



28th European Youth Team Championships

19-26 July 2022 - Veldhoven, The Netherlands

DAILY BULLETIN

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Crunch Time!



TD Team: Stanislaw Maczka, Eitan Levy, Fearghal O'Boyle, Rob Bosman, Marc van Beijsterveldt, Dirk Logghe, Ton Kooijman, Jeppe Knappe

With play coming to an end in the U26W, U31 and U16 championships, today is crunch time for those teams fighting for medals or for World Championship qualifying places.

Norway leads the way in the U26W, from France and Poland, but with both Italy and Netherlands still involved in the fight for medals.

In the U31 championship the rankings are topped by Netherlands, ahead of France, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkiye and Hungary.

The U16 rankings are headed by Poland, who are closely followed by England. Then there is a gap to Hungary, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Israel and Estonia, all of whom could yet get into a medal place with a strong last day.

Italy has moved to the top of the U26 Open rankings, ahead of France and Sweden. Israel, Poland and Greece come next.

The U21 rankings are headed by Israel, who are followed by France, Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden.

We are, of course, only just coming up to the half-way stage of the U26 Open and U21 championships.

PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY

The Prize Giving Ceremony of the U26W/U16/U31 will take place on Saturday 23rd July at 18:30 in the Brabantzaal of the Koningshof. Drinks at the end.

BBO MATCHES TODAY

10:00	U26	RR9	ITALY	ISRAEL	BBO1
10:00	U26	RR9	GREECE	FRANCE	BBO2
13:40	U26	RR10	TURKIYE	ISRAEL	BBO1
13:40	U26	RR10	SWEDEN	ESTONIA	BBO2
9:30	U31	RR13	LATVIA	NETHERLANDS	BBO3
	U26W	RR12	NORWAY	FRANCE	BBO4
11:35	U16	RR14	HUNGARY	CZECH	BBO3
	U26W	RR13	NETHERLANDS	NORWAY	BBO4
14:20	U31	RR15	ISRAEL	NETHERLANDS	BBO3
	U16	RR15	ENGLAND	CZECH	BBO4

Request to all captains of U16, U26W and U31

To all teams that leave on July 23, 24 or 25 and will be using the transfer/shuttle to Eindhoven Central Station or Eindhoven airport, please report to the hospitality desk on July 23rd before 13:00. Please confirm your departure time for all your team members.
If you want to pay in cash, and haven't paid yet, please mention this at the hospitality desk.

Bidding Sequences

Did you know that, once the matches are over, you can find all the bidding sequences from all the matches on the EBL website?

Go to the page with the scoresheet of your match and you can pass your cursor over the contract of the board that interests you, and the bidding sequence will appear. Similarly, if you go to the page on which the result from every table on a board is shown, you can follow the same procedure – pass the cursor over the contract at the table you want to know about, and the auction should appear.

Open Room								
Board	Cont	Decl	Lead	Tricks	NS	EW	Cont	Decl
1	2NT	S	♠4	5		150	1NT	N
2	2						NT	E
3	3						x	W
4	3N						Tx	E
5	3N						NT	N
6	1NT	W	♠2	7		90	1NT	E

West North East South

- 1♦ Pass 1NT

Pass 2NT Pass Pass

Pass

Mark Scheffer

A Museum?

My youngest son showed pictures of our holiday in Spain to his girlfriend. “Oh, a museum”, she said. “No, not a museum, this is a church!” my son responded. “I have never been to a church...”, she said. “Well apparently you have not been to a museum either”, he added (maybe a little bit too fast...).

I guess all of you have been at least once in a museum, but did you know we have a Bridge Museum in the Netherlands? And yes, it has paintings, furniture, tableware, stamps, toys, electronic stuff, etcetera. All the stuff you would expect in other types of museums, but in this museum everything is related to card games.

In 2012 the museum moved from an artist’s workplace to a building that used to be a school. 650m² of exhibition space became available to put a selection of tens of thousands of objects on display.

If you have no opportunity to visit the museum in Leerdam, you can find videos and pictures of a part of the collection on <https://bridgemuseum.nl> to give you an impression.

In the museum is also a library. There, you can find thousands of books and magazines, not only in English and Dutch, but also many in French, Italian, Swedish and a couple of other languages.

The collection depends on donations and from these donations we selected some 900 books for you, the contestants and volunteers (without them such an event would not be possible), to choose from. In selecting the books, we tried to exclude books that would be of interest to dinosaurs only (i.e. us): no Culbertson or Goren or pre-historic bidding

techniques, but mostly things concerning play or more or less timeless stories.

We hope that holding and reading a bridge book is still something that can help you improve your bridge in the year 2022! You must read a lot to become a good player (your partner’s bidding methods, opponents convention cards, WhatsApp and Telegram messages from you friends), so you might try reading something old-fashioned like a book again!

In return, we would appreciate a smile and a returned voucher with your name and nationality on it. Feel free to put a note of appreciation (or complaint) in your own language on the back side of the voucher. By doing this, you will enrich the collection of the museum with one whole object!

If you find something at (grandparent’s) home that you might think is of historical interest and card game related, don’t hesitate to contact the bridge museum, or drop it off at the bookstall in the Kempenzaal.

Mark Scheffer

Museum van het Kaartspel & Bridge Museum

Address (Visit): Zuster JC Croonhof, Leerdam

Address (Postal): Watertorenlaan 25 - 4141 HT Leerdam

Phone: +31 345 631799

www.bridgemuseum.nl

www.facebook.com/BridgeMuseum

www.facebook.com/MuseumKaartspel

Book Vouchers

All competitors should have in their goodie bags vouchers with which to get books from the Bridgemuseum, near to the registration desk. Below is the table of how many vouchers have been used by competitors from different countries. As you will see, Hungary leads the way in this table, but what it tells us is that there are many more vouchers to be spent at the Bridgemuseum. Why not go and take a look?

Hungary	18	Germany	5	Serbia	2	Ireland	1
England	9	Estonia	3	Sweden	2	Norway	1
France	6	Netherlands	3	Bulgaria	1	Poland	1
Croatia	5	Israel	2	Greece	1	Romania	1
Denmark	5						



Brian Senior

Swings Everywhere

There were swings in all eight matches of the U31 championship on this deal from Round 9. In total, 86 IMPs changed hands over the eight matches.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Pruul</i>	<i>Cicvaric</i>	<i>Maasik</i>	<i>Vidovic</i>
<i>Grguric</i>	<i>Balodis</i>	<i>Stefanec</i>	<i>Pelsis</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Fast auctions which give the opposition as little information as possible can often be the way to go, but on this deal it seemed that 3NT played by South was doomed to be a rather painful experience for the two declarers.

For Latvia, Karl-Markus Pruul led his fourth-best spade to the king and ace. He and Martin Maasik had no trouble in cashing five spade tricks, and they continued with four hearts so the contract was down five for -500.

At the other table, Matea Grguric chose to lead from her stronger, rather than her longer, major – if we are to believe the table scorecard, which claims that she led the four of hearts, a card which she did not hold. The first nine tricks can again be won by E/W after a heart lead, but something went wrong and the contract was allowed to make for +600 and a massive 15 IMPs to Latvia.

Hungary v Bulgaria

West	North	East	South
<i>Ferov</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Lazarov</i>	<i>Kinkoly</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Lajos</i>	<i>Andonov</i>	<i>Szucs</i>	<i>Pavlov</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

For Hungary, Brigitta Fischer opened 1♣ and Csaba Konkoly responded 2NT, 12-15 balanced. Fischer, of course, raised to game but Zahari Ferov led the five of spades and the defence took five spades and four hearts for down five and -500.

For Bulgaria, Mark Andonov opened a Precision 1♦ and Todor Pavlov responded 1♥, natural and so showing four or more cards (his other options were to bid 2♣/♦ natural and game-forcing. One Heart worked like a charm, as Andonov could rebid 1NT and Pavlov raise to game. It takes a heart lead from ace to three to come to the maximum defensive tricks now, and who would find that in the face of a heart bid from dummy? Villo Szucs led the eight of spades round to declarer's king and Andonov had an overtrick for +630 and 15 IMPs to Bulgaria.

Portugal v Spain

West	North	East	South
<i>Gemeno</i>	<i>Coutinho</i>	<i>Penalba</i>	<i>Ribeiro</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Arraiano</i>	<i>Vidal</i>	<i>Moraes</i>	<i>Lopez</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

For Portugal, Francisco Coutinho opened 1♣ and rebid 1NT over the 1♦ response, Miguel Ribeiro raising to game. Esther Penalba did something very good for her team when, rather than lead a spade, she chose the five of hearts. Guzman Gemeno won and found the killing spade switch, and that was down five for -500.

At the other table, Spain's Eric Milesi Vidal did not open the North hand, but responded with a natural and invitational 2NT to Nicolas Garcia Lopez's 1♦ opening. Two No Trump ended the auction and Jose Moraes too led the five of hearts! Again, Rita Arraiano won and found the spade switch. Here, that was for down four and -400, so Spain picked

up 3 IMPs, but it could have been a lot worse had Moraes led a spade.

Scotland v Romania

West	North	East	South
<i>Calipetre</i>	<i>Nakamura-P</i>	<i>Ploscaru</i>	<i>Milne</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>O'Brien</i>	<i>Retzler</i>	<i>Valentine</i>	<i>Ordog</i>
Pass	1♣	1♠	3♠
4♠	5♣	All Pass	

For Scotland, Jun Nakamura-Pinder opened 1♣ and rebid 1NT over Jake Milne's 1♦ response. Milne raised to 3NT and Ioan Laurentiu Ploscaru led the eight of spades; 10 tricks for +630.

At the other table, Ronan Valentine found a 1♠ overcall on the East hand. Akos Ordog jumped to 3♠, presumably showing a game hand with club support, and Liam O'Brien competed to 4♠. Rainer Retzler bid 5♣ and that ended the auction. Though Valentine's opening lead of the ace of spades cost a trick, his switch to ace and another heart ensured that the contract would be two down for -200 and 13 IMPs to Scotland.

Poland v Israel

West	North	East	South
<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Andruskiewicz</i>	<i>Urman</i>	<i>Sucharda</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Majcher</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Sobczak</i>	<i>Ben David</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦(i)	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

(i) 0-7 or some 8+ with a minor

For Poland, Jakub Andruskiewicz opened 1♣ and Edward Sucharda responded 3NT. Lee Rosenthal led the five of spades and the contract was easily defeated, but the defence went wrong after cashing the spades and the contract was down only three, for -300.

The longest and most complex of all the auctions on this deal came at the other table, where Itamar

Ginossar passed the North hand and Mateusz Sobczak opened a Polish Club in third seat. The Poles got to 1♠, after which Sobczak felt that he had done enough. Yuval Ben David made a balancing double and Ginossar responded 2♣. When that came round to Arkadiusz Majcher, he in turn made a balancing double. Eventually, the music stopped in 3♣, played by Ginossar. Sobczak's lead of the five of hearts saw the defence take three hearts and two spades, for down one and -100, but 5 IMPs to Israel.

Netherlands v Turkiye

West	North	East	South
<i>Birben</i>	<i>R Westerbeek</i>	<i>Ustunboyacioglu</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Engelen</i>	<i>Tukenmez</i>	<i>C Westerbeek</i>	<i>Akkaya</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	All Pass

For Netherlands, Ricardo Westerbeek and Pim Coppens had an inverted minor-suit raise sequence in which Westerbeek judged to go back to clubs rather than admit to a spade stopper with king-doubleton. They alighted in 5♣, which was down three for -300 after a club lead from Ali Can Ustunboyacioglu.

In the other room, Can Erdem Tukmenez did not open the North hand, but Chris Westerbeek did open as East. Bas Van Engelen responded with a 1♥ transfer to spades and Westerbeek simply completed the transfer. Neither Emre Can Akkaya nor Tukmenez balanced, so Westerbeek was left to play in a very comfortable 1♠. On the ten of hearts lead he made 10 tricks for +170 but 4 IMPs to Turkiye.

Germany v Belgium

West	North	East	South
<i>Monticelli</i>	<i>Holowa</i>	<i>Dehay</i>	<i>Di Bacco</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Bauer</i>	<i>Khomiakov</i>	<i>Stepper</i>	<i>V Overmeire</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

For Germany, Mareille Holowa passed the North hand but responded with a natural and invitational

2NT to Victoria Di Bacco's 1♦ opening. Di Bacco passed that and Clovis Dehaye found the killing lead of a low heart. Romain Monticelli had no problem in winning and finding the spade switch, so the contract was down four for -400.

For Belgium, Robert Khomiakov opened as North and Jens van Overmeire responded with 1♠, denying a major and suggesting that partner bid NT. Khomiakov dulu did so and was raised to game. Maximilian Stepper led the eight of spades, and Khomiakov had 10 tricks for +630 and 14 IMPs to Belgium.

We have not yet seen the biggest swing on the board, and that comes from our final match, where the action was quite different to what we have seen to date.

Serbia v France

West	North	East	South
<i>Bernard</i>	<i>Vazic</i>	<i>Thizy</i>	<i>Velja</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Trnavac</i>	<i>Mourgues</i>	<i>Jovanovic</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Dble	3♠	4♣
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

For Serbia, Stojan Vazic did not open the North hand, but Clement Thizy did open as East. Julien Bernard responded 2♥, less than invitational values with at least five spades and four hearts. Thizy gave preference to 2♠ and Stefan Velja balanced with a double which he clearly intended to be for take-out, but which was read differently by Vazic, who left it in. After a trump lead, Thizy came to 10 tricks for a rather useful +1070.

The Serbian E/W had a toy for this West hand and Vuk Trnavac opened 2♦, weak with at least four-four in the majors. Boris Jovanovic responded with a 2NT inquiry and, I assume, the 3♣ rebid showed a minimum? Jennifer Mourgues took the opportunity to double to show clubs, and that allowed Leo Rombaut to compete with 4♣ when Jovanovic settled for 3♠. Serbia were going plus on the board had 4♣ concluded the auction, but now Trnavac bid 4♠ and, when that came back to Rombaut, he doubled. Rombaut led the nine of clubs, presumably eager to put partner in for a diamond through declarer. We don't have the play details, but the contract was down two for -500 and a massive 17 IMPs to France.

You will see that we have all the auctions from every table. If you go to the results pages, either the scorecard for one match or the page on which all the results for a given board are shown, you can hover over the contract at the table you are interested in and the auction should appear.

Championship offer

The NEW dealing machines, and the cards used during the championships, are sold for the occasional price of **€2650** and €190/240 decks (=€0.79/deck) respectively. Pick up at Veldhoven or at the World Championship in Wroclaw. Shipping, if needed, charged at cost. Email anna@jannersten.com for a quote.



Jos Jacobs, **OPEN TEAMS U26, ROUND 6****HUNGARY vs ESTONIA**

Estonia were the proud leaders after day one with no fewer than 37+ VP. from just two matches. Their next two matches were far less successful but, on Thursday night, they apparently got back on track with 16 VP, thus rising to seventh again. Hungary had not made such a good start, maybe also caused by the fact that they had to face Poland and Italy on Thursday. When the third day got underway, they thus found themselves down in twelfth place. From all this, it was by no means clear to me which team to consider the favourites in their confrontation on Friday morning.

This was the opening board:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Piibeht</i>	<i>Vagi</i>	<i>Maide</i>	<i>Jalšovszky</i>
–	2♥	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Dble
4♠	All Pass		

When North's weak two ran to West, who chose the strength-showing 2NT. This made life easy for East because he could now launch Stayman. Jumping directly to 4♠ over South's double proved a good idea from West and, when North led his singleton diamond to declarer's nine, Piibeht knew what to do next. Cash the ♠AK, not bothering about restricted choice, and claim your overtrick when the trumps happen to be 2-2. Estonia +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>D Biborka</i>	<i>Piirisild</i>	<i>Nagy</i>	<i>Zvorovski</i>
–	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

In the replay, the Estonians taught the Hungarians a lesson in youthful pre-empting. Maybe, West should have bid something else; maybe, East should not have passed 3♠. As it was, the Hungarians scored just +170 and lost 7 IMPs to start proceedings.

The Estonians found an unlikely way to hand back these IMPs, a few boards later:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Piibeht</i>	<i>Vagi</i>	<i>Maide</i>	<i>Jalšovszky</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

On the actual trump break, 2♠ already is too high, but the defence found a way to help declarer a little. East led the ♦4 and when dummy played low, West played the seven...Contract made, Hungary +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>D Biborka</i>	<i>Piirisild</i>	<i>Nagy</i>	<i>Zvorovski</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Dble	Pass	3♦	Dble
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

In the other room West found a balancing double so East was in trouble. South launched a non-competitive double but North was not prepared for Christmas in July. East was happy to defend any contract undoubled rather than going down himself doubled, and thus the Hungarians collected only +300 for down three, still good for 9 IMPs to them though.

Two boards later, the Hungarians showed they know each other well.



Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Piibeht</i>	<i>Vagi</i>	<i>Maide</i>	<i>Jalšovszky</i>
–	–	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

When South opened 4♠ in first seat, North had no trouble in passing this. West led a diamond to dummy's ace, and when declarer next led a spade East went in with his ♠10, so declarer could afford to play the king and still lose no more than three trump tricks. Hungary +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>D Biborka</i>	<i>Piirisild</i>	<i>Nagy</i>	<i>Zvorovski</i>
–	–	Pass	1♠
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	Pass
2♥	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
3♦	Dble	All Pass	

When the Estonian South elected to open just 1♠ on his sub-minimum values, a lively auction developed when West joined the auction on the basis of his own sub-minimum values. North was holding the Lovebridge equivalent of more than enough red bidding cards to have the last and also the final word on West's actions. Down two, +500 to Estonia and 2 more IMPs to them.

The next two boards were sort of flat but on Board 9, proper technique was required in a normal enough 4♠ contract.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

E/W did not interfere at either table, and both Wests led a top heart against South's 4♠. For Estonia, East contributed the ♥8, upon which West shifted to the ♣10. Assuming this to be a true card, you should call for dummy's king because East will then not be able to return the suit to good effect after winning the ace.



Rasmus MAIDE

Janka JALSOVSZKY

Mate VAGI

Tiit Hendrik PIIBEHT


Your club losers will eventually disappear on the good hearts in dummy after the trumps have been drawn.

When dummy played low on the ♣10, West could lead his second club through dummy when in with the other top heart. One down, Estonia +50.

In the other room, the play was trivial. Top heart and diamond shift, so another +420 and 10 IMPs to Estonia.

On the next two deals, Hungary got two partscore swings back (5 IMPs each) but then came a bigger deal:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Piibeleht</i>	<i>Vagi</i>	<i>Maide</i>	<i>Jalsouszky</i>
2♥	Dble	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		



Riko PIIRISILD and Kartal NAGY

West's 2♥ showed both majors, 0-10 HCP, and his 3NT over the relay confirmed a maximum hand. With North on lead and the diamonds breaking, there was no way to defeat game. Estonia +430.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>D Biborka</i>	<i>Piirisild</i>	<i>Nagy</i>	<i>Zvorovski</i>
Pass	1NT	Dble	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

The only way to ever get to 3NT is to bid it when there is a chance to do so. When West persisted with his suits, no doubt fearing a misfit, the touch-and-go game was missed. What is worse: 3♠ even went one down as there is no way to get rid of all your losers. Estonia another +50 and 10 IMPs to them.

A few boards later, West got another chance to launch his majors.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Piibeleht</i>	<i>Vagi</i>	<i>Maide</i>	<i>Jalsouszky</i>
–	–	–	Pass
2♥	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

As you can see, North chose the wrong moment for his unusual NT. Down three, Estonia +800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>D Biborka</i>	<i>Piirisild</i>	<i>Nagy</i>	<i>Zvorovski</i>
–	–	–	2♥
Pass	2♠	3♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

At the other table, South, not West, was the first to

show a heart suit (or a look-alike...) which led to East being the first to show a diamond suit. West made a disciplined pass but the result was exactly the same: -800 (down four, this time) in a diamond contract by the same team at both tables. Net cost: 17 IMPs, all going Estonia's way.

On the next board, Hungary registered yet another of their partscore swings, this time by believing their opponents' bidding.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Piibeleht</i>	<i>Vagi</i>	<i>Maide</i>	<i>Jalšovszky</i>
1NT	2♠	All Pass	

Over the strong 1NT, North's 2♠ showed spades and a minor but South had little confidence in the



Janka JALSOVSZKY

values of her ♥K and ♣Q. She thus judged well to pass and N/S scored +140 for just one overtrick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>D Biborka</i>	<i>Piirisild</i>	<i>Nagy</i>	<i>Zvorovski</i>
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

In the other room, South had less information available and thus the normal enough spade game was reached. One down, of course, Hungary another +50 and 5 IMPs back to them.

The next board also was a matter of judgement:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Piibeleht</i>	<i>Vagi</i>	<i>Maide</i>	<i>Jalšovszky</i>
—	Pass	3♦	4♠
5♦	All Pass		

West believed his top tricks and went on to game. With all the clubs well placed, this even led to an overtrick, +420 for Estonia.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>D Biborka</i>	<i>Piirisild</i>	<i>Nagy</i>	<i>Zvorovski</i>
—	Pass	3♦	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

In the other room, West also believed in his top tricks: they would probably not be made by the opponents. Hence his double. In a sense, he was right but one down, +100 was not enough compensation for the -420 result by his team-mates. Finding the heart ruff was beyond the defenders' imagination, so Estonia scored another 8 IMPs to win the match by 61-30 IMPs or 16.61-3.39 VPs.



Brian Senior, **OPEN TEAMS U26** ROUND 7

 **FRANCE vs SWEDEN** 

Second-placed Sweden met third-placed France in the big match of day three in the U26 Open championship.

The first board saw both E/W pairs down one in 4♥ which had four top losers. The second deal should also have been flat, but...

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ Q J 10 6
♥ Q J 2
♦ Q 3
♣ J 7 6 4

♠ A 9 8 5
♥ 6 5
♦ K J 6 2
♣ Q 10 2



♠ K 7 4
♥ K 9 7
♦ A 10
♣ A 9 8 5 3

♠ 3 2
♥ A 10 8 4 3
♦ 9 8 7 5 4
♣ K

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Sandin</i>
-	-	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Mann</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
-	-	1NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both Easts upgraded to a strong NT opening and both Wests checked for a 4-4 spade fit, Castor Mann via puppet Stayman, Maxence Fragola simple Stayman, before settling for 3NT. Both Souths led a low heart to the jack and king.

Nao Tabata crossed to the ace of spades to run the ♣Q – four, three, king. There is no mention of Smith Peters on the Swedish convention card, but Alexander Sandin got it right, continuing with a second low heart to Sanna Clementsson’s queen, and the defence cashed four heart winners. That was all; down one for –50.

Erik Hansson too won the ♥K and crossed to dummy with a spade to run the queen of clubs, losing to the bare king. Again there is no mention of Smith Peters on the French card, and Arthur Boulin did not read the position correctly. He returned the nine of diamonds. Hansson rose with dummy’s king to run the ten of clubs, and soon had four club winners and nine in all for +400 and 10 IMPs to Sweden.

I would encourage all pairs who do not play Smith to consider doing so. This deal should not come down to a guess as to which of declarer and partner holds the ♥Q.

Nao TABATA

Alexander SANDIN

Sanna CLEMENTSSON

Maxence FRAGOLA



The next two deals both saw possible slams, first for N/S, then for E/W.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Sandin</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Mann</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

Six Hearts is cold if played by North to protect the diamond position but, of course, South became declarer at both tables, so it was just as well that they stopped at the five level.

Clementsson's 2♠ rebid showed a strong hand with heart support, 2NT asked, and 3♣ showed a black shortage. Three Diamonds asked again and 3♥ showed short clubs. Sandin left room for cuebidding, but facing a passed hand Clementsson settled for a sign-off in game. After a club lead Sandin could take two club ruffs so had 12 tricks for +480.

Theo Guillemin simply splintered after the 1♥ response and Boulin liked his hand enough to go past game to cuebid. Guillemin asked for key-cards then signed off in 5♥. Here the lead was a diamond. Boulin rose with dummy's ace and drew trumps, coming to 11 tricks for +450 but 1 IMP to Sweden; 11-0.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Sandin</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	7NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Mann</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5♠	Pass	7♦	All Pass




Sanna CLEMENTSSON

Hansson's 1NT response was game-forcing, either balanced or with a minor-suit. After a series of relays, Mann asked for key-cards then made a grand slam try, and Hansson leaped to 7♦. There was nothing to the play; +2140.

The French E/W had a natural auction and, when diamonds were agreed, Fragola asked about key-cards, invited Seven, and saw Tabata jump to 7NT. Again, there was nothing to the play; +2220 and 2 IMPs to France.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Sandin</i>
-	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			


West	North	East	South
<i>Mann</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
-	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Sandin's 1♦ response showed hearts, and Clementsson's 1♠ rebid was natural, showing an unbalanced hand with fewer than three hearts. Sandin gave simple preference, Clementsson tried for game, and Sandin accepted, raising to 3NT. Tabata led the queen of diamonds, which held the trick, and continued with the jack, ducked to declarer's king. Clementsson played the queen of clubs and, when it held, switched her attention to hearts, overtaking the queen and cashing all five rounds. The defence was under no pressure but declarer was, and the contract was down two for -200.

Boulin responded with a natural 1♥ then rebid the suit, and when Guillemin invited game Boulin accepted. Four Hearts can be defeated easily enough

- a diamond lead, for example. However, Mann didn't fancy leading a diamond when he held the unsupported ace. In practice, he chose a trump, and that was all the opportunity that Boulin required. He drew trumps, coming down to two spades, two diamonds and all five clubs in the dummy, then played on clubs. Hansson won the ♣A and returned the ♦Q, Mann winning the ace and switching to a spade. The ace of spades was the last trick for the defence; +620 and 13 IMPs to France, moving into the lead by 15-11.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Sandin</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dble
3♦	Dble	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Mann</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dble
4♣	4♥	5♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Fragola made a fit jump, 3♦ showing spade support with a diamond side-suit, and Tabata jumped to 4♠ over Clementsson's responsive double. That ended the auction and Sandin led ace and another heart; 11 tricks for +450.

Mann showed the club void and Guillemin tried 4♥ on the North cards. Hansson cuebid 5♦ and Mann jumped to the spade slam, gambling out the heart position. Alas, two rounds of hearts again held the contract to 11 tricks, this time for down one, -50, and 11 IMPs to France. They led by 27-11.

Not a great deal happened over the next few deals, with Sweden picking up a few of minor swings to close to 17-27 after 15 boards. The final three deals then made up for the previous seven as there was scope for a major swing on each one.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Sandin</i>
1♦	Dble	Pass	1♠
2♦	Dble	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Mann</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
1♦	Dble	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both Wests opened 1♦ and both Norths doubled. From there, however, the two auctions followed widely differing paths.

Hansson responded 1♥ as East, ignoring the opposing double, and Mann showed his second suit. Hansson converted to 1NT and now Mann jumped to

3♦, suggesting a little more strength than he actually held, I would have thought. Hansson had nothing to spare for his bidding to date but perhaps thought that if there were nine tricks in 3♦ then there might also be nine tricks in 3NT. That is what he bid, and it ended the auction. Boulin led a club. Guillemin won the ace and continued with the ♣8. Sure enough, this little subterfuge was successful, as Hansson put in the ten and lost to the jack. Boulin continued with a third club to his partner's king, and Guillemin played safe, cashing his two major-suit aces for down one and -100.

Tabata did not bid with the East cards so Sandin responded 1♠ to the double. Fragola repeated the long strong diamonds and Clementsson doubled again to suggest a strong (semi)-balanced hand. Sandin bid the clubs now and when that came round to Tabata he doubled for penalties, which ended the auction. Fragola led the nine of clubs, Sandin rising with dummy's ace and playing a diamond to the ten and jack. Back came a heart. Sandin put in the queen, losing to the king, and Tabata switched to the ten of clubs, Sandin winning the jack and conceding a second diamond. A third diamond was returned so Sandin ruffed. Meanwhile, Tabata had pitched two spades on the diamonds. When Sandin now led a spade to the jack and attempted to cash the ace, Tabata could ruff and return a trump to dummy's king, drawing declarer's last trump in the process. Dummy had the ace of hearts now but that was all. The contract was down three for -500 and 12 IMPs to France, who led by 39-17.




Erik HANSSON

Arthur BOULIN

Theo GUILLEMIN

Castor MANN

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Sandin</i>
-	1♣	2♦	4NT
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Mann</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
-	1♣	2♦	4♦
4♠	5♦	All Pass	

Hansson overcalled 2♦, both majors, and Boulin jumped to 4♦m diamonds and clubs. When Mann now bid 4♠, Guillemin bid 5♦ and that ended the auction. Slam was never in the picture, N/S having no room in which to explore any such possibilities; 12 tricks and +420.


Tabata also overcalled 2♦ to show a major two-suiter, but Sandin made the big bid of 4NT with the South cards and Clementsson decided that, with such good cards, it was worth the risk of finding partner with two losing spades. She bid 5NT to ask Sandin



Castor MANN

to pick a slam, and Sandin duly picked clubs – not that it mattered. Six Clubs just had one spade loser so Clementsson chalked up +920 and that was worth 11 IMPs to Sweden, closing to 28-39.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Sandin</i>
-	-	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Mann</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
-	-	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦(i)	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(i) GF relay

Slam was again a possibility on the final deal. The French N/S didn't get close: Hansson led a low club against 3NT, Mann winning the king and returning a second club. That established two club winners for Guillemin, who had 11 tricks in all for a quick +660.

What about Sweden? Clementsson went slowly so that Sandin was able to show his six-four shape and Clementsson could now set trumps. When Sandin cuebid the spade control, Clementsson made one more try with a Last Train 5♣, but Sandin had nothing to spare and signed off in 5♦, ending the auction. There were 12 tricks so +620 but 1 IMP to France.

France ran out winners by 40-28 IMPs, which converted to 13.12-6.88 VPs. France moved ahead of Sweden in the rankings, but both were still a few points behind Italy.


Jos Jacobs, OPEN TEAMS U31, ROUND 8

FRANCE vs ISRAEL


Round 8 marks the half-way point of the U31 contest. At the start of the round, the Netherlands were leading the field with France in second position and Israel in seventh. So with the latter two teams playing each other, watching this match looked to be a good choice.

The first board of the set was a slam. I can reveal already that this was not the only slam of the round. The dealing machine (or gods, if you insist) seems to have a habit of saving the slams for the last round of the day – or maybe, this is just an illusion developed by me over the years...

In the Open Room, the Israelis had some trouble in assessing the true value of the West hand, I think, as here is their auction.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Bernard</i>	<i>Urman</i>	<i>Thizy</i>
–	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

East's 2♠ rebid had a wide range but it still surprised me that East could not rebid an economical 3♣ over partner's 2NT. West certainly also had something in reserve when he bid 4♠ but it had remained unclear whether his extra values were of any use to partner's hand. As you can see, 12 tricks are pretty cold so it did not look as if Israel had been off to a good start with their score of +680 on this one.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Combescure</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Charignon</i>	<i>Ben David</i>
–	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

The French had no problem whatsoever in reaching the slam. Once East showed a non-minimum 6-4, West could easily assess the value of his red honours. France +1430 and 13 IMPs to them.

The next two boards netted 1 IMP between them (try to find out for yourself how this was possible) but on Board 16, there was more at stake.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Bernard</i>	<i>Urman</i>	<i>Thizy</i>
1♦	1♠	Dble	Rdbl
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass

For Israel, there was nothing at stake. They simply did what they should do and ended up in 2♥. The pattern changed, however, when South led the ♠K, which held the trick, North contributing the ♠2. At this point, both the ♦Q and a spade by South will set the contract but South apparently read the ♠2 as a Lavinthal for clubs, so he played ♣A and another. From here, declarer could not go down any more. Israel +110.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Combescur	Ginossar	Charignon	Ben David
1NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Once West upgraded his hand to a 15-17 1NT, the French were overboard. North led a club to partner's ace and then the ♠K continuation paved the way for a spade ruff. When North, for security reasons, cashed the ♦A first before giving partner his ruff, the contract was down only two. Israel still +200 and 7 IMPs to them.

The next board brought us the second slam of the match.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 4		♠ AKQ9832
♥ K84		♥ J10
♦ J7542		♦ AK9
♣ Q874		♣ A
♠ J65		
♥ A975		
♦ 63		
♣ KJ96		
♠ 107		
♥ Q632		
♦ Q108		
♣ 10532		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rosenthal	Bernard	Urman	Thizy
-	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Dble	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	6♠	All Pass

The Israelis produced a classic strong 2♣ auction to the small slam and thus scored an easy +1010.

Getting to the grand in spades proved just too difficult. The Israelis were in good company, however: only 9 E/W pairs out of the 16 U31s ended up in 7♠. Five were in 6♠, one pair had a misunderstanding and the 16th E/W pair bid like this:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Combescur	Ginossar	Charignon	Ben David
-	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♥	Pass	7NT	All Pass

Apparently, East wanted to exclude the risk of an adverse ruff but in 7NT, the diamond ruff for the 13th trick had also become impossible. There are only



Fabrice CHARIGNON

Yuval BEN DAVID

ISRAEL

Itamar GINOSSAR

Baptiste COMBESCUR

12 top tricks and the squeeze possibilities are looking very remote. So declarer's best hope probably was a misdefence...

However, the explanations at either side of the screen were different. As a consequence, this board and the TD's decision about it are still under review. In due course, we will be able to inform you about the final decision.

There was not very much in the next four boards. France were leading 30-8 when they started the last four boards of the match. Here they are all four.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Bernard</i>	<i>Urman</i>	<i>Thizy</i>
–	2♣	2♥	Pass
2♠	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
5♥	Pass	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

Against the classic strong French auction, West produced a few equally classic countermeasures, which backfired in such a way that E/W did not even double the final contract, in spite of East's good-looking defensive values. Not that this mattered too much: rather than playing a club after getting a defensive trick in each of the other suits, East tried the ♦Q, only to see it ruffed. With dummy's ♦J now a parking place for declarer's ♣K, the contract was only one down. Israel +100.

In the other room, East immediately showed his red two-suiter:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Combescur</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Charignon</i>	<i>Ben David</i>
	1♠	3♣	Pass
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♥	5♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West thought he had more than enough to express an opinion about the final contract. When the French duly collected their four defensive tricks, they had scored +500, good for 9 more IMPs their way. The score now stood at 39-8 to them.

The next board was a lesson in overbidding.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Bernard</i>	<i>Urman</i>	<i>Thizy</i>
–	–	1♥	Pass
3♣	4♣	4♥	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West showed a 6-9 HCP raise with his 3♣ but, at this vulnerability, North thought he could hardly pass. East went on to game on his quite modest values and, of course, South took the sacrifice that quickly proved to be phantom. Down two, Israel +300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Combescur</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Charignon</i>	<i>Ben David</i>
–	–	1♥	Pass
2♥	3♣	3♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

By raising to 2♥ only, Combescur put less pressure on the auction so South was not tempted into the sacrifice. When 4♥ was one down, the Israelis collected another +100, good for 9 IMPs back to them.

On the next board, it was a matter of creating a losing option for declarer.



Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Bernard</i>	<i>Urman</i>	<i>Thizy</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Played by West, 3NT was in little danger, even less so when North led a heart to dummy's ♥10. One overtrick, Israel an easy +630 after establishing the diamonds. Please note that hearts were never mentioned in the auction.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Combescur</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Charignon</i>	<i>Ben David</i>
2	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In the other room, West did in fact show both his majors so East became the declarer in the obvious final contract. When South led a low heart, he suddenly had created a losing option for declarer. Double dummy, we can see that declarer cannot possibly go down but, at the table, this is far from obvious as the spades are pretty wide open. So we cannot blame declarer for putting up the ♥A immediately and going after the diamonds. We can praise the defence, however, as the ♥K now had become the entry to North's third spade trick when South was given his diamond trick. Israel another +100 and 12 more IMPs to them. The score: 39-29 still to France.

At the start of this story, I promised you a few slams, so the last board of the day would be my last chance to keep this promise. Below, you can see that I am doing so!

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Bernard</i>	<i>Urman</i>	<i>Thizy</i>
Pass	1♣	1♠	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

What should North bid over partner's 3♠? There is little wrong with North's 4♣ apart from the fact that it does not take away partner's concern about the spade control. North might still have saved the day by bidding 5♠ rather than 6♣ but, when he did not, the French had to be content with +940 only.

The Israelis had no problems at all.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Combescur</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Charignon</i>	<i>Ben David</i>
Pass	1♣	1♠	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♠
Pass	7♣	All Pass	

Once North had confirmed the spade control situation, South could afford to continue showing a very suitable hand. North was quick to convert this assist. Israel a fine +1440 The grand was bid at less than half the tables but the Israelis had managed to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat (for a change): the 11 IMPs gained on this deal made the final score a half an hour earlier quite unlikely 40-39 to them, 10.36-9.64 VP. Strangely enough, this win made them go down to eighth in the rankings whereas France stayed in second place.

RESULTS - OPEN UNDER 26

ROUND 6

		IMPs		VPs	
1	IRELAND	ISRAEL	51 69	5.61	14.39
2	LATVIA	SWEDEN	42 53	7.11	12.89
3	GERMANY	ITALY	23 59	2.69	17.31
4	FRANCE	ENGLAND	45 56	7.11	12.89
5	HUNGARY	ESTONIA	30 61	3.39	16.61
6	GREECE	TURKIYE	55 31	15.50	4.50
7	CROATIA	POLAND	32 39	8.08	11.92
8	SCOTLAND	NORWAY	2 90	0.00	20.00
9	BULGARIA	NETHERLANDS	33 52	5.42	14.58


ROUND 7

		IMPs		VPs	
1	IRELAND	GERMANY	6 103	0.00	20.00
2	SWEDEN	FRANCE	28 40	6.88	13.12
3	ESTONIA	ISRAEL	36 33	10.86	9.14
4	TURKIYE	LATVIA	52 50	10.58	9.42
5	ITALY	POLAND	44 32	13.12	6.88
6	ENGLAND	SCOTLAND	66 43	15.32	4.68
7	HUNGARY	NETHERLANDS	37 54	5.81	14.19
8	BULGARIA	GREECE	20 22	9.42	10.58
9	CROATIA	NORWAY	33 37	8.86	11.14

ROUND 8

		IMPs		VPs	
1	IRELAND	BULGARIA	26 75	1.22	18.78
2	NETHERLANDS	NORWAY	23 31	7.83	12.17
3	CROATIA	SCOTLAND	77 20	19.50	0.50
4	GREECE	POLAND	19 34	6.22	13.78
5	TURKIYE	HUNGARY	71 9	19.88	0.12
6	ESTONIA	ENGLAND	23 41	5.61	14.39
7	FRANCE	ITALY	24 29	8.59	11.41
8	LATVIA	GERMANY	29 44	6.22	13.78
9	SWEDEN	ISRAEL	24 46	4.86	15.14

RANKING AFTER R. 8

1		ITALY	122.83
2		FRANCE	113.05
3		SWEDEN	108.53
4		ISRAEL	101.12
5		POLAND	101.11
6		GREECE	97.90
7		CROATIA	97.06
8		ESTONIA	95.38
9		BULGARIA	89.00
10		TURKIYE	88.59
11		ENGLAND	78.83
12		NETHERLANDS	77.60
13		NORWAY	74.92
14		GERMANY	72.42
15		HUNGARY	49.90
16		LATVIA	41.51
17		SCOTLAND	17.32
18		IRELAND	11.53



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RESULTS - OPEN UNDER 21

ROUND 9

		IMPs		VPs	
11	ISRAEL	POLAND	31 20	13.45	6.55
12	GERMANY	FRANCE	15 46	2.44	17.56
13	HUNGARY	NETHERLANDS	25 39	5.78	14.22
14	SWEDEN	NORWAY	52 11	18.90	1.10
15	DENMARK	TURKIYE	40 24	14.70	5.30
16	GREECE	ITALY	8 49	1.10	18.90
17	IRELAND	ENGLAND	32 38	7.99	12.01

ROUND 10

		IMPs		VPs	
11	ISRAEL	GERMANY	28 17	13.45	6.55
12	NETHERLANDS	POLAND	47 10	18.41	1.59
13	FRANCE	SWEDEN	29 23	12.01	7.99
14	TURKIYE	HUNGARY	49 29	15.58	4.42
15	NORWAY	ITALY	24 22	10.71	9.29
16	DENMARK	ENGLAND	64 11	20.00	0.00
17	GREECE	IRELAND	67 25	19.02	0.98

ROUND 11

		IMPs		VPs	
11	ISRAEL	GREECE	30 28	10.71	9.29
12	DENMARK	IRELAND	57 29	17.08	2.92
13	ENGLAND	NORWAY	34 13	15.79	4.21
14	HUNGARY	ITALY	29 39	6.82	13.18
15	TURKIYE	FRANCE	20 53	2.14	17.86
16	SWEDEN	POLAND	8 17	7.10	12.90
17	NETHERLANDS	GERMANY	46 24	15.99	4.01

ROUND 12

		IMPs		VPs	
11	ISRAEL	ENGLAND	26 9	14.93	5.07
12	IRELAND	ITALY	4 36	2.29	17.71
13	TURKIYE	GREECE	21 18	11.05	8.95
14	DENMARK	SWEDEN	19 29	6.82	13.18
15	NETHERLANDS	NORWAY	15 44	2.76	17.24
16	GERMANY	HUNGARY	7 35	2.92	17.08
17	POLAND	FRANCE	7 33	3.27	16.73

RANKING AFTER R. 8

1		ISRAEL	174.54
2		FRANCE	166.95
3		NETHERLANDS	157.64
4		DENMARK	152.05
5		SWEDEN	149.47
6		POLAND	137.39
7		NORWAY	130.50
8		ITALY	113.57
9		HUNGARY	95.85
10		ENGLAND	95.26
11		GREECE	94.30
12		TURKIYE	90.15
13		GERMANY	63.07
14		IRELAND	55.86



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RESULTS - WOMEN UNDER 26

ROUND 8

		IMPs		VPs	
21	POLAND	ENGLAND	20 24	8.62	11.38
22	NORWAY	DENMARK	17 37	4.42	15.58
23	FRANCE	HUNGARY	40 31	12.90	7.10
24	NETHERLANDS	ITALY	3 33	2.60	17.40

ROUND 9

		IMPs		VPs	
21	DENMARK	POLAND	19 46	3.09	16.91
22	ENGLAND	NORWAY	13 51	1.46	18.54
23	HUNGARY	NETHERLANDS	9 67	0.00	20.00
24	ITALY	FRANCE	21 27	7.99	12.01

ROUND 10

		IMPs		VPs	
21	POLAND	HUNGARY	27 28	9.64	10.36
22	NORWAY	ITALY	36 45	7.10	12.90
23	FRANCE	DENMARK	45 13	17.71	2.29
24	NETHERLANDS	ENGLAND	54 7	19.54	0.46

ROUND 11

		IMPs		VPs	
21	ITALY	POLAND	33 13	15.58	4.42
22	HUNGARY	NORWAY	11 13	9.29	10.71
23	ENGLAND	FRANCE	1 36	1.86	18.14
24	DENMARK	NETHERLANDS	24 5	15.37	4.63

RANKING AFTER R. 11

1		NORWAY	137.77
2		FRANCE	131.47
3		POLAND	127.12
4		ITALY	122.33
5		NETHERLANDS	115.77
6		DENMARK	99.04
7		HUNGARY	82.45
8		ENGLAND	63.25



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RESULTS - OPEN UNDER 16

ROUND 9

		IMPs		VPs		
31	POLAND	NETHERLANDS	35	10	16.55	3.45
32	ENGLAND	CROATIA	100	0	20.00	0.00
33	ISRAEL	DENMARK	39	8	17.56	2.44
34	FRANCE	GERMANY	52	38	14.22	5.78
35	TURKIYE	NORWAY	30	26	11.38	8.62
36	GREECE	HUNGARY	31	34	8.95	11.05
37	ESTONIA	BULGARIA	39	19	15.58	4.42
38	CZECH REPUBLIC	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

ROUND 10

		IMPs		VPs		
31	TURKIYE	HUNGARY	41	27	14.22	5.78
32	NORWAY	ISRAEL	29	41	6.29	13.71
33	GREECE	ENGLAND	3	46	0.87	19.13
34	BULGARIA	CZECH REPUBLIC	11	29	4.85	15.15
35	CROATIA	NETHERLANDS	18	78	0.00	20.00
36	POLAND	DENMARK	64	13	19.92	0.08
37	GERMANY	ESTONIA	15	52	1.59	18.41
38	FRANCE	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

ROUND 11

		IMPs		VPs		
31	GREECE	NORWAY	32	17	14.46	4.54
32	DENMARK	TURKIYE	23	32	7.10	12.90
33	CROATIA	HUNGARY	1	58	0.00	20.00
34	CZECH REPUBLIC	ESTONIA	38	38	10.00	10.00
35	POLAND	ENGLAND	19	58	1.34	18.66
36	ISRAEL	NETHERLANDS	17	28	6.55	13.45
37	BULGARIA	FRANCE	34	32	10.71	9.29
38	GERMANY	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

ROUND 12

		IMPs		VPs		
31	CZECH REPUBLIC	CROATIA	88	2	20.00	0.00
32	POLAND	BULGARIA	37	23	14.22	5.78
33	ESTONIA	GREECE	25	34	7.10	12.90
34	HUNGARY	NORWAY	35	18	14.93	5.07
35	FRANCE	TURKIYE	22	44	4.01	15.99
36	GERMANY	ISRAEL	20	68	0.36	19.64
37	ENGLAND	DENMARK	16	14	10.71	9.29
38	NETHERLANDS	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

RANKING AFTER R. 12

1		POLAND	185.64
2		ENGLAND	181.95
3		HUNGARY	162.94
4		CZECH REPUBLIC	157.96
5		NETHERLANDS	147.74
6		ISRAEL	142.12
7		ESTONIA	138.19
8		TURKIYE	123.63
9		GREECE	116.04
10		FRANCE	108.77
11		DENMARK	102.11
12		BULGARIA	87.08
13		GERMANY	85.54
14		NORWAY	68.92
15		CROATIA	11.17



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RESULTS - OPEN UNDER 31

ROUND 9

		IMPs		VPs	
41	GERMANY	BELGIUM	16	61	0.66 19.34
42	SERBIA	FRANCE	16	32	5.30 14.70
43	NETHERLANDS	TURKIYE	45	39	12.01 7.99
44	POLAND	ISRAEL	18	33	5.54 14.46
45	CROATIA	LATVIA	8	50	0.98 19.02
46	SCOTLAND	ROMANIA	14	52	1.46 18.54
47	HUNGARY	BULGARIA	1	35	2.00 18.00
48	PORTUGAL	SPAIN	35	30	11.70 8.30

RANKING AFTER R. 12

1		NETHERLANDS	165.23
2		FRANCE	157.49
3		BULGARIA	150.97
4		ISRAEL	148.29
5		TURKIYE	147.59
6		HUNGARY	144.41
7		POLAND	128.42
8		LATVIA	124.43
9		CROATIA	119.86
10		ROMANIA	112.80
11		BELGIUM	109.73
12		SERBIA	109.44
13		SCOTLAND	97.18
14		PORTUGAL	76.66
15		SPAIN	75.94
16		GERMANY	46.76

ROUND 10

		IMPs		VPs	
41	GERMANY	ROMANIA	31	38	7.69 12.31
42	CROATIA	HUNGARY	25	49	3.63 16.37
43	ISRAEL	PORTUGAL	40	18	15.99 4.01
44	TURKIYE	SPAIN	63	13	19.83 0.17
45	BULGARIA	FRANCE	33	47	5.78 14.22
46	BELGIUM	SCOTLAND	39	40	9.64 10.36
47	LATVIA	SERBIA	61	23	18.54 1.46
48	POLAND	NETHERLANDS	22	42	4.42 15.58

ROUND 11

		IMPs		VPs	
41	GERMANY	PORTUGAL	36	32	11.38 8.62
42	HUNGARY	SPAIN	23	23	10.00 10.00
43	ROMANIA	BULGARIA	37	41	8.62 11.38
44	CROATIA	SCOTLAND	38	26	13.71 6.29
45	LATVIA	ISRAEL	4	55	0.08 19.92
46	TURKIYE	POLAND	28	24	11.38 8.62
47	NETHERLANDS	FRANCE	23	16	12.31 7.49
48	SERBIA	BELGIUM	46	55	7.10 12.90

ROUND 12

		IMPs		VPs	
41	GERMANY	FRANCE	19	32	6.03 13.97
42	BELGIUM	TURKIYE	14	14	10.00 10.00
43	SERBIA	ISRAEL	23	23	10.00 10.00
44	NETHERLANDS	CROATIA	31	10	15.79 4.21
45	ROMANIA	POLAND	8	46	1.46 18.54
46	LATVIA	HUNGARY	27	30	8.95 11.05
47	PORTUGAL	SCOTLAND	8	43	1.86 18.14
48	SPAIN	BULGARIA	2	50	0.36 19.64



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