

Finals Day



The most 'international' team

Team Washed Up are the most international team of the event! They are: Christian BAKKE (Norway), Giovanni DONATI (Italy), Adam KAPLAN (U.S.A.), Matthew BROWN (New Zealand), Sibrand VAN OOSTEN (Netherlands), playing captain, Jacob FREEMAN (Canada), Charlotte BAUMGART (Germany), coach. 7 players from 7 different countries!

Today is Finals Day, when the top four in each of the qualifying competitions play a complete round robin of 3 x 16-board matches to decide the various championships and the medals. The qualifiers, in the order in which they qualified in each championship, are as follows:

- U26 Open** France, Skaffatar (NDL), Hellas U26, Team Funbridge Blue (SWE, NOR, USA, DEN, POL, FRA)
- U21** Poland U21, Bridgechamp (ISR), RDFZ B (CHN, USA), Blue Wratislava (POL)
- U26W** Poland 1, Australia, Poland 2, France. The multi-national Team Jenterne missed out by a whisker (0.54 VP) after losing their final match heavily while France scored a maximum.
- U16** Jack (USA), CT U16 (TPE), The Vikings (SWE, NOR), CT 360 (TPE)
- U31** Ania (POL), Polish Dodos, France, ZG HC (CRO, SER)

There is a carry-over from the qualifying stage of 3, 2, 1, 0 VPs. Good luck to all today.

Happy Birthday!

- Happy Birthday to:
- Jon MIKOS (Slovenia),
 - Reinder VAN DER WEIDE (Netherlands)
 - Marilena BOMPOLAKI (Greece)!



Monday 15th Schedule

- 10.00 Finals **U26 / U21 / U26W / U16 / U31**
Youth BAM - U16 BAM
- 13.30 Finals **U26 / U21 / U26W / U16 / U31**
Youth BAM - U16 BAM
- 16.30 Finals **U26 / U21 / U26W / U16 / U31**
- 19.15 Prize Giving ceremony
- 20.00 Dinner



The Joan Gerard Youth Awards

The **Joan Gerard Youth Awards** will aim at rewarding **aptitude, fair play, good sportsmanship** and a **friendly international spirit**, rejecting any discrimination.

Each of the attending players, NPCs, coaches, WBF championship officials and members of the staff can nominate one player from each category to receive the Joan Gerard Youth Award. No one can nominate players from his own country.

The final selection will be made by a Commission composed of the members of the Championship Committee and chaired by the Master of Protocol & Ceremony.

The result will be announced and the Joan Gerard Youth Awards presented at the Prize-giving and Closing Ceremony

Lower Silesia

Lower Silesia is a geographical region located on the border of southwestern Poland. It borders the Czech Republic and Germany, so you can get here from Prague or Berlin in about 4 hours.

Over the centuries, Lower Silesia has experienced constant contacts between the cultures of at least three nations – Polish, Czech and German – which together shaped the extremely turbulent and dramatic history of the region. Lower Silesia can rival its wealth with the most interesting regions in the world. Especially in the vast mountain areas of the Lower Silesian Sudetes, you can find real treasures of both cultural and natural heritage.

There are still many traces of history in Lower Silesia. You can learn more by embarking on a journey along the trail of numerous forts, castles and palaces (there are over 100 of them in Lower Silesia – highest density of castles Poland) or by traversing the corridors of former mines in Wałbrzych, Kletno and Złoty Stok, as well as mysterious and not fully explored military facilities in Kamienna Góra, Jelenia Góra, Walim or Głuszyca (the Underground City of Osówka). It is worth looking for peace and rest primarily in the south of the voivodeship – in popular health resorts or mountain resorts of Duszniki-Zdrój, Polanica-Zdrój, Lądek-Zdrój, Szczawno-Zdrój, Cieplice Śląskie-Zdrój, Świeradów-Zdrój, Jedlina-Zdrój or Długopole-Zdrój.

When visiting the sites from the European Route of Castles and Palaces (szlazzamkowipalacow.eu), you can learn not only the fascinating stories of their creation and often no less interesting stories of their owners, but also take advantage of the rich hotel and gastronomic offer. This is one of the most interesting thematic routes in Poland, which covers not only the south-west corner of Poland, but the entire Polish-Czech border area. Traveling along the designated route provides an extraordinary scenic experience also while moving between individual castles and palaces, among which there are, among others, the beautifully situated castles of Książ, Czochoa, Grodno, Grodziec and Bolków as well as palaces and impressive residences in Łomnica, Staniszków, Pakoszków, Kamieniec Ząbkowicki and many others.



Bicycles, skiing or horseback riding, kayaks, hiking – no matter how you like to spend your free time, if you are interested in active recreation, Lower Silesia has plenty of possibilities waiting for you.

Bicycle trips around the picturesque Barycz Valley, on the mountain routes of the Sudety and Singletrack Glacensis MTB trails cannot be overlooked (be sure to check the website: dolnyslaskrowerem.pl and the Lower Silesia Biking mobile application([dolnyslaskrowerem](http://dolnyslaskrowerem.pl)) for Android and iOS mobile devices).

Ski lifts are available in the in the Karkonosze Mountains and in Kłodzko Land. Places like Świeradów-Zdrój, Szklarska Poręba and Jakuszyce, Karpacz, Zieleniec or Czarna Góra are top winter and summer hiking destinations. Another natural treasure where you can find numerous well marked tourist routes are located in Stołowe Mountains (lit. "Table Mountains") with unique rock labyrinths, the volcanic Kaczawskie Mountains known primarily for the colorful lakes in Rudawy Janowickie Mountains.

The Lower Silesian Voivodeship has convenient, direct railway connections with all major cities in Poland and a well-connected network of connections to the Czech Republic and Germany. A wide range of local rail connections is provided by Koleje Dolnośląskie, which facilitates access to even the most remote corners of the region. You can fly to Wrocław with one of 10 airlines that connect Wrocław with cities such as Frankfurt, Zurich, Amsterdam, Helsinki or Warsaw.

Come and visit wonderful Lower Silesia!

Find out more at: dolnyslask.travel

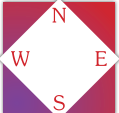


Board 23

Jos Jacobs

The most exciting board from Round 4 of the Swiss had to be Board 23, on which the E/W pairs had the twin problems of how high to go and in which trump suit. Matters were complicated at many tables but far from all by pre-emptive bidding from the opposition.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Let's start with a couple of auctions from the U26 Championship.

Team Funbridge Blue v France

West	North	East	South
<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Kolesnik</i>	<i>Fragola</i>	<i>J Patreuha</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Dble	6♥	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Heiberg-E.</i>	<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Guth</i>
–	–	–	3♦
Pass	4♦	Dble	Pass
5♥	Pass	7♥	All Pass

Quite a contrast. Given a free run, Maxence Fragola/Nao Tabata, for France, were able exchange all the important information, with Tabata's initial pass and Fragola's 2NT opening combining particularly well as, when he next broke the transfer response, Fragola showed not only five spades but also only a doubleton heart. When he later jumped to 6♥ to show both ♠Q and ♥K, Tabata didn't

need to worry about a third round heart loser so could bid the grand slam in the expectation that his partner would be able to ruff out the hearts if need be.

Fragola received a diamond lead to the king and ace. He ruffed his diamond loser then drew trumps, after which he could ruff out the hearts despite the four-one break, and had 13 tricks for +2210.

By contrast, Romaric Guth's opening pre-empt and Luc Bellicaud's raise created a nightmare for their opponents and the best trump suit was lost in the wash. Perhaps the grand slam could have been avoided had East bid 5NT on the way to 7♥ as he could have discovered that the hearts were not solid – I'm assuming that 5NT would be asking about trumps and not pick a slam when only one suit has been bid, of course. However, 6♥ is a good contract, if we ignore the fact that there is something much better, and E/W might have been relieved to have got to it in the face of the enemy pre-emption – until the four-one heart break came to light; down two for –200 and 20 IMPs to France.

In the U26 series, six pairs reached 7♠, three reached 6♠, and one reached 6NT. Seven pairs reached 6♥, one of them being doubled – there would have been a lesson there for someone had they divined the reason for the double and run to a making slam.

Eleven Souths passed as dealer, four opened at the two level and three at the three level. Of the six pairs who reached 7♠, three did so in the face of a two-level pre-empt, one a three-level pre-empt.

The top match in the U21 Championship was that between Poland U21 and Pidoes of Denmark.

West	North	East	South
<i>A Tylvad</i>	<i>Kula</i>	<i>N Hammelev</i>	<i>Bereza</i>
–	–	–	3♦
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	7♦	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Okrzesik</i>	<i>P Hammelev</i>	<i>Kufłowski</i>	<i>D Tylvad</i>
–	–	–	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	7♠	All Pass

For Pidoes, Daniel Tylvad passed as dealer so Wojciech Okrzesik got to open as West and opted for a weak 2♥. Kacper Kufłowski enquired, found that he was facing a diamond shortage, and asked about key cards. The conclusion to the auction looks a little odd, with Kufłowski signing off in 5♥ and Okrzesik going on with a grand slam try, accepted by Kufłowski, so I guess there is something I don't know about their methods. Anyway, the end result is what mattered, and that was +2210 to Poland U21.

For Poland U21, Jakub Bereza opened a 3♦ preempt, but when Aron Tylvad overcalled 3♥ it all became plain sailing for the Danes. Nikolaj Hammelev responded 3♠ and Tylvad raised to the spade game, and now Hammelev could take control, asking for key cards then for specific kings. On finding the ♣K in partner's hand he jumped to 7♦ to offer a choice of grand slams, and Tylvad chose 7♠; +2210 and no swing.

In the U21 Championship eight pairs bid to 7♠ and seven to 6♠. One went off in 7♠ on a trump lead but we don't have the play details. There were seven pairs going down in 6♥, two of them doubled, and six stopped in a variety of games – 4♥, 5♥, 5♥ doubled, 4NT, 5♣

Six Souths opened 3♦, three opened 2♦, and 19 passed.

In the U16 Championship we feature the match between Jack (USA) and RDFZ (China).

West	North	East	South
<i>A Chen</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>J Xiao</i>	<i>Bai</i>
–	–	–	2♦
2♥	3♦	4♦	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	6♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu</i>	<i>K Chen</i>	<i>Ge</i>	<i>C Chen</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

For Jack, Charlie Chen did not open the South hand and now did Yilin Liu open as West, so it was left to Yizheng Ge to do so in fourth seat. The natural auction soon located the spade fit and, after an exchange of cuebids, Ge used key-card then bid the small slam – in spades, of course; +1460.

For RDFZ, Chenghan Bai opened 2♦ as dealer and Andrew Chen overcalled 2♥. When Haoran Lin raised

to 3♦, thereby cutting out East's easy 2♠ response, Jeff Xiao opted for a 4♦ cuebid, agreeing hearts, rather than introduce his spades at the three level. When the cuebid attracted a return cuebid from Andrew, who no doubt liked his diamond shortage, Xiao jumped to the heart slam.

Lin, thinking that he had two trump tricks, doubled. There is an old saying, 'don't spook the horses' or, in other words, don't double the only contract you are sure you can beat. Realising that the double was almost certainly based on trump tricks, Xiao ran to 6♠ and that, of course, was cold for +1460 and a flat board, and a young Chinese player will have learned a valuable lesson which will stand him in good stead for the future.

Only one pair bid and make to 7♠, so take a bow Georgina Szabo and Zsafia Zabradi of CZEHUN, who bid it as follows:

West	North	East	South
<i>Szabo</i>		<i>Zabradi</i>	
–	–	–	3♦
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Dble	5NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	7♠	All Pass

That gained CZEHUN 20 IMPs against the 6♥-1 at the other table.

There were six pairs in 6♠ and two in 6NT. One pair bid 7♠ but went down a trick and five were down in 6♥, one redoubled. There were 10 pairs in game, either 3NT, 4♥ or 4♠, and four pairs stopped in 3♠. Lastly, one pair stopped off to double 4♦ and collected +500.

Nine Souths opened 3♦, five opened 2♦, and 15 passed. There was also one who opened 1♦!

Next up, the U26W series, where Australia faced the multi-national New Friends.

West	North	East	South
<i>Mathisen</i>	<i>Davey</i>	<i>Fibert</i>	<i>Morgan</i>
–	–	–	3♦
3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Chowdhury</i>	<i>Deschenes</i>	<i>Shah</i>	<i>Liang</i>
–	–	–	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

For New Friends, Avery Liang passed as dealer allowing Zara Chowdhury to open the West hand with

a weak two bid. Diya Shah enquired and it looks as though 3♥ showed a maximum with poor hearts as Shah settled for game. I think that, while I have no objection to opening a weak two bid with 10 HCP if 6-3-2-2, the 3-6-1-3 shape makes this hand a 1♥ opening. However, as game was the limit in a heart contract, the Australian E/W will no doubt be happy to have stayed out of a heart slam; 11 tricks for +650.

In the other room, Lauren Morgan, for Australia, opened 3♦ and Ida Kristine Mathisen overcalled 3♥. Gal Fibert committed to hearts by cuebidding 4♦ then using key-card over Mathisen's sign-off and jumping to 6♥ to conclude the auction. That was down one for -100 and 13 IMPs to Australia.

Again, only one pair reached 7♠ and this time only one reached 6♠. There were five pairs going down in 6♥, once doubled, while two made the heart game and one stopped in 2NT on an uncontested auction, obviously having had a misunderstanding regarding the forcing nature of 2NT after 1♥ - ♠ - 2♥ - 2NT.

The successful pair were Milena Gryzlo and Magdalena Kapala of Poland 2. Their auction was:

West	North	East	South
<i>Gryzlo</i>		<i>Kapala</i>	
-	-	-	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
5♠	Pass	7♠	All Pass

There were three 3♦ openers, one 2♦ opener, and six passers.

And, finally, the U31 series, where we feature the action from the top match, between Polish Dodos and the multi-national Team Sami.

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilusic</i>	<i>Konopko</i>	<i>Mijic</i>	<i>Trendak</i>
-	-	-	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	6NT	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Andruskiewicz</i>	<i>Chandy</i>	<i>Paluszek</i>	<i>Tseng</i>
-	-	-	2♦
2♥	3♦	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

The Polish E/W pair brushed aside Sam Tseng's weak two opening, Jakub Andruskiewicz overcalling 2♥ and, when Konrad Paluszek introduced his spades, cuebidding to show a willingness to consider slam. Well, if partner was willing to consider slam the Paluszek was more than willing to co-operate and 7♠ was duly reached; +2210.

There was no opening bid from South at the other table, where Ivan Bilusiz opened the West hand with 1♥. I don't know why 2♣ was the correct rebid in his methods but he rebid hearts next and that saw Ante Mijic launch into key-card. All of that meant that the spade fit went missing somehow, with Mijic jumping to 6♥ over the key-card response. That, as we know, was fated to go down, but Karol Konopko could not resist doubling the slam he knew he could defeat, and Mijic ran to what he hoped would be the safety of 6NT. Konopko now doubled a contract he didn't know he could beat and which duly proved to be cold once clubs produced four tricks; +1680 but still 11 IMPs to Poland.

There were three pairs in 7♠, two in 6♠, one in 6♣ doubled, one in 6NT, and two in 6NT doubled. Five pairs went down in 6♥. While two pairs stopped in game.

Six Souths opened 2♦, one opened 3♦, and nine passed.



Tonno Vahk


Teams Qualification - Round 5

Jos Jacobs

When the final round on Saturday got underway my idea was to watch the France v Poland match in the U26. However, as that match progressed, I noticed that in other matches or categories they were treating the problems in the same fashion, with variable success. So why not, I thought, have a look at them as well, from time to time?

For my first deal, I will stick to the original idea: France v Poland, U26.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Guth</i>	<i>Cichy</i>	<i>Bellicaud</i>
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♥	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♠	Dble	All Pass

After the Polish Club and the not negative 1♥ response, East ventured a double on the general principle of having an unpleasant surprise for declarer. His reward was a 500 penalty for two doubled undertricks. Nicely done by the Poles.

In the Closed Room, things got even worse for the French.


Closed Room

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

West showed hearts by bidding 1♦ and, later on, East showed natural clubs, so West could raise eventually with his good fit. The contract hinged on the way declarer would deal with the trump suit. Fragola, after a long thought, played South for the ♣K10x and thus lost a trump trick for one down and another +50 and 11 IMPs to Poland.

Two deals later, Cichy tried another penalty double.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>P Patreuha</i>	<i>Guth</i>	<i>Cichy</i>	<i>Bellicaud</i>
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

A logical auction in a certain way. However, this time East did not really have a nasty surprise for declarer. Maybe, his diamond fit should have warned him as well.. First of all, you should go for the maximum from the fitting suits you are looking at yourself. Two Clubs could not be defeated, of course, so that was +180 to the French.

In the Closed Room, North had no room left for an overcall for this was the auction.

Closed Room

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

As a consequence, South had to find a lead against 3NT. Any black card would have hit the jackpot for the Poles but who can blame South for putting a low heart on the table? That was nine tricks and another +600 to France, good for 13 IMPs their way.

In another U26 match, they had entirely different ideas.

Frenemies v Cood Life

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sandin</i>	<i>Saetre</i>	<i>Mann</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♣	Dble	3♥
Dble	3♠	Dble	All Pass

This was Sweden and the world v Norway. The latter won the auction but the former scored the points. With the clubs 4-1, declarer could never enjoy his established clubs and had to go one down after all. That was +200 for Cood Life.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Øberg</i>	<i>Xu</i>	<i>Austad</i>	<i>Meier</i>
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

At the other table South, who has come here all the way from New Zealand according to the registration, did find a black suit lead; he tried a low spade. North won the ♠J and returned a club so that was the two down the Poles had missed in our other match and another +200 and 9 IMPs to Cood Life.

Anyone for a slam? Not in the France v Poland match. But in Frenemies v Cood Life they were more optimistic.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sandin</i>	<i>Saetre</i>	<i>Mann</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
-	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

No, not in the Open Room; 11 tricks, so Frenemies +460.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Øberg</i>	<i>Xu</i>	<i>Austad</i>	<i>Meier</i>
-	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

The world partnership of the Cood Life team did well to reach this perfectly playable slam. However, the 4-1 trump distribution was too much for N/S. Still, the slam was made somewhere, I spotted. I am still wondering how this was possible. We would no doubt have heard about a successful second-round trump finesse after seeing the ♦10 in West so there will probably be a less brilliant explanation for this +920.

In our match, the Frenemies thus scored another +50 and registered 11 IMPs.

In the U31 match between Ania and China Sun, the latter also got to the reasonable slam. As a tribute to them, here is their quite natural looking auction.

Their Polish opponents had recorded +430 in 3NT but in the Closed Room they bid like this:


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bejenka</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Zareba</i>	<i>Wei</i>
-	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

One down, another +50 and 10 IMPs to Ania.

The last deal of the day was about a 4♥ contract which was universally reached.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Most of the time, West was the declarer. If North leads the ♠10 and declarer ducks this to South's king, there is an easy way to defeat the contract, found at many tables. South should return a spade. Later on, declarer has to concede a diamond to North because he has to ruff his last diamond in dummy. At that point, the spade ruff sinks the contract because South still has the ♥Q to come as well.

In the France v Poland match, Guth, for France led the ♠10 alright but when Bellicaud won the king and returned a diamond, declarer suddenly had time to ruff his diamond, draw trumps and get to ten tricks; Poland +620.

In the other room of that same match, East was the declarer and South led a club. Dummy won perforce and declarer went on to cash the ♥A and then duck a diamond. North won and returned the suit so declarer could ruff his last diamond, cash the ♥K getting the bad news and get off play with a spade. South rose with his ♠K, but now repeated club or diamond leads would force declarer. He thus could not draw trumps in time and went one down after all. Poland had another +100 and 12 IMPs to them.

In the Frenemies v Cood Life match, there was once again a big swing. For Cood Life, West was declarer and North led the ♠10 Dummy played low so South won the king and returned the suit for a quick one down; Frenemies +100.

At the other table, East had become the declarer in 4♥ and South also led a spade...but he chose the ♠K. After this, declarer easily made his contract for another +620 and 12 IMPs to the Frenemies.

In the U31 match between Ania and China Sun, the deal was a push in 4♥ down one. Both the ♠10 lead and the ♥10 lead from the respective North players were effective enough.

The scores in our featured matches:

France v Poland (U26) 13-33 or 4.03-15.97 VPs.

Frenemies v Cood Life (U26) 23-25 or 9.23-10.77 VPs.

Ania v China Sun (U31) 25-22 or 11.14 -8.86 VPs.



Maxence FRAGOLA

Tomasz KIELBASA

Jakub BAZYLUK

Nao TABATA


Washed Up v Ania

U31 QUALIFICATION ROUND 6

Brian Senior

At the end of day one, the multi-national Washed Up squad headed the U31 rankings from Team Ania of Poland. The teams exchanged medium-sized swings on the first two boards of their Sunday morning match.


Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

van Oosten jumped to 2♥, showing spades. Donati completed the transfer over Anna Zareba's double, and Bejenka, presumably taking that to promise hearts, competed to 3♥. Zareba, who was perhaps not quite so convinced about how many hearts she had already promised, took her partner to have four of the suit and went on to 4♥, ending the auction.

Four Hearts is a slightly delicate spot which requires some good fortune, particularly in the trump suit. Van Oosten led the singleton club and Bejenka rose with the ace and led a low heart to the ten, which held the trick, and continued with the king. Donati won the ♥A and played king then ten of clubs. Van Oosten ruffed with the nine but Bejenka simply discarded his spade loser on this trick, won the spade return and drew the outstanding trump. He had five diamonds to cash so 10 tricks in all for +420 and 7 IMPs to Ania.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bejenka</i>	<i>Van Oosten</i>	<i>Zareba</i>	<i>Donati</i>
-	-	-	1♣
1♦	2♥	Dble	2♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>Madej</i>	<i>Kaplan</i>	<i>Pigulski</i>
-	-	-	2♣
2♦	2♠	3♣	Dble
Pass	3♠	4♣	Pass
4♦	All Pass		

For Ania, Adam Pigulski opened a Precision-style 2♣ and Matthew Brown overcalled 2♦. Roman Madej introduced his long spade suit and Adam Kaplan cuebid 3♣ to show a good diamond raise then cuebid again at his next turn as an invitation to the diamond game. Brown, however, declined the invitation so became declarer in 4♦. Madej led his club, Brown rising with the ace, drawing trumps, then conceding a club. He won the spade return, ruffed the third club, then exited with a spade for a neat endplay against Madej which ensured the contract; +130.

For Washed Up, Giovanni Donati opened at the one level, Bartosz Bejenka overcalled 1♦ and Sibrand

West	North	East	South
<i>Bejenka</i>	<i>Van Oosten</i>	<i>Zareba</i>	<i>Donati</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>Madej</i>	<i>Kaplan</i>	<i>Pigulski</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	All Pass

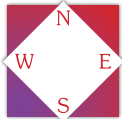
Kaplan responded 1NT to the 1♠ opening then followed up with 2NT over Brown's 2♥ rebid. Looking

at a minimum opening and with a risk that bidding his third suit would take the bidding too high, Brown did not go on with 3♦, preferring a pass. Pigulski led the five of clubs to the ten and queen and Kaplan led the jack of spades and ran it. Madej ducked that but Kaplan did not fall into the trap of repeating the spade finesse, instead switching is attention to diamonds, leading the ten round to Madej's bare king. Madej returned the four of clubs, Kaplan rising with the ace and continuing with the nine of diamonds. Pigulski ducked that but won the next diamond and played a spade, but Kaplan won with the ace, cashed the king, then led a heart to the king and ace. With no entry to the queen of spades, Kaplan had to make the ♥Q at the end for his eighth trick and +120.

Zareba responded with a GF 2♣ and now Bejenka did show all three of his suits before accepting partner's decision to declare 3NT. The lead was again a club to the ten and queen. Zareba too ran the ♠J at trick two but then did repeat the finesse, losing to the queen. The three of clubs went to the eight and nine, and Donati switched to a low diamond to his partner's king. Zareba won the next club with the ace and played a diamond, Donati winning the ace and cashing the king of clubs and ace of hearts for two down; -100 and 6 IMPs to Washed Up.

Things were quite for a while but then came a short run of swing boards.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bejenka</i>	<i>Van Oosten</i>	<i>Zareba</i>	<i>Donati</i>
1♣	1♥	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>Madej</i>	<i>Kaplan</i>	<i>Pigulski</i>
1♣	1♥	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

The auctions were identical except that Donati, looking at a five-card trump holding, doubled the final contract.



Bartosz BEJENKA

Sibrand VAN OOSTEN


Giovanni DONATI

Anna ZAREBA

Madej led the six of clubs against 4♠ undoubled, and that ran to Brown's jack. He led a spade at trick two, so discovered the bad news immediately. Brown put in the ten and Pigulski ducked, so Brown tried to cash the ace of clubs, but that was ruffed. Pigulski returned the jack of hearts, Brown taking the ace and playing the queen back to Madej's king, setting up two winners in dummy in the process. Brown ruffed the ♣Q return with the ace and led a spade to his jack then the ten of diamonds to the ace. The ♥9 was ruffed and over-ruffed, and now there was just the ♠K to be lost, losing diamonds going away from both hands on the minor-suit kings; 10 tricks for +620.

Van Oosten led the four of clubs against 4♠ doubled, and Bejenka won dummy's nine then tried the ♣A, ruffed by Donati, who returned a low diamond to the eight, queen and ace. Bejenka took the losing heart finesse and back came a club, which he ruffed with the ten, Donati discarding his remaining heart. Bejenka led a spade to his jack, back to the ace, and a third round, which Donati won with the king. He returned the jack of diamonds in hope of pinning the ten, but Bejenka won the king and led to his ten to draw the missing trump, and had the ♥A and ♣K for the last two tricks; +790 and 5 IMPs to Ania.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bejenka</i>	<i>Van Oosten</i>	<i>Zareba</i>	<i>Donati</i>
–	1NT	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>Madej</i>	<i>Kaplan</i>	<i>Pigulski</i>
–	1NT	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	All Pass


Both Norths opened 1NT, both Easts overcalled 2♠, spades and a minor, and both Wests enquired, 3♣ showing a minimum with spades and clubs. Now

Bejenka went on to 3NT while Brown passed out 3♣.

Pigulski led his club against 3♣, Madej winning and playing two more rounds of the suit. Kaplan won in dummy and took the spade finesse then led a diamond to the queen and ace. He continued by cashing the king and jack of diamonds, pitching a spade and a heart from hand, and came to an eleventh trick in the endgame for +150.

Van Oosten led the six of diamonds against 3NT, the queen losing to the ace. Bejenka played the nine of clubs, which was allowed to hold the trick, and continued with the ♣Q to van Oosten's king. Van Oosten returned the king of hearts, which Bejenka ducked, then switched to a diamond for the ten and king. Van Oosten won the next club play and returned the king of spades to dummy's ace, and Bejenka had nine tricks, three in each minor, two spades and the ace of hearts, for +400 and 6 IMPs to Ania.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bejenka</i>	<i>Van Oosten</i>	<i>Zareba</i>	<i>Donati</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♣	2NT	Dble
3♠	4♦	Pass	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>Madej</i>	<i>Kaplan</i>	<i>Pigulski</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♠	2NT	3♦	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Madej overcalled 2NT, both minors, and Kaplan cuebid 3♦ to show w full-strength raise to at least 3♠, which is where Brown signed off with his bare minimum opening. Madej led the king of clubs, which Brown won immediately to lead the five of diamonds, winning the king when Madej played low. The jack of spades won the next trick, then Brown gave up a club to Madej, who returned a third club. Brown ruffed

with the ten then led the ♠3 to his queen, cashed the ♠A, and could set up a diamond for a heart discard, making exactly for +140.

Van Oosten preferred to overcall 2♣, Zareba bid 2NT to show her constructive spade raise, and Donati doubled to show values – in the absence of a two-suited overcall he could still hope for a heart fit. Alas, this encouraged van Oosten to show his second suit over Bejenka's 3♠ sign-off, and now Donati had to give preference to 5♣, which was doubled. Zareba led the jack of spades, followed by the ten to the king, ace and ruff. Van Oosten played ace then a low diamond and Zareba went in with the queen then played the ♦K? Van Oosten ruffed with the seven and Bejenka over-ruffed with the ten, but now declarer's side-suit was established. A heart to the ace was followed by the fourth diamond, but dummy's ♣5 was just big enough to prevent an over-ruff with a spot card. Bejenka over-ruffed with the ace but van Oosten had the rest, so down three for –800 and 12 IMPs to Ania.

West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>Madej</i>	<i>Kaplan</i>	<i>Pigulski</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		


Whether East responded naturally with 2♦, or artificially with a GF 2♣, the final contract was 3NT played by East.

Pigulski led the five of clubs to the ten, six and king, and Kaplan took the spade finesse, Madej ducking. Kaplan played ace and another diamond now, Pigulski winning the king and returning the ten of spades. Kaplan called for the jack, losing to the king, and there were three spade winners but they were stranded in dummy. Madej returned a club so Pigulski took the ace and jack then got out with a diamond, and Kaplan won a couple of those then led a low heart and Pigulski went in with the queen and returned a heart. That gave Kaplan eight tricks but the contract was down one for –100.

Donati led the three of diamonds, Zareba rising with the ace and playing a second round to the queen. Donati ducked that but won the next diamond, on which Zareba discarded a spade from dummy. Donati returned a spade to the jack, and van Oosten won the king to lead a heart through. Donati won the ♥Q and got out passively with a diamond, but Zareba won that, knocked out the ♣A and, with spades dividing evenly, had nine tricks for +600 and 12 IMPs to Ania.

The Poles ran out winners by 43-7 IMPs, 18.71-1,29 VPs, and moved to the top of the rankings ahead of France, with Washed Up falling to fourth place.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bejenka</i>	<i>Van Oosten</i>	<i>Zareba</i>	<i>Donati</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

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Teams Qualification - Round 7

Jos Jacobs

This time, I am going back to the U26 teams. Two good matches there, France v Hellas and Poland v Skaffatar. Under the latter name some new European U26 champions are trying to make their presence felt.

The opening board of the set was flat but the next deal caused disbelief here and there.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

France v Hellas

Open Room

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

This was an excellent, disciplined auction after West's overcalls, resulting in an almost trivial +140.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Guth</i>	<i>Soumplis</i>	<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Papaspyrou</i>
–	–	Pass	1♥
2♦	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

If partner does not give the impression of being on the lookout for no trumps, then why not believe him? If you look at North's rather limited diamond stopper, it's no surprise to hear that this contract went four down, for France another +200 and 8 IMPs to them.

On the next deal, there were a few accidents.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Skordas</i>	<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Kapiris</i>	<i>Tabata</i>
–	–	–	1♣
1♠	2NT	4♠	Pass
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

North showed a red two-suiter at his first turn and a nice red two-suiter one round of bidding later. This might have convinced West to lead an ace but, when he found a trump lead instead, the French had an easy +650. In the other categories, we also saw a few trump leads against 5♥ with the same effect, of course.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Guth</i>	<i>Soumplis</i>	<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Papaspyrou</i>
–	–	–	1♣
1♠	2♥	4♥	Dble
4♠	5♦	Pass	5♥
Dble	All Pass		

At the other table, East was on lead after North had shown his suits one by one. He led a spade but Guth took his ace and immediately played ♦A and another to partner's ♦K. The ensuing ruff then gave the French another +500 and 15 IMPs.

The next deal again was a minor defensive problem not solved correctly everywhere.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

In the match between Poland and the Dutch, the Poles in the Open Room no doubt thought they had done very well.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Friesen</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>	<i>Goor</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>
1NT	Pass	3♥	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West led the ♣A and shifted to...the ♥J, which declarer ran to his queen; Poland +420.

In the replay, the Dutch South had more room to clarify his hand.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cichy</i>	<i>Van de Paverd</i>	<i>Kedzierski</i>	<i>Nijssen</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠
Dble	2♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Here as well, West led the ♣A and continued a heart. The contract was made so Skaffatar +590 and 5 IMPs for them. Comparing the results after the match must have been a noisy business...

A few deals later, the normal contract was not as normal as one might think.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Poland v Skaffatar

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Friesen</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>	<i>Goor</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Dble	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Yes, the Poles reached the normal contract in N/S and scored an overtrick in 4♥ for +450.

The Dutch had other ideas, however. They could open the South hand with a mini NT.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cichy</i>	<i>Van de Paverd</i>	<i>Kedzierski</i>	<i>Nijssen</i>
–	–	–	1NT
Dble	Rdbl	2♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Because the partner of the 1NT opener held a strong enough hand, E/W were immediately caught for speeding. Two Diamonds doubled was down the obvious three, and that was +500 and 2 IMPs for Skaffatar.

In the France v Hellas match there also was a swing.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Skordas</i>	<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Kapiris</i>	<i>Tabata</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Dble	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Though they spurned the heart fit, the French alternative final contract was fully OK because it was West who would have to lead. Apart from that, North's spade spots were very useful, even more so when West led a top spade. There was one overtrick, so France +430.


In the Closed Room, South did not have a mini NT at his disposal so it was West who was the first to open 1NT. His 15-17 count left the table in admiration. The contract itself, however, was not a tremendous success.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Guth</i>	<i>Soumplis</i>	<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Papaspyrou</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

On a spade lead by North, 1NT went no less than five down for +250 to Hellas but still 5 IMPs to France. Next came a nearly cold game.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Skordas</i>	<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Kapiris</i>	<i>Tabata</i>
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♠
4♠	All Pass		

Once East found a free raise, the Greeks drove to game. Had North led the ♦A and another, the contract would have gone down. The club lead, however, immediately destroyed the communications for a possible diamond ruff so the Greeks chalked up +420.



Romarc GUTH

Michail SOUMPLIS

Iasonas-I. PAPASPYROU

Luc BELLICAUD

In the other room, we saw a more quiet auction.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Guth</i>	<i>Soumplis</i>	<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Papaspyrou</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Dble	2♠	All Pass

There was a club lead here as well, so +170 for France but 6 IMPs to Hellas.

In the Poland v the Dutch match, they all were in game.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Friesen</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>	<i>Goor</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♠
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

Again a club lead and a diamond shift, but this did not help the defence any more; Skaffatar +590.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cichy</i>	<i>Van De Pavverd</i>	<i>Kedziarski</i>	<i>Nijssen</i>
1♠	2♣	2♠	4♣
4♠	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, Tim van de Pavverd found the killing lead of $\diamond A$ and another and duly got his ruff. One down was another +50 and 12 IMPs to the Dutchies.

The last board of the set was a test in defensive count signals.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

As you can see, E/W have exactly three defensive tricks for the taking against $5\diamond$ but they must cash them in exactly the right order. Not all pairs over the GEM passed this test.

In the France v Hellas match, we saw two notable exceptions, one at each table.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Skordas</i>	<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Kapiris</i>	<i>Tabata</i>
–	–	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

In the Open Room, South had one or two diamonds too many to make his 3NT opening bid a really classic gambling affair. When partner signed off, Tabata showed his exceptional hand by bidding not $4\diamond$ but $5\diamond$, however, that was one too high, so Hellas +50.

Closed Room

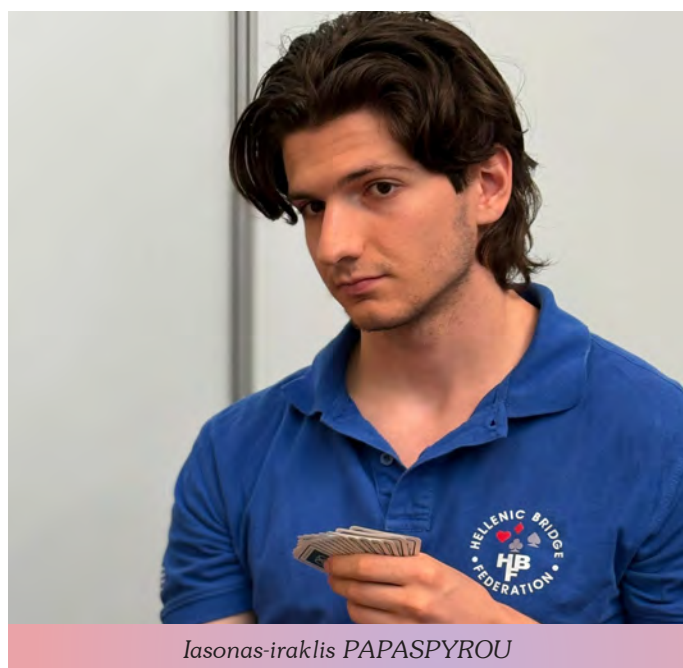
West	North	East	South
<i>Guth</i>	<i>Soumplis</i>	<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Papaspyrou</i>
–	–	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

In the Closed Room, South also went for the gambling variation. When he rebid just $4\diamond$, it was East who thought he should do something about it. West thought his $\spadesuit AK$ might be enough to beat the contract though he would have been better off by running to one of his majors. The French defence did not pass the major-cashing test either but the resulting overtrick did not really matter, just 12 IMPs instead of 11 to Hellas.

The final results:

France v Hellas: 28-18 or 13.43–6.57 VPs.

Poland v Skaffatar: 4-26 or 3.61-16.39 VPs.



Iasonas-iraklis PAPASPYROU

France v Skaffatar

Hellas U26 v Frenemies


Qualification U26 Teams Round 8

Jos Jacobs

Once again two interesting looking matches in the U26 to watch and to report on, was my consideration to stay with the U26 teams on display. This session, the boards took some time to warm up but from the fourth deal onwards, we got three nice ones in succession.

This was the first:

Board 4. Dealer West/All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Van de Pavverd</i>	<i>Tabata</i>
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

With a key-card and a second-round diamond control missing, the slam is not obvious but still very playable. If the ♣K is with North, you are almost home. On the actual diamond lead by South the trump king had to be with North but was not. This meant a quick one down, so France +100.


To comfort the Dutchies three more E/W pairs were in slam.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Guth</i>	<i>Goor</i>	<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Friesen</i>
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
4NT	All Pass		

No experiments by the French but an elegant quantitative stop; France +690 and 13 IMPs to them. On to the next deal:

Board 5. Dealer North/Ns Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Van de Pavverd</i>	<i>Tabata</i>
–	1♣	1♥	2NT*
3♦*	4♠	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Two modern approaches; 2NT showed the other two suits and 3♦ thus showed a heart fit. Making an overtrick was no problem with the ♣K right for declarer so Skaffatar +750.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Guth</i>	<i>Goor</i>	<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Friesen</i>
–	1♣	1♥	2NT
3♦	3♠	4♣	Pass
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♥	Dble	All Pass	

Basically the same modern conventional auction in the other room and, surprise, surprise: the same outcome; France +750 and no swing.

For a swing on this deal, we have to go to the Hellas v Frenemies match.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>	<i>Saetre</i>	<i>Skordas</i>
–	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	2♥	3♦
3♥	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Because East did not overcall North's 1♣, the playing strength of his hand remained unknown. That's why the Norwegians sold out to 4♠. They did very well, however, to beat the contract and thus save a few IMPs. West led a diamond, intending (and succeeding) to give partner a ruff in the suit later on. One down meant Frenemies +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Soumplis</i>	<i>Austad</i>	<i>Papaspyrou</i>	<i>Øberg</i>
–	1♣	1♥	Dble
2NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

When East overcalled 1♥ in the other room, and South had a problem and not enough tools to solve it, therefore, the spade fit never came to light. In Four Hearts, there were an easy enough 12 tricks for Hellas so 9 IMPs to them.

Board 6. Dealer East/E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>	<i>Saetre</i>	<i>Skordas</i>
–	–	2♠	3♥
Dble	All Pass		

Well, the penalty double is very much OK but you had better not lead a spade. Two losers quickly disappeared on declarer's path to his contract; Hellas +530.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Soumplis</i>	<i>Austad</i>	<i>Papaspyrou</i>	<i>Øberg</i>
–	–	2♠	3♥
Dble	3NT	Dble	4♦
Pass	5♦	Dble	All Pass

Very much the same start of the auction in the other room but here North came to the rescue (?) after West's double. South had a nice distributional hand indeed but scarcely any high-card values. With all the hearts stacked behind her, she went three down in the alternative fit for another +500 to Hellas and no less than 14 IMPs to them.

In our other match, we also saw a big swing.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Van de Paverd</i>	<i>Tabata</i>
–	–	1♠	3♣
3♠	4♦	4♠	All Pass

South showed his red two-suiter by bidding 3♣ but this did not deter E/W from reaching game. Nobody doubled, not even North (he knows his partner, apparently...) but the contract still went two down for France +200.

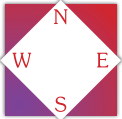
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Guth</i>	<i>Goor</i>	<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Friesen</i>
–	–	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

When East did not open the bidding in the Closed Room, South had all the time in the world to show his suits one by one. Because North did not offer any real fit, any N/S contract was doomed from the start. Down two gave France +300 and 11 more IMPs to them.

On the last board of the set, the little upgrade was systemic and worked very well...

Board 10. Dealer East/All Vul.

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

On a heart lead, Skordas had 11 easy tricks; Hellas +660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Soumplis</i>	<i>Austad</i>	<i>Papaspyrou</i>	<i>Øberg</i>
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Of course, 4♠ is the better contract, but not today. West led a club and duly got his ruff. With the ♥K wrong, that meant one down, +100, and 13 IMPs more to Hellas.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>	<i>Saetre</i>	<i>Skordas</i>
–	–	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The final scores:

France v Skaffatar 27-2 or 16.97-3.03 VPs.
 Hellas U26 v Frenemies 41-6 or 18.58-1.42 VPs.
 another to partner's ♦K. The ensuing ruff then gave the French another +500 and 15 IMPs.

...but only because the defence did not lead an initial diamond (other than the ♦2, for that matter).

The next deal again was a minor defensive problem not solved correctly everywhere.



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SAVE THE DATE

Rankings

UNDER 26 RANKING AFTER ROUND 10

1	FRANCE	138.46
2	SKAFFATAR	126.94
3	HELLAS U26	125.65
4	TEAM FUNBRIDGE BLUE	123.06
5	COOD LIFE	107.95
6	JAPAN	106.04
7	POLAND	104.32
8	TEAM FUNBRIDGE PINK	102.64
9	AUSTRALIA	98.07
10	FRENEMIES	97.61
11	AZS WRATISLAVIA	92.62
12	WZBS DABROWKA	92.33
13	HUNGAEL	91.15
14	TEAM FRIESENJUNG	88.61
15	STROMSGODSET	88.09
16	DISCO PIGERNE	85.38
17	YOUNG AND BROKE	83.13
19	TEAM CANADA	53.37

UNDER 21 RANKING AFTER ROUND 10

1	POLAND U21	149.96
2	BRIDGECHAMP	143.53
3	RDFZ B	129.54
4	BLUE WRATISLAVIA	120.98
5	NETHERLANDS U21	120.51
6	BLITZ	118.33
7	SECRET SHOT	113.49
8	WZBS	108.88
9	RDFZ G	106.51
10	ENGLAND U21	105.79
11	VERCO CKIS SKAWINA	105.32
12	PIDOES	104.52
13	NONE	104.32
14	FRANCE 1	101.77
15	AKADEMIA PRIMUS	101.10
16	AZS UW WARSAW 1	99.47
17	CZECH REPUBLIC	98.10
18	PANATHINAIKOS	93.63
19	POLAND 2	91.90
20	KAMAZEE	90.24
21	WILDER BRIDGER CREW	90.20
22	HKAB	88.33
23	PIAST GOL AZS UW	87.72
24	FRANCE 2	86.88
25	RDFZ R	86.55
26	JAPAN	81.48
27	4KL 2BKB	80.12
28	PTC DOLINA NARWI	65.96
29	KL2 KBSM2	30.87

Rankings

UNDER 26 RANKING AFTER ROUND 9

1	POLAND 1	136.13
2	AUSTRALIA	122.95
3	POLAND 2	116.49
4	FRANCE	103.80
5	JENTERNE	103.26
6	CLEO	89.07
7	AZS UW PTC PIAST	71.32
8	WZBS	66.86
9	MAIA	58.54
10	NEW FRIENDS	30.58

UNDER 31 RANKING AFTER ROUND 10

1	ANIA	136.79
2	POLISH DODOS	128.04
3	FRANCE	125.02
4	ZG HC	114.23
5	INDIA A	111.58
6	WASHED UP	108.36
7	POLAND	108.03
8	CHINA SUN	106.90
9	CARDSAGAINSTURSANITY	105.50
10	SAMI	104.98
11	EXPIRED YOUTH	91.74
12	DUTCH BULLDOZERS	83.16
13	AUSTRIA	80.38
14	BFI JUNIORS	76.58
15	SLOVENIJA	67.99
16	EKO ROZANKA HUSSARS	40.22

UNDER 16 RANKING AFTER ROUND 10

1	JACK	141.03
2	CT U16	134.08
3	THE VIKINGS	124.51
4	CT 360	123.44
5	RDFZ	119.70
6	VERCO	116.78
7	USRAEL	115.81
8	AZS UW WARSAW 1	115.47
9	FRANCE	114.20
10	POLAND	114.15
11	CZE HUN	110.50
12	CHINA SMZY SPLINTER	104.30
13	AZS UW GOL GIRLS	104.15
14	THE BAST	102.90
15	POLAK MALI	102.72
16	WEPLAYBRIDGE4US	101.75
17	CHINA SMZY SMOLEN	100.78
18	BRIDGE SCHOOL TEAM1	100.19
19	KRAKOW I BRODNICA	98.59
20	KLUB LOGICZNY 1	97.42
21	BRIDGE SCHOOL TEAM2	95.90
22	BRIDGEBLITZ DAIS	95.06
23	VERCO CKIS SKAWINA	94.04
24	WZBS	88.78
25	AZS UW GOL	79.06
26	BRIDGE SCHOOL TEAM3	70.78
27	CHINA SMZY STAYMAN	70.28
28	SPOJNIA U16 RED	67.41
29	KL3 KBSM3	46.92
30	SPOJNIA U16 YELLOW	42.17