

6th World Youth Open Bridge Championships
20th - 29th August 2019



Welcome to
Opatija
the House of Bridge

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INDIVIDUALLY SPEAKING



At the end of today, four players will be able to add a World Championship to their *curricula vitae*.

Judging by the noise level and excitement as the results of the qualifying sessions flashed up on screen, the players are certainly enjoying these new events.

SCHEDULE TODAY

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

PRIZE GIVING

The Closing Ceremony and Prize Giving of the Individual Championships and of the Joan Gerard Awards will take place tonight at 19.45 at the GERVAIS center.





OPATIJA DIARY

Mark Horton

The deals on finals day were full of interest - and must have been very taxing for the players. We have detailed reports on every session (the first was covered in yesterday's edition). These three deals from session two might be considered to be instructive:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duffie</i>	<i>Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Younquist</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
1NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

North led the ♦4 and declarer made the natural but unlucky play of calling for dummy's ten, covered by the jack and king. When declarer exited with a club and North played the ace South followed with the king. Whatever the intention behind that play, it clearly told North not to play a second diamond. North switched to the ♥5 and declarer took South's eight with the ace, cashed the ♥K, played two rounds of spades ending in dummy, cashed the ♥Q and exited with a diamond, North winning with the six. South had followed to the spades with the seven and ten and a low spade now would enable him to put his cards on the table. When North cashed the ♠Q the contract was unbeatable.

I thought that North should have got this one right, but maybe South, having found the excellent play of the ♣K might also have dropped the ♠J on the first round of the suit.

Whatever, that was +180.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuiz</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>M. de Leon</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
1NT	2♦	All Pass	

2♦ had to go one down (declarer started diamonds with a low one towards dummy's jack) but -50 was worth 4 IMPs.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duffie</i>	<i>Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Younquist</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led the ♥K, and when declarer withheld dummy's ace East followed with an upside down ♥5. West continued with the queen and jack of hearts, East playing the four and two. Having taken the ♥A declarer cashed the ♦A (West playing the ♦6) and then played five rounds of clubs, throwing a diamond and the ♠J (I would hang on to that for reasons that will become clear in a moment). East pitched three spades (♠7, ♠2, ♠3) and West the ♠4 and the five of diamonds. When declarer now played a diamond to the jack East won and played a spade, so that was one down.

Having cashed five clubs, declarer knows West started with four hearts and three clubs, East with three hearts and two clubs. As the discards went one thing was clear - East held length in spades. If you take the

diamond finesse, playing West to be 2-4-4-3, then East has seven spades, but did not bid. Holding the spade ace and spade length, East would surely have overcalled 1♦. There is therefore a case for placing the ♠A with West (and remember how West played his heart honours). If you do that, then West cannot have the ♦Q, as he would then have opened the bidding (what Reese described as 'second degree assumption').

Even if this proves to be wrong, and East holds the ♠A, cashing the top diamonds will not be fatal, as declarer can then play the ♠J - as long as he has retained it!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuiz</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>M. de Leon</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

East led the ♠7 and West took the ace and switched to the ♥Q, continuing with the king when declarer ducked. Having won with the ace, declarer cashed the ♦A, overtook the ♣J, pitched a heart on the ♠K and then played safe with a diamond to the jack, +130 and a 6 IMP pick up.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duffie</i>	<i>Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Younquist</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

That looks like a Gazzilli sequence. East led the ♥9 and declarer won with dummy's king and played on diamonds, finishing with 12 tricks according to the official score, +490.

Closed Room

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

Dble Takeout

4♥	Cue bid
4♠	Cue bid

North's jump to 4♦ looked certain to propel his side to the decent slam.

I was half expecting South to jump to bid 4NT over 4♠ (or maybe just bid 6♦) but in a way bidding 5♣ might have proved to be a smart move, as if West has the ♣K then it becomes more likely that East will hold any important card in spades. You can understand why North bid 5♦, but perhaps with ♥QJ you should pass, as if partner's hearts are Ax then you have two tricks in that suit. Whatever you make of this it was a missed opportunity and it cost a couple of IMPs.

The Individuals start today, reminding me of an anecdote. Terence Reese did not enjoy individuals, but on one occasion, playing in Deauville he came to the last round with victory (and the substantial prize that went with it) in sight. His partner, a lady of a certain age, was wearing a vast array of jewellery. On the first of the two deals she was the declarer in 4♥. 10 tricks were straightforward, but she again contrived to go one down. On the last board she was again in 4♥ and although there were 11 tricks on top she contrived to go one down. As a dejected Reese made to leave the table she enquired, 'Mr Reese, could I have done any better on that last hand?' Quick as a flash he replied, 'Madam, at double-dummy you could have gone two down'.

In a tournament of this size, it is inevitable that some interesting deals may be overlooked, only coming to light in one of the many conversations that take place throughout the course of the day.



This was the last deal of the Pairs Finals:

Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ K 5	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ 8 7 6 3
N						
W						
E						
S						
♥ K J 9	♥ 5 2					
♦ A J 6 5	♦ 10 9 3 2					
♣ A K 7 6	♣ Q J 3					
♠ Q 10 9 4	♠ A J 2					
♥ A Q 10 6 4	♥ 8 7 3					
♦ K Q	♦ 8 7 4					
♣ 8 4	♣ 10 9 5 2					

When West opens 1♥ North doubles and South responds 2♣. What should North do now?

The obvious bid is 2NT, but unless that shows 19-20, South is unlikely to go on. An immediate 3NT is too much, as South might have a worthless hand. How about rebidding 2♥? On this deal, partner can happily rebid 2♠ and now it is easy for North to jump to 3NT. Yes, it can be defeated in theory, but in practice you are odds on to secure nine tricks.

In the U26 Final all 13 tables played in NT and 11 declarers took nine tricks..

CHAMPIONSHIPS' PHOTO GALLERY



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NETHERLANDS VS SIVY B

Marc Smith

Under 26 Open Teams Final: Second Stanza

After a massive (132-39 IMP) win as underdogs against the English team (NATT) in yesterday's semi-final, SIVY B (the USA team) continued their fine form in the first set of the final and led NETHERLANDS by 37-IMP (52-15) after 14 deals. The majority of the crowd in Croatia were rooting for the European team to turn the tables in the second stanza. If they couldn't, the title might be all-but decided by the midway point of the final.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>M. de Leon</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
—	—	3♥	3♠
4♥	5♦	All Pass	

As North was considering what to do over Four Hearts, the commentators on BBO's VuGraph agreed to disagree about how the excellent slam should be reached. David Bird aka Mr Conservative claimed that it would be completely reckless for North to jump to slam when there could easily be two aces missing. I disagreed, suggesting that it was not unreasonable for North to expect something more than just high spades for a vulnerable three-level overcall. I thought it was asking too much of South to raise if his partner bid only Five Diamonds, whilst David thought he should.

But, what do a couple of old fogeys know? Let's see what today's budding experts made of the problem. For the Americans, Kevin Rosenberg agreed with Bird and bid only Five Diamonds, but Ben Kristensen

confirmed Smith's analysis and passed on the South cards: a score draw between the pundits and a rather disappointing N/S +640.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duffie</i>	<i>Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Youngquist</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	—	3♥	3♠
4♥	6♦	All Pass	

After an identical start, Holland's Niels van Bijsterveldt took the bull by the horns and bid the slam on the North cards. Two-One, cheered the crowd in my head! Declarer's heart might have skipped a beat momentarily when he saw the club lead, but then dummy appeared and he quickly claimed thirteen tricks: N/S +1390 and 13 IMPs to NETHERLANDS.

By the midway point of the set, though, the American advantage was back up to 37. But then came this disaster:

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>M. de Leon</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	2♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

One can hardly blame Kevin Rosenberg for what looks like a fairly normal Two Diamond overcall, even vulnerable. The rest of the auction seemed inevitable, as was the result when dummy had just a single trick to contribute: N/S -500.

Open Room

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

When van Bijsterveldt really pushed the envelope with a vulnerable jump overcall on the North hand, it seemed that the Dutch were destined to lose another 7 IMPs, with -800 against the +500 their teammates had collected.

Cornelius Duffie's decision to advance with Three Spades rather than doubling is simply misguided. Yes, you have a good hand, but why would you expect to make game if partner has the nothing he has promised so far? And, it's not like you don't have good defensive cards if partner does convert the double for penalties.

I cannot attach any blame at all to Youngquist, for her failure to bid Three Notrump rather than Four Hearts. (You make nine tricks in notrump on the expected diamond lead – win the ♦Q with the ace, take a spade finesse, and give up three hearts to make two spades, two hearts a diamond and four clubs.) Partner surely must have a big major two-suiter (4-5 or 5-6 at least) for this auction, mustn't he? Absolutely, he must!

(3NT is a trickier contract than Marc implies. On a diamond lead it can be made, but it is not trivial - to begin with declarer must pitch a heart on the ♠A! He then takes a spade finesse and cashes say two clubs, before playing on hearts. There are then numerous variations, one of which will see North being thrown in on the fourth round of spades to give dummy a diamond trick. Good luck with that as James Bond might say. Editor)

North led his singleton club against Four Hearts, and declarer had no chance. He could concede a trick to the ♠K and then reach dummy with a third-round spade ruff, but one trump lead from dummy was not enough to avoid three losers in the suit. N/S +100 and 12 rather unexpected IMPs to NETHERLANDS.

(After a club lead ♠4 can be made by playing on clubs. If North ruffs in he can cash the ♠A but is then endplayed. The only 100% defence is to cash the ♠A at trick one and then continue the suit, North winning and exiting with the jack. Incidentally, 3NT is always defeated if the defenders start with a heart and North then switches to a club at trick two. Editor)

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duffie	Bijsterveldt	Youngquist	Coppens
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♥
3♦	3♥	Dble	All Pass

The American West decided that his balanced 12-count was not an opening bid, so East opened One Diamond in third chair. Again, the Dutch were in the auction, pushing their opponents around -- Pim Coppens' Two Heart overcall is very much in the European style of weak jump overcalls or weak twos, and it put West under pressure here. Duffie again chose the underbid (a competitive Three Diamonds) rather than the marginal overbid of Three Hearts, and, on a slightly different layout, that might have ended the auction with game cold. Here, Sarah Youngquist probably had enough to ask for a heart stop and, finding that her side didn't have one, push on to game in diamonds anyway, which would be an easy make.

North's questionable raise to Three Hearts (I'm sure someone has mentioned something about sacrificing on 4333 shapes before) was just trying to gild partner's lily. It offered East an alternative option, which she took. And quite right too -- if partner has a minimum for his diamond raise, doubling Three Hearts could easily collect +300 with no game making.

West led a trump and declarer won to play a club. Now the defenders cashed their pointed-suit winners and started forcing declarer. At some point in the process, East erroneously cashed her ♣A, giving Coppens a chance to escape for two down, but he lost his way in the endgame and ended up with just six tricks: N/S -500 and a 3-IMP gain for the Americans even if the Dutch East/West got to their top spot.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>M. de Leon</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	4NT	All Pass

The Dutch West conveniently had a weak notrump available to him (although I am sure most European players would still open irrespective of system). Kristensen used Stayman and then made a further inquiry at the three-level (perhaps discovering that partner was 4333), before making a quantitative jump to Four Notrump. There matters ended, but now the Americans had the chance of a huge pickup on the deal. They already had +500 from the other room: could Rosenberg find the heart lead to go plus at this table too? No, he led a spade and a grateful Sprinkhuizen quickly claimed his eleven tricks: N/S -460 and just 1 IMP to the Americans.

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>M. de Leon</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

The American North/South pair conducted a controlled auction to the good Six Clubs, although I am not quite sure what the point of the Blackwood bid was - if partner had no key card you would be committed to bidding Six Clubs anyway. West led a club, virtually confirming for declarer that a trump finesse was a fruitless proposition. Kristensen won with the ♣A, played the ♥10 (hoping for a cover) to

his ace, and then played a second trump to the king. The ♣Q failed to appear but the suit had split 3-2.

Now declarer just had to decide what to do in the majors, although of course the kibitzers could see that just about any line of play would work, Kristensen played a heart to the king and, when the queen failed to drop, led a spade to the queen. When that won, he could claim twelve tricks: N/S +1370. Could the Dutch flatten the board to stop the deficit mushrooming again?

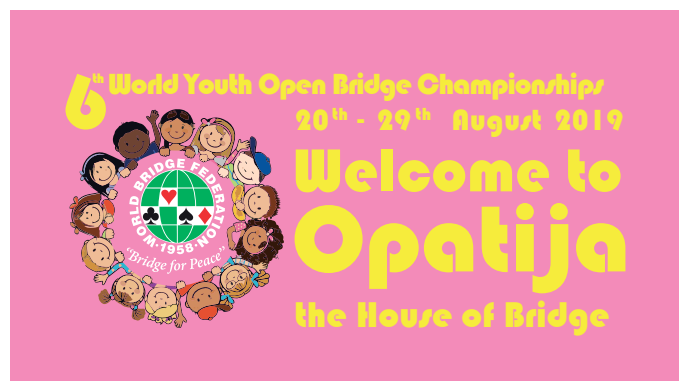
Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duffie</i>	<i>Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Youngquist</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
6♣	All Pass		


The Dutch play transfers here, so Two Hearts showed four or more clubs. Three Diamonds was fourth suit and, again, South showed his stopper and likely shape with a notrump rebid. North was clearly worth one more try and, when South cue-bid in diamonds, van Bijsterveldt decided that he had heard enough.

With the contract played the other way up at this table, Youngquist led the ♠J from the East seat. With the spade finesse already in the bag to deal with dummy's diamond loser, it seems that declarer can now just cash his top clubs. Provided they split 3-2, even if the queen does not come down, you can then just ruff two hearts in hand if necessary and claim twelve tricks. Instead, declarer cashed one high club and then ran the ♥10. When that won, he cashed the second high club and repeated the heart finesse to claim twelve tricks. N/S +1370 and an honorable push.

Both North/South pairs missed a decent diamond slam on the penultimate deal of the set, and then came a deal that truly exemplifies the difference in style between the European and American teams.



Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>M. de Leon</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
2♠	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Looking at both the North and South hands, it is clear that Three Notrump has no chance on this auction. Whether Five Diamonds can make with the 4-1 trump split is dubious, but bidding it after this start is hardly straightforward. Guy Mendes de Leon led the ♠Q and continued with the ♠J, both of which declarer had to duck. Now the defenders simply cashed their

three aces: N/S -100 and what looks like it should be a fairly normal result.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duffie</i>	<i>Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Youngquist</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Even the ultra-conservative, old-fashioned Abbot shakes his head in bewilderment when one of the monastery's novitiate fails to open a weak two on this sort of hand. "What is the point of playing weak twos if you pass that hand in first seat non-vulnerable?" he opines. For me, the only question is whether to open Two Spades or Three Spades. Passing is a complete non-option. Duffie paid a heavy price for his decision on this deal: on lead, Youngquist quite reasonably looked no further than her longest suit. After the ♥3 opening lead, declarer quickly set up dummy's suit. The spade switch was, of course, too late, and the ♠K was declarer's ninth trick: N/S +600 and 12 IMPs from nowhere to NETHERLANDS.

The Dutch won the second stanza 43-13 to leave the Americans with a 7-IMP advantage (65-58) at the halfway point. All to play for in the second half!

CHAMPIONSHIPS' PHOTO GALLERY



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EXCEPTIONAL THINGS

Hanoi Rondó

Exceptional things happen during long Tournaments such as this one. Take for example this hand from the tablets BAM:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

<p>♠ A 8 ♥ A ♦ A 10 4 ♣ A K Q 10 8 6 2</p>	<p>♠ 10 3 ♥ Q 10 9 8 7 5 ♦ J 8 ♣ J 9 3</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ K Q J 5 ♥ K J 6 4 3 ♦ 6 5 2 ♣ 5</p>
	<p>♠ 9 7 6 4 2 ♥ 2 ♦ K Q 9 7 3 ♣ 7 4</p>		

West has a very normal 2♣ opening bid for those who fancy natural systems and not playing in clubs at the one-level when a 0-5 hcp hand sits in front of it. If East responds 2♦ South can double for the lead. We can speculate on how things might continue, perhaps a natural 3♣ from West, 3♥ from East and now the opener has to choose

between a matchpoint orientated 3NT or an aggressive forward-going 4♣. There will be support for either option but at the table I chose to watch, 4♣ was met with a Key Card ask and here comes the exceptional thing: opener holds all five key-cards and the queen of trumps which is answered via 5♠ which means two or five with the queen. Alas, the East at my table (Alexander Böhm) has been playing for just 6 months and had no idea about the extra meaning of 5♠ and so he just bid 6♣. West (Francisca Nacrur) on the other hand played her first international Tournament here in Opatija in 2016 and recognized until this moment she had not answered 5♠ (or 5♥) to show all 5 key-cards so far in her Bridge life.

Contracts ranged from a pass-out (which won the board when EW went down in 6♠ at the other table) to 7NT (played 8 times and always winning the board), 6NT being the most common (played 22 times).

One way to solve this problem is to never ask for Key Cards unless you hold at least one of them. At least that's what I would do in this individual Tournament, for 5♥ and 5♠ only show 2 Key Cards on that Convention Card.

CHAMPIONSHIPS' PHOTO GALLERY



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THE BORN LOSER

Ron Klinger

Ron Klinger is one of the most prolific bridge writers of all time. This story, which appeared in August 1973 illustrates his lighter side and appears here with his kind permission.

Charlie pulled the cards out of the board. Playing in an individual? Madness, he thought. Still it was better than spending the night at home. Bridge was his one refuge from the bullying of the business world and the tyranny of home.

He exchanged pleasantries with his new partner. "Strong no-trump? Four-card majors? Standard signals?" Charlie agreed. He heard the opposition agree on a similar approach. Keep it simple in an individual. He looked at his scattered ten points and heard the enemy bid 1NT-3NT. Partner led the five of diamonds:

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



Declarer paused slightly, then played dummy's ten. Charlie covered with the jack and declarer won with the ace. Declarer then played the five of clubs, the eight of clubs from partner, the jack of clubs from dummy and Charlie took the queen.

He thought for a moment about switching to hearts, but what if partner had led from ♦K97532?

No, always return partner's suit.

This was the deal:

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



The diamond return was taken by West's king but declarer had nine tricks on top overtaking his king of clubs with the ace and actually made ten when the defence, discarding on the clubs, was below par.

His partner looked glum. Charlie tried to cheer him. "Nothing we could do, partner." His partner retorted, "Nothing indeed! I played the eight of clubs didn't I? You could read that as a doubleton. Why don't you duck the queen of clubs? Then declarer can never use the club suit and has at best seven tricks."

The next hand was played in icy silence, as the opposition again bid 1NT-3NT. West led the three of spades:

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



Dummy's ten of spades held the trick and after a moment declarer called for dummy's three of clubs. Charlie hesitated, then played his king of clubs and returned his remaining spade. However, this was the full deal:

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



On the spade return, declarer was able to make two spades, four diamonds and three clubs when they split three-three.

"What's the matter with you?" stormed West. "Never heard of 'second hand low'? All you have to

do is duck the club. I win, play the ace and jack of spades and declarer makes seven tricks at most."

Charlie mumbled some apologies and heard the opposition bid on the next hand:

1♥	3♣
3♦	4♣
4NT	5♦
5NT	6♦
6NT	Pass

Charlie was on lead and led his king of spades:

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

(Directions changed for convenience.)

Charlie had felt like doubling but thought that beating the contract would give them a good score. Declarer surprised Charlie by ducking the king of spades lead, so Charlie continued with the two of spades. This was not a success:

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

On the spade continuation declarer unblocked his ace of clubs and now had twelve top tricks.

"Boy, oh, boy," said Charlie's partner, "there's one born every day. Haven't you seen that old chestnut before? Anything but a spade at Trick 2 and declarer must go two down at least. Fantastic, just fantastic."

Charlie sighed with relief as the Director called the move and his ex partner went off, mumbling, "You sure get all sorts in an individual ..."

A few rounds went by and then Charlie paired up with the club's top player, a life master and an

international master as well. Charlie hoped he would do well with him. After a 1NT-3NT auction, the life master led the five of diamonds and Charlie saw:

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 7 5 4
♥ A Q 8 3
♦ J 7
♣ Q 7 4

Suddenly he recognised the hand. He had played it a few rounds earlier.

His first instinct was to call the Director, but no, this way he could impress partner since he recalled all three hands were hard defences.

The ten of diamonds was played from dummy, Charlie covered with the jack and declarer took the ace. Next came the five of clubs, eight of clubs from partner, jack of clubs from dummy, all as before, but this time Charlie, almost proudly, played the four, not the queen. But the full deal was:

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K 9 2
♥ 10 9 2
♦ A K 4 2
♣ K 5


When the jack of clubs held, declarer played a club to his king, a diamond to the queen and landed eleven tricks. When they opened the score sheet, they found that about half had gone down in 3NT and the rest had made no more than ten tricks.

"I just don't understand ... " stammered Charlie.

"That's true," muttered his partner.




By now Charlie was heartily regretting that he had not stayed quietly at home with an improving book, and on the very next hand, he was faced with a defensive problem similar to that on the second deal of the previous set:

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

After 1NT - 3NT, West led the three of spades and dummy's ten held the trick.

Charlie was still in a fluster about the previous hand, but when a low club was played from dummy, he remembered that he had to play low. So he played the four. But:

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

When declarer's jack of clubs held, there were nine tricks. On examining the score sheet, no other declarer had taken nine tricks. "Must have taken the club finesse," South post-mortemmed. "But if the finesse is working, you don't have to take it."


"I'm sorry ... " mumbled Charlie.

"Natural mistake," replied his partner, "Why try to beat the contract?"


On the last of the set, the bidding again went:

1♥	3♣
3♦	4♣
4NT	5♦
5NT	6♦
6NT	Pass

and Charlie led the king of spades in this position:

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

Declarer ducked the king of spades. "Aha," thought Charlie, "If I play another spade, he can unblock the ace of clubs." So Charlie switched to a club. This was the full deal:

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

Declarer won the ace of clubs and had twelve tricks. "What's the matter with you? Can't you just play another spade and knock out his entry to the clubs? Well, well, well, what doesn't happen in an individual?"

Suddenly Charlie knew what hell had in store for bridge players.





SXPEONY v SOFIES WORLD

David Bird

Under-26 Women's final

The final of the under-26 women's teams was a closely-fought affair, between teams from China and Norway. Let's take a look at the third segment out of four. The score after the first two sets was PEONY (China) 42 – SOFIES WORLD (Norway) 55. We did not have to wait long for the first swing of note.

Board 2. Dealer East. N-S Vul.

♠ 9 6 5 4 3 ♥ 10 8 6 5 ♦ J 6 5 ♣ J	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 8 2 ♥ J 4 ♦ A 9 7 ♣ K Q 9 7 6 4	♠ A 10 7 ♥ A K Q 9 7 3 ♦ Q 10 8 ♣ 3
♠ K Q J ♥ 2 ♦ K 4 3 2 ♣ A 10 8 5 2			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Oeberg</i>	<i>Yu Chen</i>	<i>Indrebo</i>	<i>Ruan</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♦*	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Ida Marie Oeberg showed her hearts with a transfer response and ended in 3NT. Yu Chen led the ♠3. On this freak lie of the spade suit, declarer might have needed to win the first or second spade if North held the ♣A. With the defenders' spades blocked, she could then have played clubs successfully. After such a line of play, South might regret her ♠J at trick one, followed by the ♠K, possibly allowing declarer to read the blockage. The text books recommend queen and king, declarer ducking twice, followed by the jack.

That's enough of bridge in a fantasy world. At the table, Oeberg held up her ♠A until the third round, ran her hearts and then played a club. When the safe South hand held the ♣A, the game was made. It was +400 for Norway.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ge</i>	<i>Sjodal</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kjensli</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

With a possible seven tricks in her hand, Chenyun Ge might have rebid 3NT. She chose a more cautious 3♥ and this ended the auction. South won the ♣J lead, covered in dummy, with the ace. When she returned a club, declarer correctly ditched a spade and North ruffed.

A diamond to South's king gave the defenders the first three tricks. Declarer then ruffed a third round of clubs with the ♥A, drew trumps and claimed +170. It was 6 IMPs to Norway.



Xinyao RUAN

I rarely write up part-score deals. In the same way that one might sometimes try an exotic and possibly quite awful dish in a restaurant, I will see how the next deal goes:

Board 6. Dealer East. E-W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Oeberg	Yu Chen	Indrebo	Ruan
—	—	Pass	1♣
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Dble
2♥	All Pass		

South showed good clubs with her double of the Stayman bid. North might then have competed with 3♣, but she let matters rest. South won the club lead and switched to a spade, Oeberg winning with the ace. Declarer drew trumps in three rounds, playing the opener for the ♥Q. She then played two more rounds of spades, setting up a winner in the dummy.

North switched to a diamond, but the defenders could take only two diamond tricks. Declarer won the club return with the ♣K, crossed to dummy with a club ruff and ditched her last diamond on the ♠10. The resultant overtrick gave her +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ge	Sjodal	Lu	Kjensli
—	—	Pass	1♣
Dble	Pass	1♥	2♣
2♥	3♣	3♥	All Pass

The contract of 3♣ had four top losers in the majors and the ♣K offside. Once you accept West's double, instead of 1NT, there was nothing much wrong with the E-W bidding after that. Declarer would now need to match declarer's efforts at the other table to flatten the board.

Yijia Lu won the ♠2 lead in dummy and then needed to pick up the ♥Q. What clues were available? South would presumably have led a top diamond from the AK. She had chosen to lead from one spade honour or none, not a particularly attractive lead, so maybe she did not hold an easy xx or xxx lead in trumps. Against those two pointers, she did have longer clubs than North and was therefore likely to be short in trumps.

Well, there was no clear-cut reason to finesse one way or the other. Lu cashed the ♥A at trick two, took a losing trump finesse to South's queen and went one down. It was another 6 IMPs to Norway.

I believe that was the first part-score that I have written up during this championship. I didn't much enjoy the experience. You may have nodded off while reading it, too. Sorry about that. To revive our spirits, what we need are three really big swings. Right... here they come!

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Oeberg	Yu Chen	Indrebo	Ruan
—	—	1♣	2♦
Dble	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	3♦	Pass	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Very reasonably, Ruan led the ♥K. Thea Lucia Indrebo won with dummy's ace and played the ace and queen of trumps. When the 4-1 trump break came to light, she led a diamond to the king and ace. After winning a third round of trumps with dummy's ♠J, she cashed the ♥Q. The key moment of the deal had arrived. What should declarer do next?

She has to play on clubs and needs to lead a low card. North has shown long hearts and may well hold a singleton ♣K. 'Jack of clubs, please,' was the call. Two club tricks had to be lost and that was one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ge</i>	<i>Sjodal</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kjensli</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

With a possibly annoying four trumps in her hand, the $\diamond A$ lead was not an inspired shot. Why not the $\heartsuit J$? North switched to a heart, drawing the king and declarer's ace. Declarer drew trumps and led the $\clubsuit 2$ (yes!), seeing North's $\clubsuit K$ appear. That was +650 and 13 IMPs well deserved IMPs to China.

Board 12. Dealer West. N-S Vul.

	♠ 4					
	♥ Q 8 7 4					
	♦ 10 9 5 4					
	♣ K 9 8 5					
♠ 9 7	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ Q J 10 8 6 5
N						
W						
E						
S						
♥ J 6 5		♥ A 9				
♦ 6 3		♦ A K J 8 2				
♣ Q J 6 4 3 2		♣ —				
	♠ A K 3 2					
	♥ K 10 3 2					
	♦ Q 7					
	♣ A 10 7					

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Oeberg</i>	<i>Yu Chen</i>	<i>Indrebo</i>	<i>Ruan</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Despite holding only 15 HCP, Indrebo was unwilling to open 1♠. Ruan (South) must have been surprised to hear such an auction, looking at her own cards. That well-known expert, Mr GIB, tells us that the lead of only three cards will spell defeat for the spade game – one of the top trumps or... the $\heartsuit K$.

Ruan found the lead of the $\heartsuit K$. No, she didn't. I just said that to wake you up, in case you were still dozy after my part-score deal. She did, though, place the $\spadesuit A$ on the table. Well done!

Declarer won the low trump continuation with the $\spadesuit 10$ and played the $\spadesuit J$ to South's king. Ruan then exited safely in trumps. The two top diamonds dropped the $\diamond Q$, but declarer still had to lose a trick in each red suit. She was one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ge</i>	<i>Sjodal</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kjensli</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT
Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Lu bid her hand differently, preferring to name her suits rather than open 2♣ on a 15-count. The Chinese pair then did well to reach 4♠, despite the 1NT overcall. Would Agnethe Hansen Kjensli find the winning lead?

No, she reached for the $\clubsuit A$. Lu ruffed and played the two top diamonds, dropping the queen. She ruffed a diamond in dummy, South pitching a club, and played a trump to the 10 and king. She ruffed the club continuation and played the $\spadesuit Q$ to South's ace. A heart switch went to the queen and ace. Declarer could then draw trumps and score her remaining diamonds. A heart trick had to be conceded at the end, but she had her +420. It was another 10 IMPs to China.



Agnethe Hansen KJENSLI

Yijia LU

Chenyun GE

Sofie Grasholt SJODAL

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ K 9 6 ♥ 10 7 4 ♦ K J 9 8 2 ♣ A 6	♠ 3 2 ♥ A 8 6 5 2 ♦ 10 ♣ K Q J 9 8 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: #008000; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div> </div>	♠ A Q J 8 7 5 ♥ J ♦ A 5 4 ♣ 7 3 2	♠ 10 4 ♥ K Q 9 3 ♦ Q 7 6 3 ♣ 10 5 4
---------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Oeberg</i>	<i>Yu Chen</i>	<i>Indrebo</i>	<i>Ruan</i>
—	1♥	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

The Norwegians were on the same wavelength with regard to the meaning of a vulnerable 2♠ jump overcall. Ruan led the ♥K. Indrebo won the club switch with the ace and gave up a club to ensure a club ruff. She won North's diamond switch in dummy, drew two rounds of trumps and claimed the balanced for +650.

Well, I've already told you that there will be a big swing on the board. Will the Chinese bid and make 6♠ or stop in a part-score? Place your bets!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ge</i>	<i>Sjodal</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kjensli</i>
—	1♥	1♠	2♥
2♠	3♥	3♠	All Pass



We will not need a long debate to determine who was responsible for stopping short. West could place her partner with heart shortage and was easily worth a 3♥ cue-bid. For many players, this would show a sound raise to at least 3♠ with three-card trump support. 2NT would instead show a 4-card raise. Over North's 3♥, a double by East would have been game-try, barely justified on her cards. The actual 3♠ was not invitational. Nevertheless, West might have reconsidered the matter and raised to 4♠.

South led king and another heart. Declarer ducked a round of clubs and won the diamond switch with the ♦J. She made the same eleven tricks as at the other table, but Norway collected 10 IMPs.

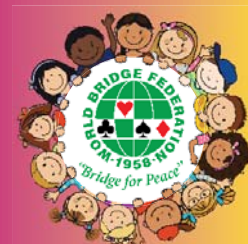
Unusually Boards 10-13 had furnished three double-digit swings on 4♠ contracts. With one set still to be played SOFIE'S WORLD (Norway) led PEONY (China) by 87 IMPs to 70.

I would like to end my last report by sending some thanks in well-deserved directions. The BBO VuGraph operators have been splendid. Francesca Canali did a fine job with the daily bulletins. Her excellent presentation will surely have distracted attention away from any dubious analysis by the report writers. Finally, I must thank Bridge Base Online. They have had to perform massive recoding, to prepare for the demise of Internet Explorer. As a result, we can all continue to watch live coverage of the world's greatest tournaments (including the present one) completely free of charge. Brilliant!

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BOYS KEEP SWINGING

Simon Stocken

Board 17 SF 4 – Canadians vs Poland
Dealer North. Love All.

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

West	North	East	South
Kielbasa	Luba	Bazyluk	Dong
—	2♦(!)	Dble	2♥*
Dble	Pass	Pass	3♣
Dbe	Pass	Pass	3♦
Dble	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

When you are a long way behind with 14 boards to play, then you need to generate some action. The first two boards in the Closed Room were uneventful with 3♥ making 9 tricks on both, one for each side (2 IMPS lost as it turned out) and on the third board North had his first opportunity as dealer at favourable vulnerability. There is only one planet in the universe where this is an acceptable weak 2♦ Opener - Planet Deficit - and the Canadians had been resident since the beginning of the match, spinning further and further into orbit: down 3 IMPS, down 31 IMPS and now down 54 IMPS.

East doubled and South was on the same page as North with his 2♥ bid (alerted by North as possibly lead directing with Ax or similar). West doubled for takeout and North's next five bids were all way better than his first. This came back to South who psyched again - 3♣, again doubled by West. Finally, South let the cat out of the bag with a retreat to 3♦ - a contract he fully expected to make with his dummy. West knew different and doubled again and his heart sank when partner removed this to 3♥, thereby exposing South's psyche. The damage was done and whatever

West ventured, he was likely booked for a minus. 3NT would have been my choice, which can go down two on best defence - a rare commodity at the best of times. As it is, West chose 3♠ and when partner raised to 4♠, South was ready with the red card. After a diamond lead and a spade back to the queen, North switched to a small heart and without quite enough thought to this highly unlikely auction and previous defence (why had North not led a singleton heart?) declarer rose with the ♥A (remember South had bid 2♥) and was soon writing 500 in the minus column. They also played 4♠ down three in the other room but undoubled so 8 IMPs changed hands.

The Canadians had begun the fight back.....

Board 18 SF. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kielbasa	Luba	Bazyluk	Dong
—	—	Pass	1♥
2♠	3NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

The 4th board saw the Canadians riding their luck with some wonderful optimism on both sides. South saw some shape, a decent suit and good controls and made the 4NT invitation. North saw three spade tricks, three tens and even more successful finesses than his partner and took the plunge with his excellent 'minimum'. With five finesses right, Luba was strangely odds on to make the contract. The first two finesses were confirmed on the spade lead, the next finesse he rejected, playing a clever ♥3 at trick two to keep entries fluid and after West won ♥K, only the club finesse was needed to land this ambitious slam. In the

other room, they stopped normally in 3NT and made eleven tricks after a diamond lead from East - 13 more IMPs in the bag. Onto board 19.....

Board 19. SF 4. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

South opened 4♠ at favourable vulnerability and everyone passed. West led the ♦10, covered in dummy and ducked accurately by East after due consideration. Declarer led the ♠3 from dummy, East inserting the jack, (not expecting such a poor quality suit) covered by the ♠K and ace. West continued diamonds, to East's ace and a third diamond was played, South pitching his club while West trumped. The defence had a further trump trick and just the ♥A to ensure down two (the other heart would go on the winning diamond if West had ducked ♥A). The Canadians were hopeful as the lie of the cards meant 3NT could be made in the other room. This contract was duly reached by their team-mates after South had opened a more normal 3♠, doubled by West with East bidding 3NT.

South led ♠7 and declarer needed to overtake dummy's ten to lead the ♥10 covered by the queen and ace. Now declarer can cross to dummy's ♣K to lead the ♥8 and finesse South's ♥9 to bring the suit home for 4 tricks. This would have ensured 9 tricks but declarer ended up two down for a flat board.

On the next board the Canadians missed an opportunity to make a narrow game, which requires an unlikely underlead of an ace to find partner's king doubleton and ensure a ruff. In both rooms they bid and made 2♠, making ten tricks. A thin game although North's 6-4-3-0 shape might have persuaded him to keep his foot on the pedal as Planet Deficit was still spinning wildly.

Eleven more IMPs rolled in on the next board with an excellent slam missed by the Poles in the closed room.

Board 21. SF 4. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kielbasa</i>	<i>Luba</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Dong</i>
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

2NT showed a positive for the club transfer, 3♦ showed shortage, 4♥ was a cue and East's 4NT was to play. West signed off in 5♣ and that was the limit from the West seat after ♠10 lead. In the other room, the Canadian duo of Zhu and Kolesnik right-sided the club slam and the deficit was halved at the half-way point.

FLOOD THE NETWORKS!

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Board 22 was another slam hand.

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

	♠ A 7 6 2		
	♥ Q J 9		
	♦ Q		
	♣ A K 9 4 2		
♠ K J 3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 10 8 4	
♥ 8 5		♥ 10 4	
♦ J 10 4 3		♦ K 9 8 6 5	
♣ J 10 7 3		♣ Q 8 6	
	♠ Q 9 5		
	♥ A K 7 6 3 2		
	♦ A 7 2		
	♣ 5		

West	North	East	South
<i>Kielbasa</i>	<i>Luba</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Dong</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Both sides bid to this excellent slam. The Canadians made 12 tricks after the ♦J lead., trumping only one diamond and setting up the 5th club. The poles made all 13 tricks by trumping both diamonds and setting up the club winner - a riskier line but worth 1 IMP. Credit to Castor Mann, an eventual silver medalist in the other semi-final who led his fake singleton, an instant ♠3 after North had responded 1♠. Declarer naturally rose with the ace and now there was no entry for the 5th club and 12 tricks were the limit.

The Fast And The Furious

Board 23 saw a setback for the Canadians when a relatively easy 3NT was dropped but made by the Poles in the other room. I'm not usually in the advice business but here it is anyway - it's good advice and it's very simple. Go and watch a video of Andrew Robson playing a difficult contract and do what he does. What he does is absolutely nothing and he does it for a very long time. He does nothing because he is thinking and then re-thinking and then checking and double-checking. No stone is unturned. I only once had the pleasure of partnering Andrew, representing the Acol bridge club - my first full-time teaching job - in the Lederer Cup: I sat as dummy on a part-score hand and by the time he had played to trick two all three of us had finished our respective newspapers. When

quizzed at the end of the hand as to what he was thinking about, Andrew responded, "I was working out how to make the overtrick".

With two hours allocated for 14 boards, most of the younger teams had vacated the room closer to the one-hour mark than the two-hour mark. With medals at stake, I was astonished to see the young players, racing through the boards: this failure to slow down and plan had just cost a vulnerable game swing and 13 IMPS.

To overturn a big deficit it is vital to have some 'swingy' boards and this final set provided more than enough with 83 IMPS changing hands. On Board 24 The Canadians made a non-vulnerable 4♥, while the team-mates drifted 4 off undoubled for 200 in a part-score: 6 more IMPS back. Board 25 saw the introduction of the blue card and offered further opportunities to generate some action.

Board 25 SF 4. Dealer North. EW Vul.

	♠ 8		
	♥ A Q J 8 6 5 3		
	♦ A 3		
	♣ Q 8 7		
♠ A 9 6 5 2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 7 3	
♥ K 10 9 7 2		♥ —	
♦ K Q		♦ 9 7 6 4	
♣ K		♣ J 9 6 5 4 3 2	
	♠ K Q J 10 4		
	♥ 4		
	♦ J 10 8 5 2		
	♣ A 10		

West	North	East	South
<i>Kielbasa</i>	<i>Luba</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Dong</i>
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Dble	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
All Pass			

Doubling a freely bid 3NT asks partner to lead dummy's first-bid suit. Not ideal for two reasons: West's spade holding is weak and partner's not on lead. West would be end-played at trick one, unlikely to find the ♣K to tempt out the ♣A. The double is not a thing of beauty and 3NT can make at least 9 tricks. North bid 4♥ in an instant and I am sure had Andrew Robson been holding the North cards I'd be half-way through War and Peace by the time he emerged from the 'tank'. When they double you in 3NT after you've shown a long strong suit, it's a virtual certainty the defence will also have the 'escape route' covered - in this case 4♥. West's double worked a treat and South,

deprived of his opportunity to use the blue card for 3NT redoubled, seized his second opportunity with alacrity, although bidding 4NT or 4♠ might have fared better with 9 tricks possible on best defence.

East led the ♣2 against the redoubled 4H and declarer played to the first trick in under 5 seconds, choosing to play low. West's unwise doubling had marked him with every card in the deck. The opening lead also placed the ♣K in the West hand. Rising with the ♣A would have reaped surprising dividends and given declarer a much better chance of landing his contract. North I think had lost any hope of salvaging the match, still kicking himself from two boards before and once the dust had settled, the defence had 6 tricks and a thousand in the plus column. The Poles also played 4H doubled on a much friendlier spade lead in the Open Room with the double undoubtedly helping Cichy to navigate a route to 10 tricks., while also perhaps inducing the worst possible lead for the

defence - dummy's first bid suit. Best defence can always hold North to 9 tricks. The net swing was 17 IMPS and the fight-back was over: the IMPS won in the first seven boards were lost in the second seven. Poland won the set 45-38 and the match 178 - 117.

The Canadians were a new partnership and so huge congratulations to them as they went onto to win a bronze medal - you'll have an even brighter future and some even shinier medals if you routinely take the tortoise rather than the hare approach: hasty play at trick one is a common failing especially among younger players and is responsible for the demise of more bridge contracts than any other single factor. If the bridge police had been in attendance here in Croatia they would have issued more speeding tickets than traffic cops in the Fast and the Furious. If you play fast partner and your team-mates will justifiably be furious when your bids and play cost IMPs.

CHAMPIONSHIPS' PHOTO GALLERY



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NETHERLANDS v SIVY B

Jos Jacobs

Under 26 Teams Final, Segments 3 and 4

At halftime, the American Sivy B team were still enjoying their lead, but it had been reduced to 12 IMPs only: 70-58. Their Dutch opponents had won the second quarter 43-18 and were no doubt hoping to continue on this same basis. In a sense, the Dutch managed to do so but looking back on the first 10 boards of the segment, I was wondering which format of bridge contests I was watching. The segment score stood at 11-4 to the Dutch but the board-a-match score would read 7-3 to the Dutch at that point. It looked very much like a pairs contest in which only one of the two pairs playing was really interested in the typical matchpoint decisions. The biggest of all these miniswings was board 3:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg	Van Bijsterveldt	Kristensen	Coppens
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	3♠	4♦	All Pass

Had East held this hand in 4th position over 3♠-Pass-Pass, he might have ventured 3NT because a spade stopper is not absolutely necessary in that type of situation, as we shall see later on. Directly over the pre-empt, East had little option but to become the victim of this nuisance bid. He was lucky, in fact, that N/S were not in a position to double this and collect 800 on an in that case obvious trump lead.

On a spade lead and trump switch, the contract still went one down. Netherlands +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Youngquist	M. de León	Duffie
—	—	—	Pass
2♣	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Sprinkhuizen's pre-empt (or was it?) worked very well when South could not possibly pass partner's direct overcall. When the defence avoided any silly things in hearts, this contract also went the obvious one down for another +50 and no less than 4 IMPs to The Netherlands.

So much for the BAM style. Over now to the more appropriate double-figure business.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg	Van Bijsterveldt	Kristensen	Coppens
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♦
3♦*	Dble	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

If you really want to be in game, then try 3NT on a hand like this. You never know...

After South's daring lead-directing overcall, 4♥ stood no chance. When South did not return a club after obtaining his ruff, the contract went only one off, Netherlands +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Youngquist</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>Duffie</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	Pass	1♠
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

After South's balancing lead-directing (?) overall, North made the lead of the ♠K, thus offering declarer his 9th trick. The Netherlands another +400 and 10 IMPs to take the lead!

The last board of the set proved the point I made about board 3 above.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Youngquist</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>Duffie</i>
—	—	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

When Guy Mendes de León opened just a weak two, his opponents had enough room to explore what to do. Eleven tricks, Sivy B +460.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Van Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	—	3♥	Pass
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

At the other table, East opened one level higher, giving North a problem he could not solve. In 4th position, the best approach might well be that 3NT shows 13-20 hcp with or without a stopper or a long suit. I have seen this approach used with quite satisfactory results and this hand would have been no exception.

When E/W did not double, they collected +100 and 11 IMPs only. The double would have won one extra IMP so no big deal, it looked.

With or without this extra IMP, Sivy B had regained the lead. They had lost the set 15-21 but the score stood at 85-79 to them with 14 more boards to play.

Segment 4 (final segment)

The opening board of the set was a clear indication, I thought, of the way play would develop in the course of this last segment.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Van Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

When West hit upon the killing spade lead, declarer called for dummy's jack, his legitimate chance. I was wondering whether East would have played the nine had dummy played low but maybe, even questioning this already is an insult...□

One down, Sivy B +100

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Youngquist</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>Duffie</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Dble	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	2♣	All Pass

When N/S did not bother to double their opponents' escapism after the 10-13 NT opening, the auction ended in a funny contract. Two down in 2♦ doubled would have scored 300 to the Sivy B team so down five at 50 per undertrick for +250 was no big deal, once again. The swing was 8 IMPs and the Sivy B lead went up to a more comfortable 14.

After this opening salvo, the boards fell sort of asleep for half an hour. When board 20 was reached, we all woke up again.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

	♠ Q 2					
	♥ 9 8 4					
	♦ K Q 5 2					
	♣ 8 6 4 2					
♠ K J 8	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A 9 6 5 4	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ K Q 10 7 6		♥ J 3 2				
♦ J		♦ A 8				
♣ K Q 10 7		♣ A J 3				
	♠ 10 7 3					
	♥ A 5					
	♦ 10 9 7 6 4 3					
	♣ 9 5					

Open Room

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

An entirely natural auction in which the use of the 4th suit made it possible to set spades as trumps. This way, the playable but odds-against slam was avoided. Sivy B +650 when declarer immediately led a spade to the jack and queen at trick 2 after winning the ♣A.

Closed Room

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

As East's 2♣ was GF with or without heart fit, 6♥ was an alternative slam suggestion. When declarer, after drawing trumps and conceding to the ace of trumps played the ♠A and another to his jack, he was one down when North could win his now blank queen. Sivy B another +100 and 13 IMPs to them to lead by 28 with 8 boards to play.

The next board offered the Dutch a difficult chance.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠ J 10 4					
	♥ K J 6					
	♦ 6 5 4 3					
	♣ K 8 5					
♠ A 9 7 6 3	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ Q 5 2	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ Q 8 7		♥ 5 4 2				
♦ Q		♦ J 10 8				
♣ A 9 6 4		♣ Q J 10 7				
	♠ K 8					
	♥ A 10 9 3					
	♦ A K 9 7 2					
	♣ 3 2					

Open Room

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

When West showed spades and a minor with his overcall, the full picture of his hand was clear when he led the ♦Q rather than ♠A and another. If declarer had ducked this (!), he would have gained an important tempo but naturally enough, he won the ace and went on to misguess the trumps, losing a trick in each suit. Sivy B +100.

There is a DD winning line, it seems, even on a spade lead. Win the second spade, draw trumps in three rounds and play a club to the king. What can West do? It's East who will win the diamond trick and he will be out of spades by then if West plays a third round of the suit.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
2♠*	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

When North passed the Mm 2♠ overcall, N/S missed their heart fit and ended up in a less ambitious but very sensible partscore. One overtrick, Sivy B another +130 and another 6 IMPs to them.

Well-timed aggression caused another big swing on the next board.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

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

West's 1♦ showed hearts, of course. A diamond lead, ducked or not, easily beats 4♥ but how on earth could South have found it? On a trump lead, declarer had no problem in scoring +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Dble
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	All Pass

The Dutch did well to avoid the heart game because North did indeed lead the ♦8. South won the king with his ace and returned the ♦10 rather than the ♦7. When West won his ♥A at first attempt, he then shifted to a spade rather than a club and thus did not get his ruff. As E/W were not in game, it did not at all matter: the Sivy B gain would be 10 IMPs anyway. They were leading by 44 now so it looked all over, even more so when the next two boards were flat.

Four boards from the end, we saw this:

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duffie</i>	<i>Van Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Youngquist</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	1♥	Dble	3♥
Dble	4♥	6♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West's double was pinpointing the minors so East's 6♦ was as good a shot as any, except that there were two aces missing this time. The Netherlands +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
—	1♥	Dble	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

For once, the Dutch kept completely silent during the auction and thus missed their cold game in diamonds. Plus 200 (two down) should not have been enough compensation for this loss but after all, it was worth 7 IMPs.



Kevin ROSENBERG

One board later, the declarers in 4♥ might run into serious communication trouble.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duffie</i>	<i>Van Bijsterveldt</i>	<i>Youngquist</i>	<i>Coppens</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

South leads the ♠J, of course, covered all round. Sarah Youngquist, for Sivy B, crossed to dummy's ♦A and led a trump to the jack and South's queen. A diamond came back, so she won the king

and tried another heart. North won the ace and persisted with diamonds, so declarer ruffed, drew the last trump and could not take the club finesse any more. Down two, The Netherlands +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>M. de León</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

In the replay, South cashed a winning spade after being given the ♥Q but when he continued a spade for a ruff and sluff, dummy ruffed and led another heart up. North won the ace and when he, too, continued the bad work of playing spades, dummy could ruff with his last trump and play a club, won by declarer's queen. The outstanding trump could now be drawn and when the ♣A next brought down the king, declarer had made his unlikely contract for +620 and a 13-IMP gain to The Netherlands.

With no such defensive disasters occurring on either of the final two boards, the Sivy B team recorded a fully deserved 128-100 win. Overall, they had been playing the better, more balanced bridge, IMHO. Congratulations to them!





SOFIA WORLD v SXPEONY

Marc Smith

Under 26 Womens Teams Final: Final Stanza

The final set of the Women's Teams final began with Sofies World (from Norway) leading Peony (from China) by 87-70. We didn't have to wait long for the first big swing:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Oeberg</i>	<i>Yu Chen</i>	<i>Indrebo</i>	<i>Ruan</i>
Pass	1♦	2♣	2♦
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

The Norwegian pair conducted an eminently sensible, controlled auction. However, I do feel that Ruan missed a chance to make things more difficult: that South hand looks much more like a preemptive Three Diamond bid than a rather feeble Two Diamonds. Would it have stopped the Norwegians reaching game, though, perhaps not. Ida Marie Oeberg took advantage of South's reticence and quite sensibly made a competitive raise to Three Clubs. Now Thea Lucia Indrebo bid her spades twice on her way to the only game with any chance of making.

An opening diamond lead would have left declarer with just too much to do, but South opted instead to attack with a heart. Declarer won the ♥A, played a spade to her ace and ruffed a spade. A diamond ruff was followed by a second spade ruff, a second diamond ruff and a fourth round of spades. The black suit shape left the defenders with no winning option:

South ruffed with the ♣9 in front of dummy and continued hearts. Declarer ruffed the third round of hearts, laid down the ♣A, and was rewarded by the appearance of South's king: an exciting E/W +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ge</i>	<i>Sjodal</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kjensli</i>
Pass	1♦	2♣	2♦
Pass	3♦	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

After the same start, Chenyun Ge passed the West hand despite being given a chance to show minimal values with club support. Now, when Lu introduced her second suit, Ge chose to take a shot at Three Notrump rather than showing her club fit. Sofie Sjodal led a big diamond and switched to a heart at trick two. When the club finesse lost, South returned a diamond through declarer's queen and the defenders could cash out for two down: E/W -200.

Although Five Clubs needed a favourable distribution to make, it was clearly the best game available so it is hard to begrudge Sofies World their 13-IMP gain. They certainly would have outscored their opponents if bridge had style points.



Thea Lucia INDREBO

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Oeberg</i>	<i>Yu Chen</i>	<i>Indrebo</i>	<i>Ruan</i>
—	—	—	1♣
1♥	2♦	4♥	5♦
Pass	Pass	5♥	All Pass

“The five-level belongs to the opponents,” is a well-worn bridge mantra. “Not today,” decided Indrebo, correctly judging that her partner was likely to hold a singleton diamond. North led the ♣A and, after a diamond continuation, declarer was soon claiming twelve tricks: E/W +680.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ge</i>	<i>Sjodal</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kjensli</i>
—	—	—	1♣
1♥	2♦	4♥	5♦
Pass	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	6♦	Dble	All Pass

After an identical auction, Sofie Sjodal showed off the excellent bidding judgement that had carried her to a world championship final. Accurately judging that her side’s defensive chances were not good, she sacrificed at the six-level. The defenders started with two top spades, the ♥A, and then a third round of spades. Sjodal ruffed with dummy’s ♣K and claimed ten tricks when trumps split 2-1: E/W -300 and a well-deserved 9 IMPs to Sofies World, now leading by 39 IMPs with just 11 deals remaining,



The Chinese picked up one big swing with an anti-percentage play in a slam to narrow the gap, but then came:

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ge</i>	<i>Sjodal</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kjensli</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

It looks like Ge made a game try showing short spades, and Lu accepted. Only a diamond lead beats the contract legitimately, and Sjodal was unerringly there with the ♣8. South might have ducked the first round of diamonds, but she had the insurance of a club entry, so she took the ♣A and returned a suit-preference ♣3. Declarer won and played a trump, but Sjodal won, played a club to her partner’s ace, and ruffed the diamond return for one down: a well-deserved N/S +100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Oeberg</i>	<i>Yu Chen</i>	<i>Indrebo</i>	<i>Ruan</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Dble
4♥	All Pass		

The Chinese South made a takeout double, showing both black suits, so Chen opted for the ♠7 as her opening lead. Now followed a game of ping-pong, at which I always thought the Chinese excelled...

To legitimately make the contract, declarer must win the ♠A and immediately play a club (removing South’s entry for the diamond ruff), but Oeberg not unreasonably played a trump at trick two. Now the spotlight fell on Chen, who had to duck to keep her side in the game. Instead, she won with the ♥A and

continued spades, ruffed by declarer. Again, declarer has to play a club to make legitimately, but she instead played a diamond to the king. Now Ruan could have defeated the contract by ducking her ace, but the game of ping-pong continued as she won with the ♣ A and returned the suit.

Now declarer was home: draw trumps, pitch dummy's remaining spades on her long diamonds, and concede a trick to the ♣A. N/S +620 and 12 IMPs to Sofies World. This looked like the final nail in the Chinese coffin, trailing by 39 again, but now with just six deals remaining. The Chinese were not quite finished yet, though:

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Oeberg</i>	<i>Yu Chen</i>	<i>Indrebo</i>	<i>Ruan</i>
Pass	1NT*	2NT*	4♦*
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥*	All Pass	

Indrebo came in over North's One Notrump opening with a bid showing a big two-suited hand, but Xinyao Ruan was not particularly inconvenienced. She started

with a Four Diamond transfer and then advanced with Blackwood. Finding two key cards missing, she stopped safely at the five-level. The ♠A provided a discard for one of South's club losers, so declarer scored up a comfortable N/S +450.

Closed Room

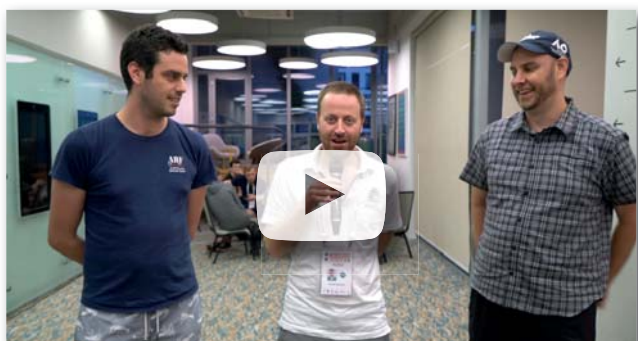
West	North	East	South
<i>Ge</i>	<i>Sjodal</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kjensli</i>
Pass	1NT	2♠	3♦*
Pass	3NT*	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	Dbl	All Pass

The Chinese East just overcalled in spades, and Agnethe Kjensli started with a Three Diamond transfer to hearts, showing an invitational or better hand. Sjodal now denied three hearts and showed a spade stopper with Three Notrump. Presumably unclear as to what Four Notrump would now be, Kjensli jumped to Five Hearts. Evidently unsure exactly what her partner wanted, Sjodal thought first-round control of the opponents' suit and KJ of trumps was enough, so she accepted the slam try. Thus, in a rare misstep by this pair, the Norwegians found themselves in a two-ace slam. Lu doubled and, although West still led a spade, there was no way for declarer to avoid two losers: N/S -100 and 11 IMPs to Peony.

In this situation, most pairs play Four Diamonds as a re-transfer, committing the partnership to hearts. Had that been available to Kjensli she could, presumably, have started with that and then bid 4NT, which would clearly have been Blackwood.

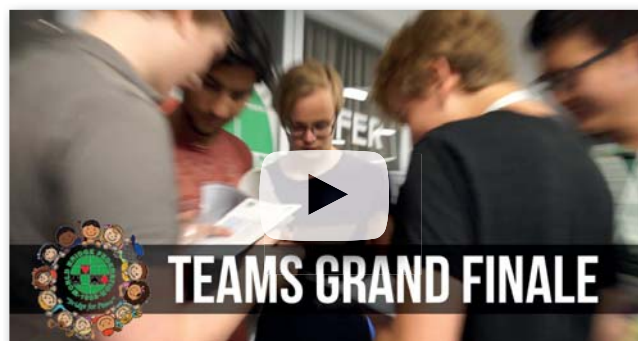
The Chinese actually gained two more game swings in the dying boards, when the Norwegians stopped out of two marginal games. It was just too little, too late, though, and Sofies World hang on to emerge victorious by the slender margin of 7 IMPs (124-117).

VIDEO CORNER



The Right Choice

<https://youtu.be/i-deyp2WRpM>



TEAMS GRAND FINALE

Teams Grand Finale

<https://youtu.be/1CN8KOVYJlw>

INDIVIDUAL U26

**24 players
qualified to
final A**

1	CRISAFULLI SADABA Patricio	AUT	59.71
2	THOMPSON Jamie	AUS	59.41
3	LIN Kam Fai	HKG	59.26
4	ROSENBERG Kevin	USA	58.98
5	PEREZ Bastian	CHI	56.57
6	SPOONER Andrew	AUS	56.15
7	YIN Yichen	CHN	55.99
8	SANDIN Alexander	SWE	55.66
9	SOBCZAK Mateusz	POL	55.13
10	SCHEBERAN Philip	AUT	55.10
11	DONATI Giovanni	ITA	55.05
12	BAKKE Christian	NOR	54.80
13	YUGE Hirokana	JPN	54.42
14	ROY SAGNIK	IND	54.29
15	WEI Hongji	CHN	53.88
16	HERMANN Sophie	AUT	53.86
17	NIJSEN Oscar	NED	52.73
18	SAU Roberto	ITA	52.17
19	HANSSON Erik	SWE	52.16
20	YOUNGQUIST Sarah	USA	51.66
21	OIKONOMOPOULOS Ioannis	GRE	51.42
22	VANDEWIELE Emiel	BEL	51.31
23	VASQUEZ Esteban	CHI	51.14
24	BOEHM Alexander	CHI	51.10
25	FERENCA Matko	CRO	51.02
26	CUERVO LOPERA Juan Felipe	COL	50.95
27	IMAKIIRE Eishi	JPN	50.93
28	LIU Chang	CHN	50.83
29	GAIOTTI Alvaro	ITA	50.77
30	SMITH Matthew	AUS	50.75
31	KUSHARI SAYANTAN	IND	50.71
32	CHIARANDINI Francesco	ITA	50.66
33	BOSE BABHRUBAHAN	IND	50.62
34	PERCARIO Giacomo	ITA	50.61
35	CHEUNG Wai Lam	HKG	50.49
36	DAVILA Nicolas	CHI	50.40
37	TANABE Hitoshi	JPN	50.36
38	PATREUHA Jakub	POL	50.25
39	WU Michael	HKG	50.06
40	MARCINOWSKI Piotr	POL	49.81
41	MANN Castor	SWE	49.57
42	ENDO Eisuke	JPN	49.28
43	JALSOVSZKY Janka	HUN	48.90
44	ZORANOVIC Jovana	SER	48.79
45	DUFFIE Cornelius	USA	48.76
46	SCATA Sebastiano	ITA	48.70
47	HUNG Tsz Fung Harry	HKG	48.55
48	GHOSH SOUMADEEP	IND	48.50
49	HINO Takayuki	JPN	48.48
50	CHAKRABORTY ARYA	IND	47.02
51	BASOALTO Francisco	CHI	46.41
52	YAMAMOTO Tetsutaro	JPN	45.80
53	THORPE Stephan	AUT	45.73
54	COOPER Renee	AUS	45.46
55	BAR Surajit	IND	45.40
56	VAN DE PAVERD Tim	NED	44.99
57	ARREDONDO Andres	URU	44.68
58	TEIXEIRA Agustin	URU	43.54
59	JINDRA Manuel	AUT	43.36
60	SUN Shiyu	CHN	43.35
61	DEY Pradip	IND	43.18
62	KATUSIC Filip	CRO	43.08
63	VALENTINE Ronan Richard James	SCO	42.38
64	VAZIC Stojan	SER	42.23
65	EDER Felix	AUT	41.80
66	LENZI Jonathan	URU	40.75
67	KAR SOUVIK	IND	40.49

INDIVIDUAL U26 WOMEN

1	DALPOZZO Eleonora	ITA	61.74
2	XIANG Qiufeng	CHN	60.00
3	DALPOZZO Valentina	ITA	59.57
4	INDREBO Thea Lucia	NOR	59.13
5	KOKOT Joanna	POL	55.22
6	OVUKA Aleksandra	SER	52.83
7	NACRUR Francisca	CHI	52.83
8	ZHAO Yuqiao	CHN	52.83
9	SEREGNI Linda	ITA	51.96
10	DALPOZZO Federica	ITA	51.52
11	BI Xiaoran	CHN	51.30
12	PELAGGI Annachiara	ITA	51.30
13	REN Moye	CHN	49.57
14	BALDYSZ Sophia	POL	49.13
15	OCYLOK Dominika	POL	48.48
16	KATANIC Vesna	SER	48.48
17	MOLINA Diana	CHI	46.96
18	PELAGGI Maddalena	ITA	46.09
19	NG Shuk Man	HKG	45.43
20	ROMAN Valentina	CHI	44.78
21	DI LORENZO Anastasia	ITA	42.61
22	ZALEWSKA Joanna	POL	40.65
23	MILUTINOVIC Tamara	SER	40.22
24	VUJIC Katarina	SER	37.39

CHAMPIONSHIPS' PHOTO GALLERY



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INDIVIDUAL U21

**24 players
qualified to
final A**

1	BUGAJEWSKI Jozef	POL	61.29
2	LIU Yihong	CHN	60.54
3	CHEN Yunpeng	CHN	58.19
4	WANG Zhaofeng	CHN	58.08
5	GIUBILO Gianmarco	ITA	56.62
6	TAKIZAWA Ken	JPN	56.05
7	LU Yijia	CHN	55.93
8	CAI Zixi	CHN	55.39
9	CICHY Krzysztof	POL	55.39
10	MEREGALLI Matteo	ITA	55.19
11	KOPKA Kacper	POL	55.11
12	DENG Cheng	CHN	55.10
13	WANG Yingqi	CHN	54.55
14	ZHANG Tiancheng	CHN	54.02
15	GUO Xiaolei	CHN	54.00
16	BALIRAM GURJAR Kalpana	IND	53.47
17	PATREUHA Patryk	POL	53.46
18	COPE Andrew	ENG	53.06
19	BAZYLUK Jakub	POL	52.64
20	PORTA Federico	ITA	52.37
21	CARLETTI Alessandro	ITA	51.92
22	RUAN Xinyao	CHN	51.73
23	LESKOVAR Viktor	CRO	51.43
24	YU Zhaochen	CHN	50.94
25	YU Wenfei	CHN	50.82
26	YUAN Zhijie	CHN	50.80
27	BHIMANAİK Rekha	IND	50.76
28	JOZKOWIAK Lukasz	POL	50.72
29	YANG Jiahao	CHN	50.67
30	DING Yuanzhe	CHN	50.52
31	GOSCIANSKI Kajetan	POL	50.10
32	BORKOVIC Ivan	SER	49.84
33	KIELBASA Tomasz	POL	49.66
34	MORAWSKA EWA	POL	49.65
35	YANEZ Camila	CHI	49.62
36	GE Chenyun	CHN	49.43
37	WANG Penghao	CHN	49.31
38	YAN Tianyao	CHN	49.29
39	LIU Haochen	CHN	49.29
40	XU Jiaming	CHN	49.26
41	GIUBILO Gabriele	ITA	49.21
42	KAMAL PATEL Vidhya	IND	49.17
43	XU Hao	CHN	49.07
44	ZALWOWSKI Adam	POL	48.80
45	KAWABATA Sukai	JPN	48.67
46	MACKOWIAK Karol	POL	48.65
47	SIMIC Mihailo	SER	48.37
48	LU Mingyu	CHN	48.22
49	FEI Sihan	CHN	48.22
50	DAI Hanyang	CHN	47.78
51	SONG Yihan	JPN	47.51
52	SUZUKI Takahito	JPN	46.52
53	JIANG Lanxi	CHN	46.45
54	GUZVICA Slobodan	SER	45.98
55	YU Haoqing	CHN	45.92
56	ZHANG Fengrui	CHN	45.35
57	INOUE Yoshitake	JPN	44.40
58	MENEZES KAMRYN	IND	44.26
59	GRAS Szymon	POL	44.15
60	RODRIGUES Taral Emmanuel L.	IND	44.10
61	LOMBARDI Matteo	ITA	43.86
62	KOZLOVIZ Sofia	URU	43.25
63	INAMI Terushi	JPN	41.91
64	VELICKOVIC Bogdan	SER	41.63
65	WANG Rui	CHN	41.14
66	TONG Jiaxin	CHN	40.01
67	ANOYRKATIS Theo	ENG	37.60

INDIVIDUAL U16

**24 players
qualified to
final A**

1	FU Yanzhuo	CHN	64.25
2	TIAN Zhixian	CHN	63.43
3	MA Shuoming	CHN	62.48
4	XIE Zimo	CHN	61.12
5	LU Zhenyue	CHN	60.90
6	TANG Tengbo	CHN	60.67
7	CIBOROWSKI Konrad	POL	60.05
8	LIN Fengming	CHN	59.77
9	LI Suhang	CHN	59.47
10	SHEN Haotian	CHN	59.17
11	GAO Yi Ran	CHN	58.06
12	YANG Fan	CHN	57.79
13	JIANG Yixuan	CHN	57.64
14	YAO Tianle	CHN	57.62
15	KUFLOWSKI Kacper	POL	57.57
16	MA Jinyi	CHN	57.50
17	BETLINSKI Maciej	POL	57.14
18	XU Muqun	CHN	57.01
19	YU Zhaolun	CHN	56.20
20	WANG Jiarui	CHN	55.92
21	YANG Siqing	CHN	55.61
22	FAN Lingwen	CHN	55.38
23	WANG Ziao	CHN	55.17
24	MA Hanxi	CHN	55.09
25	STASIK Michal	POL	55.08
26	CIBOROWSKA Lucja	POL	54.57
27	SHI Jiayi	CHN	54.44
28	LANG Ningyu	CHN	53.71
29	ZHOU Chuanyao	CHN	53.71
30	XIE Jialin	CHN	53.65
31	WANG Yuming	CHN	53.47
32	JIANG Yuxin	CHN	53.19
33	TIAN Maoxiang	CHN	53.07
34	BUKAT Aleks	POL	53.07
35	XU Nuoyi	CHN	52.89
36	XUAN Yu	CHN	52.76
37	YU Fanfei	CHN	52.49
38	HE Qiyun	CHN	52.47
39	LI Chengxi	CHN	52.27
40	YU Xinlun	CHN	52.27
41	ZHUO Zhili	CHN	51.99
42	SU Chushi	CHN	51.97
43	BHATT ANSHUL	IND	51.58
44	HAN Jingjing	CHN	51.38
45	ZIMORSKI Wojciech	POL	50.50
46	SUN Zhuangyan	CHN	50.39
47	YANG Yiyun	CHN	50.35
48	WANG Zicheng	CHN	50.20
49	HUANG Ziyu	CHN	49.91
50	CHANG Ziwen	CHN	49.59
51	WU Yutong	CHN	49.56
52	MAYUR Prajjwal	IND	48.96
53	GAO Zhuxiongjie	CHN	48.77
54	NAWROCKI Jakub	POL	48.72
55	TANG Qing	CHN	48.72
56	YANG Junyi	CHN	48.51
57	ZIMORSKI Sebastian	POL	48.28
58	QIN Shiyuan	CHN	47.93
59	XIAO Hongxin	CHN	47.51
60	CHEN Xingjian	CHN	47.38
61	JIANG Haoxuan	CHN	47.35
62	TSENG Pinghsuan	TPE	47.33
63	SWIATKOWSKI Pawel	POL	47.23
64	ZHAO Chiyu	CHN	47.20
65	MEHTA Aryan	IND	47.12
66	LIU Haoxin	CHN	47.08

67	CHEN Xuefeng	CHN	46.84
68	LIN Xuanda	TPE	46.70
69	WU Yijun	CHN	46.61
70	KASPERCZYK Lukasz	POL	46.10
71	XU Tong	CHN	45.98
72	XIA Jingxuan	CHN	45.76
73	CHHEDA Kunj	IND	45.66
74	HUANG Juncan	CHN	45.28
75	CHEN Yanxu	CHN	45.17
76	LI Yankun	CHN	45.13
77	CHAO Qin Yi	CHN	45.04
78	ZHANG Qianwen	CHN	44.64
79	CAI Linzhen	CHN	43.90
80	ZHANG Beilin	CHN	43.76
81	ZHAO Yuchen	CHN	43.54
82	YANG Junyu	CHN	42.90
83	WEI Sikun	CHN	42.78
84	WEI Xieyang	CHN	42.68
85	KURLIT Franciszek	POL	42.13
86	MAUVE Antoinina	ENG	41.85
87	CHOWDHURY Tilakraj	IND	41.84
88	ZHANG Xuyang	CHN	41.73
89	NANDU Vineet	IND	41.71
90	SUN Ruoshui	CHN	41.70
91	JIN Weiyi	CHN	41.60
92	MAUVE Amelia	ENG	40.32
93	LIU Yupeng	CHN	39.94
94	WANG Zihao	CHN	39.74
95	WAN Jialu	CHN	39.74
96	LI Yaojia	CHN	39.33
97	LIU Xuanci	CHN	38.02
98	FENG Zirui	CHN	36.98
99	KOWALSKI Kacper	POL	35.75

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