







DAILY BULLETIN

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Issue No 1. Wednesday 20 July, 2022

WELCOME TO VELDHOVEN

Welcome to Veldhoven and the 28th European Youth Team Championships. This year we have a new category, in the U31 Championship, to go alongside the existing U26, U26W, U21 and U16 series. In total, there are 71 teams spread over the five series.

Sweden have been champions in each of the last two U26 championships, and are joint second for the overall number of wins, with four, alongside France but one behind Poland, who have five wins. Poland has also been easily the most successful nation in the U21 series, having taken the gold medal at six of the previous 14 championships, and in the U26W, where they have four wins out of nine championships. Poland has also won two of the three U16 championships.

These championships are sponsored by LoveBridge, and a major innovation is the use of the LoveBridge platform and tablets for the bidding and scoring.

LoveBridge is also sponsoring a bidding competition during the championships. Each day, we intend to publish a best-bid hand, while the bidding/auction judged best over the entire week will win a brand new Samsung Galaxy tablet (or two if the auction features both members of a partnership).

I am sure that you understand that we will not be able to look at every auction from every table. To be considered for the auction of the day, or the overall award, we will need the players to tell us about their (or their opponents') auction, with explanations of any artificial calls. You can do so by coming to the Daily Bulletin office, or by emailing the editor at:

bsenior@hotmail.com

We would also be very happy to receive any other good hands or stories at the above address if you think they might be worthy of space in the bulletin. It is not necessary for you to type out the whole deal – just let us know the round and board number and, as with the best-bid hand, please give full details of the meaning of any artificial calls.

Good luck to all and let us all enjoy these championships, which are delayed by a year because of covid. And let us hope that we really are on top of the virus and that it will not mutate to something which again causes the chaos of the last couple of years.







BBO MATCHES TODAY

10:00	U26	ISRAEL	NETHERLANDS	BBO1
10:00	U26	ITALY	NORWAY	BBO2
13:40	U26	POLAND	ENGLAND	BBO1
13:40	U26	GERMANY	SWEDEN	BBO2
9:30	U31	NETHERLANDS	ROMANIA	BBO3
	U26W	POLAND	NETHERLANDS	BBO4
11:35	U21	GERMANY	GREECE	BBO3
	U31	SCOTLAND	LATVIA	BBO4
14:20	U31	POLAND	FRANCE	BBO3
	U26W	NORWAY	ITALY	BBO4
16:25	U21	ITALY	SWEDEN	BBO1
	U31	ISRAEL	BULGARIA	BBO2
	U21	FRANCE	DENMARK	BBO3
	U31	ROMANIA	PORTUGAL	BBO4

FROM THE OPENING CEREMONY



Johan Pieters (NBB President)



Gilad Ofir (EBL Vice President)

To all Players, Coaches, Offi cials, Parents and other Bridge Lovers,

It is an enormous pleasure to welcome you all to the European Youth Championships. After more than two years of very limited physical bridge due to COVID-19 it is wonderful to be able to meet and play with each other in person again.

A Championship like this serves a number of purposes. First and foremost, it is about celebrating the love for our sport. Bringing so many talented youth players together and watching them compete is a real privilege. I am convinced that many of you will take your game to an even higher level. I also know that we will witness awesome moments of brilliant bidding, deceptive defence and superb squeezes and I am really looking forward to it!

Furthermore, a Championship like this is a great social happening. We are going through a number of very difficult months in Europe in 2022. This event is a chance for all of us to make new connections and friends, understand and learn from each other and simply have

a good time with people that we don't always have near us. There are many life-long and cross-border bridge friendships in existence and the coming weeks we all have an opportunity to create new ones and strengthen the ones already in place.

Finally, I hope we can use this tournament to give bridge promotion under young players a big boost. Everywhere in the world we face challenges in attracting new kids and young adults to the game. Let's use the opportunity to create publicity and share the love for our sport in as many ways as we can. I am sure that if we collectively do that, we will generate a real buzz, expose many more youngsters to bridge and ensure a bright future for our sport!

We are delighted to host this championship in this beautiful venue in Veldhoven and we thank the EBL for the opportunity to do so. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to our sponsors, to the organizers and to all the volunteers for making the event happen. I am wishing you all a great tournament and a fantastic stay here in the Netherlands.

Johan Pieters President of the Dutch Bridge Federation

Dear Participants, Officials, Staff and Guests,

On behalf of the EBL I have great pleasure in welcoming you to the 28th European Youth Team Championships held at the NH Koningshof Convention Centre in Veldhoven.

I am grateful for the co-operation of the Dutch Bridge Federation in undertaking to host these championships and particularly to its local organisation team led by Nancy de Boer, without whom this would not have been possible. Thank you, my friends!

It is particularly satisfying to note that in these difficult times our EBL federations still manage to send their youth teams, showing they all feel the importance of these championships.

We welcome the under 31 category players for the first time. Maybe not seen as Juniors by other sports but for us they are still way younger than the average bridge player. This category will prevent our sport from losing players after they have reached the age of 26 as the national category will prevent our sport from losing players after they have reached the age of 26 as the national category will prevent our sport from losing players after they have reached the age of 26 as the national category.

category will prevent our sport from losing players after they have reached the age of 26 as the national teams are for most players a bridge too far.

The EBL continues to emphasise high ethical standards and good table manners, which I trust you will live up to and serve as a good example for the "grown-ups". Show the opponents the same respect as you would like them to show you, and you will make many new friends for life. Of course you will be fi erce competitors at the same time!

New in this championship is the use of a digital bidding box. If everything works out well, we not only don't need the traditional bidding boxes anymore but also we can do without the tray and bridgemates.

Also the bidding will be available for review for all boards. It is the first tournament to use this technology so I hope you will bear with us if we experience some start-up problems.

I wish you lots of success in the competition and a great time during these championships.

Eric Laurant EBL President



SCHEDULE

	Wednesday 20th July, 2022			
		wednesday Zotti July,	2022	
9.30 - 11.15	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
10.00 - 12.30	U260 (18 boards)			
11.35 - 13.20	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
12.30 - 13.40	U260 (Lunch)			
13.20 - 14.20	U21 (Lunch)	U26W (Lunch)	U16 (Lunch)	U31 (Lunch)
13.40 - 16.10	U260 (18 boards)			
14.20 - 16.05	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
16.25 - 18.10	U21 (12 boards)		U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
		Thursday 21st July, 2	2022	
9.30 - 11.15	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
10.00 - 12.30	U260 (18 boards)			
11.35 - 13.20	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
12.30 - 13.40	U260 (Lunch)			
13.20 - 14.20	U21 (Lunch)	U26W (Lunch)	U16 (Lunch)	U31 (Lunch)
13.40 - 16.10	U260 (18 boards)			
14.20 - 16.05	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
16.25 - 18.10	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
16.30 - 19.00	U260 (18 boards)			
		Friday 22nd July, 20	122	
9.30 - 11.15	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
10.00 - 12.30	U260 (18 boards)	(12 seards)	(12 Source)	COT (12 bounds)
11.35 - 13.20	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
12.30 - 13.40	U260 (Lunch)	(12 sear as)	(12 334143)	(12 sources)
13.20 - 14.20	U21 (Lunch)	U26W (Lunch)	U16 (Lunch)	U31 (Lunch)
13.40 - 16.10	U260 (18 boards)	(Lonery)	C 10 (carren)	
14.20 - 16.05	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
16.25 - 18.10	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
16.30 - 19.00	U260 (18 boards)	(12 554145)	10 (12 0001 03)	(12 bodi da)
	(10 500103)			



		Saturday 23rd July, 2	2022	
9.30 - 11.15	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
10.00 - 12.30	U260 (18 boards)			
11.35 - 13.20	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
12.30 - 13.40	U260 (Lunch)			
13.20 - 14.20	U21 (Lunch)	U26W (Lunch)	U16 (Lunch)	U31 (Lunch)
13.40 - 16.10	U260 (18 boards)			
14.20 - 16.05	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
18.30	U16 (Prize Giving)	U26W (Prize Giving)	U31 (Prize Giving)	
Sund	ay 24th July, 2022		Mond	ay 25th July, 2022
9.30 - 11.15	U21 (12 boards)		9.30 - 11.15	U21 (12 boards)
10.00 - 12.30	U260 (18 boards)		10.00 - 12.30	U260 (18 boards)
11.35 - 13.20	U21 (12 boards)		11.35 - 13.20	U21 (12 boards)
12.30 - 13.40	U260 (Lunch)		12.30 - 13.40	U260 (Lunch)
13.20 - 14.20	U21 (Lunch)		13.20 - 14.20	U21 (Lunch)
13.40 - 16.10	U260 (18 boards)		13.40 - 16.10	U260 (18 boards)
14.20 - 16.05	U21 (12 boards)		14.20 - 16.05	U21 (12 boards)
16.25 - 18.10	U21 (12 boards)		16.25 - 18.10	U21 (12 boards)
		Tuesday 26th July, 2	.022	
9.30 - 11.15	U21 (12 boards)			
10.00 - 12.30	U260 (18 boards)			
11.35 - 13.20	U21 (12 boards)			
12.30 - 13.40	U260 (Lunch)			
13.20 - 14.20	U21 (Lunch)			
13.40 - 16.10	U260 (18 boards)			
14.20 - 16.05	U21 (12 boards)			
18.30	U260 (Prize Giving)	U21 (Prize Giving)		

LIST OF PARTICIPATING TEAMS

BELGIUM					U31
BULGARIA	U26 O	1		U16	U31
CROATIA	U26 O	i		U16	U31
CZECH REPUBLIC				U16	
DENMARK		U21	U26 W	U16	1
H ENGLAND	U26 O	U21	U26 W	U16)
ESTONIA	U26 O			U16)
FRANCE	U26 O	U21	U26 W	U16	U31
GERMANY	U26 O	U21	l	U16	U31
GREECE	U26 O	U21	l	U16)
HUNGARY	U26 O	U21	U26 W	U16	U31
IRELAND	U26 O	U21	l		
□ ISRAEL	U26 O	U21	l	U16	U31
ITALY	U26 O	U21	U26 W	l	
LATVIA	U26 O				U31
NETHERLANDS	U26 O	U21	U26 W	U16	U31
NORWAY	U26 O	U21	U26 W	U16)
POLAND	U26 O	U21	U26 W	U16	U31
PORTUGAL					U31
ROMANIA					U31
SCOTLAND	U26 O				U31
SERBIA					U31
SLOVAKIA	U26 O				
SPAIN					U31
SWEDEN	U26 O	WOMEN	l		
C TÜRKIYE	U26 O	WOMEN	l	U16	U31



PLAYERS' CONTACTS ON-SITE

CHAMPIONSHIP CHAIRMAN	Eitan Levy
ON-SITE MANAGER	Nancy de Boer
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR	Dimitris Ballas
HEAD TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR	Marc van Beijsterveldt
REVIEWER	Ton Kooijman
HOSPITALITY/REGISTRATION DESK	Silvia Valentini
SECRETARIAT	Catherine Vitry
SCORING	Fotis Skoularikis
DAILY BULLETIN	Brian Senior

EUROPEAN MASTER POINTS AWARDS

EMPs will be awarded according to the scales available at the following link:

http://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/european-master-points/emp-scales/#table-5

In order to qualify for EMP awards, a player must have played at least one third of the boards played by his team.



IMPORTANT NOTES FOR PLAYERS

These notes are for the convenience of players. They do not substitute for the obligation to know and follow the Conditions, Regulations and Policies of the EBL covering this event.

GENERAL:

- Smoking is prohibited in the playing area.
- Mobile phones and electronic devices capable of communication must be switched off in the playing area and be visible at the table at all times. Random checks will be made.
- All participants at the Championship venue must visibly wear their official identification badge.
- Players must wear their NBO uniforms/shirts.
- Players are requested to be seated 5 minutes before the scheduled start of play. Any team not seated and ready to play at the start of a period of play will be subject to automatic VP penalties.
- During play, players (and NPCs) may converse only in English unless all agree to use some other common language at their own risk. TD adjudication is in English only.
- Line-up procedure: Both captains submit their line-ups without knowing the line-up of their opponents. The procedure will be announced at the captains' meeting.

BIDDING, ALERTS and EXPLANATIONS:

- Calls will be made by selecting the appropriate keys on the tablet.
- Requests for explanations of calls and play, and the responses thereto, shall be made in writing.

DURING AND AFTER PLAY:

- The opening lead must be made before the screen aperture is opened and Declarer or Dummy opens the aperture or calls for it to be opened.
- A card should be played towards partner in a consistent manner and placed on the table in the same position each time. Once played, the player should not vary the orientation of the card.
- Quitted tricks should be placed consistently in a neat row in front of the player, evenly overlapping.
- If a player finds an opponent not following any of these rules, even after a warning, the proper recourse is to call a TD.
- If a player should claim that the responsibility for the slow play is with their opponents, they will do so by calling a TD. TDs are authorized to remove boards when play has not finished in the allotted time or when slow play may lead to play not being finished in time.
- Only the player on the side of the screen receiving the display of calls of the other side who considers
 there has been a break in tempo should call the Director preferably immediately but may do so at any time
 before the opening lead is made and the aperture opened. A player should not call the TD fror at break
 in tempo by the screen-mate.
- Declarer enters the score on the tablet and both defenders confirm the score. After confirming the score
 on the last board played players should leave the playing room as quickly and quietly as possible. Players
 are strictly forbidden to watch play at any table.
- In respect of scores the protest time of all matches played in a day ends at the starting time of the first match on the day following, and for the final day's play two hours after the official finishing time of the final match but, in any case, not later than the official starting time of the Closing Ceremony. In respect of scores which are manifestly incorrect, protest time ends prior to the start of the penultimate round.
- The time for a request for a TD ruling or for a review of a ruling already received ends, respectively, 30 minutes after the end of the match or 30 minutes after receipt of ruling.



ROSTERS - U26 OPEN

BULGARIA

Liya KOSTOVA Marina KOYCHEVA Gergana TENEVA Nikolay YANINSKI Viktor YOTOV Nikolai VASILEV (npc)

CROATIA

Ivan BILUSIC Emanuel EVACIC Matko FERENCA Filip KATUSIC Viktor LESKOVAR Ivan PETKOVIC Vedran ZORIC (npc)

ENGLAND

Charlie BUCKNELL
Jonathan CLARK
Aaron HUTTON
Kripa PANCHAGNULA
Oliver Kenzo POWELL
Ewa WIECZOREK
Nicklas SANDQVIST (npc)
Stephen KENNEDY (coach)

ESTONIA

Mirjam IHER
Raigo LUHAORG
Rasmus MAIDE
Tiit Hendrik PIIBELEHT
Riko PIIRISILD
Rao ZVOROVSKI
Meelis KULDKEPP (npc)
Kristina MÄEMETS-ALLAS (coach)

FRANCE

Louis BONIN
Arthur BOULIN
Maxence FRAGOLA
Thomas GUICHET
Theo GUILLEMIN
Nao TABATA
David HARARI (npc)
Michel ABECASSIS (coach)

GERMANY

Florian ALTER
Stig JESSE
Maximilian LITTERST
Philipp PABST
Lauritz STRECK
Leonard VORNKAHL
Thomas GOTARD (npc)
Michael SCHNEIDER (coach)

GREECE

Dimitrios KAPIRIS Philippos KRITSALIS Iasonas-iraklis PAPASPYROU Dimitris SIDERIS Panagiotis SKORDAS Philippos KRITSALIS (pc)

HUNGARY

Daniel BIBORKA
Janka JALSOVSZKY
Kartal NAGY
Bence SOGOR
Botond SZABO
Mate VAGI
Andras HONYEK (npc)

IRELAND

Aileen ARMSTRONG Isabel BURKE Andrew Francis NEWBOLD Sheila WALSH Niamh GORMALLY (npc)

ISRAEL

Ilai Ilan BANIRI Amir EZION Nir KHUTORSKY Ido MOSKOVITZ Daniel MSIKA Aviv ZEITAK Danny LOONSTEIN (npc)

ITALY

Giovanni DONATI Alvaro GAIOTTI Gabriele GIUBILO Gianmarco GIUBILO Federico PORTA Sebastiano SCATA Dario ATTANASIO (npc) Valerio GIUBILO (coach)

LATVIA

Rudolfs BARONS Elizaveta GAVRILOVA Rainers KREITALS Edgars OLLA Ralfs RUBINS Eriks VILUNAS Martins BALODIS (npc) Karlis RUBINS (coach)

NETHERLANDS

Youp CARIS Pim DUPONT Oscar NIJSSEN Stefan THORPE Tim VAN DE PAVERD Sibrand VAN OOSTEN Agnes SNELLERS (npc) Wubbo DE BOER (coach)

NORWAY

Marius Dalemark AUSTAD Nicolai HEIBERG-EVENSTAD Agnethe Hansen KJENSLI Markus LUND Ida Marie OEBERG Sofie Grasholt SJODAL Lars EIDE (npc) Sten BJERTNES (coach)

POLAND

Jakub BAZYLUK
Piotr JASINSKI
Tomasz KIELBASA
Kacper KOPKA
Jakub PATREUHA
Patryk PATREUHA
Marek MARKOWSKI (npc)

SCOTLAND

Jamie DAY
Lydia FOALE
Michael KENNEDY
Donald MACKILLOP
Tamsin MUNRO
Jack SHEARER
Alisdair McLEOD (npc)
Danny HAMILTON (coach)

SWEDEN

Tobias BERN
Sanna CLEMENTSSON
Klara GUSTAFSSON
Erik HANSSON
Castor MANN
Alexander SANDIN
Karl ASPLUND (npc)
Carina WADEMARK (coach)

TURKIYE

Hamza COBAN Muhammed Furkan EKER Eren GUNES Oguzhan KADIOGLU Metecan KALAYCI Cengiz OZGEZ Mehmet Isin KANDEMIR (npc)



ROSTERS - U21 OPEN

DENMARK

DANIEL BRANDGAARD Christian LAHRMANN Andreas ROLF-LARSEN Aron TYLVAD Daniel TYLVAD Nikolaj Alexander ZEEBERG Jan JORGENSEN (npc) Rasmus KOCH (coach)

ENGLAND

Andrew COPE
Jamie FEGARTY
Liam FEGARTY
Thomas GARDNER
Imogen LA CHAPELLE
Henry ROSE
Michael BYRNE (npc)

FRANCE

Pierre BEDOUET
Clement BENS
Romain BLOCH
Maxence ROCHES
Clement TEIL
Esteban VALLET
Christophe OURSEL (npc)
Michel ABECASSIS (coach)

GERMANY

Tobias DAMM
Niels Ole FARWIG
Jonas FAUPEL
Marius GUENDEL
Jannik LEPPER
Kathrin SCHWALBACH
Michael SCHNEIDER (npc)
Thomas GOTARD (coach)

GREECE

Ioannis FOTEINAKIS Ioanna-Aikaterini POLLATOU Kanellos SKOURTSIDIS Panagiotis Ioulios TYPALDOS Ioannis VIRVIDAKIS Marianna KORONI (npc) Vasilis VIRVIDAKIS (coach)

HUNGARY

Zsolt ARGAY
Kende DEZSO
Mate JANOSIK
Mark KEMENY
Janos MARKI-ZAY
Barnabas TARCALI
Csaba SZABO (npc)
Marta SCHUTZ-WETTL (coach)

IRELAND

Luca CRONE Tom GOREY David HOYNE Matthew O'FARRELL Niamh GORMALLY (pc)

ISRAEL

Tomer LOONSTEIN
Gal MATATYAHOU
Lia PETELKO
Koren RETTER
Ofek SABBAH
Yonatan SLIWOWICZ
Moshe MEYOUHAS (npc)

ITALY

Alessandro CARLETTI Luca DRAGHI Oslo GARDENGHI Antonio LOMBARDI Matteo LOMBARDI Valerio GIUBILO (npc) Dario ATTANASIO (coach)

NETHERLANDS

Xavier FRIESEN
Ronald GOOR
Sander GOOR
Noa KANT
Reinder VAN DER WEIDE
Tobias WESTERVELD
Rik VERBEEK (npc)
Berend VAN DEN BOS (coach)

NORWAY

Anders BROGELAND Arne Osnes DEVIK Christian Fredrik JOHNSEN Are Borgar LANDSVIK Magnus SAETRE Thomas TOESSE Lars EIDE (npc) Sten BJERTNES (coach)

POLAND

Aleks BUKAT Krzysztof CICHY Kacper KUFLOWSKI Franciszek KURLIT Michal STASIK Joanna ZALEWSKA Michal WROBEL (npc)

SWEDEN

Andreas ABRAGI
Filip ASPLUND SIVELIND
Mayalo BJOERK HEED
Harry HJORTH WARLENIUS
Ivar LICHTENSTEIN
Andrea NILSSON
Karl ASPLUND (npc)
Lars NILSSON (coach)

TURKIYE

Toygar Tuncay ALTUN Serdal BORA Izzet Cagan ER Can GOKTAN Yigit OZCELEP Asya Su SEN Tuncay ALTUN (npc) Mehmet Isin KANDEMIR (coach)

Photo: Registration





ROSTERS - U26 WOMEN

DENMARK

Amalie Rosa BUNE Sophie BUNE Clara Brun PEDERSEN Ella ROSTHOEJ Julie Marina SIGSGAARD Leah THRANE JACOBSEN Morten Rasmussen BUNE (npc) Rasmus KOCH (coach)

ENGLAND

Dido Mari Mirabelle COLEY Kimberley Rachel HUDSON Megan JONES Lily KEARNEY Bethany MADDEN Raffy SINCLAIR Claire ROBINSON (npc)

FRANCE

Constance BELLOY
Clara BOUTON
Margaux KUREK BEAULIEU
Anais LELEU
Wilhelmine SCHLUMBERGER
Mathilde THUILLEZ
Wilfried LIBBRECHT (npc)
Michel ABECASSIS (coach)

HUNGARY

Dorina BANHAZI Zsofia BEKO Zsuzsanna BEKO Agnes BIBORKA Julia HEGEDUS Andrea TOTH Adam MAGYAR (npc) Peter HODOSI (coach)

ITALY

Sophia CAPOBIANCO Eleonora DALPOZZO Federica DALPOZZO Valentina DALPOZZO Annachiara PELAGGI Maddalena PELAGGI Luigina GENTILI (npc) Valerio GIUBILO (coach)

NETHERLANDS

Fleur BEEKMAN
Juliet BERWALD
Malene Holm CHRISTENSEN
Lotte DE WIJS
Sarah DE WIJS
Mette LEJEUNE
Janneke WACKWITZ (npc)
Rens PHILIPSEN (coach)

NORWAY

Kaja BREKKE
Katarina EKREN
Thea Lucia INDREBO
Erleta PLANA
Maren Idland SAEGROV
Mia Eline STATLE
Sven Olai HOYLAND (npc)
Elisabeth Grasholt SJODAL (coach)

POLAND

Maria BANASZKIEWICZ Aleksandra BYRA Dominika LUCKA EWA MORAWSKA Natalia SUSZANOWICZ Anna ZAREBA Dominika OCYLOK (npc)



During the Opening Ceremony

ROSTERS - U16

BULGARIA

David DANIEL LORER Matilda LORER Aviv L ZAIDENBERG GATT Sophie ZAIDENBERG GATT Nezer Jacob ZAIDENBERG (npc)

CROATIA

Eva CIZEL
Nina DRAGCEVIC
Tia GAJZER
Karlo HUM
Tristan Nicholas PROBST
Bruno SMADILO RALIS
Vjekoslav ZEPIC (npc)
Aleksandra DUJMOVIC (coach)

CZECH REPUBLIC

Petr KARLIK
Matyas LYSEK
Dan OTRADOVEC
Nikol VACHTARCIKOVA
Milan MACURA
npa

DENMARK

Line HENRIKSEN
Mathias Moeller LARSEN
Alma Ertbjerg RASMUSSEN
Eigil K. ROHRBERG
Frederik ZEEBERG
Torsten Ertbjerg RASMUSSEN npc
Rasmus KOCH (coach)

ENGLAND

William BATTERSBY Charlotte BEDFORD Tom FURNESS Lucy NORMAN Aman PAREKH Giorgio PROVENZA (npc)

ESTONIA

Stella Brita ALLAS Eleliis ORMA Albert PEDMANSON Huup SEPP Pauls Olafs STRAUME Jasper VAHK Meelis KULDKEPP (npc) Tonno VAHK (coach)

FRANCE

Ninon BENS
Eulalie BONIN
Mathilde CAYLA
Theo EXBRAYAT
Silvere GALLARD
Lucas SARTORI
Benoit DEVEZE (npc)
Michel ABECASSIS (coach)

GERMANY

Sophie ALTHAUS Bruno DOERDELMANN Benedikt Philip KOERNER Solveig RIDOU Lukas SCHADE Nestor TYKHONYUK Tim WROBBEL (npc) Mona RIEGER (coach)

GREECE

Adamantia (Mandy) BELIGIANNI Costa Theodore BEN GUIGUI Dimitrios KATSAKIORIS Nikoleta KONSTANTINIDOU Georgios-Angelos NTALIANIS Konstantinos SKOURTSIDIS Ingrid LYGINOU (npc) Vasilis VIRVIDAKIS (coach)

HUNGARY

Bernadett BIBORKA Mirko JUHASZ-MOLNAR Artur KOVACS Benedek SZATMARY Denes TOKES Benjamin ZABRADI Leo SZUCS (npc) Gergely KOVACS (coach)

ISRAEL

Eitan GISIN Yaroker MATTAN Ron PIETERS Yonatan RABINOVICH Niko SHLESINGER YAFFE Yoav SHOR Ory ASSARAF (npc)

NETHERLANDS

Miel BROCKEN Rex BROCKEN Martijn GOOR Wout KLARENBEEK Coen KLOPPERT Richard VAN ZANDBEEK Madelon SPEK (npc) Dennis STUURMAN (coach)

NORWAY

Kristian Dalemark AUSTAD Jonas BREKKE Solvei GRANDE-WEBERG Markus Hansen MOE Einar OSEN Cathrine WEDVIK Kristian ELLINGSEN (npc)

POLAND

Wojciech BAK Lucja CIBOROWSKA Milena KLIMIUK Jan LUCZECZKO Martyna SMOLEN Jan TROJAK Roland LIPPIK (npc) Marcin KUFLOWSKI (coach)

TURKIYE

Tuana ALTUN
Ceren DALDAL
Ilbey Seyhan HOSCAN
Kagan KUZU
Zeynep TORT
Bilge Suheda YILDIRIM
Betul ALTUN (npc)
Tuncay ALTUN (coach)

Photo: Registration





ROSTERS - U31

BELGIUM

Dennis DE WIT
Clovis DEHAYE
Robert KHOMIAKOV
Romain MONTICELLI
Jens VAN OVERMEIRE
Emiel VANDEWIELE
Wouter VAN DEN HOVE (npc)

BULGARIA

Mark ANDONOV Zahari FEROV Dobromir LAZAROV Todor PAVLOV Nikolai VASILEV (pc)

CROATIA

Borna CICVARIC Josko DJILOVIC Matea GRGURIC Ante MIJIC Kristijan STEFANEC Toni VIDOVIC Tomislav SASEK (npc)

FRANCE

Julien BERNARD
Fabrice CHARIGNON
Baptiste COMBESCURE
Jennifer MOURGUES
Leo ROMBAUT
Clement THIZY
Hervé FLEURY (npc)

GERMANY

Andreas BAUER Sandro BOHNSACK Victoria DI BACCO Mareille KAMPERMANN Maximilian Niklas STEPPER Stefan WEBER Alexander DIETRICH (npc) Mona RIEGER (coach)

HUNGARY

Laszlo BUDAI Csaba KONKOLY Hanka LAJOS Villo SZUCS Daniel TUBAK Brigitta FISCHER (npc)

ISRAEL

Ben BASKIN Yuval BEN DAVID Itamar GINOSSAR Lee ROSENTHAL Nir ROSENTHAL Lior URMAN (pc)

LATVIA

Martin MAASIK Nauris PELSIS Karl-Markus PRUUL Martins BALODIS (pc) Karlis RUBINS (coach)

NETHERLANDS

Pim COPPENS
Bas VAN ENGELEN
Chris WESTERBEEK
Ricardo WESTERBEEK
Jamilla SPANGENBERG (npc)

POLAND

Jakub ANDRUSZKIEWICZ Maksymilian CHODACKI Arkadiusz MAJCHER Rafal MARKS Mateusz SOBCZAK Edward SUCHARDA Marek MARKOWSKI (npc)

PORTUGAL

Rita ARRAIANO Francisco COUTINHO Joao Pedro FERNANDES VIEIRA Miguel RIBEIRO Rui VALDEMAR Jose MORAES (pc)

ROMANIA

David Cristian CALIPETRE Akos ORDOG Ioan Laurentiu PLOSCARU Alfred-Cristian SILBERBERG Sorin TIRC Rainer RETZLER (pc)

SCOTLAND

Glen FALCONER
Jake MILNE
Jun NAKAMARU-PINDER
Liam O'BRIEN
Ronan Richard James VALENTINE
Gints FREIMANIS (pc)

SERBIA

Ivan BORKOVIC Boris JOVANOVIC Stojan VAZIC Stefan VELJA Katarina VUJIC Vuk TRNAVAC (pc)

SPAIN

Nicolas GARCIA LOPEZ Guzman GEMENO Eric MILESI VIDAL Esther PENALBA Daniel PUERTO Jordi RAFECAS Ramon GOMEZ (npc)

TURKIYE

Emre Can AKKAYA
Cagatay BIRBEN
Eren IMDAT
Arda KABACA
Can Erdem TUKENMEZ
Ali Can USTUNBOYACIOGLU
Kenan OZKURT (npc)



Photo: Registration





What is LoveBridge and what are we doing in Veldhoven?

Hello All,

Or... as we say in Hungarian: "Sziasztok!" (Pronunciation for those not speaking fluent Hungarian yet: "see-ya-stock!" - meaning: Hi [plural]).

Who we are? We at LoveBridge are all fond of the best mind sport ever invented, called bridge. We are coming from a Hungarian software company, and we all want bridge to still be a game in the 21st century.

The European Bridge League has invited us to provide the technology for bidding and scoring at the 28th European Youth Team Championships in Veldhoven. We were happy to accept the invitation.

The original version of LoveBridge, the tournament software (which enables the players bidding and playing on tablets), has been used on all major bridge tournaments in Hungary since 2018. Players love that the bidding and play from all tables can be seen and reviewed on our public vugraph site. We even provide statistics from many aspects of the play to help players improve.

The software was used at the World Youth Open Bridge Championships in 2019, at the American trials (USBC) in 2021 and 2022 and at the Pacific-Asian (Zone 6) trials in 2021.

The only-bidding version (or "digital bidding box") was developed specifically for this event, it will simplify playing at the tables, since you only use one device other than cards: no trays, no bidding boxes and no bridgemates. We hope you will enjoy reviewing the bidding after the matches from any table and being able to check how others handled the same boards.

Challenge!

Auction of the day / Auction of the tournament

Now that all the bids and calls are documented, LoveBridge is inviting you to a challenge. You can send us the best, or most exciting, or funniest auctions with a short explanation to **info@lovebridge.com** and every day the Editor will select the auction of the day to be shown in the bulletin. You can send auctions from previous days as well; we will always pick from those that arrived in time before the bulletin's deadline (??? PM). If you had a great auction that is worth to show us, at the end of the tournament the player (or partnership) who made the best auction will win a (or two) brand new Samsung Galaxy tablet(s). The best auction will be chosen by a committee of the Chief Editor, the head of the organization team and the LoveBridge team.

Best of luck to all of you at the championship.

The guide:

https://lovebridge.com/only_bidding_guide.pdf

A suggestion for the step-by-step method:

https://lovebridge.com/only_bidding_process.pdf







Brian Senior

LoveBridge and the USBF

This is the first time that LoveBridge has been involved in a European or World Championships, but it is far from being the first time that a major event has been held using the LoveBridge platform. One such event saw the United States Bridge Federation hold its 2021 selection events, The United States Bridge Championships, to qualify teams to the recent World Championships in Salsomaggiore, on LoveBridge.

I am very grateful to Jan Martel, the chief operations officer/tournament organiser of the USBF, for taking the time and trouble to talk to me about their involvement with LoveBridge.

As long ago as 2015, the USBF was looking at the possibility of running events in which the play was done with playing cards but the bidding on tablets – as is the case here in Veldhoven. However, at that time there was no platform which could achieve this. While a couple of people put some time into attempting to create the required systems, for one reason or another nothing came of it.

Jan first saw the LoveBridge interface during the Orlando World Championships in 2018 and the USBF was interested and enquired about the possibility of using it for the auction but not the play. However, at that time, this was not an option on LoveBridge, and discussions suggested that it would be difficult and, as a consequence, expensive, to make the necessary changes to the system to allow for this possibility. Obviously, since that time, LoveBridge has put in the time and expertise to be able to offer this option.

In 2020, Covid reared its ugly head and, suddenly, face to face bridge ceased to be an option. The USBF cancelled its 2020 USBCs as there would be no world championships to which to send teams. The USBF did, however, run two Open events on BBO but these were difficult to organise and easy for cheaters to taint.

Late in 2020 RealBridge came along, and the USBF ran a series of events, the JLall tournaments, on the new platform. RealBridge was a step forward as regards the prevention of cheating, but it was still possible to do so and the USBF was therefore unwilling to hold trials 100% online.

When the WBF moved its 2021 championships to the spring of 2022, in Salsomaggiore, the USBF decided to hold the early stages of its United States Bridge Championships on RealBridge to reduce to eight teams, then hold the latter stages at a central venue but with both the bidding and play taking place on tablets, which

was already an option on the LoveBridge platform.

The use of tablets allowed partners to be in separate rooms, the North and East screenmates in one room, with South and West in another. Not only did this make cheating very difficult indeed, but fewer players needed to be sat at one table and there was no touching of playing cards to worry about, both of which reduced covid infection risks. Of course, the organisers also had the benefit that they no longer had to transport to the venue, then deal and distribute, boards, bidding boxes, and so on. Also of major benefit was that there was no need to find vugraph operators as everything was recorded by the system – and, of course, that record was 100% accurate, which is rarely the case when human operators record the action.

The USBCs were a success. Not only deliberate cheating, but also accidental UI was substantially reduced. They were held in October 2021, a time when Covid infection-rates were still high, and saw zero new covid cases.

LoveBridge stayed in contact via Zoom throughout the event, so were ready to step in should there be any problems, and were able to collect feedback from the tablets being used. There will be further developments with the platform, LoveBridge being very responsive to suggestions of ways that the system and the options available to the players might be improved.

As with anything that is new and unfamiliar, some players didn't like playing on tablets. The majority, however, were positive about the new experience, and many found that the game was more sociable as they could chat about life, the universe, and everything, with their screenmate without being accused of distracting those on the other side of the screen as would have been the case had all four players been sat at one table.

One thing which the USBF has learned is that, while the tablets can be used in touchscreen mode, the majority of players preferred to use them with a linked keyboard to facilitate typing, and these will be available to all at future USBF events.

The USBF are clearly fans of LoveBridge and will be using the platform for further events in the future. I suspect that the EBL and WBF will also be looking to run their future events on LoveBridge before too long, and I am sure that both LoveBridge and the EBL will appreciate receiving feedback from the players here in Veldhoven, so that players in future championships can have the best possible experience.





Brian Senior

Youth Europeans 2019

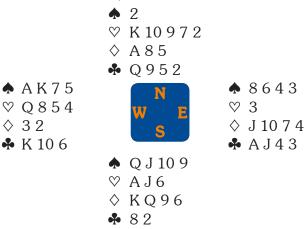
It is so good to back, albeit a year late due to the accursed virus. Let us hope that covid will not rear its ugly head here in Veldhoven and we can enjoy a week of tough competition without having to look over our shoulders at the results of medical testing.

As is traditional at any championship, we include in the first bulletin some of the best of the action from the previous championships held in 2019, in Stokke, near Oslo, Norway.

Our first deal was written up by Denmark's Knut Kjærnsrød, under the heading 'A Clever Dane'.

In Round 12 of the U26 series, Denmark had a strong victory over medal-hunting France. On Board 23, Søren Veel Caspersen made an important contribution to the victory by landing a 4% contract, duplicated at only one other table:

Dealer South. All Vul.

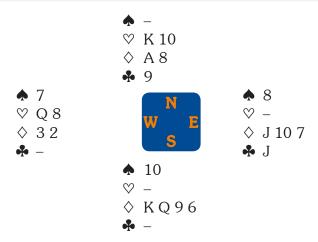


West	North	East	South
Combescure	Caspersen	Deheeger	Bune
_	_	_	$1 \diamondsuit$
Dble	1 %	1 ♠	Dble
2 4	4♡	All Pass	

South's double promised three-card heart support.

East led the six of spades to the nine and ace. West shifted to the �6, to the queen and ace, and a low club back to the king was followed by the ten, trumped by dummy's jack.

Søren continued with the queen of spades, ducked by West, and he discarded a diamond. The jack of spades was covered and ruffed, and the next step was to play a heart to the ace and a heart back to the nine. That left this position...

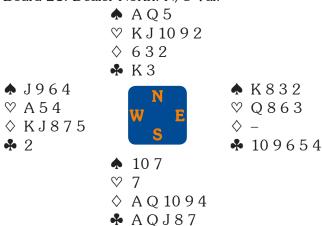


Now Søren cashed the ace and king of diamonds and the ten of spades, discarding his club loser, and finally the K and 10 of trumps triumphed over West's 0.8

That earned 10 IMPs to Denmark as the contract was 3% just making at the other table.

The England U26 team had a good win over Croatia in Round 4, with two members of the team showing sound technique to bring home their contracts on these deals.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
	Ye		Kennedy
_	1 %	Pass	$2\diamondsuit$
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

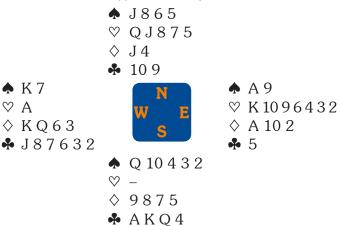
Eighteen pairs in the U26 series played in 3NT, with only eight declarers being successful. No doubt they

were seduced by dummy's diamond suit after a spade lead and created too many losers for themselves.

For England, Tony Ye received the lead of the two of spades, fourth-best. That went to the ten, jack and queen and, taking the lead at face value, Ye simply banged down the king of hearts and, on regaining the lead with the ace of spades, continued with the jack. Even with the clubs only providing four tricks and not the expected five, Ye had the nine required to bring home his 3NT without taking any risks with the diamond suit.

Note that, even without the horrible split, both diamond honours will be offside a full quarter of the time, so it is careless to play on the suit if you have good reason to believe that spades are four-four, while declarer does not even need a four-three heart break to succeed by playing on that suit.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

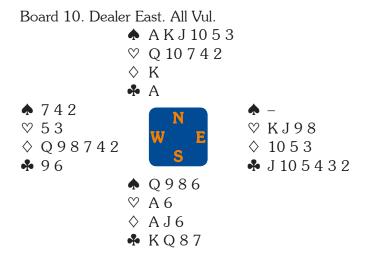


West	North	East	South
Robson		Singhal	
1♣	Pass	1 %	1 🛧
2 .	2 ^	3♡	3♠
Pass	Pass	4♡	All Pass

Despite being nearly as tall as his famous namesake, Andrew, Ian Robson is in fact no relation. He and Eshan Singhal bid to 4% on this deal and Singhal showed how to cope with the bad trump break. Three of the other seven declarers in the heart game went down.

South led the king followed by the queen of clubs so Singhal ruffed and led a heart to the ace. He did not carelessly ruff another club now. That would have permitted North to ditch a diamond so that he could ruff the second round. Instead, Singhal cashed the ace of diamonds then went back to dummy with the $\Diamond K$. Only now did he take a club ruff, followed by two rounds of spades and another club ruff. That left him with $\heartsuit K109$ and he could not be prevented from taking two more trump tricks to bring his total to ten.

The deal of Round 17 in the U26 and Round 14 in the U21s, was Board 10, on which everyone was in slam on the N/S cards, but some had over-reached a little and were in Seven.



Six pairs in the U26 and three in the U21 series bid to $7 \spadesuit$.

On a spade, club or diamond lead, the play should go: win, draw two rounds of trumps, cash $\Diamond K$ and \clubsuit A, spade to the queen, cash $\Diamond A$ and $\clubsuit KQ$ pitching hearts, run the spades. Because of the six-two club split, declarer knows that the positional squeeze for which he must play against East is a club/heart squeeze, so on the penultimate spade away goes dummy's $\Diamond J$ and it is simply a matter of checking to see whether East throws his remaining club on the last spade or bares the king of hearts to decide what the last two cards in dummy should be. This would be a much tougher declarer-play problem had the clubs been five-three, when it would not have been so clear what to keep out of the club and diamond menaces at trick 10.

Two out of three U21 declarers were successful – Oscar Nijsssen of the Netherlands against Italy, and Efecan Ozban of Turkey against France.

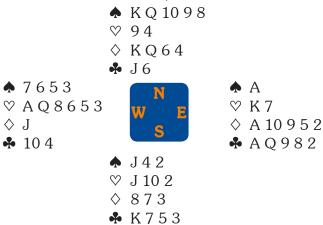
Three out of six U26 declarers were successful – Johan Safsten of Sweden against Austria, Lukas Kolek of Czech Republic against Bulgaria, and Tiit Hendrik Piibeleht of Estonia against Finland.

Of the three U26 declarers who went down, two had no chance to succeed, as West found the killing heart lead which took away the late entry which was required for the squeeze to operate. The successful opening leaders were Maximilian Niklas Stepper of Germany against Russia, and Martin Vasar of Estonia against Finland. Estonia, therefore gained 20 IMPs for playing 7 playing 7 down one.

This next deal was reported by Sven-Olai Høyland, captain of the Norwegian U26 Women's team. He commented that it was a pleasure to sit behind Ida

Øberg on this deal from Round 6.

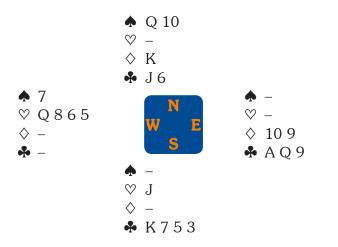
Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



West	Nortrh	East	South
Ida	Janneke	Thea Lucia	Malene H
Øberg	Wackwitz	Indrebø	Christensen
Pass	1 ^	2NT(i)	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
5 .	All Pass		
(i) Minors			

Ida choose not to open because of the vulnerability and that she had four spades besides her broken heart suit. When Thea Lucia Indrebe invited her to game, she was afraid that four hearts would show slam interest so bid game in clubs. North led the king of spades.

When dummy came down, she regretted that she had not suggested four hears but did not panic. After some thought she went for a crossruff. After winning the lead in dummy she played the ace of diamonds, diamond ruff, spade ruff, diamond ruff, king of hearts and a heart to the queen, leaving this position:



Now she led the queen of hearts and North had no good options. If she chooses to pitch the king of diamonds, the heart queen will win the trick and declarer will score two more trump tricks. So North chose to ruff. Ida over-ruffed and exited with a diamond and South had to ruff and give her the ace and queen of trumps for a total of 11 tricks.

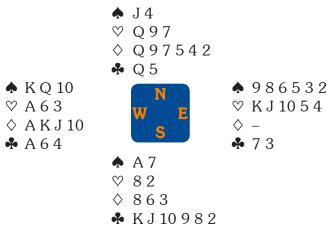
In the other room, Netherlands won 12 tricks in 3NT. Hence, Ida's nice play reduced the loss to 3 IMPs.

Netherlands v Sweden – U26 Round 22

First met second in the penultimate round of the U26 championship, with the Netherlands needing a very big win to keep their title hopes alive. More likely, they needed a solid result to keep ahead of third-placed Germany and fourth-placed Norway.

The match began with a very thin slam possibility for the E/W pairs.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Matsson	Westerbeek	Hult	v Overbeeke
_	Pass	Pass	3♣
3NT	Pass	4♣	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	4♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Safsten	M De Leon	Gronkvist
_	Pass	Pass	3♣
Dble	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
5 .	Pass	5 ^	All Pass

Both Souths opened 3. but the two Wests chose different actions with their flat 21-count.

For Sweden, Johannes Matsson overcalled 3NT and Simon Hult cuebid $4\clubsuit$ in response. When Ton van Overbeeke doubled that, Matsson redoubled, probably to show first-round control, and Hult bid $4\heartsuit$ and was left to play there. Van Overbeeke led ace and another spade so Hult won the queen and played ace of hearts and a heart to the jack; 12 tricks for +480.

Thibo Sprinkhuizen preferred a take-out double and, when Guy Mendes De Leon could jump to 4[♠] in response, made a slam try. However, De Leon was



not interested and signed-off in 5 and Sprinkuizen respected the sign-off. Ida Gronkvist led a heart to the queen and king so De Leon led a spade to the king, came back to hand with a diamond ruff, and led a second spade to Gronkvist's ace; again 12 tricks for +480 and no swing.

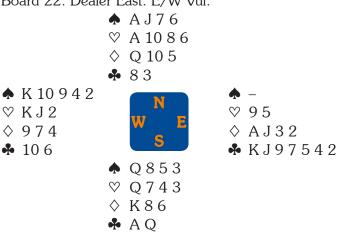
Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

North

Dble

West

Pass



Matsson - 1♠ Pass	Westerbeek - Dble 3♡	Hult 1♣ 2♣ All Pass	v Overbeeke Dble 2♡
West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Safsten	M De Leon	Gronkvist
–	–	1 ♣	Dble
1♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	3 ♣	Pass

East

All Pass

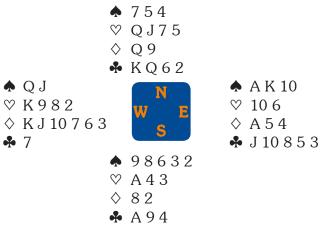
South

Johan Safsten did not double the $1 \spadesuit$ response – presumably because that would have shown both unbid suits rather than spades, but he made a balancing double of $2 \clubsuit$ and, when De Leon bid the clubs for a third time, doubled again. Gronkvist left that in and led the six of diamonds to the queen and ace. de Leon led a heart up and guessed wrong, calling for the king and losing to the ace. Saftsen returned a trump, Gronkvist won the club queen and cashed the $\heartsuit Q$ then club ace and $\diamondsuit K$. That was down one for -200. It could have been worse had Gronkvist been able to resist the temptation to cash the $\diamondsuit K$ as the defence would have come to a second trick in the suit.

Westerbeek did double 1♠, but presumably showing values rather than spades, given that van Overbeeke bid 2♡ freely at his next turn. Westerbeek invited game but van Overbeeke was not interested. Matsson led the ten of clubs round to van Overbeeke's queen. Declarer led a heart to the ace and a heart back for the queen and king, so Matsson cashed the jack of

hearts before exiting with his remaining club. Van Overbeeke won that and found the excellent play of a low spade, putting in the six when Matsson played low. That scored the trick, so now van Overbeeke was in control. He led a diamond to the king then back to the ten and jack. After cashing the ace of diamonds, Hukt had to give a ruff and discard. Van Overbeeke ruffed in hand, pitching a spade from dummy, and took the marked spade finesse. That was nicely played for +140 but 2 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.



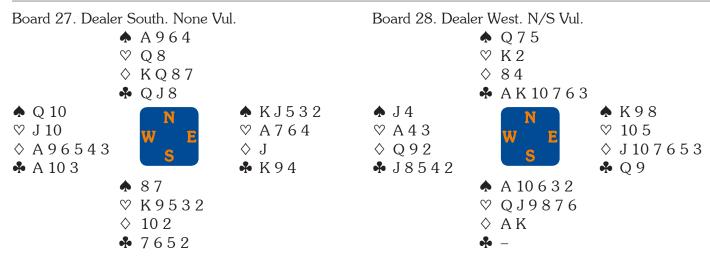
West	North	East	South
west	NOTHI	East	South
Matsson	Westerbeek	Hult	v Overbeeke
_	_	1♣	Pass
1 %	Pass	1NT	Pass
2 .	Pass	$2\Diamond$	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Safsten	M De Leon	Gronkvist
_	_	1♣	Pass
1 %	Pass	1NT	Pass
2 4	Pass	$2\Diamond$	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The two auctions began identically but Matsson then passed $2\diamondsuit$ while Sprinkhuizen went on with $3\diamondsuit$ to invite game and De Leon accepted.

Van Overbeeke led a spade against $2\diamondsuit$ so Hult took three rounds of the suit to get rid of dummy's club loser. He next led a heart to the king and a heart back, ruffed the club return and ruffed a heart low, ruffed a club, and ruffed a heart high. He had to lose to the queen of diamonds now but that was all; 11 tricks for +150.

The lead against 3NT was also a spade. De Leon won and played ace of diamonds then a diamond to the king, and the fall of the queen saw him cash out and settle for nine tricks; +600 and 10 IMPs to the Netherlands.





West	North	East	South	West	North	East	South
Matsson	Westerbeek	Hult	v Overbeeke	Matsson	Westerbeek	Hult	v Overbeeke
_	_	_	Pass	Pass	1♣	3♦	3♠
$1 \diamondsuit$	Pass	1 ♠	Pass	Pass	4 .	Pass	4♡
$2 \diamondsuit$	Pass	2♡	Pass	All Pass			
2 ^	Pass	2NT	Pass				
3NT	All Pass			West	North	East	South
				Sprinkhuizen	Safsten	M De Leon	Gronkvist
West	North	East	South	Pass	1♣	3♦	3♠
Sprinkhuizen	Safsten	M De Leon	Gronkvist	4♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
_	_	_	Pass	Pass	4♡	Pass	4NT
1NT	Dble	Rdbl	2 %	Pass	5♡	Pass	6♡
Dble	Pass	4 ♠	All Pass	All Pass			

The respective E/W pairs bid to different poor game contracts.

Hult declared 3NT on a club lead to the jack and king. He played a spade to the queen, Westerbeek winning the ace and returning the queen of hearts. Hult ducked that and ducked the heart continuation, hoping for a defensive error, but none was forthcoming. Van Overbeeke won the $\heartsuit K$ and switched to a club. Hult rose with the ace and overtook the ten of spades. He tried to split the spades now but they did not oblige and he was down three for -150.

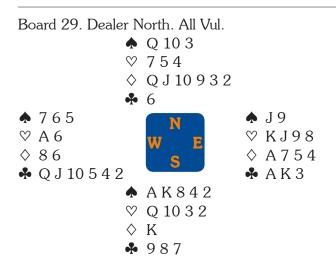
Gronkvist led a heart against 4♠, De Leon ducking Safsten's queen. Safsten took a long time now before playing ace and another trump. de Leon won the queen and came to hand with the ace of hearts to cash two more rounds of spades. Next he led a diamond to the ace and ruffed a diamond, and Gronkvist came down to the bare king of hearts. De Leon could therefore play the seven of hearts to the king, setting up his six as an extra trick. Gronkvist returned a club to the jack and king so De Leon could cash the heart then take the club finesse. That, of course, lost, so he was down one for −50 but 3 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Both Easts made the aggressive pre-emptive overcall. Three Spades was alerted at both tables so I'm guessing that it showed hearts.

The Dutch N/S got to 4% with North having shown no great enthusiasm for the suit so van Overbeeke contented himself with game. Matsson led a club, so van Overbeeke won the ace and led the king of hearts off the table. Matsson won the ace and played the jack of spades, which was covered all around. There was still a spade to be lost, but that was all; 11 tricks for +650.

Safsten had admitted to some heart support so Gronkvist was interested in greater things with the South hand. She asked for key cards then bid the small slam but found a rather unsuitable hand opposite. De Leon led the ten of diamonds to dummy's king and Safsten led a heart to the king then back to the jack and ace. Sprinkhuizen got out with a diamond so Safsten won, drew the missing trump, and played ace and another spade; down one for -100 and 13 IMPs to the Netherlands.

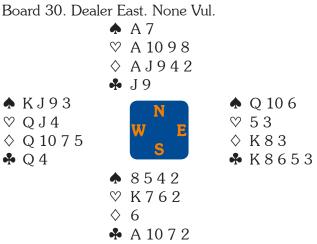




West	North	East	South
Matsson	Westerbeek	Hult	v Overbeeke
_	$2\diamondsuit$	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Safsten	M De Leon	Gronkvist
_	Pass	1NT	2♣
2NT	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Westerbeek opened a weak $2\Diamond$ and Hult overcalled 2NT, raised to game by Matsson. Van Overbeeke led a low spade and the defence took five spade tricks for down one; -100.

Safsten did not have the option of opening $2 \diamondsuit$ and was not going to open a level higher when vulnerable, so passed, and De Leon opened 1NT as East. Gronkvist overcalled 2♣, majors, and Sprinkhuizen competed in clubs, ending the auction. Gronkvist led out three rounds of spades, De Leon ruffing and leading the jack of hearts through the hand that had shown the suit. That was covered by queen and ace, and de Leon drew trumps then led a heart to the king followed by the $\heartsuit 9$ for the ruffing finesse, and had a discard for dummy's diamond loser; 11 tricks for +150 and 6 IMPs to the Netherlands.

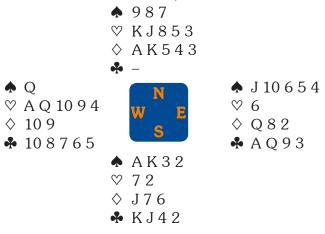


West Matsson 1 ♦ Pass	North Westerbeek - 1♥ 4♥	East Hult Pass Dble All Pass	South v Overbeeke Pass 3♦
West Sprinkhuizen - Pass Pass	North Safsten - 1♦ 3♡	East M De Leon Pass Pass All Pass	South Gronkvist Pass 1♥

The Swedes had an uncontested auction to $3\heartsuit$, against which Sprinkhuizen led the nine of spades, which was ducked to the ten. De Leon switched to a heart for the jack and king and Gronkvist played ace of diamonds then ruffed one, a spade to the ace and took a second diamond ruff followed by the ace of clubs and a spade ruff. A diamond ruff and another spade ruff brought the total to nine for +140.

Matsson opened $1\Diamond$ in third seat then watched his opponents bid to the heart game. Hult led a diamond to the gueen and ace, and Westerbeek ran the jack of clubs to Matsson's queen. Matsson returned a low spade, ducked to the ten, and Hult played back a spade to the jack and ace. Westerbeek ruffed a diamond, cashed the ace of clubs and came to the ace of spades to ruff another diamond, bringing down the king. He ruffed a club, ruffed a winning diamond with the king of hearts, then led a club to the jack of hearts and over-ruffed with the ace. The $\heartsuit 10$ and $\heartsuit 7$ were now equals against the queen, so Westerbeek could ruff his last diamond with the \heartsuit 7 to promote his tenth trick in the shape of the $\heartsuit 10$; +420 and 7 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Matsson	Westerbeek	Hult	v Overbeeke
_	_	_	1♣
1 %	Pass	1 🛧	Pass
1NT	Dble	2 ♣	Dble
All Pass			



West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Safsten	M De Leon	Gronkvist
_	_	_	1
2♡	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Van Overbeeke opened 14 and Matsson made a simple overcall with the West cards then bid 1NT over the forcing 1 response. That got doubled, as did Hult's run-out to 24, and Westerbeek was willing to defend despite his trump void. After all, partner had opened the suit, even if that had not promised genuine clubs. Van Overbeeke led the seven of hearts, Hult rising with dummy's ace and playing the queen of spades. Van Overbeeke won the king and led the six of diamonds, Westerbeek winning the king and continuing with the ace and a third diamond. Hult won the queen of diamonds, ditching a heart from dummy, and led the jack of spades to the ace and ruff. He ruffed a heart back to hand, cashed the ten of spades, and ruffed a spade then played the queen of hearts to the king and ruffed with the queen. Van Overbeeke over-ruffed with the king and returned a low club. He came to the \$J at the end but Hult had his eight tricks for +180.

Gronkvist also opened the South hand with 1♣, but Sprinkhuizen overcalled 2♥. When that came back to Gronkvist she made a reopening double and Safsten left it in. Safsten led the ace of diamonds then switched to a spade to Gronkvist's king. She in turn switched to a heart, Sprinkhuizen rising with the ace and playing a diamond. Safsten won the king and returned a diamond to dummy's queen, so Sprinkhuizen discarded a club then played the jack of spades, ruffing out the ace. He led a club towards the ace and Safsten discarded

his last spade so that, when Sprinkhuizen now played the ten of spades and pitched a club on it, Safsten could ruff. He led a diamond now, Gronkvist trying to promote something in partner's hand by ruffing with the seven, over-ruffed. Sprinkhuizen got out with a club and had to come to one more trump trick so was down two for -300 and 10 IMPs to Sweden.

It would have been better for Gronkvist to have retained the $\heartsuit 7$, as then when she got in with the late club play she would have had a heart to push through and pick-up declarer's remaining trumps for an extra undertrick.

That last board made quite a difference to the situation at the top of the rankings going into the final round. The Netherlands won this match by 43-14 IMPs, 16.72-3.28 VPs and would need to outscore Sweden by 12 VPs in their final match to snatch the title. Those extra 10 IMPs to Sweden and off the Netherlands had made the Dutch task that much tougher.

The task proved to be too tough for the Dutch, who had to be content with second place behind Sweden, who successfully defended the title they had won two years earlier in Slovakia. Germany took the bronze medal.

The 2019 U21 Championship was won by Netherlands, with France and England taking silver and bronze.

Poland won the U26 Women's Championship, with Hungary and Netherlands taking the silver and bronze medals.

Israel won the U16 Championship with Denmark winning silver and England taking the bronze.

Who will we see on the roll of honour here in Veldhoven next weekend?

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 Wrocslaw. Shipping, if needed, charged at cost. Email anna@jannersten.com for a quote.

