

6th World Youth Open Bridge Championships 20th - 29th August 2019



Welcome to Opatija the House of Bridge

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The EBL President Jan Kamras and the EBL Treasurer Eric Laurant visit the Championships.

Photo: Eric Laurant (EBL Treasurer), Gianarrigo Rona (WBF President), Jan Kamras (EBL President), Marc De Pauw (WBF Treasurer)

In a World Bridge Championship, every day is important, but some are more important than others. Today is one such, when the first four titles of these Championships will be decided. Perhaps these words from Edgar A. Guest will inspire you all:

*Success is failure turned inside out,
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.*

CARRY OVER

There will be a linear carry-over
in all four Finals
of three tops.

SCHEDULE TODAY

10.00 - 12.45	Pairs Final A & B 1 st Session
13.30 - 16.00	Pairs Final A & B 2 nd Session
16.20 - 18.50	Pairs Final A & B 3 rd Session
19.30	Pairs Prize Giving

PRIZE GIVING

Today's Prize Giving will be held in front of the
Royal Hotel at 19.30.

PHOTO!

We will be taking a picture of all the participants at these
Championships on Sunday, at 1 pm (after the last round of
the Swiss). The meeting point is in front of the venue!





YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING

Paolo Clair



Ata Aydin (Youth Committee chairman), Gilad Ofir (WBF Youth Coordinator), Sevinç Atay (Kids Sub-Committee Chairman), Fernando Lema (Kids Sub-Committee Member), Simon Fellus (WBF Secretary), Geert Magerman (University Sub-Committee Chairman), Gianarrigo Rona (WBF President), Paolo Clair (Youth Committee Secretary)

Yesterday, here in Opatija, after the start of the World Open Pairs Youth Championship, and the various youth competitions scheduled, the recurring assemblies of the Youth Committee and the Kids sub-Committee of the World Bridge Federation were held simultaneously in the same session; the two Chairmen - Mr. Ata Aydin and Mrs. Sevinç Atay respectively - brilliantly coordinating the meeting also attended by WBF President Gianarrigo Rona.

After a detailed presentation by Mr. Aydin of the 6th World Youth Open Championships that had just started, the Chairman then presented the statistical aspects of the event from which the continuous growth trend of the biennial event born in 2009 and now in its sixth incarnation emerged. This edition brought the record number of participations in the Under 21 category as well as an important stabilization in the Under 26 and Under 16 categories and in the number of nationalities attending (35).

The numerous subsequent topics on the agenda were considered by those present with attention and an abundance of detail and significant consideration was given to:

- the organization and structure of the 2020 Online Team League (also an initiative in its full development);
- the improvement of the Youth Website;
- the initiatives concerning Bridge in Universities (and related European and World Championships held under the auspices of the EUSA and FISU respectively).

At the conclusion of the meeting, President Rona, after congratulating the Committee for the excellent success of the Opening Ceremony, emphasizing the presence of numerous Croatian authorities and, consequently, both national and local media, announced that IMSA (International Mind Sports Association) has also included in its official program an ad hoc event for our young players: the "IMSA Youth Games" (initially reserved for the strongest athletes).

WORLD YOUTH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS STATISTICS

		PAIRS				
Year	Venue	U26	U21	Women U26	U16	Total
2009	Istanbul	94	NO	NO	NO	94
2011	Opatija	61	NO	NO	NO	61
2013	Atlanta	32	40	12	NO	84
2015	Opatija	37	21	23	41	122
2017	Lyon	35	37	42	78	192
2019	Opatija	49	54	27	57	187

		TEAMS				
Year	Venue	U26	U21	Women U26	U16	Total
2009	Istanbul	40	NO	NO	NO	40
2011	Opatija	27	NO	NO	NO	27
2013	Atlanta	12	15	NO	NO	27
2015	Opatija	16	8	7	13	44
2017	Lyon	17	12	15	26	70
2019	Opatija	22	19	10	15	66

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OPATIJA DIARY

Mark Horton

For the third session, I left the building to watch the WU26, where a top is 26/0.

The fact that I can deliver the match point scores is due to the brilliant scoring system under the control of Fotis. It was put at risk when two tables thought it would be a good idea to swap Bridgemates and forgot to exchange them back for the next round.

It reminded me of the classic Morecombe and Wise sketch with André Previn where Eric Morecombe is told by the conductor that in his attempted rendition of Grieg's Piano Concerto he is 'playing all the wrong notes' to which Eric replies 'I'm playing all the right notes - but not necessarily in the right order'. I guess the bridge equivalent is 'I'm entering all the right results - but not necessarily in the right Bridgemate'.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Pelaggi</i>	<i>Baldysz</i>	<i>Pelaggi</i>	<i>Zalewska</i>
—	1♦*	Dble	Rdbl
1♥	Pass	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Having set up a game force by bidding 2♥ South could happily support diamonds. If North had held something like ♥Qx she might now have been able to bid 3NT.

East led the ♥4 and declarer won with dummy's ace, ruffed a heart, played two rounds of diamonds

ending in dummy and ruffed a heart. When a club to the king held she drew the outstanding trump and played a club for the queen and ace. When East made the mistake of exiting with a spade, handing over a valuable overtrick, +620 scored 19.46/6.54, while +600 would have been 15.15/10.85.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Pelaggi</i>	<i>Baldysz</i>	<i>Pelaggi</i>	<i>Zalewska</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦*
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

East led the ♣K and declarer won with dummy's ace, and played a heart for the queen and king. East cashed the ♣Q but then switched to a diamond and that meant declarer could claim the remaining tricks for +450 and 21.62/4.38, no-one holding declarer to ten tricks.

There were three scores of +790 for EW - 2.23/23.77 a couple of +620s' and a +170.

Although I am not a fan of overcalling on a four-card suit, I think that at this form of scoring West might try 1♠. It was the legendary Terence Reese who wrote that playing pairs one must try to get involved in the bidding on any reasonable excuse. Failing that, East could consider overcalling. On the six occasions EW played in spades West was declarer three times (I will leave you to work out how many times East was at the helm).

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Xuan</i>	<i>Tuus</i>	<i>Chao</i>	<i>Leeming</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	7♥	All Pass

Having established that her partner held a key card, East went directly to 7♥ - perhaps forgetting that she could ask about the ♥Q.

South led the ♠7 and rather than describe the play in detail I'll simply report that declarer omitted to take a diamond ruff and ended up losing a diamond at trick thirteen handing NS 23.77/2.33. Making the contract would have reversed the scores.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Xuan</i>	<i>Tuus</i>	<i>Chao</i>	<i>Leeming</i>
2NT	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

North led the ♠6 and South won and returned the ♠8. Declarer won, drew trumps ending in dummy and cashed two spades pitching clubs. A diamond to the jack was followed by the ace, and declarer claimed the rest, +480 and 5.46/20.54. The five declarers who attempted 6♥ went down - easy enough to see why.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Xu</i>	<i>Fan</i>	<i>Yu</i>	<i>Xu</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
1NT	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

North led the ♦Q and declarer won with the ace and played a spade to the ten, South taking the king and returning the ♦3. Declarer won with dummy's king, drew trumps ending in dummy and played a diamond to the nine. That led to ten tricks, +170 and 7.62/18.38.

One pair bid 3NT, China's Yuqiao Zhao & Chiyu Zhao (they are cousins, not sisters!).

Their auction was uncomplicated - Yuqiao overcalled South's 1♣ with 1NT, then replied 2♦ to Chiyu's 2♣ and raised the 2NT continuation to game.

North led the ♣Q and declarer won with the king and played ace of spades and a spade to the ten and king. The defenders cashed three clubs leaving North on lead in this position:

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

I was hoping that North had now switched to a heart, after which declarer can win with the ace and cash dummy's winning spades. The last of these will find South, down to ♥K ♦1085, become the victim of a show up squeeze. Alas, North saw fit to exit with the ♦Q, so I will have to look elsewhere for a candidate for an IPBA Junior award. +600 was worth 0.08/25.92.



LAST BOARD

Mark Horton

Martin Cantor, one of the many contributors to the free online magazine, *A New Bridge Magazine*, suggested that this deal from the final of the Riga Invites event might be suitable for the sequel to the Masterpoint Press Publication *Last Board*.

Board 12. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

When this deal, the last of the match settled on the table, Vitas led by 6.1 IMPs.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olanski</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Vainko</i>	<i>Osterga</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass

1NT Forcing

On a bad day you might find everything was wrong and go down in 4♠, but you would certainly want

to be in it. North led the ♠4 and declarer won with the jack and played a diamond. North went in with the ace and switched to the ♣7. Declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed the ♦K, ruffed a diamond and played the ♥A. When North followed with the ten declarer continued with the ♥K and that meant only ten tricks, +170.

If Hammershark Deluxe could pickup 7 IMPs they would take the spoils.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Matushko</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Krasnosselski</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

EW completed the first part of the required equation by bidding the spade game. Now they required 11 or more tricks to regain the lead when it mattered.

On a non-club lead you have a shot at twelve tricks, but North eliminated that possibility by leading the ♣6. Declarer won with dummy's ace, played a heart to the ace and a diamond. North went up with the ace and played a second club, South taking the queen and continuing with the king. Declarer ruffed, played a spade to the ace, ran the ♠10 and drew the outstanding trump. At this point crossing to dummy with a diamond and playing a heart to the jack is +450 and 7 IMPs - a win by 0.9. Not wanting to lose to a doubleton ♥Q declarer cashed the ♥K, went to dummy and played a heart, +420. That was worth 6 IMPs, making the final score 12.1-12. Phew!

FLOOD THE NETWORKS!

World Bridge Federation - Youth

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MISPLAY THIS HAND WITH ME IN OPATIJA

Mark Horton

Going into the last session of a long final we are trailing by a few IMPs when I pick up this collection:

♠ A Q 8 4
 ♥ A Q 8
 ♦ Q 10 9 6
 ♣ 7 2

We are vulnerable and when the player on my right passes, I have a choice of opening bids. As our notrump range is (14)15-17 I decide to start with 1NT. When partner responds with 2♣ I dutifully show my spades and partner continues with 3♣, which we play as asking for a further description. When I bid 3♦ partner jumps to 5NT, which asks me to pick a slam. Given that I have already denied four hearts it must be right to bid 6♥, leaving the final decision to partner. When he corrects to 6♠ I let matters rest, leaving us with this auction:

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦
Pass	5NT*	Pass	6♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

West leads the ♠5 and when dummy appears I see that the contract is hardly a laydown:

♠ K J 3
 ♥ J 10 6 3
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ A K Q 9



♠ A Q 8 4
 ♥ A Q 8
 ♦ Q 10 9 6
 ♣ 7 2

As far as I can see I am going to need the heart finesse, and I may need to ruff a diamond. I take the opening lead in dummy, and with fingers crossed, I

play a heart to the queen. West produces the king and lays down the ♦A. This was the layout:

Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ K J 3
 ♥ J 10 6 3
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ A K Q 9

♠ 10 6 5
 ♥ K 7 5 4
 ♦ A J
 ♣ 10 6 5 3

♠ 9 7 2
 ♥ 9 2
 ♦ 8 7 5 3 2
 ♣ J 8 4

♠ A Q 8 4
 ♥ A Q 8
 ♦ Q 10 9 6
 ♣ 7 2

Post mortem

There was no rush to take the heart finesse. Suppose declarer plays dummy's ♦K at trick two and West wins and plays a second spade. Declarer wins that in dummy and plays a diamond to the queen. When the jack falls, declarer takes a third round of trumps and now knows that West started with eight cards in hearts and clubs. There is a good case for playing for the actual layout, and as you can see, West is squeezed. If the jack of diamonds does not fall doubleton, declarer can ruff a diamond and then take the heart finesse.

A initial club lead would be deadly, as when West gets in with the ♦A he can play a second club.

They reached 6♠ in the other room and declarer also took the heart finesse, so there was no swing.





IMPROMPTU ASSIGNMENT

Marshall Lewis

U26 Pairs -2nd Qualifying Session (Boards 17-32)

I received my impromptu assignment from Mark Horton to cover the second set of sixteen boards in the “ancient-juniors” series, but my arrival in the playing room was slightly delayed by the exchange of a few front-line foreign-correspondent war stories with the esteemed Editor-in-Chief - which sadly were not even believed by the non-journalists in the Press Room, let alone each other. O tempora! O mores!!

In consequence, my eyewitness report can personally vouch for at-the-table proceedings of only the last twelve boards, thus excluding the initial quartet of deals, which can be briefly summarized as follows:

17. A dull-looking 3NT, with an overtrick hinging on the nerve to take a finesse which (if unsuccessful) could yield -100 in a laydown contract.
18. A layout featuring 24 combined HCP for NS, on which an extremely tricky par of +120 is in theory eligible to nose out an unambitious and quite unchallenging +110 in either red suit.
19. A deal on which accurate defense is required to hold 3NT to ten tricks - should anything go amiss. In that endeavor, NS must hope a sizeable cohort of their counterparts are defending against 6♣ instead, and that the North players fail to find an opening lead from the doubleton king of diamonds.
20. A double-fit in the majors for NS, wherein hearts plays a trick better as a trump suit both despite and because of a 4-1 split.

With all that water under the bridge - or perhaps the other way around - now on record, this narrative will move on to events I can solemnly swear to, at least in the absence of suitable monetary incentives.



Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ 5 4 2
 ♥ K J 9 3
 ♦ K 9 7 3
 ♣ 8 5

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



♠ A K Q 7 6
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ Q J
 ♣ K Q J 3

♠ J
 ♥ A 10 8 4
 ♦ A 10 8 4
 ♣ 7 6 4 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilusic</i>	<i>Toledano</i>	<i>Evacic</i>	<i>Zamir</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

I started at the table of one of the core U26 junior-international pairs from the host country, Ivan Bilusic and Emanuel Evacic (aka “Bibi” & “Mimi”, respectively). In second chair Mimi opened 1♠, and despite an appropriate distribution South unsurprisingly chose not to double for takeout, given the combination of quite scanty values and adverse vulnerability. Bibi now had a bidding decision, and despite his solid grounding in the precepts and dictates of Losing Trick Count (LTC) - which would advise a 1NT response despite the ample spade support, due to the dismal 10-loser profile of the hand - chose just to raise to 2♠. This had various ways to work out satisfactorily - and in any case was likely enough to be the field action. Mimi now had the values to bid a game (whether by the LTC metric or any other yardstick) despite the squishy diamond holding - the only question was whether to show the club concentration, with a view toward possibly playing in 3N from Responder’s side since Opener’s hand is quite anti-positional. With only the one ace Mimi rejected this potentially tempting (perhaps especially at Match-point scoring) distraction, however, and briskly closed proceedings with 4♠. The bad news was that this contract had zero play, resulting in 29.21/18.79. The potentially consoling good news was that the opponents were indeed on for a filthy-ugly-lucky 4♥, though realistically few NS pairs were likely to be so adventurous - plus EW could

and would routinely compete as high as 3♠ at the very least. Of course, even if W does respond 1NT it is not hard to imagine getting to game, since that call suggests no fit and instead W holds FOUR trumps and the key side ace.

On the companion board, South did make a light takeout double - perhaps wistfully chasing the dreadful unbid game from the previous deal:

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilusic</i>	<i>Toledano</i>	<i>Evacic</i>	<i>Zamir</i>
—	—	1♥	Dble
2♥	4♠	All Pass	

Still sitting East of course, Mimi opened 1♥ as dealer and South - this time at favorable vulnerability, though still a spade in arrears by the standards of some pundits - deposited a red card in the tray. West contributed a (rather heavy, by the standards of a different tribe of pundits) “bad single raise” by bidding 2♥, and after lengthy consideration North took the plunge with 4♠. This enterprising contract went two down undoubled, scoring 18.79/29.21. Obviously East has no reason to do so on the available evidence (and plenty of reason not to) - but with an ace and a king facing a vulnerable opener West might well have thrown down the gauntlet, particularly in view of the previously advertised “bad raise”. This contract was about as unlucky as 4♥ had been lucky on prior deal in the NS line. There is a moral to this sort of chase-scene, but such homilies are above my pay grade.



Our heroes continued to keep their opponents guessing on the next round, now occupying NS furniture. The zigzag “moving-target-is-hard-to-hit” philosophy of “now a little heavy, now a little light” scored a spectacular success on Board 23, against the English pair of Shahzaad Natt and Ben Norton:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Re-fortified by a quick between-rounds dose of LTC (not yet on the WADA forbidden list), Bibi opened his two-suiter (which two was that again?) with an unabashed 1♠ – and to be perfectly fair, when your first suit is odds-on to win any lowball pot, how can you hide your radiant light under a bushel basket? The duo bid briskly on to 4♥, while West remained a silent onlooker despite holding the most Milton-rich collection at the table. The play posed little problem after: (1) club king; (2) diamond switch won by South; (3) spade to the jack. +620 scored 43.79/4.21.

On the following board, a dangerous opening lead by the EW pair - perhaps an attempt to recoup something in the round after the “&-not-even-kissed” experience of the first deal? - proved regrettably ill-timed, so the Croatian pair emerged with a round that ought to satisfy even the greediest of Matchpoint highwaymen. Keen readers may have noticed that There’s That Moral Again.

With my protégés seemingly in no further need of my aura, I moved on laterally to observe some of the other competitors whom experience has taught me might be providers of good copy. First on my visiting list would be another familiar pair from the Balkan “neighborhood” – the Serbian duo Jovana Zoranovic and Stoyan Vazic. In fact I had kibitzed Jovana four years ago when these very Championships were also held right here in Opatija, and had the pleasure of watching her win the Gold Medal in the Ladies Pairs, along with the equally formidable Selena Pepic. Their exploits had provided me a whole article then - surely she could at least cough up a gem or two in our quarter-hour this time, hardly too much to ask.

Well, it was apparently too much to ask on Board 25, which was as dull a 4♠ as could ever be imagined. Fortunately, the companion Board salvaged all of our reputations as Perennial JetSet Media Darlings:

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Vazic</i>	<i>Davila</i>	<i>Zoranovic</i>	<i>Basoalto</i>
—	—	3♦(?)	3♥
3♠	Pass	3NT*	4♥
4♠	All Pass		

As we all know, wagering on WBF events is strictly forbidden, but if ever I were tempted to contravene this wise and just regulation, it would be to bet heavily that the auctions around the room on this board were not identical. “What about 3♦, please – does that show seven?” “Yes, of course, and doubly so – seven diamonds, plus seven HCP outside of diamonds.” Jovana alerted 3NT and explained it as showing a doubleton spade, which explains her persistence with that suit on the second round. I have to confess that holding the North hand after two vulnerable calls by partner despite my prior silence, I would have been unable to tug yet another green one out of the bidding box over 4♠, but that confidently-bid contract did go unchallenged. Jovana’s disappointment at the spade “length” in dummy and her chagrin at having to concede 200 to the adversary, were assuaged by the silver lining of the frigid +620 par for NS in hearts and she did score some points, 32.33/15.67.

Not one to overstay my welcome (or if you prefer, always one step ahead of the shotgun), I quit Jovana and her partner while we were all ahead of the game, and moved on to another table for Boards 27-28. Sadly no details of this round will find their way into this report, because while the EW pair came away with two great results, these outcomes were due to opposing defensive catastrophes rather than to any newsworthy prowess by the beneficiaries. For the same reasons, the identities of these competitors are

also withheld. (Long about now you might be starting to figure out what exactly my earlier veiled phrase “suitable monetary incentives” referred to.)

It’s funny I should mention that, because a similar policy of “side-pocket diplomacy” continued right into the next round, when I spied on another new quartet. Board 29 saw declarer making two overtricks in a doomed game after a disastrous selection by the opening leader and a further clear error by his partner. To be 100% fair, the former player was quasi-endplayed at Trick One, in that his only safe lead against 4♠ was the same AQ109x suit which he had overcalled and which had not been supported. Meanwhile, the subsequent defensive error by E was clearly an act of pure noblesse and partnership solidarity - it would be selfish and cruel to let one’s partner take all of the blame for a disaster, when one can so easily share the guilt.

This might strike the reader as a fanciful or downright facetious interpretation of events, but the second deal proved that E is indeed an exceedingly gallant gentleman, as you are about to see. In fact, the last two boards of the session produced nothing of note, so it is both convenient and appropriate that this testament will end with this inspiring tale from the penultimate round - not just of the aforementioned old-school sportsmanship by East, but also of breathtaking imagination and enviable resourcefulness by North, and declarer.



Jovana ZORANOVIC



Ivan VYSHESLAVOV

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ 6 2 ♥ A J 10 7 5 4 ♦ 5 ♣ J 10 9 7	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K 10 9 ♥ Q 9 3 ♦ 9 8 7 6 4 ♣ Q 6	♠ Q 8 ♥ K 6 2 ♦ A K Q J 10 ♣ A 8 3
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West	North	East	South
<i>Vysheslavov</i>	<i>Scheberan</i>	<i>Skarzhinskiy</i>	<i>Thorpe</i>
—	—	2♦	Pass
2♠*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

EW conducted a highly artificial sequence to 4♥ played by East, who opened 2♦ and rebid 2NT over a relay response, after which a transfer to hearts arranged for the strong hand to declare. South had been silent throughout and the only suit EW had shown was trumps, so it was an awkward opening lead problem. Unwilling to compromise his own high honors or his partner's trump holding, South entrusted his fate to a diamond. Now the declarer - Nikolai Skarzhinskiy (Russia) - played a small trump to the ace (clearly not the best single-dummy play of that suit combination if viewed purely in isolation, but of course so often there are special factors in context), everybody following. After a short huddle to make up his mind ...

Get ready, folks, the exquisite moment is here ... declarer called for the jack of hearts from dummy, and

.....

North covered!! With the queen!!!!

Of clubs !!!!!!

Yes as so very often happens, North thought that declarer had asked for the jack of clubs rather than hearts, and was so certain of it that he did not wait to observe which card West would actually extract and play to the trick. After a moment of confusion, the defender realized what he had done and confessed that he in fact was not devoid of trumps at this point.

Perhaps declarer - or somebody - should have called the Director (this situation is well within their pay grade), and perhaps someday they will. But here in the old-fashioned, Portland-Club atmosphere of the famously genteel, halcyon haven of Opatija, Nikolai Skarzhinskiy magnanimously wa(i)ved both his hand and any statutory penalty, and instructed North to pick up his club queen. (In the film version of this event, he will of course add: "Use it to revoke on some later trick"). Now he still had to figure out the lie of the trump suit - and HONESTLY, how in blazes could he get it right?

First of all, which is more likely, that North revoked with ONE extra heart in his hand, or two?

Secondly, when there is an irregularity of this sort it almost invariably throws everybody's equilibrium and train of thought out of whack.

Thirdly, it is a standard extension of the Principle of Restricted Choice. With both queens, North might have played the other one - or at least revoked with it on some other trick.

Finally, North had - no doubt inadvertently - come up with one of the most brilliant ways in bridge history to protect an imperiled queen of trumps.

But bless my soul (no letters, please, it is just a figure of speech) - Nikolai got it right. He passed the jack of trumps, collected twelve tricks, and became my Instant Hero (and collected 4.21/43.79).



Nikolay SKARZHINSKIY

25th RED SEA INTERNATIONAL Bridge FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 7-17, 2 ♥ 19 EILAT - ISRAEL



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Mixed Pairs	November 7,8
M.P. Pairs	November 9
National Simultaneous	November 10
IMP Pairs	November 11,12
Open Pairs	November 13,14,15
Teams	November 16

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UNDER 26 PAIRS

RESULTS AFTER SESSION 6

1	VOJTIK Jakub	KLEMS Erik	CZE - CZE	61.12
2	MARCINOWSKI Piotr	SOBCZAK Mateusz	POL - POL	58.91
3	TOLEDANO Oren	ZAMIR Ami	ISR - ISR	56.23
4	WEI Hongji	SUN Shiyu	CHN - CHN	55.73
5	ROSENBERG Kevin	KRISTENSEN Benjamin	USA - USA	55.65
6	MCMAHON John	RANSON Nicholas	AUS - AUS	55.14
7	WU Michael	HUNG Tsz Fung Harry	HKG - HKG	55.01
8	COOPER Renee	SPOONER Andrew	AUS - AUS	54.86
9	MYLLAERI Maria	KOIVU Oskari	FIN - FIN	54.62
10	THOMPSON Jamie	SMITH Matthew	AUS - AUS	54.38
11	KOLEK Lukas	KOHUTOVA Lucie	CZE - CZE	53.86
12	URMAN Lior	EZION Amir	ISR - ISR	53.60
13	CUERVO LOPERA Juan Felipe	KAMPERMANN Mareille	COL - GER	53.45
14	GHOSH SOUMADEEP	CHAKRABORTY ARYA	IND - IND	53.23
15	YIN Yichen	LIU Chang	CHN - CHN	53.10
16	DONATI Giovanni	SCATA Sebastiano	ITA - ITA	52.75
17	OIKONOMOPOULOS Ioannis	BAKKE Christian	GRE - NOR	52.34
18	ZORANOVIC Jovana	VAZIC Stojan	SER - SER	51.99
19	IMAKIIRE Eishi	YAMAMOTO Tetsutaro	JPN - JPN	51.87
20	NORTON Ben	NATT Shahzaad	ENG - ENG	51.80
21	VANDEWIELE Emiel	JALSOVSZKY Janka	BEL - HUN	51.38
22	TANABE Hitoshi	YUGE Hirokana	JPN - JPN	51.37
23	SAU Roberto	PERCARIO Giacomo	ITA - ITA	50.72
24	SCHEBERAN Philip	THORPE Stephan	AUT - AUT	50.51
25	VAN OOSTEN Sibrand	STEPPER Maximilian Niklas	GER - GER	50.37
26	CHIARANDINI Francesco	GAIOTTI Alvaro	ITA - ITA	49.87
27	POSTOVALOV Ilia	YUN Irina	RUS - RUS	49.61
28	ALTER Florian	STRECK Lauritz	GER - GER	49.40
29	LESKOVAR Viktor	GRSKOVIC Zvonimir	CRO - CRO	49.06
30	XIANG Qiufeng	CHEN Ziliang	CHN - CHN	48.79
31	ROY SAGNIK	KUSHARI SAYANTAN	IND - IND	48.76
32	EVACIC Emanuel	BILUSIC Ivan	CRO - CRO	48.58
33	DAVILA Nicolas	BASOALTO Francisco	CHI - CHI	47.88
34	STEFANEC Kristijan	FERENCA Matko	CRO - CRO	47.85
35	HINO Takayuki	ENDO Eisuke	JPN - JPN	47.79
36	VYSHESLAVOV Ivan	SKARZHINSKIY Nikolay	RUS - RUS	47.72
37	PUERTO MORENO Daniel	RAFECAS Jordi	ESP - ESP	47.71
38	HERMANN Sophie	CRISAFULLI SADABA Patricio	AUT - AUT	47.68
39	BAR Surajit	DEY Pradip	IND - IND	47.25
40	JINDRA Manuel	EDER Felix	AUT - AUT	45.71
41	KENNEDY Stephen	YE Junyuan	ENG - ENG	45.51
42	CHEUNG Wai Lam	NG Shuk Man	HKG - HKG	45.40
43	DONNELLY MICHAEL	VALENTINE Ronan Richard James	IRL - SCO	45.07
44	PENALBA Esther	GEMENO DIAZ Guzman	ESP - ESP	44.10
45	BOSE BABHRUBAHAN	KAR SOUVIK	IND - IND	42.30
46	PEREZ Bastian	LIN Kam Fai	CHI - HKG	41.57
47	ARREDONDO Andres	LENZI Jonathan	URU - URU	40.38
48	TEIXEIRA Agustin	KOZLOVIZ Sofia	URU - URU	39.22
49	GLAMOCIC Aleksa	VULETA Ivan	BIH - BIH	38.61

UNDER 21 PAIRS

RESULTS AFTER SESSION 6

1	NIJSSEN Oscar	VAN DE PAVERD Tim	NED - NED	61.72
2	DENG Cheng	YUAN Zhijie	CHN - CHN	58.06
3	PATREUHA Jakub	PATREUHA Patryk	POL - POL	57.40
4	WANG Yingqi	WANG Penghao	CHN - CHN	56.85
5	KOPKA Kacper	KIELBASA Tomasz	POL - POL	56.18
6	BUNE Soren	LAHRMANN Christian	DEN - DEN	55.94
7	SANDIN Alexander	BANIRI Ilai Ilan	SWE - ISR	55.73
8	CICHY Krzysztof	BAZYLUK Jakub	POL - POL	55.46
9	ZHU Bo Han	DONG Hao Zhen (John)	CAN - CAN	55.32
10	ZHOU Chuanyao	YU Zhaolun	CHN - CHN	54.11
11	BELLICAUD Luc	GUILLEMIN Theo	FRA - FRA	54.07
12	XU Hao	YAN Tianyao	CHN - CHN	53.86
13	MADDEN Harry	SELBY Oscar	ENG - ENG	53.66
14	COPE Andrew	ANOYRKATIS Theo	ENG - ENG	53.22
15	YAO Tianle	LIU Haochen	CHN - CHN	53.22
16	PORTA Federico	LOMBARDI Matteo	ITA - ITA	53.18
17	LIU Yihong	LU Mingyu	CHN - CHN	53.07
18	HANSSON Erik	MANN Castor	SWE - SWE	52.66
19	ROSIKIEWICZ Ryszard	SZUSZKIEWICZ Adam	POL - POL	52.41
20	FEGARTY Liam	GAUDART Patrick	ENG - ENG	52.34
21	LUBA Harrison Anders	KOLESNIK Finn	USA - USA	52.20
22	TOMIS Zdenek	NEMCIK Daniel	CZE - CZE	51.88
23	KAPIRIS Dimitrios	SKORDAS Panagiotis	GRE - GRE	51.59
24	GRAS Szymon	JOZKOWIAK Lukasz	POL - POL	51.01
25	YU Zhaochen	TONG Jiaxin	CHN - CHN	50.68
26	GIUBILO Gianmarco	GIUBILO Gabriele	ITA - ITA	50.17
27	BORKOVIC Ivan	SIMIC Mihailo	SER - SER	49.74
28	PYSZKO Adam	KASTOVSKY Ondrej	CZE - CZE	49.68
29	ZHANG Tiancheng	GUO Xiaolei	CHN - CHN	49.63
30	TAKIZAWA Ken	INOUE Yoshitake	JPN - JPN	49.45
31	INAMI Terushi	SUZUKI Takahito	JPN - JPN	49.42
32	PEMBERTON Alexander	LA CHAPELLE Imogen	ENG - ENG	49.34
33	RACEWICZ MACIEJ	MYSLIWIEC Alicja	POL - POL	49.32
34	OSTROWSKI Szymon	TOKARCZUK Oskar	POL - POL	49.31
35	MACKOWIAK Karol	GOSCIANSKI Kajetan	POL - POL	48.83
36	TEIL Clement	ROMBAUT Leo	FRA - FRA	48.64
37	NAWROCKI Jakub	MORAWSKA EWA	POL - POL	48.48
38	DAI Hanyang	YANG Jiahao	CHN - CHN	48.34
39	DING Yuanzhe	CAI Zixi	CHN - CHN	48.07
40	YU Haoqing	ZHANG Fengrui	CHN - CHN	47.80
41	SONG Yihan	KAWABATA Sukai	JPN - JPN	47.75
42	GAHAN Elizabeth	ANOYRKATIS Samuel	ENG - ENG	47.32
43	OTRADOVCOVA Zuzana	VAVRA Premysl	CZE - CZE	47.24
44	VELICKOVIC Bogdan	GUZVICA Slobodan	SER - SER	45.78
45	BUGAJEWSKI Jozef	ZALWOWSKI Adam	POL - POL	45.11
46	LEWIS Ben	CLARK Joseph	ENG - ENG	44.90
47	BHIMANAIAK Rekha	RODRIGUES Taral Emmanuel L	IND - IND	44.62
48	MEREGALLI Matteo	CARLETTI Alessandro	ITA - ITA	44.60
49	ROMANOWSKI Cenek	WALACH Vit	CZE - CZE	42.22
50	TSENG Pinghsuan	DRNOVSEK Tina	TPE - SLO	42.19
51	WANG Zhaofeng	FEI Sihan	CHN - CHN	41.76
52	WANG Rui	JIANG Lanxi	CHN - CHN	38.48
53	VASQUEZ Esteban	BOEHM Alexander	CHI - CHI	37.91
54	KOKOTOS Loukas	MICHELIS Pavlos	GRE - GRE	37.80

UNDER 26 WOMEN PAIRS RESULTS AFTER SESSION 6

1	LU Yijia	GE Chenyun	CHN - CHN	58.35
2	SJODAL Sofie Grasholt	KJENSLI Agnethe Hansen	NOR - NOR	56.56
3	MOLINA Diana	ROMAN Valentina	CHI - CHI	56.21
4	BI Xiaoran	ZHAO Yuchen	CHN - CHN	55.49
5	DALPOZZO Valentina	DALPOZZO Federica	ITA - ITA	54.80
6	TUUS Hanna	LEEMING India	ENG - ENG	54.63
7	DI LORENZO Anastasia	SEREGNI Linda	ITA - ITA	54.59
8	BALDYSZ Sophia	ZALEWSKA Joanna	POL - POL	54.47
9	INDREBO Thea Lucia	OEBERG Ida Marie	NOR - NOR	53.44
10	KOKOT Joanna	OCYLOK Dominika	POL - POL	53.42
11	CHEN Yunpeng	RUAN Xinyao	CHN - CHN	52.97
12	KAMAL PATEL Vidhya	BALIRAM GURJAR Kalpana	IND - IND	52.59
13	STRBOVA Barbora	DOLANSKA Veronika	CZE - CZE	51.56
14	PELAGGI Maddalena	PELAGGI Annachiara	ITA - ITA	50.72
15	WANG Yuming	YANG Fan	CHN - CHN	50.65
16	JIANG Yixuan	TANG Qing	CHN - CHN	49.05
17	NACRUR Francisca	YANEZ Camila	CHI - CHI	49.00
18	YU Wenfei	XU Jiaming	CHN - CHN	47.64
19	HAN Jingjing	HE Qiyun	CHN - CHN	47.37
20	VUJIC Katarina	KATANIC Vesna	SER - SER	46.66
21	MA Jinyi	WU Yutong	CHN - CHN	46.33
22	XUAN Yu	CHAO Qin Yi	CHN - CHN	44.88
23	GAO Yi Ran	YANG Yiyun	CHN - CHN	44.48
24	FAN Lingwen	XU Tong	CHN - CHN	44.41
25	VINOGRADOVA Maria	SMIRNOVA Polina	RUS - RUS	42.62
26	MILUTINOVIC Tamara	OVUKA Aleksandra	SER - SER	41.44
27	ZHAO Yuqiao	ZHAO Chiyu	CHN - CHN	35.86

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UNDER 16 PAIRS

RESULTS AFTER SESSION 6

1	KURLIT Franciszek	KUFLOWSKI Kacper	POL - POL	63.54
2	LI Suhang	ZHANG Xuyang	CHN - CHN	61.20
3	SOUMPLIS Michail	PAPASPYROU Iasonas-iraklis	GRE - GRE	61.03
4	STOLYAROV Egor	TATARKIN Ivan	RUS - RUS	59.25
5	BAKHSHI Jasmine	BERTHEAU Markus	ENG - SWE	58.82
6	YANG Siqing	XU Muqun	CHN - CHN	58.73
7	WANG Ziao	LIN Xuanda	CHN - TPE	58.70
8	WU Yijun	LU Zhenyue	CHN - CHN	58.50
9	ROSE Henry	FEGARTY Jamie	ENG - ENG	58.07
10	XIE Zimo	JIANG Haoxuan	CHN - CHN	58.01
11	BETLINSKI Maciej	ZIMORSKI Sebastian	POL - POL	57.52
12	STASIK Michal	KASPERCZYK Lukasz	POL - POL	57.06
13	BONIN Louis	BENS Clement	FRA - FRA	56.93
14	ZHUO Zhili	HUANG Juncan	CHN - CHN	56.89
15	WANG Jiarui	YANG Junyi	CHN - CHN	56.27
16	MA Shuoming	LIN Fengming	CHN - CHN	56.20
17	BUKAT Aleks	SWIATKOWSKI Pawel	POL - POL	56.04
18	TANG Tengbo	TIAN Zhixian	CHN - CHN	55.31
19	GAO Zhuxiongjie	WANG Zicheng	CHN - CHN	55.06
20	ROCHES Maxence	TCHOULKINE Philippe	FRA - FRA	55.02
21	LANG Ningyu	YU Fanfei	CHN - CHN	54.72
22	CHEN Yanxu	LIU Jiakang	CHN - CHN	54.19
23	BROGELAND Anders	LANDSVIK Are Borgar	NOR - NOR	53.94
24	BHATT ANSHUL	MAYUR Prajwal	IND - IND	53.48
25	FU Yanzhuo	SHEN Haotian	CHN - CHN	53.47
26	LI Jialin	QIN Shiyuan	CHN - CHN	52.61
27	JIANG Yuxin	XU Nuoyi	CHN - CHN	52.34
28	LIU Siyi	SU Chushi	CHN - CHN	51.23
29	CHANG Ziwen	SUN Zhuangyan	CHN - CHN	50.71
30	SARTORI Lucas	DESAGE Martin	FRA - FRA	50.50
31	LIU Haoxin	LI Yankun	CHN - CHN	49.92
32	TIAN Maoxiang	YANG Junyu	CHN - CHN	49.13
33	CATER James	SOONAWALLA Zane	ENG - ENG	49.00
34	CIBOROWSKA Lucja	CIBOROWSKI Konrad	POL - POL	48.79
35	LI Chengxi	HUANG Ziyu	CHN - CHN	48.70
36	WEI Sikun	MA Hanxi	CHN - CHN	48.59
37	POTTER Thomas	POTTER Jacob	ENG - ENG	48.37
38	ZHANG Qianwen	JIN Weiyi	CHN - CHN	46.76
39	NANDU Vineet	CHHEDA Kunj	IND - IND	46.69
40	CAI Linzhen	WEI Xieyang	CHN - CHN	46.20
41	LIAO Yipeng	SHANG Anrui	CHN - CHN	45.43
42	LI Yaojia	XIAO Hongxin	CHN - CHN	44.80
43	MAUVE Amelia	MAUVE Antoinina	ENG - ENG	44.54
44	CHOWDHURY Tilakraj	MEHTA Aryan	IND - IND	43.60
45	YU Xinlun	REN Moye	CHN - CHN	43.54
46	CHEN Xingjian	WAN Jialu	CHN - CHN	43.48
47	LIU Yupeng	ZHANG Zimo	CHN - CHN	42.11
48	JANCIC Natalija	FABEKOVEC Zlatko	CRO - CRO	41.93
49	CHEN Xuefeng	LIU Xuanci	CHN - CHN	40.63
50	SUN Ruoshui	ZHANG Beilin	CHN - CHN	38.40
51	WANG Zihao	SHI Jiayi	CHN - CHN	37.99
52	FENG Zirui	XIA Jingxuan	CHN - CHN	37.52
53	KOWALSKI Kacper	ZIMORSKI Wojciech	POL - POL	34.97
54	GRUBISIC Mia	CIZEL Vanja	CRO - CRO	33.44
55	SMADILO RALIS Tibor	CACKOVIC Natanael	CRO - CRO	31.30
56	LADOVIC Lara	LUBINA Lara	CRO - CRO	29.11