

Semifinals session 3

After two of three sessions the scores were close in both matches:

Norway – Denmark 57 – 58
 Israel – Germany A 62 – 77

Board 29 started with a quiet part score for NS. Germany A picked up 1 IMP.

Board 30 was an interesting 4♠ that could be defeated on a diamond ruff.

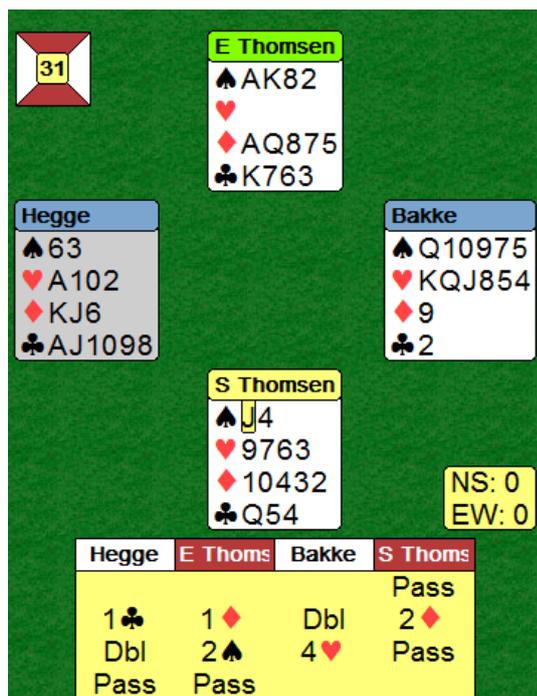
Hegge	E Thoms	Bakke	S Thoms
		Pass	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Emil Buus Thomsen led ♥3 to Signe’s Ace. She thought for a while then played back a low club to declarer’s King. Declarer drew trumps and pitched his second club on the heart. He next played on diamonds to score the overtrick.

Eide for Norway led ♣7 to the Ace and Ellingsen duly switched to his singleton diamond. He got his ruff and ♥Ace meant one down. 11 IMPs to Norway.

Grünke led a club to Vikjord’s Ace and the defense followed the same lines as the Norwegians for one down.

At the other table Argelazi for Israel led a heart after Tarnovski made a 2♥-overcall over a Drury response. Tarnovski next cashed the Ace of clubs and caught an encouraging three from his partner. He next played a second club and declarer was home. 10 IMPs to Germany A.



Signe Buus Thomsen led ♠ Jack to North's King. Emil next played two more rounds of spades, ruffed in dummy. Declarer drew trumps and played his remaining Major suit winners. As both North and South pitched all their diamonds ♦9 became the overtrick. NS -450.

The stakes were raised by Bilde at the other table:

West	North	East	South
R. Jepsen	Eide	D. Bilde	Ellingsen
-	-	-	pass
1♣	1♦	1♥	pass
1NT	pass	4♥	pass
Pass	DBL	RDBL	5♦
DBL	all pass		

When Eide doubled the final contract Dennis Bilde thought it was time to put the pressure back on North-South by redoubling. Ellingsen now thought for a while as he had never supported diamonds before. He eventually bid 5♦, doubled by West. Declarer ruffed the heart lead, then cashed Ace-King of spades and ruffed a third spade low in dummy. West overruffed and played back a second heart, ruffed again. A club went to the Queen and Ace next and West played a third heart, ruffed again. When declarer next played ♣ King East could use his trump to ruff. ♠ Queen gave West another overruff over dummy and he could cash a club for down four, NS -800. 8 IMPs to Denmark, right back in it at 66 – 68. Ellingsen's 5♦ bid saved 2 IMPs for Norway here as 4♥ XX surely would have made, for -880 and 10 IMPs.

The board was exciting in the other match as well:

West	North	East	South
Urman	Grünke	Toledano	Vikjord
-	-	-	pass
1♣	1♦	1♥	pass
1NT	DBL	2♠	pass
3♥	pass	4♥	pass
Pass	DBL	all pass	

Grünke doubled the final contract with his ♣ King behind the opener and Ace-King and Ace in side suits. Vikjord led ♦2 to the Jack and Queen. North cashed the Ace of spades, then returned a low one to the ten and Jack. South went back to diamonds, but declarer could ruff his spade losers in the dummy and draw trumps for NS -590.

West	North	East	South
Braun	Argelazi	Eggeling	Tarnovski
-	-	-	pass
1NT	DBL ^A	RDBL	2♣ ^A
Pass	2♦	pass	pass
DBL	pass	3♦ ^A	pass
3NT	pass	4♥	pass
Pass	DBL	all pass	

Here too 4♥ was doubled. Three rounds of spades were played and declarer gave up ♦Ace, for a push.

Board 32 was about overtricks in 3NT or 4♥. No score.

Board 33 was a touch and go non-vulnerable game, in which Denmark went one off and Norway played in 3♠ making 10 tricks. 6 IMPs meant 74 – 66 to Norway. Germany was left to play in 3♥ for one down. The other German pair going one down doubled in 4♠ gave Israel 4 IMPs.

The screenshot shows a bridge hand interface with the following details:

- Board:** 34
- Players:**
 - N:** E Thomsen (♠V2, ♥H92, ♦V954, ♣B1052)
 - W:** Hegge (♠H7643, ♥AB10863, ♦107, ♣)
 - Z:** S Thomsen (♠1095, ♥V75, ♦H86, ♣V943)
 - O:** Bakke (♠AB8, ♥4, ♦AB32, ♣AH876)
- Bidding History:**

WES	NOO	OOS	ZUID
1♦	Pas	1♣	Pas
4♣	Pas	4♦	Pas
4♥	Pas	4SA	Pas
5♠	Pas	5SA	Pas
- Score:** 6♠ Oost, NZ: 0, OW: 0

After this start of the bidding, with Bakke showing an unbalanced hand with 4 spades with 1♠ the Norwegians reached 6♣. South led the ten of spades round to the Jack. Declarer next played a heart to the Ace, heart ruff, then a club ruff and another heart ruff with East's last trump, establishing the hearts. Another low club was ruffed and the ♠ King drew two more trumps from North-South. They only got one trump trick, NS -980. Compared to the bidding at the other table you might wonder if they played the same board:

West	North	East	South
R. Jepsen	Eide	D. Bilde	Ellingsen
-	-	1♣	pass
1♥	pass	2♦	pass
2♥	all pass		

Spades were never mentioned. 2♥ scored 3 overtricks, giving Norway 13 IMPs, making it 87 – 66 now.

Braun	Argelazi	Eggeling	Tarnovsl
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Here spades were never mentioned as well. Only ten tricks gave Israel 7 IMPs for 4♠ +1 at the other table, creeping closer at 73 – 88.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 35 G </div>		N E Thomsen ♠ VB109 ♥ 1073 ♦ V543 ♣ A4	WEST NOOF OOST ZUID Pas 2♥ Pas 1♥ Pas Pas Pas 4♥
W Hegge ♠ H632 ♥ VB ♦ 8 ♣ B109653		O Bakke ♠ 854 ♥ A5 ♦ H109762 ♣ 72	
	Z S Thomsen ♠ A7 ♥ H98642 ♦ AB ♣ HV8		

4♥ Zuid
 NZ: 0
 OW: 0

Bidding was easy, but the play got complicated after West led his singleton diamond to the Jack. Declarer crossed to dummy in clubs to lead a heart. Bakke ducked and declarer played the nine to West's Jack. Hegge played back a club, won by South. She ruffed the Queen of clubs in dummy, but East could overruff with the Ace and give his partner the diamond ruff eventually. Unfortunately West had only black cards left and had the choice of leading a spade from the King or a club for a ruff and discard, so Signe Buus Thomsen made here contract after all, NS +420.

Toledano and Eggeling both went up with their Ace of hearts and gave their partner the diamond ruff. But declarer only lost the King of spades now, also +420, no score in Israel vs. Germany A.

Rasmus Jepsen was the only one who did not lead his singleton diamond, but ♣ Jack instead. Ellingsen won with the King in hand and played Ace of spades and a small spade, won by West's King. Now Jepsen switched to his diamond to the Jack. Ellingsen crossed to the Ace of clubs to lead a heart, running it when Bilde played low. Jepsen won and played a third club, ruffed by Bilde with the Ace. Now the diamond ruff meant one down and 10 IMPs to Denmark, trailing by 76 – 87.

Hand Diagram:

- Urman:** ♠ J7652, ♥ 52, ♦ AK642, ♣ 9
- Grünke:** ♠ K83, ♥ AKJ4, ♦ QJ73, ♣ 82
- Toledano:** ♠ AQ109, ♥ 83, ♦ 985, ♣ Q1074
- Vikjord:** ♠ 4, ♥ Q10976, ♦ 10, ♣ AKJ653

Score: NS: 0, EW: 0

Urman	Grünke	Toledano	Vikjord
2♠	Pass	3♠	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Urman opened 2♠, weak and 2-suited. Vikjord tried 4♣, but Grünke was not sure whether this showed just long clubs or both clubs and hearts. He first raised to 5♣, but later on changed his mind and retreated to 5♥ when 5♣ was doubled. 5♥ was also doubled. Toledano led the ace of spades, then switched to a diamond. Urman in turn switched to clubs, very helpful for declarer, who had no more losers now. 5♥ making for +850, scoring 6 IMPs with 4♥ at the other table just making.

Denmark played and made 5♥ against Norway's 4♥ +1.

37	Grünke ♠ 76542 ♥ AJ10732 ♦ ♣ 83	Toledano ♠ ♥ Q9 ♦ K1087653 ♣ AQ54																				
Urman ♠ Q983 ♥ K654 ♦ AQ4 ♣ 96	Vikjord ♠ AKJ10 ♥ 8 ♦ J9 ♣ KJ1072	NS: 0 EW: 0																				
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Urman</th> <th>Grünke</th> <th>Toledano</th> <th>Vikjord</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>5♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Urman	Grünke	Toledano	Vikjord		Pass	1♦	1♠	Dbl	4♠	5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass		
Urman	Grünke	Toledano	Vikjord																			
	Pass	1♦	1♠																			
Dbl	4♠	5♣	Pass																			
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl																			
Pass	Pass	Pass																				

Vikjord ventured a 1♠-overcall on his good 4-card. The auction soon was at the 5-level from there. Vikjord led a small diamond to the Ace. Toledano played a club to the Queen and King. Now South collected his heart ruff, but that was it for the defense. One down, NS +100.

Braun	Argelazi	Eggeling	Tarnovski
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

At the other table Tarnovski did not overcall at all and EW were left to their own in the bidding, leading to a quiet 3♦, making the overtrick.

West	North	East	South
R. Jepsen	Eide	D. Bilde	Ellingsen
-	pass	1♦	1♠
DBL	4♠	5♦	pass
Pass	5♠	pass	pass
DBL	all pass		

Dennis Bilde opened 1♦ and Ellingsen also overcalled 1♠. North however took the push to 5♠ here, doubled by West. The diamond lead was ruffed in dummy and Ellingsen led a spade to the Ace for another diamond ruff. He then played a club from the table to his Jack to ruff his last diamond. Another club went to the Ace and Bilde played a fourth diamond, ruffed by Jepsen. Jepsen made another trump trick, for 1 down, NS -200.

Signe Buus Thomsen was the only South to overcall 2♣, leading to 5♦ in East-West. This went two off, so Denmark picked up 7 IMPs, 83 – 87 now.

38

Grünke
 ♠ AKQ
 ♥ 63
 ♦ A
 ♣ AKQJ1042

Urman
 ♠ 1032
 ♥ 975
 ♦ Q875
 ♣ 653

Toledano
 ♠ J98764
 ♥ AQ4
 ♦ 42
 ♣ 98

Vikjord
 ♠ 5
 ♥ KJ1082
 ♦ KJ10963
 ♣ 7

NS: 0
 EW: 0

Urman	Grünke	Toledano	Vikjord
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass

Grünke and Vikjord stayed out of the slam on the heart guess. Of course with both hearts inside it wasn't a guess this time. NS +420.

Braun	Argelazi	Eggeling	Tarnovski
		Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Tarnovski opened 2♥ weak and 2-suited. North eventually settled for 6♣, not expecting 2 useful cards from a weak partner. Israel scored 11 IMPs, but were still trailing 84 – 100 IMPs.

WES	NOOI	OOS	ZUID
Pas	2♣	Pas	2♦
Pas	3♣	Pas	3♥
Pas	4♣	Pas	5♣
Pas	6♣	Pas	Pas
Pas			

Signe and Emil Buus Thomsen bid the slam and also chalked up +920.

W	N	E	S
P	2♣	P	2♥
P	4NT	P	5♣
P	6♣	P	7♥
P	7NT	X	P

Ellingsen and Eide had a big misunderstanding after Eide immediately used RKC Blackwood over 2♥. He bid 6♣, to play, but South thought this was a grand slam try for hearts and duly bid the grand. Bilde doubled and cashed his Ace, 14 IMPs to Denmark, ahead now by 97 – 87.

Board 39 was flat in both matches in 2♠ +1.

Board 40 was actually the final board of the match in the open room. As the open room was slower this was the final decision of the match. I will first tell what happened on boards 41 and 42.

G		N E Thomsen		WEST NOOF OOST ZUID	
41		♠ 1098		Pas 1♠ 3♣	
		♥ AB75		Dbl Pas 3SA Pas	
		♦ H9542		Pas Pas	
		♣ 2			
W Hegge		Z S Thomsen		O Bakke	
♠ 62		♠ B73		♠ AHV54	
♥ H98432		♥ 6		♥ V10	
♦ AV6		♦ B87		♦ 103	
♣ 105		♣ AHB984		♣ V763	
3SA Oost NZ: 0 OW: 0					

Hegge and Bakke were forced into game as West did not want to pass 3♣. Signe led the ♣9 to the 10 and Bakke continued a heart to the Queen and a heart to North's Jack. A spade from North and East took five of those to lead ♦10, covered by South and won with the Ace. A heart to North's Ace meant declarer scored an overtrick in the end as North gave the ♦ Queen as well. NS -630.

WEST	NOOF	OOST	ZUID
Pas	1♠	3♣	
Pas	Pas	Pas	

At the other table Ellingsen was left to play in 3♣ for a peaceful two down. NS -100 but 11 IMPs to Norway, retaking the lead at 98 – 97 now.

Braun	Argelazi	Eggeling	Tarnovski
	Pass	1♠	3♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Here 3♣ was also passed out for down two, NS -100.

Urman	Grünke	Toledano	Vikjord
	2♦	2♠	3♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Grünke's 2♦ was very weak unbalanced with 4+ diamonds. Vikjord's 3♣ was also left to play and he managed to get out for 1 down and 2 IMPs to Germany A. 102 – 84 and only 2 boards left for Israel.

42	N Argelazi	W N E S
	♠ 1093	1♣ P
	♥ AK10	2♦ P
	♦ AQJ83	P
	♣ 86	
W Braun		E Eggeling
♠ AQJ84		♠ 2
♥ J4		♥ Q863
♦ 10976		♦ K5
♣ 52		♣ AK10743
	S Tarnovski	
	♠ K765	
	♥ 9752	
	♦ 42	
	♣ QJ9	
Other table: 3♣E-1		2♦ N NS: 0 EW: 0
NS: Israel 84 IMPs		
EW: Germany A 105 IMPs		

Braun and Eggeling let Argelazi play 2♦. Declarer lost two clubs, two spades, two diamonds and a heart for two down, NS -200. Toledano at the other table had a way to show a weak hand with clubs over 2♦, so he used it and was left to play 3♣. He lost two diamonds, two hearts and two clubs, NS +100 and 7 IMP to Germany.

In Denmark – Norway both declarers managed to get home in 3♣, so no score, still 98 – 97.

40	N Grünke	W N E S
	♠ J9	P 1♣ P 1♦
	♥ 75	P 3NT P P
	♦ A5	P
	♣ AKQ9853	
W Urman		E Toledano
♠ 542		♠ 10876
♥ AKQ9		♥ J8
♦ 10984		♦ KJ763
♣ J4		♣ 102
	S Vikjord	
	♠ AKQ3	
	♥ 106432	
	♦ Q2	
	♣ 76	
Other table: 5♣N=		3NT N NS: 0 EW: 0
NS: Germany A 100 IMPs		
EW: Israel 84 IMPs		

Board 40 should be the decisive board. Grünke scored all 13 tricks after a diamond lead, NS +520.

Bidding was much more exciting at the other table:

West	North	East	South
Braun	Argelazi	Eggeling	Tarnovski
Pass	1♣	pass	1♥
Pass	3NT	pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	pass	pass
DBL	pass	pass	RDBL
Pass	5♣	all pass	

Tarnovski made a slam try over 3NT, but Argelazi retreated to 4NT. Braun doubled to get a heart lead and Tarnovski redoubled – we're not sure about the meaning of this. Argelazi bid 5♣ now and played

there. He just made his contract, NS +400. This gave Germany A another 3 IMPs. Germany A beat Israel 112 – 84 IMPs.

In the other match overtricks could be golden as before this final board was played Norway led by a single IMP. The closed room finished first, with Emil and Signe Buus Thomsen bidding:

W	N	E	S
P	1♣	P	1♥
P	3♣	P	3NT
P	P	P	

Hegge cashed the King of hearts, then switched to a spade. Buus Thomsen claimed 12 tricks, Denmark +490.

Everyone moved to the open room to see what happened there:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>R. Jepsen</i>	<i>Eide</i>	<i>D. Bilde</i>	<i>Ellingsen</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	DBL
2♣	3NT	all pass	

Dennis Bilde was the only East to make the 1♦-overcall. Ellingsen made a negative double and Jepsen used the cuebid to show a good diamond raise. Eide just bid 3NT. Bilde took his time and he eventually led a (drum rolls) ... diamond. Eide took the Queen and scored all thirteen tricks. The IMP went to Norway, to win by 99 – 97 IMPs.

Semifinals (after 42 of 42 boards):

Norway – Denmark	99 – 97
Israel – Germany A	84 – 112