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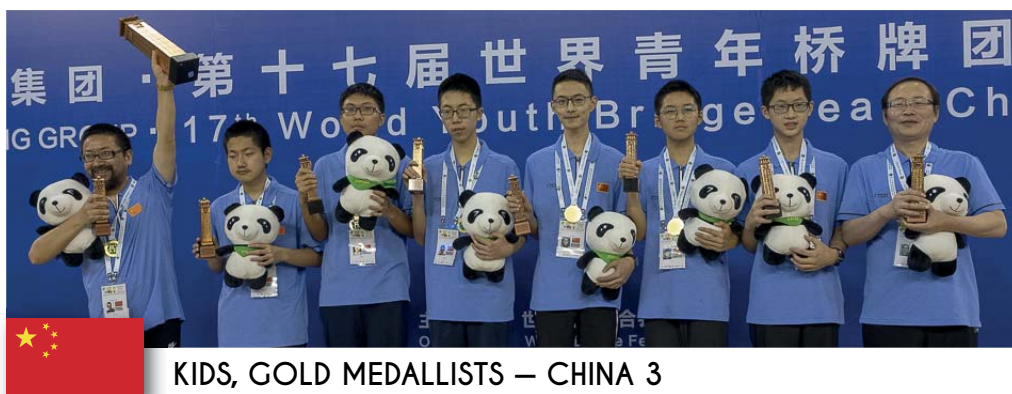
CHINA 3 WINS THE FIRST GOLD MEDALS



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10.00	J / Y / G	Semi Finals
	Transnational BAM	
13.30	J / Y / G	Semi Finals
	Transnational BAM	
15.50	J / Y / G	Semi Finals
	Transnational BAM	
18.10	J / Y / G	Semi Finals
	Transnational BAM	



KIDS, GOLD MEDALLISTS – CHINA 3

After comfortably winning the round robin, China 3 were the favorites to take the gold medals in the Kids division, and they did not disappoint their supporters.

Playing France in the 48-board final, they were down by 6 imps after the first quarter and 1 at halftime. But China 3 had a good third set to jump ahead by 21 imps. In the last session, they gained another 6 imps to win by 114 imps to 87.

In the battle for the bronze medals, Sweden led by 8 imps at the two-thirds mark, but USA gained 15 imps in the third and last session to win by 7 (95-88)

The winners are Tie Chen, Zanchao Cui, Xihong Dai, Sicheng Lui, Yiping Lu and Zichen Wang, with Guoqiang Chen the nonplaying captain, and Feng Qu the coach.

The silver medals go to Romain Bloch, Aurele Gallard, Leo Rombaut and Thibaut Zobel, with Benoit Deveze as the npc.

The USA team comprises Michael Hu, Harrison Anders Luba, Rory Xiao, Michael Xu, Jonathan Yue and Arthur Zhou, with Jim Munday the npc.

The Swedish players are Andreas Abragi, Markus Bertheau, Mayalo Bjoerk Heed, Isis Lundqvist, Tiger Lundqvist and Andrea Nilsson, with Kathrine Bertheau the npc and Eva Abragi the coach.

The other three divisions played their quarterfinals yesterday.

In the Juniors, there was a big upset. USA1, the top seeds, chose Singapore and seemed to be in a comfortable position, up by 46 imps with one set to go. But Singapore won that by 62 imps to 19 to win by 3 (170-167).

In the semifinals, Singapore will play Poland, 17-imp winners over USA2. In the other match, the Netherlands, who beat Israel by 94 imps, will face Sweden, 38-point victors over China.

In the Youngsters, Israel continued their winning ways, defeating Germany by 158 imps to 86. France beat Bulgaria by 1 imp after an appeal in the last session, Italy beat Poland by 62, and Sweden won against the Netherlands by 51.

In the semis, Israel plays France and Italy takes on Sweden.

In the Girls, China defeated USA by 66 imps and will play against France, 25-imp winners over Hungary. In the other matches, the Netherlands swamped Norway by 86 imps, and Poland beat Turkey by 55.

All Captains are kindly requested to confirm their team's participation in the Closing Ceremony and the following Farewell Dinner.


KIDS, SILVER MEDALLISTS
FRANCE

KIDS, BRONZE MEDALLISTS
USA

KIDS BAM WINNERS
GREECE

JOAN GERARD AWARD WINNER
KAMRYN MENEZES (INDIA)

KIDS BAM 2ND
GERMANY

KIDS BAM 3RD
TURKEY

DRAW & VUGRAPH SCHEDULE TODAY

JUNIOR					
BBO+VG		SGP	vs	POL	
BBO		SWE	vs	NED	
SEMIFINAL — TIME: 10.00					

JUNIOR					
BBO		SGP	vs	POL	
BBO+VG		SWE	vs	NED	
SEMIFINAL — TIME: 13.30					

Broadcast Schedule: to be announced					
JUNIOR					
		SGP	vs	POL	
		SWE	vs	NED	
SEMIFINAL — TIME: 15.50					

Broadcast Schedule: to be announced					
JUNIOR					
		SGP	vs	POL	
		SWE	vs	NED	
SEMIFINAL — TIME: 18.10					

YOUNGSTERS					
BBO		ISR	vs	FRA	
		SWE	vs	ITA	
SEMIFINAL — TIME: 10.00					

YOUNGSTERS					
BBO		ISR	vs	FRA	
BBO		SWE	vs	ITA	
SEMIFINAL — TIME: 13.30					

YOUNGSTERS					
		ISR	vs	FRA	
		SWE	vs	ITA	
SEMIFINAL — TIME: 15.50					

YOUNGSTERS					
		ISR	vs	FRA	
		SWE	vs	ITA	
SEMIFINAL — TIME: 18.10					

FUNBRIDGE GIRLS					
		CHN	vs	FRA	
		POL	vs	NED	
SEMIFINAL — TIME: 10.00					

GIRLS					
		CHN	vs	FRA	
		POL	vs	NED	
SEMIFINAL — TIME: 13.30					

GIRLS					
		CHN	vs	FRA	
		POL	vs	NED	
SEMIFINAL — TIME: 15.50					

GIRLS					
		CHN	vs	FRA	
		POL	vs	NED	
SEMIFINAL — TIME: 18.10					



Jos Jacobs

USA VS BULGARIA

YOUNGSTERS – ROUND 21

At the start of this final round, USA and France were the two teams involved in the battle for the eighth qualifying berth. France were enjoying a lead of 4.28 vps over USA, but both teams had to face an opponent from among the qualifiers. France played against their perennial transalpine rivals, Italy, currently in fifth position, and USA had to take on Bulgaria, who were in third place before the match started – for the USA, reaching the top eight looked like a real uphill struggle.

On the two opening boards, Bulgaria played slightly better bridge when they defeated 1NT on board 1, easy enough because for West, who was on lead, it was possible to find the killing spade lead. The contract in the other room was the same, but East was on lead and could do nothing. On board 2, the Bulgarians as North-South reached a delicate but excellent 4-3 fit in hearts, actually making 12 tricks when the trumps broke 3-3 and the defence did not cash their two top diamonds. In the other room, USA had reached the proper contract of 5♣, which made easily once the defence had cashed their two diamonds. So Bulgaria were 6-0 up when board 3 arrived, where there was an elegant squeeze that was missed at one table.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pavlov</i>	<i>Jeng</i>	<i>Yotov</i>	<i>Youngquist</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

With Gazzilli's help, a good contract was reached, and West led the ♣Q. Dummy's king won the trick and

three rounds of trumps followed: ♠Q, ♠10 overtaken and the ♠A. Next, declarer played a diamond to the queen and king, and East returned the ♣10. Declarer won with the ace and conceded a trump trick to East's king, throwing a diamond from dummy rather than a club, and thus destroying the imminent three-suit squeeze on West. No overtrick, USA plus 420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duffie</i>	<i>Teneva</i>	<i>Q Wan</i>	<i>Yaninski</i>
—	—	—	1♣
1NT	Dble	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

There was nothing wrong with 3NT by North either; as the cards lay, it was actually slightly superior to 4♠. When East led a diamond away from his king, declarer won in hand with the queen, conceded a trick to the ♠K and played for the progressive squeeze on West, which was automatic after the unlucky opening lead by East. Bulgaria plus 490 was worth 2 imps and a little moral victory as well.

Two boards later, the Bulgarians were in a game, when Jeng did not upgrade his hand to a one-notrump opening, despite his three tens.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pavlov</i>	<i>Jeng</i>	<i>Yotov</i>	<i>Youngquist</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	All Pass	

Careful bidding to a solid contract. One overtrick, USA plus 140.

If you are wondering how to get to this game, just watch the Bulgarians:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duffie	Teneva	Q Wan	Yaninski
—	1NT (a)	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	


(a) 14-16

East led a club to the king and ace, but it did not really matter as nine tricks were always there.

Bulgaria thus registered a fine plus 600 and 10 more imps.

On board 9, both teams had their chances. Mind you: at this halfway point, Italy were leading France 31-9, so a good rally by USA might well have given them a realistic chance to reach the top eight after all.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Pavlov	Jeng	Yotov	Youngquist
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1♥ showed 8-11 high-card points after the strong club. West, looking at four tricks, might have made some more noise, I feel. Bulgaria only plus 680 when North led a spade, thus killing the entry to all three discards.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
Duffie	Teneva	Q Wan	Yaninski
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

When East rebid 4♥, it was virtually impossible for West to assess his hand correctly. With South on lead, the ♦K was the obvious choice, so declarer easily made all of the tricks for plus 710 and just 1 imp to USA.

No pair in the Youngsters series bid the slam. Only two pairs in the Juniors did: Netherlands and Israel, and they were playing against each other!

On this deal, the defence was interesting.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Pavlov	Jeng	Yotov	Youngquist
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♦	Dble	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

When South led a diamond, his partner's weak-two suit, declarer's problems were over before they began. Yotov won the diamond continuation, played trumps from the top (thank you, South) and then simply endplayed South by playing on clubs. It would not have mattered at which trick South won with his ace as he was out of diamonds. He thus had to return either a club to dummy or a heart. Bulgaria plus 450 for a well-played overtrick.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duffie	Teneva	Q Wan	Yaninski
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

In the replay, North did not open a weak two, so South had no reason to lead partner's suit. When he chose a low heart away from his king, declarer was presented with an easy trick and an entry to dummy, but it may well have transpired to be a Greek gift.


Declarer continued with a spade to his jack and South's queen, but when a heart came back to declarer's now blank ace, there suddenly was a big problem as there was no easy access to dummy. Probably the best chance now was to play North for the $\diamond A$, which meant overtaking the $\clubsuit Q$ with the king and the $\clubsuit 10$ with the jack to be able to lead a diamond from dummy twice.

When declarer did not follow this line, one down suddenly had become inevitable, because he was forced to play diamonds from his hand when South correctly withheld the $\clubsuit A$ twice. One down, another plus 50 and 11 imps to Bulgaria. Not that a different result here would have helped USA very much, because France had started to catch up on Italy, eventually losing their match by only 8 imps.

Against doubled partscores, more often than not a trump lead is best. The board below, with the always ominous-looking number 13, was no exception.



Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

<p> \spadesuit A 10 6 5 4 \heartsuit 9 \diamond -- \clubsuit K 9 7 6 5 3 2 </p>		<p> \spadesuit K 3 \heartsuit 10 8 6 4 \diamond K J 9 2 \clubsuit A Q J </p>	
<p> \spadesuit Q 9 7 2 \heartsuit K 7 5 3 \diamond Q 10 8 5 \clubsuit 8 </p>		<p> \spadesuit J 8 \heartsuit A Q J 2 \diamond A 7 6 4 3 \clubsuit 10 4 </p>	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pavlov</i>	<i>Jeng</i>	<i>Yotov</i>	<i>Youngquist</i>
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2 \clubsuit	Dble	2 \heartsuit	Pass
Pass	2 \spadesuit	Pass	3 \clubsuit
3 \heartsuit	4 \clubsuit	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Not that the lead mattered that much, but maybe the trump start led declarer astray, as we shall see in the replay.

East won with the jack and returned a heart. Looking at all those spade losers, declarer decided to insert the $\heartsuit Q$. When West won with the $\heartsuit K$, declarer could not avoid down two, also losing a spade and two more trumps. Bulgaria plus 500.

West	North	East	South
<i>Duffie</i>	<i>Teneva</i>	<i>Q Wan</i>	<i>Yaninski</i>
—	Pass	1 \diamond	Pass
1 \heartsuit	2NT	Pass	3 \clubsuit
3 \diamond	4 \clubsuit	Dble	All Pass

North showed both of her suits at this table, too, so South was the declarer. When West led a low diamond rather than a trump, declarer had an alternative: he ruffed in dummy and immediately led a low spade. East hopped up with the $\spadesuit K$ and, unable to attack trumps, returned a heart. Declarer was not to be fooled, however: he won with the ace and continued with the $\heartsuit J$, ruffing in dummy when West covered. After this, two more of dummy's spades disappeared on the $\heartsuit Q$ and the $\diamond A$, so declarer only lost three more trump tricks for one down. Minus 200 to Bulgaria but a 7-imp gain for them.

The final score: 38-8 or 17.04 – 2.96 vps to Bulgaria.





David Bird

ENGLAND VS USA 2

JUNIORS – ROUND 21

USA2 was in 2nd place at the start. England was 12th, after a heavy loss to Singapore in the previous round. With a gaping canyon of 24 VPs between them and 8th place, not even a maximum win could assist them.

West led a club, and Herman made his contract for plus 90 and a gain of 7 imps. (If you would like to see the full play details of a contract this low, there are several other bridge writers who will oblige you. At the slightest opportunity!)

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yichin	Nonnenmacher	Amer	Lam
1♦	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West had an awkward opening lead to make and chose well with the ♠Q. Lam won with the ace and led the ♥K to the ace, West switching to a club. Declarer won with the ace and ditched his club loser on the ♥Q. Most unusually, he then had a choice of pinning plays at his disposal. He could lead the ♥10, pinning East's 9 and discarding a diamond from hand. Alternatively, he could play the ace and queen of diamonds, ruffing West's king in the dummy and pinning East's jack.

It was easier for Marc Smith and me to see these plays, commentating on BBO with all the cards on view. Declarer ruffed a low heart, and the game could not then be made.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kennedy	Snowden	Alishaw	Herman
1♣	Pass	1♦	2♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yichin	Nonnenmacher	Amer	Lam
—	1NT	3♣	Dble
3♦	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West's 3♦ was hard to understand, and Nonnenmacher ended in 4♥. Amer led the ♦Q, won in the dummy. A finesse of the ♥J lost, and another trump was returned. Declarer played a spade to the king and ace, and the defenders took the ♦K and a diamond ruff. The contract went two down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kennedy	Snowden	Alishaw	Herman
—	1NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

When East did not enter the auction, USA2 found the better spot of 3NT. Declarer won the club lead with the ace and played a spade to the king and ace. West switched to the ♥9, won with the ace, and declarer played a diamond to the queen and ace. A heart to the king was followed by the ♦10 to West's king, and declarer was still on track for a big swing.



West cleared the diamond suit, and declarer played the ♠J. Still on track. He needed to run the ♠9 now, followed by a heart (or a club). Sadly, he played a heart immediately. East won and cashed the ♣Q. He then led another heart to force declarer to lead away from his ♠Q-8. It was a disappointing one down and only 2 imps to USA-2

Both sides missed a very playable slam on this deal:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yichin</i>	<i>Nonnenmacher</i>	<i>Amer</i>	<i>Lam</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Call me old-fashioned, but is there not a case for opening 2♣ on the East cards? You are surely going to bid 4♥ eventually, aren't you? When West responded 1♠, East had no real alternative to rebidding just 4♥. The ♦K was led and all 13 tricks were made when the ♥Q fell. If a defender holds ♥Q-x-x, there would still be an excellent chance of discarding all of the side-suit losers before he can ruff (unless a spade is led).

England supporters (not to mention one or two BBO commentators) were confidently expecting a big swing on the deal.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kennedy</i>	<i>Snowden</i>	<i>Alishaw</i>	<i>Herman</i>
—	—	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

I thought juniors were meant to be exuberant bidders! Only 3♥ over 2♠? You would bid that without one of the minor-suit aces.

Well, sorry, but I'm going to look at the other tables, hoping to bolster my impression of junior bidding. No such luck, it seems. An unimpressive 7 out of 22

Junior pairs bid 6♥. France gained 17 imps against India by bidding 7♥ and making it when a spade was not led. Maybe the under-21 pairs did better. Goodness me, 21 out of 22 pairs played in 4♥. The other pair threw caution to the winds and played in 5♥.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yichin</i>	<i>Nonnenmacher</i>	<i>Amer</i>	<i>Lam</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

West made a natural 4NT slam-try, and the bidding ended there. North led the ♠4, and it seemed to the BBO commentators (admittedly somewhat long-in-the-tooth) that there was much to commend playing the ♠10 from dummy. If instead you play low and South has to contribute the queen or jack, would you have enough time to make the ♠10 later?

Well, these youngsters always think they know better. Yichin called for the ♠6 and won with the ace. Three rounds of clubs were followed by a fourth round, South winning and returning a heart to the ace. Declarer cashed the two long clubs and now (how he wished he had taken the old-timers' advice) had to rely on a finesse of the ♦Q. When it won, he breathed a sigh of relief and had his 630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kennedy</i>	<i>Snowden</i>	<i>Alishaw</i>	<i>Herman</i>
—	—	2♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

A spade was led and declarer again played low from dummy, winning with the ace. He cleared the clubs and scored nine tricks for a loss of 1 imp.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

♠ Q 9 7 2
♥ K 7 5 3
♦ Q 10 8 5
♣ 8



♠ K 3
♥ 10 8 6 4
♦ K J 9 2
♣ A Q J

♠ J 8
♥ A Q J 2
♦ A 7 6 4 3
♣ 10 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yichin</i>	<i>Nonnenmacher</i>	<i>Amer</i>	<i>Lam</i>
—	Pass	1NT	Dble
2♣	Dble	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

South's double showed a four-card major and a five-card or longer minor. West's 2♣ was Stayman. North doubled 2♣ to show his clubs and later bid 3♣, which shunted the opponents one level higher in hearts.

South led the ♣10, won with the ♣J. The contract can be made only by a double-dummy lead of the ♥10

at this stage. Since declarer had no idea which major suit South held, this was decidedly difficult to find. He led a low trump to the king and a second round to South's jack. After two more rounds of trumps, South exited with a low diamond. South ducked the next diamond and won with the $\diamond A$ on the third round (exactly as the double-dummy analyzers say is necessary). The $\spadesuit J$ was needed next to take the contract two down. South chose the $\spadesuit 8$, so the contract was only one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kennedy</i>	<i>Snowden</i>	<i>Alishaw</i>	<i>Herman</i>
—	Pass	1NT	Dble
2♣	Dble	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Kennedy valued his hand two tricks higher than his counterpart. Herman avoided the club lead, starting with ace and another diamond, and the eventual damage was two down for minus 500 and the loss of 10 imps.

USA2 won deservedly by 42-5 (18.04 vps to 1.96). Well done to them. Please may I also say how wonderful the BBO operator, Bas van Beijsterveld, has been on the BBO1 table. Scarcely a mistake and plenty of extra table-side information. His efforts have been very much appreciated by all of those watching!



ATTENTION JUNIORS AND NBO'S

An invitation will be sent out in the beginning of November 2018 to all NBOs over the World were the quickest ones will have a really good deal to come to Sweden and participate in the Chairman's Cup 2019 and attend the 25th Swedish Bridge Festival. It will be played as usual in Örebro and the dates are July 26th to August 4th 2019.

Don't miss the chance when we will try to break the new record (from 2018) with 486 pairs in a single session side event over 24 boards!

If you have questions or thoughts contact Micke Melander, mme@svensktbridge.se



Mark Horton

CHINA 3 VS SWEDEN

KIDS SEMIFINAL

The Shape of Things to Come

I can't help but wonder how many of the young players competing in these championships will go on to become household names (some of them are already well-known). Might we be the first to spot a potential Helgemo or Bilde?

Acting on a tip from our Swedish correspondent, Micke Melander, I decided to follow the action from this semifinal, with China 3 leading Sweden by 93-52.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>T Lundqvist</i>	<i>Cui</i>	<i>I Lundqvist</i>	<i>Liu</i>
—	2♣*	Pass	Pass
Dble	3♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	4♣	4♠	All Pass

2♣ 11-15HCP 5+♣ with 4+♥/♠ or 6+♣

South led the ♣8. Declarer put up dummy's king, ruffed, and cashed dummy's top spades, North pitching the ♣Q. Declarer's next move was to cash the ♥A and play a heart, North winning and exiting with a club. Declarer ruffed, played a diamond to the ten and king, and North's club exit was ruffed and overruffed. South exited with a diamond, and North collected the setting trick with the ♣7.

Playing the ♣K at trick one was not best - keeping it in dummy would have made life easier for declarer, although it should not have cost the contract.

Declarer's major mistake was to cash both top spades. One was fine, but it was then essential to get the diamonds going. After ace of diamonds and a diamond, North would have won and played a club, declarer ruffing and ruffing a diamond. When the suit behaved, declarer could have played the ace of hearts and a heart, and would have come to ten tricks.

Probably the strongest line of all, having retained dummy's ♣K, was to play two rounds of diamonds at

once. If North won, he would have probably exited with a trump. Declarer would have won in dummy, ruffed a club and run the ♠10. This should have made the contract even when diamonds were 4-2 and spades were 2-2, as North would have been endplayed if he won the second round of trumps.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Abragi</i>
—	1♣	Pass	1♥
1NT	Dble	Pass*	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	3♣	All Pass	

East led the ♠10, and West won with the king and switched to the ♥3. Declarer won with the king and played a diamond to the queen, but West won and exited with the ace of hearts and a heart. Declarer ruffed, but could not avoid the loss of a diamond and a club for one down, 3 imps to China 3.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>T Lundqvist</i>	<i>Cui</i>	<i>I Lundqvist</i>	<i>Liu</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♥	Dble	4♥	4♠
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led the ♥A, and West followed with the two, encouraging and an even number. The two of spades continuation saw declarer win, draw trumps in three rounds and cash a second spade. After cashing another trump, declarer played the ♣K and then played a club to the ten, one down, minus 100.

I suspect you have spotted the flaw in declarer's line of play.

West had followed to three diamonds and two spades and was marked with six hearts. If the ♠Q was a true card, West had to have two clubs.

It was highly unlikely that East had started with six spades, so declarer could have cashed a second spade before drawing the third trump with dummy's king. A spade ruff would then have confirmed the count.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Abragi</i>
—	—	2♥	Pass
4♥	Dble	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

West led the ♠Q, and declarer won perforce in dummy, played a club to the ace and the ♣J, claiming when the queen surfaced, plus 1390 and 16 imps, just what Sweden needed.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>T Lundqvist</i>	<i>Cui</i>	<i>I Lundqvist</i>	<i>Liu</i>
Pass	1♦*	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1♦ 11-15, 0+♦

West led the ♦2 and declarer won with the queen and played a spade to the ten. If East takes that and returns a diamond, declarer has very little chance of making the contract -- his only hope being that West won the first round of clubs. However, East ducked, and now declarer was in with a chance. He continued with a spade to the queen and saw West's jack. He abandoned spades, playing a heart to the nine and ten, and won the diamond return with the king. A club to the queen was followed by the jack, and West won and cleared the diamonds. This was the critical moment, as declarer needed to make a discard from dummy. The winning play was counter-intuitive, as it required declarer to throw dummy's remaining club, temporarily cutting himself off from the ♣K. Declarer then would have played a heart to the jack and queen, and would have had to come to

nine tricks, scoring two more hearts and a club.

However, declarer discarded a heart from dummy, cashed the ♣K and played two rounds of hearts, West winning and cashing his diamonds for one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Abragi</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

4♥ could not be made on this layout, declarer losing two hearts, a spade and a club, minus 100 -- no swing.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>T Lundqvist</i>	<i>Cui</i>	<i>I Lundqvist</i>	<i>Liu</i>
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1NT 14-16

With a maximum and four-card support, North felt entitled to raise, and South, with a six-card suit, pressed on to game.

West led the ♦4, and when declarer played dummy's king, East took the trick with the ace and returned the ♦J, declarer ruffing, drawing trumps, eliminating the diamonds and running the ♣9. East won with the jack and exited with a heart, declarer taking West's king with the ace, eliminating the hearts and exiting with a club to endplay West, who had to offer up a ruff-and-discard, plus 420.

Could do better, as some of my school reports used to say.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Abragi</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

4♦ Transfer

East led a spade, and declarer won, crossed to dummy with a spade and played a diamond to the king and ace. East returned a heart, and declarer, with no way to set up an elimination, had no chance, even though he also slipped a club past West's ace. One down and 10 imps for China 3, comfortable at 115-68.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
T Lundqvist	Cui	I Lundqvist	Liu
—	1♦	Dble	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	2♦
Dble	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	All Pass

1♦ 11-15, 0+♦

South led the ♦5, and declarer won with the queen, cashed the ♣AK and played a spade to the queen, North taking the ace and switching to the ♥K. Declarer won, played two rounds of clubs, North winning with the ten and exiting with the ♥2. When declarer failed to put up the jack, South won with the ten, cashed the ♦A and ♦J, and now only needed to play a heart to allow North to score the setting trick. Unfortunately he exited with a spade, and as North had pitched two spades, dummy's king felled the jack and the two pointed tens were winners, plus 120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dai	Bertheau	Chen	Abragi
—	Pass	1♣*	1♦
Dble	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1♣ 16+

South found the excellent lead of the ♥10. (On a low diamond lead, an inspired declarer wins and plays four rounds of clubs, discarding diamonds from dummy, after which he can take on North,

ducking the switch to the ♥K and eventually getting home via an endplay.) When North overtook it with the queen, declarer won and played the ♦K, South winning and continuing, fatally, with the ♥9. North took the king (it would not have helped to duck) and returned the four. Declarer won with the jack and played four rounds of clubs, scoring one spade, three hearts, one diamond and four clubs, plus 600 and 10 imps.

If North had simply ducked the first trick, the defence would have been in complete control.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
T Lundqvist	Cui	I Lundqvist	Liu
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Declarer won the ten of spades lead in hand, drew trumps and played a club, South taking the ace and switching to the ♥4. North's king was the last trick for the defence, plus 400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dai	Bertheau	Chen	Abragi
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	1♥	2♣	3♥
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

1♣ 16+

North led the ♥3, and declarer was soon claiming, plus 920 and 11 imps for China 3.

Obviously South's 3♥ was well-intentioned, but his cards were mostly defensive in nature and he could hardly be certain that a heart lead would be best for the defence.

It had been an excellent performance by China 3, who had won by 136-71.



Kees Tammens

ACCIDENTS AND BRILLIANCIES

Here is a message for all national junior officials, coaches, captains and juniors themselves. In 1993, the international junior team tournament in the Netherlands started in 's-Hertogenbosch and has been continued annually, and now takes place in Het Witte Huis, known as White House Junior Internationals, in Amsterdam. In 2018, two former juniors, Tim Heeres and Bob Drijver (European junior champion in 2007 and open world champion in 2016) took over as the organisers and made the 26th event a great success. The dates of the White House Junior Internationals-2019 are projected to be March 24 to March 30. The event is for 24 teams (including four Dutch teams), so twenty other countries can participate. If you are interested and want more information, please contact Tim and Bob at whjuniors2018@gmail.com.

The Dutch girls had Tuesday off, taking time for the gym, the pool or the massage parlor, in preparation for the quarterfinal match against Norway. The juniors were comfortably on their way to the knockout. I followed (in my role as supporter) the Dutch youngsters team that had some work to do to stay in this championship. They started in pretty controlled fashion against Canada with good bridge but not many high scores. The first plus was a lucky but nice pick-up in the defense against a humble 1NT contract.

Dlr: West	♠ A 10 9 4		
Vul: None	♥ K Q		
	♦ K 9		
	♣ A 8 7 4 3		
♠ K 7		♠ 5 3	
♥ 9 5 3 2		♥ A J 7 6	
♦ Q J 7 4 3		♦ A 8 5	
♣ 6 2		♣ K Q J 5	
	♠ Q J 8 6 2		
	♥ 10 8 4		
	♦ 10 6 2		
	♣ 10 9		

After a 1♣ opening bld by North, East overcalled 1NT at both tables and was left to play there, with the lead of a low spade. After ♠K, ♠A and a spade return, Oscar Nijssen (South), took his spade tricks, Tim van de Pavverd (North), signaling with a low club, and East discarding a heart and two clubs. A club to ♣A and a club return left declarer with nothing else

than ♠A and a diamond to ♦K in North, who cashed two clubs for down three. No big deal because 1NT will always go down?

At the other table with Ronald Goor as declarer, North switched to a low club after ♠A. Declarer took the trick with the ♣K and played a low diamond for the ♦Q and ♦K. North persisted in clubs. Low club for ♣Q. ♦A and a diamond to dummy for three tricks in that suit. North discarded three spades, and Goor played ♥A and a low heart to secure his second overtrick, so the Dutch youngsters had plus 150 in both directions.

The first part of the match was quiet. Then it exploded:

Dlr: West	♠ 9 6 4		
Vul: N-S	♥ K Q J 10 8 7		
	♦ 8		
	♣ 8 5 4		
♠ K J 8 5 3 2		♠ A	
♥ 5 3 2		♥ A 4	
♦ K 6		♦ A J 10	
♣ 6 2		♣ A K Q J 10 9 3	
	♠ Q 10 7		
	♥ 9 6		
	♦ Q 9 7 5 4 3 2		
	♣ 7		

West	North	East	South
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Dble	Redble	All Pass

North, Tim van de Pavverd, hoped that South, Oscar Nijssen, remembered that a double asked for a heart lead. Happily, his partner did not forget this agreement and led the ♥9. What North did not like is that declarer some moments later had all thirteen tricks on the automatic ♠Q/♦Q squeeze: minus 1600.

West	North	East	South
2♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♦	Pass	7♣	All Pass

East asked for key cards and heard about the ♠K. Then he asked for kings and found out about the ♦K. Twelve tricks on top, and in that case there is always a thirteenth trick, so he confidently bid

the grand Unfortunately for the Dutch youngster, he chose clubs as trumps. Since the RKCB answer had made West the declarer, North led a trump. The declarer, Sander Goor, played a diamond to the $\diamond K$ and a diamond towards the dummy, North ruffing and shifting to the $\heartsuit K$. Now the contract had to go down three. So minus 1600 and minus 150 produced minus 18 imps and a Dinosaur, one we don't like when it is against the Netherlands.

Dlr: North	\spadesuit Q 5 4 3	
Vul: Both	\heartsuit J 9 2	
	\diamond 10 8	
	\clubsuit K 10 8 3	
\spadesuit A 9 7		\spadesuit K J 8
\heartsuit K 6 4		\heartsuit A 5
\diamond 9 7 3 2		\diamond A K Q 5
\clubsuit A Q 2		\clubsuit J 9 7 6
	\spadesuit 10 6 2	
	\heartsuit Q 10 8 7 3	
	\diamond J 6 4	
	\clubsuit 5 4	

One board later, Ronald Goor scored the – almost – equalizer when he picked up the clubs in 6NT with $\clubsuit AQ2$ opposite $\clubsuit J976$. He played $\clubsuit 6$ to $\clubsuit Q$ losing to the king, and finessed later for $\clubsuit 10$. The Dutch youngsters recovered well from the Dinosaur for a decent win (49-27) and a more stable place (sixth) in the rankings with the match versus China to come:

Dlr: West	\spadesuit 9 6 5 2	
Vul: None	\heartsuit 5 3	
	\diamond 5 3 2	
	\clubsuit 10 8 4 2	
\spadesuit 8 7 3		\spadesuit K Q
\heartsuit Q 10 8		\heartsuit A K 9 4
\diamond Q 9 7		\diamond A K 4
\clubsuit Q 9 6 5		\clubsuit A K J 3
	\spadesuit A J 10 4	
	\heartsuit J 7 6 2	
	\diamond J 10 8 6	
	\clubsuit 7	

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	2 \clubsuit	Pass
2 \diamond	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass

East showed a balanced 26-plus-count, and West bid a quantitative 4NT, which was accepted with 6NT by East. After the $\diamond 10$ lead, declarer, Tim van de Pavverd, took $\diamond Q$ in dummy to play a spade for the $\spadesuit K$ and $\spadesuit A$. Declarer took the diamond return

with his $\diamond A$ and cashed the $\diamond K$, noticing that North followed suit. Then came four rounds of clubs. Now declarer was pretty sure that South had begun with 4=4=4=1 distribution. East played a heart to $\heartsuit A$ and a heart to $\heartsuit 10$ for twelve tricks. Thus he secured a 31-5 win, and the Dutch youngsters went into the last match versus Singapore with a plus of 12 vps over number nine in the rankings, the knockout within reach. The Netherlands lost but kept their position and will face Sweden in the quarterfinals.

The Dutch juniors secured a berth in the knockout with one match to go, where they met Israel, who were also sure of a place in the last eight. Early in the match, Dutch junior Michel Schols made a bid that will probably find its way to the newspapers.

Dlr: West	\spadesuit 7 5 4 2	
Vul: Both	\heartsuit Q 10 8 5 2	
	\diamond 6	
	\clubsuit A 6 4	
\spadesuit Q 10		\spadesuit J 8 3
\heartsuit A J 7 6		\heartsuit 9 4 3
\diamond K 10 5 3		\diamond J 9
\clubsuit Q 8 5		\clubsuit K J 10 9 2
	\spadesuit A K 9 6	
	\heartsuit K	
	\diamond A Q 8 7 4 2	
	\clubsuit 7 3	

West	North	East	South
1 \diamond	Pass	1NT	2 \spadesuit
Pass	4 \spadesuit	All Pass	

The 2 \spadesuit -bid by South was very imaginative and hugely productive. It was sure that North, Ricardo Westerbeeck, could not take any action after 1NT, so if North-South had a contract, it would be in spades. With three spades in East and four spades in West, it would be a 4-2 fit, but who cares? West found the $\spadesuit 10$ lead for $\spadesuit K$ in South. $\diamond A$ and $\diamond Q$, covered with $\diamond K$ and ruffed in dummy (noting the fall of the $\diamond J9$ from East). Spade to the ace and $\diamond 8$, covered with $\diamond 10$, ruffed. When East refused to overruff, a heart to the $\heartsuit K$ secured plus 650 for the Netherlands and plus 11 imps.

However, these were the only imps scored in this match by the Netherlands, which Israel won by 22-11. It resulted in a quarterfinal match between the Netherlands and Israel that has a special flavor for me because I was still a coach of the Dutch juniors in 2012. Then, they overcame Israel on the very last board in the final of the junior world championships by the tiniest of all margins (0.7 imps). The final eight teams are known: the games can start, let's play bridge!



Jos Jacobs

USA 1 VS SINGAPORE

JUNIORS – QF 1

Though Singapore finished fifth in the Round Robin, they were nevertheless chosen by the RR winners, USA 1, as their opponents for the quarterfinals. On the opening boards, the USA choice looked correct when they avoided a too-thin game on the first and ended up in a better but still losing partscore on board 2 to gain 5 and 3 imps, respectively. On board 3, Singapore showed that they, too, could handle the cards:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Haw	Kristensen	Y Liu	K Rosenberg
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

On the favourable layout, declarer made 12 tricks on a spade lead, which clarified that position, followed by a double diamond finesse. USA 1 plus 490.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Grossack	Xin Zhu	Kriegel	M Zhou
—	—	—	2♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Over the Multi 2., 3♥ was pass or correct, and 3NT showed a balanced 20-21 hand. A Baron-type sequence followed and the Moysian spade fit was duly established. Slam was reached when South showed the trump queen and the ♣K.

Declarer won the ♦3 lead (low from doubleton) in hand and immediately led a heart to dummy's jack, losing to the king. When East returned a low diamond, declarer successfully ran it to dummy's ten and started to draw trumps, finessing dummy's ♠9 after seeing East's ♠10 on the second round of the suit. That followed the principle of restricted choice, and maybe he took the lead into account as well. With all the necessary communications still intact, the scene was set for a neat double squeeze. West had the heart guard, and East the diamond guard, so neither defender would eventually be able to protect the clubs. Singapore scored a fine plus 980 and 10 imps to take the lead.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Haw	Kristensen	Y Liu	K Rosenberg
—	1♦	1♠	Dble
3♦ (a)	4♥	4♠	Dble
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

(a) Mixed raise

Well, 5♠ would have been just one off, I think, but it is hard to bid five-over-five. "The five-level belongs to the opponents" is oft quoted. It looked very much as if East had three defensive tricks. USA 1 plus 650 because there was no defence against 5♥ after all.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Grossack	Xin Zhu	Kriegel	M Zhou
—	1♥	1♠	2♠
3♥	4♦	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♦	Dble	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Another pleasant competitive auction in the replay, ended by East expressing doubts again and again. In vain, as it turned out. Singapore plus 850 and another 5 imps to them.

Penalty doubles, more and more out of fashion, were also the issue on board 7.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ A 8 7 3	
	♥ 9	
	♦ Q 10 5 2	
	♣ A 9 8 4	
♠ K Q 6 4	<div>North WestEast South</div>	♠ J 2
♥ 8 7 4		♥ A Q 5 3 2
♦ 9 6 3		♦ A 8 7
♣ 6 5 3		♣ Q J 7
	♠ 10 9 5	
	♥ K J 10 6	
	♦ K J 4	
	♣ K 10 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Haw	Kristensen	Y Liu	K Rosenberg
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North's shaded opening bid and South's pass over 1♥ brought rich dividends when West produced an ill-timed raise. Down three, of course. USA 1 plus 800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Grossack	Xin Zhu	Kriegel	M Zhou
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	2♥	Dble
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

The Open Room result would not have been such a disaster for the Singapore team, had North been able to pass over his partner's support double. When he could not, and when South made no further move, the pair had not only missed a 500 penalty but also a good vulnerable game. The contract was just made for only plus 110 to Singapore. USA 1 thus won 12 imps on the board instead of 7 or even just 5, and they had regained the lead.

On the next board, a slam played by South was a reasonable proposition.

Board 8. Dealer West/None

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Haw	Kristensen	Y Liu	K Rosenberg
2♦ (a)	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(a) Multi – weak two in either major

That was definitely an inspired pass of 4NT by North. USA 1 plus 460 when the spades did not break.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Grossack	Xin Zhu	Kriegel	M Zhou
2♥	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Played by North, the slam is not a very good one, so to a certain extent, it got what it deserved when the diamonds proved frozen but the spades were 4-1. USA 1 plus 50 and 11 more imps to them.



Team USA1 Under 26

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Haw</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Y Liu</i>	<i>K Rosenberg</i>
—	1♣	1♦	1♥
1♠	Dble	4♠	4NT
5♠	Dble	All Pass	

This board reminded me of the late Oscar the Owl, who might have said: “What a curious deal. It’s East who is looking at a genuine two-suiter, but it’s South who is showing one.”

West apparently overlooked the negative inferences from the initial rounds of the auction, or maybe he was trying to help the opponents get even more overboard. We will never know. Five spades, of course, had no play whatsoever, not even on a helpful ♥A lead, and declarer eventually went down two; though he might have escaped for just one off, as we shall see below. Anyway, USA 1 plus 500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Grossack</i>	<i>Xin Zhu</i>	<i>Kriegel</i>	<i>M Zhou</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

North’s 1♦ temporarily shut out East’s first suit, and East’s own raise to 4♠ effectively shut out his second genuine suit as well. The advantage of this was, however, that East-West were allowed to enjoy playing in 4♠ doubled. Had North led the ♠A and ♠J, this would have been a different story, but against the actual ♥A lead, declarer showed his skill.

Declarer ruffed the ♥A in the dummy and ruffed a club in his hand. Diamond to the ace, ♣A for a diamond(!) discard from hand, ♦K, another club ruffed in hand, the ♥K and a heart ruff brought declarer’s tally to eight tricks, and when another club was successfully ruffed in hand, declarer had his

ninth winner, with a trick from ♠KQx still to come. Nicely done, USA 1 plus 790 and 15 imps.

There was another big swing on the next board, this time due to a serious defensive error.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Haw</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Y Liu</i>	<i>K Rosenberg</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	2♣	Dble	2♥
Dble	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

No chance, not even on the actual heart lead, as long as North held on to all of his diamonds, which would have eventually produced four tricks for the defence. When North did so (see below), the contract was one down, USA 1 plus 100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Grossack</i>	<i>Xin Zhu</i>	<i>Kriegel</i>	<i>M Zhou</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Once again, we saw the advantage of cashing your sure winners first. At this table, declarer started off by winning with dummy’s ♥J and cashing his four club winners, on which North discarded two low diamonds and thus effectively ditched two defensive tricks. This enabled declarer to make an overtrick for plus 630 to USA 1. At the other table, however, declarer had won the ♥J and played diamonds himself at trick 2. When South went up with his king, North knew what (not) to do.

The deal was worth another 12 imps to USA 1.

This way, USA 1 had scored 50 imps in four consecutive boards, close to a world record at this

level, I would think.

Singapore hit back a little on board 11 by not overbidding to a game, but then came this one.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

	♠ J 10	
	♥ AKJ752	
	♦ J943	
	♣ 5	
♠ Q83	<div>♠ N ♥ W ♦ E ♣ S</div>	♠ 96542
♥ 93		♥ Q84
♦ K1075		♦ 6
♣ J842		♣ AK76
	♠ AK7	
	♥ 106	
	♦ AQ82	
	♣ Q1093	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Haw	Kristensen	Y Liu	K Rosenberg
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led a diamond and got his ruff when dummy played low. After that, declarer had to guess whether East had ruffed from a low doubleton or from an original ♥Qxx, When he misguessed, he was one down. Singapore plus 100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Grossack	Xin Zhu	Kriegel	M Zhou
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This was not the best contract in the world, but the defensive communications were a bit awkward. East led the ♣K and continued the suit, West winning with the jack when dummy inserted the ten. At this point, West had no good return. He tried a heart. East won with the queen, but also had no good play. Nine tricks, therefore, and plus 600 to Singapore, who thus got 12 imps back.

There were more competitive problems on the next board.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Haw	Kristensen	Y Liu	K Rosenberg
—	1♠	Pass	3♦
Dble	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

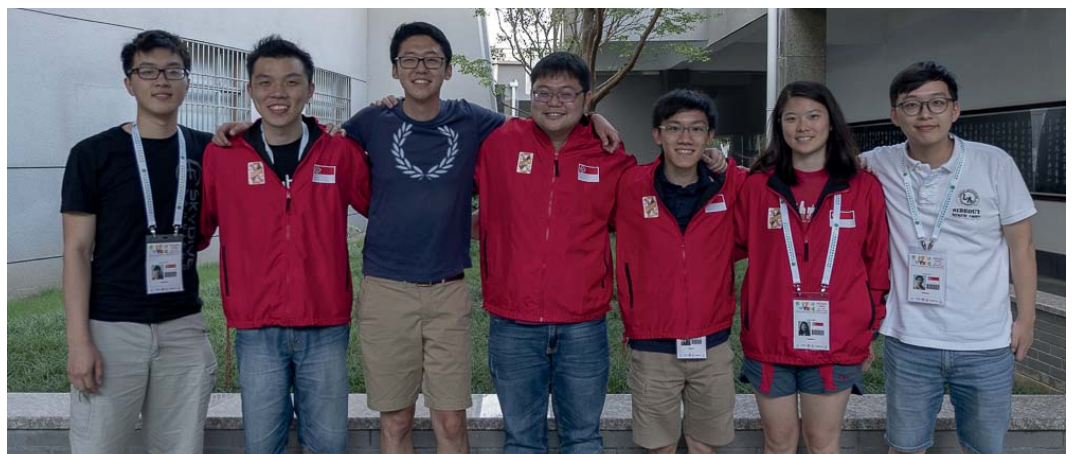
Opposite West's non-passed-hand take-out double over the Bergen-style raise, East's pass over 4♠ really surprised me. With the ♣K well-placed for declarer, ten tricks were easy enough. USA 1 thus got plus 620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Grossack	Xin Zhu	Kriegel	M Zhou
—	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	5♥	5♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

In a sense, East-West did well to sacrifice in 5♠, but in view of their teammates' result, the sacrifice was in vain. USA 1 scored another plus 200, good for 13 more imps.

The score after the first quarter: 71-32 to USA 1.



Team Singapore Under 26



JUNIORS – QF2

a heart. North cashed the king of spades and would have set the contract if he had played another heart, removing declarer's entry to dummy. North eventually shifted to a club, and the play went on as in the Open Room when declarer ruffed the diamonds good and could use his heart entry to collect the established diamond for a club discard. 1 imp to Poland when declarer in the Open Room scored eleven tricks.

Note: It looks at first glance as if it is impossible to make 4♠ if the defense play correctly. Declarer seems to have to lose two trumps and two hearts. Nothing could be more wrong! 4♠ is cold. Assume you are declarer as West and get a club led, which is covered by the queen, king and ace. Ace and king of diamonds and a diamond ruff follow. Play a spade to the ace and pitch the club loser (or heart) on the established diamond. North may ruff, but declarer has executed a loser on loser play. He still has entries to dummy to collect the last diamond for a heart discard to make his contract. Even if North kicks off with a heart, declarer simply plays low and will then follow the same line of play to make the contract.

Giovanni Donati played in 4♠ as West on a heart lead to the queen and a trump shift – fine defense by South, though a fast club lead might have fooled declarer into rising with the ace?

Donati played low from hand and when North missed the opportunity for a deceptive false-card by following with the ten, Donati went into the tank. Eventually he ducked the trump, won the heart shift and played three rounds of diamonds. the fall of the eight and queen (again the ten might have been more deceptive!) left him with a blind guess. But he hadn't come all the way to Wujiang to misguess a diamond suit. He ruffed, dropping the ten, led a spade to the ace, and played a diamond, discarding his last heart. Dummy's trump served as the late entry to dummy to allow the slow club loser to be discarded.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room:

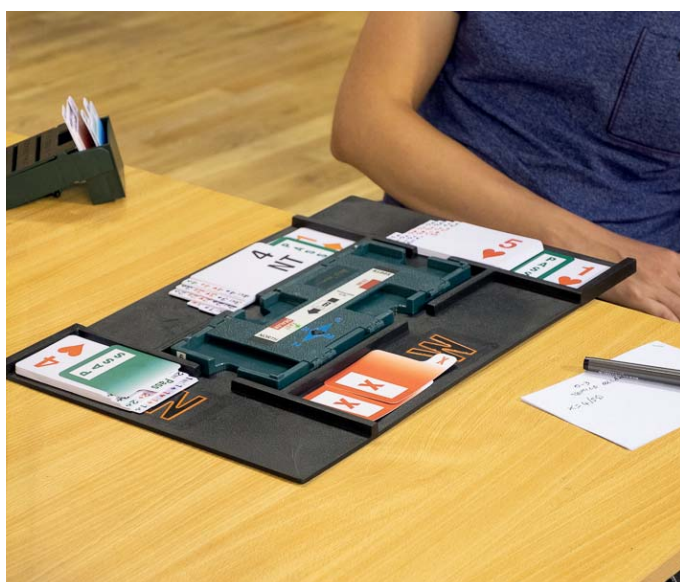
West	North	East	South
<i>Majcher</i>	<i>Snowden</i>	<i>Marcinowski</i>	<i>Herman</i>
1NT	2♥	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

In the Open Room, the six of hearts was led to the queen and North's ace, declarer following with the seven. North, who really didn't like what he saw in dummy, finally returned the two of diamonds. Declarer accepted the gift, jumping up with the queen and playing a spade towards dummy, South following with the nine. When declarer put up the king, he had two trump losers and no way to make his contract with both minor-suit kings offside. One down was plus 50 for USA 2.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Dhir</i>	<i>Chodacki</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Sobczak</i>
1NT	2♥	4♥*	Pass
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

Chodacki led the ace of hearts to see the seven, four and two. What to play and why? North eventually decided to continue with the jack of clubs, which went to declarer's queen. West would have made his contract if he had cashed the ace of clubs and then played on diamonds – any way he wished. No such thing happened when declarer instead led a spade to dummy's jack and South's queen. The jack of diamonds looked like a great card to play at this point, but for mysterious reasons South eventually exited with his last heart. Declarer put up the queen, covered by the king and ruffed in dummy. Declarer called for another trump, and South won with his ace to return a diamond one trick too late. It was now all over, because declarer could pull South's last trump, and cash hearts and pitch diamonds from dummy for



ten tricks and plus 590. 12 IMPs to USA 2.

Chodacki, who probably felt endplayed even on the opening lead, gambled at trick two when he decided to shift to clubs, A much safer play would have been to continue hearts.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Majcher	Snowden	Marcinowski	Herman
—	1NT	Pass	2♥*
Dbl	2♠	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Dhir	Chodacki	Zhu	Sobczak
—	1NT	Pass	2♥*
Dbl	2♠	3♥	4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Maybe the double in hearts from West and the fact that East freely bid hearts were enough to help North-South into the great slam in the Closed Room. Neither of the declarers had any problem in taking 12 tricks when both minors broke 3-3 and spades were 3-2. 13 imps to Poland, who had won the set by 53-25 and had turned the match around to 90-74 in their favor.



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RESULTS








JUNIOR TEAMS

QUARTERFINALS

	C/O	1	Tot	2	Tot	3	Tot	4	Tot
 USA 1	0	71	71	40	111	37	148	19	167
 SINGAPORE	0	32	32	33	65	43	108	62	170
 USA 2	0	49	49	25	74	33	107	50	157
 POLAND	0	37	37	53	90	46	136	29	165
 ISRAEL	0	20	20	26	46	29	75	16	91
 NETHERLANDS	0	42	42	21	63	62	125	60	185
 SWEDEN	0	35	35	13	48	31	79	57	136
 CHINA	0	27	27	28	55	26	81	17	98









YOUNGSTER TEAMS

QUARTERFINALS

	C/O	1	Tot	2	Tot	3	Tot	4	Tot
 ISRAEL	0	65	65	33	98	20	118	40	158
 GERMANY	0	15	15	16	31	16	47	39	86
 BULGARIA	0	22	22	29	51	46	97	42	139
 FRANCE	0	37	37	21	58	31	89	51	140
 POLAND	0	15	15	54	69	14	83	50	133
 ITALY	0	75	75	45	120	36	156	39	195
 SWEDEN	0	48	48	23	71	22	93	45	138
 NETHERLANDS	0	15	15	16	31	19	50	37	87









GIRLS TEAMS

QUARTERFINALS

	C/O	1	Tot	2	Tot	3	Tot	4	Tot
 CHINA	0	60	60	45	105	55	160	26	186
 USA	0	24	24	34	58	21	79	41	120
 FRANCE	0	69	69	18	87	46	133	15	148
 HUNGARY	0	8	8	37	45	19	64	59	123
 NETHERLANDS	0	35	35	31	66	18	84	42	126
 NORWAY	0	12	12	3	15	11	26	14	40
 POLAND	0	33	33	23	56	55	111	48	159
 TURKEY	0	36	36	34	70	10	80	24	104

KIDS TEAMS

FINALS

	C/O	1	Tot	2	Tot	3	Tot	4	Tot
 FRANCE	0	38	38	14	52	18	70	17	87
 CHINA 3	0	32	32	19	51	40	91	23	114
 USA	0	17	17	35	52	43	95	0	95
 SWEDEN	0	21	21	39	60	28	88	0	88
 ISRAEL	0	37	37	33	70	8	78	27	105
 CANADA	0	0	0	5	5	25	30	23	53
 CHINA 1	0	30	30	47	77	49	126	0	126
 NORWAY	0	20	20	9	29	24	53	0	53

KIDS SWISS

1	GREECE	111.32	6	DENMARK	102.86
2	GERMANY	111.18	7	ENGLAND	98.90
3	TURKEY	107.32	8	CHINESE TAIPEI	91.15
4	CHINA 2	107.12	9	INDIA	51.93
5	POLAND	104.90	10	BOTSWANA	13.32

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14	INDIA JUNIORS	50.60	31	MEZOBO	37.60
	INDONESIA 3	50.60	32	CHILE 3	27.00
16	INDIA CHK	49.80	33	DELELE	26.00
17	CHILE 1	49.60	34	BRASIL	8.00

ATTENTION: BRIDGE TEACHERS AND PLAYERS!



There is a new game - HOOL - specially developed for kids to learn Bridge. It is both a face-to-face game as well as an online mobile app (test version).

Please come to the MEETING ROOM anytime (next to the WBF President's office) for a demonstration.

If no one is present, leave your name/email/country on the Bridge table inside and I will find you.

Amaresh Deshpande
Bridge Development, WBF