THEN THERE WERE SIX

We have reached the finals, with gold medals beckoning at the end of the 84-board battles.

The Junior final is Singapore against Sweden. In the Youngsters, Israel will play Sweden. In the Girls, China faces Poland.

In the Junior semifinals, Sweden won fairly easily over the Netherlands, by 169 imps to 95. The other match between Poland and Singapore was much closer. It was decided upon the penultimate board, when Singapore bid and made a seven-heart contract that Poland missed. Singapore was through by 120 imps to 106.

It was a similar story in the Youngsters, where Israel defeated France by 151 imps to 87. But in the second match, between Italy and Sweden, it was nip and tuck. Eventually, Sweden won by 112 imps to 95, also gaining by bidding and making seven hearts.

In the Girls, France conceded to China after only three sets, down by 149 imps to 33. But the Netherlands-Poland match was a real nail biter. Poland led by 33 imps with one set to go. After 12 of those 14 boards, though, the Netherlands had recouped 25 imps. But only 1 overtrick imp changed hands on the last two deals, and Poland was through by 120 imps to 113. What happened in the seven-heart deal? Neither side bid it, so if the Dutch pair had, they would have won the match!

All Captains are kindly requested to confirm their team’s participation in the Closing Ceremony and the following Farewell Dinner.
The World Bridge Series is an incredibly exciting and challenging tournament, with many different Championships available to participants.
It is made even more interesting due to the fact that all the events are transnational, so that players from across the world, from different National Bridge Organisations, can come together as team-mates or in partnership to compete.
The venue is the magnificent Marriott Orlando World, where we have obtained special rates for all participants!

Junior Players will also be able to enter the Youth Triathlon event starting on Saturday 22nd September.
The Big Match

This was a big match with which to end day five. USA, lying ninth, faced the Netherlands, who were two places and 11.79 victory points ahead of them. A good win for the USA would keep them in the hunt for a top eight finish – a loss would put them under enormous pressure over the last three rounds.

The opening deal looked innocuous, but appearances proved to be deceptive:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

| ♠️ | A 8 3 |
| ⚖️ | K 10 |
| ♦️ | K 10 4 3 |
| ♣️ | 7 5 3 2 |

| ♠️ | K J 4 2 |
| ⚖️ | A Q |
| ♦️ | 9 8 5 |
| ♣️ | 9 8 6 4 |

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<td>—</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1NT</td>
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East cashed the ♠️A and continued with the ten, followed by the queen and king, declarer pitching two hearts and a diamond from dummy. East switched to the ♥️7, and West won with the ace and returned a diamond, declarer winning with dummy’s jack and playing a heart to the queen and king. There were seven tricks now, plus 90.

Closed Room

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<td>1♥️</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♣️</td>
<td>Dble</td>
<td>2♦️</td>
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<tr>
<td>3♣️</td>
<td>Dble</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
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North led the ♥️K, which was the only way to give declarer a chance.

Having won with the ace, declarer should think along these lines: I must lose two diamonds and probably two spades. If North can ruff the second round of hearts, there is nothing I can do about it, but it must be right to leave trumps alone for the moment and develop the spades.

If declarer plays a low spade at trick two, South wins and will probably return a heart. Declarer wins and can now afford to cross to dummy with a club. When the jack falls, declarer plays on spades, and as the cards lie the defenders are helpless. Whatever they try, declarer will take all the remaining tricks.

However, declarer elected to cash the ♥️Q and then played a club to the ten. South’s jack was a bitter pill to swallow, and when South returned a heart, declarer was already sure to finish two down, minus 300 and a 5-imp start for Netherlands.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

| ♠️ | Q 4 |
| ⚖️ | A K J 10 |
| ♦️ | 10 9 6 3 |
| ♣️ | Q J 10 |

| ♠️ | 6 3 |
| ⚖️ | A K 8 7 |
| ♦️ | K 8 6 4 |
| ♣️ | A J 9 8 7 5 |

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<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>1♠️</td>
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<tr>
<td>2♦️</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♠️</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3♠️</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4♣️</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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South led the ♥️5. North won with the king and switched to the ♠️4. Declarer put in the nine, and South won with the ten and returned the ♣️7. Declarer won with the ace, played a diamond to the jack, cashed the ace and king, pitching a club and a heart, and ruffed a diamond, South overruffing and exiting with a club. Declarer won in dummy and pitched a heart on a diamond, but South’s ruff with
the ♠2 was the setting trick.

When North switched at trick two, declarer might have risen with the spade ace and then played diamonds as before. That would have seen him get home as long as he pitched two hearts on the ♦ AK.

As the play went, once South exited with a club, declarer should have cashed the ♠ A before tackling the diamonds, again pitching both hearts.

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<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1♠</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♠</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3♠</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4♠</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
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South led the ♦ 2, and now declarer can get home by finessing and playing four rounds of diamonds, pitching all three hearts. If South ruffs and exits with a club, declarer wins in hand and can play two rounds of spades for an overtrick.

However, declarer won the lead with dummy’s ace and played a heart. North won with the ace (why?) and played the ♣ 4, South winning with the ten and playing a second diamond. This time declarer did put in the jack and cashed the ace to dispose of his remaining hearts. A fourth diamond was ruffed with the ♦ 9, and when South discarded, declarer cashed the ace of spades and exited with a spade, claiming, plus 420 and 10 imps for the USA.

### Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

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

| ♠ 8 |

There is more than one way to defeat 4♠. South led the ♠ 3, and North won with the ace and switched to the ♦ 6, South winning with the queen. Now it was essential to deal with the threat posed by dummy’s clubs, and to that end South had either to exit with a club or to force dummy with a heart. When South returned the ♦ K, declarer won, played a spade to the jack, a diamond to the jack, cash two more diamonds and claimed, his only loser being the master trump. That was plus 790 and a massive 16 imps for the USA.

### Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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<tr>
<td>2♦</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4♣</td>
<td>Dble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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North led the ♠ 4. South won and returned the eight, North winning with the queen and exiting with the five. Declarer won, played a diamond to the queen, cashed the ace, came to hand with a club and played a diamond. North won, cashed the long spade and played the ♥6, South winning and cashing the ace for two down, minus 200.

2♦ Heart support
Dble Three-card spade support

That was a straightforward plus 620.
When East did not open (how refreshing!), East-West were able to stop a level lower.

North led the ♣4, and declarer took South's jack with the king and played on diamonds, the ace followed by the queen. All he had to do next was to return to hand with a club and play a third diamond, but he ran the ♠J, which lost to the queen. Returning either major would have left the defenders in charge, but North went with a club. Declarer won and played a diamond, now sure of at least eight tricks when the suit divided and actually scored 150 when North played a third club and South got thrown in with a spade to lead away from the ♥AQ. 8 imps for the USA, cruising at 34-7.

Board 7. Dealer South All Vul.

| ♠ A Q 10 8 4 | ♠ J 6 5 2 |
| ♦ A Q J 5 2 |
| ♣ J 9 4 |

Having limited his hand with 3♦, it would have cost very little for North to bid 4♣ over 3♠, when there would have been every chance that South would have driven to 6♦.

5♦ was an easy plus 620.

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<td>Pass</td>
<td>♠ 1♣</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1♦</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2NT</td>
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When West led the ♠8, declarer must have been worried, but his luck was in, plus 690 and a couple of imps for Netherlands.


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<td>Pass</td>
<td>4NT*</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5♦*</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>5♠</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6♠</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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Having limited his hand with 3♦, it would have cost very little for North to bid 4♣ over 3♠, when there would have been every chance that South would have driven to 6♦.

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
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Is there any way to discover that partner has a first-round diamond control?
If you are 100% certain that spades are set as trumps, then you might bid 6♣, hoping to hear 6♦ from partner, but could you be sure it was a void, especially when you have only one of them? It only happened once, in the youngers match between Singapore and France, with Gan Yang and Derek Lee being the successful pair.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West North East South
Nijssen Jeng v. de Paverd Youngquist
— — Pass Pass
Pass 1♦ 1♠ 2NT
3♥ 3♥ All Pass

Closed Room

West North East South
Duffie R Goor Wan S Goor
— — Pass 1♣*
Pass 1♦ Pass 1NT
Pass Pass Pass

East led his club. Declarer won with dummy’s ace and ran the ♦J. East won and switched to the ♠9, West winning with the king and returning the jack. East took the trick with the ace and tried the ♥J, so declarer had an overtrick, plus 130.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West North East South
Nijssen Jeng v. de Paverd Youngquist
— — Pass 1♣*
Dble Pass 3♥ Pass
4♥ Pass Pass Pass

1♣ 3+♣

South led the ♠A, cashed the king and switched to the ♠2. Declarer won with the queen and played the ♥Q, North winning and returning a diamond to dummy’s queen. Now declarer could draw trumps and claim, plus 420.

Closed Room

West North East South
Duffie R Goor Wan S Goor
— — Pass 1♣*
1♦ Pass 1♥ Dble
2♥ 2♠ Pass Pass
3♥ Pass Pass 3♠
Pass Pass Pass Pass

1♣ 2+♣

Although East’s hand improved when his partner raised hearts, he was probably worried about the club suit. However, he got a second chance when West competed with 3♥, and a third one when South raised spades.

East led his diamond, and West played three rounds of the suit, East ruffing and switching to the ace of clubs followed by the queen, covered by the king and ruffed by West, who now would have done best to play another diamond, which should have led to two down. He preferred a heart, and declarer could now dispose of a loser on the ♥J, one down.

Although the defence had not been testing at the other table, it’s hard to find a way to go down in 4♥.
and here missing it cost 9 imps.

Editor's note: One other important factor was Nijssen’s far preferable take-out double to Duffie's one-diamond overcall.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ K Q 6 2
♥ J 8 6 2
♦ Q 9 6
♣ 5 3

♠ J 9 4
♥ A K 9 7 4 3
♦ 5
♣ A Q 7

♠ 10 8 7 5 3
♥ —
♦ 10 3 2
♣ J 10 8 4 2

Open Room
West North East South
Nijssen Jeng v. de Paverd Youngquist
— Pass 1NT Pass 2NT Pass
1NT Pass 1♠ Pass 2NT Pass
3NT Pass 3♠* Pass 3♠* Pass
4NT* Pass 5♠* Pass 5♠* Pass
5NT* Pass 7♥ All Pass

3♠ Control-bid
4NT RKCB
5♠ 2 key cards +♥Q
5NT Kings?

North led the ♠K. Declarer won with dummy’s ace, crossed to the ♥A, played a diamond to the ace, ruffed a diamond, played a heart to the ten, cashed the ♥Q and the ♦K, came to hand with a club, drew the outstanding trump and claimed, plus 2210.

Closed Room
West North East South
Duffie R Goor Wan S Goor
— Pass 1♥ Pass 1♥ Pass
1♥ Pass 3♥ Pass 3♥ Pass
3♥ Pass 4♣ Pass 4♥ Pass
4♥ Pass 4NT* Pass 4NT* Pass
5♥ Pass 5♥ Pass 5♥ Pass
6♥ Dble All Pass

When East bid 4♣, 4♥ was the obvious move, but perhaps West was worried about control-bidding a shortage in his partner’s suit. East might have done better to bid 3♠ over 3♥. Were West by chance to bid 3NT, East could have continued with 4♠.

Although the grand slam never appeared to be in the equation, someone might have redoubled 6♥.

19 pairs across the two events bid the grand slam. Declarer took all the tricks on a spade lead for +1860, but lost 8 imps. Even so, USA had won 44-26, 14.85-5.15, enough to move them up into eighth place with three rounds to play.
Two of the top teams in the Youngster series were Italy and Sweden. The match between the two countries proved to be extremely well played for the first half – if they needed to finesse, they did; if they needed to bid, they did; and only two imps were captured from overtricks by the Swedish Juniors in the first six boards. Then things started to happen …

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

- ♠ 10 9
- ♥ A 10 8 6 3
- ♦ J 7 6
- ♥ Q J 3

- ♥ J 6 2
- ♥ Q 7 2
- ♦ K 8
- ♣ A 10 9 8 4

- ♠ A K Q 5 4 3
- ♥ J 9 5 4
- ♦ 10 3
- ♥ 2

Open Room:

West | North | East | South
--- | --- | --- | ---
Sandin | Gi Giubilo | Clementsson | Ga Giubilo
Pass | 1NT | 2♦ | 2♠
Dble | Pass | 2NT | All Pass

West’s pass over 2NT looks like a bidding misunderstanding. Declaring 2NT was not fun for Clementsson when the defense started with the first seven tricks, six spades and the ace of hearts. Plus 200 should have been a great score for North-South, given that they had no game.

Closed Room:

West | North | East | South
--- | --- | --- | ---
Donati | Hansson | Porta | Mann
Pass | 1NT | 2♦ | 2♠
Dble | Pass | 3♠ | Pass
5♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass

Similar action in the Closed Room, with the big difference that East didn’t bid 2NT and went for the natural bid in clubs instead. Problem was that West should have trusted North-South more and realized that his side most probably wasn’t close to making game, and passed out three clubs. However, Donati raised to game, which was an impossible mission for Porta when the defense started with the ace-king of spades and a heart to the ace, then sat back and waited for a trump trick for down two and another push! Then came a really brilliant piece of declarer-play by Sanna Clementsson.


- ♠ 9 6 5 2
- ♥ 5 3
- ♦ 5 3 2
- ♥ 10 8 4 2

- ♥ 8 7 3
- ♥ Q 10 8
- ♦ Q 9 7
- ♥ Q 9 6 5

- ♠ A J 10 4
- ♥ J 7 6 2
- ♦ J 10 8 6
- ♥ 7

Open Room:

West | North | East | South
--- | --- | --- | ---
Sandin | Gi Giubilo | Clementsson | Ga Giubilo
2♥ | Pass | 2♥ | Pass
2♠ | Pass | 2NT | Pass
4NT | Pass | 6NT | All Pass

2♠ was strong, and by going via 2♥ to 2NT, East showed 25-plus balanced. 4NT was quantitative, which East had no problem in accepting with her extra values.

Well done so far by the Swedish youngsters, but would declarer be able to make her contract? Clementsson had eleven top tricks: one spade, three hearts, three diamonds and four clubs. There was of course a double-dummy line by playing a heart to dummy’s ten. But why rely on that when you might be able to combine your chances with a squeeze? Clementsson won the diamond-jack lead with her ace and immediately put the queen of spades onto the table. South ducked, not seeing the danger in that move. Four rounds of clubs followed, leaving declarer in her hand. She had, of course, noted South’s singleton. South had pitched two diamonds and one spade. Clementsson then played a diamond to dummy’s queen to give this position:
Without a full stopper in diamonds, it was a question of which major to try to play in. In the Open Room, Sandin eventually got to 4♠. North led a passive spade, which declarer won with the eight. When trumps couldn’t be pulled without risking four losers in diamonds, declarer had to establish the hearts first. West immediately played a heart to the queen. South, who was eager to get on lead, captured the queen with his king to fire back a club! Declarer had no problem now. He pulled trumps and played another heart towards dummy. When the ten of hearts fell, declarer could claim eleven tricks for plus 650.

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<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>2♦</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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<td>Pass</td>
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<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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Porta stood no chance of making his contract when South kicked off with his singleton club. Declarer won in dummy and tried a heart finesse, which lost to South’s king. A diamond to the king came next, and South got his ruff in clubs and cashed the ace of diamonds for down one.

13 imps to Sweden was the result of that board, and South in the Open Room is probably still wondering why on earth he didn’t duck the queen of hearts, when he saw the short trump suit in dummy and ace-queen-jack-nine-five in hearts … and could be pretty sure that declarer had five good spades in hand.

The match ended 33-1 to the Swedish U21 team, a score that brought them up to second place in the standings with two matches to go. Italy on the other hand fell back to fifth place, but were still going to qualify for the knockouts.
Hoping for a few interesting deals from the KO rounds I decided to follow two matches, one covered by BBO, the other by the equally brilliant Funbridge team.

In the Girls, Poland led 111-80. Any superstitions about the number 111 were quickly dispelled:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.  
♠ J 8 5  
♥ A K 9 6  
♦ 5  
♣ 6 5 4 3 2  
♠ Q 9 6 4 3 2  
♥ 10  
♦ A K Q 4 3  
♣ 7  
♠ A 10  
♥ J 7 5 2  
♦ 10 9 6  
♣ Q J 10 9  

Open Room  
West North East South  
Bulut Baldysz Ergun Zalewska  
— Pass 1♦ Pass  
1♠ Pass 1NT Pass  
3♠ Pass 4♠ Pass  
4NT* Pass 5♦* Pass  
5♠ Pass Pass Pass

North cashed a heart, after which the defenders had two trump tricks, plus 50.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.  
♠ A 6  
♥ 8 7 3  
♦ K 3  
♣ K 10 7 5 4 2  
♠ Q 7 4  
♥ A J 5  
♦ Q 10 8 7 6  
♣ Q J  
♠ J 9  
♥ Q 9 6 4  
♦ A J 5 4  
♣ A 9 8

In the Kids match France trailed 70-91.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.  
♠ A 6  
♥ 8 7 3  
♦ K 3  
♣ K 10 7 5 4 2  
♠ Q 7 4  
♥ A J 5  
♦ Q 10 8 7 6  
♣ Q J  
♠ J 9  
♥ Q 9 6 4  
♦ A J 5 4  
♣ A 9 8

East led the ♠5 and dummy's jack was covered by the queen and ace. A club to the ace and a club brought good news and declarer took his tricks, plus 600.

Closed Room  
West North East South  
Block Cui Zobel Lin  
— — 2♦* Pass  
2♦* Pass 3NT All Pass

South led the ♥6, which solved one problem for declarer, who exited with a club, North winning and returning the suit. South took the king and exited with the four of diamonds. North won with the king and returned the ♥7, declarer winning with the king and playing a spade to the queen and ace. A heart put declarer in dummy and he had to decide how to tackle the spades. It seemed very unlikely that South had started with a singleton spade, but
declarer finessed and was one down. Still, 11 imps for France.

On Board 3, EW held

- K Q 9 2  J 7  A K  8 7 5 3 opposite
- A 10 8 3  Q 10 9 5 4  9 4 2  4.

France bid 1♥-1♣-2♠, while China 3 went 1♥-1♥-1♣-2♠-3♠-4♣. Everything broke, so there was no way to prevent ten tricks, 10 imps to China 3.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

- K Q 10 8 7
- A K 2
- 10 7 4
- A Q
- J 5
- Q J 9 5
- K Q 5
- K 7 6 5

- 9 4 3
- 7 6 3
- A 3
- J 10 9 4 3

Open Room

West North East South
Bulut Baldysz Ergun Zalewska
1♣ Dble 1♦ Pass
1♥ 1♠ Pass 2♠
Pass 4♠ All Pass

To defeat 4♠ East must find a low trump lead. They didn't manage it at either table in the Kids match, or here, where East led the ♠8. Declarer won and played two rounds of diamonds, West winning and returning a club. Declarer won, ruffed a diamond and played a spade to the king, landing her contract when the jack fell on the second round, plus 620.

Closed Room

West North East South
Ciunczyk Gurer Zareba Akdas
1♣ Dble 1♦ Pass
1♥ 1♠ Pass 2♠
Pass Pass Pass

Declarer took ten tricks, plus 170, but lost 10 IMPS and at 138-82 Poland looked secure.


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

Open Room

West North East South
Bulut Baldysz Ergun Zalewska
— Pass 1NT 2♠
Pass Pass Dble All Pass

West led the ♥4. East won with the ace and cashed her top spades. Now the strongest defence was to switch to a diamond, but East not unreasonably played a third spade and declarer won in dummy and pitched a diamond on the ♥J, West winning and exiting with the ♠J. East won with the ace and exited with her last trump, and after winning in dummy, declarer, unaware that her clubs were now good (West had been squeezed by the trumps), pitched a club on the ♥10 and took the diamond finesse for down three, minus 500.

Other matters aside, East's 1NT was 15-17 and she had already produced the ♠AK and a couple of aces.

Closed Room

West North East South
Ciunczyk Gurer Zareba Akdas
— Pass 1NT All Pass

South led the ♠9, and declarer took North's queen, cashed the ♣A and continued with the ♦4, South winning and playing a second spade for the ten and king. Declarer played a club to the jack and followed it with a heart to the ace. When the king fell, another club would have ensured the contract, but declarer played a heart and now the defenders had the rest of the tricks, for one down and 12 imps for Turkey.
There was also action in the Kids:

Open Room
West  North  East  South
Dai  Rombaut  Chen  Gallard
—  Pass  1NT  Pass
Pass  2♣*  Pass  4♠
Dble  Pass  Pass  Pass

When North protected, it was very hard for South not to bid game.
West led the ♥3, and declarer managed to escape for two down, minus 300.

Closed Room
West  North  East  South
Block  Cui  Zobel  Lin
—  Pass  1NT  Pass
2♣*  Pass  2♠  Pass
2NT  Pass  Pass  Pass

Hoping for a heart fit, West used Stayman.
South led a spade. Declarer won and played a low club, South winning and playing a second spade. Declarer won, played a low club ducked by South, a club to the ace and a club. South won, and the defenders cashed three spades. Declarer threw all of dummy’s hearts, coming down to ♦KJ9 ♥J, so South exited with the ♦6, and dummy was endplayed for two down, minus 200 and 11 imps for China 3, who went on to win by 114-87.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.
♠  A 10
♥  K 4 3 2
♦  K Q J 9
♣  A Q J

♠  9 8 7
♥  A J 8
♦  A 8 3 2
♣  8 5 3

Open Room
West  North  East  South
Bulut  Baldysz  Ergun  Zalewska
—  —  Pass  Pass
Pass  1♣*  Pass  1♣*
Pass  1NT*  Pass  All Pass

1♣  Polish Club
0-6 points, or minors (7-9)
or one minor (7-11)
1NT  17-19 (20)

In this very safe spot, declarer took nine tricks, plus 150.

Closed Room
West  North  East  South
Ciunczyk  Gurer  Zareba  Akdas
—  —  Pass  Pass
Pass  2NT  Pass  3♣*
Pass  3♥  Pass  3NT
Pass  Pass  Pass  Pass

If North has not shown a major and you want to lead one, then I would opt for a heart. You hope to find partner with something useful, and the ♥K is your potential entry. Having said that, the modern style is to be passive, and the ♥10 (or nine) would be a relatively popular choice.

Against 3NT, East led the ♥3, and declarer won with the ten, unblocked the clubs and then played the ♦K, West taking the ace and returning a spade, declarer taking nine tricks, plus 600 and 10 more Turkish imps.

♠ ♥ ♦♣
A simpler method devised by Sally Brock and Sandra Landy works like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2NT</th>
<th>3♠</th>
<th>3NT</th>
<th>4♣</th>
<th>4♥</th>
<th>4♠</th>
<th>4NT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>kernels</td>
<td>Forces 3NT</td>
<td>Clubs and Diamonds</td>
<td>Diamonds and Clubs</td>
<td>Clubs</td>
<td>Diamonds</td>
<td>5♦+5♣</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Closed Room

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ciunczyk</td>
<td>Gurer</td>
<td>Zareba</td>
<td>Akdas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♦</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3♠</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4♥</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4♠</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>5♥</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>6NT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

East led the ♥J. Declarer won with the king and played a club to the ten, West winning and returning a spade. With no entry to dummy, declarer had to lose a club, one down and a final 10 imps to Poland, who won by 159-104.

I can’t be sure of the structure after 2NT, but it looks as if 3♠ showed the minor suit hand.

East led the ♥4 for the king and ace, and when declarer played a club, East went in with the ace, plus 420. One certainly needs a way to deal with minor-suited hands over 2NT. One of the best methods is Flags & Scrambles, devised by Eric Kokish (and some Canadian friends), which is described in The Rabbi’s Rules.
At the start of the last 14-board session of the quarterfinal, Poland were leading USA 2 by 29 imps. Six boards later, after an overbid here and an overbid there, the Polish lead had gone up to 30; but then the table suddenly caught fire. On no less than six of the last eight boards, we saw all sorts of swings, caused by both good and bad bridge. Here are those six boards:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

Open Room
West North East South
Majcher Snowden Marcinowski Herman
— 2♣ Dble Pass 3 NT

Closed Room
West North East South
Yin Chodacki Amer Sobczak
— Pass 2 NT Dble All Pass

When partner introduced hearts at the three-level opposite West's overcall, West suddenly got enthusiastic, mainly because of his spade void. He even started thinking about a slam, but as it happened, this was not a slam deal, as Herman was eager to tell him. Down two, USA 2 plus 500.


Open Room
West North East South
Majcher Snowden Marcinowski Herman
— 2 ♦ 2NT Pass 3

Closed Room
West North East South
Yin Chodacki Amer Sobczak
— Pass 2 NT Dble All Pass

When South showed an invitational hand with spades, North thought he had found a fine sacrifice against 3NT. When it turned out to be a phantom sacrifice, Poland had scored minus 500 (down three) in vain, losing 9 imps in the process. The Polish lead was down to 13 imps.
No swing on board 10, but then:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

-board-

Open Room

West North East South

Majcher Snowden Marcinowski Herman

Pass Pass 1NT Pass

The solid Polish style of overcalling did not work well for them on this board. After a club lead and continuation, 2♥ was even made when West did not shift to a diamond after winning two top clubs. USA 2 plus 110.

Closed Room

West North East South

Yin Chodacki Amer Sobczak

Pass Pass Pass

In the other room, West did overcall, and thus the USA eventually bought the contract, making an overtrick for plus 130 and another 6 imps. Their deficit was now a mere 7 imps.

The next board looked like a push, but someone got active:


Open Room

West North East South

Majcher Snowden Marcinowski Herman

Pass Pass Pass

What can you do as West? Staying out of trouble proved the best solution. One overtrick, USA 2 plus 130.

Closed Room

West North East South

Yin Chodacki Amer Sobczak

Pass Pass Pass

Getting yourself into trouble was all you could do as West by taking any action. Maybe, East’s pass was not the best choice either, but the net result was plus 870 and 12 imps to Poland, who led by 19 with just two boards to play. Suddenly, it seemed all over after all …
Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West North East South
Majcher Snowden Marcinowski Herman
— 1♣ Pass 1♥
Pass 2♥ All Pass

Too careful bidding, notably by West, led to the Poles missing a possible game, vulnerable. Two hearts went just one off, Poland plus 100.

Closed Room

West North East South
Yin Chodacki Amer Sobczak
— 1♠ Pass 1♦
1NT Pass 2♠ Pass
3♣ Pass 3NT All Pass

In the Closed Room, the Americans duly reached their vulnerable game once West overcalled a natural 1NT and East made an invitational NT raise by bidding 2♠. Making it, however, was not as easy as they might have liked.

North led three rounds of hearts, declarer winning with his ♦Q and crossing to dummy’s ♦A. He then called for dummy’s ♦J, which South did not cover. Then came a club to the queen. At this point, West was at the crossroads. Assuming the diamonds would break 3-2, establishing just one spade trick would be enough, but what if diamonds were 4-1? In that case, the clubs might have been 3-3 after all; but if that had been the case, why had South not covered the ♦J?

Therefore, it certainly would not have cost anything to cash the ♦K first. When declarer made the mistake of cashing the ♦A, he could no longer make the contract, not even with a successful spade guess. North discarded a spade on the ♦A, but after winning with the ♦A, he played a heart and reached South, who then cashed the ♦K as the setting trick. So the contract went one down for another plus 100 and 5 imps to Poland rather than 11 imps to USA 2. The USA 2 deficit now stood at 22 where it might have gone down to just six with one board to play.

And what a board it was: a slam...


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

Open Room

West North East South
Majcher Snowden Marcinowski Herman
— Pass Pass Pass
Pass 2NT Pass 3♠
Pass 3NT Pass 4♣
Pass 5♠ Pass 6♦
Pass Pass Pass

Opposite a balanced(!) 20-22 hcp. South took a shot at what very much looked like a playable slam, knowing no doubt that every imp would count. Right he was, and when the trump finesse worked, the slam was easy enough as the club losers went on the top spades. USA 2 thus finished the match with a useful plus 920.

Closed Room

West North East South
Yin Chodacki Amer Sobczak
— Pass Pass Pass
Pass 1♠ Pass 1♦
Pass 2NT Pass 3♠
Pass 4♣ Pass 4♠
Pass 5♠ Pass 6♣
Pass Pass Pass

The strong variation of the Polish Club gave the Poles the chance to reach either minor-suit slam when South rebid 3♣ to show his interest. They duly reached a slam, but this time, they chose the wrong strain. The club slam also needed a successful trump guess and this was asking too much from the declarer on the 56th board of the day. One down, plus 50 and 14 imps to USA 2, who thus lost the match by just 8 imps, 165-157.
DUTCH GIRLS AND BOYS REALLY CAN FLY

Walking around the playing area, I meet a lot of people busy in junior bridge. For the future of junior bridge it seems important to join forces. Sven Olai Hoyland (Nor) was interested in the dates of WHJI-2019. He wanted to make sure that it didn't coincide with the Nordic Championships. And Hartmut Kondoch (Ger), the great organizer of the youngster tournament in Frankfurt, always nods in agreement when I tell him we need to have a glass of cool white wine (probably this will occur next spring in Amsterdam). Even a Chinese delegation from the Sjengxing teenage bridge school in Shanghai tells me that they are very interested in participating in European youth events. A special person is Kent Mignocchi (USA), who played as a youngster and junior six times (from 1998-2003) in the international team event in 's-Hertogenbosch (Neth). Kent explains that for him these were unforgettable years: “It was great fun in Den Bosch (the Dutch abbreviation of the name of this beautiful city) and there we really learned the ins and outs of tournament bridge. I have the kindest of all memories of Jeanette, my lovely guest mother. And the Carrousel, the discotheque where we once actually played bridge. (The Carrousel Cup still goes every year to the winning team in the White House Junior Internationals.) After he passed the junior age limit, Kent became a bridge professional, teaching and playing. Kent said, “I am pretty busy playing six afternoons each week with a client in my club in New York. And I also attend the Nationals, sometimes playing with Joel Wooldridge, a fine player.” Also youth bridge has his interest. Kent enthusiastically told me that he was very glad to participate in the program for juniors (playing and studying online every Sunday evening), and he especially focuses on the US girls, whom he coaches. “My girls, all smart college students, enjoy the game very much. I hope I can help them to become strong players.” Kent stipulates the importance of us, the ‘older’ bridge players (very nice – he estimates his and my age about the same, thanks), being active for the youth. Kent: “My junior days were astonishing, visiting Den Bosch, Greece, Rio and Paris, experiences that enhanced my life; we should take care to preserve and promote bridge for young boys and girls. Young people have lots of distractions (internet, games), but playing competitive bridge can be a useful way to develop your analytical and mental skills.” I can only agree with him, and it will help me to keep developing bridge activities for the youth.

Having kibitzed for six days in the playing area and with so many interesting encounters, I follow the KO matches at BBO. I look at the proceedings from the point of view of a player. What would I have bid or played myself? I sit down in the Sweden-China quarterfinal behind Chen Zhao, since I believe you always have to kibitz one player. BBO commentators often lean too much on double-dummy analysis.

**West**
- Pass
- Pass

**North**
- 1NT (a)
- Pass

**East**
- Pass
- Pass

**South**
- Pass
- 3NT

(a) 15-17 points

That was a tough leading problem for East. The old theory tells you: No Stayman, lead a major. But which one? Presumably the stronger, so ♠10. The result: minus 600, while a heart or the ♠K followed by a heart switch, or even a club, would have led to down one.

Editor’s note: If North declarers in 3NT, the lead of the weaker major may again defeat the contract, while the stronger major lets it through. Is there a message here?
2018 World Youth Teams Championships

Wujiang, China 8th - 18th August

Dlr: South  ♠ A 8 7 3
Vul: Both  ♥ 9
♦ Q 10 5 2
♣ A 9 8 4

♠ K Q 6 4
♥ 8 7 4
♦ 9 6 3
♣ 6 5 3

♥ 10 9 5
♦ K J 10 6
♣ K J 4
♠ K 10 2

West North East South
— — — Pass
Pass Pass 1♥ Pass
2♦ Dble Pass 2♠
Pass Pass Pass

With three possible heart tricks and good defensive values in the minors with a vulnerable partner (yes, even though he is a passed hand) who will have only four spades, I would have gone for the kill against 2♣ leading a safe and aggressive ♠10 to wait for tricks to come.

Two spades made, but two hearts doubled would have cost a cool 800.

Dlr: North  ♠ A J 10 9
Vul: E-W  ♥ A Q J
♦ 8 7
♣ 10 6 5 2

♠ K Q 7 6 3 2
♥ K 9 8 7
♦ J 4 3
♣ --

--
♥ 10 6 5 4 3 2
♦ Q 9 5
♣ K Q J 7

West North East South
— 1♣ 1♦ Dble (a)
1♠ Dble (b) 2♠ 4♥
4♠ Dble All Pass

beating the contract by one trick? For sure it would be a strong candidate for the Best Defensive Play.

With the Dutch Juniors plus 22 imps, the Girls up 23 imps and the youngsters down 33, it seemed that the Netherlands still had two teams in contention for a berth in the semifinals. The second session of the Netherlands-Israel match – sitting behind Dutch junior Thibo Sprinkhuizen – was low-scoring until:

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

♠ J 8 7 6 5 3 2
♥ 7
♦ Q 9 3
♣ 8 2

West North East South
1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass
2♣ (a) Pass 2♠ Pass
Pass Dble Pass 3♣
Pass Pass Pass

(a) Gazzilli

North, Guy Mendes de León (Neth), unwilling to defend against 2♣, came in with a take-out double, after which South, Thibo Sprinkhuizen, found the good partscore in clubs. West rather surprisingly did not compete with 3♣. After the lead of the ♥Q against 3♣, declarer took the trick with the ♥A and found a nice play: a low heart from dummy. Then he could enter his hand with a heart ruff to play trumps, and later discard a diamond on the ♥K. The Dutch supporters hoped for a partscore gain if East-West competed in spades. It turned out even better:

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

♠ J 8 7 6 5 3 2
♥ 7
♦ Q 9 3
♣ 8 2

West North East South
1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass
2♣ (a) Pass 2♠ Pass
Pass Dble Pass 3♣
Pass Pass Pass

(a) Weak

West, Luc Tijssen, was so impressed with his hand that he raised 2♣ to game. South led the ♥J. North won with his king and returned a diamond, taken with declarer’s queen. A spade from declarer, Veri Kiljan, went to the ♥A and found a nice play: a low heart from dummy. Then he could enter his hand with a heart ruff to play trumps, and later discard a diamond on the ♥K. The ♥Q from dummy went to North’s ♥K, and the third
diamond was taken by the ♦A. The ♥J was covered with the ace and ruffed in declarer’s hand. Another spade from East resulted in ten tricks. Plus 420 and plus 110 gave the Netherlands 11 imps.

Israel struck back immediately when a defensive error let them make game:

North, Guy Mendes de León, led the ♥A, and South played the nine, discouraging. Since North could see the eight, he ought to have read the position and continued with the ♥Q. However, believing that West had the ♥K-J left, North switched to a low spade: plus 400 for East-West.

Israel won the session by 26-21, but the Netherlands kept the lead, by 63-46. However, with 28 boards still to go, there was a lot to play for. Unfortunately, despite my encouragement, the Dutch youngsters lost, so we have only the juniors and girls in the semis.

Thursday will be an exciting and emotional day for all of us. I don’t know the outcome, but I have really enjoyed this tournament. All of those kind Chinese girls and boys assisting us when we need anything. I have spent a lot of time in the Daily Bulletin room and I have enjoyed talking with Phillip, Barry and P.O. about all kinds of theoretical bridge issues and interesting plays. I sure hope that I will be present at youth events in the future.

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
SINGAPORE VS POLAND

After Wednesday’s late excitement, watching the first segment between two teams who had been playing an important role in these exciting finishes looked a good idea to me. Singapore had scored 12 and 14 imps on the last two boards of their quarterfinal, thus managing to oust USA 1, the clear winners of the Round Robin, by 3 imps. Poland, in their match v. USA 2, had taken the lead early on but in the final segment, USA 2 rallied from 29 down to within striking distance, eventually losing by 8 imps when their run came to a halt, three boards from the end of the match. A full report on this dramatic segment is elsewhere in this bulletin.

The first segment of their semifinal encounter proved far less exciting, as was shown immediately in the auction of board 1 in the Open Room.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\spadesuit 10 5 2 \\
\heartsuit K 7 \\
\diamond K 8 4 \\
\clubsuit A K Q 9 2 \\
\spadesuit 9 6 4 \\
\heartsuit 9 8 6 4 2 \\
\diamond J 10 9 \\
\clubsuit 7 4 \\
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\spadesuit K Q 3 \\
\heartsuit A J 5 3 \\
\diamond A Q 7 \\
\clubsuit J 10 6 \\
\end{array}
\]

In the replay, it turned out that penalty doubles versus 1NT are not out of fashion in Asia. East briskly doubled, and West’s 2♥ silenced everyone. Declarer could hardly lose more than five tricks and thus scored another useful plus 110 to Singapore, good for their first 6 imps.

On board 5, the Singaporeans were definitely lucky; though, in a sense, they deserved their luck, too:


\[
\begin{array}{c}
\spadesuit 10 9 \\
\heartsuit 8 \\
\diamond A 7 \\
\clubsuit K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 \\
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\spadesuit 4 3 2 \\
\heartsuit K 10 9 7 \\
\diamond K 9 2 \\
\clubsuit A 5 2 \\
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\spadesuit A Q 8 7 5 \\
\heartsuit A 6 4 \\
\diamond Q J 8 5 \\
\clubsuit 3 \\
\end{array}
\]

With penalty doubles against 1NT out of fashion, the Poles had no way to enter the auction. Maybe West should have taken action, as partner is sure to have at least a useful hand. On a heart lead, North actually made an overtrick for plus 120 to Singapore. They had made a solid start.

Open Room

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{West} & \text{North} & \text{East} & \text{South} \\
Chodacki & M Zhou & Sobczak & Xin Zhu \\
— & 1NT & All Pass & \\
\end{array}
\]

Once North, after opening a Precision style 2♣, learned about partner’s spade stopper and ♥A, he jumped to the slam with a certain amount of confidence. The remarkable thing is, of course, that 6♣ is a better contract than 3NT, which would almost certainly go down on a heart lead – as it duly did in the Closed Room.

So much depended on the fate of the slam. East made the good, though pretty obvious, lead of the ♥Q, and declarer, after winning with dummy’s ace, had to find a winning line. With both the finesses in the pointed suits right, he could hardly go wrong.

The proper plan, it seems to me, is to draw trumps and then to take the spade finesse. East may hold ♥KJ bare, in which case the diamond finesse is no longer needed. Declarer did not follow this line, however, but immediately called for dummy’s ♥Q.
When this held, he drew trumps and made his contract with the help of a working spade finesse. Singapore a fat plus 1370, taken at the table with apologies to the opponents.

Closed Room

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haw</td>
<td>Majcher</td>
<td>Y Liu</td>
<td>Marcinowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>2♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Polish Club also has incorporated the Precision style 2♣ opening bid, so the auction in this room started the same way. When North, holding no major-suit stoppers and a semi-solid eight-card suit, preferred 3NT to a club contract, he soon paid the price for it after East led an obvious heart. One down, another plus 100 and 16 imps to Singapore.

A few boards later, we saw a defensive error.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>♠</th>
<th>A 7 2</th>
<th>J 7 2</th>
<th>♦ A 8 6 3</th>
<th>♣ K Q 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>♠ 9 6</td>
<td>♠ Q J 10 8</td>
<td>♦ K 10</td>
<td>♦ Q 9 7 4</td>
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Open Room

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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♦</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2♦</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

North led a diamond to the ten and declarer’s king. Chodacki continued by playing ♠A and another, so North won and played another diamond, taken by dummy’s ♦Q – declarer was not to be fooled here. Another club went to North’s ♣K, and a low diamond went to South’s jack. As East-West were playing a 15-17 NT, declarer might have started with both major-suit aces, in which case there was no winning defence. If declarer was missing the ♥A, he had to hold the ♠A, in which case the ♥K would be the entry for a successful spade finesse. So the proper defence, leading to one down, was to play partner for the ♠A. When South returned a heart rather than a spade, North was left stranded, looking at his two aces...Poland a curious plus 400.

Closed Room

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haw</td>
<td>Majcher</td>
<td>Y Liu</td>
<td>Marcinowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3♣</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the replay, the Singapore Precision ended up in the proper contract of 3♣ and lost the obvious five tricks for one down. 10 imps to Poland, who had taken the lead.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>♠</th>
<th>6 4 3</th>
<th>J</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♥</td>
<td>A 8 7 5 6</td>
<td>♣ A 6 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ J 10 9 7</td>
<td>♠ 8 5 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ K Q 10 8 7 2</td>
<td>♥ 9 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♣ 9</td>
<td>♣ Q J 10 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♢ 4 3</td>
<td>♣ Q 10 9 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Open Room

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chodacki</td>
<td>M Zhou</td>
<td>Sobczak</td>
<td>Xin Zhu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2♦</td>
<td>Dble</td>
<td>2♥</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3♥</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

West showed his majors by bidding 2♦, but nobody was really interested in defending a doubled partscore. Though 2♥ looks like minus 500, the Singaporeans settled for 3NT, which was made with the help of a working club finesse. Singapore plus 400.

Closed Room

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haw</td>
<td>Majcher</td>
<td>Y Liu</td>
<td>Marcinowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2♣</td>
<td>Dble</td>
<td>2♠</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Dble</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the Closed Room, too, West showed his majors but this time, N/S were interested in defending when East selected his better suit.
On a trump lead, South cashed his two top trumps and returned a club, so West eventually had to ruff a low diamond after discarding his diamond on the ♠ J. After winning with the ♦ A, the defence drew the last trump and collected a few more diamond tricks for down six, Poland plus 1400 and 14 imps.

On the next board, Singapore did not believe its luck.

**Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♥</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♣</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

**Open Room**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chodacki</td>
<td>M Zhou</td>
<td>Sobczak</td>
<td>Xin Zhu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2♠</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♥</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2♠</td>
<td>Dble</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3♠</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>3♥</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In yet another Precision style 2♠ auction, the Singaporeans sold out to 3♥, understandably so as 3♠ should go down. With the help of the very lucky club break, declarer managed to make 10 tricks, in spite of an early diamond shift. Poland plus 170.

**Closed Room**

**West**

- Haw
- Majcher
- Y Liu
- Marcinowski

**North**

- 2♠
- 2♠
- 3♥
- 3♠

**East**

- Pass
- Pass
- Pass
- Pass

- 3NT
- 2♥
- 3♥
- 3♥

After a similar Precision style auction, the Singaporeans found themselves back in 3NT, which, on a spade lead, should have been made as declarer’s only chance was … yes: ♠ QJ bare.

When declarer did not believe in this possibility, he could not avoid two down. Poland another plus 100 and 7 more imps.

The score after 14 boards: 38-30 to Poland.
RESULTS

JUNIOR TEAMS

### SEMIFINALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>C/O</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Tot</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>Tot</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>Tot</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Tot</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SINGAPORE</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>POLAND</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>106</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SWEDEN</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NETHERLANDS</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>95</td>
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</table>

YOUNGSTER TEAMS

### SEMIFINALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>C/O</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Tot</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>Tot</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>Tot</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Tot</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ISRAEL</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRANCE</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SWEDEN</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ITALY</strong></td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>95</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

GIRLS TEAMS

### SEMIFINALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>C/O</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Tot</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>Tot</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>Tot</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Tot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHINA</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>64</td>
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<td>149</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FRANCE</strong></td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>POLAND</strong></td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NETHERLANDS</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Big Wednesday for small kids
https://youtu.be/kRYyAv9xju4

The great Picture
https://youtu.be/YzGT1emitXI

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@svenskbridge.se