



# 28th European Youth Team Championships

19-26 July 2022 - Veldhoven, The Netherlands

## DAILY BULLETIN

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## And then there were two



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So now we are down to just two series, which I am sure that the competitors in the U21 and U26 Open will agree was where the true quality was all along.

The U21 rankings are really getting stretched out at the top as Israel move 27 VPs clear of second-placed France who, in turn, are just over 27 VPs clear of third-placed Netherlands. Sweden, Poland, Denmark and Norway complete the top half of the table.

The U26 is much less stretched out. Leaders France are on 173.68, with Italy on 168.07. There is a little gap then to Sweden, who are on 154.98, but Israel, Turkiye, Netherlands, Croatia and Poland are all very much involved in the race for medals.

There are now just two days to go, with five rounds in the U26 Open, and seven in the U21s.

### PRIZE-GIVING & CLOSING CEREMONY

The Prize Giving (U21/U26) & Closing Ceremony will take place on Tuesday 26th July at 18:30 in the Brabantzaal of the Koningshof. Drinks at the end.

## BBO MATCHES TODAY

10:00	U26	RR13	<b>CROATIA</b>	<b>GERMANY</b>
10:00	U26	RR13	<b>NORWAY</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>
13:40	U26	RR14	<b>POLAND</b>	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>
13:40	U26	RR14	<b>BULGARIA</b>	<b>TURKIYE</b>
16:30	U26	RR15	<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>CROATIA</b>
16:30	U26	RR15	<b>ISRAEL</b>	<b>GREECE</b>
9:30	U21	RR20	<b>HUNGARY</b>	<b>ITALY</b>
11:35	U21	RR21	<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>
14:20	U21	RR22	<b>ISRAEL</b>	<b>SWEDEN</b>
16:25	U21	RR23	<b>NORWAY</b>	<b>POLAND</b>

### 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/>

### Cue Bids

Cuebids is a new bridge app for bidding practice with your partner. You can bid whenever it suits you - no need to be online at the same time as your partner. When you finish a deal you get feedback on what the best contract is and you can see how others have bid the hands. Cuebids is free to use and you can be anonymous if you wish. The community is growing and new features are added continuously.



Cuebids is available on [www.cuebids.com](http://www.cuebids.com) and also on iOS and Android.

### The Youngest Player

Niko Schlessinger Yaffe, from Israel, age 8, pictured right, is the youngest participant to these Championships.






## Brian Senior

# Auction of the Day

This deal comes from Round 12 of the U26 Open series, and was sent to us by the Estonian pairing of Rao Zvorovski and Riko Piirisild.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Piirisild</i>		<i>Zvorovski</i>	
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Many pairs bid the small slam, but the Estonians certainly had a unique auction.

Two Diamonds was weak, and 2NT asked. They play that the responses to 2NT show the general level of enthusiasm for the opening hand, so 3♣ is no enthusiasm at all, 3♦ a bit, 3♥ quite a lot, 3♠ really like my hand. So Rao felt able to ask for key-cards and, when Riko turned up with two, bid the cold slam. Simple!

If you like short and sweet though, the Bulgarian pair of Gergana Tebneva and Nikolay Yaninski must take the prize. Gergana opened 4NT, very minor two-suited, and Nikolay jumped to 6♦!

For those interested in such matters:

- 8 Wests passed as dealer
- 7 Wests opened 1♦
- 1 West opened 2♦
- 1 West opened 3♣, weak with both minors
- 1 West opened 4NT
- Nobody opened with a 3♦ or 4♦ pre-empt

## Auction of the Day

LoveBridge is 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](mailto: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.



Brian Senior, OPEN TEAMS U26 ROUND 12

**FRANCE vs POLAND**

Going into their Round 12 match-up, France lay second, over a match behind Israel but over a match ahead of third-placed Netherlands. Poland came next, about 5 VPs behind Netherlands.

Poland gained 3 IMPs on a partscore deal, then something a little more substantial.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>J Patreuha</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♦	3♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>
–	–	1♠	Pass
1NT	2♣	2♦	All Pass

Patryk opened an off-centre 1NT as East and Jakub transferred to hearts. Neither had anything further to say when Guillemin overcalled 3♣ and that drifted two off when Patryk cashed three spades then switched to ace and another heart; –200.

Tabata opened 1♠ and rebid 2♦ over Bazyluk's 2♣ overcall. The trump position was rather unkind to 2♦, and Tabata lost two clubs, a heart and four diamonds so was also down two; –100 and 7 IMPs to Poland.

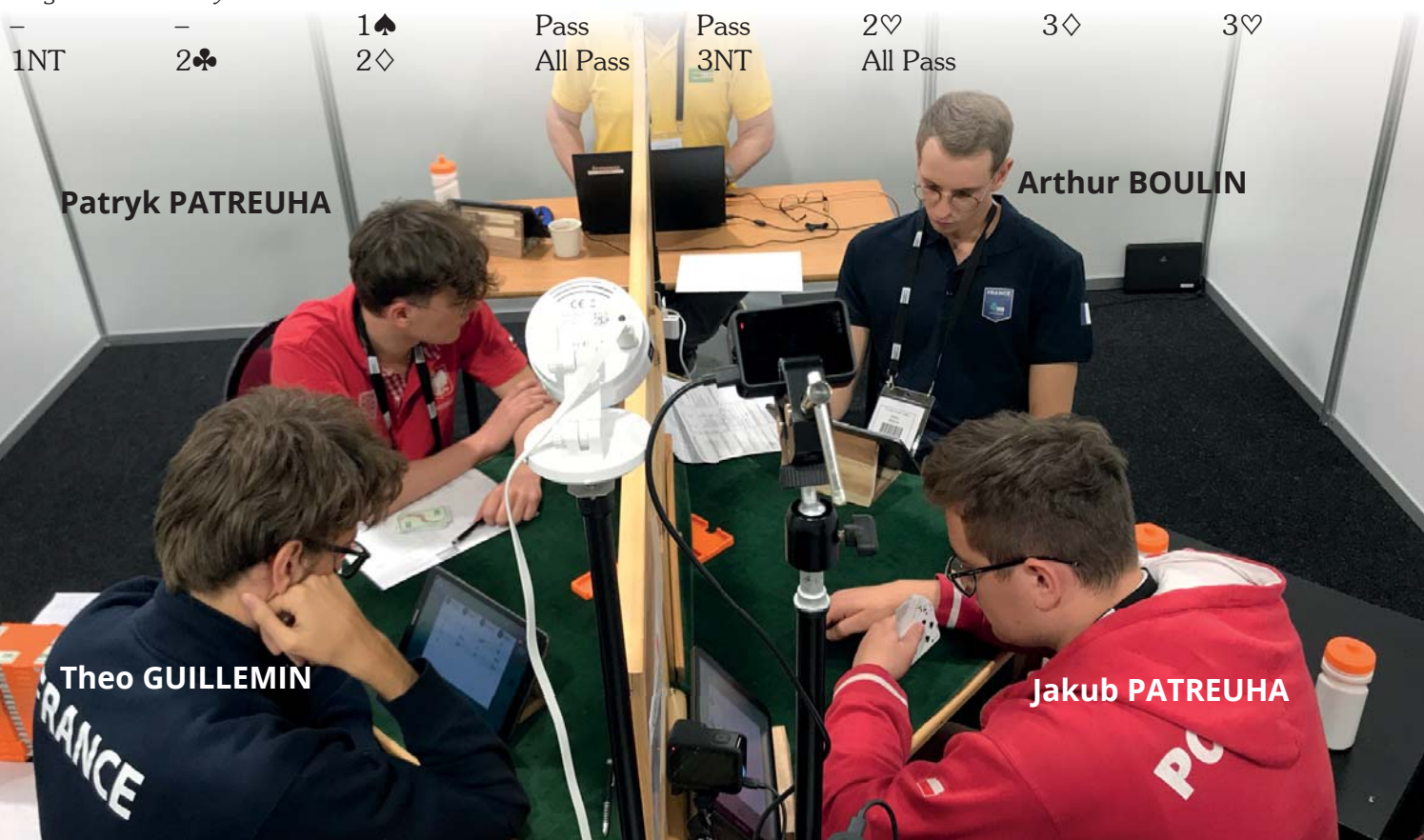
Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>J Patreuha</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
–	–	–	1♥
Pass	2♥	3♦	3♥
3NT	All Pass		



Patryk PATREUHA

Arthur BOULIN

Theo GUILLEMIN


Jakub PATREUHA

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>
–	–	–	1♥
Pass	2♥	Dble	3♥
Dble	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Patryk overcalled 3♦ with the East hand and Jakub ignored Boulin's 3♥ rebid and took a shot at 3NT. Guillemín led the eight of hearts to the ten, queen and king, and Jakub led the nine of diamonds. Guillemín grabbed the ace and, misreading the heart position, returned a spade. Jakub won that with the ace, cashed four club tricks, then led the ten of diamonds and ran it; 11 tricks for +660 when the defence could have cashed out for down two. Could North not duck the first diamond to get a signal from partner?

Tabata doubled the heart raise and Fragola in turn made a responsive double of 3♥. Fragola then went on to 4♠ over Tabata's 4♦ and the French pair were in a delicate four-three trump fit. Bazyluk led the eight of hearts, Tomasz Kielbasa winning the ace and switching to his singleton diamond. Bazyluk won the ♦A and returned the ♦4 – low, ruff. Kielbasa returned a club, Fragola winning in dummy and playing ace and another spade. The ♠K was the setting trick but that was all for the defence; down one for –100 and 13 IMPs to Poland, who led by 23-0.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
<i>J Patreuha</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
1♦	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dble	3♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Jakub opened 1♦ then doubled for take-out at his second turn. Guillemín showed a constructive three-level heart raise, and Boulin jumped to the heart game. Jakub led a diamond round to declarer's eight and Boulin, not wishing to risk diamond ruffs, laid down the ace of trumps, getting a pleasant bonus when the king appeared on his left. He could create extra minor-suit tricks now to get rid of the low spades, and had 12 tricks for +680.

Fragola opened 1NT with the 4-1-4-4 hand and Kielbasa overcalled in fourth seat but then declined Bazyluk's game invitation. Fragola led a diamond round to the eight, and Kielbasa crossed to the ace of spades to take the heart finesse. That lost and she also lost one trick in each black suit; +170 but 11 IMPs to France, closing to 11-23.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>J Patreuha</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
–	1♠	Pass	2NT(i)
3♣	4♠	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

(i) GF raise

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>
–	1♥	Pass	2♣(i)
3♣	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

(i) GF relay

Bazyluk opened his longer suit, Guillemín the more prepared suit, ready to rebid the second suit. It didn't matter, with both N/S pairs bidding confidently to the small sla; flat at +1430.

## Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ – ♥ J 10 ♦ K 10 9 8 6 4 ♣ A J 10 7 6		♠ K Q ♥ A K Q 7 ♦ A Q J 5 ♣ 8 5 2	♠ A J 7 5 4 2 ♥ 9 6 5 ♦ 7 ♣ K 9 4
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West	North	East	South
<i>J Patreuha</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Jakub opened 3♣, 3-10 with at least five-five in the minors, and Patryk just bid 3NT. On a spade lead he had 12 tricks for +490.

Fragola did not open the West hand so Tabata got to open 2NT in third seat. Fragola showed his two-suiter with a jump to 4♥, and Tabata asking and 5NT showing two key-cards plus a void, I guess. Six Diamonds was an easy make after the lead of the ace of spades; +920 and 10 IMPs to France, closing to 21-23.

## Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>J Patreuha</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
–	1♦	1♥	Dble
2♥	Dble	3♥	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>
–	1♦	1♥	Dble
2♥	Dble	3♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Both Norths could make support doubles to show three cards in spades.

Tabata made a game try of 3♣ and Kielbasa passed with the South hand and Fragola accepted the invitation, jumping to 4♥. There were four top losers so 4♥ was down a trick for –100.

Patryk did not make a game try, simply competing with 3♥, and Boulin in turn competed with 3♠ to get his fifth spade into the game, not worrying that he held a minimum in high-card terms for his bidding to date. Guillemin raised to 4♠, and Jakub led the two of hearts, Patryk winning the ace and continuing with a low heart. That was ruffed, and Guillemin drew trumps then played the ace of diamonds. Hoping to avoid an endplay, Patryk unblocked the king, but this just had the effect of costing the twelfth trick; +480 and 9 IMPs to France, who had the lead for the first time at 30-23.

Poland picked up a couple of overtrick IMPs in 3NT on Board 12, and another 3 IMPs on Board 14 when France went down in partscore at both tables; 28-30..

## Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>J Patreuha</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		



West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

the Polish Club did not show up well on this one. One Club was Polish, so three-way, and 1♠ natural and positive. Two Clubs was also natural and showed the strong artificial variety of the opening 1♣, and from there the Patreugas managed to meander their way to slam in a four=three fit when they had a solid four-four fit available to them. Six Hearts drifted three off for –150 and the Patreugas crossed their fingers that the deal would prove to be equally awkward for the French pair in the other room.

That hope did not come to pass. Fragola opened a possibly short club, the 1♥ response showed spades, and 2♥ was a natural reverse. Fragola got to show his third suit, and Tabata settled for 3NT. Kielbasa led out three rounds of spades, Bazyluk winning and playing a fourth round, and Tabata made the rest; +430 and 11 IMPs to France, who led by 41-28.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>J Patreuha</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
1♠	2♣	4♠	5♠
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>
1♠	Pass	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

When Guillemin could overcall 2♣, Boulin was happy to commit to the six level with his huge hand, so cuebid 5♠ on the way to 6♣. Guillemin was not interested in Seven, but 6♣ was where they wanted to be and 12 tricks were a matter of routine, hearts providing discards

for the losing diamond; +920.

Bazyluk didn't overcall and, when his partner doubled 4♠ for take-out, thought that the ♠K was a strictly defensive value and that at this vulnerability settling for a penalty was the wiser option. He passed it out and the defence came to the obvious five tricks for down two and –500 but 9 IMPs to France. The lead was up to 50-28.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>J Patreuha</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
–	Pass	1♣	1♥
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>
–	Pass	Pass	2♣
4♠	Dble	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Dble	All Pass

Patryk opened the East hand with a Polish Club and Boulin made a simple overcall. When Jakub leaped to 4♠, nobody had anything more to say. After a heart lead there was no way to avoid the loss of three diamonds and one club so down one for –50.

Tabata passed as East so Kielbasa got to open as South, opting for a Precision-style 2♣ rather than 1♥. When Fragola too jumped to 4♠, Bazyluk doubled to show his values and Kielbasa judged that his shapely hand should be playing rather than defending, so bid 4NT to suggest that he had a second suit. Bazyluk signed off in 5♣ and Tabata doubled, ending the auction. Fragola led his singleton heart but it probably didn't occur to Tabata that declarer could have a five-card major on the side so he put in the jack and the ruff was lost. Kielbasa won the ♥Q and cashed the top clubs, having to concede one heart and two clubs so down one for –100 and 4 IMPs to France.

The last board was a push, so France were the winners by 54-28 IMPs, converting to 15.84-4.16 VPs. That was enough to take France to the top of the rankings ahead of Italy, while Poland slipped to eighth.



## Brian Senior

# Patience is a virtue

This deal from U21 Round 17 illustrated once again that patience is a virtue. It comes from the match Poland v Denmark.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brandgaard</i>	<i>Bukat</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Stasik</i>
–	–	–	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Cichy</i>	<i>A Tylvad</i>	<i>Zalewska</i>	<i>D Tylvad</i>
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♥	Dble	2♣
Pass	Pass	2NT	All Pass

For Poland, Michal Stasik opened 2♣, Precision-style, and that went round to Christian Lahrmann, who doubled and, when Stasik repeated the clubs and that came back to him, doubled again. When Daniel Brandgaard responded 3♦ to the second double, Lahrmann was unwilling to settle for the partscore and concluded the auction with a bid of 3NT. Stasik led the queen of clubs to declarer's king. Things did not look very promising for Lahrmann, but he played the jack of diamonds and that held the trick, so he continued with the ♦K. This time Aleks Bukat won his ace and guessed to return the jack of spades. Lahrmann had the choice of settling for down two by rising with the ace, or of trying for his contract by playing low. Well, perhaps the former would have been the wiser option, but who can bear to give up without a fight. Lahrmann played low, losing to the king, and six rounds of clubs meant that

he was down four for –400.

In the other room, Daniel Tylvad opened the South hand at the one level and Aron Tylvad responded 1♥. Joanna Zalewska doubled, then jumped to 2NT when Daniel's 2♣ rebid came back to her. That ended the auction and Daniel made the same club lead as in the other room. Zalewska won the king and played the king of diamonds, which held the trick, followed by the queen, which lost to Aron's ace. Aron guessed to return a low heart. Zalewska could have made her contract by taking the heart finesse, but why risk that when South had opened the bidding? Instead, she rose with the ace of hearts and cashed two diamond winners. Daniel could discard one spade and a club, but when Zalewska now cashed the king of hearts, he was squeezed out of another club winner and the position was ripe for an endplay. Zalewska unerringly exited with her small club and, after taking four club winners, Daniel was forced to lead away from the king of spades at trick 12 to give the contract; eight tricks, +120, and 11 IMPs to Poland.

Note that, had Joanna been in game, the heart return at trick four would have given her a chance to make her vulnerable game. If she finesses the ♥J and proceeds to cash her red winners, South now has to discard one extra club, and the endplay is for the ninth trick rather than the eighth.

Of course, as the title of this article suggests, the solution is for North to be patient and wait to win the third diamond rather than the second. That gives South an opportunity to make a helpful discard so that North's switch is no longer a guess.

### Championship offer

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Jos Jacobs, **OPEN TEAMS U26, ROUND 11****ITALY vs SWEDEN****CROATIA vs TURKIYE**

On Sunday morning, the remaining two categories resumed work. As it happened, in the U26 Open category two matches were scheduled between teams currently in the top eight. So I decided to try for a combined report on both these matches: Italy v Sweden (1 v 3) and Croatia v Turkiye (4 v 8)

This immediately looked a good decision because the first two boards both belonged to the slam zone. This was the first.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kalayci	Evacic	Coban	Bilusic
-	2♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

As it happened, the Croatian N/S were the only ones in our two featured matches to get to the slam. The other three pairs apparently did not have the tools to explore below the 4♠-level, but Bilusic had a tool available: 4♣ as optional RKCB. The advantage was, of course, that he knew partner would not hold a minimum, because he did not sign-off. From there, it was much easier. 4NT was asking for kings, so when 5♠ denied any king South knew that North would hold at least a useful queen or two. In fact, the ♣Q made it an excellent slam. Croatia +980 and 11 IMPs on the first board of the day.

On the next board, once again only one of our

featured four pairs was in slam, albeit in the second-best denomination, hearts. The ♥KQx being with North meant the downfall of Donati/Porta in 6♥. Please note that 6♠ is much better. Spades 4-1 would normally wreck this contract, but with spades 3-2 you would be a favourite to succeed in your slam as only some eccentric breaks in the other suits will cause trouble, whereas a 4-1 heart break would probably cause trouble anyway in 6♥.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

So the board was a push in the Croatia v Turkiye match but Sweden gained 11 IMPs against Italy.

Two boards later, there was another push board in the Croatia v Turkiye match.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Both E/W pairs in this match were allowed to bid and make 4♥ for +620 to them.

In our other match, however, the Swedes had other ideas.

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mann</i>	<i>Scata</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Gaiotti</i>
1NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Dble
4♦	Dble	4♥	All Pass

When West opened 1NT, East launched a Puppet Stayman-type of 3♣ which effectively kept South out of the bidding. The rest was 'standard.' Three Diamonds showed one major, 3♠ showed hearts and 4♦ was a retransfer. Sweden an easy enough +650.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Sandin</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	2♠
Pass	3♠	Dble	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

In the other room, Donati also opened 1NT, but when Porta had to start investigations by bidding 2♣ first South chipped in with his spade suit.. When North showed a sign of spade life, South did not hesitate to sacrifice against the opponents' game. One off for -200 would already have been a fine score but declarer eventually did even better. West led the ♥K and shifted to the ♦J. Declarer won the ace in dummy, ruffed a heart and then led the ♣Q from hand. When this held the trick, Sandin had even managed to make his contract for another +790 and 16 fat IMPs more to Sweden.

On the very next board, all looked set for another double-figure swing to Sweden as this was the auction in the Open Room:

#### Board 5.Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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



#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mann</i>	<i>Scata</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Gaiotti</i>
-	2♦	Pass	4♣
4♦	4♥	5♦	5♥
All Pass			

2NT showed the balanced 18-19 hand. West could show his lower suit over the double-transfer but, when East put the pressure on, showing his spades was no longer necessary for West. Five Diamonds would probably have gone down three but South knew better so the Swedes were booked for +100 until something unexpected happened. East led the ♣Q, ruffed by West, who next underled his ♦A, trying to reach partner for another ruff. Declarer put up the king and could play a heart next because he was on lead. East could win his ace but declarer's losing spade went on a top club. Just made, Italy +650.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Sandin</i>
-	1♣	Pass	2♦
2♥	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

South's 2♦ showed hearts and West next introduced his two-suiter. At his next turn, West doubled 4♥ with all his extras but he could only watch the opponents make their contract without any trouble. Sweden +790 but only 4 more IMPs to them where it could have been 13...

In the other match, they had entirely different ideas.

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalayci</i>	<i>Evacic</i>	<i>Coban</i>	<i>Bilusic</i>
-	1♣	3♣	All Pass

Whatever 1♣ meant, East thought he had the best club suit at the table. Five undertricks later, he finally had found out that this had indeed been the case. Croatia +250. Decades ago, they might have scored +900 on a hand like this.

#### Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Katusic</i>	<i>Kadioglu</i>	<i>Petkovic</i>	<i>Ozgez</i>
-	2NT	Pass	3♦
Dble	Pass	Pass	4♦
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

Over South's transfer and retransfer, West duly

showed both his suits, thus solving North's eventual bidding problem. Down three, Turkiye +500 and 6 IMPs to them.

The board below, Board 9, drew my attention because 6NT is a very good contract, even more so if played by East.


Board 9.Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ 10 6 ♥ 10 9 7 6 ♦ A K Q 8 2 ♣ 8 7		♠ A K Q J 9 ♥ A Q 5 4 ♦ J ♣ K 9 6	♠ 7 5 3 ♥ K J 3 2 ♦ 10 ♣ A Q 5 4 2 ♠ 8 4 2 ♥ 8 ♦ 9 7 6 5 4 3 ♣ J 10 3
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I am not aware of any bidding methods that might enable you to get as far as that, but certainly the Estonians, Zvorovski and Piirisild, came close when they reached 6♠. Not that this was a good spot to play in but prospects improved dramatically when South led his singleton heart, the eight! This way, the hearts came in without loss so +1430 was easy enough. Needless to say, they were the only pair to get to and make a slam.

Two boards later, North was treated to an insoluble lead problem. Would you ever think of leading the ♥A after the auctions given below?

Board 11.Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalayci</i>	<i>Evacic</i>	<i>Coban</i>	<i>Bilusic</i>
–	–	–	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

This is a type of auction that does not necessarily call for a lead in partner's suit. North made his second-best shot by leading a club, leaving it to partner to find the still lethal heart shift after winning the ♣K. When South tried a spade instead, (his partner's suit...), declarer could win and still had time to drive out the ♣A. Nine tricks when the diamonds behaved: Turkiye +400.

In the other room, South did not pre-empt.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katusic</i>	<i>Kadioglu</i>	<i>Petkovic</i>	<i>Ozgez</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	All Pass

With his obvious minimum for his 14-16 1NT, West passed partner's 2NT. Right he was, because even on the unlucky ♥J lead by North, eight tricks are the legitimate maximum. Declarer managed an overtrick nevertheless when North ducked the second round of clubs, which saved an IMP. Croatia +150 but 6 IMPs to Turkiye.

On the next board, it was again a matter of either getting to 3NT or maybe languishing in any other denomination.

Board 12.Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalayci</i>	<i>Evacic</i>	<i>Coban</i>	<i>Bilusic</i>
1♣	4♦	All Pass	

Well, there seem to be 10 tricks available in 4♦ but you have to be careful, though there were no warning signs in the auction. Evacic soon found out what the dangers were. He won East's club lead with dummy's ace and immediately played the ♠K, preparing for a club discard, of course. East won the ace and returned the ♠J. When declarer put up the queen, West ruffed

so declarer's tenth trick was gone. at least for the time being. Declarer over-ruffed and then ducked a club, but when he won the trump return with dummy's king he could no longer make his contract. Turkiye +100.

In the other room, N/S found a more practical solution for their problems.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katusic</i>	<i>Kadioglu</i>	<i>Petkovic</i>	<i>Ozgez</i>
1♣	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Played from South, 3NT is cold because East cannot lead hearts twice. One overtrick when West tried four rounds of hearts to begin with. Croatia +630 and 12 IMPs to them.

In the Italy v. Sweden match, it was all about diamonds.

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mann</i>	<i>Scata</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Gaiotti</i>
1♣	3♦	All Pass	

When Gaiotti did the right thing over partner's 3♦, the Italians soon registered +130 for their overtrick.

In the other room, the stakes were higher.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Sandin</i>
1♣	3♦	Pass	3NT
4♣	Pass	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

For reasons unclear to me, Clementsson did not double West's 4♣ but, when South spoke again, she felt she had to raise to game, having already been robbed of the top spot (3NT). Porta led his club to declarer's ♣K and Clementsson led her spade. East rose with the ace and played the ♥8 to partner's ace but, when Donati tried to cash another top heart first, Clementsson could ruff, draw trumps in two rounds ending in dummy, and discard her losing clubs on the ♠KQ. Just made, Sweden +600 and 10 more IMPs to them.

On the next board, we saw a Croatian misunderstanding.

#### Board 13.Dealer North. All Vul.

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

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalayci</i>	<i>Evacic</i>	<i>Coban</i>	<i>Bilusic</i>
-	1NT	2NT	3♦
Dble	4♠	Pass	5♥
Dble	All Pass		

South's 3♦ was intended as a heart transfer, no doubt, but North apparently was on a different wavelength after East's overcall. The cost was 1100 (down four).

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Katusic</i>	<i>Kadioglu</i>	<i>Petkovic</i>	<i>Ozgez</i>
-	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

In the other room, N/S also played in hearts but three levels lower. As a consequence, they could go down only one. Croatia +100 but 14 IMPs to Turkiye  
Back again to Italy v Sweden.

#### Board 14.Dealer East. None Vul.

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

In the Open Room, West opened 4♠ and played there. Club lead, 12 tricks, Sweden +480.

In the Closed Room, there was much more action.



## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Sandin</i>
–	–	Pass	1♣
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

Club lead, 12 tricks, Italy +790 and 7 IMPs back to them.

Over now to the penultimate board in that match:

## Board 17.Dealer North. None Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mann</i>	<i>Scata</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Gaiotti</i>
–	1NT	2♣	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

East showed his majors with 2♣. South made a diamond transfer, but when he also showed interest in partner's suit the good 5♣ game was reached. Italy a fine +400.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Sandin</i>
–	1NT	2♣	Dble
Rdbl	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Here too, East showed his majors, but when South's hopes for a spade stopper somewhere were in vain down one was the outcome. Italy another +50 and 10 IMPs to them.

Finally, I am showing you the last board of the set because of its very instructive character. Nearly half the room was playing in 2♥ by N/S and all pairs except one made 8 tricks or more.

## Board 18.Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Donati, however, led a low club against 2♥. Declarer won his ♣K perforce and, not realising the danger, played a low trump to dummy's queen. When Donati ducked, declarer was in trouble. He got off play with a diamond, but Donati jumped in with the ♦Q, cashed his ♥AK, and led a diamond. Porta won his ♦AK and continued the suit for Donati to ruff! One down, Italy a beautiful +100, worth 7 IMPs when their team-mates scored +170 in the same contract at the other table.

The final results:

Italy v Sweden 35-55 IMPs, or 5.23-14.77 VPs  
Croatia v Turkiye 26-63 IMPs, or 2.56-17.44 V.P.

So Italy stayed at the top but Croatia temporarily dropped to sixth place, whereas Sweden stayed in third and Turkiye in eighth places respectively.



# RESULTS - OPEN UNDER 26

## ROUND 11

		IMPs		VPs	
1	IRELAND	NETHERLANDS	33	75	1.95 18.05
2	SCOTLAND	BULGARIA	25	51	4.16 15.84
3	NORWAY	POLAND	17	16	10.29 9.71
4	CROATIA	TURKIYE	26	63	2.56 16.94
5	ESTONIA	GREECE	49	53	8.86 11.14
6	FRANCE	HUNGARY	68	40	16.16 3.84
7	GERMANY	ENGLAND	62	15	18.58 1.42
8	ITALY	SWEDEN	35	55	5.23 14.77
9	ISRAEL	LATVIA	49	34	13.78 6.22

## ROUND 12

		IMPs		VPs	
1	IRELAND	HUNGARY	37	41	8.86 11.14
2	GREECE	ENGLAND	26	42	6.01 13.99
3	ITALY	CROATIA	41	45	8.86 11.14
4	LATVIA	NORWAY	13	56	1.84 18.16
5	BULGARIA	ISRAEL	28	41	6.66 13.34
6	NETHERLANDS	SWEDEN	71	36	17.18 2.82
7	SCOTLAND	GERMANY	40	57	5.81 14.19
8	FRANCE	POLAND	54	28	15.84 4.16
9	TURKIYE	ESTONIA	88	36	19.07 0.93

## RANKING AFTER R. 12

1		FRANCE	173.68
2		ITALY	168.07
3		SWEDEN	154.98
4		ISRAEL	150.22
5		TURKIYE	146.18
6		NETHERLANDS	145.57
7		CROATIA	143.44
8		POLAND	142.84
9		GREECE	127.18
10		GERMANY	126.36
11		BULGARIA	123.93
12		NORWAY	117.88
13		ESTONIA	111.83
14		ENGLAND	109.54
15		HUNGARY	81.54
16		LATVIA	74.60
17		SCOTLAND	32.58
18		IRELAND	27.68

# RESULTS - OPEN UNDER 21

## ROUND 16

		IMPs		VPs	
11	NETHERLANDS	SWEDEN	33	17	14.70 5.30
12	HUNGARY	DENMARK	52	3	19.74 0.26
13	ENGLAND	POLAND	16	16	9.50 10.00
14	GREECE	NORWAY	22	35	6.03 13.97
15	TURKIYE	ITALY	34	27	12.31 7.69
16	GERMANY	ISRAEL	40	50	6.82 13.18
17	IRELAND	FRANCE	11	54	0.87 19.13

## ROUND 17

		IMPs		VPs	
11	DENMARK	POLAND	41	40	10.36 9.64
12	HUNGARY	SWEDEN	36	21	14.46 5.54
13	ENGLAND	NORWAY	34	46	6.29 13.71
14	GREECE	ITALY	11	60	0.26 19.74
15	TURKIYE	ISRAEL	2	49	0.46 19.54
16	GERMANY	FRANCE	14	42	2.92 17.08
17	IRELAND	NETHERLANDS	0	69	0.00 20.00

## ROUND 18

		IMPs		VPs	
11	SWEDEN	NORWAY	46	3	19.13 0.87
12	HUNGARY	POLAND	32	36	8.62 11.38
13	ENGLAND	ITALY	36	32	11.38 8.62
14	GREECE	ISRAEL	7	58	0.08 19.92
15	TURKIYE	FRANCE	10	34	3.63 16.37
16	GERMANY	NETHERLANDS	13	51	1.46 18.54
17	IRELAND	DENMARK	0	92	0.00 20.00

## ROUND 19

		IMPs		VPs	
11	POLAND	ITALY	41	21	15.58 4.42
12	HUNGARY	NORWAY	28	46	4.85 15.15
13	ENGLAND	ISRAEL	23	33	6.82 13.18
14	GREECE	FRANCE	10	47	1.59 18.41
15	TURKIYE	NETHERLANDS	32	38	7.99 12.01
16	GERMANY	DENMARK	41	31	13.18 5.82
17	IRELAND	SWEDEN	14	71	0.00 20.00

## RANKING AFTER R. 19

1		ISRAEL	284.83
2		FRANCE	257.83
3		NETHERLANDS	230.22
4		SWEDEN	224.83
5		POLAND	221.74
6		DENMARK	215.91
7		NORWAY	202.46
8		ITALY	193.89
9		HUNGARY	191.29
10		ENGLAND	168.52
11		TURKIYE	152.50
12		GERMANY	126.85
13		GREECE	116.95
14		IRELAND	66.28