







DAILY BULLETIN

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Issue No 7. Tuesday 26 July, 2022

One Last Push



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While many teams have, for practical purposes, already qualified for next year's world championships, and one of the champions has almost certainly been decided, many teams still have work to do to fulfil whatever their goal might be, whether it be to fight for the title, for a medal, or just for a place in the next world championships. With one day's play remaining, it is time for one last push to achieve those goals.

Going into the final day, Israel look assured of the U21 title, as they are over 35 VPs ahead of France with only three rounds to play. France in turn are over 25 VPs clear of third and are looking good for the silver medal, while there is a three-way fight for bronze between Denmark, Netherlands and Sweden. Poland should be safe in the top eight, while Norway are also well placed. Italy, Hungary and England are all fighting for that all-important eighth spot and a place in the 2023 world U21 championship.

Things are less clearcut in the U26 Open championship. France have a handy but not decisive lead over Italy, who have a similar lead over third-placed Netherlands. Israel, Sweden and Poland are also well in touch with the medal places. In the battle for eighth, Croatia are about 15 VPs ahead of Germany. There are only two rounds to play in this competition.

PRIZE-GIVING & CLOSING CEREMONY

The Prize Giving (U21/U26) & Closing Ceremony will take place today at 18:30 in the Brabantzaal of the Koningshof. Drinks at the end.



BBO MATCHES TODAY

10:00	U26	RR16	TURKIYE	SWEDEN	BBO1
10:00	U26	RR16	ITALY	NETHERLANDS	BBO2
10:00	U26	RR16	IRELAND	FRANCE	BBO4
13:40	U26	RR17	ITALY	BULGARIA	BBO1
13:40	U26	RR17	POLAND	SWEDEN	BBO2
13:40	U26	RR17	ESTONIA	FRANCE	BBO4
9:30	U21	RR24	ISRAEL	POLAND	BBO3
11:35	U21	RR25	NORWAY	FRANCE	BBO3
14:20	U21	RR26	NETHERLANDS	DENMARK	BBO3

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/

Bidding Sequences

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

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

	Open Room							
Board	Cont	Decl	Lead	Tricks	NS	EW	Cont	Decl
1	2NT	S	≜ 4	5		150	1NT	N
2	2	\A/	ost No	rth East	Sout	.h	ŢŢ	Е
3	3	VV			1NT	15.5	х	W
4	31	Pa	100	NT Pass			Tx	Е
5	31	750	ass				ΙT	N
6	1NT	W	≜ 2	7		90	1NT	Е





Jos Jacobs

More about LoveBridge and the innovations made here

Here in Veldhoven, last Sunday, the Bulletin Staff was offered the chance to chat with both Mr Eric Laurant, the EBL President, and Mr Péter Talyigás, the director of the company that developed Lovebridge, about the great innovation introduced at these championships: the digital bidding box.

The concept of it was described in the first Bulletin here, and some of the introductory questions were already answered at the Captains' Meeting on last Tuesday.

The preliminary question about all this is: "What are we aiming at?" The answer is obvious once you think of it: Bridge, and even more so competitive bridge, should exploit any chances of improvement that occur thanks to modern and ever-extending technology. This applies to the scoring systems as well as to the procedures of bidding and play. Is it necessary to keep relying on trays, bidding boxes, bridgemates etc.? And guite a different perspective: "Can modern technology be used efficiently without destroying the social aspect of the game, i.e. four players sitting at the same table and having a good time together?" And also: "Can the running of an event, i.e. the TD's jobs, the timing of a session of play and the prevention of cheating, be incorporated into the new technological possibilities? And finally: "What about bridge as a spectator sport? What are the effects and possible advantages for journalists and the kibitzing public in general?

Time to start brainstorming, not only by the workers in the Lovebridge company, but preferably also between representatives of Lovebridge and European and World Bridge governing bodies. Initially, things were looking already quite promising for Lovebridge when it started in its home country, Hungary, back in 2018. So everything was going well indeed until...Covid came and caused an enormous setback, worldwide. It took Lovebridge until after the first Covid wave to establish contacts with the USBF (see Bulletin 1 here) who also said they were feeling happy with the first experiences in their Nationals in the fall of 2021 and the spring of 2022.

When the first storm of Covid finally subsided, the contacts between Lovebridge and the EBL were intensified. Both parties made it clear that they were looking for a situation to their mutual benefit. Lovebridge was looking for a way to spread its new technology and the EBL was looking for a company, a partner, who would not primarily act on

a commercial basis only, let alone claim a position as a monopolist, but who would be prepared to participate in the EBL's interest: promoting the game of bridge itself.

After all these ideological aspects, two more everyday issues should be considered: the cost of all this technology and finally, but possibly the most important, the appreciation of the bridge players themselves. At present, the financial aspects are being scrutinized clearly by the parties involved so there are no immediate problems in that area for the time being. Also, Lovebridge agreed to act as a sponsor of these Junior Championships, thus reducing the costs of this innovation for the EBL once more. In Hungary, the first country to use this new technology, bidding and also playing this way has already being generally accepted as the 'new normal.'

The EBL started the introduction of digital bidding boxes at a Junior championship. We all know that younger people are more inclined to (and certainly more experienced in) accepting and implementing anything new in the field of technology. Of course, after these Junior Championships, everyone involved (players, captains, coaches and staff) will be asked to share their impressions and comments with the digital bidding boxes, in a survey request to be sent to all of them. It is quite likely, we think, that this feedback will result in yet another big step forward towards our ultimate goal of combining efficiency and purity of competitive bridge and its all-important social aspects.

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.







Brian Senior, OPEN TEAMS U21 ROUND 20



HUNGARY vs ITALY



There is more at stake at these championships than the title and medals. There is also the not so small matter of qualification for next year's youth world championships. With Europe guaranteed eight teams in the 2023 U21 world championship, the match between eighth-placed Italy and ninth-placed Hungary was of critical importance to both teams.

There was a game swing on the first board.

Board 13. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A Q 10 ♥ 10872 ♦ 72

♣ Q 10 9 6

♠ K764 \otimes J ♦ AJ6 ♣ AK853

♠ J532 ♦ Q 10 9 5 4 **4** 4 2

♠ 98 ♥ AQ6543 ♦ K83

♣ J 7

West	North	East	South
Tarcali	Draghi	Dezso	Gardenghi
_	Pass	Pass	2 %
Dble	4♡	All Pass	

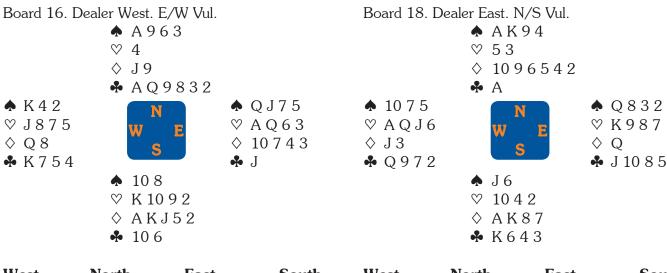
For Hungary, Zsolt Argay opened 3♥ in third seat and Mark Kemeny raised him to game over Alessandro Craletti's double. Carletti Cashed the top clubs then switched to ace and another diamond. When both major suits behaved as required, Argay had 10 tricks for +620.

For Italy, Oslo Gardenghi opened a level lower but Luca Draghi made the same raise to game so the final contract was the same as at our first table. Barnabas Tarcali led three rounds of clubs. Kende Dezso ruffing with the king. Gardenghi discarded a spade so Dezso could lead a diamond through and collect two of those and the contract was down two for -200 and 13 IMPs to Hungary.

There were two 3 IMP swings to Hungary on the next two deals so they led by 19-0, then...







West Carletti Pass Pass Pass	North Kemeny 1♣ 1♠ 3♣	East M Lombardi Pass Pass All Pass	South Argay 1♥ 2NT	West Carletti - Pass All Pass	North Kemeny - 1◊	East M Lombardi Pass Pass	South Argay Pass 2♦
West Tarcali Pass	North Draghi 1 ♣	East Dezso Dble	South Gardenghi 1♦	West Tarcali	North Draghi	East Dezso Pass	South Gardenghi Pass
Dble 3♡	1♠ All Pass	2♡	Pass	1NT Pass All Pass	Dble 3♦	2♥ Pass	Dble 3NT

Kemeny opened 1♣, after which a natural invitational auction saw him become declarer in 3♣, against which Matteo Lombardi led the four of diamonds. Kemeny played low from dummy, losing to the queen, and Carletti continued with a second diamond. Kemeny won the jack and ducked a spade, won the club return with the ace, and played ace of spades then ruffed a spade and attempted to take a discard on the ace of diamonds. When that was ruffed, he could over-ruff but was left with a club loser plus one in each major for down one and −50.

Draghi also opened 1♣, but Dezso made a light take-out double, leading to a quite different auction. Gardenghi bid diamonds and Tarcali doubled, take-out. When Dezso next freely introduced his hearts, Tarcali invited game – declined by Dezso, of course, but 3♥ was way too high on this lay-out. Gardenghi played three rounds of diamonds, Dezso ruffing with dummy's jack and leading a heart to the ace followed by a small heart to Gardenghi's nine. Gardenghi returned the ten of spades, Draghi winning the ace and playing ace then queen of clubs. There were two more trump tricks to be lost so Dezso was down three for -300 and 8 IMPs to Italy; 8-19.

There were three passes to Kemeny, who opened $1 \diamondsuit$. Argay's simple raise was inverted, so just invitational by a passed hand, Kemeny, with a shapely hand but minimal in high-card terms, passed and was left to play there, making 12 tricks for +170 after a club lead,

That offered an opportunity to Italy and they took it. Tarcali opened a 10-13 NT in third seat and Draghi doubled, which was a natural penalty suggestion against a non-strong NT according to their card. Dezso ran to $2\heartsuit$, both majors, and Gardenghi doubled. When Draghi now bid $3\diamondsuit$, Gardenghi converted to 3NT despite the opposing heart bid. No problem, not only were hearts four-four, but Tarcali led a spade anyway, so Gardenghi could win and cash 10 winners in all for +630 and 10 IMPs to Italy; 18-19.

Five Diamonds, of course, would have been a better spot in theory,



Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul. ♠ AQ10652 ♥ 854 ♦ J92 **4** 2 97 **♦** J843 ♥ 9 ♦ A K 5 ♦ Q87643 ♣ KJ53 **%** 874 K ♥ QJ10763 ♦ 10 ♣ AQ1096

West Carletti - 3♠ 5♣	North Kemeny 2♠ Pass All Pass	East M Lombardi 2NT 4♣	South Argay Pass Pass
West Tarcali Pass	North Draghi 2♠ 4♡	East Dezso Pass All Pass	South Gardenghi 3♡

Draghi opened a weak 2♠ then raised the 3♥ response to game. Tarcali led a diamond, Dezso winning the king and attempting to cash the ace. Gardenghi ruffed, cashed the king of spades, and played the queen of hearts. Dezso won that and played two more rounds of hearts. Gardeneghi won the third heart with dummy's eight and played ace then queen of spades. Had the suit divided evenly, all the club losers could have gone away and the contract been made. On the actual lay-out, there were two clubs to be lost so Gardenghi was down two for −200.

It was all rather different in the other room, where Lombardi overcalled 2Nt with the East hand and that meant that Argay stayed silent as South. According to the Carletti/Lombardi convention card, they play that a 3 response to a 2NT opening as showing both minors and a slam try, and they play system on facing a 1NT overcall. How they respond to a 2NT overcall is not shown, but I'd guess that it should be system on. Clearly, Lombardi didn't see it that way as he responded $4\clubsuit$ to $3\spadesuit$ and Carletti raised to game. Argay thought for a long time before doubling, and he was right to do so as, when he did so, Carletti ran to 5\oint . Argay doubled again, but with somewhat less enthusiasm. Kemeny cashed the ace and queen of spades then switched to his singleton club and was duly given his ruff. That was down two for -300 and 11 IMPs to Hungary, increasing their lead to 30-18.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♣ J954♡ 8♦ 106♣ AQ9642

↑ 10 6♡ A 9 5 4 2◊ J 9 4 3

% 85

W E

★ K 8 3♡ K Q J 10 6◇ K 2♣ J 7 3

♠ AQ72♡ 73♦ AQ875♣ K10

West	North	East	South
Carletti	Kemeny	M Lombardi	Argay
_	_	1 %	Dble
4♡	5 .	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Tarcali	Draghi	Dezso	Gardenghi
_	_	1 %	Dble
4♡	4	All Pass	

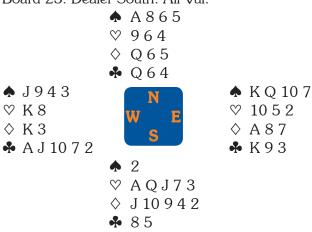
Both Easts opened 1%, both Souths doubled, and both Wests jumped to 4%, putting pressure on North. Draghi was now willing to trust his partner to turn up with four spades for the take-out double so bid $4\clubsuit$, while Kemeny preferred the security of his six-card club suit so bid the club game.



Barnabas Tarcali

Both declarers lost a trick in each major, so +400 for Kemeny, +450 for Draghi, and 2 IMPs to Italy, closing to 20-30.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

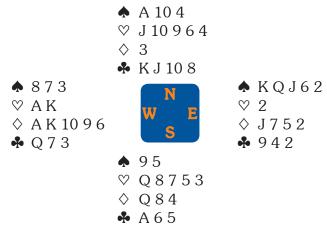


West	North	East	South
Carletti	Kemeny	M Lombardi	Argay
_	_	_	Pass
1♣	Pass	2♣	2 %
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2 4	Pass	4 ♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Tarcali	Draghi	Dezso	Gardenghi
_	_	_	Pass
1♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4 ^	All Pass		

By different routes, both E/Ws found their way to 4♠. Gardenghi led the jack of diamonds against Dezso, who won in dummy and played the jack of spades and, when that was ducked, continued with a second spade, also ducked. A third spade was won by Draghi's ace and he returned a fourth spade, exhausting everyone of trumps. Dezso needed the clubs to come in now. He played king of clubs then took the finesse, losing to the queen, and back came a diamond. The best he could do now was to cash out for down one and −100.

Kemeny led the four of hearts and Argay won the ace and switched to the jack of diamonds. Lombardi won the king and played on spades, Kemeny ducking until the third round then returning a diamond to Lombardi's ace. Lombardi played a club to the jack, losing to the queen, but now had the communications to ruff the diamond return in dummy, cross to hand with the \Re K to draw the outstanding trump, and cash the clubs and \Im K; ten tricks for +620 and 12 IMPs to Italy; taking the lead by 32-30.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.



West Carletti 1NT Dble	North Kemeny 2♡ All Pass	East M Lombardi 2♠	South Argay 4♡
West	North	East	South
Tarcali	Draghi	Dezso	Gardenghi
$1 \diamondsuit$	$1 \heartsuit$	Dble	4♡
Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass

When Carletti opened 1NT, Kemeny could overcall 2° to show hearts and a minor, and Argay raised to 4° , doubled by Carletti. Lombardi's lead of the king of spades ensured that the defence would come to its four tricks with no risk of a mishap; down one for -100.

Tarcali opened $1\diamondsuit$ and Draghi overcalled $1\heartsuit$. When Dezso doubled to show spades, Gardenghi raised to $4\heartsuit$ and Tarcali doubled. Dezso bid $4\spadesuit$ and played there. Gardenghi led a heart. Dezso won that in dummy and, without taking a club pitch on the second heart winner, played on spades, giving the defence a chance to beat him immediately. No, Draghi won the second spade and returned a heart, so the club went away now, and Dezso drew the last missing trump. It all came down to the diamonds now. Dezso played a low diamond to the king and cashed the ace, so had to lose a diamond and two clubs and he too was down one, for -50 and 4 IMPs to Italy, who ran out winners by 36-30 IMPs, converting to 12.01-7.99 VPs.

Italy stayed in eighth place but had closed right up on seventh-placed Norway, while Hungary stayed in eighth.



West



Brian Senior, OPEN TEAMS U21, ROUND 22



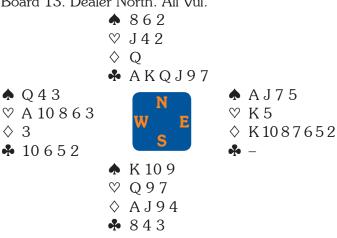
ISRAEL vs SWEDEN



Going into their Round 22 match against Sweden, Israel were more than 37 VPs clear of the field in the U21 championship, and it looked as though they were a sure thing for the title. Meanwhile, Sweden were lying in third place and still had some work to do if they were to go home with a medal.

Board 13. Dealer North, All Vul.

North



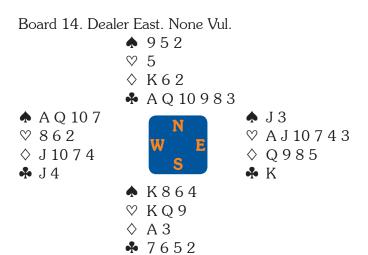
WESL	NOTH	Last	Journ
Lichtenstein	Sliwowicz	Warlenius	Sabbah
_	1♣	$1 \diamondsuit$	1NT
Pass	2♣	2 ^	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♦	Dble
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
Petelko	Sivelind	Retter	Abragi
_	1♣	$1 \diamondsuit$	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Fast

South

For Sweden, Andreas Abragi liked his diamond holding sufficiently to upgrade to a jump to 2NT, giving Filip Asplund Sivelind an easy raise to game. Lia Petelko led a heart and the defence played three rounds of the suit. Abragi won the third heart and cashed all the clubs, coming down to $\bigstar K10 \diamondsuit AJ$. At trick 10 he led the gueen of diamonds and Koren Retter did not cover, so Abragi ran the queen then led a spade up and had an overtrick; +630.

For Israel, Ofek Sabbah only bid 1NT with the South cards and Jonatan Sliwowicz rebid a quite 24. This combination tempted Harry Hjorth Warlenius to bid out his pattern with the East cards, but that finally led to his being doubled in 30 by Sabbah, who led a club. Warlenius ruffed the club, crossed to dummy with the ace of hearts, and led the three of diamonds to the queen, king and ace. Back came another club, which he ruffed. Warlenius played a low spade next, Sabbah winning the ace and returning a heart to the now bare king. Warlenius played a diamond and eventually lost three more of those but could cash his spade winners and was just one down for -200 but 10 IMPs to Sweden.



West Lichtenstein - 2♡ All Pass	North Sliwowicz - 3♣	East Warlenius 1♡ 3♡	South Sabbah Pass 3NT
West Petelko - 2♡	North Sivelind - All Pass	East Retter 1♡	South Abragi Pass

Retter opened 1% and was raised to 2% by Petelko, and that ended the auction. Hearts were bad but spades were good, and Retter made exactly for +110.

In the other room, Sliwowicz overcalled 34 with the North cards and, though Warlenius competed with 30, that did nothing to dissuade Sabbah, who bid 3NT and played there. Ivar Lichtenstein led the two of hearts, Warlenius putting in the ten. Sabbah won and led a club to the queen and king. A switch to the jack of spades, either now or after cashing the ♥A, would have beaten the contract now, but that needed quite a specific spade situation, and Warlenius continued with a low heart. Sabbah won that and had five clubs and two diamonds to cash so the contract was just made for +400 and 11 IMPs to Israel, wiping out the Swedish gain on the first board of the match.

Israel picked up another 3 IMPs on Board 15 by doubling a spade game that was down one at both tables but not doubled by Sweden; Israel 14 Sweden 10.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

973 ♥ 853 ♦ AJ64 ♣ K84 ♣ J 5 4 ♠ K Q ♥ KJ64 ♥ Q 7 ♦ K82 ♦ Q9753 ♣ A 10 2 ♣ QJ53 ♠ A 10 8 6 2 ♥ A 10 9 2 ♦ 10 **9** 9 7 6

West	North	East	South
Lichtenstein	Sliwowicz	Warlenius	Sabbah
1♣	Pass	1 ♠ (i)	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	All Pass

(i) No major

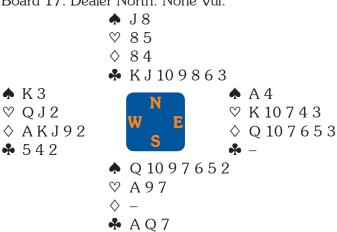
West	North	East	South
Petelko	Sivelind	Retter	Abragi
1 💑	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Sliwowicz led the seven of spades against Lichtenstein, Sabbah winning the ace a and continuing the suit. Warlenius ran the queen of clubs, losing to the king. Back came spade. Warlenius won the jack, cashed the ace and ten of clubs, and tried to get to hand by leading a heart to the queen. That

lost to the ace and Sabbah cashed two spades and there was the ace of diamonds to come for down one and -100.

Abragi led a low spade from the South hand and Retter won and ran the jack of clubs, which was ducked, then continued with a club to the ten and king. Sivelind returned a spade, so Abragi won and cleared the suit. Retter won the \$\int_J\$, cashed the ace of clubs, and led a diamond to his king. He cashed the thirteenth club then played the queen of hearts and Abragi could win the ace and cash his spade winners, but had then to give the lead to dummy's hearts, not having a diamond to lead to his partner's ace; eight tricks for +120 and 6 IMPs to Israel, who led by 20-10.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Lichtenstein	Sliwowicz	Warlenius	Sabbah
_	3♣	3♡	3♠
4♡	Pass	Pass	4
5♦	All Pass		





West	North	East	South
Petelko	Sivelind	Retter	Abragi
_	3♣	3♡	3♠
4♡	Pass	Pass	5 %
5♡	All Pass		

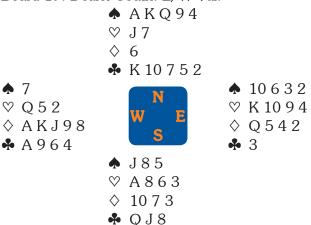
Both Norths opened with a club pre-empt and both Easts judged it best to overcall in the major rather than the longer diamond suit. South introduced the spades, West bid the heart game, and that ran round to South who, looking at 10 black cards was always going to bid again.

Sabbah opted to repeat the long spades and now Lichtenstein suggested diamonds, which suited Warlenius very well. Six Diamonds is cold, of course, but nobody was really thinking f slam, and anyway, N/S have a good save. Five Diamonds was made with an overtrick for +420.

Abragi preferred to support clubs at his second turn. Petelko didn't bother with diamonds, considering his heart holding to be quite adequate support for a three-level overcall, and took the push to 5%. After a spade lead, Retter too made 12 tricks, but for him that meant +480 and 2 IMPs to Israel; 22-10.

Israel gained another 2 IMPs on the next deal, for the second time in the match doubling $4 \spadesuit$ for down one while playing the same contract themselves undoubled.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



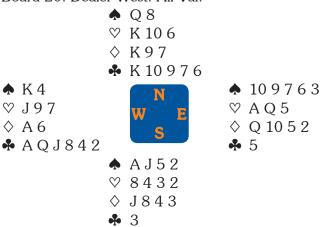
West	North	East	South
Lichtenstein	Sliwowicz	Warlenius	Sabbah
_	_	_	Pass
$1 \diamondsuit$	1 ♠	Dble	2 %
Dble	4 ♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
West Petelko	North Sivelind	East Retter	South Abragi
			Abragi
Petelko –	Sivelind –	Retter	Abragi Pass

Neither North was able to launch his hand with a two-suited overcall, but they chose different suits for their simple overcalls.

Sliwowicz opted for the normal 1 overcall and Sabbah showed a constructive raise to 2 , giving Sliwowicz an easy game bid. However, 4 is easily beaten on a club lead, and that is what Warlenius led. But Lichtenstein couldn't read declarer for five clubs and switched to ace and king of diamonds on winning trick one. Sliwowicz ruffed, drew trumps, and had 10 tricks for +420.

Sivelind overcalled $2\clubsuit$ and lost the fifth spade as the auction progressed, Abragi raised to $3\clubsuit$, Sivelind bid his spades, and Abragi went back to clubs, assuming his partner to have longer clubs than spades. When Petelko now jumped to $5\diamondsuit$, having been content to bid only $3\diamondsuit$ at his previous turn, somebody might have doubled, but nobody did. Five Diamonds was down two for -200 but 6 IMPs to Israel; 30-10.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Lichtenstein	Sliwowicz	Warlenius	Sabbah
Petelko	Sivelind	Retter	Abragi
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
$2\Diamond$	Pass	2 ♠	All Pass

Both Easts used Stayman then continued with $2\spadesuit$, mildly invitational, and played there.

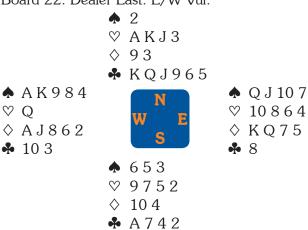
Abragi led his singleton club and Retter judged to finesse, putting in dummy's jack. That lost to the king and back came a low heart. Retter rose with the ace, planning to take heart discards on his supposed club winners. He crossed to the ace of diamonds and took the first pitch on the ace of clubs, only to see it ruffed on his left. Abragi returned a heart to the king, and Sivelind cashed the king of diamonds then played a club to the ♠9 and ♠J. Abragi led a diamond round to declarer's ten, rose with the ace on Retter's spade lead, and gave Sivelind a diamond ruff with the queen of spades; down two for −200.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

Sabbah led a heart to the seven, ten and queen, and Warlenius led a spade to the king and a second spade to the queen. When Sliwowicz returned a diamond, Warlenius got that right, going up with the king, and took the club finesse, losing to the king. Back came a diamond to the ace. Warlenius took a diamond discard on the ace of clubs, ruffed by Sabbah, who led a diamond to his partner's king. Not wishing to resurrect dummy's ♣Q, Sliwowicz returned a heart now but Warlenius played low, winning in dummy. There was another trump to be lost, but that still meant eight tricks for +110 and 7 IMPs to Sweden; 17-30.

Israel picked up an overtrick IMP on Board 21, then came a high-level sacrifice.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Lichtenstein	Sliwowicz	Warlenius	Sabbah
_	_	Pass	Pass
1 ♠	2♣	2NT	3♣
4 ♠	5 .	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Petelko	Sivelind	Retter	Abragi
_	_	Pass	Pass
1 ^	2♣	3♠	4 ♣
4 ♠	5 ♣	Dble	All Pass

Both Norths overcalled, both Souths raised clubs, and both Norths took the save in 5, where they were doubled for down one and a push board at -100. Neither E/W pair knew about the double fit so neither was in a position to consider taking the push to the cold vulnerable 5.

♠ Q
 ♡ A K Q J 8 4
 ◇ 10 9 6 5
 ♠ 6 4
 ♠ X 2
 ♡ 10 2
 ◇ A K 8 4 2
 ♣ J 10 8 5
 ♠ A J 10 5 4 3
 ♡ 6 5
 ◇ J 7 3
 ♠ A 3

♠ 9876♡ 973♦ Q♣ KQ972

West	North	East	South
Lichtenstein	Sliwowicz	Warlenius	Sabbah
_	_	_	Pass
$1 \diamondsuit$	1 %	2♡(i)	3♡
Pass	4♡	Dble	Pass
4 ♠	All Pass		

(i) Spades

West	North	East	South
Petelko	Sivelind	Retter	Abragi
_	_	_	Pass
$1 \diamondsuit$	1 %	1 ^	2 %
Pass	4♡	Dble	All Pass

In 4% doubled, Petelko won the diamond lead and switched to a trump. Sivelind won that and led a club to the queen followed by a spade. Petelko rose with the king to play a second trump. Sivelind won that and led a second club up, Retter winning the ace and playing the ace of spades. Sivelind could ruff that, take a diamond ruff in dummy, and a diamond pitch on the king of clubs. However, he was left with a diamond loser at the end so was down one for 200.

Against 4♠, Sliwowicz cashed the king of hearts then switched to a low diamond. That proved to be an inspired play as Lichtenstein put up dummy's jack, covered by the queen and ace, and so had created a third-round diamond loser for himself. And had to go down in what had started out as a cold contract. He drew trumps then played on diamonds and was left with a diamond loser along with a club and a second heart; down one for −100 and 7 IMPs to Israel., making it 38-17 overall.

The last board was a flat partscore so that was the final score, converting to 15.79-4.21 VPs in favour of Israel, whose lead at the top of the rankings grew to over 40 VPs, while Sweden slipped to fifth.





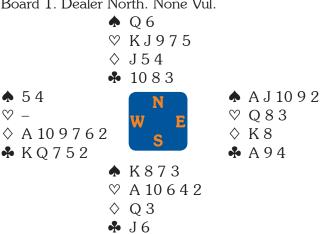
Jos Jacobs, OPEN TEAMS U26, ROUND 13

NORWAY vs FRANCE

On Monday morning, I decided to have a look at the overnight leaders first. They would have to face Norway, a team that might well be fighting for their last chance to make it into the top eight by starting a rally right now.

The first board of the day already was a serious test.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.



Most E/W pairs reached a minor suit game and made it. The French E/W showed they were quite awake right from the word 'go" because this was their auction.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
L Bonin	S Sjødal	Guichet	Kjensli
_	Pass	1NT	Pass
2 ^	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♦	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♣	All Pass

1 NT was 14-16 and 2 was a general transfer. West then showed his minor two-suiter and, on the 3relay, 4confirmed his 6-5. East eventuallysettled for the 5-3 fit and had to be careful in the play: the classic approach of only two rounds of trumps followed by three rounds of diamonds was required to ruff out the diamonds and ...proved successful here. Not all declarers in 5♣ adopted this line but they were not tested so seriously. France a fine +920 to start with. Needless to say, they were the only pair to get to the slam.

The auction in the Closed Room was quite a contrast to the French Open Room performance:

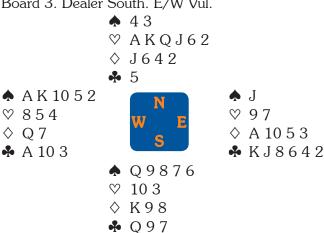
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Heiberg-E	Guillemin	Lund	Boulin
_	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

After this natural enough auction, the French found a natural enough heart lead. So we once again witnessed the classic phenomenon of a slam being made in one room while 3NT was going down in the other. France scored 14 IMPs on the deal. I would not be the only one to call that a flying start.

Two boards later, we saw another phenomenon...

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
L Bonin	S Sjødal	Guichet	Kjensli
_	_	_	Pass
1 ♠	2 %	Dble	Pass
2 ^	3♡	All Pass	

When West opened 14, the auction developed along straightforward lines towards sort of a par result. Because 4♣ may well go down, scoring +50 for defeating 3% looks basically OK for both sides.

In the Closed Room auction, North's classic dreams about leads came true, one might say.

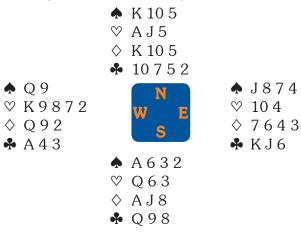
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Heiberg-E	Guillemin	Lund	Boulin
_	_	_	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

After passing 1NT, North suddenly found himself on lead against 3NT. France another +200 and 6 more IMPs to them.

With the score at 26-2 to France after six boards, we saw a more modern innovation on the board below:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
L Bonin	S Sjødal	Guichet	Kjensli
_	_	_	1♣
1♡	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The Norwegians produced an entirely natural auction which resulted in 3NT being wrongsided. East led the $\heartsuit 10$ to declarer's jack and when Sjødal next played a club, Guichet rose with his king to push another heart through before West's entry to the hearts was gone. One down, France +100.

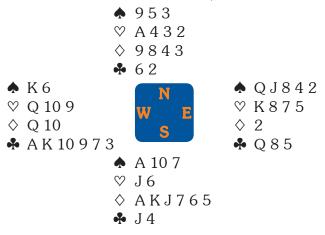
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Heiberg-E	Guillemin	Lund	Boulin
_	_	_	1♣
1♡	1 ^	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The French N/S did already adopt the idea of 1♠ being used as a transfer to 1NT. This worked well here because, when North made a natural enough raise to game at his next turn, West was on lead. His heart lead ran to declarer's queen. A spade was won by dummy's king and the ensuing club was taken by declarer's eight because no defender wanted to take this trick. Declarer then simply continued clubs and eventually, dummy's fourth club became declarer's ninth trick. France another +600 and 12 more IMPs.

A few boards later, the E/W pairs clearly had different ideas about the desired level of competition.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
L Bonin	S Sjødal	Guichet	Kjensli
_	_	_	1NT
Pass	Pass	2 ♣	$2\diamondsuit$
2 %	All Pass		

In the Open Room, South opened 1NT, East showed his majors, and then the table sold out to West's $2\heartsuit$. When the defenders led clubs rather than forcing declarer in diamonds, the contract even came home with an overtrick for +140 to France.

Not that this mattered very much, because in the other room we saw a fine example of the sort of auctions for which the Juniors are famous (according to the old, old connoisseurs...).

Closed Room

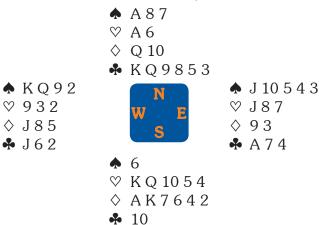
West	North	East	South
Heiberg-E	Guillemin	Lund	Boulin
_	_	_	1NT
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	2♣	Dble	$2 \diamondsuit$
3♣	3♦	$4\diamondsuit$	Pass
5 4	Dble	5♦	Pass
5♡	Dble	All Pass	

North's 2 was muddying the E/W waters. West clearly intended his 3 as natural but this message was lost on East who, at his turn, tried a request for West's better major by bidding 4 . Five Clubs might just have gone one down only but apparently, East still was disconnected...

Five Hearts eventually was down four for another +800 and 14 IMPs to France.

A few boards later, another slam was in the air.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
L Bonin	S Sjødal	Guichet	Kjensli
_	_	Pass	$1 \diamondsuit$
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 %
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♦	Pass	4 %
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	5 %
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

In spite of the vigorous cuebidding by both North and South, the Norwegians quite correctly stopped in $5\diamondsuit$. Slam looks a bit odds-against. Both red suits have to behave but, when they did, the Norwegians had an easy +420.

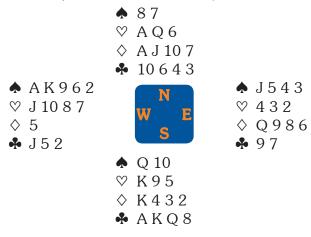
Closed Room

	= =		
West	North	East	South
Heiberg-E	Guillemin	Lund	Boulin
_	_	Pass	$1 \diamondsuit$
Pass	2♣	Pass	2 %
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♦	Pass	4 %
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♡
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

In the replay, North took the bull by the horns after hearing partner's reverse. Had South held a few more red jacks, the slam would have been excellent but, as it was, the French were not unlucky when on a spade lead, even 13 tricks rolled home with little trouble. France +940 and another 11 IMPs to them.

On the penultimate board, the Norwegians were distinctly unlucky. I have little doubt that even the French will agree with me here.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
L Bonin	S Sjødal	Guichet	Kjensli
_	1	Pass	2 ♣
2 ^	Pass	3♠	5 %
All Pass			

The Norwegians reached a fine 5 after discovering, in their inverted minors auction, that they did not have a spade stopper. The loss of a diamond trick could not be avoided, however, due to the lack of good intermediates in the suit. One down, France +50.

In the Closed Room, North did not have an opening bid according to the French standards, so he passed. This enabled South to open 1NT and from there, this was the auction.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Heiberg-E	Guillemin	Lund	Boulin
	Pass	Pass	1NT
2 %	3NT	All Pass	

West showed his majors, but over North's 3NT East could not act. We can hardly blame West for leading his fifth best spade, but this meant that declarer had made his contract with even two overtricks, rather than going down in it...France thus scored another 11 IMPs to make the final score 84-17 to them. This blitz would no doubt strengthen their grip on the top position in the standings.



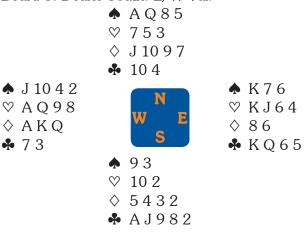


Brian Senior

Expensive Misunderstanding

E/W had an expensive misunderstanding on this deal from Round 23 of the U21 championship. I mention no names, to protect the guilty.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2 ♣	Dble
Rdbl	All Pass		

West opened a strong NT, East used Stayman, and South doubled to show clubs. I would have thought that the 'standard' meaning of redouble is to show good clubs and offer the option of playing 24 redoubled, but of course not everyone will play that way. It looks as though West intended the redouble to show both majors, but that was not the message that got across to East, who left it in.

Against 24 redoubled, South led a heart. Declarer won in hand, crossed to dummy with a second heart, and led the two of spades. North rose with the ace and gave his partner a heart ruff. South returned a diamond. Declarer won in dummy, cashed the king of spades, and followed up by cashing the remaining diamond winners, pitching the spade loser from hand. Next he ruffed a spade low and was overruffed. South played back the nine of clubs to the three, four and king, and declarer was caught. Down to ♥J ♣Q6, if he played a trump South would win, draw the other trump, and cash a diamond at trick 13 for down one. So declarer played his heart instead, hoping that clubs had started out six-one. But North had the ten of clubs with which to ruff this trick and South had the ace and jack over the queen for the last two tricks; down one.

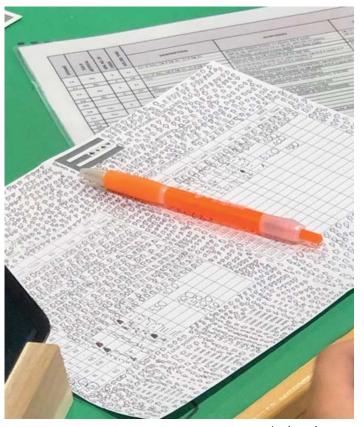
Declarer's line seems to require South to have been

3-3-3-5, so that he can ruff a spade low and win the trick, after which winning one of the king-queen brings him up to eight.

The contract could have been made by taking the spade finesse after North grabbed the ace on the first spade play. Later run the jack and South comes to four club tricks but that is all, apart from the \triangle A. So, by one definition, 2 redoubled was cold at one point.

But suppose that North does not rise with the ace of spades. Declarer wins the king, takes a spade discard on the third diamond, then gives up a spade. North wins the queen and still has the ace, so there is no second spade winner and no low ruff in the East hand. The simple defence is for North to lead the ten of clubs when in with the spade. Declarer has only the five red tricks, the \bigstar K, and one high club winner. So the contract becomes cold off if North ducks the first spade.

Four Hearts was bid and made in the other room for +620. That went very nicely with +400 on defence to 24 redoubled and the swing was 14 IMPs. Had 24 redoubled been made, that would have been +760 and 4 IMPs the other way.



A player's score





Brian Senior Nicely Played

E/W had an expensive misunderstanding on this dMost of the field found themselves in 4♠ from the South seat on this deal from Round 23 of the U21 championships. Several received a heart lead, after which careful play brings home the contract. Roughly two-thirds of those who played it on a heart lead were successful. The table I watched was, of course, part of the BBO match, which featured Poland and Norway.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ K 10 5♡ A J 7 5 3◇ Q 3

♣ 652

♠ J 7 6 2
♥ 10 8 6 4
♦ A 5

W E

< •

♥ Q 2♦ 108764♣ A K J 87

♠ AQ943
♡ K9

♦ KJ92

4 10 4

West	North	East	South
Devik	Bukat	Landsvik	Stasik
_	_	_	1 ^
Pass	3♦	Pass	4
All Pass			

Poland's Michal Stasik opened 1 and jumped to game over Aleks Bukat's limit raise.

There are three top losers, a parking place has to be found for the fourth diamond and, on the actual lay-out, the trumps are four-one, meaning that there is a lot of work to be done.

The good news was that Stasik received a friendly opening lead, the six of hearts, which went to the three, queen and king.

Stasik cashed the ace and queen of spades, discovering that he had a trump loser. He continued by leading the nine of hearts to the ace, cashing the jack for a club pitch, and ruffing a heart. Next he led the two of diamonds towards dummy's queen. West hopped up with the ace and returned a spade to dummy's king. Stasik played the fifth heart for a second club pitch and West discarded his remaining diamond, so Stasik played the queen of diamonds. When West this time discarded a club, Stasik ruffed a club with his low trump and that was his tenth trick; contract just made for +620. As the result in the other room was 2 +1 for +140, that was worth 10 IMPs to Poland.

Had West ruffed the fifth heart and forced declarer to ruff a club, Stasik would have had five spades, three hearts and two diamonds.

Nor does it do West any good to play queen and another club when in with the $\Diamond A$. Declarer ruffs, plays a diamond to the queen, followed by the fifth heart. West can ruff, but can do nothing to hurt declarer.





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RESULTS - OPEN UNDER 26

ROUND 13

			IM	Ps	VPs
1	IRELAND	ITALY	20	53	3.10 16.90
2	ENGLAND	LATVIA	38	24	13.56 6.44
3	ISRAEL	HUNGARY	40	17	15.32 4.68
4	SWEDEN	GREECE	38	11	16.00 4.00
5	CROATIA	GERMANY	46	22	15.50 4.50
6	NORWAY	FRANCE	17	84	0.00 20.00
7	BULGARIA	ESTONIA	19	15	11.14 8.86
8	TURKIYE	NETHERLANDS	6	69	0.05 19.95
9	SCOTLAND	POLAND	0	95	0.00 20.00

ROUND 14

			IMPs	VPs
1	IRELAND	SCOTLAND	50 44	11.67 8.33
2	POLAND	NETHERLANDS	30 51	5.04 14.96
3	BULGARIA	TURKIYE	39 56	5.81 14.19
4	NORWAY	ESTONIA	26 32	8.33 11.67
5	FRANCE	CROATIA	43 20	15.32 4.68
6	GERMANY	GREECE	41 43	9.42 10.58
7	SWEDEN	HUNGARY	42 56	6.44 13.56
8	ENGLAND	ISRAEL	11 47	2.69 17.31
9	LATVIA	ITALY	25 38	6.66 13.34

ROUND 15

			IM	Ps	V	Ps
1	IRELAND	POLAND	14	99	0.00	20.00
2	TURKIYE	SCOTLAND	133	10	18.00	0.00
3	NETHERLANDS	ESTONIA	91	28	19.95	0.05
4	BULGARIA	FRANCE	14	70	0.58	19.42
5	GERMANY	NORWAY	49	5	18.27	1.73
6	SWEDEN	CROATIA	31	27	11.14	8.86
7	ISRAEL	GREECE	51	57	8.33	11.67
8	HUNGARY	LATVIA	63	22	17.93	2.07
9	ITALY	ENGLAND	41	50	7.58	12.42

RANKING AFTER R. 15

1		FRANCE	228.42
2		ITALY	205.89
3		NETHERLANDS	200.43
4	✡	ISRAEL	191.18
5	+	SWEDEN	188.56
6		POLAND	187.88
7	C+	TURKIYE	178.42
8	₩	CROATIA	172.48
9		GERMANY	158.55
10	蛊	GREECE	153.43
11		BULGARIA	141.46
12	\pm	ENGLAND	138.21
13		ESTONIA	132.41
14		NORWAY	127.94
15		HUNGARY	117.71
16		LATVIA	89.77
17		IRELAND	42.45
18	X	SCOTLAND	40.91





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RESULTS - OPEN UNDER 21

RC	OUND 20						
11 12 13 14 15 16	NORWAY HUNGARY ENGLAND GREECE TURKIYE GERMANY IRELAND	ISRAEL ITALY FRANCE NETHERLANDS DENMARK SWEDEN POLAND	IMPs 26 44 30 36 28 16 22 24 30 70 22 47 13 25	VPs 4.85 15.15 7.99 12.01 13.71 6.29 9.29 10.71 0.72 18.78 3.45 16.55 6.29 13.71			
ROUND 21							
11 12 13 14 15 16	ITALY HUNGARY ENGLAND GREECE TURKIYE GERMANY IRELAND	FRANCE ISRAEL NETHERLANDS DENMARK SWEDEN POLAND NORWAY	IMPs 33 47 16 35 36 41 2 49 21 51 41 19 42 35	VPs 5.78 14.22 4.63 15.37 8.30 11.70 0.46 19.54 2.60 17.40 15.99 4.01 12.31 7.69			
RC	OUND 22						
11 12 13 14 15 16 17	ISRAEL FRANCE NETHERLANDS DENMARK IRELAND HUNGARY ENGLAND	SWEDEN POLAND NORWAY ITALY GERMANY TURKIYE GREECE	38 17 35 29 34 17 41 24 30 22 37 36 45 7	VPs 15.79 4.21 12.01 7.99 14.93 5.07 14.93 5.07 12.61 7.39 10.36 9.64 18.54 1.46			
ROUND 23							
11 12 13 14 15	ISRAEL NETHERLANDS SWEDEN NORWAY IRELAND	ITALY FRANCE DENMARK POLAND TURKIYE	IMPs 35 37 20 32 32 30 54 27 60 28	VPs 9.29 10.71 6.29 13.71 10.71 9.29 16.91 3.09 17.71 2.29			

53

27

16

18.41

1.59

7.69 12.31

RANKING AFTER R. 23 👛 ISRAEL 340.43 2 FRANCE 304.77 3 DENMARK 278.45 4 NETHERLANDS 273.85 5 **SWEDEN** 273.70 6 POLAND 250.54 7 NORWAY 236.98 8 ITALY 225.75 9 HUNGARY 221.96 10 ENGLAND 221.38 11 **GERMANY** 172.09 12 TURKIYE 167.75 GREECE 13 129.75 14 IRELAND 115.20



GREECE

ENGLAND

16

GERMANY

HUNGARY



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