

# 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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Saturday, 23 July 2011

# Tight Finish in both World Qualification Races



*The Playing Area with the flags of the participating nations in the background*

With one round to play this morning, Israel need only avoid disaster to take the Juniors Championship. That last match is against Norway, who need a big win to get into the top six. Meanwhile, Italy are hot favourites for the silver medal, as they have what looks on paper to be a relatively easy last match and are 8 VPs clear of third-placed Denmark, who meet Croatia, lying sixth and in need of a good result themselves. Fourth comes Bulgaria and fifth France. The other big match this morning sees Italy face Poland,

Poland leads the Youngsters on 314.5 VPs, with Israel second on 302. These two are sure of a medal while Sweden, in third with 283, still have work to do both to secure the bronze and to ensure a trip to Cuba next July. With five to qualify, there are five other teams with a realistic chance going into today's final match: France 275, Norway 271, Netherlands 270.5, England 269 and Italy 268. But three of these will miss out. There are some huge match-ups in the last round – Norway v France, Sweden v Israel, and England v the Netherlands.

## JUNIORS TEAMS



### RESULTS



### TODAY'S PROGRAM

#### ROUND 19

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	BULGARIA GREECE	63 - 18	24 - 6
2	GERMANY AUSTRIA	56 - 25	21 - 9
3	TURKEY SERBIA	56 - 15	23 - 7
4	CROATIA SCOTLAND	28 - 11	19 - 11
5	IRELAND HUNGARY	17 - 20	14 - 16
6	ROMANIA DENMARK	29 - 30	15 - 15
7	ENGLAND SWEDEN	40 - 16	20 - 10
8	NORWAY FINLAND	21 - 25	14 - 16
9	BELGIUM FRANCE	23 - 41	11 - 19
10	POLAND ISRAEL	40 - 16	20 - 10
11	ITALY NETHERLANDS	36 - 32	16 - 14

#### ROUND 21

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

#### ROUND 20

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	AUSTRIA BULGARIA	24 - 72	5 - 25
2	NETHERLANDS GERMANY	38 - 27	17 - 13
3	SERBIA GREECE	17 - 80	3 - 25
4	SCOTLAND TURKEY	21 - 38	11 - 19
5	HUNGARY CROATIA	23 - 59	8 - 22
6	DENMARK IRELAND	39 - 31	16 - 14
7	SWEDEN ROMANIA	19 - 43	10 - 20
8	FINLAND ENGLAND	42 - 56	12 - 18
9	FRANCE NORWAY	30 - 43	12 - 18
10	ISRAEL BELGIUM	72 - 12	25 - 3
11	ITALY POLAND	29 - 37	14 - 16



### Today's Schedule

- 10.00 Juniors Teams (21th Round)
- 10.00 Youngsters Teams (17th Round)
- 19.00 Prize Giving and Closing Ceremony

#### Today's BBO Matches

- 10.00 Croatia v Denmark (Juniors)
- 10.00 Norway v Israel (Juniors)
- 10.00 Belgium v Italy (Juniors)
- 10.00 Sweden v Israel (Youngsters)

## JUNIORS TEAMS

### RANKING AFTER ROUND 20

1	ISRAEL	392
2	ITALY	373
3	DENMARK	367
4	BULGARIA	359
5	FRANCE	340
6	CROATIA	337
7	POLAND	335
8	NORWAY	333
9	NETHERLANDS	332
10	SWEDEN	320
11	ENGLAND	315
12	GERMANY	304
13	TURKEY	302
14	SCOTLAND	288
15	HUNGARY	278.5
16	GREECE	274
17	FINLAND	268
18	ROMANIA	243
19	AUSTRIA	206
20	IRELAND	195
21	BELGIUM	192
22	SERBIA	167.5

## YOUNGSTERS TEAMS



### RESULTS



### TODAY'S PROGRAM

#### ROUND 14

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ITALY BULGARIA	58 - 44	18 - 12
2	SCOTLAND CZECH REP.	48 - 39	17 - 13
3	ENGLAND LATVIA	28 - 18	17 - 13
4	RUSSIA DENMARK	16 - 32	12 - 18
5	HUNGARY NORWAY	8 - 62	4 - 25
6	TURKEY SWEDEN	22 - 44	10 - 20
7	AUSTRIA POLAND	3 - 104	0 - 25
8	FRANCE NETHERLANDS	18 - 28	13 - 17
9	ISRAEL GERMANY	80 - 15	25 - 3

#### ROUND 17

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

#### ROUND 15

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	BULGARIA SCOTLAND	52 - 51	15 - 15
2	CZECH REP. LATVIA	16 - 59	6 - 24
3	ITALY RUSSIA	48 - 48	15 - 15
4	DENMARK HUNGARY	69 - 36	22 - 8
5	NORWAY TURKEY	27 - 29	15 - 15
6	SWEDEN AUSTRIA	39 - 51	13 - 17
7	POLAND FRANCE	40 - 47	14 - 16
8	NETHERLANDS ISRAEL	29 - 53	10 - 20
9	GERMANY ENGLAND	12 - 34	10 - 20

#### ROUND 16

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	LATVIA BULGARIA	39 - 30	17 - 13
2	ENGLAND CZECH REP.	22 - 65	6 - 24
3	RUSSIA SCOTLAND	13 - 43	9 - 21
4	HUNGARY ITALY	40 - 75	8 - 22
5	TURKEY DENMARK	38 - 42	14 - 16
6	AUSTRIA NORWAY	31 - 114	0 - 25
7	FRANCE SWEDEN	43 - 34	17 - 13
8	ISRAEL POLAND	40 - 39	15 - 15
9	GERMANY NETHERLANDS	47 - 23	20 - 10

## YOUNGSTERS TEAMS

### RANKING AFTER ROUND 16

1	POLAND	314.5
2	ISRAEL	302
3	SWEDEN	283
4	FRANCE	275
5	NORWAY	271
6	NETHERLANDS	270.5
7	ENGLAND	269
8	ITALY	268
9	LATVIA	261
10	DENMARK	242
11	TURKEY	226
12	HUNGARY	218
13	SCOTLAND	205
14	CZECH REPUBLIC	204
15	BULGARIA	202
16	GERMANY	196
17	RUSSIA	150
18	AUSTRIA	80

# YOUNGSTERS TEAMS ROUND 12



**HUNGARY**

**v**

**POLAND**



by Brian Senior

Hungary v Poland in Round 12 of the Youngsters Championship was a wild affair with no fewer than eleven double-figure swings in 20 boards. The match ended in a 90-62 IMP, 21-9 VP victory for Poland.

Konkoly actually led the three of clubs. Kazmierczak cross-ruffed spades and diamonds, establishing the long spade, drew the last trump and had the luxury of trying the heart finesse for the overtrick. That failed but +920 was still worth 13 IMPs to Poland. Nicely bid.

This second deal does not have any great merit – it just amused me. On a spade lead, 3NT should be three down, losing the first seven tricks, while 5♦ is cold on any lead. Curiously, 3NT made after a spade lead while 5♦ went three down.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Krysa	Szirmay-Kalos	Zmuda	Tubak
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Wagner	Kazmierczak	Konkoly	Witkowski
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

For Hungary, Barnabas Szirmay-Kalos opened 1♦ and rebid INT, 15-17. Daniel Tubak now jumped to 3♣, showing long clubs and basically to play. That ended the auction and Tubak made eleven tricks for +150.

For Poland, Wojciech Kazmierczak and Lukasz Witkowski did rather better. Reaching game would have netted a safe 6 or 7 IMP swing, but the Poles got to the club slam. Kazmierczak opened a Polish Club then rebid 2NT as INT would have been weak, and Witkowski transferred to spades, 3NT showing a dislike for the suit, then introduced his second suit. When Kazmierczak was able to cuebid, having already shown the spade shortage, Witkowski drove to slam.

Six Clubs is an excellent contract. On a non-trump lead it may be possible to play on a complete crossruff, but Csaba



Wojciech Kazmierczak, Poland

West	North	East	South
Krysa	Szirmay-Kalos	Zmuda	Tubak
–	–	–	1♥
Pass	1NT(i)	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

(i) One-round force

West	North	East	South
Wagner	Kazmierczak	Konkoly	Witkowski
–	–	–	1♥
Pass	3♦(i)	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(i) Natural and invitational

Konkoly led the queen of spades against 3NT. Looking at a dummy containing two aces plus that diamond holding facing a hand that has shown six diamonds and invitational values, I can't see much hope of beating 3NT. Rising with the ace would have produced a lovely surprise for Zolt Wagner when the king fell. Merely encouraging a spade continuation did not, as the bare king scored and Kazmierczak ran for home; +400.

The Hungarians reached the much superior contract of 5♦, against which Justyna Zmuda led the queen of spades. Adam Krysa won the ace and switched to a trump.

Now it seems that declarer needs to play to establish either clubs or hearts, with either choice being successful if the suit breaks three-three or with certain doubletons.

Szirmay-Kalos decided to play on hearts. He played the queen of diamonds, something which would come back to haunt him as it turned out, and played a heart to the ace and ruffed a heart, a club to the ace and a second heart ruff, and again he made the unnecessary play of ruffing with the ace. When the heart king did not put in an appearance, there would have been time to switch to establishing clubs by giving up a club, winning the trump return in hand and ruffing a club. But, having frittered away the ace and queen of diamonds, he would not be able to win a trump return in hand and would get forced, having to shorten himself twice more to get to hand, first to take the club ruff and second to draw trumps and cash the clubs, so would go down even with clubs three-three.

In practice, declarer now crossed to dummy with a trump and, would have been OK had the suit broken two-two. But it didn't. He gave up a club now and Krysa won the king and returned a trump. Forced to win in dummy, declarer could make only his last trump in hand from this point and was three down for –150 and 11 IMPs to Poland.

## 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.

## The Team Profile – Czech Youngsters



The Czech Youngsters team is very young and has only a little experience. Despite some misunderstandings in bridge they are good friends and enjoy their stay here.

**Adam Janas (18)** and **Michael Botur (15)** like dancing. Last evening they danced on the stage in the night show in Starja Dub.

**Lukas Kolek (15)** doesn't want to visit night shows any more. He is afraid of the belly dancer because she was interested only in him.

**Ondrej Gallik (18)** is a famous pool-diver. He brings a nice souvenir home from Bulgaria – a scar on his forehead, just like Harry Potter has.

**Jan Kralik (18)** has a nice long hair like a princess. One of the Czech Girl teams wanted him to play for them. Thus, he combs it only rarely.

**Jakub Vojtik (16)** is very popular in the team. He laughs heartily all the day (his nickname is Laughter) and passes all of the exclusions to the great joy of his partner.

And to the end – try to guess why all the people from the Czech Youngsters team have a small rabbit on their sleeve!



## 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 buffet from 2030 to 2050.

## A Scream from the Vugraph Theatre

by Jan van Cleeff

Forty hands per day and a sixth place in the final rankings, ensuring yet another sunny holiday (next year's WC at Cuba). No worries about flight, food or pool – all taken care of – a player's life is quite comfortable.

Living the life of a tournament director is even more relaxed. Just follow the book and don't invent new rules or outsmart old ones. When the going gets tough, consult a couple of colleagues or a bunch of players. Items such as logical alternatives are simply non-existent. And if you manage to wear your uniform for more than a week you are paid a royal bonus.


Being a bulletin editor is probably best. Lay-out, logistics, printing, everything is arranged for. To wait in your airconditioned office for half an hour per day is all it takes to expect more than enough articles coming in. Then copy and paste the hands, insert some pics and finish the good work with a dive into the Black Sea.

Still, there are also people whose position you would hate to be in. That of a Vugraph commentator for instance, which is truly hard work. From own experience I can confirm that after a week in Albena I lost ten kilos in spite of the great food at the Flamingo Grand and the numerous Tequila Sunrises from the bar. All that talking is simply killing.

Actually, I have no complaints, though this article smells a bit jealous. As a commentator I have a wonderful colleague in Rumen Trendafilov, a great player from the Bulgarian Open team. But there are others too. I am really happy with the support of David Gold and Simon Cope from England, Aernout Helmich and Bob Drijver from The Netherlands and, last but not least, good old P.O Sundelin from Sweden. Thanks a lot guys!

Most of all, however, I want to say thanks to the audience, a pretty pro-active and critical mass. Not much they take for granted. What about this board from Juniors Round 17?


Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

The hand was shown on Vugraph in the match Israel v the Netherlands. Due to the bad break in diamonds, declarer went down two at both tables after the lead of the queen of clubs. Commenting on the board I suggested there might be an endplay against South: play spades first and hope that North makes the mistake of winning the second spade. That way declarer is in the position to strip squeeze South in the red suits and still make his contract. Therefore, I stated that North should duck spades twice to defeat 3NT.

All of sudden somebody from the audience screamed: ALWAYS MADE! I thought it was the voice of Thomas Bessis, but I was not sure. When the match was over I checked the hand more carefully. Indeed, it doesn't cost declarer anything to play two rounds of spades before attacking diamonds. In itself my analysis was correct that if North did win the second spade South eventually would be strip squeezed indeed.

So would the defence prevail if North ducked twice? Not really. Declarer simply continues the suit! Say North cashes his remaining spades (nothing else would be better for him and his partner), then sooner or later this or a similar position will be reached:

<p>♠ – ♥ 9 7 ♦ – ♣ J 10</p>		<p>♠ – ♥ 10 ♦ K 10 8 ♣ –</p>
<p>♠ – ♥ K 8 6 4 ♦ – ♣ –</p>	<p>♠ – ♥ A Q ♦ J 6 ♣ –</p>	

Declarer who has lost three tricks so far – the spades – and simply plays a heart from dummy. Curtains, and a bow to the audience.

### BBO Juniors Inter-City League

Hi Juniors!

Are you interested in team matches at BBO - where you can practise and get new friends - in an international league, dedicated to juniors?

If you are under 28, here is your chance: the third edition of the JICL - a teams league for juniors under auspices of the BBO Inter City League (ICL) and with a WBF tournament director - will start in September.

This league will be played as a round-robin followed by a knock-out competition. Play will be weekly, every Thursday starting the 22nd of September. Starting time is between 20:00-20:15h CET, 21.00-21.15h EET.

We will play in groups of 6-8 teams, in the JICL league as well as the JICL qualifiers league, for a maximum of 8-11 weeks, for teams not reaching the knock-outs it will be 5-7 weeks round robin. The scoring is IMPs converted to the standard VP (15-15 .. 25-0) scores.

The goal is to get a serious, yet friendly competition.

For more information please visit our website:

<http://jicl.splitbridge.hr/>

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BBO user ID: jantien

Tournament Director Rahmi Iyilikci (courtesy WBF)

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# JUNIORS TEAMS

# ROUND 18



## ISRAEL

## V

## ITALY



by Ram Soffer

The best two teams in the tournament clashed on Thursday. Before the match Israel had a comfortable, but not yet secure, lead of 16 VP. The Italians, led by their Open team member, Agustin Madala, were hoping to reduce it. The set of boards included many challenging hands. The bridge level was very high overall. Both teams did exceptionally well in the bidding, which made the occasional errors in play and defense look even more conspicuous.

Israel opened the scoring with 2 IMPs on the first board after setting 2♠ three tricks doubled, compared to 3NT making four at the other room, and then came an interesting push, well defended at both tables.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 4 3 ♥ A 10 ♦ J 10 7 6 4 ♣ Q 10 8 6	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">           N W     E S         </div>	♠ 10 9 8 5 ♥ K 7 6 ♦ 9 8 3 ♣ A J 5	♠ A 7 2 ♥ 9 8 4 3 ♦ K 5 2 ♣ K 9 7
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West	North	East	South
Rubino	Schwartz	Di Franco	Fisher
–	–	Pass	Pass
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Padon	Delle Cave	Birman	Madala
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♦	Dble	INT	Dble
2♣	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

The bidding in the Open Room was straightforward. I guess most experts would not consider using Stayman with the South hand. Nevertheless, 3NT was an inferior contract. Di Franco led a natural ♠10. Schwartz won in dummy and led a heart to Di Franco's king. The Italian East was up to the task (aided by his partner's ♠4 at trick one) and switched to clubs, ensuring five tricks for the defense.

In the Closed Room Padon complicated matters with a light third-seat opening. Eventually South became declarer at 4♥, and the Israeli found the best lead of the ♠4, prepar-

ing a ruff. Declarer had to keep the ♠A as an entry to the ♦K. Madala won in dummy and cashed the ♦AQ. He returned to his hand with the ♠A, discarded a club on the ♦K and played a heart, but Padon rose with the ace, played a club to his partner's ace and got the spade ruff for down one.

Madala missed his chance at trick four. In order to have any chance of making, the ace of club had to be onside. Therefore he should have entered his hand with a club towards the king instead of a second round of spades. After that the defense can't come to four tricks. True, that line of play risked extra undertricks, but it still seems the correct play at teams.

Next came two big swings, one for each side, with the match still finely balanced.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 6 4 ♥ 10 5 4 3 2 ♦ 4 3 ♣ K 9 6 2	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">           N W     E S         </div>	♠ A K 9 8 2 ♥ K J 8 7 6 ♦ 9 ♣ J 7	♠ Q J 10 ♥ Q 9 ♦ K Q J 8 6 ♣ 8 5 3
---	--	--	---

West	North	East	South
Rubino	Schwartz	Di Franco	Fisher
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♣
2♦	2NT	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♣	Dble	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Padon	Delle Cave	Birman	Madala
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♣
2♠	3♣	3♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Are three aces a sufficient reason to double the opponents' vulnerable major-suit game? The two South players took different views, with diametrically opposite results. In the Open Room the Italians bid quickly and confidently to 4♠, convincing Fisher to seek adventures at the five level (his partner's

2NT showed a weak hand wishing to compete to the three level). Italy set Five Clubs doubled it by three tricks after East over-ruffed dummy twice in diamonds.

In the Closed Room Padon bid only 2♠ with his junky 11 HCP, but Birman still invited game. I believe that his 3♥ bid was misjudged and that 3♠ was called for. The slow road to 4♠ was not a success. Madala expressed his opinion with a penalty double, and when he managed to enter partner's hand and get a heart ruff, it was +500 to Italy at both tables, a swing of 14 IMPs.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rubino	Schwartz	Di Franco	Fisher
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Padon	Delle Cave	Birman	Madala
Pass	Pass	2♠	Dble
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

In the Open Room Fisher was content to pass with his 14 HCP. He led the ♥9 and Di Franco started a red-suit cross-ruff. He ruffed all his heart losers, cashing the ♠A in the process, and led a club. North won, forcing him to ruff yet again. When a second club was led, South drew declarer's last trump with his ♠K and won the last trick with his ♥10 to set the contract.

In the Closed Room the final contract was doubled. The ♥10 was led and Alon Birman crossruffed without touching trumps. After dummy's last diamond was ruffed he was down to ♠A-J and three clubs, needing two more tricks for the contract. He played a club next and Madala allowed his partner to win. Now a trump lead from North would have produced the same ending as in the Open Room, but Delle Cave made a costly mistake by leading a club, thus allowing declarer to score the ♠J by ruffing; 13 IMPs back to Israel.

After an ordinary push at 3♦ making, Israel's E/W pair outbid their Italian counterparts twice in a row. The first swing was a matter of system.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rubino	Schwartz	Di Franco	Fisher
–	–	1♦	Pass
2♣	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	3NT	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Padon	Delle Cave	Birman	Madala
–	–	1♦	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

Padon's 3♣ showed 10-11 HCP with six clubs according to their agreement. This shut out North, and East had no reason to bid a game. Delle Cave led the ♥J and declarer played a trump to the king and then a spade to dummy's king and South's ace. Madala gave his partner a diamond ruff, but at the expense of his natural diamond trick. A second ruff was not forthcoming, so the contract made.

At the other table Rubino bid the normal 2♣ and Schwartz intervened with 5-5 in the majors, Di Franco bid a normal looking 3NT, but had no chance after a spade lead. Due to the favourable situation in clubs he was only down one, but 5 IMPs to Israel.



Lotan Fisher, Israel



Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ K 5 ♥ 9 6 ♦ K 9 7 ♣ A K Q J 9 6	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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>	♠ 9 8 4 ♥ Q J 8 4 ♦ A J 8 5 ♣ 8 2	♠ A Q J 7 6 2 ♥ K 10 3 ♦ 10 3 ♣ 7 4
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West	North	East	South
<i>Rubino</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
—	—	—	1♠
2♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♥	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Delle Cave</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	—	—	1♠
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Padon's INT bid was well judged. A double is out of the question and there is no other way to convey the strength to partner. The road to game was easy, and after a spade lead declarer took his nine tricks.

At the other table it could have rested in 2♣ but South thought a re-opening double was necessary, which put him in an awkward position after North's 2♥. Bidding 2♠ now would have shown a much stronger hand. Fisher let his partner play an inferior contract for down three, but Israel still gained 7 IMPs. Rubino's pass over South's double is quite strange. Surely he could have shown a good overcall by redoubling.

At this stage Israel led 27-14. Board 8 was 2 IMPs to Italy for an extra undertrick, and Board 9 was a push after a well-bid 5♦ by both E/W pairs. On Board 10 Rubino/Di Franco ventured a slam with a combined 22 HCP but could not quite make it – 13 more IMPs to Israel, who led confidently 40-16 at the half-way mark.

There followed an interesting lead problem. What would you lead from this hand:

♠ 8 6
♥ K 3
♦ Q 10
♣ Q 8 7 5 4 3 2

after partner opens 1♦, RHO overcalls 4♠ and everyone passes?

Nothing looks too attractive. A club is not as safe as it looks. It may provide declarer with a quick discard.

Ron Schwartz chose a trump, usually a poor lead against

unsupported pre-empts. As dummy was void in trump and partner had ♠ K Q 4, one of the defense's trump tricks was gone and that was enough for declarer. Either red-suit lead sets the contract. Delle Cave chose the ♦Q and Italy gained 10 IMPs, 40-26 to Israel.

Two boards later Italy gained 8 more, even though Madala/Delle Cave misdefended badly against a 3♠ contract. In the other room Israel slightly overbid to 4♥ when Di Franco found a spectacular double which few would have considered, and declarer could not escape down two.

The match became very close. The BBO viewers witnessed an amazing series of 'flat' boards. Fisher/Schwartz did excellently to bid and make two club slams, only to be matched by Madala/Delle Cave. However, in the first of them the defenders had their chances as well:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ 9 6 ♥ A 4 ♦ K 8 5 ♣ Q 7 6 5 4 2	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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>	♠ Q J 7 5 ♥ K 9 6 2 ♦ J 2 ♣ J 10 8	♠ K 8 3 2 ♥ J 8 7 3 ♦ 10 6 4 3 ♣ 9
--	---	---	---

West	North	East	South
<i>Rubino</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	INT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Delle Cave</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	—	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

In the Open Room the auction seemed at first to head towards a boring 3NT, but then Schwartz bid 3♥, showing a good hand with clubs, and his partner decided to go all the way to the slam. Fisher cuebid twice, awaiting 4♥ from North, and then he just bid the slam.

Barring a 4-0 trump break, declarer has 11 top tricks. In case of a spade lead, the twelfth trick must come from diamonds, but otherwise it may be obtained by a successful heart guess. Rubino had little to guide him and he led a di-

amond. Eventually Fisher led the ♥A and another heart from dummy. East played the ♥K quickly and declarer claimed.

The Closed Room bidding was much more complicated and artificial. 3♥ denied a four-card major, and 4♥ showed clubs. Then 5♣ showed an odd number of key cards and Madala knew his partner had the ace of hearts.

A spade lead from the queen-jack would have set it, but Birman chose a trump. After some thought Delle Cave played small from dummy, won with the ♣Q, and the ♥4 appeared immediately on the table. Birman was caught unprepared! His fingers moved over a small heart, but then he hesitated... and it was all over. A smooth duck would have probably induced a misguess.

By contrast, the second club slam was cold, but bidding it required proper evaluation of the South hand. Both Agustin Madala and Lotan Fisher did extremely well to push to slam after partner's reverse bid.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rubino	Schwartz	Di Franco	Fisher
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Padon	Delle Cave	Birman	Madala
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Dble	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Both declarers ruffed the diamond lead and immediately developed South's spade suit, ruffing three times in hand, each time returning to dummy with a diamond ruff. As there were no bad splits, this plan succeeded and the heart finesse was not necessary.

The next board featured an intriguing bidding problem.

With none vulnerable you hold:

♠ A J 9 5
♥ -
♦ K
♣ Q J 10 9 8 7 6 3

Partner opens 2♥ (weak) in second seat, and RHO overcalls 2♠. The misfit could not have been clearer, but on the other hand you have eight clubs. What do you do?

Dror Padon bid 3♣, interpreted by his partner as forcing. Alon Birman bid 3♦, and Padon's 4♣ became the final contract, down two.

At the other table Rubino tried 4♣, only to hear an unwanted 4♥ from Di Franco. 5♣ was doubled for down three and Israel picked up 9 valuable IMPs to extend their lead to 49-34.

After another push on Board 18, Italy snatched victory from the jaws of defeat, outbidding Israel twice in a row in the N/S direction.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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



Massimiliano Di Franco, Italy

West	North	East	South
Rubino	Schwartz	Di Franco	Fisher
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	INT	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Padon	Delle Cave	Birman	Madala
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Dble	Pass
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Ron Schwartz had trouble bidding the North hand, as he didn't consider it sufficient for a game-forcing 2♦ bid. In addition, Riccardo Rubino found the strong diamond lead against 2♥ and managed to give his partner a ruff, setting the contract.

At the other table Delle Cave took a rosier view of his 6-5 hand, driving to 5♦ and making it easily by ruffing out the clubs.

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rubino	Schwartz	Di Franco	Fisher
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Padon	Delle Cave	Birman	Madala
Pass	1♣	1♦	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

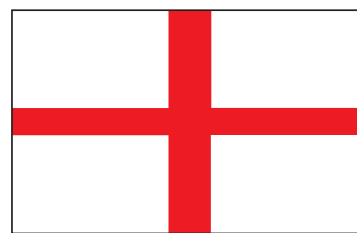
Di Franco's pass was very successful. The suit quality is insufficient for a vulnerable 2♦ bid, while a 1♦ overcall is expected to be stronger. The Israelis quietly stopped in INT, making two.

In the Closed Room Birman overcalled 1♦, which allowed Madala to upgrade his hand thanks to his good diamond stoppers. The diamond ten proved to be a vital card. The clubs were lying favourably as well and Madala had no difficulty to bring home his contract.

The final score was 54-49 IMPs (16-14 VPs) to Italy. An excellent comeback, but since their aim was to overtake Israel at the top of the table, this victory was probably too narrow. With three rounds to go Israel had a lead of 14 VPs, and with one 'easy' match left (against Belgium) they were still hot favourites to win the title.

## England Youngsters Team Profiles

(with apologies to Noel Gallagher)



**Michael Byrne** (NPC). Having turned 21 for the tenth time recently, MGB (as most people know him) cannot be said to be insecure about his age. Fake vegetarian famed for his catchphrases when coaching, he remains a terrible rounders player and quite frankly one of the scariest people to let get behind the wheel of a car.

**Alan Shillitoe** (Coach). Witty, debonair, devilishly handsome and the writer of this profile. Would most like to get the team ground down by a punishing physical fitness program, but will settle for getting them out of bed on time in the morning.

**Shivam Shah**. Having once been featured on the cover of English Bridge when still in nappies, he has seemingly been around forever. Now he is at least three inches taller (and able to see over the table without use of a booster seat) he is hoping that the great weight of expectation on his shoulders doesn't cost him his hard-earned stature.

**Basil Letts**. Being an acrostic of himself has clearly not hampered him at the table. Initially B.A.S.I. Letts caused us to have our doubts but from those beginnings he has become the player that he is today. We coaches must entirely take the blame.

**Alex Roberts**. A promising player who is occasionally held back by the large amount of (admittedly very lovely) hair on his head. This can prevent him from either seeing his cards to play the right one or hearing what pearls of wisdom his captain and coach have to pass in his direction. Which, depending on your opinion, might not necessarily be such a bad thing.

**Tommy Brass**. Fuelled entirely on a diet of Cheerios and grapes, the perennially glazed look on his face should not be mistaken for complete cluelessness. Instead, consider it to be either the incredible depths of thought he goes to at the table or, more likely, wondering what the effects of what he has eaten will be to his digestive system.

**Simon Spencer**. Resident political activist who would protest and get falsely arrested (so he says) at the opening of a paper bag. Currently with the team in Bulgaria because he has an exclusion order banning him from being within UK territory, although this is expected to be lifted in time to have him deported back on Sunday.

**Ankush Khandelwal**. A poker fiend, chess player and fifteen minutes late for everything. But we cut him some slack... 'Because maybe, he's gonna be the one that saves me. Cos after all, he's our Khandelwal...'

## Today in History - July 23rd



**1914:** At six o'clock in the evening on July 23, 1914, nearly one month after the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife by a young Serbian nationalist in Sarajevo, Bosnia, Baron Giesl von Gieslingen, ambassador of the Austro-Hungarian Empire to Serbia, delivers an ultimatum to the Serbian foreign ministry.

Acting with the full support of its allies in Berlin, Austria-Hungary had determined in the aftermath of Franz Ferdinand's assassination to pursue a hard-line policy towards Serbia. Their plan, developed in coordination with the German foreign office, was to force a military conflict that would, Vienna hoped, end quickly and decisively with a crushing Austrian victory before the rest of Europe – namely, Serbia's powerful ally, Russia – had time to react. As the German ambassador to Vienna reported to his government on July 14, the (note) to Serbia is being composed so that the possibility of its being accepted is practically excluded.



**1952:** In Egypt, the Society of Free Officers seizes control of the government in a military coup d'etat staged by Colonel Gamal Abdal Nasser's Free Officers. King Farouk, whose rule had been criticized for its corruption and failures in the first Arab-Is-

raeli war, was forced to abdicate and relinquish power to General Muhammad Naguib, the figurehead leader of the coup.

**1962:** Telstar relays the first publicly transmitted, live trans-Atlantic television program, featuring Walter Cronkite.

**1983:** The Sri Lankan Civil War begins with the killing of 13 Sri Lanka Army soldiers by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam Terrorist group. In the subsequent riots of Black July, about 1,000 Tamils are slaughtered, some 400,000 Tamils flee to neighbouring Tamil Nadu, India and many find refuge in Europe and Canada.

**1926:** Fox Film buys the patents of the Movietone sound system for recording sound onto film.

**1904:** Ice cream cone is created by Charles E. Menches during La Purchase Expo.

## A Misdefence

by Liz McGowan

One piece of bridge wisdom: when a team plays in the same denomination in both rooms it loses IMPs on the board. As on this deal from Juniors Round 17, where the loss was 9 IMPs.

Board 6 Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ J 10 ♥ Q 10 6 ♦ J 7 5 3 ♣ A K 4 2	<table style="border: 2px solid green; 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		♠ 6 3 ♥ A 3 ♦ A K Q 10 ♣ 10 9 8 6 5	♠ A 8 4 2 ♥ 8 7 5 ♦ 9 6 4 2 ♣ Q 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											
West	North	East	South									
–	–	1♣	Pass									
2NT	3♣*	Pass	3♠									
Pass	Pass	4♣	4♥									
5♣	All Pass											

Not a very exciting game contract, but the defence requires a little attention. North/South might cash two spades, then wait for their heart trick. If a minor-suit card is led declarer will eliminate the minors and play a spade. South must win the first spade and switch to a heart. One down for a flat board with 3NT in the other room? Not exactly.

West	North	East	South
–	–	1♣(i)	Pass
1♠(ii)	2♣(?)	All Pass	

(i) Can be two cards  
 (ii) Transfer to 1NT

North knew what 2♣ meant, but since South did not he could hardly inform West.

Perhaps this Championship is a good place to research the best line in some of the lesser trump fits? Declarer did not do himself justice here. East led a club to the king, and West, still not appreciating what had happened, returned a diamond. East won the ten and stuck to his plan, leading a second trump to the ace. West might eliminate diamonds now, but the situation was unclear, and he returned the jack of spades. Declarer won the ace, cashed the king, and made a clear misdefence to his own contract by playing a third spade, conceding a ruff and discard. East threw a heart, West ruffed, and East claimed the rest.

# JUNIORS TEAMS ROUND 18



**BULGARIA**

**v**

**GREECE**



by Micke Melander

In Round 19 of the Juniors one of the big surprises of this tournament, Bulgaria was up against Greece, who started solidly, but after that slowly had fallen further and further down in the overall table. In Croatia when last year Junior Pair Championships was played, Vroustis and Doxiadis (Greece) won the Championship while Spasov and Skorchev (Bulgaria) finally finished seventh. In our match yesterday they were having each other's cards, so let see what happened.

Board 2. Dealer East .N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Oikonomopoulos</i>	<i>Skorchev</i>	<i>Roussos</i>	<i>Spasov</i>
–	–	1♥	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
INT	All Pass		

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Siderov</i>	<i>Vroustis</i>	<i>Vasilev</i>	<i>Doxiadis</i>
–	–	INT	All Pass

In the Closed Room, they had a very short auction. Vasilev got the the five of spades lead. Counting his tricks, he knew that with a diamond finesse working he still needed to get another two tricks if not three. And for sure he would appreciate some help from the defense if possible. So instead of putting all his eggs in one basket by playing on hearts, he won the lead in hand and played the ten of clubs, which ran to North's queen. North couldn't see any reason why not to continue the attack in spades, won by declarer's ace this time. Vasilev continued with the jack of clubs, which South had to win with his ace. South then exited with a low spade, setting up some tricks for the defense, but also giving declarer one of the needed missing tricks. Vasilev tried a heart to the king and that lost to the ace, Doxiadis won his two spades and finally exited with a heart to declarer's jack, leav-

ing the following position (declarer had won four tricks):

♠ – ♥ – ♦ 7 6 ♣ K 9		♠ – ♥ 9 ♦ Q J 10 ♣ –	♠ – ♥ J ♦ K 9 2 ♣ –
------------------------------	--	-------------------------------	------------------------------

Declarer now played the queen of diamonds and for some reason unknown South decided to cover with the king – that was what declarer needed to score his last three tricks.

In the Open Room, Oikonomopoulos played from the other hand, but also got a spade lead. He tried to set up his hearts and started off with the king, when the defense was merciless they won and continued the attack in spades, which also meant that they took away the last entry to dummy. When hearts weren't 3-3 and he couldn't enter dummy to make his finesse in diamonds he only got five tricks, going two down. That was 5 IMPs to Bulgaria who now lead the match with 6-0.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Oikonomopoulos</i>	<i>Skorchev</i>	<i>Roussos</i>	<i>Spasov</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Siderov	Vroustis	Vasilev	Doxiadis
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣*	1♥*
Dble*	2♠	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

There was a strong club auction in the Closed Room, where the Greeks used transfer overcalls. Both tables ending up in 4♥ with East as declarer.

Both Spasov and Doxiadis did well by leading clubs, declarer didn't really have any better choice than playing low, hoping that the lead was from the king. At both tables they defended correctly, by switching to a spade at trick two, South only had to wait for his trick in diamonds to defeat the contract. After an overtrick here and there the standing now was 7-1 to Bulgaria.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Oikonomopoulos	Skorchev	Roussos	Spasov
–	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	Dble	2♠	All Pass

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Siderov	Vroustis	Vasilev	Doxiadis
–	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	2♦	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

The Bulgarians in the Open Room, opened with a Precision Diamond and didn't have the opportunity that the Greeks had in the other room, where Doxiadis opened in his 'best minor', to compete. N/S did in fact have the highest contract that could be made, 4♦, but both sold out to their opponents.

Vroustis did very well to lead spades, unfortunately Doxiadis had other strings on his guitar and switched to a club.

Vroustis won and now advanced the queen of diamonds, which declarer smoothly ducked. Next came a club to declarer's queen, who could continue by ruffing his losing diamond in dummy. Even though declarer got his ruff in diamonds it wasn't possible to make the contract – he only had eight tricks after guessing hearts correctly.

In the other room Oikonomopoulos was declaring one level lower and got the queen of diamonds lead, again ducked by declarer. When they also here didn't manage to draw the trumps from dummy and declarer played hearts correctly there was no way of defeating the contract. That was 5 very much needed IMPs for Greece, who now actually led the match with 8-7 after a couple of more overtricks in the previous board.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Oikonomopoulos	Skorchev	Roussos	Spasov
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Siderov	Vroustis	Vasilev	Doxiadis
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♦	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Both rooms had similar auctions after a game-forcing 2/1 sequence. Oikonomopoulos made his slam try via 4♣, but it didn't seem that they were on the same wavelength at all when missing the slam. 4♣ was a slam try in diamonds and 4NT was natural showing no interest.

Siderov set diamonds as trump and got a heart cuebid before asking for aces. He even inquired for the grand when partner got down. Siderov corrected the diamond contract to no trump and with diamonds 3-3 they got all tricks. That

was a massive 13 IMPs to Bulgaria and put them in the lead with 20-8.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Oikonomopoulos</i>	<i>Skorchev</i>	<i>Roussos</i>	<i>Spasov</i>
–	–	–	Pass
INT	2♣	Dble	2♥
2NT	Pass	3NT	Dble
All Pass			

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Siderov</i>	<i>Vroustis</i>	<i>Vasilev</i>	<i>Doxiadis</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT*	Pass
2♣*	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, Siderov gambled a little that they didn't have a fit. INT was forcing for one round and 2♣



Nikolai Vasilev, Bulgaria

promised at least two clubs. He then chose to close the auction with pass and neither of the opponents seemed to be very unhappy with that decision. Vroustis found a very inspiring five of hearts as the lead and that went to declarer's king. He next finessed in diamonds and that lost to the king. Another heart was led, ruffed in dummy. If declarer had only cashed his diamonds and played a spade to the ace and ruffed his last heart in dummy the contract would have been cold. Declarer went for another line and ruffed the diamond high in his hand and had eventually to go down when trumps were distributed as they were.

In the Open Room you might ask yourself if its double, 2NT or 3NT that is the worst bid in the auction, as all of them are in fact not that good. Spasov had heard enough and probably believed that Santa Claus arrived early this year. He doubled for penalty and 3NT went three off for another 10 IMPs to Bulgaria. 30-8 now to Bulgaria.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Oikonomopoulos</i>	<i>Skorchev</i>	<i>Roussos</i>	<i>Spasov</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Siderov</i>	<i>Vroustis</i>	<i>Vasilev</i>	<i>Doxiadis</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

In the Open Room the defense attacked diamonds, declarer ducking three times and discarding spades from his hand. Roussos switched to a club, not aware of the strong holding declarer had in his hand. Skorchev went in with the ace and led a spade to the queen and Roussos' king. He then made the fatal move of returning the ten of hearts and declarer finessed. West won the trick and continued the suit, setting up a much needed heart trick for declarer, just made.

In the other room, Doxiadis jumped to game. There the defense cashed the ace of diamonds and continued the suit. Neither of the defenders wanted to win the queen of

spades that came next. Declarer then played a club to his ace and a low trump that went to East's nine and East exited with his last club. Doxiadis then tried his finesse in hearts and, when that didn't work, Siderov returned a club that partner could ruff. Two off meant another 8 IMPs to Bulgaria. 38-8.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Oikonomopoulos</i>	<i>Skorchev</i>	<i>Roussos</i>	<i>Spasov</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	Dble	Pass	2♦
3♥	3♠	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Siderov</i>	<i>Vroustis</i>	<i>Vasilev</i>	<i>Doxiadis</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	2♠	Dble	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

In the Open Room, the defense lead trumps, declarer pulling another round and trying a spade toward dummy's king. Skorchev rose with the ace and played the queen of spades, pinning the king from dummy and ruffed by South. Spasov continued with a diamond through declarer who was helpless. North then collected his spade, setting the contract three down.

In the other room three rounds of trumps were played. Declarer then played the ace of clubs and exited with a low club to North's king. With king-queen stiff of clubs declarer now got himself some extra chances. Vroustis tried to defeat the contract by playing a low diamond, but when South only could produce the queen the contract was cold. Declarer simply played a spade towards the king and the defense only got three tricks. Amazing how differently things may turn out sometimes. Another 14 IMPs to Bul-

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Oikonomopoulos</i>	<i>Skorchev</i>	<i>Roussos</i>	<i>Spasov</i>
—	—	—	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Siderov</i>	<i>Vroustis</i>	<i>Vasilev</i>	<i>Doxiadis</i>
—	—	—	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

With only 14 opposite 9 HCPs it was a cold 3NT that was to be played. Vasilev apparently liked his nice intermediate cards and jumped to game, while Roussos on the other table only made an invite, rejected by partner. Both tables scoring nine tricks meant another 6 IMPs to Bulgaria who now had 47-8 after an overtrick on the previous board.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



Konstantinos Doxiadis, Greece



garia, who were now in the lead with 59 to 8, with two boards left to play.

## Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A 7 6 ♥ A K Q 9 3 ♦ 10 9 7 ♣ 5 3	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="background-color: #008000;"></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		E	W		S	♠ K 3 ♥ 8 6 4 2 ♦ K 6 2 ♣ Q J 9 2
N		E						
W		S						
♠ Q 9 5 2 ♥ J 7 ♦ A 8 4 ♣ K 10 7 6	♠ J 10 8 4 ♥ 10 5 ♦ Q J 5 3 ♣ A 8 4							

## Open and Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Oikonomopoulos</i>	<i>Skorchev</i>	<i>Roussos</i>	<i>Spasov</i>
<i>Siderov</i>	<i>Vroustis</i>	<i>Vasilev</i>	<i>Doxiadis</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	All Pass	

It was the same auction in both rooms. In the Open Room the defense started with three rounds of clubs, declarer winning the third in dummy. Next came a diamond to the ten and that held the trick. He tried another round which the defenders won and cashed their established club



Zhivko Siderov, Bulgaria

trick, declarer discarding a spade from both hands. Roussos exited with the king of spades, which declarer won and cashed his hearts, and, perhaps happy to have made his contract, he claimed and forgot that he actually should have won eight tricks, seven being the official result. In the Closed Room, Vroustis played the contract the same way, three round of clubs then a diamond to the ten, but here things started being different. East won with the king of diamonds and played a club to West's king, declarer discarding a heart from his hand. Siderov now played a small spade through declarer who made the finesse, and when Vasilev returned the suit the defense had set up the needed trick to bring the contract down, still controlling the diamonds. Declarer could have made his contract any day, if he just would have tried to see if his hearts were good or not.

That was another 4 IMPs to Bulgaria who now had collected 63 of them against 8.

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

♠ J 9 2 ♥ 8 6 4 ♦ Q 7 6 ♣ A 10 9 8	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="background-color: #008000;"></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		E	W		S	♠ 10 8 5 ♥ J 10 ♦ A 9 5 3 2 ♣ K J 5
N		E						
W		S						
♠ A K Q 7 ♥ K 9 7 5 ♦ 10 8 ♣ Q 7 3	♠ 6 4 3 ♥ A Q 3 2 ♦ K J 4 ♣ 6 4 2							

## Open Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Oikonomopoulos</i>	<i>Skorchev</i>	<i>Roussos</i>	<i>Spasov</i>
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

## Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Siderov</i>	<i>Vroustis</i>	<i>Vasilev</i>	<i>Doxiadis</i>
1♦	Pass	INT	All Pass

The Greeks in the Open Room went to game and got a 'friendly' spade lead. Oikonomopoulos tried the ten in dummy which held the trick. Declarer then ran the ten of hearts which won when South didn't win or cover. The jack came next, won by South with the ace. Declarer now only had to play on clubs to establish two tricks to have his nine.

In the Closed Room the Bulgarian pair resisted the game and come to play partscore from the other hand. Also here there was a spade lead. Declarer finessed and eventually only got eight tricks after a similar play.

Finally some more IMPs to Greece. the match ended 63-18 IMPs. or 24-6 VPs in favour of Bulgaria. Bulgaria is for sure in the hunt for the medals, being fourth, only 8 VPs behind third-placed Denmark.

## ČESKÝ BRIDŽOVÝ SVAZ ♣♦♥♠ CZECH BRIDGE FEDERATION



is pleased to invite  
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## 11<sup>th</sup> Youth Bridge Summer Camp

- Location:** hotel RELAXX, Čeložnice – it is about 5 km far away from Kyjov  
This holiday resort is situated in the south part of the Chřiby mountains  
in the south Moravia
- When:** Saturday 20.8.2011 – Saturday 27.8.2011
- Accommodation:** 2 520,- Kč full board accommodation (360,- Kč/day (about 15 €))  
3- and 4-beds rooms. No dogs please.
- How to get there:** by train to Kyjov, then call me and I will pick you up by car
- Programme:** The whole week team tournament, pair tournaments, Patton  
some theory for all levels of play. A wine cellar visit for adults.
- Swimming pool and a playground for ball games.
- Registration:** should be sent before 07.08.2011 to [kralik.preklady@tiscali.cz](mailto:kralik.preklady@tiscali.cz)
- Further Information:** for any further information, please contact:  
[kralik.preklady@tiscali.cz](mailto:kralik.preklady@tiscali.cz)



I am looking  
forward to  
your participation

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