



# 2017 YEH BROS CUP

3rd-7th July, 2017 Tokyo JAPAN

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## AND THEN THERE WERE TWO – KOKISH AND PEPSI

The final of the Yeh Bros Cup has come down to two teams, and there was plenty of heart-stopping drama in both the clash of the undefeated teams and in the subsequent three-way match.

It didn't look as if that was going to be the case though, for long stretches of the Kokish-Kranyak match. Kokish opened up a 50 IMP lead, which was whittled away until, with one deal to go, Kranyak had reduced the margin to single figures. But the boards ran out, and Kokish got the afternoon off, while Kranyak joined Pepsi and Monaco.

Three men enter, one man leaves.

Monaco opened up leads in both matches at the half, and held on to their advantage against Kranyak. With two deals to go, the match against Pepsi was all square, and Monaco had one foot in the door. But an adverse 11 IMP swing from an 800 penalty (it was 300 from an undoubled contract in the other room) saw Pepsi sneak in front by less than one VP. So it will be a Kokish-Pepsi Final.

If the bridge is as exciting tomorrow as it was today, then we will have something to look forward to.

The Yeh Pairs has reduced down to a field of 20, with a semi-final tomorrow morning and a final in the afternoon. Liran/Friedlander dominated the qualifying...but tomorrow is another day.

### UPPER (Undefeated) Bracket Round 3

Kokish	59	1	<b>60</b>
Kranyak	21	31	52

### LOWER (One-Loss) Bracket Round 3 (Triangle)

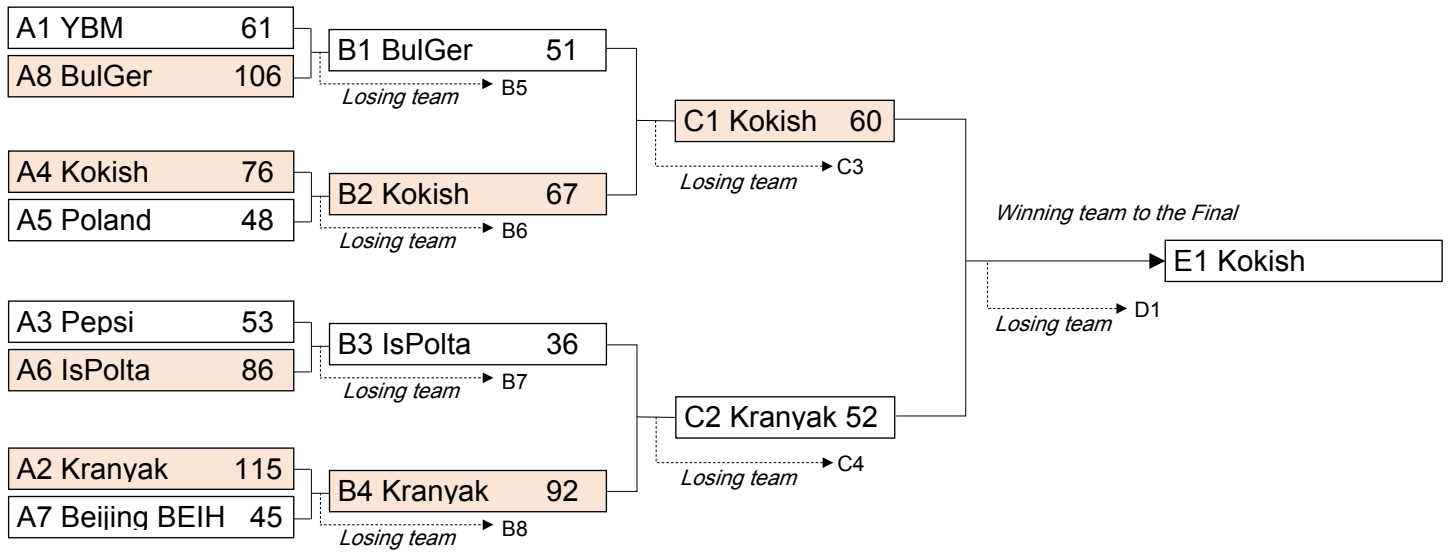
Team	VS.	Seg 1	Seg 2	Total	VPs	Team	VS.	Seg 1	Seg 2	Total	VPs
IsPolta	Monaco	5:8	1:5	6:13	7.97	BulGer	Pepsi	11:17	12:16	23:33	7.20
	France	13:29	11:33	24:62	2.15		Norway	13:12	12:25	25:37	6.72
<b>Monaco</b>	IsPolta	<b>8:5</b>	<b>5:1</b>	<b>13:6</b>	<b>12.03</b>	<b>Pepsi</b>	BulGer	<b>17:11</b>	<b>16:12</b>	<b>33:23</b>	<b>12.80</b>
	France	<b>45:1</b>	<b>18:24</b>	<b>63:25</b>	<b>17.85</b>		Norway	<b>15:1</b>	<b>24:16</b>	<b>39:17</b>	<b>15.38</b>
France	IsPolta	29:13	33:11	62:24	17.85	Norway	BulGer	12:13	25:12	37:25	13.28
	Monaco	1:45	24:18	25:63	2.15		Pepsi	1:15	16:24	17:39	4.62

### LOWER (One-Loss) Bracket Round 4 (Triangle – Winner to Final)

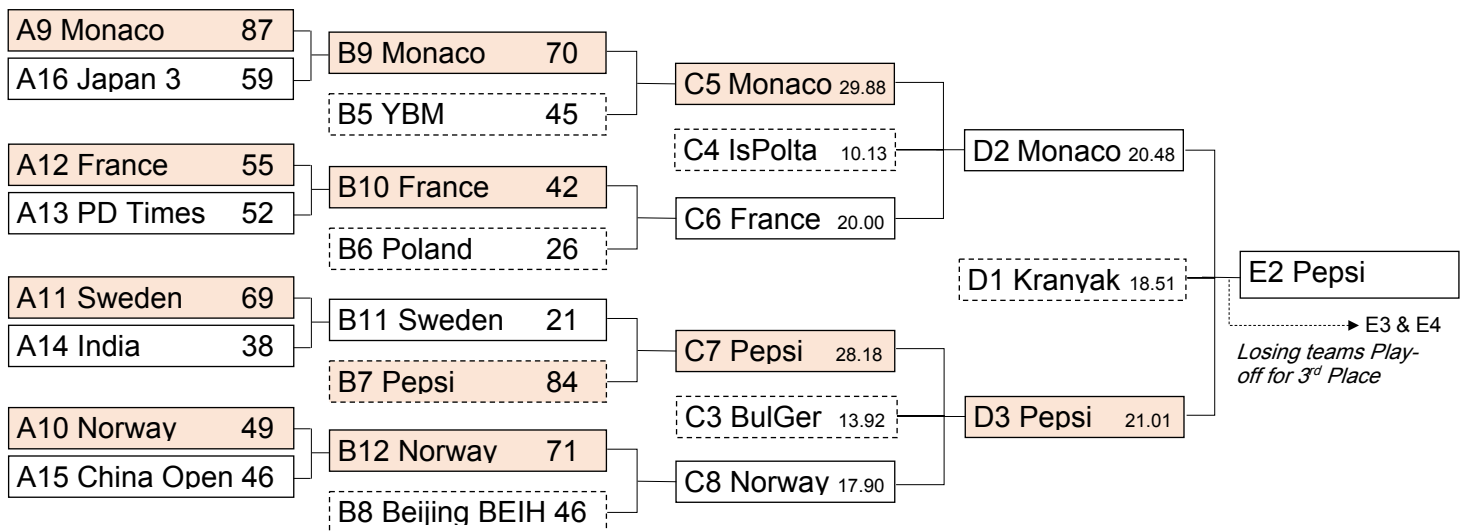
Team	VS.	Seg 1	Seg 2	Total	VPs	Total VPs
Kranyak	Monaco	5:19	13:12	18:31	6.48	18.51
	Pepsi	24:13	7:11	31:24	12.03	
Monaco	Kranyak	19:5	12:13	31:18	13.52	20.48
	Pepsi	12:5	0:18	12:23	6.96	
<b>Pepsi</b>	Kranyak	<b>13:24</b>	<b>11:7</b>	<b>24:31</b>	<b>7.97</b>	<b>21.01</b>
	Monaco	<b>5:12</b>	<b>18:0</b>	<b>23:12</b>	<b>13.04</b>	

# KNOCKOUT BRACKETS

## UPPER (Undefeated) BRACKET



## LOWER (One-Loss) BRACKET



## CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL & THIRD-PLACE PLAYOFF

Teams	c/o	Segment 1 (1-16)	Segment 2 (17-32)	Segment 3 (33-48)	Total
E1 Kokish	6.5				
E2 Pepsi	0				
E3 Monaco	0.5				
E4 Kranyak	0				

## CONSOLATION SWISS FINAL RESULTS

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	Netherlands	103.88	10	Pharon	83.80
2	Singapore	100.97	11	Japan 3	81.15
3	India	99.32	12	YBM	79.64
4	Beijing BEIH	98.79	13	Australia	78.12
5	Sweden	98.33	14	Shanghai Finance	77.82
6	Poland	93.95	15	Germany	73.15
7	Chinese Taipei	91.53	16	Japan 1	72.63
8	China Open	87.95	17	PD Times	71.63
9	Pertamina Indonesia	84.90	18	Japan 2	25.72

## CONSOLATION SWISS MATCH RESULTS

Round 6		IMPs		VPs	
4 Singapore	14 China Open	31	10	16.18	3.82
6 Netherlands	13 India	33	32	10.39	9.61
5 Germany	2 Pertamina Indonesia	16	49	1.70	18.30
10 Chinese Taipei	12 Japan 3	34	19	14.80	5.20
1 Shanghai Finance	7 Pharon	19	18	10.39	9.61
8 Australia	11 PD Times	39	38	10.39	9.61
3 Japan 1	9 Japan 2	46	0	19.86	0.14
15 YBM	17 Sweden	28	46	4.48	15.52
16 Poland	18 Beijing BEIH	14	60	0.14	19.86
Round 7		IMPs		VPs	
4 Singapore	18 Beijing BEIH	8	30	3.61	16.39
6 Netherlands	17 Sweden	20	21	9.61	10.39
2 Pertamina Indonesia	10 Chinese Taipei	23	26	8.86	11.14
13 India	15 YBM	34	16	15.52	4.48
14 China Open	5 Germany	31	24	12.51	7.49
16 Poland	1 Shanghai Finance	33	11	16.39	3.61
12 Japan 3	8 Australia	17	22	8.15	11.85
7 Pharon	3 Japan 1	40	11	17.68	2.32
11 PD Times	9 Japan 2	35	18	15.29	4.71
Round 8		IMPs		VPs	
18 Beijing BEIH	6 Netherlands	18	44	2.84	17.16
4 Singapore	13 India	8	21	5.72	14.28
10 Chinese Taipei	17 Sweden	34	41	7.49	12.51
2 Pertamina Indonesia	16 Poland	11	39	2.49	17.51
14 China Open	7 Pharon	33	32	10.39	9.61
8 Australia	15 YBM	25	27	9.23	10.77
5 Germany	1 Shanghai Finance	15	29	5.46	14.54
11 PD Times	3 Japan 1	22	40	4.48	15.52
12 Japan 3	9 Japan 2	25	12	14.28	5.72

**Link to the tournament liverscores (click below):**

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/home/English/yehbros/tabid/1457/Default.aspx>

## RESULT of OPEN PAIRS QUALIFICATION

Rank	Score	Players		No.
1	1108	Fredrik Nystrom	Johan Upmark	E4
2	1074	Ron Pachtman	Piotr Zatorski	C9
3	1012	Inon Liran	Ehud Friedlander	B1
4	927	Piotr Gawrys	Michal Klukowski	D8
5	665	Jason Hackett	Alex Hydes	D6
6	658	Paul Hackett	Tom Hanlon	E3
7	508	Patrick Huang	Zhao Yanpei	C10
8	493	Edward Yeh	Mou Chen	E2
9	492	Ola Rimstedt	Mikael Rimstedt	C5
10	345	Fu Zhong	Li Jie	D7
11	336	Huo Shiyu	Chen Jun	B7
12	308	Espen Lindqvist	Boye Brogeland	D5
13	223	Simon de Wijs	Bauke Muller	B3
14	222	Mukherjee Sumit	Majumder Debabrata	E5
15	203	Bas Drijver	Sjoert Brink	E11
16	147	David Yang	Jiang Gu	D4
17	-6	Dawei Chen	Diego Brenner	C4
18	-16	Krzysztof Jassem	Dominik Filipowicz	E1
19-20	-17	Shugo Tanaka	Kotomi Asakoshi	B6
19-20	-17	Tadashi Teramoto	Hiroaki Miura	C7
21	-30	Frederic Wrang	Johan Sylvan	D9
22	-36	Frederic Volcker	Thomas Bessis	B9
23	-50	Ramaratnam Krishnan	Kirubakara Moorthy	D3
24	-60	Sabine Auken	Roy Welland	B2
25	-70	Marc Chen	Hou Xu	B5
26	-89	Kelvin Ng	Zhang Yukun	D12
27	-161	Li Xiaoyi	Wang Xiaojing	E6
28	-248	Franky Karwur	Julius A George	B10
29	-271	Andrea Manno	Massimiliano Di Franco	E12
30	-295	Liu Jie	Yin Jiashen	C6
31	-319	Bendre Kaustubh Milind	Nandhi Kaustabh	B8
32	-335	Shan Baisong	Shi Haojun	C8
33	-378	Terje Aa	Allan Livgard	E9
34	-405	Jing Xu	Shi Bin	C1
35	-413	Andrew Peake	Peter Gill	E10
36	-421	Kyoko Ohno	Akihiko Yamada	C3
37	-451	Bi Shu Guang	He Wen Jiong	D10
38	-550	Kyoko Shimamura	Makiko Sato	D11
39	-567	Juei Yu Shih	Ping Wang	D2
40	-587	Deng Zhuodi	Liu Yinghao	D1
41	-595	Robert Parasian	Taufik Asbi	C2
42	-662	Jerry Stamatov	Diyan Danailov	E8
43	-783	Hiroshi Kaku	Kazuo Furuta	E7
44	-821	Fredrik Nystrom	Kazuhiko Yamada	B4

# YEH CUP (UPPER) UNDEFEATED BRACKET MATCH 2: Boards 17-32 of 32

Kokish Vs. BulGer

With 16 deals to go, BulGer led 38-27, having trailed early in the first set by nearly 20 IMPs.

The first deal was a Mama-Papa 3NT, with the only issue the number of overtricks. Both tables collected one.

BulGer increased their lead with a transfer preempt on the next deal:

Dealer: East  
Vul: N-S  
Brd 18

♠ K 8 7 4  
♥ A J 7 4  
♦ 10 2  
♣ A Q 8

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

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

♠ 9 5  
♥ Q 10 5  
♦ K Q 8 6 5 3  
♣ 10 6

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Auken	Gitelman	Welland
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass
Stamatov	Bertens	Danailov	Cheek
		3♣(♦)	Pass

3♦ All Pass

Makeable Contracts				
1	-	-	-	NT
-	-	-	-	♠
2	-	1	-	♥
3	-	3	-	♦
-	1	-	1	♣

Against Stamatov's 3♦ Bertens led a heart to the ♥Q, ♥K and ♥A. Declarer led a trump to the king and ace, and Cheek shifted to ♠10. Stamatov guessed to duck this (nicely done!) and Bertens had to overtake with the ♠Q. The best he could do was to play back a heart, but declarer can still make if he guesses spades, as he probably would. A club back was immediately fatal for the defence.

In the other room Welland as South led a club against Gitelman's 3♦. Auken won cheaply and shifted to a heart, to the ten, king and ace. Gitelman led a trump to the king and ace, and a club back sealed his fate. He rose with the ace, drew a second trump, then tried to set up a heart for a discard of a spade loser, but when that failed he had to fall back on the spade finesse. Down one. BulGer had 4 IMPs and led 42-27. (Two of the 12 pairs had a weak 2♦ available and played there, two played by West and made their contract, two Easts received helpful leads, the ♠J and a low heart, and made 110 in 3♦.)

Both N/S pairs played a quiet partscore in 2♠, the limit of the hand, followed by a 4♥ contract for the E/W pairs off two aces. Both these boards were flat across the room.

Dealer: North  
Vul: N-S  
Brd 21  
Yeh Undef Brkt 2-2

♠ ---  
♥ K Q 8 5 3 2  
♦ 7 5  
♣ Q J 7 4 2

♠ Q J 10 6 5 4 3  
♥ A J  
♦ J 4 2  
♣ A

♠ K 9 8  
♥ 10 7 4  
♦ K Q 8  
♣ 10 9 8 3

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

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Auken	Gitelman	Welland
	1♠	Pass	2♠
3♥	4♠	All Pass	
Stamatov	Bertens	Danailov	Cheek
	1♠	2♦	2♠

3♥ 4♠ All Pass

Makeable Contracts				
-	1	-	1	NT
-	4	-	4	♠
4	-	4	-	♥
1	-	1	-	♦
3	-	3	-	♣

Snobbish as this might sound, I didn't know there was anyone left in this event (even in the Swiss) who might overcall 2♦ as East. Danailov might point to the fact that 5♥x costs just 100 and that Stamatov might well have moved with 4NT or the like over 4♠ so his action, repellent as it might seem at first, second or even third glance was a potential big winner. I remain unconvinced. 4♠ had 10 easy winners – and this result would have picked up IMPs against the field here (5♣x went down 500 or 150 but two pairs did reach 5♥x while two pairs doubled 4♠).

At the other table I don't think it would have helped Kokish to be able to bid 2NT over 2♠ for hearts and a minor. If Gitelman had bid on he would surely have picked clubs now, anyway.

At this point in our second undefeated match Kranyak led IsPolta by 10-0 on the set, and by 23 overall.

Dealer: East      ♠ A K 10 8 7  
 Vul: E-W        ♥ K 5 4 3 2  
 Brd 22         ♦ 2  
 Yeh Undef Brkt 2-2 ♣ A 9  
 ♠ 9 4 3  
 ♥ A J 10 6  
 ♦ A K 9 7 3  
 ♣ 7

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

♠ Q 6  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ Q 8 5 4  
 ♣ J 10 8 6 5 2

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Auken	Gitelman	Welland
		Pass	Pass
1♦	1♠	1NT	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
All Pass			
Stamatov	Bertens	Danailov	Cheek
		Pass	Pass
1♦	3♦	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Makeable Contracts				
-	1	-	1	NT
-	2	-	2	♠
-	1	-	1	♥
-	-	-	-	♦
-	3	-	3	♣

Welland might have had less for his 2♣ call (even non-vulnerable facing a passed partner) than Auken might have expected. After a trump lead Auken used her dummy entry to play a heart to the king and with the the major suits breaking had time to set up the fifth heart for +110. In 3♠ Stamatov led a top diamond and shifted to trumps and the play transposed to Auken's line. But that still meant 4 IMPs to Bulger, leading 46-27.

In Kranyak-IsPolta Friedlander/Liron balanced back into 3♦ over 2♠, were doubled there and misjudged the play to go down 500 for a gain of 11 IMPs to Kranyak.

Dealer: South      ♠ K 8 3  
 Vul: Both        ♥ 6 5 4 3  
 Brd 23         ♦ K 4 3  
 Yeh Undef Brkt 2-2 ♣ J 10 3  
 ♠ Q J 10 2  
 ♥ Q J 9 8 2  
 ♦ 9 6 5  
 ♣ Q

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

♠ A 9 6 5  
 ♥ K  
 ♦ A Q 8 7  
 ♣ A 8 7 4

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Auken	Gitelman	Welland
			1♣
Pass	1♦(♥)	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	All Pass	
Stamatov	Bertens	Danailov	Cheek
			1♦
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Double
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Makeable Contracts				
-	1	-	1	NT
-	2	-	3	♠
1	-	1	-	♥
-	2	-	2	♦
-	2	-	2	♣

Both tables took circuitous routes to locate their 4-3 fits. Welland's 1♠ call suggested five clubs or precisely this pattern, 2♦ was also consistent with 4-1-3-5 shape so Auken did well to stay low. In the other room Bertens had the same problem over the double of 2♥. Passing and leading a trump might have earned him 500 but that is easier said than done.

In 2♠ Welland won the high trump lead in dummy and passed the ♣J to the bare queen. Kokish shifted to a heart to the ace; back came a trump, and Welland won the ace, and simply played on diamonds. Kokish ruffed in, drew one more round of trumps, then exited in hearts, leaving Welland with only seven tricks.



Bertens played 2♠ as North on ♥A lead and a trump shift. He guessed well to win in dummy and lead a low club. Then he took the trump shift and advanced the ♣J. When it was covered, he had eight tricks (four diamonds, two spades and two clubs one way or another). That was 5 IMPs to Kokish, trailing 46-32.

Dealer: West  
 Vul: None  
 Brd 24  
 Yeh Undef Brkt 2-2

♠ A Q 4  
 ♥ Q 9 7  
 ♦ K Q 9 3 2  
 ♣ 8 2

♠ J 8 3  
 ♥ A 10 8 5  
 ♦ A 7 6 4  
 ♣ A 5

♠ 9 7 6 2  
 ♥ J 6 3  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ K Q 10 9 6 4

♠ K 10 5  
 ♥ K 4 2  
 ♦ J 10 8 5  
 ♣ J 7 3

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Auken	Gitelman	Welland
1♦	Double	1♠*	2♣

All Pass  
 \*No Major

Stamatov	Bertens	Danailov	Cheek
1♦	Pass	1NT*	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

Makeable Contracts				
2	-	2	-	NT
-	1	-	1	♠
1	-	2	-	♥
2	-	2	-	♦
-	2	-	2	♣

Bertens double of 1NT was presumably strong with diamonds, Cheek's 2♣ call natural and non-forcing, which makes Bertens' decision to bid on explicable only because he feared a partnership misunderstanding. The defenders led and continued clubs against 2♦ and eventually allowed declarer to come to seven tricks after a sequence of inferior moves. It hardly mattered in the sense that 2♣ by Welland handled very nicely. When he guessed trumps and hearts he could hold his losses to one club and two tricks in each major. The 4 IMPs here put the lead back to 50-32.

On the next deal Cheek and Welland both faced a strong(ish) no-trump and held non-vulnerable:

♠ Q 10 8 6 5 3
♥ J
♦ Q 7 6
♣ K 3 2

Welland used Stayman then bid 2♠ to invite game, Cheek transferred and raised.

The hand opposite was a control-rich minimum with ♠K4; Auken declined the invitation, Bertens accepted. Game is good (65%?) on a non-club lead, about 35% on a club lead so basically a toss-up.

♠ K 4
♥ A 10 6 2
♦ K J 10 8
♣ A 8 6

Today the trumps lay as well as possible (though Gitelman finagled an extra trump trick on defence for his side by dropping the jack from ♠J7 and getting a ruff later). Seven somewhat random IMPs for Kokish, to make it 50-39 with seven to play. The lead went to 12 IMPs on an overtrick, and two more flat games followed (Kokish playing one game nicely after wrong-siding it on a natural sequence, to avoid a guess). Then both Kokish and Danailov opened a Precision Diamond on a 4-3-4-2 ten-count with nice intermediates to get to a normal game. Where have you gone Joe DiMaggio?)

Four deals to go and a 13-12 set with Bulger in front by 12 was just about to explode into life:

I'll pose it as a defensive problem before showing you the full deal. You are West defending 6♠ and can see this dummy:

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

Stamatov	Bertens	Danailov	Cheek
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

\*Balanced slam try for spades

You can draw whatever influences you like about North trying for a grand slam facing what might be a mild small-slam try. Your partner leads ♠6; declarer draws trump in two rounds, partner producing the seven, then cashes ace king and a third heart. Using upside down signals your partner plays 8, 2, 9 as declarer follows with the jack under your queen.

What do you play and why?

Ignoring your partner's unhelpful signalling, you can be sure declarer is 2-3 one way or the other in the minors. The only reason he can have, I think, for not stripping off one minor is that he has precisely AJ in that suit. If you play a club and he has the AJ it will be fatal, since you give him a free finesse. Can he have KJ10 in one minor or the other? No; if he did he would have stripped off the other suit. In summary a diamond can never clear up a guess for declarer – if that were so you wouldn't be in this position.

As the full hand shows, Stamatov's decision to play clubs was fatal. At the other table Auken stripped off clubs before going for the heart play, and that is probably the technically correct play, but it didn't work today.

(Both tables in the other undefeated match let through 6♠ by North on a diamond lead.)

Dealer: North      ♠ A K 5 3 2  
 Vul: Both        ♥ J 7 5  
 Brd 29            ♦ K 10 9  
 Yeh Undef Brkt 2-2 ♣ A J

♠ 10 8  
 ♥ Q 10 4 3  
 ♦ 6 5  
 ♣ Q 9 8 7 6

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

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

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Auken	Gitelman	Welland
	1NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Makeable Contracts				
-	6	-	6	NT
-	6	-	6	♠
-	4	-	4	♥
-	4	-	4	♦
-	5	-	5	♣

Misfortunes never come singly.

Dealer: East      ♠ J 8 4 2  
 Vul: None        ♥ Q 10 4  
 Brd 30            ♦ A 4 3  
 Yeh Undef Brkt 2-2 ♣ 8 4 3

♠ A K 9 5  
 ♥ J 5 2  
 ♦ K Q J 10 8  
 ♣ A

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

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

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Auken	Gitelman	Welland
		Pass	3♣
Double	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
Stamatov	Bertens	Danailov	Cheek
		Pass	3♣
Double	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Makeable Contracts				
-	-	-	-	NT
4	-	4	-	♠
3	-	3	-	♥
3	-	3	-	♦
-	3	-	3	♣

Did the last board influence Stamatov's decision to overbid by (conservatively) a trick and a half? Even facing a constructive 3♠ call -- with 3♦ an artificial negative response (which wasn't the case here) I think you are worth somewhere between zero and no slam tries here. As East I would be bidding on over a 4♠ sign-off over my 4♥ cuebid, but Danailov didn't have that problem. It was more of a challenge to make 4♠ than 6♠, the latter being down in top tricks so that the bad trump break actually gave BulGer



a chance to escape with a flesh wound. Welland led a top club against 4♠. Gitelman won and cashed the top spade then carefully did not play the ♠K next – he needed the re-entry to dummy and if he makes that play North ducks two diamonds, wins the third, and plays back a trump!

But a trump to the queen should also have been fatal; maybe following Andrew Robson’s bridge tip “If they pre-empt and lead their suit play them for a singleton trump” best is to play top diamonds after one trump. Even if spades are 3-3 and South gets a ruff, you still have ten tricks?

When Gitelman led a spade to his queen and went after diamonds, Auken could (should?) have set the game by shifting to hearts. If partner didn’t have a top heart could the game ever be set? She actually played back a club, so declarer had the tempo to pitch two hearts on the diamonds, and was back to 10 tricks. 11 IMPs to Kokish, winners eventually by 16 IMPs, 40-13 on the set. They would meet Kranyak, winners of the second set by a convincing 45-2 to take the match by 58 IMPs.

## YEH CUP (UPPER) UNDEFEATED BRACKET MATCH 3: Boards 1-16 of 32

Kranyak Vs. Kokish – The Youngsters versus the Old Guard

Two teams were left in the No Loss Bracket – Kranyak (John Kranyak, Vincent Demuy, John Hurd and Joel Wooldridge) together with Kokish (Eric Kokish, Fred Gitelman, Curtis Cheek and Huub Bertens). The winner of this 32 board encounter would go into the final guaranteed prize money of \$US48,000 and a chance at the main prize of \$US175,000. The upside of being a four-person team are clear – a 50% greater prize than you get from playing on a team of six. The downside: no hiding, no sitting out and full focus required, after already having played 164 boards over the past three days.

The action started on the first board.

Dealer: North	♠ K 6 5	
Vul: None	♥ K 10 7 4	
Brd 1	♦ J 3	
Yeh No Loss 3-1	♣ A K Q 3	
♠ 7 4 3 2		♠ 10 9
♥ Q 3 2		♥ A J 9 8 5
♦ 9		♦ A Q 10 8 2
♣ J 9 7 6 5		♣ 10
	♠ A Q J 8	
	♥ 6	
	♦ K 7 6 5 4	
	♣ 8 4 2	

West	North	East	South	
Wooldridge	Bertens	Hurd	Cheek	
	1NT	2♥	Double	
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	
All Pass				
Kokish	Kranyak	Gitelman	Demuy	
	1NT	2♥	Double	
3♥	Double	All Pass		
<hr/>				
Makeable Contracts				
-	2	-	2	NT
-	3	-	2	♠
1	-	1	-	♥
-	2	-	2	♦
-	3	-	3	♣

Kokish in the Closed Room, being ‘old school’, clearly had more faith in partner’s overcall than I ever would in mine, when he raised to 3♥. However his faith was justified when he found partner with a well-fitting two-suiter. The defence started well with the singleton heart lead to declarer’s eight. Declarer then played a club, won by North who then played the thoughtful ♥K to prevent declarer ruffing diamonds on the table with small trumps. Declarer continued with a third heart to dummy’s queen, then played the ♦9. To prove that early mornings don’t impair his bridge, Kranyak covered with the jack, thereby ensuring partner’s beer card (♦7) would score a trick. Declarer lost two spades, two diamonds and a club for -100.

In the Open Room, declarer had it relatively easy when East led a low heart to 3NT, which had the effect of providing a cheap heart trick for declarer while leaving him with a positional second stopper. When West had no entry, declarer could lead up to the diamonds for his ninth trick. +400 and 7 IMPs to Kokish. Even a top diamond lead at trick one probably leads to East being endplayed in diamonds later on?



clubs and a heart for -400, which together with the -140 in the Open Room gave Kokish 11 IMPs and a handy 28-0 early lead. I'm sure Kranyak would point out how unlucky he was to find ♣J wrong and Demuy would tell you that the redouble stood to gain much more than it lost here if they were in partscore in the other room; me, I'm not entirely convinced.

Board 5 provided Kokish with some more IMPs.

Dealer: North	♠ 7 3	
Vul: N-S	♥ A Q 9	
Brd 5	♦ 10 9 6 4 2	
Yeh No Loss 3-1	♣ Q 8 4	
♠ A Q 5 4		♠ K 8
♥ 10 8 3		♥ 7 5 4 2
♦ A 8 7		♦ K 5 3
♣ 10 7 3		♣ K 9 6 5
	♠ J 10 9 6 2	
	♥ K J 6	
	♦ Q J	
	♣ A J 2	

West	North	East	South	
Wooldridge	Bertens	Hurd	Cheek	
	Pass	Pass	1♠	
Pass	1NT	All Pass		
Kokish	Kranyak	Gitelman	Demuy	
	Pass	Pass	1♠	
Pass	1NT	All Pass		
<hr/>				
Makeable Contracts				
-	1	-	-	NT
-	1	-	1	♠
-	-	-	-	♥
-	2	-	2	♦
1	-	1	-	♣

In the Open Room, Hurd, West, elected to lead a club. This allowed declarer to retain heart entries to his hand while establishing diamonds – 9 tricks and +150.

In the Closed room, Gitelman chose what seemed like a less aggressive heart lead, which proved to be a big winner at the table. Declarer won the ♥J in dummy and played a high diamond won by West who continued hearts. Another diamond towards the jack was ducked. North then tried a club to the queen, but when that lost to the king declarer had only one entry to hand and the diamonds withered on the vine. There was no way to avoid -100; those 6 IMPs saw Kokish lead 34-0 after just five boards.

There was still no respite for Kranyak.

Dealer: East	♠ 7	
Vul: E-W	♥ 3	
Brd 6	♦ Q J 10 9 8 7	
Yeh No Loss 3-1	♣ Q 10 8 5 2	
♠ A K 3		♠ Q 9 4 2
♥ J 9 6 4		♥ Q 10 2
♦ 4 3 2		♦ A 5
♣ A J 4		♣ K 9 6 3
	♠ J 10 8 6 5	
	♥ A K 8 7 5	
	♦ K 6	
	♣ 7	

West	North	East	South	
Wooldridge	Bertens	Hurd	Cheek	
		1♣	2♦ <sup>Majors</sup>	
Double	Pass <sup>♦s</sup>	All Pass		
Kokish	Kranyak	Gitelman	Demuy	
		1♦ <sup>Precision</sup>	2♥ <sup>Majors</sup>	
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass	
Pass	Double	All Pass		
<hr/>				
Makeable Contracts				
3	-	3	-	NT
1	-	1	-	♠
2	-	2	-	♥
-	2	-	2	♦
1	-	1	-	♣

In the Open Room, having heard partner open the bidding and sensing a misfit, Wooldridge-Hurd elected to defend 2♦ doubled. The defence started with two rounds of diamonds, which is not unreasonable on this auction, but in fact allowed declarer to pitch his losing spade on a heart. Even so, might declarer have lost four club tricks had Wooldridge not risen with the ace on the first round? As it was, declarer played the ♣Q on the second round of that suit and a low club at his third play of the suit saw him losing just three club tricks and racking up +280.

Making 2♦x with an overtrick for +280 is usually the result to generate the action, but that was not so on this occasion. In the Closed Room, Kranyak had to decide which of his singleton majors to lead and he opted for the higher pipped ♠7. Declarer won the ♠Q and played a club to the jack and queen. Declarer ended up making three spades, two hearts and a diamond as well as three club tricks when

South showed out on the second round allowing him the marked finesse against North's ♣10. +750 and +280 for Kokish 48, Kranyak yet to score.

Board 7 was mercifully flat, with 4♥ bid and making with an overtrick. But Kokish wasn't done yet.

Dealer: West      ♠ K 8 2  
 Vul: None        ♥ 7 5 4  
 Brd 8             ♦ Q 10 8 3  
 Yeh No Loss 3-1 ♣ 8 6 4

♠ Q 10 9 7 3  
 ♥ K Q  
 ♦ 7 6 4 2  
 ♣ 10 3

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

♠ 4  
 ♥ A J 10 8 3  
 ♦ K J 9  
 ♣ K J 9 2

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Bertens	Hurd	Cheek
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♥
2♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	3♥	4♠	All Pass
Kokish	Kranyak	Gitelman	Demuy
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♥
2♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	3♥	3♠	All Pass

Makeable Contracts				
2	-	2	-	NT
3	-	3	-	♠
-	2	-	2	♥
-	1	-	1	♦
1	-	1	-	♣

It isn't clear why Hurd felt the need to jump to 4♠ over 3♥ when he hadn't made any advances over partner's simple overcall, but perhaps raising 2♠ to 3♠ the first time might have done the trick? Anyway his choice of actions got his side too high with only nine tricks available in spades, the result achieved at the other table in 3♠. 5 More IMPs to Kokish, who now led 53-0.

Boards 9 through 15 looked sedate compared to what else had happened with both sides scoring a total of 11 IMPs in bits and pieces with Kokish, winning that battle 6-5.

Then, on the last board, Kranyak proved that despite being on life support, they weren't ready for the plug to be pulled just yet.

Dealer: West      ♠ Q 4  
 Vul: E-W        ♥ K 9 5 3 2  
 Brd 16          ♦ 8 7  
 Yeh No Loss 3-1 ♣ 9 5 4 2

♠ A J 9 3  
 ♥ J 6  
 ♦ Q 10 6 5  
 ♣ A K 3

♠ 7 2  
 ♥ A Q  
 ♦ A K 9 3 2  
 ♣ Q J 10 7

♠ K 10 8 6 5  
 ♥ 10 8 7 4  
 ♦ J 4  
 ♣ 8 6

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Bertens	Hurd	Cheek
1NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♦	All Pass		
Kokish	Kranyak	Gitelman	Demuy
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Makeable Contracts				
6	-	6	-	NT
4	-	4	-	♠
1	-	1	-	♥
6	-	6	-	♦
6	-	6	-	♣

6♦ if definitely a slam you want to be in. Kokish-Gitelman had a bidding misunderstanding, Kokish thought partner was a 1-1-6-5 and that Gitelman's response to "his" keycard told him they were off two keycards. At the same time Gitelman thought they were in a cooperative situation towards slam and was cue-bidding.

The score at the half-way point was Kokish leading Kranyak 59-21, 38 IMPs – not an impossible hole to recover from by any means, but certainly an unenviable position. The winners at the end of the next 16 boards would get the afternoon off, while the losers would drop into a three-way battle for the other remaining spot in the final of this great event.

## Not Much Consolation but...

It is hard to be that consoled when you are playing the Swiss with a big fat 'L' branded on your forehead. But David Beauchamp had a nice deal where he found his way home by playing game in the opponents' suit.

Dealer: North      ♠ A K 4 2  
 Vul: E-W          ♥ 10 7 4 2  
 Brd 25             ♦ J 10 8 3  
 Yeh Cons Swiss R6 ♣ 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
Beauchamp	Fu	Thomson	Li
	2♦*	Double	4♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

\* Majors

Makeable Contracts				
5	-	5	-	NT
4	-	4	-	♠
-	2	-	2	♥
3	-	3	-	♦
4	-	4	-	♣

Note that while 4NT can be made 5♣ can be set on the spade ruff.

Fu led a heart against 4♠, ducked the first trump and won the next to return a heart. Beauchamp knew not to lead trumps again. He discarded a club on ♥A won ♦K and led a club to the ace, a diamond to ♦Q and a diamond to dummy. When South discarded he could run ♣J with complete confidence.

## YEH CUP (UPPER) UNDEFEATED BRACKET MATCH 3: Boards 1-16 of 32

Kranjak Vs. Kokish – The Youngsters versus the Old Guard

Kokish led by 38 with 16 to play. The first board out saw both E/W pairs with an awkward evaluation problem.

Dealer: North      ♠ J 10 7 6 3  
 Vul: None          ♥ A 9 2  
 Brd 17             ♦ 9 8 6 3  
                       ♣ 5

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

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

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Bertens	Hurd	Cheek
	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
Kokish	Kranjak	Gitelman	Demuy
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Makeable Contracts				
-	-	-	-	NT
-	4	-	4	♠
-	2	-	2	♥
2	-	2	-	♦
4	-	4	-	♣

I thought Kokish's 3NT call somewhat ambitious but I suppose it could have been right. Is East ever allowed to pull with bad clubs? E/W might come close to making 4♣, though South rates to lead his diamond and might then be able to put partner in for the diamond ruff. There is considerable scope for bluff in the heart suit, though. Against 3NT the defenders led spades, won the ♣A, cashed spades, then put hearts through declarer, for down four. In a very similar position against 3NT Bertens overtook the fourth spade, so only took one heart trick instead of three, for just down two, and 3 IMPs to Kranjak.

The next deal would surely not have made Kokish/Gitelman feel any more comfortable.

Dealer: East  
 Vul: N-S  
 Brd 18

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

♠ A 10 6 3 2  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ 10 8 2  
 ♣ J 6 4 2

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

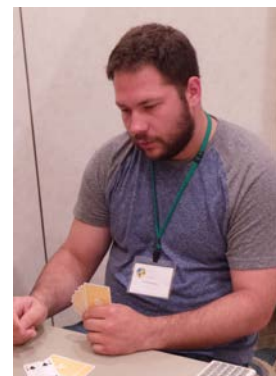
♠ Q 5  
 ♥ A K 7 6 5  
 ♦ K 7 6 5 4  
 ♣ 5

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Bertens	Hurd	Cheek
		1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
Kokish	Kranyak	Gitelman	Demuy
		1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥(♦)	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Makeable Contracts				
3	-	3	-	NT
1	-	1	-	♠
4	-	4	-	♥
3	-	3	-	♦
1	-	1	-	♣

Both Souths started well by leading clubs. Cheek won the first diamond and pressed on with clubs. Hurd won in dummy, pitching a diamond, unblocked diamonds and took the heart finesse. He ruffed the club continuation, ruffed a diamond high, and now had to lose a trump and a spade for down one.

Demuy won the diamond at trick two and shifted to the ♠J. Kranyak went up with the ace and played back a club. Declarer won in dummy pitching a diamond and also took the heart finesse. Demuy won and forced declarer, who now had ten tricks but he didn't know it. When he unblocked spades and went to dummy with the second heart he had to decide if he should pitch a potential diamond loser on the ♠K or draw trumps and hope for the best.



Vincent Demuy

He got it wrong; perhaps he disbelieved the diamond signal at trick two but my experience has been: if they are good enough to mislead you at such an early point in the deal, they deserve to beat you. There again, East had shown his hand pattern so maybe the inference about true count isn't clear.

Anyway, when Gitelman tried to cash ♠K, South could ruff in for down one. (Fred pointed out that if he simply draws trumps, he has the rest on a criss-cross squeeze whatever North discards, though he may still have to read the position.)

Both E/W pairs then bid a making slam on a finesse (Kokish having taken a really swingy position by passing with 6-5 in the majors over a strong no-trump). No swing, but the N/S pairs certainly wouldn't be unhappy.

Kranyak picked up 3 IMPs by doubling a delicate partscore and setting it a trick, then 6 IMPs when Kokish-Gitelman stretched to a thin game (basically needing 3-3 diamonds and a 3-2 trump break on accurate defence). Diamonds were 4-2, so nine tricks was the limit.

The two N/S pairs then did well to gauge another delicate slam hand accurately.

With these hands combined:

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

There are 12 tricks but not 13, but switch the club king for the heart king and the grand slam would be very attractive.



Dealer: West  
 Vul: None  
 Brd 24

♠ 10 7 4  
 ♥ Q 9 8 5 2  
 ♦ 4 2  
 ♣ A Q 5

♠ K 9 3 2  
 ♥ J 10 7 6 3  
 ♦ A J 10 9  
 ♣ ---

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

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

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Bertens	Hurd	Cheek
	1♥	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		
Kokish	Kranyak	Gitelman	Demuy
	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	All Pass	
Makeable Contracts			
2	-	2	-
3	-	3	-
1	-	1	-
-	4	-	3
2	-	2	-



Fred Gitelman

Gitelman knew about the clubs to his left but even so he still took a slightly low road here in the auction. He led a club to the seven, queen and ruff, won his heart ace at trick two and played ace and another spade. Kranyak won in hand to play a heart. Gitelman ruffed, and exited with the spade queen, but declarer now played on a crossruff and all the defenders could score was ♦K. Contract made.

In the other room 3♠ by West wasn't a bed of roses. But Wooldridge won the opening heart lead and advanced the ♣J (trying to pin a spot-card) and Cheek ducked. You can see why he did that, but as it was, Wooldridge could let this run and had avoided the natural club loser. Bertens ruffed and led ♦J, which Wooldridge won to repeat the club finesse.

The defenders had a second trump trick plus ♦A, but the fall of the ♥K meant declarer had nine winners on a cross-ruff after cashing ♠A. North could get ♠K but that was it.

Those 6 IMPs meant that at the halfway point of the set Kranyak led 18-0 on the set; it would certainly have felt at least that good for them in the Closed Room.

Dealer: North  
 Vul: E-W  
 Brd 25

♠ K J  
 ♥ K Q 5 2  
 ♦ K 5  
 ♣ A J 10 8 3

♠ 9 6 4 2  
 ♥ 9 8 7 6 3  
 ♦ Q 3  
 ♣ Q 2

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

♠ 10 8 5 3  
 ♥ 10 4  
 ♦ A 10 9 4  
 ♣ K 7 4

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Bertens	Hurd	Cheek
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass
Kokish	Kranyak	Gitelman	Demuy
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
Makeable Contracts			
4	-	4	-
2	-	2	-
3	-	2	-
2	-	2	-
4	-	4	-

Wooldridge won the ♦Q lead from Bertens and advanced the ♠J – a very interesting shot. Cheek won and played back the ♥J. Wooldridge put up the king and played the ♠K, endplaying Cheek when he took the trick. When he shifted to a club, the hand was over for +630.

Kokish won the diamond lead and immediately misguessed clubs by playing ♣K and a club to the jack. Back came a diamond and Kokish was in deep doo-doo. As far as I can see, he needs South to have the doubleton ♥A. He won the ♦A and played a heart; the ♥J was a welcome sight. He won in hand and ran the clubs, squeezing South down to his major suit aces and three diamonds (if South pitches a diamond, declarer simply gives up a heart). Once the ♠Q appeared, Kokish set up a spade trick. The defence could set up the diamonds but declarer had the ♠K to come to seven tricks in the minors and one in each major. Just one sweaty IMP to Kranyak.

Both N/S pairs then pushed to what turned out to be a thin game, when dummy's singleton turned out to be facing KJ9x. After some good guesswork in the side-suits, the contract came down to needing to handle the missing QJxx of trumps, and with QJx together in one hand, there was no way home today.

Kranyak picked up another three IMPs for his side in undertricks when a less revealing auction to a pushy game at his table saw the defenders miss a ruff on defence. Then Kranyak bought the contract in both rooms, making +110 and going one down for -50 in the other. It was 24-0 now on the set. Four deals to go for the comeback of the year. Having trailed by 38 IMPs 14 IMPs was now the margin.

I was pleased to see both Wests overcall 1♠ after hearing 1♦ to their left, 1♥ to their right on:

♠ A K Q J
♥ J 10 2
♦ J 2
♣ 7 4 3 2

That pushed their opponents to 3♥ on a 6-1 fit with singleton facing AQ8765 to play for one loser. There was ♥Kxx onside; easy game bridge, and no swing.

Then a deal with some potential for accidents:

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

With East the dealer Hurd/Wooldridge bid 1♣-1♦-1♠-3♣-3♥-3NT. The defenders led hearts and declarer claimed nine. Gitelman-Kokish bid 2♣-2♦-2♥-2♠-3♦-3♥-3♠-5♣. Gitelman showed 4-6 and a maximum at his third turn but Kokish settled for game. On the lead of ♦A declarer did not take the tiny risk of unblocking hearts before drawing trumps. He drew trumps, unblocked hearts, ruffed a low diamond to hand, and took the discard on ♥A. Later on, the ruffing finesse in diamonds generated the 12th trick. An IMP! And another board ticked off; 15 the margin with two to go.

Was the penultimate deal the board the trailing team wanted to see? 1NT-3NT in one room, in the other Hurd produced an overcall of 2♦ to show one major but the contract was the same.

Dealer: South      ♠ A Q J 3  
 Vul: N-S            ♥ Q J 2  
 Brd 31                ♦ A 7  
                           ♣ Q 10 7 4

♠ K 10 8 5  
 ♥ 10 6  
 ♦ K 10 8 6 3  
 ♣ J 9

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

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

West	North	East	South	
Makeable Contracts				
-	4	-	6	NT
-	4	-	5	♠
1	-	1	-	♥
1	-	1	-	♦
-	5	-	6	♣

Can you see any reason for Hurd to lead a diamond not a heart? I cannot – and bear in mind that at his table the match would probably not have seemed particularly close. In such scenarios one could argue that taking a swingy position, if teammates were having a good card might be exactly the wrong thing to do, rescuing defeat from the jaws of victory. Be that as it may, both tables led a heart, so declarer did not have to sweat bullets judging how to make the contract after ♦Q is covered by the ♦K. Both declarers won ♥K, cashed ♣A and set up a tenth trick rather than trying for 11.

On to the last deal.

Dealer: West      ♠ K 10 9 4  
 Vul: E-W        ♥ J 10 7 6  
 Brd 32            ♦ J 10 5 4  
                     ♣ 10

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

♠ 3  
 ♥ Q 4  
 ♦ K 8 6 3  
 ♣ A K J 6 4 2

West	North	East	South	
Wooldridge	Bertens	Hurd	Cheek	
1♦	Pass	Pass	2♣	
Double	Pass	2♠	All Pass	
Kokish	Kranyak	Gitelman	Demuy	
1♣(16+)	Pass	1♦	3♣	
Double	Pass	3♠	All Pass	
Makeable Contracts				
1	-	1	-	NT
2	-	2	-	♠
1	-	1	-	♥
-	2	-	2	♦
-	1	-	1	♣

Wooldridge had a relatively easy reopening action, and no reason to go on beyond 2♠ facing a partner who could not respond. Cheek led a low heart; a nice shot. Hurd won his king, played three rounds of diamonds, then two more rounds of hearts to put North in. He returned a club, and the defenders took two trumps and two clubs, but that was it.

In the other room I'm not familiar enough with the strong club style to know if that double of 3♣ is compulsory or optional; personally, I'd only bid if you had pried all the pass cards out of my cold dead hand. Mind you, it is just about possible to imagine 3♣ coming home if West finds an unfortunate opening lead (the ♣8?). After Kokish's double Gitelman played 3♠ on a trump lead to the nine and jack. Declarer played three rounds of diamonds then three rounds of hearts. North was in, and shifted to clubs to get his two trump tricks. The margin was down to 10 IMPs...and no boards left to play. A great fightback by the kids, (they are all kids to me) but the Kokish team had held on and would enjoy their afternoon off and a place in the finals.

## THREE WAY MATCH TO DECIDE THE SECOND FINALIST PART 1 OF 2

Kranyak Vs. Kokish Vs. Pepsi

With the Kokish Team (Eric Kokish, Fred Gitelman, Curtis Cheek and Huub Bertens) having qualified to the final by beating the Kranyak team over 32 boards this morning, three teams were left to decide the second finals. The other teams would battle it out for the bronze medal.

Those teams were:

Monaco      Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Pierre Zimmermann, Krzysztof Martens, Lorenzo Lauria and Alfredo Versace

Pepsi        Geoff Hampson, Eric Greco, Jacek Pszczola, Josef Blass, Jacek Kalita and Michal Nowosadzki

Kranyak     John Kranyak, Vincent Demuy, John Hurd and Joel Wooldridge

The first two teams were the last teams standing in the One Loss Bracket when they won their respective three-way matches this morning.

Received wisdom suggests that six-person teams have some advantages over four person teams, but with one of the four person teams having the afternoon off and the other being very young, that isn't likely to be a factor here.

A little tidbit here for the readers: one of your editor's toughest reporting jobs is three-way matches, where the teams play each other in series not in parallel. So one has to wait until 16 boards are played to write up an eight-board match. Not your problem I know, but here goes.

**Pepsi Vs. Kranyak Board 2:** Kranyak picked up 11 IMPs for bidding a VERY solid slam.

Dealer: East	♠ Q 10 8 6	
Vul: N-S	♥ A 9 6	
Brd 2	♦ Q 10 7 3	
Yeh KO 4 1 <sup>st</sup> Half	♣ 10 6	
♠ K 4 3		♠ A J
♥ J 7 5 3 2		♥ K Q 10 8 4
♦ 9		♦ A 5 2
♣ A Q J 2		♣ K 5 4
	♠ 9 7 5 2	
	♥ ---	
	♦ K J 8 6 4	
	♣ 9 8 7 3	

West	North	East	South	
Kalita	Kranyak	Nowosadzki	Demuy	
		1NT	Pass	
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	
Wooldridge	Hampson	Hurd	Greco	
		1♥	Pass	
4♦	Pass	4♠ <sup>KC</sup>	Pass	
5♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass	
Makeable Contracts				
2	-	2	-	NT
1	-	1	-	♠
6	-	6	-	♥
-	1	-	1	♦
4	-	4	-	♣

Wooldridge-Hurd had it perhaps slightly easier when the opening 1♥ bid provided better gadgetry for the heart slam than the 1NT opening. Have a look at just how good the East hand is opposite heart support and a singleton diamond, something which no doubt influenced East, moving past 4♥ and bidding keycard.

We believe that Kalita, West for Pepsi in the Open Room intended 3♦ to be a re-transfer and then the raise was a slam try given his partner's super-accept of hearts and the re-transfer being at the lower level. But when the auction stopped at 4♥ that was 11 IMPs to Kranyak.

**Pepsi Vs. Kranyak Board 5:** this board provided some more IMPS for Kranyak who were, at this stage leading 13-0.

Dealer: North	♠ 10 7 5 2	
Vul: N-S	♥ A K	
Brd 5	♦ J 9 4	
Yeh KO 4 1 <sup>st</sup> Half	♣ K 7 3 2	
♠ A K Q 8 6		♠ 9 3
♥ J		♥ Q 9 7 6 2
♦ 10 5 3		♦ A K 7 2
♣ A 9 6 4		♣ Q J
	♠ J 4	
	♥ 10 8 5 4 3	
	♦ Q 8 6	
	♣ 10 8 5	

West	North	East	South	
Kalita	Kranyak	Nowosadzki	Demuy	
	Pass	1♥	Pass	
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
Wooldridge	Hampson	Hurd	Greco	
	1♦	1♥	Pass	
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass	
Makeable Contracts				
3	-	3	-	NT
3	-	4	-	♠
2	-	2	-	♥
4	-	4	-	♦
3	-	3	-	♣

In the Open Room, Kranyak led what looked like a helpful club. Declarer won with the jack and played four rounds of spades to establish that suit. On winning the ♠10, Kranyak exited with the ♣K, establishing his partner's ten. Declarer cashed his long spade and exited with the ♥J, won by Kranyak who got off play with a diamond. Declarer could now make the hand if he could divine to play a low heart from dummy to establish the queen. That, together with his four spades, two diamonds and two clubs would have been nine tricks. Not this time however and, after he misguessed by leading the ♥Q in the hope of pinning the ♥10, he had to go one down for -50.

In the Closed Room, South was on lead and opted for a low club which, with the fall of the ten on the third round gave declarer three spade, three club and three diamond tricks once he ducked a round of that suit. That was +400, and 10 IMPs to see Kranyak leading 23-0.





## CLOSE UP WITH SABINE AUKEN

Christina Lund Madsen



Sabine was born in Bamberg, Germany. Like most women, she does not like to reveal her age, but a deck of cards is a good hint...

She now resides in Copenhagen, Denmark. She has lived in Denmark for more than 20 years due to her marriage to Jens Auken with whom she has two grown up sons, Jens Christian and Maximilian. The couple divorced after 10 years but remained close friends until Jens Auken sadly passed away in 2014.

She has a degree from the University of Augsburg in Business & Finance and worked in finance in Germany, Chicago and Denmark, however decided to quit her job when her children were very young, to dedicate her time to her boys and her bridge career.

As is known to most bridge players, Sabine partners Roy Welland both in bridge and life. They occasionally play professionally, but most of the time they travel to the tournaments they consider the most fun – often played in countries far from Denmark, like South Africa, USA and of course this year's Yeh Bros Cup.

"I feel very lucky that I can play as much as I like. And that's a lot!"

Asked about her hobbies outside of bridge, Sabine says she likes to "run, swim, ski, cook, read, travel and learn new languages." It took her 2.5 months to learn Danish, she understands a bit of Russian, and she "never really learned Italian", however she has long (bridge) conversations with the Italians, and sometimes she functions as a translator for Norberto Bocchi...

However her biggest hobby outside and inside bridge is champagne. When you see Sabine and Roy after game time, they inevitably have a glass of champagne in their hands. If there are no wine glasses around, they drink champagne out of plastic cups, and if there are no cups around, a water bottle will do the job.

We asked Sabine some questions about her bridge life. Like most world stars, she started to play at a young age.

"I was 12 or 13. My teacher was Wilhelm Gromöller, father of my classmate Michael Gromöller. My first bridge success was winning the ladies pairs at the Common Market Championships 1985 with Anne Möller (now Gladiator)."

### **What was your most significant bridge success?**

"That is tough. But the 2013 Vanderbilt with Roy and the Bildes probably ranks highest to earn that distinction."

### **What was your greatest bridge disappointment or failure?**

"Losing the trials for the 1984 women's team Olympiad on the last board (playing with Anne Möller and Daniela von Arnim-Pony Nehmert as team mates). Declarer in 5D ruffed a loser in dummy, which I overruffed. All I had to do now was play a trump to remove declarer's last trump in dummy. For some inexplicable reason I didn't do that. I cried for hours afterwards."

### **What is your favourite tournament (other than the Yeh Cup of course)?**

"I will get back to you on that after playing in the Bermuda Bowl for the very first time later this year."

### **Do you read many bridge magazines or books?**

"Not anymore, but I used to. My favourite authors are Krzysztof Martens (Bridge University series), Mike Lawrence, Hugh Kelsey."

### **What can administrators do to get more people playing?**

As I see it administrators need to focus more on what bridge can offer that others can't. As an example, it is clear to me that bridge offers this aspect that almost no other discipline can. Men and women have the possibility to compete with and against one another on an equal footing. In my view that is a unique selling point, that administrators should use much more to market the game instead of continuous attempts to go conform with other disciplines that try to be part of the Olympic movement. Most people's curiosity and interest is aroused by something that is unique and different, not so much by just the same old thing.



## How would you get more youth players involved?

“Ask Morten Bilde.”

## What aspect of the game do you find hardest?

“Having the discipline to focus on all the small cards and remember them.”

## Do you believe in more complicated or simpler systems?

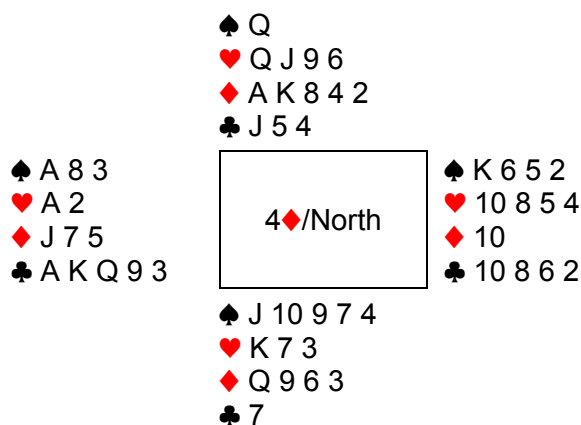
“I believe in playing the system that most suits your character. If everybody played the same system, this game would be simpler, but so incredibly much more boring.”

## What comments do you have about recent cheating in the game of bridge?

“I feel extremely grateful for all the time-consuming efforts of individuals and groups to disclose the cheating that has been going on in top-level bridge. Even though it had been the common perception in top level bridge that cheating existed, nobody had felt empowered to do anything about it before Boye Brogeland et. al. took a big risk. The whole topic of cheating was taboo and the administrators did not want to be confronted with it. It was extremely frustrating. Things are far from perfect now, but definitely improved.”

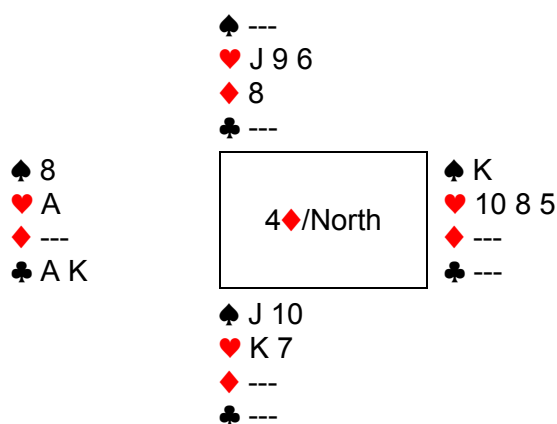
## Do you have a memorable hand?

My memory is getting worse and worse. However, I still remember a position I came across only a few weeks ago, that I don't recall ever having seen before.



The contract was 4♦ by North. A club was led, followed by a trump switch won in dummy. West won the spade from dummy with the ♠A and played another trump, East pitching a club.

Club ruff, spade ruff, club ruff. Low heart from dummy to the queen to draw one more round of trumps left the following end position



Now I played a low heart from both hands. W was in with the ♥A and continued a club. I ruffed in hand and East was squeezed. When he pitched a heart I could pitch the ♥K from dummy and claim.

## “WHERE THE GIRLS GO, THE BOYS WILL FOLLOW”

By Christina Lund Madsen



Interview with John Kranyak, 33 years old born in Cleveland, Ohio. Now lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, with his girlfriend Allison Hunt (world youth champion).

John Kranyak attended Columbia University for 3 years, but since he spent more time at his fraternity house than at the University, he never graduated. Playing more and more professional bridge did not assist his academic career either.

“I was first hired when I was 18 right before college. During college I played pro when I wasn’t at school. I stopped for a couple years (still played pro at nationals) to play professional poker, and came back to bridge.”

John estimates he plays 150 days a year, but it is not nearly as much as when he first learned the game.

“My parents taught me bridge when I was 12. I had played other card games at summer camp but when I learned bridge I immediately played three days a week with my dad and three days a week with my mom.”

### **Tell us about your most significant bridge successes and disappointments.**

“My first major bridge success was winning the World Junior Championships in Mangaratiba, Brazil in 2001. My most significant was qualifying for the Bermuda Bowls in Bali and Chennai. The most disappointing was losing said Bermuda Bowls. My favorite tournament is the Bermuda Bowl, it’s the greatest.”

John’s mother was a great player, and his fondest memory of playing with her was one of their last tournaments together.

“I was playing the World Mixed pairs with my mom in Philadelphia. We had a 67, 71 in the first qualifier. My mom was sick with colorectal cancer and turns out during the game, she also had a major tumor in her spine that needed operation. She could barely stay awake, falling asleep almost every hand, but when she woke up she would do the perfect thing. It was amazing!!!”

She passed away not long after.

John’s current partner is Vince Demuy. Besides his parents he plays a lot with sponsors from America and other American players, mostly the ones he grew up with as a junior. The other pair on the Kranyak team (John Hurd – Joel Wooldridge) were also on the junior world champion team in Brazil.

### **Do you have an amusing story or a favourite hand?**

“My favorite hand, I held ♠xxx ♥AKQx ♦KQJT ♣Qx playing Matchpoints. My partner Vince opened 3♣ and it went 3♠ on my right. They were red, we were white and I decided to double and lead a trump. That was the best lead from our side and they made 7 (laughing out loud).

Lefty was ♠AKJxx ♥xxxxx ♦x Kx and righty was ♠Qxxxx ♥void ♦Axxxx ♣Axx or something like that. Still amazed they didn’t run. ☺”

**What are your hobbies outside of bridge?**

“Outside of bridge I enjoy golf and tennis and wakeboarding. Though I don't get to wakeboard too much anymore. And am a huge Cleveland sports fan. By the time you print this, we will be back to back champs.”

**Do you read many bridge magazines or books?**

“I read the Bridge World and Bridgewinners. When I was a kid, a man from Cleveland used to have a subscription to Australian Bridge, I really enjoyed that.”

**What views do you have on the future of bridge?**

“It seems like the future of bridge is moving to Asia and Europe. Young kids in America have too many extracurricular activities to help them get into college, and bridge is too time consuming. If we shortened the sessions for youngsters that could do a lot to get them to start playing in schools in my opinion.

In order to get more kids involved in bridge I would target the girls, where the girls go the boys will follow. Kids should start learning about 13 about the age where they can sit at a table for 3 hours without freaking out.”

**After a successful session of bridge, how many boards could or should you have normally have done something better on?**

“A successful session is no matter how many mistakes you make, not letting the last one affect you on the next hand.”

**Do you believe in more complicated or simpler systems?**

“The system depends on the type of player. I believe too complicated drains the brain but too simplistic leaves holes in your bidding.”

**If you had one piece of advice to the advancing learner what would it be?**

“One piece of advice is to just stay on the grind!!!”

**What comments do you have about recent cheating in the game of bridge?**

“It's sad that cheating was so prevalent in our game. It makes me feel better that these guys were beating me cheating and not because they were better. To me the worst thing you can do in life is to cheat at bridge.”

**Tell us about your bridge dreams.**

“I would like to win as many World Championships as possible. They are the top level of bridge and prove that at that tournament no one was better than your team.”

**Which player past or present would you most like to play a session with?**

“I would most like another chance to play with my mom.”

# UMBRELLAS

By Christina Lund Madsen

I finally figured out why they have umbrella parking outside the hotel as a service for their guests. They use them both in sunshine and in rain.

If anyone carried an umbrella around in sunshine in Denmark Where I come from, people would think I was a bit behind... but when I came back to the hotel wet after a walk in the sun, I was thinking to myself that I might not be the smarter...



*Thanking this fantastic photographer, and the behind-the-scenes staff!*



*Kimonos!*



*Temple*



**23<sup>rd</sup> RED SEA  
INTERNATIONAL**

# Bridge

FESTIVAL

**EILAT - ISRAEL**

**NOVEMBER 9-19, 2017**



### Tournament Program

Mixed Pairs	November 9,10
M.P. Pairs	November 11
National Simultaneous	November 12
IMP Pairs	November 13,14
Open Pairs	November 15,16,17
Teams	November 18

### Participants from All Over the World

Including European and World Champions.

### Entrance Fee

€18 per session.

**Total Prize Money in Excess of €25,000**

**Special Accommodation Packages**

**Daily Social Events**

**Perfect Weather 25°C**



### Further information and registration:

Organizing Committee: David & Alon Birman, 50 Pinkas St., Tel Aviv, Israel

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# 2017 Yeh Bros Cup Schedule

## FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> July

09:30 - 11:40	Final & Play-off, Seg 1 <i>Lunch Time</i>	Bds 01-16	09:30-13:00	Pairs Semi-Final <i>Lunch Time</i>	Bds 01-27
13:10 - 15:20	Final & Play-off, Seg 2	Bds 17-32	14:00-17:30	Pairs Final & Consolation	Bds 01-27
15:35 - 17:45	Final & Play-off, Seg 3	Bds 33-48			
19:00	<b>** Victory Dinner **</b>				

## VENUE LOCATIONS

<b>Hotel</b>	Hotel Chinzanso Tokyo (the former Four Season Tokyo)
<b>Yeh Cup Bridge</b>	Ballroom, Hotel 1F
<b>Victory Dinner</b>	Jupiter, Plaza 4F (in the Plaza, located at another part of Chinzanso)



## FRIDAY LUNCH

There is no lunch service or boxes available today. Sorry!