

We would like to welcome all players, coaches, captains, supporters, kibitzers and everyone else to the White House Juniors International Tournament 2014. We wish for a good tournament with some excellent bridge, good fun and of course some nice stories that should be written up in this bulletin.



The Carrousel Cup

We start with a Patton tournament on Sunday to warm up. Short team matches of 4 boards with scores being compared in both IMPs and Matchpoints. In the IMPs, the IMP difference will be translated into a 4-4 up to 8-0 or 0-8 result. The Matchpoint result is 1-1, 0-2 or 2-0 on each board, also generating 8 points (a difference of 10 points, e.g. +630 vs. +620 does not count however and will be a tie of 1-1 for the board). So you can score 16 points each round.

At the Lombard (a strong bridge club in Rotterdam with lots of juniors playing there) we also played a Patton tournament last year. The scoring method showed very much during a round in which the following happened. On the first board we eventually decided to defend 2♥ doubled, as they were vulnerable. The dummy and early play made it clear we could not set the contract. In a vain attempt to still beat 2♥ my partner tried something in the end, resulting in two overtricks, so we scored a bad -1070. We did not think it would matter much, as -670 almost certainly would also have cost about 12 IMPs, and we would lose the Matchpoint score for sure with 0-2. We forgot about our teammates however. Bidding had been a bit wild at the other table and the opponents reached 3NT redoubled with our cards. This contract drifted 3 off, so our teammates scored up a nice +1000 points. Suddenly those two overtricks we gave against 2♥ doubled were very expensive. -670 would have resulted in a win of 330 points and therefore 8 IMPs, instead of a 2 IMPs loss. And we would also win 2-0 instead of losing the board for 0-2.

On the second board our opponents tried to play in 2♦ at both tables, with the final contract being doubled at our table. We scored up +500, along with +100 from the other table. +12 IMPs and 2-0. On the third board my partner and I bid very well to an excellent slam. Our opponent cashed the missing Ace on the lead. At the other table our teammates did not cash it and so the board cost 1 IMP and 0-2 in the Matchpoints. On the fourth and final board we bid and made game, with our teammates beating it at the other table, for another 12 IMPs and 2-0. The IMP score was 24-3 now and this was converted to 8-0. The Matchpoint score being 4-4 as both teams won two boards. The final score of this match therefore was 12-4.

Score table 1		Score table 2		Difference	IMPs	Matchpoints
EW 2♥ X +2	-1070	NS 3NT XX -3	+1000	-70	-2	0
EW 2♦ X -2	+500	NS 2♦ -1	+100	+600	+12	2
NS 6♣ C	+980	NS 6♠ +1	-1010	-30	-1	0
NS 4♠ C	+620	NS 4♠ -1	+100	+720	+12	2
				Total	24 - 3	4 - 4
					IMPs converted	8 - 0
					Total score	12 - 4

From Monday to Wednesday all teams play a 17-round Swiss, with the top-four reaching the semi-finals, which will be played on Thursday. In each round 10 boards will be played. On Thursday 3 rounds of 14 boards will be played, both in the semi-finals and in all other matches. All other teams will be divided in groups to play for places 5 to 8, 9 to 12 and so on.

On Friday we have the Final of 3 x 14 boards and 3rd place play-off. There will also be a matchpoint game for everyone who wants to play on Friday, including captains, coaches, sponsors, guests etc. with transnational partnerships possible.

Let's warm up with a nice declarer play problem from a recent local club game:

NORTH:
 ♠ A K T 8 6
 ♥ A T 9
 ♦ K T 7 4
 ♣ 9

SOUTH:
 ♠ Q 5 4
 ♥ K Q 6 2
 ♦ A 6 2
 ♣ A K J

You end up in 7NT. Lead: ♠ Jack. What's the best play for all 13 tricks?

Dutch coach Kees Tammens asked his former Juniors to write up some nice stories from their own Junior bridge playing history. Although very junior-like, this interesting push board won't make his book:

Board 25, N / EW

♠ 9 6 5
♥ 2
♦ K 9 6 3
♣ A K 6 5 2

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

♠ A K 4 2
♥ 4
♦ J T 8 7 5
♣ Q T 4

At the first table, the bidding went:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
-	2♣ *	DBL	RDBL
4♥	pass	pass	DBL

All pass

2♣ = natural, limited opening

North chose to lead his Ace of clubs. Declarer soon claimed 2 overtricks as he had 11 hearts en 1 diamond trick. NS -1190. Not a great result for NS, but it could be worse, though with the smallest of margins, as at the other table this happened:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
-	1♦	1♥	DBL
4♦	pass	4♥	5♦
5♥	DBL	RDBL	all pass

South could cash his two spade winners, but that was it for the defense. NS -1200 and another 'dull' push board.

Who were these *juniors*, you might wonder. And when did this happen? Well, it happened a few days ago, during the Vanderbilt tournament at the Spring National in Dallas in the Monaco vs. Gromov match. At the first table we had Fantoni - Nunes in the North-South seats, with Bocchi - Madala as East-West. The other table featured Gromov - Dubinin vs. Helgemo - Helness. I'm sure they had a great laugh after comparing this result. They must have felt like real juniors again.

Solution play problem:

NORTH:
 ♠ A K T 8 6
 ♥ A T 9
 ♦ K T 7 4
 ♣ 9

SOUTH:
 ♠ Q 5 4
 ♥ K Q 6 2
 ♦ A 6 2
 ♣ A K J

You end up in 7NT. Lead: ♠ Jack. What's the best play for all 13 tricks?

We already have 5♠, 3♥, 2♦ and 2♣ tricks. ♥ Jack could drop or ♥ could be 3-3. ♣ Queen might be in a doubleton or we could take a ♣ finesse. And we have some excellent squeeze chances to finish the hand if neither the ♥ Jack nor the ♣ Queen appears.

To combine most chances you win ♠ Ace and play ♥ AK. If ♥ Jack appears, you're done. If not you try the 3rd heart. As it happens, East shows out. So we know West has the ♥ stopper. Any ♣ - ♥ squeeze would fail now, as South has to pitch first. (you could have played for the ♥ - ♣ squeeze against West by cashing all ♠ + ♦ winners, but that's a smaller chance than the other line of play). With West guarding the hearts, we don't need to take a club finesse. If East has the ♣ Queen you have a double squeeze with diamonds as threat against both opponents. So cash ♣ Ace – King. No luck so far, but now you cash the spades. With the last spade to be played this is the situation:

	♠ 6	
	♥ -	
	♦ K T 7	
	♣ -	
♠ -		♠ -
♥ J		♥ -
♦ ??? J x x		♦ ??? Q x x
♣ ?? -		♣ ?? Q
	♠ -	
	♥ 6	
	♦ A 6	
	♣ J	

You play the last spade. If East has the ♣ Queen he must pitch a small diamond. Now you pitch the ♣ Jack. East in turn has to hold on to the ♥ Jack and also must pitch a small diamond. Now you carefully play ♦ 10 from dummy to the Ace and cash ♦ King and finally ♦7! Beer, please.