

**Finals: session 1/3**

Four days of bridge have passed. We're up to the final of the tournament. First let's recap the events so far.

24 teams were divided in groups of 12 teams, playing 11 matches on Monday and Tuesday. The top 6 of each group advanced to Quarter Final A, with the bottom-6 teams advancing to Quarter Final B. After 11 rounds in the Round Robin the final scores were:

Group A

	Total
Poland	166,49
Israel	128,61
Norway	124,79
Turkey White	123,24
England	116,47
Netherlands U20	113,16
Austria	110,69
Finland	106,01
France	94,87
Netherlands Blue	86,06
Netherlands White	77,56
Germany U20	72,05

Group B

	Total
Hungary	135,33
Netherlands Red	132,51
Belgium	129,76
Denmark	125,94
Slovakia	123,65
Turkey Red	108,10
Sweden	105,18
Germany	103,39
Israel U20	98,46
England U20	94,73
Netherlands Girls	83,62
Russia	79,33

Poland scored an impressive 15 VP's per match, looking very strong. Small surprises in Group B with Sweden and also Germany (last year's finalist) not making it to Quarter Final A.

So the top 6 advanced to Quarter Final A. In the quarter finals teams were again playing in two groups of 12 teams each. Each team had a carry-over to their quarter final. The carry-over was the VP-result of the matches against the other 5 teams from their own group (against whom they had already played).

On Wednesday, in the quarter finals, teams played against the 6 teams that came from the other group. At the end of the day each team would have 11 scores: 5 carry-overs and 6 results from the quarter finals. From Quarter Final A the top 3 teams would advance to the Semifinals. The Semifinals were completed by the number 1 of Quarter Final B.

The final scores after the quarter finals were:

Quarter final A

	Total
Poland	181,30
Israel	133,88
Turkey White	123,58
Norway	117,81
Belgium	113,04
Turkey Red	107,75
Netherlands U20	100,33
Hungary	96,05
Slovakia	91,96
England	91,76
Denmark	81,32
Netherlands Red	81,22

Quarter final B

	Total
Sweden	159,94
England U20	131,67
Germany	128,46
Austria	127,09
Israel U20	123,98
Netherlands Girls	110,25
Russia	101,78
Finland	100,05
Netherlands White	99,17
France	95,33
Netherlands Blue	74,80
Germany U20	67,48

Poland continued its great play and scoring. They now had more than 16 VP's per round. Norway was well in third place, but it suffered a heavy defeat in the final round against Denmark, so Turkey White took over 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Poland, Israel, Turkey White (top 3 QF A) and Sweden (nr. 1 QF B) were the four semifinalists. Poland selected Turkey White, so Israel played Sweden.

In the Semifinals 3 sets of 14 boards were played. The rest of the field would play consolation finals in groups of four teams. Israel vs. Sweden became a very exciting match. Sweden eventually took off in the final set, winning with 93 vs. 63 IMPs. The other Semifinal was decided sooner, with Poland winning 157 to 93. So this year's final would be Poland against Sweden.

### Finals, session 1 of 3

The finals consisted of 3 sets of 14 boards. In the first set Poland lined up Slawek Nijako and Rafal Marks against Sweden's Ida Grönkvist and Mikael Rimstedt. At the other table Mac Chodacki and Kamil Nowak played against Ola Rimstedt and Johan Säftsen.

Board 1 was about the overtrick in 4♥. The bidding had some interesting aspects, but all roads would lead to 4♥. Sweden took 1 IMP.

Board 2 was more interesting.

2	<b>Niajko</b> ♠ AQ72 ♥ AKQ85 ♦ 1092 ♣ 8	<b>M Rimstedt</b> ♠ 109 ♥ 4 ♦ AKJ854 ♣ AJ93	
<b>Gronkvist</b> ♠ K5 ♥ J973 ♦ Q3 ♣ Q10652	<b>Marks</b> ♠ J8643 ♥ 1062 ♦ 76 ♣ K74	NZ: 0 OW: 0	
<b>Gronkvist</b>	<b>Niajko</b>	<b>M Rimstedt</b>	<b>Marks</b>
		1♦	Pas
1♥	Pas	1SA	Pas
3♣	Pas	5♣	Pas
Pas	Pas		

Mikael Rimstedt's 1NT rebid showed clubs and Ida Grönkvist decided to jump to 3♣ over it, like raising a natural 2♣ rebid to 3♣. Rimstedt took the 3♣ bid a bit more serious and jumped to game. Game had some chances. Niajko led the Ace of hearts and continued the suit, ruffed in dummy. Grönkvist crossed to ♦ Queen and finessed a club to South's King. Marks continued with a 3<sup>rd</sup> round of hearts, ruffed. Declarer had two options now. Draw trumps and hope for a 2-2 split or play diamonds through South, having a club entry in the end. She chose the first option and when trump did not split, she cashed a diamond and led a spade to the King. This lost to the Ace and South could score a heart ruff for -3. NS +150.

Closed room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Chodacki</i>	<i>O. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Nowak</i>	<i>Säfteisen</i>
-	-	1♦	pass
1♥	pass	2♣	pass
3♣	pass	3♠	pass
3NT	DBL	4♣	all pass

The play was the same including the third round of hearts ruffed in dummy. Nowak did choose to lead diamonds now, so he could pick up the trumps and score his diamond for an overtrick. NS -150. 150 at both tables added up to 7 IMPs.

Board 3 was a slam for East-West, but North-South got quite involved. 6♠ can be made, even on a ♣ lead by leading hearts. Eventually you can pitch a club on the 5<sup>th</sup> heart.

3

**Niajko**  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ 65  
 ♦ Q976532  
 ♣ Q64

**Gronkvist**  
 ♠ Q8542  
 ♥ A K 842  
 ♦  
 ♣ A82

**M Rimstedt**  
 ♠ KJ10973  
 ♥ Q10  
 ♦ K84  
 ♣ 97

**Marks**  
 ♠ A  
 ♥ J973  
 ♦ AJ10  
 ♣ KJ1053

NZ: 0  
 OW: 0

Gronkvist	Niajko	M Rimstedt	Marks
			2♣
3♣	4SA	Dbf	Pas
Pas	5♣	Pas	Pas
Dbf	Pas	Pas	Pas

Marks could open a natural, limited 2♣. Grönkvist showed her Majors and Niajko went for the save, giving his partner the option to play in diamonds along the way. Rimstedt chose to defend, but not without cost. Grönkvist led a top heart and switch to a spade. ♣ Jack was ducked, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> club was for the Ace. Grönkvist now cashed her 2<sup>nd</sup> top heart, crushing partner's Queen. She then played a spade. Declarer happily ruffed in dummy to take a diamond finesse, but Grönkvist ruffed. Three down, NS -500.

Closed room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Chodacki</i>	<i>O. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Nowak</i>	<i>Säfteisen</i>
-	-	-	1NT
2♣*	3♦	4♠	5♦
5♠	6♦	DBL	all pass

Säfteisen opened a 14-16 NT - maybe the hand was hard to describe otherwise in their strong club system. Chodacki showed his Majors and Rimstedt bid his diamonds. Nowak bid 4♠ and North-South eventually bid 6♦, which was doubled. Three rounds of hearts let East score his ♦ King, and the Ace of clubs was the fourth and final trick for the defense, NS -500 and a push board.

Board 4 was a push in 1NT -1, although it looked like Grönkvist had a chance of making her contract along the way.

5

**Niajko**  
 ♠ Q3  
 ♥ KJ6  
 ♦ 93  
 ♣ AQ9865

**Gronkvist**  
 ♠ K104  
 ♥ A872  
 ♦ AQJ2  
 ♣ 43

**M Rimstedt**  
 ♠ J87  
 ♥ 10953  
 ♦ 10864  
 ♣ K10

**Marks**  
 ♠ A9652  
 ♥ Q4  
 ♦ K75  
 ♣ J72

NZ: 0  
 OW: 0

Gronkvist	Niajko	M Rimstedt	Marks
	2♣	Pas	2♦
Dbl	Pas	Pas	3♣
Pas	Pas	Pas	

The Polish reached 3♣ after a natural 2♣ opener and an inquiry by South. Rimstedt led a diamond to West's Jack and Grönkvist switched to a club. Declarer took his Ace and played a heart to Queen and Ace and Grönkvist exited with another club. Rimstedt switched back to diamonds now and the defense scored a spade in the end for 1 down.

Chodack	Rimstedt	Nowak	Säfsten
	2♣	Pas	2♦
Dbl	2♥	Pas	3♣
Pas	Pas	Pas	

The Swedish had an almost identical auction. The defense started in the same way with diamond lead and club switch. Rimstedt let this run to the King and Nowak now switched to a heart. Chodacki won the Ace and for some reason cashed the Ace of diamonds. Declarer could now throw his losing spade on the ♦ King, so he made his contract. NS +110 meant 5 IMPs to Sweden, behind at 6 – 7 now.

Board 6 was a routine 4♠, although NS might have taken the vulnerability (EW vulnerable) as an excuse to push to 5♣. That probably would have been -800, so both sides did OK to avoid that.

Board 7 was about undertricks in 3NT. Poland switched to a club in time for the 2<sup>nd</sup> undertrick and picked up 3 IMPs, 10-6 now. Board 8 was a push in a normal 2♥ -2. Board 9 was interesting.

9

**Rimstedt**  
 ♠ 1095  
 ♥ Q10432  
 ♦ K32  
 ♣ AJ

**Chodacki**  
 ♠ AQ42  
 ♥ J  
 ♦ A7  
 ♣ KQ10865

**Nowak**  
 ♠ J63  
 ♥ AK85  
 ♦ Q64  
 ♣ 742

**Säfssten**  
 ♠ K87  
 ♥ 976  
 ♦ J10985  
 ♣ 93

NZ: 0  
 OW: 0

Chodack	Rimstedt	Nowak	Säfssten
	Pas	Pas	Pas
1♣	1♥	1♠	Pas
3♣	Pas	3SA	Pas
Pas	Pas		

EW quickly reached 3NT. South led a diamond. Nowak went up with the Ace and played a top club to the Ace. North cleared the diamonds, but Nowak got the clubs right by dropping the Jack. From the bidding it was likely that North was rather balanced. 3NT +1, NS -630.

In the open room North-South took the vulnerability as an excuse to compete heavily:

Open room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Grönkvist</i>	<i>Niajko</i>	<i>M. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Marks</i>
-	pass	pass	pass
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♦*
2♠	3♥	DBL	pass
4♣	pass	5♣	all pass

1♠ denied 4♠ and 2♦ was a heart raise of some sort. 3♥ doubled might have scored -800, but it was not easy for Grönkvist to pass this, although she might have expected NS to have only 8 hearts with North just overcalling 1♥ and South not jumping to the 3-level. She could also not bid 3NT, but one could argue 3♠ should be waiting, to get to 3NT if necessary. It might all just depend on the definition of the double on 3♥. So West rebid her clubs and was raised to game. North led a diamond, which did not actually cost a trick as the diamond loser goes on the top hearts anyway. Next came a club to King and Ace and a heart came back. Grönkvist pitched a spade on the second heart and now

finessed in clubs as she must have expected North to have a reason to bid 3♥ so a singleton club was likely. North won his Jack and the defense scored a spade in the end for 1 down. +100 gave Poland 12 IMPs, ahead by 22-6.

Board 10 was a push for 1NT +1 against 2♣ +1 and board 11 was a push in a normal 3♠ -1 against a heart partscore (4♥ would be close). Board 12 was a routine 4♥ +1. Board 13 was interesting, both in the bidding and play.

Board 13

**Niajko**  
 ♠ AQ1097  
 ♥ J94  
 ♦ J2  
 ♣ 643

**Gronkvist**  
 ♠ K65  
 ♥ AK532  
 ♦ 109765  
 ♣

**M Rimstedt**  
 ♠ 432  
 ♥ Q108  
 ♦ Q43  
 ♣ J1085

**Marks**  
 ♠ J8  
 ♥ 76  
 ♦ AK8  
 ♣ AKQ972

NZ: 0  
 OW: 0

Gronkvist	Niajko	M Rimstedt	Marks
	Pas	Pas	1 ♣
1 ♥	Dbl	2 ♥	3 ♣
3 ♥	Dbl	Pas	5 ♣
Pas	Pas	Pas	

North-South can make 5♣, but 4♣ is also good. That would only fail if the defense finds their two club ruffs, but would make if no club ruff exists even with ♠ King offside (in which case 5♣ would fail). Niajko and Marks bid to 5♣ after North first showed spades, then extras. The defense started with 2 hearts and a diamond switch. Marks played ♣ Ace and got the bad news. Spade to the 9 was good news and he finessed in clubs. Another spade to dummy and then the third spade. If East could ruff, declarer overruffs and ruffs his last diamond in North. But East couldn't ruff so declarer could pitch his diamond and take a second club finesse to land his contract. Well played, NS +600.

Chodack	Rimstedt	Nowak	Säfte
	Pas	Pas	1 ♣
2 ♥	2 ♠	Pas	3 ♣
Pas	3 ♥	Dbl	Rdbl
Pas	5 ♣	Pas	Pas

Säfte also reached 5♣ and played it in the same way. Also well done and a push board.

Board 14 was about not getting too high on either side.

14

**Niajko**  
 ♠ 7  
 ♥ 32  
 ♦ KQJ83  
 ♣ A10932

**Grönkvist**  
 ♠ K93  
 ♥ AKJ106  
 ♦ A1054  
 ♣ 5

**M Rimstedt**  
 ♠ J1062  
 ♥ Q54  
 ♦ 62  
 ♣ KQ74

**Marks**  
 ♠ AQ854  
 ♥ 987  
 ♦ 97  
 ♣ J86

NZ: 0  
 OW: 0

Grönkvist	Niajko	M Rimstedt	Marks
		Pas	Pas
1 ♥	2SA	3 ♥	Pas
4 ♥	Pas	Pas	Pas

Niajko took the aggressive approach to show his minors and Mikael Rimstedt felt he was worth a raise to 3♥. This does not promise a whole lot as he could also have used a cuebid of 3♣ or 3♦ to show a good raise. Grönkvist still went on to game of course. Niajko did not lead his singleton spade, but ♦ King instead. Grönkvist won and played her club. Niajko went up with his Ace, cashed his diamond and now played his spade to get his ruff. One down, NS +50.

Choda	Rimstedt	Nowak	Säfster
		Pas	Pas
1 ♥	2SA	3 ♥	Pas
4 ♥	Pas	Pas	Pas

Bidding was the same in the other room, but Ola Rimstedt led his singleton spade to get his ruff immediately. He then switched to a top diamond and collected his trick when in with the Ace of clubs. Also one down and a push.

Result after 14 boards (of 42):  
 Poland – Sweden      22 – 6