



28th European Youth Team Championships

19-26 July 2022 - Veldhoven, The Netherlands

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, Officials, 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 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 fierce 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

9.30 - 11.15	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
10.00 - 12.30	U26O (18 boards)			
11.35 - 13.20	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
12.30 - 13.40	U26O (Lunch)			
13.20 - 14.20	U21 (Lunch)	U26W (Lunch)	U16 (Lunch)	U31 (Lunch)
13.40 - 16.10	U26O (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, 2022

9.30 - 11.15	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
10.00 - 12.30	U26O (18 boards)			
11.35 - 13.20	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
12.30 - 13.40	U26O (Lunch)			
13.20 - 14.20	U21 (Lunch)	U26W (Lunch)	U16 (Lunch)	U31 (Lunch)
13.40 - 16.10	U26O (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	U26O (18 boards)			

Friday 22nd July, 2022

9.30 - 11.15	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
10.00 - 12.30	U26O (18 boards)			
11.35 - 13.20	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
12.30 - 13.40	U26O (Lunch)			
13.20 - 14.20	U21 (Lunch)	U26W (Lunch)	U16 (Lunch)	U31 (Lunch)
13.40 - 16.10	U26O (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	U26O (18 boards)			

Saturday 23rd July, 2022

9.30 - 11.15	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
10.00 - 12.30	U26O (18 boards)			
11.35 - 13.20	U21 (12 boards)	U26W (12 boards)	U16 (12 boards)	U31 (12 boards)
12.30 - 13.40	U26O (Lunch)			
13.20 - 14.20	U21 (Lunch)	U26W (Lunch)	U16 (Lunch)	U31 (Lunch)
13.40 - 16.10	U26O (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)	

Sunday 24th July, 2022

9.30 - 11.15	U21 (12 boards)
10.00 - 12.30	U26O (18 boards)
11.35 - 13.20	U21 (12 boards)
12.30 - 13.40	U26O (Lunch)
13.20 - 14.20	U21 (Lunch)
13.40 - 16.10	U26O (18 boards)
14.20 - 16.05	U21 (12 boards)
16.25 - 18.10	U21 (12 boards)

Monday 25th July, 2022

9.30 - 11.15	U21 (12 boards)
10.00 - 12.30	U26O (18 boards)
11.35 - 13.20	U21 (12 boards)
12.30 - 13.40	U26O (Lunch)
13.20 - 14.20	U21 (Lunch)
13.40 - 16.10	U26O (18 boards)
14.20 - 16.05	U21 (12 boards)
16.25 - 18.10	U21 (12 boards)

Tuesday 26th July, 2022

9.30 - 11.15	U21 (12 boards)	
10.00 - 12.30	U26O (18 boards)	
11.35 - 13.20	U21 (12 boards)	
12.30 - 13.40	U26O (Lunch)	
13.20 - 14.20	U21 (Lunch)	
13.40 - 16.10	U26O (18 boards)	
14.20 - 16.05	U21 (12 boards)	
18.30	U26O (Prize Giving)	U21 (Prize Giving)

LIST OF PARTICIPATING TEAMS

	BELGIUM							U31
	BULGARIA	U26 O				U16		U31
	CROATIA	U26 O				U16		U31
	CZECH REPUBLIC					U16		
	DENMARK		U21	U26 W		U16		
	ENGLAND	U26 O	U21	U26 W		U16		
	ESTONIA	U26 O				U16		
	FRANCE	U26 O	U21	U26 W		U16		U31
	GERMANY	U26 O	U21			U16		U31
	GREECE	U26 O	U21			U16		
	HUNGARY	U26 O	U21	U26 W		U16		U31
	IRELAND	U26 O	U21					
	ISRAEL	U26 O	U21			U16		U31
	ITALY	U26 O	U21	U26 W				
	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					
	TÜRKIYE	U26 O	WOMEN			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 for a 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 PAPANPYROU
 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

Hanza 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-WETTTL (coach)

IRELAND

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

ISRAEL

Tomer LOONSTEIN
Gal MATATYAHOU
Lia PETELKO
Koren RETTER
Ofek SABBAAH
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
 Zsafia 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 npc

DENMARK

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

ENGLAND

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

ESTONIA

Stella Brita ALLAS
 Eeliis 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 KLARENBECK
 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: “Sziaztok!” (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.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Combescure</i>	<i>Caspersen</i>	<i>Deheeger</i>	<i>Bune</i>
–	–	–	1♦
Dble	1♥	1♠	Dble
2♠	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...

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

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 Q8.

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.

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

West	North	East	South
–	<i>Ye</i>		<i>Kennedy</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
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.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Robson</i>		<i>Singhal</i>	
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 ♦K. Only now did he take a club ruff, followed by two rounds of spades and another club ruff. That left him with ♥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.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Six pairs in the U26 and three in the U21 series bid to 7♠.

On a spade, club or diamond lead, the play should go: win, draw two rounds of trumps, cash ♦K and ♣A, spade to the queen, cash ♦A and ♣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 ♦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 Nijssen 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♠ just made and defending 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.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ida</i>	<i>Janneke</i>	<i>Thea Lucia</i>	<i>Malene H</i>
<i>Øberg</i>	<i>Wackwitz</i>	<i>Indrebø</i>	<i>Christensen</i>
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 hearts 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:

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

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.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Matsson</i>	<i>Westerbeek</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>v Overbeeke</i>
–	Pass	Pass	3♣
3NT	Pass	4♣	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Safsten</i>	<i>M De Leon</i>	<i>Gronkvist</i>
–	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♣ in response. When Ton van Overbeeke doubled that, Matsson redoubled, probably to show first-round control, and Hult bid 4♥ 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 Sprinkhuizen 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.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Matsson</i>	<i>Westerbeek</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>v Overbeeke</i>
–	–	1♣	Dble
1♠	Dble	2♣	2♥
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Safsten</i>	<i>M De Leon</i>	<i>Gronkvist</i>
–	–	1♣	Dble
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Johan Safsten did not double the 1♠ response – presumably because that would have shown both unbid suits rather than spades, but he made a balancing double of 2♣ 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 ♥Q then club ace and ♦K. That was down one for –200. It could have been worse had Gronkvist been able to resist the temptation to cash the ♦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.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Matsson</i>	<i>Westerbeek</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>v Overbeeke</i>
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Safsten</i>	<i>M De Leon</i>	<i>Gronkvist</i>
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

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

Van Overbeeke led a spade against 2♦ 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.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ A 9 6 4 ♥ Q 8 ♦ K Q 8 7 ♣ Q J 8		♠ K J 5 3 2 ♥ A 7 6 4 ♦ J ♣ K 9 4	♠ 8 7 ♥ K 9 5 3 2 ♦ 10 2 ♣ 7 6 5 2
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West	North	East	South
<i>Matsson</i>	<i>Westerbeek</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>v Overbeeke</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Safsten</i>	<i>M De Leon</i>	<i>Gronkvist</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1NT	Dble	Rdbl	2♥
Dble	Pass	4♠	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 ♥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.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ Q 7 5 ♥ K 2 ♦ 8 4 ♣ A K 10 7 6 3		♠ J 4 ♥ A 4 3 ♦ Q 9 2 ♣ J 8 5 4 2	♠ K 9 8 ♥ 10 5 ♦ J 10 7 6 5 3 ♣ Q 9
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West	North	East	South
<i>Matsson</i>	<i>Westerbeek</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>v Overbeeke</i>
Pass	1♣	3♦	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Safsten</i>	<i>M De Leon</i>	<i>Gronkvist</i>
Pass	1♣	3♦	3♠
4♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

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.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ 7 6 5 ♥ A 6 ♦ 8 6 ♣ Q J 10 5 4 2		♠ J 9 ♥ K J 9 8 ♦ A 7 5 4 ♣ A K 3	♠ Q 10 3 ♥ 7 5 4 ♦ Q J 10 9 3 2 ♣ 6 ♠ A K 8 4 2 ♥ Q 10 3 2 ♦ K ♣ 9 8 7
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West	North	East	South
<i>Matsson</i>	<i>Westerbeek</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>v Overbeeke</i>
–	2♦	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Safsten</i>	<i>M De Leon</i>	<i>Gronkvist</i>
–	Pass	1NT	2♣
2NT	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Westerbeek opened a weak 2♦ 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♦ 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 ♥9 for the ruffing finesse, and had a discard for dummy’s diamond loser; 11 tricks for +150 and 6 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ K J 9 3 ♥ Q J 4 ♦ Q 10 7 5 ♣ Q 4		♠ Q 10 6 ♥ 5 3 ♦ K 8 3 ♣ K 8 6 5 3	♠ A 7 ♥ A 10 9 8 ♦ A J 9 4 2 ♣ J 9 ♠ 8 5 4 2 ♥ K 7 6 2 ♦ 6 ♣ A 10 7 2
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West	North	East	South
<i>Matsson</i>	<i>Westerbeek</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>v Overbeeke</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♥	Dble	3♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Safsten</i>	<i>M De Leon</i>	<i>Gronkvist</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

The Swedes had an uncontested auction to 3♥, 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♦ in third seat then watched his opponents bid to the heart game. Hult led a diamond to the queen 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 ♥10 and ♥7 were now equals against the queen, so Westerbeek could ruff his last diamond with the ♥7 to promote his tenth trick in the shape of the ♥10; +420 and 7 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ Q ♥ A Q 10 9 4 ♦ 10 9 ♣ 10 8 7 6 5		♠ J 10 6 5 4 ♥ 6 ♦ Q 8 2 ♣ A Q 9 3 ♠ A K 3 2 ♥ 7 2 ♦ J 7 6 ♣ K J 4 2	♠ 9 8 7 ♥ K J 8 5 3 ♦ A K 5 4 3 ♣ –
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West	North	East	South
<i>Matsson</i>	<i>Westerbeek</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>v Overbeeke</i>
–	–	–	1♣
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Dble	2♣	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Safsten</i>	<i>M De Leon</i>	<i>Gronkvist</i>
–	–	–	1♣
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Van Overbeeke opened 1♣ 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 2♣, 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 ♥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?

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