

**Round 1: Netherlands Red – Netherlands Blue**

In the first round we saw the match between the two top teams of the Netherlands. Playing for the Netherlands Red are the remaining players of the World Champions of 2012. As Berend van den Bos, Gerbrand Hop and Aarnout Helmich had become too old, the line-up of this team changed a bit. Ernst Wackwitz and Chris Westerbeek still are a pair, but Joris van Lankveld found a new partner in Silver Girl Jamilla Spangenberg – she won the silver medal with the Dutch Girls team in 2012.

The third pair for the Dutch Juniors team for the European Championships this summer will probably come from Netherlands Blue: Bas van Engelen – Kevin Gotink, Vincent Broersen – Erik Goris, Rens Philippsen – Luc Severeijns.

On the first board both East players were doubled in 4♥ after a preemptive diamond opening by North. Both one down, so no score. Board two was an easy overtrick in 4♠. Board 3 gave the first swing and it was a big one:

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| ♠ 52            |           |
| Board 3 ♥ AJ983 |           |
| S/EW ♦ T7       |           |
| ♣ KJ94          |           |
| ♠ AK83          | ♠ T9      |
| ♥ Q7642         | ♥ KT      |
| ♦ AQ            | ♦ KJ98643 |
| ♣ 75            | ♣ 63      |
| ♠ QJ764         |           |
| ♥ 5             |           |
| ♦ 52            |           |
| ♣ AQT82         |           |

## Open Room

| West       | North       | East       | South        |
|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| Severeijns | Spangenberg | Philippsen | van Lankveld |
| -          | -           | -          | 1♠           |
| pass       | 1NT         | 2♦         | pass         |
| 2♠         | pass        | 3♦         | pass         |
| 3♥         | DBL         | 4♦         | all pass     |

Severeijns did not act over the 1♠ opening by Van Lankveld. Philippsen got in, but did not jump, with respect for the vulnerability. Severeijns did not bid 3NT right away, but try to find out what the best game was, looking for 4♥. But after Philippsen showed no extras, Severeijns might have done better to bid 3NT. 3♥ got doubled by Spangenberg and Philippsen bid 4♦. Severeijns did well to pass this, but a good 3NT had been missed. You could argue that a club lead is a quick one down, but how can North find that lead if West had bid 3NT?

## Closed Room

| West     | North  | East       | South       |
|----------|--------|------------|-------------|
| Wackwitz | Gotink | Westerbeek | van Engelen |
| -        | -      | -          | 2♠          |
| 2NT      | pass   | 3NT        | all pass    |

Wackwitz judged his hand to be worth a bid over the weak 2-suited 2♠ opening. 2NT described his hand quite well, as the heart suit was not worth mentioning at the 3-level. Westerbeek raised to 3NT in hope of the diamond suit being worth many tricks. With perfect fit there and no club lead, 3NT scored 10 tricks and 11 IMPs.

Next two 6 IMP swings followed as Red made better decisions on bidding game, avoiding the one that went down and bidding the one that was made. Red took some IMPs in undertricks on the next boards as well. Then board 9 came along:

|          |         |          |  |
|----------|---------|----------|--|
|          | ♠ 865   |          |  |
| Board 9  | ♥ A5    |          |  |
| N/EW     | ♦ Q753  |          |  |
|          | ♣ A963  |          |  |
| ♠ AKT973 |         | ♠ Q4     |  |
| ♥ Q      |         | ♥ J97643 |  |
| ♦ AKT98  |         | ♦ 42     |  |
| ♣ 7      |         | ♣ QJT    |  |
|          | ♠ J2    |          |  |
|          | ♥ KT82  |          |  |
|          | ♦ J6    |          |  |
|          | ♣ K8542 |          |  |

Open Room

| West             | North       | East      | South        |
|------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Severeijns       | Spangenberg | Philipsen | van Lankveld |
| -                | pass        | pass      | 1♥           |
| 2NT <sup>1</sup> | DBL         | pass      | pass         |
| 3♥               | pass        | 3♣        | all pass     |

2NT = at least 5-5 ♠ + ♦

Van Lankveld opened his 4-card suit in 3<sup>rd</sup> hand. Now Severeijns showed his 2-suiter, then bid 3♥ to show a good hand. Philipsen did not have real fit and no help in diamonds, so he could only cough up 3♣. Then Severeijns let it go as well. After all North made a value-showing DBL also. Nice breaks and 10 easy tricks for NS -170.

Closed Room

| West             | North    | East       | South       |
|------------------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Wackwitz         | Gotink   | Westerbeek | van Engelen |
| -                | pass     | pass       | pass        |
| 1♠               | pass     | 1NT        | pass        |
| 2NT <sup>1</sup> | pass     | 3♣         | pass        |
| 3♦               | pass     | 3♥         | pass        |
| 4♠               | all pass |            |             |

2NT = GF 5-5

3♣ = relay

Van Engelen did not open in 3<sup>rd</sup> hand, normally enough. Wackwitz-Westerbeek got a free run, with 1NT promising some values. So Wackwitz would not stop below game anymore and they duly got in the right one. NS -620 and another 10 IMPs to Netherlands Red, up by 40-0 now.

The final board gave another big swing, again in the same direction:

Board 10 ♠ QT42  
 ♥ KT7  
 E/All ♦ KQJ84  
 ♣ 8

♠ J8653  
 ♥ 95  
 ♦ T9762  
 ♣ Q

♠ K97  
 ♥ Q  
 ♦ A5  
 ♣ KJ65432

♠ A  
 ♥ AJ86432  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ AT97

Open Room

| West              | North              | East             | South               |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Severeijns</i> | <i>Spangenberg</i> | <i>Philipsen</i> | <i>van Lankveld</i> |
| -                 | -                  | 1♣               | 4♥                  |
| pass              | pass               | 5♣               | DBL                 |
| all pass          |                    |                  |                     |

Van Lankveld overcalled 4♥. You might miss slam occasionally and this would be the one time. But you don't want to give the opponents the chance to find a great save in spades (or diamonds), so bidding 4♥ will give you a better chance to play there. Now Philipsen had a hand that could produce enough tricks in clubs to make it a good save and he tried it. But South knew what to do with that and when declarer had been given an entry to dummy he tried a spade to the king. This meant 5 down and NS +1400. This could however win an IMP as slam was on for NS, though hard to bid.

Closed Room

| West            | North         | East              | South              |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Wackwitz</i> | <i>Gotink</i> | <i>Westerbeek</i> | <i>van Engelen</i> |
| -               | -             | 1♣                | 4♥                 |
| pass            | pass          | all pass          |                    |

In the Closed Room Van Engelen also overcalled 4♥ and here Westerbeek chose to go quietly, so 4♥ became the final contract. +680, but 12 IMPs to Netherlands Red, to close the match at 52-0 IMPs and 25-1 in VP.

So the defending and World Champions got off to a good start. The Netherlands Blue will face a tough task to reach the final four.

♣  
 ♦  
 ♥  
 ♠