

3rd World Youth Open Bridge Championships

Atlanta, Georgia, USA 3rd - 11th August 2013



Daily Bulletin



Coordinator: Brent Manley • Editor: Phillip Alder • Co-Editors: Murat Molva, David Stern

Monday, August 5, 2013

Juniors Pairs Qualifier

Session 5

Rank	Pairs	Nationality	%
1	AYDOGDU Erkmen	KOCLAR Akin	TUR - TUR 57.59
2	PRAIRIE Alex	SHI Sylvia	USA - USA 57.35
3	AGICA Marius	KAPLAN Adam	USA - USA 56.86
4	DI FRANCO Massimiliano	ZANASI Gabriele	ITA - ITA 56.79
5	MOSKOVSKY Ellena	TRAVIS Lauren	AUS - AUS 56.19
6	HASHIMOTO Koichiro	KIKUCHI Tadahiro	JPN - JPN 56.15
7	LIN Frank	VROOMAN Jacob	USA - USA 55.72
8	GOBEKLI Altug	GOKCE Berk	TUR - TUR 54.92
9	CAVALIER Andrew	JOLLY Christian	USA - USA 54.55
10	ETCHEPAREBORDA Juan Cruz	RUEDA Santiago	ARG - ARG 54.31
11	OZGUR Muhammet	USLUPEHLIVAN Sarper	TUR - TUR 53.21
12	FERRO Felipe Jose	MONTES DE OCA Francisco Pablo	ARG - ARG 52.45
13	LEE Antony	WESSELS Ryan	USA - USA 52.28
14	ARGUEDAS Leonardo	BROWN Walter	CRC - CRC 52.16
15	HOLLANDS Peter	HOWARD Justin	AUS - AUS 51.27
16	SCHWARTZ Jeffrey	TSANG Jeffrey	USA - CAN 51.25
17	HENBEST Maxim	HOWARD Nathan	AUS - AUS 50.84
18	HARADA Yuki	ITO Kosuke	JPN - JPN 50.14
19	BOMBER Benjamin	SNOWDEN Burke	USA - USA 49.72
20	MANFIELD Sabrina	MANFIELD Seth	USA - USA 49.52
21	KRIVENTSOV Dennis	RATHI Anant	USA - USA 48.21
22	GROSSACK Adam	GROSSACK Zachary	USA - USA 48.06
23	GONG Qucheng	MUNGER Nathaniel	USA - USA 46.35
24	PEREZ Fernando	RODRIGUEZ Carlos	VEN - VEN 46.19
25	CABRERA Ruben Dario	GRANDA Moises	VEN - VEN 46.01
26	OYAMA Ryoko	SESHIMO Takumi	JPN - JPN 45.15
27	ARGAIN Ariel	SENGIALI Nicolas Miguel	ARG - ARG 44.20
28	ALLEN Theo	JAMESON Charles	USA - USA 42.35
29	CUERVO LOPERA Juan Felipe	VELEZ Santiago	COL - COL 42.20
30	ORTEGA Luz Carolina	TRABAUDO Billy	USA - USA 40.25
31	VALENZUELA RIVERA Joan Sebastian	ZAMORA VILLAMIZAR Jose Alejandro	COL - COL 39.21
32	CORREA LAGUNA Nicolas	REY ARISMENDY Luis Alejandro	COL - COL 38.56

Youngsters Pairs Qualifier

Session 5

Rank	Pairs	Nationality	%
1	AMER Samuel	CHANG Nolan	USA - USA 69.61
2	KRISTENSEN Benjamin	ROSENBERG Kevin	USA - USA 65.29
3	CHENG Licong	LI Renyu	CHN - CHN 64.24
4	JENG Andrew	JENG Richard	USA - USA 61.17
5	JIN Tianyi	JIN Kai	CHN - CHN 60.40
6	HERMAN Gregory	KRIEGEL Oren	USA - USA 59.57
7	DU Zhecheng	SHANG Yijun	CHN - CHN 57.78
8	SHA Zhizhou	ZHANG Yiyang	CHN - CHN 56.75
9	HUNT Allison	LADYZHENSKY Asya	USA - USA 56.73
10	SHEN Yiling	WU Kaiwen	CHN - CHN 56.71
11	FEI Zelin	ZHAO Yuqiao	CHN - CHN 56.42
12	FASHINGBAUER Ellie	HSIEH Gianni	USA - USA 55.78
13	LIEBERMAN Joseph	WELLAND Christopher	USA - USA 54.83
14	HARPER Brandon	MILLER Ryan	USA - USA 54.74
15	HUANG Xu	LIU Yihong	CHN - CHN 54.24
16	BERMAN Evan	SPENCER Cole	USA - USA 54.22
17	LI Hanchang	SHAO Yiqin	CHN - CHN 54.13
18	LIN Amber	OLSEN Jake	USA - USA 53.57
19	HART Tyler	KUSCHNER Benjamin	USA - USA 51.19
20	BERK Hakan	SOUKUP David	USA - USA 51.07
21	FORTE Christopher	HEADING Raianne	USA - USA 50.53
22	VASSILEVA Albena-Maria	WU Zijun	CAN - CHN 50.33
23	QIN Bin	WANG Penghao	CHN - CHN 50.27
24	LAMOUREUX Victor	MILLER JASON	CAN - USA 49.62
25	ALTMAN John	STEPHANI Isaac	USA - USA 47.83
26	BAI Lu	GONG Kai Lu	CHN - CHN 47.42
27	MA Ding Zhi	LIU Xuan Yu	CHN - CHN 45.88
28	COLBURN Caleb	ZHU Vincent	USA - USA 45.39
29	LIU Siyuan	WANG Yingqi	CHN - CHN 45.18
30	LI Meilun	LIU Wenyu	CHN - CHN 44.90
31	FONG Brandon	SUNG Alexander	USA - USA 44.64
32	SMITH Cooper	TRAUTWEIN Henry	USA - USA 42.60
33	BERK Sedef	ROBERTS Jeremy	USA - USA 40.81
34	GOODWIN Bryan	NOVAK Jett	USA - USA 37.95
35	OLIVEIRA Helber	STEPHANI Kristian	USA - USA 37.37
36	LAROSSE Matthew	MILLIKIN Emma	USA - USA 35.29
37	MAGNUSON Sterling	NOVAK Madelyn	USA - USA 35.17
38	ANDREWS Cherish	EDWARDS Sarah	USA - USA 34.14
39	BOTKINS Hailey	WILLIAMS Bernadette	USA - USA 34.02
40	GERRARD Marc	GERRARD Sara	USA - USA 32.21

Girls Pairs Qualifier

Session 5

Rank	Pairs	Nationality	%
1	BOTTA Giorgia	CHAVARRIA Margherita	ITA - ITA 63.41
2	LINZ Marianna	WERNIS Rebecca	USA - USA 58.86
3	DE JESUS Karla	SUAREZ Adriana	VEN - VEN 58.41
4	CHEN Yunpeng	RUAN Xinyao	CHN - CHN 56.14
5	JIN Huiyuan	YUAN Aijia	CHN - CHN 53.18
6	GU Yihao	YANG Xinyi	CHN - CHN 50.45
7	ARBIT Julie	THAPA Isha	USA - USA 50.45
8	LU Xinying	YU Felicia Xinying	CHN - CHN 46.36
9	FANG Yunyi	HUANG Danlei	CHN - CHN 42.73
10	LU Yijia	QIAN Li	CHN - CHN 42.27
11	CHANG Sophia	ZHANG Lucy	USA - USA 41.14
12	COLBURN Olivia	LAUFER Olivia	USA - CAN 36.59



Getting Underway

by Phillip Alder

The opening ceremony on Saturday evening was more interesting than usual. There were two particular highlights. First was the five-minute taste of the movie about bridge presented by Jeremy Goldstein and David McAllister. It left everyone longing to see all 90 minutes, which should be ready by the fall.

Second was the performance of "We Are The World" by about 30 of the Chinese youth players, all dressed in attractive blue and white attire. As Gainarrigo Rona said, they won the first gold medal of the games.

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Getting underway

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As play starts at this year's World Youth Open Championships, let's look back to the exciting final session of last year's 80-board Junior Teams Final between Israel and the Netherlands.

These were the two teams:

Israel: Lotan Fisher, Gal Gerstner, Moshe Meyouhas, Dror Padon, Eyal Erez and Lee Rosenthal
 Netherlands: Aarnout Helmich, Gerbrand Hop, Berend van der Bos, Joris van Lankveld, Ernst Wackwitz and Chris Westerbeek

The last 16 boards began with Israel ahead by 7.3 IMPs.

That margin nearly doubled on the first deal, Board 65.

Dlr: North ♠ Q J 9 6
 Vul: None ♥ K 6 4
 ♦ A 9 2
 ♣ 10 6 3

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

♠ A K 10 8 5 3
 ♥ 9
 ♦ 6 4 3
 ♣ 5 4 2

West <i>Meyouhas</i>	North <i>v d Bos</i>	East <i>Padon</i>	South <i>v Lankveld</i>
	Pass	1♥	2♣
3♥	3♣	4♥	All Pass

West <i>Hop</i>	North <i>Gerstner</i>	East <i>Helmich</i>	South <i>Fisher</i>
	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	2NT (a)	4♥	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(a) Good spade raise

Four hearts made without difficulty. Four spades went down three without difficulty. Since the Dutch had not doubled the sacrifice, Israel gained 7 IMPs instead of losing 3.

The Netherlands regained that ground immediately.

Dlr: East ♠ J 4 3
 Vul: N-S ♥ A J 8 4
 ♦ J 2
 ♣ K J 7 2

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

♠ A K 7 5
 ♥ K 10 9
 ♦ A 8 5
 ♣ 9 5 3

West <i>Meyouhas</i>	North <i>v d Bos</i>	East <i>Padon</i>	South <i>v Lankveld</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦ (a)	Pass	2♥ (b)
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(a) Fourth-suit forcing, but not game-forcing

(b) Forcing in principle

West <i>Hop</i>	North <i>Gerstner</i>	East <i>Helmich</i>	South <i>Fisher</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣ (a)	Pass	2♦
Dble	2NT (b)	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(a) Puppet to two diamonds

(b) Invitational

Both Norths used conventional rebids. And normally when you have two balanced hands with 25 combined points, you bid three notrump. That is what Gerstner and Padon did, but found that they were too high. Helmich led a diamond, Hop winning and switching to a club. East took declarer's jack with his queen and went back to diamonds. When declarer then misguessed hearts, he went down two.

The Dutch stopped safely when van den Bos could not think of anything to bid over two hearts. He then brought home an overtrick, losing one spade,

one diamond and two clubs. That gave 8 IMPs to the Netherlands.

The next deal was a flat partscore. Then Israel gained 2 IMPs on another partscore board.

On Board 69, Hop-Helmich bid to three notrump, which had nine top tricks when diamonds were 3-3. Meyouhas-Padon got to five clubs, which had only two losers when diamonds were 3-3.

An overtrick IMP to the Netherlands leveled the score for the session at 9-9.

Then came a big swing.

Dlr: South ♠ A J 9 8 5 4
 Vul: Both ♥ A 9 8 2
 ♦ —
 ♣ 8 7 4

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

♠ 2
 ♥ K Q J 10
 ♦ K J 9 7 2
 ♣ A J 3

West <i>Meyouhas</i>	North <i>v d Bos</i>	East <i>Padon</i>	South <i>v Lankveld</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West <i>Hop</i>	North <i>Gerstner</i>	East <i>Helmich</i>	South <i>Fisher</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

van Lankveld happily reversed despite having only 15 high-card points and a singleton in his partner's suit. But now at least they reached the least bad game. When Meyouhas failed to lead a trump, understandably preferring the king of clubs, declarer won with his ace, played a spade to the and took the next eight tricks on a crossruff for plus 620.

Three notrump was no fun for Fisher. West led the king of clubs, then switched to the king of spades. Declarer won with dummy's ace and ran the jack of spades to West's queen. West switched to a diamond, East winning and returning a club. South won, cashed his hearts and lost the rest for down three, minus 300.

That was a huge 14 IMPs for the Netherlands, putting them back in front by 6.7.

After two quiet deals came:

Dlr: East ♠ 10 8
 Vul: Both ♥ K 10
 ♦ A Q J 9 8 7 3 2
 ♣ 10

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

West <i>Meyouhas</i>	North <i>v d Bos</i>	East <i>Padon</i>	South <i>v Lankveld</i>
	Pass	Pass	2♦ (a)
3♣	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

(a) Weak two-bid in a major, or a game-force either balanced or with five-plus diamonds

West <i>Hop</i>	North <i>Gerstner</i>	East <i>Helmich</i>	South <i>Fisher</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	4♦	Dble	All Pass

Against five diamonds doubled, West led the ace of clubs, cashed the ace of hearts and played another heart. North still had to lose one spade and one diamond to go down two.

Against four diamonds doubled, East led the jack of spades. West took dummy's queen with his ace, cashed the ace of clubs and played a second club. North ruffed, cashed the ace of diamonds and continued with the queen of diamonds. East won with his king and ... returned his last trump. Declarer claimed, his heart losers disappearing on dummy's spades.

Plus 500 and plus 710 gave Israel 15 IMPs and the lead by 9.3.

The tension was palpable. On the next board, six diamonds by South was on the diamond finesse, which was working. Both pairs stopped in five diamonds.

Then, a flat board, 2 IMPs to the Netherlands for staying one level lower and therefore having one fewer undertrick, and both Souths failed in five clubs. With three boards to go, Israel still led by 7.3.

Dlr: East ♠ J 10 8 6
 Vul: None ♥ J 5 4 2
 ♦ K
 ♣ 7 6 5 2

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

♠ A K Q 5 2
 ♥ A 6
 ♦ A 7
 ♣ K 10 4 3

West <i>Meyouhas</i> <i>Hop</i>	North <i>v d Bos</i> <i>Gerstner</i>	East <i>Padon</i> <i>Helmich</i>	South <i>v Lankveld</i> <i>Fisher</i>
	Pass	3♦	Dble
4♦	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Both Wests led a diamond, East signaling with his queen under dummy's king. The two declarers played a heart to his ace (Helmich played low, Padon put up the king), cashed the ace of diamonds (discarding a club) and drew trumps ending in the dummy.

Fisher now played a club to his king, which looks like the wrong play based on the bidding and was the wrong play here. Hop won with his ace and played a heart to his partner's king. Helmich returned his nine of clubs, West winning and leading the queen of hearts. Declarer had to lose another club trick to go down one.

van Lankveld did much better. Aided by East's honor plays, he knew who had the ace of clubs. He played a club to his ten. West won with his queen and led the ten of hearts, ducked around. Then came the nine of hearts. South ruffed and led a low club to bring down the ace. van Lankveld was home.

That was 10 IMPs to the Netherlands, now ahead by 2.7.

Dlr: South ♠ J 10 9
 Vul: N-S ♥ J 10 7 5 4
 ♦ A K Q 3
 ♣ 9

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

♠ 7 4 3 2 ♠ 7 4 3 2
 ♥ A K 8 3 ♥ A K 8 3
 ♦ 5 4 2 ♦ 5 4 2
 ♣ A 3 ♣ A 3

West <i>Meyouhas</i>	North <i>v d Bos</i>	East <i>Padon</i>	South <i>v Lankveld</i>
	3♣ (a)	4♣	Pass
3♣	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(a) Hearts

West <i>Hop</i>	North <i>Gerstner</i>	East <i>Helmich</i>	South <i>Fisher</i>
	Pass	4♣	All Pass

Four clubs drifted the obvious down one.

van Lankveld opened because he had ace-king, ace; who cares about having to bid a 5-4-2 suit?

If someone had doubled four spades, no doubt Padon would have run to five clubs, but that would have still gone down two. North, though, believed his hand would be very useful to his partner.

Against five hearts, West led the queen of spades and switched to the king of clubs. South won, cashed his top hearts, ruffed his last club in the dummy and played four rounds of diamonds, ruffing the last. Now West made a bad play. He overruffed, leaving himself endplayed. On his forced club return, declarer threw a spade from the dummy and ruffed in his

hand. South was out for down one. If West had not overruffed, the contract would have had to go down two.

Israel gained 4 IMPs to retake the lead by 1.3, but it could have been 6 IMPs. Would the 2 IMPs matter?

This was the final deal:

Dlr: West	♠ A K 9		
Vul E-W	♥ A Q 8		
	♦ J 7 5 4		
	♣ J 10 6		
♠ J 10 7 6		♠ Q 8 3	
♥ K 5 4		♥ 7 2	
♦ A 10 8		♦ K Q 3 2	
♣ A 9 5		♣ K Q 3 2	
	♠ 5 4 2		
	♥ J 10 9 6 3		
	♦ 9 6		
	♣ 8 7 4		

West	North	East	South
<i>Meyuchas</i>	<i>v d Bos</i>	<i>Padon</i>	<i>v Lankveld</i>
1♣	Dble	Redble	1♥
Pass	Pass	3♣	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Hop</i>	<i>Gerstner</i>	<i>Helmich</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
1♣	Pass	2♣ (a)	Pass
2NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

(a) Inverted raise

The Closed Room was well ahead of the Open. Against two notrump, North played three rounds of spades. Hop cashed the king of clubs, crossed to his ace of clubs, took the jack of spades, and continued the clubs, throwing a heart from his hand. North, in order to keep four diamonds, was forced down to the bare ace of hearts.

Now West could have ducked a heart to bring down the ace, but being only in two notrump, he cashed the king of diamonds and played a diamond to his ace to give this position:

♠ —	♠ —
♥ K 5	♥ 7
♦ 10	♦ Q 3
♣ —	♣ —
	♠ —
	♥ 10 9 6
	♦ —
	♣ —

West led the ten of diamonds.

North, who was clearly very tired, bizarrely did not cover with his jack -- in a way, a Grosvenor Gambit. However, West worked out what was happening. He ran the ten of diamonds and exited with a heart to North's ace. North had to concede the final trick to dummy's queen of diamonds. That was ten tricks, plus 180.

In the Open Room, the Israeli East-West had to score at least plus 140 to win the match.

After East's redouble, the jump to three clubs ought to have been forcing; with only game-invitational values, he would have rebid two clubs. But West passed anyway.

Now Meyouhas had to take 11 tricks, which was impossible. North led the ace of spades and switched to a trump. Declarer drew trumps, knocked out the king of spades, won the spade return, pitched a heart on his last spade, played his three top diamonds, and claimed his contract exactly.

The Netherlands had gained 2 IMPs to win by 0.67!

If Hop had taken only nine tricks, Israel would have won by 0.33. Will we see any events that close here in Atlanta?



Board-3 Pairs Round-Q1

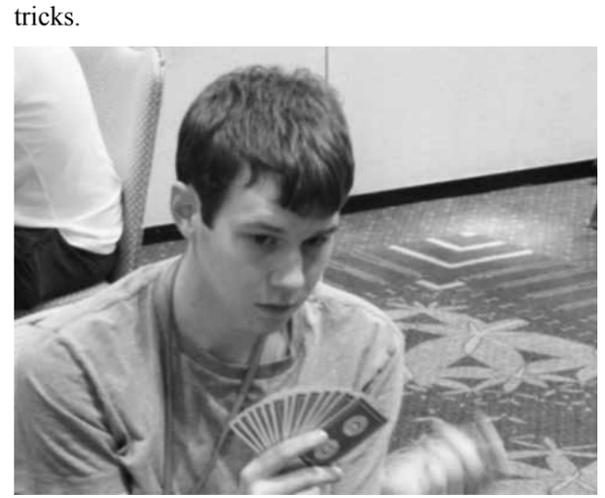
by Murat Molva

Board 3 produced lively action and different results at the five tables I watched.

Dlr: South	♠ A K J 7 6		
Vul: E-W	♥ K 8 3		
	♦ A K 10		
	♣ 6 4		
♠ Q 4 3		♠ 10 8 5	
♥ Q J 9 6		♥ A 7 5 4	
♦ Q J 9 7 2		♦ 3	
♣ Q		♣ J 10 9 7 5	
	♠ 9 2		
	♥ 10 2		
	♦ 8 6 5 4		
	♣ A K 8 3 2		

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

This was the auction at the first table I watched. South's 2♥ was a puppet to 2♠ to show a hand in the 5-7 HCP range, but North went straight on to 3NT. West, Nathaniel Munger (USA), found the best lead of the ♥Q, and when the declarer, Akin Koclar (Turkey), ducked, West continued with the ♥J to collect the first four tricks and hold the declarer to 9



Nathaniel Munger (USA)

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The strong-club auction left North, Jacob Vrooman (USA), playing the contract from the North

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The Man Who Knew Too Much

by Murat Molva

The second session of the pairs qualification brought this nice board with three voids around the table.

Dlr: South	♠ K		
Vul:N-S	♥ A K J 9 6 4 2		
	♦ 9		
	♣ A K J 9		
♠ 10 7 5 2		♠ J 9 6 4	
♥ --		♥ —	
♦ Q J 7		♦ K 10 6 5 3 2	
♣ 7 6 5 4 3 2		♣ Q 10 8	
	♠ A Q 8 3		
	♥ Q 10 8 7 5 3		
	♦ A 8 4		
	♣ —		

At one table, North, Erkmen Aydogdu (Turkey), was surprised to hear his partner, Akin Koclar, open 1♥. Erkmen took the shortcut and launched Roman Key Card Blackwood.



Muhammet Ozgur

When his partner admitted to two keycards and the trump queen (bidding 5♠), Erkmen could count at least 12 tricks. Hoping for the ♠Q to appear in dummy or the club finesse to work for the thirteenth trick, he bid 7NT. This made easily for about 80% of the matchpoints.

At another table, South, Sarper Uslupehlivan (Turkey), opened 1♥, and his partner, Muhammet Ozgur, also employed RKCB. Now, the paths diverged. South decided that it might be useful to show his void rather than the trump queen, and bid 5NT (showing two keycards and a void).

Now, North "knew" that he would not be able to take a club finesse. So rather than gambling on the ♠Q, or something good to happen in diamonds, Muhammet played safe and bid 7♥. This made easily too, but brought only 40% to his side.

Another proof that knowing too much could get you into trouble.

Differing Opinions

By David Stern

As bridge journalists, we seek out hands of beauty rich and rare, but sometimes it's the simple things of life that are worthy of comment. Here is the first board from the opening session of the pairs:

Dlr: North	♠ J 8 7		
Vul: None	♥ Q 8		
	♦ 7 6 4		
	♣ A Q 9 5 3		
♠ A 5 4 3		♠ K 9 6 2	
♥ A 7 2		♥ K 10 5 4 3	
♦ A Q 10 3		♦ 9 2	
♣ J 10		♣ K 7	
	♠ Q 10		
	♥ J 9 6		
	♦ K J 8 5		
	♣ 8 6 4 2		

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Frequency: -120x1, -170x1, -200x1, -420x13

The first auction seems like a logical path to the best contract. While 2♠ is invitational and West is minimum, the key controls in partner's suits, doubleton club and the finessing possibilities in diamonds make it worth an upgrade.

In the play East, Fernando Perez from Venezuela showed nice technique by playing a spade to the ace and inserting the ♠9 on the second round to protect against North's holding ♠Q-J-8-7.

On the second auction, 3♠ suggested a four-card raise, while 4♥ offered partner a choice of contracts suggesting 4-3 in the majors. East should probably have accepted bridge wisdom that a 4-4 fit is preferable to a 5-3.

On the last auction, West failed to appreciate the full value of the three sharp cards and fitted suits. He passed partner's invitational bid based on the minimum strength 1NT opening – not something recommended in the bid-em-up youth games!

Board-3 Pairs

continued from previous page

seat. Not fearing a switch to hearts, he ducked the club lead, and right he was! West switched to the ♦Q. Now nine tricks were there. Declarer grabbed his ♦A, went to dummy with a club, and took the spade finesse. He realized, probably to his horror, that the ♣A was stranded in dummy. After struggling a bit more, he had to concede down one.



Jacob Vrooman (USA)

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

West led ♦Q and declarer Maxim Henbest (Australia) took the finesses for the ♠J and the ♦J to land ten tricks – the best result so far.



Maxim Henbest (Australia)

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	3NT

South, Jeffrey Schwartz (USA), was also one of the declarers blessed with the ♦Q lead. So he seemed to be on his way to ten tricks. But he received another gift too. While crossing to hand in clubs to take the spade and diamond finesses, East consumed all of his high club spots; and while discarding on spades and diamonds, he came down to the bare ♥A. So, when declarer exited with the low heart off dummy, East had to surrender the eleventh trick to the ♣8. Plus 460 was now best result so far.



Jeffrey Schwartz (USA)

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Dble	Redble	Pass	3♣
3♦	Dble	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Would you believe that this girl sitting South, Lauren Travis (Australia), with her bright smiling face, could open 3♣ on a five carder? The favorable vulnerability surely brings out the monster in everyone. West chose a double that might not have been everyone's choice, and then had to decide over the redouble that came back to him. What did partner's pass mean? Was it "Let's play in 3♣ redoubled partner" or just "I have nothing to say"? West finally took himself out to 3♦ and a contract of 3♥ doubled was reached. When declarer could not figure out the trump situation, he went down two to concede 500. The very best result so far.



Lauren Travis (Australia)

This was the companion Board 4:

Dlr: West	♠ A 9 5 2		
Vul: Both	♥ A Q 9 7 3		
	♦ A J		
	♣ K 7		
	♠ 7 6		♠ K Q J 3
	♥ 8 4		♥ 5
	♦ K 5 4		♦ Q 9 6
	♣ Q J 10 5 4 2		♣ A 9 8 6 3
	♠ 10 8 4		
	♥ K J 10 6 2		
	♦ 10 8 7 3 2		
	♣ —		

At three of the tables I watched, each West passed and the players sitting North either started with 1♥ or a strong club, after which a normal 4♥ contract was reached. None of the East-West pairs at these three tables was able to locate the eleven-card club fit. But there was action at the other two tables.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1♥	Dble	4♥
5♣	Dble	All Pass	

West, Nathaniel Munger (USA), who had found the good ♥Q lead on the previous deal against 3NT, swiftly bid 5♣. North doubled and the contract drifted off one, a good save against the making 4♥. Plus 200 to North-South looked like the par score as 5♥ seemed to be going down (losing two spades and one diamond). Or was it?

There seems to be constant action when Lauren Travis (Australia) is at the table. After destroying her opponents on Board 3, she struck again here.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
3♣	Dble	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	5♣	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

After painfully experiencing the devastating effects of Lauren's 3♣ opening (with a five-card suit) on the previous board, West was presumably hoping for revenge, and he started proceedings with a vulnerable 3♣ sacrifice. It was not so clear why East elected to pass first and bid 5♣ at his second turn, but Lauren was convinced that the five-level belonged to her. She bid 5♥ and was doubled of course, but West was not sure if his partner's double was some sort of a Lightner double or just a normal "I will kill you" double.

The spade lead could not be found and Lauren just established her diamond suit to record plus 850. Way to go Lauren Travis.



Murat Molva

Which Blackwood is Better?

By David Stern

This was the second board in the first session of the pairs:

Dlr: East	♠ A 7 5		
Vul:N-S	♥ J 10 6		
	♦ 10 5		
	♣ J 10 8 5 4		
	♠ 10 9 6 3		♠ K Q J 8 2
	♥ Q 8 7		♥ A K 9
	♦ K 7 6 3		♦ A Q 9 4 2
	♣ A Q		♣ —
	♠ 4		
	♥ 5 4 3 2		
	♦ J 8		
	♣ K 9 7 6 3 2		

Frequency: +100x1, +50x1, -450x1, -920x1, -980*10, -990x1

All the tables I watched reached 6♠, but interestingly a number used Exclusion Blackwood. After 1♠ by East and a spade raise by West, 5♠ asked for key cards excluding the ♣A.

I question whether this was a good choice on this hand as there was a slightly better argument for normal Roman Key Card Blackwood rather than Exclusion Blackwood. Under 'normal' RKCB should partner happen to show the ♣A, then there will be no heart loser and the deal will come down to the diamond suit. But if you adopt Exclusion Blackwood, apart from testing partner's system knowledge, you aren't any better informed when partner shows no key cards.



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