

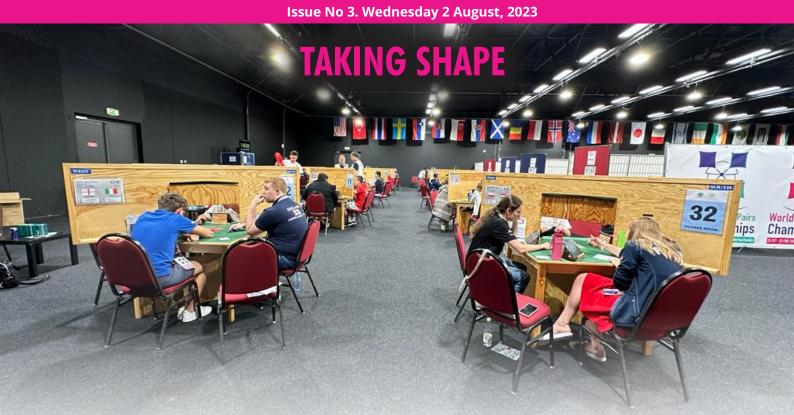


18th World Youth Teams Championships

Veldhoven, Netherlands • 31 July - 7 August 2023

DAILY BULLETIN

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We are now two days into the five-day qualifying stage of these championships, and the various ranking tables are starting to take shape. The top eight in each category qualify for the knock-outs, and a few team are already feeling good about their progress, just as a few others are already starting to worry about theirs. The leading teams in each category are as follows:

U16: China with 118.52, who are being chased by Hungary, on 105.87, USA on 105.47, and Thailand with 98.66.

U21: This one is quite tight at the top, with Poland leading on 114.13, ahead of USA1 on 111.87, Japan with 109.82, and England on 107.69.

U26: USA1 leads on 156.67, ahead of Netherlands on 148.90, then a gap to Singapore with 125.17, and Israel 124.67.

U31: Israel leads the way on 125.81, followed by India on 117.01, China 110.83, and Belgium with 98.64.

U26W: Denmark leads on 119.50, from France 112.18, Hungary 111.29, then a bit of a gap to England, on 99.96.



U26 Teams	11	9:30	SINGAPORE	ISRAEL
U26 Teams	11	9:30	CHINA	JAPAN
U26 Teams	12	11:45	ISRAEL	USA2
U26 Teams	12	11:45	USA1	NETHERLANDS
U26 Teams	13	14:35	SINGAPORE	FRANCE
U26 Teams	13	14:35	CHINA	NETHERLANDS
U26 Teams	14	16:45	USA1	CHINA
U26 Teams	14	16:45	NETHERLANDS	USA2
U21 Teams	10	12:00	USA2	JAPAN
U21 Teams	11	14:45	POLAND	ENGLAND
U21 Teams	12	17:15	USA1	DENMARK
U26W Teams	10	9:30	FRANCE	DENMARK
U31 Teams	9	9:30	CHINESE TAIPEI	POLAND
U31 Teams	10	12:00	POLAND	CHINA
U31 Teams	11	14:45	INDIA	CHINESE TAIPEI
U31 Teams	12	17:15	ISRAEL	FRANCE

VOTE FOR THE JOAN GERARD YOUTH AWARDS!



Starting today, on the tables you will find forms for the **Joan Gerard Youth Awards**.

Submit your vote by inserting your form in the box (pictured above) at the hospitality desk.

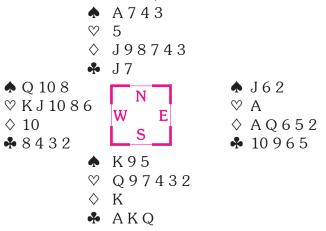
U31 Round Robin, Round 3

Israel v USA1

By Brian Senior

Israel ended day one on top of the U31 rankings, aided greatly by this win over USA1 in Round 3.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Ben David	Kompa	Ginossar	Schwartz
_	_	$1 \diamondsuit$	1 %
Pass	Pass	Dble	2 %
Dble	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Rockoff	Urman	Weiss	Ezion
_	_	$1 \diamondsuit$	1 %
Pass	Pass	Dble	2 %
All Pass			

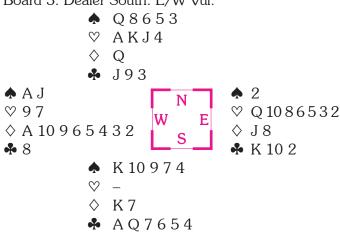
Neither West bid 1NT over 1%, which might have warned South off from repeating the long but fragile heart suit. However, when East duly reopened with a double and South innocently did repeat the hearts, only Israel's Yuval Ben David made a penalty double.

Amir Ezion was left to play 2♥ undoubled, against which Kyle Rockoff led the three of clubs. Ezion won that and played a low heart round to the bare ace, won the club return and played a second low heart to Rockoff's eight. That was not good news for declarer, who won the club return, crossed to the ace of spades, and led a diamond up. Daniel Weiss went up with the ace, dropping the bare king, and returned a fourth club. Ezion ruffed and played ace and another spade, after which he had to come to the gueen of hearts for his seventh trick, but was down one for -100.

Having doubled 2♥. Ben David led his singleton

diamond to the jack, ace and king. Itamer Ginossar cashed the ace of hearts then switched to a low spade to the eight and ace. The nine of diamonds was covered, ruffed low, and over-ruffed, and Ben David played back the gueen of spades. Jeffrey Schwartz won that and played the queen of hearts, losing three hearts and a spade for down two, -500, and 9IMPs to Israel.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Ben David	Kompa	Ginossar	Schwartz
_	_	_	1 🛧
3♦	4 ^	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Rockoff	Urman	Weiss	Ezion
_	_	_	1 .
$1 \diamondsuit$	1 %	2 %	4 ^
5♦	Dble	All Pass	

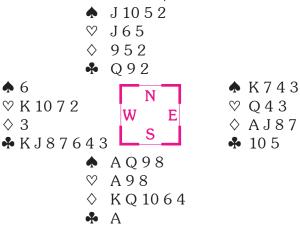
Schwartz opened 1♠ and Ben David made a weak jump overcall then, mindful of the adverse vulnerability and facing a passing partner, left his opponents to play peacefully in their spade game. Ben David cashed the ace of diamonds then switched to the singleton club, which enabled Schwartz to pick up that suit without loss and so come to an overtrick for +450.

ezion opened in his longer club suit and that left more space for his opponents to get involved in the auction. Rockoff started with a quiet $1 \diamondsuit$ overcall but, when Weiss could double Lior Urman's 1♥ transfer response to show hearts, Rockoff could hope for some help from partner and bid 5\$ over Ezion's leap to game. Urman doubled 50, and that concluded



the auction. Urman led the king of hearts, seeing his partner discard a low club. Cashing the ace of hearts would now then switching to a club would have netted down two for +500, but Urman convinced himself that it would not be wise to establish heart winners in the dummy, so continued with a low heart for Ezion to ruff. That was the defensive trump trick gone. The contract was still down one as there was no way to avoid the club loser, but +200 meant 6 IMPs away for Israel instead of 2 IMPs in.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Ben David	Kompa	Ginossar	Schwartz
_	Pass	Pass	$1\Diamond$
3♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Rockoff	Urman	Weiss	Ezion
_	Pass	Pass	$1\Diamond$
$2\diamondsuit$	Pass	2NT	Dble
4♣	Pass	5 %	Dble
All Pass			

Ben David made a weak jump overcall on the West hand and that ran round to Schwartz, who reopened with a double, converted to 3\$\display\$ by Benjamin Kompa to complete the auction. Ben David led his singleton spade, Ginossar ducking dummy's jack. Schwartz played the nine of diamonds and, when Ginossar played low, ran it, then continued with a second diamond to the ten. The king of diamonds lost to the ace and back came the ten of clubs to the bare ace. Schwartz cashed the queen of diamonds, drawing the last outstanding trump, then led the nine of hearts to the jack and queen, won the heart return with the ace, then played ace and another spade to set up his ninth trick; +110.

Rockoff used a convention I haven't seen in action before, his 20 cuebid showing four cards in a higher-ranking suit and at least five in the lowerranking suit - any strength. Weiss looked for game in case his partner was strong, and Ezion doubled. Rockoff now felt that he should show his great club length and Weiss took the jump to 44 as being stronger than was actually the case, so raised to game, doubled by Ezion. Urman led a diamond to dummy's ace. Rockoff led the five of clubs to Ezion's ace, and Ezion returned the eight of hearts. Rockoff ran that to the gueen and, as the cards lay, needed to play a heart back to his king to save a trick. Fearing a defensive ruff, he instead ruffed a diamond than played king and another club. Urman avoided returning a heart, so there were two defensive heart tricks to come, and the contract was down three for -500 and 9 IMPs to Israel.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul. ♠ AK103 \Diamond 42 \Diamond Q 7 2 KJ 108 ♠ QJ986 **↑** 74 ♥ 93 ♥ QJ86 W E ♦ K 9 5 ♦ AJ864 S ♣ A 9 3 **?** 74 5 2 AK1075 103 Q652

North

Ben David	Котра	Ginossar Pass	Schwartz Pass
Pass	1♣ All Pass	1\$	Pass
		F .	6 4
West	North	East	South
Rockoff	Urman	Weiss	Ezion
		D	D
_	_	Pass	Pass
_ 1♠	– Pass	Pass 1NT	Pass 2♡
1♠ Pass	Pass 2NT		2 0.00

East

South

Rockoff opened slightly light in third seat and Weiss responded 1NT. Now, however, Ezion competed in hearts, Urman responded 2NT, and Ezion took that out into 34, where he played. Rockoff led the queen of spades, which Ezion won with dummy's ace. He played the jack of clubs and Rockoff won immediately to try to give his partner a ruff, returning a spade. Ezion put in the ten and then cashed the *K followed by the $\bigstar K$, on which he allegedly threw a heart, at which point the play record ends with him being

West



awarded 10 tricks for +130.

At the other table, Ben David did not make the third seat opening bid, but then overcalled 1 at his next turn and was left to play there. Kompa led the four of hearts to the queen and king, and Schwartz continued with two more rounds of hearts, Ben David discarding and Kompa ruffing. Ben David won the club switch, crossed to the ace of diamonds, and pitched his last club on the jack of hearts, Kompa again ruffing. Mompa cashed the ace and king of spades then played a club, which Ben David ruffed. When he cashed his remaining spades, Kompa threw a diamond, so the queen fell under the king and dummy's jack was Ben David's seventh trick; +80 and 5 IMPs to Israel.

Board 11. Deale	er South. None Vul	
^	762	
\Diamond	K 5	
\Diamond	96	
•	AK9853	
↑ 108 ♥ J 109643 ♦ Q 52 ↑ Q 2	N W E S	♣ J943♡ 87♦ K874♣ J74
_	A K Q 5	
\Diamond	A Q 2	
\Diamond	A J 10 3	
•	10 6	

West	North	East	South
Ben David	Kompa	Ginossar	Schwartz
_	_	_	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	



West	North	East	South
Rockoff	Urman	Weiss	Ezion
_	_	_	2NT
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	$4 \diamondsuit$
Pass	4♡	Pass	4
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♣	Pass	6\$
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

Both Souths opened 2NT. For Ezion, that showed 20 to an awful 22, and saw Urman show some kind of minor-suit slam try - 3♠ is not described on their convention card. Presumably 44 then showed long clubs, but after that we are guessing. What we do know is that when the music stopped they had alighted in 6NT, and the three-two club split meant a straightforward 12 tricks for +990.

The American 2NT opening is not described at all on their card, but 34 would seem to have been Stayman, and Kompa to have been in a less optimistic mood than Urman, as he signed off in 3NT over the 3♠ response. Again there were 12 easy tricks, but +490 meant 11 IMPs to Israel.

Roard 13 Dealer North All Vul

Doald 13. Deale	i Noriii. Ali vui.	
^	A Q 6	
\Diamond	Q 7 4	
\Diamond	A 8 4 3	
•	A 9 8	
♣ J 10 9 7 5 2♡ J 3♦ 9 6♣ K 10 7	N W E S	♠ 843♡ 109865◇ J105♣ J2
	A K 2	
\Diamond	K Q 7 2	
•	Q6543	

West	North	East	South
Ben David	Kompa	Ginossar	Schwartz
_	1NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Rockoff	Urman	Weiss	Ezion
_	1NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Kompa's 1NT was 14-16 and $3\diamondsuit$ a spade splinter. Three No Trump was the logical rebid facing short spades, and now Schwartz took the mildly conservative

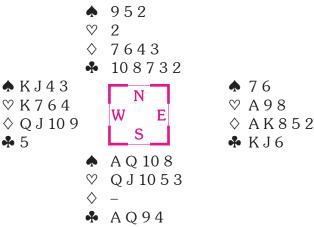


Dble

position of passing with his 17-count. Kompa won the spade lead, cashed the diamonds, then played ac and another club, meaning 11 tricks for +660.

Urman's 1NT was a point stronger, at 15-17, and the 3♠ response is undescribed but presumably again showed the spade shortage. When Urman signed off in 3NT, however, Ezion raised him to slam. Weiss led the nine of hearts and Urman won that and immediately played ace and another club, so down one for −100 and 13 IMPs to USA1.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.



west	North	East	South
Ben David	Kompa	Ginossar	Schwartz
_	_	1NT	2♣
Dble	Pass	2♦	2 %
Dble	2 4	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Rockoff	Urman	Weiss	Ezion
_	_	1NT	2 ♣
– Dble	- 2♠	1NT 3♦	2 ♣ 4 ♠

All Pass

Ginossar opened 1NT and Schwartz overcalled $2\clubsuit$, both majors. When that got doubled Kompa did not show his preference, passing instead in hope of looking weak to his partner. Scwartz had quite a bit to spare, however, and ventured $2\heartsuit$ on his five-card suit. Now Kompa felt obliged to admit to spade preference, and Ben David's third double ended the auction.

Kompa cannot have been looking forward to having to play this contract with his ten-high hand, and Ginossar's opening lead of the seven of spades cannot have improved his mood. That went to the eight and jack, and Ben David switched to his club for the jack and queen. Schwartz played the queen of hearts, which ran round to the ace, and Ginossar returned a second spade. Schwartz put in the ten, losing to the king, and now Ben David switched to the

queen of diamonds. Schwartz ruffed that, ruffed a low heart, and led the eight of clubs to his nine. However, Ben David was ruffing that, and played a diamond. Schwartz ruffed with his last trump and tried the ace of clubs, but that was ruffed and the defence had the rest; down four for -800.

At the other table, after the same start, Urman showed his spade preference immediately and, just as Kompa had feared, that convinced Ezion that he had something useful. Ezion raised to $4 \spadesuit$ and that was doubled.

If $2\spadesuit$ doubled was down four for -800, what would be the price when playing two levels higher?

Well, the opening lead was again the seven of spades to the eight and jack. However, Rockoff was eager to make sure of cutting down declarer's ruffs, and returned a low spade to dummy's ten. Urman played the queen of hearts and that ran to Weiss's ace. He returned the ace of diamonds, but that was ruffed, and the jack of hearts covered by the king and ruffed. Urman finessed the queen of clubs, cashed the ace of spades, then attempted to cash the ace of clubs. That, however, was ruffed, and the defence set about the diamonds. However, despite also having the king of clubs to cash, both defenders had a heart at the end so the $\heartsuit 10$ became declarer's sixth trick. How much would $4\spadesuit$ doubled cost? The same as $2\spadesuit$ doubled, being down four for -800 and just another flat board.

Issrael came out on top in the match by 38-19 IMPs, which converted to 14.56-4.44 VPs (There was a fine, which cost the missing VP).



U26 Round Robin, Round 4

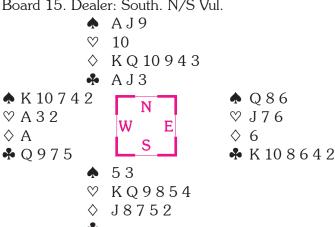
Israel v Türkiye USA 1 v Italy

By Jos Jacobs

Once again two matches on display. One of them was USA1 v Italy, by tradition a more than obvious choice for a match report. Still, there will be room for some observations about what happened in the Israel-Turkiye match as well.

I will start, however, by showing you a hand on which the, in Europe, popular two-suited opening bid, did its job for the Italians.

Board 15. Dealer: South. N/S Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Porta	F Kolesnik	Donati	Z Grossack
_	_	_	3♡
Pass	4 %	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	5 .	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

After the heart pre-empt, N/S reached a good game contract but, with their secondary fit out of the picture, the Italians had a cheap black sacrifice available. One down only, when South led the $\heartsuit K$. North got his three black tricks but the second heart trick could never be reached; USA1 +100.

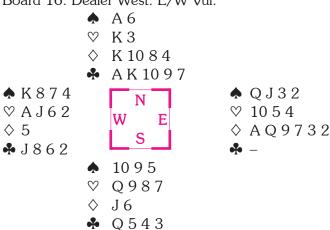
Closed Room

West	North	East	South		
Kristensen	Scata	Rosenberg	Gaiotti		
_	_	_	2 %		
2 ^	3♣	3♠	5♦		
Dble	All Pass				

In the Closed Room, Scata had no trouble in extracting partner's second suit. His 34 was pass or correct so South was happy to give it another try with his 6-5 in the reds. North must have been even more happy when he saw partner make the required 11 tricks without any ado; Italy +750 and 12 IMPs to them.

Over now to the Israel-Türkiye match.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Coban	Zamir	Kalayci	Toledano
Pass	1 ♣	$1 \diamondsuit$	Dble
All Pass			

South's double showed some values opposite North's strong club, and North showed some good diamonds by passing it. Both North and South were too optimistic, it turned out.





Declarer might even have made an overtrick but he was more than happy (I think) with making his contract for an alternative variation of the number +140.

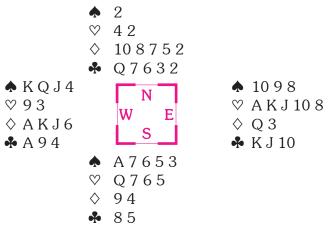
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Khutorsky	Sari	Zeitak	Kuscu
Pass	2♦	Pass	2 ^
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

At the other table, North opened the 2NT variety of his $2\diamondsuit$ opening and there he played. On a diamond lead by East, making eight tricks was pretty easy so Türkiye registered another partscore, +120. The board thus brought them 6 IMPs.

The next board was a slam, bid at all our four tables in play.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.



At one table in the USA1-Italy match, South led a club, thereby solving declarer's problem. At the other table South chose a diamond. Declarer now had to find the \$\cdot Q\$ himself to get to 12 tricks and he duly did so; no swing.

In the other match, however, all sorts of things were happening.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Coban	Zamir	Kalayci	Toledano
_	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♡	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Against this auction, South led a spade. Declarer won and drove out the \triangle A. After cashing as many top tricks as he safely could, he searched for \triangle Q but placed her in South rather than in North. That was one down, for +50 to Israel.

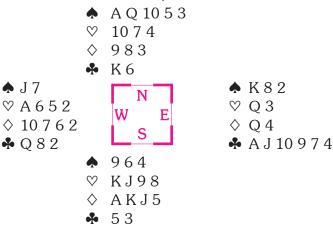
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Khutorsky	Sari	Zeitak	Kuscu
_	Pass	1 %	Pass
1 ♠	1NT	Dble	Pass
Pass	2 %	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

In the other room, the Turkish N/S were living more dangerously. The axe came down at an early stage because a solid +800 (down four) is in the long run preferable over a possible +990. The board scored 13 IMPs for Israel.

In our other match, we saw another double partscore swing.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Porta	F Kolesnik	Donati	Z Grossack
_	_	1 ♣	Dble
Pass	1 ^	2 ♣	Pass
Pass	2 ^	Pass	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

North's $1 \spadesuit$ gave East the chance to rebid his suit, thus confirming it WAS a suit, this time. Just made, Italy +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kristensen	Scata	Rosenberg	Gaiotti
_	_	1♣	Dble
1♡	2 ^	All Pass	

At the other table, North immediately jumped to $2\spadesuit$, showing the full value of his hand. This is one reason why West did not feel like he had to bid on. The other reason might have been that $1\clubsuit$ is not always showing a serious suit any more...

When both West and East underled their respective





aces at a certain moment, declarer ended up with two pretty overtricks for another +170 and 7 IMPs to Italy rather than only 6.

Over now to the final four. Even bridge players will know this expression, especially in Poland ©. The first board of this series was sort of a slam.

♥ A 9 7

♣ A Q J 5

♦ 1098654

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ A 10 6 4 ♥ KQ3 ♣ K8762

^ 2 ♥ J 5 2

♦ KQ732 **4** 10 9 4 3

KQJ98753

10864

Open Room

Open 1300	111		
West	North	East	South
Porta	F Kolesnik	Donati	Z Grossack
_	1♣	$1 \diamondsuit$	1
$4\Diamond$	4 ^	5♣	5♦
Pass	5 ^	6♦	6 4
All Pass			

Kolesnik and Zach Grossack duly bid it, but making it was not a case of plain sailing. Grossack ruffed the opening club lead and immediately ran the $\heartsuit 10!$ When East won the trick with his ace, Grossack was home; USA1 + 1430.

In the other room, the Italians were more reluctant.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kristensen	Scata	Rosenberg	Gaiotti
_	1 ♣	$1 \diamondsuit$	4
5♦	5 ♠	6♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Two down was all the defence could get here; Italy +300 but USA1 +15 IMPs.

In the other match, there also was a slam swing:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Coban	Zamir	Kalayci	Toledano
_	2♦	Pass	2NT
3♦	Pass	5♦	6 ^
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

At this table, there was no legitimate way to bring home 12 tricks and declarer did not try to invent one. He eventually accepted his fateof one down; Türkiye +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Khutorsky	Sari	Zeitak	Kuscu
_	1♣	$1 \diamondsuit$	1 🛧
4♦	Pass	5♦	5 ^
All Pass			

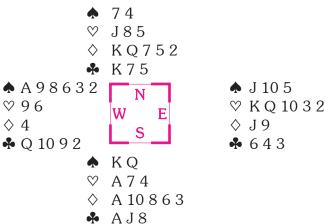
As you can see, the Turkish players at the other





table managed to stay out of this borderline slam. This time, their +650 added up to their +100 for a gain of 13 IMPs.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Porta	F Kolesnik	Donati	Z Grossack
_	_	_	$1 \diamondsuit$
2 ♠	3♦	3♡	3NT
All Pass			

On the penultimate board of the set, the Americans reached their proper game. West led the $\heartsuit 9$ but East, seeing no future in hearts with his entry-less hand, overtook with the ten to switch to a spade. This way, declarer's 9th trick got established before declarer had to think about it himself; USA1 +600.

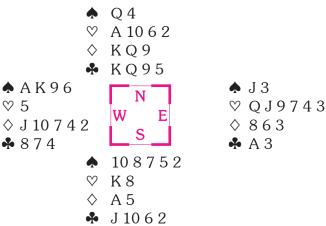
Closed Room

0.0000			
West	North	East	South
Kristensen	Scata	Rosenberg	Gaiotti
_	_	_	$2 \diamondsuit$
2 ^	Dble	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Dble	Pass
Pass	50	All Pass	



In the other room, the Italians were uncertain about the quality of their spade stopper and thus settled for the minor-suit game. This proved the wrong choice on this layout and was down two for another +200 to USA1 and 13 IMPs.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Porta	F Kolesnik	Donati	Z Grossack
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♡	Pass	2 ^
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

South's 2 was forcing and asked for North's distribution. The spade layout is such that double dummy nine tricks are always there but, with East on lead, his choice of a low heart lead gave declarer an easy ride to +400 for USA1.

In the other room, the Italians were less aggressive.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kristensen	Scata	Rosenberg	Gaiotti
Pass	1NT	Pass	2 %
Pass	2.	All Pass	

Over partner's strong 1NT, South simply signed off. Eight HCP are not enough for any game trys if there is no clear fit. There was one overtrick, so Italy +140 but 6 more IMPs to USA1.

The final scores:

Israel v Türkiye 20-24 or 8.62-11.38 VPs USA1 v Italy 37-19 or 15.15-4.85 VPs

U26 Round Robin, Round 5

Netherlands v Italy

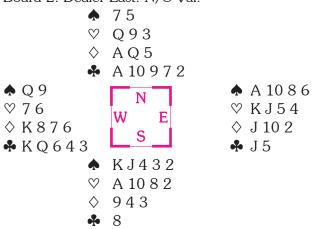
By Jos Jacobs

For the last round of this extended opening day, a football and bridge classic was scheduled: The Netherlands v Italy. So I had no option but to set off for this match shortly after dinner.

The opening board was a grand slam on a finesse. Neither team was ever tempted and correctly ended up in six for a push. Oh yes: the finesse was wrong \odot .

The next board was not a push, however.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Porta	Van Oosten	Donati	Thorpe
_	_	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Dble	1 %
1NT	Pass	Pass	2 %
All Pass			

South had shown spades by bidding 1% but his 2% rebid was natural and also turned out to be the final contract. West led the $\P K$ to dummy's ace and a spade was continued, declarer's jack losing to the queen. After that, the hand got slightly out of control for declarer and eventually, he went one down for Italy +100.

Closed Room

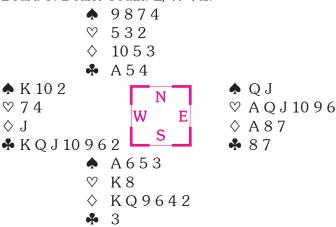
Olocca IIo	Ciocca Hoom			
West	North	East	South	
Nijssen	Gi. Giubilo	V.d. Paverd	Ga. Giubilo	
_	_	1NT	Pass	
Pass	Dble	Pass	Pass	
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	Dble	
All Pass				

In the replay, the Dutch E/W launched their favourite weak 1NT, showing 10-13 HCP. Occasionally, this semi-pre-emptive opening bid backfires and this was one of those cases.

The contract even went down three when declarer misguessed the hearts. That was another +500 to Italy out of thin air and their first 12 IMPs.

On the next board, we saw the Dutch pressure style in action again in the Open Room:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Porta	Van Oosten	Donati	Thorpe
_	_	_	$1 \diamondsuit$
2 .	2♦	Dble	$5 \diamondsuit$
Pass	Pass	5♡	All Pass

Over South's $5\diamondsuit$ it is everybody's guess whether to bid on.

South led a top diamond. Declarer won the ace and drove out the \triangle A. South returned another spade and now, declarer ruffed a diamond and took a heart finesse. South won the king and finally returned his singleton club to obtain his ruff after all. That was down two for +200 to the Netherlands.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Gi. Giubilo	V.d. Paverd	Ga. Giubilo
_	_	_	$1 \diamondsuit$
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♡	All Pass

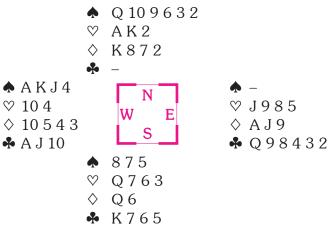
After West's vulnerable weak jump, E/W would



no longer tend to fall overboard. What is more, the immediate $3\clubsuit$ proved high enough to silence North. Three Hearts made with an overtrick for another +170 to the Dutch and 9 IMPs back to them.

Half-way the match, we suddenly saw three big swings in succession to compensate for the quietness of Boards 4, 5 and 6. This was the first of them:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.



Open Room

West North EastSouth

Porta Van Oosten Donati Thorpe

When East doubled $1 \spadesuit$ and South raised to two, E/W were no longer in a position to buy the contract in $3 \clubsuit$, their proper spot. Instead, they were forced to sell out to N/S's non-invitational $3 \spadesuit$, which proved a make; The Netherlands +140.

At the other table, the Dutch aggression paid off, this time.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Gi. Giubilo	V.d. Paverd	Ga. Giubilo
_	_	_	Pass
1♣	1 ♠	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

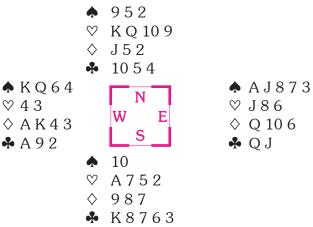
Looking at his club length, East thought he needed only a solid enough spade stopper. West duly provided one but this was far from enough to make 3NT a safe spot. Had the clubs been 3-1 with the king onside, and had the diamond honours been divided between North and South, as they were, 3NT would have been OK, so it certainly was worth bidding it, vulnerable. On the actual layout, however, some friendly defence would be needed and it duly came. North led a top heart and the defenders took the first three tricks in

the suit.

South, on lead now, returned a logical spade rather than a necessary diamond, and that was +600 more and 12 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Next::

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.



Open Room

0 10 011 110	~		
West	North	East	South
Porta	Van Oosten	Donati	Thorpe
1NT	Pass	2 %	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♡	Pass
4NT	All Pass		



After West refused the transfer to show a good fit, E/W apparently were not sure about the continuation: cuebid or RKCB. The defenders took the first four tricks when North led the ♥K; The Netherlands +50.

No problems in the other room .

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Gi. Giubilo	V.d. Paverd	Ga. Giubilo
1♣	Pass	1 ^	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West could not open 1NT (wrong range, this time) and thus $4\spadesuit$ was easily reached. That was one overtrick, another +450 and another 11 IMPs to the hosts.

And next:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

\spadesuit	9643
\Diamond	4 3
\Diamond	A 8 3
•	K983

	A 7
\Diamond	AQJ875
\Diamond	Q 6 2

♣ A 7



♠ KJ85♡ K♦ KJ97♣ QJ54

♠ Q 10 2♡ 10 9 6 2

♦ 1054

4 1062





Open Room

West	North	East	South
Porta	Van Oosten	Donati	Thorpe
_	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1♡	Pass	1 ^	Pass
$2\Diamond$	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♡	Pass	3NT	All Pass

This time, we were again in the slam zone, but only if West would be the declarer. A club lead by South would beat 6NT.

After a natural auction, the Italians settled for 3NT. South thus was not tested but, when he led a spade, declarer had his 12 tricks, so Italy +690.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Gi. Giubilo	V.d. Paverd	Ga. Giubilo
_	Pass	1♣	Pass
$1 \heartsuit$	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♡	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Late in the evening, after a tiring day, Gabriele Giubilo had a nasty decision to make. What to lead against this slam? The E/W auction had been pretty natural and quantitative, so how on earth could he have found the killing club lead?

When he tried a low diamond, declarer had his 12 tricks immediately, because North took the ace. The Netherlands scored+1440 and another +13 IMPs. They had brought off a nice hat-trick of double-figure swings to eventually win the match by 47-24 IMPs, or 16.18-3.82 VPs.

The Irish in Veldhoven

By John Phelan

Ireland received a very late invite three weeks ago to send an U21 Team to Veldhoven for the WBF Youth Bridge Teams Championships.

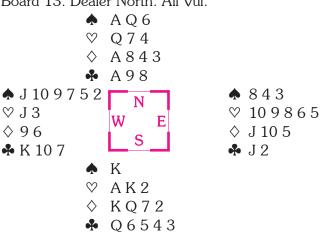
At short notice we recruited a very young team of five players (four of them are under 18, so still in secondary school), but they were thrilled to get the invite - representing Ireland in International competition at such a tender age. Likewise myself, I was honoured to be invited to NPC an Irish international team for the first time (Don't know what they were thinking to ask ME to do it!).

Anyway, we have had a tough baptism, being bottom of the table by a stretch after the first day, but still smiling, and the kids are having the time of their lives. (Back home, bridge players are all our age - grey-haired and grumpy. Here, it's like a teenage reality show in comparison).

Was guite chuffed with this hand one of our players (Phedra Kingston, just turned 17) played against France, one of the best teams in the tournament.

Round 3 – Ireland v France

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
Bens	Kingston	Libbrecht	Hoyne
_	1NT	Pass	4
Pass	4NT	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Playing Gerber, David Hoyne first asked for aces then for kings, Phedra Kingston showing

three aces but zero kings, and David jumped to 6NT. East starts off with an honest lead of the $\heartsuit 10$ from his sequence and Phedra examines her prospects.

OK, 11 tricks are there on top once diamonds behave, six tricks in the majors, four diamonds, plus

Championship special

The dealing machines used to duplicate the boards during the championship are sold out, but the cards [only] played during the championships are still available for €80/100 decks. Not used cards are sold for €100/100 decks.

Pick up in Veldhoven, or shipped afterwards at cost. Email anna@jannersten.com to order.



the ace of clubs. But it seems that clubs are the only prospect for a twelfth trick.

So, it seems the best chance is to lead a club up towards the gueen, hoping the king is with East.

So, after testing the diamonds, finishing in hand, Phedra now tries the nine of clubs, on which East plays the four smoothly, and she comes to the conclusion that if he had the king he would at least have thought about it, so she runs the ♣9 to West's ten. West exits safely with a heart.

Phedra now enters dummy with a third round of diamonds and completes the intrafinesse by leading the club queen – West covers with the king, but East's jack now comes down, bringing home the contract.

6NT was bid at most tables, but only made by one other declarer – and Phedra has never heard of anyone called Gabriel Chagas.



Ethical Herbst

By Fearghal O'Boyle

There was a fine example of ethical play from a young player on this deal from the WBF U16 Team Championship here in Veldhoven.

A J 5 3

♦ A 9 8

AKJ

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

1098★ K10♦ 75432♣ 762

_

♥ A Q 7 6 5 3 2 ♦ Ω

4 10 9 8 5 4

♠ KQ7642

 \heartsuit 4

♦ KJ106

♣ Q3

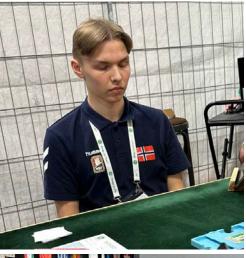
This was Board 22. At the end of Board 21, West and South called the Director to ask for a ruling on Board 21. In an attempt to be helpful, both West and South managed to accidentally expose the North hand of Board 22 (thinking they were looking at the North hand from Board 21). Both players instantly realised their mistake and they quickly returned North's cards

to Board 22.

The Director gave his ruling on Board 21 and now West and South asked what they should do about Board 22. The Directors are trained to try and 'save' boards – they do not like to cancel or withdraw boards – and with that objective in mind the Director spoke to West and South to see what exact extraneous information they each might have. West (Itamar Herbst) said that he had seen enough to know that North held only one picture card but he said he would not use that information.

So the four players sat down to play the board and Itamar finished as declarer in 5♥. He won the spade lead in dummy (discarding the Queen of diamonds from hand) and finessed in hearts at trick two, losing to North's king. North switched to a diamond. Declarer ruffed in hand and played a club to dummy's Ace. Declarer ruffed another diamond in hand and led a second club towards dummy's king-jack and, when North followed with a small club, Itamar finessed the Jack, even though he knew it was going to lose. Respect!

A perfect lesson to us all by a young U16 player in how to 'carefully avoid taking any advantage of unauthorised information'. When we find this level of high ethics among our younger players then the future of Bridge is bright. Bravo Itamar Herbst (Israel).













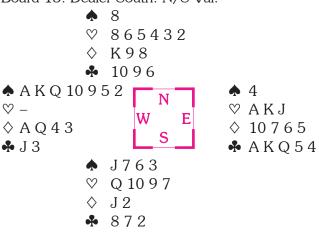
Women U26 Round Robin, Round 5

Netherlands v France

By Brian Senior

For our first look at the U26W series, we feature Netherlands, who went into the match lying second, and France, lying eighth. It was a low-scoring match, but not without interest.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
Schlumberger	Beekman	Belloy	Christensen
_	_	_	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♡	Pass
6 ♠	All Pass		

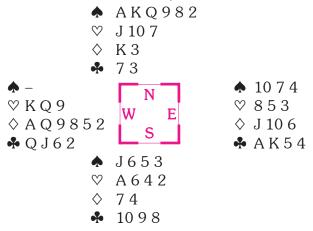
West	North	East	South
S De Wijs	Bouton	L De Wijs	M K-Beaulieu
_	_	_	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♡	Pass	6 ♠	All Pass

Both Wests opened $1 \spadesuit$ then rebid $3 \spadesuit$ to show a powerful suit. Lotte De Wijs launched into RKCB at this point and Sarah De Wijs jumped to $6 \heartsuit$ to show three key-cards plus the heart void. The latter did not encourage Lotte, who signed off in the small slam – just as well, as the bad spade split means that, short of double dummy play, the good grand slam is doomed; 12 tricks for +980.

Constance Belloy preferred to go more slowly with the East hand but, eventually, she too asked for key cards, then for the \mathbf{AQ} . Six Spades said that Wilhelmine Schlumberger did hold the queen, but no

outside king, and Belloy too settled for the small slam; +980 so no swing.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
Schlumberger	Beekman	Belloy	Christensen
$1 \diamondsuit$	1 ♠	Pass	3♠
$4\diamondsuit$	4 ♠	Dble	All Pass
West	North	East	South
S De Wijs	Bouton	L De Wijs	M K-Beaulieu
$1 \diamondsuit$	1 ^	2♦	2 ♠
3♦	3♠	All Pass	





For France, Schlumberger opened $1 \diamondsuit$ and Fleur Beekman overcalled $1 \spadesuit$. Belloy passed and Malene Christensen made a pre-emptive raise to $3 \spadesuit$. When Schlumberger competed to $4 \diamondsuit$, Beekman went on to $4 \spadesuit$ and Bellow doubled, concluding the auction.

Belloy led out three rounds of clubs, Beekman ruffing and drawing trumps in three rounds then leading a diamond towards the king. Schlumberger won the ace and exited with a diamond to declarer's king, but Beekman won the diamond and ran the jack of hearts to her queen, and Schlumberger was endplayed; down one for -100.

Sarah De Wijs also opened $1\diamondsuit$, and Clara Bouton overcalled $1\clubsuit$. Lotte De Wijs raised to $2\diamondsuit$, and Margaux Kurek-Beaulieu contented herself with a simple spade raise. Sarah and Bouton each competed in turn, but there was insufficient momentum in this auction for anyone to reach the four level.

Lotte started with the ace of clubs but then switched to the jack of diamonds. Sarah won and switched back to clubs, leading the queen then another. Bouton ruffed and drew three rounds of trumps then cashed the king of diamonds before running the jack of hearts. The same endplay as at our first table meant nine tricks for +140 and 6 IMPs to France.

North can be held to eight tricks in a spade contract. East needs to switch to a heart at trick two, then win the second round of clubs to lead a second heart through the ace and now there is no endplay to worry about.



Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

^	A J	
\Diamond	10 8	
\Diamond	KJ862	
•	10 8 5 2	
♠ 5 4 3♡ A Q J♦ A 9♣ A K Q J 7	N W E S	♠ 96♡ 97532♦ 10753♣ 43
^	K Q 10 8 7 2	
\otimes	K 6 4	
\Diamond	Q 4	
•	96	

West	North	East	South
Schlumberger	r Beekman	Belloy	Christensen
_	Pass	Pass	2 ♠
Dble	Pass	3♡	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♡	All Pass
West	North	East	South
S De Wijs	Bouton	L De Wijs	M K-Beaulieu
_	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	2 ♠
3♣	3♠	All Pass	

Kurek-Beaulieu opened $1 \spadesuit$ in third seat and eventually became declarer in $3 \spadesuit$. By contrast, Malene Christensen opened a weak $2 \spadesuit$ and that added momentum to the auction such that she found herself defending against $4 \heartsuit$ by East.

Sarah led out three top lubs, Lotte ruffing the third one with the nine of spades in hope of a trump promotion. Kurek-Beauliei over-ruffed and played the queen of diamonds and, when that was ducked, continued with her remaining diamond. Sarah had to win that, of course, and now needed to exit passively with a top club or a trump and wait for two heart tricks to come her way. But patience is not a strong suit with the youth – come to think of it, it isn't a strong suit with we seniors either, and Sarah next laid down the ace of hearts, and Kurek-Beaulieu was home with nine tricks for +140.

The problem with playing in 4% is the lack of entries to the East hand to pick up the trumps. However, the defence does have to take its tricks if it is to defeat the contract. Christensen led the king of spades and Beekman overtook to switch to a club. Belloy won that and played ace then jack of hearts, and Christensen won the king and cashed the queen of spades and continued with the ten. But Belloy could ruff that in hand, draw the missing trump, and cash the clubs to get rid of all her diamond losers; 10 tricks for +420 and 11 IMPs to France.



Had Christensen been left on lead at trick one, she would have known to switch to a diamond, which beats the contract. Equally, had the king of spades been overtaken and the jack returned, overtaking and playing a third spade creates a trick for the ten of hearts, and again the contract is defeated, so perhaps not Beekman's finest hour. Indeed, the latter defence gets it two down if North returns a diamond after making the ten of hearts.

E

Board 19. D	eale	er South. E/W Vul.		
	\spadesuit	9		
	\Diamond	J 10		
	\Diamond	AKJ8654		
	•	A 7 5		
★ K J 7 4♡ A 9 4 3◇ 7♣ K 10 6 3		N W E S	\Diamond	A 5 3 2 K Q 7 2 9 2 Q 9 2
	\spadesuit	Q 10 8 6		
	\Diamond	865		
	\Diamond	Q 10 3		
	•	J 8 4		

West	North	East	South
Schlumberger	Beekman	Belloy	Christensen
_	_	_	Pass
1 ♣	4♦	Dble	Pass
4♡	Pass	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass



West	North	East	South
S De Wijs	Bouton	L De Wijs	M K-Beaulieu
_	_	_	Pass
1 ♣	$1 \diamondsuit$	Dble	$2\Diamond$
Dble	4♦	Dble	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Bouton made a simple overcall and, though she later competed to the four level, eventually found herself on lead to 4%. Bouton cashed a top diamond then switched to her singleton spade – queen, king. Sarah drew two rounds of trumps then ruffed dummy's remaining diamond, drew the last trump, then cashed the ace and jack of spades. Finally, she was ready to tackle the clubs and got it right, doing so by leading to the gueen then running the nine; 10 tricks for +620.

Beekman made a four-level pre-emptive overcall and that convinced Christensen to save in $5\diamondsuit$ over her opponents' heart game. Belloy doubled 5\$ and led the king of hearts. I'm not quite sure why Schlumberger felt the need to overtake the heart and return the suit, but no harm was done. Belloy switched to the two of clubs at trick three, Schlumberger winning the ten and returning the 43 to the queen. A third round of clubs was won by Beekman, who drew trumps and claimed eight tricks; three down for -500, but 4 IMPs to Netherlands.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

Dould 20. Do	Juic	or country in var.	
	\spadesuit	K J 6	
	\Diamond	A K 4	
	\Diamond	AQ1053	
	•	7 3	
♠ 98732 ♥ 872 ♦ 942 ♣ 64		N W E S	♠ A 10 5 4♡ Q J 6◇ K 7 6♣ A 9 8
	^	Q	
	\Diamond	10 9 5 3	
	\Diamond	J 8	
	*	K Q J 10 5 2	

West Schlumberger - Pass Pass All Pass	North Beekman - 1♦ 2NT	East Belloy - Dble Pass	South Christensen Pass 1♥ 3NT
West	North	East	South

West	North	East	South
S De Wijs	Bouton	L De Wijs	MK-Beaulieu
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	$2\diamondsuit$	Pass	3NT
All Pace			

By different routes, both Norths became declarer in 3NT, with Beekman having the extra clue that the bulk of the missing high cards would be on her left.

Belloy led her four-card suit, and why not? Beekman won the bare queen and ran the jack of diamonds. Belloy won the king and played ace and ten of spades, clearing the suit. Beekman cashed all the diamonds but Belloy had just enough space to keep the heart stopper, the ace of clubs, and the spade to get to partner's extra spade winner. When Beekman tried the top hearts and nothing good happened, she was down one for -100.

Lotte led the queen of hearts. Bouton won and led a club to dummy to take the diamond finesse. That lost and Lotte switched to ace and another spade, but it was too late. Bouton won the second spade and had nine winners for +600 and 12 IMPs to France.

That made the final score 29-5 IMPs in favour of France, or 16.37-3.63 VPs. Netherlands remained in second place, while France jumped four places to fourth.

Have I left you with a niggling feeling that something isn't quite right about that last board?

Quite right, the contract should have been made, even after the spade lead at our first table. Declarer was too quick to take the diamond finesse. She should simply play a club honour at trick two. East has to

This became declarer in the extra clue that the would be on her left. and why not? Beekman the jack of diamonds. It ace and ten of spades, ashed all the diamonds bace to keep the heart and the spade to get to. When Beekman tried bood happened, she was as Bouton won and led a mond finesse. That lost dianother spade, but it second spade and had another spade, but it second spade and had another spade and had a liMPs to France.

29-5 IMPs in favour of Netherlands remained a jumped four places to the spade and had a limped four plac

duck to cut declarer's communications with dummy, else she has five club tricks to go with three top red tricks and two spades. With a club trick in the bag, declarer can now take the diamond finesse. It loses, spades are cleared, but the extra club trick brings her total to nine.













U26 Round Robin, Round 6

Türkiye v China Singapore v Croatia

By Jos Jacobs

For the first round of the second day, the dealing machine (or god) had been rather benevolent, I thought. He (it) had produced a lot of quiet deals but, from time to time, justice had been forgotten. Take, for example, this board:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

J 2

872

865432 ♦ K98 **4** 1096 ♠ AKQ10952 ♡ AKJ ♦ 10765 ♦ A Q 4 3 **♣** J 3 ♣ AKQ54 J763 Q 10 9 7



West	North	East	South
Wen	Kalayci	Jiang	Coban
_	_	_	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♡	Pass
5NT	Pass	7NT	All Pass

A guite OK Chinese auction was rewarded by a safe looking lead of a low spade from North. We have been taught that against 7NT, a lead in declarer's running suit is the safest. We all also have experienced giving away the contract with such a lead because the running suit was not as running as it had to be $\odot \odot$.

To comfort the Turkish North: he was not the only one to find this spade lead and thus give away the grand slam.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kuscu	Gu	Sari	Miao
_	_	_	Pass
1 🖍	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♡	Pass	5NT	Pass
6\$	Pass	7NT	All Pass

Mainly the same natural style auction in the other room, but here South led a heart into declarer's tenace. This also seemed to cost a trick but when the spades did not break, declarer had to take the failing diamond finesse in the end for down one after all, and another +50 to China and 17 IMPs to them.

In our other match, they also reached seven.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Teo	Ferenca	Wu	Leskovar
_	_	_	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♦	Pass	7NT	All Pass

Three aces and one void in West but still not enough for 13 tricks on a heart lead by East; Croatia +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bilusic	Lee	Evacic	Yang
_	_	_	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4♡	Pass
5♡	Pass	6♦	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	6NT	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

In the Croatian auction, diamonds were never mentioned until West offered his partner another chance to pick a slam. This slam needed $\Diamond KJ$ doubleton onside and thus duly went one down for no swing.

By now (i.e. after just three boards), the Türkiye v. China match had reached a score of 26-0 to China and nothing very much happened there afterwards, China eventually winning by 34-9 IMPs, or 16.55-3.45 VPs.

From here, I will therefore report on our other top match only: Singapore v the overnight leaders, Croatia.

Right on the next board already, something happened.





Board 16. Deale	er West. E/W Vul.	
^	AKQ982	
\Diamond	J 10 7	
\Diamond	K 3	
•	7 3	
♠ -♡ K Q 9♦ A Q 9 8 5 2♣ Q J 6 2	N W E S	♠ 10 7 4♡ 8 5 3◇ J 10 6♣ A K 5 4
^	J 6 5 3	
\Diamond	A 6 4 2	
\Diamond	7 4	
•	10 9 8	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Teo	Ferenca	Wu	Leskovar
$1 \diamondsuit$	1 ^	1NT	3♠
All Pass			

Over South's 34, West took a rather pessimistic view. Partner's response of 1NT should imply either clubs or diamonds, so a minor-suit fit looks almost a certainty for E/W. They collected +50 for one down but game for them was not at all unlikely. It only had to be bid.



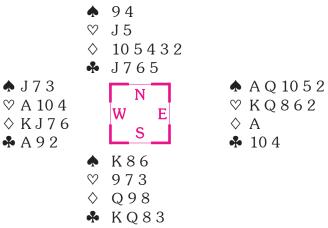
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bilusic	Lee	Evacic	Yang
$1 \diamondsuit$	1 🛧	2♦	3♠
5♦	All Pass		

Helped by his partner's raise, West could make short work of bidding it after 3♠ by South at his table, too. Croatia scored +600 and 11 IMPs to them.

Four boards later, we got another slam on the cards.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Teo	Ferenca	Wu	Leskovar
1♣	Pass	1 🛧	Pass
1NT	Pass	2\$	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♡	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♡	Pass	6 ♠	All Pass

This time, the Singaporeans had no problems in getting to the slam. They never mentioned hearts, but used the $2\diamondsuit$ general GF rebid instead. Once West showed spade support, hearts were useful as a source of side tricks only. Well done for a deserved +1430.

Closed Room

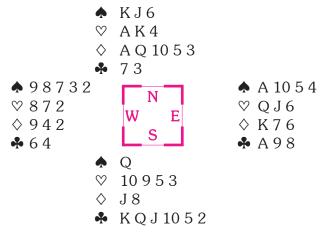
West	North	East	South
Bilusic	Lee	Evacic	Yang
1♣	Pass	1 %	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	3♡	Pass
4	All Pass		

West apparently could not make an advance cuebid over partner's 3% Had he done so, the slam would probably have been reached as easily as at the other table.

As it was, the slam was missed here and Singapore had 13 IMPs back.

The penultimate board was an example of too much optimism, here or there.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Teo	Ferenca	Wu	Leskovar
_	_	_	Pass
2 ^	2NT	Dble	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

This is what you are liable to get as West when you open a weak two on no values at all, a genuine Yarborough. South's blank extstyle Q proved a very useful asset for declarer; Croatia +750.

In the other room, they also reached 3NT but after a more orthodox pre-empt.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bilusic	Lee	Evacic	Yang
_	_	_	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Declarer even made an overtrick on a $\heartsuit Q$ lead from East but that still meant 3 IMPs went to Croatia. The final score thus became an exact tie: 21-21 IMPs. No need to tell you how many VPs each side got...



U26 Round Robin, Round 7

Netherlands v France

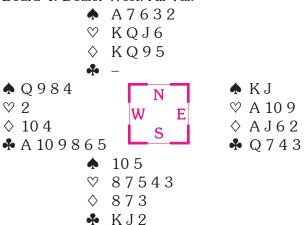
By Jos Jacobs

After the morning's first round, the Netherlands and France were 4th and 5th in the table and were scheduled to meet. In two other BBO boxes, there was a confrontation going on between China (7th at the time) and Israel, who were still 9th and therefore the first to drop out of the knock-out places.

In the China v Israel match, very little happened. Below, I will just insert one board from that match in my report of the hosts' match with one of their eternal rivals, also in all other sections of world bridge (O/W/S).

After three boards, the Netherlands were leading 3-0 when this one came up.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fragola	V.d. Paverd	Tabata	Nijssen
Pass	1 ♠	Dble	Pass
2♣	Dble	Pass	2 %
3♣	3♡	All Pass	

This contract made with an overtrick for +170 to the Netherlands. Diamond lead by West to king and ace, followed by a diamond back to dummy's seven did not help the case of the defence. A trump lead and continuation would probably have set the contract because declarer will then run out of trumps in both hands, eventually.

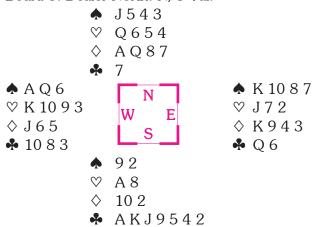
Closed Room

Olocoa II	Ciocca Hoom				
West	North	East	South		
Thorpe	Guillemin	Van Oosten	Boulin		
Pass	1 🛧	Dble	Pass		
2 .	Dble	Pass	2 ^		
3♣	All Pass				

In the Closed Room, Boulin just signed off in $2 \spadesuit$ after partner's double, thus excluding the possibilities for any further competition in the auction. In $3 \clubsuit$ there were nine top tricks, so the Dutch scored another +110, good for 7 IMPs.

On the next board, we reached double figures.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fragola	V.d. Paverd	Tabata	Nijssen
_	Pass	Pass	1 .
Pass	1♦	Pass	2 %
Pass	Pass	Dble	3♣
3♡	3NT	All Pass	

This sort of bidding does not look very scientific but it was very effective once the clubs behaved. The defence started off by cashing their four spade tricks but that was it; the Netherlands +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Thorpe	Guillemin	Van Oosten	Boulin
_	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♡	Pass	2 ♣
All Pass			

At the other table, East showed why it was much better to let $2\clubsuit$ go in the pass-out position: it took away the chance for N/S to reach their game after all. Well judged. Declarer made two overtricks when the $\diamondsuit K$ was right but the score of +130 meant that the Dutch had gained another 10 IMPs.

This board also saw the only substantial swing in the China v Israel match. In the Open Room, they bid as follows:



Open Roor	n		
West	North	East	South
Khutorsky	Liao	Zeitak	Li
_	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	$2\diamondsuit$	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Precision style. South did not have any second suit but he did have something in reserve indeed. Just made on a $\heartsuit 10$ lead; China +600.

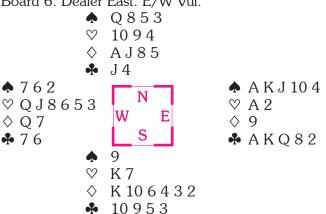
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wen	Zamir	Jiang	Toledano
_	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	3♣
3♡	All Pass		

When North passed 2Φ , a reasonable idea, East found a balancing double, a daring idea. South gave it another try but so did West. He was allowed to play there for one down and +50 to Israel but 11 IMPs to China.

Helped by this board, China won this match 23-17 IMPs or 12.01-7.99 V.P.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fragola	V.d. Paverd	Tabata	Nijssen
_	_	2♣	3♦
Pass	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4	All Pass		

As compared to the rest of the teams, the French did well to stay as low as $4 \spadesuit$, but even this contract was already asking too much. Club lead to the ace, ♦AK, ♣K and a low club ruffed and over-ruffed with North's ♠8. From here, declarer still had to lose a heart and a diamond plus the master trump. The diamond underlead by North after the club over-ruff was just a nice play for the spectators, this time \square . The Netherlands scored +100.

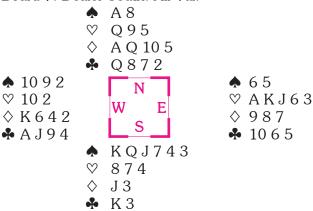
In the other room, they were in sacrifice mode.

West	North	East	South
Thorpe	Guillemin	Van Oosten	Boulin
_	_	1 ^	3♦
Pass	3♡	Dble	Pass
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

After East's double of North's 3♥, it could no longer be excluded that E/W would reach their proper game, viz. 4♥. Taking that into account, the French sacrifice was correct. In addition (subtraction might be a better word here) to the -100 from the other table, going down two for another -300 did not really help the French. The costs were a further 9 IMPs.

The next board again was expensive.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fragola	V.d. Paverd	Tabata	Nijssen
_	_	_	2 ♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

South, looking at his semi-solid spades, had an obvious raise to 3NT when partner invited. Much might depend on your defensive agreements. What would any card show when partner leads the king of a suit?

When East led the $\heartsuit K$, West contributed the $\heartsuit 10$ which provoked a diamond switch. That was not what the doctor ordered; just made, the Netherlands +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Thorpe	Guillemin	Van Oosten	Boulin
_	_	_	2 ^
All Pass			

In the replay, North did not have too much confidence in his rounded gueens and therefore decided to pass 2♠. A correct decision, once again, but not very enterprising. France thus scored +140 on the deal, to lose another 10 IMPs and eventually the match by 39-9 IMPs, or 17.4-2.6 VPs.

U26 Round Robin, Round 8

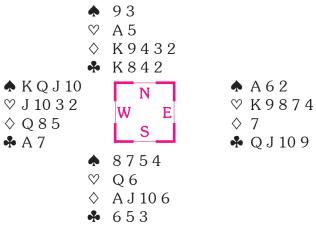
Poland v Sweden Netherlands v Türkiye

By Jos Jacobs

In the two matches of Round 8 on BBO almost nothing at all happened. Therefore, this is going to be a (for me well deserved?) short report.

The exception to this opening sentence was the board below.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



Two N/S pairs sacrificed in $5\diamondsuit$ doubled, which might or might not have been a profitable action, depending on how their team-mates would fare in $4\heartsuit$. The percentage play in hearts would of course be to run the $\heartsuit J$ but this approach may be subject to change in view of the auction.

In the Netherlands v Türkiye match N/S had kept silent. North, however, rose with the ace on the first round of trumps, maybe in an attempt to lead declarer astray. Sari was not to be fooled or whatever and played a heart to the king later on, to land his contract. He even made an overtrick when the defence did not take its diamond trick after winning the $\heartsuit A$.

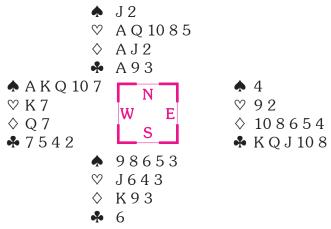
At the other table, the Dutch declarer followed the percentages and thus went one down. This +100 gave Türkiye 13 IMPs.

In the Poland v. Sweden match, both Norths had overcalled $1\diamondsuit$ over West's $1\clubsuit$ opening bid. This gave both declarers some indication about how to tackle the trumps. One declarer rose with the king and the other declarer saw North rise with his ace. Later on, the queen came down under the $\heartsuit K$ for no swing in that match.

On the next board, we did not see any big swings, but at our four tables the results were different and also amusing, I thought.

The Netherlands v Türkiye:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sari	V.d. Paverd	Kuscu	Nijssen
_	$1 \heartsuit$	Pass	3♡
3 ♠	All Pass		

When East did not show his two-suiter, West could only make the wrong choice with his own two-suiter; down three for, +150 to the Netherlands.

Nearly all bridge players are fond of the spade suit. This also applied to the Turkish players here as this was their auction:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Caris	Eker	Dupont	Gulez
_	1NT	Pass	2 %
Pass	2 ♠	All Pass	

West's 100 honours did not add up to the two undertricks, but still it is a rarity to see both sides choosing the same denomination to go down in. Another 100 to the Dutch and 6 IMPs to them. They went on to win the match by 15-14 IMPs, or 10.36-9.64 VPs.



In the other match, the Swedes knew even better:

O	pen	Room

West	North	East	South
Sandin	Cichy	Clementsson	Kopka
_	1 %	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Over 1%, East showed her minors and West duly settled for 3NT. North could see that E/W might have a better spot so he refrained from doubling and collected +250 by leading a heart to declarer's king.

Closed Room

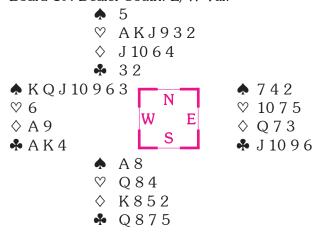
West	North	East	South
Kedzierski	Lichtenstein	Krawczyk	Hjorth War
_	1NT	Pass	2♣
2 ^	3♡	All Pass	

The most 'normal' auction occurred here. North could suggest his five-bagger on the second round of the auction but South thought he was not worth a raise. There were two overtricks, so Sweden +200. All this fun had produced a swing of just 2 IMPs to Poland.

Two boards later, competitive judgement was needed by both directions.



Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sandin	Cichy	Clementsson	Kopka
_	_	_	Pass
1 ♠	2 %	Pass	2 ^
4	5♡	5 ^	All Pass

Cichy, for Poland, judged well to go to 5% and then leave the five-level to the opponents, as that meant one down and Poland +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kedzierski	Lichtenstein	Krawczyk	Hjorth War
_	_	_	Pass
1 ♠	3♡	Pass	Pass
4 ♠	All Pass		

At the other table, South was looking at some defensive values but they soon proved irrelevant. Not taking the sacrifice was the most expensive decision of this match, resulting in the only double-figure swing when $4 \spadesuit$ was an easy make. Poland scored +620 and that gave them 12 IMPs to win the match by 15-7 IMPs, or 12.61-7.39 VPs.

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U26 RANKING 1 USA1 156.67 2 148.90 **NETHERLANDS** 3 125.17 **SINGAPORE** 4 **ISRAEL** 124.67 5 **CHINA** 124.25 6 **CROATIA** 120.80 7 **POLAND** 117.43 8 **FRANCE** 116.83 9 **SWEDEN** 112.67 10 **GREECE** 109.75 11 JAPAN 109.72 12 **TURKIYE** 105.26 13 USA2 98.67 14 **INDIA** 93.76 15 CANADA 92.26 16 **ENGLAND** 88.27 17 **CHINESE TAIPEI** 84.91 18 **ITALY** 83.82 19 **ARGENTINA** 78.50 20 **GERMANY** 76.93 76.55 21 **AUSTRALIA** 22 HONG KONG CHINA 75.21 23 68.97 **ESTONIA** 24 **BARBADOS** 7.03

wo	MEN U26 RANKI	ING
1	DENMARK	119.50
2	FRANCE	112.18
3	HUNGARY	111.29
4	ENGLAND	99.96
5	NETHERLANDS	97.24
6	ITALY	96.47
7	NORWAY	94.40
8	CHINA	75.19
9	USA2	71.54
10	USA1	70.15
11	POLAND	67.69
12	THAILAND	63.89

U21	RANKING	
1	POLAND	114.13
2	USA1	111.87
3	JAPAN	109.82
4	ENGLAND	107.69
5	ISRAEL	101.34
6	FRANCE	93.54
7	DENMARK	89.32
8	USA2	88.30
9	AUSTRALIA	86.23
10	CHINA	81.28
11	HONG KONG CHINA	80.03
12	CANADA	76.21
13	HUNGARY	74.32
14	NETHERLANDS	71.37
15	NORWAY	68.13
16	NEW ZEALAND	66.58
17	GERMANY	63.46
18	INDIA	51.94
19	SINGAPORE	46.59
20	IRELAND	13.85

U16	RANKING	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	CHINA HUNGARY USA1 THAILAND POLAND NORWAY ESTONIA ISRAEL CZECH REPUBLIC FRANCE ENGLAND HONG KONG CHINA TURKIYE GREECE CHINESE TAIPEI CANADA DENMARK USA2 INDIA NETHERLANDS	118.52 105.87 105.47 98.66 97.40 96.12 94.91 93.96 83.61 77.10 76.71 76.64 74.21 69.73 68.54 60.62 59.41 53.21 50.64 36.67
1		

U31	RANKING	
1 2	ISRAEL INDIA	124.81 117.01
3	CHINA	110.33
4	BELGIUM	98.64
5	POLAND	96.88
6	FRANCE	88.32
7	NETHERLANDS	87.72
8	CHINESE TAIPEI	86.72
9	BULGARIA	82.49
10	SCOTLAND	76.82
11	CROATIA	75.76
12	USA1	74.89
13	HONG KONG CHINA	71.58
14	SINGAPORE	68.90
15	GERMANY	68.67
16	TURKIYE	61.42
17	SLOVENIA	61.02
18	SERBIA	49.82
19	ROMANIA	43.12
20	LATVIA	42.79