



Semifinals - U26

1	SINGAPORE	119
	POLAND	102

2	NETHERLANDS	115
	ISRAEL	99

FINALS
SINGAPORE vs NETHERLANDS
POLAND vs ISRAEL (3rd place)

Semifinals - U21

1	CHINA	89
	USA2	175

2	ISRAEL	77
	DENMARK	103

FINALS
USA2 vs DENMARK
CHINA vs ISRAEL (3rd place)

Semifinals - Women U26

1	NORWAY	69
	POLAND	128

2	FRANCE	145
	NETHERLANDS	107

FINALS
POLAND vs FRANCE
NORWAY vs NETHERLANDS (3rd place)

Semifinals - U16

1	USA1	89
	USA2	102

2	ESTONIA	79
	POLAND	118

FINALS
USA2 vs POLAND
USA1 vs ESTONIA (3rd place)

Semifinals - U31

1	CHINA	136
	BELGIUM	157

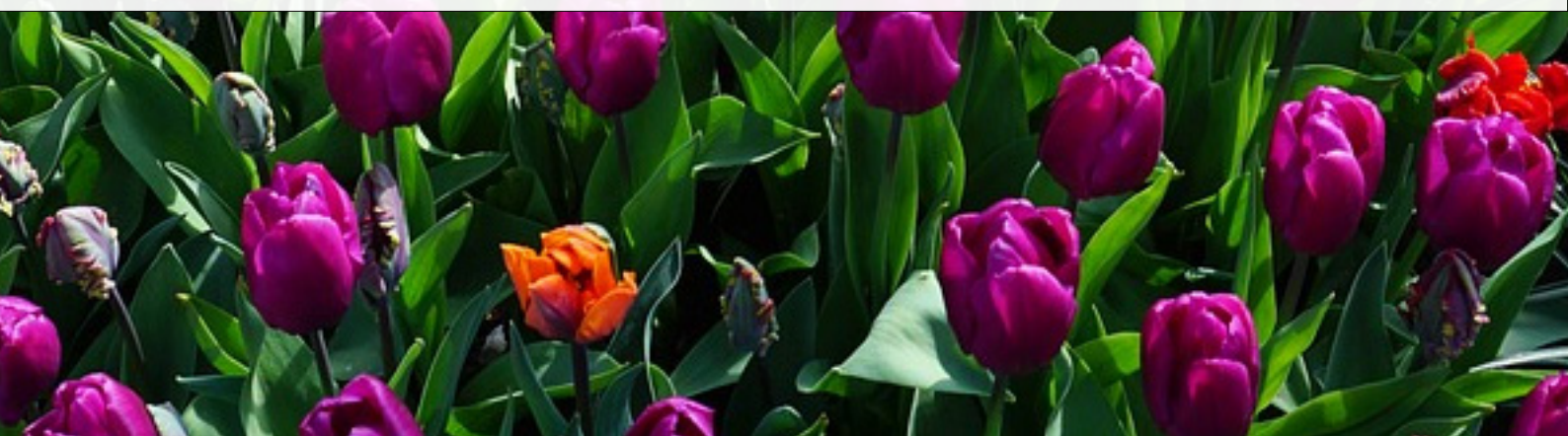
2	INDIA	91
	FRANCE	116

FINALS
BELGIUM vs FRANCE
CHINA vs INDIA (3rd place)



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Quennell



Bekó



Patreuha



Kolesnik



De Wijs



Grossack



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Hegedus



Herbst



Dalpozzo



Giubilo

The Robert A. Howes Trophy



Robert A. Howes was the General Counsel of the WBF from 1976-1992, and again from 1995-1999, and in 1993-1999 was also President of Congress. In 1986, Robert was elected to the WBF Committee of Honour, as can be seen here:

<http://www.worldbridge.org/the-wbf/committee-of-honour/>

In 2000 the President's report to congress (Jose Damiani) says: For many years he was General Counsel to the WBF, a role he filled with brilliance, humanity and humour, and he also held the post of President of Congress for the latter years of his life. He was a great friend to the WBF and will always be remembered with great warmth by all who knew him.

His wife, Suzette Hennion Howes, passed away on the 13th of December 2020, and in her will was written:

To the World Bridge Federation, I bequeath an amount of USD 100,000 (one hundred thousand US dollars) with the responsibility of organizing and establishing a bridge tournament in honour of

my deceased husband, Robert A. Howes. The tournament shall award a trophy to the winner, and it will be contested every two years, totalling ten competitions over a period of twenty years.

The WBF has decided that the tournament in question shall be the World U31 Teams Championship and, hence, the U31 Championship here in Veldhoven is being played for the Robert A. Howes Trophy.



U26 Quarter-final, Segment 3


USA1 v Singapore Israel v Italy

By Jos Jacobs

The 3rd segment proved to be much more quiet than the first two. Notably in the USA1 v Singapore match, not very much was happening. I will therefore also have a look at the sometimes disastrous things that were happening in the Israel v Italy match,

On the second board of the set, a daring balancing action by their vulnerable South player brought the Singaporeans a double partscore swing.

Board 2. Dealer East/N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Teo</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

After the Precision-style E/W auction, South had nothing more to say when 3♦ came back to him. The contract made with an overtrick, for Singapore +130.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
<i>Kolesnik</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Yang</i>
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass	2♠
3♦	3♠	All Pass	

In the other room, East could not rebid 3♣ so South got the chance to balance at the two-level. Not too

surprisingly, he caught a perfect dummy who even ventured a raise. Just made for +140 to Singapore when the trumps were 2-2 but anyway no disaster but a push board or so if down one; Singapore +7 IMPs.

Board 3 was a slam.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Teo</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Dble
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		



Finn KOLESNIK

South led the ♣K and declarer played carefully for just one overtrick; Singapore +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F Kolesnik</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Yang</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Please note how effective the direct spade support bid worked out.

On the same ♣K lead, declarer went after the hearts because the side entry (♦A) was still there. With the friendly breaks, even an overtrick was made; USA1 +1460 and 13 IMPs to them.

Over now for a short look at Israel v Italy. On the next board, the Israeli E/W missed a relatively easy game.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Baniri</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Loonstein</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

After the 1NT rebid, East bid what he thought he could make. He was right, just made; Italy +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zamir</i>	<i>Gi. Giubilo</i>	<i>Toledano</i>	<i>Ga. Giubilo</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♦
Pass	2♠	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

Just made, Israel +130 but 10 IMPs to Italy. Over

the 2♦ overcall, West had to pass so East preferred to describe most of his hand, creating some uncertainty about the size of the black-suit fits.

On Board 5, Italy were in 7♠ missing an ace so we better go quickly back to USA1 and Singapore.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Teo</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥
2♠	4♥	All Pass	

Once East would lead a spade away from his king, the contract would go down. Three of our four Easts in view did so...Singapore +100 when Wu was one of them.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>F Kolesnik</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Yang</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	



Oren TOLEDANO



Grossack was the odd East out, so Singapore +620 and 12 IMPs back to them.

Time for a real little horror story now.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Teo</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>
<i>F Kolesnik</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Z Grossack</i>	<i>Yang</i>
3♣	Pass	3NT	Dble
Pass	4♦	Dble	All Pass

Down five for -1100 and no swing. South had to take action at a dangerously high level at his first turn to bid...

Oh yes: in the other match, both Wests passed as dealer and eventually ended up in 3♣ for +130 and no swing either...

We are staying now with the Israel-Italy match for another little disaster.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Baniri</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Loonstein</i>
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	2♠	Dble	4♠
All Pass			

West led the ♥A and the passive defence needed to beat the contract was not found. Israel +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zamir</i>	<i>Gi. Giubilo</i>	<i>Toledano</i>	<i>Ga. Giubilo</i>
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	2♠	Dble	3♠
4♥	All Pass		

South's 3♠ just gave West room to bid game. When North led the ♣Q, declarer had a much easier route to even 11 tricks. Israel another +450 and 13 IMPs.

Two boards later, there was another disaster.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Donati</i>	<i>Baniri</i>	<i>Porta</i>	<i>Loonstein</i>
-	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

North led the ♠10 and declarer went up with the ace and tried his luck in diamonds. There were nine tricks, for Italy +150.

More action in the Closed Room.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zamir</i>	<i>Gi. Giubilo</i>	<i>Toledano</i>	<i>Ga. Giubilo</i>
-	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Dble	Pass	2♣
2♦	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

With the trumps 2-2 and the ♥K onside, declarer had an easy overtrick for +870 and 12 IMPs to Israel.

The scores with 14 boards to play:

USA1 v Singapore 77-90, Singapore winning the segment 31-26

Israel v Italy 109-89, Israel winning the segment 55-23

U21 Quarter-final, Segment 3

France v Denmark

By Brian Senior

At the half-way point in their U21 quarter-final, Denmark led France by 64-43IMPs. Set three featured three slam deals in the first five deals, all for E/W, and all of which provided double-figure swings in favour of one team or the other.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>D. Tylvad</i>	<i>Vallet</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Bloch</i>
–	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Gallard</i>	<i>A. Tylvad</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Hammelev</i>
–	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

One might have thought that Christian Lahrmann's off-shape 1NT rebid, showing 15-17, for Denmark, would have made life easier for his side, as it would suggest to partner that there would be a major-suit fit available to him. But Daniel Tylvad used GF checkback then jumped to 4♠ over the 2NT response, never mentioning his hearts, and the cold slam was missed; +480.

By contrast, Leo Rombaut, for France, rebid a shape-showing 2♣ and that could have meant that there was no fit. However, Aurele Gallard had the perfect solution to the West hand. Not all pairs play

a jump in the fourth suit to show a misfitting five-five or better and game values, but when it comes up it's definitely useful. Here, Rombaut liked his top cards enough to cuebid in support of hearts, which convinced Gallard to check on key-cards, then bid the small slam on finding partner with three; +980 and 11 IMPs to France.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>D. Tylvad</i>	<i>Vallet</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Bloch</i>
–	–	–	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass



Leo ROMBAUT



West	North	East	South
Gallard	A. Tylvad	Rombaut	Hammelev
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass
6NT	Pass	7♠	All Pass

The Danish system card says that 2♠ is weak with four or five hearts and a five-card or longer minor, however, a previous board suggested that they actually play constructive weak twos in the majors, and that is how Tylvad chose to launch the West hand after a pass on his right. Lahrman would no doubt defend his jump to 4♥ as being a practical bid to the most likely final contract without giving any unnecessary information to the defenders. However, it left the Danes in game when a slam was possible, albeit a little fortunate.

Vallet led a diamond against 4♥, the king forcing the ace. Tylvad unblocked the king of hearts then came back to hand with a club ruff to play ace then jack of hearts. Vallet could win that and cash a diamond, but that was all; 11 tricks for +650.

Gallard opened the west hand a level lower, enabling him to rebid hearts to show six then show three-card spade support. When Rombaut cuebid 4♣, Gallard was willing to co-operate with a diamond cuebid, and that was what Rombaut needed to hear. He asked for key-cards then invited Seven, only for Gallard to double-cross him by raising to 6NT, which was not what Rombaut had had in mind. He guessed to correct to 7♠, and that concluded what had started out as a nice auction but had then ended with a serious hiccup.

Hammelev led the two of spades against 7♠, Rombaut winning the ace and cashing the king of hearts. He crossed to dummy with a club ruff to ruff a low heart, then drew trumps. Finally, a diamond to the ace put him in dummy to cash four more heart winners, discarding all his remaining losers. The grand required hearts either three-three or doubleton queen, no bad spade break, and no diamond lead. In other words, it was a pretty poor contract but, it had one important thing going for it – it made. That was +2210 and 17 IMPs to France.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
D. Tylvad	Vallet	Lahrman	Bloch
–	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Gallard	A. Tylvad	Rombaut	Hammelev
–	3♥	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

The French auction looks a little strange, but is explained by the fact that Gallard intended 4NT to be Key-card while Rombaut took it as showing the minors. The bad news about this auction was that, with declarer having shown club length, it wasn't too taxing for Hammelev to lead ace and another club to deal his partner a ruff; down one for –50.

Tylvad responded with a 4♥ cuebid to show a hand too good for an immediate spade raise, and Lahrman showed his heart control and interest in slam. Tylvad made a grand slam try, but Lahrman signed off in Six and that ended the auction. Here, there was no clue regarding declarer's club length, but he had cuebid 5♥, which would often show first-round control. Bloch started well by cashing the ace of clubs, but then switched to his singleton heart, and now the slam was made for +980 and 14 IMPs to Denmark.

France had won the slam battle by two to one, but it was Denmark who edged the set by 38-34, and they would go into the final quarter with a useful lead of 102-75.

U31 Quarter-finals, Segment 4

Bulgaria v India

By Jos Jacobs

India led Bulgaria by 101-95 IMPs going into the fourth quarter of their U31 quarter-final, but that lead did not even survive the first board of the set.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Pavlov</i>	<i>Kushari</i>	<i>Andonov</i>	<i>Roy</i>
–	–	–	1♠
3♥	4♠	5♣	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Chatterjee</i>	<i>Lazarov</i>	<i>Chakraborty</i>	<i>Ferov</i>
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

For Bulgaria, Zahari Ferov opened 1♠ and, after a pass from Swarnashish Chatterjee, Dobromir Lazarov raised semi-pre-emptively to game. Chatterjee led a diamond, ferov winning on table to play the jack of spades. That was ducked, after which he just had to concede a spade, a heart and a club, so making 10 tricks for +620.

At the other table, Sagnik Roy also opened 1♠ but Todor Pavlov made an aggressive weak jump overcall of 3♥. That didn't prevent Sayantan Kushari from raising to 4♠, but now Mark Andonov competed with 5♣. He clearly intended that as agreeing hearts, but that message didn't get across to Pavlov, who passed it out. Roy cashed the ace and king of diamonds then switched to the king of spades. Andonov won the ace and ruffed his small spade then ran the ten of clubs and continued with a club to the jack. When that held. It took two more rounds of trumps to draw them all, by which time it was clear that, if anyone had the longer

hearts, it would be South. So Andonov tackled the suit by leading the jack, which would have enabled him to pick up ♥K10x outside – but the king was offside, so down one for –100 but 11 IMPs to Bulgaria, who moved into the lead at 106-101.

India picked up two single-IMP swings to move the score onto 103-106, then came the next major swing.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Pavlov</i>	<i>Kushari</i>	<i>Andonov</i>	<i>Roy</i>
1♦	1♥	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Chatterjee</i>	<i>Lazarov</i>	<i>Chakraborty</i>	<i>Ferov</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦
1♥	2♦	Pass	Pass
3♣	All Pass		



Dobromir LAZAROV



Pavlov stretched to open 1♦, Precision, which did not promise any diamonds, and Kushari overcalled. Andonov's 1♠ denied four spades, so Pavlov rebid 1NT and Andonov raised to game.

Having bid a moderate heart suit and received no support from partner, Kushari led a spade. That was won in dummy and Pavlov, seeing eight tricks but no more, led a low diamond to his ten. Of course, the defence could have taken five diamond tricks now, but Kushari could not imagine the actual diamond layout and ducked! And that was nine tricks for a great +600.

At the other table, Chatterjee passed as dealer and it was Wrik Chakraborty who opened as East with 1♣. Ferov overcalled 1♦ and Lazarov raised that to 2♦, so 3NT was completely out of the picture. Chatterjee competed to 3♣ and was left to play there. After a spade lead, ducked to the king, there were three more side-suit losers so Chakraborty made exactly for +110 but 10 IMPs to Bulgaria.

That increased the Bulgarian lead to 116-103 with eight boards to play. A Bulgarian overtrick IMP on Board 21 made it 117-103, then they added still more IMPs on Board 22.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Pavlov</i>	<i>Kushari</i>	<i>Andonov</i>	<i>Roy</i>
–	–	Pass	3♠
3NT	4♠	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Chatterjee</i>	<i>Lazarov</i>	<i>Chakraborty</i>	<i>Ferov</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♦	2♥	3♦	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Roy opened 3♠ in second seat and Pavlov overcalled 3NT, a little light in high-card terms but with the compensation of a possibly runnable suit. When Kushari now competed with 4♠, Andonov doubled, and that was that. Pavlov cashed the ace of

diamonds, ace of clubs, and king of diamonds, after which there were two trump losers to come, so down two for –300.

Ferov did not open the South hand and the slower auction to 4♠ did not really encourage a double. Chatterjee too cashed the three minor-suit winners so that was a safe two down for the defence for +100, but 5 IMPs to Bulgaria.

That made it 122-103 to Bulgaria, with only six boards remaining.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Pavlov</i>	<i>Kushari</i>	<i>Andonov</i>	<i>Roy</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Chatterjee</i>	<i>Lazarov</i>	<i>Chakraborty</i>	<i>Ferov</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass



Both Wests opened a strong NT and both Easts transferred to hearts. Over the completion, Andonov made a self-agreeing 4♦ splinter and accepted Pavlov's decision to sign-off in game, while Chakraborty simple blasted 6♥.

It was, of course, all about the ace of clubs and, when it proved to be onside, both declarers had an easy 12 tricks. That meant +680 for Pavlov, but +1430 and 13 IMPs for Chatterjee. Suddenly, India were a lot closer at 116-122.

Board 24 saw India creep closer still, scoring 3♠+1 against 1NT just made, to pick up 2 IMPs; 118-122.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Pavlov</i>	<i>Kushari</i>	<i>Andonov</i>	<i>Roy</i>
–	1♦	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			



Swarnashish CHATTERJEE

West	North	East	South
<i>Chatterjee</i>	<i>Lazarov</i>	<i>Chakraborty</i>	<i>Ferov</i>
–	1♦	Pass	2♠
Dble	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Lazarov opened a Precision 1♦ and Ferov responded 2♠, either both minors or a NT invitation. Three Diamonds was presumably saying no to an invitational type, and Ferov passed it out. After a spade lead to the ace and a heart switch, there were just the minor-suit aces to be lost, so 10 tricks for +130.

Kushari also opened 1♦, possibly three cards if 4-4-3-2, and Roy made an inverted raise. Kushari showed a weak NT and Roy raised to game, against which Andonov led the ten of hearts, Pavlov overtaking with the jack and Kushari ducking. A heart continuation now would have left declarer needing to knock out the right ace first – if he didn't pick diamonds he would be down – but he rated to do so, I guess. In practice, it didn't matter, because Pavlov switched to a spade, after which Kushari was in control and had plenty of time to establish his nine tricks for +600 and 7 IMPs to India.

The Indians were back in the lead by 125-122, and eventually won by 128-126.



Wrik CHAKRABORTY

U26W Semi-final, Segment 1

France v Netherlands

By Brian Senior

Sunday morning saw the start of the semi-finals in all five championships. We begin our coverage with a look at the U26W match between France and Netherlands.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>S. De Wijs</i>	<i>Bouton</i>	<i>L. De Wijs</i>	<i>Kurek-B</i>
–	–	1♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	6NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Schlumberger</i>	<i>Beekman</i>	<i>Belloy</i>	<i>Christensen</i>
–	–	1♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	All Pass

Both Easts opened 1♦, both Wests responded 3NT, and both Easts invited slam, but in different ways.

For France, Constance Belloy bid 4NT, and Wihelmine Schlumberger, looking at a minimum for her previous bid, passed. After a spade lead, Schlumberger won and played king of hearts followed by a heart to the jack. Though that lost to the queen, the ten later fell under the ace so there were 12 tricks for +490.

Lotte De Wijs invited with 5NT. I have always played a jump to 5NT as inviting Seven, but perhaps that doesn't make sense in this auction and it instead is a stronger invitation than is 4NT? Anyway, Sarah De Wijs accepted and Clara Bouton led the five of hearts. That went to the four, ten and king, and a heart back to the nine ensured a third heart trick and 12 in all for +990 and 11 IMPs to Netherlands.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A 10 2 ♥ 8 7 6 4 ♦ K 10 8 6 ♣ 7 2		♠ Q 9 4 3 ♥ K 10 3 ♦ 5 4 ♣ K Q 9 3	♠ 7 ♥ A Q 2 ♦ A 9 3 2 ♣ 10 8 6 5 4
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West	North	East	South
<i>S. De Wijs</i>	<i>Bouton</i>	<i>L. De Wijs</i>	<i>Kurek-B</i>
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Schlumberger</i>	<i>Beekman</i>	<i>Belloy</i>	<i>Christensen</i>
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♣	All Pass

After N/S found the spade fit, the De Wijs sisters went quietly, letting Margaux Kurek-Beaulieu play peacefully in 2♠, while Schlumberger made a balancing double, getting Belloy to be declarer in 3♣.

Against 2♠, Sarah led the four of clubs to the queen and ace, and Kurek-Beaulieu promptly led the



Margaux KUREK BEAULIEU

jack back to Lotte's king. Lotte returned the three of spades to the five, seven and 10, and declarer cashed the ace of spades then led to her ♠8. Next, she played on diamonds without drawing the last spade. Sarah won the first diamond and returned the suit, so Kurek-Beaulieu won and played a third round to dummy. That was ruffed and there were three hearts to come, so just made for +110.

Malene Holm Christensen led a spade against 3♣, Bouton winning the ace and returning a club to the king and ace. Christensen returned the ♣J, and there was just a diamond to be lost; 10 tricks for +130 and 6 IMPs to France.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>S. De Wijs</i>	<i>Bouton</i>	<i>L. De Wijs</i>	<i>Kurek-B</i>
2♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Schlumberger</i>	<i>Beekman</i>	<i>Belloy</i>	<i>Christensen</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♣
3♣	4♣	All Pass	

Sarah opened the West hand with a weak two bid and Lotte raised pre-emptively to 3♠, which ended the auction. Bouton led the ace of clubs then switched to a trump, Kurek-Beaulieu winning the ace and switching to ace and another diamond. Sarah won, drew the missing trumps, then took the heart finesse. That lost so she had nine tricks for +140.

Schlumberger must have been brought up on the traditional style of French weak two bids because she passed as dealer and Bellow opened the bidding in third seat. Schlumberger cuebid to show a constructive heart raise, but Belloy was not, of course, interested, and Fleur Beekman's 4♣ ended the auction. Christensen won the diamond lead and led a club to the ace then a diamond to her nine and Schlumberger's jack. Schlumberger played a heart, so Belloy won the ace and continued with the queen. Christensen won the ♥K, crossed to the king of clubs, and ruffed a diamond. That established the ♦10 for a spade discard, so Christensen had an overtrick for +150 and 7 IMPs to Netherlands.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>S. De Wijs</i>	<i>Bouton</i>	<i>L. De Wijs</i>	<i>Kurek-B</i>
-	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♠	All Pas

West	North	East	South
<i>Schlumberger</i>	<i>Beekman</i>	<i>Belloy</i>	<i>Christensen</i>
-	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

On getting spade support, Sarah splintered in clubs and, after a series of cuebids, respected Lotte's sign-off



Clara BOUTON

in 5♠. Bouton led the four of hearts to the eight, king and ace, and Sarah led a low diamond towards her hand. When Bouton didn't ruff, the king scored and Sarah led the queen of spades to the king and ace, and shortly afterwards claimed all 13 tricks for +710.

After the same first three bids, Schlumberger jumped to 5♣, Exclusion Key-card. Belloy denied holding any key-cards, so Schlumberger asked about the queen of trumps, Belloy saying yes to that and also showing the king of diamonds. That committed the partnership to slam, but of course facing those two cards Schlumberger wanted to be in it, so that was fine. Beekman led the three of hearts to the jack, king and ace, and Schlumberger laid down the ace of spades. The fall of the king was a bonus and she too had 13 tricks, but that was worth +1460 and 13 IMPs to France.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
S. De Wijs	Bouton	L. De Wijs	Kurek-B
–	–	1♣	1NT
All Pass			



Malene Holm CHRISTENSEN

West	North	East	South
Schlumberger	Beekman	Belloy	Christensen
–	–	1♣	1NT
2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass

The sisters left Kurek-Beaulie to play in 1NT and Sarah led the five of diamonds. Lotte won the ace and switched to the ten of spades to the queen and ace. Sarah returned the two of spades to the king and jack, and now Lotte tried a low club. Declarer ran that to dummy and had five club tricks and, when Sarah pitched a diamond, three tricks in that suit and nine in all for +150.

Christensen also overcalled 1NT, but Schlumberger could bid 2♣ to show interest in the majors, and Belloy had a four-card heart suit so bid it, and was allowed to play there. Christensen cashed the ace of clubs then switched to the queen of spades, which Belloy won with the king to ruff a club, then play the jack of hearts to the queen, king and ace. Christensen led the jack of spades to dummy's ace and Belloy drew trumps, cashed the ten of spades, and had eight tricks for +110 and 6 IMPs to France.

After 14 boards it was 28-23 in favour of France.



Lotte DE WIJS

U26 Semi-finals, Segment 1

Netherlands v Israel Singapore v Poland

By Jos Jacobs

On Saturday night, the final segment of the quarter-finals did not produce the drama some of us might have been hoping for. All leading teams held on to their lead and progressed easily enough into the semi-finals.

With both semi-finals on display, I can easily switch in this report from one match to the other. No switches were needed for Board 1, a genuine warming-up board if you were in 4♠. Board 2, however was a quite different story.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kedzierski</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Krawczyk</i>	<i>Yang</i>
–	–	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	All Pass		

The Poles produced a natural auction in which they did not quite find out the combined potential of their combined hands. Their were 12 tricks on a spade lead; Poland +490.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Teo</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>
–	–	1♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

At the other table, the Singaporeans did not produce a very scientific auction either, but at least they managed to arrive in the slam sector and in the right denomination; Singapore +940 and 10 IMPs to them.

In the other semi-final, the Dutch did hardly any better than the Singaporeans.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Baniri</i>	<i>V.d. Paverd</i>	<i>Loonstein</i>
–	–	2NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♦	All Pass

West was worth a quantitative raise and East correctly proposed an alternative slam. The Netherlands +940, like the Singaporeans.

In the Open Room, the Israelis stole the show with a good, mainly natural, auction to the grand.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Caris</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>	<i>Dupont</i>
–	–	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5NT	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

Timothy Jian Zhong WU





Yes, West did have quite a lot in reserve when East launched 5NT to ask about it; Israel a fine +1440 and 11 IMPs as well.

Two boards later, the Poles brought a successful Multi into the attack.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kedzierski</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Krawczyk</i>	<i>Yang</i>
2♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

They were in 4♠ before N/S could breathe...one down, Singapore +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Teo</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♣
3♣	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

In the other room, West did not open and thus handed the initiative over to the opponents. East opened, South overcalled and North made a game try. There were just 9 tricks, so Poland +600 and 11 IMPs back to them.

On the next board, the Singaporeans landed in the wrong game.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kedzierski</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Krawczyk</i>	<i>Yang</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

An easy, undisturbed auction led the Poles to a quick +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Teo</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Curiously enough, the Singaporeans missed out on the 4-4 heart fit in spite of an undisturbed Puppet auction. 3NT was not the place to be. North led the ♥9 to partner's ace and the ensuing shift to the ♠J sank the contract; Poland +100 and 12 more IMPs to them.

A few boards later, 3NT looked the obvious place to be for E/W but the hand proved a minefield for both parties involved.



Jakub BAZYLUK

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Singapore v Poland

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kedzierski</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Krawczyk</i>	<i>Yang</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Bidding 3NT was easy enough for the Poles but making it was not so easy. South led a low club to dummy's jack and a low spade next went to declarer's jack. When declarer continued a low spade to dummy's nine, North won the king and returned a club. South won declarer's king with the ace and cleared the suit. Declarer thus had two club and three spade tricks but, when the diamonds provided only three more tricks, he had to accept one down, so Singapore +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Teo</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

The Singaporeans produced a careful auction that ended in 1NT only. When North led a low diamond, declarer soon wrapped up nine tricks. Singapore another +150 and 6 IMPs to them.

In the other match, both teams were in the more aggressive 3NT. For Israel, South led a low heart to partner's queen. A club came back, taken by South's ace but when South continued his diamond, that suit was blown up and declarer thus had an easy route to his nine tricks; The Netherlands +600.

At the other table, the Dutch South made the unusual but still OK lead of the ♣A and another. Declarer won the queen and cashed the king and ace of diamonds

in that order, getting the bad news. He continued by playing a spade from dummy to his jack and, when this held, tried a low heart. South jumped in with his ace to clear the clubs, but now the scene was set for a nice double endplay. Declarer first played ♦Q and another, forcing North to return the ♥Q to dummy's king. Next, he exited from dummy with another heart, forcing North to lead away from his ♠K. Very well done, Israel a deserved +600 to halve the board.

On the next board in this same match, we saw a partscore swing, for a change.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Caris</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>	<i>Dupont</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

East got the reply he most wanted to his Stayman enquiry, but any major would also have been very much OK. Two overtricks for Israel +130.



Xue Heng TEO

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Baniri</i>	<i>V.d. Pavverd</i>	<i>Loonstein</i>
1♣	2♣	Dble	All Pass

In the replay, West thought his clubs were better than North's but, in the end, North emerged with eight tricks. The forcing defence might have saved the day for the Dutch; Israel +180 and 8 IMPs for them to go back into the lead by the odd IMP.

Then another slam:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

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

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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Caris</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>	<i>Dupont</i>
–	3♣	Pass	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

North's pre-empt and South's double raise were too much for the Israeli E/W. Down three, so Israel just +500. Would the Dutch do any better?



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Baniri</i>	<i>V.d. Pavverd</i>	<i>Loonstein</i>
–	3♣	Pass	3NT
4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Yes and no. When South bid 3NT only, West could produce a cuebid, but over East's 4♠ West saw no reason to go on. A diamond lead would hold it to 12 tricks but South led a club. The Netherlands therefore +710 and just 5 IMPs to them...to immediately regain the lead.

In our other match, we saw mainly the same type of swing.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kedzierski</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Krawczyk</i>	<i>Yang</i>
–	3♣	Pass	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

This is an auction they copied from our other semi-final; Poland +500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Teo</i>	<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>
–	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥(♠)	3♣	3♠	5♣
6♠	Dble	All Pass	

Once North did not open, the Singaporeans only needed some courage to gain heavily on the board. North doubled for the diamond lead and duly got it, but that was the end of the defence when both major-suit kings behaved; Singapore +1660 and 15 IMPs to them. They were leading 35-21 now and went on to finish the set 41-24 up.

A few boards later, both Singapore and Poland stayed out of a more than borderline game but, needless to say, one would think, both the Netherlands and Israel were in it.



Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Baniri	V.d. Paverd	Loonstein
2♦	Pass	3♦	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

When West was on lead, his obvious diamond lead led to a quick and painless one down; the Netherlands +100. Please note the effect of the weak two in diamonds by West...

In the other room, the Dutch reached a remarkable contract.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Khutorsky	Caris	Zeitak	Dupont
Pass	Pass	1NT	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Dble	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

E/W tried their 10-13 1NT opening but N/S were not impressed. When South apparently could not bid 3NT, the Dutch settled for an interesting Moysian fit. I think that a club switch at trick four might have given declarer a big problem. His entries are attacked before he would want to use them. However, after the ♦A, the ♥Q and the ♦K East shifted to a low spade, thus doing part of the job for declarer. South's ♠K won and declarer could now take a club finesse to the ♣J and repeat the heart finesse. When trumps behaved very well, he was home in his interesting contract because the clubs could now all be cashed. The Netherlands +620 and 12 IMPs more to them to win the set 34-20.

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U26 Semi-finals, Segment 2

Netherlands v Israel Singapore v Poland

By Jos Jacobs

The second set started with a 14-IMP lead to the Netherlands. The first board of the set already was tricky.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 8 5 ♥ 10 6 2 ♦ Q 8 6 5 ♣ 7 6 5		♠ 7 3 2 ♥ K 9 4 ♦ 10 3 2 ♣ A K Q 10	♠ J 4 ♥ A Q 8 5 ♦ A K J 4 ♣ 4 3 2 ♠ A K Q 9 6 ♥ J 7 3 ♦ 9 7 ♣ J 9 8
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In the Open Room, the Dutch did well to find out that there was something wrong with their club stopper.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zamir	V.d. Paverd	Toledano	Nijssen
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♣	Dble	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

They thus reached a very scientific contract but it soon turned out that after losing three top clubs, they had to take two winning finesses. That was one too many, so one down, Israel +100.

The Israelis showed a more practical approach.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Thorpe	Khutorsky	Van Oosten	Zeitak
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The important thing is to suggest you have a club stopper. East was not impressed by this suggestion and simply cashed his four club winners but, when declarer took the diamond finesse later on, his nine tricks rolled home, so Israel +600 and 12 IMPs back to them. The scores now were nearly level again.

In the other match, Poland took over the initiative on Board 17.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cichy	Lee	Kopka	Yang
–	1♣	Pass	1♥
3♦	Pass	4♦	Dble
All Pass			

Looking at this auction, I thought: ‘What is wrong with 3♠ by South?’

The contract went down four but this +800 to Singapore would not even be enough against a small slam.

In the Closed Room, we saw the Polish Club in action.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Teo	Kedzierski	Wu	Krawczyk
–	1♣	Pass	1♥
3♦	3♠	4♦	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♥	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

Very well bid. Once South denied the club control, North knew what to do. A well deserved +1510 to

Poland, and good for 12 IMPs.

And the next board:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Cichy</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Kopka</i>	<i>Yang</i>
–	–	1♥	2♣
All Pass			

For South, a double over East's 1♥ hardly looks attractive but would certainly activate a possible spade fit. As it was, nobody had any clear reason to go on after 2♣. This was just made for Singapore +90.

In the other room, West did take action...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Teo</i>	<i>Kedzierski</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Krawczyk</i>
–	–	1♥	2♣
2♥	Dble	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

...only to find out that he had launched his opponents into an unbeatable game. Just made, Poland +620.

In the other semi-final, South was confronted with this problem, too.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zamir</i>	<i>V.d. Pavverd</i>	<i>Toledano</i>	<i>Nijssen</i>
–	–	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

South bided his time with patience but, when 2♥ finally came round to him, he took action. North promptly realised what was going on and made a strong invitational bid which Nijssen duly converted; The Netherlands +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thorpe</i>	<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Van Oosten</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>
–	–	1♥	2♣
2♥	All Pass		

In the replay, Zeitak apparently was scared by his heart holding. Two Hearts went one off for –50 but the Dutch had gained 12 IMPs.

Had this been a BAM session, the Dutch would have done very well. Over the next nine boards, they scored 7-0 with two boards halved but it brought them only 21 more IMPs. The last board, however, brought a bigger swing.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Zamir</i>	<i>V.d. Pavverd</i>	<i>Toledano</i>	<i>Nijssen</i>
1♦	2♠	All Pass	

The Dutch remained on firm ground here. They lost the obvious five black tricks for a score of +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thorpe</i>	<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Van Oosten</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The Israelis tried their luck in a vulnerable game. Had the clubs behaved, it would only have needed a successful heart finesse. When the clubs did not cooperate, the contract had to go down three for another +300 to the Netherlands and 9 IMPs to them. They had won this set as well, 41-21, to lead 75-41 overall at half-time

In the other match, after the boards shown above Poland had the better of the small exchanges. They thus won the set by a considerable margin, 46-8, to lead 70-49 at half-time.

U31 Semi-final, Segment 2

France v India

By Brian Senior

France had a handy lead of 46-12 at the end of set one of their semi-final match against India, but India came back strongly early in the second set.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Deheeger</i>	<i>Kushari</i>	<i>Bedouet</i>	<i>Roy</i>
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Das</i>	<i>Basler</i>	<i>Kar</i>	<i>Dufrene</i>
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

For India, Sagnik Roy opened 1♠ and Sayantan Kushari responded 2NT, natural and forcing, raised to game by Roy. Pierre Bedouet led out the four club winners then switched safely to a spade. Kushari won that in hand and cashed the red aces then the rest of the spades. Eventually, it looked as though the diamond was the more likely finesse to succeed, as West kept two of them while East came down to one card in each red suit. A diamond to the jack resulted in two diamond tricks and nine in all for +600.

For France, Melic Dufrene also opened 1♠, but Raphael Basler responded with 2♦ then showed his strength in hearts and Dufrene, with no club stopper, felt that he had to bid spades for a third time, raised to game by Basler. Pritam Das led a club, of course, and Souvik Kar won three of those then continued with the thirteenth club. Declarer was allowed to ruff cheaply in dummy, so he continued by cashing the jack of spades then playing three rounds of diamonds, ruffing then drawing the outstanding trumps. The combination play in the red suits looks to be the right line –♦Q coming down in three or the heart finesse – but it was unsuccessful on this occasion; down one for –100 and 12 IMPs to India.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Deheeger</i>	<i>Kushari</i>	<i>Bedouet</i>	<i>Roy</i>
–	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	5NT
Pass	7♠	All Pass	



Colin DEHEEGER

West	North	East	South
Das	Basler	Kar	Dufrene
–	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Dble	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
Pass	7♣	All Pass	

Both Souths thought they were far too strong to raise to the spade game, so went through fourth-suit-forcing to allow them to explore more thoroughly. It is impossible to know the subtle nuances of the two systems, but what is clear is that Kushari and Roy, who reached 7♠, outbid Basler and Dufrene, who reached the inferior 7♣. Was it not clear that South had four-card spade support in the latter auction, or was it clear but 7♣ simply offered a choice of trump suits and Dufrene picked wrong?

No matter, spades were three-two and clubs were also three-two with the queen onside, so both contracts made in comfort, for +1440 to France but +1510 to India and +2 IMPs.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Deheeger	Kushari	Bedouet	Roy
Pass	1♦	Dble	1♠
Pass	2♠	3♥	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Das	Basler	Kar	Dufrene
Pass	1♦	Dble	Pass
2♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The respective South players followed very different approaches to their hand on this one. When East doubled, Dufrene passed and never got involved in the auction, eventually selling out to 4♥ on his right. By contrast, not only did Roy bid 1♠ at his first turn

but, on being supported by partner jumped to 4♠ as an advance save on the second round of the auction.

Dufrene just had to avoid leading a spade into declarer's tenace to beat 4♥, assuming competent defence from then on in. Sure enough, Dufrene led the four of diamonds and Basler put in the jack, cashed the ace, then switched to a spade. Kar had no option but to finesse, and when that lost he was one down for –100.

Deheeger led the queen of clubs against 4♠, Roy winning the ace and calling for the jack of spades from dummy. Pierre Bedouet rose with the ace, cashed the king of clubs then a heart, then switched back to clubs. Roy ruffed the club, ruffed a heart, and led dummy's last spade up. The queen appeared so he won the king, cashed the ten, and ran the diamonds for 10 tricks, +620, and 11 IMPs to India, who were much closer now at 37-46.

Then the momentum of the set shifted.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Deheeger	Kushari	Bedouet	Roy
–	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♣	2♠	3♣	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Das	Basler	Kar	Dufrene
–	Pass	1♦	1♠
Dble	Rdbl	2♥	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass

Roy again did a lot more bidding than Dufrene, but this time it was the Frenchman who who came out on top.

Deheeger doubled 4♠ and led a club round to the ace-queen, costing his side a trick. Roy played the jack of spades, which Bedouet won with the ace. Bedouet returned a club to the ace, so Roy led a spade to the queen followed by a low diamond off the dummy.



That ran round to the jack, and Deheeger played ace and a third diamond. In the fullness of time, Roy had to lose two heart tricks so was down two for -500.

Minus 500 would be fairly harmless if India could bid and make game at the other table, and indeed game is possible, though not necessarily cold, in any of three different denominations. But Kar declared only 3♥, where he won the spade lead and played the jack of clubs. Dufrene won the ace and played the king of spades and, wishing to keep as much control as possible, Kar discarded a diamond. That worked out well because Dufrene was tempted into a diamond switch, which ran to declarer's nine. Kar led a heart to the ten and jack and back came a heart to the queen and dummy's king. Kar cashed the ace of diamonds, led a heart to the nine, then a club to the queen and king. He could have taken the rest now but actually conceded a club ruff so made only nine tricks for +140 but 8 IMPs to France.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Deheeger</i>	<i>Kushari</i>	<i>Bedouet</i>	<i>Roy</i>
–	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Das</i>	<i>Basler</i>	<i>Kar</i>	<i>Dufrene</i>
–	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Roy went through a Kokish sequence to show his strong balanced hand and, when he had unwound, Kushari bid 3♠ to show interest in the minors. His subsequent 4♥ bid presumably confirmed the actual five-five shape, but Roy didn't care and jumped to 6NT. Deheeger led the jack of hearts, which Roy won. He tested the diamonds first, Deheeger discarding a spade on the second round, then the clubs. Having rattled off all the club winners, Roy led a spade to his king and that lost to the ace and a spade came back, resulting in down two for -100.

Dufrene could show his NT range in slightly more direct fashion, but Basler too bid 3♠ to show the minors and Dufrene responded 4♣ then asking for key-cards on getting a diamond cuebid out of his partner.

Six Clubs played by South is a nice contract. If West cashes the ace of spades, that establishes declarer's twelfth trick even when diamonds are not coming in, but if he does not cash it declarer can win the opening lead, draw trumps, and discard his spade loser on the queen of hearts, after which he just concedes a diamond. Either way, there are 12 tricks for +920.

In practice, Das led a trump. France gained 14 IMPs, and ended the second set ahead by 76-44, India having just won the set by 32-30.

Pierre BEDOUET




Vice Squeeze

By Brian Senior

I am indebted by Barry Goren for spotting this beautiful piece of declarer play from the Israel v Netherlands U26 semi-final, session two. I am also indebted to Barry for his being able to name the type of squeeze involved – I am clueless where squeeze nomenclature is concerned.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zamir	V de Pavverd	Toledano	Nijssen
–	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

In the other room, the Israeli N/S had bid to the cold 6♣, played by South, for a safe and secure +920.

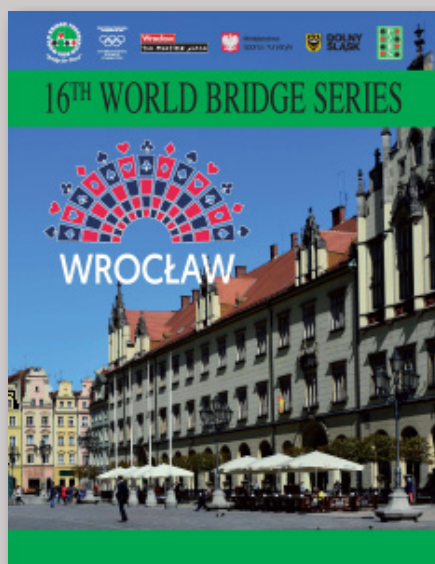
Here, Tim Van de Pavverd opened 2♣ with the North hand, showing either a weak two bid in clubs, or a game-forcing hand. I doubt that Oscar Nijssen had too much difficulty in guessing which hand-type his partner held on this occasion.

Two No Trump asked, 3♠ said something but I don't know what, but the important thing was that when Nijssen set trumps, his partner could show the ace of diamonds, after which Nijssen asked, found two key-cards, and bid the club slam.

West, Ami Zamir, led the ten of hearts, their systemic lead against a NT contract, and Oren Toledano signalled with the nine. Nijssen won the heart and tested the diamonds. However, Zamir showed out on the second round, pitching a spade, so Nijssen abandoned diamonds for now and turned his attention to clubs.

On the third club, East threw a spade, and on the fourth, the eight of hearts, then another spade on the fifth. Meanwhile, West discarded two more spades, and Nijssen, who had clearly seen the ending that he wanted to play for, bared the king of spades. Finally, he cashed the ace of diamonds, and that forced West down to a bare ace of spades. Nijssen came to hand with a heart, eliminating East's last card in the suit, then exited with the king of spades to the ace, and West had to lead away from the jack of hearts and round to declarer's queen-seven; 12 tricks bid and made for +990 and +2 IMPs to Netherlands.

'If only I had led a low heart at trick one,' thought West.



WROCLAW 2022

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

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

U26 Semi-finals, Segment 3

Singapore v Poland Netherlands v Israel

By Jos Jacobs

At half-time, Poland were 21 IMPs up and the Netherlands were 34 IMPs up. Time for the trailing teams to try to turn the tide.

The first board certainly offered chances for any (junior?) team, because it was a shaky slam.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ – ♥ AKQJ843 ♦ AKJ7 ♣ 94	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q1075432 ♥ – ♦ 985 ♣ KJ10	♠ A9 ♥ 10762 ♦ Q1062 ♣ 532
♠ KJ86 ♥ 95 ♦ 43 ♣ AQ876			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cichy</i>	<i>Teo</i>	<i>Kopka</i>	<i>Wu</i>
–	1♥	3♠	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

North's 6♥ looks a bit of a gamble at first sight, because there were no exchanges of club controls in the auction. On the other hand, South bid 3NT and thus must hold useful values in clubs as well, North quite correctly reasoned. East led a deceptive ♣J but declarer did not care too much. He duly fell for this trap by playing the ace from dummy but his next move was a daring finesse of the ♦Q through West. When this worked, he could cash the ♦A, ruff a diamond, draw trumps and concede the last trick to the ♣K no matter who held it; Singapore +980 to start with.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Kedzierski</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Krawczyk</i>
–	1♥	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

On a spade lead to the jack and ace, declarer made all 13 tricks for +510 and a loss of 10 IMPs.

For the next board, we move to the other match.

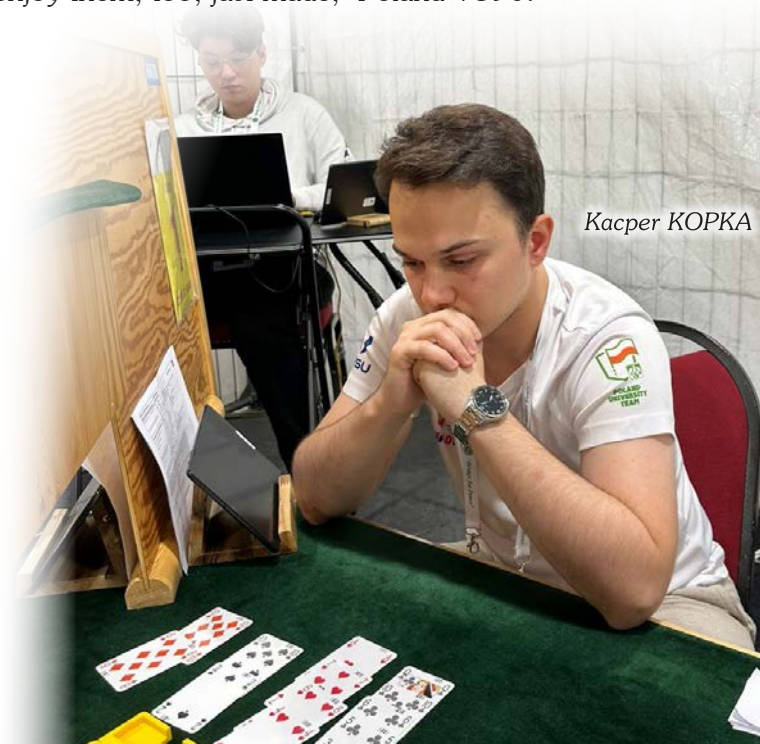
Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A1054 ♥ 3 ♦ AK864 ♣ J53	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K7632 ♥ 1098764 ♦ 9 ♣ A	♠ Q ♥ Q5 ♦ QJ10532 ♣ K1082
♠ J98 ♥ AKJ2 ♦ 7 ♣ Q9764			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cichy</i>	<i>Teo</i>	<i>Kopka</i>	<i>Wu</i>
–	–	Pass	1♣
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	2♣	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

When North led the ♦Q, a vital entry to dummy's hearts remained intact. This enabled declarer to crossruff clubs and hearts, establish the hearts and enjoy them, too; just made, Poland +590.



Kacper KOPKA

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lee	Kedzierski	Yang	Krawczyk
–	–	Pass	1♣
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	2♣	4♠	All Pass

At the other table, North led a club which deprived declarer of an entry needed to establish the hearts. Declarer led a heart from dummy but South jumped in with the king to return a trump to the queen and king. Another heart was ruffed in hand, the ♠A cashed and a club was ruffed. Another heart ruff in hand followed and then a club was ruffed in dummy with the penultimate trump. When declarer next tried to cash the ♦AK, South could ruff and force declarer to ruff a club with dummy's last trump before the hearts were good. That was one down for another +100 and 12 IMPs to Poland.

In the Netherlands v Israel match, we saw basically the same swing. Both Wests were in 4♠, one of them doubled. The Dutch North led the ♠Q and the Israeli North led a club. That was +100 and +420 to Israel, good for 11 IMPs to them to reduce their deficit to 24.

For board 3, we go back to Singapore v. Poland again.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Cichy	Teo	Kopka	Wu
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥
Dble	4♥	4♠	All Pass

For N/S, 3♥ was already too high, but 4♠ by E/W certainly was. South was kind enough not to double but was content with down three for +300 to Singapore. A double probably gives away the trump position; maybe, declarer would have gone just one off in that case.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lee	Kedzierski	Yang	Krawczyk
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	2♥	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	All Pass		



Krzysztof CICHY



On a diamond lead, declarer played three rounds of the suit, shedding his heart loser. Next, he played a club to the king and ace. He ruffed the diamond return and simply cashed the ♥A followed by the ♣Q. That was nine tricks, so Singapore another +140 and 10 IMPs to them. We had seen three major swings in succession in this match but, after that, the boards went to sleep, one might say. Poland won 6-2 over the remaining 11 boards, going into the final segment with a lead of 18.

On these same 11 boards, there still was one double figure swing either way to enjoy in the other match. Here they are.

Board 5. Dealer North. Ns Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zamir	V.d. Pavverd	Toledano	Nijssen
–	Pass	1♠	3♣
4♠	All Pass		

In the Open Room, the auction was quick and so was the play. Lead ♣Q which held and a club which brought down the ace. Later on, declarer gave up a diamond for just one overtrick, Israel +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Caris	Baniri	Dupont	Loonstein
–	Pass	1♠	3♣
4♣	Dble	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass

East led an ominous ♣2 to partner's ace and duly got his diamond ruff. Israel another +50 and 11 IMPs to them.

Over the next seven boards, Israel scored 6-1 and then came this one.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zamir	V.d. Pavverd	Toledano	Nijssen
–	2♠	Dble	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Expecting a Dutch pre-emptor to hold both the ♠A and the ♥K is asking too much, in any case on this board. One down, Netherlands a much needed +100. Mind you, the segment score stood at 30-2 to Israel before this board.

In the Closed Room, N/S made it easier for their opponents, maybe.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Caris	Baniri	Dupont	Loonstein
–	2♠	Dble	3♠
4♥	All Pass		

One overtrick, Netherlands +650 and 13 IMPs. The Dutch had lost the set 30-15 but their lead was still intact, albeit reduced to 18.



YOUTH BAM RANKING

1	ROMANIA U31	109.20
2	TURKIYE U31	108.80
3	SWEDEN U26	106.00
4	USA1 U26	104.60
5	GREECE U26	103.60
6	CROATIA U26	103.00
7	CHINESE TAIPEI U31	102.20
8	ENGLAND U26	102.00
	TURKIYE U26	102.00
	USA1 U21	102.00
11	GERMANY U21	101.80
12	CANADA U21	101.00
	ENGLAND U21	101.00
14	FRANCE U26	99.20
15	JAPAN U26	98.20
16	GERMANY U26	98.00
17	JACK OF HEART	97.00
18	ITALY U26	96.00
19	USA2 U26	95.80
20	CHINA U26	94.80
21	INDIA U26	94.20
22	NORWAY U21	93.60
23	BANANAS	93.00
24	NETHERLANDS U21	92.80
25	ITALY W	92.00
26	HUNGARY U21	90.00
27	1345	89.20
28	HONG KONG CHINA U26	87.20
29	ARGENTINA U26	87.00
	CROATIA U31	87.00
31	USA1 U31	85.60
32	CANADA U26	85.20
33	DENMARK W	85.00
34	AUS NZL 1	84.20
35	LATVIA U31 + NED	84.00
	FRANCE U21	84.00
37	CHINESE TAIPEI U26	83.00
38	GERMANY U31	81.80
39	USA2 U26W	81.75
40	ENGLAND W	81.00
41	USA1 U26W	80.20
42	SERBIA U31	79.80
43	POLAND U21	79.60
44	JAPAN AUS NZL	79.00
45	CHINA U26W	76.20
46	THAILAND U26W	74.00
47	INDIA U21	73.60
48	AUS NZL 2	72.00
49	CHINESE TAIPEI W	65.20
50	ISRAEL U31	46.00

U16 BAM RANKING

1	ISRAEL	94.00
2	CHINA	92.80
3	FRANCE	92.40
4	ENGLAND	89.80
	HUNGARY	89.80
6	NORWAY	87.40
7	CZECH REPUBLIC	85.40
8	HONG KONG CHINA	84.40
9	CHINESE TAIPEI	81.40
10	GREECE	79.40
	TURKIYE	79.40
12	DENMARK	77.20
13	THAILAND	76.00
14	INDIA	67.70
15	NETHERLANDS	55.40
16	CANADA	35.00

Championship special

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

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



HCL

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