

Tuesday 19 march

It is quiet when the teams take place for round 6. The players seem to have had a good night sleep; maybe they still did not have a night out on the town. As a regular visitor and observer at junior bridge tournaments I have seen and experienced a lot - and even had some worries from time to time (including visits to hospitals in foreign countries) , but I learned and these days I don't mind so much the adventures of juniors.

Since my organisatory duties for this event are so good as finished, I get the time to watch some bridge. Let's see what happens. Denmark-Cagliari

Majka Bilde had some tough problems

Allessandro Majka	Roberto	Peter	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1 ♠	pass	1 NT
pass	3 ♥	pass	4 ♥
pass	??		

Do you carry on as North with:

♠ A K J 8 6 ♥ A K J 7 2 ♦ A 9 ♣ 4?

Allessandro Majka	Roberto	Peter	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		2 ♥	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♥	pass	4 ♠
Pass	??		

♠ Q 5 3 ♥ J 6 5 ♦ A K 7 3 ♣ A K Q?

DUMMY

♠ 9 8 7 6 4

♥ 10 9 7 5

♦ 10

♣ A 6 4

DECLARER

♠ A K J

♥ A 8 6 4 3

♦ 10

♣ A 6 4

Without intervention (all vulnerable) Majka was in game after 1♥-3♥ by north.

The lead was ♣A and the first question is what to discard on ♣A (ruffing in hand will postpone that).

Interesting quote by Bob Drijver (European champion as a junior in 2007, Jesolo, non playing player and coach of the Dutch junior team in the world championships of 2012 in Taicang, now 26 and too old to play but still substitute in the 'Argentina' WHJI-2013 team once in a while; "they open every 11 count and of course the opposite hand drives to game with also 11, how is that possible?").

Let us see how Majka solved the matter.

Spel 24 ♠ AKJ86
 W/N ♥ AKJ72
 ♦ A9
 ♣ 4

♠ Q753 N ♠ 94
 ♥ T63 W O ♥ 4
 ♦ 85 Z ♦ KQJ742
 ♣ QJ92 ♣ 7653

♠ T2
 ♥ Q985
 ♦ T63
 ♣ AKT8

Allessandro Majka	Roberto	Peter
WEST	NORTH	EAST
	1 ♠	pass
pass	3 ♥	1 NT
pass	pass	4 ♥
		pass

This pass was slightly passive although I believe Peter could/should have helped her with 4♣ after 3♥.

Spel 26 ♠ Q53
 O/A ♥ J65
 ♦ AK73
 ♣ AKQ

♠ A842 N ♠ -
 ♥ 4 W O ♥ AT9832
 ♦ Q6 Z ♦ JT98
 ♣ JT8754 ♣ 632

♠ KJT976
 ♥ KQ7
 ♦ 542
 ♣ 9

Allessandro Majka	Roberto	Peter
WEST	NORTH	EAST
		2 ♥
pass	3 ♥	pass
pass	5 ♦	pass
pass	6 ♠	pass
pass		pass

I have sympathy for going on after 4♠. But is 5♦ asking for ♣-control? Anyway 5♠ was also down.

Spel 29	♠ AKJ		
N/A	♥ A8643		
	♦ Q9874		
	♣ -		
♠ Q52		♠ T3	
♥ Q		♥ KJ2	
♦ AKJ32		♦ 65	
♣ JT97		♣ KQ8532	
	♠ 98764		
	♥ T975		
	♦ T		
	♣ A64		

The declarer play for Majka. 4♥ as north with ♣K lead. I must admit I chose for discarding ♠J, and play for diamonds 4-3, only to find out I would lose two trumps and two diamonds. Majka made first the winning decision in throwing a diamond on ♣A and relying on the ♠Q finesse she was on her way to ten tricks. But somewhere she lost the play and ended one down. I owe apologies to her for writing down these three boards where Denmark lost imps, since the team is performing ok. But from bad boards you can learn the most. And we will surely see more of Majka in the next years.