 9	25 - 4
5	ROMANIA SCOTLAND	36 - 57	11 - 19
6	ENGLAND HUNGARY	102 - 29	25 - 1
7	NORWAY DENMARK	33 - 82	5 - 25
8	BELGIUM SWEDEN	18 - 100	0 - 25
9	POLAND FINLAND	68 - 40	21 - 9
10	ITALY FRANCE	40 - 21	19 - 11
11	ISRAEL NETHERLANDS	54 - 45	17 - 13

ROUND 19

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

ROUND 18

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	TURKEY BULGARIA	25 - 71	6 - 24
2	GREECE GERMANY	77 - 58	19 - 11
3	NETHERLANDS AUSTRIA	82 - 38	24 - 6
4	SERBIA CROATIA	43 - 59	12 - 18
5	SCOTLAND IRELAND	92 - 36	25 - 4
6	HUNGARY ROMANIA	104 - 7	25 - 0
7	DENMARK ENGLAND	48 - 33	18 - 12
8	SWEDEN NORWAY	46 - 50	14 - 16
9	FINLAND BELGIUM	58 - 42	18 - 12
10	FRANCE POLAND	45 - 60	12 - 18
11	ISRAEL ITALY	49 - 54	14 - 16

ROUND 20

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

Multilingual Nation?



When the English Youngsters met Austria, the English coach was under instructions to be nice to the Austrians, who were currently bottom of the rankings and having a hard time of it. Michael Byrne duly smiled and said 'Guten Tag!', in his best German. To which player, Basil Letts chirped up with 'Oh Michael, I didn't know you spoke Austrian'.

Michael's response was, of course, 'German, Basil, German.'

'Oh', said Basil, 'Do they speak German as well as Austrian in Austria, then?'



Today's Schedule

- 10.00 Juniors Teams (19th Round)
- 10.00 Youngsters Teams (14th Round)
- 14.00 Juniors Teams (20th Round)
- 14.00 Youngsters Teams (15th Round)
- 17.30 Youngsters Teams (16th Round)

YOUNGSTERS TEAMS



RESULTS



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND 11

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	BULGARIA SWEDEN	39 - 68	9 - 21
2	CZECH REP. NORWAY	17 - 93	1 - 25
3	LATVIA DENMARK	93 - 49	24 - 6
4	SCOTLAND ITALY	23 - 73	5 - 25
5	POLAND RUSSIA	109 - 7	25 - 0
6	NETHERLANDS HUNGARY	17 - 15	15 - 15
7	GERMANY TURKEY	10 - 42	8 - 22
8	ISRAEL AUSTRIA	104 - 6	25 - 0
9	FRANCE ENGLAND	69 - 29	23 - 7

ROUND 14

1	ITALY	BULGARIA
2	SCOTLAND	CZECH REPUBLIC
3	ENGLAND	LATVIA
4	RUSSIA	DENMARK
5	HUNGARY	NORWAY
6	TURKEY	SWEDEN
7	AUSTRIA	POLAND
8	FRANCE	NETHERLANDS
9	ISRAEL	GERMANY

ROUND 12

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	NORWAY BULGARIA	63 - 46	19 - 11
2	DENMARK CZECH REP.	46 - 33	18 - 12
3	ITALY LATVIA	66 - 20	24 - 6
4	ENGLAND SCOTLAND	82 - 19	25 - 3
5	RUSSIA SWEDEN	24 - 139	0 - 25
6	HUNGARY POLAND	62 - 90	9 - 21
7	TURKEY NETHERLANDS	40 - 63	10 - 20
8	AUSTRIA GERMANY	18 - 48	9 - 21
9	FRANCE ISRAEL	29 - 69	7 - 23

ROUND 15

1	BULGARIA	SCOTLAND
2	CZECH REPUBLIC	LATVIA
3	ITALY	RUSSIA
4	DENMARK	HUNGARY
5	NORWAY	TURKEY
6	SWEDEN	AUSTRIA
7	POLAND	FRANCE
8	NETHERLANDS	ISRAEL
9	GERMANY	ENGLAND

ROUND 13

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	BULGARIA DENMARK	44 - 81	7 - 23
2	CZECH REP. ITALY	32 - 31	15 - 15
3	LATVIA SCOTLAND	65 - 20	24 - 6
4	NORWAY RUSSIA	49 - 47	15 - 15
5	SWEDEN HUNGARY	61 - 36	20 - 10
6	POLAND TURKEY	58 - 26	22 - 8
7	NETHERLANDS AUSTRIA	70 - 8	25 - 3
8	GERMANY FRANCE	12 - 57	6 - 24
9	ISRAEL ENGLAND	76 - 33	24 - 6

ROUND 16

1	LATVIA	BULGARIA
2	ENGLAND	CZECH REPUBLIC
3	RUSSIA	SCOTLAND
4	HUNGARY	ITALY
5	TURKEY	DENMARK
6	AUSTRIA	NORWAY
7	FRANCE	SWEDEN
8	ISRAEL	POLAND
9	GERMANY	NETHERLANDS

JUNIORS TEAMS

RANKING AFTER ROUND 18

1	ISRAEL	357
2	ITALY	343
3	DENMARK	336
4	BULGARIA	310
5	FRANCE	309
6	NETHERLANDS	301
	NORWAY	301
8	SWEDEN	300
9	POLAND	299
10	CROATIA	296
11	ENGLAND	277
12	GERMANY	270
13	SCOTLAND	266
14	TURKEY	262
15	HUNGARY	254.5
16	GREECE	243
17	FINLAND	240
18	ROMANIA	208
19	AUSTRIA	192
20	BELGIUM	178
21	IRELAND	167
22	SERBIA	155.5

YOUNGSTERS TEAMS

RANKING AFTER ROUND 13

1	POLAND	260.5
2	ISRAEL	242
3	SWEDEN	237
4	NETHERLANDS	233.5
5	FRANCE	229
6	ENGLAND	226
7	ITALY	213
8	LATVIA	207
9	NORWAY	206
10	HUNGARY	198
11	TURKEY	187
12	DENMARK	186
13	GERMANY	163
14	BULGARIA	162
15	CZECH REPUBLIC	161
16	SCOTLAND	152
17	RUSSIA	114
18	AUSTRIA	63

Today in History - July 22th

1942: On this day in 1942, the systematic deportation of Jews from the Warsaw ghetto begins, as thousands are rounded up daily and transported to a newly constructed concentration/extermination camp at Treblinka, in Poland.

1987: In a dramatic turnaround, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev indicates that he is willing to negotiate a ban on intermediate-range nuclear missiles without conditions. Gorbachev's decision paved the way for the groundbreaking Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty with the United States.

1933: American aviator Wiley Post returns to Floyd Bennett Field in New York, having flown solo around the world in 7 days, 18 hours, and 49 minutes. He was the first aviator to accomplish the feat.

1298: Wars of Scottish Independence: Battle of Falkirk – King Edward I of England and his longbowmen defeat William Wallace and his Scottish schiltrons outside the town of Falkirk.

1456: Ottoman Wars in Europe: Siege of Belgrade – John Hunyadi, Regent of the Kingdom of Hungary, defeats Mehmet II of the Ottoman Empire

1946: King David Hotel bombing: a Zionist underground organisation, the Irgun, bombs the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, site of the civil administration and military headquarters for Mandate Palestine, resulting in 91 deaths.

1934: Outside Chicago's Biograph Theater, "Public Enemy No. 1" John Dillinger is mortally wounded by FBI agents.

1894: The first ever motorized racing event is held in France between the cities of Paris and Rouen. The race is won by Comte Jules-Albert de Dion.

1934: Outside Chicago's Biograph Theatre, notorious criminal John Dillinger, America's Public Enemy No. 1, is killed on this day in 1934 by a hail of bullets fired by federal agents. In a fiery bank-robbing career that lasted just over a year, Dillinger and his associates robbed 11 banks getting away with more than \$300,000, broke out of jail, narrowly escaped capture multiple times and killed seven police officers and three federal agents

JUNIORS TEAMS

ROUND 16



FRANCE

V

ISRAEL



by Brian Senior

With Israel around a match clear at the top of the rankings and France in the thick of the fight for medals and world championship qualification, the Round 16 clash between the two teams could have a major effect on the final outcome of these championships.

The first half of the match was relatively quiet. France led by 20-6 IMPs after 11 boards. Board 12 was flat, but that is not to say that there was no action.

threw a club. Schwartz exited with a club which Grosset overtook to play another top heart, ruffed and over-ruffed. Lorenzini led a diamond to the king and ace, won the diamond return and exited with his last diamond so had to make a trump at the end; again down 1100 for a flat board.

Our two sets of defenders outperformed the other six pairs to defend spade contracts, holding them to five tricks where everyone else was allowed to take six.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

	♠ K J 10 8 5 4 2 ♥ 4 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ 7 6		
♠ A ♥ A K 10 5 3 ♦ K 6 3 2 ♣ A K 3	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q 9 7 6 ♥ Q 8 ♦ Q J 9 5 ♣ Q 10 4	
	♠ 3 ♥ J 9 7 6 2 ♦ 10 4 ♣ J 9 8 5 2		
West	North	East	South
Padon	Lhuissier	Birman	Franceschetti
Grosset	Schwartz	Lorenzini	Fischer
1♥	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

All around the Juniors, E/W had to contend with pre-emptors from the North hand. Three times, they defended 2♠ doubled for +500, three times 3♠ doubled for +800. There were ten pairs in game, all making, and four in various slams. Six Hearts failed once, as did 6NT. Of the two in 6♦, one succeeded, one failed. Our two tables had identical auctions to 3♠ doubled.

Alon Birman, for Israel, led queen and another heart, ruffed by Nicolas Lhuissier, who ducked a diamond. Dror Padon won the king, cashed the ace of spades to draw dummy's trump, then led the king of hearts, on which Lhuissier and Birman pitched clubs. Padon now cashed a club before reverting to hearts, leading the ace. Lhuissier ruffed with the ten and Birman threw his last club. Now Lhuissier cashed the king of spades then played ace and another diamond but still had two spades to lose; -1100.

Cedric Lorenzini too led two rounds of hearts and Ron Schwartz also ducked a diamond. Here, Lorenzini went in with the jack and switched to a low club. Christophe Grosset won the club king, cashed the ace of spades and played a top heart, Schwartz ruffed with the jack while Lorenzini

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

	♠ A K Q ♥ 9 8 ♦ K J 3 2 ♣ K 9 7 5		
♠ 10 8 3 ♥ Q 5 4 ♦ 10 3 ♣ Q 10 8 4 3	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 5 4 ♥ A J 10 7 6 3 ♦ A 9 ♣ A J 6	
	♠ J 9 7 6 2 ♥ K 2 ♦ Q 8 7 6 4 ♣ 2		
West	North	East	South
Padon	Lhuissier	Birman	Franceschetti
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	INT	2♥	2♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Grosset	Schwartz	Lorenzini	Fischer
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	INT	2♦(i)	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

(i) One major

Both Easts came in over the 15-17 INT opening and now it was the respective Souths who decided the board. Pierre Franceschetti merely competed with 2♠ and was willing to defend 4♥ despite Lhuissier's raise in competition. I would have thought that, as here, there was a serious danger of missing game with this two-suited hand. At the other table, Lotan Fischer upgraded the South hand because of the two-suiter and well-placed heart holding.

Franceschetti led his singleton club. Birman put up dummy's queen, which held the trick. He ran the queen of hearts now so lost to the king and also suffered a club ruff. That meant down two for -100, but cheap with 4♠ on the other way.

And, of course, with no diamond ruff out, there was no

problem at the other table. Fischer just lost three aces to score +620 and 11 IMPs to Israel.

That brought Israel virtually level at 21-22 IMPs, but the ground gained was more than lost on the next two deals.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

	<p>♠ K 9 4 ♥ A 10 9 3 ♦ 9 ♣ J 10 7 6 2</p>		
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	<p>West North East South</p> <p><i>Padon Lhuissier Birman Franceschetti</i></p>		
	<p>1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass</p>		
	<p>2♦ Pass 3♣ Pass</p>		
	<p>3♦ Pass 4♣ Pass</p>		
	<p>4♠ All Pass</p>		

	<p>West North East South</p> <p><i>Grosset Schwartz Lorenzini Fischer</i></p>		
	<p>1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass</p>		
	<p>2♦ Pass 3♣ Dble</p>		
	<p>3♦ Pass 3♥ Pass</p>		
	<p>4♥ Pass 5♦ All Pass</p>		

Birman's third bid, where he bid out his five-five shape, convinced Padon that he had a more extreme two-suiter than was actually the case. Perhaps he should have insisted on diamonds come what may, but he chose to give spade preference and 4♠ was a horrible contract. Franceschetti led his diamond. Birman won the ace and led a heart, ducked, then a second heart honour to Franceschetti's ace. He switched to a low spade and Lhuissier withheld the jack to ensure that there was no later dummy entry in the trump suit. In dummy for the last time with the eight of spades, Birman threw a club on the jack of hearts and another on the diamond king. Franceschetti ruffed and played his king of spades and Birman had to play clubs from hand so lost two tricks there for down one; -100.

Fischer's double of 3♣ helped the French East, Lorenzini, to avoid describing a genuine two-suiter. When Grosset bid his diamonds for a third time, Lorenzini used fourth-suit forcing. Grosset raised that to 4♥ and Lorenzini corrected to the diamond game. Schwartz led the ace of clubs. Grosset ruffed, unblocked the ace of diamonds and ruffed a club back to hand to draw trumps before knocking out the ace of hearts. However, he seems to have miscounted trumps because when Fischer now returned a club Grosset won and his other club winner was ruffed; still +600 and 12 IMPs to France.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

	<p>♠ A 9 8 5 ♥ A K 8 7 6 5 3 ♦ 7 ♣ A</p>		
--	--	--	--

	<p>West North East South</p> <p><i>Padon Lhuissier Birman Franceschetti</i></p>		
	<p>– 1♦ Pass 1♥</p>		
	<p>Pass 2♣ Pass 2♠</p>		
	<p>Pass 3♣ Pass 3♥</p>		
	<p>Pass 4♥ Pass 4NT</p>		
	<p>Pass 5♦ Dble 6♥</p>		
	<p>All Pass</p>		

	<p>West North East South</p> <p><i>Grosset Schwartz Lorenzini Fischer</i></p>		
	<p>– 1♦ Pass 1♥</p>		
	<p>Pass 2♣ Pass 2♠</p>		
	<p>Pass 3♣ Pass 3♥</p>		
	<p>Pass 4♥ Pass 4♠</p>		
	<p>Pass 5♣ Pass 5♥</p>		
	<p>All Pass</p>		

The two auctions were essentially identical, with South going through fourth-suit forcing to set up a force then repeating the hearts. When he received delayed heart support,



Cedric Lorenzini, France

he asked for key cards and heard that partner had none. Fischer now signed off in 5♥ while Franceschetti jumped to slam. Twelve tricks were easy so that was easy +480 to Fischer but +980 to Franceschetti, and 11 IMPs to France.

The final major swing of the match, however, went in favour of Israel.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 6
♥ A K 10 9 8 4
♦ A 3 2
♣ 5 3

♠ A K 8
♥ 6 3
♦ 8 7 6
♣ A 10 6 4 2

N
W E
S

♠ 10 4 3 2
♥ Q 5
♦ Q J 5
♣ K J 9 8

♠ Q J 7 5
♥ J 7 2
♦ K 10 9 4
♣ Q 7

West	North	East	South
Padon	Lhuissier	Birman	Franceschetti
–	–	–	INT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Grosset	Schwartz	Lorenzini	Fischer
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	2♥	Dble	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

Franceschetti opened INT, ostensibly 10-12. Perhaps he was opening light for tactical reasons but, perhaps he judged the South hand to be worth 10 HCP – if you use the 5-4-3-2-1 count on balanced hands, this one comes out as the equivalent of 10 HCP in the 4-3-2-1 count. Anyway, the mini-no trump shut the opposition out of the auction and the French pair had a free run to 3♥.

Padon cashed the ace of spades and Birman signalled with the ten, discouraging. Padon switched to the eight of diamonds. Franceschetti won dummy's ace, cashed the top trumps, and knocked out the king of spades. When Padon continued with a second diamond, he had an overtrick for +170.

Fischer could not open the South hand, of course, so Grosset got to open 1♣. Facing a passed hand, Schwartz was willing to give up on game so made a heavy weak jump overcall. However, this convinced Fischer to pre-empt to 4♥ over the negative double and Grosset completed the bidding with a double.

The defence has four top tricks to take in the black suits but Lorenzini's choice of opening lead, the queen of diamonds, did not, as they say, exactly paralyse declarer. Schwartz won the ace, drew trumps and led a diamond to the nine. He came back to hand with a third round of trumps to repeat the finesse, although that of course proved to be unnecessary; +590 and 9 IMPs to Israel.

France won the match by 45-36 IMPs, 17-13 VPs – a satisfactory outcome for both teams in terms of the overall ranking.

Team Profile: Scottish Juniors



The Scottish Junior team has only four players, removing all decisions about who should play and when. To simplify their captain's job even further, they have each identified with one compass point.

Frazer Morgan (minimonkey) is an investment consultant, which means he is very familiar with negative numbers. He has already played in a European Open Championship (in Ostend last year), since when he needs no nudging. Normal, natural, nonchalant and nearly nerveless, none but Frazer could be our nominated North.

Philip Morrison (phil352) has been Frazer's partner since schooldays, and they have been part of the Scottish Junior Squad for nearly a decade. He is about to embark on research for a PhD in Science. Philip quit bridge for a year, but he is back, stoically struggling with Frazer's stamina-sapping sorties, sensible, solid, with streaky spells of super scores which suddenly sink to the substandard. Surely a South.

Alex Wilkinson (boltonian2 – he was boltonian1 but he forgot his password) is the youngest Scottish Camrose player since Michael Rosenberg. He is currently working on a PhD in the History department of Lancaster University. His topic, Philosophy and Surrealism, has taken him to Paris for three months of existential education. One cannot describe Alex as elegant, but he is endearingly easy-going, evidently emotionless as he extracts extra tricks with effortless ease. Everybody's East.

Philip Stephens (phil_20686), the oldest member of the team, is a married man also working on a PhD (in Cosmology) at Lancaster University where his partnership with Alex has developed. Phil is well-versed in their system (he wrote it), wide-eyed, willing, wistfully wishing for a win, but occasionally wild, as befits a West.

Captain Liz McGowan (CuttySark) tries to cut criticism, criming and chuck-counting from the post-match discussions, but is clearly completely clueless.

The team trudges tranquilly through torrid times and towering temperatures towards the terminus.... could it be Triumphant Tenth? Nicely Ninth? Exciting Eighth? Superb Seventh? Or Way down in the Wilderness? Never Write off Scottish Enterprise!

YOUNGSTERS TEAMS ROUND 10



ENGLAND

v

ITALY



by Ram Soffer

English Junior bridge is enjoying a revival recently. The English Youngsters took silver in the 2010 Philadelphia world championship, and despite having only one player from that squad in their team in Albena, they are currently in second place with a healthy margin over third. I was following their Round 10 match against Italy. For the sake of variety I am going to present this match report as bidding quiz.

1. You are East (None Vul.)

♠ K Q J 8
♥ J 4
♦ K Q J 9 4
♣ 10 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
INT	Dble	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	?	

2. You are South (None Vul.)

♠ Q 9 5 4
♥ K Q 5
♦ A 2
♣ K 9 8 5

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	?

3. You are West (E/W Vul.)

♠ 10 8
♥ K Q J 7
♦ K Q J 8 7 6 5
♣ —

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥(i)	Dble
?			

(i) Fourth Suit Forcing

4. You are West (N/S Vul.)

♠ A 4
♥ J 9 4
♦ A 7 2
♣ A 9 7 6 5

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
?			

5. You are South (None Vul.)

♠ J 9 8 7 2
♥ A 7
♦ J 10 6 3 2
♣ 10

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	?

6. You are South (N/S Vul.)

♠ J 9 7 6 2
♥ K 2
♦ Q 8 7 6 4
♣ 2

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	INT	2♦(i)	2♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	?

(i) Hearts

7. You are North (None Vul.)

♠ K
♥ Q 2
♦ K J 5 3 2
♣ K Q 10 9 3

West	North	East	South
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♥(i)
Pass	?		

(i) Forcing

Did you form your own opinions? Now let us watch the actual decisions at the table and analyse them.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 9 6 5 3
♥ A 10 8 6
♦ 7
♣ A 7 4 3

♠ A 10 7
♥ 7 3 2
♦ 10 8 6 5
♣ K Q 6



♠ K Q J 8
♥ J 4
♦ K Q J 9 4
♣ 10 5

♠ 4 2
♥ K Q 9 5
♦ A 3 2
♣ J 9 8 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Roberts</i>	<i>Zanasi</i>	<i>Brass</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
INT	Dble	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

Roberts did very well to compete with his 8 HCP, but Zanasi shouldn't have sold out to 2♥. Although E/W have no certain fit, there are three compelling reasons to balance with 2♠:

(i) East's 5-4 hand is much more suitable for offense than defense.

(ii) The opponents have an eight-card fit, so they are happy at the two-level.

(iii) The vulnerability encourages bidding on.

Tommy Brass made 2♥ exactly, while at the other table the English East/West made 3♦ for a gain of 6 IMPs.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Roberts</i>	<i>Zanasi</i>	<i>Brass</i>
West	North	East	South
-	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Opponents' pre-empts often make us go astray in the bidding. That's why people pre-empt, and experts do it more often than others. However, some pre-empts carry the risk of a substantial penalty, and in order to do well against pre-empts one should extract the maximum from those opportunities.

North has shown 10-11 HCP with a spade shortage. South should prefer a plus score against 3♠ to an uncertain game. In fact, the penalty may exceed the game bonus, as is the case here. Even after the natural ♥K lead which allows a diamond discard, precise defense is going to win two spade, two diamond and three club tricks for Plus 500.

At the table South chose to bid 3NT and Donati led the ♠3. Gabriele Zanasi found a nice switch to diamonds, and declarer had only seven tricks. Tommy Brass managed to endplay East for an eighth trick, but Minus 50 was a poor score, comparing with 4♠-3 undoubled in the other room (5 IMPs to Italy).

Board 16. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Roberts</i>	<i>Zanasi</i>	<i>Brass</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Dble
5♦	All Pass		

Twelve-year-old Giovanni Donati got it right and bid the only makable game. Apparently East was asking to bid 3NT with a heart stopper, but 7-4 hands play much better in a suit contract. The play was straightforward after North led a heart and South played the ace. Even if South ducks, West still makes it with a loser-on-loser play: spade to the ace followed by the ♣K, discarding a spade. Later he enters dummy with the ♦A to discard a heart on the ♣Q.

At the other table the English West bid 3NT, and sloppy defense allowed him to make eleven tricks. However, a heart duck at trick one leaves declarer permanently cut off from dummy. Even if South plays the ace and another heart, and West discards dummy's diamond ace on his hearts, the defense should still prevail at the end.



Gabriele Zanasi, Italy

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Donati	Roberts	Zanasi	Brass
-	-	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

This bidding question is a matter of system. After East bids 2♦ it's unclear whether the right game is 3NT or 5♦, and even 6♦ is not entirely out of the question, but if your 2♣ was 'natural' (10+ HCP), then I'm afraid you have to bid 3NT for lack of alternatives. After all, if you replace East's ♥K with the ♦K and transfer a small diamond to the hearts, then 3NT is lay-down, while 5♦ may fail.

However, playing the two-over-one system you simply bid 3♦ on the second round, announcing the diamond fit. In this case, East/West still have time to explore the hand before deciding on the final contract.

At the table Donati bid 3NT, but after the ♠3 lead he was fighting a lost cause, going down one for a push. On the other hand 5♦ makes, since after the same lead East plays ♠A, ♣K,



Tommy Brass, England

♣A, ♣ ruff, ♦A and discards a spade on a club. Later, he re-enters dummy with a trump, discarding a heart on the fifth club. In fact, if he guesses the trump position he even makes six.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

	♠ J 9 8 7 2		
	♥ A 7		
	♦ J 10 6 3 2		
	♣ 10		
West	North	East	South
Donati	Roberts	Zanasi	Brass
-	-	Pass	Pass
1♥	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

I believe most experts would reluctantly pass 2♠ with the South hand. Although partner's INT overcall shows a bit more than a 1NT opening, there is no certain spade fit, and the quality of the long suits is poor.

However, juniors tend to have far less inhibitions, and Brass's optimistic 3♦ bid turned into a big success. Roberts bid the obvious 4♠ and won the heart lead with the ace. The spade finesse was lost to the king, but East couldn't get his ruff. Declarer drew trumps and made his contract by a double finesse in diamonds. England gained 12 IMPs when at the other table Italy played a ridiculous 2NT, down four.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Donati	Roberts	Zanasi	Brass
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	INT	2♦	2♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

The very next board was quite similar. Again South has a 5-5 hand with 6 HCP and his partner has bid INT. His 2♠ was non-forcing, but there were some strong arguments to bid 4♠ over 4♥. First of all, the hand becomes much better once North has supported spades. In addition, the opponents have bid a game which we might not be able to defeat. For example, exchange East's ♥A with West's ♥Q. In this case E/W can beat 4♠, but the bid still works because 4♥ is cold.

Zanasi doubled, but the defense made no more than his three aces. Plus 790 to England, compared with a quiet two spades making four in the other room.

Board 17. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 10 7 6 3 2 ♥ J 10 ♦ 10 6 ♣ 8 7 5 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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 2 ♦ K J 5 3 2 ♣ K Q 10 9 3	♠ Q J 4 ♥ 9 4 ♦ A Q 9 8 4 ♣ J 6 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Roberts</i>	<i>Zanasi</i>	<i>Brass</i>
–	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Dble	6♥
All Pass			

It may seem that North has an obvious 4♥ call at his third turn, but Alex Roberts thought otherwise. The ♥Q is a very useful card, and the ♠K may still be useful as well if South has something in that suit. The English North preferred 3♠ – a gentle move forward, followed by 4♥, leaving it up to partner. Tommy Brass didn't need any more encouragement since he had a very big hand (although he may have started to doubt its value when North bid both of his singletons, so the 3♠ bid was important).

The play was easy. Declarer ruffed the second diamond and drew trumps. He cashed the ♣A and entered dummy with the ♠K to discard two spades on the ♣KQ. An early spade play by the defense would not make much difference. England picked up 10 IMPs when the slam was not bid at the other table.

At this stage England had a promising lead of 56-25. However, their final three boards were poor and the final margin of victory was just 56-46 IMPs (17-13 VPs). Trailing Poland by 4.5 VPs, they may come to regret those lost IMPs when the tournament is over.

ROMANIA TEAM PROFILE

by Raluca Dobrescu (ex Junior)



RADU NISTOR – “the fearless one” (as nicknamed by Mr. Kees Tammens) is the promising star of Romania, a fact emphasized by the winning of the silver medal in 2008, at the First World Mind Sports Games in Beijing. Curious fact: in international junior tournaments, he's had three different partners, all girls! No wonder the medal he won was in the INDIVIDUAL section!

JACQUELINE PAVEL – partnering Radu, she also played two years ago at the European Junior Championships, in the Girls section. Don't let her princess-like feature fool you: kyte-boarding, skiing, swimming, rowing: “Count me in!” she would say! Also, she'd never say no to a good sunbathing day, unless coach says “Not this tournament, take your tricks first!”

HORIA GEORGESCU – Late in the night, Horia receives a call from Tanzania: “Bridge, starting in 10 minutes”. The next moment, Horia changes into his superhero suit and rushes to the playing area, arriving in maximum seven minutes! Yes, that is how much he loves this game! Alternatively, he'll always accept your challenge in swimming or hockey, which he practiced a lot (until, of course, he discovered bridge!).

RAZVAN GHEORGHE – for the first time participating at the European Junior Championships, it is his last time too, for he is 24 now. Always debating bridge related stuff with his partner, Horia, he is also the man to go to if you want a tip in order to bet on any sport result! My tip is: do not challenge him to a one-on-one yahtzee play, for you will surely lose lots of beers

IONUT EPURE – our handsome junior has made a few girl conquests at the last European Junior Championships, where he played in the Youngsters section. This year, he qualified for the “big team” together with Iancu.

IANCU BACALU – a very ambitious junior, he and his partner Ionut won the selection for the third pair in this team, in early May this year. So, given their fierce nature, they are here to score as many IMPs as possible!

NPC ANTON NEGOESCU – the youngest coach the junior team ever had (34), he is also the youngest player to have ever won the National Pairs Championship in Romania, at the age of 24. When not explaining the finesse to his pupils, you'll find him enjoying any football related debate.

A Fatal Lead

by Ram Soffer

In Round 12 Israel, the leaders in the Juniors Series, inflicted a heavy 25-2 defeat on Hungary. Alon Birman (whose father is the Israeli national Junior coach, David Birman) reported the following hand.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ K 9 4 3 ♥ A Q 5 ♦ J ♣ J 6 5 3 2	♠ 10 6 ♥ K 8 3 ♦ A Q 10 9 7 6 ♣ 9 4	♠ A J 7 ♥ 4 ♦ 5 4 3 2 ♣ A K Q 10 8	♠ Q 8 5 2 ♥ J 10 9 7 6 2 ♦ K 8 ♣ 7
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West	North	East	South
Padon	Torma	Birman	Hoffmann
Pass	2♦	3♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Having passed as dealer, Dror Padon could freely bid his values later. Following Alon's 3♣ overcall of the weak two opening bid, he splintered to 4♦. More cuebids followed and they landed in 6♣.

Though not unreasonable, this slam is borderline. After

the normal lead of the ♦K, declarer is going to ruff three diamonds in dummy, but he will have to decide how to go for the twelfth trick. The percentage play is to cash the ♠AK hoping for the queen to drop, and then finesse the ♥Q if it does not. In the given layout this would have failed.

However, Tamas Hoffmann (South) decided not to lead his partner's suit, since the ♥J looked safer. Indeed, how can such a sequence lead from a long suit cost? It surely did cost!

Looking at the lead and planning the play, Alon could be sure that North held the ♥K, since there would be absolutely no reason to underlead a king when partner has bid another suit. Therefore his only chance was in spades but, before committing to the finesse, Alon explored the hand a little bit. He won the first trick with the ♥A and played the ♦J. North won his ace and led a trump. Alon won the ♣A and ruffed a diamond, when South's ♦K appeared. Next came the ♣K and another diamond ruff.

Now Alon knew that North started with ♦A Q x x x and the ♥K. He opened a weak two, so he was highly unlikely to have the ♠Q as well. Next came a heart ruff (hoping for the fall of the ♥K) and another ♦ ruff.

North's hand was counted: six diamonds, two clubs and at least three hearts. He could have at most a doubleton spade, not including the queen. Evidently the only hope was ♠10 x. Alon cashed the spade ace, played out his last two clubs, discarding a spade and the ♥Q (North discarding the ♥K), and then came the decisive moment. Alon trusted his card-reading and led the ♠J, making the slam. South learned the hard way that failing to lead his partner's suit can be very costly.



Dror Padon, Israel

2013 European Universities Bridge Championships



Dear Bridge Friends,
 In 2013, EUSA will organize the 3rd EUSA Championships, the European Universities Bridge Championships. We are looking for candidates to do this organization. It is a five-day event for about 30 teams, and students may be located in hotels or student rooms at the high school or university.

Is your federation interested to organize this event? Please contact me for more information. The official candidate for the organization is the National University Sports Federation, which must contact EUSA with its candidacy.

Geert Magerman

Chairman Technical Committee EUSA and FISU
 (International University Sports Association)



Saturday Evening July 23rd Prize-giving and Closing Ceremony

The Prize-giving and Closing Ceremony will be held at the Casino Albena, around a 15-minute walk away near the resort entrance, at 1900 on Saturday July 23rd.

There will be bus transfers from the venue – the Sports Hall – from 1830 to 1850.

A buffet will follow in the Variety Casino Theatre's foyer.

There will be return buses from the Albena Casino after the ceremony and and buffet from 2030 to 2050.

The Biggest Victory

by Ram Soffer

During the 2002 European Youngsters Championship (at that time it was called 'Schools') in Torquay, England, The Israeli team showed little respect for the host country, thrashing England by the incredible score of 147-17, on the way to Israel's first ever European Junior bridge title.

Although not checked officially, I believe this is the biggest victory ever in these championships, either according to the number of IMPs scored or according to the margin of victory.

Yesterday in Round 9, the English Youngsters made a valiant effort to erase that ignominious defeat from the record books. After 19 boards they were leading Austria by the fantastic score of 140-0, but then came a small tragedy. The Austrians pulled back 14 IMPs on the final board, so the Israeli record stays intact.

By the way, Israel's leading pair in 2002, Gilad Ofir and Ori Assaraf, have become in 2011 captains of the Israeli Juniors and Youngsters team, respectively. I am sure that they would gladly trade that old record for a gold medal in the current championships, and right now it seems that the Israeli Juniors are on course to achieve this aim, while the Youngsters are also fighting for a top place.

Invitation

For all players:

Free entrance to the Flamingo Grand Night Club is offered from 2130 on Saturday evening.

For all organisers, officials, group leaders and staff:

Free entrance and a welcome drink at the Flamingo Grand Piano Bar from 2130 on Saturday evening.

International Junior Bridge Events in the Netherlands

From 1993-2004 'big' Jan Rijnaarts organised every year the International Youth Bridge Festival 's-Hertogenbosch, with, in 2002, no fewer than 28 teams from 24 nations. In 2005 the junior event moved to Bridge-en Chess Café 'Twee Klaveren (2)' (lovers of all mind games really should go there when you visit Amsterdam), where founder and owner Giovanni Falavigna went every morning to the market to buy the foods he later that day prepared himself as chef de cuisine for excellent meals for the participants in the eight nations event. In 2005 the 'Witte Huis' invited the juniors from all over the world for the tournament known as 'White House Juniors Internationals' and the Carrousel cup a remembrance to famous discotheque in s-Hertogenbosch). So next year in 2012 all supporters of junior bridge hope that for the 20th time the international junior bridge event will take place, again in Het Witte Huis (I can assure this almost 90% a certainty).

Many of the juniors playing from 1993 in these events have become well known competitors at the international top level.

Ricco van Prooijen and Simon de Wijs qualified (with Louk Verhees and Bauke Muller as partners) with Bas Drijver/Sjoert Brink, also not so long ago still junior, for the Dutch Bermuda Bowl Team in 2011, played in Veldhoven (the Netherlands).

In the late nineties Ricco and Simon formed a junior partnership and excelled in a very nice bid and played 6♠.

Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ 10 5 3 2 ♥ 9 ♦ A K Q 8 7 ♣ 10 5 4	♠ K Q 7 6 ♥ Q 10 4 2 ♦ 5 ♣ A Q 9 3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; 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 E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div> </div>	♠ – ♥ K 8 7 6 5 3 ♦ 10 6 3 2 ♣ J 7 6
♠ A J 9 8 4 ♥ A J ♦ J 8 4 ♣ K 8 2			

West	North	East	South
	<i>Ricco</i>		<i>Simon</i>
–	–	–	INT
Pass	3♦(i)	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

(i) Shortage

At first glance this slam depended on the finesse of ♥K.

Declarer, Simon de Wijs, showed excellent technique. He took the spade lead in dummy with the six and played a diamond to the jack. A second spade to the eight in dummy and a diamond was ruffed. Now he crossed to the ace of hearts, refusing the finesse, and drew trumps. Now he always made twelve tricks just as long as clubs broke three-three or the player with four clubs also had the king of hearts.

Our Youngest Youngsters

by Micke melander

The Daily Bulletin checked through the records to see that Anastasia Erastova from Moscow, Russia and Giovanni Donati, Rimini, Italy, were the youngest girl and boy participating in these championships.

Anastasia, 14 years old was born on the 10th of October 1997. She has been playing bridge regularly for the last six months. She started to learn bridge in school where her teacher in Russian had bridge lessons for students who wanted to learn the game.

"I like bridge because it's an intellectual game and I like those games", says Anastasia. When not playing bridge and studying Physics in school she dance a lot, both modern dance and ballet.

"Albena is great, I like to play bridge and it's also a very nice sunny weather here."

Giovanni, 13 years old, was born on the 5th of August 1998. He has been playing since he was 10 years old and started learning from his father, who plays bridge as well. It didn't take long before he 'borrowed' the books from his father, quickly learning more about the game. Giovanni also has a twin brother, who is considered to be a computer genius for his age, though the brother doesn't have the slightest interest in bridge.

"I really like to solve the problems like declaring and defense; the bidding isn't that much fun – though we have to do it", says Giovanni.



Giovanni Donati, Italy

When not playing bridge, he reads bridge, plays bridge on the BBO, and might eventually look for some comics on the TV. But most parts seem to be about bridge in his life, sports in general like football or basketball are a definite no-no.

"Everything is great in Albena, except the food in our hotel", Giovanni continues. "They serve pasta, but for an Italian that is something else..."

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ 4 3 ♥ A 10 ♦ J 10 7 6 4 ♣ Q 10 8 6</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 <hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid white;"/>W </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> E <hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid white;"/>S </div>	<p>♠ 10 9 8 5 ♥ K 7 6 ♦ 9 8 3 ♣ A J 5</p>	<p>♠ K Q J 6 ♥ Q J 5 2 ♦ A Q ♣ 4 3 2</p> <p>♠ A 7 2 ♥ 9 8 4 3 ♦ K 5 2 ♣ K 9 7</p>
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West	North	East	South
Garkaje	Donati	Freimanis	Zanasi
–	–	Pass	Pass
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

For understandable reasons, Zanasi never checked for a fit in hearts, since he most probably wouldn't care even if partner had four hearts. But with the number of cards in the majors and the weakness in clubs 4♥ was a much better contract – at least in theory.

Freimanis led the nine of spades, which went to the two, three and declarer's queen. With seven tricks in spades and diamonds, Donati had to find a way to play hearts without revealing too much information about how the other cards were distributed. He therefore advanced the queen of hearts at trick two and that went to West's ace. Garkaje in West now had to choose which minor to attack. She finally decided to attack with the jack of diamonds; Donati won with the queen, played a spade to the ace, and continued with the nine of hearts, satisfied at seeing the ten arriving from West, then covered with the queen and ace. It was now game over. Freimanis cashed the ace of clubs and played a second round but declarer could claim 10 tricks. The contract would have been beaten if the defense could manage to attack clubs before their hearts were cleared by Donati.

The result was almost duplicated at the other table, when 3NT was just made.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ 5 ♥ AK7 ♦ 107632 ♣ Q765	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ AKQ ♥ J53 ♦ J ♣ AJ10832	♠ J8742 ♥ 104 ♦ AKQ95 ♣ K ♠ 10963 ♥ Q9862 ♦ 84 ♣ 94
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West	North	East	South
Erastova	Ekenberg	Martynov	Hult
–	1♣	1♠	Pass
2♦!	2NT*	3♦	All Pass

You certainly need to be brave to introduce that diamond suit with 9 HCPs and a singleton in partner's suit. Erastova found it, and deserved to hear at least 4♦ from partner. North was probably intimidated by North's 2NT, which promised some extras both in clubs and HCPs and only competed with 3♦.

North started off with the ace of spades, and shifted to the three of hearts. Erastova won in hand, drew two rounds of trumps, gave up a club trick, and then could cross-ruff the remainder for eleven tricks. A pity they weren't in game though.

We can be sure to hear more from these youngsters at many future Championships!



Anastasia Erastova, Russia

Team Profile – Scottish Youngsters

Yvonne and Ralph Wiseman:

Yvonne and Ralph are sister and brother. Despite being only 18 and 16 respectively, they are already veterans of the Scottish Under-21 team, having played together in it for six years. They are fast developing a reputation across Scotland for their consistent performances and cool table presence and this has been rewarded by Yvonne earning her first cap for the Scottish Women's team in 2011.

Opportunities to play together in the Scotland Open team will no doubt come in due course, although Ralph will have to juggle this with his commitment to presenting the television show, 'Top Gear'. Yvonne aspires to be a doctor. We all need to have our dreams.

Stuart Bradnam and Stephen Rose:

Unlike the Wisemans, Stuart and Stephen have no blood ties, although they share a bond and connection that goes much deeper. Bridge partners since they were 14, six years later they are almost inseparable and are rarely spotted more than five feet away from each other. They are steady and consistent performers at the bridge table and all round great mates. When not playing bridge, both of them enjoy sitting in their hotel rooms moping about missing their 'girlfriends'. Together...

Abigail Wilson and Stewart Pinkerton:

Abigail and Stewart's partnership is unusual in that the two of them had not played together across an actual bridge table prior to their first match here in Albena – perfect preparation for eight days playing behind screens!

Much like a successful blind date, their relatively new partnership has blossomed and they have played well despite this being their European debut. Abigail regards herself as a bit of a prankster and certainly her bridge can sometimes be a bit of a joke. Stewart is very quiet and mysterious about his hobbies, although his teammates have noticed a bit of a dark and Gothic streak in him. They are scared to ask any more.

David McCrossan (NPC):

David was never very good at bridge and so gave the game up in his mid-twenties to focus on his professional tennis career. He recently won the Wimbledon Men's singles final. His role at this event is two-fold – firstly, to stop his players going wrong (he tells them what he would do; they do the opposite), and secondly to pay for his new baby son's future education. This is through a draconian 'One Lev' fine system imposed on his team for certain mistakes at and away from the bridge table. After four days and 200 boards, it's not quite going to plan – the fund stands at less than 20 Leva.

Stepping Stone

by Kees Tammens

It is always profitable to get to know the secrets of declarer play. You don't have to become like Geza Otlík in his 'Adventures In Cardplay'. But knowledge of squeezes, endplays, backwashes and other exotic plays is useful. The stepping stone occurs in competitive bridge more than you might think. There was a very nice example in Round 14 of the Junior Championship.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kochlar</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Ucar</i>	<i>Wackwitz</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	2♥	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

North will lead the king of hearts against Five Clubs and, seeing there is no heart ruff available, switch to a trump. Can you see the agonizing problem declarer is facing. Since he now only has two diamond ruffs he has to choose between two lines of play.

(i) Ace of spades and a spade ruff, ace of diamonds and a diamond ruff, spade ruff establishing the suit. Draw the remaining trumps and play the jack of hearts and North is stepping stoned. This line works when North has a 3♠-6♥-2♦-2♣ distribution.

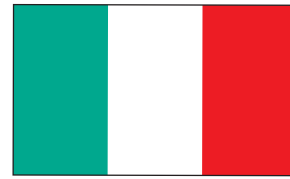
As you see this plan fails because North has a third diamond,

So the winning line is:

After king of hearts and a club switch, declarer plays the ace of diamonds and a diamond ruff, ace of spades and a spade ruff, diamond ruff and spade ruff. Draw trumps and play a heart. West has to win but only has hearts left.

After the 2♥ overcall, did you judge North to be 3-6-2-2 (also 3-6-3-1 works) or 3-5-3-2?

Team Profile – Italian Juniors



Agustin Madala: Surely one of the best player that you can meet at table. 'Gus' is the captain player which every teams need. Madala in the other room is an incredible assurance for all teams.

Giuseppe Delle Cave: It's not easy to play with Gus, when your partner never makes a mistake! But Giuseppe is a real world class player and with Madala forms an incredible pair.

Massimiliano Di Franco: A young player but rich in experience because this is his fifth European Championship, and with Delle Cave forms the senators' group of Italy. He's very quiet and concentrated at the table but by night he's very riotous on the dance floor of the Bulgarian discotheques.

Riccardo Rubino: Every day under the big top of Sporting hall of Albena Riccardo gets slim because of the the pressure but he regains it all at dinner, he's a real gourmet! He's a night-wanderer – plays all night goulash bridge with the first passing.

Francesco De Leo: This is the second European Championship for him. He's a real technical player with the dummy and on every hand he searches for a squeeze or endplay. If he can't do this, the board become boring and he goes down.

Riccardo Locatelli: First experience at European Championship for him but he isn't intimidated and from the first round he played with aggression in bidding and leading. He has got a real bridge disease and when he's sleeping he dreams diagram deals.

Saturday Excursions

There will be two optional excursions on Saturday July 23rd.

VARNA – Shopping

Departure 1330. Drive to Varna – coach trip around the town. Free time for shopping in the centre or in metro. Departure back to Albena at 1700.

Price: 13 Euros per person

BALCHIK – the 'White Town'

Departure at 1400. A visit to the 'Palace' area – the summer residence of the Romanian Queen Maria, situated in a ten hectare large park with over 2000 species of flowers and cacti. Arrival back in Albena around 1700.

Price: 10 Euros per person

Reservations and payment can be made on Friday July 22nd from 1000 to 1300 in the Congress Centre at the Registration Desk.