

## Juniors Pairs Final

| Rank | Pairs |  | Nationality | $\%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | DI FRANCO Massimiliano | ZANASI Gabriele | ITA - ITA | 57.81 |
| 2 | AYDOGDU Erkmen | KOCLAR Akin | TUR - TUR | 57.48 |
| 3 | PRAIRIE Alex | SHI Sylvia | USA - USA | 57.31 |
| 4 | MOSKOVSKY Ellena | TRAVIS Lauren | AUS - AUS | 53.61 |
| 5 | HOLLANDS Peter | HOWARD Justin | AUS - AUS | 53.08 |
| 6 | FERRO Felipe Jose | MONTES DE OCA | ARG - ARG | 52.99 |
|  |  | Francisco Pablo |  |  |
| 7 | GOBEKLI Altug | GOKCE Berk | TUR - TUR | 52.48 |
| 8 | LEE Antony | WESSELS Ryan | USA - USA | 51.75 |
| 9 | AGICA Marius | KAPLAN Adam | USA - USA | 50.85 |
| 10 | HASHIMOTO Koichiro | KIKUCHI Tadahiro | JPN - JPN | 49.59 |
| 11 | OZGUR Muhammet | USLUPEHLIVAN | TUR - TUR | 46.21 |
|  |  | Sarper |  |  |
| 12 | ETCHEPAREBORDA Juan Cruz | RUEDA Santiago | ARG - ARG | 45.88 |
| 13 | LIN Frank | VROOMAN Jacob | USA - USA | 45.37 |
| 14 | CAVALIER Andrew | JOLLY Christian | USA - USA | 43.76 |
| 15 | SCHWARTZ Jeffrey | TSANG Jeffrey | USA - CAN | 42.43 |
| 16 | ARGUEDAS Leonardo | BROWN Walter | CRC - CRC | 39.39 |



Giorgia Botta and Margherita Chavarria

## Girls Pairs Final

Session 6

Rank Pairs BOTTA Giorgia

2 DE JESUS Karla ARBIT Julie LU Xinying CHEN Yunpeng LINZ Marianna GU Yihao JIN Huiyuan


Karla De Jesus and Adriana Suarez


Isha Thapa and Julie Arbit


Allison Hunt and Asya Ladyzhensky


Andrew Jeng and Richard Jeng


Jin Tianyi and Jin Kai

## Youngsters Pairs Final

Rank Pair Session

| Rank | Pairs |
| :--- | :--- |
| 1 | HUNT Allison |
|  |  |
| 2 | JENG Andrew |
| 3 | JIN Tianyi |
| 4 | HERMAN Gregory |
| 5 | BERK Hakan |
| 6 | SHA Zhizhou |
| 7 | SHEN Yiling |
| 8 | AMER Samuel |
| 9 | FEI Zelin |
| 10 | KRISTENSEN Benjamin |
| 11 | HARPER Brandon |
| 12 | LIN Amber |
| 13 | LIEBERMAN Joseph |
|  |  |
| 14 | BERMAN Evan |
| 15 | CHENG Licong |
| 16 | HUANG Xu |
| 17 | DU Zhecheng |
| 18 | HART Tyler |
| 19 | LI Hanchang |
| 20 | FASHINGBAUER Ellie |

ession 6

|  | Nationality | $\mathbf{\%}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :--- |
| LADYZHENSKY | USA - USA | 62.28 |
| Asya |  |  |
| JENG Richard | USA - USA | 60.14 |
| JIN Kai | CHN - CHN | 56.43 |
| KRIEGEL Oren | USA - USA | 55.46 |
| SOUKUP David | USA - USA | 55.07 |
| ZHANG Yiyang | CHN - CHN | 53.90 |
| WU Kaiwen | CHN - CHN | 53.41 |
| CHANG Nolan | USA - USA | 53.02 |
| ZHAO Yuqiao | CHN - CHN | 49.61 |
| ROSENBERG Kevin | USA - USA | 49.51 |
| MILLER Ryan | USA - USA | 49.42 |
| OLSEN Jake | USA - USA | 49.12 |
| WELLAND | USA - USA | 48.54 |
| Christopher |  |  |
| SPENCER Cole | USA - USA | 46.78 |
| LI Renyu | CHN - CHN | 45.13 |
| LIU Yihong | CHN - CHN | 45.03 |
| SHANG Yijun | CHN - CHN | 43.37 |
| KUSCHNER Benjamin USA - USA | 42.98 |  |
| SHAO Yiqin | CHN - CHN | 41.91 |
| HSIEH Gianni | USA - USA | 38.89 |

## Italy, United States and Italy

We have six new world bridge champions, the winners of the three pair events here. And in only one event were the winners well ahead of their pursuers

In the Girls Pairs, Giorgia Botta and Margherita Chavarria from Italy moved up for third to first in the last two sessions to win by one-third of a board from the overnight leaders, Karla de Jesus and Adriana Suarez from Venezuela. Close behind in third were Julie Arbit and Isha Tharp from the United States.

The Youngsters Pairs was captured by Allison Hunt and Asya Ladyzhensky from the United States. They were just over one board in front of two brothers, fellow-countrymen Andrew and Richard Jeng. Third, stopping an American sweep, were Jin Kai and Jin Tianyi from China.

The lead in the Junior Pairs changed hands several times over the last few boards. In the end, one of the most experienced pairs triumphed, Massimiliano di Franco and Gabriele Zanasi from Italy. On a top of 14, they finished 2.71 matchpoints ahead of Erkmen Aydogdu and Akin Koclar from Turkey. Third, another 1.23 matchpoints behind, were Alex Prairie and Sylvia Shi from the United States.

So women won medals in all three events. And heartiest congratulations to them all.

Now we move to the Swiss/Knockout Team events, which ends on Saturday. Teams that do not qualify for the quarterfinals and those defeated before the finals play in the Board-a-Match Teams, which starts on Thursday and concludes on Sunday.

## Junior Swiss Teams

Session 6

| Rank | Team | VPs | Rank |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | WAR OF ROSES | 38.30 | 1 |
| 2 | CALIFORNIAN ACES | 33.96 | 2 |
| 3 | TURKIYE | 25.65 | 3 |
| 4 | ARGENTINA | 24.65 | 4 |
| 5 | AUSTRALIA | 22.63 | 5 |
| 6 | ITALIA | 22.60 | 6 |
| 7 | USA JOLLY | 21.56 | 7 |
| 8 | JAPAN | 20.13 | 8 |
| 9 | USA MANFIELD | 18.58 | 9 |
| 10 | VENEZUELA | 7.10 | 10 |
| 11 | WERNIS | 2.99 | 11 |
| 12 | FCBC | 1.85 | 12 |
|  |  |  | 13 |
|  |  |  | 14 |
|  |  |  | 15 |

## Youngsters Swiss Teams

|  |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Team | Session 6 |
| BERK | VPs |
| CHINA XNWY | 39.44 |
| KRISTENSEN | 38.71 |
| USA JENG | 28.00 |
| CHINA SX CLUB | 27.97 |
| BERMAN | 23.51 |
| CHINA GIRLS SX CLUB | 20.56 |
| CHINA QFL | 20.13 |
| BERK S | 19.14 |
| LIN | 17.46 |
| GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL | 16.77 |
| CHINA WFL | 16.59 |
| MIDNIGHT SUNS | 13.43 |
| ZHIHAOLE SCHOOL | 12.00 |
| BRIDGEMATES | 6.88 |
|  | 3.41 |

## Have a Go, Mate!

## by David Stern

This is an expression we have in Australia for taking a shot rather than sitting on the sidelines. The first board on Tuesday morning should have kicked off with some "having a go," but turned out to be more of a whimper at six of the eight tables in the Juniors Final. Auctions included:


Frequencies: -420x1, -490x5, -800x 1, -920x1

| West <br> Gobekli | North <br> Travis | East <br> Gokce | South <br> Moskovsky |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 |  |  | 1 |
| 2 | Pass | 2 | Pass |
| 3 | Pass | 3 | Pass |
| 3 | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

And at another table:

| West | North | East | South <br> 1NT |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Pass | 5 | All Pass |

An example of playing with cats and getting scratched took place here, with the Australians getting scratched perhaps more than they should have.

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Hashimoto | Howard | Kikuchi | Holland <br>  <br> 1 |
| Dble | Redble | 1 NT |  |
| Dble | $2 \boldsymbol{2}$ | Dble | 2 |
| Dble | Pass | Pass | Pass |

The scratching resulted in down four, and while the minus 800 figured to be a reasonable score against the 920 or 990 available to East-West, it earned a poor 2 matchpoints out of 14 when only one table bid the slam.

On this deal, is it easy, and if so how easy, to reach slam after South opens the bidding? The Turkish pair of Aydogdu and Koclar showed a not unreasonable if slightly gambling approach to the deal:

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Koclar | Argudas | Aydogdu | Brown |
| $1 ष$ |  |  | 1 |
| $2 \boldsymbol{~ P a s s ~}$ | 2 | Pass |  |
|  | Pass | 6 | All Pass |

It is generally difficult to bid slam when the opponents open the bidding. Aydogdu seems to have taken a practical approach, perhaps figuring that the ace of hearts could take care of his diamond loser, assuming a quick entry to dummy. As little as:
 would make the slam reasonable, and the $\uparrow \mathrm{K}$ and $\uparrow \mathrm{A}$ would make it a very sound proposition.

Interestingly seeing all four hands, six notrump is the best contract at pairs, and even six spades will make with the careful play of discarding a diamond on the heart-ace lead!

## Matchpoint Care

## by David Stern

Adam Kaplan reported a nice ending on Board 13 in the fifth session of the Junior Pairs final.

| Dlr: North <br> Vul: All | ¢ K 95 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | - 85 |  |  |
|  | - J 95 |  |  |
|  | -109732 |  |  |
| - 1082 |  |  | ¢ 743 |
| - A 1074 |  |  | - $\mathrm{Q}^{\text {J }}$ |
| - AK 3 |  |  | -Q87642 |
| \& Q 64 |  |  | - J 8 |
|  | - A Q J 6 |  |  |
|  | - K9632 |  |  |
|  | -10 |  |  |
|  | - AK 5 |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
|  | Pass | Pass | $1 \vee$ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass |  |

Frequencies: $+110 \times 1,+100 \times 1,+80 \times 3,-100 \times 1$, $-660 \times 1$

At teams this deal wouldn't get much attention with declarer likely to take three spades, two clubs and at least two hearts. But at pairs the overtrick can be the difference between how well you divide up the 14 matchpoints available on the board.

After West led the diamond king, showing an odd number, declarer ruffed the diamond continuation, crossed to the spade king, and led a heart to the jack, king and ace. West played another diamond. Declarer ruffed and cashed two high spades and two high clubs to reach this ending:


The play of the spade six by declarer saw the spotlight fall on West. A club discard looked reasonable. However, declarer threw a club from the dummy. Yes, East ruffed with his heart queen, but on the diamond return, South discarded and had to take one more trump trick for plus 110 and all 14 matchpoints available on the board.

To avoid that, West had to ruff the spade six low. If declarer discarded from dummy, West could have cashed the club queen and led a trump to his partner's queen. West would have taken the last trick with his high trump. Alternatively, if declarer overruffed with dummy's heart eight, East would also have overruffed. Then a diamond lead would have caught declarer's trumps in a coup.

Just let anybody tell you that bridge is an easy game!
P.S. Having just looked at the frequencies, I would love to know the auction that got East-West to three notrump and the play that allowed declarer to take eleven tricks. Or maybe I wouldn't!


Adam Kaplan, USA

## The Fifth Session of the Junior Pairs Final

## by Phillip Alder

Obviously, many pairs had all to play for over the last two sessions.

The Junior Pairs started with the board described above by David Stern. But there was excitement at another table, showing that Peter Hollands and Justin Howard were not going to bid down the middle.

(1) Natural or any balanced hand out of the range for a one-trump opening

That was a brave double by Koichiro Hashimoto, given his minimal overcall and weak trumps. The contract went down four, giving East-West 12 out of 14 matchpoints.

The American bronze medalists, Sylvia Shi and Alex Prairie, defended against three notrump making twelve tricks. Minus 490 gave them just over average, 8 matchpoints.

The next deal provided a tough partscore decision.

| Dlr: West Vul: N-S | - Q 753 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | - K 963 |  |  |
|  | - A 53 |  |  |
|  | - K 8 |  |  |
| A J 4 |  |  | - ${ }^{\text {a }} 9$ |
| - Q |  |  | - AJ 10754 |
| -J9762 |  |  | -104 |
| - Q9643 |  |  | - A 105 |
|  | - K 10862 |  |  |
|  | - 82 |  |  |
|  | - K Q 8 |  |  |
|  | - J 72 |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Hashimoto | Hollands | Kikuchi | Howard |
| Pass | 1* (1) | 1 - | 14. |
| Pass | 2 | 3- | All Pass |

for a strong-trump opening
The Australians judged well not to go to three spades.

Against three hearts, South led a low spade. Declarer won with his ace and led the club ten, which was covered by the jack, queen and king. North returned a spade, South winning and shifting to a trump to dummy's queen. East led a club to his ace, cashed the heart ace, and continued with the heart jack.

Now the defenders were in a position to take two diamonds and a club ruff, but after collecting the diamonds, South led a spade, allowing declarer to escape for down one.

However, that cost nothing -- plus 50 or plus 100 was worth 9 matchpoints.



Quick -- guess South's opening lead.
No, it was not his fourth-highest spade or fourthhighest heart -- he chose the imaginative club ten.

East took North's king with his ace and led the heart jack, which was covered by the king and ace.

Now East showed that South was not the only player with imagination at the table. Declarer led a diamond to his queen!

South, suitably fooled, shifted to a low spade, but East misguessed, playing dummy's ten. So Zanasi took the nine tricks he started with: one spade, three hearts and five clubs.

Even so, plus 150 gave East-West only 5 matchpoints and North-South 9. The Turks had come out slightly ahead.

At another table, West was in one no-trump (after one club-one notrump) and North led his spade three.

When that was ducked to South's king, he made the understandable mistake of returning a spade, so declarer raked in ten tricks for 9 matchpoints.

At trick two, South had to shift to diamonds. And the best lead is the ten. North wins with his ace and returns the six. Then South can lead the seven through declarer's nine-five into North's jack-eight.

That unblocking play should not be hard to see, but partner might not recognize the position, thinking that you have led top of nothing.

The next few boards on BBO featured many more mistakes than good bidding and play. However, Kikuchi made a nice play on Board 18 .

| Dlr: East | - J 105 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Vul: N-S | -1087 |  |  |
|  | -853 |  |  |
| - Q 1042 |  |  |  |
| - A Q | -982 |  |  |
| - AK 92 | - 43 |  |  |
| - K 96 | - A J 72 |  |  |
| \& K976 | 3 J 853 |  |  |
| \& K 7643 |  |  |  |
| - Q J 65 |  |  |  |
| - Q 104 |  |  |  |
| * A |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Kikuchi | Moskovsky | Hashimoto | Travis |
|  |  | Pass | 14 |
| Dble | Pass | 2 | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

That looks like a typical auction. With a combined 25 high-card points, everyone bids game these days, even in pair events. (Note also East's initial two-diamond advance. In this situation, if you are willing to bid twice in a competitive auction, advance in the higher-ranking of your two four-card suits. Here, if South rebids two spades and there are two passes, East can compete with three clubs. But if you wish to bid only once, advance in the lowerranking suit.)

Ellena Moskovsky from Australia led the spade jack. West won with his queen, played a diamond to dummy's ace, and continued with a club, taken per force by South.

Now Lauren Travis was unsure about the spade position. Worried that her partner had led a singleton or from jack-five-doubleton, she shifted to the heart queen.

West won with his ace, cashed the club king (South threw a spade), and played another club. North won with her queen and led the heart ten. And when declarer ducked smoothly, she led her last heart, giving West another two tricks in the suit and his contract.

## Plan Ahead by Murat Molva

The last board of the fifth round of the Junior Pairs Final was instructive. It shows that you should be prepared for what to do next even when before that you got what you wanted.

| Dlr: West | - AK Q 83 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Vul:Both | - K J 2 |  |
|  | - K |  |
|  | *K974 |  |
| - 7 |  | A J 952 |
| - A Q 6 |  | - 97 |
| -97652 |  | -J10843 |
| + AJ 102 |  | +53 |

- 1064
- 108543
- AQ
* Q 86

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $1 *$ | Dble | 3 | $3 \uparrow$ |
| 4 | 4 | All Pass |  |

Berk Gokce (Turkey) arrived in four hearts from the South seat. He took the singleton spade lead and crossed to hand by overtaking the diamond king. Gokce now made the key play of the heart ten from his hand. West, di Franco (Italy), thought for a long while before ducking. But declarer was still in his own hand, where he wanted to be. He played another round of trumps and finally established his fourth spade trick to land an overtrick.

At another table, Frank Lin (USA) was declaring the same four-heart contract after a similar auction.

West, Sarper Uslupehlivan (Turkey), led his singleton spade. Lin took this in dummy, then overtook his diamond king to play trumps towards the dummy. He wanted the heart queen to be with West. He led the heart three, West played low, and dummy's jack won. The declarer got what he wanted, the trump queen was onside. But he was in dummy, exactly where he did not want to be. He played a club from dummy. West took the club queen with his ace and continued with the club jack. Declarer was again in dummy. Fearing a club ruff, which would surely have been followed by a spade ruff, he played the heart king from dummy and conceded down one. One wrong spot at trick three made a difference of two tricks.

Plus 650 was worth all 14 matchpoints. Minus 100 gave North-South only 4 matchpoints.


Frank Lin (USA)

## Careful With That Axe by Murat Molva

The very last board of the Junior Pairs Final was an absolute nail-biter.

| Dlr: East | - 964 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Vul: None | - Q 98763 |  |  |
|  | - |  |  |
|  | * 7654 |  |  |
| - K 52 |  |  | - Q J |
| - K J 1042 |  |  | $\checkmark 5$ |
| - J 2 |  |  | - A 10985 |
| -1032 |  |  | - AKJ9 8 |
|  | - A 10873 |  |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ A |  |  |
|  | -KQ7643 |  |  |
|  | + Q |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Agica | Zanasi | Kaplan | di Franco |
|  |  | $1 *$ | 14 |
| Dble | 24 | 3* | Dble |
| Pass | 34 | All Pass |  |

The players did not know at the time, but going into this last board, Zanasi-di Franco had just taken the lead from Koclar-Aydogdu of Turkey.

In the auction, di Franco, when Zanasi could bid only three spades over his takeout double, decided that they were high enough.

Agica led the $\$ \mathrm{~J}$. When declarer discarded a heart from the dummy, Kaplan won with his ace and shifted to the spade queen. Di Franco took it with his ace, ruffed a diamond, came to hand with the heart ace, and played another low diamond. When West ruffed in front of the dummy with the trump king, the deal was over. Plus 140 for the Italians was worth 8 matchpoints out of 14 .

Did you notice that to defeat the contract, East had to play low at trick one, not take the trick? Then plus 50 to East-West would have left the Italians with 5 matchpoints and only the silver medals, 0.29 matchpoints behind the Turks.

Also, if West had led any other suit (except the heart king), the defenders could have got plus 100 .

But what happened to Koclar and Aydogdu?
They defended against three spades doubled, then let it make in the same way as the Americans. Minus 530 gave them only 1 matchpoint. Of course, plus 100 or plus 300 would have been easily enough to win the gold medals. Or if they had not doubled, minus 140 would have given the Turks the win.

Bridge can be so close and so cruel at times.


Massimiliano di Franco (Italy)


Gabriele Zanasi (Italy)


## In Search of the Magic 200 by Murat Molva

Board 16 from the fifth session of the Junior Pairs Final was interesting, producing a range of results from boringly normal to unbelievable.

| Dlr: West | $\triangle \mathrm{K}$ Q |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Vul: E-W | - A103 |  |
|  | - Q 84 |  |
|  | - A 10643 |  |
| - A J 1043 |  | ¢ 972 |
| - J 542 |  | $\bullet 7$ |
| -105 |  | - AK9762 |
| $\cdots \mathrm{K}$ Q |  | \& J 95 |
|  | - 865 |  |
|  | ヤKQ986 |  |
|  | - J 3 |  |
|  | -872 |  |

I witnessed the boringly normal auction at the table of the Costa Rican pair Leonardo Arguedas and Walter Brown, where West opened one spade, East responded two spades, and everyone passed. A peaceful 140 was recorded - and gave East-West 12 out of 14 matchpoints.

At another table, there was more action:

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Pass | 1 NT | Pass | 2 |
| Pass | $2 \boldsymbol{~}$ | Pass | Pass |
| 2 | $3 \boldsymbol{~}$ | $3 \boldsymbol{a}$ | Dble |
| Pass | Pass | Pass |  |

North, Koichiro Hashimoto (Japan), opened a strong notrump and his partner, Tadahiro Kikuchi, was all set to play in two hearts. But West, Akin Koclar (Turkey), balanced with two spades. When North showed his liking for hearts by bidding three hearts and East, Erkmen Aydogdu, raised to three spades, Kikuchi started thinking. Were they being robbed of their +140 ? On the other hand the vulnerable opponents were pushed to the three level with only 8 trumps between them. It must be right to double in pairs to pretect himself against the field. So he doubled three spades. But this contract was unbeatable, and Akin Koclar actually made an overtrick when he was allowed to score two heart ruffs in dummy.

At the last table I watched (I should remind the readers that it is a difficult task to watch three different tables in a barometer event where the same boards are played simultaneously at all tables), the unbelievable happened:

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | 1 NT | $2 \downarrow$ | 3 |
| Pass | Pass | Dble | Pass |
| Pass | 3 | Pass | Pass |
| Dble | Pass | Pass | Pass |

South, Massimiliano Di Franco (Italy), no doubt intended his 3 as transfer to hearts, but his partner Gabriele Zanasi was different opinion, so he passed. Now all that East, Ellena Moskovsky (Australia), had to do was to pass and collect nine tricks in defense. But she doubled three diamonds! Zanasi figured out what was happening around the table and he ran to three hearts. West, Lauren Travis, doubled this. Zanasi escaped for down one, but that was still worth 9 matchpoints out of 14 for East-West. (Plus 250 would have given East-West 13 mps .)

