



FUNBRIDGE
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"Bridge for Peace"



DAILY
BULLETIN

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Off to a good start



Players from Shanghai, China, sing "Les cloches du hameau" near the end of the opening ceremony. Photo by Francesca Canali

There were speeches and singing, pledges of proper behavior by players and of professionalism by tournament directors. It was the opening ceremony of the Funbridge World Youth Open Bridge Championships in Lyon.

At 8:19 p.m. before a packed vugraph auditorium, WBF President Gianarrio Rona, WBF President Emeritus José Damiani, WBF Youth Committee Chairman Ata Aydin and WBF Executive Council member Sevinç Atay together declared the youth tournament open.

It was a feel-good event, and when Aydin called for a round of applause from the youth-dominated crowd, the response was impressive. Aydin ended his welcome with a wish for all players to have "the best of success in competition and a wonderful time in Lyon. I'm sure you will remember this for many years through your life."

In his remarks, Rona told the crowd, "We are proud to have

you here. It confirms that the youth movement everywhere in the world is a great reality." Later, Rona added, "We want to wish you all the best and remembering our motto is Bridge for Peace. You will play to defeat hatred and play the card of peace."

The event opened with the playing of the French national anthem, with many in the crowd singing the lyrics. Near the end, a group of about 30 Chinese players took the stage to sing a well-known French song, "Les Cloches du hameau."



Today's Schedule

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 10.00 (J-Y-G-K) | Pairs Qualification 1st session |
| 14.00 (J-Y-G-K) | Pairs Qualification 2nd session |
| 17.00 (J-Y-G-K) | Pairs Qualification 3rd session |



Missing in action

by Micke Melander

Just a few weeks ago the European Youth Teams finished in Samorin, Slovakia. Sweden eventually won the U26 and U21 while Netherlands captured the U26 Girls series and Poland won the U16 series. That qualified them all (with 20 other teams placed second to sixth) for next year's World Championship in China, and one might expect to find them all participating in this 5th World Youth Open Championships, but when it conflicts with the biggest championship of all (Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup) some of the players simply must choose where to participate.

Here comes one of the boards from Samorin, where Mikael Rimstedt showed how to play and think as a champion and for sure we will miss him participating here in Lyon in the Youth championships because he plays for Sweden in the Bermuda Bowl with his twin brother Ola.

-Bzzz, was the sound coming from the phone late in the evening. "Do you want a board to report?"

"Always," was the prompt reply. "See you at breakfast and I'll get the details for you."

Round 24. Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>♠ 7 ♥ A K 10 9 ♦ K 8 6 3 2 ♣ J 5 4</p> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">N</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">W</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">E</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">S</div> </div> | <p>♠ 3 ♥ Q J 4 3 2 ♦ A 5 4 ♣ A Q 7 2</p> | <p>♠ A Q J 10 6 5 2 ♥ 8 7 ♦ J 10 9 ♣ 3</p> |
|---|---|--|--|

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| O. Rimstedt | | M. Rimstedt | |
| - | 1♥ | 4♠ | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

South led a heart to dummy's ace and Sweden's Mikael Rimstedt led a spade to his ten.

South paused before playing low, surely indicating possession of the king, and presumably also that there was a four-one split, else why duck?

Mikael could see what was going to happen – if he continued with ace and queen of spades, South would win the king and play a second heart to dummy. With no quick entry to hand to draw the last trump, declarer would have to let North gain the lead and now a third heart would promote the nine of spades for the setting trick.

Mikael therefore decided to try something different. He led a low club from hand to the jack and queen. Had North returned the ♥Q, there would have been no escape for declarer, but he instead tried to cash the ace of clubs. That was all Mikael needed. He ruffed, played ace and queen of spades, and won South's heart return in dummy, ruffed a club and drew the outstanding trump before taking the diamond finesse to hold his diamond losers to just one.

That gave Mikael 10 tricks and his contract for a fine +590. That's how to think and play if you want to be a champion.

Simple change produces big results

by Brent Manley

At the 3rd World Youth Open Bridge Championships in Atlanta in 2013, Ata Aydin looked around at the field and had an idea that he now believes has made a significant difference in the organization and conduct of the tournaments for younger players.



"We saw that there was no under-15 category," said the chairman of the World Bridge Federation Youth Committee, "but half the field was under 15."

The next move was to establish an under-15 category, which includes 15-year-olds. At first, Aydin says, there were some reservations about the move, but it turned into "a great opportunity for the future of bridge."

The proof, he says, is the record turnout at the Fun-bridge World Youth Open Bridge Championships. In all categories, there are 69 teams, including 27 kids 15 and younger. "It's crucial for bridge," Aydin adds.

He should know. Aydin has been involved in youth bridge at home in Turkey for 34 years and now teaches the game full time, for credit, at Koç University in Istanbul.

Aydin learned bridge while in high school, influenced by family members who played, notably his father and grandfather.

He ran a bridge club for 25 years before selling it and now teaches the game full time at the university. He served as president of the Turkish Bridge Federation from 1999 to 2009.

Aydin's focus turned to international youth bridge after the 38th World Bridge Championships in Shanghai, China in 2007.

He says introducing boys and girls to bridge at age 15 or younger pays more dividends than starting players in the game at age 18, 19 or 20.

"In many countries," he says, "the starting age is university level. At 25, they have to retire from youth bridge to make a living or start their families." At that point, he notes, they have not been exposed to bridge long enough for them to want to return to the game later in life.

Starting at age 15 and younger gives the players a longer time to hone their skills and become more committed to the game.

"The percentage of 15-year-olds coming back to the game is very high," Aydin says.

The Youth Committee chairman is enthusiastic in touting the value of bridge to young people. "It is good for the lives of young peoples to face other cultures. It helps them build a better personality. It's a wider window for them and a wider angle."

Aydin is naturally pleased to see the turnout for the youth tournament in Lyon and to note the effect of adding the new category for players. "If you stick to something and try," he says, "in the long run you win."

A look back

Many of the players from the previous World Youth Open Bridge Championships – in Opatija, Croatia – are in Lyon. Here are a couple of deals from that tournament, followed by a list of winners from the 2015 tournament.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>♠ 10 2 ♥ Q 4 3 ♦ K J 10 6 ♣ K J 9 2</p> | <p>♠ A Q J 7 5 ♥ 6 2 ♦ A 7 5 4 ♣ A 7</p> | <div style="border: 2px solid green; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="margin: 0;">N</p> <p style="margin: 0;">W E</p> <p style="margin: 0;">S</p> </div> | <p>♠ 8 4 3 ♥ A 7 5 ♦ 9 3 ♣ Q 8 6 5 4</p> |
| | <p>♠ K 9 6 ♥ K J 10 9 8 ♦ Q 8 2 ♣ 10 3</p> | | |

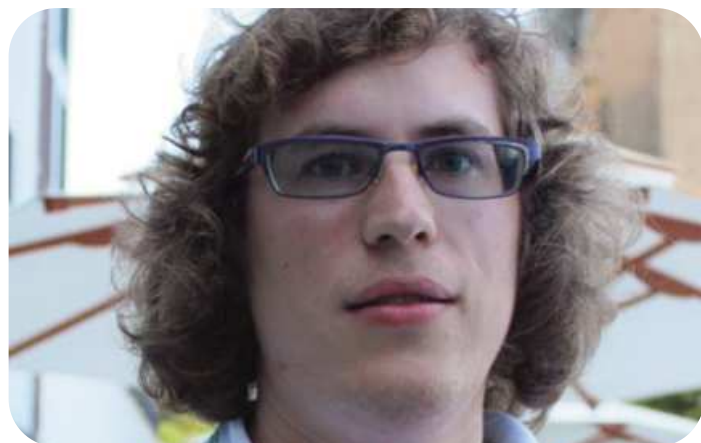
Open room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| Gullberg | Bakke | Karlsson | Eide |
| — | 1♠ | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

Closed room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|------------|----------|--------|
| Hegge | Delle Cave | Grude | DaRosa |
| — | 1♠ | Pass | INT |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2♦ |
| Pass | 3♦ | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

Both Easts led a low club. In the open room, Gullberg (West), confident that his partner was not underleading



Johan Karlsson, Sweden

the ace, put in the jack to find out who held the queen. Declarer won with his ace and proceeded to misguess hearts by playing low to dummy's 8. West now led a low club, and Karlsson (East), awake to the tune being played by his partner, won with his queen and promptly switched to a diamond. This established the defenders' setting diamond trick while they still controlled the heart suit.

In the closed room, Delle Cave showed excellent technique by ducking the first trick, which had the effect of preventing East from gaining the lead to play a diamond through. Declarer won the second club and misguessed hearts, but the defence was powerless. West tried a heart return to the ace, but it was too late.

Well done to Gullberg for playing the ♣J at trick one in the Open Room and to Delle Cave for his thoughtful duck of the opening club lead in the Closed Room.

Before the second deal, a bidding problem. You hold:

♠ A ♥ A J 9 4 3 2 ♦ A 7 3 2 ♣ A K

With both sides vulnerable, LHO passes, partner opens 3♦, and RHO passes. Your turn.

You smell a grand slam, but it would be embarrassing to blast 7♦ and go down. Actually, for a good grand, you need partner to have the ♦K plus a heart control: king, singleton or void. In the latter case, you have a lot of entries to develop your heart suit by ruffing. How do you find out about hearts? It is by no means standard to play asking bids about a particular suit in response to a pre-empt. Now let's see what happened at the two tables:

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p>♠ 10 8 6 ♥ Q 10 6 ♦ 10 ♣ Q 9 8 6 5 2</p> | <p>♠ A ♥ A J 9 4 3 2 ♦ A 7 3 2 ♣ A K</p> | <div style="border: 2px solid green; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="margin: 0;">N</p> <p style="margin: 0;">W E</p> <p style="margin: 0;">S</p> </div> | <p>♠ K Q J 5 4 ♥ K 8 7 5 ♦ 9 5 ♣ 7 4</p> |
| | <p>♠ 9 7 3 2 ♥ — ♦ K Q J 8 6 4 ♣ J 10 3</p> | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|--------|----------|-------|
| Ekenberg | Grude | Hult | Hegge |
| Pass | 4♣ (a) | Pass | 3♦ |
| Pass | 7♦ | All Pass | 4♥ |

(a) Modified Roman Key Card Blackwood



Simon Ekenberg & Simon Hult, Sweden

Grude, whose team was down by a lot, gave up on a possible enquiry about hearts. He just asked for key cards, and when his partner showed the $\diamond K$, he bid the grand. Making it was quite easy when hearts were divided 4-3. (Editor: A popular scheme of replies to this RKCB is no key cards; one key; one plus the trump queen; two; two plus the queen.)

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|------------|----------|------------|
| Bakke | Delle Cave | Eide | G. Da Rosa |
| Pass | 3♥ | Pass | 3♦ |
| Pass | 4NT | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 6♦ | All Pass | 5♦ |

Delle Cave complicated the issue by bidding 3♥. After 3♠, he may have been satisfied that partner was short in hearts, but he still wanted to ask about the $\diamond K$.

Unfortunately, according to standard agreements, 4NT over 3♠ was a key-card ask with spades as trump. They ended up in an extremely disappointing 6♦. Delle Cave's basic attitude should have been different. Having a big lead in the match, it should have been obvious that the other North-South pair would have been eager to bid a grand slam, so in order to produce no swing, he had to be equally aggressive.

That was 13 IMPs to Norway.

Winners from Opatija

Junior Teams

Gold: ZLATAN Simon Ekenberg, Simon Hult, Rodrigo Garcia De Rosa, Giuseppe Delle Cave, Daniel Gullberg, Johan Karlsson, Marshall Lewis (npc)

Silver: NORWAY Christian Bakke, Tor Eivind Grude, Kristoffer Hegge, Harald Eide

Bronze: GRESWE AXON Ola Rimstedt, Ioannis Oikonomopoulos, Mikael Rimstedt, Adam Kaplan

Girls Teams

Gold: ITALY: Flaminia Tanini, Agnese Di Mauro, Giulia Scriattoli, Caterina De Lutio, Michela Salvato, Susanna Broccolino, Emanuela Capriata

Silver: SX XHLD: Haihong Gu, Huiyuan Jin, Aijia Yuan, Yunpeng Chen, Chenyun Ge, Yue Yu, Xinyao Ruan, Yifan Cui

Bronze: CHINA RDFZ GIRLS: Guangli Wendy Liu, Mengqi Hao, Lingyi Ma, Xinyi Luo, Qi Xia, Ling Hu, Jichao Hu, Tong Jiang

Youngsters Teams

Gold: CHINA: Tong Jiang, Shiyu Sun, Zhengyang Fang, Zihan Wang, Dongke Fang, Yichen Yin, Hongji Wei, Jichao Hu

Silver: AZS UW VYCESKA: Lukasz Trendak, Stanislaw Maczka, Krystian Baczek, Piotr Jasinski

Bronze: GERMANY: Hartmut Kondoch, Sibrand Van Oosten, Philipp Pabst, Florian Alter, Stig Jesse, Leonard Vornkahl

Kids Teams

Gold: SX HYSW: Yifan Cui, Yingqi Wang, Tianle Yao, Siyuan Liu, Renyu Li, Yijun Shang, Yiqin Shao, Weichang Qiu

Silver: CHINA RDFZ1: Tong Jiang, Jichao Hu, Zixi Cai, Yuanzhe Ding, Randy, Pan, Baozhuo Jiang, Shi Qiu, Haoqing Yu

Bronze: SX XNWX: Yihong Liu, Wenjie Xue, Ruizhe Wang, Hanyang Dai, Jiabin Tong, Tiancheng Zhang, Hui Fu, Jiong Li

Junior Pairs

Gold: Mikael and Ola Rimstedt (Sweden)

Silver: Rodrigo Garcia Da Rosa (Argentina) and Giuseppe Delle Cave (Italy)

Bronze: Sean Gannon and Julie Arbit (USA)

Girls Pairs

Gold: Jovana Zoranovic and Selena Pepic (USA)

Silver: Giulia Scriattoli and Michela Salvato (Italy)

Bronze: Enrica Raffa and Susanna Broccolino (Italy)

Youngsters Pairs

Gold: Wei Hongji and Sun Shiyu (China)

Silver: Yin Yichen and Fang Zhengyang (China)

Bronze: Sebastiano Scatà and Andrea Manganella (Italy)

Kids Pairs

Gold: Soren Bune and Christian Lahrmann (Denmark)

Silver: Kacper Kopka and Oskar Trybus (Poland)

Bronze: Wu Zhe and Yuan Zhijie (China)

B-a-M Teams

Gold: ITALIA JUNIORS: Gianluca Bergami, Alessandro Calmanovici, Margherita Chavarria, Giovanni Donati, Alessandro Gandoglia, Giacomo Percario, Valerio Giubilo

Silver: NETHERLANDS WHITE: Tobias Polak, Michel Schols, Tim Van Den Bos, Tom Van Overbeeke, Anneke Simons, Kees Tammens

Bronze: NORWAY: Christian Bakke, Harald Eide, Tor Eivind Grude, Kristoffer Hegge.