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## Indian-Russian IMP Final leaders stay firm



The proud new leaders of the MP Pairs Final showing each other the results

After another 52 exhausting boards, Marion Michielsen and Tim Verbeek from The Netherlands have taken over the lead in the MP Pairs final. They did so already in the morning session and steadily held on to it in the afternoon. They are 1.86% clear of the Polish runners-up, another mixed pair: Justyna Zmuda and Adam Krysa. Friday night's leaders Lhuissier and Lebatteux drop to 3rd but they too are still very much in the hunt. As they are 1% ahead of the fourth-ranked pair, it would be a surprise if none of these first three pairs would be crowned the new World Champion tonight.

In the IMP Pairs final, the Indian-Russian overnight leaders had a mixed day. They started off not so well but fully recovered in the afternoon to regain their lead. For them too, 28 to go.

### Today's - Schedule

10.00 Pairs MP - Final 4th Session

10.00 Pairs IMP - 4th Session

# Following the leaders

by Kees Tammens


After the loss of the Dutch juniors 'Red' in the semifinal of the Teams, the Netherlands White just missed a medal in the BAM. So in the Pairs we were looking for revenge. Easy this will not be. Many other juniors also were looking for a prize in the 1-st World Youth Bridge Congress.

Marion Michielsen and Tim Verbeek started well in the first session with a 59.22 % and a third place only just ahead of fellow Dutchmen Frank Visser-Dennis Stuurman at 58.20%. Usually I like to hop from table to table, watching different Dutch juniors at work. In the second session of the final of the pairs I decided to follow Marion and Tim all the way. A board is played 27 times so the top is 52.

The first four boards: a tight 4♠ going one down, then a cold 4♠ missed. Then opponents bid on their own to 2NT which went down one after somewhat soft defense. All three results huge under average. The first plus game in a 24 HCP 2♥ contract which made with an overtrick. Still this was not a great start, realizing other pairs in the top of the ranking could well have done much better.

When after a multi 2♦ by Marion opponents play 3♦ with a combined 27 count and all suits stopped, the rest of the field either bids and makes the obvious ten tricks in 3NT or doubles 2♠ (vulnerable) for +500, the first 52 (100%) is there. Next board Marion and Tim got their top the hard way:

Board: 6. Dlr: East/EW


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

West	North <i>Tim</i>	East	South <i>Marion</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♥(=♠)	Dble(=♥)	1♠	2♥
Pass	Pass	2♠	Dble
All Pass			

Bidding 2♥ was all right, doubling 2♠ was adventurous and leading a trump was excellent. Declarer played small. North put in ♠9 and East won ♠K. Three rounds of diamonds for ♦Q in South who played another trump for ♠J and ♠Q. A third round of trumps made it sure that declar-

er would lose three tricks in hearts as well as a trick in clubs for one down vulnerable. At board seven Marion and Tim bid 4♠ and the player on lead chose ♦A from ♦A Q and found his partner with ♦K. At eight Marion passed an eleven count (3-4-3-3) and a cold 6♥ never came in the picture. The Dutch pair was lucky to still score average on these two boards. After this matters improved quickly.

Board: 9. Dlr: North/EW

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

West	North <i>Tim</i>	East	South <i>Marion</i>
	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥
All pass			

After a small spade, ♠K and ♠A, the contract depended on trumps breaking two-two. South, Marion played back a spade at trick two. West took ♠Q, cashed ♦A, and – maybe not realizing the danger, or hoping for singleton ♦ in East, played back a second diamond. After drawing trumps with ♥K and ♥A all dummy's clubs disappeared for a valuable overtrick (41). At board ten opponents went vulnerable to the three level and were severely punished when 3♠ was down two (-200, no double this time) and there was no game in the other direction. So Marion and Tim felt their spirits rising.

## Attention all players!

Closing ceremony will be held at the 4th floor of Rectorate Building at 18.30.

Cocktail party will be held at the roof of the playing area at 19.30. Please make sure that you bring your player badges with you in order to have your cocktail drinks. There is a limit for two cocktail drinks. You may take your cocktail tickets either during the day from hospitality desk or at the entrance of the cocktail party. Each player has to take their own tickets. We recommend you to get your tickets during the day.

Board: 11. Dlr: South/None

♠ 8 5		♠ Q J 9 6				
♥ 9 8 6 4		♥ A Q				
♦ K J 6 5		♦ 7				
♣ K 9 6		♣ A Q 7 5 4 3				
♠ K 3	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	
N						
W						
E						
S						
♥ K 10 7 5 3 2						
♦ 8 4 3 2						
♣ 8						
		♠ A 10 7 4 2				
		♥ J				
		♦ A Q 10 9				
		♣ J 10 2				

West	North	East	South
	Tim		Marion
Pass	INT	Pass	1♠
All pass			2♦

Was this the bidding sequence from a junior pairs event? I doubt it, but as it was Marion was left alone and undisturbed in 2♦. The singleton club was led and after ♥A and three rounds of clubs, South could ruff ♥K. ♠A, very well just in case somebody has a singleton ♠, and a spade to the



Tim Verbeek, Netherlands

♠K in West. There was nothing more EW could do to prevent declarer from taking eight tricks and almost all of the matchpoints. Opponents tried also 2♦ at the next board, but failed by two tricks with 2♥ in the same direction an easy make. Marion and Tim even closed the gap with the two leading pairs.

At thirteen you make ten or eleven tricks in 3NT depending on the lead; heart= ten, spade=eleven: the difference 21% against 68% (the last one for the Dutch pair)

Board: 14. Dlr: East/None

♠ 9 8 4		♠ K J 6 5 3 2				
♥ 10 2		♥ A K J 7 6				
♦ A 8 4		♦ J 6				
♣ A K 9 7 4		♣ -				
♠ A Q 10	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	
N						
W						
E						
S						
♥ 9 5						
♦ K 10 7 5						
♣ 10 6 5 3						
		♠ 7				
		♥ Q 8 4 3				
		♦ Q 9 3 2				
		♣ Q J 8 2				

West	North	East	South
Marion		Tim	
		1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
			All pass

Tim was not in the 6♠-contract four other East-West pairs bid and made, seven pairs going down in the slam. After ♣Q ruffed and a small diamond from East I expected Tim - ♣A K known in North - to go wrong in diamonds. But much to surprise of dummy and myself he played ♦10 for the Ace in North. After ruffing the club return, Tim played ♥A and ♥K, ruffed a heart, cashed ♦K, and claimed twelve tricks on the cross-ruff for a welcome 38 matchpoints.

Tim stayed declarer; first in a could INT (29 MP), then in 2♥:

Board: 16. Dlr: West/EW

♠ A J 10 2		♠ K 7				
♥ 9 6		♥ A K Q J 4 3				
♦ A Q 8 5		♦ 9 4 3 2				
♣ 8 7 2		♣ 4				
♠ 8 6 4 3	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	
N						
W						
E						
S						
♥ 8 5						
♦ K						
♣ A Q J 9 5 3						
		♠ Q 9 5				
		♥ 10 7 2				
		♦ J 10 7 6				
		♣ K 10 6				

West	North <i>Marion</i>	East	South <i>Tim</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
All pass			

Since many pairs rebid 3♥ in East, it was all a matter of the lead if the conservative 2♥ would be alright. South lead was ♦J, ♦K and ♦A in North who played back an imaginative ♠J. This play was not the right one in this case (a trump is better). Tim took ♠K, finessed in clubs to dispose of the other spade on ♣A, ruffs a spade and got his two diamond ruffs for eleven tricks. In this type of boards you need luck; what will the rest of the field lead against a possible 4♥? Well, ten times 4♥ was bid and made and six times 4♥ (and sometimes even 3♥) went down. But the second overtrick brought in a slightly overaverage score. In the course of this session the French leaders still were going strong but Marion and Tim climbed to second place, only 18 MP behind. The boards 17-18 saw a Polish pair bid 3NT, with 6♦ and 7♦ (on a finesse) in the cards but then reaching 4♠ on a combined 21 count and the finesse on ♠K working. Then Tim again won the bidding in 2♥ and making after ever so careless defense; he however gave all the matchpoints back by throwing away the heartstop against a 1NT contract, letting declarer take four hearttricks with ♥A 2 opposite ♥K 10 5 4.

Two good scores at the next table brought Marion and Tim to the top of the ranking. Michal Kopecky and Milan Macura arrived at the table, the opponents in the so tragically lost semifinal of the teams. During the last four years there have been many interesting clashes between the juniors of the Czech Republic and the Netherlands. Who would win this time?

Board: 23. Dlr: South/All vul.

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

West <i>Marion</i>	North <i>Kopecky</i>	East <i>Tim</i>	South <i>Macura</i>
INT(12-14)			
2♦(♥or♠)	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠(=♥)	Pass	4♥	Pass
All Pass			

I don't know if EW would have bid to game after an initial pass by south. Marion decided to estimate her hand a

maximum with in diamonds and spades good forks behind the NT-opening. Alas it was not to be. ♠K was right, ♥K was wrong and ♦Q was wrong, so 100 to the Czechs.

Board: 24. Dlr: West/None

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

West <i>Marion</i>	North <i>Michal</i>	East <i>Tim</i>	South <i>Milan</i>
	1♥	1♠	2♣(=♦)
2♠	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	pass	6♦
All Pass			

A very aggressively bid slam, and a fortunate one with trumps two-two and hearts four three. East led the ♠K for ♠A and all of a sudden Michal fell from grace and ruffed a spade! A club for ♣K and Ace in West who returned ♣J for ♣Q. Declarer now took ♥A and ♥K and discarded a spade from dummy. A heart ruffed and the last spade ruffed in North. When declarer then tried to reach dummy with a club ruff, Tim did set up the ♦J in Marions hand for down one by throwing in ♦Q. It was close but for once the Dutch pair escaped. When Jean Harings, the npc of the Netherlands, saw this play, he sighed 'Why didn't they act like this in the teams semifinal?!'

After an average partscore Tim got a bidding decision in the last board of the session:

♠ 6	♥ A 7 6 4	♦ K Q 7 3	♣ A K 4 2
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What would you open red versus red in first position? 1♣/1♦/1NT?? Tim's choice was 1♣. If you choose 1♣, what is your rebid after the 1♠ response by partner? Tim's choice was 2♥, reverse and undoubtedly showing five good clubs. Marion, with ♠ A J 10 4 2 ♥ Q 5 3 ♦ A 6 ♣ J 8 6, bid a forcing 3♣ and heard 3NT from partner. With also ♦K known and probably 1♠-4♥-3♦-5♣, this hand seemed reason enough to go on to 6♣. One down a bitter end of a well played session and as the final score was counted, still the lead for Marion and Tim, with the French pair Nicolas Lhuissier-Aymeric Lebatteux in their neck and Jusyna Zmuda-Adam Krysa from Poland in third place. It was only the half of the championship and with some big sessions it stayed possible for other pairs to get into contention for the medals.

## Pairs MP Finals, second session

by Jos Jacobs

This report on Saturday morning's play will concentrate on the MP Pairs final. The IMP Finals are playing the same boards, which makes it convenient to look at what is happening on the third floor of our catacombs too.

One might think the dealing computer has a very special sense of humour, when one looks at the first board of the morning. As we are playing a barometer movement, this in fact was the first board for all players involved. For EW, reaching the spade game looks quite reasonable and so does the heart save NS have at their disposal:

Board: 1. Dlr: North/None

♠ A Q J 10 4 ♥ - ♦ A Q 7 6 3 ♣ J 10 9	<table style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W      E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W      E	S	♠ K 8 7 ♥ 10 8 6 4 2 ♦ 8 5 2 ♣ K 6	♠ 9 3 ♥ K 7 5 ♦ K J 10 4 ♣ A 7 4 2
N						
W      E						
S						
♠ 6 5 2 ♥ A Q J 9 3 ♦ 9 ♣ Q 8 5 3						

West <i>Paparo</i>	North <i>Kania</i>	East <i>Franchi</i>	South <i>Witkowski</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥
1♠	Dble	3♥	Pass
4♠	All pass		

Paparo ruffed the heart lead and immediately chose the right track: club to the King and a club. South rose with the Queen to push a diamond through but now, Paparo won the Ace, ruffed his last club and ducked a diamond to North. For Kania, the defence was easy: he returned a trump and thus, the contract had to go one down. Apparently, they all had slept well overnight. One down was 30-22 to NS.

West <i>Sofu</i>	North <i>Wu</i>	East <i>Imamoglu</i>	South <i>Hollands</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	2♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Dble	All pass		

Before Imamoglu could venture an opinion on the 4♥ contract, Sofu had put his side in game, with so much conviction that it induced Hollands to save again. This was once too often as 4♠ is very far from a lay-down, as we saw

above. The defence had five easy tricks for down three, +500 and nearly all the matchpoints (51).

On the next board, the Poles again showed good defence:

Board: 2. Dlr: East/NS

♠ 10 8 6 ♥ 5 4 ♦ Q 6 2 ♣ A K 10 4 3	<table style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <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 K Q 9 7 4 ♥ 8 6 3 ♦ A 4 ♣ 9 2	♠ J 5 ♥ A K Q J ♦ K 10 9 7 ♣ Q 8 7
N						
W      E						
S						
			♠ 3 2 ♥ 10 9 7 2 ♦ J 8 5 3 ♣ J 6 5			

West <i>Paparo</i>	North <i>Kania</i>	East <i>Franchi</i>	South <i>Witkowski</i>
		1♠	Pass
INT	Dble	3♠	Pass
4♠	All pass		



Serkan Sofu, Turkey

Against the normal 4♠, South led a heart and North simply played three rounds of the suit, killing dummy's entry to the established clubs. Well done, NS only -420 and 31 mp. to NS. The overtrick was worth 15 mp.


Reaching 4♠ was not always obvious, as was shown at another table:

West <i>Sofu</i>	North <i>Wu</i>	East <i>Imamoglu</i>	South <i>Hollands</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♠	Dble	3♠	All pass

Even more so after North's double, the reraise looks very pre-emptive to me. But maybe, I am too old for that... +200 still scored 8 mp for EW.

On the next board, the EW pairs have to stay on firm ground:

Board: 4. Dlr: West/All

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


West <i>Witkowski Molenaar</i>	North <i>Kontomitros Whitbey</i>	East <i>Kania Drijver</i>	South <i>Doxiadis Fisher</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	All pass

Well done by these (and many other) West players. To finesse the ♠J through South seems to be the normal play as many pairs registered +140 and 33 mp. The overtrick scored 13 mp.

When you are in 4♠, you have to play well and be optimistic. First of all, the ♣A has to be right and then, you have to guess the spades. After overcoming these hurdles, you can duck the ♦9 to South who is endplayed. Twice 4♠ was actually made for 1 mp. to the unlucky (?) defenders.

The next board was a typical play problem at mp only.

Board: 5. Dlr: North/NS


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

West <i>Doxiadis</i>	North <i>Anastasatos</i>	East <i>Kontomitros</i>	South <i>Sofios</i>
	Pass	Pass	2♠
Dble 3NT	Pass All pass	3♦	Pass

Getting to 3NT after the weak two by South is easy enough for EW but how would you play the hand on a spade lead? Doxiadis showed no hesitation at all. He won the spade lead and immediately played ♣A and a club to the Queen. Next came a diamond and when South split his honours, declarer had 11 tricks and a fine score of 39 mp., the overtrick being worth 22 mp. here.

Here is a board which is the exception to the rule that it usually does not pay to let the opponents play INT.

Board: 6. Dlr: East/EW

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

West <i>Doxiadis</i>	North <i>Anastasatos</i>	East <i>Kontomitros</i>	South <i>Sofios</i>
1♠	Pass	1♦ INT	Pass All pass

North just passes and sees his partner lead a club. Declarer wins the Ace and immediately takes a spade finesse

to North's Queen. You continue clubs and on the last club, you throw, for example, the  $\diamond 8$  as a heart peter. South obliges by cashing the  $\heartsuit A$  and continuing the suit so you win five heart tricks as well to collect 300 points and nearly as many matchpoints, namely 47.

If you do not pass INT, you are liable to get too high, as was proved at another table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Cerek</i>	<i>Levy</i>	<i>Kaya</i>	<i>Asulin</i>
		1 $\diamond$	Pass
1 $\spadesuit$	Pass	INT	Pass
Pass	2 $\heartsuit$	2 $\spadesuit$	3 $\heartsuit$
All pass			

Two Spades might even make but EW would never have got there, had you not bid 2 $\heartsuit$  as North. When the defenders got a club ruff after declarer drew only two rounds of trumps, the contract was two down, good for 48 mp to EW. One down would have been 41 to EW.

The next board offers a choice of major suit games but don't forget to make life easy for your partner:

Board: 7. Dlr: South/All

	$\spadesuit$ K 7 5		
	$\heartsuit$ Q 9 5		
	$\diamond$ K J 7 2		
	$\clubsuit$ 9 5 3		
$\spadesuit$ 8		$\spadesuit$ A Q J 10 6 2	
$\heartsuit$ A K J 8 6 3		$\heartsuit$ 10	
$\diamond$ 10 3		$\diamond$ 6 4	
$\clubsuit$ K J 7 6		$\clubsuit$ A 10 8 2	
	$\spadesuit$ 9 4 3		
	$\heartsuit$ 7 4 2		
	$\diamond$ A Q 9 8 5		
	$\clubsuit$ Q 4		

West	North	East	South
<i>Sofios</i>	<i>Sawires</i>	<i>Anastasatos</i>	<i>Moharam</i>
			Pass
1 $\heartsuit$	Pass	1 $\spadesuit$	Pass
2 $\heartsuit$	Pass	3 $\spadesuit$	Pass
3NT	All pass		

If you bid only 3 $\spadesuit$ , partner has a problem. Down two and only 5 mp to EW.

West	North	East	South
<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Lhuissier</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Lebatteux</i>
			Pass
1 $\heartsuit$	Pass	1 $\spadesuit$	Pass
2 $\heartsuit$	Pass	4 $\spadesuit$	All pass

Verbeek is one of the many to show the way. He rebids 4 $\spadesuit$  and partner can pass with complete confidence. +620 is worth 22 mp to EW when NS find the diamond lead.

On the next board we are in the slam zone but slam is so difficult to reach that no pair did it. We can't blame the pair that was doubled in 5 $\heartsuit$  for not going on to six...

Board: 8. Dlr: West/None

	$\spadesuit$ Q 6		
	$\heartsuit$ 10 4 3		
	$\diamond$ 9 8 3		
	$\clubsuit$ 10 9 7 5 3		
$\spadesuit$ A 9 3		$\spadesuit$ 4 2	
$\heartsuit$ A K 8 2		$\heartsuit$ Q J 9 5	
$\diamond$ 10 7 2		$\diamond$ A K Q J 6 5	
$\clubsuit$ 8 4 2		$\clubsuit$ Q	
	$\spadesuit$ K J 10 8 7 5		
	$\heartsuit$ 7 6		
	$\diamond$ 4		
	$\clubsuit$ A K J 6		

West	North	East	South
<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Lhuissier</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Lebatteux</i>
Pass	Pass	1 $\diamond$	1 $\spadesuit$
Dble	Pass	3 $\heartsuit$	Dble
4 $\heartsuit$	All pass		



Nicolas Lhuissier, France

Verbeek's raise to only 3♥ makes it easy for Michielsen to continue with 3♠, showing the full strength of her passed hand. However, Lebatteux doubles 3♥ and suddenly, slam for your side looks very far away. EW +480.

West	North	East	South
<i>Sofios</i>	<i>Sawires</i>	<i>Anastasatos</i>	<i>Moharam</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Dble	Pass	4♥	All pass

Here, East raises to even 4♥. It is difficult to see that the three small clubs don't hurt you in 6♥ so West still passes...

On board 9, the question was: "How unlucky can you be?"

Board: 9. Dir: North/EW

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ucar</i>	<i>Holeksa</i>	<i>Koclar</i>	<i>Weinhold</i>
	2♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
All pass			

4♣ asks to transfer to your major so South is declarer. For West, it's thus impossible to find the spade lead as 4♣ also implies spade strength. He leads the ♦A and now the spade goes away. Declarer has to play carefully but with the trumps 2-2 he can always ruff one club in the South hand. The overtrick brings you +450 which is worth 41 mp.

West	North	East	South
<i>Moharam</i>	<i>E. Mistretta</i>	<i>Sawires</i>	<i>G. Mistretta</i>
	2♥	Pass	4♥
All pass			

After the direct weak two and a less informative auction, East found the spade lead to hold declarer to 10 tricks and save 20 mp.

Another slam on board 14:

Board: 14. Dir: East/None

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Suzer</i>	<i>Gundogdu</i>	<i>Taskin</i>	<i>Ercan</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♠	All pass		

This is certainly a playable contract but how would you tackle it on the ♣Q lead? Taskin ruffed, cashed the ♥AK and ruffed a heart. Club ruff and the last heart ruffed, followed by the ♠A. Another club ruff to get back to your hand and the last two trumps. North has discarded two clubs on the trumps so he is out of clubs now. Would he have defended that way when holding the ♦A? South has one club left when you next advance the ♦J. South plays low. Would he have defended like that holding the ♦A?

Anyway, you call for the King only to see North take the Ace and return the suit. One down and a lot of mp down the drain. Making the slam brings you 49 and going one down only 8.

Board: 15. Dir: South/NS

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Visser</i>	<i>Allon</i>	<i>Stuurman</i>	<i>Vax</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT	All pass



The Strong Club style keeps NS very quiet. They will often make 2♠ but sell out to INT which just makes. EW +90 and 29 mp.

West	North	East	South
<i>Macura</i>	<i>Stephens</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Siderov</i>
Pass	2♠	Dble	3♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
4♥	All pass		

North opens a very aggressive weak two and now, EW are the pair in trouble, even more so when South raises. Passing the second double is really asking too much from Macura. 4♥ is two down and brings NS all the matchpoints.

The Czechs do much better on the next board:

Board: 16. Dlr:West/EW

♠ 8 6 4 3 ♥ 8 5 ♦ K ♣ A Q J 9 5 3	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ K 7 ♥ A K Q J 4 3 ♦ 9 4 3 2 ♣ 4
N	E					
W	S					

West	North	East	South
<i>Macura</i>	<i>Stephens</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Siderov</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	2♦
2NT	Pass	3♥	All pass

A trump lead is best but South leads the ♦J to the King and Ace. A trump return now is best but North continues the ♠J to declarer's King. Kopecky leads a club to the Queen, cashes the ♣A throwing his spade and ruffs a club. He ruffs a diamond, ruffs a spade, ruffs another diamond and throws the last diamond on a winning club, the defence ruffing for the second and last trick. Making five for the magic +200 and 30 mp.

West	North	East	South
<i>Visser</i>	<i>Allon</i>	<i>Stuurman</i>	<i>Vax</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	All pass

Stuurman also gets a diamond lead but here, North does return a trump. If you want to make many tricks you should take the club finesse like Kopecky did but when you don't, as Stuurman did, you won't score more than +140 which is worth only 16 mp.

Board: 20. Dlr:West/All

♠ A 9 2 ♥ K 10 5 4 ♦ A Q 10 ♣ J 5 4	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ J 4 ♥ A 2 ♦ K 7 5 4 3 ♣ Q 10 6 3
N	E					
W	S					

West	North	East	South
<i>Hop</i>	<i>Hung</i>	<i>Helmich</i>	<i>Schafer</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	INT	All pass

Aarnout Helmich gets a very good score when the defenders both follow their own plan. South leads a heart to the ten, Jack and Ace. A club goes to North's Ace and he returns a spade to the Jack, Queen and Ace. Another club now is won by South's King but when South returns another heart, declarer suddenly has 10 tricks and all the matchpoints.

The last three boards all were amusing. Here is the first.

You may as well try 6♦ if you end up in 3NT but at both the tables where I watched, 3NT became the final contract.

Board: 24. Dlr:West/None

♠ J 10 8 ♥ 10 3 2 ♦ J 10 ♣ A J 10 9 6	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ K Q 6 4 3 ♥ Q 9 7 5 ♦ Q 8 ♣ 7 5
N	E					
W	S					

West	North	East	South
<i>Gardiner</i>	<i>Mansoor</i>	<i>Etchepareborda</i>	<i>Hussain</i>
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♦
2♠	3♦	Pass	3NT

Gardiner leads the ♠J, his partner's suit and a lucky declarer is held to nine tricks. +400 is worth 19 mp.


West	North	East	South
<i>Van Lankveld</i>	<i>Zaytoun</i>	<i>Philipsen</i>	<i>Abi Taleb</i>
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♦
2♠	3♦	Pass	3NT
All pass			

For reasons only known to himself, Van Lankveld does not lead his partner's suit but tries a club. Declarer later plays his last club to dummy's Queen for his second over-trick... +460 is worth a lot more mp, namely 46...

Only two pairs were sensible enough to try 6♦ on this board 24 and make it.

A sharp contrast in final contracts on the next board:

Board: 25. Dir: North/EW

♠ A Q		♠ 9 5 2	
♥ J 10 9 7 3		♥ A 6 2	
♦ K Q 8 6		♦ J 10 9	
♣ 7 6		♣ A Q 10 9	
	♠ 8 7 4 3		
	♥ 8 5 4		
	♦ 5 4 3 2		
	♣ K 5		
West	North	East	South
<i>Ozer</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Ekrem</i>	<i>Paparo</i>
	INT	All pass	

Arrigo Franchi opens INT. This keeps the opponents silent but Arrigo himself has no tricks. Down three, -150 but still 16 mp as EW might make ten tricks in hearts.

On the first board of the day, Sofu already showed his intentions and here, he is again:

West	North	East	South
<i>Mansoor</i>	<i>Imamoglu</i>	<i>Hussain</i>	<i>Sofu</i>
	1♣	Pass	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♣	3♠
All pass			

3♠ would not have occurred to me but mind you, it might have been made.


On the ♥A lead and a ♣A and another continuation, declarer led a spade from dummy, West winning the Ace and returning a diamond. Declarer wins the Ace and tries to ruff a club but West overruffs with the Queen and the contract is one down. Had declarer drawn one more round of trumps first, he might have ruffed a club next, returned to

his ♥Q and ruffed the last club. Now, he can reach his hand with a heart ruff, draw the last trump and enjoy the 13th club for his contract. Of course, if the defence lead trumps and persist with them, this line is bound to fail...

-50 was still worth 39 mp to NS but +140 would have been a complete top for them.

The last board of the session was tricky:

Board: 26. Dir: East/All

		♠ Q 9	
		♥ K 9 2	
		♦ J 8 5 2	
		♣ 10 9 7 5	
♠ A J 10 4 2		♠ 6	
♥ Q 5 3		♥ A 7 6 4	
♦ A 6		♦ K Q 7 3	
♣ J 8 6		♣ A K 4 2	
		♠ K 8 7 5 3	
		♥ J 10 8	
		♦ 10 9 4	
		♣ Q 3	
West	North	East	South
<i>Ozer</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Ekrem</i>	<i>Paparo</i>
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	All pass

After the raise of the 4th suit, Ekrem found a quantitative raise to show his extra values but even 3NT already is far from lay-down. The contract went two down for +200 to NS and 1 mp to EW.

The Pakistanis did very well on this deal.

West	North	East	South
<i>Mansoor</i>	<i>Imamoglu</i>	<i>Hussain</i>	<i>Sofu</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All pass

Hussain simply raised the 4th suit to game so Mansoor could try his luck in a 3-4 fit.

Imamoglu found an unlucky lead: a low trump which ran to declarer's Queen. Declarer went on to cash the top diamonds, throwing a club, followed by the two top clubs. A third club was ruffed by South with the Jack, declarer throwing a spade. South returned a spade, declarer winning the Ace and ruffing a spade. Had he cashed the ♥A now, he could then have ruffed the last club and made an over-trick but he played the last club first, giving South the chance to ruff again and thus prevent the over-trick. Still, ten tricks were his for a fine score of +620 and 35 mp.

# The IMP Pairs Final, second session

by Marjo Chorus

After the first session of the IMP Pairs Final, the Russian-Indian combination Leonid Bayakhchev-Mohit Agarwal are leading the field with +67 IMPs. This gives them a lead of nearly 30 IMPs over the number four. We are watching them here in the second round of the day, board 4.

Bidding games is a favourite activity at IMP-scoring, especially when they are vulnerable.

Board: 4. Dir: West/All

♠ A 5 4 ♥ 10 8 6 ♦ 8 4 ♣ A 10 5 4 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 8 2 ♥ Q 9 4 3 ♦ A Q 5 3 ♣ K 6	♠ J 7 6 ♥ 7 5 ♦ K J 10 2 ♣ Q J 7 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											



Leonid Bayakhchev, Russia

West <i>Agarwal</i>	North <i>Kralik</i>	East <i>Bayakhchev</i>	South <i>Ticha</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥*	Pass	2♥**	Pass
2♠***	Pass	4♥	All Pass

\* from 0 hcp, the less hcp the more hearts  
 \*\* at least 3 hearts  
 \*\*\* invitational for 4♥ provided East has four-card support

After this highly uninformative auction, Frantisek Kralik, lying 4th in the overnight classification, has to find a lead. He finds an excellent ♦8 and declarer has no resources any more. He already was before the play of this hand started but after this lead, partner cannot go wrong any more. One down brings EW +6 IMPs as game was made no less than 6 times, which is only possible double dummy or after a bad defensive mistake.

On board 7, EW reach the wrong game contract:

Board: 7. Dir: South/All

♠ 8 ♥ A K J 8 6 3 ♦ 10 3 ♣ K J 7 6	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 7 5 ♥ Q 9 5 ♦ K J 7 2 ♣ 9 5 3	♠ A Q J 10 6 2 ♥ 10 ♦ 6 4 ♣ A 10 8 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West <i>Kautny</i>	North <i>Bayakhchev</i>	East <i>Hoepfler</i>	South <i>Agarwal</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Without anything that might just begin to look like a diamond stopper, I think 3NT is not such a good idea. A similar question is whether East should bid 4♠ after all. Ten tricks in spades are easy without a diamond lead and on a diamond lead, you can first try to ruff out the hearts and then, if necessary (not in this case), guess the ♣Q.

Against 3NT, North leads a diamond for a quick down

one and 11 IMPs to NS.

Agarwal shows too much aggression on board 10:

Board: 10. Dir: East/All vul.

♠ 8 4 2 ♥ K 10 8 ♦ 9 8 6 ♣ K 10 6 5	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; 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	♠ Q 9 5 ♥ 9 5 2 ♦ K 10 4 ♣ Q 9 8 3
N					
W     E					
S					
♠ A K J 10 6 3 ♥ J 6 4 3 ♦ 5 2 ♣ J		♠ 7 ♥ A Q 7 ♦ A Q J 7 3 ♣ A 7 4 2			

West	North	East	South
<i>Margot</i>	<i>Agarwal</i>	<i>Amiguet</i>	<i>Bayakhchev</i>
			1♣*
2♥**	Pass	2♠	Dble
Pass	3♠(!)	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦(!)	All Pass	

\* natural but longer ♦ possible  
 \*\* ♠

Both 3♠ and 5♦ are far too much, holding just two kings and a balanced hand. I can imagine you are hoping for a four-card heart suit in partner's hand, to end up in a Moysian 4♥. But 5♦...well, had the clubs behaved, we would not have had a story but this time, South went one down for a loss of 5 IMPs. Only three pairs attempted to score a game.

On the next board, the overnight leaders score 11 IMPs in, to say the least, hair raising fashion:

Board: 11. Dir: South/None vul.

♠ 8 5 ♥ 9 8 6 4 ♦ K J 6 5 ♣ K 9 6	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; 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	♠ Q J 9 6 ♥ A Q ♦ 7 ♣ A Q 7 5 4 3
N					
W     E					
S					
♠ K 3 ♥ K 10 7 5 3 2 ♦ 8 4 3 2 ♣ 8		♠ A 10 7 4 2 ♥ J ♦ A Q 10 9 ♣ J 10 2			

West	North	East	South
<i>Margot</i>	<i>Agarwal</i>	<i>Amiguet</i>	<i>Bayakhchev</i>
			1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	2♦
4♥	5♦	Dble	Pass
5♥	Dble	All Pass	

It all started very quietly. Little opening bid in South, two passes of which North's is a very special one, and a take-out double from East. Then all of a sudden, there is action all over. West can jump to 4♥ at once and North also thinks he has something to say: 5♦. The excellent double by Jérôme Amiguet (on best defence, 5♦ is four off) is not appreciated by his partner, though he can consider his four trumps, a singleton club and ♥H some good defensive values.

North doubles 5♥ very quickly and leads a spade. South wins the Ace and returns the suit. As declarer does not want to take the club finesse, he is shortening himself in trumps as he crosses to dummy in trumps all the time. On the established ♣Q a diamond loser disappears but North ruffs and the defence still have three diamond tricks to cash. Down three, +500 and 11 IMPs to NS.

Beautiful defence by Bayakhchev on board 12:

Board: 11. Dir: West/NS

♠ Q J 10 ♥ 9 2 ♦ K Q 7 5 2 ♣ 7 6 3	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; 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	♠ 9 6 4 3 ♥ A Q J 10 4 ♦ 4 ♣ A Q J
N					
W     E					
S					
		♠ A 5 ♥ 7 3 ♦ A 9 8 3 ♣ K 9 8 5 4			
		♠ K 8 7 2 ♥ K 8 6 5 ♦ J 10 6 ♣ 10 2			

West	North	East	South
<i>Kautny</i>	<i>Bayakhchev</i>	<i>Hoepfler</i>	<i>Agarwal</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Some fierce bidding by EW. Even with a passed hand, 2♦ by West is a little too much and why East gets enthusiastic with his singleton diamond and such bad spades also remains a mystery.

South is on lead and if you don't find the diamond lead, you have to defend very well later on. The club lead is won by declarer who continues a spade. Bayakhchev rises with

his King to continue clubs, his partner's suit and to protect partner's entries. Well done. He returns a club to declarer and now, another spade is won by North who clears the clubs with the  $\diamond A$  still there as his entry. Curtains. One down, 5 IMPs to NS.

Board 14 is a slam depending on a diamond guess:

Board: 14. Dlr: East/None

$\spadesuit$ 9 8 4		$\spadesuit$ K J 6 5 3 2			
$\heartsuit$ 10 2		$\heartsuit$ A K J 7 6			
$\diamond$ A 8 4		$\diamond$ J 6			
$\clubsuit$ A K 9 7 4		$\clubsuit$ -			
$\spadesuit$ A Q 10	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W     E	S	$\spadesuit$ 7
N					
W     E					
S					
$\heartsuit$ 9 5		$\heartsuit$ Q 8 4 3			
$\diamond$ K 10 7 5		$\diamond$ Q 9 3 2			
$\clubsuit$ 10 6 5 3		$\clubsuit$ Q J 8 2			

On the table next to where I was watching, I saw this auction by the Belgians De Visschere en Devriendt to the spade slam:



Robin Fellus, Italy

West <i>De Visschere</i>	North <i>Owen</i>	East <i>Devriendt</i>	South <i>Sharp</i>
			$1\spadesuit$
$2\spadesuit$	Pass	$3\heartsuit$	Pass
$4\spadesuit$	Pass	$5\clubsuit$	Pass
$5\diamond$	Pass	$6\spadesuit$	All Pass

If you get the lead of the  $\clubsuit Q$  which marks North with the  $\clubsuit AK$ , you may well misguess in diamonds. Sharp, however, leads a diamond. Devriendt is considering for some time if this might be the infamous case of under-leading an ace but finally, he plays low from dummy, his main consideration being that Sharp should hold lots of clubs to lead as well, so no reason whatsoever for under-leading an ace. On careful play, he loses only to the  $\diamond A$  for his contract and 11 IMPs.

A few boards later, there is another slam, this time from the BAM-winners Fellus-Delle Cave:

Board: 17. Dlr: North/None

$\spadesuit$ 9 7		$\spadesuit$ A 10 8 5 4			
$\heartsuit$ 9 6 4 3 2		$\heartsuit$ A J 7			
$\diamond$ 5 3		$\diamond$ K Q 7			
$\clubsuit$ K 9 7 6		$\clubsuit$ A Q			
$\spadesuit$ 2	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W     E	S	$\spadesuit$ K Q J 6 3
N					
W     E					
S					
$\heartsuit$ 10		$\heartsuit$ K Q 8 5			
$\diamond$ A 10 9 8 6 2		$\diamond$ J 4			
$\clubsuit$ J 10 8 5 2		$\clubsuit$ 4 3			

West <i>Fellus</i>	North <i>Karpouzeli</i>	East <i>Delle Cave</i>	South <i>Kougiumtzi</i>
		2NT	Pass
$3\spadesuit 1$	Pass	3NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass
$4\diamond 3$	Pass	$4\heartsuit$	Pass
$4\spadesuit 4$	Pass	4NT <sup>5</sup>	Pass
$6\clubsuit 6$	Pass	$6\diamond$	All Pass

- 1 sleemtry minors
- 2 no fourcard minor
- 5 longest/strongest minor
- 4 RKC
- 5 even KC number
- 6 maybe you prefer  $6\clubsuit$ ?

North led a club on which dummy's Ace was put up. Trumps were drawn and a trick was conceded to the  $\clubsuit K$  for a quick +920 and 7 IMPs to EW. The slam was bid 8 times. For Bayakhchev-Agarwal this board was a great disillusion when Leonid went on to 6NT over  $6\diamond$ ...down two for a 12-IMP loss.

Board 20 was a clear demonstration of the difference between IMP and matchpoint play. In the Pairs Final, most pairs were in INT but at IMPs, quite a lot of pairs finished up much higher:

Board: 20. Dlr: West/All

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

Leonid Bayakhchev, too, rebids 3NT after his 1♦ opening and partner's 2♦ response. Lotte Leufkens, North leads a spade. Declarer wins the 3rd round and cashes all the diamonds. On the last diamond, Thijs Verbeek (South) has a problem:



Mohit Agarwal, India

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

Declarer is marked with four hearts but what about the clubs? If North started with four clubs and two hearts, preferably QJ or Q/J10, he has to hang on to his hearts. So after some thinking he blanks his ♣K. Leufkens anticipates well; she understands what is going on and smoothly discards the ♥8. Declarer continues the ♥A and Leufkens follows as smoothly with the Queen. Declarer has a guess now...he decides to take the heart finesse through South so North wins the Jack and has the rest. Nicely done and down two for +6 IMPs instead of -11 if East would have made 3NT...

On board 24, Agarwal – Bayakhchev get a good beating from Akan-Gulenc:

Board: 24. Dlr: West/None

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

NS merrily bid on until they reach 6♦. Even a trump lead does not beat this but it needs trumps 2-2 and hearts 4-3. If you try to ruff two spades, you are liable to go down as communications are awkward and the defence might produce an uppercut somewhere. Leonid Bayakhchev shakes his head in disgust...that this should happen to him. The slam is bid and made four times, yielding 10 IMPs to NS.

The aggressive style of Agarwal – Bayakhchev brings them back some IMPs on the next board:

Board: 25. Dlr: North/EW

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

When North opens a Precision-style 1♦, South responds 1♠ (!), raised to 2♠ by North. EW are effectively talked out of their heart fit. Four pairs even manage to bid and make 4♥. Though 2♠ goes one off, it still brings in 4 IMPs to NS.

Then, finally, the last board:

Board: 26. Dlr: East/All

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Celik</i>	<i>Agarwal</i>	<i>Ozkurt</i>	<i>Bayakhchev</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

\* 17+ hcp

Undisturbed by East's 2♥ bid, Bayakhchev leads the ♥J. Now, declarer has a chance. He ducks the trick and South continues a heart, thus establishing declarer's 4th heart. Once ♣Q comes down doubleton, EW score 6 IMPs as 3NT was made more often than not, maybe because poor North was forced at any time to open up the hearts. Some the good news for Agarwal –Bayakhchev is that the loss on this board might have been much bigger...

Leonid, however, leaving the playing area still shaking his head, full of Weltschmerz. "It's all very bad", he says and like a Dostoevsky or Tolstoy protagonist, the Russian stumbles out of the room...

## NO CARRY-OVER PLEASE

by Kees Tammens



I don't know who invented the idea of carry-over. At this place I like to react on the question in yesterday's Bulletin. When a tournament consists of a qualifying phase and a final, the objective in either stage is completely different. When you need 50% to go on to the next phase, you try to get enough match-points or V.P. to reach your target. And when you want to win the final, you have to outplay all the other finalists. This certainly will affect the way you play. In a qualification phase you sometimes take a conservative decision, being satisfied with 40 or 50 % on a board whilst in the final you cannot win with such a strategy, and you will be much more aggressive. In a team match you can go on quietly if you only need ten V.P. in your last match.

A carry-over is also made up with points you won from contestants who fail to reach the final. It then can happen that, in the end, you have more points than another pair simply because of these points, usually won against weaker opponents (who as a matter of fact were not able to qualify). These points earlier won, simply have to go with the wind. Without a carry-over you will have to prove yourself that you are better than any other pair in the final. The worst thing that can occur, is that a pair that makes the most points in the final, still not is declared the winner. 'We won the final, but are not the champions'. I would shiver when that scenario actually takes place.

In the USA in almost all sports there is a regular season followed by play-offs. In the Baseball League the teams play about 172 matches in a season. After that the top teams go on in the play-offs, of course on KO basis. It starts with a series 'best-of-seven'. And when a team loses 3-4, it is eliminated. And believe me, they would laugh at you when you tell them that in the season you won 120 of your games and want some carry-over from that achievement. KO=KO, beat your opponent yourself and you be declared the winner. So I suggest to ban all carry-overs in any form of bridge competition: the team or pairs that scores highest in the final, deserves to be the champion.

# The Pairs' Final, session 3

by Jos Jacobs

Halfway the Finals, Dutch Marion Michielsens and Tim Verbeek were leading the field. They did well in the 3rd session too and thus managed to hold on to their lead. The board below shows their fine judgement, even though it brought them only an average score.

Ten EW pairs were allowed to make 3NT though it is not easy to see where their tricks should come from. If South leads a spade or switches to the suit when he first gets the lead, 3NT looks to be in deep trouble...

The leaders did not show any particular interest to reach game as this was the auction at their table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Michielsens</i>	<i>Koclar</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Ucar</i>
			1♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	Redble	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All pass

When Verbeek doubled the opening bid of 1♣ in the balancing position, Michielsens had no trouble in converting this. North redoubled for SOS and Verbeek's next double was intended for penalties. As Michielsens held a doubleton honour in the suit, she opted to defend this contract and led the ♠J. This ran to declarer's King and a low club went to dummy's nine and East's King. Two rounds of trumps followed and declarer then played a diamond from dummy to West's Ace. Only now it was time for hearts. Verbeek correctly overtook the third round and forced declarer's last trump with his last top heart. West's ♣Q thus became the setting trick for a magic +200 and exactly half the available matchpoints, far less than it should have been, I think.

The other two boards to draw my attention were two slam hands. Here is the first.

Board: 7. Dlr: South/All

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



Ali Ucar, Turkey

Board: 14. Dlr: East/None

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Dwyer</i>	<i>Macura</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT	All pass		

The clubs are breaking 3-2 so 12 tricks are easy, provided the defence have not established a diamond trick when they are given the ♥A.

Against West's 4NT, North was on lead so all was well. Making 12 tricks was worth about average.



West <i>Taskin</i>	North <i>Stuurman</i>	East <i>Suzer</i>	South <i>Visser</i>
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
6NT	All pass	3NT	Pass

The local pair Suzer-Taskin can certainly consider themselves unlucky when South could lead diamonds without giving away a successful guess or a trick. One down was worth 3 meagre mp. whereas making the slam would have scored 49.

Another unlucky slam came by two boards later:

Board: 16. Dlr: West/EW

♠ Q 8 5 ♥ 8 ♦ J 10 9 7 3 ♣ K 7 5 3	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W     E	S	♠ 9 ♥ K J 6 3 2 ♦ 2 ♣ A J 10 9 8 2
N					
W     E					
S					
♠ J 4 ♥ A Q 9 5 ♦ A K Q 8 5 4 ♣ 4		♠ A K 10 7 6 3 2 ♥ 10 7 4 ♦ 6 ♣ Q 6			

West <i>Gorski</i>	North <i>Stephens</i>	East <i>Piotrowski</i>	South <i>Siderov</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	3♠
5♥	Pass	6♥	6♠
Dble	All pass		

Siderov trusted his Polish opponents to such a degree that he decided to take the save. That was down three, -500 and only 10 mp to NS.

The question, however, is: can slam be made?

Let's first ask Dennis Stuurman, who was allowed to try and make 12 tricks at another table:

West <i>Visser</i>	North <i>Skorchev</i>	East <i>Stuurman</i>	South <i>Yilmaz</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	4♠
5♥	5♠	6♥	All pass

South led the ♠A and continued a low club away from his Queen, which ran to Dennis' eight. Dennis went on to draw three rounds of trumps, on which North, already squeezed, discarded his remaining spades. When next he discovered that the diamond nor the clubs broke even, he had to concede one down and could consider, he too, himself desperately unlucky.

When I checked the results on the board, I noticed one 1430. Before I had found out where this number came

from, the culprit entered our office and started to tell us a story. As she spoke in Dutch, we could very easily understand what had happened.

This had been the auction:

West <i>Sigrd</i>	North <i>Ozer</i>	East <i>Jamilla</i>	South <i>Serdar</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	5♥	5♠
Pass	Pass	6♥	All pass

Of course, West's pass of Five Spades was forcing, so Jamilla could bid the very good slam with some confidence.

South led his top spades, Jamilla ruffing the second round. She went on to play the ♣A and ruffed a club, noting the fall of the Queen. Next came the ♦A and a diamond ruffed high for general security reasons. When South did not follow suit, the entire distribution of the hand became clear: South was all too likely to hold 7-3-1-2. Jamilla continued accordingly: ♥A and another diamond ruffed with the Jack, heart to the nine which held (of course), the last trump drawn and dummy's diamonds were good.

So here we definitely have the best played hand of the tournament, I think and probably also an official candidate for the best played hand of the year. Even if South plays any other card at trick 2, it is possible for declarer to change the order of tricks but still execute the plays necessary to find out the distribution of the hand, and thus the necessity of the heart finesse, in time. So I can only say:

Extremely well done and a super bravo to Jamilla Spangenberg!



Jamilla Spangenberg, Netherlands

# TALKING HEADS




Fabio Ghielmetti is 19 years old and lives in Switzerland. He is a student of mathematics. What is his best memory of Istanbul? The huge mass of young, friendly players because bridge in Switzerland is a game for older ladies.



He hates: getting doubled by the Dutch because I always go down at least three. He loves: screens because then I don't have to see the ugly face of my partner. We will never see him wearing: pink shoes.

Mirza Asfandiyar Hussain is 16 years old and lives in Pakistan. He is a student of engineering. What is his best memory of Istanbul? Qualifying for the Pairs Final because everybody had written us off and we did prove a point. He hates: the language barrier. He loves: everything here because it is beautiful. We will never see him wearing: shorts.




Joram van Mechelen is 19 years old and lives in Belgium. He is a Art-History student. What is his best memory of Istanbul? Inventing a universal pick up-line with Justin Lall: 'I am Belgian. I will make you waffles.' He hates: Justin Lall because he doubled five diamonds. He loves: the pool because it sobers me up after drinking. We will never see him wearing: a bra.



## MP PAIRS FINAL

(ranking after 3 sessions - provisional)

Rank	Names		Percentage			
				28	ANDREA Landry	KILANI Alexandre 50.29
1	MICHELSEN Marion	VERBEEK Tim	57.89	29	FOURNIER Jeremy	LALL Justin 50.18
2	KRYSA Adam	ZMUDA Justyna	56.04	30	HOLLANDS Peter	WU You 50.15
3	LEBATTEUX Aymeric	LHUISSIER Nicolas	55.19	31	NAB Vincent	WACKWITZ Ernst 49.75
4	KOCLAR Akin	UCAR Ali	54.18	32	CEREK Muharrem	KAYA Emre 49.66
5	BUIJTENHEK Lennie	LEEUWEN Rik van	53.90	33	LANKVELD Joris van	PHILIPSEN Rens 49.57
6	STUURMAN Dennis	VISSER Frank	53.80	34	HOLEKSA Magdalena	WEINHOLD Izabela 49.56
7	IGLA Bartłomiej	MACHNO Artur Marek	53.44	35	BRESCOLL Zachary	LIEN Owen 49.49
8	ERCAN Sehmus	GUNDOGDU Mehmet	53.35	36	KOPECKY Michal	MACURA Milan 49.26
9	MISTRETTA Eugenio	MISTRETTA Giuseppe	53.28	37	KAPLAN Adam	SHUNTA Cameron 49.01
10	EDGTTON Adam	HOWARD Justin	53.04	38	KURT Murat Ugur	USLUPEHLIVAN Sarper 48.50
11	ASULIN Adi	LEVY Hila	52.98	39	SPANGENBERG Jamilla	SPANGENBERG Sigrid 48.14
12	KOIKE Noriaki	MIURA Hiroaki	52.75	40	DAMTY Oshri	EREZ Eyal 47.57
13	HUDSON Alex	MARRIOTT John	52.73	41	ETCHEPAREBORDA Juan	GARDINER Luke 47.33
14	JOCHYMSKI Tomasz M.	KAZMIERCZAK Wojciech	52.22	42	DRIJVER Bob	MOLENAAR Danny 47.26
15	JASSEM Pawel	TUCZYNSKI Piotr	52.10	43	OZER Ahmet Can	SERDAR Ekrem 46.88
16	SIDEROV Zhivko	STEPHENS Robert	51.99	44	FISHER Blair	WHIBLEY Michael 46.87
17	HELMICH Aarnout	HOP Gerbrand	51.71	45	HUSSAIN Mirza Asfandiyar	MANSOOR Arslan 46.33
18	CHIU Jason	FAY Kevin	51.48	46	HUNG Andy Pei-en	SCHAFFER Jorrit 45.97
19	GORSKI Michal	PIOTROWSKI Przemyslaw	51.33	47	MOHARAM Hisham	SAWIRES Mina 45.83
20	HANTOS Jonathan	ORTEGA Luz	51.30	48	ALLON Yonatan	VAX Gal 45.52
21	DWYER Kevin	MECKSTROTH Matthew	51.23	49	DOXIADIS Konstantinos	KONTOMITROS K. 45.51
22	FRANCESCHETTI Pierre	GROSSET Christophe	51.12	50	ANASTASATOS Aris	SOFIOS Michalis 45.49
23	DOBRESCU Raluca Elena	NISTOR Radu	50.98	51	IMAMOGLU Levent	SOFU Serkan 45.48
24	GOGOMAN Adele	SCHULZ Dieter	50.90	52	SUZER Ugurcan	TASKIN Arda Can 45.34
25	DEKKERS Laura	NAB Judith	50.74	53	KANIA Michal	WITKOWSKI Lukasz 44.21
26	SKORCHEV Stefan	YILMAZ Ovunc	50.49	54	ABIU TALEB Moustafa	ZAYTOUN Mahmoud 43.72
27	FRANCHI Arrigo	PAPARO Aldo	50.33			

## IMP PAIRS

(ranking after 3 sessions - provisional)

Rank	Names		IMPs			
				19	HERSHFANG Dan	HERSHFANG Dvir -11.00
1	AGARWAL Mohit	BAYAKHCHEV Leonid	132.57	20	KANETA Kenji	KIDO Yoshiro -17.00
2	HANDA Kouichi	MURAI Kentaro	113.14	21	SARIOZ Pinar	TEKIN Ozge -23.00
3	KRALIK Frantisek	TICHA Magdalena	106.33		LEANEZ Luis	SAR-SHALOM Nathalie -23.00
4	DELLE CAVE Giuseppe	FELLUS Robin	97.00	23	AKAN Efraim	GULENC Baturalp -25.00
5	DI FRANCO Massimiliano	MANNO Andrea	89.00	24	OWEN Christopher	SHARP Jonathan -29.29
6	CELIK Taner	OZKURT Kenan	81.00	25	AKSUEYEK Efe	EREN Baran -30.00
7	AMIGUET Jerome	MARGOT Cedric	68.67	26	GIANNOULIS Giorgos	OIKONOMOPOULOS I. -32.00
8	JANECZKO Artur	SZCZYPCZYK Agnieszka	68.00	27	LEUFKENS Lotte	VERBEEK Thijs -36.00
9	FAILLA Andrea	ZANASI Gabriele	44.43	28	BILLIET Sven	GEENS Bert -62.00
10	OZGUR Muhammet	OZTURK Erdem	44.00	29	CASIMIRRI Tommaso	SCHIASSI Jacopo -69.00
11	DARKADAKIS Athanasios	ROUSSOS Petros	40.00		SEKER Olgu	YILDIZ Ceyda -69.00
12	BORZI Antonio	MORTAROTTI Andrea	36.00	31	SMYTH Brona	WOODS Aimee -80.00
13	FLURY Marc	GHIEMMETTI Fabio	32.00	32	KARPOUZELI Chrysoula	KOUGIOUMTZI Athanasia -99.00
14	HOEPFLER Markus	KAUTNY Paul	31.00	33	VAN DEN HOVE Wouter	VAN MECHELEN Joram -103.00
15	GRANATH Simon	OLOFSSON Sofia	30.00	34	FOTOPOULOS Evangelos	TOGIAS Stratos -110.00
16	GREENBERG Gal	URMAN Lior	24.86	35	MILANO Eryck	OJEDA Carlos -156.00
17	DE VISSCHERE Willem	DEVRIENDT Rien	12.00	36	GORMALLY Niamh	O'KANE Eilish -225.00
18	ABDELFATTAH Ahmed	DARWISH Ahmed	-7.86			



# São Paulo 2009

THE WORLD BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

São Paulo, Brazil

August 29 to September 12

Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, Ernesto d'Orsi Seniors Bowl  
World Transnational Open Teams Championships

HEAD-QUARTERS AND PLAYING AREA:  
HOTEL TRANSAMERICA

### Opening ceremony

August 29<sup>th</sup> - to be held at the "teatro alfa" (connected to the hotel); the ceremony will be followed by a musical show at the theatre and by a cocktail/dinner at the hotel.

### The Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup & Senior Bowl

The Round Robin for all three Championships will start on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August and finish on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September, with the knock-out stages starting on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Quarter Finals for each of these events will end before the start of the Transnational Open Teams, thus enabling players eliminated from the main Championships to participate Transnational Championship.

## The World Transnational Open Teams Championship

The 7<sup>th</sup> World Transnational Open Teams Championship is a prestigious and most enjoyable event. Being Transnational, it

is open to teams composed of players coming from different countries, nominated by their National Bridge Organisation and approved by the WBF Credentials Committee.

It is a great opportunity for players to participate in a wonderful Bridge tournament while at the same time enjoying a unique opportunity to experience the atmosphere and excitement of the final stages of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup and watch some of the greatest players in the world on the first class vugraph presentation. Players wishing to compete in this Championship should contact their NBO and request nomination by the end of July 2009. There is no quota, and NBOs may nominate as many teams as they wish to compete in this special tournament.

Players eliminated from the Round Robin of the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup & Seniors Bowl will be able to enter the World Transnational Open Teams Championship free of charge if they enter as a complete team.

The **World Transnational Open Teams** will take place during the second week, starting in the late afternoon on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. The format will be Swiss Teams. It is normally played as 10-board matches (3, 4 or 5 per day) for 15 qualifying rounds (150 boards). The Quarter Final will start on Thursday late afternoon, the Semi Final will be played on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September and the Final will end on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September.