

1st World Mind Sports Games Youth Team Championships

Beijing-China 3rd-18th October 2008

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K.O TIME



Chinese Opera has a unique appearance and style

USA has won the last two U26 World Championships but will not be winning the first U28 Championship as they fell 1 VP short in ninth place in the Swiss qualifier. Poland topped the qualifying stage ahead of France, Belgium and China. The remaining qualifiers were Israel, England, Chinese Taipei and Norway. Of the non-qualifiers, Philippines scored 73 VPs out of 75 on the day – a nice way to close out the competition.

Poland also topped the U26 qualifier, 35 VPs clear of second-placed Denmark. The other qualifiers were Australia, Netherlands, USA, Norway, Chinese Taipei and Canada. Germany had looked favourites to make it with one round to go but Chinese Taipei thrashed them 25-3 in what proved to be a winner-takes-all encounter and out they went.

England topped the U21 Round Robin ahead of France, Chinese Taipei, China and Bulgaria. There was a desperate battle in the last round to settle the remaining three places in the knockouts, with USA, Norway and Netherlands making it through at the expense of Poland and Singapore.

Today's Schedule

- 11.00 U-28 Teams, Quarter Final I
- 11.00 U-26 Teams, Quarter Final I
- 11.00 U-21 Teams, Quarter Final I
- 10.30 Pairs, Qualifier Session 1 (Groups A-B)
- 14.20 U-28 Teams, Quarter Final 2
- 14.20 U-26 Teams, Quarter Final 2
- 14.20 U-21 Teams, Quarter Final 2
- 15.30 Pairs, Qualifier Session 2 (Groups A-B)
- 17.20 U-28 Teams, Quarter Final 3
- 17.20 U-26 Teams, Quarter Final 3
- 17.20 U-21 Teams, Quarter Final 3

RESULTS U-26 TEAMS

ROUND 15

Match	IMP's	VP's
1 ITALY INDIA	73 - 41	23 - 7
2 NEW ZEALAND POLAND	27 - 57	8 - 22
3 CANADA AUSTRALIA	30 - 56	9 - 21
4 CHINESE TAIPEI EGYPT	36 - 22	18 - 12
5 NORWAY ARGENTINA	42 - 42	15 - 15
6 CHILE GERMANY	14 - 38	9 - 21
7 CHINA HONG KONG INDONESIA	60 - 62	15 - 15
8 DENMARK NETHERLANDS	71 - 29	25 - 5
9 USA CHINA	54 - 42	18 - 12

ROUND 16

Match	IMP's	VP's
1 CHILE DENMARK	20 - 36	11 - 19
2 NETHERLANDS CHINA HONG KONG	30 - 38	13 - 17
3 INDONESIA USA	33 - 57	9 - 21
4 CHINA NORWAY	42 - 19	20 - 10
5 ARGENTINA CHINESE TAIPEI	56 - 23	23 - 7
6 EGYPT CANADA	18 - 29	13 - 17
7 GERMANY INDIA	43 - 28	18 - 12
8 POLAND ITALY	31 - 38	14 - 16
9 AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND	62 - 19	25 - 5

ROUND 17

Match	IMP's	VP's
1 ARGENTINA CHINA	23 - 73	4 - 25
2 EGYPT INDONESIA	40 - 38	15 - 15
3 AUSTRALIA NETHERLANDS	32 - 40	13 - 17
4 POLAND CHILE	43 - 17	21 - 9
5 INDIA DENMARK	2 - 85	0 - 25
6 ITALY CHINA HONG KONG	48 - 30	19 - 11
7 NEW ZEALAND USA	25 - 29	14 - 16
8 GERMANY CHINESE TAIPEI	4 - 61	3 - 25
9 CANADA NORWAY	0 - 56	3 - 25

RESULTS U-21 TEAMS

ROUND 15

Match	IMP's	VP's
1 INDONESIA CHINA	43 - 26	19 - 11
2 PAKISTAN URUGUAY	78 - 20	25 - 3
3 BULGARIA CHINESE TAIPEI	47 - 61	12 - 18
4 NORWAY CANADA	52 - 20	23 - 7
5 BOTSWANA NETHERLANDS	1 - 72	1 - 25
6 SINGAPORE ECUADOR	21 - 44	10 - 20
7 ENGLAND ARGENTINA	43 - 16	21 - 8
8 FRANCE AUSTRALIA	45 - 53	13 - 17
9 USA POLAND	74 - 32	25 - 5

ROUND 16

Match	IMP's	VP's
1 SINGAPORE FRANCE	17 - 25	13 - 17
2 AUSTRALIA ENGLAND	3 - 60	3 - 25
3 ARGENTINA USA	27 - 54	9 - 21
4 POLAND BOTSWANA	104 - 10	25 - 0
5 NETHERLANDS NORWAY	21 - 61	6 - 24
6 CANADA BULGARIA	21 - 43	10 - 20
7 ECUADOR CHINA	19 - 52	7 - 23
8 URUGUAY INDONESIA	23 - 55	7 - 23
9 CHINESE TAIPEI PAKISTAN	39 - 13	21 - 9

ROUND 17

Match	IMP's	VP's
1 CHINA URUGUAY	104 - 16	25 - 0
2 INDONESIA CHINESE TAIPEI	40 - 38	15 - 15
3 PAKISTAN CANADA	54 - 10	25 - 5
4 BULGARIA NETHERLANDS	32 - 65	7 - 23
5 NORWAY POLAND	57 - 36	20 - 10
6 BOTSWANA ARGENTINA	15 - 58	5 - 25
7 USA AUSTRALIA	65 - 25	24 - 6
8 FRANCE ECUADOR	84 - 10	25 - 0
9 ENGLAND SINGAPORE	69 - 3	25 - 1

FINAL RANKING U-26 TEAMS

1 POLAND	338
2 DENMARK	303
3 AUSTRALIA	300
4 NETHERLANDS	293
5 USA	284
6 NORWAY	282
7 CHINESE TAIPEI	264
8 CANADA	262
9 GERMANY	253
10 ITALY	252
11 INDONESIA	240
12 CHINA HONG KONG	239
13 CHILE	238
14 CHINA	227
15 ARGENTINA	217
16 NEW ZEALAND	206
17 EGYPT	187
18 INDIA	160

FINAL RANKING U-21 TEAMS

1 ENGLAND	351
2 FRANCE	349
3 CHINESE TAIPEI	309.5
4 CHINA	308
5 BULGARIA	307
6 USA	284
7 NETHERLANDS	280
NORWAY	280
9 POLAND	270.5
10 SINGAPORE	264
11 AUSTRALIA	251
12 ARGENTINA	243
13 PAKISTAN	236
14 INDONESIA	191
15 CANADA	188.5
16 ECUADOR	178
17 URUGUAY	106.5
18 BOTSWANA	49

U-28 TEAMS



RESULTS



SWISS 15

Match	IMP's	VP's
1 POLAND	ICELAND	61 - 28 23 - 7
2 ISRAEL	CHINA	26 - 32 14 - 16
3 ENGLAND	CHINESE TAIPEI	30 - 37 14 - 16
4 BELGIUM	FRANCE	34 - 65 8 - 22
5 HUNGARY	CZECH REPUBLIC	36 - 48 12 - 18
6 INDIA	AUSTRALIA	71 - 30 24 - 6
7 NORWAY	USA	58 - 40 19 - 11
8 CROATIA	GREECE	25 - 54 8 - 22
9 INDONESIA	EGYPT	41 - 39 15 - 15
10 DENMARK	FINLAND	13 - 68 3 - 25
11 CANADA	AUSTRIA	50 - 38 18 - 12
12 JAPAN	SWITZERLAND	38 - 63 9 - 21
13 ITALY	PORTUGAL	23 - 38 12 - 18
14 TURKEY	SERBIA	20 - 28 13 - 17
15 LATVIA	THAILAND	59 - 23 23 - 7
16 SWEDEN	TUNISIA	44 - 44 15 - 15
17 SPAIN	BRAZIL	27 - 81 3 - 25
18 ESTONIA	CHINA HONG KONG	89 - 15 25 - 0
19 ECUADOR	ROMANIA	26 - 81 3 - 25
20 RUSSIA	SINGAPORE	31 - 66 7 - 23
21 BELARUS	IRELAND	45 - 58 12 - 18
22 NETHERLANDS	LITHUANIA	66 - 15 25 - 4
23 GERMANY	UKRAINE	26 - 59 7 - 23
24 CAC	PAKISTAN	6 - 74 1 - 25
25 SCOTLAND	LEBANON	30 - 45 12 - 18
26 WALES	NEW ZEALAND	34 - 45 13 - 17
27 ARGENTINA	KOREA	74 - 16 25 - 3
28 BANGLADESH	SLOVAKIA	51 - 17 23 - 7
29 BOTSWANA	SLOVENIA	29 - 44 12 - 18
30 SOUTH AFRICA	COLOMBIA	90 - 13 25 - 0
31 PHILIPPINES	ARUBA	64 - 9 25 - 3
32 VENEZUELA	SRI LANKA	74 - 23 25 - 4
33 ZIMBABWE	KENYA	108 - 4 25 - 0
34 URUGUAY	ALBANIA	49 - 18 22 - 8
35 PERU	JAMAICA	42 - 43 15 - 15
36 JORDAN	MONGOLIA	69 - 36 23 - 7
37 COSTA RICA	MALAYSIA	56 - 32 21 - 9

SWISS 16

Match	IMP's	VP's
1 POLAND	GREECE	28 - 15 18 - 12
2 ISRAEL	FRANCE	11 - 40 8 - 22
3 ENGLAND	FINLAND	47 - 20 21 - 9
4 CHINA	CZECH REPUBLIC	42 - 32 17 - 13
5 INDIA	CHINESE TAIPEI	26 - 43 11 - 19
6 BELGIUM	CANADA	51 - 22 22 - 8
7 NORWAY	HUNGARY	47 - 21 21 - 9
8 SWITZERLAND	INDONESIA	18 - 61 5 - 25
9 USA	EGYPT	73 - 32 24 - 6
10 ICELAND	LATVIA	39 - 35 16 - 14
11 ESTONIA	CROATIA	41 - 57 11 - 19
12 BRAZIL	AUSTRALIA	39 - 31 17 - 13
13 PORTUGAL	AUSTRIA	30 - 44 12 - 18
14 SERBIA	ROMANIA	12 - 76 2 - 25
15 JAPAN	ITALY	3 - 70 1 - 25
16 TURKEY	SINGAPORE	45 - 39 16 - 14
17 SWEDEN	DENMARK	68 - 17 25 - 4
18 TUNISIA	UKRAINE	23 - 9 18 - 12
19 NETHERLANDS	IRELAND	28 - 34 14 - 16
20 THAILAND	PAKISTAN	48 - 37 17 - 13
21 BELARUS	SPAIN	28 - 65 6 - 24
22 ARGENTINA	RUSSIA	8 - 52 5 - 25
23 LEBANON	ECUADOR	0 - 0 12 - 12
24 BANGLADESH	CHINA HONG KONG	6 - 47 6 - 24
25 NEW ZEALAND	SOUTH AFRICA	71 - 11 25 - 2
26 SCOTLAND	PHILIPPINES	31 - 80 4 - 25
27 VENEZUELA	GERMANY	17 - 52 7 - 23
28 WALES	LITHUANIA	33 - 40 14 - 16
29 SLOVENIA	CAC	32 - 31 15 - 15
30 ZIMBABWE	URUGUAY	36 - 46 13 - 17
31 BOTSWANA	ARUBA	58 - 23 23 - 7
32 PERU	SRI LANKA	37 - 37 15 - 15
33 JORDAN	JAMAICA	91 - 6 25 - 0
34 SLOVAKIA	ALBANIA	71 - 26 25 - 5
35 COSTA RICA	KENYA	91 - 13 25 - 0
36 COLOMBIA	MALAYSIA	70 - 12 25 - 3
37 KOREA	MONGOLIA	60 - 33 21 - 9



RESULTS



SWISS 17

Match	IMP's	VP's
1 POLAND NORWAY	34 - 48	12 - 18
2 ENGLAND FRANCE	21 - 61	6 - 24
3 ISRAEL CHINESE TAIPEI	33 - 33	15 - 15
4 CHINA INDONESIA	40 - 35	16 - 14
5 BELGIUM INDIA	63 - 14	25 - 4
6 USA CZECH REPUBLIC	55 - 20	23 - 7
7 GREECE FINLAND	17 - 33	11 - 19
8 ROMANIA HUNGARY	43 - 32	17 - 13
9 CROATIA SWEDEN	54 - 24	22 - 8
10 ITALY ICELAND	56 - 16	24 - 6
11 BRAZIL LATVIA	21 - 71	4 - 25
12 AUSTRIA AUSTRALIA	34 - 67	7 - 23
13 CANADA PORTUGAL	26 - 38	12 - 18
14 ESTONIA EGYPT	42 - 14	22 - 8
15 SWITZERLAND TURKEY	27 - 40	12 - 18
16 TUNISIA SINGAPORE	33 - 52	11 - 19
17 NETHERLANDS RUSSIA	37 - 37	15 - 15
18 SPAIN IRELAND	52 - 21	22 - 8
19 SERBIA CHINA HONG KONG	39 - 32	16 - 14
20 THAILAND UKRAINE	28 - 48	10 - 20
21 NEW ZEALAND PAKISTAN	40 - 49	13 - 17
22 PHILIPPINES JAPAN	39 - 7	23 - 7
23 DENMARK LEBANON	63 - 8	25 - 3
24 GERMANY ECUADOR	49 - 35	18 - 12
25 JORDAN BOTSWANA	38 - 15	20 - 10
26 BELARUS LITHUANIA	16 - 54	6 - 24
27 ARGENTINA SLOVAKIA	29 - 27	15 - 15
28 COSTA RICA URUGUAY	26 - 72	5 - 25
29 BANGLADESH VENEZUELA	41 - 50	13 - 17
30 WALES ZIMBABWE	67 - 32	23 - 7
31 KOREA PERU	47 - 25	20 - 10
32 CAC SRI LANKA	63 - 7	25 - 3
33 COLOMBIA ALBANIA	72 - 14	25 - 3
34 SLOVENIA JAMAICA	78 - 1	25 - 0
35 SCOTLAND KENYA	98 - 17	25 - 0
36 SOUTH AFRICA MONGOLIA	50 - 25	21 - 9
37 ARUBA MALAYSIA	51 - 24	21 - 9

TODAY'S PROGRAM U-28 TEAMS

QUARTER FINAL

1 POLAND	12 - 0	CHINESE TAIPEI
2 FRANCE	12 - 0	ENGLAND
3 BELGIUM	11 - 0	NORWAY
4 CHINA	3 - 0	ISRAEL

TODAY'S PROGRAM U-26 TEAMS

QUARTER FINAL

1 POLAND	12 - 0	USA
2 AUSTRALIA	6 - 0	CHINESE TAIPEI
3 DENMARK	12 - 0	CANADA
4 NETHERLANDS	0 - 8.66	NORWAY

TODAY'S PROGRAM U-21 TEAMS

QUARTER FINAL

1 NETHERLANDS	0 - 12	ENGLAND
2 USA	0 - 12	FRANCE
3 CHINESE TAIPEI	0 - 7	BULGARIA
4 CHINA	0 - 12	NORWAY

VUGRAPH MATCHES



USA - France (U-21/Quarter Final 1)	11.00
To be decided	14.20
To be decided	17.20

Knock-out Semi-finals, Finals and Play-offs



Note that the knock-out semi-finals, finals and third-place play-offs will all begin at 10.00 am on Sunday and on Monday.

U-28 TEAMS

FINAL RANKING

1	POLAND	320	39	SERBIA	253
2	FRANCE	307	40	CHINA HONG KONG	251
3	BELGIUM	305		PAKISTAN	251
4	CHINA	297	42	THAILAND	250
	ISRAEL	297	43	GERMANY	249
6	ENGLAND	296		NEW ZEALAND	249
7	CHINESE TAIPEI	294	45	IRELAND	246
8	NORWAY	289		LITHUANIA	246
9	USA	288	47	JORDAN	244.8
10	ITALY	280.5	48	URUGUAY	243.5
11	INDONESIA	280	49	WALES	243
12	CROATIA	279	50	CAC	242
	FINLAND	279		SLOVENIA	242
	LATVIA	279	52	JAPAN	240
15	INDIA	276	53	SCOTLAND	239
16	ROMANIA	275	54	ARGENTINA	238
17	GREECE	274	55	ECUADOR	237.5
18	AUSTRALIA	273	56	SLOVAKIA	236
19	ESTONIA	271	57	KOREA	235
	HUNGARY	271	58	BOTSWANA	234
21	CZECH REPUBLIC	270	59	COLOMBIA	233
22	PORTUGAL	267.5		SOUTH AFRICA	233
23	TURKEY	265		VENEZUELA	233
24	CANADA	263	62	BANGLADESH	232.5
	SINGAPORE	263	63	BELARUS	231
	SPAIN	263	64	LEBANON	229
	SWEDEN	263	65	COSTA RICA	226
28	AUSTRIA	262	66	ZIMBABWE	221.5
	ICELAND	262	67	ARUBA	214
30	SWITZERLAND	259.5	68	PERU	199
31	BRAZIL	259	69	SRI LANKA	170
32	DENMARK	258	70	ALBANIA	155
	NETHERLANDS	258	71	JAMAICA	148
	TUNISIA	258	72	KENYA	142
35	PHILIPPINES	257	73	MONGOLIA	138
36	RUSSIA	255.3	74	MALAYSIA	134
37	EGYPT	255			
	UKRAINE	255			



What made you start playing bridge?



**Felipe Camargo, Brazil
U28**

– A friend invited me to play with him on the Internet. He sent over some notes in an e-mail and simply said that this is what you are going to play. After some games he said since you work in Copacabana and the bridge club is there you should also play some real bridge, which I went to do. All this started about 3 years ago.

**Lisa Matthias, Germany
U28**

– I tried bridge at a workshop in school which I attended for some months. After that I went for the real bridge club in my city. I have been playing for 3½ years now.



**Omar Meddeb, Tunisia
– U28**

– I have been playing bridge for 6 years now. It all started when a relative taught me the basics. Then I went to learn in school at the bridge club.



**Gyles Ellison, Scotland
U28**

– An uncle of a friend came over to school and taught us how to play. It started when I was 12 years old so I have played for 10 years now.



**Chun-Fan Chen, Chinese Taipei
U28**

– It’s a bright game and I like math. Therefore it felt like it fit my interests. I have been playing for 8 years now and it was a good friend who taught me from the beginning.



Youth Pairs Championships

There will be approximately 100 tables, split into Groups A and B.

Groups have been formed according to the finishing position in the Teams Competitions, U21, U26, U28. Group A consists of 9th to 12th position from the U21, 9th to 14th position from the U26, with the balance coming from the Swiss to create 60 tables. The remaining pairs are in Group B.

After four qualifying sessions, there will be a Semi-final ‘A’ for 60 tables, which will include the pairs eliminated from the Knock-out Teams together with approximately 63 pairs from the A qualifying and 21 from the B qualifying. All remaining pairs will play in semi-final ‘B’.

The Final starts on Tuesday afternoon and will consist of 96 pairs, approximately 54 from the Semi-final ‘A’, 6 from the Semi-final ‘B’, and the pairs from the 12 teams in the Knock-out semi-finals.



Justice, What Justice?

by Marc Smith

No one can ever say that watching junior bridge is dull. The theme of Wednesday's morning match seemed to be that a really dumb mistake cost nothing but doing something normal was very expensive. To see what I mean, look at this:

♠ K 9 7 4 3
 ♥ 5 2
 ♦ K Q J 5
 ♣ J 6

With your side only vulnerable, RHO opens a natural One Club. Would you describe a One Spade overcall as a poor bid? It looks like a normal action to me, but One Spade doubled goes for 800. Yes, the opponents can make a non-vulnerable slam, but teammates aren't going to bid it on their combined 29 HCP and a 4-4 fit. Besides, you don't want them bidding slams that need a 3-2 break and a finesse, so that's 8 IMPs out.

What's your policy when an opponent opens with a strong club? The winning approach is usually to bid as much as possible.

♠ A K 10 8 6 2
 ♥ 9 5 4
 ♦ J
 ♣ 7 5 3

At Game All, RHO opens a strong club. Your turn. Two Spades does not look like an unreasonable action, does it?

At the table, the auction continued (Pass) – Pass – (Dble) – All Pass and that was four down for –1100 with partner having just enough to ensure that the opponents could make no more than game. Another 11 IMPs out, so you're already 19 down having done nothing unusual.

They always say that a little learning is a dangerous thing, but South demonstrated that it need not be on this deal.

♠ A J
 ♥ 5 3
 ♦ 9 8 6 5
 ♣ A 10 8 3 2



♠ K 8 5
 ♥ J 7 2
 ♦ A K J 10 4
 ♣ K 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Pass</i>	<i>Pass</i>	<i>1sx</i>	<i>INT</i>
2sx	3NT	All Pass	

South plays in 3NT after a straightforward auction. West leads a spade and you would have thought that the first thing to enter declarer's head was 'thanks for not leading a heart'. However, the subsequent action would suggest otherwise.

Declarer, who has evidently been well schooled in basic declarer play technique, played the ♠J from dummy and studiously played low when East covered with the queen. Of course, East had seen too many INT overcalls with a stopper of three low to be taken in by this, and duly continued spades rather than switching to his A10xx hearts, so declarer won the ♠A and duly cashed the nine top winners he had started with (dxQ doubleton onside). No one even noticed that anything untoward had happened, and when it came time to score, this deal was just another dull flat board.

It somehow doesn't seem right that the two players who made normal overcalls on the hands above were punished with a game swing against them, whereas this declarer suffered no penalty for a truly atrocious play. But I guess that's just the nature of the game.

Eilat Festival 2008



David Birman, the organiser of the 2008 Eilat Bridge Festival, offers free accommodation for the duration of the Festival to the winning Under 26 team here in Beijing.

There is a full range of Pairs and Teams events during the festival, which runs from November 13-22 2008, and has a prize fund in excess of 18,000 Euros.

Details can be obtained from Alon Birman of the Israeli Under 28 team, or from David Birman at:

birmand@inter.net.il.

U-28 TEAMS ROUND 14



USA



POLAND



by Brian Senior

USA has won the last two U26 World Championships, though in 2005 in Sydney it took extra boards in the final for them to overcome Poland. Here, Poland is looking a comfortable qualifier while the Americans are just outside the qualifying places with some work to do on the last day of the Swiss stage.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ Q J 9 6 3 2
♥ 10 2
♦ K 6 5 2
♣ 6

♠ K 8 5
♥ J 5 3
♦ 10
♣ A Q 10 5 4 2



♠ 10
♥ A K Q 9 6 4
♦ A J 4
♣ 9 7 3

♠ A 7 4
♥ 8 7
♦ Q 9 8 7 3
♣ K J 8



Lukasz Brede— Poland

West <i>Feldman</i>	North <i>K.Kotorowicz</i>	East <i>Grue</i>	South <i>Kalita</i>
–	–	1♥	Pass
2♣	2♠	3♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass

West <i>Brede</i>	North <i>Lall</i>	East <i>J.Kotorowicz</i>	South <i>Greenberg</i>
–	–	1♥	Pass
2♣	3♠	4♥	4♠
5♦	Dble	Pass	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

Slam is playable but hardly great, particularly after an overcall from North. For Poland, Lukasz Brede and Jakub Kotorowicz stopped safely at the five level. Ari Greeneberg led the ♦9 and Justin Lall could not read the position so played low. Kotorowicz won the ten, crossed to hand with a trump and ruffed the ♦J then drew trumps. He continued with a club to the queen and the ♣A, so had two black losers; +650.

Jason Feldman and Joe Grue got to the thin slam. Jacek Kalita cashed the ace of spades then switched to the ♦7. Again, North withheld the ♦K so declarer won the jack and took a diamond ruff, cashed the ♥J and ♠K, ruffed a spade, then ran the hearts. At the end, it was clear that North was down to the ♦K and his singleton club, South to two clubs. I have got so used to seeing Joe Grue make difficult contracts at recent Youth Championships that it was something of a surprise when he got the ending wrong, playing his club to the ace, attempting to drop a bare king, and was down one for –100; 13 IMPs to Poland when it might have been 13 in the other direction.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ Q 7 2 ♥ A 5 4 ♦ 9 5 4 3 2 ♣ 10 5	<table border="1" style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A 9 ♥ K J 6 ♦ K J 8 7 ♣ A Q 8 6 ♠ K J 5 4 3 ♥ 10 6 2 ♦ A Q 10 ♣ J 3
N					
W E					
S					
♠ 10 8 6 ♥ Q 8 7 3 ♦ 6 ♣ K 9 7 4 2					

West	North	East	South
<i>Feldman</i>	<i>K.Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
Pass	1♣	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dble	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Brede</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>J.Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Greenberg</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dble	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Both N/S pairs reached the four-three fit heart game. Against Kalita, Feldman led the ♣10. Declarer won the king and led a diamond to the king and ace. Grue continued clubs, Kalita winning in dummy and playing the ♥K to Feldman's ace. He returned a diamond to the jack and queen and Kalita pitched a spade from hand. Grue switched to trumps, his nine being won in dummy with the jack, and now Kalita played a heart to the queen, a club to the queen, and ruffed a diamond. When he next cashed the club winners, nothing good happened so he was one down for -50.

Brede led a diamond to the seven and ten and ducked his partner's heart switch to dummy's jack. Greenberg led the king of diamonds for the ace and a ruff then crossed to dummy with the ♣Q to lead the ♦J, hoping to pin the nine, again covered and ruffed. He played the ♥Q next and Brede won and led the ♦9. Had that been permitted to hold the trick, the ♦2 continuation would have promoted a trick for the ♥10 for down one, but Kotorowicz had lost the plot somewhere along the way and he actually ruffed his part-

ner's winner. That allowed Greenberg home with his contract; +420 and 10 IMPs to USA.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
<i>Feldman</i>	<i>K.Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
1♥	2♦	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Brede</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>J.Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Greenberg</i>
1♥	2♦	Pass	2♠
2NT	4♠	Dble	All Pass

After both Norths overcalled 2♦, Kalita passed as South and Feldman was unwilling to reopen with a 10-count with a poor diamond holding. Grue led the nine of hearts against 2♦. Declarer won in dummy and played the ♦10 to Feldman's king. He switched to the singleton spade. Krzysztof Kotorowicz won but had to lose four trump tricks, a spade and a heart for down one; -100.

Greenberg scraped up a 2♠ response to the overcall and Brede competed with 2NT, suggesting a weaker hand than had he bid a suit. Justin Lall raised to 4♠ and Kotorowicz doubled.

Brede led the ♦3 to the ace and back came a low diamond, on which Greenberg pitched a club. Brede switched to a low heart for the nine and ace and Greenberg ruffed a club then led the ♦J for a ruffing finesse, pitching another club from hand as Brede ruffed. Had that ruff not been with a singleton trump, declarer might have been in with a chance, but not on the actual layout. He won the heart return, cashed the ace of spades to learn his fate, then ruffed a diamond, ruffed his last club with the king of spades, and conceded two down for -500 and 9 IMPs to Poland. That play adds up to one off as far as I can see, but maybe there is an error in the record somewhere?

The Poles picked up 7 IMPs and 6 IMPs on the next two deals as Grue/Feldman twice failed in thin 3NT contracts while their opponents stopped in 1NT, and this helped Poland to come out winners by 48-20 IMPs, or 22-8 VPs and retain the lead in the overall rankings.



Jason Feldman – USA

Landlocked Mongolia is now open for Bridge

by Jan van Cleeff



Team Mongolia

This year the World Bridge Federation celebrates its 50th anniversary. Today the WBF is a huge organization with 107 member countries. One of the latest nations to join the international bridge family is Mongolia. The 2008 World Bridge Games are the first international championships attended by the successors of Genghis Khan and his Huns who, in Beijing, are participating in the U28 tournament. As a debutant, the Mongolian team is here merely to learn. Having a quick glance at the rankings one could easily detect the true Olympic spirit, participating being much more important than winning.

In Round 15 of the U28 series this hand looked promising for Mongolia. The opponents came from Jordan:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ A J 9 4 2 ♥ K J 8 6 4 3 ♦ Q ♣ 3	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K Q 8 3 ♥ Q 9 5 2 ♦ K 3 ♣ 10 6 2
♠ 7 ♥ 10 ♦ A J 10 9 8 6 ♣ K 9 8 7 5		♠ 10 6 5 ♥ A 7 ♦ 7 5 4 2 ♣ A Q J 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Enkhamgalan</i>	<i>Sweidan</i>	<i>Dashjamts</i>	<i>Hallasa</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	2NT	3♥	5♣
?			

West, Enkh-Erdene Enkhamgalan, took the right view by bidding 5♥ and was allowed to play there (undoubled). The contract went down one, but proved to be an excellent save against the vulnerable club slam. That was the good news for Mongolia. The bad news came later, when East/West in the Closed Room were allowed to score 420 in 4♠.

Your editor took the opportunity to talk with Mr. Batjargal Borjsuren, the Mongolian non-playing captain, who happens to be the secretary-general of the Mongolian Bridge Federation as well. Mr. Borjsuren explained that this is the first time that a Mongolian team is participating in an international bridge championship. The Mongolian Bridge Federation only counts 80 active members out of a total of 170. Most of the players started to learn the game one year ago. They are rapidly improving their skills through the internet. Some play on BBO, a popular internet bridge club. The MBF is getting help from several sources. Australia provided cards, boards, books and bidding boxes. "It is essential that our players learn English, the official language of international bridge. That way we can learn the game faster and communicate better with our bridge friends from abroad", as Mr. Borjsuren pointed out, who added that the World Bridge Federation committed itself to support the MBF.

So far bridge is not part of an official educational school or university program. Still, the near future looks bright. Support by the Mongolian government would not come unexpected as the president of the MBF, Mr. N. Enkhbold, is a Member of Parliament and happens to be its Deputy-Chairman. And Mr. Ch. Khurelbaatar, the Prime Minister of the Mongolian Parliament, is a member of the board of the MBF.

Mr. Borjsuren confirmed that the MBF already received a small allowance from the government. Together with Air China flight tickets and contributions by the WBF and the players themselves, the trip to Beijing was made possible. The MBF is certainly heading for more international competition. Their next stage will be the 2009 University Championships. It is clear that the second largest landlocked country of the world (after Kazakhstan) from now on is open to bridge.

Finishing touch by England

by *Micke Melander*

Yesterday was the day to cut the field and move into the knockouts. Finland, who still had the chance to qualify, was 10th when they played second-placed England in Round 16. But they probably needed a win or at least a draw to manage.

England actually took an early lead in the match that they never let go. On Board 21, declarer at both tables faced an interesting problem in 3NT when the situation was as followed.

Board 21. Declarer North. NS Vul.

♠ –
 ♥ A Q 8 3
 ♦ K Q J 8 7 3 2
 ♣ K 6



♠ A K 8 7 5 3
 ♥ J 9
 ♦ 5
 ♣ Q 10 8 2

West	North	East	South
Woodcock	V. Fagerlund	Burgess	J. Fagerlund
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

It was a similar auction at both tables. A low club was led



Arttu Karhulahti – Finland

to the two, seven and king. Both declarers now tried to establish the diamond suit by playing a high diamond. We all agree that the deal looks 'like a walk in the park on a bright sunny afternoon', West won the diamond on the first round and continued with a low heart. How to play?

Clearly, there might be some communication problems here. Let's do it the simple way, count tricks. For sure we have two spades, two hearts, two diamonds and a club. If diamonds are good (if it really is a walk in the park) we can claim. How to be secure against a bad diamond break? The percentage play should be to finesse on the heart return with the queen, to keep communications open. If that one loses, you either need the ten of hearts to drop or the diamonds breaking (something like 80%). If it wins, you clear the diamond suit and enter hand with a heart to the ace.

Board 21. Declarer North. NS Vul.

♠ –
 ♥ A Q 8 3
 ♦ K Q J 8 7 3 2
 ♣ K 6



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

♠ J 9 6 4
 ♥ 10 6 4
 ♦ 9
 ♣ A J 5 4 3

♠ A K 8 7 5 3
 ♥ J 9
 ♦ 5
 ♣ Q 10 8 2

At the table declarers both played low, which ran to table's nine. They now cashed the ace of spades and here was the moment when Vesa Fagerlund made the fatal mistake of discarding six of clubs while Ben Green discarded a heart. When diamonds no longer behaved, Vesa had no chance to make his contract, finally ending up two down, while Green more or less could claim his contract. That was 13 IMPs to England.

Finland then gained some IMPs and made a partscore while England went down to even the game little.

On Board 28 Karhulahti opened INT (Junior discount promising 10-12) on:

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

Which was thrown back on him when partner decided to bid 5♦ on his 4-6 in the red suits going for 1100 when they made game at the other table.

England should have had even more IMPs on Board 30, when they correctly chose to defend against a pre-emptive

3♦. Three down went to two down, and finally one down for some well needed Finnish IMPs after a not so nice English defence.

On the very last board of the match, with England ahead by 20 IMPs, Finland really needed to score something. But Green ended their hopes by showing some nice play at this board:

Board 32. Declarer West. E/W Vul.

♠ A 7 2 ♥ A 9 8 5 3 ♦ J 10 9 ♣ 10 6	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 10 9 8 6 ♥ J 7 4 ♦ Q 8 5 2 ♣ 3 2	♠ 5 4 3 ♥ K 10 6 2 ♦ 6 ♣ A K Q 9 8
N						
W E						
S						

The Finnish West opened with 1♣, which was strong, Green overcalled 1♥ with his minimum hand and was probably a little surprised when partner drove to game.

The clear risk is that you may lose one diamond, two spades and eventually a trump if you can't pick it up or play it to drop.

A spade was led to the jack and ace. Ben now played for the drop, when it didn't oblige he simply crossed to dummy's clubs and pitched a spade loser on the third club, that was a loser on a loser and for sure put the 'finishing touch' to the match. When the Finns did not manage to reach game at the other table it was 7 more IMPs for England. That gave 9VPs for Finland, who most probably would have needed a lot more to qualify.



Seppo Sauvola – Finland

Just When You Think It Is Safe To Double

by Howard Weinstein

With three rounds to play, as captain of the USA U21 team, I took a seat behind one of my players, Zach Brescoll, fourth in hand, partnered by Owen Lien.

The auction proceeded:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
Pass	2♣	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

5♣ showed one key card, and 5♥ denied the trump queen.

Zach held Q10863, the heart queen and a bunch of small cards. I could see that he really wanted to double when RHO bid 4♠, but resisted. When it came back to him at 5♠, he couldn't stand it any longer and found the red card, figuring that he wasn't really revealing anything declarer wouldn't soon discover on his own. He was wrong. I may have been wrong as well had I been in his position.

I am now switching to the hand as a declarer play problem.

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

West leads the king and ace of hearts. Even without my showing it above, the trump suit should now be an open book unless East has lost his mind. How do you proceed?

There are substantial clues from the bidding. If East has a singleton diamond the hand cannot be made. There are two ways to make the hand. The simplest method is to cross to a high diamond twice and ruff hearts in hand. Now cross to the club king, and lead the spade seven to the nine. Cash a second high club and ruff the third with dummy's now stiff ace of trump, as East helplessly must under ruff. You give up the diamond ruff, but your last two cards are the spade king and jack.

Alternatively, declarer can cash exactly two high clubs after ruffing all of dummy's hearts in the previous fashion, and exit the diamond ace, East ruffing by force. East must now return a spade and, after inserting the nine, ruff the last club with the trump ace and trump coup East. It just depends on your preference to endplay or trump coup your opponent.

Declarer at the table led a spade to the ace, the reflexive play, and could no longer make the hand. He eventually tried to shorten himself with hearts, but still had to go down one when neither minor held up on the third round as East's shape was 5-4-2-2. Our team survived the seemingly safe double, picking up 11 IMPs when 4♠ made ten tricks at the other table, instead of losing 6 IMPs had declarer made the hand. Perhaps not good IMP odds for the double after all.

U-28 TEAMS

ROUND 15



ISRAEL



CHINA



by Brian Senior

Friday morning's vugraph match featured our hosts, China, and Israel, two strong teams that were both expected to stay in the top eight and make it through to the knock-out stages.

The first board turned out to be flat, which must have been a relief to both East/West pairs.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A 9 ♥ K 6 5 ♦ A J 8 6 2 ♣ K 8 4	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 6 5 4 ♥ Q 10 8 4 ♦ – ♣ A Q J 10 3 2	♠ Q J ♥ A J 3 2 ♦ 10 9 5 3 ♣ 9 6 5
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
<i>Sheng</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
Ofir	Zhang	Tarnovski	Liu
–	Pass	Pass	2♦
2NT	3♠	Dble	All Pass

South's side-suit makes this a pretty good weak two bid – though the diamonds proved to be not all that useful facing North's void – but both South players were happy to open with a multi. The Wests both overcalled a natural 2NT and both Norths competed with 3♠, pass or correct. Looking at an 8-count with a useful trump holding, both Easts felt well worth a value-showing double, and that was that.

Against Ron Schwartz, Xin Li led the queen of spades, ducked, and continued with the jack for the king and ace. Ming Sheng switched to a low heart to Li's jack and back came the ten of diamonds to the king, ace and ruff. Schwartz played the ♥Q and Li put up the ace to play a second diamond to dummy's queen. Schwartz ran the spades and West was squeezed so that declarer had the rest; +530.

Bar Tarnovski also led the ♠Q but Yizhuo Zhang covered so Gilad Ofir won the ace. He switched to a low heart to Tarnovski's jack and Tarnovski cashed the ♠J before returning a low heart to the king. Ofir tried a club now but the bidding had told declarer where the king would be so he knew to finesse and ruff out the suit and still had a

spade with which to get to the established winners; +530 and no swing.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 5 ♥ Q 8 6 ♦ A 10 9 3 ♣ K J 9 3 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A 6 3 ♥ J 9 5 ♦ Q 7 2 ♣ Q 8 6 5	♠ K 9 7 4 ♥ A K 4 2 ♦ J 8 6 5 ♣ 10
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
<i>Sheng</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
–	–	1♦	1♠
Dble	2♥	Dble	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Ofir</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>Tarnovski</i>	<i>Liu</i>
–	–	1♦	1♠
2♣	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Sheng made a negative double of 1♠ and Li doubled to show hearts then competed with 3♥ over 2♠, perhaps assuming that his partner would also have four of the suit. Fischer led the queen of spades to his partner's ace and Schwartz switched to a trump, which Li won in hand with the king. He passed the ten of clubs to the queen and Schwartz returned a club, on which declarer pitched a diamond. Fisher won the ♣A and returned the king of diamonds, but Li could win the ace and draw trumps ending in dummy to cash the clubs; nine tricks for +140.

Ofir preferred to bid 2♣ rather than double 1♠. When he then continued with 3♦, competing the partscore, it seems that Tarnovski assumed that he must be stronger to bother to introduce the other minor when he clearly had primary diamond support – otherwise, there is no reason why a complete minimum should go on to 3NT.

Jing Liu led the queen of spades and Zhang played low. Tarnovski did his best by ducking but, after the continuation of a low spade to the ace and a third round, he had to win. He took a diamond finesse to the queen and Zhang led

a club to his partner's ace; two down for -100 and 6 IMPs to China.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K 10 6 ♥ A K 10 7 6 4 ♦ - ♣ K Q 5 3	♠ A Q J 9 ♥ Q J 5 3 ♦ 9 8 3 ♣ 7 4	♠ 7 4 2 ♥ 9 8 2 ♦ K J 5 4 2 ♣ 9 2	♠ 8 5 3 ♥ - ♦ A Q 10 7 6 ♣ A J 10 8 6
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West <i>Sheng</i>	North <i>Schwartz</i>	East <i>Li</i>	South <i>Fisher</i>
-	-	-	1♦
1♥	Dble	Pass	2♣
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

West <i>Ofir</i>	North <i>Zhang</i>	East <i>Tarnovski</i>	South <i>Liu</i>
-	-	-	1♦
1♥	Dble	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Rdbl	2♥	2♠
All Pass			

Schwartz made a negative double of 1♥ so Fisher bid his clubs then competed by repeating the suit when 2♥ came around. Knowing that his partner had been unable to bid over 2♥, Fisher was unwilling to put dummy down in 3NT and ran back to what he saw as the relative security of his shapely hand. On another day, 4♦ might have been quite comfortable, but the five-zero trump split made the contract an uphill struggle.



Xin Li - China

Fisher ruffed the heart lead, took a spade finesse and led the nine of diamonds off the table, putting in the queen when Li played low smoothly. He repeated the spade finesse then led a club to the ten and queen. Sheng returned the ♠K to dummy's ace and Fisher continued with the 13th spade, ruffed and over-ruffed, then cashed the ace of clubs and played the ♣6. When that was not covered he discarded a heart from dummy. Li ruffed and returned a heart, ruffed. Another club was ruffed and over-ruffed and now the play of another heart forced declarer to ruff with the ace of trumps, establishing the trump king as the setting trick; -50.

Zhang too started with a negative double but Ofir did not repeat his hearts so Zhang could give simple diamond preference at the two level. When Ofir now competed with a balancing double, Zhang redoubled to show a maximum and Liu was happy to show his three-card spade suit over Tarnovski's 2♥.

Ofir led a trump against 2♠. Liu finessed and led the ♦4 to his seven, ruffed with the king. Ofir switched to the king of clubs. Liu won the ace and played a trump to dummy then led the nine of diamonds to the king and ace. He led the ♣J to Ofir's queen then pitched a heart from dummy on the club continuation. Tarnovski ruffed and that was all for the defence; +170 and 6 IMPs to China.

Board 6. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West <i>Sheng</i>	North <i>Schwartz</i>	East <i>Li</i>	South <i>Fisher</i>
-	-	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♠	Dble	Pass
3♦	Dble	3♠	4♥
All Pass			

In the Closed Room, the bidding stopped in 3♠ by West, making exactly for an excellent +140 to Israel (we don't have the bidding, sorry). Here, once Ron Schwartz had followed the sound principle of supporting with support, his 2♠ cuebid showing a constructive heart raise, Lotan Fisher was never going to stop below 4♥, where he played. After two rounds of spades, Fisher could ruff two spades in dummy and the club loser went away on the diamonds; +650 and 11 IMPs to Israel.

China won the match by 32-26 IMPs, converting to 16-14 VPs.

French Master Defence

by **Micke Melander**

In Round 8, France played China in the 'Under 21' series. The French youth team has surely made an impression by showing some real nice card plays.

the contract was doomed from the beginning, it showed proof of very nice defending skills from the French junior pair.

Now look at the hand from declarer's point of view.

Board 23. Declarer South. All Vul.

♠ A 5 ♥ Q 7 5 ♦ A Q J 4 3 ♣ 8 4 2	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K 9 8 6 3 ♥ A K 9 4 ♦ 8 ♣ K 9 7
♠ 10 4 2 ♥ J 10 8 3 2 ♦ K 7 5 ♣ J 6	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q J 7 ♥ 6 ♦ 10 9 6 2 ♣ A Q 10 5 3

♠ A 5 ♥ Q 7 5 ♦ A Q J 4 3 ♣ 8 4 2	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K 9 8 6 3 ♥ A K 9 4 ♦ 8 ♣ K 9 7
--	--	--

If spades are 3-3 you have four winners in spades, three in hearts and probably need the diamond finesse to work or the club ace placed with North. The clear danger is if South has the ace of clubs and if the defence sets up the suit.

To guard against this threat and keep entries between the dummy and declarer, you have to win the opening lead in dummy and play a spade towards the ace, with the intention to duck if South plays the queen (or jack). But that's another story, however interesting!

France won 3 IMPs on the board when their teammates ended up in 4♠ going one down.

West	North <i>Canonne</i>	East	South <i>Lorenzini</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

2♦ was game forcing and some kind of check back for the majors. If you look at the hand from the defence's view it looks rather dangerous:

The jack of hearts was led and won by declarer's queen. Declarer now played the ace of spades followed by the two, three and you? Of course, when you point the problem out like this everybody will play the jack. Cédric Lorenzini did it without hesitation and when declarer continued with a spade to the king he unblocked the queen, leaving the entry with partner, Mlle Canonne, who got the message and immediately switched to a club, bringing the contract down when she got in with the ten of spades. Even though



Cedric Lorenzini – France

Youngest Competitor



The youngest competitor in the bridge section of the 1st World Mind Sports Games is Kenya's Kush Mediratta, at the ripe old age of ten. I wonder if any of the other sports can match that? Kush only learned to play bridge around six months ago and is partnering his brother, Mohit, an old man at the age of 13 years.

While it is inevitable that most attention will fall on those involved in the hunt for the medals, the participation of young players like the Medirattas is a big part of what these Games are all about and it is great to have them here. Likewise, it is wonderful to see countries at this tournament that I have never seen at a world championship before – here's hoping that such as Albania, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and others will become regulars in world competition.