

Thursday 25

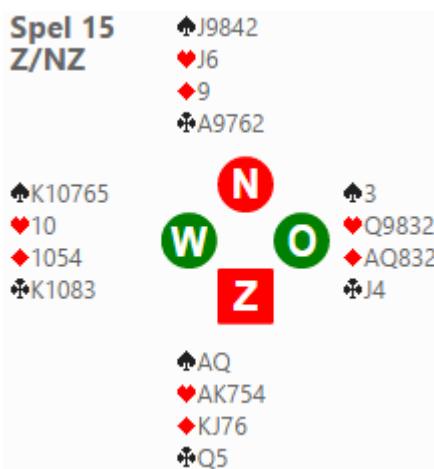
Dennis Stuurman

Semi-finals second half

Half time results were:

Sweden – Netherlands Blue 25 – 37
Norway – Poland 29 – 27

The semi-finals started with action:



West	North	East	South
Marks	Eide	Majcher	Grude
-	-	-	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
ap.			

Grude chose to open 2NT and then chose to play in spades instead of 3NT. This was not the right moment for it. West led his singleton and got his ruff immediately at trick two. A diamond to the Ace and a spade to the Queen and King were followed by a second spade. Declarer also had to lose some club tricks and ended up three down, NS -300.

West	North	East	South
Sæther	Bojarski	Scheie	Chodacki
-	-	-	1♣
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	DBL	3♦	DBL
ap.			

Chodacki opened a Polish Club and that gave East-West room to get into trouble. When Scheie introduced hearts Chodacki felt no need to bid again and after that doubling started. Declarer took six tricks eventually, so NS +500. 13 IMPs to Poland.

In the other match the Dutch played in 3NT, down two. Gronkvist opened 1♥ at the other table and East-West got to 2♦ doubled then, also two down. 7 IMPs to Sweden.

Spel 16
W/OW

♠QJ
♥J
♦108532
♣AQ632

♠A965
♥K753
♦AKQ4
♣7



♠10742
♥A642
♦97
♣K85

4♥ is interesting for East-West. In Poland – Norway both tables stopped in 3♥. Scheie for Norway made 10 tricks after a heart lead. At the other table Grude led a small heart against Majcher. When declarer then ran the ten of hearts he was in trouble. A second spade went to the Ace and a heart to the Ace. South could play a third heart now and declarer had no tricks when South could ruff the third diamond. One down and 7 IMPs to Norway.

West	North	East	South
Coppens	Gullberg	Donkersloot	Gronkvist
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♥	ap.		

Gronkvist led ♦ 9 to the Jack and Donkersloot started with the Jack of clubs to the King. He got back a diamond and played a heart from the table, picking up the Jack as Gronkvist ducked. Club ruff and King of hearts, again ducked by South. Spade to the King and another club ruff. The fourth club went on the King of diamonds and South ruffed. The Ace of spades was the entry to the fourth diamond to get rid of the third spade. Declarer had only lost a club and two hearts. NS -420.

West	North	East	South
Ekenberg	Mendes de Leon	Hult	Sprinkhuizen
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT'	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♥	ap.		

Sprinkhuizen led a spade. The BBO-record is missing from there, but declarer was one off. Probably on a defense similar to the one against Majcher. 12 IMPs to Netherlands Blue 49 – 32 now. The Swedes took 6 IMPs back on the next board by letting the Dutch play at both tables on a misfit board.

Spel 18
O/NZ
 ♠QJ10
 ♥J65
 ♦A
 ♣AQ10873

♠AK75
 ♥K82
 ♦J976
 ♣KJ
 ♠96432
 ♥10743
 ♦53
 ♣92

West	North	East	South
Marks	Eide	Majcher	Grude
-	-	1♦	Pass
1♠	2♣	2♦	Pass
3NT	ap.		

West	North	East	South
Saether	Bojarski	Scheie	Chodacki
-	-	1♦	Pass
1♠	2♣	2♦	Pass
3♣	DBL	3♦	Pass
3NT	ap.		

Both tables reached 3NT after North overcalled 2♣. Bojarski led ♣ Ace and continued the suit when the Jack dropped. When Saether played on diamonds he immediately took his Ace to cash the setting tricks. NS +100.

At the other table Eide chose the Queen of clubs and caught the 9 from his partner. When he won the Ace of diamonds (♦ 3 from South), he continued with the Queen of spades. 3NT +2, NS -460 and another 11 IMPs to Poland. Up by 56 – 36 now.

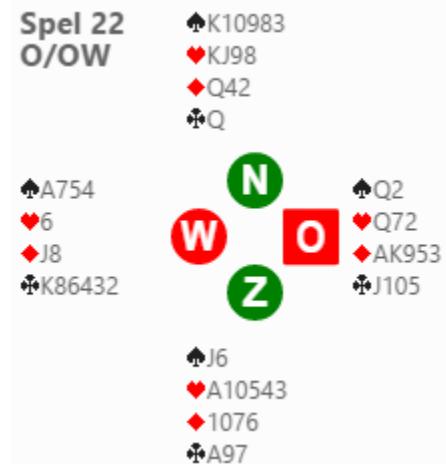
In the other match both North players led the Ace of clubs and could set up the suit immediately.

Spel 21
N/NZ
 ♠-
 ♥A732
 ♦AK42
 ♣AQ765

♠J103
 ♥K10984
 ♦107
 ♣J32
 ♠A9654
 ♥QJ
 ♦QJ96
 ♣K9
 ♠KQ872
 ♥65
 ♦853
 ♣1084

At all four tables East overcalled 1♦ over 1♣. Three times West raised to 2♦ and South was happy to convert North's take-out DBL to penalties. In Sweden – Netherlands Blue Hult got out one trick cheaper at just two down, so 5 IMPs to Sweden. 43 – 50 and still close.

For Poland Marks was the only West player not to raise to 2!S. A bit surprising as he seems to be overbidding like a true junior whole tournament. So Majcher was allowed to play in 1!S doubled already. The board pushed however when Scheie managed to get out for one down in 2!S as well.



West	North	East	South
Coppens	Gullberg	Donkersloot	Gronkvist
-	-	1♦	1♥
DBL	2NT	Pass	3♥
ap.			

Gronkvist overcalled in hearts and Gullberg showed a good 4-card raise. Gronkvist felt he did not have enough for game. Three rounds of diamonds gave Coppens a ruff, but when he next cashed the Ace of spades it was easy for declarer when he showed out on the first round of hearts. Two club ruffs and a heart finesse made sure of nine tricks. NS +140.

West	North	East	South
Ekenberg	Mendes de Leon	Hult	Sprinkhuizen
-	-	1♣	1♥
DBL	2NT	Pass	3♥
4♣	Pass	5♣	DBL
ap.			

Hult opened 1♣ which includes all minimum balanced hands, even with five diamonds. Guy Mendes de Leon also showed a good heart raise, but here Ekenberg competed to 4♣. Hult took this bid rather more seriously as he went on to game. Sprinkhuizen judged his two Aces were good enough to double now opposite a good raise. After heart Ace and a spade switch to the King East won the second spade in hand to run the Jack of clubs. Down two, NS +500 and 8 IMPs to Netherlands Blue, widening the gap to 58 – 43.

With just 4 boards to play Norway and Poland still were at 36 – 56. This board closed the match, when Norway missed the vulnerable game, bid and made by the Poles.

Spel 25
N/OW

♠J73
♥Q1053
♦986
♣974

♠AKQ1064
♥72
♦K43
♣83

♠852
♥A84
♦QJ107
♣A52

♠9
♥KJ96
♦A52
♣KQJ106

West	North	East	South
Marks	Eide	Majcher	Grude
-	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♠	ap.		

The Poles bid simple as Marks just jumped to game when his partner showed a good raise. The diamonds fitted nicely together, so 10 tricks were easy. The defense could not set up both a club and a heart, so Marks ended up with 11 tricks, NS -650.

West	North	East	South
Saether	Bojarski	Scheie	Chodacki
-	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	Pass	2♣	DBL
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣
3♠	ap.		

Saether might have thought his 2♠ showed a good hand with six spades, too strong for a weak jump overcall. Scheie seemed to think differently, taking 2♠ as a minimum hand. Discuss this with your partner! What is the weakest bid by West here?

In the other match both pairs reached 4♠ for a push. Sweden – Netherlands were still at 47 – 58 when the final board arrived. A chance for Sweden as slam was close and not easy to play.

Spel 28
W/NZ

♠109863
♥10643
♦QJ
♣108

♠A42
♥K92
♦32
♣AQJ52

♠KQ75
♥-
♦A10974
♣K764

♠J
♥AQJ875
♦K865
♣93

In Poland – Norway both pairs played in 5♣. In Sweden – Netherlands Blue the pairs reached to different contracts:

West	North	East	South
<i>Ekenberg</i>	<i>Mendes de Leon</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	ap.		

Hult showed his diamonds and then respected his partner's 3NT. 10 tricks, NS -430.

West	North	East	South
<i>Coppens</i>	<i>Gullberg</i>	<i>Donkersloot</i>	<i>Gronkvist</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	2♥
Pass	Pass	DBL	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♣	ap.

Donkersloot reopen with DBL after 2♥. Coppens could show his clubs now and Donkersloot bid 4♥. From the 5♦ response it seems as if Coppens took that as Exclusion Blackwood, showing two Aces and the Queen now. So Donkersloot found himself in slam. Could he make it? Gronkvist led his spade and now the pressure was seriously on. Donkersloot won in hand to lead a club to the Ace. He then tried to duck a diamond into the South hand, but North put up the Jack. Donkersloot took his Ace and then played a second trump. He could then ruff two clubs in hand and set up a long diamond to discard the third heart. 10 IMPs to Netherlands Blue.

Netherlands Blue thus won the second set 31 – 22 and the match 68 – 47.

Poland won the second set 48 -7 and the match 75 – 36.

So the final will be played between Poland (Marcin Bojarski – Max Chodacki, Arek Majcher - Rafal Marks) and Netherlands Blue (Pim Coppens – Bob Donkersloot, Guy Mendes de Leon – Thibo Sprinkhuizen, Bas van Engelen – Thijs Verbeek).