

POZDRAUY Z CECH UITEJTE U PRAZE

Greetings from Czechoslovakia; welcome to Prague!

Well, we have all (perhaps rather more of you than we might have expected) arrived safely. Now all that remains is for you to play well, enjoy yourselves, and have a good time.



Message from the Chairman of the World Bridge Federation Youth Committee

It gives me great pleasure to welcome almost 400 participants from 30 Countries to the third World Junior Pairs Championship.

This is the biggest International Junior Bridge event in history and this fact alone is enough to make all of us happy and very proud of our achievement.

Our thanks should go first to the Czech Bridge Federation which despite being a very small organisation did not hesitate to undertake the mammoth task of staging this event. The European Bridge League stood by their side to ensure that conditions would be appropriate for such a prestigious event.

However the biggest thanks goes to you, the young players, and your National Federations who have combined together to succeed in producing this unique historic event.

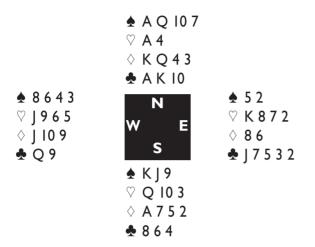
I would like to wish to all of you an enjoyable stay in Nymburk - take advantage of being in this wonderful country to look around and enjoy the Championship!

Panos Gerontopoulos

JUNIOR EUROPEANS 1998

The 1998 junior European Championships were held in the Rathaus in Vienna. The first match on Vugraph was between the hosts, Austria, and Germany, and not much friendly hospitality was on offer from the home team.

Board 10. Dealer East. Game All



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kornek	Lindermann	Huesken	Puerstl
	Pass	Pass	
Pass	♣	Pass	I♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3◊	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4◊
Pass	6◊	All Pass	

VuGraph

West	North	East	South
Gloyer	Linde	Saurer	Balschun
-		Pass	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	2◊
Pass	2NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

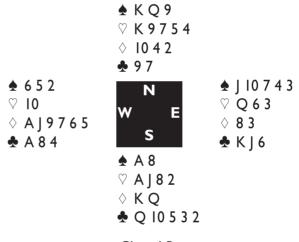
The Austrian North began with a Strong Club, and South showed three controls. They finished in the best spot of Six Diamonds where the heart ruff provided the slam-going trick even if declarer misguessed hearts. I 370 to Austria. The German auction reached Six No-trumps. Declarer has I I top tricks and if he guesses the hearts right that will be the twelfth. However, even if he plays a low heart to the ten and jack, it looks as if there is a successful second string. Declarer can win any return, lay down ace of hearts, then run spades and diamonds finishing in dummy, to squeeze East in

hearts and clubs! This would make the headline Vienna Coup in Vienna. However, Saurer, East, found a club lead.

Declarer won and led a low heart to the ten. First chance gone. Then West led a second club. End of squeeze! The Austrians had found the doubledummy way to beat the slam. The swing was 17 IMPs to Austria and the match was effectively over at half-time. Austria went on to win 108-46 a victory point result of 25-3.

Next up on vugraph in this report were the Dutch against Hungary. the Dutch played very well on Vugraph, I thought, and earned their win of 21-9 in Victory Points. Simon de Wijs was the first to earn a swing:

Board I. Dealer North. Love All



Closed Room

W est Wijma	North Hegedus	East Zwerver	South Tichy ♣
3◊	All Pass		
	Open	Room	
West	North	East	South INT
2♣ All Pass	3◊	Pass	4 ♡

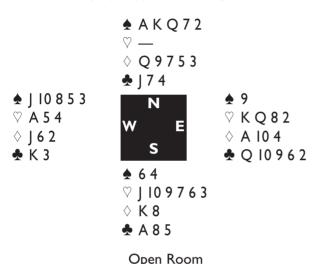
In the Closed Room the Hungarians were playing weak notrumps, so South opened One Club. Wijma's preempt ended the auction, and the contract of 30 went three light for 150 to Hungary. On VuGraph de Wijs started with a Strong Notrump. West's Two Clubs denoted any single-suiter, and North's Three Diamonds was a transfer

showing at least invitational values in hearts. de Wijs concluded proceedings with a jump to game.

West led the six of spades and with three inevitable losers the key to the hand is avoiding a trump loser. de Wijs won in hand and, using the information gained from the auction, tackled trumps by leading to the king and finessing on the way back.

That was the end of the deal and earned a 7 IMP gain for the Netherlands. This was the key deal in the second half:

Board 13. Dealer North. Game All



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West	North	East	South
Wijma	Hegedus	Zwerver	Tichy
♠	INT	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Trenka	Proojen	Winkler	de Wijs
	I♠	Dble	INT
Dble	2♦	Pass	2♡
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

In the Closed Room Zwerver as East for the Dutch used an artificial overcall of One No-trump which showed hearts and a minor. Somewhat surprisingly West chose to pass this. The defence led a spade to North's queen, a diamond to the king and a second diamond from South. Reading North for at least nine cards in spades and diamonds Zwerver won in hand and ran the ten of clubs through South.

Unlucky! It led to two down for 200. East also acted on VuGraph, this time with a light takeout double. When Two Spades came back to Trenka he

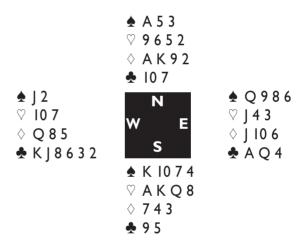
risked an equally light penalty double.

Winkler led a club, ducked to West's king, and West returned a low trump, won by North who started on the diamonds. East won the second diamond, and played a heart ruffed by declarer. A diamond ruff set up the suit and declarer simply crossed to dummy with the ace of clubs to ensure his eighth trick by ruffing a heart. Declarer made six trumps and a trick in each minor.

That was 10 IMPs to the Netherlands, contributing to their 219 win. The defence had their chance here – a second club at trick two allows West to pitch his diamond on the third round of clubs, and defeat the hand. Likewise, declarer should take the A at the first trick and avoid this eventuality.

The VuGraph match between Norway and Poland was mostly a one-way affair in favour of the Vikings, but on board 10 the capacity crowd saw a beautiful deceptive move by Igor Grzejdziak.

Dealer East, Game All



In the closed room Kristoffersen for Norway opened I^{\heartsuit} in the South seat, and shortly thereafter West was on lead against Four Hearts. He chose the jack of spades, which enabled South to play the suit for no loser.

The fact that 10 tricks became 11 due to less than perfect defence made no big difference. In the open room South opened a Polish Club, and Grzejdziak bid 1%. South bid 2%, and 4% concluded the auction.

However, this time East was on lead, and Saur chose the 8 of spades. It is impossible, I think, for anyone to find a legitimate winning line.

But Grzejdziak found an excellent deceptive play

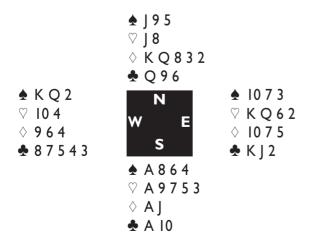
that really made it difficult for East to killing defence. The four, two and three of spades completed the first trick! Cashing the ace of clubs could have been a disaster with another layout, so Saur continued with the six of spades.



North took West's Jack with the ace, played three rounds of hearts and later finessed in spades and threw a club loser on the fourth spade. A club ruff made a total of 10 tricks thanks to a very imaginative deception. Well done! How disappointing to lose an IMP after such a fine play.

The French team flattered to deceive in this tournament - their team was weakened by a family tragedy on the eve of the event - but on the following deal against the Turkish team we saw a flash of their true form.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Game



Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Sunamak	Sebbane	Yanuz	Willard
			Pass
Pass	10	Pass	INT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Rombaut	Uz	Daux	Alper	
			Pass	
Pass	I♡	Pass	INT	
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♡	
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	
All Pass				

Again both tables ended in the same spot, though by different routes. East led a spade taken by West's queen.

At trick two Sunamak for Turkey switched to a club to the jack and ace. If declarer sets up a club trick now and overtakes the diamond later, he has nine easy tricks.

Sebbane complicated matters by starting with five rounds of diamonds before exiting with a club. The defence were able to make a club, two spades, and a heart, but then had to concede the ninth trick to declarer.

Rombaut, West for France, had seen Daux's lead of the TEN of spades, and knew declarer had the jack. At trick two Rombaut found the excellent switch of the FOUR of hearts.

Declarer, not unnaturally, tried the jack from hand, which was covered by the queen and ace. Knowing he had a spade entry to hand, declarer decided not to overtake the diamond, cashing the ace and jack, then playing a low spade.

Rombaut went up with the king, cashed his ten of hearts, and then played a club to the jack and ace.

Superficially declarer had nine tricks, but he had to enter hand with the jack of spades, and say good-bye to the ace of spades! In the ending East had a club winner and a heart winner to go with the three tricks the defence had already made.

This was 12 IMPs to France.

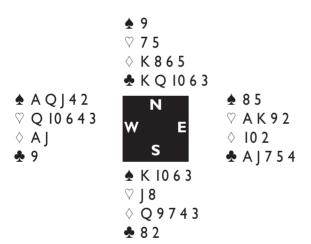
The Hubert Phillips Bowl final 1998/99

The Hubert Phillips Bowl is a delightful anachronism in today's tournament game. It's for teams of four which must contain at least one woman and one man. The four members of each team play one third of the boards with each other member and scoring is by aggregate points, with honours counting!

This year's final was between Yorkshire's Tom Gisborne (Sandy Davies, Sam Manavi, Mike Pomfrey) and Surrey's Frances Hinden (Jeffrey Allerton, Tom Townsend, Graham Osborne) - a repeat of the 1995 final which Hinden won. Would history repeat itself?

The final consists of 60 boards, played in two halves of 30 with scoring breaks and changes of partnership every ten. Former Junior World Champion Tom Townsend did well on this deal:

Dealer North, East-West Game



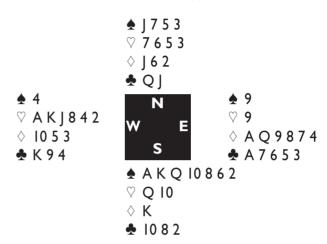
West	North Pass	East ♣	South Pass
I 🏚	Pass	INT	Pass
2◊	Pass	2♡	Pass
3♡	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♠	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	6◊	Pass
7♡!	All pass		

Most partnerships in the Hinden team played a strong no trump and five card majors. The INT rebid showed 12-14, 2♦ was a game forcing checkback, 4♣ a cue bid and 4NT Roman Key Card Blackwood. Now came the subtle part. 5♠ and 6♣ were asking bids in spades and diamonds and the replies denied the king of either suit. Townsend re-

alised that a diamond lead would defeat 6% if the spade finesse was wrong, so he might as well bid seven.

Aided by that slam, Hinden built up a steady lead over the first two sets, only to lose it all in the next on three very close game decisions.

Dealer South. Game All



Both Easts played in 50 after South had bid spades strongly.

Against Gisborne South led $\triangle A$ and switched to a club. Declarer won in hand, laid down $\lozenge A$ and all was plain sailing. At the other table South switched to $\heartsuit 10$ at trick two. Allerton won and reasonably elected to finesse the $\lozenge Q$, after which there was no recovery.

The second half followed the pattern of the first, with Hinden pulling ahead thanks to better slam bidding. Pomfrey had a brief heart-stopping moment when he elected to open a weak $2\lozenge$ on a five card suit. As he pulled out the stop card he suddenly remembered he was playing the multi in this

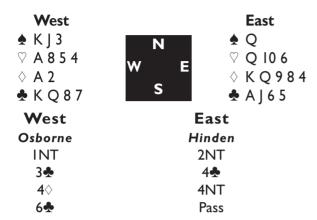
Sponsor's Corner

The Irish Junior Pairs would like to thank their sponsors, *Cap Gemini*, and *Ardee*, *Bankers*, Coolmines and *Laural Lodge Bridge* clubs, for assisting them in attending these World Junior Pairs.

particular partnership so hastily changed his mind and made it 30! The opposition had no trouble reaching their slam on the board anyway.

This next slam was well judged too.

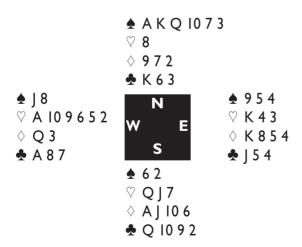
Dealer South. North-South Game



After the 15-17 no trump 2NT showed diamonds and 34 denied a top honour to three or more. 44 was natural and 4NT discouraging, but West clearly had very good cards. North had both heart honours so there was no lead to trouble declarer.

As the last ten boards got underway Hinden led by +1130, but two more game swings, one a misdefence and the other a speculative punt, put Pomfrey in front. The next exhibit was another tough bidding decision.

Dealer East. Game All



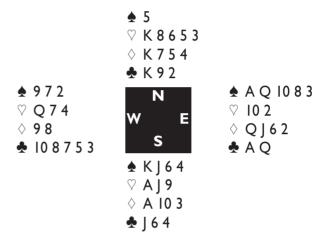
Both West's opened a 'weak' 2° in third seat and both North's overcalled 2^{\bullet} . Now the paths diverged. What action would you choose as South?

Sam Manavi passed and a disappointed Gisborne made ten tricks. Osborne tried 2NT and was raised to 3NT, which stood no chance on a heart lead.

So that's what a weak two looks like? Well, sometimes. Two boards later, admittedly first in hand at green, both Pomfrey and Townsend opened 2% on:

Pomfrey managed to muddle the ensuing 4% contract, then his side doubled a cold slam and suddenly it was once again all to play for. This was the sixtieth and final board.

Dealer East. Love All



When Gisborne was North/South East's I♠ opening was passed out and just made. Allerton found a more aggressive protective double and Osborne jumped to 3NT. Everything hinged on the outcome.

Pomfrey led $\triangle 7$ which Sandy Davies won to return $\lozenge 2$. Not blessed with X-ray vision, declarer played low, won in dummy, and tried a losing finesse of \lozenge].

A club came back and it was all over - the Gisborne team had just hung on to win by 200 aggregate points.

Spectacular Loss!

Please help us to locate a missing pair of glasses! They were probably left in the bar last night - in a black case distinguished by the letter 'V'.