



BULLETIN

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Editorial

There is considerable consternation in the camps of the European qualifiers for the next Junior World Championships. Read Kees Tammens' letter to the WBF on page 15 (and Gianarrigo Rona's response on page 16) to understand why.

The crux of the matter is that some of the Juniors who played for the European nations which qualified for the next World Junior Championship will be too old to play Juniors at that time. These European players, naturally, want to play and want the WBF to apply its old rule, which would have allowed them to play if they had played in their Zonal championships a year earlier under the same age-restriction rules.

In effect, this gave some players, mainly Europeans, an unfair advantage over the rest of the world, who for one reason or another, may not have competed in Zonal trials. In some zones (Africa, BFAME, South America, CAC) in some years, there have not been enough nations with Junior teams to hold Zonal trials. In other Zones (South Pacific, North America) there are so few countries to begin with that the nations in those Zones with Junior teams qualified automatically (the USA with 2 of the 3 spots allowed). Effectively, at an age where bridge knowledge is growing by leaps and bounds, some players were a year older than the others.

The WBF corrected this inequity by applying the age restriction uniformly across the board and is to be lauded for doing so. The rules should be the same for everyone. If Under-26 is the rule for the Junior World Championships, it should be the same for all. The current controversy seems to be a European Bridge League issue, (or perhaps an individual NBO issue), not a WBF issue. If the age limit is 26, the EBL should govern its zonal championships accordingly. If they are played a year before, either make their own players 25, or at the least, ensure they are aware that they are ineligible for world play a year later.

There is another consideration: one year out, there is no guarantee that a player or pair will be in form when the appropriate championship rolls around. Thus, for example, no one would expect the team qualifying for the FIFA World Cup to be identical to the team that eventually shows up in Qatar a year or two later. In sports where one qualifies as a nation, the nation (or the manager, or a committee, or a trials) determines the actual competitors for each championship. Winning one championship does not guarantee participation in another.

In this particular case, the teams from other zones (12 of them) should be allowed the same perquisite if the WBF does allow the Europeans to play - it should proffer the same age-limit rule exception to all other Zones as well.

As a matter of record, the current age rule was formulated two years ago, at the WBF Executive meeting in São Paulo, giving the EBL more than enough time to make the necessary adjustments. If they have done so, the word had not apparently reached the players in time.

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From Various Scribes

It's All About the Small Clubs... Micke Melander, Sundsbruk, Sweden

In Round 3 of the Juniors, several interesting boards appeared. Some of them looked quite easy, but became difficult because of the fact that the defence made some brilliant moves, messing with the mind of declarer. Let's start by looking at one hand from the match between Sweden and Greece where Vroustis knew how to give Cecilia Rimstedt major problems. This was the deal:

Board 3. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Grönkvist | Vroustis | Rimstedt | Doxiadis |
| — | — | — | 1 ♦ |
| 2 NT ¹ | Pass | 4 ♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

1. Two-suiter with clubs and hearts

Doxiadis thought for a long time before leading and was seriously fingering four different cards: a low diamond, a small trump, the ace of spades and a small spade!

In the end, he started with the ace of spades which collected the five, two and declarer's eight. Doxiadis thought for another while then played the six of spades, that was one of the cards he had been fingering at the previous trick. This put Cecilia Rimstedt under pressure and one might ask oneself if he had led an unsupported ace? Another key question is that we probably know that South doesn't have all the missing diamond honours. You know as declarer that you are about to lose two club tricks so you can't afford to lose anything more.

A reasonable plan would be to set up the clubs and pull the trumps or, alternatively, to set up the spades when you have already had them led. However, first you need to decide, ruff or discard on the spade return? Rimstedt ruffed and played a club from dummy. Now Vroustis made a brilliant play by just following with the four of clubs! That went to the nine and a ruff by South. Doxiadis again attacked with the nine of spades, which declarer now ran to the ten. What now? Rimstedt played the queen of spades, covered by the king and ruffed high in dummy, North discarding a diamond. On the queen of clubs from dummy, Vroustis again played low! South ruffed and exited with his last trump and that went to the six, four and declarer's eight.. This was the situation:

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

Rimstedt was now helpless and had to concede another trick, going one off because of all the small clubs that were played from Vroustis! Well done.

According to Deep Finesse you only have nine tricks as declarer; the spades at tricks one and two gave declarer the chance to make it. However, on a diamond lead you are most probably down, since you need to be in dummy and lead clubs up to your hand with accurate defence.

A Lot of Hard Work to Lose an IMP Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK

Round Four of the Juniors Championship featured possibly the best piece of card play yet seen here in Albena. It came from Lars Arthur Johansen of Norway in his team's match against the Netherlands and despite his brilliant card-reading, Norway still lost an IMP on the board.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ A Q 10 4 2
♥ K J 9
♦ A Q 8
♣ K 8

♠ J 9 6
♥ 8 6
♦ 10 6 5 2
♣ Q 10 5 3

♠ 7 3
♥ Q 10 5 3
♦ 4 3
♣ A J 9 7 2

♠ K 8 5
♥ A 7 4 2
♦ K J 9 7
♣ 6 4

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| Skjetne | Drijver | Simonsen | Wackwitz |
| Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 NT |
| Pass | 3 ♣ | Pass | 3 ♥ |
| Pass | 3 ♠ | Pass | 3 NT |
| Pass | 4 ♣ | Pass | 4 ♦ |
| Pass | 4 NT | Pass | 5 ♥ |
| Pass | 6 ♠ | Pass | Pass |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------------------|---------|------------------|
| Hop | Johansen | Helmich | Bogen |
| Pass | 2 ♦ ¹ | Pass | 2 ♥ ² |
| Pass | 2 NT ³ | Pass | 3 ♣ ⁴ |
| Pass | 3 ♠ ⁵ | Pass | 4 ♦ ⁶ |
| Pass | 4 ♥ ⁷ | Pass | 6 ♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

1. Multi, including 20-21 balanced
2. Pass or correct
3. 20-21
4. Puppet Stayman
5. Five-card spade suit
6. Cue bid; denies a club control
7. Heart cue bid; also promises a club control

For the Netherlands, Bob Drijver opened one spade and the Dutch pair bid smoothly to six spades. After a heart lead round to the nine, Drijver drew trumps, then cashed the diamonds, squeezing Simonsen in hearts and clubs for the overtrick; plus 1460.

East showed a great deal of interest in the Norwegian bidding, and in particular the implications of the auction regarding the club control. Finally, he led the four of diamonds to the seven, ten and ace. Johansen drew trumps in three rounds, East pitching the two of clubs, then continued with a fourth trump. Both defenders threw clubs while Johansen pitched a heart from dummy. Next came a heart to the ace followed by a diamond to hand and the fifth trump. This collected hearts from East and dummy and a diamond from West.

Johansen played a diamond, East pitching the nine of clubs, then the last diamond, on which West threw the eight of hearts. This was the point at which

Johansen had to commit himself to one suit or the other and he did so, throwing his low club. East had no choice but to throw the jack of clubs and now Johansen had to decide whether to take the heart finesse or play for the strip-squeeze to have worked, exiting with a club to the hoped-for bare ace with East, who would then be forced to lead into the heart tenace.

Everything pointed to the actual position – not only the pattern of discards but also the passive opening lead, when a club would have been the natural choice from many holdings without the ace, plus East's questions about the auction. Johansen duly played a club and made his slam for plus 1430. A fine piece of card-reading, but a lot of hard work to lose an IMP.

Greek Greed Turns into a Gift
by Jan van Cleeff, The Hague, Netherlands

The last hand of Round 5 in the Juniors event between France and Greece was quite special:

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ K 8 7 5 3
♥ A 4
♦ J 6
♣ A K 8 7

♠ A Q 10 6 2
♥ 7 6 3
♦ K Q 4
♣ J 6

♠ J 9 4
♥ K 10 2
♦ A 10 8 7
♣ Q 9 5

♠ —
♥ Q J 9 8 5
♦ 9 5 3 2
♣ 10 4 3 2

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Franceschetti | Vroustis | l'Huissier | Doxiadis |
| 1 ♠ | Pass | 1 NT ¹ | Pass |
| 2 ♦ ² | Pass | 3 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Double ³ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

1. One-round force
2. Three-plus diamonds
3. Enough is enough

The doubled part score requires delicate defence and dummy play as on repeated club leads declarer may get trump shortened.

Vassilis Vroustis found the best defence. He kicked off with three rounds of clubs. Declarer got rid of a heart and advanced the jack of spades, correctly ducked by North. Declarer crossed to hand in diamonds and played a heart. North flew with the ace and returned the jack of diamonds to declarer's queen. Declarer continued with a low spade. Again North rightly ducked his king. Dummy's nine took the trick in this position:

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

Franceschetti played the king of hearts and ruffed a heart with the queen of trumps. If North over-ruffs he only has losing options left. So he discarded the seven of clubs. Declarer countered by exiting with his diamond. North had to ruff but was endplayed; three spades doubled made. Neat.

Netherlands v Croatia Brian Senior

Croatia had been doing very well in the Juniors Championship. The Round 12 clash with perennial challengers Netherlands was an important match for both teams and featured some interesting play and defensive problems.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Dondivic</i> | <i>Drijver</i> | <i>Stankovic</i> | <i>Wackwitz</i> |
| — | Pass | Pass | 2 ♥ |
| Double | 2 NT | 3 ♦ | 3 ♥ |
| Double | Pass | 4 ♦ | Pass |
| 4 ♥ | Double | 5 ♦ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Hop</i> | <i>Ruso</i> | <i>Helmich</i> | <i>Postic</i> |
| — | Pass | Pass | 2 ♥ |
| Double | 4 ♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Double | Pass | 5 ♦ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Via slightly different routes, both Easts reached five diamonds, against which South led the queen of hearts to dummy's bare king. Helmich played the ace then

ruffed a spade and ran the ten of diamonds. Back came a heart. He won the ace and ran the jack of diamonds and, when that won, took a club finesse. Ruso won and played a top spade and Postic could over-ruff for one down; minus 100.

Stankovic did rather better than his counterpart. He cashed the ace of diamonds at trick two and the fall of the queen was excellent news. He played the ace of spades and ruffed one, ruffed the ten of hearts and played dummy's last trump. Wackwitz won the king of diamonds and played a club, but Stankovic was taking no risks, rising with the ace and ruffing a spade to hand to draw the last trump before giving up a club; plus 600 and 12 IMPs to Croatia.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Dondivic</i> | <i>Drijver</i> | <i>Stankovic</i> | <i>Wackwitz</i> |
| 1 ♣ | 1 ♠ | Double | Pass |
| 2 ♥ | Pass | 3 NT | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Hop</i> | <i>Ruso</i> | <i>Helmich</i> | <i>Postic</i> |
| 1 ♣ | 1 ♠ | 2 ♠ | Pass |
| 2 NT | Pass | 3 NT | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Stankovic could start with a negative double without promising hearts and jumped to three no trump at his next turn to deny heart support. At the other table, Helmich started by showing club support then raised the two-no-trump response to game.

Wackwitz led the ten of spades to the jack, queen and ace, and Stankovic ran the queen of clubs, thinking to attack North's potential late entry. Bob Drijver won the king and played the king then the seven of spades and it didn't matter which red ace Stankovic chose to knock out, the defence had established three more spade winners and the contract was three down for minus 300.

Ruso led the king of spades, ducked, and continued with the queen to the ace. Gerbardn Hop played the king of diamonds to Postic's ace and he led a heart through, Ruso taking the ace. She led the seven of

spades to declarer's nine. Hop crossed to the queen of diamonds to cash the king and jack of hearts, Ruso throwing a spade. Next came the jack and ten of diamonds, dummy coming down to ace-jack of clubs and a heart.

Ruso could see the endplay coming, the six of spades forcing her to lead away from the club king at the end, so she bared the club. Hop read the ending correctly, however, leading a club to the ace, felling the king, then back to his queen for the ninth trick. Nicely played for plus 600 and 14 IMPs to Netherlands.

Deep Thought Brian Senior

In Round 9 of the Juniors Championship, France gave Serbia a bit of a thrashing. The highlight was this top-quality defence from Cedric Lorenzini and Christophe Grosset.

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <i>Franceschetti</i> | <i>Djorovic</i> | <i>l'Huissier</i> | <i>Trnavac</i> |
| 1 ♥ | Pass | 3 ♣ | 3 ♠ |
| 4 ♥ | Pass | Pass | Double |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Jelic</i> | <i>Grosset</i> | <i>Marinkovic</i> | <i>Lorenzini</i> |
| 1 ♥ | Pass | 3 ♦ | 3 ♠ |
| 4 ♥ | Pass | Pass | Double |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

The two auctions were equivalent, with both East players showing an invitational heart raise. Both Norths led the jack of spades.

Trnavac, for Serbia, won the ace of spades then continued with the king followed by the two. Djorovic ruffed and duly returned a club, as requested, to the queen and ace. Six rounds of trumps crushed the South hand. Knowing that he needed to keep the diamond guard, Trnavac threw all his clubs away, hoping to find partner with the jack, but it was not to be and the jack of clubs and ace-king of diamonds won the last three tricks for plus 590 to France.

At the other table, Cedric Lorenzini looked more deeply into the hand. It is easy to give a suit-preference signal for your stronger side-suit, in this case clubs, but, when partner ruffs the third spade, is there any layout where a club switch is actually necessary? I think the answer is clearly no. The next question is, is there any layout where a diamond switch is necessary? And the answer is, yes, the actual one, where declarer has six hearts, the jack of clubs and a singleton diamond. Now a diamond switch is essential as it breaks up the minor-suit squeeze.

Lorenzini won the king and ace of spades but then continued with the eight of spades, suit-preference for diamonds, and Christophe Grosset trusted that his partner knew what he was doing, despite the top diamonds being in dummy. He did as requested, switching to a diamond, and Lorenzini's deep thought was rewarded; one down for minus 100 and 12 IMPs to France.

Four Hearts was also defeated by Poland (Piotr Tuczynski/Pawel Jassem) and Denmark (Niclas Ege/Lars Tofte) in the Juniors. The contract was defeated six times out of 14 in the Youngsters Championship.

A Fatal Lead Ram Soffer, Givatayim, Israel

In Round 12, Israel, the leaders in the Juniors Series, inflicted a heavy 25-2 defeat on Hungary. Alon Birman (whose father is the Israeli national Junior coach, David Birman) reported the following hand.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <i>Padon</i> | <i>Torma</i> | <i>Birman</i> | <i>Hoffmann</i> |
| Pass | 2 ♦ | 3 ♣ | Pass |
| 4 ♦ | Pass | 4 ♥ | Pass |
| 4 ♠ | Pass | 4 NT | Pass |
| 5 ♣ | Pass | 6 ♣ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Having passed as dealer, Dror Padon could freely bid his values later. Following Birman's three-club overcall of the weak-two opening bid, he splintered to four diamonds. More cue bids followed and they landed in six clubs.

Though not unreasonable, this slam is borderline at best. After the normal lead of the diamond king, declarer plans to ruff three diamonds in dummy, and will have to decide how to go for the twelfth trick. The a priori percentage play is to cash the ace-king of spades hoping for the queen to drop, and then finesse the heart queen if it does not. In the given layout this would have failed.

However, Tamas Hoffmann (South) decided not to lead his partner's suit since the heart jack looked safer. Indeed, how can such a sequence lead from a long suit cost? It surely did cost!

Looking at the lead and planning the play, Birman could be sure that North held the heart king, since there would be absolutely no reason to underlead a king when partner has bid another suit. Therefore his only chance was in spades but, before committing to the finesse, Birman explored the hand a little bit.

He won the first trick with the ace of hearts and played the jack of diamonds. North won his ace and led a trump. Birman won the club ace and ruffed a diamond, and South's king appeared. Next came the king of clubs and another diamond ruff. Birman now knew that North started with ace-queen to six diamonds and the king of hearts. Since he had opened a weak two, he was highly unlikely to have the queen of spades as well. Next came a heart ruff (hoping for the fall of the king) and another diamond ruff.

North's hand was counted: six diamonds, two clubs and at least three hearts. He could have at most a doubleton spade, not including the queen. Evidently the only hope was a singleton or doubleton ten.

Birman cashed the spade ace, played out his last two clubs, discarding a spade and the heart queen (North discarding the heart king), and then came the decisive moment. Birman trusted his card-reading and led the jack of spades, making the slam. South learned the hard way that failing to lead his partner's suit can be very costly.

Declarer's Dilemma Jan van Cleeff

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|--------|------------------|------------------|
| — | Birman | — | Padon |
| 1 ♣ | 1 ♦ | 1 ♠ ¹ | 2 ♣ ² |
| 2 ♠ ³ | Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

1. Four or five spades
2. Fit, invitational
3. Four-card spade raise

In the Round 13 match Israel v Denmark (Juniors), Alon Birman put a lot of pressure on declarer. South led the diamond seven – queen, king, ace. Declarer cashed the trump king, South following, and advanced the eight of hearts, which rode to Birman's queen. Which card to return?

It looked from the lead that partner did not have the diamond jack, so Birman returned the five of hearts, the ten of hearts being allowed to hold the trick. Declarer, afraid of a heart ruff, continued with another top spade, as with spades 3-2 he would be home. With this layout, however, the contract was doomed due to the unavoidable ruff.

With all cards in view one sees that finessing the trump queen is obligatory to reach ten tricks. Still, well done Alon Birman to create a dilemma for declarer, who was afraid that North would ruff the third round of hearts from an original holding of three small spades. Had North switched to a spade instead, declarer would have been obliged to finesse the suit.

Card Reading and Technical Play Micke Melander

Let's have a look at two quite instructive boards that occurred in Round 14 of the Juniors.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| Padon | Karlsson | Birman | Gullberg |
| — | Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass |
| 3 ♦ ¹ | Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

1. Four-card limit raise in spades

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|----------|----------|--------|
| Grönkvist | Schwartz | Rimstedt | Fisher |
| — | Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass |
| 2 NT | Pass | 3 ♣ | Pass |
| 4 ♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

You know that you will lose one trick in each of the red suits. Trumps are probably solid, so the question is how to play the clubs to avoid two losers there?

Birman, in the Open Room, got the three of hearts lead and that went to North's king and declarer's ace. He then played a club to the king – well guessed, we should say!

Rimstedt, in the Closed Room, got the five of hearts lead, and that went to North's jack and declarer's ace. Before making a guess in clubs, she now played the nine of hearts, on which South went up with the queen, clarifying how the honours were distributed, since South probably would not have led a low heart from king-queen-ten. Fisher continued with a low diamond, finessed to North's king, and he exited with a low trump. A second round of trumps by declarer told her that North also had the jack of spades.

Now - adding all that up, Cecilia Rimstedt knew that if North had the ace of clubs he would have opened the bidding, so there was no guess any longer. Well played.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|----------|--------|----------|
| Padon | Karlsson | Birman | Gullberg |
| — | — | Pass | 1 ♣ |
| 2 ♦ | 2 ♠ | Pass | 3 ♥ |
| Pass | 3NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|----------|----------|--------|
| Grönkvist | Schwartz | Rimstedt | Fisher |
| — | — | Pass | 1 ♦ |
| 2 ♦ | 2 ♥ | Pass | 3 NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

In the Open Room, Birman led the nine of spades. That was covered by the queen from dummy, Padon brilliantly played low, allowing declarer to win the trick

and keeping the defensive transportation open in the suit.

Declarer knows about the two-suiter with West and has a good chance of finding the diamonds onside, so Karlsson continued with a heart to the king and the jack of diamonds. East jumped up with the ace and continued the attack in spades, beating the contract.

In the Closed Room, Fisher had the same knowledge from the bidding and got a spade lead to the nine, ducked by declarer! The defence continued with a second round of spades to the jack and king. West now exited with a heart, won in dummy. Fisher continued with a diamond to the king and the nine of diamonds, throwing East in. Rimstedt cashed the ace of diamonds and exited with her last heart. Declarer won the trick in his hand, entered dummy in hearts to cash his diamonds, and finally had to decide to finesse or not in clubs. Fisher read the situation correctly and took the finesse to make his contract. A well-deserved 12 IMPs for Israel.

Bilde for Denmark also made three no trump in the same fashion, ducking the nine of spades lead.

Double Delight

We offer special congratulations to Justyna Zmuda of Poland. Not many people win two European Championships at one tournament, but Justyna was a member of the Polish gold-medal winning teams in both the Girls and Youngsters Championships. Not bad for ten days work!

Winners and Qualifiers

The 2011 European Juniors Gold Medalists and Champions - Israel (Alon Birman, Lotan Fisher, Gal Gerstner, Moshe Meyuchas, Dror Padon, Ron Schwartz, NPC Gilad Ofir).

The top finishers were: Israel 417, Italy 398, Denmark 386, Bulgaria 384, France 357, Netherlands 355.

The 2011 European Youngsters Gold Medalists and Champions - Poland (Wojciech Kazmierczak, Adam Krysa, Adam Lonski, Kamil Madej, Lukasz Witkowski, Justyna Zmuda, NPC Włodzimierz Krysztofczyk).

Top scores: Poland 339, Israel 313, Sweden 302, England 294, Norway 289, France 287, Italy 287.

The 2011 European Girls Gold Medalists and Champions – Poland (Magdalena Holeska, Aleksandra Jarosz, Danuta Kazmucha, Joanna Taczevska, Izabela Weinhold, Justyna Zmuda, NPC Mirosław Cichocki).

The qualifiers: Poland 202, Netherlands 175, France 154, Italy 153, Sweden 152, Hungary 127.

The Treble

Israel has won the World Championship, the White House and the Europeans in the past ten months.



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

Members may use these deals as they wish, without attributing the author or IBPA

A little more complex this month, with a common theme!

577. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|--------|------|-------|
| — | — | — | 1 ♠ |
| 2 ♠ | Double | Pass | Pass |
| 3 ♣ | 4 ♣ | Pass | 4 ♦ |
| Pass | 4 NT | Pass | 5 ♠ |
| Pass | 6 ♠ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

North was very astute in the bidding on this deal and South in the play. Both players took advantage of West's two-suited overcall, showing hearts and a minor. Firstly, North doubled, thinking that it might be advantageous in the play to make West reveal his second suit. Secondly, South used that knowledge to make his slam.

After the jack of diamonds lead to the ace, declarer cashed the ace of spades and led another to the king, discovering the 4-1 split there. He knew he could safely take the king and queen of diamonds and did so, throwing clubs from hand. Next he cashed his three remaining spades, picking up East's jack in the process. He threw a diamond and a heart from dummy on the last two trumps.

On declarer's last trump, West was down to king-jack-ten in both his suits. Declarer could simply play the ace and another of West's remaining two-card suit, both setting up a long card in that suit and endplaying him to lead away from the king in the other.

578. South's final bid on this deal was typical of some players' misplaced pairs tactics. He hoped that twelve tricks would be the limit in both spades and no trump and had prepared as his excuse that he wanted to protect his queen of hearts.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|-------|------|-------|
| — | — | — | 1 NT |
| 2 ♣ ¹ | 3 ♠ | Pass | 4 ♠ |
| Pass | 5 ♥ | Pass | 6 ♣ |
| Pass | 6 ♦ | Pass | 6 NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

1. Hearts and another suit

West led the queen of clubs, taken in hand with the ace as East played an encouraging eight. Declarer had only ten top tricks and his only hope of extra tricks was to pressure West. When West discarded a heart on the queen of spades, declarer placed him with five hearts. On the next four spades West threw another heart and three clubs (he could not afford to part with even one diamond as declarer would then set up two long diamond tricks) while South parted with a club then a diamond. This was the endgame:

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

The discarding suggested that West had started with 0=5=4=4 shape, so declarer played a club to his king. If West threw a heart, declarer could play ace and another heart to set up two long hearts in dummy for

his eleventh and twelfth tricks. When West actually threw a diamond, declarer played the king and ace of diamonds followed by a third diamond. West now had to lead away from his king of hearts, allowing South to score two heart tricks and a third diamond trick for his contract.

South did not have to make excuses for his bidding.

579. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 8 7 2
♥ K 10 5 2
♦ A 4
♣ K Q 10 2

♠ K J 10 9 5 3
♥ 9 8 7
♦ K J 3
♣ 5

♠ 6 4
♥ 6
♦ 10 8 7 6 2
♣ J 9 7 4 3

♠ A Q
♥ A Q J 4 3
♦ Q 9 5
♣ A 8 6

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| — | — | — | 1 ♥ |
| 2 ♠ | 3 ♠ | Pass | 4 ♣ |
| Pass | 4 ♦ | Pass | 4 NT |
| Pass | 5 ♥ | Pass | 6 ♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Declarer placed West with the diamond king, and also needed that defender to hold either the jack or the ten for him to execute his planned endgame.

As the prospect of a club ruff was remote, West led a trump. Declarer drew trumps in three rounds then tested the clubs, ruffing the fourth round of the suit in hand. Declarer placed West with 6=3=3=1 shape. These cards remained:

♠ 8 7 2
♥ 5
♦ A 4
♣ —

♠ K J 10
♥ —
♦ K J 3
♣ —

♠ —
♥ —
♦ 10 8 7
♣ J 9 7

♠ A Q
♥ Q
♦ Q 9 5
♣ —

On the play of the heart queen, West's best defence is to discard the jack of diamonds and play the king when a diamond is led towards the ace (this succeeds if East has the ten-nine of diamonds). Here it allows declarer to win the diamond ace and finesse the nine for the twelfth trick.

If West instead discards a low diamond, declarer plays a diamond to the ace and ducks a diamond back to

West. He is then endplayed, forced to lead into the ace-queen of spades. If he discards a spade, the spade ace-queen endplays him for a lead away from the king of diamonds as well as setting up a long spade.

580. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ A 7 3
♥ Q 4
♦ K Q 5
♣ K Q J 10 6

♠ K J 10 5 2
♥ K J 10 6 3
♦ 10 9
♣ 3

♠ 9 6
♥ 9 2
♦ J 8 7 6 2
♣ 9 8 5 4

♠ Q 8 4
♥ A 8 7 5
♦ A 4 3
♣ A 7 2

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|------------------|------|-------|
| — | — | Pass | 1 ♣ |
| 2 ♣ ¹ | 2 ♥ ² | Pass | 2 NT |
| Pass | 4 NT | Pass | 6 NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

1. At least 5-5 in the majors and at most 7 losers
2. Limit raise or better in clubs.

The diamond ten was led and declarer won the ace and had only ten winners and so needed a two-trick-gaining squeeze in the majors, but there was a twist in the ending.

After he cashes his minor-suit winners, if West has not unblocked in spades, then declarer endplays him in spades if he has two cards remaining in that suit or runs the heart queen to him if he has two hearts left.

Consequently, West's best defence is to unblock in spades and, with only one minor suit winner left to be played, we have:

♠ A 7 3
♥ Q 4
♦ —
♣ 10

♠ K J 5
♥ K J 6
♦ —
♣ —

♠ 9 6
♥ 9 2
♦ J 8
♣ —

♠ Q 8 4
♥ A 8 7
♦ —
♣ —

Dummy's club ten is played and declarer must throw the spade four. West does best to throw a heart. Declarer now plays the heart four to the ace and if West keeps the king, he will be endplayed; he will then be forced to lead away from the spade king and that will give declarer a trick with spade queen and another with the long heart.

So, as he sees what will happen if he keeps the king of hearts, West finds the best defence by unblocking it under the ace (this is the winning defence if South did not have either the eight or nine of spades). After a heart to the queen we have:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>♠ A 7 3</p> <p>♥ —</p> <p>♦ —</p> <p>♣ —</p> | <p>♠ 9 6</p> <p>♥ —</p> <p>♦ J</p> <p>♣ —</p> | <p>♠ K J 5</p> <p>♥ —</p> <p>♦ —</p> <p>♣ —</p> |
| <p>♠ Q 8</p> <p>♥ 8</p> <p>♦ —</p> <p>♣ —</p> | | |

As you can see, West has already been one-suit squeezed in spades. Declarer leads the spade three to the nine, queen and king. West has no winning option: a low spade sees a pair of eights take the last two tricks; on the spade jack exit, declarer makes the ace and seven. Of course, East does no better to play the six on the first lead of the suit.

IBPA EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Monday morning, October 24th 2011
Veldhoven, Netherlands

Agenda

1. To replace the elected auditor for the 2010 IBPA Accounts, Julius Butkow of South Africa, with Richard Fleet of England.
2. To adopt the Constitution published on the IBPA website for this EGM.

To be followed by the AGM

IBPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & AWARDS

Monday morning, October 24th 2011
Veldhoven, Netherlands

Agenda

1. **Remembrance** of members deceased since last AGM.
2. **Minutes** of the AGM held on 11th October, 2010 in Philadelphia (see Bulletin 550, page 12 & 13) and matters arising.
3. **Officers' Reports:** President, Chairman, Secretary
4. **Appointees' Reports:** Editor, Liaison Officer, Membership Secretary.
5. **Treasurer:** Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2010, budget and proposal regarding subscriptions for the year 2011. Auditor's report for 2010.
6. **Elections:** Officers already elected to the 2012 AGM are: President: Patrick Jourdain (Wales); Chairman: Per Jannersten (Sweden); Exec Vice-President: Jan van Cleeff (Netherlands); Organisational Vice-President: Dilip Gidwani (India); Secretary: Herman de Wael (Belgium); Treasurer: Heather Dhondy (England).
New Treasurer to be elected for 2012 and 2013: Richard Solomon (New Zealand).
Proposed for annual election are: Hon. General Counsel: Bill Pencharz (England); Hon. Auditor: Richard Fleet (England).
Automatically continuing without election are the Presidents Emeritii: Tommy Sandsmark (Norway); Henry Francis (USA).
7. **Election of Executive Members:** For a three-year election to 2014: John Carruthers (Canada); Barry Rigal (USA); Gavin Wolpert (USA).
Already elected to 2012: Geo Tislevoll (Norway); Nikolas Bausback (Germany); Ron Tacchi (France).
Already elected to 2013: David Stern (Australia); Brent Manley (USA); Tadashi Yoshida (Japan).
Note: Appointees in post: Awards Chairman: Barry Rigal (USA); Editor: John Carruthers (Canada). Membership Secretary: Jeremy Dhondy (England).



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You can access an electronic copy of this Bulletin at www.ibpa.com/559wz.pdf

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Whenever your contact details change, please amend them as appropriate in the database found at: www.jannersten.org or inform the Membership Secretary, Jeremy Dhondy: j.dhondy@btinternet.com

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8. **The IBPA Annual Awards**
9. Any other competent business

Patrick Jourdain (President)

President's Report 2011 European Open Championships

The event, in Poznan, Poland, began with the sad news of the death of Michelle Brunner, one of our most-respected members (obituary last month).

We also learned shortly before Poznan that our Auditor, Julius Butkow of South Africa, is seriously ill and unable to carry out his duties. We will have an EGM immediately before the AGM in Veldhoven to approve a replacement auditor for the 2010 accounts. Meanwhile, the work of auditing will be done, and our best wishes go to Julius. Your President can say that the 2010 IBPA accounts show a near-break-even result and a very healthy bank balance with HSBC in Malta.

Our Treasurer, Heather Dhondy, reported that she did not wish to be responsible for the 2012 accounts and therefore asked the Chairman to nominate a new Treasurer at the 2011 AGM. Heather had not been able to open a bank account in England or launch an IBPA Paypal account as the late filing of the 2009 accounts meant that IBPA was not up-to-date with its registration in the USA. She prepared the 2010 accounts in good time and sent them to the elected auditor without response, for the reasons discovered later. These problems meant her workload became much higher than expected.

On a more positive note: IBPA recruited three new members, Marco Catellani of Monaco, Martin Loeffgren of Sweden, and Alex van Reenen of the Netherlands. There was an enjoyable IBPA outing to Kornik Castle hosted by the Polish Bridge Union and a Press Conference with Yves Aubry and Radek Kielbasinski.

The new WBF President, Gianarrigo Rona, informed the IBPA President that the annual grant from WBF to IBPA would be increased from \$1,000, as it has been for many years, to \$2,500. For this IBPA is most grateful. The IBPA will continue its offer made last year of a full-page in black & white in the printed Bulletin and in colour on the website version, for the WBF.

Your President, and Chairman Per Jannersten, worked hard on the long-awaited revision of the IBPA Constitution, last amended in 1997. The proposed version for approval at the 2011 AGM is shown on the website alongside the 1997 version. A summary of the changes is:

1. Removal of obsolete references to sponsored members, the sponsored members' secretary and the clippings secretary;
2. Update for the separate charge for a printed copy of the Bulletin;
3. Addition of a Code of Ethics shown since 1997 as "to be formulated"
4. Revision of the Membership application and fees section to reflect practice approved by the Executive that has been in use for several years.
5. Allowance for proxy voting not covered by the 1997 version.

Other changes are principally cosmetic. They can be seen by comparison with the old. We do not wish to spend hours on the matter at our 2011 AGM in Veldhoven. Therefore please limit your comments to correcting errors, or expressing strong opposition. We aim to avoid anything deemed controversial by a significant proportion of members.

Patrick Jourdain, IBPA President



The Biarritz International Festival is traditionally held over 13 days at the beginning of July. This year, for the 26th edition, there was a new Director of Operations, François Willard, who introduced the use of BridgeMates and preduplicated boards. As usual, Zia Mahmood contested the Open Pairs, this year with Paul Chemla, with whom he won in 2002. Norberto Bocchi seemed well-placed to win the event for a fifth time, but had to surrender the crown to Guy Lasserre and Philippe Poizat who had just arrived from Poznan where they had won the Senior Teams.

The winners of the 2011 Festival events were:

- ◆ **Ville de Biarritz Open Pairs** (204 pairs): Guy Lasserre – Philippe Poizat (France)
- ◆ **Lavazza Patton** (78 teams): Mme Lavazza, MM Duboin, Ferraro, Sementa (Italie)
- ◆ **Casino Barrière Mixed Pairs** (154 pairs): Anne de Roll Montpellier – Guy Lasserre (France)
- ◆ **Whisterie.com IMP Pairs** (98 pairs): Thibault Delmas-Sirven – Rafaël Munoz (France – Espagne)

Guy Lasserre earned the top men's prize of a magnificent Swiss watch offered by the Marquess of Moratalla, who was Festival President. Linda Molle of The Netherlands also won a Swiss watch as the top woman.

Here are two interesting deals from the tournament. Junior Alexandre Kilani played the Patton Lavazza with Thibault Delmas-Sirven. He found a grand slam here:

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

♠ A
♥ A K Q 10 7
♦ A J 10 6 5
♣ 5 4

| West | North | East | South |
|------|------------------|------|-------|
| — | — | — | 1 ♥ |
| 1 ♠ | 2NT ¹ | Pass | 3 ♦ |
| Pass | 4 ♣ | Pass | 4NT |
| Pass | 5 ♦ | Pass | 5NT |
| Pass | 7 ♥ | Pass | Pass |

1. Four hearts, game forcing

The opening lead of the spade king was won by the ace. Three rounds of trumps revealed three hearts in the overcaller's hand. With eight cards in the majors in the West hand, East was favoured to hold longer diamonds, hence the queen, so Kilani played a diamond to the king and another to the jack, then the diamond ace and a diamond ruff in dummy. He ruffed a spade back to hand and when he placed the last trump on the table...

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

...the defenders were subjected to a simultaneous double squeeze – West had to throw a club to protect against the spade jack, and when the spade jack was discarded from dummy, having done its duty, East also had to throw a club to protect against the ten of diamonds. The seven of clubs was the thirteenth trick.

In the IMP Pairs, Boredeaux champion Colette Riberol made a slam defeated at most tables where it was bid...

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|--------|-------|
| — | Pass | Pass | 1 ♥ |
| Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass | 3 ♣ |
| Pass | 3 ♦ | Double | 3 ♠ |
| Pass | 4 ♣ | Pass | 4 NT |
| Pass | 5 ♣ | Pass | 6 ♣ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Riberol won the ace of diamonds on the lead of the jack. She led a heart to the ace and trumped a heart low in the dummy, overruffed by East. East continued with the diamond king, ruffed by Riberol; she ruffed a heart high and drew trumps. On the final trump, West was squeezed between the major suits.

Notice that six spades can be made as well. After winning the diamond ace, declarer ruffs a diamond and cashes the two top trumps and the heart ace. A club to dummy and the spade queen leaves West with the master trump and hearts. Whenever he wins his trump, he must lead into declarer's heart tenace.

Complete results and the 2012 programme can be found at the website www.biarriz-bridge.com.



The three biggest French international bridge festivals are Juan-les-Pins, Deauville and Biarritz; the first takes place in May and the other two in July. After many years of foreign domination, the Deauville Open was won this year by a French pair, Paul Chemla and Michel Bessis. Here is a deal from the third session of that event:

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 8
♥ K Q J 8 2
♦ 10 6 4 2
♣ K 6 3

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

♠ K 2
♥ A 5 4
♦ A 9 8 7
♣ A J 10 7

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Vanessa | Alexandre | Donatella | Hervé |
| Reess | Kilani | Halfon | Pacault |
| — | — | — | 1 NT |
| Pass | 2 ♦ | 2 ♠ | 3 ♥ |
| 4 ♠ | 5 ♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

West led the five of spades. East took the ace and led the eight of clubs ;jack, queen, king. Then South played the king of hearts and another to the ace. East was revealed to be 6-4 in the majors and probably 2-1 in the minors based on his defence. Since it was necessary to draw trumps before playing diamonds to prevent East receiving a club ruff, the transportation wasn't there for a minor-suit squeeze on West.

Thus South had to hope East had two diamond honours or the king doubleton and 6=4=2=1 distribution – he played the diamond ace (East furnished the five), cashed the spade king and finished drawing trumps. Then he exited dummy with a diamond in the following position:

| | | |
|--------|-----|-----------|
| ♠ — | ♠ — | ♠ J 9 7 6 |
| ♥ 8 | | ♥ — |
| ♦ 10 6 | | ♦ K |
| ♣ 6 3 | | ♣ — |

| | | |
|---------|-----|-----|
| ♠ — | ♠ — | ♠ — |
| ♥ — | | ♥ — |
| ♦ Q J | | ♦ — |
| ♣ 9 5 4 | | ♣ — |

| | | |
|----------|-----|-----|
| ♠ — | ♠ — | ♠ — |
| ♥ — | | ♥ — |
| ♦ 9 8 | | ♦ — |
| ♣ A 10 7 | | ♣ — |

When East played a spade after winning the diamond king, South discarded his last diamond and West had to choose between setting up North's diamonds or South's clubs.

If East unblocks the king of diamonds under the ace, another coup is available to declarer: when South cashes the spade king and all the trumps, West must part with one diamond to protect clubs. Then a

diamond play by declarer forces West to lead into South's club tenace.

However, if the diamond king falls under the ace, South has a problem: has East made an inspired unblock or does he have two honours doubleton? If East is to win the next diamond, declarer must play it before the last trump; if West, after the last trump.

**EUROPEAN MACCABI
GAMES 2011
Fritz Babsch, Vienna**

The European Maccabi Games were held in Vienna from July 6-12. It was the first time that the Games were held in a country with German as the official language. Two thousand persons competed in more than 100 disciplines. Amongst the 19 different "sports" were chess and bridge.

Eleven Teams entered the Bridge Tournament; a complete Round Robin was followed by a semi-final and a final. All sessions were played over twelve boards. Austria and Hungary had sent three teams each; England two; one team came from Germany, Poland and the Netherlands.

- The finish in the RR was very close:
1. Austria Blue (H.Berger, Guttmann, Pollak, Propst, Zelnik, A.Berger npc) 213 VP
 2. Netherlands (Buket, Drake, van Cleeff, van der Horst) 212 VP
 3. Austria Green (Charkow, Haschek, Lindenlauf, D.Wasser) 211 VP
 4. Poland (Dominiak, Lew, Swatler, Toeplitz) 204 VP

In the semi-final, Austria Blue defeated Austria Green and Poland defeated the Netherlands. This was apparently a difficult hand:

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| West | East (Dealer) |
| ♠ A | ♠ Q J 8 4 3 2 |
| ♥ A K Q 9 7 | ♥ J 10 |
| ♦ A K 8 5 4 | ♦ Q J 9 |
| ♣ K 6 | ♣ A 5 |

Only Charkow/Lindenlauf reached seven no trump (the bidding sequence was not scientific) while the other three pairs were content with six no trump.

In the final (Austria Blue had a carryover of 17,5 IMPs) the very first deal was sensational as Austria lost almost all of the carryover. The final was shown on BBO.

If memory serves, Ely Culbertson said about distributions that the "swanlike charm" of 9-4-0-0 is much more pleasant than the "triviality" of 4-3-3-3. For the Austrian North player this statement was certainly not right:

Board 37*. Dealer North. NS Vul

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

* For technical reasons the final started with board 37.

Open Room:

| West | North | East | South |
|------|------------------|------|--------|
| — | 1 ♣ ¹ | 4 ♠ | 5 ♣ |
| Pass | 5 ♦ | Pass | Pass |
| 5 ♠ | Pass | Pass | Double |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

1. Strong, but not my choice!

This was not a success (plus 300) as the Polish pair in the Closed Room had no problem bidding six diamonds:

Closed Room:

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------|
| — | 1 ♣ ¹ | 2 ♦ ² | 3 ♣ |
| 3 ♠ | 5 ♦ | 5 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | 6 ♦ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass ³ | | | |

1. Polish Club
2. Both majors
3. Why not six hearts?

This was plus 1390 and 14 IMPs to Poland; the carryover was almost gone!

The match was close until the third session. Then Poland had a heavy breakdown (losing 52 IMPs) and never recovered. Austria won the gold medal as in 2007 and also the bronze medal (there was no playoff for third place).

The Games were well-organised and well-covered in the newspapers and on TV. It was a big triumph for the Austrian Jewish community.

Erratum:

Brent Manley of Horn Lake, Mississippi should have been listed as one of the authors of the article on the 5th European Championships last month. Brent authored the last deal, from the Teams final. We convey our abject apologies to Brent.



One could be forgiven for thinking that it was the ANBC (All-Nordic Bridge Championships) rather than the NABC (North American Bridge Championships). Swedes won the Life Master Pairs; Norwegians were on the winning Spingold and NABC Swiss Teams; and a Swede and a resident of Denmark were on the victorious Women's KO team. Danish and Icelandic teams made great runs in the Spingold before succumbing in the quarterfinals.

Winners of the major events:

Grand National Teams: Mike Becker, David Berkowitz, Gary Cohler, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Warren Spector

Life Master Pairs: Peter Bertheau, Per-Ola Cullin

Senior Swiss Teams: Mark Dahl, Leonard Melander, Mary Oshlag, Richard Oshlag

Open Pairs: Howard Cohen, Meyer Kotkin

Fast Pairs: John Diamond, Geoff Hampson

Mixed BAM Teams: Winthrop Allegaert, Judith Bianco, Petra Hamman, Peggy Kaplan, Hemant Lall

Women's KO Teams: Daniela von Arnim, Sabine Auken, Bénédicte Cronier, Joyce Hampton, Sylvie Willard, Jenny Wolpert

NABC Swiss Teams: Terje Aa, David Berkowitz, Mark Gordon, Jörgen Molberg, Pratap Rjahdyaksha, Alan Sontag

Spingold KO Teams: Fulvio Fantoni, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Franck Multon, Claudio Nunes, Pierre Zimmermann

Winners of Youth events:

College Team Championship: University of Pennsylvania – Chen Xi, Chow Kendrick, Guo Naijia, Wang Zhuo

National Youth Open Pairs: Ben Kristensen, Burke Snowden

National Youth Open Pairs: Håkan Berk, Ben Kristensen, Burke Snowden, David Soukup

Award winners:

ACBL Hill of Fame Inductees: Russ Arnold, Eric Kokish

CBF Hall of Fame Inductees: Ralph Cohen, Doug Drew, Diana Gordon, Eric Kokish, George Mittelman

Sydney Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship Award: Betty Ann Kennedy

ABTA Teacher of the Year: Kathie Walsh

ACBL King of Bridge: Blake Sanders



Correspondence

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE WBF

Kees Tammens, Amsterdam

Imagine yourself as a young enthusiastic bridge player. After a tough struggle against your fellow countrymen you and your junior partner win qualification to present your country at the European Championships. A dream has come true; you feel happy and proud.

For ten spectacular and strenuous – and hot - days you fight heroic battles with junior pairs from 21 other European nations. It is an emotional as well as a challenging contest. This is an important part of why you love bridge as a competitive mind sport. Adrenaline flows abundantly. You experience a great feeling when you make a vulnerable game by means of an ingenious endplay. Your teammates slap you on your shoulders and congratulate you after a splendid opening lead that defeats an almost cold contract. Of course, you undergo a couple of bad moments when a nice slam fails or when you let through a contract by the opponents. Still, the tension rises day by day and in the last few matches you succeed in securing a place in the top six. Your team has earned a place in the next Junior World Championship, competing against juniors from all continents! It is getting better and better; bridge has become your all-time love. You look forward to preparing yourself, your partner and your teammates for this so exciting event. The vision of winning a world title in your favourite sport has become a possibility.

At the prize-giving ceremony of the European Junior Championships in Albena, Bulgaria you hear the ominous announcement that you will not be allowed to take part in the eagerly-awaited World Championship. The reason is that your junior age expires the next year (a big change from the rules previously in place; in prior years, all juniors – also in their post-junior year - that qualified in the European Championship could play in the following World Championship). How is it possible? Why should the organisation accept your participation in this European Championship if you will not be permitted to enjoy your so well-earned prize?

This is the awkward situation in which many juniors in the top six teams in the European Junior Bridge Championships find themselves. The WBF has decided that they will not be allowed to play in the World

Championships of 2012. This decision brings up a lot of questions. Why was the rule that a prize-winning junior can collect his prize in the next year changed? Why was this decision not published prior to the tournament? Can you rob a junior of an achievement he worked and played so hard worked for? In Europe, with its exhausting zonal championship, this new rule will create lots of problems.

I am convinced that the world of bridge needs Juniors. To give them objectives such as participating in international championships is an important incentive to attract them to competitive bridge. We (Juniors from long ago) will have to do what we can to provide Juniors with possibilities. (I even strongly believe in Junior events with low - even better, no - entry fees and great side conditions; Juniors are mainly students or in the early beginning of their working lives.) Above all, we have to give our Juniors sporting targets. Qualifying for the World Championships is probably the highest and most prestigious goal. Now all of a sudden Juniors from six European nations cannot enjoy their prize won in Albena. A severe blow to them and their teams. (When I left Albena at 03.00 Saturday night, I met a couple of Juniors hanging around in the lobby of the hotel still bitterly mourning about what they were told a couple of hours before. 'Kees, you must help us!' How can I not respond?)

This decision by the WBF can also have a negative impact for the next years in Junior bridge. How can you convince a Junior born between 1-1-1988 and 31-12-1988 to train hard and qualify for the EC-2013. Only to tell him that – even if he qualifies – he is not eligible for WC-2014. I fear this will be a severe blow to Junior bridge in many countries.

Bridge as a competitive sport is already in troubled waters. Tournaments fade away and there are fewer participants in national leagues. When we create a situation that every year fewer Juniors enter the world of bridge, we are in danger of putting our so-beautiful game to face a harsh future.

All right, every person gets older (so said the grey man) with Juniors growing up to become adults and adult bridge players. However, a Junior who qualifies for the most prestigious event in every sport, the World Championship, should get the opportunity to play there!

Gianarrigo Rona, President of the WBF, replies to Kees on page 16...

Gianarrigo Rona's reply to Kees Tammens' letter on page 15...

Dear John,

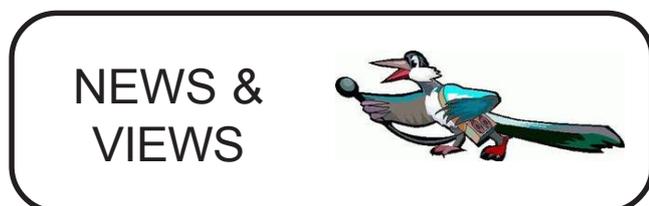
Thank you for your email. In 2009, in the meeting held in São Paulo, the WBF Executive Council stated that,

“Starting from 2011:

- *To be eligible to play in a Youngsters Championship, the player must not have achieved his/her 20th birthday by December 31 of the year prior to the year of the Championship.*
- *To be eligible to play in a Juniors Championship, the player must not have achieved his/her 25th birthday by December 31 of the year prior to the year of the Championship.”*

The EBL applies this same rule and nobody can play overage. If the EBL and/or other Zones organise their trials one year before the World Championship under the same age rules, it is possible that a player who, because of his age, is eligible to play these events, but, if his team qualifies for the World Championship, he cannot play the following year, being overage at that time. This is the situation with some European players at this time.

Un abbraccio,
Gianarrigo Rona, WBF President



Biarritz 2012

Hervé Pacault notes that the 2012 International Festival of Bridge, held annually in Biarritz, will take place from 29 June to 11 July next year. Details may be obtained from the Festival website at:
www.biarritz-bridge.com

Jos Jacobs Typo

No, this was not a typo by Jos Jacobs, but a misspelling of his name in the Poznan article in the July Bulletin. We called him Jos Jabobs. When I noticed it, after publication of course, I apologised to Jos, who graciously replied: “Accepted. I have made this particular error myself on numerous occasions!”



Inaugural SportAccord World Mind Games in December 2011

The inaugural SportAccord World Mind Games will be held from 8 to 16 December in Beijing, China in the Beijing International Convention Centre. The official hotel will be the Beijing Continental Grand Hotel.

Five Mind Sports will participate in this first edition of the SportAccord World Mind Games: Bridge, Chess, Draughts, Go and Xiang Qi. The event will feature the best players worldwide - in total around 150 top athletes - and will be accompanied by a cultural program. Winners, medallists and players will receive attractive prize money depending on their results.

Details about the competition format, schedule and prize money will be available on the SportAccord World Mind Games website:

www.worldmindgames.net

which will be available from 15th August 2011. Eventually this website will also present players biographies and details.

The competition formats are designed to be attractive for spectators, featuring several Blitz versions. People around the world will be able to follow the event online through live streaming on the SportAccord Sports Hub on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/thesportshub

through various social media platforms, and also via access to specialized sites details of which will be published on the IMSA Website at:
<http://www.imsaworld.com/>.

The Presidents



Patrick Jourdain of Wales, President of the IBPA and Gianarrigo Rona of Italy, President of the WBF in Poznan during the 5th European Open Championships