

AUSTRALIA v LATVIA Round 5

This is an edited version of page 7 of Bulletin 4 of the World Championships in Bangkok in August. Australia's Schools Team (4th) is playing Latvia (Silver Medalists) in the round robin. On these two hands, the Edgtton brothers showed that bidding and making vulnerable games is a big winner atimps scoring.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

A K 4 2 8 5 3 A K Q J 4 4 Q J 5 J 7 6 4 10 6 K 9 6 5 9 8 6 10 9 9 8 7 3 2 Q 8 2	10 7 3 A K Q 2 5 A J 10 7 3
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West	North	East	South
<i>Balasovs</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>J Bethers</i>	<i>Hung</i>
		2C	Pass
2NT	Dble	3C	Pass
Pass	3D	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Adam E</i>	<i>P Bethers</i>	<i>Nabil E</i>	<i>Imsa</i>
		1C	Pass
1H	Dble	3D	Pass
4H	Dble	All Pass	

Bethers' natural 2C opening saw Jurijs Balasovs respond with 2NT, a transfer to clubs, and Justin Howard doubled for take-out. When Howard followed that up with 3D at his next turn he showed a strong hand of course, and Andy Hung bid like a man, or even like two men. Hung lost the first nine tricks to be five down for -250, which must have looked at the time to be worth a small swing to Latvia.

However, it proved not to be so. At the other table, Nabil Edgtton opened at the one level and Adam could show his heart suit. When Peteris Bethers doubled, Nabil made a mini-splinter and Adam liked his club fit and lack of wasted values enough to bid to game. Bethers doubled again, having substantial extra values, and that ended the auction.

Perhaps declarer would have got the clubs right anyway, given North's two take-out doubles, but you never know. Adam Edgtton was not hard pressed after Bethers led his club singleton, and the even trump split meant that ten tricks were easy; +790 and 11 IMPs to Australia, who led Latvia by 17-0 after six deals.

29 July – 8 August

2006 11th WORLD YOUTH BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS Bangkok, Thailand

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

	10 7 5 2
	A J 8 7 3
	Q 4 2
	5
6 3	A J 9
K 9 2	10 5
8 7 6	A K 10 5
A J 9 7 4	Q 10 8 6
	K Q 8 4
	Q 6 4
	J 9 3
	K 3 2

West	North	East	South
Balaso	Howard	J Bethers	Hung
	Pass	1NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Adam E P	Bethers	Nabil E	Imsa
	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Janis Bethers had a weak no trump and Balaso had no reason to go on. Nabil Edgton upgraded his hand to 15-17 with all those tens and Adam raised aggressively to game, a good strategy at teams bridge. With the two hands fitting well and the missing high cards also favourably placed, both declarers came to ten tricks after a low spade lead to the ten and jack; +180 to Bethers but +630 and 10 IMPs to the Edgttons.