

18th World Youth Teams Championships

Veldhoven, Netherlands • 31 July - 7 August 2023

DAILY BULLETIN

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LAST CHANCE SALOON

Quite a few teams are already pretty secure in qualifying for the knock-out stages, but for many, outside the top eight, today is the Last Chance Saloon, where the rich promise which they have no doubt been showing finally needs to be turned into wins.

Going into the final day of qualifying, these are the leading teams in the rankings.

U16: USA1 are coasting at the top of the rankings with 245.73 VPs. They are followed, at a distance, by Hungary 216.68, China 206.37, and Estonia on 200.68. Eighth to eleventh are covered by fewer than 6 VPs, and teams down to 13th still have a realistic chance of qualifying.

U21: Poland leads on 221.04, from USA1 on 209.03, Israel 207.28, and China, 195.70. Again, teams down to thirteenth are still well in the hunt.

U26: USA1 leads on 284.72, from Netherlands on 272.07, Israel 255.50, and Sweden 224.84. Fourteenth is still within a match of the all-important eighth place.

U31: China leads on 221.03, followed by Israel 217.73, India 217.49, and Poland 207.36. Here, the top 11 seem to have real chances.

U26W: With eight from 12 to qualify, it looks as though there are nine teams still in contention for the knock-outs. Norway has moved into the lead on 215.64, and they are followed by England 208.99, Denmark 204.24, and France 202.61.



Explanations Revisited

Apologies to all players, but yesterday's notice about explaining bids in writing or by tablet was incorrect. Doing it via the tablets does not work.

BBO MATCHES TODAY

U26 Teams	20	9:30	NETHERLANDS	GREECE
U26 Teams	20	9:30	SWEDEN	CROATIA
U26 Teams	21	11:45	TURKIYE	POLAND
U26 Teams	21	11:45	CROATIA	USA1
U21 Teams	17	9:30	USA2	DENMARK
U21 Teams	18	12:00	POLAND	USA1
U31 Teams	17	9:30	BULGARIA	FRANCE
U31 Teams	18	12:00	CHINA	ISRAEL

BBO on the last round(s) to be decided

Gift Voucher

A book from the Bridgemuseum is waiting for you!
This voucher entitles you to:

1 Book at the stand near the hospitality desk

Please fill out your name & nationality on the backside of this voucher and return it before Friday August 4th. at 19:00 hrs.





Book #
224-822



MESSAGE FOR ALL CAPTAINS

The **Dutch Bridge Museum**

https://www.bridgemuseum.nl/ords/f?p=110:1000:12316638938199::NO::AI_LANGUAGE:en

has kindly offered free books for all U16 and U21 players participating in this championship.

There is no free choice, but you get random vouchers that correspond with certain books, and you will have six different books for sure.

Vouchers are given out by the Dutch hospitality desk through the captain of each team.

Not all captains have yet collected their vouchers and you are advised to do that quickly, as the latest time to get your books is Friday 19:00.

TRANSFERS

Dear all,

We are just halfway through the qualification of the World Championship but it is now time to plan the shuttles back to either Eindhoven Airport or Eindhoven Centraal railway station. Many of you who have used our shuttles on the way in (**although not all have yet paid for it** ... , please go to the hospitality desk) have already sent their requests for the travel back, but many are still missing.

May I therefore ask you to let me know, preferably Friday August 4 at the latest, what your wishes are regarding the shuttle. I would like to know:

for Eindhoven Airport

Time of scheduled departure of the flight, flight number, destination, number of seats you need

for Eindhoven Centraal railway station

What time you want to take a train, destination, number of seats you need. It is appr. 1.5 hours from Eindhoven to Schiphol airport, four times per hour of which two are direct and two others need one change.

This request applies also to those that have already been sent in earlier, just to be sure we have all of you on the right time to the correct destination.

Some advice and useful websites

Planning your train trip and more information about national railways:

<https://www.ns.nl/en/travel-information>

Please note you buy your ticket for the route on a specific day, not for a specific train and seat reservations are not possible. Buying tickets in advance is cheaper than buying at a vending machine.

There is a temporarily discount of 20% on one way tickets in off-peak hours, available through this site (but only in Dutch): <https://wegisweg.ns.nl/details/4>

You can save a lot of money by buying group tickets for the train, and why not combine with other teams or countries? Group tickets are already cheaper than 'normal' tickets from 2 people travelling and you can have a maximum of 7 in a group. But please note: you are also only allowed to travel off-peak hours (until 06:30, after 9:00 until 16:00 and after 18:30)

More information (in English):

<https://www.ns.nl/producten/en/meest-gekocht/p/groepsticket-daluren>.

Would you need help to book a ticket, please let me know. I can book all those tickets for you in just a minute and as they need to be printed (you **MUST** have them on paper) you need a printer anyway.

My desk is in room 22; in the morning until 09:00, usually right after dinner too, over the day just ask in the playing room and we'll find some time.

All Eindhoven Airport information can be found on <https://www.eindhovenairport.nl/en>

Are you travelling to Schiphol? The airport is known to possibly have long queues at the security check. There is an option to make a reservation for a time slot of 15 minutes where you have priority.

Have a look at <https://www.schiphol.nl/en/page/timeslots/> but please note the remarks under 'Good to know'

General website Schiphol Airport: <https://www.schiphol.nl/en/>

Want to buy something tax free? Here is a free voucher for € 5 discount

<https://www.schiphol.nl/en/at-schiphol/shop/shopping-at-schiphol-voucher>

Vriendelijke groet / Kind regards,

Marc van Beijsterveldt (onsite organiser / Head TD)

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<http://db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/23Veldhoven/microsite/Information.htm>

<http://championships.worldbridge.org/veldhovenwytc23>


U21 Round Robin, Round 12

USA1 v Denmark

By Brian Senior

Going into their twelfth round match in the U21 championship, USA1 were top of the rankings, while Denmark lay third, so this was easily the top match of the round.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>D Tylvad</i>	<i>Xu</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Schireson</i>
–	–	–	1♥
3♠	Dble	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhu</i>	<i>A Tylvad</i>	<i>Luba</i>	<i>Hammelev</i>
–	–	–	1♥
3♠	3NT	Dble	Pass
Pass	4♦	Dble	All Pass

Both Wests pre-empted with 3♠ over South's 1♥ opening, but the respective Norths followed different approaches to their invitational-range hand.

For USA1, Michael Xu made a negative double then passed Olivia Schireson's 4♣ response. Christian Lahrmann now supported his partner's spade with a small doubleton trump, and when that came round to Xu he doubled, to complete the auction.

Xu led his singleton heart, Daniel Tylvad winning the ace and playing a club, on which Schireson rose with the king to cash the king of hearts and ace of clubs, before continuing with the queen of hearts. Tylvad ruffed with the jack, so Xu discarded his last club, and the trump

promotion meant that there were two trump tricks to come for the defense. Tylvad took the diamond finesse to create a parking place for his club loser, and the two trump losers meant that he was down two for –300.

Where Xu had made a negative double, Aron Tylvad, for Denmark, preferred an optimistic 3NT. However, when Harrison Luba doubled that, he ran to what he hoped would be the relative safety of 4♦. That suited Luba very nicely, thank you very much, and he doubled again, concluding the auction.

Luba led the five of spades, Bo Han Zhu winning the ace and returning the jack to declarer's king. Tylvad ruffed his third spade as Luba pitched a club, then led the eight of diamonds and ran it, losing to the jack. Luba returned his remaining club, Tylvad winning the queen and playing the king of diamonds. That lost to the ace, and Luba played ace and another heart. Tylvad won the queen and king of hearts, discarding his remaining clubs from hand, then ruffed a club and just had to concede to the queen of diamonds, so was down two for –500 and 13 IMPs to USA1.



Aron TYLVAD

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ A Q 2			
♥ A 6			
♦ K Q 10 9 5			
♣ 10 8 5			
♠ 10		♠ J 9 7 4 3	
♥ 8 7 5 4 2		♥ 9 3	
♦ J 8 6		♦ 7 2	
♣ Q 4 3 2		♣ J 9 7 6	
	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>		
♠ K 8 6 5			
♥ K Q J 10			
♦ A 4 3			
♣ A K			

West	North	East	South
D Tylvad	Xu	Lahrmann	Schireson
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Zhu	A Tylvad	Luba	Hammelev
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	5NT
Pass	7NT	All Pass	

Two very straightforward auctions saw the N/S pairs bid to the cold grand slam. Schireson used Stayman then jumped all the way to 7NT, while Nikolaj Hammelev also used Stayman but then contented himself with a jump to 5NT, inviting Seven, and accepted by Tylvad. It was flat at +1520.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A Q J 2			
♥ J 9 7 5			
♦ J 10 6			
♣ 6 5			
♠ 9 3		♠ 8 7 5 4	
♥ 8 6 4 2		♥ Q 10 3	
♦ A K Q 8 5		♦ –	
♣ K 10		♣ Q J 9 8 4 3	
	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>		
♠ K 10 6			
♥ A K			
♦ 9 7 4 3 2			
♣ A 7 2			

West	North	East	South
D Tylvad	Xu	Lahrmann	Schireson
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	2♣	Dble	2♦
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Zhu	A Tylvad	Luba	Hammelev
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♥	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Dble	All Pass	

It has been noted in the past that it is rarely a good idea for the same team to declare doubled contracts in the same denomination at both tables. The outcome on this deal will not affect anyone's belief in that principle.

At our first table, Lahrmann doubled Stayman, Schireson showed diamonds, and Tylvad doubled that. The Americans judged to stay in their five-three fit rather than revert to NT, and Tylvad led out all three top diamonds, Lahrmann discarding three clubs, then switched to the king of clubs, which was ducked, then the ten of clubs, overtaken by Lahrmann but won by declarer. Schireson cashed the nine of diamonds then led a spade to the queen, back to the ♠K, and the third spade. But Tylvad ruffed that and Schireson was left with a club loser at trick 13 so was down one for –200.

The contract could, and should, have been made. After cashing the nine of diamonds, declarer needs to continue with the seven to West's eight. She wins the return and has the rest of the tricks.

Hammelev opened 1♦, promising four cards in the suit, and Tylvad responded 1♥. When Luba overcalled 2♣, Hammelev passed and Zhu bid 2♦, no doubt imagining a possible NT game facing a two-level overcall. When Luba signed off in 3♣, Zhu had one more try with 3♦, and Tylvad doubled. Clearly



Harrison Anders LUBA

E/W were on different wavelengths, as this ended the auction but, to be fair, they were long past the level at which they could make anything. Tylvad led a heart, so Hammelev won the ace then the king to show a doubleton, then switched to the ten of spades in response to Tylvad's suit-preference nine. Tylvad overtook to give his partner a heart ruff, and now Hammelev played the king of spades, which was allowed to hold the lead, and his third spade, which Zhu ruffed. Zhu cashed the top diamonds then played the king of clubs, Schireson winning and returning the suit. There was still the nine of diamonds to be lost, but the fourth heart went away on a club; down three for -800 and 14 IMPs to Denmark.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>D Tylvad</i>	<i>Xu</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Schireson</i>
–	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhu</i>	<i>A Tylvad</i>	<i>Luba</i>	<i>Hammelev</i>
–	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Luba opened 1♠ then rebid 3♣, and finally 3NT, against which Hammelev led the ten of diamonds round to declarer's queen. Luba played on clubs, but Hammelev ducked both the king and ten, so Luba had to change tack, leading dummy's spade to the eight, nine and ten. Hammelev returned the five of diamonds to the seven and eight, and Tylvad cashed the ace of diamonds then led the fourth diamond to dummy's king. Luba crossed to the king of hearts to play a club, but Hammelev won the jack with the ace and exited with the nine of clubs to declarer's queen, so Luba had to lead away from the ♠KJ at trick 12 and the contract was down two for -200.

Lahrmann opened 1♠ but rebid 2NT, which may look a touch crude, but proved to be highly effective, as Tylvad jumped to 4♥, expecting to have an eight-card fit. Not to worry, the bare king proved to be just as good as a small doubleton might have been. Xu cashed the ace of diamonds, on which Schireson played a discouraging ten. He switched to the eight of clubs, Schireson winning the ace and Tylvad dropping the king. Schireson continued with a suit-preference nine of clubs, but Xu was not ruffing. Tylvad won the ♣10, crossed to the king of hearts, and discarded his spade loser on the queen of clubs. Though that was ruffed by Xu, the heart queen came down doubleton so Tylvad had the rest; 10 tricks for +620 and 13 IMPs to Denmark.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>D Tylvad</i>	<i>Xu</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Schireson</i>
–	–	–	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
7♣	Pass	7NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhu</i>	<i>A Tylvad</i>	<i>Luba</i>	<i>Hammelev</i>
–	–	–	2♥
Dble	3♥	Dble	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

This time it was E/W's turn to have a cold grand slam, and both pairs bid it without difficulty.

Tylvad opened 2♣ and Lahrmann responded with a waiting 2♦ bid. When Tylvad now showed his clubs, Lahrmann raised and, on getting a diamond cuebid from Tylvad, asked for key-cards. If partner could do that, then Tylvad was sure that there must be at least 13 tricks available with his monster, so he jumped to 7♣, and Lahrmann converted to 7NT; +1520.

Zhu and Luba had an opposing 2♥ bid to contend

with. That showed at least five-four in the majors and, systemically, 5-10 HCP. Well, if you have these toys available to you you want to use them as often as you can (but maybe the CC should be amended?). Zhu doubled, Tylvad raised pre-emptively to 3♥, and Luba made a responsive double. What else could Zhu do but jump to 7♣? This time there was no conversion to 7NT, so USA1 scored +1440 and that meant a 2 IMP swing to Denmark.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>D Tylvad</i>	<i>Xu</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Schireson</i>
Pass	1♠	2NT	3♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Dble	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhu</i>	<i>A Tylvad</i>	<i>Luba</i>	<i>Hammelev</i>
Pass	1♠	4♣	Dble
All Pass			



Phillip HAMMELEV

When Tylvad opened 1♠ on his right, Luba might have used the Unusual NT to get across the two-suited nature of his hand, but instead opted for a less revealing jump to 4♣. Less revealing, perhaps, but also getting to the poorer of the two possible minor-suit fits, and that mattered when Hammelev made a negative double and Tylvad left it in.

Hammelev led the ten of spades, Tylvad winning the ace and switching to the singleton diamond. Hammelev won the queen and ace of diamonds then played a third round for Tylvad to ruff. He played king then queen of hearts, Hammelev overtaking and continuing with the jack, which Luba ruffed. With no way to get to dummy to play a club, Luba had to lose to both the king and queen, so was down five for -1100.

That would be OK if team-mates could bid and make 6♥ in the other room, but a disaster if the slam went down. There, Lahrmann overcalled 2NT to get both minors into the action, and Schireson could bid 3♣ to show a forcing hand with hearts. Xu splintered in support of hearts then went on with Key-card over Schireson's sign-off, then raised to slam on finding his partner with two.

Tylvad led the seven of clubs to the king and ace and Lahrmann returned the jack to dummy's queen. Mindful of the auction, Schireson took the diamond finesse and just needed the top spades to stand up, after which she would have a safe crossruff for 12 tricks. Alas, when she next attempted to cash the ace and king of spades the king was ruffed and the contract was down one for -100 and 15 IMPs to Denmark.

That added to the Danish lead and they came out on top by 51-24 IMPs, converting to 16.55-3.45 Vps. The loss meant that Poland took over from USA1 at the top, the Americans slipping to second and Denmark remaining in third place.



Bo Han ZHU

U26 Round Robin, Round 14

USA1 v China Netherlands v USA2

By Jos Jacobs

For Wednesday afternoon's last match, the choices were once again the matches played by the two leading teams. In the Netherlands v USA2 match, the players managed to keep the boards relatively quiet. The only exception was the very first board, so here it is.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Xiao	V.d Paverd	Jeng	Nijssen
–	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

For USA2, the three-suited 2♦ opening did not help them too much. East showed his 3-4-1-5 by responding 3♠ but, after that, the club fit did not play a role any more. When South did not find the lead of the ♣A and another, 12 tricks were made, so USA2 +680.

In the other room, the Dutch reached the wrong slam easily enough.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Thorpe	Lin	Van Oosten	Duffie
–	Pass	1♣	1♦
2♥(♠)	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♥	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

When South led the ♦6, the spade slam was made in comfort. The Netherlands had +1430 and an immediate 13 IMPs to them.

Talking about the lead: I noticed that with West the declarer, North led his singleton club, which was the ♣3, ♣4 or ♣5, according to the records. This being only an interesting thing to know, or not even that, more important definitely was that this singleton lead did not always defeat the slam... One unlucky South led the ♣A against 6♠ but he could not read partner's ♣4 as a singleton so the slam was made against him, too...⊗

Full credit, however, goes to the Australian E/W on this board. They were the only pair to get to the correct slam. Here is their auction.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Libman	Maide	Langdon-M.	Kaasik
–	Pass	1♣	1♦
1♠	5♦	Pass	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

To underline the E/W fine bidding, the opponents doubled the final contract to concede +1540 to Australia. As their team-mates as N/S managed to get themselves doubled in 3♦ for another +670, the swing was a mere 19 IMPs.



Richard JENG

After this long introduction, now over to the USA 1 v China match.

On this, the opening board, both teams missed the slam, so I will skip that and go straight to the next board.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Li	Z Grossack	Liao	F Kolesnik
–	–	1♠	2♣
Pass	Pass	2♦	2♥
2♠	4♥	All Pass	

A suit is a suit, South must have thought at his second turn. USA1 chalked up +420 when both the ♠A and the ♥Q were well placed for declarer.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kristensen	Wen	Rosenberg	Jiang
–	–	1♠	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	3♣
Dble	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Sibrand VAN OOSTEN

When South in the Closed Room spurned his heart suit, there was no way back. East did well to remove partner's double but his 3♦ was not a success either, the only merit of it being that someone forgot to double. Down three was worth only +150 to China and thus 7 IMPs to USA1, rather than 2 IMPs to China.

Please note that E/W were very close to making 4♠...

Two boards later:

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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



In the Netherlands v USA2 match, the Dutch had a problem.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Xiao	V.d Paverd	Jeng	Nijssen
1NT	All Pass		

For systemic reasons, or whatever, North did not overcall after West opened 1NT. So West played there and easily made an overtrick for USA2 +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Thorpe	Lin	Van Oosten	Duffie
1NT	2♦	All Pass	

Yufan LIAO

In the Closed Room, North could produce a natural overcall and East could hardly produce any noises. So North's 2♦ became the final contract and this was also made for another +90 and 6 IMPs to USA2. They had registered a double partscore swing.

Back again to USA1 v China.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 9 8 7 5
 ♥ A J 3
 ♦ Q 5
 ♣ K J 8 4

♠ K 6
♥ 8 2
♦ A K J 9 7 3 2
♣ 6 5

♠ A 3
♥ Q 9 7 6
♦ 8 6
♣ A 10 9 3 2

♠ Q J 10 4 2
♥ K 10 5 4
♦ 10 4
♣ Q 7

On this board, the Chinese E/W showed too much enthusiasm. The costs were a mere -500 with 4♠ nowhere near making. This was the auction at that table.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Liao</i>	<i>F Kolesnik</i>
–	1♣	1♠	Dble
2♣(♦)	Pass	2♦	Dble
3♦	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

In the other room, N/S were soon in trouble.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Wen</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Jiang</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
3♦	3♥	All Pass	

When North passed as dealer, South tried a semi-psycho opening bid in 3rd position on a four-card suit only. This did not work out too well. Down two scored another +100 and 12 IMPs to USA1.

A few boards later, there was another double partscore swing.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ A K 9 6 4
♥ 7 5 3
♦ Q 8 5 2
♣ 4

♠ 8 3
♥ 8
♦ A J 9 7 4
♣ A Q J 8 5

♠ Q J
 ♥ K Q 9 4 2
 ♦ 6 3
 ♣ K 9 3 2

♠	10 7 5 2
♥	A J 10 6
♦	K 10
♣	10 7 6

These were the auctions in our two rooms.

Open Room

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Wen</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Jiang</i>
—	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
3 ♣	All Pass		

An interesting difference in approach or style. Grossack judged his North hand not worth an opening bid but he inserted an overcall later on which helped partner to find the right solution. Wen found an opening bid on minimal values and thus refrained from any further competition.

Both contracts made easily enough. In fact, 3♠ made with an overtrick when declarer, playing only 3♠, had to neglect the restricted choice option because of the ruffing dangers. He won the ♥K lead and immediately played off two top trumps. USA 1 +170.





In 3♣, there were no problems for declarer either, with the ♦K10 coming down. USA1 gained another +110 and 7 more IMPs to them.

The penultimate board of the set nearly was a slam. The Chinese wisely stayed out of it.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Li	Z Grossack	Liao	F Kolesnik
–	–	–	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West's 3♦ confirmed the club fit but East felt he was not strong enough to give it another try. That was well judged, and China scored +600 only when North made the remarkable lead of the ♥10.

In the Closed Room, West's 4♣ support bid ate up too much investigative room.

Closed Room

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

The diamond duplication thus remained unnoticed and the poor slam was reached. It was down two on a heart lead by South, so. China collected another +200 and 13 IMPs to them.

The last board of the set, and in fact of the day, was a guessing case. Or was it? One might doubt it because both E/Ws participated in the auction by bidding and supporting spades.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Li	Z Grossack	Liao	F Kolesnik
2♠	Dble	3♠	Dble
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

At this table, the most interesting position occurred. Why did East not lead a spade? Did he not want to give away the position or whatever? His diamond lead did not help declarer at all, so it was no surprise that declarer later misguessed the spades by leading up to dummy's jack. That was one down and China +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kristensen	Wen	Rosenberg	Jiang
2♠	3♥	3♠	4♥
All Pass			

In the other room, it was also North who had become the declarer, but here East led the ♠A. Curtains. China scored another +420 and another 10 IMPs to them. They had managed to reduce their 30-IMP deficit to a quite respectable 34-27 IMP defeat only, or 7.69-12.31 VPs.

In the other match, The Netherlands beat USA2 by 30-14 IMPs, or 14.7-5.3 VPs.



Defensive Intra-finesse

By Paul Barden (England U16 npc)

I was impressed with the defence found by Harriet Cork and Thomas Bradkin on the first board of our Round 11 match against Chinese Taipei.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Cheng	Cork	Chan	Bradkin
–	1♦	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Harriet Cork, North, opened 1♦ – I thoroughly approve of opening 11-counts at love all – East overcalled 1NT, then West transferred to spades and bid 3NT, which became the final contract.

Thomas Bradkin, naturally, led his partner's suit, and intelligently chose the nine, which had the effect of taking an 'intra-finesse' – the defence can now establish the diamonds for only one loser.

Declarer won the first trick with the jack and tried the spade finesse, which lost, and now Harriet played her part by returning the queen of diamonds to the king and ace, pinning dummy's ten. Thomas cashed the eight of diamonds then continued the fine defence by switching to a club, rather than leading a fourth diamond which his partner would have had to win and which would have left her with no effective exit card. Declarer had to take dummy's ace to avoid going off at once but, with the spades blocked, he could take only two tricks in the suit and, despite the friendly lie of the hearts, could come to only eight in all.

At the other table, the three of diamonds lead went to the queen and ace (North could have brought off the same intra-finesse by playing the seven, but couldn't possibly know to do that). Will Battersby took the spade finesse, the defence played more diamonds, and so declarer made 11 tricks. That was 11 IMPs to England, and an eventual narrow win in the match.

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U26 Round Robin, Round 15

Singapore v Sweden Australia v Netherlands

By Jos Jacobs

On Thursday morning, one of the two matches on display was pretty vital for both teams. Neither Singapore nor Sweden could afford a big defeat. Both needed a win to keep their chances for the knock-outs intact, especially Singapore who started the day in 9th position. Sweden and certainly the Netherlands were in a more comfortable position already, whereas Australia would nearly need a miracle to make it into the top eight from here.

Australia were off to a good start when their East player did not overcall.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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



At both tables, N/S were in the obvious 3NT, but Wright, East for Australia, could not overcall because North had opened 1NT, raised to three by South. East can hardly be blamed for leading a low spade but, when declarer immediately called for dummy's ace rather than running it successfully to his ten, he was quickly one down, so Australia +50.

At the other table, North opened 1♦, so East immediately put a 1♠ overcall in. South bid 3NT and West led the ♠6 next, which gave away the position in the suit. Declarer could now establish an overtrick in comfort, for another +430 to Australia and their first 10 IMPs.

The next board was a slam for N/S but you had to be launched into it.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



Castor MANN

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sandin	Wu	Clementsson	Teo
–	–	3♥	Pass
4♥	Dble	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

When West led the ♠A, declarer's problems were over; Singapore +1370.

In the Closed Room, they all were one level lower.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lee	Hansson	Yang	Mann
–	–	2♥	Pass
3♥	Dble	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

At this table West led a heart, but it did not matter anyway. Sweden scored +620 but that meant 13 IMPs to Singapore.

On the next board, there was an accident.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Singapore v Sweden:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sandin</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Teo</i>
-	-	-	1♠
3♣	3♠	5♦	Dble
6♣	Dble	All Pass	

It looks to me that East's 5♦ was primarily intended as lead-directing. A diamond lead would certainly have worked well for the defence against a possible 5♠ by N/S. The final contract was not a great success, however; Singapore +1400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Mann</i>
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

When West did not overcall at all, N/S peacefully settled for their normal contract. On a diamond lead, it was a quick and painless one down for another +50 and 16 IMPs to Singapore.

Australia v Netherlands:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Tomlin</i>	<i>V.d. Paverd</i>	<i>Gue</i>
-	-	-	1♠
3♣	3♠	4♣	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

East's double suggested anything but a club lead. West had a good singleton available and led it; one down for Netherlands +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Flicker</i>	<i>Caris</i>	<i>Wright</i>	<i>Dupont</i>
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

In view of declarer's announced singleton, West tried the ♣A first. Declarer immediately ruffed it, probably to West's disgust, and went on to make even 11 now easy tricks; Netherlands +450 and 11 IMPs back to them.

Two boards later, we saw a swing in the Singapore-Sweden match, when one declarer found the winning line in a normal enough 4♠. There had not been any opposition bidding.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

The Swedish declarer (East, after West's transfer response) won South's heart lead with the ace and immediately led a low spade to the ace in dummy. Another spade now went to the queen and South's king and South persisted with hearts. Dummy threw a club but, when North won the ♥K and continued the suit, dummy had to ruff. Declarer crossed to her hand with a club to take the diamond finesse but, because she had lost control already, she could only give North his ♦K trick and suffer a ruff in the suit next. That was one down; Singapore +50.

In the Closed Room, West was the declarer and North led a club. Dummy's ace was called for and the ♠Q came next, covered by king and ace. Declarer then played the ♣Q to South's king. A heart came back to dummy's ace and declarer's next move was a spade to the eight. From here, declarer could simply cash the ♠J and concede a diamond to North's king, so just made, Singapore another +420 and 10 IMPs

to them.

Two boards later, the scorers were put to work once again.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sandin	Wu	Clementsson	Teo
—	—	—	2♠
3♥	4♠	All Pass	

After South's Polish-style 2♠ opening bid, 4♠ looks the normal contract, but when West led a top heart and continued a low diamond, declarer fell for it, of course. He put up dummy's ace but East ruffed and pushed a club through. One down because declarer still had to lose a club and a diamond; Sweden +100.

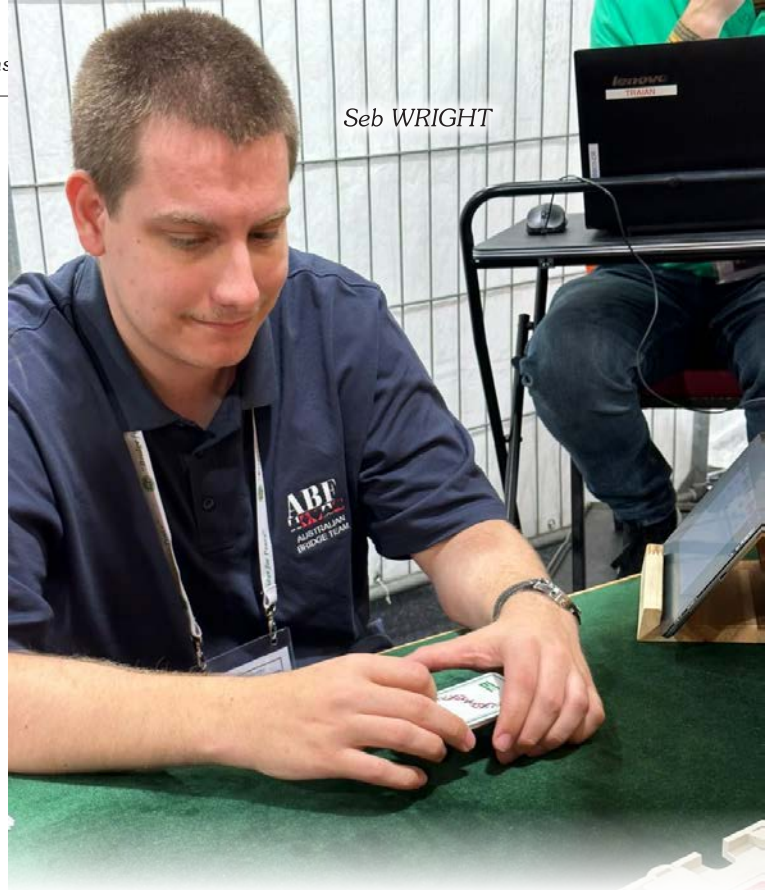
We will come back to this board in a separate article elsewhere in this Bulletin ☺

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lee	Hansson	Yang	Mann
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			



Linus LEE



Seb WRIGHT

When South did not open, the Swedes managed to get to 3NT, which proved unbeatable once East led his partner's suit rather than a club. Even after a club lead from East, declarer can still make but he would need a direct diamond finesse ☺. Declarer even made an overtrick for +630 to Sweden and 12 IMPs back to them.

In the Australia v Netherlands match, both tables reached 4♠ but with different outcomes.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Tomlin	V.d. Pavverd	Gue
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

East led a heart to partner's ace and a low diamond came back. Declarer called for dummy's ace and thus went one down, the same way as his Singaporean counterpart, as mentioned above; Netherlands +100.

In the other room, this was the auction.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Flicker	Caris	Wright	Dupont
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Dble	2♥	4♠
All Pass			

When West led a trump, declarer was out of trouble immediately. Netherlands another +650 and 13 IMPs to them when West got endplayed eventually. .

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

When the Australian South passed North's 3♠ opening bid, the Dutch had gained another 7 IMPs.

In the Sweden v. Singapore match, there was no swing because neither North opened 3♠, so both N/S pairs stayed out of trouble and reached their game easily.

On the next board, however...

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Tomlin	V.d. Pavard	Gue
–	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Nobody could double this because there were at least three higher and better contracts available. Why not mention your lowest suit first, I was asking myself...It was down three; Australia +300. The higher opening bid had done its job once again.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Flicker	Caris	Wright	Dupont
–	2♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Simple and effective. Australia another +630 and 14 IMPs to them.

On the next board in the Australia v Netherlands match they stayed out of game at both tables. In the other match, however, both N/S pairs went for it, without any adverse bidding.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Both Wests led a spade to East's queen and both declarers won the king immediately. Their next move was to run the ♦J (why not a low diamond?) which got covered all round. Both Easts, on lead with the ♦A, continued the ♠8. Both declarers covered this with the jack but the respective West players did not both take their ace.

For Sweden, Sandin took the ace and exited in hearts. From there, declarer could not get more than eight tricks because West still had a spade tenace over declarer; one down, +100 to Sweden.

In the replay, the play started the same way, but here West played low to declarer's ♠J, thus keeping



Damon FLICKER

communications intact and also presenting declarer with his 9th trick. That was another +600 and 12 IMPs back to Sweden. Singapore won the match eventually by 40-28 IMPs, or 13.71-6.29 VPs.

With this last sentence I implied that nothing of great importance happened in the Singapore v Sweden match on the last two boards. The opposite was true in our other match, Australia v Netherlands. Here are those boards.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Tomlin	V.d. Paverd	Gue
–	–	–	1♦
1♠	Dble	2♦	2♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Declarer had too much work to do here and just could not come to his required 10 tricks, so one down; Australia +50.



Pim DUPONT



Youp CARIS

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Flicker	Caris	Wright	Dupont
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Dble	3♥
Pass	4♥	Dble	All Pass

Left to their own aggressive devices, N/S easily reached 4♥. East then expressed a view about this contract to which both West and I fully agree. Down four for +800 meant 13 IMPs to Australia.

And another big swing on the final board:

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

In the Sweden v Singapore match, we saw two different but equally effective auctions.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sandin	Wu	Clementsson	Teo
Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

South's 1NT, with only a single spade stopper, would not have been everybody's choice, but it worked very well here. There were two overtricks on a spade lead, so Singapore +660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lee	Hansson	Yang	Mann
2♥	Pass	3♥	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the Closed Room, West found an opening bid and spades were never mentioned. On a heart lead, however, declarer had the same nine top tricks and no more than that. Sweden +600 and 2 IMPs to Singapore.

The big swing occurred in the other match.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Tomlin	V.d. Pavverd	Gue
Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT
2♠	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

One loser in each side suit meant that declarer had to go one down, so Netherlands +100.

No nonsense once again in the Closed Room.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Flicker	Caris	Wright	Dupont
Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT
2♠	Dble	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	



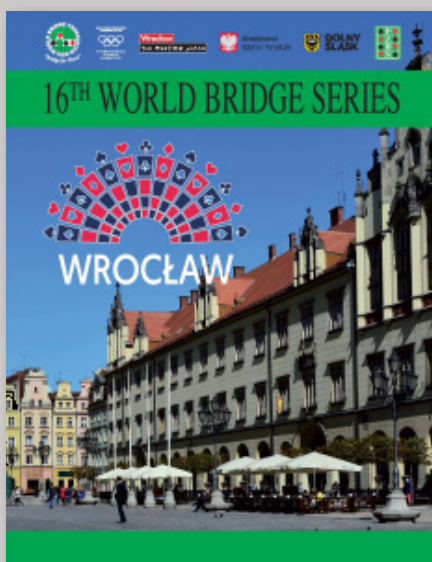
Erik HANSSON

Just made, Netherlands +600, and an immediate 12 IMPs back to them. They thus won the match by 48-40 IMPs or 12.61-7.39 VPs.

DAILY BULLETIN

If you have a good hand for the Bulletin, you can find us in Room 23, or can send an email to:

bsenior@hotmail.com



WROCLAW 2022

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

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

NICE SWITCH, BUT..

Carlos Pellegrini, npc of the Argentina U21 team, came in to see us with a nice hand from his team's match against England.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Popowsky	Hutton	Feintuch	Sanderson
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Winter	Etchepareborda	Anoyrkatis	Guerra
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	Dble	3♥	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Both Wests opened 1♥.

For England, Aaron Hutton overcalled 1NT and Liam Sanderson transferred to spades then showed his diamonds, and the partnership were soon in 4♠.

Francisco GUERRA



Clara Feintuch led a heart and Tomas Popowsky won the king and switched to the six of diamonds, a nice play. Hutton put up the ace and Feintuch ruffed – and the contract was doomed, all thanks to that nice low diamond switch. There simply hadn't been enough E/W bidding for declarer to be sure of the diamond layout.

At the other table, Baltazar Etchepareborda, for Argentina, doubled the opening bid and Sam Anoyrkatis added to the list of manic pre-emptive bids we have seen in the last 10 days with a jump to 3♥ on his three small. Three Hearts did not prove to be sufficient to silence South, Francisco Guerra, who competed with 3♠ and was raised to game by Etchepareborda.

Daniel Winter led the king of hearts and, on seeing dummy and partner's count card, also made the same nice switch to the six of diamonds – but Guerra made an even nicer play, when he called for a low card from dummy! Anoyrkatis got his ruff, but there was just one club to come and declarer was home with his vulnerable game. Very well played.



Squeezes come in all shapes and sizes

By Brian Senior

Eric Bô sent in a message to point out an interesting ending on this deal from Round 12 of the U31 championship.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Dble	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Dble	All Pass

This was the auction at one table, 2♠ followed by 3♣ of course being an attempt to play in the latter contract.

West led the nine of spades, declarer winning in dummy to preserve his spade entry to hand for later in the play. Declarer led a low heart off the dummy and East played low, so he won the ♥J and played a second heart. That did not look so good when East won the queen and ace of hearts then played a fourth round.

It may not have looked so good for declarer, but it actually meant that the contract was now cold as the cards lay. Can you see it?

Declarer wins the fourth heart and cashes all the spades, and neither opponent can afford to discard a diamond, else a diamond to the queen and a diamond back sets up two tricks in the suit while declarer still has the ace of clubs to get back in with. So both defenders must come down to a singleton club and, if declarer has read the position correctly, dummy has two cards in each minor. He cashes the ace of clubs and leads low towards the ♦Q, and the small club is his tenth trick. Both defenders have been squeezed in the same two suits.

The best chance for the defence is for East to keep two clubs and two diamonds, and West three diamonds. Now declarer has to come down to three diamonds in dummy, else East can rise with the ace on the first diamond and return a club, leaving the diamonds blocked.

Sadly for us, declarer did not find this position in real life, so was down one.



VOTE FOR THE JOAN GERARD YOUTH AWARDS!

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U26 Round Robin, Round 16

Greece v Croatia Israel v Poland

By Jos Jacobs

The second round on Thursday morning was a little more quiet than the round before. Especially in the Israel v Poland match, very little happened until they reached the last three boards to really make up for the lost ground. So I will first of all have a look at the other match: Greece v Croatia, two teams both within the top eight at that moment.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilusic</i>	<i>Kritsalis</i>	<i>Evacic</i>	<i>Skordas</i>
–	–	–	Pass
2♥	Dble	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Panagiotis SKORDAS

Well, 3NT (preferably by North) would have been a much better contract, but many N/S pairs ended up in their 5-3 fit. When West led the ♦A and East contributed the ♦3, West played his partner for the ♣A rather than the ♥A and thus the contract was made easily enough; Greece +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pollatou</i>	<i>Ferenca</i>	<i>Papaspyrou</i>	<i>Leskovar</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

East led the ♣J to declarer's queen but this lead did not help declarer very much. He still had to locate the diamond,s and when he started off after drawing trumps, by playing a diamond to dummy's jack, he lost three tricks in the suit and thus was one down. Greece had another +100 and 12 IMPs to them.

The next board was amusing, at least for the neutral kibitzer.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilusic</i>	<i>Kritsalis</i>	<i>Evacic</i>	<i>Skordas</i>
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

With nothing to guide him, North simply tried his longest suit. When this hit the side entry to

partner's solid diamonds, the contract was two down immediately, for Greece +200.

In the other room, West could not open 1NT and therefore E/W were never in danger of falling overboard.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pollatou</i>	<i>Ferenca</i>	<i>Papaspyrou</i>	<i>Leskovar</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♦
Dble	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Lacking a diamond stopper, they settled for a partscore which proved to be a good idea; Greece another +130 and 8 more IMPs to them.

And two boards later:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

♠ A 7 4
 ♥ 3 2
 ♦ Q 8 6 4
 ♣ A K 7 5

♠ 10 5 3 2
 ♥ A Q 8 6
 ♦ A 9 2
 ♣ Q 8

♠ K Q 6
 ♥ K J 7
 ♦ K J 10
 ♣ J 9 4 3

N
 W E
 S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilusic</i>	<i>Kritsalis</i>	<i>Evacic</i>	<i>Skordas</i>
–	–	1♣	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dble	1♥	Dble	All Pass

Sometimes, you run into this type of useless hands. It is always a dubious pleasure to even become declarer with this North hand. East led a trump to North's nine and another trump was continued. This time, East grabbed his ace and cashed the ♣Q before exiting with a trump to dummy's king. The ♠K came next, ducked all round, but West won the club continuation and led a diamond to partner's ace. East cashed the ♥Q and put the contract three down by continuing a diamond. That was +800 to Greece.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Pollatou</i>	<i>Ferenca</i>	<i>Papaspyrou</i>	<i>Leskovar</i>
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

When East did not open at the other table, the Greeks had missed the chance of a push board. West made his contract with an overtrick for +120 but the Croats had won 12 IMPs back.

Over now to Poland and Israel. On the board below, we saw the so far biggest swing of the championships, I think.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ J 5 4 2
 ♥ 10 9 5
 ♦ 6 2
 ♣ J 9 5 3

♠ 9
 ♥ A J 8
 ♦ Q 9 7
 ♣ A K Q 8 6 2

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

♠ A 6 3
 ♥ K Q 7 4 2
 ♦ A K J
 ♣ 7 4

N
 W E
 S

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kopka</i>	<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Cichy</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>
–	–	1♥	2♠
3♠	4♠	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass
7♥	All Pass		

An easy auction to a very good contract. Poland
+2210.



Yes, the Greeks duly found their sacrifice in 7♠ when the Croats also reached 7♥. They were the only pair to do so but, because their team-mates had stopped bidding in 6♥, the board cost the Greeks 1 IMP after all.

At the other table in the Israel v Poland match, however, East had the very last word.

Closed Room

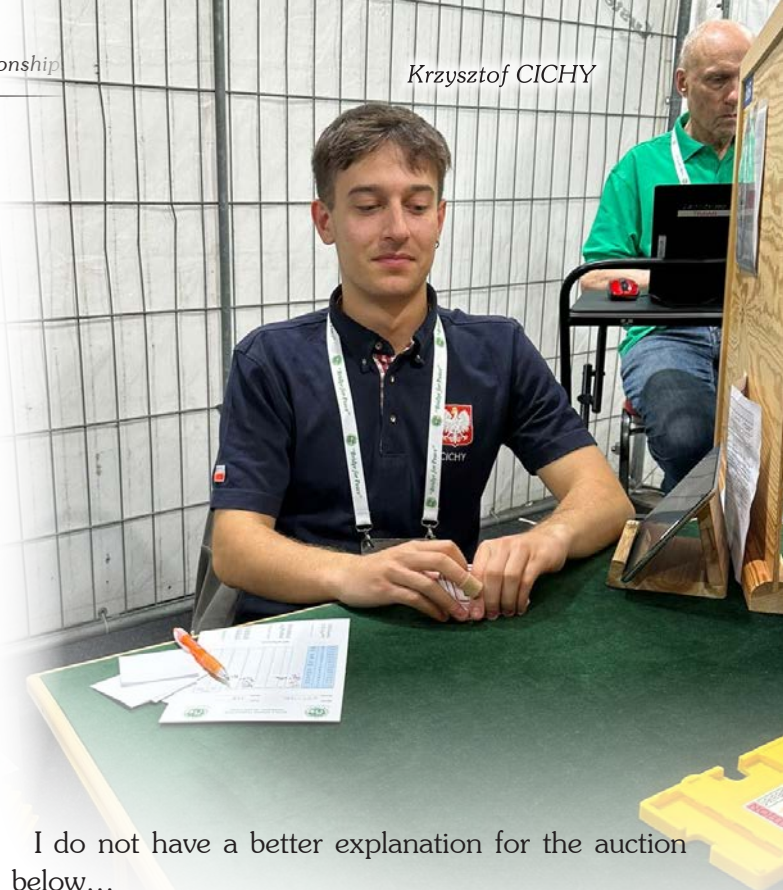
West	North	East	South
Zamir	Kedzierski	Toledano	Krawczyk
–	–	1♣	1♥(♠)
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	7NT	All Pass

Strong Club, natural response 3♣ establishing the suit and then RKCB. Hearts were never mentioned, and this proved very expensive when the clubs were 4-1. So 7NT had to go down one for another +100 and no less than 20 IMPs to Poland who, in one big step, had taken the lead: 20-5(!).

On the next board, the Polish E/W still seemed to be enjoying their previous success.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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



I do not have a better explanation for the auction below...

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kopka	Khutorsky	Cichy	Zeitak
–	–	–	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Unfortunately for the Poles, South was clearly in a position to announce his disbelief of all this...

It was down three for Israel +800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zamir	Kedzierski	Toledano	Krawczyk
–	–	–	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

After their previous board, the Israeli E/W now followed a quiet approach. South showed diamonds and a major with 2♦. Little could E/W know that hearts was this major. Anyway, no great harm was done because the contract went just one down, while 2♠ would have fared no better. Poland +100 but 12 IMPs back to Israel.

The final scores in our matches:

Greece v Croatia 28-24 IMPs, or 11.38-8.62 VPs.
Israel v. Poland 17-26 IMPs, or 7.1-12.9 VPs.



U26 Round Robin, Round 17

Sweden v Japan Italy v Israel

By Brian Senior

Two interesting matches on display for this round. In both our matches, a team among the top eight would play a team desperately (or not desperately) trying to join this select band before it would be too late. The boards, however, were not too wild, but we shall see whether this mattered very much or not. Here are just two examples.

On our first board, the Swedes found a fine sacrifice against their opponents' wrong game contract.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nishita	Hansson	Nakamuta	Mann
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	1NT	2♦	2♥
3NT	4♥	All Pass	

Nicely done for just one down and +100 to Japan.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sandin	Yamamoto	Clementsson	Song
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	1NT	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In the other room, the Japanese South thought he was not strong enough to introduce his hearts freely over the 2♦ overcall. This may or may not any longer be true, but the effect was that the Japanese missed their chance of a nice little phantom sacrifice. North

led a heart against 3NT for a quick down two and Japan another +200 and 7 IMPs.

In the Italy v. Israel match, the ideal game contract was duly reached at one table.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zamir	Porta	Toledano	Donati
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	1NT	3♦	All Pass

A weak jump is a weak jump, West's reasoning was; Israel +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gaiotti	Baniri	Scata	Loonstein
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	1NT!	2♦	2♥
2♠	4♥	5♦	All Pass

For Italy, Scata overcalled just 2♦, and now all the other players also thought they had something more to offer. Having heard all these noises around him, Scata opted for game and this was quite right as Italy scored a fine +600 and 10 IMPs to them. Only USA1 and Germany also reached 5♦ when they were E/W, for a game swing in their favour.



Naoya YAMAMOTO



The last board of the set was probably the most interesting.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nishita	Hansson	Nakamuta	Mann
Pass	3♥	3NT	Dble
Pass	Pass	4♣	4♠
All Pass			

In the Open Room, North opened only 3♥. This paved the way for everyone to join the party if he wanted to do so. East was the first in the party and also the first out. South then missed the chance to double 4♣ as well for a nice crossruff and +800. Yes,

that was less than 3NT doubled would have netted.

However, when South preferred to play the hand himself, he paid the price. West simply led his partner's suit and dummy turned out to be quite useless apart from the lonely ace. So that was one down and +50 to Japan, because a 4th round of clubs by East would, and of course did, promote a trump trick for West's ♠10. Who would have expected such a result?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sandin	Yamamoto	Clementson	Song
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Song showed extremely good discipline and courage when he passed partner's 4♥ opening bid. Four Hearts was cold but only four South players passed partner's 4♥ opening bid (or rebid, once). The vast majority of the South players who went to 4♠ got away with it because the killing defence proved too difficult. Four Spades went down only twice.

The results of our two matches:

Sweden v Japan 27-22 IMPs, or 11.7-8.3 VPs.

Italy v Israel 21-16 IMPs, or 11.7-8.3 VPs

So both Sweden and Israel stayed within the top eight whereas both Japan and Italy still were having to wait outside.



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U26 RANKING

1	USA1	284.72
2	NETHERLANDS	272.07
3	ISRAEL	255.50
4	SWEDEN	224.84
5	POLAND	223.14
6	CROATIA	220.68
7	CHINA	210.34
8	ITALY	210.30
9	SINGAPORE	204.95
10	GREECE	202.91
11	TURKIYE	200.41
12	FRANCE	197.11
13	USA2	190.99
14	JAPAN	189.68
15	CANADA	188.31
16	AUSTRALIA	187.37
17	HONG KONG CHINA	170.96
18	CHINESE TAIPEI	162.88
19	GERMANY	156.92
20	ENGLAND	154.73
21	ESTONIA	150.16
22	INDIA	142.67
23	ARGENTINA	142.39
24	BARBADOS	9.97

U16 RANKING

1	USA1	245.73
2	HUNGARY	216.68
3	CHINA	206.37
4	ESTONIA	200.68
5	POLAND	195.62
6	NORWAY	188.67
7	CHINESE TAIPEI	175.20
8	THAILAND	165.71
9	CZECH REPUBLIC	163.92
10	ISRAEL	163.02
11	USA2	160.03
12	HONG KONG CHINA	154.27
13	TURKIYE	152.28
14	ENGLAND	144.14
15	FRANCE	143.41
16	GREECE	139.97
17	CANADA	119.60
18	DENMARK	94.53
19	INDIA	82.91
20	NETHERLANDS	82.76

WOMEN U26 RANKING

1	NORWAY	215.64
2	ENGLAND	208.99
3	DENMARK	204.24
4	FRANCE	202.61
5	ITALY	198.01
6	HUNGARY	195.45
7	POLAND	193.84
8	NETHERLANDS	178.94
9	CHINA	170.31
10	USA1	148.30
11	THAILAND	120.96
12	USA2	116.71

U31 RANKING

1	CHINA	221.03
2	ISRAEL	217.73
3	INDIA	217.49
4	POLAND	207.36
5	BELGIUM	188.61
6	BULGARIA	183.89
7	FRANCE	181.08
8	CHINESE TAIPEI	166.23
9	SCOTLAND	166.19
10	CROATIA	161.10
11	NETHERLANDS	160.66
12	HONG KONG CHINA	141.05
13	TURKIYE	140.72
14	SINGAPORE	139.86
15	USA1	129.70
16	GERMANY	119.31
17	LATVIA	121.02
18	ROMANIA	114.23
19	SLOVENIA	114.08
20	SERBIA	92.87

U21 RANKING

1	POLAND	221.04
2	USA1	209.03
3	ISRAEL	207.28
4	CHINA	195.70
5	DENMARK	194.69
6	USA2	194.34
7	FRANCE	188.85
8	ENGLAND	184.86
9	NETHERLANDS	180.58
10	AUSTRALIA	176.09
11	HUNGARY	174.96
12	JAPAN	171.27
13	HONG KONG CHINA	170.23
14	NORWAY	163.56
15	NEW ZEALAND	147.89
16	CANADA	131.70
17	GERMANY	95.43
18	INDIA	94.15
19	SINGAPORE	71.53
20	IRELAND	24.12

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