



4TH WORLD YOUTH OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPATIJA CROATIA 20TH 29TH AUGUST 2015

DAILY BULLETIN

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TODAY'S SCHEDULE

KO TEAMS

11.00 - 13.20 Final & Playoff

14.30 - 16.50 Final & Playoff

17.10 - 19.30 Final & Playoff

BAM

10.00 - 11.30 Round 10

11.50 - 13.20 Round 11

14.30 - 16.00 Round 12

16.20 - 17.50 Round 13

18.10 - 19.40 Round 14

Prize giving of juniors
KO teams to follow

THEY ARE THE CHAMPIONS

GIRLS TEAMS



ITALY

Flaminia Tanini, Agnese Di Mauro, Giulia Scriattoli, Caterina De Lutio, Michela Salvato, Susanna Broccolino, Emanuela Capriata (captain & coach)

YOUNGSTERS TEAMS



CHINA

Tong Jiang, Shiyu Sun, Zhengyang Fang, Zihan Wang, Dongke Fang, Yichen Yin, Hongji Wei, Jichao Hu

KIDS TEAMS



SX HYSW

Yifan Cui, Yingqi Wang, Tianle Yao, Siyuan Liu, Renyu Li, Yijun Shang, Yiqin Shao, Weichang Qiu



AIRPORT TRANSFERS

If you need a transfer to an airport, please see Branka Grguric at the hospitality desk by midday today.





Three events ended yesterday, producing three teams of new world champions.

In the Girls Teams, Italia won all three 16-board sessions against the Chinese team SX XHLD, to take the title by 42imps. Third were China RDFZ.

In the Youngsters Teams, China gained points in all three sets to defeat the Polish team, Azs Uw Vycleska, by 165imps to 57. The bronze medals went to Germany.

In the Kids Teams, four Chinese teams made the

semifinals. The gold medalists are SX HYSW, who defeated China RDFZ1 by 20imps over 32 boards. Third were SX XNWX.

The 48-board final and third-fourth playoff of the Junior Teams take place today. In yesterday's semifinals, Norway withstood a late rally by GreSwe Axon to win by 110imps to 92. Zlatan looked safe after two sets, leading Australia by 52imps. The Antipodeans took the last session by 45imps to 7, but that left them trailing by 14imps.

GIRLS TEAMS 2nd



SX XHLD

Haihong Gu, Huiyuan Jin, Aijia Yuan, Yunpeng Chen, Chenyun Ge, Yue Yu, Xinyao Ruan, Yifan Cui

GIRLS TEAMS 3rd



CHINA RDFZ GIRLS

Guangli Wendy Liu, Mengqi Hao, Lingyi Ma, Xinyi Luo, Qi Xia, Ling Hu, Jichao Hu, Tong Jiang

YOUNGSTERS TEAMS 2nd



AZS UW VYCESKA

Lukasz Trendak, Stanislaw Maczka, Krystian Baczek, Piotr Jasinski

YOUNGSTERS TEAMS 3rd



GERMANY

Hartmut Kondoch, Sibrand Van Oosten, Philipp Pabst, Florian Alter, Stig Jesse, Leonard Vornkahl

KIDS TEAMS 2nd



CHINA RDFZ1

Tong Jiang, Jichao Hu, Zixi Cai, Yuanzhe Ding, Randy Pan, Baozhuo Jiang, Shi Qiu, Haoqing Yu

KIDS TEAMS 3rd



SX XNWX

Yihong Liu, Wenjie Xue, Ruizhe Wang, Hanyang Dai, Jiaxin Tong, Tiancheng Zhang, Hui Fu, Jiong Li



JUNIORS BRACKET

Seating rights are marked with an X

NORWAY

Christian Bakke, Harald Eide, Tor Eivind Grude, Kristoffer Hegge

CROATIA

Borna Cicvaric, Ante Mijic, Ivan Brajkovic, Josko Djilovic, Stella Dobrijevic, Andrea Stankovic

NONAME

Berk Gokce, Ataman Aydogdu, Mert Seker, Mustafa Anil Bozyigit, Eren Imdat, Cagatay Birben

GRESWE AXON

Adam Kaplan, Ioannis Oikononopoulos, Ola Rimstedt, Mikael Rimstedt, Ioannis Oik. Cpt, Giorgos Oik. Coach

ZLATAN

Rodrigo Garcia Da Rosa, Giuseppe Delle Cave, Simon Hult, Johan Karlsson, Daniel Gullberg, Simon Ekenberg, Marshall Lewis Captain, Rodrigo Garcia Da Rosa Coach

FINLAND

Antti Aimala, Vesa Fagerlund, Oskari Koivu, Maria Myllaeri

ITALIA

Giovanni Donati, Alessandro Gandoglia, Margherita Chavarria, Giacomo Percario, Gianluca Bergami, Alessandro Calmanovici, Valerio Giubilo Cpt & Coach

AUSTRALIA

Jamie Thompson, Stephen Williams, Maxim Henbest, Shane Harrison, Renee Cooper, Ella Pattison, Justin Williams Cpt

NORWAY	132
CROATIA	64

NONAME	75
GRESWE AXON	130

ZLATAN	134
FINLAND	90

ITALIA	63
AUSTRALIA	108

	1	2	3	
NORWAY	22	62	26	110
GRESWE AXON	28	26	38	92

Final

	1	2	3
NORWAY	X		X
ZLATAN		X	

	1	2	3	
ZLATAN	50	41	7	98
AUSTRALIA	16	23	45	84

Playoff

	1	2	3
GRESWE AXON	X		X
AUSTRALIA		X	

GIRLS BRACKET

SX XHLD

Yunpeng Chen, Chenyun Ge, Huiyuan Jin, Xinyao Ruan, Yue Yu, Aijia Yuan, Weichang Qiu Captain

SX XNMF

Wenyang Huang, Xinying Lu, Min Wu, Yuqian Zhang, Yingying Sun, Liwen Shao, Yifan Cui Captain

ITALIA

Susanna Broccolino, Caterina De Lutio, Agnese Di Mauro, Flaminia Tanini, Michela Salvato, Giulia Scriattoli, Emanuela Capriata Captain & Coach

CHINA RDFZ

Guangli Wendy Liu, Xinyi Luo, Lingyi Ma, Mengqi Hao, Ling Hu, Qi Xia, Jichao Hu Captain, Tong Jiang Coach

SX XHLD	143
SX XNMF	114

ITALIA	110
CHINA RDFZ	85

Final

	1	2	3	
SX XHLD	36	10	37	83
ITALIA	44	39	42	125

Playoff

	1	2	3	
SX XNMF	7	29	38	74
CHINA RDFZ	63	49	25	137

YOUNGSTERS BRACKET

CHINA

Hongji Wei, Shiyu Sun, Zhengyang Fang, Yichen Yin, Zihan Wang, Dongke Fang, Jichao Hu Captain, Tong Jiang Coach

GERMANY

Stig Jesse, Leonard Vormkahl, Philipp Pabst, Sibrand Van Oosten, Hartmut Kondoeh Captain, Florian Alter Coach

ITALIA

Andrea Manganella, Francesco Chiarandini, Alvaro Gaiotti, Gabriele Giubilo, Gianmarco Giubilo, Sebastiano Scatà, Dario Attanasio Captain & Coach

AZS UW VYCESKA

Stanislaw Maczka, Lukasz Trendak, Krystian Baczek, Piotr Jasinski

CHINA	118
GERMANY	90

A. UW VYCESKA	148
ITALIA	95

Final

	1	2	3	
CHINA	56	53	56	165
AZS UW VYCESKA	28	23	6	57

Playoff

	1	2	3	
GERMANY	46	61	25	132
ITALIA	59	23	42	124

KIDS BRACKET

SZ XNWX

Hanyang Dai, Yihong Liu, Jiixin Tong, Ruizhe Wang, Wenjie Xue, Tiancheng Zhang, Qiwei Li Captain, Hui Fu Coach

SX XHLD

Yihong Chen, Yang Hu, Mingtai Li, Hua Shang, Yichen Xie, Xinchun Yu, Jiong Li Captain, Yimei Zhang Coach

AZSUW AKADEMIABRYDZA

Pawel Hulanicki, Tomasz Kielbasa, Kacper Kopka, Oskar Trybus, Stanislaw Maczka Captain, Krystian Baczek Coach

SX HYSW

Renyu Li, Siyuan Liu, Yijun Shang, Yiqin Shao, Yingqi Wang, Tianle Yao, Wen Cao Captain, Lin Lin Coach

CHINA RDFZ1

Baozhuo Jiang, Randy Pan, Yuanzhe Ding, Zixi Cai, Shi Qiu, Haoqing Yu, Jichao Hu Captain, Tong Jiang Coach

CHINESE TAIPEI BLUE

Hsiang-Yi Ko, Yen-Jung Chen, Meng-Fei Wu, Yi-Hsien Lee, Chi-Hsuan Lo, Li-Jen Sun, Shu-Chen Fan Captain, Chen-Chin Wen Coach

SX XHEST

Licong Cheng, Ruicheng Mao, Penghao Wang, Zhe Wu, Zhijie Yuan, Yu Yun, Hongqin Xue Captain, Jiacheng He Coach

CHINESE TAIPEI WHITE

Yi-Ting Lan, Yu-Chen Huang, Ko-Wei Chang, Chen-Syuan Chiu, Yi-Pin Chu, Hung-Sheng Fan, Chung-Yang Huang Captain, Yun-Ching Lo Coach

SX XNWX	100
SX XHLD	57

AZSUW A.BR.	60
SX HYSW	62

CHINA RDFZ1	89
CHINESE TAIPEI B.	56

SX XHEST	129
CHINESE TAIPEI W.	43

	1	2	
SX XNWX	42	13	55
SX HYSW	33	68	101

Final

	1	2	
SX HYSW	15	60	75
CHINA RDFZ1	42	13	55

	1	2	
CHINA RDFZ1	58	41	99
SX XHEST	7	38	45

Playoff

	1	2	
SX XNWX	35	55	90
SX XHEST	18	19	37



THE 64-IMP BOARD

by MICKE MELANDER

In the Junior Teams quarterfinals, Italia started as the favourite against Australia. But the guys and gals from Down Under put up a great fight and closed the first segment at 20-all. In the second set, Australia scored two large swings and won the segment by 38-13. So would Italy be able to strike back in the final 16-board session?

After three very quiet deals, the Italians suddenly bid all the way to six hearts on Board 4 while the Australians stayed in game. The slam was slightly worse than the spade finesse, but it lost and Australia scored 13 imps.

The Italian juniors continued their attack for imps, however.

Board 6. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Cooper</i>	<i>Gandoglia</i>	<i>Pattison</i>	<i>Donati</i>
		2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Chavarria</i>	<i>Harrison</i>	<i>Percario</i>	<i>Henbest</i>
		2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Percario's choice of a four-spade control-bid over four diamonds made Chavarria jump to six diamonds, which asked partner to pass or correct to six hearts, depending on his length in the red suits. Even if partner had bid four hearts over four diamonds, that jump to slam in diamonds would still have been pass-or-correct. (Maybe, with all four aces, East should have raised to seven diamonds.) The Australians in the Open Room and Cooper in general gave East no choice other than playing in the bad heart slam. As you can see, when declarer played the ace and another heart, she had to lose two trump tricks and go one down.

In the Open Room, Chavarria in six diamonds made no mistakes. She won the club lead with her king, then made the correct play of cashing the queen of diamonds before crossing to dummy with a diamond to the ace. When North discarded, West had no problems in finessing South out of his jack of diamonds. Five diamonds, five clubs and ace-king-ace from the majors gave declarer 13 tricks and 16 imps.

It would be interesting to put this deal into a serious bidding competition to see how many pairs would get to seven diamonds or (only very slightly worse) seven notrumps. At this tournament, of the eight tables in play in the Juniors, only two of them reached seven diamonds: Brajkovic-Stankovic for Croatia (plus 13 imps versus six diamonds plus one) and Kaplan-Oik for GreSwe Axon (plus a huge 19 imps versus six hearts minus one). Another three arrived in six hearts(!), and the other three played in six diamonds. A total of 64 imps traded hands in our four matches.

In the Youngsters semifinals, only Manganella-Scata for Italia got to seven diamonds to gain 12 imps versus six notrumps just made at the other table.

And in the Girls semifinals, one Chinese pair reached seven hearts. North felt on safe ground in doubling this, and was right because the opponents did not take the hint and run to seven notrumps. This cost 18 imps when six notrumps made with an overtrick at the other table.



On the next four boards, Italy scored only 2 imps and was in a desperate need of points. Then came this deal:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Cooper	Gandoglia	Pattison	Donati
			1♠
Dble	3♦ (a)	Dble	4♠
4NT	5♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

(a) Game-forcing with any singleton

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Chavarria	Harrison	Percario	Henbest
			1♠
Dble	4♠	5♦	Pass
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
6♦	Dble	All Pass	

Percario probably didn't believe that his side was cold for five diamonds, losing only one heart and one club. So his "sacrifice" over four spades was brilliant. Chavarria and Percario didn't even allow North-South to play in five spades, and pretty quickly went one down.

Interesting things happened in the Open Room, where Donati was the real star. In five spades doubled, it looks like you have a heart, a diamond and a club to lose if the defence doesn't do anything weird.

Cooper understandably kicked off with the king of hearts. Donati saw a chance to eliminate one loser when he simply ducked the king of hearts! He won the second heart, cashed two rounds of trumps ending in dummy, ruffed the last heart, and played another trump to dummy's king. West was now down to the two of hearts, ace-jack of diamonds and queen-jack-fourth of clubs. Donati exited with a diamond from dummy, East went up with the queen, and for unknown reasons Cooper decided to overtake with the ace of diamonds, endplaying herself. She could either give a ruff-and-discard or open up the club suit for declarer. She decided on the latter and led the queen of clubs. Donati made no mistake when he ran it to his hand and took the club finesse on the way back to make his "impossible" contract. The 11 IMPs to Italy drew them to within 14 imps.



GIOVANNI DONATI, ITALY



Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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



Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Cooper	Gandoglia	Pattison	Donati
	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥ (a)	Pass	2♠ (b)
Pass	3♣ (c)	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(a) Kokish: hearts or a game-forcing balanced hand

(b) Relay

(c) 5-plus hearts and 4-plus in a minor

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Chavarria	Harrison	Percario	Henbest
	1♣ (a)	3♠	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(a) 16-plus points

Gandoglia stood no chance in his four-heart contract in the Open Room when Pattison passively led a trump. Declarer had to lose two diamonds and two clubs.

In the Closed Room, Harrison tried three notrumps when he was pre-empted by East after his strong-club opening. East understandably led the jack of spades. Declarer won with his ace, cashed two rounds of hearts to see that the suit



SHANE HARRISON, AUSTRALIA

behaved, and probably then realized that he was about to squeeze dummy if he continued hearts. So he shifted to the king of diamonds. West won with the ace and returned a low club that went to the queen, ace and six. East went back to spades. Declarer won in hand, cashed out his hearts, and luckily made his contract when the jack of diamonds fell from East under the queen, which made dummy's ten declarer's ninth trick.

East-West could have defeated the contract, but who can seriously blame Percario for not leading the ace of clubs and continuing the suit? That was 12 imps to Australia, and Italy never managed to get back in the match. Australia lost a swing on the final board of the match, but won by 108-63.

The Australian victory over Italy reminded me of an old song by Men at Work...

“Do you come from a land down under?
Where women glow and men plunder?
Can't you hear, can't you hear the thunder?
You better run, you better take cover.”

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ITALIAN COMEBACK

by RAM SOFFER

The first session of the semifinal match was quite bad for the Italian girls. They were trailing 17-55 against China RDFZ. In the second session, they managed to retrieve 11 of those imps, but there was still a lot of work to do in the final session, 27 behind with 16 boards to go.

In order to “organise” such a big comeback, trying to make unusual decisions board after board and hoping everything works is well against the odds. Usually it’s better to play normally and hope for some co-operation from the opponents.


Here is a summary of what happened during the third set.



 LING HU, CHINA

Apparently a banal game hand for North-South. In the Open Room, the Italians, Caterina De Lutio and Susanna Broccolino, made a normal three notrumps plus two, but the same eleven tricks were also available in spades.

Board 2. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sciattoli</i>	<i>Xia</i>	<i>Salvato</i>	<i>Hu</i>
		Pass	1♠
2♥	Dble	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The three of diamonds was led, and South’s ace won the trick. After a low spade to the king, Hu decided to run dummy’s ten of spades, since East seemed to have longer spades.

East indeed had, but West’s jack scored, and after another diamond was played, declarer was already losing control. Even finessing in clubs would no longer have helped, because after three club tricks, declarer would have been stuck in dummy.

Hu made things worse for herself by trying the queen of diamonds from dummy. She ruffed East’s king, drew one more round of trumps, cashed the ace of clubs, and played a club to dummy’s queen. East won with the king and led out diamonds. What was once eleven easy tricks became six tricks, four short of the mark. Plus 400 gave Italy 14 much-needed imps.




 QI XIA, CHINA



 CATERINA DE LUTIO, ITALY

The very next deal demonstrated the “snowball effect”.

Board 3. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sciattoli</i>	<i>Xia</i>	<i>Salvato</i>	<i>Hu</i>
Pass	2♣ (a)	3♣	1♠
Pass	4NT (b)	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	5♥ (c)

- (a) Artificial game-force
- (b) Roman Key Card Blackwood
- (c) Two key cards but no queen of spades


Despite the vulnerability and North’s strong response, East understandably showed her long club suit.

Usually in a strong auction, South’s jump to four spades would indicate a relatively weak hand with a very long and good suit. It’s not clear why Xia asked for key cards, and even less clear why she bid a slam when two key cards were missing. In addition to the two missing aces, declarer also lost a heart trick.

In the Open Room, Italy reached 4♥ when South rebid in that suit, not in spades. That was just made, giving another 11 imps to Italia. China’s formidable lead had shrunk to just 6 imps.

When the following deal arrived, the scores were level.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu</i>	<i>De Lutio</i>	<i>Luo</i>	<i>Broccolino</i>
Pass	2♠ (a)	Dble	1NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	3♣
(a) Transfer to clubs			

West	North	East	South
<i>Sciattoli</i>	<i>Xia</i>	<i>Salvato</i>	<i>Hu</i>
Pass	1NT	Dble	1♦
Pass	Pass	2♥	Redble
			All Pass

Three clubs was safe as the cards lay. West began with three rounds of diamonds. East ruffed the last and switched to a heart. South won, drew two rounds of trumps, and led a spade, covered by the queen and ace. Declarer discarded dummy’s remaining spade on her queen of diamonds, cashed the king of hearts, and conceded one trump trick. Plus 110.

At the other table, perhaps East could not have made a Michaels Cue-Bid of two diamonds, because South’s one-diamond opening promised only a doubleton in that suit.

To defeat two hearts, South had to cash her two high trumps and switch to clubs. North then plays three rounds of the suit (or takes her two winners and switches to a diamond). But South started with the queen of diamonds. Michela Salvato took dummy’s ace-king, and discarded a club. Then she played a spade to the king and ace. After a club to North’s king, I was surprised that North didn’t lead a trump, not that it would have defeated the contract. When she returned



a spade, declarer could do a mini crossruff and ended with nine tricks. Plus 140 gave Italia 6 imps and the lead for the first time since Board 3.

Four deals later, there was another interesting, unexpected push.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sciattoli</i>	<i>Xia</i>	<i>Salvato</i>	<i>Hu</i>
			1♠
Dble	2NT	3♦	Pass
4♦	4♠	5♦	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Both sides easily make a game, and North-South should have competed to five spades (which should be one down). In my opinion, North's two-notrump bid was rather misleading, since North had too little defence. Had Xia bid four spades instead, her partner would not have doubled five diamonds, and she would have been "free" to compete to five spades. As it was, North decided to be "disciplined" and sit for the double of five diamonds. Fortunately for her, this extreme result (East-West plus 550) was duplicated in the Open Room.

Meanwhile the Italian Girls were consistently accumulating imps on the "smaller" boards. When the following deal was played, they were 11 up, and a good bidding decision by Sciattoli-Salvato increased the lead beyond China's reach. It capped a 49-1 run for Italia in 11 boards.



Board 12. Dealer West. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sciattoli</i>	<i>Xia</i>	<i>Salvato</i>	<i>Hu</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥
Dble	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

All four players did justice to their hands. At other tables, South was more aggressive, trying four hearts or even three notrumps, but I think Hu's pass over three spades was quite reasonable.

East-West deserve credit for bidding an excellent game with a total of 21 HCP. After the negative double, Salvato had helpful cards in her partner's minor suits, and she could not hide her six-card spade suit. Likewise, Sciattoli's points were all working.

The defence started with two rounds of hearts, and Salvato could have made her life easier by giving up the trump finesse and keeping dummy's king of clubs for a diamond discard.

However, at the table, she led the queen of clubs at trick three, taken by South's ace, and won the next trick with the king of clubs in order to finesse spades, unsuccessfully.

Now declarer had to find the queen of diamonds, and counting points came to her rescue. South (who passed over three spades) had already shown up with two aces and two kings. North had to have more than 3 HCP for her vulnerable raise to three hearts. Salvato finessed diamonds correctly to land her game and gain 6 more imps for Italia.

At the other table, Italy declared as well. South was one trick short in four hearts doubled.

China RDFZ could not stop their opponents' rally, and at the end Italy won comfortably by 110-85, earning the right to meet another Chinese team, SX XHLD, in the final.



MEET RANDY PAN

by DAVID STERN



As participants will be aware, there is a large contingent of Chinese players attending these World Championships. The majority of them come from schools in Shanghai and Beijing, the main centres of youth bridge in China.

Fifteen-year-old Randy Pan was born and still lives in Beijing, and is about to enter year ten at RDFZ High School.

Like many of the Chinese, he started to learn bridge at a very early age, when he was 7. He was given the opportunity to travel to Shanghai and attend bridge classes held by Yang Jianzhong, a well-known youth bridge teacher.

Like almost all of the participants at these Championships, Randy is passionate about his bridge. He tries to fit in one or two sessions a week between school and family life. Interestingly, some of the Chinese players have had a lot of opportunities to play in other parts of the world – as has Randy Pan. He has been fortunate enough to travel extensively for bridge, including:

- ◇ At age 8, American Nationals in Washington, DC
- ◇ At age 10, American Nationals in New Orleans
- ◇ At age 12, American Nationals in Philadelphia
- ◇ At age 14, World Youth Championships in Istanbul

Randy has also competed in several parts of China and at the Inter-City Championships in Hong Kong.

His first bridge success was winning the 2009 Youth 'Cardrook' Pairs playing with Jason Miller in Washington, DC. On the international front, he rates his bronze medal in the China Kids Team in Istanbul as his best result to date.

"I love playing in the Youth American Nationals as it is heaps of fun and I make a lot of friends there.

I twice saw Bill Gates when he came and talked to us, and also met U.S. astronaut Greg Johnson, who talked to the youth players about space travel and an astronaut's life. P.S.: We also have free meals of American food (tehe)."

His partners have included Jason Miller of Florida, Cheng Zhiyu in Beijing, and more recently Jiang Baozhuo, with whom he played in Istanbul and here.

Randy generally likes natural systems and feels very comfortable with SAYC, but understands that everybody has their own preferences. He finds defence the most difficult aspect of the game, because he cannot see his partner's hand, and if partner never bid, Randy needs to use much more skill and logic to find the best plays.

When asked for an amusing story, he recounts, "At the Youth NABC Cardrook Pairs in 2009, I was the dealer and opened the bidding with four spades, based on my long spade holding. The girl on my right was totally surprised and called the director. She asked, 'Can he do that?' Certainly, I was allowed to continue, and eventually made the contract."

He went on, "I had an interesting deal in the 2011 China National High School Bridge Championships. I can no longer remember the cards of each hand, as there was no record, but it roughly went like this: My partner (Cheng Zhiyu) opened a strong two clubs, and the opponent on my right bid two diamonds. Holding long hearts but fewer than eight points, I went directly to four hearts. My partner immediately jumped to seven notrumps, astounding everybody at the table, including me. He made the contract, and later said that he was confident that I had at least eight hearts and some high cards to bid four

hearts. So, based on his hand, he could more or less count on eight hearts and five other winners. He certainly read my cards correctly."

In terms of improving his game, he has a collection of more than 200 bridge books (in Chinese), including those written by famous bridge authors such as Reese and Kelsey. While he has read some of them, he is trying to complete them all. He also reads all of the Chinese magazine Bridge.

On the future of the game, "many students in China learn and play bridge. There are various games in Beijing throughout the year for students, and every summer there are the China National High School Bridge Championships. This summer, there were more than 70 teams from all over China competing in the Junior High School category (Grade 6 to Grade 9).

Each year he sees more and more students in more and more bridge events in China, and the competition is getting tougher. Based on this, he sees a bright future in China.

He would like to see the awarding of bridge scholarships to students who show a strong commitment to bridge learning and practice, and especially to those who achieve good results in competitions. Randy also notes that there should be more articles on the benefits of bridge to students.

When asked which player, past or present, he would most like to play a session with -- Bill Gates.

Outside of bridge, he loves playing computer games. (Ed: no surprise there.)

His one piece of advice to improve your bridge -- read more books on the game.



PUT YOURSELF TO THE TEST!

A POTPOURRI OF PROBLEMS



BIDDING

Modern bridge is a bidder's game.

1. Assuming you are playing a 15-17 one-notrump opening, what would you open with each of these hands?

a. ♠ A 10 9 ♥ A 10 9 ♦ A 10 9 ♣ A 10 9 7

b. ♠ A 3 2 ♥ A 3 2 ♦ A 3 2 ♣ A 4 3 2

PLAY

Invincibility lies in the defence; the possibility of victory in the attack. (Sun Tzu)



2. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

♠ A J
♥ K 7
♦ A K J 6 5 2
♣ K 9 4



♠ Q 9 8 2
♥ A Q
♦ Q 8 3
♣ 10 6 5 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West leads the jack of hearts. You take dummy's king with your ace and cash the queen of hearts. Then what would you do?



BIDDING

Modern bridge is a bidder's game.

3. Your partner opens one notrump, showing 15-17 points. After a pass on your right, what would you respond with each of these hands?

a. ♠ 4 2 ♥ 5 2 ♦ K 10 9 7 ♣ A J 10 9 4

b. ♠ 10 9 ♥ 10 9 ♦ K 7 4 2 ♣ A J 5 4 2

Would it make a difference if you were playing pairs or teams?

BRAIN TRAINING



4. In a duplicate tournament, what is the highest score you can get on one deal?

Answers on page 19
OR CLICK HERE (WEB VERSION)

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AUSTRALIA VERSUS ZLATAN

by DAVID STERN

Junior teams semifinals – then there were four

Thursday morning and in the Juniors there were just four teams left to play three segments of sixteen boards to decide who would advance to Friday's final, where a World Championship title awaits the winners. Norway was playing GreSwe Axon and Australia were taking on Zlatan, the match I watched.

Australia

Shane Harrison, Maxim Henbest, Jamie Thompson, Stephen Williams, Renee Cooper, Ella Pattison, and Justin Williams Non-Playing Captain


Zlatan

Simon Ekenberg, Daniel Gullberg, Simon Hult, Johan Karlsson, Giuseppe Delle Cave and Rodrigo Garcia Da Rosa

The opening board saw Australia at risk.



Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ekenberg	Harrison	Hult	Henbest
	1♦	1♥	2♣
3♥	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Williams	Karlsson	Thompson	Gullberg
	1♦	1♥	Double
3♥	Dble	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the Open Room, where Australia played in five clubs, if West had found the “magical” king-of-spades lead, he would have defeated the contract. However, he opted for the more normal-looking ten of hearts, which allowed declarer to make.

In the Closed Room, Williams didn't follow the Law of Total Tricks and sacrificed in four hearts over three notrump – correctly, as it turned out, although four hearts doubled would have been only minus 500 versus the actual minus 460. Zlatan led by 2-0.



MAXIM HENBEST & SHANE HARRISON, AUSTRALIA



JOHAN KARLSSON, SWEDEN

Board two saw a lot more action and varying opinions.

The first major swing of the match came on this deal:

Board 19. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

Board 18. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ekenberg</i>	<i>Harrison</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Henbest</i>
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Williams</i>	<i>Karlsson</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Gullberg</i>
2NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ekenberg</i>	<i>Harrison</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Henbest</i>
1♥	2♠	Pass	1♦ (a)
3♥	Pass	Pass	2NT
		Pass	Pass

(a) 11-15 points, 2-plus diamonds

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Williams</i>	<i>Karlsson</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Gullberg</i>
4♥	4♠	Pass	1♣
		All Pass	

The differing hand evaluations are interesting. Ekenberg for Zlatan thought it best to overcall one heart and then to rebid three hearts at his next turn, and in so doing bought the contract, albeit failing by one trick. Williams in the Closed Room simply bid what he thought he could make, which had the effect of pushing his opponents into four spades, which failed by two tricks. Put me down for an immediate four-heart bid. Score 2-2.

In the Closed Room, where two diamonds showed a weak two in a major, typically being a five-card suit in this position and at this vulnerability, Williams elected to bid an off-shape two notrumps. In one sense this should have made it easier for East-West to reach slam with East having a better understanding of partner's likely strength. Thompson's four-diamond bid was a transfer to spades, and he chose to stop in game when partner simply accepted. If partner had opened one notrump, I am reasonably certain that East, holding that hand, would have explored the possibility of slam, so why not on this occasion? Perhaps a small amount of blame could be ascribed to West, who had the option of bidding four hearts in support of spades.

The slam bonus gave Zlatan 13 imps and a 15-2 lead.





Board 20 was a flat four hearts, making exactly ten tricks despite a bad trump break. The next deal proved much more interesting.

Board 21. Dealer North. N-S Vul.

	♠ K 6 2										
	♥ A K 10 8										
	♦ 10 6 2										
	♣ A 9 7										
♠ A J	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 10 7 5 3
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ J		♥ 7 6 4									
♦ A Q J 9 8 7		♦ K 5 3									
♣ K 10 8 4		♣ J 3									
	♠ 9 8 4										
	♥ Q 9 5 3 2										
	♦ 4										
	♣ Q 6 5 2										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ekenberg</i>	<i>Harrison</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Henbest</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♦
3♦	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Williams</i>	<i>Karlsson</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Gullberg</i>
	1♥	1♠	3♥
Dble	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Despite having some play in five diamonds in their 6-3 fit, both rooms ended in their 5-2 spade fit. The Open Room defence was deadly despite a less-than-optimal opening lead.

Ishmael Del'Monte trains his partners that if they don't lead 'it', then they don't have a singleton, a lesson clearly not attended by Henbest. However, I do have some sympathy, given that diamonds was dummy's long suit. He instead led his fifth-highest heart, but luckily Harrison was awake to the possibility of either a diamond ruff or to the possibility of cutting declarer off from dummy's diamond suit. He accurately switched to the six of diamonds from the North seat. Declarer won in the dummy and led the ♠J, needing to retain the ace of spades to cater to heart switches. North immediately rose with his king and continued his plan, giving partner a diamond ruff. South returned a club, got a second ruff, and led another heart. Now East had to go three down, versus two down at the other table. Zlatan 15-4.



After an overtrick imp to Zlatan in three notrumps, this deal saw some accurate declarer play by Ekenberg.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ J 6 5										
	♥ A Q J 2										
	♦ J 10 3										
	♣ Q 10 3										
♠ A 7 4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 9 8 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 9 5 3		♥ K 4									
♦ A Q 6		♦ 8 7 5 4									
♣ A 9 7 4		♣ K 6 5									
	♠ K 10 3										
	♥ 10 8 7 6										
	♦ K 9 3										
	♣ J 8 2										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ekenberg</i>	<i>Harrison</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Henbest</i>
			Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Williams</i>	<i>Karlsson</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Gullberg</i>
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Both Norths led the jack of diamonds. Ekenberg ducked South's king to leave him on lead. Declarer won the diamond continuation and, accurately reading the diamonds as 3-3, cashed the queen of diamonds, crossed to the king of clubs, and took the last diamond. The ace of clubs and a third club established dummy's club. North valiantly tried the queen of hearts, but declarer had no trouble covering with the king in dummy. West claimed eight tricks: one spade, one heart, three diamonds and three clubs. That was worth an imp against the 90 scored at the other table.

This deal was amusing, even if the bridge was not enlightening.



Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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



STEPHEN WILLIAMS, AUSTRALIA

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ekenberg	Harrison	Hult	Henbest
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Williams	Karlsson	Thompson	Gullberg
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

I guess I could say that the auction was the same in both rooms, albeit shifted by 90 degrees. In the Open Room, Harrison took three hearts, four diamonds and guessed clubs for plus 120. While in the Closed Room, his teammates playing in the same contract took one heart, one club and two spades for minus 150. Zlatan now led by 17-5.

When the same team buys the contract at each table, one at the three-level and one at the six-level, it will rarely be flat. But one can rarely say never.



SIMON HULT, SWEDEN

Board 25. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ekenberg	Harrison	Hult	Henbest
Pass	4♣	Dble	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Williams	Karlsson	Thompson	Gullberg
Pass	2♥	2NT	Dble
Pass	Pass	3♦	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	


In the Open Room, had East not held the ace and king of diamonds, the report of this deal may well have been quite different. East cashed his two top diamonds, and six clubs was one down.

In the Closed Room, Karlsson's two-heart bid showed exactly four hearts and a longer minor – well, he certainly had that. It's hard to blame North for not taking any further actions when his partner knew a lot about his hand and he held a void in partner's suit. Declarer lost four diamonds and a trump for an unusual flat board.



The next deal was exciting in both rooms.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ekenberg</i>	<i>Harrison</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Henbest</i>
		Pass	1♦
1♥	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Williams</i>	<i>Karlsson</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Gullberg</i>
		Pass	1♦
Dble	Redble	1♠	2♦
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	Dble	All Pass	


The bidding seemed to be a contest to see who could play in three notrumps, North-South or East-West.

In the Open Room, the singleton heart lead by East was won with dummy's jack when West elected not to cover. North played a heart to his nine, then started on clubs. West won with the king and switched to a spade. East took the trick with his king and returned a spade to the queen and ace. Declarer ended up taking two spades, three hearts, three diamonds and two clubs for what he may have thought was a good plus 630.

In the Closed Room, however, West struggled in four spades doubled. He eventually ran out of trumps and conceded 1100. This gave 10 imps to Zlatan, who now led by 27-5.

The next three boards were not particularly interesting. Then came a deal that yielded more imps to Zlatan.

Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ekenberg</i>	<i>Harrison</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Henbest</i>
	1♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Williams</i>	<i>Karlsson</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Gullberg</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♦	1♠	All Pass	

The Bulletin staff are unanimous that they would have opened the North hand with one spade. However, that could have led to the same situation as in the Open Room. Henbest (knowing his partner had 11-15 points) blasted into a mediocre game, something that Karlsson and Gullberg avoided when North, Karlsson, elected to pass first in hand. Both declarers lost the obvious four tricks, and that was 6 more imps to Zlatan.



SIMON EKENBERG, SWEDEN



Finally the Australians stemmed the tide.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ekenberg</i>	<i>Harrison</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Henbest</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	2NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Williams</i>	<i>Karlsson</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Gullberg</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The Open Room auction was made a little easier, with North able to show both of his suits immediately over West's opening bid. He then indicated extra strength on the next round by control-bidding four spades. South's four notrumps expressed some slam interest, and North was happy to jump to six diamonds. He was probably more worried about missing seven than going down in six. In fact, Henbest could have won all of the tricks, but it would not have gained an imp. Taking 12 tricks gained 11imps and made it 33-16 to Zlatan.



In the next deal, and just like in the first board of the match, the Open Room tried five clubs and the Closed Room attempted three notrumps, but this time the swing was much larger.

Board 31. Dealer South. N-S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ekenberg</i>	<i>Harrison</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Henbest</i>
			1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Williams</i>	<i>Karlsson</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Gullberg</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the Open Room, North probably created the problem by not bidding one heart over his partner's limited one-diamond opening. Had North bid one heart, South would have rebid one spade, and surely three notrumps would have been reached. In the actual auction, North, knowing his partner had at most one heart, chose to play in five clubs. The contract had chances with the friendly lie of the minor suits, but after West led his singleton spade, the defence scored the king of diamonds, a spade ruff and a diamond ruff.

In the Closed Room, it all became about the spade suit following East's overcall. East, assuming his opponents were ready for a spade lead, found the best start of a low heart. However, North collected two overtricks to gain 13imps for Zlatan.



The last deal of the set featured another difference of opinion on the level at which a deal should be played.



Board 32. Dealer West. E-W Vul.

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

I wonder if Ekenberg had his hand missorted when he opened one heart, not one spade? However, nothing succeeds like success. By opening one heart, he talked himself out of bidding a second time, and East, with a singleton heart, also kept quiet.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ekenberg	Harrison	Hult	Henbest
1♥	Dble	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I am not sure why West in the Closed Room didn't downgrade his minor-suit queens and assume that the one-notrump overcaller sitting on his left would likely make four spades a poor prospect. The defence unsportingly cashed their two minor-suit tricks and waited for the two trump tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Williams	Karlsson	Thompson	Gullberg
1♠	1NT	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Both contracts failed by one trick, leaving Zlatan ahead by 48-14 after 16 of 48 boards in this semifinal.



Your Tournament Directors are watching you!

Dusko Krautsak, Dimitri Ballas (Chief TD), Mihaela Balint, Marc van Beijsterveldt, Jacek Marciniak, Stanko Kruzic



SOLUTIONS

TO THE TEST ON PAGE 11

1. Assuming you are playing a 15-17 one-notrump opening, what would you open with each of these hands?

- a. ♠ A 10 9 ♥ A 10 9 ♦ A 10 9 ♣ A 10 9 7
- b. ♠ A 3 2 ♥ A 3 2 ♦ A 3 2 ♣ A 4 3 2

Hand a is much stronger than hand b. Hand a will be worth at least two or three tricks more than b. As one example, suppose this is the heart suit:

North
ai. ♥ A 10 9

South
♥ J 5 4

North
bi. ♥ A 3 2

South
♥ J 5 4

In ai, you are 76 percent to get two tricks (West has at least one honour). Suit combination bi, though, is only a pitiful 1.7 percent to get two tricks, needing to find either East with the doubleton king-queen or West with a singleton honor.

So, I think hand a is too strong for a 15-17 notrump, whereas hand b is too weak! However, I guess I would open one notrump with b, but not be surprised if we got too high. With a, I am happy to open one club and rebid two notrumps.

2. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦ 3NT	Pass All Pass	1NT

West leads the jack of hearts. You take dummy's king with your ace and cash the queen of hearts. Then what would you do?

You know that West has some heart winners. Also, as you have diamonds under control, it is unlikely that declarer is ready to run for home.

How can you get West on lead to cash the rest of his heart suit?

He could hold the king of spades or ace of clubs -- but which?

Yes, partner's heart card at trick two ought to be suit-preference. But even with a partner who does not know about that method of signalling, you should first assume that partner has the king of spades. And if he does, to make it a winner, you should lead the queen of spades at trick three, then watch carefully to see if partner encourages.

Let's assume West does encourage spades. If declarer ducks your lead, play another one. Or, if he takes it with dummy's ace and plays three rounds of diamonds, win the third and lead another spade. Here, you defeat the contract.

If partner discourages in spades, switch to a club when in with your queen of diamonds.

You will have noticed that leading a low spade at trick three is not good enough.

This play of leading an unsupported honour to create an entry in partner's hand is called the Deschappelles Coup, after Alexandre Louis Honore Lebreton Deschappelles, a Frenchman who was born in 1780 and died in 1847. He was one of that country's top chess and whist players.

3. Your partner opens one notrump, showing 15-17 points. After a pass on your right, what would you respond with each of these hands?

- a. ♠ 4 2 ♥ 5 2 ♦ K 10 9 7 ♣ A J 10 9 4
- b. ♠ 10 9 ♥ 10 9 ♦ K 7 4 2 ♣ A J 5 4 2

Would it make a difference if you were playing pairs or teams?

This is the same theme as the first question. With hand a, bid three notrumps. Those excellent minor suits should provide sufficient tricks, assuming the defenders do not run a major early in the game.

With the second hand, I would be more inclined to pass, especially in a pair event. But inviting game in notrump is reasonable. And at imps, you might still just bid game to put the opponents under pressure.

4. In a duplicate tournament, what is the highest score you can get on one deal?

A vulnerable seven-level contract redoubled and down thirteen costs 7600.



ESTIMATING RESOURCES

by ANA ROTH, FERNANDO LEMA & PHILLIP ALDER

Ely Culbertson played a major role in the popularization of bridge and was widely regarded as “the man who made contract bridge”. In 1933, he wrote:

An exact estimate of the resources is vital to the proper planning of any kind of campaign, whether financial, military, or merely the bidding of a hand at contract. Without such an estimate, it is impossible to apply the nice admixture of courage and caution that are the ingredients of success. The average bridge player’s vacillation between recklessness and over-conservatism can be traced to one major fault: failure to take into consideration all the possibilities of a given situation.

These deals from the second set of the quarterfinals of the Junior Teams Championship recalled Culbertson’s thoughts.

On Boards 27 and 28, only Delle Cave-Da Rosa (second in the Junior Pairs Championship two days earlier) considered all their possibilities and played in two cold three-notrump contracts, although they were not easy to find.

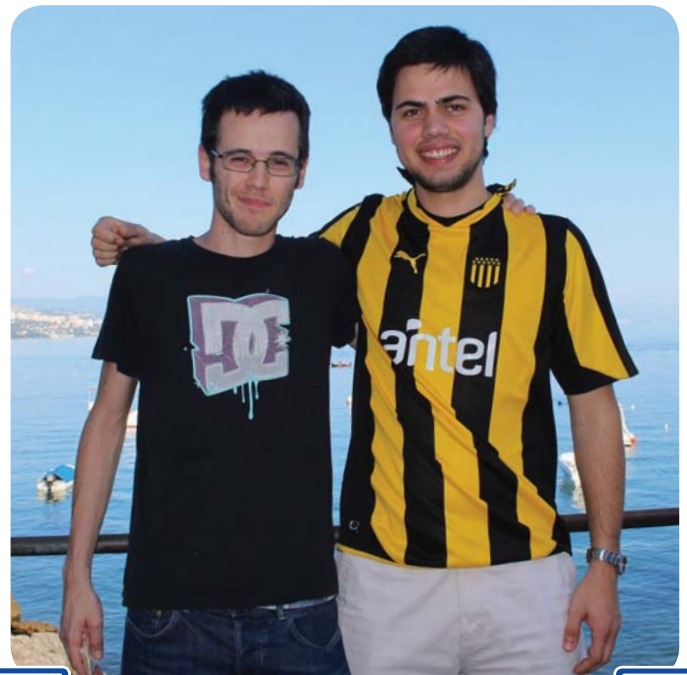
They were in the Zlatan-Finland match.



Board 27. Dealer South, None Vul.

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

At one of the tables, after two passes, North opened one notrump, East overcalled two diamonds, South competed with two spades, and all passed. Declarer fulfilled his contract.



GIUSEPPE DELLE CAVE & RODRIGO G. DE ROSA

At the other table the bidding was:

West	North	East	South
Aimala	Delle Cave	Fagerlund	Da Rosa
Pass	2NT (b)	3♦	2♠ (a)
Pass	Dble	Pass	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♥ (c)

(a) A weak spade-minor two-suiter
 (b) Strength-showing enquiry
 (c) 5=3=0=5, not liking his partner’s penalty double

Declarer received the king-of-diamonds lead. He pitched a spade from dummy and held up his ace. East was in trouble. He knew that his partner had close to zero points, so he didn’t have an easy return. Finally, after a long pause, he chose the queen of diamonds.

Declarer discarded another spade from dummy, won with his ace, and played a club to dummy’s king. Next came a heart to the king and another club, this time to the jack and queen.

Delle Cave left dummy with a low heart, West played his ten, and North the ace. When the queen appeared, declarer saw that all of his problems had vanished. He led a club and claimed ten tricks when East produced the ace.



Board 28. Dealer West. N-S Vul.

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



At one of the tables, West opened one club, playing a weak notrump; North overcalled two clubs, showing the majors (5-4 or better); and eventually North-South stopped in two hearts. Declarer scored plus 140.

At the other table the bidding was:

West	North	East	South
Aimala	Delle Cave	Fagerlund	Da Rosa
1NT	2♣ (a)	Pass	2♦ (b)
Dble	Redble	Pass	2♠ (c)
Pass	3♣ (d)	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- (a) Majors, 5-4 or longer
- (b) Asking for the longer major
- (c) Signoff
- (d) 5=5=0=3, extra values

Although the contract was cold with any lead, at the table declarer received the most favorable start, a low diamond.

Da Rosa pitched a spade from dummy, won in his hand with the seven, and continued with a low club. West won with the queen and returned a heart. Declarer won with the jack and played a second club. Aimala put up the king and returned his last club.

Da Rosa won with his ace, cashed the ten of clubs, pitching a second spade from dummy, and led the queen of spades. West took the trick with his ace, cashed the ace of diamonds, and conceded the rest.

Many thanks to Rodrigo and Giuseppe for the bidding explanations!



ANTTI AIMALA, FINLAND

B-a-M TEAMS

RANKING AFTER ROUND 9

1	NED WHITE	120.00
2	ITALIA	113.60
3	JAPAN	112.00
4	FINLAND	105.00
5	ZHIHAOLE	104.00
	NED ORANGE	104.00
7	FRANCE	101.60
8	COOKIE POTTER	99.00
9	NONAME	96.00
10	CHINESE TAIPEI BLUE	94.40
11	GRANDSON XU	90.00
12	SX XMXW	89.00
13	ZABAVLJACI	86.00
	AZSUW AKADEMIABRYDZA	86.00
15	ITALIA KIDS	85.00
16	SUDAMERICA	82.40
17	SX XHLD	82.00
18	SX SWXH	81.00
	SRBJA	81.00
20	SX XNWY GIRLS	80.00
	CHINESE TAIPEI WHITE	80.00
22	BILLY	76.60
23	STRONGPASS	70.00
24	GERMANY KIDS	69.00
25	CHILE	68.00
26	NOPRO	67.00
27	AUSSIE KIDS	58.00
28	IMPS	50.60



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