

7TH WORLD YOUTH TRANSNATIONAL



BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS



DAILY BULLETIN

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

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The Final Phase Begins



We are down to the knockout phase of the team championships.

In the U26 Teams there was an exciting finish as the teams endeavoured to secure a place in the quarterfinals. France U22 secured the last spot by defeating France U26 in the final round.

Things were tighter in the U21 event where no less than ten teams were in with a chance of finishing in eighth place. In the end it was secured by Dabrowka Wzbs P.

In the U26 Women Teams Norway Girls, Italy U26W Green, India U26G and Italy U26W White will contest the semifinals.

In the U16 Teams USS Unsinkable, Ckis Skawina U15 and U12 and Team Blitz survived.

In the U31 Teams India U31, Agnieszkas Angels, Finland and Sweece were the teams to advance.

*SALSO MAGGIORE TERME
7TH/14TH AUGUST 2022*





Mark Horton Enigma*

* A person or thing that is mysterious or difficult to understand

Most of you are probably aware that Enigma was the name given to the machine that Germany's military forces used to encode top-secret messages during World War II. It was also the title of a film about the Bletchley Park code breakers. That movie and the later one The Imitation Game feature Alan Turing's Bombe, a number crunching device which was a forerunner of the computer.

This deal from the U26W/U16/U31 involved some big numbers:

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ 8		
♥ 4		
♦ K Q J 9 6 4 3		
♣ 9 8 6 5		
♠ 6 5 3 2		♠ J
♥ J 10 3		♥ AKQ97652
♦ A 8 7		♦ —
♣ A 10 7		♣ Q J 4 2
♠ A K Q 10 9 7 4		
♥ 8		
♦ 10 5 2		
♣ K 3		

One imagines that North opened 1♦ and that when East jumped to 4♥ South overcalled 4♠.

What would you do with West's cards?

In the U31 bracket all six scores went to EW.

Sweeze collected 12 IMPs against Finland when the contract in both rooms was 6♠ doubled and they defended perfectly for -1100 while in the other room the penalty was only -500.

In the match between Japan/Australia and Slovenia both teams played in 5♥ but J/A were doubled which was worth 7 IMPs.

When India U31 faced Agnieszka's Angels both sides were in 6♥, but the Angels were doubled which was worth 6 IMPs.

In the U26W Italy U26W Red and Taiwan both played in 5♥ for +480. Norway Girls doubled 5♠ for -500 but Italy U26W Green bid 6♥ and +980 was worth 10 IMPs.

A similar thing happened in Italy U26 W White v India U26G the Indian team collecting 10 Imps for bidding the slam, while their teammates conceded 500 in 5♦ doubled.

In the U16 event the standout result was in the match between Ecuador and USS Unsinkable, the latter scoring 980 in one room and 620 in the other for 17 IMPs.

England U16 picked up 11 IMPs against India U16 by bidding the slam, and Blitz scored 10 IMPs via +980 against -500 for 5♠ doubled. 9 IMPs changed hands in Ecuael v Ckis Skawina U15 the latter scoring 500 from 5♦doubled while defeating 4♠ in the other room. Italy U16 and Ckis Skawina U12 both stopped in 5♥.

VIDEO CORNER



THE HISTORY OF YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP BY GIANARRIGO RONA



<https://youtu.be/WHz9nEqvmp4>



Jos Jacobs

U26 Open Teams Swiss Rounds 2 & 3

**GERMANY U26 V. USA U26
SLOVAKIA V. ITALY U26 BLUE**

In any Swiss format, it should be a good idea to watch at table 1. The organisers here are agreeing to this principle and even more than that: they are treating us to the matches at both table 1 and table 2. So it is just a matter of politeness to return the compliment and report about what happens in both these matches. The first board, no. 7, was a routine game, though not for everyone, apparently but on each of the following boards, things started to happen really all over the place.

Let us move to table 2 for the Slovakia v. Italy Blue match and their board 8.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ A 8 4	♠ K Q 10 9	♠ 6 5 2
♥ Q	♥ 10 7 6 4 3	♥ A 2
♦ J 10 6 5 3	♦ A	♦ K Q 9 7 4
♣ Q J 10 4	♣ K 8 7	♣ 5 3 2
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 10px;"> N W S E </div> </div>	
	♠ J 7 3	
	♥ K J 9 8 5	
	♦ 8 2	
	♣ A 9 6	

This was the auction in the Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Gallo	Bortak	Marini	Kentos
Pass	1♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

For the Slovaks, like for both N/S pairs in our other match, this board indeed was another matter of routine but the Italians (mind you, they are all Azzurri but only one of their teams is blue...) had more optimistic views.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gabriel	Sanmartino	Sykorova	Ramazzotti
Pass	1♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

For Sanmartino, too, all would have been well had he followed the same line of play as his Slovak counterpart. Bortak had tackled the trump suit by starting with a low heart from his hand to dummy's king (we don't know whether there was a slight hesitation or so by East...) so he had chalked up an overtrick and +450.

When Sanmartino won the opening diamond lead and led a trump up, he followed the percentage play by inserting dummy's jack. One down, Slovakia another +50 and 11 IMPs.

On the next board, again the play was the thing. Both Norths were in 4♠, as you can see:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ 3	♠ A K J 9 5 4	♠ 8 6 2
♥ A Q 10 9 8 6 4	♥ J 5 2	♥ 7 3
♦ 9 5	♦ Q 10	♦ A J 8 7 4 2
♣ A 5 3	♣ J 8	♣ 10 4
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 10px;"> N W S E </div> </div>	
	♠ Q 10 7	
	♥ K	
	♦ K 6 3	
	♣ K Q 9 7 6 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gallo	Bortak	Marini	Kentos
—	1♠	Pass	2♣
3♥	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

For Italy, Marini led a heart and Gallo found the best return of a trump. There is no clear solution but when you assume the clubs are 3-2 (the defence did not take a ruff in that suit), it should be safe to play clubs first. In that case, the defence has to win the second club and return a heart for dummy to ruff but as the cards lay, you can now play on diamonds and offer the defenders a choice of evils.

When declarer won the trump return in hand and immediately ruffed a heart, he had to get back to his hand to ruff his last heart but when he tried a diamond,

East won and returned another trump. After this, West had the ♣A and one more heart to cash. One down, Italy Blue +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gabriel	Sanmartino	Sykorova	Ramazzotti
—	1♠	Pass	2♣
2♥	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

In the Closed Room, they also reached 4♠ but when West returned a diamond after winning East's heart lead, declarer had an easy ride. Italy another +420 and 10 IMPs back to them.

Landing in a makeable contract proved too difficult for all players on the next board.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhu	Litterst	Luba	Pabst
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♠	2NT	4♠	5♣
Pass	5♦	Dble	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

The German N/S did not want to take the risk of conceding a vulnerable game. Danger was in the air for them after North's two-suited intervention but 5♣ proved a phantom sacrifice after all. Down three, USA +800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Stepper	Rosenberg	Pieper	Grossack
—	—	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

No N/S action here so E/W were allowed to go down themselves. USA another +100 and 14 IMPs to them.

In the other match, the Slovaks were unlucky, one might say:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gallo	Bortak	Marini	Kentos
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

In the Open Room, the Italians had quickly reached their no-play game but in the Closed Room, East tried the effect of opening 1NT (16-18).

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gabriel	Sanmartino	Sykorova	Ramazzotti
—	—	1NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass

West of course, settled for a diamond part score but even that proved already too high. One down for a push.

On the next board, at all but one of our 4 tables North had become the declarer in 3NT after opening 2NT himself.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

For USA, Luba led a passive heart and when declarer eventually lost a trick to West's ♣A, Zhu was quick to push a spade through. Down two (don't ask me why) and USA +100.

In the replay, East led the ♠Q, so declarer had his nine tricks after conceding to the ♣A when the spades broke 4-4. USA +400 more and 11 IMPs.

In the other match, Marini for Italy also led the ♠Q after North's opening bid of 2NT and South's raise to game via Stayman, so Slovakia also scored +400.



This, however, was the auction in the Closed Room:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gabriel</i>	<i>Sanmartino</i>	<i>Sykorova</i>	<i>Ramazzotti</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West was on lead here, and when he found a low spade, declarer had no chance. Slovakia +50 and 10 more IMPs to them.

The last board of the set was a classic guess for most declarers.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

The popular contract was 3♥ (yes, the Slovak E/W pair even reached 4♥ with no good reason...). Once the ♦A has proved right for you as declarer, only the club guess remains. A club to the king wins and when North correctly ducks the second round of the suit, you have a problem. Zhu for USA, did not lose two club tricks and thus scored +140 to win 6 IMPs for his team when the German declarer ran South's diamond return to dummy's jack....

The final scores in these two matches:

Germany U26 v. USA U26 0-31 or 0.78 – 19.22 V.P.
Slovakia v. Italy U26 Blue 21-10 or 14.59 – 5.41 V.P.

Round 3

USA U26 v. Slovakia

Croatia U26 v. Japan

In the early stages of any Swiss, the pairings usually are easy. The team ranked 1st plays 2, 3 plays 4 and so on. After their good wins in the previous rounds, USA and Slovakia thus had to face each other.

Like in the previous round, the opening board was a routine game, but the next board definitely was not,

though one would not easily believe this after seeing the results.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

In the USA v. Slovakia match, this was the auction:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gabriel</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Sykorova</i>	<i>Grossack</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	Dble	2♠	4♦
4♠	5♦	All Pass	

When West led the ♠A, it was all over. USA +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Bortak</i>	<i>Luba</i>	<i>Kentos</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♦	2♠	3NT
All Pass			

If you want to lead a spade in this situation, you might as well consider leading the ace. You are looking at a possible side entry and the lead of the ace might help you to find out what to do next. Declarer of course called for dummy's jack and when this held, played a heart to his nine and West's ten. "When West next led the ♠A, it was all over." Slovakia +400 and a push.

In our other match there in fact was a swing, but for a different reason.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nishino</i>	<i>Evacic</i>	<i>Umehara</i>	<i>Bilusic</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	Dble	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Dble	Pass
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

The Croatians also reached 5♦ and the Japanese West was among the many Wests in the room who led the ♠A. Curtains. Croatia +400.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Stefanec</i>	<i>Song</i>	<i>Ferenca</i>	<i>Saito</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	Dble	2♠	3♦
All Pass			

The Japanese were more careful but also made 11 tricks in their partscore. They did not even need the ♠A for that because declarer's 5th heart became a parking place for one of dummy's spades. Japan +150 but 6 IMPs to Croatia.

Back again to USA – Slovakia.

On the next board, a lot of American wheels came off.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gabriel</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Sykorova</i>	<i>Grossack</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

To me, South's 3♠ strongly suggests a singleton club but still, I could not find a clue about showing or even suggesting a N/S heart control. Down two. Slovakia +200.

No nonsense bidding in the other room:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Bortak</i>	<i>Luba</i>	<i>Kentos</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East correctly led a club rather than a top heart but another wheel came off because there was some uncertainty, apparently, about the lead agreements. East had chosen the ♣J as his opening lead but West nevertheless had contributed the king to this trick. Declarer won the ace after all this club violence but, being unsure about the club situation (who would not?) refrained from establishing the hearts but hoped for the best in spades. So after cashing his top tricks in the pointed suits, he conceded a spade to East and could only hope for an endplay now. It was his lucky day because East had effectively been put on play, holding both the ♥AK and the ♣Q. Declarer's ♣10 thus became the game-going trick. Slovakia +600 and 13 IMPs to them.

Croatia v. Japan

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nishino</i>	<i>Evacic</i>	<i>Umehara</i>	<i>Bilusic</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The Croatian N/S also reached 3NT by North but here, East first led a top heart before shifting to a club. Now, declarer could win West's ♣K with his ace, unblock the two top diamonds and try a heart with the ♠A still there in dummy. Croatia an easy enough (after all) +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stefanec</i>	<i>Song</i>	<i>Ferenca</i>	<i>Saito</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Saito's choice of rebid made him the declarer, as South, in the normal 3NT but here, Stefanec found a nasty lead: the ♠J which threatened his communications. So he first conceded a spade trick to East but when a club came back to West's king, he took the second round of the suit and could only hope for the best in diamonds. When they did not break (might have been difficult with an odd number out anyway...) he had to concede one down. Well defended and +100 to Croatia,, good for 12 more IMPs to them.

The penultimate board was a shaky game, or so it looked on paper.



Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

**Croatia v. Japan:**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nishino	Evacic	Umehara	Bilusic
—	1♠	3♦	3♠
All Pass			

South was not strong enough for more than a polite raise so 3♠ became the final contract. After a club to the ace and a club ruff from the E/W combined natural trump trick, East's heart return meant that declarer's diamond loser went away on the clubs. Croatia +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Stefanec	Song	Ferenca	Saito
—	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Basically the same happened in the other room so Japan +200 as well and no score here.

In the other match, all sorts of things were happening:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gabriel	Rosenberg	Sykorova	Grossack
—	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The Americans had an equally (?) natural auction but landed in game. On the defence shown above, an overtrick was born. USA +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhu	Bortak	Luba	Kentos
—	1♠	Pass	2♠
Dble	4♠	5♦	5♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Well, 5♦ would have been too expensive but it worked well for the Americans once the Slovaks forgot about that old-fashioned five-level rule and advanced to the forbidden level instead. Club to the ace, club ruff and ♦A would have led to a quick and painless one down but East was looking for more. He, too, returned the ♥J which this time handed declarer his contract on a silver plate. Slovakia +650 and 5 IMPs to them.

The last board of the set was a joy to watch. Four different contracts!

In the USA v. Slovakia match, we saw a fine American auction.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gabriel	Rosenberg	Sykorova	Grossack
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♠	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Rosenberg no doubt realised he was looking at a useful hand opposite partner's strong bidding, so he tried sort of a last train. Grossack clearly was on the same track, because he returned the compliment with a "pick a minor slam"- 5NT. Very well done for a fully deserved +1370.

In the replay, the American E/W put a mass destruction weapon into operation.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zhu	Bortak	Luba	Kentos
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	2♥	2NT
3♥	3NT	All Pass	

Well, 3♥x might have gone three or four down but why should you double it when there is a slam available your way?

When the Slovaks settled for game instead, Zhu added insult to injury by leading his natural 4th best spade. Zhu must have been very pleased to see the ♠9 appear in dummy, because this card made it very unlikely that declarer would overcome this hurdle. Kentos duly called for dummy's ♠9 and thus managed to go down in 3NT while having even a slam his way. USA another +100 for a very, very well deserved 16 IMPs to still lose the match 16-19 or 8.54 – 11.46 V.P.

In the Croatia v. Japan match, there were in higher spheres at both tables.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nishino	Evacic	Umehara	Bilusic
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♠	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	7♦	All Pass	

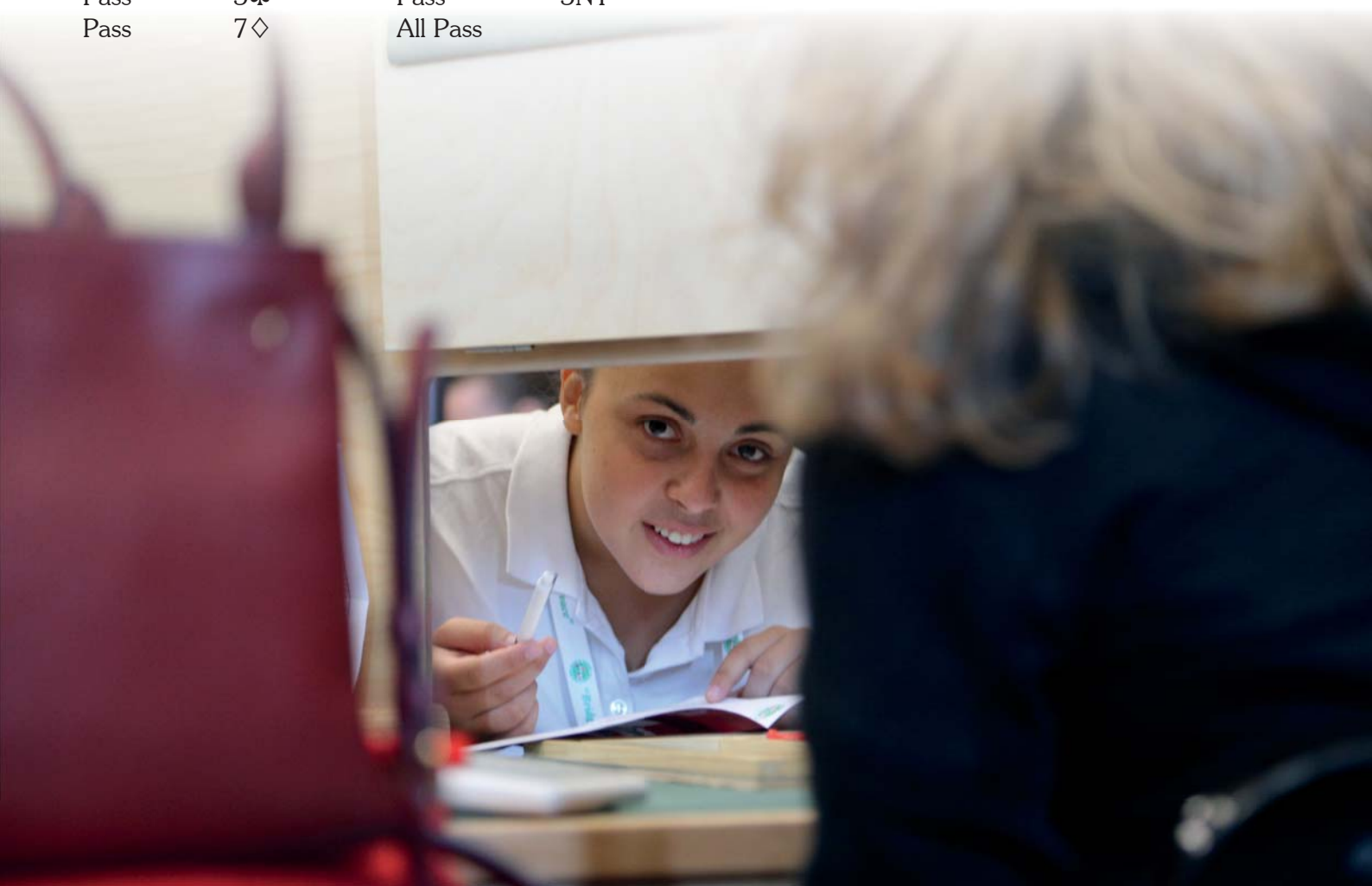
Mainly the same auction as in our other match but here, Bilusic thought that partner was suggesting a grand after bidding 4♠ and 5♠. He quickly fell back on earth. Japan +100 and well set for a big gain on the deal.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Stefanec	Song	Ferenca	Saito
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♠	3NT	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

When the Japanese came nowhere near a slam investigation (but still higher than their counterparts in our other match), it was up to the Croatian defenders to save whatever was possible in view of their Open Room disaster. East led the ♠2 to West's ace and back came a low spade, a logical choice once you have read enough books on defence. Here, too, North was holding the ♠9, so when he inserted this card, he had managed to go no less than down two in his contract for -200 and a 3-IMP gain to...Croatia!

The final score in this match: 21-0 or 17.35 – 2.65 V.P. to Croatia.





Mark Horton

The Diamond Menace

Naturally Jerome Rombaut has been following his son's exploits. He kindly sent me the details of this fascinating deal from the fifth session of the qualification:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Fu	Lahrmann	Wu	Rombaut
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West led the ♦2 for the queen, king and ace and declarer played back a diamond, East winning with the jack and returning a spade for the queen, king and ace. Declarer cashed the ♥A, ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart and played a club to the queen. When that held declarer ruffed a heart, cashed the ♠J and played the ♦9. West had to ruff and surrender the game going trick to declarer's ♣K. Four Spades was made only five times so that was worth 49/5.

Let's go back to trick two.

If West goes up with the ♦10 declarer's nine will no longer be a threat. However, that will not necessarily defeat the contract. Say West switches to a heart. Declarer takes dummy's ace, ruffs a heart, plays the ♠Q for the king and ace, ruffs a heart, ruffs a diamond, ruffs a heart, cashes the ♠J, plays a club to the queen and the master heart, endplaying West as before. Do you see how West can thwart this plan?

The solution is to exit with a diamond at trick three!

That forces declarer to ruff in dummy, removing a vital entry prematurely.

The way to avoid this is to play on hearts immediately. If declarer crosses to the ♥A, ruffs a heart, plays the ♠Q for the king and ace, ruffs a heart and only then plays a diamond.

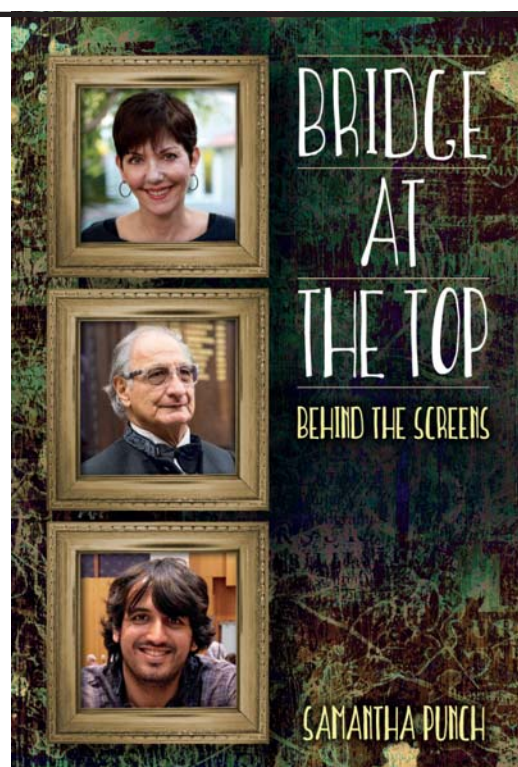
Free for All(most)

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.




Ron Tacchi

Under 26 Pairs Final Session 3

The final session of the Under 26 Pairs started with Van Oosten/Freeman leading the field, with Boulin/Guillemain in second; these two were followed by Hansson/Mann. There would be five more rounds of three deals to complete the endless Howell. Four tables were being broadcast on BBO.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Six of the nine tables reached the standard contract of Four Hearts; but with nothing right, and the trumps breaking 5-0, they failed by two tricks. Pity

Bellicaud/Guth who managed to steal the contract in Two Diamonds and then make it, but scored only 25% as 90 is less than 100.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Three pairs reached the spade slam, an example below:

West	North	East	South
Guth	Litterst	Bellicaud	Pabst
—	Pass	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

South showed a balanced 22+ hand and North transferred to hearts and then showed a spade suit. South cue-bid in clubs to agree spades and after a Blackwood enquiry came to rest in the slam. It is not a great slam; you need to pick up the trumps for one loser and then need the hearts to come in or the club finesse. After declarer won the opening lead in dummy, he played a small spade to ♠10, so he had two losers in the trump suit. With the actual trump layout, you need to start with the king and then run the ♠9. You can pick up all 4-1 splits except AJ87 by leading through the short hand towards the high honour and then run the ♠9 or ♠10 through the long hand. Failing in the slam still gave a quarter of the match-points as one pair had an auction they might wish to forget when they reached 7NT missing an ace, and unsurprisingly it was doubled.

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Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

At the four tables on BBO we had four different contracts, 3NT, 4♥, 6♣ and 6♥.

The Six Hearts contract was not a success for West as the declarer after a transfer sequence. He received the lead of the ♥2 and inserted the ♥9 to lose two trump tricks.

West	North	East	South
Mackowiak	Fragola	Jozkowiak	Tabata
—	—	—	2♦
3♣	3♦	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♣	All Pass

South opened a weak Two Diamonds and once East showed club support a series of cue-bids allowed East to bid the small slam. I am always a fan of slams bid without invoking Blackwood. On the lead of a diamond declarer was soon tabling his hand for all the tricks. Rosenberg/Zhu were spot on when they bid on the grand slam, giving them all the match-points.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

On BBO all four tables reached slam, three in hearts and one in no-trumps. At eight tables thirteen

tricks were made but on the other only twelve and this was a disaster as they had bid on to the grand slam.

West	North	East	South
Mann	Vallet	Hansson	Bedouet
—	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦*	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♠*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♦*	Pass	5♥	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

The opening Two Clubs showed a 18-19 balanced hand, and the Two Diamonds response was a transfer to hearts. 6NT is inferior to 6♥, because in hearts even after a club lead you can survive a 3-1 split in the heart suit. Fortunately for the declarer here although the opening lead was a club the hearts behaved themselves. The no-trump slam gained 15 match-points whilst the heart slam was 8, or half of the match-points.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Yet another slam hand, and two thirds of the tables arrived in slam, including one with what seems by now the obligatory unwise decision to go for glory with 7NT. Of the other five, four bid Six Spades and one went for all the tricks in spades.

West	North	East	South
Luba	Scata	Grossack	Donati
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	5♥*
Pass	5NT*	Pass	6♣*
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

In response to North's forcing 2NT South showed a club splinter. After the Blackwood enquiry showing the keycards South asked for the trump queen and received a positive reply. Six Clubs was a final effort to go higher and North liked his hand and tried for the grand slam. As you can see it is not the greatest grand slam ever, but would declarer be up to the job of finding the winning line? The lead was a small trump, which declarer took in hand. The ace of clubs was cashed and another ruffed. The ace of diamonds and a diamond ruff saw declarer ruff another club. Two more club and diamond ruffs ensued, and declarer was able to draw the outstanding trumps, cash the now established club before taking a deep breath and relying on the heart finesse. With the heart finesse working and also the ruffing finesse in diamonds most declarers made thirteen tricks. The grand slam netted all 16 match-points while the small one was worth 11.

Board 29. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ A 6 4
 ♥ Q
 ♦ A J 9 8 7 5 3 2
 ♣ 3

♠ K J
 ♥ 10 9 8 7 5 4 3
 ♦ Q
 ♣ J 5 2

N
 W E
 S

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


♠ 9 2
 ♥ K J 6
 ♦ K 10 6 4
 ♣ A Q 7 4

The Great Shuffler was at play again with a deal with suits of eight, seven, six, and five cards. Four of our intrepid tables reached the diamond slam.

West	North	East	South
<i>Bonin</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Guichet</i>	<i>Zhu</i>
—	1♦	1♠	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

An auction to be praised for its artistic brevity and accuracy. When East found the only lead to inconvenience declarer of a spade, declarer immediately riposted with a club to the queen. Once that held he was now home, because the singleton queen of hearts could be discarded on the ♣A, a spade given up and the final spade in declarer's hand ruffed in dummy to net thirteen of the match-points.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

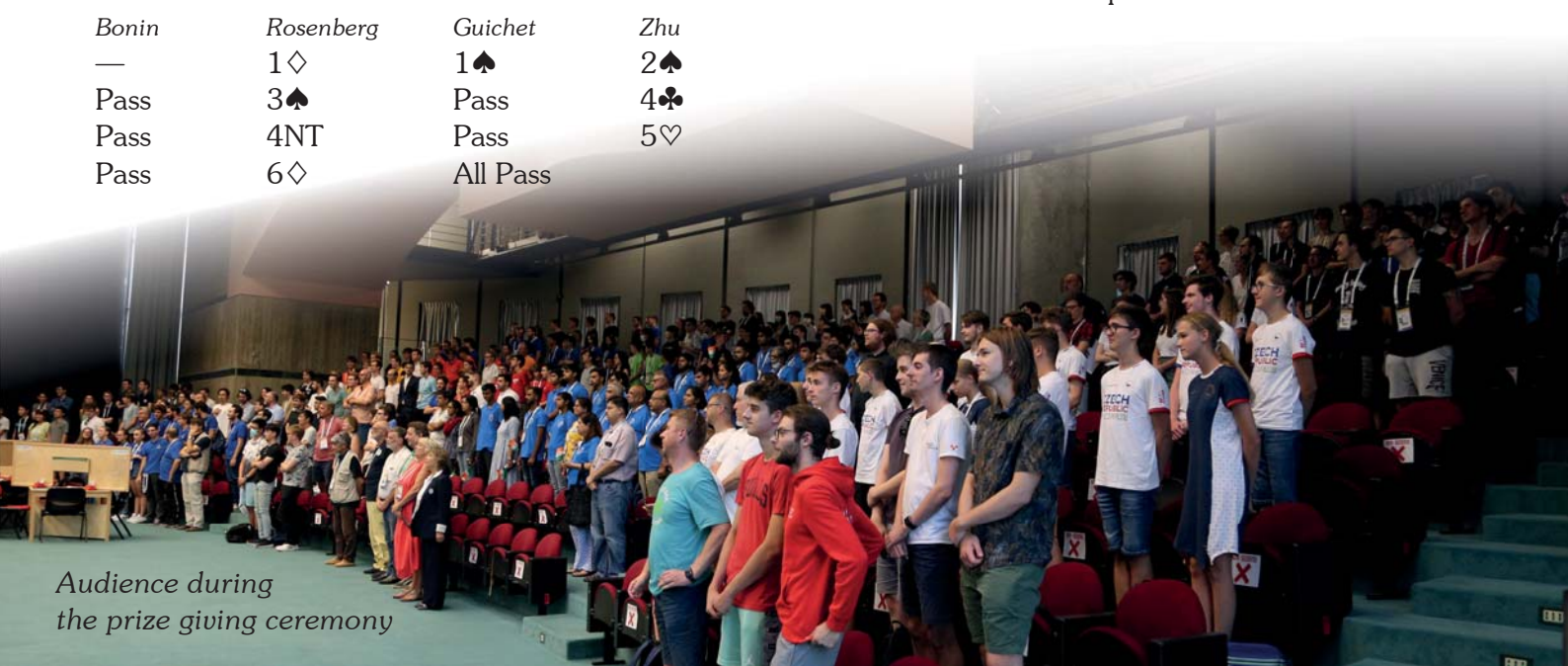
♠ A 7 5 4	♠ Q J 3	♠ K 10 9
♥ Q 9 2	♥ A 8 7 4	♥ 10 5
♦ A K 7 5	♦ J 6 3	♦ 10 9 8 4
♣ Q 2	♣ K 9 6	♣ J 8 5 4
		
	♠ 8 6 2	
	♥ K J 6 3	
	♦ Q 2	
	♣ A 10 7 3	

On this, the final board, I am only showing you the bidding as it was the same at all four BBO tables and four of the remaining five.

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

A hand upon which David Bird would surely have regaled you with the play.

At the end of the session the top two places were still occupied by Van Oosten/Freeman and Boulin/Guichet but Evacic/Bilusic hand moved up to third place. Congratulations to the winners who were 4.5% ahead of second place.



Audience during
the prize giving ceremony



Herman De wael DIRECTORS' CORNER

*Directors often have interesting stories to tell. Let's give them the space to do so.
Here is my first contribution.*

CONGRATULATIONS TO ECUADOR



I am called to a table and declarer tells me “I asked what a card meant, he told me, and she corrected him”.

I gathered the facts: East, defender, had discarded the ♠5. Declarer (South) had asked what that meant, and West said “she likes”. “No, I dislike”, East had corrected.

To discover what the signals were, I consulted the system card that was present at the table. In the appropriate spot it said “Alta me gusto el palo”. My Spanish is sufficient to realize what this meant (High

I like the suit), but probably East/West were not on the same page when deciding whether a five was a high card or not.

Anyway, no harm was done, and I explained the laws to the eager juniors from Ecuador. May I use this channel to express my admiration for the Ecuadorian officials who allowed these players to gain so much experience. “Today, we made fewer mistakes than yesterday”, was the comment of one of the players.

However, next year, perhaps the System Card could be in English?



Mark Horton Tiffin

Some of you may be familiar with the word tiffin, an Anglo/Indian word that is used to describe a light meal. In the comic film Carry on up the Khyber it was linked to teatime and as I was watching Rounds 4 and 5 in the afternoon it was not inappropriate. Film buffs may recall that one of the characters in the film is Sir Sidney Ruff-Diamond.

In Round 4 the U26 teams representing Croatia and USA faced off.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kolesnik</i>	<i>Evacic</i>	<i>Xu</i>	<i>Bilusic</i>
—	—	—	1♣*
1♥	2♦	Pass	2NT
3♥	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

East led the ♥8 and declarer won with dummy's ace and ran the ♦7, East winning with the king as West pitched the ♥5. Declarer took the diamond return in dummy, played a spade to the queen, cashed the ♠A and ruffed a spade, claiming when the king appeared, +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stefanec</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Ferensa</i>	<i>Grossack</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led the ♣2 and East won with the king and returned the ten for the queen and ace. A third club set up two winners for East, who could get in with the ♦K to cash them, -50 and 10 IMPs away.

Declarer might have tried ducking the ♣10. If East plays a third club declarer will be safe. The winning defence is for East to switch to a heart, which is perhaps not too difficult.

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kolesnik</i>	<i>Evacic</i>	<i>Xu</i>	<i>Bilusic</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	2♦	Pass	3♦
4♠	Dble	Pass	5♦
Dble	All Pass		

Given that South did not bid either 2♥ or 2♠ (you can use those to distinguish what type of diamond raise you are showing, with 3♣ perhaps being a fit non-jump) he was not promising much with 3♦. If you are confident that partner is not playing you for a lot, there is no case for running to 5♦.

East led the ♣9 and when it held he played the ♥A. Declarer ruffed and cashed the top diamonds before ducking a club, West winning with the queen and continuing with the ace and queen of spades. Declarer won with the king as East pitched the ♥4 and claimed nine tricks, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stefanec</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Ferensa</i>	<i>Grossack</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	Dble	2♥	Pass
4♥	Dble	All Pass	

There is no easy answer to the question of what East should rebid – you either introduce the clubs or show the sixth heart.

South led the ♠9 and declarer played dummy's



queen, ruffed North's king and played the $\diamond 2$ for the three, ten and jack. He pitched a club on North's spade return and played a club for the two, king and ten. North won the next club with the ace and played a spade. When declarer ruffed with the $\heartsuit Q$ South pitched the $\clubsuit 3$ and declarer ruffed a diamond and ran the $\heartsuit 10$ to South's king. He ruffed the diamond return in dummy and pitched a club on the $\spadesuit A$ but South ruffed and exited with a diamond, scoring the $\heartsuit 9$ at the end for two down, -500 and a 13 IMP swing.

Having ruffed a diamond, declarer must pitch his remaining diamond on the $\spadesuit A$. South ruffs, but will only score one more trump trick, holding the loss to -200.

Croatia won 14-13, 10.50-9.50 VP and were on top of the table.

In Round 5 it was USA U26 v Bridgenoobs.

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

\spadesuit A 10 6 4 2		\spadesuit J 7 3
\heartsuit —		\heartsuit J
\diamond A K		\diamond Q J 10 6 5 3 2
\clubsuit K 10 8 7 6 3		\clubsuit A 2
\spadesuit K Q 9 8	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">N W S E</div>	
\heartsuit Q 10 8 6 4		
\diamond 9 7 4		
\clubsuit 9		
\spadesuit 5		
\heartsuit A K 9 7 5 3 2		
\diamond 8		
\clubsuit Q J 5 4		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
van Oosten	Rosenberg	Freeman	Grossack
—	1 \clubsuit	2 \diamond	2 \heartsuit
Pass	2 \spadesuit	Pass	3 \clubsuit
Pass	3 \spadesuit	Pass	4 \diamond^*
Pass	4 \heartsuit^*	Pass	5 \clubsuit
All Pass			

East led the $\diamond Q$ and it did not take declarer long to claim 12 tricks, +420.

It is generally frowned upon to cue bid a shortage in partner's suit, but 4 \spadesuit is a possibility in this situation. Having said that, North could be reasonably sure that at least one spade could be discarded from South's hand on a top diamond.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Xu	Khutorsky	Kolesnik	Zeitak
—	1 \clubsuit^*	1 \diamond	1 \heartsuit
Dble*	1 \spadesuit	2 \diamond	4 \clubsuit^*
Pass	4 \diamond	Pass	4 \heartsuit
Pass	4 \spadesuit	Pass	5 \clubsuit
Pass	6 \clubsuit	All Pass	

East led the $\diamond Q$ and declarer won and played a club to the queen, claiming when it held, +920 and 11 IMPs.

Board 30. Dealer East. None Vul.

\spadesuit K 9 8 3		\spadesuit J 10 2
\heartsuit K 9 8 7		\heartsuit Q
\diamond 9 8		\diamond A Q J 7
\clubsuit J 9 4		\clubsuit A 10 8 7 6
\spadesuit 5 4	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">N W S E</div>	
\heartsuit 10 4 3 2		
\diamond 5 4 3 2		
\clubsuit K 5 2		
\spadesuit A Q 7 6		
\heartsuit A J 6 5		
\diamond K 10 6		
\clubsuit Q 3		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
van Oosten	Rosenberg	Freeman	Grossack
—	—	1 \clubsuit	1NT
All Pass			

West led the $\diamond 4$ and East took the ace, continued with the queen and then played the seven. Declarer won and having pitched a heart from dummy, cashed four spades. West let a heart go and declarer recorded +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Xu	Khutorsky	Kolesnik	Zeitak
—	—	1NT	Pass
Pass	2 \clubsuit^*	Pass	2 \diamond^*
Pass	2 \heartsuit	Pass	3 \heartsuit
All Pass			
2 \clubsuit	Majors		
2 \diamond	No preference		

How best to show the South hand after partner's 2 \clubsuit ? A game-forcing 3 \clubsuit is one possibility. The idea is to get partner to bid their five-card major if they have one, while with 4-4 partner bids 3 \diamond . Were that to have happened here South could then bid 4 \diamond asking North to choose the major – would you prefer them to choose their weakest or strongest suit?

Perhaps South did well to simply invite game, because 4 \heartsuit can be defeated if East leads a spade at trick one, as that upsets declarer's communications. On the other hand, 4 \spadesuit is playable makeable provided declarer does not go wrong in hearts. I confess I would have found it difficult to resist bidding game.

Declarer secured ten tricks for +170 and the 1 IMP gain left Bridgenoobs winners by 15-3, 14.92-5.08 VP.

TEAMS - RANKINGS AFTER QUALIFICATION



UNDER 26

1	BRIDGENOOBS	107.05
2	ITALY U26 GREEN	102.80
3	USA U26	96.78
4	INDIA	93.50
5	REVOKESTARS	90.07
6	BRIDGESTARS	88.91
7	CUHK	85.95
8	FRANCE U22	79.67
9	ITALY U26 BLUE	76.83
10	GERMANY U26	75.95
11	JAPAN	74.56
12	FRANCE U26	73.24
13	CROATIA U26	72.14
14	DABROWKA POZNAN	67.91
15	SLOVAKIA	67.05
16	AUSTRALIA	62.91
17	ITALY U26 RED	60.18



UNDER 21

1	NORWAY U21	108.68
2	CKIS SKAWINA U18	105.15
3	CHINESE TAIPEI U21	97.77
4	ITALY U21	94.26
5	DADDY LAHRMANN	90.45
6	FOTINAKIS	88.68
7	HUNGARY U21	87.53
8	DABROWKA WZBS POZNAN	86.67
9	KITKUTIM II	85.14
10	CARROTS	84.28
11	THE MULTI LANDONERS	80.75
12	ENGLAND U21	79.62
13	GERMANY U21	78.33
14	CZECH REPUBLIC B	77.41
15	U21 ENGLAND	75.31
16	MAPLE	73.91
17	CZECH REPUBLIC A	66.76
18	AUSTRALIA	64.83
19	ECUADOR U21	63.05
20	JAPAN	57.38
21	ECUADOR GIRLS	48.04



WOMEN UNDER 26

1	NORWAY GIRLS	73.63
2	ITALY U26W GREEN	68.07
3	INDIA U26G	57.84
4	ITALY U26W WHITE	45.09
5	TAIWAN	35.71
6	ITALY U26W RED	17.66



UNDER 16

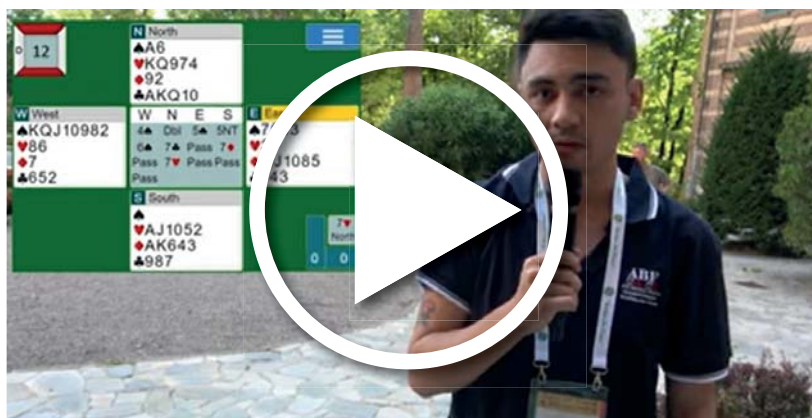
1	USS UNSINKABLE	70.24
2	CKIS SKAWINA U15	69.34
3	CKIS SKAWINA U12	65.14
4	BLITZ	58.92
5	CZECH REPUBLIC	57.13
6	TEAM TRICKY BRIDGE	56.85
7	ENGLAND U16	53.58
8	ITALY U16	43.40
9	INDIA U16	38.99
10	ECUAEL	33.55
11	ECUADOR	12.86



UNDER 31

1	INDIA U31	72.13
2	AGNIESZKAS ANGELS	56.58
3	FINLAND	55.70
4	SWEETCE	53.34
5	JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA	41.25
6	SLOVENIJA	19.00

VIDEO CORNER



JAIME THOMPSON'S EXCITING BOARD



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnlycBSyvGI>



AND THE WINNERS ARE..



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TvNeBhBYVU>