



Italy's potential double threatened by Hungary

Junior Championship

The first long day of the Championships saw Italy move into a clear lead. They are currently 9.5 Victory Points ahead of Sweden and a further 5 ahead of the favourites, Norway. Israel is fourth and Turkey fifth.

It looks as if the field is beginning to divide itself into two halves with 13 points dividing the teams currently occupying twelfth and thirteenth places.

Rumours are beginning to circulate that if the tremendous heat continues, the afternoon session will be held in the courtyard!

Schools Championship

After three rounds there are joint leaders, the teams from Italy and Hungary. Remarkably they are both on maximum points, almost certainly a record. They are already 21 points clear of third placed Germany. From what we have seen so far, the standard of play is high.

Team Profiles

Every Captain should by now have found the form requesting a team profile for publication in the bulletin. Please ensure you complete and return it to the bulletin office before the start of today's final session.



Jan Boets, Duplication Supervisor, assembles his team for the next Championships.

Today

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THE NEWS

In order that players should not get out of touch with World News we print some of today's more astonishing items:

- There were no new accusations about President Clinton's infidelity
- The German newspaper Bild failed to print a photograph of Princess Diana
- Jan Ullrich leads in the Tour de France
- The temperature in London was 20 degrees celsius
- In Australia there were reports of jumping kangaroos
- Beijing University is offering a course in the proper use of chopsticks

AND THE REAL NEWS

- Death toll in Papua New Guinea tidal wave exceeds a thousand
- Dow Jones falls 100 points on Greenspan speech
- Heat wave in Dallas kills fifty

Junior

Results

Round 9

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
Yugoslavia	Great Britain	55-53	15-15
Belarus	The Netherlands	39-24	18-12
Norway	Finland	55-48	16-14
France	Sweden	62-75	12-18
Austria	Croatia	76-42	22- 8
Germany	Czech Republic	31-41	13-17
Poland	Spain	68-26	22- 8
Israel	Russia	55-43	17-13
Iceland	Turkey	16-81	3-25
Denmark	Italy	38-61	10-20
Greece	Hungary	17-76	4-25

Round 10

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
Belarus	Yugoslavia	72-19	25- 5
Finland	Great Britain	66-40	20-10
The Netherlands	France	79-16	25- 3
Croatia	Norway	44-54	13-17
Sweden	Germany	59-33	20-10
Spain	Austria	17-65	5-25
Czech Republic	Israel	67-50	19-11
Turkey	Poland	44-40	16-14
Russia	Denmark	53-59	14-16
Hungary	Iceland	51-46	16-14
Italy	Greece	71-28	24- 6

Round 11

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
Yugoslavia	Norway	68-70	15-15
The Netherlands	Sweden	35-88	5-25
Austria	Great Britain	88-37	25- 5
Belarus	Czech Republic	36-26	17-13
Poland	Finland	68-48	19-11
France	Russia	29-58	9-21
Iceland	Croatia	41-55	12-18
Germany	Italy	34-54	11-19
Greece	Spain	37-101	3-25
Israel	Hungary	55-38	19-11
Denmark	Turkey	67-43	20-10

Program

Wednesday 22, 10:30

Round 12

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1.	France	Yugoslavia
2.	Croatia	Finland
3.	Belarus	Germany
4.	Spain	Great Britain
5.	The Netherlands	Israel
6.	Turkey	Norway
7.	Sweden	Denmark
8.	Hungary	Austria
9.	Czech Republic	Greece
10.	Italy	Poland
11.	Russia	Iceland

Wednesday 22, 15:00

Round 13

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1.	Yugoslavia	Finland
2.	France	Belarus
3.	Great Britain	Croatia
4.	Germany	The Netherlands
5.	Norway	Spain
6.	Israel	Sweden
7.	Austria	Turkey
8.	Denmark	Czech Republic
9.	Poland	Hungary
10.	Greece	Russia
11.	Iceland	Italy

Wednesday 22, 20:30

Round 14

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1.	The Netherlands	Yugoslavia
2.	Great Britain	Norway
3.	Sweden	Belarus
4.	Finland	Austria
5.	Czech Republic	France
6.	Croatia	Poland
7.	Russia	Germany
8.	Spain	Iceland
9.	Italy	Israel
10.	Turkey	Greece
11.	Hungary	Denmark

Standings

After Round 11

1. Italy	217	12. Iceland	172.5
2. Sweden	207.5	13. Hungary	159
3. Norway	202.5	14. Gt. Britain	151
4. Israel	193	15. Finland	150
5. Turkey	192	16. Yugoslavia	136
6. Netherlands	190	17. Czech Rep.	134
7. Russia	190	18. Germany	130
8. Denmark	184	19. France	130
9. Austria	179	20. Croatia	125
10. Belarus	178	21. Greece	101
11. Poland	173	22. Spain	89

Schools

Results

Round 1

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
Yugoslavia	The Netherlands	44-82	7-23
Ireland	Italy	26-88	4-25
Germany	Austria	81-16	25- 3
Russia	Sweden	22-123	0-25
Norway	France	29-41	13-17
Poland	Hungary	45-95	5-25
Great Britain	Israel	55-44	17-13

Round 2

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
Russia	Yugoslavia	75-14	25- 3
France	Austria	56-34	20-10
Ireland	Poland	29-79	5-25
Israel	The Netherlands	52-64	13-17
Italy	Great Britain	85-19	25- 2
Hungary	Germany	65-17	25- 5
Sweden	Norway	58-60	15-15

Round 3

Home Team	Visiting Team	IMPs	VPs
Yugoslavia	Germany	46-91	6-24
Italy	Sweden	89-36	25- 5
Norway	The Netherlands	83-46	23- 7
Ireland	Hungary	29-79	5-25
Great Britain	Austria	23-65	6-24
Russia	Israel	57-40	19-11
Poland	France	58-44	18-12

Standings

After Round 3

1.	Italy	75
2.	Hungary	75
3.	Germany	54
4.	Norway	51
5.	France	49
6.	Poland	48
7.	Netherlands	47
8.	Sweden	45
9.	Russia	43.5
10.	Israel	37
11.	Austria	37
12.	Gt. Britain	25
13.	Yugoslavia	15.5
14.	Ireland	14

Program

Wednesday 22, 10:30 Round 4

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
21.	Italy	Yugoslavia
22.	The Netherlands	Germany
23.	Sweden	Ireland
24.	Austria	Norway
25.	Hungary	Russia
26.	France	Great Britain
27.	Poland	Israel

Wednesday 22, 15:00 Round 5

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
21.	Yugoslavia	Austria
22.	Russia	Ireland
23.	The Netherlands	France
24.	Poland	Italy
25.	Germany	Israel
26.	Great Britain	Sweden
27.	Norway	Hungary

Wednesday 22, 20:30 Round 6

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
21.	Ireland	Yugoslavia
22.	Austria	The Netherlands
23.	Italy	Russia
24.	France	Germany
25.	Sweden	Poland
26.	Israel	Norway
27.	Hungary	Great Britain

Human nature

Friends come and go,
but enemies accumulate.

Anon

Today's Vugraph



10:30 Juniors - Round 12

Turkey – Norway

15:00 Schools - Round 5

Norway – Hungary

20:30 Juniors - Round 14

Finland – Austria

Match Of The Day

Juniors, Round 8: Russia - Israel

Five victory points separated the two teams at the start of the match, with Israel lying fourth, and Russia hoping to continue their recovery from the setback on Sunday.

The first four boards saw some minor swings which left Israel leading by 6-2 (a common score at tennis, as Rigal pointed out). The first board with potential for a big swing actually turned out to be flat, but it had plenty of excitement:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Game.

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

Closed

West	North	East	South
Zack	Matouchko	Amit	Lobov
	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Open

West	North	East	South
Doubinine	Shaham	Krasnosselski	Levin
	1♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	4♥!	Pass
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

It was surprising that neither East bid on the first round but on YuGraph Krasnosselski came back in later with spectacular bravery. Everyone had assumed that North's raise to Three No-trumps would end the auction. Note that against 3NT, though the defence can cash one spade and six hearts, in practice when West leads a spade, and South drops the jack, East will probably continue the suit allowing declarer to succeed. However, East made that hypothetical by entering with Four Hearts, a contract that can make so long as you don't misguess the majors. For example you may get to ruff two clubs and then the ace of hearts drops the king, leaving only a spade, heart and club loser.

North did well, therefore, to avoid doubling, and try

Five Clubs, the same contract as had been bid without opposition at the other table.

In the Closed Room South was declarer. West led the ace of hearts on which East played the two. West obediently switched to a diamond, which East ruffed, and the ace of spades defeated the game.

On YuGraph, East was on lead, and made the intelligent choice of the TWO of hearts. As they were playing fourth highest, and East had bid at the four level, this could only be an instruction for West to return a diamond. As it happened West would have done this anyway, knowing declarer had five diamonds. West duly won the heart ace, and switched to the diamond, ruffed by East who then cashed the ace of spades. Flat board.

A couple of boards later the Russian West was punished heavily for breaking a golden rule:

Board 7. Dealer South. Game All.

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

Closed

West	North	East	South
Zack	Matouchko	Amit	Lobov
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Dble	All Pass	

Open

West	North	East	South
Doubinine	Shaham	Krasnosselski	Levin
			Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♣	Dble	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

In the Closed Room West opened at the one level and East made a semi-forcing 1NT reponse which led naturally to game in hearts. North made a speculative double based on the view that he had three trump tricks, so at least they could not make any overtricks. ♣

Match of the Day Match of the Day Match of the Day Match of the Day Match of the Day Match of the Day

☉ North led the spade queen. Declarer won and played a trump, taken by North. West ruffed the next spade, to play another trump, again won by North, who exited with a third trump to dummy. Declarer cashed the top clubs throwing three diamonds from hand, and led a diamond to the king, the ten dropping from North.

Now comes this choice: has North made a natural play from $\diamond J10$ doubleton or a very clever one from $\diamond J10x$. In the latter case you must follow with a low diamond to fell South's bare ace. However, we would expect most Wests to get it right, as they would not wish to credit their opponents with such skill! Zack did get the diamonds right, following with a high diamond from hand, and recorded +790 for Israel.

On VuGraph Doubinine's opening of Two Hearts showed a weak two suiter with hearts. When East raised to Four West realised that he needed very little from East for a slam to succeed (the ace of diamonds, and four hearts to the king or ace is enough, or even just good trumps), and he moved on with $5\clubsuit$. This broke the normal rule of limited auctions, and West was duly punished. Against Five Hearts doubled North led a diamond, and soon after it was 200 to Israel for a swing of 790 or 14 IMPs. At half-time Israel led 19-12.

Russia got right back in the match after a bidding problem that was repeated at several tables. Roman Keycard Blackwood assisted in the outcome:

Board 11. Dealer South. Love all.

<p>♠ 6 4 3 ♥ J 7 3 ♦ 10 4 3 ♣ 10 7 4 3</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ J 10 8 2 ♥ 2 ♦ A J 8 7 2 ♣ A 6 5</p>	<p>♠ 9 ♥ K 10 9 8 5 4 ♦ K 5 ♣ K Q J 9</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	<p>♠ A K Q 7 5 ♥ A Q 6 ♦ Q 9 6 ♣ 8 2</p>											

Closed

West	North	East	South
Zack	Matouchko	Amit	Lobov
Pass	1♥	Dble	1♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♣

Open

West	North	East	South
Doubinine	Shaham	Krasnoselski	Levin
Pass	2♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	5♠

In the Closed Room Russia stopped quite normally in Four Hearts. East led the ace of diamonds but then played another one, so 12 tricks were made.

On VuGraph the Israeli auction was unopposed. Three Hearts was a forcing raise. Three No-trumps was a slam try usually denying the ace of clubs. South had extra values and wanted to make an encouraging noise, so he invented a cue-bid of Four Diamonds. This was enough to encourage North to wheel out Roman Keycard Blackwood, even though he had no aces. The response, showing two of five aces and the queen of trumps, was a big disappointment. North now knew the right contract was Five Hearts but the Laws did not permit him to bid it over Five Spades!

Several tables fell into the same trap, and ended in Six Hearts. The strange thing was that two declarers made it as East was so confident in their bidding that he did not try to cash two aces. On VuGraph, however, the Russian East was not so complimentary. He began with the ace of clubs and followed with the ace of diamonds to put the slam one down and give Russia a gain of 11 IMPs. The gap was now only 1 IMP.

Russia were perhaps a little unlucky on the next deal:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Game.

<p>♠ K 10 9 8 7 ♥ K J 4 2 ♦ 7 3 ♣ 10 3</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ A 4 ♥ A 9 6 5 ♦ Q 6 ♣ A K 9 5 4</p>	<p>♠ Q 2 ♥ 3 ♦ A J 8 5 4 ♣ Q J 7 6 2</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	<p>♠ J 6 5 3 ♥ Q 10 8 7 ♦ K 10 9 2 ♣ 8</p>											

Closed

West	North	East	South
Zack	Matouchko	Amit	Lobov
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass

For the best on-line coverage:
<http://www.bridge.gr>

Match of the Day Match of the Day Match of the Day Match of the Day Match of the Day Match of the Day

Open			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doubinine</i>	<i>Shaham</i>	<i>Krasnosselski</i>	<i>Levin</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Israel stopped in a safe contract of Two Spades. North led a club honour, declarer winning in dummy and unblocking the ten from hand. Declarer cashed the top trumps and cleared the suit to South's jack. South tried a low diamond, but when North won he led a second diamond, rather than give South a club ruff, so declarer now made ten tricks by taking the heart finesse and the club finesse.

By contrast Russia reached what looks a good heart game. North made the excellent lead of a LOW club, taken by the ace. Declarer followed with ace and king of spades. When the queen fell he could see that the contract was now cold on any 3-2 trump break. He cashed ace and king of trumps. If both followed he would play a high spade throwing a diamond loser from the dummy and the defence would have no answer.

However, with the trumps 4-1 South was able to win the third spade, put his partner in with a diamond, and receive a club ruff to defeat the contract. Well defended, for a 6 IMP swing to Israel.

This deal was a flat board in different grand slams, though both depended on the favourable heart break:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Game.

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

Closed

West	North	East	South
<i>Zack</i>	<i>Matouchko</i>	<i>Amit</i>	<i>Lobov</i>
1♠	Pass	2NT	3♦
5♦	6♦	Dble	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

Open

West	North	East	South
<i>Doubinine</i>	<i>Shaham</i>	<i>Krasnosselski</i>	<i>Levin</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	2♦
4♦	5♦	5NT	6♦
Dble	Pass	7♥	All Pass

In the Closed Room the Two No-trump response was Jacoby, showing game values with heart support. West's leap to Five Diamonds was Exclusion Blackwood, promising a void and asking for aces outwith diamonds. The double of Six Diamonds was taken as meaning an even number of aces, namely two.

On VuGraph West opened a Polish Club. The response and overcall were natural. Four Diamonds was a heart raise with a void. Five Notrumps was the Grand Slam Force, asking for two of the top three honours and the double of Six Diamonds showed one top honour. Despite this East gambled the grand slam. In a way it was good that the result was no swing.

On the next deal there was a grand slam on a finesse on the North-South cards, but this time one team stopped in Six, and the other in game!

Board 17. Dealer North. Love all.

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

In unopposed auctions Matouchko & Lobov of Russia bid:

1♣-1♠-2♣-2♥-3♥-4♣-4♦-4NT-5♥-6NT-Pass

1♣ was Polish; 2♣ an enquiry with the response showing exactly four spades but 10+ points. The next two calls were natural, then 4♦ was a cue-bid with clubs as the trump suit, and 4NT was a club cue-bid

Shaham & Levin bid naturally:

1♥-2♣-2NT-3NT-4NT-Pass

Full House

Towards the end of yesterday's press lunch Barry Rigal started to become concerned that he would be late for the start of the afternoon match. At that precise moment a telegram arrived from his co-commentator Hans Werge.

'Barry, no need to rush back. Everything is under control. Both spectators asleep.'

Match of the Day Match of the Day Match of the Day

Both tables made the obvious 13 tricks so Russia gained 11 IMPs. Israel now led by just 2 IMPs.

This was the match decider:

Board 18. Dealer East. NIS Game.

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



Both teams reached Five Diamonds. On VuGraph Krasnoselski & Doubinine had an unopposed auction:

1♣-2♦-3♦-4♣-4♥-4♠-5♣-5♦-Pass

In the Closed Room, Zack opened 1♦ and Amit responded 1♥ which encouraged South to make a light take-out double. North responded 1♠ and East made a natural call of 3♦ which West raised to Five.

On VuGraph Shaham led a heart and declarer, in the hope of disposing of his spade loser, took the heart finesse. When this lost, and a later club to the king also lost, the game was defeated.

In the Closed Room North led a club. If South switches to a spade the game goes down, but he continued clubs, perhaps with the idea of promoting a trump for North. North was able to ruff the third club, but only with a small trump. Declarer over-ruffed, drew trumps, and threw two spades from dummy on his good clubs. The swing was 10 IMPs to Israel giving them the win by 55-43 or 17-13 in Victory Points.

Star Quality

The youngest competitor at these Championships is Israel's Dana Tal. She is twelve years old but has already finished second in last month's Israeli National Women's Pairs Championship! Her partner in that event was as here, her sister Noga, at 15 practically an old age pensioner!



Dana Tal - Israel

They live with their parents in Haifa, a beautiful mountain region in Israel. It was while the family was in America for a couple of years that mother and father taught the girls how to play. Dana was just six years old!

Although they learnt together, until last year they had played with different partners. They used to play Precision Club, but have switched to Acol.

Dana can't recall her first tournament, but she does have an Austrian connection. Earlier this year she was third in the Mixed Pairs at the well-known Tel Aviv Festival where her partner was Franz Terraneo.

When she is not playing bridge Dana's favourite past-time is soccer. Her favourite team is, well why don't you ask her yourselves? It's not often you get to meet a champion in the making!



Encryption



Can you decipher this sentence?

**11 was a racehorse.
22 was 12.
1111 race 22112.**

ANSWER TOMORROW

New Laws

We recently heard that the Belarus Parliament passed a law forbidding criticism of the President of the Country.

Perhaps an appropriate revision to the next issue of The Laws of Bridge forbidding criticism of partner might be considered?!

Rising Stars

When one of the Editors is a retired International Chess Master it hardly comes as a surprise that at the start of the Schools Championship we should turn our attention to the match between Israel and Great Britain. The reason partly lies in the composition of the Israeli team. It includes sisters with a famous surname, Dana and Noga Tal. Perhaps not yet a well-known name in bridge, but famous in the game involving 64 squares as that of the daredevil Russian ex-World Champion Mikhail Tal.

He was renowned for his imagination, flights of fancy and bold attacking style of play so off our reporter went to the Closed Room to see if there was any similarity.

You can read elsewhere about an excellent result for the sisters on board 6.



Richard Probst - Great Britain

This board caught the eye, but it was one of the British players who produced something out of the ordinary.

Dealer South. N/S Game

♠ A	♠ Q J 10 2	♠ 8 6 5 4									
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 3	♥ A K J	♥ Q 5 4									
♦ K Q 9 6 5 2	♦ J 10	♦ 8 3									
♣ -	♣ 10 7 3 2	♣ A K Q 8									
	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ K 9 7 3										
	♥ 2										
	♦ A 7 4										
	♣ J 9 6 5 4										

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Probst	D. Tal	Jones	N. Tal
Pass	1♣	Pass	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	1♠
Pass	Dble	All Pass	Pass

Richard Probst decided to adopt a waiting game with the West cards. There is nothing wrong with that, but you have to bear in mind partner will usually have a hard time visualizing the exact nature of your hand. His delayed entry into the auction was simply a level too high and the cost was -200.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hoffman	Hydes	Lellouche	Teltscher
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
3♦	3♠	Pass	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Dble

All Pass

Do you have some sympathy for South, who doubled having seen his left hand opponent bid up to Four Hearts on his own after failing to open the bidding? Perhaps, but we would also be inclined to be cautious when anyone called Hoffman is at the table. In reality South should leave any further action to his partner, but we doubt the result would have been any different. +790 and 14 IMPs to Israel.

As the match progressed Great Britain tended to get the better of the little boards while the odd big swing went to Israel.

Having just turned thirteen, we suspect Dana is the youngest competitor in the Championships, but she has already acquired quite a feel for the game. She produced a bid reminiscent of the style of her chess namesake on this board.

Dealer South. N/S Game

♠ 5	♠ 5	♠ A 9 7									
♥ A Q 10 7 4 3 2	♥ K 8 5	♥ 6									
♦ 6 3	♦ Q 10	♦ A K J 9 8 4									
♣ A K 6	♣ Q 6 3	♣ J 9 5									
	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ K J 4 3										
	♥ J 9										
	♦ 7 5 2										
	♣ 10 7 4 2										

In the Open Room North opened One Heart allowing East an easy route into the auction. The final contract was Four Spades by West that failed by one trick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Probst	D. Tal	Jones	N. Tal
Pass	4♥	All Pass	Pass

East started out with the ace, king and jack of diamonds, West discarding ♠8. Declarer ruffed and played the five of spades. East has to take his ace but we can see all four hands. He ducked and Dana put up the king to collect 11 IMPs when the heart finesse proved to be onside.

At this point Israel led 43-37, but Great Britain rallied, outscoring their opponents 28-1 on the last five boards. This was their biggest gain:



Noga Tal - Israel

Dealer South. E/W Game

♠ A 6		♠ J 7									
♥ 7 5 3		♥ Q J 10 9 6 4									
♦ A K J 8 5		♦ 10 9									
♣ A K J		♣ Q 8 2									
♠ 10 9 8 5 4											
♥ K											
♦ 6 3 2											
♣ 10 6 5 3											
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
		♠ K Q 3 2									
		♥ A 8 2									
		♦ Q 7 4									
		♣ 9 7 4									

In the Closed Room Israel made no move towards a slam, stopping in 3NT and making 11 tricks for +660.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hoffman	Hydes	Lellouche	Teltscher
Pass	3♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	3NT

West led the ten of spades and Mark Teltscher won in dummy and came to hand with the queen of diamonds. He played a low heart and on winning with the king West continued with another spade. Declarer won and took his diamond winners and should have reached this ending:

<http://www.bridge.gr>



Mark Teltscher - Great Britain
Double squeeze? What double squeeze?

♠ -		♠ -									
♥ 7 5		♥ Q J									
♦ -		♦ -									
♣ A K J		♣ Q 8 2									
♠ 9 8											
♥ -											
♦ -											
♣ 10 6 5											
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
		♠ Q 3									
		♥ A 8									
		♦ -									
		♣ 9									

He would still have the club finesse in reserve, but when you cross to the ace of hearts West has to part with a club. Now you cash the queen of spades and East is in a similar situation. A non-simultaneous double squeeze! Just the sort of move Tal would have been proud of!

Mark didn't quite appreciate this possibility, keeping an extra club instead of a spade, so he had to guess he had squeezed East in the round suits and drop the queen of clubs, a play he managed to find.

Great Britain won this well played encounter 55-44 IMPs. 17-13VP, but watch out for both teams.

Homeward Bound

All players and officials are invited to contact the Hospitality desk as soon as possible with their departure details following the end of the Championships.

Homepage

von Fritz Babsch

Die verflixte achte Runde!

Die achte Runde hatte es in sich, sie war die mit Abstand „freakste“ des Turniers. Die Zahl der Singletons war leicht, die der Chicanes stark erhöht. Der Umsatz pro Match stieg auf 115 IMPs. Es gab einige sensationell hohe Ergebnisse: Die Niederlande schlugen Tschechien 119 : 13, die Russen gewannen gegen die Weißrussen 123 : 26, und ganz arg erwischte es die Spanier, die gegen die Dänen mit 8 : 136 verloren. Ich glaube nicht, daß dieses Resultat so bald überboten werden kann!

Die Österreicher vergaben gegen Norwegen die Chance, einen dritten Sieg einzufahren. Nach gutem Beginn gab es eine doch deutliche Niederlage mit 11 : 19. Das wäre keine Katastrophe gegen den Favoriten, das österreichische Team hat aber leider schon viel Boden verloren und liegt auf dem 13. Platz. Allerdings hat der 12. doch schon 11 Siegpunkte mehr.

An der Spitze liegen Norwegen und Italien, weitere sieben Teams liegen noch gut im Rennen, nämlich die Niederlande, Israel, Schweden, Island, Rußland, die Türkei und Dänemark. Das bereits einigermaßen einzementierte Mittelfeld besteht aus Großbritannien, Polen und Weißrußland. Es fällt auf, daß Zentraleuropa eine untergeordnete Rolle spielt. Aus dieser Region fehlen noch dazu die Schweiz und Slowenien. Diese Entwicklung halte ich für ziemlich bedenklich.

Antonio Riccardi, ein wichtiger Mann!

Der Oberturnierleiter ist einer der wichtigsten Funktionäre bei einer Meisterschaft, denn er ist für alle Turnierleiter verantwortlich. Bei dieser EM fungiert der Italiener Antonio Riccardi als Oberturnierleiter.

Riccardi wurde 1948 in Mailand geboren, lebt in San Zenone al Po, ist verheiratet und hat zwei kleine Kinder, Martino und Nadia.

Riccardi hat Ökonomie studiert, begann mit 16 Jahren mit Bridge und entschloß sich bald, aus dem Hobby einen Beruf zu machen: Er wurde Professional. Das hatte fatale Folgen für sein Familienleben - seine erste Frau verließ ihn.

Seit 1980 leitet er alle wichtigen Ereignisse der EBL und der WBF. Er gehört der Prüfungskommission für neue EBL-Turnierleiter an. Sein Assistent Marc, Christian und Dietlind sind bei ihm sozusagen in die Lehre gegangen. Darüber hinaus ist Riccardi ein Mitglied des System-Komitees der EBL.

INTERVIEW mit Panos Gerontopoulos.

Dr. Panos Gerontopoulos (geb. 1949) stammt aus einer Familie von Rechtsanwälten, hat aber Vermessungswesen studiert, und zwar in Saloniki, Oxford und Graz, wo er den Dokortitel erwarb. Er startete eine akademische Karriere und ist heute Dozent in Athen.

Homepage: Wie kamen Sie zum Bridge?

Gerontopoulos: In Saloniki spielten wir viel Poker, was meinem Onkel nicht gefiel. Er redete mir ein, das Kartenspiel für wirklich intelligente Leute sei Bridge, aber wahrscheinlich sei ich noch nicht reif dafür. Natürlich haben wir sofort mit Bridge begonnen.

Homepage: Wie wurde aus dem Bridgespieler ein Organisator?

Gerontopoulos: Über das Stadium eines Durchschnittsspielers bin ich nicht hinausgekommen, denn ich entdeckte schon in Oxford, daß ich Talent zum Organisieren hatte. Es gab einen großen Bridgeklub für Studenten, die Turniere hatten bis zu 80 Tische. Ich spielte sogar einmal für Oxford, was für einen Ausländer eine große Ehre war. Zwei Jahre lang war ich der Schatzmeister des Klubs, lernte Victor Mollo und vor allem Rixi Markus kennen. Bald betätigte ich mich als Journalist und trat 1976 der IBPA bei, der Vereinigung der Bridgejournalisten.

Homepage: Wie kamen Sie zum Juniorenbridge?

Gerontopoulos: Die EBL hatte 1973 endlich ein Juniorenkomitee gegründet, dem André Boekhorst vorstand. Es war schwierig gewesen, die anderen Funktionäre von der Notwendigkeit eines solchen Komitees zu überzeugen. Ich bot mich an, die Veranstaltungen für Jugendliche journalistisch zu betreuen. Ich war dann auch bei anderen Gelegenheiten als Journalist tätig, unter anderem 1982 beim ersten TL-Seminar der EBL. Wenn ich mich richtig erinnere, haben auch Sie damals Ihre Lizenz erworben. Drei Jahre später wurde ich in Salsomaggiore in das Exekutiv-Komitee der EBL gewählt, was einer kleinen Sensation gleichkam; ich gewann die Stichwahl gegen den viel bekannteren Dirk Schroeder.

Homepage: Wie sind Sie mit der EM in Wien zufrieden?

Gerontopoulos: Ich bin von den Räumlichkeiten begeistert und überrascht, wie gut die Organisation klappt; ich hatte Bedenken. Ich halte mich an den Grundsatz, daß man das Gute nur dann genießen kann, wenn man nicht zuviel erwartet.

Die Räume sind gut klimatisiert, so daß die Spieler ☺

☞ nicht unter der Hitze leiden müssen. Es gibt genug Hilfskräfte, vor allem junge, die ihre Aufgaben gut lösen und auch belastbar sind. In anderen Ländern sind die Hilfskräfte oft einfach zu alt.

Homepage: Wie sind Sie mit der Teilnahme zufrieden? Ich habe den Eindruck, daß sie stagniert, bei den Junioren sogar rückläufig ist. Es fehlen auch wohlhabende Nationen.

Gerontopoulos: Sie haben da einen wunden Punkt angesprochen, denn wir verloren vier Teams bei den Junioren und sind bei den Schülern gleichgeblieben. Es muß aber gesagt werden, daß Cardiff 1996 ein Glücksfall war, denn es gab eine plötzliche Steigerung; wir sind jetzt wieder dort, wo wir 1994 waren. Daß wir diese Entwicklung mit Sorge betrachten, ist klar, und wir hoffen, daß wir im Jahr 2000 wieder einen Zuwachs haben.

Homepage: Wo wird diese EM stattfinden?

Gerontopoulos: Wir haben noch kein konkretes Angebot und hoffen, daß Polen aushelfen kann.

Homepage: In letzter Zeit hörte man über Kontakte zum Olympischen Komitee. Gibt es konkrete Fortschritte?

Gerontopoulos: Im Herbst wird in Lausanne ein Turnier im Hauptquartier des IOC stattfinden, an dem alle Nationen teilnehmen sollen, die je eine Bridgeolympiade gewonnen haben, und zwar in der Offenen Klasse. Das sind die USA, Italien, Polen, Brasilien und Frankreich; dazu wurde China eingeladen. Präsident Samaranch hat zugesagt, die Preisverteilung vorzunehmen. Das wird eine Menge Publicity bringen. Es geht uns nur um einen Imagezuwachs, nicht um Geld, jedenfalls nicht direkt vom IOC. Wir wollen als Teil der Olympischen Bewegung anerkannt werden, was uns in der Öffentlichkeit sehr helfen könnte. Wir wollen die fünf Ringe auf unserem Briefkopf haben.

Homepage: Ich wünsche Ihnen bei diesem Unternehmen viel Glück und danke Ihnen für dieses ausführliche Gespräch.

Ein kleiner Lichtblick und ein schlechter Start.

Die neunte Runde brachte den Junioren endlich wieder einen hohen Sieg (22 : 8 gegen Kroatien). An der Spitze hat sich nicht viel geändert, aber Italien hat Norwegen als Leader abgelöst; die Türken belegen momentan den dritten Platz vor Israel, Schweden und den Niederlanden.

Einen schlechten Start hatten Österreichs Schüler. Sie verloren gegen die Deutschen mit 3 : 25. Die Deutschen zählen allerdings zu den Favoriten. ☞

Bread & Butter Board

by Maureen Dennison

When the East players looked at their cards on board 19, it looked to be a very ordinary affair. Yet there were nearly as many results as there were matches. They varied from 4♠ by North-South, sometimes doubled and all failing; various levels of heart contracts which, too, were not a success; and those conservative pairs who stayed at the optimum 3♠ level, (once doubled!), to make their contract. However, at one table only, when Turkey were defending against Israel, was Three Spades defeated.

Dealer South. E/W Game

♠ J 10 9											
♥ Q 8 6 2											
♦ K Q J											
♣ J 8 5											
♠ -	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="background-color: black; color: white; text-align: center;"> </td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 8 6 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ K J 10 9 7 4		♥ 5 3									
♦ A 10 9 6		♦ 7 5 3 2									
♣ A 4 2		♣ K 6 3									
	♠ K Q 7 5 4 3										
	♥ A										
	♦ 8 4										
	♣ Q 10 9 7										

West	North	East	South
Uz	Amit	Alper	Zack
2♥	2♠	Pass	1♠
3♦	Dble	Pass	3♣
All Pass			3♠

Uz led a heart to declarer's bare ace and Zack led a spade towards table, finding out about the bad break. Alper ducked this and now Zack might have got home if he continues with spades but he felt he had to do something about the club suit so called for dummy's ♣5.

Alper shot up with the king and led his second heart. Declarer ruffed and now led a diamond. However Uz took the ace and played his heart king! Alper was able to throw away a club and the setting trick was a club ruff when Uz regained the lead with the ♣A!

By the way, I was impressed by the meticulous disclosure by Alper, (my side of the screen) of any partnership understanding implied by a bid. This included, for instance, the volunteered information that Alper's 2♦ overall over 1♠ categorically denied a four card heart suit. ☞

Team Profile

The Czech Junior Team

We start our series of team profiles with brief details about the Junior Team from the Czech Republic. It's quite a close knit group, involving as it does three members of the same family and a pair of brothers. In passing we recall that the Captain and Coach represented their Country in the European Championships in Killarney in 1991.

	Age	Profession
ZADRAZIL Michal	25	Student of mathematics and programmer
KRASA Ondrej	25	Clerk in building company
PULKRAB Petr	21	Student of chemistry
VOZABAL David	19	Student of two Universities (mathematics and economics)
JELINEK Petr	15	Student of secondary school (gymnasium)
VOZABAL Petr	19	Student of University of economics
1. npc Prof. HEBAK Petr	57	University Economics Prague. Professor in Statistics and probability
2. npc JELINEK Zdonek	47	Partner of Petr Hebak at Championship of Europe 91 in Ireland. Mathematician and programmer.
Rn Dr. JELENKOVA Marie	47	"Mother" of the team and Bridge teacher.

Serendipity

by Maj

The Greek team is not (probably) competing for a qualifying spot on the next World Junior Championships but they seriously compete for the luckiest board of the tournament. Watch board 6 from Round 9:

Board 6. Dealer East. East/West Game

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

The bidding started as in many tables with a slightly

dangerous 3♠ preempt by East. Manousakakis, with the South cards doubled, West passed and North bid a conservative 4♣. Now, our candidate for the luckiest board of the tournament found an inspired bid: 4♦ and North raised to 5♦.

This has the advantage of being the only available game for NS. If West leads a spade, East wins the ♠K, and, if he cashes the next spade, declarer simply refuses the heart finesse and ruffs a spade in dummy, bringing his total to 11 tricks: 4 diamonds, 5 clubs, ♥A and the spade ruff. And if East plays back a heart, declarer takes the ♥A and discards 2 spades in dummy's clubs. If the lead is a club, South wins, cashes 3 rounds of trumps and discards again 2 losing spades on dummy's clubs.

In the same board, another inspired bid was reported from the Schools series, in the match of Gt. Britain v Israel. In the North-South seats the Tal sisters were playing for Israel. After the inevitable 3♠ from East, Noga Tal doubled and Dana Tal (the youngest player of the tournament, 13 years old) sitting North found a nice way for a big plus score: she passed and collected 500 and 11 IMPs.

PRESS LUNCH

The members of the International Bridge Press Association would like to thank the Sponsor Gösser, for the lunch held at the Gösser Bier Klinik. The press also thank the Austrian Bridge Federation and Gavriel Unger for their hospitality at these Championships.

There are 24 journalists at the Championships reporting home to their readers.

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