



# 18<sup>th</sup> World Youth Teams Championships

Veldhoven, Netherlands • 31 July - 7 August 2023

## DAILY BULLETIN

Editor: Brian Senior ♠ Co-Editor: Jos Jacobs ♠ Lay-out Editor: Francesca Canali ♠ Photographer: Ana Roth

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# BEYOND HALF-WAY

With three of the five qualifying days gone, we are beyond half-way to the cut-off point at which just eight teams will go forward to the knockout stages of the five Youth World Championships which are being competed for here in Veldhoven. It is time for those outside the top eight to really get their heads down and improve their situation over the remaining two days of qualification.

The leading teams in each category are currently as follows:

**U16:** USA1 leads by just over a match with 179.54. Second is China, on 158.89, then come Hungary 156.78 and Norway on 149.88.

**U21:** Poland leads on 164.11, and are followed by USA1 on 158.02, Denmark with 155.22, and Israel 153.64.

**U26:** USA1 has a full match lead over the rest. They are on 214.45, and are followed by Netherlands 194.40, Israel 192.06, and Sweden 176.85.

**U31:** Israel tops the rankings with 177.67, and is followed by India on 174.15, China 165.21, and Poland with 155.55.

**U26W:** England heads the rankings on 162.64, followed by Denmark on 155.60, France 152.47, and Norway 148.811.

## Explanations

Players are reminded that explanations must be via tablet or in writing. Verbal explanations often lead to misunderstandings.

Law 21A reads:

*No rectification or redress is due to a player who acts on the basis of his own misunderstanding.*





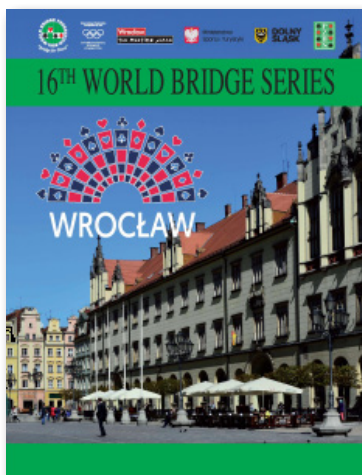
## BBO MATCHES TODAY

U26 Teams	15	9:30	SINGAPORE	SWEDEN
U26 Teams	15	9:30	AUSTRALIA	NETHERLANDS
U26 Teams	16	11:45	GREECE	CROATIA
U26 Teams	16	11:45	ISRAEL	POLAND
U26 Teams	17	14:35	ITALY	ISRAEL
U26 Teams	17	14:35	SWEDEN	JAPAN
U26 Teams	18	16:45	USA1	SINGAPORE
U26 Teams	18	16:45	NETHERLANDS	POLAND
U26 Teams	19	19:45	USA2	FRANCE
U26 Teams	19	19:45	CROATIA	TURKIYE
U21 Teams	13	9:30	ISRAEL	JAPAN
U21 Teams	14	12:00	HONG KONG CHINA	FRANCE
U21 Teams	15	14:45	DENMARK	POLAND
U21 Teams	16	17:15	DENMARK	AUSTRALIA
U26W Teams	18	19:45	USA1	USA2
U26W Teams	18	19:45	ITALY	DENMARK
U31 Teams	13	9:30	CHINESE TAIPEI	CHINA
U31 Teams	14	12:00	BULGARIA	BELGIUM
U31 Teams	15	14:45	INDIA	NETHERLANDS
U31 Teams	16	17:15	INDIA	ISRAEL



## VOTE FOR THE JOAN GERARD YOUTH AWARDS!

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



## WROCLAW 2022

We have here in Veldhoven a supply of the official book of the 2022 World Championships in Wrocław.

The price is 35 Euros, and anyone interested can buy a copy from the Hospitality Desk.



# KONINGSHOF MEALS



Lunch and dinner buffet is only for those that have paid for it, beforehand. If your team has not booked and paid, you are supposed not to use the buffet. There are no strict controls, we just ask you to obey those rules. This also applies to any guests of your teams, of course.

Accommodation includes dinner on the day of arrival plus breakfast and lunch on the day of departure. As many guests might have to leave early, the hotel offers the following:

- a. Only on Tuesday August 8**, breakfast will be available from 07.00 until 11.00. Those leaving before 07:00 can order a breakfast package on Thursday August 3 at the latest; it will be available on Tuesday morning from 03.00.
- b. Only on Tuesday August 8**, from 10.00 - 13.00, lunch will be available as a lunch package, in the Kempenzaal (that is where the buffets are being served). This also applies for teams that are still in the hotel; you can pick up the package, sit and eat anywhere you like. Please also order these lunch packages on Thursday 3 August at the latest.

In both cases, please mention the number of persons in your group that want to use this service; if any diets are required, please mention. A few teams will stay until Wednesday; for them, a breakfast package will also be available from 03.00, and this can be ordered until **Sunday 6 August**.

All requests should be sent to this email address only:

[veldhovenyouthbridge2023@gmail.com](mailto:veldhovenyouthbridge2023@gmail.com)

# U26 Round Robin, Round 9

## China v Greece USA1 v France

**By Jos Jacobs**

Once again, the boards were pretty quiet in this, the last round before dinner. However, on this Tuesday again a 5th round was scheduled, after dinner. For my report there were two matches available, both with teams in contention for the knockouts.

The first board was sort of a test in overbidding.

Board 1. Dealer: North. None Vul.

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

### USA 1 v France

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bonin</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Guichet</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
–	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♦	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Rosenberg and Kristensen were the only pair of our four on display who failed the test. They ended up in 3♥ and that was all they could make; USA1 +140

In the other room, both N/S and E/W passed the test. E/W overbid to 3♠, but then N/S overbid to 4♥.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F Kolesnik</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Fragola</i>
–	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♦	Pass	2♣
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

No double but down two for another +100 to USA1, which was good for their first 6 IMPs.

In the China v Greece match, the Chinese managed to withdraw from the test.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kapiris</i>	<i>Gu</i>	<i>Soumplis</i>	<i>Miao</i>
–	1♦	Pass	1♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

When they first came into a position to overbid, the opponents were already in 4♠, a gross overbid in their view. They consequently expressed this view by means of a double. Down two, meant +300 to China.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wen</i>	<i>Kritsalis</i>	<i>Jiang</i>	<i>Skordas</i>
–	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♦	Pass	3♥
3♠	4♥	All Pass	

In the replay, both pairs overbid a little, in the same way as in our other match. The contract went one off for another +50 and 8 IMPs to China.



Filippos KRITSALIS





By contrast, the next board was about sensible overbidding...

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kapiris</i>	<i>Gu</i>	<i>Soumplis</i>	<i>Miao</i>
–	–	Pass	1♣
1♦	1♥(♠)	4♦	Pass
Pass	4♠	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

...as was shown here by the Greeks who found the sacrifice as soon as West had overcalled. Five Diamonds doubled was down two; China +300.



Sijia GU

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wen</i>	<i>Kritsalis</i>	<i>Jiang</i>	<i>Skordas</i>
–	–	1♦	2♣
2NT	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

At the other table, East opened a nebulous Precision diamond so the sacrificing potential of the hand remained a secret. The effect was that N/S were allowed to play their vulnerable game, without any overbidding, for a score of +620 and 8 IMPs back to Greece.

In the USA1 v France match, the overbidding continued.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bonin</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Guichet</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♣	All Pass

East was looking at a nice black hand but West had no fit to offer. Against the actual unfriendly club break, the contract went down three for +300 to USA1. Maybe, they regretted that they forgot the double.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F Kolesnik</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Fragola</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♠
Pass	3♦	Dble	All Pass

In the other room, the French quickly found a fit in diamonds. This gave Grossack the chance to show his nice hand by bidding a suit first and a double next. West was happy with these developments. The contract went just down one on a low heart lead away from East's ace – a lead that did not cost, actually.

The next board was a pretty cold slam for N/S.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kapiris</i>	<i>Gu</i>	<i>Soumplis</i>	<i>Miao</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♦
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

The Chinese came nowhere near it, against some good Greek pre-empting. They even had to find out that 4♠ could not be defeated, so Greece +790.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wen</i>	<i>Kritsalis</i>	<i>Jiang</i>	<i>Skordas</i>
Pass	2♥	2♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Rdbl
Pass	Pass	5♠	Dble
All Pass			

Baozhuo JIANG



At the other table, the Greeks did hardly any better, in the slam zone that is. However, they managed to record another plus score on the board, which brought them 14 IMPs.

Two boards later, we had a slam that was actually bid.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bonin</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Guichet</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	5♣	Dble	5NT
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

Nice bidding by the Americans. Forcing spade raise, singleton, exclusion RKCB and hoping for either a red king (diamond?) or establishing the hearts if necessary. Declarer had a number of finesses, direct or even indirect, available in either red suit. When he opted for a direct heart finesse after a club lead, ruffed, and one top trump, he was quickly one down. Only later on, he found out that the few other declarers in 7♠ had made the right choice and thus scored +1510...☺.



Yuqi WEN



At the other table, we saw a standard French auction along mainly the same lines as above.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F Kolesnik</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Fragola</i>
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Singleton heart, exclusion and some keycards. Fragola gave his partner one more chance but Tabata was not interested and rightly so. Made with an overtrick by ruffing out the ♥K for +1010 and 14 IMPs back to France.

On the next board, at one table they went back to the overbidding test described above.

Board 7. Dealer South. All

♠ 10 8		♠ K 6 5 4									
♥ Q 7 6 3		♥ K 10 5 2									
♦ K 8 7 5 4		♦ Q J									
♣ 10 3		♣ 6 4 2									
♠ J 3											
♥ J 8 4											
♦ 10 6 3 2											
♣ A K 9 7											
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>S</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ A Q 9 7 2											
♥ A 9											
♦ A 9											
♣ Q J 8 5											



*Benjamin KRISTENSEN*

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bonin</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Guichet</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

The Americans failed the overbidding test this time and thus ended up in a correct partscore of 2♠. 1NT or even 2NT would also have succeeded. USA1 thus scored a simple +140.

In the Closed Room, the French passed the test and thus landed in a 22-HCP 3NT contract.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F Kolesnik</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Fragola</i>
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led a low heart to declarer's queen but the contract still stood no chance and was down three for +300 to USA1. They went on to win the match by 30-16 IMPs, or 14.22-5.78 VPs, to stay firmly in the lead.

The China v Greece match ended in 21-37 IMPs, or 5.3-14.7 VPs to Greece.



*Nao TABATA*

# Virtue has to be its own reward

By Qiang Zhang

I was very impressed with the auction of the US pair on this deal from Round 8 of the U16 Championship, USA1 v Chinese Taipei.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
–	Zhang	–	Chen
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♥	Pass	7♣
All Pass			

Andrew Chen opened 1♦ and Brian Zhang responded 2♣. After a couple of natural bids, Chen bid 4♣ as Conditional Minorwood, with the 5♣ response showing two key-cards with the trump queen. Five Diamonds was a king-ask, 5NT showed the king of diamonds, and 6♦ asked for the queen of diamonds. Six Hearts said no to the queen of diamonds, but I do have the queen of hearts, and now Chen could count 13 tricks – six clubs, three hearts, two diamonds and two spades – so bid 7♣. Had neither queen been held, they could have stopped in 6NT.

I like this bidding sequence very much. It is unfortunate that clubs are 4-1, and the diamond is singleton for 7♣ to be down one (But for the singleton diamond, a trump coup to make the contract would be definitely worthy of report).

Only two other pairs in the U16 series reached Seven, and one of those made 7NT when West thought that a club would be a safe lead – it wasn't.

Sometimes, virtue has to be its own reward. Even worse than going down on the bad breaks, Chinese Taipei stopped in game at the other table, so bidding to Six would have been enough to earn a big swing.



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# U26 Round Robin, Round 2

## France v Croatia redux Part one

By Marshall Lewis (Croatia/USA)

Tuesday's edition of the Daily Bulletin featured co-editor Jos Jacobs' combined report of the two U26 matches shown on BBO in the second round of qualification: France-Croatia along with China-Australia. Given the dual nature of the task Jos had set for himself, along with the perennially stringent pressures of time and space in 'ASAP journalism' of any kind, inevitably some hands might not get discussed to the full breadth and depth they would otherwise warrant. Hence, the goal of the present venture is to take a closer look at some deals from that very exciting round, with a specific focus on the encounter between France and Croatia, in which I take a special interest for a number of reasons, which include: (1) My residence in the latter republic; (2) My resultant familiarity with the CRO players and their methods; (3) The further related fact that I provided BBO commentary for the match itself and thus 'lived through it' (modulo the attendant online time delay, of course).

Exhibit A – Culture Shock? Or just 'idee fixe'?



Emanuel EVACIC

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

	♠ J 10 7										
	♥ 10 8 5 4										
	♦ A 9 2										
	♣ K 8 5										
♠ 9 6 5 4 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 8
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ A 6 3		♥ Q 9 7 2									
♦ Q 8 5 3		♦ K J 4									
♣ 4		♣ 10 9 7 3									
	♠ A Q 3										
	♥ K J										
	♦ 10 7 6										
	♣ A Q J 6 2										

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilusic</i>	<i>Guillemin</i>	<i>Evacic</i>	<i>Boulin</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	Dble	Rdbl	3NT
All Pass			

Like the match itself, the original report began with Board 13, on which an ill-fated crucial card-play decision by the French South swung 19 IMPs – close to two-thirds of Croatia's eventual winning margin. When the French declarer went two down in 3NT, the partial made in the Closed Room by the Croatian N/S (1NT+3) sufficed to net 9 IMPs. If, however, in the Open Room, declarer had opted to take the spade finesse, a priori the most straightforward chance of making 3NT, an even bigger swing would in fact have gone the other way, after the Closed Room CRO pair stopped short of the desirable game when both partners had robust maximums for their calls. So what actually happened with Boulin in the Open Room?

As is so often the case, the auction cast a long shadow on the play. It is easy to snicker, as might any canonically-educated disciple of the Academie Francaise, at the 1♠ overcall on that West hand and suit – but at the pragmatic level of 'bridge on the streets', there are many ways it can benefit. First off it is typically good to bid spades, because if partner is well-fitted the enemy auction can be perturbed and in some cases fatally so. Secondly, whenever the prospective Intervenor holds a second suit – and this will usually be the case when he has five spades, it may prove critical to 'test the water' early in the



proceedings with respect to an eventual opening lead from our hand. Indeed, this latter factor is what enabled Ivan ('Bibi') Bilusic to launch the defense with maximum effectiveness via a diamond lead.

The match report relates that, after a low diamond lead, declarer won the third round of diamonds and, absolutely convinced that the overcaller must have the spade king, led a heart from dummy in an attempt at a 'swindle', although the nature of the alleged ruse is left unspecified. As the article notes, even a correct guess in hearts would not suffice for nine tricks, so what was actually going on here? Anyway, when he played the heart king from hand there was no recovery.

The first point I want to make is that declarer was not necessarily aiming at any swindle here. Indeed – just as the article itself observes – even a correct guess in hearts would not yield nine ready tricks, so attributing his line to subterfuge requires a further assumption that he was playing for a 'defensive error later on'. That latter vital component of the putative plan seems improbable, though. Suppose we instead assume declarer was pursuing a genuine technical possibility – namely that West had started with a doubleton queen of hearts in a 6241 shape. In that case, East could not rise with the ace on the first round without setting up enough heart tricks for the contract – now if (ex hypothesi), the king of hearts holds, declarer can cash a middle club honour and exit with his other heart.

West plays the queen of hearts perforce, and the defence has no winning course available. If the heart queen holds the trick, West will soon have to lead into declarer's spade tenace (i.e. after cashing the 13th diamond) – while if East overtakes he cannot prevent South from scoring five clubs, two hearts and two aces.

In short, had that indeed been the layout, Boulin's ill-starred technical tour de force might well have been a candidate for Best-Played Hand Of 2023 in the Junior category of the annual IBPA awards, given to players and to the journalists who signal their exploits. For better or for worse, though, laurels are cruelly dependent on What Actually Was The Case, rather than on What Might Easily Have Been So.

This leads us to other questions, such as, Just How Unlucky Was Declarer? Why was he so adamantly certain that the overcall must include an honour in the suit, to the point where his chosen line aimed at a decidedly narrow target – though admittedly not at all an implausible one? As hinted in the subtitle attached to this narrative, it could reflect a profound cultural divide between *Le Bridge Comme Il Faut* as inculcated in declarer's native land, versus the 'Bid What You Feel Like If You Are Bigger Than Your Partner' approach favoured in certain other bridge environments. One of the great benefits conferred by august events of

this sort is broadening of horizons – indeed, that is why we travel, even Americans. Alternatively, declarer's certainty may just have been an unshakable statistically-based *idée fixe*, since even Bibi rates to have more spades than his partner on this auction. Truth be told, I have not in fact interviewed Boulin, owing to my notorious delicacy in sensitive matters, so what follows, along with much of what has preceded, for that matter, is in the realm of subjectivity (like all Gonzo journalism).

In this connection I can draw on my direct experience interacting with spectators while doing the BBO commentary on the match. Some of them maintained, with lamentable injustice to declarer, that the redouble told the whole story because that call is customarily lead-directing in the overcalled suit, typically without enough length to raise it. That is NOT, however, what the redouble meant here, though, and declarer certainly did ask for an explanation of the call. For this E/W pair, and also me, for that matter, over a negative double by the responder this redouble is a transfer to 1NT, showing various kinds of hands including, but by no means limited to, ones that seek to play in NT from the Intervenor's side. This is exactly what declarer was told, but he elected not to ask any further follow-up questions as to what other hand-types would transfer to 1NT. In theory, it is possible that, had he done so, the result of such further inquiry would have sufficiently affected his probabilistic assessment regarding location of the spade king as to incline him toward the spade finesse after all. We will never know. What we can assume, though, is that his certainty level was so high that he felt it could not be seriously affected by answers to follow-up questions even though he knew those questions were there waiting to be asked. This should not be interpreted as a smug critique – information overload can easily lead to getting lost in one's head, and a core precept of success is Know Thyself.

The best part of these Championships – and in fact of any competitive engagement, is the lessons we learn. For my money, once the bruises heal, this Boulin is a future IBPA laureate waiting to happen.





# U26 Round Robin, Round 2

## France v Croatia redux Part two

By Marshall Lewis (Croatia/USA)

This is the second installment of an ongoing article that revisits some boards that I found particularly noteworthy in the U26 France v Croatia encounter on Monday morning. Due to time and space constraints the original Bulletin coverage (Tuesday edition) did not delve into as much detail as one otherwise might care to devote. Thus, in these follow-up squibs, we take a closer look at further dimensions of certain key deals so as to bring out further points of interest.

In our prior outing we examined a 3NT contract by France whose failure swung 19 IMPs toward Croatia when declarer misguessed the layout. This represented most of the 31-IMP margin of the Croatian victory, since the visiting squad did not bid game. In a similar vein, we continue now with a French slam that was likewise missed in the other room, and which added another 13 IMPs to the Croatian side of the ledger. In this instance, however, there was nothing declarer could do about it because the Croatian defenders (Matko Ferenca/Viktor Leskovar) handled a potentially dangerous situation with admirable accuracy.



Maxence FRAGOLA

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

	♠ Q 8 5 2										
	♥ 8 7 2										
	♦ J 10 6 2										
	♣ 10 5										
♠ K 10 7	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 9 6 3
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ A Q		♥ K J 9 3									
♦ A K 5 4		♦ Q 9 7 3									
♣ A K 8 7		♣ Q 4									
	♠ A J 4										
	♥ 10 6 5 4										
	♦ 8										
	♣ J 9 6 3 2										

West	North	East	South
<i>Fragola</i>	<i>Ferenca</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Leskovar</i>
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Matko, sitting North, led a low spade and Viktor won the ace. (Yes, the knave would also work in principle, but it is eccentric and could be disastrous if E/W have had a total SNAFU and are off both top spades. Moreover, partner might misdefend catastrophically later due to a 'certainty' that declarer holds the spade ace.) Against 3NT it would be fairly routine for South now to continue with the spade jack, but Viktor correctly withheld that precious defensive resource and returned his low spade. This was an essential manoeuvre, because otherwise Matko would eventually get squeezed between spades and diamonds. Shifting to any other suit would also be calamitous, because that allows declarer to operate a double squeeze instead, using spades as the 'middle suit' – the minor suit guards held by the defenders are located in the classic configuration for this endgame to succeed. In essence, the low spade return by South keeps the N/S cause alive by allowing BOTH defenders to retain a spade guard until the critical moment of impact for a potential squeeze eventually arrives.

Nevertheless, N/S are not out of the woods yet – accurate discarding is still necessary to seal declarer's doom. After winning the spade king, West unblocks his two heart winners and then crosses to the queen of



clubs to finish the hearts, throwing a diamond and his last spade. Meanwhile North has to make one discard too, but his remaining spade spot is a painless choice. The position is now:

♠ – ♥ – ♦ AK 5 ♣ AK 8	♠ Q ♥ – ♦ J 10 6 2 ♣ 10	♠ 9 ♥ – ♦ Q 9 7 3 ♣ 4									
<table style="border: 2px solid magenta; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none; text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="border: none;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none; text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none; text-align: center;">E</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none; text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="border: none;"></td> </tr> </table>				N		W		E		S	
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ J ♥ – ♦ 8 ♣ J 9 6 3											



Because both Matko and Viktor control the spade suit, the defense has the flexibility to deal with any attempt by declarer to exert pressure. If he now cashes his top club, Matko can release his queen of spades and let his partner look after that suit, since there is no longer any communication to operate a black-suit squeeze against South. If instead, as was the case in practice, West lays down his two top diamonds, Viktor has an easy club discard. It still does not help declarer to cash off his top clubs at this point, for the same reason previously cited, that North can just part with his spade queen and there is no squeeze.

While the key defensive play came at the second trick, we should bear in mind that the return of the low spade instead of the jack could in some circumstances be a source of potential confusion for North, who might subsequently have to reckon with the possibility that declarer's spade holding was KJ10(x).

In the present case North is spared this headache, as the auction had apparently revealed that West did not hold a major suit, and that fact, together with the very convenient size of Viktor's small spade, ruled out the possibility that declarer held the spade jack. (With an original Axx of spades, S would have no reason not to return his higher spot – N is very unlikely to require any suit-preference information since he can see both the dummy and the auction and will be able to work out what is needed for the slam to fail if it can.) In this way North was spared any perilous uncertainties regarding the spade layout.

Typically, when doing a BBO broadcast, I allow spectators to contact me privately with any questions or comments, and if time permits I address these. In regard to this deal there were voices suggesting that: (1) East was too hasty on the last round of bidding, since there was still a possible 4-4 fit in diamonds, thus slam in that strain might easily play better than 6NT, and also (2) indeed, voila, lo-&-behold 6♦ does make. I gently begged to differ, and moved on, but there is a chilling cautionary tale here as take-away. These glorious gilded-youth championships notwithstanding, the average age of bridge enthusiasts is indisputably high for a competitive activity with Olympic aspirations, and this incident demonstrates that in our community the possibility of hallucinating an interchange of the ten and nine of diamonds is a worrisome spectre haunting those of us with more decades behind us than the bookies in Vegas ever predicted. So readers are humbly encouraged to bear this in mind if they identify any egregious analytical errors in this article – or for that matter in anything else I ever say.



Matko FERENCA

# U21 Round Robin, Round 6

## Japan v New Zealand

By Brian Senior

Two teams who have had a long way to travel to play in these championships, Japan and New Zealand, faced off in round six of the U21 competition.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ J 2 ♥ Q 10 6 2 ♦ K 8 7 3 2 ♣ 8 6	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                     N                      W     E                      S                 </div>	♠ K 8 7 ♥ K J 7 ♦ A J 4 ♣ K Q 7 5	♠ 5 4 3 ♥ A 9 8 5 4 3 ♦ 10 ♣ J 3 2
---	--	--	---

West	North	East	South
<i>Quennell</i>	<i>Inami</i>	<i>Meier</i>	<i>Hasegawa</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Miura</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Inamura</i>	<i>Song</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass

The New Zealanders got locked into clubs early and had a slightly odd-looking but effective auction in which they bid clubs at five consecutive levels as they reached the small club slam. Kitora Hasegawa led the ace of hearts, which was ruffed. Leon Meier came to hand with the king of spades to ruff a second heart, then drew trumps, and with both black suits behaving had all 13 tricks for +940.

The Japanese E/W found both black-suit fits and, after exchanging further information, Yuka Inamura asked for key-cards, getting a response to show two plus a void. Six Clubs looks like a suggestion to play there, given the earlier auction, but Yugi Muira went on with 6♥, clearly showing his void. That didn't

excite Inamura, who signed off in 6♠. Zachary Yan led a club to the jack and ace. Miura drew trumps then led a diamond to the jack, nothing the fall of the ten, ruffed a heart, and led the queen of diamonds to the king and ace. When Yan threw one too many diamonds way, there was a thirteenth trick for +1010 and 2 IMPs to Japan.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ K 2 ♥ J 7 6 3 2 ♦ 10 5 ♣ K 10 9 7	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                     N                      W     E                      S                 </div>	♠ A J 10 4 3 ♥ K 10 5 ♦ J 3 ♣ J 4 2	♠ 9 8 7 ♥ Q 4 ♦ A Q 9 7 2 ♣ A Q 8
--	--	--	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Quennell</i>	<i>Inami</i>	<i>Meier</i>	<i>Hasegawa</i>
–	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Rdbl	2NT
Dble	3♣	Dble	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Miura</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Inamura</i>	<i>Song</i>
–	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Inamura had a maximum for his 1NT rebid and Miura a maximum for his pass of 1NT. With the cards meshing quite well, a decent game had been missed. Ryan Song led a low diamond, Inamura putting up dummy's jack and taking the club finesse. When the ♣Q held the trick, Inamura played the nine of spades and ran it, losing to the king. Back came the ten of diamonds to the queen and king, and now Song tried a heart, which ran round to Inamura's queen. He ran the eight of spades and, when it held, cashed the ace of diamonds. It looks as though he should have had the rest from here, but is credited with only nine tricks for +150. Probably he had missed the ten of diamonds and failed to cash two diamond winners(?)



Meier opened a weak NT and Quennell transferred then passed the completion. The New Zealanders too had missed the game, but now Terushi Inami came to their rescue with a balancing double. Meier redoubled to show his maximum, then doubled 3♣ for penalty – and that would have been no fun to play – but Quennell converted to 3NT, and game had been reached, albeit in a somewhat roundabout way.

Hasegawa led a diamond to the three, ten and queen, and Meier took a spade finesse, losing to the king. Back came a diamond, Hasegawa winning the king and continuing the suit. Meier repeated the spade finesse then ran the suit, baring his ace of clubs. He led a heart to the queen and ace, and had the rest; 10 tricks for +430 and 7 IMPs to New Zealand.

Board 19. Dealer South. Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Quennell</i>	<i>Inami</i>	<i>Meier</i>	<i>Hasegawa</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Miura</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Inamura</i>	<i>Song</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Inamura made a simple overcall with the East cards, leaving room for Song to cuebid to show a constructive raise and Yan to make a slam try before settling in the heart game. Inamura led ace and another spade for Miura to ruff, and that was that; 11 tricks for +450.

Meier made a pre-emptive 3♠ overcall and that pressured Hasegawa into the slight stretch of 4♥. As 4♥ could have been slightly heavy or, as here, slightly

light, Inami was guessing to a degree and guessed to ask for key-cards. Finding that one was missing, he next checked on the queen of hearts and, holding that card but no outside king, Hasegawa jumped to 6♥ to say so. But Meier too led ace and another spade, so the slam was a quick one down for –50 and 11 IMPs to New Zealand.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Quennell</i>	<i>Inami</i>	<i>Meier</i>	<i>Hasegawa</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Miura</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Inamura</i>	<i>Song</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

I'm not sure of the precise ranges shown by the two North players here, but Yan's Kokish sequence tempted Song to jump to slam, while Inami's straightforward 2NT rebid saw Hasegawa only invite slam – an invitation which Inami declined.

Meier led a spade against 4NT, so Inami had an easy time of coming to 12 tricks for +690, winning a third spade trick and just losing to the ace of hearts.

Inamura led a club, Yan winning dummy's queen and leading a heart to the jack. That lost to the ace and another club came back. There is one chance for the contract, and it is much better than any other play, and that is to take the double spade finesse, playing for both queen and jack to be onside. This has the merit of being successful. Yan's play of cashing the king of spades, presumably in hope of finding a bare honour offside, got him nowhere, and he was down



one for -100 and 13 IMPs to Japan, when it should have been a lucky 13 to New Zealand.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Quennell	Inami	Meier	Hasegawa
Miura	Yan	Inamura	Song
-	-	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Identical auctions saw the respective Souths at the helm in 3NT.

Quennell led the eight of diamonds round to Hasegawa's ten and Hasegawa led a heart to the ace followed by a spade, which Meier ducked. Winning the queen of spades, Hasegawa cashed the ace of clubs then led a low club to the ten, jack and queen. Meier returned the nine of clubs to pin dummy's eight, and Hasegawa won the king then played a diamond towards dummy's queen. Quennell won the ace and returned a diamond to the king, so Hasegawa played queen of hearts and a heart to the king, and Meier was left with three winners for the last three tricks; down one for -50.

Terushi INAMI

Miura led a spade, Inamura winning the ace and continuing the suit. Song won the second spade and led a club to the jack and queen, and Inamura returned a diamond to the ten, jack and queen. The defence appears to be in control from here, and the play record doesn't actually work out right, as Song is heading for only eight tricks but actually made nine. Anyway, he chalked up +400 and that was worth 10 IMPs to New Zealand.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Quennell	Inami	Meier	Hasegawa
-	Pass	Pass	3♣
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Miura	Yan	Inamura	Song
-	Pass	Pass	3♣
Dble	3♦	Dble	4♣
Dble	All Pass		

Both Souths opened 3♣.

Quennell overcalled 3NT and played there. Inami led the ten of diamonds round to Quennell's jack, and Quennell cashed one top spade then led king of hearts and a heart to the ten, losing to the queen. Back came the king of clubs, but he knew that he could win that immediately, which he did, then unblocked the heart, came to hand with a spade, and cashed the thirteenth heart. Next he led a spade to establish a third trick in the suit, but Inami could win the jack and put dummy in with his last spade to lead away from the king of diamonds at trick 12; down one for -100.

North could be counted out to be down to two spades and only three diamonds in the ending, meaning that declarer will succeed if he leads a diamond towards the king rather than the third spade. North will win two diamonds and a spade, but have to give dummy a spade for the crucial ninth trick.

Miura preferred a take-out double of 3♣, and Yan



introduced his own long suit with 3♦. But Inamura doubled that and Song ran back to the relative safety of his solid (missing the ace) club suit. However, Miura doubled again, and that was the end of the auction. Miura cashed the ace of spades then switched to the seven of hearts. Inamura won the ace and continued with the ten of hearts, Miura winning the king and switching again, this time to a diamond. Song won the ace and ruffed a diamond then played on trumps. There was a second spade to lose at the end, so he was down two for -300 and 9 IMPs to Japan.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Quennell	Inami	Meier	Hasegawa
1NT	Pass	2♣	Dble
2♦	Pass	2♥	3♣
3♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Miura	Yan	Inamura	Song
1♦	Pass	1♠	Dble
1NT	Pass	2♠	3♣
All Pass			

Miura opened 1♦ and rebid 1NT and, when Inamura repeated his spades, Song, who had previously doubled for take-out of spades, now competed with 3♣ and was left to play there. Why did Inamura repeat the spades rather than rebid 2♣ to offer a choice of suits to his partner? I have no idea.

Song won Miura's spade lead and played on trumps, coming to 10 painless tricks for +130.

Quennell could open a weak NT and now Meier used Scrambling Stayman to get out into two of a major. However, when Hasegawa competed with 3♣, Quennell liked his major-suit honours enough that he competed to 3♥, and that ended the auction.

Hasegawa led the nine of spades, Inami winning the ace and switching to a diamond for the nine and ace. Quennell led the queen of hearts, Hasegawa winning the king and playing ace and queen of clubs. Quennell won the ♣K and away went dummy's diamond loser. The jack of hearts lost to the ace, but that was all for the defence; nine tricks for +140 and 7 IMPs to New Zealand.

The New Zealanders had come out on top by 39-28 IMPs, converting to 13.23-6.77 VPs.





# Neatly played squeezed

## By Prakash Paranjape

India's Anirudh Prakash executed a neat squeeze to land a 5♣ doubled contract against Croatia in Round 7 of the U26 Championship. This was the full hand.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Acharya	Evacic	Prakash	Bilusic
Pass	1♠	1NT	Pass
2♠(i)	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♥
4♣	4♥	5♣	Dble
All Pass			

(i) Transfer to clubs



Anirudh PRAKASH

South led a small heart. Anirudh won and played the ♣Q, collecting the king, and forced out the ♣J on the next trick. The defenders failed to establish a diamond trick in time here. On winning the club jack, Ivan Bilusic played a spade to North's ace and back came a second spade. Anirudh ruffed a heart and cashed all the black-suit winners to inflict a red-suit squeeze on Emanuel Evacic sitting North. That was worth +750 and 3 IMPs to India, the Croatian E/W making 3NT+2 in the other room after a spade lead, for +660.



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# U26 Round Robin, Round 10

## USA1 v Sweden Italy v Poland

By Jos Jacobs

For the second day running, we had an evening session scheduled on Tuesday. This time, my matches were USA1 v Sweden and Italy v Poland. When the round started, Sweden, in 9th place, were knocking on the knockout door, but Italy still were not doing as well as might have been expected by their tifosi.

The first board, with the number 13, already caused a disaster or two ☺...

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

### USA1 v Sweden

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sandin</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
–	Pass	1♣	1♠
2♦(♥)	2♥	Pass	2♠
Dble	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Dble	All Pass	

Quite convincing bidding by the Swedes, and justified as well, one would say before seeing all four hands. When South led a spade, declarer soon was in trouble and eventually went three down; USA1 +800 to start with.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F Kolesnik</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Mann</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Dble
2♥	Dble	Pass	2♠
3♥	Dble	All Pass	

In the Closed Room, it was left to West to decide about opening the bidding. South's double of 2♣ (Drury) was for take-out, but North's double of 2♣ was already meant for business. South quite rightly ran away from this business but, when West competed once more, North went back into business, and this time South made it a joint venture. As with so many start-ups, this was not a great success. North led a spade into declarer's tenace and declarer unblocked the ♠K as well. Next came a low trump on which North immediately rose with his ace. His club return ran to declarer's jack and a diamond was taken by North with the ace. Another club then went to the ten and ace and declarer next crossed to the ♥J in dummy to throw his last diamond on the ♠A. The ♦K was then ruffed out and a club trick conceded to South. With South on lead, declarer had the rest on a high cross-ruff, resulting in one overtrick, +930, and 17 IMPS to USA 1. Would you call that a great start?

Two boards later, we saw another big board, this time in both our matches.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

In the USA1 v Sweden match, the N/S pair in the Open Room reached a normal enough contract.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sandin</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	



There were two overtricks on a heart lead by West, so USA1 +660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F Kolesnik</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Mann</i>
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♠	Dble	Rdbl
2♦	Dble	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Well, I guess South intended his 3♣ rebid as forcing but North was not connected...Sweden +170 for three overtricks but 10 IMPs to USA 1.

In the Italy v Poland match, there also was a big swing.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cichy</i>	<i>Gi. Giubilo</i>	<i>Kopka</i>	<i>Ga. Giubilo</i>
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

No problems for the Italian brothers once South could show a strong hand with clubs.

East led a diamond to the nine and ten and this way, declarer made even three overtricks, so Italy +690.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Kedzierski</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Krawczyk</i>
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Maciej KEDZIERSKI



Standard Polish Club, with 2♦ showing any strong hand. The system did not provide a device for exchanging information about the diamond intermediates so, without a diamond lead, the final contract stood no chance. It was one down, so Italy +100 and 13 IMPs to them.

Back again to USA 1 v. Sweden.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sandin</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
3♣	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	5♣	Pass
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
6♣	Dble	All Pass	

A fine auction by both teams except for the modern choice of the 3♣ opening bid, losing the diamond fit in the process.

The sacrifice went down four because North continued ♦A and ♦J after seeing partner's ♠4 on his top spade opening lead; USA1 +800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F Kolesnik</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Mann</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
3♣	Dble	4♣	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

Once again, the Swedes were on different wavelengths, apparently. South's 4NT was by no means a good contract but it made with two overtricks when West, understandably so, led a low club which ran to declarer's queen. Sweden scored +690 for just a 3-IMP loss.

Two boards later, we saw interesting differences in declarer play.



## Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ A 10 8			♠ K 5
♥ J 10 8			♥ A K 9 3 2
♦ 8 5 4			♦ 10
♣ Q 10 4 2			♣ A J 9 6 3
♠ J 7 6 2	<div style="border: 2px solid magenta; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                 N W   E S             </div>		
♥ Q 6 4			
♦ A K J			
♣ 8 7 5			
♠ Q 9 4 3			
♥ 7 5			
♦ Q 9 7 6 3 2			
♣ K			



Zachary GROSSACK

At both tables, the bidding went:

West	North	East	South
<i>Sandin</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
<i>F Kolesnik</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Mann</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West's 2♣ was Drury, as we can see, and both Souths led the ♦7. Already from there, the declarers' paths diverged.

For Sweden, Clementsson won the ♦A, threw a spade on the ♦K and continued the ♣5, playing low from hand when North followed suit with the ♣2. South won the king and played a spade to partner's ace. A club came back from North and now, rather than repeating the finesse, declarer went up with the ♣A, only to see it ruffed. As she still had the ♣Q to lose, she was one down for +100 to USA1.

For USA1, Zach Grossack put a lot of eggs in one basket when he called for dummy's ♦J on the opening lead. When it held, two spades went on the top diamonds and a low club was ducked to South's king. Later on, he could draw two rounds of trumps only, ending in dummy, repeat the club finesse, ruff the clubs out, and finish with 12 tricks. USA1 thus scored another +680 and collected another 13 IMPs.

The last board of the match, and of the day, marked one of the differences between a Seniors' and a Juniors' event, one might think.

## Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 8 6			♠ J 5
♥ K 7 4			♥ A Q 9 8 6 2
♦ A K 7 6 5 4 3			♦ 9 2
♣ K			♣ 7 5 2
♠ 10 4 2	<div style="border: 2px solid magenta; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                 N W   E S             </div>		
♥ J 10 5			
♦ 8			
♣ Q J 10 9 4 3			
♠ A K Q 9 7 3			
♥ 3			
♦ Q J 10			
♣ A 8 6			

**USA1 v Sweden**

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sandin</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>
Pass	1♦	3♥	3♠
4♥	Pass	Pass	5NT
Pass	7♦	All Pass	

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F Kolesnik</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Mann</i>
3♣	3♦	4♣	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	7♦
All Pass			



Erik HANSSON





It looks to me as if both Souths were hoping to get a favourable lead which would enable them to make all 13 tricks, rather than miscounting their key-cards...

Alas, both received a heart lead, so it was flat at down one for -50. The result of the match: 53-3 IMPs or 19.83-0.17 VPs to USA1.

In the Italy v Poland match, there was a swing, however. Neither North showed an appropriate number of key-cards but only one of the two N/S pairs involved landed on their feet.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cichy</i>	<i>Gi. Giubilo</i>	<i>Kopka</i>	<i>Ga. Giubilo</i>
3♣	3♦	4♣	4NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	7♦
All Pass			

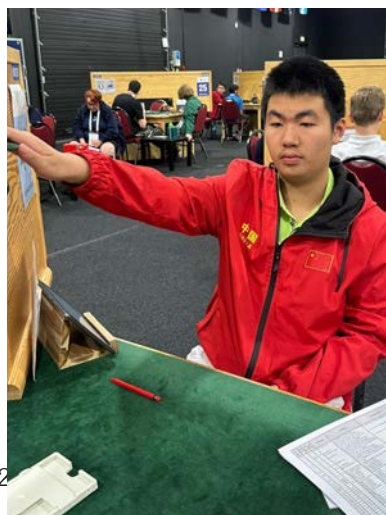
Again, one down, so Poland +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Kedzierski</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Krawczyk</i>
Pass	1♦	2♥	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

One overtrick on a diamond lead, giving Poland another +940 and 14 IMPs. They thus won the match by 38-13 IMPs, or 16.55-3.45 Vps, and rose to within the top eight.

Blazej KRAWCZYK





# U26 Round Robin, Round 11

## Singapore v Israel China v Japan

By Jos Jacobs

Two matches in this report, both with teams who are trying to make it into the top eight or to consolidate their position in there.

At the start of a new rainy day, the first board provided us not with sunshine but mainly with undertricks. On a very good day, you might even make 4♥ with the E/W cards but, in general, going down would be the more normal result.

### China v Japan:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ K J 8 ♥ 9 8 5 4 ♦ K Q J ♣ K J 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 7 6 4 ♥ K Q 7 2 ♦ 10 ♣ A Q 9 7 5	♠ Q 10 9 ♥ 3 ♦ 9 7 6 3 2 ♣ 10 8 4 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											

A remarkable auction. East considered his hand good enough for a take-out double and West thought he had enough to convert it into a penalty double. East led the ♦10 to dummy's ace and at trick two declarer chose the wrong tempo. He definitely was looking at a few possible club losers but there was no need to tackle this problem immediately. When he led a club from dummy, however, West jumped in with his king, drew two rounds of trumps, and exited with another club for dummy to ruff. Dummy did not ruff but threw a heart. The next club was indeed ruffed in dummy and now, rather than finally playing a spade from dummy, declarer called for ♥A and ♥J, on which he threw his last club. East, on lead with the ♥Q, still had a club exit for declarer to ruff in his hand so declarer had to open up spades from the North hand. The double finesse looks the easiest plan but this resulted in two spade tricks for the defence to put the contract one down. That was another 100 and 5 IMPs to China.

Had declarer played a spade at trick two, as he should have, he would in all likelihood have come to seven or probably even eight tricks. Not a good start for Japan, this way...

In the Singapore v Israel match, E/W managed to stay away from their doomed heart fit.

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nishita	Liao	Nakamuta	Li
–	Pass	1♣	Dble
Rdbl	1♦	1♥	3♦
4♥	All Pass		

As you can see, the Japanese E/W got as high as 4♥, only to find out that they should consider themselves lucky not to have been doubled. Nakamuta was two down for China +100.

In the Closed Room, there was an accident or two:

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wen	Yamamoto	Jiang	Song
–	Pass	1♣	Dble
Rdbl	1♦	Dble	All Pass



Naoya YAMAMOTO



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zamir	Lee	Toledano	Yang
–	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Opposite partner's Precision style 2♦ opening bid, which showed a three-suiter with diamond shortage, West went for the no trump contract rather than the known 4-4 fit. In a sense, he was quite right when the hearts did not break very well. Playing in 3NT meant one down rather than two and, what is more, no double; Singapore +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wu	Baniri	Teo	Loonstein
–	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦(♥)	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	Dble
4NT	Dble	All Pass	

In view of the awful diamond duplication, West was quite right to run after the double of 4♥, but it did not help him very much. Still, down two for +300 to Israel and 6 IMPs but 4♥ might have been even more expensive ☹️.

The next board was great fun for the neutral spectator but not so much for most declarers involved.



Xue Heng TEO

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Any black slam is on for E/W if you play spades from the top but do you have an indication to play like that?

Here are the China v Japan proceedings.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nishita	Liao	Nakamuta	Li
–	–	1♣	1♦
Dble	2♦	4♠	5♦
Pass	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Nakamuta made short work of the play. He ruffed the opening diamond lead, cashed the ♠A, drew the remaining trumps, and went home with all 13 tricks. Probably, South's overcall inspired him to this spectacular play; Japan +1010.

In the Closed Room, we saw the other side of this coin.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wen	Yamamoto	Jiang	Song
–	–	1♣	1♦
Dble	1♥	1♠	3♦
3♠	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

After mainly the same auction, Jiang also was in 6♠. He too ruffed the opening diamond lead, but his next move was to cross to dummy's ♣K for a spade finesse. When this lost to the king and South returned another diamond, he could not both draw trumps and get back to his hand, so he had to go down four. 'What was wrong with 6♣ if you want to be in a slam?' I had been wondering all the time. Anyway, the hand brought Japan 15 IMPs.

In the other match, they had the same problems, of course.



## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zamir	Lee	Toledano	Yang
–	–	1♣!	1♦
Dble	2♦	5♣	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
6♣	Dble	All Pass	

The Israelis followed my advice (see just above ☺) and settled for 6♣ to go down only one; Singapore +100.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wu	Baniri	Teo	Loonstein
–	–	1♣	1♦
2♣	2♦	4♦	5♦
Pass	Pass	6♠	All Pass

The Singaporeans had an interesting auction. Opposite the Strong Club, West showed majors and East showed a splinter before he bid the final contract over partner's forcing, or even non-forcing, pass. Playing the same way as his Chinese counterpart in our other match, declarer also went down four. This way, Israel scored just 3 IMPs.

The next board was more quiet. In the China v Japan match, both E/W pairs stopped in a spade partial for no swing. In the other match, however, the Singaporeans found yet another overbid.

## Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zamir	Lee	Toledano	Yang
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♠	Pass
Pass	1NT	2♠	All Pass

All quiet on the E/W front; Israel +140.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wu	Baniri	Teo	Loonstein
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♣	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

North simply held too many aces to let this youthful intervention go unpunished. One down, Israel another +200 for a useful 8 more IMPs.

Back again to China v Japan.

## Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nishita	Liao	Nakamuta	Li
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

A sound Japanese natural auction quickly led them to the proper contract; Japan +620,

In the other room, neither E/W player was able to put the brakes on after West's Drury-style response on his passed hand.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wen	Yamamoto	Jiang	Song
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Both 3♦ and 4♦ did not show diamond controls but 5♣ no doubt showed one key-card. From there, slam is a good shot if anyone is looking at a real diamond

control. However, the contract was two down; Japan another +200 and 13 more IMPs.

And:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ 10 8 2 ♥ 9 7 2 ♦ J 8 4 3 ♣ A K 7</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid magenta; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="margin: 0;">N W     E S</p> </div>	<p>♠ A J 5 3 ♥ K Q ♦ A 9 2 ♣ 9 5 4 3</p>	
<p>♠ K 9 6 ♥ A 6 4 3 ♦ K 10 5 ♣ Q 10 6</p>		<p>♠ Q 7 4 ♥ J 10 8 5 ♦ Q 7 6 ♣ J 8 2</p>	

Two boards later, a few declarers went astray in what looked like a pretty straightforward 3NT. The bidding had gone the equivalent of 1NT – 3NT at all tables.

The Chinese South led a diamond, which blew up the suit. Declarer won the nine in hand and continued a spade to dummy's nine and...North's ♠10 after a clear break in tempo. A diamond came back to declarer's ace and declarer crossed to dummy's ♠K and played another spade. In view of North's huddle before winning the ♠10, he came to the mistaken conclusion the North must also hold the ♠Q. This is why he played the jack from his hand. When this lost to South's queen, he had only eight tricks in what had looked like a cold affair after the lead. The TD had little sympathy for declarer's complaint about North's break in tempo. Whatever North's spade holding was, he would have nothing to think about in that suit so he must have been thinking about whatever other thing, e.g. what to continue.

Fumiharu NISHITA



Ilai Ilan BANIRI



At the other table, declarer, West this time, followed the same remarkable line in his 3NT after a diamond lead by North. He won South's queen with his king and immediately played a diamond to dummy's nine. Next came a club to the ten and North's king. North persisted with diamonds so dummy's ace won and declarer, here as well, tried a spade to his nine and dummy's ♠10. The 13th diamond was cashed but, when North played the ♣A next, the hand was over. Declarer probably would have gotten home anyway by playing for the spades to be 3-3. China thus scored +600, good for 12 IMPs to them.

In the Singapore v Israel match, the declarers once again had the same problems, of course.

In the Open Room, the Israeli declarer (West) simply made his contract when North led the ♣AK and another. That was +630.

In the other room, where East was declaring, South led a heart, the best lead for the defence. Now, with the club top honours both with North and the ♠Q in South, declarer could not come to nine tricks all on his own and thus had to concede one down in more orthodox fashion. Well defended by the Israelis for +100 and 12 IMPs to them.

The final scores in our two matches:

Singapore v Israel 4-32 IMPs, or 2.92-17.08 VPs.  
China v Japan 17-43 IMPs, or 3.27-16.43 VPs.



# U21 Round Robin, Round 10

## Japan v USA2

By Brian Senior

Japan lay fourth and USA2 fifth after nine rounds of the U21 event. Their Round 10 clash was therefore of considerable importance to both teams.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Hasegawa</i>	<i>Xiao</i>	<i>Inami</i>	<i>Yue</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Hu</i>	<i>Inoue</i>	<i>Zhou</i>	<i>Takizawa</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass

By one means or another, East making an artificial force to allow him to explore the hand more thoroughly, both Easts became declarer in 4♥.

Ken Takizawa led his singleton club, Yoshitake Inoue winning the ace and returning a suit-preference nine. Takizawa ruffed and did as requested, returning the jack of spades. The defence collected three spade tricks and five in all for down two -200.

Jonathan Yue led the jack of diamonds. Terushi Inami won the bare ace and drew trumps then played the ten of clubs and, when that was ducked, his remaining club. Rory Xiao won that one, but was caught. If he played on spades dummy's king would score, while playing the king of diamonds would only delay the inevitable, as declarer would simply discard a spade

and he Xiao would still be endplayed. In practice Xiao tried a low diamond return, but Inami got that right, discarding a spade, and soon had 12 tricks for +680.

That was not the end of the story, however. There had been some misinformation, presumably regarding the meaning of Inami's 2♠ rebid, and this was deemed to have affected the defence to the degree that the table 13 IMP swing was reduced to just 4 IMPs to Japan.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Hasegawa</i>	<i>Xiao</i>	<i>Inami</i>	<i>Yue</i>
-	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Hu</i>	<i>Inoue</i>	<i>Zhou</i>	<i>Takizawa</i>
-	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Yue opened a strong club after two passes. Xiao made a natural positive response and Yue showed his spades. When Xiao raised to 3♠, Yue went on to game. Hasegawa led the singleton club to dummy's queen and, of course a duck from Inami. Yue drew the ace then king of trumps and led a diamond to the jack and king. Back came a low heart to the king and ace and a second heart to dummy's jack. Yue led a diamond up but Inami rose with the ace and returned a club for Hasegawa to ruff; down one for -50.

Inoue opened 3♣ as dealer and Takizawa



converted to 3NT. Michael Hu led the right suit, a diamond, but chose the seven. Clearing the suit sets up the necessary tricks to beat the contract, but that seven didn't look that interested to Arthur Zhou, who won and switched to a spade. Takizawa now had time to win in hand and play ace and another club, after which he had all the tricks he required. On winning the ♣A, the defence cashed out its two red aces, but that was nine tricks for +400 and 10 IMPs to Japan, who had started the match very strongly.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hasegawa	Xiao	Inami	Yue
–	–	Pass	1♦
1♠	Pass	2♠	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Hu	Inoue	Zhou	Takizawa
–	–	Pass	1♦
1♠	Pass	3♠	Dble
All Pass			

Yue opened 1♦ then introduced his second suit over Inami's simple spade raise. When Inami bid a third spade, Yue called it a day. Xiao led the queen of diamonds against 3♠, Yue winning the ace and returning a small diamond. Hasegawa won the king and cashed the ace of spades then played the queen of clubs. Yue won and returned a low heart to the ten and queen, won declarer's next club play and returned the jack of diamonds. That was ruffed with the eight and over-ruffed with the ten, and Xiao returned a heart to his partner's ace for another diamond through, and that ensured a trick for the queen of spades, for down two and –100.

Takizawa too opened 1♦, but Zhou's pre-emptive raise to 3♠ meant that his options were to bid 4♣ or make a slightly less committal double. He

chose the latter, and Inoue left it in. The defence again started with the queen of diamonds to the ace and a diamond back to the king. Hu now found a good shot, leading a low spade and inserting the nine when Inoue played low. That gave him more control of the subsequent play than had Hasegawa in the other room. Hu continued with a club off the dummy. Takizawa won the king and cashed the ace before leading the jack of diamonds, ruffed with the seven and over-ruffed with the ten. Inoue returned a heart to Takizawa's ace and back came a diamond, but Hu could ruff with the ace, and his jack-eight were equals against the queen so that card could be picked up and Hu had the remainder of the tricks for down one, –100, and no swing.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ Q 9 8 6 3 2 ♥ A 8 ♦ K 4 3 ♣ Q 10		♠ A K J 10 4 ♥ 3 2 ♦ 9 8 6 ♣ A K J	♠ 7 ♥ 5 ♦ A J 10 7 5 ♣ 9 8 7 6 5 3
			♠ 5 ♥ KQJ109764 ♦ Q 2 ♣ 4 2

West	North	East	South
Hasegawa	Xiao	Inami	Yue
1♠	2NT	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Hu	Inoue	Zhou	Takizawa
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The American E/W pair were allowed a free run at this one, making it all very straightforward. Hu bid and rebid his spades, and Zhou jumped to 4♥ and played there. After the lead of the ace of spades, there were three more top tricks to be taken, so the contract was down one for –100.

At the other table, Xiao put a spanner in the works by overcalling 2NT, both minors. It really shouldn't have mattered, because Inami's jump to 4♥ had to show a better suit than West's spades, so unless you think that 4♥ also promises spade support, i.e. is a fit-jump, there is no reason to bid on. But bid on Hasegawa did, and 4♠ was not a success. The contract drifted four down for –400 and 7 IMPs to USA2.



## Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hasegawa	Xiao	Inami	Yue
–	1♦	Pass	3♣
Dble	Pass	3♦	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Hu	Inoue	Zhou	Takizawa
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
Dble	1♥	Pass	Pass
2♦	Dble	3♦	3♥
Dble	All Pass		

Xiao opened a Precision 1♦ and Yue responded with a natural and invitational jump to 3♣, which Hasegawa doubled for take-out. Inami responded 3♦ and Hasegawa left him to play there. After a heart lead and continuation, Inami had 10 tricks for +130.

Takizawa opened 1♣ in third seat and Inoue responded 1♥ after Hu's double. E/W bid and supported diamonds, then Takizawa seemed to have been rather indiscrete when he competed with 3♥ with only three-card support. Hu expressed the opinion that Takizawa had indeed been indiscrete, and his double ended the auction. Zhou led the jack of spades. Inoue rose with the ace and led a heart, Hu playing low. The king of hearts won the trick and a second heart was won by Zhou's queen. Now Zhou returned the eight of spades. Hu won the king, cashed the ace of hearts, and followed up with ace and another diamond. With the ten of hearts to come, that is one down, isn't it – three hearts, one spade and one diamond?

And yet both the BBO record and the official WBF scores give Inoue nine tricks for +730 and Japan 13 IMPs.

It is very frustrating. If Inoue did make it, as we must assume he did, how? At what point is the play record inaccurate?

## Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hasegawa	Xiao	Inami	Yue
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Hu	Inoue	Zhou	Takizawa
–	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Yue opened a strong club and showed his hearts over the natural positive response. When Xiao now bid 2NT, it was clear that there was no eight-card major-suit fit, so Tue closed proceedings with a raise to 3NT. Inami led the jack of clubs. Xiao ran this to his queen then cashed his top tricks, making 11 in all for +660.

Takizawa opened 1♥ and raised the 1NT response to game. Inoue now converted to 4♥ on his small doubleton support. That looks odd, doesn't it, but I wonder if Inoue was playing as I do, that any balanced hand which was strong enough to raise 1NT to 3NT should have opened 2NT in the first place. It follows, that 3NT is based on a long and strong heart suit, just as many would play 1♣/♦ – 1any – 3NT as based on long clubs or diamonds.

Anyway, 4♥ was not a great contract, particularly with trumps four-two and the ace offside. A club lead went to the queen, king and ace, and Takizawa cashed three rounds of diamonds for a club discard from hand, then played a heart to the ten, king and ace. He ruffed the club return and played a low heart round to Zhou's jack, and back came a third club. That was ruffed and over-ruffed, and there was the ♥Q to come, so one down for –100 and 13 IMPs to USA2.



Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hasegawa	Xiao	Inami	Yue
–	–	–	2♠
3♣	4♠	5♠	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
7♣	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Hu	Inoue	Zhou	Takizawa
–	–	–	2♠
3♣	3♠	4♠	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Both Souths opened 2♠ and both Wests overcalled 3♣. Inoue now raised to 3♠, but that caused no problems as Zhou could cuebid 4♠ in support of clubs, and now Hu liked his controls sufficiently that he jumped to the small slam. A spade was led but there was still a heart to be lost; 12 tricks for +920.

Xiao raised a level higher, to 4♠, and that did cause problems. Inami had to cuebid 5♠ if he wanted to make a slam try, so effectively it became a grand slam try. Hasegawa tried 5NT, got a negative response but went on to Seven anyway. Yes, he was guessing but, while the West hand is good, it is perhaps not quite so good as it looks, as if East is void in spades the ace is not pulling its usual weight. Xiao doubled 7♣ and cashed the ace of hearts for down one, –100, and 14 IMPs to USA2.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hasegawa	Xiao	Inami	Yue
3♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Hu	Inoue	Zhou	Takizawa
3♠	Dble	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

Both Wests opened 3♠. Xiao passed with the North hand and nobody else was even close to bidding, so Hasegawa became declarer in 3♠.

There were five top losers but, after a trump lead, one got away, allowing the contract home. Xiao led a trump, so Hasegawa won and drew two more rounds then led a club up. Xiao won the ace and played ace and another heart to the king. Yue could cash the ace of diamonds, but there was no longer an entry to the North hand for the ♦K, so the second diamond loser went away and Hasegawa had nine tricks for +140.

Inoue scraped up a double of 3♠ and Zhou raised to 4♠. A responsive double, left in, would have potentially netted +300, but Takizawa bid 4NT, two places to play, and the Japanese pair unwound into their heart fit. I don't agree with 4NT, much preferring double. If partner leaves that in, we weren't making five of anything, while at least if he takes it out we know that he is shapely and maybe we have a chance.

Five Hearts was way too high. Hu cashed the ace of spades then switched to the jack of diamonds round to Takizawa's bare ace. Takizawa ruffed a spade in dummy, cashed the ace and king of hearts, then ruffed his last spade. That was over-ruffed and, seeing that declarer must have long clubs, so that the danger for the defence was in helping him to establish that suit, he instead returned the eight of diamonds into dummy's tenace. Takizawa cashed the two diamond winners, throwing clubs from hand, then led a low club off the dummy and this held him to one club loser, so the contract was just down one for –100 but 1 IMP to Japan.

The final match score was 37-29 IMPs, in favour of USA2, converting to 12.44-7.56 VPs. The result saw Japan drop one place to fifth, and USA2 drop three places to eighth. As you will gather, the teams are very tightly bunched in this area of the rankings.





# U26 Round Robin, Round 12

## USA1 v Netherlands Israel v USA2

**By Jos Jacobs**

This round saw the confrontation between the two leading teams. They were scheduled to meet exactly at the half-way point of the 23 rounds to be played.

In another match, the second US team would face Israel, who had risen to 3rd place at this point.

The first board was a pretty cold slam but the Netherlands E/W pair did not master this hand, or rather the semi-psycho actions from North.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Z Grossack	V.d. Paverd	F Kolesnik
–	1♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	1NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	2♣	Dble	2♦
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

After all this bidding by North, it never occurred to East that his side was cold for a slam. Even West's descriptive splinter did not wake him up; The Netherlands +710.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg	Van Oosten	Kristensen	Thorpe
–	1♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	1♥	Dble	2♥
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Van Oosten, too, tried a semi-psycho bid at his 2nd turn but his babylike 1♥ did not trouble E/W too much. Yes, they were deprived of their heart fit but, when they settled for their alternative club fit, it soon became clear that there were enough tricks available in that inferior denomination, too; USA2 +1370 and their first 12 IMPs straight away.

In the other match, North introduced a more natural 1♠ over West's reopening double. South gave preference and West gave it another try, which extracted a bid from East.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duffie	Baniri	Wan	Loonstein
–	1♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	1♠	Pass	2♦
Dble	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

When West happily raised to game, USA2 got a safe enough +650 for making their contract with just one overtrick.



Cornelius DUFFIE



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Jeng</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>	<i>Xiao</i>
–	1♦	Pass	1♥
Dble	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♣	2♦	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♣	All Pass

In the Closed Room, the auction surprised me. I was wondering why East did not introduce his hearts after partner's 3♦ – a clearly investigative move.

When East signed off by means of about the weakest thing he could bid, West called it a day even below game level so Israel +170 but 10 IMPs to USA2.

The next board provided us with yet another slam.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>V.d. Pavverd</i>	<i>F Kolesnik</i>
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Even after South's sign-off over 3♠, North had enough in reserve to try once more. When he found three key-cards, he had every reason to venture the slam. East's lead of the ♠2 solved the problem in that suit and the rest was easy because there is only one chance of making if the trumps don't behave. Cash two top trumps, cash both minor suit AKs, and exit in trumps to leave West on play; USA1 +980.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Van Oosten</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Thorpe</i>
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Even the knowledge of a heart fit and a maximum 1NT could not push the Dutch North over the slam line. North did not go for the endplay and thus scored only +450, a loss of another 11 IMPs.

Board 16 is covered in a separate article.

The next board also was a matter of finding the correct lead as North after an entirely natural auction like e.g. by the USA2 E/W pair.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duffie</i>	<i>Baniri</i>	<i>Wan</i>	<i>Loonstein</i>
–	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North found the fine lead of a low club which left declarer chanceless; one down and Israel +50.



Qinqin WAN



## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Jeng</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>	<i>Xiao</i>
–	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣(♦)	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

On a diamond lead by North, declarer had ample time to concede to the ♠K and end up with even 11 tricks for another +460 and 11 IMPS to Israel.

Two boards later, a wild board passed by.

## Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>V.d. Pavverd</i>	<i>F Kolesnik</i>
–	–	–	1♦
4♥	4♠	Dble	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

On a heart lead by East, overtaken by West and a spade shift, declarer managed to go down three. The Netherlands thus scored +500.

It could be worse, however, because this is what happened at the other table.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Van Oosten</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Thorpe</i>
–	–	–	1♦
4♥	4♠	Dble	All Pass

After East's loud DOUBLE (an action now obsolete but quite customary in the olden days of rubber bridge ☺), South might have come to the rescue here as well but, when he did not, North had no choice but to go down four, so USA1 +800 and 7 more IMPS to them.

In the other match, we also saw a big number come along, a few boards later.

## Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duffie</i>	<i>Baniri</i>	<i>Wan</i>	<i>Loonstein</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	2NT	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

The misunderstanding is obvious from the auction. East's suits were not quite clear from the beginning and became more and more obscure as the auction progressed. Down four gave Israel +1100. More than enough, one would think.

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Jeng</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>	<i>Xiao</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

A far more civilised auction in the other room, resulting in a score of ♣140 to N/S, but still a14-IMP loss to China.

The final scores:

USA1 v Netherlands 42-1 IMPS, or 18.90-11.10 VPs, to put USA1 firmly in the lead at this stage.  
Israel v USA2, 43-27 IMPS, or 16.37-3.63 VPs.



## U26 RANKING

1	USA1	214.45
2	NETHERLANDS	194.40
3	ISRAEL	192.06
4	SWEDEN	176.85
5	CROATIA	168.59
6	GREECE	168.01
7	POLAND	165.08
8	FRANCE	160.95
9	SINGAPORE	152.29
10	CHINA	151.14
11	TURKIYE	149.42
12	JAPAN	139.86
13	USA2	137.96
14	ITALY	137.94
15	AUSTRALIA	136.75
16	CANADA	134.90
17	CHINESE TAIPEI	130.63
18	INDIA	121.62
19	HONG KONG CHINA	117.78
20	ENGLAND	103.54
21	ARGENTINA	101.47
22	GERMANY	95.12
23	ESTONIA	94.30
24	BARBADOS	9.89

## U16 RANKING

1	USA1	179.54
2	CHINA	158.89
3	HUNGARY	156.78
4	NORWAY	149.88
5	ESTONIA	146.16
6	THAILAND	141.45
7	CZECH REPUBLIC	132.96
8	POLAND	127.12
9	ISRAEL	126.38
10	HONG KONG CHINA	121.21
11	CHINESE TAIPEI	114.27
12	USA2	113.14
13	TURKIYE	112.83
14	FRANCE	109.50
15	ENGLAND	105.79
16	GREECE	105.41
17	CANADA	90.69
18	DENMARK	84.68
19	INDIA	65.23
20	NETHERLANDS	54.59

## WOMEN U26 RANKING

1	ENGLAND	162.64
2	DENMARK	155.60
3	FRANCE	152.47
4	NORWAY	148.81
5	ITALY	144.68
6	HUNGARY	133.46
7	POLAND	125.99
8	NETHERLANDS	125.30
9	CHINA	124.73
10	USA1	97.83
11	THAILAND	95.80
12	USA2	89.69

## U31 RANKING

1	ISRAEL	177.67
2	INDIA	174.15
3	CHINA	165.21
4	POLAND	155.55
5	BELGIUM	150.36
6	FRANCE	144.35
7	BULGARIA	132.96
8	CHINESE TAIPEI	129.79
9	NETHERLANDS	118.85
10	SCOTLAND	117.03
11	SINGAPORE	111.38
12	CROATIA	103.69
13	TURKIYE	101.84
14	HONG KONG CHINA	101.56
15	USA1	97.65
16	SLOVENIA	90.77
17	GERMANY	90.33
18	ROMANIA	78.09
19	SERBIA	72.04
20	LATVIA	70.94

## U21 RANKING

1	POLAND	164.11
2	USA1	158.02
3	DENMARK	155.22
4	ISRAEL	153.64
5	ENGLAND	146.59
6	USA2	142.82
7	FRANCE	142.56
8	JAPAN	139.59
9	CHINA	139.41
10	AUSTRALIA	133.83
11	NETHERLANDS	126.18
12	HONG KONG CHINA	124.73
13	NORWAY	117.31
14	NEW ZEALAND	111.33
15	HUNGARY	106.30
16	CANADA	87.56
17	INDIA	87.03
18	GERMANY	78.32
19	SINGAPORE	57.21
20	IRELAND	23.24

### Championship special

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