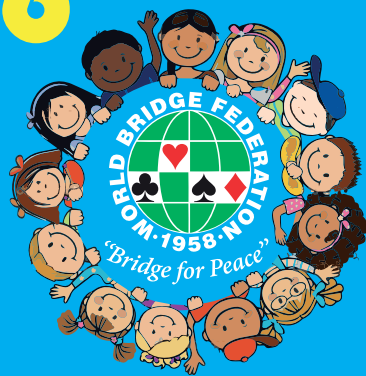


6th World Youth Open Bridge Championships

20th - 29th August 2019

Welcome to Opatija

the House of Bridge



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Editor: Mark Horton • Journalists: Marc Smith, Jos Jacobs, Micke Melander • Layout Editor & Photos: Francesca Canali

THE PODIUM BELONGS TO US



We salute the newly crowned World Youth Team Champions, Sivy B in the U26, Poland in the U21, Sofies World in the Women's U26 and SX Mars in the U16. Team Greisnor captured BAM Final A and India-BU26 won BAM Final B. It was special moment for the winners of the Women's event, the same four players having already taken the gold and silver medals in the Pairs Championship.

SCHEDULE TODAY

10.30 - 12.50	Individual 1st session
14.00 - 16.20	Individual 2nd session
16.50 - 19.10	Individual 3rd session

THE MEDALLISTS

U26 TEAMS PODIUM

- Sivy B:** Cornelius Duffie, Benjamin Kristensen, Kevin Rosenberg, Sarah Youngquist (USA)
- Netherlands:** Pim Coppens, Guy Mendes De Leon, Thibo Sprinkhuizen, Niels Van Bijsterveldt (Netherlands)
- Natt:** Stephen Kennedy, Shahzaad Natt, Ben Norton, Junyuan Ye (England)

U26 WOMEN TEAMS PODIUM

- Sofies World:** Thea Lucia Indrebo, Agnethe Hansen Kjensli, Ida Marie Oeberg, Sofie Grasholt Sjodal (Norway)
- Sxpeony:** Yunpeng Chen, Chenyun Ge, Yijia Lu, Xinyao Ruan, Jiaming Xu, Wenfei Yu, Ling Wang Captain (China)
- Screwdriver:** Laura Covill (England), Malene Holm Christensen, Esther Visser, Janneke Wackwitz, Bas Van Engelen Npc (Netherlands)

U21 TEAMS PODIUM:

- Poland:** Jakub Bazyluk, Krzysztof Cichy, Tomasz Kielbasa, Kacper Kopka, Marek Markowski Npc (Poland)
- Badoell:** Erik Hansson, Castor Mann (Sweden), Oscar Nijssen, Tim Van De Pavard (Netherlands)
- The Canadians:** Hao Zhen Dong, Bo Han Zhu (Canada), Finn Kolesnik, Harrison Anders Luba (USA)

U16 TEAMS PODIUM:

- Sxmars:** Yanzhuo Fu, Zhuxiongjie Gao, Ningyu Lang, Haotian Shen, Zicheng Wang, Fanfei Yu, Wei Yang Captain, Yihong Liu Coach (China)
- Poland:** Lucja Ciborowska, Konrad Ciborowski, Lukasz Kasperczyk, Kacper Kufłowski, Franciszek Kurlit, Michal Stasik, Marcin Kufłowski Npc (Poland)
- Sxsaturn:** Suhang Li, Zhenyue Lu, Tengbo Tang, Zhixian Tian, Yijun Wu, Xuyang Zhang, Hongfeng Zhu Captain, Zhijie Yuan Coach (China)

BOARD-A-MATCH

- Greisnor:** Christian Bakke (Norway), Amir Ezion, Tomer Loonstein (Israel), Ioannis Oikonomopoulos (Greece)
- Italia U26:** Francesco Chiarandini, Giovanni Donati, Alvaro Gaiotti, Giacomo Percario, Roberto Sau, Sebastiano Scatà, Dario Attanasio (Cpt), Valerio Giubilo (Coach)
- Sxnebula:** Hanyang Dai, Penghao Wang, Yingqi Wang, Hao Xu, Tianyao Yan, Jiahao Yang, Haihong Gu Captain, Liping Wang Coach (China)



**UNDER 26, WINNERS:
Team SIVY B**



**UNDER 26, 2nd:
Team NETHERLANDS**



**UNDER 26, 3rd:
Team NATT**



**WOMEN UNDER 26, WINNERS:
Team SOFIES WORLD**



**WOMEN UNDER 26, 2nd:
Team SXPEONY**



**WOMEN UNDER 26, 3rd:
Team SCREWDRIVER**



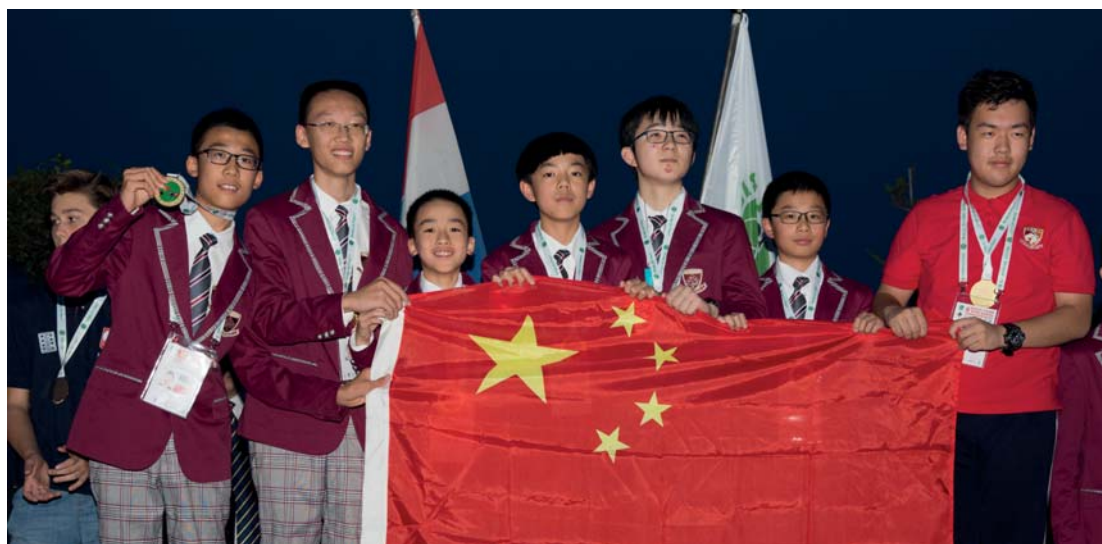
**UNDER 21, WINNERS:
Team POLAND**



**UNDER 21, 2nd:
Team BADOELL**



**UNDER 21, 3rd:
Team THE CANADIANS**



UNDER 16, WINNERS:
Team SXMARS



UNDER 16, 2nd:
Team POLAND



UNDER 16, 3rd:
Team SXSATURN



**BAM, WINNERS:
Team GREISNOR**



**BAM, 2nd:
Team ITALIA U26**



**BAM, 3rd:
Team SXNEBULA**



OPATIJA DIARY

Mark Horton

I have mentioned Denmark's Roland Wald before - his contribution to BBO as an organiser and Commentator is legendary. His Facebook page is well worth a visit, frequently presenting interesting bridge problems with answers by leading players from around the world. It also offers the odd slice of humour - this was yesterday's offering:

Mark 17

At a Sunday morning service, a minister told his congregation:

"Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon I want you all to read the book of Mark, chapter 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said:

"Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

I noticed that in the BAM Tablet, Italia U26 were in 8th place as Round 13 got under way. At the end of Round 18 they had scored an amazing 24/24 to move to the top of the table.

Every bid that is made during an auction paints a picture, which offers information to both sides. That may be useful in the play and defence, but you must endeavour to make sure that the wood is not obscured by the trees.



This apparently straightforward deal comes from the first session of the semifinals:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ J 10 2
♥ J 6
♦ A Q 6 4 3 2
♣ K 10

♠ K 8 7 6 3
♥ K Q 10
♦ K 10 8
♣ Q 4



♠ A Q 5
♥ 9 5 4
♦ 7 5
♣ A 8 6 5 2

♠ 9 4
♥ A 8 7 3 2
♦ J 9
♣ J 9 7 3

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♦	3♦*	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

3♦ Spade support

North led the ♥J and South had to decide what to do.

If you assume that partner's overcall is on a six-card suit, then it is likely that the lead is from a short suit. A doubleton is more likely than a singleton, and in many situations, it might be right to simply encourage, hoping that partner will have a trump entry and be able to lead a second round of the suit and then score a ruff.

However, general principles must be allied to the information conveyed by the bidding and what you can see in dummy and here South knows that North is not going to get in with a trump. It is a certainty that North does not hold the ♦AK and most probably not the ♦KQ.

The fact that West did not rebid 3♥ suggests that North will not have a singleton heart, so it is logical to take the ♥A and switch to a diamond.

Suppose, playing standard leads, South plays the jack, covered by the king and ace, and North continues with the queen on which declarer plays the eight. If partner plays a third diamond, that will promote a trump trick for the defenders, ensuring one down.

However, partner, fearing that your diamonds might be ♦J109, could be worried about offering up a ruff and discard.

There are two reasons why that is unlikely: firstly with $\diamond J109$ you would have had a choice of which diamond to play on the second round, a defensive example of the principle of restricted choice. Secondly holding $\diamond J109$ you should almost certainly duck the first heart, the idea being to make it clear to partner that you have no interest in ruffing a third round of diamonds.

Would it make any difference if you were playing second and fourth leads (so that with say $\diamond 98$ you would lead the eight, playing the nine on the next round)? using those methods, it is normal to lead the honour from Jx, but there is a strong case for starting with the x. When you follow with the jack on the next round, it should be clear you have a doubleton.

This deal was played 16 times - 9 pairs took nine (or more!) tricks in spades, while 7 were held to eight.

Part-score deals are generally dismissed by the journalistic fraternity as being 'dull' but they can sometimes be full of interest. Take a look at this one from the U21 SF between Poland and The Canadians.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

		\spadesuit 7 5 2	
		\heartsuit K Q 6 3 2	
		\diamond K 10 9 4	
		\clubsuit 5	
\spadesuit A 6	\spadesuit K J 10		
\heartsuit A 8 7 4	\heartsuit 10 9 5		
\diamond Q 6	\diamond J 8 7 3		
\clubsuit K J 10 9 2	\clubsuit Q 8 7		
	\spadesuit Q 9 8 4 3		
	\heartsuit J		
	\diamond A 5 2		
	\clubsuit A 6 4 3		

West	North	East	South
Kielbasa	Kolesnik	Kopka	Zhu
—	Pass	Pass	1 \spadesuit
2 \clubsuit	2 \spadesuit	3 \clubsuit	Pass
Pass	3 \heartsuit	Pass	3 \spadesuit
All Pass			

Declarer took West's $\clubsuit J$ lead with the ace and played the $\heartsuit J$, West correctly rising with the ace. At this point playing three rounds of spades will leave declarer with too much to do, but that is no easy to find and West switched to the $\diamond Q$. Declarer won with the ace, ruffed a club, cashed the $\heartsuit KQ$ pitching a diamond and a club and ruffed a heart, East discarding the $\clubsuit Q$. Now the winning line is to ruff a club. East can overruff, but then the defenders will only get two more spades. Unsure of the position, declarer played a diamond to the king and the last heart. East pitched a diamond (ruffing with the $\spadesuit J$ also works - declarer

can overruff, but West overruffs in turn and then plays a spade, East cashing his two spades and exiting with the $\diamond J$ so that West scores a club at the end. When declarer threw his last club West ruffed with the $\spadesuit 6$ and cashed the $\spadesuit A$. Declarer was alert and dropped the $\spadesuit 8$. When West exited with a club declarer could ruff with dummy's seven and if East discarded his last diamond declarer could play the $\spadesuit 4$, leaving the lead in dummy to ensure a trick for the $\spadesuit Q$.

Did you spot that in the four card ending the defenders can still prevail:

	\spadesuit 7 5		
	\heartsuit —		
	\diamond 10 9		
	\clubsuit —		
\spadesuit A		\spadesuit K J 10	
\heartsuit —		\heartsuit —	
\diamond —		\diamond J	
\clubsuit K 10 9		\clubsuit —	
	\spadesuit Q 9 8 4		
	\heartsuit —		
	\diamond —		
	\clubsuit —		

If West exits with a club East must ruff with the $\spadesuit K(!)$ and play a diamond. West ruffs with the $\spadesuit A$ and East's $\spadesuit J10$ represent the setting trick.





AUSTRALIA v NETHERLANDS

David Bird

Under 26 Teams Semi-Final

The semi-finals will be of four 14-board sessions - a serious number of boards, worthy of a world championship. In this report, I will describe some of the biggest swings in the first session of the match between Australia and the Netherlands.

My offer of a 100-dollar reward for anyone who can find a 1NT or 2♦ contract in any of my match reports still stands. When I check this article for typos/errors at the end, my first task will be to ensure that I have not put any hard-earned cash at risk.

Board 6. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>M. de Leon</i>	<i>McMahon</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	3♦	Dble	4♦
Dble	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Declarer ruffed the second round of diamonds, drew trumps and claimed +620. Meanwhile, North-South had missed a possible sacrifice in diamonds, costing only 300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Spooner</i>	<i>Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Cooper</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♦	Dble	Pass
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

I was expecting West to bid 4♦, to ask partner to

choose the major. Some text-books say that when you have equal length in two suits, you should choose the weaker of the suits as trumps. On that basis, 4♠ would have been my third choice on those West cards.

What do I know? The immediate 4♠ bid worked like magic, attracting a barely believable double from North. Declarer won the ♥J lead in dummy, drew trumps and claimed eleven tricks for +990. If North has passed 4♠, there would have been at least a small chance of South finding the 5♦ sacrifice. It was a 9-IMP swing to Australia, conjured out of the blue by their opponents.

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>M. de Leon</i>	<i>McMaho</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	3♣
4♦*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Wow! North-South might make eleven tricks in clubs (or spades), but they sold out to 4♥. (West's 4♦ was a fit-jump bid.) On the face of it, South's 3♣, presumably a weak-jump overcall, did not describe his hand accurately. How was North meant to know that 5♣ would be a profitable spot?

Worse than that for North-South was the fact that 4♥ might well be made. There were three top losers in the black suits, so declarer would have to pick up the trumps and avoid a diamond loser.

When South led the ♦5, declarer thought for quite a while about which card to play from dummy. He

chose the $\diamond 9$, forcing North's queen, and won with the ace. He then needed to reach dummy for a trump finesse. The $\diamond 2$ to the 10 and king achieved that objective, and the $\heartsuit Q$ was led, North playing low. 'Surely he's not thinking of rising with the ace,' we said, as a longish pause ensued. No, he eventually ran the $\heartsuit Q$ and +480 was made.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Spooner</i>	<i>Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Cooper</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
Pass	1NT	2 \diamond	Dble
2 \spadesuit	Pass	3 \heartsuit	5 \clubsuit
All Pass			

It was a good moment to be playing a mini notrump. East bid a 'defensive multi' 2 \diamond and Coppens, for the Netherlands, was happy to bid 5 \clubsuit subsequently. He ruffed the $\heartsuit Q$ lead and played a low diamond, West rising with the king. A second diamond to East's ace, was followed by a switch to the $\clubsuit 2$. Declarer won with dummy's $\clubsuit J$.

After drawing the last trump and ruffing a diamond in dummy, declarer needed to find the $\spadesuit Q$ for a double game swing. East had presumably started with six hearts, for his multi bid, and had shown two clubs and three diamonds. West was therefore likely to hold three of the missing five spades. His 2 \spadesuit response to the multi might have been more tempting with the $\spadesuit Q$ in his hand (9 points rather than 7), so we rather expected declarer to guess right..

Declarer played East for the $\spadesuit Q$ and went one down, but it was still 10 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Board 10. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

	♠ K 10 9 7 5	
	♥ 4	
	♦ 7 5 2	
	♣ J 8 6 4	
♠ A	<div>W N E S</div>	♠ Q 8 3 2
♥ A 9 7		♥ Q 6 3 2
♦ Q 10 8 4		♦ A K 6 3
♣ K Q 10 9 7		♣ 3
	♠ J 6 4	
	♥ K J 10 8 5	
	♦ J 9	
	♣ A 5 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>M. de Leon</i>	<i>McMaho</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1 \clubsuit	Pass	1 \heartsuit	Pass
2 \diamond	Pass	2 \spadesuit	Pass
3 \heartsuit	Pass	5 \diamond	All Pass

When the opponents shy away from 3NT, ending in five of a minor, the text books recommend leading the unbid suit. 'With a stopper in the fourth suit, they would have bid 3NT.' There was no future in a spade lead against 5 \diamond here, because West had advertised something like 1=3=4=5 shape.

North chose to lead the $\heartsuit 4$. Yes, indeed! A side-suit singleton is one of the very best leads possible. The contract could no longer be made. Declarer played low from dummy, winning South's 10 with the ace. After three rounds of trumps, he called for the $\clubsuit 3$ from dummy. In a club game, many South's would shoot in with the $\clubsuit A$, allowing the game to be made. No, this was a world championship and McMahon played the $\clubsuit 2$. Declarer finessed the $\clubsuit 10$, losing to the jack. A spade to the jack and ace was followed by the $\clubsuit K$, for a heart discard, South winning with the $\clubsuit A$.

McMahon could have cashed the $\heartsuit K$ for one down, but his count of the hand allowed him to try for more. He returned a spade, ruffed by declarer. Declarer's clubs then proved robust enough to escape for one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Spooner</i>	<i>Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Cooper</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	—	1 \diamond	1 \heartsuit
2 \clubsuit	Pass	2NT	Pass
3 \heartsuit	Pass	3 \spadesuit	Pass
4 \diamond	Pass	5 \diamond	All Pass

Played by East, the diamond game could not be beaten. The BBO play record is dubious (starting



Niels VAN BIJSTERVELDT

with a first trick consisting of: ♠J, ♠A, ♠K, ♠2!). When the record regained its sanity at a later stage, declarer played a club to the king and established the club suit with two ruffs. That was +600 and 12 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>M. de Leon</i>	<i>McMahon</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♠	Dble
Pass	Pass	4NT	All Pass

If your crystal ball had informed you of an adverse 5-0 spade break, you would want to play this deal in 3NT. The meaning of West's 3♥ was unclear. Might East have bid 3NT over it? Netherlands kibitzers were no doubt hoping for such a miracle, but of course their compatriots bid to the normal 4♠ instead.



Thibo SPRINKHUIZEN



Guy MENDES DE LEON

Should South double this contract? Perhaps you would want to if your crystal ball told you that at the other table 4♠ had gone three down undoubled. McMahon decided to double and Mendes de Leon (East) then cleverly removed to 4NT. This was not doubled, so would obviously be an improvement. How big an improvement, though? Let's see.

South led the ♣2, won with dummy's ♣J. Declarer crossed to the ♦Q and tried his luck with the ♠3. South thought for some time, although he knew that declarer had started with ♠AK5 from the 2♠ bid. Eventually South rose with the ♠Q and North discarded the ♥3 (low = upside-down attitude). 'Oh dear, he's throw an extra undertrick away,' was the kibitzers' cry. When South switched to the ♥8, North won with the ♥K and... oh no! ... returned a club. Declarer had blocked both the diamonds and the spades by this stage, but he still had enough tricks to claim +430. What an amazing deal.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Spooner</i>	<i>Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Cooper</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Well, they were in 3NT at one stage. Coppens declined to double 4♠ and the contract went three down for -150. It was 11 IMPs to the Netherlands.

The first session of this semi-final drew to a close with Netherlands in the lead by 34 IMPs to 23. It was still anyone's game.



CASTOR IS THE MANN

Simon Stocken

Board 12 U21 QF
Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mann	Deng	Hansson	Yuan
1♦	Pass	2♣*	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

2♣ Non-forcing

The Swedish/Dutch team Badoell beat the Chinese youngsters to book their place in the semi-finals after qualifying on top in the Swiss Teams. A simple, fast auction found them in an excellent slam and helped them towards a 19 IMP margin after the first 16 boards and they completed the job 50-2 in the second set.



Castor MANN

Playing a forcing 1NT response, East's 2♣ bid showed 5 cards with 6-10 points. Mann realized the power of his hand so splintered with 4♥ and East's 4♠ cue was all that was needed to reach the excellent slam. With 10 tricks on top declarer needs to trump two hearts in dummy. The ♥A was led followed by a diamond switch won in dummy. Hansson cashed dummy's top clubs: once South showed out it was a simple matter to trump two hearts in dummy, using the ♠K and diamond ruffs as his re-entries.

FLOOD THE NETWORKS!



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CHOICE OF GAMES

Simon Stocken

In the first set of the semi-final between the Californian SIVY team faced off against the UK Natt team.

Board 10. U26 Semi-Final Session 1.

Dealer East. Game All.

5♦ by East. Lead ♠4

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

West	North	East	South
Kennedy	Youngquist	Ye	Duffie
—	—	1♦	1♥
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass



Junyuan YE

The English pair did well to find the only making game on this hand. The auction was straightforward: South's overcall is routine although it would guide declarer to the winning line. South led ♠4 taken by dummy's ♠A and declarer crossed to the ♦A before leading a club towards dummy. South elected to withhold the ♣A and dummy's ♣Q won the trick. Ye continued with the ♣10 discarding a spade from hand, won with ♣A by South who exited with the ♦J won with dummy's queen. Now declarer cashed the ♣K and continued with a club, trumping out North's ♣J. Declarer trumped a spade and played the winning club off dummy, trumped by North and overtrumped. Declarer trumped a spade, stripping South of any safe exit. South had let go two low hearts and so Ye played the ♥7 to South who tried the ♥K but could not avoid conceding the 11th trick. Had North held a singleton ♥J or ♥10, East will play the ♥Q and South will be end-played.

At the other table, South also ducked the ♣A and declarer ruffed it out to end with 11 tricks. If South does rise with the ♣A, declarer can prevail by drawing trumps, cashing the ♥A and then playing clubs, leaving North on lead with the ♣J with only spades left in his hand, and very likely to hold ♠K with South having led the suit at trick one.



Stephen KENNEDY

3NT vs 4♠ - SIVY v NATT SF1

Board 11 U26 Semi-Final Session 1

Love All. Dealer South

Contract 4♠ by West - Lead ♥K

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

♠ J 10 8 7 2
 ♥ 9 6 5
 ♦ A K 4
 ♣ A J

N
 W E
 S

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

♠ Q 9 6 5 4
 ♥ A J 8
 ♦ 3
 ♣ Q 8 6 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Kennedy</i>	<i>Youngquist</i>	<i>Ye</i>	<i>Duffie</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

East's 2♣ response was nebulous, guaranteeing at least two cards and forcing to game. After West's

2NT rebid, Ye thought long and hard before choosing the spade game. At matchpoints the temptation to bid 3NT would have been much stronger. 4♠ is doomed after the defence cash the first three heart tricks. Were North to lead an unlikely 4th best heart declarer must now go down two. Instead the ♦10 switch resulted in down one. If North leads hearts in 3NT, the defence should take the first four tricks and declarer with 8 top tricks will play diamonds and cash the ♠A. After this it will be a simple matter to squeeze South in the black suits for the 9th trick. Declarer must cash both top spades and the 4th diamond will leave South unable to hold three clubs and the ♠Q. If North leads the ♦10 then declarer's route to 9 tricks is not so straightforward. Declarer will cash the ♠A to discover the bad break. Playing hearts will prove to be the winning line and will result in South being squeezed but declarer may opt for the club finesse, unwilling to risk the possibility of losing 5 quick heart tricks. 4♠ was the contract at the other table on the same ♥K lead. South elected to overtake the first trick with ♥A, continuing with ♥J. North felt this showed ♥AJ doubleton (Garozzo & Forquet would also agree) so continued with a third heart won by dummy's ♥10 and the game slipped through - 10 IMPS to USA.

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ELIMINATION GAME

simon stocken

Board 4 U26 Swiss Teams Match 7.

Dealer West. Love All.

Contract 4♥ lead ♦A

♠ A 9 5

♡ K 8 6 5

◇ J 7 2

♣ K 7 5

♠ 6 4

♡ Q 4

◇ K Q 10 9 8 6 4

♣ Q 4

N
W E
S

♠ 10 8 7 3 2

♡ J 3

◇ A 3

♣ A J 9 6

♠ K Q J

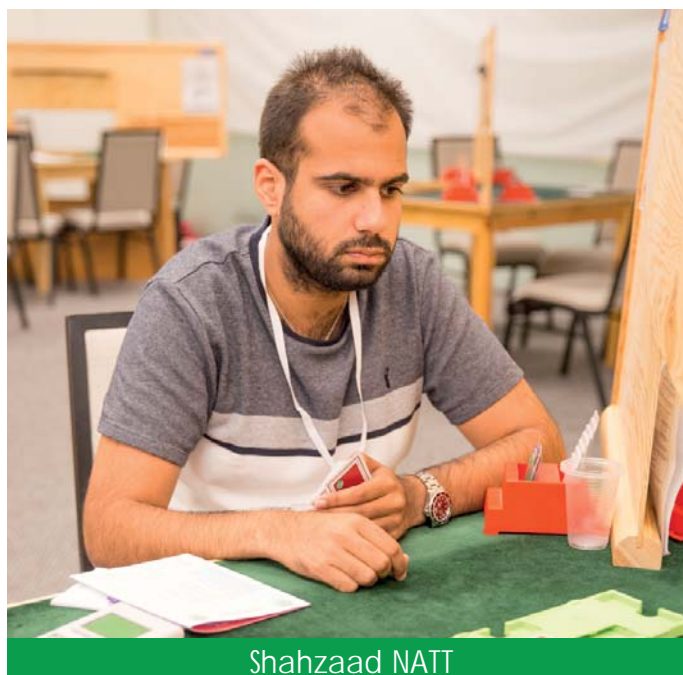
♡ A 10 9 7 2

◇ 5

♣ 10 8 3 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Asaf</i>	<i>Natt</i>	<i>Lior</i>	<i>Norton</i>
3♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

A strong English team finished second in the Swiss Teams - this was the penultimate match where they hoped with a resounding 20-0 victory to overtake the Australian team (it was not to be as the Australians also won 20-0). Natt as North demonstrated his skill in this 21-point game. East started with the $\diamond A$ and switched to spades.



Declarer drew trumps and eliminated spades and diamonds ending in dummy. Now a small club left West in an impossible position. If West plays low declarer can not fail, although in practice he will duck it into the East hand. When West tried a valiant ♣Q Natt covered and now the ♣10 was declarer's tenth trick. At the other table, North elected unwisely to pass 3♦ doubled and 9 tricks followed soon after. 13 IMPs to team Natt.

This board was played 20 times in the Swiss teams - seven made 4♥, three from the South seat. Three players went down in 4♥, two of them from the South seat - after leading the ♦K West can play the ♣Q en route to the first four tricks.





MISPLAY THIS HAND WITH ME IN OPATIJA

Mark Horton

SUICIDE IS PAINFUL

In the semifinal of a team match, I pick up this modest collection as West:

Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ Q 6
♥ J 9 3
♦ K 10 8
♣ Q 8 6 5 2

♠ Q 6
♥ J 9 3
♦ K 10 8
♣ Q 8 6 5 2

♠ 10 9 7 5
♥ A 7
♦ Q 5 4 2
♣ A 10 7



South opens 1♦ which is alerted and when I have nothing to say North responds 1♠. South jumps to 4♣, promising a shortage in clubs, four or more spades and 16-17 points. When North continues with 4NT asking for key cards South responds 5♦, showing 0-3. North's next bid is 5♥, asking about the ♠Q and when South bids 5♠ to deny it's possession North continues with 6♦, which offers an alternative contract that South decides to accept. This has been the lengthy sequence:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♦*
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

1♦ 5♦ or 4-4-4-1
4♣ Splinter (16-17)
4NT* RKCB
5♦ 0-3 key cards
5♥ ♠Q ask
5♠ No
6♦ Suggestion to play

My diamonds appear to be well placed and it will be a big surprise if I don't have at least one trump trick. A spade lead is out of the question, so my choice is between hearts and clubs. It seems to me that a club must be the safest option and as we are playing 3rd and 5th leads I start with the ♣2 and dummy is revealed.

The bidding marks declarer with the ♠AK and the ♦A and he must have the ♥K along with some additional high cards.

Declarer wins with dummy's ace, ruffs a club with the ♦7 and continues with the ♦9. I don't see any point in taking this, so I follow with the eight and after winning with dummy's queen declarer ruffs a club with the ♦J, cashes the ♦A, crosses to dummy with a heart and exits with a diamond, discarding the ♠2 as partner throws the ♣K to match my ♦K. Declarer is out of trumps, so it must be safe to exit with a club, removing dummy's last trump. These cards remain:

♠ 10 9 7 5
♥ 7
♦ 5
♣ —

♠ Q 6
♥ J 9
♦ —
♣ Q 8



When I play the club declarer ruffs in dummy and partner considers for a while and then pitches the ♥5. Declarer throws the ♠4, and proceeds to cash the ♠AK followed by the ♥KQ, the last trick being taken by declarer's ♥8.

This was the full deal:

♠ 10 9 7 5		
♥ A 7		
♦ Q 5 4 2		
♣ A 10 7		
♠ Q 6		♠ J 8 3
♥ J 9 3		♥ 10 6 5 4
♦ K 10 8		♦ 6 3
♣ Q 8 6 5 2		♣ K J 4 3
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W</div> <div>E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	
♠ A K 4 2		
♥ K Q 8 2		
♦ A J 9 7		
♣ 9		



Post mortem

This was the position when I was thrown in with the ♦K:

♠ 10 9 7 5		
♥ 7		
♦ 5		
♣ —		
♠ Q 6		♠ J 8 3
♥ J 9		♥ 10 6 5
♦ —		♦ —
♣ Q 8		♣ —
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W</div> <div>E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	
♠ A K 4		
♥ K Q 8		
♦ —		
♣ —		

Playing a club inflicted a suicide squeeze on my partner. Exiting with a spade is no good, as declarer will be able to score three tricks in the suit, but exiting with a heart ensures one more trick for the defence.

In the other room our teammates also reached 6♦ and a club was led. Declarer took the ace, ruffed a club, crossed to the ♥A, ruffed a club, cashed the ♦A and the ♥KQ followed by the ♦J. When my hand ducked, declarer found the essential play of overtaking it with dummy's queen and exiting with a diamond. Unable to touch spades, West played a club, but that squeezed East in the majors, so there was no swing.

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AUSTRALIA v NETHERLANDS

Jos Jacobs

Under 26 Teams Semi-Final, Segment 3

At halftime, The Netherlands were leading by 47 so it looked very much as if this match was decided much earlier than the neutral kibitzer would have wanted. The latter already had had something more to complain about, because in the other semifinal, the halftime score read 89-16 to the Sivy B team, which in fact led to their opponents throwing the towel after just one more of the two scheduled segments.

So we all sat down and watched the first board of the second half of the one semifinal that might still develop into a real match.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ K 4		
♥ A 7 5 3		
♦ 8 7		
♣ A 6 5 3 2		
♠ Q J 8 6		♠ 10 7 5 3 2
♥ 10 9 6 4		♥ K J
♦ Q J 4		♦ K 9 3
♣ 8 7		♣ Q 9 4
	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
♠ A 9		
♥ Q 8 2		
♦ A 10 6 5 2		
♣ K J 10		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>McMahon</i>
—	1♣	1♠	2♦
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

To my sensitive eyes, at first sight this N/S auction looked a bit ugly. I have to admit, however, that I do not see any sensible alternative. What is more: the 1♣ opening bid provoked some interventions which may have given declarer a clue or two about how to play this eventually obvious contract.

A spade went to the king in declarer's hand and a heart was led next. For 3NT to have any chance at all, the ♥K has to behave and declarer would also have to take the right view in clubs later. When East rose with the ♥K and cleared the spades, the

first hurdle was successfully taken. In dummy with the ♠A, declarer first cashed the heart winners to find out more about the distribution before turning his attention to the clubs. Because more than three club tricks were needed, declarer had no option but to start with an immediate low club to the ten and hope for the best. When this held and the suit broke 3-2, he was home with an overtrick. Australia a well fought +430

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Van Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

In the other room, the auction was short when North launched a 10-13 1NT. The play started along the same lines but after winning the second spade, declarer did not cash the hearts first but immediately tried his luck in clubs: low to the king and running dummy's jack next. When East won the queen, the contract was one down for another +50 and 10 IMPs back to Australia.



Nicholas RANSON

Next came:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

	♠ Q 8 5	
	♥ 10 9 6 2	
	♦ A K 6	
	♣ Q 7 4	
♠ J 9 4	<div>W N E S</div>	♠ 7 2
♥ 8 7 5		♥ K J 4 3
♦ 9 7 3		♦ 5 2
♣ K 6 5 2		♣ A J 10 9 3
	♠ A K 10 6 3	
	♥ A Q	
	♦ Q J 10 8 4	
	♣ 8	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>McMahon</i>
—	—	1NT	Dble
Pass	Pass	2♣	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Well, if your team is 37 IMPs down, you might try a slam on a hand like this and...you would even have succeeded. Because this was only the 3rd segment and not the 4th, shooting was not yet in order so the Ozzies correctly contented themselves with the normal game and scored +680 when everything behaved.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Van Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	—	1NT	Dble
Rdbl	3NT	All Pass	

Right they were in the Open Room, because their team-mates duly did their part of the job with their 10-13 hcp opening bid of 1NT.

Talking about “ugly:” North’s 3NT bid looks ugly to me because it’s premature. Yes, it suggests this type of hand alright but it also eats up all the bidding space partner may want to clarify his hand.

East led the ♣10 and the defenders managed to collect the first five tricks in the suit, thus going plus when there was a slam on for their opponents. Another 13 IMPs went Down Under, this way. What was happening here??

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

	♠ K 10 5 3	
	♥ 5	
	♦ 10 6 5	
	♣ A Q 10 7 2	
♠ Q J 2	<div>♠ N ♥ W E ♦ S</div>	♠ A 8
♥ A 8 7 4		♥ K Q J 10 6 3 2
♦ A 4 3		♦ K Q
♣ K 8 5		♣ J 9
	♠ 9 7 6 4	
	♥ 9	
	♦ J 9 8 7 2	
	♣ 6 4 3	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>McMahon</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠*	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West’s 3NT over the 2♠ relay showed a 3-4-3-3 distribution so E/W soon called it a day and rightly so because a club lead by South beats the slam out of hand. The Netherlands +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Van Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass

The transfer response made West the declarer in a heart contract. The jump to 4♥ suggested a good hand so East had every reason to hope for the best when he heard two aces. With a losing club going on a top diamond and the spade finesse right, twelve tricks were there for the taking. Australia +1430 and 13 more IMPs to reduce the deficit to just 11 in three consecutive boards. We had a match!



Two boards later, Gazzilli showed its value.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠ Q 10 4	
	♥ Q 7	
	♦ Q 6 5	
	♣ J 8 7 4 2	
♠ A K 8 5 3	<div>♠ N ♥ W ♦ E ♣ S</div>	♠ J 9
♥ J 5		♥ 10 8 6 4 3 2
♦ A J 10 7		♦ 9 4 3
♣ A 10		♣ K Q
	♠ 7 6 2	
	♥ A K 9	
	♦ K 8 2	
	♣ 9 6 5 3	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>McMahon</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass

East's 2♥ not only showed hearts but also implied a weak hand. When South started off with three rounds of trumps (oops!), declarer suddenly had 11 tricks. The Netherlands +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Van Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Once East decided to venture a weak two, the Aussies were bound to fall overboard. Would you have passed 2♥ with the West cards?

When South found the lead of a low diamond, the contract even went down three when dummy put up the ace and declarer tried some spade finesses. The Netherlands another +150 and 8 very welcome IMPs back.



Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

	♠ Q 8 7	
	♥ —	
	♦ K J 10 4 2	
	♣ K Q J 9 5	
♠ 6 4 2	<div>♠ N ♥ W E ♦ S ♣</div>	♠ K 9
♥ 9 8 7 3		♥ Q 10 6 5
♦ 9 8 7 6		♦ A Q 5 3
♣ A 7		♣ 10 8 3
	♠ A J 10 5 3	
	♥ A K J 4 2	
	♦ —	
	♣ 6 4 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>McMahon</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	5♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

North's 3♥ was a mini-splinter but the gross duplication did not at all deter South. To the kibitzers, it looked as if he was expecting three keycards rather than zero...

Low club (!) lead, spade to the jack, ♠A to bring down the king and when the ♣A appeared when declarer continued a club, there suddenly was an entry to dummy in clubs. Two heart discards would not be enough, however: declarer should have ruffed a heart early as well and thus have hoped for the best in clubs. So at this point, in with the ♣A, West could have defeated the slam after all by returning his last trump. When he, not knowing about declarer's void in the suit, tried a diamond instead, declarer could ruff out both the ♦Q and ♦A, thus establishing his 12th trick for a lucky +980.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Van Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

No experiments in the other room. The Netherlands +480 on the same low club lead (!) when declarer did indeed ruff a heart early. Australia gained 11 IMPs on the deal to reduce their deficit to just 7!

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

	♠ 10 9 7 5 4	
	♥ 4	
	♦ A J 10	
	♣ Q 5 4 2	
♠ 8	<div>W N E S</div>	♠ A K J 3
♥ K Q J 9 6 5		♥ A 10 7 3
♦ 9		♦ 7 4 2
♣ A J 10 8 7		♣ 6 3
	♠ Q 6 2	
	♥ 8 2	
	♦ K Q 8 6 5 3	
	♣ K 9	

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

	♠ 9 8 6 5 4	
	♥ K J 6 5 3	
	♦ —	
	♣ A J 9	
♠ K J 10 2	<div>W N E S</div>	♠ A 7
♥ 9 4		♥ 10
♦ A 10 7 6 4		♦ K J 9 8 3
♣ 4 3		♣ Q 8 7 6 2
	♠ Q 3	
	♥ A Q 8 7 2	
	♦ Q 5 2	
	♣ K 10 5	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>McMahon</i>
—	—	1♣	1♦
2♣	2♠	4♥	Pass
4♠*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>McMahon</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	4♦*	4NT*	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West's 2♥ showed GF hearts so 4♥ was slightly discouraging. Two keycards (5♦ over 4♠) might not be enough. The Netherlands +650.

An auction as might be expected but an unlucky lead...Spade to the queen and king, low trump to the king, ♠A and a trump...The Netherlands a surprise +550.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Van Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	—	1♣	1♦
Dble*	3♦	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♠*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Van Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Dble	4♦*	4NT	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

I can only explain this bidding by assuming that East showed or implied a club control somewhere. I don't know at which moment, however, as you, dear reader, probably will understand.

No double, no trouble and an automatic (?) heart lead. One down, The Netherlands another +50 and 12 IMPs to them. It was beginning to look as if all the Oz good work had been in vain...

One down, The Netherlands +100 and 13 IMPs back to them.

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Next came:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

	♠ —	
	♥ A K Q 6 4	
	♦ J 10 7 5 2	
	♣ K 10 9	
♠ 8 7 3 2	<div>W N E S</div>	♠ A Q 9 4
♥ 10 7 3		♥ 9 8 5 2
♦ K Q 8 4 3		♦ —
♣ 2		♣ A Q 7 6 3
	♠ K J 10 6 5	
	♥ J	
	♦ A 9 6	
	♣ J 8 5 4	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>McMahon</i>
2♦	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Once North overcalled after West found a decent (?) pre-empt in the opponents' best fit, any chance of a juicy penalty, however remote, was gone and N/S were left to their own devices.

East led a club. Not the best lead for the defence but still good enough to keep the defence in control. The nine won the trick and a diamond to dummy's nine also won the trick, East discarding a club. Dummy got off play with a club and East cashed both his top clubs before exiting with his last club to dummy's jack.. Declarer was in a pretty hopeless position now, with no good communications between North and South available any longer. He could do little better than just cash out, overtaking the ♥J and conceding two diamonds, a heart and a spade in the end. Down two, the Netherlands +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Van Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
3♦	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

When West hit upon the probably best lead of a heart after what might (should?) be called an indecent pre-empt in comparison with what had happened next door, a flat board looked likely.

Declarer's jack won and a club went to dummy's nine and East's ♣Q. East exited with a low club, thus destroying an entry to dummy. Declarer then cashed dummy's ♥A and next came a surprising trick.: declarer

called for dummy's ♦7, ran it and...it held the trick. From here, nine tricks were certain: five hearts, two clubs, the ♠A and a spade trick in the end. The Netherlands an unlikely +600 for 13 more IMPs. Once again, tiredness seems to play an important part in the later stages of any bridge championship, even for our Juniors.

After a funny defensive cross-ruff on board 13 for nearly a push, this board ended the segment.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

	♠ K J 10 8 7 3	
	♥ Q 7 6	
	♦ K	
	♣ A 6 2	
♠ A	<div>N W E S</div>	♠ Q 9
♥ K 10 8		♥ A J 9 3
♦ 10 7 4 2		♦ Q 9 5 3
♣ Q 10 9 8 7		♣ K 5 3
	♠ 6 5 4 2	
	♥ 5 4 2	
	♦ A J 8 6	
	♣ J 4	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>McMahon</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
2NT	Pass	3♦	All Pass

North 2♦ showed one major over East's 10-13 1NT and West's 2NT was for minors. South's heart lead solved the problem in the suit and when East, after winning the ♥A, led a low diamond from hand to bring down North's king, he was in full control. He just lost three trump tricks and the ♣A when North played ♣A and another after winning his ♣K. The Netherlands +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Van Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
2NT	Pass	3♦	3♥
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

The same start of the auction but when South competed over 3♦, the Dutchies ended up in 3♠ which was made when East led an unlucky ♥A. Another +140 gave the Netherlands 6 more IMPs to win this 14-board set by 58-51, an average of nearly 8 IMPs per board. Their lead had gone up to 52 and the match looked all over now.



AUSTRALIA v NETHERLANDS

Jos Jacobs

Under 26 Teams Semi-Final, Segment 4

At the start of this final segment, the Dutch were leading by 52 so the Oz hopes must have been rather faint. They would need about the same glorious start like they had had in segment 3 and, what is more, then hold on to it.

There was one outside factor, however: the boards. There was little in the first four boards and when the Dutch made a doubled, vulnerable game on board 19 to gain 12 IMPs, the match seemed well and truly decided. Australia, however, did have its moments of glory. Take for example this one.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ 10 9 8 3 ♥ J 7 2 ♦ 10 8 4 2 ♣ 5 2</p>		<p>♠ K 7 4 ♥ A 10 9 3 ♦ K Q J 3 ♣ A 8</p>	
<p>♠ 6 5 ♥ K 6 4 ♦ A ♣ K Q 10 9 6 4 3</p>	<p>N W S E</p>	<p>♠ A Q J 2 ♥ Q 8 5 ♦ 9 7 6 5 ♣ J 7</p>	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Cooper</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>Spooner</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In spite of the E/W relay system that quickly rightsided both the cold slams, the full combined potential of the hands never came to light. Netherlands +520 on the ♦Q lead.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Van Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4♠*	Dble
Pass*	Pass	6♣	All Pass

West's 2NT showed clubs so suddenly, E/W were in a good position to reach the slam. Needless to say, East realised that he should protect his ♠K. Well done, Australia +920 and 9 IMPs.

The next board was another slam.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ A 7 6 2 ♥ Q J 9 ♦ Q ♣ A K 9 4 2</p>		<p>♠ 10 8 4 ♥ 10 4 ♦ K 9 8 6 5 ♣ Q 8 6</p>	
<p>♠ K J 3 ♥ 8 5 ♦ J 10 4 3 ♣ J 10 7 3</p>	<p>N W S E</p>	<p>♠ Q 9 5 ♥ A K 7 6 3 2 ♦ A 7 2 ♣ 5</p>	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Cooper</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>Spooner</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

North's 2♣ was a general GF, maybe natural, and over the 2♦ relay, the rest of the auction was natural, South showing 3 keycards. Australia +1010.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Smith	Van Bijsterveldt	Thompson	Coppens
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♠*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♣*	Pass	6♦*
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

An entirely natural auction in which North showed two keycards, the ♥Q and, upon request, the ♣K. When South then suggested a grand slam, North converted.

On a spade lead, declarer would have had some anxious moments as he needs the ♠A as an entry to the 13th club. The lead of the ♠K itself does not help because the then remaining one spade loser can go easily on the ♣K.

When West led a club, declarer had only one winning line available: ruff two diamonds in dummy and try to establish the 13th club. This basically needs trumps 3-1 and clubs 4-3.

So it went ♣A, ♥Q, ♦A, diamond ruff, club ruff, diamond ruff, club ruff and claim when every suit behaved. Nicely done in this ambitious contract, The Netherlands +1510 and 11 IMPs to put the match out of reach for the opponents.

Superior judgement (or some luck?) caused another swing, a few boards later.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Cooper	M. de León	Spooner
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

To me, the conversion to 4♥ is not so clear. Going down three, due to the very bad breaks, was a far too heavy penalty for this transgression, I feel but it still brought the Dutch another +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Smith	Van Bijsterveldt	Thompson	Coppens
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			



Pim COPPENS

Amusingly enough, the concentration of high cards in the West hand made 3NT easy.

West did well to avoid the lead of a low spade (to dummy's ♠8) but tried a heart instead. Dummy won the queen and led a spade. West won the king with his ace and tried the effect of the ♦Q. Not that he had any good alternative...

Dummy won, cashed the ♥A and led a diamond to the eight. When this brought down the king, declarer was home. An overtrick came when the ♣A felled the ♣K...

Netherlands +430 and 11 more IMPs to them.

The last sizeable swing of the match went Australia's way, due to more aggression:

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ K 2	♠ A Q 6	♠ J 10 8 7 5 3
♥ A Q 7	♥ 10 6 3 2	♥ J 9 4
♦ 8 5 2	♦ A K 9 3	♦ J 7
♣ Q 8 7 4 3	♣ A K	♣ 9 6
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">N</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">W</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">E</div> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">S</div> </div>	
	♠ 9 4	
	♥ K 8 5	
	♦ Q 10 6 4	
	♣ J 10 5 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Cooper</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>Spooner</i>
—	—	Pass	—
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			



The Oz N/S were given a free run to +400 when East led the ♠J. The diamonds were the entries to cross to and establish the ♣J as the 9th trick.

In the Closed Room, the Oz 10-13 1NT caused some trouble again.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Van Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
2♣	Dble	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

North kept doubling but South never got a clear idea about North's actual strength. Maybe, North should have bid 2NT over West's 2♣ to clarify his point count. The contract made with an overtrick for +130 to the Dutch but the last 7 IMPs of the match went Oz.

The final score: 193-119 to the Netherlands. They would face Sivy B in the final on Tuesday.

VIDEO CORNER



Imagine all the people

https://youtu.be/7EBP8Bxh_u0



Plan, Count, Plan by Vjekoslav Žepić

<https://youtu.be/sVsNLKIOXws>



SIVY B (USA) v NETHERLANDS

David Bird

Under 26 Teams Final, Segment 1

The teams that had finished 1st and 2nd in the Swiss qualifier both lost their semi-final matches. Let's see some action from the first set of the final, between NETHERLANDS and SIVY B.

Board 3. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

	♠ Q 10 5 2	
	♥ A 9 7	
	♦ 6 3	
	♣ A 9 5 4	
♠ K J 7	<div>W N E S</div>	♠ 4 3
♥ J 8 6 5 4		♥ K 3
♦ Q 8		♦ K 7 5 2
♣ 10 7 3		♣ K J 8 6 2
	♠ A 9 8 6	
	♥ Q 10 2	
	♦ A J 10 9 4	
	♣ Q	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg	M. de Leon	Kristensen	Sprinkhuizen
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

North had a text-book game-try in the old text-books. Nowadays, opening bids can be very light and many players are happy to raise only three-card support. North took the low road and East led a sensible trump, West winning with the king. Declarer won the club return with the ace and played a diamond to the 10 and queen. The ♣10 was ruffed in the dummy and ten tricks were still possible.

Not when declarer's move was to play the ♦A, though. He ruffed a third round of diamonds, finding the break and emerged with +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Coppens	Youngquist	Bijsterveldt	Duffie
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Youngquist bid her cards much more strongly and ended in game. Leading from a king against a suit contract is no-one idea of fun, and we expected a trump lead, as at the other table. No, East led the ♥K to declarer's ace. She finessed the ♦J at trick two, losing to the queen, won the club return with the ace and finessed the ♦10 successfully. Ace and another trump, to the jack and queen, were followed by a club ruff and the ♦A. When West discarded, declarer threw a club. Declarer led a diamond from the table and could not then be prevented from adding two more trump tricks for +420. It was a 7-IMP gain for SIVY B.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

	♠ J 6 5	
	♥ A 3	
	♦ A Q 8 6 3	
	♣ K 3 2	
♠ A K 9 7 4	<div>W N E S</div>	♠ Q 3 2
♥ J 9 8 6		♥ K 4
♦ 9		♦ K J 7 2
♣ J 9 8		♣ A Q 7 5
	♠ 10 8	
	♥ Q 10 7 5 2	
	♦ 10 5 4	
	♣ 10 6 4	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg	M. de Leon	Kristensen	Sprinkhuizen
2♥*	Dble	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Dble	Pass
Pass	3♦	Dble	All Pass

The opening bid shows both majors. What should North say, if anything, over that?

With only 5-3 shape in the unbid suits, a double is very risky. As it happens, East-West have some possibility of making game on their cards, but this was unlikely with North holding so many points. North ran the risk of going for a big number when there was only a part-score available for the opponents.

After a Lebensohl response, North ended in the inglorious spot of 3♦ doubled. East led the ♠3 to

the West's king and a trump was returned, to East's jack. No particular defense was required to take the maximum. +800 was available whichever card East played next. He chose to play another trump, won with dummy's 10. When the ♠10 was led from dummy, it seemed clear to Marc Smith and me (commentating) that West should rise with the ace. Declarer might hold the ♠Q for one thing. Also, East might not want to be on lead. He eventually played low and East won with the ♠Q.

East was still in unusual but happy position that +800 was about to enter their card, whatever he returned. He chose a third round of spades and this was ruffed in the dummy. The ♥A and another heart went to East's ♥K. He exited with the ♣Q to the king, rose with the ♣A on the next trick and exited with a club to the jack. His ♦K then brought the penalty to the preordained 800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Coppens</i>	<i>Youngquist</i>	<i>Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Duffie</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

An altogether more sedate auction saw West collect +170 in spades. It was 12 IMPs to SIVY B.

The next board provided some exciting bidding:

Board 5. Dealer North. N-S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>M. de Leon</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>
—	1♠	2♦	4♦
5♦	5♠	6♦	Pass*
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Looking at the full diagram, we could see that 6♠ could be made on a lead of the ♥K. Declarer would win with the ♥A, draw trumps and play a second heart. He could not then be prevented from establishing the heart suit. A club lead, unlikely from East's actual hand, would beat a spade slam.



The fact that N-S failed to bid 6♠ was certainly not North's fault. He had bravely ventured 5♠ over 5♦, reading his partner for diamond shortage. My co-commentator, Marc Smith, thought that South might have bid 6♠ instead of his forcing pass. The doubled diamond sacrifice had to lose to three aces and cost only 300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Coppens	Youngquist	Bijsterveldt	Duffie
—	2♠*	3♦	4♠
5♦	Dble	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

Americans play their weak twos very much stronger than we do in Europe. North's hand represented a 'very American weak two'. No doubt they were playing such a bid to show around 8-11 points, with a multi used on weaker hands. The ♥Q was led, declarer winning, drawing trumps and giving up a heart. Declarer mysteriously ducked East's club switch, and therefore scored 650 instead of 680. It was still an 8-IMP swing to the Americans.

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg	M. de Leon	Kristensen	Sprinkhuizen
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

This was a reasonable game, one that should be bid, and the Americans did well to do so. After the 1NT opening from North, there must have been some temptation to finesse him for the ♠Q. No, Kristensen played for the drop and landed the game, losing two diamonds and a club. It remained only to write +420 on his scorecard.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Coppens	Youngquist	Bijsterveldt	Duffie
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Coppens opened with a 10-12 1NT. Some players use two-of-a-major via Stayman as a game try. Is that enough on those East cards? Bijsterveldt presumably thought 'Yes', because he did not advance over West's 3♠ bid. (My apologies if the auction carried some meaning hidden from aged bulletin writers.) Declarer guessed the spade suit correctly, an easier task than at the other table, and scored +170.

The Americans won this first set by an impressive 52 IMPs to 15. If I remember rightly, this was similar to that achieved in the first set of their semi-final against England's NATT team. Well done to them!



UNDER 26 TEAMS - FINAL

	R. 1	R. 2	R. 3	R. 4	TOTAL
NETHERLANDS	15	43	21	21	100
SIVY B	52	18	15	43	128

UNDER 21 TEAMS - FINAL

	R. 1	R. 2	R. 3	R. 4	TOTAL
BADOELL	14	34	52	32	132
POLAND	55	37	25	25	142

UNDER 26 WOMEN TEAMS - FINAL

	R. 1	R. 2	R. 3	R. 4	TOTAL
SXPEONY	25	17	28	48	118
SOFIES WORLD	47	8	32	37	124

UNDER 16 TEAMS - FINAL

	R. 1	R. 2	R. 3	R. 4	TOTAL
POLAND	23	33	39	41	136
SXMARS	33	47	22	50	152

UNDER 26 TEAMS - FINAL 3rd PLACE

	R. 1	R. 2	R. 3	TOTAL
NATT	21	38	52	111
AUSTRALIA	45	30	4	79

UNDER 21 TEAMS - FINAL 3rd PLACE

	R. 1	R. 2	R. 3	TOTAL
THE CANADIANS	33	37	47	117
MEISTERS DISCIPLE	27	35	20	82

UNDER 26 WOMEN TEAMS - FINAL 3rd PLACE

	R. 1	R. 2	R. 3	TOTAL
POLAND GIRLS	47	18	8	73
SCREWDRIVER	9	31	56	92

UNDER 16 TEAMS - FINAL 3rd PLACE

	R. 1	R. 2	R. 3	TOTAL
SXVENUS	32	41	9	82
SXSATURN	25	31	50	106

BAM FINAL A

1	GREISNOR	72.12
2	ITALIA U26	69.50
3	SXNEBULA	59.46
4	ISRAEL	59.35
5	JAPAN U26	58.31
6	CHINA RDFZ HU	56.08
7	GERMANY	56.00
8	INDIA-A U26	55.42
9	CHINA RDFZ	54.15
10	ITALIA U21	53.73
11	SXSTARLORD	51.77
12	AUSTRIA	45.69
13	SERBALICIOUS	39.54
14	SXDAISY	27.38

BAM FINAL B

1	INDIA-B U26	66.85
2	ITALIA 2	65.85
3	FRANCE FUNBRIDGE	65.71
4	ITALIA U26W	65.59
5	CROATIA	62.40
6	SXSPARK	61.76
7	SHSLLS1	58.67
8	DABROWKA	58.04
9	JAPAN U21	57.94
10	AZS WRATISLAVIA	56.28
11	SERBIA U21	55.97
12	HONG KONG	55.28
13	EYE OF THE TIGER	54.13
14	POLAND KIDS	52.92
15	CHILE	49.76
16	BELGIUM	46.83
17	CHILE U26W	46.41
18	DABROWKA PO	46.10
19	URUGUAY	45.61
20	ZHIHAOLE	45.10
21	INDIA U16	44.67
22	INDIA U21	43.82
23	RDFZ BRIDGE STRAIT	42.82
24	HAPPY BRIDGE	41.64
25	50 50	41.58
26	SERBIA U26W	40.73
27	RDFZ ZHIHAOLE	40.39
28	MAN EATING COBRAS	39.05
29	CHINA RDFZ HOPE	37.49
30	SXTULIP	35.98
31	TIANJIN BRIDGESCHOOL	29.46
32	CAPRISUN	26.52
33	CROATIA U16	18.15
34	PRISM FALCONS	0.00