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Sunday, 14 August 2022 (afternoon). Issue No 8.

An Individual Approach

As we prepare to say farewell to Salsomaggiore Terme, it's time to crown our final set of champions and medal winners.



JOAN GERARD YOUTH AWARDS WINNERS



Costa Theodore Ben Guigui (not pictured)	(u16)
Federica Dalpozzo	(u26w)
Renata Serrano Sotomayor	(u21)
Sibrand Van Oosten & Olivia Schireson	(u26)
Mihaela Stiglic	(u31)

INDIVIDUAL U26/U21/U26W/U31

- 1 Panagiotis SKORDAS
- 2 Finn KOLESNIK
- 3 Wai Lam CHEUNG Kevin ROSENBERG (1st U26) Franciszek KURLIT (1st U21) Kalpana Baliram GURJAR (1st U26W) Oskari KOIVU (1st U31)



Brian ZHANG Ignacy KOTEWICZ Thomas BRADKIN







Con il patrocinio del

CONI

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Dear Young Friends,

and so we come to the end of the Championship and I am delighted that it has proved to be so successful.

I hope that you will all agree that the playing conditions have been comfortable, and you will all have taken advantage as well as the welcome of Salsomaggiore Terme. We must thank Salsomaggiore and its Mayor Filippo Fritelli for its generosity in supporting this event and the Italian Bridge Federation, here represented by the Vice President Pierfrancesco Parolaro. With a special thank you to Michela Cavatorta the Onsite Organizer for the invaluable job done.

I would like, in addition, to thank the members of our Youth Committee, chaired by my dear friend and colleague Ata Aydin, for the very good job done not only in this championship but in all the Youth Events organised and the activity during my 12 years of Presidency of the WBF. I am pleased to call to the podium the members of the Committee Sevinç Atay, Paolo Clair and Fernando Lema that deserve your applause.

I will now call on the various departments of these Championships to the podium and our thanks go to the Championship Manager Maurizio Di Sacco; the Tournament Directors who have worked unstintingly headed by Antonio Riccardi ably assisted by Dimitri Ballas, Marc van Beijsterveldt, Herman De wael, Peter Eidt; the Secretariat with Marina Madia, Arianna Testa and Cippi Todeschini; the Hospitality and Registration Desk with Silvia Valentini, who is also our appreciated Master of Ceremonies and Gildana Caputo; the Broadcasting Group with Mario Chavarria Kaifman, Fernando Lema. Letizia Contu, Kamrin Menezes; the Main Office overseen by Gianluca Barrese and his boys Francesca Allegri, Valentina Bocchi Tanani, Mattia Dallaturca, Mara Fantoni and Sara Faroldi; the Technological Group with Fotis Skoularikis, Manolo Eminenti, Traian Chira, Chicco Battistone, Giulio Crevato Selvaggi, Giuse Di Dio, Robin Fellus and Arianna Pomilio; the Daily Bulletin edited by Mark Horton assisted by Barry Rigal, Ron Tacchi and Jos Jacobs, "dressed" by Francesca Canali; our master of photography Claudio Fossati; the duplication team coordinated by Monica Gorreri duplicated thousands of boards with Filippo Fantoni, Beatrice Quattromini and Luca Saglia; last but not least the Chairman of the Protocol Sevinç Atay and the Championship Secretary Paolo Clair.

Dear young Friends, when the curtain falls and such an event ends, we all are a little sad to leave our old and new friends, but we will go back home with the memory of a marvellous bridge adventure enjoyed all together in friendship and harmony.

You have to be proud, having contributed to the success of the championship with your behaviour and with your enthusiasm. We are proud of you and to all of you I would like to express my warmest appreciation. Once again you showed that Bridge is a great sport where fair play, friendship and socialisation prevail. Let me repeat that you are an example for the bridge players of any age everywhere in the world.

Before ending, let me reserve a special thanks to all the delegations coming from Asia, Australia, South and Nord America, overcoming the difficulties of such a long journey, marking the importance of this event. A particular thank you to the youngest participants, the twins Sophie and Leonardo Zaindenberg Gatt, nine years old. I invite them to the podium to receive a greatly deserved applause.

Dear Friends, this is the last Youth Event under my presidency. I am very proud and happy because the future of bridge is bright.

Thank you and un abbraccio to you all *Gianarrigo Rona*

Roll of Honour

OPEN UNDER 26

Teams:

Gold:	USA U26 : Bo Han Zhu (CAN), Zach Grossack, Finn Kolesnik, Harrison Anders Luba,
	Kevin Rosenberg, Michael Xu (USA)
Silver:	Bridgenoobs: Jacob Freeman (CAN),
	Nir Khutorsky, Aviv Zeitak (ISR),
	Sibrand van Oosten (NED), Alex Kolesnik (npc)
Bronze:	Italy U26 Green: Alvaro Gaiotti,
	Gabriele Giubilo, Giovanni Donati,
	Sebastiano Scatà, Valerio Giubilo (npc),
	Dario Attanasio (coach)

Pairs:

Gold:	Sibrand van Oosten (NED) - Jacob Freeman (CAN)
Silver:	Arthur Boulin - Théo Guillemin (FRA)
Bronze:	Emanuel Evačić - Ivan Bilušić (CRO)

Individual:

There was just one tournament for four series: The top two both played in the U21 series: Gold: Panagiotis Skordas (GRE) Silver: Finn Kolesnik (USA) Bronze: Cheung Wai Lam (HKG)

In all four series, one individual was named as the best after the medal winners.

Kevin Rosenberg (4th) was the best U26 player.

Finn Kolesnik wins three medals in Salsomaggiore. He had already won bronze in U21 teams in 2019. Michael Xu, like Finn, has won two medals in different categories (the U21 Pairs and U26 teams). He had previously won bronze in U16 teams (2018). Jacob Freeman and Sibrand van Oosten have also won two medals here. Sibrand previously won a bronze in U21 teams in 2015 (on team Germany).

Kevin Rosenberg and Zach Grossack have both won the U21 team title twice (Kevin in 2017 and '19; Zach in '13 and '17), after both getting a silver at U16 level (Zach in '12, Kevin in '14). Kevin's parents Debbie and Michael have 17 world medals between them.

Giovanni Donati has a gold medal in U26 teams in 2015. He is a regular on the Italian Open team.

Aviv Zeitak won a gold in U16 in 2016 and Silver in U21 in 2018. Arthur Boulin and Théo Guillemin have previously won a gold and two bronze medals in the U21 category.

Alvaro Gaiotti and Sebastiano Scato won gold at the 2016 U21s, Sebastiano additionally has a bronze in the U21 pairs in 2015. Nir Khutorsky won gold at the U16 teams in 2016, and silver at U21 in 2018.

Harrison Anders Luba won bronze in U16 in 2018.

OPEN UNDER 21

Teams:

	Gold:	Daddy Lahrmann: Christian Lahrmann (captain, DEN),
		Léo Rombaut (FRA), Nikolai Haiberg-Evenstad (NOR),
		Andreas Abragi, Harry Hjorth Warlenius,
		Ivar Lichtenstein (SWE), Jérôme Rombaut (coach)
	Silver:	CKIS Skawina U18: Wojciech Bąk, Kacper Kuflowski,
1		Franciszek Kurlit, Michał Staśik (POL)
	Bronze:	Dąbrówka WZBS Poznań: Wiktor Chalupniczak,
		Szymon Gras, Jakub Nawrocki, Jakub Pilat (POL)
	Pairs:	

Pairs:

Gold: Michael Xu - Finn Kolesnik (USA) Silver: Argay Zsolt - Kemeny Mark (HUN) Bronze: Christian Lahrmann (DEN) - Léo Rombaut (FRA)

Individual:

Panagiotis Skordas and Finn Kolesnik (both U21 players) came first and second in the Individual.

Franciszek Kurlit (5th) was the best U21 player after the medal winners.

Finn Kolesnik and Michael Xu (see above) as well as Christian Lahrman and Léo Rombaut win two medals here in Salsomaggiore. Christian previously won gold at the U16 Pairs in 2015 and is already a member of the Danish Open team. Léo, son of 2017 Bermuda Bowl finalist Jérôme Rombaut, won silver himself in U16 teams in 2018.

Kacper Kuflowski and Franciszek Kurlit won two medals (bronze in pairs, silver in teams) at U16 level in 2019. Michał Staśik was also on that silver-winning team in 2019.

WOMEN UNDER 26

Teams:

Gold:	Norway Girls: Kaja Brekke, Thea Lucia Indrebø,			
	Agnethe Hansen Kjensli, Mia Eline Statle (NOR)			
Silver:	Italy U26W Green: Sophia Capobianco,			
	Eleonora, Federica & Valentina Dalpozzo (ITA),			
	Dario Attanasio (npc), Valerio Giubilo (coach)			

Bronze: **Italy U26W White**: Christina Brusotti, Zaira Davide, Annachiara & Magdalena Pelaggi (ITA), Dario Attanasio (npc), Valerio Giubilo (coach)

Pairs:

Gold:Clara Bouton - Margaux Kurek Beaulieu (FRA)Silver:Vidhya Kamal Patel - Kalpana Baliram Gurjar (IND)Bronze:Valentina & Federica Dalpozzo (ITA)

Individual:

Kalpana Baliram Gurjar (15th) was the best U26W player after the medal winners.

Federica and Valentina Dalpozzo are also double medallists here. Valentina previously won gold in the U26 Women Individual in 2019. They are now joined by a third sister, Eleonora. We believe this is the first time that three siblings are on the same medalwinning team. With two sisters on the bronze-winning team as well, Bridge is clearly a family affair in Italy.

Thea Lucia Indrebø and Agnethe Hansen Kjensli have won their fourth medals, after bronze in U26W teams in 2016, and two medals in 2019, gold together in teams, and gold (Thea) and silver (Agnethe) in the pairs.

OPEN UNDER 16

Teams:

Gold: Blitz: Darwin Li (CAN), Albert Pedmanson, Jasper Vahk (EST), Anshul Bhatt (IND)
Silver: USS Unsinkable: Andrew Chen, Charlie Chen, Kayden Ge, Eric & Jeff Xiao, Brian Zhang (USA),

Xiang Zhang (coach) Bronze: **CKIS Skawina U15**: Aleks Bukat, Kacper Kisielewski, Milena Klimiuk (w), Jan Trojak (POL), Marcin Kuflowski (npc)

Pairs:

Gold:	Anshul Bhatt (IND) - Darwin Li (CAN)
Silver:	Aman Parekh - William Battersby (ENG)
Bronze:	Martijn Goor - Wout Klarenbeek (NED)

Individual:

There was a separate Individual tournament for the under-16s. Gold: Brian Zhang (USA) Silver: Ignacy Kotewicz (POL) Bronze: Thomas Bradkin (ENG)

Brian Zhang, Anshul Bhatt and Darwin Li are among the ten players to get two medals here. Not surprisingly, none of these players have medalled before. These are the very first World championship medals won by players from Estonia, which thereby becomes the fiftieth nation to have done so.

OPEN UNDER 31

Teams:

Gold:	Sweece: Dimitrios Konstantinos Balokas,
	Ioannis Oikonomopoulos (GRE),
	Alessandro Calmanovici, Jeremie Stöckli (SUI)
Silver:	Finland: Hermanni Huhtamäki, Oskari Koivu,
	Maria Mylläri, Ilona Vänni (FIN)
Bronze:	Agnieszkas Angels: Jakub Bazyluk, Krzysztof Cichy,
	Tomasz Kiełbasa, Kacper Kopka, Patryk Patreuha (PO

Pairs:

Gold: Sagnik Roy - Sayanthan Kushari (IND)Silver: Jamie Thompson - Andrew Spooner (AUS)Bronze: Ioannis Oikonomopoulos - Dimitrios Konstantinos Balokas (GRE)

Individual:

Oskari Koivu (9th) was the best U31 players after the medal winners.

Dimitrios Konstantinos Balokas and Ioannis Oikonomopoulos complete the set of ten double medallists in Salsomaggiore in 2022. Jamie Thompson previously won silver in U26 Pairs in 2019, while Ioannis Oikonomopoulos won bronze at U26 teams in 2015. The entire gold-winning team in the U21 category in 2019 (Bazyluk, Cichy, Kiełbasa, Kopka) were here successfully playing under-31. Kiełbasa and Kopka also won gold in the pairs in 2019. Kacper Kopka furthermore has a silver medal from the 2015 U16 pairs. The fifth member of Agnieszkas Angels, Patryk Patreuha, won silver in the 2019 U21 Individual.

Alessandro Calmanovici won the BAM (representing Italy) in 2015.

OPEN UNDER 16

BAM (U26, U21, U26W & U31)

Gold: **France U26**: Louis Bonin, Arthur Boulin, Maxence Fragola, Thomas Guichet, Théo Guillemin, Nao Tabata

Silver: **Germany U26**: Felix Dörmer, Sven Niklas Farwig, Maximilian Literst, Philipp Pabst, Jonathan Pieper, Maximilian Niklas Stepper Bronze: **Croatia U26**: Ivan Bilušić, Emanuel Evačić, Matko Ferenca,

Kristjan Stefanec, Marshall Lewis (npc)

the B-final was won by:

Japan U21: Abe Ryusuke, Inami Terushi, Kayama Yu, Shimada Kentaro

BAM (U16)

 Gold: Team Tricky Bridge: Kristian Dalemark Austad, Costa Theodore Ben Guigui, Frantisek Kubat, Einar Osen
 Silver: Czech Republic: Jonáš Drozd, Marek Pilát, Karolína Rečičárová, Lukáš Vachtarčík, Adam Janas (npc), Daniel Vachtarčík (coach)
 Bronze: India U16: Titharaj Chowdhury, Paaval Goyal, Rashi Jahagirdar,

Nachiketa Muthuswamy, Aniruddha Sanzgiri (npc & coach)

MEDAL TABLE AT THE

7TH WORLD YOUTH TRANSNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Med	al Table	gold	silver	bronze	total
Pola	nd		2	3	5.00
USA		2.83	2		4.83
Italy			1	3	4.00
India	a	1.75	1		2.75
Fran	ce	1.17	1	0.50	2.67
Gree	ece	1.50		1	2.50
Engl	and		1	1	2.00
Neth	ierlands	0.50	0.25	1	1.75
Cana	ada	1.42	0.25		1.67
Norv	vay	1.17			1.17
Aust	ralia		1		1.00
Finla	ind		1		1.00
Hung	gary		1		1.00
Croa	tia			1	1.00
Chin	a Hong Kong			1	1.00
Deni	mark	0.17		0.50	0.67
Esto	nia	0.50			0.50
Swee	den	0.50			0.50
Switz	zerland	0.50			0.50
Israe			0.50		0.50
total		12	12	12	36

(medals won by transnational competitors are divided among the nationalities of the individual players)

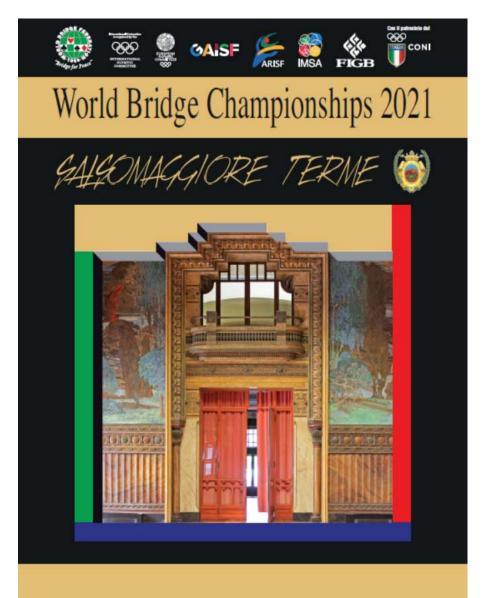


It's time to say goodbye to the wonderful city of Salsomaggiore. It has been our pleasure to attempt to present the unique atmosphere that pervades the World Youth Transnational Championships. Friendships made here will last a lifetime. Barry Rigal, Jos Jacobs and Ron Tacchi brought you the best of the hundreds of deals they watched, and their breathless prose was illuminated by the astonishing photographs taken by Claudio Fossati that captured the spirit of this event and the sense of enjoyment that it bestows upon everyone taking part. All this skill and effort would be wasted were it not for the imagination and expertise of our Layout Legend, Francesca Canali, who turns the words and photographs into works of art.

007 will return.



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BOOK SALSOMAGGIORE 2022



The official book of these World Championships in Salsomaggiore will be released during World Bridge Series in Wroclaw later this year. The principal contributors were Brian Senior, Barry Rigal, Mark Horton, Marek Wojcicki, Daniel Gulyas & Ron Tacchi.

The book (in full colour) includes many photographs from the championships, a full list of results and extensive coverage of the major championship events.

The official retail price is £25, US\$30 and €30. The book will be distributed by Master Point Press and available from bridge suppliers around the world. It will shortly be available as an ebook from the Master Point Press web site at US\$25.

Please order from your local bridge supplier, and not from MPP, which will not be handling individual orders.

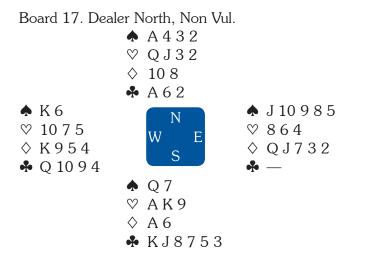




Ron Tacchi U26 Semifinal 2

After the first fourteen board segment of the semifinal USA U26 were leading Italy U26 Green 30-20, so only a ten-point difference – all to play for.

The first two boards did not provide us with a swing, then:



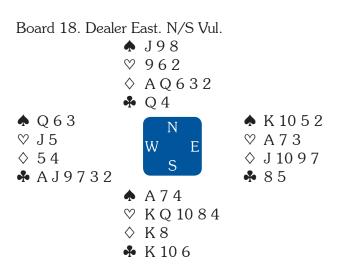
Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Grossack	Gaiotti	Rosenberg	OpenS	
—	1NT	Pass	$2\diamond$	
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♣	
Pass	3♡	Pass	3NT	
All Pass				

East led his fifth-best two of diamonds and declarer immediately won with his ace and cashed four rounds of hearts, East discarding the jack of spades, dummy its diamond and fatefully as we shall see, West also disembarrassed himself of a small diamond. Declarer now made the excellent play of exiting with his small diamond. If East won this then the diamond suit would be blocked and a diamond continuation would leave West on play to lead away from a black honour, the alternative play of a spade would not only establish a spade trick for declarer, but the other diamond winner would be marooned in the East hand. West therefore overtook with his king and played back the suit taken by East who then cashed his penultimate diamond, both declarer and dummy coming down to three clubs and two spades, as did West. On the lead of the last diamond declarer discarded a club from dummy and now what could West do? He elected to part with a spade as did declarer and now when East perforce had to lead a spade the king fell under declarer's ace. A truly brilliant piece of card-reading by declarer.

Can you see why West's premature diamond discard allowed declarer his brilliancy? If he keeps four diamonds when declarer exits with the diamond, East can win and lead a spade setting up a spade trick for the defence and there is still communication to cash the diamonds.

Closed Ro	oom		
West	North	East	South
Donati	Zhu	Scata	Luba
	14	1 🛧	2♠
Pass	34	Pass	3♠
Dble	Redble	Pass	4�*
Pass	4NT	Pass	6 🗣
Dble	All Pass		

The slam depended on there not being a trump loser and as we can see this was not the case and so declarer finished two light, 12 IMPs to Italy, putting them two points in the lead.

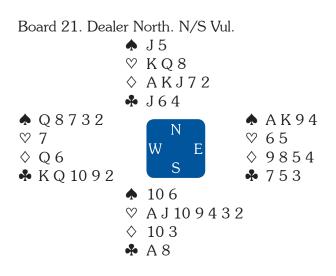


Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Grossack	Gaiotti	Rosenberg	OpenS	
_		Pass	1NT	
Pass	3NT	All Pass		

Declarer received the lead of the 43 which ran round to his 410 The king of hearts lost to the ace and a club came back which West ducked. Declarer now cashed three rounds of diamonds, finishing in dummy, discovering the 4-2 split and now had to bring in the heart suit and so led one and finessed against the jack, unfortunately West's singleton was the jack and he then cashed four clubs to take the contract two down.

Closed Room				
West	North	East	South	
Donati	Zhu	Scata	Luba	
—	—	Pass	1NT	
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♡	
Pass	4♡	All Pass		

North's Three Clubs was Puppet Stayman and the Three Hearts response showed five cards and so North settled for the major-suit game. The diamond lead was taken by declarer's king and then the king of hearts was played and ducked. A small club towards the queen held the trick and a small club off dummy to the $\clubsuit10$ was taken by West's jack and ace of clubs followed. Dummy ruffed with $\heartsuit9$ and East overruffed with his ace, and then exited with a spade, taken in hand . When the queen of hearts felled the jack the contract was home. 13 IMPs to USA.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Grossack	Gaiotti	Rosenberg	OpenS
	1NT	Pass	4
Dble	Pass	Pass	Redble
Pass	$4 \heartsuit$	All Pass	

South's bid was South African Texas showing hearts and West doubled and South redoubled telling North to complete the transfer. East led the ace of spades and switched to a club allowing declarer to make two overtricks.

West	North	East	South
Donati	Zhu	Scata	Luba
	1NT	Pass	$4\diamond$
Dble	Redble	$5\diamond$	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

At this table South's bid was also Texas but of the

red-suited variety. West's brave intervention came to an unfortunate end as East understood it to show a diamond suit, as no doubt many partnerships might so do. If his intention was to make a takeout then perhaps he could have considered 4° to convey this meaning. It was 1700 out. Had South started with the \Diamond 10 and declarer had a moment's lack of concentration and not played the queen, the defence would have taken all thirteen tricks! 17 IMPs to USA who now had a lead of 20 IMPs.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

	 ▲ A ♡ 1095 ◊ J98652 ♣ K54 	
 ▲ 10652 ♡ Q832 ◇ AK3 ◆ 86 	N W E S ◆ Q 4 3 ♡ J 7 4 ◇ Q 7 4 ◆ Q 7 4 ◆ Q J 9 3	 ▲ K J 9 8 7 ♡ A K 6 ◊ 10 ♣ A 10 7 2

Open Room	
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Open noom				
North	East	South		
Gaiotti	Rosenberg	OpenS		
_	_	Pass		
Pass	1	Pass		
Pass	4♠	All Pass		
	Gaiotti — Pass	Gaiotti Rosenberg — — — Pass 1 ♠		

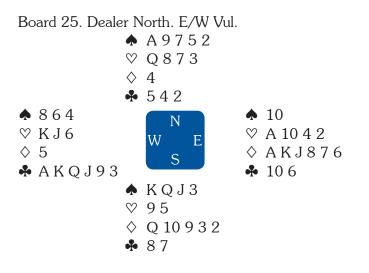
An uninteresting auction to an uninteresting contract as declarer had to lose three tricks and had to win tricks to bring home the vulnerable game.

Closed Room				
West	North	East	South	
Donati	Zhu	Scata	Luba	
—			Pass	
Pass	Pass	1 🛧	Pass	
3♡*	Pass	4 🏶	Pass	
$4\diamond$	Pass	$4 \heartsuit$	Pass	
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	
5 🗣	Pass	$5\diamond$	Pass	
5♠	All Pass			

Three Hearts obviously showed some form of fourcard raise and perhaps as a result of previous boards, pressing for a good result the auction finished a level too high. On a good day there would have only been one trump loser and so it would not have mattered, but it was not the case and so the contract failed and another 12 IMPs to USA who were now 33 points



ahead – the fat lady was searching for her glass of water so she could gargle.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Grossack	Gaiotti	Rosenberg	OpenS
	Pass	$1\diamondsuit$	Pass
24	Pass	2♡	Pass
3♣	Pass	3◊	Pass
3♡	Pass	4•	Pass
$4 \heartsuit$	Pass	5%	All Pass

After the ace of spades lead declarer played safe for eleven tricks.

Closed Room				
West	North	East	South	
Donati	Zhu	Scata	Luba	
—	Pass	$1\diamond$	1 🛧	
2♠	4♠	Dble	Pass	
4NT	Pass	$5\diamond$	Dble	
6•	All Pass			

I always thought a new suit at the six-level for forcing for one round, shows what I know. Maybe South's daring four-card overcall bounced West into the slam. North led his singleton diamond taken in dummy and when a spade was led South went in with his jack and played back a diamond which declarer ruffed high. A spade ruffed followed and the 10 was cashed. Declarer returned to hand with a diamond ruff and drew trumps and confidently made the contract by finessing against North's queen of hearts as he could count South's hand to be 5152. Fortunately for declarer South did not have queen doubleton in hearts. 13 IMPs back to Italy, Suddenly the fat lady had to put her glass down and watch to see if there was to be further drama. Alas from Italy's perspective the remaining boards were very flat and by the time the last board hit the green baize there was no way back for Italy as USA ran out winners by a margin of 24.



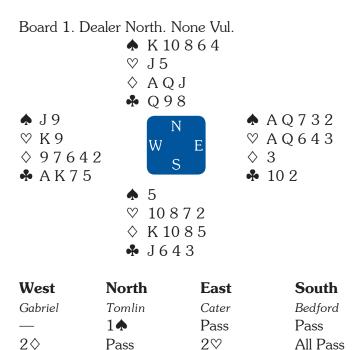


Mark Horton Step by Step

You might imagine that my title refers to the recently Master Point Press publication *Improve your Cardplay Step by Step* by Robert Berthe & Norbert Lébely (a super book) whereas in fact it is predicated on the fact that many of the weight conscious staff are preoccupied with the number of paces they take each day. The Directors score highly, especially if they are frequently called to the table – Herman clocked up more than 10,000 one day thanks to a bust session in the U16 event. On Saturday Antonio Riccardi was well over 14,000 by the time we got back to the hotel. My personal best is 20514 which equates to 11.5km and apparently burns off 496 calories. I hope to beat that in Wroclaw, walking backwards and forwards to the old town.

By now I expect you are anxious to see some bridge – here are some of the early deals from the Individual:

(Apologies, I do not have most of the names.)



South led the $\bigstar5$ and dummy's nine was covered by the ten and queen. Declarer took three rounds of trumps, crossed to dummy with the \clubsuitA and played the $\bigstar J$ for the king, ace and the $\heartsuit10$. When South exited with a club declarer won in dummy and played a diamond, North taking the ace and returning the $\clubsuit Q$. Declarer discarded the $\bigstar2$, and when North continued with the $\bigstar8$ declarer had nine tricks, +140 and 27/47.

 ▲ A 10 8 ♡ 8 5 ◊ 10 7 5 ♣ K J 6 	- V	2 3 7 5 4 N E \$ 5 J 7 9	9 4 3 10 7 6 4 2 Q J 10 8 3 2
West	North	East	South
Gabriel	Tomlin	Cater	Bedford
	—	Pass	$1\diamond$
Pass	2	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the \heartsuit 4 and declarer won with dummy's king and played the \bigstar K, continuing with the queen. When that also held three rounds of diamonds saw West win with the ten and return the \heartsuit 8. Declarer won with dummy's queen, cashed the diamonds, crossed to the \heartsuit A and played a club for the queen and king. He got a club at the end, +630 and 42/32.

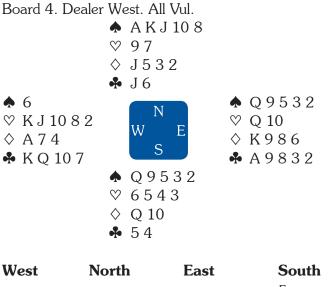
Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

Dualu J. L	Pealer South. I	_/vv vui.	
	🔶 Q 8		
	♡ J 7 :	3	
	♦ Q 7	6	
	🗣 Q J	1094	
 ▲ KJ95 ♡ K109 ◊ 1092 ♣ K 	84 W		 ▲ 10 3 ♡ A Q 2 ◊ A J 8 5 4 3 ♣ A 8
West	North	East	South
			Freeman
_			24
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the $\blacklozenge Q$ and South put up the ace and



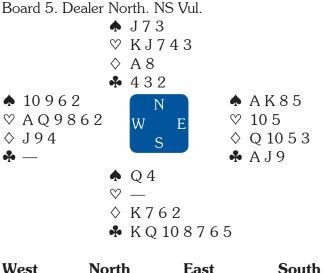
switched to a club. Declarer won, cashed his hearts and spades and played a diamond to the ace, +660 and 28/46. Those lucky enough to take 12 tricks scored 10/64.



west	NOTI	Lasi	South
			Freeman
$1 \heartsuit$	1 🛧	24	3♠
Pass	Pass	$4 \heartsuit$	All Pass

North started with his top spades and declarer ruffed, drew trumps (overtaking dummy's queen) and soon had the rest of the tricks, +680 and 16/58.

To my surprise no one managed to reach the virtually laydown 6^{4} .



West	North	East	South
_	Pass	$1\diamondsuit$	2♣
Dble*	2♡	Pass	3♣
3�	All Pass		

If East had bid $2 \clubsuit$ who knows where the music would have stopped.

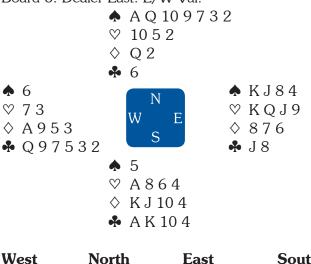
South led the \clubsuit K and declarer took the ace pitching a heart from dummy, ruffed a club, played a spade to the ace, ruffed a club and played the \Diamond J. North ducked that and so did South, and declarer played a spade to the king. Had he exited with a diamond North would the defenders would have been in trouble, but declarer exited with a spade and North won and returned the $\heartsuit J$. South ruffed and played a club and North ruffed with the $\diamondsuit A$ and played another heart ensuring one down, -50 and 15/59.

If North wins the first round of trumps and plays a heart South ruffs and forces declarer with a club which should result in two down which would have been 23/51.

However, if declarer ruffs the club lead and then plays a diamond he should always come to nine tricks.

An initial trump lead would have left declarer with little hope as the defenders can play three rounds of the suit.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



North	East	South
	Pass	$1\diamondsuit$
1	Pass	2
2	All Pass	
	 1♠	— Pass 1♠ Pass

East led the $\heartsuit K$ and declarer won in dummy and played a spade for the queen and king, East continuing hearts. Declarer ruffed the fourth round, cashed the $\bigstar A$ and continued with the $\bigstar 10$. East won and exited with a club and declarer took dummy's ace and king pitching a diamond and then played a diamond. West took that and played a club, promoting East's $\bigstar 8$ into the setting trick, -50 and only42/32.

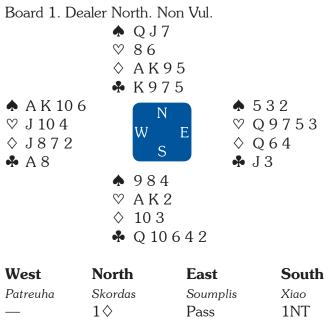
At the end declarer should have played a club, pitching his remaining diamond, avoiding the promotion. +110 would have scored 56/18.

However, declarer can do better. After winning the heart lead he can cash the top clubs pitching a heart and then play a diamond. There is no way the defenders can take more than four tricks. +140 scored 57/17.



Barry Rigal Individual session two

I decided to watch Pannayiotis Skordas, leader after session one, and the first three deals all offered very interesting play.



All Pass

Skordas elected to open 1 rather than 1 and that meant Patreuha was frozen out of the auction. Naturally he led a top spade, and when dummy came down it was very hard for him to resist the temptation to set up spades. This turned out to be unfortunate in theory: declarer led a club to the queen and while the defenders had three spades and a club to cash, declarer should have been able to take the rest in the form of four clubs, a spade and two tricks in each red suit. Can it ever cost to shift to a heart at trick two? Setting up the spades generates one extra trick but at the cost of a critical tempo. Almost no matter how good partner's hearts are you need that tempo to get the suit going. If hearts run you can subsequently revert to spades. And if declarer ducks the first heart, you can revert to spades with a gain of tempo. Declarer does best to win the first heart and set up clubs then duck the second heart. This seems slightly unnatural, but it gets him back to nine tricks.

Board 2 was also a missed opportunity of sorts.

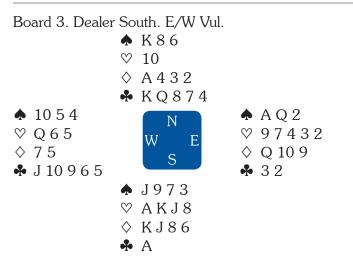
Board 2. De	aler East. N/S	4 2 8	K 8 3 2
 ♡ K 9 6 ◇ A 10 8 7 ◆ A K 9 	7 5 W S		
West	North	East	South
Patreuha	Skordas	Soumplis	Xiao
 3NT	— All Pass	1	Pass

Typical bidding from an individual. Skordas did very well to lead a top club. Xiao naturally misguessed diamonds and Skordas cleared the clubs and cashed out for four tricks for his side. Imagine the play on a heart lead. You win and misguess diamonds, losing to the queen. Back comes the club queen and you have to plan the play for the tenth trick.

Solution: to squeeze your LHO in hearts and clubs, it looks best to win the club. Then cash the spade ace and king and run the diamonds, having come down to \heartsuit Kx and \clubsuit Kx. Your LHO (who started life with 1-5-3-4 shape) has to find three discards, and if he pitches three hearts you will exit with a small heart to his bare ace, while if he pitches a club, you will throw him in with a club to lead hearts.

Skordas found himself in the hot seat on the next deal after an auction best described as idiosyncratic (or eclectic if you prefer).





West	North	East	South
Scata	Zhu	Kuflowski	Skordas
		—	1NT
Pass	24	Pass	2♡
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

It was only fair that if Skordas had one less club than he had promised, then Zhu could put down a dummy with one fewer spade than might have been expected. Skordas won the club lead in hand and led a spade to the eight. He inserted the $\diamond J$ when the suit was returned and when it held, he led a trump to the king and could claim the rest when spades behaved. The fate of 3NT is a little hard to predict. If South is declarer, he can get spades going but North might be held to ten tricks on a heart lead.



Marshall Lewis (NPC & Coach, Croatia U26) SELECTED REFLECTIONS & REVERIES FROM THE 2022 WORLD YOUTH BAM CHAMPIONSHIP

In second seat at unfavorable vulnerability you hold: $AK853 \otimes 763 \otimes AQ432 A$, and after a pass by the dealer you open $1 \otimes$. Partner responds $1 \otimes$ and you naturally rebid $1 \oplus$. Partner invites you to game via a direct jump to $3 \oplus$, and you must now decide whether to forge on to a game. Maybe your prompt reaction is (or was) something like: OF COURSE – accepting is "just bridge". This situation, however, provides an excellent example of how strategic thinking at BAM scoring can differ from 'best practices' at other forms of the game - particularly in contrast to IMPs, but to a lesser extent vis-a-vis MP pairs as well. This can be summarized along the following lines:

IMPs – We would have bid a brisk 4♠ long ago. Partner has already bid the only suit that could (a priori) concern us, our honor-structure is very crisp, and 5431 shapes generally play very well. Although the recommended strategic policy at this form of scoring is: "Invite readily..." with its consequent logical corollary "... accept carefully", our 5.5 Losing Trick Count provides adequate cushion to justify a fairly automatic acceptance. IMP scoring rewards mainly 'big-ticket items' – most especially GAMES (which are much more frequent than both slams and hefty penalties) – so typically we just bid them and hope for the best.

MPs – With this scoring format, the general strategic priority is "Preserve the Plus". This dictum does not of course mean that we become ridiculously conservative (e.g., passing a 1NT opening with 10 HCP)–it is rather a guideline for dealing with apparent borderline cases. The adage is: When in doubt, Go Low. The question here is thus: IS THERE CAUSE FOR DOUBT? Well, arguably there is. The trumps are quite weak, partner could easily have some junky heart suit like Q9xx, and our ultra-feeble diamond spots do not give that suit the profile of a 'source of tricks'. This last point is especially relevant, because partner is exceedingly likely to be short in diamonds (he has 8+ Major cards and probably several clubs – the NV foes never bid, and we have a stiff).

The point here is NOT that we should surely pass, but simply that there is a genuine decision to make at this form of scoring. Usually, the single most important criterion for resolving the issue will be our estimate of the percentage of players in the field with our cards who will bid a game – the bigger that number, the more inclined we should be to bid as they do, while hoping to play better or benefit from worse defense (or both). We may also consider our assessment of the likelihood that our current table opponents will defend to best advantage, and possibly other secondary factors too. In the end perhaps most players would take the plunge, even if only because of the recommended general policy at MPs: "Invite cautiously..." (i.e., because inviting may well endanger the plus score) and its attendant logical corollary "... accept more readily".

BAM - Finally we return to the actual situation facing the actual competitors in our actual event. Although BAM is a team contest, the prevailing strategy is generally much closer to MP scoring than to IMPs. The sacred watchword is again "Preserve the Plus". The big difference from MPs is that we only need to beat ONE TABLE - in other words, there is NO FIELD, so we don't have to drive ourselves crazy with the very-often-highly-speculative issue of "what percentage of players with my cards will do PQR?" We have only one counterpart -- so the case for passing is perhaps strongest at BAM. All of that notwithstanding, Croatian U26 Pairs bronzemedalist Ivan Bilusic did bid 4 A after very lengthy cogitation. (EDITOR: We agree with West accepting the invitation because we would make a simple raise to $2 \spadesuit$ on most 10-counts; we expect partner to be 12-14 balanced or have extras with shape – and in the first case 2 will be high enough, in the second case he will move over $2\spadesuit$

Taral Rodrigues of India led $\heartsuit 8$, and this was the layout:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

Dould 17. Deal		•
	♠ J96	
	♡ A 10 8	
	♦ K 8	
	🐥 Q 9 6 3 2	
 ▲ K 8 5 3 ♡ 7 6 3 ◇ A Q 4 3 2 ▲ A 	N W E S ◆ Q 10 ◇ Q J ◇ 10 9 7 6 ♣ J 10 8 7 4	 ▲ A 7 4 2 ◇ K 9 5 4 2 ◇ J 5 ♣ K 5

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West	North	East	South
Bilusic	Rodrigues	Evacic	Sarkar
_	_	-	Pass
$1\diamondsuit$	Pass	$1\heartsuit$	Pass
1	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Lead: ♡8

You can see from the diagram how the "inspired" (that is the adjective we use when it works, while alternative modifiers are available when it meets a catastrophic fate) underlead of the \heartsuit A can score a massive goal – but again, the associated triumph is potentially quite dependent on form of scoring. Imagine first that you are declarer at IMPs - though it is admittedly unlikely that North has underled \heartsuit A, it is not impossible, and meanwhile if you accept \heartsuit 8 lead at face value you are more or less doomed to go down UNLESS the diamond finesse works AND opening leader began with exactly three trumps. This parlay is something like 5-1 against, so you might decide to take a deep breath and just hope the opening leader has tried to be clever with an onside \heartsuit A.

Playing BAM, quite different considerations come to the fore – it may not be at all necessary to make the contract to avoid losing the board. If things are as they seem from the lead, with the hearts massed behind dummy, playing small from dummy will lead to RHO being on lead at trick two, and he may decide to sit tight with his well-placed hearts and shift. That would allow you to discard a heart loser muy pronto. Then you still make when $\diamond K$ is onside and spades are 3-2; and you could even win the board when the diamond finesse loses, i.e., if your counterpart likewise reaches $4 \clubsuit$ and your teammate also leads a heart. In that scenario if South continues three rounds of hearts, and North ruffs from an original doubleton in spades, that would yield two down.

Our hero did indeed opt for the latter approach, and sure enough his RHO switched to the $\Diamond 10$. Now there was another decision to make, and once again the great difference between BAM and other forms of scoring was underscored. Playing IMPs you would just grit your teeth and take the finesse, with slender hope of success – but slender is more than zero, and if it leads to two down you are not devastated. In contrast, taking the finesse at BAM could be disastrous – LHO may win and lead a second heart, leading to a putrid two down even if the trumps break. Accordingly, the Zorro of Zagreb rose with $\Diamond A$ to cut his losses, rightly judging that his RHO was unlikely to be leading a diamond from the king (though if he had known about the underlead at Trick One, his whole framework of assumption might well have been dismantled in this regard), and ended up with a rather unwelcome but not hopeless -100.

As it happened Board 19 was a push in the round, though not in a way one might have expected. The other E/W reached a hopeless 3NT -- and curiously for their declarer the diamond layout was a windfall, allowing him to escape for one down. Note that a heart return at my table would have won the board for India, because the third-round ruff in the suit would come in the short hand.

Across the field, eight EW pairs made $4\clubsuit$ (and a ninth was in 5♠, just made!!) while four failed – but no other declarer had to cope with the diabolical lead of the $\heartsuit 8$. Undeterred, Bilusic stepped up to the plate to declare the other two boards in the round as well, with mixed results but good enough for an eventual 4-2 edge in the confrontation.

On the very next board (#20) Croatia scored a rather lucky win – Ivan made 3N when his RHO was subjected to what inevitably felt like severe discarding pressure. As is so often the case, the proverbial seeds of sublime success were sown in the auction, thanks to an unequivocally non-sublime rebid by the eventual declarer:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

 ▲ Q 10 8 5 ♡ A 7 ◇ K Q ▲ J 9 5 4 	$A J 7 \heartsuit Q J 5 2 \diamond 10 7 5 \\ 4 \\ W \\ S \\ 4 \\ 9 3 2 \\ 5 4 \\ 5 4 \\ 8 4 \\ 4 \\ 4 \\ 2 10 3 \\ 5 4 $	2 2 E 4 3	▶ K 6 2 10 9 > A J 9 6 3 2 ▶ A 8 6
West Bilusic 1♠ 3♣ 3NT	North Rodriques Pass Pass All Pass	East Evacic 2♦ 3♡*	South Sarkar Pass Pass

Lead: ♡2

A lot could be said here about this auction, but readers can breathe easily – you are spared yet another interminable deconstruction thanks to this author's policy Do Not Argue With Success. Indeed, that superficially "wince-worthy" **3** rebid cast a very long shadow on the ensuing play.

Bilusic won the heart lead immediately and cashed $\Diamond K$. Now he correctly risked 4-1 diamonds by overtaking $\Diamond Q$, so as to avoid having to use up $\clubsuit A$ at



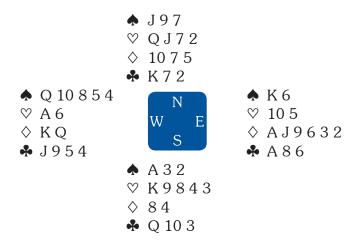
too early a stage (which might give an opponent valuable information). Four more diamonds followed, and finally South felt the pain on the last one as he had to discard from: ♡8643 �Q103. Declarer's 3♣ rebid suggested at least the possibility of a second five-card suit, in which case even ♣Kxxxx would make it imperative for South to cling to all his clubs for dear life – at this form of scoring (yet again!), nine tricks for declarer could be all right for the defenders.

Basically everything came down to whether West held K, and presumably there was ambiguity in the prior discarding, leaving South in a position where the winning play on the deal required him to believe that West had rebid 3 with only JXXX in the suit. Ultimately, he judged that possibility as too remote, and willing to push the board at -600 he let the long heart go – after all, perhaps his partner had five hearts himself, in which case South had no need to keep all his own.

In the other room the defenders held onto all their hearts and 3NT failed, as it did about half of the times that contract was played – though once it made an overtrick, even on a heart lead. *(EDITORS' NOTE:* South should perhaps be able to work out if North follows up the line in diamonds and then pitches a heart – knowing partner has five from the auction and play thus far – that North has only four hearts hence three clubs.)

The play of #20 took a lot of time, during which the

mind of this observer wandered off into a reverie set in a parallel universe, in which the contract and lead were the same – and there were other changes too. There in my Brave New ALT-world, which we can call "Tralfamadore-Terme", the auction was 1 - 2 > 2NT-3NT. Here the lead was > 2, and the full layout was as follows:



The declarer, Ivan Billy-Pilgrim, rose with $\heartsuit 10$ from dummy at trick one, and took the $\heartsuit K$ with his $\heartsuit A$. Now however he immediately overtook $\diamondsuit Q$ with the ace, then led a low spade from the dummy. South avoided this cunning snare by rising with $\bigstar A$, and naturally led a second heart, whereupon

And when I woke up about six hours later, Croatia U26 had won a bronze medal.



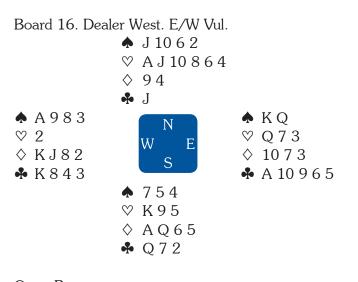




Ron Tacchi U26 Final 4

In the third quarter of the Under 26 Teams Final USA U26 took the session 43-18 to still be trailing by 105-94 against Bridgenoobs. These final fourteen boards would decide the title.

On the first board of the session USA picked two undertrick IMPs to set the score to 105-96.



Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Luba	Khutorsky	Zhu	Zeitak
$1\diamond$	$2 \heartsuit$	2NT	All Pass

South led the king of hearts and continued the suit to North's ace. North established the suit by exiting with the $\heartsuit J$. Declarer now cashed the two top clubs and two top spades before playing a third round of clubs for South to win. With no entry to the North hand South exited passively with a spade whereupon declarer cashed his top cards for eight tricks and made a ninth when he led a diamond towards hand.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Grossack	Van Oosten	Rosenberg
$1\diamondsuit$	$1 \heartsuit$	1♠*	$2\diamond$
Pass	3♡	3♠	Pass
54	All Pass		

The One spade bid was a minor-suited orientated takeout, and South's Two Diamonds showed heart support. South's second spade bid reiterated his previous message. West went for the club game and received the lead of the \bigstar J which was taken in dummy. Declarer thought long and hard and then cashed the ace of trumps, further deep thought followed and then

dummy's remaining spade honour was cashed. Again, this provoked a long contemplation and the ten of clubs was played from dummy, declarer paused and played the king of clubs and now he could no longer make his contract. It is easy for us to sit here and shout 'Restricted Choice' but it is not as simple as it seems. The diamond suit is also very important and there is also a need to ruff a heart or two. The problem with a 3-1 trump split is that then you more or less need South to have the $\diamond A$ and $\diamond Q$. It is not a trivial exercise, if you sit down with a copy of Deep Finesse and try the contract with the many varied possible opposition distributions, to determine the best line. That was 8 IMPs to USA – the score now 105-104.

There followed four boards where overtrick and undertrick IMPs changed hands and the scores were now tied at 108-108.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	 ▲ A 2 ♡ Q 6 4 ◊ 8 2 ♣ A K Q 	10 5 4	
 ▲ J 10 8 ♡ K J 10 7 ◇ A J 4 ♣ J 3 2 	W N S	E ♥	K Q 9 5 3 A 9 5 2 9 7 3 6
	 ♣ 764 ♡ 83 ◊ KQ1 ♣ 987 	065	
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Luba —	Khutorsky 1NT	^{Zhu} All Pass	Zeitak

When North valued his hand as fit for no-trumps the opposition did not find their way into the auction and after the spade lead declarer cashed his top seven tricks and conceded the rest.

Closed Room				
West	North	East	South	
Freeman	Grossack	Van Oosten	Rosenberg	
	1•	1 🛧	Pass	
$2 \heartsuit$	34	3♠	4•	
All Pass				

By opening One Club this allowed East to get into the auction, South did well to bid 4⁴ as 3⁴ was certainly making and if declarer takes the right view the majorsuit game can be made. After the spade lead declarer had four inescapable top losers for one off. 5 IMPs to Bridgenoobs who now retook the lead 112-108.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	 ▲ 6 ♡ K96 ◇ 87 	
	♣ J987654	
 ♠ Q J 8 5 4 ♡ Q 4 2 ◊ J 4 3 ♣ A 	W E S	 ▲ K 10 2 ♡ 8 7 ◇ A K 10 6 5 2 ♣ K 3
	 ▲ A 9 7 ♡ A J 10 5 3 ◊ Q 9 ♣ Q 10 2 	
Open Room		

opennoom			
West	North	East	South
Luba	Khutorsky	Zhu	Zeitak
		1NT	Pass
4♡	Pass	4♠	All Pass

After East upgraded his hand to no-trump opener his partner applied Red-suit Texas to arrive in the solid spade game.

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Grossack	Van Oosten	Rosenberg
		1NT	Pass
4♦	5 %	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

We could witness South African Texas on this hand, but North made a daring intervention which paid off handsomely when he finished only two light. It was the bid of a confident man. 8 IMPs to USA who now had retaken the lead 113-116.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

	\diamond	A K 9 4 2 A 9 7 3 J 10 5 3	
 ▲ KQ9863 ♡ Q6 ◊ Q64 ♣ 76 		N W E S	 ↑ 7 5 4 ♡ 10 7 5 3 ◊ K J 8 5 ♦ A 4
		J 10 2	
	\heartsuit	A J 8	
	\diamond	10 2	
	•	K Q 9 8 2	

Open Room	l		
West	North	East	South
Luba	Khutorsky	Zhu	Zeitak
	—		1
2♠	Dble	3�	Pass
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

On the lead of the $\clubsuit7$ dummy covered as did West and declarer won with the ace. Now all depended on the position of the ace of clubs, and it was not in declarer's favour. East immediately took the ace and pushed another spade through for the defence to take five tricks and beat the contract by two.

Closed Room

Closed Mool	.11		
West	North	East	South
Freeman	Grossack	Van Oosten	Rosenberg
	—		$1 \clubsuit$
1	Dble	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♣
Pass	54	All Pass	

West valued his hand worthy of a One Spade intervention as opposed to a weak jump overcall. North's second double compelled South to speak and when he showed a genuine club suit he was put into game. The king of spades was led, taken in dummy, and East took the second round of trumps and returned a spade setting up declarer's jack. Declarer now took two more rounds of trumps on which East discarded a diamond and a spade. Now when declarer cashed his master spade East discarded the $\heartsuit 3$. Declarer now had a decision to make in the heart suit. The question is whether East had discarded from four or five cards. If five, then West would have a singleton, and might he not have tried that as an opening lead? Declarer took the view that a 4-2 split was more likely and even if West had a singleton, it might be the $\otimes 10$ or the queen. When the queen fell doubleton declarer ended up with an overtrick. Had East returned a diamond when in with the ace of trumps declarer's life would have been more difficult, he would eventually discover that the hearts were split 2-4, so how would he play them now? Your guess is probably better than mine. 13 crucial IMPs to USA to take a 116-129 lead. Bridgenoobs desperately needed some swingy boards in the final four but it was not to be. They recouped a couple of points to finish valiant losers 116-130. Congratulations to USA U26 – The Champions.

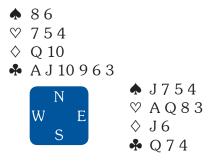


Ron Klinger The Born Loser

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

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

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



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

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

♠ J 7 5 4

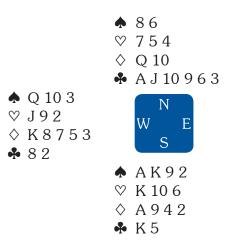
♡ A Q 8 3

♦ J 6

🗣 Q 7 4

No, always return partner's suit.

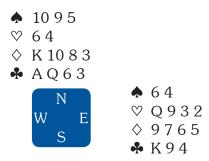
This was the deal:



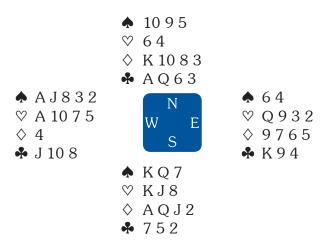
The diamond return was taken by West's king but declarer had nine tricks on top overtaking his king of clubs with the ace and actually made ten when the defence, discarding on the clubs, was below par.

His partner looked glum. Charlie tried to cheer him. "Nothing we could do, partner." His partner retorted, "Nothing indeed! 1 played the eight of clubs didn't I? You could read that as a doubleton. Why don't you duck the queen of clubs? Then declarer can never use the club suit and has at best seven tricks."

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



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



On the spade return, declarer was able to make two spades, four diamonds

and three clubs when they split three-three.

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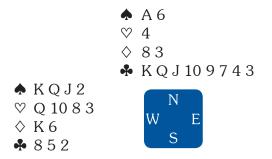


"What's the matter with you?" stormed West. "Never heard of 'second hand low'? All you have to do is duck the club. 1 win, play the ace and jack of spades and declarer makes seven tricks at most."

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

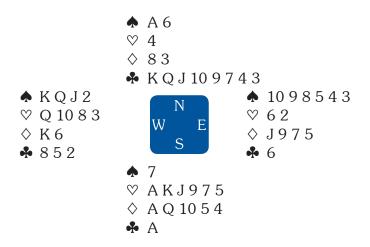
$1\heartsuit$	3♣
3�	4
4NT	$5\diamond$
5NT	6◊
6NT	Pass

Charlie was on lead and led his king of spades:



(Directions changed for convenience.)

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

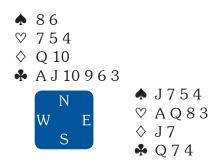


On the spade continuation declarer unblocked his ace of clubs and now had twelve top tricks.

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

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

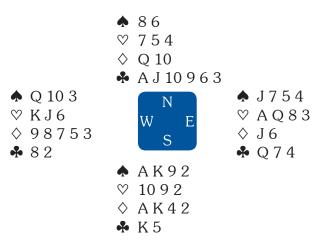
A few rounds went by and then Charlie paired up with the club's top player, a life master and an international master as well. Charlie hoped he would do well with him. After a 1NT-3NT auction, the life master led the five of diamonds and Charlie saw:



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

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

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



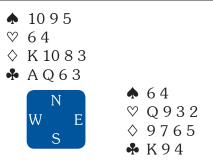
When the jack of clubs held, declarer played a club to his king, a diamond to the queen and landed eleven tricks. When they opened the score sheet, they found that about half had gone down in 3NT and the rest had made no more than ten tricks.

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

"That's true," muttered his partner.

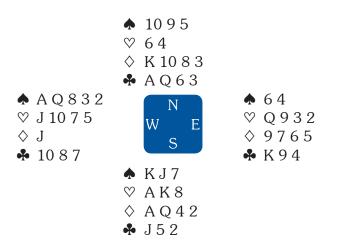
By now Charlie was heartily regretting that he had not stayed quietly at home with an improving book, and on the very next hand, he was faced with a defensive problem similar to that on the second deal of the previous set...





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

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



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

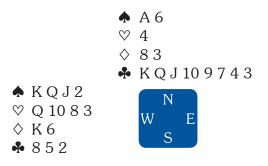
"I'm sorry ... " mumbled Charlie.

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

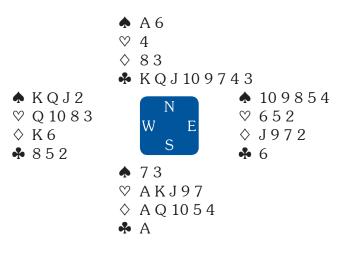
On the last of the set, the bidding again went:

$1\heartsuit$	3♣
3◊	4
4NT	$5\diamond$
5NT	6◊
6NT	Pass

and Charlie led the king of spades in this position:



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



Declarer won the ace of clubs and had twelve tricks.

"What's the matter with you? Can't you just play another spade and knock out his entry to the clubs? Well, well, well, what doesn't happen in an individual?"

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

Declarer received the lead of the *3 which ran round to his *10 The king of hearts lost to the ace and a club came back which West ducked. Declarer now cashed three rounds of diamonds, finishing in dummy, discovering the 4-2 split and now had to bring in the heart suit and so led one and finessed against the jack, unfortunately West's singleton was the jack and he then cashed four clubs to take the contract two down.





BUTLER RANKINGS

OPEN UNDER 26

STIGLIC Mihaela

KUKULJAN Teo

VAN OOSTEN Sibrand	F
ZEITAK Aviv	K
ZHU Bo Han	L
UMEHARA Nagisa	N
DONATI Giovanni	G
GROSSACK Zachary	R
PABST Philipp	L
PRAJJWAL -	C
STEPHANI Isaac	V
ROCHES Maxence	В
CIESLINSKI Jan	J
RODRIGUES Taral Emmanuel Lazaru	ısS
SCATA Sebastiano	C
MARINI Valerio	C
HANSSON Erik	Ν
FRAGOLA Maxence	Т
SANDIN Alexander	C
PIEPER Jonathan	S
BORTAK Peter	K
RAMAZZOTTI Giacomo	S
BOULIN Arthur	C
WU Michael	C
DRAGHI Luca	C
BONIN Louis	C
BEDOUET Pierre	V
FRESA Vincenzo Beniamino	L
TOMLIN Joshua	F
EVACIC Emanuel	В
XU Michael	K
INOUE Yoshitake	Y
LAM Alfred	Н
CHAN Ki Hang	L
DOERMER Felix	F
LORENZINI Virginia	Ζ
STEFANEC Kristijan	F
MACKOWIAK Karol	J
BELLICAUD Luc	C
GUE David	S
GABRIEL Richard	S
SONG Yihan	S

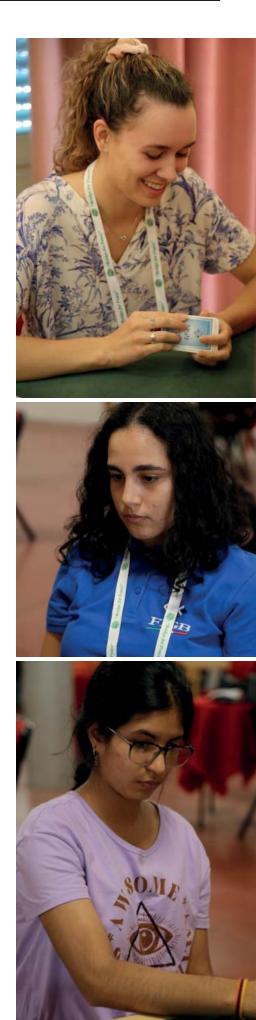
WOMEN UNDER 26

INDREBO Thea Lucia PELAGGI Maddalena KAMAL PATEL Vidhya CAPOBIANCO Sophia DALPOZZO Valentina KJENSLI Agnethe Hansen CHANG An-Chi TONELLI Magda YANG Hsin-Jung BHIMANAIK Rekha BRUSOTTI Cristina YEN Shao-Ting DI MAURO Roberta



DAS Shouvik
GHOSH Soumadeep
ROY Sagnik
KIELBASA Tomasz
KOPKA Kacper
STOECKLI Jeremie
KOIVU Oskari
KIKUCHI Tadahiro
YUGE Hirokana
OIKONOMOPOULOS Ioannis
MYLLAERI Maria
THOMPSON Jamie
KOPKA Kacper
DRNOVSEK Tina
RUS Gregor

FREEMAN Jacob	1.33	
KHUTORSKY Nir	1.13	
LUBA Harrison Anders	1.10	
NISHINO Kenta	1.08	
GIUBILO Gabriele	1.05	
ROSENBERG Kevin	0.98	
LITTERST Maximilian	0.87	
CHOWDHURY Tilakraj	0.63	
WOOD Ethan	0.58	
BENS Clement	0.55	
JANKOWSKI Mikolaj	0.43	
sSARKAR Soham GAIOTTI Alvaro	0.36	
GALLO Francesco	0.31 0.17	
MANN Castor	0.15	
TABATA Nao	0.07	
CLEMENTSSON Sanna	0.05	
STEPPER Maximilian Niklas	0.03	
KENTOS Simon	-0.07	
SANMARTINO Filippo	-0.10	
GUILLEMIN Theo	-0.13	
CHEUNG Wai Lam	-0.17	
COTTONE Marco Giuseppe	-0.20	
GUICHET Thomas	-0.22	
VALLET Esteban	-0.24 -0.25	
LOPREVITE Andrea FLICKER Damon	-0.25	
BILUSIC Ivan	-0.31	
KOLESNIK Finn	-0.38	
YAGISHITA Kotaro	-0.39	
HUNG Tsz Fung Harry	-0.54	
LEE Sheung Him	-0.58	
FARWIG Sven Niklas	-0.60	
ZACCARO Alessia	-0.93	
FERENCA Matko	-1.07	
JOZKOWIAK Lukasz	-1.13	
GUTH Romaric	-1.33	
SIMPSON Jamie SYKOROVA Emilia	-1.36 -1.45	
SAITO Tatsunosuke	-1.61	
	1.01	
BREKKE Kaja	1.60	
PELAGGI Annachiara	0.88	
BALIRAM GURJAR Kalpana	0.76	
DALPOZZO Eleonora	0.70	
DALPOZZO Federica	0.66	
STATLE Mia Eline	0.60	
CHUANG Ho-Chuan	0.20	
MONTESANTI Albertica	0.18	
CHEN Wei-Shou	0.00	
BASU Subhashree	-0.32	
DAVIDE Zaira	-1.04	
CHENG Yung-Yun	-1.93	
ROTOLICO Alessia	-2.56	
BAR Surajit	1.13	
CHAKRABORTY Arya	1.07	
KUSHARI Sayantan	1.03	
BAZYLUK Jakub	0.93	
PATREUHA Patryk	0.70	
CALMANOVICI Alessandro	0.64	
HUHTAMAKI Hermanni	0.28	
HINO Takayuki XAMADA Rupishi	0.13	
YAMADA Ryoichi BALOKAS Dimitrios Konstantinos	0.10 -0.04	
VANNI Ilona	-0.04	
SPOONER Andrew	-1.08	
CICHY Krzysztof	-1.25	
STIGLIC Mihaela	-1.50	



-1.50

-1.62



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OPEN UNDER 21

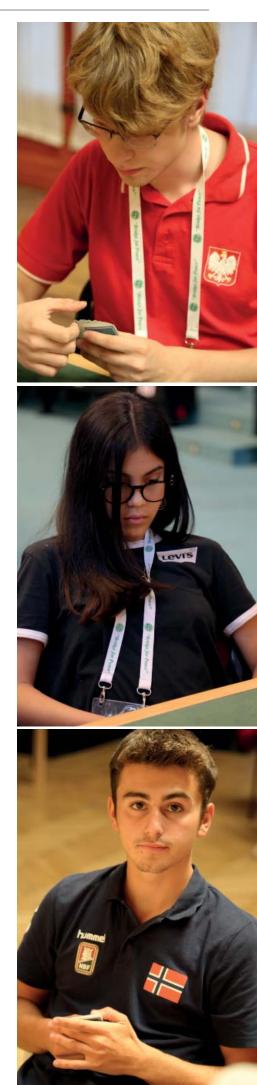
KURLIT Franciszek SYU Pin Yao **BROGELAND** Anders LAHRMANN Christian LOMBARDI Antonio SOUMPLIS Michail SABBAH Ofek HUANG Ya Hsuan GRAS Szymon CHENG Ziyu (Max) SINCLAIR Theodore Cosmo AUSTAD Marius Dalemark ARGAY Zsolt FU Ryan STASIK Michal HEIBERG-EVENSTAD Nicolai HE Cindy PYSZKO Adam ABRAGI Andreas FARWIG Ole LIN Xuan-da ROSE Henry ZABRADI Benjamin GE Brandon FEGARTY Jamie CARLETTI Alessandro NORMAN Lucy BEDFORD Charlotte GUENDEL Marius OLMER Adam VACHTARCIKOVA Nikol KRASA Mikulas SINCLAIR Raffy ABE Ryusuke KAPIRIS Dimitrios NAWROCKI Jakub MORGAN Gilbert PETELKO Lia TOPPER Lara LIU Garrett YAMAZAKI Nana INAMI Terushi SOTORP Nicolai PERALTA Denisse CHAN Vivian Sze-Ching GARCIA Silvia

KUFLOWSKI Kacper	1.73
WU Ruo Xin	1.64
SAETRE Magnus	1.60
ROMBAUT Leo	1.36
GARDENGHI Oslo	1.31
PAPASPYROU lasonas-iraklis	0.96
SLIWOWICZ Yonatan	0.79
SYU Liang Yu	0.70
PILAT Jakub	0.69
CHEN Quan	0.58
CATER James	0.52
OEBERG Ida Marie	0.40
KEMENY Mark	0.38
WU Han	0.33
BAK Wojciech	0.25
LICHTENSTEIN Ivar	0.25
CHENG Ziyu (Max)	0.23
LYSEK Matyas	0.21
HEIBERG-EVENSTAD Nicolai	0.17
FAUPEL Jonas	0.04
CHEN Cian-Han	0.03
LA CHAPELLE Imogen	0.00
SELMECI David	-0.02
SCHIRESON Olivia	-0.03
FEGARTY Liam	-0.04
LOMBARDI Matteo	-0.06
FURNESS Tom	-0.10
ANOYRKATIS Venetia	-0.13
SCHWALBACH Kathrin	-0.17
VASICKOVA Barbora	-0.21
DROZD Matej	-0.24
ROMANOWSKI Cenek	-0.35
BARNETT Rufus	-0.36
KAYAMA Yu	-0.50
SKORDAS Panagiotis	-0.52
CHALUPNICZAK Wiktor	-0.62
LUKE - PAREDI Jack	-0.64
RETTER Koren	-0.69
ROSE Jacob	-0.71
CHIANG Donnie	-0.74
XIAO Yuqi	-0.97
SHIMADA Kentaro	-1.00
SERRANO SOTOMAYOR Renata	-1.02
SALAZAR MACIAS Andres	-1.10
CHAN Cindy Sze-Wing	-1.17
ARREAGA ESTEVEZ Maria Raphaela	-2.19
	2.17

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UNDER 16

XIAO Eric	XIAO Jeff	3.56
ZHANG Brian	CHEN Andrew	2.42
KLIMIUK Milena	KISIELEWSKI Kacper	1.96
PEDMANSON Albert	VAHK Jasper	1.16
TARANTO Roberto Domenico	DE ANGELIS Matteo	1.08
BUKAT Aleks	TROJAK Jan	1.04
KOTEWICZ Ignacy	WOJTOWICZ Antoni	0.91
PAREKH Aman	BATTERSBY William	0.44
OSEN Einar	AUSTAD Kristian Dalemark	0.42
STEZALA Franciszek	MICHALSKI Jakub	0.33
PILAT Marek	DROZD Jonas	0.27
RECICAROVA Karolina	VACHTARCIK Lukas	0.24
GE Kayden	CHEN Charlie	0.15
BHATT ANSHUL	LI Darwin	0.13
BEN GUIGUI Costa Theodore	KUBAT Frantisek	0.03
BRADKIN Thomas	BRADKIN Andrew	-0.06
CHOWDHURY Tirtharaj	MUTHUSWAMY Nachiketa	-0.11
JAHAGIRDAR Rashi	GOYAL Paavan	-1.42
PACE Gabriele	MIOZZI Emanuele Massimo	-1.50
ZAIDENBERG GATT Aviv Leonardo	ZAIDENBERG GATT Sophie	-1.60
AGUILAR Christopher Omar	BALLERINO LEIGH Sofia	-2.38
ZUNIGA URQUIZA Chiara	JARAMILLO BALSECA Emily Sofia	-3.50
BERNAL Isabela	BERNAL Daniela	-4.26





49.73 49.73 49.73 49.73 49.73 49.53 49.53 49.32 49.29 49.26 49.26 49.19 49.05 49.02 48.99 48.99 48.95 48.92 48.89 48.89 48.72 48.68 48.65 48.48 48.41 48.24 48.21 48.14 48.11 48.07 48.04 47.91 47.87 47.87 47.80 47.43 47.43 47.40 46.82 46.59 46.52 46.45 46.39 46.28 46.15 45.78 45.74 45.54 45.51 45.24 45.14 45.03 44.86 44.76 44.59 44.16 44.12 43.89 43.72 43.65 43.58 43.48 43.24 43.21 43.21 43.18 43.11 43.01 42.47 42.09 40.78 39.93 39.09 38.24 36.93 34.83

U26/U21/U26W/U31 IndivFinal

		020/0		J		
1	SKORDAS Panagiotis	GRE	64.49	77	FLICKER Damon	AUS
2	KOLESNIK Finn	USA	62.23	78	BALOKAS Dimitrios K	GRE
3	CHEUNG Wai Lam	HKG	59.63	79	CHAN Ki Hang	HKG
4	ROSENBERG Kevin	USA	59.53	80	BHIMANAIK Rekha	IND
5	KURLIT Franciszek	POL	59.36	81		ITA
					SANMARTINO Filippo	
6	BILUSIC Ivan	CRO	59.22	82	CHOWDHURY Tilakraj	IND
7	DRAGHI Luca	ITA	58.95	83	HUANG Ya Hsuan	TPE
8	GROSSACK Zachary	USA	58.07	84	GUTH Romaric	FRA
9	KOIVU Oskari	FIN	57.87	85	KENTOS Simon	SVK
10	ARGAY Zsolt	HUN	57.84	86	OIKONOMOPOULOS Ioannis	GRE
11	SYU Liang Yu	TPE	57.70	87	KAMAL PATEL Vidhya	IND
12	KOPKA Kacper	POL	57.30	88	ZACCARO Alessia	ITA
13	LUBA Harrison Anders	USA	56.99	89	MYLLAERI Maria	FIN
14	SIMPSON Jamie	AUS	56.62	90	CARLETTI Alessandro	ITA
15	BALIRAM GURJAR Kalpana	IND	56.32	91	TOPPER Lara	AUS
16	GAIOTTI Alvaro	ITA	56.18	92	LIN Xuan-da	TPE
17	BELLICAUD Luc	FRA	56.15	93	HE Cindy	CAN
18	HEIBERG-EVENSTAD Nicolai	NOR	55.78	94	DALPOZZO Eleonora	ITA
19	FARWIG Sven Niklas	GER	55.68	95	ANOYRKATIS Venetia	ENG
20	MONTESANTI Albertica	ITA	55.54	96	LANDSVIK Are Borgar	NOR
21	MANN Castor	SWE	55.44	97	LAHRMANN Christian	DEN
22	RODRIGUES Taral E	IND	55.34	98	ABE Ryusuke	JPN
23	HUHTAMAKI Hermanni	FIN	55.03	99	BASU Subhashree	IND
24	UMEHARA Nagisa	JPN	55.00		CHENG Yung-Yun	TPE
25	VAN OOSTEN Sibrand	NED	54.86	101	-	IND
26	BEDFORD Charlotte	ENG	54.70		BRUSOTTI Cristina	ITA
27	LYSEK Matyas	CZE	54.66		SINCLAIR Raffy	ENG
28	FARWIG Ole	GER	54.19	104	THOMPSON Jamie	AUS
29	CAPOBIANCO Sophia	ITA	54.09	105	BAK Wojciech	POL
30	YAGISHITA Kotaro	JPN	53.92	106	YAMAZAKI Nana	JPN
31	GARDENGHI Oslo	ÎTA	53.72		CICHY Krzysztof	POL
32	INAMI Terushi	IPN	53.31		NISHINO Kenta	JPN
		TPE				TPE
33	CHUANG Ho-Chuan		53.28		WU Ruo Xin	
34	RUS Gregor	SLO	53.18		KUFLOWSKI Kacper	POL
35	KIKUCHI Tadahiro	JPN	53.14		CHEN Quan	CAN
36	KUKULJAN Teo	SLO	53.07	112	HANSSON Erik	SWE
37	STEPHANI Isaac	USA	53.01	113	LAM Alfred	HKG
38	PELAGGI Maddalena	ITA	52.91	114	GABRIEL Richard	SVK
39	ROMANOWSKI Cenek	CZE	52.84		XIAO Yugi	JPN
					1	
40	SELVARAJ Dinesh Babu	IND	52.84		STASIK Michal	POL
41	O'FARRELL Matthew	IRL	52.77	117		ITA
42	PINTO Johann Jose	IND	52.74	118	STIGLIC Mihaela	SLO
43	PATREUHA Patryk	POL	52.74	119	GALLO Francesco	ITA
44	KEMENY Mark	HUN	52.70	120	SCHIRESON Olivia	USA
45	KAPIRIS Dimitrios	GRE	52.60		PELAGGI Annachiara	ITA
46	SOUMPLIS Michail	GRE	52.60		YEN Shao-Ting	TPE
					LOPREVITE Andrea	
47	MORGAN Gilbert	AUS	52.57			ITA
48	CHANG An-Chi	TPE	52.53		SHIMADA Kentaro	JPN
49	CATER James	ENG	52.40	125	PYSZKO Adam	CZE
50	SCATA Sebastiano	ITA	52.30	126	DALPOZZO Valentina	ITA
51	GUE David	AUS	52.23	127	LEE Sheung Him	HKG
52	PAPASPYROU lasonas-iraklis	GRE	51.96		CHEN Cian-Han	TPE
53	ZHU Bo Han	CAN	51.79		FREEMAN Jacob	CAN
54	RUMANCIK Jakub	SVK	51.72		INOUE Yoshitake	JPN
	2					
55	WU Han	CAN	51.62		ZABRADI Benjamin	HUN
56	SAITO Tatsunosuke	JPN	51.59		MARINI Valerio	ITA
57	LOMBARDI Matteo	ITA	51.55		LORENZINI Virginia	ITA
58	INDREBO Thea Lucia	NOR	51.45	134	RAMAZZOTTI Giacomo	ITA
59	DONATI Giovanni	ITA	51.39	135	SELMECI David	HUN
60	KIELBASA Tomasz	POL	51.25		SYKOROVA Emilia	SVK
61	CHENG Ziyu (Max)	CAN	51.15		CHEN Wei-Shou	TPE
62	DRNOVSEK Tina	SLO	51.11		DALPOZZO Federica	ITA
63	CRONE Luca	IRL	50.95		TOMLIN Joshua	AUS
64	COTTONE Marco Giuseppe	ITA	50.88		CHIANG Donnie	CAN
65	GE Brandon	USA	50.88	141	FERENCA Matko	CRO
66	SINCLAIR Theodore Cosmo	ENG	50.78	142	YUGE Hirokana	JPN
67	FURNESS Tom	ENG	50.64		DI MAURO Roberta	ITA
68	TONELLI Magda	ITA	50.57		LIU Garrett	CAN
69	SPOONER Andrew	AUS	50.54		PRAJJWAL -	IND
70	FU Ryan	USA	50.44		GIUBILO Gabriele	ITA
71	KAYAMA Yu	JPN	50.37		FRESA Vincenzo Beniamino	ITA
72	SYU Pin Yao	TPE	50.37	148	KRASA Mikulas	CZE
73	ABRAGI Andreas	SWE	50.34	149	SERRANO SOTOMAYOR Renata	ECU
74	LOMBARDI Antonio	ITA	50.30		NORMAN Lucy	ENG
75	ROTOLICO Alessia	ITA	49.97		YANG Hsin-Jung	TPE
76	BORTAK Peter	SVK	49.76		XU Michael	USA
/0		JVIN		1 JZ	AG IVICHUCI	
			25			



U16 IndivFinal

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32	ZHANG Brian KOTEWICZ Ignacy BRADKIN Thomas GE Kayden CHEN Charlie BHATT ANSHUL ZAIDENBERG GATT Aviv Leonardo KLIMIUK Milena XIAO Eric MUTHUSWAMY Nachiketa BUKAT Aleks STEZALA Franciszek VAHK Jasper CHEN Andrew DE ANGELIS Matteo CHOWDHURY Tirtharaj TARANTO Roberto Domenico PEDMANSON Albert TROJAK Jan MIOZZI Emanuele Massimo KISIELEWSKI Kacper PACE Gabriele BATTERSBY William MICHALSKI Jakub PAREKH Aman XIAO Jeff WOJTOWICZ Antoni JAHAGIRDAR Rashi GOYAL Paavan BRADKIN Andrew LI Darwin ZAIDENBERG GATT Sophie	USA POL ENG USA IND ISR POL USA IND POL EST USA ITA IND ITA ENG POL ITA POL ITA POL ITA POL ITA POL ITA ENG POL IND IND ENG USA IND IND IND SA IND IND IND ITA POL ITA POL ITA POL ITA ITA ITA ITA ITA ITA ITA ITA ITA ITA	60.71 58.93 58.13 55.16 54.37 53.97 52.78 52.78 51.98 51.98 51.98 51.59 51.59 51.59 51.59 51.59 51.59 51.79 50.79 49.80 48.81 47.82
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