# 777 WORLD YOUTH TRANSMATTONAL



# BRIDGE CHAMPION





### DAILY BULLETIN

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

Thursday, 11 August 2022. Issue No 4.

# We Salute the Winners



#### **OPEN UNDER 26**

- 1. Sibrand Van Oosten (Netherlands) Jacob Freeman (Canada)
- **2.** Arthur Boulin (France) Theo Guillemin (France)
- 3. Emanuel Evacic (Croatia) Ivan Bilusic (Croatia)



#### **WOMEN UNDER 26**

- 1. Clara Bouton (France) Margaux Kurek Beaulieu (France)
- 2. Vidhya Kamal Patel (India) Kalpana Baliram Gurjar (India)
- 3. Federica Dalpozzo (Italy) Valentina Dalpozzo (Italy)



#### **OPEN UNDER 21**

- 1. Michael Xu (USA) Finn Kolesnik (USA)
- **2.** Zsolt Argay (Hungary) Mark Kemeny (Hungary)
- 3. Christian Lahrmann (Denmark) Leo Rombaut (France)



#### **OPEN UNDER 16**

- 1. Anshul Bhatt (India) Darwin Li (Canada)
- 2. Aman Parekh (England) William Battersby (England)
- 3. Martijn Goor (Netherlands) Wout Klarenbeek (Netherlands)



#### **OPEN UNDER 31**

- **1.** Roy Sagnik (India) Sayantan Kushari (India)
  - Jamie Thompson (Australia) Andrew Spooner (Australia)
- 3. loannis Oikonomopoulos (Greece) Dimitrios K. Balokas (Greece)

Congratulations to all the new World Champions and medalists! Netherlands, Canada, USA, France and India took gold medals, the latter securing 3 of them.

Also on the podium were: Australia, Croatia, Denmark, England, Greece, Hungary & Italy











### **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

At the end of the qualification stage a Captains' meeting will be held to determine the KO brackets. The time varies from category to category, yet, it is foreseen at around 20.30 for Under 26 and Under 21.





## 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

Match 3 - winner of match 1 vs winner of match 2



#### **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

At the end of the qualification stage a Captains' meeting will be held to determine the KO brackets. The time varies from category to category, yet, it is foreseen at around 7.45 for Under 31 and Under 26 Women.









### **UNDER 16**



#### **CARIATIDI Room**



#### **QUALIFICATION:**

The eleven teams will play a Swiss, five matches of nine boards each. At the end, the top four qualify to the KO stage.



#### **KO STAGE:**

The winner of the Swiss 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 12 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 12 boards each

Match 3 - winner of match 1 vs winner of match 2



#### 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

10.00 - 12.00

13.30 - 15.30

16.00 - 18.00

18.20 - 20.20

#### Saturday August 13th - FINAL

10.00 - 12.00

13.30 - 15.30

16.00 - 18.00

18.20 - 20.20

At the end of the qualification stage a Captains' meeting will be held to determine the KO brackets. The time varies from category to category, yet, it is foreseen at around 7.45 for Under 16.

## **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.

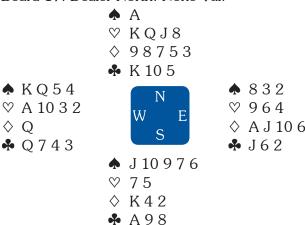




# Ron Tacchi Pairs Round 6 Under 26/31

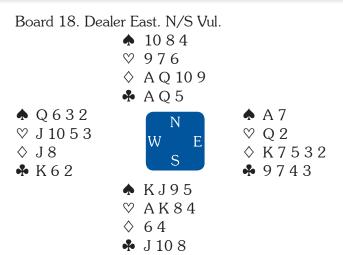
The sixth and final session of the Pairs qualifying would determine who would play in the final. The session consisted of just ten boards, but the Great Shuffler gave us some hands of interest including (spoiler alert) a grand slam. Even with the possibility of some swings, the top of the order only changed marginally.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Dolanska	Nishino	Tomis	Umehara
_	$1 \diamondsuit$	Pass	1 <b>♠</b>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

North's hand does not fill one with joy, as if you open 10, what are you going to rebid over the probable response of 1\(\hbla?\) Neither 1NT nor 20 seem adequately to describe your hand and no other call seems possible. If you are using an opening 14 for your weak no-trump opening and 1♦ as unbalanced then a rebid of 1NT will be your preferred response, as was the case here. It appears that South then used XYZ to subside into  $2\diamondsuit$ . West could no longer be restrained from entering the auction with a Double. There was nowhere for East to go, if he made a bid then he was probably going for 500 (2 $\heartsuit$  or 2NT are not a pretty sight) and passing looked the least unattractive option. As long as North made eight tricks, he was sure to achieve 95%; the match-point score would not have changed whether he made 8, 9, (as is the case here) or 10 tricks.



West	North	East	South
Dolanska	Nishino	Tomis	Umehara
	_	Pass	<b>1</b> ♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

North was firmly of the opinion that he had an opening bid; and given that his partner had opened the bidding and thus game should be bid. East found the good lead of the queen of hearts, taken in dummy. A small diamond to the queen lost to the king and the heart attack was continued and ducked to West's  $\heartsuit 10$ . Declarer took the club switch in hand with the ♣Q and now fell from grace when he crossed to the king of hearts to continue playing on diamonds. Now he had set up a heart trick for the defence and when he attacked spades he had to play the king to bring home his contract. Unfortunately, he finessed against the queen and so went one down. Had he not cashed the  $\heartsuit K$  then he would have made his contract however he played the spades. 11 out of 14 declarers made their no-trump game. Failure gave 95% to the opposition.

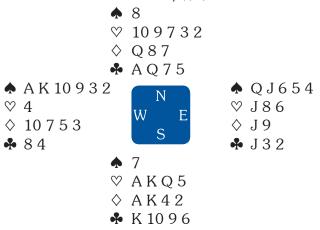
West	North	East	South
Bar	Pieper	Das	Stepper
_	_	Pass	1
Pass	1♠*	Pass	1NT
Pass	2 <b>%</b>	Pass	2◊*
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

At this table North took a slower approach. The 1 bid was a transfer to no-trumps and then XYZ was invoked to invite partner to bid game with a maximum. He was in the company of eight other pairs who stopped short of game. All of them made



nine, as did declarer here, or ten tricks. Nine tricks were worth 24% and ten tricks worth an extra 20%.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



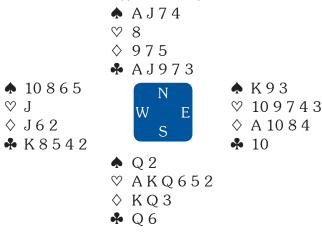
West	North	East	South
Guth	Thompson	Bellicaud	Spooner
_	_	_	$1 \diamondsuit$
2 <b>♠</b>	Dble	3♠	Dble
Pass	4 %	All Pass	

After North had shown in principle four hearts and some values with his negative double South, with a four-loser hand, might have considered a further move but was content to rest in game and not make a further move. The sight of dummy might well have led to South questioning his bidding judgement, as 12 tricks could be claimed after a couple of tricks had been played.

West	North	East	South
Stoeckli	Rodrigues	Calmanovici	Sarkar
_	_	_	$1 \diamondsuit$
2 <b>♠</b>	Dble	3♠	6♡
All Pass			

Here, South was made of sterner stuff and took a direct approach, believing partner to have the values that had been advertised. If you wanted a more scientific auction then perhaps South's second bid could have been Four Spades - a cue-bid in support of hearts. After that North could cue-bid the ace of clubs and when neither player could cuebid a first-round control in spades the auction would finish in the small slam in hearts. Bidding the slam was worth 74% but languishing in game, as eight pairs did, scored 50% less.

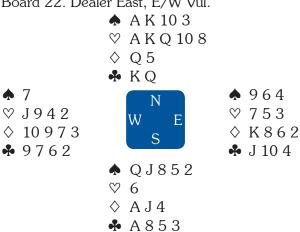
Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.



West	North	East	South
Stoeckli	Rodrigues	Calmanovici	Sarkar
Pass	Pass	<b>1♠!</b>	2 %
<b>3</b> ♠	Double	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

East's third in hand psych caused South to play in a no hope Four Hearts rather than in no-trumps. No doubt North was hoping partner would interpret his double as for penalties. I suspect that many partnerships might need to firm up their agreements as to the meaning of the double but the default would surely be responsive?

Board 22. Dealer East, E/W Vul.



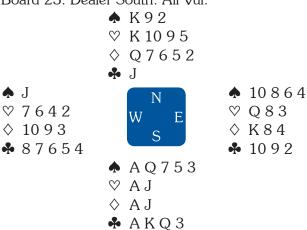
West	North	East	South
Balokas	Doermer	Oikonomopoulos	s Farwig
	_	Pass	1 <b>♠</b>
Pass	2♡	Pass	2 <b>♠</b>
Pass	<b>3♠</b>	Pass	<b>4</b>
Pass	4NT	Pass	5 <b>^</b>
Pass	7NT	All Pass	



I suspect North was idly considering how to describe his hand but was rudely awakened from his reverie when South found an opening bid; so the bidding quickly escalated to the grand slam in no-trumps. You have twelve tricks on top and a myriad of chances for the thirteenth, the question is which is the best line. At this table West came under immense pressure when the spade suit was cashed, and at some point he discarded a heart, after which declarer was home. To have any chance of beating the contract he must discard all of his diamonds, but then a Vienna coup in the diamond suit will squeeze him mercilessly in the round suits. One very good line is to win the opening lead, unblock the club suit, cash five rounds of spades discarding a heart, cash the ace of diamonds, and then the ace of clubs. In the four-card ending dummy has a heart,  $\Diamond Jx$  and the club eight, while you have ♥AKQ10 in hand.

You will succeed whenever the  $\heartsuit J$  drops (about 35%), or the long heart is with either the king of diamonds, or the long clubs; or failing that, you may receive a defensive discarding error. Ten Pairs played in the spade grand slam and the other fourteen in no-trumps of which three failed. The spade contract was worth 33% and no-trumps 78%.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Hino	Jozkowiak	Kikuchi	Mackowiak
			1♣
Pass	1♡	Pass	2 <b>♠</b>
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4◊*
Pass	4♡*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♡*
Pass	5NT*	Pass	6♡*
Pass	6 <b>♠</b>	All Pass	

After what I suspect was a Polish Club auction a sound contract was reached. West led the jack of spades taken in dummy with the king and a second round exposed the 4-1 split. A third round was taken

and dummy entered with the jack of clubs to take a successful diamond finesse and a claim. Would a slightly better line have been at trick four play three rounds of hearts with the chance of ruffing out the queen of hearts? If it did not succeed you still have the diamond finesse in reserve.

West	North	East	South
		_	2 <b>♣</b>
Pass	$2\diamondsuit$	Pass	2 <b>♠</b>
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	$4 \diamondsuit$
Pass	4NT	Pass	5 <b>%</b>
Pass	5♦	Pass	6 <b>%</b>
Pass	6♡	Pass	6 <b>♠</b>
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

After a long auction to which I am not privy to the meaning of all the bids other than early in the auction spades had been agreed as the trump suit. Again the lead was the \$\int J\$ and declarer won in hand and played another round to the king. After discovering the adverse split declarer immediately took the diamond finesse and when this held he went back to spades to generate the twelfth trick. Had the finesse failed declarer would still have had substantial chances, the diamonds breaking 3-3 along with possibilities in the heart suit.

Seven pairs reached a grand slam with one making seven spades, obviously by reading the  $\clubsuit J$  as a singleton (restricted choice) and so finessing against East. The spade slam scored 55% and the no-trump slam was worth an extra 30%.







# Mark Horton Magical Mystery Tour

As play got under way in the first session of the U26 Pairs finals I happened to glance at my computer when this deal appeared:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.



♦ AJ2
♣ KQJ75

This was the brief bidding sequence:

♥ 1052

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

West led the  $\clubsuit 5$  and later underled his diamonds to surrender +210.

I had not been planning to write anything about this session, but a few days ago a general knowledge crossword had included a clue that resulted in an answer that 'idle hands are the Devil's playthings, so I decided to metaphorically put pen to paper.

There is nothing wrong with West's initial pass, but some players might then be tempted to bid over 1NT. 2 to show spades and a minor would be a possibility, but I doubt EW would then discover the diamond fit.

Starting with  $2\diamondsuit$  to show spades and another suit might see North double for takeout. If that were to be followed by three passes EW would be on solid ground. South would do better to follow Edgar Kaplan's dictum, 'Takeout doubles should be taken out'.

Perhaps the idea of bidding over 1NT with West's hand is too heretical. Even so it would not be out of the question for East to get involved. Bidding  $2\clubsuit$  to show hearts and another suit would see West bid  $2\diamondsuit$  to deny three hearts and now East might elect to pass.

I decided to look at other tables both during and after play – the first auction I spotted was

West	North	East	South
1 <b>♠</b>	Pass	1NT	Pass
$2\Diamond$	Pass	3♦	All Pass

I will offer a small clue as to the identity of the EW pair – who had stolen at least one base.

Meanwhile at another table in a far-off universe

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	2◊*	Dble
Rdbl	2NT*	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Regardless of the meaning of  $2 \diamondsuit$  and redouble, EW had avoided defending the potentially dangerous notrump contract.

Of the nine tables in play six N/S pairs played in notrumps (2 pairs bidding game) while one rested in  $3\clubsuit$ . One E/W hit the jackpot by playing in  $2\heartsuit$  and taking nine tricks for a maximum, while  $3\diamondsuit$  was 2/14.



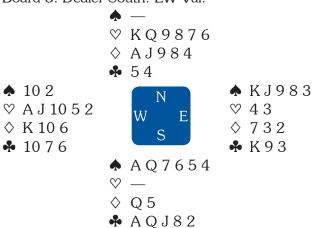




## **Mark Horton Highs and Lows**

In the second session of the U26 final the players had to contend with a number of awkward deals - no change there you might say.

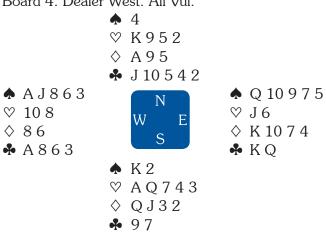
Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.



West	North	East	South
Donati	Khutorsky	Scata	Zeitak
_			1 <b>♠</b>
Pass	2♡	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♡	Pass	<b>3</b> ♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

When East led the  $\Diamond 7$  declarer put up dummy's queen and West covered with the king. When declarer decided to duck that West exited with the  $\Diamond 10$  and declarer had to cash the diamonds and then take the club finesse. When it held he cashed the ace and exited with a club. If East had exited with a heart West could have put in the ten, holding declarer to nine tricks, but East went with the  $\blacktriangle J$  and that was +430. That was worth 10/6. +460 would have netted two more points, the top two scores being +1400 for defending  $2\heartsuit$  doubled and +920 for making  $6\diamondsuit$ .

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Boulin	Doermer	Guillemin	Farwig
Pass	Pass	1 🛧	2 %
3♡*	4♡	Pass	Pass
<b>4</b>	All Pass		

#### Spade support

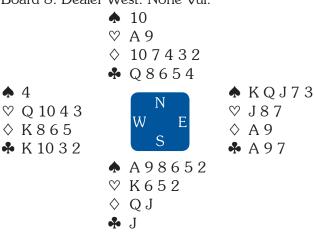
Declarer lost the first two tricks to the ace and king of hearts, but with the AK and A well-placed he could not be denied +620 which scored 4/12. Five





pairs bid 4♠, the top going to Van Oosten-Freeman who collected 11 tricks. In the opposite direction Grossack and Luba doubled 4♠ and defeated it – I'm guessing declarer blames it on the Rabbi!

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
Pabst	Bedouet	Litterst	Vallet
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♣*
Dble	2 %	Dble	All Pass

East led the  $\heartsuit$ 7 and declarer was allowed to win with the nine. He played a spade to the ace and ruffed a spade before exiting with the  $\clubsuit$ 4. He managed a trick with king of hearts, but that was four down, -800 and 0/16. The top in the other direction went to Bellicaud-Guth for defeating 2NT by a trick.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ KJ6♡ J87◇ A5

♣ AKJ76

♠ A 8 4 3♡ 2◇ K 9 6 3 2♣ Q 10 5

N W E S

♠ 952♡ AQ543♦ J8

984

♠ Q 10 7 ♡ K 10 9 6 ◇ Q 10 7 4 ♣ 3 2

Four pairs reached 3NT, all taking 11 tricks for +660 and 13/3. Everyone else stopped in 1NT, the pair who failed to record +210 being punished with a zero.

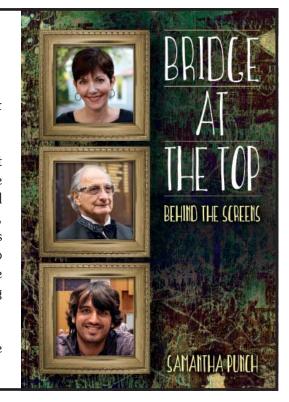
## Free for All(most)

### 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.





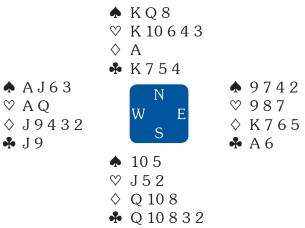


# Barry Rigal U21 FINAL SET ONE

With the VuGraph focusing on the U26 event I decided to try my luck sitting at the table of a couple of the under 21 pairs. Since I knew Finn Kolesnik and Michael Xu were likely to be one of the contenders, along with Christian Lahrmann and Leo Rombaut, I decided to keep both pairs on my radar.

On the first deal I watched, Rombaut had the option of which red suit to lead against a slam. With a 3-3-5-2 hand including the  $\heartsuit A$  and  $\diamondsuit Q$  he heard the opponents bid unopposed via a transfer auction:  $1NT-2\heartsuit-2\spadesuit-3\clubsuit-3\spadesuit-4NT-5\heartsuit-6\spadesuit$ . If I told you that dummy was a strong 5-1-3-4 shape you still might not know what to do. But declarer's shape was 3-2-2-6 and the  $\spadesuit A$  goes away if you don't cash it. -980 would have been 18/24, -1010 was 7 MP.

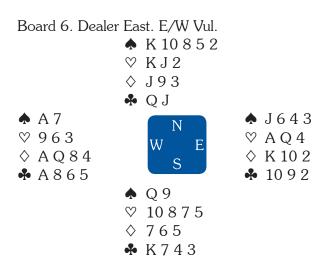
Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.



West	North	East	South
Rombaut	Guendel	Lahrmann	Schwalbach
$1\Diamond$	$1 \heartsuit$	Dble	Pass
2 <b>♠</b>	All Pass		

You could certainly argue that North had enough to take a second call by doubling  $2\spadesuit$ ? Guendel decided not to compete again and led the  $\Diamond A$ , a card that surely rated to be a singleton (and thus a position for suit preference). When South followed with the 10 Guendel decided to play a heart rather than a club – surely not unreasonable. Now declarer could win cheaply and play the  $\Diamond J$  from hand. Guendel correctly discarded, and on the next trick South was in with the  $\Diamond Q$ . When he made the reflex continuation of a heart declarer could win and play  $\spadesuit A$  and a second spade. This was the last chance for the defenders to lead a club; but on the

continuation declarer could not be prevented from pitching a club on the fifth diamond. the difference between +140 (15 MP) and +110 for N/S (10MP) was about a fifth of a board. Clubs could be held to nine tricks only via the heart ruff.



West	North	East	South
Rombaut	Crone	Lahrmann	O'Farrell
		Pass	Pass
$1 \diamondsuit$	<b>1</b> ♠	1NT	All Pass

Lahrmann took the ♠Q lead in dummy and played a low club. North won the queen (South following with an honest ♣7) and led a low spade. When Lahrmann put up the jack it held; now he elected to go after diamonds rather than clubs. He cashed the king and queen of diamonds seeing the nine from North, took the heart finesse and passed the ♦10 round to North's jack. The defenders cashed out for -120, which was a 75% board for them. Had Lahrmann trusted the ♣7, he would have taken the club ace and played a third club. Now the defenders rate to exit in hearts; but whatever they do declarer can cash his winners from the top for +180 and 19/24MP.

When Kolesnik sat North he won the \$\int J\$ at trick two and sensibly shifted to hearts. The Israeli declarer finessed the queen and took a second club finesse. He ducked the next heart, won the third, crossed to the \$\int Q\$ and played a spade up. Kolesnik won but declarer had the rest for 150 whatever the defenders did next. That represented a dead average.

The next deal proved no problem for the defenders at the table I was watching. But that was far from being the case at many others.



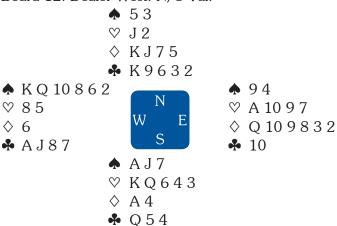
#### Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul. **♠** 82 ♥ 632 ♦ AJ8 ♣ KQ932 ♠ Q743 ♠ KJ9 ♥ AJ109 ♥ Q85 W ♦ K4 ♦ 109762 S ♣ A 7 5 **♣** 64 ♠ A 10 6 5 ♥ K74 ♦ Q53

West	North	East	South
Kentos	Kolesnik	Bortas	Xu
_		Pass	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

♣ J 108

If as Kolesnik did, you lead a low club against 1NT, your heart will be in your mouth when partner contributes the 10. Not to worry; the ten holds, and partner continues with the eight. Declarer plays low, and now the question is whether to overtake or leave partner on play. I think it is best to win the nine and return the low club, clear suit preference for diamonds. then partner will have no problems when on play in a major. Kolesnik actually let the club eight hold, and that made me wonder what might happen if partner shifted to a diamond immediately and declarer had the  $\Diamond$ KQ. No, Xu played a third club and shifted to a diamond when on play with the spade ace. That was down 200 and 22/24 for N/S. For comparison purposes, 1NT by West went down two on three occasions, down one on one occasion, and made four times - once with an overtrick.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.



WestNorthEastSouthKolesnikKurlitXuKurflowski $1 \spadesuit$ Pass1NT $2 \heartsuit$  $2 \spadesuit$ DbleAll Pass

So many questions so few answers...

- 1. Should a double of  $2 \spadesuit$  be penalty or responsive?
- 2. Should a bid of 2NT in response to that double be natural or a scramble
- 3. In response to a call of 2NT should North bid  $3 \heartsuit$  or  $3 \clubsuit$ ?
- 4. What should the fate of 3♣ by North be on a spade lead?

The editorial team's answers are as follows: double should be responsive – with a penalty double you pass and expect partner to reopen with a double. If the double is responsive 2NT should be a scramble, not natural and North should bid 3% to play the expected eight-card fit. After a spade lead, covered by the  $\spadesuit$ J, the defence should prevail – but +100 for E/W would have been a 66% result for N/S.

 $2 \spadesuit x$  on a heart lead saw Kolesnik win to play  $\clubsuit A$  and ruff a club in dummy then pass the  $\spadesuit 9$ . Now with trumps 3-2 there was no trump promotion (indeed even if trumps were 4-1 the defenders might have needed to be just a little careful to ensure their second trump trick?).

When Rombaut sat South he heard  $2\spadesuit$  opened, passed round to him. He tried 2NT and Lahrmann discreetly passed. Soumplis for the defense led a top spade ducked and shifted to the  $\heartsuit 8$ . It looks natural to duck this, but Papaspyrou did outstandingly well to go up with the ace and continue spades. Now the hearts ran for declarer but West was ready to run his winners when he got in with the club ace. Rombaut unblocked the  $\heartsuit J$ , came to the  $\diamondsuit A$  to run hearts as West pitched three clubs and then played for his contract, by playing a club before cashing the  $\diamondsuit K$ . That meant down two instead of one. Far better would have been to pitch clubs from dummy and keep all the diamonds. Now if you cash the  $\diamondsuit K$  and play a club you make if the  $\clubsuit$  A is to your left and get out for down one if it is not.

And note that if East ducks his heart ace declarer can play the  $\P Q$  and come to eight tricks in the fulness of time.







#### **Mark Horton**

# More by Luck than Judgement

Yesterday morning I went to have a word with Dimitri Ballas, who is one of the TD's looking after the U16 event. He was giving a ruling so I cast my eye around, quickly spotting a bidding tray on which North had opened 3. I could see this was causing East a problem, not surprising when I show you the hand:

♠ — ♥AKQ97 ♦Q7 ♣AKJ986

My immediate thought was that it was a good hand for a non-Leaping Michaels bid of 4%, showing clubs and hearts. This was the full deal:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ AQ106542

♡ 3

♦ K 5 4

**4** 74

**♦** K93

♥ 108654

♦ 863

**♣** 32

N W E

**♠** —

♦ Q 7

♣ AKJ986

♠ J87

♥ J 2

♦ AJ1092

♣ Q 10 5

Barry tells me that over  $4\clubsuit$  responder can bid  $4\diamondsuit$  to ask opener to bid  $4\heartsuit$ , while a direct bid of  $4\heartsuit$  indicates some interest in slam. Here East might be tempted to make a further try even after  $4\diamondsuit$  and were West's spade and diamond holdings to be reversed  $6\heartsuit$  would be virtually laydown.

On this deal were East to bid  $4\clubsuit$  the best bid for South is  $4\diamondsuit$ , a fit non-jump, paving the way for a profitable sacrifice and also making sure the diamond tricks do not run away if EW elect to defend.

Looking at the results (there were seven) there were four positive scores for NS, the best being +790 for 4.2. At the table I had happened upon East thought long and hard about bidding; she had the 4% card in her hand and got within centimeters of putting it on the tray before finally deciding to pass. She was thinking along the right lines – with a little more experience she will get it right next time. At the other two tables EW played in 5.2 going one down, losing -50 and -100.

The best result for EW was +550 for making  $5\clubsuit$  doubled while one pair played in the optimum  $4\heartsuit$  for +450. Finally, EW collected +300 from  $4\spadesuit$  doubled – I have no idea how!







# Open U26 Pairs Final, Session 1

After two days of qualifications, 18 pairs had eventually been admitted to the U26 final. They would meet each other in a 17-round movement, three boards on a Barometer basis against each of the other pairs. The first board of the day offered them the chance to see how the wind was blowing this morning. The popular contract would be 3NT but the outcome of it was very unsure. You might go down but you might as well end up with an overtrick, as happened once when South led a club to the ten and king and North returned the \$\Psi\_J\$ after winning a heart trick...

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

★ 8 / 6 3♡ A K 7 5◇ A K Q 5♣ 6

N W E S

♠ KJ

♥ 842

♦ 983

♣ KQ932

♠ Q 10 5 ♡ J 9 6 ◇ 10 4 2

♣ A 7 5 4

The leaders after the morning session earned themselves a good score when Freeman as South led a low spade which was ducked to declarer's AJ.

Declarer then crossed in diamonds to lead a club up, but North split his honours and the queen was taken by South's ace. Back came the  $\mathbf{AQ}$  to North's ace, followed by a spade to South's  $\mathbf{A10}$ . The inevitable heart loser then enabled North to cash his master spade as well for down one and  $\mathbf{11}$  MP.

Two boards later, the Americans Grossack-Luba bid convincingly enough to avoid a double and thus earn themselves a good score.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ Q♡ J8752◇ Q1053♣ KQ3

♠ 10 9 8 2♡ K♦ J 6 4

♣ AJ864

N W E S

♠ K63
♥ Q943
♦ K987

**4** 75

West	North	East	South
Jozkowiak	Grossack	Mackowiak	Luba
_		_	Pass
Pass	1 %	1 <b>♠</b>	3♦
3♠	$4 \diamondsuit$	Pass	4♡
A 11 D			

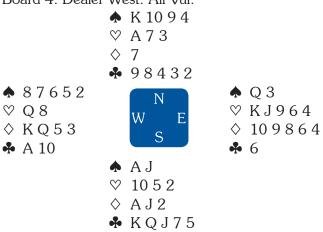




This was two down but -100 was worth 12 MP, beating all the -140's in N/S.

The first board of the next round again brought Grossack and Luba a good score by some quite aggressive actions.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

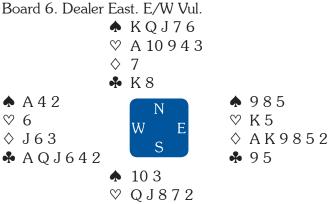


West	North	East	South
Grossack	Rosenberg	Luba	Zhu
1	Pass	1NT	Pass
$2\Diamond$	Pass	3♦	All Pass

North's trump lead made life easy for declarer but with the actual layout, going down would have been quite difficult...Making 3\$\partial\$ was worth 14 MP.

Mind you: at many tables, N/S were allowed to play in NT and scored a lot of overtricks when West led a spade. Two pairs even reached 3NT for the top scores in N/S on a spade lead.

The last board of the second round was a curious affair. If both the minors behave for E/W, you will make 12 or even 13 tricks but as it happens, even the three-level might already be too high. Mainly the same applies to the N/S hands: they cannot make a game either. Still, going down in 50 as E/W would bring you some matchpoints because at one or two tables, N/S had more info available to them:



♦ Q 10 4 **4** 10 7 3

West	North	East	South
Bonin	Evacic	Guichet	Bilusic
_	_	$1 \diamondsuit$	$1 \heartsuit$
1NT	4♡	Pass	Pass
5 <b>.</b>	Dble	All Pass	

Well, 5 is a perfectly reasonable contract but this time, N/S can see from their own cards that the layout is favouring them. This enabled Evacic (and Donati/ Scata at another table) to express their doubts and score +800 for a shared top: 15 MP.

Some indifferent boards were to follow but on board 11, fear of a ruff brought an unexpected overtrick.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

Dound II. Dou	or course rosse v	ar.
	<b>♦</b> 875	
	♡ A32	
	♦ J96	
	🗣 A Q J 4	
<ul><li>♠ 1063</li><li>♡ QJ975</li><li>◇ A54</li><li>♣ 107</li></ul>	W E	<ul><li>♠ A K J 9 4</li><li>♡ K 10 4</li><li>◇ Q 8 3</li><li>♣ K 2</li></ul>
	<b>♦</b> Q 2 ♥ 8 6	
	♦ K 10 7 2 ♣ 9 8 6 5 3	

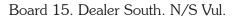
West	North	East	South
Donati	Jozkowiak	Scata	Mackowiak
_	_		Pass
Pass	1♣	1 <b>^</b>	Pass
2 <b>^</b>	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♡	Pass	<b>4</b>	All Pass

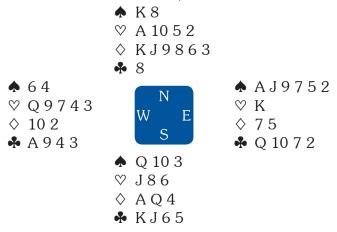
After this both exemplary and revealing auction, South nevertheless led a heart. Partner took the ace and returned the suit but Scata won the ♥K and immediately banged down the AK. This way, the diamond losers went away on the hearts and when the ♣A was with North, the Italians had scored +450 and another shared top (15 MP.).

Youthful optimism backfired a few boards later.









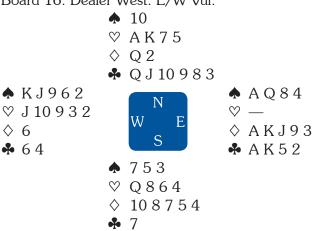
West	North	East	South
Mann	Doermer	Hansson	Farwig
_		_	1
Pass	1 <b>^</b>	2 <b>♠</b>	Pass
Pass	3♡	Pass	3NT
Dble	All Pass		

North simply held too many diamonds to give the defence any chance after West's sporting double. Spade lead and one overtrick, worth all the matchpoints to N/S, of course.

The board also brought the eventual winners of the morning session a good score. They were defending 3NT played by North and managed to restrict declarer to just nine tricks when East led the \$2 rather than the "obvious" spade. This was an unexpected complete top to them.

The next board was sensational, one might say.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Grossack	Vallet	Luba	Bedouet
Pass	1♣	Dble	Pass
1 <b>^</b>	2♣	3♣	Pass
3♡	Pass	<b>6</b> ♠	Pass
<b>7</b> ♠	Dble	All Pass	

When there are 12, there are 13 is the corollary of "When there are eight, there are nine," or at least so it looked to me when West bid one more.

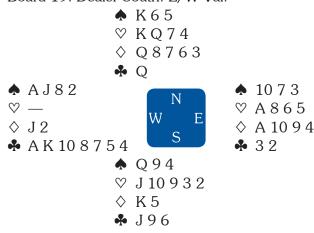
North's double was probably based on the  $\heartsuit$ AK but Vallet must have been very surprised by the way N/S scored the first undertrick. Dummy ruffed the  $\heartsuit$ A lead, of course, and declarer's next move was to cash the  $\diamondsuit$ AK. When the queen came down, declarer must have seen a glimmer of hope because his next move was to run the  $\clubsuit$ 8. When North won the ten, he got a story to tell his grandchildren.

On the actual distribution, even  $6 \spadesuit$  is in difficulty so declarer, lacking sufficient communication, had to lose another trick for +500 to the French – worth all the match-points, needless to say.

It is possible to make  $7 \spadesuit$  - after cashing the  $\diamondsuit AK$  declarer can play the  $\spadesuit 8$  to the king. When the ten falls declarer ruffs a heart, ruffs a diamond, ruffs a heart, ruffs a diamond, draws trumps and claims. However, it is not possible if North leads for example, a trump. Editor

This same French pair earned themselves a well-deserved top by their bidding performance on board 19:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Bedouet	Jankowski	Vallet	Cieslinski
			Pass
1	Dble	$1 \diamondsuit$	1♡
1 <b>^</b>	2 %	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♡
4 <b>.</b>	Pass	5 <b>♣</b>	All Pass

Bidding 3NT (or whatever) over partner's 3. proved too difficult for all East players but when South gave West another chance, East was quick to convert to game after all. South wisely refrained from the classic "double in rage," though this would not have mattered this time because you cannot score more than 100% on just one board anyway.





# **PAIRS - UNDER 26**

1	VAN OOSTEN Sibrand	FREEMAN Jacob	NED - CAN	62.70
2	BOULIN Arthur	GUILLEMIN Theo	FRA - FRA	58.24
3	EVACIC Emanuel	BILUSIC Ivan	CRO - CRO	54.40
4	BELLICAUD Luc	GUTH Romaric	FRA - FRA	53.84
5	DONATI Giovanni	SCATA Sebastiano	ITA - ITA	53.73
6	HANSSON Erik	MANN Castor	SWE - SWE	51.96
7	GROSSACK Zachary	LUBA Harrison Anders	USA - USA	51.62
8	ROSENBERG Kevin	ZHU Bo Han	USA - CAN	50.47
9	PABST Philipp	LITTERST Maximilian	GER - GER	49.92
10	BONIN Louis	<b>GUICHET Thomas</b>	FRA - FRA	49.51
11	FRAGOLA Maxence	TABATA Nao	FRA - FRA	49.24
12	GUE David	SIMPSON Jamie	AUS - AUS	49.01
13	ZEITAK Aviv	KHUTORSKY Nir	ISR - ISR	48.22
14	DOERMER Felix	FARWIG Sven Niklas	GER - GER	45.66
15	PIEPER Jonathan	STEPPER Maximilian Niklas	GER - GER	45.63
16	BEDOUET Pierre	VALLET Esteban	FRA - FRA	45.05
17	MACKOWIAK Karol	JOZKOWIAK Lukasz	POL - POL	41.72
18	CIESLINSKI Jan	JANKOWSKI Mikolaj	POL - POL	39.09



# PAIRS - UNDER 21

1	XU Michael	KOLESNIK Finn	USA - USA	60.84
2	ARGAY Zsolt	KEMENY Mark	HUN - HUN	59.22
3	LAHRMANN Christian	ROMBAUT Leo	DEN - FRA	57.93
4	GOOR Ronald	FRIESEN Xavier	NED - NED	56.81
5	PETELKO Lia	RETTER Koren	ISR - ISR	55.71
6	ABRAGI Andreas	HEIBERG-EVENSTAD Nicolai	SWE - NOR	55.48
7	KURLIT Franciszek	KUFLOWSKI Kacper	POL - POL	55.24
8	BROGELAND Anders	SAETRE Magnus	NOR - NOR	54.74
9	SABBAH Ofek	SLIWOWICZ Yonatan	ISR - ISR	53.58
10	CARLETTI Alessandro	LOMBARDI Matteo	ITA - ITA	51.74
11	PRAJJWAL -	CHOWDHURY Tilakraj	IND - IND	50.88
12	ROSE Henry	LA CHAPELLE Imogen	ENG - ENG	50.79
13	SOUMPLIS Michail	PAPASPYROU lasonas-iraklis	GRE - GRE	50.30
14	ZABRADI Benjamin	SELMECI David	HUN - HUN	48.95
15	CRONE Luca	O'FARRELL Matthew	IRL - IRL	48.93
16	GE Brandon	SCHIRESON Olivia	USA - USA	48.34
17	GUENDEL Marius	SCHWALBACH Kathrin	GER - GER	48.29
18	AUSTAD Marius Dalemark	OEBERG Ida Marie	NOR - NOR	47.24
19	FARWIG Ole	FAUPEL Jonas	GER - GER	46.74
20	MSIKA Daniel	MOSKOVITZ Ido	ISR - ISR	46.22
21	ROCHES Maxence	BENS Clement	FRA - FRA	45.47
22	FU Ryan	WU Han	USA - CAN	45.39
23	LICHTENSTEIN Ivar	HJORTH WARLENIUS Harry	SWE - SWE	44.23
24	BEDFORD Charlotte	ANOYRKATIS Venetia	ENG - ENG	40.47
25	TOPPER Lara	ROSE Jacob	AUS - AUS	39.36
26	BORTAK Peter	KENTOS Simon	SVK - SVK	37.08





# **PAIRS - WOMEN UNDER 26**

1	BOUTON Clara	KUREK BEAULIEU Margaux	FRA - FRA	54.01
2	KAMAL PATEL Vidhya	BALIRAM GURJAR Kalpana	IND - IND	52.94
3	DALPOZZO Valentina	DALPOZZO Federica	ITA - ITA	52.47
4	BRUSOTTI Cristina	DAVIDE Zaira	ITA - ITA	51.87
5	SCHLUMBERGER Wilhelmine	BELLOY Constance	FRA - FRA	51.35
6	INDREBO Thea Lucia	BREKKE Kaja	NOR - NOR	47.99
7	YEN Shao-Ting	CHENG Yung-Yun	TPE - TPE	45.10
8	DONNELLAN Margot	DONNELLAN Ava	USA - USA	44.26



## PAIRS - UNDER 16

1	BHATT ANSHUL	LI Darwin	IND - CAN	62.97
2	PAREKH Aman	BATTERSBY William	ENG - ENG	57.29
3	GOOR Martijn	KLARENBEEK Wout	NED - NED	56.68
4	ZHANG Brian	CHEN Andrew	USA - USA	53.11
5	BUKAT Aleks	TROJAK Jan	POL - POL	53.01
6	PEDMANSON Albert	VAHK Jasper	EST - EST	52.95
7	OSEN Einar	AUSTAD Kristian Dalemark	NOR - NOR	45.93
8	STEZALA Franciszek	MICHALSKI Jakub	POL - POL	45.50
9	KLIMIUK Milena	KISIELEWSKI Kacper	POL - POL	45.06
10	XIAO Eric	XIAO Jeff	USA - USA	44.99
11	BEN GUIGUI Costa Theodore	KUBAT Frantisek	GRE - CZE	44.85
12	BRADKIN Thomas	BRADKIN Andrew	ENG - ENG	37.65



## PAIRS - UNDER 31

1	ROY Sagnik	KUSHARI Sayantan	IND - IND	57.45
2	THOMPSON Jamie	SPOONER Andrew	AUS - AUS	54.15
3	OIKONOMOPOULOS Ioannis	BALOKAS Dimitrios Konstantinos	GRE - GRE	53.40
4	KIKUCHI Tadahiro	HINO Takayuki	JPN - JPN	47.98
5	YUGE Hirokana	YAMADA Ryoichi	JPN - JPN	46.81
6	MYLLAERI Maria	VANNI Ilona	FIN - FIN	40.21





# FINAL B - U26 OPEN, U26 WOMEN, U21, U31

1	TOMIS Z DOLANSKA V.	20	1,315.56	60.91
2	KAR S DAS P.	20	1,297.82	60.08
3	GAIOTTI A GIUBILO G.	20	1,296.19	60.01
4	RUS G KUKULJAN T.	20	1,281.89	59.35
	3			
5	SINCLAIR T CATER J.	20	1,274.19	
6	KRASA M ROMANOWSKI C.	20	1,266.89	58.65
7	DAS S BAR S.	20	1,264.98	58.56
8	LAM A HUNG T.	20	1,257.66	58.22
9	PACELAT M KURYGIN K.	20	1,254.28	58.07
10	SINCLAIR R BARNETT R.	20	1,218.77	56.42
11	RODRIGUES T SARKAR S.			
		20	1,210.66	
12	LOMBARDI A GARDENGHI O.	20	1,208.91	55.97
13	PYSZKO A LYSEK M.	20	1,198.16	55.47
14	LORENZINI V ZACCARO A.	20	1,180.14	54.64
15	TOMLIN J FLICKER D.	20	1,178.97	54.58
16	CAPOBIANCO S DALPOZZO E.	20	1,167.03	54.03
17	HE C CHENG Z.	20	1,161.88	53.79
18	FEGARTY J FEGARTY L.	20	1,159.12	
19	NORMAN L FURNESS T.	20	1,156.28	53.53
20	SYU P SYU L.	20	1,153.56	53.41
21	GHOSH S CHAKRABORTY A.	20	1,152.03	
22	GABRIEL R SYKOROVA E.	20	1,137.72	52.67
23	INAMI T SAITO T.	20	1,137.25	52.65
24	INOUE Y YAGISHITA K.	20	1,133.79	
25	ABE R KAYAMA Y.	20	1,128.44	52.24
26	SONG Y YAMAZAKI N.	20	1,117.84	51.75
27	GRAS S PILAT J.	20	1,109.75	51.38
	<u> </u>			
28	WU M CHEUNG W.	20	1,083.97	
29	CHAN K LEE S.	20	1,082.75	50.13
30	FRESA V LOPREVITE A.	20	1,073.71	49.71
31	VACHTARCIKOVA N DROZD M.	20	1,068.18	49.45
32	DI MAURO R ROTOLICO A.	20	1,063.03	49.21
33	MORGAN G LUKE - PAREDI J.	20	1,062.34	49.18
34	LIU G CHIANG D.	20	1,057.41	48.95
			•	
35	BHIMANAIK R BASU S.	20	1,048.34	48.53
36	DRAGHI L COTTONE M.	20	1,041.99	48.24
37	KAPIRIS D SKORDAS P.	20	1,034.91	47.91
38	DRNOVSEK T STIGLIC M.	20	1,022.50	
				47.34
39	NAWROCKI J CHALUPNICZAK W.	20	1,012.97	46.90
40	LIN X CHEN C.	20	1,008.41	46.69
41	PELAGGI M PELAGGI A.	20	1,002.66	46.42
42	FRIESEN G ESSINK J.	20	999.81	46.29
43	UMEHARA N NISHINO K.	20	997.84	46.20
44	PINTO J SELVARAJ D.	20	989.63	45.82
45	CHEN Q JIANG K.	20	964.11	44.63
	, ,			
46	OLMER A VASICKOVA B.	20	950.11	43.99
47	YANG H CHEN W.	20	929.59	43.04
48	CHANG A CHUANG H.	20	922.12	42.69
49	MARINI V GALLO F.	20	915.34	42.38
50	RAMAZZOTTI G SANMARTINO F.	20	909.97	42.13
51	SOTORP N SERRANO S R.	20	895.23	41.45
52	XIAO Y SHIMADA K.	20	890.02	41.20
53	TONELLI M MONTESANTI A.	20	870.84	40.32
54	HUANG Y WU R.	20	813.01	37.64
55	PERALTA D SALAZAR MACIAS A.	20	693.09	32.09
56	GARCIA S ARREAGA ESTEVEZ M.	20		
JU	JANCIA J ARREAUA ESTEVEZ IVI.	ZU	656.36	30.39





## FINAL B - U16

1	GE K CHEN C.	16	335.05	74.79
2	RECICAROVA K VACHTARCIK L.	16	258.48	57.70
3	KOTEWICZ I WOJTOWICZ A.	14	246.86	55.10
4	DUTERTE G ROULLE X.	14	244.19	54.51
5	JAHAGIRDAR R GOYAL P.	14	229.71	51.28
6	AGUILAR C BALLERINO LEIGH S.	16	225.33	50.30
7	PILAT M DROZD J.	16	217.33	48.51
8	CHOWDHURY T MUTHUSWAMY N.	14	217.14	48.47
9	SUEUR Z CAYLA L.	14	216.57	48.34
10	PACE G MIOZZI E.	14	202.19	48.14
11	BERNAL I BERNAL D.	16	206.86	46.17
12	CHAN V CHAN C.	16	204.38	45.62
13	ZAIDENBERG G A ZAIDENBERG G	16	202.86	45.28
14	TARANTO R DE ANGELIS M.	14	187.52	44.65
15	ZUNIGA U C JARAMILLO BALSEC	14	137.52	30.70



# JOAN GERARD YOUTH AWARDS



Joan Gerard was a long-time support of the WBF Youth Programs worldwide

The Joan Gerard Youth Awards reward aptitude, fair play and international spirit rejecting any discrimination. Players, NPCs, and Coaches are requested to nominate a player in each of the following categories: **U16**, **U21**, **U26** (**Open**), **U26** (**Women**), **U31**.

The final selection from the nominees will be made the Commission composed by the members of the Championship Committee.

The only restriction is that you cannot nominate a player from your own country.

You can collect a nomination from the Hospitality Desk.