



A GAME FOR ALL AGES

Young players to compete in world play.

By Dave Smith

Andrew Jeng, Murphy Green, Richard Jeng and Zandy Rizzo are USA2 in the World Youth Team Championships (file photo).

Young bridge players met recently to determine who would represent the U.S. in the World Youth Team Championships in Philadelphia next month. Two teams would qualify to compete for the Damiani Cup against players from other countries who are less than 21 years old.

Four teams entered the trials and played a double-elimination format. In the first round, the team captained by Adam Kaplan defeated the Ricoh Das team, and the Zandy Rizzo squad defeated the Arjun Dhir team.

Kaplan (Adam Grossack, Alex Hudson, John Marriott, Jourdain Patchett and Jesse Stern) defeated Rizzo in the final to claim USA1.

Das eliminated Dhir to advance to the final for USA2 where they met Rizzo. Rizzo (Richard and Andrew Jeng and Murphy Green) defeated Das to claim USA2.

On this deal, Patchett's declarer play justified aggressive bidding (hands rotated):

Dir: West ♠ 7 2
 Vul: Both ♥ K J 7 3
 ♦ A K 10 7 3
 ♣ J 9

♠ A 5 ♠ J 8 3
 ♥ A 10 6 5 2 ♥ Q 8 4
 ♦ 6 5 2 ♠ Q J
 ♣ K 7 6 5 3
 ♣ Q 4 2 ♠ K Q 10 9 6 4
 ♥ 9
 ♦ 9 8 4
 ♣ A 10 8

West	North	East	South
<i>Marriott</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Hudson</i>	<i>Rizzo</i>
Pass	1♦ ⁽¹⁾	1NT ⁽²⁾	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

(1) 3+ diamonds, 11 to 15 points.

(2) 8+ points, fewer than three diamonds.

Declarer lost a trick in each suit for plus 140. In the other room, this was the auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>R. Jeng</i>	<i>Stern</i>	<i>A. Jeng</i>	<i>Patchett</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The deal was shown on the Internet via the Bridge Base Online vugraph. One of the commentators, who could see all four hands, said, "Too high here!"

West led the ♣2 to the king and ace, and Patchett, who could see only two hands, proved the commentator wrong. He led a heart, West ducked, and he played the king. Even if West rises with the ♥A, South will have a discard for his losing diamond. He has an easy guess in spades to lose only one heart, one club and one spade.

Patchett continued with a spade to his king and West's ace. West played the ♥A, ruffed by declarer. It looks like South needs to take a finesse for the ♠J, but Patchett saw an extra chance. He led a diamond to the ace and advanced a low heart. When East played the ♥Q, he ruffed, setting up the jack. After this, he could afford to lose two spade tricks because he had a discard for his low diamond. He didn't know about the doubleton ♦QJ. □



USA1 in the World Youth Team Championships: Alex Hudson, John Marriott, Adam Kaplan, Jesse Stern, Adam Grossack and Jourdain Patchett.