



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE
CZECH BRIDGE FEDERATION



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Bulletin 7

Sunday, 8 August 2004

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POLAND LEAD BOTH CHAMPIONSHIPS



The Palacheho Bridge with the Vysehrad Church in the Background

Poland lead the Juniors by a single VP from Hungary. These two teams are pulling away from the rest of the field, there being a 22.5 VP gap to third-placed Israel. Norway are 0.5 VP behind in fourth, then there is another gap to France, England, Netherlands and Italy. Meanwhile, Poland lead the Schools event by 20 VP after only six rounds. Then come Israel, Netherlands, Italy, Latvia and England.

By the way, those of you wondering what has been going on across the road – a film crew was at work, the film's star being Elijah Wood (Frodo in Lord of the Rings).

DEPARTURE DETAILS

Please let the Hospitality Desk know your Departure Details so that we can plan your transfers to the airport.

WARNING

There are a lot of pickpockets in the city centre, so please be careful.

JUNIOR TEAMS



RESULTS



ROUND ROBIN SESSION 15

Match		IMPs	VPs
1	RUSSIA SCOTLAND	39 42	14 16
2	FRANCE AUSTRIA	70 31	23 7
3	SERBIA & MONT. BELGIUM	31 83	5 25
4	POLAND TURKEY	72 9	25 3
5	LITHUANIA HUNGARY	40 74	8 22
6	FINLAND CZECH REP.	52 63	13 17
7	ISRAEL SWEDEN	74 41	22 8
8	ROMANIA GERMANY	16 83	2 25
9	ITALY PORTUGAL	44 25	19 11
10	NETHERLANDS SLOVAKIA	96 40	25 4
11	GREECE CROATIA	29 53	10 20
12	NORWAY DENMARK	70 34	22 8
13	SPAIN ENGLAND	8 64	4 25

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 16

1	POLAND RUSSIA	41 30	17 13
2	LITHUANIA SERBIA & MONT.	57 65	14 16
3	FINLAND FRANCE	10 24	12 18
4	ISRAEL SCOTLAND	73 15	25 4
5	ROMANIA AUSTRIA	38 63	10 20
6	ITALY BELGIUM	30 60	9 21
7	NETHERLANDS TURKEY	75 44	21 9
8	GREECE HUNGARY	31 68	7 23
9	NORWAY CZECH REP.	40 72	8 22
10	SPAIN SWEDEN	48 67	11 19
11	ENGLAND GERMANY	62 41	19 11
12	DENMARK PORTUGAL	49 41	16 14
13	CROATIA SLOVAKIA	51 18	22 8

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 17

1	RUSSIA CROATIA	67 21	24 6
2	SLOVAKIA DENMARK	11 75	3 25
3	PORTUGAL ENGLAND	48 65	11 19
4	GERMANY SPAIN	86 15	25 2
5	SWEDEN NORWAY	29 64	8 22
6	CZECH REP. GREECE	66 47	19 11
7	HUNGARY NETHERLANDS	47 15	22 8
8	TURKEY ITALY	37 35	15 15
9	BELGIUM ROMANIA	62 50	17 13
10	AUSTRIA ISRAEL	49 82	8 22
11	SCOTLAND FINLAND	26 45	11 19
12	FRANCE LITHUANIA	77 3	25 1
13	SERBIA & MONT. POLAND	4 96	0 25



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 18

1	ROMANIA	RUSSIA
2	ITALY	ISRAEL
3	NETHERLANDS	FINLAND
4	GREECE	LITHUANIA
5	NORWAY	POLAND
6	SPAIN	SERBIA & MONT.
7	ENGLAND	FRANCE
8	DENMARK	SCOTLAND
9	CROATIA	AUSTRIA
10	SLOVAKIA	BELGIUM
11	PORTUGAL	TURKEY
12	GERMANY	HUNGARY
13	SWEDEN	CZECH REP.

RANKING AFTER SESSION 17

1	POLAND	344
2	HUNGARY	343
3	ISRAEL	320.5
4	NORWAY	320
5	FRANCE	307
6	ENGLAND	302.5
7	NETHERLANDS	301
8	ITALY	299.5
9	SWEDEN	287
10	RUSSIA	286.5
11	BELGIUM	279
12	AUSTRIA	271
13	CROATIA	257
14	DENMARK	255.5
15	ROMANIA	250
16	TURKEY	248.5
17	GERMANY	245
18	CZECH REP.	236
19	FINLAND	222
20	PORTUGAL	210
21	SCOTLAND	187
22	GREECE	185
23	SERBIA & MONT.	166.5
24	SPAIN	154
25	LITHUANIA	122
26	SLOVAKIA	97

SCHOOLS TEAMS



RESULTS



ROUND ROBIN SESSION 4

Match		IMPs	VPs
21 ITALY	Bye	0 0	18 0
22 SWEDEN	NETHERLANDS	24 49	10 20
23 NORWAY	DENMARK	33 20	18 12
24 AUSTRIA	ENGLAND	38 42	14 16
25 SCOTLAND	LATVIA	28 81	5 25
26 HUNGARY	ISRAEL	25 69	6 24
27 CZECH REP.	GERMANY	20 63	6 24
28 POLAND	FRANCE	69 14	25 4

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 5

21 CZECH REP.	Bye	0 0	18 0
22 POLAND	HUNGARY	84 25	25 4
23 FRANCE	SCOTLAND	46 26	19 11
24 GERMANY	AUSTRIA	68 35	22 8
25 ISRAEL	NORWAY	43 30	18 12
26 LATVIA	SWEDEN	7 54	6 24
27 ENGLAND	ITALY	39 40	15 15
28 DENMARK	NETHERLANDS	46 51	14 16

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 6

21 DENMARK	Bye	0 0	18 0
22 NETHERLANDS	ENGLAND	57 34	20 10
23 ITALY	LATVIA	64 52	17 13
24 SWEDEN	ISRAEL	52 55	14 16
25 NORWAY	GERMANY	47 34	18 12
26 AUSTRIA	FRANCE	30 61	9 21
27 SCOTLAND	POLAND	19 63	6 24
28 HUNGARY	CZECH REP.	16 77	3 25



VUGRAPH MATCH

Italy v Israel (Juniors)

10.00



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 7

21	LATVIA	Bye
22	ENGLAND	ISRAEL
23	DENMARK	GERMANY
24	NETHERLANDS	FRANCE
25	ITALY	POLAND
26	SWEDEN	CZECH REP.
27	NORWAY	HUNGARY
28	AUSTRIA	SCOTLAND

RANKING AFTER SESSION 6

1	POLAND	132
2	ISRAEL	112
3	NETHERLANDS	107
4	ITALY	103
	LATVIA	103
6	NORWAY	100
7	ENGLAND	95
8	DENMARK	92
	SWEDEN	92
10	GERMANY	90
11	CZECH REP.	81
12	FRANCE	74
13	AUSTRIA	58
14	HUNGARY	56
15	SCOTLAND	54



Badges

Would all players, captains and coaches please wear their badges at all times. It is important that people can recognise you and it greatly aids in the smooth running of the tournament if all participants can be readily identified.

JUNIOR TEAMS ROUND 11



DENMARK

VS

ISRAEL



In Round 11 Denmark had to try to recover lost ground and they were facing an Israeli team who were in a qualification spot at the time, so it would not be easy. The fireworks started immediately!

Jonas Houmoller was in the Danish team which was runner-up in the Junior World Championship in Paris last year. Despite the precarious situation for the Danes, Houmoller was self-confident enough to find a sensible redouble when Ophir Reshef, for a reason I can't understand, chose to double 4♥. Eldad Ginossar found the lead of ♣A but then switched to a spade, leaving Houmoller with 11 easy tricks. East had to win another club trick but it was +1080.

In the Closed Room there was no double of 4♥; +450 and a good start for the Danes, winning 12 IMPs on the very first board.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Reshef	Houmoller	Ginossar	Jensen
–	1♥	Pass	2♥
3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Rdbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Schaltz	Hoffman	Gjaldbaek	Ofir
–	1♥	Pass	2♥
3♠	4♥	All Pass	



Jonas Houmoller, Denmark

Board 4. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Reshef	Houmoller	Ginossar	Jensen
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Schaltz	Hoffman	Gjaldbaek	Ofir
1♥	Pass	1NT	Dble
2♣	2♠	Pass	3♥
Passe	3♠	All Pass	

Kare Gjaldbaek's no trump kept North/South out of game. The defence got two club tricks, a club ruff and a heart trick for +140.

In the other room Ginossar passed as East and that helped North/South to bid to game. Reshef led ♣A then switched to ♥K, but declarer could finesse twice

in diamonds, producing three diamond tricks and that was +600 and 10 IMPs to Denmark.

On the next board the Danes defended nicely.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

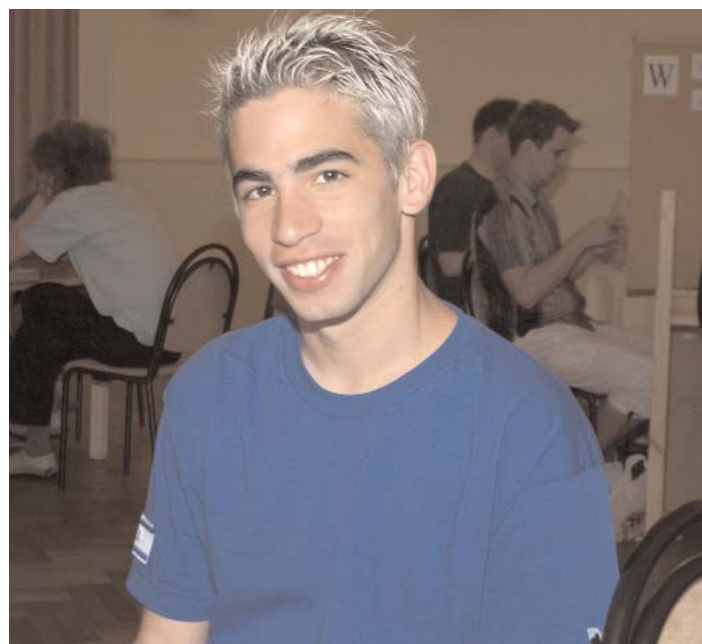
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Reshef	Houmoller	Ginossar	Jensen
–	Pass	1♣	Dble
Rdbl	1♥	2♣	Pass
Pass	2♥	3♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Schaltz	Hoffman	Gjaldbaek	Ofir
–	Pass	1♣	Dble
1♠	INT	2♣	Dble
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Gjaldbaek led a spade to the ace in the Closed Room. Schaltz played back his singleton club to the



Ron Hoffman, Israel

ace and got a club ruff. Next came a spade to declarer's king, then a heart towards dummy. Gjaldbaek jumped up with his ace, gave partner a second club ruff with ♥K, then received a spade ruff himself; one off for –100.

In 3♣ there were five obvious tricks for the defence; –50 and 4 IMPs to Denmark.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Reshef	Houmoller	Ginossar	Jensen
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	INT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Schaltz	Hoffman	Gjaldbaek	Ofir
–	–	INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

In the Open Room 2♦ was forcing to game, 4♦ set the trump suit and two cuebids followed on the way to slam. The play was dull and the slam was just made for +1370.

Gjaldbaek opened INT (9-12 HCPs) and, after a Stayman sequence, Schaltz showed 1-4-4-4. 3NT was to play, 4♣ a slam try and 4♦ set the trumps. Two cuebids followed and Schaltz bid the small slam. No swing in this match. But...

On vugraph you could follow the last match from the Girls Series. Austria met the Netherlands and this was the auction in the Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Hupka	Gelder	A.Gogoman	Sande
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass(!!)

Caroline Hupka must have checked out from the tournament half-way through the match since she passed out 3NT with a hand which can almost make slam on its own. 1♦ was Precision and a club or diamond fit is guaranteed, I suppose. This board helped the Netherlands to be the only team to beat Austria on their way to the gold medals.

What's your lead?

♠ Q 10 9
♥ 7 6 2
♦ K 9 3
♣ A K J 4

West	North	East	South
–	–	1♥	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Gilad Ofir is a master of leads. Maybe you remember his ♣A lead from Round 1, when the Israelis managed to defeat 6♠. Here he struck again.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ J 8 7 6											
♥ 5 3											
♦ A Q 10											
♣ Q 9 6 3											
♠ K 5 4 2		♠ A 3									
♥ A 9 8		♥ K Q J 10 4									
♦ J 8 7 2		♦ 6 5 4									
♣ 7 2		♣ 10 8 5									
	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ Q 10 9											
♥ 7 6 2											
♦ K 9 3											
♣ A K J 4											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Reshef	Houmoller	Ginossar	Jensen
Schaltz	Hoffman	Gjaldbaek	Ofir
–	–	1♥	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

In the Closed Room Ofir led a heart and the declarer wasn't able to ruff a club any longer. He had to lose six tricks in the minors, as the defenders played on trumps twice more. In the other room Ginossar faced the lead of the club ace. Now he had

time to take the club ruff.

The major swings went to Denmark in this match. Their good team spirit helped them also to take an impressive 24-6 VP win (60-17 IMPs).

Croatian team profile

Meet our team in alphabetical order

KARLO BRGULJAN is surely one of our best players. He is 24 and already a proper bridge champion. His only problem in Prague is that he has to share the bathroom with two girls, so don't wonder about his hairstyle. He is always late, which we can all understand – he can't find his clothes under the seven suitcases the girls have brought with them.

JURICA HLADEK: This is his first appearance for the Croatian team. He is at his best with a guitar and the team has enjoyed his all-night one man show on numerous occasions. Next time around he will be too old, but he will probably be replaced by his girlfriend, but have no fear – she is as gorgeous as he is.

MILIVOJ KOVAC: This is his first appearance for the Croatian team. He has to sleep on the floor, because he steals our captain's duvet. Prague has a bad influence on him – he had his first beer for 5 years. He is usually more an apple juice person, but beware of him at the table – water gives him special powers.

SANDRA KULOVIC: the blondest feature of our team (she is not a natural blonde at all). Very international – lived in Germany for 12 years, in Croatia for 12 years, and now she is moving to London (for at least 12 years). She is getting married in September so you can't avoid a conversation about the outrageous prices of wedding cakes.

SLAVICA MARTINOVIC is our youngest player. She is a great singer with special features – she makes her partner coffee in the morning to improve the partnership. She enjoys the beer in Prague and wants to try the absinthe, but she has to wait until the tournament is over.

VEDRAN ZORIC: He represented our country in Malmo and is known for his bridge skills and his gorgeous pyjamas. He can sleep 12 hours in one go and still complain about the early schedule of the first session. If you play against him in the morning beware – his bed is uncomfortable.

TOMISLAV SASEK is our captain, coach and leader. He is our rock to lean on and our biggest inspiration. (He paid us to write that of course.)

In the Centre of the Storm

By Christer Andersson

Different general techniques are applied when playing a bridge hand, and most of them are recognised by nearly all players in this competition. When to apply them is often easy to recognise in the standard case but can be rather difficult when integrated in the play of a whole hand. The following example of an unblocking play occurred in the tenth round match between two of the pre-tournament favourites, Italy and Poland.

Board 8. None Vul. Dealer West.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sbarigia	Kalita	Lo Presti	Kotorowicz
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With two balanced hands and 27 points between them, the Polish pair bid their cards to the normal 3 NT contract.

Lo Presti led the normal ♥J which declarer won in hand while Sbarigia signalled come-on. Kalita played a club to the queen, a club back to the king, and switched to a spade from hand to try to establish a trick and keep East out of play. When East contributed the seven of spades he tried the nine from the table, taken by Sbarigia's ten. Needing to know in which suit partner could have an entry, Sbarigia now returned a club to declarer's jack. East played a discouraging diamond. Declarer, hoping for an even break in spades to establish his ninth trick, tried to continue his avoidance play in the suit. However, when he played a small spade from hand, East went up with his king and Kalita had to win his ace. Sbarigia, trusting his partner's earlier play, unblocked his queen without a flicker, going for the only hope, that Lo Presti had the eight left. When Lo Presti won the continuation in spades, Sbarigia's unblocking turned out to be successful. However, it was not the only prerequisite to beat the contract. The defence needed three heart tricks to go

with the two spade tricks. When Lo Presti continued hearts with the ten, Kalita had his last chance to make the contract. He can go up with the queen on the table to force out the ace from East and block the heart suit. When he missed that chance he unfortunately allowed his disappointment to spill over.

In the Closed Room the Italians played the same contract and got the same lead, but here a small variation in the bidding made counting of the hand for the defence a little more difficult:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Buras	F. Di Bello	Araszkiewicz	S. Di Bello
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The contract made after the same opening lead and declarer directly attacking spades in the same manner as in the Open Room. Winning with the ten, Buras made the fatal choice of playing partner for a diamond honour. When he continued with ♦3 declarer was allowed to make three diamond tricks to make his contract. A well earned 10 IMPs for Italy.

Double Dummy Problem

The Brockbuster

As the name suggests, today's double dummy problem was created by former British Ladies World champion, Sally Brock. Sally had a few years of retirement from international bridge but is back playing for the English Ladies team now.

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

♠ A K 5 4 3 2
 ♥ 2
 ♦ 3 2
 ♣ K J 10 9

Contract: 7♠

Lead: ♠10

The solution of the problem is on page 13.

JUNIOR TEAMS ROUND 13



ITALY

VS

HUNGARY



After 12 rounds, World champions Italy were lying in fourth place in the Juniors Championship, while Hungary were surprising some people with their strong showing as they were currently in the lead. This would be a serious test of the Hungarians' credentials. First, however, we take a look at the first board of the vugraph encounter between France and Poland, two other teams currently in the qualifying positions.

one and now the slam was easy; +920 and 10 IMPs to Poland.

That rather set the tone for the match, with Poland completely dominant and winning by a surprising 97-26 IMPs, 25-2 VPs, to go to the top of the table.

Now, let us concentrate on our main match.

Board 1. None Vul. Dealer North.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kotorowicz	J Grenthe	Kalita	G Grenthe
–	Pass	1♣	3♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

In the other room, Bessis/de Tessieres for France bid to 3NT on the East/West cards and made +460 by winning the first spade and knocking out the heart while the spades were still blocked.

Krzysztof Kotorowicz bid very aggressively in the auction above to get Jacek Kalita to play the club slam. One Club was Polish, various handtypes, and the reopening double confirmed the strong artificial variety. You or I would choose between a penalty pass and 3NT with the West cards, but not Kotorowicz, he cuebid 4♠ then, when partner could not bid slam himself, raised 5♣ to 6♣! Scary, but successful. It takes a diamond lead to break it for certain, of course, thanks to the fall of the ♥10 – though it is likely that declarer will finesse the ♥9 on the second round, particularly attractive after South's 3♠ overcall, and fail anyway. But Grenthe cashed the ace of hearts at trick

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
F di Bello	Mraz	S di Bello	Szegedi
–	–	–	2♦
Pass	5♦	Dble	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Szabo	Lo Presti	Riesz	Sbarigia
–	–	–	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

With no defence against a spade contract, Mate Mraz leaped all the way to game when Balazs Szegedi could open with a weak 2♦ bid. Stelio di Bello doubled for take-out and brother Furio passed, of course, looking at a balanced hand with four trumps. Szegedi must have been disappointed to find that he was at the five level with only an eight-card trump fit – of course, this was partly his fault as he was not obliged to open with only five cards (though I expect that I would do so at this vulnerability).

Furio led the ♠Q, ruffed in dummy, and Szegedi played the ♣K to Stelio's ace. He was forced to ruff

another spade and now played ♣Q for a spade pitch then a diamond, Furio taking the ace and forcing him with another spade. The four-one diamond split meant that Szegedi did not have time to establish heart tricks. He drew three rounds of trumps then played a heart to the jack and queen, and was held to his trump winners; four down for -800.

Csaba Szabo responded 2♠ to Andras Riesz's Forcing Stayman response to the weak no trump opening and that excited Riesz, who splintered then asked for key cards over the heart cuebid. It looks as though East did a little too much here and the final contract was hopeless. There was a heart and a club to lose for down one; -100 and 14 IMPs to Italy.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F di Bello</i>	<i>Mraz</i>	<i>S di Bello</i>	<i>Szegedi</i>
-	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
5♠	Pass	7♣	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Szabo</i>	<i>Lo Presti</i>	<i>Riesz</i>	<i>Sbarigia</i>
-	2♥	2♠	3♥
6♣	All Pass		

The Hungarian East/West pair bid another small slam but this time it was the right thing to do, and they managed it in the face of a pre-emptive opening and raise from Lo Presti and Sbarigia. Szabo's leap to 6♣ was the practical bid, as he was always going to have trouble in exploring the hand properly; +920.

I am not sufficiently familiar with the di Bello brothers' methods to be able to tell you what went wrong at the other table. Obviously, something did,

and they must have been very disappointed to bid to a grand slam off an ace when put under no pressure. Seven Clubs was down one, of course, for -50 and 14 IMPs back to Hungary.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

♠ -	♥ K Q 8 7 6	♦ K 7	♣ A Q J 9 7 2
-----	-------------	-------	---------------

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F di Bello</i>	<i>Mraz</i>	<i>S di Bello</i>	<i>Szegedi</i>
-	-	1♠	2♠
3♥	Pass	3♠	4♣
4♠	5♣	Dble	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Szabo</i>	<i>Lo Presti</i>	<i>Riesz</i>	<i>Sbarigia</i>
-	-	1♠	2♠
3♣	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

Szegedi showed hearts and a minor and Furio showed a constructive spade raise with his 3♥ cuebid. He went on to game at his next turn but respected Stelio's double of the 5♣ save. Furio led his trump and, though there were only three top losers, the heart stack meant that Szegedi had to lose a second trick in that suit so was down two for -300.

Matteo Sbarigia showed hearts and clubs, and Szabo cuebid 3♣ to show the spade raise. When Fabio Lo Presti jumped straight to 5♣, Szabo took the push to 5♠, which ended the auction. Sbarigia cashed the ace of clubs then switched to the ♦7. Seeing an easy way home on any but the actual trump division, Riesz did not want to risk the diamond finesse and a possible ruff, so rose with the ♦A, played a spade to the jack, and found that he could not recover. He could knock out the ♦K, but could not then both take the required club ruff and pick up the trumps. Sbarigia's nice switch at trick two had beaten the contract; down one for -100 and 9 IMPs to Italy, who led in the match by 30-16 IMPs after five boards.

to Stelio's seven. Stelio cashed the ♣Q then switched back to spades, dummy winning the ace. Now Szegedi played a diamond to the ace and cashed the hearts. At the end he could throw Furio in with the third club to lead away from the queen of diamonds. Nicely done for a great +600 and 10 IMPs to Hungary.

The Hungarians gained a partscore swing on the next deal to move into the lead by 31-30 then consolidated the lead on this next one:

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10 8
♥ Q 6 4 2
♦ 4
♣ A 9 8 6 5 2

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F di Bello</i>	<i>Mraz</i>	<i>S di Bello</i>	<i>Szegedi</i>
–	Pass	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Szabo</i>	<i>Lo Presti</i>	<i>Riesz</i>	<i>Sbarigia</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	2♣
2♠	3♣	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Sgedi's 3♣ pre-empt could not be described as 'down the middle', but anything goes in third seat at this vulnerability, and he bought a pretty decent dummy when nobody had anything to say. Furio started with a sneaky low diamond and Szegedi inevitably got that wrong, the ten losing to the queen. Stelio switched to the queen of spades to Furio's ace and a second spade was won in dummy with the king. Szegedi took the trump finesse now and when it lost Furio switched to a low heart. The brothers took their three heart tricks so that was down two for -100.

Sbarigia was not willing to abuse the normal requirements for a three-level opening to quite this extent, even in third seat at favourable vulnerability, so Szabo/Riesz were left to explore the East/West cards to their hearts' content, eventually alighting in 4♠. Sbarigia cashed the ace of clubs then switched to a low

heart, which did Riesz no harm at all. He could ruff a club, cross back to hand with a heart and ruff the last club before playing ace and another trump; +620 and 11 IMPs to Hungary.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q J 8
♥ J 10
♦ K 7 6 2
♣ A K 10

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F di Bello</i>	<i>Mraz</i>	<i>S di Bello</i>	<i>Szegedi</i>
2♥	Pass	2♠	Dble
3♥	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Szabo</i>	<i>Lo Presti</i>	<i>Riesz</i>	<i>Sbarigia</i>
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Both Wests opened with a weak 2♥. Stelio's 2♠ response was conventional but Furio had a bad hand and could only go back to 3♥. Riesz might have



Balazs Szegedi, Hungary

pre-empted by raising to 3♥ but chose to go quietly. He proved to have chosen the winning tactic, because against him North/South stopped in 3♠, while Stelio's more active approach saw his opponents get to the spade game. Even though both declarers lost to the bare king of trumps, they had ten tricks; +170 for Lo Presti, but +620 and 10 IMPs for Mraz.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F di Bello</i>	<i>Mraz</i>	<i>S di Bello</i>	<i>Szegedi</i>
–	–	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Szabo</i>	<i>Lo Presti</i>	<i>Riesz</i>	<i>Sbarigia</i>
–	–	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Both Easts opened 2NT and both Wests transferred. Stelio showed a lack of interest in hearts but Furio went back to the security of his six-card suit. That may have been a mild slam try but, if so, Stelio was not interested. Four Hearts made twelve tricks after a diamond lead; +480.

Riesz simply completed the transfer and Szabo's 4♥ continuation was for sure a non-forcing slam try. Riesz had very good controls and two strong trumps so asked for key cards, then blasted a slam when he liked the reply. A spade lead would beat 6NT but that is not so easy to find. After the actual passive heart lead, Riesz cashed the second heart then led towards the ♣J and soon had twelve tricks for +990 and 11 IMPs. Hungary now led by 74-42 and were threatening to put a serious dent in the Italian ambitions for these Championships. However, Italy regained some ground on the next deal.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F di Bello</i>	<i>Mraz</i>	<i>S di Bello</i>	<i>Szegedi</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	3♦	Dble	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Szabo</i>	<i>Lo Presti</i>	<i>Riesz</i>	<i>Sbarigia</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠
2♦	Pass	2♥	Dble
3♥	All Pass		

Mraz found another imaginative Hungarian third-seat pre-empt. When Stelio was prepared to double for take-out, not worrying that he held length in the wrong minor when five-four in the majors, it was clear for Furio to jump to the heart game. Had the diamond pre-empt been for real, a diamond ruff would have defeated this contract quite easily but, on the actual layout, it takes a low diamond lead to defeat the game, preserving communications so that South can win the ♥A and get his partner in to give the ruff – hardly a plausible defence. Mraz actually led a club at trick one and Furio won the queen then played on trumps for +620.

Lo Presti opened light in third seat but at the one level. When Riesz overcalled 1♥, Szabo followed an invitational sequence and Riesz judged not to bid the game. Perhaps Riesz should have gone on, as game is excellent on the auction, and he does have some distribution plus a well-positioned diamond holding. Or perhaps West could have made a stronger try after 2♥ got doubled? Anyway, the Hungarians stopped in 3♥ and made the same ten tricks for +170 but 10 IMPs to Italy.

Hungary won by 74-53 IMPs, 19-11 VPs, and were lying second, just behind Poland, while Italy were fourth, still well in contention.

‘Kees for the Defence’

Have you ever tried some cases for the defence, the very good tests in defensive play? I did, and learned a lot from those themes. For years I have collected my own boards in this category, so you can understand the title of this chapter.

Kees 1

In the first round Sweden’s Måns Berg had to defend 3♥ after a quiet bidding sequence.

E/W Vul. Dealer South.

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♠	Dble	2♠
3♥	All Pass		

North leads ♠J.



♠ K 8 5
♥ 8 7
♦ 9 8 6 4 2
♣ A 9 2

♠ A 2
♥ A J 10 9
♦ Q 10 7 5
♣ Q 7 6

You are South. Declarer takes ♠A and plays another spade for South’s king. North plays a firm ♠10, clearly Lavinthal for diamonds. Do you obey the wish from North for a diamond switch?

Kees 2

E/W Vul. Dealer North.

West	North	East	South
–	2♦(i)	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣(ii)	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

- (i) Multi
- (ii) Hearts, minimum

East leads ♦A.

♠ Q 7 6
♥ K 2
♦ 10 9 4
♣ A K J 3 2



♠ A K 4 3
♥ 8 6 3
♦ Q 6
♣ 10 9 8 5

You are West. Do you, like Ruben Buijs from the Netherlands see a chance to beat 3♥?

Kees 3

N/S Vul. Dealer South.

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	2 NT(i)
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

(i) Both minors

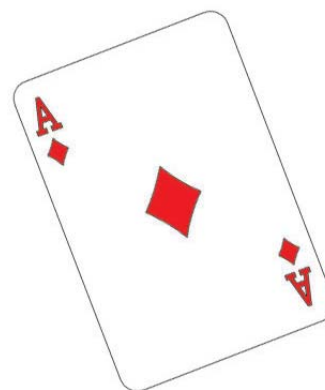
East leads the ♥3, third and fifth.

♠ 10 6 3
♥ A J 6
♦ 7 6 5
♣ A J 7 5



♠ 8 7
♥ 4
♦ K 8 4 3 2
♣ K Q 6 4 3

You are West. You take ♥A and play back a trump. Declarer wins ♠A, ruffs a heart and plays ♣K. How do you defend?



Double Dummy Solution

Declarer must win the ace of clubs, throwing a diamond from dummy, cross to the ace of hearts and ruff a spade. A second heart to dummy is followed by a second spade ruff. Now declarer leads a trump to dummy and cashes all the remaining trumps plus the ace of spades.

The key play is that on the fourth trump and ♠A declarer throws the ace and king of diamonds from hand, leaving him able to cash all of dummy’s diamonds.

Solutions to Kees for the Defence

Kees 1

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

Did you follow the wish of your partner and play a diamond. In that case declarer can take ♦A, discard a club loser from dummy on ♠Q, take the heart finesse and ends up with nine tricks. The Swedish South instead played a small club from his ace and North/south took their three club tricks for one down. Very well defended.

Kees 2

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

Dummy Reversal?

On the first board on vugraph on Friday morning, the Russian girl who became dummy placed her cards on the table in front of her but, instead of doing so in the normal fashion, high cards nearest to her running down to smaller cards near declarer and the centre of the table, faced them the other way round, which is apparently normal in Russia, high cards towards the centre of the table and low cards nearer to its edge.

Commentator, Barry Rigal said how strange that was but, quick as a flash, fellow-commentator Klaus Reps, replied, "Not at all, that is what we call a dummy reversal!"

West overtook ♣Q with ♣K, played ♣A followed by a small club. Declarer thought ♣J was with East and ruffed small. A tiny manoeuvre but nice and rewarded with 5 IMPs, 3♥ being made at the other table.

Kees 3

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

The winning defence: take ♣A and play back the ♣J! Declarer cannot get off dummy in diamonds without losing two tricks so has to play a club, after which East makes the ♠Q.

Team Profiles



We have so far received very few Team Profiles. We would like to publish profiles of as many teams as possible so please get something organised for us. This is an opportunity for a captain or coach to say what he REALLY thinks of his team, so come on, this is your big chance! The more humorous the better, but nothing that will see either the Daily Bulletin or the writer in a court case. OK?

Books For Sale!



Brian Senior has a limited number of copies of the book of the **2003 World Youth Team Championships** in Paris.

They are available in the Bulletin Office, price **400 CzkKr** (or an equivalent amount in Euros, British Pounds or US Dollars).

The 128 A4 pages include coverage of every board from the semi-finals and final, as well as the pick of the action from the round robin stage.

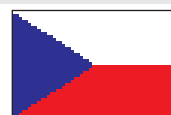
SCHOOLS TEAMS ROUND 1



AUSTRIA

vs

CZECH REP.



We have not given much coverage as yet to the host nation, Czech Republic. Accordingly, we take a look at their Schools team in the opening round against Austria. The Austrian team is captained by Iris Grumm, who has just become part of the first team ever to win a European Girls Team Championship. We should get an early idea as to the likelihood of her managing an unlikely double by also winning the Schools event, albeit as an npc.

Board 1. None Vul. Dealer North.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Suda	Kopecky	Kautny	Hoderova
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jankova	Haidinger	Macura	Hopfler
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Austria were faster out of their blocks, bidding a cold game missed at the other table. For Czech Republic, Pavla Hoderova simply repeated her long spade suit opposite Michal Kopecky's 2♦ response – not the suit that Hoderova would have wanted to here from partner. Kopecky was too balanced to go on over 2♠ so the game was missed; +170.

Dominik Haidinger raised the 1♠ opening to 2♠ and, with such promising distribution, Markus Hopfler took a shot at game, which proved to be quite cold even though 6 out of 10 HCP in dummy were facing

the void; +420 and 6 IMPs to Austria.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Suda	Kopecky	Kautny	Hoderova
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jankova	Haidinger	Macura	Hopfler
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

The Austrian lead did not survive a single board as Matthaus Suda/Paul Kautny got up to the five level under their own steam here, while Jana Jankova/Milan Macura stopped at the four level.

In 4♥, Macura won the diamond lead in hand and led a heart to the king and ace. Haidinger switched to ace and another spade and, with declarer's club loser going on the third diamond, there was just the ♥J to be lost; +420.

Five Hearts was a hopeless contract, of course. According to the hand record, Kopecky led the ace of spades then switched to a low club and declarer rose with the ace and played a heart up without taking the club discard. Kopecky won the ♥A and played king and another club and South was allowed to ruff with the ♥7. That meant the contract was down three for 150 and 11 IMPs to Czech Republic.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Suda	Kopecky	Kautny	Hoderova
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	1♥	2♣	2♥
3♣	4♥	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jankova	Haidinger	Macura	Hopfler
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	1♥	Pass	3♣
Dble	3♥	Dble	Pass
4♣	4♥	5♣	All Pass

The Czechs consolidated their lead when they declared game in both rooms on Board 3. Though it was the Austrian East/West pair who found the club fit immediately, while the Czechs did not find it until later in the auction, it was the Austrians who were prepared to defend against 4♥, whereas the Czechs bid on to 5♣ over that contract.

The lead against 4♥ was the ace of clubs, ruffed by declarer, who proceeded to lead a diamond to the queen without touching the trump suit. Suda won the ♦K and cashed the two top spades but, not liking what he saw, now switched to diamonds, after which Kopecky had no further problems; +420.

Two top hearts were led against 5♣, Jankova ruffing the second. She played ♣K and a second club to the ace then the ♦10, covered by queen, king and ace. Had Haidinger ducked the first diamond, the contract would have had to go down, as declarer cannot draw all the trumps before playing a second diamond, and now South can get a ruff. However, after the first diamond was won, the defence was powerless. Declarer won the diamond return, drew trumps and claimed eleven tricks; +600 and 14 IMPs to Czech Republic.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Suda	Kopecky	Kautny	Hoderova
–	INT	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jankova	Haidinger	Macura	Hopfler
–	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	INT	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

I am looking for a polite term to describe the respective Wests' doubles on this deal. The best I have managed to come up with so far is over-aggressive. Perhaps the Austrians play double as some kind of take-out, but it still seems way too aggressive, and quite normal for East to pass with 12 HCP sitting over the opener. As for Jankova's double, she will no doubt say that it was merely balancing, but I think it should still be stronger than this hand or else partner can never afford to pass it out. Again, for me it was normal for Macura to defend INT doubled.

Macura led a low spade to the ten and queen and Haidinger cashed the three top diamonds, only to be disappointed when the jack did not appear. He conceded the fourth diamond and now Macura could not read the spade situation so switched to the ♥Q. Haidinger could win and play a second heart to the king. When Jankova played ♠K now, she restricted the defence to only two spade tricks and that cost an overtrick; +380.

At the other table, Kautny did well not to lead a diamond at trick one. However, the actual low heart proved to be no more successful. It ran to Suda's king and back came a diamond – a little naive of Suda, I would think, as partner's failure to lead the suit surely marks declarer with long diamonds. Kopecky ran the diamond to Kautny's jack and back came a heart, which he ran to his ten. Kopecky cashed the ♥A then

the diamonds and came to two black tricks in the ending when the defence got into a tangle. that was nine tricks for +580 and 5 IMPs to Czech Republic. Macura/Haidinger would have been pleased to gain on the board, I think.

Board 10. All Vul. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Suda	Kopecky	Kautny	Hoderova
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jankova	Haidinger	Macura	Hopfler
—	—	Pass	1♦
1♥	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The same contract was reached but from different sides of the table and with Jankova having directed the opening lead. While Haidinger's jump to 2NT over the opposing overcall may have approximately described his range and heart stopper, it got the hand played the



Jana Jankova, Czech Republic

wrong way up, as perhaps it deserved to do when a simple 2♣ bid was available. Macura's heart lead duly assured the defence of six winners; -200.

Hoderova's INT opening was raised directly to game and, fortuitously, got the contract played the right way up. Suda led a low spade rather than the obvious heart, but that did declarer no harm at all as the king beat East's ten. Hoderova played a club to the king then a diamond to queen and ace. The rather obscure choice of returning the ♦J now did not exactly paralyse declarer, who had the remainder; twelve tricks for +690 and 13 IMPs to Czech Republic.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Suda	Kopecky	Kautny	Hoderova
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♦	Dble	2♦
2♠	3♦	3♠	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jankova	Haidinger	Macura	Hopfler
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♦	Dble	INT
2♠	All Pass		

I must say that I prefer Hopfler's INT to the 'nothing-bid' of 2♦ chosen by Hoderova at the other table, but it was the latter call which proved to be more successful as it paved the way for Kopecky to push the opposition up a level.

Haidinger led the ♥K against Jankova's 2♠. She won the ace and played a diamond to the ace then led the ♠10, running it when it was not covered. That was a very good start for declarer, who lost only one trick in each of spades, hearts and clubs when the defenders failed to take their heart ruff; ten tricks for +170. Hoderova's diamond raise not only helped to push her opponents to the three level, it also got Haidinger off to a safe diamond lead. Suda won the king and

played a club to the king then the ♠10 to king and ace. From here he had lost control of the hand and had two losers in both hearts and clubs, as well as the trump suit to sort out. Seven tricks proved to be all that could be managed; down two for -200 and a further 9 IMPs to Czech Republic.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Suda	Kopecky	Kautny	Hoderova
1♣	1♦	2♥	3♦
3♥	4♦	Pass	Pass
4♥	Dble	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jankova	Haidinger	Macura	Hopfler
1♣	1♦	1♥	2♦
2♥	3♦	3♥	All Pass

Kautny's weak jump shift of 2♥ put some momentum into the auction and Suda competed twice in hearts, finally being doubled when he bid game. Hoderova led a diamond but it really didn't matter very much. There were five top losers and none of



Markus Hopfler, Austria

them were going anywhere; down two for -500.

Macura's simple 1♥ bid resulted in a quiet auction where everyone had done their bidding by the time the three level was reached. Of course, there was no double here, and when Macura lost the obvious five tricks he was just one down for 100 but 9 IMPs to Czech Republic.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Suda	Kopecky	Kautny	Hoderova
-	-	1♣	Pass
1♥	1♠	INT	2♦
2♥	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jankova	Haidinger	Macura	Hopfler
-	-	1♣	1♦
1♥	1♠	INT	Pass
2♥	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Both Wests took very conservative positions here when they settled for a non-forcing 2♥ at their second turn – quite out of character with most of what we had seen in the match to date. Certainly, I would be more inclined to bid game if partner had shown a weak no trump type – particularly at the table where right-hand-opponent had bid diamonds, thereby guaranteeing that the ace would be well-placed. Anyway, Suda was left to play in 2♥ and made ten tricks after a diamond lead to the ace and a diamond back; +170.

Jankova was given the opportunity to show her hidden values when Haidinger competed with 2♠. Of course, he did not have any extra values to justify this, but it was not unreasonable on this auction to expect partner to be a little stronger. Macura was delighted to pass his partner's double. He led king and a nother heart and Jankova won and played a third round.

Macura ruffed this as Haidinger pitched his losing diamond. There were still two spades and two clubs to be lost, so that was down two for -500 and 8 IMPs to Czech Republic.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Suda	Kopecky	Kautny	Hoderova
-	-	-	Pass
1♣	Pass	INT	Pass
Pass	Dble	Rdbl	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Dble	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jankova	Haidinger	Macura	Hopfler
-	-	-	Pass
1♣	Pass	INT	All Pass

The first round of the two auctions was identical. Then, Haidinger, perhaps chastened by his experience on the previous deal, went quietly as North and defended INT. At the other table, Kopecky doubled and, when Kautny could show his maximum with a redouble, the Czechs were in big trouble. Kopecky misunderstood his partner's run out to 2♣, which should be natural until proven otherwise, and now there was no seven-card fit to be had without going back to clubs a level higher, which neither player was willing to do. Playing a three-three fit with two balanced hands and the minority of the high cards is rarely a smart idea, and this deal was no exception to the general rule.

Macura made INT exactly after a club lead. He ducked but won the second club to play on diamonds. The clubs were cleared but South could be kept off play until seven tricks had been established; +90.

Hoderova faced a rather more demanding task. The lead was the ♦K to dummy's ace. Hoderova tried a heart to the ten, losing to the jack, and the defence

cached two diamonds then switched to three rounds of clubs for a ruff. Hoderova won the heart switch now with the ace and ruffed a heart then played a winning club. She came to another heart ruff plus the ace of trumps for down three; -500 and 9 IMPs to Austria, for whom this swing was too little too late.

Board 20. All Vul. Dealer West.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Suda	Kopecky	Kautny	Hoderova
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
2♦	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jankova	Haidinger	Macura	Hopfler
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
3♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Would you rebid 2♦, as did Suda, or 3♦ as preferred by Jankova? The 2♦ bid caught a simple raise from partner and this was not sufficient to convince Suda to go on facing a passed partner. That was right in theory, of course, as there are three top losers in 5♦. And on a club lead Kopecky/Hoderova duly took their three winners; +130.

Macura jumped to game facing the 3♦ rebid. The record states that Haidinger cashed the ace of hearts then switched to a spade. This is a very strange thing to do. Also strange is the fact that declarer is only credited with eleven tricks after this defence, when both declarer's club losers can be ruffed in dummy easily enough. Ah well, +600 was worth 10 IMPs to Czech Republic, completing an emphatic 86-22 IMP, 25-3 VP win.

The Czechs became the first leaders in the event (unless you count England, of course, who led for the first few boards in the morning because of their Bye, giving them 18 VPs while all the teams who were actually playing in Round one started off level at 15-15 VPs.)

SCOTLAND UNDER 25s

After months of speculation, the Scottish Bridge Union officially announced the under 25 team for Prague.

Catherine Gerrard was unveiled as NPC having only recently been passed 'fit' by doctors to enable her to endure the mental anguish associated with the role. Her personality is seen as the right 'fit' for a team that functions well when managed with a steel rod and an iron fist.

The veteran partnership of Harold Bergson and David McCrossan retain their place in their final appearance before retirement. Cynics have questioned the selection of McCrossan who, in his tenth year of playing, has yet to defend a contract correctly. The selectors believe he is bound to get one right in Prague and therefore is automatic for selection. But they refused to comment on the large unexplained deposit which found its way into the SBU's coffers. Meanwhile, sources within the Scottish camp report there is a great deal of unrest caused by the blatant favouritism shown towards Mr. Bergson. Despite a strict no girlfriends, wives, or 'significant others' policy, Mr. B. has been allowed to bring along Mrs. B. to keep him company. He has assured his teammates that he is 100% focussed on the bridge, and the bleary-eyed look is simply due to the vast amount of concentration needed for playing.

Alex Wilkinson's selection initially caused outrage within the Scottish media due to his English accent, forcing the Scottish selectors into staging a highly-publicised nationality test. After successfully demonstrating that he could wear the kilt, was crap at football, and knew the score for 1♠ redoubled plus one, the Scottish Parliament ratified his selection and Alex was welcomed into the team for his international debut. His partner, Ronald Gaffin, is known to suffer from that rare and incurable disease, BADD (Bridge Ability Deficiency Disorder). Despite the illness, Gaffin has shown courage in competing and even says that he is pleased to find a medical explanation for the things he does at the bridge table.

Scotland's third partnership are Gordon Pearson, and self-proclaimed 'pretty-boy' and saviour of Scottish Junior bridge, Andrew Sinclair. This selection is seen by many as simply a ploy to obtain a million dollar sponsorship deal with Nike. But viewing figures for our matches have been poor, and it appears that Andrew is not the draw that both he and the selectors anticipated. Nevertheless rumours circulate about the magical powers exercised by the distinctive plumage that adorns Gordon's head. If these prove true, interest in the Scottish team is sure to increase.

Bookmakers rate Scotland as rank outsiders to finish in the top 26 here in Prague, but the captain is confident that her team is capable of proving them wrong.

Norway Schools Presentation

Stian Andersen (20): It's impossible not to like Stian, who lost his passport the day before leaving Norway. He thinks bidding is an unnecessary delay before the interesting part of bridge – the play. Most fun of all is to take as many tricks as possible in 3NT, the contract he often ends up declaring. Stein won the last Norwegian championship for Juniors.

Erik Berg (20): Stian's dummy in 3NT. He's a former Norwegian champion in the 800 metres. Due to an injury, Erik now uses his brain instead of his legs. He's a natural bidder and still not used to Stian's HI-LO-doubles.

Fredrik Simonsen (18): He isn't a addicted to drugs even though it looks like he is. Although Fredrik is this team's youngest player, he's a sensible young man, bidding on the cards he has and taking his tricks afterwards. He recently collected a bronze medal in the World Schools Series.

John Vegard Aa (20): With his last name, born into a famous Norwegian bridge family, he is normally sorted last in Norway and first everywhere else. He's an excellent soccer player who last year served in the Norwegian army. With Fredrik as partner he is the holder of the Nordic Championship.



Closing Ceremony

Please inform the Hospitality Desk how many members of your teams will participate at the Closing Ceremony and Victory Banquet.
Thank you.