



The history of the Carrousel Cup

From 1993 till 2004 the international junior event was played in the wonderful city of 's-Hertogenbosch. It was the famous pubdrive Den Bosch that made this great tournament possible. With in 2001 the enormous amount of 1978 pairs competing this must have been the biggest bridge drive at the same place(over 100 pubs participated) possible. Imagine the top on a board being 1976! At one time a pair scored 362 after a terrible misplay, and stated in every other day this would have been a massive score!" It all was especially good for junior bridge; a part of the fee the pairs played was taken in for the organisation of the junior International Bridge Festival 's-Hertogenbosch. As time goes by things change and the money factor became an obstacle. But Jan van Zon, the owner of the local discotheque, invited the juniors to play the tournament in his place, and that is called the Carrousel, today still open for business and famous in circles of young dancers. So from 2003 we play for this by juniors much desired cup. And of course the cup got lost on some occasions but now we have a nice one with all the winners of previous years engraved in it. And the Carrousel Cup stays in Het Witte Huis, the winners receiving a replica.

On Monday it is always a little nervous, only to find out that everybody all of a sudden is present. And the tournament director does his usual 15-minutes captains meeting, play starts and all of a sudden everybody sits down and is concentrated. Of course some things goes wrong, like the Dutch junior who goes down 1400 on the second board and a Bulgarian junior who passes after partner responds 4♥ after his 1NT opening, only to find out this is the singleton ♥ with six spades; going down only five.

Soon enough a real problem arose in Rumania versus Portugal

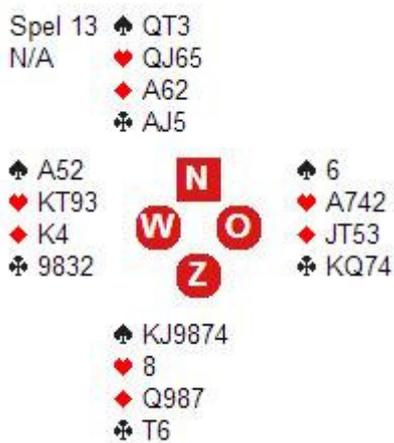
Ionut	José	Antonio	Claudio
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1 ♣	pass	1 ♠
pass	1 NT	?pass	2 ♠

pass pass ??pass

Do you feel inclined to bid somewhere with east?

EAST: ♠ 6 ♥ A 7 4 2 ♦ B 10 5 3 ♣ H V 7 4

Between rounds Philipp and Felix, both 13 of age, studying at the Gymnasium and living in Hannover and Nord Rhein Westfalen and probably the youngest pair ever in this event, with the average age of the participating juniors going up to 25. Both German U-20 players play in their first international competition. When the more experienced German junior Max sits down and explains hands to his young teammates, they listen with much attention. German junior coach Hartmut Kondocho realizes his very young squad could suffer some hard times in Amsterdam, but sees it as a valuable experience. And as it turns out once again Hartmut enjoys his visits to Amsterdam.



This is indeed the terrible Bulgarian misunderstanding ending up (in north-south) in 4♥.

Ionut	José	Antonio	Claudio
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1 ♣	pass	1 ♠
pass	pass	??pass	

?: probably too dangerous to bid, with south still unlimited

?: now some action is possible with the fine distribution. A double will get you to 3♣ or 3♥ or push north south to 3♠.

So you are green versus green in first position with:

♠ K Q 10 8 5 ♥ 10 9 8 5 4 2 ♦ -- ♣ K Q

What is your opening bid?

No less than five Dutch teams participate this year. Traditionally the juniors get two places and the girls and U-20 each one. But when Floris came on and told me Portugal wanted to play I agreed on the condition that he would make another Dutch team to make an even number. A few days later 'Purple' had been formed. To make a comfortable stay in het Witte Huis possible the tournament directors created a room with two extra tables. The light in this room is strange. It goes off when you sit still for a too long period. You might think this cannot happen in a junior bridge match, where everybody moves! But in the first rounds it became dark a couple of times; these juniors sit serene.

After three rounds it was an early dinner. This however is in good junior tradition. In many training sessions, starting at noon I have met juniors with a simple but straightforward question; "At what time are we going to eat?"

So Paul and his staff always take care of a fine buffet during which the just played hands are discussed intensively.

I have the habit of collecting interesting boards, in which I see some tricky points. This one might be useful in a training session.

1

Spangenberg
 ♠ 1073
 ♥
 ♦ AJ9764
 ♣ K843

Severeijns
 ♠ K862
 ♥ J3
 ♦ Q10852
 ♣ J5

Philipsen
 ♠ J9
 ♥ AQ987542
 ♦ K3
 ♣ 9

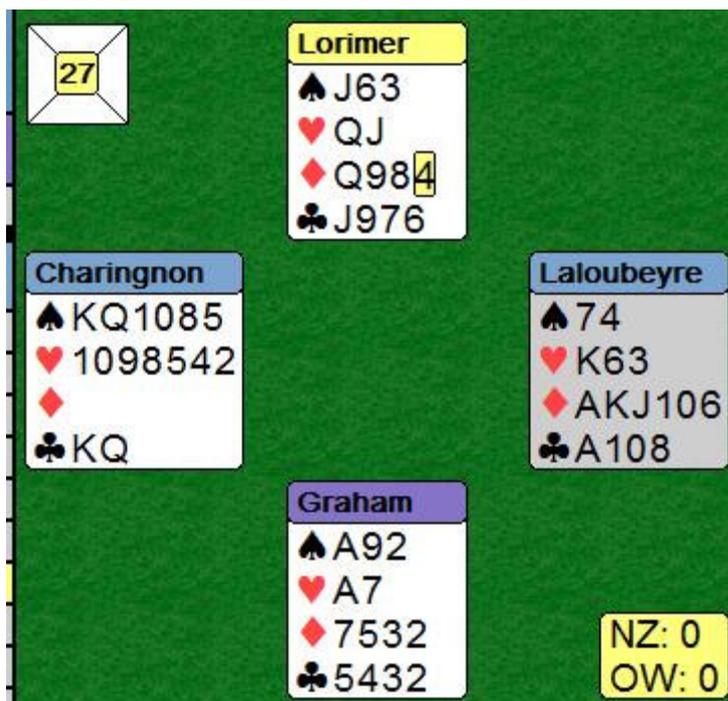
Van Lankve
 ♠ AQ54
 ♥ K106
 ♦
 ♣ AQ10762

NZ: 0
 OW: 0

Severeijns	Spangenberg	Philipsen	Van Lankve
	2♦	4♥	Dbl
Pas	Pas	Pas	

The first board of the WHJI was difficult. How would you bid to 6♣ after pass-4♥ or 2/3♦-4♥?

And what is your line of play after the ♥J lead?



Aha, as JC Quantin pointed out, the west hand is best opened with 1♠, to treat it economically as a ♠/♥ two suiter. His French junior elected however 2♥ which caused understandably great enthusiasm with East who did not manage to go on to the five level, going down one. The Scottish junior took a rather low view with a weak 2♥-opening, and East followed his partner with an even more pessimistic pass on 2♥: making ten tricks was worth 6 imps to Scotland.