

18th World Youth Teams Championships

Veldhoven, Netherlands • 31 July - 7 August 2023

DAILY BULLETIN

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Issue No 7. Sunday 6 August, 2023



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And Then Four...

We are down to the last four in each series, the semi-finals. Once again, these will be played over one whole day, 4 x 14-board segments.

Perhaps the surprise of the U26 quarter-finals was Singapore's excellent win over USA1. Congratulations also to the other three successful teams, Poland, Israel and Netherlands.

Another USA1 team bit the dust in the U21 event, falling to their compatriots, USA2, despite a big last set. The other winners were China, Denmark and Israel. In the U26W, Norway, Poland and Netherlands were reasonably comfortable winners. France had to come from a point behind after three-quarters to overcome Denmark and take the fourth semi-final spot.

USA2 had to come from behind in the third and final session to beat China in the U16 competition, and are joined in the last four by USA1, Estonia and Poland.

There were three very tight matches in the U31 quarters, the exception being that China had a comfortable win over Scotland. Belgium, France and India all scraped through by single-figure margins against Israel, Poland and Bulgaria respectively.



DRESS CODE AT THE PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY

Dear participants,

During the European Championships last week a team entered the podium to receive their medals clad in bathrobes and sunglasses. This may have been considered very amusing at the time, but was also quite disrespectful.

As far as the WBF is concerned this is the most important Youth event on the calendar, the bi-annual World National Team Championships. There will be official photography and filming at the prize-giving. Material will be used in official publications, social media, promotion activities etc. For this reason, and out of respect for your countries, federations, fellow competitors and organisers alike, we remind you of the following from the WBF Dress Code:

'... This (team) uniform, or at least the playing uniform, must be worn during the Closing and Medal Ceremonies. **Failure to be properly attired will mean that they are not allowed on the podium.**'

In practice, this means that you must wear your team 'uniform', at least the playing shirts/polos/sweaters. Furthermore, neither shorts nor flip-flops (or similar) are appropriate.

We really appreciate your help in giving the event the status it deserves, and thank you for your cooperation.

WBF Championship Committee

Regards
Jan Kamras
WBF President



Quarterfinals - U26

1	USA1	92
	SINGAPORE	125

2	SWEDEN	92
	POLAND	166

3	ISRAEL	125
	ITALY	106

4	NETHERLANDS	145
	GREECE	38

SEMIFINALS
SINGAPORE vs POLAND
NETHERLANDS vs ISRAEL

Quarterfinals - U21

1	POLAND	87
	CHINA	132

2	USA1	120
	USA2	136

3	FRANCE	111
	DENMARK	128

4	ISRAEL	150
	ENGLAND	131

SEMIFINALS
CHINA vs USA2
ISRAEL vs DENMARK

Quarterfinals - Women U26

1	NORWAY	173
	HUNGARY	107

2	ENGLAND	80
	POLAND	183

3	ITALY	88
	NETHERLANDS	149

4	FRANCE	141
	DENMARK	106

SEMIFINALS
NORWAY vs POLAND
FRANCE vs NETHERLANDS

Quarterfinals - U16

1	USA1	153
	CHINESE TAIPEI	36

2	ESTONIA	91
	NORWAY	54

3	HUNGARY	99
	POLAND	137

4	CHINA	86
	USA2	108

SEMIFINALS
USA1 vs USA2
ESTONIA vs POLAND

Quarterfinals - U31

1	CHINA	160
	SCOTLAND	72

2	ISRAEL	120
	BELGIUM	122

3	POLAND	118
	FRANCE	125

4	INDIA	128
	BULGARIA	126

SEMIFINALS
CHINA vs BELGIUM
INDIA vs FRANCE



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U26 Round Robin, Final Round (23)

By Jos Jacobs

When the last round of the round robin started, a lot of teams were still in the running for the 8th QF berth. There were only 12 VPs between the numbers 6 and 11 in the rankings, so Greece, Italy, China, Singapore, Türkiye and Croatia (in that order) were all in with a more or less serious chance to make it into the top eight.

It was a pleasant coincidence for the neutral kibitzers that two matches were scheduled between teams within this group of six. China had to play Singapore (7 v 11) and Greece would face their neighbouring rivals Türkiye (6 v 9). The other teams had to play lower ranked opponents: Italy v Barbados and Croatia v USA 2.

The deals I selected this time are intended to illustrate why the teams involved made it or did not make it into the top eight.

The first board I chose was...yes indeed, Board 1. A push in Greece v Türkiye but not in China v Singapore. This was the auction in the Open Room there:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Teo</i>	<i>Gu</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Miao</i>
–	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

3NT showed a long spade suit but, apparently, hearts were implied as trumps, in which case 5♦ might have shown three key-cards. Anyway, 6♠ had its chances but the ♠K did not cooperate, so it was

one down, for Singapore +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wen</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Jiang</i>	<i>Yang</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

For Singapore, the 2NT rebid showed at least a six-card spade suit in an undefined hand. When South showed no interest, North also signed off. Well done for Singapore +450 and 11 IMPs to them.

A few boards later, there was another slam decision to be made.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ A Q J 10 8 3 ♥ A J 10 3 2 ♦ A J ♣ –		♠ 5 4 2 ♥ 6 5 ♦ K 9 8 6 ♣ A J 6 4	♠ K 9 7 ♥ K 9 ♦ Q 4 ♣ Q 10 9 7 5 3
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The Turkish E/W made short work of it.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kuscu</i>	<i>Kritsalis</i>	<i>Sari</i>	<i>Skordas</i>
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Looking at the ♥Kx, East had no trouble in jumping straight to game. That is why West then had little trouble either in going straight to the slam. All was OK. Declarer could ruff the hearts out without any danger because dummy's trumps were high enough. Even a trump lead does not help the defence; Türkiye a fine +1430.

In the other room, their agreements did not do the Greeks any good. As West's side suit remained a secret, East could never assess the importance of his ♥Kx, not even over partner's 4♣ bid.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kapiris	Eker	Soumplis	Gulez
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Two overtricks for Greece and +680 but 13 IMPs to Türkiye. At this point, they were heading for qualification.

In the China v Singapore match, the hand also caused a slam swing. The Singaporeans produced a simple auction.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Teo	Gu	Wu	Miao
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Spade fit invitational or better, exclusion RKCB and one useful key-card. That's the info West got and, for him, that was enough to announce the slam. Singapore +1430 as well.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wen	Lee	Jiang	Yang
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♠	Pass

Once again, we saw the 2NT rebid by West, showing an undefined hand with a six-card spade suit. When East did not make any more specific move, the chance of reaching a slam was gone. China scored +680 but that meant another 13 IMPs for Singapore. At this point, they were suddenly heading towards the quarter-finals very clearly.



On the ensuing boards, both Greece and China recorded a number of small swings. Put together, however, these were just enough to bring back Greece into the lead against Türkiye and, with two boards to play, China were trailing in their head-to-head match but were ahead of Singapore again in the rankings, albeit by a slender 0.25 VP.

On Board 11, China gained 4 IMPs and Greece got another 5 IMPs. So both these teams increased their leads in their current matches, but then the last board came.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

	♠ K 9 2		♠ A 10 6 5									
	♥ A 8 2		♥ 9 4									
	♦ Q 10 8 6 3		♦ A J 7									
	♣ 10 4		♣ K 9 8 6									
♠ J 8 3		<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <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											
♥ Q J 10 7		♠ Q 7 4										
♦ 9 4 2		♥ K 6 5 3										
♣ J 7 3		♦ K 5										
		♣ A Q 5 2										

In the Greece v Türkiye match, both N/S pairs fell overboard. The Greeks reached 2NT and the Turkish even got as high as 3NT. Needless to say that both contracts failed. The Greeks were just one down and the Turkish even went three off. As a result, Greece scored 5 more IMPs to win the match by 28-14 IMPs, or 14.22-5.78 VPs, more than enough to keep Türkiye out of the top eight.



In the other match, there was some real drama.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Teo	Gu	Wu	Miao
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦(♥)	Dble	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

On a combined 23-count, 1NT by N/S looks a reasonable proposition, but the strange thing about this hand was that it would need an unlikely double dummy line to make the required 7 tricks in 1NT. Also, taking into account that in our other match 3NT had gone down three, it was no surprise that 1NT was not made either. This was a crucial +100 to Singapore.

At the other table, North was less greedy than his counterpart.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wen	Lee	Jiang	Yang
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	All Pass

With all his suits (suits?) having been bid already, South had an obvious pass over East's 1♠ rebid, even more so because North had not made any noises on



Baozhuo JIANG

his passed hand. When 1♠ came round to North, what else could he do but leave it in peace?

According to the hand records, even 2♠ by N/S (yes, the 3-3 fit) would make, so it was no surprise once again that 1♠ by E/W went one down for another +100 to Singapore. Believe it or not, by doing nothing the Singaporeans had gained 5 IMPs, which was just enough to beat China by 33-20 IMPs, or 13.97-6.03 VPs, and catch them up at the post. Singapore had finished 8th, albeit with the smallest of margins (0.25 VP), and thus had made it into the quarter-finals where they would have to face the Round Robin winners USA1.



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U26W Round Robin, Round 22

Italy v Netherlands

By Brian Senior

There were only three swings in the U26W Round 22 match between Italy and the Netherlands, so nine flat boards. A couple of the flat ones also held some interest, so we will look at them also.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Davide</i>	<i>Lejeune</i>	<i>Brusotti</i>
–	–	1♠	4♣
Dble	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Dalpozzo</i>	<i>Beekman</i>	<i>Capobianco</i>	<i>Christensen</i>
–	–	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	All Pass

For Netherlands, Mette Lejeune opened as dealer on her borderline hand, but now Cristina Brusotti's pre-emptive overcall caught the Dutch pair. Malou Sprinkhuizen had enough to make a negative double and Lejeune had an easy 4♥ response, but now Zaira Davide had an equally easy penalty double with the North hand, ending the auction.

Brusotti cashed the top clubs then continued with a third club, ruffed with the queen and over-ruffed. Davide cashed the ace and king of spades then switched to a diamond, Lejeune overtaking her queen to lead a trump from the dummy. She put in the nine, cashed the king and jack, then played winning spades until Davide wanted to ruff. The ruff was the last defensive trick, so the contract was down three for –500.

For Italy, Sophia Capobianco did not open the East hand, which left Malene Holm Christensen free to open with a 3♣ pre-empt. There were two passes back to Capobianco, who doubled then scrambled into 3♥ when Eleonora Dalpozzo responded 3♦. Christensen too led three rounds of clubs against 3♥, but Capobianco did not ruff in dummy, instead discarding a losing spade. Fleur Beekman ruffed and returned a heart, Capobianco winning with the king in hand, cashing the queen of diamonds, then playing the queen of spades. Beekman won that and played back another low heart. Capobianco put in the nine, ruffed a spade, and played winning diamonds. Beekman could only make the ace of trumps, so the contract was just one down for –50 but 10 IMPs to Italy.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Davide</i>	<i>Lejeune</i>	<i>Brusotti</i>
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Dalpozzo</i>	<i>Beekman</i>	<i>Capobianco</i>	<i>Christensen</i>
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

The Italian auction is entirely comprehensible, 2NT



being a GF raise and 3♥ a natural rebid.

The Dutch auction is less comprehensible to outsiders. Two No Trump showed 10-13 with spade support, and 3♣ set up a game-force. After that, we might guess that 3♦ was a relay, 3♥ natural and 4♣ and 4♥ cuebids, but that may not be so.

What we know for sure is that both pairs had bid smoothly to the small slam, and both made it exactly for a push at +1430.

Beekman led a diamond, so that took the diamond finesse for Dalpozzo, who could win and simply draw trumps then give up a heart to ensure 12 tricks.

Davide led the seven of hearts, dummy's nine winning the trick. Sprinkhuizen drew two rounds of trumps, cashed the king of hearts, then ruffed a club and attempted to cash the ace of hearts. That was ruffed and back came a club, which declarer ruffed. She ruffed out the queen of hearts and needed the king of diamonds to be onside. It was, so 12 tricks and no swing.

That was sloppy play. If, instead of playing the ace of hearts, declarer ruffs the ten of hearts with dummy's ♠9, comes to hand with a club ruff and draws the last trump, she has 12 tricks without needing the finesse.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A 8 ♥ J 8 5 ♦ Q J 9 7 4 ♣ 9 5 2		♠ 10 ♥ A 10 9 4 ♦ A K 10 8 5 ♣ 8 7 4	♠ K J 9 7 4 2 ♥ K Q 7 2 ♦ 2 ♣ Q 10
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West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Davide</i>	<i>Lejeune</i>	<i>Brusotti</i>
–	–	–	1♠
2♣	Pass	2♦	2♥
Pass	3♥	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Dalpozzo</i>	<i>Beekman</i>	<i>Capobianco</i>	<i>Christensen</i>
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	1NT	Dble	2♥
3♣	All Pass		

Christensen opened 1♠ and Dalpozzo passed, leaving room for Beekman to respond 1NT. Capobianco made a take-out double of spades and, when Christensen showed her second suit, it was natural for Dalpozzo to introduce her clubs. Three Clubs ended the auction, and Beekman cashed the ace of spades then switched to the queen of diamonds to dummy's ace. Dalpozzo attempted to cash the king of diamonds, but Christensen ruffed with the ten and exited with the ♣Q. Dalpozzo won that, ruffed a spade, ruffed a diamond, and led a heart to the ace to ruff another diamond. Next she led her low spade and Davide ruffed in front of dummy with the ♣9. She should have returned her remaining trump now, which would have left declarer with a spade and a heart to lose for down one. Instead, she played the jack of hearts and Christensen overtook with the queen and played the ♥K. Dalpozzo ruffed, ruffed the spade loser, and had nine tricks for +110.

Brusotti also opened 1♠, but Sprinkhuizen overcalled 2♣ and, after a pass from Davide, Lejeune showed her diamonds. Now Brusotti, who only just had very little to spare for her initial bid, freely bid again, introducing her second suit. Davide took her seriously, raising to 3♥, and Lejeune ended proceedings with a penalty double.

Sprinkhuizen led the ace of clubs then switched to a diamond to the queen and king. Lejeune switched back to clubs, so Sprinkhuizen won the king and in turn switched back to diamonds, the three being covered by the four, five and ruffed. Brusotti led a spade to the ace followed by a second spade, but Lejeune ruffed that and played a club, the subsequent ruff reducing declarer to only two trumps. Brusotti ruffed a spade with the eight of hearts and was over-ruffed with the nine, and back came the eight of diamonds. Not wishing to allow a cheap ruff on her left, Brusotti ruffed with the king and ruffed another spade with the jack. Lejeune over-ruffed with the ace and played back the ten of diamonds. As Brusotti discarded a spade on this trick, Sprinkhuizen got a ruff with the three of hearts. She was obliged to play a club back at



Malou SPRINKHUIZEN

this point, and that was ruffed, over-ruffed, and over-ruffed again, leaving declarer in hand to cash a spade winner. Nice defence had resulted in down three for -800 and 12 IMPs to Netherlands.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Davide</i>	<i>Lejeune</i>	<i>Brusotti</i>
1♣	1♥	Dble	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Dalpozzo</i>	<i>Beekman</i>	<i>Capobianco</i>	<i>Christensen</i>
1♣	1♥	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

Beekman overcalled 1♥ and Capobianco did not judge the East hand worthy of a negative double. She passed, Christensen raised to 2♥, and that was that. Capobianco led the nien of spades to the three, king and ace, so Beekman cashed the top hearts then played a spade back, and came to four hearts and two tricks in each black suit, just making for +110.



Cristina BRUSOTTI

Davide also overcalled 1♥ but Lejeune did deem the East hand worthy of a double. Brusotti showed a slightly better raise to 2♥ than had Christensen, and that tempted Davide to try for game. Her subsequent 3♥ bid doesn't look forcing to me, merely suggesting that 3♥ might be a better spot than 2NT, but it saw Brusotti go on to 3NT, though she could hardly have had anything to spare for her previous action. Having already suggested that hearts might be better, Davide had no reason to over-rule her partner, so left her to play 3NT.

Sprinkhuizen led the king of spades, Brusotti winning the ace and crossing to the ace of clubs to take a heart finesse. That lost to the queen and back came the two of diamonds. Brusotti must have expected to be a quick one down now, but Sprinkhuizen won the jack of diamonds and switched back to spades. The ♠8 forced the queen, and Brusotti cashed all the hearts, Sprinkhuizen coming down to ♦AQ ♣Q10. When Brusotti next led the ten of diamonds off the table, it required either that Lejeune rise with the king to push a club through, or for Sprinkhuizen to win the ace and so be able to return the queen to her partner's king. Neither of those things happened. Lejeune played low, Sprinkhuizen won the queen, and so a club round to the king-jack presented Brusotti with her ninth trick for a very useful +400 and 7 IMPs to Italy.



Sophia CAPOBIANCO

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

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



West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Davide	Lejeune	Brusotti
-	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♠	3♠	4♥	4♠
5♣	Pass	5♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Dalpozzo	Beekman	Capobianco	Christensen
-	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♠	3♠	4♥	4♠
4NT	Pass	5♥	All Pass



Zaira DAVIDE



Malene Holm CHRISTENSEN

The auctions were almost identical, with both Souths opening 1♠ both Wests showing a heart/minor two-suiter, and both Norths making a competitive spade raise. That was sufficient for both Souths to save in 4♠ over 4♥, and both Wests had enough extra playing strength with the sixth club to take the push to 5♥, ending the auction.

Brusotti cashed the ace of spades then switched to a diamond to the bare ace. Lejeune played ace of clubs then ruffed a club with the eight and, though that was over-ruffed, further club ruffs could not be so she had the rest for +650.

Christensen too cashed a top spade but she switched to the king of clubs. Capobianco won that and cashed the ace of hearts then ruffed a club and was over-ruffed. A trump came back but she too had the rest for +650 and no swing.

So we have seen every single IMP that the two teams could manage, resulting in a 17-12 IMP victory for Italy, translating to 11.70-8.30 VPs. Italy qualified for the quarter-finals in third place, Netherlands in seventh.

Round 18

By Brian Senior

While the big interest in Friday's play was centred on the battle for the final qualifying places, there were a couple of interesting deals in Round 18 of the U21 and U31 championships.

Our first deal comes from the match between China and Israel in the U31 event.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ezion</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Urman</i>	<i>Jin</i>
–	1♥	2♦	Dble
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu</i>	<i>Ben David</i>	<i>Yuan</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>
–	1♥	2♦	Dble
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			



Itamar GINOSSAR

By different routes, both Norths alighted in 3NT, against which the lead was the king of diamonds.

For Israel, Ben David ducked two rounds of diamonds, won the third round, perforce, and immediately played a low spade towards the dummy. With hearts coming in for five tricks, had he won a spade trick, he would have been home. However, Zhijie Yuan could see that danger and, of course, hopped up with the ace of spades to cash his two diamond winners for down one and –100.

At the other table, Chenyu Zhu ducked only once then won the second diamond. If the ace of spades was not in the hand with the long diamonds now, then it would still be in the other hand later in the play, so he saw no rush to play on the suit. Instead, he cashed the ace and queen of hearts, being pleased to see the jack put in an appearance, then came to hand with a low club to his king, on which Amir Ezion put in the queen.


Zhu started cashing the hearts. Lior Urman threw his low spade on the first one and dummy also a spade. Urman discarded a club on the fourth heart and dummy its remaining diamond. But now came the fifth heart, and Urman was crushed, trying to hold three suits. If he pitched a diamond declarer could give up a spade, while throwing a club simply gave up an extra club trick. That was worth +600 to China and 12 IMPs.



Lior URMAN

Our second deal comes from the U21 match between USA1 and Poland.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ K 10 4 2 ♥ 7 5 ♦ K 9 8 6 ♣ K 4 3		♠ 5 ♥ A 2 ♦ J 10 7 5 4 3 ♣ A J 10 8	♠ J 9 7 6 ♥ 10 6 4 3 ♦ – ♣ Q 9 6 5 2
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West	North	East	South
Schireson	Kurlit	Xu	Bak
–	–	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♥	2♦	Pass
3♦	3♠	4♣	4♥
5♦	Dble	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Okrzesik	Luba	Kufłowski	Zhu
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♠	Dble	2♦	Pass
3♦	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			



Franciszek KURLIT

For Poland, Kacper Kufłowski opened the East hand with 1♦ then repeated the suit at his next turn. By the time that Harrison Luba and Bo Han Zhu bid to the heart game, E/W had done all their bidding and neither player was inclined to bid on to 5♦.

Kufłowski led his singleton spade to the six, ten and queen and Luba played the queen of hearts at trick two. Needing two club tricks as well as a spade ruff, Kufłowski won the heart, cashed the ace of clubs, and continued with the ♣10. That was covered by the queen and king, and ruffed by Luba, who could draw the remaining trumps then pick up the spades without loss, so had 11 tricks for +650.

Michael Xu did not open the East hand in the other room, and this meant that he had extra playing strength for his initial pass then overcall combination, so he introduced his second suit at the four level, and Olivia Schireson liked the double fit sufficiently to go on to 5♦, which pushed her opponents to the five level.

Xu too led the singleton spade, but it was clear to Schireson what holding her partner must have in the suit, so she did not put in a pointless ten, but instead played a suit-preference two. Xu might well have played for his best chance of setting the contract anyway, but this made certain that he would do so. Franciszek Kurlit won the spade cheaply and led the king of hearts. Xu won the ace and played the eight of clubs – no danger that if he led the jack partner might forget to overtake – so Schireson won the king and returned a spade, for down one and –200, so 13 IMPs to USA1.



Wojciech BAK

U26 Quarter-finals, Segment 1


Sweden v Poland Netherlands v Greece

By Jos Jacobs

So there we are: the round robin is over and, from now on, the number of teams still in contention will go down every day. This means that my choice of matches to report on is also going down. For the first segment, Sweden v Poland and Netherlands v Greece were on BBO, but I will also take a look or two, below, into the other matches: USA1 v Singapore and Israel v Italy.

On Board 1, Noah Apteker's deceptive lead of the $\diamond 4$ from $\diamond K4$ led the Singaporean declarer astray in an otherwise cold $4\spadesuit$ for an unexpected gain of 10 IMPs to USA1.

Board:1. Dealer: North. None Vul.

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



On this same opening board, Israel also registered a game swing because the Italians in E/W tried 3NT instead of the spade game.

We had to wait till Board 4, however, for more fireworks. Here is this board, from the Sweden v Poland match.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bazyluk	Clementsson	Kielbasa	Sandin
1 \heartsuit	Pass	1 \spadesuit	Pass
3 \heartsuit	Pass	4 \heartsuit	All Pass

No overcall by North, unusual IMHO in a Juniors' event. So E/W were left in peace towards their heart game; Poland +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mann	Kedzierski	Hansson	Krawczyk
1 \heartsuit	Pass	2NT	Pass
3 \clubsuit	Pass	3 \diamond	Dble
4 \heartsuit	5 \diamond	5 \heartsuit	Pass
6 \heartsuit	All Pass		

East showed the fit with 2NT and the diamond shortness with 3 \diamond . Over 5 \diamond , East correctly went on because 5 \heartsuit is a make. When West bid one more (for the road?), E/W had joined the select band of players reaching a slam missing the AK of trumps; Poland +100.

On the next board, the Poles were soon in the right contract.



Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>	<i>Sandin</i>
–	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Papaspyrou</i>	<i>Caris</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>	<i>Dupont</i>
–	–	–	1♣
2♠	Pass	3♠	3NT
All Pass			

One overtrick, so Poland +130.

In the other room, West once again was led into temptation.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mann</i>	<i>Kedzierski</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Krawczyk</i>
–	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♥(♠)	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North found the heart lead alright, so West was not delivered from evil. This was down two, so Poland another +200 and 7 IMPs more.

Over now to The Netherlands v Greece. After six boards in that match, Greece were up 5-0, but this score was to change a lot in the next three boards.

Had West not possessed a second suit to lead from, Dupont's chances of getting away with a bid like this would have been about even. When West selected the ♥J as his opening lead, the contract suddenly was in great danger until East realised that partner would in all likelihood not hold a four-card side suit. When she ducked, South perforce won the first trick and never lost the lead any more; Netherlands +720.

Not that this score was a tremendous success because at the other table the Greeks knew much better:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Kritsalis</i>	<i>V.d. Paverd</i>	<i>Skordas</i>
–	–	–	2♣
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♣	Dble	All Pass

In the fullness of time, the ♦QJ came down so the Greeks registered a fine +1540, good for 13 IMPs. They were up 18-0 now.

In the Sweden-Poland match, there also was a swing.

Open Room

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



Jakub BAZYLUK

This was the first

Believe it or not: not only the auction but also the lead and the first trick (!) were the same as what we saw just above in the Netherlands v Greece match; Sweden +720.

So it was only proper (?!) that in the Closed Room, they would copy the Netherlands-Greece result as well.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mann	Kedzierski	Hansson	Krawczyk
–	–	–	1♣
1♠	1NT	2♠	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

The bidding was not quite the same but both the double and the number of tricks perfectly duplicated the Netherlands v Greece match. Poland thus also scored +1540 and 13 IMPs more.

On the next board, again a slam was in the air.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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



Castor MANN

The Greek auction was straightforward.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Papaspyrou	Caris	Pollatou	Dupont
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Three overtricks, so Greece +490.

In the Closed Room, we saw a fine, sophisticated Dutch auction.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Kritsalis	V.d. Pavverd	Skordas
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	All Pass

The West hand being too strong for his 1NT opening range made it easier for E/W to get their bidding onto the right track. Two Clubs was sort of Stayman and the rest was essentially natural. Clubs were agreed, some cuebids came next, and 5NT asked for any extras once East had confirmed two key-cards. East then called it a day though the grand would probably have made. Reaching the small slam, however, was good enough for the Dutch to gain their first 10 IMPs.

For completeness' sake: no other pair reached the slam.

On the next board, the Dutch took the lead:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Both Norths were in 3NT. In the Open Room, East had overcalled 1♠ after North opened 1♦ but in the Closed Room, North had opened 2NT to silence East..

Both Easts led a club but it would make a tremendous difference whether you would lead a 5th best club or an honour. Leading an honour would remove an entry



to the North hand and a low club lead would not.

Pollatou, for Greece, selected an unlucky low club which ran to declarer's jack. From here, declarer had an easy road to nine tricks. Cash the $\diamond A$, test the hearts, and play a diamond to the jack. The $\clubsuit A$ will be your safe extra entry; nine tricks, and Netherlands +400.

At the other table, Van de Pavverd put the $\clubsuit K$ on the table and now declarer was in trouble. He won the ace and ducked a diamond, intending to cash the suit later on if it would break 3-2. The defence cleared the clubs, showing that it was East who held the $\spadesuit A$. Now declarer went after the hearts and, when they did not break, played the diamonds from the top. When they too did not behave to his liking, he had to accept one down, for Netherlands another +50 and 10 IMPs more to them to suddenly lead 21-18.

In their match v USA1, Singapore also gained 10 IMPs by bringing home 3NT on a low club lead. The US declarer went down on the same low club lead; he apparently did not follow the Dutch line.

Back again to the Sweden v Poland match.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

<p>\spadesuit K 10 6 3 \heartsuit 8 6 \diamond A J 9 7 3 \clubsuit Q 2</p>		<p>\spadesuit Q J 7 4 \heartsuit A Q J \diamond K 10 6 5 \clubsuit 9 3</p>	<p>\spadesuit 9 5 2 \heartsuit K 10 9 2 \diamond 4 \clubsuit 10 8 7 6 4</p>
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In the Open Room, North's aggression came at the wrong moment.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>	<i>Sandin</i>
–	–	1 \clubsuit	Pass
1 \heartsuit	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
Pass	1 \spadesuit	Dble	Pass
Pass	2 \diamond	Dble	2 \spadesuit
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Trump lead by East to partner's ace, trump back and down four; Poland +1100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mann</i>	<i>Kedzierski</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Krawczyk</i>
–	–	1 \clubsuit	Pass
1 \heartsuit	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

No intervention by North so the more orthodox 3NT was reached by E/W. Just nine tricks, for +600 to Sweden but another 11 IMPs to Poland.

And the next board:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>	<i>Sandin</i>
–	–	–	Pass
2 \clubsuit	2 \spadesuit	All Pass	

Another mistimed action by North. A double by her would have been distinctly better on this layout, but at least nobody doubled. Down three, Poland another +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mann</i>	<i>Kedzierski</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Krawczyk</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1 \spadesuit	Pass	1NT
3 \clubsuit	Dble	Pass	3 \heartsuit
All Pass			

A disciplined opening pass by West and an equally disciplined later double by North led the Poles to the correct partscore for another +140 and 7 IMPs.

The scores in our two matches after the first segment:

Sweden v Poland 4-67
 Netherlands v Greece 22-18

U21 Quarter-finals, Segment 1

France v Denmark

By Brian Senior

The first session of the U21 quarter-final between France and Denmark was a quiet affair, with only four swings of more than 2 IMPs. And here are those four swing-boards.

Board 5. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Rolf-Larsen</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Zeeberg</i>	<i>Gallard</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Vallet</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Bloch</i>	<i>Tylvad</i>
–	Pass	3♦	All Pass

For France, Romain Bloch opened 3♦ in second seat and that silenced everyone. Daniel Tylvad cashed the ace of hearts then switched to the ten of diamonds to the jack and ace. Christian Lahrmann switched back to hearts, but the ♥K was the last trick for the defence; +130.

For Denmark, Nikolaj Zeeberg did not open the East hand. However, he then responded 2♦ to Andreas Rolf-Larsen's 1♠ opener and Rolf-Larsen made the somewhat agricultural rebid of 3NT, where he played. Leo Rombaut led a heart and, needing to preserve communications, Aurele Gallard ducked, playing the encouraging seven. Rolf-Larsen won the ♥J and played his other red jack. Quite understandably, Rombaut ducked that, but suddenly Rolf-Larsen only needed to find the queen of clubs to have his nine tricks. However, Rolf-Larsen led a club to the ace then ran the ten and, on winning the queen, Rombaut

cashed the ace of diamonds then led a heart, and Gallard cashed four of those for down two and –100, meaning 6 IMPs to France.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Rolf-Larsen</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Zeeberg</i>	<i>Gallard</i>
–	–	–	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Vallet</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Bloch</i>	<i>Tylvad</i>
–	–	–	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Tylvad opened a strong and artificial 2♣ then rebid 3♣. His third bid of 3NT looks odd, so I wonder if 3♦ was an artificial asking bid and 3NT merely denied a major suit? Anyway, 3NT did not end the auction, as with the ♣Q and an outside ace, Lahrmann saw greater possibilities in the hand and went on with 4♣. Tylvad cuebid 4♦, but Lahrmann had no major-suit control to show, and signed off in game, a sign-off which was accepted by Tylvad. Vallet led the jack of hearts, Bloch winning the king and continuing with the ace. Tylvad ruffed and rattled off a lot of trumps, and Vallet discarded a diamond on the penultimate club, so Tylvad cashed the ace of spades then played ace of diamonds and the second missing honour appeared, so he had 12 tricks for +620.

Gallard also opened an artificial 2♣ but he then bid



and rebid the suit, and Rombaut raised to Six. Rolf-Larsen led the queen of diamonds and Gallard judged it likely to be a singleton. He went up with dummy's ace, drew trumps ending in dummy, and led a diamond to his ten and Rolf-Larsen's jack – and that was down one for –100 and 12 IMPs to Denmark, when it could so easily have been 13 to France.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Rolf-Larsen</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Zeeberg</i>	<i>Gallard</i>
1♣	1♦	1♠	2♦
2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Vallet</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Bloch</i>	<i>Tylvad</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Rolf-Larsen opened a potentially short 1♣ and Rombaut overcalled 1♦. Zeeberg bid 1♠ and Gallard raised to 2♦. Now Rolf-Larsen's 2NT was artificial, and Zeeberg jumped to the spade game. The diamond lead went to the king and ace and Zeeberg played a trump, won by Rombaut, who returned a diamond. Zeeberg put in the ten, drew a round of trumps, and had 11 tricks for +450.

There was no N/S bidding at the other table, until suddenly, out of the blue, Lahrmann doubled the final contract, presumably based on his club holding over the opening bid. Bloch won the heart lead in hand and ducked a club, won the heart return, and led a diamond to the queen. This looked to be quite a dangerous line, and was presumably followed because declarer expected a bad trump split for the surprise double. However, everything was good. The queen of diamonds held, and Bloch could continue with ace and a third diamond, ruffed in dummy. Next he led the ten of spades off the table and Lahrmann went in with the ace and returned his other trump. Bloch could ruff

his fourth diamond so he too had an overtrick but, in his case, that was worth +690 and 6 IMPs to France.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Rolf-Larsen</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Zeeberg</i>	<i>Gallard</i>
–	Pass	Pass	2♥
Dble	4♥	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Vallet</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Bloch</i>	<i>Tylvad</i>
–	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

According to their convention card, Tylvad's 2♥ opening should have been weak with four or five hearts and at least five of a minor. Well, this isn't the only poorly filled out CC we've seen this week. Vallet passed and Lahrmann raised obstructively to 3♥, which ended the auction.

Vallet led the queen of diamonds, which Tylvad ran to his king. He cashed the ace and king of hearts, then played a spade. Vallet won the king and returned a low club to his partner's ace. On a club continuation there was one more trick to be lost in each black suit; +140.

Gallard's 2♥ opening was spot on according to his CC, showing 10-13 with six hearts. Rolf-Larsen was light on high cards but had the classic distribution for a take-out double, and made one, which persuaded Rombaut to jump to 4♥ to shut his opponents out. Zeeberg made a responsive double and that concluded the bidding.

Queen of diamonds lead, won in dummy, ace and king of hearts and a spade up, and once again the king of spades was won and a club was returned. Once again there were two losers in each black suit, but here that meant one down for –200 and 8 IMPs to Denmark.

With two single-IMP swings in each direction to complete the scoring, the first quarter ended with Denmark ahead by 24-14 IMPs.

U21 Quarter-finals, Segment 2

USA 1 v Singapore Israel v Italy

By Jos Jacobs

For the second quarter of the quarter-finals, the organisers provided us with a broadcast of the other two matches on BBO. So I will focus on these two, which does not necessarily mean I am going to neglect the other matches.

The first board of the set was a flat +140 to N/S but on the next board, the paths already diverged again. Here is USA1-Singapore.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W. Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>
1♦	2♣	Pass	2♥
2♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4♠	Dble
5♦	All Pass		

In the Open Room, the Singaporeans correctly sacrificed against 4♥, going down one; +100 to USA1.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F Kolesnik</i>	<i>Teo</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Wu</i>
1♦	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

In the Closed Room, Teo followed the scientific approach. 3♦ was asking for a diamond stopper and South's 3NT simply meant: Yes. West was unfriendly enough to first lead a top spade, so one down soon became inevitable ☹️ USA1 another +100 and 5 IMPs back to them.

There also was a swing in the Israel v Italy match.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Toledano</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Zamir</i>
1♦	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The Israelis copied the Singaporean auction and thus went one down the same way. This was only worth +50 to Italy because they had not doubled...

In the Closed Room, North overcalled in his suit and South bid his own.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Scata</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>	<i>Gaiotti</i>
1♦	2♣	Pass	2♥
2NT	3♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West's 2NT showed his long suit but East was not interested in any sacrifice, maybe looking at his trump holding. Declarer would always be able to throw some losers on dummy's clubs before taking the necessary trump finesse so 4♥ was no problem; Italy +420 and 10 IMPs.

On the next board, we again saw big swings in both our matches.



Alvaro GAIOTTI



Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led a diamond. The ♦9 was put in from dummy and South's ♦10 was taken by declarer's ace. Declarer continued the suit so South won his king and unblocked his ♥AQ. After that, declarer had to guess the ♠Q and when he was looking for her to be in South, North was able to cash the ♥K upon winning the ♠Q, so one down and USA1 +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F Kolesnik</i>	<i>Teo</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Wu</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In the Closed Room as well, North led a diamond, but this time, declarer called for dummy's queen. This was covered by king and ace. Declarer's next move was the ♥J from hand. South won the ace and returned a club. Declarer won and played another heart to South, who persisted with clubs. Declarer won another top club and crossed to the spade ace to establish dummy's hearts. With the ♦J still there as an entry to dummy, the defence was helpless. Just made for another +400 and 10 more IMPs to USA 1.

In the Israel v Italy match, we saw a swing of a different calibre.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Toledano</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Zamir</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1NT
Dble	All Pass		

A perfect start for the defence: ♣A lead followed by ♠J, which held the trick, and a spade to the ace. Club back, spades cashed, and a low diamond to the jack and South's king. Down three only, because the defence failed to take their diamond tricks when in again with the ♣K. Not that it mattered that much; Italy +500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Scata</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>	<i>Gaiotti</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The normal contract for N/S here again but we saw another variation in the play. North led a diamond and South did not cover dummy's queen. Declarer went after the hearts but South took his ♥AQ and exited in clubs. In the end, declarer had to guess the ♠Q but, when South did not hold her, here too, declarer was one down, so Italy another +50 and 11 more IMPs back to them.

The next board produced a partscore problem for N/S.



Nir KHUTORSKY

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Toledano</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Zamir</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦
1♥	1♠	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♠
3♥	All Pass		

North's 1♠ replaced the traditional 1NT response. Three Hearts looked an obvious call but proved just too high, though 2♠ might even have been made; Israel +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Scata</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>	<i>Gaiotti</i>
–	–	Pass	1♣
1♥	1♠	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Here too, 1♠ was artificial, as above but here, South believed in his luck and even went to game. West had a natural ♥Q lead and declarer had nowhere to go. When he tried an immediate spade to dummy's ♠10, East took the jack and returned a heart. With the ♣K also wrong for him, he was down four. Israel another +400 and 10 IMPs back straight away.

The next board might have been a slam.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass

In this auction, East gave false preference once too often, I think. Having bid already 3♠ over 3♥, he might have tried 6♥ over 5♥ now. This contract should also go down but defeating it is not obvious, nor is finding a winning line.

Six Spades had no play, of course and was down two; USA1 +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F Kolesnik</i>	<i>Teo</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Wu</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

A nice natural auction. When West denied the trump queen, East called it a day. Well done, USA1 another



Sebastiano SCATA



+650 and 13 IMPs to them.

They had reduced their deficit to just 3 IMPs in just five boards.

Next, I skip a few boards and jump to Board 24.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 10 9 3 2 ♥ K Q 9 8 5 3 ♦ Q 9 ♣ 6	♠ K ♥ 7 6 4 ♦ A J 7 6 3 ♣ A K J 5	♠ Q 7 6 ♥ A 10 2 ♦ 8 4 ♣ Q 8 7 4 2	♠ A J 8 5 4 ♥ J ♦ K 10 5 2 ♣ 10 9 3
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USA1 v Singapore:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass

The disadvantage of the nebulous diamond. N/S subsided after 3♥ and cashed out for two down; USA1 +100, but with even a slam on for N/S.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F Kolesnik</i>	<i>Teo</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Wu</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	



Aviv ZEITAK

North's 2♦ showed both minors but South did not worry at all about the hearts. Right he was because East had an obvious club lead once West had not inserted an overcall. So Singapore scored an unexpected +430 and got 8 IMPs back.

On the next board, the Israelis overbid a trifle.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Toledano</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Zamir</i>
–	3♥	3♠	4♥
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

On a top spade lead and a diamond shift, declarer managed to go no less than down five when he also misguessed in clubs. East played ♣A and another after his diamond ruff and West scored his ♣Q when declarer played low from dummy. Later on, East's ♥10 was promoted as well; Italy +1100.

In the replay, the auction was far less complicated.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Scata</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>	<i>Gaiotti</i>
–	4♥	4♠	All Pass

This contract was made on a heart lead by South so the Italians gained only 10 IMPs on the board. Declarer immediately won the heart lead in dummy, crossed in trumps and advanced the ♦J. South took the ace and returned a heart to partner's jack. When North next played another heart rather than a club. South was caught in an endplay. Dummy ruffed and South was given his trump trick. He now had to play a diamond or a club into the tenaces, at the same time assuring declarer entry to dummy.

And then:

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Donati	Toledano	Porta	Zamir
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led an experimental ♥6 which ran to declarer's ♥10. Next came the ♥Q covered by king and ace. The ♣K was unblocked and declarer then

crossed to his ♠A. When the ♣A brought down the queen, declarer cashed two more top clubs and played a spade up. With the ♦A still in dummy, his nine tricks were assured; Italy +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Khutorsky	Scata	Zeitak	Gaiotti
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♥7 and declarer simply lacked the communication to even establish some tricks in any suit. He was down two, so Italy another +200 and 13 IMPs to them.

So we had seen a great Italian recovery. At the half-way point, they were leading by 66-54.

In the USA1-Singapore match, the USA had recouped 21 IMPS and thus were trailing by 8 IMPs at this point.

The other two quarter-finals looked more or less decided, already at half-time. The Netherlands were 58 IMPs up against Greece and Poland were no less than 73 IMPs up against Sweden.

So it is clear on which two matches I am going to concentrate for the rest of the day.

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U31 Quarter-finals, Segment 2

Israel v Belgium

By Brian Senior

Israel had slightly the better of a quiet first quarter to lead by 21-14 going into the second quarter.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bahbout</i>	<i>Asulin</i>	<i>Dehaye</i>	<i>Levi</i>
1♦	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Ezion</i>	<i>De Wit</i>	<i>Urman</i>	<i>Vandewiele</i>
1♦	2♣	Pass	2♦
2♠	4♥	4♠	5♥
5♠	6♣	Dble	6♥
Dble	All Pass		

For Belgium, Sam Bahbout opened 1♦ as dealer and Adi Asulin overcalled 3♦, asking for a diamond stopper for NT. Hila Levi duly admitted to having the requested stopper, and 3NT concluded the auction. Bahbout led the ace of spades, collecting the queen from Clovis Dehaye. Bahbout continued with a spade to partner's ten, and Dehaye cashed the ♠J then switched to the queen of diamonds to the king and ace. The king of spades was the setting trick; down one for -50.

Amir Ezion also opened 1♦ but Dennis De Wit contented himself with a simple 2♣ overcall. Emiel Vandewiele responded to that with a 2♦ transfer to hearts, and Ezion introduced his spades, enabling Lior Urman to bid 4♠ over De Wit's 4♥ raise. Vandewiele took the push to 5♥, Ezion competed with 5♠, which would have been expensive should anyone have been

able to double it, and De Wit came again with his big club suit. Now the doubling started and Vandewiele ran to 6♥, also doubled.

Urman led the queen of spades, which Ezion overtook to switch to the ace of diamonds. He now erred by continuing with a second diamond to the queen and king, and this allowed Vandewiele to get rid of dummy's second spade loser. The king of hearts discovered the four-nil split, but Vandewiele continued with a low heart to the ace and all his spades went away on the clubs, after which he could lead dummy's last heart to his ten and claim the rest for down one and -100; just 2 IMPs to Israel.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bahbout</i>	<i>Asulin</i>	<i>Dehaye</i>	<i>Levi</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Ezion</i>	<i>De Wit</i>	<i>Urman</i>	<i>Vandewiele</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both Wests became declarer in 3NT, in the case of Bahbout after Levi had opened 1♣ in front of him in third seat.

De Wit led the seven of diamonds against Ezion, who put up dummy's queen. That was ducked. A heart was won by Vandewiele's ace and he returned a spade to the jack, queen and ace, and

a second heart was won by the queen. Vandewiele again returned a spade, and Ezion put up the king and cashed the three top clubs, the ten of spades, and played ace and another diamond. Vandewiele had a spade and a club to cash when in with the king of diamonds, so that was down one for -50.

Had declarer exited with either black loser instead of cashing the ace of diamonds, Vandewiele would have been endplayed to lead a diamond at trick 12 and so give the contract.

Asulin led a club in response to her partner's opening bid. Bahbout led a diamond to the queen and Levi won the king and cashed the ace and queen of hearts. That was the end of the defence. Declarer had two dummy entries so could establish two heart winners and cash them, giving nine easy tricks for +400 and 10 IMPs to Israel.

The score had moved on to 28-24 in favour of Israel when a run of four consecutive double-figure swings came along.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bahbout</i>	<i>Asulin</i>	<i>Dehaye</i>	<i>Levi</i>
-	-	-	1♥
Dble	4♥	5♦	5♥
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Ezion</i>	<i>De Wit</i>	<i>Urman</i>	<i>Vandewiele</i>
-	-	-	1♥
1NT	4♥	All Pass	

Ezion overcalled 1NT and that did not encourage Urman to save over De Wit's raise to 4♥. The game proved to be cold. Ezion led ace and another heart, Vandewieke winning in hand and cashing the ace of clubs then leading a low spade towards the dummy. Ezion rose with the king, cashed the ace of diamonds, then played the third heart. Vandewiele could win that

in dummy and begin the process of ruffing out the clubs, and soon had 10 tricks for +620.

Bahbout preferred to double 1♥ as, I must confess, would I. Asulin raised to 4♥, but now Dehaye did bid 5♦, and that pushed Levi one level too high. Five Diamonds would have been down one, and so was 5♠, which was doubled by Bahbout. He led a low trump, won in dummy by Levi, who ran the jack of spades at trick two, losing to the king. Bahbout cashed the ace of diamonds then switched to a spade. Levi won the queen and cashed the black ace then set about a crossruff, just conceding the ace of hearts, so down one for -200 and 13 IMPs to Belgium.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bahbout</i>	<i>Asulin</i>	<i>Dehaye</i>	<i>Levi</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♠
2♥	3♣	3♥	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Ezion</i>	<i>De Wit</i>	<i>Urman</i>	<i>Vandewiele</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♥	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♥	4♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

This was one of those funny ones, where 5♦ went down yet 6♦ made.

Urman led ace then ten of hearts, forcing dummy to ruff. De Wit led the three of clubs to his jack at trick three and not only lost to the queen but promptly conceded a ruff. He managed the rest, but that was a quick one down for -50.

The first two tricks were the same at the other table, but Asulin played a spade to the king at trick three, and ruffed her last heart then cashed the ace of spades for a club discard and continued by ruffing a spade



with the $\diamond J$. That brought down the queen, meaning that there were two spade winners in the dummy. Asulin played ace of diamonds and a diamond to the king, and the even split meant that she had the rest; +920 and 14 IMPs to Israel.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bahbout	Asulin	Dehaye	Levi
Ezion	De Wit	Urman	Vandewiele
–	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bahbout	Asulin	Dehaye	Levi
–	–	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Ezion	De Wit	Urman	Vandewiele
–	–	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Both Norths opened 3♥, both Easts overcalled 3♠, and both Wests raised to 4♠.

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