



14th

WORLD YOUTH BRIDGE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

TAICANG - CHINA 25th JULY - 4th AUGUST 2012

Editors:
Phillip Alder, Brian Senior,
P.O. Sundelin
Lay-out Editor:
Herman De Wael

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Rest Day for Some



... but not for the staff in the nerve centre of the tournament!

In the Juniors, three quarterfinal matches were won comfortably. The Netherlands beat Singapore by 84 IMPs, Australia defeated USA1 by 61, and China won over France by 110.

The fourth match between Israel and Italy was close throughout. Italy started the last session up by 25 IMPs. After six boards, though, Israel were in front. Italy regained the lead two boards later. But Israel immediately gained 12 IMPs to take a lead they never lost, winning by 23 IMPs.

In the Youngsters, France won by 72.5 IMPs over Italy, despite losing a few points in the first



quarter. And USA1 won well over Australia, although the Antipodeans made the score closer in the last session, losing by 24.3 IMPs. In contrast, Israel beat Sweden by only 7 IMPs after being 30 ahead at halftime. And England won the first set against Poland by 57 IMPs, but Poland took the next three sessions, including an emphatic fourth quarter, to win by 60.



The 56-board semifinals are Netherlands-Australia and Israel-China in the Juniors. Poland-France and USA1-Israel in the Youngsters. And Netherlands-Italy and Poland-France in the Girls.



The Quarterfinals



Jaime Ortiz-Patiño Trophy

Juniors

		C/O	1-14	15-28	29-42	43-56	Total
	NETHERLANDS	6	26	49	36	48	165
	SINGAPORE		10	17	39	15	81

		C/O	1-14	15-28	29-42	43-56	Total
	AUSTRALIA	10	30	45	19	56	160
	USA1		12	16	34	37	99



		C/O	1-14	15-28	29-42	43-56	Total
	ISRAEL	10	14	28	54	59	165
	ITALY		44	37	50	11	142



		C/O	1-14	15-28	29-42	43-56	Total
	FRANCE	10	8	2	27	56	103
	CHINA		53	45	58	57	213



The Quarterfinals



José Damiani Cup

Youngsters

		C/O	1-14	15-28	29-42	43-56	Total
	POLAND	10	15	41	56	72	194
	ENGLAND		72	31	28	3	134

		C/O	1-14	15-28	29-42	43-56	Total
	FRANCE	6.5	16	45	70	29	166.5
	ITALY		27	26	31	10	94

		C/O	1-14	15-28	29-42	43-56	Total
	USA1		44	56	30	17	147
	AUSTRALIA	2.7	15	24	31	50	122.7

		C/O	1-14	15-28	29-42	43-56	Total
	SWEDEN	10	16	23	45	42	136
	ISRAEL		36	43	40	24	143

Semifinal Line-Up - Juniors Jaime Ortiz-Patiño Trophy



Semifinal Line-Up - Youngsters José Damiani Cup



Semifinal Line-Up - Girls Gianarrigo Rona Trophy



Matches on BBO

Thursday 2 August (all times GMT+8)

10:00

**13:00 & 15:30 & 17:55
TO BE DECIDED**

VG	NETHERLANDS	AUSTRALIA	J
B2	POLAND	FRANCE	Y
B3	USA1	ISRAEL	Y
B4	POLAND	FRANCE	G
OG	ISRAEL	CHINA	J

The Brazil Juniors

Here are the profiles for the Brazilian team.

Felipe Vasallo

Felipe, 23, is a math student from São Paulo. He goes to the same university as three of his teammates, where they play a lot of King in their spare time. He started to play Bridge in 2007 and is very enthusiastic about learning new bidding systems. He is also the captain of the Brazilian team.



Rafael Dias

Rafael, 24, is a statistics student from São Paulo. He also plays a lot of King, and, like Tais, his first time actually playing Bridge was the South American tournament earlier this year.

Stefano Tomasini

Stefano, 20, is a computer science student from São Paulo. He learned to play Bridge with his grandfather in 2006. He also plays a lot of King at school. In this tournament, Stefano is playing with four different partners, and with each of them he plays a different system!



Tais Bataggia

Tais, 19, is a math student from São Paulo as well. She has always been an avid King player, but the first time she participated in a Bridge tournament was actually in March 2012, when she represented Brazil in the South American Championships and qualified the team for this event!



Paulo Vitor da Rosa

Paulo, 24, is an international relations student from Porto Alegre and a professional player of and writer about the game Magic: the Gathering. He learned to play Bridge in 2006, though he has only played sporadically since then.

Cheers!

Dutch Diaries - Part 6

by Kees Tammens

Maybe it was not the right thing to do as a coach, but when the Dutch juniors collected enough victory points to qualify for the quarterfinals, I, being active in bridge for 44 years and still interested in the beauty of the game, focused my attention on interesting theoretical themes in bidding and play. And in this set of problems there were many chances to bring in candidates for a brilliancy award. So Girls, Youngsters and Juniors: give it your best.

1. In the first board that caught my attention, you hold:

♠ Q J 9 5 2 ♥ A Q 3 ♦ 3 ♣ J 10 8 6

Partner opens one spade at favourable vulnerability. After the next hand passes, what would you respond?

2. This time, with only the opponents vulnerable, you have:

♠ 6 4 ♥ Q 6 4 ♦ A 7 2 ♣ J 10 9 4 3

It goes three passes to your partner, who opens one notrump, 15-17. Your right-hand opponent overcalls two clubs, showing both majors. You pass (would you?), lefty advances with two spades, and it is passed back to you. What would you do?

- (a) Pass
- (b) Double
- (c) Two notrumps
- (d) Three clubs

3. Now your hand is:

♠ — ♥ 8 4 ♦ K J 9 6 4 ♣ A Q J 9 6 3

With neither side vulnerable, the bidding starts, with you South, like this:

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	Dble	4♠	??

Would you call:

- (a) Pass
- (b) Double
- (c) Four notrumps
- (d) Five clubs
- (e) Five diamonds

4. Now a declarer-play problem.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 9 5 2
♥ K Q 9 8 2
♦ 4 2
♣ K Q 4

♠ Q 8 4
♥ A J 5
♦ A K J 9 6 5 3
♣ —

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♦
1♠	2♣ (a)	3♣ (b)	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
(a) Hearts			
(b) Natural			

West leads the ace of spades, then shifts to the three of hearts, dummy's eight holding the trick. How would you continue?

Let's look at the full deals:

Board 9. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

♠ A K 8 6 3
♥ K 7 5
♦ A 7 6 2
♣ 9

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

♠ Q J 9 5 2
♥ A Q 3
♦ 3
♣ J 10 8 6

At the table, if South had bid two notrumps, it would have shown game-invitational values with at least three spades. Your plan would be to raise a three-spade sign-off to game to show that you have game-going values (at most seven losers) but with limited high-card content. This is all right unless partner takes a long time to bid three spades. Then South might have difficulty persuading the

director that he always planned to bid game.

Four spades is a pre-emptive raise, for which this hand is much too strong. But it could work if there is no slam and it succeeds in silencing the opponents when they have a big diamond fit.

Four diamonds seems the best move to me, although the lack of a club control is a problem. Knowledge of the singleton might be music to partner's ears.

Six spades looks like the perfect contract, but it can be defeated by a heart lead. Still, many pairs bid and made 980. I wonder who had the best sequence. It must be worth the brilliancy prize for best-bid deal. Report your candidate to the bulletin staff. And don't hesitate to tell us if your opponents got there.

This was the deal from which the second question was taken:

Board 16. Dealer West. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1NT
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	??		

Most pairs would treat a double of two clubs as expressing an interest in trying to penalise the opponents. So pass seems sensible. (Even if you could bid a non-forcing three clubs, it is unclear with only a five-card suit.)

And although when East bids two spades, not two hearts (or two diamonds, if that would ask his partner to choose the trump suit), it is likely that they have a definite fit, it is still dangerous to bid.

At the table, though, North bid three clubs, which was passed out.

There was good news in that two spades could

have been made (but might not have been) and bad news in that after the lead of the king of diamonds, three clubs had to fail.

Interestingly four declarers made three no-trumps after West led the three of hearts. In the Girls event we had Xingxing Shan from China and Judith Nab from the Netherlands. And in the Youngsters, Julien Bernard from Canada and Jordan Hebbert from Canada.

Now to the big minor two-suiter.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
-	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	Dble	4♠	??

It looks normal to bid four notrumps, showing long clubs and a shorter red side suit. Here, North would correct to five clubs. This contract can be made, although several declarers went down.



The last problem gave a few declarers the chance for a real brilliancy.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♦
1♠	2♣ (a)	3♣	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
(a) Hearts			

This heart-club inversion enjoys considerable popularity these days. I wonder who had the original idea?

Only one declarer made four hearts: Aleksis Zalitis on the Latvian Youngsters team, and he was favoured with the opening lead of the ace of clubs.

For more on this deal, turn to page 10.

Come on everybody: bring in your favourite boards. Of course, I ask this partly for my own benefit, so that I can write many newspaper columns featuring the heroic exploits and artistic brilliancies of the participants in these world championships.



Aleksis Zalitis

Non-Olympic Diary

We believe a new world bridge championship was set in the last round of the Youngsters round robin when USA1, with Zachary Brescoll, Adam Kaplan, Adam and Zachary Grossack playing, won the match by 97 IMPs to 0. We think this is the biggest blitz ever in world championship play — and maybe anywhere — over 16 boards.

No peeking — which countries have teams in all three knockout sections?

An unusual baseball feat happened on Monday night when the Los Angeles Angels were playing the Texas Rangers. Kendrys Morales of the Angels became only the third player in Major League Baseball history to hit two home runs in an inning, one batting left-handed and one batting right-handed. His second home run, from the right, was also a grand slam. He had six RBIs (runs batted in) for the inning. The other two who achieved this rare feat were Carlos Baerga in 1993 and Mark Bellhorn in 2002.

Because Herman so loves the Olympic Games, but would not qualify to compete in any of the sports, I wondered what other sports the bulletin staff might be able to excel in. Herman would not make it in removing the cover from a yoghurt, but would star in Olympic Trivia, if that could be considered a sport. Brian perhaps has a chance in hours spent in an aeroplane in a year by someone not salaried by a company. Personally, in golf, raking the bunkers; I get much more practice than most.

Both France and Italy have qualified in all three events here. But they cannot both have three semifinalists, because they play against each other in the Youngsters quarterfinals.

Australia, Israel, the Netherlands, Poland and the United States have two teams continuing. And interestingly, the Australian and American teams faced off in the Juniors and Youngsters events.

The Story of Two Costly Deals

by Phillip Alder

Before we get into the crux of this story, here are two problems.

You, West, pick up:

♠ 10 4 3 2 ♥ 10 5 4 ♦ 10 5 ♣ A J 9 8

You deal with the opponents vulnerable. The auction goes thus:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT (a)
Pass	3♣ (b)	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
(a) 20-21			
(b) Simple Stayman			

What would you lead?

Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ Q 8 4
♥ A J 5
♦ A K J 9 6 5 3
♣ —

♠ 9 5 2
♥ K Q 9 8 2
♦ 4 2
♣ K Q 4

West	North	East	South
–	1♦	1♠	2♥
Pass	4♣ (a)	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(a) Splinter			

West leads the seven of diamonds. How would you plan the play?

Several teams had hard-luck stories after the round robin. Perhaps the hardest was from Denmark in the Juniors. Singapore rallied when it mattered, winning the maximum 50 victory points in the last two rounds to end on 312 victory points.

Before the last round, Denmark had 289.5 (having been fined half a victory point for slow play). Denmark had to win over France by 23-7, or by at least 32 IMPs.

Half the boards were flat. On six of the other eight, Denmark scored 48 IMPs. This is the story of the two remaining deals.

This was the full deal from the lead problem:

Board 12. Dealer West. N-S Vul.

♠ 7 6
♥ A Q J 7
♦ 6 3
♣ 7 6 4 3 2

♠ 10 4 3 2
♥ 10 5 4
♦ 10 5
♣ A J 9 8

♠ K 9 8 5
♥ K 9 6
♦ J 9 8 2
♣ Q 5

♠ A Q J
♥ 8 3 2
♦ A K Q 7 4
♣ K 10

West	North	East	South
Tofte	Lhuissier	Ege	Francesc'ti
Lebatteux	Bilde	Kilani	Jepsen
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT (a)
Pass	3♣ (b)	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
(a) 20-21			
(b) Simple Stayman			

Aymeric Lebatteux led a spade, which I expect a computer simulation would claim is better than a club, as was selected by Lars Tofte.

Jepsen took Alexandre Kilani's king with his ace and played four rounds of diamonds. East returned a spade. Declarer cashed his long diamond and high spade, then took the heart finesse for his contract and went two down, the defenders having the balance.

After a club lead to the queen and king, Pierre Franceschetti took a heart finesse, Niclas Raulund Ege ducking smoothly. Now declarer took a successful spade finesse, then repeated the heart finesse. East won and returned a club. West took his three tricks, and when East discarded a heart, South claimed nine tricks via two spades, three hearts, three diamonds and one club.

That was 13 IMPs to France.

Now for the declarer-play problem, with the deal rotated to make South the declarer.

Board 7. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ Q 8 4
♥ A J 5
♦ A K J 9 6 5 3
♣ —

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

♠ 9 5 2
♥ K Q 9 8 2
♦ 4 2
♣ K Q 4

♠ Q 8
♥ —
♦ K J 9
♣ —

♠ 7 6 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ 10 9 7	♠ A K J ♥ — ♦ Q 10 ♣ —
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West	North	East	South
Ege	Francesc'ti	Tofte	Lhuissier
	1♦	1♠	2♣ (a)
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(a) Hearts

West	North	East	South
Kilani	Jepsen	Lebatteux	Bilde
	1♦	1♠	2♥
Pass	4♣ (a)	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(a) Splinter

The heart-club inversion got four hearts played from the unbeatable side. Tofte cashed his top spades and gave his partner a spade ruff. Franceschetti won the diamond switch with his ace, drew trumps in two rounds and claimed, saying that he would establish his diamond suit.

At the other table, if Kilani had just led his partner's suit, four hearts would have presumably died a quiet death. The simplest defence is three rounds of spades, West discarding his diamond and receiving a diamond ruff (although that is not necessary).

Instead West led his diamond, which was clearly a singleton, given dummy's opening bid.

Now Dennis Bilde had a chance to win one of Kees Tammens' brilliancy prizes.

What he actually did was win in the dummy, cash the jack of hearts, play a heart to his hand and lead up his last diamond. But West ruffed and switched to a spade for one down.

Declarer had to win in the dummy, play a trump

to his hand and lead a high club.

If West does not cover, South pitches a spade from the dummy and has a few winning continuations. I leave the curious to work them out.

When West covers with his ace, declarer ruffs in the dummy with the ace of hearts, overtakes the jack of hearts (note the ten appearing!) and runs his winners. This is the end-position:

♠ 7 6 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ 10 9 7	♠ 9 5 2 ♥ 8 ♦ 4 ♣ —
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The last trump forces East to discard another spade. Then a spade exit catches him in an end-play.

That, for sure, is a double-dummy line of play, but not totally impossible to find given that the diamond position is known. But it does require taking a position about the ace of clubs. If the deal is the same but East has the ace, declarer must win the first trick in the dummy, play a trump to his, ruff his low club with the ace of hearts, draw trumps (discarding a diamond from dummy) and give East has his ace of clubs. Suppose he returns a club. South wins and executes the endplay just discussed.

At the table, France gained 12 IMPs and Denmark were eliminated.

To qualify, Denmark had to defeat three notrumps on the first deal and make four hearts in this one.

Junior Quarterfinals Set One

by Brian Senior

The vugraph match for the first set of the quarterfinals featured Singapore and leading qualifiers, the Netherlands, with the Dutch enjoying a 6 IMP carry-over advantage. However, as that match was relatively quiet, the bulk of this report will highlight the action in another junior match in which France faced our hosts, China, a match in which France had a 10 IMP carry-over.

down as Van Lankveld also had to lose two spades and a diamond; minus 50.

Note that if declarer thinks to unblock the heart seven at trick one, North must continue with the eight to prevent dummy gaining the lead with the six to take the diamond finesse.

It appears that two rounds of hearts is the only start to beat 4♥. In the other room, Aarnout Helmich led a diamond and Gerbrand Hop ducked dummy's queen. You played three rounds of spades, ruffing, then a diamond to the ace and a fourth spade. Helmich had to ruff in front of dummy with the eight to prevent the overtrick; plus 420 and 10 IMPs to Singapore.

After five quiet boards, France led China by 2-0 IMPs. Then China started a powerful run that saw them move into a significant lead.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
You	Helmich	Tan	Hop
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	2♣
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
v Lankveld	Tham	v d Bos	Oh
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

For Singapore, Ying Dan You rebid a natural reverse, while for the Netherlands Joris van Lankveld went via an artificial 2NT to show a strong and very shapely hand. Both, however, declared the same contract of 4♥.

Yuan Xing Tham led ace and another heart against Van Lankveld and that proved to be very effective as it prevented a spade ruff in dummy which in turn meant that there was no entry to take the winning diamond finesse. Despite crashing the defensive trump tricks, this start led to one

Board 6. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shao	Lhuissier	Hu	Francesc'ti
–	–	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT (a)	2NT	3♥
4♦	5♦	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♦	Pass	7♥
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

(a) Spades

West	North	East	South
Coudert	Jiang	Lorenzini	Chen
–	–	1♦	1♥
3♦	4♠	5♦	5♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

For France, Cédric Lorenzini opened the East hand and that allowed Thibault Coudert to make a pre-emptive raise. Though Yujie Jiang jumped to 4♠, it was hard for North-South from here and they subsided in 5♠. Jiang ruffed the diamond lead and laid down the ace of trumps; plus 510.

Junjie Hu did not open the East hand. However, he did come in with a two-suited overcall at his next turn. The French North-South had more room to explore and reached the spade grand slam, ensuring that there would be major swing, but to whom?

East's two-suited overcall led Nicolas Lhuissier astray. He ruffed the diamond lead and crossed to the ace of clubs to run the spade queen. When that lost to the bare king, Hu could cash a club for down two; minus 100 and 12 IMPs to China, when it might have been 14 the other way.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shao	Lhuissier	Hu	Francesc'ti
-	-	-	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Coudert	Jiang	Lorenzini	Chen
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Pierre Franceschetti's strong but not game-forc-

ing artificial opening saw the French North-South agree spades and explore slam, but then stop in game. Yichao Chen opened 1♠ and Jiang responded 3♦, Bergen. When Chen made a slam-try, Jiang was willing to be the one to go past game to show his second club control. That suited Chen very well, upgrading his own club holding, so he jumped to the small slam. With the clubs providing four tricks, there was little to the play. Both declarers lost just to the ace of hearts; plus 680 to France but plus 1430 to China and 13 more Chinese IMPs.

Board 9. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shao	Lhuissier	Hu	Francesc'ti
-	1NT	Pass	3♣
Dble	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Coudert	Jiang	Lorenzini	Chen
-	1♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	1♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Jiang's 1♣ opening was Standard, and when that came around to the West hand, Coudert doubled then leaped to 3NT over the 1♥ response. Jiang led the four of spades to the eight and jack, won Coudert's play of the queen of diamonds and tried a heart, which went to the jack and king. Now Coudert played the king of clubs, which Jiang again won. He played another low heart to the ace and Coudert cashed the king and jack of diamonds, then played on clubs, getting that right by playing the queen on the third round to drop the ten. He had nine tricks now for plus 600. It

seemed that Jiang might have made the play a little more difficult for declarer, but after the spade lead Coudert was always well placed.

I believe that Lhuissier's 1NT opening was 10-12 – not such an underbid with a 4-3-3-3 hand with one honour in each suit and no intermediates. Three clubs was a transfer. When Yinpei Shao doubled both 3♣ and 3♦, Hu jumped to 4♥ and a different game had been reached.

Franceschetti led the two of spades to the jack and king, and Lhuissier switched to a heart to dummy. Hu cashed the second heart and led the king of diamonds, ruffing out Lhuissier's ace. Hu played the heart ten to the queen and Lhuissier returned a spade for the ten, queen and ace. A club towards his queen provided an entry to hand to draw the last trump and Hu had his ten tricks for plus 620 and 1 IMP to China.

Franceschetti preferred to make a take-out double and, with almost all of his values in diamonds, it seemed quite reasonable for Lhuissier to play for a penalty. However, reasonable does not always turn out to be successful. Franceschetti led the king of hearts. Hu won with the ace and played the queen of diamonds. Lhuissier returned his spade, Hu's queen being allowed to hold the trick. Hu now played a club. Franceschetti won, cashed the queen of hearts and exited with a club to dummy. The ace of spades was ruffed and overruffed, declarer knocked out the ace of trumps and had the rest for plus 670 and 10 IMPs to China.

There were 6 more IMPs to China on the next deal when their North-South pair stayed safely in partscore while France were going down in game.

And then there was one more big swing, also to China.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 3 ♥ J 5 4 ♦ A K 8 5 ♣ 10 9 8 5 3</p> <p>♠ A J 10 7 2 ♥ 9 7 6 2 ♦ 7 4 ♣ K Q</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q ♥ A 10 ♦ Q J 10 9 6 3 2 ♣ J 4 2</p> <p>♠ K 9 8 6 5 4 ♥ K Q 8 3 ♦ — ♣ A 7 6</p>
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West	North	East	South
Shao	Lhuissier	Hu	Francesc'ti
–	–	3♦	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
Coudert	Jiang	Lorenzini	Chen
–	–	3♦	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Both Easts opened with a pre-empt, but the South players chose different calls. Chen overcalled 3♠ and was left to play there. The five-one trump break meant that he did not enjoy the play very much and he did well to escape for down two; minus 200. Looking around the room, that was one of the best results achieved by North-South on this death-trap lay-out.

Board 12. Dealer West. N-S Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 3 ♥ 10 9 8 3 2 ♦ K 9 8 ♣ Q 8 6 3</p> <p>♠ A K 9 8 4 2 ♥ A ♦ A 7 5 4 3 2 ♣ —</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q 10 7 6 ♥ K J 6 5 ♦ 10 ♣ K J 10 4</p> <p>♠ J 5 ♥ Q 7 4 ♦ Q J 6 ♣ A 9 7 5 2</p>
--	--

West	North	East	South
Shao	Lhuissier	Hu	Francesc'ti
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♦	Pass	7♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Coudert	Jiang	Lorenzini	Chen
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Seven is borderline on this deal, needing diamonds three-three, or four-two with South having the length, or some good fortune in trumps if North has four diamonds.

I never like auctions in which responder fails to

show four-card support for partner's major immediately and here the French pair never really got to grips with the deal, stopping in 6♠ without exploring the possibility of a grand slam; plus 1010.

Hu showed four-card support immediately, then a diamond control. After asking for key cards just to set the scene, Shao asked for a third-round diamond control and Hu bid the grand; plus 1510 and 11 IMPs to China.

France gained a partscore swing on the last board of the set but China won the session by 53-8 IMPs and, after 14 deals, led by 53-18 overall.

In the Netherlands-Singapore match, after the game swing out on the first deal of the set, there had been seven flat boards followed by three modest swings to the Netherlands. One more flat board brought us to their one big swing of the set.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ Q 5
♥ A J 4
♦ J 9 4
♣ K J 9 7 6

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

♠ K J 7 3 2
♥ Q 10 5 2
♦ 7 3
♣ 8 5

West	North	East	South
You	Helmich	Tan	Hop
–	1♣	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
v Lankveld	Tham	v d Bos	Oh
–	1♣	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Redble	2♥	All Pass	

Neither East could resist the 1♠ overcall on that beautiful suit and rich collection of high cards. Berend van den Bos could at least pass the constructive but non-forcing 2♦ response, and now

Chen Yichao



Feng Gui Oh reopened with a double that implied spade length. Tham responded 2♥ and Van Lankveld was delighted to leave him to stew there. The contract drifted three off for minus 300.

In the other room, Wei Seng Tan was obliged by his agreements to bid again with the East hand. You drove to game, looking at slam possibilities on the way. The fate of the contract hinged on the opening lead. On anything other than a trump, declarer can duck a heart, ruff one and duck another round after drawing trumps to drop the ace, coming to 11 tricks. That would have meant 7 IMPs to Singapore. But Helmich found the killing lead, the four of diamonds. You won dummy's ace and, with little hope of success, led a heart to her king as the only chance. Helmich won with the ace and returned a second trump and, with no heart ruffs, the contract was doomed. You actually dropped a trick to go three down instead of two but that made only 1 IMP difference; another minus 300 meant 12 IMPs to the Netherlands. They won the set by 26-10, having shut out their opponents after Board 1, and led overall by 32-10.

Jiang Yujie



Junior Quarterfinal

Israel vs Italy - Second Session

by Phillip Alder

This set began with Italy leading by 20 IMPs, 44-24.

Israel closed the gap immediately.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zanasi	Gerstner	Di Franco	Fisher
–	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Meyuchas	Delle Cave	Padon	Gandoglia
–	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣ (a)
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣ (b)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- (a) Puppet to two diamonds
(b) Game-invitational

On the Vu-Graph, Lotan Fisher passed out one notrump.

The defenders took four heart tricks (declarer discarded a diamond from his hand and threw a spade and a diamond from dummy). Then Massimiliano di Franco switched to the eight of spades. Thinking this was high from a weak suit, Gabriele Zanasi did not cover dummy's ten. Gal Gerstner ran the queen of clubs, East winning with his king and continuing with the king of spades. Declarer claimed eight tricks: two spades, two diamonds and four clubs.

When Alessandro Gandoglia invited game, Giuseppe delle Cave reasonably accepted with

three aces, one ten and three nines.

Again the defenders took four hearts (declarer pitched a diamond from his hand and two spades from dummy), then Dror Padon switched to the king of spades. Declarer won, played a diamond to the king and tried the club finesse. It lost and three spade tricks later, the contract had gone four down, giving Israel 8 IMPs.

The Italians immediately struck back.

Board 2. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zanasi	Gerstner	Di Franco	Fisher
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♦	Dble	2♦	2♠
3♦	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Meyuchas	Delle Cave	Padon	Gandoglia
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♦	Dble	3♦	Dble
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

The rule for bidding a slam on a finesse is easy: Bid it when the finesse is working and stay out of it when the finesse is losing!

Even so, despite Zanasi and di Franco sounding like they had some values, I am surprised Gerstner did not do more than jump to four spades with his whale of a hand.

Fisher, hoping the club finesse was losing, took only 11 tricks. It mattered not, because Delle Cave

cruised to 12 winners, gaining 13 IMPs for Italy.

After a flat partscore, there was another potential slam deal.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ Q J 8 6 4

♥ 7

♦ 9 6 5 2

♣ K 8 4

♠ K 9 7 5 3

♥ 9 5 4 2

♦ J 10

♣ 3 2

♠ A

♥ A K Q J 8

♦ A Q 7

♣ A Q J 5

♠ 10 2

♥ 10 6 3

♦ K 8 4 3

♣ 10 9 7 6

West	North	East	South
Zanasi	Gerstner	Di Franco	Fisher
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥ (a)	Pass
2♠ (b)	Pass	3♣ (c)	Pass
3♥ (d)	Pass	3♠ (e)	Pass
3NT (f)	Pass	4♣ (e)	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

(a) Kokish: natural or a balanced game-force

(b) Forced

(c) Natural and promising hearts

(d) Stronger than four hearts

(e) Control-bid (cue-bid)

(f) Poor hand for a slam

West	North	East	South
Meyuchas	Delle Cave	Padon	Gandoglia
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Maybe di Franco should have taken another bid over four hearts.

As soon as Meyuchas showed a sign of life, Padon decided to bid a slam. Di Franco, on the other hand, found out that his partner had a spade card but no minor-suit king, so settled for game.

Slam is acceptable, in particular because South might lead a minor suit. And that is what Gandoglia did, choosing the three of diamonds. Now Padon would have made seven if he had been in it, finessing clubs at trick two. But being in six, he

played safe by immediately drawing trumps and lost a club at the end.

The play was effectively the same in the Open Room.

This gave 13 IMPs to Israel, who had cut the Italian lead to 12 IMPs.

Benito Garozzo always recommends aggressive leads against small slams, but when the declarer is known to be very strong, perhaps some circumspection is not a bad idea.

This deal was also interesting in the Australia-USA1 Youngsters match.

West	North	East	South
Cooper	Kaplan	Thompson	Brescoll
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT (a)	Pass
5♦ (b)	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

(a) Roman Key Card Blackwood

(b) No key card

West	North	East	South
Z. Gross'ck	Travis	A. Gross'ck	Moskovsky
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦ (a)	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

(a) At most one king

In the Closed Room, perhaps three notrumps over three spades should show the king of spades.

Four hearts came home with two overtricks when South led a diamond — a reasonable choice against game.

Against six hearts, though, Zachary Brescoll led a trump. Now declarer had to decide whether to take diamond finesse or the club finesse. Whichever he chose, he could get to dummy by giving up a trick in the other minor.

Jamie Thompson took the trump lead in his hand and drew two more rounds. What should have Adam Kaplan discarded?

It was dangerous to throw any card, in case he was pitching from declarer's second suit. But fairly quickly he chose the four of clubs, in theory upside-down count and attitude.

East, though, felt that Kaplan would not discard from a suit in which he had the king, so declarer

decided to play North for the king of diamonds, leading the queen of clubs from his hand. North won with his king and switched to a diamond. Declarer had to finesse, so went one down, giving 13 IMPs to USA1.

Back to Israel-Italy. After two flat partscore deals came another big swing.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J ♥ A 10 7 3 ♦ Q 10 2 ♣ K 10 7 6 4</p> <p>♠ 3 ♥ K J 9 6 5 4 ♦ K J 6 5 ♣ 9 5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K 9 7 6 5 ♥ 2 ♦ 7 4 3 ♣ A Q J 2</p> <p>♠ A Q 10 8 4 2 ♥ Q 8 ♦ A 9 8 ♣ 8 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
Zanasi	Gerstner	Di Franco	Fisher
–	–	–	1♠
2♥	Dble	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
Meyuchas	Delle Cave	Padon	Gandoglia
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
3♥	Dble	All Pass	

It is a truism of bridge that it is usually safer to bid immediately than to wait.

Here, Zanasi overcalled two hearts and escaped trouble. Meyuchas, thinking he was relatively safe backing into the auction because both of his opponents had limited their hands, paid a heavy price. Against three hearts doubled, Delle Cave led his singleton spade.

South won with his ace and returned the eight of spades. Declarer does best to ruff low or pitch a club, but he actually discarded a diamond. North ruffed and switched to a diamond, South winning and leading another low spade (when a second diamond would have made sure of three down).

Now West does best to throw the jack of dia-

monds, but he ruffed with the nine of hearts. North overruffed and led a low club, won with dummy's queen. Declarer played a heart to his jack, North winning with his ace and carefully leading the ten of clubs to keep West in the dummy.

A diamond to the king and the king of hearts would have let declarer escape for two down. A low club from the dummy would have achieved the same result. But West called for the ace of clubs, ruffed by South's queen and overruffed by West's king. This promoted North's seven of hearts, and he also had to get the queen of diamonds, having safe club exits (which is why ruffing the low club at trick eight would have been better). The result was three down.

Three spades was one too high. The defenders took two spades, one heart and two clubs.

Plus 800 and plus 100 gave Italy 14 IMPs and put their lead up to 26.

The next deal featured aggressive bidding.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q J ♥ A K J 7 4 2 ♦ 10 5 ♣ Q 6 3</p> <p>♠ A K 8 6 ♥ 10 ♦ Q J 7 4 3 2 ♣ A 7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 7 5 3 2 ♥ — ♦ K 9 6 ♣ K J 9 8 5 4</p> <p>♠ 10 9 4 ♥ Q 9 8 6 5 3 ♦ A 8 ♣ 10 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
Zanasi	Gerstner	Di Franco	Fisher
1♦	1♥	Dble (a)	1♠
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(a) Four or five spades			

West	North	East	South
Meyuchas	Delle Cave	Padon	Gandoglia
1♦	1♥	Dble	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Fisher decided to muddy the waters with his one-spade bid and it worked. When five hearts went around to Di Franco, he did not know whose deal it was. But since West had jumped to four

spades, perhaps Di Franco should have bid five spades or doubled, either of which would have worked.

Five hearts drifted three off after a diamond lead, declarer losing two spades, one diamond and two clubs.

Four spades made five in comfort with the friendly distribution, giving Israel 7 IMPs.

On the next deal, Delle Cave cruised home with an overtrick in one notrump. Gerstner was doubled in the same contract and could have gained 4 IMPs by taking the same eight winners. But he followed a strange losing line to give Italy a lucky 6 IMPs.

Italy won the last four boards 4-0 to be leading by 81-52 at halftime.

Four Spades Twice

by Brian Senior

Moshe Meyuchas and Lotan Fisher are two highly experienced and skilled members of the Israeli Junior team. At the half-way point of Israel's quarterfinal match with Italy, they trailed by 52-81 IMPs, and Italy had just added another game swing on the second board of Set 3. Now came an Israeli surge, including two boards in quick succession in which first Meyuchas and then Fisher did well to make 4♠.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gandoglia	Meyuchas	Delle Cave	Padon
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
Gerstner	Zanasi	Fisher	Di Franco
1♣	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	2NT	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Both Norths declared in 4♠ on a club lead. Gal Gerstner won with a falsecard ace and switched to his diamond. Gabriele Zanasi finessed to the king and Fisher wasted no time in giving his partner a ruff. Gerstner cashed out now for down two; minus 200.

Alessandro Gandoglia won with the club queen and cashed the ace before switching to the diamond. Meyuchas rose with the ace and played two rounds of trumps ending in the dummy. Next he called for the nine of clubs, covered and ruffed, then led a heart to the queen and ace. Unable to get to his partner's diamond winner, Gandoglia returned a spade to dummy's king. Meyuchas took a diamond pitch on the jack of clubs, came back to hand with a heart, drew the last trump and claimed the rest; plus 620 and 13 IMPs to Israel.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gandoglia	Meyuchas	Delle Cave	Padon
-	-	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Gerstner	Zanasi	Fisher	Di Franco
-	-	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Both Wests made a simple raise to 2♠. Giuseppe Delle Cave passed that while Fisher, facing a constructive-style raise, jumped to game.

Defending 2♠, Dror Padon led a low club to

the queen and king. Delle Cave crossed to the ace of clubs, then played ace and ruffed a diamond followed by the ten of clubs, covered, ruffed and overruffed. Delle Cave ruffed the diamond return and laid down the king of spades from hand, losing to the ace. He pitched a heart on the diamond return and now the defence switched to a heart for his ace. He played a club next to ensure his contract and the defensive trumps were made separately; eight tricks for plus 110.

Defending against game, Massimiliano Di Franco led a low heart to the queen, ducked by Fisher. Zanasi switched to a diamond to dummy's ace. Fisher cashed the ace of clubs, led a spade to his king, then reverted to clubs, running the ten. Zanasi discarded on the club but overruffed on the next round and forced Fisher with a diamond. However, a trump now brought down the queen and ace and declarer had the rest for plus 620 and 11 IMPs to Israel.

Scoring 41 unanswered IMPs over five boards saw Israel move into a narrow lead, only for Italy to win three quick game swings to return the match to its earlier state. After three-quarters, Italy led by 131-106.



Olympic Update

On Tuesday, 15 events came to a finish.

Michael Phelps failed by 0.05 seconds in his attempt to become the first male swimmer to win the same individual event three times, the 200 meters butterfly. The title went to Chad le Clos of South Africa. Phelps' silver was his 18th medal though, and he equalled the record held since 1964 by Larisa Latynina, the Ukrainian gymnast. Later in the evening, he broke this record, by being part of the winning 4x200 meters relay team. It was a walk in the park for Phelps, as his teammates gave him a 3.88 second advantage. This was the third time Phelps had been part of a winning 4x200 squad, and he becomes the 151st triple Olympic champion.

Also on the US relay team was Ryan Lochte, who won his fifth gold, his ninth medal in total, in three Olympics. He too becomes a triple champion, the 152nd on that list.

The USA won four gold medals in total; Vincent Hancock in the skeet, repeating his title of 2008; Allison Schmitt in the 200 meters freestyle, and the Americans also took the women's team gymnastics.

China also won four golds. Chen Ruolin repeated her Beijing title in the synchronized platform diving; her partner this time was Wang Hao. Ye Shiwen won, after the 400, now also the 200 meters individual medley, becoming the first double champion of these games. Lin Qingfeng won the day's weightlifting, and Lei Sheng won the men's foil. The European domination of fencing appears to be over, because the silver went to Alaaeldin Abouelkassem from Egypt.

Germany won two gold medals, both in eventing. Michael Jung won the individual, and his squad took the team competition. In third place was New Zealand, whose team included Mark Todd, who thereby becomes the third athlete in this Olympics and only the 33rd in history to have won medals in five Olympics. Todd started back in 1984 and his last medal was in 2000.

Tony Estanguet (FRA) won the slalom canoe C1. He had previously won the same event in Sydney and Athens, and he thus becomes the 150th triple champion (this was in the afternoon, before the similar feat by Lochte and Phelps). Because the slalom C1 is an individual event, it counts heavily in Herman's performance list, propelling the Frenchman up to number 31.

In third place behind Estanguet finished Michal Martikán of Slovakia, who had previously won the golds at Atlanta and Beijing and two silvers in the same event. He thus joined Mark Todd, but he is on a better list as well, that of the (now 22) people who have won five medals in the same event. Martikán climbs to 48th on Herman's performance list.

Judo golds went to Urska Zolnir (Slovenia), who had won bronze in Athens eight years ago, and Kim Jae-Bum (Korea), who had won silver in Beijing, now beating the same German he lost to in the final four years ago.

Kazakhstan won their third gold of the games, by Maiya Maneza in women's weightlifting.

There were medals for Denmark and Qatar (skeet). Mexico won their second silver in the diving competitions.

The French Girls



from left to right:

Jérôme: 'ZE coach' and also 'ZE child' (38 years old but actually stuck at the age of seven. He taught us how to win battles (including pillow ones, which is why he has a black eye). Before every match, he tells us that this match is the most important one and he knows how to motivate us. He never gets angry except when we give away an overtrick.

Jessie (23): you must have noticed her because of her famous balancing walk. If you have talked to her, you know it's impossible to stop her: she discusses even when she's asleep. She will become a lawyer but she failed to argue her case in front of the Appeal Committee (an unlosable one).

Carole (25): she's the most international of us, cheating on us every night with another team to teach them French. Every morning, she wakes up Claire by dancing in the bedroom. She's fed up with eating rice, so she sleeps in front of the Pizza Hut door.

Claire (25): she is the doctor of the three French teams, called upon for any digestive trouble. Nevertheless, there was no medicine for her when she went six down in a doubled contract for the first time. She misses Gigi, our first mascot, but we locked her in a closet for the rest of the championships! According to her partner, she has cried every night since.

Marion (24): every night, she skypes her boyfriend: don't enter the room at this moment or you could discover his hairy chest. She is the blonde of the team, but only in the literal sense of the term. We are very sad we can't say anything bad about her, because she is unusually kind with the rest of the team members.

Aurélie (23): you may have met her with her headphones, dancing like a crazy walrus. She's in love with Momo, but 'Amouuuur' is turning jealous (she's sleeping with both of them). She's going to be very rich because she will be an awesome actuary.

Laure (25): if you want to see her, Starbucks has become her headquarters. When she is upset, she breaks a table (and her bottom at the same time) or anything (anyone) next to her. At her office, she is the evil woman you don't want to see (because she's an auditor), but don't worry, it's the same at the bridge table.

Momo (1 week): after the first dramatic week, we decided it was time to change our mascot and to replace Gigi by a gorgeous walrus. Momo has been our best friend since: he bares his teeth to opponents and has not lost a single match until now.

(The picture was taken at the opening ceremony, so still features Gigi.)