

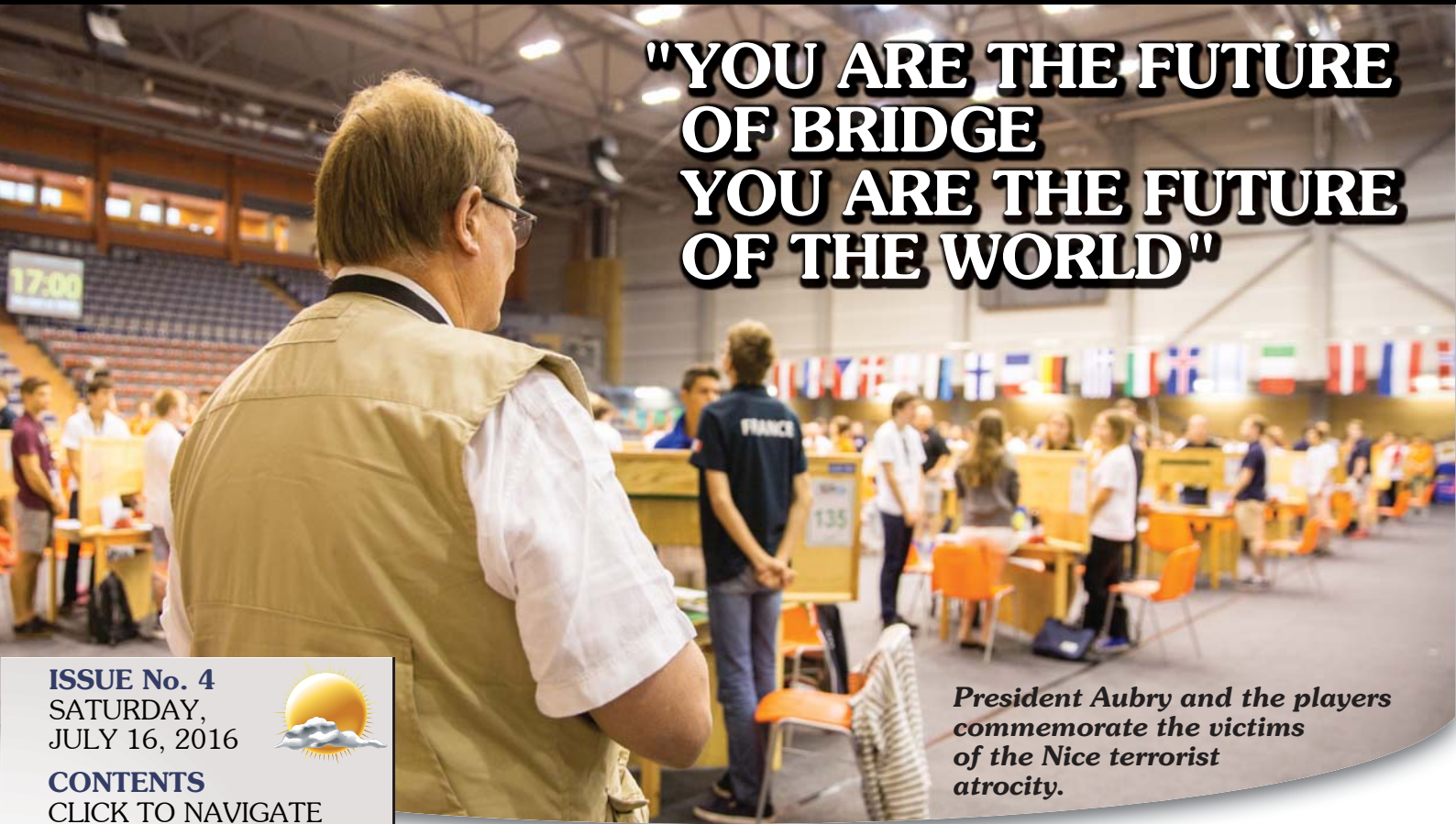


13th European Youth Bridge Pairs Championships

Liepaja, Latvia 12 to 20 July 2016

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"YOU ARE THE FUTURE OF BRIDGE YOU ARE THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD"

President Aubry and the players commemorate the victims of the Nice terrorist atrocity.

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JULY 16, 2016



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England's Alex Roberts and Ankush Khandelwal lead the way in the U26 championship qualifying while Florian Alter and Lauritz Streckl of Germany lead in the U21s. There is a whole second day of qualifying today before the top 26 pairs in each series cut off to play in Sunday's final so there is plenty of time for those who have had a poor first day to recover. At the one-third distance, Poland's Magda Budzynska and Joanna Brede lead the Women's championship and Poland also lead in the U16s in the shape of Michal Maszenda and Kacper Kopka.

PRIZE-GIVING AND CLOSING CEREMONY

The Prize-giving and Closing Ceremony will be held in the auditorium on the ground floor of the venue, starting at 2000 on Sunday July 17th.

Cocktails and a buffet will follow the ceremony.

SCHEDULE

- 10:00 - 11:30: session 6
- 11:45 - 13:15: session 7
- 14:30 - 16:00: session 8
- 16:15 - 17:45: session 9
- 18:00 - 19:30: session 10





BITS AND PIECES

by European Bridge League



EVENT FORMATS

U26 Open Pairs – 61 pairs will be reduced to 26 for the one-day all-play-all final on Sunday.

U21 Pairs – 59 pairs will be reduced to 26 for the one-day all-play-all final on Sunday.

In each of these finals there will be a carry-forward with the leading qualifiers being awarded the equivalent of two tops, 48 MPs, going down linearly to zero for the last qualifier.

U26 Women's Pairs – 20 pairs are playing a three-day single-stage event.

U16 Pairs – 23 pairs are playing a three-day single-stage event.



PRESIDENT'S CUP

The President's Cup is a one-day event to be held on Sunday July 17th, starting time 1130.

The President's Cup is transnational, so you can play with anyone you like – as long as you are both under 26 by the same definition as for the championship events.

Entries for the President's Cup can be made via the internet or by using the computer which can be found at the hospitality desk. Entries should be made not later than 1000 on Sunday July 17th.



EBL YOUTH CAMP

A 27th country is present in Liepaja Belgium has no pair in the Championships but 4 players will attend the EBL Camp.

19 countries are represented in EBL Camp.

8 countries with players in the championships will not be attending the camp.

1	AUSTRIA	6
2	BELGIUM	4
3	CROATIA	4
4	CZECH REPUBLIK	4
5	DENMARK	2
6	ENGLAND	4
7	ESTONIA	11
8	FINLAND	4
	FRANCE	0
9	GERMANY	6
10	GREECE	2
	HUNGARY	0
11	ICELAND	2
12	IRELAND	8
13	ISRAEL	4
	ITALY	0
14	LATVIA	41
15	NETHERLANDS	1
	NORWAY	0
	POLAND	0
16	PORTUGAL	4
17	ROMANIA	2
18	RUSSIA	1
19	SCOTLAND	6
	SWEDEN	0
	SWITZERLAND	0
	TURKEY	0
		116



MIXED PAIRS SESSION 6

by **Karlis Rubins**

Six pairs from Latvia participated in the Mixed Pairs, so I decided to kibitz a few boards with Latvian players. For most of them this is the first European championship. Nauris Pelsis, who is partnering Jolanta Broka, was playing in Burghausen two years ago, meanwhile Jolanta learned how to play bridge only two years ago.

They played Boards 21 and 22 against the Dutch pair, Van Beijsterveldt/Banas.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Nauris Pelsis opened 1♠, Natalia made a take-out double, and that was passed by Jolanta. Now Bas had a problem: what to bid, holding that West hand? Two Hearts, 3♦ and 3♥ are possible choices and all have flaws – 2♥ is an underbid, bidding 3♦ might not find hearts and 3♥ might be too high, if partner is minimum and with just three hearts. Bas decided to start with a 2♠ cuebid, doubled by Nauris and redoubled by Banas. Pass and 4♥ by Bas ended the auction. Pelsis started with two spades and switched to clubs and the later defence collected the ace of diamonds and queen of hearts for one down and 60% for Latvian pair.

On the next board Nauris had a bidding decision as North on this deal.



Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

He opened 1♠ and heard 1NT from Broka. Three Hearts now would be my choice, but Pelsis bid just 2♥, planning to bid more if partner would make some invitational move. Jolanta passed and Natalia led ♣K. Now it was all a matter of good planning: take the ace of clubs and directly start on diamonds – that might lead to 10 tricks, but Nauris took ace of clubs, ace of spades and ruffed a spade, then ♦A and ♦Q covered and ruffed. One more spade ruff and a club pitched on the high diamond. The club loser had disappeared but after ♥J, small, small, queen, he had to lose trump control and took only nine tricks. Still, +140 gave them 62% on the board.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Later in the session I had an opportunity to see nice bidding by Ginta Garkaje and Janis Ilzins – the most experienced Latvian mixed pair. North opened the bidding with 4♠. Janis chose to double and Ginta decided to get more information by bidding 4NT – two places to play. After 4♣ by Janis she knew that their cards should fit perfectly and bid 6♥. The slam was cold and very few pairs bid it, so it was a 96% board – a great result, which helped them to finish in the fourth place in the session.




MIXED PAIRS SESSION 6

by Brian Senior

Thursday morning's session saw some interesting bridge, beginning with this exhibit:

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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


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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ikauniece</i>	<i>Zalitis</i>	<i>Jaunskalze</i>	<i>Piibor</i>
–	1♠	Dble	2♥
3♥	3♠	4♥	All Pass

As we can imagine, meetings between Latvia and Estonia have an extra importance for the participants. On this deal Latvia's Roberts Jaunskalze made a take-out double and raised Alvine Ikauniece's 3♥ to game, an optimistic call given that he had no extra distribution and the ♠Q rated to be so much wastepaper.

Aleksis Zalitis cashed the top spades then switched to ace and another diamond to the jack and king. The contract looks doomed as there is an unavoidable heart losers – isn't there? Well, Ikauniece thought that South should have something for her raise to 2♠, even if 2♥ showed a weak raise, so led a heart to the ace then returned the jack. Can Johanna Piibor be blamed for playing low? After all, this is how declarer might play holding ♥K10xxx to tempt a cover which would then solve her problem. When Piibor played low there was no heart loser and the Latvians had a huge board, +420 being worth 47 out of 50 MPs.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

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


West	North	East	South
<i>Ikauniece</i>	<i>Zalitis</i>	<i>Jaunskalze</i>	<i>Piibor</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Time for revenge, and Zalitis made an aggressive jump rebid to get to the good heart game, against which Jaunskalze found the most challenging lead of the king of clubs. Zalitis won the ace and led a diamond to the ace followed by the queen of diamonds to the king and ruff. Ace of spades followed by a ruff put him in dummy to cash the jack of diamonds and get rid of the club loser, and now he ruffed a club. Zalitis continued with the king of spades then the ten to the queen and ruff with the jack of hearts. That was over-ruffed with the ace and back came a club. Zalitis ruffed and played his winning spade, ruffed by Jaunskalze with the queen. The last two tricks were won by the ♥K-10 so Zalitis had 11 tricks for +450. That was worth 48 MPs to the Estonians, who had won the round by 51-49 MPs.





Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
<i>Iher</i>	<i>Gavrilova</i>	<i>Maide</i>	<i>Gofmans</i>
2♥	Dble	3♥	Dble
Pass	4♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

A second Estonia v Latvia battle ended in a win for Estonia when Mirjam Iher could open 2♥ on the West cards, presumably showing a weak hand with both majors, and Latvia's Elizaveta Gavrilova made a very aggressive take-out double. Rasmus Maide made a preemptive raise to 3♥ and now Andris Gofmans made a responsive double to find partner's better minor then raised all the way to slam. It is hard to be too critical of someone who commits to slam facing a two-level take-out double when holding 20 HCP including all four aces, but 6♣ proved to be doomed.

Maide led a heart so Gavrilova won the ace, crossed to hand with a spade and ran the queen of diamonds, losing to the king. Back came a spade to dummy's ace. Gavrilova cashed a top club then ruffed a heart to hand and ran the jack of clubs. Good news, the jack held the trick – bad news, the suit was four-one so there was still a club loser. Down one scored –100 and only 6 MPs.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Wackwitz</i>	<i>Covill</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Khandelwal</i>
–	5♦	All Pass	

England's Laura Covill opened 5♦ as dealer and that scooped the pool. She had to go four down for –200. That was worth 28 MPs to N/S. Not everyone opened at the five level, and a 4♦ opening, for example, was more likely to see E/W come into the auction.



*Elizaveta Gavrilova
Andris Gofmans
(Latvia)*



Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

	♠ 8		
	♥ J 10 5 4 3		
	♦ A 10 8 7		
	♣ 8 7 5		
♠ A 10 5 3 2	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ K Q 6 4	
♥ A 6		♥ K Q 9 8 2	
♦ Q J 9		♦ 6	
♣ 9 3 2		♣ K J 4	
	♠ J 9 7		
	♥ 7		
	♦ K 5 4 3 2		
	♣ A Q 10 6		

West	North	East	South
Wackwitz	Covill	Verbeek	Khandelwal
-	-	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

	♠ Q		
	♥ 9 8 7 6 3		
	♦ A Q 6 5		
	♣ J 5 4		
♠ J 8 7 5	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>	♠ A 9 6 3 2	
♥ Q 5		♥ 4	
♦ 10 9 7		♦ J 4	
♣ A K 8 3		♣ Q 10 9 7 2	
	♠ K 10 4		
	♥ A K J 10 2		
	♦ K 8 3 2		
	♣ 6		

West	North	East	South
Piibor	Combescure	Zalitis	Bernard
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	3♥
Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♥	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

The Dutch pair of Janneke Verbeek and Thijs Wackwitz had a free run to a close spade game. Covill led the seven of clubs to the jack and queen and Akush Khandelwal found the necessary low diamond switch to beat the contract. Covill won the ace and played a second club and Wackwitz was down one before he could get started. Minus 100 was worth only 12 MPs to the Dutch pair.

I don't know the Estonian E/W pair's methods but clearly Zalitis did not have a two-suited weak opening at his disposal. That being the case, he preferred to open 1♠ rather than a weak 2♠ in third seat and Piibor showed a constructive raise. Three Clubs presumably showed a minimum, the club length being a coincidence, and now Julien Bernard, who had found some reason not to overcall on the previous round, decided it was time to get involved. Zalitis could have passed out 3♥ but was greedy and competed to 3♠ and now Sarah Combescure in turn competed with 4♥. Looking at so little high-card strength but decent playing strength, Zalitis judged to save in 4♠ now and was doubled.

The double fit in the black suits must have been a very pleasant surprise for Zalitis as it meant that not only was he only down one for -100, but also the opposition's heart game was completely cold. In fact, N/S have 11 easy tricks in a heart contract but were never going to compete to that level after South's curious pass over 1♠. Plus 100 scored only 14 MPs for N/S.



THIJS VERBEEK, THE NETHERLANDS



THE MIXED PAIRS SESSION 7

by Brian Senior

Session 7 was the session for 800 penalties – at least at the table I was watching.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Khandelwal</i>	<i>Rouanet-L</i>	<i>Covill</i>	<i>Laloubeyre</i>
–	1♥	1♠	2NT
3♠	4♥	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Not this one, though. England's Laura Covill found what should have been a paying save against Anne Rouanet-Labe's heart game. Clement Laloubeyre led a low trump to the jack and king and Covill led a club to the ace followed by dummy's low diamond. Rouanet-Labe rose with the ace and returned a low heart, Laloubeyre winning the ace and playing ace and

another spade. That prevented the diamond ruff but Covill could win in dummy and pitch her remaining heart on the queen of clubs, just giving up a second diamond to escape for down one and –100. The N/S field had not done well on this board as, though 10 tricks cannot be prevented in a heart contract, –100 was worth only 15 MPs out of 50 to E/W.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bernard</i>	<i>Zvorovski</i>	<i>Combescur Torv</i>	
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
1NT	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♣	3♥
Dble	All Pass		

The Estonian N/S pair did not enjoy this deal. Rao Zvorovski's raise to 2♥ was a very questionable action on three small hearts and no ruffing value when vulnerable. One can have sympathy with Helina Torv's decision to compete with 3♥ over 3♣, assuming that the double of 2♥ had been described to her as just general values and not penalty, though the empty heart suit might have been a slight worry. Julian Bernard's second double was most definitely for penalty and it collected a very healthy one.

Bernard led the queen of hearts to the king and Torv won her ace to lead the singleton spade to dummy's king. Sarah Combescur won the ace and returned a club. Torv put in the jack so Bernard won the queen and cashed the jack and ten of hearts then switched to a spade to dummy's queen. Torv got rid of a diamond on this trick then led a diamond towards her king. She came to one spade, one diamond, two clubs and two hearts; down three for –800 and just 2 MPs.



LAURA COVILL, England



Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

	♠ K J 4 3 2		
	♥ A 9 6 5 3		
	♦ 10 8		
	♣ 7		
♠ 10 9 8 7 6	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A Q 5	
♥ J 8		♥ K Q 7	
♦ –		♦ 7 2	
♣ A K 9 8 6 2		♣ Q 10 5 4 3	
	♠ –		
	♥ 10 4 2		
	♦ A K Q J 9 6 5 4 3		
	♣ J		

West	North	East	South
<i>Rouanet-L</i>	<i>Tuus</i>	<i>Laloubeyre</i>	<i>Lember</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
3♣	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Dble	All Pass

There is some doubt whether this was the exact sequence but the final contract was definitely 4♥ doubled. Two Diamonds was weak with both majors and 2NT inquired. Rouanet-Labe took the opportunity to introduce her clubs and Hanna Tuus showed her five-five shape. Frankly, I cannot imagine putting down this dummy in 4♥ undoubled, let alone 4♥ doubled, and Manglus Lember will no doubt be a sadder and, hopefully, wiser young man after doing so.

Laloubeyre led the three of clubs and Rouanet-Labe won the king and continued with the ace of clubs to force dummy to ruff and ensure that the long diamonds could never become a factor in the play. She may have been mildly surprised to find that declarer was also out of clubs, but Tuus ruffed in dummy anyway, pitching a spade from hand, then tried a top diamond. Rouanet-Labe ruffed and played a third club, again ruffed in dummy. A second top diamond was ruffed with the jack and now Rouanet-Labe led the ten of spades through to the jack, queen and ruff. Tuus played a winning diamond but, when West discarded a club, ruffed with the nine, a strange play which achieved exactly what it looked likely to achieve – an extra undertrick. The diamond was over-

ruffed and there were still two more spades a heart to lose; down four for –800 and 8 MPs to N/S, more than I would have expected.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

	♠ A K Q J 5		
	♥ 10 9 8		
	♦ 7 5 2		
	♣ Q J		
♠ 10 6 4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 9 8 7	
♥ 7 6		♥ Q J 2	
♦ A K J 10 9 8 6 4		♦ Q 3	
♣ –		♣ A K 10 3 2	
	♠ 3 2		
	♥ A K 5 4 3		
	♦ –		
	♣ 9 8 7 6 5 4		

West	North	East	South
<i>Torv</i>	<i>Vissere</i>	<i>Zvorovski</i>	<i>V Engelen</i>
–	1♠	Pass	1NT
3♦	Pass	3♠	4♦
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Torv's 3♦ was a very sound call even at this vulnerability. Zvorovski tried for game with a 3♠ cuebid and Bas Van Engelen made an intelligent cuebid of his own in an attempt to get his distributional hand across in one bid. Torv imagined that her opponents would have a game their way, while her partner had a good hand with likely diamond support – perhaps game was on in both directions as her own hand had extra playing strength and no defence? She bid 5♦ and found that she was right up to a point – her opponents did have game on, so long as they played in hearts, but she was light years away from making her own game. Van Engelen's double ended the auction.

Three rounds of spades were followed by three rounds of hearts, all of dummy's strength bar the ♦Q proving to be of no value whatsoever, and Torv was down three for our third –800 of the session. That was worth 49 MPs to the Dutch N/S pair.





Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Torv	Vissere	Zvorovski	V Engelen
-	-	Pass	1♥
2♣	3♣	4♣	6♥
Dble	All Pass		

Torv started with a quite 2♣ overcall of Van Engelen's 1♥ opening and Esther Vissere cuebid to show a constructive heart raise (4♣ splinter anyone?). When Zvorovski now showed club support, Van Engelen decided that there was no intelligent way to explore so he just gambled out a slam, hoping to find the ace of hearts and a top spade in dummy. Torv thought she had two aces to cash so doubled and that was that.

The ace of diamonds was ruffed and Torv's confidence in her defensive prospects was somewhat dented. Van Engelen drew a round of trumps then led a spade and Torv won, of course, then tried a club. Van Engelen had the rest; 12 tricks for +1660 and 41 MPs – not a bad round for the Dutch pair.

10th bridge tournament

Riga Invites To Jurmala

17.-21. 08. 2016

programme

17.08.2016
18:00 Invitational tournament (7x4 boards)

18.08.2016
11:00 Teams tournament (round 1-3)
18:00 Teams tournament (round 4-6)

19.08.2016
11:00 Teams tournament (round 7-9)
18:00 Teams tournament (semi final + final)
18:00 Banquet

20.08.2016
11:00 Open pairs tournament, session 1
18:00 Open pairs tournament, session 2

21.08.2016
11:00 Open pairs tournament, session 3

enterance fees

Enterance fee for Teams tournament is 160 € per team and 100 € per pair

prizes

Cups and 50% cash prizes

*Happy to see you all in the 10th Bridge tournament
Riga invites To Jurmala!*



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+371 26427170

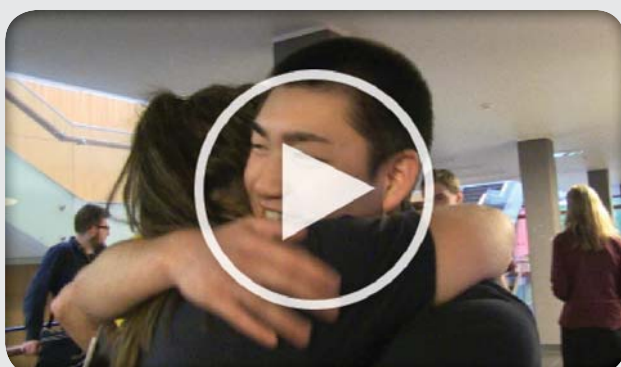


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NEW VIDEOS!



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The Tale of the Mixed Pairs



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Bridge for Peace



MIXED PAIRS, FINAL SESSION

by Brian Senior

Going into the final 12-board session of the 2016 European U26 Mixed Pairs Championship, the surprise leaders were Jun Nakamaru-Pinder and Olivia Bailey of Scotland on 61.43%. They were being chased by Poland's Zuzanna Moszczyńska and Rafal Marks, with Vesa Fagerlund/Maria Myllylä of Finland in third and the French pairing of Julien Bernard and Sarah Combescure fourth. Other pairs still had a shot at the medals but would need a strong final session.

We will concentrate on the leaders. First up were the Dutch pair, Mette Lejeune and Wisse Huvers.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ K 9 7 2		♠ Q 8
♥ 9 2		♥ K Q J 5 4
♦ 6 5 3		♦ A 9 8 4
♣ K 9 3 2		♣ 6 5
♠ A 10 5 4	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J 6 3
♥ 8 6 3		♥ A 10 7
♦ K J 10		♦ Q 7 2
♣ A J 7		♣ Q 10 8 4

West	North	East	South
Bailey	Lejeune	Nakamaru-P	Huvers
–	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Nakamaru-Pinder showed his two suits and now Bailey was unsure whether to play the five-three heart fit or 3NT so used FSF and, when partner repeated the hearts, raised to game.

Huvers led the eight of clubs. Nakamaru-Pinder called for the ace and immediately led a low spade towards his queen. When Lejeune played low, the queen scored and declarer switched his attention to trumps, leading the king from hand. Huvers won and led the four of clubs to the seven and king and back came a third club, ruffed. Nakamaru-Pinder drew trumps, Lejeune discarding a diamond. Suspicious of a discard from what was known to be his side-suit, Nakamaru-Pinder now led a diamond to the king then ran the jack so lost a trick to the queen. He had 10

tricks now for +420 and a dead average, 25 MPs to each side.

North's duck of the spade at trick two cost nothing, as had she won the king the jack would have fallen under the ace and declarer would have had two discards so no diamond loser.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ Q J 7 4		♠ 5 3
♥ 7		♥ A J 2
♦ A K		♦ J 9 6 2
♣ Q 8 6 5 3 2		♣ A K 10 4
♠ A K 10 6	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 9 8 2
♥ K Q 6 5 3		♥ 10 9 8 4
♦ 3		♦ Q 10 8 7 5 4
♣ J 9 7		♣ –

West	North	East	South
Bailey	Lejeune	Nakamaru-P	Huvers
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♥	Dble	Rdbl	2♦
4♥	All Pass		

When Nakamaru-Pinder could make a support double to show three-card heart support, it was easy for Bailey to bid the heart game. Lejeune tried to cash the top diamonds but Bailey ruffed the second diamond and drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and jack then played three rounds of spades, ruffing. She attempted to cash the ace of clubs next but that was ruffed and back came the ten of hearts, which she won.

Bailey led the jack of clubs to the queen and king and, with the clubs blocked, simply cashed the ten and settled for ten tricks and +420; 23 MPs to the Scots.


In the ending, declarer could have ruffed a diamond after the club jack had been covered. North is squeezed on this trick and declarer has an overtrick.

Next up were the French pair of Jennifer Mourgues and Theo Guillemin, who were still involved in the medal hunt in sixth place.






Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>Nakamaru-P</i>	<i>Mourgues</i>	<i>Bailey</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♦	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>Nakamaru-P</i>	<i>Mourgues</i>	<i>Bailey</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♣	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

When Mourgues overcalled at the two level and vulnerable, Guillemin felt that he was worth a bid but had nothing ideal at his disposal. He tried a cuebid, despite lacking the club support normally associated with such a bid and Mourgues, imagining that there was no need to jump as a new suit here was strong and therefore forcing, bid a quiet 2♥, planning to show the diamond stopper at her next turn. There was no next turn as Guillemin took the view that, with no eight-card fit and probably no diamond stopper there was unlikely to be a good game contract. No doubt they will have sorted this one out for the future.

Bailey led the queen of diamonds so Nakamaru-Pinder won the ace and returned a diamond to declarer's king. Mourgues looked to be less than thrilled at being in 2♥ and cashed three rounds of trumps followed by the top clubs and, when the bad split came to light, took a losing spade finesse. She started with nine winners and that was what she ended up with; -140 and 34 MPs to the leaders.

I would have thought that 2NT over the 2♠ rebid would describe the North hand quite well but Nakamaru-Pinder preferred to cuebid 3♣, safe in the knowledge that he could not have more than this as he was a passed hand. When Bailey could only bid her spades for a third time, Nakamaru-Pinder called it a day in 3♠.

Guillemin found the best lead of ace and another club, Mourgues ruffing. She returned a diamond to her partner's ace and was given a second ruff, but that was all for the defence. Nine tricks and +140 was worth only 13 MPs to the Scots. Where game was bid, whether 3NT or 4♠, it made more often than not, while some also made ten tricks in a spade partscore.



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For the third round of the session, the 48th in all, the opposition were representing the host nation, Latvia.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bailey	Jaunskaze	Nakamaru-P	Ikauniece
-	Pass	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Alvine Ikauniece opened 1NT and played there, Bailey leading the four of diamonds to the jack and ace. Ikauniece cashed the top hearts and, on seeing the queen fall, continued with two more heart winners. She next cashed the king of diamonds before leading the six of spades to the king and ace. Bailey cashed two diamonds then led a spade to dummy's queen and declarer had the ace of clubs to come for eight tricks and +120. With most of the field considering the South hand to be too strong for a 1NT opening, they found the heart fit, usually bidding game. Minus 120 was worth 47 MPs to the leaders – just what they needed.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bailey	Jaunskaze	Nakamaru-P	Ikauniece
-	-	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

A 1NT opening and transfer sequence saw the Scots reach a normal spade game but the five-zero trump split saw Roberts Jaunskaze double the final contract.

Ikauniece led a diamond to the jack and king. Nakamaru-Pinder led a spade to the queen and ace and Jaunskaze cashed two clubs then switched to a heart. Nakamaru-Pinder won in dummy and led a spade to the nine then cashed the king and claimed down one. Minus 200 scored 19 MPs, not too bad for the Scots, who still led at the mid-point in the session.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bailey	Maide	Nakamaru-P	Iher
-	-	-	1♠
2♦	Dble	3♦	4♥
All Pass			

Estonia's Mirjam Iher opened 1♠ and jumped to 4♥ in response to Rasmus Maide's negative double. West has to find a club lead to hold this contract to ten tricks but who is going to manage that? Bailey led her side's agreed suit and Iher quickly took two club pitches on the ace and king of diamonds, drew trumps and ruffed out the spades, claiming 12 tricks for +680 and leaving the Scots with 23 MPs.





Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bailey	Maide	Nakamaru-P	Iher
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Maide opened 1NT and Iher transferred to hearts then passed the completion. I'm not sure that I like Nakamaru-Pinder's diamond lead round to a strong no trump but it didn't cost anything. Maide won dummy's queen and led the queen of hearts and a tired Bailey covered, an obvious error as declarer could have held ace-doubleton. As it was, the cover saved declarer from the heart guess and he won and drew trumps then gave up a club. Bailey won and pushed a diamond through so Nakamaru-Pinder made his king and Maide had 10 tricks for +170. The Scots took 27 MPs to flatten the round at 50 MPs each way.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bailey	Gavrilova	Nakamaru-P	Gofmans
–	Pass	1♣	Dble
1♥	Pass	2♣	All Pass

Latvia's Andris Gofmans doubled 1♣ but that was the end of the Latvian pair's involvement in the auction as they sold out to 2♣.

Gofmans cashed the top spades then, fearing to open up either red suit, exited with the queen of clubs. Nakamaru-Pinder won the ace and led a heart towards dummy. When Gofmans played low, Nakamaru-Pinder thought back to the auction and played him for king and queen of hearts, calling for the jack. That lost and away went the only possibility of an overtrick. There was a club and a diamond to lose leaving eight tricks for +90 and 31.34 MPs.

Elizaveta Gavrilova should, I think have bid 1♠ over 1♥, and now Gofmans could have competed to 2♠ over 2♣. Two Spades cannot be defeated but even one down would have improved the N/S score.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bailey	Gavrilova	Nakamaru-P	Gofmans
–	–	Pass	1♥
2♣	3♥	4♣	4♥
All Pass			

I hate that 2♣ overcall, vulnerable and on a hand that barely qualifies as even a weak no trump opening. It feels as though it deserves to concede a penalty and the fact that even 2♣ cannot be made facing that East hand suggests that the hand is not worth a bid. Anyway, no harm was done as the Latvians bid to their normal heart game.

Bailey led the king of clubs but that was ruffed and declarer drew trumps then played ace and another spade. Now the leaders got a huge bonus when he called for dummy's nine, losing to the ten. There were still two diamonds to be lost so Gofmans made 10 tricks for +620 and a slightly disappointing 36 MPs to the leaders.



Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Combescure</i>	<i>Nakamaru-P</i>	<i>Bernard</i>	<i>Bailey</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	1NT
4♠	All Pass		

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Combescure</i>	<i>Nakamaru-P</i>	<i>Bernard</i>	<i>Bailey</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

France's Julien Bernard found a four-card overcall and his partner, Sarah Combescure had an obvious raise to game on her shapely but low point-count hand.

Bailey led a diamond, Nakamaru-Pinder winning the king and returning the eight of clubs to dummy's ace. Bernard took the spade finesse, losing to the king, and back came a club. He won the king, drew trumps and led a heart towards the dummy. Bailey took her king and returned a diamond, ruffed in the dummy. A low heart off the table now saw Nakamaru-Pinder go in with the ace and declarer had managed to hold his heart losers to two. The contract was still one down for -50, worth 28 MPs to the Scots.


JUN NAKAMARU-PINDER, Scotland

Bernard cuebid 2♥ to ask for a heart stopper then cuebid again to check that the stopper was a secure one. Yes, said Combescure, I have a good heart holding.

Nakamaru-Pinder led the six of hearts, MUD, to the king and ace and Combescure could see that club tricks would come too slowly to be of use so she had to play on diamonds. However, that being the case she should have started with a diamond to the nine, giving herself two chances in the suit and which would have been more successful than her actual choice of low to the queen, which lost to the king. Bailey returned a low heart on which Combescure played the jack and she now played a second diamond and, after some thought, ducked Nakamaru-Pinder's ten. The defence cashed the hearts followed by the ♣A. Though that crashed the king, the contract was still down three for -150 and 35 MPs to the Scots.

Olivia Bailey and Jun Nakamaru-Pinder were champions of Europe, scoring 60.89% over 102 boards. I believe that makes them Scotland's first ever European bridge champions. My apologies if I have overlooked a previous winner. Second, roughly one top behind on 59.83% were the Finnish pairing of Maria Myllaeri and Vesa Fagerlund, while the bronze medals went to Zuzanna Moszczynska and Rafal Marks of Poland with 59.33%. Sarah Combescure and Julien Bernard of France were just outside the medals in fourth on 59.06%. A better final round could easily have seen them in the medals.





WHERE TO GO

by Micke Melander

Being a bit late I finally arrived in the playing area, but where to go was the question? I checked some of the screens to see who was going to play and realized that the English Juniors, Alishaw/Kennedy were going to face both Nakamura-Pinder and Fagerlund and their partners in the first session. Knowing they had won gold and silver in the Mixed Pairs it was an easy choice. So why not simply stop there and follow the actions? And for sure there was a lot going on when the English mini NT (9-11), when not being vulnerable, created a lot of swings.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Coenen</i>	<i>Alishaw</i>	<i>Lucassen</i>	<i>Kennedy</i>
–	–	Pass	2♦*
2♥	Dble*	Pass	Pass
3♦	4♠	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West probably still regrets not passing out Two Hearts, when he had the chance and had it doubled. The bidding finally came to halt in Five Hearts, Alishaw doubled for business. Coenen had no chance of making the contract when he had two top losers in trumps and the king of diamonds was offside. One down was 46/12 to the English pair.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kohutova</i>	<i>Alishaw</i>	<i>Schanka</i>	<i>Kennedy</i>
Pass	1♥	1NT	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

Schanka decided to put the queen of diamonds on the table when he had to lead. Alishaw thought for some time before finally pitching his losing club, allowing West to win with the ace. A club come back, declarer won with the ace and ruffed the three of clubs in dummy before playing a heart to the king and ace. East returned a second round of trumps and declarer had no problem to ruff a diamond, ruff a spade and claim his ten tricks, when he could simply give away a second diamond trick to set up the suit.

The only way of beating Four Hearts was to start with the ace of trumps and a second round, to prevent declarer setting up the diamond suit. Checking the scores it was around 50/50 who found that killing defence, but far from all were doubled so the score was 54/4 to the English pair when they managed to make the contract.

Declarer could in fact also succeed in making his contract by cross-ruffing from trick one – when trumps were as they were. East will in the end be endplayed into having to lead away from the king of clubs.



STEPHEN KENNEDY, England



Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 7 ♥ 10 8 7 5 ♦ K Q 7 4 ♣ A K Q	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K J 8 6 5 3 ♥ K J ♦ J 6 ♣ J 8 6	♠ 2 ♥ 9 6 4 2 ♦ A 10 5 3 ♣ 10 7 4 2
♠ A Q 9 4 ♥ A Q 3 ♦ 9 8 2 ♣ 9 5 3			

West	North	East	South
<i>Aimala</i>	<i>Alishaw</i>	<i>Fagerlund</i>	<i>Kennedy</i>
-	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ K J 9 3 ♥ 8 3 ♦ A 10 9 7 5 ♣ J 10	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A Q 6 5 ♥ A J 5 2 ♦ J 3 ♣ Q 8 5	♠ 8 4 ♥ K 10 9 4 ♦ Q 2 ♣ A 6 4 3 2
♠ 10 7 2 ♥ Q 7 6 ♦ K 8 6 4 ♣ K 9 7			

West	North	East	South
<i>Makulec</i>	<i>Alishaw</i>	<i>Kosma</i>	<i>Kennedy</i>
Pass	1NT*	Dble*	All Pass

Here the mini-NT, 9-11, was in action, Kosma's double promised 13+ and West saw no reason to run with his hand. That decision should have been correct if they just would have defended correctly.

What happened now was that East decided to kick off with the two of hearts, which went to the six, eight and declarer's ten. Alishaw immediately played a club to the king then ducked a club to West's ten. The defense cashed out four rounds of spades and exited with a heart to the nine, jack and dummy's queen. With two hearts and four clubs in the bag, declarer had to score a heart or a diamond for his seventh trick. Plus 180 was of course worth 100% on the board and the long run of good results continued for the English pair.

Two Spades was weak and Three Hearts showed the maximum values but a bad suit. That was all Aimala needed to hear and he jumped to game. It doesn't matter how many medals you have just won, as it doesn't help you to make impossible contracts and this was for sure one of those. In fact you had to play very carefully to even make Two Spades if the defense didn't give any help.

Kennedy, who doubled for business, gave a trick away when he started with the ace of hearts. Still, there was no way for declarer to escape losing two trumps and a diamond for one down when Fagerlund understood how trumps broke and solved the problem by playing the three of trumps to the seven! That was 38/20 to the English pair.



MICHAEL ALISHAW, England



Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nakamaru-P	Alishaw	Freimanis	Kennedy
-	-	1♥	1NT
Dble	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble*	All Pass		

went to the jack. Two more rounds of clubs followed, East discarding hearts. West exited with the three of hearts to his partner's ace and another round followed, putting declarer in dummy when the king held the trick. Declarer played a spade to the king, ruffed the jack of hearts with the jack of trumps and cashed the ace of spades. He now just established a diamond trick and could claim.

In order to defeat the contract, East has to cash the ace of diamonds before playing the ten of clubs so he can pitch two diamonds on the clubs and later on get a diamond ruff to set the contract.

Plus 670 was another clear top for Alishaw/Kennedy who had scored a remarkable session.

I said well done before leaving the table and followed that with "I think you just had a great start to these championships", to which they somehow seemed to agree. Checking the scorecard I saw the following results:

79.31%, 93.10%, 89.66%, 65.52%, 86.21%, 48.28%, 100%, 60.34% and 100%.

Only nine results? Yes, as I said in the beginning of this article, I arrived a little late and didn't see the very first board. There they had 5.17%... Joking with them I said that they maybe want me to continue sitting at their table. Kennedy smiled and said "I wouldn't mind that".

Nakamaru-Pinder's second double was for take-out but Freimanis decided to turn it into business. Again a decision that would have been correct if they had found the correct defense, which wasn't that easy.

At the table, East led his singleton club and that



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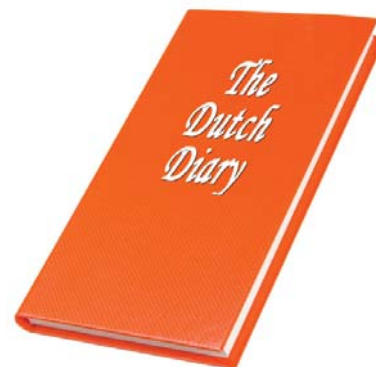
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DUTCH DIARY I

by Kees Tammens

Since 1991 in Fiesch (Switzerland), I have kibitzed every Junior European or World Championships Pairs. I must confess that juniors during all those years have impressed me, especially in tactics and strategy in the Matchpointed Game. As a coach I accompanied the Dutch juniors for many years and therefore you will understand I mind especially 'my juniors'. Some impressions of the Friday morning session. The Irish are always fighting, as my good friend Thomas McCormack would state:



friendly. After a long bidding sequence the player on lead asked about the meaning of the bids made. "He has good cards" was the all-revealing answer and the player nodded – content with this explanation – and chose his lead.

Luc Tijssen took full advantage of a not so accurate defence.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 8 ♥ 10 7 2 ♦ J 9 6 4 3 2 ♣ Q J 4	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N E S W </div>	♠ A K 7 6 ♥ K J ♦ A 10 7 5 ♣ 7 3 2	♠ 10 9 4 2 ♥ 9 3 ♦ Q 8 ♣ A K 10 8 5 ♠ Q J 5 3 ♥ A Q 8 6 5 4 ♦ K ♣ 9 6
---	---	---	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Gormally</i>	<i>Kiljan</i>	<i>Synnott</i>	<i>Tijssen</i>
–	1NT(9-11)	Dble	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Rdbl
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

The mini NT in full action. In fact 2♥ was the maximum contract for NS. It remained uncertain what would have happened if West had passed 3♦. That would have created a big problem for North. After the spade lead for the ace, declarer ruffed a spade and played a diamond to the ten and king. The obvious club switch gave N/S three tricks in clubs, the ace and queen of hearts and the trump trick for down three; + 500 for 100%. There is no better way to start a tournament.

Walking around the very suitable Olympic centre I see many familiar faces and meet and greet a lot of friends, many of them former juniors themselves (remember everybody once was a junior!).

The atmosphere in these first rounds was very

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A 10 9 7 5 ♥ 9 ♦ Q 6 4 3 ♣ 9 6 2	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N E S W </div>	♠ K Q 8 ♥ K 7 5 ♦ J 5 ♣ A 10 8 7 4 ♠ 6 4 3 ♥ A 10 4 2 ♦ A 10 8 7 ♣ K 3 ♠ J 2 ♥ Q J 8 6 3 ♦ K 9 2 ♣ Q J 5 7	♠ 6 4 3 ♥ A 10 4 2 ♦ A 10 8 7 ♣ K 3
---	---	---	--

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

The lead was the best for East/West, a club from West to East's king. Returning a club would have established a club ruff. East, however, played ♦A followed by a second diamond for the king. The ♥Q held the trick and a heart to the king lost to East's ace. East returned a diamond, ruffed in dummy. Declarer played a spade for West's ace and back came a fourth diamond, ruffed by South. The ♠K and ♠Q, then ace and another club from dummy caught ♥10 4 of East with ♥J 8 in South; +140 for a fine score.



In the second session of ten boards the knives were sharpened.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
van Overbeeke Roper		Polak	Birchall
–	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

After the lead of the ace of spades, the defence was accurate, East playing ♣Q for the obvious down four. North, William Roper, was sportive: “Sorry partner, I did not know what to open, but my choice obviously was not the best one”.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shah	Donkersloot	Illingworth	Coppens
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
1♠	2♣	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

The adventurous 1♥ overall created a lot of bidding and the optimistic 3♥ by North pushed West – who of course ‘saw’ a doubleton or singleton hearts with East – to 3♠, which was one trick too high. So, after twenty boards, the cards were a little better shuffled but still there were 80 boards to go and lots of matchpoints at stake in the qualifying stage.



Part of the Dutch Delegation



U26 PAIRS - RANKING AFTER SESSION 5

1	ROBERTS Alex	KHANDELWAL Ankush	ENG - ENG	66.70
2	VOVOS Konstantinos	KRITSALIS Philippos	GRE - GRE	61.52
3	TIJSSEN Luc	KILJAN Veri	NED - NED	58.58
4	KAZMIERCZAK Wojciech	NOWAK Kamil	POL - POL	58.51
5	VERBEEK Thijs	VAN ENGELEN Bas	NED - NED	57.91
6	HULT Simon	STOKKA Adam	SWE - SWE	56.66
7	ERSEK Laura	HOMONNAY Balint	HUN - HUN	56.42
8	SHAH Shivam	ILLINGWORTH Frederick	ENG - ENG	56.29
9	GRUDE Tor Eivind	GUNDERSEN Anders	NOR - NOR	56.26
10	LEVI Hila	ASULIN Adi	ISR - ISR	56.02
11	ILZINS Janis	PELSIS Nauris	LAT - LAT	55.72
12	ALISHAW Michael	KENNEDY Stephen	ENG - ENG	55.69
13	CHARIGNON Fabrice	LALOUBEYRE Clement	FRA - FRA	55.58
14	DONKERSLOOT Bob	COPPENS Pim	NED - NED	55.37
15	FAGERLUND Vesa	AIMALA Antti	FIN - FIN	55.17
16	MARCINOWSKI Piotr	SOBCZAK Mateusz	POL - POL	55.16
17	DEHEEGER Colin	ROUANET-LABE Anne	FRA - FRA	55.07
18	YEKUTIELI Asaf	TOLEDANO Oren	ISR - ISR	54.50
19	SYNNOTT David	GORMALLY Hugh	IRL - IRL	53.89
20	POLAK Tobias	VAN OVERBEEKE Tom	NED - NED	53.66
21	KONKOLY Csaba	SZIRMAY-KALOS Barnabas	HUN - HUN	53.49
22	WESTERBEEK Chris	WESTERBEEK Ricardo	NED - NED	52.27
23	COMBESURE Baptiste	BERNARD Julien	FRA - FRA	52.16
24	WILSON Abigail	MILNE Jake	SCO - SCO	52.07
25	BUUS THOMSEN Signe	JEPSEN Peter	DEN - DEN	51.82
26	GOTINK Kevin	SCHOUTEN Yordi	NED - NED	51.39
27	MAJCHER Arkadiusz	MARKS Rafal	POL - POL	51.22
28	COENEN Joost	LUCASSEN Adriaan	NED - NED	50.64
29	EIDE Harald	BAKKE Christian	NOR - NOR	50.39
30	ZALITIS Aleksis	PRII Jakob	EST - EST	50.10
31	DJILOVIC Josko	MIJIC Ante	CRO - CRO	49.93
32	CHAVARRIA Margherita	MONTANELLI Enea	ITA - ITA	49.68
33	DEAN Nicholas	RAYNER Dominic	ENG - ENG	49.60
34	KITA Maciej	GRABIEC Maciej	POL - POL	49.39
35	ZAMIR Ami	EZION Amir	ISR - ISR	49.20
36	CALMANOVICI Alessandro	SAU Roberto	ITA - ITA	48.53
37	DOYLE Nathan	BOLGER Arran	IRL - IRL	48.49
38	HAHN Frederik	WEBER Stefan	GER - GER	48.41
39	RAUDSEPP Jonatan	MAASIK Martin	EST - EST	48.35
40	WEISS Florian	VELJA Stefan	AUT - AUT	46.99
41	SCHANKA Martin	KOHUTOVA Lucie	CZE - CZE	46.95
42	BIRCHALL Alex	ROPER William	ENG - ENG	46.19
43	TUKENMEZ Can Erdem	YILDIZ Busra Aslihan	TUR - TUR	46.03
44	VON BUEREN Yannick	STOECKLI Jeremie	SUI - SUI	45.80
45	COVILL Laura	MEKIE Sean	ENG - ENG	45.66
46	SPRINKHUIZEN Thibo	MENDES DE LEON Guy	NED - NED	45.60
47	NAKAMARU-PINDER Jun	FREIMANIS Gints	SCO - SCO	45.16
48	AYDOGDU Erkmen	AYDOGDU Ataman	TUR - TUR	44.84
49	TORV Helina	ZVOROVSKI Rao	EST - EST	44.24
50	TOMA Anca	RETZLER Rainer	ROM - ROM	43.58
51	BRODERSEN Jon	BRANDGAARD DANIEL	DEN - DEN	43.53
52	HERMANN Sophie	EDER Felix	AUT - AUT	43.06
53	KOSMA Lukasz	MAKULEC Marek	POL - POL	42.91
54	BRASS Tommy	LEEMING India	ENG - ENG	42.78
55	WEISS Christine	HOLZNER Michael	AUT - AUT	42.05
56	SCHEBERAN Philip	FLIERL Vanessa	AUT - AUT	41.68
57	LEMBER Manglus	TUUS Hanna	EST - EST	41.45
58	GOFMANS Andris	GAVRILOVA Elizaveta	LAT - LAT	41.36
59	BALDURSSON Heidar Arni	SIGURDSSON Logi	ISL - ISL	40.26
60	RAMOS Francisco	PIMENTA Carolina	POR - POR	39.02
61	CASTRO Francisco	RIBEIRO Miguel	POR - POR	38.64



U21 PAIRS - RANKING AFTER SESSION 5

1	ALTER Florian	STRECK Lauritz	GER - GER	61.11
2	KRAWCZYK Blazej	LENKIEWICZ Jakub	POL - POL	60.80
3	BOULIN Arthur	GUILLEMIN Theo	FRA - FRA	59.48
4	ZVEZDIN Zigfrid	POSTOVALOV Ilia	RUS - RUS	58.09
5	MAJEWSKI Konrad	GODLEWSKI Piotr	POL - POL	57.75
6	SUCHODOLSKI Adam	ZURAWSKI Tytus	POL - POL	57.13
7	BARR Stephen	DONNELLY MICHAEL	IRL - IRL	56.99
8	SLUSZNIAK Mateusz	KEDZIERSKI Maciej	POL - POL	56.95
9	VASAR Martin	PRII Milvi	EST - EST	56.79
10	CLARK Jonathan	PANCHAGNULA Kripa	ENG - ENG	56.51
11	NIJSSEN Oscar	OVERVELDE Sven	NED - NED	56.42
12	ANDRUSZKIEWICZ Jakub	SUCHARDA Edward	POL - POL	56.25
13	IHER Mirjam	MAIDE Rasmus	EST - EST	55.48
14	BALODIS Martins	SALMINA Sintija	LAT - LAT	55.26
15	LE LEZ Victor	THORPE Stephan	FRA - FRA	55.16
16	NORTON Ben	BEHRENS Sam	ENG - ENG	55.01
17	KLEMS Erik	MELCAK Martin	CZE - CZE	54.76
18	LEJEUNE Mette	HUVERS Wisse	NED - NED	54.73
19	OKUNIEWSKI Wojciech	KRAJNIK Dominik	POL - POL	54.56
20	PATREUHA Jakub	PATREUHA Patryk	POL - POL	54.34
21	FRAGOLA Maxence	TEIL Clement	FRA - FRA	54.04
22	KALETA Michal	PAWELCZYK Tomasz	POL - POL	53.83
23	SCATA Sebastiano	MANGANELLA Andrea	ITA - ITA	52.73
24	STOUGIE Leen	STOUGIE Marc	NED - NED	52.57
25	BLOM Jasper	VAN DE PAVERD Tim	NED - NED	52.10
26	VAN OOSTEN Sibrand	PABST Philipp	GER - GER	52.07
27	GUTH Romaric	RABOURDIN Hugo	FRA - FRA	51.98
28	BELICAUD Luc	BASLER Raphael	FRA - FRA	51.94
29	CASPERSEN Soeren Veel	LAHRMANN Christian	DEN - DEN	51.88
30	KOIVU Oskari	AALTO Alekski	FIN - FIN	51.79
31	BUNE Sophie	CHRISTENSEN Malene Holm	DEN - DEN	51.64
32	VORNKAHL Leonard	JESSE Stig	GER - GER	50.71
33	BUNE Soren	TODD-MOIR Victor	DEN - DEN	50.49
34	OTTO Viktor	LITTERST Maximilian	GER - GER	50.15
35	TRENDAK Lukasz	PALUSZEK Konrad	POL - POL	50.13
36	GIUBILO Gabriele	ROSALBA Andrea	ITA - ITA	49.82
37	CANKUDIS Mikolaj	MORAWSKI Patryk	POL - POL	49.52
38	NORDMANN Felix	SCHIFFMANN Darius	GER - GER	49.05
39	VALENTINE Ronan Richard James	OBRIEN Liam	SCO - SCO	48.40
40	GOUDZWAARD Dieter	DUPONT Pim	NED - NED	48.14
41	WINTER Daniel	SANDERSON Liam	ENG - ENG	47.62
42	FALCONER Glen	MACKILLOP Donald	SCO - SCO	47.06
43	STEFANEC Kristijan	FERENCA Matko	CRO - CRO	46.74
44	DREIMANIS Gints	ILDEIKINS Viktors	LAT - LAT	46.71
45	KRAUZE Kristaps	KUZIS Karlis	LAT - LAT	46.61
46	PROCHAZKA Adam	VOLHEJN Petr	CZE - CZE	46.57
47	FRIDRICH Tomas	OTRADOVCOVA Zuzana	CZE - CZE	45.23
48	JASINSKI Piotr	BACZEK Krystian	POL - POL	43.98
49	SMOLIK Adam	HULANICKI Pawel	POL - POL	42.44
50	GROCHOWSKI Maksymilian	KOWALSKI Mikolaj	POL - POL	41.43
51	WATTERS Roisin	DOYLE Jason	IRL - IRL	40.22
52	DOMITROVIC Andrija	FILIPOVIC Branimir	CRO - CRO	40.21
53	CONNOLLY John	VARLEY Daniel	IRL - IRL	40.12
54	SKURULE Karina Meta	CACE Atis	LAT - LAT	39.89
55	SOCHA Maria	CIESLIK Agnieszka	POL - POL	38.47
56	ATVARS Arturs	LINKS Gatis	LAT - LAT	37.51
57	WALSH Sheila	KANE Ariane	IRL - IRL	37.31
58	CARTHY Joseph	FARRELL Conor	IRL - IRL	31.27
59	FARWIG Sven Niklas	NURMBERGER Simon	GER - GER	29.92



U26 WOMEN PAIRS - RANKING AFTER SESSION 5

1	BUDZYNSKA Magda	BREDE Joanna	POL - POL	61.46
2	TICHA Magdalena	BANAS Natalia	NED - NED	59.26
3	MOSZCZYNSKA Zuzanna	PIESIEWICZ Dominika	POL - POL	59.03
4	WACKWITZ Janneke	BRUIJNSTEEN Merel	NED - NED	58.08
5	MADUZIA Anna	BALDYSZ Zofia	POL - POL	57.88
6	WISEMAN Yvonne	NEGREANU Carina	ENG - ENG	54.96
7	THEPAUT-VENTOS Solene	COMBESCURE Sarah	FRA - FRA	54.75
8	VISSEER Esther	VAN OMMEN Maaïke	NED - NED	53.99
9	GARKAJE Ginta	KAMPARA Diana	LAT - LAT	50.14
10	RAFFA Enrica	BROCCOLINO Susanna	ITA - ITA	50.07
11	DE LUTIO Caterina	CAPOBIANCO Sophia	ITA - ITA	49.47
12	KAMPERMANN Mareille	DAMMAN Alexandra	GER - GER	49.18
13	MYLLAERI Maria	SIIRA Sini	FIN - FIN	47.95
14	LELEU Anais	THUILLEZ Mathilde	FRA - FRA	47.95
15	PIIBOR Johanna	LAAN Susanna	EST - EST	46.26
16	LE PENSEC Alice	MOURGUES Jennifer	FRA - FRA	44.94
17	RIEGER Mona	NORDMANN Leonie	GER - GER	41.60
18	CIUNCZYK Hanna	ZAREBA Anna	POL - POL	38.21
19	BROKA Sandra Elvira	BROKA Jolanta Gundega	LAT - LAT	37.74
20	BAILEY Olivia	NESOM Suzanna	SCO - SCO	36.70

U16 PAIRS - RANKING AFTER SESSION 5

1	KOPKA Kacper	MASZENDA Michal	POL - POL	60.48
2	STADLER Raphael	LEPPER Jannik	AUT - AUT	59.32
3	MAZUR -	KUCZKOWSKI Michal	POL - POL	58.71
4	PIGULSKI Adam	RACEWICZ MACIEJ	POL - POL	57.92
5	HUHTAMAKI Hermanni	NIEMINEN Aapo	FIN - FIN	57.73
6	ALTUN Toygar Tuncay	EREN Umut Gorkem	TUR - TUR	57.65
7	JOHNSEN Christian Fredrik	AUSTAD Marius Dalemark	NOR - NOR	56.15
8	GUENDEL Marius	DRANSFELD Karl	GER - GER	55.58
9	KOZAK Jakub	CIESLINSKI Jan	POL - POL	55.39
10	MADDEN Harry	SELBY Oscar	ENG - ENG	55.00
11	CICHY Krzysztof	CAUS Dominik	POL - POL	54.08
12	KORDAS Konstanty	MACKOWIAK Karol	POL - POL	53.34
13	YASAR Isil	BAKAR Umran Zeynep	TUR - TUR	48.94
14	ROSE Henry	PEMBERTON Alexander	ENG - ENG	48.93
15	STASIK Michal	KASPERCZYK Lukasz	POL - POL	48.63
16	DYBDAHL Sanna Emilie Dybvik	BREKKE Kaja	NOR - NOR	47.56
17	FARWIG Niels Ole	LANGER Emil	GER - GER	46.85
18	KURLIT Franciszek	KUFLOWSKI Kacper	POL - POL	45.60
19	ZATORSKI JAKUB	DZIUBA JAKUB	POL - POL	41.45
20	KEISALA Arttu	MAKELA Lasse	FIN - FIN	38.12
21	RUBINS Ralfs	PIRS Maksimilians	LAT - LAT	37.94
22	GROCHOWSKI Albert	CIESLIK Joanna	POL - POL	34.80
23	PUSKARJOVS Aleksandrs	GOROVOJS Adrians	LAT - LAT	31.66

CAVENDISH V

MONACO, FROM 13 TO 19 FEBRUARY, 2017