



28th European Youth Team Championships

19-26 July 2022 - Veldhoven, The Netherlands

DAILY BULLETIN

Editor: **Brian Senior** ♠ Journalist: **Jos Jacobs, Geon Steenbakkers, Judith van Dijken, Elianne van Dooren, Joris van Lankveld, Ruurd Riewald** ♠ Lay-out Editor: **Francesca Canali** ♠ Photographer: **Claire Vitry**

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Champions! Champions! Champions!



UNDER 26 WOMEN

- 1 ITALY
- 2 FRANCE
- 3 NETHERLANDS



UNDER 16

- 1 POLAND
- 2 ENGLAND
- 3 NETHERLANDS



UNDER 31

- 1 NETHERLANDS
- 2 TURKIYE
- 3 BULGARIA

All hail the three new champion teams of Europe!

They are, in the U31s, **Netherlands** (Pim Coppens, Bas Van Engelen, Chris Westerbeeck, Ricardo Westerbeeck, Jamilla Spangenberg Npc), in the U26W, **Italy** (Sophia Capobianco, Eleonora Dalpozzo, Federica Dalpozzo, Valentina Dalpozzo, Annachiara Pelaggi, Maddalena Pelaggi, Luigina Gentili Npc, Valerio Giubilo Coach), and in the U16s, **Poland** (Wojciech Bak, Lucja Ciborowska, Milena Klimiuk, Jan Luczeczko, Martyna Smolen, Jan Trojak, Roland Lippik Npc, Marcin Kufłowski Coach).

The silver and bronze medals in the U31 championship go to **Turkiye** (Emre Can Akkaya, Cagatay Birben, Eren Imdat, Arda Kabaca, Can Erdem Tukenmez, Ali Can Ustunboyacioglu, Kenan Ozkurt Npc) and **Bulgaria** (Mark Andonov, Zahari Ferov, Dobromir Lazarov, Todor Pavlov, Nikolai Vasilev Npc) respectively, after both had good wins in the final round to push France out of the medals.

In the U26W, Italy had a big last-round win to overtake **France** (Constance Belloy, Clara Bouton, Margaux Kurek Beaulieu, Anais Leleu, Wilhelmine Schlumberger, Mathilde Thuillez, Wilfried Libbrecht Npc, Michel Abecassis Coach), who took silver, while **Netherlands** (Fleur Beekman, Juliet Berwald, Malene Holm Christensen, Lotte De Wijs, Sarah De Wijs, Mette Lejeune, Janneke Wackwitz Npc, Rens Philipsen Coach) did just enough to hold off Poland and take the bronze medals.

England (William Battersby, Charlotte Bedford, Tom Furness, Lucy Norman, Aman Parekh, Giorgio Provenza Npc, Laura Covill Coach) took silver behind Poland in the U16 series, with an 18.54-1.46 VP last round victory over England not enough to allow Czech Republic to retain their third place, as **Netherlands** (Miel Brocken, Rex Brocken, Martijn Goor, Wout Klarenbeeck, Coen Kloppert, Richard Van Zandbeeck, Madelon Spek Npc, Dennis Stuurman Coach) scored a maximum 20-00 to pip them for bronze. Very unlucky Czech Republic.

That leaves us with only two series continuing on Sunday and for two more days after that. Italy lead the way in the U26 Open, followed by France, Sweden, Croatia, Poland and Israel. There are seven rounds remaining in that competition. Israel are over 32 VPs clear of the rest in the U21s. The chasing pack is headed by France, who are followed by Denmark, Poland, Sweden and Netherlands. Here there are 11 rounds still to be played.

Participation in World Youth Championships

In accordance with the current WBF regulation, the first eight ranked of the U26, U26W and the U21 series, will qualify to represent the European Zone in the respective series of the 2023 World Youth Championship.

The teams in the U31 and U16 series qualifying for the World Youth Championships will be by invitation of the WBF but will not be less than eight teams in each of these categories.

In the event of the host country being invited to participate in this event and this country is among the teams qualifying, the next ranked team will be considered qualified.

If the WBF modifies the regulation or the number of teams qualified from the European Zone, the EBL will modify the above accordingly.

In the event of the withdrawal of any of these leading teams, the next ranked teams in that series, in order, will be considered to have qualified for the Championship.

Should more than three teams withdraw, the EBL reserves the right to make any decisions necessary concerning representation of the Zone at the World Youth Championship.

The venue for the 2023 World Youth Team Championships has not yet been fixed, but congratulations to all the U16, U26W and U31 teams who have qualified from our European championships here in Veldhoven.



BBO MATCHES TODAY

10:00	U26	RR11	CROATIA	TURKIYE	BB01
10:00	U26	RR11	ITALY	SWEDEN	BB02
13:40	U26	RR12	NETHERLANDS	SWEDEN	BB01
13:40	U26	RR12	FRANCE	POLAND	BB02
9:30	U21	RR16	NETHERLANDS	SWEDEN	BB03
11:35	U21	RR17	DENMARK	POLAND	BB03
14:20	U21	RR18	ENGLAND	ITALY	BB03
16:25	U21	RR19	GREECE	FRANCE	BB01
	U21	RR19	HUNGARY	NORWAY	BB02
	U21	RR19	POLAND	ITALY	BB03

Decision of the TD on board 17, France-Israel U31 Round 8, after review.

Decision of the TD on board 17, France-Israel U31 Round 8, after review.

In yesterday morning's Bulletin (page 18), we reported about a 7NT contract by France being still under review. We can announce now that the result of the board has been changed to 7NT -1, which gave Israel a 14-IMP gain on the board. The reason for the decision is that the difference in information given at either side of the screen made it difficult for the defenders to find the correct defence. The actual defence at the table cannot be considered a serious mistake, so the result has to be changed to 7NT-1 because the defending side were damaged by the different explanations of the meaning of the E/W bids at the six-level given to either defender.

What can you do on Sunday evening?

On Sunday you can watch the movie 'Free Guy' starring Ryan Reynolds in the Brabantzaal. The film starts at 20:00 and ends around 22:00.

LoveBridge Statistics

Not only can you play on LoveBridge, as all who have participated in these championships know very well, but you can also find many interesting and useful statistics on the LoveBridge site.

Just follow the link below and explore all the information that is available to you.

<https://stats.lovebridge.com/>



Brian Senior Auction of the Day

At last we have been given entries for the Auction of the Day competition and, as we have not received anything from the competitors in the first few days of the tournament, we will include two stories today rather than stick rigidly to the title of the competition.

The first story comes from the U26 Round 6 match between Estonia and Hungary.

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

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

For Estonia, Rao Zvorovski opened 2♥, weak with at least four-four in the majors, and Riko Piirisild gave preference to 2♠. When the Hungarian East overcalled 3♦, that ran round to Piirisild, who doubled. That was down four for –800.

And, after a pass from South, the other room saw another Estonian, Tiit Hendrik Piibelegt, open 2♥ to show a weak hand with at least four-four in the majors. The Hungarian North overcalled 4NT to show the minors, and regretted it, when his partner responded 5♦ and Rasmus Maide knew what to do to that. This time the diamond contract was only down three, but that meant a second +800 for Estonia.

Estonia had opened 2♥ at both tables and collected +800 from opposing diamond contracts at both

tables. How often could something like that happen? Thank you to Rao Zvorovski for pointing this one out to us.

Our second exhibit was presented to us by Hungary's Mark Kemeny, and comes from Hungary's U21 match against Italy in Round 11.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 9 7 6 5 3 ♥ A 6 3 ♦ J 8 7 ♣ J	♠ K ♥ 10 7 4 ♦ 5 4 ♣ A 10 9 8 7 5 3		♠ 8 4 2 ♥ Q 5 2 ♦ K Q 10 6 3 ♣ Q 2
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West	North	East	South
<i>Carletti</i>	<i>Kemeny</i>	<i>Lombardi</i>	<i>Argay</i>
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Should Auction of the Day only consider auctions which reach the correct contract? Well, 6♣ is well short of being a 50% shot on this deal, as there is the heart guess to be taken, while 22% of the time the club will be three-zero. So, 6♣ is a poor contract, but Mark Kemeny's thought processes during the auction are worthy of a wider audience, so...

Zsolt Argay's 1♣ opening was better minor. Systemically, Kemeny could respond 1NT, 8-10 balanced, but that hardly looked appropriate, or an inverted raise, when he could choose the pre-emptive raise (4-7 with 5+ clubs) or one which was invitational-plus.

None of these appealed when holding such exceptional club length, so Kemeny instead opted for a 1♦ response, forcing for one round and promising two or more diamonds. His logic was that this way he would get to know what sort of hand his partner held in a way which would not be possible if he pre-empted.

Argay jumped to 2NT, 18-19 balanced, and now Kemeny was definitely thinking of slam. He jumped to 4♣, which they play as optional Key-card. Had Zsolt responded 4♦, that would have shown a positive interest in slam, while his actual 4♥ reply showed three key-cards but was discouraging as regards slam prospects. Kemeny, however, was still interested. He bid 4♠ to ask for the queen of trumps, hoping that the answer would be no. His logic was that, with an at least 10-card club fit, the ♣Q would usually not be required, so that would be two wasted points, hence a yes response would be bad news. A no response, however, would be good news, as it would mean two extra points in a side-suit to help to produce 12 tricks.

Well, as you will have guessed by now, Argay's 4NT response denied the queen so Kemeny jumped to the slam, and was rewarded when West cashed the ace of hearts, taking away the guess, and clubs were two-one.

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.




Brian Senior, WOMEN TEAMS U26 ROUND 7
FRANCE vs NORWAY

And so we had reached the final day of the U26W event. There were three rounds to play and the first of those featured what could be the decisive match regarding the destination of the title and the gold medals. The leaders, Norway, were up against second-placed France. There were other teams still in contention, but a big win or loss could decide the fate of these two teams.

France picked up an overtrick IMP in a normal spade game by N/S on Board 1. Board 2 was flat in 1NT just making by West, though Norway should have beaten it after Thea Lucia Indrebo found a better opening lead than her counterpart. Board 3 saw both Easts declare a poor 4♠.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A ♥ AK8 ♦ AQ105 ♣ K9853		♠ K108532 ♥ 752 ♦ 7 ♣ Q72	♠ J74 ♥ QJ10964 ♦ K64 ♣ 6 ♠ Q96 ♥ 3 ♦ J9832 ♣ AJ104
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West	North	East	South
<i>Leleu</i>	<i>Indrebo</i>	<i>Thuillez</i>	<i>Ekren</i>
–	–	–	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Saegrov</i>	<i>Belloy</i>	<i>Plana</i>	<i>Schlumberger</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	2♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Both Easts became declarer in the spade game, though by quite different routes courtesy of the respective Wests' choice of opening bid. There looks to be a lot of work to do to come to 10 tricks, but both declarers found a way home.


Wilhelmine Schlumberger led her singleton heart, Erlita Plana winning dummy's ace, cashing the ace of spades, and leading a club to the queen and ace. A club back now would have beaten the contract, but it looked better to Schlumberger to leave dummy's side-suit well alone. She returned a diamond. Plana won the ace, ruffed a diamond, Constance Belloy playing the king, and played king and another spade to South's queen. Schlumberger played back the jack of clubs but it didn't matter. With the ♦Q already established as



her tenth trick, Plana had her contract for +620.

Katarina Ekren too led the singleton heart to dummy's ace, and the play began as in the other room, declarer playing ace then ruffing a diamond, and playing king and another spade to the queen, pitching a club from dummy. There was a difference, however, in that Indrebo did not put up the king on the second diamond so the $\diamond Q$ was not established. But Ekren could see that on a diamond return declarer could put in the ten and ruff out the king, so she instead tried a return of the jack of clubs. That proved to be even worse. Mathilde Thuillez won the queen and played a club back and had three club tricks in all so the heart loser went away and she had an overtrick for +650 and 1 IMP to France,

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Leleu</i>	<i>Indrebo</i>	<i>Thuillez</i>	<i>Ekren</i>
1♠	Dble	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	All Pass	


West	North	East	South
<i>Saegrov</i>	<i>Belloy</i>	<i>Plana</i>	<i>Schlumberger</i>
1♠	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

For Norway, Indrebo could make a take-out double then convert 1NT to 2♣ without showing extra values, so did so, and 2♦ proved to be a nice comfortable contract. Thuillez led the three of spades, Anais Leleu winning the king and switching to the ten of hearts. Indrebo won the ace and played a spade to set up a discard for her diamond loser. Leleu won the spade and returned a second heart, which Indrebo won with dummy's queen to play a club up. The jack of clubs won the trick and Indrebo crossed to the ace of diamonds, took her discard on the spade, and led a second club towards the king. Leleu won the ♣A but that was all; +130.

Constance Belloy passed over 1♠ at the other table, and Schlumberger made a balancing 1NT overcall, 9-13 HCP. Belloy had to make a try for game now and did so via a Stayman 2♣, followed by 2NT. Schlumberger had a minimum so passed, but 2NT was already dangerously high. Maren Idland Saegrov led ace then a low spade, and Schlumberger could have come to eight tricks by playing on clubs, but she instead won the spade and cashed all her heart winners before passing the jack of diamonds to Saegrov's king. Saegrov had three spades and the ace of clubs to cash so the contract was down a trick for -100 and 6 IMPs to Norway.

Minor swings on the next two boards moved the score on to 7-4 in favour of Norway at the half-way point in the match.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Leleu</i>	<i>Indrebo</i>	<i>Thuillez</i>	<i>Ekren</i>
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	1♣	Dble	1♥
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Saegrov</i>	<i>Belloy</i>	<i>Plana</i>	<i>Schlumberger</i>
-	-	-	2♠
Pass	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Schlumberger opened 2♠, weak with five spades and a four-card or longer minor. That was passed round to Plana, who overcalled 2NT and was left to play there. Plane won the spade lead with dummy's jack and used her one entry to dummy to lead a heart to the queen. South showing out was very bad news. Having won the ♥Q, Plana played the king of diamonds, which Belloy won with the ace to return a spade to the king and ace. Schlumberger had discarded one spade on the heart trick, but now returned a spade to knock out the queen. Plana won the ♠Q, cashed the queen of diamonds,

and exited with her last spade. Schlumberger won the spade, cashed the jack of diamonds, and continued with a diamond to dummy's ten. Dummy had now to play a heart away from the king, so Belloy won the jack and ace, then played ace and another club, so the contract was down two for -200.

Ekren did not have the weak 2♠ bid in her system so passed as dealer. Indrebo opened in third seat, Thuillez doubled, and Ekren's 1♥ was a transfer to spades. Leleu bid 2♥ freely and that was enough to encourage Thuillez to try for game, an invitation that was swiftly declined by Leleu. Three Hearts is a playable contract, certainly more comfortable than 2NT, but the four-nil trump split is very bad news for declarer. Indrebo led the nine of spades, Ekren winning the ace and returning the suit to declarer's jack. To have any chance at all, Leleu needed to play a heart to the ten, but she led to the queen and got the bad news. She took a club pitch on a spade, but Indrebo ruffed and cashed the ace of clubs, and she continued by cashing the ace of diamonds and there were still the ace and jack of hearts to come; down two for -200 and a push board.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Leleu</i>	<i>Indrebo</i>	<i>Thuillez</i>	<i>Ekren</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♣(i)
3♥(ii)	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

- (i) Diamonds or both majors
- (ii) Spades

West	North	East	South
<i>Saegrov</i>	<i>Belloy</i>	<i>Plana</i>	<i>Schlumberger</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Both E/Ws bid to 4♠.

Plana played it from the East seat on the lead of the three of hearts. She ducked the heart to the queen and back came a spade. Plana won the ace and cashed the king, discovering the four-one break. She abandoned spades now to lead a club to the queen followed by a diamond to the jack, losing to the queen. Back came the six of hearts. Plana won the ace, played a spade to her jack, then the ten of diamonds. That got past Schlumberger, so away went dummy's heart loser. A heart ruff was followed by the queen of spades, but that was all for declarer, who was down two for -100.

Leleu played it from the West seat on the lead of the five of diamonds to the ten and queen. Leleu won the heart switch and crossed to dummy with a spade to play the ♦J. That was not covered so Leleu discarded a heart loser then cashed two more spades before leading a club to her queen. When she now cashed the queen of spades, Ekren made the fatal error of discarding the ten of clubs, so Leleu could play a club to the jack, king and ace, and had 10 tricks for +420 and 11 IMPs to France, who took the lead by 15-7.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Leleu</i>	<i>Indrebo</i>	<i>Thuillez</i>	<i>Ekren</i>
-	Pass	Pass	1♦
4♥	All Pass		


West	North	East	South
<i>Saegrov</i>	<i>Belloy</i>	<i>Plana</i>	<i>Schlumberger</i>
-	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	2♦	Pass	3♦
3♥	4♦	All Pass	

Saegrov overcalled a simple 1♥ then bid 3♥ in competition but, when Belloy competed in turn to 4♦, Saegrov decided that she had done enough and left her opponents to play the contract. There was just one trick to be lost in each side-suit, so Schlumberger

quickly chalked up +130.

Leleu took what we might call the practical approach to the west hand, and simply blasted 4♥. That not only got her to a making game, but also shut out Indebro, who had no opportunity to suggest the cheap diamond sacrifice. Indebro led a club, which Leleu ruffed with the ten. With no entry to dummy, she had no option but to lay down the ace of trumps and the fall of the king meant that her careful play at trick one had produced two dummy entries to play the spades. She led a second heart to the queen, led a spade to the king and ace, and later had the two of hearts to lead to dummy to run the ten of spades; 10 tricks for +620 and 13 IMPs to France, whose lead grew to 28-7.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Leleu</i>	<i>Indrebo</i>	<i>Thuillez</i>	<i>Ekren</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Saegrov</i>	<i>Belloy</i>	<i>Plana</i>	<i>Schlumberger</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Indrebo responded 1♠ and Ekren raised to game, showing a big balanced hand. Indrebo asked for key-cards then bid the small slam on finding Ekren with three. Indebro won the diamond lead, cashed a top spade, then came to hand with a club to the king to take the spade finesse. When that lost, Leleu returned a heart and Thuillez’s ace meant that the slam was down one for –100.

Belloy responded 2♣ then jumped to 3NT over Schlumberger’s reverse, and Schlumberger raised to

6NT – spades were never mentioned. Spades being the unbid suit, that is what Plana chose to lead, which encouraged Belloy to believe that the queen was likely to be offside. She rose with the ace and led a diamond to the ace, followed by a low heart. Plana grabbed the ace, not that it mattered, and led a second spade through. Belloy won the king and cashed the hearts and diamonds, and the last red-suit winner squeezed Saegrov in the black suits to give the contract. Nicely done for +1440 and 17 IMPs to France, who led by 45-7.

It would not have helped had Plana not risen with the ace of hearts. Had she played low, Belloy would have won the queen and played a second heart to the king and ace. That would leave West guarding three suits and, when declarer won the spade return and cashed the king and queen of diamonds, she would be squeezed out of the heart guard, after which cashing the fourth heart would squeeze her in the blacks as before – a repeating squeeze.

France picked up an overtrick IMP on Board 11 and ran out winners by 46-7 IMPs, converting to 18.66-1,34 VPs. Italy also had a big win over Denmark so, this round was a disaster for Norway. With two rounds to play, France led on 150.13 VPs, Italy were second on 141.87, Norway lay third on 139.11, and Netherlands were fourth on 133.33 Fifth-placed Poland were also in the medal hunt on 129.56.





Jos Jacobs, OPEN TEAMS U26, ROUND 8

FRANCE vs ITALY

On Friday late afternoon, the big match was scheduled between the perennial rivals from either side of the Alps, France and Italy. This time, the match was a very big one indeed, because the two teams were leading the field at the time. Italy were 7 VPs ahead of France and no doubt were keen to possibly even extend this lead. On the other hand, France could hardly afford a defeat if they wanted to keep their chances for the title intact.

First blood went to Italy on the opening board when they were doubled in a partscore for -300 with a non-vulnerable game on for the opponents. When their team-mates bid and made this game, going down for -300 was worth 3 IMPs to them, but two boards later a series of slightly more serious swing boards turned up. This was the first of them:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
-	-	-	1♣
Dble	1♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Looking at this auction, you would no doubt say: "What's the problem?" You would be quite right, because there is no problem, in fact. The French reached their proper partscore and registered an overtrick for +140 to them.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Gi Giubilo</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Ga Giubilo</i>
-	-	-	1NT
2♣	Dble	2♥	All Pass

The problem arose at the other table. When South opened a 10-14 NT, West showed his majors by bidding 2♣. North could double this for take-out or whatever but South, in view of West's bid, could hardly introduce his spades or go to the three-level, so the Italians had to be content with defending the opponents' partscore. When 2♥ also made with an overtrick, France had scored another +140 and gained 7 IMPs to take the lead in the match.

More work for the scorers two boards later.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
-	Pass	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

In the Open Room, West awaited developments after South's Multi. His jump to 4♦ showed a two-suiter with spades, over which East made a forward-going move. West was not interested and, when North led the ♥K, even 5♦ proved already too high. South overtook, cashed the ♥Q as well and continued the suit, thus promoting a trump trick for the defence. France +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Gi Giubilo</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Ga Giubilo</i>
-	Pass	1♣	1♥
Dble	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	All Pass		



When East found an opening bid, South had to be content with a simple overcall rather than a Multi. West showed his spades but, when he bid 2♦ at his next turn, the auction ended in a useful misunderstanding. North led the ♥K but when South did not overtake with the ace, declarer had all the remaining tricks. France another +170 and an unexpected 6 more IMPs to them.

More IMPs on the very next board.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

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

♠ 10 9 2		
♥ A J 10 5		
♦ 10 9 6		
♣ K 10 5		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♦	Dble
2♠	Dble	Pass	3♣
3♦	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

By bidding on and on and on, the French reached a very ambitious minor-suit game that needed some good guessing and some useful breaks. When the ♥K was right and the suit broke 3-3, Guillemin only had to guess trumps (a job probably made easier in view of the E/W intervention) to make his contract. France a tremendous +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Gi Giubilo</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Ga Giubilo</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♣	Dble	3♣
All Pass			

In the Closed Room, the Italians stopped exploring already at the three-level and registered a quiet +130 when Gianmarco made just one overtrick. Italy +130 but 7 more IMPs to France. The French were leading 20-3 at this point.

A simple eight-card suit won the auction on the next board.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

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

♠ A K		
♥ 8 7		
♦ K J 8 2		
♣ A K 8 7 6		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
–	–	–	1♣
1♠	Pass	4♥	Dble
All Pass			

South, the dealer, had a normal opening bid on his quite strong hand, West had a simple overcall but East's suit quickly ended the auction, albeit not without a final remark by South. South led a top club and immediately switched to a trump but it was already too late. East overtook dummy's ♥K and rattled off all his trumps, on which South was inexorably squeezed in all three suits, thanks to dummy's ♦10. Italy +790.

It is a remarkable hand. I was wondering how it could be defeated but a top spade lead followed by a trump would lead to the same ending, I think. Even a trump lead does not look good enough at first sight. However, if declarer cashes the eighth heart, South can pitch one of the top clubs as there is no entry to the queen. If declarer continues by playing a club, South wins and plays the ♦K, and comes to three more tricks for down one.

What about the ♦K lead to break up the communication for the squeeze? Anyone for this brilliancy prize?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Gi Giubilo</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Ga Giubilo</i>
–	–	–	1♣
1♠	Pass	2♥	Dble
2♠	Pass	3♥	All Pass

In the other room, the French stopped low and did not bother at all about an overtrick when a top club lead was followed by a trump. France +140 but 13 IMPs back to Italy to make it a real contest again: 20-15 at this point.

Four boards later, France were still leading 20-18 when Board 12 arrived. This board looked like a simple 1NT contract but, as we all know, 1NT contracts often are much more interesting than one would expect. This board proved no exception.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	All Pass

On this natural auction, South led a club to the king and ace. When declarer next played the ♠K and a spade to dummy's ♠10, he had his seven tricks when the suit broke 3-3. The ♦A and a club to establish his jack would do the job. Italy +90.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Gi Giubilo</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Ga Giubilo</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass

After a modern standard transfer auction, the French also ended up in 1NT by East and South this time made the friendly looking (from declarer's point of view) lead of a spade, solving the problem in that suit. This lead, however, turned out to be a delayed Greek gift as declarer did not have a clue as to what to do next after cashing his four spade tricks. The logical continuation was a low club to his ♣J and South's ♣Q, but now South shifted to the ♥Q. This was covered by king and ace but when North next produced a diamond switch the defence could clear this suit, cashing the ♥10 in between. Judging from his line of play, declarer's only hope was an automatic endplay against North, forcing him to lead away from his remaining ♣Kx after winning the 13th diamond. When this did not materialise, Tabata had to accept one down, only to find out that the ♣K would have dropped under the ace straight away... A slightly unlucky -50 to France but 4 more IMPs to Italy who had taken the lead: 22-20.

Not very much happened on the next five boards so when the final board arrived, Italy were still leading 25-24. West was looking at a non-vulnerable black 6-6 on this last board, so the chances were that a spectacular swing was in prospect. Let's have a look.




Nao TABATA

Gabriele GIUBILO

Gianmarco GIUBILO

Maxence FRAGOLA

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Gi Giubilo</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Ga Giubilo</i>
–	–	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

In the Closed Room, West immediately realised that staying quiet might be a wise move opposite his partner's weak two, so the French allowed their opponents to bid and make their normal enough game. The play raised an eyebrow or two, I think. West led a club to dummy's ace and the ♦9 went to the ace, West throwing a spade. A low diamond from hand by declarer would now have ensured the contract, but declarer played a spade instead. Dummy's ♠Q won,

and on the ♦8 from dummy East played the jack and declarer ducked. East correctly exited with a spade to partner's ace and, had West now continued a heart, the defenders would have been able to lock declarer in his hand, denying him an entry to dummy for the much-wanted diamond finesse, and thus beating the contract. However, when West returned a club, dummy could win the ace, take a diamond finesse and claim an overtrick. Italy +630.

In the Open Room, Porta did not give his partner a warning sign as dealer.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦
3♣	3NT	Pass	Pass
4♣	Dble	All Pass	

West's 3♣ showed the black two-suiter and over 3NT Donati thought that his hand was good enough to give it another try. North had an easy double and an easy lead as well, or so he thought. His lead of the ♣A gave declarer a tempo, so the eventual outcome was down only three, –500 to Italy but still 4 IMPs to them. They had won the match by 29-24 IMPs, or 11.41-8.59 VPs. One wonders what would have happened on an immediate diamond lead by North. South can over-ruff the dummy in spades so more undertricks would have been in prospect.



Federico PORTA

Arthur BOULIN

Theo GUILLEMIN

Giovanni DONATI


Brian Senior, OPEN TEAMS U31, ROUND 15

NETHERLANDS vs ISRAEL


One round to go in the first ever European U31 Team Championship, and Netherlands leads France by just over 6 VPs at the top of the rankings. The Dutch face fourth-placed Israel in the final round, the Israelis also having hopes of at least a medal and maybe even the title if things go really well for them. The bad news for these two teams is that France and third-placed Turkiye both have easier matches on paper, against teams in the lower half of the rankings.

Netherlands struck first, winning the auction at both tables.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A Q J 6 ♥ Q 8 5 2 ♦ J 9 5 2 ♣ 9		♠ K 9 8 3 2 ♥ J 3 ♦ 10 ♣ K 8 6 5 3	♠ 10 7 5 ♥ K 10 9 4 ♦ K Q 4 ♣ A 7 2
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West	North	East	South
Van Engelen	Urman	C Westerbeek	Rosenthal
–	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Ben David	R Westerbeek	Ginossar	Coppens
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♦	Dble	1♠	2♥
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Chris Westerbeek's weak two-suited 2♠ opening shut his opponents out of the auction. Bas Van Engelen responded 3♣, pass or correct, and that was that. Lior Urman led his singleton club and Lee Rosenthal ducked this to Van Engelen, who won the queen and led a spade up. Urman won the ace and returned a heart to the king and ace, but now declarer embarked on a grand cross-ruff, cashing the ♠K along the way, and had 10 tricks for +130.

With no pre-emptive opening against them, the Dutch N/S won the auction in 3♥, starting with a potentially short club and a double that showed hearts.

Yuval Ben David led his singleton spade, but Coppens rose with the ace and led a heart to the king and ace. Ben David returned a suit-preference ten of clubs to the king and ace, and Coppens led the ten of hearts and went up with the queen. The fall of the jack was good news. Coppens continued by drawing the last missing trump then playing the ten of spades. Itamar Ginossar won the ace and returned a diamond to his partner's ace and Coppens had 10 tricks for +170 and 7 IMPs to Netherlands.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Van Engelen	Urman	C Westerbeek	Rosenthal
–	–	1♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		


West	North	East	South
Ben David	R Westerbeek	Ginossar	Coppens
–	–	1♠	Dble
4♠	5♥	All Pass	

The Dutch E/W had a free run to 4♠, against which Rosenthal led the eight of diamonds to the two, jack and ace. Westerbeek led the queen of spades to Rosenthal's ace and Rosenthal returned a heart to Urman's ace. There was just one club to be lost so Westerbeek had 10 tricks for +420.

Coppens doubled the opening spade bid and, though Ben David raised to 4♠, that was never going to be enough to shut out the North hand and Ricardo Westerbeek bid 5♥ and played there. Ginossar led out three rounds of diamonds, crashing his partner's queen in the process, and that speeded the play up a little. Westerbeek could ruff high, draw trumps, and had 11 tricks for +650 and 14 IMPs to Netherlands,

who led by 21-0 after just two deals.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Engelen</i>	<i>Urman</i>	<i>C Westerbeek</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Ben David</i>	<i>R Westerbeek</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Both Wests opened a potentially short club and both Easts responded with a transfer to hearts.

Ben David rebid 1♠, thereby denying heart support, and Ginossar gave a gentle raise to 2♠, which did not interest Ben David in the slightest. Westerbeek led out three rounds of diamonds against 2♠, Ben David winning the queen and drawing trumps then playing on hearts. Westerbeek won the first heart and returned a club so Ben David had 10 tricks for +170.

Van Engelen rebid 1♥, showing fewer than four hearts in a weak NT type, and his partner's 1NT rebid showed four spades. Van Engelen admitted to the spade fit and Westerbeek invited game, which Van Engelen accepted. Urman led the ace of diamonds, looked at dummy, and switched to the nine of clubs for the king and ace. Van Engelen drew trumps, pitched diamonds on clubs, and knocked out the ace of hearts; 11 tricks for +650 and 10 IMPs to Netherlands, whose lead was already up to 31-0. The Dutch had one hand on the trophy.

Six Hearts was slightly worse than a finesse for the king of trumps on Board 4, but both N/Ss stopped safely in game – the king was onside, so optimists would have earned a big pay-off. Slam was perhaps slightly worse on the next deal...



Itamar GINOSSAR

Pim COPPENS

Ricardo WESTERBEEK

Yuval BEN DAVID

ISRAEL

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Van Engelen	Urman	C Westerbeek	Rosenthal
–	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Ben David	R Westerbeek	Ginossar	Coppens
Pass	1NT	Pass	
3NT	All Pass		

Ginossar's 1NT was 14-16 and Ben David simply raised to game, where Ginossar made 11 tricks after a spade lead; +460.

Westerbeek's 1NT opening showed a point more. Van Engelen transferred to clubs, 2NT showing at

least one top honour and usually three or more clubs. We don't have the meaning of 3♦, but it looks as though it was just control-showing. Westerbeek signed off in 3NT but then admitted to a heart control when Van Engelen went on with a clear slam try, and Van Engelen liked his aces enough to bid the small slam. Van Engelen won the spade lead in hand and took the club finesse then led a second club to the king and ace, before playing ace and another diamond. He put up the queen in hope of an overtrick but that lost and he had to settle for 12 and +920. That was 10 more IMPs to Netherlands, and the lead was up to 41-0.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Van Engelen	Urman	C Westerbeek	Rosenthal
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♥	2♦	Pass	3♦
All Pass			



Chris WESTERBEEK

Lee ROSENTHAL

Lior URMAN

Bas VAN ENGELEN

West	North	East	South
<i>Ben David</i>	<i>R Westerbeek</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♥	2♦	Pass	2♥
Dble	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	


The auctions began in the same way but then Rosenthal made a simple diamond raise, which ended the auction, while Coppens cuebid to show a good raise and Westerbeek drove to game. Both Easts led the eight of hearts to the ten, queen and ace.

Urman played the queen of diamonds at trick two and this was allowed to hold by Van Engelen. After a second trump had been played, there were 11 tricks for +150.

Westerbeek too played the ♦Q at trick two but, defending against game, Ben David won immediately and returned a heart for his partner to ruff; down one for –50 and 5 IMPs to Israel. They still trailed by 5-41 – too little, too late?

Board 7 was a flat 4♠ for N/S, just making, but there was a swing on the next deal.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Engelen</i>	<i>Urman</i>	<i>C Westerbeek</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>
1♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	


West	North	East	South
<i>Ben David</i>	<i>R Westerbeek</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
1♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
1♥	2♣	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Rosenthal made a balancing double then invited game over Urman's 1NT response, and Urman went on to game. There were nine top tricks for +400.

At the other table, Ben David rebid 1♥ with the

West cards and his opponents had a harder time of it in recognising just what range their bids now showed. Westerbeek bid 2♣ freely but might have done so with a bit less strength, and Coppens' raise was also not very defined. Three Clubs ended the auction and Westerbeek made an overtrick for +130 but 7 IMPs to Israel; 12-41.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Engelen</i>	<i>Urman</i>	<i>C Westerbeek</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>
–	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Ben David</i>	<i>R Westerbeek</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
Pass	1♣	2♦	
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Coppens overcalled 2♦, just a weak jump overcall, albeit not a standard, down the middle, example. Spades were agreed and Ben David made one slam try then gave up when he didn't see a heart cuebid from Ginossar. After a diamond lead, Ben David came to 12 tricks for +680.

The Dutch E/W pair had an uncontested auction, in which 1♥ showed spades, 1♠ denied four-card support, and 2NT was GF. Once Van Engelen got spade support out of his partner he just drove to slam despite the lack of a cuebid from Westerbeek. Rosenthal led the four of diamonds, Westerbeek rising with the ace and crossing to hand with a spade to the queen to take two heart pitches on the top clubs. Having done so, Van Engelen led a diamond to the king and that was ruffed. A low club back was ruffed with the jack and over-ruffed, but there was no way

home from here and Westerbeek was down one for -100 and 13 IMPs to Israel, coming closer at 25-41.

Had declarer cashed the ♠A before playing to the queen, he would have seen the ♣Q fall on his left and could simply have given up a club to come to 12 tricks. And, of course, had West been declarer, he might well have received the lead of the nine of diamonds and been able to take a more successful view of the diamond position.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Engelen</i>	<i>Urman</i>	<i>C Westerbeek</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>
-	-	3♣	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Ben David</i>	<i>R Westerbeek</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
-	-	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

Chris Westerbeek's club pre-empt silenced everyone, but that was not good news on this layout. He ducked the lead of the king of hearts and also the switch to the ♦Q. Now Rosenthal tried a low spade. Westerbeek won the ace, ruffed a spade, and led his remaining diamond up, Rosenthal pitching a heart as Urman won the trick. A heart went to dummy's ace, a spade was ruffed, and now a heart was ruffed and over-ruffed. Urman's club return left Westerbeek with a club and a heart to lose so he was down two for -200.

Ginossar did not open the East hand but showed his clubs later in the auction. When Ricardo Westerbeek balanced with 2♦ on the North hand he was left to play there. Ginossar cashed the ace of clubs then switched to his singleton spade. Ben David won the ace and gave him a ruff, won the heart return and gave him a second spade ruff. Ginossar cashed the ♣K now and the contract was down before West had even had to play a trump. Ginossar played a heart to dummy

and Westerbeek played the queen of diamonds. Ben David had two trump tricks to come so the contract was down three for -300 and another 11 IMPs to Israel, who were close now at 36-41.

Netherlands stopped the rot on Board 11, when their North was down two in a perfectly playable 3NT while Israel were down three playing it from the South seat. Minus 100 against -150 meant 2 IMPs to Netherlands, growing the lead a little to 43-36. And finally, both N/S were two down in NT contracts on the final board to end what had turned out to be an exciting match with a push.

Netherlands won the match by 43-36 IMPs, which converted to 12.31-7.69 VPs. That was sufficient for Netherlands to retain the lead and become the first ever European U31 Team Championship. Israel finished fourth. France were heavily defeated by Belgium so dropped to fifth, while silver and bronze went to Turkiye and Bulgaria respectively, who both finished with good wins.




More pictures are available on the EBL Facebook Page!
<https://www.facebook.com/europeanbridge>

Jos Jacobs, **OPEN TEAMS U26, ROUND 9****ITALY vs ISRAEL**

After their win over France, another high-ranked opponent was awaiting the Italians. Israel were in fourth place after their win against third-placed Sweden a round earlier, so another good match could be expected. And so it proved: more than half the boards were pushes, while on three more boards just one overtrick or one non-vulnerable extra undertrick was at stake. As a result of all this, only five boards really troubled the scorers. So why not report on all five?

After a flat first board, the next one was not so flat.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Scata</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>	<i>Gaiotti</i>
–	–	1♦	1♥
Dble	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

This board looks a typical example of modern bridge. Neither East nor West are looking at a genuine decent opening bid, but still they end up in 3NT because of the opening+opening=game idea. Well, it sometimes works and declarer certainly was not without hope when South led a low heart to his ♥10. Diamonds 3-3 with the ace onside might have helped him... In actual play, declarer first tried a spade but South immediately rose with the king to play the ♥K. Declarer won and crossed to a top club in dummy but, when North won the next spade from dummy to continue a diamond, declarer's fate was sealed. South won the ♦K with his ace and simply returned the ♦10 to establish the fifth trick for the defence. Italy +50.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Donati	Baniri	Porta	Ezion
–	–	1♦	1♥
Dble	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

More careful, or more disciplined, if you want, bidding in the other room saw the Italians stop in just 2NT. South led a low heart at this table as well, so declarer could win cheaply and try a spade. When dummy's queen was allowed to win the trick, declarer could turn his attention to diamonds and thus end up with an overtrick for another +150 and 5 IMPs to Italy.

The score stood at 8-1 to Italy when we reached the half-way stage of the match.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Scata</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>	<i>Gaiotti</i>
–	–	1NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

East opened a strong 1NT and, when West launched a Puppet variation, E/W were quickly in game. South led a top diamond to declarer's ace but when Zeitak next ran the ♣8 to North's ♣10 (what else could he do?) North switched to a heart. South was allowed to win his king and return the suit but with North still looking at his ♣AK, his fourth heart finally became the second undertrick. Italy +200. Please note that South did not overcall over 1NT.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Baniri</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Ezion</i>
–	–	1♠	3♦
All Pass			

In the other room, East opened just 1♠ which enabled South to show his suit. Everybody respected this but declarer could not avoid down two for another +200 and 9 IMPs to Italy.

Three more flat boards but then:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Scata</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>	<i>Gaiotti</i>
2	–	Pass	Pass
4♦	Dble	All Pass	

Gaiotti may well have been hoping for the best when he passed partner's double of 4♦ but he must have been very pleased with the result. Down two with no game on for his side. Italy +300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Baniri</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Ezion</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♦	Dble	1♠	Pass
2♣	2♥	All Pass	

For Donati, the West hand was a quite normal opening bid in third position, but E/W were happy to sell out to North's 2♥. Two overtricks came home when East played low to declarer's first round of spades, low to dummy's nine, which won the trick. Israel +170 but still 4 more IMPs to Italy.

And the next board:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Scata</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>	<i>Gaiotti</i>
–	–	–	1♦
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	2♠	Dble	3♦
Dble	All Pass		

For once, the Italians were too aggressive. Had there been a fit, N/S might have escaped cheaply after this indiscretion, but when South's rescue action did not improve the situation for them, the cost still was 1100 to Israel for down four.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Baniri</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Ezion</i>
–	–	–	1♦
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In the other room, the Italians reached their normal game but +430 was not enough compensation: 12 IMPs back to Israel. The score now stood at 21-13 to Italy.




After two more flat boards, this was the last board:

3♥ for E/W, but how to reach it from this point? So he passed and his partner then had to accept two down. Italy +100.

In the replay, East started proceedings one level lower.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Donati	Baniri	Porta	Ezion
–	–	2♥	2NT
3♠	Dble	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Khutorsky	Scata	Zeitak	Gaiotti
–	–	3♥	All Pass

For Khutorsky's pointed 6-5 two-suiter, Zeitak's 3♥ pre-empt was just too much. Even 4♠ is better than

After this more careful start, the Italians even reached their good but unmakeable spade game. The game is beaten by forcing declarer with hearts all the time. Eventually a trump promotion will take place. N/S bid on to 5♣, vulnerable against not and, when nobody doubled this, they only lost 100 when the contract had to go one down. Italy thus added another +100 or 5 IMPs to win the match by 26-13 IMPs, or 13.34-6.66 VPs. They thus had easily maintained their position at the top of the table.



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RESULTS - OPEN UNDER 26

ROUND 9

		IMPs		VPs	
1	IRELAND	LATVIA	33 56	4.68	15.32
2	ITALY	ISRAEL	26 13	13.34	6.66
3	SWEDEN	ENGLAND	38 42	8.86	11.14
4	GERMANY	HUNGARY	45 32	13.34	6.66
5	GREECE	FRANCE	25 55	3.54	16.46
6	CROATIA	ESTONIA	37 24	13.34	6.66
7	NORWAY	TURKIYE	36 69	3.10	16.90
8	POLAND	BULGARIA	72 34	17.57	2.43
9	NETHERLANDS	SCOTLAND	59 26	16.90	3.10

ROUND 10

		IMPs		VPs	
1	IRELAND	CROATIA	10 65	0.66	19.34
2	NORWAY	GREECE	38 33	11.41	8.59
3	HUNGARY	BULGARIA	41 41	10.00	10.00
4	ENGLAND	NETHERLANDS	18 44	4.16	15.84
5	SCOTLAND	ITALY	25 65	2.19	17.81
6	POLAND	LATVIA	55 54	10.29	9.71
7	TURKIYE	ISRAEL	15 38	4.68	15.32
8	SWEDEN	ESTONIA	81 5	20.00	0.00
9	FRANCE	GERMANY	41 33	12.17	7.83

RANKING AFTER R. 10

1	 ITALY	153.98
2	 FRANCE	141.68
3	 SWEDEN	137.39
4	 CROATIA	129.74
5	 POLAND	128.97
6	 ISRAEL	123.10
7	 NETHERLANDS	110.34
8	 TURKIYE	110.17
9	 GREECE	110.03
10	 ESTONIA	102.04
11	 BULGARIA	101.43
12	 ENGLAND	94.13
13	 GERMANY	93.59
14	 NORWAY	89.43
15	 HUNGARY	66.56
16	 LATVIA	66.54
17	 SCOTLAND	22.61
18	 IRELAND	16.87

RESULTS - OPEN UNDER 21

ROUND 13

		IMPs		VPs	
11	ISRAEL	NORWAY	40 36	11.38	8.62
12	HUNGARY	DENMARK	31 9	15.99	4.01
13	GREECE	FRANCE	24 32	7.39	12.61
14	POLAND	IRELAND	63 32	16.66	2.34
15	ENGLAND	GERMANY	19 26	7.69	12.31
16	ITALY	NETHERLANDS	49 20	17.24	2.76
17	TURKIYE	SWEDEN	22 19	11.05	8.95

ROUND 14

		IMPs		VPs	
11	ISRAEL	NETHERLANDS	61 13	19.64	0.36
12	HUNGARY	FRANCE	39 17	15.99	4.01
13	ENGLAND	DENMARK	22 1	15.79	4.21
14	GREECE	SWEDEN	19 35	5.30	14.70
15	TURKIYE	POLAND	47 20	16.91	3.09
16	GERMANY	NORWAY	27 26	10.36	9.64
17	IRELAND	ITALY	4 49	0.66	19.34

ROUND 15

		IMPs		VPs	
11	FRANCE	DENMARK	14 40	3.27	16.73
12	HUNGARY	NETHERLANDS	31 10	15.79	4.21
13	ENGLAND	SWEDEN	37 16	15.79	4.21
14	GREECE	POLAND	13 47	2.00	18.00
15	TURKIYE	NORWAY	35 35	10.00	10.00
16	GERMANY	ITALY	37 11	16.73	3.27
17	IRELAND	ISRAEL	18 29	6.55	13.45

RANKING AFTER R. 15

1	 ISRAEL	219.01
2	 FRANCE	186.84
3	 DENMARK	179.47
4	 POLAND	175.14
5	 SWEDEN	174.86
6	 NETHERLANDS	164.97
7	 NORWAY	158.76
8	 ITALY	153.42
9	 HUNGARY	143.62
10	 ENGLAND	134.53
11	 TURKIYE	128.11
12	 GREECE	108.99
13	 GERMANY	102.47
14	 IRELAND	65.41

RESULTS - WOMEN UNDER 26

ROUND 12

		IMPs		VPs	
21	POLAND	NETHERLANDS	23	54	2.44 17.56
22	NORWAY	FRANCE	7	46	1.34 18.66
23	ITALY	DENMARK	63	16	19.54 0.46
24	HUNGARY	ENGLAND	49	6	19.13 0.87





ROUND 13

		IMPs		VPs	
21	FRANCE	POLAND	29	24	11.70 8.30
22	NETHERLANDS	NORWAY	30	10	15.58 4.42
23	ENGLAND	ITALY	2	24	4.01 15.99
24	DENMARK	HUNGARY	41	28	13.97 6.03

ROUND 14

		IMPs		VPs	
21	POLAND	NORWAY	41	5	18.28 1.72
22	FRANCE	NETHERLANDS	32	27	11.70 8.30
23	ITALY	HUNGARY	55	2	20.00 0.00
24	DENMARK	ENGLAND	24	56	2.29 17.71

FINAL RANKING

1	 ITALY	177.86
2	 FRANCE	173.53
3	 NETHERLANDS	157.21
4	 POLAND	156.14
5	 NORWAY	145.25
6	 DENMARK	115.76
7	 HUNGARY	107.61
8	 ENGLAND	85.84

RESULTS - OPEN UNDER 16

ROUND 13

		IMPs		VPs	
31	ISRAEL	ENGLAND	44	29	14.46 5.54
32	HUNGARY	POLAND	31	50	4.63 15.37
33	TURKIYE	NETHERLANDS	28	53	2.95 16.55
34	GERMANY	BULGARIA	49	43	12.01 7.99
35	GREECE	DENMARK	36	11	16.55 3.45
36	CROATIA	NORWAY	8	61	-0.40 19.60
37	FRANCE	CZECH REPUBLIC	25	40	5.54 14.46
38	ESTONIA	Bye	0	0	12 0.00

ROUND 14

		IMPs		VPs	
31	DENMARK	GERMANY	49	7	19.02 0.98
32	BULGARIA	NORWAY	30	39	7.10 12.90
33	NETHERLANDS	FRANCE	31	12	15.37 4.63
34	POLAND	ISRAEL	68	5	20.00 0.00
35	ENGLAND	ESTONIA	54	18	18.28 1.72
36	HUNGARY	CZECH REPUBLIC	33	27	12.01 7.99
37	CROATIA	TURKIYE	0	89	0.00 20.00
38	GREECE	Bye	0	0	12 0.00

ROUND 15

		IMPs		VPs	
31	ENGLAND	CZECH REPUBLIC	13	51	1.46 18.54
32	ESTONIA	NETHERLANDS	7	69	0.00 20.00
33	HUNGARY	BULGARIA	7	28	4.21 15.79
34	TURKIYE	GREECE	15	44	2.76 17.24
35	NORWAY	GERMANY	32	5	16.91 3.09
36	DENMARK	FRANCE	44	51	7.69 12.31
37	ISRAEL	CROATIA	54	22	17.71 2.29
38	POLAND	Bye	0	0	12 0.00

FINAL RANKING

1	 POLAND	233.01
2	 ENGLAND	207.23
3	 NETHERLANDS	199.66
4	 CZECH REPUBLIC	198.95
5	 HUNGARY	183.79
6	 ISRAEL	174.29
7	 GREECE	161.83
8	 ESTONIA	151.91
9	 TURKIYE	149.34
10	 DENMARK	132.27
11	 FRANCE	131.25
12	 NORWAY	118.33
13	 BULGARIA	117.96
14	 GERMANY	101.62
15	 CROATIA	13.06

RESULTS - OPEN UNDER 31

ROUND 13

		IMPs		VPs	
41	GERMANY	POLAND	17 47	2.60	17.40
42	LATVIA	NETHERLANDS	33 21	13.71	6.29
43	SCOTLAND	SERBIA	37 33	11.38	8.62
44	BULGARIA	BELGIUM	45 20	16.55	3.45
45	FRANCE	SPAIN	34 32	10.71	9.29
46	PORTUGAL	TURKIYE	23 53	1.70	17.40
47	ISRAEL	HUNGARY	49 7	19.02	0.98
48	CROATIA	ROMANIA	26 33	7.29	12.11

ROUND 14

		IMPs		VPs	
41	GERMANY	SCOTLAND	28 33	8.30	11.70
42	BULGARIA	LATVIA	23 41	4.85	15.15
43	SPAIN	POLAND	9 53	0.76	19.24
44	PORTUGAL	NETHERLANDS	23 47	3.63	16.37
45	SERBIA	HUNGARY	14 35	4.21	15.79
46	ROMANIA	BELGIUM	13 28	5.54	14.46
47	FRANCE	CROATIA	78 14	20.00	0.00
48	TURKIYE	ISRAEL	35 17	15.15	4.85

ROUND 15

		IMPs		VPs	
41	GERMANY	SPAIN	45 20	16.55	3.45
42	PORTUGAL	BULGARIA	9 44	1.86	18.14
43	HUNGARY	SCOTLAND	31 15	14.70	5.30
44	ROMANIA	LATVIA	13 17	8.62	11.38
45	POLAND	CROATIA	23 35	6.29	13.71
46	ISRAEL	NETHERLANDS	36 43	7.69	12.31
47	SERBIA	TURKIYE	19 33	5.78	14.22
48	BELGIUM	FRANCE	53 10	19.13	0.87

FINAL RANKING

1		NETHERLANDS	200.20
2		TURKIYE	194.36
3		BULGARIA	190.51
4		ISRAEL	186.22
5		FRANCE	182.70
6		HUNGARY	175.88
7		POLAND	171.35
8		LATVIA	164.67
9		BELGIUM	146.77
10		CROATIA	140.86
11		ROMANIA	139.07
12		SERBIA	128.05
13		SCOTLAND	125.56
14		SPAIN	89.44
15		PORTUGAL	83.85
16		GERMANY	74.21



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BUTLER RANKING - WOMEN UNDER 26

CHRISTENSEN Malene Holm	BEEKMAN Fleur	0.76	144	Netherlands	U26W
BYRA Aleksandra	ZAREBA Anna	0.67	156	Poland	U26W
DALPOZZO Valentina	DALPOZZO Federica	0.64	156	Italy	U26W
EKREN Katarina	BREKKE Kaja	0.62	60	Norway	U26W
LEJEUNE Mette	BERWALD Juliet	0.58	96	Netherlands	U26W
LELEU Anais	THUILLEZ Mathilde	0.49	168	France	U26W
SCHLUMBERGER Wilhelmine	BELLOY Constance	0.49	72	France	U26W
PELAGGI Maddalena	PELAGGI Annachiara	0.43	84	Italy	U26W
SUSZANOWICZ Natalia	LUCKA Dominika	0.39	108	Poland	U26W
CAPOBIANCO Sophia	DALPOZZO Eleonora	0.38	96	Italy	U26W
INDREBO Thea Lucia	EKREN Katarina	0.33	48	Norway	U26W
BOUTON Clara	KUREK BEAULIEU Margaux	0.29	96	France	U26W
SAEGROV Maren Idland	PLANA Erleta	0.27	108	Norway	U26W
INDREBO Thea Lucia	STATLE Mia Eline	0.17	60	Norway	U26W
SINCLAIR Raffy	KEARNEY Lily	-0.14	108	England	U26W
THRANE JACOBSEN Leah	PEDERSEN Clara Brun	-0.14	120	Denmark	U26W
BEKO Zsuzsanna	TOTH Andrea	-0.21	120	Hungary	U26W
BUNE Sophie	BUNE Amalie Rosa	-0.44	108	Denmark	U26W
INDREBO Thea Lucia	BREKKE Kaja	-0.44	48	Norway	U26W
MORAWSKA EWA	BANASZKIEWICZ Maria	-0.58	72	Poland	U26W
BEKO Zsofia	BIBORKA Agnes	-0.59	108	Hungary	U26W
HEGEDUS Julia	BANHAZI Dorina	-0.68	108	Hungary	U26W
DE WIJS Lotte	DE WIJS Sarah	-0.69	96	Netherlands	U26W
HUDSON Kimberley Rachel	COLEY Dido Mari Mirabelle	-0.73	132	England	U26W
SIGSGAARD Julie Marina	ROSTHOEJ Ella	-0.79	108	Denmark	U26W
JONES Megan	MADDEN Bethany	-1.41	96	England	U26W
INDREBO Thea Lucia	PLANA Erleta	-2.83	12	Norway	U26W



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BUTLER RANKING - UNDER 16

PAREKH Aman	BATTERSBY William	1.83	36	England	U16
LUCZECZKO Jan	SMOLEN Martyna	1.68	60	Poland	U16
GOOR Martijn	KLARENBECK Wout	1.60	143	Netherlands	U16
PAREKH Aman	FURNESS Tom	1.49	72	England	U16
BAK Wojciech	KLIMIUK Milena	1.46	144	Poland	U16
CIBOROWSKA Lucja	TROJAK Jan	1.43	131	Poland	U16
VACHTARCIKOVA Nikol	LYSEK Matyas	1.10	168	Czech Republic	U16
ORMA Eleliis	ALLAS Stella Brita	1.03	60	Estonia	U16
NORMAN Lucy	FURNESS Tom	0.99	71	England	U16
NTALIANIS Georgios-Angelos	BEN GUIGUI Costa Theodore	0.95	60	Greece	U16
KATSAKIORIS Dimitrios	BEN GUIGUI Costa Theodore	0.92	12	Greece	U16
ZABRADI Benjamin	JUHASZ-MOLNAR Mirko	0.83	120	Hungary	U16
BEDFORD Charlotte	NORMAN Lucy	0.76	84	England	U16
SKOURTSIDIS Konstantinos	BEN GUIGUI Costa Theodore	0.70	60	Greece	U16
KARLIK Petr	OTRADOVEC Dan	0.63	168	Czech Republic	U16
PEDMANSON Albert	VAHK Jasper	0.56	168	Estonia	U16
BIBORKA Bernadett	SZATMARY Benedek	0.50	108	Hungary	U16
SARTORI Lucas	GALLARD Silvere	0.47	144	France	U16
GISIN Eitan	SHOR Yoav	0.47	155	Israel	U16
HENRIKSEN Line	RASMUSSEN Alma Ertbjerg	0.46	168	Denmark	U16
BATTERSBY William	BEDFORD Charlotte	0.35	71	England	U16
KONSTANTINIDOU Nikoleta	BELIGIANI Adamantia (Mandy)	0.34	132	Greece	U16
STRAUME Pauls Olafs	SEPP Huup	0.33	36	Estonia	U16
HOSCAN Ilbey Seyhan	KUZU Kagan	0.33	132	Turkiye	U16
RABINOVICH Yonatan	MATTAN Yaroker	0.31	156	Israel	U16
BROCKEN Rex	BROCKEN Miel	0.27	107	Netherlands	U16
GRANDE-WEBERG Solvei	WEDVIK Cathrine	0.17	108	Norway	U16
YILDIRIM Bilge Suheda	DALDAL Ceren	0.11	47	Turkiye	U16
TOKES Denes	KOVACS Artur	0.10	108	Hungary	U16
VAN ZANDBEEK Richard	KLOPPERT Coen	0.04	84	Netherlands	U16
PIETERS Ron	SHLESINGER YAFFE Niko	0.00	24	Israel	U16
ALTUN Tuana	TORT Zeynep	-0.04	156	Turkiye	U16
KATSAKIORIS Dimitrios	NTALIANIS Georgios-Angelos	-0.13	24	Greece	U16
DANIEL LORER David	LORER Matilda	-0.16	168	Bulgaria	U16
DOERDELMANN Bruno	SCHADE Lukas	-0.23	108	Germany	U16
BENS Ninon	BONIN Eulalie	-0.30	168	France	U16
OSEN Einar	AUSTAD Kristian Dalemark	-0.36	120	Norway	U16
ZEEBERG Frederik	LARSEN Mathias Moeller	-0.75	168	Denmark	U16
ZAIDENBERG GATT Aviv L	ZAIDENBERG GATT Sophie	-0.81	166	Bulgaria	U16
KOERNER Benedikt Philip	TYKHONYUK Nestor	-0.83	120	Germany	U16
ALTHAUS Sophie	RIDOU Solveig	-0.95	108	Germany	U16
SKOURTSIDIS Konstantinos	NTALIANIS Georgios-Angelos	-1.08	12	Greece	U16
BREKKE Jonas	MOE Markus Hansen	-1.37	108	Norway	U16
STRAUME Pauls Olafs	ORMA Eleliis	-1.78	72	Estonia	U16
CAYLA Mathilde	EXBRAYAT Theo	-2.04	24	France	U16
KATSAKIORIS Dimitrios	SKOURTSIDIS Konstantinos	-2.23	35	Greece	U16
PROBST Tristan Nicholas	DRAGCEVIC Nina	-2.83	132	Croatia	U16
HUM Karlo	SMADILO RALIS Bruno	-3.56	108	Croatia	U16
GAJZER Tia	CIZEL Eva	-4.27	96	Croatia	U16

BUTLER RANKING - WOMEN UNDER 31

VANDEWIELE Emiel	DEHAYE Clovis	2.08	12	Belgium	U31
WESTERBEEK Ricardo	COPPENS Pim	0.81	180	Netherlands	U31
MARKS Rafal	CHODACKI Maksymilian	0.80	131	Poland	U31
TUKENMEZ Can Erdem	AKKAYA Emre Can	0.76	144	Turkiye	U31
RETZLER Rainer	TIRC Sorin	0.69	36	Romania	U31
LAZAROV Dobromir	FEROV Zahari	0.66	180	Bulgaria	U31
THIZY Clement	BERNARD Julien	0.62	131	France	U31
KONKOLY Csaba	FISCHER Brigitta	0.62	144	Hungary	U31
BIRBEN Cagatay	USTUNBOYACIOGLU Ali Can	0.60	96	Turkiye	U31
MOURGUES Jennifer	ROMBAUT Leo	0.59	96	France	U31
GINOSSAR Itamar	BEN DAVID Yuval	0.57	168	Israel	U31
WESTERBEEK Chris	VAN ENGELEN Bas	0.47	180	Netherlands	U31
ANDONOV Mark	PAVLOV Todor	0.46	180	Bulgaria	U31
IMDAT Eren	KABACA Arda	0.45	120	Turkiye	U31
ROSENTHAL Lee	URMAN Lior	0.39	156	Israel	U31
TUBAK Daniel	BUDAI Laszlo	0.36	72	Hungary	U31
CHARIGNON Fabrice	COMBESCURE Baptiste	0.34	132	France	U31
TIRC Sorin	CALIPETRE David Cristian	0.33	12	Romania	U31
PELSIS Nauris	BALODIS Martins	0.22	180	Latvia	U31
MAJCHER Arkadiusz	SOBCZAK Mateusz	0.21	156	Poland	U31
ANDRUSZKIEWICZ Jakub	SUCHARDA Edward	0.21	72	Poland	U31
WEBER Stefan	BOHNSACK Sandro	0.18	120	Germany	U31
MAASIK Martin	PRUUL Karl-Markus	0.13	179	Latvia	U31
VELJA Stefan	VAZIC Stojan	0.11	156	Serbia	U31
MORAES Jose	ARRAIANO Rita	0.08	132	Portugal	U31
PLOSCARU Ioan Laurentiu	CALIPETRE David Cristian	0.06	156	Romania	U31
DEHAYE Clovis	MONTICELLI Romain	0.04	119	Belgium	U31
VANDEWIELE Emiel	DE WIT Dennis	0.03	132	Belgium	U31
CICVARIC Borna	VIDOVIC Toni	0.02	120	Croatia	U31
RETZLER Rainer	ORDOG Akos	-0.10	120	Romania	U31
DJILOVIC Josko	MILJIC Ante	-0.12	131	Croatia	U31
LAJOS Hanka	SZUCS Villo	-0.13	144	Hungary	U31
TRNAVAC Vuk	JOVANOVIC Boris	-0.23	120	Serbia	U31
VALENTINE Ronan Richard J	O'BRIEN Liam	-0.23	120	Scotland	U31
BASKIN Ben	ROSENTHAL Nir	-0.25	36	Israel	U31
FREIMANIS Gints	FALCONER Glen	-0.33	120	Scotland	U31
NAKAMARU-PINDER Jun	MILNE Jake	-0.35	120	Scotland	U31
VAN OVERMEIRE Jens	KHOMIAKOV Robert	-0.45	96	Belgium	U31
GRGURIC Matea	STEFANEC Kristijan	-0.50	108	Croatia	U31
PUERTO Daniel	RAFECAS Jordi	-0.62	120	Spain	U31
ORDOG Akos	CALIPETRE David Cristian	-0.67	12	Romania	U31
PENALBA Esther	GEMENO Guzman	-0.78	120	Spain	U31
VUJIC Katarina	BORKOVIC Ivan	-1.01	84	Serbia	U31
ORDOG Akos	TIRC Sorin	-1.13	24	Romania	U31
COUTINHO Francisco	RIBEIRO Miguel	-1.40	131	Portugal	U31
GARCIA LOPEZ Nicolas	MILESI VIDAL Eric	-1.44	120	Spain	U31
HOLEWA Mareille	DI BACCO Victoria	-1.45	120	Germany	U31
STEPPER Maximilian Niklas	BAUER Andreas	-1.46	120	Germany	U31
MORAES Jose	FERNANDES VIEIRA Joao Pedro	-1.56	48	Portugal	U31
COUTINHO Francisco	VALDEMAR Rui	-1.85	48	Portugal	U31

Train like the Champions – it's free!



Look at the gold and silver medalists at the recent European Championships and you will notice that 4 out of the 6 pairs have been part of the renowned Team Orange training program.

Look at the last Bermuda Bowl final and you will see the same: four out of six pairs from the Dutch School. Wow.

Look at the number of Dutch pairs playing professionally at the Nationals. Sometimes as much as ten pairs. All of them have been part of the training program in the past years.

No, I may not reveal all secrets of the successful Dutch training program here, but at least I can give you one, or actually two. We all know that you – as (an aspiring) top bridge player – are both fanatic and lazy. Wake me up any time for a game of bridge. Don't bother me with homework. Don't bother me with all the hassle of bidding practice hands, taking notes, reporting it to the trainer. Well, in Holland the players are the same. They do want to practice, but don't ask them to do something for it. The solution was two-fold.

First, there is this serious **trainer**, Ton Bakkeren. He keeps track of the pairs in the training group, and he creates sets of practice bidding hands, often based on input from the players. He runs the show.

Secondly, there is the **app bid72**. All players have this app on their phone. Whenever the trainer wants his group to practice, he uploads a set of hands (usually 10-20 hands per set). All players in his group will receive a notification on their phone. They open the app, and the only thing they have to do, is clicking their bids. No more. There is no need for their partner to be online at the same time. It doesn't get easier than that. And they like it.

Meanwhile the trainer gets full reporting on all his pairs in his email or Dropbox or Google Drive every night.

I saved the best for last. We need to do anything to keep bridge alive, and there is no better way than promoting and supporting Junior bridge. Therefore, **bid72** found a way to be able to offer this service (paid subscriptions to the app, handling of training groups and practice hands) **FREE** for all junior selections of national bridge leagues worldwide.

Are you a player and want to train like this? Tell your trainer/league to contact us!

Are you a trainer of a national junior selection and want to use this facility to train your selection(s)? Contact us!

Send an email to operations@bid72.com and we will get you started. I will be in Veldhoven for the last few days of the championships. If you want a demo, or discuss, or just meet, send an email and I'll find you.

Onno Eskes - operational manager bid72