

Editor: Mark Horton • Journalists: Barry Rigal, Jos Jacobs, Ron Tacchi Lay-out Editor: Francesca Canali • Photos: Claudio Fossati

Tuesday, 9 August 2022. Issue No 2.



In the U26/U31 combined event, the top three pairs are U26. France's Pierre Bedouet and Esteban Vallet lead the way followed by Italy's Giovanni Donati and Sebastiano Scata and Kevin Rosenberg (USA) and Bo Han Zhu (Canada). Leading the U31 race are India's Sagnik Roy and Sayantan Kushari, Finland's Maria Myllaeri and Ilona Vanni and Greece's Ioannis Oikonomopoulo and Dimitrios Konstantinos Ballokas.

The U21 field is headed by Hungary's Zsolt Argay and Mark Kemeny with Norway's Anders Brogeland and Magnus Saetre and Greece's Michael Soumplis and Iasonas-Iraklis Papaspyrou close behind.

France's Clara Bouton and Margaux Kurek Beaulieu hold sway in the U26 Women's event followed by Italy's Cristina Brusotti and Zaira Davidez and the USA's Margot and Ava Donnellan.

The U16's are topped by the India/Canada combination of Anshul Bhatt and Darwin Li with England's Aman Parekh and William Battersby and the USA's Eric and Jeff Xiao leading the chase.

#### SCHEDULE TODAY

10.00 Session 4: U26/U31 Open - U21 - U26 Women - U16 14.30 Session 5: U26/U31 Open - U21 - U26 Women - U16 17.15 Session 6: U26/U31 Open - U21 - U26 Women - U16











## **PAIRS**



## **UNDER 26 & UNDER 31**





#### **MORESCO Room**

(right after the main entrance)



#### **QUALIFICATION:**

The 48 pairs will play a full round robin (endless Howell), 47 rounds of 2 boards each. At the end the top 18 Under 26 pairs and the top 6 Under 31 pairs qualify to their separate finals.



Under 26 Final: the 18 pairs will play a full round robin (endless Howell), 17 rounds of 3 boards each.



**Under 31 Final**: the 6 pairs will play a triple full round robin (endless Howell), a total of 15 rounds, 3 boards each.



#### **TIME SCHEDULE - QUALIFICATION**

**Monday August 8th** 

10.00 - 13.00

14.30 - 19.10

**Tuesday August 9th** 

10.00 - 13.00

14.30 - 19.00



#### TIME SCHEDULE - FINAL

**Wednesday August 10th** 

10.00 - 13.00

14.30 – 19.00 (Under 31 18.15)









#### **COLONNE Room**

(Basement)



#### **QUALIFICATION:**

The 56 pairs will play a truncated round robin (truncated endless Howell), 47 rounds of 2 boards each. At the end the top 26 pairs qualify to the final.



#### **FINAL:**

The 26 pairs will play a full round robin (endless Howell), 25 rounds of 2 boards each.



#### **TIME SCHEDULE - QUALIFICATION**

#### **Monday August 8th**

10.00 - 13.00 14.30 - 19.10

#### **Tuesday August 9th**

10.00 - 13.00 14.30 - 19.00



#### **TIME SCHEDULE - FINAL**

#### **Wednesday August 10th**

10.00 - 13.00 14.30 - 19.00



## **UNDER 26 WOMEN**



#### **EUROPA Room**

(Auditorium)



#### **QUALIFICATION:**

The 17 pairs will play a triple full round robin (endless Howell), 51 rounds of 2 boards each. At the end the top 8 pairs qualify to the final.



#### FINAL:

The 8 pairs will play a double full round robin (endless Howell), 7 rounds of 4 boards each followed by 7 rounds of 3 boards each.



#### TIME SCHEDULE - QUALIFICATION

#### **Monday August 8th**

10.00 - 13.00 14.30 - 19.30

#### **Tuesday August 9th**

10.00 - 13.00 14.30 - 19.20



#### **TIME SCHEDULE - FINAL**

#### **Wednesday August 10th**

10.00 – 13.00

14.30 - 19.00





### **UNDER 16**



#### **CARIATIDI Room**

(after the main entrance, at the end of the corridor to the right)



#### **QUALIFICATION:**

The 27 pairs will play a full round robin (endless Howell), 27 rounds of 3 boards each. At the end the top 12 pairs qualify to the final.



#### **FINAL:**

The 12 pairs will play a double full round robin (endless Howell), 22 rounds of 2 boards each.



#### **TIME SCHEDULE - QUALIFICATION**

**Monday August 8th** 

10.00 - 13.00

14.30 - 19.00

**Tuesday August 9th** 

10.00 - 13.00

14.30 - 19.00



#### **TIME SCHEDULE - FINAL**

**Wednesday August 10th** 

10.00 - 13.00

14.30 - 19.00

## **PAIRS**













### CARRY OVER

In all categories a linear carry-over will be awarded to the qualifiers to Final A: the matchpoints equivalent of two tops to the first ranked, and 0 matchpoints to the last qualifier. The carry-over for the winners will be:

**UNDER 31** 8 mp

UNDER 26 WOMEN -12 mp

**UNDER 26** 32 mp

**UNDER 21** 48 mp

**UNDER 16** 20 mp

There will be no carry-over to Final B



## **TEAMS**



## **UNDER 26 & UNDER 21**





UNDER 26: MORESCO Room UNDER 21: COLONNE Room



#### **QUALIFICATION:**

In both categories the teams will play a Swiss, 8 rounds of 6 boards each. At the end the top 8 teams qualify to the KO stage.



#### **KO STAGE:**

The top three teams will pick opponents amongst the bottom four, starting with the winner of the Swiss and going down. At the end, the fourth ranked will be paired with the remaining of the bottom four. The resulting bracket will be:

#### Quarterfinals - two segments of 14 boards each

Match 1 - 1 (winner of the Swiss) vs 8 (by choice)
Match 2 - 4 (fourth ranked) vs 5 (automatically)
Match 3 - 3 (third ranked) vs 6 (by choice)
Match 4 - 2 (second ranked) vs 7 (by choice)

#### Semifinals - two segments of 14 boards each

Match 5 - winner of match 1 vs winner of match 2 Match 6 - winner of match 3 vs winner of match 4

#### Final – four segments of 14 boards each

Match 7 - winner of match 5 vs winner of match 6



#### **TIME SCHEDULE - QUALIFICATION**

#### **Thursday August 11th**

10.00 - 10.50 11.10 - 12.00 12.20 - 13.10 14.30 - 15.20 15.40 - 16.30 16.50 - 17.40 18.00 - 18.50 19.10 - 20.00



#### **TIME SCHEDULE - KO stage**

#### Friday August 12th and Saturday August 13th

10.00 - 12.00 13.30 - 15.30 16.00 - 18.00 18.20 - 20.20





## UNDER 26 WOMEN & UNDER 31





**UNDER 26 WOMEN: EUROPA Room** 

**UNDER 31: EUROPA Room** 



#### **QUALIFICATION:**

The six teams will play a full round robin, five matches of ten boards each. At the end, the top four qualify to the KO stage.



#### **KO STAGE:**

The winner of the round robin will chose its opponents between the third and fourth ranked, the other match being automatically determined. The bracket will be the following:

#### Semifinals - four segments of 14 boards each

Match 1 1 (winner of the Round Robin) vs 4 (by choice)

Match 2 2 (second ranked) vs 3 (automatically)

#### Final - four segments of 14 boards each

winner of match 1 vs winner of match 2 Match 3



#### **TIME SCHEDULE - QUALIFICATION**

#### **Thursday August 11th**

10.00 - 11.25

11.45 - 13.10

14.30 - 15.55

16.15 - 17.40

18.00 - 19.25



#### **TIME SCHEDULE - KO stage**

#### Friday August 12th and Saturday August 13th

10.00 - 12.00

13.30 - 15.30

16.00 - 18.00

18.20 - 20.20





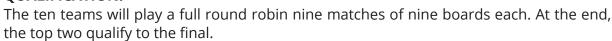




#### CARIATIDI Room



#### **QUALIFICATION:**



**UNDER 16** 



#### **FINAL:**

Final – four segments of 12 boards each



#### TIME SCHEDULE - QUALIFICATION

#### **Thursday August 11th**

10.00 - 11.25

11.45 - 13.10

14.30 - 15.55

16.15 - 17.40

18.00 - 19.25

#### **Friday August 12th**

10.00 - 11.25

11.45 - 13.10

14.30 - 15.55

16.15 - 17.40



#### **TIME SCHEDULE - FINAL**

#### **Saturday August 13th**

10.00 - 12.00

13.30 - 15.30

16.00 - 18.00

18.20 - 20.20

## **TEAMS**











### **CARRY OVER**

Here is the relevant part of the Supplemental Conditions of Contest:

9.5 Direct Knockout

A tie will be broken in favour of the team ranked higher in the Qualification Phase.



## **Partnership Desk**

If you are looking for a partner and/or teammates we are here to help!

Let a member of staff know and we will publish the details in the Bulletin.

#### LOOKING FOR A PARTNER:

- Samuel Reese Koppel is looking for a partner.
- Luca Crone & Matthew O'Farrell are searching for teammates.



## **Have you Heard the News?**

We have a terrific team of writers delivering comprehensive coverage of the Championships.



However, we cannot be at every table! If you are party to some interesting deal absent the watchful eye of one of our reporters, don't hesitate to let us know!

If you can't find one of us (Mark, Barry or Ron – don't look for Jos, he is at his desk in the Netherlands!) above ground try the Bulletin Room which is in the basement on lift level -1. (Turn left out of the lift and go through the double doors).

Photo: Barry Rigal

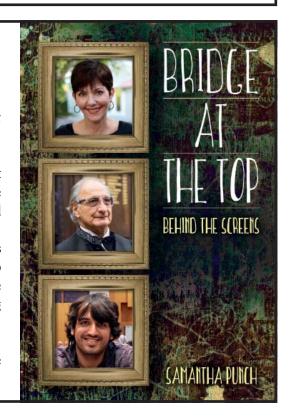
## Free for All(most)

### **Bridge at the Top**

Co-winner of the 2022 International Bridge Press Association Book of the Year award.

During her Bridge: A MindSport for All research project, sociologist Dr. Samantha Punch interviewed many of the world's top bridge personalities. The topics of these conversations were wide-ranging, and included the dynamics at the table, challenges, motivations, emotions, partnerships, teammates, skill development and gender issues. As a bonus, each of them was asked for their favourite bridge tip. Top players, coaches and even sponsors talk frankly about what life in the top echelons of bridge is all about and give the reader a revealing glimpse of what it is really like "behind the screens".

The WBF have copies here in Salsomaggiore, and (provided you are a Junior!) you can get a **FREE** copy from the Registration desk.







## Jos Jacobs - U26/U31 QUALIFICATION PAIRS SESSION ONE

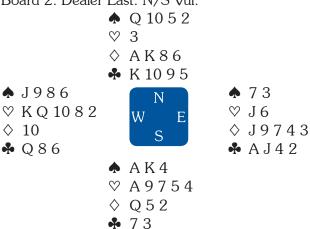
Weeks after the European Junior Teams and weeks before the World Bridge Series the international bridge community, or at least a young and therefore important part of it, is gathering in one of its favourite hangouts: Salsomaggiore Terme, the bridge resort in the heart of Italy. They would contest pairs' events over 3 days, followed by team matches over 3 days as well. All events would be staged in various age and gender categories, from under 16 till even over 26.

In a pairs' event, the journalists' interest is focused on the deals rather than on a particular match chosen as the subject of a report. Consequently, you will find some observations made while I was watching the entire session, board by board. Certainly, in a Junior event, all sorts of things can happen on even the most routine-like boards. Maybe, some examples will turn up below...

They won't on the opening board of the event, mainly because the possible sacrifice was hardly found and would have been to little avail anyway.

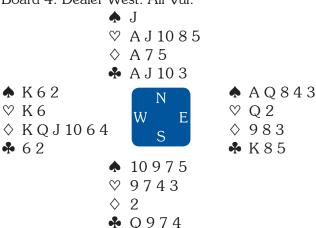
The next board already was a different story. The popular contract was 3NT by N/S which was made more often than not but one N/S pair was kind enough, I saw, to write down the score in the E/W column, thus treating themselves to a complete bottom for -400 rather than their deserved +600. For the sake of completeness, here is that board.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



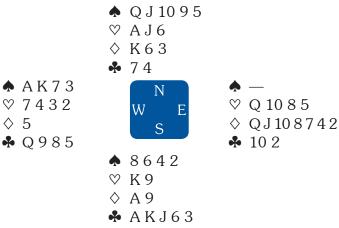
Next, we saw a slam on less than a working finesse. Good to see, in fact, that no pair bid it. Then came a board where the spades once again beat the hearts. This happened at nearly all the tables: only the newly crowned European Junior Team champions Guillemin and Boulin were handed +790. by their gentle opponents. Not that this was worth all the matchpoints: at another table, N/S had already been doubled in  $3 \% \dots$  The board:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

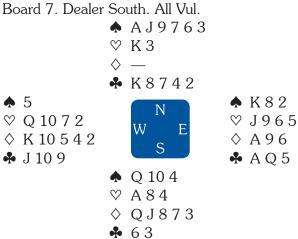


Two boards later, several West players found out that holding AKxx and having a partner who bids something might be not quite enough to defeat the opponents' spade game.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



And yet another case of premature doubling on the next board:











Well, they went down in  $4 \spadesuit$  undoubled at two tables but at the two tables where N/S were in fact doubled, the declarers both came to ten tricks. Not that this was a shared top score: at one table, E/W threw their axe at  $3\spadesuit$ , which resulted in a careful +930.

Two boards later, I once again was confronted with a side effect of my professional curiosity.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ KQ1073 ♥ J954 ♦ 852 ♣ A

**4** 4 2 ♥ KQ73 ♦ A Q 3 ♣ KQ65

♠ A 9 8 5 ♥ 1062 ♦ K 7 6 **♣** J83

♣ J 6 ♦ J 10 9 4 **4** 10 9 7 4 2

As you can see, E/W can make 4♣ with a few good guesses or...a little help from our friends who might lead a heart rather than the A. Remarkably enough, 34 was the contract at just two tables. Both times, West was the declarer and thus, North led a top spade for a score of +130 to E/W. At two other tables, the final contract was 4. E/W rightly (or wrongly?) competed over the popular 3 and...both times, South led a heart which enabled both declarers to chalk up an overtrick for +150.

Another problem was, however, what to do with this score. One of the successful pairs decided to return the compliment and thus rewarded N/S rather than themselves with a score of +150 - which was worth all the (undeserved) matchpoints for N/S.

Only one E/W pair managed to do better than +150. They doubled N/S in 3♠ and took all their allotted six tricks for +300 in E/W. ♥A and a diamond should do this job.

Only three N/S pairs, among them the winners of the morning session, India's Ghosh and Chakraborty, were in the good slam on the next board.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

**♠** A3 ♥ AQ84 ♦ AKQ8

♠ KQJ10 ♥ J96

♦ 10964 ♣ J 7

♣ A 3 2

♠ 987 ♥ K10752 ♦ J 2

♣ Q 10 9

Not all N/S pairs fully exploited the fortunate club layout on board 11.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ J8752 ♥ 953 ♦ KQ5

♣ Q 3 ♠ K93

♥ KJ642 ♦ 763

**4** 10 9

♠ A Q 10 6 4 ♥ A87

♠ 6542

♦ 753

♣ K8654

♡ 3

♣ K62

♥ Q 10

♦ A 10 9 8 2

🗣 AJ8754





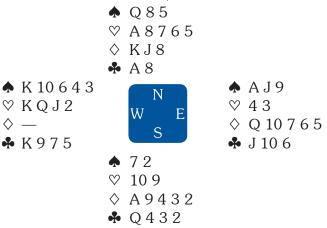




Three pairs were in  $5\clubsuit$  but nobody made it. In  $5\diamondsuit$  it is easier, as you can hardly go down. Zeitak-Khutorsky from Israel were the lucky ones who were doubled in  $4\diamondsuit$  already...good for an overtrick, +610 and all the matchpoints.

On the next board, we had a French fratricide that resulted in 3%x, down three for +800 to E/W but the auction below was even more amusing, I believe:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

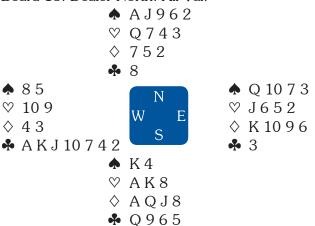


West	North	East	South
Zhu	Hansson	Rosenberg	Mann
<b>1</b> ♠	Pass	2 <b>♠</b>	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	3♡	Dble	$4 \diamondsuit$
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

There was no significant matchpoint difference between +200 and +500 about 40 or about 44 MP...

Board 13 once again turned out to be an unlucky number:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

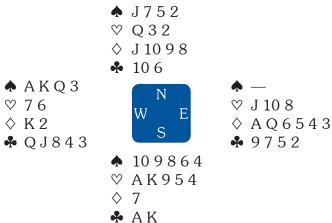


At many tables, the West players could not refrain from showing their suit and thus handed their opponents even bigger numbers than letting 3NT through would have cost them. To have any chance to

defeat 3NT, passive defence is required (beginning with three rounds of clubs is no good at all, as it squeezes partner in the process for even -630) but that will not be enough if declarer uses North's entries to take two diamond finesses. In the five-card ending that arises declarer can exit with a low club to endplay West.... Still, at about half the tables 3NT came home...

To round off this story, I go back to the theme we saw before: doubling too early. This was the penultimate board of the session.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



At the table where I was watching, I saw this auction:

West	North	East	South
Jozkowiak	Stoeckli	Mackowiak	Calmanovici
_	_	_	1 <b>^</b>
1NT	2 <b>^</b>	3♦	4 <b>♠</b>
Dble	All Pass		

Three top trumps and a non-silent partner were just enough to defeat the opponents' game. Even if you don't bid as West, you might get the chance to double  $4\spadesuit$ , as it was the contract at 10 of our 24 tables. The two unlucky E/W pairs out were too greedy and paid the price for doubling  $3\spadesuit$ . Those who saw their opponents languish in diamonds were much better off, though for some of them, it must have been a disappointment that their only +500 did not beat +530...







### **Barry Rigal** PAIRS SESSION ONE

The first session of the under-26/31 pairs gave me the opportunity to watch a few familiar faces. I started with Kevin Rosenberg, partnering Bo Han Zhu from Canada.

On the second deal the play started very well from Rosenberg's perspective, but not surprisingly he was unable to work out how the opposition had erred to convert the position.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

**♠** Q 10 5 2 ♦ AK86 ♣ K 10 9 5

♠ J986 ♥ KQ1082

♦ 10 ♣ Q86 W

♠ AK4 ♥ A 9 7 5 4 ♦ Q 5 2

**4** 73

♦	73 J6 J9743 AJ42

West	North	East	South
Pieper	Zhu	Stepper	Rosenberg
_		Pass	1 %
Pass	1 <b>^</b>	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Jonathan Pieper elected to lead a club - the eight was not an easy card to interpret. When Rosenberg governed with the 10 sitting behind Max Stepper I thought he might win the A to shift to a heart. In fact, he ducked. Charmed, Rosenberg led a spade to hand, a diamond to dummy, and ducked a heart. Back came the club six...and Stepper ducked again to let declarer score the seven!

At this point Rosenberg's easiest route to ten tricks was to strip East of major suit cards and endplay him with a spade. Of course, the spade finesse was a viable possibility as well. But Rosenberg did not work out the club layout and after cashing the  $\Diamond Q$  he exited in hearts, pitching a club from dummy. East could now win and cash two clubs. NS ended with nine tricks (not exactly a disgrace) for 26/46. The overtrick would have been worth a further 15 MP.

It was Zhu's turn in the spotlight on board six, and a momentary lapse saw him lose the chance for a huge result.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ QJ1095 ♥ A J 6

♦ K 6 3

**♠** AK73 ♥ 7432

♦ 5

♣ Q985



8642

♥ K 9 ♦ A 9

♣ AKJ63

$\spadesuit$	_
$\Diamond$	Q 10 8 5
$\Diamond$	QJ108742
•	10 2

West North **East** South Huhtamaki Zhu Koivu Rosenberg 1NT Pass 20 Pass **Pass 3** Pass All Pass 4



Kevin Rosenberg

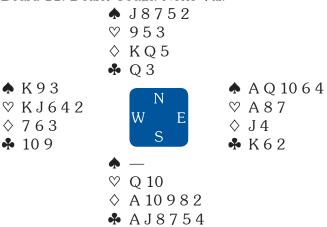


Rosenberg led the diamond five, and when dummy played low Zhu cunningly put on the queen. Fooled, declarer led a trump to dummy and tried to cash the  $\Diamond K$ . Alas Zhu followed low on the second diamond and when Rosenberg ruffed, he no reason not to lead a club as apparently requested, and now declarer was back to 10 tricks.

Of course if declarer handles his entries better he can always come to ten tricks, but after the  $\Diamond K$  was ruffed the defenders could have cashed two trumps and exited in hearts for a sure down one. The difference for declarer between 420 (26MP) and -50 was just under half a top.

After eight deals I switched to watching Harrison Luba and Zach Grossack. Board 11 saw some interesting theoretical issues in the auction.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Ghosh	Grossack	Chakraborty	Luba
	_	_	<b>1♣</b>
1♡	1 <b>♠</b>	2♣	$2\Diamond$
Pass	2 %	3♡	Pass
Pass	4 <b>.</b>	Pass	5 <b>%</b>
All Pass			

Playing against the pair who were leading after one session, Luba had a problem with decision which minor to open, and took the more aggressive position to treat his hand as worth a reverse. Now N/S, an unfamiliar partnership were not sure if direct preference to  $3\clubsuit$  would be non-forcing (my vote is yes but that North is not worth any more than that since the free  $1\spadesuit$  call promises a little something). Then when Grossack backed into clubs, after the cuebid, could Luba pass – and was there any way to reach the playable  $5\diamondsuit$  as opposed to the lousy  $5\clubsuit$ ? Luba could of course have avoided the trump losers but did not handle the trumps correctly, and down one was only worth 9% instead of 80% for +400.

For the last six deals I followed Donati-Scata. On the first exhibit declarer had the chance to bring home 10 tricks after a not unfavorable lead, but he failed to draw the correct inferences, and lost his chance.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul. ♠ A 10 7 6 5 3 A♦ K 10 6 ♣ 542 ★ K982 ♠ Q ♥ J84 ♥ Q 10 3 2 ♦ Q94 ♦ J8753 ♣ A 9 7 **♣** J83 **♠** J4 ♥ K9765 ♦ A 2 ♣ KQ106

Open Roc	om		
West	North	East	South
Scata	Selvaraj	Pinto	Donati
	_		1 %
Pass	1 <b>♠</b>	Pass	2♣
Pass	2\$	Pass	2 %
Pass	2 <b>^</b>	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4 🖍
All Pass			

Pinto might well have rebid 2NT at his third turn and raised spades at his next turn but  $4 \spadesuit$  was a normal if unhealthy spot. Scata resisted the temptation to lead a diamond, instead selecting a trump, an interesting choice. After declarer took his ace it looks natural to cash the  $\heartsuit A$  and play a club to dummy's king. West would do best to duck, whereupon after the bad spade break comes to light declarer will probably have to guess clubs.

In fact, Selvaraj won the spade lead and unblocked hearts, ruffed a diamond in dummy and pitched a club on the heart king. Perfectly sensible, but now declarer had to ruff a heart before leading a club up to set up the trump reduction. Instead he played the •K, and Donati seized his chance by winning and returning the suit. Declarer could take one ruff to hand. But in the four-card ending when he exited in trumps, Donati could win and exit in hearts, and take the last two tricks with his spade tenace.

On the next deal Donati presented his opponents with what seemed an insuperable problem. what do you think?



Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ K 10 8 5 4
♥ J 10 9
♦ A J
♣ K 7 2

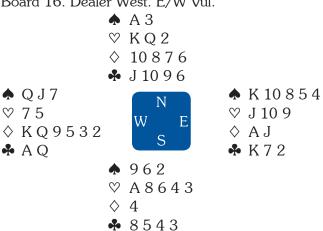
#### Open Room

- I	- F			
West	North	East	South	
Scata	Selvaraj	Pinto	Donati	
1NT*	Pass	2♡(♠)	Pass	
2 <b>^</b>	Pass	3NT	Pass	
<b>4</b>	All Pass			

#### 1NT strong

North led a top club and Donati took quite some time to win the first trick with the ace as South discouraged. Then he advanced the AQ and North won and played back a club. Declarer won and cashed three more spades. When North discarded a diamond declarer claimed...and this was the full sad story.

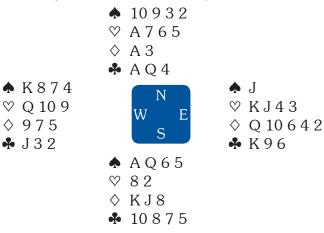
Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



North must have felt snakebit to discover that declarer had opened a 14-count and that had he kept diamonds he would have pre vented declarer from running the suit. Of course a diamond lead actually sets the game, and it was East who was declarer at many tables.

On the very next deal declarer violated Rigal's cardinal rule "When you want to ruff things don't draw trumps'.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Donati	Sarkar	Scata	Rodrigues
	1	$1 \diamondsuit$	1 <b>♠</b>
Pass	2 <b>♠</b>	Pass	3♣
Pass	<b>4</b>	All Pass	
All Pass			

Rodrigues had already violated Rigal's cardinal rule number two: "ten-counts do not make game tries" because in a strong no-trump base facing 12-14 only Meckwell can both bid and make games; and you are neither Rodwell nor Meckstroth...

But having said that,  $4 \spadesuit$  on a diamond lead might well come home. Say you win in hand and duck a diamond. If the defense shift to a trump – the jack, queen and king for a second spade. You win in dummy and take the club finesse. Back comes a diamond and you unblock clubs, play ace and ruff a heart, pitch the club on the diamond jack, and still have two trump tricks.

At the table declarer won the diamond cheaply and played a heart to the ace. Then he led a low trump

to the jack and queen. Donati ducked and now declarer fell from grace by leading out ♠A. too late, he ducked a heart. Donati went up with the queen (just in case) drew trump, and declarer's ten tricks had reduced eight.







### **Mark Horton** The Chocolate Box

The character played by Tom Hanks in the movie Forest Gump has the line: "Mama always said life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." When you sit down to watch a bridge session you can appreciate the wisdom behind these words. Join me for session 2 of the U26/U31 pairs. 46 matchpoints were up for grabs on each deal.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 7 3 2 ♥ 1084 ♦ J95 ♣ A 10 5

**♠** Q 6 5 ♥ A 9 ♦ AK 107

♣ K 9 7 2

3NT

**♦** K4

♣ J

♥ KQJ53

♦ Q8632

AJ98 762

West's 2NT rebid put South on lead and he went with the 46. When declarer called for dummy's two, East won with the jack and was happy to cash his winners and claim 11 tricks, +460 and 10/36. If declarer plays a low spade at trick two South would have to be alert, taking the ace and playing a second club.

No-one recorded +490, but one EW pair recorded +920 for 0/46.

**♦** 82

♥ A 4

♣ A K 10 4

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ KJ95 ♥ KQ8753  $\Diamond$  2 **4** 06

♠ A Q 10 7 ♥ 10962 ♦ A 4 3

**4** 73

643  $\bigcirc$ J

♦ KQ76 ♣ J9852

♦ 4 ♠ Q 8 6 4 3				
North	East	South		
Scata	Fresa	Donati		
Pass	$1 \heartsuit$	Pass		
Pass	2NT	Pass		
	♣ Q 8  North  Scata  Pass	North East Scata Fresa Pass $1 \vee$		



All Pass

Sebastiano Scatà

West	North	East	South
Lam	Kikuchi	Hung	Himo
			Pass
Pass	1 %	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2 %	Dble	Pass
2 <b>^</b>	Pass	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

#### 1NT Forcing

East's double appeared to have backfired when West inevitably bid spades, but South refused to go quietly.

West led the A and continued with the seven, declarer putting up dummy's king and playing a heart to the jack. When that held he played a spade and West took the queen and exited with the  $\clubsuit$ 7, East winning with the king and switching to the  $\Diamond J$ for the king and ace. Back came the  $\lozenge 8$  and declarer won with the queen and played a club to the queen, East winning and cashing out for four down, -200. That proved to be worth 4/42.

♠ Q 7

♥ Q 10 2



#### Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

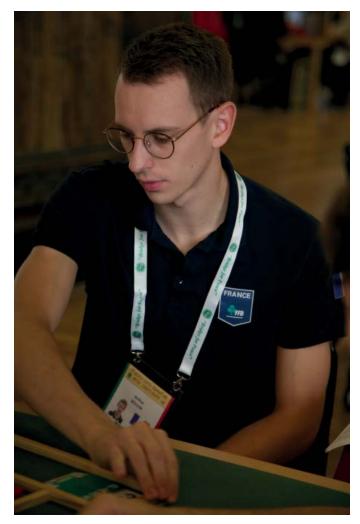
A 10 9 4 3♡ A 9♦ 10 9 6♣ 10 5 3

★ K 8 5 2
 ♡ 8 7 6 5
 ◇ 8 5
 ❖ A J 2

♡ KJ43◇ Q7♣ KQ984

West	North	East	South
Wood	Chakraborty	Koppel	Ghosh
	Pass	1\$	Pass
1♡	1 🛧	Dble*	Rdbl*
2 %	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2	All Pass	

Dble Support double



Arthur Boulin

East started with three top diamonds and when declarer correctly ruffed with dummy's jack West overruffed and switched to the  $\heartsuit 5$  for the nine, ten and jack. Declarer came to hand with the  $\heartsuit$  A and played a club for the king and ace. When West switched to the  $\clubsuit 2$  declarer elected to play dummy's ten and East won with the queen. At this point a club will be a killer as East's  $\spadesuit 7$  is still in the game (declarer could have avoided this by winning the spade switch with the ace and playing another spade). However, East exited with a diamond and declarer could overruff West's  $\spadesuit 5$  and draw the outstanding trumps, dummy's  $\heartsuit K$  taking care of the losing club, +110. That proved to be a complete top, 46/0. Going one down would have been 11/35.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul. **♠** 1082 ♥ 965 ♦ 6 ♣ A98653 ♠ KJ9754 ♠ A Q ♥ KQ4 ♥ A8 W ♦ K987 ♦ AJ1054 ♣ QJ104 63 ♥ J10732 ♦ Q32 ♣ K72

West	North	East	South
Roy	Kar	Kushari	Das
_	3♣	3NT	Pass
4♡*	Pass	4 <b>^</b>	Pass
6♣*	Pass	<b>7♠</b>	All Pass

4♥ Transfer

6♣ First round club control

I always enjoy deals where a side bids a slam without resorting to Blackwood and managing that on a grand slam is doubly meritorious.

South led the  $\clubsuit6$  and declarer won with dummy's ace, unblocked the queen, ruffed the  $\clubsuitQ$  and drew the outstanding trump. A heart to dummy was followed by another club ruff and the top hearts. When North followed to both of them declarer played a diamond to dummy's ace and ran the  $\diamondsuit J$  for a splendid +2210 and a shared top, 1/45.



Board 11 Dealer South. None Vul.

**♠** A 5 ♥ AQJ10864 ♦ 85 ♣ J4 ♠ KJ64 ♠ 109873 ♥ 9752 ♥ K3 W ♦ 7 ♦ 93 ♣ A 10 5 2 ♣ KQ86 **♠** Q 2 ♦ AKQJ10642 **9** 9 7 3

West	North	East	South
Bedouet	Guillemin	Vallet	Boulin
_	_	_	3NT
All Pass			

West eschewed the traditional lead of the  $\clubsuit$ A in favour of the  $\spadesuit$ 4. Declarer gave it a look and went up with dummy's ace for +430 and 41/5. No one took 11 tricks.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

**♠** A 6 ♥ KQ974 ♦ 92 ♣ AKQ10 ♠ KQJ10982 ↑ 7543 ♥ 86 ♡ 3 W ♦ 7 ♦ QJ1085 **♣** 652 ♣ J43 ♥ AJ1052 ♦ AK643 **987** 

West	North	East	South
Bedouet	Guillemin	Vallet	Boulin
<b>4</b>	Dble	5 <b>^</b>	5NT*
Pass	6♣	6 <b>♠</b>	7♦
Pass	7NT	All Pass	

If North interpreted 5NT as showing two places to play then  $6^{\bullet\bullet}$  was eminently sensible. However, on the next round it is better to bid  $7^{\circ}$  rather than 7NT. There was no way to generate a thirteenth trick, -100 and 6/40.

The pairs who were allowed to play in 7% scored 39/7 while collecting 1400/1100 from  $7\spadesuit$  was worth 28/18 and 22/24.

Herman kindly supplied this auction from the U21 event:

West	North	East	South
Kurlit	Lombardi	Kuflowski	Carletti
<b>4</b>	Dble	5 <b>^</b>	5NT*
Pass	6♡	6 <b>4</b>	7♡
Pass	Pass	<b>7</b> ♠	Dble
Pass	7NT	All Pass	

A brilliant example of defensive bidding.

On Board 13 East held

♠ A K 8 2  $\heartsuit$  Q 9 3  $\diamondsuit$  8 7 5 3 ♣ 10 5 after two passes South opened 1♣ and West overcalled  $1\heartsuit$ . East bid 2♣ and West rebid  $2\diamondsuit$ . What should East do now? Although it is rarely wrong to raise when you have four-card support, at this from of scoring it looks clear to continue with  $2\heartsuit$ . Partner's hand was

♠ - ♡KJ1084 ♦KJ96 ♣J63.

Accurate defence restricts you to eight tricks in diamonds while nine are available in hearts. +140 scored only 31/15 as six pairs made a game in hearts and some N/S pairs went for a number. Loosing 100 as E/W gave NS 38/8.

Looking at the leader board at the end of the session it is worth noting that virtually all my featured pairs were at the business end of the table.



Theo Guillemin



# O PAIRS - UNDER 26 / UNDER 31 O

1	BEDOUET Pierre	VALLET Esteban	FRA - FRA	62.03
2	DONATI Giovanni	SCATA Sebastiano	ITA - ITA	61.94
3	ROSENBERG Kevin	ZHU Bo Han	USA - CAN	61.41
4	ROY Sagnik	KUSHARI Sayantan	IND - IND	59.04
5	MYLLAERI Maria	VANNI Ilona	FIN - FIN	57.72
6	EVACIC Emanuel	BILUSIC Ivan	CRO - CRO	56.79
7	OIKONOMOPOULOS Ioannis	BALOKAS Dimitrios K	GRE - GRE	56.77
8	VAN OOSTEN Sibrand	FREEMAN Jacob	NED - CAN	56.17
9	HANSSON Erik	MANN Castor	SWE - SWE	55.48
10	ZEITAK Aviv	KHUTORSKY Nir	ISR - ISR	55.10
11	BOULIN Arthur	GUILLEMIN Theo	FRA - FRA	54.63
12	THOMPSON Jamie	SPOONER Andrew	AUS - AUS	54.40
13	GHOSH Soumadeep	CHAKRABORTY Arya	IND - IND	53.71
14	GROSSACK Zachary	LUBA Harrison Anders	USA - USA	52.93
15	DAS Shouvik	BAR Surajit	IND - IND	52.10
16	PABST Philipp	LITTERST Maximilian	GER - GER	52.08
17	PIEPER Jonathan	STEPPER Maximilian Niklas	GER - GER	51.90
18	KIKUCHI Tadahiro	HINO Takayuki	JPN - JPN	51.87
19	DOERMER Felix	FARWIG Sven Niklas	GER - GER	51.60
20	LAM Alfred	HUNG Tsz Fung Harry	HKG - HKG	51.11
21	RODRIGUES Taral Emmanuel L	SARKAR Soham	IND - IND	50.45
22	STOECKLI Jeremie	CALMANOVICI Alessandro	SUI - SUI	50.14
23	BONIN Louis	GUICHET Thomas	FRA - FRA	50.03
24	SONG Yihan	YAMAZAKI Nana	JPN - JPN	49.44
25	BELLICAUD Luc	GUTH Romaric	FRA - FRA	49.40
26	FRAGOLA Maxence	TABATA Nao	FRA - FRA	49.24
27	KOIVU Oskari	HUHTAMAKI Hermanni	FIN - FIN	48.79
28	WU Michael	CHEUNG Wai Lam	HKG - HKG	48.48
29	MACKOWIAK Karol	JOZKOWIAK Lukasz	POL - POL	47.65
30	YUGE Hirokana	YAMADA Ryoichi	JPN - JPN	47.55
31	CIESLINSKI Jan	JANKOWSKI Mikolaj	POL - POL	47.54
32	FRESA Vincenzo Beniamino	LOPREVITE Andrea	ITA - ITA	47.51
33	DRNOVSEK Tina	STIGLIC Mihaela	SLO - SLO	47.19
34	KAR Souvik	DAS Pritam	IND - IND	46.96
35	TOMIS Zdenek	DOLANSKA Veronika	CZE - CZE	46.46
36	RUS Gregor	KUKULJAN Teo	SLO - SLO	46.45
37	CHAN Ki Hang	LEE Sheung Him	HKG - HKG	46.41
38	TOMLIN Joshua	FLICKER Damon	AUS - AUS	46.14
39	INOUE Yoshitake	YAGISHITA Kotaro	JPN - JPN	45.68
40	GAIOTTI Alvaro	GIUBILO Gabriele	ITA - ITA	44.77
41	DRAGHI Luca	COTTONE Marco Giuseppe	ITA - ITA	44.03
42	UMEHARA Nagisa	NISHINO Kenta	JPN - JPN	43.87
43	GUE David	SIMPSON Jamie	AUS - AUS	43.50
44	KOPPEL Samuel Reese	WOOD Ethan	USA - USA	43.36
45	GABRIEL Richard	SYKOROVA Emilia	SVK - SVK	41.32
46	PINTO Johann Jose	SELVARAJ Dinesh Babu	IND - IND	41.08
47	INAMI Terushi	SAITO Tatsunosuke	JPN - JPN	39.50
48	MARINI Valerio	GALLO Francesco	ITA - ITA	38.08
+0	IVIALUNI VAICHO	UNLLO ITATICESCO	114-114	٥٥.٥٥



## O PAIRS - WOMEN UNDER 26

1	BOUTON Clara	KUREK BEAULIEU Margaux	FRA - FRA	59.64
2	DONNELLAN Margot	DONNELLAN Ava	USA - USA	58.16
3	KAMAL PATEL Vidhya	BALIRAM GURJAR Kalpana	IND - IND	57.24
4	BRUSOTTI Cristina	DAVIDE Zaira	ITA - ITA	56.91
5	SCHLUMBERGER Wilhelmine	BELLOY Constance	FRA - FRA	56.38
6	CAPOBIANCO Sophia	DALPOZZO Eleonora	ITA - ITA	53.16
7	DALPOZZO Valentina	DALPOZZO Federica	ITA - ITA	52.81
8	INDREBO Thea Lucia	BREKKE Kaja	NOR - NOR	51.61
9	YEN Shao-Ting	CHENG Yung-Yun	TPE - TPE	49.10
10	TONELLI Magda	MONTESANTI Albertica	ITA - ITA	48.68
11	PELAGGI Maddalena	PELAGGI Annachiara	ITA - ITA	48.14
12	LORENZINI Virginia	ZACCARO Alessia	ITA - ITA	46.99
13	KJENSLI Agnethe Hansen	STATLE Mia Eline	NOR - NOR	46.09
14	BHIMANAIK Rekha	BASU Subhashree	IND - IND	46.03
15	YANG Hsin-Jung	CHEN Wei-Shou	TPE - TPE	42.12
16	DI MAURO Roberta	ROTOLICO Alessia	ITA - ITA	39.06
17	CHANG An-Chi	CHUANG Ho-Chuan	TPE - TPE	38.28







## **PAIRS - UNDER 21**

	_			
1	ARGAY Zsolt	KEMENY Mark	HUN - HUN	61.81
2	BROGELAND Anders	SAETRE Magnus	NOR - NOR	60.99
3	SOUMPLIS Michail	PAPASPYROU Iasonas-iraklis	GRE - GRE	59.38
4	ABRAGI Andreas	HEIBERG-EVENSTAD Nicolai	SWE - NOR	58.68
5	MORGAN Gilbert	LUKE - PAREDI Jack	AUS - AUS	57.45
6	LAHRMANN Christian	ROMBAUT Leo	DEN - FRA	57.17
7	XU Michael	KOLESNIK Finn	USA - USA	57.17
8	GOOR Ronald	FRIESEN Xavier	NED - NED	56.73
9	ROCHES Maxence	BENS Clement	FRA - FRA	56.40
10	LICHTENSTEIN Ivar	HJORTH WARLENIUS Harry	SWE - SWE	55.88
11	FARWIG Ole	FAUPEL Jonas	GER - GER	55.78
12	ROSE Henry	LA CHAPELLE Imogen	ENG - ENG	55.77
13	STASIK Michal	BAK Wojciech	POL - POL	55.47
14	PETELKO Lia	RETTER Koren	ISR - ISR	55.14
15	AUSTAD Marius Dalemark	OEBERG Ida Marie	NOR - NOR	55.02
16	TOESSE Thomas	LANDSVIK Are Borgar	NOR - NOR	54.83
17	GUENDEL Marius	SCHWALBACH Kathrin	GER - GER	54.01
18	LIN Xuan-da	CHEN Cian-Han	TPE - TPE	53.58
19	CARLETTI Alessandro	LOMBARDI Matteo	ITA - ITA	53.50
20	BEDFORD Charlotte	ANOYRKATIS Venetia	ENG - ENG	53.28
21	GE Brandon	SCHIRESON Olivia	USA - USA	53.02
22	FEGARTY Jamie	FEGARTY Liam	ENG - ENG	52.94
23	CRONE Luca	O'FARRELL Matthew	IRL - IRL	52.76
24	FU Ryan	WU Han	USA - CAN	52.56
25	MSIKA Daniel	MOSKOVITZ Ido	ISR - ISR	52.52
26	HE Cindy	CHENG Ziyu (Max)	CAN - CAN	52.11
27	SINCLAIR Theodore Cosmo	CATER James	ENG - ENG	51.93
28	KURLIT Franciszek	KUFLOWSKI Kacper	POL - POL	51.50
		SLIWOWICZ Yonatan		
29	SABBAH Ofek		ISR - ISR	51.38
30	LOMBARDI Antonio	GARDENGHI Oslo	ITA - ITA	51.11
31	TOPPER Lara	ROSE Jacob	AUS - AUS	50.92
32	PRAJJWAL -	CHOWDHURY Tilakraj	IND - IND	50.82
33	GRAS Szymon	PILAT Jakub	POL - POL	50.76
34	BORTAK Peter	KENTOS Simon	SVK - SVK	50.41
35	PYSZKO Adam	LYSEK Matyas	CZE - CZE	50.05
36	SYU Pin Yao	SYU Liang Yu	TPE - TPE	50.03
37	NAWROCKI Jakub	CHALUPNICZAK Wiktor	POL - POL	49.03
38	FRIESEN Gabor	ESSINK Jorn	NED - NED	47.43
39	NORMAN Lucy	FURNESS Tom	ENG - ENG	47.19
40	KAPIRIS Dimitrios	SKORDAS Panagiotis	GRE - GRE	46.87
41	ABE Ryusuke	KAYAMA Yu	JPN - JPN	46.29
42	ZABRADI Benjamin	SELMECI David	HUN - HUN	45.49
43	SINCLAIR Raffy	BARNETT Rufus	ENG - ENG	44.41
44	XIAO Yuqi	SHIMADA Kentaro	JPN - JPN	44.16
45	KRASA Mikulas	ROMANOWSKI Cenek	CZE - CZE	44.01
46	GARCIA Silvia	ARREAGA ESTEVEZ Maria Raphaela	ECU - ECU	43.64
47	HUANG Ya Hsuan	WU Ruo Xin	TPE - TPE	43.37
48	RAMAZZOTTI Giacomo	SANMARTINO Filippo	ITA - ITA	42.36
49	SOTORP Nicolai	SERRANO SOTOMAYOR Renata	ECU - ECU	41.94
50	PACELAT Martin	KURYGIN Konstantin	CRO - CRO	41.10
51	BOREVKOVIC Vlatko	MIKEC Marko	CRO - CRO	41.02
52	VACHTARCIKOVA Nikol	DROZD Matej	CZE - CZE	40.98
53	CHEN Quan	JIANG Kevin	CAN - USA	40.23
54	OLMER Adam	VASICKOVA Barbora	CZE - CZE	38.07
55	LIU Garrett	CHIANG Donnie	CAN - CAN	36.39
56	PERALTA Denisse	SALAZAR MACIAS Andres	ECU - ECU	22.39
20	I FIAUFIA DEIII33E	SUITALA MIACIAS ALIULES	LCO - LCO	۷۷.۵۶



## PAIRS - UNDER 16

1	BHATT ANSHUL	LI Darwin	IND - CAN	65.55
2	PAREKH Aman	BATTERSBY William	ENG - ENG	64.95
3	XIAO Eric	XIAO Jeff	USA - USA	63.51
4	ZHANG Brian	CHEN Andrew	USA - USA	63.39
5	BUKAT Aleks	TROJAK Jan	POL - POL	61.96
6	RECICAROVA Karolina	VACHTARCIK Lukas	CZE - CZE	60.14
7	GOOR Martijn	KLARENBEEK Wout	NED - NED	58.77
8	OSEN Einar	AUSTAD Kristian Dalemark	NOR - NOR	58.39
9	BEN GUIGUI Costa Theodore	KUBAT Frantisek	GRE - CZE	57.18
10	KLIMIUK Milena	KISIELEWSKI Kacper	POL - POL	57.08
11	PEDMANSON Albert	VAHK Jasper	EST - EST	56.77
12	CHOWDHURY Tirtharaj	MUTHUSWAMY Nachiketa	IND - IND	54.80
13	STEZALA Franciszek	MICHALSKI Jakub	POL - POL	54.60
14	GE Kayden	CHEN Charlie	USA - USA	51.84
15	ZAIDENBERG GATT Aviv Leonardo	ZAIDENBERG GATT Sophie	ISR - ISR	50.99
16	AGUILAR Christopher Omar	BALLERINO LEIGH Sofia	ECU - ECU	50.44
17	KOTEWICZ Ignacy	WOJTOWICZ Antoni	POL - POL	49.12
18	DUTERTE Gregoire	ROULLE Xavier	FRA - FRA	47.44
19	TARANTO Roberto Domenico	DE ANGELIS Matteo	ITA - ITA	47.44
20	BRADKIN Thomas	BRADKIN Andrew	ENG - ENG	43.59
21	JAHAGIRDAR Rashi	GOYAL Paavan	IND - IND	36.69
22	BERNAL Isabela	BERNAL Daniela	ECU - ECU	35.13
23	PACE Gabriele	MIOZZI Emanuele Massimo	ITA - ITA	34.62
24	CHAN Vivian Sze-Ching	CHAN Cindy Sze-Wing	ECU - ECU	34.51
25	PILAT Marek	DROZD Jonas	CZE - CZE	34.29
26	ZUNIGA URQUIZA Chiara	JARAMILLO BALSECA Emily Sofia	ECU - ECU	29.03
27	SUEUR Zelie	CAYLA Lucile	FRA - FRA	26.12

