

POLAND, ITALY AND THE NIFTHIFRI ANDS WIIN GOID



Juniors, 1st: **POLAND** - Marcin Bojarski, Maksymilian Chodacki, Wojciech Kazmierczak, Michal Klukowski, Kamil Nowak, Justyna Zmuda, Marek Markowski npc



GIRLS, 1st: NETHERLANDS - Natalia Banas, Merel Bruijnsteen, Magdalena Ticha, Maaike Van Ommen, Esther Visser, Janneke Wackwitz, Anneke Simons npc, Aarnout Helmich coach



YOUNGSTERS, 1st: **ITALY**-Francesco Chiarandini, Alvaro Gaiotti, Gianmarco Giubilo, Andrea Manganella, Federico Porta, Sebastiano Scatà, Gianni Medugno Npc, Dario Attanasio coach

On the final day of this delightful, well-run championships, Poland took the gold medals in the Juniors. Leading by 39 imps with two sets to be played, Poland gained 44 imps in the first session of the day and China conceded, down by 83 imps, 175 to 92.

The Netherlands fought off the spirited Australian team to win the Girls title by 228 imps to 134.

The real excitement was reserved for the Youngsters. When the last day began, the Netherlands led by 42 imps. But Italy commanded the first set of the day, taking it by 70 imps to 0! The home team gained another 14 imps in the last session to run out winners by 217 imps to 175.

















JUNIORS, 2nd: **CHINA** - Yanfeng Chen, Sili Liu, Shiyu Sun, Zhi Tang, Yong Tao, Hongji Wei, Jun Ji npc, Jun Ji coach



GIRLS, 2nd: **AUSTRALIA** - Jessica Brake, Renee Cooper, Kirstyn Fuller, Francesca Mcgrath, Ella Pattison, Ian Thomson npc, Justine Beaumont coach



YOUNGSTERS, 2^{nd} : **NETHERLANDS** - Youp Caris, Pim Dupont, Oscar Nijssen, Sven Overvelde, Leen Stougie, Marc Stougie, Niek Brink npc, M. Schollaardt coach



Mikael Gronkvist from Sweden

Speech of Ata Aydin Chairman of the WBF Youth Committee

Mr Rona, President of The World Bridge Federation, Mr Fritelli, Mayor of Salsomaggiore, Mr Medugno, President of The Italian Bridge Federation, Authorities, Colleagues, Dear Guests, Dear Young Friends,

We have reached the end of a most successful World Championship.

For ten days, teams from five continents, divided across four categories, have been competing in Salsomaggiore in a friendly atmosphere, where a healthy, competitive spirit reigned supreme at all times.

We can be proud of the fact that you have all demonstrated our motto once more to the world "Bridge for Peace".

To the Town of Salsomaggiore; Mr. Mayor, please accept our gratitude for your great co-operation and hospitality.

To the Italian Bridge Federation; Dear President Medugno, thank you for this wonderful event that is without any doubt one of the best I have ever been involved in.

Continues on the next page



JUNIORS, 3rd: **SWEDEN** - Simon Ekenberg, Mikael Gronkvist, Daniel Gullberg, Simon Hult, Mikael Rimstedt, Ola Rimstedt, Martin Loefgren npc, Tom Gards coach



GIRLS, 3rd: **NORWAY** - Katarina Ekren, Thea Hove Hauge, Thea Lucia Indrebo, Agnethe Hansen Kjensli, Sofie Grasholt Sjodal, Sven Olai Hoyland npc, Elisabeth G. Sjodal coach



YOUNGSTERS, 3rd: **HONG KONG** - Chris T. H. Chan, Alfred Lam, Niko Man, Jackson Tsang, Sam Tseng, Michael Wu, Hing L. C. Lee npc



Susanna Broccolino from Italy, Renee Cooper from Australia and the Indonesian team: Gabriela Bindi Desai Eva, Yunita Fytry, Fransisca Tri Martanti, Elsya Saktia Ningtias, Ernis Sefita and Fortina Mora Sibuea

Continued from page 2

To Our WBF Staff; My Friends, you have done a perfect job, Congratulations and thanks for your efforts.

Dear Young Players, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your dedication to the sport of bridge, your enthusiasm and your courteous manners throughout the championships towards both your friends and rivals.

Those of you who will receive gold, silver and bronze medals in a few moments will have every right to be proud of your achievements. I wish all of those players the best of success in your future careers.

But even if you did not get a medal, you have every right to be proud of yourselves, for you have all represented your countries in the best possible way.

Especially after the highly successful integration of the Kids Series into the WBF youth program, we can all be confident that our wonderful sport of bridge is in good hands and we can rely on all of you to make the world a better place.

I thank all of you once more, and wish you all the best of luck. Have a safe return home, and see you at the next youth event.

Thank you Ata Aydin



BAM, 1st: **USA JUNIORS** - Zachary Brescoll, Adam Grossack, Zachary Grossack, Adam Kaplan, Benjamin Kristensen, Kevin Rosenberg



BAM, 2nd: **FRANCE 1** - Julien Bernard, Fabrice Charignon, Baptiste Combescure, Clement Laloubeyre, Anne Rouanet-Labe



BAM, 3rd: **ITALY JUNIORS** - Alessandro Calmanovici, Margherita Chavarria, Giovanni Donati, Enea Montanelli, Giacomo Percario, Roberto Sau, Valerio Giubilo coach

Thank you very much!

I would like to thank all of the people who helped me to produce these daily bulletins.

First and foremost,
Francesca Canali, the
world's best bridge
bulletin layout artiste.
She worked long hours
every day with no
complaints and is
responsible for the great
look to these bulletins.

The terrific regular contributors were Murat Molva, Barry Rigal, Ram Soffer and David Stern.

Hassan, our late-night photocopier.

However, my favourite article was the one about the Swedish muggles!

Phillip Alder Editor of the Daily Bulletins



The Bermuda team: Gianluca Cacace, Ruskin Cave, Tyler Irby and William Peniston



JUNIORS FIN	<u>NL</u>)					
	c.o.	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot.
POLAND	0	1	55	31	25	63	0	175
CHINA	7	30	14	13	9	19	0	92

GIRLS FINAL								
A	c.o.	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot.
AUSTRALIA	0	24	19	20	42	5	24	134
NETHERLANDS	7	30	64	27	32	35	33	228

YOUNGSTERS I	INAL)					
	c.o.	1	2	3	4	5	6	tot.
ITALY	0	47	14	9	30	70	47	217
NETHERLANDS	16	28	38	23	37	0	33	175



BAM, Final B: 1st: CUTIES - Zsofia Beko, Zsuzsanna Beko, Brigitta Fischer, Csaba Konkoly, Hanna Revai, Daniel Tubak





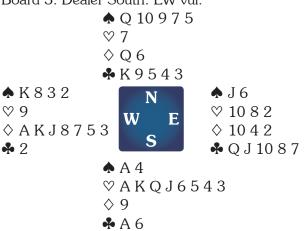
POLAND VS CHINA

MURAT MOLVA

Junior Teams Final, Session 5

It is the very last day of the 16th World Youth Teams Championships. Poland starts the penultimate segment of the Juniors final with a lead of 39 IMPs. After falling behind heavily in the opening segment of the match, the Polish players found their form and seem to be the favourites for the gold medal, prior to starting the last 2 x 14 board segments.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tang	Klukowski	Tao	Zmuda
			1 .
$1 \diamondsuit$	1 $♡$ (a)	Pass	2 %
$4\diamondsuit$	Dbl	Pass	6♡
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(a) spades			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kazmierczak	Wei	Nowak	Sun
			2 %
2♦	3 ♠	Pass	6♡
Pass	Pass	Pass	

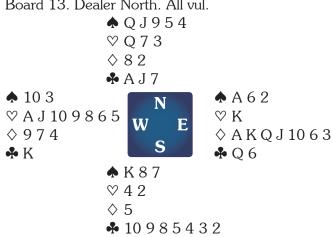
Partners must definitely agree on the number of times and the level a suit must be bid in order to "really" ask for the lead of that suit. In the Open Room, Tang (West) bid $1 \diamondsuit$ first and then $4 \diamondsuit$, at adverse vulnerability. But this did not convince Tao (East) to lead the suit and he opted for the safe-looking ♣Q. Suddenly the slam was makable.

Klukowski took dummy's club ace. He then cashed

eight trumps and the club king, bringing everyone down to three cards. Tang, in desperation, bared his ♠K, but Klukowski read the position correctly and cashed the A to make his slam.

When West, Kazmierczak, started with a top diamond at the other table, 6% went down quickly. 14 IMPs for Poland.

Board 13. Dealer North. All vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tang	Klukowski	Tao	Zmuda
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1 %	1 ^	3♦	3♠
$4\Diamond$	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kazmierczak	Wei	Nowak	Sun
	Pass	$1 \diamondsuit$	Pass
4♡	Pass	Pass	Pass

China was heavily outgunned in this segment, but this was their moment of glory. The Closed Room auction was not scientific, Kazmierczak collecting eleven tricks in 4\infty, when the defence slipped and lost their spade trick.

In the Open Room, though, the Chinese pair Tao-Wang started with a strong club and soon reached a slam that was cold on the existing layout. 12 IMPs for China.

The segment ended 63-19 in favour of Poland, making their lead 83 IMPs: 175-92.

At this point, China conceded the match and Poland are worthy world champions.

M.Chodacki

♦ A K 10 9

♣ J9865

♠ A 8 7

♥ 6



Message from Chodacki (POL)

In my yesterday's report about the first segment of Poland-China Final, Chodacki (POL) played in a 3NT, where he went down by not taking the $\Diamond Q$ finesse.

Juniors Final, 1st segment, Board 5.

♠ 10 5 2 ♥ 7432 ♦ Q 8 6 2 ♣ A 7

♠ Q 9 6 ♥ Q J 10 5 ♦ J 7

♣ K Q 10 4

W

♠ KJ43 ♥ A K 9 8 ♦ 543

♣ 3 2

North	East	South
Pass	$1 \diamondsuit$	Dble
Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2\$	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass
	Pass Pass	$\begin{array}{ccc} Pass & & 1 \diamondsuit \\ Pass & & 1NT \\ Pass & & 2 \diamondsuit \end{array}$

Chodacki explained that after South's takeout double of $1\Diamond$, he assumed that South, rather than North, figured to hold the $\Diamond Q$. He tried, by cashing all of his clubs, to strip-squeeze South. Hence, he did not have a blind spot but only a wrong placement about the location of the $\Diamond Q$. Apologies to Maksymilian Chodacki, and thanks for the clarification.









TWO CHALLENGING DEALS

RAM SOFFER

Everyone knows that one should be careful about doubling part-scores at IMP team events. But when the following deal appeared on Friday morning in the six medal matches, East-West made a doubled part-score at most tables. Even more remarkably, that contract could never have been bid voluntarily, without "help" from the opponents:

♠ A 9 7 4 3 ♡ A K Q ♦ 8 ♣ 9 7 4 2

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♣ J 8 5 2 ♥ 10 9 5 2

♣ K Q 10 5 3

	N		
W		E	
	S		

↑ K 10 ♥ 8 6 3 ♦ A J 10 9 7 4

♣ A 6

♠ Q 6 ♥ J 7 4 ♦ K Q 6 5 3 2 ♣ J 8

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	Pass
Redble	Pass	2 %	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

This exact auction was duplicated at the four Junior tables: East had a normal two-level overcall, North had a standard reopening double with a diamond shortage, and South had a typical penalty pass. The problem was that West had just the type of hand that would like to rescue partner rather than let him suffer in his doubled contract.

The use of the "SOS redouble" commands partner to choose between the two unbid suits (unless diamonds are exceptionally strong). Every East did just that, bidding two hearts, and every North doubled.

Remarkably, North-South have no way to beat 2% even though they possess all of the top trumps (this is computer-checked). One by one, the North-South Junior pairs conceded -670 and only when comparing scores did they learn that no damage was incurred.

In the other categories, however, there were some deviations:

Philipp Pabst, sitting South for the German Youngsters, probably had a gut feeling of the impending disaster, and removed $2\heartsuit$ doubled to $2\spadesuit$

(his partner was one down). However, his teammate at the West seat omitted the SOS redouble, so Germany lost IMPs on that board.

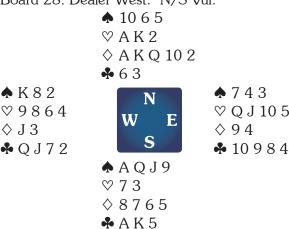
Even more remarkably, Andrea Manganella, North for Italy's Yougsters, simply passed out $2\diamondsuit$ (down three) for a swing of 14 IMPs after his teammates achieved the expected +670.

Had this hand been given to panel of experts, I doubt whether anyone would have approved of this pass. So, should we attribute this swing to "beginner's luck", or did the Italian player discover something new about bridge? (Or maybe something is wrong with North's hand – too much power in hearts and too little in clubs.)

Finally, in the Girls title match, Magdalena Ticha (West for Netherlands) didn't care for an SOS redouble and conceded -500. Result: ... +11 IMPs. Why? At the other table there was an SOS redouble, but East failed to take it out. I'm afraid this was a grave mistake by the Australian Girls, and a major reason why the Gianarrigo Rona trophy will stay in Europe.

Let us move on to the final deal played on the penultimate day. Actually it was the final deal for the three bronze medal playoffs.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



Which contract would you like to reach, looking at the North-South cards only? You have a nine-card diamond fit, and the only possible loser is the king of spades. So it is $7 \diamondsuit$ on a finesse. Fifty percent grand slams should normally not be bid, unless your team is desperately behind, and the top contract is 6NT, $6 \diamondsuit$ being a close second.

A naïve observer would expect that at the final stage of a world championship one would see mostly slams in this deal. Perhaps some unlucky teams would go down in seven. However, the harsh truth was that the following banal auction was by far the most popular one:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In particular, this happened at both tables of the Youngsters third-place playoff, and it was a pity that (by not bidding a small slam) Germany missed an opportunity for a fairytale ending, swinging the whole match their way on the very last board.

Why was it so hard to bid that slam? That question reminded me of George Rosenkranz, the former top Mexican player who is going to celebrate his 100th birthday later this month, and his Romex system, which does not include a natural 1NT bid (instead, within that system a 1NT opening is an artificial, forcing bid). In his books, George claimed that balanced 1NT openings were poor and that opening those hands in a suit leads to much better results statistically due to the greater possibilities of finding a fit, in particular minor-suit fits.

Evidently, that claim has not been accepted by the bridge world, as (almost) everyone is playing balanced 1NT openings. However, the deal that is the subject of this discussion emphasizes some of the intrinsic weaknesses of natural 1NT openings (particularly in the slam department). Unless one uses special conventions, that 5-4 diamond fit would not be found.

Well, the Chinese Juniors are apparently equipped with such conventions, and they found the slam almost effortlessly (regrettably, I don't have the details of their system).

West	North	East	South
Nowak	Wei	Kazmierczak	
Pass	1NT	Pass	2 ^
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	6\$
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Well done, China! However, the most interesting events happened at the other table of the same match:

West	North	East	South
Tang	Klukowski	Tao	Zmuda
Pass	1♣	1♡	Dble
2♡	Dble	Pass	$3 \otimes$
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♡
Pass	6 4	All Pass	

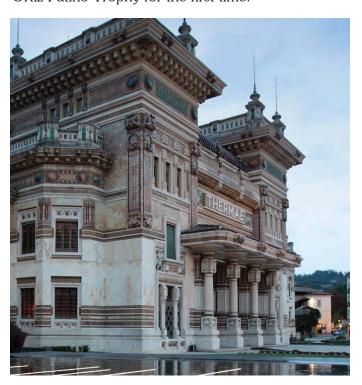
First of all, Klukowski-Zmuda do employ a natural 15-17 1NT opening. So why 14 (Polish), showing either 12-14 balanced, 15+ with real clubs or any 18+ hand? Evidently Michal Klukowski upgraded this extremely nice 16-count and decided that it was too good for a 1NT opening!

His LHO displayed remarkable creativity as well with a semi-psychic 1% overcall, and an unusual auction developed: South's double showed four-plus spades, while North's double over 2% showed exactly three spades. So far Zmuda hadn't promised more than 6 HCP, so she now cue-bid 3%, forcing to game.

Her partner had a problem, because bidding 3NT at this stage would have shown the weak variety of the 1% opening. So he jumped to 4NT – not ace-asking, but just showing a strong balanced hand.

After partner had shown 18+, Zmuda wanted to be in slam, but wasn't sure which, so she bid 6%, and now came a very important moment. Many a good player would have been tempted to bid $7\diamondsuit$ at this point with the North cards, but Klukowski showed us why he is a Bermuda Bowl winner. He remembered that he had already overbid with $1\clubsuit$, so it was time for cautiousness at the six-level. He chose a modest $6\clubsuit$ bid (hoping to ruff clubs in his hand). True, 6NT was clearly better and a 5-1 trump distribution might have sunk $6\clubsuit$, but eventually everything was okay and Poland even scored 2 IMPs on this board.

By the end of day Poland's lead was 39 IMPs, and it became a mammoth 83 IMPs by the end of the fifth session. Congratulations to the Polish team! Despite the many talented junior players coming out of Poland in the last few decades, they have just won the Jaime Ortiz-Patiño Trophy for the first time.







SAVING THE BEST UNTIL LAST

PHILLIP ALDER

With only the opponents vulnerable, you (South) hold:

↑ 10 8♡ A Q 9 6◇ A K J♣ K 9 7 3

The bidding goes:

West	North	East	South
		1 ♠	Dble
2 ^	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♦	3♠	All Pass

What would you lead?

Often at the end of a long tournament, the standard of play deteriorates because the players are tired. But surely the best defence of these championships, and perhaps of the year, occurred on the fourth board of the final set in the Youngsters final between Italy and the Netherlands.

This was the full deal:

Dealer East. E-W vul.

↑ 7 5 4♡ J 10◇ Q 10 6 4 2

♣ J 5 2

♠ J 3 2 ♡ K 8 7 5 2

♦ 9 7

♣ Q 10 8

W E

♠ A K Q 9 6 ♥ 4 3 ♦ 8 5 3

♣ A 6 4

↑ 108

The bidding was identical at both tables:

West	North	East	South
Caris	Manganella	Dupont	Scala
Giubilo	M. Stougie	Porta	L. Stougie
		1 ^	Dble
2 ^	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♦	3♠	All Pass

In the Open Room, Sebastiano Scala made the "normal" lead – the ace of diamonds. After seeing the dummy, he switched to the ten of trumps ... too late. Pim Dupont won in his hand and led another diamond. South played his jack and Andrea Manganella (North) overtook with his queen to lead a second trump, but declarer won with his nine and ruffed a diamond in the dummy. After that, East had only two losers in the rounded suits, so made his contract for plus 140.

In the Closed Room, Leen Stougie (South) found the trump lead at trick one! The declarer, Federico Porta, won with his spade nine and led a diamond. South took that trick with his *king* and led another spade. East won with his queen to lead another diamond, but South played the jack and his brother, Marc Stougie, overtook with his queen to play a third trump and kill the diamond ruff in the dummy. Now declarer had to lose one heart, three diamonds and one club to go one down.

That brilliant defence gained 5 imps for the Netherlands. But it proved to be too little too late, with Italy taking the title by 217 imps to 175.







GRAND FINAL

PHILLIP ALDER

There are certain hands that basically cannot be bid scientifically, especially when the opponents burn up acres of bidding space.

On Board 17 of the fourth session on Friday, with neither side vulnerable, the West players held:

♠ A K J 8 ♡ Q J 10 8 3 2 ◇ Q 10 ♣ A

After a pass by North, partner opens with one strong notrump. What should West do after South bids (a) three clubs or (b) four clubs or (c) five clubs?

Over three clubs, West can bid three hearts if it definitely forcing, or cue-bid four clubs. Over the higher interventions, though, some guesswork will be needed.

This was the full deal:

Dealer North. None vul. **♠** 652 ♥965 ♦ K 8 5 4 3 2 **4** 2 **♠** A K J 8 **♠** O 10 9 7 ♥ QJ10832 ♦ Q 10 ♦ A J 9 **♣** A ♣ Q 8 3 **♠** 4 3 ♥ 7 ♦ 76 ♣ KJ 10 9 7 6 5 4

As you can see, seven spades is the best contract. You win the club lead and draw two rounds of trumps. When they break 3-2, you draw the last trump and claim these thirteen tricks: four spades, six hearts, one diamond, one club and a club ruff in the West hand. If spades are 4-1, you take the club ruff earlier.

Seven hearts seems to need the diamond finesse, which admittedly is a favourite given that South has lots of clubs. However, just for curiosity, how could West make seven hearts on a club lead if he knew South had the king of diamonds, say doubleton? I will return to that at the end.

Let's look at the various sequences.

Youngsters, Italy vs. Netherlands

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
L. Stougie	Manganella	M. Stougie	Scata
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1 %	Pass	1NT	3♣
Dble	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠ (a)	Pass	6♡	All Pass

(a) Two key cards and the queen of hearts

If Leen Stougie had used Roman Key Card Blackwood over four diamonds, he would have learned that his partner had ace-king-ace in the red suits. If he had followed up with five notrumps, he would have learned that he had no minor-suit king. So, he presumably had both major-suit queens; but without knowing about the four-card spade suit, bidding seven would still have been a gamble.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Giubilo	Caris	Porta	Dupont
	2♣ (a)	2NT	4♣
5 ♣	Pass	5 ^	Pass
6 4	Pass	Pass	Pass

Gianmarco Giubilo uncovered the spade fit, but had no room to conduct a scientific sequence.

Both declarers took all thirteen tricks for a flat board.

Juniors Third-Place Playoff Sweden vs. Netherlands

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
C. Westerb.	Gullberg	R. Westeri	b.Gronkvist
	Pass	1NT	4♣
6♡	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South			
O. Rimstedt	Polak	M. Rimstedt	t van Overb.			
	Pass	1NT	5 ♣			
6♡	Pass	Pass	Pass			

Another push.

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Juniors Final China vs. Poland

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Tang	Klukowski	Tao	Zmuda
	Pass	1♣	3♣
3♡	Pass	4 %	Pass
4NT	Pass	5 %	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♡	Pass
7♡	Pass	Pass	Pass

It was slightly surprising that Tang bid seven when his partner denied a minor-suit king, but perhaps he was thinking about seven notrump.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Nowak	Wei	Kazmiercz	zak Sun
	Pass	1NT	4 ♣
5 %	Pass	6 %	Pass
7♡	Pass	Pass	Pass

Nicely done ... sort of, for another flat board.

Now we get to the third-place playoff in the Youngsters: China Hong Kong vs. Germany.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Man	Alter	Tseng	Streck
	Pass	1NT	5♣
6 ♣	Pass	6 ^	All Pass

That was bettered by one of my three favourite sequences:

Open Room:

West	North	East	South	
Vornkahl	Chan	van Oos	ten Tsang	
	Pass	1NT	5 %	
7911	Pass	Pass	Dace	

Germany won 11 imps.

The two best squences occurred in the girls matches.

First, the unsuccessful auctions. Australia vs. Netherlands

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Ticha	Brake	Banas	McGrath
	Pass	1NT	4♣
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

This did not do so well, the contract only going four down, plus 800 to the Netherlands.

Indonesia vs. Norway

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Hauge	Sibuea	Ekren	Ningtias
	Pass	1NT	3♣
4♣	Pass	4	Pass
4NT	Pass	5 ^	Pass
6 ^	Pass	Pass	Pass

Now the "winners":

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Cooper	Bruijnsteen	Pattison	Wackwitz
	Pass	1NT	3♣
4♣	Pass	4	Pass
4NT (a)	Pass	5♠ (b)	Pass
5NT (c)	Pass	6♡ (d)	Pass
7♠ (e)	Pass	Pass	Pass

- (a) Roman Key Card Blackwood
- (b) Two key cards and the queen of spades
- (c) Anything extra?
- (d) The king of hearts (and no minor-suit king)
- (e) "Thank you, partner!"

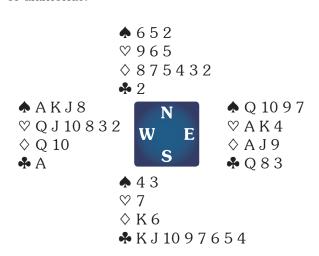
Just perfect and a gain of 12 imps.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Eva	Sjodal	Martanti	Indrebo
	Pass	1NT	3♣
Dble	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	$4\diamondsuit$	Pass
4NT	Pass	5 ^	Pass
6♡	Pass	7 ^	All Pass

So that was 11 imps to Indonesia.

Now let's look at the play when South has the king of diamonds.



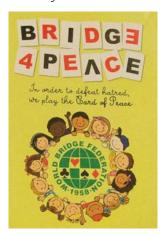


West in seven hearts can catch South in a crisscross squeeze. He wins with the ace of clubs, runs all of the trumps except one, then cashes the spades ending in the East hand. With the last one to come, this is the position:

On the last spade, what does South discard?

If he throws the six of diamonds, declarer cashes the ace and his hand is high. Or, if South pitches the jack of clubs, a club ruff establishes dummy's queen.

Pretty.







THE STRANGEST RESULT

PHILLIP ALDER

In the Youngsters final, Italy started the last day down by 42 imps but gained 84 to win by 42: 217-175.

Perhaps this was the strangest Italian gain in the final set:

Dealer South. Both vul.



♣ 10 9 3

West	North	East	South
Caris	Manganella	Dupont	Scala
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

The auction in the Open Room was short:

The result in the Closed Room was sweet for the Italians:

West	North	East	South L. Stougie 2♦ (a)
Giubilo	M. Stougie	Porta	
Pass	2♥ (b)	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

- (a) Weak two-bid in either major
- (b) Pass or correct

North led the jack of spades. Gianmarco Giubilo, aided by three winning finesses and the doubleton king of clubs, took all thirteen tricks: two spades, one heart, five diamonds and five clubs!

That was worth 12 imps to Italy.

