



# 14<sup>th</sup>

# WORLD YOUTH BRIDGE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

TAICANG - CHINA 25<sup>th</sup> JULY - 4<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2012

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# Daily Bulletin

Bulletin 5

Monday, 30 July, 2012

## The Longest Day



**The Chinese Taipei team are wearing a Different Slogan every day**

Sunday was not a day of rest for the junior teams, who had to play four rounds. After they were completed, and with six more to be played in the qualifying round robin, the Netherlands still leads from Israel and France. The top six teams have a cushion over the field. The next eight teams will probably fight it out for the last two quarterfinal berths.

In the youngsters event, Poland has moved into the lead over France and Australia. In this event, though, the teams are more closely bunched.

In the girls tournament, the Netherlands is 38 victory points clear of Poland, with Italy third. In

the last round yesterday, China, fifth, gained ground against France, fourth, toward the end of their match and now is only 11 VPs behind.

### IMPORTANT

Tomorrow, Tuesday, we will be taking a group photograph of everybody involved in these championships – players, captains, coaches, staff and officers.

Please be at the venue at 10:00 am (the bus times will be changed accordingly).

Be certain not to miss this event.

# Results

## Sunday 29 July

### Juniors Round 10

INDIA	ARGENTINA	34	23	17	13
DENMARK	PAKISTAN	39	20	19	11
ISRAEL	SINGAPORE	36	40	14	16
NETHERLANDS	BRAZIL	62	11	25	4
JAPAN	CHINA H K	18	65	4	25
EGYPT	USA1	14	74	2	25
CHINA	ITALY	30	35	14	16
BULGARIA	AUSTRALIA	28	46	11	19
CANADA	COSTA RICA	54	30	21	9
USA2	FRANCE	37	44	14	16

### Juniors Round 11

ARGENTINA	BRAZIL	50	13	24	6
PAKISTAN	SINGAPORE	17	33	11	19
CHINA H K	CHINA	26	29	14	16
USA1	BULGARIA	35	29	16	14
JAPAN	CANADA	29	60	8	22
NETHERLANDS	USA2	37	26	17	13
ISRAEL	FRANCE	56	18	24	6
DENMARK	COSTA RICA	56	6	25	4
INDIA	AUSTRALIA	19	51	7	23
ITALY	EGYPT	88	6	25	0

### Juniors Round 12

ISRAEL	ARGENTINA	45	30	18	12
NETHERLANDS	PAKISTAN	57	5	25	4
JAPAN	SINGAPORE	29	24	16	14
USA1	BRAZIL	47	53	14	16
EGYPT	CHINA H K	42	66	9	21
CHINA	DENMARK	37	33	16	14
BULGARIA	INDIA	52	13	24	6
CANADA	ITALY	40	32	17	13
USA2	AUSTRALIA	28	41	12	18
FRANCE	COSTA RICA	89	27	25	2

### Juniors Round 13

ARGENTINA	NETHERLANDS	7	67	2	25
PAKISTAN	JAPAN	24	27	14	16
SINGAPORE	USA1	18	32	12	18
BRAZIL	CHINA H K	23	45	10	20
ISRAEL	CHINA	30	22	17	13
DENMARK	BULGARIA	25	26	15	15
INDIA	CANADA	54	14	24	6
ITALY	USA2	58	21	24	6
AUSTRALIA	FRANCE	17	12	16	14
COSTA RICA	EGYPT	24	35	13	17

### Juniors Ranking after Round 13

1	NETHERLANDS	279.0
2	ISRAEL	257.0
3	FRANCE	244.0
4	AUSTRALIA	241.0
5	USA1	239.0
6	CHINA	236.0
7	ITALY	215.0
8	SINGAPORE	210.0
9	DENMARK	205.0
10	BULGARIA	202.0
11	CHINA HONG KONG	193.0
12	ARGENTINA	188.0
13	CANADA	186.0
14	USA2	181.0
15	PAKISTAN	163.0
16	JAPAN	157.0
17	INDIA	156.0
18	BRAZIL	107.0
19	COSTA RICA	86.0
20	EGYPT	78.0

### Matches on BBO

Monday 29 July (all times GMT+8)

10:30

VG	FRANCE	ITALY	J
B2	BULGARIA	ISRAEL	J
B3	NORWAY	ENGLAND	Y
B4	ITALY	POLAND	G
OG	CHINA	NETHERLANDS	J

14:00

VG	SWEDEN	POLAND	Y
B2	ARGENTINA	USA1	J
B3	NETHERLANDS	BULGARIA	J
B4	CHINA	ITALY	G
OG	ARGENTINA	CHINA	Y

16:50

VG	USA1	ISRAEL	J
B2	FRANCE	CHINA	J
B3	SINGAPORE	ITALY	J
B4	POLAND	ISRAEL	Y
OG	CHINA	POLAND	G

## Youngsters Round 10

SINGAPORE	ARGENTINA	54	46	17	13
SWEDEN	FRANCE	72	34	24	6
ISRAEL	ENGLAND	55	15	24	6
NORWAY	CHINA	40	75	7	23
POLAND	USA2	84	25	25	2
JAPAN	USA1	38	55	11	19
CANADA	AUSTRALIA	57	64	14	16
ITALY	LATVIA	53	19	23	7
CHINESE TAIPEI	Bye	0	0	18	0

## Youngsters Round 11

ARGENTINA	SWEDEN	19	61	5	25
FRANCE	ISRAEL	44	18	21	9
ENGLAND	CHINA	42	38	16	14
CHINESE TAIPEI	POLAND	20	18	15	15
USA2	JAPAN	62	22	24	6
USA1	CANADA	66	41	21	9
AUSTRALIA	ITALY	34	52	11	19
LATVIA	NORWAY	62	27	23	7
SINGAPORE	Bye	0	0	18	0



The mascot of the French Girls team looks on and is satisfied with the results

## Girls Ranking after Round 12

1	NETHERLANDS	252.0
2	POLAND	215.0
3	ITALY	209.0
4	FRANCE	189.0
5	CHINA	178.0
6	CHINESE TAIPEI	159.0
7	SWEDEN	157.0
8	INDONESIA	145.0
9	OCEANIA	141.0
	USA	141.0

## Youngsters Ranking after Round 11

1	POLAND	216.0
2	FRANCE	208.0
3	AUSTRALIA	198.0
4	USA1	195.0
5	ISRAEL	188.0
6	SWEDEN	183.0
7	ENGLAND	172.0
8	ITALY	171.0
9	CHINA	166.0
	NORWAY	166.0
11	CHINESE TAIPEI	155.0
12	SINGAPORE	147.0
13	LATVIA	144.0
14	USA2	139.0
15	ARGENTINA	131.0
16	CANADA	109.0
17	JAPAN	86.0

## Girls Round 10

SWEDEN	CHINESE TAIPEI	22	15	16	14
ITALY	FRANCE	22	37	12	18
POLAND	NETHERLANDS	37	22	18	12
CHINA	INDONESIA	60	22	24	6
OCEANIA	USA	67	30	24	6

## Girls Round 11

CHINESE TAIPEI	ITALY	28	56	8	22
FRANCE	POLAND	28	17	17	13
NETHERLANDS	CHINA	49	18	22	8
INDONESIA	OCEANIA	40	32	17	13
USA	SWEDEN	38	27	17	13

## Girls Round 12

POLAND	CHINESE TAIPEI	21	30	13	17
CHINA	FRANCE	12	24	12	18
OCEANIA	NETHERLANDS	12	58	5	25
USA	INDONESIA	32	37	14	16
SWEDEN	ITALY	20	59	6	24

# The Draw

## Monday 30 July

### Juniors Round 14

1	JAPAN	ARGENTINA	
2	USA1	PAKISTAN	
3	CHINA H K	SINGAPORE	
4	EGYPT	BRAZIL	
5	CHINA	NETHERLANDS	OG
6	BULGARIA	ISRAEL	B2
7	CANADA	DENMARK	
8	USA2	INDIA	
9	FRANCE	ITALY	VG
10	COSTA RICA	AUSTRALIA	

### Juniors Round 15

1	ARGENTINA	USA1	B2
2	PAKISTAN	CHINA H K	
3	SINGAPORE	BRAZIL	
4	JAPAN	CHINA	
5	NETHERLANDS	BULGARIA	B3
6	ISRAEL	CANADA	
7	DENMARK	USA2	
8	INDIA	FRANCE	
9	ITALY	COSTA RICA	
10	AUSTRALIA	EGYPT	

### Juniors Round 16

1	ARGENTINA	COSTA RICA	
2	PAKISTAN	AUSTRALIA	
3	SINGAPORE	ITALY	B3
4	BRAZIL	INDIA	
5	CHINA H K	DENMARK	
6	USA1	ISRAEL	VG
7	JAPAN	NETHERLANDS	
8	FRANCE	CHINA	B2
9	USA2	BULGARIA	
10	CANADA	EGYPT	

### Girls Round 14

21	OCEANIA	CHINESE TAIPEI	
22	USA	FRANCE	
23	INDONESIA	NETHERLANDS	
24	CHINA	ITALY	B4
25	POLAND	SWEDEN	

### Youngsters Round 12

11	ISRAEL	ARGENTINA	
12	CHINA	FRANCE	
13	NORWAY	ENGLAND	B3
14	POLAND	SINGAPORE	
15	JAPAN	CHINESE TAIPEI	
16	CANADA	USA2	
17	ITALY	USA1	
18	LATVIA	AUSTRALIA	
19	SWEDEN	Bye	

### Youngsters Round 13

11	ARGENTINA	CHINA	OG
12	FRANCE	ENGLAND	
13	SWEDEN	POLAND	VG
14	SINGAPORE	JAPAN	
15	CHINESE TAIPEI	CANADA	
16	USA2	ITALY	
17	USA1	LATVIA	
18	AUSTRALIA	NORWAY	
19	ISRAEL	Bye	

### Youngsters Round 14

11	ENGLAND	ARGENTINA	
12	NORWAY	FRANCE	
13	POLAND	ISRAEL	B4
14	JAPAN	SWEDEN	
15	CANADA	SINGAPORE	
16	ITALY	CHINESE TAIPEI	
17	LATVIA	USA2	
18	AUSTRALIA	USA1	
19	CHINA	Bye	

### Girls Round 13

21	CHINESE TAIPEI	CHINA	
22	FRANCE	OCEANIA	
23	NETHERLANDS	USA	
24	INDONESIA	SWEDEN	
25	ITALY	POLAND	B4

### Girls Round 15

21	CHINESE TAIPEI	USA	
22	FRANCE	INDONESIA	
23	NETHERLANDS	SWEDEN	
24	OCEANIA	ITALY	
25	CHINA	POLAND	OG

# Dutch Diaries - Part 3

by Kees Tammens

After the first week in Taicang, the junior bridge world is settling in. Just walking slowly causes a lot of sweat drops; even the guys from Tel Aviv, where it can be pretty hot, admit that they sometimes feel the heat. And not only the climate. After three days of competitive bridge with a handful of missed games and slams, and a few frivolous ones that went down, give one a reason to get emotional and heated.

For me, it is a privilege and a joy to be present at a junior tournament. And I must admit that with the Dutch girls and 'my' juniors performing so well, the stay in China is even more pleasant. As long as they win, everything is all right and I can write down a lot of adventurous, heroic and sometimes lucky stories of boards that have the girls or juniors from the Netherlands playing leading roles.

In matches for teams of four, the double-digit swings usually come from games and slams (10, 11, 12, 13 or 14 IMPs, depending on vulnerability). In the first three days, we saw a lot of other big numbers starting with 15 and going up to 19. I don't recall a swing of 20 IMPs or higher yet in these championships.

What should we call swings of 15 IMPs and greater? Giant is maybe too small a word; a better one could be 'dinosaur'.

These dinosaurs usually come when both directions can make game, or one pair succeeds in pushing the opponents to an uncomfortable level.

We start with the girls team from the Netherlands, who on the third day again collected three wins, remained unbeaten and took an important 25 VPs against long-time rival France. After the first of the two nine-match round robins, the Dutch led by 22 victory points.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

<p>♠ A 9 6 ♥ J 9 ♦ Q 8 5 ♣ A Q 9 4 3</p> <p>♠ J 8 7 4 ♥ 8 2 ♦ A K 9 7 6 3 2 ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ K Q 10 5 3 ♥ K 10 6 3 ♦ 4 ♣ 10 8 5</p> <p>♠ 2 ♥ A Q 7 5 4 ♦ J 10 ♣ K J 7 6 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
–	J. Spangenberg		Nab
4♦ (a)	1♣	1♠	2♥
5♠	Pass	4♠	5♣
6♦	6♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	Dble	6♠	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(a) Fit-showing jump

Jamilla Spangenberg was so confident in her partner's bidding that she went on to the club slam. And East-West believed her, taking the vulnerable save.

Judith Nab led a club, ruffed in dummy. After this lead, even four spades would have been in trouble. Declarer immediately played a heart to the nine, king and ace. Satisfied with events, South cashed the queen of hearts, and later the ace of spades resulted in two down.

Was that going to be a dinosaur?

West	North	East	South
Ticha		S. Spangenberg	
–	1♣	1♠	Dble
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The raise to four spades by Magie Ticha probably gave South the impression that West had a poor hand.

A club lead might have embarrassed declarer, Sigrid Spangenberg, but after a spade for the seven in dummy, ducked by North, declarer simply played ace of diamonds, king of diamonds and a



diamond ruff. The king of spades lost to the ace, after which there was nothing North-South could do to prevent declarer from taking ten tricks. So plus 750 and plus 500 gave the Netherlands 15 IMPs, a small dinosaur, perhaps a Europasaurus.

The Dutch juniors also started day three as leaders. After a useful 25 in the morning match against Costa Rica, the first team of the USA were expected to be a severe test.

The match did not produce many swings, so the one that came along was valuable.

Board 3. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wackwitz	Dwyer	Westerbeek	Lien
-	-	-	Pass
1NT (a)	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
(a) 14-16			

West	North	East	South
Towner	Helmich	Agica	Hop
-	-	-	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

A kitchen-and-garden (or, in Dutch, a house, kitchen and garden) four hearts. Only three top losers, but do you have ten tricks?

The same contract and opening lead (a diamond), but once played by East and once by West. As it happens the smallest of details can decide the fate of a contract.

The play started in the same way at both tables: a diamond to the king, a club to the nine and queen, another diamond to the queen and a second club.

Now a difference occurred. The Dutch South let this run to his partner's king and received the desired diamond ruff. With a spade to come, that was one down.

The American South, who could not see the West hand, did not know who had king of clubs. He hopped up with his ace, destroying any further chance to beat the contract.

The Netherlands won the match by 32 IMPs to 11, or 19-11 in VPs. As you can tell, there were no dinosaur swings – but are you getting used to the name?

Round 9 produced a bunch of good bridge deals. With tiredness creeping in, it was good to see that the level of play remained good. The team from China Hong Kong played well and kept up with the Netherlands, who nevertheless earned a tiny plus: 16-14.

There were a couple of interesting boards where declarer play was the main issue.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
vd Bos			v Lankveld
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT (a)
2♣ (b)	3NT	All Pass	
(a) 15-17			
(b) Hearts and spades			

West led the queen of spades. South won with his ace and played a club to dummy's jack. East took his queen and returned the ten of spades, ducked all around, West being unable to overtake because of dummy's seven.

East switched to a diamond. South won with his ace, played a club to the ace and led another club. East exited with his remaining club. Declarer cashed his last club, but then erred by playing a

low heart to the queen. When East won with his king and returned the jack, there was no way to make the contract.

Since East never switched to hearts, declarer should have deduced that East had the king. South should have endplayed East with his queen of diamonds for a heart lead away from the king.

At the other table, three notrumps was played by North and he had an easy task after the lead of the king of hearts.

to guess the jack of diamonds.

Chris Westerbeeck led the eight of diamonds and finessed through South. Lok Tin Tam took the view of playing a diamond to the queen (knowing South held the ace) and finessing through North. Bridge can sometimes be hazardous.

There was no swing on the next slam deal, but Berend van de Bos, aka the bear, insisted that I write down his bidding sequence with Joris van Lankveld.

Board 5. Dealer North. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Pass	4♠	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At both tables, South, Ho Nam Lui and Joris van Lankveld, led the ace of clubs and switched to a trump. This was a neat defence because with the nine-eight of spades as a dummy entry, declarer could ruff out the hearts, then get back to dummy with the queen of diamonds.

The trump switch, though, forced the declarers



**Ho Nam Lui**

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
-	v d Bos		v Lankveld
Pass	-	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	5NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

Two clubs, two spades and three clubs were re-lays. South showed 5=2=2=4 with 15-plus high-card points. The distribution was not kind enough for North to press on, so he signed off in three notrumps. However, South was not exhausted and jumped to five notrumps, giving North a choice of slams.

Note a couple of interesting points. Six notrumps is better than six spades, which would be defeated by a 4-1 trump break. And as the cards lay, North-South can make a small slam in all five strains.

So, after three days, nine rounds, we still see the Netherlands in the lead, with Israël, China and France breathing down our necks. But the rest of the round robin is bound to be exciting – what more could we ask?

# Juniors Round 11 France vs Israel

by Phillip Alder

Before this round started, France was second, one victory point ahead of Israel and 13 behind the Netherlands.

On Board 1, both sides went down in three notrumps. On the next deal, the Israeli pair in the Open Room did well.

Board 2. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lebatteux	Gerstner	Kilani	Fisher
–	–	1♦	Dble
1♥	Pass	1NT	Dble
Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Meyuchas	Lorenzini	Padon	Coudert
–	–	1♦	Dble
Pass	1♥	All Pass	

In the Closed Room, Moshe Meyuchas passed over Thibault Coudert's take-out double.

Against one heart, Dror Padon led a trump, West putting in the ten. Cédric Lorenzini won with his jack, played a spade to dummy's king, then went back to trumps. Eventually declarer lost one spade, one heart and two diamonds to make an overtrick.

In the Open Room, when Aymeric Lebatteux responded one forcing heart over Lotan Fisher's take-out double, Gal Gerstner passed and Alexandre Kilani rebid one notrump. South doubled again. After a long pause, East decided to retreat to two diamonds, but North doubled that.

South led the queen of spades, Rusinow: four, seven (upside-down count and attitude), ace. East returned a spade, South winning with his queen while North dropped the two, trying to show a club honor. However, the lower missing card is the neutral signal; the higher card definitely carries suit-preference implications.

South switched to the king of hearts. Declarer won with dummy's ace while North encouraged with his four. East should have cashed the jack of spades; instead, he ran the eight of diamonds. South won with his jack and underled his queen of hearts, North winning, cashing the king of clubs and playing another club. North then discarded his last spade on the ace of clubs, received a spade ruff and still had a trump trick to come. The defenders had taken one spade, one heart, two diamonds and three clubs for two down and 4 IMPs to Israel.

After another flat board we saw the first of a variety of weak two-bids that would not have pleased the purists.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lebatteux	Gerstner	Kilani	Fisher
2♦ (a)	Pass	2NT (b)	3♣
Pass	Pass	4♥ (c)	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

- (a) Weak two in a major or 23-24 balanced
- (b) Enquiry
- (c) Pass or correct

West	North	East	South
Meyuchas	Lorenzini	Padon	Coudert
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♣
Dble	3♣	Dble	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Each declarer lost one club and three diamonds to give Israel another 6 IMPs.

Board 5 was flat despite some weird bidding over which we will gloss. France finally got on the scoreboard with an overtrick IMP; then:

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lebatteux	Gerstner	Kilani	Fisher
-	-	-	1NT (a)
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(a) 15-17			

West	North	East	South
Meyuchas	Lorenzini	Padon	Coudert
-	-	-	1♣
1♥	Dble	2♦	3♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I am not convinced it is right to open that South hand with one notrump. The hand presumably has seven guaranteed winners, which partner will never expect. But it worked beautifully on this deal, when West unwittingly led a low heart against three notrumps. South had nine tricks. Even if West had led a high heart, he would not have found the diamond switch.

Three clubs made all right, but Israel had gained 10 IMPs to lead by 20-1.

On Board 8, Lebatteux-Kilani had a controlled auction to two spades, made with an overtrick when trumps split 3-3. Meyuchas-Padon drove into three notrumps, which had only eight tricks. 5 IMPs to France.

The next deal was interesting.

Board 9. Dealer North. E-W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lebatteux	Gerstner	Kilani	Fisher
Meyuchas	Lorenzini	Padon	Coudert
-	Pass	Pass	3♣
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Both Norths led the three of spades, won with dummy's jack. What should West do next?

It looks reasonable to drive out the ace of clubs, then work some sort of endplay on North.

Lebatteux made the surprising play of a heart to his king. Unsurprisingly, this lost to the ace, and North switched to the queen of diamonds. Declarer won with dummy's king and ran the ten of diamonds to North's jack. If North had now led a low heart, West would have had to guess the suit. But North exited with a spade. So declarer played on clubs and had nine tricks: three spades, three diamonds and three clubs.

## Team Profiles Wanted

We are starting to receive team profiles, but we want more (all?). Please captains, players, coaches or whoever, write us a few words on the players in your team. We'll add the photographs.

Meyuchas did immediately play on clubs, South taking the third round and exiting with a club. North had discarded two hearts, a spade and a diamond. Declarer cashed his two spades (South threw a club and a diamond), then played a diamond to the jack and king, giving this position:

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

Now presumably fearing that South had begun with 1=2=4=6 distribution and the queen of diamonds, declarer ran dummy's ten of diamonds. Disaster! North won with the queen, cashed the queen of spades, squeezing a diamond from declarer, and returned a diamond. West lost the last two tricks to go one down, giving France 12 IMPs.

Board 10 was a flat four spades, but South, in second position with both sides vulnerable, held:

♠ K 10 7 6 5 4 3    ♥ J 9    ♦ Q 9    ♣ K 5.

After a pass, Fisher opened two spades and Coudert passed.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lebatteux	Gerstner	Kilani	Fisher
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♦	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Meyuchas	Lorenzini	Padon	Coudert
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♦	2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

What would you have bid with that North hand after partner passes and rightly opens one club?

A one-diamond overcall is totally ineffective, taking up no bidding space. If you are going to plough in, surely two or three diamonds are preferable.

Weak jump shifts by responder are not my favourite, because you are going to a high level with no known fit, but Padon's response worked very well here, Meyuchas having an easy raise to game.

In the other room, Lebatteux badly underbid his hand. Admittedly he did not have an easy decision over two spades, but surely he should have forces to game with three diamonds if he was not willing to bid four spades.

Plus 450 and minus 170 gave France 7 IMPs. There was more to come:

Board 12. Dealer West. N-S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lebatteux	Gerstner	Kilani	Fisher
1♥	2♦	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Meyuchas	Lorenzini	Padon	Coudert
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dble	Redble	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

If there is any chance that your side is in danger, it is usually safer to bid immediately than to come into the auction after the opponents have already exchanged information.

Here, Gerstner's two-diamond overcall worked much better than Lorenzini's delayed take-out double.

True, in the Open Room, Kilani might have jumped to four spades, but that would have only reduced the loss on the board.

Three spades made with an overtrick. But when Lorenzini was doubled in three diamonds, Israel had to gain.

East led his singleton heart. West won and gave his partner a ruff. Then East switched to a low spade, declarer in desperation calling for the king (not that it mattered). West took the trick and switched to his singleton club. North won with his ace, cashed the ace of diamonds and led his high heart. East ruffed and continued with a spade. North ruffed, cashed the queen of diamonds and played a club. East won and gave his partner a club ruff. East still had to take the last trick with his ten of clubs for three down, plus 800 and 12 IMPs. Israel now led by 39-18.

The traffic continued to flow in the same direction over the last four boards. Israel gained 5 IMPs when Gerstner, dealer with both sides vulnerable, passed holding:

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

A moment later on lead against three notrumps, he obviously chose his fourth-highest spade, dummy having the bare ace and his partner three low. Partner got in at trick three and they ran this suit, eventually defeating the contract by three tricks. North opened with a Multi in the other room, steering his opponents into four clubs one

down.

Then:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lebatteux	Gerstner	Kilani	Fisher
-	-	1♣	2♠
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Meyuchas	Lorenzini	Padon	Coudert
-	-	1♣	2♠
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT (a)	Pass	5♥ (b)	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

(a) Roman Key Card Blackwood

(b) Two key cards but no queen of clubs

Fisher ducked the first trick against three notrumps, and Lebatteux took all of the tricks.

The French have a right to feel aggrieved when both rounded-suit finesses worked, despite South's weak jump overcall making that more likely than normal. 9 IMPs to Israel.

A push board and a 3 IMP swing to Israel ended the match in their favour by 56-18, or 24-6 in VPs.

## Australian team Profile

The Australian team has let us know that a profile of all the players on their teams can be found on the website of the Australian Bridge Federation:

[www.abf.com.au](http://www.abf.com.au)

The entire article is about 25 pages long, so we won't reprint it here.

# Team Sweden wants a Fairytale Ending

Once upon a time there were ten young bridge players from a land far, far away called Sweden. One day their bridge federation gave them the task of going to Taicang in China and fight for medals in the World Championships of bridge. They were all eager to defend their country's honour, but knew little of how much they would struggle with the challenge. These troops were sent:

Mikael 'Hansel' Grönkvist (19, Y) - With a terrible sense of orientation he is bound to get lost from time to time. Perhaps a bit too credulous, he occasionally walks into traps, although he blames it on 'tough luck'. But with a bit of wit ...



you definitely don't wanna be around this guy when he's angry. He's stronger than the Hulk (ask the Poles), more fearless than Batman, and when he's on fire you'd better be many miles away (this also applies at the bridge table)!



Ida 'Gretel' Grönkvist (17, Y) - ... and some help from his sister, he usually gets out of danger before the witch decides to feed on him. On their own they're vulnerable, but together they're invincible!

Simon 'The Huntsman' Ekenberg (20, Y) - Here we have a person with a heart of gold. When commanded by the evil queen (read: Mike G) to kill the fair Snow White (read: the opponents), he chooses to let her live and still returns to the castle with the requested heart (read: a good scorecard). What more is there to say; he's simply adorable.

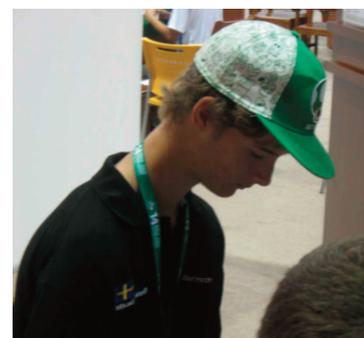
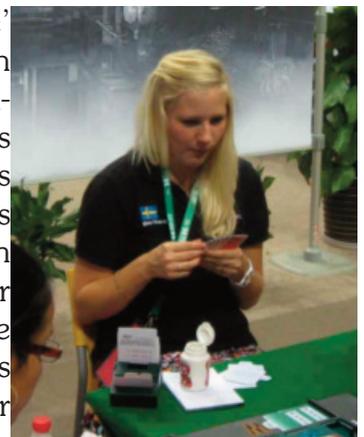


Simon 'The Dragon' Hult (17, Y) - He may look harmless — some would even call him cute — but



Ola 'Sleeping Beauty' Rimstedt (16, Y) - When this guy has fallen asleep, no bombshells in the world can wake him. Perhaps dreaming about his most successful preempts for the day, he could sleep for many years if no one disturbs him. At the bridge table, however, he's more alert than the blue card in the bidding box.

Irma 'Snow White' Petersen (16, Gi) - With her pale skin and beautiful dark hair, she charms every guy who comes her way. In fact there's probably more than seven boys following her every move. But be aware — this princess has already found her prince!



Mikael 'Jack and the Beanstalk' Rimstedt (16, Y) - You won't find many juniors as resolute and patient as this guy when he knows what he wants. If his bridge play started out as a seed it has now

grown up to a great beanstalk and he is climbing his way to the top!



Erika 'Goldielocks' Rodin (20, Gi) - Erika indeed impersonates Goldielocks in every way except for the goldie locks. Not only does she eat the other's food - she also has no problem with stealing their beds!

Moa 'Little Red Riding Hood' Petersen (20, G) - This very compassionate and caring girl would do a lot for her friends. Perhaps a bit too kind, she is sometimes exploited by a wolf or two, but she's smarter than she looks and isn't so easily fooled by disguises!



Catrin 'The Fairy Godmother' Wahlestedt (25, G) - The oldest one in the bunch looks out for the rest and gives a helping hand whenever it's needed. Her abilities at the bridge table could at times be described as 'magical'. She can turn an ugly stone into a beautiful flower.



Per 'Merlin' Leandersson (Captain) - He no doubt possesses a lot of wisdom and has good advice to give to all of his disciples. In the company of ten juniors with an average age of 18.5, he may look like a 100 years old, but he makes up for it with a good portion of humour. We're all convinced that if he started to grow a beard it would be knee-long by the closing ceremony.



The question that remains: Will we live happily ever after?

## Smooth Defenders

by Phillip Alder

When declarer makes a slight misstep, it is important for the defenders to capitalise.

Baptiste Combescure and Clement Laloubeyre on the French youngsters team certainly did that on the deal from Round 11 against Israel:

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Asulin	Charignon	Levy	Lafont
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	3NT

West	North	East	South
Combescure	Reiter	Laloubeyre	Ginossar
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	3NT

If a two-notrump response to a one-notrump opening is not a natural game-invitation, then Adam Reiter's two-spade rebid shows four spades and game-invitational values. But if two notrumps just invites game, one can bid like Fabrice Charignon, using a two-spade rebid for some other purpose; perhaps a game-invitation with five spades.

In the Open Room, three notrumps made easily because Adi Asulin led a diamond. Declarer won and took the heart finesse to establish nine tricks: two spades, four hearts, two diamonds and one club.

At the other table, though, Combesure led the queen of clubs. Itamar Ginossar won with his ace and played a heart to dummy's jack.

Smooth as silk, East won with his king and switched to a diamond, ducked to West's ten. Back came a low club to the king, followed by a second diamond. South tried the finesse, but it lost and West cashed the jack of clubs for one down and a gain of 12 IMPs for France.

That was nicely done, but surely declarer should have ducked the first trick. And after he had taken that trick, he would have survived if he had immediately led back a club to break up the defensive communication.

## Catch the Overtrick

by Murat Molva

How many times have you lost a knock-out match by 1 IMP? And how many times have you lost an extra VP because of just 1 IMP? Unless there is a big difference in skill between your team and your opponents, believe me, you will need every IMP you can get. So don't just think "It's only IMPs". Go catch that overtrick.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

When I was watching this deal, the declarer had arrived in a 6NT contract. He took the ♥9 lead and lazily played the diamond king and claimed after West took his ace. The declarer, no doubt, was concerned that the spades may not split 3-2. But is it too difficult to test the spades by taking two spade tops first? If spades break, you have 13 tricks, if not, you can still use your diamonds to make 6NT comfortably.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Like all tables, the declarer in the following deal was playing 3NT. He took the club lead, finessed the diamond queen, crossed to hand with the spade queen, finessed again in diamonds and when diamonds broke, he immediately claimed 11 tricks. But the 12<sup>th</sup> trick was there for the taking. There was no risk because the declarer still had the club king stopper. He just needed to play a small heart and the overtrick would appear.

Don't be lazy, catch the overtrick.

## Apologies

are hereby made to Owen Lien and Kevin Dwyer for switching their names, as well as to Sean Gannon and Stephen Drodge. It was their fault initially, because they were sitting differently than their line-ups showed, but we should have spotted the error nevertheless.



**This is Sean Gannon, yesterday's photo showed Stephen Drodge**



## Olympic Update

On the first day of real competition in London, 12 sets of medals were awarded.

The very first gold medal of the games went to Yi Siling of China in the women's air pistol shooting. China won three more gold medals with Wang Mingyuan (women's weightlifting), Sun Yang (400 meters free-style swimming) and Ye Shiwen (400 meters individual medley), who shaved a full second off the world record. Of course, China are on top of the medal table.

Alexandr Vinokourov of Kazakhstan won the cycling road race. He had previously won silver in the same event in 2000.

The world-record-breaking Koreans could not win the men's team archery. They took bronze after losing in the semifinal to the USA, who lost in the final to Italy.

Italy was also on top in the foil (fencing). All three Italian women reached the semifinals, and they won all three medals, with Elisa di Francisca as first. Valentina Vezzali, who had won this event at the last three Olympics, won the bronze, her eighth medal. She has moved up to twelfth on Herman's list of Olympic greats (\*).

Another all-time great Olympian, Michael Phelps, failed in his first attempt to add to his 16 medals by finishing fourth in the 400 meters individual medley. The first swimming title went to Ryan Lochte, who won his seventh medal (4<sup>th</sup> gold). The fourth place is enough to move Phelps to fifth on Herman's all-time list (\*).

There were also gold medals for Brazil (Sarah Menezes, judo), Russia (Arsen Galstyan, judo) Korea (Jin Jongoh, air pistol) and Australia (women's 4x100 meters free-style swimming).

And even Belgium won their first medal, a bronze in judo (Herman's note: we had to wait two full weeks for our only medal in Beijing).

(\*) A list of some 2500 multiple medallists in all Olympic Games since 1896, ranked by prestation points, in which individual events count more than team events or relays, and extra points are awarded for long careers. The list is headed by Ray Ewry, a jumper from the early 20th century.

## Juniors USA1

We continue our series of US team profiles with the first junior team.



**Owen Lien**

At age 23, Owen is a veteran of international Junior bridge. He represented the USA in Thailand (2006), Poland (2008), China (2008), Turkey (2009), Taiwan (2010), Philadelphia (2010) and Croatia (2011). He earned a bronze medal in Turkey and silver in Croatia. Owen is studying to become a real estate appraiser.



**Kevin Dwyer**

Kevin, 23, started to play bridge at age 15 and planned to play just long enough to be better than his brother, but he hasn't stopped yet. Currently, he is a part-time student at Edison State College in Fort Myers FL. Kevin has been teaching bridge for six years and is an experienced international Junior player. He has earned a bronze medal (Turkey, 2009) and a silver medal (Croatia, 2011). Kevin and his teammates won the mini-Spingold (0-5000) in 2009.



**Raghavendra Rajkumar**

Raghu, 23, started playing bridge a dozen years ago in his native India, where his dad was a top player. He left India to complete a degree in computer science at the University of Virginia and is now in his second year of a PhD program in computer science at Cornell. Although Raghu hasn't played much bridge in the last couple of years because of commitments to school, he has some high finishes in NABC events in the past (14th and 33rd in the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs; 6th and 17th in the Fast Open Pairs).



**Marius Agica**

Marius, 22, came to the U.S. from his native Romania to attend Pace University, where he will receive his degree in computer science and economics in June. He started playing bridge at age 12. At 17, he was part of the Romanian team that competed in the 2007 Jesolo Youth European Team Championship. He played for the USA at the Junior World Team Championships in Philadelphia, finishing fourth. At the World Youth Congress in Croatia in 2011, Marius won two bronze medals, one for pairs (with a Romanian partner) and one for teams (on a transnational team).



**Roger Lee**

Roger, 24, graduated from the California Institute of Technology with a degree in applied mathematics and economics. Currently, he is playing bridge full time. He has been playing about 14 years and has won the USA's Junior team trials four times. With former Junior Josh Donn, Roger won one of the most prestigious pairs titles in bridge, the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs, at the 2011 fall NABC.



**Mitch Towner**

Mitch, a 25-year old Texan, is attending his third Junior championship. He has won a silver medal in the board-a-match last year in Croatia. He holds a master's degree in finance and is working now toward his PhD (expected in 2014). Mitch and his dad were second in the 2009 Bean Red Ribbon Pairs. He has overall finishes in several other national events.

The non-playing captain: Joel Wooldridge

# Match of the Day

## Australia v Bulgaria (Juniors Round 10)

by Brian Senior

While the Girls and Youngsters had the morning off, for the Juniors it was an early start on Sunday, with four matches to be fitted into the day. Round 10 featured the match between Australia, lying sixth overnight, and Bulgaria, in eighth place but 27 VPs behind their opponents.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Edgtton	Skorchev	Hung	Spasov
-	1♠	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Siderov	Howard	Vasilev	Hollands
-	1♠	Dble	2♠
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Both Norths opened the North hand despite the bare king, which I guess is normal these days, and both Easts made a take-out double. Now Peter Hollands scraped up a raise to 2♠ and Zhivko Siderov, looking at his powerful spades, jumped to 3NT, not caring if there was a heart fit.

Justin Howard tried the effect of leading the king of hearts and switched to the king of clubs to dummy's ace. Siderov took the spade finesse and now Howard tried a third suit, leading a low diamond. Siderov won with the ace and knocked out the ace of hearts to take ten tricks for plus 430.

Dean Spasov did not find the spade raise and Nabil Edgtton went into the tank before finally passing. Andy Hung knew what that auction called for and duly led his trump, perhaps being slightly

surprised to find three of them in dummy. Edgtton won with the ace and continued with the queen to Stefan Skorchev's king. Skorchev played the queen of diamonds and had time to establish a diamond trick to go with two spades and two hearts; down two for minus 300 but 4 IMPs to Bulgaria.

Bulgaria picked up another 5 IMPs when the Australian N/S bid Board 3 to a hopeless game while Bulgaria stopped safely at the two level. But then the momentum shifted.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Edgtton	Skorchev	Hung	Spasov
1♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Siderov	Howard	Vasilev	Hollands
1♥	Dble	3♥	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

When partner's 1♥ opening gets doubled, I don't think that a pre-emptive raise to 3♥ quite does the East hand justice. That was Nikolai Vasilev's choice but now Siderov sold out to 3♠ when E/W have a playable game their way. The five-zero trump split was just too much for Hollands to handle in 3♠. He received the lead of the king of hearts, which he won. He played a spade to the queen and ace, and Vasilev tried to cash the jack of hearts, only to see partner overtake to underlead in diamonds. Hollands won with the king



**Dean Spasov**

West	North	East	South
Edgtton	Skorchev	Hung	Spasov
-	1♣	3♦	3♥
4♥	4NT	5♥	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
6♥	6♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Siderov	Howard	Vasilev	Hollands
-	1♣	3♦	Pass
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
5♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

and continued with the diamond ten to Siderov's ace, and back came a third diamond, ruffed in dummy as Vasilev pitched a heart. Hollands played ace and another club, so Vasilev won with the queen and returned a trump and had to make one spade at the end for down one; minus 100.

At the other table, Skorchev did not double the opening bid and Hung made a Bergen raise, Edgtton jumping to the heart game. Skorchev led a trump, which Spasov won with the ace. He switched to a diamond and Edgtton ducked, Skorchev winning and going back to trumps. There are nine tricks and the tenth can come from an even spade break, which also requires hearts to be two-two, or for declarer to be able to lead a low club to the queen, then ruff out a short ace with North. Edgtton combined the two chances nicely. He won the heart in dummy and ruffed a spade, led a club to the queen and ruffed a second spade. Now he ducked a club, won the diamond return and ruffed another club. There was no good news there, but when he now played ace then ruffed a spade, he found that suit four-four and had his tenth trick; plus 620 and 11 IMPs to Australia, who moved into an 11-9 IMP lead.

Howard opened 1♣, natural or a weak no-trump, and Vasilev's pre-emptive overcall was too much for Hollands. Siderov introduced his hearts and Howard showed a strong unbalanced hand with real clubs by bidding 3♠. When Vasilev supported hearts, Hollands of course supported spades, and now Siderov saved in 5♥. Howard left that around to Hollands, who doubled. With 5♠ defeated by three rounds of diamonds, which creates a trump promotion, the table had achieved absolute par when Siderov went two down for minus 300.

Absolute par was a long way off in the other room. Here, Skorchev opened with a strong club and Hung again found the 3♦ overcall. Facing 16+, Spasov could bid with the South cards and chose 3♥, a game-forcing transfer to spades. Edgtton showed his suit and Skorchev loved his hand in support of spades, so asked for key cards. Hung could raise to 5♥, but Spasov was able to show an odd number of key cards by passing. Had Edgtton passed and Skorchev bid the spade slam, it might very well have been let through by a heart lead, but Edgtton was alert to the danger and bid a lead-directing 6♦. Skorchev made a disciplined pass to see how Spasov felt about slam and, when that came back to him, Spasov doubled to say no thanks. Now Edgtton corrected to 6♥ and Skorchev bid 6♠, a very undisciplined effort having invited partner's opinion on the previous round.

Hung duly led the jack of diamonds and Edgtton wasted no time in winning with the ace and returning the suit. Hung failed to play a third round, so the contract was just one down, but that was still minus 100 and 9 IMPs to Australia.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Edgton	Skorchev	Hung	Spasov
–	–	Pass	1♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Siderov	Howard	Vasilev	Hollands
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♦	Dble	Pass	4♦
Dble	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Does Skorchev really believe that 3NT is the correct response to a Precision 1♦ opener or was he affected by the previous deal? Whatever the reason for the bid, it seemed that he had bought a pretty unsuitable dummy and that 3NT had no real chance of success. Hung led the three of hearts to Edgton's bare ace and Edgton, not suspecting declarer's six-card suit, switched to the ten of clubs. Skorchev ducked that and Hung followed with an encouraging five. However, Edgton was not convinced and now switched to the eight of spades, surrounding a hypothetical nine in declarer's hand. Skorchev won with the queen and led the seven of clubs to the eight, and Edgton overtook with the king. Everyone in the vugraph theatre could see that Edgton held the setting tricks in his hand, but now the 3NT bid really came into its own because Edgton could not see the danger and played another spade. Skorchev won on table, crossed to a heart and cashed the club ace. When the queen fell he had the rest; ten tricks for plus 430.

That looked to be a great result for Bulgaria, but all it succeeded in doing was to flatten the board. In the other room, Hollands did not open as

South, so Siderov got to open the West hand. Howard doubled the Precision 1♦ opening and Hollands made a big jump cue-bid of 4♦, asking partner to pick a major. When Siderov doubled, Howard left the choice to his partner and Hollands chose 4♠, as who would not? That contract looked to be an awful lot of work with ten tricks some way off. However, Siderov began with the king of diamonds and continued with the seven, which Hollands ran to the ten and queen. He led a heart up and Siderov won with the ace, perforce, and tried the ace of diamonds. It was all plain sailing from here. Hollands ruffed, drew three rounds of trumps and had just to lose one trump trick; plus 420 and a flat board. They do say that defence is the hardest part of the game and the action on this deal certainly supports that view.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Edgton	Skorchev	Hung	Spasov
–	Pass	Pass	2♠
4♣	5♠	Pass	Pass
5NT	Dble	6♣	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Siderov	Howard	Vasilev	Hollands
–	Pass	Pass	2♠
4♣	4♦	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	5♣	Pass
Pass	5♠	Dble	All Pass

Both Souths opened with a weak 2♠ and both Wests overcalled 4♣, Leaping Michaels showing a sound heart/club two-suiter. Skorchev now jumped to 5♠ and Hung's pass showed values. Still, Edgton had a few losers and his 5NT bid was a touch optimistic. Skorchev cashed the ace of di-

amonds, then switched to the spade king, but there was nowhere for the second diamond to go, so Edgtton was down one for minus 100.

Again, the Bulgarian N/S pair appeared to have achieved a plus position but it was not to be. In the other room, Howard bid 4♦ to show his side-suit along with spade support. Vasilev tried 4♥ then 5♣ before finally doubling 5♠, which ended the auction. There are four losers in a spade contract and it appeared that this table would once again achieve absolute par. However, Siderov started with the king of clubs and continued with the ace of spades. He was looking at the setting trick in the ace of hearts but got greedy and switched back to clubs, ruffed in dummy. A diamond off the dummy saw East split his honours, so Hollands won with the king, drew the remaining trump and played ace of diamonds followed by the ruffing finesse. There were two diamond winners on which to pitch the heart losers and that meant plus 650, and Bulgaria's plus position had turned into 11 IMPs to Australia, whose lead was up to 40-9.

The lead had increased to 46-9 when finally came some relief for the Bulgarians.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ A 10 9 5  
♥ 4 2  
♦ A 10 9 7  
♣ 7 6 4

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

♠ Q 8 7 6  
♥ 9 6 3  
♦ Q 8 5 3  
♣ A J

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

West	North	East	South
Edgtton	Skorchev	Hung	Spasov
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Siderov	Howard	Vasilev	Hollands
1♣	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

I am mildly surprised that Hung did not raise to 3NT to offer a choice of games and that Vasilev did not pass 3NT in the other room. However, both chose to put down dummy in 4♥.

Skorchev led the six of clubs against Edgtton, who finessed, won the club return, led a heart to the jack, then cashed the ace and king of hearts, Skorchev pitching his remaining club. Edgtton now played the king of diamonds. Skorchev won and returned the diamond seven and, as he had expected, Edgtton did not put in the eight. Instead, he won the jack and cashed one heart before trying to split the diamonds. When the suit did not oblige, he was one down for plus 50.

Howard led a trump, which left dummy's club entry intact. Siderov won and drew the missing trumps, Howard throwing a discouraging club seven. Siderov continued with the jack of diamonds, which Howard won with the ace to lead a club through. Siderov finessed, so Hollands won with the king. He now switched to the jack of spades, which ran to dummy's queen.

The stage was now set for Siderov. He cashed the ace of clubs, came to hand with the king of diamonds and cashed the two heart winners. The last heart squeezed Howard down to a bare ace of spades and, reading the position perfectly, Siderov threw the eight of diamonds from dummy, then led his low spade from hand, dropping the ace. That was very nicely done for plus 420 and 10 IMPs to Bulgaria.

The Bulgarians picked up a partscore swing on the final board to close to 28-46, leaving Australia the winners by 19-11 VPs. They stayed in sixth place, while Bulgaria dropped from eighth to twelfth.



**Zhivko Siderov**