

Intermediate finals round 1

At the end of the second day the top-6 of each group advanced to Intermediate Final A. The other teams went on to play in Intermediate Final B. 7 teams of IF A and 1 team of IF B will qualify for the quarter finals on Thursday. The rest of the teams will play in groups of 4 for consolation prizes on Thursday.

The results of the matches against other teams that advanced to the same intermediate final are carried forward and the teams will meet the teams from the other round robin group today.

Group I, carry-over (results against teams of the own group) included

Sweden	80.70
Israel U-26	63.95
Netherlands White	63.72
Netherlands Red	57.43
Norway	54.89
England	52.37
Russia	44.49
Israel U-20	41.58
Belgium	40.55
Slovakia	39.44
Germany U-20	38.69
Czech Republic	22.19

Sweden did very well against their competitors and lead the intermediate final by almost a match. More important however is 7th place, the final place for a qualifying spot to the quarter finals. Russia is safe at the moment, but as you can see it will a hard fight today. Czech Republic needs to score VP's quickly.

Netherlands Orange, the Dutch Schools team, were very happy not to reach the A-group. They would have a carry-over that would have been even about as bad as Czech Republic's. They are very pleased to be in the B-group with a good carry-over, because they did well against the other teams in their group.

Group II, carry-over included

Netherlands Orange	83.17
Croatia	70.80
Poland	70.07
Finland	56.81
Austria	52.62
France	50.18
Netherlands Blue	48.31
Transnational	47.08
Hungary Girls	46.05
Scotland	37.01
Germany	25.75
Spain	12.16

Only 1 team of this group will advance to the quarter finals and Netherlands Orange will start with a good lead to the rest of the field. Croatia and Poland surely will fight for this spot and maybe one of the other teams has a great day to deliver a small miracle.

Sweden – Russia

In the first round of the intermediate final A Sweden took on Russia.

Spel 1
N/-

♠104
♥AKQ1085
♦J972
♣K

♠KJ5
♥J94
♦A106
♣9843

W N
Z O

♠A8763
♥63
♦4
♣AJ1076

♠Q92
♥72
♦KQ853
♣Q52

West	North	East	South
<i>Stokka</i>	<i>Zubov</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Vakhranyova</i>
-	1♥	1♠	1NT
2♠	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♥
ap.			

Vsevolod Zubov competed to 3♥. At first Elizaveta Vakhranyova let it go, but when Adam Stokka in turn competed to 3♠ she decided to bid game. As 3♠ can be made that was not unreasonable. Simon Hult led his singleton diamond and got 2 ruffs. Two spades and the Ace of clubs meant 3 down, N-S -150.

West	North	East	South
<i>Caillau</i>	<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Zvezdin</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>
-	1♥	2♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	ap.

At the other table Zvezdin decided to show his 2-suiter immediately and Caillau jumped to 3♠ to show real support and some useful cards. Zvezdin with not much to spare bid game. The defense started with three rounds of hearts and now the lack of intermediate trumps meant South scored a trump trick. As the defense also got a club trick 4♠ was one off, N-S +50 and 5 IMPs to Sweden.

On board 3 both East players faced the same bidding problem:

♠ K 4 3
♥ A 2
♦ K J 2
♣ A K J 6 3

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♥
Pass	2♥	DBL	Pass
2♠	Pass	??	

You doubled 2♥ and partner responds 2♠. Is your hand worth another move and if so, what do you bid?

Zvezdin for Russia chose 2NT, while Hult for Sweden bid 3♣. Both were passed out. 2NT was a bit worse as it went three off. 3♣ was only one off, so 5 IMPs to Sweden.

Spel 3
Z/OW

♠ Q875	♠ J1062	♠ K43
♥ 1093	♥ K87	♥ A2
♦ 9863	♦ Q5	♦ KJ2
♣ 92	♣ Q1085	♣ AKJ63
		♠ A9
		♥ QJ654
		♦ A1074
		♣ 74

W N O
Z

On board 7 the Swedes had better bidding methods to reach the better game.

Spel 7
Z/A♠3
♥KQ32
♦QJ96
♣Q932♠QJ74
♥1095
♦7532
♣104

♠K1098
♥A64
♦1084
♣A75♠A652
♥J87
♦AK
♣KJ86

West	North	East	South
<i>Stokka</i>	<i>Zubov</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Vakhranyova</i>
-	-	-	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	ap.	

Zubov just used stayman and bid 3NT when he heard the wrong major. Stokka led the ten of hearts, but Hult took his Ace and switched to a spade. The defense had three spades, a heart and club now, for 1 down, N-S -100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Caillau</i>	<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Zvezdin</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>
-	-	-	1NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	ap.	

Ola could show 4 hearts with short spades with 3♥ and Mikael decided 3NT was not the right place to play. In 5♣ he just lost the two aces, so +600 and 12 IMPs to Sweden.

Russia did not give up and got a good swing on board 9.

Spel 9
N/O/W

♠K62
♥Q82
♦J95
♣AQ93

♠J5
♥AK94
♦A843
♣875

N
W O
Z

♠1098743
♥1065
♦2
♣K102

♠AQ
♥J73
♦KQ1076
♣J64

Board 9 looked like a rather easy 3NT with three spade tricks, four diamonds and a club. The 9th trick could come from either a heart or a second club. Communication problems however mean the contract is not that easy on good defense. Ola and Mikael bid a simple 1♣ – pass – 3NT. Caillau led a small heart from the West hand, which ran to declarer's Jack. Mikael started on diamonds and Caillau ducked twice. The spades were still blocked now. If declarer unblocks them first he has no entry to the diamonds, so Mikael played a third diamond. Caillau won and cashed three hearts before playing a club. Mikael could have won now by rising with the Ace and cross to the Ace of spades to cash the diamonds (pitching clubs from dummy). East would be squeezed now. Mikael instead chose to take the club finesse and was one down, N-S -50.

The legitimate way to defeat the contract was for West to play a club earlier. If declarer rises now there is no squeeze against East. If declarer finesses East still has a heart left to cash the heart tricks for one down.

At the other table Zubov was in 3NT in the North hand. Hult led a spade, won by the Ace. Declarer also went after the diamonds and Stokka won the fourth round, with Hult pitching a spade, a club and another spade. Stokka switched to a low heart. That was enough to overcome the blocked suits as North still had the Ace of clubs. He cashed the final diamond and unblocked the second spade and could cross to the Ace of clubs to collect the ninth trick with the King of spades. +400 and 10 IMPs to Russia.

Sweden had picked up a few IMPs on the other boards, making the final score 28-15 IMPs. That converted to 14.28 – 5.72 VP. Sweden maintained their position at the top of the table. Russia dropped from the important 7th place to 9th, but only a few VP behind.