



16TH WORLD YOUTH BRIDGE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

3rd - 13th AUGUST 2016

SALSOMAGGIORE TERME / ITALY

Daily Bulletin


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USA JUNIORS WIN THE BAM

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The prize giving ceremony will be held today at 5.00 pm in the Vugraph Theatre.

Captains, coaches and players who are attending the World Bridge Games in Wroclaw may fill in their commitment forms here in Salsomaggiore.

SCHEDULE

10:00 - 12:00: J, G, Y F 5
13:30 - 15:30: J, G, Y F 6
17:00: Prize Giving Ceremony



USA Juniors, BAM Winners: Roger Lee (npc), Adam Kaplan, Zachary Brescoll, Kevin Rosenberg, Zachary Grossack, Benjamin Kristensen, Adam Grossack

It is going to take some great play by the trailing teams if one is to win today. With 28 boards to be played, the Netherlands leads Australia by 55 imps in the Girls and Italy by 42 imps in the Youngsters. Poland is 39 imps ahead of China in the Juniors.

The bronze medal matches were exciting. In the Girls, Indonesia started the last set against Norway down by 57 imps, but lost by only 4, having conceded 8 imps on the penultimate deal! In the Juniors, the Netherlands trailed Sweden by 50.5 imps with one set to go and lost by only 18.5. The Youngsters match was very close throughout, with both teams leading from time to time, but in the end China Hong Kong defeated Germany by 10.7 imps.

The Board-a-Match Teams was won by USA Juniors: Zach Brescoll, Adam Grossack, Zach Grossack, Adam Kaplan, Ben Kristensen and Kevin Rosenberg. This was a successful defence of the title for Brescoll, Kaplan and the Grossacks, who won two years ago in Istanbul. They finished four-and-a-half boards ahead of France1 (Julien Bernard, Fabrice Charignon, Baptiste Combescure, Clement Laloubeyre and Anne Rouanet-Labe) with Italy Juniors (Alessandro Calmanovici, Margherita Chavarria, Giovanni Donati, Enea Montanelli, Giacomo Percario and Roberto Sau) third.

The flight B B-a-M was won by the Hungarian team Cuties: Zsafia Beko, Zsuzsanna Beko, Brigitta Fischer, Csaba Konkoly, Hanna Revai and Daniel Tubak.

PUT YOURSELF TO THE TEST!

PRACTICE MAKES LESS IMPERFECT



Bridge is a bidder's game

1. Dealer East. None vul.
 Dummy (North)
 ♠ A 6 3
 ♥ Q 10 6
 ♦ 9
 ♣ Q J 6 5 3 2

- West (You)
 ♠ K 9 2
 ♥ 8 4 3 2
 ♦ A 7 6 4
 ♣ K 10



West	North	East	South
Pass	3♣ (b)	Pass	2NT (a)
Pass	4♦ (d)	Pass	3NT (c)
Pass	4♠ (e)	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♦ (e)	Pass	5♣ (e)
Pass	Pass	Pass	5♥

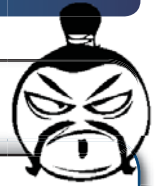
- (a) 19-20 points
 (b) Puppet Stayman
 (c) Three spades and five hearts
 (d) Transfer to hearts
 (e) Control-bid expressing slam interest in hearts

Since partner seems not to have much, you lead a low trump: six, five, seven. Declarer cashes his ace of clubs and plays another club to your king while partner signals an odd number of clubs.

What would you do now?



?? Solutions on page 15, ??
 Or [CLICK HERE](#) on the web version



To know your Enemy, you must become your Enemy.
 (SUN TZU, Art of War)

2. With only the opponents vulnerable in a knockout team match, you, East, hold:

- ♠ A Q 4
 ♥ K 9 6 4
 ♦ 7 4 2
 ♣ 9 7 2

i. Partner deals and opens one 15-17 notrump. After North passes, what would you do?

ii. You are employing the weak notrump. This time the auction starts:

West	North	East	South
Partner		You	
1♦	Pass	1♥	2♣
Dble (a)	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	??	

(a) Support double: three cards in hearts

Do you agree with your two-heart rebid? If not, what do you prefer? What would you do now?



To know your Enemy, you must become your Enemy.
 (SUN TZU, Art of War)

3. Dummy
 Dir: East ♠ A 6 3
 Vul: None ♥ Q 10 6
 ♦ 9
 ♣ Q J 6 5 3 2

Opening lead: ♥ 2

- Declarer (You)
 ♠ Q J 8
 ♥ A K J 9 7
 ♦ K J 8
 ♣ A 9

How would you plan the play in (a) four hearts or (b) five hearts after West leads a trump and East follows suit?



OPERATION NEXT GENERATION

DAVID STERN



I have had the pleasure of knowing Gilad Ofir since he was a 21-year-old playing for Israel in the 2005 World Youth Bridge Championships held in Sydney, Australia. We often cross paths at international bridge tournaments, but it wasn't until Salsomaggiore that I became aware of his deep involvement in youth bridge in Israel.

All grown up and 32, Gilad trained as a lawyer, but has taken a decision to make bridge his life pursuit. Where better to start than becoming Chairman of the Israeli Bridge Federation? This is a voluntary job that has immersed him well and truly into recent cheating allegations. When not considering matters of 'state' he teaches bridge, plays professionally in local tournaments and festivals, and in his 'spare' time has written two books, one on non-competitive bidding and the other on defence.

While not huge, there are 6,000 registered members in Israel, a number that has held up well over recent years with Gilad targeting both youth and the 25-45-year-olds as low hanging fruit in the effort to increase numbers.

While the Israeli National Sports Captain (Bridge), a voluntary position he held for six years, he became aware that the future of the game rested in teaching and fostering a new generation of players. While he learned bridge at age ten through a program instigated by the IBF, he thought it was time to start a 'full court press' with a modern

revamped program, and to this end the Federation employed Piyah Meir to the position of paid coordinator, where she proved such an asset to bridge that she became CEO of the Federation, which made room for Moshiko Meyuhas to take up the role of coordinator for the program and bridge into schools.

Key to the program was to put together a committed and hard-working youth committee headed by Israeli international Misha Mark. The committee's first step in making the program meaningful was to engage and get the support of the Ministry of Education into allowing bridge in schools. After crossing this important bridge (excuse the pun), Moshiko spent three months before the start of the school year getting individual schools to offer bridge either as a syllabus option or an after-school activity. About six years ago, the IBF developed two books specifically written for the program focusing on MiniBridge and Bridge, both of which have been translated into English, with other National Bridge Organisations looking to translate into their local languages.

Thus was born 'Next Generation', the modernised youth initiative in Israel driven by a committed and hard-working Youth Committee who regularly meet and formulate policies to increase youth participation.

The program, costing around US\$55k per annum, targets 9-11-year-olds in grades 4 and 5 of primary school, where paid teachers give bridge lessons within the schools funded by a combination of the Federation, the schools and in some cases the local government.

Between 800 and 1,000 kids start the one-year program that involves learning MiniBridge during the first year and full bridge during the second year, although Gilad confesses a need to get the kids playing full bridge more quickly to allow them to engage in the game online and in local clubs.

Additional activities offered by the program include a kid's day at the Tel Aviv Festival and three separate days of Kid's Bridge League. Gilad's real

hope is to have a better engagement with the clubs to provide the kids with a bridge outlet after they complete the program.

As an extension, the teachers are encouraged to nominate players to participate in the Mountain Peak Program based on their passion and/or attitude and/or ability to undertake additional training. Apart from Moshiko and Gilad, superior players are trained by Israeli international David Birman as well as Gilad to help them become competitive in international competition.

Wanting to spread the success of Israel's youth program, Gilad is also a member of the EBL Youth Committee and the WBF Kid's Committee.

Regarding the reasons that the program has been successful, Gilad says, "We adopt a serious businesslike approach with a professional coordinator. Combine this with passionate teachers who are very popular with the kids and we simply can't lose."

Interestingly, this year's Gold Medal Israeli kid's team, captained and coached by Gilad and Moshiko, was a product of the Next Generation Program. Four of the six members of the Gold Medal Team finished sixth in the European Kids Championship and have competed in the White House Tournament in the Netherlands for players under 25 years of age. It is clear that in the future we will see Israeli teams on the victory dais.

In training the team, Moshiko and Gilad had the kids play a 14-board match followed by lunch and then another two 14-board matches, thereby simulating the actual conditions here in Salsomaggiore. The key emphasis outside of the bridge was mental strength, focus and, as Gilad adds in a sidenote, behaviour.

Many of you will have seen posters around the venue 'Bridge for Peace' and to this end, the IBF has a program where Osama Daniel teaches Arab kids in Nazareth with the intention of creating an Israeli team based on bridge ability and not religion or race. For this alone our thanks should go out to the Israeli Bridge Federation.



POLAND VS CHINA

MURAT MOLVA

Junior Teams Final, Session 1

The Junior Final between Poland and China consists of six segments of 14 boards each. So we shall all have the opportunity of watching the teams' competition in bridge and stamina.

China started the match with the slight advantage of a 7 IMPs carryover.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tang	Kazmierczak	Tao	Nowak
		2♥	Pass
2♠	3♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bojarski	Wei	Chodacki	Sun
		2♥	All Pass

I have my personal theory: "where there is a void, there is a swing". This deal is another example that proves the theory.

In the Closed Room, Chodacki's 2♥ opening showed five cards in hearts, a four-plus-card minor and 5-10 HCP's. His partner, Bojarski, has apparently seen Chodacki's two-major opening bids before, especially at this go-as-you-please vulnerability. He passed and entered +170 in his score card.

In the Open Room, the Chinese pair were not so sure about their 2♥ opening bids. On their convention card, 2♥ opening shows a weak hand with five cards in hearts, a four-plus-card minor. The hand strength ("weak") has been explained in the way that the WBF

systems manager P.O. Sundelin is most unhappy about. Weak could mean anything. Is it 10-12 hcp's? Is it 0-6?

So West, Tang, bid two spades. Now Kazmierczak (North) might have thought he "was being robbed" by his non-vul opponents, and jumped into the bidding on a flat 13-count, vulnerable! He was lucky to escape with two down undoubled. 1 IMP to China.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tang	Kazmierczak	Tao	Nowak
Pass	1♠	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	Pass
Redble	Pass	2♥	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room



West	North	East	South
Bojarski	Wei	Chodacki	Sun
Pass	1♠	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	Pass
Redble	Pass	2♥	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Another personality quiz. You double a part-score contract, and somewhere in the middle of the deal, while declarer is analyzing the play, you realize that the contract is sure to make. Do you:

- Optimistically wait and hope that declarer will make a mistake?
- Pessimistically curse your bad luck and blame partner for his recklessness (this is my personal favorite)?
- Concentrate and look deeper into the deal to try to figure out if there is a way to beat the contract?

The bidding and the results were identical (two hearts doubled just making by East) at both tables for an interesting flat board.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tang	Kazmierczak	Tao	Nowak
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room



West	North	East	South
Bojarski	Wei	Chodacki	Sun
	Pass	1♦	Dble
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In the Open Room, Nowak led a low spade, won by declarer, Tao, with the ace in hand. Tao went after the clubs, North taking his ace on the second round to continue spades. South took his king, cashed a high heart and went back to spades, to establish a winner. The diamond finesse now was good for 10 tricks to China.

At the other table, Chodacki apparently had a blind spot. Getting the same spade lead, he won with the queen in the dummy and drove out the club ace. Spades were continued. He took his ace and cashed four(!) more club tricks, after which he realized, probably to his horror, that he was in hand, unable to take the diamond finesse. One down and 10 IMPs to China.



Board 6. Dealer East. EW vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tang	Kazmierczak	Tao	Nowak
		1♣ (a)	2♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass

(a) 16-plus points

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bojarski	Wei	Chodacki	Sun
		1♠	2♥
4♠	5♣	All Pass	

How unhappy should you feel when you miss a minor-suit slam and enter a lousy +420 into your score card?

In the Closed Room, Wei got a spade lead. He ruffed in hand and drove out the trump ace, after which the defence forced him with another spade. When he drew all of the trumps, everybody at the table was out of trumps, but the heart finesse was working, so Wei soon collected 12 tricks.

In the other room, the usually aggressive Polish players were content to let their Chinese opponents play in four spades. After the ♣7 lead, the contract was actually makable via a double dummy line. Can you see it?

Declarer draws trumps and exits with a diamond honor(!) from hand. When the defence continues clubs, declarer ruffs in hand and exits with the ♥K(!) This effectively prevents the club force, as South is out of clubs now, and declarer will have time to build his diamond trick with the aid of the finesse against the ♦10.

Tao went one down in four spades, but still gained 8 IMPs. China was clearly on a roll.

Board 11. Dealer South. None vul.

♠ A Q J 8 ♥ J 7 3 ♦ 6 4 2 ♣ 10 8 6	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K 3 ♥ A K 10 9 8 5 ♦ A J 8 ♣ 4 2	♠ 10 9 7 5 2 ♥ Q 4 2 ♦ 9 ♣ K 9 7 5
♠ 6 4 ♥ 6 ♦ K Q 10 7 5 3 ♣ A Q J 3			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tang	Kazmierczak	Tao	Nowak
Pass	1♠	2♥	2NT (a)
3♥	4♦	4♥	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bojarski	Wei	Chodacki	Sun
Pass	1♠	2♥	2NT (a)
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

(a) Artificial, showing a willingness to compete at the three-level

20 HCP equally divided in each direction produced a lot of action. The Closed Room East-West Polish pair reached a normal-looking 4♥ game and made it with an overtrick when both black kings were nicely located.



In the Open Room, Kazmierczak, the Polish North, deemed his hand worthy of another try in view of his partner's good-bad 2NT, and bid 4♦. This convinced South, Nowak, to bid 5♦ over opponents' 4♥, which went 3 down for -500 and 2 IMPS to China.

It could be argued that, if the location of the black kings were reversed, Nowak could well have been entering +550 into his score card, while 4♥ would be going only one down. But not today.

Board 13. Dealer North. All vul.

♠ Q 9 3 ♥ K J ♦ Q 10 ♣ K 10 9 8 6 2	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K 10 4 ♥ 9 6 5 3 ♦ J 6 4 ♣ A Q 4	♠ J 8 ♥ A 10 7 4 ♦ K 9 8 7 2 ♣ J 3
♠ A 7 6 5 2 ♥ Q 8 2 ♦ A 5 3 ♣ 7 5			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tang	Kazmierczak	Tao	Nowak
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bojarski	Wei	Chodacki	Sun
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥ (a)
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	


(a) Spades

Relatively big swings can materialize out of innocent-looking part-score deals. So players should keep their eyes on the ball at all times.

Kazmierczak, Polish North in the Open Room, had reached a poor spot when he found himself in 1NT. Taking the heart lead, he went after the spades, ducking West's ♠J. West shifted to a low diamond, but, according to the general tone of the segment, Kazmierczak misguessed when he inserted the ♦10 from hand, and finally ended up down 2. +200 for China.

The Chinese pair in the Closed Room seemed to be better-prepared to handle this kind of distribution. They first located their 5-3 spade fit, but settled on their 6-2 side fit. After a heart lead, Wei soon took 8 tricks for another 7 IMP pickup by China.

Board 14. Dealer East. None vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tang	Kazmierczak	Tao	Nowak
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	3♣

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bojarski	Wei	Chodacki	Sun
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♥

This was the last board of the segment. The Chinese North-South in the Closed Room reached a normal contract and Sun, South, made ten tricks after a heart lead.

In the Open Room, the Polish pair violated David Burn's Law of Total Trumps (LOTT), which goes as follows: "When you are declarer, the total number of trumps held by your side should be greater than the total number of trumps held by the opponents".

Nowak's 2♣ rebid was apparently some sort of Gazzilli, but nobody, including his partner Kazmierczak, was able to figure out the meaning of his next bid of 3♣. Kazmierczak passed and it was up to Nowak to demonstrate his skills in a 4-2 trump fit.

West led hearts and continued them after taking his spade king. Nowak successfully ruffing-finessed against the spade ace and then cashed the ♥10. After sneaking past the spade ace with his ♠8, he played ace and another diamond. East felt himself sort of endplayed into playing a trump now. Taking the trick in dummy with the queen, Nowak ruffed dummy's last diamond in hand with the ♣A, and endplayed East into surrendering the 9th trick to dummy's ♣9.

Poland had survived yet another board with the loss of only 2 IMPs, and was trailing the set 30-1 IMPs, which translated to 37-1 in favor of China with the help of the carryover.

Was Nowak's dummy play an indication that the Polish squad's apparent morning session hangover was fading away? We shall see in the upcoming segments.



**The Official polo shirt of the
16th World Bridge Teams Championships
is available at the reception desk
for only 20,00 Euros.**

**Special Team offer: 6 shirts at 100,00
Euros!!**



POLAND vs CHINA

RAM SOFFER

Junior Teams Final, Session 2

After finishing top of the round-robin stage, Poland easily disposed of Argentina and Sweden to claim its place in the final, but during Friday's first session things were not going too well and China led comfortably by 37-1.

In that session, Poland rested their leading pair. What difference can one pair make? Well, Michal Klukowski-Justyna Zmuda sat down to play the second session, and within five boards China's 36-IMP lead became history.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

	♠ K 7					
	♥ 10 8 7 5 4					
	♦ K J 9 8 6 2					
	♣ --					
♠ A 8 6 3	<table border="1" style="background-color: #003366; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ 10 4 2
N		E				
W		S				
♥ A K		♥ J 9 6 2				
♦ 10 3	♦ A Q 5 4					
♣ A 10 9 5 4		♣ 7 2				
	♠ Q J 9 5					
	♥ Q 3					
	♦ 7					
	♣ K Q J 8 6 3					

West	North	East	South
Tang	Klukowski	Tao	Zmuda
Pass	2♥	All Pass	2♣

The session kicked off with a dangerous misfit deal, but North/South's Polish club system allowed them to stop at a relatively safe level, as the only forcing two-level response to 2♣ was 2♦.

The defence started with a spade to the ace, ♥ AK and ♦ AQ. Then a club was ruffed, and Klukowski played on diamonds, allowing East to win two more trump tricks whenever he wished – China +200.

West	North	East	South
Bojarski	Wei	Chodacki	Sun
1NT	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	3♦	Dble	3♥
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Here South opened a more ambiguous 1♣ and

after North's 2♥, West re-opened the auction with a takeout double. Wei liked his 6-5 hand too much. He chose to bid once again at the three-level and fell into the trap.

The defence proceeded along similar lines to the other table. The number of declarer's tricks was the same, but the score was not. Poland +800, a swing of 12 IMPs.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

	♠ 2					
	♥ 7 4					
	♦ K J 9 8 5 3					
	♣ J 9 7 3					
♠ J 10 7	<table border="1" style="background-color: #003366; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ A K 9 6
N		E				
W		S				
♥ Q J 6 5 3		♥ K				
♦ 10 7 4	♦ Q 6 2					
♣ 8 6		♣ Q 10 5 4 2				
	♠ Q 8 5 4 3					
	♥ A 10 9 8 2					
	♦ A					
	♣ A K					

West	North	East	South
Tang	Klukowski	Tao	Zmuda
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Another big misfit, but Klukowski managed to preempt his partner and prevent any nonsense. Zmuda showed a lot of class by passing 3♦ with 17 HCP and two five-card majors.

East led ♠A and switched to a trump. Klukowski proceeded to ruff out spades, using up all of dummy's minor-suit entry cards. West helped declarer by ruffing the fourth round of spades with ♦10. North overruffed, cashed his ♦K and entered dummy with ♥A to play ♠Q. This made his ♦9 good, and meanwhile East was forced to lead a club, giving declarer an overtrick!

West	North	East	South
Bojarski	Wei	Chodacki	Sun
Pass	Pass	1♣	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At the other table East opened 1♣ and South used a version of the Michaels Cue-Bid. His hand was too good to pass 2♥, so the Chinese got too high. Declarer managed to ruff one spade, but still lost three

spade tricks as well as two trump tricks, as 5 more IMPs went Poland's way.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ K 10 8 3 2					
	♥ Q 9 8 2					
	♦ K 9					
	♣ 5 4					
♠ Q J	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #002060; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A 6 5 4	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ 5		♥ K 7 4 3				
♦ A J 10 7 6 2		♦ 8 5 3				
♣ K 10 8 2		♣ 9 7				
	♠ 9 7					
	♥ A J 10 6					
	♦ Q 4					
	♣ A Q J 6 3					

West	North	East	South
Tang	Klukowski	Tao	Zmuda
	Pass	Pass	2♣
2♦	Dble	3♦	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Another Polish 2♣ opening led to a 3♥ contract when North applied a negative double. East/West obeyed the Law of Total Tricks and didn't compete beyond the three-level.

Justyna Zmuda received a little help when the defence started by cashing two spade tricks. She won the second round of diamonds in dummy, repeated the trump finesse while retaining the lead in dummy, and after West didn't follow suit to the second round of trumps, she simply cashed dummy's spades. East was powerless, and the contract just made – Poland +140.

West	North	East	South
Bojarski	Wei	Chodacki	Sun
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

An off-shape strong-notrump opening with only 14 HCP got the Chinese slightly overboard (well, they needed two out of three finesses and good breaks to

make their game). The play was very similar to the other table, and the Chinese declarer also made nine tricks, but this time it was worth -50 and Poland closed the gap by 5 IMPs.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

	♠ 10 8 4					
	♥ K 6					
	♦ K 9					
	♣ A K Q 8 6 5					
♠ A 9 7	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #002060; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K Q J 5 2	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ Q 10 8		♥ 9 7 5 3				
♦ J 10 3		♦ Q 8 7 4				
♣ J 7 4 2		♣				
	♠ 6 3					
	♥ A J 4 2					
	♦ A 6 5 2					
	♣ 10 9 3					

West	North	East	South
Tang	Klukowski	Tao	Zmuda
	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♠	Dble
2♠	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

A very well-bid deal, again made easier by the Polish Club system, as a rebid of 3♣ after a 1♣ opening promised 16+ HCP with long clubs. Thus Zmuda knew that game was on. First she asked for a spade stopper for 3NT, and then she initiated slam control-bidding. Her 4NT was not ace-asking, it just denied a spade control, so Klukowski signed off immediately in 5♣.


Not even a four-zero trump break could threaten this contract, as declarer's club spots were good enough: Poland +600.

West	North	East	South
Bojarski	Wei	Chodacki	Sun
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

This was less well-bid. I have no idea what 3♠ meant (Editor's guess: a raise to three notrumps with exactly four hearts and not four spades), but the Chinese pair reached 3NT without a spade stopper. Unfortunately, the opponents had a natural spade lead and five tricks to cash. Poland +100 and 12 more IMPs, so 37-1 became 37-35 within about half an hour. One more board, and China's lead was gone.



Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Tang</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Tao</i>	<i>Zmuda</i>
			1♦
2♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

East expected a better hand for a Michaels Cue-Bid at adverse vulnerability from his partner, and blasted to game. Klukowski made the final pass instantly.

Clearly, the bad spade break was too much for declarer to handle. He ruffed the ♦A opening lead, played a club to the king (ducked!) and tried the ♠J, playing ♠K from dummy. Klukowski took his ♠A and continued the suit, with Zmuda overruffing declarer's ♥6. Then she gave him a club ruff. At this point the contract was always going two down, and a further mistake by declarer made it +300 for Poland.

West	North	East	South
<i>Bojarski</i>	<i>Wei</i>	<i>Chodacki</i>	<i>Sun</i>
			1♦
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass


Chodacki took a less rosy view of the East cards, and his underbid succeeded as 2♥ just made for a swing of 9 IMPs. For the first time in the match Poland took the lead: 44-37.

On the next board, China started a mini-revival. Klukowski-Zmuda registered +200, but their teammates took a wrong view in a 1NT contract and had to go four down vulnerable. Three boards later, Poland surrendered their lead when both of their pairs went down in three-level contracts.



However, Poland had the last laugh. The following board capped a 55-14 session and gave them the lead by 56-51.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Tang</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Tao</i>	<i>Zmuda</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This deal demonstrated the advantages of playing a semi-forcing 1NT response in the context of a two-over-one system. According to this agreement, the 1NT response covers also balanced spade raises with 10-11 HCP. If opener passes with a 5-3-3-2 12 HCP hand, 1NT will usually be a satisfactory contract.

Klukowski-Zmuda averted the grave danger of running into a 5-0 trump break in 3♠. True, their 1NT contract was also not a walk in the park, and Zmuda could make no more than five tricks – China +100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Bojarski</i>	<i>Wei</i>	<i>Chodacki</i>	<i>Sun</i>
Pass	1♠	2♠	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Despite his poor hearts, Chodacki used the Michaels Cue-Bid – evidently the Polish overcall style was lighter (well, that explains why the same player bid 2♥ over 2♦ in board 19 above while his Chinese counterpart bid 4♥). The result was excellent. Sun cue-bid 3♥ to show a good raise, but Bojarski was waiting in the wings, and he wielded the axe mercilessly.

Playing in 3♠ doubled must have been a pretty unpleasant experience – declarer simply had no tricks! The unsurprising final result was four down and +800 to Poland. The Polish domination continued into the third set, and while these lines were being typed, the match seemed to be running away from China.

MEET THE SWEDES

With the eighth book freshly arrived at book stores around the world, Harry Potter-fever is once again raging. Just like Harry's world is full of magic, so is the world of bridge, and when we started to think about it, the Swedish players and NPCs all very much resemble different characters from the books. Without further ado, we therefore give you the wizards and witches of Sweden.



Martin Löfgren (npc), Mikael Gronkvist, Mikael Rimstedt, Simon Hult, Simon Ekenberg, Ola Rimstedt, Daniel Gullberg, Tom Gärd's (coach)

Daniel Gullberg (25) – Harry Potter

This is Daniel's last championship, so it's fair that he gets to be compared to the hero of the books. Also, since he has survived playing with Mikael for a couple of years, you can really call him "The boy who lived".

Mikael Grönkvist (23) – Draco Malfoy

Mikael has always been a little evil and it therefore makes sense to give him the role of Harry's (second) worst enemy. Mikael's dad has a lot of influence over the Swedish Bridge Federation (rather than the Ministry of Magic), so if something bad happens to him, you can be certain that he will let his father hear about it.

Simon Hult (21) – Rubeus Hagrid

Simon is as goodhearted as this half-giant and also probably as strong. His playoff beard, on the

other hand, wasn't as mighty as Hagrid's.

Simon Ekenberg (24) – Neville Longbottom

Loyal as few others, Simon is most similar to this nice but rather clumsy friend of Harry's. If he was a wizard, we suspect that he would also have herbology as his favourite subject, so that he could grow some sort of magic tomatoes, his favourite snack.

Mikael & Ola Rimstedt (21) Fred & George Weasley

Despite not being redheads, Mikael and Ola have a lot of similarities with Fred and George. They are (obviously) twins and it used to be very tough to tell them apart. They are also mischievous as few others and part of a very big family, one that has already made its name known within the world of bridge.





UNDER 21

Martin Löfgren (npc), Castor Mann, Erik Hansson, Irma Petersen, Sanna Clementsson, Alexander Sandin, Teo Badin, Tom Gärd's (coach)

Irma Petersen (20) – Fleur Delacour

Irma reminds of us of this French witch as she also seems to have put a spell on most of the men around here. With her skills and charm, she would also be our choice for champion in the Triwizard Tournament.

Teo Bodin (17) – Cedric Diggory

When he heard about the theme for this year's presentation, Teo told us that he really wanted to be compared to Cedric as Twilight is his favourite movie and Robert Pattinson his favourite actor. So here you are, Teo. We hope that you are happy!

Castor Mann (15) – Colin Creevey

Castor is just as energetic and intense as this young wizard. It's probably good that electronic equipment is forbidden in the playing area, as otherwise he might have disturbed the players running around with his camera.

Erik Hansson (16) – Seamus Finnigan

Seamus is somewhat of an outsider at Hogwarts as he is the only Irishman there. So is Erik in the Swedish squad, as he is of Finnish heritage. It's only fitting that they both have a peculiar accent.

Sanna Clementsson (16) – Hermione Granger

This young bridge player is well-read like few others her age and is a fan of both English literature and different kinds of squeezes. It's no more than fair that she gets to be somewhat of a know-it-all.

Alexander Sandin (15) – Luna Lovegood

The blond Luna is known for being whimsical and Alex shares both those traits with her. He has forgotten his badge far more than the rest of the squad combined and has lost two keys to his room.





Lars Nilsson (coach), Tiger Lundqvist, Erik Wiberg, Isis Lundqvist, Willem Berner, Hjalmar Sandblom, Markus Bertheau, Peter Bertheau (npc)

Markus Bertheau (11) – Teddy Lupin

Markus is the son of two very capable bridge players, just like Teddy's parents are extremely skilled wand users. We haven't heard that much of him yet, but you can be certain that he will be back in the future.

Erik Wiberg (15) – Viktor Krum

This new addition to the Swedish teams is not yet a superstar when it comes to bridge. However, just like the Bulgarian wizard, he excels at sports and especially the most popular one – be it football instead of quidditch.

Willem Berner (14) – Romilda Vane

While Willem hasn't tried love potions, he does have other romantic tricks up his sleeve. For more information, ask the English.

CAPTAINS AND COACHES

Martin Löfgren (NPC U26 & U21) – Dolores Umbridge

Martin is still new on the job as this is his first championship with the Swedish juniors, and he sent out strict policies months before the event (reminding us of Umbridge's proclamations from her time as headmistress of Hogwarts). We can only hope that his reign will be more successful than his witch counterpart's.

Hjalmar Sandblom (14) – Gilderoy Lockhart

Gilderoy is a wizard most known for his good looks and Hjalmar is the most handsome of the Swedes, at least according to the Irish girls in the nearby bar.

Isis & Tiger Lundqvist (10 & 12) – Padma & Parvati Patil

Unlike the Patils, these two sisters are not twins, but they still remind us of them. Their personalities are very different from each other, and we are pretty sure that they would end up in different houses if placed under the Sorting Hat. We also have a guess about what Tiger's patronus would be ...

Tom Gärd (Coach U26 & U21) – Albus Dumbledore

This is our most experienced coach, as Tom has been with the squad on and off since 2009. He shares most of his wisdom in the form of riddles or ambiguous advice, which is fun, but not very helpful when it comes to the opponents' conventions.



Peter Bertheau (NPC U16) – Remus Lupin

A very skilled bridgeplayer/wizard who is well-known for his previous victories, even though this is his first time as an NPC. He hasn't slept a whole night here and claims that it is because of jetlag. We know better than that ...



Lars Nilsson (Coach U26, U21 & U16) – Garrick Olivander

A wizard or witch is nothing without his or her wand, just like we would be nothing without Lars. His tireless bringing of supplies (especially the bananas) was a key ingredient in the U21-golds in Wroclaw and Istanbul. Hopefully, it will be the same here in Italy.



JUNIORS FINAL

	c.o.	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot.
 POLAND	0	1	55	31	25			112
 CHINA	7	30	14	13	9			73



GIRLS FINAL

	c.o.	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot.
 AUSTRALIA	0	24	19	20	42			105
 NETHERLANDS	7	30	64	27	32			160



YOUNGSTERS FINAL

	c.o.	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot.
 ITALY	0	47	14	9	30			100
 NETHERLANDS	16	28	38	23	37			142



JUNIORS FINAL 3RD PLACE

	c.o.	1	2	3	4	tot.
 SWEDEN	3.5	29	44	39	15	130.5
 NETHERLANDS	0	15	27	23	47	112

GIRLS FINAL 3RD PLACE

	c.o.	1	2	3	4	tot.
 INDONESIA	0	12	20	29	73	134
 NORWAY	11	45	31	31	20	138

YOUNGSTERS FINAL 3RD PLACE

	c.o.	1	2	3	4	tot.
 HONG KONG	6.67	28	32	0	34	100.7
 GERMANY	0	9	12	43	26	90



click on the picture from the web version to open the video



Catching up with Jade



Young, Wild and Champions



A Few Words With Rodrigo Giannotti

BAM TEAMS

FINAL A RANKING

1	USA JUNIORS	84.70
2	FRANCE1	75.47
3	ITALY JUNIORS	69.88
4	ENGLISH LIONS	66.01
5	INDIAN TIGERS	57.16
6	POLAND GIRLS	54.37
7	BAM FOREVER	53.93
8	NORWAY JUNIOR	52.85
9	ENGLISH CUBS	51.62
10	MUNDAYS FUNDA	51.24
11	FRANCE3	48.99
12	KENTUCKY	48.54
13	RI1	47.31
14	JAPAN	35.00

FINAL B RANKING

1	CUTIES	49.00
2	CHILE GIRLS	46.00
3	LATVIA	46.00
4	TAIPEI PRECIS	44.00
5	TPE MACACA CY	43.00
6	GERMANY JUNIOR	43.00
7	CHILE U21	37.00
8	BERMUDA FUNIO	28.00

Answers to the Quiz on page 2

1. and 3.

Dealer East. None vul.

♠ A 6 3
 ♥ Q 10 6
 ♦ 9
 ♣ Q J 6 5 3 2

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

West	North	East	South
		Pass	2NT (a)
Pass	3♣ (b)	Pass	3NT (c)
Pass	4♦ (d)	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠ (e)	Pass	5♣ (e)
Pass	5♦ (e)	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- (a) 19-20 points
- (b) Puppet Stayman
- (c) Three spades and five hearts
- (d) Transfer to hearts
- (e) Control-bid expressing slam interest in hearts

Since partner seems not to have much, you lead a low trump: six, five, seven. Declarer cashes his ace of clubs and plays another club to your king while partner signals an odd number of clubs.

Clearly, declarer is threatening to draw trumps and run the clubs. But given the bad trump break, he will

need a dummy entry, which is the ace of spades. To eliminate that entry, Oscar Nijssen of the Netherlands Youngsters team led the king of spades. If South had ducked, West would have cashed the ace of diamonds to defeat the contract. And when South won the trick with dummy's ace, he drew one round of trumps with dummy's ten, dismayed to see East discard a diamond.

Now declarer had to guess the diamonds, hoping to establish one winner there and ruff another in the dummy.

As you will have surmised, South tried a diamond to his king, but Nijssen took the trick and led another trump. When declarer pitched a diamond on the queen of clubs, West ruffed and played a spade. East still had to collect the queen of diamonds, so the contract went two down.

Nijssen had executed a Merrimac Coup, named after the American steam ship Merrimac, which was sunk in the harbour of Santiago de Cuba during the Spanish-American War in 1898 in an attempt to bottle up the Spanish fleet.

Now for the fourth question. How should South play in either four hearts or five hearts?

Marc Stougie of the Netherlands knew exactly what to do in four hearts. He drew trumps, cashed the ace of clubs, and played another club. West won and cashed the ace of diamonds. Declarer claimed an overtrick and the Netherlands gained 11 imps. Whatever the distribution, Stougie would have lost at most one club and two diamonds.

Five hearts is not so clear-cut. Suppose declarer draws all of the trumps and plays two rounds of clubs. If East turns up with the king of clubs and switches to a low diamond, South will have to guess correctly -- if he can.

Still, surely the line chosen by the original declarer was fine -- he just should have guessed diamonds better!



2. With only the opponents vulnerable in a knockout team match, you, East, hold:

♠ A Q 4 ♥ K 9 6 4 ♦ 7 4 2 ♣ 9 7 2

i. Partner deals and opens one 15-17 notrump. After North passes, what would you do?

ii. You are employing the weak notrump. This time the auction starts:

West	North	East	South
	Partner		You
1♦	Pass	1♥	2♣
Dble (a)	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	??	

(a) Support double: three cards in hearts

Do you agree with your two-heart rebid? If not, what do you prefer? What would you do now?

In the quarterfinals, the Indonesian Girls team entered the last board down by 11 imps and won 12 to reach the semis.

In the semis, they were 5 imps down with one board. Could they do it again?

This was the deal:

Dealer West. N-S vul.

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

In the Open Room, this was the auction:

West	North	East	South
Cooper	Sibuea	Pattison	Ningtias
1NT (a)	Pass	Pass	Pass

(a) 14-16 points

North understandably led a low diamond. West won with her king and played a spade to dummy's queen. South took that trick and switched to the queen of clubs, giving West an anxious moment, but her king held. She ran spades and hearts, on the last of which North erred by discarding her third club. But she saved one more trick by ducking the diamond to the jack at

trick eleven. Then, West had to lead from her ♦ Q-6 into North's ♦ A-10.

East-West were plus 180. The Indonesian pair in the Closed Room had to be at least plus 350 for a tie or 400 for the win. Could they bid and make a game?

If West opened one notrump showing 15-17 points, East would surely respond three notrumps. She would not use Stayman with 4-3-3-3 distribution. To beat that contract, North would have to psychic and lead a club.

However, there was a "snag" -- Fytry and Sefita use the weak notrump.

This was the start to the auction:

West	North	East	South
Fytry	Brake	Sefita	Fuller
1♦	Pass	1♥	2♣
Dble	Pass	??	

Sefita had an unappealing bid. She might have tried two diamonds, but one can understand her choice of two hearts.

West	North	East	South
Fytry	Brake	Sefita	Fuller
1♦	Pass	1♥	2♣
Dble	Pass	2♥	Pass
??			

What would Fytry do now? She was worth a move, but two notrump did not have much appeal with only king-ex in clubs. She made the reasonable decision to raise to three hearts, trying to stress that she had three strong trumps.

The auction had reached:

West	North	East	South
Fytry	Brake	Sefita	Fuller
1♦	Pass	1♥	2♣
Dble	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	??	

Now the spectators were really interested. They had noted that four hearts on the 4-3 fit was makable. What would Sefita do?

We thought that she should bid three spades, accepting the game-try with her extra king, but retaining some flexibility. Over that, presumably West would have bid four hearts.

After agonising for ages, Sefita passed and the match was over. She took ten tricks, but it was only a flat board. Credit for the victory must at least in part go to Kirstyn Fuller for her brave two-club overcall, at unfavourable vulnerability opposite a passed partner. Without it, the Indonesians would surely have bid 1♦-1♥-1NT-3NT-Pass.