

AUSSIE YOUTH BRIDGE BULLETIN

Bulletin Editors: Andy Hung, Laura Ginnan

ISSUE 4

Netherlands Claims Victory by Less Than 1 IMP!



Winners of the 14th World Youth Bridge Team Championships:
NETHERLANDS: Berand van den Bos, Aarnout Helmich, Gerbrand Hop, Joris van Lankveld, Ernst Wackwitz, and Chris Westerbeeek

Congratulations to the Netherlands Team, who narrowly scraped through victory against Israel on the last board of the World Youth Team Championships, by 0.67 of an IMP. In the Open Room, the Israelis had a bidding misunderstanding to play in 3♣ making 9 tricks with 3NT cold. In the Closed Room the Dutch also missed the 3NT game, but instead played in 2NT. The Dutch declarer was on his way to make 9 tricks for +150 to gain 1 IMP against -110 in the other room, but a misdefence allowed him to make 10 tricks for +180 and 2 IMPs to seize the championships by 0.67 of an IMP!

Meanwhile, the Australian U25 team placed 4th (of 20), the U20s placed equal fifth (of 17), and the Oceania team placed 9th (of 10). Articles about Australia's (and Oceania's) performance in the World Youth Championships can be seen on pages 3, 23, and 33.

Without your help the Aussie Youth Bulletin will be full of all our random rants and raves. Have your say - Email pix or articles or any suggestions to youthbridge.au@gmail.com

THESE ARE SHORTCUT HYPERLINKS!

ABF PRE-ALERTS!

For 2012			
DATES	EVENT	WHERE	
SEP 29 - 6	OCT 27 th NZ National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	
OCT 6 - 7	OCT Australian Swiss Pairs	Launceston (TAS, AUS)	
OCT 24 - 1	NOV Spring Nationals	Sydney	
NOV 24 - 25	NOV Youth Pairs and Teams	Sydney	
NOV 30 - 3	DEC GNOT Final	Tweed Heads (QLD)	
For 2013			
IAN 12 - 20	IAN Australian Youth Week	Canberra	

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CHECKBACK (Results)

14th World Youth Team Championships 25 JUL - 4 AUG, 2012 (Taicang, China)

	Place	Team
Junior (U25) Teams	1st	NETHERLANDS
	2nd	ISRAEL
	3rd	CHINA
	4th	AUSTRALIA
	=5th (Of 20)	SINGAPORE, USA1, ITALY, FRANCE

	Place	Team
Youngsters (U20) Teams	1st	POLAND
	2nd	USA1
	3rd	FRANCE
	4th	ISRAEL
	=5th (Of 17)	AUSTRALIA, ENGLAND, ITALY, SWEDEN

	Place	Team
Girls (U25) Teams	1st	POLAND
	2nd	NETHERLANDS
	3rd	ITALY
	4th	FRANCE
	9th (Of 10)	OCEANIA

	Place	Team
Transnational Teams	1st	CHN RDFZ
	2nd	SINGAPORE JUNIORS
	3rd	DOWN UNDER: Lauren Travis (AUS), Daniel Braun (AUS), Shivam Shah (ENG), Ellena Moskovsky (AUS)

U25s - 14th WORLD YOUTH TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS, I

By ANDY HUNG, BRISBANE

The Australian U25 team arrived in China with high hopes of being in the podium. Countless hours of practice and discussion, along with Smirny training weekends, gave us the confidence to play at our very best. But even so, short knockout matches can be decided by luck and can be easily won by any team. As you may have already heard, our team made it through to the semi-finals and lost to the eventual winners, Netherlands. We also lost our bronze medal playoff to China, so unfortunately this just wasn't to be our tournament. Rather than dwell on the what-ifs I would like to present to you a recount of our tournament.

The format of the event was the same as any World Team Championships - one full round robin followed by knockouts involving the top eight teams.

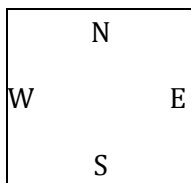
On the first round we were up against Netherlands. It was a low scoring match with most of the IMPs going to Netherlands, then a misdefence by Liam-Adam of a 5♠ contract presented Netherlands with 11 IMPs. Two unlucky boards followed and Australia lost the match 3-41 IMPs, converting to a 6-24 VP loss. Not the best start to a tournament but we were not discouraged. Our second match was against Japan and we comfortably won the match 24-6 VPs.

The third match was against USA 1, a team that was likely to qualify in the top 8 so we thought it may prove to be an important match. With the first two boards being relatively flat, the third board provided some action:

RR3, B3
S/E-W

♠ T98
♥ 73
♦ K984
♣ K542

♠ KQ432
♥ QT6
♦ AT6
♣ J6



♠ 7
♥ J94
♦ Q732
♣ QT973
♠ AJ65
♥ AK852
♦ J5
♣ A8

Open Room

Liam Milne	Kevin Dwyer	Adam Edgton	Owen Lien
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1♣ ¹
1♠	Dbl ²	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

Roger Lee	Andy Hung	R. Rajkumar	Nabil Edgton
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1♥
1♠	Dbl	All Pass	

1♣¹ = Strong, Dbl²=5-7

In the Closed Room, Nabil opted to pass my negative double for penalties upon seeing the vulnerability. He was hoping to get 500+ against a NV game or a partscore.



RR3, B3
 S/E-W
 ♠ T98
 ♥ 73
 ♦ K984
 ♣ K542

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 7
 ♥ J94
 ♦ Q732
 ♣ QT973

♠ AJ65
 ♥ AK852
 ♦ J5
 ♣ A8

Open Room
 Roger Lee Andy Hung R. Rajkumar Nabil Edgtton

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1♣ ¹
1♠	Dbl ²	Pass	Pass
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Closed Room
 Roger Lee Andy Hung R. Rajkumar Nabil Edgtton

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1♥
1♠	Dbl	All Pass	

1♣¹ = 16+ Any, Dbl² = 5-7

I led the ♥7 and Nabil won with the King. Best defence now would be to play the ♥A, ♥ ruff, ♣K, ♣ to the Ace, and another heart promoting an additional trump trick giving the defence 3♠ + 2♥ + 2♥ ruffs + 1♦ + 2♣ for a total of four off. Not knowing my trumps were so good Nabil exited with a small trump at trick 2 to get rid of dummy's

trump and the declarer was able to manage to get 4 tricks for -800.

In the Open Room N/S were playing strong club, and after Kevin's Dbl showing any 5-7 HCP, Owen was now required to show his heart suit. The Americans stopped in 3♥ making 10 tricks so it was 12 IMPs to Australia. Three boards later:

RR3, B6
 E/E-W
 ♠ Q3
 ♥ K9853
 ♦ J832
 ♣ 97

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J64
 ♥ Q764
 ♦ T7
 ♣ QT32

♠ AT9752
 ♥ - - -
 ♦ Q9654
 ♣ KJ

Open Room
 Liam Milne Kevin Dwyer Adam Edgtton Owen Lien

W	N	E	S
-	-	Pass	1♠
Dbl	2♥*	Pass	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room
 Roger Lee Andy Hung R. Rajkumar Nabil Edgtton

W	N	E	S
-	-	Pass	1♠
Dbl	Pass	2♥	Pass!
4♥	Dbl	All Pass	

2♥* = Bad Raise

Nabil made a surprising pass over 2♥. He felt that with a heart void and a partner who did not make any noise over the double, it was going to be a deal best suited for defending. Right he was and +500 was the end result of 4♥X.

In the Open Room, Dwyer as North decided to treat his hand as a "bad raise" with only two trumps, something that is a major taboo (and a round of drinks for the team) in Alex's world. This deal certainly proved that point and another 12 IMPs to Australia. Then came yet another series of flattish boards until:



RR3, B12

W/N-S

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

W	N	E
	S	

♠ K 9 8 5 2
♥ 9 3 2
♦ T 2
♣ J 4 2

Open Room

Liam Milne	Kevin Dwyer	Adam Edgton	Owen Lien
W	N	E	S
1♥	2♥ ¹	Pass	3♠
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Closed Room

Roger Lee	Andy Hung	R. Rajkumar	Nabil Edgton
W	N	E	S
1♣ ²	1♠	Dbl ³	3♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

2♥¹=Michaels

1♣²=Strong, Dbl³=5-7

In the Open Room Liam-Adam missed a laydown 6♦. In the Closed Room however, Roger Lee-R. Rajkumar never uncovered their diamond fit and opted to defend against 4♠X. There are three different ways to defeat the contract: either by cashing four top tricks, or else via a heart ruff with East, or a club ruff with West can yield two off. Rajkumar led the ♥K, which Roger overtook, but instead of giving a heart ruff immediately Roger attempted to make the defence easier by 'cashing' the ♦K. That proved to be very costly as I could now draw one round of trump, which nullified any chances of a heart ruff - that was 15 IMPs to Australia. When the final smoke had cleared we had beaten USA 1 by 25-3 VPs, taking us to 5th place after the first day.

Our second day was an easier run with China Hong Kong, Brazil and Singapore to play. We defeated China Hong Kong 19-11 VPs, Brazil 25-5 and Singapore 20-10. Howard-Hollands were able to bid a beautiful grand slam against Brazil on these cards:

♠ 7 6	♠ A 2
♥ A Q J	♥ K T 7 6 5
♦ A 5 2	♦ K J 7 6
♣ A K J T 5	♣ Q 9

W	N	E
	S	

With East as dealer, their auction was [— 1♥] ; [2♣-2♦] ; [2♥-2NT] ; [3♣-3♦] ; [3♥-3♠] [4NT-5♥] ; [6♣-6NT] ; [7♥-Pass].

2♣ was game forcing, 2♦ showed any minimum, 2♥ set hearts, 2NT showed maximum (of minimum) with no shortage, 3♣/3♦/3♥/3♠ cuebids, 4NT RKCB, 5♥ two without ♥Q, 6♣ asked for 3rd round club control and 6NT showed the ♣Q. Nicely bid!

We faced Israel, Argentina and China (in that order) on our third day. Israel have done brilliantly in the junior bridge scene (as well as in the open) for the past six years and no doubt they were a heavy favourite to be in the top three for this tournament.

In the Open Room against Israel, Nabil and myself were to play against Gal Gerstner-Lotan Fisher, and the Closed Room was Liam Milne-Adam Edgtton against Moshe Meyouhas-Dror Padon. The first big swing came about on the third board, which was a bidding test. Here was our auction:

RR7, B3 - S/E-W

♠K	N	♠AQT86
♥K764	W E	♥AQ
♦AQ72	S	♦KJ64
♣AQJ9		♣73

N. Edgtton A. Hung

W	E
1♦	1♠
2NT	3♣
3♦	4♦
4♥	4NT
5♠	5NT
6♦	6♠
7♦	Pass

On a trump lead by North, Nabil won with his Q, unblocked the ♠K, and played a diamond to dummy's jack. When both opponents followed suit Nabil could now ruff two spades in his hand and claim the rest. If trumps broke 4-1 there were a lot of chances available such as ruffing one spade hoping spades break - failing that a possible show-up squeeze in ♥+♣ against South, or just a simple club finesse. In the other room South was able to open the bidding:

RR7, B3

S/E-W

♠J 9532	N	♠AQT86
♥T8	W E	♥AQ
♦95	S	♦KJ64
♣8542		♣73
♠K		♠74
♥K764		♥J9532
♦AQ72		♦T83
♣AQJ9		♣KT6

Open Room

Nabil Edgtton	Gal Gerstner	Andy Hung	Lotan Fisher
W	N	E	S
7♦, W			

Closed Room

Moshe Meyouhas	Liam Milne	Dror Padon	Adam Edgtton
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	2♦ ¹
Pass	2♥ ²	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

2♦¹=Mini Multi, 2♥²=Pass/Correct

The Israeli made 13 tricks in 6NT, so this was 12 IMPs to Australia. Then, after two part score exchanges, Lotan and Adam held ♠— ♥Q1042 ♦AKJ763 ♣1095 and were in second seat favourable. Adam chose to open 1♦, an option I agree with.

Despite having a good four card heart suit and a great diamond suit, Lotan opted to open a weak 2♦ - the auction then continued with 2♠ on Lotan's left, 3♦ by his partner, 3♠ on his right and Lotan competed with 4♦. The contract rested there and made 10 tricks. At the other table where Adam opened 1♦, the auction continued with a 1♠ overcall, 2♠ diamond raise by partner, 3♠ on his right and Adam jumped to 5♦. Unfortunately this was off three top tricks and 3NT was the place to be.

The next swing came about on board 10 where Lotan had ♠1096 ♥K94 ♦AQJ9 ♣J85 and passed in second seat all vul. His LHO (Nabil) opened 1♥, his partner overcalled 1♠ and RHO (Andy) doubled. For whatever reason, Lotan decided to pass and saw his LHO bid 2♣. His partner passed, RHO bids 3♣ and now Lotan came back in with 3♠. There the contract rested and it made 11 tricks for +200, losing 9 IMPs in the process when the Australian counterpart played in 3NT making 9 tricks.

Then came a lead problem for Dror and myself. Holding ♠Q109 ♥A ♦QT9864 ♣754 as East in third seat favourable, we both heard our partners open 1♣. Both Norths overcalled 1♥ and I had a 1♠ response available, typically showing a negative double with 0-3 spades. My auction continued with 3♥ on my left, pass by partner and 4♥ on my right, which ended the auction. Dror passed 1♥ and heard 2♥ on his left and 4♥ on his right. Not a very informative auction to lead against - with my blank ♥A I decided to lead a diamond attempting to set up a trick or possibly give partner a diamond ruff whereas Dror led his partner's suit, a club. This was the full layout:

RR7, B12

W/N-S

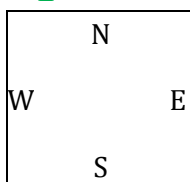
♠ K J 8 7
♥ K Q 8 7 5 3
♦ A J 5
♣ - - -

♠ A 6 3 2

♥ 9 6

♦ K

♣ K Q J T 9 6



♠ 5 4
♥ J T 4 2
♦ 7 3 2
♣ A 8 3 2

♠ Q T 9

♥ A

♦ Q T 9 8 6 4

♣ 7 5 4

Open Room

	Nabil Edgtton	Gal Gerstner	Andy Hung	Lotan Fisher
	W	N	E	S
1♣		1♥	1♠*	3♥
Pass		4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass				

Closed Room

	Moshe Meyouhas	Liam Milne	Dror Padon	Adam Edgtton
	W	N	E	S
1♣		1♥	Pass	3♥
Pass		4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass				

After a diamond lead declarer could not get a quick entry to dummy to the ♣A for a discard so he lost the ♠A, ♥A, ♦Q and a diamond ruff. In the Closed Room where Dror led a club Liam was able to discard a diamond and guess the spades for 10 tricks.

That was 12 IMPs to Australia. Two flat boards followed and Australia then lost two part score swings on the final two boards. The final result was 41-23 IMPs to Australia, which converted to a 19-11 VP win.

The next match against Argentina was less fortunate. The match score basically resulted from five consecutive boards that all produced large swings. Board 9 Nabil and myself missed a good save which our counterparts found: 11 IMPs to Argentina.

Board 10 Nabil held ♠JT63 ♥AKQ64 ♦97 ♣A10 in first seat all vul. He opened 1♥ and heard double on his left, 3♥ from partner back to him. He passed and his LHO now came back in with 3♣ pass-pass to him. Now that Nabil's LHO had shown 6+♣ all he needed to buy from me was a shortage in spades so he bid 4♥. Unfortunately I held a doubleton spade, so 4♥ was two off and this was 7 IMPs to Argentina when the other table had the same auction up until 3♣, which was passed out for one off.

Board 11 the Argentineans had a misunderstanding after I doubled a 5♣ keycard response in their constructive auction. They played in 5♠ on a 5-1 fit making 13 tricks (spade suit was ♠AQJ108 opp stiff ♠K) where Liam-Adam bid and made the cold 7♥: 14 IMPs to Australia.

Board 12 was a little difficult - I held ♠KJ5 ♥A8 ♦KQJ654 ♣A3 in second seat unfavourable. My RHO passed and I opened 1♦. This went pass-pass and my RHO balanced with 2♦ showing 5-5 majors. I doubled, LHO bid 2♥, partner passed as did RHO so I bid 3♦. This was passed out and dummy was ♠864 ♥Q105 ♦102 ♣QJ985. I made 9 tricks but the other table was in 3NT also making 9 tricks: 10 IMPs to Argentina. Then, Liam-Adam had a misunderstanding on Board 13, which resulted in a loss of 13 IMPs. The end result was 21-9 VPs to Argentina.

Our third match of day three was against China, the country that we had lost our quarterfinals to in the 2010 World Junior Teams in Philadelphia, USA. There weren't that many interesting boards except one:

		<u>ME</u>					
		N	♠ J T 9	W	E	S	
			♥ T 5 4 2				
			♦ T 7 5				
		S	♣ 5 4 2				

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

While my opponents were making their way up to 6♠ or 7♠ I was planning my defence on how we were going to beat the contract. Obviously Nabil had all of the remaining assets but my one concern was what if the opponents stopped in 6♠ and the keycard they were missing was ♠K? If dummy and declarer had ♠xxx and ♠AQxxx respectively (or even ♠Axx opp ♠Qxxxx), then assuming declarer is going

to cash the ♠A first, in what order should I play my spades to induce declarer to play me for the ♠K? (Playing me for the ♠K is the percentage play regardless, but I didn't want to give declarer any second doubts about that). It felt like 9-J was going to be best but 9-10 or 10-J would be ok.

However, after coming to that conclusion, Nabil led the ♦A against 6♠, which meant my envisioned scenario could now be discarded. In fact, declarer claimed 12 tricks after seeing the friendly trump break. In the other room, Liam and Adam did better:

RR9, B10	♠ A 8 6		
E/All	♥ K Q J 3		Liam Milne
	♦ Q J 9 4		Adam Edgton
	♣ Q J		

♠ 7 5		♠ J T 9
♥ 9 8 7		♥ T 5 4 2
♦ A 8 3 2		♦ T 7 5
♣ T 9 7 3		♣ 5 4 2

	N		
W		E	
	S		

♠ K Q 4 3 2
♥ A 6
♦ K 6
♣ A K 8 6

W	N	E	S
-	-	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

(Un)fortunately, the favourable lie of spades meant that both 6♠ and 6NT were making. We had won against China 32-19 IMPs, which converted to an 18-12 VP win.

The standings were now as follows after nine rounds:

1) Netherlands 187	5) USA 1 167	9) Argentina 137	13) Pakistan 123	17) India 102
2) France 183	6) Australia 165	9) Italy 137	14) Canada 120	18) Brazil 71
2) Israel 183	7) Singapore 150	11) USA 2 136	15) China HK 113	19) Costa Rica 58
4) China 177	8) Bulgaria 138	12) Denmark 132	15) Japan 113	20) Egypt 50

The next day consisted of four matches rather than the norm of three. We would play Bulgaria, India, USA 2 and France (in that order). Bulgaria was another team that was thought to be one of the favourites, and it wasn't going to be easy given that the match would start at nine in the morning! Nabil and I sat in the Open Room against Stefan Skorchev and Dean Spasov, whilst Peter Hollands and Justin Howard were in the closed against Zhivko Siderov and Nikolai Vasilev.

The first board saw a difference in contracts played. At fourth seat nil, Zhivko and Nabil held ♠AQJ10 ♥Q1083 ♦K5 ♣1086. In the Closed Room, Zhivko for Bulgaria played 3NT with the auction of (1♠)-Dbl-(2♠)-3NT and made an easy ten tricks. Nabil in the same seat heard the auction go (1♠)-Dbl-(Pass)-? and not unreasonably he chose to defend 1♠X. The contract could not go more than two off for 300 so the first swing of 4 IMPs went to Bulgaria.

The second board was flat as both tables were down in 6NT with a combined 33 count that was off the Ace and King of diamonds. The slam seemed quite impossible to avoid in a natural system - dealer had ♠AQ ♥AKJ8 ♦Q64 ♣AJ86 and responder had ♠KJ ♥Q92 ♦J973 ♣KQ54. Our auction was 2NT(19+-21)-4NT-6NT. Can you do better?

The first big swing came about on board four:

RR10, B4

W/All

♠ - - -	♠ QT97	♠ A5432
♥ KQT82	♥ 63	♥ J974
♦ A976	♦ KT	♦ 82
♣ K732	♣ AJ865	♣ Q9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ KJ86

♥ A5

♦ QJ543

♣ T4

Open Room

Nabil Edgton	Stefan Skorchev	Andy Hung	Dean Spasov
W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

Zhivko Siderov	Justin Howard	Nikolai Vasilev	Peter Hollands
W	N	E	S
1♥	Dbl	3♥	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

3♣¹=10-11 w/3♥ or 7-9 w/4♥

Justin made a slightly aggressive takeout double, which I like. As a result Peter was able to play in 3♠ but had to go one off due to the 5-0 break.

In the Open Room the Bulgarians never came into the auction. Stefan led a trump against 4♥ to Dean's Ace and the return was a low diamond to the ten. Skorchev exited with a trump and Nabil won with dummy's ♥9. A low spade ruffed, club to the queen (it does not help North to win the ♣A) and another low spade ruffed. Nabil now combined both chances of trying to ruff out the ♣A as well as setting up the spade suit - one of them worked so that was 11 IMPs to Australia.

Nabil made a fantastic bid on the next board. He held ♠J7 ♥KQ10983 ♦A3 ♣1074 at fourth seat favourable. 1♣ strong on his left, 3♦ by partner (me), 3♥ on his right showing GF with 5+♠. Nabil bid 4♥, his LHO bid 4NT keycard ask in spades and I competed to 5♥. His RHO passed showing 1 or 4 keycards and he now made the brilliant bid of 6♦. 6♦ was passed to Nabil's RHO who doubled, Nabil corrected to 6♥ and without a second thought his LHO bid 6♠ which ended the auction.

The full deal:

RR10, B5

N/N-S

♠ J 7	N	♠ Q 9
♥ KQT983	W	♥ 6542
♦ A3	E	♦ KJT765
♣ T74	S	♣ 3
		♠ T8432
		♥ A J
		♦ Q92
		♣ J86

Open Room

Nabil Edgton	Stefan Skorchev	Andy Hung	Dean Spasov
W	N	E	S
-	1♣ ¹	3♦	3♥ ²
4♥	4NT	5♥	Pass ³
6♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl
6♥	6♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

Zhivko Siderov	Justin Howard	Nikolai Vasilev	Peter Hollands
W	N	E	S
-	1♣	3♦	Pass
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
5♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

1♣¹=Strong, 3♥²=5+♠ GF, Pass³=1/4 KC

I completed Nabil's plan with the ♦J lead and 6♠ was one off (double dummy it is two off with a trump promo). At the other table Justin and Peter correctly stopped and defended 5♥X, which was two off so this was 9 IMPs to Australia.

The Bulgarians then made a few more errors and the match ultimately ended in our favour: 46-28 IMPs, which converted to 19-11 VPs.

Liam-Adam and Justin-Peter had a pretty strong next round against India to finish with a 23-7 VP victory. Liam had an interesting board to report. He held ♠J63 ♥AQ10 ♦A72 ♣6532 in fourth seat all vul. His LHO opened 2♠ (weak), partner doubled and RHO passed. He bid 3♣ showing values and a chunky suit, partner bid 3♠ asking for a stopper and because Liam was feeling pretty manly he concluded the auction with 3NT. The lead was the ♠K and dummy came down with:

RR11, B13, N/All

	♠ K	
♠ J 63	N	♠ A
♥ AQT	W	♥ K86
♦ A72	E	♦ Q964
♣ 6532	S	♣ AQ874

Liam	India	Adam	India
W	N	E	S
-	2♠	Dbl	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Liam won the ♠A (♠K-A-8-3), crossed to his hand with the ♥Q (♥6-2-Q-3) to take a club finesse, which lost (♣2-J-Q-K). Back came the ♠10 and Liam was destined to go two off. However, he only had six top tricks so he had to find a seventh trick to save an additional undertrick. North played five rounds of spades on which dummy discarded ♦64 and ♣874 and his hand ♦72 ♣3. This was the five card ending:

RR11, B13,
N/All

♠ ---
 ♥ J5
 ♦ T85
 ♣ ---

♠ ---	N	♠ ---
♥ AT	W	E
♦ A		
♣ 65	S	♣ A

♠ ---
 ♥ 9
 ♦ KJ
 ♣ T9

Liam	India	Adam	India
W	N	E	S
-	2♠	Dbl	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

North now returned a 'safe' heart and Liam cashed both hearts. South had to follow to one round but what to discard on the second heart? A diamond discard would allow Liam to unblock the ♦A (dropping the now stiff K) and dummy would be high, and if South discarded a club Liam can do the same to make his hand high instead. This is known as a criss-

cross squeeze where both menaces (the minor suits here) are blocked but the blocking card in one of the suits is the entry to the other menace. North could have prevented this squeeze by exiting with a diamond in the above five card ending. A hard fought undertrick.

Next match was round 12 against USA 2 and without many interesting boards, that was an 18-12 VP win.

The last round of the day was against France and this was an important match as France was lying in the top four of the rankings. The match was quite tight and it proved to be the lowest scoring match out of all of the matches in the entire event! A total of eight swings were exchanged, seven of which were either 1 or 2 IMPs. The eighth swing proved to be the decider of the match:

RR12, B1

N/Nil

♠ T8762
 ♥ KT7
 ♦ A97
 ♣ J6

♠ AQ94	N	♠ J3
♥ A32	W	E
♦ K64		
♣ 743	S	♣ AK9

♠ K5
 ♥ 864
 ♦ Q85
 ♣ QT852

Open Room

Pierre Frances-chetti	Liam Milne	Nicolas Lhuissier	Adam Edgton
W	N	E	S
-	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

Nabil Edgton	Thibault Coudert	Andy Hung	Cedric Lorenzini
W	N	E	S
-	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

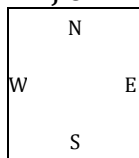
The play was identical up until the fifth trick. The opening lead was a fourth best club to the J, winning. A club was returned to declarer's ace, ♥Q ran to North's K and the ♥10 returned.



RR12, B1

N/Nil

♠T8762
 ♥KT7
 ♦A97
 ♣J6
 ♠AQ94
 ♥A32
 ♦K64
 ♣743
 ♠J3
 ♥QJ95
 ♦JT32
 ♣AK9
 ♠K5
 ♥864
 ♦Q85
 ♣QT852



Open Room

Pierre Franceschetti	Liam Milne	Nicolas Lhuissier	Adam Edgton
W	N	E	S
-	-	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

Nabil Edgton	Thibault Coudert	Andy Hung	Cedric Lorenzini
W	N	E	S
-	-	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

In the Open Room, Lhuissier for France won with dummy's ♥A, led a low spade to the jack and king, and a club returned to declarer's king. At this point there was no possible way for declarer to make and he in fact went two off.

In the Closed Room I won with dummy's ♥A and decided to play a heart

back to my jack to extract a potential exit card for the defence. I then played the ♦J and this went J-5-4-7. Based on the tempo of this trick it was clear to me that the ♦Q was with South and the ♦A with North. With a diamond trick in the bag it was now time for me to go after spades so I led the ♠J, king covered, ace and low. The deal was now an open book - I led a club back to my king (North discarded a spade as expected) and cashed my remaining heart trick as I discarded a spade from dummy. Dummy now had ♠Q9 ♦K6 and North now had to find a discard from ♠1087 ♦A9 - if he discarded a spade, this would allow me to cash the ♠Q and exit with the ♠9 endplaying North to give the ninth trick to dummy's ♦K, whilst a diamond discard would allow me to duck a diamond completely to set up the ♦K. North opted for the former ending, but regardless this was 11 IMPs to Australia.

The final result was 17-5 IMPs (a total of 22 IMPs exchanged in a 16 board 'junior' match) which converted to 18-12 VPs.

Day 5 was a less stressful day with the countries Costa Rica, Egypt, and Pakistan to play. Justin/Pete and Liam/Adam played extremely well against Costa Rica and Egypt to extract the maximum number of victory points.

Against Costa Rica, Justin had the following hand in 3rd seat: ♠2 ♥5 ♦AKQ952 ♣QJ852 at nil vul. The auction was two passes to him, and because of the relatively inexperienced opponents he decided to go for the maximum pressure bid of 4♦. This might sound crazy at first because you might think 'what if clubs is the right strain?' but in reality any pressure bid would create a massive headache for the opponents. This hand has singletons in both majors and with the auction going Pass-Pass to you, preempting to the limit seems indicated. Over 4♦ Justin's LHO doubled, partner passed and RHO bid 4NT. Justin passed and was then surprised to find out that he was on lead to this contract!



Full deal:

RR14, B11

S/Nil	♠ 2		
	♥ 5		
	♦ AKQ952		
	♣ QJ852		
♠ KQ5		N	♠ AT93
♥ KQT9762		W	♥ AJ
♦ 6		E	♦ 843
♣ 73		S	♣ AKT6
	♠ J8764		
	♥ 843		
	♦ JT7		
	♣ 94		

Open Room

Liam Milne	Christopher Castillo	Adam Edgton	Leonardo Arguedas
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	Pass
1♥	2♦	Dbl	Pass
3♥	4♣	Dbl	4♦
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

Walter Brown	Justin Howard	Kalifa Howard	Peter Hollands
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	4♦	Dbl	Pass
4NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Liam/Adam had a much lower auction to deal with and eventually found the excellent slam.

At the end of the day, we won 25-0 VPs against Costa Rica, 25-5 VPs against Egypt, and 22-8 VPs against Pakistan. For the sake of honesty, we actually scored 20-8 VPs against Pakistan due to a 2VP fine from a mobile phone penalty - I however will not name the culprit ☺ The electronic device policy (no electronic devices - even if switched off - were allowed in the playing area at all times) was enforced quite strictly throughout the tournament - before the commencement of each round, five random tables were selected to inspect each player's possessions. If an electronic device was found the penalty was an automatic 2VP fine plus 100€. For your interest, eight teams out of the entire three categories managed to suffer from this penalty.

Day 6 was the final day of the Round Robin. The current standings were:

1) Netherlands	323	5) China	284	9) Singapore	250	13) Canada	227	17) Japan	185
2) Australia	313	6) USA 1	282	10) Bulgaria	246	14) USA 2	223	18) Brazil	127
3) Israel	312	7) Italy	269	11) Argentina	244	15) India	205	19) Egypt	124
4) France	295	8) Denmark	256	12) China HK	239	15) Pakistan	205	20) Costa Rica	94

Our final day consisted of Canada, Denmark and Italy, whilst Netherlands had Singapore, France and Canada, and Israel had to play Pakistan, Costa Rica and USA 2. Basically the first qualifier was still up for grabs.

The set against Canada produced many swings. First swing was when Justin Howard held ♠53 ♥AQ987 ♦Q7 ♣10842 and had to lead against 3NT after this auction:

J. Howard		P. Hollands	
W	N	E	S
-	-	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

3♣ was simple Stayman, so East had implied four hearts. Given that declarer opened 2NT and later denied holding 4♥, he therefore had 2-3♥. Not unreasonably, Justin decided to lead his second best suit, clubs.

Full deal:

RR17, B2

E/N-S

♠ 5 3
♥ AQ987
♦ Q7
♣ T842

♠ A764
♥ J4
♦ AKJ8
♣ AKJ

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ QJ8
♥ T52
♦ T96
♣ Q753

♠ KT92
♥ K63
♦ 5432
♣ 96

Open Room

Gordon Zind	Justin Howard	Chris Chalcraft	Peter Hollands
W	N	E	S
-	-	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

Nabil Edgton	Tom Walsh	Andy Hung	Shan Huang
W	N	E	S
-	-	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

After a club lead by Justin, due to the clubs being blocked, declarer opted to cash the ♦AK to drop the doubleton queen. In the Closed Room, Nabil had to go off after a standard heart lead and that was 11 IMPs to Canada. Justin, a person who doesn't take kindly to bullying opponents struck back at them on the next board:

RR17, B3

S/E-W

♠ 8 2	♠ AKQT 6 4	♠ 7 3
♥ AQJT 2	♥ 8 3	♥ K 4
♦ T 7 5	♦ J 2	♦ AQ 9 6 4 3
♣ AT 8	♣ 9 5 3	♣ K J 4

W	N	E
	S	

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

Open Room

Gordon Zind	Justin Howard	Chris Chalcraft	Peter Hollands
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	Pass
1♥	1NT	Dbl	Pass
Pass	2♣	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room

Nabil Edgtton	Tom Walsh	Andy Hung	Shan Huang
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	Pass
1♥	3♠	4♦	4♠
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Justin threw in a cheeky 1NT overcall showing a balanced 15-18 and it obviously didn't fool anyone (except his partner perhaps). Justin then continued his plan with a cheeky 2♣, bid no doubt planning to muddy the waters as much as possible until he had to run to his real suit, spades. Even though the opponents uncovered the 1NT bluff, the damage it dealt to them was quite subtle. Apparently the opponents were in unfamiliar territory and generally when that arises, the end contract usually ends in 3NT. This is exactly what happened and, perhaps not in on the joke, Peter doubled the final contract. No one had suspected Justin's real hand and +500 was the result.

In the Closed Room Nabil and myself had bid up to 5♦. For some bizarre reason only known to Huang, he decided to lead a small club and that was all that was required for me to make 5♦. I won with the ♣J, cashed the ♦A (in case the king was singleton) and when both opponents followed low I now ran my hearts. North was able to ruff in with the ♦J on the third round but I was able to overruff, cross back to dummy with the ♣A to cash two more hearts pitching spades resulting in an overtrick. 15 IMPs back to Australia.

After a series of (relatively) flat boards, I had a lead problem. I was unfavourable in second seat holding ♠ — ♥J98642 ♦J854 ♣A72 and the auction was as follows:

N. Edgtton	T. Walsh	A. Hung	S. Huang
W	N	E	S
-	1♠	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Dbl	5♦*	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4♦=Splinter, 4NT=RKCB, 5♣=1/4, 5♦=♠Q ask, 6♠=Yes

Nabil	T. Walsh	Andy	S. Huang
W	N	E	S
-	1♠	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Dbl	5♦*	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4♦=Splinter, 4NT=RKCB, 5♣=1/4,
5♦=♠Q ask, 6♣=Yes

(For convenience, ♠ — ♥J98642 ♦J854 ♣A72)

The opponents were missing a keycard and obviously I was looking at it. If Nabil had the ♣K or ♣Q or both, then clearly opener was short in clubs to have keycarded. Given that each opponent was short in a suit, then their source of tricks could potentially come from a crossruff. As a result my first instinct was to lead a low club to get Nabil in so he could return a trump. However, I started to have second thoughts. In the past I have seen Nabil double for a lead with nothing in the suit in the hopes of discouraging the opponents from bidding a slam. If that was the case then underleading my ♣A could be a disaster (remember, opener was still interested in slam after Nabil's double which suggested a control in clubs - a singleton or the ♣K). Having said that, I shouldn't be relying on such reasoning so I turned my attention elsewhere for another clue.

If opener had short clubs and responder had short diamonds, it came to my attention that they both (quite likely) should have heart length. Given that I held **six** hearts it was just possible for Nabil to be either void or singleton in hearts. If that's the case I could lead a heart, and give Nabil a heart ruff after getting in with the ♣A (if declarer is going for a cross ruff, he would need to give up a club first). This was a strong enough reason for me to disobey Nabil's suggested club lead.

Full deal:

RR17, B9

N/E-W

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

N		
W	E	
S		

♠ Q J 9 5 2
♥ A Q 3
♦ 3
♣ J T 8 6

Open Room

Gordon Zind	Justin Howard	Chris Chalcraft	Peter Hollands
W	N	E	S
-	1♠	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Closed Room

Nabil Edgton	Tom Walsh	Andy Hung	Shan Huang
W	N	E	S
-	1♠	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Dbl	5♦*	Pass	6♣

At a quick glance, it appears that after a heart lead declarer can succeed by ruffing three diamonds in dummy. However, if you analyse the hand closely you will notice that declarer runs out of trump entries back to his hand to draw Nabil's final trump.

In the Open Room Peter bid 3NT then 4♥ to show a maxi-splinter in diamonds. Chris Chalcraft for Canada decided to lead the ♣A; +50 and +980 meant 14 IMPs.

Two boards later my left hand opponent preempted a few levels too high so Nabil and I extracted 500 from 4♥X for 12 IMPs. The board after that Justin and Peter landed in a good slam of 6♣ with a trump fit of ♣KJ10 opposite ♣AQ43 but were slated to go off due to the 5-1 break and the ♥A (both 6NT and 6♦ make) whilst our opponents landed in the best contract of 6NT so that was 17 IMPs to Canada. After a quiet last four boards the end result was 53-32 IMPs to Australia, which converted to 20-10 Victory Points.

The penultimate round was against Denmark and you can read the write up of that match on page 9 [here](#). Here are the results with one round to go:

1) Israel	356	5) China	325	9) Singapore	287	13) USA 2	257	17) Japan	205
2) Netherlands	347.6	6) USA 1	324	10) Bulgaria	272	14) Canada	243	18) Brazil	165
3) Australia	345.5	7) Italy	307	10) China H.K.	272	15) Pakistan	219	19) Egypt	158
4) France	338.4	8) Denmark	289.5	12) Argentina	257	16) India	209	20) Costa Rica	107

Israel now faced USA 2, Netherlands played Canada, with Australia against Italy. Our match against Italy was a wild one. The first big blow came about on the second board. A scientific auction by me and Nabil backfired when an Italian opponent was able to double for a lead against our relay auction to 3NT, which made the defence much easier: 10 IMPs to Italy. This was the next board:

RR19, B3

S/E-W

♠ Q87	N	♠ A642
♥ KT7532	W	♥ AQ864
♦ J54	E	♦ A
♣ 9	S	♣ A65

♠ KT95
♥ 9
♦ 9876
♣ 8732

Open Room

A. Gandoglia	Liam Milne	G. Delle Cave	Adam Edgton
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	1♦	Dbl	Pass
1♥	3♣	Dbl	5♦
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

Nabil Edgton	M. Di Franco	Andy Hung	Gabriele Zanasi
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	1♦	Dbl	Pass
3♥	4♣	4♦	5♦
Pass*	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

In the Open Room Liam and Adam were able to preempt the auction quickly to sacrifice in 5♦X. The Italians found their club ruffs so 5♦X was four off for -800.

In the Closed Room, Nabil was able to jump to 3♥ opposite my takeout double to show a hand with long hearts.

RR19, B3

S/E-W

♠ J 3
♥ J
♦ KQT32
♣ KQJT9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A642
♥ AQ864
♦ A
♣ A65

♠ Q87
♥ KT7532
♦ J54
♣ 9

♠ KT95
♥ 9
♦ 9876
♣ 8732

Open Room

A. Gandoglia	Liam Milne	G. Delle Cave	Adam Edgton
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	1♦	Dbl	Pass
1♥	3♣	Dbl	5♦
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

Nabil Edgton	M. Di Franco	Andy Hung	Gabriele Zanasi
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	1♦	Dbl	Pass
3♥	4♣	4♦	5♦
Pass*	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

I showed slam interest but, more importantly, created a forcing pass auction with 4♦. When South bid 5♦ Nabil was liking his hand more and more (especially his club shortage and the length in diamonds) so he passed which suggested encouragement. I did have all four aces but I was still unsure about Nabil's holding in the black suits (i.e. if he had ♠Kxx ♥KTxxxx ♦xx ♣xx then slam is

bad). Therefore I bid 5♥, which suggested I didn't want to defend and that was all the information Nabil needed to raise to slam. After a diamond lead Nabil guaranteed the contract by drawing the outstanding trump, eliminating the minors and playing ♠A and a low spade to his ♠Q. Based on the auction North was marked with a maximum of 2 spades and would have been endplayed if he held ♠Kx.

That was 12 IMPs to Australia. After three consecutive push boards I had another lead problem. I was in 4th seat holding ♠76 ♥764 ♦7 ♣AT97632 at all vul and my LHO (dealer) opened 1♦. Nabil overcalled 1♠ and my RHO bid 2♥ and alerted it. Upon asking he said natural non-forcing. I passed and my LHO bid 2♠ showing a good hand which Nabil doubled with my RHO passing. Given that the opponents' auction didn't sound like a "strong" one I took Nabil's double as a good hand (semi-takeout of either red suit), so I bid 4♣. My LHO bid 4♥ and this ended the auction.

My first instinct was to lead a spade, partner's suit. The singleton ♦ then looked quite attractive so I didn't know which shortage suit to lead. In the end I decided that I could probably delay my guess by leading the ♣A to look at dummy first. Full deal:

RR19, B7

S/All

♠ 9 5 2
♥ K Q 9 8 2
♦ 4 2
♣ K Q 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 7 6
♥ 7 6 4
♦ 7
♣ A T 9 7 6 3 2

♠ A K J T 3
♥ T 3
♦ Q T 8
♣ J 8 5

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

Open Room

A. Gandoglia	Liam Milne	G. Delle Cave	Adam Edgton
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1♦
1♠	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

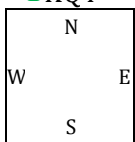
Closed Room

Nabil Edgton	M. Di Franco	Andy Hung	Gabriele Zanasi
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1♦
1♠	2♥	Pass	2♠
Dbl	Pass	4♣	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

RR19, B7

S/All

♠ 952
 ♥ KQ982
 ♦ 42
 ♣ KQ4
 ♠ AKJT3
 ♥ T3
 ♦ QT8
 ♣ J85
 ♠ 76
 ♥ 764
 ♦ 7
 ♣ AT97632
 ♠ Q84
 ♥ AJ5
 ♦ AKJ9653
 ♣ - - -



Open Room

A. Gandoglia	Liam Milne	G. Delle Cave	Adam Edgton
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1♦
1♠	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All	Pass

Closed Room

Nabil Edgton	M. Di Franco	Andy Hung	Gabriele Zanasi
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1♦
1♠	2♥	Pass	2♠
Dbl	Pass	4♣	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Disaster! The ♣A lead presented 10 easy tricks to declarer. In the other room Delle Cave decided to lead a spade and this set the contract one off. 12 IMPs to Italy. Unfortunately I was too distracted about my terrible lead to even contemplate what Nabil had doubled with. It wasn't until way after the match I

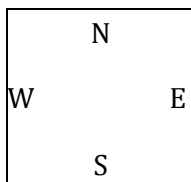
found out that on Nabil's side of the screen he was given the information that the 2♥ bid was natural but exactly invitational. With this information this had meant that the opponents were having a "strong auction" and as a result the double of 2♠ is no longer "good hand/takeout" but "lead my suit, I had a good overcall".

Board 8 was quite intriguing. Have you ever seen the defence play all four suits on the first four tricks against a 3NT contract?

RR19, B8

W/Nil

♠ AQT4
 ♥ AK865
 ♦ A83
 ♣ T
 ♠ 32
 ♥ QT97
 ♦ QJT742
 ♣ Q
 ♠ KJ975
 ♥ J2
 ♦ 9
 ♣ KJ753
 ♠ 86
 ♥ 43
 ♦ K65
 ♣ A98642



Open Room

A. Gandoglia	Liam Milne	G. Delle Cave	Adam Edgton
W	N	E	S
Pass	1♥	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

Nabil Edgton	M. Di Franco	Andy Hung	Gabriele Zanasi
W	N	E	S
3♦	Dbl	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At our table Nabil opened an offbeat 3♦, doubled by North and followed by pass from me. Gabriele was not able to see all 52 cards to be defending 3♦X so he ended the auction with 3NT. Wanting to get active Nabil opted to lead the ♥10 and the trick went ♥10-5-2-3. Nabil continued with the aggression with a club switch and this also held the trick after it went ♣Q-10-5-2. Still not wanting to give up, Nabil now switched to the ♠3 and it went ♠3-Q-K-6. I then switched to the ♦9 and this completed the circle of life. The contract eventually went four off, combined with three off in 2♠ by Gandoglia from the Open Room meant 8 IMPs to Australia.

Similarly, on board 10 our Italian opponents played in 3NT with a wide-open suit and the contract went two off. The Italian pair in the other room also declared a contract in 4♣X for one off. 200 and 200 meant 9 more IMPs to Australia.

On board 11 our opponents bid a thin non-vulnerable 3NT that Liam-Adam didn't and the contract made 9 tricks: 6 IMPs to Italy. Then came board 13. Nabil held ♠A85 ♥72 ♦KQ76 ♣K1083 and he was in fourth seat at all vulnerable. His LHO opened 1♥, I overcalled 1♠ and his RHO raised to 2♥. Nabil now blasted to 4♠ based on the reasons that (a) no information leakage to aid their opening lead, (b) the opponents may wrongly compete to 5♥, or (c) we were vulnerable so I would (should) have a better hand for my overcall. This worked like a charm:

RR19, B13

N/All

♠ Q 9 4
♥ K Q J T 9 8
♦ 8 3
♣ A Q

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 8 5
♥ 7 2
♦ K Q 7 6
♣ K T 8 3

♠ K J T 6 3
♥ 4 3
♦ A J 9
♣ 7 5 4

♠ 7 2
♥ A 6 5
♦ T 5 4 2
♣ J 9 6 2

Open Room

A. Gandoglia	Liam Milne	G. Delle Cave	Adam Edgtton
W	N	E	S
-	1♥	1♠	2♥
Dbl	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room

Nabil Edgtton	M. Di Franco	Andy Hung	Gabriele Zanasi
W	N	E	S
-	1♥	1♠	2♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Zanasi led the ♠7, which not only picked up the ♠Q for me, but I was able to draw trumps and discard a heart on the fourth diamond. I then guessed the clubs and made 10 tricks. In the Open Room, Liam Milne was able to make a game try which discouraged his opponents from competing. 620 and 140 meant 13 IMPs to Australia.

Board 15 Liam and Adam took a sacrifice that was a tad too expensive which resulted in 9 IMPs to Italy. When the fog cleared we had beaten Italy 46-40 IMPs (16-14 VPs). This was the final result of the round robin:

1) Netherlands	371.6	5) China	346	9) Denmark	308.5	13) USA 2	273	17) Japan	219
2) Israel	370	6) USA 1	333	10) Bulgaria	288	14) Canada	249	18) Brazil	170
3) Australia	361.5	7) Italy	321	11) Argentina	281	15) Pakistan	244	19) Egypt	160
4) France	349.4	8) Singapore	312	12) China HK	278	16) India	220	20) Costa Rica	126

The first place finishers now had to choose a team from 5th-8th to play in the quarterfinals, followed by the second finisher choosing afterwards, etc. Netherlands chose Singapore, Israel chose Italy, we chose USA 1 and France was left with China. Since we won our match 25-5 against USA 1, we would have a 10 IMP carryover.

(To be continued...)

A BLAST FROM THE PAST - A GAME FOR ALL

By BARBARA TRAVIS, ADELAIDE

Recently I used this hand in a lesson about opening leads. As it happened, I became declarer in 4♥ (West) holding ♠965 ♥AKQJ9 ♦AQJ3 ♣7 after the auction 1♥ - 2♥ - 4♥. When dummy came down, it was apparent to me that the hand had been fouled:

♠965	N	♠KQ2
♥AKQJ9	W E	♥762
♦AQJ3	S	♦976
♣7		♣QJT9

Since I had expected North to lead the ♣Q I knew the hands had been mixed up! However, I didn't remember the other two hands fully. I never give up on a contract, and with the ♠A onside and the diamond finesse working I made my contract. This was the hand I had expected:

♠965	N	♠A73
♥AKQJ9	W E	♥T854
♦AQJ3	S	♦84
♣7		♣K853

4♥ is also makeable as long as you utilise your entries to take the diamond finesse, which works. Now I wondered whether I could also make game opposite the South hand:

♠965	N	♠J T84
♥AKQJ9	W E	♥3
♦AQJ3	S	♦KT52
♣7		♣A642

Once again 4♥ is cold. The only losers are three spades. I'm not sure how often such hands appear: where you can make the same game opposite any of the other three hands.

U20s - 14th WORLD YOUTH TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

By ELLENA MOSKOVSKY, MELBOURNE

This year the World Youth Team Championships were held in Taicang, China. I was on the Youngsters team (U20) playing with Lauren Travis. The rest of the team consisted of Daniel Braun-Rhys Cooper and Jamie Thompson-Renee Cooper. We were captained by Nye Griffiths, who did an amazing job throughout (and before) the entire event. We were also fortunate to have Andy Hung and Alex Smirnov as our coaches who helped us in our training and preparation for the tournament.

The Youngsters section had 17 teams and involved 6 days of qualifying, in which we played a single round robin. The real contenders in our field were Poland (who had won the Transnationals in Croatia the previous year and the World Championships in Philadelphia the year before), Italy, France, Sweden, Israel and USA1.

We started off with a bang, defeating Sweden, Israel and China on the first day, 23-7, 23-7 and 22-8 respectively, and by the end of the day we were leading the event! Throughout the rest of the tournament we played consistently well against both the good and the average teams. Playing almost two weeks of stressful bridge, it is very hard to remain completely focused throughout the entire event, but doing so really is the key to success. Most teams will get tired and sloppy toward the end. However, we behaved ourselves as well as six teenagers can, managed to get enough sleep every night and did our best to avoid unnecessary exotic food. This really helped us maintain our concentration levels and, as a result, we were able to exceed expectations and reach the quarter-finals stage.

Throughout the tournament there were a variety of interesting hands, the first of which was a slam where Lauren and I finally had the chance to use the system over 2NT that we had been working on.

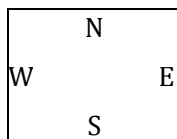
I picked up ♠K9 ♥A4 ♦A63 ♣AKQJT7. I may not have upgraded this hand enough - I opened it 2♣, intending to show it as 22-23 HCP, bal.

Over 2NT-3♣, Lauren and I play a number of inversions, and as such we get to show a number of major orientated hands, and also hands with slam tries and 4 or 5+ card minors. After 2NT-3♣; 3♥-?, bidding directly at the four level now would show a number of different major orientated hands, and going via 3♠-3NT (as happened on this deal) 4 level bids would now be showing minor suit hands.

This was our auction:

RR3, B16 - W/E-W

♠ T 8
♥ K T 8 2
♦ K Q J 8 5
♣ 4 2



♠ K 9
♥ A 4
♦ A 6 3
♣ A K Q J T 7

	Lauren		Ellena
	W	E	
Pass			2♣ ¹
2♦ ²			2NT ³
3♣ ⁴			3♥ ⁵
3♠ ⁶			3NT ⁷
4♠ ⁸			5♣ ⁹
5♦ ¹⁰			?

Pass = Pass	2♣ ¹ = Any GF or 22+ balanced
2♦ ² = Weak/Waiting	2NT ³ = 22-23 Balanced
3♣ ⁴ = Muppet Stayman	3♥ ⁵ = No 4 or 5 card Major
3♠ ⁶ = Puppet to 3NT	3NT ⁷ = Forced
4♠ ⁸ = Slam try 5+♦	5♣ ⁹ = RKCB in ♦'s
5♦ ¹⁰ = 1 or 4 Key Cards	?

Lauren's 4♠ showed a slam try with 5+♦ and her response to the keycard ask showed 1 or 4. Obviously she could only hold one key card – either ♦K or ♠A. It occurred to me that if her keycard was the ♦K and we played in 6♦, the contract would potentially have been wrong-sided as my Kx of spades could be exposed to the opening lead, and consequently I decided we must play in 6NT to protect my spade holding. However, to make 12 tricks in NT, I knew I needed more than just a source of tricks in diamonds.

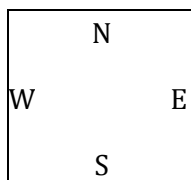
Consequently I decided to enquire further about the ♦Q (*Ed: Generally not a good idea unless the partnership has agreed Queen-ask bids over 5-trump-suit does not imply the possession of all five keycards and an invite to grand*). After hearing a positive response to my ask for the ♦Q, I now knew I had 6 club tricks, at least 3 diamonds and a heart, making 10. I was confident Lauren wouldn't make a slam try with ♠xxx ♥xxxx ♦KQxxx ♣x, so I knew she was going to have values elsewhere, and I bid 6NT, making 12 and +1440 for a flat board.

Full deal:

RR3, B16
W/E-W

♠ A 3 2
♥ Q 9 6 3
♦ 7 4
♣ 9 8 6 3

♠ T 8
♥ K T 8 2
♦ K Q J 8 5
♣ 4 2



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

Open Room

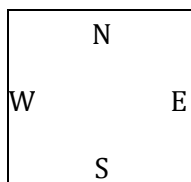
	Lauren Travis	China	Ellena Mos- kovsky
	W	N	E
			China
Pass		Pass	2♣ ¹
2♦ ²		Pass	2NT ³
3♣ ⁴		Pass	3♥ ⁵
3♠ ⁶		Pass	3NT ⁷
4♠ ⁸		Pass	5♣ ⁹
5♦ ¹⁰		Pass	5♥
6♥		Pass	6NT
		Pass	Pass

The next few hands are all interesting play problems.

The first one I played in 4♠X as South:

RR8, B2
E/N-S

♠ K85
♥ Q
♦ 8
♣ QJT86532



♠ AT9762
♥ J6
♦ QT73
♣ A

Open Room			
Chris Huber	Lauren Travis	Frederick Illingworth	Ellena Moskowsky
W	N	E	S
-	-	1♥	1♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room			
Daniel Braun	Alex Roberts	Rhys Cooper	Shivam Shah
W	N	E	S
5♥ E -3			

The lead was a heart to the ♥A, and a small diamond switch to the ♦A and a small diamond back. What do you play?

Having been doubled, I had to assume that spades were 3-1 at least. So when the opponents tapped dummy I no longer had the entries/control to set up clubs whilst drawing trumps ending in dummy to run the clubs.

At this point, I started to think about the different lines I could take and their possible outcomes. I decided that I could either try and set up the clubs for one or two discards, or go about a crossruff. Let's assume I ruff West's low diamond return, play a club to the ace, a spade to dummy's king, and call for ♣Q from dummy.

If the club queen gets covered with the king, I ruff. Assuming West follows to this trick (East shouldn't cover if he began with ♣Kxx), I can return to dummy with another diamond ruff and play the ♣J to discard my last diamond. Given that West doubled the final contract, he rates to hold the remaining two trumps (I already drew one round with the ♠K, remember) and he is free to ruff the club as it will be his natural (and final) trump trick.

If East shows out and discards on the ♣Q my only hope would be to ruff this trick, ruff another diamond and hope the ♦K will come down (losing 1♥, 1♦ and a trump). This is hardly likely however, since if East had two low singletons in the black suits he probably would have competed to 5♥, and if spades are 2-2 with split honours East could discard on the ♣Q and ruff the *third* round of clubs with his spade honour to defeat the contract (if I overruff, I lose one trump and one diamond, and if I discard my final diamond instead of overruffing, East, with 2=5=5=1 can play a diamond to promote a trump trick as West will now be out of diamonds).

RR12,
B1

E/N-S

♠K85
♥Q
♦8
♣QJT86532

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠AT9762
♥J6
♦QT73
♣A

Open Room

Chris Huber	Lauren Travis	Frederick Illingworth	Ellena Mosko-vsky
W	N	E	S
-	-	1♥	1♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

Daniel Braun	Alex Roberts	Rhys Cooper	Shivam Shah
W	N	E	S
5♥ E-3			

If East follows low to the ♣Q then I have to guess if clubs are 2-2, or 1-3 (East having 3). If the former I have to ruff the club, ruff another diamond to play another club to discard my last diamond and hope spades are 3-1 with West (else East can ruff to promote a trump trick). If the latter I must discard a diamond to let West ruff and hope spades are 2-2 so West has no more trumps left to kill

dummy's final trump that can be used for a final diamond ruff. So, I have chances.

First things first: I ruffed West's low diamond continuation in dummy, and played a club to my ace upon which East followed to this trick with the ♣K (very good news). If spades are 2-2 I can draw trumps ending in dummy for an overtrick.

But if spades are 3-1 either way, I can play a spade to dummy's king and start playing on clubs. If West has the long trumps he must follow to two more rounds of clubs allowing me to discard my two diamonds. If East has the long trumps, he can ruff the club with a spade honour which I can overruff, ruff my third diamond with dummy's last trump to play another club discarding my fourth diamond regardless of what East does on this trick.

Since West doubled the final contract, I was inclined to think that he would most likely have three spades for the double. Therefore I played a spade to dummy's king (West followed with the J to East's 3), played a top club and saw RHO ruff with a low spade. I overruffed, ruffed my third diamond in dummy to play another top club. Whether East ruffed this trick with the ♠Q or discarded, I would either lose one diamond and no trumps, or no diamonds and one trump. East discarded so I lost one final trump in the end (dummy was left with clubs only, so West's ♠Q was promoted), making ten tricks for +790.

As a sad afterthought, seeing that spades were 2-2 I could have just played the ♣A, ♠A, ♠K to dummy and played clubs for 11 tricks and plus +990.



Full deal:

RR8, B2

E/N-S

♠ K85
♥ Q
♦ 8
♣ QJT86532

♠ QJ
♥ K8754
♦ A62
♣ 974

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 43
♥ AT932
♦ KJ954
♣ K
♠ AT9762
♥ J6
♦ QT73
♣ A

The next hand:

RR11, B1

N/Nil

♠ T8762
♥ KT7
♦ A97
♣ J6

♠ AQ94
♥ A32
♦ K64
♣ 743

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J3
♥ QJ95
♦ JT32
♣ AK9
♠ K5
♥ 864
♦ Q85
♣ QT852

Open Room			
Chris Huber	Lauren Travis	Frederick Illingworth	Ellena Moskovsky
W	N	E	S
-	-	1♥	1♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room			
Daniel Braun	Alex Roberts	Rhys Cooper	Shivam Shah
W	N	E	S
5♥ E -3			

Open Room			
Italy	Daniel Braun	Italy	Rhys Cooper
W	N	E	S
3NT, E Lead: ♣2			

Closed Room			
Lauren Travis	Italy	Ellena Moskovsky	Italy
W	N	E	S
3NT, E Lead: ♣5			

I played in 3NT by East, after a constructive auction with no interference. South led the ♣5 (fourths), which went to North's Jack. I ducked and won the club continuation with the ace.

Now, I don't quite seem to have enough tricks: four top tricks, with potential for 1-2 spades, 1-2 hearts, and 1-2 diamonds. This analysis brings me to anywhere between 6 and 10 tricks. However, I can't afford to let South in more than once.

At trick 2, my main problem is to decide which suit to tackle first. None of them really seem to give me any concrete line for lots of tricks. My diamond pips aren't really good enough to be optimistic for more than 2 tricks, if that.

If I take a hook (either hearts or diamonds) into North at trick two, and he doesn't have any more clubs, then he has to lead one of my suits which looks promising.

So I opted to lead the ♦J to create the impression that I am trying to establish the diamonds hoping that if RHO wins he would therefore choose to return one of the major suits. However, one thing I didn't realise at the table is that if the ♦J gets covered all round (♦J-Q-K-A), RHO can now return a diamond, and I could be in dire straits. For this reason I should have perhaps played on hearts at trick 2. Luckily, instead of the diamonds getting covered all round, the ♦J got *ducked* all round. Phew!

I now have 5 top tricks. If I play a heart to the ace and a heart back I can probably establish an extra 2 tricks from hearts, bringing me up to 7, and a spade is now easy to establish, taking me up to 8. It looks like the ♦Q is on my left and ♦A on my right, so if I play on hearts first I can hope to later endplay North to either give me a diamond or a spade trick, so nine tricks seems likely from here.

RR11, B1
N/Nil

♠T8762
♥K
♦A9
♣--

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠AQ94
♥3
♦K6
♣7

♠J3
♥Q9
♦T32
♣K

♠K5
♥8
♦Q8
♣QT8

Open Room

Lauren Travis	Italy	Ellena Moskov-sky	Italy
W	N	E	S
3NT, E			
Lead: ♣2			

Closed Room

Italy	Daniel Braun	Italy	Rhys Cooper
W	N	E	S
3NT, E			
Lead: ♣5			

I played a heart to the ace and a heart back, winning with the Q as both opponents followed to both tricks and North dropped the ♥10 on the second round. This was now the position (left):

I now played a spade ♠J-K-A-x and exited with a heart. North won this (hearts were 3-3) and had to play either a spade or diamond. Oops. He opted for ace of diamonds, diamond. +430 and 10 imps in.

The next hand I had a tough bidding problem. You're sitting East in third seat at unfavourable vulnerability, holding ♠K J x x ♥A x x x ♦A x x ♣Q x. The auction proceeds as follows:

Lauren		Ellena	
W	N	E	S
1♣	1♦	Dbl	1♠
3♣	Pass	4♣	4♦
5♣	Pass	?	

After my partner bids 5♣, I need to decide what to do, considering I haven't completely shown my hand. I need to consider what kind of hand partner can have to rebid 3♣ first and then sign off in 5♣. I started imagining different hands partner can have.

(For convenience, ♠K J x x ♥A x x x ♦A x x ♣Q x)

Lauren		Ellena	
W	N	E	S
1♣	1♦	Dbl	1♠
3♣	Pass	4♣	4♦
5♣	Pass	?	

It sounds like Lauren almost certainly has a stiff diamond, so this is a good start. I can assume she has at least ♣AKxxxx and rule out Lauren having 4 hearts (as I've shown at least 4/4 in both majors).

Almost all hands with the ♠A are all good, for example ♠Axx ♥Kxx ♦x ♣AKJxxx. (Ed: It's a bit puzzling that partner did not cuebid 4M after we have made a slam try with 4♣. Partner could also pass 4♦ as we are in a forcing pass auction. Probably the most likely hand partner might have is 2-2-1-8 or 3-2-1-7 with no major suit controls.)

However, ♠Axx ♥KJx ♦x ♣AKJxxx is just as likely, or ♠Axx ♥KQx ♦x ♣AKxxxx, and with both of these hands slam is about 60+% (good chances for an endplay or a squeeze), which are good odds for a vulnerable slam. ♠Axx ♥QJT ♦x ♣AKxxxx, ♠ATx ♥Kxx ♦x ♣AKJxxx, ♠Ax ♥KQx ♦xx ♣AKJxxx all look quite good.

On the other hand, if Lauren doesn't have the ♠A, it looks as if the defence might come into a spade ruff, especially since North, the hand with short spades, is on lead. For example ♠Qxx ♥KQx ♦x ♣AKJxxx or ♠Qx ♥KQx ♦xx ♣AKJxxx. Again, these hands don't really have enough values, and Lauren is likely to downgrade ♠Qx or ♠Qxx after hearing the 1♠ bid on her right. For this reason I find it much more likely for her to have the ♠A.

After a long time, I decided it was worth the risk, given that about 70% of the hands I thought Lauren was likely to have allowed us to make slam, and bid 6♣. This was the whole hand:

RR4, B16 ♠ 3
 W/E-W ♥ J T 3
 ♦ K Q J 7 6 3
 ♣ T 9 3

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

♠ QT 8 7 5 2
 ♥ K Q 6 5
 ♦ 9 5 4
 ♣ - - -

Open Room			
Chinese Taipei	Daniel Braun	Chinese Taipei	Rhys Cooper
W	N	E	S
6♦X, N -4			

Closed Room			
Lauren Travis	Chinese Taipei	Ellena Moskovsky	Chinese Taipei
W	N	E	S
1♣	1♦	Dbl	1♠
3♣	Pass	4♣	4♦
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass

6♣ made, +1370. At the other table, our teammates took a good sacrifice in 6♦X for 800 out and 11 imps in.

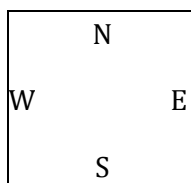
The last hand is a very intriguing play problem, which I will leave with you.

RR16, B14

E/Nil

♠ 9 8 5
♥ Q
♦ K Q J 5
♣ Q T 7 5 2

♠ K Q 7 3
♥ A 9 6 4
♦ A 9 8 6 4
♣ - - -



♠ J T 4 2
♥ J T 8 3
♦ T 7 2
♣ 6 4

♠ A 6
♥ K 7 5 2
♦ 3
♣ A K J 9 8 3

Open Room

Lauren Travis	Poland	Ellena Moskovsky	Poland
W	N	E	S
-	-	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

Poland	Rhys Cooper	Poland	Daniel Braun
W	N	E	S
3NT, W			
Lead: ♦K			

Lauren and I had quite an interesting auction to 6H ☺

At the table I thought 4♣ set clubs, thereafter 4♦ was keycard on clubs, Lauren showed me 1 or 4 and so 6♣ looked pretty good from my perspective. Obviously Lauren meant it as a splinter. Considering she can fourth suit game force with 2♠, then bid clubs to set clubs, her assuming that 4♣ was a splinter is not unreasonable.

I did realise all of this at the table, but I also thought that we had the agreement that we never splinter in our partner's suit, and as such just assumed it was clubs. These things happen to everyone and so we ended up in 6♥, which was a perfectly good contract, and many of the pairs in the field ended up there.

South led the ♠J. I decided to play for clubs 4-3 and hearts 3-2 (I'm not sure if there is a technically better line). I won the ♠J in hand, ruffed a club, played a heart to the king, ruffed a club, played the ♥A, then found the bad news and proceeded to go two off.

However, 6♥ is always cold on the given layout. I leave the problem to you to struggle with and eventually put into deep finesse. Trust me, you will ☺

At the end of the round robin, we were placed 6th, with the top 8 qualifying to the quarterfinals. Poland, as expected, finished 1st. The rest of the placings were, in order, France, USA1, Sweden, Israel, Australia, England, Italy. The format was such that 1st through 4th were allowed to choose their opponents for the quarterfinal. At this stage, first also decided their semi-final lineup assuming they would win their match.

Poland chose to play England, France chose Italy, USA1 picked Australia and Sweden was left with Israel. We had beaten USA1 narrowly in the round robin and we felt we definitely had the potential to beat them again. However, luck was not on our side.

We played 4 matches of 14 board segments, and after the first we were down by 26. The second round wasn't better and we lost another 32 imps. Things weren't looking too good from there. We did make up most of the gap in the 3rd and 4th segments, however, it wasn't enough and we lost by 25. USA1 definitely had some luck as they bid quite a few 50% slams on hooks. However, we could not deny they played quite well, and we just didn't make the most of many of our opportunities. It was very unfortunate that here ended the journey for the Australian Youngster team.

In the final, Poland defeated USA1 by a large margin, to once again become the World Youth Champions in the Youngsters division.

This was my first World Youth Championship and it was an amazing experience. I met a lot of great new people who were friendly and nice both at the table and away from it. And I learnt a great deal during the entire event from my captain and newly formed friends, not just about bridge, but also about properly representing Australia. The vibe throughout the tournament, especially during play, was fantastic; all of our opponents were great to play against. It was an experience I'll never forget.

KIBITZER'S CORNER



AN UNUSUAL BEER MILO CARD

By LAURA GINNAN, MELBOURNE

There are a couple of things that are being done in VIC that are a little different to around the rest of the country. There is an under-16s session which is held weekly during the school terms. This session primarily attracts kids of about 10 years old who are grandkids of bridge players. These kids have progressed in leaps and bounds from “what’s a card” through to tricks and trumps. Liam (11) and Aiden (8) took on Youth Week earlier this year where they learnt a lot and were mentored by Barbara Travis and Modi. This worked very well and a similar system has just been introduced in VIC.

In his first ever duplicate session, 9 year old Finn Rennie managed to pull off a strip and endplay with a twist. In the first set of boards he had ever played in a duplicate, Finn had the momentum after his opponents had a costly bidding misunderstanding... The following hand then arose.

<p>♠ A 8 2 ♥ 8 7 6 ♦ A Q 8 3 2 ♣ Q 8</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ 9 7 ♥ Q T 5 3 ♦ K T 7 6 ♣ A K 3</p>	<p>Auction:</p> <table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">W</th> <th style="width: 15%;">N (Laura)</th> <th style="width: 15%;">E</th> <th style="width: 15%;">S (Finn)</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N (Laura)	E	S (Finn)				1♥	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass			
	N																											
W		E																										
	S																											
W	N (Laura)	E	S (Finn)																									
			1♥																									
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass																									
Pass																												
		<p>♠ Q J T 6 3 ♥ 9 ♦ J 4 ♣ J T 7 5 4</p>																										
		<p>♠ K 5 4 ♥ A K J 4 2 ♦ 9 5 ♣ 9 6 2</p>																										

With a difficult hand from which to lead, West started off with the ♠2 “piercing” declarer who won the king. Finn proceeded to draw 5 rounds of trumps (it’s good to check for lurkers) with East discarding the ♠8 and a small diamond. After this, the ace and king of clubs were played leaving Finn in the Dummy (North) with the following position.

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

In an attempt to make the best of a bad situation, Finn led out the ♦K. This put West under a little bit of pressure (and confusion). West won the ♦A and cashed the ♠A with Finn pitching a club. After West continued with the ♦Q and saw partner’s jack, the defender was now stuck. Her hand was stripped out and there was nothing to do but give declarer the diamond finesse. She led out the ♦8 and Finn now made the contract losing only 2♦+1♠ and, more importantly, winning the ♦7 on the last trick.

Although better lines are available, Finn did well for his first time declaring under tournament conditions. Clearly, youth players have a natural instinct to take lines that may allow for the ♦7 to be made on the last trick. Finn had no idea of the relevance, but I am sure after reading this article he will be hitting me up for a milo (the kind that’s 70% milo and 30% milk).

GIRLS - 14th WORLD YOUTH TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

By LAURA GINNAN, MELBOURNE

Zone 7 was represented for the first time ever in the Under 25 Girls category in this year's World Youth Championships. The team was comprised of four Aussies - Laura Ginnan, Pascale Gardiner, Lucy Henbest and Ella Pattison with Kiwis Andi Boughey and Jenn Black. The team was captained by Peter Gill who, despite in the first few days having a little bit of a freak out about "girly issues" days, pulled it together and was an amazing captain!

There are many differing opinions out there about whether or not there should be girls events and, if there are, whether or not Australia should send teams. After being fortunate enough to represent Oceania in the worlds I have come up with my own views on what I think the segment achieves.

If you look at the European girls teams, they are able to hold their own against U25 teams and also in Open and Women's fields. The Polish Girls managed to make up most of the Women's Team that placed 3rd in Lille. One of their coaches mentioned that building the team up over the years since players were in their early teens has had an enormous impact on the quality of bridge and the ability of the team to prove such a force. The existence of girls teams seems to have not only provided a pathway of progression but has also assisted in developing player abilities.

In Australia, our youth participants and Under 25 elite players are mostly males, other than Ellena and Lauren who have put in the hard yards as a partnership and are biting at the boys' heels. Should our representation in this segment continue it will be interesting to see if girls are drawn into the game in a more serious way and if Aussie Girls, like the Polish, will be able to roll the boys.

One interesting hand that came up in the championships occurred in round robin match 4, when we were playing France. On board 5 the scores were flat in only 2 matches out of the three segments, ours was one of those.

RR4, B5

N/N-S

♠ AKQ 8 7 5 3
 ♥ A J 6 3
 ♦ - - -
 ♣ A 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ - - -
 ♥ QT 9 7
 ♦ AQ 6 4 3 2
 ♣ J 9 3

♠ T 6
 ♥ K 8 5 4
 ♦ K J T 9 8 5
 ♣ 4

♠ J 9 4 2
 ♥ 2
 ♦ 7
 ♣ KQT 8 7 5 2

Open Room

Claire Chaugny	Ella Pattison	Carole Puillet	Pascale Gardiner
W	N	E	S
-	2♣ ¹	3♦	4♣
5♦	5♠	6♦	6♠
7♦	7♠	All Pass	

2♣¹ = GF

Closed Room

Lucy Henbest	Jessie Carbonneaux	Laura Ginnan	Laure Favard
W	N	E	S
-	2♣ ²	3♦	4♣
6♦	6♠	Pass	Pass
7♦	7♠	All Pass	

2♣² = GF or strong in 1 major

In the Closed Room, Lucy's bid of 6♦ was able to take up room that was so vital to NS to accurately judge the contract. Jessie Carbonneaux bid 6♠ over this relatively comfortably however Laure Favard could not find the raise to seven. Lucy's bid of 7♦ then put Jessie under the pump again, after a very long time in the tank, Jessie correctly chose to drive on and was rewarded with flattening the board (although I am sure she was feeling relieved when dummy tracked).

At the other table Pascale and Ella used 2♣ as a genuine game force and were able to show the great spade fit and make use of the extra room. There was much discussion in the Taicang stadium hallways about how auctions at other tables went...from the results below you can see why.

Girls - (Note: The card led may not correspond to the actual deal as players can be lazy)

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team	Room	Cont.	Decl.	Lead	Tricks	NS	EW	Home Res.	Vis Res.
1	CHINA	CHINESE TAIPEI	Open	6♠	N	♣4	13	1460		1	
			Closed	6♠	N	♥4	12	1430			
2	OCEANIA	FRANCE	Open	7♠	N	♠6	13	2210			
			Closed	7♠	N	♦J	13	2210			
3	USA	NETHERLANDS	Open	6♠	N	♦K	13	1460			13
			Closed	7♠	N	♠10	13	2210			
4	SWEDEN	INDONESIA	Open	6♠	N	♣4	13	1460		15	
			Closed	7♦X	E	♥2	11	300			
5	POLAND	ITALY	Open	7♠	S	♣5	13	2210		18	
			Closed	7♦X	E	♥2	11	300			

U25 - (Note: The card led may not correspond to the actual deal as players can be lazy)

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team	Room	Cont.	Decl.	Lead	Tricks	NS	EW	Home Res.	Vis Res.
1	CANADA	ARGENTINA	Open	7♠	N	♠6	13	2210		18	
			Closed	7♦x	E	♣K	11	300			
2	USA2	PAKISTAN	Open	6♠	N	♣3	13	1460		15	
			Closed	7♦x	E	♥2	11	300			
3	FRANCE	SINGAPORE	Open	7♠	N	♦J	13	2210		18	
			Closed	7♦x	E	♥2	11	300			
4	COSTA RICA	BRAZIL	Open	6♠	N	♣4	13	1460		15	
			Closed	7♦x	W	♠K	11	300			
5	AUSTRALIA	CHINA HONG KONG	Open	7♠	N	♠6	13	2210		2	
			Closed	7♣	N	♦J	13	2140			
6	ITALY	USA1	Open	7♠	N	♠6	13	2210		17	
			Closed	5♠	N	♠6	13	710			
7	INDIA	JAPAN	Open	7♠	N	♦J	13	2210		13	
			Closed	6♠	N	♣3	13	1460			
8	DENMARK	NETHERLANDS	Open	6♠	N	♣4	13	1460			13
			Closed	7♠	N	♠T	13	2210			
9	EGYPT	ISRAEL	Open	6♠	N	♣4	13	1460		13	
			Closed	5♠	N	♣3	13	710			
10	CHINA	BULGARIA	Open	7♠	N	♠T	13	2210		18	
			Closed	7♦x	W	♠K	11	300			

U20 - (Note: The card led may not correspond to the actual deal as players can be lazy)

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team	Room	Cont.	Decl.	Lead	Tricks	NS	EW	Home Res.	Vis Res.
1	NORWAY	ARGENTINA	Open	6♠	N	♣4	13	1460			
			Closed	6♠	N	♣4	13	1460			
2	POLAND	ENGLAND	Open	7♠	N	♠6	13	2210		18	
			Closed	7♦x	E	♥2	11	300			
3	JAPAN	CHINA	Open	7♠	N	♦K	13	2210		13	
			Closed	6♠	N	♣4	13	1460			
4	CANADA	ISRAEL	Open	6♠	N	♠6	13	1460			13
			Closed	7♠	N	♣4	13	2210			
5	ITALY	SWEDEN	Open	7♦x	E	♠4	11	300			18
			Closed	7♠	N	♦K	13	2210			
6	LATVIA	SINGAPORE	Open	7♠	N	♦10	13	2210		13	
			Closed	6♠	N	♦J	13	1460			
7	AUSTRALIA	CHINESE TAIPEI	Open	6♠	N	♥3	13	1460			13
			Closed	7♣x	N	♥5	13	2330			
8	USA1	USA2	Open	7♠	N	♣4	13	2210		17	
			Closed	5♠	N	♣4	13	710			

Who said females are conservative at the bridge table?



PAUL LAVINGS BRIDGE BOOKS



Paul Lavings is a frequent supporter of the Australian Youth Bridge scene and he generously donates bridge books as prizes for the Australian Youth Bridge Week. He has represented Australia in our Open team many times, including his recent success in the winning team at the 2012 Australian Open Team Playoffs and the 2012 Autumn National Open Teams in Adelaide. He also owns a bridge book and supplies company so make sure to visit his website at www.bridgegear.com and contact him if you are in any need of a bridge book or CD. (P.S. Paul offers a good price on bridge books for youth players so be sure to check his website out!)

HIGHER AND HIGHER

By PAUL LAVINGS, SYDNEY

One of the common laments you hear at the bridge table is “Partner, I couldn't bid 4♦, cause I might push them into game”. This is very negative thinking, as it could equally be phrased, “Partner I had to bid 4♦, to try to push them into 4♥”.

Firstly, if opponents think they can make 4♥, they would have bid it by now. Secondly, it is important in partscores not to sell out at too low a level. And thirdly, yes, opponents might occasionally take the push and make a game, but you will win in the long run.

One fear of pushing the opponents into game is the indignity of it all. You may be the subject of considerable gloating and guffaws, and some find this unbearable. My advice is to get over it. Work it out, and learn to live with it knowing you did the right thing. It's like losing a finesse to the singleton king: so what!

This deal came up a week ago, in a Saturday afternoon game:

N/E-W

♠ K Q 6
♥ 7
♦ A K Q T 8 6
♣ T 9 7

♠ T 9 7
♥ A J T 5 4
♦ 4 3
♣ 8 5 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A J 5 4 2
♥ 8 6 2
♦ - - -
♣ A Q J 6 4

♠ 8 3
♥ K Q 9 3
♦ J 9 7 5 2
♣ K 2

	Vita		Paul
	W	N	E
	-	1♦	1♠
	2♠	3♦	3♠
	Pass	Pass	Pass
			Dbl
			4♦



Perhaps not a good example, since it would be extreme cowardice not to bid 4♦, but all the elements are there. No one really knows who makes what, and East has the sort of hand where 4♠ could easily make. In fact there are only three losers in 4♠ but East runs out of trumps, and 4♠ fails. When you dare them to bid 4♠, they invariably decline, and 4♦ is an easy make.

This deal is from the recent Olympiad in Lille:

RR5, B6

E/E-W

♠ K6			
♥ QJ8643			
♦ A74			
♣ J5			
♠ Q542	N	♠ A83	
♥ A	W	♥ 75	
♦ K983	E	♦ QT5	
♣ QT93	S	♣ K7642	
		♠ JT97	
		♥ KT97	
		♦ J62	
		♣ A8	

Open Room

Thomas Charlsen Zoltan Nagy Erik Thor Hoftaniska David Lilley

W	N	E	S
-	-	Pass	Pass
1♣	2♥	3♣	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room

Paul Lavings Ulf Tundal Robert Krochmalik Glenn Groethem

W	N	E	S
-	-	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♥	Dbl	2♦
3♣	3♥	4♣	All Pass

The double of 1♥ denied spades, and showed clubs with less than a two-over-one 2♣ bid. It looked like opponents could well make 3♥, and we probably had a 5-4 club fit. Maybe opponents make 4♥, no one knows, but they probably won't bid 4♥ over 4♣. We picked up one imp for +130, but it let opponents know we didn't come all this way to pass.

The message is to keep pushing. Push them from the two level to the three level, and if your instincts tell you, from the three level to the four level. And please, please, push them into game.

Email: paul@bridgegear.com
for all things bridge.

Paul Lavings Bridge Books & Supplies
www.bridgegear.com



SUIT COMBINATION

THIS ISSUE

(Assume unlimited entries)

A K J T 5 2

**Target:
6 tricks**

6 3

Line A: Cash a top honour, return to hand and finesse.

Line B: Take a first round finesse. If it wins, take another finesse.

Line C: Cash A and K.

Line C is the most inferior as it wins against Q x offside so let's disregard that. If the suit breaks 3-2 then it doesn't matter which line we take so let's disregard that as well. It's only if the suit breaks 1-4 that's relevant.

Line A wins if stiff Q is offside and loses if Q x x x is onside.

Line B wins if Q x x x is onside and stiff Q is offside.

Given that Q x x x onside occurs four more times than x x x x onside, Line B is best.

A Q T 3

**Target:
4 tricks**

J 7 4

Play the 4 to then 10. Assuming that wins, return back to hand and play the 7 to the Q. If the suit breaks 3-3 (assuming K is onside) then it doesn't matter what we do. But if West has K x, you need to make sure not to waste your jack. If you lead the jack on the first or second opportunity, you can only get 3 tricks given that you don't have the 9.

This is similar to last issue's combination of J x x opposite Q T x x.

FOR NEXT ISSUE

(Assume unlimited entries)

A Q 8 6 4

**Target:
5 tricks**

J 9 7 3 2

A Q 4 3

**Target:
5 tricks**

K 9 8 7 5



FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER - BEEFING UP BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

SUPPORT DOUBLES AND REDOUBLES

The "Support Double" was invented by one of the best players in the world, Eric Rodwell. It was designed to help the opener's partnership to clarify the degree of support (between 3 or 4 card support) when fourth seat interferes. For example:

		Us		Partner	
W		N	E	S	
-		1♣	Pass	1♠	
2♦		?			

2♠ by us now shows 4 card support whilst a double shows 3 card support. The support double can only be made by the opener after responder and fourth seat have responded and overcalled, respectively.

When fourth seat interferes with a double (as opposed to an overcall), sometimes people like to go one step further and incorporate the "Support Redouble" which has the exact same meaning as the support double. That's fair enough if you're in an unestablished partnership and prefer to keep things easy. If that's not you, and you would like an improvement on this, consider switching the redouble and 1NT bids when (and only when) fourth seat interferes with a double. E.g.

		Us		Partner	
W		N	E	S	
-		1♦	Pass	1♠	
Dbl		?			

Rather than Rdbl = 3 card support, 1NT = Natural (whatever range your 1NT is), a better approach would be:

Rdbl	=	Good hand, (15)16+
1NT	=	"Support Double"
2NT	=	(15)16+, 4+♠ (partner's suit)
3♠	=	Pre-emptive (always unbalanced)

This way, you can start with redouble with all of your strong hands that could potentially lead to a juicy penalty (you will need to agree on what your follow up double means, and also how high the auction is forcing to). This works especially well in a strong-NT based system because you can now pass the double with all weak-NT hands, redouble with most 16+ hands, jump to 2NT showing an inv+ 4 card raise (you can redouble with 18-19 NT) and also jump to 3M to show an unbalanced preemptive-ish raise.

The 1NT bid now shows any hand with 3 card support, which doesn't necessarily show a balanced hand - you could have 6-minor and 3 card support (i.e. unbalanced). A follow up to 1NT could be some variation of 2-way checkback for simplicity.



Australian Youth Bridge Championships

JANUARY 12-20, 2013

RYDGES EAGLE HAWK CANBERRA RESORT, ACT


It's time to start thinking about playing in the Australian National Youth Championships in 2013. Here are some pix from last year to convince you!

More information on the event will be posted in the upcoming weeks <http://www.abf.com.au/youth/events/ayc/index.html>





STATE ASSOCIATIONS - UPDATES

	EVENT	DATES
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Contact: http://www.qldbridge.com/		

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Contact: http://www.vba.asn.au/vbaHome.php		

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