

23rd EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

13rd - 23rd July 2011 Albena, Bulgaria

Daily Bulletin



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Dobre Doshli



The Opening Ceremony

It was unfortunate that the unreliable weather meant that the Opening Ceremony had to be held indoors. However, the ceremony itself was excellent - short and smoothly run. After speeches from EBL President, Yves Aubry, and the vice-President of the Bulgarian Bridge Federation, Yuli Popov, each country in turn stood to be introduced to the rest, then the president returned to the stage to declare the 23rd European Youth Team Championships officially open. The buffet then gave players and team officials an opportunity to renew old friendships from previous championships before the serious business begins this morning.

On behalf of the Daily Bulletin, may I wish everyone good luck for these championships and, since everyone cannot win, enjoy yourselves, however the bridge turns out. Oh, yes, and don't forget to bring us your best stories.

Today's BBO Matches

10.00	Bulgaria v Netherlands (Juniors)
10.00	Romania v France (Juniors)
10.00	England v Israel (Juniors)
10.00	Sweden v Poland (Girls)
14.00	Denmark v Greece (Juniors)
14.00	Sweden v Turkey (Juniors)
14.00	Poland v Norway (Juniors)
14.00	to be decided (Girls)
17.20	Italy v Bulgaria (Girls)
17.20	Netherlands v Czech Rep. (Girls)
17.20	Poland v Turkey (Girls)
17.20	France v Sweden (Girls)

JUNIORS TEAMS

GIRLS TEAMS



TODAY'S PROGRAM



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND 1

ROUND 1

1	BULGARIA	NETHERLANDS
2	GERMANY	SERBIA
3	AUSTRIA	SCOTLAND
4	GREECE	HUNGARY
5	TURKEY	DENMARK
6	CROATIA	SWEDEN
7	IRELAND	FINLAND
8	ROMANIA	FRANCE
9	ENGLAND	ISRAEL
10	NORWAY	ITALY
11	BELGIUM	POLAND

1	BULGARIA	FRANCE
2	GERMANY	ITALY
3	CZECH REP.	HUNGARY
4	TURKEY	NETHERLANDS
5	SWEDEN	POLAND

ROUND 2

ROUND 2

1	SERBIA	BULGARIA
2	SCOTLAND	GERMANY
3	HUNGARY	AUSTRIA
4	DENMARK	GREECE
5	SWEDEN	TURKEY
6	FINLAND	CROATIA
7	FRANCE	IRELAND
8	ISRAEL	ROMANIA
9	ITALY	ENGLAND
10	POLAND	NORWAY
11	NETHERLANDS	BELGIUM

1	ITALY	BULGARIA
2	HUNGARY	GERMANY
3	NETHERLANDS	CZECH REP.
4	POLAND	TURKEY
5	FRANCE	SWEDEN

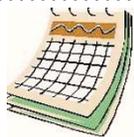
Best Story Prize

We want to make these bulletins the best they can possibly be. Inevitably, we will miss most of the best stories because there are few of us and many tables to watch, unless you give us a little help. Please, if you have a good story, whether a brilliant play, a complete disaster, or a piece of great humour, come and tell us about it.

The Bulletin Office can be found just to the right of the main entrance where you registered at the start of the championships.

As a small incentive, we offer a prize for what we consider to be the best story from a player, captain or coach. Just to be clear, the prize goes to the reporter, not the person who is the subject of the story.

The prize is a copy of the official 2010 World Championship book about the championships in Philadelphia last year which included the three Youth World Championship events.



Today's Schedule

- 10.00 Juniors Teams (1st Round)**
- 10.00 Girls Teams (1st Round, 1st half)**
- 14.00 Juniors Teams (2nd Round)**
- 14.00 Girls Teams (1st Round, 2nd half)**
- 17.20 Girls Teams (2nd Round, 1st half)**

Again the Dutch North/South pair seemed to have reached absolute par when, after the lead of the ♠9, nine tricks proved to be the limit. Still, de Boer received some criticism of his captain that this North hand was much too strong for a INT opening. And there came a punishment when Julian Pottage (a British Junior who later in life wrote some interesting bridge books) decided to open 1♥, and reached game which was cold played from the North hand.

The hand to remember from the 1987 world championships for Juniors, played in the Casa in Amsterdam, a student home – where the writer of this story had his memorable parties in late late sixties!

Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ K 6 ♥ 2 ♦ K J 10 8 6 ♣ J 10 7 4 2	Dealer North. All Vul. ♠ Q 10 8 ♥ Q J 6 ♦ A 9 4 3 2 ♣ A 8 <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> N W E S </div> ♠ A 7 ♥ A K 7 5 4 ♦ – ♣ K Q 9 6 5 3	♠ J 9 5 4 3 2 ♥ 10 9 8 3 ♦ Q 7 5 ♠ –	
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West	North	East	South
–	Jansma		van Wel
–	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♣	Dble	Pass
Pass	Rdbl	All Pass	

North/South were on their way to a good but unsuccessful 7xh when East troubled the waters with a fancy double of 6xc. Now North (Jan Jansma, still an active Dutch professional bridge player) showed his first control in clubs with the redouble but South, Rob van Wel, who gave priority to a social life and plays only a little bridge, knew exactly where he wanted to play. The lead against 6xc redoubled was the singleton heart. Declarer took ♥A and played ♣3, ♣2, and the finesse with ♣8 in South was enough to make twelve tricks and 1830 on the scorecard.

So much for the history. In Albena I am sure that the Juniors, Girls and Youngsters will produce many legendary hands. If and when it occurs in a match involving one of the Dutch teams I am sure that this will be reported in the Daily Bulletin. And of course I stay interested in defensive problems for the all time corner called 'Kees for the Defense'. Don't be shy and report hands to me or the Daily Bulletin editor. Good luck (Bonne chance) to all participants in Albena.

Welcome Message from the EBL President



Mr Tsvetan Tsvetanov – Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria
 Mr Gianarrigo Rona – President of the WBL
 Mr July Popov – Vice President of the Bulgarian Federation
 Dear Friends,

I am pleased to welcome all of you to Albena, players, officers, journalists, operators and guests to participate in the 23rd European Youth Bridge Team Championship.

It is a great pleasure to recognise the degree of participation at this championship with players coming from 25 countries.

I am confident that you will enjoy discovering Albena, its sunny weather and beautiful beaches. Normally, this Opening Ceremony should have been outside but today is expected to be the only stormy day.

I want to thank the authorities of Bulgaria, Mr Tsvetan Tsvetanov, Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria and Mrs Detelina Nikolova, Mayor of Dobrich, for their great support to organize a Youth Championship in Bulgaria.

I would like to congratulate the Bulgarian Bridge Federation, its President Tsvetan Tsvetanov, the Vice President July Popov and Jerry Stamatov, Chairman of the organizing committee for the great job they have accomplished.

Hosting this Youth event would not have been possible without the support of Mr Krassimir Stanev and all the team of Albena Resort, and I express my thanks and appreciation to all of them.

This 23rd European Youth Bridge Team Championship gives you the opportunity to compete with players coming from many countries and to renew old friendships and makes new ones.

More than ever in Youth Championship, our motto Bridge for Peace is reflected in the combination of sporting spirit, fair play and friendship.

Enjoy your play and your stay in Albena.

It gives me great pleasure to officially declare open the 23rd European Youth Bridge Team Championship.

Yves Aubry
 President European Bridge League

The 22nd European Youth Team Championships

While there is plenty of talent in other areas of the world, Europe is currently the real powerhouse of youth bridge. The 22nd European Youth Team Championships were held in Poiana Brasov, Romania, in the middle of July 2009. The venue was half way up a mountain side in what is a ski resort during the winter months and still a popular holiday area during the rest of the year due to the beautiful mountain scenery. Poiana Brasov is a three-hour coach ride from Bucharest airport and a 12 km taxi ride from the nearest town, Brasov.

A total of 51 teams from 24 countries took part in the three championships – 23 in the Open U-26 (Juniors), and 14 in each of the Girls U-26 and Open U-21 (Youngsters) series. Three countries had particularly successful championships, with France winning a medal in all three events, Poland and Israel in two. These were the medallists:

Juniors:

- Gold:** France
- Silver:** Israel
- Bronze:** Norway

Youngsters:

- Gold:** Poland
- Silver:** Israel
- Bronze:** France

Girls:

- Gold:** Poland
- Silver:** France
- Bronze:** Netherlands

Norway's Espen Lindqvist would get votes for best junior on Europe and he showed off his abilities in the area of card-reading during Round 13 of the Juniors Championship.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ A K 4 ♥ 9 8 4 ♦ 10 9 4 ♣ A 4 3 2	♠ J 10 9 7 5 ♥ 6 5 ♦ 6 5 3 2 ♣ J 7	<div style="text-align: center; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> N W E S </div> ♠ 6 3 2 ♥ A Q J ♦ K Q J ♣ K Q 10 6	♠ Q 8 ♥ K 10 7 3 2 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ 9 8 5
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West	North	East	South
Berg	Delle Cave	Lindqvist	Fellus
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Lindqvist got the two of hearts lead and won it in his hand

with the queen. The king of diamonds followed, aiming to establish two tricks for declarer and, when it was ducked, Lindqvist continued with the queen of diamonds.

Delle Cave played his ace and continued with a pleasant club for Lindqvist who won in his hand, cashed another round of clubs, and played a spade towards dummy, Delle Cave making the error of following with his low spade.

That left the following position:

♠ K 4 ♥ 9 8 ♦ 10 ♣ A	♠ J 10 9 ♥ 5 ♦ 6 2 ♣ –	<div style="text-align: center; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> N W E S </div> ♠ 6 3 ♥ A J ♦ J ♣ 6	♠ Q ♥ K 10 7 3 ♦ 8 ♣ –
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Lindqvist cashed his last club, North discarding a heart and South a sleepy heart. When everybody followed to the ten of diamonds to the jack, he had a full count on South, almost certainly 2-5-3-3, and when the queen of spades appeared on a spade towards dummy Lindqvist simply ducked it. Delle Cave was nicely endplayed and had to lead into declarer's hearts again!

My own vote for best European junior would go to Thomas Bessis of France. Thomas left it until the final match, against England, for his finest effort.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Atthey	Volcker	Owen
–	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Chris Owen's 2NT response was an invitational or better spade raise and John Atthey's 3♥ a length-showing game try, accepted by Owen who, of course, was always planning to go on to game.

It looks as though 4♠ is destined to make, courtesy of the ruffing club finesse, but...

Frederic Volcker led the eight of diamonds, second from three or more small cards, and Bessis won the king and cashed the ace, Atthey falsecarding with the queen as Volcker dropped the two, confirming two or four cards – clearly two on the auction. Bessis switched to the seven of clubs and, not surprisingly, declarer was taken in. Atthey ruffed low and gave up a heart, Bessis winning the ace and returning a diamond to declarer's ten. Atthey ruffed a heart, ruffed a club, ruffed a heart, being relieved to see that Bessis could not over-ruff, and ruffed another club. But Volcker could over-ruff and that was two down.

How could Bessis possibly find the brilliant underlead? His partner would surely have led a singleton club rather than four small diamonds so was marked with either two clubs or a void. Once declarer was known to have three diamonds, plus heart length because of the auction, it had to be he and not Volcker who had the club void.

As the French North/South pair had played in 4♣ down one for -50 in the other room, Bessis' fine defence turned -10 IMPs into +2 IMPs.

Though it was just a flat board, Bessis again showed his class on this next one from his team's match against Romania.

in third seat, essentially giving up on game unless his partner had spade support and found that Diana Mihaela Stafie did indeed have sufficient support to raise to game over Quentin Robert's double. Robert led his trump. Parvulescu won, drew a second round and gave up a club, ruffing the club return. He led the ten of diamonds and Robert went in with the ace and returned the suit. After finessing the ♦J and cashing the king, Parvulescu still had to find the jack of hearts. He duly led a heart to his king and finessed and Robert's ace, finessed on the way back and had ten tricks for +420.

Tomas Bessis opened at the one level then made a game try when Frederic Volcker made a simple raise. The 3♦ game try convinced Raluca Elena Dobrescu that her diamond honours were well placed so she doubled. She too led a trump. Bessis saw that the defence could always force him to guess the hearts himself so, rather than eliminate and hope for a defensive error, he won the second spade in dummy and led a heart to the king and ace. By committing to the position of the jack of hearts, he gave himself the option of going up with the king on a diamond switch and throwing his third diamond on the fourth round of hearts, thereby making the position of the queen of diamonds unimportant. In practice, Dobrescu switched to ace and another club when in with the ♥A. Bessis ruffed and ran the nine of hearts and followed his plan of throwing a diamond on the fourth heart then leading to the king of diamonds; +590 and 5 IMPs to France.

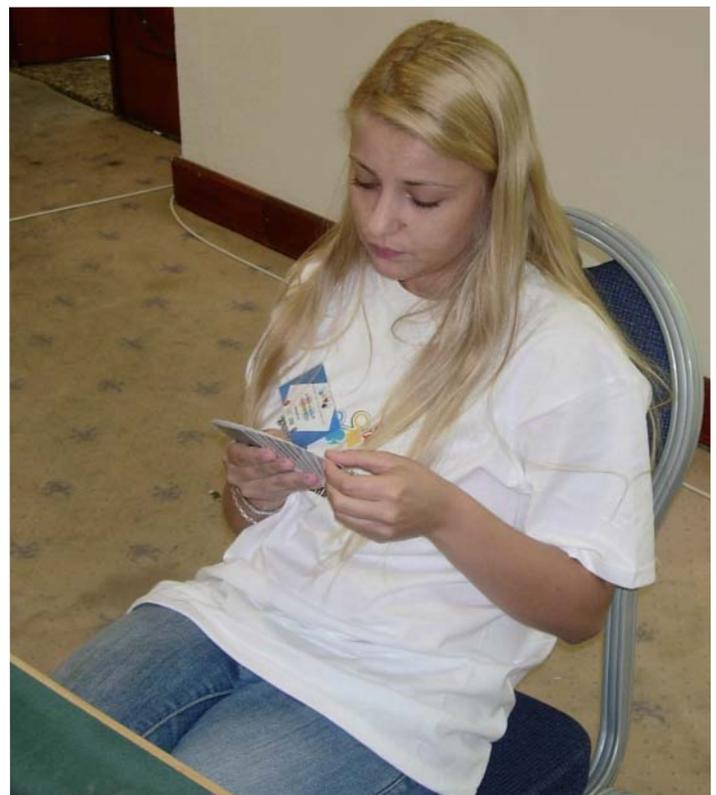
Turkey has started to have considerable success in the last few years at major championships, with medals at Senior level in Verona in 2006 and at Youth level in Beijing in 2009. Turkey was not very successful in Romania but there was still some fine card play from on this deal from Ozge Tekin against Italy.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Robert	Stafie	Lhuissier	Parvulescu
–	Pass	Pass	3♠
Dble	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Dobrescu	Volcker	Nistor	Bessis
–	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dble	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		



Raluca Elena Dobrescu, Romania

Mihai Lucian Parvulescu found an imaginative 3♠ opening

with four diamonds left, exited with $\diamond Q$. South cashed his last heart and led a diamond to North's jack.

This was three down for 150 to the Netherlands. On scoring up South proudly read out +150. "Push" was the reply.

Somewhat disappointed Van Lankveld asked, "So they held up the $\clubsuit K$ as well?" "No. We were in $6\spadesuit$," came the answer.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

<p>\spadesuit 6 3 2 \heartsuit 10 8 6 5 4 \diamond 7 3 \clubsuit Q 8 6</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>\spadesuit K Q J 7 4 \heartsuit J \diamond A 9 2 \clubsuit 10 9 7 3</p>
N					
W E					
S					
<p>\spadesuit A 9 \heartsuit K 9 7 2 \diamond K J 6 \clubsuit A K 5 4</p>					
<p>\spadesuit 10 8 5 \heartsuit A Q 3 \diamond Q 10 8 5 4 \clubsuit J 2</p>					

This one comes from the Juniors match between Israel and Poland but is really a story of what might have been as Israel stopped in 3NT for a comfortable +660 while Poland played the hopeless club slam, down one for -100 and 13 IMPs to Israel. However, what about $6\spadesuit$? Vugraph commentator Barry Rigal came up with this piece of analysis:

It looks as though the defence needs to lead clubs twice to defeat $6\spadesuit$ by East/West. Say that they do not find this defence, declarer has 11 tricks courtesy of the well-placed $\diamond Q$ and $\heartsuit A$. He has to come down to a position where the West hand has a top club and two small hearts, East a trump and two clubs. North will have been obliged to come down to only one card in either hearts or clubs. If clubs, declarer must cash the top card and ruff a heart back to hand to cash a club at trick thirteen. If hearts, declarer ruffs a heart and crosses to the top club to cash the last heart. Very pretty, but not easy and not a line that was found by any of the four declarers who played the small slam.

And finally, we do expect the odd penalty at a youth event, and we certainly got one on this deal from the Youngsters match between Germany and Netherlands.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

<p>\spadesuit A K Q 9 5 \heartsuit 8 \diamond J 5 \clubsuit A 10 5 4 3</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>\spadesuit 7 4 \heartsuit A J 9 6 3 2 \diamond 4 \clubsuit Q 9 8 6</p>
N					
W E					
S					
<p>\spadesuit J 10 8 3 2 \heartsuit 10 \diamond K Q 10 6 2 \clubsuit K 7</p>					
<p>\spadesuit 6 \heartsuit K Q 7 5 4 \diamond A 9 8 7 3 \clubsuit J 2</p>					

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Lankveld</i>	<i>Gruenke</i>	<i>Philipsen</i>	<i>Ellerbeck</i>
–	1 \spadesuit	2 \heartsuit	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	Pass
3 \diamond	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Hoffmeister</i>	<i>Nab</i>	<i>Rusch</i>	<i>Wackwitz</i>
–	1 \spadesuit	Pass	1NT
Pass	2 \clubsuit	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

To overcall 2 \heartsuit is very aggressive, particularly at this vulnerability, and Rusch went quietly, leaving his opponents to bid freely up to 3NT. Hoffmeister led the king of diamonds, ducked, and continued with the queen to Ernst Wackwitz's ace. Perhaps the diamond continuation was difficult to avoid – after all, nobody had bid diamonds, though declarer did rate to have some length there – but it gave declarer a chance. Wackwitz was able to play diamonds straight back and establish two more tricks in the suit. Hoffmeister switched to the ten of hearts and Rusch took his ace and returned the suit. That put Wackwitz in hand with four red tricks to cash and he had his nine for an excellent +400.

Of course, the defence could have prevailed even after the diamond continuation. The simplest way is for East to switch to a low club after winning the ace of hearts. Declarer can be shut out of his hand – or, at least, until after he has lost five tricks.

That looked like a very good board for the Dutch North/South pair, however...

The worst time to have a disaster is when teammates have had a very good result on a deal, as you create not just a big swing against your team but obliterate a swing in.

Philipsen made the 2 \heartsuit overcall and his side was in trouble when Gruenke reopened with a double and Ellerbeck left it in. Two Hearts doubled would have been very unpleasant for East/West but Van Lankveld 'rescued' his partner – clearly a man who, if finding himself in a hole but holding a shovel, believes in digging his way out (which often just leads to your standing in a deeper hole). If 2 \heartsuit doubled would have been unpleasant, 3 \diamond doubled was downright bloody.

Gruenke led the ace of spades then switched to his singleton heart to dummy's ace. Van Lankveld exited with a spade and Ellerbeck threw a club as Gruenke won the nine. The queen of spades was ruffed and over-ruffed, as was the king of hearts, with the two and five. Ellerbeck ruffed a low spade and played the queen of hearts, ruffed with the ten and over-ruffed with the jack. Gruenke cashed the king of spades and ace of clubs then gave Ellerbeck a club ruff. Now came the last heart and declarer had to decide whether to play for the remaining trumps to be one-one or two-zero. Of course, he has a complete count by now so should have got it right but, with his brain completely frazzled by events so far, had lost the plot and ruffed high, leaving him to lead into Ellerbeck's ace-nine at the end. Van Lankveld had made the ace of hearts and just one trump trick; down seven for -2000 and 17 IMPs to Germany.

THE ISRAELI JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

by Ram Soffer

2010 was a remarkable year for Israel's national bridge teams. Our Open team (Herbst/Herbst, Pachtman/Ginossar, Barel/Zak) performed strongly in the European championship (3rd place) and returned to the Bermuda bowl after a long absence. However, the best result was achieved by our Junior (Under-26) team (A. Birman/Argelazi, Tarnovski/Fisher, Schwartz) who won the world championship in Philadelphia convincingly despite playing four-handed for most of the competition.

Therefore the Israeli Junior Pairs Championship 2011 (January 13-15) was certainly an event worth following. All five members of the winning team were playing, but the partnerships were different. I am sorry that I can't report a close and exciting race for the title. It was rather a one-sided affair, won by Ron Schwartz-Lotan Fisher by a huge margin. By the way, Fisher was also the player who earned the highest number of IBF master points in 2010.

However, the following hand is taken from the only match they lost. Despite their young age, their opponents are already members of The Israeli women national team.

<p>♠ Q 10 9 7 ♥ 10 ♦ 8 5 ♣ A K Q 9 7 4</p>		<p>♠ A J 3 ♥ A J 4 ♦ A K 9 7 6 2 ♣ 8</p>	
<p>♠ 8 2 ♥ 9 8 7 5 ♦ Q J 10 3 ♣ J 5 2</p>		<p>♠ K 6 5 4 ♥ K Q 6 3 2 ♦ 4 ♣ 10 6 3</p>	
<p>West <i>Levi</i> — 2♣ 4♣ 4♥ 6♣</p>	<p>North <i>Schwartz</i> — Pass Pass Pass All Pass</p>	<p>East <i>Asulin</i> 1♦ 3NT 4♦ 4♠</p>	<p>South <i>Fisher</i> Pass Pass Pass Pass</p>

Not an easy hand for East/West. First they have to decide that their cards are worth a slam try, and then there is a choice between 6♣ and 6♦. What is more important, number of trumps or suit quality?

The club slam needs either a 3-3 trump break or a 4-2 break with the ♠K onside (a 3-2 diamond break may also suffice, depending on the lead). It has better chances than the diamond slam which (after a trump lead) requires a 3-2 trump break plus a 3-3 club break or the spade finesse.

The key bid was Adi Asulin's 3NT rebid. Although her hand qualified for a simple 3♦ rebid, 3NT represented the fact that her strength was scattered rather than excessively emphasizing the diamond suit. Perhaps Hila Levi believed that her partner had a doubleton club, and after a series of cuebids she confidently bid the club slam. She was home after the trump suit was 3-3, and that was 10 IMPs for the girls (the only table to bid a slam and make it).

An even more exciting deal appeared in the final round.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

<p>♠ — ♥ J 8 6 ♦ K 8 7 ♣ Q J 10 8 6 5 4</p>		<p>♠ K 9 6 5 4 3 ♥ K ♦ 10 3 ♣ K 9 7 2</p>	<p>♠ A Q J 7 ♥ 7 5 4 ♦ Q J 9 6 5 4 ♣ —</p>
<p>♠ 10 8 2 ♥ A Q 10 9 3 2 ♦ A 2 ♣ A 3</p>			
<p>West <i>Lazar</i> — 5♦ All Pass</p>	<p>North <i>Meyouhas</i> 2♠ Pass</p>	<p>East <i>Argelazi</i> 3♦ Pass</p>	<p>South <i>Gerstner</i> 4♠ Dble</p>

For a junior it's hard to refrain from the 3♦ overcall. However, a Pass was more sensible with 10 HCP, seven of them in the opponent's suit. Had East passed, he could later double 4♠ for penalties, but his overcall resulted in an unwanted 5♦ bid from West and a penalty double from South. At this stage, things looked bleak for East/West.

Gal Gerstner made an apparently natural lead in his partner's suit, which looked safe since he was controlling the three other suits.

Nevertheless, I disagree with his choice of lead. When the opponents bid to a high-level contract without the necessary high-card strength, they are obviously counting on ruffs, and therefore a trump lead would generally be the most rewarding. In this case, two rounds of trump would have restricted East to eight tricks.

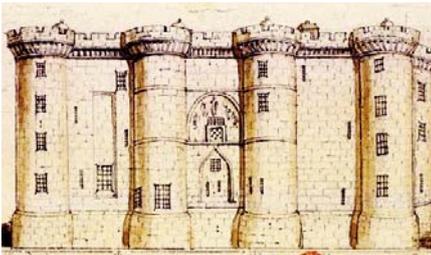
The ♠2 was led, and South could well have the ♠Q. Therefore Moshiko Meyouhas (North) played the ♠K after dummy discarded a heart.

Then on Trick 2 (♠Q) North decided to signal suit preference with his ♠9 (!), thus making the ♠7 high when the ten and eight dropped from South's hand. Eliran Argelazi took careful note of the spot cards and of the fall of the ♥K on the first round, and after a club ruff he correctly ruffed a second heart with the ♦K.

However, the fact that the ♠7 became high served only to divert him from the winning line! After another club ruff he could have played the ♠7, over-ruffing South if necessary and thus assuring the contract. Had the ♠7 not been high, this would have been the best chance, but in the actual position the alternative line of ruffing a heart was more promising. North over-ruffed and should have given his partner a spade ruff to set the contract, but due to confusion or perhaps tiredness he played a club and the doubled contract was allowed to make. That may have been imperfect bridge, but certainly great entertainment for all those watching on BBO.

Despite this self-inflicted disaster, Gerstner/Meyouhas managed to win the match by a narrow margin and finish on 2nd place, ahead of the more experienced Dror Padon/Alon Birman who finished 3rd.

Today in History - July 14th



1789: Parisian revolutionaries and mutinous troops storm and dismantle the Bastille, a royal fortress that had come to symbolize the tyranny of the Bourbon monarchs. This dramatic action signaled the beginning of the French Revolution, a decade of political turmoil and terror in which King Louis XVI was overthrown and tens of thousands of people, including the king and his wife Marie Antoinette, were executed.

got a tip that Billy was holed up with friends. While Billy was gone, Garrett waited in the dark in his bedroom. When Billy entered, Garrett shot him to death.



1881: Sheriff Pat Garrett shoots Henry McCarty, popularly known as Billy the Kid, to death at the Maxwell Ranch in New Mexico. Garrett, who had been tracking the Kid for three months after the gunslinger had escaped from prison only days before his scheduled execution,

got a tip that Billy was holed up with friends. While Billy was gone, Garrett waited in the dark in his bedroom. When Billy entered, Garrett shot him to death.

1099: During the First Crusade, Christian knights from Europe capture Jerusalem after seven weeks of siege and begin massacring the city's Muslim and Jewish population.

1995: Representatives of the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) were not in attendance at the 1995 christening of the infant technology that would shake their business model to its core just a few years later. Known formally as "MPEG-1 Audio Layer 3," the technology in question was an efficient new format for the encoding of high-quality digital audio using a highly efficient data-compression algorithm. In other words, it was a way to make CD-quality music files small enough to be stored in bulk on the average computer and transferred manageably across the Internet. Released to the public one week earlier, the brand-new MP3 format was given its name and its familiar ".mp3" file extension on this day in 1995.

SKY BRIDGE CLUB

The "SKY BRIDGE CLUB" ALBENA invite everybody to the one session pairs bridge tournament at 9.00 p.m. on Thursday-July, 14 at the restaurant "Ciel Blu" situated on 17th floor of the hotel "Dobrudja"

Champagne for all contestants over 18 years.

Money prizes and gifts for 1,2 and 3 places

Entry fee 30 BGN per pair

The Extra Chance

by Brian Senior

This deal won the annual IBPA award for best-played hand by a youth player. It was played during the last European Youth Team Championships in Poiana Brasov, Romania in 2009. Can we produce the next winner of this award here in Albena in 2011?

Carole Puillet of France spotted an extra chance in the Girls second qualifying session. It came on this deal against the Dutch Spangenberg sisters:

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

	♠ Q 8 6		
	♥ Q 5 2		
	♦ J 8 4		
	♣ A 8 6 5		
♠ A 3 2			♠ K 10 9 4
♥ 8 6			♥ K 4 3
♦ A K 9 7 5 2			♦ 6 3
♣ Q 4			♣ J 10 7 2
	♠ J 7 5		
	♥ A J 10 9 7		
	♦ Q 10		
	♣ K 9 3		
West	North	East	South
Sigrid S.	Chaugny	Jamilla S.	Puillet
–	–	Pass	1♥
2♦	2♥	All Pass	

West kicked off with three rounds of diamonds, ruffed low by East and overruffed. Puillet crossed to dummy with the ace of clubs and led the heart queen for the king and ace. She drew a second round of trumps, then paused to take stock. She knew that West had eight red cards. If clubs were 3-3, a club could be established by playing king and another. But if the clubs were 4-2, then East would return the fourth club and declarer would have to open up spades herself, with the honours almost certainly split between the two defenders. That would lead to one down.

There was a small extra chance and Puillet found it. She led the nine of clubs away from the king. Caught with the now-bare queen of clubs, West had no choice but to win it and was forced to open up the spades or give a ruff and discard, either of which would give the contract. Had East been able to win the club from a four-card holding, she would have returned the suit and the contract would have failed, with declarer forced to open up the spades herself - but then there was no winning line.

If clubs had been 3-3, the defence would have won and exited with a club to the king. With no entry to dummy's thirteenth club, declarer would now have to open up the spade suit - no problem, as West would now be marked with a doubleton, leading low to the queen would ensure a spade trick. Very well done, and it helped the French pair to finish top of the qualifying stage and win the bronze medal.