

Settling in is important in bridge and especially in a long round Robin like in this WHJI-2013. Anton Maas, de trainer of the team that won the Bermuda Bowl in 2011, considers it important to play steady in the qualifying stage. The qualification in White House Junior Internationals is like a long match of 170 boards.

Everybody makes mistakes or losing choices. The team that avoids best the unforced or unnecessary minus scores, will have the best chances to qualify.

The knockout is another matter; then you have to beat a team that also plays well, and it can be necessary to take bigger risks.

Some boards from Netherlands Red versus Netherlands Purple in the afternoon session

I: South/north-south

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			pass
3 ♦	??		

Your bid as north with:

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

II: West/--

Ernst	Luc	Chris	Thibo
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1 ♠	pass	2 NT
pass	4 ♠	pass	pass
pass			

Your lead as east with:

♠ 6 ♥ Q 6 5 ♦ 9 7 5 3 ♣ A 10 7 5 2

### III: East/north-south

Floris	Berend	Frits	Joris
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		2 ♠	pass
3 ♥	pass	3 ♠	pass
pass	??		

Would you have acted over 3♥ and/or are you now in for some action, and which one?

### The way things go in WHJI-2013

We have made to setup for the Round Robin as follows. All the teams were ranked in the order of strength (we know most of the players pretty well). No we keep it a secret which teams we think are the favorites in this WHJI. Then we made four groups of six teams, based on equal strength of each group. Then there came a late entry of Portugal accompanied by Netherlands Purple and one of the groups grew to eight teams. On the first day there were five matches inside each group. At Tuesday and Wednesday the Round Robin continued as a Swiss; teams that have played each other at Monday could not meet again.

1	Netherlands Red	178
2	'Rosa dei Venti' - Cagliari	168
3	Bulgaria	164
4	France	161
5	Argentina	156
6	Finland	151
7	Belgium	151
8	Netherlands Purple	146
9	Italy	145
10	Denmark	141
11	Hungary	140
12	Sweden	137
13	Norway	137
14	Czech Republic	135
15	Romania	134
16	Austria	130
17	Israel	128
18	Croatia	127
19	Ireland	118
20	Netherlands Blue	118
21	England	117
22	Scotland	115
23	Netherlands White	106
24	Portugal	104
25	Netherlands Orange	94
26	Germany	69

This was the ranking after 9 of 17 rounds. Still lots of vips at stake. You can pick out your favorites for the top four.

Semifinals at Thursday and the teams 5-26 play their own final 5-8 in final B and so on C/D/E, final F consisting of six teams. In every finale 3 matches of 14 boards.

## Red versus Purple

Spel 15  
Z/NZ

♠ KQ84  
♥ AKJ6  
♦ AQ2  
♣ Q3

♠ A  
♥ T32  
♦ KJT8654  
♣ 96

♠ T9753  
♥ Q985  
♦ 7  
♣ AT5

♠ J62  
♥ 74  
♦ 93  
♣ KJ8742

N  
W O  
Z

Ernst	Luc	Chris Thibo
WEST	NORTH	EAST SOUTH
		pass
3 ♦	dbl	pass 4 ♣
pass	4NT	pass 5 ♣
pass	pass	pass

Especially after the first pass by south a slam is far away. Therefore 3NT seemed with this balanced big hand the appointed action.

When west led ♠A against 5♣ things were hopeless for declarer. He took ♦J with ♦A en played a club. East won ♣A and gave west a spade ruff. ♦K was down two.

Spel 16  
W/OW

♠ AKQ874  
♥ AJ8  
♦ T  
♣ J86

♠ 953  
♥ 973  
♦ AQ642  
♣ K9

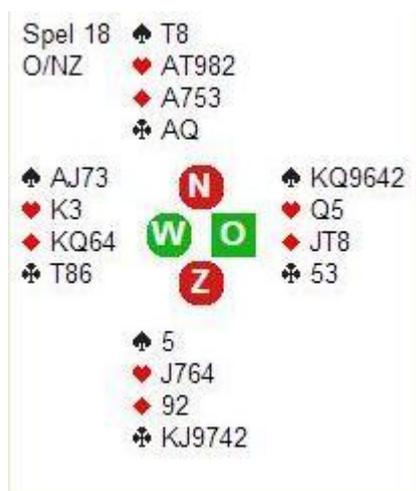
♠ 6  
♥ Q65  
♦ 9753  
♣ AT742

♠ JT2  
♥ KT42  
♦ KJ8  
♣ Q53

N  
W O  
Z

Ernst	Luc	Chris Thibo
WEST	NORTH	EAST SOUTH
pass	1 ♠	pass 2 NT
pass	4 ♠	pass pass
pass		

East came up with ♦7, for ♦Q in west who read the situation correct and played back ♣K, certainly the killing defense.



Floris	Berend	Frits	Joris
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		2 ♦	pass
3 ♥	pass	3 ♠	pass
pass	??		

The Bear (replacing a couple of matches for Jamilla who had to make a visit to the hospital for a routine treatment) is not quickly holds a sellout and he came to life with a protective double. East-west did well to take the save with 4♠ for one down, but at the other table east-west were allowed to play 3♠ for 140.